

# Finals Frenzy



A COLD RIDE



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

THE WILL ROGERS statue sits amid snow during a wintry December day.

Neo-Nazi in murder trial gets makeover

NEW PORT RICHEY, Fla. (AP) — John Allen Ditullio is a walking billboard for the neo-Nazi movement: a large 6-inch swastika tattooed under his right ear, barbed wire inked down the right side of his face, and an extreme and very personal vulgarity scrawled on one side of his neck.

Jurors will never see any of it. A judge has ruled that the state must pay a cosmetologist up to \$150 a day during Ditullio's trial on murder and attempted murder charges and apply makeup to cover up the black ink.

Judge Michael Andrews, acting on a request by Ditullio's lawyer, ruled that the tattoos are potentially offensive and could influence a jury's opinion in the state's death penalty case against the 23-year-old accused of donning a gas mask, breaking into a neighbor's home and stabbing two people, killing one of them.

Since his arrest in the March 26, 2006, crime in this suburban county just north of Tampa, the self-described neo-Nazi has added tattoos to his body that are prominently displayed and not easily concealed. Ditullio doesn't have the money to pay to have the tattoos covered up, said his public defender, Bjorn Brunvand, who was worried that a jury might be biased against his client on the basis of the tattoos alone.

"Whenever someone is facing the death penalty, they should get a fair trial," Brunvand said. "The jury can judge this case on the facts and the law and not base their decision on being offended."

Any tattoos Ditullio had before his arrest won't be covered, such as a small cross under his right eye. Earlier this week, he wore a neatly pressed blue shirt and gray slacks yet several tattoos on his hands and wrists were still visible.

As is common with defendants on trial, Ditullio's appearance had been scrubbed clean: his hair was trimmed, and his unruly beard was cut into a neat goatee.

The trial began Tuesday with opening statements. Proceedings are expected to stretch into next week.

Prosecutors allege that Ditullio broke into his neighbor's home and stabbed two people — injuring 44-year-old Patricia Wells, the home's owner, and killing Kristofer King, a 17-year-old visitor and friend of Wells' son.

Wells lived next door to a mobile home that was commonly known as "the Nazi compound," which had large swastika flags flying on the property, authorities said. Ditullio was arrested at the mobile home after a SWAT standoff.

GUEST COLUMN: ETHICS

The ethics of fraud

By KIMBERLY TURNER  
GUEST COLUMNIST

Fraud — an ugly word representing an ugly act. The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners defines fraud as "any intentional act or omission designed to deceive others, resulting in the victim suffering a loss and/or the perpetrator achieving a gain."

I think we can all agree based on this definition there is nothing ethical about fraud. Ethics plays a part, however, in the three elements present in every fraud: motivation, rationalization and opportunity.

Motivation to commit fraud arises from many different situations. Fraud committed by individuals may stem from greed or from an addiction such as gambling, drugs or alcohol. Other people commit fraud due to dissatisfaction with the job, pay or recognition received.

Examples include an individual embezzling funds from his employer to get what he "deserves," a manager overstating sales in his or her division to increase bonuses for him or herself and him or her employees, a public school under reporting student absences to maintain funding levels or executives misstating a company's financial statements to maintain stock prices for investors or to avoid bankruptcy.

These motivations are clearly un-

ethical, but fraud often results from less ignoble circumstances — a sick family member, financial difficulties caused by death or divorce, even the unexpected loss of a job. Difficult circumstances such as these may cause people who consider themselves ethical to consider unethical actions.

Clearly, committing fraud with the rationalization you are benefiting a deserving group of people still does not bring even a modicum of ethics to the act.

Once a motivated individual has rationalized the fraudulent act, all he needs is an opportunity to commit it. Since an organization cannot directly control situations that provide motivation nor impact a person's ability to rationalize the behavior, it is critical to limit opportunities for fraud within the organization. In fact, organizations have an ethical responsibility to implement systems that reduce the probability of fraud.

In other words, we sometimes have to protect people from themselves. This ethical responsibility encompasses employees, but also protects consumers, shareholders, vendors, donors and other stakeholders. When organizations have strong systems that reduce the probability of fraud, they are demonstrating ethical organizational behavior.

Who can impact organizational behavior? You can. As a student, you can demonstrate academic integrity by refusing to cheat or let others use your work. As an employee, you can safeguard organizational assets by ex-

pending funds properly, ensuring assets are secured, and approving only those transactions that benefit the organization. While these may seem simple, they are all important steps in fraud prevention.

Why is fraud prevention so important? Certainly, it protects the assets of an organization, but by far the most important reason to prevent against fraud is to protect the lives of people. During my career, I have performed many fraud investigations.

When people commit fraud, the ending is never a happy one. Fraud tragically affects not just the perpetrator, but everyone around the situation. Coworkers, supervisors and family members feel betrayed and hurt. They are often left wondering how they will be able to trust people in the future. Fraud destroys lives.

We will all be faced with ethical dilemmas in our lives, including some of the very situations I have described. I hope you will remember if you are dealing with a question of ethics, fraud is never the answer. I have rarely heard someone express regret for doing the right thing.

Turner is the chief audit executive for the Texas Tech University System

*"If the rationalization for fraud is to pay medical bills, save a family's house from foreclosure or keep a company out of bankruptcy, does that bring some semblance of ethics to the act itself? Our society says no — the end does not justify the means."*

Most everyone who chooses to commit fraud rationalizes the behavior. If the rationalization for fraud is to pay medical bills, save a family's house from foreclosure or keep a company out of bankruptcy, does that bring some semblance of ethics to the act itself? Our society says no — the end does not justify the means.

Does the answer change if it is not an individual who benefits but a group of people, such as children at the public school I mentioned earlier? If funding is cut, there may not be enough to buy the latest equipment, improve facilities or pay salaries to get more experienced faculty members on staff.

Arguably, having better teachers, facilities and equipment benefits the students in the long run. The rationalization falls apart, however, with the realization these benefits come at the expense of someone else. Funding for public schools originates with taxpayers and is based on a formula where overall funding is balanced among

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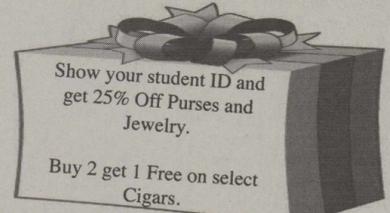
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# Red to Black adviser urges responsibility

By **BRYAN MUNSON**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A Texas Tech financial adviser encouraged students to avoid large amounts of debt and stressed the importance of financial literacy while addressing a Nov. 2 student information session.

Ryan H. Law, a graduate assistant working with Tech's Red to Black program, said minimizing credit card and student-loan debt while in college is important.

"I think credit card debt is one of the major issues," he said. "For students specifically, I think it's their student-loan debts in addition to their credit card debt. Those two things combined can really have a major effect on a student's future."

"I'm seeing more and more people coming to see us at Red to Black who have huge amounts of student-loan debts, and they've never sat down and calculated, 'What's this going to cost me to pay it back?'"

Red to Black offers free financial planning, counseling and seminars for students, according to its Web site. The program provides information about many topics, including establishing credit, budgeting, saving money and repaying debt.

According to the Project on Student Debt's analysis of data from the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education in 2008, 67 percent of students graduating from four-year colleges and universities had student-loan debt — a 27 percent increase from data collected in 2004.

In addition, the average debt of graduating seniors with student loans was \$23,200 — a 24 percent increase from data collected in 2004.

Law said he considers the financial literacy level of the average student to be too low, and he believes students should take a basic personal finance course to learn how to avoid debt by budgeting.

"If they'll get started on a budget right away and they'll really follow that

budget carefully, then they're going to be a lot better off in the future," he said.

Brittany Walden, a sophomore from China Spring, said she considers herself financially literate but has more to learn about managing money.

"Just being a college student, period, you don't have any money," she said. "So, you have to learn how to manage it wisely, and that's going to help me in the future when I am planning financially for bigger things."

Walden, who plans to major in international business, said she believes too many students do not know how to use their credit cards wisely. She said she does not own a credit card and does not plan to apply for one anytime soon.

According to the Charles Schwab Teens & Money 2007 survey conducted by the applied-research consulting firm StrategyOne, 45 percent of teenagers know how to use a credit card and 26 percent of teenagers understand how credit card interest and fees work.

Copeland Neeley, a Tech alumna who teaches sixth-grade English in Amarillo, also said the financial literacy level of the average student is too low.

"I thought that once I was done with college, I might borrow a couple hundred bucks, get on my feet and then be earning tons of money and that'd be it, and I wasn't earning tons of money," he said. "Lots of it was going to a lot of things that I had never had as expenses before."

Neeley said he now considers himself financially literate and handles his finances confidently.

"I take care of things and I don't pay things late and I'm not in trouble," he said.

Law said financial planning education for freshmen would be beneficial.

"The earlier people can start learning about money and about paying that back," Law said, "and about what the consequences of getting into debt are, then it can really have a major impact on their future."

» bryan.munson@ttu.edu

# Unusual music year leads to industry change

Ladies and gentlemen of *The Daily Toreador's* readership, the year 2009 is almost at a close, and that means we can start looking back at what was a wild year in music.

From the proclamation of Auto-Tune as the way of the future in pop music to the death of King of Pop Michael Jackson, 2009 saw a huge evolution in music and the music industry.

But for me, 2009 brought about new-found loves for hidden artists and bands, a deeper appreciation for already well-established artists, and a desire to discover more of the hidden jewels lost out in the music world. Had it not been for some lucky finds via iTunes, or some good friends' suggestions, I would not be writing this right now jammin' out to some of my favorite albums of 2009.

The Grammy Foundation just released its nominations for its 2010 awards show (though all the material rewarded will be from 2009), and I thought it would be fun to compare who I think will win Album of the Year based on the Grammy's criteria with who I would pick as Album of the Year.

Album of the Year is stacked



with nominations for Beyonce's "Sasha Fierce," "The E.N.D." by the Black Eyed Peas, "The Fame" by Lady Gaga and Taylor Swift's "Fearless."

I see the award going to the Black Eyed Peas, as their album came out with much uproar and anticipation, and it delivered. Each track was more energetic than the one before, and you would be hard-pressed to go to a restaurant or department store in the United States that didn't play "Boom Boom Pow" or "I Gotta Feelin'" over their speakers in the last four months.

That being said, there are so many other albums I must consider before talking about Album of the Year for me.

Eminem's "Relapse" was a sensational comeback effort, and all of his singles on the album were hit worthy. Jay-Z's "The Black Album" has been one of his best yet, and the hits keep coming via radio play.

A brand new band to my ears, this year, and man is it awesome. There is nothing out there comparable to their signature indie/electro/pop/rock sound.

Another really great CD of 2009 for me was the newest effort by New Orleans rock band MuteMath, titled "Armistice." Beautiful vocals, insane drumming and electronically driven rock riffs make that album one for serious consideration. And holy cow, I haven't even talked yet about Muse's new album, "The Resistance," or The Fray's self-titled release or even Pearl Jam's wonderful 2009 effort, "Backspacer."

What a good year for music. All of those albums are worthy of serious consideration for my Album of the Year vote. But in the end, the one CD I listened to most and was really surprised by most was Owl City's "Ocean Eyes."

From beginning to end, "Ocean Eyes" is just such good songwriting, from the witty and fun lyrics to the insanely catchy melodies. Simply put, "Ocean Eyes" was my Album of the Year.

» Bryant is a DT music critic. » noel.bryant@ttu.edu

*“Had it not been for some luck finds via iTunes or some good friends’ suggestions, I would not be writing this right now ...”*

# Ohio uses one-drug execution technique

LUCASVILLE, Ohio (AP) — Ohio made history in September when an execution was botched so badly the governor called it off. The state made history again Tuesday, executing an inmate with just one drug for the first time in the United States.

Kenneth Biros, 51, was pronounced dead shortly after one dose of sodium thiopental began flowing into his veins at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility. The U.S. Supreme Court had rejected his final appeal two hours earlier.

Experts had predicted that sodium thiopental — used in many parts of the world to put pets down — would take longer to kill than the previous method. But the 10 minutes it took Biros to die was about as long as it has taken other inmates in Ohio and elsewhere to succumb to the three-drug combination.

The mother, sister and brother of Biros' victim, Tami Engstrom, applauded as the warden announced the time of death.

"Rock on," Debi Heiss, Engstrom's sister, said a moment earlier as the curtains were drawn for the coroner to check on Biros. "That was too easy."

Ohio's switch to one drug was born of a botched execution attempt on another inmate in September, but critics of the three-drug method have long argued that it amounts to cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the U.S. Constitution because it can subject the condemned to extreme pain while leaving them immobile and unable to cry out.

The three-drug method consists of sodium thiopental, a common anesthetic, along with pancuronium bromide, which paralyzes muscles, and potassium chloride, which stops the heart. The single-drug technique amounts to an overdose of the anesthetic — a method that injection experts and defense attorneys agreed would not cause pain.

Biros' executioners struggled for several minutes to find suitable veins, inserting needles repeatedly in both arms before completing the process on just his left arm. He winced once, and his attorney, John Parker, said he was concerned by all the needle sticks. But prison officials declared nothing amiss.

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# SEMESTER IN REVIEW

## HB 51 SIGNED INTO LAW

**June 17**  
Gov. Rick Perry signed House Bill 51 into law, a piece of legislation that specifically identified how seven emerging research universities could earn state money necessary to support research comparable to other national research universities across the nation. Texas Tech, the University of Houston, the University of North Texas, the University of Texas-Arlington, the University of Texas-Dallas, the University of Texas-El Paso and the University of Texas-San Antonio.

## GONZALEZ BEGINS AT TECH



ALEX BRANDON/The Associated Press

In this Aug. 28, 2007 file photo, U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales listens at the dedication of the New Orleans Family Justice Center in New Orleans.

**Aug. 1**  
Former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales officially began his position as a professor and recruiter for the Tech System. Gonzales, who was involved in a controversy that included the dismissal of several federal prosecutors, signed a one-year contract with the university to teach a political science class and work with the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement.

## TECH RECEIVES TRIP FUNDS

**Sept. 2**  
As part of HB 51, about \$21.5 million in research funding was matched through the Texas Research Incentive Program. The university received \$24.3 million in private gifts, most of which was eligible to be matched through the program. TRIP was just one of the several incentives offered through the bill.

## TECH RECEIVES TRIP FUNDS

**Sept. 18**  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center President John Baldwin stepped down from his position after more than two years as president of the university. Baldwin cited personal reasons in a release from the university. He remained on staff as a professor and adviser to Chancellor Kent Hance. Elmo Cavin was named interim vice president from his position as executive vice president for finance and administration.



BALDWIN

## LIQUOR LICENCES ISSUED



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

LUBBOCK RESIDENTS TYLER Morris and Justin Petty shop for alcohol Wednesday at the United Supermarket at 50th Street and Avenue Q.

**Sept. 23**  
Lubbock County and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission officials issued the first alcoholic beverage permits in Lubbock city limits since prohibition. The issuance of permits marked the end of a months-long battle between pro- and anti-alcoholic beverage groups about the legality of the election in which voters approved the sale of alcoholic beverages.

## TOUR DE TECH TERRACE TAZE



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

An estimated 1000 people participate in the Fall 2009 Tour de Tech Terrace, which ended when police showed up and told everyone to head home.

**Sept. 26**  
Despite more than 1,000 people showing up to the annual Tour de Tech Terrace, the rowdy group ran into trouble with the Lubbock Police Department in several ways during the bicycle ride. Littering, public urination and loudness were among the many complaints during the course of the event. Police broke up the tour after the eighth stop. A Tech student also was stunned for lack of cooperation with police officers.

## ENROLLMENT SURPASSES 30,000

**Sept. 28**  
Tech administrators announced a fall enrollment of 30,049 students for the semester, a record for the university. Despite gains of less than 1,000 students total during the previous three years, the announced enrollment showed a 1,627 student increase from the previous semester. The increase marked a significant step in the push to 40,000 students by 2020.

## LEISURE POOL ENDS 1ST SEASON

**Oct. 11**  
The Student Leisure Pool closed on its first season of service, seeing more than 70,000 guests travel through the entrance of the pool. Attendance at the pool was higher than expected. The pool will remain closed until April, with the exception of the hot tub, which will remain open throughout the winter months.

## PROP 4 PASSES



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

VOTING FOR STATE and local elections was hosted at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center in November.

**Nov. 3**  
Proposition 4, the public option made possible by HB 51, was passed with 56.6 percent of the vote to create the National Research University Fund. The fund re-appropriates money from the Higher Education Fund for universities that reach National Research University status as defined by the bill.

## RESEARCH SPENDING INCREASES

**Nov. 6**  
Preliminary research expenditure estimates for Fiscal Year 2009 show the university expects to reach \$35 million in restricted research funds and about \$80 million in total research funds. That is \$10 million and \$20 million short of National Research University status goals for restricted and total research expenditures, respectively.

## LEACH SURPASSES DYKES

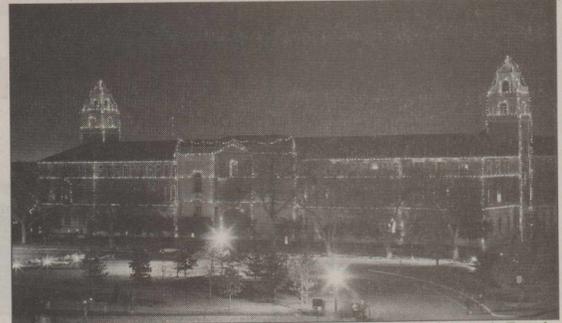
**Nov. 21**  
Mike Leach, Tech head football coach, surpassed former coach Spike Dykes' win record with 83 wins in his career as Tech head coach. Leach, who has been the staple of Tech football since his hiring in 2000, has attracted national media attention to the university and has been a strong advocate of good grades among athletes.



LEACH

## 51ST CAROL LIGHTS HOSTED ON A WEDNESDAY

**Dec. 2**  
The Tech Residence Halls Association hosted the Carol of Lights on a Wednesday for the first time in the history of the event. Possible scheduling conflicts with Big 12 Conference championship game led the committee overseeing the event to move the date to Wednesday instead of Friday for the next three years. The event has been hosted on a Wednesday only two times in the last 23 years. Dec. 2 was the 51st time the event has been hosted and is one of the longest-running Tech traditions.



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

RHA hosted the 51st Annual Carol Lights on Dec. 2.

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# FINALS SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

### EXAM TIME

7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 9:30 a.m. TR  
 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. — MATH 0301, 0302, 1300, 1320, 1321, 1330, 1331, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1420, 1430, 1550, 2300, 2350  
 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 11:00 a.m. MWF  
 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ ISQS 3344 and PHYS 1403  
 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ Friday night only classes, Saturday only classes, and graduating seniors

### WHO TAKES EXAM

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

### EXAM TIME

7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 11:00 a.m. TR  
 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 8:00 a.m. MWF  
 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 12:30 p.m. TR  
 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 3:00 MWF  
 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ ECO 2301, 2302, 2305; Thursday night only classes

### WHO TAKES EXAM

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

### EXAM TIME

7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 a.m. MWF  
 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ SPAN 1507, 2301, 2302, 2607; IE 3301  
 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 2:00 p.m. TR  
 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ ACCT 2300; 4:00 4:30, 5:00 p.m. MWF  
 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00, 6:30, 7:00 p.m. MWF; Monday night only classes

### WHO TAKES EXAM

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

### EXAM TIME

7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 a.m. MWF  
 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ BIOL 1403 and MGT 3373  
 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 1:00 p.m. MWF  
 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ ACCT 2301; 3:30, 4:00, 4:30 p.m. TR  
 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00, 6:30, 7:00 p.m. TR, and Tuesday night only classes

### WHO TAKES EXAM

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

### EXAM TIME

7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 8:00 a.m. TR  
 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. — CHEM 1301, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 3305, 3306  
 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 12:00 p.m. MWF  
 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 2:00 p.m. MWF  
 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. — 5:00, 5:30 p.m. TR; Wednesday night only classes

### WHO TAKES EXAM

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**ACROSS**  
 1 "Food, Body and Mind" diet maven  
 6 Pierce portrayer  
 10 Lummoxes  
 14 Wolf cry, often?  
 16 River past  
 17 See 57-Across  
 18 "Fall back" interval  
 19 What F or M may indicate  
 20 Shinto temple gateway  
 21 Longtime Chicago Symphony maestro  
 22 See 57-Across  
 24 Steppes native  
 27 Purge  
 28 Yemen neighbor  
 29 Like many rebates  
 33 Part of FYI  
 36 See 57-Across  
 39 Approves  
 40 Salon preparation  
 41 Tiger Woods's dad  
 42 Airline with a hub in Copenhagen  
 43 Uplight  
 44 See 57-Across  
 51 Iraqi port  
 52 Cliff dwelling  
 53 \_\_\_\_\_ to Extremes: Billy Joel hit  
 56 Gunny fiber  
 57 Clue for 17-, 22-, 36- and 44-Across  
 59 Slaughterer who famously scored the winning run in the 1946 World Series  
 60 Not feeling well  
 61 Reveille counterpart  
 62 Latin 101 verb  
 63 Frère de la mère

**DOWN**  
 1 Some are CPAs  
 2 All-night party  
 3 Infield mate of Derek  
 4 Haifa's country: Abbr.  
 5 Go-\_\_\_\_  
 6 Olds compact

7 Romance languages ancestor  
 8 R2-D2 or C-3PO  
 9 Rock blaster?  
 10 Waiting to talk  
 11 Garlicky mayo  
 12 Rampal's instrument  
 13 Calligrapher's embellishment  
 15 Call to a mate  
 21 It flows along La Five Gauche  
 22 Good thing to go out with  
 23 Grease, so to speak  
 24 Calm terrier of film  
 25 Out of control  
 26 Art community near Santa Fe  
 29 Caribou relative  
 30 Soccer star  
 31 "\_\_\_\_\_ only money"  
 32 Rock's \_\_\_\_\_ Lobos  
 33 Greek house?  
 34 "\_\_\_\_\_ not to reason why": Tennyson  
 35 Be dependent (on)  
 37 Home of the College World Series

By Dan Naddor 12/10/09

### Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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 A P E A K R O P E M O J O  
 S I D V I C T I O U S B L A B  
 C A M E O U T S I Z E D  
 A T E S O S S O R E S T  
 P E N I A L P A T I O N E  
 O C E L O T I O N E  
 D I C K D A S T A R D L Y  
 D A N K P S Y C H O  
 I N D J O S E C E L L A R  
 M A U M A U N E A A P E  
 C E N T A V O S A M O S  
 J E T S F R E D S A V A G E  
 A R E S I C E T B E Z E L  
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# Swine flu toll includes pets

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A handful of pets have been sickened with swine flu in recent weeks, but here are doctors' orders: Wash your hands and don't panic.

The virus, also known as H1N1, has been diagnosed in only a few cats and ferrets since it emerged in April. Veterinarians say they don't know if that is because so few animals have been tested or because so few have the disease.

"I think we're probably going to be seeing more (pet) cases in the future. There is more focus on it so people are looking harder," said Dr. Kristy Pabilonia of the Colorado State University Department of Veterinary Medicine, which confirmed two new cases in cats on Friday.

A lethargic 13-year-old tabby in Iowa that was having trouble breathing was the first house cat to be diagnosed. In the last two months, other cats have tested positive in Iowa, Utah and Pennsylvania. All have recovered or are expected to recover, Pabilonia said.

Swine flu appears to be the latest disease spread between animals and

humans, said Dr. Miranda Spindel, Director of Veterinary Outreach for the ASPCA and based in Fort Collins, Colo. Other examples include ringworm, salmonella, plague and rabies.

"There are lots of diseases that are transmitted from people to pets and vice versa and people tend to forget that," Spindel said.

However, it is rare for flu viruses to jump between species, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. And there is no evidence that humans can get the swine flu infection from pets.

Still, the few confirmed pet cases have people keeping a closer eye on their animals, Spindel said. "There are a lot of questions coming in. People are anticipating, worried about ways they can limit transmission or prevent exposure," she said.

Whether doctors are treating humans or pets, they give the same advice: Wash your hands, cover your mouth when you sneeze and limit contact with others if you are ill.

## HEAD FOR COVER



PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

STUDENTS TRY TO keep warm and dry by standing underneath an awning outside the library during the rain Tuesday.

# School teaches the finer points of maple syrup

SKOWHEGAN, Maine (AP) — Tasting maple syrup is a lot like tasting wine. Sniff the aroma, take a sip, hold it on your tongue and savor it for a moment to register the sensation.

At the International Maple Grading School, syrup is serious stuff. At a time when syrup production has boomed to its highest levels in decades, students here learn the sappy sweet nuances of the trade, such as how syrup flavor can be affected by soil type, weather, tree health, production practices and numerous other factors.

"If you think about all the variables that go into producing syrup, it's not surprising there are so many possibilities," Debra Hartford, who owns the Thurston and Peters Sugarhouse in Newfield, Maine, said after swirling and swallowing a sip of syrup to test

her tasting abilities.

Let there be no mistake: The subject matter was sickly sweet at this unique school, a two-day session of instruction where syrup buyers, producers, inspectors and educators came together to learn the ins and outs of syrup regulations and the equipment that's used to measure a syrup's color, clarity and density.

They also learned about the complex regulations governing syrup, which vary among syrup-producing locales. For instance, different places have different names for the same syrup — the lightest grade is called "fancy" in Vermont, but is known as "light amber" in other states and "No. 1-AA" in Canada.

But the most important thing about syrup, as anyone will tell you, is flavor.

Late last week, students sampled more than three dozen syrups to differentiate the light varieties from the heavier styles and to identify the off-flavors of syrup that doesn't make the grade.

The syrup school, now in its sixth year, is sponsored by the Canada-based International Maple Syrup Institute and is held for two days at a different site each year. For the classes last week, about 20 participants gathered at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension offices in this central Maine town.

"When we first cooked up this idea, we thought it would have a one-year run," said Kathy Hopkins, a Cooperative Extension agent and the class instructor. "After the first year we had a waiting list. Now we're on the sixth year and we're booked four years out."

Maple syrup is big business.

Production in the U.S. this year topped 2.3 million gallons, the highest total since 1944. Vermont is the No. 1 state by far, followed by Maine and New York. Syrup is even bigger in Canada, which produces around 6 million gallons a year.

Between the U.S. and Canada, maple syrup has grown to a \$200 million industry.

The grading is important because it determines if the product can be sold for retail sales on store shelves, or for commercial use as an ingredient in products ranging from ice cream to bacon to beer. The better the syrup, the higher the price; in 2008, the U.S. average price was \$40.50 a gallon.

Lisa Mancuso, who's in charge of quality control at Bascom Maple Farm in Alstead, N.H., said the grading system is important because customers have different needs.

For example, consumers generally like to douse their pancakes with a lighter syrup, which has a milder flavor. Food processors, meanwhile, may prefer darker and robust syrup.

"We have a lot of customers who buy in bulk from us for ingredient purposes — large bakeries, sausage companies — so they want a heavy maple flavor because they're blending it with other ingredients," Mancuso said.

But the product isn't always so sweet after sap is extracted from maple trees and boiled down into syrup every late winter and spring.

For their training, students took sips of syrup out of small paper cups that had hints of tree buds, chemicals, chlorine and other off-flavors. The taste can go bad from warm weather, how it is produced or even how sugarhouse operators clean their equipment, said Henry Marckres of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

"I once tasted a barrel of syrup you could blow bubbles with," he said.

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

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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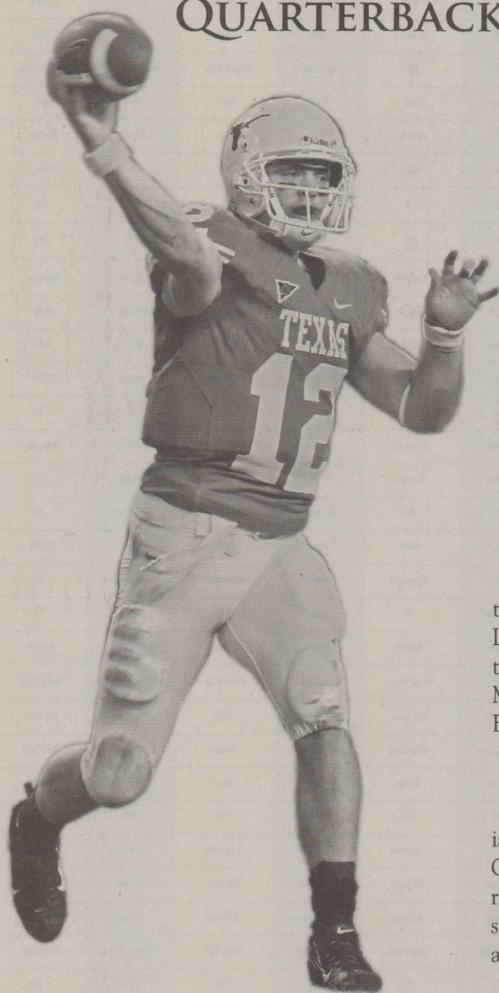
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# BIG 12 HEISMAN FINALISTS

## COLT MCCOY QUARTERBACK, TEXAS

## NDAMUKONG SUH DEFENSIVE TACKLE, NEBRASKA

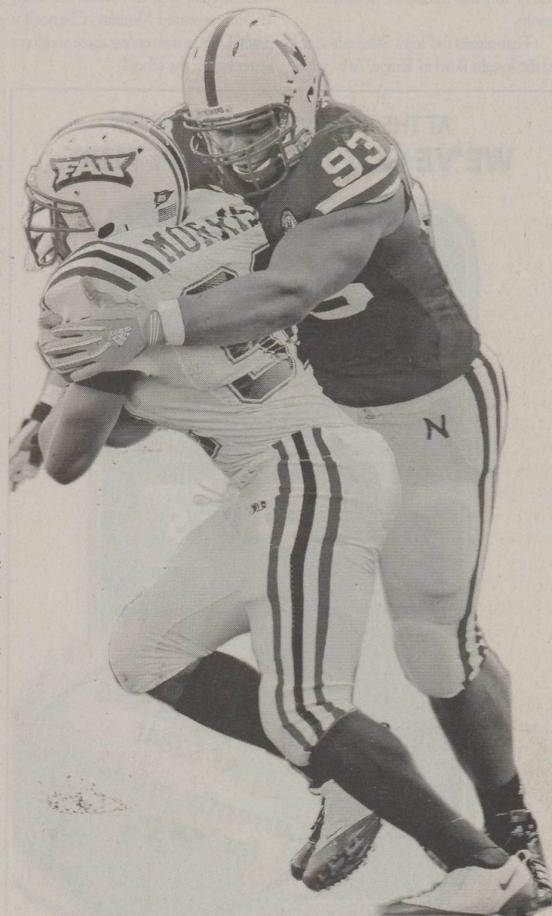


### 2009 STATS

- COMPLETIONS/ATTEMPTS  
330/468
- COMPLETION %  
70.5
- YARDS  
3,512
- TOUCHDOWNS  
27
- INTERCEPTIONS THROWN  
12

### 2009 STATS

- TOTAL TACKLES  
82
- SOLO TACKLES  
47
- ASSISTED TACKLES  
35
- SACKS  
12
- INTERCEPTIONS  
1



### WHY THEY ARE HERE

•**Colt McCoy** is the winningest Football Bowl Subdivision quarterback in history with 45 wins and seven losses. In 2009, he led the Longhorns to their best regular season since the Vince Young-led team of 2005, which went 13-0 and won the National Championship. McCoy and the No. 2 Longhorns will take on No. 1 Alabama in the BCS National Championship on Jan. 7 in Pasadena, Calif.

•**Ndamukong Suh** anchored the Nebraska defense, which finished No. 9 in total defense, all season and helped lead a resurgent Cornhusker team under second-year coach Bo Pelini. Suh set team records and is the first defensive tackle to be named a Heisman finalist since Miami's Warren Sapp in 1994. The 6-4, 300 pound Suh leads all FBS defensive tackles in total tackles with 82.

### WHY MCCOY MIGHT WIN

•McCoy has what often is a catalyst in Heisman Memorial Trophy voting: team success. Texas is ranked No. 9 in the nation in total offense and the play of its quarterback is responsible for no small part of that. McCoy may also be the sentimental favorite at this point as he is the only of the big three quarterbacks of the last four years — along with Florida's Tim Tebow and Oklahoma's Sam Bradford — not to own a Heisman Trophy. Tebow and Bradford won their trophies in 2007 and 2008, respectively. Voters may feel it is McCoy's time for the spotlight.

The Heisman Memorial Trophy presentation will be aired at 8 p.m. Saturday on ESPN. COMPILED AND DESIGNED BY KEVIN CULLEN/*The Daily Toreador* SUH PHOTO COURTESY OF NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

### WHY SUH MIGHT WIN

•Unfortunately, the invitation of Suh to the trophy presentation in New York seems at this point to be nothing more than a gesture. Throughout the history of the Heisman trophy, the winner, more often than not, comes from one of the top teams in the country. The Cornhuskers made it to the Big 12 Championship, but they did so by winning the Big 12 North, which came by virtue of a 9-4 overall record. Unless voters decide to go against the grain of recent voting trends, Suh will not be heading back to Lincoln, Neb., with a stiff-arming companion. However, Suh can take solace in knowing he will be wreaking havoc on NFL quarterbacks in the very near future.

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# Big 12 bowl rules cost Mizzou

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)—The Big 12 Conference's postseason selection process has Missouri wondering how it lost out to a team with a worse regular season record.

The conference allows its bowl game partners to select any eligible team, regardless of win-loss records or head-to-head results.

That means 6-6 Iowa State advanced to the Insight Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., while

8-4 Missouri heads to the Texas Bowl in Houston for a Dec. 31 game against Navy. Missouri defeated the Cyclones 34-21 on Nov. 21.

Attempts by Missouri officials to lobby the Insight Bowl as well as the conference were unsuccessful, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported Monday. Chancellor Brady Deaton was among those seeking a better bid for the school.

## The DT Staff College Bowl Pick 'Em



BOWL GAME	Date/Time	Kevin Cullen Editor-in-Chief Overall Record 48-37	Jon Arnold Electronic Media Editor Overall Record 54-23	Adam Coleman Sports Editor Overall Record 47-30	Sam Hensley Le Vido/Copy Editor Overall Record 43-34	Britton Peele Opinions Editor Overall Record 46-31	Kyla Butterfield Design Editor Overall Record 54-23	Jon Vanderlaan News Editor Overall Record 48-29	Karl Anderson Photo Editor Overall Record 48-29	Alex Ybarra Managing Editor Overall Record 51-26
New Mexico Bowl Fresno State vs. Wyoming	Dec. 19 @ 4:30 p.m.	Fresno	Fresno	Wyoming	Fresno	Fresno	Fresno	Wyoming	Fresno	Wyoming
St. Petersburg Bowl UCF vs. Rutgers	Dec. 19 @ 8:00 p.m.	Rutgers	Rutgers	UCF	UCF	UCF	UCF	Rutgers	UCF	Rutgers
R-T Carriers New Orleans Bowl Southern Miss vs. Middle Tennessee	Dec. 20 @ 8:30 p.m.	MTSU	MTSU	S. Miss	S. Miss	S. Miss	S. Miss	S. Miss	S. Miss	S. Miss
MAACO Las Vegas Bowl Oregon State vs. BYU	Dec. 22 @ 8:00 p.m.	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	Oregon State	Oregon State	Oregon State	Oregon State
S.D. County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl Utah vs. Cal	Dec. 23 @ 8:00 p.m.	Utah	Utah	Utah	Utah	Utah	Utah	Utah	Utah	Utah
Sheraton Hawaii Bowl Nevada vs. SMU	Dec. 24 @ 8:00 p.m.	Nevada	Nevada	SMU	SMU	Nevada	Nevada	SMU	Nevada	Nevada
Little Caesars Bowl Marshall vs. Ohio	Dec. 26 @ 1:00 p.m.	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
Meineke Car Care Bowl Pitt vs. North Carolina	Dec. 26 @ 4:30 p.m.	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt
Emerald Bowl Boston College vs. USC	Dec. 26 @ 8:00 p.m.	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC
Gaylor Hotels Music City Bowl Kentucky vs. Clemson	Dec. 27 @ 8:30 p.m.	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
AdvoCare V100 Independence Bowl Texas A&M vs. Georgia	Dec. 28 @ 5:00 p.m.	TAMU	TAMU	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	TAMU
EagleBank Bowl Army or UCLA vs. Temple	Dec. 29 @ 4:30 p.m.	UCLA	Temple	Army	Temple	UCLA	UCLA	Temple	UCLA	UCLA
Champs Sports Bowl Miami vs. Wisconsin	Dec. 29 @ 8:00 p.m.	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Wisconsin	Miami	Miami
Roody's Humanitarian Bowl Bowling Green vs. Idaho	Dec. 30 @ 4:30 p.m.	BG	Idaho	Idaho	Idaho	BG	BG	BG	BG	BG
Pacific Life Holiday Bowl Arizona vs. Nebraska	Dec. 30 @ 8:00 p.m.	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Arizona	Nebraska	Nebraska
Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl Houston vs. Air Force	Dec. 31 @ Noon	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	AF	Houston	AF
Brut Sun Bowl Oklahoma vs. Stanford	Dec. 31 @ 2:00 p.m.	Stanford	OU	Stanford	OU	OU	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	OU
Texas Bowl Navy vs. Missouri	Dec. 31 @ 3:30 p.m.	Navy	Navy	MIZZU	Navy	Navy	Navy	MIZZU	Navy	MIZZOU
Insight Bowl Minnesota vs. Iowa State	Dec. 31 @ 6:00 p.m.	Minnesota	Minnesota	ISU	ISU	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	ISU
Chick-fil-a Bowl Virginia Tech vs. Tennessee	Dec. 31 @ 7:30 p.m.	Minnesota	VT	VT	Minnesota	VT	VT	VT	VT	VT
Outback Bowl Northwestern vs. Auburn	Jan. 1 @ 11:00 a.m.	Auburn	N. Western	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
Capital One Bowl Penn State vs. LSU	Jan. 1 @ 1:00 p.m.	Penn State	LSU	LSU	LSU	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State
Konica Minolta Gator Bowl West Virginia vs. Florida State	Jan. 1 @ 1:00 p.m.	Fla. State	WVU	Fla. State	Fla. State	Fla. State	Fla. State	WVU	Fla. State	Fla. State
Rose Bowl Game presented by Citi Ohio State vs. Oregon	Jan. 1 @ 4:30 p.m.	Oregon	Oregon	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Ohio State
Allstate Sugar Bowl Florida vs. Cincinnati	Jan. 1 @ 8:30 p.m.	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Cincy	Cincy	Cincy	Florida
International Bowl South Florida vs. Northern Illinois	Jan. 2 @ Noon	USF	USF	USF	USF	USF	USF	USF	USF	USF
PapaJohns.com South Carolina vs. UConn	Jan. 2 @ 2:00 p.m.	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina
AT&T Cotton Oklahoma State vs. Ole Miss	Jan. 2 @ 2:00 p.m.	Ole Miss	OK State	OK State	OK State	OK State	Ole Miss	OK State	Ole Miss	Ole Miss
Autozone Liberty Arkansas vs. East Carolina	Jan. 2 @ 5:30 p.m.	ECU	ECU	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas
Valero Alamo Michigan State vs. Texas Tech	Jan. 2 @ 9:00 p.m.	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech
Tostitos Fiesta Boise State vs. TCU	Jan. 4 @ 8:00 p.m.	Boise State	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU
FedEx Orange Iowa vs. Georgia Tech	Jan. 5 @ 8:00 p.m.	Georgia Tech	Iowa	Georgia Tech	Iowa	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech
GMAC Central Michigan vs. Troy	Jan. 6 @ 7:00 p.m.	CMU	CMU	CMU	CMU	CMU	CMU	CMU	CMU	Troy
Citi BCS National Championship Game Texas vs. Alabama	Jan. 7 @ 8:00 p.m.	Alabama	UT	UT	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	UT	Alabama

\*\*Check back in the spring for the Pick 'Em winner\*\*

## House panel passes college football playoff bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dismissing complaints from some members that Congress had more pressing matters, a House subcommittee approved legislation Wednesday aimed at forcing college football to switch to a playoff system to

determine its national champion.

"We can walk across the street and chew gum at the same time," said the subcommittee chairman, Illinois Democrat Bobby Rush, one of the bill's co-sponsors. "We can do a number of

things at the same time."

The legislation, which still faces steep odds, would ban the promotion of a post-season NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision game as a national championship unless it results from a playoff.

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# Video games in 2010 promise to fill gamers' needs

For the most part, companies are done releasing video games for 2009.

It's been a pretty good year with some pretty notable titles. Daily Toreador Tech Critic Tim Poon and I already spent some time discussing our favorite games of the year during our first "Level Up" podcast, available on [www.dtxperiencepoints.wordpress.com](http://www.dtxperiencepoints.wordpress.com).

We also came up with a holiday gift guide that can be found in our second episode of "Level Up," or in text on the blog, so I won't waste time repeating myself here.

Instead, I'm going to look forward. A lot of exciting games are set to be released next year (some having been pushed back from their original 2009 releases), not to mention the fact that both Sony and Microsoft intend to release motion controllers for their systems (hoping to capitalize on some of the Wii's success). It might be best to start preparing now, lest you get overwhelmed.

"Mass Effect 2" — The RPG masterminds at Bioware blew me away with the fantasy epic "Dragon Age: Origins," and that has me extremely excited to dive back into their science-fiction universe. "Mass

**Britton Peele**



Effect 2" promises to make vast gameplay improvements over the previous installment while continuing the epic story that they began.

"StarCraft 2" — It may finally happen. Blizzard may finally release "StarCraft 2" after much speculation and many delays. As the original "StarCraft" is still being played today despite its age, there's a lot of reason to get excited about this real-time strategy sequel.

"World of Warcraft: Cataclysm" — I confess, I don't play "World of Warcraft," but a very large number of you do. In this third expansion to the insanely popular online game, areas have been entirely redesigned to be, well, cataclysmic. "Cataclysm" also adds two new races, raises the level cap to 85, adds new race/class combinations and more. If you play "WoW," there's no reason not to be excited.

"God of War III" — For PlayStation fans, the "God of War" franchise has been the coup de grace of action gaming. Kratos is back and ready to dismember monsters in yet another gory entry of this Greek mythology inspired series.

"Splinter Cell: Conviction" — It's been awhile since we've seen special agent Sam Fisher and his night vision goggles. In "Conviction," Ubisoft has teased a much rougher, tougher agent who will go to any lengths to get the job done. This could mean less being sneaky and more acting like Jack Bauer.

"Final Fantasy XIII" — While Japanese gamers will get their "Final Fantasy" fix by the end of 2009, English-speaking territories won't experience the fantasy adventure until 2010. The game promises to be long and very story-driven, which is exactly what fans want.

"Halo: Reach" — Another year, another "Halo" game. Not much is known about this spin-off — a trailer will debut at Spike's Video Game Awards on December 12th — but the safe assumption is that it concerns the fall of Reach, the last planet that stands between the Covenant and Earth. I'm hoping for some significant changes to the "Halo" formula (maybe something like squad

gameplay?), but most people will probably be satisfied with more of the same.

"BioShock 2" — The original "BioShock" blew gamers away with a deep, philosophical story that featured a plot twist that people still talk about. It's certainly not an easy game to follow up with a sequel, so many people are watching this with as much apprehension as excitement. If the folks at 2K can do this game right, though, it could be one of the best games of the year.

"Heavy Rain" — This PlayStation 3 exclusive is looking to take storytelling in video games to a whole new level, and it may actually succeed. An adventure game from the developers of "Indigo Prophecy," "Heavy Rain" is all about the characters. They claim that members of the ensemble cast live and die entirely based on your actions, and the story will continue regardless. Definitely one to watch.

"Dead Rising 2" — Zombies have been big lately. Heck, this year marked the first annual Texas Tech "Zombie Walk." If you would rather mow down zombies than walk with them, though, the sequel to "Dead Rising" aims to satisfy, putting a ridiculous number of undead enemies on-screen at once for you to slaughter in

a huge variety of ways with many different weapons.

"Castlevania: Lords of Shadow" — 3D "Castlevania" games don't exactly have a history of being stellar. They've never lived up to the high standards that their two dimensional brethren have set. However, for "Lords of Shadow," Konami has put Hideo Kojima, creator of "Metal Gear Solid," on the project.

They've also secured the voices of Patrick Stewart, Robert Carlyle, Jason Isaacs and other big names to help tell a story that looks both dark and interesting. This game could shape up to be an extremely successful reboot of the franchise, and I can't wait to see how it turns out.

"Alan Wake" — The original studio behind "Max Payne," Remedy Entertainment, has been cooking up this new psychological action thriller for a long time. Reportedly inspired by the works of Steven King and the television shows "Twin Peaks" and "Lost," the story in this third person shooter could end up being quite the mind trip.

franchise, which will hopefully make the wait for a new "GTA" easier. Like those games, "Red Dead Redemption" features sandbox style gameplay, only you get around on horses rather than stolen vehicles. Fans of westerns or open-world gameplay should definitely keep their eye on this game.

"Super Mario Galaxy 2" — Originally intended to be "Mario Galaxy Plus," merely adding in some levels that didn't quite make it into the original game, Nintendo is now giving us a full-fledged sequel. The first "Galaxy" was fantastic and a serious Game of the Year contender. Hopefully the sequel will follow suit.

There are a ton more games I could talk about here, including "MAG," "No More Heroes 2," "Bayonetta," "Dante's Inferno," "Lost Planet 2," "Red Steel 2," "Metal Gear Solid: Peace Walker," "Prince of Persia: The Forgotten Sands" and "Star Wars: The Old Republic." And that's not even taking into account any surprise releases that may be announced in the near future.

2010 is shaping up to be a great year for gamers. Start saving money now.

**■ Peele is The DT's opinions editor.**  
**► [britton.peele@ttu.edu](mailto:britton.peele@ttu.edu)**

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# Expect sports euphoria in 2010

It hits me about the same time every year.

With finals approaching, my paper writing and exam studying quickly turns to sports reading and exam neglecting. Usually I come across a year in review of some sort and remember all the great things that have happened in the sporting world since January.

But next year? Let's just say I'm happy for you 2009, and I'ma let you finish, but 2010 will be the best year in sports of all-time.

Seriously. All-time. 2010 is the most anticipated year in sports during my 20 years of life, and it won't fall short of the hype, mainly behind the strength of International sporting events.

Across the globe 2010 has been the year on everyone's mind since 2006, the last World Cup year. This year the most important sporting event in the world will be larger in impact than ever, especially in America.

With the balance of power in world soccer beginning to shift towards younger countries with more

**Jon Arnold**



athletic teams, and ESPN throwing their massive television weight fully behind the event, Americans are expected to watch more World Cup matches in greater numbers than ever before. The games will be thrilling, with the aforementioned young teams going against the still resilient old guard. The United States' opening game against England is a perfect example of this. Enjoy the month of soccer from June 11 through July 11.

The World Cup, of course, is not the only event that will capture the eyes of billions this year. Our friendly neighbors to the North will be hosting the Winter Olympics in February.

The Olympics certainly need no dressing up from me. You know

what they are, and you know you will watch them. Even the macho sports-radio listener who calls in and complains about anything that's not football will explore his soft side and watch figure skating (he'd disagree with me, but he stopped reading when I led off with soccer, plus he knows he'll be watching). There are also sports like speed skating, ski jumping and the traditional Vanderfavorite: hockey.

With fantastic international events in February and June into July it'd seem tough to capture the world's attention yet again, but the FIBA World Championship, which starts in late August, will provide a chaser for your International sport hangover.

Basketball is quickly becoming a global sport, much like soccer. The United States no longer dominates with ease. Not convinced? Four years ago at the last FIBA Championship the mighty Yanks got third.

Embarrassing. After that wake-up call USA Basketball is taking things more seriously, as evidenced by its gold-medal triumph in the Beijing Olympics. Competition will again be stiff at the championship and there should be much drama in Turkey this summer.

Domestically, NBA fans have been looking forward to this year ever since they saw a bright star over the Akron hospital serving as the birthplace of LeBron James.

James headlines a bevy of NBA stars who will be free agents during the offseason, and thousands of fans will hold out hope that their team will land one of these big names. Even if the masses go away disappointed, it's sure to be the most exciting offseason of any sport in recent memory.

In addition to all of these events, we still have all the things we love about every sports year. The Super Bowl looks to be hotly contested, Texas Tech's basketball team appears tourney-bound and the football team will have a roster sure to frighten Texas and company in the Big 12.

So, thanks for the memories 2009, but we're about to forget you like we forget exam answers.

And welcome 2010; we anxiously anticipate the sports glory we'll experience. Especially because I didn't even mention the Mayweather-Pacquiao fight, the World Lacrosse Championships, the African Cup of Nations, bowl games, NBA playoffs, the Hockey World Championship, NHL playoffs, the NFL Draft or many more.

What a year it will be. Editor's note: Vanderfavorite is a reference to News Editor Jon Vanderlaan, who is a hockey fanatic. The term is affectionately known in the newsroom as "the Vander-prefix."

■ Arnold is The DT's electronic media editor. >>>jon.arnold@ttu.edu.

# 'Bama wins \$32M bet on Saban as profits soar

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — The University of Alabama won its bet on Nick Saban.

In fact the gamble — a \$32 million, eight-year deal that made Saban the highest paid college coach — paid off better than anyone might have hoped.

Records from the U.S. Department of Education show Tide football made nearly enough money in the 12 months ending June 30 —

play Texas in the Bowl Championship Series title game on Jan. 7. Fans barely recall those pre-Saban days when Alabama was an also-ran in the national title discussion.

Along with BCS bowl money, Alabama will rake in cash from the Southeastern Conference, sales of licensed Tide merchandise, tickets and donations. Florida's football revenues jumped \$7.2 million to \$61.3 million this year after it won the national

*"We call it the Saban effect. It was a great investment three years ago, and he's continuing to pay dividends."*

**DAVID M. JONES**  
OPERATOR  
ALABAMA BOOKSTORE

title last season, records show. Alabama officials raised more than a few eyebrows when they opted to make Saban the nation's highest-paid college coach almost three years ago, signing him after he left the NFL ranks and the Miami Dolphins.

At the time, Oklahoma's coach Bob Stoops was reportedly the highest-paid college coach with a contract worth just under \$3.5 million in 2007.

Especially considering it is an almost 40 percent gain from the year before Saban was hired in 2007. By comparison, domestic corporate profits in the United States have plummeted 27 percent since 2006, according to statistics from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

This year could be even better than the last for Alabama, with the Crimson Tide set to

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Saban is proving to be worth the money. He has led Alabama to two straight SEC title games and two straight lucrative BCS bowls while compiling a 25-2 record over the last two seasons. The school may have raised the salary bar to new heights, but it's hard to question whether it was a good financial investment.

Football continues to pay the bills for other varsity sports and the department still wound up with a \$22.1 million profit last year.

Recession-plagued construction is at a standstill in some areas, but huge cranes stand over Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa. It's being expanded to raise its capacity to 101,000 at a cost of more than \$80 million.

Alabama's jobless rate climbed to 10.9 percent last month, but the waiting list for Crimson Tide football tickets is more than 10,000 names long.

On University Drive, stores are selling Southeastern Conference championship shirts as quickly as they can get them after 'Bama's 32-13 convincing win against Florida last week.

David M. Jones, who runs Alabama Bookstore, said he has been swamped with fans buying hats and T-shirts ever since the SEC title game. Excitement over Alabama football has helped his business weather the recession.

"We call it the Saban effect," Jones said. "It was a great investment three years ago, and he's continuing to pay dividends."

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**GREEK SYSTEM RINGING OUT OF LETTER COMBINATIONS**

Panic struck the heart of fraternities and sororities across the nation this week when word spread that the number of unique remaining Greek

letter combinations was in critical condition.

"Unfortunately, with the induction of our newest chapters, we've Greek begins. 8,000 to

Others are just really good at tiny handwriting. That's my gift. Wanna cheat and not get caught? Just call Craig 'CribSheet' McGrott!"

While some considered the slogan gimmicky, the testimonials spoke for themselves. And there's no cheating that.

**STUDENT WANTS TO RENT EVERYTHING**

Junior Mick McConnell has decided that he will no longer buy anything. Instead, he says with confidence, "I'm gonna rent."

Mick tells the story of renting his apartment, which is "waaaaay cheaper than buying one", which led to renting movies, renting cars

**WE BUY BACK EVERY TEXTBOOK GUARANTEED**

no cheating that.

Sixth-year senior Craig McGrott may not be good at a lot of things, but he's the best there is when it comes to writing answers on tiny pieces of paper (commonly known as crib sheets). At least, according to the advertisement he ran on Facebook last week.

"Look, everybody's different," Craig explained yesterday. "Some people are really smart.

**FACULTY FOUND TAILGATING BEFORE BIG EXAM**

It was Thursday afternoon, hours before the big exam, and Professor Jay Limbaugh's office was empty. As were Professor Rick Stein's and Dr. Denise Carrol's. Where was everyone during the last-minute question frenzy? Apparently, tailgating.

According to Senior Ben eight professors (those mentioned above) in the faculty parking lot the school just after watching football and sack.

They were freaking tailgate exclaimed furiously. grill, coozies, Chinese the whole shebang! to be helping us dogs and

deny the professor with great

o many a little teachers. And said the fact, I hank- xt A's their

demanding and yet on respond. hands of en, who is through

demanding word yet on respond. The matter now in the hands of Chancellor Pittman, who is rumored have streaked through the tailgate earlier that day.

**Angela's cafe**

Now Serving Breakfast!

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