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TUESDAY, NOV. 10, 2009
VOLUME 84 ■ ISSUE 50

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
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Tech law school leads state in bar exam pass rate

By **ALLYSON SCHELL**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech School of Law graduates led the state for this year's bar examination first-time pass rate with 94.5 percent of students passing the exam.

"It certainly demonstrates the quality of our students and faculty," said Richard Rosen, vice dean of the law school. "Our grades are generally very high since we train our students to be ready to go out and practice law."

In February 2000, Tech law students achieved a passing rate of 100 percent for first-time exam takers. In February 2005, July 2005 and February 2008 Tech had the best passing rate for all Texas law schools. With this achievement for the July 2009 exam being 94.5 percent, the Tech law school has surpassed such

schools as No. 2-ranked Baylor. "Our law school is generally in the top three highest in state every year," Rosen said. "It was good to beat Baylor this year since they are a private university."

He said the ranking was especially good because the Tech law school has a lower tuition cost than most of the other Texas law schools but is still surpassing with quality. The overall pass rate for all of the nine Texas law schools with graduates taking the bar for the first time was 89.4 percent.

Rosen also said he believes the passing rate will help the school look more appealing to prospective students.

"After they are going to be spending so much



ROSEN

money and possibly going into debt because of law school," he said, "the students want to know that they will be able to pass the bar and practice law."

Cullen Mouton, a law student from Beaumont, said he believes he will be part of the July 2010 passing statistic.

"It shows that Tech has a lot better law school than it's ever really credited as being," he said. "It makes me think that if I don't pass the bar this July, I only have myself to blame because the opportunity was here for me to learn the material."

Mouton said he feels the professors convey what is necessary for the bar examination and the open-door policy makes him feel like he can approach professors.

Genevieve Beyea, a professor in the law school, said one of the main goals of the professors is for

students to pass the bar.

"I know some people who take the bar four times, so to be able to pass it the first time is good because there is no point in going to law school if you can't pass the bar exam," she said. "There are many courses that are required here in the program that are not core for the bar that the students must take, and I think that may be another reason for the pass rate."

According to the school's Web site, the law school's average pass rate for first-time takers the last 16 years has been 90 percent.

"We hope to uphold this for next year," Rosen said. "I think that with the students coming through right now, the quality of their classes bodes well for the future."

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PAYING RESPECT



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

THE FLAGS IN Memorial Circle are flown at half-staff Monday to show respect for the victims of the Fort Hood shootings Thursday afternoon.

Lubbock loses 'Empire State of Mind,' Jay-Z cancels 3 concerts

Little ol' Lubbock will have to wait for its chance to be entertained by one of the greatest rappers ever.

Jay-Z's show Nov. 17 in the United Spirit Arena has been canceled.

According to Cindy Harper, associate director of the United Spirit Arena, Jay-Z had a scheduling conflict and had to cancel his Lubbock, El Paso and Albuquerque performances. If you are a ticket owner, you can bring your ticket to the Civic Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and you will get a refund in the method you paid.

I, for one, am very sad about this cancellation. I had been looking forward to the Jay-Z concert for a while now because when you are as much of a music nerd as I am, you don't turn down invitations to check out someone who is one of the best at what they do. But alas, I will have to get my "Hova" (Jay-Z's nickname) fix by simply blaring his new album, "The Blueprint 3," from my car stereo.

Whatever happened to make Jay-Z's people cancel (Is Beyonce pregnant?), the sad true state is even if the cancellation had nothing to do with ticket sales, the numbers couldn't have helped.

All last week I heard every day on radio stations and online ticket sales for the Jay-Z show in Lubbock was very low for such a quality act. This is the sad product of many factors, sure, and we can be quick to blame the economy (it's a popular slogan these days). But the people of Lubbock must look inward when they wonder why this town can't get quality performers not named Robert Earl Keen.

Attendance for the A-list celebrity concerts here in Lubbock is pretty sad. Every once in a while, we will have

**Noel
Bryant**



a nice turnout, such as with the Bob Dylan concert. But overall, Lubbockites have to support whoever comes to town by paying and going to the shows. That is how you attract more groups and more A-list celebs.

When my parents attended Tech, almost all of the biggest touring acts were catching Lubbock on their circuits.

My mother and father fell in love while watching one of the most popular bands ever, Chicago, rock the stage in the LBK.

When my brother studied here in the '90s, groups such as Pearl Jam came through Lubbock almost every tour because they knew the college kids would help sell out the venue.

The highlight of our concert season may be Kelly Clarkson and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

But this is fine right now — Lubbock doesn't deserve big acts if its residents won't buy the tickets. It will just keep forcing students to have to drive elsewhere.

► Carrie Thornton contributed to this story

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Fall of Berlin Wall anniversary celebrated

By **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER
AND MELISSA EDDY**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN (AP) — Ulrich Sauff and his wife stared at the mammoth domino pieces marking the path where the Berlin Wall once stood and reminisced about life in the barrier's shadow.

"It was like a prison," said Mr. Sauff, 73, who lived on the Western side of the wall. "For us 'Wessis,' the few kilometers from our old home to our new home (in the East) was unthinkable."

The Sauffs were among those who gathered Monday to celebrate 20 years of unity, marking the day the wall came down. Thousands cheered as 1,000 colorfully decorated dominoes along a mile-long route were toppled to symbolize both the moment the wall came crashing down and the resulting fall of communist countries in Eastern Europe.

It was the finale to a day of memorial services, speeches and events that attracted leaders from around the world, including former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Merkel and 78-year-old Gorbachev stood shoulder to shoulder as they crossed a former fortified border crossing point between East and West Berlin to cheers of "Gorby! Gorby!" bringing this up to the first reference to gorby.

"Looking back, we can see many causes that led to the peaceful revolution, but it still remains a miracle," German President Horst Koehler told the leaders of all 27 European Union countries, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Angela Merkel — Germany's first chancellor to be raised in the former communist east — called the events of Nov. 9, 1989 an "epic" moment in history.

"For me, it was one of the happiest moments of my life," Merkel told a crowd of tens of thousands packed around the Brandenburg Gate.

In a video message screened at the main event, President Barack Obama paid tribute to the dissidents and demonstrators who ushered in the fall of the wall 20 years ago.

"Let us never forget Nov. 9, 1989, nor the sacrifices that made it possible," Obama said to applause and cheers.

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WEATHER

Today



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IN BRIEF

STATE

Perry: Cap-and-trade would harm Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry told renewable energy industry officials that a cap-and-trade climate bill in Congress would increase taxes and devastate Texas' energy sector.

Perry, contending that the climate bill would mean "economic disaster" in Texas, said Texas is encouraging alternative energy sources while improving the environment.

He told the Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association on

Monday that the state is achieving those goals through incentives and innovation. He said the federal climate legislation would negate the work Texas has done.

Environmentalists see cap-and-trade as the best way to control carbon emissions.

Perry said Texas is a world leader in wind energy production and said progress is being made to spur production of solar, biomass and other alternative energy sources.

NATION

Philadelphia transit system running as strike ends

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Representatives of Philadelphia's transit system and its largest union signed a contract early Monday, bringing an end to a strike that idled the city's subways, buses and trolleys for six days.

"The strike is over," Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell told reporters at a hastily called news conference in the lobby of a Philadelphia hotel. The governor said the transit system would

be back up and running in time for Monday morning's commute.

About 5,000 workers of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority walked off the job early last Tuesday in a dispute centered around pension benefits.

"This was a team effort, and that's what it takes to get a deal done," Mayor Michael Nutter said, crediting the intervention of the governor and U.S. Rep. Robert Brady, D-Pa.

WORLD

Somali pirates hit oil tanker in long-range attack

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Somali pirates attacked an oil tanker and fired automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades Monday farther out at sea than any previous assault, suggesting that pirate capabilities are growing as they increase activity off East Africa.

Pirates in two skiffs fired at

the Hong Kong-flagged BW Lion about 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) east of the Somali coast, the European Union Naval Force said.

The tanker's captain increased speed and took evasive maneuvers, avoiding the attack, the force said. No casualties were reported.

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 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.

Abortion rules could shake Senate health care debate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Abortion opponents in the Senate are seeking tough restrictions in the health care overhaul bill, a move that could roil a shaky Democratic effort to pass President Barack Obama's signature issue by year's end.

Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., said Monday he could not support a bill unless it clearly prohibits federal dollars from going to pay for abortions. Nelson is weighing options, including offering an amendment similar to the one passed by the House this weekend.

"I want to make sure something comparable ... is in there,"

Nelson said.

The House-passed restrictions were the price Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., had to pay to get a health care bill passed, on a narrow 220-215 vote. But it's prompted an angry backlash from liberals at the core of her party, and some are now threatening to vote against a final bill if the curbs stay in.

Obama said the legislation needs to find a balance.

"I want to make sure that the provision that emerges meets that test — that we are not in some way sneaking in funding for abortions,

but, on the other hand, that we're not restricting women's insurance

choices," Obama said in an interview with ABC News.

Senate Democrats will need Nelson's vote — and those of at least a half-dozen other abortion opponents in their caucus. They face a grueling debate against Republicans who are unified in their opposition to a sweeping remake of the health care system. It's unclear how the abortion opponents would line up; the pressure on them will intensify once the legislation is on the floor.

An intraparty fight over abortion is the last thing that Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., needs. Reid is already facing a revolt among Democratic moderates over the

government-sponsored health plan that liberals want to incorporate in the legislation as a competitor to private insurance companies.

Reid, who is himself opposed to abortion, will have to confront the issue directly as he puts together a Democratic bill for floor consideration. The committee-passed Senate versions differ on abortion, but none would go as far as the restrictive amendment passed by the House.

The House bill would bar the new government insurance plan from covering abortions, except in cases of rape, incest or the life of the mother being in danger. That's the basic rule currently in federal law.

Lawyer doubts fair trial for Ft. Hood maj.

KILLEEN (AP) — A lawyer for the Army psychiatrist accused in a deadly shooting spree at Fort Hood said Monday he asked investigators not to question his client and expressed doubt that the suspect would be able to get a fair trial, given the widespread attention to the case.

Retired Col. John P. Galligan said he was contacted Monday by Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan's family and was headed to an Army hospital in San Antonio to meet Hasan.

"Until I meet with him, it's best to say we're just going to protect all of his rights," Galligan said.

Hasan, 39, is accused of opening fire on the Army post on Thursday, killing 13 people and wounding 29 before civilian police shot him in the torso. He was taken into custody and eventually moved to Brooke Army Medical Center, where he was in stable condition Monday and able to talk, hospital spokesman Dewey

Mitchell said.

Galligan said he didn't know if Hasan had been medically cleared to talk.

"There's a lot of facts that still need to be developed, and the time for that will come in due course," he said.

Authorities won't say when charges would be filed or if Hasan would face military justice.

Galligan questioned whether Hasan could get a fair trial in either criminal or military court, given President Barack Obama's planned visit to the base on Tuesday and public comments by the post commander, Lt. Gen. Robert Cone.

"You've got his commander in chief showing up tomorrow," Galligan said.

"That same kind of publicity naturally creates an issue as to whether you find a fair and impartial forum, whether that's in the military or even if it were in a federal forum."

Authorities say Hasan fired off more than 100 rounds at a soldier processing center. Fifteen victims remained hospitalized with gunshot wounds, and eight were in intensive care.

Authorities continue to refer to Hasan as the only suspect in the rampage, but they have said they have not determined a motive. A spokesman for Army investiga-

tors did not immediately respond to calls and e-mails seeking comment Monday.

A radical American imam living in Yemen who had contact with two 9/11 hijackers praised Hasan as a hero on his personal Web site Monday.

The posting on the Web site for Anwar al Awlaki, who was a spiritual leader at two mosques where three 9/11 hijackers worshipped, said American Muslims who condemned the Fort Hood attack are hypocrites who have committed treason against their religion.

Awlaki said the only way a Muslim can justify serving in the U.S. military is if he intends to "follow in the footsteps of men like Nidal."

"Nidal Hassan (sic) is a hero," Awlaki said. "He is a man of conscience who could not bear living the contradiction of being a Muslim and serving in an army that is fighting against his own people."

Two U.S. intelligence officials told The Associated Press the Web site was Awlaki's.

There's a lot of facts that still needs to be developed, and the time for that will come in due course.

JOHN P. GALLIGAN
RETIRED ARMY OFFICER

Iraq election law delays decision on Kirkuk

BAGHDAD (AP) — After weeks of hard-nosed negotiations, analysts say the election law passed by Iraq's parliament allowing national polls to go forward in January extends compromises to all sides but with key concessions to the Kurds.

However, analysts warn the bill also sidesteps a decision on the

ultimate fate of Kirkuk — a city claimed by both Kurds and Arabs that had been a major stumbling block to the law's passage — and ensures more battles over the city in the future.

"Because there was pressure to pass the law and have the election, they are just pushing this issue under the carpet," said Mustafa Alani from the Gulf Research Center in Dubai. "I don't see a clear solution to this problem here."

Haggling over Kirkuk had repeatedly stalled the law's passage, and fur-

ther delay threatened to undermine Iraq's fledgling democracy and derail a U.S. plan to withdraw its troops.

Kurds consider Kirkuk a Kurdish city and want it incorporated into their self-ruled region in northern Iraq, something the Arab-led central government adamantly opposes.

Under former dictator Saddam Hussein, tens of thousands of Kurds were kicked out of the city to make Kirkuk predominantly Arab. Since Saddam's fall, thousands of Kurds have flooded back, but Arabs claim there are more than ever before.

The legislation passed Sunday allows the vote in Kirkuk to be

held just like in other regions around the country. However, if lawmakers suspect there was a more than 5 percent annual increase in population in a disputed area, including Kirkuk,

they can vote to create a committee to investigate and eventually contest the election results in a given district.

This solution addresses Arab and Turkmen claims that Kurds have packed the city in an attempt to tip the scales.

But analysts say the Kurds also notched a victory by having the elections carried out on the basis of 2009 voter lists, which likely reflect Kurdish increases in the city, instead of the 2004 records that Arabs have generally favored.

"I think probably the Kurds won out on this one," said Marina Ottoway of the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for Peace. "I think it will be very difficult to invalidate the election."

The law specifies the way the Kirkuk issue was settled will not be binding for future decisions on the disputed city. However, the legislation appears to set the stage for further disputes over interpretation and implementation of the law.

On Monday, Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission submitted a proposal to Iraq's presidency council to hold the elections on Jan. 21, five days after the previously scheduled date, commission chief Faraj al-Haidari said.

Because there was pressure to pass the law and have the election, they are just pushing this issue under the carpet.

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US troops likely to deploy in Jan.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is nearing a decision to add tens of thousands more forces to Afghanistan, though not quite the 40,000 sought by his top general there, as Pentagon planners work to make room for the influx.

Administration officials told The Associated Press on Monday the deployment would most likely begin in January with a mission to stiffen the defense of 10 key cities and towns. An Army brigade that had been training for deployment to Iraq that month may be the vanguard. The brigade, based at Fort Drum in upstate New York, has been told it will not go to Iraq as planned but has been given no new mission yet.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs, meanwhile, said the president would meet again on Wednesday with key members of his foreign policy and military team but was unlikely to announce final plans for Afghanistan until late this month, when he returns from an extended diplomatic trip to Asia.

Ensembles rock the Allen with Read My Metric Lips

By **CARRIE THORNTON**
STAFF WRITER

Colorful and exotic music filled the ears of those who attended Read My Metric Lips, a concert featuring Texas Tech Percussion Ensembles I and II and Steel Drum Bands I and II.

Monday night's concert featured contrasting songs such as "Mozambique," which took the audience deep into the jungle with the deep murmur of drums, and playful, light-hearted "Metric Lips."

Alan Shinn, the assistant director of the School of Music and percussion professor, said he was pleased and proud of his students and their performance.

"We did what we set out to do," Shinn said. "Which was to learn the music and perform it well."

After Percussions I and II played their various pieces, a reception was held where the audience could sip iced tea and water while watching the Steel Drum Bands I and II put their own twist on popular tunes such as "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz.

Each song the bands performed was published by Rowloff, a music publisher famous for its percussion ensembles, he said. The pieces can



PHOTO BY CARRIE THORNTON/The Daily Toreador

STEEL DRUM BAND I performs at the reception preceding the Read My Metric Lips concert Monday at Allen Theatre.

all be found on the University Inter-scholastic League's list of approved songs. The ensembles participate in UIL each year.

Shinn said his percussion students learned 10 ensembles, which is no little task.

"I tell them it's basically 10 times more tedious than high school," he said. "I was pleased with their performance."

The turnout was just as he expected, Shinn said. Allen Theatre seats about 900, and every year the concert brings at least a couple hundred.

Jon Tomasello, a senior music education and performance major from Richardson, said he plays in Percussion I and Steel Drums I.

"I think we did really well," Tomasello said. "I love performing because a lot of people don't know what a percussion ensemble really is, and when they come they get to hear a variety of music genres. It's fun to expose this kind of music to the audience."

As a member of the percussion ensemble, Tomasello, like his fellow band-mates, was taught how to play each instrument that belongs to the

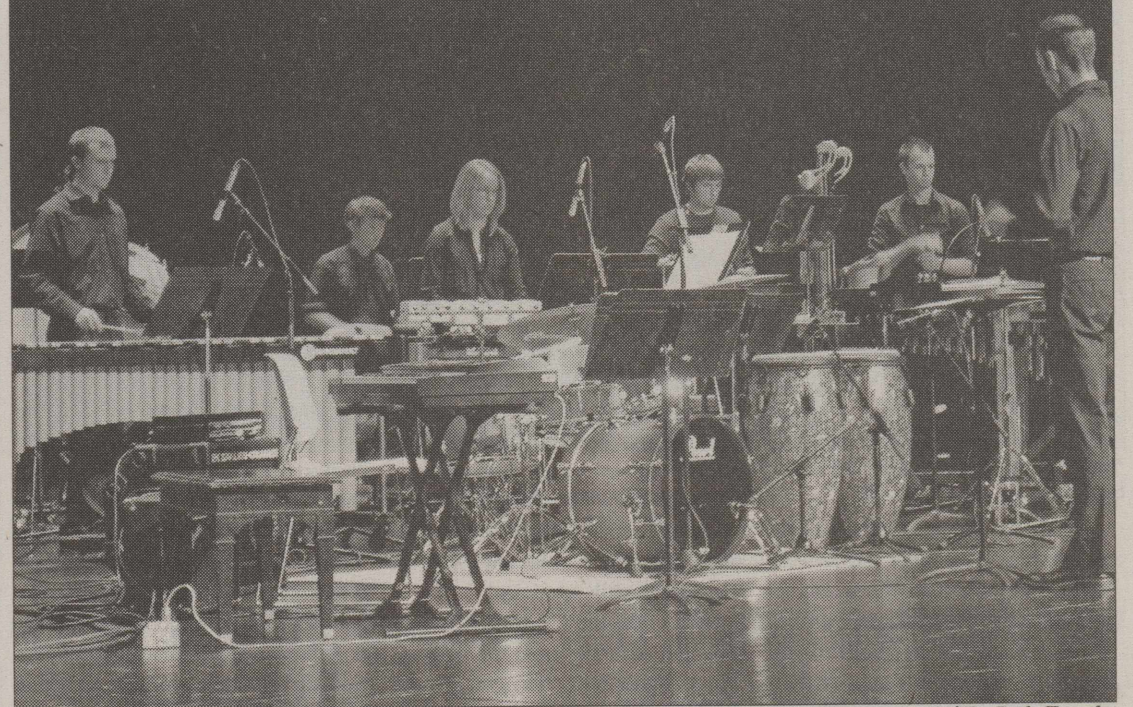


PHOTO BY CARRIE THORNTON/The Daily Toreador

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE II performs at the concert Read My Metric Lips on Monday at Allen Theatre.

group. During performances, he said members rotate and never remain at one instrument for the entire concert.

"I can't even decide my favorite," he said with a laugh.

Kayla Towns, a sophomore at Lubbock Christian University, at-

tended the concert as a part of a music class she is taking at LCU.

"They encourage us to go and (watch other bands) and see what we like and don't like," Towns said. "But I really liked it because I am a perfectionist myself, and they (seemed perfect) to me."

Although it was not a requirement, she chose to watch Tech's bands perform because of a previous concert she attended.

"I have been to one before and really liked it, and just knew I had to come back," Towns said.

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UK starts study on using human DNA in animals

LONDON (AP) — British scientists begin a new study on Tuesday to consider how human DNA is used in animal experiments and to determine what the boundaries of such controversial science might be.

Though experts have been swapping human and animal DNA for years — like replacing animal genes with human genes or growing human organs in animals — scientists at the Academy of Medical Sciences want to make sure the public is aware of what is happening in laboratories before proceeding further.

"It sounds yucky, but it may be well worth doing if it's going to lead to a cure for something horrible," said Robin Lovell-Badge, a stem cell expert at Britain's National Institute for Medical Research, and a member of the group conducting the study.

At a media briefing in London, Lovell-Badge said there were two main types of experiments: altering

an animal's genes by adding human DNA or replacing a specific animal sequence with its human counterpart. Several years ago, human genes were added to a mouse to create a model of Down's syndrome for scientists to study how the disease evolves, which could lead to potential treatments.

Scientists also have tried to grow human organs in animals that could one day be transplanted back into humans — like a mouse onto whose back scientists grew a human ear. "There are good reasons for doing this, but it may upset some people," Lovell-Badge said.

Two years ago, controversy erupted in Britain after scientists announced plans to create human embryos using empty cow and rabbit eggs. Critics condemned the mixing of human and animal genetic material, though scientists said the embryos would be destroyed after 14 days and would

only be used to help them learn how to create human stem cells.

Scientists said they are now trying to determine where the line should be drawn on experiments that use human material in animals. At the moment, the regulation on how much human DNA can be put into an animal is vague.

"We are trying to work out what is reasonable," said Martin Bobrow, chairman of the group conducting the study. He and others said they recognized people might be nervous about experiments where animals were given human features or brain cells.

David King, director of Human Genetics Alert, an independent watchdog, said he was not convinced such experiments were warranted. "This is a classic example of science going too fast," he said. "If you cannot firmly say exactly what it is you're creating, you should not do it."

Rain's ninja role draws inspiration from Lee, Chan

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean pop star Rain says he drew inspiration from fellow Asian stars who successfully crossed over to Hollywood when he prepared for his first leading role in an American film.

"I watched a lot of action films of Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan to create a different, unique character in the movie," the 27-year-old actor-singer said Monday at a press conference in his home country to promote "Ninja Assassin."

Jeong Ji-hoon, who goes by his stage name Rain, was first recognized in the region for his singing and slick dance moves. He first gained exposure in the West when Stephen Colbert parodied one of his music videos on his show, "The Colbert Report," in May 2007, which led to a second spoof — a "dance-off" with the U.S. comedian. He made his Hollywood debut alongside Emile Hirsch in Andy and Larry Wachowski's 2008 thriller "Speed Racer."

In "Ninja Assassin," Rain plays

an orphan adopted and trained into a deadly assassin by the secret society Ozunu Clan, only to turn against it when he finds out that the group's leader executed his friend.

"Speed Racer" posted mediocre box office numbers and all eyes are on whether Rain can carry "Ninja Assassin," which will hit theaters on Nov. 25.

The South Korean star said for now, he's just glad if he can pave the way for more Asian faces in Hollywood.

Balanced TV menu for Michelle Obama

NEW YORK (AP) — She's hanging with Elmo and Emeril Lagasse, Big Bird and Bobby Flay.

Michelle Obama appears on "Sesame Street" Tuesday and recently taped an episode of "Iron Chef America," just two of the varied platforms she's been using lately to get her healthy-eating message out to the masses.

And while the first lady herself didn't appear on "The Biggest Loser" last week, her staff invited NBC's popular weight-loss show into its kitchen and into Mrs. Obama's famed White House Kitchen Garden.

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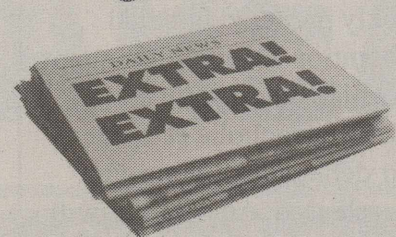


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Daniel Bach	Justin Hernandez	Jonathan Rebenack	Trey Braddock	Trent Moore
Kymberly Ball	John Herrera	Kyle Reddell	Clinton Brown	David Murdock
Cameron Barber	Ryan Herrick	Jon Reddy	Julie Broyles	Ethan Noble
Robert Barron	Thomas Hickman	Lance Reese	Jordan Burdine	Michael Odum
Robert Bass	Aaron Hobratchk	Thomas Reich	Tyler Buschman	Aloys Okello
Robin Beard	Jordan Hollimon	John Rich	Taylor Bynum	Noemi Ortega
Blake Bedinger	Clay Hooker	Jarred Riley	Jewel Callett	Eric Otto
Tyler Bednar	William Hughes	Megan Robare	Tanya Chavez	Humberto Paredes
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Tiffany Blair	Beau Itschner	Richard Rodriguez	William Condotta	Keith Pignone
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Scott Brown	Matthew Jacobs	Kendall Rompf	Turney Couletr	Ashley Price
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Jordan Burdine	Thomas Johnson	Jordan Ruckman	John Dewitt	Sarah Ragan
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Gary Carter	Scott Kelly	Lauren Smith	Adrian Escudero	Brian Sandmann
Christa Cassata	Sara Klinicki	Jeff Specht	Alicia Estrada	Yvonne Santana
Veronica Champion	Jenni Krmavek	Levi Speer	Jeff Evans	Justin Schlankey
Jordan Chapman	Jessica Knise	Jayden Spencer	Laura Fox	Monica Serowski
Kelsey Chappell	Oscar Larsen	Mark Spencer	Lucas Franklin	Christina Sheroke
Brandon Cherry	Brice Letcher	Danielle Stolley	Edgar Gallegos	Joshua Shive
Douglas Cooper	Eric Lloyd	Stephen Sweny	Shannon Gann	Mckenzi Skinner
Robert Cotton	Steven Logan	Bradley Tann	Aaron Gonzalez	Taylor Skidmore
David Cox	Kristie Lopez	Hunter Temperton	Nicholas Gordon	Andrew Smith
Jay Davis	Brad Macafee	Alexandra Templet	Jessica Grabham	Jeremy Sonnier
Matthew Davis	Ryan Martin	Jessica Tippee	Kaitlin Grace	Jennifer Steele
Armas DeBello	Cody Martin	Clinton Tippy	Andrew Gubitosa	Catherine Stephenson
Jose DeLeon	Will Martin	Laurie Umfleet	Jennifer Guzman	Nathan Sykes
James De Los Santos	Brandon Martin	Matthew Vanderbrook	Monet Harkin	Laura Tanner
Kevin Denis	Stephen Martin	Matthew Vavra	Jennifer Henley	John Tatum
Sergio Diaz	Cody Mathews	Jonathan Vorndran	Mical Henry	Anup Tavkar
Jeremy Dixon	Dylan Matthews	Dusty Walker	Amanda Hess	Justin Taylor
Joshua Duncan	Brittany Mcblain	Jana Walker	Sarah Holmes	Nicole Thomas
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Benjamin Gaar	Craig Newman	Joseph Yenzen	Nicholas King	Isaac Walker
Nicole Garza	Lisa O'Keefe		Jessica Lankston	Lair Wells
Christopher Gibson	Rex Oliver		Alex Lavergne	Jennifer Wimer
Ronnie Gilkey	Lauren Papierz		Taleigh Lechinger	Paul Woods
Daryl Gonzales	Trent Parker		Bryce Leggett	John Ysagaga
Ben Gonzalez	Kayln Pearson		Joseph Lemoine	
Ricardo Grande	Brentius Perea		Deidra Littleton	
	Maria Perez		Laura Luker	
	Ray Perez		Molly Mabery	
		Tuesday November 10, 2009		
		Courtney Aiken		
		Andrea Arnold		
		Mitchell Austin		
		Chance Barkley		

Prop. 4 election results head scratching

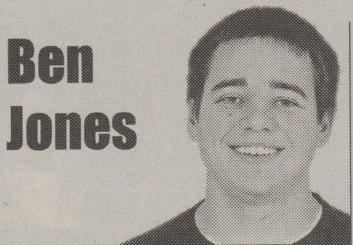
Last Tuesday, Tech took another step forward in trying to attain tier-one status as a national research university.

It's no secret Proposition 4, allowing \$500 million to be redirected towards an "emerging research institution," could pay huge dividends for Tech. As the proposition passed with 56.7 percent in favor of the resolution, Tech officials breathed a sigh of relief as one of the first major hurdles passed.

However, upon closer inspection, the election results themselves raise a few eyebrows.

Of the 11 proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot Tuesday, each passed with more than 65 percent approval except for Proposition 1 (regulating how ad valorem taxes are calculated) and Proposition 4. Certainly most of these propositions are concerned with very specific groups that tend to become mobilized when their issues are on the ballot. Moreover, none of the propositions were

Ben Jones



particularly controversial. But how could the results for Proposition 4 possibly be as close as they were?

I think what we have here is a classic case of voter ignorance. People look at the moving of \$500 million as a burden on the taxpayer. And in these economic times, especially in Texas, any sort of tax increase is heavily scrutinized.

But Proposition 4 calls for the redirection of money from the dormant Texas Higher Education Fund to the newly-established National Research University Fund. University officials had long secured the funds for the tier-one project. Without it, the proposition never

could've gotten through the legislature. Under Proposition 4, there is absolutely no tax load for Texans. The language of the proposition even stipulated on the ballot the fund would come from a "transfer of balance."

Besides the fact every major newspaper endorsed the amendment and original House Bill passing by a vote of 141-4, there still remained a small undercurrent of opposition for the proposition.

Among the opponents were the Young Conservatives of Texas, who claimed Texas schools have spent more than \$9 billion on research but only generated \$8.3 million in income. But that's exactly what state funding is for. By subsidizing the cost of research, Texas can encourage the growth of research at our universities. Higher education research shouldn't be meant to be a profitable venture.

There are also those who worry pushing money towards research takes away from the academic experience of students

as a whole, dragging the more experienced professors and instructors into research instead of the classroom.

However, part of the purpose of becoming a tier-one institution is to build a better faculty base which will no doubt be felt by the students. California and New York, which have nine and seven tier-one schools respectively compared to Texas' three, have more college graduates and Ph.D.'s per capita than Texas. Students in both states have also shown to perform at a higher level on graduate level exams

than Texas students.

During Tuesday night's election, well more than half of the counties statewide voted against Proposition 4. Interestingly, no other county took as strong of a stance against the proposition than Brazos County, where only 31 percent of voters voted in favor of it. This is of course where our friends at College Station call home.

There doesn't appear to be any good reason why Texas A&M would view another tier-one university as competition. In Travis and Harris Counties, where

Texas' other tier-one universities reside, the proposition passed easily.

Although there really is no good reason why Proposition 4 gained as much opposition as it did, we can at least be thankful it passed. No matter if Tech gains this tier-one status, the competition will make us stronger. And that is something we can all agree on.

■ Jones is a sophomore economics major from Lubbock. >> ben.jones@ttu.edu

Grading system needs reform

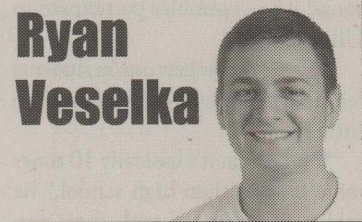
At the end of October, the Student Government Association gauged student reactions to the idea of switching from the classic five-point grade scale — an A equating to a 4.0 and an F to a 0.0 — to a plus and minus system.

The plus and minus scale would give higher scores to those who attain marks above the median of that letter grade and grant less to those who are below the median. In short, earning a B minus will result in a lower GPA score than if a B plus is attained, whereas before any B was worth three points. The senate introduced the idea to students via this year's homecoming ballot, receiving negative feedback. However, neither our senators nor fellow students should deny the need for this legislation to pass.

Admittedly, the new grading criteria would give some Tech students a real kick in the pants. The plus and minus grading rubric would cause some student's grades to suffer because they have been much too accustomed to trying to keep their scores within a given letter grade.

For example, if someone scores very well on the first two tests in a class and are certain they can maintain an A average, they are less likely to put forth more effort to learn because there is no longer an incentive to work harder. However, this is not a valid reason to assume that the change will have a negative effect. The plus and minus scale would

Ryan Veselka



encourage students to put forth more effort and be rewarded for it. The system also is a better tool for graduate schools and potential employers to assess student's abilities and skills. With an increasing number of Big 12 schools supporting this system, including The University of Texas as of Fall 2009, it is important for Tech to be held to the same standards, if not greater, than those institutions we compete with.

If we do not take additional measures to improve our academic standing, then Tech does not deserve to achieve tier-one status. I am not saying this to offend anyone who goes here or works here. I love Tech, but I think Tech is capable of greater things and that this is a crucial step. Why are student's so afraid of this new criteria?

Changing the grading system strives against the academic barriers students suffer from as a result of the Texas public education system. Standardized testing, implemented by the Texas government, mainstreams student expectations and hinders their academic potential by lowering the standards to which college bound students must meet.

This has created a system in which college students such as ourselves have been coddled too much. The grades

students earn should be an accurate indication of their intelligence and work ethic.

The five-point grade scale instills the idea academic and professional success derives from merely meeting standards rather than exceeding them. This generation of students should step up as leaders in business, politics, education, or the arts and sciences. But we cannot expect our students here to become as successful as they can be if Tech does not measure themselves by the same standards of other prestigious schools.

In the long run, the plus and minus grading system would benefit Tech and its students. Even though some pupils will have a hard time meeting these challenges, overall, students will develop a harder work ethic that will reflect better upon them and the university they represent.

Yes, I might not even make as good of grades as before, but it is important for employers to know that the manner in which students earned their grades were genuine and consistent with the way they will work for them.

I hope students would not fear the change and suffer from it, but rise to the top and use it to better themselves. Otherwise, students will find themselves more likely denied from graduate programs or lost in an increasingly-competitive job market.

■ Veselka is a sophomore business management major from Angleton. >> ryan.j.veselka@ttu.edu

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September through May; Tuesdays and Fridays June through August, except during university examination and vacation periods. The DT is funded primarily through advertising revenues generated by the student sales staff with free campus distribution resulting from student service fees.

Subscriptions
Call: (806) 742-3388
Subscription Rates: \$120 annually; single issues: 25 cents.
Postmaster: send address changes to The Daily Toreador, Box 43081 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

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The Daily Toreador welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, Social Security number and a description of university affiliation. Students should include year in school, major and hometown. We reserve the right to edit letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters will be verified before they are published. Letters can be e-mailed to dailytoreador@ttu.edu or brought to 211 Student Media. Letters should be sent in before 3 p.m. to ensure the editors have enough time to verify and edit the submission.

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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- Columnists (volunteer)
 - Voice opinions on issues affecting the Tech community.
- 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

Work on building your ethical compass

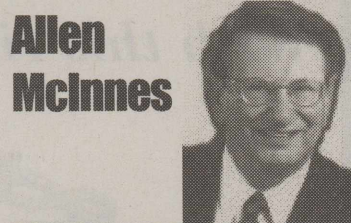
Every person has a standard of ethics used for him or herself and applied to others. These standards are developed in childhood, evolving over the course of their lifetime, from teachings and examples instilled from parents and family members, school teachers and church or religious authorities, along with all the surrounding input of friends, movies and other life experiences.

Your view of right and wrong, doing the right thing and treating people the way you would like to be treated, bubbles in and out of you as you go through life. You are constantly learning and expanding your personal ethical base of understanding. For example, as I sit here, writing this paper, I am learning, assessing, reasoning and adjusting my ethical compass. The process occurs every hour of every day.

Doing the right thing is always on my mind as I move through the people world of the university. Every night I review the decisions and actions made during the day, making certain that the right thing was done in my interactions with others, as well as evaluating those decisions which affect only me.

Important among the many challenges set before me as Dean of the

Allen McInnes



Jerry S. Rawls College of Business is the crucial challenge of making sure our students have been given an opportunity to re-evaluate and understand their own ethical stance, and to state and restate the various courses of action that are available to them in their dealings with others.

How do we teach this evaluation and adjustment process to the students? First, students need to understand it is essential to live by ethical guidelines every hour of every day. Helping students to understand this critical aspect goes beyond a course — it is something that must permeate their lives, touching each and every decision they make throughout their day. The students are challenged by opportunities to plagiarize papers, cheat on tests and other temptations that arise to test their ethical compass.

I always tell our students that, upon graduation and beginning their first working experience, they will face one of their first ethical tests in the business world — filling out an expense report.

The expense account calls for an honest recording of expenses incurred while performing duties for their new employer. The opportunity to fudge some of the numbers, making the reimbursement a little heavier in their favor, is often tempting.

Numbers such as hours spent on a particular task can be easily exaggerated. Miscellaneous items — cab fare, tips — can be inflated. Although these are small amounts of money, this can represent one of the first tests of ethical behavior and you should always ask yourself, "Did I do the expense accounting fairly and correctly?"

As one continues to move through his or her business career, they will be tested by every decision made, and they should always ask themselves the question — was I fair and honest? Do I feel good in that the transaction was a win/win situation for all involved? You're not always going to feel good about every decision or situation, but you should get as close as possible.

Finally, the question is — how do I set the ethical compass in my being? Earlier I mentioned at the beginning of a young life, parents, family and others input rules of behavior which you can live by, and as you move through life, new experiences will sharpen your ethical edge. By understanding the happenings in the world around you, you will also be able to sharpen and stimulate your own ethical guideposts.

Reading the newspaper, watching the news, and seeing other people's actions and reactions to situations faced every day will cause you to adjust your ethical compass, allowing the assimilation of new thoughts obtained from these activities. With proper adjustments and input incorporated into your ethical thought processes, you will be able to move through your life making ethical decisions which are fair, allowing yourself to answer in the affirmative to the question, "Did I do the right thing?"

■ Allen T. McInnes is dean of the Jerry S. Rawls College of Business

Concert Thursday, Nov. 12 at 7:00pm

David Isaacs on Classical guitar Soprano Chelsea Camille



Their group, Chanson du Soir, was established in 2005. They quickly garnered national recognition as a premier guitar and voice duo. In April of 2007, *Melancholie et Espoir*, their debut studio recording, was released. An offering will be collected for them.

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BIZ WEEKLY

Madonna in Brazil to discuss social projects

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Madonna is following a philanthropic trip to Africa with a stop in Rio to discuss social projects.

Rio de Janeiro Gov. Sergio Cabral says the 51-year-old pop star is looking for ways to lend her help.

Cabral told the Estado de S. Paulo newspaper Monday that he will meet with Madonna along with Brazilian billionaire Eike Batista to talk about possible partnerships.

The singer is expected to visit several poor communities. Local news media say she also will meet with Brazilian first lady Marisa Leticia.

Last month, Madonna spent nearly a week in the southern African country of Malawi, where she broke ground on a \$15 million academy for girls and visited the orphanage that cared for her son David before she adopted him.

Justin Timberlake granted restraining order

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge has ordered a woman to stay away from Justin Timberlake for the next three years.

An attorney for the "SexyBack" singer successfully argued Monday for the restraining order against Karen McNeil. Timberlake wrote in court filings that McNeil repeatedly showed up at his house and trespassed on his property last month.

McNeil, who represented herself, opposed the court order. She wrote in a court filing that she thought she was destined to rule the world and wanted to marry Timberlake so he could rule with her.

The 28-year-old singer has won multiple Grammy Awards for songs such as "SexyBack" and "Cry Me a River."

J-Lo's ex blocked from selling movie

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jennifer Lopez won a court order Monday barring her first husband from making their sex life public — at least for a day.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge James C. Chalfant issued a temporary restraining order blocking distribution of a proposed movie, "The J.Lo and Ojani Noa Story." The order is in effect until a hearing on whether to extend it is completed. That hearing was scheduled to resume Tuesday.

"I'm going to fight this," Noa said of the order. Lopez sued Noa on Friday for \$10 million, claiming he breached a prior confidentiality agreement

by intending to sell a movie containing hours of home video footage, including some showing Lopez in sexual situations on their 1997 honeymoon.

The suit also claims invasion of privacy by "public disclosure of private facts which would be offensive and objectionable to a reasonable person and which is not of legitimate public concern."

Lopez also sued Ed Meyer, Noa's manager and producer of the proposed movie.

Meyer's attorney, Frank Sanes Jr., unsuccessfully argued in court that his client was not bound by Noa's confidentiality agreement and shouldn't be subject to the restraining order.

Comedian Katt Williams jailed in Ga. over burglary

ATLANTA (AP) — Comedian and rapper Katt Williams remained jailed Monday in suburban Atlanta after police said they arrested the entertainer for breaking into a home and stealing thousands of dollars worth of jewelry and coins.

Williams, who police say is 38, is charged with burglary and criminal trespassing, according to Coweta County Sheriff's Office Maj. James Yarbrough.

A Coweta County magistrate set bond at more than \$41,000 Monday afternoon. A detention officer at Coweta County Jail confirmed Williams remained in custody after the hearing.

Yarbrough said the Sunday night incident happened at a home in Newnan, about 38 miles southwest of Atlanta. Yarbrough said the victim — identified in a police report as Daniel Broach — called police around 9 p.m. to report the comedian broke into his home and stole items.

Williams had a crowbar when he entered and is accused of taking \$3,555 in jewelry and collectable coins.

Williams, whose real name is Micah S. Katt Williams, is known for his roles in the movies "Friday After Next" and "Norbit." His comedy DVD, "Katt Williams: Pimpadelic," was no. 8 in the nation for sales during the week of Oct. 30, according to Nielsen/VideoScan.

TV star Rachael Ray helps reeling Ohio town

WILMINGTON, Ohio (AP) — Television cooking star Rachael Ray is boosting the local food supply for a struggling Ohio town.

On Saturday, Ray brought a Wilmington soup kitchen new appliances, shelves and furniture. Ray's show also promised to supply food for the kitchen for the next year.

The soup kitchen is getting as many customers in a day as it did in a week a year ago.

Wilmington is still reeling from the departure of DHL Express and other Wilmington Air Park operations, which has left a 15 percent local unemployment rate in its wake.

On Sunday, the Food Network star hosted an early Thanksgiving feast for the community. The soup kitchen improvements and the Thanksgiving meal are scheduled to be featured on "The Rachael Ray Show" on Nov. 25.

Brazil college backs down on mini-dress expulsion

SAO PAULO (AP) — A Brazilian woman whose short, pink dress caused a near riot at a private college and led to her expulsion will be allowed to return to class.

The private Bandeirante University backed down Monday on its decision to expel 20-year-old Geisy Arruda following a flood of negative reaction in a nation where skimpy attire is common. Videos of students ridiculing her and making catcalls Oct. 22 made her an Internet sensation.

Just hours after the Brazilian government sought an explanation from the university, its dean released a note saying he was reversing the school's decision to expel Arruda.

The Education Ministry had given the university 10 days to clarify its reasoning for kicking out Arruda, who had to put on a professor's white coat and was escorted away by police amid a hail of insults and curses from other students.

A video of the incident was posted on YouTube and quickly made headlines across Brazil. The university's decision to expel the student Sunday prompted complaints from the national student union and the country's minister in charge of women's policy, among others.

Sao Paulo state prosecutors had said they would investigate what led to the university's decision to expel Arruda, and the student later told reporters through her lawyer that she was going to sue the teaching institution in hopes she could finish the semester there.

The dean's note gave no reasons for why the decision was being overturned.

Arruda and her lawyer could not be reached immediately for comment on the school's reversal.

Although Brazil is known for revealing clothing — especially in beach cities, where many bikinis are referred to locally as "dental floss" — most col-

lege students dress more modestly on campus, commonly in jeans and T-shirts.

The university published newspaper advertisements Sunday saying it expelled Arruda for disrespecting "ethical principles, academic dignity and morality."

The ads also alleged Arruda acted in a provocative manner incompatible with the university environment.

University lawyer Decio Lencioni told Globo TV that the institution was only following its rules.

"The problem is not her clothes; it's her behavior, her attitude," he said.

Lencioni and the university said Arruda even raised her dress and stopped to pose for photos the night she wore the short dress on campus. He said she also chose the longest way to get to class to attract the attention of more students.

CHILD'S PLAY



PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Treador

KYLIE HAROLDSON, A sophomore early childhood education major, blows bubbles for Jack at the Child Development playground Monday during the children's playtime.

Can't find the hot new toy? Blame the economy

NEW YORK (AP) — Robotic toy hamsters, the latest Barbie dolls and stylish boots are disappearing from store shelves as holiday shoppers start to get serious. But don't confuse this with the days of Tickle Me Elmo.

Instead of a throwback to great buying binges of the past, the empty shelves are just another sign of bad times.

The shortages come from stores that are terrified of ordering too much and are keeping their inventories thin.

"I guess if you see it, you should get it," said Martha Frey, who was surprised when she couldn't find a specific style of boots in a popular size for her 17-year-old daughter recently at a Top Shop in Manhattan's SoHo district.

Shoppers are spending a little more these days, but they aren't going on buying sprees. Stores, remembering how Americans snapped their wal-

lets shut last holiday season, didn't order big piles of merchandise in the first place.

The result, with seven weeks to go before Christmas, is that popular toys are already hard to find.

In fact, the holiday season's early hit — the Zhu Zhu Pets hamster, an interactive mechanical rodent by Cepia Inc. that sells for \$9.99 and is being compared to Furby a decade ago — is almost impossible to nab.

Other toys that are already be-

coming hard to find include Mattel's Mindflex, which measures brain activity through a helmet, a Nerf dart thrower called Nerf N Strike from Hasbro Inc. and Barbie Fashionista, who can twist her hips and strike other poses.

"Stores just underordered across the board," said Jim Silver, an analyst at Timetoplaymag.com, who predicted shortages of the top 100 toys by early December. In a typical year, only the top 15 are in short supply that early.

Today's
su | do | ku

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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RED RAIDER FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Leach talks 'Friday Night Lights' cameo, swinging swords

By ALEX YBARRA
MANAGING EDITOR

While his football team's bye week meant more school time and less football time, Texas Tech coach Mike Leach was receiving quite a bit of airtime.

First he traveled to Bristol, Conn., and was featured on ESPN's "Car Wash" Monday, which ran him through a gamut of the network's daily programming. Leach said he didn't see any mascots roaming around ESPN, which is humorously portrayed in commercials, but he did meet football legend Mike Ditka and experienced a flashback to high school lunchtime.

"You go to the cafeteria and it's literally like high school except it's got a mixture of broadcasters and former professional athletes," he said. "It was kind of impressive. They call it the campus, and it does have sort of a campus feel with maybe a campus with all kinds of cameras and computers."

Overall, Leach said the experience was eye-opening as far as the depth that ESPN has in all facets of a major sports network. Not to mention walking by popular anchors and television personalities on a regular basis.

"More involved than you'd think," Leach said. "More buildings than you think. More dimension than you'd think. More

levels of media than you would think. As you walk around the building, you run in to all these familiar faces that you don't know but you feel like you do because they're in your living room all the time."

Then there was his "Friday Night Lights" cameo that aired Wednesday. The scene was shot when Leach was in Austin for the game against Texas earlier this season.

Leach is introduced by asking Dillon East coach Eric Taylor, who is sitting at a gas station, how to get to Lubbock.

After Taylor gives directions, Leach recognizes him and decides to give him a classic-Leach pep talk.

"You've lost your inner pirate," Leach says on the show. "Have you ever heard swing your sword, you're supposed to swing your sword like this (waving hand firmly). You're swinging yours like this (waving hand loosely)."

He goes on: "You've gotta find your inner pirate. A lot of times, things happen for a reason. We don't know why God wants it that way, but you can't make that until you get back your inner pirate."

You might be the luckiest man alive and not even know it."

And Leach walks into his SUV and drives away, leaving one more person befuddled by his unique words of wisdom —

although this time it's a fictional person.

Leach said it was scripted, however, there was some wiggle room with what he could add.

But some things didn't make the cut, he said.

"Actually in the original stuff, there's stuff about Napoleon, Daniel Boone, grizzly bears, raccoons, a bunch of stuff," he said. "So we covered a lot of bases and then they picked from what they wanted."

After being asked if his lines had some sort of meaning pertaining to what his team has gone through this season, Leach said that "inner-pirate" is "always tested."

"If you don't enjoy the battle and if you don't enjoy going from one point to the next, you're kind of in the wrong business," he said. "Football is just designed to have one obstacle after the next and that's why it exists to begin with. There's gonna be ups and downs, but you gotta enjoy battling it every day."

Leach is introduced by asking Dillon East coach Eric Taylor, who is sitting at a gas station, how to get to Lubbock.

After Taylor gives directions, Leach recognizes him and decides to give him a classic-Leach pep talk.

"You've lost your inner pirate," Leach says on the show. "Have you ever heard swing your sword, you're supposed to swing your sword like this (waving hand firmly). You're swinging yours like this (waving hand loosely)."

He goes on: "You've gotta find your inner pirate. A lot of times, things happen for a reason. We don't know why God wants it that way, but you can't make that until you get back your inner pirate."

You might be the luckiest man alive and not even know it."

And Leach walks into his SUV and drives away, leaving one more person befuddled by his unique words of wisdom —



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH COACH Mike Leach and his Red Raiders play No. 17 Oklahoma State at 7 p.m. Saturday at Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater, Okla.

nity to shine," said cornerback Jamar Wall of Sharpe. "He's done a great job of it obviously. You couldn't ask for anything more from him."

Leach said he believes Sharpe is even better than people think and still has more room to improve.

"There's a level of timing and then as you have some success you see it and it's reinforced in your mind a little bit and you keep rolling along and it gets better and better," Leach said. "I think that's happening with him right now, just the timing and visualization of what can happen if you do this technique and that technique real fast. I think as he gets rewarded more and more for it, I think he'll improve more."

Pleasant week off

Tech practiced on Saturday for the first time all week

as Leach gave them Monday through Friday to rest and work on academics.

Tech receiver Alex Torres said while the week off helped some players freshen up, getting back on the field was much appreciated.

"On Saturday we came out and had basically a normal Tuesday practice for us and kind of got everyone back into the mix of things and everything," he said. "I think it went really well. Everyone's tempo was really good. Everyone's legs were feeling good. Overall, I thought it was a good practice on Saturday."

Earlier this season, Leach talked about how the after-effect of bye weeks can be a mystery to some coaches with variables depending on the team's performance at the time.

For Tech, it was probably right on time.

The Red Raiders climbed back into the race for second in the Big 12 Conference South Division with a win against Kansas after losing big to Texas A&M.

Now Tech hits the road again to face No. 17 Oklahoma State at 7 p.m. Saturday at Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater, Okla.

Torres said he believes players can tell if the bye week was beneficial or not during the first practice back, and by his estimation the most recent one seems more helpful than harmful.

Wall agreed.

"I think it went well, it was well needed," he said. "I think we all got well-rested. We came out Saturday and you could see a difference. Everyone was running around like they were fresh. I think it was a good thing and that it was needed."

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Boston exercises Martinez option

BOSTON (AP)—The Red Sox exercised their \$7.7 million option on Victor Martinez and declined options on Jason Varitek and Alex Gonzalez on Monday.

Boston also agreed to a \$5 million, two-year contract with 43-year-old knuckleballer Tim Lincecum, replacing a perpetual \$4 million annual club option.

The moves on the options were expected after Boston obtained Martinez from the Cleveland Indians on July 31 and he replaced Varitek as the starting catcher. The club option for Varitek was worth \$5 million, but he can stay with the team if he exercises his \$3 million player option.

The Red Sox also could try to keep Gonzalez at shortstop for less

than the \$6 million option. He receives a \$500,000 buyout.

Martinez and Gonzalez played well for the Red Sox while Varitek struggled offensively for the second straight season. Wakefield was sidelined most of the second half with a back injury after making the All-Star team for the first time.

Martinez made the AL All-Star team for the third time and finished with a .303 batting average, 23 homers and 108 RBIs in 155 games as a catcher, first baseman and designated hitter. For Boston, he batted .336 with eight homers and 41 RBIs in 56 games.

The Red Sox obtained the 32-year-old Gonzalez from the Cincinnati Reds on Aug. 14 and he provided his usual outstanding

fielding and some unexpected hitting. In 44 games with Boston, he hit .284 with five homers and 15 RBIs. For the season, he hit .238 with eight homers and 41 RBIs in 112 games.

The 37-year-old Varitek hit a career-low .209 with 14 homers and 51 RBIs after batting .220 with 13 homers and 43 RBIs in 2008. His career average is .259.

Wakefield was 11-5 with a 4.58 ERA but was limited to 21 starts. He had surgery for a herniated disk on Oct. 21 and said he wants to pitch as long as possible. He is 189-162 with a 4.33 ERA in 17 seasons, including 175 victories in 15 years with Boston. Roger Clemens and Cy Young hold the franchise record of 192 wins.

Miles, Saban voice support for SEC officials

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)—LSU coach Les Miles says he is satisfied with the response he received from the SEC about a questionable call by officials during the Tigers' game against Alabama.

Miles said Monday he has spoken with Southeastern Conference commissioner Mike Slive and coordinator of officials Rogers Redding regarding a near-interception by Patrick Peterson late in the ninth-

ranked Tigers' 24-15 loss Saturday.

Miles says he was fine with what he was told, and if he felt differently, he "would say so."

SEC spokesman Charles Bloom said the league would not comment on the call.

Alabama made it a two-score game with a field goal on the drive that would have ended if Peterson's catch had been ruled inbounds.

Big finish for Phil sets high expectations

SHANGHAI (AP)—No one can use a long winter's break quite like Phil Mickelson.

No one should be more excited to get back.

The last three tournaments that featured Mickelson and Tiger Woods were enough to get anyone excited about 2010, which very well could turn into a colossal battle between the world's best two players, one that has been long overdue.

They shared the stage at the Tour Championship, where Mickelson won the tournament and Woods captured the FedEx Cup. They shared a trophy at the Presidents Cup as the best two American players. Both were unbeaten, and while Woods had the perfect record, Mickelson might have been more impressive for winning with three struggling partners.

With only one trophy available Sunday in Shanghai, Mickelson stole the show.

Even though his clutch putting over the final three holes gave him a one-shot victory over Ernie Els, what caused such a frenzy at Sheshan International was Mickelson playing in the final group with Woods.

Mickelson had never won a tournament when playing in the last group with Woods.

This time, it was Woods who flinched.

"Anything that could go wrong went wrong for me today," he said.

Woods three-putted twice, hit two

balls in the water, and closed with a 72 to finish five shots behind Lefty, who did enough right to post a 69 and match his career-high of four victories in one year.

Woods headed south for the Australian Masters and a \$3 million appearance fee. Mickelson headed for home in San Diego, where he will have 11 weeks off before returning to the San Diego Invitational at Torrey Pines.

Most years, Mickelson stashes the clubs away until the calendar turns. This won't be one of them. He said he would continue to work on his swing with Butch Harmon and his putting with Dave Stockton.

"I'm excited about 2010 because I'm starting to play the best golf of my career," said Mickelson, who turns 40 in June. "Everything is starting to come together as far as my driving. Since working with Butch Harmon, my ball-striking has been much better. My short game is better than it's ever been. Going into 2010, not only am I excited about it, but I have very high expectations."

This is one year Mickelson is not likely to ever forget.

His life went into a tailspin in May when his wife, Amy, was diagnosed with breast cancer. No sooner had she gone through surgery to determine the scope of the disease, his mother was diagnosed, too.

Mickelson skipped the British Open, and when he returned in August after his wife and mother received favorable

outlooks, he did not crack the top 25 until he won the Tour Championship.

The turnaround began when Mickelson asked longtime caddy Jim Mackay for suggestions. Mackay fired off a series of text messages in a desperate search for the phone number of Stockton, considered one of the best teachers with the putter. They hooked up in San Diego that weekend, and Mickelson believes he found the missing link to his game.

Off the course is looking up, too.

Mickelson said his wife is doing well enough that she might come to more tournaments next year. He called her from the scoring trailer Sunday at the HSBC Champions — it was approaching midnight Saturday in San Diego — and was surprised to hear how she coped watching the tournament on television.

"She said she was so nervous that she was cleaning out cupboards and stuff, which caught me off guard," Mickelson said with a grin. "It's been a fun way for us to end the year, and she's doing much better. We are looking forward to these next eight to 10 weeks off, where we can spend some time together. And we have a few family trips lined up, too."

On the course, the anticipation already is building toward Torrey Pines, with perhaps more clashes against Woods along the way at places like Pebble Beach, Doral and, ideally, Augusta National.

This is not the first time Mickel-

UT not worried about BCS position

AUSTIN (AP)—Texas must be feeling pretty good about where the Longhorns stand in the BCS standings when coach Mack Brown can crack jokes about it — even when they dropped a spot.

Texas (9-0) stayed at No. 2 in The Associated Press rankings, but fell to No. 3 in the Bowl Championship Series standings Sunday after beating unranked Central Florida 35-3.

Alabama jumped the Longhorns to No. 2 after beating No. 9 LSU 24-15.

Texas doesn't have any ranked opponents left in the regular season, but Brown knows if the Longhorns can win their last three games and the Big 12 championship game, Texas should coast into Pasadena,

Calif., for the BCS title game on Jan. 7.

"Everybody has told me if we do what we need to do, we'll play in the last game," Brown said Monday.

Brown was asked if the computer elements to the BCS standings don't like his team as much as the human polls.

"I've called the computers. They haven't called me back," Brown said. "I've invited them to our games. I don't think any of them have shown up."

There have been years when Brown had to lobby for a BCS berth. This year has closely mirrored the Longhorns' national title season of 2005, when they stayed at No. 2 all season before beating No. 1 USC in the title game.

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Lady Raiders upset by Lubbock Christian, 71-65

By ZANE TURNER
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech coach Kristy Curry didn't provide an excuse as to why her Lady Raiders dropped an exhibition match to a team that plays in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

In fact, she said Lubbock Christian was just the better team.

"We just have to credit them (Monday)," she said. "I think it was a great opportunity for us to improve and get better. You can win by 30 and get better or you can have the experience we had (Monday) and hopefully in the long run this will help us."

After a 71-65 loss to the Lady Chaps Monday in the United Spirit Arena, the Lady Raiders may have some work to do before its season-opener against Sam Houston at 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the United Spirit Arena.

While LCU has lost to the likes of Abilene Christian, the Lady Chaps now have a win against a Big 12 Conference team on their resume.

The source of the Lady Chaps' upset was free throws.

Taking an aggressive approach to the game, LCU's Brittany Hampton knocked down every one of her shots from the charity stripe, going 15-of-15 on the night. Severn Smith also went 9-of-10 from the free-throw line.

As a team, the Lady Chaps were 26-of-30 from the foul line, allowing them to seal the victory.

"I didn't realize how many we shot," Hampton said. "I think it just happened to fit in the game plan. We just wanted to be aggressive and not passive, just to go at them. They are bigger, faster, more athletic but we just tried to maybe use that against them and get to the line and get good shots."

The Lady Raiders jumped out to a fast start, beginning the game on a 17-4 run with 11:50 remaining in the first half. Ashlee Roberson led the initial surge for Tech, scoring six points, along



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN'S BRITTANY Hampton fights Texas Tech's Jordan Murphree for the ball during the Lady Raider's exhibition game against Lubbock Christian Monday in the United Spirit Arena.

with two steals and a rebound during that span.

With the game starting to get out of hand, Lubbock Christian made a run of its own.

Seeming to relax after the Tech run, the Lady Chaps had a 14-0 run capped off by a second straight 3-pointer by Ashley Coggins with 7:35 left in the first half, putting LCU up 18-17.

Lubbock Christian also had the advantage on the boards.

LCU grabbed 40 rebounds to Tech's 29. The Lady Chap's Shamika Singleton and Whitney Wehmeyer

each had seven boards to lead LCU. Tech's Kierra Mallard and Roberson each collected eight rebounds.

Roberson was the spark for the Lady Raiders.

Along with her eight rebounds — five being offensive — she added 17 points on 6-of-14 shooting and a game-high eight steals. Jordan Murphree led Tech with 19 points, which included three 3-pointers.

However, with LCU sitting in a 2-3 zone for most of the game, shot selection and shot percentage proved to be a sore spot for Tech. Curry said the zone

traditionally causes problems for Tech and Monday was no different.

All five of Tech's true freshmen had a chance to get on the floor, but saw limited time because of an LCU team that recently broke a school record for consecutive 100-point games in its last two outings.

With Tech having to put up desperation shots near the end of the game, the Lady Raiders finished 25-of-66 from the floor at 38 percent, while the Lady Chaps shot 44 percent from the floor.

LCU closed out the game in the



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S TILMILA Martin and Ashlee Roberson guard Lubbock Christian's Renee Wilson during the Lady Raider's exhibition game against LCU on Monday in the United Spirit Arena.

final minutes of the game, sinking 10-of-12 free throws to stop a Lady Raider comeback attempt. Tech did come within one point of the Lady Chaps, 63-62 with 41 seconds remaining, but LCU still pulled away with the win.

As shocking as the loss might be, Roberson said preventing something like Monday night from happening

again starts with work in the gym.

"I think we need to play harder defensively and communicate better like coach said," she said. "We also had some problems on offense, we just gotta get in the gym more and shoot. So, nothing more can be said unless we need to hustle more."

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Healthy Toews leads Blackhawks past Kings

CHICAGO (AP) — Jonathan Toews was back and so was the firepower that made the Chicago Blackhawks one of the NHL's most dangerous teams in the season's first two weeks.

Toews, who had been out with a concussion since Vancouver's Willie Mitchell leveled him on Oct. 21, followed Troy Brouwer's third-period power-play goal with one of his own 3:31 later and the Blackhawks went on to defeat the Los Angeles Kings 4-1 on Monday night.

"His presence, the way he plays

the game, the way he competes every shift, that's why he's the captain," Blackhawks center John Madden said of Toews. "He's not very vocal. He just leads by the way he plays, by example. It's contagious. If we just follow along and compete as hard as he does, everybody will be all right."

The Blackhawks lost three of the six games Toews missed. It had been nearly four weeks since they had scored more than three times in a game, and they hadn't put in more than one power-play goal since the

season's second game.

"I felt great on the ice," said Toews, who had a team-high 34 goals last season but has only two this year. "If you look at a lot of our games in the past couple weeks, they were low-scoring. We struggled a bit on the power play. That was the difference tonight."

Toews, who also was on the ice for Brouwer's goal, energized a power play that had converted on only three of its previous 33 attempts. The Blackhawks had scored but four man-advantage goals at home all season.

Carter fills in for Clark, sparks Pittsburgh

DENVER (AP) — Rarely has playing it safe paid off so well for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Tyrone Carter started in place of safety Ryan Clark as a precaution Monday night and made the big play that sparked the Steelers to their fifth straight win, taking the first of his two interceptions 48 yards for a touchdown in Pittsburgh's 28-10 win over the Denver Broncos.

Clark nearly died following a game in Denver two years ago be-

cause of a rare blood disorder that is aggravated by playing in high altitude, so Steelers coach Mike Tomlin decided to hold him out of the game.

He said he didn't want to risk Clark's health or burden his teammates and family members with worry.

Carter capped his night with his second interception with 15 seconds left, and Clark, dressed in charcoal sweats and a smile on the sideline, jumped up and down in celebration.

Hines Ward caught two short

touchdown passes from Ben Roethlisberger, including one in which he hauled in a pass in the flat and hurdled cornerback Champ Bailey on his way into the end zone, a final indignity for Denver that capped the scoring with 1:22 remaining and emptied the stadium.

Rashard Mendenhall rumbled over the Broncos for 155 yards on 22 carries as the Steelers (6-2) handed Denver its second straight loss after the Broncos opened the season 6-0 under rookie coach Josh McDaniels.

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Big 12 not as glamorous as 2008 season

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Big 12 Conference coaches aren't in denial, disbelief or doubt: The conference that featured high-profile offenses and marquee names last year is nowhere to be found this year.

The Big 12 enters Week 10 with two ranked teams in the Associated Press Top 25 and the BCS Standings — Texas and Oklahoma State.

At this point, the Mountain West, Southeastern and the Pac-10 Conferences have more teams ranked in the Top 25 and the BCS Standings than the Big 12. Last season, the Big 12 had three teams in the hunt for a berth in the BCS title game throughout the season.

"Last year was a real offensive year in this league; it looks like this year's been more of a defensive year," said Brown, whose Longhorns are No. 3 in the BCS Standings. "You just never know. Injuries impact it, schedules impact it."

"There's a lot of different things that are impacting conferences. It doesn't look like across the board there's as many great teams this year as there normally are. Not just in our league, but across the country."

Brown might be correct in pointing out that better defenses have emerged in the conference.

His Longhorns lead the nation in total defense and names such as Nebraska defensive end Ndamukong Suh, Texas Tech defensive end Brandon Sharpe and Texas A&M's Von Miller have made headlines this season. Suh garnered Heisman consideration earlier this season and Miller and Sharpe are first and second in sacks this season, respectively.

Brown also made a point with injuries, with OU quarterback Sam

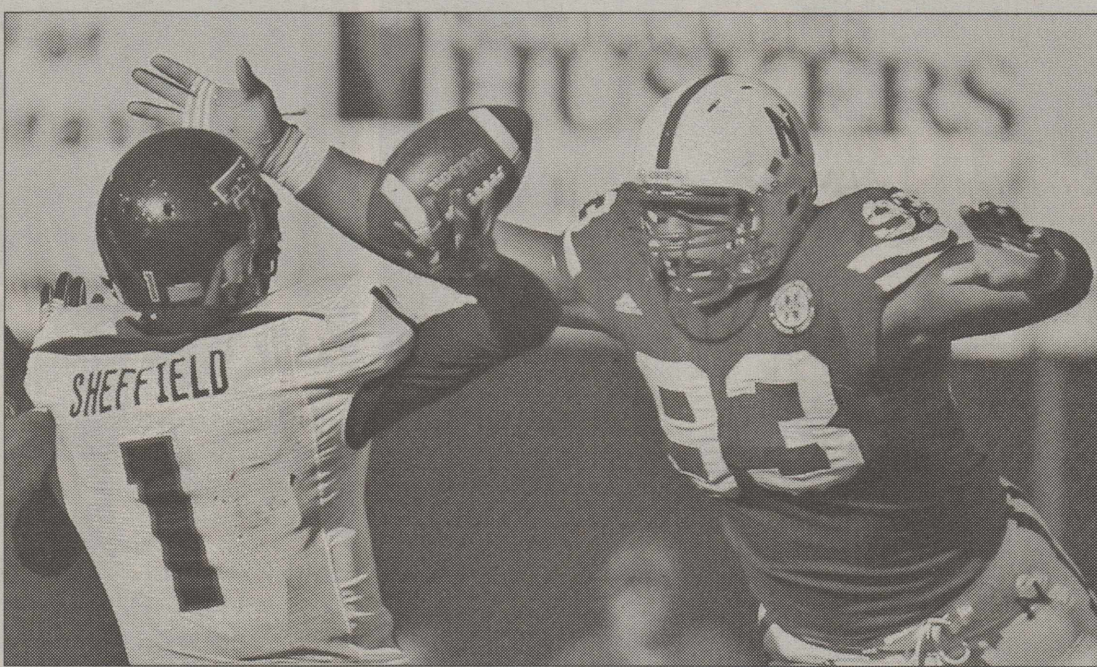


PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador
NEBRASKA DEFENSIVE TACKLE Ndamukong Suh attempts to block a pass from Texas Tech quarterback Steven Sheffield during Texas Tech's 31-10 victory against Nebraska at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Neb.

Bradford and Baylor's Robert Griffin not able to keep their respective teams from struggling.

Nebraska, Tech, Kansas and Missouri all have floated around the rankings this season, but the Jayhawks' and Tigers' recent slides have them hoping to get back to .500.

The Red Raiders, on the other hand, have a chance to turn heads Saturday with a match up against No. 17 Oklahoma State.

With Tech visiting Saturday, OSU coach Mike Gundy said the inconsistencies in college football today make preparation during the week much more important.

"There's more parity now in college football than there ever has been and I think that with all that's going on out there — with Internet and talk shows, the players being on campus and everybody being aware of what's going on,"

Gundy said. "I think it just changed the way college football is."

Big 12 play also has taken a toll on many squads. While some have great wins, they also have bad losses.

For example, Texas A&M has beaten Tech, but took a loss to Colorado on Saturday. OU's losses to Nebraska and Texas have set the Sooners back a little bit and Kansas State — a team with five wins last season — is atop the Big 12 North.

As a result, Tech players believe there is an opportunity to end up in a good spot in the Big 12 South if the Red Raiders can come away with three wins to finish the season, starting with OSU at 7 p.m. Saturday in Stillwater, Okla.

"We are not going to try and worry

about what other people do and who beats who and this and that, we are just going to try and think about what we can control and really get out there and practice like we want to play," he said. "That comes down to just getting out there every day and doing what we need to do."

Instead of the Big 12 being in the limelight like it was last year, teams such as No. 4 TCU, No. 5 Cincinnati, No. 6 Boise State and No. 13 Houston have found a home in the AP Top 25 and BCS Standings.

Tech coach Mike Leach said seasons like this are inevitable, but in his opinion, there's still no conference like the Big 12.

He also said the only way to prove that is to change the current system.

"If the Big 12 were to have a tournament with most of these other conferences, we'd win regardless of



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS A&M QUARTERBACK Jerrod Johnson carries the ball as Texas Tech defensive lineman Colby Whitlock attempts to tackle him during Texas A&M's 52-30 victory against Texas Tech in Lubbock.

who's ranked what," he said. "Maybe we should have a tournament. The Big 12 versus the Big East. They can even do that — have a little round-robin conference tournament. You

could have a playoff conference versus conference."

"None of this 'Have us some bowl games and play one more.'" —adam.coleman@ttu.edu

Aggies seek consistency

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — A lifeless loss to Kansas State. An inspiring win at Texas Tech. A dominating victory over improving Iowa State. A fourth-quarter meltdown against lowly Colorado.

Texas A&M (5-4, 2-3 Big 12) has produced maddeningly uneven results in the last month, flashing Top 25 potential at times and the breaking down.

The Aggies missed their first

chance to become bowl-eligible in Boulder last week and now must face Oklahoma (5-4, 3-2) in Norman, where A&M has lost five in a row.

But who knows what to expect?

A&M bounced back from a 62-14 loss to the Wildcats on Oct. 17 to rout the Red Raiders in Lubbock, another road game few expected the Aggies to win.

Newest class of Hockey Hall of Fame gets its rings

TORONTO (AP) — Steve Yzerman has one regret when looking back on his Hall of Fame career: He wishes he didn't return to ice four years ago after the NHL lockout.

"I really debated should I come back, is this the right thing or not?" the former Red Wings captain said Monday after his induction into the Hall. "Looking back on the thing, I wouldn't have done it. If I had the oppor-

tunity (to do it again), I wouldn't have come back and played."

That means he could have been part of another strong induction group instead — the class of 2007.

In addition to having remarkable careers and their names on the Stanley Cup, this year's inductees all endured the league's latest labor dispute. Yzerman, Brett Hull, Brian Leetch and Luc Robitaille went through it as players while

Lou Lamoriello was on the other side as an executive with the New Jersey Devils.

They picked up their rings during a morning ceremony at the Hall with the induction speeches scheduled for Monday night.

Yzerman originally thought the lockout might be a blessing in disguise for him as he was recovering from a serious knee surgery.

"I was hoping actually the year off was going to help me,"

he said.

"I was hoping that if I trained I could come back stronger and play. It really didn't make much of a difference at all."

"At least when I retired, I knew I was done."

Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky, who has kept a low profile during the Phoenix Coyotes' bankruptcy and ownership dispute in recent months, traveled to Toronto to see his friends honored.

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

ACROSS

- Labor union foe
- 1998 Ron Howard film
- Clunker of a car
- Building passage
- Retired Cunard flagship, for short
- Atlanta campus
- Divya's number
- Samovars
- Love, to Luigi
- One-hit wonder
- Stylistic judgment
- Fishing aid
- Hitter's stat
- Controversial school subject
- Deface
- It may be copped in court
- VCR successors
- Oodles
- Miles, in Spain
- Soccer immortal
- Like thick carpets
- Beehive State college team
- No-goodnik
- President's selective rejection
- Finale
- European toy dog, briefly
- Enter, as data
- Pact addressing nuclear proliferation
- Gemologist's weight
- Perjurer
- "... and Away", 1960s hit
- Hit from a tee, and word that can follow the first words of 20-, 28-, 49- and 59-Across
- Rim
- Tim with a knife
- Hood's scheme
- Halloween cover-up
- IRS IDs

DOWN

- Mine passage
- "Overs" waitress
- Fictitious name
- Explosions
- Prefix with lateral
- Actor Bruce
- Windshield option
- Four-armed Hindu deity
- Eagerly took advantage of, as an opportunity
- Jane Austen novel
- Song with the lyric "I'm crossing you in style"
- NHL legend
- Bobby
- TV's "Science Guy"
- Dickens schemer
- Utah
- Common Mkt.
- When repeated, Yalie's cheer
- Map in a map
- T-shirt sizes
- Eternally, in poems
- Bit of information
- Canada's national tree
- Do-or-die poker bet
- There and back
- Mao ___-tung
- Off-road ride, briefly
- Observe
- Cool cat
- Mix
- Woe one
- The Democrats' donkey, for one
- Outdoes
- Half of the "California Dreamin'" singers
- One-eighty
- Works on a keyboard
- Ice site
- Verdi's slave girl
- Pesters
- Difficult journey
- Swine flu watchdog agcy.
- Coach
- Parseghian

Monday's Puzzle Solved

CCS CRAZY SAWTO
RAT RATIO CLEAR
UMA ORONO ADLIB
MAGICEIGHTBALL
BREWS OAS TSE
SOSO AESOP HOPE
JOUST RADIO
TRICKQUESTION
SEEMS FAKER
LEDA HEFTY GALE
RMA REX WEBER
ILLUSIONCOLLAR
IDEAL STYRO ADA
TORME TOPAZ ZEN
ALTAR SEDGY END

By Donna S. Levin 11/10/09

Oklahoma State's Gundy questions his own hiring

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — In retrospect, Mike Gundy thinks he might have gone another way when it came time for his alma mater to hire a head coach back in 2005.

Gundy, who had been the Cowboys' offensive coordinator for four seasons, was promoted the same day Les Miles was named the new coach at LSU in January 2005. Harry Birdwell, the school's athletic director at the time, said he had known Miles was leaving for about a week before the move was announced, allowing him the chance to assess candidates.

He chose Gundy. "I'm not so sure five years ago I would have hired me now, looking back," Gundy said Monday. "Boy,

you sure learn a lot in a lot of areas, and there's a lot more to learn. But patience is one of the most important things and being resilient is another area."

Gundy is 34-25 in his fifth season as head coach and has the Cowboys (7-2, 4-1 Big 12) ranked No. 17 heading into Saturday night's game against Texas Tech (6-3, 3-2). He's the first coach to guide OSU to four straight seasons with at least seven wins.

From where he is now, he has a new perspective on his rocky start — which included a 4-7 season in 2005 — and can question Birdwell's thought process in hiring him then as a 37-year-old with no experience as a head coach. Gundy had pursued the job four years earlier and ended

up being hired as Miles' offensive coordinator.

"Just look back at all the mistakes that you can make as a head coach, and you think I don't know why," Gundy said. "When I was doing it — I think that we all probably are more critical of ourselves than other people — I just made a lot of mistakes, and I don't know that I would have hired me back then."

Gundy said he embarked on the job with an "I'm going to do it my way" attitude and dismissed the advice of former coaches and administrators.

"And then you realize that most of those people who had been in that situation do have a clue what's going on," Gundy said.

Eagles win big, drop close ones

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Andy Reid sees no difference in his team whether it's playing a close game or enjoying a blowout.

It's just that his Philadelphia Eagles have been losing a lot of the close ones.

Sunday night's 20-16 loss to the Dallas Cowboys left the Eagles at 1-8-1 in their past 10 games decided by a touchdown or less.

In the Eagles five wins this season they have outscored their opponents 172-72, winning by an average of 20 points per game.

Two of their three losses were decided in the fourth quarter, a 13-9 setback in Oakland and Sunday's loss.

"That's a pretty good stat," Reid said regarding the numbers. "I don't know if there is a link other than that stat. I don't see a tightness, or pressing in the fourth quarter. I haven't seen that. On the other side, maybe we're trying too hard, because I see a maximum effort out there."

Just as in the loss to Oakland, the Eagles had several chances to win against Dallas, but failed to convert critical short-yardage plays. Philadelphia was stopped twice on 3rd-and-1 and once on 4th-and-1.

In their easy victories the team hit several plays of 50 yards or more. There were none of those against the Cowboys.

"Short yardage has been very good over the course of the season," Reid said. "We were 12 for 15 on third-and-less-than-two. That's pretty good. We have to get back to that."

Safety Quintin Mikell thinks it's a matter of focusing more when the outcome is in doubt.

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