

# FOOD & THOUGHT

The best and worst things  
to eat during finals week

INSIDE, Page 3



THE  
DAILY FOREADOR

Dec. 10, 2010

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION  
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- Chaney: Alcoholic energy drink dangers are the fault of the consumers, **Pg. 5**

# Finals Frenzy

Special edition



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY  
KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Foreador

# Piñata party

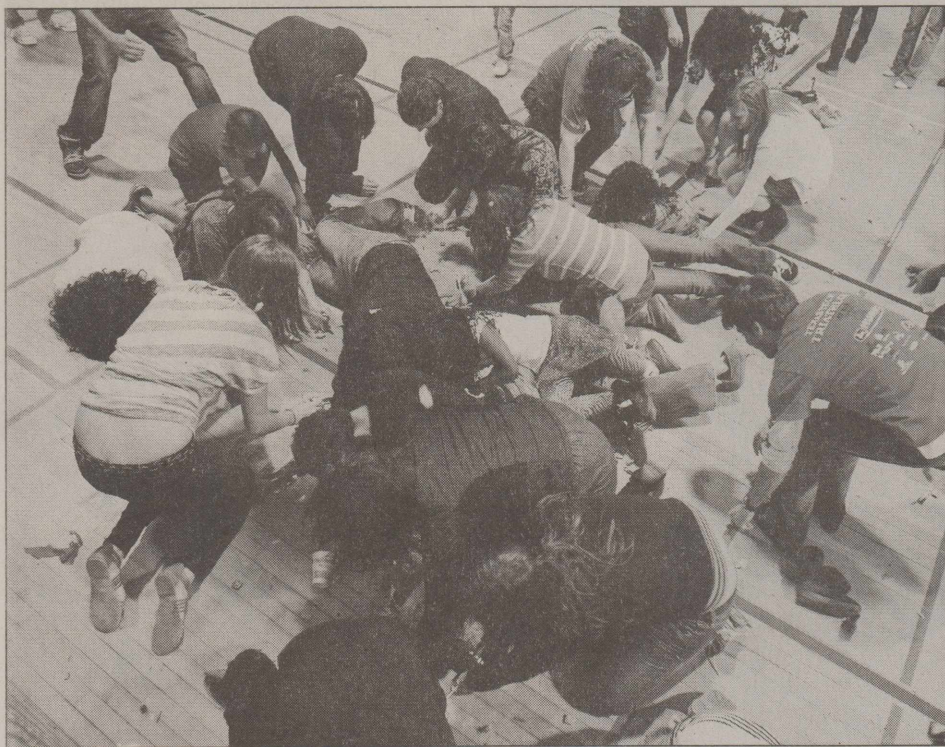
Photos by  
Karl Anderson



KAREN GARCIA, A freshman pre-physical therapy major from El Paso, wins \$100 for her first place piñata at the piñata fest on Friday in the Exercise Sports Science building.



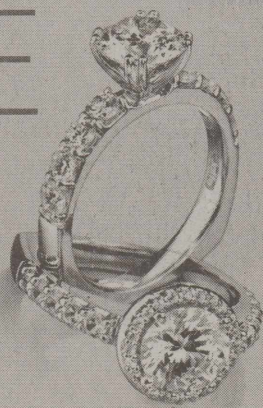
OLIVIA PADRONE, A kindergartener at Westminster from Lubbock, hits a piñata at piñata fest on Friday in the Exercise Sports Science building.



ATTENDEES TO THE piñata fest on Friday in the Exercise Sports Science building rush in to grab candy from a broken piñata.

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# GOOD EATS

## STUDENTS RELY ON SNACKS, CAFFEINE TO HELP ASSIST STUDYING EFFORTS

By **BRITTANY HOOVER**  
STAFF WRITER

Finals week is a hectic time for many students and for some it means loading up on caffeine and junk food and missing out on well-rounded meals.

Miguel Villarreal, staff physician for Student Health Services, said the most common mistakes students make are skipping meals or eating too many sweets right before an exam.

"(One problem) is eating too much sugar," Villarreal said. "Sugar, sugar, sugar, especially right at exam time. Having a donut and a cup of coffee and going into an exam may seem good initially because you get a boost there, but the problem is your blood sugar drops quickly. The insulin on board has a side-effect of drowsiness."

Many students make the mistake of sleeping or studying until the last minute and racing to get to class on time, Villarreal said, forcing them to skip meals.

"That's not going to be helpful. You need to get a good breakfast," Villarreal said. "It's true what they've said since all of us were kids: Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. If you eat breakfast, studies show school age kids do better in school."

For breakfast, Villarreal said, students should eat a well-rounded meal with some starch and protein, such as toast and a scrambled egg

or bacon. He also said Vitamin C is important in the morning, either from fruit or juice.

Tomy Regalado, a freshman music education major from Lubbock, said he has four finals coming up. This year, he said, he will not make the mistake of skipping breakfast.

"(It's important to eat breakfast) for sure, because then, in the morning, you get hungry," he said. "You're sitting there taking your test and your stomach's growling and everyone can

*"You need to get a good breakfast. It's true what they've said since all of us were kids: Breakfast is the most important meal of the day."*

**MIGUEL VILLARREAL**  
STAFF PHYSICIAN  
STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

hear you. It's embarrassing. That's happened to me before."

If students have afternoon or evening finals, Villarreal recommended eating a light meal.

"You don't want anything that's going to overload you where you're stuffed and want to nap afterward," he said. "Remember you have to feel

comfortable when you're taking an exam. If you've stuffed yourself with a heavy meal, it takes energy to digest the food and it takes energy from your thinking."

For many students, snacking seems to make studying less boring, or give them energy to keep at it.

Villarreal said foods high in starch, like donuts, will give the person immediate sugars, but when the insulin kicks in, it will cause sleepiness in about one hour. He said snacks with protein, such as peanut butter crackers are

a better choice.

Shauna Santellan, a junior from Hondo, said she sticks to healthy foods like Club crackers or Wheat Thins when studying.

"I think, for me, it gives me more energy than eating junk food," the exercise sports sciences major said. "Me and my roommates don't really eat candy and stuff anyways."

Rafael Gallastegui, a music education major from Dallas, said he has two finals left to take this semester.

Although he admits it does not help him concentrate, and he knows it is unhealthy, the junior said he will snack on anything and everything while studying for final exams.

"Some mac 'n' cheese, maybe one of those \$1.25 pizzas from Walmart," he said. "Those are really good."

An unusual study snack for some is chocolate. Although he said he did not have any scientific knowledge on the subject, Villarreal said from personal experience, chocolate puts him in a good mood and makes him able to focus better.

"Chocolate has a chemical in it called theobromine, which is in the same class of chemicals as caffeine. It perks you up a little bit, improves your alertness and helps you to breathe easier," he said. "It helps you feel better and think better. It does something to the brain that makes people happy."

A popular item during finals time for college students is the energy drink. The carbonated beverages do have positive side effects such as waking the drinker up in the morning, or helping him or her stay up later studying at night, Villarreal said. However, it also some negative effects on the body, especially if taken right before a test.

"It makes your heart rate faster, your blood pressure go up, it makes you more tense," Villarreal said.

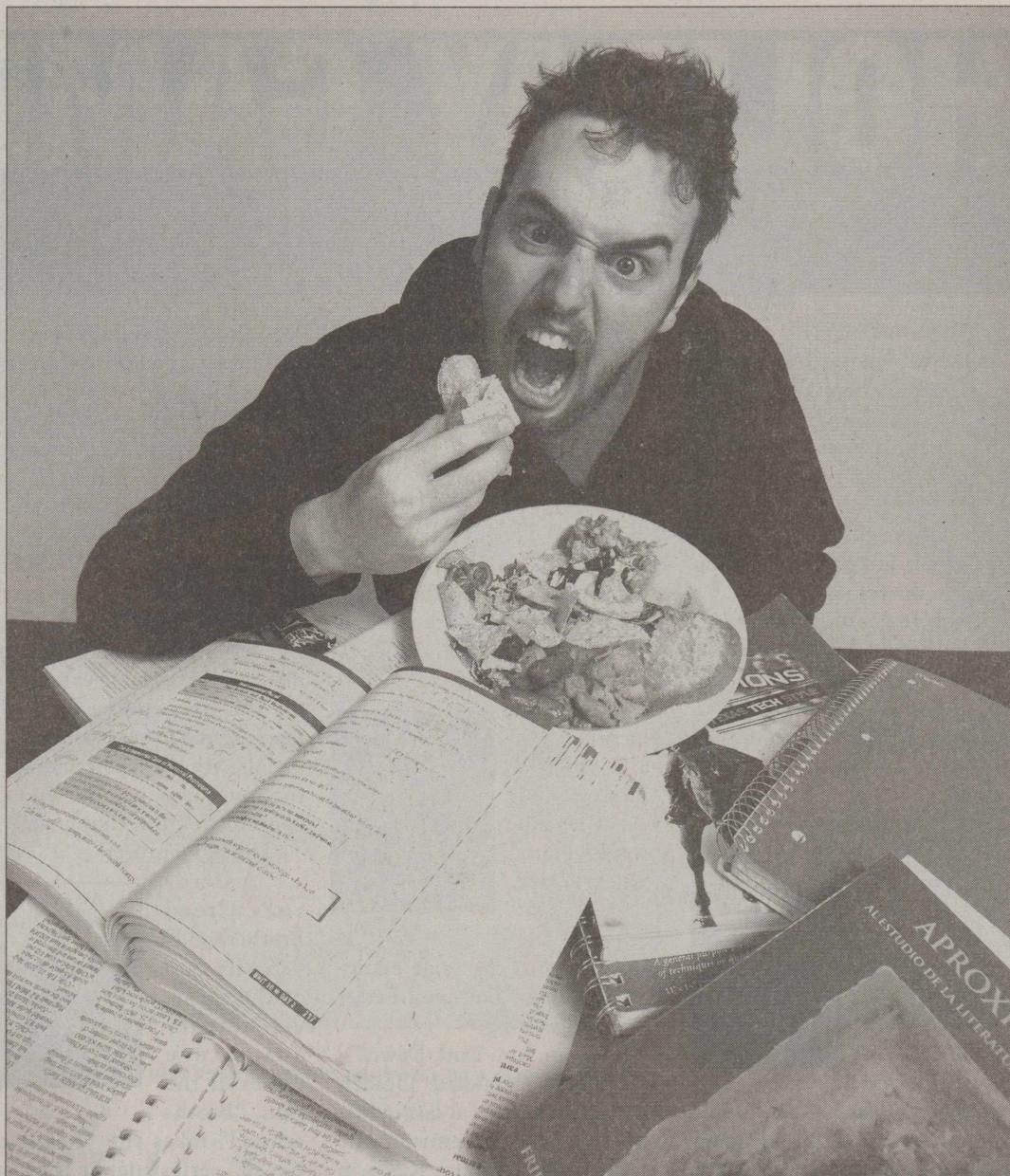


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

"When the pressure is on and stress is high during an exam you may not need extra excitement to your heart and your blood pressure and you may be too distracted with all that caffeine. I don't know people that get bored with an exam, there's a natural adrenaline surge."

"Studying is different story because some people don't like to study, but taking caffeine before an exam may not be the best strategy. It's hard to focus with the adrenaline."

Rebecca Byrne, a freshman chemical engineering major from Houston, said she will heavily rely on energy drinks during finals week.

"Of course, probably three or four

during the week," she said. "They help me stay up later and (pull all nighters)."

Santellan said she might try drinking energy drinks while studying for her four finals coming up.

"I don't drink coffee and I just the other day tried a 5 Hour Energy," she said. "I didn't give it a fair chance because I was really, really tired when I tried it so it didn't work very well. But, both my roommates tried it and it worked for them, so I think I might try it again. I'm not sure."

Instead of energy drinks, Villarreal recommended students drink beverages with nutrients like juice or milk. He said staying hydrated is

important for the brain to be able to think.

One thing Villarreal strongly advised against was drinking alcohol the night before an exam. Other than headaches and nausea, alcohol can have an effect on the brain, even the next day.

"Alcohol gets broken down into toxins and things that hurt the brain," he said. "The brain will recover with time, but it takes time and that's what a hangover is. The toxins from the alcohol cause hangovers and people tend to be slower after drinking the night before. It's harder to think and remember stuff."

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# HOLIDAY GAME GUIDE

BY BRITTON PEELE

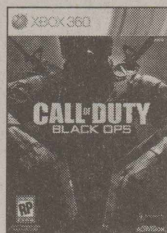


It's that magical time of year when we all get – I mean, ahem, give – gifts to others. Considering that a video game release (“Call of Duty: Black Ops”) outperformed “Avatar” in terms of entertainment dollars this year, I’d say that games are going to be big ticket items yet again.

If you’ve got a special gamer in your life and don’t have a clue what to get them (or you, as a gamer, don’t know what to ask for), then maybe this guide can at least point you in the right direction.

**The War Hero:**

“Call of Duty: Black Ops” – The game adored by shooter fans and frat guys everywhere, “Black Ops” is a solid entry into the “Call of Duty” series, with an engaging single-player story and more of the multiplayer action that fans have come to love.



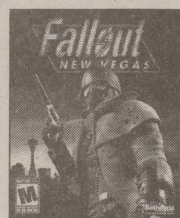
“Halo: Reach” – The final “Halo” game from the series creators at Bungie Studios is in many ways the best yet. The

story, a prequel to the original “Halo” stories, is very compelling, and the multiplayer has never offered more options or variety.

“Medal of Honor” – While not the most critically acclaimed of action games this year, “Medal of Honor” might be a good choice for the gamer who’s anxious for more modern day military action.

**The Role Player:**

“Fallout: New Vegas” – 2008’s “Fallout 3” was a smash hit with many gamers, and “New Vegas” continues the tradition with the same addictive gameplay, but even better story and writing.



“Golden Sun: Dark Dawn” – The widely acclaimed “Golden Sun” series returns at last in this new Nintendo DS entry to the series. Fans of fantasy RPGs in need of a portable adventure for any impending travel should keep this one in mind.

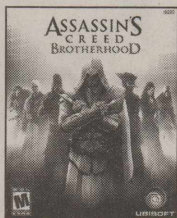
“Mass Effect 2” – A blockbuster sci-fi epic in more ways than one, “Mass Effect 2” com-

bines solid gameplay with an extremely good storyline that you as the player really have an effect on. Be the galaxy’s savior or its anti-hero in a cinematic experience that will leave you anxious for the next piece of the story.

“Dragon Quest IX” – While it doesn’t sport the most earth-shattering plot, “Dragon Quest IX” easily packs over 100 hours into a solid portable experience for the Nintendo DS. If you need a game to keep you busy on a plane trip to Japan and back, this one certainly has enough content to fulfill that goal.

**The Adventurer:**

“Assassin’s Creed Brotherhood” – Easily one of the greatest action/adventure games of the year, “Brotherhood” takes the “Assassin’s Creed” series higher than it’s ever been before, with an outstanding single-player experience in addition to the series’ first crack at a highly addictive multiplayer mode. This is one that I personally recommend



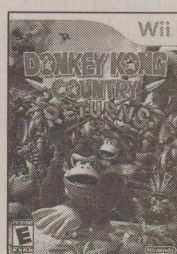
quite highly.

“Red Dead Redemption” – Up there with “Brotherhood” on the list of games that might be the best of the year, “Red Dead” takes everything that makes the “Grand Theft Auto” series great and places it in a compelling Wild West narrative. It’s a game that succeeds in making you care about the fate of its characters, not just how many cougars you can kill with a knife ... although that’s there too.

“Dead Rising 2” – Zombies are still “in,” right? If the on-campus game of “Humans vs. Zombies” wasn’t enough for you, and you’re already lamenting the end of the first season of “The Walking Dead,” “Dead Rising 2” might be just what you need to quell your undead bloodlust. Kill thousands upon thousands of the zombies in multitudes of creative and entertaining ways.

**The Nostalgia Stricken:**

“Donkey Kong Country Returns” – Retro Studios, the people behind the award-winning “Metroid Prime” games, has given Donkey Kong the glorious return he deserves in a great – and often very challenging – 2D platformer that will definitely remind you of the days playing the old “Donkey Kong Country” games on the SNES.



“Goldeneye 007” – Rather than bust out your horrible N64 controllers, you can now play a complete remake of “Goldeneye” on the Wii, complete with an updated story featuring Daniel Craig as James Bond. In addition to online play, there’s enough split-screen nostalgia here to make this revisiting of the first-person classic worth-

while.

**The Child-At-Heart:**

“Kirby’s Epic Yarn” – It’s easy for the tough, hardcore gamers of today to look at Kirby’s new game and pretend not to care. Indeed, with its storybook-esque plot and the fact that you can’t actually die or lose, “Kirby’s Epic Yarn” is a perfect game for children or non-gaming girlfriends. At the same time, however, it’s so unbelievably charming and fun to play that if you don’t find at least some enjoyment in it, you probably have a heart smaller than that of The Grinch.

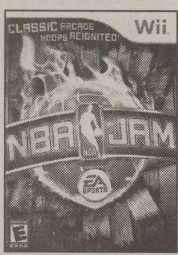


“Disney’s Epic Mickey” – Mickey Mouse returns to the world of video games with a game that’s surprisingly dark at times, where your choices to use either paint or thinner to affect the magical game world have an effect on the overall story. It’s not the most polished game this year, but it’s got a lot of heart.

“LEGO Harry Potter Years 1-4” – Didn’t get enough “Harry Potter” from “The Deathly Hallows Part I”? Me either. While simple and not super challenging, “LEGO Harry Potter” can do at least a little bit to help fill your wizardry gap until the final film rolls around.

**The Sports Fanatic:**

“NBA Jam” – It’s been too long since we’ve heard copious amounts of the word “Boomshakalaka!” This arcade-style basketball game is perfect for



those who loved the original “NBA Jam” and its sequels, or for the people who, like me, just aren’t that into realistic sports games.

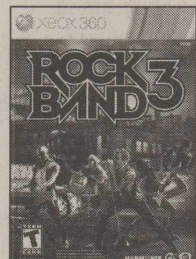
“Need for Speed: Hot Pursuit” – You’ve probably got that need; that need to go really fast. “Hot Pursuit” satisfies the need for speed with some great “cops vs. racers” action, both offline and on.

“Grand Turismo 5” – If what you want in a racing game is painstaking simulation, then “Grand Turismo” is probably up your alley. It’s not for me, personally, but the amount of customizability and variety in the cars and racing modes in this package is pretty staggering.

**The Party Animal:**

“Dance Central” – This one requires Microsoft’s new “Kinect” camera for the Xbox 360, but it’s probably the best use of the hardware yet. From the creators of “Rock Band,” “Dance Central” actually got me to get up and dance (badly, I’m sure) in front of a group of strangers, and for that it deserves a lot of credit.

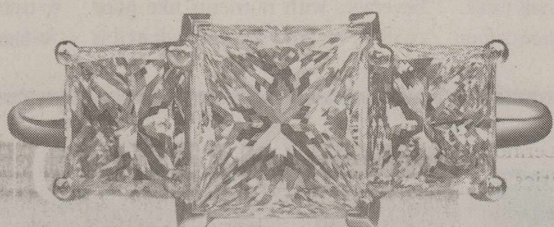
“Rock Band 3” – We may be coming to the end of the modern rhythm game era, as games like “Rock Band” and “Guitar Hero” fade into obscurity. But “Rock Band 3” sure makes the case for keeping the genre around for a bit longer. By adding a new instrument – the keyboard – and more importantly, “pro” instruments that are amazingly close to playing a real guitar, “Rock Band 3” is easily the king of music games for the foreseeable future.



■ Peele is The DT’s opinions editor and resident video game reviewer  
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*Beastie Boys DJ  
 Mix Master Mike  
 to perform in Vail*

DENVER (AP) — Mix Master Mike has performed around the world on his own and with the Beastie Boys, but there’s one more place the DJ says he wants to play one day: the moon.

“It may sound corny, but anything can be done,” he said. “I’d like to scratch on the moon, a full-on, two-hour set. Then after the set, plant the flag and then come back.”

For now, the turntablist is promoting new headphones he launched with Skullcandy, new albums, and an iPhone application set to come out in January that he describes as putting an iPod with two turntables and a mixer in someone’s pocket.

He also is among musicians interacting with fans online at <http://www.thepublicrecord.com>, where he invites people to send him guitar riffs, synthesizer tones or other clips, and he’ll videotape himself mixing them in on his turntables.

“It’s pushing the envelope. I can’t imagine back in the day being able to make music with my musical heroes, and this website gives fans the opportunity to make music with us,” he said.

Mix Master Mike is set to play a free concert Thursday as part of Vail Mountain’s annual Vail Snow Daze for early ski season. Weezer, O.A.R. and Dwight Yoakam also are scheduled to perform during the week.

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# Alcoholic energy drink dangers not so cut and dry

It was about a year ago when I tasted this devil of a drink for the first time. It was obvious from the first sip that it was a strong drink. At 12 percent alcohol, drinking one isn't like enjoying a cold beer after work.

I bet you can't find anyone that actually enjoys the taste of one. But that's OK. It's the same reason you buy a 30 pack of Keystone or a bottle of Everclear. Alcoholic products like these are common purchases for college students.

Bottom line is, we want to get drunk without it leaving our wallets empty. There is nothing wrong with that, right? The FDA has banned Four Loko because of the "unsafe" combination of alcohol and caffeine. They have decided caffeinated alcoholic beverages are not generally recognized as safe (GRAS). So I decided to check out the FDA's website myself to see what the big deal was.

The FDA has the letter to Four Loko on their website for the public to view. They cite eight scientific papers that they feel support the claim that alcohol/caffeine should be banned. First, they claim caffeine "may" suppress some effects of alcohol, and they cite three sources. What they didn't include is the massive amount of scientific articles I found that supported evidence to the contrary. Caffeine's effect on alcohol intoxication is still debatable. I found many articles that found there to be no noticeable effect.

I think it's hilarious when people say the caffeine/alcohol combination in Four Loko makes it easier to drink more alcohol. If you think that, then I already know you have never tried a Four Loko; just thinking about the taste makes my stomach cringe. They then go on to claim that kids who drink alcoholic energy drinks are more likely to drink and drive. These claims were based off an online poll of drinkers. This is an absolutely ridiculous and a pathetic claim for them to make.

I have made up some claims of my own: People who drink Hennessy are more likely to drive a Mercedes. People who drink Keystone Light are more likely to be poor and in college. To ban a product on these claims is absurd. The people that buy Four Loko are the people that were more likely to drink and drive anyway. It's not the Four Loko itself that somehow turns everyone into drunken drivers. They also claim that the majority of people drinking Four Loko are binge drinkers. It's a drink with a ton of alcohol; if you are drinking it, you are intending to get drunk. If this is a good argument, then let's ban all 40-ounce

**Mike Chaney**

beers or cheap vodka. I bet we could generate some statistics for those drinks, too. The statistics against Four Loko are the same that would be found in any cheap drink with a high alcohol level. Overall, the evidence given by the FDA is incredibly misleading and still not scientifically sound. Banning a product because of these reasons just doesn't make very much sense. We've been drinking alcohol with caffeine for years, what's the big deal now? To understand this, I think we need to look at what caused all the attention in the first place. The whole reason this happened is because of some recent tragedies involving Four Loko.

I've heard all kinds of crazy, made-up stories like "20 people died," but here is what actually happened: A man decided to drink three cans and then accidentally shot himself, a group of college students were found passed out and rushed to the hospital, and most recently a 14-year-old girl was killed when her friend drank Four Loko and drove a car off a road.

As tragic as these stories are, they all sound terribly familiar. They are all the product of alcohol abuse, underage drinking and drunken driving. These are all serious problems that need to be dealt with, but none of them are exclusive to alcohol/caffeine. This is just another example of Americans finding something to blame for a much bigger social problem. The public was outraged because these popular cheap drinks were causing problems, so they put the blame on an easy target.

Caffeine didn't affect the 3 BAC that drove a kid to make a dumb decision. Caffeine is not the cause of the problem, an alcohol concentration equivalent to six light beers is. But that's not illegal, so they found themselves an alternate route. Now, all the people who were complaining about the dangers of Four Loko can go to sleep tonight fooled into thinking that this is a solution to the problem. And the same kids who drank Four Loko and drove will now find another drink and continue making bad decisions.

**Chaney is a senior medical laboratory science major from Houston.**

**>> mike.chaney@ttu.edu**

## PAINTING PROCESS



PHOTO BY BRENT SORELLE/The Daily Toreador

KELSEY WOOD, A sophomore special education major from Friendswood, works on a painting for class.

## Fans remember John Lennon 30 years after death

NEW YORK (AP) — John Lennon's fans celebrated his life Wednesday by visiting Strawberry Fields, the Central Park garden dedicated in his honor, while a newly released interview he gave shortly before his death showed he was optimistic about his future.

On the 30th anniversary of Lennon's murder outside his Manhattan apartment building, admirers played his music nearby at Strawberry Fields and placed flowers on a mosaic named for his song "Imagine."

The steady stream of visitors represented the range of people who love Lennon, from those who watched his career unfold as it happened to those who know only his music.

Father-daughter pair Paul De-

Luca, 50, and Marissa DeLuca, 17, came from Boston to mark the day.

"I grew up with his voice," said Marissa DeLuca.

"The Beatles are the soundtrack to my childhood," she said. "His voice is just kind of like home."

Her father said, "Nothing is timeless like the stuff John and Paul (McCartney) wrote."

In Liverpool, where Lennon was from, hundreds were expected to gather for a vigil Wednesday around the Peace and Harmony sculpture, recently unveiled by Lennon's former wife, Cynthia, and their son Julian in Chavasse Park.

In the newly released interview, conducted just three days before he was gunned down, John Lennon complained about his critics — saying they were just interested in

"dead heroes" and mused that he had "plenty of time" to accomplish some of his life goals.

The interview, believed to be his last print interview, was released Wednesday to The Associated Press by Rolling Stone magazine, which uses the full interview for a story that will be on stands Friday. While brief excerpts of Jonathan Cott's interview were released for a 1980 Rolling Stone cover story days after Lennon's death, this is the first time the entire interview has been published.

"His words are totally joyous and vibrant and hopeful and subversive and fearless," Cott told the AP on

Tuesday. "He didn't mince words."

Lennon saves some of his harshest words for critics who were perennially disappointed with his music and life choices after he left the Beatles.

"These critics with the illusions they've created about artists — it's like idol worship," he said. "They only like people when they're on their way up ... I cannot be on the way up again."

"What they want is dead heroes, like Sid Vicious and James Dean. I'm not interesting in being a dead (expletive) hero. ... So forget 'em, forget 'em."

### Today's su | do | ku

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

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

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# Resort in Egypt limits swimming after shark attacks kill one tourist

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — Egypt kept most of the 30-mile coastline off the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh closed to swimmers on Tuesday after a spate of shark attacks killed one European tourist and maimed several others in the past week.

Authorities diverted novice divers to the closest major resort, Dahab, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Sharm. They reopened the waters off Sharm to experienced divers, except for a 2-mile stretch where the shark attacks occurred. Three spots were designated for swimmers and snorkelers — mostly closed bays, mangroves and a national park.

A team of U.S. experts arrived to help investigate the unusual series of attacks in one of the world's top diving destinations.

Sharm el-Sheikh is a major Egyptian tourist attraction, with a busy airport that brings in package tours from Europe and offers a warm and quick escape from frigid winter temperatures on the continent. Divers are drawn by the steep drop-offs of coral reefs just offshore that offer deep walls of coral with a rich and colorful sea life. There is also an observatory to view wild sharks.

Shark attacks in the area are rare and authorities were scrambling to prevent them from cutting into the crucial revenues that Red Sea tourism brings to Egypt.

Sharm's trouble's began in the middle of last week when sharks mauled three Russians and one Ukrainian tourist. One Russian woman had her hand bitten off and another lost a hand and a leg. But all

four victims survived.

Then on Sunday, a shark tore the arm off a 70-year-old German tourist while she was snorkeling and she died almost immediately.

On Monday, authorities closed around 30 miles (50 kilometers) of Sharm's beaches to swimmers and divers. But they eased the restrictions for experienced divers on Tuesday, allowing them back into the water except along the 2-mile stretch where the attack occurred.

In the restricted area, tourists sunbathed on the beaches Tuesday but those who ventured to the water's edge and tried to dip their toes in were asked to retreat. Others opted for hotel swimming pools over the sea. Water activities deemed safe, such as rides on glass boats, were fully booked.

The resort at the southern tip of the Sinai peninsula has boomed since the 1980s. There are some 100 hotels, long stretches of sandy white beaches, desert safari excursions and a vibrant night life.

Ahmed Salah al-Idkawi, deputy governor of South Sinai, said he did not know of any tourist cancellations to Sharm so far.

Ziad al-Basil, deputy chairman of Egypt's Chamber of Diving and Watersports, said authorities lifted some restrictions Tuesday after an exploration dive by professionals, who deemed the area safe for experienced divers.

He said about 10 of more than 50 dive sites in Sharm remain off limits. Dive boat trips have fallen to about 25 a day, down from about 150 on average before.

But al-Basil said the shark attacks have not driven away divers.

"Divers come here to see sharks. For beginners, we gave them alternatives," he said. "For non-divers, their focus is on the resort as a warm destination. A big section of them go on glass-bottom boat and semi-submarines, these are fully booked."

Beach tourism is believed to contribute about 66 percent of Egypt's total income from tourism, which is expected to reach \$12.3 billion by the end of the current fiscal year in June, Tourism Minister Zohair Garanh was quoted as saying in state-owned Al-Gomhuria daily.

Experts so far have been at a loss to explain the reasons for the sudden spate of shark attacks.

Environmentalists have theorized that overfishing or depletion of food sources from other causes could be driving sharks closer to shore in search of food. There are also accusations that tourist boats are illegally dumping meat into the water to attract sharks for passengers wanting to photograph them.

Still, a third theory says sharks have been drawn to the area by the crew of a ship transporting livestock that dumped dead animals overboard.

One of the U.S. experts, George Burgess of the International Shark Attack File in Florida, was in Sharm Tuesday meeting with environmentalists and divers to collect information about the attacks. Two other experts, Marie Levine, head of the Shark Research Institute in Princeton, New Jersey; and Ralph Collier, author of "Shark Attacks of the Twentieth Century," arrived later.

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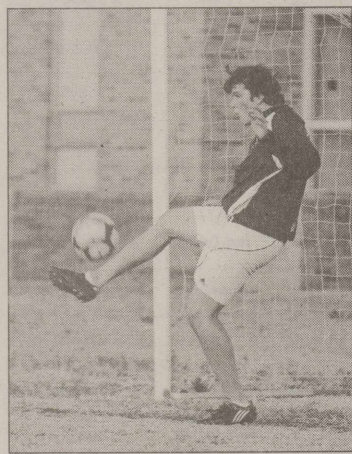
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# Soccer shootout



PHOTOS BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador

Matthew Harrelson a sophomore energy commerce major from Carrollton attempts to score a goal on Alez Naughton a freshman finance major from Frisco in November outside the Sports Studies Center.



ALEX NAUGHTON A freshman finance major from Frisco blocks a ball while playing soccer on Monday outside the Sports Studies Center.



ANTHONY NAUGHTON A senior finance real-estate major from Frisco kicks a ball on Monday outside the Sports Studies Center.

# Woman gets 2 years for slashing DiCaprio

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman who pleaded no contest to slashing Leonardo DiCaprio's face with a glass at a house party five years ago was sentenced

to two years in state prison Tuesday. Aretha Wilson was sentenced by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Patricia Schnegg after entering her plea to assault

with a deadly weapon last month. The "Inception" star, who required surgery after the attack, did not attend the sentencing.

# Review: Hard to muster any sympathy for 'Company Men'

(AP)— Previous movies about the country's recent economic recession, such as "Up in the Air" and the documentary "Inside Job," have championed the regular folks who got shafted and heaped due scorn on the corporate moguls who benefited nonetheless.

"The Company Men" asks us to feel some sympathy for the guys on top — the executives who've luxuriated in Porsches and private jets and \$500 lunches, and are suffering the pain of having all those goodies taken away. It's a tough request from John Wells, the man behind "ER" and "The West Wing," here making his feature writing and directing debut.

The strength of the all-star cast — Ben Affleck, Chris Cooper, Tommy Lee Jones and Kevin Costner — makes "The Company Men" vaguely engaging, but even watching these veterans and heavyweights banter and bounce off each other can't convince us that the characters themselves are compelling.

It's not that being privileged makes them boring; being two-dimensional does. Despite the massive life changes thrust upon the film's central figures, their arcs still feel predictable. That is, except for one who has a subplot that comes out of nowhere and feels as if its context were left on the cutting-room floor. That's all we'll say.

"The Company Men" focuses on three men, specifically, hit by downsiz-

ing at a Boston-area manufacturing conglomerate. Affleck's Bobby Walker is the first to go. He had it all with his wife (Rosemarie DeWitt) and two kids — beautiful house, shiny sports car, great golf game — so he's not terribly thrilled about the prospect of having it all taken away. He's actually in denial for a while about being laid off, insisting on keeping the country club membership even when paying the mortgage becomes difficult. Bobby is, in a nutshell, an arrogant jerk — and Affleck certainly knows how to play that sort of character believably. But he's so off-putting from the very start, it makes it tough to care about his potential redemption.

Next up is Cooper's Phil Woodward, who's pushing 60 with no real prospects. The career counselor who's been assigned to him advises him to dye his hair and omit his Vietnam War service from his resume, along with any work experience from the 1990s. He doesn't exactly respond well, to put it mildly. This all could have felt relevant and insightful — especially in the hands of an actor so capable of both subtlety and volatile rage — but "The Company Men" reduces him to a bit of a cliché. Phil gets drunk by himself in the middle of the day and literally throws rocks at the corporate headquarters from the parking lot. Literally.

Finally, there's Jones' Gene McClary, the no-nonsense right-hand man

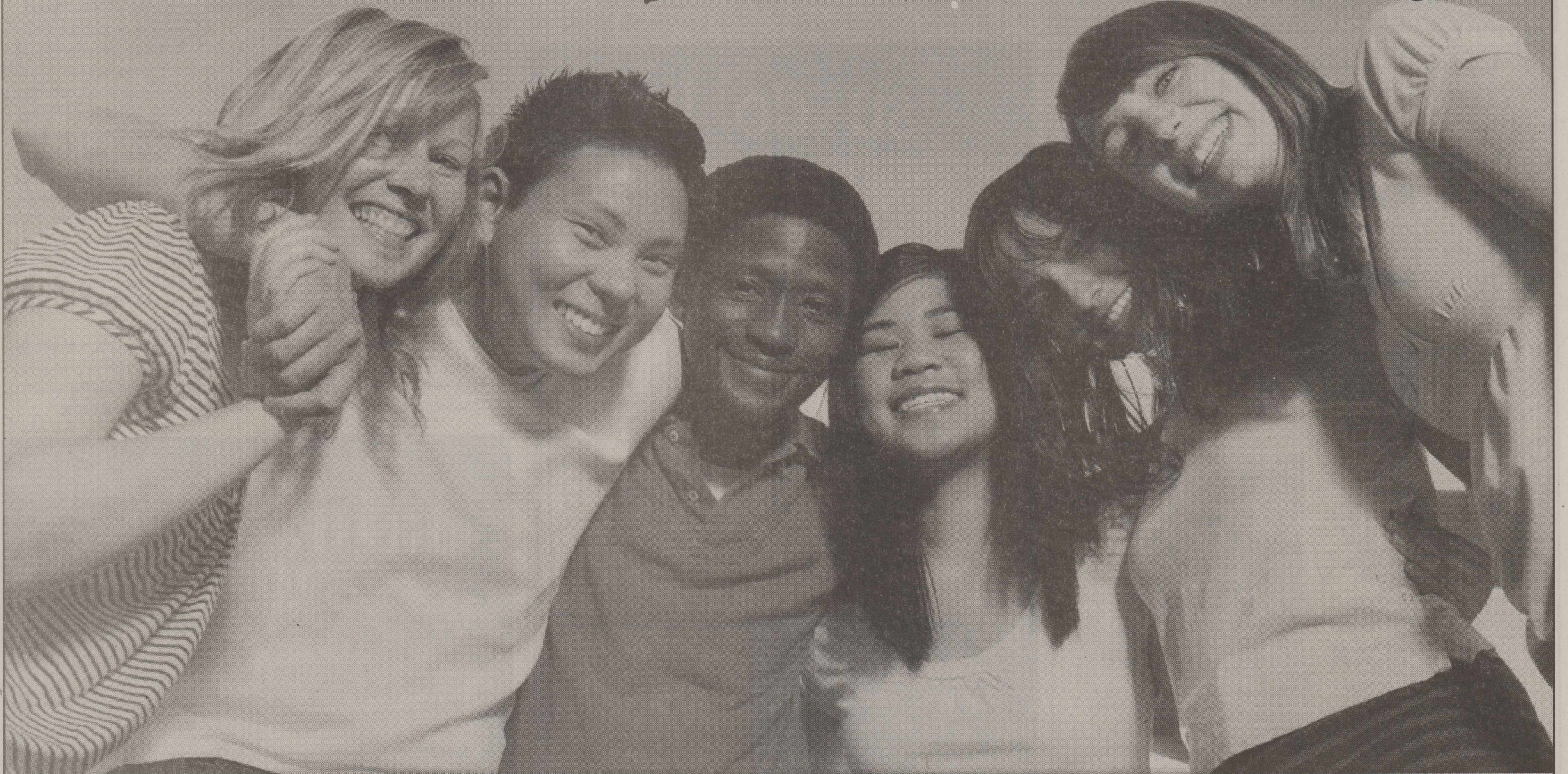
and longtime friend of the CEO (Craig T. Nelson), whose primary instinct is to cut jobs in hopes of bolstering the shareholders' confidence. Gene, by contrast, is old-school and longs for the days when he and his pal first created the shipbuilding company, when men made things they could see and be proud of, when everyone felt like family. Jones is in his agreeably cantankerous straight-talker mode, but he's also the most ostentatiously wealthy of the three "Company Men." So when he comes home to his palatial estate and finds that his pretentious socialite wife has purchased a \$16,000 antique table to place in front of a window, well, it kind of makes you cringe a bit.

Finally, there's Costner, who's amusing as Bobby's brother-in-law, Jack, a salt-of-the-earth guy who's still managing to get by with his construction business. He offers Bobby a job hanging drywall — which, of course, Bobby initially rejects as being beneath him — but eventually Jack will come to function as the film's moral compass and savior. "The Company Men" seems to overlook the fact that homebuilding suffered during the recession, too. But it does give Costner a chance to trot out his old New England accent from "Thirteen Days."

"The Company Men," a Weinstein Co. release, is rated R for language and brief nudity. Running time: 113 minutes. Two stars out of four.

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# Students should step up

There are certain topics that a writer finds himself or herself writing about over and over again. Well, here I come once again to take a club to the dead horse that is Texas Tech's terrible attendance at basketball games.

I promise I'll stop writing about it if you start going to games, but it just mystifies me to see so many empty seats every time I'm at the United Spirit Arena.

The students who go usually do a decent job of trying to create a home-court advantage, but even then it's nothing these Division I athletes haven't come up against in other places.

Don't believe me? Well, you don't have to look far to find some examples of good students sections. Kansas has the best in the country. Missouri's is top notch.

But they're basketball schools. OK, but our brethren down at Texas A&M have managed to put together a pretty good section.

Even much smaller schools have far better showings at basketball games. Check out Utah State or Ohio's sections on YouTube.

Student sections might not win games, but they can certainly impact the outcome. Plus, basketball is a game of momentum. It's all about the runs a team goes on.

It really does boggle my mind that the lower bowl of the student section isn't full for every single game.

The Red Raiders and Lady Raiders might not be the best teams in the Big 12, but they don't play bad basketball. Each team has a shot to make the NCAA tournament this season.

During Tech's loss to TCU on Wednesday night the crowd was decent and got into the game at crucial mo-

## Jon Arnold



ments. The Red Raiders almost came back from a sizeable deficit, and two of the Horned Frog players gave some love to the crowd after the game, but it could be a lot better.

This campus goes crazy about sports. We love football. Everybody's at the games. A large percentage of the campus takes part in intramurals. The Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center is always bustling with students taking part in physical activity.

Yet, apparently everyone has something better to do on gamedays. What are you guys doing that's so exciting? Shoot me an invite, next time. If you have some studying to do, you could just stay off of Facebook and earn back the two hours you'll spend at the arena. Prefer to party? I promise it'll be just as fun two hours from now.

I'm tired of a lack of support. There are some things the athletic department does wrong, but this isn't one of them. Their marketing arm bends over backwards to get people to games. Pat Knight and Kristy Curry have done all they can to get students to games.

It's time the student body shows up. Jan. 8 the Red Raiders play Baylor. If you're not back for that one make it a point to be back for Texas' visit on the 11th. The Lady Raiders welcome Missouri the next day.

►►jarnold@dailytoreador.com



## The DT Staff College Bowl Pick 'Em



Date/Time	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU
New Mexico Bowl BYU vs. UTEP	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU
uDrove Humanitarian Bowl Northern Illinois vs. Fresno State	Fresno State	Fresno State	Northern Illinois	Fresno State	Fresno State	Northern Illinois	Northern Illinois	Northern Illinois
R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl Ohio vs. Troy	Troy	Troy	Troy	Troy	Troy	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
Beef 'O' Brady's St. Petersburg Bowl Louisville vs. Southern Miss	Louisville	Louisville	Louisville	Southern Miss	Louisville	Louisville	Southern Miss	Louisville
MAACO Las Vegas Bowl Utah vs. Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Utah	Boise State	Boise State
S.D. County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl San Diego State vs. Navy	Navy	Navy	San Diego State	San Diego State	Navy	San Diego State	San Diego State	Navy
Sheraton Hawaii Tulsa vs. Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii
Little Caesars Bowl Florida International vs. Toledo	Toledo	Toledo	Toledo	Toledo	Toledo	Toledo	Toledo	Toledo
AdvoCare V100 Independence Bowl Georgia Tech vs. Air Force	Air Force	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Air Force	Air Force	Georgia Tech
Champs Sports Bowl NC State vs. West Virginia	NC State	NC State	West Virginia	NC State	West Virginia	West Virginia	West Virginia	West Virginia
Insight Bowl Iowa vs. Missouri	Iowa	Iowa	Missouri	Iowa	Missouri	Missouri	Iowa	Iowa
Military Bowl Presented by Northrop Grumman Maryland vs. East Carolina	ECU	ECU	ECU	ECU	ECU	ECU	ECU	ECU
Texas Bowl Illinois vs. Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Illinois	Baylor	Baylor
Valero Alamo Bowl Oklahoma State vs. Arizona	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State
Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl SMU vs. Army	Army	SMU	SMU	SMU	Army	SMU	SMU	SMU
New Era Pinstripe Bowl Kansas State vs. Syracuse	K-State	K-State	K-State	Syracuse	Syracuse	K-State	K-State	K-State
Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl North Carolina vs. Tennessee	UNC	UNC	UNC	Tennessee	UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC
Bridgepoint Education Holiday Bowl Nebraska vs. Washington	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Washington	Nebraska	Nebraska
Mineke Car Care Bowl Clemson vs. USF	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	USF	Clemson	USF	Clemson	USF
Hyundai Sun Bowl Miami vs. Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Miami	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Miami	Notre Dame	Miami	Notre Dame
AutoZone Liberty Bowl UCF vs. Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	UCF	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
Chik-Fil-A Bowl Florida State vs. South Carolina	South Carolina	Florida State	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	Florida State
TickleCity Bowl Texas Tech vs. Northwestern	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech
Outback Bowl Penn State vs. Florida	Penn State	Florida	Florida	Penn State	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida
Capital One Bowl Michigan State vs. Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
Gator Bowl Michigan vs. Mississippi State	Michigan	Michigan	Mississippi State	Mississippi State	Mississippi State	Michigan	Mississippi State	Michigan
Rose Bowl Game presented by VIZIO Wisconsin vs. TCU	Wisconsin	TCU	TCU	Wisconsin	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU
Tostitos Fiesta Bowl Oklahoma vs. Connecticut	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
Discover Orange Bowl Virginia Tech vs. Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Virginia Tech	Stanford	Stanford
Allstate Sugar Bowl Arkansas vs. Ohio State	Arkansas	Ohio State	Ohio State	Arkansas	Arkansas	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State
GoDaddy.com Bowl Miami (Ohio) vs. Middle Tennessee State	MTSU	Miami	Miami	MTSU	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami
AT&T Cotton Bowl Texas A&M vs. LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	Texas A&M	LSU	Texas A&M
BBVA Compass Bowl Pittsburgh vs. Kentucky	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Kentucky	Kentucky	Pittsburgh
Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl Boston College vs. Nevada	Nevada	BC	Nevada	Nevada	Nevada	Nevada	Nevada	Nevada
Tostitos DCS National Championship Oregon vs. Auburn	Auburn	Oregon	Auburn	Oregon	Auburn	Oregon	Auburn	Auburn

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## Notre Dame, Miami coaches excited for showdown in El Paso

EL PASO (AP) — It took 21 hours to sell out the 77th Sun Bowl, which will have North Carolina going up against old foe Miami on Dec. 31.

And it took a bit longer than expected for interim Hurricanes coach Jeff Stoutland to get to El Paso for the traditional bowl game news conference Thursday. After a delay in Dallas, Stoutland said he

was rushing to find another flight when he noticed something out of the corner of his eye.

"I'm looking out the window of the plane and from underneath the plane comes a worker with a belt and other things," Stoutland said. "He's got a Notre Dame ski cap. ... We haven't even gotten on a plane and it's already on here."

excited for the matchup between the old rivals.

"This is as good as it gets, guys," Sun Bowl Association football selection committee chairman John Fulmer said.

The teams haven't played since 1990 and Notre Dame leads the all-time series 15-7-1, though the two schools have never met in a bowl. Over the summer, the schools said they will resume their spirited and often fierce regular-season series with three games beginning in 2012 at Soldier Field in Chicago.

The series dates to the 1950s but it was during the 1980s, when Miami became a national power, that the rivalry got some spice. Great games, top rankings, pushing and shoving — all were part of the showdowns.

Stoutland was tabbed as interim coach one day after Miami fired Randy Shannon and he will be facing Brian Kelly, whose team went 7-5 in his first season as coach of the Fighting Irish.

Both coaches are excited about the matchup.

"I think people, obviously, are harkening back to the times of Lou Holtz and Jimmy Johnson and those great teams that had great players," Kelly said.

Added Stoutland: "It's been 20 years. A lot of people wanted this to happen for a long time."

Stoutland said the last few weeks have been a roller coaster.

"I'd be lying to you if I said it wasn't exciting," Stoutland said. "I've never been a head coach before. It's my first opportunity, I've had, to do all this type of stuff. Usually I'm locked in a room doing film work, breaking film down ..."

"Although, it is bittersweet. We did lose our head football coach, who we're all very close to. He's one of my best friends and the players love him. So that part was hard, to be honest with you, but I also think that brings the team closer together."

Kelly said his players would be tackling in full pads during practices as they prepare for the nation's second-ranked pass defense.

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

**ACROSS**

- Magic
- Time in a classified ad
- Syrian president
- Surrounded by
- Bud
- Little wood
- M
- So-so connection?
- forces
- Senate majority leader Harry
- Baseball stat.
- Ma
- More clownish
- Doesn't try to reach the green, in golf
- Current letters
- Less taxing
- Max
- Most tender
- Pace
- Low-quality
- Sumatran swingers
- Maxi
- Site of a 1981 sitcom honeymoon
- Minute amount
- badge
- "Big Blue"
- Maxim
- Old number?
- Instrument on which Jake Shimabukuro can play
- "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- Kind of officer or shark
- Meg and Robert
- Perce tribe
- Asian beef source

**DOWN**

- Goya subject
- Yemen neighbor
- Crackerjack
- Poetic tribute
- Common crossword clue
- "The Art of Loving" author
- Cartridge filler
- Coolers, briefly
- One may be checked back
- Stylish
- They may be liquid or frozen
- Original "Star Trek" studio
- Wise one
- Driller's deg.
- Bank acct. entry
- Morrow and Damone
- One who lifts a lot?
- '50s-'60s chief justice Warren
- Microwave
- Cologne cry
- Boli over?
- Jordan: Nike brand
- Vane dir.
- Part of TGIF
- AOL et al.
- Culture medium
- Lover of Yum-letters
- Yum in "The Mico"
- Little butt?
- Gold meas.
- Second-century date
- Barrel worker
- Thing
- Hercule's creator
- Uniformed campus gp.
- Little rascal
- Chance to see what you missed the first time
- Early mode of transportation
- Powerful 1966
- hurricane
- Yak
- Word on a biblical wall
- Cook's mate
- Jr. and sr.
- Type

**Today's su | do | ku**

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

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

MPG SAIL DROOPY  
ORO ALDA EARNED  
PAO TOYSOLDIERS  
PYGMYELEPHANT  
EELER AIR OBS  
DREG FULL STOP  
RAISE SNEEZY  
BABYGRANDPIANOS  
UBOATS INEPT  
SOON GNAW IBAR  
YUK UDO SNIPE  
MINIATUREGOLF  
DWARFPLANET LOU  
DERAIL DIET AME  
TAKETO STLO BBL

45 Second-century date  
46 Barrel worker  
47 Thing  
48 Hercule's creator  
50 Uniformed campus gp.  
52 Little rascal  
53 Chance to see what you missed the first time  
54 Early mode of transportation  
56 Powerful 1966  
60 Yak  
61 Word on a biblical wall  
63 Cook's mate  
64 Jr. and sr.  
65 Type

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**THUR 12/16:** GRADY SPENSER

**FRI 12/17:** NO JUSTICE

**SAT 12/18:** TEJAS BROTHERS W/ SETH CANDEN

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PHOTOS BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

ABOVE: PHIL GILBERT, a Tech alumnus from Fort Hood, and Lauren Myhre, a junior English major from McKinney, jump out of the plane together during the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Skydiving Benefit in November at Skydive Westex.



STEPHEN FOLLIS, A second-year grad student studying business administration from Slaton, flies his parachute during the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Skydiving Benefit in November at Skydive Westex.

# Stressed Out

How to manage your stress during finals

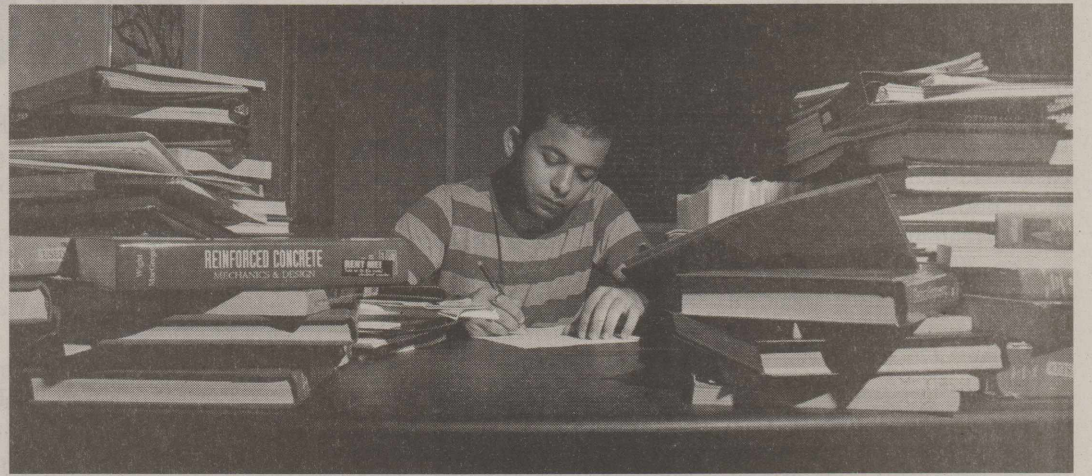


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

## Ways to avoid stressing out

- Eat a well-balanced diet
- Exercise
- Get 8 hours of sleep
- Only worry about things you can control
- Study as much as you can before the final, don't try to prepare at the last minute

## What to do if you get stressed

- Pay attention to your thought patterns. All people have thought patterns that make them more anxious.
- Do not overgeneralize. Example: "I always do poorly on these tests."
- Do not blow things out of proportion. "If I do badly on this test my life is ruined."
- Do not use demanding words. "I have to pass this test."
- Do not make assumptions about what other people are thinking. "My instructor wants me to fail this class."

## Break time

Schedule a time for breaking. If studying 30 minutes is a long time for you, break after 45. Do something you enjoy. Concentrate on something besides studying. Don't feel guilty. Think of it as a reward.

COMPILED BY BRITTANY HOOVER/The Daily Toreador

## Relax your mind

### Before a test:

- Slow down, close your eyes and take a deep breath, ignoring distractions.
- Focus on your breath and relax all of your muscles, starting with your feet and working up your body.
- If you feel tense all over, practice tensing up your muscles, then relaxing them.
- Say mental boost phrases to yourself such as, "I know this material." Or, "Do the best you can."

Sources: Stephen Cook, associate professor in department of psychology and director of the Texas Tech psychology clinic and James Carr, professor of biology.

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<b>Skinless Chicken Breast</b>		<b>\$1.77/ lb</b>
3 lbs. or more, boneless		
<b>Nestle Pure Life Water</b>		<b>\$3.99</b>
24 pack, 1/2 liter bottles		
<b>Sol Dos Equis XX</b>		<b>\$12.99</b>
Amber or Lager 12 pack, 12 oz bottles		
<b>Bud Light w/ Lime</b>		<b>\$17.99</b>
18 pack, 12 oz bottles		
<b>Samuel Adams</b>		<b>\$12.99</b>
Regular or Variety 12 pack, 12 oz. bottles		
<b>Budweiser</b>		<b>\$13.99</b>
Regular, Select 55 or Light 18 pack, 12 oz cans/bottles		
<b>Coors</b>		<b>WOW!!</b>
Regular or Light 18 pack, 12 oz cans/bottles		
<b>Miller Lite or MGD 64</b>		<b>WOW!!</b>
calories 18 pack, 12 oz cans/bottles		

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## AP Source: Obama meeting with LA Lakers next week

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama will meet with the NBA champion L.A. Lakers next week, according to a White House official. It's not clear, though, that the basketball-loving president will shoot hoops with Kobe Bryant and his teammates.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of a formal announcement later Thursday.

Obama has frequently emphasized community service in his comments to champion sports teams visiting the White House, or joined them in activities like making gift packages for the troops. This time, though, instead of meeting at

the White House the president and the Lakers will participate in a community service event together in the D.C. area, the official said.

Bryant and teammates Pau Gasol and Derek Fisher were among those present in August when Obama gathered some current and former NBA superstars for a private game. Obama plays basketball often but had to get his lip stitched up a couple weeks ago after another player elbowed him.

The Lakers won their 16th NBA championship in June by beating the Boston Celtics. They'll be in the District of Columbia to play the Washington Wizards on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

# Red Sox get OF Crawford, Yankees raise offer to Lee

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Immediately after the Red Sox landed Carl Crawford, the Yankees boosted their already whopping offer to Cliff Lee. Their high-stakes rivalry is escalating, hundreds of millions of dollars by the hour.

The other teams in the majors? They can only marvel at Big Boys Gone Wild.

"I've never played in those poker games," Arizona Diamondbacks general manager Kevin Towers said Thursday. "It's a different pool of players we focus on and look at. I hear about it and

kind of move on."

Too bad for Andy MacPhail, Baltimore's president of baseball operations. His Orioles play in the same AL East as the Yankees and Red Sox.

"I want to form the Mid-Atlantic Division," he said, totally kidding.

Not everyone is out the mix, though. The Texas Rangers, eager to re-sign Lee, went to pay him a visit in Arkansas. Still no timetable when the prize pitcher might make a decision on where to play in 2011.

"He's a premier free agent," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "He's worth waiting for."

The winter meetings wrapped up Thursday after a brisk session full of trades and signings. The Baltimore Orioles made one more deal before leaving the Disney resort, getting shortstop J.J. Hardy from Minnesota.

Typically, several trades follow in the days after teams return home. Kansas City will certainly get pitches for former Cy Young winner Zack Greinke, and the New York Mets have been listening to offers for outfielder Carlos Beltran.

In the biggest shifts of the week,

Crawford and Adrian Gonzalez joined the Red Sox, Jayson Werth went to Washington, Carlos Pena moved to the Chicago Cubs and Paul Konerko stayed with the White Sox. Derek Jeter, meanwhile, completed his deal with the Yankees and admitted he was angry with how the team handled talks.

Mark Reynolds, J.J. Putz, Shaun Marcum, Jeff Francoeur and Melky Cabrera also found new places to play. The Tampa Bay Rays, a playoff team last season, didn't fare so well — as expected, the cost of doing business cost the them Crawford and Pena; and shortstop Jason Bartlett might get traded to San Diego, too.

Boston general manager Theo Epstein wouldn't directly confirm Crawford's deal for \$142 million and seven years.

"If things come together the way we hope and expect, we'll be really satisfied," he said.

Predictably, the Yankees quickly raised the ante for their No. 1 target, offering Lee a seven-year contract. That's up from a six-year proposal worth nearly \$140 million.

A person familiar with the Crawford deal told The Associated Press that his agreement was subject to passing a physical. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was not yet complete.

"You go into every winter with a Plan A, and sometimes it's hard to pull that off and you move on to Plan B and C," Epstein said. "I think adding an impact player was very important for where we were in the short-, medium- and long-term and adding two, as long as they were the right players in the right spots in the right situations, would be even better."

A person with knowledge of the negotiations told the AP about the increased offer to Lee, without disclosing the dollar amount. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks are ongoing.

The speedy Crawford is a four-time All-Star and just won his first Gold Glove. He hit .307 with 19 home runs, an AL-leading 13 triples and 90 RBIs for Tampa Bay last season. He scored 110 runs and stole 47 bases.

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## Rice set to run wild over final month

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) — Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice can't ignore the numbers, which demonstrate his production has decreased significantly from a year ago.

Rice rushed for 1,339 yards, averaged 5.3 yards per carry, had four 100-yard games and five runs over 30 yards in 2009. He also caught 78 passes for 702 yards.

This year Rice has 844 yards rushing, is averaging 4.0 yards per attempt, has a single 100-yard game and one run of 30 yards. He

has 49 receptions for 410 yards.

"The carries and the average might be down, but I think as far as production, I've maxed out with the looks I've been getting," Rice insisted Thursday.

He intends to make a run at bolstering those statistics over the final four games of the season.

"You might say the numbers are down, but if you look at where I'm at now and where I was last year, it's not that far off — even though there's an extra target on me," he said, referring to the

increased attention he received after making the Pro Bowl last season.

Rice attributes the shortfall to an ever-changing offensive line that lost tackle Jared Gaiter to injury at the outset and at times has been without ailing right guard Chris Chester.

"We've got to get the chemistry back in our offensive line," Rice said. "I think they've been doing a fair job of getting on guys; we've just got to keep our blocks longer. We've got to be patient."

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Democrats delay action on young immigrants bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate moved Thursday to delay a politically charged showdown vote on legislation carving out a path to legal status for foreign-born youngsters brought to this country illegally, putting off but probably not preventing the measure's demise.

Facing GOP objections, Democrats put aside the so-called Dream Act and said they'd try again to advance it before year's end. They're short of the 60 votes needed to do so, however, and critics in both parties quickly said they won't change their minds in the waning days of the Democratic-controlled Congress.

"This is mainly a political exercise rather than a serious attempt to deal with our broken immigration system," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, one of several Democrats who have broken with their leaders to oppose the bill, said he too would block efforts to consider it.

The bill grants hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children a chance to gain legal status if they enroll in college or join the military.

The House passed it Wednesday night after Democratic leaders painstakingly lined up the votes to push it through. Just eight Republicans joined Democrats to support it while almost 40 Democrats defected to vote "no."

In the Senate, Democrats had virtually no chance of attracting any GOP support to move the legislation since all 42 Republicans have signed a letter pledging to block action on any issue until bills to extend expiring tax cuts and fund the government were completed.

Even once those agreements are reached, though, it's unlikely Democrats would be able to gather the 60 votes needed for quick action on an issue as emotional and complicated as immigration.

"We have to demonstrate that we are serious about fixing our broken immigration system, we have to secure the border, we have to enforce our laws, and then I think the natural compassion of the American people will kick in, and they'll let us deal with these sympathetic situations like these kids who are not culpable, but were brought here by their parents and find themselves at a dead end," Cornyn said.

The measure is viewed by Hispanic activists and immigrant advocates as a down payment on what they had hoped would be broader action by President Barack Obama and Congress to give the nation's 10 million to 12 million undocumented immigrants a chance to gain legal status.

It targets the most sympathetic of the millions of undocumented people — those brought to the United States as children, who in many cases consider themselves American, speak English and have no ties to or family

living in their native countries.

"We owe it to the young men and women whose lives will be affected, we owe it to America who needs their service in the military and needs their skill in building our economy to honestly address this issue and ask members of both sides to sit down, pause and reflect as to whether or not we can afford to say to these talented young men and women, 'There is no place in America for you,'" said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill. "There is a place."

Critics denounce the bill as a backdoor amnesty grant that would encourage more foreigners to sneak into the United States in hopes of eventually being legalized as well.

"The American people ... tried to tell this Congress, but the Congress and the political leadership refuses to listen. What they're saying is, 'Do not continue to reward illegality. Do not continue to provide benefits for people who violated our law, please,'" said Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS  
 1 Psychiatrist's recommendation  
 7 "Spanish Harlem" singer  
 15 NFL team named for a Poe poem  
 16 Male models, often  
 17 Dali had a pet one  
 18 Slicom with a robot named Hymie  
 19 Reason for an award  
 20 TV host with a substantial car collection  
 21 Morning choice  
 22 Halloween sightings?  
 24 face  
 25 Music-licensing org.  
 28 New York and Chicago have the oldest ones in the Americas  
 29 Circulation aid  
 30 Dangerous inner city area  
 36 Murnsee-speaking people  
 38 Subject of Michael Crichton's "Prey"  
 39 "The Chronic" Dr.  
 40 Gas: Pref.  
 41 1-Down attendee: Abbr.  
 42 Polyester used in casting  
 45 Topsy-turvy state  
 48 Inventor who received a lifetime achievement Grammy in 1970  
 49 Tarot suit  
 50 Old Asian title  
 54 Gall  
 56 Scour, e.g.  
 57 Weaken  
 58 Easy to handle  
 59 Great Lakes routes  
 60 O, in many cases

DOWN  
 1 Event for 41-Across  
 2 Tear  
 3 Through  
 4 Woody Allen film  
 5 Synonymous with "for"  
 6 Ganj hrs.  
 7 Follower of everything?  
 8 Perfect places  
 9 Say — refuse  
 10 Cincinnati trio?  
 11 Eastern leader since 1994  
 12 "Wicked Game" singer Chris  
 13 Courage  
 14 The sun is one  
 20 Brilliance, in Bristol  
 23 Fatty acid ester  
 24 Repository of Greek mythology  
 25 Alphabet trio  
 26 Big name in faucets  
 27 At Dodger Stadium, briefly  
 29 Frying aid  
 31 She "sets my heart awhirl," in a 4 Seasons hit  
 32 Continental trade gp.

Friday's Puzzle Solved

CHIC LOGON VIEW  
 RAMA IIPAMA ELOI  
 USSR LIGER TONG  
 SOCKANALYST  
 TERRACE KEEPS  
 DEAL SOCKISSUE  
 SEC RAW MTM  
 SCHLOCKMARKET  
 AIM IRA NOR  
 SMOCKFUND BABS  
 SINAI ROOTOUIT  
 STOCKOPTIONS  
 HASH PLANA OBLA  
 ELKE AOLER NOIR  
 FLAW HTEST SOTS

33 Holy wars  
 34 Vientiane's land  
 35 Caltech grad's occ., often  
 37 Part of MS-DOS: Abbr.  
 42 Nice friends  
 43 Greene of "Bonanza"  
 44 North — 11-Down's country  
 45 Mesa's cousin  
 46 Cousins of folks

47 Mount — New York's highest peak  
 49 "Brian's Song" Emmy nominee  
 51 Reagan secretary of state  
 52 Not engaged  
 53 "It's — too long"  
 55 Knoxville-based agcy.  
 56 Bother

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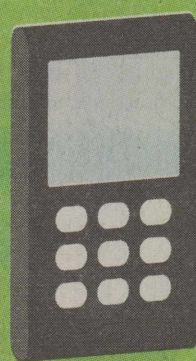
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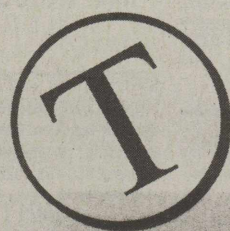


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