



THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

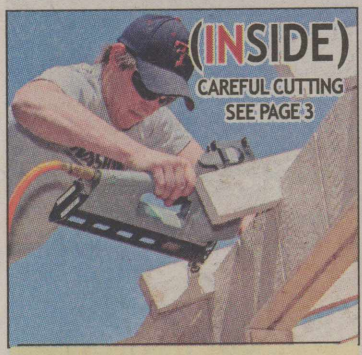
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Forever a legend

Larry Hays' Tech and LCU jerseys retired at Dan Law Field



(INBRIEF)

STATE

Perry announces \$50M grant for Texas A&M

AUSTIN (AP) — The state is giving \$50 million from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund to the Texas A&M University System for a new center to combat diseases like cancer and diabetes.

A university system official says the center will be a prototype for developing new vaccines and therapeutics in a quick, cost-effective way. Vice Chancellor for Research Brett Giroir also said the center will be important in protecting against bio-terror threats.

Gov. Rick Perry announced Monday that the money will help create the Center for Medical Therapeutics Development and Manufacturing.

NATION

NTSB checks on plane overloading

BUTTE, Mont. (AP) — Investigators say a plane that plummeted into a cemetery next to Butte, Mont.'s airport — killing all 14 people aboard — was designed to hold just 10 people.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Monday it first thought the plane could hold 11 people. But after talking to the owner, they realize it was designed only for 10.

Seven of the 14 passengers were children under 10. Mark Rosenker, acting chairman of the NTSB, says children under 2 years old can sit on the laps of adults — but only one of the children was that young.

WORLD

Taliban commander among 10 killed in strike

KABUL (AP) — NATO troops killed a senior Taliban commander and nine other militants in southern Afghanistan, officials said Monday, striking a blow in the group's heartland where the U.S. plans to send thousands of additional troops to stem the growing violence.

Over a dozen Afghan and coalition forces have been killed in the south in recent days, including eight Afghan police who were killed by Taliban fighters Monday in the Kandahar province.

U.S.-led forces toppled the Taliban government in 2001, but many of the militants fled south and east to Pakistan where they have been launching cross-border attacks into Afghanistan alongside al-Qaida.

DEATH TOLL

4260
U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

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PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador
FROM LEFT, FORMER Texas Tech and Lubbock Christian baseball coach Larry Hays is presented with his No. 27 jersey as Amy Ashby, with Tech marketing, and Tech coach Dan Spencer stand beside him Monday at Dan Law Field.

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

The largest crowd to witness a baseball game at Dan Law Field this season also saw a legend take his place in Texas Tech and Lubbock Christian baseball history.

Former Tech and LCU baseball coach Larry Hays' No. 27 jerseys were retired by both programs in front of 4,075 fans Monday at Dan Law Field. The ceremony took place before Tech's game against Lubbock Christian.

Hays, who retired after the 2008 baseball season as the fourth winningest coach in NCAA baseball history, coached for 38 years amassing a 1,509-860-4 overall record and is the winningest coach in both Tech and LCU baseball history with 814 and 695 wins, respectively.

"It's a big deal," Hays said. "I've been thinking about it for the past couple of days. Anyone who plays baseball knows the uniform and number is a big deal. For it to be here (in front of LCU and Tech) is really nice."

Monday's ceremony included a video about Hays' celebrated career. Then, Lubbock Mayor Tom Martin delivered proclamation on behalf of the City of Lubbock.

The pregame ceremony also included speeches by current Tech head coach Dan Spencer, LCU coach Nathan Blackwood, Tech Athletic Director Gerald

Myers, Tech Board of Regents member Mark Griffin and LCU President Ken Jones.

Hays' family and some of his former players were in attendance to see his jerseys retired. Tech players and LCU's Tanner Rindels, who transferred from Tech to LCU last year, played in Monday's game.

In addition to being presented a black, Tech No. 27 jersey, a white LCU No. 27 jersey and the unveiling of a sign on Dan Law Field's center field wall, Hays received a U.S. flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol and an LCU ring.

"It (was) a special night to be in the city of Lubbock," said Blackwood, whose Chaparrals are ranked No. 5 in the NAIA. "It's hard to think what LCU baseball would be without Larry Hays. He did it the right way."

Hays coached LCU from 1971 through the 1986 season and led the Chaps to a 1983 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national championship — the first in the program's history.

Hays left LCU for Tech in 1986 and led the Red Raiders to two regular-season conference championships and two conference tournament championships throughout his tenure as head coach.

Prior to Hays' arrival at Tech in 1986, Tech had never won a conference title or had an NCAA Tournament appearance.

HAYS continued on page 3

HSC program reaccredited

By KENDYL SEBESTA
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Health Sciences Center Physician Assistant Program earned continued accreditation Thursday, highlighting a field that is projected to increase employment rates by 27 percent despite U.S. unemployment totaling about 5 million people.

Hal Larsen, department chair of the Tech Physician Assistant Program, said supply and demand has allowed the health care industry to create opportunities for employment and growth despite the rise in unemployment rates across the United States.

"The supply would be not only the health care providers, but the number of patients increasing," Lar-

sen said. "Right now there aren't enough physician assistants, physicians or nurses to deliver health care to the baby boomers and everyone else."

He said physician assistants offer a unique solution to the supply and demand problem by decreasing patient overload in the health care system, therefore offering more opportunities for employment in the field.

"Physician assistants can see patients and don't necessarily have to have a physician right there watching them all the time," Larsen said. "Actually 85 percent of people seen by a regular physician can be seen by a physician



LARSEN

assistant just as effectively."

Physician assistants typically care for patients with minor ailments, he said, including sore throats and colds.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Web site, physician assistants also provide diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive health care services. The assistants may take medical histories, conduct examinations, and make diagnoses.

Don Diemer, associate director of the Tech Physician Assistant Program, said the Tech program is particularly effective for two reasons: the program has scored 50 points higher on average as a class than the national average, and it has good equipment, professors and support from the university.

HSC continued on page 3

Administration moves against bad bank assets

By TOM RAUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration aimed squarely at the crisis clogging the nation's credit system Monday with a plan to take over up to \$1 trillion in sour mortgage securities with the help of private investors. For once, Wall Street cheered.

The announcement, closely stage-managed throughout the day, filled in crucial blanks in the administration's financial rescue package and formed what President Barack Obama called "one more critical element in our recovery."

The coordinated effort by the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. relies on a mix of government and private money — mostly from institutional investors such as hedge funds — to help banks rid their balance sheets of real-estate related securities that are now extremely difficult to value.

The goal, said Obama, is to get banks lending again, so "families can get basic consumer loans, auto loans, student loans, (and so) that small businesses are able to finance themselves, and we can start getting this economy moving again."

It was a huge gambit and one that came like a tonic to Wall Street, which had panned an earlier

outline of the program that lacked detail.

Stocks soared, the Dow Jones industrial average shooting up nearly 500 points, thanks to the bank-assets plan and a report showing an unexpected jump in home sales.

The introduction of the plan was closely choreographed so that the president — rather than Geithner — would be the first administration official to appear on camera at midday to discuss it. Geithner met earlier in the day, before markets opened, with a group of reporters at the Treasury Department to go over specifics. But cameras and broadcast-quality audio recorders were barred.

It was the reverse of what happened Feb. 10. Then, after Obama had helped raise expectations toward Geithner and the plan, the treasury secretary went before cameras and bombed. The Dow plunged about 300 points amid investor confusion about details.

The fleshed-out plan is designed to help fix a value on damaged mortgage loans and other toxic securities.

If the value of the securities goes up, the private investors and taxpayers would share in the gains. If the values go down, the government and private investors would incur losses.

"This will help banks clean up their balance sheets and make it easier for them to raise capital," Geithner said.

"This will help banks clean up their balance sheets and make it easier for them to raise capital"
TIM GEITHNER
US Treasury Secretary

At least 23 killed in Iraq suicide blast at funeral

By ROBERT H. REID
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD (AP) — A suicide bomber struck a tent filled Monday with Kurdish funeral mourners, unleashing a huge fireball that killed at least 23 people in a northern town where Kurds and Arabs are competing for power.

Also Monday, Turkey's visiting president pressed the Iraqi government to crack down on Kurdish rebels who stage cross-border raids into Turkish territory from sanctuaries in northern Iraq.

The provincial security office said 23 people were killed and 34 wounded in the suicide attack in the town of Jalula some 80 miles (120 kilometers) northeast of Baghdad.

A member of the provincial security committee, Amir Rifaat, said 24 people were killed and 28 wounded. The difference could not

be immediately reconciled.

Karim Khudadat, whose father was being mourned, said he was receiving visitors when the bomber struck.

"I was with my relatives outside the tent receiving people who came to offer condolences when suddenly the explosion took place," Khudadat said. "Suddenly a huge flame engulfed the tent and I was wounded in my head and legs."

Elsewhere, eight people were killed and 10 wounded in a bombing near a bus stop west of Baghdad, and a policeman died and eight people were wounded in a suicide blast at a market in the northern town of Tal Afar.

A series of high-profile bombings this month has raised concern that insurgents may be regrouping as the U.S. begins to scale down combat operations and hand over security responsibility to the Iraqis ahead of a planned American troop withdrawal by the end of 2011.

The attack in Jalula was noteworthy because it points to rising tensions in the north between Kurds and Arabs over control of a swath of territory that the Kurds want to incorporate into their self-ruled region.

U.S. officials believe Kurdish-Arab tension is among the major flashpoint issues threatening Iraqi stability now that the threat posed by Sunni and Shiite insurgents has been diminished.

Last August a suicide bomber killed 25 people, mostly police volunteers, in Jalula, a predominantly Arab town where the Iraqi army forced out Kurdish fighters of the self-ruled Kurdish government last year after a standoff that U.S. officials feared would lead to armed conflict.

A Jalula resident who was wounded in Monday's blast blamed al-Qaida in Iraq, a Sunni Arab organization that typically carries out suicide bombings. He identified himself only by his nickname Abu Holman.

	TODAY Sunny		Wednesday Partly Cloudy		Thursday Mosy Sunny		Friday Partly Cloudy/ Wind		Saturday Sunny
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
71	40	67	41	78	40	59	29	71	34

Rawls college nationally recognized

By **CHELSEA KIMBLE**
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Rawls College of Business Administration undergraduate program and MBA Physicians program ranked in the Top 100 for 2009 based on surveys conducted with graduating seniors in 2008.

The undergraduate program ranked 77th in the 2009 Business Week ratings, and the MBA Physicians program ranked 19th in the annual Modern Healthcare survey.

Senior Associate Dean of the business college Don Clancy said the college is delighted with the rankings.

"It's a big deal to be in the Top 100 schools out of 900 programs, which 450 are accredited," he said.

This is the highest the college has ever been ranked, Clancy said, and ultimately could bring more students to the program.

According to a Tech news release, the business college was ranked above such schools as Uni-

versity of Colorado and University of Oklahoma, but below the University of Texas and Texas A&M University.

"We don't directly compare ourselves to those schools," Clancy said. "It's an honor to be ranked amongst the best."

The goal was to reach the 25th percentile, he said, but the program made it into the Top 5th.

James Hoffman, the associate dean of MBA and Executive Education, said he was excited about the MBA Physicians ranking.

"Anytime you have a Top 20 ranking is a great feeling," he said. "It's been a team effort to gain success, with support from grad school, provost, chancellor and dean's office."

Hoffman said he mails thousands of letters promoting the program and receives about 100 replies, so being ranked is helpful.

"It allows the public and doctors to know the MBA Physicians program is an established legitimate

program," Hoffman said.

He said the program is doing well, and the only changes he could think of would be in effort to keep up with any changes in the health care industry.

The program's goal is to help doctors manage practices and stay in business, Hoffman said.

According to the Modern Healthcare survey rankings, the Tech MBA Physicians program ranks below schools such as Trinity University and University of Southern California, but ranks higher than Harvard, Duke and Yale.

According to the Tech news release, the business college undergraduate program ranked 83 in 2007, but did not rank in 2008.

Clancy said there was a change in the Tech system and students last year did not receive the survey that came via e-mail.

"We're just glad enough seniors turned in the survey and the program was ranked," he said.

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SPEAKING SPANISH

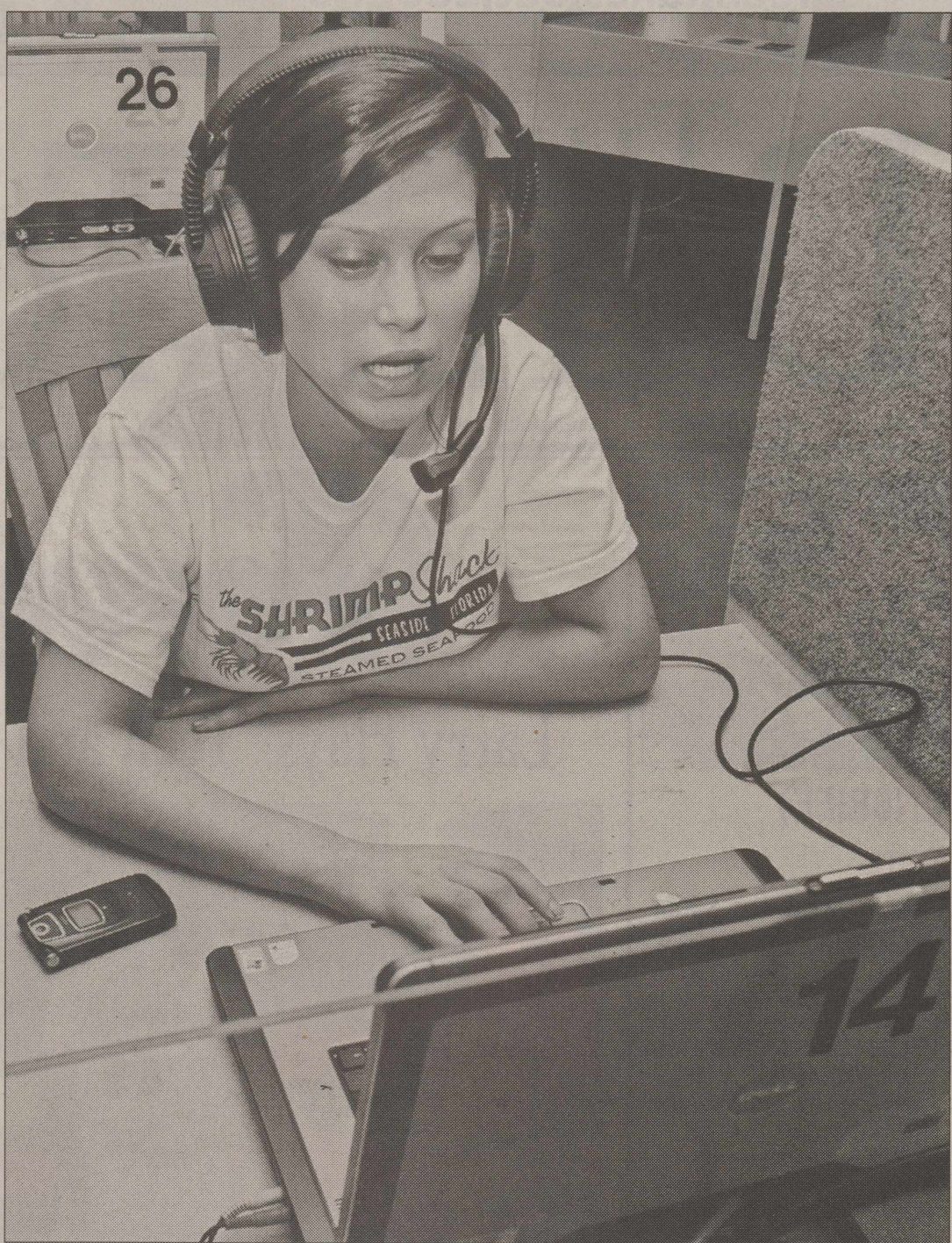


PHOTO BY KERRY LENTZ/The Daily Toreador

SAGE WRIGHT, A senior psychology major from Austin, practices her pronunciation skills for her Spanish class Monday in the Language Learning Lab in the Foreign Language building.

Tech faculty, alumni display art at show

By **STEVEN SCHWARTZ**
STAFF WRITER

Seven Texas Tech School of Art alumni and faculty were chosen to show their work in the third Texas Biennial art show, which began earlier this month and will continue through the first two weeks of April.

The show, created in 2005 and held in Austin, is an independently funded collection of art from people all over the state. Two assistant professors at Tech were chosen to exhibit their work, and five alumni are exhibiting their work as well. This number has increased since the last show held in 2007, in which two Tech alumni were selected.

William Cannings, an assistant professor of sculpture at the school, said he believes it is an honor to have his work shown in such a prestigious exhibition.

"It is nice to know that my work is being viewed and looked at outside of the application process," he said.

Cannings is one of four people

selected as a soloist to represent the Texas regions, including North, South, East and West. He said he hopes having many Tech affiliates in the Texas Biennial will help bring more recognition to the School of Art from the rest of Tech. Originally, 30 people were chosen for the soloist exhibits, and the people were narrowed down to four.

Christie Blizzard, an assistant professor of painting at the School of Art, is the other Tech faculty member selected for the Texas Biennial. Her work is being shown in the group exhibition area sponsored by the Women and Their Work organization.

Blizzard said she believes the exhibit is important for local artists to show their work in public, as well as bring recognition to the artistic side of Tech.

"It means a great deal to my career to have a work in the Texas Biennial," Blizzard said. "I feel it is a significant step forward to more regional and national recognition, particularly with the exposure that

this exhibition brings."

The artists were selected in part by Michael Duncan, the corresponding editor for "Art in America" magazine and the curator for the show. From the applications, 73 artists were chosen and 63 were chosen for the group shows.

Duncan said he believes local art often is overlooked by popular culture, and the biennial art show is a great asset for those local artists.

"The Texas Biennial is very important for bringing light to artists all over the state," he said.

When deciding which artists to select from the West Texas areas, Duncan said he knew his search would bring him Lubbock.

"There is a lot of interesting art all over the state of Texas, including Lubbock," Duncan said.

Displays will be located in numerous areas around Austin for the show, which began March 6 and will continue to exhibit Texas art until April 11.

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February home sales rise amid price drop

WASHINGTON (AP) — One month does not a recovery make. But a surprising leap in existing home sales in February was a welcome if tentative sign of hope that the real estate market may be stabilizing.

While sales of existing homes remain at lows not seen in more than a decade, economists were encouraged by the news, saying it reflected buyers who were taking advantage of deep discounts on foreclosures and other distressed properties. That's essential if home prices are to find their long-awaited bottom.

Prices plunged by almost 16

percent from a year ago in February and are expected to keep falling well into 2009. Tens of thousands of homes remain tied up in the foreclosure process and are not yet for sale. Plus, as the recession deepens and job losses mount, many buyers are likely to stay on the sidelines.

"The four-letter word in the housing market is 'jobs,'" said Nicolas Retsinas, director of Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies. "If you're worried about having a job tomorrow, you're not likely to buy a home now."

Sheryl Morgan, a real estate agent in Canonsburg, Pa., about 20 miles south of Pittsburgh, recently lost two

potential clients after strapped local employers cut back on pay. "Instead of selling and buying a new home, they're staying and refinancing," she said.

The National Association of Realtors said Monday that sales of existing homes grew 5.1 percent to an annual rate of 4.72 million last month, from 4.49 million units in January.

It was the largest monthly sales jump since July 2003, with first-time buyers accounting for about half of all transactions. Home sales activity has returned to December's levels, but still remains lower than most of last year.

Obama budget on chopping block in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's \$3.6 trillion budget faces its first tests on Capitol Hill this week, where a leading lawmaker wants to cut as much as \$30 billion from agency budgets while promising to protect initiatives like energy, education and health care.

After a weekend in which supporters mounted a campaign-style grass-roots effort to build public sup-

port for Obama's budget, the House and Senate Budget committees are going forward with competing but similar takes on the plan.

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., is preparing to sharply cut Obama's 11 percent increase for non-defense appropriations to perhaps 6 percent. But he's running into opposition from other powerful Democrats like Sens. Daniel

Inouye of Hawaii and Patty Murray of Washington. In the House, moderate "Blue Dog" Democrats are pressing for even deeper cuts.

Obama's also is taking a drubbing from Republicans over its spending and tax increases as well as a global warming plan that would impose higher energy costs on consumers and businesses. Republicans scoff at Obama's pledge to cut the deficit in half, noting that even if he does so, deficits would still easily exceed those experienced under President George W. Bush.

Obama's February budget included controversial health care reforms to provide medical care to almost 50 million uninsured people, a "cap-and-trade" system for selling permits to emit greenhouse gases and a tamping down of Pentagon budget increases.

Blizzard shuts down parts of Wyoming, South Dakota

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A blizzard shut down major highways Monday in Wyoming and South Dakota, and meteorologists said one mountainous area might get as much as 40 inches of snow.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial closed because of the icy, blinding weather in South Dakota's rugged Black Hills. Temperature plummeted as the storm moved eastward

and wind gusted to more than 60 mph.

Some residents of hard-hit northeast Wyoming said they had heeded forecasts and stocked up on groceries.

"We are well prepared for a day or two of blizzard conditions," Marcia Shanks said in a telephone interview from her home in Gillette.

The National Weather Service posted a blizzard warning

for eastern Wyoming and western sections of South Dakota and Nebraska, with a winter storm warning for much of central Wyoming and mountain sections of Colorado.

Four tornadoes briefly touched down in north-central and eastern Nebraska on Monday, while the western part of the state got snow. There were reports of downed power lines near the city of O'Neill.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Overactors
- In pieces
- Forget about
- Object of worship
- Ladies' man
- Costa
- Centennial State rock?
- Pilot's announcement, briefly
- Frontier bases
- Wolverine State fire starter?
- It'll never fly
- Bud's buddy
- Wetland
- One in a "Flying" circus act
- __ generis: unique
- Peach State wide open spaces?
- Sixth sense
- Baggage claim item
- Firm way to stand
- Guy
- Without precedent
- Cotton State sculpture?
- Italian veal dish
- Pah preceder
- Cornhusker State Town Car?
- Quaint "Holy moly!"
- John of England
- Bay of Pigs locale
- Disney dog
- Catches one's breath
- To be, in old Rome

DOWN

- Juice drink with a hyphenated name
- Big fuss
- Minute particles
- One of the deadly sins
- Coach
- Parseghlian
- Pea's place
- O'Neill's "___ for the Misbegotten"
- Blunt rejection
- Play the piccolo
- Synthetic fabric
- "A living faith will last in the ___ of the blackest storm": Gandhi
- "Rhyme Pays" rapper
- Old salts
- Bitter complainer
- Words before smoke or flames
- Copy cats?
- Reflection
- Bell hit with a padded hammer
- Auto with a four-ring logo
- Cut off, as branches
- Remote batteries
- [error left as is]
- Like a 12-0 verdict
- Basketball Hall of Famer Dan
- Mountain lion
- Neeson of "Taken"
- When many go to lunch
- Dolly, the clone, was one
- Derivatives of it are used in sunscreen
- Privilege loser, often
- Bring down on the gridiron
- Equally yucky
- "Mercy me!"
- Watery trenches under drawbridges
- Italian lawn game
- Like Ogden Nash's lama, in a poem
- Big name in video games
- Place to park
- Connections
- Barbell abbr.
- Rob Roy's refusal

By Dan Naddor 3/24/09

Monday's Puzzle Solved

SERB MISS TEST
CLUE AROMA AROO
REBA RELIT ANON
UNIVERSAL REMOTE
BIKINI REALM
SDAK SMARTS
AGO AGATE TEAK
BILATERAL TREATY
EVAN TOSEA LEE
DEVILS ANNO
MOODS OUNCES
TRIANGULAR PRISM
RUNT GNATS ANTI
EDGE YENTA MCAT
SEED STYX PYRE

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FROZEN MARGARITAS
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Obama nominates housing commissioner

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Monday named a longtime real estate industry executive to head the Federal Housing Administration, which during the U.S. housing market's bust has become the main provider of loans to borrowers with weak credit.

The White House on Monday named David Stevens as assistant secretary at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The position requires Senate confirmation and would put Stevens in charge of the FHA, the government-run mortgage-insurance program. In the wake of the subprime lending market's collapse, the FHA has become just about the only source of loans to borrowers with poor credit records and low down payments.

The FHA allows borrowers to take out home loans with a down payments of as low as 3.5 percent, compared with 20 percent for a typical loan that doesn't require mortgage insurance.

Stevens is currently president and chief operating officer of Long and Foster Cos., a Chantilly, Va., based real estate brokerage. He previously worked at Wells Fargo & Co., mortgage finance company Freddie Mac and World Savings Bank, a California-based lender.

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CAREFUL CUTTING



PHOTO BY SAM GREINADIER/The Daily Toreador

JOE POSEY, A junior agricultural education major from Roby, cuts wood Monday in the Agricultural Education building during an agricultural buildings and environmental control class. Building supplies for the class are donated by the Lubbock community.

HSC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Tech Physician Assistant Program also received continued accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education, he said, which ensures the program upholds certain national standards of analysis and performance.

"What this reaccreditation really means is that the Physician Assistant organization deemed us competent and able to graduate students," Larsen said. "We constantly evaluate the effectiveness of our curriculum and we make changes as needed, and right now we actually have a 98 percent pass rate."

Diemer said the Tech Physician Assistant Program was awarded continued accreditation until 2012 on a four-year term basis, at which time the program will be reviewed again by the organization.

Larsen said the Tech Physician

Assistant Program also requires students to complete a 27-month course that includes lectures, labs and extensive clinical experience after completing required university prerequisites.

Tina Butler, assistant professor and clinical coordinator at the Tech Physician Assistant Program, said the 27-month program also is divided into 15- and 12-month course work areas focused on instructional and clinical learning.

"Students have to take a standardized national exam that they must pass," Butler said. "In order to practice as a physician assistant they also have to be licensed, which means that they must graduate from an accredited program and they have to pass the board."

She said students also must be licensed within their state in order to practice as a physician assistant in addition to passing the board exam.

According to the Tech Health Sciences Center Web site, the

Tech Physician Assistant Program is located in Midland and offers an entry-level graduate program that awards a Master of Physician Assistant Studies following the 27-month course.

Admission requirements include 66 semester credit hours of pre-professional coursework, according to the Health Sciences Center Web site, with a cumulative GPA of 3.2.

During February 2009, the unemployment rate increased by 8.1 percent, the U.S. Department of Labor Web site reported, bringing the number of unemployed from 11.6 million people to 12.5 million in February.

However, employment opportunities for physician assistants are projected to be particularly abundant in rural clinics, inner-city clinics and in states that allow a wider scope of practice, the U.S. Department of Labor Web site reported.

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2008 proves costly for Texas insurance industry

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texas insurance industry lost nearly \$1.4 billion in 2008 as the state was hammered by three hurricanes as well as several other major weather events.

According to figures released Monday by the Texas Department of Insurance, for every dollar the state's insurance industry took in it paid out \$1.65.

"It was a tough year for the industry after several profitable years," said Ben Gonzalez, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Insurance. "These things balance out. There are good years and bad years."

But 2008 proved to be a particularly bad year, with a hurricane season that was devastating for many parts of Texas as three major storms made landfall.

Dolly hit the Texas-Mexico border in July. Gustav slammed the

Texas-Louisiana line on Labor Day, the most destructive of the three hurricanes, barreled ashore near Galveston on Sept. 13, wreaking havoc throughout Southeast Texas.

State officials estimate damages from last year's hurricane season to be more than \$29 billion.

Ike and Dolly resulted in nearly 1 million insurance claims alone, said Mark Hanna, a spokesman for the Insurance Council of Texas,

"Throwing (in) all of the severe thunderstorms in North and Central Texas last spring, you can see why weather played such a pivotal role in homeowners insurance in Texas," he said. "We can be thankful Texas had a string of good years prior to 2008 so that the industry was able to meet its financial obligations in the aftermath of these weather related catastrophes."

The Texas Department of Insurance data showed that while the industry earned nearly \$5.2 billion in premiums, it had losses of nearly \$6.6 billion.

Data also showed the industry had an incurred loss ratio (which is the percentage of losses versus the premiums collected) of 127 percent. Hanna said anything under 65 is profitable for the industry.

Data also showed the industry had a combined loss and expense ratio (which takes into account a company's expenses for agent commissions, overhead and administrative costs) of 165 percent. Anything over 100 percent and the industry loses money, Hanna said.

The last time those two ratios were over 100 percent was in 2002, when the state was dealing with billions of dollars in mold-damage claims.

WORLD EVENTS IN BRIEF

Mexico offers \$2 million for top drug lords

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's government on Monday offered \$2 million each for information leading to the arrest of 24 top drug lords in a public challenge to the cartels' violent grip on the country.

The list indicated that drug gangs have splintered into six main cartels under pressure from the U.S. and Mexican governments. The two most powerful gangs — the Pacific and Gulf cartels — each suf-

fered fractures that have given rise to new cartels, according to the list published by the Attorney General's Office.

The list offers 30 million pesos (\$2 million) in rewards for 24 top members of the cartels and 15 million pesos (\$1 million) for 13 of their lieutenants.

Mexico's drug violence has killed more than 9,000 people since President Felipe Calderon took office in December 2006 as gangs battle each other for territory and fight off

a government crackdown. Some of that violence is spilling over into the United States, especially the Southwest, where kidnaps and killings are on the rise.

The rewards are the largest Mexico has ever offered for top drug lords, said Ricardo Najera, a spokesman for the Attorney General's office. Some of the men, such as suspected Pacific cartel leaders Joaquin Guzman and Ismael Zambada, are targeted by separate \$5 million reward offers from the U.S. government.

Defying warrant, Sudanese president travels abroad

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's president traveled to Eritrea Monday, choosing one of Africa's most politically isolated nations for his first trip abroad since an international court sought his arrest on charges of war crimes in Darfur.

The one-day visit followed Eritrea's official invitation to Sudan's Omar al-Bashir, who faces the arrest warrant by the Netherlands-based International Criminal Court.

Eritrean television showed live

coverage of al-Bashir being greeted at the airport in the Eritrean capital Asmara by his counterpart President Isaias Afwerki, along with drummers and dancers. Sudanese state television later Monday showed live images of al-Bashir returning to Khartoum.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor said the visit was "important" and reflected Eritrean "solidarity ... with Sudan against the ICC." Eritrean Information Minister Ali Abdu told The Associated Press that al-Bashir was accompanied by heads of security and intelligence and was

there to discuss regional security.

The ICC charged al-Bashir on March 4 of leading a counterinsurgency against Darfur rebels that involved rapes, killings and other atrocities against civilians. His government has been accused of unleashing Arab militiamen known as janjaweed against Darfur civilians in a drive to put down a revolt by ethnic Africans in the region.

Up to 300,000 people have died and 2.7 million driven from their homes in the conflict since 2003, according to the U.N.

Turks and Caicos premier resigns amid scandal

PROVIDENCIALES, Turks and Caicos Islands (AP) — The jet-setting premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands resigned Monday, a week earlier than expected, following an investigation that found "clear signs" of corruption in the eight-island British dependency.

Michael Misick, who had previously promised to resign on March 31, said he was stepping down early to give his suc-

cessor more time to set up a new government — even as Britain plans to dissolve the territory's Cabinet and legislature following the wide-ranging U.K. corruption inquiry.

"I now announce that I will tender my resignation effective today as premier to allow the new PNP party leader to become premier," Misick said during a brief televised address in the Atlantic

islands located between Haiti and the Bahamas.

Misick's financial dealings also are the focus of a British investigative commission that is looking into allegations that members of his party misused public money and profited from the sale of government-owned land.

The commission is expected to issue a final report later this year.

WHO: Money, drugs needed for new TB strains

BEIJING (AP) — More money and better science are urgently needed to rein in new strains of tuberculosis that are tough or nearly impossible to treat, the WHO announced Monday in China, where the disease has long been a leading killer.

The World Health Organization is releasing its annual update on tuberculosis on Tuesday, which is also World TB Day, an event meant to raise awareness of a disease that

despite being one of the world's oldest killers still claims the lives of more than 1.5 million people every year. About 9 million people are infected, most in Africa and Asia.

"Drug-resistant tuberculosis is a growing global public health threat. We are at a turning point. We need to address it," Dr. Cornelia Hennig, the WHO's TB program coordinator for China, said at a news briefing in Beijing.

The report comes a week before

the start of an international conference in Beijing focusing on ways to deal with drug-resistant TB strains. India, China and Russia — the three countries with the world's highest number of drug-resistant TB cases — will participate.

Hennig said the spread of drug-resistant TB strains can be prevented by spending more on TB control programs and coming up with better medical tests and drugs.

Ceiling collapse kills 11 Chinese workers

BEIJING (AP) — The ceiling at a chemical plant in southwest China collapsed Monday, killing 11 workers and leaving one person trapped under rubble, state media said.

The accident occurred at the Jianfang chemical factory in the southwestern city of Chongqing, the

Xinhua News Agency said.

The bodies of the workers were recovered by early evening but one person was still buried under rubble, it said. No other details were given and it wasn't immediately clear what caused the collapse or if the 12th person was still alive.

A woman who answered the tele-

phone at the Chongqing Administration for Work Safety confirmed that an accident had occurred at the facility but would not give any other details.

China's vast work force, an estimated 800 million people, has fueled decades of export-driven growth, turning the country into the factory for much of the world.

Senate approves stimulus spending

AUSTIN (AP) — A key Senate committee on Monday approved spending almost \$11 billion in federal stimulus funds in the next state budget.

Still a long way from becoming law, using the federal money would enable lawmakers to close a multibillion-dollar gap between the amount of state revenue available and spending needs for the 2010-2011 budget period.

The largest chunks of the money will be spent on education and health care. But federal stimulus money also is slated to help pay for meals for the elderly, energy conservation and school lunch equipment.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, a Republican, touted a job re-training program in the plan that would use \$400 million of the stimulus money, including almost \$200 million in child care and development grants.

"We've got people here in Texas that are hurting," Dewhurst said. "Folks are sitting around their dining room tables each night concerned about their jobs, their mortgage payments, their car payments, whether or not they're going to be able to afford sending their children to college."

The budget-writing Senate Finance Committee is expected to vote on the full, two-year budget next week. Dewhurst, who has criticized the stimulus law for creating too much national debt, said the full Senate will take up the budget early next month.

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TUESDAY MARCH 24, 2009

STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXT 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 (HD)	Today Sched- ular: Reese Witherspoon; Martina McBride; Jamie and Bobby Dean. (HD)	The Early Show	Copeland Robison	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	(6:00) Good Day Lubbock
8 AM	Super Wily Clifford	Sesame Street (HD)	The 700 Club	Divorce Payne	Divorce Payne	Regis & Kelly	Martha Stewart
9 AM	Dragon Word	Price Is Right (HD)	Price Is Right (HD)	Cristina Cristina	Cosby Cosby	The View (HD)	The Morning Show
10 AM	Martha Jeopardy!	Jeopardy! (HD)	Jeopardy! (HD)	Alex Alex	Paid Prog. Paid Prog.	Paid Prog. Paid Prog.	Tyra Banks Show
11 AM	Bamey Trivial Pursuit	Trivial Pursuit (HD)	Trivial Pursuit (HD)	Alex Alex	Paid Prog. Paid Prog.	Paid Prog. Paid Prog.	Tyra Banks Show
12 PM	Sewing Dewberry	Days of Our Lives	Beautiful As the World	The People's Court	Roseanne Roseanne	All My Children	Paid Prog.
1 PM	Fitness Place	The Doctors	Guiding Light	Maury	Farm Court	One Life to Live	The People's Court
2 PM	Betw. Lion Reading	Inside	Guiding Light	Maury	Judge Jeanine	General Hospital	Judge Mathis
3 PM	Arthur WordGirl	Oprah Winfrey	Brown Brown	Extra Access	J. Foxx Wayans	No Deal No Deal	Ellen DeGeneres
4 PM	FETCHI Cyber	Dr. Phil Judy	Judy Judy	Maury	Standing	Rachael Ray	Bonnie Hunt Show
5 PM	Maya Bus. Rpt.	News News	News News	Farm. Feud Queens	Queens Queens	News News	Lopez Simpsons
6 PM	NewsHour (HD)	News Wheel	News Million.	Law Order (HD)	'70s ET	News ET	Lopez Two & 1/2
7 PM	NOVA (HD)	The Biggest Loser 7: Couples	NCIS (HD)	St. Patrol	Reaper Other son.	Jim (HD)	American Idol "Performance Show" (HD)
8 PM	Frontline	Mentalist (HD)	Jail (HD)	Jail (HD)	90210	Dancing with Stars	
9 PM	The Linguists (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Without Trace (HD)	Jim (HD)	Style Sex City	(9:07) Prime-time	News
10 PM	Charlie Rose	The Tonight Show	(10:35) Late Show	King TMZ	Married Malcom	Nightline Jimmy Kimmel	Two & 1/2 Seinfeld Raymond
11 PM	Bus. Rpt. (11:37) Late Night	Late Late Show	Late Late Show	Wife Paid Prog.	Bernie Copps	Scrubbs	Frasier
12 AM	Destino GED	Last Call	Paid Prog. Paid Prog.	Paid Prog. Paid Prog.	Paid Prog. Insider	Paid Prog. Insider	Paid Prog.

FREE TO BE TONIGHT

REAPER 8:00PM

LUBBOCK THE CW 90210 8:00PM

Censorship in hands of corporations, citizens

The revolution we all thought was coming doesn't look like it's going to arrive intact. It's morphed like a Power Ranger into something else.

Since the days of George Orwell's "1984," the general populace has been priming themselves for the government coming down and censoring the masses out of the fear of what a society can do.

I'm certainly not here to say it isn't happening. It is happening. Government censorship is certainly present. But what is more shocking to me is the fact private citizens and corporations are doing their own fair share of censoring.

Maybe the general population learned it from the government. Ever since the Alien and Sedition Act under John Adams, the government hasn't been afraid of what it means to censor the people.

More recently, the Secret Service has been given the authority to create "free speech zones" where dissenting protesters can be corralled together behind barricades and politely be stared at like fish in a glass bowl.

Please don't tap the glass. It scares the protesters. Censorship isn't anything new. It's been going on for a long time. But for the first time in my memory, private corporations are taking a leading role in censoring people.

Bill Maher, a political commentator, was dismissed from his show for saying something politically controversial on his show, which was ironically titled "Politically Incorrect." That's like burning a copy of "Fahrenheit 451."

He maintained that terrorists were not cowards for standing in airplanes that were slamming into buildings. He elaborated and said they were not morally courageous, but they were

Ryan Thorpe



certainly physically courageous. I'll be the first to say I'm a little disturbed by the comment, but the show is supposed to be politically incorrect. That's the title of the show.

I wish this was an isolated incident, but in truth it is anything but isolated. Bill Maher has plenty of company. Ice T altered the lyrics to "Cop Killer" because of pressure being placed on him by Time Warner.

The Walt Disney Co. attempted to stop Miramax from releasing "Fahrenheit 911" in 2004 because of its inflammatory content, and while their decision to block its release was more a business decision than a political one, their business choice had political repercussions.

The publisher Harper Collins abandoned all hope of publishing the memoirs of Chris Patten out of the fear of diminishing the relationship between Star TV and the Chinese government.

Let's say, hypothetically of course, that a major satire show produced a cartoon segment about the increased concentration of media ownership. For argument's sake, let's say the show was "Saturday Night Live," and the cartoon included a chorus that stated "Disney, Fox, Westinghouse and good ol' GE own networks from CBS to CNBC." Catchy, isn't it?

Then the corporations protested and the clip was permanently removed from everything and can't be found on season disks, the Internet or reruns. It was as if it never happened.

The government isn't the only

entity coming to quiet us down.

The gag order blanketing our generation doesn't come from Congress. It comes from private corporations.

Corporations are continually arguing they have the right to quiet people. If the content is something they don't like, then it can be removed. I'm not sure they want to go down that path, though. It starts out as simple things like saying the terrorists might have been brave. It ends with no one being able to say anything that the corporations disagree with.

This is starting to sound less like America and more like "1984," but it isn't "1984" straight up. As a population we would have been terrified. So instead, they serve it to us with a twist to make it more palatable: They give it to us a little bit at a time.

I was recently reading Nigel Cawthorne's book "Public Executions" in which he talks about the most painful ways in the world to kill a person. He talks about boiling people alive like lobsters and mentions when a court wanted to be particularly cruel, they wouldn't submerge them entirely in one dunk. They'd slowly lower them in. Feet, then ankles, then calves, then thighs — you get the picture.

But you do have to admit this slow submergence sounds familiar.

We always start with suspecting the government when it comes to instigating the things of which we're most afraid. Francis Fukuyama in his recent book "Our Posthuman Future" argues a genetic engineering revolution will not occur because of government legislation, but it will occur because parents want the best for their children.

Genetic engineering and censorship might be easy to lay off on the government, but the truth is ugly. These, along with all other egregious violations, are able to occur with our silent consent.

Not using your voice is akin to not having a voice at all.

The censorship revolution will start with you if you let it.

Thorpe is an English graduate student from Dallas. E-mail him at ryan.thorpe@ttu.edu.

Frustrated with unfair taxation

By **PATRICK O'MAHEN**
MICHIGAN DAILY (U. MICHIGAN)

I always tell students that the best way to learn about American public policy is to do their own taxes every year.

Filling out your own tax forms shows you what our society's priorities are and precisely how your personal income is going to fund it. If you don't pay attention to those debates, the people who do — and their lobbyists — will be more than happy to rewrite those laws to their benefit and your detriment.

If you're interested in justice, or just getting your fair share of deductions, take your federal 1040EZ or 1040A forms and follow me as we plunge into the fascinating world of federal fiscal policy.

One of the first things you notice is that federal income tax rates are progressive — wealthy individuals pay a greater proportion of their income in tax than poor people do. In 2008, the first \$8,950 a single adult taxpayer earns is non-taxable. Above that, you pay taxes at steadily increasing rates as your income increases. Currently, the lowest tax bracket is 10 percent and the highest is 35 percent.

One major effect of President George W. Bush's tax cuts was to cut rates. Until 2001, federal income tax brackets ranged from 15 percent to 39 percent. After that, all taxpayers saw declines in their tax rates. In 2002, I saved \$338.

Thanks, George. I'll buy you an O'Doul's the next time I'm in Dallas.

Or maybe he should buy me dinner — because not only did the rate cuts benefit the wealthy, but his other tax policies also helped individuals who needed it least.

Tax brackets are only the straightforward half of the story. The other half is a tangled thicket of provisions collectively known as tax expenditures. Once you hire a jungle guide or an accountant to take a machete to the torturous language, you'll find a bunch of goodies that let you pay fewer taxes. Three of the most common goodies are deductions, exemptions and tax credits.

In general, deductions and exemptions allow you to reduce the amount of your income that is subject to tax, while credits directly reduce the tax you owe.

Collectively, these tax expenditures reduced federal revenues by \$800 billion last fiscal year, according to the Tax Policy Center.

Guess what? That \$800 billion

disproportionately goes to the wealthy.

Perhaps the most egregious example is the Bush-era cuts on dividends and other capital gains. Since few Americans directly own stock, generally only people in the top one-tenth of one percent of tax payers have to worry about dividends. In 2005, Political Scientist Larry Bartels noted that taxpayers earning \$1 million or more a year paid more than half of the tax on dividends. Yet Bush's cuts on dividend taxes and capital gains in combination with previously existing deductions cost \$48.6 billion a year.

The result?

In 2003, Investor Warren Buffett noted that Bush's changes would have left him paying three percent of his income in taxes, in comparison to his secretary, who paid 30 percent of her income.

That thump you just heard was the increasing tax burden and cuts in government services falling on the median-income household, which only makes about \$46,000 a year.

But it gets worse.

The top three deductions, according to the Tax Policy Center, are employer-provided health insurance, contributions to 401k and traditional Individual Retirement Account plans and deductions on home interest.

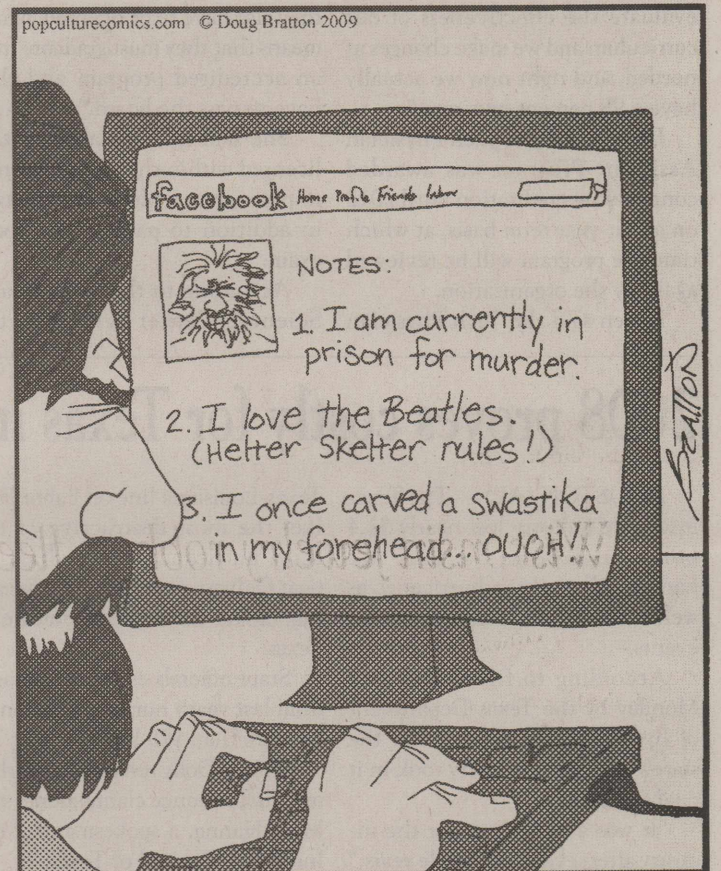
If you don't have health insurance, can't afford to contribute to a retirement

plan and can't afford to buy your own home, you don't see a dime in benefits from these programs, which cost the Treasury Department roughly \$300 billion last year.

Now, one can argue that some of these programs help middle and low-income people to buy their own home or save for retirement. That's true, but because of high or non-existent caps on the benefit, they tend to provide much greater benefits to a Manhattan banker writing off interest payments on his \$5 million townhouse than a Detroit family who just purchased a \$55,000 home.

Worse still, most of these programs are only deductions or non-refundable tax credits, which means that only individuals who would otherwise have scads of taxable income can take advantage of them. If I only earn \$20,000 a year, I can only take \$20,000 in deductions, while if I earn \$200,000, I can take \$200,000 in deductions. One notable progressive exception to this rule is the Earned-Income Tax Credit, which allows low-income taxpayers to get money back beyond their tax liability.

So the next time you have the opportunity to do your taxes, take it. Wading through those deductions lines and instructions might seem like a frustrating waste of time, but it's worth it to gain an understanding of who benefits from U.S. fiscal policy.



Charles Manson writes his "25 Random Things About Me."

Ignorance of Congress on full display in current AIG bonus controversy

By **GERALD COX**
BADGER HERALD (U. WISCONSIN)

I wish I worked at AIG. The insurance giant, whose name I believe stands for something like "Arrogance, Inability and Greed," is the poster child of much of the economic mess Wall Street got us into and has received an unparalleled, jaw dropping, Third World-nation-GDP-sized \$170 billion in taxpayer dollars to keep it afloat.

And it just doled out bonuses totaling \$218 million in December and March.

Reward for failure? I can handle that.

It's hard to defend such a misuse of taxpayer funds. One can be certain it wasn't private funds that paid these bonuses. It was taxpayer dollars. And that is just wrong. But just as inappropriate is the talk this somehow compares

to the federal government's response to Hurricane Katrina.

Further, the amount of rage-fueled energy Congress and the masses have exhibited towards AIG would best be directed elsewhere.

Outrage has been swift and widespread. Iowa Senator Charles Grassley opined that AIG executives accepting the bonuses may want to consider suicide. The House hastily passed legislation that would levy a 90 percent federal tax on bonuses paid to bailed-out businesses. Add local taxes, and some employees would end up paying in taxes more than they had received in bonuses.

Congress hauled before them AIG CEO Edward Liddy, who had next to nothing to do with bonuses, agreed to buy a previous CEO before AIG was rescued by tax dollars. Committee members raked him over the coals for the \$165 million doled out in March.

They seemed to show very little interest in the rest of the \$170 billion AIG had received.

But members of Congress aren't the only ones upset. Populist rage is boiling over on Main Street. Citing death threats, AIG executives are warning AIG employees to hide AIG logos, or ID cards when travelling. Protestors descended on the Connecticut homes of AIG officials. People are coming up with clever and insulting meanings for the AIG acronym.

Meanwhile, the anger directed at

AIG is revealing a disturbing tendency

in our members of Congress: ignorance. If no one in Congress realized that private companies give bonuses, even bailed-out ones, then maybe it's time we had less career politicians in Congress and a few more people who have actually had to work in private industry for a living. If Congress can demand auto manufacturers restructure the contracts they have with union workers, why not demand the same from white-collar industries?

from white-collar industries?

A disciplined winding down of AIG,

for all its financial tomfoolery, is essential. Congress is aware of that. And while Congress had little to do with AIG's bailout — it was the Federal Reserve and the Treasury who put taxpayer dollars on the line for AIG — it must understand when you don't allow a company to go into bankruptcy, you allow that company to remain in a position where it must honor its contractual agreements not just to the corporate entities it is beholden to, but also to its workers.

Couldn't the Obama administration dispatch someone who can afford to say something unpopular — Vice President Joe Biden, I'm looking at you — to tell the American people the workers at AIG and other bailed-out firms are doing work that is essential to the health of the American economy? And companies don't just owe corporate entities who hold their debt, but also the workers that run their company?

The hasty bailouts crafted by the Fed and Treasury aren't flawless, but it would be self-defeating if populist rage were to effectively tie the hands of Congress in the unavoidable bailouts of the near future and effectively halt the nascent recovery of 2009.

Further, and I won't be the first to argue this, but the \$165 million that Congress is most infuriated with is a pittance compared to what we have already put into propping up AIG. It amounts to less than 1 percent of the bailout funds AIG has received.

We aren't just paying for AIG bonuses, we're paying for AIG coffee mugs, pens, toilet paper. We're paying the wages of AIG's workers. That's what happens when you own the lion's share of a company.

The people at AIG and Wall Street aren't all saints, but making them into demons is unproductive. It's time to move on.

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ODDBALL DAILY

Clorox offers \$5K to wipe out SF 'toilet torcher'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Clorox Company is offering a \$5,000 reward and a year's supply of toilet cleaning products for tips leading to the arrest of San Francisco's notorious portable potty pyromaniac.

The Oakland-based chemical company says it plans to deploy a "potty patrol" team in the city Tuesday to make residents aware of its offer marrying marketing and community service.

Since November, more than two dozen construction site toilets have been set on fire in the city, causing an

estimated \$50,000 in property damage and leaving a trail of foul-smelling evidence.

Company spokesman Dan Gagen jokes that the patrol service is "a crappy job, but somebody's got to do it."

Police: Naked teen with dog assaults Mich. woman

HART TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — Police say a naked 14-year-old boy taking a walk with a large white poodle has assaulted a woman in Michigan.

Sheriff's Lt. Craig Mast says the boy walked away from a behavioral treatment facility Monday.

He was strolling unclothed in Hart Township with the dog when he encountered a 53-year-old woman in her yard.

Mast says, "The young naked man approached her with this poodle, and she immediately realized something peculiar."

They spoke briefly. When the woman took out a cell phone to call for help, the boy pushed her and fled with the phone, which he later broke in half.

Deputies found the boy. He's charged in juvenile court with strong-arm robbery and assault.

NJ scraps plans to ban genital waxing

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey is smoothing out differences over a plan to ban bare-it-all bikini waxing.

The state on Friday decided to reverse course on the proposal after angry salon owners complained about losing business ahead of swimsuit season.

"It was an unnecessary issue," said spa owner Linda Orsuto. "In New Jersey especially, where the government has been picking our pockets for so long, it was like, 'Just stay out of our pants, will you?'"

The state Cosmetology and Hair-styling Board proposed banning so-called "Brazilian" bikini waxing

after two women were hospitalized for infections following the procedure.

On Friday, Consumer Affairs Director David Szuchman effectively killed the plan. In a letter to the board, Szuchman says he won't support the ban, and since his office oversees the board, the ban would never be approved.

Missing Italian statue found in NC couple's home

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — A 350-year-old statue of a saint and former pope, taken from an Italian church nearly two decades ago, has been found in the home of a North Carolina couple who had no idea it was stolen, authorities said.

The intricately carved bust of St. Innocent will be returned to the church

in Naples, Italy, U.S. Immigration and Customs and Enforcement agents said.

The statue was one of 17 similar busts and two oil paintings taken from the church in November 1990. Authorities told The Charlotte Observer the trail went cold until two years ago, when officials in Rome let federal agents know an Italian

citizen sold a similar statue to an antiques dealer from Greensboro.

The statue sold in Charlotte was bought by the same dealer at an antiques fair in France, said Neal Johnson, the Charlotte dealer who bought the statue from the same Greensboro dealer and sold it to the couple.

Woman accused of biting, punching son's principal

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A Rhode Island woman is accused of punching and biting her 11-year-old son's school principal after she was told the boy was being suspended.

Police say 30-year-old Aleyda Uceta also bit an officer trying to

arrest her after Friday's incident at Roger Williams Middle School in Providence.

She is charged with assault on school officials, assault on police officers and resisting arrest.

Police say Uceta punched Princi-

pal Rudolph Moseley Jr. in the face and bit his left arm after he told her that her son would be suspended for three days for refusing to go to a room for misbehaving students.

Attempts to reach Uceta by phone for comment were unsuccessful.

Wisconsin jewelry robbers fleeced as they flee

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Two robbers leaving a Milwaukee jewelry store with cash and gems didn't get far with the loot — another group of thieves robbed them as the pair left the crime scene.

Police Lt. Thomas Welch says a

fight broke out in the street Wednesday before the groups got in vehicles and a chase ensued.

Welch says officers pulled over both vehicles and arrested four people, including the original two robbers, ages 40 and 31, and two men from the

second group, of ages 22 and 27. All four are from Illinois.

But he says police didn't recover any cash or jewelry and are searching for more suspects.

No estimate was available of the value of the stolen items.

Police say Pa. labor chief too drunk to sign name

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Police in Harrisburg say the acting chief of Pennsylvania's Labor and Industry Department

was too drunk to sign a citation for public drunkenness.

Forty-three-year-old Sandi Vito entered

a rehabilitation facility last week, shortly after news stories were published about an incident at a downtown hotel bar.

Senate to evaluate program expansion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate agreed Monday to take up legislation to triple the size of the AmeriCorps program and open up opportunities for more people to serve their communities.

Lawmakers voted 74-14 to move to the legislation that would expand AmeriCorps from its current 75,000 positions to 250,000 over the course of eight years. Sixty votes were needed to bring the bill to the floor. The measure is expected to come up for a final vote in the Senate sometime this week.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., who is being treated for brain cancer, made a rare appearance on the Senate floor to vote for the bill that he co-sponsored with Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. Kennedy's office said he is expected to be on Capitol Hill until Congress goes on recess April 4.

The legislation would also create five groups to help poor people, improve education, encourage energy efficiency, strengthen access to health care and assist veterans.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski, a Maryland Democrat, said the proposal is an investment that "will pay dividends long beyond anything that we can imagine."

The House last week passed a similar bill to add 175,000 participants to AmeriCorps and other national service programs. President Barack Obama backs the legislation and has said he is eager for Congress to pass a bill so he can sign it.

Today's su | do | ku

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

Ombuds Office

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HYDRANT HOOPLA



PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

THE LUBBOCK FIRE Department works to turn off a fire hydrant at the entrance to the Science Quad Monday.

Alaska volcano Mount Redoubt erupts 5 times

WILLOW, Alaska (AP) — Alaska's Mount Redoubt volcano erupted five times overnight, sending an ash plume more than 9 miles into the air in the volcano's first emissions in nearly 20 years.

Residents in the state's largest city were spared from falling ash, though fine gray dust was falling Monday morning on small communities north of Anchorage. The ash began falling around daybreak and continued into midmorning. They were supposed to end by noon.

"It's coming down," Rita Jackson, 56, said early Monday morning at a 24-hour grocery store in Willow, about 50 miles north of Anchorage. She slid her fingers across the hood of her car, through a dusting of ash.

Ash from Alaska's volcanos is like a rock fragment with jagged edges and has been used as an industrial abrasive. It can injure skin, eyes and breathing passages. The young, the elderly and people with respiratory problems are especially susceptible to ash-related health problems. Ash can also cause damage engines in planes, cars and other vehicles.

Alaska Airlines on Monday canceled 19 flights in and out of the Anchorage international airport because of the ash.

Elmendorf Air Force Base in An-

chorage told only essential personnel to report to work. The Air Force says 60 planes, including fighter jets, cargo aircraft and a 747 commercial plane, were being sheltered.

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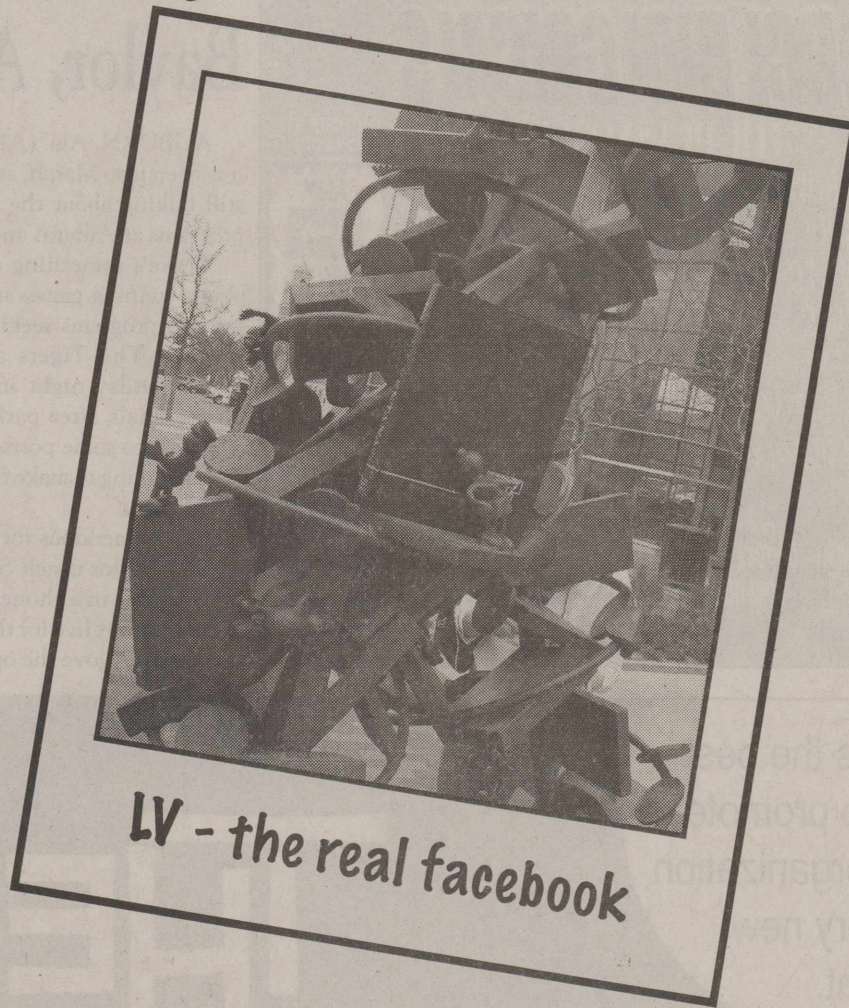
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March Madness should make us appreciate football BCS system

The NCAA Tournament is a sporting event any sports fan can appreciate. It is one of the most intense, win-or-go-home sporting events around. People all over the country are glued to televisions during the three weeks of madness.

Fans can really appreciate the intensity, upsets and passion the tournament provides.

However, despite the popularity of the NCAA Tournament, a lot of the people who get excited about the tourney do not even follow college basketball until March when the tournament starts.

The casual fan does not get excited for college basketball during the regular season because it does not provide them with the same intensity as the tournament.

The biggest debate in sports during the past few years has been about the need for a college football playoff system.

I am not trying to spark that debate because that argument needs some rest until the start of football season.

I am simply saying that watching the NCAA Tournament has given me a greater appreciation for the current college football system because the same intensity provided during the three weeks of the NCAA Tournament is provided every week during the college football season.

A lot of the proponents of a college football playoff argue a playoff would give more teams a fair chance to win a championship just like the NCAA Tournament gives "Cinderella" teams a chance each year. But there is a possibility that a playoff could take away from the season long intensity.

Landry Locker



Proponents of a college football playoff point to teams — such as Boise State in 2007 and Utah this past season — that were not given a fair chance without a football playoff.

Most people enjoy the big upsets by the "Cinderella" mid-major teams during the NCAA Tournament, but the luck of those teams eventually runs out.

Just look at Cleveland State in this year's tourney.

The No. 13-seeded Vikings knocked off No. 4 Wake Forest in the first round of the tournament, but lost to Arizona in the second round.

The irony of the whole thing is it was the committee's BCS-like attitude that got Arizona into the tournament. The committee elected to give the Wildcats from the Pac-10 Conference the final spot in the tournament over Saint Mary's College — a mid-major from a smaller conference.

The committee apparently made the right decision because the Wildcats have advanced to the Sweet 16. For people who hate the BCS system, this shows it is not the only system that gives teams from bigger conferences the benefit of the doubt.

Since the tournament adapted the 64-team format in 1985, the only tournament champion from what would be considered a non-BCS conference team was UNLV in 1990.

The NCAA Tournament is a perfect example that even with a

playoff system, teams from the smaller conferences are not going to end up on top.

Upsets in the NCAA Tournament can be exciting, but one can argue the upsets during the college football season are just as meaningful and have just as much of an impact on the season.

Texas had its season ruined by Texas Tech, and USC had its season ruined by Oregon State during the 2008 football season. In college basketball a team's season only can be ruined during the three weeks of the tournament.

Whether it's a primetime Big 12 or SEC matchup, college football provides fans with the excitement March Madness does every single week of the season.

In college football you cannot slip up at any point during the season and as soon as you slip up, like USC and Texas did, then you lose control of your own destiny.

While it may be unfair to let polls and computers decide who plays in the championship, for the most part, college football teams control their own destiny.

Teams have to fight for a championship every week in college football, not just for the last few weeks of the season.

Although many people are calling for a similar tournament in college football, people should appreciate the current system because it provides the intensity March Madness does for a few months instead of just three weeks.

Locker is a senior broadcast journalism major from Southlake. E-mail him at landry.locker@ttu.edu.

SPORTS SHORTS

Baylor coach released from hospital

LUBBOCK (AP) — Baylor coach Kim Mulkey plans to coach in Tuesday night's second-round NCAA game.

"I will be there tomorrow night unless something unforeseen happens again," she said Monday after attending practice with her second-seeded

Bears. "I plan to be there."

Mulkey left the University Medical Center Monday afternoon, a day after going there with a reaction to medication she was taking following the removal of a kidney stone last week.

Baylor (28-5) will face No. 7 seed South Dakota State, which

has won 18 straight games.

Mulkey missed the Bears' 87-82 overtime win over Texas-San Antonio on Sunday night.

She was taken to the hospital Sunday morning, two days after having a kidney stone removed in Waco.

Astros win 4th straight, 10-8 over Florida

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — The Houston Astros are starting to see some positive results after a terrible start this spring.

Lance Berkman homered twice to help Houston beat the Florida Marlins 10-8 on Monday for its fourth consecutive victory. The Astros were 1-16 with three ties before the winning streak.

"Today was probably our best day swinging the bats," manager Cecil Cooper said.

Houston also entertained a special guest Monday when former President George H.W. Bush visited its spring facil-

ity. Bush signed autographs and chatted with players before the game.

Berkman hit a solo drive in the third inning and a two-run shot in the fifth. Kaz Matsui, who has struggled this spring, was 1-for-4 with a double and Michael Bourn had three hits and three RBIs.

Miguel Tejada also had two hits for Houston, including a go-ahead RBI double in the seventh inning.

"Lance put some good swings up," Cooper said. "Lance had some great swings today. Every at-bat was good swings. It was good to see that. Kaz had some good swings today. Tejada had some

good swings. They all did."

The Marlins scored four runs in the sixth to grab a 7-5 lead but the Astros pushed across four in the seventh to take the lead for good.

Mike Hampton, trying to put a series of injuries behind him in his return to Houston, allowed seven hits and three runs in five innings.

"It was a grind today," he said. "Nothing came easy. It seemed like one of those games where I had to grind for every out, but for the most part I felt pretty good. I'm missing locations on some pitches, of course. But for the most part everything felt fine."

Salt Lake Community College claims NJCAA title

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Salt Lake Community College men's basketball team has won the National Junior College Athletic Association national title.

The Bruins beat Midland College 67-60 in Hutchinson, Kan., on Saturday.

The team went on a 33-11

run in the last 12 minutes of the game to erase a 15-point deficit.

Three sophomores and a freshman led the team to the win. Nate Bendall racked up 21 points and 8 rebounds, Logan Magnusson scored 14 points and Rick Shoff finished with 10 points. Freshman DJ Wright

scored 12 points and grabbed 9 rebounds.

Wright was named the NJCAA Tournament's most valuable player.

SLCC Coach Norm Parrish called the win a great team effort.

The Bruins finished second in 2007.

South Africa bars Dalai Lama from peace conference

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa barred the Dalai Lama from a peace conference in Johannesburg this week, hoping to keep good relations with trading partner China but instead generating a storm of criticism.

Friday's peace conference was organized by South African soccer officials to highlight the first World Cup to be held in Africa, which South Africa will host in 2010.

But because the Dalai Lama

isn't being allowed to attend, it is now being boycotted by fellow Nobel Peace prize winners retired Cape Town Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former president F.W. de Klerk as well as members of the Nobel Committee.

"It is disappointing that South Africa, which has received so much solidarity from the world, doesn't want to give that solidarity to others," Nobel Institute Director Geir Lundestad told The Associated Press

in Oslo, referring to the decades-long fight against apartheid.

An eclectic mix of Nobel laureates, Hollywood celebrities and other dignitaries are coming to discuss issues ranging from combating racism to how sports can unite people and nations.

But Thabo Masebe, spokesman for President Kgalema Motlanthe, said a high-profile visit by the Tibetan spiritual leader would have distracted from the conference's focus.

Schilling retires with 'zero regrets'

BOSTON (AP) — Curt Schilling retired from baseball Monday, ending a career in which he won World Series titles with the Boston Red Sox and Arizona Diamondbacks and was one of the game's most dominant pitchers and grittiest competitors.

The 42-year-old right-hander said on his blog he's leaving after 23 years with "zero regrets." Schil-

ling missed all of last season with a shoulder injury after signing a one-year, \$8 million contract.

"The things I was allowed to experience, the people I was able to call friends, teammates, mentors, coaches and opponents, the travel, all of it, are far more than anything I ever thought possible in my lifetime," he wrote.

Schilling had surgery last June

and had said he might come back in the middle of this season though he was not under contract. He made no reference to his injury on his blog.

He was co-MVP of the 2001 World Series with Randy Johnson while in Arizona.

Schilling also won World Series titles with Boston in 2004 and 2007.

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Baylor, Auburn savoring March buzz from NIT runs

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — Here it is deep into March, and fans are still talking about the basketball programs at Auburn and Baylor.

There's something to be said about winning games in the NIT for two programs seeking a little respect. The Tigers and Bears meet Tuesday night in the NIT quarterfinals after parlaying hot streaks into some postseason buzz despite failing to make the NCAA tournament.

"It's tremendous for both programs," Baylor coach Scott Drew said Monday in a phone interview. "For fans, they live for the postseason and they love the opportunity

to brag to other friends that their team's doing well.

"Us and Auburn are both playing our best basketball at the end of the season. Both of us have a lot of seniors and we don't want the season to end just yet."

Not with a trip to New York City and Madison Square Garden for the semifinals on the line.

Baylor (22-14) hadn't won a postseason game in 59 years and has won multiple postseason games for the first time since finishing as NCAA runner-up to Kentucky. Back in 1948.

That makes the Tigers' six-year postseason drought seem far more

bearable.

"Winning two NIT games has probably generated as much buzz around campus as there's been since we've been here," Drew said.

The Tigers (24-11) have won 11 of their last 13 games, including a route of Tulsa last week. OK, so Tuesday's start of spring football practice across the street from Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum is threatening to overshadow the hoops team's big game.

Still, freshman Frankie Sullivan isn't just enjoying the moment, but thinking about what making it to New York could do for

the long-term health of a program with three seniors and two juniors starting.

"It would be a big plus for us," Sullivan said. "It would give us a lot of confidence. Guys would really want to come to school here. They'd see that we're really trying to turn this program around."

The Bears lost 10 of their last 12 regular season games then bounced Nebraska and NCAA tournament teams Kansas and Texas from the Big 12 tournament. They were dominant in an 84-66 win at Virginia Tech, shooting 62 percent and making 10-of-21 3-pointers.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY Student Media

SPORTS

PAGE 8
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009

Tech earns close 4-3 victory against Lubbock Christian

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

Former Texas Tech and Lubbock Christian baseball coach Larry Hays could not have asked for a more exciting game between his former teams following a jersey retirement ceremony in his honor.

Tech survived two runs in the final two innings for a 4-3 victory at Dan Law Field Monday. It was the first meeting between the Red Raiders and the Chaparrals since 1993 and Tech handed LCU just its fourth loss of this season.

"It's a big win for us," Tech coach Dan Spencer said. "They're all big. I'm sure (Hays) enjoyed the game. We had a good game, and thank goodness the Red Raiders won tonight."

After snapping a four-game losing streak Sunday against Baseball America's then-ranked No. 9 Baylor in Waco, the victory is Tech's second consecutive win and the first string of wins since the Red Raiders started the season 4-0.

The win against LCU (26-4) — the NAIA's No. 5-ranked team — marked the fourth and final home game for Tech in the

month of March.

After snapping an 0-8 start in true road games Sunday, Tech now has to saddle up and finish the month with a game against Texas State, a three-game series against No. 9 Texas and a two-game series with New Mexico.

"We've spent a couple of weeks on the road," Tech pitcher Nate Karns said. "I feel like a rock star right now, you know, we're in and out and now we have a lot to build on."

Karns (1-2) earned his first win of the season Monday against an LCU squad that had no regular starters batting below .325.

Karns pitched seven complete innings, allowing just five hits and two walks for one earned run, while dishing out nine strikeouts on 98 pitches.

The Red Raiders (10-14, 3-3) looked like they were on the brink of a late-inning collapse with a 4-1 lead after Karns

put two men on base with no outs in the top of the eighth before being substituted for Brian Cloud.

Cloud allowed a single to LCU's Will Stramp to load the bases and in the next at bat, allowed a single to LCU's Ross Blondin for an RBI to cut the lead to 4-2.

"I feel like a rock star right now, you know, we're in and out and now we have a lot to build on."

NATE KARNs
TEXAS TECH
PITCHER



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S NATE Karns pitches against Lubbock Christian Monday at Dan Law Field.

In the next at bat, LCU's Rob Learned batted into a double play with no runs crossing the plate and LCU's Tyler Johnson struck out swinging.

"I didn't give (Cloud) a great situation in the eighth inning," Karns said. "But he did what he had to do, and we got a big double play which crushed their hopes."

The drama returned for Tech after failing to score in the bottom of the eighth.

LCU's Tanner Rindels, a transfer from Tech, hit a solo home run as the leadoff hitter in the top of the ninth.

But Cloud pitched for two ground outs and struck out the final LCU batter to finish the game.

"I think our club did a very good job," Spencer said. "Getting home, I got home around midnight, and they came out and were ready to play tonight."

»michael.graham@ttu.edu



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH CATCHER Jeremy Mayo hits the ball against Lubbock Christian Monday at Dan Law Field.



PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH CENTER Fielder Taylor Ashby hits the ball against LCU Monday at Dan Law Field.

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