## Tech awards excellence

## Chancellor presents awards to Red Raiders

By KASSIDY KETRON STAFF WRTIER

More than 100 faculty members and graduate students were recognized and awarded Tuesday for their work.

At the Texas Tech Annual Faculty Convocation in the Human Sciences building, Provost Bob Smith, President Guy Bailey and Chancellor Kent Hance presented awards for 15 categories.

Board of Regents chairman Jerry Turner, and regents Nancy Neal and John Steinmetz also were in attendance.

Bailey said along with graduation, the convocation was one of the highlights of the academic year

"If you think about it," Bailey said, "graduation is a way to recognize the accomplishments of our students — this

convocation, a way to recognize the accomplishments and the achievements of our faculty."

Bailey said there were many ways to recognize the quality of teaching and work of the faculty, but nothing said it better than an article from the Wall Street Journal.

In the article, Bailey said, Tech was ranked 18th of the top 25 schools recruiters went to find employees.

"Nothing (that) can be said about this institution says more than that. That's a reflection of your work with individual students and what you've

done for them," he said.

Jorgelina Orfila, a third-year assistant professor in the School of Art, was one of the President's Excellence in Teaching Awards recipients.

Recipients of this award are nominated by faculty within their department, reviewed by the deans and provost, and then approved by the president, Smith said.

Orfila said it was heartwarming to know the faculty and her colleagues support her.

AWARDS continued on Page 2



PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador DEBORAH FOWLER, FROM the College of Human Sciences, is awarded the president's excellence in teaching award by Chancellor Kent Hance on Tuesday during the Faculty Honors Convocation in the Human Sciences building.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEVI WILLIAMSON DUSTY BURSON, A senior animal sciences major from Silverton, competes in the reining event in the third annual American Stock Horse Association National

## Tech horse team wins national championship

Win is third national title

**By ROCIO RODRIGUEZ** 

The Texas Tech Ranch Horse Team won its third collegiate national championship at the third annual American Stock Horse Association National Championship Show.

"I feel really good about it," said the team's coach, Levi Williamson, a graduate animal science major from Abilene. "These guys, I truly believe, work harder than any other school." The competition took place March 15 and March 16 in the

I feel really good about it. These guys, I

truly believe, work harder than any other school."

Levi Williamson Coach

Taylor County Exposition Center in Abilene, Williamson said. Nineteen team members from Tech attended, six of whom competed for the na-

Williamson said 13 other teams from Texas and other states, including Colorado, Tennessee, Nebraska and Ohio, also competed.

"You never know what's going to happen at these things." Williamson said. "You never know what the final

results will be, but what I tell them is to not focus on beating anybody else, not focus on beating any other teams, as long as they go out there and do what they know they can do.

**HORSE** continued on Page 2

# Tech group promotes sport



By HALLIE DAVIS STAFF WRITER

For some, riding a bike is not just a way to get around campus.

The Texas Tech Cycling club meets to ride nearly every day to improve speed and prepare for

"There's definitely a lot of sacrifice and time we have to put into being faster," said team treasurer Kyle Stewart.

Since the team became more active three years ago, its biggest event has been hosting a race every

Kyle Springer, a master's student in clinical exercise physiology from Fort Worth, enjoys having the upper hand in the road race, an extremely difficult course the club lays out. Springer said Tech-hosted events are his favorites for that reason.

He said he competed in the road race last year

"To us, it's a familiar course," he said. "It was fun

to see the other teams suffer on the course."

As competitive as the team may seem, most agree it is all in fun. Though there is practice several days of the week, Stewart said there is not too much pressure on the members — it is a much more laid-back environment since it is a club and not a varsity sport.

"When you ride that much, you spend a lot of time together and become pretty good friends," said Stewart, a junior accounting major from Tyler.

CYCLING continued on Page 3

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#### Community Calendar

#### TODAY

Lori Hepner: "Status Symbols: A Study in Tweets"

Time: All-day event Where: School of Art, SRO Photo West to Balmorhea Gallery

So, what is it?

A series of virtual portraits that are studies of identity in a digital age, showcasing the identity created that differs from physical looks. Abstract portraits are created with spinning LEDs that translate words into flashing bursts of light. The exhibit will be displayed through May 8.

#### Landscape as Knowledge Series Time: 7 p.m.

Where: English Building, Room 108

So, what is it?

Lucy Lippard, internationally known writer, activist and curator who lives in Galisteo, N.M., will present a talk based on her recently published book, "Down Country: The Tano of the Galisteo Basin, 1250 – 1752." Lippard is presented with funding from the art history area of the School of Art.

#### South Plains College at the Cactus

Time: 7:30 p.m. Where: Cactus Theater

So, what is it? The Creative Arts Department has bands performing this week. All shows start at 7:30 p.m., and admission is free. Wednesday's theme is "Country Night," and Thursday's is "Thursday Night Live."

Live Music Wednesday Time: 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Where: The Blue Light

So, what is it? Come out and enjoy live music and get over the hump day.

Super Happy Fun Time Burlesque

Time: 9 p.m. Where: Bash Riprocks 2 So, what is it?

This group provides Lubbock with a real Old West burlesque show, described as "Saturday Night Live" meets "The Rocky Horror Picture

Time: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Where: Skooner's Grill & Bar So, what is it?

Rachel and Kacy put a new spin on old covers and specialize in incorporating unique harmonies into their acoustic indie music.

#### THURSDAY

Studio 360: Beginning Art Classes for Adults

Time: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Where: TTU Museum

So, what is it? Free art class led by Sarah Collins the third Thursday of each month for ages 18 and older.

All That Remains Time: 6:30 p.m. Where: Cactus Courtyard

So, what is it? A concert featuring All That Remains with Nonpoint, Hail the Villain, STF and Sinful Serenade. Tickets are on sale at Ralph's Records and frontgatetickets.com.

"Footloose" Time: 8 p.m.

Where: TTU Maedgen Theatre

The Texas Tech Department of Theatre and Dance presents "Footloose,"

by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie. In this adaptation of the 1984 film, a city kid attempts to adapt to life in a conservative backwater midwestern town. Tickets cost \$12 for individuals and \$5 for students with a valid ID. Shows run through Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m., April 28 through April 30 at 8 p.m. and May 1 at 2 p.m.

To make a calendar submission email 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.

#### POPPIN' BOTTLES



PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador

WINSTON HOLLOWAY, AN architecture graduate student from Lawrence, Kan., and a member of the U.S. Green Building Council student group at Texas Tech, gives a free drink to Briana Bohac, a sophomore Latin-American studies student from Tarzan, as part of Green Week on Tuesday outside the Student Union Building. The USBGC student group will be in the West Plaza on Wednesday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. planting tomatoes, and in the Escondido Theater on Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for an environmental symposium.

## Kindergartner brings gun to Texas school, 3 hurt

HOUSTON (AP) — A kindergartner who brought a loaded gun Tuesday to his Houston elementary school was among three students injured by fragments when it fired after falling from his pocket as he sat down for lunch, officials said.

One bullet was fired about 10:35 a.m. in the Ross Elementary School cafeteria, spraying fragments at the students, said Houston Independent School District Assistant Police Chief Robert Mock.

"Either some type of chips off the floor, or it could be pieces of the round that discharged," Mock said. "They had some cuts and stuff on their legs, they don't appear to be life threatening."

Kennedi Glapion, 6, who was being picked up from school by her stretchers and taken in ambulances

grandmother, said she saw the gun after it fell under a cafeteria table.

"It dropped on the floor, under the table. It was loud, it was so loud," said the kindergartner, who added that after the gun went off she was scared and started crying.

Glapion also said she saw one of the children who was injured and pointed to her right foot to indicate where the child was injured.

Two 6-year-old boys were wounded, including the one who had the gun. The boy who brought the gun was injured in his foot and the other boy was grazed in his leg, said Sam Sarabia, the elementary chief school officer for the Houston school district. A 5-year-old girl was injured in her knee, he said.

All three children were put on

to be checked out at a hospital. The students were sitting up and appeared to be talking with emergency person-

nel as they were wheeled away. Houston police spokesman Victor Senties said it is too early in the investigation to tell if any charges will be filed.

Upset parents rushed to the school in northeast Houston where yellow crime scene tape was strung and more than a dozen police and district patrol cars were parked.

Parents were allowed to take their children home for the day if they preferred to do so, and counselors were on hand as classes resumed for the afternoon, said district spokesman Norm Uhl.

'Although the danger is over, that doesn't make it any less frightening,"

Most parents who were picking up their children after the shooting said that overall, Ross is a good school and there haven't been similar problems.

While some said it's not the fault of the school and the responsibility for what happened falls on the parents of the child who brought the gun to school, other parents said that the incident has made them think twice about safety and they wonder if additional security measures, including extra officers and even metal detectors,

"Being that this is an elementary school you would think that it would be safe, but now this makes you think nothing is safe," said Shawn Dixon, 33, whose 10-year-old daughter Tyra is third-grader at the school.

Horse + **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

"The results are going to take care of themselves."

Texas A&M won second place at the competition, and New Mexico State University won third place, he said.

The Ranch Horse Team is a part of the Texas Tech Equestrian Center and aims to increase awareness of the program and

teach students how to train and compete in stock/ranch horse events, the coach said in an email

We just go out there and ride and put things together," Wil-

The competition's purpose is to encourage and provide opportunities for competitors to enter the stock/ranch horse industry, Williamson said in an email. They also advocate for the preservation of the heritage and tradition of the

functional ranch horse.

Each competitor competes in four categories — stock horse pleasure, stock horse trail, reining and working cow horse, William-

According to the Ranch Horse Team website, the stock horse pleasure event demonstrates the comfort, pleasure and function of the horse while doing ranch work. The stock horse trail event demonstrates the horse's ease at encountering common-sense obstacles. The reining event measures the horse's willing ability at being guided while performing various handling maneuvers, and the working cow horse event measures the horse's ability to respond to a cow.

Williamson said his sister, Megan Williamson, an animal science major from Abilene, won the Novice All-Around division.

Kelsey Stokes, a junior agricultural economics and business major from Afton, said she placed first overall for the Limited Nonpro All-Around division.

"It's a pretty great feeling to know everybody worked so hard, and we all put in our best effort, and we reached our goal, and our goal was to win, and that's what we did," Stokes said.

She said the team has practiced three times a week since January.

"We owe all of our success to our coach," Stokes said. "He's been the best thing that could've ever happened to us, so we really

appreciate his dedication."

Dusty Burson, an animal science major from Silverton, said being part of the team has been a good experience for him and was a big factor when choosing a university to attend.

Burson won first place in the Non-pro All-Around division, Williamson said.

"It's kinda a good feeling to be part of a team that has never been beaten, and we've never lost a championship, so it's cool to be a part of that experience," Burson said. "I think for a majority of the people on the team, (the ranch horse program) was a big factor in choosing Tech.'

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## **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

"To know that your colleagues notice and they are with you and that they appreciate what you are doing — it's really

encouraging," she said. Orfila said it is interesting to see how her scholarship in her field of study affected others who are not specifically in the

same field. The award was a complete surprise, Orfila said, so much so she fell out of her chair when she found out.

"(The award is) great because it allows you to teach and give yourself to your students and deliver your passion to them, to learn and to experience, and new approaches to understand in life through the scholarship,"

she said. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics won the Teaching Academy Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award.

Kent Pearce, department chair, said there were specific criteria for the award, which they tried to address with things they were doing in their depart-

With the award comes a \$25,000 award for the college.

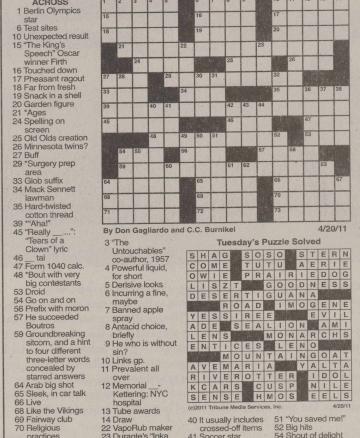
"We have some plans for the money. We want to configure one of the classrooms so we can use it for constructing video presentations or will be part of our online classes. This will be a step toward that," Pearce said.

Stephanie Eckroth, an English doctoral student from Bismark, N.D., was a Horn Professor Graduate Achievement Award recipient as well as a Bibliographical Society of Americas New Scholar Award

Both awards, she said, were for her work with 19th-century periodical reviewing and anonymity, in which she evaluated the romantic publishing market in terms of gender and anonym-

"It feels tremendous, and to be recognized by so many amazing researchers is a great honor," Eckroth said.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

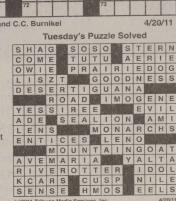
23 Durantes 1 nika Dinka \_\_\_\_"
27 Japan's highest mountain
28 Grad
30 Reine's spouse
31 FedEx rival
32 Bullring shout
36 Balance DOWN
1 Fall mo.
2 Klingon officer in the "Star Trek" franchise 37 Kids' block 38 Do some cutting

practices
71 Led Zeppelin's
"Whole \_\_ Love"
72 At sea
73 Foam opener

14 Draw 22 VapoRub maker

23 Durante's "Inka

Ombuds Office A safe place to bring concerns and find solutions.



40 lt usually includes crossed-off items 41 Soccer star 42 Thurman of "Kill

43 Used a stool
44 "\_\_ card, any
card"
49 Many a Fed.
holiday

51 "You saved me!" 52 Big hits 54 Shout of delight 55 All ears 58 Handy "Mr." 60 Swedish furniture

60 Swedish furniture chain 61 Mythical archer 62 Type type 63 River of Flanders 64 NBC hit since '75 67 Chicken general?

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011

## Artist explores mind behind art

By LAUREN FERGUSON STAFF WRITER

When performing an action, the mind constantly runs on a loop of deciding to perform the action, actually performing the action and then monitoring the action to correct for mistakes.

In his master's of fine arts exhibit "Walk," David Collins, a master's student from La Junta, Col., explores the idea of tak- observation, he's relying on a

Regardless of

whether someone

comments or not,

the whole time

he has to rely

on his mental

representation of

what he thinks he

has already drawn.

**MICHAEL SERRA** 

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

**PSYCHOLOGY** 

ing away the monitoring in his art.

The exhibit is on display in the Studio Gallery of the Texas Tech School of Art until Friday, with a closing reception that evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"I basically close my eyes, I get a set of pencils some that are sharp and some that aren't,

I know which are which — and I draw until the pencil is dull," he said. "People tell me over my shoulder what's good or wrong with it or what they don't like. I edit it based on what they say (while) never looking.'

Collins got the inspiration for "Blind Drawing 1" and "Blind Drawing 2" from reading he does outside of art topics, such as

Collins set up a studio-like environment in the exhibit where he plans to demonstrate the creation of blind drawings throughout the week.

Assistant professor of psychology Michael Serra explored the exhibit to view an artist's interpretation of a psychological topic.

"Instead of relying on direct

very advanced mental model of what he thinks he has created," Serra said. "Regardless of whether someone comments or not, the whole time he has to rely on his mental representation of what he thinks he has already drawn." The idea of

how the brain perceives reality is clearly shown in Collins' pieces where he depicts motion on a large scale, said Ken-

dra McCartney, a senior studio art major from Canyon.

She decided to view the exhibit after seeing Collins' piece "Route 64: NM," a painting on transparent inkjet paper that covers one wall of the Studio Gallery.

"I think this is a very intellectual way of approaching art," McCartney said.

More than a year ago, Collins



PHOTO BY BRENT SORELLE/The Daily Toreador

DAVID A. COLLINS, a MFA student in the School of Art, is showing his final project exhibition, "Walk," in the Art building through Friday.

his artwork and completely pulled out color. The exhibit features only pieces in black and white.

'When you are going to do a willful act, your brain knows before if it is unplanned," Serra said. "Assuming he is an expert artist, when you are good at something, the finite things become automatized."

Again focusing on the idea

changed the way he approaches of how the brain perceives reality, Collins created "Sound: the sound of a drawing," in the Studio Gallery, recording the sounds of creation. After finishing the piece, Collins removed it from the wall, leaving only the sound effects of the creation playing.

"I like that because I can almost see what's going on, especially as an artist," McCartney

Collins believes people

should have the opportunity to explore his work in different ways such as listening to sound, hanging the art and reading books he created for people to look at and touch.

"Books are fun; you can actually take something like this and put it in somebody's hand, so they can experience it in a different way," he said. "Why does it have to be on the wall?"

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Cycling ← CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Representing Tech at other schools throughout the season, Stewart said there was no bitterness between teams — although he admitted a club goal was to never see an Aggie on the podium.

"It's actually nice; there's a lot of camaraderie between us and the other schools," said member Chas Knight, a freshman petroleum engineering major from Austin. "You develop a strong bond because we're all going through the same suffering."

This year, the Tech club hosted the final race of the season. The championship brought in schools from as far as Arkansas and Oklahoma. High school students were also invited, which Springer said was a unique opportunity.

Collegiate cycling is divided up in categories from A to D, Stewart said, with A being the level of a professional cyclist. In this weekend's event, races included a 20- to 60-mile road race (depending on category), men's and women's "crit" or criterium, a timed lap race on a .6-mile course and a time trial.

Tech won the road race and the team time trial and placed well in the categories of crit they competed in.

Both Stewart and Knight agreed the event went great. Stewart said Springer worked hard to attract sponsors and make sure the courses were laid out and everything ran smoothly.

Knight said it was the best-run race he had been to.

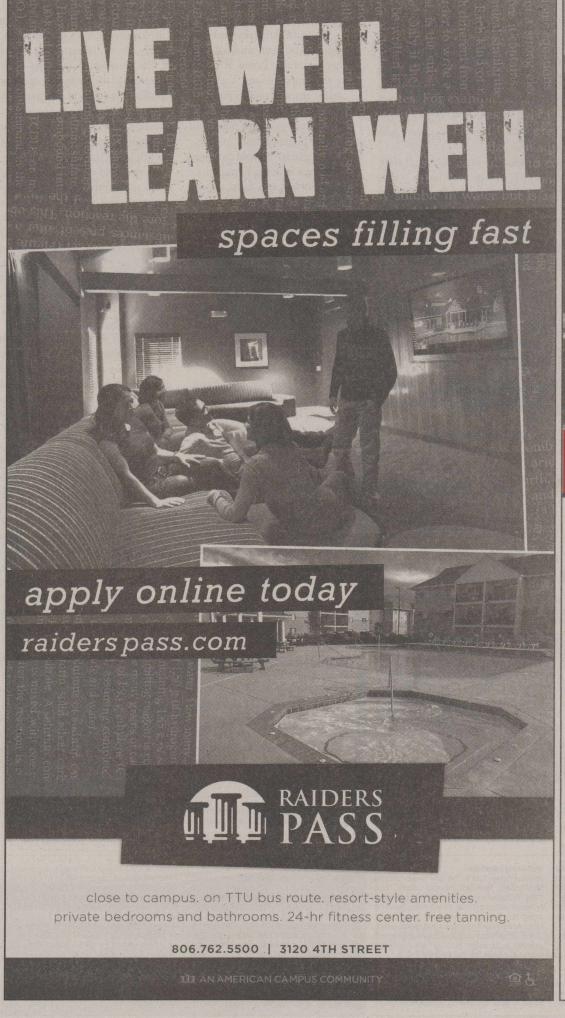
Before joining Tech Cycling, Knight was already a cyclist and a tri-athlete. He said he rides about 12 to 13 hours per week alone and three or four hours per week with the team.

"It takes a while to get up just a little, but once you do, it's a lot of fun," he said. "It just takes a while."

He said anyone who is interested can contact the club through its Tech Rec Sports website and then go on rides with the team.

"Cycling is a great way to get exercise," Springer said, "no matter what your ability is."

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## Gun safety around children essential issue

n Tuesday, three elementary school students in Houston were injured when a gun was accidentally discharged during lunch. A 6-year-old boy had the gun in his pocket.

This goes way beyond any typical debate about guns on college campuses, obviously (unless you want to argue for concealed carry for kindergarteners, in which case you're an idiot). In fact, me trying to either defend or condemn something like concealed carry would be pointless here, as it's not really relevant to this issue.

But what is relevant is gun safety and education.

I'm not going to talk about whether or not common citizens should be allowed to own guns.



That's not an argument I care enough about to get into. But if you as an adult decide to own a firearm, you have to make sure safety precautions are taken, especially if you have children in your household.

As of press time, investigators do not know exactly how the young boy got a hold of the weapon he brought to school, so this is pure speculation on my part, but I consider it pretty likely he got it from home. That is unless there's a shady illegal firearm market entrenched I personally have played video in the dark hallways between the math and social studies classrooms.

Children these days can be malicious, but I doubt the boy who was among those injured when the gun went off

brought the gun with the intention

of going on a rampage. Maybe he brought it to intimidate a bully he had issues with, not intending to use it. Maybe he brought it to bully other kids

Or maybe he brought it just to

You can say what you want about today's media and violence.

games (violent and not) since I was young, yet still cringe at taking the life of a mere spider, so I personally don't put much stock into the idea

> makes children violent (the scientific jury also is still out, at best). However, it does seem to make firearms "cool" to

> > some ex-

that media always

tent. To some children, boys in particular, the mere thought of owning something like a BB gun or paintball gun can be enticing. I was more of a bowand-arrow kid myself, but that's

just because I'm a giant nerd.

Some children, especially those who are very young, may only see the "cool" but not the danger. They may not have any malice in their hearts at all, no intention of ever hurting another human, but they may not understand the high stakes of potential accidents.

I had some limited experience with guns as a child. I quickly saw the appeal of skeet shooting at a young age but was still taught to be afraid of the power a gun can have. The knowledge that one little accident could hurt or kill my parents or younger sister was terrifying.

I would talk more about keeping guns locked away where children can't get them, but most gun owners in America probably don't just leave their guns sitting out on the kitchen table, otherwise we'd hear more stories like this one. At least, I hope most gun owners are more responsible than that.

But for those who are less than careful, we at least need to do a better job of training the children in our community on how to use guns properly — which for a child should mean, "Don't use this at

Take a child to play laser tag, encourage them to look into paintball or train them for future Humans vs. Zombies domination, but keep them away from the real weapons.

■ Peele is The DT's opinions

» opinions@dailytoreador.com

## For Olive Garden, it's business as usual

his week, Time Magazine called out Olive Garden on its "Culinary Institute of Tuscany," and my reaction is "big whoop."

Really, what's the big surprise? Did someone actually believe they have a culinary institute in Tuscany? All they really do is send their chefs over there for a few days to get an authentic feel and taste for Italian food — not change recipes.

Olive Garden, like Cheddars, Red Lobster, Chili's and Applebee's, is a chain restaurant. The food comes packaged beforehand and is cooked to serve, just like it is at McDonald's. Hard to believe, but even the salad dressing comes off the truck as powder and

Colleen

Sure, the food there is Italianinspired, but so is any other plate of pasta, whether it is from Sam's Place or made with a mix of Italian spices you can buy at United. Furthermore, to say Olive Garden serves authentic Italian food is like saying Taco Cabana serves authentic Mexican food. Despite the nice presentation, it's just not going to fly with me.

It's almost shocking how chain restaurants get away with what they do. They use a brand for their

Cafe, if you've ever had it in Houston or Dallas. That tomato soup you ordered? Yeah, it tastes just like Campbell's because it is Campbell's. Yet people like you or me get

hungry and lazy. Ultimately, when going out to a chain restaurant, we are paying to not cook, not paying for a meal we couldn't cook for

So don't expect the chef at your local Olive Garden went to Italy and knows the "secret formula" because, really, you aren't there to talk Italian food with the chef. You are there to eat, and the cycle

■ Gartner is a senior accounting major from The Woodlands. » colleen.gartner@ttu.edu

## Army's hesitation to grant emergency leave unjustified

By JASON STRACHMAN MILLER

KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

(KANSAS STATE U.)

As you read this column, U.S. Army Spec. Nick Owen should have arrived at his Garden City home to be with his fiancee and bury her 1-year-old son. This was not the case 48 hours earlier when

this was originally penned. Tuesday night, while working in the Collegian newsroom, I took a phone call that seemed too sad to be true. Nidia Ortega-Herrera, K-State student and friend of the affected family, called to inform us of a situation in which Owen was refused emergency leave from Kuwait to bury his fiancee's 1-yearold son, Kaylien Gonzales.

While the Army reversed their original decision and allowed Owen to come home, it did so for the wrong reasons. The Army clearly reacted to the publicity this story received by the media and was not guided or influenced by basic human morals.

Ortega-Herrera told me Owen had been a father to Kaylien since the day of his birth. In fact, Owen joined the military to financially support his fiancee, Megan Gonzales and their young son. In a cruel irony, the same place he turned to help him take care of his budding family attempted to keep them apart in a time when they need each other most. In a profession driven on respect, there is no reason in this case the military cannot allow this soldier time home to pay

his respects to Kaylien. As a veteran, this disgusts me. Let's get something clear. Owen is currently serving in Kuwait. While he's receiving a small amount of combat pay and enjoys the benefits of tax-free pay because he's in a "war zone," he is far from danger. Owen is not disarming roadside bombs in the mountains of Afghanistan; he's sitting in a friendly country with, most likely, access to more food eateries and recreational activities than some bases in America have.

I don't mean to suggest Owen isn't performing his duties admirably. I respect and appreciate the sacrifices of all my brothers and sisters in arms. But to glorify the peaceful missions of soldiers in wartime allows military units to argue why soldiers in these types of situations shouldn't return stateside. It is not unpatriotic to acknowledge our military has flaws; however, it is dishonorable to withhold basic human decency under false pretense.

In Army Regulation 600-8-10, Leaves and Passes, the military states it will grant emergency

leave for the death of an immediate family member including stepsiblings and stepchildren. Like all military doctrine, they attached a coverall-extenuating-circumstances with the "case by case basis" clause. The military states mission at hand is the most important factor in granting the emergency requests.

As someone who was stationed at a forward operating base in Iraq, I have a hard time seeing how the military can justify the mission in a friendly territory is too essential for this soldier to come home to be with his family and bury his son.

Had Owen married his fiancee and adopted Kaylien prior to leaving this would not have been an issue. The culture in the military drives young soldiers to rush into marriage and I applaud Owen for not letting a deployment influence his decision.

The most disheartening aspect of this situation is that the commanders had the ability to waive the bloodline requirement and grant this soldier leave from the beginning. As a young soldier, I was granted such an exception to get emergency leave for a death in my family.

If this soldier's chain of command was worth a damn, the noncommissioned officers would know this young specialist well enough to know he has been in this boy's life since day one and to recognize the role he played in his life. As a former staff sergeant, it was not just my duty to accomplish the mission, but to take care of the welfare of my soldiers.

While at war, a soldier's welfare hinges on the belief that his family is taken care of. Owen was robbed of that welfare and his leaders failed him. If his NCOs do not know him well enough to go up the chain of command and speak on his behalf, they have brought shame upon our core. NCOs are known as the backbone of the military for a reason.

If Americans love their soldiers, they should be uniting around a soldier like this who is willing to risk punishment by taking to the media in support of his cause.

When I was in Iraq, our commanders preached about winning the hearts and minds of the locals to win the war. Why can't we apply those practices to our own and put families first whenever possible? Despite finally being able to go home, Owen was handed a more traumatic experience through this ordeal than what he will see serving in Kuwait.

If the Army hopes to recruit and retrain good soldiers, the leaders need to change ignorant practices like these. Families support these soldiers everyday and they deserve

Thank you for your service Spec. Owen. I am glad you were finally granted the leave you deserved.

#### is mixed later. Why would Olive own benefit and pass off food as Garden ever want to change its that brand when the food is not recipes when what it offers sells on quite up to par. a massive scale? It's like La Madeleine's French

## Taxes, though painful, are necessary evil

n Monday, one of the two things that cannot be avoided came to

We all have a certain distaste for filing income taxes: the tedium of filling out the useless forms, the paranoia that either we did our math wrong or our accountants did and, the most painful part, writing the damn check addressed to Uncle Sam himself.

This has been the norm for our country since the passage of the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, but was originally put into place during the Civil War, with the massive middle class (those who made between \$600 and \$10,000) paying a hefty 3 percent to the Union.

This taxation was short-lived, however, and was eliminated in 1872. In 1894 and 1895, the fed tried to bring the income tax back. but they were ruled unconstitutional in Pollock v. Farmers' Loan is 35 percent for individuals mak-& Trust Co. in 1895.



In 1913, however, the 16th Amendment exempted the income tax, and we've been writing checks down to one thing: a necessary evil

to the government ever since. While the tax rates have varied significantly over the years, ranging

from a maximum of 25 percent in 1930 to more than 90

Today, the maximum tax rate

on government programs doesn't seem finite, but it is.

The money spent

percent in the late 1940s, they dropped down to 70 percent in

ing upwards of \$375,000 per year.

There was around \$1.1 trillion year's budget don't seem real now, about a third of the fed's revenue.

The top 1 percent of taxpayers actually paid about 38 percent of the revenue, whereas the bottom 50 percent only paid about 3 percent.

That's a lot of data boiling that has played a

huge part in today's economy. Several

prognosticators have suggested a serious change needs to be made to the tax system, but to me it seems an

overhaul like that would have the potential to render a serious blow to our already gimpish economy.

The money spent on government programs doesn't seem finite, but it is. The recent cuts to next

in revenue from income taxes in but when college students have to 2009, according to usgovernment- pay more out of pocket to comrevenue.com, which accounted for pensate for their lack of Pell Grant funding, when student athletes in high school have to start paying out of pocket to help fund trips, equipment and the like, the pinch will be felt.

> Thank goodness for philanthropy, though. Optimism would suggest that in response to tighter budget constraints, the upper 1 percent could respond by funding more scholarships and donating to booster clubs.

> I know that only happens among the exception instead of the rule of apathetic corporate purses now, but look at it this way: The dispersion of wealth to help the less fortunate has the upside of being tax deductible.

**■ Danley is a freshman athletic** training major from Alamogordo,

>>> lyle.danley@ttu.edu

## Texas oil tycoon Pickens discusses alternative fuel sources

By LAUREN GIUDICE DAILY TEXAN (U. TEXAS)

Although Texas billionaire T. Boone Pickens made his fortune in the oil industry, he pushed for the an on-campus lecture Monday at the University of Texas.

More than 1,000 students and community members attended the semester's final event of the McCombs VIP Distinguished Speakers Series.

The oil tycoon started Mesa Petroleum in 1956, which eventually grew into one of the largest independent production companies in the world. He currently works in the investment sector and founded BP Capital, an energy investment corporation.

Pickens has a net worth of \$1.4 billion, and Forbes ranked him as the

880th richest person in world. He has been a major contributor to Texas politics by donating more than \$5 million to political campaigns, most of which went to special interest groups.

McComb's Dean Thomas Gilligan use of alternative energy sources at interviewed Pickens, who answered questions ranging from his childhood to the importance of domestic energy

During the discussion, he revealed the best advice he ever received, courtesy of his grandmother.

"She once said 'Sonny, someday everybody has to sit on their own bottom," Pickens said. "At first, I didn't know what this meant. But this has come back very clearly for me. It means that nobody can do things for you, you have to do things for yourself."

When asked what caused him to

stand out among his peers, Pickens said his work ethic was vital in his success. His first job was a paper route, earning a cent for every paper he sold. 'Work ethic is number one,"

Pickens said. "My work ethic, which came from my mother's side, made the difference in my career."

Pickens said he is passionate about improving the United State's usage of energy resources and utilizing oil alternatives. He released 'The Pickens Plan" in 2008, a proposal to update U.S. energy resource usage. The proposal encourages the U.S. to ween itself off its dependence on foreign oil. The U.S. imports 13 million barrels of oil every day, Pickens said.

'We have to use our own resources, that's what I want to change," he said.

Business freshman Ricky Quach was inspired by Pickens' values and strength of character.

"I really enjoyed how he spoke about the importance of the values he learned when he was younger," Quach said. "It's amazing that what he learned from his parents and grandmother still affects him today."

Michael Walsh, vice president of marketing and social media at AtticDr.com, an energy efficiency upgrade company located in Austin, was not as impressed by Pickens'

"I think his talk was kind of folksy," Walsh said. "I was expecting a lot more substance, maybe charts and graphs. I was hoping for more specific information about renewable initiatives and energy efficiency as part of the equation.'

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## SPORTS

PAGE 5 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011

## Lady Raiders hope to make history

STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech women's tennis has never won a Big 12 Conference title, and the closest the Lady Raiders have ever come to being in contention was in 2006 — a fourth-place finish.

But this season Tech has become a force to be reckoned with, thanks to the addition of a group of dynamic freshmen and the maturing of the other players.

Tech coach Todd Petty points to a special quality his young team possesses: unselfishness, which has led to a potentially historic season.

"I've only been here three years," he said. "I'd like to say it's been a long time, but I know Texas Tech as a whole has been waiting for a women's tennis program really to rally behind. I think this is a good group of girls that really play for each other more than anything else.

"They play for Texas Tech and play for each other, and that's what the recipe is right there."

The Lady Raiders are 17-5 overall and 7-2 in conference play, which ties a school record for most conference wins in a season. Tech finished 7-4 in Big 12 play in 2006, which with that veteran know-how,

gave it sole possession of fourth place Tech's highest finish in Big 12 his-

tory. This season's success has not come with a veteran lineup like some coaches have the luxury of putting on the court week in and week out.

Tech has only one se-

nior, Kelsy Garland, and the rest and sophomores.

Despite being a young team, the Lady Raiders have knocked down some squads this season

FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S CAROLINE Starck returns the ball during a match with Iowa State earlier this season at the Don and Ethel McLeod Tennis Center. The Lady Raiders best Big 12 Conference finish was fourth in 2006, but the team is on pace to meet or exceed that finish this season. With one more win conference win the team will set a team record for conference wins in a season.

lineups, like No. 25 Texas.

The majority of the Long-

Texas lost to Tech for the first time in program histhis season, 4-3.

- Even with the youthful lineup, freshman Haley Fournier said they keep improving, and the chemistry on the team is another reason behind their

"I just think every match we of the squad consists of freshmen keep getting better and better, stronger mentally, and we're a really close team, too," she said. "So it's just a good bond that we

that have more experienced win because everyone's always several close losses that could cheering for one another."

With two matches remainhorns' lineup is made up of ing in the season before the juniors and seniors, and even Lady Raiders head to the Big 12 championships, Tech could have a historic finish.

> The Lady Raiders are fourth in the conference entering the final week of play, a prime pository earlier tion to make run at the regular-

a little help from other teams, said. "Last year, I think that we it could win a share of the Big 12 title — a big step for a program that finished sixth just a

Last season, Tech suffered » jkoch@dailytoreador.com

NEED RENT

MONEY?

have gone the other way, but sophomore Caroline Starck said the team has a weapon they did not have last year — a winning

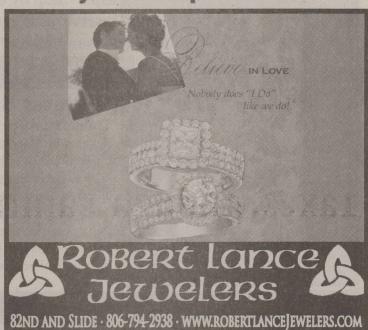
"I think the big difference this year is overall, as a team, I think we all really have bought into this program. We honestly believe that we can do it together, we can beat anyone, I think If Tech wins out, and it gets anything is possible," Starck were positive, and we believed that we could win.

"But this is something dif-

ferent."

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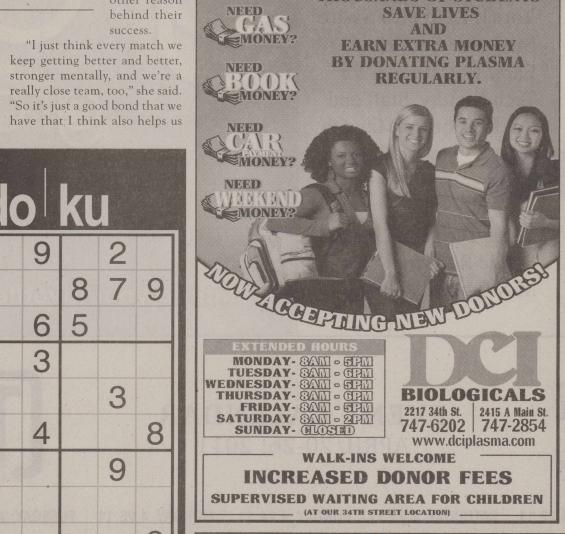
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Climbing Wall: 3:00pm - 7:00pm Family Hours: Noon - 3:30pm OPC: 11:00am - 7:00pm Fit/Well: Closed Saturday, April 23 SRC: 8:00am - 8:00pm Leisure Pool: Noon - 6:30pm Fit/Well: Closed OPC: Closed Climbing Wall: Closed

Sunday, April 24 All Facilities Closed Monday. April 25 SRC: 6:00am - 12:00am Leisure Pool: Noon - 6:30pm

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#### Heartbeats A quick pulse around the Rec Sports World...

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**EVENT CALENDAR** APRIL 20-26, 2011



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## Tech pitching hits stride against UT, embraces road trip

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ SPORTS EDITOR

Losing two out of three games against No. 4 Texas comes with its share of disappointment for the Red Raiders, but may also have sparked a renewed confidence in Texas Tech's starting pitching.

Besides, limiting the Longhorns to eight runs in three games during Big 12 Conference play doesn't happen every day.

Texas hadn't been held to that low of an offensive output in a conference series since 2000.

"We've kind of made a commitment," Tech coach Dan Spencer said. "We're going to make a renewed commitment to pitching our hottest guys, as often as they're ready to go ... just try to ride the hot hands and find more and adjust on the fly."

The "hottest guys" against Texas were freshmen David Paiz and Trey Masek, along with reliever-turned starting pitcher Brennan Stewart.

Stewart replaced Robbie Kilcrease in the No. 3 slot, a week after Kilcrease suffered the worst outing of his career in a 14-8 loss to

Kilcrease, a redshirt junior and the most experienced of Tech's starting pitchers, lasted just 1 1/3 innings after giving up six runs on nine hits in that game.

Stewart's performance as the Sunday starter against a top-10 team turned out much differently than Kilcrease's stint against the Aggies.

Stewart lasted seven and onethirds innings in a 3-1 loss at UFCU Disch-Falk Field on Sunday, allowing just one run and four hits, while striking out four batters.

Stewart's 7 1/3 innings pitched is the most by a Red Raider in a Big 12 starting debut since Miles Morgan in 2006.

However, the biggest concern on the team may still be associated with pitching, even if it's not the starting rotation.

"You feel good about the three starts we had last weekend," Spencer said. "I'm a little concerned about what it does about the bullpen, but we've also had guys emerge in there. Aaron Corwin has emerged as another guy in the pen to maybe to fill some of the void that (Stewart)

No. 9 Texas A&M at Dan Law Field. created when he leaves, goes to the

Corwin's emergence was on display against Texas State on Monday, an 8-5 comeback victory for the Red Raiders. Corwin did so by pitching 1 1/3 innings against the Bobcats en route to his first career win.

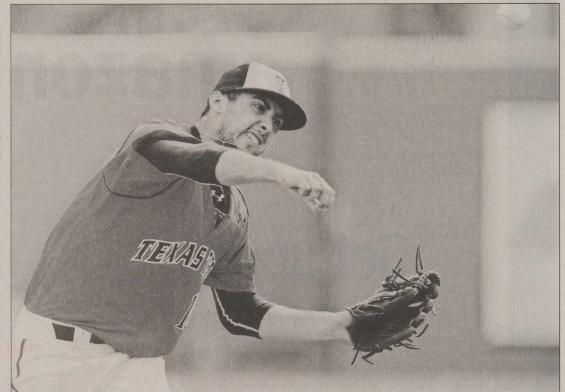
The win in San Marcos now is followed by a three-game set in Manhattan, Kan., as the Red Raiders take on Kansas State beginning Thursday.

By the end of the Kansas State series, Tech will have played nine road games in 11 days.

But Stewart said being on the road is something the team feeds off of.

"It's tough — road games, I think we strive, though, a little bit," Stewart said, "because you get the feel of you're there for baseball, whereas here, you go to school and you got to do that school thing and then you got baseball, whereas on the road you're just there for baseball."

Masek, Friday's scheduled starting pitcher against the Wildcats, said the biggest key to handling such a trip is concentration.



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

DAVID PAIZ THROWS a pitch during an 8-1 loss to TCU at Dan Law Field on March 6.

"It's not fun, but you got to do ing to stay focused and take it one out with some wins."

it," Masek said. "So we're just try- game at a time and just try to come >>> jrodriguez@dailytoreador.com

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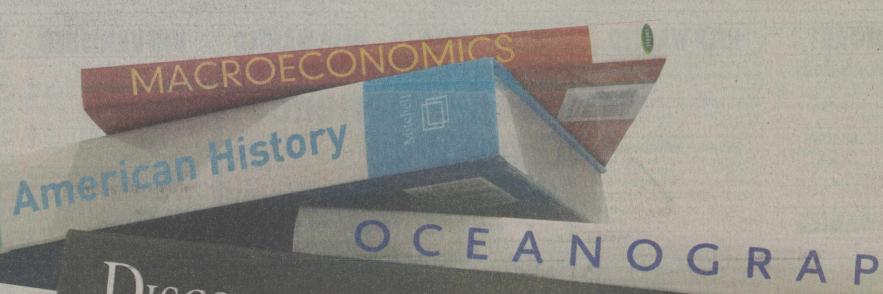
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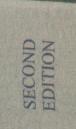
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