

Lady Raiders win 6th straight  
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Red Raiders go River Walking  
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# THE DAILY TOREADOR

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MONDAY, DEC. 7, 2009  
VOLUME 84 ISSUE 66

## United to give

Students reach out to community, deliver meals

By CARRIE THORNTON  
STAFF WRITER

To show support of the Lubbock community, students spent their Saturday afternoon delivering holiday meals to families in need.

Alma Pena, president of Texas Tech LULAC, organized United to Give along with students from the Hispanic Business Student Association, Gamma Beta Phi, Student Finance Association and Unidos por un Mismo Idioma — United by the Same Language.

Pena, a senior international business major from Plano, said the LULAC organization she was involved with in Plano hosted the same event every year, feeding thousands of families, and she believed Tech needed to begin one as well.

"I know lots of organizations hold food drives, but there can never be enough," she said. "Hopefully in the coming years we can expand and get close to feeding thousands."

Participating organizations were chosen at random, Pena said. She would approach organizations with booths in the free speech area to see if they would be interested in joining the cause.

One of the event's goals was to offer genuine help to Lubbockites in need, with no alternative motives.

"Most organizations are concerned with what will look good on a resume," Pena said. "We wanted to do something more than that."

At 10 a.m. Saturday, students met at the Rawls College of Business to sort through a variety of foods donated by the participating organizations.

Each family received a basket including one or two turkeys, depending on the family's size, macaroni, bread, canned goods, a box of stuffing and cookies.

"Some families are in great need for food," Pena said. "We wanted to provide a basic holiday meal."

Joel Obaseki, president of the Hispanic Business Student Organization and service coordinator for the Student Finance Association and Gamma Beta Phi, said the food they collected provided for 60 families, and he hopes that number will increase in the years to come.

"We want to represent the student body of Texas Tech and reach out to the families of Lubbock," Obaseki said. "And let them know though many of us will go back home during the break we still care for them. Personally, I believe the people of Lubbock have been so accommodating to us, that it is only right to do this."

UNITED continued on page 5



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador  
NINA GOMEZ, A freshman biology major from El Paso and member of United by the Same Language, gives a laundry basket of food to Roderick Keys at his home Saturday. The roughly 60 food packages, which contain a turkey and other holiday food items, were later driven to Lubbock families suffering economic hardships.

## Fire department trains underground for emergency situations



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

STEVE ODORIZZI, A division chief with the Lubbock Fire Department, is rescued from a utility tunnel approximately 20 feet below the entrance of the Biology building during a training exercise Friday. Members of the Lubbock Fire Department had to immobilize Odorizzi and move him about 100 yards to a tunnel exit near the Experimental Sciences building.

By KELSEY HECKEL  
STAFF WRITER

The Lubbock Fire Department traveled underneath the Physics and Geosciences and Biology buildings Thursday and Friday, practicing emergency heavy rescues to keep up-to-date on safety procedures.

"For example there are situations like a steam leak where some one could be burnt," said Fire Marshall Walter James. "Also someone could have fallen off of a ladder or had a heart attack. There are a number of things that could go wrong."

The scenario the department trained for was a simulated rescue

by the heavy rescue team for a steam valve leak, said Division Chief Steve Odorizzi.

"They are specially trained to go in and be able to get the person out of the tunnel quickly," he said.

The scenario requires firefighters to enter the underground tunnel, find the victim stabilize them and get the victim out of the tunnel, Odorizzi said.

While working in the situation Thursday, Tech and Lubbock firefighters encountered an actual version of the situation when a steam valve was hit

and went off. The incident was small and only halted training for half an hour, Odorizzi said.

"We were only delayed for a short time while the valve was turned off," he said. "Then we were able to continue the stimulation."

The fire department does a number of training scenarios throughout the year with the simulations Thursday and Friday as the last of three within two weeks. The scenarios must be completed by every member of the fire department.

"We've never not finished one yet," James said.

University Parking Services and the Lubbock Police Department were a major role in the success of the training by keeping the area clear, he said.

The Lubbock Police Department also uses buildings on campus for training. The used Thompson and Gaston halls before their demolition Sept. 22, 2008. They also use Weeks Hall but are unsure if they will be able to continue training there because of the possible demolition, said Assistant Chief of Police Roger Ellis.

FIRE continued on page 2

*They are specially trained to go in and be able to get the person out of the tunnel quickly.*

STEVE ODORIZZI  
DIVISION CHIEF  
LUBBOCK FIRE DEPT.

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### WEATHER

Today Mostly Cloudy 45/31  
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**IN BRIEF**

**STATE**

**Total, Exxon Mobil most fined polluters in Texas**

DALLAS (AP) — In one industrial accident alone, Total Petrochemical's sprawling oil refinery in southeast Texas sprayed tons of sulfuric acid and carbon monoxide into the sky.

The French company's 62-year-old facility also has released toxins such as cancer-causing benzene, regularly surpassed allowable pollution limits, failed to report dozens of emissions — or to even fully identify what or how much was released.

Such incidents helped make Total the most heavily fined polluter in Texas in the 2009 fiscal year, according to a year-end report summarizing how companies were punished in the state that produces the most industrial pollution. Total, assessed \$1.58 million for 11 violations over several years, says

it has since resolved many of the problems at the Port Arthur plant and continues to look for ways to improve.

"They have tried to be a fairly good neighbor, but it seems like they've had some problems out there," said Hilton Kelley, an activist who lives about three miles from the refinery and says flares, plumes of smoke and a strange chemical scents are commonplace. "Too many times they'll come out and tell you nothing was wrong, and we found out later that there was something wrong."

Exxon Mobil Corp., the world's largest publicly traded oil company, was third at about \$1.1 million but was the most frequently fined company with 23 separate actions. Exxon did not immediately return messages from The Associated Press.

**NATION**

**Election board certifies Atlanta major vote**

ATLANTA (AP) — A Georgia elections board has certified the vote making former state Sen. Kasim Reed Atlanta's mayor-elect.

Fulton County Elections director Barry Garner says that the board certified the election result Saturday.

With 84,383 votes cast on Tuesday, Reed beat city councilwoman Mary Norwood by 715 votes, a margin of less than 1

percent. The Associated Press has not called the race because Georgia law automatically grants a recount request when the margin is less than 1 percent.

Norwood's campaign manager Roman Levitt says the campaign plans to request a recount Monday.

If Reed's win is confirmed after the recount, he will take Mayor Shirley Franklin's place on Jan. 4.

**WORLD**

**Iran chokes off Internet on eve of student rallies**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Government opponents shouted "Allahu Akbar" and "Death to the Dictator" from Tehran's rooftops in the pouring rain on the eve of student demonstrations planned for Monday. Authorities choked off Internet access and warned journalists working for foreign media to stick to their offices for the next three days.

The measures were aimed at depriving the opposition of its key means of mobilizing the masses as Iran's clerical rulers keep a tight lid on dissent. Government opponents are seeking, nonetheless, to get large numbers of demonstrators to turn out Monday and show their movement still has momentum.

Opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi threw his support behind the student demonstrations and declared that his movement was still alive. A statement posted on his Web site said the clerical establishment cannot silence students and was losing legitimacy in the Iranian people's minds.

"A great nation would not stay silent when some confiscate its vote," said Mousavi, who claims President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stole the June 12 election victory from him by fraud. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, accused the opposition Sunday of exposing divisions in the country and creating opportunities for Iran's enemies.

**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.

**Ohio inmate to be first in slower, 1-drug, execution**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Condemned killer Kenneth Biros could become the first person in the country put to death with a single dose of an intravenous anesthetic instead of the usual — and faster-acting — three-drug process if his execution proceeds Tuesday.

The execution could propel other states to eventually consider the switch, which proponents say ends arguments over unnecessary suffering during injection.

Though the untested method has never been used on an inmate in the United States, one difference is clear: Biros will likely die more slowly than inmates put to death with the three-drug method, which includes a drug that stops the heart.

Lethal injection experts on both sides of the debate over injection say thiopental sodium, which kills by putting people so deeply asleep they stop breathing, will take longer.

How much longer is unclear. Mark Dershwitz, an anesthesiologist who advised Ohio on its switch to the single drug, has written death should occur in under 15 minutes.

Ohio inmates have typically taken about seven minutes to die after the three-drug IV injection, which combines thiopental sodium with the drugs pancuronium bromide — which paralyzes muscles — and potassium chloride, which causes cardiac arrest. Dershwitz also said in a court filing last week that a single dose of thiopental sodium would take longer than the three drugs, though he didn't specify a time.

The switch from three drugs to one was ordered last month because of the state's botched attempt on Sept. 15 to execute convicted rapist and killer Romell Broom. His executioners tried unsuccessfully for two hours to find a usable vein for injection, painfully hitting bone and muscle in as many as 18 needle sticks. Gov. Ted Strickland halted the execution.

Broom, 53, has appealed the state's

attempt to try again.

Ohio officials contend the single-drug method should end a five-year-old lawsuit against the state that claims injection can cause inmates severe suffering.

Lethal injection experts and defense attorneys for death row inmates have said the one-drug method, a single dose of an anesthetic, would not cause pain.

Biros, 51, killed 22-year-old Tami Engstrom near Warren in 1991 after offering to drive her home from a bar, then scattered her body parts in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

All 36 death penalty states use lethal injection, and 35 rely on the three-drug method. Nebraska, which recently adopted injection over electrocution, has proposed the three-drug method but hasn't finalized the process.

States with active death chambers are keeping an eye on Ohio's switch but have no immediate plans to switch. Florida, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia are among those keeping the three-drug system for now.

"Virginia's method has been successfully used in over 75 executions and repeatedly been upheld as constitutionally acceptable," state prisons spokesman Larry Traylor said Friday.

States will likely watch Ohio's experience and the court challenges before making a decision, said Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center.

The U.S. Supreme Court said last year that states would only have to change the three-drug process if an alternative method reduced the possibility of pain. Defense attorneys have also supported the one-drug option, reducing the possibility of legal challenges, Dieter said.

If Ohio is successful "in making this transition, and if a few other states follow that lead, I think we will see the majority of states changing to this method of lethal injection," Dieter said.

**FIRE**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Our training is geared toward active shooters and room clearing versus the rescue-related situations like the fire department," he said.

Unlike the fire department, the police department does not have a set date for their training sessions, Ellis said. They are based on the shifts of the police officers and the availability of the building.

"They vary from what could be a 30-minute scenario to some that last four to five hours," he said. "We have to do them in shifts because of the officers' different schedules and shifts."

Both the fire department and the police department will continue training on campus next semester. The next situation will be an evacuation of a high rise building such as Coleman Residence Hall and the Chitwood/Weymouth Residence Halls.

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PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador  
Steve Odorizzi, a division chief with the Lubbock Fire Department, is rescued from a utility tunnel during a training exercise Friday. Members of the Lubbock Fire Department had to immobilize Odorizzi and move him about 100 yards from under the Biology building to a tunnel exit near the Experimental Sciences building.

**Iraqi official: deal reached on January election**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi leaders reached agreement Sunday to clear the way for parliament elections early next year that are seen as an important step toward political reconciliation and easing the withdrawal of U.S. troops, an official said.

The framework of the deal was reached after being mired for weeks over demands for greater political voice for minority Sunnis and the distribution of seats in Iraq's expanded 325-seat parliament in next year's election, said Omar al-Mishhadani, the spokesman for Parliament Speaker Ayad al-Samarie.

The accord needed final approval from parliament, which was meeting in an emergency late-night session to vote on the deal, state television reported.

But no objections are expected from lawmakers since party bosses have backed the agreement.

The pact must receive final approval from lawmakers. But no objections are expected since party bosses have backed the main points of the agreement.

The election is scheduled for Jan. 16, but a delay of a month or more now appears likely. A longer postponement could have complicated the withdrawal timetable for U.S. forces, which are scheduled to end combat missions in August.

The details of the pact were not immediately clear. But it appears to resolve objections from Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi, who has vetoed the election law to demand equal voting rights for Iraqis living abroad — mostly fellow Sunnis whose votes could increase Sunni clout in the next parliament.

Kurds also had objected to the distribution of seats among the country's 18 provinces, claiming they were being underrepresented at the expense of Sunnis and majority Shiites, who suffered widespread repression under Saddam Hussein but took command of Iraq's political leadership and security forces after his fall.

The next election will also be an

critical test for the Shiite-led government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, which has staked its future on a broad pro-Western political coalition with Sunnis and other factions. His main challenge comes from within the Shiite ranks: an alliance of religious-oriented Shiite parties that include the biggest Shiite political group and anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

The new parliament will be expanded from the current 275 seats to 325, said Deputy Parliament Speaker Khalid al-Attayah. At least 15 seats are set aside for religious and ethnic minorities such as Christians and Turkomen.

In an apparent concession to the Kurds, some seats that had been shifted to Sunni areas were returned, said al-Attayah. But Kurds, who are overwhelmingly Muslim, also demanded at least two of the special minority seats for Christian Kurds, said political officials close to the talks.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to speak to media.

Another important change also was agreed for the coming election: voting lists will be "open" and have all the names of the candidates. In past elections, voters

had a so-called "closed list" with only the parties — which then announced their parliament members after the ballots were counted.

"It will be an open list election," said al-Attayah.

There was great pressure to reach an accord. Al-Hashemi's veto expired Sunday and he had threatened to reinstate it if his demands were not met — which would have sent the election planning process into a tailspin.

Up until the last moment, al-Hashemi had warned he would again use his veto power. During the showdown talks, however, al-Maliki and U.S. diplomats appealed strongly for concessions on all sides, said the officials close to the talks.

Earlier Sunday, gunmen killed four Iraqi policemen at a checkpoint west of Baghdad, police officials said.

The attack came as security officials warned of a possible rise in insurgent attacks before next year's election and the U.S. withdrawal of combat troops due by the end of August. It also follows an attack last month that left 13 dead in the same area.

Gunmen stormed the checkpoint in Abu Ghraib, on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital, at about 7 a.m. and killed one policeman on duty and three others on a break, according to two police officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give information to the media.

Last month, 13 villagers in the Abu Ghraib area were killed in an attack possibly linked to tribal rivalries.

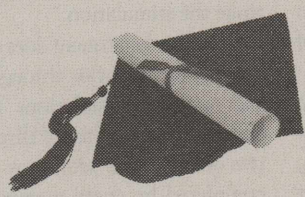
Witnesses said gunmen in Iraqi army uniforms abducted and killed the 13, whose bodies were later found with gunshot wounds to the head. They included a local leader of Iraq's largest Sunni party, which once helped fight al-Qaida.

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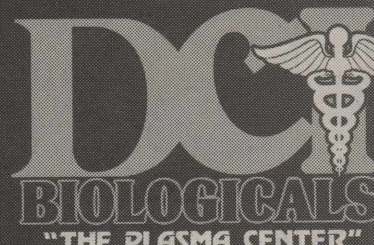
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## Turkish night emphasizes cultural diversity

By ALEXANDRA PEDRINI  
STAFF WRITER

The Turkish Student Association and the Raindrop Turkish House presented a role play and other performances by students in the Escondido Theatre on Friday evening.

The entire role play was used as a chance for these students to show off what they've learned in their classes, performing the entire show in Turkish.

Students performed their role play about an American student going to Istanbul and living with a local family, for a room full of other Turkish performers and their families. Other acts included short dances and poems read in the language.

"They were pretty good, but it will get better next year," said Matt Onay, a mechanical engineering graduate student from Turkey. "This is the first time they're doing something, and every year it will just get better."

The performances revolved around what these students have learned from their biweekly Turkish classes at the Raindrop Turkish House. The Raindrop Turkish House, part of the Harmony Science Academy, teaches its students

Turkish culture and language.

"We have the option for our students, so if they want to take Spanish, they can," said Gultekin Kaya, Harmony's principal. "We have native-speaking teachers that are great."

The center works with students between the second grade through the 12th, but recently has partnered with Tech to create a Turkish program for students in the university.

"We'd like to give the importance of learning a foreign language (to students)," said Zeynep Kese, a Raindrop volunteer. "It's important that we teach them, not just the language, but the culture as well."

The role play consisted of four Tech students: two undergraduate and two graduate students. They have been studying the Turkish language for three months and are fairly new to speaking it, but Kaya said the group was able to pull off a good performance with practice. Other than their pronunciation, he said the group did very well seeing as this was their first time to perform an all-Turkish play.

"It went great and we all had a good time," said Anani Zaier, a doctoral candidate for education psychology from Tunisia. "Hopefully there will be more in future



GULIA ALLAMBERGENOVA, LEFT, an applied linguistic graduate student from Uzbekistan, gives a pendant to Vanessa Damos, a junior art major from Lubbock, as Maria Worth, a freshman from Itasca, looks on during the Turkish play put on by the Turkish Student Association on Friday at the Escondido Theater.

PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

semesters."

The goal of the classes is to widen students' minds and teach them about another culture, Kese said. Learning

the language can only help students so much, and without knowing how another society works and what is expected when interacting with people

of that country, it is pointless.

"This helps makes our culture a lot closer to each other," Onay said. "This way you can figure out what I

feel. I have my culture, it's a part of me and (events like this) help us try to understand each other."

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## A quiet turnover for ABC News

NEW YORK (AP) — This may come as a surprise, but ABC's Charles Gibson is retiring at the end of next week and Diane Sawyer will replace him as "World News" anchor. Really.

Given ABC's stealth transition for what has been traditionally the top job in network television news, it's understandable if many viewers don't realize it's coming. Sawyer has given no interviews about her new job since the change was announced on Sept. 2, and none are planned. Neither has Gibson, although he may do some valedictory interviews before his last broadcast on Dec. 18. No advertisements are planned, outside of those on ABC.

The obvious contrast is late summer 2006, when CBS trumpeted the arrival of Katie Couric at the "CBS Evening News." And the Couric hype is exactly what's kept Sawyer under the radar. ABC officials believe the attention paid to Couric's move from the "Today" show backfired, leaving CBS a distant last in the evening news ratings. Instead of a big splash, ABC hopes for a steady swim.

Three years ago, Couric's face was everywhere, plastered on the sides of city buses and on the cover of magazines including Good Housekeeping. She kept a grueling schedule of interviews with journalists and local anchors at 48 CBS affiliates. She went to six different cities for question-and-answer sessions with viewers, a trip quickly dubbed Couric's

listening tour.

It worked. People knew she was there. An estimated 13.6 million people watched the "CBS Evening News" on Couric's first night, more than double what she gets on a typical night now, according to the Nielsen Co.

The problem was that many viewers didn't like what they saw. Couric was trying to change the mold of the evening newscasts with interviews and lengthier features, and longtime TV news watchers expecting a fairly straight rundown of the day's events found it jarring. Rome Hartman, the broadcast's executive producer at the time, recalls telling people repeatedly not to place too much emphasis on that first show and give Couric a chance to work into a rhythm.

"We knew there was a danger that our beginning would be treated as our end," Hartman said. "Frankly, it was, and it was unfair."

Couric has since settled into a harder, more traditional newscast that is widely respected. Unfortunately, many viewers didn't give her a second chance.

CBS also faced some barriers that ABC doesn't. Couric was the first woman given

a chance to anchor the evening news by herself, something that was a real issue for a format with so many older viewers. Couric was moving to a new network after many years at NBC; Sawyer, meanwhile, is well-known to ABC's audience. Couric dealt with questions about whether she had the "gravitas" for the job after working so long in morning TV (questions never posed to Gibson) and nobody's raising those points about Sawyer.

"Katie inoculated Diane," Hartman said.

CBS wasn't trying to go overboard with attention, but it happened. Many people requested interviews, and "we didn't want to be jerks," he said.

"We could have launched the program in an underground bunker in Siberia, and it still would have been as hot a spotlight," he said.

Couric's newscast began in September, back-to-school time and a period where people are used to looking for something new on television. Sawyer, instead, starts Christmas week, when presumably many viewers have other things on their minds.

## Italy police seize secret stash of masterpieces

ROME (AP) — Italian tax police said Saturday that they had seized works by Van Gogh, Picasso, Cezanne and other giants of art in a crackdown on assets hidden by the disgraced founder of the collapsed dairy company Parmalat.

Authorities estimated the 19 masterpieces stashed away in attics and basements were valued at some 100 million (\$150 million).

Parma Prosecutor Gerardo Laguardia said that, based on wiretapped phone conversations, officials believed at least one of the paintings hidden by Calisto Tanzi was about to be sold.

"We got lucky. We learned that there were negotiations under way to sell one of the paintings" and raid three apartments in the area of Parma, near Parmalat's headquarters, Laguardia said in an interview on Italy's Sky TG24 TV. He didn't identify the painting.

Bologna-based tax Police Col. Piero Iovino told The Associated Press by telephone that investi-

gators believed the entire batch of paintings, watercolors and drawings were up to be sold. The prospective buyer was a Russian, possibly living in Italy, Iovino said.

No arrests were announced as part of the art seizure.

Tax police said Parma prosecutors are opening a probe into alleged concealing of assets in Parmalat's bankruptcy case.

Parmalat, the dairy conglomerate known for its long shelf-life milk grew from a small dairy distributor in Parma, into a diversified, multinational food company by 1990, but collapsed in 2003 under 14 billion in debt — eight times what it had previously acknowledged — in what remains Europe's largest corporate bankruptcy. Many small investors who lost their life savings were among some 40,000 defrauded bondholders.

Italian courts have already ruled that Tanzi bore the brunt of respon-

sibility for the collapse. Tanzi was convicted by a Milan court last year of market-rigging and other charges in one of multiple probes. He is currently on trial for alleged fraudulent bankruptcy.

Tanzi has blamed the banks for the labyrinth of deals that helped swell the company to a global empire with operations in more than 30 countries, but also led to the company's collapse.

For years after the collapse, Tanzi was rumored to have had a "hidden treasure" somewhere. On Nov. 29, a state TV show alleged that Tanzi had hidden a collection of artwork to try to shelter himself from the effects of looming collapse of Parmalat.

"I don't have any secret cache" of paintings, Tanzi told reporters the next day on the sidelines of his current trial in Parma, repeating his ongoing dismissal of reports that he had a so-called "little treasure" of assets squirreled away.

*"We could have launched the program in an underground bunker in Siberia, and it still would have been as hot a spotlight."*

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FORMER CBS BROADCAST EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

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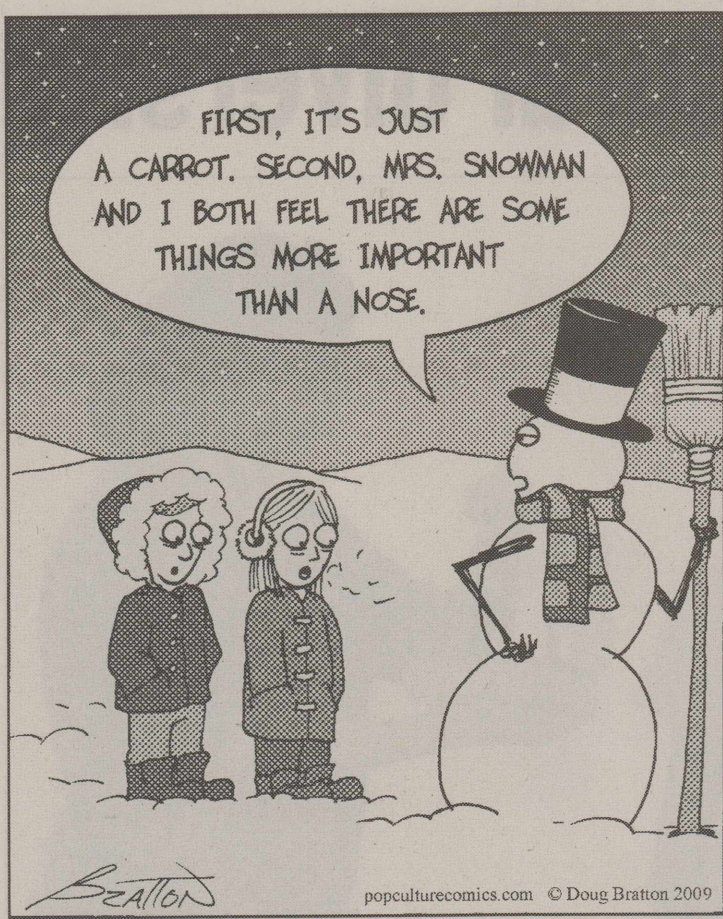
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# OPINIONS

PAGE 4  
MONDAY, DEC. 7, 2009



## Palin pokes fun at herself at press dinner

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sarah Palin poked fun at herself in a speech to journalists Saturday night, drawing laughter when she announced she "came down from my hotel room and I could see the Russian embassy."

The 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate also joked that she had originally thought of titling her book "How To Look Like a Million Bucks For Only \$150,000" before settling on "Going Rogue." In one of the controversies surrounding her candidacy, the campaign spent about \$150,000 on her wardrobe.

Palin was the Republican speaker at the winter dinner of the Gridiron Club, an organization of Washington-based journalists.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., represented the Democrats.

Palin targeted her hosts, Democrats and Sen. John McCain's campaign staff, as well as herself.

If the election had turned out differently, she said, "I could be the one overseeing the signing of bailout checks and vice president Biden could be on the road selling his book, 'Going Rogaine.'" Biden has sparse hair.

The crack about seeing the Russian embassy from her hotel referred to Palin having told an interviewer during last year's campaign that her qualifications for high office included that "you can actually see Russia from land here in Alaska."

As for her hosts, she said she was glad to be appearing before an

elite audience of leading intellectuals, "or as I like to call it, a death panel."

McCain's campaign staff also came in for a barb from the former Alaska governor when she said she is touring the country by bus as she sells her book.

"The view is so much better from inside the bus than under it," she said, referring to the poisonous relations between her and some of the McCain campaign staff.

Focusing on criticism she has received from Steve Schmidt, a senior strategist in McCain's presidential campaign, she said, "If I need a bald campaign manager I guess I'm left with James Carville," a Democrat.

In her book, she wrote that Schmidt felt she wasn't prepared enough on policy matters and even wondered if she was suffering from postpartum depression following the April 2008 birth of her son Trig, who has Down syndrome.

Palin, who resigned as governor following her vice presidential campaign, is a potential contender for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination.

In his remarks, Frank poked fun at new media like Twitter and said he hoped for newspapers to make a recovery.

"Maybe I lack intellectual curiosity, but I'm not that interested in what Claire McCaskill has for lunch," said Frank.

McCaskill is one of the most avid users of Twitter in Congress.

## A Yankee's thoughts on Texas

For two-and-a-half years, I've lived in Texas, but I am originally from the North. By the time you read this I'll be within two weeks of graduation, after which I'll be moving back to my home state.

During my time here I've heard some less than flattering things about Yankees — which I've discovered to many Texans means anyone from Oklahoma or further north. I've heard Yankees are prissy, nerdy, snobby and one of my friends who went to Texas A&M occasionally even dusts off the term "carpetbagger."

Fine, then. Want to know what I think of the precious "Republic?" Of the home of oversized belt buckles and unnecessary cowboy boots everyone seems so proud of?

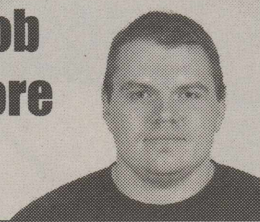
Are you good and upset? Are you ready to hear it?

Texas actually is great. In fact my wife and I have nothing but warm feelings for the Lone Star State and the great people we've met here.

Sorry for the head fake. I had to try to get your Texas pride up so hopefully the reflections that follow won't seem so sweet that readers get diabetes. You see, I've had a good couple years here. I got married while living here, picked up a couple degrees and made a lot of good friends.

For the sake of full disclosure,

**Jacob Moore**



sure, my Yankee credentials are questionable.

Between Arizona and West Texas, I've lived in the Southwest for four years. Also, I actually hail from Indiana, which culturally is a lot more like West Texas than New England.

In fact, genuine northeastern "Yankees" — the sort who can't pronounce the letter "R," get psyched for sailboat races and look forward to an annual maple syrup festival — wouldn't likely consider me one of their own.

But, I do have a different perspective from most Red Raiders. So what will I take from my years here?

Like most people not from here, I didn't appreciate the enormity of Texas when I first arrived. Shortly

after moving in I saw a headline about "Flooding in Texas." I excitedly read the story to see if it was something I should worry about. The flooding was over 600 miles away.

Another thing I learned early is there isn't just one Texas. There are three or four several different ones, each with distinct cultural twists. (There are as many accents;

after a few drinks one of my friends sounds surprisingly like Boomhauer from "King of the Hill.")

Economics is one of Texas's most important strengths. According to a report by *Forbes* earlier this year, with its reasonable regulations and low taxes, Texas boasts the best economic climate in the country. Compare that to California where, according to *The Economist*, the top 1 percent of earners pay 48 percent of income tax. In Texas at least, the American Dream is alive and kicking.

Being a huge fan of steak and football, I feel like I've enjoyed some of the best of each in Texas. In fact, a part time job I had here

caused me to see a lot of high school football. It's not hype; there's a noticeable difference between how the game's played here than in Arizona or Indiana.

I knew about the Alamo when I moved here but have learned much more since. My wife I visited it earlier this year. As corny as it sounds, you get a humbling feeling standing there, knowing the odds the defenders faced. The River Walk and the rest of San Antonio are beautiful.

I only spent a couple days there, but the Metroplex is great as well. I had a great time at Six Flags Over Texas; meanwhile the amazing Cowboys Stadium looks like what you'd get if luxury and intimidation had a baby.

Speaking of cities, I regret not making it to Austin and Houston. Then again I bet I haven't seen the last of Texas. There are always vacations and friends to visit. Plus if things go well financially I have a feeling the Texas Tech Alumni Association will keep me posted on developments here in Lubbock.

Sometimes when you're used to a great thing, it's easy to lose your appreciation for it. Texans (fellow Texans for a couple more weeks), thank you for your hospitality and remember to enjoy this great state.

■ **Moore is a graduate law student from Indianapolis, Ind.**  
» [jacob.moore@ttu.edu](mailto:jacob.moore@ttu.edu)

"I've heard Yankees are prissy, nerdy, snobby and one of my friends who went to Texas A&M occasionally even dusts off the term 'carpetbagger.'"

## FCC should step in, block NBC buyout

There are very few media providers in the United States today. Sure, there are 800 channels, but most of them are owned by a conglomerate.

CBS, Viacom, News Corp, NBC Universal and Disney are the top five conglomerates today. Of these, four have a major broadcast network.

There also are very few delivery companies — companies that actually deliver the content to your TV. In my hometown of San Antonio, which has a population of 1.5 million, there are only two viable non-satellite options: AT&T's U-Verse and Time Warner. The situation is similar across the country.

**Tony Cardone**



Opening an opinion piece with mostly dreadfully boring facts isn't typically eye-catching; however, it illustrates the relative scarcity of media options in this country. These few options are sure to be further limited if cable operator Comcast gets its way. Comcast wishes to buy 51 percent of NBC Universal from General Electric for a massive \$13 billion, according to CNBC.com. This is an absolutely terrible deal for consumers, and the Federal Communications Commission must step in and block the deal.

There are many reasons no country can survive a truly free-market system. This was perhaps best illustrated by the financial system's collapse during the Great Depression. The lack of proper oversight and regulation of Wall Street financial firms were contributing factors in the current recession. The FCC is supposed to oversee American telecommunications companies in the same way the Securities and Exchange Commission oversees those financial firms, but was stripped of a significant amount of power during the Reagan administration.

Instead of working to protect the American citizen from the large media companies, it's turned

into an organization like the FAA that is supposed to promote competition and innovation among the companies.

NBC Universal is a massive media company. In addition to the NBC broadcast network, Bravo, Chiller, CNBC, ION, mun2, Oxygen, Sleuth, Syfy (formerly Sci Fi Channel), Tel-emundo, USA Network and the Weather Channel are all cable channels owned by the company. Currently, NBC Universal has contracts with companies such as Time Warner Cable and Suddenlink that allow them to rebroadcast the stations for a large sum of money.

Comcast, however, is a major competitor to these companies, and with control over the contracts, can raise rates considerably. There aren't many people who would pay for cable if they didn't get any of those channels, and therein is the issue. It would force the competitors to pay more to get the package. These competitors will put the burden back on the consumer, raising rates on cable subscriptions to compensate. In the regions where Comcast provides cable service, it could easily make the companies' prices considerably cheaper.

Comcast has already done this before. Earlier this year, DirecTV's contract to carry Versus expired just a few weeks before the NHL season started. Versus, a major provider of NHL hockey, is one of several smaller cable channels owned by Comcast. During the contract negotia-

tions, DirecTV said there was no acceptable contract offered to them by Comcast, according to a statement on the DirecTV Web site.

It's definitely a case of "he said she said," but with the smaller lineup Comcast has, there wasn't a mandate for DirecTV to agree to the contract. Certainly, there were many NHL fans who may have dropped the service, but there wasn't a mass exodus. With 11 major channels, however, all the power will be with Comcast, and the aforementioned situation will force the competition to Comcast's terms.

This is why the FCC needs to step in and block the sale. While Comcast is prohibited by regulations from preventing access to the channels, there is no regulation that requires prices to be fair or reasonable. It will only help Comcast's bottom line at the expense of the United States' cable TV subscribers.

But, as with anything, politics plays a key role in any type of legislation. Comcast is a major player on Capitol Hill, spending millions a year on lobbyists and on pro-Comcast representatives. I think it's fair to say the interests of the government should side with its citizens rather than a large corporation. The state of American politics, however, leaves me with little hope.

■ **Cardone is a freshman computer engineering student from San Antonio.**  
» [tony.cardone@ttu.edu](mailto:tony.cardone@ttu.edu)

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can be e-mailed to [dailytreador@ttu.edu](mailto:dailytreador@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.

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# SPORTS

PAGE 8  
MONDAY, DEC. 7, 2009

## Tech to play Michigan State in Alamo Bowl

By ALEX YBARRA  
MANAGING EDITOR

Texas Tech defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeill remembers the Alamo.

It was in 2001 when the Red Raiders played Iowa at the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio. The game ended in a close 19-16 loss to the Hawkeyes, who boasted talent such as the NFL's Dallas Clark (Indianapolis Colts), Ladell Betts (Washington Redskins) and Bob Sanders (Colts).

McNeill said the game served as a valuable learning experience and confidence booster in regards to post-season football.

"That was a time I thought that we started turning the corner as far as bowl preparation and bowl mentality," McNeill said.

Since that loss, Tech has gone 5-2 in bowl games, and now the Red Raiders are headed back to San Antonio.

It was announced in a press conference Sunday that Tech will play in the Valero Alamo Bowl at 8 p.m. on Jan. 2 in San Antonio. The game will be televised on ESPN.

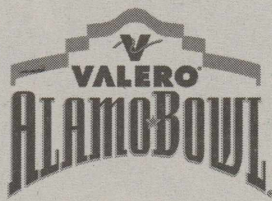
The Red Raiders (8-4, 5-3 in Big 12 Conference play) will play Michigan State from the Big Ten Conference.

"What comes to mind is just a hard-nose, physical Big Ten football team that's really good at the fundamentals," Tech coach Mike Leach said. "I think it will definitely be a good challenge, and I think it'll be exciting to see the two teams play."

Michigan State (6-6, 4-4 in Big Ten Conference play) began the season with a 1-3 record before winning the next three games.

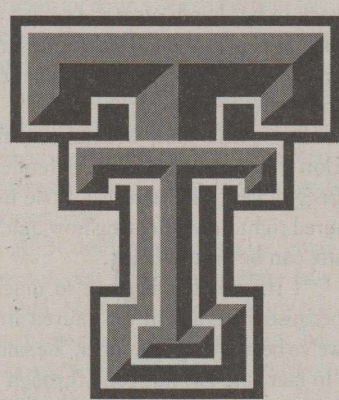
But the Spartans went 2-3 down the stretch before ending the season with a distraction stemming from an on-campus fight between football players and a fraternity.

Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio kicked two players off the team and suspended eight others for their



Jan. 2  
San Antonio

Michigan State  
vs.  
Texas Tech



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

LARON MOORE AND the Red Raiders will square off with Michigan State in the Valero Alamo Bowl on Jan. 2 in San Antonio. The game is the 16th consecutive bowl for Texas Tech. The Red Raiders lost last season in the Cotton Bowl.

involvement in the Nov. 22 fight.

Players suspended include defensive back Chris L. Rucker and wide receivers Mark Dell and B.J. Cunningham, who was second on the team in receptions (48) and receiving yards (641). Dell was third with 26 catches for 449 yards.

"The majority of our football team is intact," Dantonio said. "Actually, we only lose two starters, the other one was a part-time starter. Provides opportunities for others. Usually when things of this nature happen, somebody's going to step to the forefront."

It's the 16th-straight season Tech has been bowl eligible — a Big 12 record — and the 19th time it has played in the state of Texas for a bowl, which McNeill said has its benefits.

"It's a great bowl site, great bowl festivities, awesome arena and environment to play our last football game in," he said. "What's most important, our fans and our support of Red Raider Nation will be very strong in San Antonio just like it was our last time down."

Tech's game against Iowa in 2001 drew 65,232 fans — the second-highest attendance in bowl history at that time.

And based on what McNeill saw in a neutral-site, bowl-game environment contest against Baylor two weeks ago at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, he said players should be prepared for Michigan State.

And fans should travel just as well — there were more than 70,000 to watch Tech beat Baylor in the regular season finale.

"I'm sure it'll be the same way in San Antonio," he said. "I thought the kids handled the Dallas game very well. It was a bowl-type atmosphere. It gave us a little taste of that."

The last time Tech got a taste of the Big Ten Conference was a 35-point comeback victory against Minnesota in the 2006 Insight Bowl.

So when it comes to criticism of the prestige of the Big Ten, McNeill said players and coaches don't see it that way.

"They always have a strong conference from top to bottom," he said. "We know they face top competition day-in and day-out, week-in and week-out like we do in the Big 12. We

know we're facing a tough opponent in Michigan State regardless of where they fell within the conference, but we know we're facing a tough opponent."

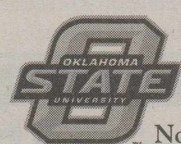
The Spartans are tops in their conference in passing efficiency, sacks allowed and passing offense. However, Dantonio's team is 10th in opponent passing efficiency and last in turnovers gained (12) and passing defense. The Spartans allow 251 yards per game through the air, which ranks 103rd nationally.

McNeill said the Red Raiders, who have practiced four times since the Baylor game, won't start game planning for the Spartans until later.

According to the Alamo Bowl Web site, ticket prices range from \$25 to \$70 and are available on all levels.

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### BIG 12 BOWL SCHEDULE



#### COTTON BOWL

Jan. 2  
Arlington

No. 21 Oklahoma State vs. Ole Miss



#### INDEPENDENCE BOWL

Dec. 28  
Shreveport, La.

Georgia vs. Texas A&M



This is a bowl both teams are familiar with. The Rebels were just in the Cotton Bowl last year, beating Texas Tech 47-34. Oklahoma State has been to the Cotton Bowl three times, including 2004 when the Cowboys lost to Eli Manning and the Rebels, 31-28. The Cowboys' season was filled with high expectations early, when they were ranked No. 5 in the Associated Press Poll after the first week of the season. But losses to Houston, Texas and Oklahoma have OSU in Arlington come January.

After finishing tied for fifth in the Big 12 Conference South Division last season, Mike Sherman has the Aggies back in a bowl. It will be the 31st bowl game for the Aggies. It is the third time Texas A&M makes an appearance in the Independence Bowl. Georgia enters this bowl after a season with five losses — the most under coach Mark Richt. The two teams have not faced each other since 1980, when the Bulldogs handed A&M a 42-0 loss.



#### HOLIDAY BOWL

Dec. 30  
San Diego, Calif.

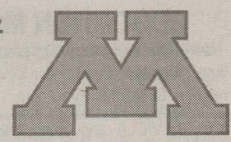
No. 22 Nebraska vs. Arizona



#### INSIGHT BOWL

Dec. 31  
Tempe, Ariz.

Iowa State vs. Minnesota



Nebraska was a second away from a BCS bid, but the Cornhuskers will settle for the Holiday Bowl against Arizona. The Wildcats knocked USC out of the rankings this week, while Nebraska is looking to follow up last year's win in the Gator Bowl with another postseason win. Arizona coach Mike Stoops and the Wildcats will have their hands full with defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, who put on a show at the Big 12 Championship, grabbing 4.5 sacks against Texas.

Iowa State coach Paul Rhoads and Athletic Director Jamie Pollard writing a letter to the fans in appreciation for their support is something this program does not get to do often. Iowa State is headed to a bowl for the first time since 2005. Both teams come in with six wins, but for Iowa State, it's a year after the Cyclones only had two. Minnesota hasn't had the best luck at the Insight Bowl. The last two times the Golden Gophers were there, they took losses to Kansas and Texas Tech. The Cyclones do have quarterback Adam Weber, who has thrown for 2,321 yards and 12 touchdowns this season.



#### SUN BOWL

Dec. 31  
El Paso

No. 19 Stanford vs. Oklahoma



#### TEXAS BOWL

Dec. 31  
Houston

Navy vs. Missouri



This matchup pits an explosive Oklahoma team against Heisman Memorial Trophy contender Toby Gerhart and the Cardinal. For Stanford, an invitation to the Sun Bowl erases an eight-year drought from bowl appearances. The Cardinal finished in a three-way tie for second place in the Pac-10 Conference. The Sooners had an up-and-down season after losing Sam Bradford and Jermaine Gresham to injury early in the year. The last three years, the Sooners have been in BCS bowls, including last year's national championship.

Blaine Gabbert will lead the Tigers into Houston to face Navy, whose biggest win this year was arguably against Notre Dame. Missouri finished at 4-4 in Big 12 play, just behind Nebraska. It's the fifth consecutive bowl appearance for the Tigers, a school record. Navy is famous for its triple option, which should make the matchup interesting considering Missouri has some firepower on offense as well. Danario Alexander leads the Tigers with 1,644 yards receiving and 13 touchdowns.

COMPILED BY ADAM COLEMAN — DESIGN BY KEVIN CULLEN/The Daily Toreador

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#### BIG 12 STANDINGS

NORTH (overall, conference)

1. Nebraska (9-4, 6-2)
2. Missouri (8-4, 4-4)
3. Kansas State (6-6, 4-4)
4. Iowa State (6-6, 3-5)
5. Colorado (3-9, 2-6)
6. Kansas (5-7, 1-7)

SOUTH

1. Texas (13-0, 8-0)
2. Oklahoma State (9-3, 6-2)
3. Texas Tech (8-4, 5-3)
4. Oklahoma (7-5, 5-3)
5. Texas A&M (6-6, 3-5)
6. Baylor (4-8, 1-7)

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Red River	18	0	Sipapu	20 0
Ski Apache	20	14	Taos	30 6

COLORADO	Base	New	Base	New
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Aspen	28	0	Durango	16 0
Beaver Creek	22	0	Steamboat	14 1
Breckenridge	24	0	Telluride	22 0
Copper Mtn.	22	0	Vail	20 2
Crested Butte	20	0	Winter Park	20 4
Keystone	20	2	Wolf Creek	28 2

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**Sharing RAIDERS Caring**

Texas Tech Athletics and the Student Government Association are teaming up to provide tickets for underprivileged kids to men's and women's basketball games over the Christmas break.

Texas Tech students pay an athletic fee each semester and swipe their ID card for admission at athletic events. Traditionally, student attendance declines over the Christmas break as students head home for the holidays. Tech Athletics is giving the students an opportunity to "donate" a ticket to those games simply by electing to do so online.

"In the spirit of giving, the SGA is encouraging students to take just a few minutes to go online and donate their tickets," said Suzanne Williams, SGA president. "It's an easy way for Tech students to make a difference in the lives of kids in the community over the Christmas break."

To donate their tickets, students must login to their raiderlink account, click on MyTech (for students) tab, select "Raiders Sharing, Raiders Caring" and then select the games they wish to donate tickets to and the Athletics department will make sure to make the tickets available for underprivileged kids in Lubbock and the surrounding communities (up to 500 per game). Games available over the student break include Dec. 21 women's basketball vs. Mercer, Dec. 22 men's basketball vs. Stanford, Jan. 1 men's basketball vs. McNeese State, Jan. 2 women's basketball vs. Savannah State and Jan. 3 men's basketball vs. UTEP.

**Want PRIME SEATS for Tech Basketball?**

Students who attend six non-conference men's games AND four non-conference women's games will receive a special admission card distributed at the men's basketball game vs. Missouri on Wednesday, January 13th. The card will gain students early admission, through a designated entrance, to men's and women's premium conference games. Those games include Texas, Texas A&M, Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State for men and Texas, Texas A&M, Oklahoma, and Baylor for women.

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