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Tech fencers advance

Red Raiders begin series

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SON Abilene campus names regional dean

By DEREK MOY
STAFF WRITER

Pearl Merritt will be named regional dean for the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Nursing in Abilene at 1:15 p.m. today at the Tech Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy in Abilene.

Merritt said she has lived in Abilene for almost 30 years and has been associated with Tech for four years as an adjunct professor.

"My passion is nursing and education, and certainly being from Abilene I know a lot of the key leaders," she said. "I know a lot of the people in Abilene, and I think that's just a good marriage there."

The School of Nursing in Abilene has 12 students in its second degree program, which is an accelerated path

to receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in one year if the student is already a registered nurse. Merritt said she will work with faculty members and she also will be teaching.

"Nursing is just a varied array of opportunities," she said. "So I am just thrilled about the opportunity to be the dean in Abilene and to really grow the program and to really make a difference in our nursing shortage."

The nursing building in Abilene is shared with Tech's School of Pharmacy, and Merritt said a goal of hers is to lease a building for nursing so students can have their own building. In the future, she said she wants to have a building



COVINGTON

built for the nursing program.

"Abilene is very fortunate to have Texas Tech's interest and Texas Tech offering the programs that we're offering in Abilene," she said. "It's a perfect marriage because in Abilene the key leaders are very passionate about Texas Tech and the growth."

Chandice Covington, interim dean of the Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing, said Merritt was selected for the position because of her vast amount of experience in the nursing field, which she has been in for more than three decades.

She said she helped make the decision to select Merritt and was sure she would be a strong leader for the nursing program in Abilene. The program works with the Hendrick Medical Center to let students gain clinical experience.

"When you bring in a nursing pro-

gram in you help the whole community," Covington said, "because those nurses can work at a local hospital, in community health, health care and all the different places that nurses work. And that then encourages more business in the town and that's good for everybody."

Merritt is very committed to her role in Abilene, Covington said. Merritt will be teaching students as well as maintaining the responsibilities of being a dean.

Sara Kendall-Ball, a 29-year-old nursing major in the second degree program from Abilene, said she was glad the nursing school came to Abilene.

The total immersion of the program has let Kendall-Ball get experience for what it is like to be a nurse, even with 12-hour clinical shifts, she said.

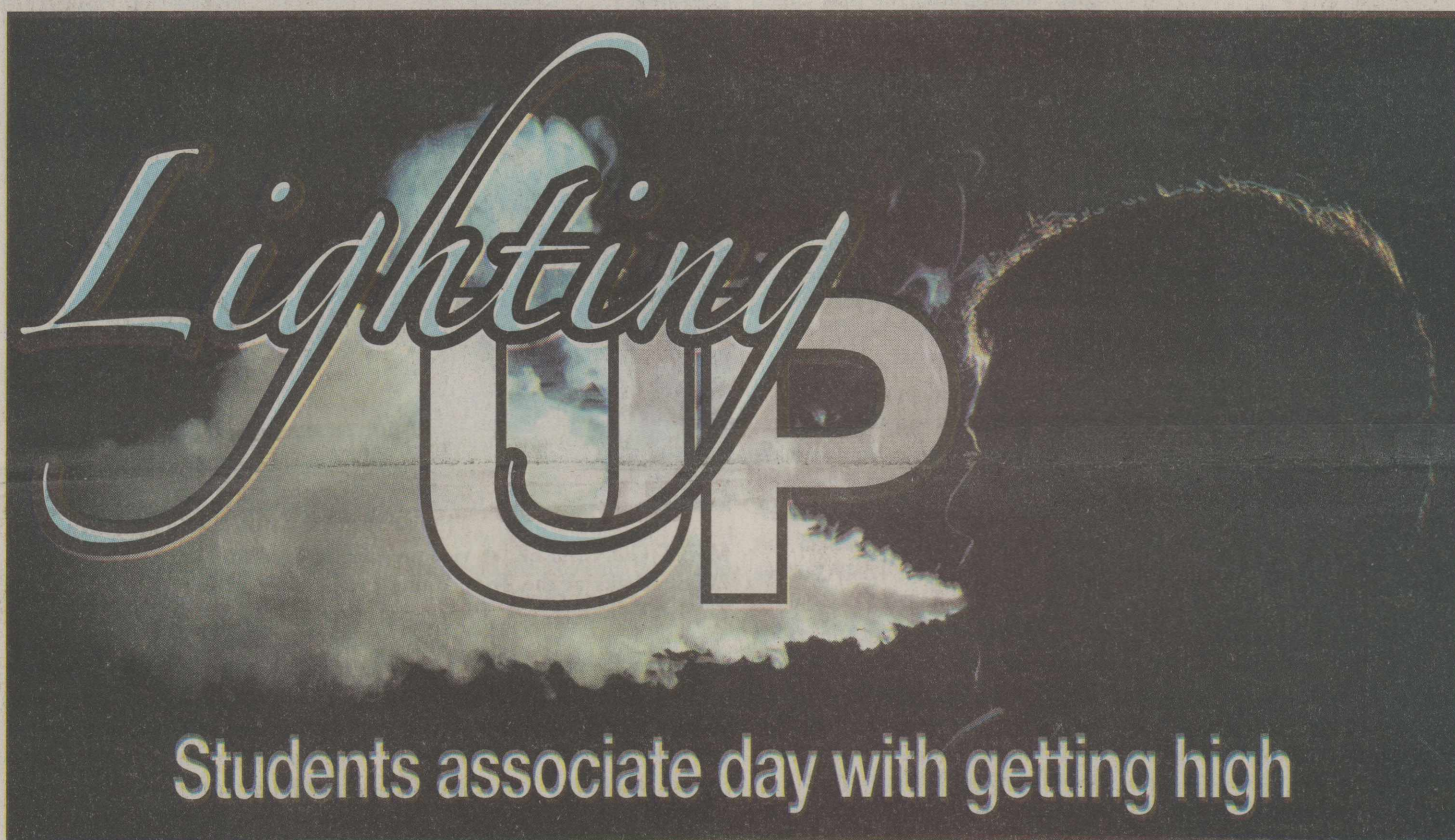
However, Kendall-Ball said she believes having a building for the School

of Nursing would be beneficial to the nursing students there.

"We never know if we can have a room or if it's going to be used by the School of Pharmacy," Kendall-Ball said, "and so it would just give us a place to go and read and study and maybe get together for study group. Right now we're having to just kind of meet at coffee shops or at somebody's house, so I think it would be great to have a building that's designated just for our use."

Pearl Merritt has 22 years in long-term care and was president of Buckner Retirement Services Inc. in Dallas. She was also senior vice president of Sears Methodist Retirement Services in Abilene for almost 20 years. In 2008, Merritt was the winner of Texas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging Distinguished Service Award.

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Students associate day with getting high

By ALEXANDRA PEDRINI
STAFF WRITER

4/20: It's not a police code and not just Hitler's birthday, the anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting or the daily tea time for pot smokers in Holland. April 20, or 4/20, is known as a day for marijuana smokers around the world to light up.

"4/20 has a pretty deep history," said Tyler Meyerkord, a senior exercise and sports science major from Dallas. "4/20 has a lot of controversy around it already so that could be (why people like to smoke)."

Beginning at a California high school in the early 1970s, a group of students created the term to signify when they would meet in front of a campus statue to get high, according to *Time Magazine*. 4/20 became their code for smoking marijuana in everyday life.

Meyerkord said students who haven't smoked before but want to experiment may feel the urge to try it today because students associate the day with getting high. The day is more memorable than others, making it easier if they want to remember the first time they smoked marijuana.

"It is the day that people feel it is more acceptable to get high and can be less paranoid since so many people participate in it," said Christy Melson, a freshman financial planning major from Amarillo. "Everyone loves to celebrate holidays, and this is just another kind of holiday to celebrate."

In the residence halls, community advisers are accustomed to "busting" residents for smoking marijuana in the complexes. Smoking cigarettes is a common occurrence outside the halls, and students who smoke marijuana in their rooms get caught once or twice a month, said Eli Pat-

ton, a community adviser for the Bledsoe/Gordon/Sneed complex and a junior art history major from Ennis.

He said the CAs contact the Tech Police Department and let them handle it from there; usually they will press charges and issue citations.

"Most of the time it's pretty evident there is marijuana there because of the smell," Patton said.

He said the CAs are just catching on to new ways their residents try to hide the smell of marijuana. They look for the physical signs such as towels attached to the door preventing the smoke from leaving the room and fans pointed out the window.

There is no pattern for where students are found smoking on campus, said Ryan Van Dusen, the assistant director of Student Judicial Programs. About 30 percent of the students the program deals with come from drug-related problems with the Tech Police Department, which is a national trend.

In 2008, officers reported 62 arrests and 102 referrals on campus for drug law violations in the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics. For the 2010 spring semester, 31 incidents involving drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana have been reported, according to Tech Police Department's daily summaries.

Although lighting up on April 20 may be a trend, Van Dusen said he doesn't expect to see any more referrals than normal. In past years, there hasn't been any spike in marijuana referrals on this day.

"Most students have learned to do their dope smoking off campus," said Capt. Mark Miller, an officer with the Tech Police Department.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

Oklahoma City marks 15 years since fatal bombing

By TIM TALLEY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — It's been 15 years since a terrorist's bomb destroyed the Oklahoma City federal building, killing 168 people and injuring more than 600 others.

The passage of time hasn't made mourning any easier for many victims' family members.

"Time heals nothing," said Debi Burkett Moore, whose brother, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development worker David Burkett, was killed. She and other family members placed flowers on an empty chair meant to honor her brother that's among a field of chairs at the Oklahoma City National Memorial.

"It makes it a little more bearable, but it heals nothing," Moore said.

About 2,000 people gathered at the memorial Monday to honor those killed and injured in the April 19,

1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. At the time, it was the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

For many in attendance, a visit to the memorial is an annual rite — a way to pause and remember a loved one, former colleague, friend or neighbor who died in the attack.

Kathryn Burkett, the mother of David Burkett, said she grows sadder by his absence with each passing year.

"Why it is sadder? I don't know why," Burkett said. "You just live with it."

Other victims' family members said they, too, still feel a deep sense of grief 15 years after the bombing.

"I don't make it here every year. It's just too hard. It's just like yesterday," said Cornelius Lewis III, who wore a T-shirt and medallion that bore the portrait and nickname, "Puddin," of his late sister, Social Security Administration employee Charlotte Thomas.

Europe resumes some air travel despite volcanic ash

By JILL LAWLESS
AND SLOBODAN LEKIC
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP) — Europe began to emerge from a volcanic cloud Monday, allowing limited air traffic to resume and giving hope to millions of travelers stranded around the world when ash choked the jet age to a halt.

Even then, however, the eruption from the Icelandic volcano that caused the five days of aviation chaos was said to be strengthening and sending more ash toward Britain, which could make it unlikely that London airports would reopen Tuesday.

Three KLM passenger planes left Schiphol airport in Amsterdam on Monday evening during daylight under visual flight rules bound for New York, Dubai and Shanghai. An Associated Press photographer saw one jet taking off into a colorful sunset, which

weather officials said was pinker than normal due to the ash.

European Union transport ministers reached a deal during a crisis videoconference to divide northern European skies into three areas: a "no-fly" zone immediately over the ash cloud; a caution zone "with some contamination" where planes can fly subject to engine checks for damage; and an open-skies zone.

Starting Tuesday morning, "we should see progressively more planes start to fly," said EU Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas.

The German airline Lufthansa said it would bring 50 plane loads of passengers home.

But the optimism was tempered Monday night by a statement from the British National Air Traffic Service, which said the eruption of the volcano has strengthened and a new ash cloud was spreading toward Britain.

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WEATHER

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NEW POLL: DO YOU ASSOCIATE APRIL 20 WITH SMOKING MARIJUANA?
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IN BRIEF

STATE

911 calls tell of chaos after plane hit IRS office

AUSTIN (AP) — Callers to 911 emergency officials in February told of seeing and hearing a fiery plane crash at an IRS office building in Austin, Texas and described a chaotic scene afterward with people running all around.

Some callers were frantic and others remarkably calm in the 911 recordings released Monday by the Austin Police Department.

"I'm calling about the explosion ... Oh my God!" said one caller to a 911 emergency dispatcher.

Some callers said they worked in nearby buildings or were driving by at the time. It wasn't clear whether any were calling from inside the burning building.

Joseph Stack III crashed his small

plane into an IRS office building Feb. 18. One person besides Stack was killed and more than a dozen were injured. Stack, 53, who left behind a rambling anti-government manifesto on a website, apparently targeted the lower floors of the office building, where nearly 200 IRS employees worked.

Six miles from the office building, Stack apparently set his house on fire that morning before taking off from an airport and slamming into the building on U.S. Highway 183, officials said.

Police also released 911 calls made about the house fire. A neighbor called to report flames ripping through the home, describing black smoke pouring out and windows bursting in the heat of the blaze.

NATION

Gunman opens fire at Tenn. hospital; kills 1, self

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A gunman opened fire outside a hospital Monday, killing a woman and injuring two others before committing suicide, police said.

Knoxville Police Chief Sterling Owen IV said all the victims were female and current or former employees of Parkwest Medical Center. The attack happened about 4:30 p.m. outside the hospital's discharge area.

Police are still trying to determine a motive but don't believe the shooter worked at the hospital, Owen said.

The names of the victims and suspect weren't released by police because the families haven't yet been notified.

Police put the hospital on lockdown as SWAT team members searched floor by floor to make sure no one else involved with the attack had made it inside.

"The hospital is safe and is being reopened with limitations," Owen said.

Linda Cody, whose father was a patient at the hospital, said she was locked outside while her sister and mother were stuck in the room with her father as police searched the medical center.

She said she had gone outside to smoke a cigarette when she noticed a man lying face down, surrounded by blood, outside the discharge area of the hospital.

WORLD

Official: Kyrgyz president leaves Kazakhstan

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — The deposed president of Kyrgyzstan left Kazakhstan on Monday, ending four days of refuge in the country after he was driven from power in a violent uprising, a Kazakh official said.

Kazakh Foreign Ministry spokesman Ilyas Omarov told The Associated Press he didn't know where Bakiyev was headed.

"He's left Kazakhstan — there are no details on his planned destination," Omarov said by telephone from the Kazakh capital, Astana.

Bakiyev's departure from Kyrgyzstan was seen as reducing the possibility that a civil war could break out between his supporters and backers of the opposition

figures who declared themselves the interim government. But tensions in the impoverished country remain high.

On the outskirts of Bishkek, the capital, hundreds of young men armed with sticks and metal bars rampaged through a village Monday, beating residents and burning several houses, and the Health Ministry said dozens of arrests were made before the situation was brought under control.

It was unclear what set off the rampage, but witnesses said the men were seeking to seize arable land. The village, Mayevka, is populated largely by Meskhetian Turks, descendants of an ethnic group deported from Soviet Georgia in 1944.

Corrections

In Monday's issue of *The Daily Toreador*, the article "Track team battles weather during weekend" should have stated Jamele Mason won the men's 400-meter hurdles with a time of 51.49 seconds. *The DT* regrets the error.

In Monday's issue of *The Daily Toreador*, the caption for the lower left photo on Page 5 should have read "... masked rider Christi Chadwell during the Passing of the Reins ..." *The DT* regrets the error.

Members of Double T Fencing Club qualify for national level

By KELSEY HECKEL STAFF WRITER

The Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center hosted the 2010 Plains Texas Division National Qualifiers fencing tournament Saturday, during which seven members of the Double T Fencing club qualified to move forward to national level.

Qualifiers are separated in categories by age, sex, weapon and division.

"Everyone is put in a pool in their category," said Aaron Clements, Double T Fencing coach and adjunct professor in the Texas Tech School of Law. "That determines their rank. Then everyone competes in direct elimination rounds and from there comes a winner."

Qualifiers for the epee category are Travis Ferrell and Meagan Feik in Division 2 epee; Hanson Wallace, Jeffrey McGregor and Mike Gimmell in Division 3 epee; and Aaron Clements in veteran epee.

Foil qualifiers are Feik in Division 2 foil and Travis Ferrell in Division 2 and 3 men's senior foil.

Saber qualifiers are Feik and Clements in Division 2 saber and Wallace

and Ferrell in Division 3 saber.

Each of the three weapons have different rules for scoring, according to the USA Olympic Fencing Web site.

In epee, touches are scored only with the point of the blade; however, the entire body, head to toe, is a valid target. Foil is similar to epee in what part of the blade scores, but instead of the entire body being valid, only the torso can be touched to score. The major difference between saber and the other two weapons is that saberists can score with the edge of their blade as well as the point. In saber, the target area is the entire body above the waist, excluding the hands.

"In the elimination rounds, the first person to 15 touches wins," Wallace said. "That singles down to two people and then they compete to 15 touches for the final winner."

The winner of each round qualifies to move to the summer nationals in Atlanta on July 4 through July 13 at the World Congress Center.

"It's nice to have Tech fencers step up and qualify," said Ferrell, a junior history and political science dual major from San Antonio. "The better our fencers get makes all of us better when we practice against each other. I've seen the program

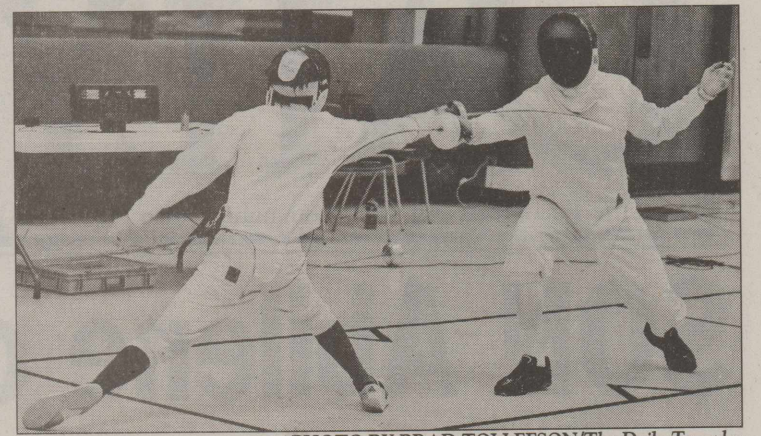


PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

RAVIS FERRELL, LEFT, a junior history and political science dual major from San Antonio, faces off in a bout against a member of the Amarillo College Fencing Association during the Double T Fencing Club's Fencing Competition Saturday in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

go from nothing when I joined to this, it's great."

The only female fencer to qualify didn't have to compete against anyone at the competition due to a lack of female fencers.

"I wish I could have actually fenced someone," said Feik, a junior psychology major from Arlington. "Since no one else showed up I qualified in all

three events for nationals." Many of the qualifying fencers said they might not go to the national competition because of the high cost.

"Each event costs about \$120 to register," Feik said. "If you add hotel costs, flights and food on top of that, it gets pretty costly."

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Tech Young Progressives host former vice presidential candidate

By RALSTON ROLLO STAFF WRITER

Tech Young Progressives, a non-partisan student organization that formed this semester, hosted its first annual event — called A Progressive Evening — yesterday in the English building.

Jack McClaskey, a senior English major from El Paso and the founding president of Tech Young Conservatives, said the organization is a non-partisan organization that seeks to promote progressive thoughts and values in the Texas Tech and local communities that pertain to what he referred to as the organization's "five areas of advocacy."

Those areas, he said, are workers' rights, civil liberties, environmental awareness, global peace and education and health care.

McClaskey said progressivism is in short supply in the Lubbock community and Tech Young Progressives will work to change that by uniting young progressives for the common goal of change for the greater good.

Matt Gonzalez, a native of Texas and the 2008 vice presidential candidate under Ralph Nader, was the event's guest speaker.

Gonzalez was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 2000, making him the first Green Party candidate to hold an elected office in San Francisco.

Paul Ruiz, assistant director for the Cross-Cultural Academic Advancement Center and Tech Young Progressives' contact with Gonzalez, said progressivism is more a way of life than a political viewpoint.

"I happen to be a Democrat, but partisanship is not what Tech Young Progressives is about," he said. "(Progressivism) a good thing."

Gonzalez said progressivism is about the advancement of political integrity and positive decision-making for the benefit of the public.

"We can only advance (progressive) ideas by putting them out there," Gonzalez said. "I don't believe I hold any radical views."

In his speech, Gonzalez described his career in politics and discussed what he feels are necessary changes in the labor laws and political systems of the United States.

He said the Taft-Hartley Act, which was enacted in 1947 to limit the power of labor unions, is one policy he believes should be reformed because it diminished the ability of labor unions to counteract the potentially harmful behaviors of large

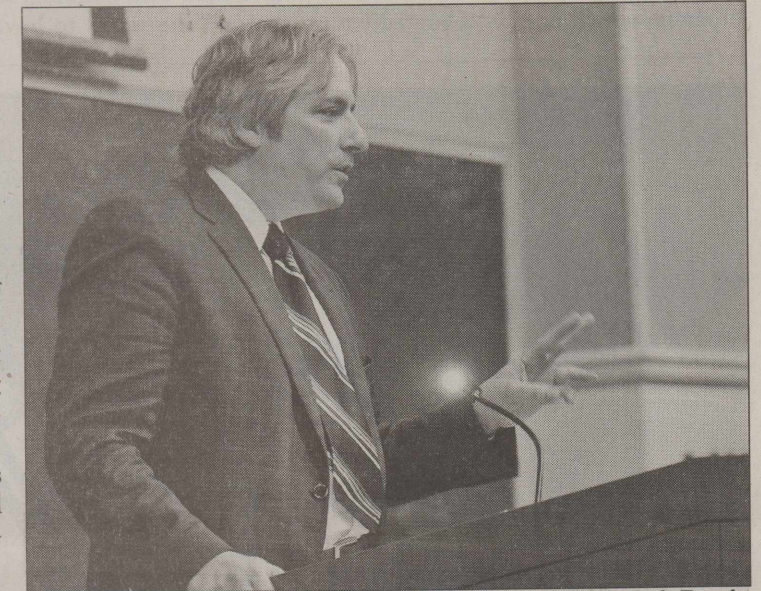


PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador

MATT GONZALEZ, A vice presidential candidate for Ralph Nader in 2008, speaks at the Tech Young Progressives meeting Monday in the English building.

American businesses.

Gonzalez also spoke of what he said are shortcomings in the two-party system of politics in the United States, proposing a ranked-ballot election system as a potential solution that could encourage the presence of minor political parties.

"I think it's very important to engage in discussion of political issues," he said. "The two-party system

is not working." Because the United States does not use a majority or ranked-ballot system in general elections, Gonzalez said minor political parties are undermined and often aren't given the opportunity to engage in reform.

After his speech, Gonzalez answered questions from the audience.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Monday's Puzzle Solved with a grid of words and their definitions.

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Top al-Qaida leaders killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — The U.S. and Iraq claimed a major victory against al-Qaida on Monday, saying their forces killed the terror group's two top figures in this country in an air and ground assault on their safehouse near Saddam Hussein's hometown.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki announced the killings of Abu Omar al-Baghdadi and Abu Ayyub al-Masri at a news conference and showed photographs of their bloody corpses. U.S. military officials later confirmed the deaths, which Vice President Joe Biden called a "potentially devastating blow" to al-Qaida in Iraq.

The organization has proven resilient in the past, showing a remarkable ability to change tactics and adapt — most notably after its brutal founder, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was killed nearly four years ago in a U.S. airstrike. Still, some analysts contend, the group was far stronger then and would likely have a harder time now replenishing its leadership and sticking to a timetable of attacks.

"The death of these terrorists is potentially the most significant blow to al-Qaida in Iraq since the beginning of the insurgency," Gen. Raymond Odierno, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, said in a statement.

Al-Qaida in Iraq has remained a dangerous force as the U.S. prepares to withdraw most of its troops. The terror group has launched repeated attacks on civilian targets in Baghdad in an attempt to sow chaos and exploit political deadlock in the wake of the inconclusive March 7 parliamentary elections.

Monday's announcement comes at a critical time for al-Maliki, who

has staked his reputation on being the man who can restore stability to Iraq after years of bloodshed. The prime minister is locked in a tight contest with secular challenger Ayad Allawi to see who will form the next government. Al-Maliki's coalition trails Allawi's bloc by two seats in the 325-seat parliament, and neither has yet been able to secure enough support from other parties to muster a majority.

Al-Maliki's bid to keep the prime minister's office received a second boost Monday when Iraq's election commission announced it would recount ballots cast in Baghdad, after complaints of fraud lodged by al-Maliki's coalition. The recount could potentially give the Iraqi prime minister's bloc more seats than Allawi's.

Allawi has charged that Iraqi security forces have been unfocused since the election.

But Biden, President Barack Obama's point person on Iraq, said the deaths of the al-Qaida leaders underscored their overall improvement.

"The Iraqis led this operation, and it was based on intelligence the Iraqi security forces themselves developed," said Biden, who came before reporters in the White House briefing room to draw added attention to the results.

U.S. military officials have been highlighting the role of Iraqi security forces as American forces draw down. Under a plan outlined by Obama, all combat forces will be out of Iraq by the end of August, leaving about 50,000 U.S. forces in the country for such roles as trainers and support personnel. Those forces will leave the country entirely by the end of 2011.

New mascots make first appearances

By SARAH SCROGGINS
STAFF WRITER

Beginning horseback riding at a young age, Christi Chadwell realized her dream when she became the new Masked Rider on Friday at the Frazier Pavilion.

Chadwell, a sophomore agricultural communications major from Garland, started riding horses when she was 10. Coming from a "red and black" family, her father was quick to show her the iconic symbol of Texas Tech, the Masked Rider.

As a freshman, she joined the safety crew of the Masked Rider to become familiar with all the ins and outs of taking on the role. Chadwell competed against six other hopefuls for the spot and went through a two- to three-month process to get to where she is today.

The tryouts start with filling out applications, writing essays, and taking a preliminary horse knowledge test, a riding test and a driving simulation test. If these tests are passed, then the remaining candidates are asked to come in for an interview and the rider is selected, Chadwell said.

The previous Masked Rider, Brianne Ancult-Hight, a senior animal sciences major from Clovis, N.M., handed down the mask, hat and cape to Chadwell.

"That's definitely the hardest part," Hight said. "However, when you have someone like Christi stepping in your shoes, you know that the job is going to get done right."

Brianne Ancult-Hight was not the only one giving up her title Friday. Raider Red also had to pass down his or her guns. It's traditional for the identity of Raider Red to not be revealed until they pass the guns down to the next Raider Red.

Serving this past year was Courtney Rosenthal, a senior health education major from Mesquite, and Braden Dockery, a senior agriculture communications major from San Antonio. Although they were sad to pass the guns, they were excited for their friends and peers to finally know they were the ones cheering on the sports teams.

"It's a mixture of emotions, I'm proud of everything we've accomplished," said Dockery, a two-year Raider Red. "We're just

honored to finally be done and serve as Raider Red."

Although Raider Red and the Masked Rider are most famous for getting the crowd rowdy at the football games, there is more to their job descriptions. They must attend several other sporting events and community, parade and state appearances.

"Besides the sweating, I'd say most of all you have to have a love for Texas Tech," Rosenthal said. "We don't just do football season, we do volleyball, basketball, and we've each done over 100 hours community service."

After the new Raider Red was announced, the person took the stage in full uniform. By the shake of his head, the student serving as Raider Red is very excited for the new job as the mascot and is looking forward to football season the most.

All three departing mascots wanted to give the newcomers the same advice: Embrace every minute of this year to come, starting with the first appearance at Saturday's Spring Game. Because before they know it, it will be over.

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PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador
FORMER MASKED RIDER Brianne Ancult-Hight puts the mask on the new Masked Rider Christi Chadwell, during the Passing of the Reins on Friday at the Frazier Alumni Pavilion.

Tuesdays with Tina: Dean Bell made college experience better

Along with my acceptance letter to Texas Tech came a letter from the Honors College encouraging me to apply. So, I did.

The first time I met Honors College Dean Gary Bell was at a shindig for incoming freshman honors students. I went for the coconut shrimp and left feeling pretty happy about my decision to come to Tech.

I chose to not attend the University of Texas because no one there seemed really interested in making sure my college education turned out to be a success. I know that sounds conceited, but I wanted my parents' and my money to be well spent.

I figured that meant I should go somewhere where the faculty and staff care about giving me—a student only slightly above average and certainly not worth fighting over—a good education.

During the meet-and-greet after his speech at the beginning of my freshman year, Dr. Bell mingled with all the new students, including myself. He spent a few minutes asking where I was from and recalling as much information about the small town of San Saba that he possibly could.

Tina Arons



I went home that night and gushed to my parents about meeting the Honors College dean. As silly as it sounds, it was a big deal to me.

Dr. Bell, along with the rest of the Honors College faculty and staff, always made me feel important. They made me feel like my education was just as important as the education of some of my freakishly smart honors classmates who have since moved on to places like the Yale School of Medicine.

Bell resigned last week. He'll vacate the post in May.

An Honors College without Dr. Bell seems unfathomable to me. I don't know every minute detail about what led to his resignation, but I know enough to say it just ain't right.

The Honors College shouldn't suffer because of the push for Tier One status;

the quality undergraduate education shouldn't suffer. And I just can't see the Honors College or undergraduate students not suffering from the loss of Dr. Bell.

Why is it even happening? It's not like he locked someone in an electrical closet. Last time I checked, it isn't an academic sin to provide the best and brightest of Tech with opportunities to grow and excel.

The Honors College, under the guidance of Dr. Bell, boosted the average SAT score of undergraduate students at Tech. And let's not kid ourselves. Honors students make the whole undergraduate population look good.

They're certainly not the ones who drink too many Thursday night bar specials, snort a line of coke off the bathroom sink, and can't get up for class the next day who conduct research and submit articles for publication.

The day the Honors College falls between the cracks will be the day I'm ashamed to tell people where I earned my degrees.

► Arons is a graduate student in the College of Education.
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Review: 'Oceans' brings enormity of sea up close

Fish that look like rocks — or scarves, or a jeweled brooch — or anything but fish — are among the fascinating underwater creatures that inhabit "Oceans."

This stunningly beautiful documentary is the second in a series from the new DisneyNature label, which gave us "Earth" exactly one year ago on Earth Day. Whereas that film followed wildlife across the globe, "Oceans" takes a plunge deep into its waters, with jaw-dropping results.

Directors Jacques Perrin and Jacques Cluzaud provide a truly immersive experience, without the three-dimensional IMAX effects of the similar — and similarly awe-inspiring — "Under the Sea 3D"

from 2009. Having spent seven years working on "Oceans," including four years gathering footage, they've created countless how'd-they-get-that? shots. It took them 28 weeks of waiting, for example, to acquire their up-close-and-personal moments with a blue whale, a creature a half-billion long and weighing 120 tons.

That's among the nuggets of information narrator Pierce Brosnan provides in his soothing Irish tones. At times, the script veers toward the cutesy, but that's probably to make "Oceans" as palatable as possible for the young viewers to whom much of the film is intended.

It's not just the images themselves that are striking, but also the way in which they're pieced

together. Perrin and Cluzaud, who also directed the Oscar-nominated documentary "Winged Migration," have crafted a nonfiction film that's shot and edited like a feature. They make us feel an emotional connection as we watch the intimacy of a female walrus delicately caring for her pup, or the heartbreaking sight of baby sea turtles scurrying across the sand for their tiny lives just moments after being hatched. (This would be a good time to urge you to bring tissues.)

Meanwhile, along the shore, sea otters frolic in Monterey Bay and penguins in the Arctic emerge from the frigid water, only to shake themselves off and waddle away. The adorable factor is high.

Volcano presses "Iron Man 2"

NEW YORK (AP) — The continued grounding of planes in Europe means Miley Cyrus must skip a trip to England, forced the world premiere of "Iron Man 2" to be moved from London to Los Angeles and prevented Sharon Jones & The Dap Kings from performing on "Late Show With David Letterman."

But if you're a citizen of Iceland stuck in New York, you can score free tickets to "The 39 Steps."

Hundreds of thousands of passengers have been stranded around the world since a volcano in southern Iceland began erupting Wednesday, leaving a cloud of volcanic ash hanging over Europe and shutting down airports from England to Germany. Restrictions were starting to ease Monday, but not in time to prevent numerous postponements and other disruptions in the entertainment industry.

Cyrus spokeswoman Meghan Prophet of PMK-BNC said Monday that the actress-singer would miss the British premiere of her current film, "The Last Song," scheduled for Tuesday in London. Paramount Pictures and Marvel Entertainment announced they had moved the "Iron Man 2" premiere, scheduled for April 26, "due to the continuing air travel uncertainty."

Organizers of the Tribeca Film Festival were monitoring the situation for filmmakers and actors planning to fly from Europe for the New York festival, which begins Wednesday evening. Festival spokeswoman Tammie Rosen said they were "taking it flight by flight," trying to reroute those with canceled flights and making contingency arrangements in case the delays extend through the week.

"Late Night With Jimmy Fallon," "The View" and "Live With Regis and Kelly" were among the televi-

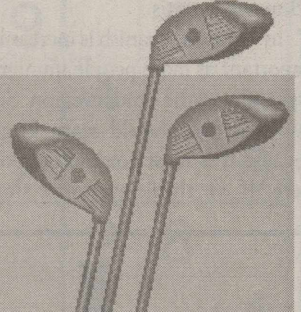
sion shows reporting no changes in programming. But "Late Show With David Letterman" spokeswoman Kim Izzo said that Jones & the Dap Kings, scheduled to perform Monday for a show airing Friday, had been on a European tour and were "still stuck overseas."

The London Book Fair opened Monday despite the absence of numerous publishing officials from the United States and other countries. HarperCollins publisher Jonathan Burnham had hoped to attend the London fair, calling it a "significant exchange of information in the publishing calendar for international publishers."

"For corporate publishing houses with operations on both sides of the Atlantic, there's a great deal of useful activity in London, not just between publishers and editors, but between sales representatives, digital development groups, rights departments and so forth," Burnham said.

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Honors college growing pains felt by students

I am not surprised that the Honors College dean resigned last week, and I must take Gary Bell's side. I was admitted to the Honors College last year, and chose not to continue for a multitude of reasons. As a transfer student, I was disappointed in what Texas Tech's Honors College had to offer me.

Of all people, I understand and respect the need and foundational encouragement that comes along with gifted students. There are quite a few gifted students around Tech. Some of them hide within the masses in an effort to be normal, and others, no matter how much they try, cannot hide their talents.

For instance, I cannot hide the fact I am significantly younger than my classmates, particularly when I first started college. These days, I can fool some, but not all. However,

Colleen Gartner



I have found that the Honors College has no problem finding gifted individuals; what they should instead put an emphasis on is keeping them within the program.

Staying in the Honors College for me meant approximately an extra \$5,000 to \$7,000 in costs for classes that I simply didn't need, and quite frankly those classes would have forced me to graduate just slightly later than originally planned. I graduated high school as a summer graduate, so it is not a big deal.

But who really wants to take an off-the-wall class because you are required to obtain honors credit

during a semester but the offerings are so slim you are forced to take it? Honestly, if you are gifted enough, just about any class that you touch will result in an A or a B; it doesn't matter if the class is about a lesser-known subject.

Still, I found that the program wasn't even that major-specific, making the honors classes that much more isolated from a straight degree path.

I honestly wish it jived better with my degree, but I have no regrets. I am graduating on time, and I didn't spend any effort or money on classes that I simply didn't need. I also saved myself from any immense levels of pressure to produce quality work that I may or may not always have the mood or time to produce.

Furthermore, I am still a desirable graduate from Tech. I picked up my honors cords last Monday, and I am perfectly content with that.

Now, I am not trying to downplay

the integrity or importance of the Honors College. It is very prestigious, difficult and necessary. The students who remain and graduate with it receive my utmost respect because they have most certainly earned it. Tech does not make it easy to graduate that way, and in some ways, that is part of the problem. The university is so focused on advancing research that it cut the number of Honors College offerings to slim levels.

Now, I think research is crucial, too, but the toll it has taken on the Honors College has left no one willing to teach honors-level courses due to heavy workloads. What should have occurred is the inclusion of honors students in that research effort like what is done at the graduate level, but what instead happened was a complete shutdown.

It is unfortunate what has occurred this past year within the Honors College. Yet, I feel as though it is not and should not be seen as a permanent scar whatsoever. Just as roads and tracks are built before the towns, the Honors College needs to bring back the momentum that it once had. To achieve this, Tech will have to restructure how students obtain honors credit, reevaluate how many and what classes are offered, and study successful honors systems implemented at other universities.

If the college cannot carry its students now, it will most certainly not hold the growth anticipated over the next decade without intervention.

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“As a transfer student, I was disappointed in what Texas Tech's Honors College had to offer me.”

People should learn Spanish

Immigration is a tough issue. Being the great grandson of Norwegians (in other words, I am not an immigrant at all), it is hard for me to completely understand the complicated issues involved.

I do not pretend to have an answer to the immigrant “problem.” However, the fact immigration is so prominent within our national debate has caused other side effects which are noteworthy and rather xenophobic. One of these arguments, which I often hear, states that Spanish should not be learned in school because this is an English speaking country and immigrants should have to learn English.

I must say that I think this argument is ridiculous. Yes, it is true it would help immigrants to learn English. However, this does not excuse us from teaching Spanish, a language that is becoming increasingly important.

We should all learn Spanish in school, and we should learn it early in elementary school, when we have better language retention. I wish my teachers had taught me Spanish in school. In hindsight, I would trade my naptime or finger-painting for Spanish instruction.

Spanish is part of our heritage as Texans. When Stephen F. Austin and the early Anglo settlers moved to Texas, what language did they learn to speak? Spanish. Texas has more of a Hispanic heritage than any Anglo settlers are willing to admit, and we are missing out if we do not acknowledge this.

In addition, Spanish is increasingly important as more people immigrate, especially to the border region. Some say everyone should learn English because it is most commonly spoken here. If we think everyone should

Roy Long



learn the language spoken most frequently, we should all be speaking Spanish in about 30 years.

My main problem with the argument against learning Spanish is that it assumes entitlement. White people like myself claim that because we have lived here “longer,” (even though Texas was Spanish before it was Anglo-American) the people entering our country should have to learn the language we speak before we have to learn the language they speak. I agree immigrants should try to learn English, but we should be trying to learn Spanish.

Some opponents to bilingual education claim that it slows down learning. This is true, but only within the first few years. After that, bilingual students are on par with their peers who only learn in their native tongue. In addition, while initially bilingual education may be expensive (hiring new English and Spanish teachers), eventually as everyone learns these languages, the cost will decrease. It will become easier and easier to hire bilingual teachers as more students learn both languages in school.

In addition, if we can afford counselors, physical education teachers and even computer teachers, we certainly can afford Spanish and English as a Second Language teachers. We could focus an hour a day on learn-

ing Spanish or English and then the rest of the time, the classrooms can be integrated.

Sometimes, I think the excuse not to learn Spanish is based on the fear of the difficult. As Mitt Romney says, “The pursuit of the difficult makes men strong.” For any of you who have lived in a foreign country, you certainly can remember how hard it was to learn the language spoken by the people. I struggled with learning Finnish for two years, and I remember making many awkward mistakes before I learned to effectively communicate.

The Finns often learned three or four languages so they could have the upper-hand and communicate with people of many other nationalities. It is one of the reasons why a small country of 5 million people has a huge economy, a great standard of living and maintains successful businesses such as Nokia. They did not simply assume that everyone could speak Finnish, although it was a clear advantage to all immigrants in the country. They took the initiative to learn the foreign languages that were used most frequently within their country.

It may take time for Texans to become more fluent in Spanish, but I think the economic and cultural rewards far outweigh the costs. We should learn Spanish, and we should stop complaining about people who cannot speak perfect English.

Anyone who thinks it is easy to learn another language should go to Finland and learn all of its 15 cases. Then, at that point, they have the right to complain that learning English should be “so easy” and that all immigrants should do it upon entry into the United States.

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Obama must give back civil liberties

By JENNIFER BISSELL
MINNESOTA DAILY (U. MINNESOTA)

Believe it or not, Democratic President Barack Obama has done little to loosen the chokehold on our nation's civil liberties in the wake of Sept. 11. After the terrorist attack, the Bush administration embraced the unprecedented use of surveillance and detention, but Obama can't seem to let go of the powers, either.

Whether it's spying on Americans, monitoring activists, extremists or suspected terrorists or keeping unwanted DNA databases, Obama has exhibited concerning disregard for privacy.

National security, of course, is meant to protect the nation, but increasingly it has come at the cost of citizens' rights, the preservation of which has classically been the first duty of the nation. The president has maintained a Bush-like disrespect for privacy and due process.

In a report tracking Obama's progress in fulfilling American Civil Liberties Union's 142 “Actions for Restoring America,” only one-third of the recommendations had been completed. His administration did well on issues

such as open government, torture, civil rights and reproductive freedom, but he followed none of the recommendations regarding surveillance-orientated security including, most notably, warrantless wiretapping.

There are countless obstructions to our personal liberties, and the erosion begins with the small things. Warrantless wiretapping is, judging by the level of national outcry, one of those small things.

Wiretapping with a permit has been legal for years, but following the Sept. 11 attacks, Bush authorized the use of warrantless wiretaps. Now, any U.S. citizen's conversations over landlines, cell phones and e-mails are essentially government property. In one fell swoop, citizens' First and Fourth Amendment rights have been quashed.

Obama has continued this policy without much justification. The usefulness in monitoring potential threats should not be discredited, but it is unclear why the process of having a judge issue warrants, based on clear evidence, should be superseded. If there is no process to check government surveillance, we are at risk of producing a legal culture that openly mocks our democratic principles.

Another issue of civil liberties that Obama has put on the back burner is

Guantanamo Bay. Since 2002, “enemy combatants” have been held without due process and subjected to harsh interrogation methods.

Additionally, according to Bush's former chief of staff, Lawrence Wilkerson, many of the 800 detainees held have been innocent. Few have offered connections to al-Qaida, and most were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Interestingly, Wilkerson also contends that the Bush administration knew of this, but did nothing in order to avoid the black mark on their records.

To right this wrong, Obama, just days after his inauguration, signed an executive order demanding the prison be closed after one year. Yet it remains open. Today there are nearly 200 detainees at the center, and many still have not been given proper counsel or trial, two basic civil rights. Sure, they aren't Americans, but it is a troublesome precedent for us to deny Constitutional due process to those we simply stick with the label “terrorist.”

Obama has clearly stated his intentions of closing the prison, but he has maintained policies that put a dark shadow over the nation. There are nearly 50 detainees who have been labeled too difficult to prosecute, but too dangerous to release. Thus, after the prison closes, Obama has stated that these individuals will remain imprisoned without a fair trial.

This brings us to the most egregious of the violated civil liberties today: the president's assassination program.

Just a little over one year ago, renowned investigative journalist, Seymour Hersh, in a lecture at the University of Minnesota, alluded to an ongoing covert military operation he labeled as an “executive assassination ring.”

Hersh stated that during the Bush administration, highly specialized CIA forces reported directly to Vice President Dick Cheney with no congressional oversight. The agents crossed several borders, assassinated their victims, and did so all in secret.

A CIA spokesman responded to Hersh's comments to say it was “utter nonsense,” but the remarks seem to have some validity, especially since the Obama administration spoke openly on their own assassination policies.

According to a recent Washington Post article, the military's Joint Special Operations Command has a list of targeted individuals the government is prepared to kill. Shockingly the list includes several U.S. citizens.

In the case of alleged terrorist Anwar al-Aulaqi, a U.S. citizen, the Obama administration has adamantly asserted the “right” to kill. The cleric has not been formally charged with a crime. He has not been given a trial, counsel or any due process of law.

For the fools quick to quip, “Those who do nothing wrong have nothing to fear,” think again. Apparently these days it doesn't matter if there's evidence that you committed a crime or not. If the government deems you dangerous, you're in danger.

The United States has rules, regulations and laws for a reason: to protect the rights of its citizens. This is not to say that Obama can't wiretap, have prisons or watch-lists. It's about following the protocol to ensure justice.

If the president or the U.S. Department of Justice continue to ignore whichever freedoms they may find inconvenient, America not only risks losing precious civil liberties, it risks losing the wider moral war against terror.

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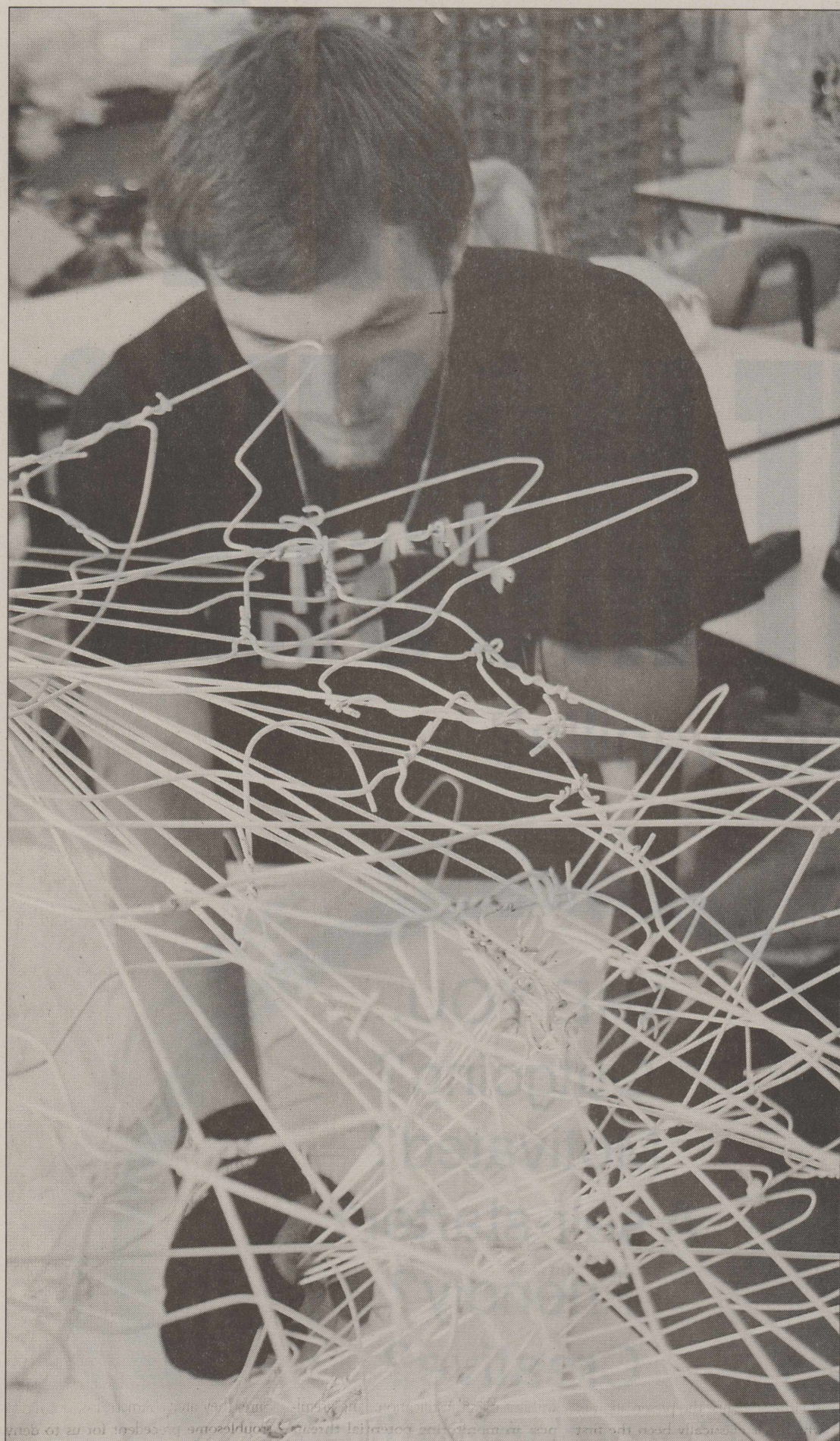


PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador
NICK MOORE, A sophomore architecture major from McKinney, works on a space suit made out of hangers Monday in the Architecture building.

Action makes latest 'Splinter Cell' best yet

The "Splinter Cell" series always has been known for two primary elements: stealth and night-vision goggles. But "Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell: Conviction" contains less of the former and none of the latter.

With "Conviction," it's as if the folks at Ubisoft watched a lot of the "Bourne" movies and said, "We need more of this."

Series protagonist and secret government agent Sam Fisher used to be defined by his high-tech equipment and tendency to move through areas very, very slowly without making a sound. The player, as Sam, would do whatever it took to avoid detection by the enemy, because if they knew you were there, it was usually game over. So the previous "Splinter Cell" games were an exercise in taking your time, shooting out lights and staying in the dark.

"Conviction" doesn't do away with all of this — you'll still want to stay in the dark most of the time, and shooting out lights can still be key — but enough changed to make this feel almost like an entirely different game. Sam now moves quickly and doesn't mind shooting anybody who gets in his way. Instead of picking locks, he bashes doors down.

Torn up by the death of his daughter, Sam has left the government group Third Echelon and now is working on his own to find his daughter's killer. Before long, however, his quest for truth leads him inevitably back to the people who first trained him, and what follows is a tangle of twists and conspiracies that rightly bears the Tom Clancy name (even though the famous author had nothing to do with this plot, despite his name being on the box). But being separate from his former employers means Sam has to improvise a lot more, and his gear, for the most part, is not nearly as high-tech as before. Early on, Sam even relies on broken glass in order to peak under doors, rather than his handy snake-cam. You still acquire a variety of weapons and devices — including EMP grenades and sticky cameras — but Sam definitely packed lighter this time around.

There is one high-tech exception, however. Gone are the series staple night-vision goggles. They're replaced by higher-tech sonar goggles, allowing Sam to make his way through dark areas and

Britton Peele



even see enemies through walls.

To take out these enemies, you now have a lot more methods in your disposal. Since stealth is rarely as necessary as before, you can now take on areas with full guns blazing, if you so choose. But you might prefer to be a lot smarter than that, and the game can accommodate your wish.

You might, for instance, allow an enemy to see you, then quickly duck back into the shadows. When your foes come to investigate your last known location, you can flank them and take them out.

You could also take a group out quickly with Sam's new Mark and Execute ability. When scoping out an area, you can mark a number of enemies (between two and five, depending on your equipped weapon), and when the time is right, quickly and accurately eliminate all of them at the push of a button. This is not only really useful, but also looks really cool — like something Jason Bourne or Jack Bauer from "24" might do.

The single-player story doesn't last

extremely long, easily beatable in under 10 hours, but the story is engaging and fun to play through.

The game also boasts a bevy of multiplayer modes for two players, either online or off. This includes a full-fledged co-op prequel to Sam Fisher's single-player story, featuring two entirely different characters. This mode plays out more like the "Splinter Cell's" of yore, where stealth is king. The co-op story is even shorter than the single-player campaign, but it's an extremely fun experience to go through with a friend.

Other modes include Hunter, in which you try to eliminate a group of enemies, and Face Off, a sort of spy vs. spy mode for two players. Some of the modes can be played by solo, such as Infiltration, where being spotted means you instantly fail, but all of them are definitely more fun with a friend.

"Splinter Cell: Conviction" is pretty different from its predecessors, but I would say the changes are for the better. It still feels like a stealth game, with some parts requiring you to go slow and think about your next move, but also feels like a more fast-paced action game. It's a great experience both alone and with a friend, and should be picked up by fans and newcomers alike.

■ **Peele is The DT's opinions editor. E-mail him at britton.peele@ttu.edu.**

Spring cleaning fever hits students

By BROOKE BELLOMY
STAFF WRITER

Tommy Russell expected to make some money when he claimed the unwanted rugs, furniture and other various items freshmen did not want when they moved out of the residence halls.

Unfortunately for Russell, a junior industrial engineering major from Grand Prairie, he said his venture was not as successful as he hoped.

"When everyone was moving out at the end of my freshman year," he said, "I collected all the things students didn't want or were going to throw away."

The goal was to sell all the discarded items at the beginning of the following school year when new students were moving back into the dorms. Russell said he acquired so many items, including a foosball table, he was forced to rent a storage unit to keep everything during the summer.

"I got rid of it all," he said. "It just wasn't very profitable."

Although nontraditional, Russell's spring cleaning was not unusual. Each year, people across the globe participate in the annual act of spring cleaning. The concept dates back to the Persian new year celebration, Farvardigan, which began about 3,000 years ago and is hosted each year on the first day of spring. The celebration includes activi-

ties like visiting family members, painting eggs and cleaning.

Allison Chastain, an incoming first-year Texas Tech physician's assistant student from Spur, participated in spring cleaning last year by organizing her closet and discarding clothes she did not wear or that didn't fit anymore.

While shopping in Lubbock with her mother, Chastain discovered Le Chic Boutique, an upscale resale store on 82nd Street.

"I wanted to get rid of old prom dresses and jeans I don't wear," she said. "Le Chic Boutique has a consignment program so I could give them my old clothes and they would sell them for me and give me part of the profit."

Chastain said she was able to sell four dresses and three pairs of jeans at Le Chic Boutique for about \$350. Although cleaning out her closet was something she said she was going to do anyway, Chastain said she appreciated being paid for her efforts.

"It took a little bit of work for me to clean out my closet," she said, "but I got a big return for it. It was an easy way to get some spending money."

Marilyn Burney, owner of Le Chic Boutique, said the month of March is the busiest month for donations at her store.

"We get the most summer and spring clothing donations during March," she said. "Everyone is cleaning out their closets and doing spring cleaning, in March."

TIPS

- Tackle spring cleaning room-by-room to keep from getting overwhelmed.
- Mold and bacteria from out-of-date food can contaminate fresh food so clean out your refrigerator, freezer and pantry of expired items.
- Switch your drawers and closet so warm-weather clothes are on top and easiest to reach.
- Get rid of any clothes you haven't worn in more than a year.
- Sell back your old textbooks.

Source: Real Simple
Although Russell gave up his business venture, Chastain said she will still participate in spring cleaning and hopes to continue to make money from doing so. "It worked so well during the spring," she said, "I may even do a fall cleaning, too."
» brooke.bellomy@ttu.edu

King's show troubled as anniversary nears

NEW YORK (AP) — During a presentation to advertisers last week in New York City, CNN trotted out many of its big names: Anderson Cooper, John King, Sanjay Gupta, Candy Crowley, Nancy Grace and Wolf Blitzer, among them.

Larry King, host of what is still one of the network's top-rated shows, appeared only in a film clip that flashed by for a second or two.

These are troubled times for "Larry King Live" as it approaches its 25th anniversary in June. The show's viewership for the first three months of the year dropped 44 percent from 2009, and it usually trails Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity and MSNBC's Rachel Maddow in the time slot.

Once a pioneer, King now fights for relevancy.

There was a time when such a thought would be heresy.

"In the early days of the 1980s and 1990s, that was the place to go to get interviewed," television historian Tim Brooks said. "Any politician, including presidential candidates, had to be on his show. That brought a lot of respect to CNN, and to cable as well."

King moderated a memorable 1993 debate between Ross Perot and Vice President Al Gore. He even tried to mediate peace in the Middle East, bringing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, King Hussein of Jordan and Israel's Yitzhak Rabin together on a show. His influence was equally big with entertainers. A list of bold-faced names who had sat across the table from King would take in practically everyone in the entertainment business.

In those days, Larry King was New Media. Today, entertainers have many options, from visiting hip hosts such as Jon Stewart to maintaining their own Twitter feeds. King was never a challenging interviewer, but now politicians can

find downright friendly ones. It leaves King with pleasant but meandering chats with Willie Nelson, or the chance to talk to Martina Navratilova about her cancer treatment. On the day Conan O'Brien agreed to go to TBS, King brought three reporters in to chat about it.

Think about it. When was the last must-see Larry King interview?

For a network based in Atlanta and with a large New York office, King usually works out of Los Angeles. His executive producer since 1992, Wendy Walker, works from her home in San Diego, where CNN has built a control room for her. Some who know King suggested that's a disconnected arrangement, and wonder whether he is getting the support he needs in booking and promotion. If you see an ad for CNN, it's far more likely to feature Cooper or Blitzer.

CNN would not make King, Walker or network president Jon Klein available for interviews.

In a statement, King spokesman Ryan Jimenez said, "Ratings trend just as the competitors, but what distinguishes Larry is the fact that time and time again the biggest newsmakers continue to talk with the King because he's fair and unbiased. We're extremely proud of what Larry accomplishes night after night."

"Any politician, including presidential candidates, had to be on his show. That brought a lot of respect to CNN, and to cable as well."

TIM BROOKS
TELEVISION HISTORIAN

Today's su | do | ku

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

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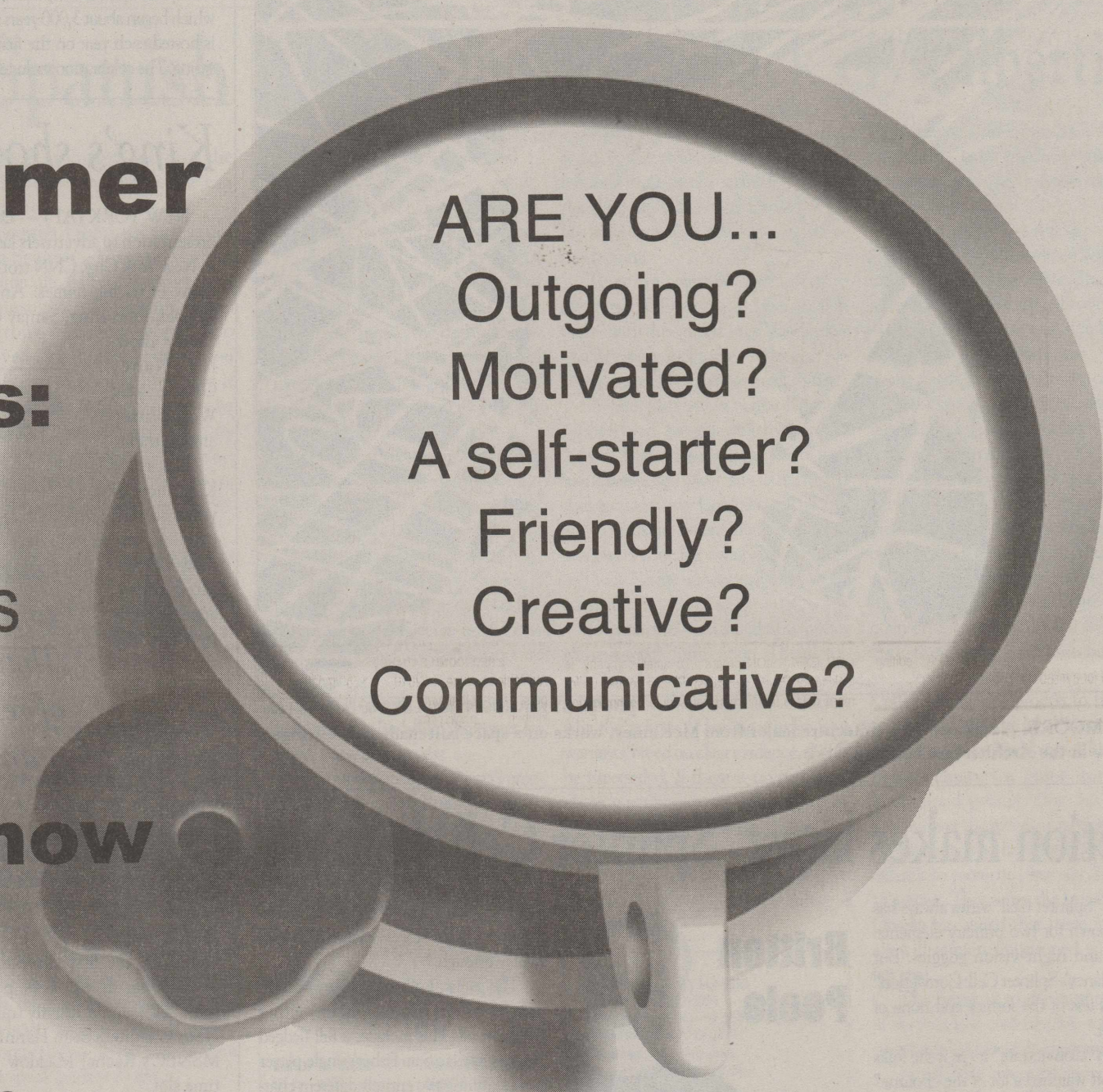
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Tech men's golf encouraged after performance at Aggie Invitational

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

After earning a third-place finish Sunday at the Aggie Invitational in Bryan, the Texas Tech men's golf team is finding its rhythm as the season comes to a close.

Junior Nils Floren isn't shocked by the team's recent performances, but believes Tech has not been able to get the job done when it matters most.

"We have a really good team so I'm not really surprised we've finally played good," he said. "We just haven't really pulled it off when we need to. We play good at times, but just haven't played good throughout the whole tournament."

The No. 14 Red Raiders were paced by sophomore Tyler Weworski, who finished in a tie for third individually. Weworski shot rounds of 2-, 3- and 1-under.

Weworski tied with Ignacio Elvira and Conrad Shindler of host Texas A&M, while Jordan Russell and Geoff Shaw — who also play for No. 6 A&M — finished first and second, respectively. Oklahoma State took second place in the team standings.

Tech head coach Greg Sands said the short game prevented Weworski from finishing any

higher or, perhaps, winning the tourney.

"If he'd holed a few putts I think he would've won the tournament," he said. "He putted solid, but to win he needs to putt a little better. Really, all fashions of his game are really good right now."

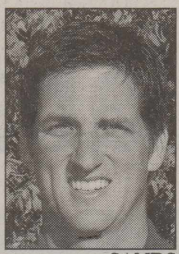
Matt Smith also made an appearance in the top 10, finishing in a tie for eighth place after shooting a 5-under round Sunday.

Floren, the No. 8 player in the country, finished 15th. Chris Ward, Brian Scherer and Finley Ewing IV finished in 26th, 34th and 54th, respectively.

The team's confidence may be building going into this week's events after beating the likes of No. 7 Texas and Baylor during the weekend. Tech also defeated No. 1 OSU and Kansas State earlier this month in the Morris Williams Intercollegiate in Austin.

So Tech probably has an idea of what to expect Thursday in Trinity as the Big 12 Conference Championships get under way.

But one thing Floren can't predict is the weather conditions,



SANDS

which can be a factor considering the type of climates the Red Raiders tend to practice in.

"I think for us to beat those teams we need to have a little bit of a rocky day," Floren said. "Maybe when the weather's not being too good, and I think we'll do fine."

The third-place finish at the Aggie Invitational is Tech's second consecutive top-five finish. The Red Raiders finished fourth in the Morris Williams Intercollegiate.

After the Big 12 Championships, Tech will look to compete in NCAA Regionals and the NCAA Championships later this season.

Unlike the last two tournaments Tech has participated in, not a single team in the field will have a home-field advantage. So Sands is encouraged to see his team find its stride, considering the talent Tech is bringing.

"I think we're peaking at the right time, we're doing a lot of the small things really well," he said. "Now it's just going to come down to who can have the better week between four or five schools probably, all of which are ranked in the top 50 or so."

By jose.r.rodriquez@ttu.edu

Siegel adds to resume with third 20-win season

By JOSHUA KOCH
STAFF WRITER

Throughout a career that has lasted nearly two decades, Texas Tech men's tennis coach Tim Siegel has been able to accomplish quite a bit.

This weekend was no different as the Red Raiders' pair of wins gave Siegel his third 20-win season as head coach. Siegel said this accomplishment shows just what kind of players he has brought into the program during his tenure as head coach.

"I've had good players," he said. "This particular team has done a great job of realizing that every team we play is going to be tough and strong, I'm really proud of the way they've battled."

No. 16 Tech defeated No. 54 Oklahoma State on Friday 6-1. The Red Raiders then traveled to Norman, Okla., and defeated No. 20 Oklahoma on Sunday 5-2.

Reaching the 20-win mark may just be a testament to the turnaround the program has undergone with Siegel at the helm.

In 2005, after taking the team to a 25-4 record, Tech advanced to the Sweet 16 for the first time in school history. In 2008 Tech made its third consecutive trip to the NCAA tournament after recording a 20-6 season record, and advanced to the second round where the Red Raiders fell to UCLA.

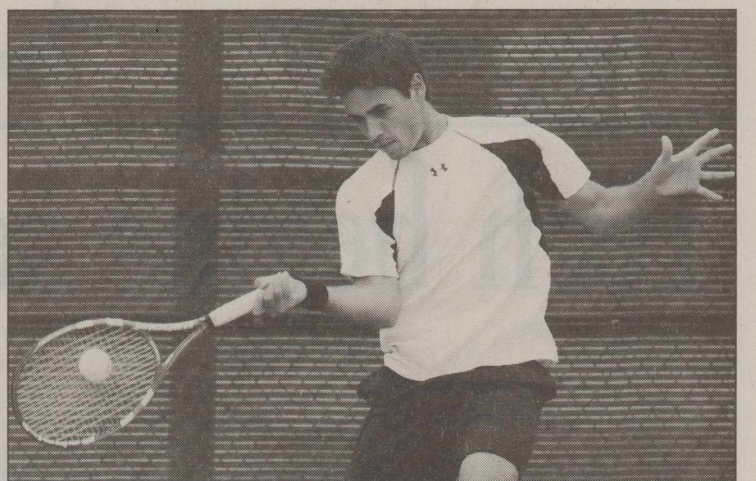


PHOTO BY SAM GREINADIER/The Daily Toreador

TEAXS TECH'S VITOR Manzini helped Tim Siegel clinch his 20-win season as the Red Raiders' head coach this weekend.

In both of those years, Siegel earned Big 12 Coach of the Year honors.

Although the accomplishment may be a reason to celebrate, the team knows there is still a lot of work to be done.

The Red Raiders, who are third in the conference, can make more noise this weekend when they face No. 11 Baylor on Saturday in Waco. Saturday's match is the final match of the regular season for Tech.

If Tech can defeat the Bears on Saturday, the Red Raiders can solidify their spot among the Top 16 teams in the nation, which provides the opportunity to host the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament in May.

After this weekend, Tech will get a shot at redemption

against Texas and Texas A&M at the Big 12 Conference tournament, which begins April 30 in Austin.

These are the only two teams the Red Raiders have lost to during Big 12 play this season, both 4-3 decisions.

These two wins may give Tech some momentum going before facing Baylor. So Siegel said he is encouraged to see his team find its stride as season's end draws nearer.

"It was a tremendous weekend," he said. "We just played very well as a team, we competed very well, beat two very good teams on their home court. I couldn't be more proud of the effort and the way that we played."

By joshua.koch@ttu.edu

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STORAGE SPECIAL

SPORTS

Tech begins series against Alabama A&M

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Three consecutive Big 12 Conference series wins, winning five of its last seven, third place in the conference standings—there is not too much for Texas Tech baseball to frown about.

But Tech outfielder Michael Reed knows the Red Raiders have to keep things headed in the right direction if they want to keep surging.

It starts with a two-game mid-week series against Alabama A&M.

"We're going to have to take care of our business on the mid-week games," Reed said. "It's just like practice. It's going to prepare us for the weekend. Make us better."

With hopes of extending its winning streak, Tech takes on the Bulldogs at 6:30 p.m. today and at noon Wednesday at Dan Law Field.

Not much has been able to slow the Red Raiders down lately. Tech is coming off a 2-1 series win against No. 11 Oklahoma. The series win also is the team's third straight against a Big 12 opponent for the first time since 2004.

What's more, Tech (20-19) sits right behind Texas and Kansas State in third place in the Big 12 standings.

So all is well for Tech baseball, and Tech coach Dan Spencer pointed out Sunday how his team is gaining respect from teams throughout the Big 12.

But Spencer also said he let his players know it's best not to lose focus after this weekend's series win.

"Like I told our guys, you gotta treasure the moment right now," he said, "but you really gotta put ourselves in a position where we need to really make sure we answer the bell on Tuesday."

Tech will have to answer the bell against an Alabama A&M squad that has had a tough season so far.

But the Bulldogs (15-21) are no strangers to Big 12 opponents. In fact, Alabama A&M has a win against

one this season.

The Bulldogs edged Oklahoma State on March 23 in Stillwater, Okla., 6-5 in 10 innings.

But Alabama A&M did go on to lose the next two games of the series 26-0 and 4-0.

The Bulldogs are led by LaDale Hayes, who is hitting .382 with team highs of four home runs and 32 RBIs.

Alabama A&M is on a six-game losing streak, too, taking two losses to Selma and four losses to Mississippi Valley State.

Tech is getting production from numerous players. Barrett Barnes leads the conference in runs scored with 47. Scott LeJeune leads the Big 12 in doubles with 20. LeJeune's 45 RBIs also rank second.

All that might have Tech's confidence at an all-time high. But Barnes said the team's confidence is not too high, and that's good news.

"It's right where it should be," he said. "We're real confident, but we're not taking anything for granted. Come out this week Tuesday and Wednesday and try to sweep this Alabama (A&M) team."

Tech's mid-week games have been heavy on the offensive side lately.

Against Dallas Baptist, Tech gave up nine runs in the first inning, but

battled back for the 13-11 win. At UNLV earlier this month,

the Red Raiders dropped the first game 10-8

but won the series finale

11-9.

As far as today's starter is concerned, Spencer said that had not determined yet Sunday. But the usual mid-week starter Brandon Petite will not take the mound.



TEXAS TECH'S MICHAEL Reed hits the ball into the outfield during the first of two games against Oklahoma on Saturday at Dan Law Field.

"We gotta find a way to fight 18 innings and we need to score some runs," Spencer said. "So our guys will be ready to go Tuesday night."

>> adam.coleman@ttu.edu

PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

Barnes nabs first Big 12 Player of the Week honor

Barrett Barnes took Texas Tech baseball coach Dan Spencer's words to heart after the Red Raiders dropped the series opener against Oklahoma 12-1.

"Spencer really got on us," he said. "He was really upset about that because we usually come out and score a lot of runs, give our pitchers a lot of support and we didn't do that. I think that's really why we lost that game. Not just the (12) runs, but we didn't give our pitchers a chance at all with that one run."

So Barnes did something about it in the final two games of the OU series and it helped him land his first Big 12 Conference Player of the Week honor.

The freshman utility player was 9-for-17 last week, hitting .529 in a game against Dallas Baptist and a three-game series against No. 11 Oklahoma. He had a double, two home runs and five RBIs against those teams last week.

Those two home runs came in the final two games of the OU series. Barnes homered

to right center in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader. Then he homered to left field in Sunday's series finale. Barnes leads the Red Raiders this season with nine home runs. The total is also fourth in the Big 12.

Barnes is doing all of this as a freshman, and Tech coach Dan Spencer said that is what makes him a special player. But Spencer also pointed out another standout freshman in Jamodrick McGruder, who has been key as Tech's leadoff hitter.

"To do what they do as freshmen, they're explosive athletes, they're great kids, they're very coachable and they do a whole bunch of things I'd like to tell you we taught them to do the stuff that they can do," Spencer said after Sunday's 8-3 win against the Sooners. "They brought that with them. That's just a product of recruiting and getting fortunate enough that they both decided to come to Texas Tech."

>> adam.coleman@ttu.edu

Tech track to skip Penn Relays with sight set on Oklahoma

By TOMMY MAGELSSSEN
STAFF WRITER

Despite some rather harsh weather conditions at the John Jacobs Invitational including a fair bit of rain, Jamele Mason said he just pretended it was 80 degrees and sunny out.

"I feel like if you worry about (the weather) then it's going to affect how you run," he said. "So you just go out and run like it's any other meet. The weather is going to take its toll on your body either way, but you just try your best not to think about it."

Mason's approach showed in his race as he crossed the finish line in first place in the men's 400-meter hurdles with a time of 51.49 seconds.

He said he focused purely on

running his race and did not even think about the rain's potentially detrimental effects. In fact, he said he did not see a single person slip and fall at the invitational.

While Mason and the majority of his teammates were passing time in the rain in Norman, Okla., some of his fellow Red Raiders were in sunny Walnut, Calif., for the Mt. Sac Relays.

But Mason said he wasn't jealous of those traveling to the West Coast, and he enjoyed the level of competition he faced.

One person Mason did not get to race against, though, was two-time defending indoor national champion and Oklahoma hurdler Ronnie Ash. But Mason may not have to wait until the Big 12 Conference Championships on May 14 to compete against one of

the nation's top hurdlers.

Texas Tech will head back to Norman for the Oklahoma Invitational this weekend. The Red Raiders were previously scheduled to head to the Penn Relays, but are going back to the Sooner State to face some top individual competition.

Tech coach Wes Kittley said one of the main reasons the team won't be traveling to the Northeast is because of the poor weather in Oklahoma this weekend, which prevented some good performances in the individual events.

Mason, a sophomore, said he competed at the Penn Relays last year and was looking forward to spending some time in Philadelphia.

"I'm a little disappointed but you know going to Oklahoma, we've got another chance to do something great this weekend and I know we'll have good competi-

tion there," he said. "Although it's a disappointment we still have the opportunity to do something great this weekend."

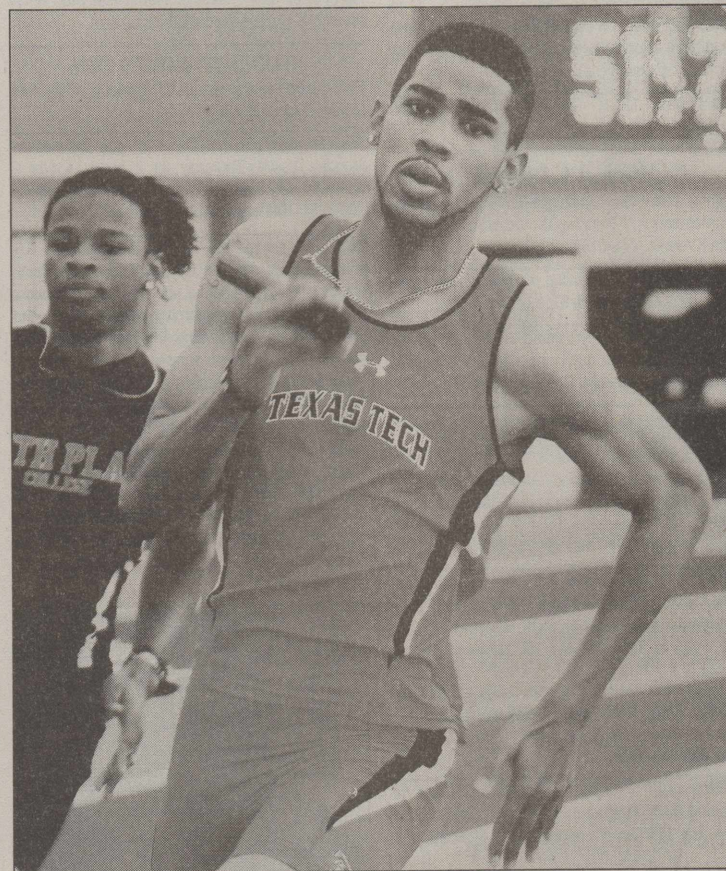
Mason said not heading to Philadelphia would, however, give he and his teammates more opportunity to train for the weekend's meet, and also will allow everyone to get ahead in their studies right before exams.

Kittley said having a big track meet like the Penn Relays requires his team to leave Wednesday, which means the student-athletes will miss a few days of class and training.

He also said going to Oklahoma is probably the best thing to do for his team to get ready for conference and nationals and make sure everyone is healthy.

"You know I love Penn Relays but it's real chaotic and you just got to have things go right when you go there," he said.

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FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

JAMELE MASON AND the Texas Tech track and field team now will focus on the Oklahoma Invitational this weekend in Norman, Okla.

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