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Proposition 4 passes with 56 percent in favor

By JON VANDERLAAN AND EDMUND ROSTRAN
THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

Texas Tech and six other emerging research universities in Texas are one step closer to achieving the goal of tier-one status after voters approved Proposition 4 on Nov. 3 with 56.6 percent of the vote in favor and 98.5 percent of precincts reported as of press time.

The proposition creates the National Research University Fund, or NRUF, and re-appropriates \$500 million from the Higher Education Fund to the NRUF. The universities that will be able to draw from the fund are Tech, the University of Texas-Arlington, UT-Dallas, UT-El Paso, UT-San Antonio, the University of North Texas and the University of Houston.

The fund was made possible by House Bill 51, which passed during the 2009 Texas Legislative Session. The bill created criteria for required universities to draw from the fund and created various incentives to help the universities reach the goals.

Rep. Dan Branch, R-Dallas, said the fund will perpetuate similarly to an endowment fund, raising money with the interest earned from the fund. Because of this, the state will not need to raise taxes to keep money in the fund.

"It's a huge affirmation by Texans of our legislative agenda to create more tier-one universities," said Branch, one of the co-authors of House Bill 51 and chairman of

the House Higher Education Committee.

Sandra Torres, a resident of Lubbock who voted for Proposition 4 on Tuesday, said she thinks the proposition is important for the university in terms of research and attracting better faculty and students.

"More research is better, not less," Torres said. "So whatever would attract better-quality faculty and would give the university more grant money to do more research and draw more attention to the area, that would be fantastic."

Tech Chancellor Kent Hance said the university will continue to secure funding and to fill five of the seven requirements to draw from the fund.

"Texas Tech is a tier-one university when it comes to teaching," he said. "What we're working on is tier-one as far as research is concerned."

Hance said the vote is probably the most important statewide election the university has been part of and one of the most important days in the history of Tech.

Kendre Parker, a senior psychology major from Fort Worth, said she voted for the proposition because she wants Tech to become one of the few tier-one schools in Texas.

"I definitely see degrees becoming more promising," Parker said. "They are definitely going to mean a lot more when you go to apply for a job, and I also think that we are going to make a lot of advances within the university."

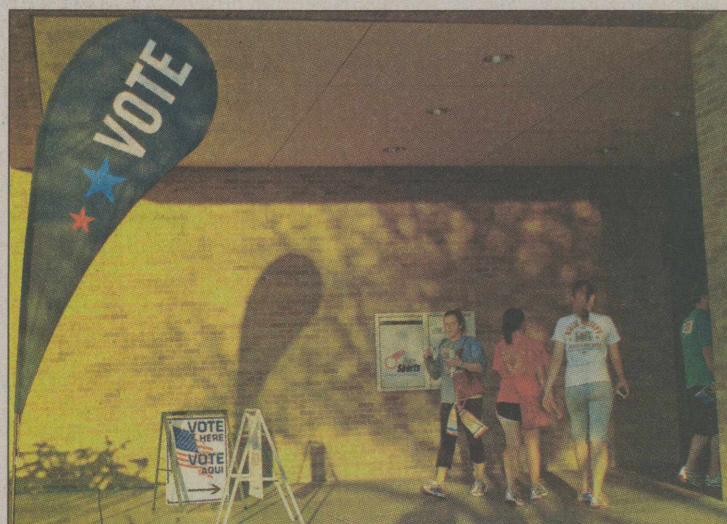


PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

THE ROBERT H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center hosted a polling station for Election Day on Tuesday for registered voters from Lubbock to come and cast their ballot on city and state propositions.

PROPOSITION continued on page 2



Twitter provides students more than updates

By EMILY MOSER
STAFF WRITER

Some people use social networking sites to meet new people; for Twitter users these meetings are called Tweetups.

Students from the campus of about 30,000 students at Texas Tech meet fellow Twitter users through Lubbock's Tweetup group every Sunday.

Simon Ponder, a Tech alumnus from San Antonio and a regular at Lubbock Tweetups, said Tweetups began in cities where people met face to face after online interactions through Twitter, freeing themselves of the 140-character constraint.

"(A Tweetup is) a group of people that meet to discuss things and take it out of the restriction that Twitter puts on you," he said.

Ponder said he originally used Twitter for news but has found a job possibility through the Web site.

The first Tweetup Ponder said he attended was in San Antonio, which had about 30 to 40 people. He said there are sometimes variations to the locations of the Tweetups, but coffee shops are usually chosen because they have wireless Internet.

"The one I went to in San Antonio was in a bar, and I didn't feel comfortable taking out my laptop," he said.

Ponder said he began to become interested in establishing a Tweetup group for the Lubbock community. He contacted Jed Cummins, a Tech graduate student in higher education and administration from Evergreen, Colo., in February and he said Lubbock's Tweetup group grew from there.

"We combined our efforts to build it to something more because before I think it was just Jed and others who were already friends," he said.

Cummins said he has been having



PHOTO BY EMILY MOSER/The Daily Toreador

FROM LEFT: JED Cummins, a Tech graduate student in higher education and administration from Evergreen, Colo.; Simon Ponder, a Tech alumnus from San Antonio; Bryan Mitchell, a sophomore computer science major from Amarillo; Danielle Stolley, a senior electronic media and communication major from Granbury; Stephen Torrence, a senior philosophy and general studies dual major from Georgetown; and Shawn Brackett, visiting from Colorado Springs, Colo., meet at Starbucks Coffee by campus for a weekly Tweetup group.

Tweetups in Lubbock before the Lubbock Tweetup group officially began. Cummins said he created Lubbock Tweetup account during the summer, but the official Tweetup began in February.

Cummins said Lubbock Tweetup mostly takes place at the Starbucks by campus, where people meet to discuss various topics related to technology or YouTube, such as "Auto-tune the News." He said Lubbock Tweetup typically consists of certain people, but he always finds it interesting who shows up on any given night.

"If we wanted more people, we could do more," Cummins said. "I appreciate the kind of intimacy or camaraderie."

He began using Twitter in July 2008 because he wanted to keep in touch with a friend after his move to Texas for graduate school. Cummins said he believes Twitter has gained popularity especially after seeing an advertisement for the Ashton Kutcher vs. CNN Twitter challenge in April on a billboard at the intersection of 19th Street and University Avenue.

"Well, now it's mainstream," Cummins said, "when it's on a billboard in Lubbock, Texas."

Danielle Stolley, a regular at Lubbock Tweetup and a senior electronic media and communications major from Granbury, said she feels the activity of students using Twitter has died down since the summer.

"I think it's going to go through waves," Stolley said. "I can tell people don't use it as much as they did in the summer."

TWEET UP continued on page 5

Tech officials unsure when H1N1 vaccine will arrive

By KELSEY HECKEL
STAFF WRITER

The Student Wellness Center is still waiting for shipments of 35,000 H1N1 flu vaccinations expected to be delivered and available to students in mid-October.

"Part of the problem is we don't have any information on when we will receive the vaccines," said Tech spokeswoman Sally Post. "We will apparently know when we get the vaccines when they arrive and nothing before."

Arleen Porcell-Pharr, of the Centers for Disease Control, said about 1.2 million vaccines were shipped to Texas on Oct. 30, but not all have been distributed yet. Texas had one of the largest amounts of vaccines shipped, second only to California, which received about 2 million.

"The vaccine is available through the government but is still mostly state and locally run," she said. "We have project

areas that we are trying to target first."

According to the Department of State Health Services, the H1N1 vaccine is arriving in low quantities initially and is being targeted to children and pregnant women. As the weekly supply increases, more priority groups will be targeted, followed by availability for non-priority groups.

"This week more vaccines should be coming in, but they are not available in mass numbers in the Lubbock area yet," a DSHS spokeswoman said.

Lubbock has received vaccines for some local clinics, but in small numbers. Until the major shipments arrive, Tech will not receive any vaccines.

"We are still waiting on information from the Health Department," said Juli McCauley, Student Health Services Clinical Department administrator. "We will post the update when we get one on the Tech Web site. There is a link box on the main page with more information."

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Murray named Big 12 Coach of the Year for second straight season

By ZANE TURNER
STAFF WRITER

Winning a second consecutive Big 12 Conference title isn't the only thing the women's cross country team has to be proud of.

Big 12 coaches around the conference agree: Tech coach Jon Murray tops the list when it comes to the best women's cross country coach in the conference.

Murray was named Big 12 Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year Tuesday.

"It's very nice, but it goes back to the athletes. They're the ones that made it possible," said Murray, who in five years has led Tech to two Big 12 titles and two top-10 finishes at the NCAA

Championships. "So I think it's an honor for them as much as me."

While it may be easy to give credit to the likes of Lillian Badaru and Gladys Kipsang, Murray is keeping an already solid program on top.

The Lady Raiders have dominated their season up to this point, winning every race they have run as a team. Their latest win was at the Big 12 Championships, clinching the conference title for the second consecutive year in a row — this after the departure of All-American Sally Kipyego.

Beginning the season ranked No. 30, Tech has proven to the rest of the nation last season's Big 12 title was not a fluke.

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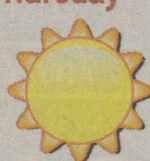
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IN BRIEF

STATE

Houston voters picking new mayor

HOUSTON (AP) — City controller Annise Parker claimed one of two runoff spots Tuesday in the race to become mayor of America's fourth-biggest city.

Parker, 52, who would be the first openly gay mayor of Houston and the second woman to lead the city, had almost 31 percent of the vote with 90 percent of the precincts counted.

Former city attorney Gene Locke,

with 25 percent, led architect and urban planner Peter Brown, with 23 percent, in trying to qualify for the second spot in a likely runoff next month. Locke claimed the runner-up spot, but Brown had not conceded. Locke and Brown were separated by about 3,500 votes.

A fourth major candidate, county school trustee Roy Morales, had more than 20 percent.

NATION

Gay marriage put to a vote in Maine

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Gay marriage was put to a vote in Maine on Tuesday in a closely watched referendum that gay-rights activists across the country hoped would prove that public opinion is turning in their favor.

Voters had to decide whether to repeal or affirm a state law that would allow gay couples to wed. The law was passed by the Legislature last

May but never took effect because of a petition drive by conservatives.

A vote to uphold the law would mark the first time that the electorate in any state endorsed gay marriage. That could energize activists nationwide and blunt conservative claims that same-sex marriage is being foisted on states by judges or lawmakers over the will of the public.

WORLD

Iran warns opposition before anti-US rally

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The head of Tehran's anti-riot police threatened opposition protesters Tuesday with a full-scale assault if they return to the streets during government-backed events marking the takeover of the U.S. Embassy.

Reformist leaders, however, have shown no sign of backing off their calls for marches to compete

with Wednesday's state-sanctioned gatherings — which include an annual anti-American rally outside the brick walls of the former embassy compound.

Both sides have much on the line for an anniversary that is among the most potent symbols of the Islamic Revolution three decades ago.

Corrections

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

It is The DT's policy to correct

mistakes 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.

House Republicans pen 230-page health bill draft

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months spent criticizing Democrats' health overhaul plans, House Republicans have produced a draft proposal of their own. It's much shorter and focuses on bringing down costs rather than extending coverage to nearly all Americans.

A 230-page draft was obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press. A spokeswoman for Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, said changes were still being made before the bill would be finalized in time to offer as an alternative when Democrats begin floor debate on their bill, possibly at the end of this week.

The bill leaves out a number of the

key features of the Democrats' 1,990-page legislation, such as new requirements for employers to insure their employees and for nearly all Americans to purchase insurance. It also doesn't block insurers from denying coverage to people with pre-existing health conditions, as Democrats would do.

Instead, the Republican plan increases incentives for people to use health savings accounts, caps non-economic jury awards in medical malpractice cases at \$250,000, provides various incentives to states with the aim of driving down premium costs and allows health insurance to be sold across state lines.

SGA meets in School of Law, discusses campus improvements

By JETT THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association Senate met in a different location Tuesday night at the Lanier Auditorium of the Texas Tech School of Law.

Sarah Saunders, president of the Student Senate, said the SGA meeting was hosted at the law school to promote friendly relations between the Tech SGA and the Tech Student Bar Association.

The SGA will visit the location for Student Senate meetings once per year with the passage of Senate Bill 45.09. The bill is intended to help continue to foster relations between the two associations.

Senate Resolution 45.20, authored by Sen. Tyler Patton, will put several new trash cans around the south side of Memorial Circle.

Several students came to him to discuss the increasing amounts of litter around the Administration building and proposed putting in the new trash receptacles, he said. No trash cans are located in close proximity of the sidewalks frequented by students around the south side of Memorial Circle.

The resolution passed, but the SGA Campus Infrastructure Committee will need to host several meetings with Tech administrators before the trash cans are implemented. Patton said he expects to see the new trash cans in place soon.

Senate Resolution 45.24, also authored by Patton, requires all emergency blue phone locations on campus to be included on the latest campus transportation maps

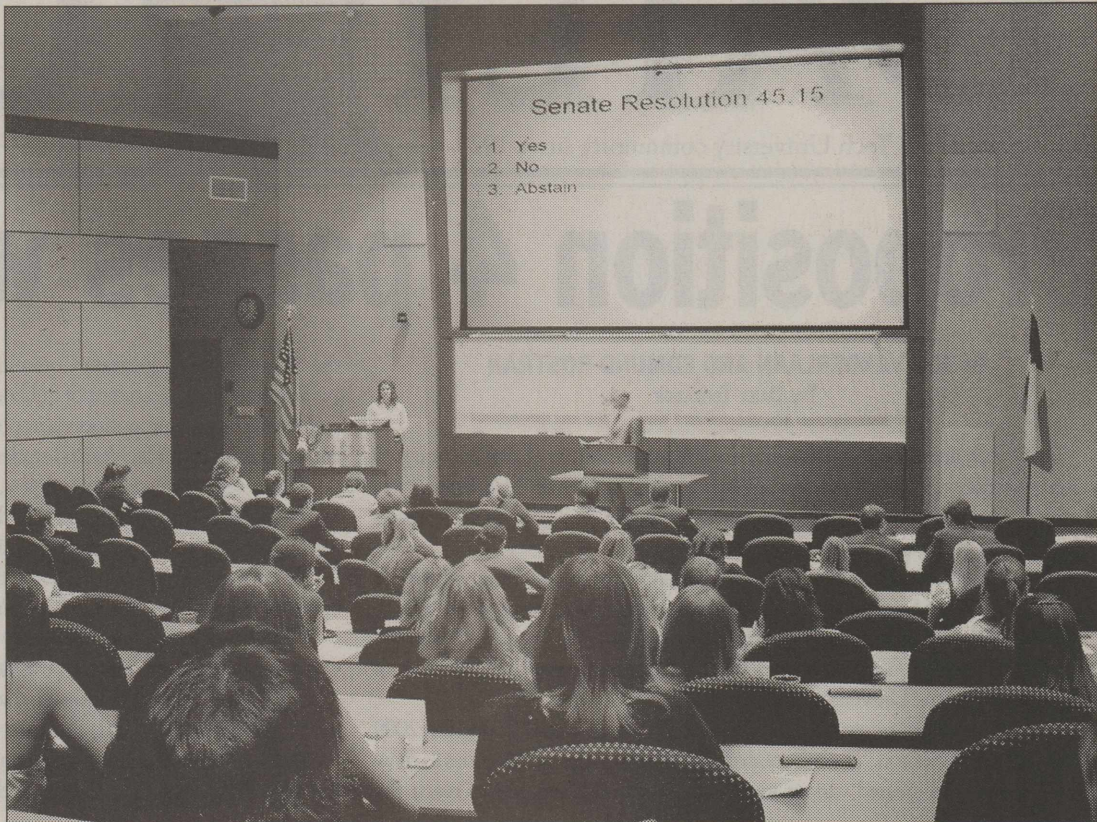


PHOTO BY JETT THOMPSON/The Daily Toreador

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION senators listen to Sen. Colton Smith present legislation regarding a semester report to be distributed to all SGA members.

to increase student awareness of the locations.

Patton said the maps are two to three years old and do not reflect all emergency blue phone locations on campus. The new maps would be distributed to new students at the beginning of each school year.

Senate Resolution 45.17, which was sent to the Transportation Committee last week for further discussion, experienced a setback. Sen. Olivia Chriss, the author of the resolution, said the section of road in which a crosswalk was supposed

to be created is property of the city of Lubbock.

The crosswalk would be located between Boston Avenue and Canton Avenue, adjacent from the bus stop on Drive of Champions Avenue. Chriss said the crosswalk can still be established but will need city approval in conjunction with SGA approval.

She said she is hopeful the crosswalk will be put in place before the end of the spring semester.

This weekend the Tech SGA will be hosting a conference for the

student governments of Big 12 Conference schools.

Sen. Mac Smith said the group of associations will discuss state legislation in support of higher education and encourage growth of the Big 12.

Each school in the Big 12 usually sends the executive board and several additional representatives to the conference, he said. The conference will be hosted on campus at the Student Union Building and representatives of other universities will be hosted at the Overton Hotel.

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Reid indicates timetable for health care may slip

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a blow to the White House, the Senate's top Democrat signaled Tuesday that Congress may fail to meet a year-end deadline for passing health care legislation, leaving the measure's fate to the uncertainties of the 2010 election season.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., spoke as Democratic officials said it could be December before Senate debate begins in earnest on the issue atop President Barack Obama's domestic agenda, months after senior lawmakers and the White House had hoped. The drive to pass legislation has been plagued for months by divisions within the party's rank and file.

House leaders, on a somewhat faster track, pointed toward a vote this weekend on a bill to extend coverage to tens of millions who lack it, ban insurance industry practices such as denying coverage because of pre-existing medical conditions and generally slow the rate of growth of medical spending nationwide. The 10-year, \$1.2 trillion legislation is estimated to expand coverage to about 96

percent of eligible Americans.

The measure includes an option for consumers to purchase a government insurance plan, an attempt to put pressure on private firms.

While Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and House leaders weighed final changes to their version of the bill, Reid for the first time publicly raised the possibility that lawmakers would not be able to meet their — and Obama's — self-imposed deadline of completing work on health care by year's end.

"We're not going to be bound by any timelines. We need to do the best job we can for the American people," he said after the weekly closed-door meeting of rank-and-

file Democrats.

A few hours later, Reid's office revised his remarks. "Our goals remain unchanged. We want to get health insurance reform done

this year, and we have unprecedented momentum to achieve that. There is no reason why we can't have a transparent and thorough debate in the Senate and still send a bill to the president by Christmas," said spokesman Jim Manley.

At the White House, spokesman Reid Cherlin sought to put the best face on the developments. "We're moving on the same timeline. The House plans to vote on the health reform bill within days, and as

Senator Reid said today, he shares the White House's commitment to passing meaningful reform by Christmas and will be moving swiftly once the Senate hears back from CBO," he said.

The Congressional Budget Office is preparing cost estimates of a draft bill Reid completed last week.

Any delay past Obama's oft-repeated year-end timetable would put the issue off until the 2010 election year and inevitably raise doubts about Democrats' ability to deliver on behalf of the Obama administration.

Despite the late-afternoon statement, numerous other officials said it could be early December before the Senate begins work in earnest on long-delayed health care legislation, making it a virtual impossibility for lawmakers to send a compromise to Obama's desk by the end of the year.

It has long been obvious that Reid would need 60 votes to overcome a threatened Republican filibuster. As late as last week, when he announced his intention to include a government insurance option in the bill, he avoided saying he had enough support to prevail.

"We're not going to be bound by any timelines. We need to do the best job we can for the American people."

HARRY REID
SENATE
MAJORITY LEADER

Proposition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The next step in the process for the universities, Branch said, is to draw from upcoming incentives provided by HB 51, including a \$126 million fund to benefit uni-

versities that draw more research and a \$80 million fund to benefit universities for improving graduation rates.

Within the next year, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will meet to discuss the subjective criteria laid out in the bill, Branch said, and will confer with the legislature to make sure the rules to

allow universities to draw from the fund are clear.

If the rules are not consistent and the board finds problems with them, he said, they can make changes to correct misunderstandings and any lack of clarity.

"It's time for us to step up and meet our competition because we're

not doing well in terms of national research universities," Branch said.

The process will take time, he said, but he feels the rules will be in place by the time any universities are nearing the benchmarks set by the bill.

Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, said the concept was widely accepted by the legislature from the beginning, and the higher education community was a huge supporter of it.

"We want those (seven) universities to be on an even par with universities around the nation," he said.

Despite a need to increase the \$500 million in the fund to support all seven universities, Duncan said, the state will find other sources of revenue rather than increase taxes for Texas residents.

Because the fund is an endowment, he said, only the return from the fund will be used, not the principal.

"I'm very satisfied and very pleased for the future of higher education in Texas," he said.

Each of the 11 constitutional amendments on the ballot passed Tuesday. To view a complete list of the amendments and the margin by which they passed, visit The Daily Toreador Web site.

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Clarkson leads A-list performers in ticket sales

By ALEXANDRA PEDRINI
STAFF WRITER

The United Spirit Arena hosts a cast of A-list celebrities during its Fall 2009 season.

Performers including Gary Allen, Jeff Dunham, Jay-Z, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and the Harlem Globetrotters have been in the lineup for the arena, but none with as much anticipation and success in ticket sales as Kelly Clarkson.

"There can be anywhere between six to 10 artists in a year, it varies," said Cindy Harper, associate director of the USA. "One of our challenges is that we are a secondary market, so it is a little bit harder to persuade artists to come here, especially if it is a big headline act, where they can go to a bigger town and a bigger venue."

The Kelly Clarkson show, which will begin at 7:30 p.m., differs from the majority of shows coming to the USA because of the physical size of the show and number of tickets that can be sold. The show is only a half house, limiting the number of tickets available for purchase to 5,400.

"Right now Jay-Z's ticket sales are a little bit lower than Kelly's, which is weird because we've heard more buzz about his show than hers," Harper said. "We've heard from so many people that they think it's sold out, but it isn't. There are still a few weeks left before his show, so it will hopefully continue

to grow."

The arena, built in 1996 and voted on and paid for by students, focuses on serving the Lubbock community and Tech students.

"The support from the students and community for these shows is huge," said Kent Meredith, director of the USA. "I think it's always important to bring someone in who's commonly known by everyone. In years past, people have said that there's nothing to do in Lubbock, but we do our part by bringing all these big names to the USA. Hopefully we're bringing diverse enough groups to town this semester that there's something for everyone."

Booking these artists requires the arena to plan months in advance. The arena does not make any direct offers to artists, but goes through promoters who make offers and bids to perform-

ers, without whom big names may not have come to the USA.

"It's been really good for the Lubbock community because it draws fans from New Mexico, Amarillo, Midland, and we've even had someone come in from England to see a show," Harper said. "It's really amazing with the draw that we have and the economic impact that it has on the hotels at night, the restaurants and the shopping that happens when folks come into town. It helps stimulate the economy."

Drawing in audiences from various regions has an obvious effect on

the local economy, said Meredith. But because the show hits the stage on a Wednesday night, the impact is lessened because people are less likely to come in from out of town for a show during the week.

"One reason why this show is on a Wednesday night is because it's probably playing a bigger market on the weekend," Meredith said.

Since Lubbock is a secondary market, due to its population size, performers tend to forget about this smaller city. Even though the smaller size of population hinders the number of big names wanting to perform in the USA, the arena staff keeps trying to get Lubbock known by promoters.

"I think that the arena has helped the market, we've been able to bring in stars like the Dixie Chicks, Elton John and George Strait, but at the same time promoters have asked why they'd bring in big names to Lubbock when they only play in huge venues," Meredith said. "We still try and we don't give up. People still have the mentality of 'where's Lubbock?' so we still have to remind people of how successful we were, how many tickets were sold and the support that the groups received, but people have a short-term memory as far as what Lubbock has done."

The Clarkson show helps bring Lubbock into the spotlight for the support it has for the music industry. Before the show, Harper said, Clarkson will put on a pre-party for VIP ticket holders, where she will perform songs a capella, a commemorative gift and souvenir lanyard. This pre-party will give fans a chance to see Clarkson up close before she hits the big stage in front of thousands of fans.

"The VIP package is what makes this show more unique than others," Harper said. "We've never had a



PHOTO COURTESY OF AEG WORLDWIDE ASSET GALLERY

AMERICAN IDOL WINNER Kelly Clarkson will perform at 7:30 p.m. today in the United Spirit Arena in front of more than 5,000 fans.

pre-party or an open sound check before; it's really unique and should add an interesting dimension to it. It should all go really smoothly and be great. It is just something that we don't usually see."

Something else the audience doesn't usually see — the list of requests from the performers. Harper said performers ask for anything from 200 towels to soccer balls and

from special dietary needs to work out facilities. The USA has seen and accommodated them all.

"All of the writers will ask for dressing rooms, rehearsal rooms or rooms for promoters, production or different people that will travel with the tour," Harper said. "In the past, we've had tour managers ask where a good route is to go run for either someone on tour with them

or even the artist. It's kind of interesting when we get those requests, but there hasn't been anything too terribly crazy for this concert."

Clarkson will perform one of the biggest concerts to play in the USA this year. Even with the highest tickets sales yet, tickets are still available ranging from \$41 to \$81 in the box office at the arena.

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Berlin Wall gets fresh paint coat

BERLIN (AP) — Stroke by stroke, Gerhard Kriedner applied pink acrylic paint with a small brush on a 14-yard stretch of the Berlin Wall, recreating the mural he first painted months after the Berlin Wall came down on Nov. 9, 1989.

Kriedner and 90 artists from around the world have gathered again to repaint their original creations on the concrete slabs, bringing new life to images that have been eroded by the elements over the last two decades, on the longest remaining length of the wall that once split Germany's capital.

"This is a very emotional thing for me," Kriedner, 69, said, adding that he escaped from communist East Germany to the West himself as a young man. "The Berlin Wall stands for the total lack of freedom we had at the time."

While Berliners were initially eager to tear down the city's most detested symbol, in recent months there has been a major effort to restore the 3/4 mile-long (1.3-kilometer) dilapidated East Side Gallery — a major tourist attraction with 106 different paintings and graffiti.

17,000 species threatened by extinction

GENEVA (AP) — A rare Panamanian tree frog, a rodent from Madagascar and two lizards found only in the Philippines are among over 17,000 species threatened with extinction, a leading environmental group said Tuesday.

The Rabb's fringe-limbed tree frog, only discovered four years ago, is one of 1,895 amphibian species that could soon disappear from the wild because of deforestation and infection, the International Union for Conservation of Nature said.

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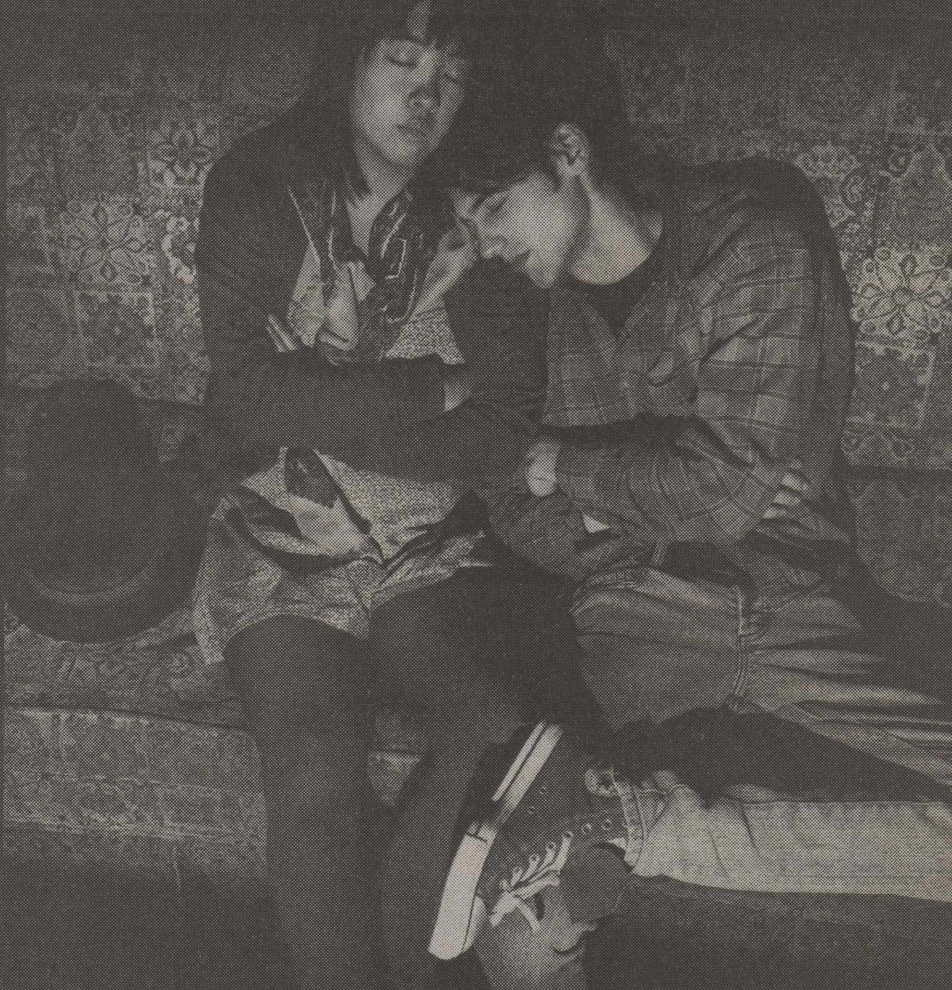
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IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW*

Lesson Seven:

ON TAKING A BREAK

By now, you're in it. You've gone down a few paths, pieced together a thing or two, made something of it. We hope that's a good thing, of course we do. But if it's getting away from you, even just a little, say when. Or mother. Or mercy. Whatever. Take a break. A breath. A nap. Then come on back. It'll all still be there, and you'll be better for it. Because learning to say when is a lesson in itself.



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STAFF EDITORIAL

Students need to care about the SGA

How well do you know your Texas Tech Student Government Association senator?

In just more than three months, your SGA senator either will be running for office again or will be replaced by another student. While *The Daily Toreador* always publishes a story the day after a Student Senate meeting, students can't truly know how senators are representing them without attending the meetings. Seeing how vocal the senator is, how much legislation they introduce and what legislation they are supporting are some of the benefits that can be gained from attending the meetings.

Despite this, the students being represented are completely absent from every Student Senate meeting, which are open to all. SGA President Suzanne Williams told me several ways the association can affect students: in the transportation system on campus, recycling programs, budget and allocations for organizations, RaiderGate, student fees, scholarships, and other wants and needs of students, such as the Student Leisure Pool.

I'm sure not every student cares about each of those issues, but I believe each student has an opinion about at least one of them — either in favor or against the issue. By not attending the meetings, students will not know the pros and cons of the issues and thus will not be able to tell their senator how to best represent them. It is the job of the SGA senators to take care of the students and convey the student body's wishes to the rest of the association.

Student Organization Representa-

tive Council also is a way for students to become involved in the SGA. The council gives them a way to be more vocal without having to adhere to rules of the Student Senate meetings, but also does not replace debates during meetings.

Last year, during the debate about whether the SGA should support a fall break for students, it was difficult to determine at times whether it was the wishes of the students and organizations being represented or if it was the wishes of the senators and the organizations to which they belonged. Especially during this debate, I wish students would have been present to tell their senators before or after the meeting how they felt about the issue instead of hearing the next day about the resolution that was passed.

Williams also told me about a new program called Step Up or Step Down, which is a way the SGA began internally reviewing senators who may not be adequately performing their duties. This program is a step in the right direction to prevent serving senators who do not care about their job, but students also must be vigilant in making sure they don't elect those senators in the first place.

In local, state and federal government, it is much more difficult to remove an elected official from office. This is why it is so important to begin caring about who you elect (or in some cases, who is elected for you) at an early time.

Those main issues on which the SGA makes decisions do not go into effect as soon as the association votes on them — they are passed to the Tech administration and reviewed, at which time the administration can take action.

Williams said the Tech administration takes everything the SGA passes seriously because they are considered the voice of the students.

However, if a student senator is voted into office because he or she was the best at recruiting friends or fellow organization members to vote for them, how well do they truly represent the Tech student body? And in that case, how well do the resolutions passed in the Student Senate represent the Tech student body?

I know from attending Student Senate meetings that several senators care deeply about the students they represent and work hard to represent them correctly. I also have seen some who seemingly do not care much about what happens after they can put the title "Senator" on their resume.

By going to the meetings, students can keep these senators accountable and show their like or dislike for the senators on the ballot. Don't allow the SGA election in the spring semester to be a popularity contest. Instead, be proactive in determining for whom to vote. Attend the meetings at 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of every month in the Senate Room at the Student Union Building.

Don't let feelings of apathy about government become a habit while in college, because they most certainly will carry into life after college and make everything true what is being said about the younger generations: We just don't care.

■ News Editor Jon Vanderlaan for the editorial board.
» jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu

Obama's college plan not foolproof

In July President Barack Obama announced his plan to expand the amount of federal funding provided to community colleges across the nation. The program would provide \$12 billion to community colleges over 10 years. The administration sees this program as a way to increase the number of college graduates by about 5 million by 2020.

Although this plan may potentially increase the number of college graduates and aid in healing the job market, there are some problems that need to be examined further: Where will the funds come from? How will the funds be distributed? How will community colleges cope with the drastic increase in the student population?

A *Wall Street Journal* article reported the average age of a student attending a community college was 29. To me, this indicates the majority of community college students have been members of the workforce at some point in their lives. Now, I'll be the first to admit the job market is bad, but wouldn't the students leaving their jobs find it even more difficult to find jobs once they graduate? Of course, this will depend on how fast our economy can recover from the recession.

Increasing the number of college students is excellent; I believe everyone should receive some sort of higher education, whether it's from a community college or an Ivy League university. However, considering the size of many community colleges, some may not be able to cope with the large

Hunter Jones



influx of students.

Many community colleges pride themselves on their small classroom setting, and with more students already attending community colleges because of the lower tuition, increasing the student population even further would make it difficult for these smaller colleges to cope.

With the government providing more than \$100 billion on corporate bailouts, another \$10 billion makes Congress look like it's swimming in cash. But since the federal government is trillions of dollars in debt, that's not the case. So where is this extra \$10 billion going to come from?

The *Wall Street Journal* reported funding would come from the billions of dollars the federal government would save through the proposed Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. According to an announcement on the House Committee on Education & Labor Web site, the act would save the government about \$87 billion in 10 years.

Another concern of providing more funding to community colleges is how the funds will be distributed. Sunday's Associated Press article addressing the issue reported there were about 1,200 community colleges in the U.S. When you do the math, that's \$1 million a year per college or \$2,400 for each of the an-

ticipated 5 million graduates (and that's not including the students who won't graduate).

These numbers may seem large, but when one considers how much money it takes to run a college, it's not very big at all. *The Associated Press* reported in California alone, there were \$840 million in community college budget cuts.

What will happen after 2020 when the \$10 billion is depleted? Will the federal government continue to promote community colleges so enthusiastically, or will they be left to survive without the extra help? What about when an associate degree isn't enough anymore?

During the last decade, many jobs have started requiring a college degree. In an article on the CNN Web site, Obama is quoted saying, "... jobs requiring at least an associate degree are projected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college experience." What will happen when those jobs start requiring a bachelor's degree and then a master's degree and so on?

Many things sound good in the present, but seem to lose their excellence when thought about in the long run. I have no doubt extra community college funding would benefit many Americans, but I'm afraid of what might accompany those benefits. Federal funding isn't something to be taken lightly, especially when our national debt is in the trillions of dollars.

■ Jones is a sophomore marketing major from Springlake.
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Obama shouldn't be silencing opposition

Among the many volatile threads common in the current administration, there is one that is especially troubling. That is the repetition of the attacks our president and his media representatives have repeatedly made against any voice that dares counter his own.

We saw this when they set up a White House Web site for citizens to report any suspicious or contrary information about health insurance during the summer. We saw it when they unleashed havoc on Fox News for daring to criticize President Barack Obama. And we saw it when the administration decided to let loose another attack. This time it battled Edmonds.com over its criticism of the cash for clunkers program.

To sum up the squabble quickly, Edmonds claims the administration failed to deliver the facts about each "clunker," costing taxpayers \$24,000, and although it boosted third-quarter sales, the fourth quarter, which is traditionally the worst season for car dealerships, will report abysmal numbers at best.

This administration reports, in contrast, the excitement of an inven-

Derek Coulson



the White House releases and each of these are meditated attempts at undermining opposition to his philosophical and political aspirations.

Such a defamation is troubling because it is not traditional practice for a U.S. president to be so abusive in his relations with media. It was especially not the practice of this administration's favorite punching bag, former President George W. Bush.

These actions should incline American citizens to have reluctant feelings about our president. Not only are the attacks contrary to typical practice, they are blatantly opposite every promise for non-divisive and non-sectionalized politics under the Obama White House. If the solution to party politics is wiping out the opposition, then the United States had better wake up to the reality of our leader.

There ought to be no greater worry than too much power accumulated in the wrong hands at the moment. And I can without reservation say there is too much control being freely offered our president.

Obama is running out of time to make up for his being derelict in promises and in service. He received raucous applause when, in every speech, he spoke of a utopian situation in which Americans may practice and exercise freely their rights. But no action taken since he was elected provides for this. In fact, many of his actions have been contrary to the fundamental rights provided in our Constitution.

The First Amendment states American citizens have liberty in the areas of the free exercise of religion, of speech, of the press, of assembly and to redress grievances before government. This is a statement that ought to take primacy in the lives of our leaders.

When Patrick Henry thought the Constitution was an abridgement of American freedom he said, "I smell a rat," and refused to attend the convention. Now that we apparently are casting aside this founding document, the rat has taken on a new form.

A multiplicity of actions taken by our president has caused a stench of divisive, partisan politics that should not be tolerated. He slammed the Cambridge officer for right action in the line of duty, he upholds unnecessary fear over a swine flu "epidemic" and he abuses presidential power by staging photo-ops with the fallen from the military.

Obama slammed his predecessor for a self-righteous and elitist attitude, for failing to listen to the opposition. So far, the only one guilty of those things is himself. Each of these actions in sum make for one obscene abuse of executive authority.

We should not pardon such foolishness for long because doing so will be contrary to the history he apparently loves to despise.

■ Coulson is a senior history major from Waxahachie.
» derek.coulson@ttu.edu

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- Illustrators (paid)
-Drawn or computer-generated graphics to accompany stories
- Cartoonists (volunteer)
-Use artwork to convey a social or political message.

Applications are available in Room 211 of the Student Media building.

Have questions? E-mail Editor Kevin Cullen at kevin.m.cullen@ttu.edu

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Guest Columns
The Daily Toreador accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community. Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submittal.

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Obama's half brother recalls abusive father

GUANGZHOU, China (AP) — President Barack Obama's half brother has broken his media silence to discuss his new novel — the semi-autobiographical story of an abusive parent patterned on their late father, the mostly absent figure Obama wrote about in his own memoir.

In his first interview, Mark Ndesandjo told The Associated Press that he wrote "Nairobi to Shenzhen" in part to raise awareness of domestic violence.

"My father beat my mother and my father beat me, and you don't do

of the president or describe their relationship over the years. However, he said he plans to meet his brother in Beijing when the president makes his first visit to China on Nov. 15-18.

"My plan is to introduce my wife to him. She is his biggest fan," he said.

Shortly after divorcing the president's mother, Obama Sr. met Ndesandjo while studying as a graduate student at Harvard University. Ndesandjo returned with Obama Sr. to his native Kenya in 1965, where Mark and his brother David were born and

grew up. David later died in a motorcycle accident.

In Kenya, Obama Sr. also had four children with his first wife, Kezia, some of them while he was still married to Ndesandjo. Ndesandjo and Obama Sr. eventually divorced amid allegations of domestic abuse. Ndesandjo returned to the United

"It's something which I think affected me for a long time, and it's something that I've just recently come to terms with."

MARK NDESANDJO
PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HALF BROTHER

States and later married a man whose surname Mark Ndesandjo took. Obama Sr. died in an automobile accident in 1982 at age 46.

President Obama saw his father only once after his parents' divorce, when he was 10 years old. In a best-selling memoir, "Dreams from My Father," Obama wrote about his fatherless upbringing and search for identity.

In it, Obama described a visit to Kenya to meet his half siblings and learn more about his father. While painting his father as abusive, he called Obama Sr. a gifted but erratic alcoholic who never lived up to his intellectual promise or his family responsibilities.

States and later married a man whose surname Mark Ndesandjo took. Obama Sr. died in an automobile accident in 1982 at age 46.

African kings, queens, chiefs to honor Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Dancers clad in animal skins opened a royal ceremony Tuesday, a nod to tradition for the forward-thinking kings, queens and chiefs who jetted in to Johannesburg from across Africa to launch an institute they hope will expand their roles on the continent.

The two dozen leaders from Morocco to Swaziland describe their new Institute of African Royalty as part think-tank on democracy and development, part lobby group to polish their image. They say their

model is anti-apartheid icon and former President Nelson Mandela, and plan to honor the man referred to during Tuesday's proceedings as "Prince Mandela" at a gala ceremony in Pretoria, the capital, later this week.

Sello Hatang, a spokesman for the anti-apartheid icon's office, said Mandela "feels honored to be respected by the traditional leadership."

Mandela's family claims the royal chieftaincy of Mvezo, a village in southeastern South Africa,

and he spent part of his childhood in the court of a tribal regent being groomed, like his father before him, to advise kings.

"My later notions of leadership were profoundly influenced by observing the regent and his court," Mandela wrote in his autobiography, describing meetings called to discuss community matters such as coping with droughts, managing cattle and responding to new laws decreed by the colonial government. "Everyone who wanted to speak did so. It was democracy in its purest form."

Tweet up

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Stolley said she has been using Twitter since March after a friend convinced her to get one. She is also one of two interns who help maintain and update the university's social networking Web sites such as Myspace, Facebook and Twitter.

Another regular of the Tweetup, Stephen Torrence said he made a Twitter account in Spring 2008 but didn't begin using it until the fall of that year. Torrence, a senior philosophy and general studies dual major from Georgetown, said after getting involved with Lubbock Tweetup, he began learning more about Twitter and using the Web site more often.

Twitter has become a distraction for him, Torrence said, and he has to turn off TweetDeck to get anything done. He has gained more than knowledge of Twitter by being a regular of the Tweetup group — he has met new people.

"We've actually developed a relationship with the baristas," he said after two Starbucks employees came over to the group and gave out hugs.

Janelle Gillespie, shift manager at the Starbucks near campus, said she had seen the group meet in the Starbucks for some time and eventually became curious.

"One night last year, me and my friend asked Jed about the group at the counter, and we ended up talking there for about

an hour and a half," she said.

Gillespie, a junior mechanical engineering major from Thunderbay, Ontario, said after meeting Jed she slowly began to meet the rest of the Tweetup group. She said a person from Lubbock Tweetup is the reason she has recently began a Twitter account. She said Twitter is somewhat confusing to her because she doesn't use it that much.

"I'm more of a Facebook person," Gillespie said, "but I can see

Twitter gaining popularity."

Ponder said although he too has seen Twitter gain popularity, he believes Twitter has not reached the popularity of other social networking sites.

"Facebook will still be the dominant social-networking system because it has already gained popularity with the college-aged and professional sector," Ponder said. "Twitter is a rising star, but it still has a way to go."

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CLOCKWISE FROM THE bottom left, Hannah Mclean, a freshman social work major from Waco; Amanda Moss, a junior speech language and hearing sciences major from Midland; Caleb Hill, a freshman zoology major from Abilene; J.R. Oliver, a senior music education major from San Antonio; and Zaneta Loh, a staff member with Intersivity Christian Fellowship, tell their friend Sarah Scher, a graduate student at Wheaton College, "Hello" and that they miss her Tuesday during the Flip Book event sponsored by TAB in the Student Union west basement.

Program will monitor Md. doctors' hand-washing

CLARKSVILLE, Md. (AP) — up won't be penalized. Rather, the idea is to gather information about which hospital staffs need to do a better job and raise awareness about the importance of keeping hands clean while dealing with patients.

"This certainly is not an effort to do a gotcha," Brown said. "We're better off with providers actually using proper hand hygiene than calling out those that don't, so a big component of this in every hospital will be that continual education and awareness."

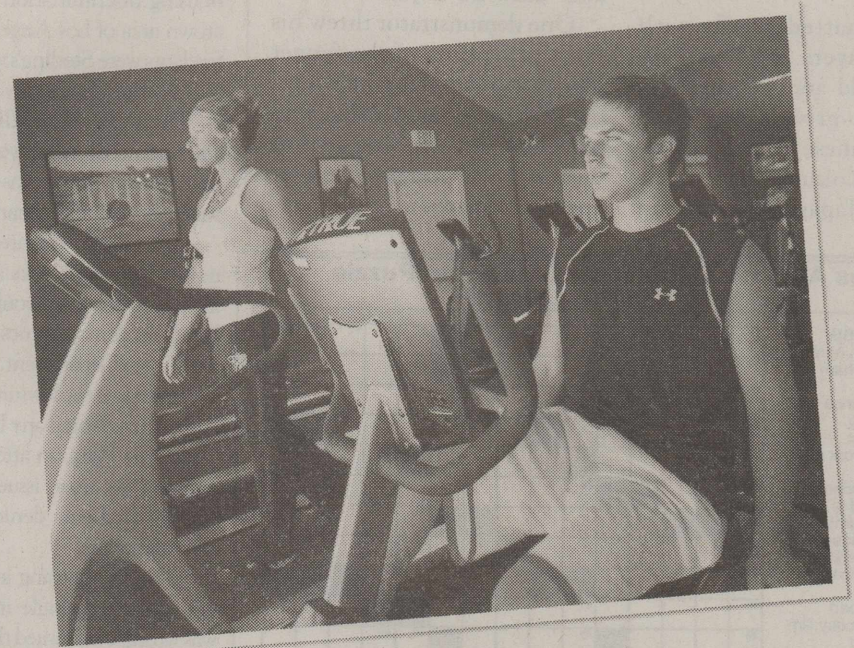
Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown said individuals who are lax on scrubbing

Teams will be formed at 45 of the state's 47 hospitals to monitor their colleagues after they leave a patient. The monitors will be given time separate from their regular duties to do the research, but they won't let the doctors and nurses know when they're being watched.

The information being gathered starting in January will be compiled into statistics on hand-washing across the hospital system and allow for comparison between the facilities. The Maryland Patient Safety Center, which works with hospitals and health care providers to improve patient safety, will implement the program.

The program is the first time a state has used direct observation to compile hand-washing data on practitioners across hospitals statewide to compare practices, said Nicole Stallings, director of the Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council. No other state has used stimulus money for a hand-washing study, either, she said.

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2:34
ugh. dont rub it in. only a couple months left!

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2:37
k. i want to workout first

2:38
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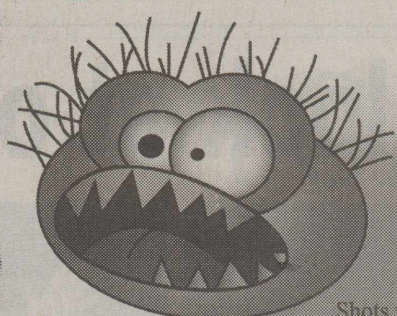
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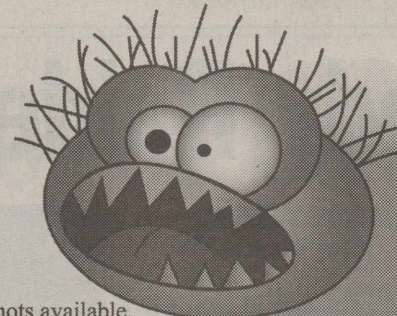
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Registration: Oct. 26 - Nov. 5
Play Starts Nov. 10

Sport Clubs

TTU Baseball 8 - Western Texas
Community College 11

Men's Rugby 50 - Baylor 7

Fit/Well

Wellness Blood Screenings
Thursday November 19
Covenant Corporate Services will draw blood. Results of Blood tests include Lipid Profile (\$15), Glucose (\$5), Wellness Chemistry profile (\$30), CBC (\$20), Thyroid (\$20), PSA (\$25), H. pylori (\$20), C-Reactive Protein (\$30) and Homocysteine (\$35). Colon Cancer Screening Kit (\$10) will also be offered but does not require a blood draw. Rec Center membership is NOT required. Please register by noon the day prior to testing by calling 742.3828. Payment (cash, check, TexFlex or credit card) is due the morning of the tests. Please come fasting (no food or beverages except water 10 hours prior). Make a commitment to better health. Begin by learning your current blood levels and continue with exercise, better nutrition and stress management.

Aquatics

3000 Meter Swim

Think you can eat what Michael Phelps eats for breakfast and then swim this long course? We don't recommend you trying to eat 10,000 calories in a day, but we definitely want you out for this great swim! This event is designed to test your personal limits. The swim is free and T-shirts are available for purchase. (Don't think you can count that high? We count for you!)

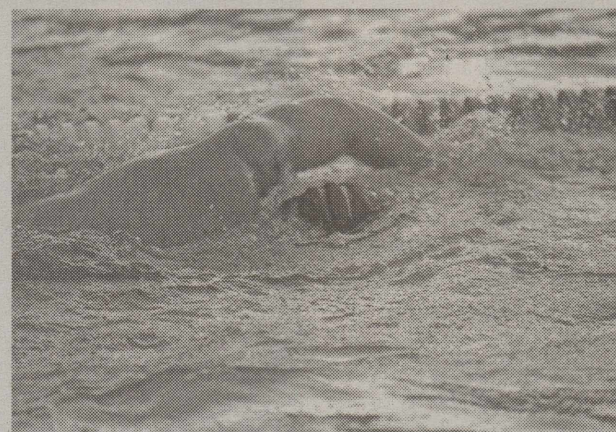
Lifeguard Challenge

Are you currently certified and about to expire? Are you certified by another agency other than American Red Cross? We have a challenge system especially for you! Update your certification by taking this Red Cross challenge course. The cost is \$75 (\$40 for CPR only).
November 12 6:00 - 9:00pm.

Fall 2009 Date:

Saturday, November 7

10:am in the morning!



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Grand Canyon Backpacking

Register by November 3

Trip Dates: November 21-29

Trip Cost: \$315

Come spend a memorable Thanksgiving week in one of the 7 Natural Wonders of the world. This trip is what loving the outdoors is all about. We will spend the week hiking down to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and following the Colorado river to it's junction to the Little Colorado River. If you love the outdoors and want an adventure, this trip will not disappoint you in any respect!



Caprock Bike Tour

Register by November 5

Trip Dates: November 14 - 15

Trip Cost: \$55

Join us as we ride a converted railroad track near Caprock Canyons State Park. We will travel this 32 mile trail over the period of two days. Come join us as we try our skills on this van supported mountain bike ride. Bring your bike or rent on from the shop for an additional fee.



RE:SESSION

Teton Gravity Research Film

November 19 8:00pm HS 169

The Outdoor Pursuits Center, the Ski and Snowboard Club, and Teton Gravity Research combine to give you a thrilling, adrenaline pumping experience like no other during the sports action movie "Under the Influence", a film presented in 16mm and HD.

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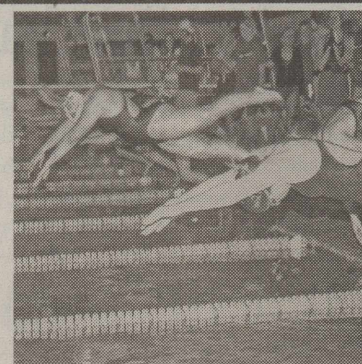
There are many reasons to want a Personal Trainer. Whatever the reason, we are here to help. We have many different types of training available! Overall fitness training, A Better U (Yoga/Pilates training), sport specific, lifestyle, area specific, and time limited training are all available! Sign-up in the Fit/Well or just stop by for more information!

Intramurals

Swim Meet Sign-ups Have Started!

Now - November 11

Sign up before in Rm. 203. Check in at the event will be at 6:00pm on November 19th. Events include 200 yard medley relay, 200 yard freestyle relay, 50 yard freestyle, 100 yard individual medley, 50 yard butterfly, 100 yard freestyle, 50 yard backstroke, and 50 yard breaststroke.



Outdoor Soccer Playoff Brackets!

Playoff Brackets will be available tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon! Visit www.rescsports.ttu.edu for brackets! Games will start on Monday, November 9th!



Scenes from last week's Thriller Dance Party! Thanks to the First Annual Zombie Walk for making this year a great year for Thriller!

student union

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activities

whats coming up at the union

Movie: Transformers 2
Thursday, November 5
SUB Allen Theatre | 8:00 pm

Matinee Movie: Transformers 2
Monday, November 9
SUB Escondido Theatre | 3:00 pm

Movie: Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince
Wednesday, November 11
SUB Allen Theatre | 8:00 pm

Matinee Movie: Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince
Thursday, November 12
SUB Escondido Theatre | 3:00 pm

Parvez Sharma
Thursday, November 12
SUB Allen Theatre | 7:30 pm

For more information visit www.tab.ttu.edu

student organization updates...

S.O. Registration Meeting
Tuesday, November 10
SUB Senate Room | 2 pm

Student Organization Advisor Orgsync
Wednesday, November 11
SUB Lubbock Room | Noon