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Raising AIDS awareness



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

JACK MCCLASKEY, A senior political science major from El Paso raises awareness for World AIDS Day by placing signs and ribbons on the "Tornado of Ideas" statue Wednesday outside the Student Union Building. McClaskey, along with students representing Tech Student Democrats, Tech Young Progressives and the Student Association of Social Workers, passed out ribbons to raise awareness for World AIDS Day.

Hance lecture focuses on stress management

Chancellor shares techniques to live more relaxed life

By BRIAN HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech Chancellor Kent Hance gave the final and most integral lecture of his semester long seminar class Wednesday afternoon regarding the importance of stress management in personal life and throughout one's career.

Lauren Thompson, a graduate student and one of Hance's teaching assistants, said each week the chancellor's lectures revolve around important life lessons, all culminating into his final lecture on understanding and coping with stress in everyday life.

"The chancellor feels it's very important that students gain a better understanding of how to manage stress," she said. "Being able to cope with stress can help you to be the best employee you can be, and can add to your personal growth."

The class also has hosted prominent figures such as Ed Whitacre and Paul Foster, Thompson said.

"It's a life skill class," she said. "Chancellor Hance influences the students to be successful."

After reviewing some points from previous lectures, Chancellor Hance began to discuss stress management, often citing personal experiences.



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH CHANCELLOR Kent Hance lectures during his Senior Seminar class Wednesday in the Human Sciences building. The class helps students transition from college to the workplace with practical knowledge, skills and insights into the professional world and beyond.

"When stress builds up to a certain point it can really become a problem," Hance said. "Stress can be good, and stress can be bad; you've got to learn how to handle it, and not let stress handle you."

When dealing with stress it is best to try and get your mind off of things, he said. "I think about things or times that are pleasant," Hance said. "All of you have finals coming up, which can be very stressful, but afterwards you will get to go home for a break and be with family."

Another great way to deal with stress is to have hobbies that you really enjoy, he said.

"I knew a U.S. senator whose hobby was roses," Hance said. "It's about finding something positive that can help you to relax."

There are also negative and damaging ways to deal with stress that will only lead to more stress and bigger problems later on down the line, he said.

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Agencies prep for winter, urge caution

Authorities warn of conditions in wake of fatality increases

By KASSIDY KETRON
STAFF WRITER

In the past decade, trends have shown traffic incidents related to winter weather in the state of Texas are on the rise, and authorities are preparing for the hazardous road conditions the winter season and holidays can bring.

Cpl. John Gonzalez of the Lubbock Department of Public Safety said because of an increase of security in airports, long lines and the fear of terrorist attacks, people are less inclined to fly and prefer to drive, which adds more traffic to the roadways.

Gonzalez said he has noticed a general increase in the number of motor vehicle deaths compared to last year. The main reason for these deaths seems to come from people who aren't wearing their seat belts, causing them to be ejected from the vehicle.

"It's important to keep in mind

that seat belts are there for a reason and that's to keep you inside the vehicle," Gonzalez said.

He said it's important for drivers to be prepared for the inclement winter weather, starting with checking their vehicle's competency. He recommends drivers check their entire vehicle but more specifically tires, window defroster and windshield wipers.

Drivers also need to maintain a slower speed to avoid dangerous situations when driving on ice, snow and through standing water, which makes hydroplaning more likely, Gonzalez said.

"Stay on well-traveled roadways in inclement weather; stay on roads that you're familiar with or that you know TxDOT may be working to take the snow off and that have traffic traveling back and forth," he said.

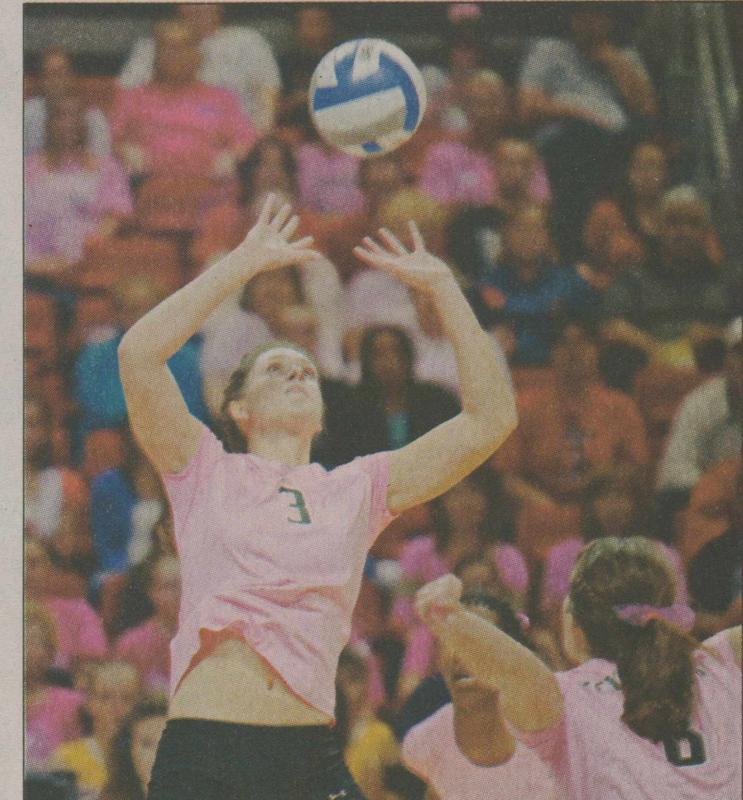
WINTER continued on Page 3 >>>

BY THE NUMBERS

60 The number of traffic fatalities in Texas during last year's holiday season (Dec. 24 to Dec. 27 and Dec. 31 to Jan. 3)

The number of accidents in Texas in 2009 attributed to winter weather conditions **2,800**

Eyes on future, Page 7

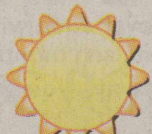



The Texas Tech volleyball team reflects on the 2010 season and shares its thoughts on what's to come. SPORTS, Page 7

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WEATHER

<p>Today Sunny</p>  <p>64/28</p>	<p>Friday Partly Cloudy</p>  <p>75/42</p>
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Romo: Technology does more harm than good

OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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THE DAILY TORNADO

Community Calendar

TODAY

Gamma Beta Phi Silent Auction
Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Traditions Room, Student Union Building

So, what is it?
Come bid at the service organization's silent auction. Bidding ends Friday at 5 p.m. Raffle tickets will also be sold.

Ghostland Observatory

Time: 7 p.m.

Where: Lonestar Events Center

FRIDAY

52nd annual Carol of Lights

Time: The outdoor ceremony will begin with carillon at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by the official ceremony at 7 p.m.

Where: Science Quad and Memorial Circle.

So, what is it?

A Texas Tech tradition in which the Tech campus is illuminated by over 25,000 red, white and orange lights at the end of the ceremony.

17th Annual Cactus Family Christmas Celebration

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Cactus Theatre

So, what is it?

Come get into the spirit of the season with an enchanting mixture of music ranging from wonderfully nostalgic Christmas favorites to contemporary Christmas hits.

Carol Concert

Time: 8 p.m.

Where: Hemmle Recital Hall

So, what is it?

The University Choir, University Singers, Madrigal Singers, Women's Chorale and Matador Singers will combine their talents in a variety of well-known Christmas melodies.

To make a calendar submission e-mail features@dailytreador.com.

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.



PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Treador

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJORS Mary-Katherine Plowman a senior from Abilene, and Erin Wainscott a junior from Dallas discuss the effect of silver paint in Plowman's artwork on Monday in the Art building.

Virgin America makes splashy entrance in Texas

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Decker out in clothing straight out of a spaghetti Western, Richard Branson climbed down from Virgin America's first flight to Texas on Wednesday, marking the start of a showdown with American Airlines.

Virgin America has carved a niche for itself by offering amenity-rich service at low fares between California and the East Coast. But Virgin has never flown anywhere in the middle of the country, and it's never entered a fortress hub like Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, where AMR Corp.'s American controls more than 80 percent of the flights.

Branson said it's precisely American's dominance that provided an opening for Virgin to come in with lower fares, newer planes and more passenger amenities.

"We can get our fair slice of the market," said Branson, who wore leather chaps, a pearl-button Western shirt, red bandanna and cowboy hat for the occasion.

Within four or five years, he predicted, Virgin will command 8 percent of the U.S. air travel market — or about what US Airways Group Inc. and Continental control now. That's a bold forecast for a three-year-old airline that, according to its own CEO, barely survived the 2008 surge in fuel prices.

Citing BP, Obama reject East Coast oil drilling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pointing to the BP blowout and risks of a new environmental disaster, the Obama administration reversed itself Wednesday and promised not to pursue offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico or anywhere else along the East Coast of the U.S.

The decision was hailed in Florida, which depends on tourists drawn by the state's white beaches, but criticized by the oil industry, which said the administration was stifling crucial U.S. energy production and costing recession-battered jobseekers golden opportunities for new work.

The administration had backed a major expansion of offshore drilling earlier this year, in part to gain support for comprehensive climate

legislation in Congress, one of President Barack Obama's top legislative goals.

With that bill now off the table, the president stands much to gain politically by saying no to powerful oil interests, particularly in Florida, which is expected to be a crucial swing state in the 2012 presidential election campaign.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar denied politics played any role, saying the BP spill taught officials a number of lessons, "most importantly that we need to proceed with caution and focus on creating a more stringent regulatory regime."

The new drilling focus would be on areas with leases that are currently active in the central and

western Gulf of Mexico.

"In the Gulf and the Atlantic we are adjusting our strategy," Salazar said. "We believe the most appropriate course of action is to focus development on areas with existing leases and not expand to new areas at this time."

Under the revised plan, the Interior Department will not propose any new oil drilling in waters in the Atlantic Ocean and eastern Gulf for at least the next seven years. Already-planned lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico, expected in March and August, will be delayed until late 2011 or early 2012, Salazar said.

The administration's previous plan — announced last March, three weeks before the April BP spill —

would have authorized officials to explore the potential for drilling from Delaware to central Florida, plus the northern waters of Alaska. The new plan allows potential drilling in Alaska, but officials said they will move cautiously before approving any leases.

The eastern Gulf — an area stretching from 125 to 300 miles (200 to 500 kilometers) off Florida's coast — was singled out for protection by Congress in 2006 as part of a deal with Florida lawmakers that made available 8.3 million acres (3.3 million hectares) to oil and gas development in the east-central Gulf. Under that agreement, the protected region is to remain off limits to energy development until 2022.

European police on alert for WikiLeaks founder

WASHINGTON (AP) — WikiLeaks was on the defensive on several fronts Wednesday, scrambling to remain on the Internet and post more U.S. diplomatic documents while its fugitive founder Julian Assange was targeted by a European arrest warrant on Swedish rape charges.

Amazon.com Inc. prevented WikiLeaks from using the U.S. company's computers to distribute embarrassing State Department communications and other documents, WikiLeaks said Wednesday. The WikiLeaks site was unavailable for several hours before it moved back to servers owned by its previous Swedish host, Bahnhof, which are housed in a protective Cold-War era bunker.

At the same time, Swedish officials intensified legal pressure on Assange by asking European police to arrest

him on rape allegations that have shadowed him for weeks. Swedish Director of Public Prosecution Marianne Ny said that the European arrest warrant had been issued for Assange in connection with the allegations filed against him in that country.

Amazon's move to kick WikiLeaks off its servers came after congressional staff called the company Tuesday to inquire about its relationship with WikiLeaks, Sen. Joe Lieberman, the Connecticut independent, said Wednesday.

"The company's decision to cut off Wikileaks now is the right decision and should set the standard for other companies Wikileaks is using to distribute its illegally seized material," Lieberman said in a statement. He added that he would have further questions for Amazon about its dealings with WikiLeaks.

The White House said Wednesday it was taking new steps to protect government secrets after WikiLeaks release of thousands of sensitive U.S. diplomatic cables. Officials said national security adviser Tom Donilon has appointed a senior aide to identify and develop reforms needed in light of the document dump.

The White House also spurned a call from Assange for Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to step down if she had any role in directing U.S. diplomats' spying on other foreign leaders. "Mr. Assange's suggestion is ridiculous and absurd, and why anyone would find his opinion here relevant is baffling," said spokesman Tommy Vietor, adding Clinton was doing an "extraordinary" job. The White House says U.S. diplomats do not engage in spying.

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Stocks rise sharply on signs of economic growth

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks started December with a jump. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 249 points Wednesday, its biggest one-day gain since Sept. 1 and the sixth largest this year.

An encouraging employment report and hopes that Europe's debt crisis may ease boosted major indexes on Wednesday, erasing nearly two weeks of losses. Bond prices and the dollar fell as investors moved money into riskier assets.

Signs that the U.S. job market thawed in November jump-started the gains. ADP Employer Services, a payroll company, said small businesses added the largest amount of workers in three years last month, well ahead of what analysts had forecast.

"The U.S. economy is all about jobs and anything that leads folks to believe that there's a better job market will be good for equities," said Paul Zemsky, the head of asset allocation at ING Investment Management.

Greg Walker, a global invest-

ment strategist at J.P. Morgan Private Bank, said the ADP report gave traders confidence that the overall U.S. employment rate will fall. The Labor Department will release the November unemployment rate on Friday morning.

More encouraging news followed throughout the day. The Institute of Supply Management said its index of manufacturing activity rose in November for the 16th month. The Federal Reserve then said the U.S. economy improved in 10 of the Fed's 12 regions. Only the Philadelphia and St. Louis regions reported mixed economic conditions.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 249.76, or 2.3 percent, to 11,255.78.

It was the largest point gain since Sept. 1, when stocks began rallying on expectations the Federal Reserve would move to lift economic growth. The Dow continued climbing until it hit this year's high on Nov. 5, two days after the Fed put the \$600 billion stimulus plan in motion. Since then, stocks have

fallen amid worries about Europe's debt troubles and sluggish U.S. economic growth.

Even with Wednesday's gains, the Dow is still 1.6 percent below its Nov. 5 close. The index is up 7.9 percent so far this year.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 25.52, or 2.2 percent, to 1,206.07. The Nasdaq composite rose 51.20, or 2.1 percent, to 2,549.43.

All 10 industry groups that make up the S&P 500 index were higher, led by energy, industrial and technology companies. And all 30 stocks in the Dow index rose, led by Home Depot Inc., whose shares rose 4.6 percent. United Technologies rose 4 percent and Alcoa Inc. 3.4 percent.

Rising stocks outpaced falling ones by four to one on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated volume was 4.4 billion shares.

Bond prices fell sharply, pushing their yields higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury bond rose to 2.97 percent from 2.80 percent late Tuesday. That yield is a widely

used benchmark for loans including mortgages.

European stocks got a boost after European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet suggested that the bank could buy bonds issued by countries within the European Union. That, along with a better-than-expected bond auction by Portugal, pushed the euro higher. The Euro Stoxx 50, which tracks blue chip companies in Europe, rose 2 percent.

Stocks rose in Asia on signals that the Chinese economy is growing. A Chinese state index of manufacturing activity indicated that the country's economy expanded for the 21st straight month. A competing Chinese survey by HSBC rose to an eight-month high.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1.1 percent. China's benchmark Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.1 percent. Stocks have fallen in Asia since early November after China raised a key interest rate to combat inflation.

Winter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When drivers choose to take back roads, it makes it more difficult for them to be found if they get in a wreck or are stranded, Gonzalez said.

In 2009, TxDOT reported more than 60 fatalities during the holiday periods from Dec. 24 to Dec. 27 and Dec. 31 to Jan. 3.

"One fatality is too much, especially during the holidays," Gonzalez said. "It's a time to spend with your family, friends and loved ones. It's not time to be making funeral arrangements or having to deal with a death, and that's a hard thing to deal with, especially during the holidays."

Lubbock Police Department Sgt. Tommy Mora said in less favorable weather conditions, drivers seem to believe they can drive at the same speed as they would during a dry, sunny day.

Mora said drivers should be particularly cautious during the mornings and around 5 p.m. when traffic becomes more congested.

"Be safe, be aware of what the weather conditions are and slow down," Mora said.

Tommy Moore, director of maintenance at the Lubbock division of the Texas Department of Transportation, said the department cares for the major city streets, but a maintenance section office in the southeast part of town is responsible for the state roadways within the city limits, including Loop 289 and the interstate.

"We've prioritized the roadways as to

what are the primary traffic carriers," he said. "Of all those roads that are within the city limits that are the state's responsibilities are the primary routes that they are taken care of first when we have a winter storm come in."

Moore said maintenance does try to prepare for bad winter weather ahead of time by testing the equipment to make sure it's in good working order and making sure the department has all the materials needed for hazardous weather.

A new measure maintenance crews have begun to take to keep the roads clear, Moore said, is spraying a light application of a liquid pre-treatment on the roadways. This treatment helps to lower the freeze temperature of the moisture so it doesn't form as readily or bond to the roadways quite as much.

In 2009, TxDOT reported more than 2,800 motor vehicle accidents related to weather conditions and road surface conditions that involved blowing sand/snow, sleet, hail, snow, ice and slush.

Because there is no guarantee every bit of roadway will be clear of ice and snow, Moore said the department tries to discourage people from traveling if it's not absolutely necessary.

"I wish there was some way we could keep it all cleaned off and safe, but it's just not possible," he said. "We don't have any control over the conditions of the storm, and we've only got so much manpower, so much equipment and so much material. We do the best we can, but sometimes it's more than we can handle."

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Hance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I had a client as a young lawyer who got a DWI after drinking at a local Lubbock club," Hance said. "He drank eight beers, and well, that's real relaxed, but you don't relax on something like that."

There are also a few tricks and techniques to keep in mind that can reduce your overall stress level each day, he said.

"Don't establish artificial deadlines on yourself," Hance said. "Make a list every single day of what you have to do, placing the most difficult things first."

Remembering the acronym H.A.L.T is important to make sure you don't make important decisions when under stress, he said.

"Don't make a major decision when you are hungry, angry, lonely or tired," Hance said.

"For example, Adolf Hitler was reported to be tired when he made the decision to invade Poland, which was the beginning of his end."

Personal wellness goes hand in hand with stress as well, he said.

"You must have a very healthy

appetite and get plenty of exercise," Hance said, "and no matter what you do you need to continue to grow mentally."

By staying healthy and always attempting to keep things in perspective, the chancellor said he has been able to manage stress very successfully throughout his career.

"Sometimes we believe we have tremendous problems, but when we look back at them they aren't problems and may even have been blessings," Hance said. "If you have a stressful or difficult situation, learn from it."

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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
THURSDAY, DEC. 2, 2010

Technology becoming more bad than good

I've had a recent change of heart about my attitude toward technology.

A few decades ago, the invention of cell phones and the Internet dramatically changed the world, in my opinion, for the better. We're now able to call family across the country and even video chat with our friends studying abroad. There are many good aspects about the way technology has shaped our world today, but I feel like recently the bad has started to outweigh the good.

I recently went to dinner at Rosa's, where I saw a typical family of four sitting in a booth near mine. On one side of the table you had the mom and dad, and on the other side, two brothers. The

RoAnne Romo



eldest brother, maybe a college graduate, sat, ate and had a conversation with his parents while his younger brother sat with his iPhone in his lap, browsing Facebook with his headphones in.

Our phones, laptops and iPods have become like oxygen tanks for us; we lug them around on a daily basis for means of basic survival.

I ride the bus to class most days, and I could count on one hand the number of conversations I've had with people riding the same route as me. Most everyone is either texting, surfing Facebook, talking on the phone or listening to music. Now, I'm a pretty quiet, keep-to-myself person, but I also can't help but wonder: Where has simple and friendly conversation gone?

I dated this guy for two years who loved the video game "Call Of Duty" more than the air he inhaled. Every day he would choose to talk to his headset rather than have a conversation with me. Not a conversation about how Sarah got dumped last weekend but a real, substantial conversation about theories, life, religion or philosophy.

Our generation has progressively become more and more dependent on technology. I didn't have a TV in my bedroom

until I came to college, and I couldn't date or have a cell phone until I turned 16. Today, kids walk around with Gameboys instead of babysitters and watch TV instead of reading a bedtime story.

Fights in relationships today are more about what so-and-so said on Facebook. Now, I know what you're thinking: Blame the people not the technology, right? On one side of the fence you have

those who find true love on the Internet and live happily ever after. On the other side you have those who use private e-mails and messages to secretly talk to exes behind their partner's back.

Technology has taken away the art and appreciation of the simple pleasures of life. Technology in general has been invented to help ease our lives. Instead of scrubbing the dishes at night we can now throw them in the dishwasher and spend a night in with popcorn and a movie.

Rather than going to Wal-Mart to buy, or Blockbuster to rent, a movie, you can now drive to your closest Redbox and rent a DVD for less than the cost of a Coke at the Student Union Building. And if you're even lazier than that, Netflix offers in-home movie rentals right from your Wii. Who needs human interaction when you have a remote?

All is fine in moderation, but with an iPhone application for nearly everything except wiping your own butt, where is this line drawn? Technology has stunted our society by helping too much.

Romo is a junior creative writing major from Haslet.
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RED RAIDER ETHICS GENERATOR

Don't give in to hasty thoughtlessness

For this column on ethics, I thought about sharing an uplifting story of courage and redemption. It concerns a teacher who had his certificate revoked for violation of the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics. Like an Old West gunslinger-turned-town-marshal, this teacher had pled guilty to felony theft against his brother and later turned his life around and devoted himself to teaching.

Of course, because he had a previous criminal history, the State Board of Education revoked his teaching certificate and declared him unfit to teach. But the interesting thing is that this teacher did not quit. He went to trial and presented 14 character witnesses who stated he

JoAnn Klinker



was fit to teach. Unusual circumstances around the theft, character witnesses and the will to make a new life for himself all allowed this educator to get his teaching certificate reinstated.

Teaching is a highly moral profession; when people talk about ethics and teachers, they often do it in a loaded sense that applies praise and/or blame. There are accepted norms of behavior

in teaching, and most of us recognize that a conviction for theft is not one of them. Nevertheless, the story about that teacher contains elements of moral courage, good versus evil, the triumph of the individual and any number of things moral and ethical.

Do you agree with the decision? Would you have allowed this teacher to continue teaching? I have a friend who would not have tolerated bringing this teacher back into the profession because my friend took the high road of ethical absoluteness. But to my mind, rejecting the teacher out of hand is an example of thoughtlessness.

Many philosophers have theorized that thoughtlessness is moral failure of

the highest order. To be fair, the reality in this case probably has more to do with my friend's tendency for heuristic decision making rather than thoughtlessness: My colleague is a very busy person who is prone to quick decisions because limited time hinders thinking too deeply.

The point is, heuristic decision making comes in handy when it prompts you to run from a burning building, but when one is condemning another human being's behavior, more thoughtful action is required.

To do that, you have to take into account reality, and most of us can never quite grasp that. We listen to the tapes in our own heads instead of conversations,

we ascribe intents when nothing was intended ... In short, we are human and sometimes see what we want to see instead of what is.

Chuck Klosterman, in his book "Eating the Dinosaur," realized he was out of touch when, while watching a football game, he dismissed running the ball out of the shotgun formation as an idiotic notion. He had played football, written about football and felt that he exhaustively understood football and knew certain truths.

Then, while watching a game in which the "foolish" play was made, he realized that his "traditional, conservative football values were imaginary and symbolic. They belonged to a game [he]

wasn't actually watching but was still trying to see" (p. 163). And over time, he realized that this had happened in almost every aspect of his life.

Reality often moves on and leaves us behind because we do not take the time to be thoughtful. And as a result, we sometimes find ourselves relying on heuristic ethics to support our thoughtlessness. As the story of courage and redemption with which I started this column illustrates, ethical human beings have to be both realists as well as idealists, and that includes thoughtfulness.

Klinker is the Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership.

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Kanye West makes good music, not good opinions

By ADAM LERNER
CORNELL DAILY SUN (CORNELL U.)

"Writers have to know things ... They have to know things about life. Musicians don't," Fran Lebowitz, professional cynic and writer, declares in the recent HBO documentary about her life, Public Speaking.

Her point is valid. Music does not inherently or necessarily stem from any heightened understanding of reality the way that good writing is thought to (though it can). Music comes from talented musicians who practice a holistic craft. They are not forced to know about life the way writers are, only about music.

This is a concept we often forget in regard to our artists — most notably in recent months, Kanye West. West has been derided for his outlandish comments in relation to just about everything. In a recent Today Show interview with Matt Lauer, Kanye was forced to speak on his previous comment that "George Bush doesn't care about black people."

Flustered by Lauer's directness, Kanye gave a half-hearted apology after hearing that George Bush called the comment "one of the most disgusting moments of [his] presidency." Lauer reveled in the moment, watching his words bind the hip-hop sensation in his seat.

This interview was an absolutely ridiculous display. First, let me speak briefly to Bush's comment. The fact that Bush considers a crazy pop-star's hyperbole one of the most disgusting moments of his presidency is a little disgusting in and of itself. The list of things Bush screwed up while in office is too long to enumerate here and the fact that getting his feelings hurt by an over-paid man-child with microphone privileges tops the list shows that he still has absolutely no understanding over what exactly a president does.

But the larger point I am trying to make is that Lauer and Bush alike are suffering from debilitating cases of "taking Kanye seriously." It seems like the epidemic is spreading and it's discrediting his music. Let's learn a lesson from Ms. Lebowitz and let Kanye frolic and make his music. He has proven himself talented time and time again, especially on his most recent album, My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy, which has been irrefutably deemed at this point a masterpiece.

This same issue caused a media frenzy after the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards. Kanye took the stage after Taylor Swift's win for Best Female Video and announced, "Beyonce had one of the best videos of all time" (never actually saying that she should have won). The media went crazy, quick to call Kanye himself a racist.

Kanye has said ridiculous things in the past and I assure you he will continue to say ridiculous things in the future. As long as he remains as jaded in the public eye as he is, he will forever be given opportunities to speak his mind and clear the air. But it's a self-perpetuating process.

We give him press to clear up his tarnished name and he gets defensive and says crazy things. The man is not an orator, he's a rapper and a producer and a damn good one at that. If we ask Kanye what he thinks about politics we're going to get a ridiculous response. If we ask him about hip-hop we're going to get the opinion of a maestro, albeit coated in self-promoting boastfulness.

Later in the film Lebowitz declares that there is "too much democracy in the culture not enough democracy in the society. There's no reason to have democracy in the culture ... the culture should be made by a natural aristocracy of talent ... It should have to do with 'how good are you?'"

This is a point that I feel we, as an audience, tend to lose sight of all too frequently. I have heard countless times from fans that they prefer artists that are socially responsible and insightful rather than over-inflated superstars like Kanye West. This misses the point entirely.

Artists make art. They are not politicians who make policy nor are they judges who rule on right and wrong. They make music and they make it for the public. They are allowed to rule the world of music with authority, because they are simply better at it.

This is what Lebowitz is getting at, not necessarily an aristocracy, but a meritocracy. Kanye has earned his place as an authority in hip-hop, but not in politics. Let's stop asking for his opinion on the latter.

Today's
su | do | ku

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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JFK assassin's original coffin put up for auction

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A ghoulish piece of American history is now up for sale to the highest bidder.

The modest wooden coffin in which John F. Kennedy's assassin was buried for 18 years is being auctioned off by Allen Baumgardner, owner of Baumgardner Funeral Home in Fort Worth, Texas.

The brown pine box, its rusted metal ornamentation still intact, was dug up in 1981 as part of an effort to put to rest theories that Lee Harvey Oswald wasn't in it. Authorities used dental records to conclude the remains did indeed belong to the man who shot the president to death in 1963.

The body was then reburied at Rose Hill Memorial Cemetery in Fort Worth.

"We placed Lee in a new casket, and I just brought that one back to the funeral home," Baumgardner said Wednesday. "I've had it all these years."

Baumgardner said he was selling the coffin, along with the original embalming equipment and paperwork, because he felt it was time to do something with it.

"I'm 68 years old, I think this would be a good time to go ahead and see if anybody is interested in it," he said.

Bidding, which opened at \$1,000 on Tuesday, was expected to go as high as \$100,000 by the time it closes

on Dec. 16, said Laura Yntema, manager of Nate D. Sanders Auctions of Santa Monica, which is handling the sale. Bids are being taken by phone and online.

An early version of Oswald's death certificate, in which the cause of death was listed as being shot by Jack Ruby (identified by his real name, Jack Rubenstein), was being auctioned separately. Yntema said it is expected to fetch as much as \$20,000.

That certificate was later changed because Ruby hadn't yet been convicted of killing Oswald in a Dallas police station two days after Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22, 1963.

The Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas, which is dedicated to the Kennedy assassination, has no interest in bidding on the coffin, said curator Gary Mack, adding its exhibits lean heavily toward photographs and videos. The museum is on the sixth floor of Dallas' old Texas School Book Depository Building, from which Oswald is believed to have opened fire on the president.

But Mack said he expected no shortage of bidders. Kennedy and the circumstances of his death, he said, were still fascinate people 47 years later.

"My experience as a curator has been, if people have room and it's a Kennedy item, they will collect it," he said.

Review: Carrey charms in uneven 'Phillip Morris'

(AP) — Jim Carrey gets to show off the best of what he can do in "I Love You Phillip Morris," both the physical comedy he made his name on and the unexpected tenderness that has crept into his later, more dramatic work.

Here, he uses that whole range to play a gay con-man driven by love, giving a consistently charming, breezy performance in a film that frequently feels inconsistent in tone.

The directing debut of Glenn Ficarra and John Requa, who wrote the awesomely inappropriate "Bad Santa," veers a bit jarringly between its humorous, serious and romantic moments. But Carrey, as real-life scam artist Steven Russell, is never short of fascinating to watch. The story is so incredible, you're constantly wondering what outlandish scheme he'll perpetrate next. (A quick intro to the film assures us: "This really happened. It really did.")

Ficarra and Requa's script, based on the book by former Houston Chronicle investigative reporter Steven McVicker, follows Steven Russell's many creative efforts to procure money, then break out of jail each

time he's caught. But before embarking on that life of crime, he's a mild-mannered husband and father, living a proper Christian life and working as a police officer. Only when he has a serious car accident does he realize he's been living a lie all this time: He's actually gay. This inspires him to leave his wife (Leslie Mann), move to Miami, take up with a hot young man and a couple of miniature pinchers and live the kind of party-boy life that requires several credit cards (and fake IDs) to support.

Carrey's charisma and huge smile are on full display in these scenes, as his character is finally enjoying himself in a way he never has before. He's probably just a good guy doing bad things, and it's hard not to root for him to succeed. His many cons and frauds land him in the state penitentiary, though, where he runs the place in no time, unsurprisingly. But Steven himself is surprised to find the real love of his life there: Phillip Morris. Ewan McGregor plays this sweet, soft-spoken pretty boy with great delicacy and heart, and he knows enough to step aside to play the straight man, if you will, to the larger-than-life Carrey.

TAB hosts make your own ornament

By CAROLINE COURTNEY
STAFF WRITER

Christmas music could be heard playing throughout the halls of the Student Union Building on Wednesday as the Tech Activities Board hosted an ornament-making event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Valerie Reyes, a freshman microbiology major from El Paso, was walking through the SUB when she decided to discover the source of the music, and to her satisfaction she found more than 40 people making ornaments.

"I was just planning on studying," Reyes said, "but this was the perfect study break. It's something fun to do besides study. I'm having a really good time."

With finals to prepare for, Reyes said making an ornament is the perfect way to get her into the holiday spirit and forget her school-related worries.

"Christmas seems to make people forget their troubles," Reyes said. "Making an ornament has been the best stress reliever I've found so far."

Relieving stress is one of the reasons TAB Daytime Coordinator Christi Figueroa decided to host the event.

"For the holiday, we don't want everyone being so preoccupied with finals that they forget to have fun," Figueroa said. "So that's why we're encouraging students to come down and relax before finals."

TAB set up table after table of ribbons, glitter, glue, pearls and clear plastic ornaments to decorate, along with tables of cookies and hot chocolate to get students into the holiday spirit.

"It's that time of season, and what better way to celebrate than by making an ornament with your friends?" Figueroa said. "The ornaments I've seen are so creative. It's amazing, and everyone really looks like they're having a good time."

Figueroa said she expected to see Christmas spirit, but she was happily surprised to see the spirit students had for Texas Tech as well.

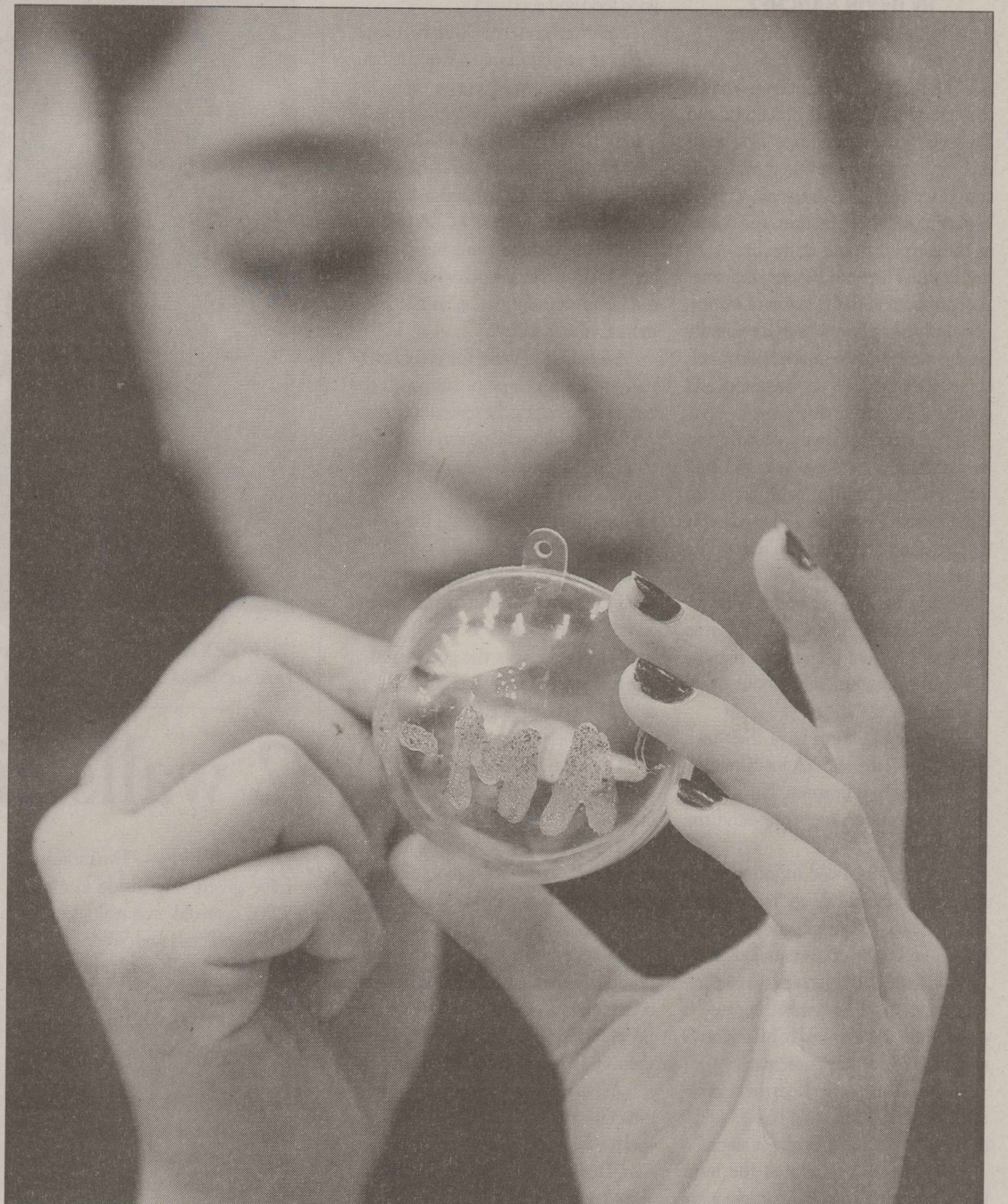


PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

AMANDA GONZALEZ, A freshman exercise and sport sciences major from El Paso, decorates a Christmas ornament during a Tech Activities Board event Wednesday in the Student Union Building.

One student who made a Tech-themed ornament was Regina Pepper, a freshman public relations major from Houston.

"Christmas is definitely my favorite holiday," Pepper said. "I love all the traditions every year. It's the best time to bond with family and friends because everyone's in the giving spirit."

In line with the giving spirit, Pepper said she plans to give the ornament she made as a gift to her mother when she returns home.

"Making an ornament made me so excited to get home and celebrate with my family," Pepper

said. "But right now I'm still so excited about Christmas."

Pepper already has bought a Christmas tree with her roommate and said she will continue decorating her dorm this week.

Jessica McCarte, a junior advertising major from Flower Mound on the social programs committee for TAB, said she overheard multiple students discussing decorating their dorms and apartments after finishing their ornaments.

"That's one of the things we wanted to do today," McCarte said. "It's all about spreading holiday

cheer and giving students an opportunity to have fun with their friends."

This is the first time for TAB to host the ornament-making event, but McCarte said they will host it in the future because of its obvious popularity. She expected between 100 and 200 students to participate.

"We're glad everyone's having so much fun," McCarte said. "We're all about spreading holiday cheer. And to quote 'Elf,' 'The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.'"

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Celebration teaches different cultures' holiday celebrations

By DEVIN SANCHEZ
STAFF WRITER

The month of December is known as a time of celebration of tradition, and Wednesday night the Texas Tech community learned about a variety of holiday customs from around the world.

Las Posadas celebration was hosted in the Croslin Room at the library by the Latino/Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association and the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement; the event is a holiday celebration that focuses on the history and culture of international holidays.

There were a series of speeches given by members of Tech's faculty and staff from various cultures. Each presentation focused on traditions rooted deeply in both the religion and culture of the presenter.

Leticia De Larrosa, events chair for LHFSa, helped plan the event this year. She said the event is important because it helps inform students about other cultures.

"Different cultures have their own celebrations," she said. "A lot of cultures don't celebrate Christmas, but a lot of their celebrations happen around the same time."

Presenters included Innocent Awasom, the science librarian from Cameroon, Africa. Awasom is fluent in English, French and three of his native dialects. Awasom explained his country's celebration happens in December because it doesn't rain. He also told of his country's royalty and how they participate.

"The queen mother leads the celebration," he said. "The king has about 50 different wives, but they all get along." Awasom also reiterated the most important part of his culture's celebration: sharing and good food.

"It is a celebration, there are songs and dancing," he said. "And lots of sharing,

good food and good will."

Another presenter was Fernando Valle, an assistant professor in the Educational Leadership Program. Valle has presented at Las Posadas all three years. Valle's story focused on his Mexican heritage and the story behind the piñata.

Valle told of the symbolism between the piñata and the life of a Christian. He said the story of the piñata comes from the early 1500s when Mexico went through a religious transformation to become a more Catholic society.

According to Valle, the piñata originally was a seven-point star, with the points representing the seven deadly sins.

"Blindfolding the person hitting the piñata is representative of a person's blind faith in their religion," Valle said. "The hit-and-miss part of hitting the piñata represents the everyday walk with sin."

He also explained the meaning behind the person hitting the piñata and having candy fall out.

"That represents the goodness that you find when you follow your faith," he said. "The crowd cheering you on, that represents belonging to a church."

The legend of the piñata was passed down to Valle by his great-grandmother and his grandmother, who is now 100 years old. Valle said growing up in South Texas and Mexico he saw more traditions being passed down by Las Posadas than he does now.

"Maybe with second and third generation Hispanics, these things aren't so common," he said. "Mostly because people adopt popular traditions around them and what is common in their town."

As far as educating students on different cultures and their celebrations, Valle said it is something that is very important.

"This is extremely important because these are personal stories," he said. "It is not just something you read on the Internet; this is someone's heritage."

dsanchez@dailytoreador.com

SYMPHONIC SUIT-UP



THE TEXAS TECH orchestra rehearses on Wednesday in the Hemmle Recital Hall for the Carol Concert. The orchestra will be accompanying various Texas Tech choir groups in a performance on Friday following the Carol of Lights at 8 p.m.

2 walls give way in latest Pompeii collapse

ROME (AP) — Two more walls have given way inside Pompeii's 2,000-year-old archaeological site, Italian officials said Wednesday — the second collapse at the popular tourist attraction in as many days.

Officials sought to play down the latest collapses, saying they only concerned the upper parts of two walls that had no artistic value. But the repeated damage at one of the world's most important archaeological sites is proving an embarrassment for Italy, and giving credence to accusations that the entire ancient city is in a state of decay.

The collapses have drawn the attention of the UNESCO experts, who will travel to Pompeii on Thursday to inspect the damage and look for other possible areas at risk.

Some 3 million people every year visit the ancient ruins of Pompeii, a busy Roman city that was destroyed in A.D. 79 by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The eruption killed thousands and buried the city in 20 feet (6 meters) of volcanic ash, providing priceless information on what life was like in the ancient world.

Pompeii was made a World Heritage site in 1997, a status that means

its deterioration would be "a harmful impoverishment" to the world.

Two walls collapsed Wednesday morning, likely as a result of heavy rains over the past several days, the office of Pompeii's archaeological superintendent said. One concerned the 2-meter by 3-meter (6 1/2 feet by nearly 10 feet) upper chunk of a partition wall between two buildings along the central route of Via Stabiana.

Also giving way nearby was the upper part of a wall of an ancient house known as the "small Lupanare." The name usually refers to a brothel, al-

though this was a small house off-limits to tourists and not the vast "Lupanare" brothel famous for its erotic frescoes that is one of the main attractions at Pompeii.

Neither of the collapsed walls featured frescoes, officials said. The area has been cordoned off as cultural officials review the damage.

"These kind of events are possible over the course of the life of a 2,000-year-old, vast archaeological site," superintendent Jeannette Papadopoulou said, seeking to play down the incidents. "They should not give rise to alarmism."

Snipes ordered to prison for tax evasion

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Actor Wesley Snipes was ordered Wednesday to voluntarily surrender at a federal prison in Pennsylvania next week to begin his three-year sentence for failing to pay taxes.

The U.S. Marshal's Office ordered Snipes to report by noon on Dec. 9 to the Federal Correctional Institution McKean in Lewis Run, Pa.

Snipes had tried unsuccessfully to remain free on bail while

appealing his conviction to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The 48-year-old star of the "Blade" trilogy was convicted in 2008 on three misdemeanor counts of willful failure to file income tax returns in 1999, 2000, and 2001. He was acquitted of five other charges, including felony tax fraud and conspiracy.

His attorney, Daniel Meachum, didn't immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

Eminem, Lady Antebellum likely Grammy favorites

(AP)—Eminem's Grammy wins are in the double digits, but despite a career that has been as commercially successful as it has been critically acclaimed, he's never won a trophy for album of the year or music's biggest night.

On Wednesday, he might get another shot at it. The rapper is a leading favorite when Grammy nominations are announced on the Recording Academy's annual nominations special, broadcast live on CBS

at 10 p.m. EST from Club Nokia in Los Angeles. The hourlong show hosted by LL Cool J will include performances from likely nominees Justin Bieber, Katy Perry and Miranda Lambert.

Eminem's "Recovery" is the top-selling album of the year so far, with more than three million copies sold. But more than a sales triumph, it's also a creative one, marking a return to form after years of battling prescription drugs, lags between albums, and sub par material with last year's "Relapse." There are no guarantees when it comes to the Grammys, but an album of the year nomination for "Recovery" is about as sure as it gets.

Eminem is also likely to get nominations for either song of the year, record

of the year, or both, for hits "Love the Way You Lie," featuring Rihanna, and "Not Afraid." He's also a virtual lock to be nominated in several rap categories, where he's won the majority of his 11 Grammys.

Lady Antebellum's sophomore album, "Need You Now," was almost as successful as "Recovery" and is the second best-selling album of the year. The country trio is likely to be nominated in their own genre category, but a nomination for song and record of the year for "Need You Now" is also a strong possibility. And they may get a nod in the album category, as well.

Country singer-songwriter Miranda Lambert may also find herself in the album of the year category for her "Revolution," which won top honors at the Academy of Country Music and Country Music Association awards this year.

Lambert rehearsed for the nominations concert late Tuesday at downtown L.A.'s Club Nokia, backed by a band that included a trio of guitarists as she performed her single "Only Pretty."

"I'm excited to do something for the Grammys," she said. "This is kind of a cool thing for me, an introduction to this world. There's other great artists on the bill, and it's not just country, it's across the board for music genres, and I'm just glad

to be here representing country music."

Taylor Swift took home the album of the year trophy for her multiplatinum "Fearless" at last season's Grammys. Could 2011 be another crossover year for country artists?

"I hope so," Lambert said. "Country music right now, we have a great name for ourselves, and we've all worked real hard to get it out there and make it cool and I think it's working, so I'm glad to be part of it."

Sade is also a key contender for album of the year; her "Soldier of Love" received raves and was a best-seller when it was released in February, her first album in 10 years. Other possibilities for album of the year nominations include Arcade Fire for their CD "The Suburbs" and Jay-Z for "The Black Album," which spawned the massive "Empire State of Mind," another top Grammy contender.

"Empire State of Mind," which features Alicia Keys, could get nominations for song and record of the year. Other possibilities for record of the year include Perry's summer sensation, "California Gurls"; Train for "Hey, Soul Sister"; and a pair from rapper B.o.B, who had two of the year's biggest hits with "Nothing on You" (featuring Bruno Mars) and "Airplanes" (featuring Eminem and Paramore's Hayley Williams).

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

ACROSS
1 Thread bearer
6 Classic name in shoes
10 Dressed
14 Aquarium concern
15 Fabled craft
16 Old
17 "So I hear your job as exercise class instructor is ..."
19 Word with belly or blast
20 "Forget it, comrade!"
21 Ancient Andean
22 Davenport shopper, probably
23 Artist Magritte
25 Branch honcho: Abbr.
26 Pops (out)
29 "So I hear your job as a burlesque dancer is ..."
35 Choice
37 Big, outmoded piece of equipment
38 Paris pronoun
39 Accountant, at times
41 Airport safety org.
42 Carousing
44 Shiny fabric
46 "So I hear your trash removal business is ..."
48 Revenge seekers in a 1984 film
49 Dollar sign shape
50 Baltic resident
52 Early afternoon hr.
55 Disease attacker
57 Helps out
61 Demagogue's delivery
62 "So I hear your scuba diving business is ..."
64 Wine region south of the Matterhorn
65 "Got it, Daddy-oh!"
66 Party person
67 DEA agent
68 Frosty's button
69 Honshu city

DOWN
1 Felled, in a way
2 Queen sacrifice in chess, e.g.
3 Shrek or Fiona
4 Yellow ribbon site of song
5 Island welcome
6 Lodestone
7 Hook nemesis, for short
8 Monterey water
9 "a chance!"
10 Bionic beings
11 MGM co-founder
12 Field of expertise
13 "Coming Home" actor
18 "Delta of Venus" author
22 "Everybody is only on different subjects": Will Rogers
24 Watching "Avatar," say
25 Cretan king of myth
26 SLF setting
27 Tea of
"Spanglish"
28 Of a pelvic bone
30 Gascony good-bye
31 Caboodle partner

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved
GABS TOAST CCUP
IGLU OVINE AHAB
GLUE RUDER GELS
GERMANEASLES
LATEXMEASLES
EMSELNANASAL
EMSDROPDOWNMENU
ISLABAMBITEM
THATSONEONME
TIDALNEEDLAC
YAYICKLEECH
LEMONMERINGUE
TAUTNIECEERMA
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By Pancho Harrison 12/2/10

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Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)

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Leach is not right choice for coaching job at Miami

How much better does it get than a letter of recommendation from Donald Trump?

As reported by the Palm Beach Post and confirmed by University of Miami officials, Trump indeed sent a letter recommending Mike Leach for the university's coaching vacancy.

Trump's letter reads as follows: "You made a big mistake when you did not take my advice and hire Mike Leach of Texas Tech ... and you can now get him for the right price."

That letter would get most people a job anywhere in the business world. Too bad Trump's recommendations and opinions carry so much less weight in the college football world.

It is simple why Miami should not, and will not, hire Mike Leach.

Leach is embarrassing himself right now.

In case you haven't heard, Mike Leach is suing ESPN and a public relations firm.

Don't bite the hand that feeds you, Mike.

ESPN made Mike Leach a national name. They played the clips of his unique humor. They had him on television as their guest more than once. Leach's reputation was not built by ESPN, but his reputation certainly reached new heights with its help.

It has been four years since Leach lobbied for the job at Miami. He didn't get the job then, and he most certainly won't be hired now.

After his best season ever at Texas Tech, the 2008 season, Mike Leach seemed to be a hot topic in the coaching world. He was rumored for numerous jobs, including Washington, Tennessee and Auburn. He instead signed an extension with Texas Tech rather than leaving.

I don't think Mike Leach wanted to leave Lubbock. Ever. His interviews were just veiled attempts to gain more money and momentum heading into contract negotiations.

Cody Stoots



Miami doesn't need the backlash that Leach brings. Miami is an established and nationally known college team. Leach's success put Tech on the map; he doesn't need to do that for the Hurricanes.

Miami hiring Leach would bring too much un-needed attention. He is in a lawsuit right now with the network that broadcasts some of Miami's football games. He sued his former employer. Leach is a very quotable person but has never gotten along with the media.

I never understood the infatuation with Leach. If you look long enough

you will still find members of his pirate crew lurking among Tech fans.

I have news for Leach supporters: He isn't going to get the Miami job, and he will never coach at Texas Tech again. Leach tried to make himself bigger than college football.

Leach won games at Texas Tech, but that

is all he did. He never got Tech to the Big 12 championship. He never beat UT or OU on the road. This isn't the guy to take Miami back to the big time.

Leach can make his life a lot easier by staying out of court and laying low. Pretty soon, a good job that fits his personality and talents will open up. He will land back on his feet sooner or later, but it is all his choice.

Until Leach stops believing he is bigger than college football, the only college he is fit to coach at starts with clown.

Stoots is a senior broadcast journalism major from Houston.
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Tech looking to the future after season

By JOSHUA KOCH
 STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech volleyball team had the opportunity to take a few days to step back and review the season they just wrapped up.

But now it is time to start looking toward the future.

"Well, right now the girls are

on break, which is great; I think everyone needs a break after a volleyball season like this one," said interim coach Beth Falls. "But they'll come back in January, and basically what's going to happen is we're hopefully going to find a new coach, and we won't lose any ground in the spring."

The Red Raiders went through a season most teams and players would never wish to experience in their collegiate careers.

Tech started the season with three straight tournaments in which they went 2-7, beating Texas State and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

After that, Big 12 play began and the streak lengthened to 64 games before the Red Raiders finally put it to rest with a five-set win against Kansas on Oct. 2.

The only other win the Red Raiders would record in conference play would come on the road in Boulder, Colo., beating the Colorado Buffaloes 3-2. The win came with a new coach at the helm of the program: Beth Falls.

Falls took over as interim coach after Trish Knight resigned Oct. 25 in the middle of her second season at Tech.

At the end of the season, the Red Raiders finished with four wins overall and two in conference play. Junior outside hitter and middle blocker Amanda Dowdy was named to the All-Big 12 First Team on Monday

and was the first player since 2002 to receive such an honor.

Senior middle blocker Alexxa Roberts said looking back on her final year as a Red Raider, she has learned a lot about herself in the challenges they faced as a team.

"Great experience — it was definitely a blessing for me and any of the girls," she said. "We overcame a lot of adversity, and I'm sure each one of us learned a lot about ourselves and just what we could put ourselves through and what we can accomplish if we set our mind to it."

Changes obviously are expected to come with the seniors leaving and the recruits coming in, but the Red Raiders will experience more change with the Big 12's changing landscape.

The Red Raiders have a large void created by the departing seniors for the 2011 season, and won't know what to expect since the next recruiting class is still not set in stone; currently no players have signed a national letter of intent to play for the Red Raiders



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Treador
 TEXAS TECH MIDDLE Blocker Alexxa Roberts spikes the ball during the Texas Tech volleyball game against Oklahoma University. Roberts is one of a handful of seniors who have played their last game for Tech.

next year.

But the biggest change Tech will face is the makeover that the Big 12 will undergo on July 1 when Nebraska and Colorado leave the conference.

It will leave only nine schools that field volleyball teams in the conference. Oklahoma State does not have a volleyball program in place.

Dowdy will be entering her senior campaign next season, and she said there are lots of changes to come.

"It's going to be different because it's not going to be the same

Big 12," she said. "So, obviously it's going to be new for everybody. I'm definitely going to miss playing Nebraska because they're so much fun to play against."

But even with players coming and going, Falls said there is one constant that will never change in a player and that is the drive to win.

"I think they're tired of losing," she said. "They're going to do whatever they can to maintain and to get better. They're going to work as hard as they can individually to make their team better."

>>jkoch@dailytreador.com

"I never understood the infatuation with Leach. If you look long enough you will still find members of his pirate crew lurking among Tech fans."



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SPORTS

PAGE 8
THURSDAY, DEC. 2, 2010

Bench play keys Tech to 83-43 victory

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Four turnovers in the opening three minutes and a 0-for-11 start from the field had all the makings of a long night, one that'd probably end in defeat for the Lady Raiders.

That's exactly what happened Wednesday evening – to the UTSA Roadrunners, that is. Texas Tech head coach Kristy Curry just believes her players weren't taking advantage of easy opportunities.

"I really wasn't disappointed in the first eight minutes because we showed the execution, we just missed a lot of easy looks," Curry said. "It showed some maturity – sticking to the game plan as far as offensively, execution-wise and some poise and shots started to fall."

But Texas Tech (8-0) wasn't bailed out by any of the starters, rather, turning to the bench for guidance in the first half en route to an 83-43 win against UTSA (3-4).

Scoring from the field first for Tech was guard Christine Hyde, who drove past a couple of defenders to lay in the team's first field goal of the night six minutes into the contest.

What followed soon after would turn out to be the beginning of a breakout night for freshman Kelsi Baker. Baker entered the game in the early stages of the first half, and didn't waste any time to make a significant impact, scoring two consecutive baskets.

Baker's first points tied the game up at 10 all, before her second gave the Lady Raiders their first lead since a 2-0 advantage

to open Wednesday's events.

But that wasn't enough for her, as the 6-foot forward went off for eight points in seven minutes of play before halftime, which may not seem like much to other athletes. That's not the case with Baker – her previous career-high was a six-point outing against Mississippi Valley State, a number she eclipsed on Wednesday with 11:16 remaining in the first half.

Baker was the catalyst for a Tech bench that generated 14 points in the first half. By the game's end, the bench had racked up 44 points, one more than the Roadrunners tallied as a whole.

A key for Baker's offensive surge was an adjustment to the flow of the game, something that may have been lacking considering she's missed 19 practices this fall due to a hamstring injury.

"I was feeling good, I think once I got in I kind of felt the pace of the game," Baker said. "Just being able to feel the pace, it felt better than just going out there and being like 'Woah, what's going on? What's happening?' I kind of felt more in control than in any other game."

Baker's final tally of 12 points and five rebounds in just 16 minutes of action could raise some concern for future opponents, since the Mesquite native is still not at full strength from a health standpoint.

"I feel like I'm – well, I'm pretty close to 100 percent," Baker said. "I'm going to continue working. That's all I can hope for, just trying to get back to the best of my ability."

Baker was just one compo-

nent of a trio that produced points in double figures, the other two players being center Kierra Mallard and guard Casey Morris. Mallard scored 12 points to tie Baker for the team high and game high, while Morris put up a total of 10 points to go along with six boards.

Ashley Gardner led the Roadrunners with nine points in 36 minutes of play.

Tech's 40-15 halftime lead gave Curry the opportunity to give playing time to players who don't always see the floor, such as center Haley Schneider and guard Antiesha Brown. Brown scored four points.

The Lady Raiders maintained a large advantage throughout the game, thanks in part to free throw shooting and defense. Tech made 19-of-25 attempts from the charity stripe while holding the Roadrunner attack to 15-of-62 shooting from the field.

A win in such lopsided fashion probably could not have come at a better time for Tech, with a trip to Penn State set for Sunday afternoon.

But the Lady Raiders may like their chances against anybody if the bench players continue to show up like they did Wednesday, which was an example of what Curry wants to see for the remainder of the season.

"We've got to have that all year long," Curry said of her bench's performance. "It's about the Double T and getting this group to buy in to being unselfish. If you're off the bench, you're a starter, whatever you're called upon to do, do it with all your heart and soul."

>>> jrodriguez@dailytoreador.com



PHOTOS BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH FORWARD Kierra Mallard shoots over UTSA center Corrie Forcier during the game Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena.



TEXAS TECH HEAD coach Kristy Curry cheers on her team from the sidelines during the game against UTSA Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena.



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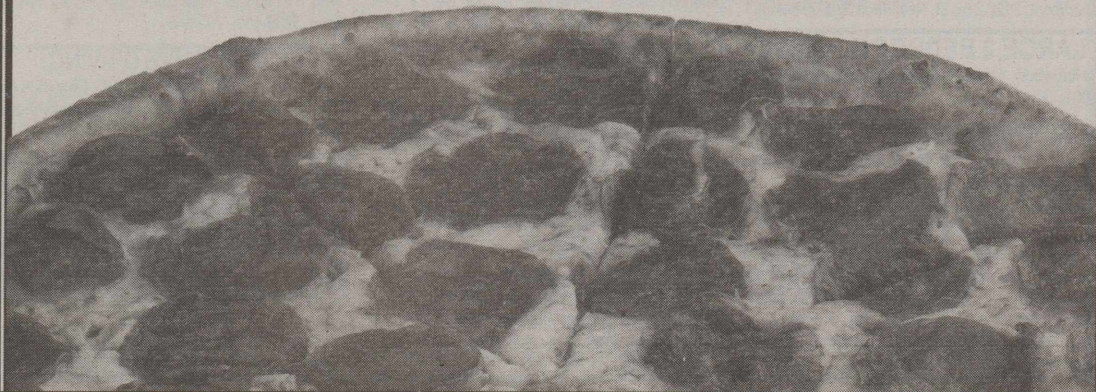
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