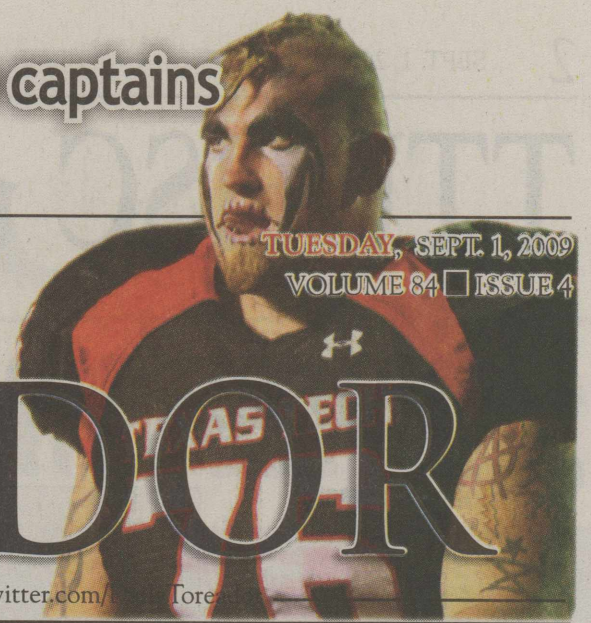


Scholarship cutbacks cause for concern at UT See Page 4

Red Raiders choose captains See Page 6



# THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

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TUESDAY, SEPT. 1, 2009  
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## Tech to cut 'frivolous' costs, expand services

By JETT THOMPSON  
STAFF WRITER

Today marks the first day of Fiscal Year 2010, and during the last year Texas Tech has seen its annual budget grow from about \$582 million to almost \$602 million, according to documents obtained through the Tech Budget and Resource Planning and Management Web site.

According to the FY 2009 budget, funding was able to keep pace with the budget increase of almost \$20 million and actually create a small surplus of about \$33,000.

Corky Drago, chief operating officer and senior vice president for administration and finance, said the university is trying to cut unnecessary costs from the budget while increasing funding toward the expansion of university services.

The expansion of the university's services will be

needed to accommodate the projected 40,000 students the university plans to have enrolled at Tech by the year 2020, he said.

"One of the major things we're doing is expansion in services all over campus," Drago said.

Some funding coming in to the university also is contingent on future funding from House Bill 51, which established a National Research University Fund for emerging research universities in Texas.

"We obviously hope that we'll be able to benefit from (HB 51)," Drago said. "Every bill that comes out of the legislature has lots of details and strings attached."

He said specific dollar amounts are allocated for each department within the university, and administrators in each department decide how the money is distributed.

Each year the departments are able to make special requests and propose programs they want to begin, Drago said. Because of this, shifts and adjustments in

funding occur between different departments.

Although the university is trying to cut costs, the Texas Tech Board of Regents approved a 9.9 percent increase in student tuition over the summer.

"There are two things we can do (to avoid raising tuition)," said Tech President Guy Bailey. "We can structure our enrollment and build it in a way that maximizes our revenues from the state legislature, and we're doing that right now. The second thing we can do is that we can look to be sure that we don't have frivolous cost, and that we're being as efficient as possible."

Sandy Martinez, assistant vice president for financial planning and analysis said it is important for the university to "live within (its) means."

One area receiving more funding is teaching faculty salaries. Bailey said this is being done to retain the best staff and to keep salaries competitive with other Texas schools.

"In order to keep the best people we have, we need

to make those pay raises and create a more competitive salary structure," he said.

According to the Office of Facilities Planning and Construction, the construction on the east side of Jones AT&T Stadium, a project with a \$25 million budget that takes up about 4 percent of the total budget, will create more seats for fans and keep Tech's athletic facilities up to par with the rest of the schools in the Big 12 Conference.

"When you look at this past football season," Bailey said, "you can't buy the kind of publicity that we got. And so we're looking to expand, and one of the things that last season did was to create a demand for seats and access to the game."

He also said to remain competitive with other schools in the Big 12 and to add to the visibility of athletics at Tech, the university should have top research facilities as well as top-notch playing facilities.

>> jett.thompson@ttu.edu

# Seeing Green

## Recycling on campus successful, profitable

By HANNAH BOEN  
STAFF WRITER

View a related video at  
[www.dailytoreador.com](http://www.dailytoreador.com)



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

STUDENTS CAN TAKE advantage of the newly-installed recycling bins in the common area of every residence hall.

Last fall, thousands of students moved into campus housing and produced almost 50 tons of trash in a single weekend.

This fall, University Student Housing partnered with two local companies to make use of the waste produced by students living on campus.

"About 12 tons of cardboard was hauled off," said University Student Housing unit manager, Melanie Tatum concerning the waste recycled during move-in weekend.

The cardboard was removed from campus by Green Queens and taken to Hurley Packaging, where it will be made into egg crates.

"We're giving them the tools to do what they already know," Tatum said about campus residents recycling.

Green Queens co-owner, Kevin Castagna, said he believes Tech is a large contributor to waste within Lubbock, a city that houses two landfills, one of which is the largest landfill in the state of Texas, the West Texas Region Disposable Facility.

"With a campus their size," he said, "they would have a substantial amount of waste."

By allowing a service such as Green Queens to recycle some waste, he said the university is cutting back tremendously on the amount of trash leaving the campus and going into landfills.

According to the Green Queens Web

site, the average Lubbock citizen throws away five pounds of trash every day, and the city has 50 garbage trucks, each going to the landfill with a load of trash two or three times daily.

Both Castagna and Tatum said they would like to continue to work together to make Tech a more sustainable and environmentally-responsible campus.

Besides cutting back on waste, the university also has seen money savings, Tatum said, by garbage trucks making fewer trips from campus to the landfill.

"Normally, on move in weekends, they have to come empty the trash several times," she said. "Last year, it took four trucks in a weekend going to the landfill, and this year, it took two trips."

The recycling efforts are continuing with every residence hall which currently houses recycle bins in the first floor common areas, Tatum said, where residents can recycle paper, plastic and aluminum.

Rather than going in a landfill, the recycled items are being reused locally. The recycle bins are full on almost a daily basis, Tatum said, leading her to the realization students care about the environment.

Students and parents both seemed appreciative of the opportunity to be environmentally responsible, Tatum said.

RECYCLE continued on page 3 >>>

### RECYCLING STATISTICS

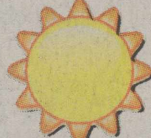
1. In a cycle of one year in the United States, the recycling of steel saves enough energy to heat and light 18 million homes.
2. Recycling a single run of the Sunday *New York Times* would save 75,000 trees each year.
3. Every year the United States uses 85.5 million tons of paper and out of that recycles 22 percent. Out of that, 782 million trees could be saved.
4. Americans represent 5 percent of the world's population, but generate 30 percent of the world's garbage.
5. The energy saved each year through can recycling could light a city the size of Washington, D.C., for 3.7 years.
6. The average U.S. citizen consumes 2.5 cans of soda each working day.

Source: www.whatcanberecycled.com

#### INDEX

Classifieds.....7  
Crossword.....6  
La Vida.....3  
Opinions.....4  
Sports.....6  
Sudoku.....5

#### WEATHER

Today	Sunny	Wednesday	Mostly Sunny
	93/65		96/66

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# TTUHSC unveils high-tech children's health care project

By JETT THOMPSON  
STAFF WRITER

The launch of a new program designed to provide medical services to children living in rural areas of Texas through a secure teleconferencing network was announced Monday at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

The program known as the Children's Healthcare Access in Rural Texas, or CHART, is the only program of its kind in Texas, said David Lefforge, the chief operating officer of the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health. The program seeks to aid the sparsely populated areas of West Texas where access to health care can mean a 12-hour drive.

The announcement at the TTUHSC was held concurrently with a live audience at the first rural telemedicine site at the Stratford Family Medical Clinic to demonstrate the new technology.

Lefforge presented CHART's goal of having 30 rural telemedicine sites operational in West Texas by Fall 2010.

Each site costs about \$35,000, he said, and one of the goals of the program is to help communities design a system that can be sustained for the long run. The project is being funded through the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

"We have 29 more sites to go, and the good thing is that our next site opens up next month in Presidio," Lefforge said.

According to a press release from Project CHART, the TTUHSC's service region is comprised of 108 counties in West Texas, of which 22 have no physician and 32 have no hospital.

Dr. Richard Lampe, the chairman of the Department of Pediatrics

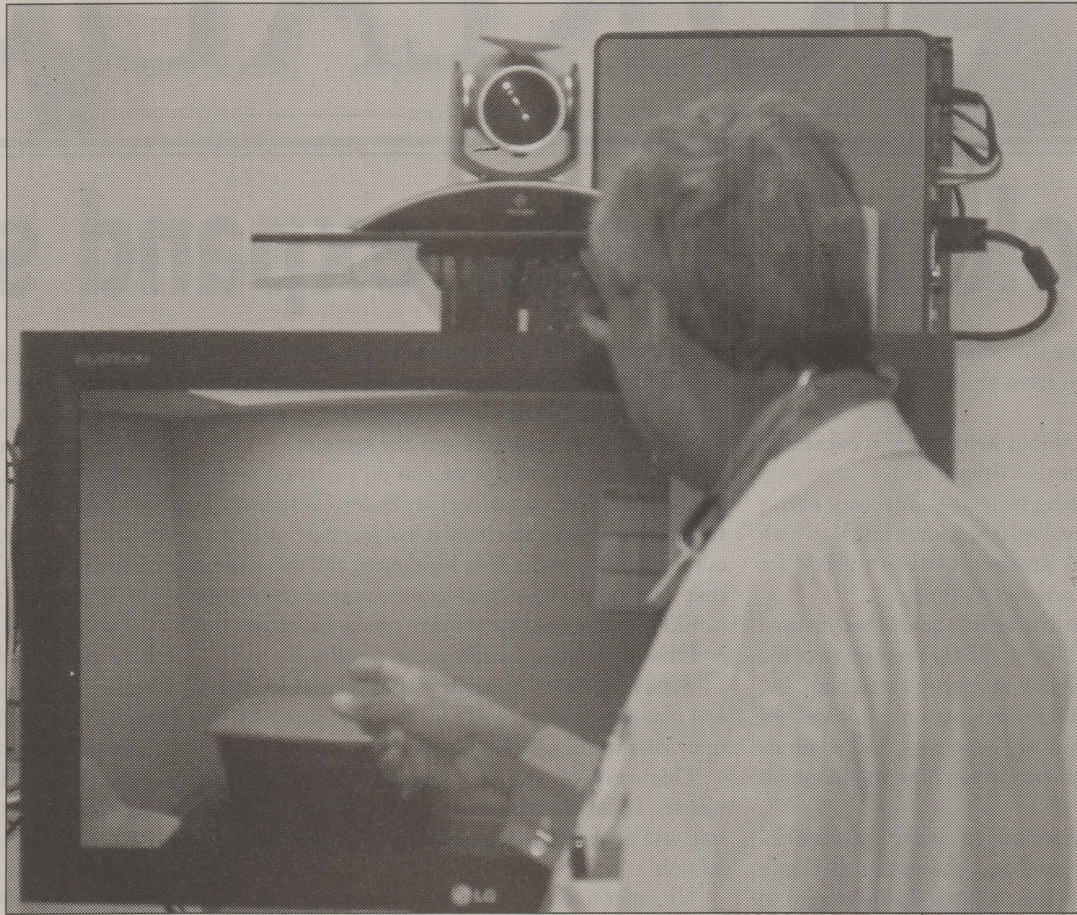


PHOTO BY JEFF DAY/The Daily Treador  
DR. SURENDRA VARMA, demonstrates Monday at the Health Sciences Center how CHART, Children's Healthcare Access for Rural Texas, hardware will allow doctors in Lubbock to provide telemedicine services to health care locations in rural Texas.

atrics at the TTUHSC had the chance to use this new technology in consultation with patients in Stratford. Lampe said working with patients through the teleconferencing system was almost the same as having the patient in the room.

"To me the biggest difference is not being able to shake your hand," Lampe said. "But I can smile at you, and you can smile back at me."

A demonstration by Ward Palmer, a nurse practitioner with the Stratford Family Medical Center, showed the technological capabilities of the system

through the use of several different high-tech cameras and listening devices.

Sarah Ortega, the mother of 2-year-old Salma Aguilera, a patient at the telemedicine location in Stratford, said via teleconference she was very impressed with the whole system.

Ortega said she and her daughter drove to Lubbock every four to six months to see a doctor before the telemedicine program.

"This is great," Ortega said. "Now I don't have to travel."

Dr. Surendra Varma, associate dean for graduate medical education, gave a tour of the facilities

in which the technology is used in the Texas Tech Physicians Medical Pavilion. Varma said the teleconferencing units used in Project CHART are on a two-year cycle and will be modernized or replaced in two years to keep up with the advancements in technology.

Bill Henderson, the practice manager at the Texas Tech Physicians of Lubbock pediatrics department, said four examination rooms in the Texas Tech Physicians Medical Pavilion utilize the teleconferencing technology.

"Hopefully within a year we'll have double that," Henderson said.

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## IN BRIEF

### STATE

#### Kinky's back, and this time he's a Democrat

AUSTIN (AP) — Humorist and author Kinky Friedman says he's running for governor again, this time as a Democrat.

Friedman, in an interview with The Associated Press on the eve of his formal announce-

ment, described himself as a "true populist." He said he's offering Democrats a new, winning model, noting that the last Democrat to hold the Texas governorship was Ann Richards in the early 1990s.

### NATION

#### Major cigarette makers sue over new tobacco law

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Two of the three largest U.S. tobacco companies filed suit Monday to block marketing restrictions in a law that gives the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authority over tobacco, claiming the provisions violate their right to free speech.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., maker

of Camel cigarettes, and Lorillard Inc., which sells the Newport menthol brand, filed the federal lawsuit with several other tobacco companies.

It is the first major challenge of the legislation passed and enacted in June, and a lawyer for tobacco consumers doubted the lawsuit will be successful.

### WORLD

#### Turkey, Armenia to launch talks on diplomatic ties

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Armenia and Turkey, bitter foes for a century, took a step toward reconciliation Monday by announcing they would launch final talks aimed at establishing diplomatic ties. But they won't discuss the deepest source of their enmity: the World War I-era massacres of Arme-

nians under Ottoman rule.

Both sides said in a joint statement they expected the talks to take six weeks and to end with an agreement setting up and developing ties. The two countries, whose shared border is closed, are U.S. allies and came under American and European pressure to move toward peace.

## Corrections

The Daily Treador's reporters and editors strive for accuracy in the news-gathering process. However, mistakes are inevitable.

It is The DT's policy to correct mis-

takes in this spot as soon as possible.

If you feel there is an error in a story, please call Editor-in-Chief Kevin Cullen at 806-742-3395 or e-mail kevin.m.cullen@ttu.edu.

## City Council approves variances

Businesses in town are working toward getting approval to distribute alcohol, but some had to take an extra step to have permission to sell alcohol.

Eight businesses filed variances last week to distribute alcohol despite not meeting a basic requirement of being 300 feet away from a public or private school or university, said Assistant to the City Council Patrick Aten. The council then requested for any objections from the schools to whether the stores could sell alcohol at the locations.

The five businesses located in the

vicinity of Texas Tech were granted variances by a 5-2 vote from the City Council because Tech did not give the council a preference regarding alcohol sales within the area, Aten said.

Richard Krupar, a first-year graduate student in wind science and engineering from Elyria, Ohio, said he thinks it is good for alcohol to be sold near the university.

"The distance of the strip encourages drunk driving because if the students want alcohol they're going to get it regardless of the distance," he said. "At least this will lower the chances."

Megan Messersmith, a senior English major from Lubbock, said she also supports the sale of alcohol in city limits.


"To me, having places throughout the city selling alcohol should help decrease the rates of drunk driving and related incidents," she said.

The five businesses granted variance were all convenience stores: Chevron at 19th Street and University Avenue, 7/11 at Fourth Street and University Avenue, 7/11 at Detroit Avenue and Fourth Street, Joe's Mart at Fourth Street and Indiana Avenue, and Town & Country at Quaker Avenue and N. Loop 289.

Petitions to sell alcohol in Lubbock County began Fall 2008, when petitions were circulated for two petitions that would allow for a vote to be hosted by the county. Lubbock voters approved Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 in May with 64 percent and 69 percent of the voters for the measures, respectively.

Sales have been suspended since that time, however, because of zoning difficulties and protests made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission from Lubbock County residents. The commission said resolving the protests could take several months.

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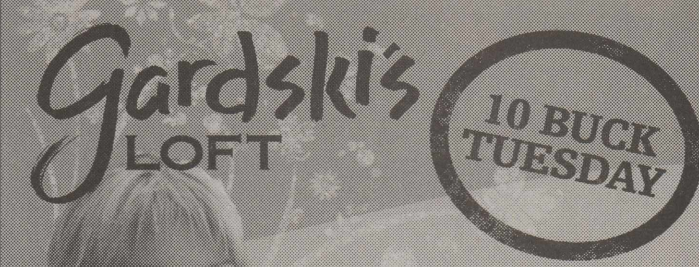
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application and sign-up for an interview. Interviews will be on **Tuesday and  
Wednesday, Sept. 8 -9, from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.**



## Overton Hotel facilitates student learning

By **SHERREL JONES**  
STAFF WRITER

The Overton Hotel built a classroom on the second floor to enhance student learning for restaurant, hotel and institutional management majors.

Two classes are being taught this semester at the new hotel: one is a class on hotel operations, the other is a new class on wine marketing. In the classroom, there are three computers with state-of-the-art hotel software, Opera.

"The students can learn how to make a reservation and check people in without interfering

with the hotel's reservations because it's in an experiment mode," said Shane Blum, chairman of the department of nutrition.

*"It's going to be great. It was really competitive to get into because everyone wanted to be over at the hotel."*

**SHANE BLUM**  
CHAIRMAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION

Hunter Carmichael, general manager of the Overton Hotel, said he wants students to have a hands-on learning experience.

"They will be learning front of the house, front office operations, valet, accounting, front desk, sales, event planning and what a maintenance manager does," Carmichael said.

The biggest difference from the past is students are now able to do all lab activities in one building. Students used to go to various hotels to

learn how to do hotel-related jobs.

Student will meet in the classroom first and then leave to go to different departments in the hotel for lab. The room was built specifically for students and will not be rented out for any other purpose.

Blum said the department is planning to have an internship program set up for RHIM majors by summer and have additional classes at the hotel by next fall.

Blum said he normally teaches the hotel-operations class with about 90 students, but this semester he has one section with 40 students because the classroom has a maximum capacity of 49 people.

"It's going to be great," Blum said. "It was really competitive to get into because everyone wanted to be over at the hotel."

Carmichael said he wants students to have as much hands-on experience as possible and wants students to feel comfortable.

"The classroom can be a place they can call home," Carmichael said.

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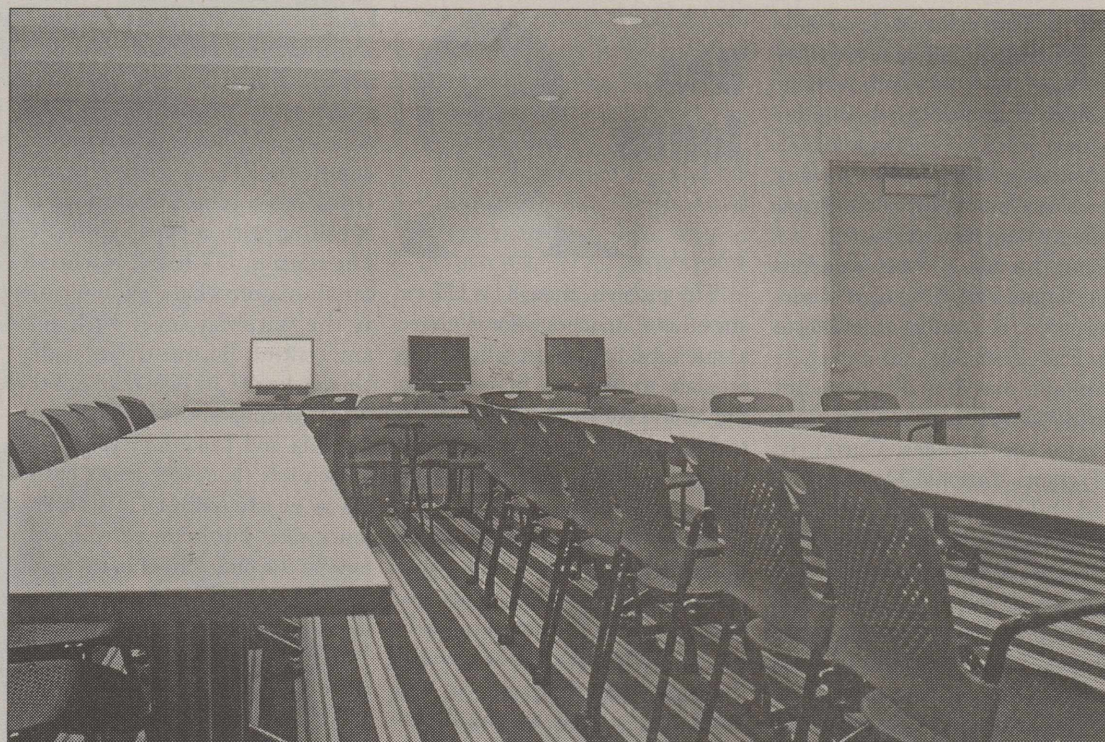


PHOTO BY JEFF DAY/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH STUDENTS taking classes through the RHIM program (Restaurant, Hotel, and Institutional Management) will meet in a learning space housed in Lubbock's new five-star hotel, The Overton.

## Beatles, Stones, Super Mario: big autumn for games

NEW YORK (AP) — With a little help from the Beatles, Super Mario and price cuts from Sony and Microsoft, the slumping video game industry is hoping for a sales resurgence this fall.

The season gets a late-summer start Tuesday, with the release of "Guitar Hero 5," a game featuring music from the Rolling Stones, Nirvana and other popular bands. Then on Sept. 9 comes the launch of "The Beatles: Rock Band," which marks the rock icons' debut in a video game.

Plagued by the recession and a lackluster game release schedule for much of this year, the video game industry — which is bigger than the music business by some estimates — has fallen into a slump. It has been the first once since the latest game consoles — the Xbox 360, the Wii and the PlayStation 3 — were launched in 2005 and 2006.

The music genre — the second-most popular category behind action games — has suffered in particular, though that's partly because it's been so popular in the past couple of years that it needs exceptional sales just to stay even. According to the NPD Group, U.S. retail sales in the music and dance game genre were nearly \$390 million less at the end of July than at the same time last year.

Music games invite you to play and sing along to real tunes, offering on-screen cues about when to finger guitar-like plastic controllers or hit

touch-sensitive drums. When the game is played well, the songs sound pretty good.

"You just get into it — it feels like you're in a real band. It's like you're really on stage," said Marquez Alexander, 14, who bought two sports games Monday at a GameStop store near San Francisco's Union Square. He said he plans to pester his mother to buy him the new Beatles game — even though he barely knows the band.

"I never heard of them until I was like 7. It's just another game, another challenge," he said.

While John Lennon may have once boasted the Beatles were more popular than Jesus, time will tell whether today's video game fans feel that way. The "Rock Band" game will cost \$60, which is typical for a big release, but there also will be a \$250 version that comes with "limited edition" instruments resembling the ones the Fab Four used.

Video game industry analysts are cautiously optimistic that 2009 will end on a higher note than it began, not just because of the music games

but blockbusters like Nintendo's upcoming remake of the classic "Super Mario Bros." for the Wii and Activision Blizzard Inc.'s "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2."

It doesn't hurt that two of the three console makers announced hefty price cuts in recent days. Last Thursday, Microsoft Corp. said it is slashing the price of the high-end Xbox 360, the Elite, by \$100 to \$299. A few days earlier, Sony Corp. rolled back the price of the PlayStation 3 by \$100. That just leaves Nintendo Co., whose Wii has cost \$250 since its launch. Analysts expect the company to bring down the price of the Wii, though it might do that by keeping the base price level and including more free games with it.

One hurdle for the industry: Several game publishers have delayed big launches meant for the holidays. "BioShock 2" from Take-Two Interactive Software Inc., "Splinter Cell: Conviction" from Ubisoft and "StarCraft II" from Activision have been pushed out to 2010.

*"It feels like you're in a real band. It's like you're really on stage."*

**MARQUEZ ALEXANDER**  
MUSIC GAMER

## Recycle

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"They seemed to really be buying into it," she said, "which is great."

Allie Sims, a sophomore political science major from Dallas and Murray resident, said she occasionally recycles before she moved to Tech, and uses the recycle bins in Murray Residence Hall because they are convenient.

By saving her plastic bottles and placing them in the recycle bin instead of the trash, she said she feels more environmentally responsible.

Students who live on campus or off are welcome to bring their recycling items to the common areas in any residence hall, Tatum said. She hopes the availability and convenience will lead to a more sustainable student body.

hannah.boen@ttu.edu

TUESDAY		SEPTEMBER 1, 2009					
STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXB 5 PBS Lubbock	KCBD 11 NBC Lubbock	KLBK 13 CBS Lubbock	KMYL 14 MYN Lubbock	KLCW 22 CW Lubbock	KAMC 28 ABC Lubbock	KUTV 34 FOX Lubbock
7 AM	Curious	Today Sched-uled: back to school bases; discount store shopping; Jenny McCarthy (HD)	The Early Show	Copeland Robison	(5:00) Daily Buzz	Good Morning America (HD)	(6:00) Good Day Lubbock
8 AM	Super Why			Paid Prog. J. Hanna	Wilkos		
9 AM	Sesame Street		The 700 Club	Divorce Payne	Divorce Payne	Regs & Kelly (HD)	Martha Stewart
10 AM	Dragon Word		Price Is Right (HD)	Christina	Cosby	The View (HD)	The Morning Show
11 AM	Martha Jeopardy	Restless (HD)	Alex	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Tyra Banks Show
12 PM	Barney Trivial	News	The People's Court	Roseanne	All My Children	Paid Prog.	
1 PM	Dewberry Days of Our Lives	Beautiful As the World	Paid Prog.	Fam Court	One Life to Live	The People's Court	
2 PM	Place The Doctors	Guiding Light	Maury	Judge Jeanine	General Hospital	Judge Methis	
3 PM	Beth, Lion Electric	Inside	Oprah Winfrey	Brown	Extra	Tyra 10	No Deal Ellen DeGeneres
4 PM	Arthur WordGirl	Brown	Access	Preview	No Deal		
5 PM	FETCH! Dr. Phil	Judy	Maury	Standing	Rachael Ray	Bonnie Hunt Show	
6 PM	Cyber News	News	Wendy Williams	Queens	News	Lopez	
7 PM	Maya News	News	News	Queens	News	Simpsons	
8 PM	Bus. Rpt. News	News	Law Order "Smile"	70s	News	Lopez	
9 PM	NewsHour (HD) Wheel	Millions	America's Talent	NCIS (HD)	St. Patrol	90210	Crash Course
10 PM	NOVA (HD) America's Got Talent "Semifinals"	Big Brother 11	Jail (HD)	Jail (HD)	90210	Shaq Vs. (HD)	More to Love
11 PM	Bernanke	(9:01) Mentalist	Jim (HD)	Married Family	(9:01) Out-siders	News	
12 AM	Charlie Rose	News	King	Sex City	News	Two & 1/2	
1 AM	TV411	Late Night Show	(10:35) Late Show	TMZ	Sex City	Nightline	Scrubs
2 AM	GED	Last Call	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Insider	Paid Prog.	

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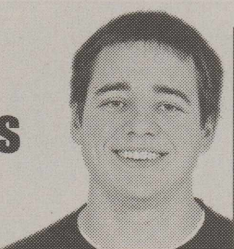
## UT shuts out smart students

University of Texas officials announced Friday they will cut its National Merit Scholarship program for the next year. Unfortunately for UT students, the move marks a growing trend distancing Texas' brightest students from its universities.

Just this fall, UT will introduce 244 National Merit Scholars — second only to Harvard — according to *The Daily Texan*. Yet, the university maintains that its ability to recruit top-notch students will increase despite the changes. Currently, UT grants National Merit Scholars \$13,000 during four years. The university's financial services now claims all scholarship money will be granted strictly on need, with all merit-based scholarships coming through third party or independent donors.

Texas, however, is following similar cutbacks in other states forced to find ways around merit scholarship programs. According to a *Wall Street Journal* report, Florida, Michigan and Georgia have cut back on statewide scholarship programs in the past year.

**Ben Jones**



The problem though, is UT, or any other state school, doesn't have a state subsidized merit scholarship program to lean on. States across the country dish out \$50 million to \$80 million a year toward the top high school students to keep them in state.

Texas, meanwhile, continues to rely on its top 10 percent rule allowing top high school graduates to stay in state. And yet, while the plan actually has succeeded in increasing both diversity and academic success among Texas residents, according to a 2008 University of Texas report, it fails to offer any incentive to the most qualified of residents who wish to remain in state.

In Austin, UT officials don't seem to be bothered with the recent cutbacks, claiming the university

has "attained a certain stature" and the merit scholarships aren't needed. But it is a big deal that a university with a \$7.8 billion endowment (top among public universities) and a triple-A credit rating has a scholarship program operating with a massive deficit. The truth is, UT hasn't reached a certain stature where it can recruit at the national level with top universities. Boston College, the University of Chicago, the University of Michigan, the University of Virginia and Duke University are all schools that offer merit-based aid at nearly half of UT's acceptance rate. Furthermore, UT will now be the only school in the state that doesn't offer a far-reaching, merit-based aid program.

At Tech, UT's problems may be a telling sign. While Tech boasts about 70 National Merit Scholars each year, it also offers each recipient \$12,000 per year, almost four times as much as UT's program per student. Furthermore, Tech continues to offer more merit-based aid than need-based. Last year, Tech offered almost \$50 million in merit-based scholarships, according

to the Institutional Research and Information Management office, an increase of more than \$2.5 million from the previous year.

Fortunately, Tech boasts a large middle class student base that benefits from increasing merit scholarships while stabilizing revenue to prevent the university's scholarship program from going into deficit. A chancellor's report last year indicated more than half of Tech students came from incomes more than \$80,000 while a quarter came from incomes under \$40,000.

Last month, in a comparison of the current condition of Texas and California, *the Economist* noted Texas' small government and lack of cultural diversity is reflected in its sub-par higher educational system. And while true, Texas (particularly West Texas) remains one of the best places to get a job. With the economic climate of Texas looking bright, at least relatively, this alone could make Texas one of the best places to come to school.

**■ Jones is a sophomore economics major from Lubbock.**  
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## Physician heal thyself

I don't read many monthly magazines, but I'm enough of a geek that *Wired* appeals to me. As someone who has dealt with a variety of health issues throughout my life, the subject of one article in this month's issue caught my eye: the placebo effect.

For those not aware, a placebo is essentially a sugar pill. It is made to look exactly like a pill of a real drug. The idea behind a placebo in terms of drug development is to test whether a drug in question actually has any effect on the person taking it, or whether it does nothing at all.

The article dealt primarily with the growing strength of the placebo effect in pharmaceutical tests. The effect has such a big impact on medicine that a drug will not be approved for distribution unless it can beat the placebo when it comes to curing patients.

One particular ailment referred to was depression. As it turns out, even well-established drugs of today such as Prozac are having trouble beating the placebo.

Curious, I decided to do a little more research, and this sort of thing indeed seems to be happening across the board. *The LA Times* even reported on Aug. 6 that vertebroplasty, a spinal surgery performed 80,000 times a year and considered highly effective at relieving pain and increasing mobility, is no more effective than a procedure in which nothing is done to the patient at all.

Interestingly, a story in 2001 from *The New York Times* painted a different picture when two Danish researchers concluded that the placebo effect was "more myth than science." Their paper was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* — the same journal that published the spinal surgery findings.

I find myself asking the same question as a lot of researchers: Why is the placebo effect so strong? And almost as interesting, why does it seem to be getting stronger?

There are of course a number of different theories and schools of thought, but one thing I take away from it is this: We rely too much on modern medicine.

Don't get me wrong. We have

**Britton Peele**



received some amazing things from medical science, and I would probably be fair in saying it has saved my life in the past. Doctors, medicine, surgeries — these are all things we should be thankful to have.

But I think we sometimes take it too far.

It seems like we take medicine for everything these days. We drink caffeine to stay awake. We take ginkgo biloba to stay focused. We heal headaches, coughs, stomach aches, itchy arms and more. Sure, I definitely see the appeal in a quick fix for every discomfort. It's a great dream, but I don't think

it's how our bodies are meant to operate.

Think of witch doctors and Native American remedies. Think of old-fashioned "cure all" pills people swore cured their cold. Although there may have been legitimately helpful ingredi-

ents in some of these medications (if they weren't just scams, like most "cure alls"), you have to wonder if the main reason patients were cured — and have always been cured — was the placebo effect — our own bodies.

The human body is an amazing thing. Whether you believe it was brilliantly designed by a creator or if it's the result of years of evolution, no scientist can deny there are things about our bodies we simply don't understand. It may be capable of things we haven't even considered.

I remember a line in the movie "K-Pax" in which the character of Prot has essentially been giving patients of a psychiatric ward advice on how to cure themselves — without a degree and without the use of medicine. He tells the doctor assigned to his case, "All beings have the ability to heal themselves."

Whether that's entirely true or not, I think we need to give our bodies more chances to do its job than we're often willing.

**■ Peele is The DT's opinions editor.**  
» britton.peele@ttu.edu

“... we sometimes take it too far. It seems like we take medicine for everything these days.”

## Students neglect Lubbock's fun factor

Lubbock is my home. It always bothers me when I talk to new students who say, "Lubbock is boring. There's nothing to do in Lubbock. I wish I were somewhere else." Frequently, these students are wearing Sherpa boots and have orange skin.

Natalie Maines agreed with these radioactive students, but for more personal reasons, according to the Dixie Chicks song "Lubbock or Leave It." While the song is quite sarcastic and mean-spirited, I recognize there are many who adhere to these heresies. This column is a reply to those complaints.

Lubbock is unique. Lubbock is bold. Lubbock is West Texas. Those who do not understand its relaxed culture will not appreciate Lubbock. Lubbock is like a scratch-and-win lottery game: On the surface, the town is rough and dry, but hidden prizes await those who search.

**Roy Long**



I believe finding fun in Lubbock probably is a little more difficult for some than in the big cities of the country. However, I think those who cannot find fun in West Texas lack creativity and resourcefulness. Twenty-year-olds should be able to find entertainment for themselves, and Lubbock does not lack venues for fun.

Part of the attraction to Lubbock derives from disconnecting from the big city culture. Lubbock is just the right size to offer almost all of the amenities of a big town with a small town feel.

Without any real traffic problems, you can get anywhere in

town within a quarter hour. However, at the same time, we have football teams, a major university, a great symphony orchestra and huge local events. Our city-slicker transplants need to relax, because high culture is definitely present in the plains. We gave birth to Buddy Holly, Mac Davis, the Maines brothers and even Glenna Goodacre.

The dialect is not impossible to learn: Texan is beautiful in its own right. It just takes some time to become accustomed to the drawl. Try using the words "y'all," "fixin'" and "heap" in a sentence: "Y'all are fixin' to have a heap of fun in Lubbock."

Some say the best thing to do in Lubbock is to watch the grass grow. True, Lubbock is not a tropical paradise, but the staked plains offer much in terms of scenic beauty. It seems that none of these radioactive Lubbock-doubters have enjoyed a day of canoeing or

hiking around the Yellowhouse Draw. The flat plains are perfect for road cycling. Caprock Canyons offers beautiful changes in elevation, a 65-mile trail through tunnels and even a state herd of bison.

The best part of Lubbock springs from the people. Some say we're too religious or even hypocritical, but I think we're just opinionated. What do you expect from a town with religious origins (some of the founders of Lubbock were Quakers)? Besides, here in Lubbock, a handshake and a grin actually mean something. Lubbockites are hardworking; this probably stems from the rich farming and ranching heritage that has shaped our destiny and local personality.

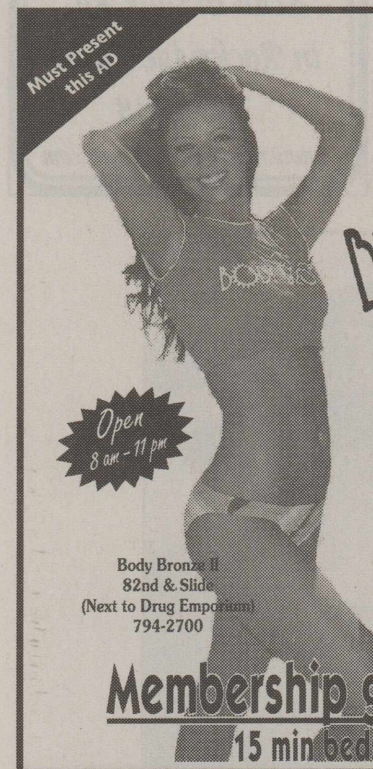
So, if you are having trouble appreciating Lubbock, I have a few suggestions: Take a day trip to some of the state parks around the city. Listen to some live country and rock music (or better yet, Western Swing, a genre created by Bob Wills in Turkey, 75 miles away). Go to the Fair. Watch a local high school football game (which feels completely different than a Tech game, but just as exciting).

Shun interstate culture and eat somewhere local. Ask a farmer about cotton or maize. Or, do what the locals do by drinking your favorite beverage on the porch and watching dusk.

I beg you, do not buy into the myth that Lubbock is a bad place to be. I say, if you don't like Lubbock, then you should leave it!

**■ Long is a Junior Russian and area studies major from Lubbock.**  
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**WATERMELON HEAVEN**



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH LINEBACKER Brian Duncan takes a bite out of a freshly-cut watermelon slice provided to football players by Jimmy Bragg of the Tahoka chapter of the Red Raider Club and McWhirter Farms, a family-run farm in Panes, Saturday at the annual WATERMELON FEED.

**Artist collecting tales of recession**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The beat-up 1989 Dodge van carries a sign with a question: "How has the recession affected you?"

Along the side, a request: "Tell me your story."

Scrawled in marker across the orange paint are hard-luck tales: "My grandma lost her house and my dad is working less hours," signed Peoria, AZ. "I lost my job, my home, my car & was homeless for 6 months. This was the first time in 27 yrs I was out of work," signed Sue W.

The man behind the wheel is Aaron Heideman, 29, an artist from Grants Pass, Ore., who in the past year lost his job at a paint store and began sleeping in the van. He hit the road July 1 with

what he calls "The Man in a Van Project," angling for a \$250,000 prize at an art fair.

"I just want to give people a voice," he said during a stop in Rhode Island, the 20th state he stopped in during what he calls a nationwide conceptual art piece. His media, as he describes it: a 50-yard roll of Tyvek, a Dodge van, and a homeless man (himself). His final destination is Grand Rapids, Mich., home of ArtPrize, where he plans to display his project in September and October.

During Heideman's stops, he unscrolls several feet of the roll, lays it in front of the van with a couple of Sharpie markers, and encourages passers-by to pause for a minute and add their thoughts.

**Dancer preps for 'Billy Elliot' on Broadway**

(AP) — Thirteen-year-old Alex Ko feels a certain connection to Billy Elliot, the lead character he will play on Broadway in October.

After all, in "Billy Elliot the Musical," Billy defies his father's wishes to become a boxer, instead favoring ballet. Similarly, Ko said, he had the same challenge leaving gymnastics and winning his father's approval to be a dancer.

Now, after being the youngest student ever admitted to the University of Iowa dance department, Ko will take on New York City as the fifth title character in "Billy Elliot." He has been rehearsing for the show for more than six weeks.

"It's Broadway," he squeaked. "I can't wait to be Billy Elliot."

"Billy Elliot the Musical" is an inspiring tale about a poor young boy who discovers the beauty in ballet on his way to boxing lessons. The story reveals the hardships Billy must face in trying to persuade his father that his destiny and true talents lie in the art of dance and not in the boxing ring.

Not only does Ko feel an immense connection to his character, but he's also developed a deep bond to his new life in New York City.

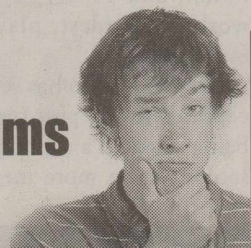
"I love New York," he said. "Everything in the city moves so fast, and there are so many opportunities."

**Indie-style films set apart by soundtracks**

Last week I saw "500 Days of Summer," the latest installment in the growing sub-genre of indie-style films characterized by notable soundtracks. In the same vein as "Garden State" and "Juno," "500 Days of Summer" has charming flare in its directing and absolute chemistry between its characters. But what really gives this film the chance to be so convincing and tangible are the songs painted into the story.

Even though the concept of a soundtrack-powered movie is nothing new, "500 Days of Summer" is a landmark in the growing genre. The integration of songs within the story is seamless. In the opening credits, we are introduced to the main characters, Tom and Summer, with Regina Spektor's "Us" playing in the background. While home movies of the main characters play in the background,

**Ben Willms**



the playful swell of strings and subtly driven piano creates an excited tension, and all of sudden the audience finds itself even more curious to find out what happens when boy meets girl. Regina's music is a completely adhesive force connecting the viewer to Tom and Summer on a level that would be completely impossible without the depth of personality and emotion we find in her song.

"500 Days of Summer" not only uses some of the best current music but also reaches back to somewhat older artist like The

Smiths and Simon and Garfunkel. Drawing on decades of music, every track seems to be specifically commissioned for use in the film. Fans of "Juno" may remember the whimsical and beautifully plain Kimya Dawson who, from my perspective, was the unofficial voice of Juno in the film. Her music in the film was the perfect guide to who Juno was as a person and how she weathered the events of the film. In the same way, I will forever be reminded of the song "She's Got You High" by Mumm-Ra when I think of any boy who falls hopelessly in love with a girl. In the movie, it completely captures Tom's feelings for Summer. The ethereal and soft electric guitar riff builds into a celebration of what might come to be. Because we can see the character of Tom pining after Summer, we can relate the song

on an even deeper level.

It is this ability to quantify emotions and become a medium for people to transfer their love, their hope and their sadness that makes music such a powerful form of expression.

"500 Days of Summer" respects this power and uses it to its full potential. Despite the fact "Quelqu'un m'a dit" by Carla Bruni is performed in French, the message and passion in the song is no less captivating and heart-breaking because of its context in the film. Although the soundtrack is a collection of powerful and expressive songs, it is its cohesion with the story that makes it remarkable. What is already a well-crafted story becomes a masterpiece of artistic expression.

**Willms is The DT's music critic.**  
 >>>benjamin.willms@ttu.edu

**Blink 182 cancels show after DJ AM's death**

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP) — Pop-punk band Blink-182 has pulled out of its show in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., saying band members were grieving the death of their friend, celebrity disc jockey Adam "DJ AM" Goldstein.

A statement released by the band said Weezer, Taking Back Sunday, Chester French and "some special surprises" would go on as scheduled at the Monday night show.

Goldstein was found dead Friday in his New York City apartment. The cause of death has not been released pending the results of toxicology tests.

Today's  
**su | do | ku**

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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**Helpful reminder:** please refer to the 2009-2010 academic calendar for important dates such as the last day to drop a class, make payments, etc.

**Be proactive**—it's easier than addressing a concern when it may be "too late."

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# SPORTS

PAGE 6  
TUESDAY, SEPT. 1, 2009

## Captains set tone for less-hyped 2009 season

By ALEX YBARRA  
MANAGING EDITOR

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Caged animals foaming at the mouth.

That's running back Baron Batch and guard Brandon Carter's collective view on the Red Raiders, who are less than a week away from playing North Dakota at 6 p.m. Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium.

"Everybody is ready to be released," Carter said during Monday's press conference. "I think everyone is excited. I think we're

the most excited team in the country right now. Everyone is anxious and ready to go. When it comes time, I think we have to kind of control that rage. You have to play disciplined and make sure we don't have any penalties."

Carter's thoughts on suppressing the rage have some merit.

Tech racked up a school-record 18 penalties against Eastern Washington in the first game of 2008.

But it's a new season, with

new captains, who spoke for the first time within their new roles Monday.

Tech players voted quarterback Taylor Potts, defensive end Rajon Henley, cornerback Jamar Wall and Carter as this year's group.

Even though he's probably the most recognizable face on the team, Carter said he was a "bit shocked" when he got the news.

"I work hard everyday, and I make sure everybody else works hard," he said. "I guess they saw it. I'm not a huge vocal guy unless I have to be. I don't try to be negative. I don't believe in negative reinforcement. I guess those guys cope with that pretty well.

"It's a huge honor that they all look up to me, and anytime that they need somebody to look to for help I'll be there."

Carter is a good source of information, especially for an offensive lineman. He is on the preseason watch list for the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award.

Tech coach Mike Leach said he wasn't surprised about the selections because they set good examples.

"It was a pretty clear cut margin," he said. "I think those guys really became captains in the course of spring and camp. Carter and Jamar maybe were headed that direction anyway."

Replacing former quarterback Graham Harrell, it's safe to say Potts was headed in the direction of more attention and expectations.

He is being hyped up as the most NFL-ready quarterback under Leach because of his strong arm



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH GUARD Brandon Carter was elected as one of four captains for the Red Raiders this season. The senior is on the preseason watch lists for the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award.

and 6-foot-5, 218-pound frame.

But with all the talk — Leach even said Potts is more prepared than any other first-year quarterback he's had — the junior knows he still has a reputation and chemistry to build with his team.

"I think I'll always kind of have to earn that trust, that leadership," he said. "Being voted captain is

kind of an honor. To feel that respected and well thought of by your teammates is really an honor, and I'll try my best and work my hardest, play my best every week."

For Wall, who has seven interceptions in the past two seasons, being selected a captain gives his senior season more meaning. As

a veteran of a secondary that lost four safeties, Wall said while he's not a "ra-ra" guy, he'll give some encouragement when needed.

"I gotta always stay positive," he said. "I got young guys looking up to me, situations that they need you most you have to come through for them and come through with the other captains to figure out ways to get us motivated and do what you have to do to help us be successful."

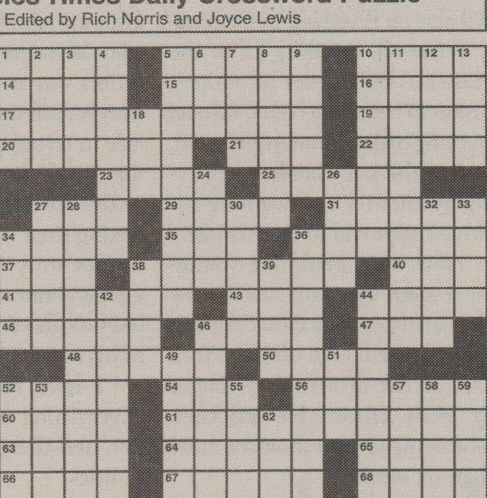
On the defensive line, Henley hopes to take some pressure off Wall. The senior dropped nearly 20 pounds in the offseason, giving him more quickness off the edge after being a defensive tackle the past three years.

Henley said he jokes with former defensive end Brandon Williams about outdoing his 13 sacks from last season, which opened the door for his career with the Dallas Cowboys.

"I told him I'm gonna beat him with 17, and see if someone can catch that," Henley said.

— daniel.ybarra@ttu.edu

### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle



By Sharon E. Petersen 9/1/09

#### Monday's Puzzle Solved

RAG SALEM SEEDY  
URL PHOTO ARMOR  
SMOKE AND MIRRORS  
SAVED MOIST  
EDEN BRAINS ICE  
TAR PROBE SCAN  
GRITS ACCORD  
SLEIGHT OF HAND  
THOUGHTS ALTER  
HONEY CIDER REC  
EWE LEANER GEAR  
SNARL BASTA  
OPTIC ILLUSION  
PLACE ELIAS DUE  
TURKS REEDY ETS

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#### ACROSS

- Wordsworth work
- Pipe organ knobs
- Caiti, cop org.
- snuff
- Birdie beater
- Ballerina's bend
- Stealthy felon
- Very small amount
- Friend of Jerry and George
- Tonsillitis MD
- McGregor of "Angels & Demons"
- Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"
- Cannes cup
- Flamenco yell
- Elementary school basics
- Left ventricle outlet
- "Old Man": kids' song
- "Gloria in Excelsis"
- The Greeks' Helios, e.g.
- Battle of Britain defense gp.
- "Oh, be serious!"
- Call \_\_\_ day
- Sports spots
- Like Paree, in song
- Jam-pack
- Captain's superior
- Grab bag category: Abbr.
- Heart and soul
- Pie fruit
- So
- Table salt, to a chemist
- Lupino of film
- Sleepless in Seattle director
- Nora
- Seltzer
- Apartment building
- emergency exit
- Blueprint detail, briefly
- White-tie accompanier
- Finished
- Handy bag
- Sidewinder, e.g.
- Untamed, and word that can precede the stars of 17- and 61-Across and 11- and 28-Down

#### DOWN

- Dark, purple
- October gemstone
- James of jazz
- Art pieces that hang from the ceiling
- Woods with song
- Game with an "it"
- Stare at obviously
- Herbs and shrubs
- Big name in mattresses
- Watches secretly
- Wedding party
- Bread with tabbouleh
- Martin of the Rat Pack
- Family card game
- "Not likely!"
- Nobelist Bellow
- Butler's love
- Boating safety feature
- Short-legged Welsh pooch
- Do sum work
- First mate?
- Streetcar cousin

- Photographer's request
- The World According to \_\_\_: John Irving novel
- Cheyenne-to-Omaha direction
- "There's \_\_\_ like home"
- Consistent money-maker
- Middle of the road
- Picks up
- Favorable times
- Democrat's donkey designer
- Chop House dog food maker
- Diva's solo
- Sitarist Shankar
- European auto
- Uncool sort
- Moose, to a European

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# Ward, Smith gain valuable experience at US Amateurs

By ZANE TURNER  
STAFF WRITER

Playing against some of the top players in the country in any sport can be beneficial.

For Texas Tech men's golf players Chris Ward and Matt Smith, competing in the U.S. Amateur Championship was just that.

Smith and Ward competed in the 109th U.S. Amateur Championship at Southern Hills Golf Club in Tulsa, Okla., Aug. 24 through Sunday.

As the fall season approaches, both players believe having the chance to play some of the best players in the country, who are around

the same age, will work in their favor.

"It was a great experience and a great challenge," Smith said. "We're going to have a strong team, and I'm just going to try and contribute to the team and make them better."

Smith advanced to the top 32 after defeating Andrew Funk while Ward also advanced, disposing of Georgia's Brian Harman by one stroke. The two, however, lost in the



SMITH

second day of match play Thursday.

The two also made history for the program as the most players Tech has had in the tournament since its existence.

Now back in Lubbock preparing for the fall season, Smith said the experience he and his teammate gained will be invaluable when it comes to their collegiate season.

Tech coach Greg Sands said Ward and Smith advanced further than any of his past Tech players have, which is impressive.

"It's our national amateur," said Sands, who is in his ninth season as coach at Tech, "It's like the U.S. Open for amateurs, it's the highest

stage you can play at for amateur golf. For them to not only make it there but make it through the top 64 is just great."

The tournament was even sweeter for Smith because it was his first time to qualify for the Amateur Championship and Ward's second. The two are juniors this fall and will be looked up to because of their experience.

The experience should be an added bonus with standouts Will



WARD

Griffin, Sergio Franky and Nils Floren returning to the team.

Ward said there was a handful of Big 12 Conference players at the Amateur Championships, and it helped to check out the competition before the spring season begins.

Smith redshirted the 2008-2009 season to take a break from collegiate competition and refine his game. Smith's idea to redshirt paid off when he won the Los Angeles City Championship earlier this summer.

Ward also was busy improving his game this summer with a top-10 finish at the 39th Chesapeake Energy Texas State Open at The Cascades in Tyler with a 7-under for

the tournament.

Ward said the experience from the Texas State Open and the U.S. Amateur Championships were vital to him becoming a better golfer.

"This showed me and Matt that we can compete with anyone," he said. "A lot of the kids at the tournament we'll see in college. So, it was just a good experience to play against them."

Now with the Amateur Championship behind them, Smith and Ward can focus on Tech's schedule, which begins with the Carpet Capital Collegiate Tournament Sept. 11 to 13 in Rocky Face, Ga.

zane.turner@ttu.edu

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# Texas Tech Hall of Fame inductees announced

By ADAM COLEMAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Jerry Turner knows football has changed a lot since he was a center for Texas Tech in the mid-1960s.

There was nothing like playing football at Tech for Turner, which makes it that much better to hear he is a part of the latest inductees into the Texas Tech Hall of Fame.

"Of course, the football program at Tech has changed so much since I played in the mid '60s," Turner said. "But being able to have played back then with such people as Donny Anderson and Phil Tucker, I have such great memories of all that. It's almost impossible for me to believe that my last season was 42 years ago."

The Double T Association announced Monday seven former Tech athletes will be inducted

in the Texas Tech Hall of Fame and Hall of Honor on Oct. 23.

Six former athletes will join the Hall of Fame, while one former player turned coach joins the Hall of Honor.

Women's basketball standout Angie Braziel, baseball players Keith Ginter and Chuck Harrison, and football players Doug McCutchen, Bake Turner and Jerry Turner will join the Hall of Fame. Former men's basketball player and coach Charlie Lynch is the lone member joining the Hall of Honor this year.

The inductees will be recognized at the Hall of Fame and Hall of Honor banquet at 6:30 p.m. Oct.



TURNER

23 in the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center — the same weekend of Tech's game against Texas A&M.

Mike Gustafson, Director of Special Events for the Double T Association, said the voters go through the progressions to make sure the athletes can make it to the banquet. Ginter still plays Triple-A baseball for the Chicago White Sox. Ginter may play in a winter league, keeping him tied up for the banquet.

"We typically don't put current professional athletes on the ballot because they can run into conflicts and they can't get here," Gustafson said at a press conference Monday. "It's especially true with the football guys because there's a direct conflict."

Braziel was named a First Team All-American in 1999 by the US Basketball Writers Association and WBB News Service. She also was

Big 12 Conference Player of the Year in 1999.

Ginter was a First Team All-American as a junior and was Big 12 Player of the Year in 1997. He was named First Team All-Big 12 twice as a player at Tech.

Harrison arrived at Tech to play football, but found his passion for baseball instead. In 1961, he led the country in slugging percentage and home runs per game. He probably is most known for being the first

Red Raider to play in the Major Leagues.

McCutchen is the first Red Raider to rush for 1,000 yards in a season. He went on to amass 2,222 yards in his career — second in Tech history.

Bake Turner was a receiver and running back for Tech in the early 1960s. He was Tech's record-holder for punt return yards in a career when he graduated. Bake Turner won a championship with Joe Namath and the

New York Jets in Super Bowl III.

Playing under JT King, Jerry Turner was a three-year starter at center for the Red Raiders. These days, he is serving on the Board of Regents for Tech.

In a class of his own is Lynch, who was a three-year letterwinner for Tech basketball in the late 1950s. He turned his attention to coaching as an assistant under Gene Gibson during the 1960s. Lynch died in January.

Turner, who is in his third year of a six-year term on the board, said it is a plus he still is involved with Tech even after his playing days.

"I consider myself extremely fortunate that I have the opportunity to serve on the Board of Regents," he said. "Luckily, I've got another three years to do that."

adam.coleman@ttu.edu

"It's almost impossible for me to believe that my last season was 42 years ago."

JERRY TURNER  
FORMER TEXAS TECH  
CENTER

## Dallas has six injured rookies

IRVING (AP) — So much for the big boost on special teams the Dallas Cowboys were expecting from their rookie class, at least early this season.

Linebacker Jason Williams, the team's top draft pick, sustained a high ankle sprain and safety Michael Hamlin broke his arm in the preseason game against San Francisco on Saturday night. Coach Wade Phillips said Monday that both will be out at least the next four weeks, and possibly six weeks.

Williams and Hamlin were among the draft picks expected to bring youthful energy to special teams, but that plan has been ruined with half of the 12-man class getting hurt this preseason. Linebacker Brandon Williams already is out for the season because of a torn knee ligament and tackle Robert Brewster probably is, too, because of a torn pectoral muscle.

"It hurts us," Phillips said. "We thought that these guys were going to come in, and it looked like they were, going to come in and help us on special teams. It won't be the case for a little while for a couple of those guys and for Brandon Williams it won't be at all."

The other wounded draftees are quarterback Stephen McGee, who missed the last game and will miss the preseason finale because of a sprained knee, and linebacker Stephen Hodge, who is trying to control swelling on a knee. Phillips said Hodge may be able to practice this week.

The mounting injuries are more bad news for a draft class that was in the team's practice facility when it collapsed in May. None of them was seriously hurt, but there were 12 injuries, including a team scouting assistant who was paralyzed from the waist down and special teams coach Joe DeCamillis, who sustained a broken neck.

## A&M QB hopes for successful year

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Jerrod Johnson will be Texas A&M's starting quarterback in Saturday's opener against New Mexico because of the experience he gained last season.

He'll have to find a new favorite target, though, because his top receiver from 2008 is now his full-time backup.

Ryan Tannehill led the Aggies with 55 catches for 844 yards in 2008. But the 6-foot-4 sophomore nearly took Johnson's job in a tight competition during August practices. Coach Mike Sherman officially named Johnson the starter last week, only giving him the nod because he started 10 games in 2008.

"Ryan knew going in that it would take a knockout punch to unseat a returning starter at that position," Sherman said Monday at his first weekly news conference of the season. "Ryan competed very favorably and it was neck-and-neck until the end."

"There's only winners in this, because we came out of it with two very good quarterbacks."

The Aggies have improved depth at receiver this season and Tannehill is listed only as the reserve quarterback on the two-deep roster. Tannehill said he may line up at receiver in certain situations, but has taken snaps only at quarterback in preseason drills.

Tannehill admitted he was disappointed when Sherman told him that he'd picked Johnson to start the opener.

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