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THE DAILY TOREADOR

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Tech community shares thoughts on Middle East

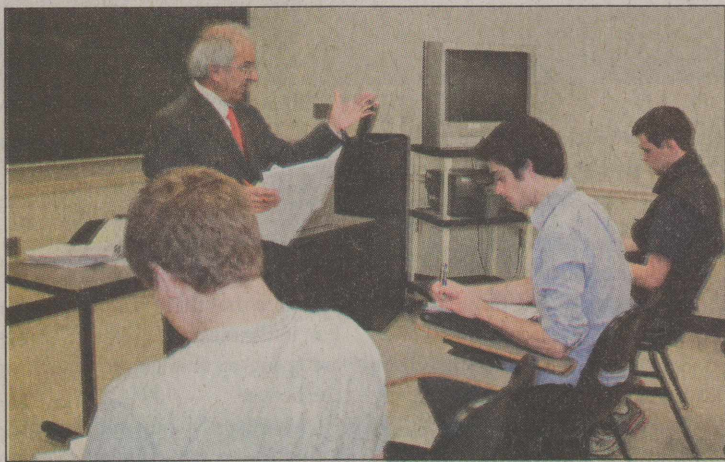


PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador

MOHAMMAD MAQUSI LECTURES about the relationship between the Middle East and the globalizing world.

Conflicts a talking point among local academia

By CAITLAN OSBORN
STAFF WRITER

For the past few weeks, news has stretched across the Atlantic to United States borders, bringing word of revolts and political uprisings in the Middle East and Northern Africa.

Human-geography professor Gary Elbow said it was only a matter of time.

"Sometimes all it takes is a little spark to set something off," he said.

"In the case of what is going on in the Middle East, I think that things were unstable enough. On the surface it looked stable, but underneath, a lot of potential opposition movements were brewing and were ready to jump if they got the chance."

Elbow said what began in Tunisia gave other countries the opportunity to cause a revolution and depose their leaders as well.

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Fat Tuesday, Page 3



Students celebrated Mardi Gras festivities Tuesday by making and decorating masks and sampling food from around the world. Representatives from various countries informed attendants of their homeland's springtime celebrations. LA VIDA, Page 3

2 come forward in sex assault No charges filed in reported case; authorities say investigation ongoing

On Monday afternoon, two male students identified themselves as a previously unknown party involved in a reported sexual assault occurring early Saturday morning in Coleman Residence Hall, according to a statement released via TechAnnounce by the Texas Tech Police Department on Tuesday.

A Texas Tech female student reported two males sexually assaulted her early Saturday morning in Coleman

Residence Hall, according to Monday's Tech announce.

The student was unable to identify the two males, described by the student as black and college-aged, authorities said.

Col. Kenny Evans with Tech Police said no charges have been filed, and the investigation is ongoing.

The men voluntarily cooperated with investigators, the release states, and several witnesses to events also have

been identified.

Authorities say the alleged sexual assault occurred between 1:30 a.m. and 2 a.m. Saturday in the seventh floor study lounge in Coleman Hall.

During investigation, the student told detectives she attended a party in Chitwood Residence Hall on Saturday at about 12:30 a.m. She reported she became intoxicated and left the party with a male friend, who escorted her to

Coleman Hall around 1:30 a.m.

The student then remembered she left personal belongings at the party, and her male friend asked her to wait for him in the Coleman lobby while he retrieved her property.

She reported two black males approached her and spoke to her while she was in Coleman and, after finding out she was intoxicated, led her up to the seventh floor study lounge.

If you have any information about the offense, can identify suspects or witnessed suspicious activity, contact an investigator with Tech Police at 806-742-3931.

>> news@dailytoreador.com

LENDING A HAND



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

DEVI KHAJISHVILI, FROM left, came to Texas Tech from Batumi, Georgia, after meeting Vignia Downs and Mark Webb. Khajishvili attended Tech for one semester before transferring to South Plains College.

Faculty members bring Georgian student to Tech

By CARRIE THORNTON
STAFF WRITER

Devi Khajishvili won't hesitate to tell you Lubbock is not the America he always dreamed of.

But it sure beats the heck out of fighting a war at age 18.

In Batumi, Georgia, Khajishvili's hometown, students either attend college or are drafted into the military

after high school. Recent war with Russia has taken a toll on the country's economy, and his family simply does not have the financial means for expensive university tuition, he said.

That's where Mark Webb and Vignia Downs come into play. The two visited Georgia in May 2009 with the Institute of Interfaith Dialog.

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THE DAILY TOREADOR

Community Calendar

TODAY

"Brilliant at the Basics"

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
Where: Health Sciences Center, Academic Classroom Building, Room 150
So, what is it?
Red to Black and the Texas Tech Federal Credit Union present a discussion about the basics of personal finance. Free lunch for the first 25 attendants.

Texas Tech Softball

Time: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
Where: Rocky Johnson Field
So, what is it?
Watch the Red Raiders take on the New Mexico Lobos in a doubleheader.

Just Over Broke

Time: 7 p.m.
Where: Pub 50
So, what is it?
Enjoy classic rock and blues music at this small North Overton bar.

Cody Beebe and the Crooks

Time: 9 p.m.
Where: Bash Riprock's
So, what is it?
Check out this seven-piece roots rock and Americana band from Seattle that blends rock, blues and country.

Honeybrowne

Time: 10 p.m.
Where: Blue Light
So, what is it?
Enjoy live Texas country music at this Depot District venue.

THURSDAY

Seventh Triennial Vietnam Symposium

Time: 8 a.m.
Where: Overton Hotel, Conference Center
So, what is it?
Vietnam Center symposia are open to

presentations that examine any and all aspects of the United States involvement in Southeast Asia. This includes activities before, during, and after the war in Vietnam.

Manny Rodriguez

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Where: The Funky Door Bistro and Wine Room
So, what is it?
Enjoy fondue, seafood or pasta accompanied by the smooth sounds of jazz at this locally owned wine room.

Adrian Cronauer

Time: 7 p.m.
Where: Tech Law School, Lanier Auditorium
So, what is it?
Adrian Cronauer is the real-life radio DJ portrayed by Robin Williams in the film "Good Morning Vietnam." He spent many years involved in TV and radio communications and advertising. He later earned his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and went on to specialize in communications law in Washington, DC. He is now a special assistant to the director of the Pentagon's POW/MIA Office. Admission is free and open to the public.

Scott H. Biram and Ralph White

Time: 9 p.m.
Where: Jake's
So, what is it?
Scott H. Biram, an Austin native, lashes together blues, hillbilly and country precariously to raucous punk and godless metal. Ralph White, also from Austin, is an avant-garde folk Cajun African musician.

The Sudden Lovelies and The Color Pharmacy

Time: 10 p.m.
Where: Bash Riprock's
So, what is it?
Enjoy folk rock sounds from these two bands at Lubbock's oldest college bar.

To make a calendar submission e-mail dailytoreador@ttu.edu.

Events will be published either the day or the day before they take place. Submissions must be sent in by 4 p.m. on the preceding publication date.

PURGING PAMPA



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

SKEET MINNICK, WITH grounds maintenance, loads dead Pampa Grass into a truck Monday outside the Student Union Building. The grass was cleared from the area between the Student Union Building and Library to make room for new growth.

East

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"(The people) who are unhappy with their current government see broadcasts of what's going on in Tunisia, and that gets them thinking, 'If Tunisia can throw out their dictator, why can't we?'" he said. "So what they're doing is taking advantage of an opening. If you look at pressure building throughout the whole region, what you see is an area that has been dominated by repressive governments forever, and this is now changing."

Saja Khweis, a junior international business major from Lubbock, said she felt it was about time citizens of the Middle East

stood up against their government. The greed for power is too destructive to a country and its citizens, she said.

Professor Mohammad Maqusi teaches an honors course about the globalizing effects caused by the conflicts in the Middle East. He said one of the key factors making the revolution spread was the use of social networking by the region's youth.

"The young generation is obviously literate when it comes to technology," Maqusi said. "They are using the tools of the age, and it has been used extensively to their advantage to communicate with people outside of their realm. It is like a domino effect; no country is immune."

Maqusi also attributes the conflicts to something he calls 'the winds of change.' This, he said, is triggered by large unemployment — especially in the educated youth — and by the dissatisfaction of dictatorial regimes outstaying its welcome.

"It just boils down to personal freedom in the end," Maqusi said, "whether it is free speech or voting or economic stability. People are obviously unhappy with the way their country is being run, so they revolt."

One issue which many people are turning their attention is how the U.S. will choose to involve itself with these ongoing conflicts.

The U.S. government has a history of supporting dictatorial regimes in the Middle East because they provided a perceived stability, Elbow said. But the Obama administration was caught off guard with these revolutions, he said, and has been sending mixed messages to both the

rulers and the ruled.

"It is very ironic," Elbow said, "because we have developed a reputation for supporting the dictators and being anti-democratic, yet the nation is a symbol of democracy. Now we have to ask ourselves, 'Do we support Mubarak 100 percent, which is what we've always done in the past? Or do we change our strategy and support the democratic movement in Egypt, including the possibility that we lose stability? It's a mess.'"

Khweis said she believes the U.S. should stay out of the dispute because American foreign policy in the Middle East has often backfired.

"I think they should just leave the countries alone and let them solve their own problems," she said. "U.S. intervention usually results in an escalation of the problem."

Maqusi said the U.S. always has supported two pillars in its foreign policy: stability and democracy. Stability often comes first in issues like this, he said, which does not send a positive message to the rest of the world.

"The U.S. does have a responsibility to the rest of the world," he said. "The U.S. is really looked upon as a banner of democracy, but many times this comes at the expense of adopting stability. Stability comes at the lack of free speech, lack of political parties and increased corruption. People in the Middle East expect more of the U.S., and rightly so."

The issue of the appropriate balance between democracy and stability are a tight line that needs to be walked carefully, Maqusi said, and the U.S. also needs to adapt a new foreign policy to make way for the changes brought by the Middle

East's many revolutions.

"The U.S. administration needs to realize that there is a new Middle East in the making," he said. "Things are going to change, hopefully for the better."

However, Maqusi said the transformation is not going to happen overnight. Democracy is a culture, he said, one that takes time to grow into.

"Democracy is about choice," he said. "It's going to take time because first people have to become accustomed to political parties and voting and having basic rights. It is a learning process, and what many people don't understand is that it takes generations to build political stability. It is going to take time for all of this to come together."

One of the things Maqusi said he anticipates is civil war in some of the more "tribal" countries like Libya and Yemen, which will hinder their democratic process.

"I think in some regions there is going to be an era of turmoil," he said. "When it is tribalism that prevails, it complicates issues. I think it's going to take a few years for the dust to settle down."

Sadly, Maqusi said, peoples' lives are the price of this change. Despite the serious trials and tribulations each country will face, he said he hopes the Middle East will exit the conflicts in an improved shape.

"I would like to look ahead and be optimistic," Maqusi said, "but unfortunately these are pessimistic times. These are the times of the unknown and times of turmoil. We don't really know what is going to hit us next, but I have no doubt that something good will come out of it."

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Foreign Language Department displays international cultures' celebrations

By SYDNEY HOLMES
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Foreign Language Department hosted Mardi Gras festivities Tuesday, recognizing how the bash is celebrated across the globe.

Representatives of various countries set up booths in the Foreign Language building serving food and showing photographs from their homelands to further educate students about their cultures' celebrations.

Anita McChesney, a Tech German professor, organized the event. She explained how similar the German and American Mardi Gras festivals are.

"For the Catholics, (Mardi Gras) is the last party day before Lent begins, which is the 40 days of fasting and thinking about Christ's death," she said. "And in Germany, there's a two-day festival called Karneval. Minus the flashing, it has all the revelry of Brazil or New Orleans — mostly just crazy costumes."

McChesney said Mardi Gras, or 'Karneval' as it is called in Spain, France, Germany and Portugal, is like a contest within countries.

"Every city has rivaling cities of which one puts on the best parade, the best food, the best costumes, the most drunken party," McChesney joked.

The most important aspect of Mardi Gras the professor wants to understand is the broad spectrum of cultures and societies in the world.

"It's about celebrating different languages, cultures and traditions," McChesney said. "We know a lot of Texan traditions, but how often do we really think about what other countries do?"

Larry Ngo, a freshman busi-

ness major from Hong Kong, explained the Chinese do not celebrate Mardi Gras, but rather the Chinese New Year. He also said Hong Kong possesses vast diversity within the city.

"Hong Kong is where the East meets the West. We have everything from Disneyland to skyscrapers," Ngo said. "At the same time, you still get the old, traditional feelings of China with all the wonderful foods and things like that. It's really amazing."

Ngo said even though they are on opposite sides of the globe, Chinese and American celebrations only have a few differences.

"We have lion dances and

the dragons dancing in the street. Other than that, our celebrations are pretty similar to American ones," Ngo said. "Everybody just comes and parties at the same time."

Corinne Gring, a freshman classics major from Lubbock, stumbled upon the event after her classes.

"It seemed really fun, so when I got out of class and saw the

booths, I knew there would be food, so I came right over," she said.

Gring said she was most intrigued by the widespread variety of societies represented aside from the standard American-Catholic cultures.

"I think it's kind of a neat experience seeing all the different cultures here and the people — the food, especially," Gring said. "A lot of these people actually made food from the countries they're representing. Free food that's foreign? I love tasting new things, so I'm happy."

McChesney also said although each country is celebrating around the same time, each individual country has something unique to their society.

"It's the same time of cel-

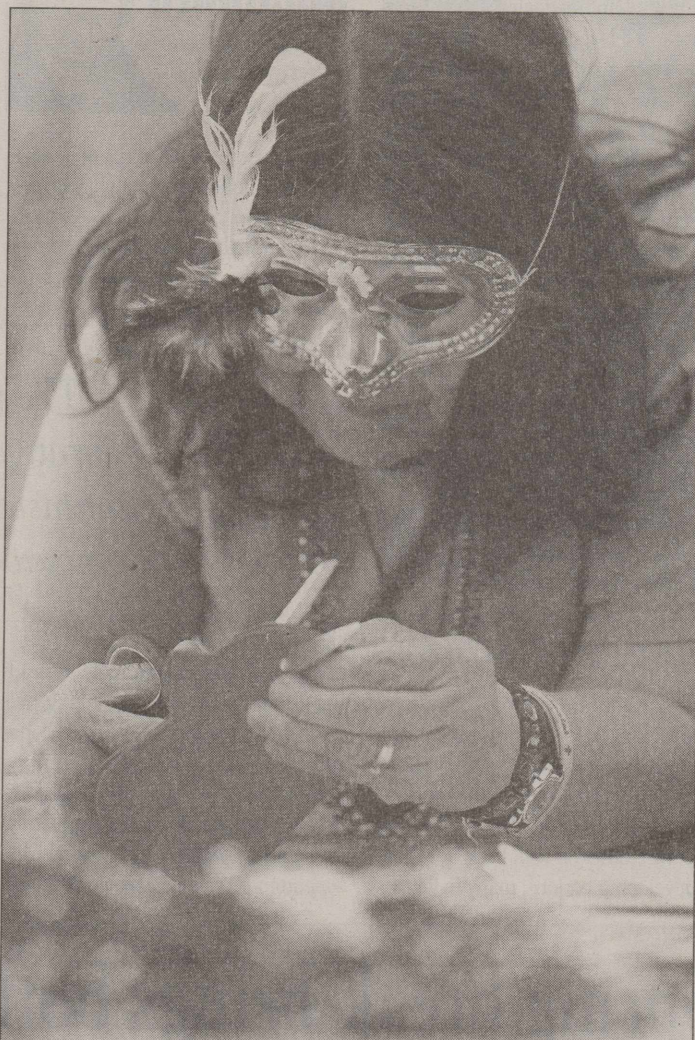


PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

SAN JUANITA VALENCIANO, a senior human development and family studies major from Lubbock, makes a mask during the Foreign Language Department's Mardi Gras celebration Tuesday in the Foreign Language Building.

bration, but every country does something a little different," she said. "It's a way for students at Texas Tech to think about how

we celebrate different relevant events and what each culture brings to the table."

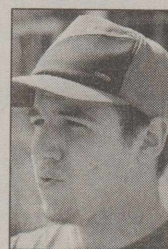
sholmes@dailytoreador.com

SGA RUNOFF ELECTIONS

"I wasn't planning on (voting). I just don't get involved enough, and I don't really know about the people who are running. I would have to pursue part of that on my own, and I just really don't know much about it. I think in general, any type of leadership will have a huge impact around campus."



Laura Freeman - junior marketing major from Fort Worth



"I may as well (vote); it couldn't hurt. Honestly, I think (voting) affects everyone that goes to school here. It's worth it to see what everyone's about, and if I agree with (the candidate), by all means, I should vote."

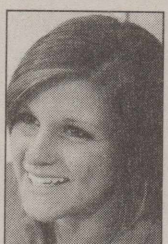
Marcus Fodor - freshman chemical engineering major from Farmington

"

I am going to vote because it's important to know what's going on and the different laws affecting students. If there is a price increase, I want to know what I'm paying for and why I am paying extra — that's important."



Joseph Peterson - interdisciplinary studies graduate from Amarillo



"I won't be voting. I don't know much about (student government). Students should get involved (around campus) to meet people."

Elizabeth Walker - freshman psychology major from Garland

Lauren Ferguson/The Daily Toreador

\$2,500 in Scholarships Available For Graduate and Undergraduate Students

Use Your Spring Break or Spring Semester to Earn a Scholarship!! The Texas Tech Faculty Legal Action Association (TTFLAA) invites all currently-enrolled Texas Tech students to compete for one of two Academic Scholarships for use in Academic Year 2011-2012

One will be worth \$1,500 and the other \$1,000.

The scholarships will be awarded to the currently-enrolled undergraduate or graduate student submitting the best original essays on "The Role and Importance of Academic Freedom in the University"

TTFLAA was formed in 1985-1986 when then President Lauro Cavazos sought to replace the existing tenure system with a system of rollover contracts. The scholarship was created with money contributed by many faculty members to a fund that could be used to challenge the proposal in the courts. Since that proposal was later modified, and tenure and academic freedom are still protected. Interest from the fund has been used to fund the scholarships

Typed entries must be no longer than 1,000 words with a cover sheet that indicates the name of the student. The essay should be submitted in three copies by Monday April 11, 2011. Typed entries with a cover sheet that includes the name of the student may also be submitted to Prof. William G. Hartwell, School of Music, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Tx, 79409-2033.

A faculty committee will judge the essays.

The winner will be announced by April 29, 2011.

Zhongyi Xiao of Chong Qing, China was the 2001 winner

Deanna Kramer of Spring was the 2008 winner

Eric Braden from Katy was the 2007 Winner

Joshua Lyte from Lubbock was the 2006 winner.

Application forms are available in the Financial Aid Office 305 West Hall, Telephone 742-3144

Today's su | do | ku

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

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.

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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Kahlil Gibran

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
Texas Tech University

Free speech has dark side

Last Wednesday, the Supreme Court handed down an 8-1 decision that the picketing of soldiers' funerals by a radical church in Topeka, Kan., is protected by the First Amendment as a form of speech.

The event that sparked the lawsuit, a 2006 protest of 20-year-old Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder in Maryland, was one of more than 600 funerals at which the group has picketed, according to the *Washington Post*.

The group claims that military deaths and nearly all natural disasters are providence for America's "tolerance of homosexuality."

In the Court's opinion, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. said it is the "course" of the nation to "protect even hurtful speech on public issues." Yes, I understand the "public issue" in being profane of spirit enough to interrupt the grieving process of a family attempting to memorialize a dead soldier.

The rationale of the group aside, it takes real passion to impinge on others' right to privacy in such a way.

I understand free speech; really, I do. In a democracy, everyone has the right to his or her own opinion. Majority always rules, and the rights of the minority are always protected. Compromise rules the system. That's fine.

When we question the bounds of free speech is when we see groups like the Ku Klux Klan having an annual rally in a Jewish neighborhood in Skokie, Ill., or when groups like Westboro Baptist protest at funerals claiming that America be damned to hell for tolerating the gays.

It's horrible, it's profane and it's awful. Here's the thing, though. That small group of misguided souls can be a crazy as they want to be, but I'm still of the mind that the American conscience has the strength of spirit to rise above. I was

Lyle Danley



always told as a child to forget about the small stuff. Mind over matter: If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

Let the crazies be crazy, and focus on yourself. That's why, when the free-speech area outside the Student Union Building turns into Crazytown, I just turn all four of my cheeks and walk away, because at the end of the day, how are they going to affect our lives?

Granted, if Westboro Baptist picketed the funeral of a soldier that I went to, or if I had a family member whose memorial was interrupted by a circus like that, I'd be in a fighting mood, too.

However, isn't that the point of stunts like those? Fringe groups don't rely on their craziness to recruit anyone. They just try to stir the pot,

hoping to slow down the day of some poor everyman.

They want you to give in, to say something back, to react in some way to give them validation for their oddity. I've always been told that when one argues with idiots, they just bring one down to their own level and beat them with experience.

It's a deceiving strategy, but I've found the only way to win with those people is to smile, look them in the eye and say, "Bless your heart."

■ **Danley is a freshman athletic training major from Alamogordo, N.M.**
» lyle.danley@ttu.edu

This column is literally about 'literally'

This word is literally killing me. During a game between the New York Giants and the Philadelphia Eagles a few years back, an NFL sportscaster told viewers the winners had "literally put a bullet" in Coach Andy Reid's head. Although I didn't suspect there was much shooting on the field, the statement did manage to grab my attention.

The word "literally" has bothered me ever since. "The Giants literally steamrolled the Eagles last night," a friend said to me. Annoyed, I naturally began to imagine Eli Manning driving a 20-ton construction vehicle over members of the Philadelphia defensive line.

Since when has "literally" come to mean the exact opposite? According to the American Heritage Dictionary, literally means "word for word." However, the word has been so inappropriately abused—though not literally—it now seems to simply represent exaggeration and persistence rather than precision.

"Literally" means figuratively in today's backward culture, a mistake propelled by celebrities and television personalities. When pop star Beyoncé Knowles told fans at a fundraising concert that it was imperative to "literally give the clothes off your back" for those in developing nations, many male fans

Rusty Shellhorn



were disappointed when the diva never personally followed through with her call to action.

Perhaps this once-literary term is condemned to the cellar-dwelling ranks of seriously, totally or like, words that once properly signified actuality and now point only to emphasis. Seriously, folks, I'm, like, so totally tired of these words, literally.

Not only has "literally" become one of the most nauseatingly misleading terms in an already ambiguous English language, but its misuse has infected even our highest-ranking political officials. During the 2008 presidential campaign, then-vice presidential candidate Joe Biden told Springfield, Ill., supporters during a campaign rally that

he and running mate Barack Obama were poised to "literally change the direction of the world." "That," I told a Democratic friend of mine, "is change we can believe in."

Yet, assuming the Obama administration doesn't somehow develop technology to negate the gravitational forces of the sun and completely derail Earth from its orbit, the statement supports my point—not even the most educated and prominent individuals truly understand the usage of the term, let alone those whose rhetoric isn't continuously critiqued and attacked during the rigors of a historical presidential campaign.

"Literally" has become a linguistic epidemic, permeating the very fabric of English-speaking culture and infiltrating society as a counterfeit term bent on destroying our conversational integrity. The word has, figuratively, become an unstoppable and incurable virus.

Of course, everyone has been infected with the virus at some point in time. Whether an individual has claimed to

literally bomb a test or become so angry that he or she literally bursts into flames, all who have any degree of metaphorical skill understand the unlikely probability of such spontaneous combustion and recognize the purpose of the misusage—to emphasize and exaggerate.

Exaggeration is an important part of everyday life. Humans have become accustomed to lies, thus at ease with expressing doubt, and consequently have a need to legitimize personal stories to earn credibility for anecdotes. Though people hope the word supports exaggerations, convinces peers of the truth and grants validity, "literally" simply tangles the message, confusing listeners with its very nature of contradiction.

Unfortunately for disgruntled literary critics like me, the improper usage of "literally" will never end. The word has lost its true meaning, and many have come to accept that fact. However, being the natural force for good that I am, I ask all conversationalists to use the word correctly or not to use it at all. Until this madness ends, the plague of "literally" will kill us all.

Figuratively, of course.

■ **Shellhorn is a junior history major from Spokane, Wash.**
» rusty.shellhorn@ttu.edu

"The word has, figuratively, become an unstoppable and incurable virus."

Spring break brings both good, bad opportunities

It's that time of year again—spring break. I would be lying if I said I wasn't super excited about it, but it's important to remember how dangerous spring break can be.

For college students, spring break is supposed to be about adventure: a road trip, a party and sleeping somewhere in between. For me, it will be a simple spring break, and for most of my friends, it's a time for them to make extra money working.

However, for those who have planned on making 2011 the "best spring break ever," this year seems more complicated than any other year to pull it off.

Remember that Aruba case with Natalie Holloway and Joran Van Der Sloot? Even the most innocent of trips, with a group, can end up a disaster.

This year, there are again warnings about the dangers of going to Mexico border towns this coming spring break because of the drug war down there.

Colleen Gartner



Considering I lived in Corpus Christi for a short time, I take those warnings very seriously.

So it's clearly not one of those years where the worst things to watch out for are sharks or a flat tire. I mean, sure, Girls Gone Wild will be on the beaches of South Padre rain or shine, but it is still very important to be aware of your surroundings.

This means drinking less than you may have planned originally, which is probably a good direction to go regardless. You wouldn't want to be The Situation, now, would you?

So, now that we've gotten the whole "don't go to Mexico or you'll die" point out of the way, it's important to point out alternatives to the craziness that would have gone down if you were present.

First of all, and sadly, a condom would probably be an upgrade, so make that happen, Captain.

Secondly, camping can be fun, too, given that you find a comfortable spot, even if that comfortable spot happens to be located 10 feet from your back door and 15 feet from the fridge.

Third, volunteering. I know this was probably not your first choice, but it should be on your list of top 10 things to do with one full week of limited amounts of school.

This is probably where you've just gotten squirmy and think I believe everyone should spend his or her entire break volunteering. I'm just saying, "Don't complain that you are bored on the couch when there's always an organization in

need of help." At the very least, help out your mom; she could always use a helping hand around the house.

Finally, get your car checked before you head out on your trip, and keep it nice. None of those open containers littering your backseat business. Your car is not a frat limo, so stop pretending like it is one. Clean it out, get it checked, and when you finally get around to coming home, don't be a drunk driver on St. Patty's Day. There's going to be enough crazy people travelling on the road during spring break.

I'm sure you have heard what I condensed into a mere 500 words a million times from your parents, but take it to heart. If you are going to Mexico, be extra careful. If you aren't going to Mexico, spring break doesn't have to be lame.

■ **Gartner is a senior accounting major from The Woodlands.**
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students faced with more questions than answers

As the student government runoff election comes to a close, on behalf of the Patton, Uryasz & Moore campaign, I would like to provide clarity and context regarding our campaign.

Clearly there are more questions facing our students than there are answers, but I believe we are the right team of executive officers to lead your student government.

Homelessness is a severe problem in this community, and we have an obligation to lend ourselves to find a way to help. Every day, Tech prepares hundreds of

pounds of food in our dining facilities, only to throw away sizeable portions of unserved food. Why shouldn't the student government coordinate with the student body and departments like Hospitality Services to rescue and deliver this food to the homeless community?

Our students and our student organizations also need greater access to our student senate. Students need the opportunity to easily engage their representatives and walk away knowing their appeal made a difference.

Providing students with an open forum before senate meetings not only removes barriers, which pre-

viously only stifled dialogue, but it also makes our senate a place where ideas can be exchanged freely.

Finally, our campaign is proposing the most significant restructuring of the executive branch of student government in years. Essentially, we want to completely overhaul the current presidential committee system in favor of new agencies. We believe it will be more effective to create more opportunities for students to lend their talents and interests to issues they care about.

■ **Tyler Patton is a junior public relations major from Graham.**

Demand accountability from SGA candidates

I must say I am impressed by the recent back and forth regarding the Student Government Association elections.

I read a recent letter to the editor that regarded the pros and cons of the SGA candidates. Though I agreed with some of it, I think it is important that one of the largest cons not mentioned is the fact that all of the candidates who are currently in runoff for SGA executive positions all talk about what they want to do but highlight little of what they have actually accomplished.

This just goes to further make the point about which I have written in previous letters of the fallacy of asking students to vote on something based on hearsay through various Facebook statuses and event invites rather than documented recordings of legislation each of the candidates has supported.

Now, I am aware there are candidates who are running and have run who do not have a previous background in the student government, and for them, this does not necessarily apply. I think

it is important, however, to demand mechanisms to be put into place so students can, in fact, do their own research rather than relying on Greek pledges to tell them to vote one way or another.

I shall conclude by saying this past week has shown to be exactly what Texas Tech needs. The more students become engaged with SGA occurrences, the better chances we have at holding them accountable.

■ **Sean Taylor is a junior communication design major from Wichita Falls.**

Campaign must be about facts

I would like to address a few comments made by one Amber Hastings in regard to those candidates seeking office in the Student Government Association elections this year—in particular, comments directed toward presidential candidate Tyler Patton.

As a member of the student senate this year and therefore a close observer of those involved, I can say the changes being offered by Mr. Patton should be heartily welcomed, not derided as fantastic delusions by those who pretend to have the students' best interests at heart.

To begin, I can honestly find no reason the project to donate leftover food to the homeless in our community could in any way be attacked. It is a win-win. I am sure, though, after more careful deliberation, the idea of allowing good food to rot in the garbage will prove itself useful.

I should also think one would

champion the idea of allowing the students of the university to speak to their representative body, but of course that might prove too daunting a task for the students' representatives to handle. Never mind that 450 organizations requesting time before the senate, although welcome and exciting, is hard-pressed to actually occur.

I fully support a Multicultural Affairs Agency. The fact Mr. Patton would have it take the place of the current presidential committee and have a broader and more expansive context is something I am sure all students can support.

As a member and president of an organization, I can also say, while the ideal SORC was created to achieve is admirable, at the end of the day, many students agree it is a broken system that estranges communication between senators and students even further.

This is made all the more perplexing by the fact that Ms. Hastings chooses to support the candidate who not only ran on this issue last year and has had a full year to better the pro-

gram, but has also seen fit to spend that time giving parliamentary procedure tests to senators.

Ms. Moore so far is the only candidate, of whom I know, who has come anywhere close to offering a concrete solution.

Per the arguments made concerning Ms. Mayants and her team, I can only say I wish them the best of luck but that concerts and monthly e-mails can do little to bring about the unity we so desperately need. I should wish the conversations that have won over Ms. Hastings had been with our student body, especially regarding our traditions, which, unbeknownst to me, we had apparently become so neglectful of.

I believe we should leave traditions to those who cherish them most: our traditions organizations and our students. It has always occurred to me tradition is organic, coming from the students and not the top.

I do believe Mr. Patton shares the goal for transparency, and his platform represents that. Ultimately, this campaign must be about the facts, and I believe Ms. Hastings and those whom she represents must be reminded that facts are indeed beautiful things.

■ **Stuart Williams is a sophomore history major from Lubbock.**

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Irish band performs in Lubbock

By SYDNEY HOLMES
STAFF WRITER

Legendary Irish music group The Brock-McGuire Band performed at the Legacy Event Center on Monday night as a result of the efforts of the Texas Tech School of Music, the Vernacular Music Center, Roots Music Institute and Caprock Celtic Association.

The Brock-McGuire Band was voted "instrumental band of the decade" by LiveIrish.com and the Irish American News. They are famous for performing classic Irish dance music, as well as Anglo-Appalachian, Breton and French-Canadian pieces.

Mitchell Lowry, a business administration master's student from Big Spring, said as a member of the Celtic Ensemble at Tech, there was no way he would have missed the performance.

"I know (Manus McGuire, the group's fiddle player), so when I found out that they were going to be here, especially since it was free, I wasn't going to pass it up," Lowry said. "I definitely think it's a unique kind of music. It's very old style and different than what you can hear on the radio."

Jesse Ramirez, a senior music performance major from San Angelo, said he enjoys the old-time roots of the Irish dance music.

"It's folk-based, and I like a lot of folk music," he said. "I think anything closely tied to any culture is really important. It's something you don't hear every day in West Texas."

Casey Joiner, a junior music major from Dallas, is a member of the Ireland seminar, a class taught for a semester at the end of which students go to Ireland for two weeks. Joiner emphasized the im-

portance of cultural diversity and the reason why she attended the event.

"With America as the melting pot of the world, you should have a deeper awareness of other cultures and what they bring to the table," Joiner said. "Irish descent accounts for so much of America, I feel like being aware of Irish music is being aware of almost everyone you're with."

Joiner said as a musician, she was impressed with the instruments and styles on which The Brock-McGuire Band focused.

"They had such a pure sound. I love that they all played the melody — the banjo, the accordion and the violin all played the melody," Joiner said. "I've never heard much Celtic piano. That's not wildly accepted as a Celtic instrument, but (Denis Carey) owned it."

Lowry participated in the travels within the Ireland seminar last year and said The Brock-McGuire Band accurately depicted true Irish traditions.

"That's exactly what it sounds like (in Ireland)," he said. "There's a festival in Ennis, and they play a lot of Irish music. You can go sit in pubs, and there's musicians just sitting around playing, and (The Brock-McGuire Band) sounded a lot like that. It was definitely a taste of real Irish music, different from what you would get if you went a bought an Irish classics CD."

Although the band was unavailable for comment, McGuire did manage to say, via e-mail, that they had a great first visit.

"We'd love to come back every year," he said.
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Students use band to satisfy nostalgia, keep making music

By BAILEY EILAND
STAFF WRITER

Clarinets shrilled brilliantly, drums bellowed, high school band nostalgia eased away and the passion for the music was almost audible itself.

At least, that was how the Texas Tech University Band members described it. With a variety of scores ranging from Ralph Vaughan Williams' "English Folk Song Suite" to Frank Tichell's "American Elegy," the ensemble performed in Hemmle Recital Hall on Monday night.

University Band is home to more than 90 members who perform two concerts every spring. The students involved are mostly non-music majors with an interest in continuing music after high school.

Nkama Nkama, a sophomore mechanical engineering major from Cypress, is among the three bass clarinet players in the group.

"(Students learn to) get an appreciation for music," Nkama said when describing the benefits of joining the group.

With eyes aglow and a smile on his face, the sophomore said he had found his niche in the band.

"Because my love and passion for music is so immense," Nkama said, "I had no choice but to play in the band."

Michael Burwell, a freshman architecture major from Plano, plays the tuba in the band. He said the ensemble is a good way to reconnect with high school band memories.



PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador
THE POWER BAND, part of the Texas Tech University Band, performs "Sleep" by Eric Whitacre during a concert in Hemmle Recital Hall on Monday.

"I've been in band since the sixth grade, so music has been an important part of my life," Burwell said. "It's impossible to imagine my life without it."

A clarinet player from Houston, Matthew Esqueda, also said music has played a large role in his life.

"Playing an instrument is something I can't express in words," the senior business management major said. "I wouldn't have been playing it for so long if I didn't feel that way

about music."

Freshman English major Katie Davis plays the flute in the ensemble. The student from Austin said she enjoys the feeling of relaxation playing with the group provides.

"It's low effort and a good way to relax without having to put a lot of stress into it," Davis said.

Esqueda said he loved the fact that the band plays much of the same music from his high school band experiences.

All the memories University Band brings about are fun, he said.

Ashley Miller, a sophomore restaurant, hotel and institutional management major from San Antonio, also plays for University Band. The flutist said the group is different from being in Goin' Band but still beneficial for students interested in music.

"You get the music feel without the formality," Miller said.

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Hand

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Most places we (visited, we) stayed in hotels," said Webb, chair for the Department of Philosophy, "but in Georgia, the locals there affiliated with the institute said, 'Why don't we just put them up in homes?'"

So they ended up at Khajishvili's home because he attended a high school built by the institute. Even though they were only there for one night, the four-hour breakfast was enough to convince the pair to help Khajishvili obtain an education in the United States.

"We talked for hours about many things," said Khajishvili, a sophomore political science major currently studying at South Plains for the semester. "I told them I would like to get an education overseas but had no financial ability to do so."

"When I told the story to Mark and Virginia, they promoted Texas Tech and were eager to host me. Now we live together as a family."

Webb and Downs, a senior editor for the Tech University College, both said in their travels with the institute, they met numerous outstanding students, but Khajishvili left a deeper impression.

"I think he's really special," Webb said. "I think he can make a difference in the world in a way that other people maybe wouldn't."

When Khajishvili mentioned to the traveling pair he wanted to study abroad if he had the chance, they both recommended a university of which they are proud.

A former Tech law professor, Ann Graham, originally hosted the Georgian native in her home for a semester until she received a job offering in Minnesota, Webb said, and so Khajishvili ended up at his house.

"He's our boy, and my other son has taken him under his wing like a little brother," Webb said.

Khajishvili arrived in Lubbock in October 2009 after hassling with the Georgian government to secure a student visa, and because of increased out-of-state tuition, he only had the chance to be a Red Raider for a semester, thus far.

Webb said he and Downs hope they can secure more financial aid so he can continue his education at Tech.

"I know some people might think we're crazy, but it's been wonderful and so much fun..." Downs said.

"I don't feel like we did anything too nuts. It was the right thing to do."

Feeling a part of Down and Webb's family makes it easier to be away from his own, Khajishvili said, though he tries to Skype his parents two to three times a week.

"It was really hard for them to be separated from me, but knowing my future would change for the good and that I would be taken care of, they let go," he said.

Coming to Texas, Khajishvili said, he envisioned the southern dream as his new way of life, interacting with horse-riding cowboys daily. He quickly realized he had the wrong impression, but lack of saddles and stirrups aside, he said he wasn't disappointed.

"I love it here..." he said. "My first impression was it was very big. It's something I've never seen before. At home, one building makes up an entire university."

"(Upon arriving,) my happiness was indescribable. All the facilities available to students (are amazing); I've really never seen anything like it. I didn't expect it at all."

Aside from a few cultural differences, Khajishvili is getting along just fine in West Texas. He plans to visit home this summer to see his family as well as update his student visa, which he hopes will go smoothly to allow for his return in August.
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French Table discussion encourages cultural immersion

By ROCIO RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

A bright "bonjour!" may greet those who attend a meeting at the French Table, a discussion table that meets with French language students and French natives, such as Arnaud Couturieux.

The group meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Sam's Place in Wall-Gates Residence Halls.

"For some people, languages are a core curriculum requirement, so they may not be super interested in it, but they have to take it," said Couturieux, a graduate student from Paris, France, studying French. "What we're trying to do with those extracurricular activities is get them to like those things even more than what they have to learn in class."

Couturieux, co-organizer of the

French Club and communicator liaison between all French department activities, said the group tries to expand students' understanding of French culture and language by giving them the informal speech skills important for communicating with native French speakers.

"It's very important because here, students are trying to learn the formal languages," Couturieux said, "but if tomorrow they want to go study in France or get a job opportunity in France, I think they also need to learn how people speak the everyday language."

Jacquelyn Scrivener, one of the organizers of the French Table, said she encourages beginning French students who may be nervous about joining the French Club to join.

"It's a more relaxed casual atmosphere for people to practice their

French skills," said Scrivener, a graduate student studying French. "We came up with the idea of having the French table at school during the week just as an extension of French Club where people can come in, have lunch and conversant in French more."

The French Table is run by French language teaching assistants, creating a more casual and informal setting, Scrivener said.

The meetings for French Club are held off campus at J&B Coffee Co., and the French Table makes meeting and speaking with other French students available for those who are too busy or don't have transportation to the coffeehouse meetings, Scrivener said.

Diane Wood, professor of French, said though the group is small, it is still fun to get together and be able to do something together on a social basis.

"It's a chance to speak French,"

Wood said. "If a person were learning Spanish here, they could turn on the TV and listen to Spanish; they could go to a restaurant and order in Spanish. We have to create opportunities for French. It's more than learning verbs and nouns; it's more than that."

Usual topics include food and movies, as well as an upcoming study abroad trip to Montpellier, France, that some students will be attending, Wood said.

She describes the French Table as "esprit de corps," which means a collective group of good feelings or "spirit of the group," Wood said.

"It's good for us as a department as well as building 'esprit de corps,'" Wood said. "It needs energetic people to do this. I like to eat; I like to cook; I like to talk, too. It's one of the reasons I got French club."

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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67					68				69			

By Gareth Bain 3/9/11

ACROSS

- 1 Doughnut shape
- 6 Doofus
- 10 "H" sign nicknames
- 14 Furniture wood
- 15 Circle dance
- 16 Does a bakery job
- 17 "Moscow park" epitonym
- 19 "...we forget"
- 20 Palm Trees, e.g., briefly
- 21 Tailless primate
- 22 School orgs.
- 23 Article for Adenauer
- 24 Upside-down frown
- 26 _ Dei
- 28 _ Andreas Fault
- 29 Bit of dogma
- 30 Poppycock
- 31 Opera setting, for short
- 33 Cuts partners
- 35 Hops-drying oven
- 36 Animals who often bear twins
- 38 Evokes wonder in Asian sea
- 43 It's not known for MPG efficiency
- 45 Soak up
- 49 Din in the library?
- 51 One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
- 53 Big suit, briefly
- 54 About the eye
- 55 Elect to take part
- 56 Hoo-ha
- 57 Option for Hamlet
- 58 Exxon Valdez cargo
- 59 Short run, for short
- 60 Wimple wearers
- 61 "What's Going On" singer
- 64 Elan
- 65 Kindergarten staple
- 66 Courtroom demand
- 67 Quite a long time
- 68 Pair in bunk beds, perhaps
- 69 Burden bearer

DOWN

- 1 Violent storm
- 2 Shortest book in the Hebrew Bible
- 3 Steve Martin film based on Abba Yrano de Bergerac
- 4 Colleges, to Aussies
- 5 Mozart's "Jupiter," e.g.: Abbr.
- 6 Noted composer of études
- 7 Rhine siren
- 8 Mark's planet
- 9 "And God called the light..."
- 10 "20th-century cartoonist who wrote 'He Done Her Wrong,' a 300-page pantomime tale
- 11 "984" setting
- 12 Goofs
- 13 Old JFK arrival
- 18 Spermatozoa, e.g.
- 22 Frik, with "down"
- 24 Crock-Pot potful
- 25 Sicilian mount
- 27 Collector's goal
- 32 "Mad Max" star
- 34 East African language
- 37 Sport for heavyweights
- 39 Israeli diplomat
- 40 In days past
- 41 Burst
- 42 Actor Banderas
- 44 Vicks ointment
- 46 Anthem for "eh" sayers
- 47 Overnight flights
- 48 Leader of the band with the 1962 hit "Green Onions"
- 50 Impeccable service
- 52 "As I was going to..."
- 59 Fairy tale baddie
- 60 Hoops org.
- 61 With "the," 48-Down's band (which sounds as if it could have included the answers to starred clues)
- 62 Poetic boxer
- 63 San Francisco's _ Hill

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

SAUCY	ACE	PALMS
IGLOO	CAY	ABEAM
FUNNY	BONE	PENTA
TEA	ORRS	BALTIC
MENTAL	BLOCK	
LARVAE	NYU	
ODIE	ZINE	STPAT
CASTLES	INTHEAIR	
ARESO	UPDO	ALDA
CUZ	ILLSAY	
BAREKNUCKLE		
AVERSE	HOES	CBS
BEFIT	HEADSTART	
ARETE	URL	EERIE
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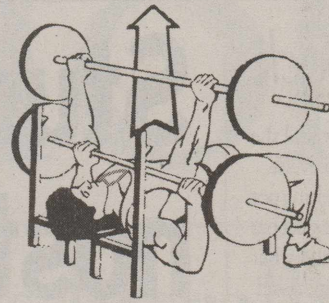
Seneca quotes
(Roman philosopher, mid-1st century AD)

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Spring Break!

Will you still be on campus over spring break? Check out the Rec Center Hours over break online at www.recsports.ttu.edu. See you there!



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You can still take part in the Intramural Bench Press Competition. Weigh-in is at 3:00pm today in the Weightroom. For more info, call 742-2945.

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Sport Clubs Update

Men's Lacrosse 6 - TCU 7
Women's Lacrosse 12 - UNT 6
Women's Lacrosse 6 - OU 11

Inline Hockey won the Southern Collegiate Hockey League's Division 2 Championship this past weekend! Congratulations, Inline Hockey!

Intramurals



Intramural Soccer Is Here!

Are you ready to kick the futbol around? Intramural Indoor Soccer registration is here! Get your team together, \$50.00 (forfeit fee), and a smiling face to the Intramural Office room 203 in the Rec Center to sign up your team. Space is limited to the first 92 teams! Registration ends tomorrow, so don't delay. If you don't have a team, the Free Agent meeting will be tonight at 7:00pm in Rm. 206 of the Rec Center.

Intramurals After Spring Break

Friday Night Softball
Sign your team up for the Friday Night Softball League starting March 21 when you get back from spring break. This four week league will only be on Friday Nights in April, and is a separate league than the normal spring Softball season. So get some friends together, make a team, and get registered in the Intramural Office!

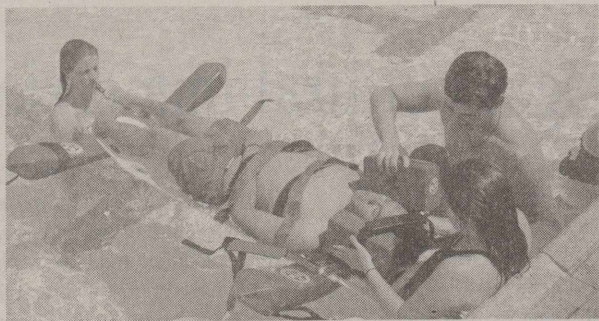
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Here is your chance to play one of the best golf courses in the nation right before the PGA Master's Tournament! For only \$24/person this Doubles Golf Scramble gives you green fees, cart, range balls, lunch, an engraved Rawls' luggage tag, and Rawls divot tool. Registration begins March 21 in the IM Office, Rm. 203. Tournament will take place on Sunday, April 3. Don't miss this opportunity to golf the Rawls!

Spring Break Hours 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				March 11	March 12	March 13
**The university will be conducting maintenance on the steam and chilled water systems starting at 6:00p on Friday, 3.11 through Sunday, 3.13. We will not have hot water in the facility during this time.				SRC: 6:00a - 8:00p LP (Lap Swim): 12:00 - 6:30p CC: 3:00 - 6:00p OPC: 11:00a - 7:00p F/W: Closed	SRC: 2:00 - 6:00p LP (Lap Swim): 2:00 - 6:00p CC: Closed OPC: Closed F/W: Closed	SRC: 2:00 - 6:00p LP (Lap Swim): 2:00 - 6:00p CC: Closed OPC: Closed F/W: Closed
The competition pool and the four additional lap lanes will be open at the LP. We will have Family Hours at all times when the LP is open. Family Hours participants will only have access to the four additional lap lanes. The pool at the Exercise Sciences Center will not be open.				Raider X Classes are on regular schedule today	No Classes	4:15 - 5:15p Zamba Bryanne Room 114 5:20 - 5:40p Abs Bryanne Room 114
March 14	March 15	March 16	March 17	March 18	March 19	March 20
SRC: 6:00a - 7:00p LP (Lap Swim): 12:00 - 1:30p 4:00 - 7:00p Closed OPC: Closed F/W: Closed 12:10 - 1:00p Zamba Bryanne Room 114 5:30 - 6:30p Strength Training Daniel Room 114	SRC: 6:00a - 7:00p LP (Lap Swim): 12:00 - 1:30p 4:00 - 7:00p Closed OPC: Closed F/W: Closed 12:10 - 1:00p Yoga Kay Room 121 5:30 - 6:30p Zumba Bryanne Room 114	SRC: 6:00a - 7:00p LP (Lap Swim): 12:00 - 1:30p 4:00 - 7:00p Closed OPC: Closed F/W: Closed 12:10 - 1:00p Zumba Yasigita Lia Room 114 5:30 - 6:30p Body Sculpting Lia Room 114	SRC: 6:00a - 7:00p LP (Lap Swim): 12:00 - 1:30p 4:00 - 7:00p Closed OPC: Closed F/W: Closed 12:10 - 1:00p Cardio Circuit Lia Room 114 5:30 - 6:30p Yoga Marisel Room 121	SRC: 6:00a - 7:00p LP (Lap Swim): 12:00 - 1:30p 4:00 - 7:00p Closed OPC: Closed F/W: Closed 12:10 - 1:00p BOSU Lia Room 121 5:30 - 6:30p Zamba Yasigita Room 114	SRC: 2:00 - 6:00p LP (Lap Swim): 2:00 - 6:00p Closed OPC: Closed F/W: Closed No Classes	SRC: 2:00 - 6:00p LP (Lap Swim): 2:00 - 6:00p Closed OPC: Closed F/W: Closed No Classes

Aquatics

The Leisure Pool Opens March 25th!



Lifeguarding Class

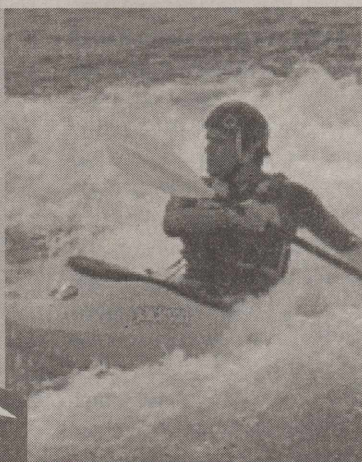
Become a certified American Red Cross Lifeguard. Cost is \$140 for Texas Tech students and faculty/staff and \$150 for the community. Includes the book and all certification costs.

Classes:

Saturdays and Sundays April 2 - 10 from 8:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays April 5 - 28 from 6:00pm - 10:00pm

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Natural High
MIL SIMMONS BIKE TRAILS
MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE
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DAY OF REGISTRATION ONLY. CHECK IN AT 11AM.
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April 1-3 | \$145
Deadline: March 22
Join us as we navigate the whitewaters of the Texas Hill Country! We will run the San Marcos River, the Guadalupe River, and the Rio Vista Play Park. This trip is designed for beginners, but experienced kayakers will learn and have fun too!

Outdoor Pursuits Center

GEAR SWAP
Saturday, March 26 | 8am - 11am
Great prices on lightly used equipment

Fit/Well

Second Session of Raider X2 Classes!

We have begun to take registrations for the 2nd Session of Raider X2 Classes! Classes include Country Dance, Belly Dance, Int. Salsa Dance, Dance, Dance, Dance (a combination of lyrical, jazz and hip hop dance), Boot Camp and Intro to Triathlon.

Classes begin March 24, so make sure you sign up for Spin Classes and Mind/Body passes early, as they will fill up fast! Check www.recsports.ttu.edu for class dates and times.

Spring Break Schedule

All classes are free over Spring Break including yoga. Check the schedule above, or online at www.recsports.ttu.edu.

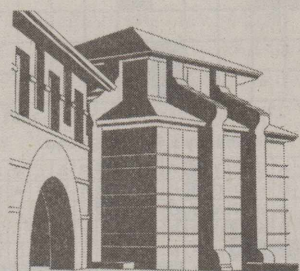
DASH & SPLASH
4 MILE RUN
400 YARD SWIM
texas tech rec sports

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Four Mile Run & 400 Yard Swim

Entry fees due by March 31 - \$5 late fee after March 31

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Register in Fit/Well or www.active.com
For more information go to www.recsports.ttu.edu



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION AND ACTIVITIES

EVENT CALENDAR MARCH 9-15, 2011



TODAY, 3.9.11

STUDENT ORGANIZATORS
Student Organization Advisor Meeting
Student Union Lubbock, 12:00pm
Monthly meeting to discuss what is going on with student organizations, including issues facing the area and advanced OrgSync student organization management system training.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1
Student Union Allen Theatre, 7:00pm

THURSDAY, 3.10.11

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1
Student Union Escondido Theater, 3:00pm

FRIDAY, 3.11.11

Notice of Texas Technology Store Campus Store Closing:

The Texas Technology Store located in the Student Union Building is going out of business, effective Friday, March 11, 2011 at 5:00 pm. All store pick-up orders and service machines must be picked up by Friday, March 11th at 5:00 pm.

SATURDAY, 3.12.11

Student Union Building Closed

SUNDAY, 3.13.11

MONDAY, 3.14.11

Student Union Building Spring Break Hours
Monday, March 14 - Friday, March 18
Open 7:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20
Closed

TUESDAY, 3.15.11

COMING UP:

- 3.22.11
S.O. Registration Meeting
- 3.23.11
Cookies by Design
TAB's Culinary Cuisine Showcase
- 3.25.11
Legally Blonde ticket distribution
- 3.26.11
Tech Lubbock Community Day

LeBron and Co. need to stop crying, get their act together

There is no crying in basketball, but in basketball, it seems there very well might be.

After their loss to the Bulls, Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra commented to members of the media there were some Heat players crying in the locker room.

Just days after Chris Bosh shed tears at his press conference, I tend to believe him. I also tend to think he is in the wrong.

There is no reason his comment needed to be made to the press.

I am not sticking up for grown men who get paid millions of dollars to play basketball crying after a regular season loss. I am sticking up for the team concept.

The locker room is obviously in shambles. The Heat are near a collapse, and the head coach wants to air their dirty laundry to the public. If this was a motivation technique, it will not work.

Cody Stoots



LeBron had every reason to trust Spoelstra when he arrived, and he has no reason to now. Spoelstra seemed to try to make a statement with the players, as they complained about working too hard in practice. It did not seem to work, but the Heat held it together. Now, after a butt kicking by San Antonio and another last-minute failure against the Bulls, the big three are on their own.

We all knew there would be some issues with the Heat. They did not have a real big-man. Their point guard position is weak. The defense suspect and no one really knows who should take the last shot.

These are all things a good

head coach could have brought out in his players. He could have motivated them to improve on defense. He could draw up a set play for the last shot. He could hold them together. Spoelstra obviously is not the answer.

It may seem like I am blaming the coach too much, but Wade and LeBron are just as guilty. Instead of putting nose to the floor and working hard together when LeBron got to Miami, they celebrated like they had won the championship. They had not won anything, and they will not if it continues.

LeBron elevated the play of the horrible Cleveland teams around him. Wade did the same thing with his less-than-stellar Miami rosters. Neither player seems to trust their teammates or the coach. The coach does not trust the stars or the role players. Mario Chalmers hit the go-ahead two against Chicago — and then

was sat.

Does anyone remember the professional wrestler Stone Cold Steve Austin? He always used to say "Don't Trust Nobody." He was right when it came to wrestling, but not to team sports.

The Heat need to sit down with each other and reaffirm their commitment to excellence. If they ever want to party like champions, they need to play like them. They need to watch the Celtics and how they get everyone involved.

But, Miami is still going to be dangerous. I do not think any team in the East wants to see the Heat lineup for six or seven games. That being said, without a lobotomy of the team chemistry, the Heat are not championship contenders.

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

Buckeyes suspend Tressel 2 games for rules violation

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio State suspended football coach Jim Tressel for two games and fined him \$250,000 on Tuesday for violating NCAA rules by failing to notify the school about information he received involving two players and questionable activities involving the sale of memorabilia.

Tressel also will receive a public reprimand and must make a public apology. The NCAA is investigating and could reject the self-imposed penalties and impose additional sanctions.

Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith said he never seriously considered firing Tressel for violating his contract, which specifies that he must immediately report any — the word is underlined in the contract — information which pertains to violations of NCAA, Big Ten or Ohio State bylaws and rules. "Wherever we end up, Jim Tressel is our football coach," Smith said, "He is our coach, and we trust him implicitly."

Last December, the NCAA suspended quarterback Terrelle Pryor and four teammates for the first five games on the 2011 season for selling jerseys, championship rings and trophies to a local tattoo parlor owner. The suspensions came just 16 days after the U.S. attorney told the school of a federal investigation that included players.

The school did not learn until January, however, that Tressel had been tipped off to the federal investigation back in April.

"Obviously I'm disappointed that this happened at all," Tressel said. "I take my responsibility for what we do at Ohio State tremendously seriously and for the game of football. I plan to grow from this. I'm sincerely saddened by the fact that I let some people down and didn't do things as well as I possibly could have."

Yahoo! Sports first reported Tressel's prior knowledge of the possible improper benefits on Monday.

Tressel said he allowed the two players cited in the e-mail to play the entire 2010 season because he did not want to "interfere with a federal investigation" and worried that sitting eligible players would raise a "whole new set of questions."

Tressel received an e-mail on April 2, 2010. A person Tressel identified only as "a lawyer," mentioned that Ohio State players had been implicated in activities with Eddie Rife, a local tattoo-parlor owner. The e-mail, according to Tressel, said players were selling signed Buckeyes memorabilia and giving it to Rife in exchange for money and tattoos. The e-mail said Rife had a criminal record and had witnessed one of his friends being murdered in a parking lot.

The Buckeyes coach said he kept quiet out fear for the safety of the two players connected to the federal, criminal drug-trafficking case. That investigation prompted an Ohio State and NCAA investigation involving players selling memorabilia and getting discounted tattoos.

Focus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Beard, who considers Knight one of his best friends, said he knows the team will do everything it can to prepare for the tournament without any distractions.

"It makes it challenging, but playing Missouri is a challenge anyway," Beard said. "So one thing I do know is that we're going to coach as

hard as we can and do the best job we can until we're no longer here at Tech," he said. "Even though it's been made public that we won't be coaching here next year, we still are the coaches here. I know Pat will do everything in his power to have the team prepared."

To prepare for the Tigers, Knight said, the Red Raiders have to tighten up on some of the little mistakes they made when the two faced off earlier this season — resulting in a

Mizzou win. Tech dropped a 92-84 match to the Tigers on Feb. 15 in Columbia, Mo. The Red Raiders kept up with the fast-paced, full-court pressing Tigers for much of the match but were unable to get closer than three points for the final 13 minutes and 25 seconds of the game.

Despite the loss, Knight said he believed it gives his team confidence going into the game because they hung with the then-

No. 21 Tigers and did not get blown out. Beard said he believes the announcement of Knight's firing will not affect the players, and once the players step on the court, it will be strictly business for both sides. "The game will be played on the court," Beard said. "It's 8:30 Wednesday night, and the team that plays the best, the team that plays the smartest, will win."
 >>> tmagelssen@dailytoreador.com

UNM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"I think not only is the award good for me, it's good for the program," Allen said. "These things can only help in recruiting."

Tech coach Shanon Hays said Allen's award was well deserved and she has done great things for the Red Raiders since the start of the season.

He said Allen benefits from hitting in front of fellow Player of the Week Hall and expects the entire team to improve throughout the course of the year.

The No. 19 Red Raiders (22-0) put their undefeated record on the line Wednesday with a doubleheader against

New Mexico. Tech's series against the Lobos is the team's first set of games against a single opponent this season — all 22 games to this point occurred in tournament play.

The doubleheader with New Mexico (6-6) starts at 1 p.m. today at Rocky Johnson Field. The second leg is slated to begin at 3 p.m.

Hays said New Mexico is a good team that has been through some challenging competition this year.

"It took undefeated No. 5 Washington nine innings to beat (New Mexico)," Hays said. "They are a good club and can swing the bats well."

The Lobos have exchanged streaks to this point in the schedule, losing their first three games before winning the

next three, then repeating that pattern to arrive at 6-6.

He said as the season goes on, he expects his team to meet the more challenging competition with heightened play. He said the team has the maturity to overcome adversity, proven by come-back wins early in the season.

Allen said she is ready to get back on the field and play, despite the possibility of wind gusts during today's games.

"We just have to go out and see how we are feeling," Allen said. "If the weather is bad, then it is bad for New Mexico, too. We are on the same battlefield."

The Red Raiders have remained undefeated in the season because of many reasons, but Allen said the team's ability to focus on what is ahead separates them as a squad.

Hays said he feels good about the team's current standing and believes his players will continue to be successful later in the schedule.

"We haven't had any letdowns; we beat the teams we were supposed to beat," Hays said. "I mean, we have run ruled every game but two out of our last 15; we just need to continue getting better."
 >>> tcampton@dailytoreador.com

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Tech men try to maintain focus for Big 12 Tourney

Red Raiders face Mizzou

By TOMMY MAGELSSSEN
NEWS EDITOR

With some of the dust finally settling from Monday's firing of Texas Tech coach Pat Knight, the Red Raiders can shift their full attention to their only chance to keep their postseason hopes alive: the Big 12 Conference Tournament.

However, keeping everyone thinking solely about an 8:30 p.m. contest against Missouri today in Kansas City, Mo., may prove to be difficult because of the recent coaching shakeup.

During the weekly Big 12 coaches teleconference on Monday, Tech associate head coach Chris Beard said the team was going to practice and prepare just as it would if Knight had not been fired.

But Beard has not had to deal with a situation like this before, so there are many unknowns heading into tonight's game.

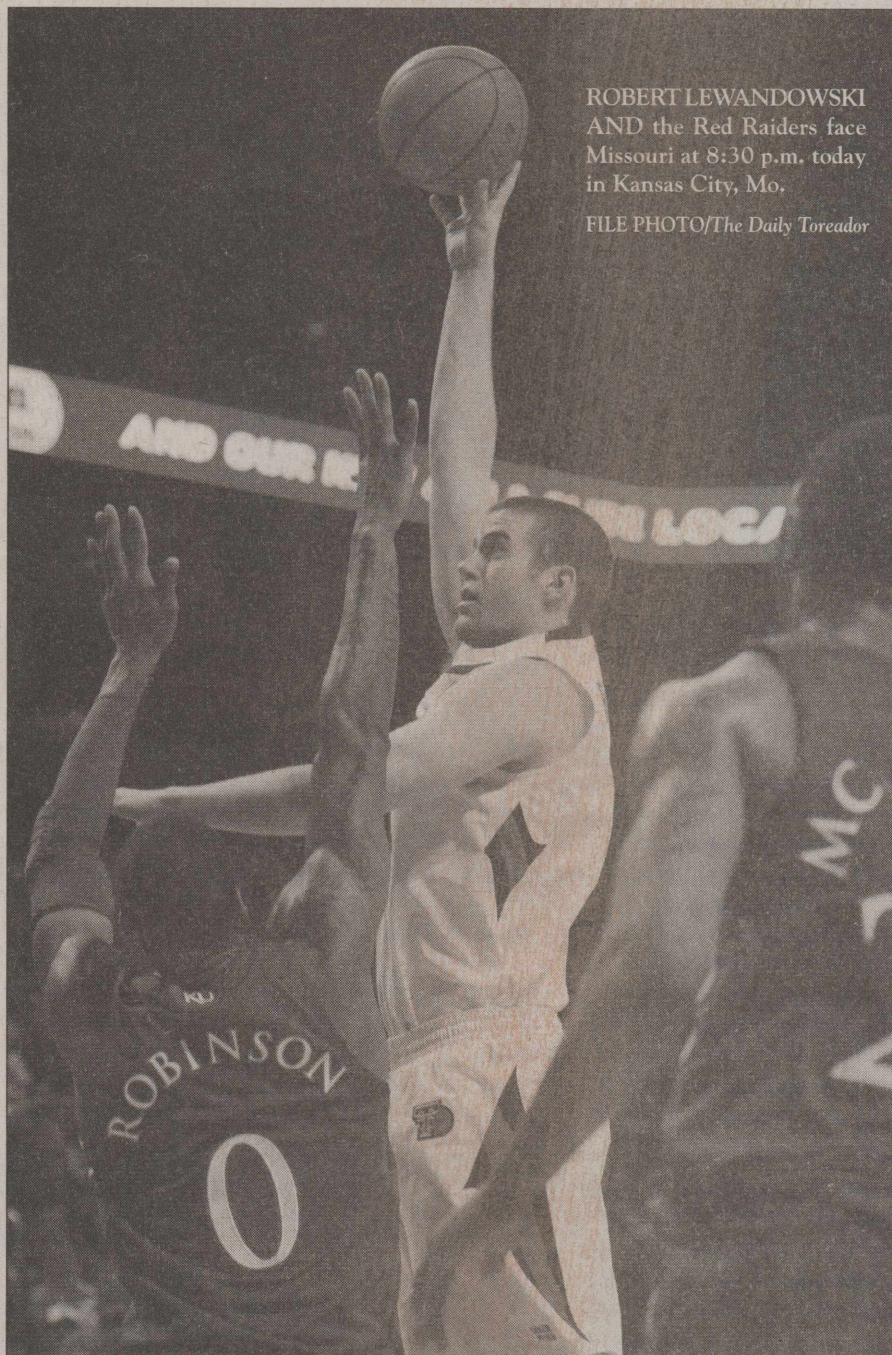
"I've been coaching 16 years, and I've never been fired," Beard said. "So I've never been in this situation. So, obviously, just common sense would tell you it's gonna be tougher; there's gonna be some different factors."

After his weekly radio show Monday evening, Knight told *The Daily Toreador* one of the reasons he wanted the news broken about his firing was to end the speculation surrounding his job, allowing his coaches and players to concentrate on today's game.

"The worst thing is uncertainty; it just drives you nuts," Knight said. "It's hard to sleep, and that's the worst thing that's out there. You just don't know whether or — so it's just better."

"It's just like ripping a Band-Aid off; just get it over with."

FOCUS continued on Page 7 ➔



ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI AND the Red Raiders face Missouri at 8:30 p.m. today in Kansas City, Mo.

FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

New Mexico visits Tech softball team



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH SECOND baseman Logan Hall scoops a ground ball during Tech's 16-3 victory against NIU on Feb. 25 at Rocky Johnson Field.

By THORN COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

The accolades just keep coming for Red Raider softball.

For the second straight week, a Red Raider was named Big 12 Conference Player of the Week. Catcher Cydney Allen was honored with the award Tuesday for her play in the Red Raider Classic last weekend.

Allen said she was not expecting the honor but is excited about being named

the Player of the Week.

"It's a really cool award," Allen said before practice Tuesday. "I feel like it is a great accomplishment for my season, but there are still a lot of games to go."

She said the most shocking thing about receiving the award is the fact that teammate Logan Hall received the award last week. Allen said it is rare for the conference to hand out Player of the Week to the same team in back-to-back weeks.

UNM continued on Page 7 ➔

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You can also download and print the Road Raiders list at www.parent.ttu.edu.

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