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End to Lubbock road projects nears

4th St. at Loop 289 now open to traffic; 2 projects set to end

By **BRIAN HOWARD**
STAFF WRITER

While Lubbock road construction projects have inconvenienced Lubbock drivers for the past few years, it looks as if residents will soon be offered some reprieve as two major construction projects on the north side of town are set to come to an end. Will Barnett, the assistant Lubbock area engineer with the Texas Department of Transportation, said the current areas under construction on the northwest side of town were initially given the go-ahead because of residential growth in the area.

"Obviously, there's been a big surge of residential development in northwest Lubbock over the past five to eight years," he said. "The Marsha Sharp Freeway has been on the books for over 20 years now."

The two major projects of focus on the north side of town, the intersections of 4th and 19th streets at Loop 289, finally are set to end this summer, Barnett said.

"The 4th Street and Loop 289 interchange was opened up to traffic last Friday, but obviously it's not fully complete," he said. "While 4th and the loop and 19th and the loop are separate projects, we expect each of

them to be complete by the May to June timeframe."

The next big construction project is yet another extension of the Marsha Sharp Freeway, Barnett said.

"Our next big job is to extend the Marsha Sharp Freeway from Avenue L to MLK Boulevard," he said. "It will take about a year, with an end date set for Spring 2012."

It appears many of the construction projects are set to wrap up soon; however, many Lubbock residents have grown impatient due to numerous delays.

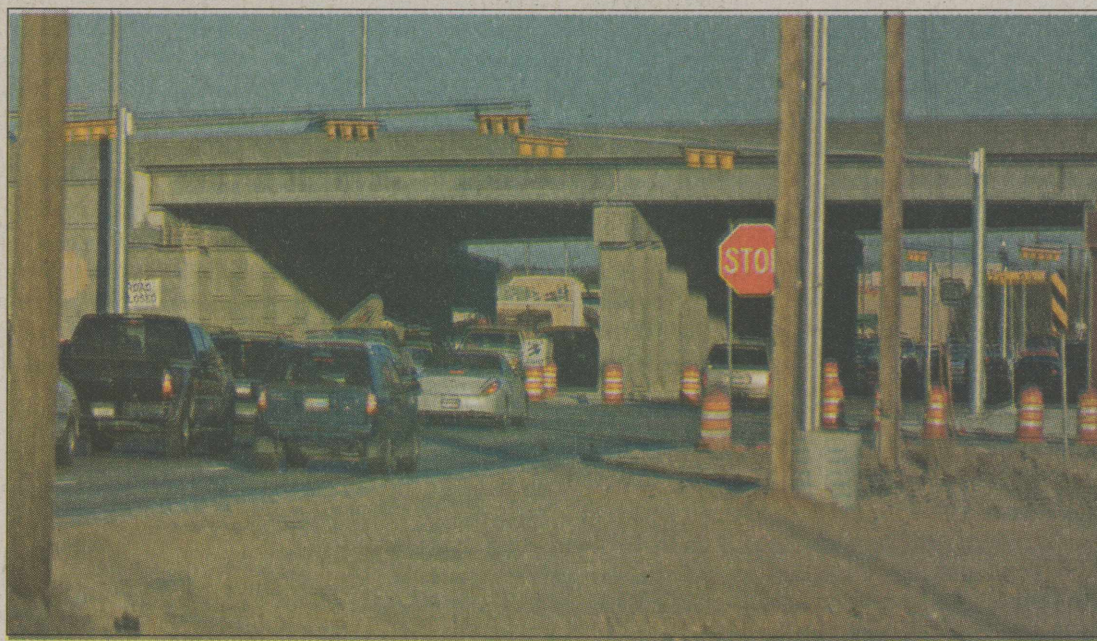


PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

FOURTH STREET AT Loop 289 is now open to traffic. Texas Department of Transportation officials said that intersection and 19th Street at Loop 289 projects are set to be completed this summer.

ROADS continued on Page 3 >>>

Ag career fair elicits mixed student reviews

31 companies meet, greet students at expo



PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador

DENISE PERLMAN, FROM left, from Gavilon, talks to Michael Orsak, a junior environmental crop and soil science major from Houston, and Jeff Kocurek, a junior environmental crop and soil science major from San Antonio, during the CASNR career expo about working at Gavilon.

By **BAILEY EILAND**
STAFF WRITER

With the intent to meet prospective employees and interns, 31 companies attended the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Career Expo hosted by Texas Tech Career Services on Wednesday.

Though all the companies were agriculture-related, each one brought something different to the table. The expo included a range of businesses from Cargill Meat Solutions to Texas AgriLife Research & Extension and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Kish Rajput, a junior business management and marketing major from Plano, worked at the fair for career services. The student ambassador said the career expo was a good opportunity for students to gain experience talking to employers.

"Students need to acknowledge the fact that people are here looking for future employees," Rajput said. "Students should take advantage of that."

The ambassador also gave advice on how students can prepare for future career fairs.

FAIR continued on Page 2 >>>

Candidates debate



PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador

CANDIDATE ERIC ODOM answers questions during the SGA presidential debate while the other two candidates, Jenny Mayants and Tyler Patton, watch Wednesday in the Student Union Building.

Students talk SGA, fees, busing

By **STEPHEN GIPSON**
STAFF WRITER

With students watching from the doorway of the

packed Student Senate room, candidates for Student Government Association debated on several issues facing Texas Tech.

Presidential candidates Eric Odom, Jenny Mayants and Tyler Patton were asked what the biggest flaw in SGA is and how they would fix it.

SGA continued on Page 2 >>>

Bailey: AD offer has not been made

Reports say Tech offered job to UM's Hocutt

Texas Tech President Guy Bailey said late Wednesday nobody had been offered the open Tech athletic director position.



BAILEY

KTTU-FM reported Wednesday that Kirby Hocutt, athletic director at the University of Miami, was offered the position by Tech.

Bailey said he is the only person who has the power to make the final decision.



MYERS

OFFER continued on Page 5 >>>

Regent: Application error was 'innocent mistake'

Steinmetz was appointed Feb. 1

Newly appointed regent John Steinmetz said an error reported on his application to the Texas Tech Board of Regents was an innocent mistake.

Steinmetz, a Lubbock resident and president of Vista Bank, said he is a graduate of the Texas Tech School of Community Banking. He said he put that information on the line labeled 'graduate,' which he now knows is reserved for master's degrees. The ap-

plication lists four lines of education on which applicants fill out their academic past: high school, undergraduate, graduate and other.

"I'm a proud graduate of the Texas Tech School of Community Banking," Steinmetz said. "I listed that on the graduate line, but it was an innocent mistake, and now, knowing this, I would have put it on the other line."

He said he takes full responsibility

for the mistake and is honored to have the opportunity to serve on the board.

Steinmetz was appointed to the board Feb. 1 and confirmed by the senate this month. He is a board member of Texas Lyceum, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce and Young Life of Lubbock.



STEINMETZ

He formerly was a board member of the Brazos River Authority.

While a student at Tech, Steinmetz served as president of the Student Government Association and is the founder of the student-run tailgate, RaiderGATE, and a co-founder of the Student Red Raider Club and Young Professionals of Greater Lubbock.

Steinmetz received a bachelor's degree from Tech and is a graduate of the Tech School of Community Banking.

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Community Calendar

TODAY

Feed Your Body and Soul Fair
Time: 11 a.m.
Where: SUB Atrium
So, what is it?
Learn more about body image, the dangers in advertising and information on eating disorders at this interactive fair. While learning, also indulge in a free smoothie.

StrengthsQuest Game Day
Time: 1 p.m.
Where: SUB, Red Raider Lounge
So, what is it?
Learn more about your strengths through StrengthsQuest games of Millionaire, Charades and Bingo. Prizes will be awarded.

Texas Tech Baseball
Time: 5 p.m.
Where: Dan Law Field
So, what is it?
Cheer on the Red Raiders as they take on the Brigham Young Cougars.

Celebration of Recovery
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: Center for the Study of Addiction and Recovery, Serenity Center
So, what is it?
Serenity Room Celebration of Recovery is hosted every week to honor those that have started a new and exciting journey to recovery from addictions and eating disorders. In conjunction with Feed Your Body and Soul Week, a special speaker for eating disorders will offer their unique experience of recovery.

Yomne Perea
Time: 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Where: Triple J Chophouse & Brew Co.
So, what is it?
Enjoy acoustic rock performed by the Female Acoustic Artist of the Year in

Orange County, Calif., at Lubbock's only microbrewery.

FRIDAY

Texas Tech Softball
Time: 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Where: Rocky Johnson Field
So, what is it?
Watch the Red Raiders as they take on the Northern Illinois Huskies at 2 p.m. and the St. John's Red Storm at 4 p.m.

Free QPR Training
Time: 3 p.m.
Where: Student Wellness Building, Room 100
So, what is it?
QPR stands for question, persuade and refer. The Student Counseling Center is currently offering free official QPR training. Trainees will be certified as QPR gatekeepers and will learn how to intervene and get help for someone in a suicidal crisis.

Texas Tech Baseball
Time: 4 p.m.
Where: Dan Law Field
So, what is it?
Cheer on the Red Raiders as they play the Brigham Young Cougars.

Eli Young Band
Time: 10 p.m.
Where: Wild West
So, what is it?
Catch this Texas country act at this depot music hotspot. Tickets are for sale at wildwestlubbock.com or at the door.

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.

SGA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Patton said he believes SGA does not stand for students very well anymore. With budget cuts in Texas higher education, Patton said, it is now more important than ever to have a strong candidate representing Tech's students in Austin.

He said he would like to organize a student system advisory council.

"Me reading a report every month to the Board of Regents doesn't do anything," Patton said. "The student regent is there meeting with the board, but they also don't have a vote. I think it's critically important that if I'm going to read a report to the Board of Regents that I've got 12 or so students from all our institutions to say 'This is going to be our focus, and this should be where our focus is.'"

Odom said SGA lacks communication within the senate and executive offices. He has learned during his time on the senate how SGA does not have enough outreach with the students. He said it is SGA's job to be a voice for the students.

Mayants said one of her administration's focuses is achieving and maintaining feasible goals.

"How many times does SGA do things and say things that are feasible for students?" she

said. "How many times do we promise things and don't get them accomplished? Along with myself and the candidates that I have completely supported this entire time, I am coming up with ways that we can slowly start achieving goals and maintaining them, feasibly. That is what we're here for."

Internal vice presidential candidates, Ethan Jordan, Alex Moore and Hannah Walker, were asked how they would evaluate any proposal by the Tech administration to increase fees for any particular item.

Walker said she would have to see why the fees were being increased. She would make sure the fees benefit the students and are necessary.

Moore said she does not believe increasing fees is a responsible choice with Tech facing large budget cuts.

"We're representing the stu-

dents," Moore said. "Our tuition is going to be going up and we don't need to be increasing fees and we don't really need to be increasing tuition. So I think if the administration came to us and said 'We need to increase fees,' I think it's the job of student government to put their foot down and say 'Students can't afford tuition right now, how are we going to afford higher fees?'"

Jordan said he believes fees should be kept as low as possible. He said it is important to meet with the fee committees to get their feedback on why a fee is being proposed.

"Some fees are necessary and we shouldn't just say 'no' to all fees," Jordan said. "If something is really essential, then it might be necessary to increase fees."

External vice president candidates, Mike Uryasz, Blake Bradley and Brian Roberts were

asked how they would handle transportation fees with Tech's increased enrollment.

Uryasz said he believes there are other ways of increasing the budget for transportation and recreation without increasing fees. He said his administration would like to meet with apartments surrounding Tech about paying more for having their apartment on the bus route. Revenue could go toward getting more buses on the route, he said.

Roberts said more than \$100,000 of the transportation budget is spent toward accommodations for biking. He believes some of this money can go toward buses and other aspects of the bus system.

"The whole point of this is we're coming to 40,000 students," Roberts said. "Our chancellor has started this campaign, and we need to finish this campaign while keeping all of our services at the same quality."

Bradley said transportation is not a money issue, but rather an efficiency issue. He would like to redesign the bus routes along with the system to maximize efficiency, Bradley said. The last thing he wants to do is raise fees, he said, but it's important to look at things from the administration's standpoint.

Elections for SGA are March 1 and 2. Students can vote on the sga.ttu.edu website.

sgipson@dailytoreador.com

"... I am coming up with ways that we can slowly start achieving goals and maintaining them, feasibly. That is what we're here for."

JENNY MAYANTS
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
SGA

Fair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Students should find out which companies are attending, dress the part, get their resumes together and prepare questions," he said.

Hollie Gambino, an employee development specialist, represented the Brickman Group at the expo. The employer said she was impressed with the event.

"Even though I am an Aggie," Gambino said, "all of the Tech students here have been very friendly and hardworking."

The Brickman Group, she said, attended the expo to meet students and hire interns for the landscape design and build and horticultural services company. Like Gambino, the employers of Attebury Grain also said they were looking for good students who could turn into future employees or interns.

Anita Havens, the human re-

sources manager, believes the students she met have potential as future employees and interns.

"All of the students have been good candidates because they are all in agricultural-related fields and are interested in the positions we have to offer," Havens said.

A 2006 alumnus, Sean Abels, is also a manager for the Brickman Group. Abels had a different reaction than his co-worker to the students present.

"Not all of the students have come well-prepared today," the manager said. "They did not come with research or questions to our booth."

The regional recruiter representative at the Peace Corps booth, Erin Curtiss, believes Tech students came to the expo ready to find future employment.

"Everyone has done very well because they had resumes available, had done their research and could tell me exactly what they wanted," Curtiss said.

Similar to the diverse responses of the employers, the students who attended also gave mixed feedback about the event.

Derek Finck, a graduate student in animal science from Tulia, said the career expo was not what he was expecting.

"I was disappointed that there aren't more companies taking an interest in agriculture at Tech," he said.

Jennifer Spraberry, an agricultural education graduate student from Anson, agreed with Finck that the expo did not have a large turnout. Spraberry, however, believed the expo was beneficial.

"It always helps to talk to employers so you can network," she said.

Although the expo was not large, it did present a big opportunity for agricultural education graduate student Kim Peters. The student from Littlefield said she landed an interview with one of the employers and believed she had a good chance at the position. Peters believed other CASNR students could find success at the expo as well.

"CASNR students represent themselves very well because they have a lot to offer employers," she said.

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"Even though I am an Aggie, all of the Tech students here have been very friendly and hardworking."

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

2/24/11

By Harvey Estes

ACROSS

- Lee followers
- Works in the Oval Office
- Gets ready
- "Rhythm"
- Role for Carrie
- Singer Gorme
- Money for the Warsaw government?
- Letter alternative
- They may be precious
- Divulge
- Hydrocarbon suffix
- Fluorescent bulb filler
- Foot-tapping songs?
- "934" protagonist — Smith
- Cut it out
- Places to be pampered
- French mystic Simone
- Maundy Thursday period
- Songwriting, to Porter?
- G-note
- Increase in intensity, with "up"
- Previously
- Weather map features
- Ardor
- Actor's messages from an agent?
- asada (Mexican meat dish)
- TV's Alf and others
- Skin-soothing stuff
- Bouquets
- Rob of "90210"
- Grain for bagels?
- Sport with clay pigeons
- Auth. of many quotes?
- Old Boston Bruin nickname
- Newbies
- Following
- Remarriage prefix

DOWN

- With-the-grain cutters
- Vacation for the vain?
- Smoked deli meat
- Dictators' aides
- Wistful word
- "Wonder Dog" of comics
- Relate with
- Drawing support
- Willy-nilly
- 3-Down might be on it
- Enters carefully
- Rachmaninoff, e.g.
- Prime
- Cartain caterpillar's creation
- Was in front
- Look from Snidely Whiplash
- Broken in
- Rice University mascot
- "picture paints ...": song lyric
- Walks with a cane, perhaps
- Road marker
- Shunned ones
- Clean air org.
- October Revolution leader
- It can facilitate drawing
- With the most open windows
- Flipped
- Convenient, shoppingwise
- Least constrained
- Erie Canal mule
- Flat-bottomed boat
- Ornamental bands
- Lindsay of "Labor Pains"
- Sierra
- Cooped (up)
- Fair-hiring abbr.
- Bagel topping

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Wednesday (Feb 23) 2:00- 3:00 SUB Senate Room
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Zumba evokes confidence, promotes fitness in students

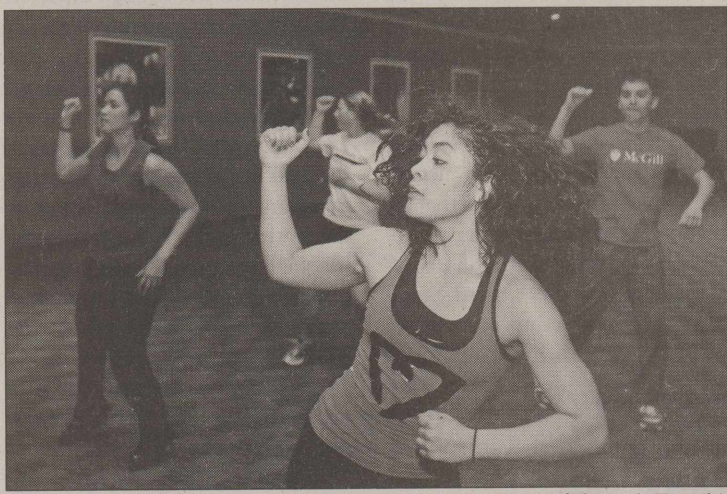


PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador
ALEXANDREA TORREZ, A sophomore with no declared major from Lubbock, teaches a Zumba class during Feed Your Body and Soul Week on Tuesday in the Matador Room of the Student Union Building.

By LAUREN FERGUSON
STAFF WRITER

Combining the sultry tones of Latin music and aerobic workout moves, Zumba is an emerging workout style in the fitness world.

Tuesday, students met in the Student Union Building Matador Room for an afternoon Zumba class during Feed Your Body and Soul Week, sponsored by the Student Counseling Center at Texas Tech.

Alexandrea Torrez instructed the class after getting the job through her Sunday Zumba course at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

After beginning Zumba two years ago, Torrez, a sophomore mass communications major from Lubbock, fell in love with the fitness style and began teaching in May.

"It makes me happy, and it relieves stress," Torrez said. "It is a great full-body workout, and you just have fun."

She also admits that with Zumba, students can maintain a healthier lifestyle.

"(Zumba) actually brings up your metabolism and makes it faster. It made mine faster," Torrez said. "Come here, burn calories and eat what you want."

Armida Hollingsworth, a former pre-nursing student, read about the event and decided to attend the free class.

"I am kind of burned out with a lot of the Zumba instructors getting away from the Latin music, and I was wondering if this would be a little different," she said. "Different instructors have different ways of teaching, and I just wanted to experiment."

Two years ago, Hollingsworth began taking Zumba classes and immediately saw positive results such as weight loss

and muscle definition.

"(Zumba) can make even the heaviest person feel sexy. The moves feel good, and you notice changes in your body very quickly," she said. "I strut around now, and I never used to do that before."

Hollingsworth said her friends and family have noticed her newfound self-confidence.

"I stand in front of a mirror and admire myself," Hollingsworth said. "My husband said I look like I have more of a glow."

She was not the only attendee to report positive experiences after beginning the fitness class.

Luis Bustamante, a graduate student studying architecture from El Paso, attends evening Zumba classes regularly at the rec center.

"I am not that good at (Zumba), but it's a fun way to get your checkmark for the day," Bustamante said. "As uncoordinated as I might be, I think, due to the endorphins, afterwards I always feel happy."

He said students should be open to trying Zumba because for him, it improves his overall attitude.

"Zumba is a way to stay fit without doing something bad to yourself. It puts you in such a good mood, and you don't have any worries afterwards," Bustamante said. "You feel better about yourself and feel better about doing other things for yourself."

Hollingsworth believes that not only can Zumba create a positive attitude, but it is also fun during the class.

"I love Latin music. I love the moves. I love the fact that (Zumba) is extremely good exercise but does not feel like exercise," Hollingsworth said. "It feels like a party."

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In The Corner: Even Tent City has cliques

dailytoreador.com
Keyword: In the Corner
Check out Thornton's blog at The DT online for daily updates throughout this week.

By CARRIE THORNTON
STAFF WRITER

Carpenter's Church has rented out all of its tents, and combined with a handful of privately owned models, Tent City's population has increased to 26 tents.

When I reminded Richard, who told me this total, the figure included me and Cody, he acted like that was obvious because as of now we are one of them.

Community is immensely important to these people who don't have many other things to watch over or with which to consume their time, and therefore I am convinced the tent village has become a different type of family for them, where relationships run deeper than blood ties.

I've met a few new friends over the past day and a half, including Ruben, whose face bares traces of stubborn wrinkles most likely formed from too much smiling; Lee and his wife, Kendra; and Joe and his wife, Melissa.

The couples are required to purchase their own tent because Carpenter's only rents to singles, and even though they do not sign a contract with the church, they are held to the same standards by Tent City's regulars.

As I got to know more of Tent City's citizens, I learned more about what they do other than socialize around the large supply tent.

In the morning, not many rise before 9 a.m., from what I can tell, anyway. A portable toilet is available for use a few blocks down, and Carpenter's Church allows people to shower in their bathrooms if they can deal with cold water, a consequence of the number of showers taken a day.

The Salvation Army also opens its restroom for those in need, but I've heard just enough negative comments about the place that it's a safe bet not many take up the facility's offer.

A nearby Denny's has become a hotspot for many at the tent village who would spend hours drinking coffee and playing cards in the restaurant's cushy booths if they wanted to. But Cliff Van Loan, Tent City's unofficial spokesperson,



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador
JOE BROWN MAKES a tattoo gun from a tape-deck motor, pen and various parts from a cigarette lighter, as his wife, Melissa, looks on Wednesday in a makeshift tent city at the intersection of Broadway and Avenue Q. Brown said his tattoo service will be a source of income.

told me they do not intend to take advantage of hospitality.

"If we go in there and we see it's crowded, we turn right back around because we know we take up time," he said.

Joe and Melissa are each actively seeking education to help boost their chances of a successful transition out of their current state. Melissa takes classes at Kaplan College, and Joe is working toward obtaining his truck driver's license at South Plains College.

Many homeless at Broadway and Avenue Q currently have jobs or are

seeking them, while others aren't.

Unfortunately, it's the latter who provide ammo to oppositionists who support the stereotype that many homeless do not try to improve their quality of life.

It's this stigma those at Tent City want to reverse, because for most it's simply not true.

On another note, Tuesday afternoon, Daily Toreador photographer Karl Anderson was out taking pictures while I was chatting with Cliff, and he got some insight concerning some minor separation at Tent City.

Joe told him that his and Melissa's tent used to sit rooted on the other side of a short and slightly crooked sidewalk that intersects the grassy space, but as soon as he met Cliff and some of the other guys on Cody's and my side, he quickly moved and has never looked back.

Come to think of it, I don't think I've met anyone who lives on the other side of the tracks yet. So, my apologies to any Tent City-ites who live on this foreign turf who might be reading this: Tonight I'll make my way over to your side.

Sadly, I do not have much to say about my experiences Wednesday because I had to leave at 8 a.m., when the thick mist still clung to the dead grass and my tent sleeve. But there is a certain peacefulness about the place at that time in the morning before anyone else moves around, despite the skidding of tires and belching exhaust pipes just a few feet away, that feels really special.

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Roads

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mike Schleider, a senior political science major from Houston, said the 4th Street and Loop 289 interchange has been a hassle for everyone, especially during the recent winter storms.

"Up until recently, the 4th Street construction by the loop has been the biggest hassle when driving, when you had to go all the way around in order to get from one side to the other," he said. "Parts of the loop are pretty scary when it goes down to one lane with concrete guard rails two inches off the line, especially when it gets icy — there is no room to straighten out."

While many Tech students may be inexperienced at driving in winter weather, Schleider said his five-year stint at the university has given him plenty of practice, yet the construction areas still presented dangerous road conditions that were difficult to manage.

"I've been driving in ice for five years now, and I hit an ice patch coming home from studying and nailed the rail," he said. "Luckily, I was going really slow, and there was an ambulance about 50 feet in front of me. I figured I wasn't the first to slip on the ice."

Matthew Schaeffer, emergency medical technician in-training at the University Medical Center, said the road construction has been a major problem for EMTs and ambulance drivers.

"It's difficult to get to where we need to be quickly enough to save someone who may be in a life-threatening condition when we have to go out of our way to maneuver around the construction hazards," he said. "Although 4th and the loop is now open, it's basically a three-way stop. How are we supposed to get through there when there's one line of traffic at a stop sign?"

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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 2011

New Facebook status options are important

Last Thursday, America's favorite social network made a brave change in support of the homosexual community and civil rights activists, and supporters are applauding the forward movement.

With more than 200 million members, it is easy to see that changes in Facebook potentially have a huge overall effect in our communities nationwide. This makes it the perfect place to take a stand.

Students are constantly making statements, whether they are aware of it or not, through their statuses, pictures and personal profiles. These individual views trickle down through the many pages even to the smallest places like the relationship status.

Now, thanks to the newest addition to Facebook, that singular statement of where your heart lies holds much more significance. Our options have extended beyond "single," "engaged," "married," and so on to include the new pro-gay and lesbian statuses of "in a civil union" and "in a domestic partnership."

It may seem like a small step, but I believe it to be the opposite. By providing this option, Facebook is allowing those people to bravely make a statement and have the chance to brag about what they have worked hard to achieve.

Faced with bullying in the school system, rejection from families and friends, and physical violence from hate crimes, those people brave enough to proudly pronounce their orientation, despite these obstacles, should have a forum in which to do so.

Those men and women lucky enough to live in states where civil unions are granted to same-sex couples are denied the term marriage legally. So why should they be mocked by having it as the only option online?

Not all Tech students agree with the new Facebook advancements like I do, however.

Alejandro Lopez, a junior sociology/criminology major, finds the new status unnecessary, arguing, "Facebook already has the 'straight' or 'gay' option... why does it have to be labeled 'in a domestic partnership' when they can just be 'in a relationship'?"

I did not fully understand the domestic partnership statement to begin with, either, so I was inclined to agree. However, with further research, I do

Bayley Fuller



find it necessary to include the new phrase.

While both ideas are very similar, a domestic partnership is two people united and sharing their lives together under the same roof. This is commonly the only option for some same-sex couples who are too intimidated or legally unable to join in a civil union or marriage.

Other Tech students are much more supportive, like Mallory Maddux, a freshman early childhood education major, who states the obvious, that homosexual relationships "aren't going away, so it's a good thing that Facebook finally understands that it's a top priority for gay relationships to be a part of society."

She brings up an excellent point. Why should we, as a society, fight to deny that homosexuality is a part of our history and our present? I, too, praise Facebook for taking an ever-present issue.

What it all boils down to is that the relationship status changes are embodying an entire movement, and Facebook taking a stand is more relevant than the question of whether there is a necessary need to expand relationship options.

While you may not agree with the homosexual orientation, I hope you can accept the fact that times are changing, and there is a large emerging group that deserves recognition socially. Ignoring something or someone will not make them go away and is not an objective or intelligent approach to new concepts.

Facebook is making a stand where a lot of people remain silent. For their acceptance of the new age relationship, I, as well as activists and students alike, celebrate them for taking a large step into the future.

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Others' freedom worth paying high gas prices

While protests continue in several Middle Eastern countries, the average Joe in the United States is beginning to see some of the effects of the unrest.

Most notably, gas prices are up nearly 45 cents from the national average four months ago. It's not a direct relationship, but more unrest in the region would send prices soaring even higher, especially if there's a popular uprising in Saudi Arabia.

While I'm not that guy who is dialing in gasbuddy.com every two minutes or driving an extra two miles to save less than a buck every time I fill up, I'm not doing back flips about paying more when I fill up. Yet, it's a change I'm ready to welcome.

For far too long, the United States, under both Democratic and Republican leadership, has propped up dictators who squash human rights and stand completely opposed to the ideals of freedom and liberty that we Americans consider among the fundamental tenets.

Our track record is awful. We've

Jon Arnold



given money and weapons to horrible people. During the Cold War, the government was just glad these dictators weren't siding with the Russians. Lately, we've been thrilled to have allies in a troubling region and, of course, supported many who help keep the price of oil down.

Instead of putting pressure on these leaders or helping people in these countries, our government has turned away from these lands. It's the same look you give to the dishes in your sink during the party

at your house over the weekend. You know they're there, and you know something must be done. It's just so much easier to let it fester and take the easy way out. Plus, somebody will do it, but you're not going to be the one to do the job.

Well, now people in these Arab nations are attempting to cleanse their sink of the dirty dishes that are their power-crazed dictators.

Sure, it makes things more difficult for the United States in a couple of ways, and it remains to be seen exactly what will develop out of Tunisia and Egypt (with more countries soon to populate the list: Libya, Bahrain, Yemen, Jordan, Iran and Morocco all have had at least some form of unrest).

There's nothing wrong with having some trepidation about the future. There has been war in the

Middle East for basically as long as we've had recorded history. Also, there's Israel, the strong American ally surrounded by plenty of hostile nations.

So why should we be happy about this? While there will be a hit in the wallet for many of us, these people in the Middle East deserve liberty and freedom just as much as the rest of the world. Paying higher gas prices is a small price to pay for the spread of democracy, especially considering what this country has paid in the past for the form of government.

As a pithy sign I saw one protester holding said, "Arab blood is not cheaper than oil."

It will be a bummer when you have to sacrifice a meal out or pick a closer spring break destination because gas prices are higher, but I assure you the sacrifice is a small one compared to that of those who gave their lives fighting for freedom.

Arnold is The DT's managing editor.
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City of Lubbock, residents should do more for homeless

Sitting in a booth at the Whataburger on 19th Street late Saturday night, I was enjoying a midnight snack with my girlfriend when an elderly gentleman walked in.

The gentleman was scruffy, did not seem to be clean, had a scar on his forehead and was wearing a dirty cowboy jacket and some blue jeans. He had a tattered backpack slung over his shoulder with an old VHS tape sticking out of it.

My friend and I did not acknowledge the man as he sat down at the table next to us with his free coffee in hand. There were two other college students sitting at a table across from him as well.

The events that took place after this really surprised me.

One of the guys at that table got up and told the man he was going to get him something to eat.

I sat there in a state of shock and shame. I had been sitting there just as long as the other gentlemen and made no effort to

Joshua Koch



approach the man to offer help.

This student went out of his way to get this man a meal because he wanted to help another human being. Seeing someone show this kind of compassion for a person they do not know and might not see ever again is a rare quality.

This made me start to think about the homeless situation in Lubbock. Why do we turn a cold shoulder to them and offer little help? What makes them so much different than us?

They are human beings just like us, breathe the same air, walk the same walk and have problems like everybody else.

Despite this fact, the city of Lubbock acknowledges the home-

less population by appointing a homelessness committee. But instead of helping the homeless, they attempt to push them out of the city.

The city passed an ordinance in December keeping the homeless from taking shelter around four public buildings. The problem with this is where are they going to go?

The Salvation Army has a shelter for the homeless in downtown Lubbock that has enough beds for 48 people, according to a Dec. 6 article in *The Daily Toreador*. That is not enough room to give shelter and safety to the homeless population of Lubbock, which exceeds 300 people. Another problem with the Salvation Army location is the safety of the residents, as there have been two stabbings reported there this month alone, according to an article in the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*. So, yes, there is a place for the homeless to stay in Lubbock, but at what cost?

Instead of investing in a place for the homeless to stay that is also safe for them, the city would rather sweep them under the rug like a pile of dirt.

Efforts have been made to help the homeless, like Tent City.

If you are driving around Lubbock and pass by the intersection at Broadway and Avenue Q, you might notice tents set up. No, it's not the Boy Scouts on a camping trip, but rather homeless people with a temporary home.

This was not set up by the city, but rather Carpenter's Church. The church has leased the tents and sleeping bags to the homeless under some conditions. But the fact is that they are helping the homeless, something the city is not doing.

The city will probably find another way to run the homeless from this plot of land with another ordinance and force people out into the elements once again.

The easiest way to help the homeless is to simply build a nice shelter with plenty of beds, bathroom facilities and a cafeteria, and offer services to them to help people get a job again and start the process of getting back on their feet.

The sad fact is convicts, who have committed murder, robbery, assault, you name it, are sitting in the Lubbock jailhouse getting taken care of better than the homeless are. These convicted felons are getting a warm and dry place to sleep, three square meals a day, a place to work out, a laundry service and even cable.

The city pumps millions of dollars into this but won't spend a dime on helping the homeless. The city and the citizens of Lubbock need to start stepping up and help the homeless get back on their feet. If a member of the city council could walk in the shoes of a homeless person for a day, they would not survive. They would want help.

If you want to make a difference, go to the Westminster Presbyterian Church, at 3321 33rd Street, at 11:30 a.m. Thursday to voice your opinion about the homeless population to the homelessness committee.

Before you go judging the homeless people like I have done before, stop and think — if you were in their shoes, wouldn't you want help?

So the next time you're walking into the Wal-Mart or eating at Whataburger and see someone that looks like they need help, think about the student who bought a meal for a man at Whataburger out of the kindness of his heart. He did not know him, nor did he expect anything in return, but he helped because he knew it was the right thing to do.

In the end, helping other people less fortunate than you is the right thing to do, and the city of Lubbock needs to start doing that, and start now.

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“What it all boils down to is that the relationship status changes are embodying an entire movement...”

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Track success powered by upperclassmen

By THORN COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech track program is having one of its best seasons in school history, with the Lady Raiders being ranked as high as No. 13 in the country and the Red Raiders as high as No. 4.

Tech coach Wes Kitley said a lot of the credit for their success this season is due in part to the upperclassmen on the team. He said the way his upperclassmen have competed this year sets the tone for the newer, younger athletes.

More importantly, Kitley believes winning championships depends on juniors and seniors.

"I have always said, you win championships with juniors and seniors," Kitley said. "They have been there before and are teaching our younger guys how to compete."

One of those upperclassmen is junior Taylor Evans, who said she personally enjoys helping the younger athletes in the track program.

She said competition at practice and her general knowledge of the sport leads to her helping the younger sprinters on the team.

"Track is much more of a 'show-rather-than-tell' sport," Evans said. "It helps to have upperclassmen on the team who have done this before. It's sometimes easier to ask the (upperclassmen) questions instead of the coaches."

But just because the upperclassmen are leading the program does not mean freshmen have not contributed to the program's success.

Last season, the Lady Raiders reached new heights with the help of pole-vaulter Shade Weygandt, who proved to be one of the top young vault-

ers in the country.

Pitching in on the men's side last year as a freshman was Bryce Lamb, who made an immediate impact for the Red Raiders by setting numerous records throughout as a triple-jump and long-jump competitor.

One of Tech's standout freshmen this year is pole-vaulter Kyal Meyers.

Meyers said he does not have a senior pushing him in his respective event, but that has not prevented seniors in other track events from helping him out.

"You know they give us a hard time when you screw up," Meyers said of the upperclassmen, "but they are also the first to congratulate you when we accomplish something great. They are by far our biggest motivators."

Meyers said the biggest problem right now with the upperclassmen is the injuries some of them have had to

fight through, but also said the way those athletes have fought through injuries has helped motivate the rest of the team.

Coach Kitley said his team benefits greatly from the experience of the upperclassmen.

Kitley said what they bring to the team cannot just be judged by numbers they put up and the records they set.

"Every one of our seniors is invaluable to our success," Kitley said. "They are a big part of our success this season."

The Red Raiders travel to Lincoln, Neb., on Friday for the Big 12 Conference Championships.

Tech's outdoor track and field schedule begins on March 26 with the UTEP Invitational in El Paso.

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Loss

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

He said he's proud of taking over the program from his father, hall-of-fame coach Bob Knight, because it was a challenge.

"People can write and say anything they want about me, but the one thing they can't say is that I ever took the safe or easy way out," Knight said.

But Knight wasn't the only one frustrated with Wednesday's loss. Tech guard John Roberson, who led the Red Raiders with 18 points, said he was fed up with some of the things he sees in the stands during Tech's games: empty seats.

"I haven't complained in four years, but the crowd was awful," Roberson said. "We didn't have nobody here cheering us, and that's ridiculous for this to be a winnable game and for us to be playing another Big 12 (Conference) school for nobody to show up. And I haven't complained in four years, but that was ridiculous."

"I'm not going to blame it on them, we could have come out with more energy — but let's be real."

Tech senior Mike Singletary, who scored 17 points in his highest point production since a 25-point outburst against Oklahoma State on Jan. 29, agreed with his teammate.

"It's hard man, it's hard whenever you look up into the stands and you don't have nobody making noise. It's just tough, man, it's tough," Singletary said.

The Red Raiders came out completely flat in front of an announced crowd of 8,805 — the United Spirit Arena seats more than 15,000. Tech coach Pat Knight called the first half the "worst half" he's seen all year out of his team.

After tying the game at six on a Robert Lewandowski turnaround jumper with three minutes and 57 seconds elapsed in the match, the Red Raiders went 4:37 without another point. During the drought, Tech missed five shots and turned the ball over twice. A Roberson 3-pointer from the top of the key eventually stopped the bleeding.

However, the Red Raiders' shooting woes continued the rest of the half en route to their lowest scoring output of any half of basketball this season. The Buffs didn't shoot much better

— but they did take a 33-21 lead into the intermission.

Tech shot a paltry 25 percent from the floor, scoring just seven field goals in the half. To go along with their shooting, Tech's self-inflicted wounds also were kept to a minimum as Colorado (17-11, 6-7) scored only seven points off eight Red Raider turnovers.

The second half was a different story for the Red Raiders. Sparked by the senior leadership of Roberson and Singletary, Tech went on a tear and tied the game up after only 6:27 elapsed in the half. In fact, they matched their first-half scoring output in the same run.

The two teams fought back and forth after the Red Raiders tied the game, resulting in four ties and 10 lead changes. Down the stretch, the Buffs built a three-point lead with only 15 seconds left leading up to the final series.

Knight put in his best 3-point shooters, and the Red Raiders tried for a ball screen to free one of them. But the Buffs' defense was too consistent, barely allowing David Tairu to launch up a last-second 3-point attempt that found nothing but iron.

Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The Red Raiders allowed just three runs in three games before giving up six runs to the Northwestern Wildcats on Sunday. The key to Tech's defensive numbers was a lack of errors and groundballs.

Tech redshirt junior pitcher Robbie Kilcrease said the defense's efficiency combined with groundballs results in automatic outs almost all the time.

"Oh man, I was telling the pitchers earlier that if it's a ground ball, it's basically an out," Kilcrease said. "So we just work on getting ground balls, and we can let Kelby (Tomlinson) and Reid (Redman) and Nick Popescu and (Stephen) Hagen do their deal."

A 4-0 record to open the season, however, came about without contributions from some key players in the bullpen.

Tech coach Dan Spencer said a few relievers did not receive playing time not because they did not deserve it but because the game situation did not call for their assistance — something he expects to change against BYU and Northern Illinois.

"We had some left-handed bullpen guys down there that didn't pitch because there wasn't a lot of left-handed hitting left in the tournament other than us," Spencer said. "Both BYU and Northern Illinois have more left-handed bats, so you'll see some of our left-handed options out of the bullpen, I would guess."

BYU, like Northern Illinois, enters the weekend having lost its last game, 1-4 to Northwestern State, as well as two of its first three to begin the season.

But the Cougars did show off the ability to produce a vast amount of offense, winning their second game against Northwestern State by the score of 19-1.

The Huskies do not begin their portion of the tournament until Friday, when they play against BYU at noon.

Tech pitcher Kilcrease said the Red Raiders' game plan for beating both BYU and Northern Illinois is simple — paint the strike zone and play error-free defense.

"We're going to touch up some on our defense and make sure we can go out there and throw strikes," Kilcrease said. "Offense wins games, but defense wins championships."

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Offer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I couldn't tell you what the source of the gossip is — it's kind of like going to a bar and listening to stuff, asking around," Bailey said during a phone interview. "The only offer that can be made is from me."

"I have not made an offer yet."

Current Tech athletic director Gerald Myers is set to step down from the position at the end of May, but a replacement is expected by March 1.

Hocutt is believed to be one of the frontrunners to replace Myers, but Bailey

said he could not confirm that.

"I can't comment on any candidates we've looked at," Bailey said.

On Dec. 16, Bailey appointed a seven-member search committee geared toward selecting and recommending candidates to Bailey.

Bailey said there is no definite timeline for hiring Myers' replacement, but he would like to make the hire as soon as possible.

"We don't have any particular time frame," Bailey said. "We'd like to wrap things up as soon as we can, but beyond that, there is no time frame."

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SPORTS

PAGE 6
THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 2011

Tech hosts BYU, NIU in Wallace Memorial Classic

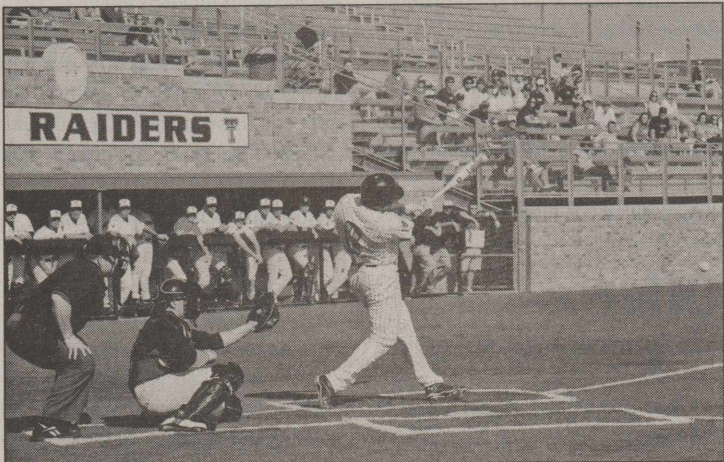


PHOTO BY BRENT SORELLE/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH'S BARRETT BARNES swings away at the plate during a 6-1 Red Raider victory against Northwestern on Saturday at Dan Law Field.

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Kelby Tomlinson became the first-ever recipient of the Big 12 Newcomer of the Week award on Monday but still was not satisfied with some aspects of his play during the Red Raider Classic last weekend.

"I'm going to try to take the same approach at the plate, and hopefully my defense will clean up a little bit," Tomlinson said Tuesday. "I was a little disappointed in my defense play."

Texas Tech baseball's next challenge, the second annual Brooks

Wallace Memorial Classic, provides Tomlinson and the Red Raiders (4-0) their next opportunity to improve on an undefeated record.

Tech hosts BYU on Thursday and Friday, while Northern Illinois serves as the Red Raiders' opponent for Saturday and Sunday. The Red Raiders begin their game against BYU at 5 p.m. Thursday at Dan Law Field.

Although Tomlinson may not have been completely happy with his defensive play at shortstop, that does not mean the team's overall play was lacking.

BASEBALL continued on Page 5 ➤

TRAMPLED

Red Raiders lose 71-68, clinching 4th straight Big 12 losing season

By TOMMY MAGELSSSEN
NEWS EDITOR

After Wednesday's 71-68 loss to Colorado in United Spirit Arena, Texas Tech coach Pat Knight said Sylvester Stallone should have saved some money for his movie "The Expendables" by casting some college basketball coaches instead of big-name stars.

After all, Knight said, college basketball coaches are expendable, that's why they get into the business.

"We've lost seven games in the last minute," Knight said about his team's losses this year. "This program's competitive... Honestly if I'm going to be coaching here, I'm going to be coaching somewhere else—I've proven that I run a clean program, I don't cheat, my players graduate and we have discipline."

"So if you don't want me here, there's going to be someone else who wants me. But that's part of the job."

Knight defended the state of Tech basketball after the Red Raiders (12-17, 4-9) clinched their fourth consecutive Big 12 Conference losing season.

LOSS continued on Page 5 ➤



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador
COLORADO'S ALEC BURKS dunks the ball during the Buffaloes' 71-68 victory against Texas Tech on Wednesday in United Spirit Arena.

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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