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Tech men back at it against Iowa State
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Agency to investigate chemistry explosion

By JON VANDERLAAN
NEWS EDITOR

Almost two weeks after a chemical explosion injured a Texas Tech graduate student, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board announced it would conduct an investigation into the causes of the explosion.

Preston Brown, 29, still is in critical condition in the burn unit at University Medical Center as of press time Tuesday.

Cory Chandler, a Tech spokesman, said the Jan. 7 explosion occurred when a mixture of three chemicals exploded at about 4 p.m. in Room 218 of the Chemistry building.

Brown suffered severe injuries to his hands and face, Chandler said, although the injuries were not life threatening.

Don Holmstrom, the investigations supervisor from the CSB, said the board is just beginning the investigation and will examine evidence, conduct interviews and gather information from the university during its investigation.

One reason the board will be conducting an investigation, he said, is the CSB aims to address issues that are not regulated already.

Taylor Eighthy, the Tech vice president for research, said the university looks forward to cooperating with the CSB investigation and also is in the midst of an internal investigation.

"We believe that we have a very good system in place," he said, "but you can always learn from these types of situations."

The internal investigation Tech is conducting is standard procedure, Eighthy said, although this type of

situation is unprecedented.

Daniel Horowitz, the director of public affairs with the CSB, said the board does not place fault in its investigations but gives recommendations for standards it believes should be in place around the country.

In a news release, John Bresland, the chairman of the board, said the information gathered from this and other investigations will be used for a study on the subject.

"We see serious accidents in high school and university labs every year, including a tragic fatality a year ago at UCLA," he said in the release. "I believe it is time to begin examining these accidents to see if



EIGHMY

they can be prevented through the kind of rigorous safety management systems that we and others have advocated in industrial settings."

Although the board does not have evidence suggesting these types of accidents are on the rise, Holmstrom said another reason for the investigation is to gather information about whether a trend exists.

"We'll be looking at the frequency and number of accidents that occur in university labs," he said.

The board does not issue fines or any type of sanction, Holmstrom said, but it will keep the public informed about its activities and key findings, possibly hosting a public meeting.

The investigation could take up to a year, he said, and may result in a full report about the board's findings.

»»jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu

Art Appreciation



PHOTO BY SAM GRENIADIER/The Daily Toreador

MCKINLEY BOTKIN IS a graphic design major who started a business selling her artwork. Her studio is usually her bedroom floor.

Student's artistic enthusiasm leads to entrepreneurship

By DEVIN SANCHEZ
STAFF WRITER

With an entrepreneurial drive and a passion for art, McKinley Botkin is setting her sights high with her business — Kinley Kins.

Botkin, a sophomore graphic design major from Midland, found an interest in art when she began watching Bob Ross paint landscapes on "The Joy of Painting" at her babysitter's house when she was 3 years old.

At age 8, Botkin began taking art classes at a few places with a friend of hers. Although she liked to paint at home, she said she wasn't allowed to start painting in art class without learning to draw first. This caused some frustration for Botkin.

"I'm very stubborn and impatient," she said. "So over time I stopped going to the lessons and went into other hobbies, like dance, until the end of high school."

Even though she was known as the "creative one," Botkin said she didn't realize she would be led back to art and into graphic design until her senior year of high school.

"My drill team had a very old logo that I felt didn't fully look like a dancer. So I tweaked it a bit on the old paint program and fixed it up and made it new," she

said. "That was when I realized I could actually use my creative talents toward something that could eventually make me a career."

As for getting back into painting, Botkin credits seeing a unique piece at Celebration of the Arts, a festival in her hometown.

"I was 17 when I saw Adrian Diaz's work. It was Mexican-inspired and very unique," she said. "So I went home and got back into painting and I haven't stopped since."

Botkin said her specialty is painting. She enjoys mixing things up — when it comes to colors — and tries to add texture to her pieces.

"I don't exactly have formal training at all in painting, but I've fiddled with it for so long I feel very comfortable with it," she said. "I pretty much stick to typography, quotes and sayings. I like the combination of neutrals and colors that you wouldn't necessarily think to put together. I like to add texture, sheen, round mirrors, metallic and sometimes glitter, in moderation."

Botkin said her art is contemporary.

Her roommate and one of her customers, Hillary Youngblut, used a different term.

ART continued on Page 3 »»

In upset, GOP's Brown wins Mass. Senate race

By GLEN JOHNSON AND
LIZ SIDOTI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON (AP) — In an epic upset in liberal Massachusetts, Republican Scott Brown rode a wave of voter anger to defeat Democrat Martha Coakley in a U.S. Senate election Tuesday that left President Barack Obama's health care overhaul in doubt and marred the end of his first year in office.

The loss by the once-favored Coakley for the seat that the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy held for nearly half a century signaled big political problems for the president's party this fall when House, Senate and gubernatorial candidates are on the ballot nationwide.

More immediately, Brown will become the 41st Republican in the 100-member Senate, which could allow the GOP to block the president's health care legislation and the rest of Obama's agenda. Democrats needed Coakley to win for a 60th vote to thwart Republican filibusters.

Democratic fingerpointing began more than a week ago as polls started showing a tight race, with the White House accusing Coakley of a poor

campaign and the Coakley camp laying at some of the blame on the administration. Obama flew to Boston for last-ditch personal campaigning on Sunday.

With 87 percent of precincts counted, Brown led Coakley, 52 percent to 47 percent.

The election transformed reliably Democratic Massachusetts into a battleground state. One day shy of the first anniversary of Obama's swearing-in, it played out amid a backdrop of animosity and resentment from voters over persistently high unemployment, industry bailouts, exploding federal budget deficits and partisan wrangling over health care.

For weeks considered a long shot, Brown seized on such discontent to overtake Coakley in the final stretch of the campaign. Surveys showed his candidacy energized Republicans, including backers of the grass-roots "tea party" movement, while attracting disappointed Democrats and independents uneasy with where they felt the nation was heading.

Turnout was relatively heavy for a special election despite a mix of snow and rain showers across the state virtually all day.

A week after Haiti quake, aid for all is still elusive

By JONATHAN M. KATZ
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The world still can't get enough food and water to the hungry and thirsty one week after an earthquake shattered Haiti's capital. The airport remains a bottleneck, the port is a shambles. The Haitian government is invisible, nobody has taken firm charge, and the police have largely given up.

Even as U.S. troops landed in Seahawk helicopters Tuesday on the manicured lawn of the National Palace, the colossal efforts to help Haiti are proving inadequate because of the scale of the disaster and the limitations of the world's governments. Expectations exceeded what money, will and military might have been able to achieve so far in the face of unimaginable calamity.

"God has abandoned us! The foreigners have abandoned us!" yelled Micheline Ursulin, tearing at her hair as she rushed past a large pile of decaying bodies.

Three of her children died in the quake and her surviving daughter is in the hospital with broken limbs and a serious infection.

Rescue groups continue to work, even though time is running out for those buried by the quake. A Mexican team created after that nation's 1985 earthquake rescued Ena Zizi, 69. She had survived a week buried in the ruins of the residence of Haiti's Roman Catholic archbishop, Monsignor Joseph Serge Miot, whose body was found Tuesday sitting in a chair in what appeared to be his office.

Doctors said Zizi was dehydrated and had dislocated a hip and broken a leg.

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IN BRIEF

STATE

Perry attacks Obama plan for grants to schools

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry lashed out Tuesday at a plan by President Barack Obama that would effectively let local Texas school districts circumvent the state's decision to not compete for millions in education reform dollars.

Obama singled out Texas on Tuesday while outlining a proposed \$1.35 billion expansion of the "Race to the Top" education grant program, which Perry has

denounced as a federal takeover of public schools. The program is currently only available to states, but Obama's proposal would let local school districts compete directly for funding down the road.

"Innovative districts like the one in Texas whose reform efforts are being stymied by state decision-makers will soon have the chance to earn funding to help them pursue those reforms," said Obama, speaking at a Virginia elementary school.

NATION

LA City Council moves to close pot dispensaries

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday tentatively approved an ordinance to close most of the city's medical marijuana dispensaries, winding down months of debate on how to limit the rapid spread of such clinics.

The ordinance, if passed next week by a simple majority of the 15-member council, would cap the number of dispensaries at 70 and require them to be at least 1,000 feet from "sensitive uses" — schools, parks and other public gathering spots.

WORLD

UK bans drinking games, but resists price controls

LONDON (AP) — Bar-going Britons may soon be bidding goodbye to their country's all-you-can-drink deals — as well as some of their more outlandish drinking games.

The government said Tuesday it was banning irresponsible promotions and boozy contests such as the "dentist's chair" — where alcohol is poured directly into customers' mouths — in an effort to tackle Britain's binge-drinking problem.

Corrections

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

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.

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Tech parking services offers motorist assistance

By **RALSTON ROLLO**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech University Parking Services has offered assistance to on-campus motorists through the Motorist Assistance Program since the fall of 1999.

Heather Medley, marketing and training coordinator of University Parking Services, said the program is funded by permit-holders and citation revenue. A stranded motorist can call 806-742-MAPP to receive free services including tire inflation, gasoline, battery boosts and locksmith services.

Many cases in which stranded motorists push their cars onto campus also make use of the program's services, Medley said.

"We help with basic emergencies," she said. "They are paid for by our general operations budget."

Buddy Chambliss, a shift supervisor at University Parking Services, said each motorist may seek services from the Motorist Assistance Program three times per academic year. Each subsequent case, he said, must be paid for by the motorist.

"We keep records to avoid abuse," Chambliss said.

Even though the services are free to customers, he said, University Parking Services is glad to provide them.

"We are more than willing to help people with their basic needs," Chambliss said.

In the event of a flat tire, Medley said, a parking services employee can provide a temporary fix that should hold long enough for the motorist to drive to a shop that could permanently repair the tire. Due to liability issues, she said, the Motorist Assistance Program cannot help a driver change a tire.

If a motorist's battery is dead, she

said, the program provides a battery boost service to get the vehicle to start.

Also, Medley said all in-the-field parking services employees are trained to respond in the event that a motorist requires the program's service.

University Parking Services has a contract with Pop-A-Lock, Medley said, and can provide their automotive locksmith services at no charge to the motorist.

Operating on three separate shifts, the Motorist Assistance Program is available 24 hours of the day and all days excluding university holidays, Medley said. The services are available to students and non-students alike.

Col. Gordon Hoffman, deputy chief of the Tech Police Department, said police officers sometimes relay the Motorist Assistance Program to distressed motorists and will remain at the scene to aid the motorist until assistance arrives.

When a parking services employee

AVAILABLE SERVICES

- tire inflation
 - gasoline fill up
 - battery boosts
 - locksmith services
- Call 806-742-MAPP

arrives to aid a motorist, Medley said, the motorist must sign a release of liability form so University Parking Services employees cannot be held accountable for damage to the vehicle they did not cause.

Medley said on-campus motorists seek the aid of the Motorist Assistance program at least once a day. The services can be provided at any location on campus, Texas Tech Plaza and the Rawls Golf Course.

► ralston.rollo@ttu.edu

Noel-Levitz consultants to review Tech advising system

By **JOEANN BON-JORNO**
STAFF WRITER

As Texas Tech continues pushing toward the goal of becoming a national research university, Noel-Levitz consultants will visit campus Feb. 2 through Feb. 4 to help improve the advising system.

According to the Noel-Levitz Web site, the company is a leader in higher education consulting and committed to helping institutions meet their goals for enrollment and student success.

Rob Stewart, senior vice provost, said Tech chose Noel-Levitz because the school has worked with Noel-Levitz consultants on a separate, larger project on enrollment management last year.

"We chose Noel-Levitz because we have worked with them in the past," Stewart said, "and knew of their strong history and experience."

Elizabeth Teagan, director of advising, said in the effort to become a national research university, increased enrollment is essential. An important component of increased enrollment is retention, and the centerpiece for retention is academic advising.

"Helping Tech reach its goals is helping students reach their goals," she said.

The consultants coming in Febru-

ary will help Tech through an assessment of advising and retention, Teagan said. During the consultants' time on campus, representatives of the university community are invited to meet with them.

According to Tech's agreement with Noel-Levitz, the goal is to identify improvement opportunities to increase student retention rates as well as contribute to Tech's enrollment growth goals.

Teagan said a comprehensive analysis of the advising system's contribution to student success and retention will be emphasized.

"Advisers are the first face of academics for students," she said, "and they are a constant in a students' academic lives."

Teagan said the analysis from Noel-Levitz consultants will give Tech recommendations to improve advising and increase graduation and retention rates, which includes identification of strengths and challenges of Tech's retention efforts with recommendations of tools and approaches effective for short-term and long-term strategies.

"These strategies and tools will assist the university in meeting advising and retention goals," she said.

Noel-Levitz consultants work with various universities in Texas including Abilene Christian University, Baylor University, Texas A&M University and University of Houston.

► joeann.bon-jorno@ttu.edu

POLICE BLOTTER

Citations issued for multiple ID possession

Jan. 13
1:41 p.m., emergency detention at the Student Wellness Center
2:20 p.m., reported theft of a parking permit in the R-3 parking lot
7:15 p.m., reported theft of a parking permit on the second floor of the Flint Avenue Parking Garage
9:41 p.m., citation for possession of drug paraphernalia in Chitwood Residence Hall

Jan. 14
8:59 a.m., medical call outside the Architecture building
1:15 p.m., reported bicycle theft at Gordon Residence Hall
1:15 p.m., investigation of Facebook harassment between students in Stangel Residence Hall
3:46 p.m., medical call at Holden Hall
9:30 p.m., traffic accident without injuries in the Z3-F parking lot

Jan. 15
10:45 a.m., reported bicycle theft at Stangel Residence Hall
2:42 p.m., flood causing property damage in Hulen Residence Hall

Jan. 16
1:26 a.m., criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall
3:10 a.m., citation for consumption of alcohol by a minor in the

Z4-M parking lot
6:48 a.m., possible drug overdose in Murdough Residence Hall
8:39 a.m., multiple valid driver's licenses, possession of alcohol by a minor and possession of drug paraphernalia in Wall Residence Hall

Jan. 17
8:33 a.m., criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall
11:30 a.m., reported assault in Weymouth Residence Hall
11:57 a.m., vehicle damaged in the Z3-L parking lot
12:08 p.m., burglary of a vehicle in the C-1 parking lot

Jan. 18
1:48 a.m., driving under the influence of alcohol and consumption of alcohol by a minor in the 1800 block of Hartford Avenue
4:25 a.m., public intoxication arrest in the Z1-B parking lot
4:40 a.m., consumption of alcohol by a minor and possession of more than one valid driver's license in the lobby of Chitwood Residence Hall
2:31 p.m., traffic accident without injuries in the Z5-B parking lot
4:35 p.m., outstanding warrant arrest in the 1700 block of Indiana Avenue
9:10 p.m., possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia in Carpenter/Wells Complex

► ralston.rollo@ttu.edu

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Clay pieces with 'shotgun blast' of influences hit the gallery wall

By JULIE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Artists around the country competed against one another to make it into Texas Tech's 2010 "Clay on the Wall" art show, which features the talents of 42 sculptors in the School of Art's Landmark Arts Gallery.

Elaine Henry, one of the jurors in the show and an editor and publisher of two ceramics magazines from, said she selected the artists based on their works' content, craftsmanship and individuality. The greatest challenge she faced in selecting this year's featured artists was eliminating good submissions so the gallery space could get the size of exhibition they wanted.

The degree to which the pieces pushed clay to its extremes was a deciding factor in choosing what distinguished works would be part of the gallery, said Henry, a native of Minnesota, Minn.

Tom Bartel, professor of ceramics at Ohio University, has his work, "Green with Love," in the exhibit. He said he took cues from a "shotgun blast" of influ-

ences ranging from antiquity to popular culture, and inspiration provided a problem to which he designed an answer.

"I was fascinated by human form and used this as a starting point in my work," he said. "My intentions are best conveyed through fragmentations of the body. Where my concerns lie with is how this decision encourages, if not requires, the viewer to participate with the work. I feel that within this context, what is absent is as significant as what is present."

John-Thomas Richard, a second-year graduate student in ceramics, jewelry and metals from Hazel Green, Wis., has two pieces of art in the show: "Disintegrating Wing Segment" and "It Is Structural."

Each piece took more than 50 hours to complete, he said, but he believes it was worth it to submit to this show that drew the attention of artists from all across the country.

Richard said the best part is having the art on display for the Lubbock audience to view.

"I am an artist and educator who deals with the concepts of relation-

ships within the context of my work," said Kevin Hughes, sculptor of "Wheel of Progress Adorned with Nine Elvi" and "The Golden Bird of Wisdom." "I utilized the process of press molding to create the works. The piece has parts composed of different clay bodies that are fired to their appropriate temperatures, then assembled into the form that is on exhibition."

Hughes, an associate professor of art and design at Missouri State University, said he enjoyed the chance to participate in a nationally recognized exhibition and hoped the patrons of the exhibit would enjoy his work as much as he did during the month of work it took him to create his sculpture.

Although the artists contributed their unique abilities to the medium, Henry said she couldn't help but select her favorites.

Every juried exhibition takes on a bit of the juror's prejudices; if the exhibition was juried by someone else, it may look entirely different, she said. What ties in the pieces on display is their level of quality.

The School of Art will host the gallery from Jan. 19 until Feb. 28. Students, faculty and art enthusiasts are encouraged to visit and view the works for free admission. Landmark Arts Gallery is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturdays and noon until 4 p.m. Sundays.

Julie.davis@ttu.edu



PHOTO BY SAM GRENIER/The Daily Toreador

"WHEEL OF PROGRESS, Adorned with Nine" by Kevin W. Hughes of Springfield, Mo. is just one of the many sculptures featured in the "Clay on the Wall, 2010 Clay National" exhibition which opened in the Landmark Gallery on Tuesday in the Art building.

Apple leaves MacBook out of 3G connectivity

Wireless technologies are constantly evolving, so it would make sense that consumer devices would follow suit.

For example, think about how Wi-Fi-enabled products generally keep up with the current IEEE specifications, such as in the transition from each 802.11 protocol to the next. More recently, 3G has become the standard for the nomadic business professional. Unfortunately, some companies are slacking in the upkeep of their wireless goods — namely Apple.

Yes, the iPhone can do 3G, but that's not the point. The consummate businessman or businesswoman is not going to review reports, send and view presentations, and other things business people do exclusively on an iPhone.

These types of activities generally take place on a laptop, which for some of these people will include a MacBook of some sort. It's a sad realization, though, MacBooks don't have 3G connectivity.

Apple clearly does not need help making money, but including 3G in any MacBook could yield a noticeable jump in sales. Consider Apple sold 6.1 million original iPhones during five quarters. Now consider the iPhone 3G managed to move 6.89 million units in its opening quarter alone. This may be a completely uneducated guess, but 3G may have had something to do with that.

People who want a mobile wireless solution on their laptops have to defer to either something like an HP netbook with 3G connectivity built-in, tether to a 3G enabled phone, or utilize some sort of attachment that may include a 3G dongle or something like Verizon's MiFi device — a portable hub that allows wireless connectivity wherever you can



Timothy Poon

get Verizon coverage. Regardless, any of these solutions will require some sort of payment plan with a service provider.

The notion of tying down a product from one company to a service from another is not an entirely brand new concept, a notion especially appropriate considering having just talked about the iPhone, which is still sadly locked down to AT&T.

That alone should show Apple knows how to leverage a device into a mostly mutually beneficial relationship between a product and a service. So in addition to selling more MacBooks with 3G built-in, Apple could also see a slice of the provider pie through some sort of subsidizing deal with another national wireless network.

All of this could, however, soon become a moot point, as Apple may actually be about to release something that rectifies all of these previously mentioned issues. Apple is hosting an event on Jan. 27 to allow people to see their "latest creation," and, unless you've been huffing paint every day for the past month, you'll know this is most likely going to be the Apple tablet, which apparently may end up being called the "iSlate" or, heaven forbid, the "iPad."

Though the tablet's features concerning a camera of some sort of mostly up in the air, it's generally accepted that it will come with a 3G connectivity option and may actually be tied down to Verizon's 3G network, though

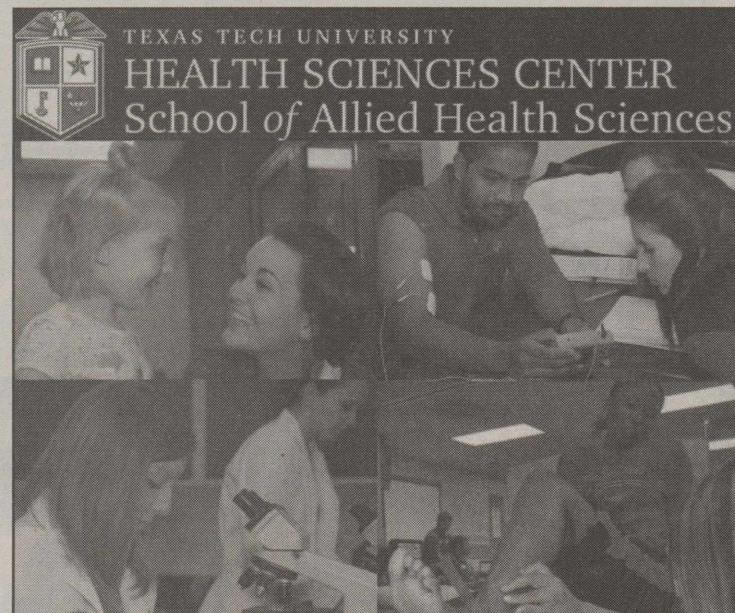
rumors also say it "could be open" to more networks.

There also is a possibly impending upgrade to the current line of MacBooks that will most likely include new Intel Core i5 processors, some souped up graphics capabilities and 3G connectivity (if this upgrade rumor happens to be true). In fact, both the new line of MacBooks and the tablet could include some sort of 4G capability, which leads to a new problem for consumers: money.

You already pay for a monthly smartphone data, voice and text message plan, home internet access, online gaming fees, Netflix, cable television, music subscription, and so much more that could total to something far closer to \$1,000 than you realize (accepting whether this estimation includes your basic living costs could put you further into a mild depression).

Now you'll have to tack on an additional 3G plan for your new MacBook and possibly pay out some additional cash for some 4G fun with Sprint for the tablet and you could be well into four digit territory, which would mean now is the perfect time to review what you can and can't live without in your increasingly technocentric life. Good luck.

■ Poon is The DT's tech critic.
timothy.poon@ttu.edu



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Art

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"McKinley's work is whimsical," said Youngblut, a sophomore human development and family studies major from Abilene. "That is the perfect description."

Another friend and customer of Botkin's, Leslie Anne Ray, a sophomore pre-occupational therapy major from Brownsville, said she doesn't believe Botkin's work can be categorized.

"There is no classification," she said. "It's just McKinley. It's her art."

Both Ray and Youngblut said they have favorite pieces Botkin has produced. Youngblut said she enjoys the Tech pieces Botkin has done, whereas Ray said she has a different favorite.

"McKinley has this huge painting that says, 'Breathe,'" she said. "It's simple, but gorgeous. It has such a calming effect on you."

Now in her second year at Tech, Botkin has become the go-to girl for art décor. Kinley Kins, Botkin's company that sells her pieces, evolved after her friends began asking the artist to personalize paintings for them. But business began picking up dramatically when she joined Kappa Alpha Theta last year. It was then that she also began to design the backdrops for date parties hosted by student organizations.

"The word just sort of got out amongst some of the girls and more

requests started coming in," she said. "It is a side job I'd like to eventually pick up, and hopefully later in life I'll be able to open a store and sell all kinds of unique handmade things."

The name of her business came from a few sources — one being a nickname she rarely goes by and the other from her name.

"I have two 'kin's in my name," she said. "It's also a joke because sometimes when I'm in a hurry the muscle memory in my hand will write, 'McKinley Botkinley.'"

The "Kin" in Kinley Kins also is for the hope Botkin and her sister will be able to go into business together.

Botkin said her target audience is females, and she has seen a rise in requests from college students. Although it is rare, she receives a few requests for work targeted more at males.

"There are many requests from moms for their daughters or for themselves," she said. "I have also done work that is more targeted toward males that aren't quite as girly and are also costumed to their requests."

After graduating and getting a

job in graphic design, Botkin said she hopes to own a shop with graphic design aspects, home decor, personalized items, accessories and handmade knickknacks. She does not have a license to operate, but she said she plans to get one when she starts her own business.

"As of now I'm just a poor college student selling paintings to my friends," she said. "So I use Facebook as a means of communication, exchanging however many messages it takes to ensure I will create what the buyer is asking for."

As for what Botkin hopes people derive from her works, she said she wants them to see the splendor in it all.

"I hope people find beauty in what I paint," she said, "and that they appreciate that when I paint something new, without direction, people take a part of me and my personality with them."

People interested in Botkin's products can find them on her Facebook group, "Kinley Kins."

devin.sanchez@ttu.edu

Today's su | do | ku

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8						5
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Puzzles by PageFiller

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20, 2010

Watch lifestyle, avoid college weight gain

Last week I had the unpleasant opportunity to test for hypothyroidism. I became more nervous as each day passed without answers. However, the day I read my results, I felt more than just relief.

As I read over my results I began to laugh.

"Thyroid is normal, weight gain likely due to change in diet since going to TTU," it read.

I was in disbelief my doctor would put such a short, yet blunt memo in my results. It was comical because at my doctor's appointment, my mother and I argued over my weight gain. She claimed it was due to hypothyroidism, but I blamed my Texas Tech lifestyle.

Hypothyroidism is a condition when the body does not produce a sufficient amount of thyroid hormones. Thyroid hormones run the body's metabolic

Elizabeth Custy



system and a lack of it can cause a variety of effects that include weight gain.

I am not surprised my mother suspected hypothyroidism. It runs in my family and I have gained weight since high school.

When I was a senior in high school I had a body mass index of 18.7, close to being considered underweight. With a current BMI of 24.7 I am at the top of the normal weight category. But how did this dramatic shift happen? For me, it wasn't hyperthyroidism; it's my new life at Tech.

Body mass index is a measure of body fat calculated by a person's height and weight. Many

workout facilities have BMI calculators. It is also easy to find a BMI generator online.

Weight gain is a common symptom of college life. And, unfortunately, weight gain does not stop at the infamous, "freshman 15;" it continues throughout our college careers.

A study conducted at Indiana University found females gained an average of eight pounds in their freshman year while men averaged nine pounds. It also found 67 percent of senior women gained 10 pounds, in ad-

dition to their weight from their freshman year. And, 86 percent of men on average gained an additional 14 pounds from the end of their freshman year to their senior year.

The results from the study are not surprising. Between Rosa's Taco Tuesdays and late-night Sam's Club runs, it is easy to pack the pounds.

Alcohol plays a major role in college weight gain. College provides a freedom from our parents that encourages drinking. And when 21 rolls around, it's easier to ac-

cess the alcohol. However, it's even easier for the calories to start pouring in.

The study also reported men drink up to four times the amount they drank in high school, and women drink up to three times as much.

Students have no problem drinking or eating more, but tend to skip the workouts. It's hard to motivate yourself to the gym, especially because many of us played a sport in high school.

Fast food, alcohol and relaxation is easier and more enjoyable. However, how many times do you look in the mirror and ask yourself, "What happened?" How many times do you pull out the skinny jeans from high school and spend the rest of the night in disbelief?

I know I miss the ability to fit into my old high school size 14 Abercrombie Kids jeans. However, what I miss the most is the

pride of being healthy and having a toned body.

Being toned is only an external benefit from a healthy lifestyle. Most importantly, eating healthy and working out will keep the doctor trips to a minimum.

Eating healthy doesn't always have to be a tasteless life change. Simple things such as cutting out fast food, sodas and alcohol can do more for your health than you realize. There are plenty of resources and plans to fit anyone's needs or desires for a healthy life.

I needed the blunt message from my doctor to wake me up from my unhealthy lifestyle. And I need more than a diet or quick run around the block. I need a lifestyle change.

■ Custy is a junior advertising major from Lubbock.
► elizabeth.custy@ttu.edu

"Unfortunately, weight gain does not stop at the infamous, 'freshman fifteen,' but continues throughout our college careers."

Infant gender selection technology presents many questions

How many of you either have or want children? If you're undecided, that's OK. Feel free to add your two cents as we go.

How many of you know the exact number of children you'd like to have? Do you have a preference between boys and girls? I'd sure like my family to include four boys and one little girl, which I'm pretty sure will result in me having all girls, but either way, I can't say I'd be unhappy.

Now, here's the big question: How many of you would alter the DNA of your child to choose

Shay Irby



their sex if the opportunity were to present itself?

Ah, not such an easy question anymore, but in this new day and age, choosing how many children of each gender one wants is a definite possibility. During Christmas break, a story about gender selection piqued my curiosity — not

so much so that I've done much research just yet, but enough to ask Raider Nation what you all think. Apparently, we can now choose the sex of our offspring.

OK, OK, what's the big deal you might ask? People still have the option to either choose their baby's sex or leave it up to God, right? Unfortunately for many of us, here is where the dilemma lies.

Now, I know not everyone is a Christian or believes in God, but I do. Although this isn't necessarily a religious issue, you must understand many of my morals

are direct results of my faith. So while my references to God are not intended to alienate or offend anyone, if you're the type who becomes offended at the mention-

ing of another's beliefs, feel free to skim over this article at this time. Don't worry, I won't take it personally.

For those of you who are still reading, what do you think? If you're not a Christian, what do your spiritual convictions lead you to believe? Maybe you're not spiritual at all, but I'd still like to know where your moral code leads you.

Personally, I'm not sure I'd choose the sex of my children. Sure, four gentlemen and a little lady would be ideal, but then again, many things I may never have would be ideal. Would choosing the sex of my child be the same as not having faith in God's plan for me? Would I

be insinuating I have ultimate control over my life? Is it OK for mankind to continue interfering with nature's course to such a great extent?

"Is it OK for mankind to continue interfering with nature's course to such a great extent?"

Still, there are questions remaining which have little or nothing to do with religion. For example, is it selfish to choose your child's gender when so many who cannot naturally become parents would love nothing more than to simply have a child? Would gender selection create a wider gap in the ratio of women to men? Would this type of technology cause an increase in the number of children born with learning disabilities or other health related issues?

On the other hand, fair arguments have been presented in support of this type of technology. Some argue that those who cannot naturally bear children have the alternative option of selecting a

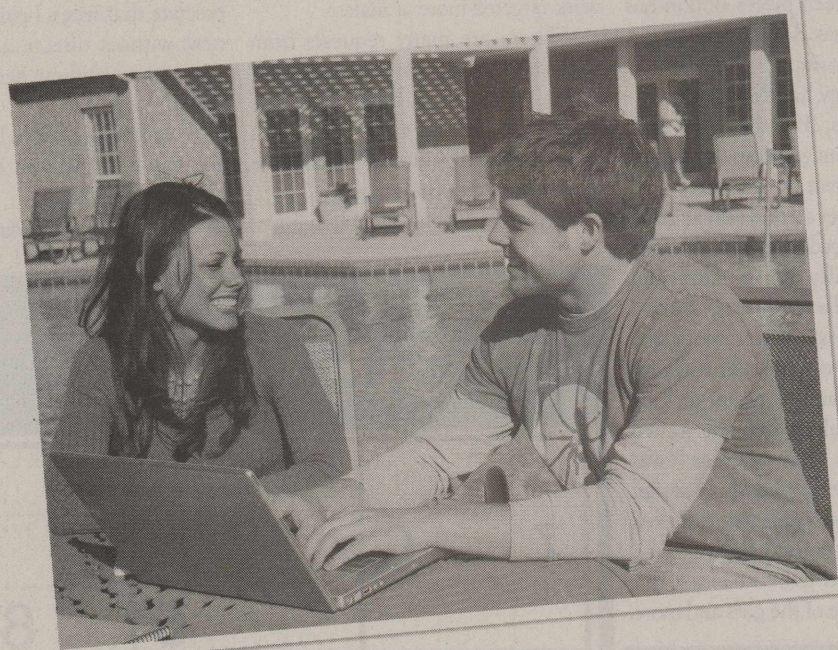
male or female through the adoption process. I'm not sure if that is a fair comparison to those who are naturally able to conceive, but the argument itself is valid.

What about families with four daughters, who have always dreamed of having a son, but economically are unable to continue "trying" for that son? Would you blame them for using gender selection? Taking into account the stigmas that are placed on women in various societies like China where the ratio of women to men could one day be so small that reproduction there could be threatened, can we be certain that we shouldn't delve more into the possibilities of this life altering form of technology?

As for me, I think I'll leave those types of decisions to the big guy upstairs, but that doesn't mean I'm not curious about what you think. So which is it? Will you tell the doctor what you want, or will he tell you what you have? Or will it be a bit of both?

■ Irby is a senior general studies major from St. Louis.
► shay.irby@ttu.edu

study + play + live



6:32 still havent studied for the quiz. what about u?

6:33 nope :(want to get together to study?

6:34 my place. study lounge or wifi by the pool?

6:35 def the pool. cant beat the sun while studying

6:36 lol. see you in a few

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Youth should carry Tech women's tennis in 2010

By JOSHUA KOCH
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech women's tennis coach Todd Petty is just beginning to put his mark on his team.

That's probably good news considering he's entering his first full season as head coach after spending last year as the interim coach. He replaced former coach Cari Groce.

"The talent level is getting better every year," Petty said. "I think the recruiting process we are getting a little better talent. I think we are adding some depth to the lineup, and overall chemistry, getting used to what I am looking for, and what I am trying to do with the program."

The Lady Raiders open the 2010 spring season this weekend with three straight matches on the schedule against UT-Arlington, Tulane and New Mexico. The UT-Arlington match is at 5 p.m. Friday, Tulane visits at noon Saturday and Tech faces New Mexico at 10 a.m. Sunday at the McLeod Tennis Center.

Petty has a young team to work with, but that doesn't mean talent is lacking. There's some experience on the roster returning this season, such as senior Kerryn Potgieter and junior Kelsey Garland.

Potgieter is the only senior on this year's squad.

"I definitely do think everyone looks up to the upperclassmen, especially the senior on the team,

and I think it's definitely on court and off court," Potgieter said. "It's going to make a difference and in the weight room just setting an example and being a good role model for everyone to kind of follow and look up to."

With Garland and Potgieter returning, among others, this season's lineup is not permanently set yet.

There is no more Samantha van der Drift, who etched her name in the record books by becoming the winningest singles players in school history last season.

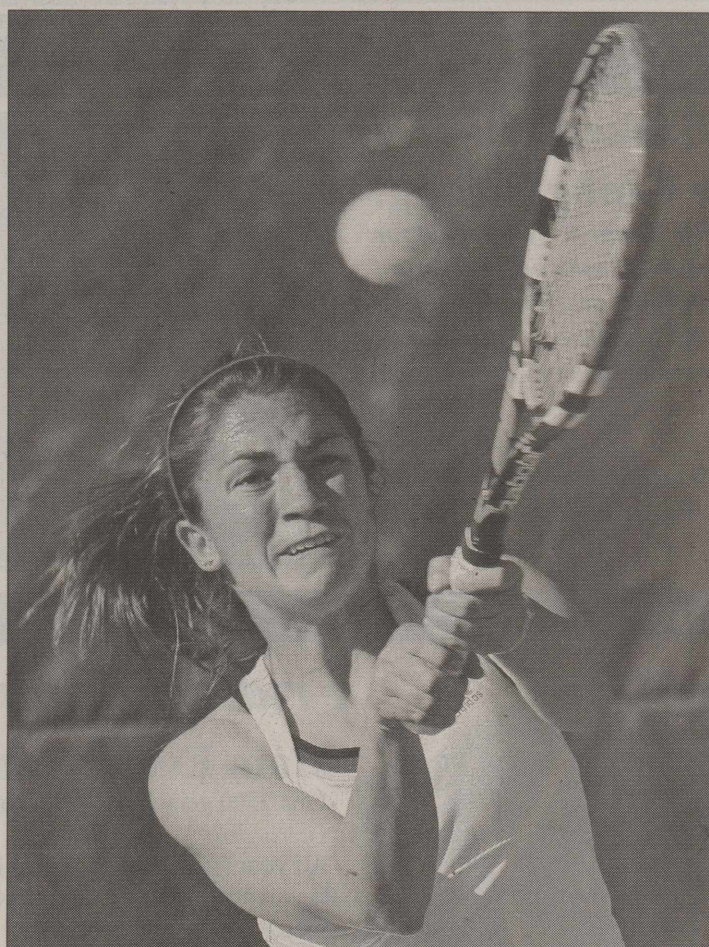
But Garland spent time at No. 1 last season, which could leave her slated for the spot. Then there's other standouts, such as Natalie Leitch and Stefanie Peana. Doubles teams are not yet set either.

But even during the season, Petty said changes to the lineup are inevitable.

"It's going to be up and down," Petty said. We are very lucky this year that we have a lot of girls at the same level. "So we are going to move people in and out and switch a little bit more for match ups against opponents in just strength of our lineup. I think that's where we are going to be helpful."

Petty said his team will have to find a way to fit in a crowded Big 12 Conference this season — a conference he believes will get three to five teams to the NCAA tournament.

But after this weekend's matches, he said more questions will be



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH'S KELSEY Garland is one of the returning players on the women's tennis team for the 2010 season.

answered. "I think this team has got the potential to be a NCAA team; obviously we will know more after this weekend," he said. "I think you're going to take your bumps

and bruises and if we can be able to right this ship early on in the year and find that right direction, then this team can be very dangerous."

»joshua.koch@ttu.edu

Closer Jose Valverde, Detroit finalize deal

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Tigers are hoping "Papa Grande" comes up big for them this season.

Jose Valverde, all 6-foot-4 and 280 pounds of him, joined the Tigers as their closer after a \$14 million, two-year contract was finalized on Tuesday.

The agreement, which was reached last week pending a physical, includes a \$9 million option for 2012.

Valverde had 25 saves in 29 chances for the Houston Astros last year, when he struck out 56 in 54 innings and limited opponents to a .207 batting average. The 30-year-old righty was 4-2 with a 2.33 ERA last season after leading the NL in saves with Arizona in 2007 and Houston in 2008.

"We think Jose is one of the premier closers in the game," Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski said. "He addresses to us what was our biggest need on our ballclub and gives us a chance, we think, to have a very solid pitching staff."

Detroit also agreed to one-year contracts with catcher Gerald Laird (\$3.95 million), left-hander Bobby Seay (\$2,475,000) and righty Zach Miner (\$950,000).

The moves mean the Tigers have only one player still in arbitration, ace pitcher Justin Verlander. When the sides exchanged figures Tuesday, Verlander asked for \$9.5 million and the club offered \$6.9 million.

"We're hopeful to keep Justin a

part of our organization for a long time and we remain hopeful of being able to do that," Dombrowski said.

The addition of Valverde gives Detroit the closer it needed after choosing not to re-sign Fernando Rodney or Brandon Lyon.

Rodney received an \$11 million, two-year contract from the Los Angeles Angels and Lyon signed with Houston for \$15 million over three seasons.

Valverde said he has friends on the Tigers, including first baseman Miguel Cabrera and right fielder Magglio Ordonez, and is looking forward to joining the team.

"I'm so excited right now," said Valverde, who is 19-19 with a 3.17 ERA and 167 saves in seven major league seasons — five with the Diamondbacks and two with Houston. He was an All-Star in 2007 and finished sixth in NL Cy Young Award voting.

Another of his friends is Rodney, and Valverde said his pal praised the Tigers during their conversations.

"He told me, 'There's a good energy over there. You'd be happy over there because everybody — the GM, the fans, the manager — everybody's good over there,'" Valverde said.

Valverde grew up in the town of El Seibo, Dominican Republic, where he lived with his parents and two younger brothers on a family farm. As a teenager, he was talked into taking up baseball by his uncle, former major league pitcher Jose Mercedes.

Pacquiao, Clotey to rumble at Cowboys Stadium

ARLINGTON (AP) — Guys wearing jeans and cowboy hats ran through dry ice and past the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders, sparklers firing from the tips of the flagpoles they carried.

Michael Buffer gave his signature introduction, the music blared, the highlights rolled and, finally — walking

through the same tunnel the Cowboys use to enter and exit their home turf — out came boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao.

No, this wasn't a test run for Pacquiao's March 13 welterweight fight against Joshua Clotey in the \$1.2 billion Cowboys Stadium.

This was merely the news conference kicking off the hype for a bout being billed as "The Event."

"This is going to be the Super Bowl of boxing," said Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer.

Not really. That would've been the hoped-for matchup between Pacquiao

and Floyd Mayweather Jr., which was scuttled after Mayweather outlined a drug testing plan Pacquiao wouldn't accept.

Had that fight come together, it would have been in Las Vegas. So as far as Cowboys owner Jerry Jones is concerned, things worked out just fine.

Jackson: focus on talent, not judges

NEW YORK (AP) — It seems as if all the buzz about "American Idol" has been on the status of the judges and not the talent, and Randy Jackson says that needs to change.

"A lot is being made about us and what we do, how we judge, who's on, who's not on, what's happening, all of that," he said in an interview Tuesday.

"It's really about those contestants, really. They're going to go on because it's them taking the rocket ship to try and get their fame started ... I mean, so much is being made about us or whatever."

That's because the changing faces of the judges have provided the biggest news.

Simon Cowell recently announced he's leaving "Idol" for the U.K.-based competition series, "The X Factor," and Paula Abdul left after her contract deal fell through.

Jackson, along with Kara DioGuardi, Cowell and various guest judges, kicked off the ninth season of "Idol" last week. Ellen DeGeneres will begin her stint on Feb. 9, when the contestants who received the golden ticket compete in Hollywood.

Jackson, 53, laughs when he's asked about the length of his contract with the Fox Television series: "It's got some time left, yes," he acknowledges.

And ask him if he would work as a judge on "The X Factor" and he'll laugh again.

"You never know what's going to happen, you just never know in life," he added.

He says finding a judge to replace Cowell will be "tough" and "really difficult" because "there's nobody quite like him."

He later jokes about Cowell's possible replacements. "Maybe Conan? Maybe Leno? I don't know," he said.

Throughout the season nine auditions, Jackson says the girls outshine the boys — and he's hoping a female takes the top prize.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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61									62			
64									65			

By Barry C. Silk 1/20/10

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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O	H	I	O	I	L	T	E	K	I	L	L	S
M	E	N	A	N	E	R	D	E	T	S	E	Q
O	D	E	D	G	O	E	S	L	O	E	W	S

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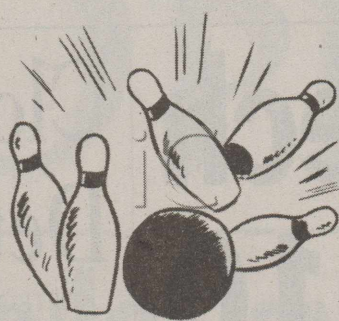
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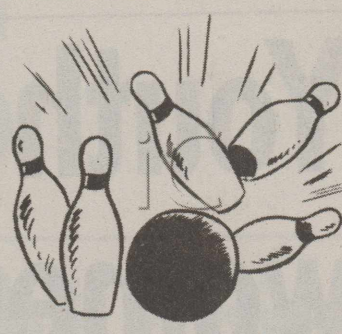
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Bowling Play Dates: February 1 or February 8
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Raider X2 Fitness Class Demo Schedule

Here is your chance to try out all of the Raider X2 Fitness classes for free. All this week Raider X2 classes are free and open to all students. For a schedule of classes, stop by the Rec Center or get online at www.rescsports.ttu.edu and print out your own copy!

Outdoor Pursuits Center Bike Tech

It's been a beautiful January, so why not get out on a bike? The OPC has free bikes to rent out for up to three days to any student! Stop by the OPC and ask about Bike Tech, your source for free wheels!

Vertical Plains Festival

This year's Vertical Plains Climbing and Film Festival will be on February 11 & 12. The Telluride Film Festival on the 11th is open to all Tech students thanks to the Tech Activities Board.

Intramurals

Intramural Basketball

Sign-ups Are Going Strong!

Tomorrow is the last day to register your team for the 2010 Spring Intramural Basketball Season!

The Intramural Office is open until 6:00PM tonight and 5:00pm tomorrow, so make sure to get your team signed up as soon as possible to get the best times!

Don't Have a Team?

Come to the Free Agent meeting tonight at 7:00pm in Room 206 of the Rec. Find teammates and play some ball!



Basketball Officials Meeting Thursday Night!!

A Basketball Rules Clinic is scheduled for Thursday Jan. 21st at 5:30 in room 201 of the Student Rec Center. IM basketball officials are paid \$9 per game. Basketball sport knowledge is required, but prior officiating experience is not. The Officials' Meeting will be on Monday, January 12 at 5:00pm in Rm. 201 or Tuesday January 13 at 5:00pm in Rm. 201 of the Rec.

Outdoor Pursuits

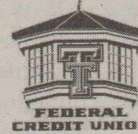


Friday January 29th, 2010 @ Rec Center

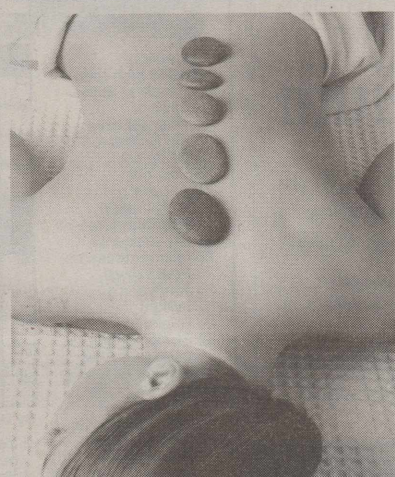
Main Event: Tom Deluca at 9:00pm!

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- TAB Dive In Movie - Couples Retreat @ 7:00pm
- ZUMBA Class at 5:30pm
- Golf Chip and Challenge in Rm. 116



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New RaiderX & X2 Classes!

All Raider X2 Classes are free this week through Saturday, January 23rd. Try out all of your favorites and try our new classes! Class registration has started in the Fit/Well, so stop by to ensure your spot in our great classes!

- New for 2010:
- | | |
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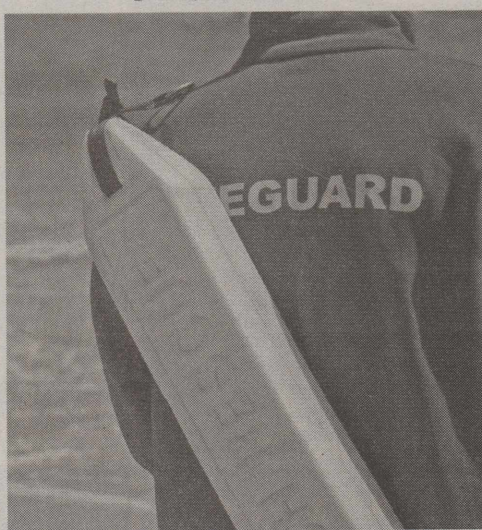
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- Monday, February 22 at 4:00pm
- Tuesday, February 23 at 6:00pm
- Thursday, February 25 at 5:00pm
- Monday, April 12 at 5:00pm
- Tuesday, April 13 at 4:00pm
- Wednesday, April 14 at 5:00pm
- Thursday, April 15 at 6:00pm



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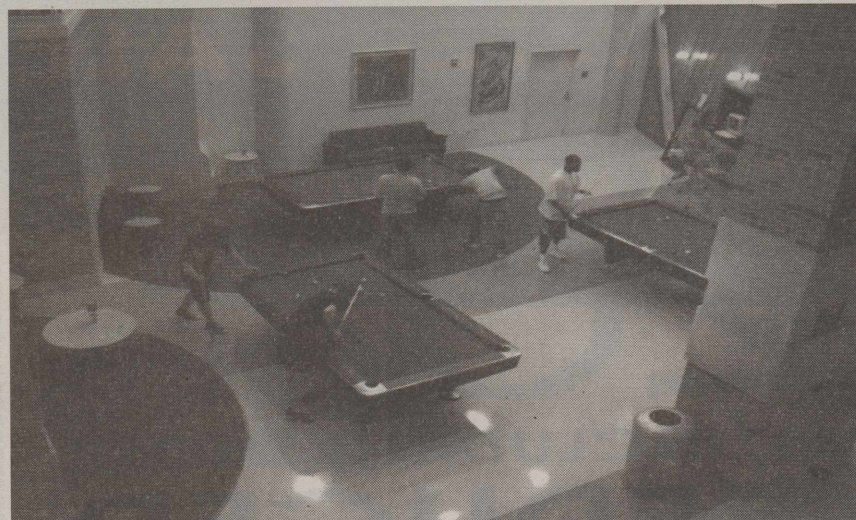
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student union

coming together in the union

Check out the New Game Areas in the Union!



Check out the new TVs in the Union Plaza and East Basement. We have pool tables located in the basement near the Escondido Theatre. Tables are available from 1:00 pm-10:00 pm. Equipment can be checked out at the Ticket Booth.

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Student Union & Activities
Division of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs

for more information - call (806) 742-3636 or visit www.sub.ttu.edu



activities

whats coming up at the union

Movie -- Where the Wild Things Are

Thursday, January 21
SUB Allen Theatre | 8:00 pm

Matinee Movie -- Where the Wild Things Are

Friday, January 22
SUB Escondido Theatre | 3:00 pm

Poster Sale

Monday, January 25-Friday, January 29
SUB Red Raider Ballroom | 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Bowling Night

Wednesday, January 27
Whitewood Lanes, 3632 50th St. | 5:00 pm

Blake Mycoskie: Founder of Toms Shoes

Thursday, January 28
SUB Allen Theatre | 8:00 pm

For more information visit www.tab.ttu.edu

student organization update...

S.O. Advisor Orientation

Wednesday, January 20
SUB Lubbock Room | Noon

S.O. Registration Meeting

Tuesday, January 26
SUB Senate Room | 2 pm

Patience key for Lady Raiders during bye week

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

In preparing for what will be a tough road game against No. 9 Texas A&M, it's all about determination for Texas Tech head coach Kristy Curry.

She said it's something that can be useful, considering the Lady Raiders are coming off a tough double overtime loss to Texas.

"I think the thing about it is, it's just more about having a level of toughness about you," Curry said. "That's when character comes out, you know how you handle adversity."

Although going on the road after that gut-wrenching double overtime loss at home may seem like a daunting task, Tech has the week off, which gives the Lady Raiders more time to handle that adversity before Saturday's game with the Aggies.

Texas A&M faces the same situation, stumbling into its bye week after a loss at the hands of No. 13 Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.

While Tech has a little more time to prepare for Saturday's game, the Lady Raiders will try to take lessons from the Texas game

on Saturday.

Tech guard Monique Smalls said the team will have to do a better job of staying composed in order to avoid crucial mistakes in hostile environments.

"We just gotta be patient," she said. "That's just our one thing, we're not patient. We'll get so anxious and want to score, then make the wrong decision."

Avoiding mistakes has been a large focus for the Lady Raiders to this point in the season.

It was turnovers that proved to be costly down the stretch against No. 20 Texas A&M will not make things any easier: The Aggies are first in turnover margin and second in steals per game in Big 12 Conference play behind Tech.

With more time to strategize this week, Tech forward Ashlee Roberson said taking care of the ball is going to be something the team concentrates on in practices.

"It's going to be a major emphasis," she said. "Less than 14 turnovers is our goal every game, so we're just gonna go in there with a mentality to know that their defense is gonna come at us. They're very aggressive on the defensive end, so we just gotta



JORDAN MUPHREE ATTEMPTS to block a shot from Colorado's Bianca Smith during a game on Jan. 12 in the United Spirit Arena.

match their intensity on that."

At 1-2 in Big 12 play, Tech has a chance to make some noise in the packed conference race.

Both of the Aggies' losses this season have come on the road, which gives the Lady Raiders the opportunity to deal A&M its first defeat at home.

A win in College Station could give the Lady Raiders a marquee win on the road — where they have struggled to this point. Three of Tech's four losses have come away from home this season, compared to just two wins outside of Lubbock.

Players and coaches hope

to make the most of the down time, considering the upcoming opponent. The chance to rest a little bit this week may be warranted with the next few games including undefeated Nebraska, a rematch against Oklahoma and at Iowa State.

But Curry said it's best to take it one game at a time.

"The thing about it is, it's just living in the moment, trying to improve every day, and that's what we're trying to do is to get better every day," she said. "Hopefully we'll be better from what happened to us on Saturday."

—jose.i.rodriquez@ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH FORWARD Kierra Mallard shoots the ball over a Colorado defender during the 74-61 win against Colorado on Jan. 12 in the United Spirit Arena.

UConn coach Calhoun taking medical leave

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Connecticut men's basketball coach Jim Calhoun took a medical leave Tuesday for an undisclosed condition, the latest health concern for the 67-year-old Hall of Famer.

The school did not provide additional details. Calhoun had prostate cancer in 2003 and skin cancer twice, most recently in 2008.

Dr. Peter Schulman, the coach's primary-care physician, said in a statement he advised Calhoun to take time off "to address some temporary medical issues, none of

which involve any previous medical conditions that he has dealt with."

Associate head coach George Blaney will run the Huskies in Calhoun's absence. UConn is 11-6 and fell out of the Top 25 this week after losing three straight games, including a 68-63 defeat at Michigan on Sunday. The Huskies host St. John's on Wednesday night and top-ranked Texas on Saturday.

"Our primary concern is coach Calhoun's health and his complete recovery," UConn athletic director

Jeff Hathaway said. "We will do everything possible to support Coach during this time."

Calhoun usually meets with the media the day before the game. He was not available Tuesday — a day earlier, the school said he had prior commitments and a late practice.

Calhoun has won two national championships at Connecticut. He led the Huskies to the Final Four last season, but missed the Huskies' first NCAA tournament game in March after being hospitalized for dehydration.

Jones indicates Phillips back in 2010

ARLINGTON (AP) — Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones is giving every indication that he is picking up coach Wade Phillips' contract option for the 2010 season, even without saying so.

"We don't have any funny business here guys. There's nothing funny going on here, at all," Jones said Tuesday. "We just want to do this when we both can do it and both get it stated the way we want to state it."

Standing on the field where next season's Super Bowl will

be played, after a spectacular news conference announcing a March 13 boxing match between Manny Pacquiao and Joshua Clottey at Cowboys Stadium, Jones said that he had a "good visit" with Phillips on Monday.

As for Phillips' coming back for his fourth season, Jones said he would answer all the questions at a season wrap-up news conference later in the week with "both him and me there." The Cowboys have not yet scheduled that news conference.

Jones has indicated the last few

weeks that everything was pointed to Phillips returning. Asked if that was still the case, Jones responded "yes" without elaborating.

The Cowboys clinched their second NFC East title in three seasons under Phillips and won a playoff game for the first time since the 1996 season, beating Philadelphia 34-14 at home in the wildcard playoffs a week after a 24-0 victory over the Eagles in the regular season finale to win the division.

Dallas' season ended with a 34-3 loss at Minnesota last weekend.

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Stackhouse back to work with Bucks after injury

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Jerry Stackhouse knows he'll play regular minutes for the first time in 14 months on Wednesday. He's a lot less certain about what he'll be able to accomplish with the Milwaukee Bucks.

"I don't know where I am, honestly," Stackhouse said Tuesday. "Not playing in over a year, I think your guess is about as good as mine. The thing about it is, I'm just happy to be back. I'm not trying to force the issue."

The veteran forward who has a career scoring average of 18.4 points impressed the Bucks in a workout in Houston and was signed for the rest of the year on Monday.

"I've been around, expecting a call to a team at this point," he said. "I got

this call and I was ready to go."

Stackhouse was limited by injuries and only played 10 games last year in Dallas. He was traded to Memphis in the offseason and his contract was bought out, making him an unrestricted free agent.

"Last year was a tough year because I had the foot injury and pretty much missed a whole season," he said. "I knew I still had some gas in the tank and I wanted to try to get to a place to utilize my talent."

Stackhouse said he decided to take a different route than trying to catch on with a team close to winning an NBA title. He said he'll be more valuable trying to help the Bucks reach the postseason for the first time since 2006.

Iowa State game 'must-win' for Tech

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

For inspiration, heading into a must-win game against Iowa State, Texas Tech coach Pat Knight made an example of another team that hit a rough patch in conference play and then made the NCAA Tournament — the 2006-2007 Red Raiders.

"He said they lost five in a row in the middle of the season," Tech guard John Roberson said. Everybody thought they were down and out, and they ended up coming back and making the tournament. We're just using that for inspiration right now."

Starting 4-1 in conference play in 2007, the Red Raiders dropped five consecutive Big 12 contests. However, Tech pulled itself out of the hole, winning five of its last six regular season games and a game in the conference tournament.

After spending most of nonconference play in the polls, this year's Red Raiders are on an 0-3 skid to start Big 12 play.

The Tech players know they must put together a string of wins in arguably the best conference in college basketball.

But Tech may be catching its first break of the conference schedule this week. The Red Raiders first three games of the Big 12 schedule have come against teams that made the NCAA tournament last season.

The Red Raiders' (12-5, 0-3 in Big 12 play) first chance for a conference win comes against the Cyclones (12-5, 1-1) today at 6:30 p.m. in the United Spirit Arena, followed by Oklahoma on Saturday.

Iowa State began the new year with a demoralizing loss against No. 7 Duke and barely edged big underdog North Dakota State. But, a testament to the strength of the Big 12, even the Cyclones have been on the upswing lately.

A narrow loss to No. 1 Texas followed by its first road win in

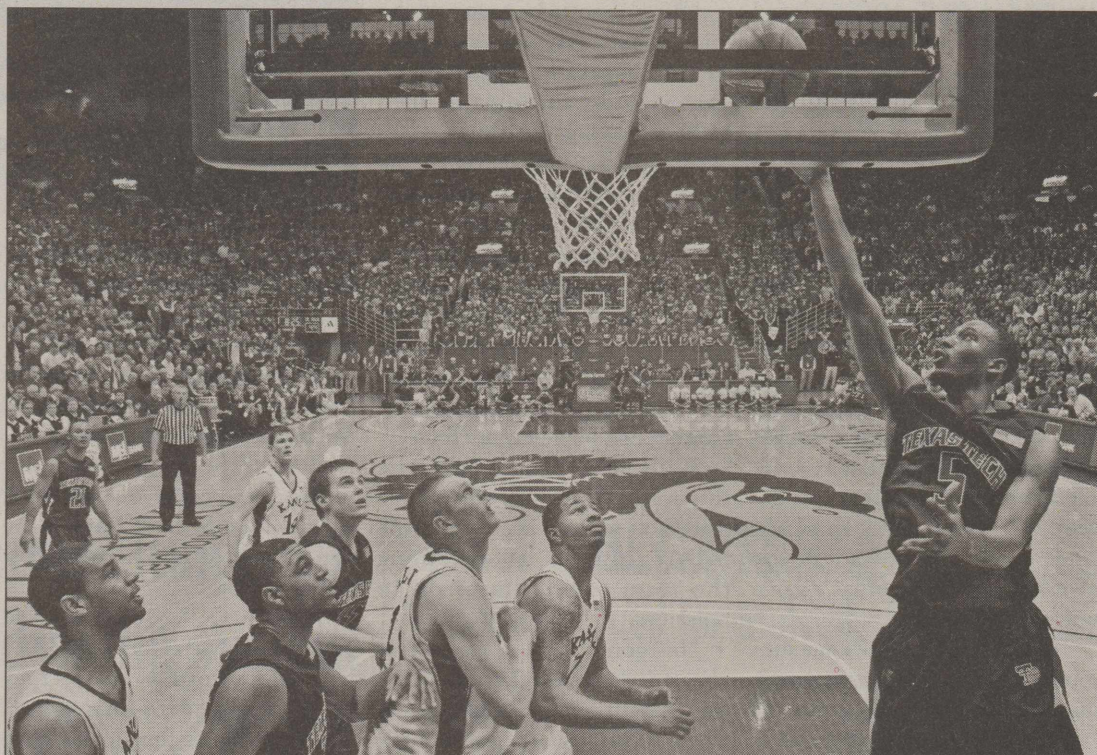


PHOTO BY WESTON WHITE/The University Daily Kansan

TEXAS TECH'S D'WALYN Roberts puts in a layup during the Red Raiders' 89-63 loss at Kansas on Saturday. Tech will try to snap a three-game losing streak with a win against Iowa State at 6:30 p.m. today in the United Spirit Arena.

two years at Nebraska leaves the Cyclones excited to play Tech for potentially their second road win in as many years.

"It's been a good shot in the arm for us," ISU coach Greg McDermott said. "There wasn't a lot of confidence as we entered Big 12 play. To play well against Texas and put ourselves in a position, with 10 minutes left it's a four-point game, I think we were able to take some positives from that game, even in defeat, and carry that over to Nebraska. For us to find a way to go on the road and find a way to go on the road and win is huge, huge confidence booster for us."

The Red Raiders match up favorably with the Cyclones. Because of injuries, a suspension and a dismissal, the Cyclones will only have eight players available for the game.

Despite the setback, Iowa State

has an advantage of its own — 6-foot-10 junior forward Craig Brackins.

Brackins is on the 2010 Wooden Award Watch List and was a 2009 First-Team All-Big 12 member. He also is in the top 10 of several of several Big 12 statistical categories including points per game (16.3), rebounds (8.1), blocked shots (1.4) and he ranks 11th in field goal percentage (.446).

Some believed Brackins could have opted for the NBA this season, but he decided to come back for another year.

Both Roberson and Singletary believe Brackins will get his points — the key to winning the game will be limiting the players around him.

"Brackins, he's a load in the paint," Roberson said. "We're just going to try to be physical with him and contest all the 3-point shooters that they have. As long as we make it tough on them, I think

it'll be harder for them to get their shots off."

Additionally, Iowa State's Marquis Gilstrap scores 14.7 points per game, is sixth in rebounding and outdoes Brackins in field goal percentage.

The Red Raiders know the next two games are the most important yet and a win against Iowa State would be the first step out of the hole for the Red Raiders.

A second home loss to either ISU or OU could all but do the Red Raiders in with games at No. 1 Texas and at Texas A&M next week.

"Whenever you got two games back-to-back at home, that's a plus for you," Singletary said. "Those are two games that, really, are must-wins. If we get these two, we'll be at 2-3 and we'll be right back in the middle of the pack."

►michael.graham@ttu.edu

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Bills hire Gailey as head coach

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Chan Gailey's second chance to prove himself as an NFL head coach comes with plenty of challenges.

The Buffalo Bills team he's taking over hasn't made the playoffs in a decade and its fans have been clamoring for Bill Cowher during a coaching search that seemed to take forever.

Instead of landing one of the big-name coaches with loaded resumes such as Cowher or Mike Shanahan, Gailey — who coached the Dallas Cowboys for two less-than-inspiring seasons — was introduced Tuesday as the 15th head coach in Bills history — and fifth in 10 years.

"I can't say anything to change anybody's mind. All I can do is go try to help us win football games," Gailey said. "We win football games, everybody's minds will be changed, right?"

Gailey was hired by first-time general manager Buddy Nix, ending a two-month search to replace Dick Jauron, who was fired in November. He takes over a Bills team coming off its fifth straight losing season following a 6-10 finish, and in the midst of a 10-year playoff drought that is tied with Detroit as the longest active streak in the NFL.

"I've been around enough winning programs ... that when I walk on the field I expect to win. I don't just hope to win," Gailey said. "But the bottom line is we've got to do it on the field"

Gailey has spent 15 of his 35 years of coaching in the NFL. In his two years coaching the Dallas Cowboys, he went 18-14 and led the team to consecutive playoff appearances — both losses. He was dismissed after the 1999 season, and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has acknowledged his mistake in firing Gailey.

For Nix, it was Gailey's extensive experience that impressed him and met most of the criteria the GM set out when he took over the search two weeks ago.

Nix was eager to find someone with previous head-coaching experience and who had an offensive background.