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THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

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(INBRIEF)

STATE

Texas ready to use stimulus money on roads

AUSTIN (AP) — Federal stimulus money is rolling toward Texas highways: State transportation commissioners are set to approve major road projects this week to be paid for with \$1.2 billion from the funds.

Once legislators complained that the commission was moving too quickly and that they didn't have enough time to provide input, the commissioners put off their decision a week. They will gather in a special meeting Thursday to approve stimulus money projects throughout the state.

NATION

States' budget woes will outlast the recession

(AP) — Even after \$135 billion in federal aid gets spent, many states will be staring down budgetary black holes unless they initiate dramatic spending cuts or tax increases, or both.

In the short-term, the massive stimulus will help balance budgets and keep key services, such as Medicaid, going. But economists agree the money will not quickly eradicate high unemployment, low consumer spending or distress in the housing market — the triple threats behind a nationwide tax-collection shortfall that is expected to drag on even after the economy begins to rebound.

WORLD

Israel threatens painful response to Gaza rockets

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert threatened a painful response to Palestinian rocket fire menacing southern Israel, suggesting Sunday that the blistering offensive against Gaza Strip militants fell short of its goals.

The prospect of heightened hostilities in Hamas-ruled Gaza cast a pall over a week of crucial diplomatic activity, including an international conference designed to drum up billions of dollars to rebuild the heavily damaged territory. With a new Israeli government to take office within weeks, however, it wasn't clear how sweeping the country's response to the rockets would be.

DEATH TOLL

4253

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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PART TWO OF A THREE-PART SERIES
Highlighting outstanding members of the Texas Tech community

student ambassador

Senior college student offers guidance, provides example for uncertain undergraduates

By HANNAH BOEN
STAFF WRITER

Choosing which university to attend is the first of many daunting decisions college students make when they begin college.

One Texas Tech general studies senior and student ambassador uses her experiences help other students become less uncertain.

"With my age and experiences, I've learned that I cannot control everything," Alyssa Harrison said. "I'm unsure, but I'm at peace with it. So, it's okay."

Although her job includes a variety of duties, the Los Lunas, N.M., native said she enjoys being able to share her past experiences.

She also said she enjoys helping other students realize they are not alone in whatever they may be going through while adjusting to the college atmosphere and making decisions affect future career choices.

"I think we all try to make it seem like we have it together, but honestly we don't," she said. "I know I've gone through my stuff, but I know the next person has as well."

Harrison was uncertain about her major when she first began school, she said, and her desire is to give other students confidence about their academic decisions.

She has been recognized as a Raider Who Rocks by the Center for Campus Life, which recognizes students, faculty and organizations for practicing selfless and outstanding behavior on campus and throughout Lubbock.

A Raider Who Rocks is nominated based on the 52 values of the Foundation for a Better Life, which Harrison said she constantly tries to attain.

"That's what I aspire to," she said. "I don't think I've completely gotten them all."

In striving to become a better person, Harrison said she has forced herself to step outside of her comfort zone and always try to find good characteristics in the people she meets.

"I think everyone has great qualities," she said. "Part of a college experience is getting to know people and cultures and learning from someone else's mindset or culture. Sharing what you have and learning from what other people have is definitely necessary."

Harrison's coworker, Janelle Duran, nominated her to be a Raider Who Rocks because of her willingness to help in the workplace and her desire to see everyone around her succeed.

AMBASSADOR continued on page 3



ALYSSA HARRISON IS a senior general studies major from Los Lunas, N.M. and a Raider Who Rocks.

Budget chief: Obama will sign spending bill

By PHILIP ELLIOTT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Sunday downplayed massive deficit spending and President Barack Obama's pledge not to sign legislation laden with billions in earmarks amid Republican criticism that he was recanting on a key campaign promise.

The administration's top budget official, Peter Orszag, said Obama would sign the \$410 billion spending bill despite a campaign pledge that he would reject tailored budget requests that let lawmakers send money to their home states. Orszag said Obama would move ahead and overlook the time-tested tradition that lets officials divert millions at a time to pet projects.

It was the Washington equivalent of officials pinching their nose and swallowing a bitter pill.

"This is last year's business," Orszag said, offering an acknowledgment that Obama would sign a bill that doesn't conform with his campaign vows. "We want to just move on. Let's get this bill done, get it into law and move forward."

White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel offered mirrored language: "That's last year's business."

The House last week passed the measure that would keep the government open for business through Sept. 30, when the federal budget year ends. Taxpayers for Common Sense, a watchdog group, identified almost 8,600 earmarks totaling \$7.7 billion; Democrats say the number is \$3.8 billion.

Regardless of the precise number, it was still far more than Obama promised as a candidate. He refused earmarks for the economic stimulus package he championed, as well as a children's health bill.

"We're going to be working with the Congress. We want to make sure that earmarks are reduced and they're also transparent. We're going to work with the Congress on a set of reforms to achieve those," said Orszag, who is director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Obama's top hands assigned

responsibility to their predecessors and President George W. Bush. By blaming Bush-era proposals for deficits, Obama wanted to set up his own budget, which he unveiled last week with a bold proposal to cut the deficit by half within his four-year term with the budget that would start Oct. 1.

"First, this is a \$1.7 trillion deficit he inherited. Let's be clear about that. We inherited this deficit and we inherited \$4 trillion of new debt," Emanuel said. "That is the facts."

Facts, aides said, would be the cornerstone of the administration's public relations push. Officials faced a tough haul, even as Orszag and others said the proposal would raise taxes on wealthy Americans and increase energy costs.

Emanuel said energy costs are too low, anyway. U.S. car companies relied too long on gas-guzzling autos and failed to invest in alternative energy vehicles, he said, and contended that the time for new auto fuels is now.

"We want to just move on. Let's get this bill done, get it into law and move forward."

PETER ORSZAG
OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S
TOP BUDGET OFFICIAL

Pakistani group gives new hostage deadline

By ABDUL SATTAR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) — A suspected separatist group holding an American U.N. worker in Pakistan said Sunday it would kill him in four days if the government does not release more than 1,000 prisoners.

The threat on the life of John Solecki was made in a letter sent Sunday to local news agency Online International News Network that was also read by an Associated Press reporter.

U.N. spokeswoman Maki Shinohara said the world body was aware of the threat through the media and "took it seriously."

Gunmen seized Solecki on Feb. 2 after shooting his driver to death as the pair drove to work in the southwestern city of Quetta in Baluchistan.

The previously unknown Baluchistan Liberation United Front claimed responsibility.

In the letter, the front demanded the release of 1,109 activists from Baluchistan nationalist groups it claimed had been arrested by the government.

"John Solecki's mother and his relatives and international human rights groups should play a role for the recovery of

thousands of our sons ... who are in state-run torture detention cells," the one-page letter said.

"The United Nations and state institutions ... are forcing us to kill Mr. John Solecki in our protest," it said.

On Feb. 13, the group threatened to kill Solecki within three days unless similar demands were met. It did not carry out the threat.

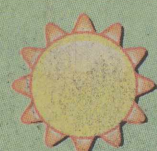
Pakistani officials were not immediately available for comment.

Violent separatist groups have waged a long campaign for independence in Baluchistan, a natural gas-rich region that borders Afghanistan and Iran.

They have no known links to al-Qaida and the Taliban, which have stepped up attacks on foreigners recently.

Last month, militants beheaded a Polish geologist abducted in another border area of Pakistan after the government did not respond to demands for a prisoner release.

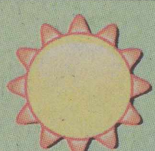
Afghanistan's ambassador-designate, an Iranian diplomat and a Chinese telecommunications engineer have been seized in or near the main northwestern city of Peshawar and are still missing. Gunmen killed an American aid worker in Peshawar in November.



TODAY
Mostly Sunny
High 75 Low 40



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High 88 Low 47



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College of Education to launch online resource

By STEVEN SCHWARTZ
STAFF WRITER

Faculty members training teachers at Texas Tech will have a new resource provided by the College of Education later this semester.

The resource being developed is an online database called Project IDEAL, which eventually will be used by professors throughout the college as a reference for instructing students who will be teaching children with special needs or disabilities.

The advisory board, led by DeAnn Lechtenberger, has been working on the Web site since the College of Education received a \$599,247 federal grant from the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities in June 2007.

"We are using faculty, graduate students, community folks, parents and a number of people to put together writing teams to develop and research the materials that are going online," Lechtenberger said.

Project IDEAL has recently opened its disabilities module, the first opened in the project, and will have five different modules for reference upon completion of the project, Lechtenberger said. The five will include disabilities, classroom management, behavior, attitudes and special education law and policy.

Nora Griffin-Shirley, the Project IDEAL coordinator, said much research and thought went into deciding on which modules to put online.

"We didn't just pick the five module topics out of the blue," said Griffin-Shirley, "it's based on research."

Doug Hamman, project evaluator, said the reason the project was set in motion was to raise awareness to the lack of resources educators have in the Lubbock area. Little opportunity exists for general education teachers to learn about special education in today's education system.

Another aspect of Project IDEAL, Lechtenberger said, was to create a

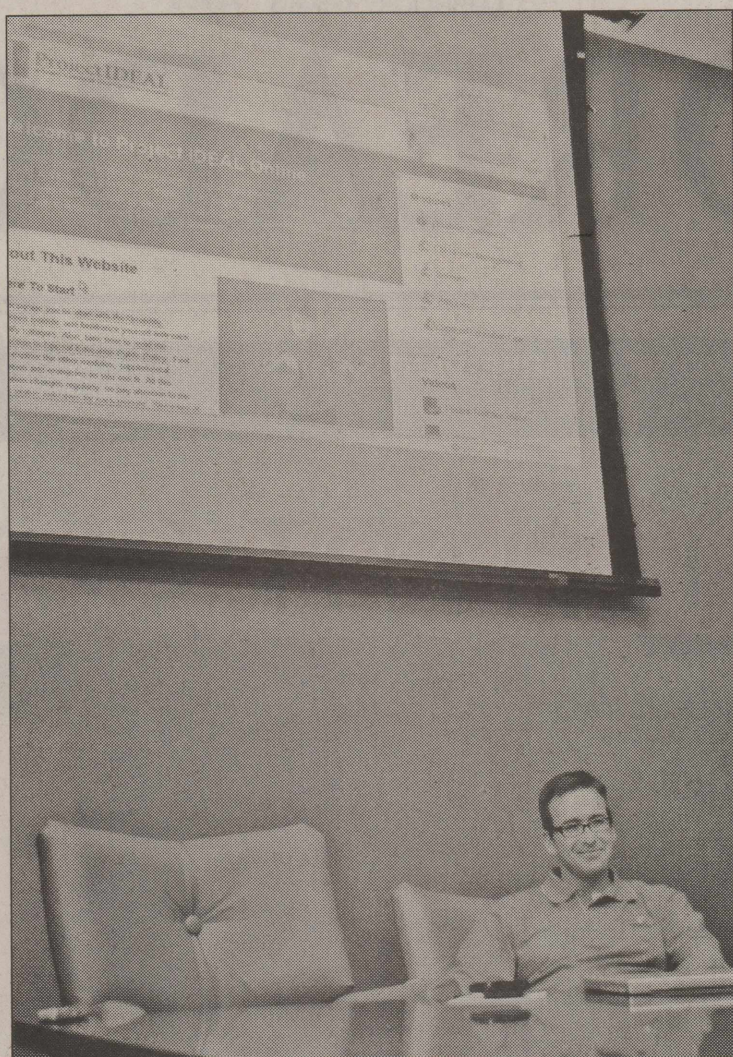


PHOTO BY BETH MCELHANNON/The Daily Toreador
DOUG HAMMAN, THE project evaluator for Project IDEAL, sits under the Project IDEAL web site Friday morning in the Education Building.

model for a completely accessible Web site. The developer, a small business out of Austin called Elemental Blend, made Project IDEAL a completely accessible Web site to people with all disabilities.

"To have a Web site that's totally accessible to anyone that has disability is extremely important," Griffin-Shirley said, "serving as a model both to the university and to the community at large."

Sam Segrán, the associate vice president Information Technology at Tech, said he believes the project is very important for Web sites at the university. The IT office is hiring an

accessibility coordinator in June for this particular area.

"Most people, when they are creating Web sites, don't think of those kind of things," he said.

Hamman said Project IDEAL is meant to impact the education system of the entire state of Texas. The results of the project should be apparent by the project's completion between May and August 2010.

"The first place it has to have an impact is here," Hamman said, "if you don't see any change at Texas Tech, then it's not going to have an impact anywhere."

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Tech football ticket sales up

By ERIC BOYD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Monday after Mike Leach signed his contract extension, season ticket sales for the Texas Tech football team jumped, although that jump may be in part to a deadline to purchase the tickets.

Dave Welsh, assistant director of the Athletic Department, said the first quarter of payments for season ticket holders was due Feb. 23. He said the ticket office was busy Monday, but it is impossible to correlate how many of those would not have joined if Leach did not sign a new contract.

"I think you're probably going to be looking at a big explosion because of Leach signing," he said, "but it's going to be almost impossible to quantify that."

Welsh said out of 7,857 season ticket accounts, two ticket holders sent e-mails to him saying they would not renew their season tickets if Mike Leach did not sign. There might have been others who thought the same, he said, but did not tell him directly.

"If he hadn't signed, who knows," he said, "it's impossible to speculate if people would've let that first deadline pass without renewing at that point."

Shane Grissom, a local business owner and season ticket holder, said he was not going to purchase season tickets if Leach was not the coach.

"I was hoping they could get a deal done to keep him here five more years," he said, "but if Leach wasn't going to be the coach on the sideline next year then I wasn't going to be a season ticket holder."

Paige Cunningham, of Lub-

bock, said she and her husband are purchasing Tech football season tickets for the first time, and they were not going to buy the tickets unless Leach was the coach for the upcoming season.

"We've always wanted to get season tickets," she said, "but if Leach wasn't going to be the coach, we were not going to get them."

Welsh said last season the department set a record of 41,072 season ticket holders, including students. He said he thinks if they can come close to that number this year they would be doing well.

"We're happy he signed and we're happy he's here," he said, "I think a lot of our fans are happy he re-upped for the next five years. I think we would've had a lot of people get tickets anyway, but I think they're happier knowing he's going to be the coach."

Suspected US missiles kill 7 in northwest Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Suspected U.S. missiles killed seven people in a Pakistani Taliban stronghold Sunday, officials said, while an attack on a military convoy and a cleric's two-week deadline for the creation of Islamic courts rattled peace talks with militants elsewhere in the country's northwest.

The missile strike underscored the Obama administration's unwillingness to abandon a Bush-era tactic said to have killed several key al-Qaida figures, despite persistent Pakistani protests. The Muslim nation has used both peace pacts and military offensives to deal with insurgents along its border with Afghanistan, and it warns that the missile attacks dent civilian support for its actions.

The missiles landed in Murghiban village in the South Waziristan tribal region and also wounded three people, two Pakistani intelligence officials said. At least four of the dead were believed to be foreign militants,

said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

They said drones believed to be used by the U.S. were seen in the air ahead of the strike and that Taliban fighters surrounded the damaged stronghold afterward. The compound was allegedly a militant training facility, the officials said, citing field informants.

The U.S. has dramatically stepped up its missile attacks on al-Qaida and Taliban targets in Pakistan's northwest since mid-2008, a policy that has not changed under new President Barack Obama. Pakistan insists the strikes inflame anti-American sentiment and often kill civilians, though many analysts speculate the two countries have a secret deal allowing them.

Pakistan has also turned to peace talks to deal with some insurgent groups, much to Washington's consternation.

Last month, Pakistan agreed to implement Islamic law in the

Swat Valley, a former tourist haven where militants have gained tremendous sway. The Swat Taliban and the military also agreed to a cease-fire after months of fighting that has killed hundreds and displaced up to one-third of the valley's 1.5 million residents.

American and European officials worry that the talks could turn Swat into a sanctuary for Taliban fighters. Swat is less than 100 miles (160 kilometers) from Pakistan's capital, Islamabad. It also is near tribal regions where al-Qaida and the Taliban have strongholds.

The provincial government in northwestern Pakistan made the pledge to establish Islamic courts in Swat and surrounding areas to Sufi Muhammad, a pro-Taliban cleric who agreed to then negotiate with the Swat Taliban, who are headed by his son-in-law. He himself heads a group that has long pushed for Islamic law in parts of the northwest.

He said Sunday that it did not appear the government was holding up its end of the bargain.

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Tech students experience different cultures at Festival of Nations

By **GARRETT SALZMAN**
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Texas Tech community who visited the Festival of Nations on Friday were presented with the opportunity to tour more than 30 cultures in the Human Sciences building.

The festival included booths with students who displayed information about the nations they represented and a talent show where students could demonstrate their cultural heritage.

Many students also dressed in the tradition of their home countries and answered questions about objects from their native homes. The objects were brought by the students or loaned to them by the International Cultural Center to help educate other students about the customs and traditions of many cultures.

Emilia Baron, who lived in her native country of Dominica for 17 years before coming to the United States to attend college, said she felt it was important to represent her nation.

Baron, a human development



PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador
FATEN ARFAOUI, AN applied linguistics graduate student from Tunisia, talks to **Billy G. Skillman**, president of the West Texas Native American Association from Montgomery, Ala., on Friday during the Festival of Nations in the Human Sciences building.

and family studies graduate student, answered questions at a table displaying the crops and other exports of Dominica, an is-

land country in the Caribbean. "We need to have events like these to let Tech students learn a lot about countries outside of

the U.S.," she said. "They know about Cuba and the bigger islands in the Caribbean but not the smaller ones. A lot of them don't have the opportunity to explore even outside of Texas, and we're giving them an opportunity to learn about other countries right here."

Meridith Lee, a junior from Booker, worked at a table providing students with information about study abroad opportunities. She said the event was a way for Tech to pursue its goal of increased diversity.

"Diversity is a big issue at Texas Tech," the elementary education major said. "Tech wants to bring in more diversity, to have that diversity, and to celebrate it. Study abroad is a part of that because it provides an outreach to other countries."

Lee said she studied abroad in Mexico and attended the festival to educate other students about how to gain the cultural exposure she experienced.

She said the festival was an opportunity for students to gain an understanding of world cul-

tures on varying levels.

"This is a great place to become culturally diverse, and it's good to have the study abroad table here," she said. "You can walk around and see all these interesting countries and then we let students decide if you actually want to go somewhere."

Teddy Alexis Rodriguez, a doctoral degree candidate in theater from Ponce, Puerto Rico, said coming to Tech was a hard transition because of his close relationship with his family.

Rodriguez, who represented his nation at a Puerto Rico booth, said the friends he has met in Lubbock have made the transition much easier.

He said the welcome he received at Tech made him want to return the kindness by educating the Tech community about his heritage.

"I want students here to know my country is more than salsa music," Rodriguez said. "We have a rich culture from Africa and Spain — arts, music and

more. Most importantly, people are very warm and friendly in my country. Through me, I want people here to sense a little bit of the warmth of my country."

Patricia Aguiar, an environmental engineering exchange student from Sao Paulo, Brazil, visited the festival with a fellow Brazilian exchange student as a spectator.

She said the transition from her hometown to Lubbock this semester made her see the value in having an event to make Tech students more conscious of the different cultures around the world.

"Especially for Americans, it's important to learn about these other cultures," she said. "People here are kind of closed off to these other nations. Brazilians are much closer, and it's easier to deal with people and be open. If students can see how different these different cultures are, they can be more accepting and understanding."

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Ambassador

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Her positivity makes the university a better place," said Duran, a University Career Services senior business assistant. "We try to encourage students to come here, and she makes it welcoming and makes it a place people want to come."

Duran said Harrison deserved to be recognized because she breaks the mold of a typical college student.

Director of University Career Services and Harrison's boss, David

Kraus, agreed.

"She's always very eager and very positive," he said. "With our ambassadors, we try to hire quality people. They're all good workers and good young people. I think with Alyssa, particularly, she just stands out. She's eager and very student oriented."

If Harrison has had a bad day, those around her haven't noticed it, Kraus said, because she radiates positivity.

"She reflects what we hope all staff on campus reflect," he said. "It's just rare to find that in a student employee."

Harrison admitted she has had

her bad days, but she said it is important to make something good out of every situation.

"If more people admitted that they didn't have it all together," she said, "people would share and be willing to help other people."

Tech is a perfect place to learn how to share your experiences with others, she said, because people from all walks of life are in the same place.

"Different cultures are more accessible in a university setting, but you have to be willing to learn," she said. "You can come to college and stick around the same people

you knew in high school and not learn a thing."

Harrison's advice for other students wanting to get the most out of their college experience is to network.

She said branching out and getting to know people in college is important and beneficial, and she urged students to take advantage of learning opportunities outside the classroom.

"I think we all can grow, we all can learn to be helpful," Harrison said. "We all can do a little more to be less selfish."

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Iran angered over films 'The Wrestler' and '300'

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — An adviser to Iran's president on Sunday demanded an apology from a team of visiting Hollywood actors and movie industry officials, including Annette Bening, saying films such as "300" and "The Wrestler" were "insulting" to Iranians.

Without an apology, members of Iran's film industry should refuse to meet with representatives from the nine-member team, said Javad Shamaqdari, the art and cinema adviser to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

"In my viewpoint, it is a failure to have an official meeting with one who is insulting," Shamaqdari told The Associated Press.

The film "300," portrays the battle of Thermopylae in 480 B.C., in which a force of 300 Spartans held off a massive Persian army at a mountain pass in Greece for three days. It angered many Iranians for the way Persians are depicted as decadent, sexually flamboyant and evil in contrast to the noble Greeks.

Iranians also criticized "The Wrestler" starring Mickey Rourke as a rundown professional wrestler who is preparing for a rematch with his old nemesis, "The Ayatollah." During a fight scene, "The Ayatollah" tries to choke Rourke with an Iranian flag before Rourke pulls the flagpole away, breaks it and throws it into the cheering crowd.

Neither movie was shown in Iran.

While American actors such as Sean Penn have traveled to Iran, it is rare for such a large group to visit. In February, Iran denied visas to a U.S. women's badminton team that had been invited to compete in a tournament in Iran.

The group includes the President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Sid Ganis; actors Bening, and Alfre Woodard; producer William Horberg; AMPAS Special Events Programmer and Exhibitions Curator Ellen Harrington; and Tom Pollock, the former Universal Pictures chairman.

According to the Web site of Iran's Cinema Association, the group arrived Friday in Iran. They met a group of Iranian artists on Saturday, and will be holding educational seminars in directing, screenwriting, acting, producing, marketing and film

distribution.

Shamaqdari says Iranians will warmly host the visiting Americans "but it will not stop Iranians from demanding an apology."

The visits come as President Barack Obama has indicated a new willingness to open up relations with Iran.

Relations between the two countries have been strained over con-

cerns in the West that Iran is trying to develop a nuclear weapons program, something Tehran denies. The U.S. has also alleged that overwhelmingly Shiite Iran supports Shiite militias in Iraq, which Iran says is not true.

The two countries have not had diplomatic relations since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the hostage-taking at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

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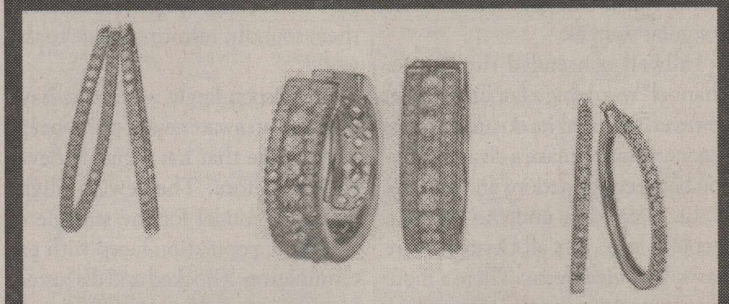
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Hitler, Nazi fascination lingers in popular culture

World War II. The Holocaust. Genocide. Propaganda. National Socialism. Adolf Hitler. Why do these and many related ideas conjure such strong images and fixate our minds still today?

What is it about them that captivates us and keeps us returning to them, studying them and appealing to them more than 60 years later?

On Friday Third Reich historian Lynne Fallwell Ph.D. facilitated a discussion for the Honors College delving into this topic. The conversation produced some insightful comments and caused me to re-evaluate my own opinions on the subject.

Like many geeks, I was addicted to the History Channel. During high school I would often spend hours on end watching the riveting monochrome footage of tanks and troops interspersed with commentary by various experts. Most of our knowledge about Nazi Germany and World War II still comes from these or similar sources.

Fallwell contended the "Hitler Channel" was doing a fair bit of harm, however. She said its documentaries frequently fail to make a clear distinction between the actions and motives of the Nazi party and the German people at large. Not all Germans were Nazis, and vice versa. There's more

Stephen Torrence



to history than a 40-minute program with a nice soundtrack can convey.

We seem to have retained a fascination for this period while at the same time remaining rather fuzzy on the relevant details. Most of us tend to package World War II, the Nazi aggression and the Holocaust into simplistic narratives, easily digestible and ready for regurgitation as the need arises.

As one discussion member put it, World War II was the most straightforward of the 20th-century wars. There was a distinct villain (Hitler), head of the bad guys (the Nazis), who perpetrated unspeakably horrible acts (the Holocaust). The good guys (the Allies) fought and defeated them soundly, restoring peace to the world.

Correspondingly, we seem to have acquired an awareness of the concept of genocide that has arguably never existed before. The Jewish plight became a model for the struggle of an ethnic population faced with extermination. Shocked and disgusted,

we vowed never to let another people encounter that prospect.

This pared-down version of the tale is problematically employed, however. Too many arguments over controversial issues tend to end up with some variation on "Well, Hitler and the Nazis supported that! Therefore you're wrong."

In fact, there's even a name for this phenomenon. At the dawn of the World Wide Web in the early 90's, American author Mike Godwin articulated a law of sorts, postulating "as a typical Internet discussion grows longer, the probability of a comparison involving Nazis or Hitler approaches one."

Godwin's Law is related closely to so-called "reductio ad Hitlerum" arguments. They hinge on the guilt by association fallacy, connecting the evilness of the Nazis with their policies. Hitler may have supported Jewish genocide, but he also supported painting and music, which are most certainly not inherently evil.

The fact something such as Godwin's Law can be so prevalent we don't even bat an eye at the disproportionate amount of World War II content on the History Channel, that we have more games and movies about the war than any other conflict is incredibly telling.

Why are we still enraptured with

the Third Reich and its associated narrative? Our discussion came up with few solid answers. Fallwell suggested it is a uniquely American phenomenon, perhaps due to the strength of propaganda during and after the war that has been passed from one generation to the next.

This fixation with the era has had mixed results. Genocide obviously continued after Hitler, from Mao to Milosevic and beyond. Germany may never regain the world's trust within our lifetime. Yet on the other hand we seem more curious about our past and the exploits of our ancestors, which has led to establish significant memorials and appreciate their actions more acutely.

Our common knowledge about World War II, Hitler, the Nazis and such may be in desperate need of articulation and clarification. However, our obsession with the subject can be healthy if we apply ourselves to understanding the mistakes and successes of the era. In so doing we can more effectively ensure executive power will never go unchecked, genocide will never go unchallenged, and we will never see another global war.

Torrence is a philosophy major from Georgetown. E-mail him at stephen.torrence@ttu.edu.

Spammers know us better than we admit

By **BEN KORMAN**
THE PITT NEWS (U. PITTSBURGH)

Whether referring to unsolicited, junk e-mail or the canned pork shoulder product that's endured through the ages, Spam has a pretty nasty rep.

But consider this: In Hawaiian cuisine, Spam is often featured as an ingredient in sushi, fried rice and on sandwiches. On April 25, upward of 20,000 people are expected to attend the seventh annual Waikiki Spam Jam, a six-hour beachside celebration of the speckled pink meat block.

Imagine how royally ticked off Hawaiians must get when they hear people equate what many locals consider classic Hawaiian soul food with the dregs of our e-mail inboxes. What if Hawaiians started referring to their junk mail as your favorite food?

Think about the prospect of a folder named "Pizza" designated for all your unwanted e-mails. To Hawaiians, the prospect of a "Spam" folder must sound equally as absurd.

Sometimes, just for fun, I'll glance into my spam folder. I always end up asking myself the same questions: How do the senders acquire such enigmatic e-mail tags? Do people actually click this stuff? Why are almost all of them about boners?

According to an article in The New York Times, some people really do respond. Of all the different genres of spam out there, those that advertise Rolex watches, drugs and pornography yield the three highest click-through rates, with the latter leading the pack at a rate of 5.6 percent.

If your 300-person Introduction to Psychology lecture represented the general population, almost 17 of your classmates would read the subject line "Julia

loves my new size" with genuine interest. This is terrifying.

It is also precisely the reason why we shouldn't necessarily consider spam useless junk. The subject lines we come across provide a candid, startling glimpse into the state of our society at large.

I quickly categorized all the messages filtered into my spam folder since the beginning of this year. Out of the 96 e-mails my client deposited, 66 were in some way sexual, advertising either a male enhancement product or some form of pornography. I decided to take my experiment a little further by actually clicking one of them at random.

Subject: Like a steel rod. Click!

The sender's e-mail address was somehow displayed as my own, except somewhere along the way it inexplicably picked up a plus sign.

Obviously, I did not send this message to myself. But it worries me that spammers possess the technological aptitude to make it appear as if I did. Surely there are more productive ways to harness this technology, such as convincing your least favorite professor that he has an alternate personality by sending him messages from himself.

As I clicked the foregoing "display images" button, instead of bursting into flames, my laptop loaded a photo of a spandex-clad woman flexing her biceps — the ad was for an exercise machine.

Now, I have even more questions. If they wanted me to buy an exercise machine, why didn't they just say so? Why did they try to lure me in with the "like a steel rod" tagline?

And suddenly I realized the genius behind spammers.

They have their fingers on our collective pulse. They know that exercise machines are nowhere close to male enhancement pills, Rolexes and drugs in terms of attracting clicks from the larger American demographic. We love sex, gold and Vicodin, not ellipticals, silly!

So the spammers fudge it. The people who are dumb enough to actually click the ads, by no coincidence, are also likely not apt to notice the thematic disparity between the subject line and the actual message. Thus, they're more likely to spend their money on the useless contraption being marketed. It's a brilliant strategy, and apparently it works — on average, one response is generated for every 12.5 million pieces of spam sent. Yet some spammers send out so many messages that they manage to turn daily profits in the thousands.

I tried to force myself into a state of mind where I would actually feel compelled to buy this product under these circumstances: the grammatically awkward subject heading, the inconsistent message, the pictured woman's relatively unremarkable bicep and, namely, the message's mere presence in my spam folder. I couldn't do it.

Only in some alternate reality in which all my perceptions and intuitions were skewed toward absurdity could I have clicked on that ad — a reality where one can buy a Rolex at a 78 percent discount and it's possible to extend one's member 18 inches overnight, steel rod optional.

Search for mythical world Atlantis unfounded, pointless

By **CORY BARKER**
INDIANA DAILY STUDENT (INDIANA U.)

The search for Atlantis continues. But should it?

The United Kingdom-based publication The Sun released a report that the lost civilization of Atlantis, a locale Plato believed to have perished suddenly around 12,000 years ago, had been found — and on Google Earth, no less.

The Google Ocean extension showed very interesting grid lines in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, 620 miles off the west coast of Africa somewhere near the Canary Islands — which just happened to be the location Plato blabbed about all those years ago.

But sadly, the gridlines happened to be just that — lines used by the program to scour and map out the ocean.

At this point, Atlantis remains undiscovered and a mystery to most people. So why are we so interested it?

How, during an economic disaster that demands our attention, did this story make its way to the forefront?

Probably more than most people, I love world mysteries and tales of suspicious, powerful races now long gone, but the ancient story lacks any evidence that would normally give story like Atlantis legs.

At least with UFOs or, heck, even

Big Foot, there's some marginally attractive evidence that would make us think twice

Not Atlantis.

Not to discredit Plato or anything, but he was the first and only person to ever reference Atlantis during its introduction into the human psyche.

That means every story reported, passage written and discourse held on the subject stems from one man's writings — writings that scholars aren't quite sure are fiction or non-fiction, as many look at its creation as Plato's metaphorical way of depicting ancient Athens.

Yet for some odd reason, people have been obsessed with this mythical locale ever since and if this recent story is any indication, will continue to be so until some answers are given.

It even attracted the Nazis during their reign, as Henrich Himmler had a team thoroughly investigate Tibet in 1938 because the Nazis thought the Aryan race must have begun in Atlantis.

They didn't find a thing.

At this point, the story of Atlantis has been mutated and riffed so many times that it seems like every time some sort of geological discovery takes place in a body of water, we target in on Atlantis.

It's near the islands of San-

torini in the Mediterranean Sea, somewhere in the North Sea, in the Bermuda Triangle and Antarctica.

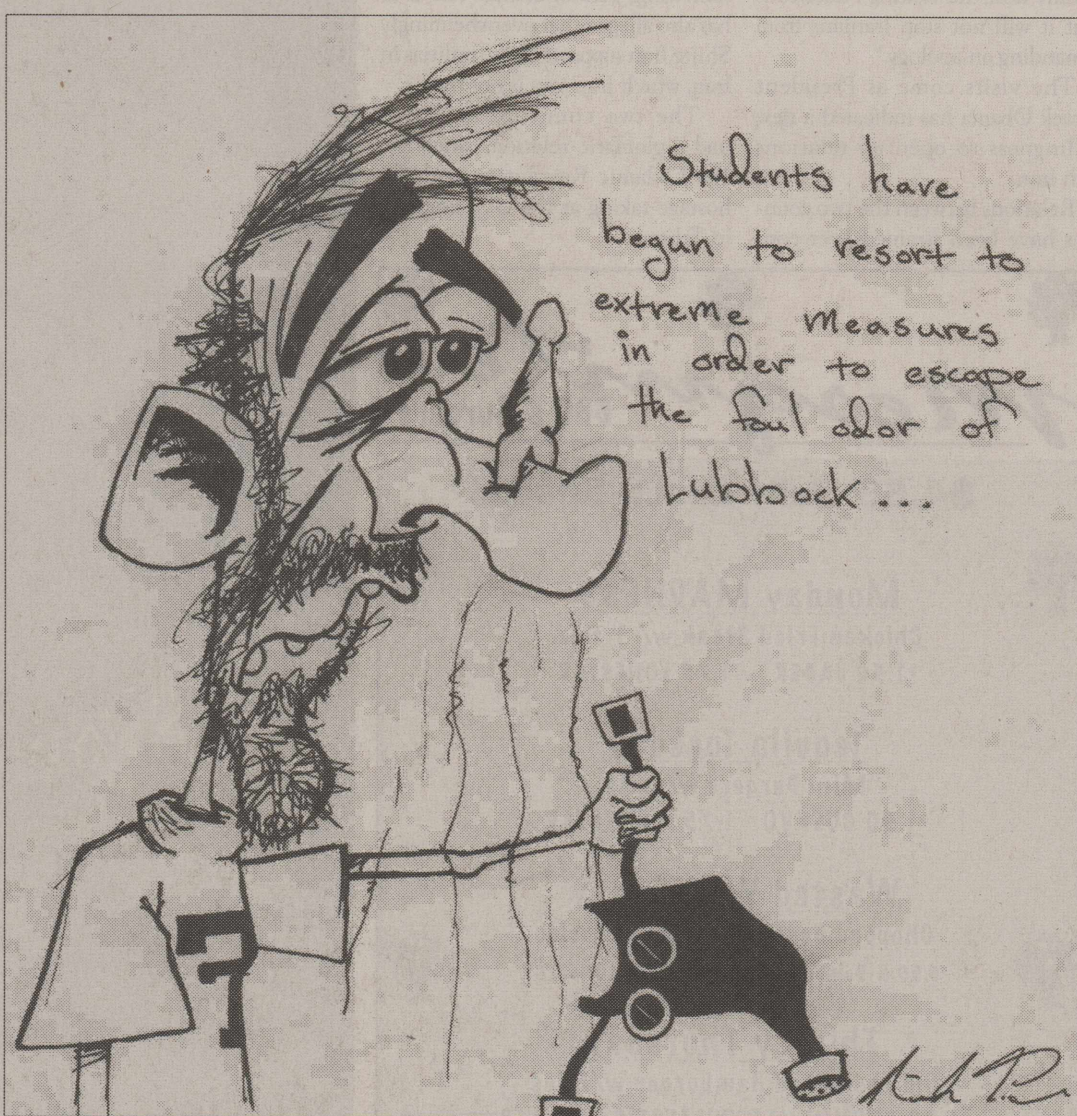
If Atlantis is found, I'll be the first person to admit I was wrong. Sure, a discovery like that could tell us loads about ancient civilizations and open up numerous other

research avenues.

It is just difficult to see the value in placing hope of each discovery to this supposedly lost society.

There are surely more important things to be looking for — and definitely more important things to be talking about.

"At this point, Atlantis remains undiscovered and a mystery to most people. So why are we so interested it?"



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Tech student organization hosts version of 'The Price is Right'

By LANDRY LOCKER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Tech Activities Board gave tribute to a popular 37-year-old game show when the organization hosted its second annual version of "The Price is Right," in the Student Union Building's Allen Theatre Thursday night.

Derek Kelsheimer, the activities board's special program coordinator from Richmond, said he hoped the event would be one of the most popular events and hoped it would grow in popularity in the future.

Kelsheimer, a senior marketing major, said the organization began planning the event last fall and began receiving prize donations at the beginning of the semester.

More than 150 prizes were given away at the event, including gift certificates to TGI Fridays, Raising Canes and McAlister's Deli.

The event featured games seen on the "Price is Right," including a Plinko board and a Showcase Showdown wheel.

AJ Travis, a sophomore political science major from Harker Heights, was among the students selected to participate in the game show.

Travis said he was a huge fan of the show as a child when Bob Barker was the host but stopped watching the show when Drew



PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Toreador
FRESHMAN KAITLIN FARRELL, an interior design major from Allen, plays Plinko during a Texas Tech version of "The Price Is Right" Thursday in the Allen Theatre located inside the Student Union Building.

View a related video at www.dailytoreador.com

Carey took over for Barker in 2007.

The Tech Activities Board version of "The Price is Right," was hosted by Bryan Howe, a senior biology major from Houston who hoped to keep the crowd laughing.

"I just tried to wig it on the stage and keep the audience entertained," Howe said, "but I definitely enjoyed hosting the event."

Travis said he was impressed with Howe as a host and gave him a hug when he walked on stage to participate in the Showcase Showdown.

"He did a great job as a host. He was funny and didn't seem nervous at all," said Travis. "He wasn't quite Bob Barker, but he was definitely way better than Drew Carey."

Travis did not win the grand prize in the Showcase Showdown, but he said he had a great time and plans on attending the

event next year.

"This event was a lot of fun," said Travis. "I would definitely encourage people to come out next year and participate."

Kelsheimer said he was pleased with the success of this year's event and can't wait for the next one.

"The Price is Right is a very popular game show and students seem to really enjoy the event," he said. "This event is only going to get bigger in the future."

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Indonesian tiger catchers race time

SUNGAI GELAM, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's tiger catchers have a double job — protecting humans from tigers, and tigers from humans.

The elite teams of rangers and conservationists rush to the scene every time villagers report attacks or sightings of critically endangered Sumatran tigers. First, they calm the people. And then, if there are signs the animal is nearby, they return with steel cage traps, live bait, heat-sensitive cameras and other equipment to capture the magnificent beasts.

This time Sartono, who at 40 has spent nearly half his life in the job, arrives with his six-member squad at a remote oil palm plantation in Sungai Gelam district, 375 miles west of the capital, Jakarta, knowing they'll have to act fast.

Three people have been killed in less than a week — Rabai Abdul Muthalib, 45, a rubber tapper ambushed near a river, and days later, Suyud, 50, and his son, Imam Mujianto, 21, who were sleeping in their hut when the yellow-eyed tiger pounced through the thin roof.

The beast devoured the brain, heart and liver of the youngest victim, spreading terror through surrounding villages.

Sartono knows if he and his team cannot put a quick end to the killing spree, residents will shoot or poison the Sumatran tiger, which is already on the brink of extinction because of rapid deforestation, poaching and clashes with humans.

There are only around 250 of the cats left in the wild, compared to about 1,000 in the 1970s, according to the World Wildlife Fund, meaning the Panthera tigris sumatrae could become the first large predator to go extinct in the 21st century.

The tiger catchers' job is to trap the animals, carry out health checks, fit them with GPS tracking collars and then release them back into national parks or other protected areas. Often they come back empty-handed, but this time, not long after beginning their intensive foot patrol through palm oil plantations and peatland forest, they have good reason to feel optimistic.

Siegfried and Roy perform last show, proceeds go toward charity

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Illusionists Siegfried and Roy — and the Bengal tiger that ended their careers — shared the stage again Saturday night for a haunting final performance.

The brief charity show saw Roy Horn and Siegfried Fischbacher side by side with Montecore, the massive white tiger that brutally mauled Horn during a 2003 performance.

Horn re-emerged Saturday dressed in black robes, his face covered with a skeletal mask. The dark stage was covered in smoke. Horn limped slowly onstage, often steadying himself on Fischbacher's shoulder.

The two slowly performed a signature illusion as Fischbacher, dressed in white robes and a mask, stood inside a cage, which was then cloaked in drapes. As Horn removed the curtain seconds later, Fischbacher appeared across stage, a hulking tiger in his place.

As the crowd took to its feet, the men removed their masks. Fisch-

bacher standing between the tiger and Horn. They waved and blew kisses at the audience, but said nothing.

An announcer left the crowd with this final thought: "Within all of us there is an illusive melody, which when heard and followed will lead you to the fulfillment of your fondest dreams."

The performers' manager, Bernie Yuman, later confirmed the tiger was Montecore.

In October 2003, the tiger sank its teeth into Horn's neck, dragging him offstage in front of a horrified audience. The illusionist, now 64, was partially paralyzed, suffering a damaged neck artery and crushed windpipe.

After 13 years and more than 5,000 performance, "Siegfried & Roy" show at The Mirage immediately went dark, ending one of the most successful shows in Las Vegas history.

The Lord is ... longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. — 2 Peter 3:9
Daily Proverbs: 3/2 - Pr. 2:6
3/3 - Pr. 3:5 + 3/4 - Pr. 4:4
3/5 - Pr. 6:3,4 + 3/6 - Pr. 6:4,5
sponsored by CFSA

More TV ads projecting images of racial harmony

(AP) — Ever see an inner-city schoolyard filled with white, Asian and black teens shooting hoops? Or middle-aged white and Latino men swigging beer and watching the Super Bowl on their black neighbor's couch? Or Asians and Latinos dancing the night away in a hip-hop club?

All it takes is a television.

Yes, that mesmerizing mass purveyor of aspiration, desire and self-awareness regularly airs commercials these days that show Americans of different races and ethnicities interacting in integrated schools, country clubs, workplaces and homes, bonded by their love of the products they consume.

Think about one of Pepsi's newest spots, "Refresh Anthem," which debuted during the Super Bowl. The ad, which features Bob Dylan and hip-hop producer will.i.am, is a collage of images from the '60s and today that celebrate generations past and present.

Whites and blacks are shown returning from war, surfing, skateboard-

ing, dancing and waving American flags at political rallies, while a boyish Dylan and a present-day will.i.am take turns singing the Dylan classic, "Forever Young," each in his signature style.

Or, take the latest hit spot from E... TRADE, which stars the E... TRADE Baby, a 9-month-old white boy, and his newest buddy — a black infant who, from his own highchair, agrees with the wisdom of online investing even in a down economy.

Ads like these are part of a subtle, yet increasingly visible strategy that marketers refer to as "visual diversity" — commercials that enable advertisers to connect with wider audiences while conveying a message that corporate America is not just "in touch," racially speaking, but inclusive.

It wasn't always like this. For much of the past century, "minorities were either invisible in mainstream media, or handed negative roles that generally had them in a subservient position," says Jerome Williams, a professor of advertising and African-American studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

MONDAY		MARCH 2, 2009						
STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXI 5 PBS Lubbock	KCBD 11 NBC Lubbock	KLBK 13 CBS Lubbock	KMYL 14 MYN Lubbock	KLCW 22 CW Lubbock	KAMC 28 ABC Lubbock	KJTV 34 FOX Lubbock	
7 AM	Curious	Today Sched-uled from "Burn Notice,"	The Early Show	Copeland	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	(6:00) Good Day Lubbock	
8 AM	Super Why	actress Gabri-elle Anwar;	The 700 Club	Divorce	Payne	Regis & Kelly	Mertha Stewart	
9 AM	Sesame Street	teaching par-ents to deal with stress and aggression.	Price Is Right (HD)	Cristina	Cosby	The View (HD)	The Morning Show	
10 AM	Dragon Word		Restless (HD)	Alex	Paed Prog.	Paed Prog.	Tym Banks Show	
11 AM	Martha Bimby	Jeopardy Trivial	News	The People's Court	Roseanne	All My Children	Paed Prog.	
12 PM	Quilt	News	Beautiful Days of Our Lives	As the World	Paed Prog.	Fam Court	One Life to Live	
1 PM	Scrap	The Doctors	Guiding Light	Mauri	Judgs Jesmine	General Hospi-tal	Judge Mathis	
2 PM	Betw. Lion	Inside	Oprah Winfrey	Brown	Extra	J. Fox	No Deal	
3 PM	Arthur	WordGirl	Dr. Phil	Judy	Judy	Standing	Rachael Ray	
4 PM	FETCH!	Cyber	News	News	Fam. Feud	Queens	News	
5 PM	Mays	Bus. Rpt	News	News	Fam. Feud	Queens	News	
6 PM	NewsHour (HD)	Wheel	Millione.	Chuck	How I Met	Meatlers Illu-sion	Gossip Girl (HD)	
7 PM	Antiques (HD)	Break-up.	Two & 1/2 Rules	Yanni Volos.	Acropolis Rai-nspring	Medium (HD)	CSI: Miami (HD)	
8 PM	TBA		News	News	(10:25) Late Show	Malcolm	Married	
9 PM	Yanni Volos.	Acropolis Rai-nspring	Medium (HD)	CSI: Miami (HD)	Jim (HD)	Family	Sex City	
10 PM	Bus. Rpt	The Tonight Show	Charlie Rose	(11:37) Late Night	Big Bang	Late Late Show	Wife	
11 PM	Destinos	Last Call	Paed Prog.	Paed Prog.	Paed Prog.	Paed Prog.	Paed Prog.	
12 AM	GED							

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5				6		
6	3			1	2	
2	9		1		8	7
5		4	9		1	
		2	5			
9		3	1		2	
1	3		2		7	5
	2	5		3	4	
7					1	

Puzzles by PageFiller

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.

2	3	5	7	6	9	8	4	1
8	9	1	5	4	2	6	3	7
4	6	7	3	1	8	5	2	9
7	4	3	1	2	6	9	8	5
1	8	6	9	5	3	2	7	4
5	2	9	8	7	4	1	6	3
3	7	8	6	9	1	4	5	2
6	1	2	4	3	5	7	9	8
9	5	4	2	8	7	3	1	6

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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By: Candace O'Dell

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Brothers, sisters bond during Sibling Weekend

By **CARRIE THORNTON**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech dedicated a weekend to students and their siblings for the first time Friday and Saturday.

Sibling Weekend, hosted by the Office of Parent and Family Relations, kicked off Friday evening in the Student Union Building and offered a variety of activities for participating siblings to enjoy.

"Siblings who are 8 to 15 were invited to come up and spend time with their brothers and sisters," said Ken Gassiot, associate director of the family relations office. "We wanted to showcase Tech facilities and put them in fun places to create special memories."

Activities and events included a trip to Jones AT&T Stadium, the United Spirit Arena, the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center, Tech University Museum and several other facilities on campus.

The weekend was geared toward brothers and sisters having fun together, Gassiot said, and while some parents wanted to participate, their

goal was to limit the attendance to strictly students.

A total of 200 students and siblings signed up for the weekend activities, he said, which cost each person \$20 to participate.

"We really wanted to reach out to siblings to let them know Tech is a place for them too," Gassiot said, "and not just a place to say 'that's where my

"We wanted to showcase Tech facilities and put them in fun places to create special memories."

KEN GASSIOT
TECH FAMILY
RELATIONS OFFICE
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

brother goes.' It's a place to get excited about and get them looking forward to coming to campus."

Activities chosen for the weekend featured events and facilities on campus younger siblings would enjoy and would not have exposure to during a regular visit, he said.

"We really wanted to have a balance of the types of places we were having events at," Gassiot said, "like places with heavy student traffic."

Nick Flora, a freshman exercise sports science major, said he appreciated having a chance to spend time with his sister who he rarely sees because they live 10 hours apart.

"It's really nice to see her," the Katy native said, "and the events

have been fun."

The group had recently been given a chance to throw a football around on the field, he said it was his favorite event thus far.

"They offer different opportunities you wouldn't get to do on your own," Flora said.

Sibling weekend also was enjoyable for Flora because of his close relationship with his sister, he said. They can talk about more things and enjoy one-on-one time without their parents.

"I hope they continue doing this at Tech," Flora said. "It's a good way for siblings and students to bond and hopefully they will continue it for other generations."

His sister, Amelia Flora, a freshman in high school, agreed the weekend's events have been fun and has enjoyed walking around Tech's campus.

"I have already wanted to come here," Amelia Flora said, "I like seeing stuff I didn't get to see before and didn't get to do."

Meagan McCauley, a freshman undecided human science major, said she rarely has the chance to see her sister and the weekend has provided an opportunity for them to spend time together.

"It's been a special time with each other," the Mineral Wells native said. "We get along better without our parents."

Spending a weekend with her sibling away from home and without their parents has been enjoyable for her, because McCauley said their

mom likes to know what they're doing at all times when she is around.

"Going to the (football) field was cool, was fun," she said, "It's just nice to see her."

Although McCauley and her sister did not participate in every event sibling weekend offered, she said they have enjoyed spending time together and enjoyed the few events they attended.

Attending every event were student volunteers who mingled with the students and their siblings.

"We are here to help everyone feel comfortable," said Samantha Leung, a sophomore advertising major.

The weekend's events have been running very well, Leung said, the office has done a good job integrating family into student life.

"It makes (the) college experience more personal when family is involved," the McKinney native said, "and they get to see what you do on a daily basis."

Sibling weekend is unique because unlike parent weekend, its activities are student-oriented, she said.

"The office did a good job with variety (in the events) by integrating everything we have to offer," Leung said.

Gassiot said the office's goal was to show what Tech has to offer while encouraging students to have fun with their brother or sister.

"We wanted to focus on sibling relationships," Gassiot said, "and building friendships in ways when parents are not around."

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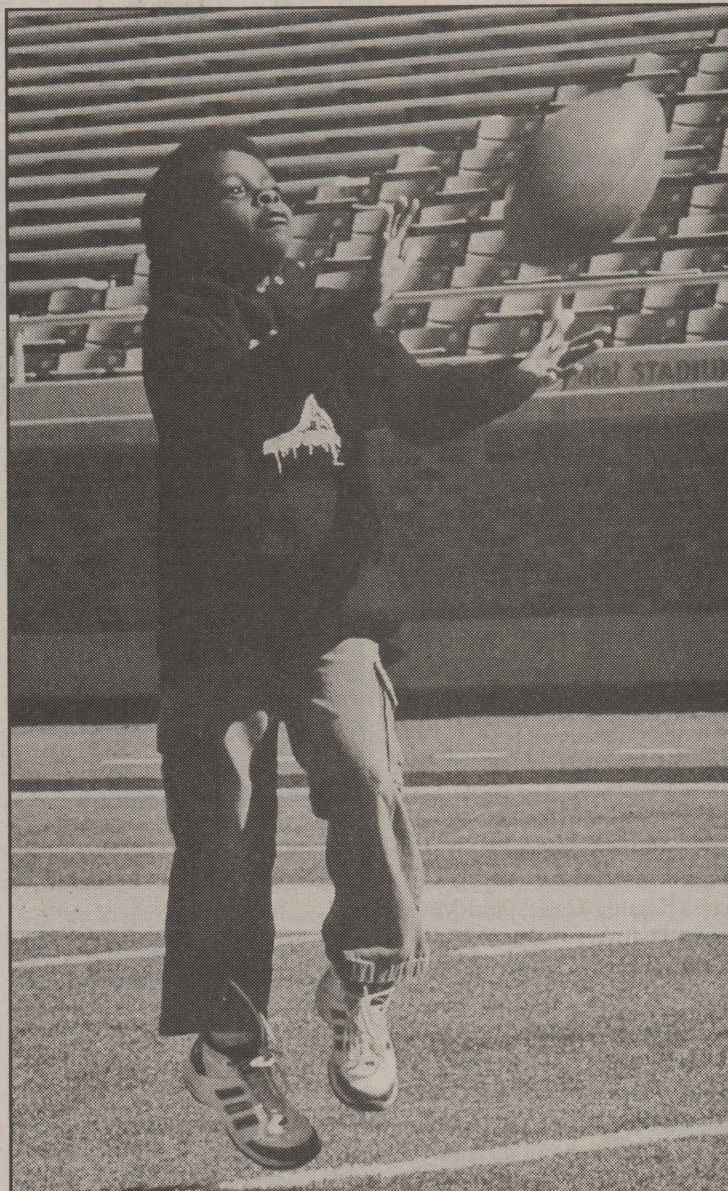


PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Treador
STEPHEN PATRICK, A 9-year-old from Coppell plays football at the sibling weekend at the Jones AT&T Stadium on Saturday.

Bruce Willis being sued for \$4 million

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Bruce Willis and his production company are being sued in Los Angeles for \$4 million for breach of contract.

The lawsuit filed Friday alleges Willis Brother Films agreed on a contract with three companies to produce the feature film "Three Stories About Joan," which Willis was to star in and direct.

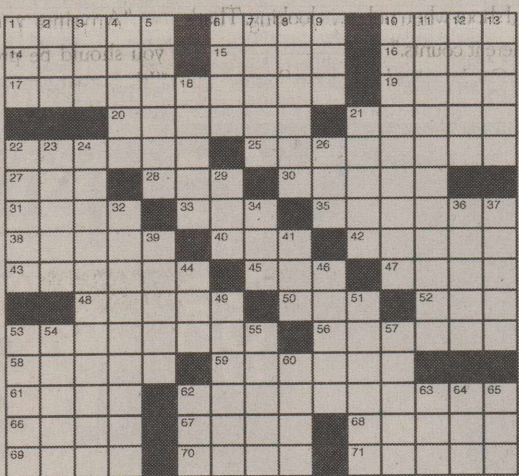
The lawsuit alleges that on Sept. 29 Willis quit as director without notice in violation of the agreement.

Phone calls to Willis' publicist and attorney were not immediately returned.

Henry Gradstein, attorney for the companies suing Willis, says the courts will resolve the matter. He had no further comment.

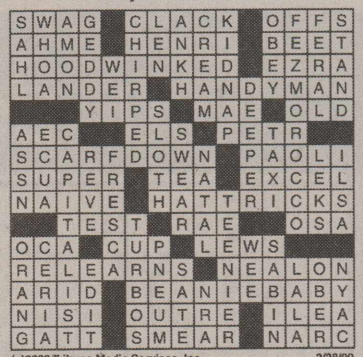
THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- 1 Chocolate
 - 6 Pay figure
 - 10 Cartoonist
 - 14 Addams
 - 15 Aphrodite's boy
 - 16 Strip of a lattice
 - 17 Fish farms
 - 19 Blues great
 - 20 Doctrines
 - 21 Glossy fabric
 - 22 Off the boat
 - 25 Three consecutive goals
 - 27 Hot spring
 - 28 Ambulance grp.
 - 30 Nearby things
 - 31 Recent walkers
 - 33 Truly!
 - 35 Full of worthless stuff
 - 38 Gaffer Mediate
 - 40 A-team guy
 - 42 Pianist Blake
 - 43 In heaven
 - 45 Tempe sch.
 - 47 Chinawood oil
 - 48 Fund a fellowship
 - 50 Grad. degree
 - 52 Wornout piece of cloth
 - 53 Carolina cape
 - 56 Martina of tennis
 - 58 Pixielike
 - 59 Caspian sturgeon
 - 61 Settlement
 - 62 Female pharaoh
 - 66 750 in letters
 - 67 Cinema pooch
 - 68 TV journalist
 - 69 On the Aegean
 - 70 Fired off
 - 71 Hebrew letter
- DOWN**
- 1 Dashboard info
 - 2 Can or cup ending?
 - 3 U.S. voter
 - 4 One hundred: pref.
 - 5 Stick
 - 6 Used to be
 - 7 Math subj.
 - 8 Lunges toward
 - 9 Twisting turn
 - 10 Leaves in a rush
 - 11 Location of Southern Miss
 - 12 "Toys in the"
 - 13 Meat cut
 - 18 Adversary
 - 21 Cubic meter
 - 22 "The Jetsons" dog
 - 23 Eating utensil
 - 24 Sharp-featured visage
 - 26 Religious deg.
 - 29 Theol. sch.
 - 32 Minute trace
 - 34 Altar constellation
 - 36 Biblical peak
 - 37 Safecrackers
 - 39 Poet Nash
 - 41 Recipe meas.
 - 44 90 degrees from vert.
 - 46 Yep
 - 49 " Cannonball"
 - 51 Abridged version
 - 53 Hopper of gossip
 - 54 McCowen and Guinness
 - 55 Fracas
 - 57 Backs of necks
 - 60 Future D.A.'s exam
 - 62 Possesses
 - 63 987-65-4321 grp.
 - 64 Sturm Drang
 - 65 You, to Yves



By Jo Vita
Dade City, FL

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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Check out the DT's bloggers online

LIVIN' LA VIDA: Tina's travels
By Tina L. Arons, features editor



After accomplishing my goal to quit coffee for a month, I've been brainstorming new blogable challenges for myself with the help of my coworkers.

We somehow landed on the topic of *The Daily Treador* news editor's wheelchair.

If you spend time working for the student newspaper, you'll probably be invited to sit in Jon Vanderlaan's wheelchair.

It's often parked beside his desk in the newsroom and offers several minutes of entertainment at any given time.

Although Vanderlaan is not wheelchair-bound, he uses it to travel across campus for classes or interviews — a feat I have never attempted.

So, I am going to try today. Vanderlaan has agreed to let me borrow his wheelchair for a day to experience what it's like to be physically disabled.

Although he tells quirky, often humorous

stories about experiences with his wheelchair, I have a feeling I might not fair as well.

I have no idea how to open doors while in a wheelchair, and I'm not sure how to get my classroom in the basement of the Mass Communications building without using the route involving a few steps.

If you're curious to see how I do, check out my blog during the day. I plan to update it several times to report my progress (or defeat).

Read more online at blogs.dailytreador.com.

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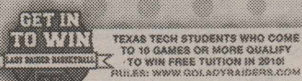
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Kansas

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Missouri

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Tech baseball off to slow start in Cal State Northridge series

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

Tech played well through the first two games of an eight-game, 11-day road trip, getting a good start by breaking open the scoring and taking early leads.

But Cal State-Northridge took advantage of several Tech miscues to clinch the three-game series with two victories.

"I think we're doing a good job for the most part," Tech coach Dan Spencer said. "We're going through some growing pains, but we're eight games into the season. It's time to figure it out."

Tech (5-3, as of press time) coughed up the lead in the first two games of the series losing the games 8-4 and 7-3 on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

Things looked promising early Saturday afternoon with Tech starting the game by loading the bases with no outs. However, Chris Richburg grounded into a triple play to end the inning and just one runner crossed the plate.

CSUN (3-3, as of press time) responded with a five-run outburst in the bottom of the first inning with four hits and two walks against Tech pitcher Miles Morgan (1-1).

Tech suffered a scoring drought beginning in the third inning through the end of the game.

In total, Tech left nine men on base and committed two fielding errors, which ultimately cost the Red Raiders two more runs on the day.

The silver lining in Saturday's loss was Tech reliever Louis Head, who had been shaky in his appearances prior to the outing against Cal State-Northridge.

Head replaced Morgan after 4 1/3 innings and helped keep the Red Raiders in the game by throwing 3 2/3 innings of shutout ball. He allowed one hit and one walk while earning four strikeouts through 52 pitches.

Prior to Saturday, the freshman reliever blew leads against Texas-Pan American in a game Tech ultimately won 6-5 and in Tuesday's loss to New Mexico.

"I sure hope (it gives him more confidence)," Spencer said. "Louis is a good player and I expect that he will perform like he did (Saturday) in the future."

Friday's loss was a credit to the Cal State-Northridge bullpen, which had blown three of the Matadors' four games prior to playing Tech.

With the Matadors trailing 4-3 in the top of the sixth, CSUN made the call to the bullpen. Relievers Peter Mendez, Paul Tremlin (1-0) and Brian Slover combined for three innings of scoreless baseball, allowing just two hits and no walks.

Meanwhile, with two men on base, CSUN catcher John Parham homered to right field driving in three runs for the 6-4 Matador lead and added two more runs in the eighth inning.

Tech catcher Jeremy Mayo made his return behind the plate in the 8-4 loss. It was his first start since Feb. 21 when he dislocated a thumb.

"It's just a little sore," he said. "I felt fine and I'm ready to play again."

Taylor Ashby hit his first home run since March 8, 2008 in the top of the fourth inning. The deep ball to left field opened up the scoring for the two squads. Ashby also had an at-the-wall catch later in the ballgame.

As of press time, Tech was scheduled to play CSUN for the final game of the series before packing up and heading to Riverside, Calif., for a game against UC-Riverside (5-2, as of press time) Tuesday.

After the UC-Riverside game, both Tech and UCR travel to Palm Springs, Calif., for a game against each other in conjunction with the Palm Springs Tournament. Tech also will face San Francisco, Gonzaga and Oregon State before returning to Lubbock.

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Poor shooting leads to loss, tourney hopes in question

View a related video at
www.dailytoreador.com

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Texas Tech coach Kristy Curry believes seven wins is the magic number to make a good case for an NCAA Tournament berth.

But Iowa State made that an uphill climb for Tech.

A 59-52 loss to No. 25 Iowa State (21-7, 9-5 in Big 12 Conference play) Saturday in the United Spirit Arena followed the 30-point loss Tech took at No. 6 Baylor on Feb. 26, and now the two losses may set the Lady Raiders back as far as an NCAA Tournament berth is concerned.

"We could hang our hats up and say we're done, but this team, this staff and this program will not do that," Curry said. "We are just going to stay positive, continue to work hard and to teach every day. There are so many different scenarios that could happen and we will not quit. Our focus right now isn't on the do or die scenario but on going to Oklahoma and getting a win Wednesday."

Tech (15-13, 5-9) is fighting for a good position heading into the Big 12 Tournament. The Lady Raiders are sitting eighth in the conference standing, which would put them against Kansas in the first round.

There still are obstacles to face as the season ends: a trip to No. 2 Oklahoma and a home finale against Missouri.

But the performances in the past two games for Tech have shown no signs of a tourney team.

The Lady Raiders seemed outmatched against the Bears last week, whereas the glaring problem in the Iowa State game was shooting.

Tech was 27.6 percent from the field on 16-of-58 shooting. Against Baylor, the Lady Raiders were 27.5 percent from the field on 14-of-51 shooting — the worst against a Big 12 opponent this season. Also the 16 points at halftime for Tech was a season low.

Tech standouts, such as Ashlee Roberson, Jordan Murphree and Maria Moore, had poor shooting nights: Roberson was 0-for-5 from the field, Murphree was 2-of-12 and Moore was 0-for-9.

Iowa State coach Bill Fennelly said since his team did not have the size to match up against the Lady Raiders,

double-teaming Seals and Kierra Mallard in the post was the strategy, forcing the Lady Raiders to kick the ball out to shooters on the perimeter.

But Tech could not take advantage of the opportunities given at the 3-point line. Tech was 5-of-25 from beyond the arc.

Down 37-30 in the second half, Tech missed six straight 3-pointers during the next four possessions. During that stretch, Maddy Brown took three of those shots and Moore, Roberson and Tilmila Martin took the others.

Surprisingly, one of the five 3-pointers Tech made came from

Seals, who hit one at the 19:47 mark in the second half. It was the first 3-pointer in Seals' career at Tech.

Seals said Curry usually encourages the center to shoot outside the paint.

However, Murphree and Brown — who are tied for the team lead in 3-pointers made with 24 apiece — were 1-of-7 and 1-of-4, respectively, from beyond the arc against ISU.

"We were getting the ball out, we just wasn't hitting shots like we supposed to," Seals said. "Just like coach said, you gotta have heart to go and get in the gym and shoot when nobody's looking. That's where it counts."

On the other hand, Iowa State — the best 3-point shooting team in the Big 12 statistically — did not do much better when it came to shooting.

By the end of the first half, the Cyclones were 9-of-30 from the field, good



PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH'S JORDAN MURPHREE WAS 1-OF-7 FROM THE 3-POINT LINE IN THE LADY RAIDERS' 59-52 LOSS TO IOWA STATE SATURDAY AT THE UNITED SPIRIT ARENA

for 30 percent. They finished the game shooting 33.3 percent from the field.

Since Fennelly said size was an issue against Tech, the Cyclones had to make up for it with their perimeter shooting. Although shooting 32 percent from 3-point range may not stand out, it was enough for ISU to leave Lubbock with a win.

Before the game, Fennelly said he believed ISU was facing a Tech team worthy of a tourney berth.

But it seems with the past two losses, Tech now has more questions than answers as the season winds down.

"Anytime you beat Texas Tech, you should be proud," Fennelly said. "It's a great program, great team. One of the storied programs in our country. Anytime you beat a Tech team, you're gonna celebrate. We're gonna be excited about this."

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Hays' No. 27 jersey to be retired March 23

Former Texas Tech coach Larry Hays' No. 27 jersey will be retired when the Red Raiders take on Lubbock Christian on March 23 at Dan Law Field.

Tech Athletic Director Gerald Myers, coach Dan Spencer and current Tech players will take part in the pregame ceremony honoring Hays, who retired as Tech's skipper in June 2008.

Spencer played for Hays in his first year as Tech's coach and was pitching coach under him last season prior to being promoted.

"I learned a lot from coach

Hays," Spencer said. "From baseball to being a man and learning that family is very important, he has impacted the way I coach."

The ceremony will occur prior to the first pitch scheduled at 6:30 p.m. March 23.

Hays, who also coached at LCU, led Tech to two regular-season conference championships, two Big 12 Tournament appearances and nine regional NCAA Tournament appearances. At LCU, Hays led the team to the 1983 NAIA National Championship.

Hays is the winningest coach in both Tech and LCU base-

ball history as well as the fourth-winningest coach in NCAA baseball history. He retired as the Tech skipper in June 2008 after 22 seasons at Tech with a record of 814-479-3. His all-time record is 1,509-860-4 during his 38 years of coaching.

Tech athletic officials are hoping that the "Battle for 19th Street" game against Lubbock Christian will be the team's first sellout since the 2000 season. Tech has not faced LCU since the 1993 season.

►michael.graham@ttu.edu

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Tech men's tennis wins 2 in first home matches

By ZANE TURNER
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech men's tennis team made full use of its home-court advantage.

The Red Raiders (4-3) swept the weekend matches, defeating No. 32 TCU (2-7) Saturday, 5-2 and taking care of New Mexico State (8-2), 6-1 Sunday.

It was the first time the Red Raiders were at home this season. With the two wins, Tech is 9-0 at home dating back to last season.

Against TCU, Tech put itself in a hole to start the match surrendering the doubles point to the Horned Frogs.

TCU defeated Tech's No. 1 and No. 2 teams of Raony Carvalho and Christian Rojmar, and Sinisa Markovic and Michael Breler. Preventing the sweep for the Red Raiders was

the No. 3 team of Gonzalo Escobar and David Gonzalez winning against TCU's Zach Nichols and Christopher Taylor, 9-7.

The Red Raiders turned up the heat in the singles matches with Carvalho in the No. 2 spot for the first time, defeating TCU's Krieger Brink in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4.

Minutes later, Markovic — playing the No. 1 spot for the first time this season — gave Tech the lead for good disposing of TCU's No. 68-ranked Emmanuel Brighui also in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2.

Clinching the match for the Red Raiders was Milos Kustudija at the No. 6 spot, defeating TCU's Adrian Simon in a three-set tiebreaker, 3-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-3).

"I can't say enough about the way the guys fought," Tech coach Tim Siegel said. "At No. 1 and 2 we played tremendous tennis, I was so proud of

how we played at the top. This was a very, very important win for us."

On Sunday the Red Raiders continued their home court dominance over New Mexico State.

Markovic, playing the No. 2 spot this time, took the win against New Mexico State's Roman Stoislavljic, 6-1, 6-0, giving him two wins on the weekend. Carvalho also went 2-0 for the weekend defeating the Aggie's Jim Bropleau in straight sets, 6-3, 6-0.

Markovic improved to 5-2 on the season and Carvalho went to 4-2.

"We were ready to play," Carvalho said. "We worked hard this last week and it turned out good."

Earning his first victory of the season at No. 3 was Rojmar, defeating New Mexico State's Gustave Diep in three sets, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. Rojmar was down 4-2 in the third set but fought back, helping the Red Raiders earn the victory.

Siegel said his team had all six singles players playing well at the same time.

"This was a very good team win," he said. "New Mexico State is a very solid team. I think that six guys are now playing. We're playing as a team better than we were earlier in the year."

Tech resumes play Friday in Corpus Christi in the HEB Invitational, where Siegel said eight ranked teams are set to compete.

"We played really well this weekend," Markovic said. "It's really good for the confidence right now. We had some very tough matches at the beginning of the season, and it's really good that we came out and won both matches at home."

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Knight proud of team despite tough season

By ALEX YBARRA
MANAGING EDITOR

With his first full season at the helm winding down, Texas Tech coach Pat Knight is at "peace" with the identity of his basketball team.

Sitting in an Austin restaurant Wednesday, a suspended Knight and a few friends watched his Red Raiders compete with No. 25 Texas. With his assistant coaches running the show, his team fell short again, but not without a valiant effort — something Knight talks about with pride.

"They're giving me everything they can," Knight said after Tech lost 78-63 to No. 3 Oklahoma Saturday, its sixth straight loss. "I mean it's tough, you don't wanna talk about moral victories, you'd rather have victories on your record, but these kids haven't quit."

Knight, always candid, said he may have been a little too loud in rooting against the Longhorns, but fortunately he had an understanding waiter.

"I had to be careful, I've been getting in trouble for my mouth to begin with," said Knight, who has been issued a public reprimand and a suspension from the Big 12 Conference this season. "I'm sitting back there in the restaurant, when you yell at a restaurant it kind of echoes."

"I had to apologize to our waiter a couple times. Our waiter went to school at Tech, he was great, he was like, 'Hey coach we understand, that's why we kind of put you in the corner because we knew you'd probably get into the game a little bit.'"

Although some may think a special season has to come on the heels of a championship, it seems Knight has a special bond with a team that dwells at the bottom of the Big 12 standings but plays like it's in the NCAA Tournament.

Tech showed its grit against the Sooners on Saturday, cutting double-digit deficits twice to come within 50-49 midway through the second half. But the same story rolled around again: The effort is there in practices and for stretches in games, however, the Red Raiders cannot sustain it for 40 minutes.

Behind a 20-point, 19-rebound performance from forward Blake Griffin, the Sooners pulled away late, but Oklahoma coach Jeff Capel said Tech was "tremendous all game long," and its play on the court does not reflect a 2-12 conference record.

"It seems like, in watching them on tape and especially this game, coming into this game they had been playing really well, they just haven't been able to close the deal," Capel said. "Sometimes you go through a season like that."

"I think it's indicative they're a really young team. These young guys haven't gone through the experiences. You have to find — you have to learn how to win, how to close games out."

Now Tech has one more chance at salvaging the season when No. 15 Kansas visits Lubbock Wednesday.

With the cloud of losses hanging over his players' heads, Knight probably



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador
OKLAHOMA FORWARD BLAKE Griffin shoots over Texas Tech's Robert Lewandowski, left, and Michael Prince during the Red Raiders 63-78 loss to the Sooners Saturday in the United Spirit Arena.

would like history to repeat itself. Tech upset Kansas in 2005 and 2007, when the Jayhawks were ranked No. 2 and No. 5, respectively.

"We're enjoying being around each other," Knight said. "I enjoy coaching this team, and kind of came to peace with it. We'll just play it out. The kids, we're trying to get the young kids that are returning better each day."

"I'd like to give these seniors something to remember. There's still a couple games left. At least some kind of good taste in their mouth before they leave."

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Marquez knocks out Diaz to unify lightweight belts

HOUSTON (AP) — Juan Manuel Marquez took care of Juan Diaz.

Now he wants Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Marquez (50-4-1, 37 KOs) won the vacant WBA and WBO lightweight belts, plus Diaz's minor IBO title, by knocking out the Houston native with a right uppercut at 2:40 of the ninth round Saturday night.

The 35-year-old Marquez, a former featherweight and super-featherweight champion, was fighting at 135 pounds for only the second time in his 15-year professional career.

Moments after the victory, Marquez said he didn't want to stay in the lightweight division for long and wanted to challenge Mayweather, who was considered the pound-for-pound king when he retired last summer.

The unbeaten five-division champion said he no longer had the desire to fight, but every major contender anywhere near the welterweight division has been a rumored opponent for him.

And now Marquez thinks he's earned a shot.

"Who wouldn't want to see that fight?" Marquez said through an interpreter. "I'll fight him at 140, maybe a little above that. I want to fight the best, the very best."

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