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VETERANS DAY 2010: DON'T FORGET TO THANK PAST AND PRESENT SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN TODAY

Marine Corps love affair

Flores served 8 years as a Marine

By HALLIE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

After seeing a commercial for Marine recruitment, former Sgt. Michael Flores' 7-year-old son asked him a question to which Flores replied with laughter.

"Daddy, do you think I'll be a Marine?"

Flores said he laughed first, but then answered honestly; he would let his son decide when the time comes.

When it does, Flores said he wants his son to look at all options, rather than just following in his father's footsteps.

Flores served in the U.S. Marine Corps for eight years before returning to his family, and to Texas Tech.

"If I wasn't married with kids, I'd probably still be in the Marines," Flores said.

After a short time at South Plains College, Flores enlisted in the Marines, something he had wanted to do since childhood.

While serving, Flores said he was stationed in places from California to Iraq.

When he returned from a year in Iraq, Flores said, his son, then about 2 years old, was almost scared of him after not seeing his father for so long. That made the decision for Flores to end his time with the Marines to spend time with his wife and now three sons easy.



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

RETIRED MARINE CORPS Sgt. Michael Flores served for eight years and spent time stationed in various places from Iraq to California. He now works with the Military and Veterans Program assisting veterans pursuing their education at Texas Tech.



Part one in a three-part DT series about service veterans

"I absolutely loved the Marines," Flores said. "I enjoyed my time there, I met a lot of great people and saw a lot of great things. It was just time for me to leave."

MARINE continued on Page 2 >>

Tech events honor veterans

The new Military and Veterans Program aims to help veterans returning to school at Texas Tech and has been running a week of events honoring the U.S. military and veterans.

The events began with the last women's basketball game, said Dave Lewis, the assistant director of the program. Tickets to the event were given to 1,500 servicemen and women through the program, in conjunction with the athletic department.

The tickets came in a set with a ticket to the football game and a ticket to the men's basketball game. Michael Flores, the co-director of the program, said the tickets were donated by various businesses around the state.

At each game, Lewis said, the servicemen and women were honored at half time.

"It's all about recognition," he said.

EVENTS continued on Page 2 >>

Up 'Til Dawn draws hundreds of Red Raiders

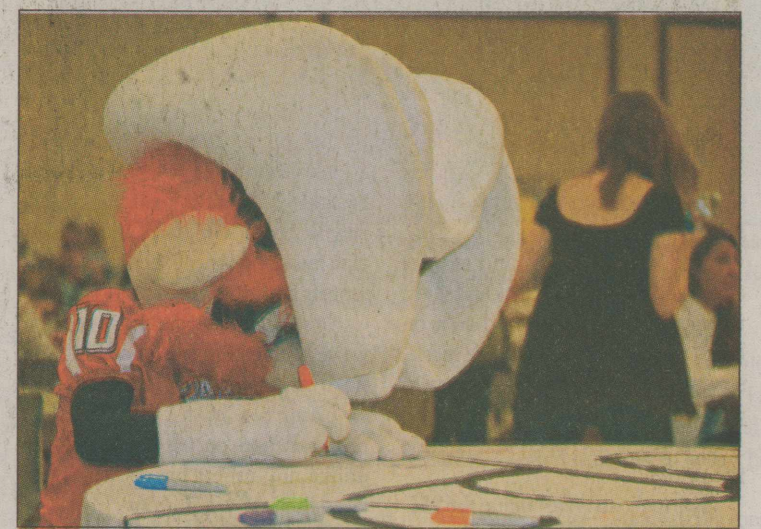


PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador

RAIDER RED SIGNS a cloth sheet with the word hope written across it during the Up 'Til Dawn letter writing campaign for St. Jude's on Wednesday in the Student Union Building.

Annual letter-writing campaign aims to raise money for St. Jude's

By HALLIE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Although in today's society traditional mail seems outdated, hundreds of Texas Tech students spent twelve hours hand-writing addresses to benefit St. Jude's, a non-profit children's hospital.

Up 'Til Dawn, in its sixth year at Tech, is a letter writing campaign to

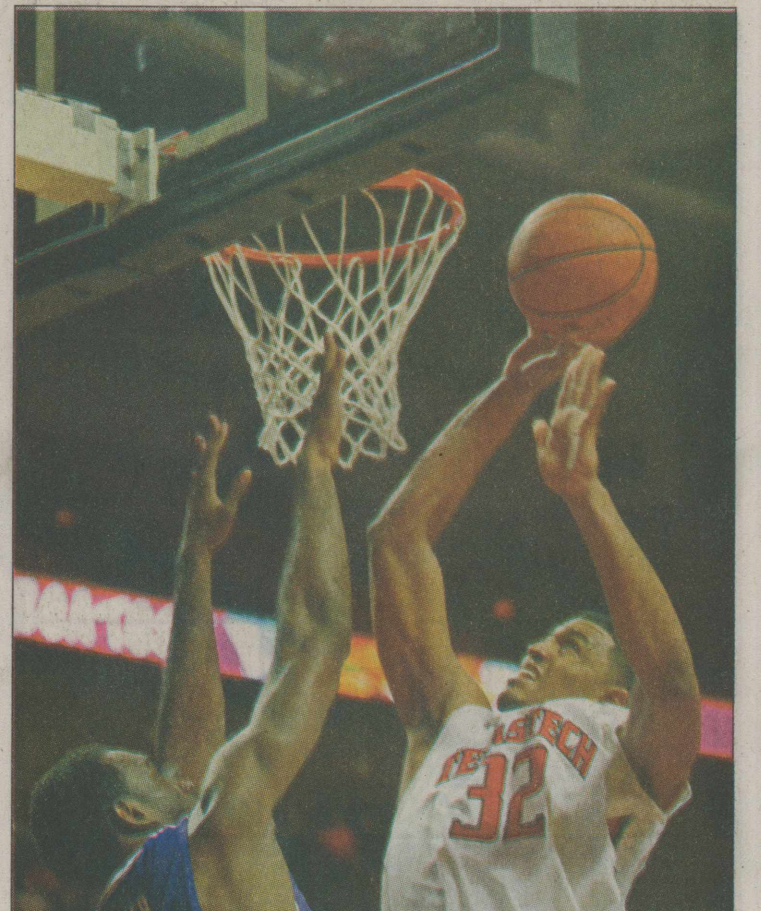
raise money for the free care the hospital provides.

Racheal Harris, the co-director of the event, said the goal this year is to raise \$100,000—double last year's goal.

"This is bigger than ever," said Harris, a senior accounting major from Brady.

DAWN continued on Page 3 >>

Student support, Page 6



The Red Raiders have been actively seeking increased student support as they prepare for their season opener Friday. SPORTS, Page 6



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador
ARMY CAPT. PAUL Lascuna was honored during National Nurse Practitioner Week for exemplifying it's "everyday hero" theme.

Army captain is 'everyday hero'

Lascuna honored during Nurse Practitioner Week

By BRIAN HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

An Army captain and graduate student nurse practitioner in the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center's School of Nursing visited the university this week to finish coursework and to be distinguished as an everyday hero as a part of National Nurse Practitioner Week.

Army Capt. Paul Lascuna, a 34-year-old who has served in the Army for 12 years, said it has been a long road that eventually led him to Tech.

"I initially went to Troy University in Alabama,

where I received undergraduate degrees in both nursing and psychology," he said. "I started in the Army as a combat medic in '98 after receiving my psych degree, and then after 12 years of service, the Army paid for my undergraduate nursing education at Troy, where I received a Bachelor of Science in nursing."

After being stationed in El Paso, Lascuna said, he had many options to choose from due to his time served with the Army.

"In the Army, they have what is called a 'super nurse,' which allowed me to be able

to choose either OR, ER or psych nurse practitioner degrees for my graduate coursework," he said. "I originally wanted to go ER but came to find I couldn't stay in Texas if I did, so I did OR instead."

After looking at various schools such as Vanderbilt, Luscana said, his attention eventually turned to Tech's School of Nursing.

"I decided to take a look at Tech and was really surprised at the quality of the school's nursing education program," he said. "It really is first class, no joke."

Physicians, primary care doctors and nurse practitioners are needed now more than ever, Luscana said.

HERO continued on Page 2 >>

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WEATHER

Today	Partly Cloudy	Friday	Isolated T-storms
	70/44		53/31

Williamson says farewell
OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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THE DAILY TOREADOR

Community Calendar

TODAY

Lecture by Award-Winning Historian James Brooks
Time: 7 p.m.

Where: International Cultural Center
So, what is it?
"There was an aspect ... that was, perhaps, darker," presents cycles of evangelism and popular response in the Southwest Borderlands from A.D. 750 to 1750 by James Brooks, president and CEO of the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, N.M.

Cake Decorating at Lubbock's Garden and Arts Center
Time: 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center
So, what is it?
Susie Soldevila brings her talent to instruct students in the art of cake decorating at Lubbock's Garden and Arts Center. The class focuses on creating life-like flowers using a gum paste technique.

FRIDAY

Murder Mystery Dinner
Time: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Where: Student Union Ballroom
So, what is it?
Join the Farilands High's class of 1959's prom night - everyone is ready to celebrate, but for someone, it's their last night alive. Join Tech Activities Board in this suspenseful game, watching the events unfold as you eat dinner. Free tickets are available at the Student Union Ticket Booth.

Tech Men's Basketball vs. Louisiana-Monroe

Time: 7 p.m.
Where: United Spirit Arena

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.

Passengers cheer as hobbled ship makes way to Calif.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The food on the disabled cruise ship Carnival Splendor is cold and the lines to get it stretch for hours.

And with the pool and casinos closed and rooms pitch black and stuffy, the nearly 4,500 people and crew on board passed the time with live music, scavenger hunts and trivia contests as they are slowly towed to San Diego.

The bar is also open and offering free drinks.

Two tugboats were pulling the 952-foot ship back to the U.S. The journey could take at least until late Thursday.

The ship entered cell phone range on Wednesday and the crew set up a bank of eight Satellite phones, allowing passengers mostly cut off from communication since an engine fire disabled the vessel on Monday to finally reach loved ones — and provide the first details of the conditions on board.

Among them was David Zambrano, who phoned his employer, Denver TV station 9NEWS, and said people were trying to keep their spirits up by singing, socializing and playing cards.

Rooms in the interior of the ship were dark, and passengers propped open their doors to let in air and emergency lighting from the hallways, Zambrano said.

"So really, all we're doing is just kind of hanging out on a boat waiting

for the next mealtime," Zambrano said. Mealtime requires a two-hour wait for cold food, he said. Navy helicopters flew in Spam, Pop Tarts and canned crab meat and other goods for the passengers and crew.

"It's almost like a diet cruise because we've been eating salads and fruit and small sandwiches," Zambrano said.

Carnival CEO Gerry Cahill said the challenges on the cruise ship are unlike any others his company has faced in its 35-year history.

"The conditions on the ship have been challenging and we are very, very sorry for the discomfort and the inconvenience that our guests have had to deal with in the past several days," Cahill said at a news conference in San Diego. "They signed up for a great cruise vacation and obviously that is not what they received."

Gina Calzada, 43, of Henderson, Nev., said her diabetic sister, Vicky, called her Wednesday morning on her cell phone and started sobbing. She said she has not been able to take her insulin for her diabetes because she is not eating enough.

She told Calzada all that she had eaten was some bread, cucumbers and lettuce. "I told her where are the Pop Tarts and the Spam? I thought they brought in 70,000 pounds of supplies," Calzada said. "She said I haven't seen that."

FORGING AT ITS FINEST



PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador
KATHRYN ROCHA, A sophomore communication design major from Houston forges a mask on Wednesday outside the Art building.

Marine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Flores returned from his deployment in Iraq in 2005 and took up with the Inactive Reserve and enrolled at Tech.

"In the military, you learn discipline, structure and leadership. It helps balance out priorities and your approach to college," Flores said. "I know my experience in the military has been very useful and helpful to achieving my academic goals."

As an undergraduate, Flores said, he and another student reestablished the Veterans Association to promote camaraderie between

veterans on campus who might need a support system to help them through college as non-traditional students.

"(When) you spend some time (in Iraq) and you're really anxious to get home," Flores said, "you try to pick up exactly where you left off and come to find out it's not that easy."

Flores' experiences with that difficult adjustment help Flores to help others now, he said. Flores works with the new Military and Veterans Program, where he assists veterans pursuing their education at Tech.

Dave Lewis, the program's director, said the transition from a structured environment in the

military to the informal atmosphere of a college campus is hard for many students.

The current graduation rate for returning veterans on the GI bill is at about 5 percent, he said, and the program hopes to increase that number to around 70 percent at Tech.

"We're going the extra mile to accommodate veterans and their needs," Flores said.

The program is taking steps to make the campus more veteran friendly, Flores said. This includes having a special counselor at counseling services, and the program has even gotten a designated math tutor for the members of the program.

"My office is a resource for vet-

erans to ensure academic success on campus, so pretty much what I do is I connect the dots for veterans," Flores said. "I make them aware of their resources here on campus."

Flores said having shared experiences with veterans in the program helps him to relate to them, and he said it only makes sense for someone who has "been there, done that" to assist them.

"He is the perfect person for this job," Lewis said, and detailed how Flores was one of the few who made it all the way through with the GI bill and was able to adjust well. "He is a success story; we want more just like him."

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Hero

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It is forecasted that there will be a shortage of primary care providers until 2022," he said. "It is vital to increase the educating force for nurse practitioners; we are at the forefront of medicine."

After graduation from Tech, Luscana said, his choice and what Uncle Sam wants are two different things.

"If the Army will have me, I will continue my service until retirement," he said, "but my passion is rural health, particularly helping those without insurance."

Lubbock's own nurse-managed Larry Combest Center is dedicated to helping the medically underserved and uninsured, said Michelle Hunter, marketing and communications outreach manager for the Combest Center.

"Nurse practitioners are the frontline for our patients at the Combest Center," she said, "and they will be given proper

medical care regardless if they have insurance or the ability to pay."

The goals of the Combest Center tie into what Army Capt. Luscana said he sees himself doing in the future.

Aiding the medically underserved is important and gratifying work, Luscana said.

"I'd like to do rural health in any capacity, such as writing grants for the underprivileged," he said, "or I'd like to be an adjunct professor to continue to educate and prepare nurses for the field of work."

Luscana said balancing his course work and Army service while trying to find time for his wife and four children back home in Georgia is very difficult.

"It's the hardest thing I have ever done in my life," he said. "The rapid pace of school-work, along with balancing my family life, is the most difficult task I have faced in my career."

According to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioner's website, National Nurse Practitioner Week provides a great opportunity to showcase the many ways nurse practitioners

are heroes to their patients and to let others in the community know about nurse practitioner-delivered healthcare.

By serving the country and the local community, Capt. Luscana fits right into the week's theme of being an "everyday hero."

"I'm an everyday hero because I serve my country as a soldier in the Army," he said, "and because I am a student in the nurse practitioner program with hopes of ultimately serving the underprivileged."

Caitlin Stahl, a student in the HSC School of Nursing from Denton, said nurses are important because in addition to caring for patients, they educate them and provide compassion.

"They advocate for the patient, making sure the health care team and family members are listening to the patient's needs and wants," she said. "With the increase in the demand for health care, I think the role of nurses will continue to grow."

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Today's

su | do | ku

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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Consider your study groups, committee assignments, work or family relationships with this quote in mind:

"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime." ~Babe Ruth

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Events

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On Wednesday night, the Military and Veterans Program conducted a screening of "As Long as I Remember," a documentary about Hispanic soldiers in Vietnam.

The week will culminate on Veterans Day, Thursday, in Memorial Circle.

"For the last three years, every year on Veterans Day I've gone out to the flagpole at Memorial Circle at 11 a.m., the traditional time and date to honor veterans," Lewis said. "I stood there for a personal moment of silence, but we've

never really done anything formally."

Lewis said it was time to recognize the 680 veterans on campus and to give family and friends of members of the armed services, veterans or those currently serving a chance to honor their loved ones.

This year, the day and the time will be honored by many, including Provost Bob Smith, whom Lewis said would be laying a wreath in memory and honor of all servicemen and women.

A short ceremony with a moment of silence and the playing of Taps will be held at 11 a.m. to commemorate the holiday. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

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Childhood love blossoms into songwriting success

By **BRITTANY HOOVER**
STAFF WRITER

An 8-year-old boy learning to play Jimi Hendrix' "Purple Haze" on the acoustic guitar might sound odd, but that's exactly how Texas Tech senior Jess Thomison kicked off his now budding music career.

Thomison, a petroleum engineering major, is a member of the local musical group The Straight Six Band, which performs periodically at local bars. He also pursues a career as a singer and songwriter and plays solo acoustic gigs almost every weekend in venues around the Austin area.

After his older brother, Jacob, taught him how to play "Purple Haze," Thomison said, he took guitar lessons for a few months. However, he did not stick with them, and he taught himself to play instead.

"You've got to start out with a lot of time and not many friends," Thomison said with a chuckle. "I just kept playing. I didn't start writing songs until my freshman year in college, but up until then I was just a guitar player. I played in a couple little bands and had a couple of little gigs in coffee shops."

His first year at Tech, Thomison started writing his own lyrics - something he is passionate about now. He said much of his inspiration comes from his fiancée back home in Hutto, Trista Wright.

"As a songwriter, you don't write a song about one person or one instance; it's kind of pulling everything together in your head, or maybe from something you've read," he said. "It's hard to attribute a song to one person or one instance; it kind of comes from everywhere. A song, in my opinion, is a testament to your mindset at the time."

Wright is very supportive of his aspirations, Thomison said, and is at every show she can possibly attend. One of his favorite parts of performing is getting to point her out in the audience and dedicating a song to her.

"Usually, I'll try to point her out if I can and try to get a smirk out of her,

if she's listening and not jabbering to somebody," Thomison joked. "She loves that. I guess she does, anyway. I enjoy it. I like being, like, 'I wrote this song for her' and people actually liking the song."

Also when he came to Tech, Thomison joined The Straight Six Band, a group a friend from high school, Kash Kothmann, started.

Due to conflicting schedules, the band is not able to perform often, but they did play at Bash Riprock's on Friday, Thomison said.

Kothmann, a 2009 Tech alumnus, is The Straight Six Band's lead singer. He described Thomison as an outgoing, funny guy and a great musician. He met Thomison in the eighth grade and said they have been best friends for a long time.

The two enjoy playing music together in the band and hope to do it as long as they can, Kothmann said. He also said he has an appreciation for Thomison's solo career.

"If he put a record out, I'd buy 10 copies," Kothmann said. "He's one of my favorite songwriters out there. He has a way with words most people wish they had. I'm jealous of it. I love his music. There are 15 Randy Rogers out there; there needs to be more Jess Thomisons."

Terry Moore, a junior majoring in creative writing, is the drummer for the group and has known Thomison for about three years.

He said he enjoys the interesting genre of music Thomison plays on his solo side.

"He has a rock side that I gear to-

wards," Moore, from Garland, said. "He listens to a lot of rock music, as do I, and it kind of fields the chemistry (between us)."

Moore said when Thomison walks into a room, he commands attention, and that stage presence helps with the success of the band.

The best part of the band, Moore said, is the friendship the guys have no matter their success rate.

"We mostly just have a good time," he said. "We're basically friends first before we're bandmates, and we enjoy what we do."

Moore said Thomison's original works are technical but not overpowering and have ageless lyrics.

"He writes a lot of broken-hearted songs, but not typical broken-hearted songs," he said. "It's very timeless, and he gets out what he wants when he's writing."

After the band's performance Friday at the Lubbock bar, Thomison

flew to Austin on Saturday to play at a private party. He said he plays half songs he has written and half acoustic covers. He describes his original work as a mix between Americana and Texas country with a swingy rock 'n' roll sound to it.

An exciting part of developing a following in the Austin area is seeing audience members sing the lyrics of his original songs, Thomison said.

"It's really nice," he said. "Of course, you've got the covers; I'll cover some Sublime songs and stuff everybody knows. But when somebody really likes a song that you've written - like I had a song in

Lubbock that was in the singer-songwriter contest at Blue Light; that song has taken off with the local fan base - it's really nice."

The contest was the first time Thomison had competed against others with original solo work. He used his song, "Untouchable." Every Monday, 20 singers performed at Blue Light, and the top two had their songs played on local radio station FM 105.3, he said. After several weeks, the contest brought back all the singers whose songs made it to the radio for a contest. Thomison made the top five out of about 19 contestants.

Thomison attributes much of his success to the support of his family. He said when he was a child, his parents would tell him to get his guitar and play for their friends.

"Once enough people actually started liking what I was doing, I started developing a following," he said. "When you're playing, no matter how small the venue is or how small the stage is, you get done with one of the songs that you've written, and everybody goes nuts, and they're clapping and screaming; it's just an awesome feeling, it really is."

Although Thomison is majoring in petroleum engineering, he hopes to support himself by playing music someday. He said he has written 20 to 30 original songs.

He has begun recording an album in a spare room converted into a studio at his cousin's house in Austin. He said he is mostly experimenting at the time and is not against having someone else produce an album for him, especially after he realized how much work goes into it.

"The process of recording is absolutely awful," he said. "It's repeat after repeat after repeat. If you mess up, you do it over again. The pitch was flat in a certain part, so you're going over that again. Maybe there's an idiot's guide to recording a CD, but I've never read one, so it's a trial and error."

Thomison's ultimate goals for his music is to be able to rely on it for bills, have CDs for sale and be able to play music as

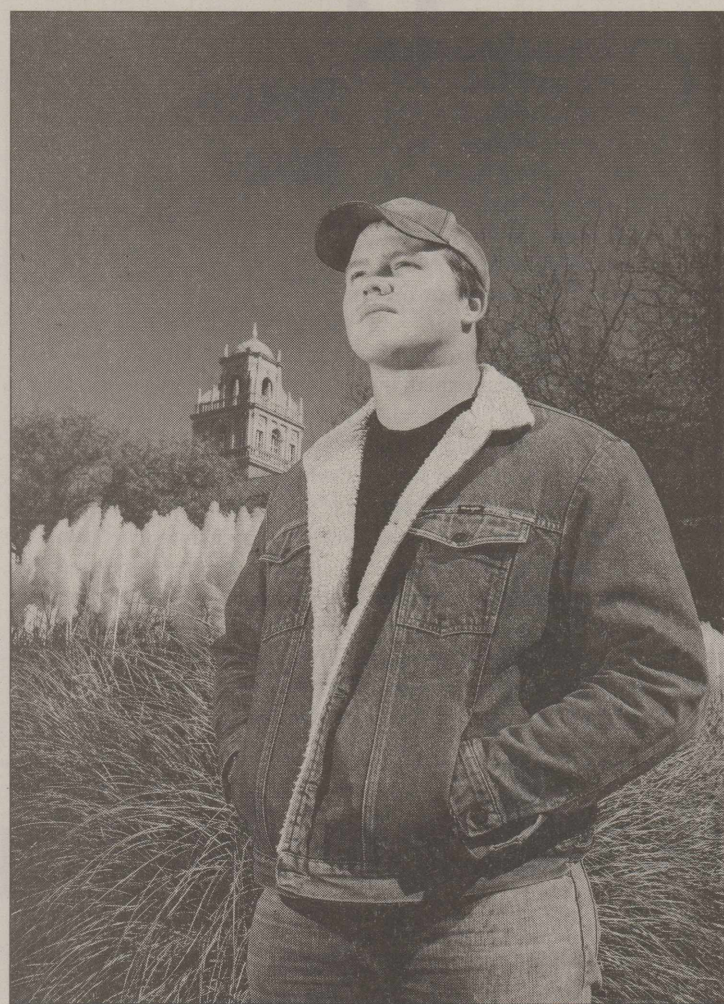


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

JESS THOMISON IS A Tech student and singer songwriter whose music has been played on Lubbock radio stations.

much as he possibly can, he said. Since he drives to Austin almost every weekend to perform, much of the money he makes goes to travelling expenses.

"It's really nice to be able to perform my own stuff with my own equipment and make money at it, decently," he said. "The trouble is, most of my money goes to gas to get around. Making 12 hours of driving in a truck every weekend takes away from the profit."

Thomison hopes to increase the variety of venues at which he performs and open up for bigger-named musicians in the next few years.

Although he is becoming a well-known artist in Austin bars, he said he had no idea what started in a friend's backyard would lead him to where he is today.

"The first place I ever played a song I had written, my friend's uncle built a bar behind his house, and I went over there, and he had a guitar sitting on the pool table," he said. "I picked it up and played the first song I ever wrote, called 'Crossroads to Nowhere.' It was a big hit. After that, it was like I had to keep going over there and playing."

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Dawn

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It usually draws many volunteers from within the Greek system, she said, and this year the entire campus is getting involved.

Students brought in addresses of family and friends and addressed envelopes provided by St. Jude's. This year, Harris said, people could also send out email requests, which had already returned \$3,500 by 6 p.m.

Harris said the average return rate was \$500 to every 35 letters sent. Though the official numbers will not come back until the letters are officially mailed, Harris said she thought Tech would achieve the goal.

The event, hosted in the Student Union Ballroom, offered more than just a volunteering opportunity. Students could try out the new Xbox Kinect, and a few Lubbock businesses offered tables of freebies. Up 'Til Dawn also featured free food and a live band.

Jason Hruska, a senior restaurant, hotel and institution management major from Katy, said he was coming to see his friend play in the Haden Bruchard band, as well as help people out.

"I like social events," he said. "It's a good way to raise money, network and to support Tri-Delta."

Though the sorority was not an official sponsor of the event, many of its members participated since St. Jude's is their philanthropy. Harris said that each of the about 200 girls in Tri-Delta

wrote 50 letters.

A family came to speak about their experience with St. Jude's; an experience which Joe Fletcher, whose 10-year-old son Lance was a patient there, said was nothing but positive.

"Still, to this day it's like, there's got to be a bill," Fletcher said. "But there isn't one."

Fletcher said St. Jude's offered the best care, and saved Lance's life. He said he was thrilled Tech would support the hospital.

"(College students) are excited with life, and if they see a need, they want to make a difference," Fletcher said. "I love that."

Lance spoke about his experience and played a short video about St. Jude's. He also got to play the Xbox Kinect.

"We want it to be fun and rewarding for people to come," Harris said. "It's an incredible cause."

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Art appreciation great, creativity better

Credited to my perfected procrastination skills, I was surfing the "Did you know?" website when I came across a fact I found funny. "In 1961, Matisse's *Le Bateau* (The Boat) hung upside-down for two months in the Museum of Modern Art, New York — none of the 116,000 visitors had noticed."

Funny, yes, and I'm sure there can be some theoretical exploration of this: "...art can be appreciated from all angles," blah, blah, blah. But on the more logical side, this sparked my interest on the idea that we, today, have lost the appreciation of the great arts in general.

Be it music, literature, paintings or sculptures, why is it that people today are more familiar with Snooki than John Singer Sargent? In the 18th century, when

RoAnne Romo



theater was all the rage, people of that time used it as a means of entertainment; but we use those same plays today in literature classes, dissecting and evaluating literally every word used. Even the means of "entertainment" back then had some moral meaning behind it.

Sadly enough, I cannot say the same for our means of entertainment today. The biggest issue behind most of the themes in movies is, "Does Julie get Chad in the end?"

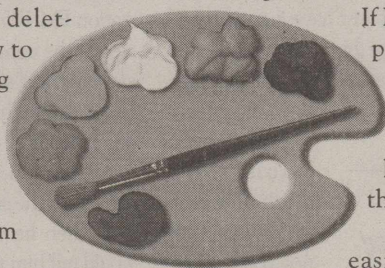
One of my professors offered an opinion in class about how our newspaper lacked quality literature value. My fellow writers will take this to heart, I assume, more than my readers, but I couldn't help but wonder who was actually at fault: we, the writers for not producing credible work, or the professors for deleting the opportunity to produce something ourselves? Can't we have the opportunity to add to the books we read, instead of study them alone?

We lack the opportunity to be the appreciated and not just the admirer.

In class, as mentioned before, we go about picking apart works

of great writers, arguing the meaning of their text and writing about it, but where are the great writers of today that will be studied in the next centuries to come?

Instead of obsessing over the greatest writers of time, why not find the great writers of today?



If Mozart composed his first piece at the age of 5, aren't we a little low on the standards? It is far easier to learn

by experience than example. When you babysit a 3-, 4- and 7-year-old while the parents have a night out, there is a newfound appreciation of

stay-at-home moms, and parents in general. So, why aren't we out there gaining the experience and appreciation that comes with composing music, art and literature ourselves?

Do you remember watching "Sesame Street" when you were little? Joan Ganz Cooney, one of the production founders of the children's show, wanted to "master the addictive qualities of television and do something good with them."

Today, we trade a babysitter for a TV and "Yo Gabba Gabba."

Over the generations, we have made tiny alterations to suit our new lifestyle, but maybe tradition isn't so bad. "Sesame Street's" 1, 2, 3 and the letter R" have been traded in for "Yo Gabba Gabba" and the "vegetables having a

party in my tummy." Seriously, look it up on YouTube, you will feel like your brain is rotting in its place.

At our age, we trade a night watching a play for a mindless Cinemark movie. We have lost our appreciation of tradition and the past times; the simple pleasures of life just don't do it anymore.

When I visit a museum of art and history, I want to be able to recognize if a painting is mistakenly upside down, and I want to see a modern artist credible of a legacy to be remembered. Is it too much to ask to have my cake and eat it, too?

■ Romo is a junior creative writing major from Haslet.
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Be willing to change opinion, have open mind

Over the past year and a half, I have written columns for *The Daily Toreador* and have learned a lot. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to write for this paper and to reach out to my audience.

Unfortunately, my academic life and life in general, has gotten in the way of my ability to write this column for the rest of this semester.

I am giving up my column to better focus on my studies as an impartial journalist.

This column has been great to be able to open up the minds of my audience to alternate ideas. It was never my intention to insult anyone. It was my intent to spur discussion on issues I felt were important to not only Lubbock (homelessness and Timothy Cole), but to the nation as a whole (gay rights and health care).

I understand that my viewpoints are not of the majority in this area. And that is one of the main

Paul Williamson



reasons I felt it necessary to write about those issues. Even if I never changed anyone's mind on a certain issue, it is never a bad thing to spur discussion to get educated about different viewpoints.

I learned a lot from the many people who e-mailed me in opposition to the things I wrote. It was a great experience to hear a multitude of perspectives on issues. These different perspectives were some that I had heard before and some that I had not heard before.

My views on things do not come out of nowhere. They are views I have thought about for awhile. They come from hours of research I have done as a member of some

form of debate team, whether it be for Crosby High School, San Jacinto College or here at Texas Tech.

They are views that are constantly changing. Not long ago, I was to be a staunch opponent of universal health care. I used to be in favor of the death penalty, and I voted for George W. Bush (in a mock school election we held). But it took people challenging my views to make me change.

Now, I have always been a strong supporter of gay rights, and I always will be. People always ask me why I am such a strong proponent of it. I am often asked the question, "Are you gay?"

Sorry to break the news, but I am straight. But I have experienced many things that have made me such a strong supporter.

I have seen unimaginable hate and violence toward gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual and queer (GLBTQ) people. The things they go through on a daily basis prove to me that it cannot be a choice. No one would choose to go through the things that they go through.

I feel that it is important people like me (a straight, white male) speak out on these issues. I know for a fact there are many people out there who are just like me — straight people who are in favor of gay rights but just do not say anything out of fear of backlash or just out of apathy.

This is a fight I will continue to fight. It is something I will not back down from. And I challenge others to do the same. Things will not change until voices are heard.

I want to say thank you to everyone who ever read my column. Even if you did not like what I was writing, I appreciate you for taking time out of your day to read and try to understand my viewpoints.

But I also know that there are many more out there who think like me, so it was nice to hear from many of you who e-mailed me in support. I appreciate and thank you.

And finally, vote Democrat.

■ Williamson is a senior broadcast journalism major from Crosby.
► paul.w.williamson@ttu.edu

Republican 'red dawn' is fault of younger voters

By J.D. BRYANT
DAILY NORTHWESTERN (NORTHWESTERN U.)

Last week national Democrats woke up to the aftermath of a Republican invasion — a Red Dawn. Democrats felt the full force of an electoral recoil four years in the making.

After flipping a total of 52 House and 14 Senate seats since 2006, a huge number of Dems found themselves in vulnerable positions, running for reelection in reddish areas that never really felt like their own.

Many of them confusedly bumbled from message to message, running away from their caucus's accomplishments and attempting to triangulate themselves back into Congress in a red year. Republicans, to their credit, successfully coupled popular unrest over the economy with simple, repudiating messaging to storm back this year. The result was, in President Obama's own words, a "shellacking:" the GOP

recaptured the House and nearly erased the historic Democratic advantage in the Senate.

Republicans like to argue that the American people sent Washington a message last week, that the results in this one election represent a sweeping validation of conservative principles. The truth is a little messier than that: this year it wasn't just a perfect cross-section of "the American people" sending the message, it was the Republicans' dream electorate.

2010 voters were markedly older and whiter than those who came to the polls in 2008. Apathetic Democratic sympathizers (I'm looking at you, students) sat home on Election Day, allowing a very different electorate to make its voice heard.

By delivering a new majority in only the House and failing to recapture the Senate, the older and whiter voters who showed up to the polls gave Republicans a strange sort of blessing.

Mad Republican scientists can now play around in their Congressional lab and shove through the House any wacky piece of legislation they want — and then moan about how Washington is broken when Democrats try to slow it down in the Senate.

But it's becoming clear that the GOP isn't satisfied with just legislating from its current position. Republicans have made no secret that their goals are political, rather than policy-oriented. Sarah Palin says she can see 2012 from her house, and it seems like Republicans who actually have government jobs are just as fired up about pressing their political advantage.

When asked just days before his party was poised to take back Congress's lower chamber, Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell told *The National Journal* that, come January, the number one priority for the again-powerful Republican conference would have nothing to do with immigration reform, climate legislation, tax policy, or creating jobs. "The single most important thing we want to achieve," he said, "is for President Obama to be a one-term President."

Several days later, the man who in January will be the Speaker of the House echoed his colleague's combative tone. A cocky Representative John Boehner told Fox News pundit Sean Hannity that "This is not a time for compromise."

If you're disturbed by the idea of two of our country's most powerful legislators promising to place their responsibility to work with all parts of government secondary to their political ambitions, then you're not alone.

McConnell's and Boehner's words paint a bleak post-election landscape. The tone of this past cycle evicered the illusion that we ever even came close to the bipartisan harmony candidate Obama preached on the campaign trail.

Republicans aren't even bothering to pay lip service to the value of bipartisanship. Instead, the GOP has doubled down on its commitment to extreme non-cooperation. That promise ensures that under the new red reality, the shifting of blame and shuffling of feet in the legislative process is going to be just as hyperpolitical as it has always been.

“Even if I never changed anyone's mind on a certain issue, it is never a bad thing to spur discussion to get educated about different viewpoints.”

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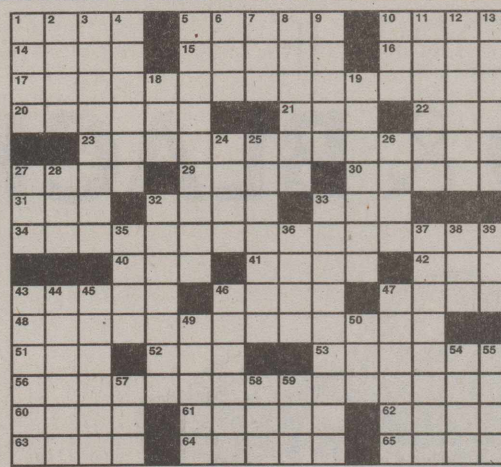
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- U.S. dept. with a Race to the Top reform prog.
 - Iconic rings
 - Lock style
 - JV team member, perhaps
 - Warning
 - Back in the day
 - Battle of the Bulge air assault division
 - Willows for weavers
 - Cause to suffer
 - Word with meal or cake
 - Doppelgänger
 - Name on an airport shuttle
 - Incarnation of Vishnu
 - Alice's workplace
 - Yang's partner
 - Clue
 - Cul-de-
 - It's hard to get romantic with one
 - Important no. to most car buyers
 - Coastal raptor
 - It starts with "http"
 - Sheer
 - Desertlike
 - Teeny
 - Reason to see a mechanic
 - Reservoir borders?
 - Besides
 - Tunes
 - Admonition to one acting out the starts of 17-, 23-, 34- and 48-
 - Court entry
 - Shopping list entries
 - "Woe"
 - Some shooters, briefly
 - Mitochondrial kingdom enread
 - Peter or Paul, but not Mary
- DOWN**
- Gas acronym
 - Holiday and others
 - Revoluting situation
 - Nest chorus
 - Target of pre-race stretching
 - Baba
 - Bunny"; classic Bugs cartoon
 - Hall of Fame quarterback
 - Dawson
 - Leia's last name
 - "Shrek!" author
 - William
 - Minor player
 - Checked out, as a book
 - Cooling-off period?
 - Uncle at 0001 Cemetery Lane, in '60s TV
 - First name in shipping
 - Angular measurement device used in surveying
 - Bite
 - "Count me in!"
 - Mineral with basal cleavage
 - Writer Flann
 - Routing word
 - Hop; bouncing ball brand
 - Time-measuring device
 - Feds
 - go braght"
 - Kitten's quality
 - Retail posting; Abr.
 - Callaway of golf equipment fame
 - Overwhelms
 - Rollercoaster ride, e.g.
 - Former Disney chief
 - Rainforest rodent
 - Part of a conspiracy
 - Kind of salad dressing
 - Charged particle
 - Columnist
 - Bombcock
 - Nieuwpoort's river
 - Courtroom VIPs
 - Test, as an engine
 - Sra.'s neighboring counterpart



By Don Gagliardo 11/11/10

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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PREPAY IOTA OXY
ARRIVE SWAPMEET
MOMS ASTI PASSE
SWITCHHITTER
LOSE ADVISE
ULEES ASST PAC
SUBSTITUTETEACH
ERA THEE ANDSO
SENSEI RAPT
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Defense focuses on stopping Murray, OU passing attack

By **MIKE GRAHAM**
STAFF WRITER

Oklahoma running back DeMarco Murray only had 17 yards on seven rushing attempts in a 41-13 loss to Texas Tech last season.

Do not let that statistic fool you though. Murray is dangerous and has probably been the Sooners' biggest offensive threat this season.

"We had a physical practice today," Tech head coach Tommy Tuberville said after the Red Raiders' practice Wednesday. "Yesterday we worked on stopping the run and today we worked on stopping the run. Hopefully, we play a little bit better."

"We'll see play action and all those things. They run a lot of (no huddle), so we've got to get ready for all of it."

Tech (5-4, 3-4 in Big 12 Conference play) struggled mightily against the run early in last week's game against Missouri. The Red Raiders allowed the Tigers' biggest runs of the season on back-to-back possessions.

The ultimate consequence was a 14-0 lead which the Red Raiders ultimately got past in a 24-17 win.

Still, allowing 69-yard and 71-yard runs against two different Missouri running backs is something Tuberville and the rest of the coaching staff seem to be concerned about correcting before heading up to Norman, Okla.

Murray has been on a tear this season gaining 861 yards on 198 rushing attempts in addition to 13 touchdowns on the ground.

He also has been productive in

the No. 19 Sooners' passing game with 350 yards on 38 receptions and three touchdowns.

In total, Murray leads the Sooners with 96 points. Oklahoma's second-leading scorer, receiver Ryan Broyles, is not even close with his 48 points through the Sooners' first nine games.

But as many teams in the Big 12 seem to have reverted at least a little bit back toward the run this season from the pass-happy days of old, Oklahoma's passing attack is doing what it always has done — making pass defenses look silly.

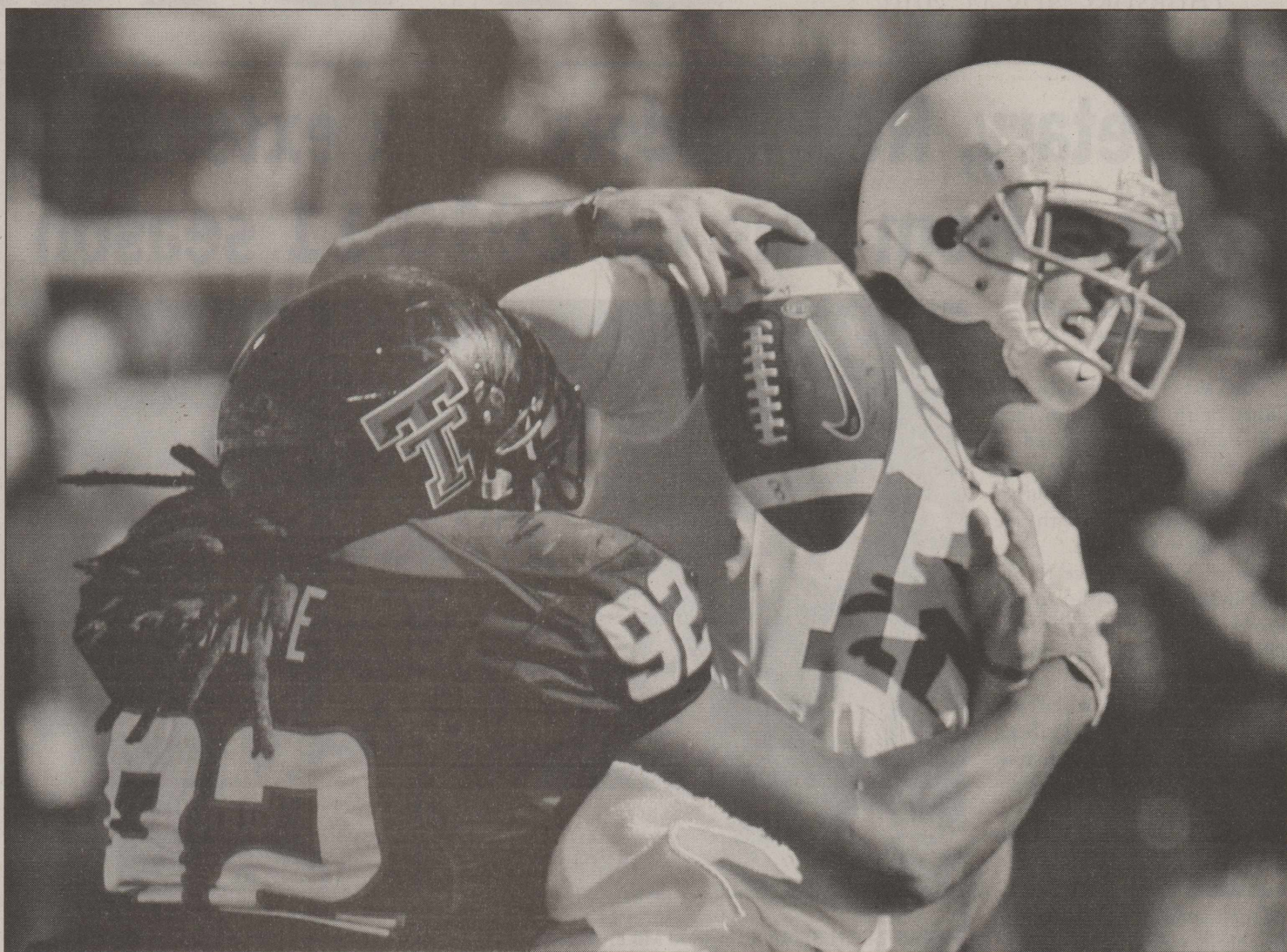
Led by quarterback Landry Jones, who started in place of an injured Sam Bradford for most of last season, the Sooners are averaging 322 yards through the air compared to 139 rushing yards per game.

Fortunately for the Red Raiders, depth at the cornerback position is about to get back to full-strength. D.J. Johnson will return to the cornerback rotation after sustaining a shoulder injury a few weeks back.

Against Texas A&M, Johnson was reduced to playing the nickel position and then missed the Missouri game in its entirety. He said his shoulder still is not 100 percent but he expects to see some playing time at corner.

But the Red Raider defense may already know a thing or two about containing Oklahoma. In last season's meeting Tech held the Sooners to 310 yards of total offense.

"I didn't play that much last year, but watching the game I just remember what we did as a defense," Johnson said. "Defen-



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador
FORMER TEXAS TECH defensive end Brandon Sharpe sacks Oklahoma quarterback Landry Jones during Tech's 41-13 victory against the Sooners last season at Jones AT&T Stadium. Tech seeks to avenge its loss at OU in 2008 when it travels to play OU at 2:30 p.m. Saturday in Norman, Okla.

sively last year we did a really good job in the run game, stopping the run game and containing the pass. If we do that same thing this year, we'll come out victorious."

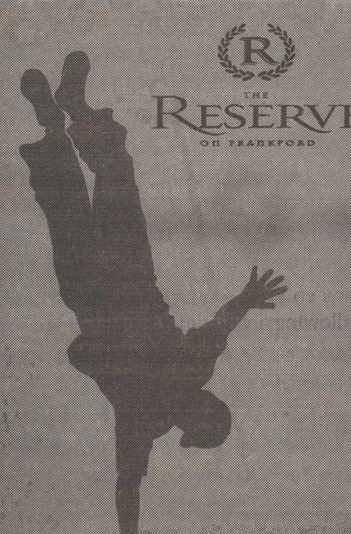
Arguably the brightest spot going into Saturday's game is the fact that Tech running back

Baron Batch broke the 100-yard plateau against Missouri last weekend to become the first back to

gain more than 100 yards in the Tuberville era. Batch had a career-high 136

yards last season against Oklahoma.

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THURSDAY, NOV. 11, 2010

Singletary, Red Raiders seek extensive support from fans for 2010-11 season

By TOMMY MAGELSEN
STAFF WRITER

On Dec. 3 last year in the United Spirit Arena, Texas Tech and Washington were tied at 80 when a Brad Reese foul sent Washington guard Elston Turner to the free-throw line with five seconds left in the game.

Turner had a chance to put the Huskies ahead with two free throws — but he had to shoot right in front of the Red Raider student section.

"You could tell whenever they'd get a foul called on them, they're just like, 'Jeez, you know their fans are getting on us,'" Tech forward Mike Singletary said.

Tech students, who had been standing the entire game, screamed themselves hoarse as the sophomore guard approached the charity stripe.

Turner missed the first, and the students grew louder.

When Turner stepped back to the free-throw line after a 30-second Red Raider timeout, he missed the second, sending the Tech student section into a frenzy.

"Whenever you've got a lot of people yelling at you, whenever you've got people jumping up and down and doing a whole bunch of crazy stuff, it's hard to knock down clutch free throws," Singletary said, "and I think him missing those free throws can be attributed to the crowd that night."

Tech ended up beating the then-No. 10 Huskies 99-92 in overtime, catapulting the Red Raiders into the Associated Press Top 25.

That is the kind of home-court advantage Singletary and the rest of the Red Raiders want to see from the students at every game this year, not just the ones against top-10 teams.

"Home-court advantage is big time, man," Singletary said. "Whenever you can get a whole bunch of people out to support, it almost makes it like there's six people out there."

Tech basketball averaged 9,982 fans last year — less than two-thirds of the United Spirit Arena's 15,020 capacity — the lowest since the 2005-'06 season.

"If you don't have a home-court advantage, it's really like you're playing away games all the time," Tech head coach Pat Knight said.

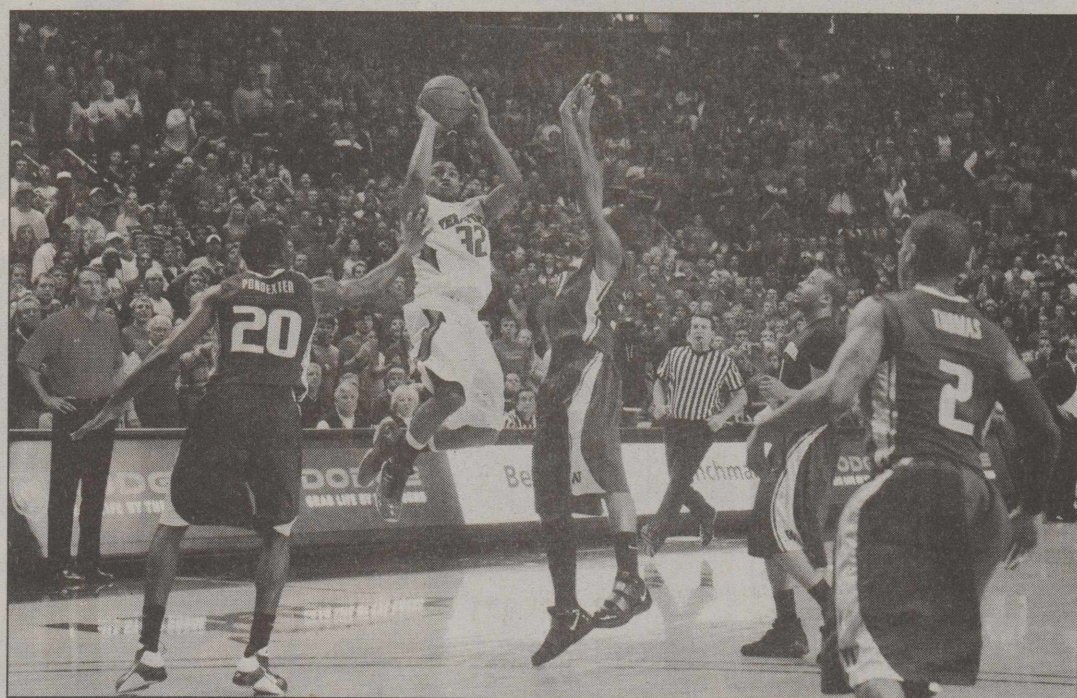


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH SENIOR forward Mike Singletary shoots a basket at the end of regulation of Tech's 99-92 OT win against the then-No. 10 Washington Huskies last season in Lubbock. Singletary and the Red Raiders begin the 2010-11 season on Friday against Louisiana-Monroe at 7 p.m. in the United Spirit Arena.

There are a bevy of things Tech marketing is doing this year, though, to increase student attendance.

One of the first initiatives is the forming of a new student group. According to a press release, both the Red Raiders and Lady Raiders want the "craziest, rowdiest and spirited bunch of Texas Tech students to help make the United Spirit Arena an intimidating place to play."

Knight said he wants to see as many students as possible dressed up for the games and painted. He said he wants to see people like the "fro-bros," who wear red and black Afros for the games.

"I want crazy kids," he said. "You want to see them having fun. It's got to be in good taste, but I want them to be as rowdy as they can be, just going nuts. I like when they're painted up,

dressed crazy.

"They should treat every game like it's Halloween."

The press release states that students who want to join the new student group need to come to Tech's home opener at 7 p.m.

Friday in the United Spirit Arena and look for the Athletics Marketing and Promotions Street Team, dressed in referee uniforms. An online form found at www.texastech.com needs to be brought to the game, also.

The United Spirit Arena is also trying to cater some of the music played toward the students in order to get a riled up atmosphere.

Senior point guard John Roberson said he believes some Lil Wayne would get the students going, but Knight isn't too sure about student musical tastes.

"I just turned 40, so my music

taste is lot different now than the generation now ... if I play Neil Diamond — some 'Sweet Caroline' — I don't think it's going to get the student party too charged up as it would my age group."

Knight also said face-to-face promotion of the game is a necessity this year to students. He expects team managers to hand out flyers indicating when home games are.

But of course, a good team is the best way to draw out the students, Singletary said.

Students can count on the Red Raiders "playing hard and winning a lot of basketball games" this year, he said.

"It's probably the best team we've had in a while, and I think it'll be one of the best teams we've had in 10 years," Knight said. "We've got seven seniors; that's a coach's dream."

"We've proven that we play an exciting style of basketball. We get it up; we just got to defend better, and these are their own classmates, they see these kids every day in the classroom."

Tech opens the season at 7 p.m. Friday in the United Spirit Arena against Louisiana-Monroe. The student entrance of the arena is located at the southeast corner opposite of the Chitwood/Weymouth residence hall, and is free with a Tech student ID. Free parking for students is available east of the Texas Tech Federal Credit Union and west of KTXT. thomas.magelsen@ttu.edu

Sacrifices off field allow for entertainment on field

Many times we hear coaches talk about "going to war" on the field. How players "battled" out there. The quarterback "marches" the offense down the field. These phrases don't bother me. But they do make me realize something.

On Veterans Day, it is important to remember there are real people, fighting real wars, all over the world.

It doesn't matter if you agree or disagree with war. This isn't a political article. My stance on the war isn't important. I do know I support the United States of America like I support my team. I wear the colors, I disagree with the head coach on occasion, and no matter the result, I still feel like a part of the team.

Athletes are heroes. Regardless of what Charles Barkley says, they are role models. We look up to them. We cherish our experiences with them. I know I will always remember Michael Crabtree against Texas in 2008.

Veterans Day is a chance to take a step back and think about some other heroes, past and present.

Not many people want a U.S. Marine's autograph, but I sure would like to shake my friend's hand when he gets back from Iraq. People may not appreciate the hard work an offensive lineman does, but I sure do love the work the soldiers do that protects our country.

I am not trying to be sappy or preachy. I have never served in the military, nor do I plan to voluntarily enlist, but I support anyone's decision to do such a thing.

Sports are an escape from reality. The three hours I get to sit and watch my team play, nothing else matters. It is a comfort I take for granted more than my First Amendment rights.

I know there are plenty of sports fans in the military. I also

Cody Stoots



know there are military fans in sports.

Ted Williams served in the military, twice. He enlisted in the Navy during World War II and also served in the Korean War. Williams gave up four years of baseball in the prime of his life for his country.

Pat Tillman walked away from a contract in the NFL to enlist as an Army Ranger after 9/11. Tillman walked away from a dream job to serve. I wouldn't have done the same.

I don't like camouflage. It doesn't look good on me. I am also rarely in a situation where I would need to hide from an animal or person.

It sure looked good on our Red Raiders on Saturday, though.

Texas Tech wore those camo uniforms in support of the Wounded Warrior Project. The project helps wounded veterans after returning from war. Seeing those three wounded warriors at the Tech-Missouri game was special.

The point I am trying to make here is don't take sports for granted. Sacrifices were made away from the field by people in the past and present so we can have the on-the-field escape.

I am not asking you to go enlist. I am not trying to tell you war is right or wrong. What would that be good for? Absolutely nothing.

All I am saying is if you see or know a veteran, take the time to shake their hand and tell them thank you.

■ Stoots is a senior broadcast journalism major from Houston. cody.stoots@ttu.edu

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MIKE SINGLETARY
TEXAS TECH FORWARD

Scandal clouds Newton's Heisman Trophy chances

NEW YORK (AP)—Cam Newton was on his way to winning the Heisman Trophy — until about a week ago.

Now the Auburn quarterback is facing allegations that he and his family sought money for him to play at Mississippi State and that he cheated on his school work while a student at Florida.

Just two months after Reggie Bush returned his Heisman, voters for college football's most famous player of the year award have more than yards and touchdowns to consider.

There is no denying Newton's worthiness as a player.

He has performed spectacularly, transforming No. 2 Auburn into a national championship contender. The 6-foot-6, 250-pound junior is 10th in the nation in rushing (114 yards per game), second in passer rating (182.8) and has accounted for 35 touchdowns.

By Dec. 6, about 925 Heisman voters nationwide will be asked to submit a ballot with three players listed. First-place votes are worth three points, second-place two and third-place one.

Most of the voters are media members who cover college football. Previous Heisman winners also get to vote.

Nineteen of 23 voters reached by the AP on Wednesday said they will judge Newton like any contender unless he is found to have broken rules and been declared ineligible by the NCAA.

"If Cam Newton is eligible to play in games at the time my Heisman ballot is due it won't affect how I vote," said Tom Keegan of the Lawrence (Kan.) Journal World. "If serious allegations later are proven true, then they can always take the award back from him. There is time for this to change, but at the moment, the race for the Heisman is a race for second place. He's the best player in college football."

Four voters said allegations alone

could be enough to dissuade them from putting Newton on their ballot.

"I have very serious concerns about what I'm hearing," said Bill Cole of the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal. "At this point, I can't envision voting for him. One Reggie Bush tainting the Heisman is enough."

Bush won the Heisman in 2005. The NCAA later determined he and his family received improper benefits and ruled the Southern California star tailback ineligible for the '05 season.

The Heisman ballot states: "The recipients must be in compliance with the bylaws defining an NCAA student athlete."

As the Heisman Trust considered whether to take Bush's Heisman away, he gave it back in September and the '05 award was left vacant.

The NCAA is reviewing Newton's recruitment, but Auburn has not received a letter of inquiry, a person told the AP last week on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to comment publicly.

Newton started his college career at Florida and was Tim Tebow's backup as a freshman in 2007. He was arrested in November 2008 in Gainesville. Campus police said he stole a \$1,700 laptop then threw it out his dormitory window when officers arrived to investigate. The charges were dropped last December when he completed a pretrial intervention program for first-time offenders.

Newton has said he bought the stolen computer from someone else.

He left Florida in 2009 and landed at Blinn College, a junior college in Texas. He has said he transferred because he didn't want to sit behind Tebow another year.

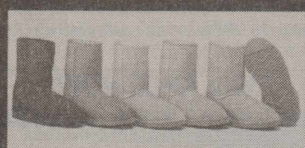
Coming out of Blinn, he was recruited by Mississippi State and former Florida offensive coordinator Dan Mullen, now the Bulldogs' head coach. Newton has said he picked Auburn over Mississippi State because his father wanted him to be closer to the family's Georgia home.

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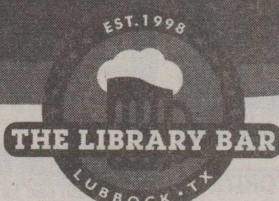
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