

Tree chop
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Tech Invitational
begins
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FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010
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MP3 MAYHEM



PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN the Improv Everywhere event Thursday at the Engineering Key.

Mass Improv Everywhere, TAB 'experiment' confuses passers-by

By HALLIE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Like any physical activity, it started with stretching. Passers-by didn't know what to think about the group of people in distinctly bright-colored T-shirts as they sat, stood, ran, did jumping jacks, danced, played freeze tag and fought their way around the Engineering Key from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Thursday. Charlie Todd, the founder of the YouTube sensation Improv Everywhere, came to Texas Tech in partnership with the Tech Activities Board to help host and take part in the mayhem. "I had a feeling it was going to be some pretty silly stuff," said Macie Martin, a senior political

science and history major from Lampasas. Martin watched her friends take part in the MP3 Experiment, before which every participant downloaded an MP3 from the Improv Everywhere Web site. The group pressed play at the same time and listened to instructions telling them what to do. First was the stretching followed by various activities from a group nap to a balloon war. Todd said the program put on at Tech was a sort of "greatest hits" from past MP3 Experiments he'd done. "Each time we do it on a campus or at a festival we re-evaluate it and tweak it," he said. "But there's always going to be something unique that happens." Just before the ending "fight scene," the crowd split into teams by shirt color; participants were

told to wear either red, yellow, blue or green. As the teams faced off — yellow and red against blue and green — they started a familiar chant. Although it wasn't part of the program, the crowd began the Raider Power cheer. Todd said it was unique to Tech but wasn't the strangest thing that happened during the event. "I thought it was funny when the instructions said to walk around," he said. "Everyone walked together." Todd said it was the first time the group stayed together rather than scattering in any of his many productions of the MP3 Experiment. Todd offered an inside look the night before in the Allen Theatre where Improv Everywhere fans listened to commentary on many of his group's videos and participated in a Q-and-A session

with Todd. "It was great, he's definitely passionate about what he does, and has had a positive impact on people's lives," said Sean Mullen, a graduate student from Helotes. Thursday's event offered a positive experience to both participants and people watching. Jonathan Meeh, a junior restaurant, hotel and institutional management major from Houston, said he heard about the event from Facebook and saw Improv Everywhere on YouTube. He participated and said he was expecting "a lot of craziness." "We were all (listening to the instructions) on a five way splitter," Meeh said, "there were two people we didn't even know." **MP3** continued on Page 5 >>

Nursing school hosts Stork's Nest Baby Shower

By DEREK MOY
STAFF WRITER

Selena Alvarado, a 17 year old from Lubbock who is nine-months pregnant, is one of hundreds of women in the county who receives help from the Stork's Nest Baby Shower, a program that rewards women for seeking education about their pregnancy. She has gone to 10 pre-natal checkups and three classes offered by the program, earning 800 points that can be used to buy clothes, bottles, toys and other things for her baby. The Eighth Annual Stork's Nest Baby Shower, which is part of the March of Dimes and began in 1973, was hosted Thursday at the International Cultural Center. The event consisted of an auction of donated items to raise money which will be used by the program to purchase items for expecting mothers. Stork's Nest is a program in which expecting mothers from Lubbock and surrounding areas are encouraged to get pre-natal checkups and attend classes offered by the program.

By completing classes and checkups, mothers earn points that can be traded in for baby items like diapers, clothes, toys and other necessities. Alvarado said she plans to name her baby Serenity Faith and said the experience is new and very different, something a person must be ready for. She signed her friend up and said others should sign up as well. "I've been to some of the classes, and they've taught me what to do when the baby's crying too much or how to feed it properly when you breast feed and just different things," she said. "It's really great." Linda Brice, Stork's Nest Lubbock founder and manager, said the first shower raised almost \$7,000 in money and donated items and has been increasing ever since. The program has raised more than \$70,000 worth of donations this year. If the donated amount exceeds \$72,000, the program will have raised \$250,000 since its inception. "The community benefits by having healthy term babies," Brice said. "It takes a community to raise a child, and so we want the community to be involved."

Lubbock has an above-average rate of pre-term baby and infant mortality because mothers are not getting enough pre-natal care, Brice said, and the program is designed to counter that. The Stork's Nest usually has 600 to 1,200 women participating per year. "When you have any place from a half-million-dollar to a million-dollar baby — no matter what type of insurance, whether it's Medicaid or private insurance — it only picks up a certain amount," she said. "The community has to pick up the rest. And so by having healthy babies, it decreases the amount of taxes we have to pay." Brice teaches at the Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing and encourages her students to visit three businesses and attempt to bring in donations from them. The students earn clinic hours for finding donors and working for the program. "We send out close to 700 letters in February to let (businesses) know we're gearing up for the baby shower and that students will start coming in March," she said. **STORKS** continued on Page 2 >>



PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH STUDENTS chat during the Stork's Nest Baby Shower Thursday at the International Cultural Center.

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WEATHER

Today	Sunny	Saturday	Sunny
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IN BRIEF

STATE

Feds: Texas explosives suspect was angry at gov't

TYLER (AP) — A man accused of dropping more than 30 explosive devices into mailboxes and other locations across east Texas did so out of anger toward the government and was acting alone, federal authorities said Thursday.

Larry Eugene North was indicted Wednesday on charges of possessing an illegal firearm or destructive device. Authorities said they would evaluate whether to pursue more charges.

Authorities believe North is

responsible for planting 36 devices between Feb. 5 and Wednesday, said Robert R. Champion, an agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Authorities previously said they had found at least 16 explosive devices, including five pipe bombs.

"These devices, over 30 in number, have caused fear in this community nothing short of domestic terrorism," prosecutor Brit Featherston said. "Today that fear stops."

NATION

Judge OK's 'final' delay in \$3.4B Indian lawsuit

WASHINGTON (AP) — A judge has granted more time for Congress to approve a \$3.4 billion settlement against the government for swindling Indian tribes out of royalties for oil, gas and grazing leases.

But U.S. District Judge James Robertson warned that the latest delay — which moves the deadline for congressional action from April 16 to May 28 — is the last he will approve. The delay is the third

since the settlement was reached in December.

"From where I sit, the settlement appears to be a win-win proposition," Robertson said at a court hearing Thursday. "It needs to get done."

If Congress does not confirm the settlement by mid-May, Robertson said, he will order Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and other top officials to appear before him to explain why.

WORLD

First talks on new Iran sanctions resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Ambassadors from China and five major powers met for the first time Thursday to discuss possible new sanctions against Iran, which is refusing to suspend uranium enrichment and start negotiations on its suspect nuclear program.

After nearly three hours of talks, Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin told reporters "we all agreed that it was a good discussion."

Churkin cautioned, however,

that there were difficult negotiations on the three previous resolutions imposing sanctions against Iran and said he expects difficult negotiations on a fourth sanctions resolution as well.

"I don't think any of us want to impose sanctions," he said. "What we want to have is a diplomatic solution, and all sorts of constructive proposals have been made to Iran. So if ... Iran wants to negotiate they should start negotiating."

Corrections

In Thursday's issue of *The Daily Toreador*, the article "Tech Undergraduate Research Conference suffers from low attendance,"

should have stated that the Center of Undergraduate Research was formed in December 2008.

The DT regrets the error.

CHOPPING TREES



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/*The Daily Toreador*

TEXAS TECH GROUNDS Maintenance crews cut down old trees in front of the Administration building Thursday so new ones can be planted in their place.

Pakistan lawmakers vote to curb president's powers

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's lower house of parliament unanimously approved a constitutional amendment Thursday that strips the president of powers inherited from the country's former military ruler, a key step in implementing a long-standing opposition demand that could reduce pressure on the U.S.-allied leader.

The bill has cross-party support and its passage could help calm political tensions as Pakistan grapples with a violent Taliban-led insurgency. It transfers a variety of powers, including the ability to fire an elected government and appoint military chiefs and judges, from the office of the president to the prime minister.

"We have empowered the masses

today," said Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani in his address to the National Assembly after the televised vote. "The impossible you made possible has established the sovereignty of parliament."

The bill must now be passed by a two-thirds majority of the Senate, or upper house of parliament, and be signed by President Asif Ali Zardari to be implemented. Approval by both is expected since the amendment was drafted by a committee that included representatives from all parties in parliament.

The opposition had criticized Zardari for dragging his feet on relinquishing the powers, which he first promised to do when he was elected in 2008 as the

successor to Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

"It is a historic day for us," said National Assembly speaker Fehmida Mirza. "It is a celebration for all democratic parties."

Lawmakers thumped their desks as the house approved the bill and shouted "Hang Musharraf!" in reference to the former military leader. The vote was 292-0, with 50 lawmakers absent.

"Today, in a true sense, we are giving you a parliamentary form of government," said Gilani.

The changes mean Zardari will occupy a largely ceremonial post, but since he derives much of his power from his position as co-head of the largest party, he will still wield signifi-

cant influence over the government. Furthermore, Gilani is a loyal member of Zardari's party and a strong supporter of the president.

The leader of the opposition, Nawaz Sharif, has been one of the most vocal figures calling for Zardari to relinquish the powers he inherited from Musharraf. The president's acquiescence could improve relations between the two and ease up a political system often gridlocked by power struggles between the two main parties.

"We all are united for sovereignty," said the leader of Sharif's party in the National Assembly, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan. "Let us promise that no one will give support to a dictator in the future."

IEDs in Afghanistan double in past year

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of crude roadside bombs in Afghanistan has doubled in the past year, prompting U.S. officials to rush billions of dollars of new protective gear to troops and double the number of road-clearing teams.

The campaign against the deadly devices, described Thursday by senior officials, follows Pentagon warnings of an increase in casualties in the months to come. President Barack Obama has ordered the deployment of more than 30,000 troops to Afghanistan, and already, more U.S. deaths have accompanied the rise in forces.

Twice as many troops died in the first three months of 2010 compared to the same period last year. The majority of all American deaths and injuries in Afghanistan are believed to have been a result of improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

Military officials say they are hoping that the war in Afghani-

stan will follow the pattern seen in Iraq: As troop levels rise, security improves and the population turns against insurgent forces. Eventually, the number of IED incidents drops off.

"We've proven it once (in Iraq) and we're having to prove it in Afghanistan. But it's not quick, and it's not without casualties," said Lt. Gen. Michael Oates, director of the military's Joint IED Defeat Organization, or JIEDDO.

Oates' organization has spent \$1.6 billion since September in a bid to rush new technologies into war zones, including better surveillance devices. JIEDDO plans to spend another \$1.7 billion through the end of September, when Obama's troop buildup will be in place.

The military also has more than doubled the number of road-clearing teams in Iraq, from about two-dozen to 56.

While the surge in IED attacks in Afghanistan alarms officials,

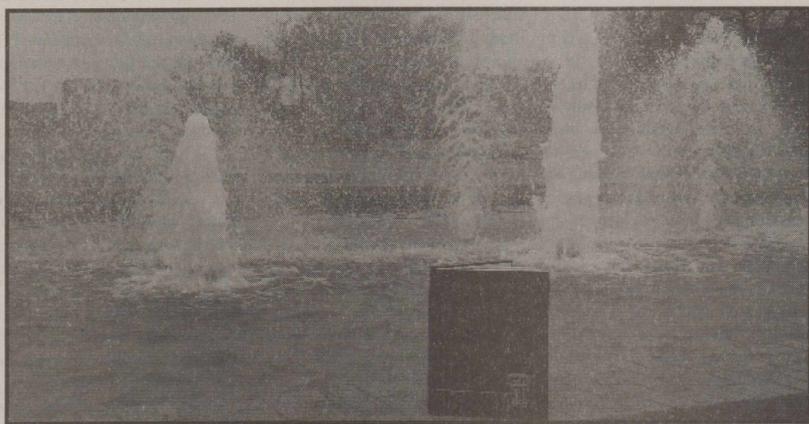
the volume is still roughly a third of those reported at the height of the Iraq war. The bombs are also remarkably less sophisticated, officials say, typically relying on fertilizer and diesel fuel.

But officials say that the Afghan bombs present new challenges. Unlike in Iraq, where electronics could be used to scan for remote-controlled bombs and jam their frequencies, Afghan bombs lack the circuitry that make them easier to detect and thwart.

The number of IEDs in Afghanistan climbed from 429 in March 2009 to 989 in March 2010.

In February, Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced that the U.S. would sell NATO allies mine-resistant vehicles and other anti-bomb equipment because of the increased threats. Previously, the best anti-bomb technology was considered classified and its sale heavily restricted.

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Hurry! The deadline to apply is April 16.

Storks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Amy Johnson-Rubio, director of program services at the March of Dimes in Lubbock, said the program encourages women to get the care they need. By having regular checkups, the mother and baby have a better chance of living healthy lives.

"What we hope she gets is the education she needs about how to be healthy during pregnancy," Johnson-Rubio said, "and hopefully that she makes some lifestyle changes if she needs to about being healthy during her pregnancy, and that she realizes that the community values her and her baby. It's important to the Lubbock community that we have healthy babies."

Laird Menzel, a junior nursing major from Lubbock, said the community help is vital for the Stork's Nest. Menzel went to businesses, friends and family for help with donations.

"It's pretty amazing when schools and businesses and the community all come together what can be the end result of that can be really good," he said.

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PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/*The Daily Toreador*

AMBER PARKS, A senior nursing student from Houston, wins a raffle during the Stork Baby Shower Thursday at the International Culture Center.

Tech students gear up for Relay for Life

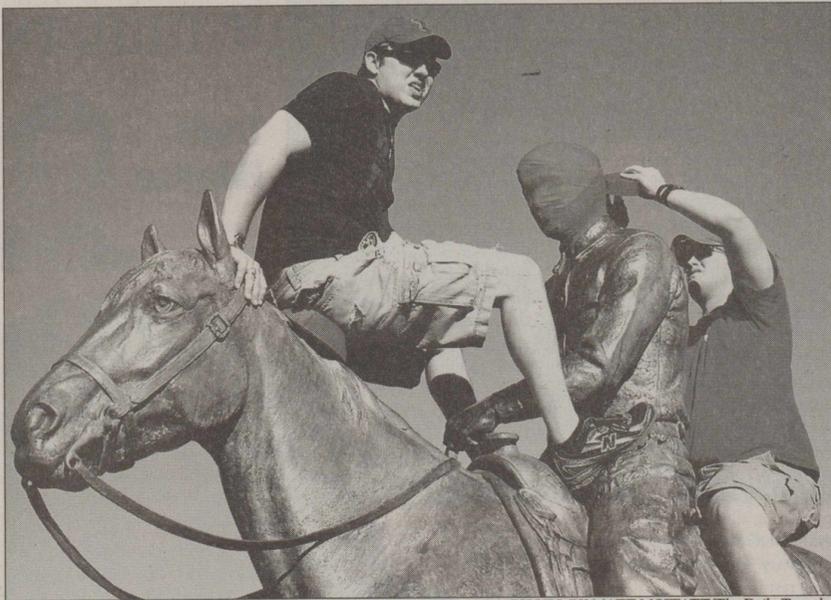


PHOTO BY MATT MOFFATT/The Daily Toreador

WALKER CLEVELAND, LEFT, a junior agriculture education major from Salado, and Cameron Carter, a senior history and geography major from Wilcox, Ariz., wrap the Will Rogers statue in crate paper in honor of the Relay for Life cancer survivors.

By SARAH SCROGGINS
STAFF WRITER

Before she graduated from high school, Whitney Brewton's grandfather was diagnosed with colon cancer.

Now she is the Mission Delivery and Advocacy chairwoman of Texas Tech Relay for Life.

"He had always been really physically fit and ate healthy and was really active," said Brewton, a senior biology major from Lorena. "It was a big blow to me."

The purpose of Paint Your Campus Purple Week is to kick off Relay for Life taking place from 6 p.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Sunday at Urbanovsky Park.

The relay consists of 121 teams made up of Tech students, faculty, staff and some of the Lubbock community. The teams compete to raise money for donation and participate in activities during the overnight event.

The activity that gets the most attention is Ms. Relay, a beauty pageant in which men dress up as beauty queens and are asked questions, put in different scenarios and walk the runway in a fashion show, Brewton said.

The event also will feature flag foot-

ball, a cake walk and a hot dog eating contest. Places to donate hair to Locks of Love and donate cans of food to the South Plains Food Bank also will be located throughout the park.

"Technically you have to be registered to participate," Brewton said. "But the easiest way for people to donate is online."

The main message they are trying to send people is that cancer never sleeps and they believe they shouldn't either, from which the idea for an all-night event came.

Relay for Life was started on campus last year, but the organization added an additional challenge for this year called the Heart of Relay challenge.

Throughout the year each team received a certain amount of points for attending meetings, donating money, buying shirts and participating in other activities. These points will be added to the points earned Saturday night and the team with the most amount of points wins the Heart of Relay challenge.

"It's kind of like we're all in this together," Brewton said.

The Saddle Tramps also are doing their part to help out with the Relay for Life events. They gathered at the Will Rogers Statue on Thursday to wrap it in red paper. In the spirit of Paint Your Campus Purple Week, they also wrapped surrounding light poles in purple paper.

Members wrapped light poles and the statue while others helped give out T-shirts and others grilled food for everyone who attended.

Lucas McKernan, a junior wildlife management major and member of the Saddle Tramps from Boone, Iowa, said his involvement was personally important.

"My grandma died of cancer, so Relay for Life means a lot to me," McKernan said.

All Saddle Tramps will attend the relay Saturday night. They will be rotating in different shifts to make sure that people are there, participating and helping out with the events.

To find out more information on Relay for Life, sign up for a team or donate, log on to relayforlife.org/texas-tech.

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Student dancers create 'spectacular' showcase



PHOTO BY SAM GRENIER/The Daily Toreador

DANCERS FROM RAIDER Red's Awesome Dance Spectacular pose for a photograph of the dance Malicious Code at a photo call Wednesday in the Lab Theatre.

By SARAH SCROGGINS
STAFF WRITER

Audiences can expect to be entertained by a variety of dances during Raider Red's Awesome Dance Spectacular at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Charles E. Maedgen Jr. Lab Theatre.

Six styles of dances, including ballet, modern, jazz and contemporary, are featured in the showcase performances, which are choreographed and performed by students.

Raider Red's Awesome Dance Spectac-

ular participants are required to find dancers and rehearsal space, make costumes and cut their own music. After the choreographers have created their works, the faculty of the Department of Theatre and Dance evaluates them and decides which dances will be performed in the show.

Before the launch of Raider Red's Awesome Dance Spectacular, the dances submitted were performed between plays during Raider Red's One Act Spectacular, the theater version of Raider Red's Awesome Dance Spectacular.

"As our dance program grew, there just

wasn't enough room in (Raider Red's One-Act Play Spectacular)," said Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, head of dance and associate chair of the department. "There were only ever four spots available, and we had more people wanting to produce works than that."

For Raider Red's Awesome Dance Spectacular to run smoothly, several people from the dance department are needed to put the dances together.

Lacey Ploquin, stage manager of the show and a senior theater design major from Austin, said since Raider Red's Awesome Dance Spectacular only lasts 35 minutes, it takes cooperation, organization and a positive attitude. She is responsible for making sure everyone knows and understands what's going on.

"It definitely takes a lot of collaboration between different facets of the theater world and the dance world," she said.

Ricky Phoummany, a junior dance major from Fort Worth, and Tatiana De Lawyer, a junior dance and accounting major from Lubbock, were encouraged by DeCesaro, who teaches their choreography class, to submit dances to the showcase.

The dances range widely in styles and meaning. Some are based on a true, personal story, such as Phoummany's, which tells of a man too scared to let a woman know he likes her. Others, like De Lawyer's, are poking fun at certain other

dance styles.

"It's making fun of modern dancers because I'm a ballerina and I don't like modern," De Lawyer said. "It makes of the abstract movement that modern dancers do, so it's a comedy."

A big part of Raider Red's Awesome Dance Spectacular is that the people involved don't have to be part of the dance department. The department uses the show to reach out to every dancer in the Tech community and give them a chance to showcase their talents while pursuing other degrees.

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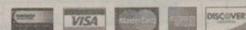


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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
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Two Republicans not conservative

Within many Republican political circles, the majority of people involved would brand themselves as Conservatives. This is especially true in Lubbock, where the voting population is overwhelmingly Republican.

Generally, every serious candidate on the Republican primary ballot will send out mailers, have phone banks and use various other methods to convince the voters exactly how conservative they are.

Problem is, many of the candidates who are trying to win the hearts and minds of the Republican proletariat wouldn't know conservatism if it fell out of the sky in front of them and slashed their tax rates. It's often used as a buzz word for those who want to get elected in heavily Republican areas.

I'm a libertarian-leaning Republican, and I tend to believe government needs to stick closer to their original uses of building roads, coining money and not bothering the individual. Of course, there are other necessities to take care of, but when those who disagree with this particular ideology become involved, they begin the nasty, brutish and costly task of expanding government at the expense of the citizens' personal freedoms and funds.

Cole Shooter



The Democratic Party isn't the only group to blame for this, either. Plenty of Republicans have declared a jihad on our freedoms as well, touting their oppressive policies in the name of God, which I personally believe is an extreme violation of that whole "don't use the Lord's name in vain" bit.

The mainstream Republican Party has been an extreme disappointment as of late, where they're always up for a prayer and keeping gays from marrying and subsequently divorcing, but they still advocate spending money like drunken sailors. I happen to think former President George W. Bush is a good man, but apparently the idea of a "compassionate Conservative" is synonymous with blowing taxpayer money faster than we can print and further devalue it.

We're seeing this mainstream statist attitude popping up here in Lubbock in the runoff election. Mark Griffin, District 84 state representative candidate, and Delwin

Jones, District 83 state representative incumbent, are the main culprits. Griffin's track record of supporting conservative candidates is poor, publicly supporting liberal Democrat Don Richards over Conservative Carl Isett and, most recently, Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Jones, who never seemed to take his switch from Democrat to Republican seriously, has failed to support the rights of the individual for a majority of his career, including being the only Republican state representative to vote against 1995's bill that allowed for concealed handgun licenses in Texas, and reportedly voted for every amendment that would have gutted the bill.

In a questionnaire by the Liberty Institute, both Griffin and Jones indicated they were not strongly opposed to a government takeover of health care. Despite this, both these candidates say that they'll provide conservative leadership for their candidates.

Perhaps we've got different ideas of what conservatism actually is, but I'd go as far to say that they're bending the truth a bit whilst trying to sell themselves under the conservative brand. The same goes for many of their supporters as well who either refuse to understand

what harm moderates can do, or simply aren't as conservative as they'd like their other "receptionist Republican" counterparts to believe.

District 83 and District 84 state representative candidates Charles Perry and John Frullo are the correct choices for the upcoming April 13 primary runoff election, because they're going to be the real Conservatives.

They're conservative business owners and accountants who have worked hard to get everything they've got, and they understand the issues that the continued bloating of governmental regulation causes the business owner and average citizen.

Ron Paul said, "There is nothing wrong with describing Conservatism as protecting the Constitution, protecting all things that limit government. Government is the enemy of liberty. Government should be very restrained."

If you're truly interested in conservative representation for the area in Austin, Frullo and Perry are the only candidates that can be counted on to provide it.

Shooter is a senior political science major from Lubbock.
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More work safety needed for miners

When developing a good business plan, no matter what the industry is, safety for customers, employees and all those who may enter the business setting should be a top priority. Safety precautions are not only a good business practice, but also a strong indicator of the business owner's core values and morale.

The explosion at the Montcoal, W.V., coal mine is a perfect example of poor business practices. According to reports on CNN.com, Massey Energy Company received more than 450 citations at the site of the explosion for failure to comply with federal safety regulations in 2009. Apparently, spending millions of dollars on annual fines are common for the Virginia-based coal mining operators.

I have never been exposed to a coal mining operation and couldn't tell you where to begin on fixing some of these violations that have left so many families devastated.

One thing I do know is that in any industry, especially coal mining, employers should take every precaution that is necessary to ensure the safety and security for all those who use, support or manage their businesses.

There are millions of different ways companies can ensure the safety of every individual within their establishment while still maintaining reasonable economic profits. Security cameras, alarm systems and clean working environments are the most basic necessities that the majority of business owners think of when it comes to safety precautions.

It can be understandably difficult when deciding what precautions are necessary and what may be over cautious or wasteful. Then again, which is a bigger problem to have? Over cautious and wasteful or unequipped and unprepared for a deadly catastrophe? In 2009 alone, Massey Energy Co. reported earnings of almost \$500 million. How can they not maintain a reasonably safe working environment? Perhaps this is a catch 22.

Recently, the mining industry has been having more problems than ever before. Some miners have been complaining about longer work shifts, changes in mining machinery that increases the coal dust in the air, and there have even been complaints about an increasing dependence on mining thinner coal seams that require workers to cut through rocks and produce an even more polluted working environment.

As I stated before, I am not

Travis Ellington



familiar with the mining process, but I would think these workers would have to wear protective masks, gloves and other things to shield themselves from the hazardous materials they work with on a daily basis. Random explosions are not the only dangers miners must live in fear of.

According to a study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the "black lung" is accountable for more deaths and health related problems than accidents, explosions or cave-ins. It is important for the workers who must deal with these working conditions to have all the necessary safety equipment to help them protect against emphysema, chronic bronchitis or the black lung that is becoming more and more common amongst miners.

Some of these protective measures could be pretty costly for business owners whose main focus is productivity and profit. However, if safety precautions are not taken, it could end up being much more costly than biting the bullet and making a long-term investment in the health of your employees.

Every year mining companies spend billions of dollars on employees who have been killed, injured or developed some kind of lung disease that enables them from working or doing anything else on a regular basis. I guess it must be a pretty stiff burden to comply with federal safety standards.

It would be naive to think all these problems could be completely avoided but these are also things tougher government restrictions could have a positive impact on. To run a lasting, successful business, it is imperative business owners make sound investments in their employees. Healthy employees are much more productive than unhealthy ones. Let's just hope Massey doesn't try to minimize costs and shortchange the families of those who risked their lives to make an honest living.

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Loving, motherly hand that rocks cradle rules world

Mother. Ma. Mata. Amma. Mère. Madre. Mutter. No matter what part of the world we live in, quite often the first word that emanates from our toddler lips calls out to the angel standing in front of us. We never quite fully grasp the truth in the age old Jewish Proverb, "God could not be everywhere, so he created mothers." If God is pure love, then the closest real-life manifestation of that kind of love is seen in a mother-child relationship.

I remember once being asked in a management class, "Who is the best manager of all?" While the rest of the class started thinking of titans of industry such as Bill Gates, Donald Trump and Warren Buffett, one girl said, "My mother." I'll remember that answer for the rest of my life.

A mother is the most self-sacrificing person you will ever meet. Regardless of the woman she was before she became a mother, she will go to any

Alan Dsouza



length to make sure she gives you the life she never had.

Who plays a more focal role in the upbringing and development of a child: the mother or the father? It can be argued that in most of the cases, a mother plays the bigger role in nurturing a child. However, I feel although a mom is a central figure in our life, the role of the father cannot be undermined.

To make a case in point, there is a major difference in these two characters: Christopher Gardner (played by Jaden Christopher Syre Smith in the movie, "The Pursuit of Happiness") and Will Hunting (played by Matt Damon in the movie, "Good

Will Hunting"). Although Damon portrays an orphan who is regularly beaten up by his father and is thus distrustful of relationships, Smith plays the role of a child brought up by a single parent: his father.

Will is a prodigy, but because of the rocky relationship he had with his dad he refuses to let anyone get close to him emotionally.

On the other hand, Christopher is taught the finer lessons of life by his father's example, both spoken and unspoken. In a particular scene, when Christopher tells his dad that he wants to grow up and play basketball, his dad initially refuses in order to teach him a very important lesson of life:

Christopher Gardner (Dad): Hey. Don't ever let somebody tell you you can't do something. Not even me. All right?

Christopher (Son): All right.
Christopher Gardner (Dad): You got a dream. You gotta protect it. People can't do somethin' themselves, they wanna tell you you can't do it. If you want somethin', go get it. Period.

Childbirth is one of the most traumatic and painful experiences a woman experiences in her life. But maybe that's the reason the mother-infant bond is so strong. Pain and suffering are part and parcel of our daily lives, but when we experience them it brings us closer and helps us understand more fully the situation we are in.

In terms of statistics, while many women experience joy, relief and elation upon the birth of their child, some women report symptoms compatible with post-traumatic stress disorder after birth. Between 70 percent and 80 percent of mothers in the United States report some feelings of sadness or "baby blues" after childbirth. Postpartum depression may develop in some women; about 10 percent of mothers in the United States are diagnosed with this condi-

tion. Abnormal and persistent fear of childbirth is known as tokophobia.

Despite the fact that bringing forth life into this world is so hard, not once do our mothers complain about their responsibilities. In fact they strive to set the highest example possible. Says Oliver Wendell Holmes, "The real religion of the world comes from women much more than from men — from mothers most of all, who carry the key of our souls in their bosoms." According to me that's absolutely true because the real religion of the world should be love and no one can love you like your mom.

The ethics and values that are imbedded on a child's mind during upbringing significantly alter that individual's impact on the world. Lance Armstrong, the only seven-time winner of the Tour De France, said in his book "It's Not About the Bike" that his mother raised him up with an unbending rule: "Make every obstacle an opportunity." Perhaps that is why he was able to get through more obstacles in his life than most athletes.

"The Hand that Rocks the Cradle is the Hand that Rules the World" is a poem by William Ross Wallace that praises motherhood as the preeminent force for change in the world. A verse from the poem exemplifies the most important role anyone could ever have:

Woman, how divine your mission
Here upon our natal sod!
Keep, oh, keep the young heart open
Always to the breath of God!
All true trophies of the ages
Are from mother-love imparted;
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS	1 Large swallows	6 Loosen (up)	10 Joseph who brought Shakespeare to Central Park	14 Director Kurosawa	15 Plant with thick, fleshy leaves	16 Morlock prey	17 Elementary particle	18 Neeson of "Neil"	19 Undecided	20 Abbr. followed by a year	21 Criticize a small town?	22 Old Ford	25 Bad luck	26 Checking for doneness at the grill?	30 Jackie Chan and others	31 Magic 8-Ball response	32 Rug feature	35 Giving word?	36 Fertilization targets	37 Priestess in Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers"	39 West famous for "Come up sometime and see me"	40 Tournament pass	41 Scarecrow portrayer	42 Certain pork thief?	45 St. Clare's town	48 Finish by	49 Spelling contest notice?	52 Name on some Knart shoes	55 Subordinate	56 Mountain lake	57 Op artist Bridget	58 List of games, briefly	59 Presque Isle's lake	60 Bury	61 d'oeuvre	62 Opposite of bleak	63 Nawlins sandwich, and this puzzle's title		
DOWN	1 Hunter's quarry	2 Some are made from koa wood	3 Amount rarely paid	4 Spendthrift	5 Bernardino	6 Belt or sock	7 Et	8 Knock around	9 Tennessee's largest city	10 Eddie of "Frasier," for one	11 Orally	12 Blue books?	13 Cold War put-down	21 Narrow waterways: Abbr.	22 Bass attachment?	24 Endangered state bird	26 Munchkin creator	27 Annapolis sch.	28 Kvelch's words	29 Mauna	32 Bouncer employer	33 Opposite of aweater	34 Henry VIII's sixth	36 Olive	37 Burden	38 1950s-'80s Chevy utility vehicle	40 Runner's problem	41 Big bell sound	42 Two-footers	43 Spanish pronoun	44 Retailer whose middle name was Cash	45 Put to shame	46 Watch handle	47 Feast that includes the Cup of Elijah	50 Tropical tuber	51 Tennessee state flower	53 Nautical leader?	54 Big Apple ltrs.	57 Tear

By Jack McInturf 4/9/10

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

HASTO CORA LAGS	EDWIN RAUL ABOY	ARIN ASST URLS	DODGING THE DRAFT	SPEEDO IRAE	DEMEAN FLIRT	JIG AND TOETAP	AFRAID OF THE DARK	CHARTS EOE RES	KEYES DENIRO	AONE SENATE	CHICKEN OF THE SEA	OENO POLO ATPAR	DEED AVIA SWELL	ADZE LOOM HORSE
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THE DAILY TREADOR

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Drummer reflects on time spent in Elton John's band

On the band's "Rocket Man: Greatest Hits Live" tour, Sir Elton John's drummer, Nigel Olsson, took time to speak with *The Daily Treador* about how the band has changed throughout the years, the different places it has performed and to encourage the audience to use the bathrooms before the show begins.

How's the tour been going so far?

So far so good, it's been quite interesting. We've been to Cancun, Mexico, and drove to the big ancient pyramids in Chichen Itza and played in front of pyramids, which was amazing. Then we played Corpus Christi which was great and a pretty long show. It's quite intense, but we're looking forward to the rest of the tour. It's going to be great.

What was it like to play in front of the pyramids in Mexico?

We played right there in front of the big pyramid and was absolutely stunning. It was beautiful. It was way out in the middle of nowhere and it was amazing that you see what these people in the ancient days could do without machinery.

It's one of the experiences that we won't forget. We do a lot of those kinds of things. We've played in front of the Colosseum in Rome a couple of years back, and that was pretty amazing, too. We get to do stuff that is so amazing; we're blessed.

What should audiences expect from tomorrow's show?

They should definitely go to the bathroom before the show because it's a very long show. It's going to be a lot of songs that they know from the beginning through current stuff, and it's a pretty high energy, so get ready to rock.

The show is nearly sold out and the other shows from the tour have been just as successful. Why do you think that is?

I think it's amazing that we can still sell out big stadiums or arenas because we've been at it for a while. I've been with the band since 1969 and to see that we're still selling out — it amazes me.

The audience is made up of granddads like me and young kids and it's just amazing that we can still put smiles on peoples faces especially with the times we're going through and the depressing things that are happening, we can get up there and hopefully have them give up their troubles and hopefully have some fun.



COURTESY PHOTO

SIR ELTON JOHN'S performance Friday night at the United Spirit Arena will mark the 10-year anniversary of the arena's opening. He was the first performer at the United Spirit Arena when it opened in 2000.

How long have you been playing with Elton?

I've been there since 1969, since day one. I was with the same publishing company as Elton and Bernie in the '60s and Elton asked me to play with some of demo records, which I did. In '69 we got together with the original bass player, Dee Murray, and went out on the road for a couple of dates just to promote his songs and he actually wanted other people to cut his songs and he didn't really want to be a performer.

But we went out and did a couple of shows realized, "Wow, this is cool. Let's do it for real," and that's how it all got started. We enjoyed each other's musical abilities and went from that. And here we are still.

What has the ride been like since day one up until now?

It's hard to explain; it's amazing that we have been around for so long and we're selling out places. I think it's songs that people can identify with and it brings back memories in their lives and stuff like that.

It's hard to explain, but it's very fulfilling when we play the big hits that we've had and to look out into the audience and

to see the people singing the words with us. It's great and we love it.

Why doesn't the band always travel and perform with Sir Elton John?

He likes to go out and do solo stuff and mostly it's stuff for big corporations and a lot of it is charity. He does charity work for his AIDS foundation which is great.

He's also going out with Ray Cooper and doing stuff he doesn't regularly do like album tracks that we don't do as a band and it's a whole new format for him. He works all the time — he's a workaholic and he loves what he's doing and I think it's a great thing. Plus it gives us a little time off.

Do you enjoy going out on tour as much as he does?

It can sometimes get grueling, especially the travel. Especially in Europe because it's quite hard to get around Europe and especially when you're going around commercial airports. Now days with all

the security, it's pretty grueling when we have to travel long distances, but we still enjoy it. It's a great thing and it'll last a long time and we'll just keep getting it done.

In February of 2000, Elton was the first performer in the United Spirit Arena and this concert will be the 10-year anniversary of the arena opening. What do you think of that?

I think it's great that he can come back and do what he's doing and that we're still selling out places, and having fun doing it. And making people happy, that's the key of the thing is to make people happy which is a great thing. To put it in a nutshell, we're really looking forward to coming out to see you guys.

Compiled by Alexandra Pedrini
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Greek organizations stress need for higher education

By ALEXANDRA PEDRINI
STAFF WRITER

can become more involved," Srinivasan said.

Seven sororities and fraternities from the InterGreek Council will host high school juniors and seniors today in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center for their first No Ceilings event to promote higher education.

The groups are expecting more than 250 students and 30 chaperones from seven school districts to participate in the event. The groups' goal for the day is to teach high school students the importance of getting a college degree before entering the workforce, said Antonio Reed, a senior communication studies major from Dallas.

"There's not much you can do after you graduate from high school without a bachelor's degree," said Iswarya Srinivasan, a senior nutritional sciences major from College Station.

During the day, visiting students will experience a miniature Red Raider Orientation, Srinivasan said. They will take campus tours and visit a special campus organization and college fair. The clubs hosting the event will set up booths representing their organizations to give the guests a preview of what it's like to be a Red Raider, she said. Various colleges will have their own booths to show students what they can study when in college and help narrow down their focus on what they will want to study.

"(Here) they can explore how they

Reed said the main purpose of the event is to motivate students to attend a college or university after they graduate. Although convincing the students to become Red Raiders is not their main goal, they are offering six \$500 scholarships for books — four are for students who plan to attend Tech and two for students planning on attending another university. He said the group wanted students who may have already decided want to attend another school to still have a chance at a scholarship.

"Either way they're going to need books. Our goal is to promote higher education and get them thinking about going to college," Reed said. "The \$2,000 (in scholarships) is another incentive to come to Texas Tech."

Although 250 students have preregistered for the event, members of the groups involved with planning have continued to visit schools around the Lubbock Independent School District to speak with administrators about the program and encourage schools to bring their students.

Since the local schools were contacted later than other school districts from around West Texas, Reed said he expects many students to register last minute.

"We want them to know that there are no ceilings to do what they can do and there are no ceilings to the life they can pursue," he said.

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MP3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The instructions told participants to make a "human twister," a dartboard by shirt color and to follow around and high five random strangers.

Martin said more than six vehicles stopped to ask her what was going on. She considered telling them the students were working on a thesis or doing a rain dance, but instead explained the event as far as she understood.

Alejandro Garcia, a junior computer engineering major from San Antonio, wanted to participate, but watched from the sidelines.

"It would've been fun to do," Garcia said, "though the observers are just as entertained."

Todd said he liked that part of it took place around 11 a.m., so people going to and from class would stop and see it. A downside, Todd said, was that many students told him Wednesday night they would have to go to class instead of participating.

After the event, Meeh said he went to his 11 a.m., where he took a pop quiz in less than five minutes and came back out to meet up with friends.

"It was fun," Meeh said, "and totally worth skipping 30 minutes of class."

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SPORTS

PAGE 6
FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010

Tech baseball without Neely as OSU series begins

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS WRITER

Dan Spencer has never been a part of a season like this one, as far as pitching is concerned.

Tech right-hander John Neely is now out for the rest of the season with a broken right hand and an already thin pitching staff just got a little thinner.

Neely suffered the injury against Kansas State on April 2, although it is unclear of how he suffered the injury. He assumed the Friday night role amid Tech's pitching staff shakeup earlier this season.

"We didn't have very many to start with, now we got one less," Spencer said. "We're going to have to be creative. We're going to have to get some extra innings out of some guys, and we're going to just have to be very efficient."

It's probably bad news considering the Red Raiders (15-17, 4-5 in Big 12 Conference play) are on the road this weekend for a three-game series against Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla. The series begins at 6:30 p.m. today, 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

In place of the injured Neely, Louis Head will take the mound Friday against OSU's Thomas Keeling.

Neely was 1-1 with a 5.92 ERA in three starts and 10 appearances. During that K-State game on April 2, he

pitched 3 2/3 innings, allowing five runs and five hits.

But Head got the start in the K-State series finale, allowing six hits and two runs in 4 2/3 innings.

On paper, it looks like Oklahoma State (17-10, 2-4) could pose a challenge for Tech's pitchers. Only Kansas State has a higher team batting average in the Big 12. The Cowboys are hitting .335.

But Spencer said statistics don't truly show what makes this lineup unique. Six players in the Cowboys' starting lineup are left-handed batters, which will give Tech pitchers an unusual and different look.

"They can hit," Spencer said. "That's a concern. But I think everybody in our league can hit to a certain extent. Oklahoma State presents some different challenges for us because they're a predominantly left-handed lineup. Even with Neely, it would've been a different deal."

Additionally, the Cowboys are left-handed on the mound. All three of the Cowboys' starters this weekend are left-handed pitchers. Tyler Lyons is expected to pitch Saturday and Andrew Heaney is expected to pitch Sunday.

While it may give batters a different look, Tech shortstop Joey Kenworthy said it's best to stay the course when facing left-handed pitchers.

"If you just stick with your approach

each at bat, stick with your game plan, shouldn't really affect you," he said. "Just going to go up there, see what I can do for the team each at bat. Left-handed, right-handed pitcher, it doesn't matter. We're just going to go out there and compete. Hopefully go get some wins this weekend."

But the story of the weekend, besides the numerous left-handed batters and pitchers OSU has, may be Neely's absence.

Spencer said pitchers such as Jay Johnson and Scott Erzinger will be key this weekend against Oklahoma State.

With the Oklahoma State series here, the Red Raiders also have five more Big 12 series left this season. Teams may start fighting for position as the season comes to a close.

But some of the tougher teams, such as Texas, Texas A&M and Kansas State, are squads Tech already faced.

Tech's Saturday starter Bobby Doran said that's a plus, but there still are plenty of teams to look out for later this season.

"That helps us out mentally a ton," he said. "But at the same time. We're going to OSU. We're going to Kansas. We're going to Nebraska. So I mean, it's pretty much 50-50 on the road. It's not easy on the road. We have to step up and everybody has to fulfill



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH'S TAYLOR Ashby slides safely into home plate under Kansas State catcher Daniel Dellasega in one of The Red Raiders' games this season.

Tech track not looking past Invitational this weekend

By TOMMY MAGELSSSEN
STAFF WRITER

One week after the completion of the Texas Relays, some Texas Tech athletes already are looking ahead to the next big meet of the year: The Penn Relays.

But before they can start fantasizing about traveling to the Keystone State on April 22, the Red Raiders must focus on the Texas Tech Invitational on Saturday at the Terry and Linda Fuller Track Complex.

"This weekend, it's not really a serious meet, but I try to take every meet serious," said Tech runner Candace Jackson. "But I'm looking forward to (The Penn Relays) more than this weekend."

The Red Raiders got a little taste of what the Penn Relays might be like last weekend at the Texas Relays in Austin, where some impressive performances led to a No. 4 national ranking for the men's track and field team.

The women's team is unranked, but Jackson said she believes the women's

team should be ranked and the Lady Raiders are simply overlooked.

In order to maintain her focus, Jackson said she is going into the meet with the mentality that she can be defeated in any race in order to make sure she doesn't look too far ahead to more important meets.

Jackson said the Texas Relays were fun, but she has been there before and is ready for some new challenges. However, freshman Julian Wruck said he had never been to the Texas Relays and it was a great learning experience for him.

Wruck is a big reason behind the No. 4 ranking for the Red Raiders as he is ranked first nationally in the discus, but he is quick to give credit to the coaching staff.

"Coach (Wes) Kittley does a great job of organizing everything," he said. "I mean there's a reason we're No. 4 in the nation and he's got us to that point. He's assembled a bunch of good coaches; everyone's working hard right now."

"He's making sure everyone's doing



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH'S JANSEN Hyde and the Red Raiders hope to maintain their No. 4 ranking in the Texas Tech Invitational this weekend.

their job and doing it right. He's working just as hard as any athlete."

Saturday's meet is the last home meet for the Red Raiders until a dual meet against Nebraska on May 1. Wruck said the Tech Invitational isn't necessarily about winning each event but more on improving on marks and setting personal goals.

Wruck also said he is looking forward to the meet because there is a potential for some good wind and he may be able to set a personal best.

One thing Kittley said he is looking forward to is settling his team down after traveling to Austin for a few days. The

meet is a good opportunity for his team to be calm, relax and just continue to compete hard.

Field events start at 11 a.m. and running starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Texas Tech Invitational.

"We're also just going to allow our kids that are starting to improve in events to be able to work it again, have another meet," Kittley said. "Really I'm just focusing on those kids hopefully improving every week at this point right now especially this meet. It's low key but it's good competition."

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Tech softball eager to bounce back after loss

By TOMMY MAGELSSSEN
STAFF WRITER

After being stymied by Texas pitcher Blair Luna, Texas Tech softball hopes to get its bats going in a two-game weekend series against Nebraska.

Tech (30-7, 2-3 in Big 12 Conference play) hosts the visiting Huskers (22-17, 1-3) at 2 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday at Rocky Johnson Field. Tech is coming off a 4-0 loss at the hands of the Longhorns, and have dropped three of their last four contests.

The Red Raiders have scored just three runs in their last four games, and Tech coach Shanon Hays said his hitters are working hard to get back into the swing of things.

"(We've been) watching a lot of video and trying to make adjustments to what we're doing and more than anything trying to do a better job at swinging at pitches in the zone," he said. "A lot of it is just video analysis."

In Tech's 4-0 loss against Texas, the Red Raiders were limited to two hits and struck out 14 times.

Hays said when his team goes up against a pitcher such as Luna, it's hard to get much going when she brings her A-game.

Junior Jennifer Lee said she and her teammates need to work on their plate discipline in order to be successful against teams from the Big 12.

This includes, she said, not guessing what pitches they might see and just playing with solid mechanics.

"Every pitcher is different and you can't really change how you play based off of who you are facing," she said. "You just have to adjust throughout the game."

Even though the offense has hit a bit of a lull, Tech's pitching remains steady and helped it to an astounding start.

Freshman pitcher Ashley Broke-shoulder pitched a complete-game shutout against No. 24 Baylor on Monday, giving the Red Raiders their second win over a ranked opponent.

The victory Monday came two days after the Red Raiders dropped a 1-0 decision to the Bears, and Broke-shoulder said it is important to be able to bounce back like they did.

After facing Luna, the Red Raiders must deal with a Nebraska pitching staff that compiled more than 300 strikeouts in 255 innings pitched. Hays said pitching well and fielding the ball cleanly is key against Nebraska.

He also said the Red Raiders are not pressing at all for a win against Nebraska even though they have dropped a few games in the last week.

"Our mindset is to try and win the Saturday game," he said. "I've learned that if you say you've got to do certain things and you slip up and you don't win that first one, it puts a lot of pressure on you to win the second one. So we just try to have the mindset to just go out and win that next game, and I think you have to do that to survive in a conference this tough so you don't go on long skids."

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Tech's home field to host pro series

The United States Specialty Sports Association has chosen Texas Tech's Rocky Johnson Field as the host for the West Texas Duel on the Diamond for professional fast-pitch softball from June 9-13.

A five-game series between the Chicago Bandits and the Florida Pride will showcase some former collegiate all-stars and Olympic gold medalists.

Tech's newly renovated softball facility recently was completed in February and offers one of the Big 12 Conference's newest softball training complexes.

"I am extremely impressed with this facility," said Cheri Kampf, commissioner of National Pro Fastpitch. "Congratulations to coach Hays. To be able to play with this type of support surrounding you is amazing, and I think that they will continue to do better and better things here. But this is super impressive and we couldn't ask to play in a better venue."

In addition to the five-game series, the USSSA also will host a youth skills camp for aspiring young softball players to be conducted by the pros.

Kampf said the series between the Bandits and Pride will be televised by ESPN2 and should cast a favorable eye on the sport of softball.

"If you've never seen fast-pitch softball before, I promise you the game will win you over," she said. "And if you have seen it you will appreciate the extraordinary talent that you will see on the field. These are the absolute best players in the world."

The Chicago Bandits-Florida Pride matchup also features a well-known softball player. Jennie Finch, an Olympic Gold medalist in 2000 and 2004, silver medalist in 2008 and former standout at Arizona, plays for the Bandits.

Tech coach Shanon Hays said his 8-year-old daughter has a love for softball, and he is excited for her to see the games and participate in the skills camp.

"It's great to have the best players in the world where you can watch them and see them play," he said. "This is something that is very new for this part of the country. To be able to have that conglomeration of great talent is phenomenal."

>>>thomas.magelssen@ttu.edu

Today's
su | do | ku

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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Last home matches of season up next for Tech men's tennis

By JOSHUA KOCH
STAFF WRITER

For freshman Raphael Pfister, this weekend marks the last chance he and the Red Raiders can play in front of familiar faces before hitting the road for the remainder of the season.

No. 14 Texas Tech (17-2, 0-1 in Big 12 play) faces No. 38 Nebraska (13-7, 1-1) and No. 12 Texas A&M (19-4, 4-0) Friday and Sunday, respectively.

"Well it's been nice, very fun to play here at home," Pfister said. "The crowd is helping us a lot, and it's always a great feeling to have all the people cheering for us, for our team, to have all the Texas Tech spirit with us."

Tech's first match of the weekend will be under the lights against Nebraska at 6:30 p.m. today at the McLeod Tennis Center. Nebraska sits in third place in the Big 12 Conference behind only No. 12 Texas A&M and No. 5 Texas.

The Huskers have split both of their Big 12 matches this season, losing a close one to the Aggies, 4-3, and then turning around to edge then-No. 49

Oklahoma State, 4-3.

After playing the Red Raiders tonight, the Huskers will travel to Waco to face No. 9 Baylor on Sunday.

Although Nebraska isn't one of the higher-rated teams in the Big 12, Tech coach Tim Siegel said his players have to show up because the Cornhuskers are better than their ranking indicates.

"Nebraska, we're not fooled by their ranking of (38)," he said. "They've been without their No. 1 player for three weeks in a row, he's back so we know we're going to have our hands full. They're a very good team, they've got no weaknesses."

After tonight's match, the Red Raiders have Saturday off before returning to the court Sunday to play Texas A&M at 1 p.m. at the McLeod Tennis Center.

The Aggies are riding a 12-match winning streak coming into the match against Tech. Texas A&M upset No. 9 Baylor in College Station on Wednesday 6-1.

Texas A&M is 4-0 in Big 12 play, which is the Aggies' best conference start since 2001.



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

RAONY CARVALHO WILL lead Texas Tech into its last group of home matches against Nebraska and Texas A&M this weekend.

Tech, however, is coming off a tough Texas loss going into this weekend's action.

After a disappointing loss at the No. 1 spot against Texas last weekend, sophomore Raony Carvalho said he's worked on more than just his physical game this week to prepare himself for

the matches ahead.

"I'm preparing more of my mental game," he said. "I think my last match I was a little bit weak. So I'm not focusing a lot on my forehand or backhand, I'm just trying to focus more and be more positive."

—joshua.koch@ttu.edu

Women's tennis faces NU, ISU

By JOSHUA KOCH
STAFF WRITER

For Todd Petty and the Texas Tech women's tennis team, the Big 12 Conference season has not gone as hoped. But the squad has a chance to right the ship this weekend on the road.

Tech (6-9, 1-4 in Big 12) will face No. 45 Nebraska (16-2, 5-0) and Iowa State (9-9, 2-4) on Friday and Sunday, respectively.

"We've had some tough matches, but I think we've learned a lot from them," freshman Caroline Starck said. "I think we're really excited and looking forward to the rest of the conference season. We're not discouraged at all, we know we can do some big things, and this weekend is the perfect time to start against Nebraska."

The Lady

Raiders face the Cornhuskers at 4 p.m. today at the Nebraska Tennis Center.

Nebraska is tied with No. 1 Baylor for the lead of the Big 12. The Cornhuskers have been on the road for their past two matches, notching two conference wins against Iowa State and Kansas.

The Cornhuskers' roster is similar to the Lady Raiders with a predominantly young group. Nebraska only has one senior, one junior and the rest of the squad is filled with freshmen and sophomores.

After today's match Tech will hit the road to travel to Ames, Iowa, to battle Iowa State at 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Iowa State sits near the bottom of the Big 12 right now after dropping its last three conference matches consecutively. Two of those losses could have gone either way against Kansas and Kansas State, as the Cyclones fell 4-3 in both contests.

The Cyclones also have a young crop of women to work with this season. After playing Tech, the schedule does not let up as they face Texas and Texas A&M on the road next weekend.

After playing so many ranked opponents to start Big 12 play, Tech coach Todd Petty said the team has learned some things from those losses.

"We didn't get to start out with the easiest part of the schedule, getting the (Big 12 South) first which I think is the tougher side."

TODD PETTY
TEXAS TECH WOMEN'S
TENNIS COACH

"We didn't get to start out with the easiest part of the schedule, getting the (Big 12 South) first which I think is the tougher side," Petty said. "I think we grow from those experiences playing the solid teams first."

For the players, especially the freshmen, this has been a tough last

couple of matches.

Sandra Dynka has struggled in the No. 1 spot, posting a 1-4 record in singles during Big 12 play. But she said the team has to stay on the same page for the rest of the season for them to start being successful.

—joshua.koch@ttu.edu

Houston Dynamo closer to construction on new soccer stadium

HOUSTON (AP) — Major League Soccer's Houston Dynamo is another step closer to getting a new stadium.

The Harris County Commissioners Court was expected next week to consider an agreement to build a new 20,000-seat stadium after the Houston City Council unanimously approved the deal Wednesday.

The city and county are partnering with the Dynamo on the stadium project, which is expected to cost \$95 million.

"We were pleased it was a unanimous vote by City Council," Dynamo President Oliver Luck said Thursday. "We think it will be viewed positively (by commissioners court) and passed."

David Turkel, lead negotiator for Harris County in the stadium deal, said he believes the commissioners court will approve the proposal at its Tuesday meeting.

Commissioner Sylvia Garcia has already said she will vote for the new stadium.

"In addition to protecting the county from any debt or liability related to the building, my main focus was getting a commitment from the Dynamo to keep tickets affordable for families," Garcia said in a statement. "I am pleased that they will set aside at least 10 percent of their tickets at an affordable cost."

As part of the agreement, Texas Southern University will use the stadium for its home football games.

The stadium would be jointly owned by the city and county, with the Dynamo

responsible for maintaining stadium operations.

The Dynamo is paying all the \$60 million construction costs. The city and county will pay for \$20 million in infrastructure improvements around the facility. The city purchased the stadium site in March 2008 for \$15 million. The county would pay the city \$7.5 million for that land purchase.

Construction is expected to begin in October or November and the stadium could be ready by April 2012.

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