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Muggle madness



PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador

SARAH CARTER, A second-year graduate student studying education from San Antonio, passes the quaffle to a teammate during a game of Quidditch on Sunday.

Students embrace game from Harry Potter books

By HALLIE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Even though his first season resulted in broken ribs, Alex Schultz returned to play this unorthodox sport again.

The junior mechanical engineering major from Houston loves Quidditch, the broom-and-ball sport straight out of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series.

"When people think of Quidditch, they think of flying," Schultz said. "They think running around with a broom is pretty goofy—and it is, but it can get aggressive."

At the Texas A&M tournament last year, Schultz said, a player had to be taken off the field on a stretcher. It's a full-contact sport.

"When we get up to full speed, we don't mess around," Conner Davis, the Tech Quidditch president said.

MUGGLE continued on Page 5 >>

MUGGLE QUIDDITCH: THE ESSENTIALS

After you gather 15 willing players (chasers, a keeper, a seeker and beaters), here are the essentials to enjoy an exciting game of Muggle Quidditch - and the magical counterparts.

Hogwarts Version

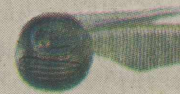
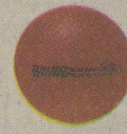
Muggle Edition



1 Quaffle
The ball passed between chasers then thrown into goal hoops.



2 Bludgers
Small balls hurled at chasers meant to throw them off their game.



1 Snitch
At Hogwarts, it's a fast, small golden ball the Seeker tries to catch. For us muggles, a fast runner will suffice.



Flying Broomsticks
OK — good luck with that one. But at the local grocery store inexpensive brooms you can hold between your legs aren't hard to find.



COMPILED BY CARRIE THORNTON/The Daily Toreador



PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador

STEPHEN WETTERAU, A junior electrical engineering major from Lake Travis, runs with the quaffle to score on the opposing team during a game of Quidditch on Sunday.

Playing Spoiler, Page 6



PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador

Despite its losing record in the Big 12, the Texas Tech football team still has a hand in the outcome of the conference as it prepares for OU. SPORTS, Page 6

Graduate student discusses research at GSA meeting

Alien-like creatures are focus of Peavey's research

By BRIAN HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

A graduate student in the department of geosciences recently discussed her ongoing research into conodonts, alien-like creatures that inhabited the Silurian Seas hundreds of millions of years ago, at the Geological Society of America Meeting in Denver last week.

Nicole Peavey, a Tech graduate student researching conodonts as part of her dissertation, said conodonts were first described in 1856, but there is still much more to be learned about these creatures.

"For more than a century, conodonts were only known as tiny, tooth-like, hard structures, few more than a millimeter long, which were found in marine rocks left by ancient oceans from between the Cambrian and the Triassic, about 500 to 200 million years ago," she said. "Because they were so variable, and because the same kinds could be found in many parts of the world in rocks of about the same age, they were and are widely used for what is called correlation, or matching rocks of the same age within and between continents."



IMAGE COURTESY OF CARR STUDIOS
A CONODONT, AS shown in this computerized illustration, is an alien-like creature that once inhabited the Silurian Seas and can be used to match rocks of the same age on different continents.

While their fossils proved worthy in the dating of rocks, Peavey said, it wasn't until the 1980s that scientists began to take a closer look at the conodont.

"During the '80s, a few 'soft-body' fossils were found that contained sets of conodont elements, the tooth-like fossils, right around the head region, which confirmed most researchers' ideas that the elements functioned like teeth," she said. "It also showed that at least some conodonts were small, eel-like animals that are related to the very earliest vertebrates, or animals with backbones."

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OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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THE DAILY TOREADOR

Community Calendar

TODAY

Landscape as Knowledge Lecture: Reynolds and Laramée
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Where: English building, Room LH001
So, what is it?
 Ann Reynolds is an associate professor of art history at the University of Texas, and Eve Andree Laramée is a professor of interdisciplinary sculpture at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Convergence: Korean Prints Now
Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Landmark Art Gallery in art building
So, what is it?
 Come see an exhibit displaying digital prints, photography, installation and video art, as well as traditional printmaking techniques by 29 contemporary artists of Korean descent.

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.

WEDNESDAY

Free Car Clinic and Bike Check
Time: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: C17 Parking Lot
So, what is it?
 Broadway Bikes, Bike Tech and Scott's Complete Car Care will be on site to check fluids, tires, belts and other car essentials as well as provide free bike inspections and more to make sure you are in tip-top shape before heading home for Thanksgiving.

Microwave Cooking with Chef Dewey McMurrey
Time: 6 p.m.
Where: Murray Hall main lobby
So, what is it?
 Learn to cook a full microwave meal with Tech's executive sous-chef Dewey McMurrey.

35 accused of transporting drugs from Juarez to Denver

DENVER (AP) — Gang members, a retired Denver firefighter and a college team coach were among 35 people accused of transporting more than 40 pounds of cocaine from Mexico to the Denver area every week, federal officials said Monday.

Officials said the drug ring's source was the Sinaloa cartel, which is in a bloody turf war with the Juarez cartel in Ciudad Juarez, a northern Mexican border city. At least 20 people died in drug-gang violence over the weekend there.

Despite the international supplier, authorities described the operation as "homegrown," with all 35 defendants involved in distributing cocaine in the Denver area. They said cocaine was transported in secret panels in vehicles that traveled into Colorado on Interstate 25.

"If you purchased cocaine in the Denver area in the last two years,

it's a very good probability that you purchased it from this supply chain," said Aurora Police Chief Dan Oates, whose department is part of a multi-agency drug task force that broke up the ring.

Of the 35 people named in the indictment, 23 were arrested Friday without incident in Colorado. Others taken into custody include two in El Paso, one in Illinois, one in Alabama and one in Nevada. One person was already in custody and six people remain at large.

Those arrested included street gang members, as well as a retired Denver firefighter and an assistant baseball coach at Regis University. The defendants face up to life in prison if convicted on the drug charges.

"It's beyond surprise," U.S. Attorney John Walsh said of those arrested. "But we take the evidence where the evidence leads us."



PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador
 CATHERINE CALVERT AND Blake Whitmire on the violin perform with Brady Meyer on the cello and Tam Duong on the viola during a performance of Quartet No. 11 in F Minor on Monday during the String Honors Recital in the Hemmle Recital Hall.

Tech student creates leasing website for Lubbock

By LISA HYNDMAN
 STAFF WRITER

Taylor Fisher, a marketing major from Dallas, started his own website called Lease and Sublease LBK to help Texas Tech students look for leases and subleases in the Lubbock area.

"My business is a college real-estate website designed for the Texas Tech student," Fisher said.

Lease and Sublease LBK is a one-stop website for students to find and post leases and subleases for apartments or houses around campus.

Fisher said he came up with the idea for the website when he and his roommate were searching on the Internet for someone to sublease their house.

"We wanted an easier way to sublease our house over the summer," he said.

Fisher said he will soon be adding Facebook integration to the site. With this integration, students will be able to log in to Lease and Sublease LBK with their Facebook username and password, where they can then post pictures and see other students interested in their posting.

"I want to bring a more per-

sonal piece to knowing renters," Fisher said.

Fisher said he noticed other apartment leasing websites lacked a personal connection to customers while providing needs. With the Facebook integration, the business can now create the personal experience customers are missing with other websites.

"The ultimate goal for the website is to have every Tech student using the site for all their leasing, subleasing, renting needs," he said.

Jake Matthews, a senior public relations major from Midland, said he had a hard time finding a house to live in while going to school.

"It would have been nice to have this website when I was shopping for a house three years ago," he said.

If the business takes off in Lubbock, Fisher said he wants to expand to other college towns such as College Station and San Marcos. Overall, he hopes the site will go nationwide, helping all college students with real estate needs.

Fisher has received help from a real estate agent, Tony Pasek, to help find houses for students to rent. He also has a web designer, Zack Esgar, who designed his website for him.

After promoting, advertising and selling for the business, Fisher still needs to find time to attend class, something he said is not easy.

"Being a full-time student and a business owner definitely takes its toll," he said. "I don't sleep very much."

But, if you think you can do it, and you have the drive to get something done, then anyone

can do it." Luke Thorburn, a junior finance major from Dallas, has been Fisher's roommate for the past year and has learned a lot about Fisher's work ethic.

"Taylor is a laid-back guy with a real, stone drive to succeed," Thorburn said. "He's a hard worker with a lot of drive."

Fisher said after work and school, he still finds time to go out with friends, play intramural sports and even stay active in the community.

"I somehow find time to go out," he said. "I give myself the privilege to go out when I work hard and get things done."

Fisher said growing up in New York City helped him realize the market potential for business in Texas.

"I have a different view on things environment- and cultural-wise, and I see my blank canvas to make Lubbock a better place to live," he said.

Fisher said eventually he would like to open restaurants and other businesses in Lubbock to help diversify the city.

"I am an avid entrepreneur always looking for new opportunities and new markets to fill," he said.

— lisa.r.hyndman@ttu.edu

"It would have been nice to have this website when I was shopping for a house three years ago."

TAYLOR FISHER
 MARKETING MAJOR
 FROM DALLAS

Brawlers beat random stranger to death

DOUGLASVILLE, Ga. (AP) — It began with a brawl outside a house party. A woman hit a man, and the man refused to strike back, saying he wouldn't hit a girl. Instead, he vowed to attack the next male who walked by, even if that person was a random stranger.

That's when 18-year-old Bobby Tillman happened to approach a group of four partygoers. Authorities said they swiftly stomped, kicked and punched him to death while dozens of bystanders watched.

"He had nothing to do with anything," said Maj. Tommy Wheeler of the Douglas County Sheriff's Department. "They just decided he's the one. And they killed him."

The party Saturday night was supposed to be a small gathering of about 10 friends of a high school girl who lived in this middle-class suburb west of Atlanta. It soon grew to an unruly crowd of about 80 people after word spread by e-mail and text message.

As the crowd grew, the girl's parents asked the partygoers to leave. But the party just spilled into the street, and neighbors became frustrated by the number of parked cars.

That's when a fight broke out between two females and two males, and one of the females hit a male, Wheeler said.

Then, in a case of twisted chivalry, the man decided he would not retaliate — but vowed to beat up the next man who passed by, investigators said.

Tillman, who had apparently come for the party but attended a different high school than most of the other young people, unwittingly became the target.

"It just got out of hand," said Cherola Butler, who lives across from the rented white house that hosted the party. "I couldn't sleep that night. It's just so hard to believe that something like this can happen so close to your house. I just hate that it happened. It could have been my daughter out there."

Dozens of witnesses were taken to the sheriff's office for questioning, and four people were arrested.

Tillman's mother, Monique Rivarde, couldn't contain herself Monday during an initial hearing for the suspects, bursting into tears as soon as she set foot in the courtroom and wailing as prosecutors charged each

man with fatally beating her son.

"He was an angel here on Earth, and I was blessed to be his mother," Rivarde said. "My son did not die in vain. My son is a silent hero. He touched so many lives I didn't know about. Bobby was a ray of sunshine through every dark cloud that anyone had."



The four suspects were identified as Quantez Devonta Mallory, 18; Horace Damon Coleman, 19; Emanuel Benjamin Boykins, 18; and Tracen Lamar Franklin, 19. All were charged with murder Monday.

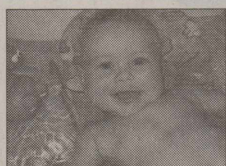

None of them had an attorney in the courtroom, but some of their relatives were frustrated they had not been able to contact the men since their arrests.

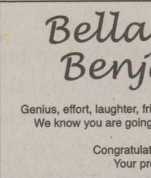


"They haven't even allowed me to call him," said Erica Hillery, Mallory's mother. "I feel real bad for the victim's parents, but I need to know what's going on. If he's 18 or 35, he's still my son."

The parents of the girl who threw the party did not answer their door Monday. Douglas County Sheriff Phil Miller did not expect them to face charges. He said no drugs or alcohol were found in the house.

Honor your RED RAIDER CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2010

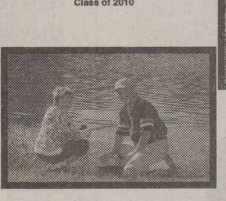
A.  **Augusta Yandall**

 Class of 2010
 Congratulations! We are so proud of you and we love you!
 — Mom & Dad
\$75 3.75" x 3"
 110 Characters

B.  **Tye Andrew Westerfeld**
 We adore you as a child and we are so proud of the man you have become. May you continue to grow from strength to strength with your wisdom, wit and tremendous love of life.

 Love,
 Mom, Dad, Danny, Chris, Mike, Russell & Beth
\$150 5.75" X 5"
 300 Characters

C.  **Bella "Boo" Benjamin**
 Genius, effort, laughter, friends, and a wonderful spirit. We know you are going to be a fantastic teacher!
 Congratulations and love, Your proud family


\$300 5.75" X 10.5"
 Up to 3 photos
 400 Characters

D.  **Jackson Oliver Sawyer**

 Class of 2010


 Jackson, Congratulations, we are so proud of all you have achieved and of the compassionate, caring man you have become. You are a loving, loyal son, brother and friend. Your journey is just beginning and we look forward to watching the next phase of your life.
 Our love always,
 Grand, Pop, Mom, Dad and your entire family
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PARTY POSE

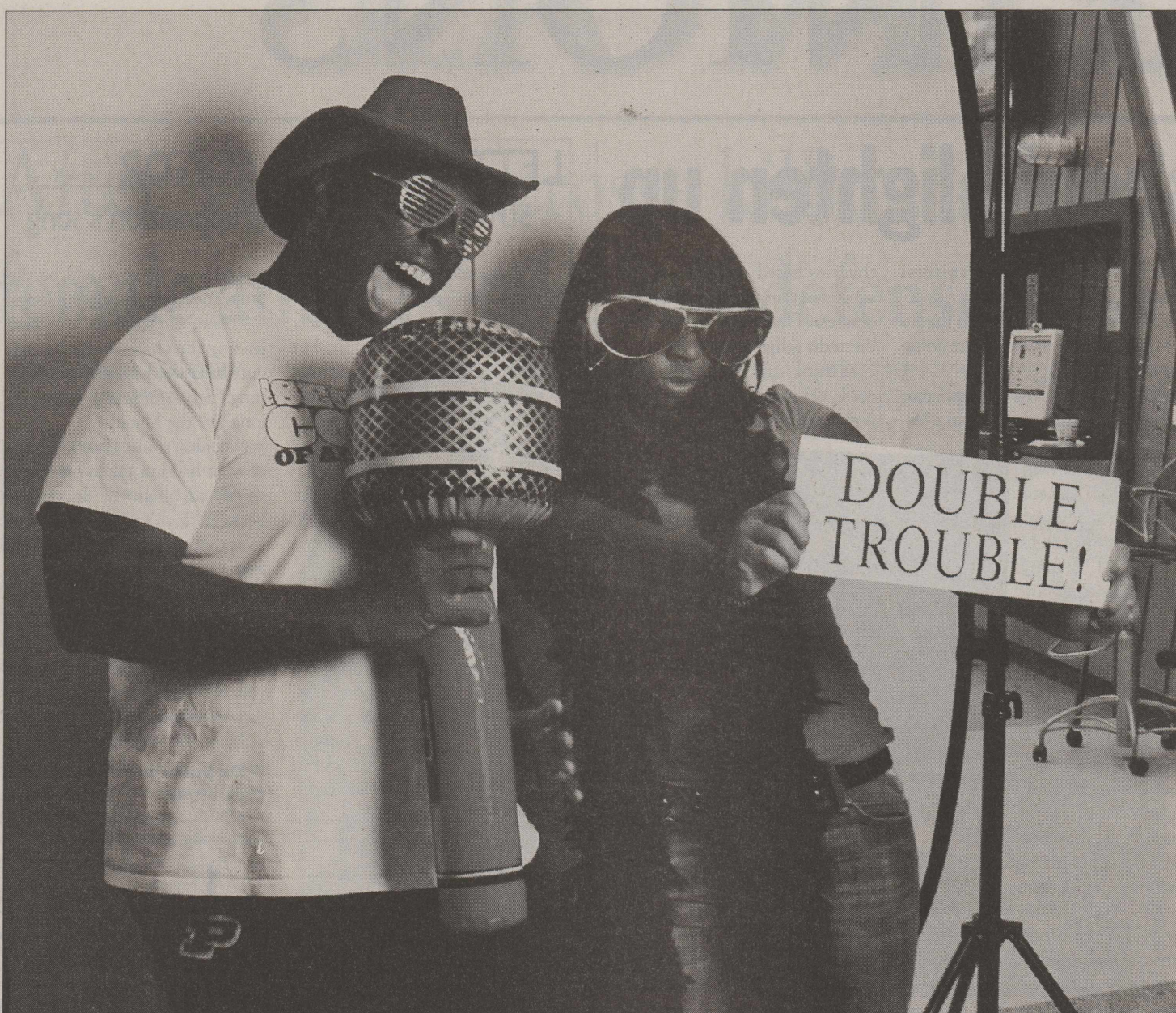


PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador
ADANNA ONYIA, A junior human development and family science pre-nursing major and Ernie Onyia, a senior petroleum engineering major, both from Katy, participate in a TAB event and pose for pictures to make a flip book on Monday in the Student Union Building.

Hearing set in Afghanistan 'thrill kill' case

SEATTLE (AP) — The soldiers who reported to Staff Sgt. Calvin Gibbs paint a monstrous picture: He killed Afghan civilians for sport, they say, and encouraged others to do the same. He collected fingers of the dead, plotted against his own men and found it amusing to slaughter animals with his assault rifle.

Gibbs will get a chance to contest that portrait Tuesday during a military hearing at Joint Base Lewis-McChord south of Seattle on charges that include murder, dereliction of duty and trying to impede an investigation.

The Article 32 hearing is similar to a civilian grand jury proceeding, with a military judge looking into charges to see if there is enough evidence to send the case to a court martial.

Gibbs insists all of the deaths were appropriate engagements, according to his lawyer, Phillip Stackhouse, who declined to comment further.

The 25-year-old from Billings, Mont., is the highest-ranking of five soldiers charged in the murders of three civilians during patrols in Kandahar Province this year in what has emerged as one of the most gruesome cases of the Afghan war.

"He liked to kill," said Spc. Adam Winfield, who said he tried to blow the whistle on the alleged murder plot before taking part in the final killing. "He manipulated a lot of us into doing what he wanted us to do."

Gibbs arrived in the platoon late last year and soon began telling his subordinates how easy it would be to kill civilians, some soldiers told investigators in statements reviewed by the AP.

Gibbs reportedly spoke of getting away with killing a family when he served in Iraq — a claim investigators are still looking into.

He devised scenarios under which he could kill Afghan civilians, the soldiers said, suggesting in one case

that if he and his men came across someone in a village flagged as Taliban-influenced, they could toss a grenade and claim they had been responding to a threat.

Gibbs also illicitly collected weapons — including an AK-47 and a rocket-propelled grenade — which he could plant on the bodies of dead civilians to make them appear to be combatants, the soldiers said.

In addition to the killings, Gibbs and some of his men fired at — but missed — two unarmed farmers during a patrol in late March, investigators were told.

Gibbs falsely reported that they shot at three combatants, one armed with a rocket launcher, according to Staff Sgt. Robert G. Stevens, of Portland, Ore., who said he took part in the attack but tried to miss the farmers.

"I was extremely thankful to find out that we had not killed or wounded either of those two indi-

viduals, and I regret not trying to stop Staff Sgt. Gibbs from trying to kill innocent people," he said in a sworn statement.

Stevens, Gibbs and four other soldiers are charged with conspiring to commit aggravated assault in that incident.

The probe of the killings started after a witness in a drug investigation, Pvt. 1st Class Justin Stoner, reported being badly beaten by a group of soldiers led by Gibbs.

Stoner said Gibbs and the other central figure in the case, Spc. Jeremy Morlock, of Wasilla, Alaska, later returned to his room, where Gibbs laid a set of severed fingers on the floor as Morlock warned him not to rat.

"I believe he has no regard for any life in general," Stoner said of Gibbs. "I have watched him slaughter animals with his M-4 and finding it amusing is just completely wrong."

WORLD EVENTS IN BRIEF

Amanda Knox indicted on slander charges in Italy

PERUGIA, Italy (AP) — Former University of Washington student Amanda Knox has been indicted on slander charges in Italy for claiming she was beaten by police when questioned in 2007 about her roommate's slaying.

The judge made the decision after a closed-door hearing Monday in

Perugia (peh-ROO'-juh).

Knox's lawyer says the 23-year-old Seattle woman told the judge that she never meant to slander anybody and she was just trying to defend herself.

She is serving a 26-year prison term on her conviction in the death of British student Meredith Kercher.

Int'l monitors: Uneven field in Azeri vote

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — International vote monitors say there was an uneven playing field in Azerbaijan's parliamentary elections.

With more than 90 percent of the vote counted, the ruling party looks set to win Sunday's vote, marking an expected victory for President Ilham Aliyev.

Monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe declared

Monday that despite the vote being well organized technically, voters were denied all the necessary information on candidates to make an informed choice.

Opponents say they were denied a fair shot in the vote and deem it illegitimate.

Aliyev has ruled since 2003 and looks set to continue indefinitely after a referendum he pushed through in 2008 abolished presidential terms.

Yemeni cleric calls for killing Americans

CAIRO (AP) — A U.S.-born radical Yemeni cleric has called for the killing of Americans in a new video message posted on radical web sites.

Anwar al-Awlaki says Americans are from the "party of devils" and so don't require any special religious permission to kill.

In the 23 minute Arabic language

message appearing on extremist web-sites Monday, al-Awlaki said it was "either them or us."

Al-Awlaki is believed to be hiding somewhere in Yemen and has been linked with several attacks on Americans in the past year, including an attempt to bomb an airliner in Detroit on Christmas.

Nigeria: 5 kidnapped in offshore oil rig attack

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — An oil company working in Nigeria's restive and oil-rich southern delta says five of its employees have been kidnapped and two others wounded during an attack on an offshore oil rig.

In a statement released Monday, London-based Afren PLC says the two wounded employees were "evacuated by helicopter to a shore-based clinic." Afren says the attack occurred on a rig that recently arrived

off the coast of Akwa Ibom state.

The company offered no other details. It is unknown if the employees were locals or foreign.

Militants in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta began a campaign of kidnapping and pipeline bombings in 2006, upset over pollution and the region's endemic poverty despite 50 years of oil production. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Obama, Singh, commit to cooperation on terrorism

NEW DELHI (AP) — President Barack Obama and India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh say the two countries will step up mutual efforts to combat the menace of global terrorism.

Appearing together at a news conference in New Delhi, they said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and India's Ministry of Home Affairs will collaborate in this area to improve the security

at airports and seaports.

Obama said "we agreed on the need for all nations in the region to work together to ensure that there are no safe havens for terrorists." He noted in addition that the United States will continue to work with India to share intelligence in this critical area.

He said that he and Singh also agreed to increase cooperation in the area of preventing nuclear proliferation.

Clinton: US hopes Iraq government deal is close

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says the U.S. hopes Iraq is finally close to forming a new government — eight months after elections.

Speaking in Australia on Monday, Clinton would not confirm reports that the political factions in Iraq have reached a deal. She says she cannot comment until Iraq

announces a deal.

But Clinton added that the U.S. hopes Iraq's political factions are near the end of their haggling. She says the U.S. wants Iraq's political blocs to form an inclusive government that represents all interests.

The leaders of the main political factions plan to meet later Monday amid signs they are close to breaking the political deadlock.

DeLay attorney: Charges due to bias by former DA

AUSTIN (AP) — Attorneys for Tom DeLay suggested to jurors Monday that a money laundering case against the former U.S. House majority leader was the result of a prejudice against corporate donations held by the former prosecutor who originally brought the charges.

The debate over corporate donations came up as prosecutors questioned former lobbyists for several corporations, including Sears, Roebuck and Co. and Bacardi USA Inc., about money their companies gave to DeLay's Texas-based politi-

cal action committee.

Prosecutors allege DeLay used the PAC to illegally funnel \$190,000 in corporate funds into Texas legislative races eight years ago. Under Texas law, corporate money can't go directly to political campaigns.

DeLay, who denies wrongdoing, is charged with money laundering and conspiracy to commit money laundering. The former Houston-area congressman faces up to life in prison if convicted.

Penny Cate, a former lobbyist

for Sears, told jurors the company made a \$25,000 donation to DeLay's PAC in June 2002.

Sears and Bacardi were two of eight companies charged in 2004 with making illegal donations to the PAC. Charges against Sears were dropped after it agreed to make donations to a University of Texas program studying corporations and politics. The case against Bacardi is pending.

Dick DeGuerin, DeLay's lead attorney, told jurors the agreement that settled Sears' charges included

language put in by former Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, who brought the original case but has since retired, that called corporate donations "a threat to democracy." DeGuerin has repeatedly told jurors corporate donations are a legal part of politics but that no corporate money was sent to Texas candidates.

"Mr. Earle's philosophy is corporate money in elections is dangerous to democracy," DeGuerin said.

Research

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The conodont's uniqueness stems from the fact that the creature has no living relatives to compare them to, Peavey said.

"There is nothing like a conodont that is still alive on Earth," she said. "The closest we can come in general shape is probably a lamprey or hagfish, but as far as we can tell, they aren't very close relatives, and neither has toothy structures that look much like conodonts."

Studying their fossilized teeth gives scientists a better idea of how the conodont looked, Peavey said, but there is still much unknown about what made the creature so successful.

"There's a lot of speculation out there," she said. "The most important information revealed is that the bits that scientists always thought were basically teeth probably are; they have a particular kind of chevron-shaped striping that strongly suggests they have special muscles found only in ver-

tebrates and their ancestors, which is why we think they're related to vertebrates like fish, reptiles and, of course, us."

Although hers was only one out of hundreds of poster presentations at the four-day-long GSA meeting last week, Peavey said it was great to discuss her work with people interested in the topic.

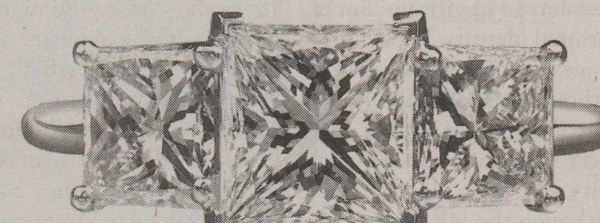
"I even talked with a few people who weren't interested in conodonts before they saw my poster, and who left just as excited as I was," she said. "The best part is when you get into a discussion with someone else who is a non-specialist who has ideas you may never have thought of. Sharing information is so vital to good science."

The GSA meeting allows for shared research and knowledge among hundreds of scientists, Peavey said.

"Scientists from around the world gather to share their research at this meeting, and I wanted to be a part of that," she said. "It's huge and overwhelming, but everyone learns so much."

>>>brian.howard@ttu.edu

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Religious people should lighten up

I am a Christian — United Methodist, to be specific. I accept Jesus as my savior and study the Bible like most of my fellow Christians. However, I do not take serious offense to people mocking God or Jesus, challenging my faith in my beliefs, or otherwise trying to discredit my religion.

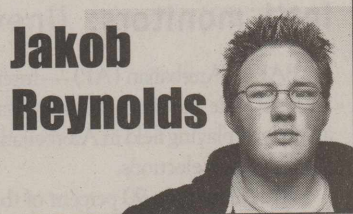
Unfortunately, some of my fellow Christians are not so light-hearted about criticism.

I was perusing my Facebook on Saturday afternoon when I spotted something interesting. One of my friends had posted that she had seen a car with a Flying Spaghetti Monster sticker on it. My curiosity sparked, I looked up "Flying Spaghetti Monster" on Google, to find out for myself what "Flying Spaghetti Monster" (FSM for short) was.

After looking through the Wikipedia page and church website, I found that the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster was created in 2005 by Bobby Henderson, a graduate of Oregon State, as a parody religion in response to the Kansas State Board of Education's decision to allow the theory of intelligent design to be taught as an alternative to evolutionary theory.

Henderson wrote an open letter to the board explaining that there are several sub-theories of intelligent design. One entails a supernatural being closely resembling spaghetti

Jakob Reynolds



and meatballs creating Earth and everything on it in "His" image.

He claims there is hard science to back up this theory and that it is a legitimate religion with 10 million followers and growing. He also referred to the followers of his religion as "Pastafarians," a parody on the Caribbean religion Rastafari.

The public response to this letter was, of course, mixed. Many applauded Henderson for his strong, albeit amusing, argument. This new "religion" was, of course, purely a fictitious entity created for the sake of counterargument by Henderson. But, it became so popular that thousands of people nationwide actually took Henderson's idea and formed the "church."

On the other hand, there was a very widespread negative response to FSM. Henderson received literally thousands of e-mails, Facebook messages and other messages regarding his "mockery" of other religions.

There is an entire section on the FSM website, www.venganza.com, specifically dedicated to publishing criticism, entitled "HateMail and

Concerned Criticism." It is several pages long with all manner of personal attacks and a repeated theme of "I'll pray for you, but you're going to hell."

A member of the Kansas State Board of Education replied in a letter to Henderson, "It is a serious offense to mock God." There were also several people concerned with FSM "leading good Christians off the path to salvation."

This made me wonder about how my fellow Christians deal with others challenging their beliefs and values. Quite frankly, I was embarrassed by the way these people handled it. If you believe in the Bible or the existence of God, that's great. But the way I see it, resorting to personal attacks and threats when someone makes a valid argument only shows one's insecurity in their beliefs and ideas.

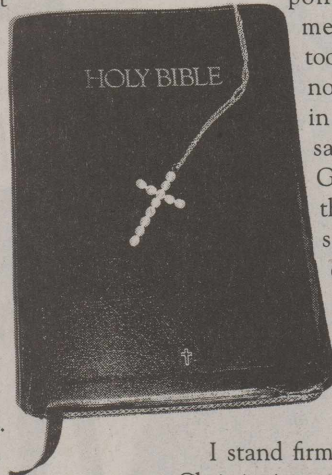
Moreover, I do not take serious offense to Henderson's "attacks" on the theory of intelligent design because they were used only to keep scientific theories based on scientific research, and not religious

theories based on faith, as the subject matter taught in scientific classes. They weren't used to discredit religion entirely.

I think that the people who took offense to Henderson's argument are either missing the point of his argument or looking too far into it. I did not see anything in his letter that said there is no God; merely that there is as much scientific evidence to prove that He created the earth as the Flying Spaghetti Monster did.

I stand firm in my faith in Christianity and that God probably has bigger things to worry about than non-Christians making fun of Him. Thus I am not offended by people challenging my beliefs. I pray for my fellow Christians, and all people who consider themselves a member of a religion, to please, for the love of God, keep a cool head when others disagree with you.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Strive for honor during opposition's song

I attended the Tech-Missouri game Saturday in the Jones AT&T Stadium. We sat far away from the student section, but what happened during the school songs had me sitting there in disbelief and disgust at the manner in which schools and their fans visiting Lubbock are treated.

(Regardless of how we are treated in other towns, we should rise above it and show some civility.)

During the playing of the Missouri school song, there arose a clamor from the student section trying to drown out the opposing team's song, and in our section on the west side, there were words exchanged between younger students sitting behind us and an older gentleman below us as they

argued over what should be the proper decorum during the songs.

Then, the students who were leading the charge began to belt out these words from the school song: "Strive for honor, evermore, long live the Matador."

I couldn't sing. I was ashamed at what had just taken place and wondered where the disconnect between Tech's school pride and its activity at the games had come from.

Do we really believe the words of the school song, "Strive for honor?" That begins with our behavior. Come on, Tech — get your act together. We have a history to protect.

■ Jim Drake is a Tech alumnus from Snyder.

When you become an adult, grow up

While browsing my favorite video game blog, Kotaku, I came across the headline, "Playing with your children can save their mental health."

My inner reaction to that was something along the lines of, "Well, no duh."

The story was made relevant to gamers in the sense that if you let a game console "babysit" your child, rather than spending time with them yourself, you put the child at a much higher risk of developing a severe personality disorder. Obviously this applies to more than just video games, but it's still a good example to make.

This news came to me shortly after reading a column that beloved children's horror author R.L. Stine wrote for *The New York Times* shortly before Halloween titled "The scariest sight on Halloween? Grown-ups." Stine lamented over the fact that so much emphasis on the holiday today is being placed on adult parties, adult costumes and adult issues. Whatever happened to Halloween being an event for children to dress up and get candy, rather than for adults to wear less clothing than

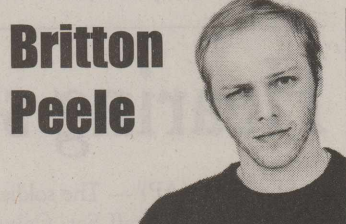
ever in an attempt to get laid? It strikes me that, more and more, adults are refusing to grow up — or maybe a better word would be "mature." Granted, I'm not necessarily the best person to talk about growing up and being an adult. At the moment, I make money playing video games as a freelance critic, and I aspire to write young adult fantasy novels at some point in the future. I hope to make a living on not really growing up at all, in that sense.

However, while I entirely support keeping your inner child and letting loose every now and then, you also need to accept the responsibilities that come with age. You cannot expect other adults or the government to take care of your responsibilities for you.

But that's exactly what I see so many parents doing. Maybe it's a simple matter of a parent not paying attention to the movies their child is watching or the games they're playing. Maybe it's parents not talking to their teenagers about sex and instead letting the schools do that bit of dirty work. Maybe it's parents who pay so little attention to their child that they don't realize they're struggling in school, be it with academics or bullies or something else.

All of these can have a huge impact on a child, teenager, or even 20-something year old college student. I'm 22. Over the weekend, I got a little upset with my mom over the

Britton Peele



phone about something extremely stupid. I texted her afterward to apologize, saying "Sorry, I've been weirdly emotional today." Being the overprotective mother that she is, she immediately called me to make sure I was OK and to see if I needed to talk about anything.

I expected that from my mom, but what really got me was the next day, when my dad called to ask the same questions. He's a great dad, but he's not usually big on stuff like emotions, usually leaving that stuff to my mother. I was perfectly fine, but the mere fact that my father cared was nice to know.

Now, I don't mean to brag or anything by saying that. I definitely don't want to say, "It's so nice to have good parents. A lot of you are probably screwed up because you aren't lucky like me."

Far from it. I know there are plenty of families that are broken or at the very least flawed (well, all are flawed in at least some small way), and that sucks.

I say what I'm saying so that, if you're in the shoes of someone with a bad parent or two, you should try to do a better job with your children than your parents did with you.

As I near the end of my college career, several friends of mine have gotten married. A couple of them have even had a child or have one on the way. I myself am engaged. Are we doing these things at too young an age? You could make that argument, sure. But regardless, it's happening.

Are these young parents going to leave their son or daughter in front of the TV while they keep to themselves all day? Are they going to hire a babysitter every night so they can go out clubbing? Sure, a ton of families these days involve both the mother and father working full-time, but that shouldn't be an excuse.

This shouldn't just apply to those of you who have kids now or will in the near future, either. Whether or not you've spawned some offspring, you're an adult, or at least very close to it. Please do society a favor and act like it once in awhile.

■ Peele is *The DT's* opinions editor.
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Should we get rid of Federal Reserve?

By WILL MATESSICH
THE DAILY IOWAN (U. IOWA)

If platitudes are a disease, American politics is experiencing an epidemic. Politicians on both sides of the aisle are infected, some more severely than others. And who can blame them? It seems most Americans will always get behind vague, constitutional-sounding things like "personal freedom" and "protecting liberty," so why shouldn't candidates pepper their speeches with such phrases?

It's not that these concepts aren't important. But trying to back up every argument with rhetoric that sounds as if it was lifted from Patrick Henry trivializes the ideals that are being invoked and misinforms the electorate. This is especially true with a subject as complex as the United States' \$13 trillion economy.

An acute case of the disease was

on display at Rep. Ron Paul's speech at the University of Iowa last week.

The Texas Republican is a rare politician in many ways. He actually sticks to his principles, has delivered thousands of babies, and believes in a drastic overhaul of the U.S. economy. Paul wants to end the Federal Reserve and put the United States back on a form of the gold standard. So it is important for people to understand the consequences of those plans before they buy a "Paul 2012" bumper sticker.

Anyone who went to Paul's speech expecting a coherent

articulation of his economic positions would have left unsatisfied. Beyond his general talking points, Paul did not discuss his reasoning very thoroughly. The libertarian said Americans need to know more about Austrian economics (a heterodox school of economic thought), but didn't mention which tenets of the

school he agreed with or why.

He did talk frequently, however, about eliminating the Federal Reserve (prompting raucous chants of "End the Fed") and putting the United States back on the gold standard.

Paul believes the Fed is the root of inflation. He argues that in the Fed's efforts to stabilize or stimulate the economy, it actually ends up making things worse. He relates this to his common theme of "liberty" by saying that the government is imposing an implicit tax on everyone, because inflation lowers the value of everyone's money. His solution to this problem? Abolish the Federal Reserve and back up the dollar with gold.

Under the gold standard, every dollar of U.S. currency would be backed by gold, meaning you could redeem a dollar bill for a set amount of gold whenever you wanted. Proponents argue the benefits of the system would include less severe inflation and a more stable international-exchange rate.

"Under the gold standard, currency values were pretty much fixed, so the global-exchange rates rarely changed," said University of Iowa political-science

Professor John Conybeare, who specializes in international relations and political economy. That was the way it worked in the 19th century. However, now there is far less gold in the world by value, and the exchange-rate stability would not exist today if the United States were to move to the gold standard.

Paul has stated in past interviews that he doesn't want the United States to go back to the 19th-century version of the gold standard. Instead, he wants to make currency redeemable in gold and silver, known as "hard currency." If the United States decided to strictly adhere to the gold standard — so that \$1 of currency was redeemable for \$1 in gold — the total money supply would shrink by 70 to 80 percent, Conybeare said.

Hopefully, most of Paul's supporters understand the policies they vociferously advocate. His preferred policies would have a huge effect on the life of every American. And it is not a decision voters should make if they are basing their opinions solely on vague pronouncements of "freedom" and "liberty."

SB 1070 hearing emphasizes legitimacy of controversial law

By ALEXANDRA BORTNIK
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT (U. ARIZONA)

The enactment of S.B. 1070 triggered protests across Arizona and received criticism from officials as high up as President Barack Obama. While critics claim this act will cause racial profiling and even tempt harassment of Hispanics, regardless of their legal status as American citizens, the act only requests one thing: for immigrants to carry documentation.

On Monday, federal appellate judges held discussions that suggested they could allow Arizona to enact a highly controversial section of S.B. 1070. This tender section of the bill states that police officers can determine if someone they stop is in this country illegally.

Ninth Circuit Court of Ap-

peals Judge Carlos Bea questioned if that section alone was unconstitutional. U.S. Deputy Solicitor General Edwin Kneeder, who is representing the federal government in the hearing, responded that "our position is not that they're not authorized to check with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ... Our objection is that the state statute mandates it," according to the Arizona Daily Star.

While this may appear as a minutia, the probability of police officers either facing resistance or refusal by those who are stopped is more likely if the state statute doesn't mandate it.

Other countries, such as France and Russia, require not only immigrants, but visitors as well, to always carry their documentation, or risk serving time

in a foreign prison. Why should America treat its immigrants any differently? And why is there such uproar about S.B. 1070 when other countries have been operating this way for years?

Perhaps the issue lies in the fact that America has created an image of being a country where anything goes. While being the land of opportunity defines America's character and has served many immigrants well as a place to rebuild, today this attitude brings a threat not only to the safety of its citizens, but to its national identity. If a country welcomes anyone who steps into it without requiring a form of initiation or assimilation, the country will lose its sense of identity and value all together.

Although the bill may invite the harassment of some American citizens, one could compare

that to the unpleasant airport security all Americans endure for the safety of this country.

S.B. 1070 is a dramatic move that sits uneasily with many Americans. Maybe it's because enacting this bill was an anomaly — it made no sense with the character of America. America was never understood as a country that would exclude.

It's important to note, however, that Arizona is not excluding or putting further limits on how many immigrants can enter the country with measures like S.B. 1070; it is simply attempting to give its citizens, and those who immigrated legally, a sense of order and safety. The policy hasn't shut the door to America — it simply requests a knock before entering.

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After Virginia lacrosse killing in May, female athletes take self-defense class

By CAROLINE COURTNEY
STAFF WRITER

A University of Virginia lacrosse player was charged in May with first-degree murder after killing his former girlfriend who was a member of the Virginia women's lacrosse team.

After hearing of the horrific incident, Texas Tech's Student Athlete Advisory Committee decided to try to prevent this type of violence by providing female athletes with the tools needed to defend themselves, and last night the committee hosted self-defense training for all female athletes at Premier Martial Arts. Fifty women attended the course.

"Through this class we really want to teach these athletes what to do if they get in a violent situation," said Michelle Guzman, a senior exercise and sport sciences major from Ciddings and president of SAAC.

Guzman said athletes are already stronger than average females, so if the class can give them the tools, they will be able to handle themselves if faced with an attacker.

"These girls have the ability to take care of themselves if they know what to do," Guzman said. "But it's more than just teaching them. It's about giving them self-empowerment and confidence."

The athletes demonstrated their desire for the class with an overwhelming response, which Guzman said is a good sign because it means female athletes are aware of the potential for violence in everyday situations.

"We do not want to see what happened at Virginia happen at Tech," Guzman said. "You never know what damage someone you know, like your boyfriend, could potentially cause and it's something we need to be able to do if you get in an argument that turns bad."

According to the Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence Aid and Resource Collection, women were the victims of



PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador
ALEAH HAYES, a sophomore early childhood development major from Ozark Miss., practices escaping a front choke put on her by Justine Young, a junior human development family studies major from Sacramento Calif., on Monday in a Premier Martial Arts class for female student athletes.

more than 4.5 million violent crimes, including approximately 500,000 rapes or other sexual assaults. Nearly two out of every three assaults were committed by a relative or friend of the victim.

While most members of the committee have not experienced acts of violence, Colleen Pitts, a graduate mass communications student from Dallas, said it could happen to anyone when they least expect it which is why they need to be prepared.

"Personally, I've never been a victim," Pitts said. "But, it's an issue that just kind of happens and no one's aware of what to do. I wouldn't know what to do."

Pitts said the class is a great resource

to have to prepare student athletes for all situations.

"You see it on TV all the time," Pitts said. "People have classes at night and may have to walk to their car alone. This will empower them and teach them what to do in a bad situation. It's just little things like that that can make all the difference."

The martial arts instructor taught the athletes that the simplest moves are what save lives, not the complicated flips and twists portrayed on television.

After participating in the class, Megan Hoffert, a graduate student from Albuquerque, said she definitely felt more prepared if faced with an attacker.

"I am so glad I got to do this," Hoffert said. "I feel like I'm a pretty strong girl, but when I'm up against a huge man it doesn't matter. It's good to learn these techniques that don't require a lot of strength that are still so effective."

Hoffert said the class not only taught her ways to fend off attackers, but also gave her information that could save her life.

"It was crazy to hear that at the first crime scene you have a 60 percent chance of living compared to only a 2 percent chance if you get in his car to the second crime scene," Hoffert said. "And now I know how to fight the attacker at the first crime scene."

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Muggle

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This element of physical contact attracted freshman Alison Gilliland. She said Quidditch was fun for anyone not afraid of getting dirty and maybe a little bruised.

Gilliland said she heard Ivy League schools had the sport and became interested. She said she was excited to find out Tech had a team.

"It's a nerdy thing," she said. "We're strangely obsessed with minor things."

This weekend's scrimmage began at 3 p.m., and by the end of the first game, there were enough participants that many stood on the sidelines and waited for a turn.

Davis, a senior music major from Plainview, said the practices don't always have enough people to play scrimmages with two full teams, but the number of participants is on the rise.

Tech Quidditch began in the 2007-'08 school year and now practices most Sundays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The team is an official group with the Student Union and an official sports club with the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

Their practices on the soccer fields near the music building get many strange looks, Gilliland said, and this negative connotation might be why the number of players fluctuates so much.

"People don't take it seriously because it came out of a book," Schultz said.

The books' description of the game was adapted into an official handbook by the International Quidditch Association, the governing body of the game.

Davis said for the weekly practices and scrimmages, players must bring their own brooms or play with one hand behind their backs. At official tournaments, brooms are provided.

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Playboy auctions art

NEW YORK (AP) — Pamela Anderson and Marilyn Monroe may be names that come to mind when one thinks of the art of Playboy, but how about Salvador Dali?

A Dali watercolor of a reclining nude that hung in Hugh Hefner's bedroom is among 125 artworks being auctioned by the magazine known for baring all for nearly 60 years. The Dec. 8 auction at Christie's is dubbed "The Year of the Rabbit."

Founder and editor-in-chief Hefner said the magazine that has entertained, titillated and informed with its commissioned art has blurred the lines between fine and popular art.

"Playboy helped to change the very direction of commercial art — breaking down the wall between fine art and commercial art," the 84-year-old Hefner told The Associated Press in an interview at his Los Angeles mansion. "Before Playboy and a few other places, commercial art was essentially Norman Rockwell, very realistic. And we introduced into commercial illustration the whole notion of everything from abstract to semi-abstract to stuff that you found on a gallery wall."

The sale includes 80 photographs, more than a dozen contem-

porary works and 24 cartoons.

Among them are a photograph of comedian Dan Aykroyd in a conehead costume with a bunny-suited Anderson, a photo of the magazine's 1953 debut cover of Monroe, an early 1960s shot of sex kitten Brigitte Bardot and three Alberto Vargas pinup girl watercolor and pencil illustration boards. The auction's top draw is expected to be an iconic, sexually charged oil of a scarlet-lipstick mouth by pop artist Tom Wesselmann. Portraits of Duke Ellington and Dennis Hopper and a Herb Ritts photo of Elle Macpherson are also for sale.

"It's the tip of the iceberg," said Aaron Baker, curator of the Playboy Art Collection for the last eight years. Chicago-based Playboy houses an archive of 5,000 contemporary artworks and more than 20 million photographs in a storage building in the city.

Since "a lot of these are work products," said Cathy Elkies, Christie's head of private and corporate collections, "there's a link between the collection and the ethos of the publication itself."

Nearly all the items in the sale have appeared in the publication, a cultural icon that helped liberate American sexual mores.

'Reasons to be pretty' depicts relatable relationships

By BRITTANY HOOVER
STAFF WRITER

For college students, relating to theater can be difficult, as the college generation thrives on action-packed movies and dramatic reality TV. However, the second Texas Tech Laboratory Theatre production of the season promises a familiar story for teens and young adults.

Neil LaBute's "reasons to be pretty," shows through Saturday and tells a story Tech students can relate to easily, said Robyn Huzinga, director of the play.

It begins with a breakup scene of the main character, Greg, and his girlfriend, Steph, Huzinga, from Phoenix, said. The remainder of the play follows Greg's journey studying what made the relationship fall apart.

"If you ever had somebody you cared about, a friend, boyfriend or girlfriend that you cared about, and something happened to where you grew out of the relationship, or grew apart or said something you didn't mean to hurt it, then you will understand where the characters are at," Huzinga, a graduate student studying performance and pedagogy, said.

"The story is universal, especially for young people. If you want to see yourself and your friends reflected in a story, then I hope this is that story."

The role of Greg is junior theater major Zachary Menshew's first lead role. He described Greg as a laid-back guy who goes with the flow of things.

"He works for a factory, you know, kind of menial labor," Menshew said. "Up until the play, he goes along with things. The break up causes him to take a step back and do something about it."

Crash Buist, a junior theater major from Mason, plays Greg's best friend Kent, who he said is a charming guy who people like despite his arrogance and skewed sense of family and friendship.

"He's a very manipulative human being," Buist said about the character. "He's best friends with Greg because they've known each other forever. For whatever reason, they decide that they enjoy each other's company. They play on a baseball team together; they work together. His temperament and the way he sees things come more apparent throughout the play and leads to discoveries in Greg."

Playing the role of Kent was enjoyable for Buist because he is quite different

from him in real life, he said. He said to play a character, an actor must embody the person.

"I'm very good at being a brute and being the caricature that is the large brute jerk," he said. "Kent offers another facet of that. This is the first time I've worked with a character this multifaceted. He's not just a caricature of this person. There are things going on in his mind. He has a switch in his mind. He's very bipolar, and it's fun exploring this person."

Brittany Spang-Klotz, a theater major, plays Kent's wife, Carly. The character helps Greg through some of the tough decisions he makes throughout the play, Spang-Klotz said.

The four actors make up the entire cast, Klotz said, and working with a tight-knit group has been beneficial to developing the personalities of the characters.

Spang-Klotz is excited for "reasons to be pretty" because it is different from plays the theater department has put on in the past in that it has a very modern-

day setting, she said.

"I think it's a play about real people," she said. "It's not a love story or anything like that. It's about real people and their relationships. I think a lot of people will be able to relate to it."

The script is written in modern language and is perfect for college students, Menshew said. When he first practiced his lines, he realized how familiar the story is.

"The language, the way the script is written, is very natural," said Menshew, a San Antonio native. "The conversations we have, when we first started working on it, I felt like I had had the conversations before."

Huzinga warned that the play contains what some might consider objectionable language in every scene, but said she hopes the audience will look past it and understand the reason the characters speak the way they do.

With this play, relating to each character will be easy for audience members,

Buist said. Students will identify as the Kents or Gregs of the world.

"(Oftentimes in theater,) you see a lot of people have a disconnect from what's happening on stage, like they don't care about an 18th-century guy on stage, but this play is accessible to a student audience," he said. "He writes in a language that's very realistic. It's something you hear in everyday conversation on campus or at a bar or at work. These people are real. You know these people. You've met these people. They all offer a kind of mirror to what we see every day."

"Reasons to be pretty" by Neil LaBute shows at 8 p.m. through Saturday, and at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Maedgen Laboratory Theatre. Tickets are \$10 for individuals and \$5 for students with a valid Tech ID.

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PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Tormentor

Tech still plays large role in outcome of Big 12

TEXAS TECH WIDE receiver Darrin Moore celebrates with the students who rushed the field after Texas Tech's 24-17 victory against Missouri on Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium.

By **MIKE GRAHAM**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech significantly helped Nebraska's chances at winning the Big 12 Conference North Division title and earning a berth in the Big 12 Championship game by beating Missouri 24-17 on Saturday.

The Red Raiders could help set the matchup in the conference championship for the second consecutive week when it takes on Big 12 South foe No. 19 Oklahoma on Saturday in Norman, Okla.

"We can't look ahead or look back," running back Baron Batch said during Monday's news conference. "We have to focus on the week that's at hand, and that's what we are going to do going into Oklahoma."

If the Red Raiders can upset the Sooners, they could give Oklahoma State the upper hand in the race for the Big 12 South title.

Currently, Oklahoma State has

outright control of first place in the Big 12 South standings, but as things stand now, Oklahoma has a chance to win the Big 12 South in the final game of the season if the Sooners can beat the Cowboys in Stillwater, Okla.

An Oklahoma win against Oklahoma State would give both Big 12 South schools a two-loss record in conference play and Oklahoma would have the tiebreaker over Oklahoma State in the form of a head-to-head victory.

For that situation to happen, however, both the Cowboys and Sooners would have to win out and Tech stands in Oklahoma's way.

So the Big 12 Championship game could be Tech's to decide altogether if it continues its winning ways.

About an hour and a half before Tech and Missouri kicked off, Nebraska escaped Iowa State with an overtime victory, avoiding a second loss in conference play.

Missouri had one loss in Big 12 play as well – against Nebraska on Oct. 30 – but their loss at the hands of the Red Raiders this past week severely set them back in the North race.

Winning at Oklahoma may be no small task for Tech, though.

For starters, the Red Raiders have not won in Norman since 1996 and were routed the last time they played Oklahoma on the road, 65-21. The most recent loss in Norman cost the Red Raiders a perfect season and a legitimate shot at the national title.

"We go back on the road for the sixth time this year," head coach Tommy Tuberville said during the news conference. "That's hard to imagine, that you go on the road six times in one season, but we're used to it. Oklahoma hasn't lost a game at home in a long, long time, but it's time we go play and continue to play the way we're playing. Get a little bit more consistent and see

what happens."

Oklahoma defeated Texas 28-20 and crushed Iowa State 52-0 – both wins came against teams Tech lost to. The Sooners also put away Colorado 43-10 while the Red Raiders' game with the Buffaloes came down to the very end.

But Tech might have turned the corner this past week with the win against Mizzou, the Red Raiders' first win against a ranked opponent all season.

The Red Raider offense got going as soon as quarterback Taylor Potts was thrown into the game in the second quarter, and the defense was able to shut down a quality Mizzou offense.

"I'm glad just for our team that we were able to get that win," Potts said during the conference. "It was just a fun deal to share the win with the guys we work hard with all season. At this point, it seemed like the whole game came together for us."

» michael.graham@ttu.edu

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Keys for Tech



Tech at Oklahoma (7-2, 3-2)

Don't get overwhelmed. Sure, the Sooners haven't lost at home since 2005, amassing 35-straight home wins, but that can't be in the Red Raiders' head when they take the field at Oklahoma Memorial Stadium. Also, the secondary will be tested again. The Sooners average 322 passing yards a game, good enough to be ranked sixth in the nation.

Weber State (5-4) at Tech

The Red Raiders can't afford to overlook this game. Remember the crowd that had Jones AT&T Stadium rocking during the Missouri game? That won't be there. This will be the Wildcats final game of the season. They haven't had that great of a year, but only lost to Boston College by 18 in their only other game against an FBS team this year. Stay focused, and this should be an easy win.



Houston (5-4) at Tech

This is another game that should be one in the win column if the Red Raiders don't overlook the opponent. The Cougars, despite being on quarterback number four, are still airing it out and putting plenty of points on the board. The secondary will again be the key unit for the Red Raiders, but if Tech's offense can score some points against the porous Houston defense, it'll close out the season the right way.

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NFL fines Packers S Collins \$50,000

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The NFL fined Green Bay Packers safety Nick Collins \$50,000 on Monday for his helmet-to-helmet hit on Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Roy Williams.

In a statement, league officials said Collins "violently and unnecessarily struck a defenseless receiver" in the neck and head area with his helmet during Sunday night's game at Lambeau Field and called it a "flagrant violation of player safety rules."

NFL executive vice president of football operations Ray Anderson told Collins that further offenses "will result in an escalation of fines up to and including suspension."

The NFL is cracking down on illegal hits, and players who violate the rules are subject to increased fines or even suspensions.

Collins went helmet-to-helmet with Williams after an incompletion in the third quarter of the Packers' 45-7 victory over the Cowboys Sunday night. Collins was flagged for unnecessary roughness.

Williams said after the game that he didn't think NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell should punish Collins for the hit.

"Commissioner Goodell, don't fine the guy," Williams said. "It wasn't that bad of a deal, he shouldn't get fined. It was a football play, a football player

making a football play. No injury, no harm."

Packers coach Mike McCarthy said he spoke to side judge Rick Patterson after the play.

"It was a bang-bang play and I felt that really when I saw the replay on the Jumbotron, it looked like Nick hit Roy in the back and came up to the helmet," McCarthy said Monday. "I understand why Rick threw the flag and we actually talked about the mechanics of it. That's a tough call."

"I think the referees are doing a very good job with the awareness of player safety, but I was standing right there and I can see what Nick Collins saw, too. The ball was in the air and he was trying to run through the proper target line and I think he hit Roy in the top of the pads and went up into the helmet."

Packers defensive coordinator Dom Capers says that while players are taught to play within the rules, it can be difficult to avoid a hit that is considered illegal when trying to hit a moving target.

"It's such a fine line, because you want guys to play aggressively within the rules," Capers said. "That target changes sometimes a little bit, and when you're out there going full speed and that target changes a little bit, sometimes you might end up 2 or 3 inches from where you aimed to begin with."

No. 12 Cowboys not feeling pressure of first place

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — No. 12 Oklahoma State finds itself with a new challenge this season: playing with a lead down the stretch in the Big 12 South.

After beating Baylor 55-28 on Saturday, the Cowboys (8-1, 4-1 Big 12) have sole possession of first place at the latest point in a season since Big 12 play began in 1996. To stay there, they'll need to go on the road to beat Texas (4-5, 2-4) for the first time since 1944 and the second time ever.

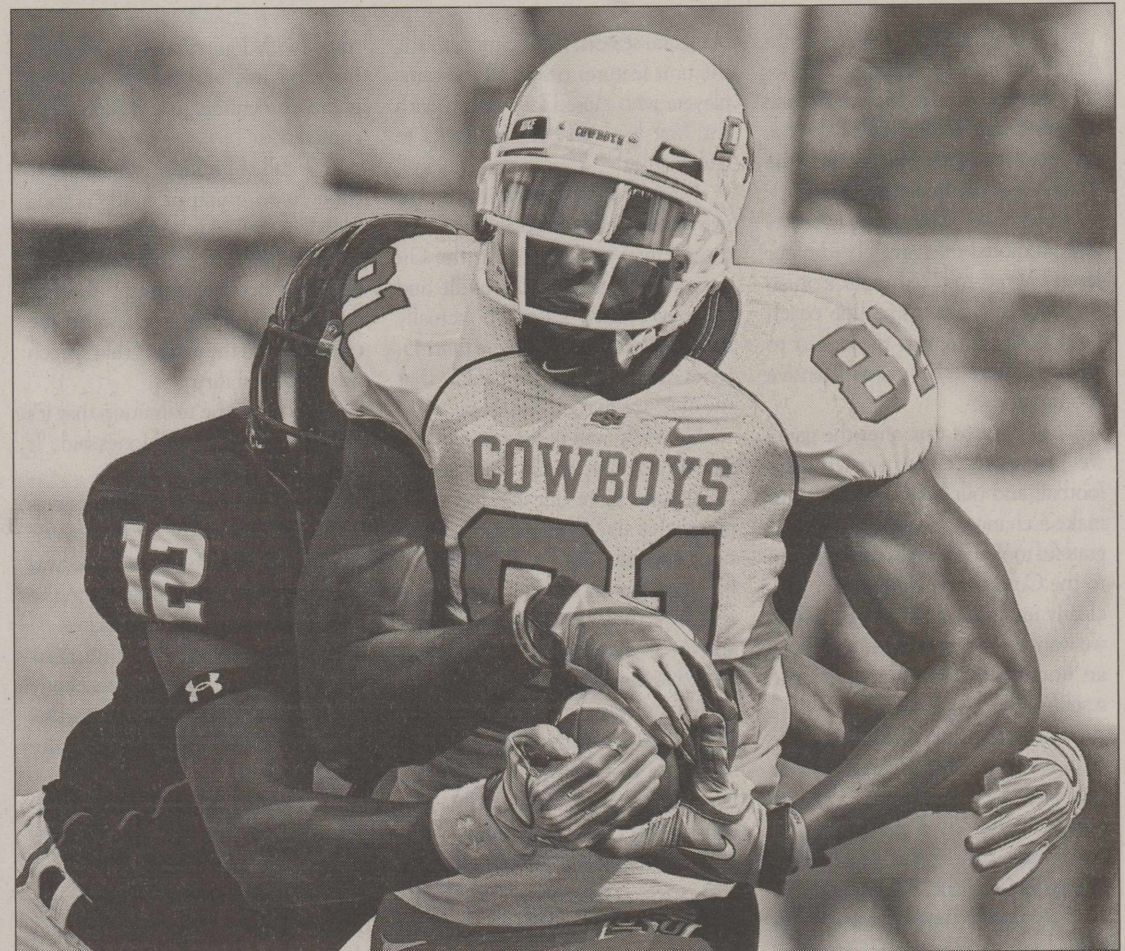
"Obviously, they get bigger every week, without a doubt. I don't know if we're naive or what, but I think guys are really not letting stress or not letting the pressure get to anybody," quarterback Brandon Weeden said Monday.

"I think everybody's just too in tune to what we're trying to do and playing with a lot of confidence. We're going to use that to our advantage, because guys aren't getting a big head."

The task of winning in Austin doesn't seem nearly as daunting as it did when the Longhorns were 3-0 and ranked No. 7. Texas has lost five of six since then, including three in a row on its home field to UCLA, Iowa State and Baylor.

"It just feels good to feel like a lot of our hard work is paying off," safety Markelle Martin said. "We're just going to continue to work, and we understand that it's still going to be a hostile environment. We're still going to have to go out there and play a big game."

The teams are in reversed posi-



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Treador

TEXAS TECH DEFENSIVE back D.J. Johnson tackles Oklahoma State wide receiver Justin Blackmon during the Cowboys' 34-17 victory against the Red Raiders at Jones AT&T Stadium in Lubbock.

tions from where they were picked to finish at the start of the season. Texas was coming off of an appearance in the national championship game and started out ranked in the top five expected to

contend with Oklahoma for the Big 12 title as they have for the past decade.

Oklahoma State lost two NFL first-round picks, nine starters on defense, plus its starting quarterback and four offensive

linemen and figured to be in a rebuilding mode. Instead, coach Mike Gundy has been able to plug younger players into the lineup, and he believes that's helping create a proper attitude for the Cowboys.

Crew shake-up shows weakness in Johnson's team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The dust was still settling Monday on a dramatic race at Texas Motor Speedway, where Jimmie Johnson lost the championship lead for the first time in five years.

Hendrick Motorsports moved swiftly to help Johnson, who suffered through shoddy pit stops Sunday until a surprising mid-race benching of the four-time defending champion's crew. After an accident knocked Jeff Gordon out of the race, Gordon's crew replaced Johnson's on pit road for the remainder of the day.

On Monday, the swap was made official for the final two races in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

It's a jarring shake-up for the four-time defending champion, who along

with his team had previously been Teflon at this time of year. But uncharacteristic mistakes on pit road led to a ninth-place finish, and Johnson was passed by winner Denny Hamlin in the points standings.

He trails Hamlin by 33 points heading into Phoenix, the first time since 2005 he's not been the points leader this late in the season.

The swap Sunday showed just how far Hendrick Motorsports will go to get Johnson that fifth straight championship, and how cutthroat the game has become. It's not unusual though — Richard Childress Racing gave Kevin Harvick teammate Clint Bowyer's crew last month — although the mid-race timing raised eyebrows.

"I think it was kind of a desperation move," said Hamlin crew chief Mike Ford on Sunday, before the swap became permanent.

"But it's something that ... Jimmie, Chad and Rick (Hendrick) needed to do if they wanted to win a championship because they just took their team out of it. They removed their team. Their team got them to this point and they pulled them out, so this is more about trying to win a championship for the company and not the team."

Johnson crew chief Chad Knaus was scheduled to discuss the swap Tuesday, but did not apologize after the race for benching his guys. And it shouldn't have been a surprise that the move became

permanent on Monday.

Their confidence likely shaken by getting pulled, it was going to be hard to recover in time to have the execution necessary to reclaim the points lead. With Gordon out of contention to win the title, the swap was really the only thing Hendrick Motorsports could do to rectify what had quickly developed into a major weakness.

Although Johnson's over-the-wall team hasn't been the best on pit road this season — many in the industry consider the No. 48 crew to be the weakest of the three title contenders — the struggles were not scrutinized until Sunday, when Johnson routinely lost position under caution.

Pitcher Cliff Lee will take slow approach to free agency

NEW YORK (AP) — Cliff Lee will be taking a slow approach to free agency.

"We're just gathering information. That's always the early stages of this process," agent Darek Braunecker said Monday, a day after the former AL Cy Young Award winner became a free agent.

Lee is being pursued by the New York Yankees and also is wanted back by the Texas Rangers, who acquired him from Seattle in July. The 32-year-old left-hander was a combined 12-9 with a 3.18 ERA for the Mariners and Rangers, striking out 185 and walking 18 in 212 1-3 innings.

He was 7-0 with a 1.26 ERA in eight career postseason starts before losing to San Francisco in Games 1 and 5 of the World Series.

"This one certainly is a little bit unique in that he's clearly the best player on the free-agent market and not a lot of other things are going to impact our position on Cliff," Braunecker said.

Lee was with Cleveland from 2002 until he was traded to Philadelphia in 2009, and is friends with Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia. Because he's familiar with most if not all major league cities, Lee has little need to tour his suitors.

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1-win Cowboys fire coach Wade Phillips

IRVING (AP) — Jerry Jones never wanted to change coaches this season. As the blowout losses mounted, and Wade Phillips' defense was mostly to blame, the owner of the Dallas Cowboys had no choice.

Jones fired Phillips on Monday and promoted offensive coordinator Jason Garrett to take his place on an interim basis. Defensive line coach Paul Pasqualoni was promoted to replace Phillips' other role as defensive coordinator.

"I recognized that after the game we just weren't playing winning football and our best chance was to make a change," Jones said. "We are grateful to Wade and his contribution to the Cowboys, leading us. We also clearly understand we are not where we want to be at this time, and that's an understatement. We share the responsibility — all of us."

It's the first time Dallas has made an in-season coaching change. Garrett becomes the first former Cowboys player to take over the job previously held by the likes of Tom Landry, Jimmy Johnson and Bill Parcells.

Jones decided enough was enough following a 45-7 loss to the Green Bay Packers on Sunday night. It was the Cowboys' fifth straight loss, dropping them to 1-7.

The defense has allowed at least 35 points in three straight games, something that hadn't happened to this team since going 0-11-1 in its

inaugural season, 1960. Stranger still, the unit features nearly all the same players who closed last season with the first back-to-back shutouts in club history.

Jones said his deciding factor was the defense's erosion the last three games — bad against the Giants, worse against Jacksonville and trampled by the Packers, who actually backed off from scoring more than 45. Jones said he'd been "in denial" that the club was in such bad shape.

"It really was paramount in my thinking that we would make adjustments and have our defense more productive and demonstrate a correction," he said. "But I really might not be sitting here today if we had gone and played well against Jacksonville ... and then we'd gone to Green Bay and played lights out defensively."

This is the Cowboys' worst season since 1989 and among the worst in franchise history by record alone. It could go down as the worst-ever considering Dallas was coming off a division title and a playoff win, and was expected to contend for the Super Bowl that'll be held at Cowboys Stadium.

"I told (players) they should not think this an admission of defeat or finality in this season," Jones said. "We have eight games left and we have one goal — to win."

Jones was clearly unhappy and uncomfortable. He spoke slower than

usual, with longer pauses to collect his thoughts, and fiddled with his glasses throughout a 22-minute news conference.

He called Phillips "somebody we thought so much of" and "a good friend, as well." He wouldn't provide details of his conversation with Phillips, and became emotional as he described breaking the news to the team. He said the focus of that speech was accountability.

"I spoke of the realization that it's not just about yourself," Jones said. "It impacts others."

The 63-year-old Phillips leaves with a 34-22 record over 4½ seasons guiding the Cowboys. He also was 1-2 in the postseason. Dallas won the NFC East twice on his watch.

Phillips released a statement thanking the fans and the Jones family "for all of the support" and thanked his coaches and players "for their loyalty and dedication."

"I told the team today that I have been proud to be a part of their family and that will never change," Phillips said. "I am disappointed in the results of this season to this point, but I am also very proud of what our team and our players accomplished in the previous three years. In good times and difficult times, our players stuck together and never lost hold of their belief in each other and the strong team bond that they have shared."

The first game under Garrett will

be at the New York Giants on Sunday.

Jones said Garrett will have an opportunity to keep the job permanently.

"If we do outstanding as a team and we have very visible, tangible success, then certainly that's doing your job, if you will, in a crisis situation," Jones said. "That kind of action goes beyond a resume."

Garrett has been viewed as the team's coach-in-waiting since he was hired — days before Phillips, in fact.

The 44-year-old Garrett was a backup quarterback behind Troy Aikman from 1993-99. He was the quarterbacks coach in Miami in 2005-06 before rejoining the club in 2007. He's had the title of assistant head coach since 2008, when he withdrew from other interviews to remain with the club.

His father, Jim, was with the organization for 22 years. Two of his brothers are on his staff: tight ends coach John and Judd, the director of pro scouting.

"I do believe Jason has the temperament, he has the disposition to affect a culture change," Jones said. "I think this is important. We know all men's styles are different. His style is one that I feel can be very effective."

Garrett was No. 2 on the coaching depth chart. However, his unit hasn't been much better than Phillips', and that goes back to before starting quarterback Tony Romo broke his collarbone on Oct. 25.

Stoots: Leach wouldn't have won Saturday

Cody Stoots



There is one thing that stands out to me about the Red Raiders' comeback victory over the Missouri Tigers.

Mike Leach never would have won that game.

The Red Raiders had lost the past three games to the Tigers. The average margin of defeat for those games was 26 points.

Saturday night, the Red Raiders rushed the ball 41 times. The three previous Missouri games combined, Leach rushed the ball 36 times.

Even with his team trailing by 14 points, Tuberville never abandoned the run. Leach would have never committed to the run and trusted the defense.

If the Red Raiders got pass-happy down 14 points, they wouldn't have won. The Tigers have great athletes on defense. If Missouri head coach Gary Pinkel lets the front seven go full blast after the quarterback knowing the run isn't an option, the game easily ends up in Missouri's favor.

The run kept Missouri honest. One of the criticisms of this year's defense has been how tired they look down the stretch. Injuries have depleted depth from the defense, but the offense had not been helping. The Red Raiders average five minutes more time of possession in wins, 30 minutes to 25. Five minutes may not seem like much, but the defense appreciates it.

Many fans clamored for Steven Sheffield throughout the year. Every loss was accompanied by a flood of Facebook posts calling for Sheffield to play.

Sheffield made his first start of the year against Missouri. This wouldn't have been the case with Leach at the helm. Leach was more inconsistent about his quarterback last year than Lubbock weather. He would have listened to his pirate crew and kept the revolving door moving.

Tuberville wasn't afraid to make the switch, but he didn't use it to make a statement or teach a player a lesson.

Both quarterbacks deserve excessive praise. Steven Sheffield stepped into a tough situation against a mean defense. He didn't look comfortable at times, but showed flashes of the spark from the previous week. Taylor Potts kept his head up. He stayed alert and was ready to play when called. Sheffield kept his trademark energy up after the switch. With receivers hurt, Tech

wasn't afraid to share the wealth. Ten different receivers had catches, which was to be expected. However, eight players saw the ball on rushing attempts. There was even a rare sighting of the wildcat formation. The Red Raiders kept the defense guessing. It wasn't the pass almost every down offense of previous years.

Coordinators Neal Brown and James Willis called excellent games. The defense made Blaine Gabbert uncomfortable and held him to one of the worst games of his career. Take away the two huge runs and Missouri only had 215 yards of offense. The third down defense was stellar as well. The offense meshed the best it has since the Baylor game.

But Coach Tuberville's fingerprints were all over the Homecoming win. The defense rebounded after giving up huge plays and made a stand after an interception. The offense was balanced, and the running game controlled the opposing defense.

The point here is Pinkel owned Leach. With inferior talent, Pinkel had won three straight games against the Red Raiders. His teams were more prepared, and he out-coached Leach.

On Saturday night, the roles were reversed. Tuberville arguably had less talent and out-coached Pinkel. The victory was the blueprint for how this team can win games moving forward.

Pinkel used to smile when he saw Leach's Red Raiders on his schedule. With the Big 12 losing two teams, the Tigers and Red Raiders will see each other more frequently.

Go ahead and add Pinkel to the list of people unhappy to see Tuberville, not Leach, coach the Red Raiders. Keep this win in mind, though.

This game was a check Leach wouldn't have been able to cash, but Tuberville put his signature on it and went to the bank.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 One who's all skin and bones
- 6 Talmudic scholar
- 11 Attire in which to retire, briefly
- 14 ... donna
- 15 Startle
- 16 Jay-Z's music genre
- 17 High jump technique created by 1988 Olympic gold medalist Dick
- 19 December 24th, e.g.
- 20 String ensemble instrument
- 21 French greeting
- 22 Lumberjack's tool
- 23 Street shadings
- 25 Some nest eggs, for short
- 27 K-shaped reversal on the road
- 33 Filmdom's Farrow
- 34 Leftover scraps
- 35 Chilling
- 36 "My Dinner With Andre" director
- 39 ... a clone deal
- 40 Victoria's lasted longer than that of any other British monarch
- 41 Dahl's "Fantastic" title character
- 42 Speak highly of
- 44 Saldana of "Avatar"
- 45 Longest Canadian waterway
- 49 Puerto
- 50 Matching
- 51 Caribbean music
- 53 Eye layer
- 56 Sales pitch
- 59 Candy in a dispenser
- 60 World Series of Poker Main Event no-limit game whose 2010 winner will be revealed tonight — the last words of 17-, 27- and 45-Across refer to the cards dealt between rounds of betting

DOWN

- 1 Sunscreen letters
- 2 Swamp beast
- 3 It may be meteoric
- 4 Slow walker
- 5 Charles de ...
- 6 Blu- ... Disco
- 7 With 18-Down, sporty Italian wheels
- 8 Really good time
- 9 "W." star Josh
- 10 Tariff payer
- 11 Prepare, as a bottle launcher
- 12 Jakarta's island
- 13 Expel with force
- 18 See 7-Down
- 24 Perfume squirt
- 26 Suit to
- 27 Pageant crown
- 28 Somewhat unrhymed
- 29 10th-century emperor
- 30 Comic books, e.g.
- 31 Hardship
- 32 Maui goose
- 33 "That tastes great!"
- 37 Norse trickster
- 38 Does, as a task
- 43 Speak ill of
- 46 Nine-day devotion
- 47 Levy, as a tariff
- 48 Like many Muslim women
- 51 Trade easy punches
- 52 Skin lotion brand
- 54 Spouses no more
- 55 River in the Bernese Alps
- 57 On ... nervous
- 58 Far from fatty
- 61 Urgent call at sea
- 62 ... Fields: cookie brand

By Julian Lim 11/9/10

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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

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