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Suspension Artist

Student practices art form originated by Mandan Tribe

By MAMIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The anticipation of feeling the metal hooks thread through her pierced skin and the tension as she is raised feet from the ground are feelings not many 12-year-old girls hope to experience.

Originated by the Mandan tribe on the Missouri River, the art of suspension involves hanging the body by metal hooks that are threaded through piercings on various body parts. It captivated Texas Tech student Loki Pongratz before she started high school.

"I was exposed to it when I was 12 years old," said Pongratz, a senior marketing major from Los Angeles. "The reason I wanted to do it was because I thought it was fascinating."

Although Pongratz did not participate in her first suspension until last July, her interest in it only grew.

"When I was 13 or 14, I began talking to a man named Allen Falkner," Pongratz said. "I was just curious, and he would walk me through it. When I turned 18,

I started piercing, and if I needed anything I would call him first."

Falkner is known as the man who developed the way modern suspension is done today. He is also the founder of the website suspension.org, which is an informative site for people who are interested in getting involved in the activity.

"The first time I did was to see if I could do it. Now, I think it's fun, and I do it for stress relief."

LOKI PONGRATZ
STUDENT
TEXAS TECH

really is my passion in life."

Through the years, Falkner has been able to pass down his passion to many eager students, including Pongratz.

"To me, it's something very different than to one of my friends who does it all the time," Pongratz said. "The first time I did was to see if I could do it. Now I think it's fun, and I do it for stress relief."

The process that goes into one suspension can take a lot of time as well as multiple people.

"Suspension is my life," Falkner said. "I cannot count the amount of hours I have devoted to it. I spend 20 to 40 hours a week dedicating my time to numerous different projects from blogging to answering e-mails to lecturing, suspending others, etc. It

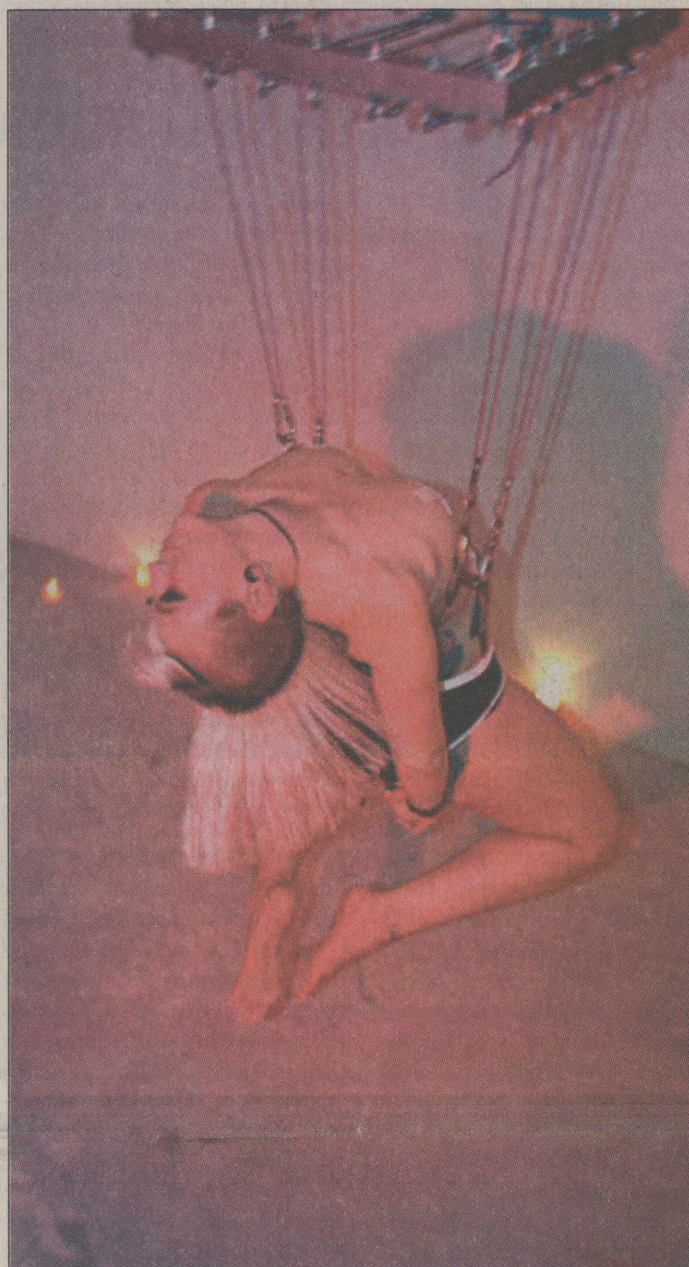


PHOTO COURTESY OF SANDRA RODRIGUEZ-DIAZ
LOKI PONGRATZ, A senior marketing major from Los Angeles, participates in a suspension in Madrid in March.

Although the actual suspension is only done for a matter of minutes, except in the cases of a marathon suspension, the longest part of the process is the preparation.

ARTIST continued on Page 5

Family reacts to murder in Depot District

Victim's aunt, uncle mourn 22 year old's Sunday death



PHOTO BY BROOKE BELLOMY/The Daily Toreador
A MEMORIAL WAS set up for Zachary Sebastian Matta, who was shot and killed early Sunday outside of the Daiquiri Lounge nightclub in the Depot District.

By BROOKE BELLOMY
STAFF WRITER

The family of a Lubbock man who was fatally shot outside the Daiquiri Lounge early Sunday morning set up a small memorial outside the nightclub Monday.

Lt. Neal Barron of the Lubbock Police Department said after the initial altercation at the Daiquiri Lounge, 19-year-old Lubbock resident Renee Valencia left the club and then returned a short time later.

A second altercation occurred, and Valencia fatally shot Lubbock resident Zachary Sebastian Matta, just two days after his 22nd birthday.

Matta's uncle, Jessie Hood, said the memorial was a way for people to remember his nephew, show respect and attempt to cope with his loss.

"How can you deal with something like this?" he said. "This is the hardest thing for our family right now."

Matta's aunt, Tabitha Hood, described her nephew as friendly and having a big heart.

"If you knew him, you loved him,"

she said.

Tabitha said she did not know if her nephew knew the two suspects before Saturday, and she had heard conflicting stories surrounding the circumstances of his death.

"While (the suspects) are picking out a bail bond, we're picking out a casket," she said. "It's not right."

According to an LPD Incident Report, Valencia also shot Ocie Clark and Raymond Maldonado Jr., both of whom were taken to University Medical Center. Valencia also shot at Tatiana Jaramillo. Rebecca Renee Flores was hit by a ricochet, and James Anthony Guzman was assaulted with a brick.

Valencia was arrested at the scene for murder. A second suspect, Luis Alonzo Valencia of Lubbock, was arrested for evading arrest as well as for an existing misdemeanor warrant. After the shooting, Luis Valencia attempted to evade officers both in a motor vehicle and on foot.

Lt. Barron said the police department is still in the process of sorting out what happened.

MURDER continued on Page 2

Moot Court team wins national title

Tech National Latino/a team brings home title from conference at Yale

By BROOKE BELLOMY
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech National Latino/a Law Student Association Moot Court Competition team returned from a national conference at Yale University with the national title and two individual awards Sunday.

The team members, coached by Professor Robert Sherwin, director of advocacy programs, were selected after tryouts last spring and had been preparing for the competition since July when the problem to be argued was released.

Ricardo Bonilla, a second-year law student from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, acted as the team's brief writer; however, in this

competition, he was also an advocate. After the brief was submitted in August, teammates Shmyla Alam, third-year law student from Garland, and Austin Pennington, second-year law student from Rockwall, joined Bonillo and Sherwin to hone the team's arguments and polish the team's presentation skills.

The problem the team was given was based on an actual case, Flores-Villar v. United States, which will be decided by the Supreme Court later this year, he said.

"It was a fairly complex problem dealing with immigration law and gender discrimination," Sherwin said. "One of the things I thought we needed to do to win the competition was to simplify the problem."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBERT SHERWIN
FROM LEFT, AUSTIN Pennington, a second-year law student from Rockwall, Shmyla Alam a second-year law student from Garland, and Ricardo Bonilla a second-year law student from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic stand in the courtroom at Yale University on Saturday.

This was important because most of the judges would not be immigration law experts, he said.

The case involves petitioner Ruben Flores-Villar, born in Tijuana, Mexico, and raised in the United States by his

American citizen father and grandmother, in San Diego. His mother, who was not married to his father, is a Mexican citizen.

COURT continued on Page 2

The Eagles concert postponed till Oct. 26

The Eagles concert scheduled for today has been postponed to 8 p.m. Oct. 26 at the United Spirit Arena, according to a press release.

Due to an unknown illness of Don Henley, the band will not be able to perform on schedule. Fans are encouraged to keep their tickets, and any questions

regarding the postponement or ticket refunds can be answered at 806-770-2000.

The band makes its second visit to Lubbock this fall, the first being June of 2002. Additional ticket information can be found at www.selectseatlubbock.com

carrie.thornton@ttu.edu

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WEATHER

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Peele: Don't bring politics into bullying issue
OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
University Student Housing;
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Community Calendar

TODAY

Inferno

Time: 8 p.m.

Where: Maedgen Laboratory Theatre

So, what is it?

Performed and organized by the Department of Theatre and Dance, Inferno follows famed Swedish playwright August Strindberg and his descent into madness as chronicled in his autobiographical journal.

After Hours featuring Dynamic Duo

Time: 7 p.m.

Where: Texas Tech Café at Barnes and Noble

So, what is it?

Tech Activities Board presents Panama Soweto and Ken Arkind; performances heralded for their high energy involving complex dual voice work, comedy and emotionally raw poetry. Free coffee and desserts will be provided.

Tuesdays with Mike Pritchard and Danny Cadra

Time: 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Where: Jack and Dianne's

So, what is it?

Every Tuesday, Mike Pritchard plays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. followed by an Open Jam with Danny Cadra from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Faculty Academic Contributions Exhibit

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Texas Tech Library, Crosslin Room and Room 309

So, what is it?

This year's theme, "Seeds of Knowledge," is in celebration of Tech faculty sharing their wisdom and accomplishments as colleagues, researchers, professors and mentors. This year's event includes a hands-on, interactive component as well as presentations from faculty.

Workshop: Writing a Research Paper

Time: noon

Where: Administration Building Room 341

So, what is it?

The Center for Undergraduate Research invites students to the Fall Workshop Series. The University Writing Center will present tips on writing research papers.

To make a calendar submission e-mail dailytoreador@ttu.edu.

Events will be published either the day or the day before they take place. Submissions must be sent in by 4 p.m. on the preceding publication date.

Oil industry has yet to adopt lessons of BP spill

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Oil industry and government officials could get caught flat-footed again by another deep-water blowout in the coming months because they have yet to incorporate many of the lessons learned during the BP disaster, experts inside and outside the business tell The Associated Press.

For one thing, it could be another year before a bigger, better cap-and-siphon containment system is developed to choke off leaks many thousands of feet below the surface. Also, existing skimmers still don't have the capacity to quickly suck up millions of gallons of oil flowing at once.

In interviews with the AP, environmental experts, industry veterans and government officials also said the industry needs better technology and more thorough testing and analysis to prevent blowouts from happening in the first place.

And despite an overhaul of the federal agency that regulates the industry, there are lingering doubts about whether the government can effectively police Big Oil at the same time it relies on the industry for revenue.

"It's going to take five years before all those lessons are fleshed out and can be implemented," warned Louisiana State University environmental sciences professor Ed Overton.

The Obama administration's moratorium on deep-water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico is set to expire Nov. 30 and could be lifted even sooner amid pressure from the industry and its allies.

BP signaled last week that it realizes there is still a lot of work to do, firing a top official responsible for deep-water wells. It also welcomed a new CEO on Friday, the first American ever to lead the British company.

SAVVY SWIMMER

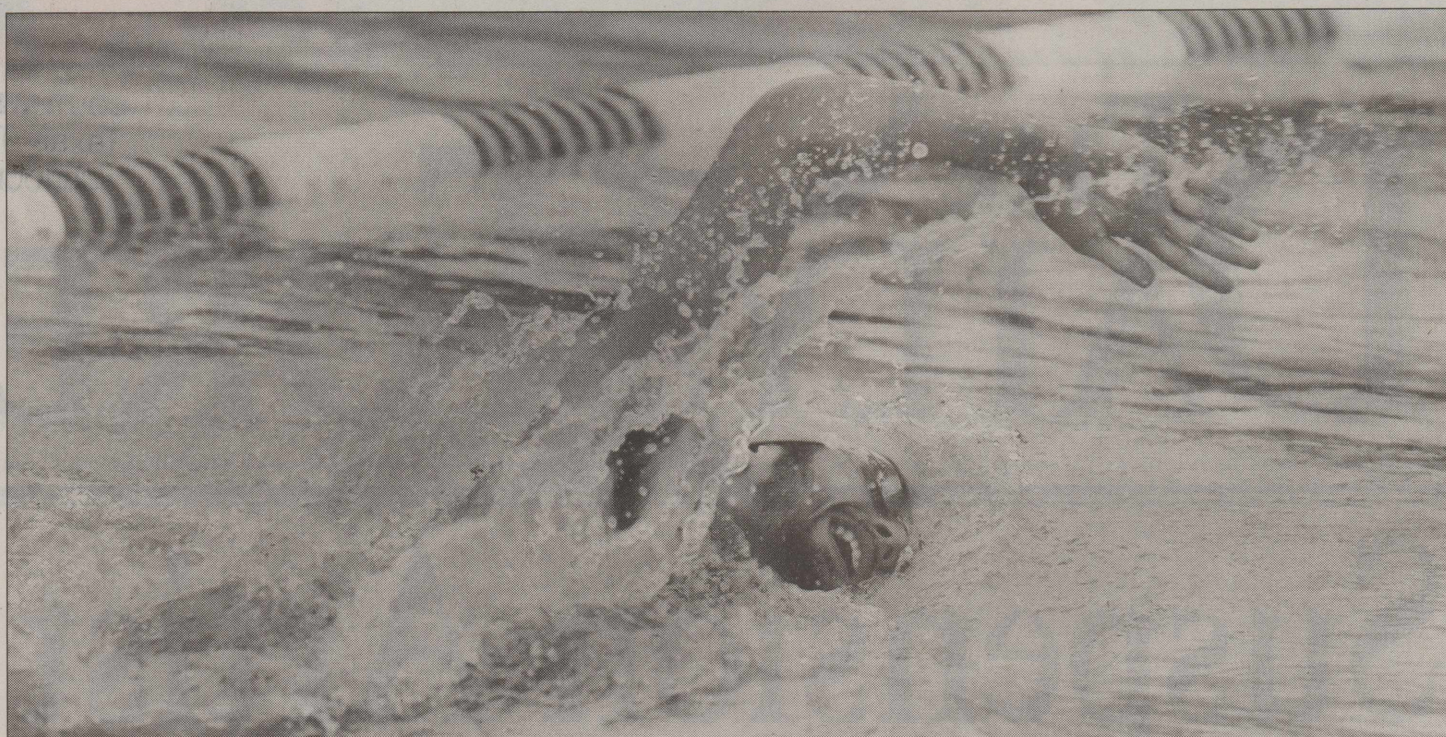


PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

JOE KEEGAN, A student at South Plains College, swims laps Monday at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

Perry reports \$10 million cash in Texas gov race

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Republican Gov. Rick Perry reported Monday that he has \$10 million in available campaign cash — nearly four times as much as Democrat Bill White heading into the final month of the costly Texas governor's race.

White, a former Houston mayor, announced he has \$2.75 million in cash on hand. Perry out-raised White in the latest reporting period, having collected \$8.26 million between July 1 and Sept. 23. White reported that he raised that \$4.68 million in that span.

The gubernatorial campaigns had to file new reports on their fundraising to the Texas Ethics Commission by Monday night.

"Texans from across the state continue to generously support Gov.

Perry's re-election campaign and his principled leadership which has made Texas the envy of the nation," Perry spokesman Mark Miner said in a written statement announcing the figures.

White's campaign explained the large difference in available cash between the two candidates by saying that White spent more than \$11 million in the period, some of it on television ads that will air in the weeks to come. White's campaign finance chair, Scott Atlas, said Texans "are voting with their pocketbooks for new leadership."

White, who emphasizes his leadership experience in Houston and his business background, is considered the Texas Democrats' best hope in years to recapture the governorship. Right now all statewide elected offices are held by Republicans, a trend that began in the

1990s as George W. Bush swept into power.

Perry has held elected office for 25 years and is seeking an unprecedented third full four-year term as governor.

Among his biggest donors were businessman Harold Simmons, of Dallas, who gave \$250,000; Houston Astros owner Drayton McLane, who contributed \$50,000; and Houston-based homebuilder Bob Perry and his wife, who gave \$100,000.

White's detailed list of top donors shows that Robert L. Patton Jr., owner of Fort Worth Magazine, gave \$125,000 to his campaign. Geologist Jeffrey Todd Mitchell, of Spring, gave \$80,000; and attorneys John Eddie Williams Jr., of Houston, and Nelson Roach, of Daingerfield, each contributed \$50,000.

The money race is important be-

cause it shows how the gubernatorial candidates are poised to campaign in the final weeks.

There are no limits on campaign contributions in the state's governor's race. The candidates spend millions of dollars buying television advertising, crucial to reaching voters in this state of more than 24 million people. Both already have been airing positive and negative TV ads.

When the last fundraising reports were filed in July, White held an advantage with more than \$9 million in campaign cash on hand, surpassing Perry's \$5.9 million at the time. White also raised slightly more than Perry in the reporting period running from late February through June, but each candidate collected more than \$7 million in that period.

Court

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Flores-Villar claimed American citizenship to avoid deportation; however, under U.S. law, he was not a citizen.

For an American father to transmit citizenship to his child born abroad and out of wedlock, he must have lived in the United States for a total of 10 years, five of which must be after age 14.

An American mother under the same circumstances must be a resident for only one year to transfer citizenship to her child. Because Flores-Villar's father was 16 at the time of his son's birth, it was impossible for him to fulfill the element of the law requiring

him to be a United States resident for five years after age 14.

In various rounds of competition, the team represented either the petitioner or the respondent. It represented the petitioner four times, including in the final round, and twice represented the respondent, including the semifinal round, Bonilla said.

After the team honed its arguments, they began to prepare themselves for the possible questions the judges might ask them.

In Moot Court competitions, a panel of judges will frequently interrupt the student's argument to ask questions about the case or the other legal issues at hand. Sherwin said the team worked on the mechanics of speaking, such as vocal inflection, rate of speech and hand gestures.

Bonilla said the team practiced for two hours, three times a week.

Tech's team competed against 13 other law schools, including two teams from Yale, two teams from Columbia and one team from Boston University, Sherwin said.

At the end of three preliminary rounds on Thursday, Tech was the first seed team, Bonilla said. Tech faced the second seed Yale team in the final round on Friday.

Despite facing an Ivy League team with home court advantage in front of Yale alum judges, Bonilla and Alam said they were not nervous but rather poised and self-assured in their abilities to win.

"We were excited to go up against an Ivy League team, and we were confident we would win," said Bonilla.

In addition to a team national title, Alam was recognized as the best advocate in both the preliminaries

and final rounds.

"I'm more proud that we placed first," said Alam. "It was a team effort. But it is also nice to be recognized individually."

Alam said she enjoys Moot Court competitions because of the practical application they have in all aspects of law.

"In Moot Court, we do research, we formulate legal arguments and we have to look at both sides of an argument," she said. "We have to think on our feet and speak in front of an audience, all skills attorneys should have."

Having won this competition for the last three years, Tech is the competition's only winner, Sherwin said.

"This was a nice win for Tech because of the number of Ivy League schools in the competition," he said. "If they didn't know us before, they know us now."

» brooke.bellomy@ttu.edu

Murder

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We're still waiting for the results of the autopsy and still have a lot of witnesses to talk to," Lt. Barron said.

Cruise Duke, an agriculture communications senior from Lipscomb County, said he was loading up equipment after playing a show at Wild West Saturday night when the incident occurred.

"There were so many cop cars and ambulances," he said. "It makes you aware that there isn't much protection around there."

Amy Sanders, a senior mechanical engineer major from Houston, said she went to the Daiquiri Lounge as a freshman but hadn't been recently because she didn't feel safe there.

"It seemed to get dangerous," she said. "I've seen a few fights there, and I kind of avoided it after that."

Kimberly Shubert, a senior nutrition major from Fort Worth, said she also stopped going to the Daiquiri Lounge after her freshman year of college but was scared about the proximity of the Daiquiri Lounge to the Depot District.

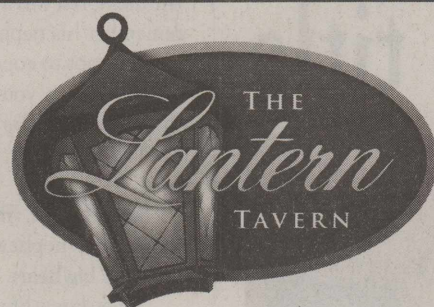
"It's a place people used to go to have fun and dance," she said. "Even if you're not at the Daiquiri Lounge, it is so close to numerous other bars and that's scary."

Lt. Barron advises people to use common sense to avoid being involved in a situation like this in the future.

"Just use common sense, call the police and move yourself to a safe area," he said.

» brooke.bellomy@ttu.edu

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Women's Studies Program hosts Feminist Forum, discusses identity

By **HALLIE DAVIS**
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Women's Studies Program hosted its second Feminist Forum, "Collective Identity within Social Movements," Monday night in Holden Hall.

Tricia Earl, coordinator of the program, hosted the event, which focused around the screening of a documentary called "Mom's Apple Pie: The Heart of the Lesbian Mothers' Custody Movement." The film focuses on women who fought the '70s legal system that frequently took children away from their mothers if they divorced on the grounds that the woman was lesbian.

The forum was created to tie in with GLBTQ Awareness Month, Earl said.

"We're looking at how the women's rights movement and the GLBTQ movement intertwine," she said.

After four recent suicides by gay teens, Earl said she thought the topic was particularly relevant. However, she said the crowd was smaller than in past forums.

Many attendees said they came for class credit in women's studies courses.

Kymmi Lowe, a junior psychology major from Aransas Pass, said the forum and the documentary made her aware of things she had not heard of.

"Today, (gays having children) is kind of an issue, but I never knew it was that bad," Lowe said.

"It raised awareness for me, particularly of the historical plight. It's about realizing mothers are mothers; sexual orientation doesn't enter into the question at all."

BILL MARTIN
FORUM ATTENDEE

Though she said she heard about the event because she was getting credit for attending, she said she would likely go again, and encouraged others to go and have their eyes opened to these topics.

Bill Martin attended after reading about the forum in Go! Magazine. Though he said it was not quite what he thought it would be, he found it very interesting and informative.

"It raised awareness for

me, particularly of the historical plight," Martin said. "It's about realizing mothers are mothers; sexual orientation doesn't enter into the question at all."

Having no affiliation with Tech, Martin said he appreciated the openness of the university to host events like this one, which he said were very



PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador
TRICIA EARL, COORDINATOR of the Tech Women's Studies Program, introduces the Feminist Forum Monday night in Holden Hall and discusses future GLBTQ Awareness Month events.

important to keep the community aware of social concerns.

The open forums began last spring, and Earl said they were a success. She plans two more for Spring 2011. Future forums

will be announced on the Women's Studies website.

On the Web: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/wstudies/events_feminist_forum.php

► hallie.davis@ttu.edu

BIZ WEEKLY

Attorney: Bristol Palin only ate at Alaska bar

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — A Palin family attorney is defending as legal Bristol Palin's appearance at an Anchorage establishment where her "Dancing with the Stars" partner Mark Ballas performed.

The Alaska Dispatch newspaper had reported that a state Alcohol and Control Board investigator visited its office, asking for copies of raw video shot during the performance at Rumrunners

Old Towne Bar and Grill last week.

Palin is 19 and could only legally be in the establishment if accompanied by a parent, spouse or legal guardian over 21. State law also would allow her to be there if it's been designated as a bona fide restaurant, and she was there only to eat.

Attorney Thomas Van Flein says Palin was with two people over 21, ate food and did not consume any alcohol.

Usher says he wishes mother attended his wedding

NEW YORK (AP) — Usher and his mother have reconciled, but he still wishes she hadn't boycotted his wedding three years ago.

In an interview with Vibe magazine, the 32-year-old says he was "very disappointed" that his mother decided not to witness his marriage to his former stylist, Tameka Foster. The

two divorced in last year.

Usher says he "wouldn't do that to my child." The singer says "parents should be able to have unconditional love for their children and their decisions, regardless of how they feel."

Usher and Foster have 2-year-old and 1-year-old sons. Usher's mother used to manage his career.

No end to Spears conservatorship after meeting

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Britney Spears has met with a judge overseeing her conservatorship, but no changes are being made.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Reva Goetz also met Thursday with the singer's father Jamie, who retains control with attorneys over his daughter's personal and financial affairs.

Wearing a black dress and black

boots, Spears was ushered into the judge's chambers by deputies.

Goetz later said in open court, "We had a very nice conversation."

She then said no changes were being made to the 28-year-old singer's conservatorship, which was established in February 2008 after Spears was involved in several high-profile incidents of erratic behavior.

Stamos wants to be heard at Mich. court hearing

MARQUETTE, Mich. (AP) — Actor John Stamos can't make it to federal court in Michigan's Upper Peninsula next week, but he still wants to be heard.

Federal prosecutors are asking a judge to allow them to read a statement from Stamos when two people are sentenced Friday for trying to extort \$680,000 from him.

In July, Allison Coss and Scott Sippola were found guilty

of conspiracy and using e-mail to threaten a person's reputation. They were accused of demanding money from Stamos in exchange for turning over embarrassing photos of him.

The FBI says there were no photos.

Stamos has known Coss for years after meeting her in Orlando, Fla., in 2004 when she was 17.

Stamos plays a dentist on Fox's hit musical "Glee."

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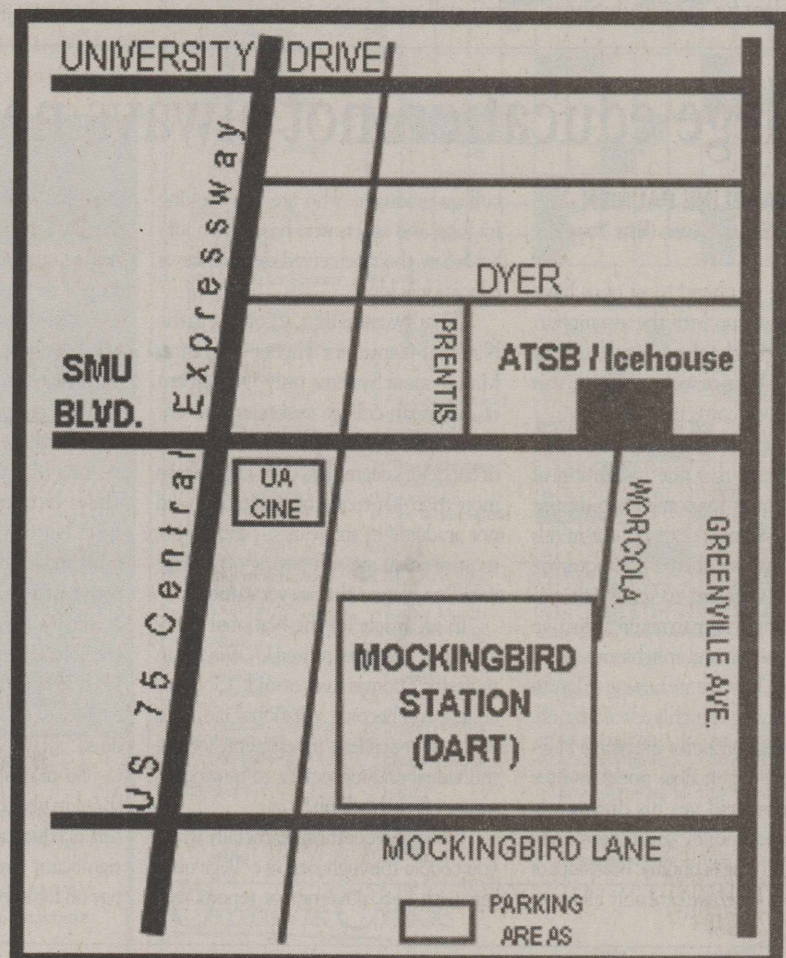
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Bullying serious problem, don't mix politics into issue

By now, you've probably heard of the many tragic suicides of young, gay teens that have happened recently. We ran a guest column on the topic in Monday's issue of *The DT*, and many other news sources are covering it.

But what bugs me is that I feel as if too many people are taking the fact that these suicides were by members of the gay community and rushing to make a political statement out of it.

I'm not going to talk about gay marriage or anything here, as doing so in this context would be both insensitive and unwise on my part, regardless of which side of that fence I fall on. The problem I have has nothing to do with these people's sexual orientation. My concern is that people are trying to make this a gay rights issue, rather than a bullying issue, the latter of which affects much more of the population.

Early this week, I received a press release in my inbox that proudly declared, "Report finds bullying linked to depression in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth." The subject was in all caps, and I get many such press releases due to my work with the paper, which are usually junk. But this particular subject struck me as odd.

See, bullying is linked to depression in everybody, especially young people. This is not something that is exclusive to the LGBT community, and it's quite possibly something that you've experienced yourself, whatever your sexual orientation.

Kids can be terrible, and it's been that way for some time. People are

Britton Peele



made fun of because they're gay, because they have glasses, because they're skinny, because they're fat, because they're religious, because they're not religious ...

Kids are made fun of and harassed horribly for just about any reason you can think of.

Now, let's get one thing straight. In no way am I saying this to lessen the deaths of good people like Tyler Clementi or Texas' own Asher Brown. What these teens went through is absolutely terrible, and should never, ever happen to any living, breathing person on this planet.

Even if you think gay marriage is wrong, even if you think homosexuality is a terrible sin, you have absolutely no right to harass another human being in the way these people were being harassed. You have no right to

tell such people that they would be better off killing themselves. Such statements are despicable, no matter where they come from or where they're directed.

My fellow Christians should know this better than most, yet sadly that seems to be far from the truth. But I suppose that's another topic for another time.

That aside, it's obviously not just homosexuals that are bullied, and that's a very serious issue. If we only

focus on stopping the attacks on young homosexuals, who is going to save the kids who are suicidal because they're being bullied about other things?

In an increasingly online world, even cyber-bullying is a huge threat. A relatively well-known example is the story from 2007 about a mother who bullied Megan Meier, an acquaintance of her daughter, via MySpace, which led to Meier's suicide. This girl wasn't a member of the LGBT community, but the effects of bullying still led her to her death. If we only focus on the homosexual bigotry, who's going to save girls like that?

Thankfully, not everyone is push-

ing the gay rights aspect of these recent deaths. Ellen DeGeneres, herself an open member of the gay community, made a blog post and video about the issue. In them, she doesn't dwell on the fact that these recent suicides were by gay teens. She mentions it, as she should, but she makes it clear that bullying is the epidemic, and directs people to anti-bullying organizations such as Angels and Doves.

According to CNN, back in July President Obama sent a letter to a young girl who had written him about problems she was having with bullies at her school. In the letter, Obama said, "Bullying, whether in person or online ... is never OK. All of us must recognize that our shared experience and our unique differences are what make this nation so special. You deserve a safe and enjoyable classroom and together we will strive to make it a reality."

Whether or not Obama wrote that personally might be open for debate, but the words ring true. We're all going to have different opinions, and I think that's fine. But as such, we shouldn't try to shove those opinions into the bullying epidemic. We should solve it for what it is - a very serious problem that affects a large population of children - and not turn victims like Tyler Clementi into poster children for political agendas.

■ **Peele is *The DT's* opinions editor.**
» britton.peele@ttu.edu

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

More on concealed carry on campus

In his column in Monday's edition of *The Daily Toreador*, Mr. Cardone stated that a person simply has to take a "10-hour course" and "[fire] a gun at a paper target" in order to receive his/her concealed handgun license (CHL). He insulted CHL holders everywhere when he compared the process to testing for one's driver's license.

Since Mr. Cardone admitted to his readers, "I am not familiar with the CHL process," I will do my best to enlighten him. Mr. Cardone failed to mention that in order to receive a CHL, a person must complete a state background check, a federal background check, have each one of his fingerprints and handprints submitted, have his tax record audited, pass a written exam comprised of questions from more than 70 pages of material covered, have his mug shot taken, pay hundreds of dollars in course/state fees and go through a waiting period of approximately two to four months before receiving his license.

After completing the course, the individual would then be required to submit to a third background check when purchasing his handgun, and then he would be required to retest at regular intervals to keep his CHL current.

Is this as easy as getting a driver's license? I think not.

The second mistake I'd like to point out is when Mr. Cardone stated, "Those who live [off campus] cannot afford to wait 15 minutes for the police to arrive...[yet] Tech's police department can have a qualified officer on site within seconds."

Although the Texas Tech Police Department is, without a doubt, a very well-qualified and capable police force, there is no evidence to support the claim that in the event of a campus shooting the Tech police would always be able to respond to the scene in a matter of seconds.

In the case of the UT shooting last week, it took minutes, not seconds, for the police to arrive at the scene, and it was some hours later that the campus was declared "safe."

Finally, Mr. Cardone stated, "I could not find any instance where a concealed carrier has actually prevented an active shooter situation." The argument is not whether allowing the licensed concealed carrying of handguns on college campuses will prevent school shootings. The argument is whether or not existing CHL holders who are allowed to carry concealed handguns virtually everywhere else in Texas should be denied the privilege to carry in buildings on college campuses.

I ask Mr. Cardone to take the time to educate himself on this issue next time before he publicly argues against it. For further discussion on the facts of the issue, I invite Mr. Cardone and the rest of the Tech community to our next general meeting 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, in the Student Union Building Senate Room.

■ **Blake Rupard is the vice president of TEChans for Concealed Carry on Campus, and is a senior civil engineering student from Houston.**

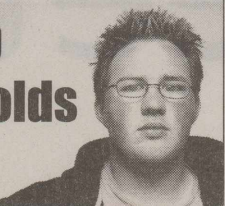
'Daily Show' more worthwhile program than 'Colbert Report'

Between 1.4 and 1.6 million Americans watch it nightly (yes, every night). Not even critics know whether to categorize it as credible news or entertainment. No topic or person is safe from the lethal wit of its writers and correspondents. It's the most interesting show on television.

I don't normally watch television, but when I do, I prefer "The Daily Show."

When it comes to satirical news in the United States, there are two major television shows that come to most people's minds. These are "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and "The Colbert Report." The two are actually very closely related, with "Colbert" being created as a spin-off of "The Daily Show" in 2005. In fact, Stephen Colbert was a favorite correspondent for "The Daily Show."

Jakob Reynolds



Despite all of that, however, they have ultimately ended up being very different shows with different fanbases and a raging debate over which is the better show.

The way I see it, "The Daily Show" is the better of the two for several reasons. First of all, it combines humor and legitimate news information in the same show, a feat not easily achieved and rarely done with credibility. When Stewart presents the information on the show, he does so with a highly satirical feel but still maintains an undertone of

sincerity and seriousness. Colbert, on the other hand, presents his information with a concentration more on just satirizing the media at hand, ultimately leading to a purely farcical feel to the show with little substance.

Another aspect of "The Daily Show" I like that isn't provided by "The Colbert Report" is the aforementioned sincerity of the main character. Stewart plays himself in "The Daily Show," whereas Colbert in "The Colbert Report" is a mere facade of the actual comedian.

In reality, Colbert is not the ultra-conservative, arrogant, narrow-minded news anchor he

plays. Stewart's sincerity and candor during his interviews, combined with the mix of light-hearted and deep questions in his interviews, gives his show more substance and power than that offered by the conservative counterpart of "The Daily Show."

In Colbert's interviews, his character is competitive with



IMAGES COURTESY OF COMEDY CENTRAL

his interviewees rather than inquisitive.

This sincerity and informative characteristic of "The Daily Show" is complimented by the importance of the interviewees Stewart hosts. Among the variety of his guests are public figures such as former president Jimmy Carter, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, King Abdullah II of Jordan, Vice President Joe Biden, former President Bill Clinton, mayor of New York City Michael Bloomberg ...

The extensive list goes on to include actors such as Ben Affleck and Halle Berry, and prominent businesspeople such as Bill Gates (founder of Microsoft) and Craig Newmark (founder of Craigslist.com).

"The Colbert Report" simply doesn't hold a candle to this area

of "The Daily Show," and I doubt it ever will. Among his group of guests are some little-known journalists, a few major musicians such as Green Day and Gorillaz, and a plethora of lesser politicians. This can probably be attributed to the fact that "The Daily Show" stars as its primary newscaster a real man who asks insightful questions and not a fictional character.

With the list of prominent guests, combined with the difference in number of viewers for the two shows ("The Daily Show" having an average of 1.5 million nightly and "The Colbert Report" having 900,000 nightly), the better of the two Comedy Central shows is obviously "The Daily Show."

■ **Reynolds is a freshman history major from Lubbock.**
» jakob.reynolds@ttu.edu

College education not always necessary

By **MADELINE PAUMEN**
WASHINGTON SQUARE NEWS (NEW YORK U.)

Why are you here? Most of us have probably grown up with the assumption that after high school, you go to college. And obviously since we are all here, this assumption was correct.

Let's assume for argument's sake that all of us attend this fine institution of higher learning for somewhat similar reasons: We want to expand our minds and horizons, we thrive on acquiring knowledge, we want to gain a deeper understanding of human nature, we strive to develop insight and enlightenment ... or at the very least we are hoping to land a cool, high paying or highly rewarding job.

But college is not for everyone. Having a college degree does not guarantee that a person will get his dream job, make a lot of money or be personally fulfilled. With the economic hardships of the past two years, we probably all know

college graduates who are still looking for jobs, and others who have taken jobs far below their perceived experience or educational level.

What's worse is that, according to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, only 55.9 percent of American college freshman who entered in 2002 ended up with an associate's or bachelor's degree by 2008. That means more than 40 percent of said students did not graduate in six years — and I'd bet most of them are still paying off college debt for a degree they never earned.

In an article for the National Association of Scholars, retired U. Wisconsin professor Thomas Reeves said, "Going to college has become a national fad ... Is it always a prudent investment, for the individual and for society, to be sending junior off to the dorm?"

It's a valid question. Especially when you couple the high rate of college quitters with U.S. government reports that

there is a skilled labor shortage. Add that 23 of the 30 jobs projected to grow at the fastest rate in the next 10 years do not require a college degree and one is left to wonder if some students who have grown up with the doctrine, "after high school, I will go to college," would have preferred never to have started college in the first place.

In a May piece in *The New York Times* Jacques Steinberg wrote, "A small but influential group of economists and educators is pushing another pathway: for some students, no college at all. It's time, they say, to develop credible alternatives for students unlikely to be successful pursuing a higher degree, or who may not be ready to do so."

So maybe four years of college shouldn't be the default. Pursuing any sort of education past high school is a significant investment that may not pay off for everybody.

Safety should never be neglected during sexual activity

By **CAROLINE BLEADOWSKI**
UNIVERSITY DAILY KANSAN (U. KANSAS)

We always like to think about the positive things that intimacy brings: affection, passion, desire and satisfaction. But sex is primarily something that most college students don't want at this young age: reproduction. Even when you're young, in love and just want to have fun, having sex can change your life forever.

Imagine the following: You spend a comfortable night at home with your partner, cuddle up to him, watch a movie, start kissing and making out. You really want to sleep with him, but you don't have a condom. Maybe, as a girl, you think you can't conceive at the moment because you just had your period and are not ovulating yet. Or, as a guy, you think you can just mess around a little but not go through with it until the end. Next thing you know, you're standing in the drugstore buy-

ing a pregnancy test because you, or your girlfriend, are late. Your life could just have changed forever.

Even if you are pro-choice and decide to have an abortion (which everyone should decide for themselves, not for someone else), it will affect you for the rest of your life. Every woman I heard about who had an abortion described it as one of the worst decisions they ever had to make.

Whatever option you choose after getting pregnant, it will be worse than worrying about safe sex. But it affects everyone who is sexually active, whether man or woman.

Which brings me to another question: Who is responsible for safety, men or women? Some say women because they bear the consequences of getting pregnant. They should use the pill, vaginal ring or any of the other options for women. Some say men because they wear the condoms

and only condoms can prevent both pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

There is only one right answer: both. Those who make the decision to have sex also make the decision to prevent pregnancy and infection.

I recently talked to a male friend about a woman's options of birth control. I asked him what he thought would be the best option for women. But he referred me to a female friend for that kind of conversation. I wondered if that reaction was due to lack of interest or lack of information.

In the end, knowing what possibilities women have for birth control also affects men because it saves both from negative consequences. Don't think of women as "the responsible ones" or those who "take care of it." We can all make mistakes or be negligent. But this negligence can quickly lead to pain and suffering. It can change your life forever.

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Getting fit doesn't have to be expensive

By HANNAH BOEN
COLUMNIST

I wrapped up the spring semester and began the summer at 130 pounds and a respectable self-image. I wasn't one to diet, and honestly, I almost never withdrew from indulgence. If I wanted it, I ate it. I wouldn't call myself athletic, but I knew how to work an elliptical and was by no means sedentary.

Then came summer, a vacation from a routine of decent eating and almost-consistent workouts. There were very few days between May and August that didn't end with a glass of milk and a handful of Oreos. Eating a sausage McGriddle wasn't a special treat; it was a morning ritual. The barista at the Starbucks across the street knew my name and, more importantly, knew I never nixed the whipped cream. Rarely did my evening plans exclude a trip to Jack in the Box to pick up a sirloin burger and a Dr. Pepper.

I returned to Lubbock with an additional 12 pounds and some very snug swimsuits. Luckily, 12 pounds distributes pretty evenly over a 5-foot-8-inch frame, but even if my roommate didn't notice the extra weight, my jeans definitely did.

When I got back to campus, I had two choices. I could get a tan and hope nobody noticed a little extra chub. That method seems to work well for most of the girls in a couple of sororities

I won't name. My other choice: I could utilize all the (mostly) free resources Tech provides to get in shape.

This is the time of my life when I should be smoking hot, right? Being in college puts me in a position to be in great shape. Not only does the university provide workout facilities and expert health advice, but also inspiration to look good abounds. Just go to the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center and count how many people are better looking than you.

You know who I am talking about. That girl at the leisure pool who looks like she's been doing lunges and squats since she was born and probably only eats celery and grapefruit. Or that guy who carries a gallon of water around with him and looks like he never leaves the weight room.

I don't want to become a vegan. I don't want to buy Spanx. I don't want to spend all my money to enroll in a gym or spend all my free time on a treadmill. I want to utilize the resources around me to successfully meet a few health goals. Does it take a lot of time or a lot of money or a crazy diet to look good? Do you need to spend \$90 on P90X to get rockin' abs? I'll find out this semester, and I will let you know. Twice a month I'll report back with my progress and dieting and exercise tips.

►hannah.boen@ttu.edu

Harris Ranch markets farm-to-fork

COALINGA, Calif. (AP) — Right there on a desolate strip of Interstate 5 between Los Angeles and San Francisco, the Harris Ranch Restaurant offers a stop in Central California that feeds hungry travelers from its own surrounding farmland.

On the menu: dishes made with Harris beef, Harris garlic, treats from the in-house bakery, even a Harris wine or pale ale.

"We're true to the farm-to-fork concept," said Stephanie Papagni-LaPlante, director of sales and marketing for the Harris Inn and Restaurant where the company's under-one-umbrella concept extends to a Harris Ranch-owned gas station and a private airstrip set up for amateur pilots to touch down for a steak dinner. There's nothing much else around for miles and a giant slab of prime rib cooks just outside the restaurant's doorway.

The restaurant and 153-room hacienda-style hotel — with its big pool and balconies on most rooms — are straddled by Interstate 5 and California 198, and by fields growing Harris Ranch produce. An 800-acre feedlot a few miles away can produce up to 250,000 head of cattle per year.

Harris Ranch gets cattle from several ranchers, has its own trucks for transport, and the cattle finish off their days in the Coalinga lot before going to company processing plants to become fresh cuts, ready-made meals and meat for restaurants from

Alaska to Minnesota.

Harris Ranch is the largest beef producer in California, putting out more than 150 million pounds of beef a year, though there are much bigger beef producers in the U.S.

In an era of ever-savvy consumers, meat-eaters can pick beef by the brand-name, and Harris has aimed to promote customer loyalty.

The branding of meat prompted other companies to follow suit and find niche markets. Niman Ranch, based in Alameda, Calif., touts not ever using antibiotics or hormones on its cows. The Dakota Beef Company promotes its USDA organic certification.

Although a large producer in the West, Harris Ranch is a small player in the U.S.'s \$73 billion dollar beef industry. Americans consumed 26.9 billion pounds of beef in 2009, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. California cattle makes up only about 4 percent of beef produced in the U.S., according to the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Harris Ranch didn't always mean beef. At the beginning, in 1937, it was all about cotton and grain. Today, Harris Ranch produces more than 30 crops including lettuce, tomatoes, onions, melons, oranges, lemons, almonds, pistachios, walnuts and wine grapes.

"It's a chef's dream," Papagni-LaPlante said. "They change the menu seasonally according to what we're growing."

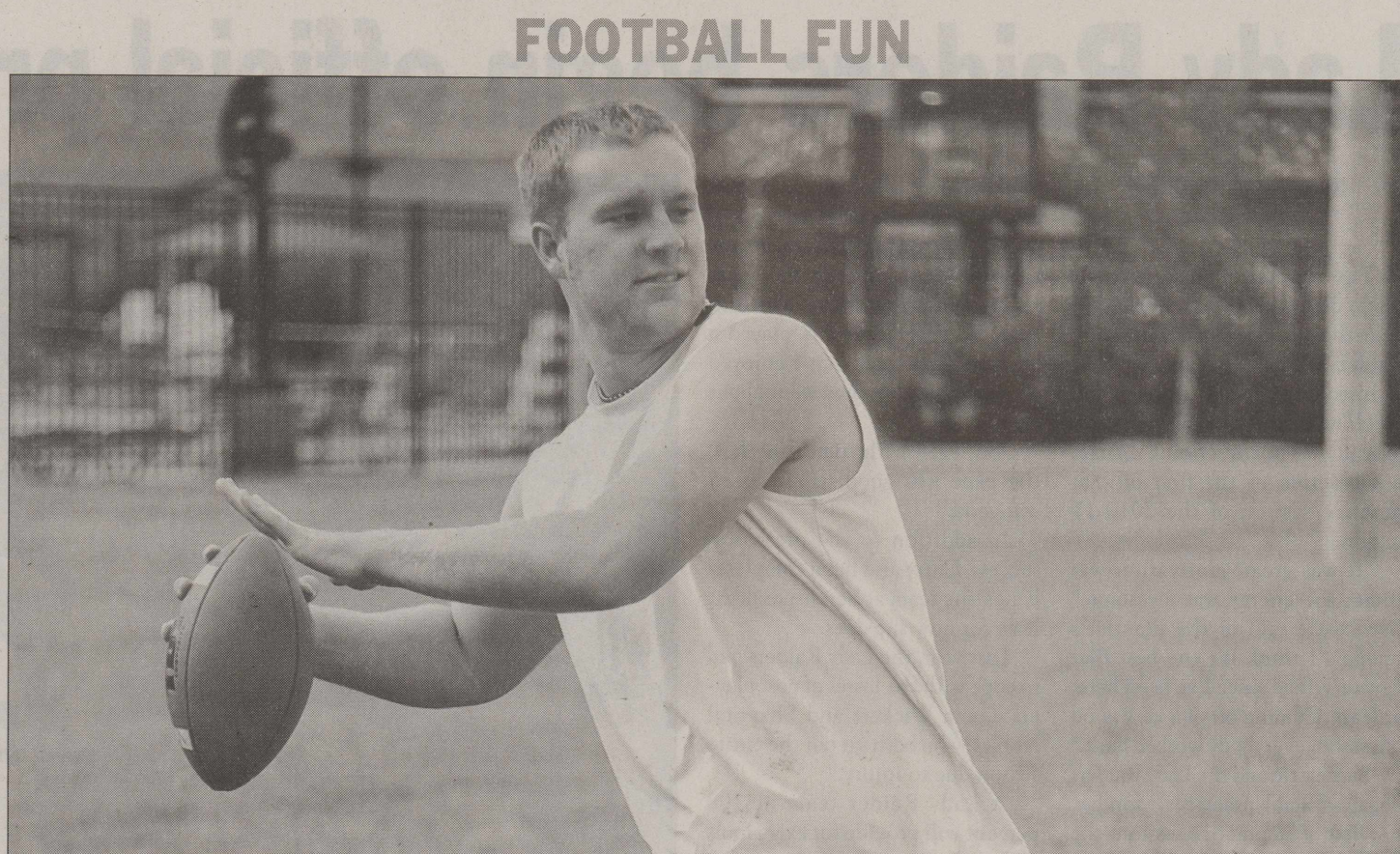


PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador
JAKE DIGGS, A junior exercise and sports science major from White Deer, throws a football Monday night outside the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

Prosecutor portrays Anna Nicole Smith as addict

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A prosecutor portrayed Anna Nicole Smith Monday as an out-of-control drug addict who pressured doctors into prescribing pain killers and sedatives.

Deputy District Attorney David Barkhurst was the first lawyer to deliver his closing argument to jurors after eight weeks of testimony. His initial emphasis was on addiction, a central dispute between the prosecution and defense.

Superior Court Judge Robert Perry has told jurors a person who seeks drugs primarily to control pain is not an addict.

But Barkhurst suggested Smith's complaints of pain were an excuse to get drugs.

"Anna Nicole Smith had an addiction problem," he said.

Howard K. Stern and Drs. Sandeep Kapoor and Kristine Eroshevich have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to provide excessive prescription drugs to the former Playboy model while knowing she was an addict.

They are not charged in her 2007 accidental overdose death in Florida.

Barkhurst focused his initial remarks on Kapoor, an internist whom the prosecutor accused of doing inadequate tests before giving Smith the heavy duty opiate Dilaudid that she requested.

"The issue in this case is whether the doctors were acting in good faith," Barkhurst said. "They were no longer treating her pain. They were feeding her addiction."

The argument appeared to cast Smith as a coconspirator, even

though she has not been officially given that designation by prosecutors.

Barkhurst conceded Kapoor once treated Smith for painful cracked ribs. But the drugs were provided for too long, he said.

"She's seeking the medication she enjoys to make her feel good," the prosecutor said.

There was no testimony during the trial that Smith ever sought euphoria from prescription drugs. The defense maintains she suffered from chronic pain and a number of ailments that sent her to doctors in search of relief.

Barkhurst said Smith's drug-induced euphoria was evidenced in a video he played from the American Music Awards in which she slurred her words and became confused.

He anticipated defense arguments would focus on Smith's pain after giving birth to her daughter in the Bahamas, and her distress when her son Daniel died of a drug overdose.

"Life happens," Barkhurst said. "People give birth by C-section every day. People suffer losses."

Barkhurst also said Eroshevich and Kapoor "ignored all boundaries" of professional behavior by having social relationships with Smith. The prosecutor showed one picture of Eroshevich naked in a bathtub with Smith, and another of Kapoor kissing her neck.

"These doctors were not using their medical judgment. They abandoned their responsibility and abused their power to write prescriptions," he said.

Artist

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Probably the most tedious part of the whole get up is actually getting marked for hook placement," Pongratz said. "Depending on what body type you have and a lot of other different elements, it's tedious to find perfect hook placement for perfect weight distribution. After you're pierced, you start rigging."

The rigging process involves connecting the suspender to the system and hoisting up the participants. There are many different types of suspension such as hanging from your back or stomach and is referred to as "the Superman." Because of the piercings and the necessity of the body's healing process, suspension is not an activity that is done on a regular basis.

"Most of the basic suspensions can be done more than the others," Pongratz said. "If you were to pierce your back and do a suicide, you can only do that once a month."

The more complex versions

of suspension, such as hooks connecting to the skin on knees, require three months to heal before you can do it again.

With temporary piercings and hooks in your flesh, most would assume that the process of suspension is painful.

"From the time you're pierced to the time that you hang, you want to cut that down as much as possible because the longer you let the hooks sit the more it hurts when you hang," Pongratz said. "But after a while you become numb to the hooks and it doesn't hurt as bad."

Some people participate in suspension because of the pain.

"Suspensions aren't always painful. Yes, it is very intense, but overcoming this sensation is all a part of the ritual," Falkner said. "Being able to accomplish what seems unbelievable is one of the draws. Getting the rush and the high that accompanies it is another. I think for many first-timers it has more to do with the conquering of fear."

Suspension is not an art form that should be taken lightly, he said. It is a dangerous activity that

takes a lot of hard work and preparation to accomplish. Although suspension is a growing art and more and more people are becoming involved, there are precautions that need to be taken.

"What I really want is for people to be safe," Falkner said. "Suspension is a dangerous activity. I am a proponent of safety, not necessarily of doing suspensions. It's a choice that people should be allowed to make on their own."

Pongratz said many opportunities to get involved in suspension exist, and there are many different people and programs willing to help.

"Suspension.org is a really good website for anyone who wants to

become informed," Pongratz said. "It has names of people all over the country and how you can get in contact with them."

Suspension is not for the faint of heart. The suspension community is a group of dedicated, hard-working people with a passion for what they do.

"Yes, suspension does attract thrill-seekers and people wanting to get involved to make themselves seem cool," Falkner said. "But those who remain in the suspension community and continue to hang will tell you that they get a lot out of suspension. If nothing else, hanging from hooks is a very empowering experience."

►mamie.brown@ttu.edu

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

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By Jeff Chen

10/5/10

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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JELLYSHOES WHAT
AVIA TRIP ANA
SANDWICH ISLANDS
ODE EMCIE UNCLE
NED SPURS STEER

32 Electrician, at times
33 Steer catcher
35 The "m" in E = mc²
39 Broadway filler
40 Nonstick spray
41 "I just flew in, and boy are my arms tired!" e.g.
46 Tree feller
47 Snarfs, as traffic
51 Scrambled fare
52 Makes eyes at
53 Giraffe's trademark
54 Fed. workplace watchdog
55 Cookbook verb
56 Actress Skye
57 "Living" payment
58 Hobbie
59 Salingor heroine
60 "Pygmalion" playwright
63 Season opener?

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Lady Raiders begin official practice sessions

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
SPORTS EDITOR

The way junior Jordan Barncastle described things, one could have thought the Texas Tech Lady Raider basketball team had just finished up a regular season game.

However, the 6-foot-2-inch forward was not describing a game, but practice — the first official practice session of the 2010-11 season.

"It was great, motivation was there; the energy was awesome," Barncastle said of the practice's tempo. "I think it's the best first day we've had since I've been here, at least. Coming off of a very good offseason, everybody worked hard."

Barncastle and the Lady Raiders began official practices Monday, the first of 30 practice sessions the NCAA is now allowing schools to have, which may begin 40 days from the team's first day of competition.

In Tech's case, its road and regular-season opener against New Mexico Nov. 12 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Tech coach Kristy Curry, however, hasn't wasted time getting her team some playing time in a game environment.

Curry and the Lady Raiders traveled to Canada in August, playing against Canadian opposition during the preseason. Tech went 4-0 during its trip, beating Vancouver Select, the University of British Columbia, the University of the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island University, in that order.

So, Curry doesn't overlook the impact her team's performance in Canada may have going into the beginning stages of official practices.

"Definitely, I think that probably played a big part," Curry

said. "It gave us a jump start; five practices with the freshmen and 10 overall. It's really given us a chance to spend some time on the court and put in a few things ahead of time. So that's probably played a big part. The most that I enjoyed was the pace that they went about things."

"So, even with some mistakes, the pace was good, game speed was good."

In addition to the preseason success, Curry also has a completely healthy team at her disposal. At least for now she does.

Last year, the Lady Raiders had to cope with the losses of post players Teena Wickett and Shauntal Nobles, who both sat out the entire season due to injury.

A Lady Raider team at 100 percent will provide for extra fouls and allow for more breaks for the starters, a luxury the team lacked last year.

"It's a blessing; it's the first time in my career at Tech that we've had that. We've had a different kind of issue and lost a major contributor — or a couple, all four years," Curry said of her team's occurrence with injuries during her time at Tech. "Just knock on wood and pray that we can stay healthy. Obviously, our post depth, being able to have 10 to 15 extra fouls; our quickness on the perimeter."

Along with Wickett and Nobles, the team also welcomes the arrival of freshmen Antiesha Brown, Haley Schneider, Kelsi Baker and Ebony Walker, along with transfer Casey Morris, who was on the team last year but had to sit out due to NCAA transfer rules.

But Barncastle believes it is not the team's health and new additions that will set this group apart from those of the past.

"The work ethic is just there this year, which I think, not to



TECH HEAD COACH Kristy Curry coaches during a game in the United Spirit Arena last year. The Lady Raiders began official practice Monday.

down previous years, but I think that's what sets us apart from other teams I've been a part of so far," Barncastle said. "Now you don't stand out if you are giving great effort, you stand out if you're not, which is a nice, nice change."

Work ethic is exactly what the Lady Raiders will need if they

want to have a better finish this season than they did last year. Tech may arguably be in the best conference in the country, with Baylor, Oklahoma, Texas A&M and Texas all earning spots in the top 25, according to Athlon's, Sporting News and Lindy's rankings.

Iowa State also was ranked ac-

ording to Athlon's and Sporting News, while Nebraska earned a spot in Athlon's rankings.

But conference play remains a ways out.

The Lady Raiders open up Big 12 play against Kansas Jan. 8 in Lawrence, Kan. So Morris and her teammates plan on being well

prepared for when that day comes. "Everybody might be a little anxious, I think," Morris said. "I mean, of course that's going to happen. I think the best thing would be to take our time. Learn from our mistakes before we get into the real games that count."

>>jose.l.rodriguez@ttu.edu

Nigel de Jong cut by Netherlands for tackle

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Nigel de Jong was cut from the Netherlands roster by coach Bert van Marwijk on Monday after the Manchester City midfielder broke an opponent's leg with a tackle for the second time in seven months.

De Jong's tackle Sunday left Newcastle winger Hatem Ben Arfa with two broken bones in his left leg. On March 3, De Jong broke the right leg of midfielder Stuart Holden with a tackle during an exhibition against the United States.

In addition, De Jong had a karate kick to the chest of Spanish midfielder Xabi Alonso during the

World Cup final in July.

"It's the coach's decision whether they decide to bring him in or not," Holden said after training with the U.S. ahead of Saturday's exhibition against Poland in Chicago. "Each player has a different style. You try and pay attention to things like that and yet you try not to be reckless. You try to keep yourself on the pitch, which is, obviously, the most important thing in soccer."

Van Marwijk said he saw "no alternative" but to drop De Jong from his roster for upcoming European Championship qualifiers against Moldova and Sweden.

"I will shortly speak to Nigel again,

but now I am concentrating with the players and staff on the two important qualifiers coming up," Van Marwijk said in a statement released by the Royal Dutch Football Association.

Van Marwijk told Dutch daily Algemeen Dagblad that the tackle was "unnecessary and wild," adding that he has "a problem with the way Nigel needlessly looks to push the limit."

Holden was sidelined until May 9 following surgery to insert a plate to cover the fracture in his right fibia.

"That's in the past for me," Holden said. "Obviously, it was a setback in my career, but I've moved on from that."

Ben Arfa, on loan from Marseille, is expected to be out for a prolonged spell after X-rays revealed a broken tibia and fibula sustained in the third minute of Sunday's match, which City won 2-1. The forward had surgery at Manchester Royal Infirmary on Monday. Newcastle said the operation was a success but it was not possible to confirm how long Ben Arfa would be out for.

Referee Martin Atkinson did not call a foul on the play or give De Jong a card.

Roethlisberger, Cushing, Holmes return to teams after suspensions

Ben Roethlisberger and Santonio Holmes have something else in common aside from their touchdown that won the 2009 Super Bowl. Both came off four-game NFL suspensions Monday.

Roethlisberger returned to the Pittsburgh Steelers, while Holmes is back with the New York Jets. They are among seven players whose bans ended, including last season's top defensive rookie, Brian Cushing of the Houston Texans.

"I couldn't wait to get here," Roethlisberger said on his first day back with the team he led to titles after the 2005 and 2008 seasons.

Cushing was one of three linebackers suspended for performance-enhancing drugs, along with Gerald McRath of the Tennessee Titans and Robert James of the Atlanta Falcons.

Wide receiver Holmes, traded by Pittsburgh to the Jets in the offseason, Bills tight end Shawn Nelson and Broncos running back LenDale

White were sidelined for substance abuse. White is on injured reserve and out for the season.

Roethlisberger was accused of, but not charged with, sexually assaulting a Georgia college student following a night of drinking in a college bar March 5. Despite not being charged, he was suspended under the NFL's personal conduct policy.

He spent his Sundays watching the Steelers on TV and feeling like, well, a helpless fan.

"I have no fingernails left," he said. "It was hard, it really was, to watch them at home. I was on the edge of my chair, trying to keep busy. It was tough, but it was fun watching them win."

The Steelers have started 3-1 and are tied atop the AFC North with Baltimore, which won at Pittsburgh 17-14 on Sunday.

Also at 3-1 are the Texans without Cushing, the Jets minus Holmes, and the Falcons without James.

Cushing was not available for comment Monday, but will practice Wednesday

and play on Sunday against the Giants, coach Gary Kubiak said. Cushing will go through an individual workout Tuesday.

Cushing was suspended in May for testing positive for HCG, a fertility drug that's on the NFL's banned substances list. HCG can be used to mask steroid use.

He started every game at outside linebacker last season, making 133 tackles.

"First off, I don't worry about him working," Kubiak said. "I know he's a worker and been putting himself through everything he can possibly put himself through without playing a game. You know, there is a level of sharpness, just from not playing, not taking all the snaps. Everybody on the team is about 250 snaps ahead of him right now in an NFL season. But he's proven that he can play missing practice; he did that last year."

Holmes, whose spectacular catch in the back of the end zone against Arizona won the Super Bowl for Pittsburgh in February 2009, was projected as the Jets' top deep threat when he was acquired.

Texas' Hamilton excited to face Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — When Josh Hamilton was drafted No. 1 overall by Tampa Bay, he envisioned himself some day making his playoff debut at Tropicana Field. The major league batting champion just never imagined he'd do in a different uniform.

"It's kind of weird a little bit, it just really is, to think about playing the Rays," Hamilton said Monday when his Texas Rangers worked out in preparation for their first-round series against the

AL East champions.

"When I was here, obviously the organization wasn't like it is now. But it's a good thing to see some of the guys I played with, see how well they're doing. See how well the organization is doing. It's just cool."

Labeled a can't-miss prospect when Tampa Bay made him the first pick in the 1999 amateur draft, Hamilton failed to realize his potential with the club because of injuries and a drug suspension that derailed his career.

He had not played professionally for more than three years when Cincinnati selected him in the Rule 5 draft at the winter meetings in December 2006. He spent one season with the Reds before being traded to Texas, where he's blossomed into a

three-time All-Star.

The 29-year-old slugger hit .359 with 32 homers and 100 RBIs this season for the AL West champions despite missing 24 games down the stretch because of two broken ribs. He returned to the lineup for the final three games and said he doesn't anticipate the injury being a problem in the playoffs.

"Woke up this morning really, really, really sore. As I've gone through the day things have kind of loosened up again. Just got to do what I've got to do to prepare. Get that soreness out and play the game," Hamilton said. "Nothing out of the ordinary. It takes a long time for these things to heal, and that's with no activity."

Today's
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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.

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

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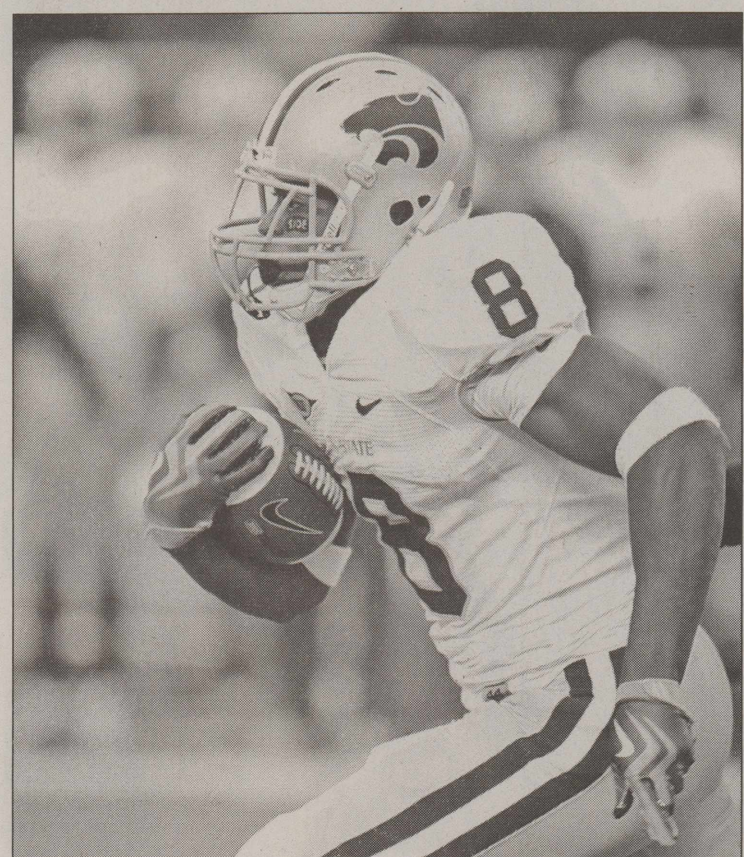
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Big 12 North contenders set to square off



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

DANIEL THOMAS AND the Kansas State Wildcats will look to knock off Big 12 North favorite Nebraska Thursday in Manhattan, Kan. Thomas is the Big 12's leading returning rusher.

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Nebraska was a unanimous pick to win the Big 12 North this season, the Cornhuskers' last in the league before they head to the Big Ten.

The road to the championship might be tougher than originally thought.

Missouri is unbeaten and ranked No. 24 after a shake-up in the polls. Kansas State hasn't lost either, and Colorado is 3-1 after beating Georgia 29-27 on Saturday.

Those teams will all get a chance to make a move in the North this week. No. 7 Nebraska (4-0) travels to Kansas State (4-0, 1-0 Big 12) on Thursday night in a big divisional game and the Pac-10-bound Buffaloes make their final conference trip to Missouri (4-0) on Saturday.

Though the Huskers have won five straight over Kansas State, the Wildcats are 4-0 for the first time since 2003 and will have an electric crowd behind them.

"They beat UCLA and they're undefeated and they're obviously well coached," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said of Kansas State. "As the season goes on, people are going to see that they're a really good football team."

Nebraska passed its only test against a fellow BCS school so far, throttling Washington 56-21 on the road. Now the Huskers kick off their Big 12 farewell tour

in Manhattan against one of the many rivals they'll be leaving behind.

Kansas State hasn't exactly wowed anyone with their unbeaten start, which includes a 17-13 comeback win over Central Florida on Sept. 25. A win over Nebraska would give them an early edge in the North race.

To do that, the Wildcats will have to stop an offense that's averaging 7.66 yards per play, fourth-best in the country.

Nebraska freshman quarterback Taylor Martinez has already rushed for 495 yards while completing nearly 60 percent of his pass attempts.

"Martinez has given them an added dimension," Kansas State coach Bill Snyder said. "It is more and more difficult to defend all that they have in their playbook now, and understanding that there's more there that we haven't seen."

Missouri, which was expected to be Nebraska's main challenger in the North, is still a bit of an unknown despite its perfect record.

The Tigers beat Illinois in the opener and predictably pounded McNeese State and Miami (Ohio). But they nearly fell at home to San Diego State their last time out, winning 27-24 on Blaine Gabbert's 68-yard touchdown pass to T.J. Moe with just 51 seconds left.

AROUND THE BIG 12



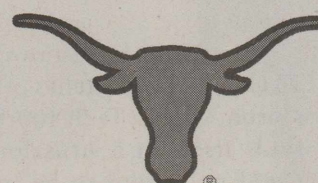
Baylor: Robert Griffin III and Baylor keep rolling along. The Bears dismantled Kansas 55-7 in their conference opener. Baylor is a one-loss team, with its only one coming against top-five TCU. While sophomore quarterback Griffin and the offense garner the accolades (Griffin was named the conference's offensive player of the week Monday), the defense has been superb in the four wins. They're averaging 14.8 points against per game, and that's including the 45 the Horned Frogs hung on them.

Kansas: After the blowout in Waco, it might be time to stop calling the Jayhawks a Jekyll and Hyde team and just call them bad. The week two win against Georgia Tech is a distant memory for Kansas, who is a solid 100th in FBS in points scored. Their new head man Turner Gill has mandated players turn in their cell phones on game day and won't allow his players to have female guests after 10 p.m. any night of the week. If the Jayhawks keep this form up, though, everyone will be in need of a good distraction.



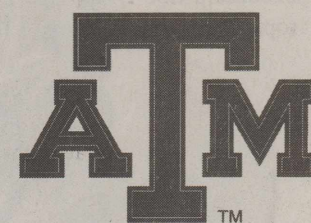
Oklahoma: The Sooners beat their hated rival Texas 28-20 in Dallas Saturday, and are the highest-ranked Big 12 squad in this week's AP poll. It hasn't always been pretty for the Sooners with all but one of their wins coming by eight points or fewer. They host Iowa State Saturday night.

Texas: The Longhorns are off this weekend for a much-needed bye week. Their game Oct. 16 is at Nebraska, and the Horns are in danger of losing three straight for the first time this decade. If that's not enough, Texas fell out of the AP poll this week, so they'll enter next week's match unranked for the first time since 2000.



Oklahoma State: It wasn't easy, but Oklahoma State notched their first conference win with a Thursday night triumph over Texas A&M on a last-second field goal. Oklahoma State is averaging 52.3 points a game, second most in the country, with former Tech coordinator Dana Holgorsen running the offense. They go out of conference to play Louisiana-Lafayette (remember them from earlier?) this weekend before making the trip to Jones AT&T Stadium Oct. 16.

Texas A&M: The Aggies have plenty of mistakes to correct after the loss to the Cowboys. Jerrod Johnson tossed five touchdowns, but also threw four picks in the Thursday night contest. He also lost a fumble that helped Oklahoma State claw their way back in the game. The Aggie defense was as solid as can be while allowing 38 points, forcing three turnovers and holding the Pokes' high-flying offense to 351 total yards.



Colorado: The Buffs are off to a 3-1 start, which is most surprising to their fans. They rushed the field after the 29-27 win against Georgia Saturday. That would be respectable, except for the fact that Georgia is 1-4 this year, beating Louisiana-Lafayette for their only win of the year. This weekend they'll take on a Missouri team that is now ranked No. 24 after a week off.

COMPILED BY JON ARNOLD/The Daily Toreador

Middlebrook's 1st case is Bowyer appeal

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — John Middlebrook probably didn't expect to become the central figure in a drama with championship implications when he agreed to become NASCAR's chief appellate officer.

He'd yet to be called upon since his appointment in February to the

position that's selected by NASCAR's board of directors and draws a salary of a whopping \$1 per year. Now he's finally got a case, and it's a doozy.

Middlebrook will be the judge and jury Tuesday in Richard Childress Racing's last avenue to have the champ-

ionship-crippling penalty against Clint

Bowyer overturned. NASCAR docked Bowyer 150 points because the car he drove to victory Sept. 19 at New Hampshire failed inspection, and a three-member appeals panel last week upheld the penalty.

"I bet he never thought he'd even get a case when he agreed to take the job,"

joked Jimmy Makar, vice president of Joe Gibbs Racing.

Middlebrook, who retired after 49 years with General Motors in 2008, was hand-picked before this season to replace Charles Strang, who held the position of NASCAR's "National Commissioner" for as long as anyone can remember.

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IN A TOUGH POSITION

ISU loss puts Tech in uneasy spot with Griffin, Baylor coming up

By **MIKE GRAHAM**
STAFF WRITER

After losing its first two Big 12 Conference matches of the season, Texas Tech football finds itself in a situation it could not afford to be in so early.

Following the Iowa State loss, suddenly and maybe prematurely, the Red Raiders' chances for bowl eligibility have become a hot topic of debate.

"We are going into this game thinking our backs are up against the wall, and we have to change something," quarterback Taylor Potts said of the upcoming game against Baylor. "We're not to the point where we're like, 'Hey, we know we're good, we are all right, let's just keep pushing, we are confident that we can get it done.' We are going into the game thinking we need to start winning some games."

"There's a time when you start thinking you have to get it done, and I think that's where we are. It's time for us to show everybody who we really are."

Tech's game against Baylor, which probably would have been predicted as an easy win for the Red Raiders before the season began, has become a game that is much in doubt almost overnight.

For starters, Baylor is coming off a big conference victory against Kansas Saturday in Waco, 55-7.

Secondly, Baylor has played the Red Raiders close in its past two meetings against 11-win and nine-win Tech teams, respectively.

And finally, Baylor boasts a quarterback Tech head coach Tommy Tuberville compares to the Philadelphia Eagles' Michael Vick in terms of ability on the football field.

"This guy is Michael Vick, and again, this is the first time I have ever watched him consistently," he said. "I have gone back and looked at the film from previous games, before he had the injury, and he is big, he is elusive and the thing he has done is really improve his passing."

ROBERT GRIFFIN III

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- 44 rushes
- 1,351 yards passing
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- 8 rushes
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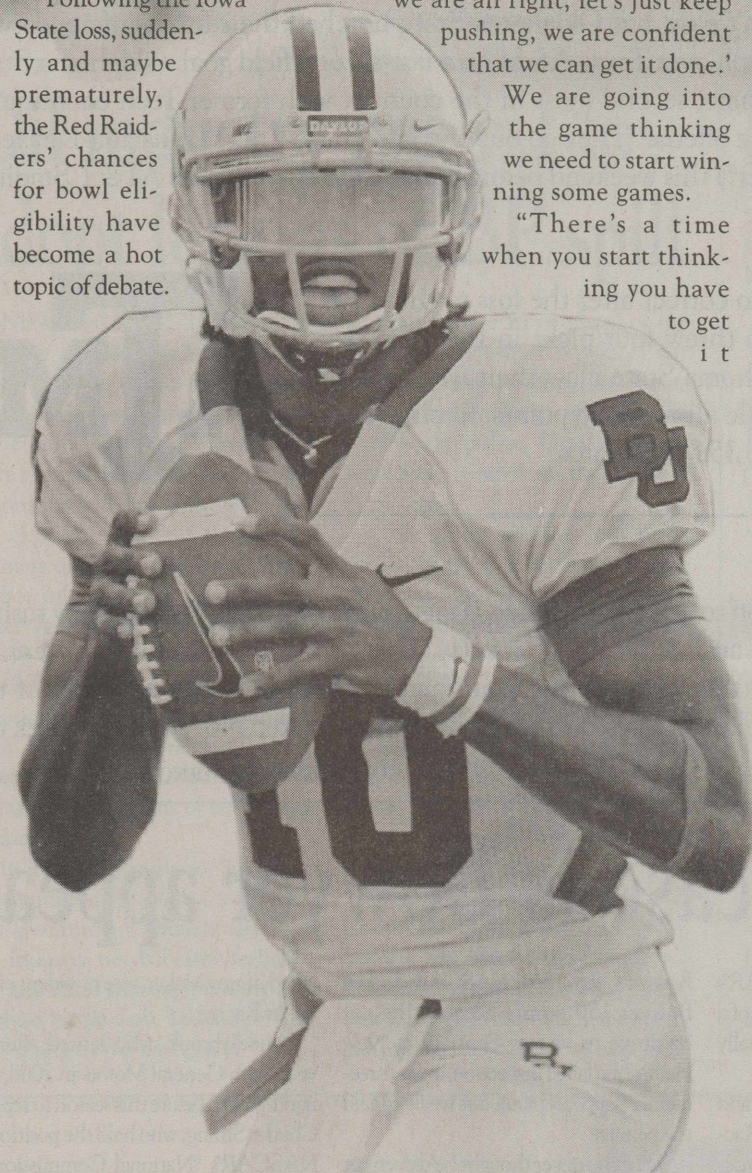


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FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

Baron Batch and Eric Stephens, who had 58 and 57 yards, respectively.

"With the loss, it's hard to see positive light from a loss, but we did finally get it going on the ground and

through the air," Stephens said. "We started off kind of slow, but we got it together as the game went along. So, hopefully we can come out and start a little faster this week."

Defensively, Tuberville said, the coaching staff could have called a better game, and the players were capable of playing a better game against Iowa State.

Everything will have to come together immediately for Tech to top Baylor, and getting a win against the Bears is especially important with Oklahoma State, Colorado and Texas A&M on tap later in the month.

"We have a lot of work to do, and we have a tough road," Tuberville said. "Things don't get any easier, and we wouldn't expect it to. We want to go

out and make sure our guys continue to keep their concentration and get better. I feel like they are making progress."

» michael.graham@ttu.edu

"We are going into this game thinking our backs are up against the wall, and we have to change something."

TAYLOR POTTS
QUARTERBACK
TEXAS TECH

Mets fire Manuel and Minaya

NEW YORK (AP) — Mets chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon and his father Fred, the team's owner, sat side by side and spoke for nearly three-quarters of an hour about responsibility, cultural change and thinking outside the box to bring winning back to an organization that has won little recently.

A day after the Mets ended their second straight losing season, the Wilpons were eager to get their "family business" back on track. The first act: firing manager Jerry Manuel

and general manager Omar Minaya.

"We need to have some new ideas and some different thoughts on what we have here," Jeff Wilpon said Monday.

Now comes the hard part for an organization that repeatedly has stumbled: cleaning up the mess.

Starting the season with a \$133 million payroll, fifth-highest in baseball, the Mets finished 79-83, 18 games behind the Phillies in the NL East. There have been no playoff games in Queens since the Mets came one game short of going to the World Series in 2006, and Fred Wilpon is disgusted.

"The last four years have been the most painful to me, and probably the most disappointing in what is over 30 years (as owner)," he said.

The Mets plan to begin calling candidates right away to replace Minaya. The Wilpons have a habit of hiring from within — Minaya was their senior assistant GM before taking over the Montreal Expos — but not this time.

Assistant GM John Ricco was appointed head of baseball operations on an interim basis, and he will help get the process under way. Ricco said he will not be a candidate for the job and that he shouldn't be one. He indicated they had several people they would like to contact.

The new GM will then work with the team to hire a new manager. The coaches are under contract until Nov. 1.

"We will look for leadership

to reinvigorate this franchise by approaching things in a different manner," Jeff Wilpon said. "We need someone who will promote a winning culture through all levels of our organization."

Minaya had two years left on his deal, but he won't be staying on in another capacity — as of now.

"The fact is that it's not fair to give me another role," he said. "If you're going to bring in another GM — first of all, I don't think the GM would want to have me aboard and vice versa."

Speaking in the Mets' cleaned-out clubhouse, Minaya said the possibility of talks for a different job with the Mets were for a different day.

Fred Wilpon said he Jeff, and team president Saul Katz are not capable of making baseball decisions and the new general manager will have full autonomy.

But agents and team officials throughout baseball have said that Jeff meddles in player-related business.

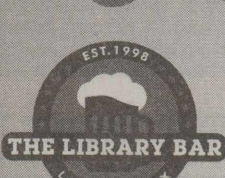
"Jeff's responsibility is not to pick baseball players," Fred said, while praising his work.

Manuel is the seventh manager this season to lose his job. The final guaranteed year of Manuel's contract expired, and the Mets declined to exercise the club's option on the deal.

Manuel, who finished with a 204-213 record in New York, was not available Monday.

<p>MONDAY FALL 2010 SINGER/SONWRITER CONTEST</p>	<p>THE BLUE LIGHT LIVE OCT 5-OCT 11 1806 BUDDY HOLLY LUBBOCK TX 79401 (806) 762 1185 THEBLUELIGHTLIVE.COM</p>	<p>THURSDAY TADDY PORTER</p>
<p>TUESDAY MASON REED & RED SHAHAN ACOUSTIC</p>	<p>FRIDAY HAYES CARLL</p>	<p>FRIDAY HAYES CARLL</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY BOXCAR BANDITS</p>	<p>SATURDAY WILLIAM CLARK GREEN</p>	<p>SATURDAY WILLIAM CLARK GREEN</p>

Tecate Tuesdays

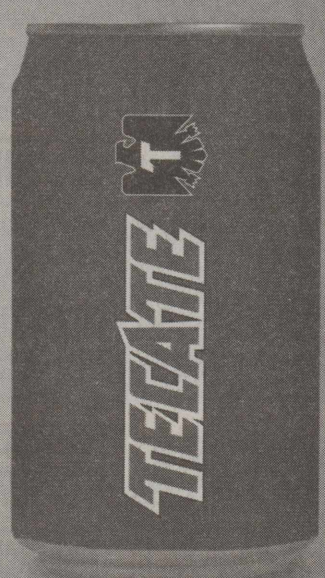


IT'S NOT BEER, IT'S CERVEZA AND THIS CERVEZA IS ONLY ONE DOLLAR

ALL NIGHT LONG, EVERY TUESDAY

plus!

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