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Judge denies sovereign immunity for Tech

By EVAN JANSA
STAFF WRITER

After the June 1 court ruling by Judge Bill Sowder regarding former Texas Tech head football coach Mike Leach's 11 accusations against Tech, there is more clarity about the future between the coach and the university in the legal arena.

Sowder, of the 99th District Court, ruled against 10 of the 11 claims Leach made against Tech. The university, however, was denied sovereign immunity — a legal protection due to Tech's status as a state institution — regarding

Leach's claim that his contract was violated when he was fired Dec. 30 of last year.

Leach's legal team responded to the ruling in a prepared press release.

"The Court's recent ruling validates Mr. Leach's legal position," the team said in the written statement. "While we understand Texas Tech's desire to enforce the defense of sovereign immunity, we do not understand Tech's continued refusal to acknowledge its obligations to Mike Leach especially in light of Judge Sowder's ruling."

Tech attorney Dicky Grigg also released a statement following the

ruling claiming that Leach's case "has no merit legally or factually."

The legal team for Tech may still take further action to prevent the case from going to court.

"Texas Tech will appeal the judge's ruling and we expect the Appeals Court will find in Texas Tech's favor and dismiss the remaining claim," Grigg wrote in his statement.

According to Leach's legal team, "Tech has been proven wrong in its legal predictions and positions and we believe the Court of Appeals will uphold Judge Sowder's ruling."

According to Liggett, Leach is

seeking \$2.5 million dollars from the university in his suit. That figure is broken down into \$1.6 million in outside endorsements, \$800,000 in a bonus that he was slated to receive the day after he was fired and \$100,000 for the team's accomplishments during the 2009 season.

He said Tech wrote Leach a check for the \$100,000 for the team's 2009 accomplishments but the check will not be cashed until further progression has been made in the case.

The Facebook-born support group for the former coach, Team Leach, continues to post strong

numbers with a fluctuating number of members that is currently hovering around 60,000.

In a phone interview, spokesman for the group Charlie Hodges responded to the ruling.

"It's a win for Mike Leach," Hodges said. "I don't care what Dicky Grigg says. If Tech thinks they've won out of this, then why are they appealing?"

Team Leach organized a meeting in Memorial Circle in January in support of the fired coach but doesn't intend on putting anything similar together at this point.

"We haven't talked about any rallies," Hodges said. "People know

we're (here). We're still doing things but we won't be doing them in an in-your-face type of deal."

On campus, students continue to be divided about the entire Leach saga and the ruling.

"Having ten out of 11 thrown out definitely looks good on paper," Jason Flores, a senior education major from Big Spring said. "I'll be happy when this is all over with and we can just worry about next year and Coach Tuberville. No matter what, I'm behind Tech."

The Daily Toreador will continue to track the legal proceedings leading up to a possible jury trial.

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Tech organization works to mentor Lubbock's youth

By MERIDETH MURPHEY
STAFF WRITER

100 Black Men of West Texas, Inc. held its annual Kid's Fishing Derby last Saturday at Mae Simmons Park in support of Lubbock youth.

The organization is a chapter of 100 Black Men of America, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to mentoring America's youth.

The group was founded in 1963 by a group of young, African-American men in New York who saw a need for improvement in their community. It became a national organization in 1986 and today there are approximately 120 chapters. The West Texas chapter was formed in 1994.

Calvin Davis, the vice president of public relations and board member for the West Texas chapter, said the organization is about men mentoring young people and preparing them for the future by focusing on four specific areas of leadership development.

"The four for the future are mentoring, economic development, education and health and wellness," Davis said. "We're known for leadership development, also, but our programs are all derived around that and they all relate to what we do for youth, young people."

Davis said the organization's motto is "real men giving real time," which is why they hold different events throughout the year for young people and their families.

The largest event they hold is the annual Kid's Fishing Derby and Davis said this year's derby was a success.

"This is the largest event that we do," Davis said. "We've had over a thousand people out here, last year we had over a thousand people, and we serve hundreds of youth, providing them with fishing instructions, fishing poles to fish with, of course free meals and mainly trying to mentor them."

Davis, an attorney, said it is important for successful members of the African-American community to set an example for the youth by being their mentor.

"Our mentoring motto is 'what they see is what they'll be,'" Davis said. "So, if they see positive male role models in their community, they can aspire to be those. Within our organization we have men who are anywhere from ministers to common laborers to doctors and attorneys, I happen

to be an attorney. We have many men, but primarily we are all men who love our community and are striving to be great men — Christians with good moral values — in our community."

The organization also has collegiate chapters and on April 28, Texas Tech officially became a chapter. The chapter consists of 14 members and although they don't sponsor the Kid's Fishing Derby, the collegiate members were at Saturday's event serving food and donating their time to the community.

Melvin Foreman, a junior psychology

major from Houston, is the social chair for the Tech collegiate chapter. He said the collegiate chapter felt it was important they help with the Kid's Fishing Derby because it is the biggest event of the year and it is important that children have college men to look up to.

"It's basically just about mentoring the kids, showing them a role model," Foreman said, "Show them that you can be successful. So, it's just about mentoring the kids and giving them something to look up to basically, teaching them something besides sports, basketball and all that other stuff."

David Storey, a junior finance major from Indianapolis, Ind., is the president of the Tech collegiate chapter. He said their purpose is to take the main goals and principles of the national organization and apply them at a collegiate level.

"In the collegiate chapter," Storey said, "what we do is we try to take what the mentors do of 100 Black Men of West Texas and apply that at a college level. They mentor, they do community service, so those are the type of things we're trying to do on campus. As well as be professional students and show how we can be examples on campus — how we can be leaders."

Storey said some men come to college and don't really know what they want to do so the organization helps them find direction and will help them with everything from building a résumé to tying a tie.

Foreman said Tech's collegiate chapter has a lot of big events planned for the fall and will spend the summer getting ready for them and helping their community as much as they can.

100 Black Men of West Texas, Inc. is one of three finalists for 100 Black Men of America, Inc.'s Chapter of the Year. The winner will be announced at the National Convention on June 18th.

Davis said although they don't know for sure, he thinks the West Texas chapter has a good chance of winning.

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"Our mentoring motto is 'what they see is what they'll be.'"

Calvin Davis

Vice President of Public Relations and board member for the West Texas chapter of 100 Black Men of America, Inc.



PHOTO BY JUSTICE RICE/The Daily Toreador
Tiana Morrison, 9, of Lubbock, shows off her catch Saturday during the Kid's Fishing Derby Saturday at Mae Simmons Park.

Coca-Cola buys distribution rights for Dr Pepper, Canada Dry in the US

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA (AP) — The Coca-Cola Co. will pay \$715 million to Dr Pepper Snapple Group Inc. for the rights to distribute Dr Pepper and Canada Dry in the U.S. after Coke acquires its largest bottler.

Coca-Cola also will distribute Canada Dry, C Plus and Schweppes in Canada.

Those drinks have been distributed by bottler Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc., a separate company that Coca-Cola is acquiring. That acquisition is expected to be finished in the fourth quarter.

Monday's agreement be-

tween Coke and Dr Pepper replaces an established deal between Coca-Cola Enterprises and the beverage maker, which is based in Plano, Texas.

The new agreement will last for 20 years and includes renewal options and makes the company Dr Pepper's largest distributor, with about 42

percent of its business.

Rival PepsiCo Inc. has 39 percent, and independent bottlers distribute the remaining 19 percent, officials said Monday.

As part of the deal, Dr Pepper and Diet Dr Pepper will be included in Coke's new Freestyle fountain dispenser, which can mix more than 100

drinks.

Dr Pepper paid Coca-Cola between \$115 million and \$135 million to be the only non-Coke product on the high-tech dispenser, which is expected to be in 500 locations by the end of the summer.

In December, Dr Pepper inked a similar deal with Pepsi

for \$900 million. Both Coca-Cola and PepsiCo are trying to gain more control over their bottlers and distributors, hoping to get new drinks on shelves more quickly to keep up with changing tastes.

Coca-Cola shares fell 13 cents to \$51.14 in morning trading. Dr Pepper shares dipped 27 cents to \$36.22.

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PlainsCapital Bank relaunches discount debit card campaign

By RALSTON ROLLO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

PlainsCapital Bank kicked off a new debit card campaign — called Ride with the Good Guys — from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at its main Lubbock branch in the 5000 block of University Avenue.

At the kickoff, visitors of all ages could see PlainsCapital Bank's live buffalo mascot named "Mo the Buffalo," purchase a hot dog for lunch, ride a miniature train in the parking lot, learn about a selection of local businesses and the discounts they have chosen to provide for the campaign and sign up for a Good Guys Debit Card.

Originally, the bank had a hot air balloon ride set up but had to cancel all rides due to the wind.

The campaign provides incentives for PlainsCapital customers in the form of discounts at local stores, \$10 cash-back on transactions of \$5 or more and a \$25 bonus for

cardholders who use direct deposits for their checking accounts.

David Seim, vice chairman of PlainsCapital Bank's West Texas region, said about 40 local businesses have signed agreements with the bank in order to provide discounts to its customers. The bank hopes to raise that number to about 100 by the end of the summer, he said.

Local merchants have the option to sign an agreement with the bank and have complete authority over the discount cardholders will receive at their busi-

ness, Seim said.

The campaign is a great way to connect PlainsCapital customers with local businesses and promote economic well-being in Lubbock, he said.

"We're offering to small businesses an opportunity for us to market for them," Seim said. "It's a good deal for the merchant, it's a good deal for the customer and it's great for the bank."

John Owens, chairman of PlainsCapital Bank's West Texas region, said the campaign is very fitting for Lubbock and the West Texas region because it

"It's a good deal for the merchant, it's a good deal for the customer and it's great for the bank."

DAVID SEIM
Vice Chairman
PlainsCapital Bank's West Texas Region

acts as a catalyst for community. "What's good for Lubbock is good for us," he said.

Mathnasium, a mathematics tutoring company based in Lubbock, opted in on the Good Guys Debit Card campaign and will provide cardholders with a discount of \$25 off the registration fee.

Lyndee Martin, a junior public relations major from Castroville, works as a tutor for the company and said the campaign may be a good way to make the Lubbock community aware of its services.

The Ride with the Good Guys program was originally launched in 1995, but due to its prior success and current customer demand, Seim said the bank decided a relaunch was in order.

The \$25 bonus will be available for customers until Friday and cash-back incentives will be reduced to \$.05 per transaction at the start of the 2011 calendar year.

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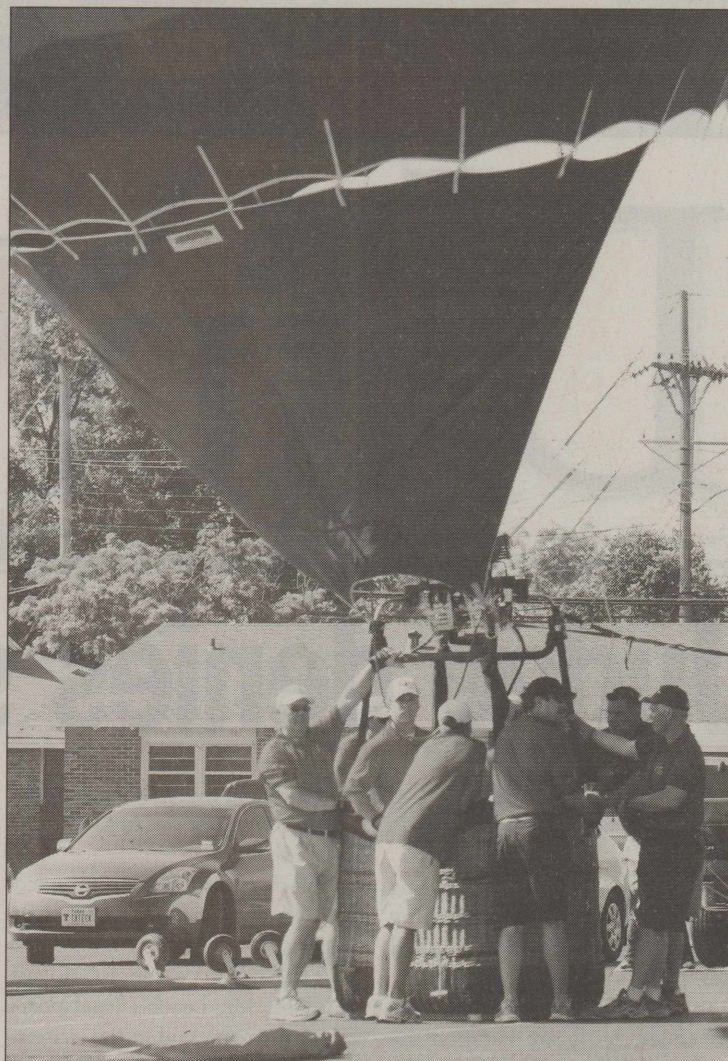


PHOTO BY RALSTON ROLLO/The Daily Treador
WORKERS AT THE Ride with the Good Guys kickoff event prepare a hot air balloon for rides Saturday in the PlainsCapital Bank parking lot located at the intersection of 50th Street and University Avenue.

Tech museum unveils new exhibits



PHOTO BY TRISTIN WALKER/The Daily Treador

INSPIRED BY HIS personal experiences with dyslexia, Justin Finnegan, 17, created "Dyslexia Phase Two" — a sculpture covered by crumpled and charred pages that symbolizes the struggle to process written information.

By TRISTIN WALKER
STAFF WRITER

The Museum of Texas Tech University is working on the opening of two new exhibits this month.

The first exhibition opened Sunday and will remain open until September 12.

The exhibit, called "Accelerated: A Juried Exhibition of 15 Emerging Artists with Disabilities," captures the creativity of the minds of some very unique individuals.

This will be the eighth year VSA Arts, an international nonprofit organization, and Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. have worked together to recognize up-

coming artists with disabilities who show potential in the visual arts, said David Dean, director of information services for the museum.

The exhibit showcases the work of young adults from all over the nation. Oil paintings, pencil drawings, installations and acrylic paintings are some of the types

of art shown in the exhibit. Each piece of art portrays information about the artist and what the art means to them.

"This exhibition celebrates the fact that people with disabilities can do what they need to do to express themselves with limitless possibilities," Dean said.

The second exhibition will open June 13, and will remain open until August 8. This exhibition, known as "Marc Sijan: Ultra Realistic Sculptures," will attempt to capture the essence of human anatomy.

The exhibit will be Sijan's third showing at the museum and is part of a two-and-a-half-year national tour which includes 17 ultra-realistic sculptures. The exhibit will feature five full-size figures, two torsos and 10 wall-mounted portraits that are formed by sculptural casting and modeling.

Cameron Davidson, a junior exercise and sports science major from Houston, visited the museum Saturday with his girlfriend, Heather Davis, a sophomore cellular molecular biology major from El Paso, Texas.

Both said they were impressed with the Accelerated exhibit and it was incredible to see what each artist had accomplished.

The couple said they were also excited about the upcoming exhibit. They said they have never seen human-like sculptures before and are looking forward to viewing Sijan's work.

"I love that there is always something new coming to the museum, and this exhibit really excites me," Davis said. "I think these types of sculptures are really interesting, and it's going to be amazing to see how realistic they will look."

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Specialists utilize smell to detect oil in seafood

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (AP) — William Mahan bends over a bowl of raw shrimp and inhales deeply, using his left hand to wave the scent up toward his nose. Deep breath. Exhale. Repeat. He clears his palate with a bowl of freshly cut watermelon before moving on to raw oysters. Deep breath. Exhale. Repeat.

He's one of about 40 inspectors trained recently at a federal fisheries lab in Pascagoula, Miss., to sniff out seafood tainted by oil in the Gulf of Mexico and make sure the product reaching consumers is safe to eat.

But with thousands of fishermen bringing in catch at countless docks across the four-state region, the task of inspectors, both sniffers and others, is daunting. It's certainly not fail-safe.

The first line of defense began with closing a third of federal waters to fishing and hundreds more square-miles of state waters. Now comes the nose.

Mahan is an agricultural extension director with the University of Florida based in Apalachicola, where some of the world's most famous oysters are culled.

"We're being trained to detect different levels of taint, which in this case is oil," Mahan said last week. "We started out sniffing different samples of oil to sort of train our noses and minds to recognize it."

So what does an oily fish smell like?

"Well, it has an oil odor to it," Mahan said. "Everyone has a nose they bring to it ... Everybody's nose works differently. For me, the oysters are a little more challenging."

The human nose has been used for centuries to aid in making wine, butter and cheese, and is a highly efficient and trustworthy tool, said Brian Gorman with the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which is hosting the courses along with the nonprofit Battle Creek, Mich.-based International Food Protection Training Institute.

"Properly trained noses are really remarkable organs," Gorman said.

Even so, inspectors can't be everywhere. The trained sniffers will be deployed where needed, when suspicions are raised about seafood being illegally culled from closed waters, or even to test fish from open waters. No agency has yet reported finding or stopping any tainted seafood from getting to market.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has also been sampling seafood both in closed and open waters, and sending it off for chemical testing, with more than 600 fish and shrimp processed to date.

State and local inspectors are fanning out across the region to docks, seafood processors and restaurants, some now armed with specially trained noses. NOAA currently has 55 inspectors at its Mississippi lab, with another 55 in training.

"The message we're delivering is simple: The seafood in your grocery store or local restaurant is safe to eat, and that goes for seafood harvested from the Gulf," said Kevin Griffis of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration also has a role with its own inspectors, though the agency said it only has "several seafood specialists" currently in the Gulf area.

"We are ramping up inspections at facilities in the region," said FDA spokeswoman Meghan Scott, adding that inspectors would be present at seafood processors throughout the Gulf states.

She said the agency has deployed a mobile lab to Florida that is testing samples of fish caught in waters not yet believed to be impacted by oil, because fish don't stay in one place.

Gulf fishermen are already hurting from the perception that their product is tainted, said Ewell Smith, executive director of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

"Some people also just think we're shut down altogether," Smith said, adding that higher prices for shrimp are causing smaller businesses to cancel orders simply because they can't afford it.

Smith said no oily seafood will ever make it to market.

"You're going to smell it, you're going to see it. It would be almost impossible for it to make it to market," he said.

Fishermen say they can't sell a tainted product anyway, whether it is inspected or not. Earlier in the week, fishermen brought in thousands of pounds of shrimp caught off Louisiana to the docks at Port Christian, Miss., where the catch was offloaded and sold to processors and customers on site. No inspectors were present.

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Potential budget cuts concern higher education administrators

AUSTIN (AP) — Additional budget cuts proposed for state agencies have some colleges and universities freezing hiring, deferring equipment purchases, scaling back travel and worrying whether financial aid for students will be affected.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Monday that the prospect of an additional reduction has some higher education leaders concerned.

"It couldn't come at a worse time, because we're experiencing record double-digit enrollment growth," said Rey Garcia, president of the Texas Association of Community Colleges. "If the state's not going to pay for the cost of enrollment growth, we may not be able to grow, and we may have to abandon the state's goal of more access to higher education."

Texas leaders on May 28 asked state agencies to lower their next two-year funding requests by 10 percent, in preparation for review by the 2011 Legislature. Lawmakers who convene in January face a budget shortfall of up to \$18 billion.

State leaders on May 18 ordered to agencies, with some exceptions, was to immediately cut their budgets by 5 percent, implementing recommendations that state agencies in January were asked to provide.

The state's \$1.1 billion student financial aid program was spared from the 5 percent cuts, but its fate for the proposed 10 percent reductions is pending.

"We're trying to get that answered right now," said Andy Kesling, a spokesman for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. "I wouldn't assume one way or the other."

Allison Castle, a spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Perry, says he has always believed in making higher education more accessible, affordable and accountable.

"Requesting information about the impact of additional reductions is part of keeping state government accountable to taxpayers and ensuring we continue to live within our means. This is the first step in a yearlong process, and agencies have been asked to submit their proposals for leadership and lawmakers to consider," Castle said.

Texas State University has frozen staff hiring and is cutting back on travel as it begins to develop a plan for a 10 percent cut, said Bill Nance, vice president for finance and support services.

Austin Community College has been deferring repairs and equipment purchases.

University of Texas President William Powers Jr., in an e-mail Friday, said he will consult with faculty and staff regarding how to proceed with plans for the possibility of deeper budget cuts.

Gunman targets women in South Fla. shooting

HIACLEAH, Fla. (AP) — A gunman shot and killed his wife outside a South Florida restaurant where she worked, then targeted women inside and killed three others before committing suicide, police said Monday.

Police said the shooter bypassed at least two men when he fired at the women inside. Three women were hospitalized in critical condition, Hialeah police Detective Eddie Rodriguez said.

"He went straight for the women," Rodriguez said.

The shooting Sunday night began in a parking lot outside the Yoyito Restaurant in Hialeah, where 38-year-old Gerardo Regalado of Coral Gables was seen arguing with

Lizian Molina, Rodriguez said. According to Florida marriage records, the couple married in 2007.

According to police, Regalado shot and killed Molina, 24, then entered the restaurant and fired at six women inside.

One employee called her brother after the shooting, saying she had been shot and was bleeding.

Felix Fuentes said his sister, Ivette Coronado, told him to "please call 911." He said the 32-year-old woman was recovering Monday after undergo-

ing surgery for gunshot wounds to her chest and one of her arms.

Regalado drove off after the shooting, police said. Officers found him dead of an apparent suicide a few blocks away, with the same weapon used in the restaurant shootings, Rodriguez said.

People inside the Coral Gables house where Regalado and Molina lived refused to answer a reporter's knocks at the door. A person who answered the phone identified himself only as a family friend and said the family didn't want to talk.

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

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	9				6
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				1	

Puzzles by PageFlier

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

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OPINIONS

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TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2010

Pac 10 could prove opportunistic for Tech

By **JON ARNOLD**
GUEST COLUMNIST

For several months now conference realignment rumors have been swirling, but one that should have Texas Tech fans salivating finally cropped up.

First, it emerged that the Big Ten, which in one of sport's great oddities consists of eleven teams, is looking to add schools. Missouri and Nebraska, two of Tech's Big 12 mates, are prime targets. The Big Ten's television network, among other things, makes that conference far more lucrative than the current Big 12.

And remember, even the most altruistic college athletics fan knows it's all about the money. Also keep in mind we're talking about much more than football, but football is the biggest breadwinner for athletic departments.

The Big Ten rumblings were followed by rumor after rumor. The rumors ranged from common sense (Boise State to the Mountain West) to extreme (dissolving the NCAA in favor of new superconferences).

And so we come to the latest rumor.

The report, which originated from Texas' Rivals.com site and has been corroborated by several other sources,

says Texas Tech will be invited to join the Pac 10 along with the rest of their Big 12 South counterparts except Baylor. In place of Baylor will be Colorado of the Big 12 North.

If the Pac 10 does invite these schools, and it seems increasingly likely it will, the Red Raiders have to leave.

Go, go, go. Happiness is the Big 12 in the rear-view mirror.

In fact, the BigPac 16 (better name to be determined) would rescue Tech from being the school left out of the impending shake up in the NCAA.

How?
The big rumor before this, which was kept a better secret than the BigPac 16, was that the SEC was looking to add on four schools: Texas, Texas A&M, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

Texas is the prettiest girl at the conference realignment ball. The Longhorns' athletic department consistently generates more revenue than any other school in the nation. Any conference would be glad to take the Longhorns, as

long as UT doesn't go all Lone Ranger on everybody and start their own TV network.

With Texas comes A&M. Like it or not, Texas considers the Aggies fiercer rivals than the Red Raiders. College Station is also in a much nicer proximity to the current SEC schools.

Oklahoma is another highly desirable candidate for conferences looking

to expand, and they'd like Oklahoma State to come too. Don't discount the T. Boone Pickens effect, which has vaulted the Cowboy athletic department into the upper ech-

elon of revenue.
Would Texas want Tech to come along too? Does the Texas legislature want to make sure the big three Texas schools stay together? The Columbus Dispatch obtained e-mails in which Ohio State president E. Gordon Gee tells Big Ten commissioner Jim Delaney that he spoke with Texas' president and Texas has "a Tech" problem."

Whatever that means, it's fair to

say Tech still doesn't quite have the national profile of these schools, and Lubbock isn't exactly the most accessible location. The Red Raiders, while not shunned, just aren't as attractive as the other Big 12 South schools for the SEC or Big Ten. The Pac-10 doesn't seem to see it that way, or perhaps Texas would demand the Red Raiders join them in the BigPac 16.

If the four rumored SEC targets left and the departure of Nebraska and Missouri is completed, Tech would be in a tough spot. They'd likely have to join Baylor and the Kansas schools and head to the Mountain West. It should be noted that the Mountain West would almost certainly have to get a BCS bid, but it would make Tech a big fish in a small pond.

Tech is right to try to be a big fish in a big pond, or at the very least a medium-sized fish in a big pond, and that's why the BigPac 16 gives Tech a fantastic opportunity.
Sure, there would be a down side. Some travel would be atrocious, especially for "non-revenue" sports. But there shouldn't be too much complaining from fans about trips to Los Angeles and Seattle every year. The hope is the new alliance would see higher profits and make the travel costs worthwhile.

The BigPac 16 means Tech keeps all its important rivals (sorry Baylor), and stays in a conference that will make a national impact.

Right now it's all conjecture, but it sure is fun.

Or at least it is when Tech's not on the outside looking in.

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Feds. correct in avoiding immediate BP intervention

By **CHRIS LEAL**
OPINIONS COLUMNIST

So it's all over the news, almost continuously now for the last 50 or so days; The Deepwater Horizon oil spill is gushing thousands of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico every day. Many details remain unseen, such as how much oil has been lost. Best-case scenario (22,000 barrels a day for 48 days at the time of this publishing) is around 1,056,000 barrels so far. The worst-case scenario (Purdue University's estimation of 48,500 barrels a day) puts the situation at about 2,328,000 barrels, so far. Also, it is unknown how and when the leak will stop. It is likely that August could come before the relief wells are finished. What is certain, though, is that British Petroleum CEO Tony Hayward is wishing he were anybody other than Tony Hayward right now.

While BP does not own the rig outright (it is being leased out from Transocean to BP until September 2013), BP has primary liability and is responsible for the majority of the costs associated with this accident. So far the company has burned through \$1.25 billion (\$27 million a day) trying to contain the spill, which is a staggering amount, but relatively minuscule compared to its nearly \$30 billion in operating cash flow. With the

company's share price down by a third since the April 20 spill, BP has also been subject to takeover speculation. If you're looking to buy an oil company right now, BP is certainly on sale.

But the cash lost by BP is definitely not the most depressing part of this situation. By now photographs of marine wildlife covered in oil have been published, and the spill will cause environmental damages that will last for generations (far beyond the end of BP's financial troubles). It's ruining beaches, tourism, and other industries dependent on the coast for their survival, particularly in Louisiana which is still working to fully recover from Hurricane Katrina.

We're also seeing political attacks start from this. Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal (Rep.) is criticizing the White House, complaining that he wants to see more intervention and financial relief from President Obama. After Jindal built a career bashing big government, go figure. Republicans are attempting to paint this as "Obama's Katrina." Such notions are of ignorance because, unlike Katrina, which was caused by Mother Nature, this oil spill was caused by BP's negligence. So, the incident gives the president an easy target to focus blame (and lawsuits) on.

There have been gripes on both sides of the isle that the government should have taken full control of the situation sooner and put BP under conservatorship (a term meaning BP is temporarily under control of the Federal Government). This is not a surprising reaction from a nation that has recently witnessed mass government bailouts of its largest industries. It's true that BP is trying to balance its two key interests: stopping the oil leak while simultaneously protecting its bottom line as much as possible.

Odds are BP has more expertise at running an oil company than the federal government. And the government stepping in too soon sets a bad precedent of federal reliance. A month is a decent amount of time to let BP try and fix its own mistake before the government comes in and starts calling all the shots. This oil spill is also likely to create enough political capital to get a sizable energy bill passed in the near future, which could put more focus on renewable energies and "green technologies".

We are beginning to see promising signs of an end, however. BP has recently announced that it is capturing about 11,000 barrels of the spill each day; that's out of an estimated (likely underestimated) daily spill count of around 20,000 barrels. Though it's difficult to put a finite number on the spill just yet, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill shadows the Exxon Valdez oil spill, which totaled 272,000 barrels (ranked the 34th largest spill in history). However, it pales in comparison to the largest spill in history, which happened in Kuwait in 1991 and totaled more than 12 million barrels of oil. Once the final figures come out, this spill will likely be in the top three and it already is the largest in U.S. history.

»tlot33@yahoo.com

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WEDNESDAY STATIC UNION		SATURDAY JOHN EVANS W/ ROSS COOPER

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Earth neighbor
- One of the four chief angels
- Crew hands
- Pulitzer-winning author James
- Nabisco wafer named for its flavor
- Super Bowl held in MCMXXVIII
- Program that uses certain Sun Microsystems software
- An oil-ramp may lead to one
- Banquet entrées
- Buddhism, e.g.: Abbr.
- Fall: Irish coronation stone
- Actress Spelling
- Messy contest in a pit
- Privileged folks
- Greek peak
- Washington Sq. campus
- Came to earth
- 1971 Sutherland title role
- "101": Former Nickelodeon sitcom
- High-speed w/w hookup
- Letter-shaped fastener
- Dollar fractions
- Inventor Whitney
- Sport with sticks
- Curved molding
- Popular ISP
- Classic TV brand
- Soak up
- Mainly
- Living room reading that includes this puzzle's theme
- Wine region near San Francisco
- Bucket wheel used for irrigation
- Like one with a full schedule
- LAX postings
- Third dimension
- Flexible Flyer, e.g.

DOWN

- Student's focus
- Tequila plant
- Celebrate boisterously
- Blacken
- Like a procrastinator's bills
- Carpentry tool that cuts with the grain
- Maladies
- Inventor Whitney
- Sport with sticks
- Beefy soup
- The Earth turns on it
- Real comedian
- Transgresses
- Top grade
- Vital body line
- Grade factor
- Bumped into
- GPS suggestion
- Involved with, as a plot
- Da's opposite
- Fellows
- Muslim pilgrimage
- Too
- Repulsive
- Exercise involving squatting
- Garage job
- Satori-seeking sect
- Panthère relative
- Have a cow
- Shower sponges
- White Carroll critter
- Dough
- Holocaust hero Wallenberg
- Shut
- Adhesive resin
- High school breakout?
- Something to miss or rock
- Dirty Harry's org.
- Lobbying group for seniors
- Recedes
- Little piggy, so to speak

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

MARS URTEL OARS
AGEE NILLA XXIII
JAVAA APPLICATION
OERPASS ROASTS
REL LIA TIORI
MUDWRESTLING
HAYES OSSA NYU
DSLITNUIT GENTS
JOELLEBERMAN
OGEE AOL RICA
ABSORB ABOVEALL
COFFEETABLEBOOK
NAPANORIA BUSY
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