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MEMBERS OF THE Texas Tech Combined Choirs perform Christmas carols during Carol of Lights on Friday. Red Raiders enjoy 2010 edition of Carol of Lights on Friday night

By DEVIN SANCHEZ STAFF WRITER

It's one of Texas Tech's oldest and most honored traditions. Every year, students, faculty, alumni, families and the Lubbock community brave the weather to attend. On Friday night, more than 21,000 Christmas lights were turned on to illuminate 15 buildings on campus at the 52nd Annual Carol of Lights.

Staying true to years past, there were appearances by Raider Red, the Masked Rider and Santa Claus. There

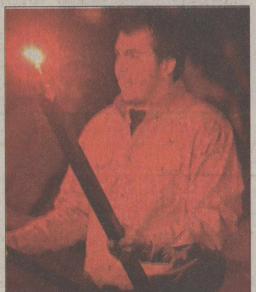
was music, caroling and the occasional A SADDLE yelling of "Raider Power" as the crowd waited patiently for the ceremony to begin. The event also took place on a Friday, which was a big hit with the crowd, especially since last year's Wednesday date made attendance more difficult.

Emilie Northrop, a junior public relations major from Keller, said she was very happy the event was changed back to the traditional day of Friday.

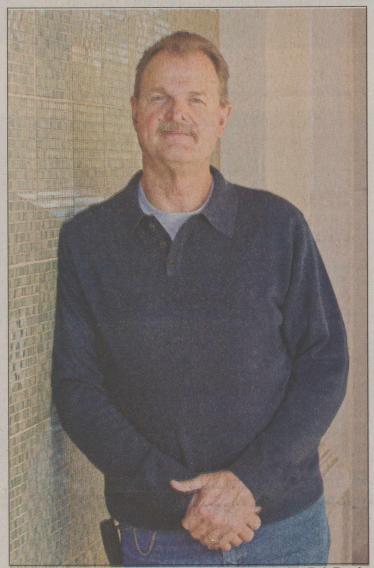
CAROL continued on Page 2

TRAMP carries his light sticks around Memorial Circle during Carol of Lights on Friday. An estimated 20,000 people were in attendance for the annual

ceremony.



Professor overcomes childhood adversity, succeeds as adult



LOWELL LAY IS an instructor within the Information Systems and Quantitative Sciences department of Rawls College of Business Administration. He obtained master's and bachelor's degrees without having graduated high school.

Lay dropped out of HS before receiving degree

By CAROLINE COURTNEY

STAFF WRITER

The popular assumption is in order to get accepted to college, a student must make good grades in high school, receive high scores on an entrance exam and then graduate high school.

Lowell Lay proves it wrong.

Now a business instructor in the Rawls College of Business, Lay graduated from the University of Texas with a master's degree in business administration without ever receiving a high school diploma.

SUCCEEDS continued on Page 5

Tech talks fashion



Students share their winter fashion secrets with The DT

LA VIDA, PAGE 2



Tech football accepts invite to TicketCity Bowl

Red Raiders' game against Big TicketCity Bowl Ten opponent slated for Jan. 1

By MIKE GRAHAM STAFF WRITER

After a couple of weeks of speculation regarding where Texas Tech football would play its bowl game, the Red Raiders officially accepted an invite to the inaugural TicketCity Bowl on Sunday and will play Northwestern from

The TicketCity Bowl game will be played Jan. 1 at the Cotton Bowl stadium in Dallas' Fair Park.

the Big Ten Conference.

The selection guarantees Tech will play in its 11th con-"When

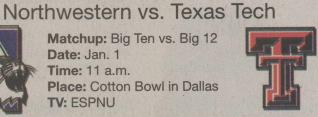
you come to play football at Texas Tech,

you expect to go to a bowl game, and we are thrilled to accept the invitation from Tom Starr and the Ticket City Bowl selection



Date: Jan. 1 Time: 11 a.m. Place: Cotton Bowl in Dallas TV: ESPNU

Matchup: Big Ten vs. Big 12



committee," head coach Tommy Tuberville said. "Northwestern is a well-coached football team, and I have a tremendous amount of respect for coach (Pat) Fitzgerald. We are honored to be part of this game and to be able to play in front of our great fans in the

Dallas-Fort Worth area.'

Tuberville said playing in the TicketCity Bowl will allow the Red Raiders to get great exposure within the Metroplex - Tech's prime recruiting region.

BOWL continued on Page 5

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WEATHER

Today

Mostly Cloudy



Tuesday

Sunny

Cardone: Recent meeting exposes serious problems in SGA OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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OREADOR

Community Calendar

TODAY

Madrigal Dinner Time: 7 p.m. Where: Student Union Ballroom So, what is it?

Texas Tech School of Music students will sing madrigal music and food will be served.

TTU Student-Athlete Talent Show Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Where: Allen Theatre So, what is it?

This event will showcase acts from most of the athletic department teams and will also feature performances by a group of talented Special Olympics athletes. All proceeds from this event will go to Special Olympics Texas. Price of admission is \$5 with a Tech

TUESDAY

Texas Tech Women's Basketball vs. Northwestern St. Time: 7 p.m.

Matador Singers Christmas Time: 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Where: Legacy Great Hall, 14th Street and Avenue O So, what is it? a concert of traditional Christmas

Symphonic Wind Ensemble Time: 8 p.m. Where: Hemmle Recital Hall Come enjoy the tunes of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

To make a calendar submission e-mail features@dailytoreador.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.

Carol ←

"Last year, I had a chemistry test on Wednesday, and I was so upset," she said. "So I was really excited I was able to make it this year."

More than 20,000 people, students and Lubbock residents alike, were in attendance. And it seemed as if most were happy about the unusually warm weather for the event. Northrop expressed her appreciation for the unlikely

temperature. "It wasn't 15 degrees like every other year I've been here," she said. "It's nice to be able to focus on what's going on, rather than worrying about how cold you are."

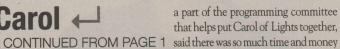
The theme for this year's event was "Lighting a New Era," which was explained to the crowd by the Residence Hall Association's president, Loran Polson. Polson said the "New Era" was about the many changes the Tech community will be seeing, including a new sustainability office and an increase prepared for the lighting of campus,

Polson had this to say to the attendees. era," she said to a cheering audience. As the crowd joined the Texas Tech

Combined Choirs in singing "Silent Night," the lights were turned on. Taylor Lynn is a freshman RHA senator from Fort Worth. Lynn, who is

Where: United Spirit Arena

The TTU Matador Singers will sing music. Admission is free.



We put a ton of work into this, meeting all the time to get things right," he said. "We also spent around \$7,000 on the event."

Another student who had their first Carol experience was Brittany Rose. Rose, a junior international business major from Lake Jackson, transferred to Tech from UTSA last year and said she was excited to start a new tradition.

"I loved seeing all the buildings light up; they look like gingerbread houses," Rose said. "This is definitely something I will come to after I graduate and have a family."

Casey Turle, a freshman computer engineering major from Houston, said tradition is something that should be upheld.

"It's one of the oldest traditions at Texas Tech, and it is such a big event," he said. "It's a great tradition not only for Texas Tech, but also for the Lubbock community.

Northrop also sees the importance in enrollment numbers. As the crowd of Carol of the Lights to the Lubbock community as a whole.

"It's unique to our campus and to "Get your guns up as we light a new Lubbock," she said. "It is a welcoming event that gets everyone in the Christ-

> The lights turn on everyday at 6:30 p.m. and will remain on the buildings until Jan. 3.

>>> dsanchez@dailytoreador.com

Winter tashio ressing for winter in the South Plains can be quite a challenge with frigid winds in the morning and warmer afternoons. Texas Tech students offer fashion advice on how to layer for the fluctuating West Texas temperatures, their favorite places to shop and



things to buy this season.

Manae Amaro, junior public relations major from San Antonio

Tip for saving money on fashion:

"Forever 21 is affordable, so I would definitely go there. They always have what's 'in'. I read the magazines and go to Forever 21, and they have it."

On dressing for winter: "You can always go with Uggs and leggings and always look cute. I'm wearing a T-shirt with them right now and it's still 'in'."



Sebastian Gomez, junior mechanical engineering major from Katy

Favorite place to shop:

"I get all my clothes at home at Urban Outfitters or thrift stores in Houston."

Favorite clothing item for winter: "I have this brown leather jacket I got in Europe this summer studying mechanical engineering courses. It's the warmest thing I've ever bought."

Paige Paris, sophomore communication studies major from Flower Mound

Favorite place in Lubbock to shop:

"I really like TC Ellis. I feel like it's affordable, and I can always find something really great and fashionable."

Favorite clothing item this season:

"I really like the one shoulder long-sleeved dresses. I feel like you can wear it with boots and stockings."



Brandon Reece-Miller, junior music performance major from Lubbock

Favorite place to shop in Lubbock: "Chrome. They have a bigger variety. They carry up and coming designers."

On dressing for winter: "Layer, especially in Lubbock because the temperature fluctuates so much. That's why I bought this sweater, It's functional; it's light. It kind of looks like a jacket, but it's actually a sweater."

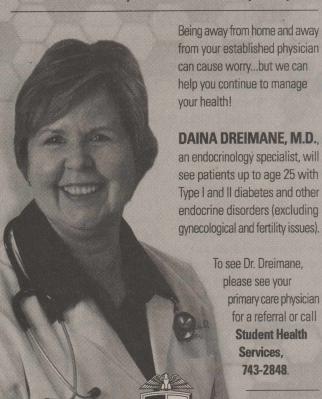
Favorite clothing item this son "Scarves You ca them to create anything, to accent colors. Winter clothes are often drab colors, and you can add to any outfit simply with a scarf."



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Graduate student organization provides support system

By DEVIN SANCHEZ STAFF WRITER

With a wide variety of student organizations on campus for undergraduates, sometimes graduate students fall through the cracks. A group of Human Development and Family Studies graduate students are working to change this with the HDFS Graduate Student Association.

"There just aren't a whole lot of resources for graduate students," said Katharine Gerst, the organization's secretary and a HDFS graduate student from Michigan. "And it is really common for graduate students to relocate to a different school for grad school, and it can be hard to start all over again."

The organization is reevaluating its purpose and rebuilding this year, hoping to provide a place for graduate students to come together and work toward common goals while meeting others with the

President Andrea Parker, a HDFS graduate student from Plano, agrees with Gerst on the lack of organizations for graduate students in comparison to undergraduate students and said the HDFS group can be a place of comfort for grad students.

"During undergrad, it is more likely that you go to school with people you know from your hometown or something," Parker said. "So this is just a good opportunity for grad students to get to know each other and get to know the program better."

Currently, the organization has 19 members, including four officers. Parker said about half of the members are in family studies, while the other half are studying human development. She said the number of students on each track determines the type of activates the group pursues.

all go to," she said. "There is the National Conference on Family Relations and there is the Society for Research and Child Development annual meeting, and about half of us go to each conference."

As with most student organizations, there are certain service projects and social events members are expected to be a part of. The group conducted a garage sale in October as a fundraiser and donated the leftover items to Salvation Army. On Friday, the organization hosted a pre-Carol of Lights get together, which was open to all HDFS graduate students and their families, not just members of the organization,

"We have really been trying to members to get involved," she said. "But it is a rebuilding year for us, so it will

"There isn't a main conference we probably take a while to get us where I would like us to be.'

> There are a lot of new ventures both Parker and Gerst want to start up for their organization, including a mentor program and a play group for students with children.

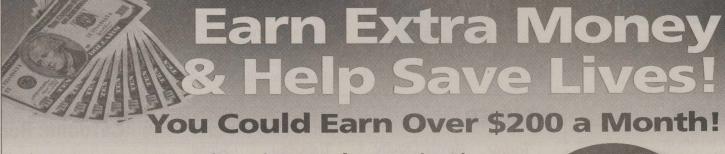
The mentor program would match an incoming graduate student with an older student, Gerst said.

'We did it last year, but this year we really want to get it going," she said. "It will provide someone to answer the new student's questions on anything about the program."

Both officers know the stresses associated with graduate school, which is why they feel their organization is one that is really beneficial to its members.

"It really is just a support system," provide more opportunities for our Gerst said. "We just want to help each other out."

>>> dsanchez@dailytoreador.com



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Washington avenges '09 loss at Tech, wins 108-79

By TOMMY MAGELSSEN STAFF WRITER

As the seconds ticked off the clock and Washington held on to the ball - more than content with its 29-point lead - there was hardly a smile found on any Texas Tech basketball players' faces.

It had been two minutes and 42 seconds since the Red Raiders scored a point and 28 minutes and 51 seconds since they trailed by less than double digits on the way to a lopsided 108-79 loss to the Huskies on Saturday in the Hec Edmundson Pavilion.

Tech center Robert Lewandowski - who has been one of the most consistent performers for the Red Raiders - didn't log a point or rebound after the midway point of the second half, finishing tied for his season lows in both categories.

"If we don't fix it now, we're going to be screwed," Lewandowski said on Sunday.

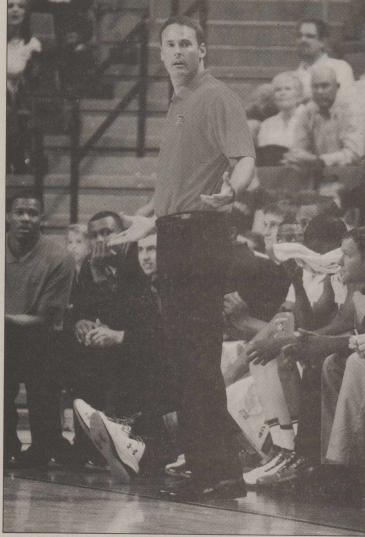
The Red Raiders (5-4) have lost three of their last four, including blowout losses to the Huskies and Saint Mary's. Both games looked eerily similar with the way Tech's opponents blew the game open by halftime with big runs. Washington led 61-42 at the half.

Tech made a small run in the second half, cutting the Husky lead to 13 with a little more than 12 minutes left, but Washington overwhelmed the Red Raiders with a 19-8 run the next six minutes.

"It looked like we had a shot to get back in it, but we didn't finish it out." Lewandowski said. "We have to at least make it a competitive game, give us a chance to win, but we didn't do that at all. Yeah, they were good; we went in there knowing that. We didn't come in there with our A-game, though."

The Huskies shot 56.2 percent from the floor, including 9-for-17 from beyond the 3-point line. Tech coach Pat Knight said the Red Raiders played like they hadn't worked on defense at all

"We just got embarrassed on national TV, didn't guard a soul," Knight said on Sunday. "We're having a hard time playing on the road. We have bad spurts at home, but at least, at times, we do play, and the majority of the time, good defense.



FILE PHOTO/ The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH HEAD coach Pat Knight, above, looks on during play in the United Spirit Arena. Knight and his Red Raiders lost 108-79 against Washington in Seattle, Wash., on Saturday.

haven't been able to guard any-

Knight said he believes no one played well on Saturday, even some of the veterans. Senior Brad Reese continues to lead the Red Raiders offensively, as the forward led Tech with 19 points. However, Reese was one of four Red Raiders with at least four turnovers. Tech allowed 28 points off 20 turnovers.

Mike Singletary, who had his most complete game of the season in Tuesday's win against Oral Roberts, scored a season-low six points and tied a season high with four turnovers in 22 minutes of play.

Washington, who came into the game as the nation's secondhighest scoring offense, outscored Tech 18-2 on fast-break points.

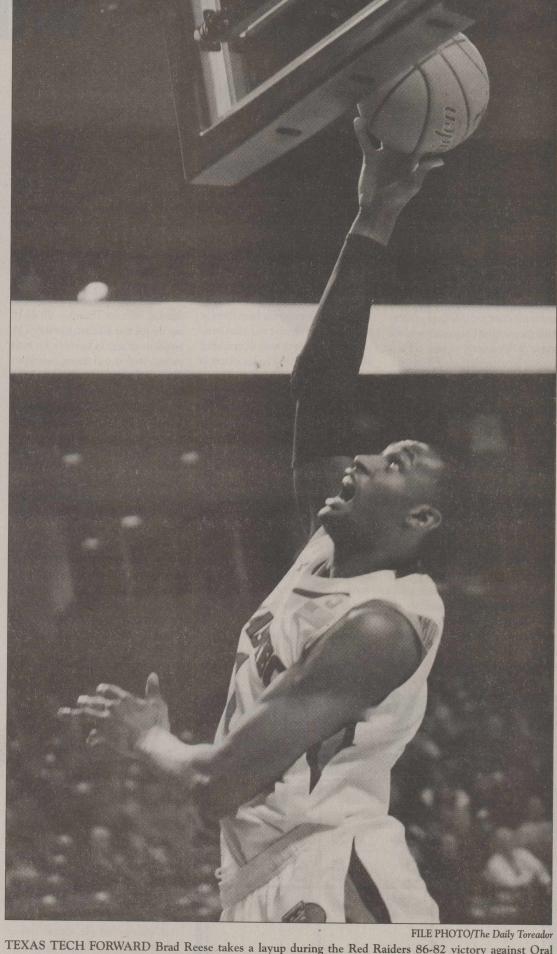
The Red Raiders hit the floor again against TCU at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in the United Spirit

"But on the road we just Arena, and Lewandowski said he wants to come out and "smother" the Frogs defensively. However, Knight said he wants to see it happen and not just hear about it.

"I'm tired of them talking; they just need to do it," Knight said. "Kids just need to shut up and do it, and you know they all talk a good game, but they just got to do it. We talk about this every day in practice, and, from a coach's standpoint, it makes you sick to your stomach.

"You watch yesterday's game and it looks like you don't even work on this stuff, and our staff has worked their butt off on defense, and for them to go out and play like they did is just kind of a slap in our face and really ticks us off. But it just shows we're going to have to work even harder and stress it even more.'

>>> tmagelssen@dailytoreador.com



TEXAS TECH FORWARD Brad Reese takes a layup during the Red Raiders 86-82 victory against Oral Roberts last Tuesday in the United Spirit Arena.

Auburn, Oregon give BCS title game new look

(AP) — A season spent talking team in the 13-year history of the a Heisman Trophy winner. about BCS busters will end with another clash of the big boys — just not the ones we've gotten used to seeing in the title game.

Alabama and Texas? Florida and Oklahoma? Ohio State? Southern California?

Not this year.

BCS title game first-timers Auburn and Oregon will bring perfect records and potent offenses to Glendale, Ariz., for their Jan. 10 matchup in Glendale, Ariz.

The Bowl Championship Series pairings were to be made official later Sunday, but there's no suspense this year. The announcement is a formality for the top-ranked Tigers and No. 2 Ducks.

Those outsiders from TCU and Boise State were closer than ever before to playing for college football's biggest prize. But the third-ranked Horned Frogs, the nation's only other undefeated team, couldn't overcome playing in the lightly regarded Mountain West Conference and will have to settle for a trip to the Rose Bowl. As for Boise State, one loss was one too many, and the Broncos ended up out of the BCS picture altogether this season.

Ultimately — as usual — the teams from the power conferences prevailed, though the Tigers and Ducks represent a changing of the guard in their own way.

Since the BCS was born in 1998, its title game has almost always been stocked with college football's blue bloods and programs with championship pedigrees.

Auburn has one national title to its credit — and it came in 1957. That's one more than Oregon has. In fact, the Ducks are just the second BCS to reach the championship game looking for the program's first national title. Virginia Tech was the

Also, this title game will be just the second, not including the inaugural BCS championship in 1998, with two teams that have never been there before. The other was in 2001, when Nebraska and Miami — not exactly a couple of upstarts - played for the crystal ball.

Another first: Never before have two teams that started the season ranked outside the AP top 10, played for the BCS title.

The Ducks began the year ranked 11th in the AP poll, with questions at quarterback after Heisman Trophy hopeful Jeremiah Masoli was kicked off the team.

The Tigers were even further back, second in their own state to Nick Saban's defending national champions at Alabama and No. 22 in the nation. Plus, they were breaking in a junior college transfer at quarterback.

Oregon never missed Masoli as coach Chip Kelly simply plugged Darron Thomas into his fast-paced spread offense and watched his team lead the nation in scoring.

The fashion plates of college football, thanks to the ever-changing uniforms provided by alum and Nike founder Phil Knight, Oregon reached No. 1 in the rankings for the first time this season and has replaced USC as the Pac-10's team to beat.

As for Auburn, that JUCO transfer turned out to be the story of the year on and off the field.

Cam Newton has been peerless as a player, the nation's top-rated passer and its 15th-best runner. By the time he gets to Arizona, he'll most likely be

It's just as likely unanswered questions about an NCAA investigation into his recruitment will be following him to Glendale, too.

The NCAA determined Newton's father, Cecil, tried to peddle his son to Mississippi State for cash, but said there was no evidence Cam or Auburn knew about it so the governing body of college sports let the QB play on.

The ruling came down last week and Cam Newton avoided punishment. He denied any wrongdoing after the SEC championship game

While the NCAA will keep on looking into the pay-to-play scheme, there's no reason to believe his status will change between now and the championship game.

With Newton on one side and Ducks tailback LaMichael James, another Heisman hopeful, on the

other, this has the makings of one wild championship.

Who says defense wins?

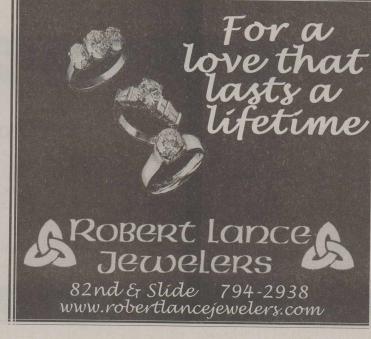
The Ducks are averaging 537.5 yards per game and 49 points per game. James leads the nation in rushing in an offense that is simple yet breathtaking.

Kelly, who four years ago was offensive coordinator at New Hampshire, has taken high-speed football to a new level. In their season-ending, 37-20 victory against Oregon State on Saturday, none of the Ducks' six scoring drives lasted longer than 2 minutes, 43 seconds.

Newton and the Tigers like to play

"He's a tremendous football player, but it's not just Cam Newton," Chip Kelly said Saturday.

Auburn's spread averages 498 yards per game and the Tigers are averaging



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

By Donna S. Levi

High-tech organizer, briefly 2 English or French instrument
 "Pionic" dramatist
 4 Braggarts
 5 Lively nightclub
 6 Thompson of "Family"
 7 Hula
 8 Green Gables girl

girl
9 Prepare
10 Taoism founder
11 Hypoallergenic
skin care brand
12 Davis who played
Thelma
13 Transmits
21 Bogev heater

21 Bogey beater 22 Impertinence 25 Taj Mahal city 26 Pakistan

DOWN 1 High-tech

sensitive info using an Internet

scam 6 Chase down, as a fly ball 10 Falls behind 14 "Tiny Bubbles"

singer 15 Tip-top 16 Towards the sheltered side, at

sea 17 Specialized

jargon 18 "__ call us, we'll

19 Red sky, to a

sailor
20 Sidewalk
periodical
vendor
23 _-Locka,
Florida
24 Gut courses
25 Edwards or

Langley, e.g.
31 Political
corruption
32 Police busts
33 Revolutionary

statesman Franklin 36 Knocks on the

door 37 Response to a

42 Court-ordered parental obligation 44 Show hosts 47 Actor Mineo 48 Philanthropic

group chartered by auto execs 54 Notion 55 Univ. sports

group
56 Liberate from the
hitching post
58 Shakespearean

neighbor 27 Engrossed 28 Move like a baby king 59 Tiger Woods's ex 60 Allow to pass 61 Benevolent order 62 Cowgirl Evans 63 Cropped up 29 Like some se 30 Feathered friends
33 Sonny of Sonny
and Cher
34 Happily __ after

A safe place to bring concerns and

Ombuds Office

kisser
40 Kitchen VIP
41 Pancake flipper
42 Coniferous trees
43 Mex. neighbor
44 Submit a tax
return over the

sound
49 Golden State sch.
50 Carpentry
fastener
51 Certain
Scandinavian
52 Filmdom's
Preminger

VENTS

35 Eft, when mature 37 Like the victims in "Arsenic and Old

Lace"
38 Pencil for one's

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Friday's Puzzle Solved

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e.g. 46 Old floorboard

OPINIONS

Recent meeting exposes serious problems with SGA

, for the first time ever, attended the Texas Tech Student Senate Lsession on Thursday, Dec. 2. What I saw not only dismayed me, but also brought to my attention something that the general student body probably doesn't know.

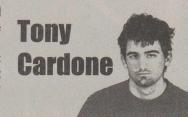
But because of the length of the mayhem that occurred last Thursday. I've decided to split this into separate columns. This first one will only focus on a near impeachment and Senate Bill 46.15.

It's a widely held belief that the U.S. Congress is largely incompetent and doesn't actually listen to the people. They tend to just sit around in large groups generally discussing how best to screw up the people of this country without publicly showing how bad they are at their jobs.

To my surprise, however, there is an equally incompetent and ignorant body right here in Lubbock. In fact, their chambers reside in our Student Union. The body is our own student senate.

Before I begin saying how I personally feel about each of the bills, I would like to note that several senators came to my attention as overwhelmingly respectful and professional. They are not the intended targets of this piece. Senators Davis and Williams, whom I both personally knew before they became senators, are

But several other senators, whom I did not know before Thursday's session, impressed me in particular. These senators, including Senator Matt Pippen, Senator Hannah Smith and Senator Katie Weismann, were among the few



senators who, during my observation, behaved professionally and acted in the best interests of the students.

But before the senate got to the actual first piece of legislation, there was an unreported issue that set the tone for the whole evening. A graduate student senator was up for impeachment. The name is largely irrelevant here. Brought to the floor by the rules and administration chairman, there was a short reading about how the senator had not been to many meetings of late.

Before any floor debate, the impeachment went up for a vote and, by my reckoning, probably would have gone through. Fortunately, however, someone interrupted this, and the president called

During this debate, the six audience members and the senators learned that the senator was not just skipping the meetings because she was bored or because Thursday night is when all new episodes of "Community" are on. It turned out that she had an actual class during that time but had managed to come to several meetings and meet with all the other requirements of the job. After learning of this, the impeachment

Really, guys? You were going to go

ahead with an impeachment before hearing the other side of the story? Not only is this outrageous, it was common throughout the night as it became evident that there were only a few members who actually read about the issues and knew the proper way to proceed.

The most blatant of these was the president of the senate, who appeared to have as much control over her senate as a first-year kindergarten teacher over her students after each had a serving of pure sugar, and as much knowledge about the proper procedural order as a kindergartener

Senate Bill 46.15 was the most hotly debated issue on Thursday. SB 46.15 was the bill that would require the SGA president to stay in Lubbock for both summer sessions and imposed a requirement for the internal and external VPs to be on campus for at least one.

The most important detail that was realized was because of the mandate that the SGA president clear his or her schedule in the summer, he or she would not be able to do any work or internships outside of Lubbock during the summer sessions. This, of course, would eliminate anyone who would like to do said internships from the position of president.

This bothers me. Those who voted for this bill have sent a message that it is not OK to be a full-time student and president at the same time. Importantly, the passage of this bill would have meant that there would be some students on campus who would be declared ineligible to become the leader of the student body because they wish to get ahead in their

job or because they cannot afford to take the summer off (the small stipend given to the president over the summer is not nearly enough).

The students of this university elect the president. As such, we expect the president to perform his/her duties as well as they can. But we also elect them to use their discretion. I believe if a president feels they can balance a six-week internship in Dallas with the minimal summer duties, it is not the right of the senate to take that choice away from the student body.

To correct an error in Friday's Daily Toreador, it seems that Senate Bill 46.15 did not pass. The vote was 32 for, 25 against, and two abstain. This put the voting at 56 percent for, 40 percent against. According to at least one senator, this bill is a change to the Constitution, and as such would require a two-thirds majority. However, it did garner more than 50 percent of the vote.

To me, this is an absolutely unacceptable abuse of power. It should not be the right of the senate to restrict who can become president in this

This was just in the first part of the session. What went on during the rest of the meeting will probably make you lose a little faith in the democratic process. It did for me.

m Cardone is a sophomore computer engineering major from San Antonio.

» tony.cardone@ttu.edu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student Senate stumbles

I attended the Student Government Association Student Senate meeting on Dec. 2, and the behavior of some of our senators was repre-

Some senators were texting, checking Facebook and the like during debate over student fee increases. It is absolutely unacceptable for our student senators to neglect their responsibilities to the students.

Additionally, the inability for the president of the student senate, Jenny Mayants, to keep the senate to order is appalling. Ms. Mayants was elected by the students at large, and as the president, deserves the respect of the student senate.

The crux of the matter is that the students are electing people under

the guise of getting things done. The disrespect for the offices to which they were elected, and to the students, is disturbing.

I call this to your attention due to the public nature of senate meetings. The inability of some senators to pay leadership and the students that elected them respect is a disgrace to our proud institution.

This is to say nothing of the incredibly unprofessional attire of some of the female senators. Their attire undermines the progress and respect women have finally achieved in government over the past 90 years.

■ Amber E. Hastings is a junior political science major from

Thursday night, some very grave decisions were made concerning all of us at the student senate meeting. As a senator and representative of students, I believe it is my duty to speak out on what the consequences of some of those votes are, particularly the vote on a senior class gift.

While I absolutely support the senior class and the additional beautification on campus, I must question my fellow representatives' decision to impose a fee on students when not only has the governor cut state budgets by 5 percent and tuition is slated to go up 9.9 percent, but also when the economic recession continues with no clear end in sight.

Students are always opposed to fee increases. Granted, this bill does provide an opt-out option for those

wishing not to participate, but the fact that it passed at all is concerning. Also, I find the personal politics

being shoved into other bills repre-

hensible and wholly undignified for the students' representative body to be participatory in. That is why I write today. I encourage all students to look closer and ask questions.

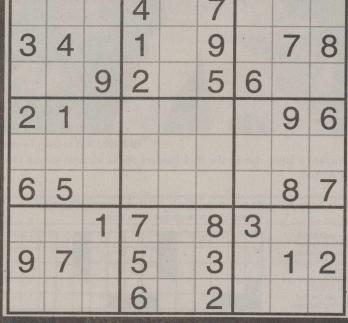
This is YOUR student government. We are beholden to you. This body can do great things, such as the passage at the same meeting of a resolution fully supporting priority registration for veterans; something, in my view, that is frankly past due.

Students must become involved. Run for office. Speak up and out. Make your representatives beholden to what you want.

I had the pleasure of speaking to a group of students after the meeting who had no idea that senate meetings are open to the public, and they had a lot to say about the proceedings.

■ Stuart Williams is a sophomore history major from Lubbock.

su do ku



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

8 4 1 9 6 2 5 3 7 6 2 9 3 5 7 4 8 1 5 8 1 4 2 6 9 178245396 5 9 3 1 8 6 7 4 2 287639154 logic to define the answers. 9 1 4 5 2 8 6 7 3 3 5 6 4 7 1 9 2 8

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Remember to get plenty of rest in between studying for your finals. Love, Mom

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America's best export still entertainment

For decades the world as a whole has looked to America for many things, but one particular export has caught the world's attention in a unique way. American entertainment is sought after the world over, far beyond our own borders, though domestically we practically live through our pop culture.

Countless people abroad find us infinitely entertaining, whether they are laughing with us or at us, the latter being the case quite often. And we, as supporters of American pop culture, love it.

We have always been happy to oblige, always putting out new and interesting ideas for entertainment, whether it be another odd reality show or new, innovative piece of technology. This week Yahoo released its annual "Top Ten Obsessions" list, and

the contents prove that things have not changed much. Americans and those abroad will do anything for juicy, often dirty, entertainment; there is no denying, it's simply in its own category when it comes to mass

The first item on Yahoo's list is the iPhone, a device that we are all familiar with but one that has also just received its first major overhaul. I am talking, of course, about the release of the iPhone 4.



This is the first cellular device that has in and of itself boosted American pop culture in a global way. We treat it as if it were a trendy car, and now that it has been redesigned, the old one immediately seems drab and uninteresting in our American eyes and the new one is all of a sudden a must-have

item. To a cer-Countless people tain extent this is an unhealthy abroad find us infinitely practice, but at the same time it entertaining, whether has its benefits. The most imthey are laughing with portant of these benefits is the us or at us, the latter

obvious positive

effect that such

attitudes have

on an economy

like America's,

often.

being the case quite

especially in a time like this when it needs all the help it can get. Spending stimulates economic growth, and fresh, exciting products by innovative companies like Apple make people eager to

The exciting new iPad is also on Yahoo's list. This is something that has mixed opinions behind it, which is a message by itself. Many said the iPad was just a "bigger iPhone." This statement is significant because it shows clearly that people all over the

world are on a constant search for the "new," and even when something appears that way, they require proof that it's innovative.

These two devices have one thing that makes them such "super-obsessions;" they bring, with ease, that addictive American entertainment and instant gratification straight to our fingertips.

The majority of Yahoo's 2010 "Top Ten Obsessions" list is dominated by celebrities and TV shows, which go hand in hand in indulging American entertainment's No. 1 addictions: gossip and drama.

Two names that caught my eye in particular on the list were "The Jersey Shore" and Lindsay Lohan. Let's talk about that first one. "The Jersey Shore" has, especially recently, become something that is popular almost purely because it is ridiculous to compare it to anything normal or

This is something that we as Americans seem to constantly wish for. We love to see sexy people making fools of themselves in general. They fight, scream at each other, cry over designer jeans, and otherwise debunk their own sanity and, occasionally, their intelligence.

Now, I can't speak for the whole world, but it seems to me that this type of thing is uniquely American and the rest of the world eats its up. Why? It's simple; it's an escape from the normal. It takes people so far from reality that we can get lost for a little while and laugh constantly along the way. Why wouldn't we all love it?

The idea here seems to be to showcase the extremes as much as possible and mix that in with "ordinary" life so as to give a perspective that is, frankly, hilariously unordinary. Even things outside entertainment that are meant to be legitimate fall into this "trap." That which appears extreme becomes a form of entertainment for those that find it either ridiculous or simply interesting for its shock value.

An example of this is another item on the list, the "Tea Party." For those who like their ideals, they were drawn by its extremity and its head-turning value. And for those who find it ridiculous, it's still interesting because it stands alone in its category.

As for Ms. Lohan, no offense to her, but she hasn't really done much of anything that could be called talented lately. Nonetheless, she is still a household name, especially among the young people of the world, because she is an American actress who is on and off the wagon legally on a constant basis. It has shock value, and she is in the entertainment industry. This is a combination that almost always equals high "Google" numbers and loads of press coverage.

Personally, I think it's a bit unusual that entertainment has taken this route in a relatively sane world, but who am I to judge? Most of it is harmless, and those aspects that aren't are usually short lived. A little drama and false tears never hurt anybody, and if anything can be said in its defense it is that it's certainly thought provoking, and that is always a plus.

■ Morrison is a freshman history major from The Woodlands.

>>> zachary.morrison@ttu.edu



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> Tuesday, 12/07 7:00 pm United Spirit Arena

Red Raider Basketball

VS TCU

Wednesday, 12/08 7:00 pm United Spirit Arena



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I couldn't even get my GED," Lay said. "My father was an alcoholic and he left us when I was a senior in high school, and I had two sisters at home and my mom, and somebody had to provide for them. So I dropped out of school six weeks prior to graduating to help the family."

Lay said he desperately wanted to be the first in his family with a high school diploma, but he never questioned for an instant whether to finish school or help his family. It was an easy decision.

"It's just something you do," Lay said. "When your mom and sisters don't have anyone to provide for them, you don't look for the appreciation factor. You just do it. It was either go work and feed the family or go hungry, and I knew I had to feed the family."

Although Lay wanted an education, he did not have a dream of what he wanted to be when he was older. His dream was to preserve the family.

"When I was younger, all I thought about was survival," Lay said. "We moved constantly because my dad was a construction worker and then he drank. It's a different world when you grow up like that. I'm not complaining, though. That's what made me who I am today. But you don't have those dreams when you live in that environment."

After a month of work, Lay's father returned to his mother and two daughters in Odessa. Immediately, Lay begged the high school to readmit him, but they refused and instructed him to come back the next fall.

"Of course, I didn't want to go back and start all over," Lay said, noting that he attended 15 different schools since the first grade. "So I started taking high school correspondence courses through the mail because I wanted to get my high school diploma. Then, I went out to the local junior college and I told them what

The college was sympathetic and negotiated with Lay that if he finished his correspondence courses and received a diploma, he could start school there. But, only under the condition that he finished his correspondence courses.

With full intent to follow through with the agreement, Lay continued his correspondence courses while taking classes at the college. Once again, however, he was interrupted. This time it was the draft.

After a year in Vietnam, the military stationed Lay in Corpus Christi, where he could take college courses part time. He approached the local junior college about attending school there, but they never asked if he had a high school diploma.

'They didn't ask if I had a high school diploma, just if I had gone to college any place else, and I told them I had, which was the truth," Lay said. "If they had asked, I would have gone back to get my high school diploma, but I didn't see any sense in it and decided to continue on with my education process.'

In 1972, Lay finished his military service and became a student at the University of Texas. Not only was he a full-time student, but he was also a fulltime employee working 40 hours a week.

Lay's younger sister, Terri Gochenour, could not express her shock at how Lay put himself through college.

"It takes quite a person to do what he did," Gochenour said. "He was married part of the time and had to support himself and his wife. That's impossibly tough, but he did it."

After Lay managed to take care of the family and get back into school, Terri said she knew he could conquer anything.

"It was a huge sacrifice, what he did," Gochenour said. "I never thanked him like I should have, but we were all on survival mode. He's just a great person, very caring, and has great morals, and I look up to him as a brother and admire him being the only one out of six kids to

go to college. He's a great brother."

Gochenour attributes the success of all her siblings to the sacrifice Lav made.

Through years of hard work both inside and outside the classroom, Lay attained his bachelor's and master's degrees and began teaching students at Texas Tech that anything is possible if you really want it, using himself as an example.

"You can either hang on to that luggage and drag it behind you, or you can let it go and move forward," Lay said. "I chose to let it go and move forward and be thankful and say, 'Let's get past it.' I just focus on where I am today. I tell my students my story to let them know that anything's possible if you just apply

>>> ccourtney@dailytoreador.com

Bowl ←

"You can't measure the amount of exposure you get (when you get to play a game in the Metroplex,)" Tuberville said. "I'd say 40 percent or 50 percent of our team is from the Metroplex area. We'll be around, be on the newspaper and on television. It's advertisement you can't afford to buy. We're looking forward to it."

Tech linebacker Brian Duncan guaranteed Sunday that the Red Raider coaching staff was already scouting Northwestern, but Tuberville said the players will be focusing on finals this week before starting preparations for

the Wildcats.

Jan. 1 will mark the second time this CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 season the Red Raiders have played a game in the Cotton Bowl stadium. Tech defeated Baylor 45-38 in a neutral-site game at the stadium in October.

Duncan, a senior, said there is no disappointment in visiting a stadium the team has already played in this season.

"Not at all," he said. "Just the opportunity to go to another bowl game is all that we're focused on. No disappointment on getting into the Cotton Bowl again.'

The TicketCity Bowl, which was known as the Dallas Football Classic in its planning phase, seems poised to be an attempt to replace the historic Cotton Bowl Classic game which the Cotton

Bowl stadium hosted from its inception in 1937 until 2009 when the game moved to Cowboys Stadium in Arlington.

After a one-year hiatus of the Cotton Bowl stadium not hosting a bowl game, the TicketCity Bowl will be played during the Cotton Bowl Classic's traditional start time of 11 a.m. on Jan. 1 while the Cotton Bowl Classic will be played on Jan. 7.

For me it's important to finish this thing off right," Tech cornerback LaRon Moore said. "This may be my last game ever playing. I just want to jumpstart these younger guys into the future. We've got something great going on here and we want to boost them into

>>> mgraham@dailytoreador.com

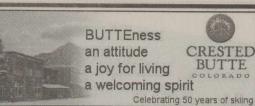
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