

THE DAILY TOREADOR



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EPA approves Tech cotton technology for use in Deepwater Horizon oil spill cleanup



PHOTO COURTESY OF MURALIDHAR LALAGIRI

SUDHEER JINKA (LEFT) and Vinit Kumar Singh, both graduate students working within The Institute of Environmental and Human Health, produce nonwoven cotton in Seshadri Ramkumar's laboratory at the institute.

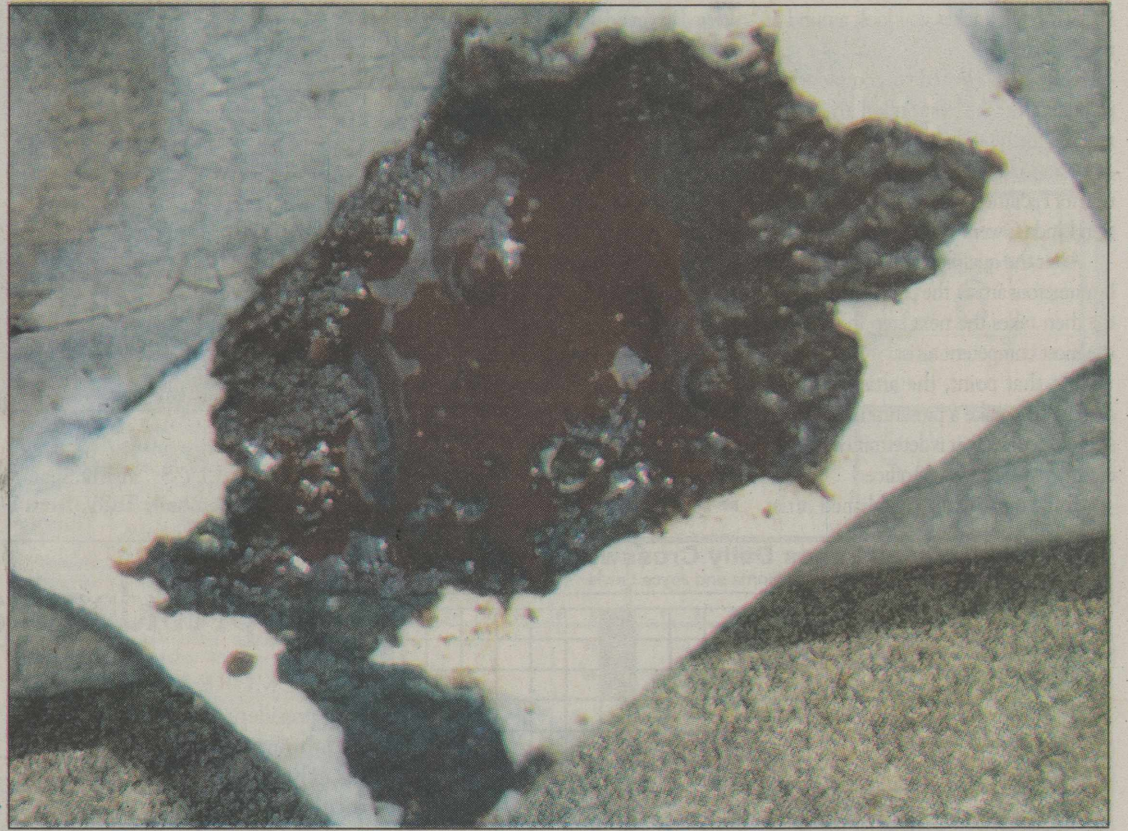


PHOTO COURTESY OF FIRST LINE TECHNOLOGY

FIBERTECT™, A NONWOVEN cotton product initially designed at Texas Tech for the cleaning of toxic chemicals, absorbs semi-solid oil during its initial evaluation in Grand Isle, La. The Environmental Protection Agency has approved the product for use in the cleanup of the Deepwater Horizon spill.

By MERIDETH MURPHEY
STAFF WRITER

Fibertect™, a nonwoven cotton-carbon material, created by Seshadri Ramkumar, an associate professor of nonwoven materials for The Institute of Environmental and Human Health, has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency as a sorbent for oil application in the cleanup of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The EPA approval came after First Line Technologies, a Virginia-based company that commercializes Fibertect™, sent a crew to Grand Isle, La. to test the absorption material on oil that had washed ashore.

"It was observed that when the oil was viscous, and even semi-solid,"

Ramkumar said, "the Fibertect™ was able to absorb the oil."

Not only is the oil spill contaminating the surface of the water, but recently the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — NOAA — has reported plumes below the surface releasing toxins.

Ramkumar said Fibertect™ will prove to be more successful in cleaning than other methods that are being used, such as dispersants, because it is a non-toxic material that eliminates harmful vapors released by the oil.

"Recently, there have been some reports, which have been endorsed by NOAA," Ramkumar said, "that even at a depth of 400 meters below the surface of sea there are some plumes, the oil is seen as a plume from which volatile gases such as benzene and

other volatile forms of the oil are emanating, and these volatile gases are known to have carcinogenic effects, and they are also known to give some catastrophic damage to the marine life, so this is one important finding."

He said these plumes are reducing oxygen levels by up to 40% and that Fibertect™ not only absorbs oil, but also combats the oxygen depletion.

Originally, Ramkumar did not develop Fibertect™ for oil absorption but said although this oil spill is a tragedy, it was a perfect fit for his research and the advancement of the technology.

"My original application was to develop a wipe, cleaning material for soldiers and fighter planes," Ramkumar said, "just dealing with

toxic vapors."

The use of Fibertect™ to clean the oil spill has led to the EPA approval which will lead to the development of new Fibertect™ materials such as gloves, face masks that block toxins, carpet, industrial and household cleaning materials and more.

Amber Dean, associate managing director of licensing and business development of technology commercialization for Tech, said the EPA approval of Fibertect™ is bringing notoriety to the university and Ramkumar.

"There has been a lot of interest," Dean said, "Texas Tech has been in the news quite a bit because of it."

She said it is also bringing funding for the university.

"In addition to a portion coming

back to Tech," Dean said, "a portion is going to the researcher. There's also a portion going to Ramkumar's college and Ramkumar's department for additional research. So, it's very beneficial for us to license a technology and for there to be revenues generated from the sales of that technology."

Fibertect™ has licensing agreements with First Line Technologies as well as Hobbs Bonded Fibers in Waco.

Todd Reno, director of business development at the Reese Technology Center and Tech alumnus, said this approval will help bring Tech to a new level of recognition.

"When Tech can get out in front and be the spokespeople and be the problem solvers for any kind of is-

sure that's a good thing," Reno said, "but when it's something of this magnitude, obviously it's going to bring additional attention to Tech and to the university."

He said Ramkumar and his invention will help bring Tech to status as a National Research University because researchers and students from all around the world want to work with him.

"Part of the Tier One plot is you have to bring in researchers," Reno said. "You have to bring in this top-notch talent."

Ramkumar said within a year there will be new products on the market and High Plains cotton farmers will see an increase in revenues.

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Mortgage rates continue to sink, reach lowest on record

By ALAN ZIBEL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mortgage rates fell this week to the lowest level on record, giving consumers added incentive to lock in low payments for home purchases and refinancing loans.

The average rate for 30-year fixed loans sank to 4.69 percent, from 4.75 percent last week, mortgage company Freddie Mac said Thursday.

That's the lowest point since Freddie Mac began tracking rates in 1971. The previous record of 4.71 percent was set in December. Rates for 15-year and five-year mortgages also hit lows.

Mortgage rates have fallen over the past two months as nervous investors have shifted money into the safety of Treasury bonds. The

demand for Treasuries has caused Treasury yields to fall. And mortgage rates tend to track the yields on long-term Treasuries.

Yet the falling rates have yet to spark a home-buying boom — or energize the economy. New-home sales collapsed in May after homebuying tax credits expired. The economy also remains under pressure from high unemployment. And many people don't qualify under tightened lending rules.

"As long as prospective homebuyers are still concerned about their jobs and financial well-being, many will be reluctant to take the plunge, even though affordability has never been better," said Greg McBride, senior financial analyst with Bankrate.com.

Low rates throughout the economy also hurt one group of Americans: savers. Puny rates are

especially hard on people living on fixed incomes who are earning next to nothing on their savings.

Lending activity remains sluggish. Mortgage application volume dipped 6 percent last week from a week earlier, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. Refinancing activity fell 7 percent. And mortgage applications to buy homes slipped 1.2 percent. Many Americans owe more

on their mortgages than their homes are worth — often called "under water" — and can't refinance. The Obama administration has launched programs to help borrowers refinance if they owe up to 25 percent more than their home's value and have loans owned or guaranteed by mortgage giants Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae.

About 291,000 homeowners have participated as of March.

"It's not the desire to refinance; it's the ability to refinance. A lot of people who can already have,"

CHRIS BROWN

Loan Officer
Trinity Mortgage Company

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WEATHER

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THE DAILY TOREADOR

Tech adds to award-winning public art collection

By **EVAN JANSA**
STAFF WRITER

With the recent addition of public artwork in front of Horn Residence Hall, Texas Tech continues to add to its award-winning collection of public art on campus.

The artwork in front of the residence hall consists of three benches that have seed-pod skeletons which act as support — both structurally and artistically.

According to project manager for Facilities, Planning and Construction Rick Richeda, the \$15,000 project was completed on May 27 by Denver-based artist Robert Tully. Tully's inspiration for the artwork stemmed simply from the natural environment surrounding the residence hall.

"(The inspiration) mostly came from the trees in that immediate location," Tully said. "I tried to think of something that would work with that landscape. (The artwork) doesn't really stand by itself. It really makes you look around at the trees, too."

Tully was selected to complete the project after he responded to Tech's request for qualifications was sent out, according to director of project administration for Facilities, Planning and Construction Linda Owen.

After the qualifications are submitted by numerous artists, the public art committee then takes the next step in selecting the most competent artist.

"At that point, the artists bring in designs and make a presentation," Owen said. "Once an artist is determined, they're contracted through our office."

Tully, already an established artist

having completed around 25 works in the past, also had some experience with benches.

"The university specifically requested bench artwork," Tully said. "I've done some benches in the past as parts of larger artworks before. I think that's why they selected me."

The artwork itself encourages creative thinking and its meaning goes much deeper than the surface of the structure.

"The artwork changes its nature when people sit in it," Tully said. "People become part of the artwork. All of the sudden you view the artwork differently. There's some sort of relationship between people and their natural setting."

According to Tully, those residing in Horn Residence Hall, students, faculty and visitors can explore the artwork on many different levels.

"It's perfect for a university," Tully said. "It enlivens the whole environment when you have something that deals with intellect and other values that aren't addressed in your daily working environment otherwise."

During the construction, Tully was aided by landscape architect for Facilities, Planning and Construction Jason Hodges and Richeda.

"They really helped the project happen," Tully said. "They helped facilitate foundations, locations and installation."

Richeda was also pleased with the outcome of the artwork from start to finish.

"(Tully) was thorough," Richeda said. "He provided all the necessary pictures and information throughout the process. When he came to install it, everything was organized and it went together fine."

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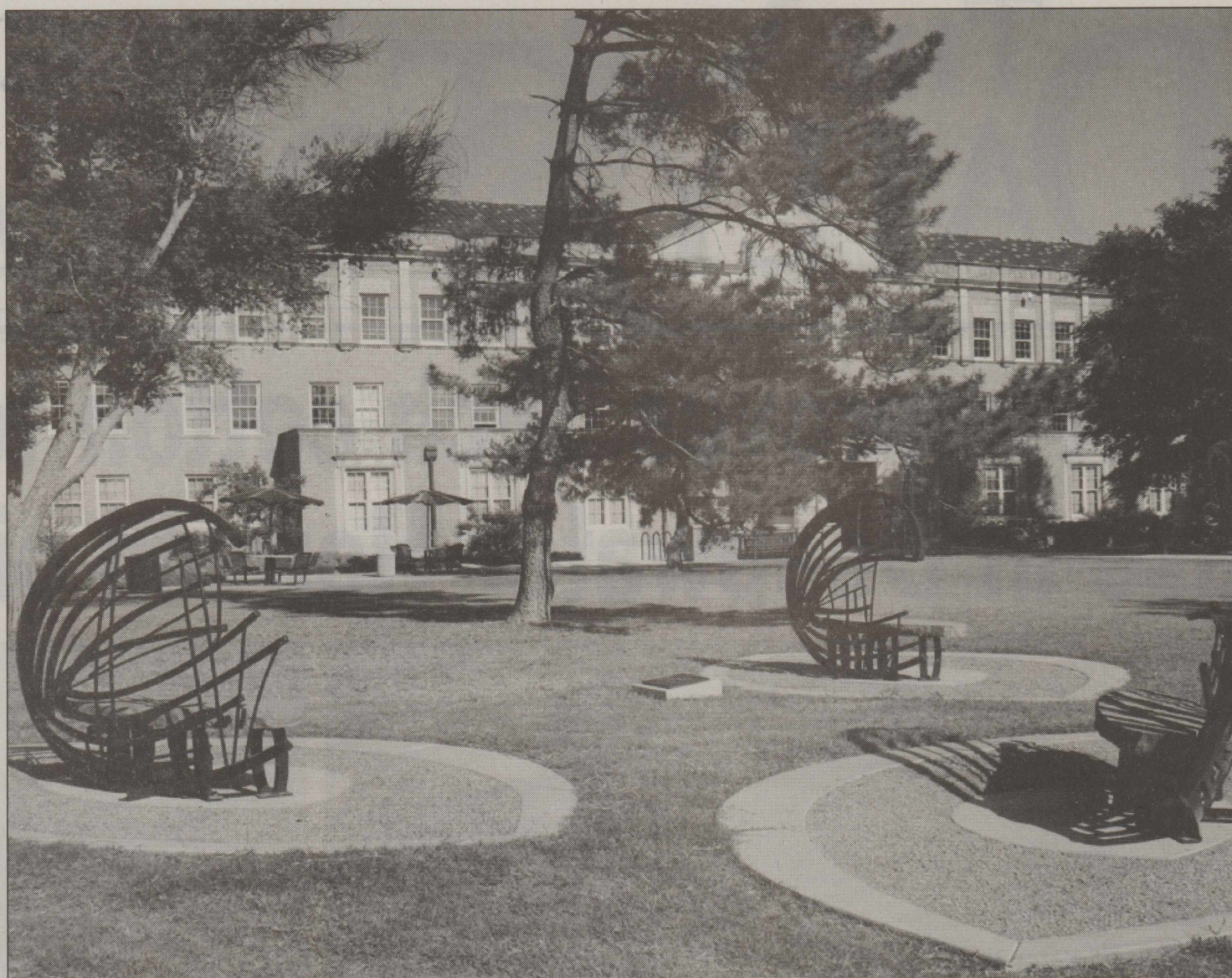


PHOTO BY RALSTON ROLLO/The Daily Toreador

ROBERT TULLY'S "SEED Seats," located near the southeast corner of Horn Residence Hall, were inspired by the natural environment surrounding the residence hall. Tully, from Denver, Colo., creates art that includes people through interaction.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS
1 A.L. East team
4 1960 Olympiad host
8 Padlocked, perhaps
14 Glob suffix
15 Receptive
16 More gray
17 2006 farce involving a drinking contest
19 "Magic Hour" author
20 Swiss poultry dish?
22 Memo abbr.
23 Move beyond
27 Korean menu listing?
32 Frost
33 Fast horse
34 Prayed
35 Indian lunch fare?
40 Certain net user
41 '60s Mod staple
42 Letters that come at the end of the week
43 Moroccan hearty meal?
48 Fare that's filled and baked
51 Race
52 Moroccan omelet ingredient?
57 All one had
60 Transfers again, as computer files
61 Hungarian neighbor
62 Barrie
63 Newfoundland
64 Is out there
65 African antelope
66 Rite, finder

DOWN
1 Good ol' boys
2 Fatty acid salt
3 Handles
4 Texter's response to a hilarious joke
5 Crude org.
6 Interlock

7 Boycotting, perhaps
8 Basho's forte
9 Black listing?
10 City near the Yangtze River
11 Emmy-winning news anchor
12 Common Mkt.
13 "ER" extras
18 Contact lens solution brand
21 Cape
24 VMI program
25 Bit of irreverence
26 Twisted
28 Lionized actor?
29 It can be casual:
Abbr.
30 Treaty gp. since 1948
31 President with two Grammys
34 Fool
35 Old Venetian judge
36 "The Praise of Chimney-Sweepers" essayist

37 Right crosses may follow them
38 Point
39 Stranded material
40 20s provider, for short
43 Bench, once
44 Dance move
45 Elevating, in a way
46 Relax
47 Takes by force

49 four
50 Bean products?
53 Cartoonist Peter
54 When repeated, word of agreement
55 Manhattan sch.
56 Pittstown man, e.g.
57 Language suffix
58 Bio datum
59 Head of state?

By Mark Feldman 6/25/10

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

L I P S M A T H D A C H A
O N E K A B O O E T H I C
C A K E G E N T C O E D S
K N O W L E D G E G A P
S E E S I N S L O T S F O
M T G G U I T A R
C L I P A R T B O R D E R S
W R E N I D A O L E O
K I T C H E N S T A P L E S
R E T A I L S N L
P S S M E D S D E C A F S
M O V I N G T A R G E T
A B H O R N O A H A R E A
H I M O M E R L E W E L T
S T O R E D E A N L E S S

OU president says Sooners, Aggies received invites from SEC

ARDMORE, Okla. (AP) — The president of the University of Oklahoma said Wednesday that his school and Texas A&M both received invitations to join the Southeastern Conference during the last round of conference realignment.

Although Oklahoma ended up remaining in the Big 12, university president David Boren said the Sooners had offers from both the SEC and the Pac-10. Boren spoke with reporters after a regents meet-

ing for almost 40 minutes about the conference realignment process.

"I'll put it this way — we were well positioned for whatever worked out," Boren said.

SEC spokesman Craig Pinkerton said he was "not in a position to comment" on what Boren said. Boren declined to say who in the SEC issued the invitation, only that that person had the authority to do so.

Boren said the Pac-10 offer was for five Big 12 schools — Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas A&M

and Texas Tech — to join as a group. Pac-10 Commissioner Larry Scott visited the schools earlier this month to extend the invitations.

"The invitation was really to the group," Boren said. "It had to be, because you couldn't have our teams all flying to the Pacific coast every week to play games. There had to be an eastern division of schools."

Boren said the SEC extended offers only to Oklahoma and Texas A&M, both of which opted to stay in a slimmed-down Big 12 after

Colorado left for the Pac-10 and Nebraska left for the Big Ten. Because the SEC offer didn't include two of the Sooners' key rivals, Oklahoma State and Texas, Boren said he didn't consider it a good option.

"There was a time when A&M thought they were going to the SEC and they very much wanted us to go with them," Boren said. "Oklahoma, in the whole thing, we were positioned in a way where virtually we could not have lost."

Last Friday, Oklahoma State president Burns Hargis confirmed that his school "never had an offer" from the SEC, "so it was never anything to consider." Both he and Boren expressed a strong interest in sticking together through any future conference realignment.

"Had the Pac-10 thing fallen apart, had the Big 12 minus two not been put back together, we would have probably ended up having much more serious conversations with the SEC, and (asked) would they take OSU and Texas, for example," Boren said. "It never got to that."

Boren characterized the Pac-10 offer as one that obviously had been researched and planned, while the SEC's offer was "more of a reaction to the situation. When they saw that the Big 12 might be no more, that all the schools might go somewhere else, they then started thinking about 'Who would we want?'"

Scott said the Pac-10 offer went nowhere because Texas decided against it. Boren said it "basically fell apart because of the difference of opinion in Texas" regarding Texas A&M's interest in the SEC.

"One school doesn't like the other one to tell them what to do," Boren said, referring to Texas and Texas A&M.

Texas A&M president R. Bowen Loftin was out of his office Wednesday. In a June 14 letter posted on the school's website, he said that by remaining a member of the Big 12, "We were able to more than double our financial return to the levels being offered by other conferences."

Loftin added that another consideration in staying in the conference was maintaining Texas A&M's "strong foothold" in the state and preserving longtime rivalries.

Big 12 athletic directors met this week in Irving, Texas, to discuss the conference's future. Commissioner Dan Beebe said the Big 12 has "no interest in expansion" and that it was "not a consideration" at the meeting.

"There is a great deal of excitement about the future of the conference," Beebe said in a statement. "Our member institutions look forward to the continuation of excellent competition and providing outstanding experiences for our student-athletes. The 10-school model is one that is extremely attractive and provides the opportunity for continued long-term success."

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School of Music presents weekly Judson Maynard Carillon Series

By **TRISTIN WALKER**
STAFF WRITER

Every Sunday this summer, the Lubbock community can come and enjoy an evening with the Judson Maynard Carillon Series presented by the Texas Tech University School of Music.

“It is remarkable to see what it means to play and how it all works.”

ROY WILSON
Adjunct Professor
Carillon and Organ

The Carillon Series is a performance of electronic bells — called carillons — that will be chiming throughout the Texas Tech campus every Sunday evening with an hour of joyful music.

Families with children, Tech students and the public community are all welcome to bring their lawn chairs and picnic tables to listen to the chiming bells play a variety of works including popular songs, classical songs, folk music, hymns, children's songs and original compositions for the carillon.

All performances start right after the electronic bells chime the hour for 8 p.m. The concert lasts for 40 to 45 minutes, and the best place to listen is from Memorial Circle north of the Administration building.

This Sunday, the public can come and enjoy songs from Jim Quashnock, who will be playing the Carillon. Quashnock is a church organist from Wichita Falls who will be performing songs such as The Lord of the Dance, some French folk songs, Amazing Grace and more.

Roy Wilson, orchestra director for Lubbock Independent School District, organist at St. John's United Methodist Church and adjunct professor of carillon and organ at Tech, said he has been playing for the Carillon Series since he returned to Lubbock in 1976.

“I always enjoy playing,” Wilson said. “We all very much enjoy playing in the Carillon Series, as well as in the fall for the memorial service.”

Wilson said the carillon at Tech, which is located on the west side of the Administration building, has a total of 43 chromatic bells.

He said the public is also welcome to come up to the western tower of the Administration building and observe the performance from the best seat in the house.

They are also invited to come up after the performance and feel the different weights of the clappers.

“I do encourage everyone to come and watch us play while the performance is going on,” Wilson said. “It is remarkable to see what exactly it means to play a carillon and how it all works.”

The Charles and Ruth Baird Memorial Carillon is a Tech tradition that first started

in 1973 when Ruth Baird Larabee made a donation to Tech to buy and install a carillon in memory of her parents.

Tech's first Carillon Series, in which Wilson performed, began in the summer of 1979. He said he is still proud to be performing this summer.

Wilson has been training other musicians so that the number of people who volunteer to play the carillon during the summer series has increased.

This year will be the 21st year for the summer Carillon Series, a Tech tradition that does not seem to be going anywhere anytime soon.

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Small fraction of Americans meet salt guidelines

ATLANTA (AP) — Most U.S. adults should eat less than a teaspoon of salt each day, but a new government report says just 1 in 18 meet that goal.

“This is not good news,” said Janelle Peralez Gunn of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lead author of a new study released Thursday.

Health officials currently say no adult should eat more than a teaspoon of salt each day. They go on to advise that 70 percent of adults — including people with high blood pressure, all African-Americans and everyone over 40 — should actually limit their salt intake to a more restrictive two-thirds of a teaspoon.

Sodium increases the risk of high blood pressure, which is major cause of heart disease and stroke. Salt — or sodium chloride — is the main source of sodium for most people.

Overall, only 1 in 10 adults meet the teaspoon standard, said the CDC study. But for those who should be even stingier, only 1 in 18 manage to do it.

The research repeated what others have found, that the vast majority of dietary salt comes from processed and restaurant foods. And it concluded that salt was most commonly found in cold cuts and other meats, and in baked goods and other items counted as grain-based products.

“It's not a matter of Americans taking a salt shaker and adding salt to their food,” said Linda Van Horn, a Northwestern University medical school professor who chairs the American Heart Association's Nutrition Committee.

Salt reduction has become a recent focus of public health campaigns. New York City, the heart association and nearly three dozen other groups have been trying to

persuade food manufacturers and chain restaurants to reduce salt content by more than 50 percent over the next 10 years. The CDC and federal health agencies also have had sodium-reduction talks with food companies.

The CDC study is based on a national survey of nearly 4,000 adults ages 20 and older in the years 2005 and 2006. They had their blood pressure taken and answered questions about what they ate.

The participants tended to consume roughly 1½ teaspoons of salt each day. People in the more restrictive group — those at increased risk of high blood pressure — were eating twice as much as they should have, the study found.

One in three U.S. adults has high blood pressure, and the government estimates that nine in 10 will develop it in their lifetime.

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Guest Columns
The Daily Toreador accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community. Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submittal.

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

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

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

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

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Human Genome Project promises insight

BY CHRIS LEAL

This Saturday, June 26, marks the 10th anniversary of interpreting the human genome. Interestingly, there is not much mainstream public excitement for the Human Genome Project, which, regardless of how much press it gets, will undoubtedly forever change the way humans view themselves and the world around them.

The HGP modestly states its goals as identifying the roughly 20,000 to 25,000 genes and the 3 billion chemical base pairs that comprise human DNA, and then storing this information in digital databases.

This monumental task, figuratively and literally, will identify and interpret these chemical bases that have evolved over the roughly 3.8 billion years that life has existed on earth. If you do the math, that averages the rate of evolution at roughly a new chemical base pair every 9.5 months in order to get to where humans—taxonomically referred to as *Homo Sapiens*—exist today.

It's hard to underestimate the impact of the results of this study. In retrospect, it could be seen as a turning point in the self-awareness of the human species. To put things into perspective, humans and mice contain roughly the same range of genes, 20,000 to 25,000. But, look at how just minor chemical changes in the same

amount of genes constitutes an entirely different animal altogether.

A more complete understanding of our genetic structure will help us to better piece together the puzzle of evolution, linking us with our ancestors and helping us to understand what it is about humans that sets us so markedly apart from the rest of nature.

Applications of the mapping of the human genome will bring new, groundbreaking and innovative approaches to medicine. We will be better at identifying genetic predispositions to diseases, and consequently finding more advanced medicines, treatments and methods of gene therapy.

There will be commercial applications of genomic knowledge beyond just health care, as we could see improvements in the manufacturing of material and organic chemical compounds and possibly even increased efficiencies in crop yields and other methods of food production.

However, the deep-seated changes will be in the ripple effects of how societies interact and view themselves. The revelations that come from the studies of genomic knowledge threaten to come down with the mighty force of a hammer on the anthropocentric values that people and greater societies currently hold as fundamental.

But what if we were to find tangible genetic variations within the population; differences in race, culture, intelligence and personality?

If it only takes less than a year to develop a new base pair then the past few thousand years of society could prove to be very divisive. Racialists, hate groups and classicists could be given some sort of courage in their ways, though the differences could very well be hardly distinguishable enough to constitute a reason for discrimination. Also, fear of the unknown is hardly a reason to live in ignorance.

It will also be interesting to see how the religions of the world have to adapt the possible revelatory insights that come about. Religions and other metaphysical dogmas have been around for thousands of years, and while exponential advancements in science have begun to limit their role somewhat in the logical functions of the human psyche, I doubt humans will lose their religions altogether anytime in the near future.

Overall the outcomes of the Human Genome Project promise to be extremely insightful, to say the least. We're living in a very exciting time in human history, and we may soon be able to answer questions that philosophers, scientists and religious leaders have posited and debated upon since the beginning of conscious thought.

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Recent government, military actions could leave US vulnerable to terroristic attack

By THOMAS LOTT

General Stanley McChrystal resigned Wednesday from his position as commander in Afghanistan. His resignation was necessary because of his blatant insubordination toward the Obama administration.

First of all, his resignation was completely called for. What he said in his interview with Rolling Stone was overstepping his bounds, and he never should have done it.

That being said, how much more is this country going to turn to pacifism?

When President Obama was running for office, he said that he wanted to get our troops out of Iraq. I understand the sentiment, as I have had several friends that have served in Iraq. One of my friends' brothers died over there and another was hurt badly in an explosion. I can see the horrible consequences of the war, but I really believe Iraq still needs our help.

One of President Obama's first acts in office was the closing of Guantanamo Bay—a U.S. detention camp in Cuba formerly used to hold terrorism suspects without rights provided by the Geneva Convention. I have to believe this was done as a way to stop violations of human rights.

For the lack of a better way to put this, anyone that tries to kill innocent Americans in our country in an act of terrorism deserves what they get. Would anyone that was alive on September 11, 2001 want to see one of those terrorists in a civilian court with the possibility of getting off?

Now, before you freak out, I know they would not get away with it, I am not that stupid. But enemy combatants are just that. And much more, they are terrorists. We should treat them as terrorists, not as U.S. citizens. If guilty, they do not deserve the right to a trial.

When the "Underwear Bomber" attempted to blow up a plane on Dec. 25 of last year, I was upset to feel the least. It made me question whether flying anywhere was safe if a man on a no-fly list could not only board a plane, but board that plane with a bomb in his pants.

Now that man is going to be tried in a civilian court. The man tried to blow up a jetliner in a terrorist attack and he is being prosecuted in US courts. He is not even a US citizen by any means, so how does he deserve that?

Now that McChrystal is out of a job in Afghanistan, I wonder whether we will have any chance of staying there. He may have been replaced, but I doubt Petraeus will be as strong or as willing to do what is necessary as McChrystal. Osama

Bin Laden seeks to kill Americans, and there is no way around that. Don't you think it would be best to find that man and give him what is coming to him?

What happens if we leave Afghanistan? Will we ever find him? Will the frequency of terrorist attacks increase? I have to believe that they will.

This whole sequence of events our current administration has begun is leading toward indifference. It is almost beyond indifference—it almost seems as if they are encouraging terrorists to attack us. But don't you worry; Janet Napolitano says that the system works. Who doesn't trust her?

We are slowly but surely pulling out of Iraq, and there is still work to be done over there. I will not be surprised if we leave and the country regresses back to the way it was when Saddam Hussein was running things.

We have no where else but Gitmo to put the men that are being prosecuted for terrorist attacks. I have heard at one point that the men in Gitmo could wind up in prison in Ill. I really don't know if that's true, but if it is, I seriously doubt that our country would be for that.

We are prosecuting the underwear bomber in a civilian court. I think that is all that I need to say on that one.

What is next? Do we pull out of Afghanistan now that McChrystal is done? I don't know what is going to happen but I really wish that I could feel that our government is trying to protect us from imminent threats. And terrorism is an imminent threat, don't kid yourself.

I really hope that President Obama does not have to deal with a terrorist attack, but if he doesn't start being proactive in defending this country, and above all what we stand for, I am afraid that is just what could happen.

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