

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011
VOLUME 85 ■ ISSUE 142

THE DAILY TOREADOR

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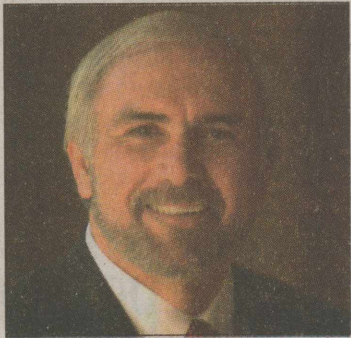
Administration prepares for new legislative budget

By **CAITLAN OSBORN**
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Rick Perry called the Texas legislature into special session Tuesday after the school finance bill, SB 1811, failed to pass.

The approval of the school finance bill would determine possible budget cuts for public schools — including Texas Tech.

According to the Associated Press, "The school finance bill would change distribution formulas to public schools so the state could legally give schools less money under the new budget. It would spread the \$4 billion shortfall over the two years of the budget period — 6 percent across-the-board cuts in 2012 and \$2 billion in targeted funding levels in 2013."



BAILEY

Chris Cook, managing director of communications and marketing, said until the results are known, the administration is unsure of the impact the new bill will have at Tech.

"Until that is done, we don't really have a firm idea until those numbers are finished," he said. "We're not sure of the job loss right now, but we'll know more as

we implement the new budget."

Cook said the university lost \$16 million during the last fiscal year, 7.5 percent less from the prior year's \$660 million budget.

The administration will not know the full effects of the new state budget, Cook said, until the special session ends. Cook said they expect to know the results by mid-summer.

The Texas state budgets are done by biennium, or every two years. Cook said the new budget will go into effect when the fiscal year begins on Sept. 1 of 2012.

"Beginning Sept. 1 we've got a whole new budget," he said, "and that budget may be cut significantly."

President Guy Bailey said the university has already made reductions from cuts from the

last fiscal year and is prepared to make more reductions if the school finance bill passes.

"If nothing happens in this session that would affect that, then we've already done the worst of our cutting," he said. "If it does pass then we would have to re-evaluate."

Some of the reductions during the last year, Bailey said, included outsourcing the university's printing services and eliminating three administrative positions.

Bailey also said they have removed 105 full-time positions, mostly through the Critical Needs Hiring Committee, which evaluates vacant positions and determines if it is necessary to fill them at the time.

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Tech researchers play crucial role in storm research

By **KASSIDY KETRON**
STAFF WRITER

Larry Tanner said Texas Tech became more involved in researching storm's winds and damages after Lubbock's 1970 tornado.

A research associate in civil engineering, Tanner is an expert in the areas of civil engineering, Federal Emergency Management Agency, tornadoes, hurricanes and Texas Tech's wind cannon.

Tanner said Tech's wind cannon is a muzzle loaded cannon, which pressurizes then releases a sample projectile, a 15-pound two-by-four at 100 mph, which relates to the same projectile being propelled by a 250 mph storm.

Tanner said flying debris can break windows, garage doors and doors, allowing wind to get inside the home and weaken the roof and walls.

"The debris itself can also (be damaging) and quite frequently is lethal — a number of people in Joplin were killed by flying debris."

Through this research, Tanner said, has come the above ground-sheltering concept, which has been adopted by FEMA.

On the website, wind.ttu.edu, Tanner said there is a list of shelters and shelter products that have been tested by Tech and passed the tests of the National Storm Shelter Association, which was created at Tech.

Ernst Kiesling, a professor of civil engineering and the executive director for NSSA, said the purpose of the association is to promote quality.

"We write standards and we have a membership with a program so that people who build safe rooms to the standard can put an NSSA seal on the shelter to separate it from those that have not been verified to be in compliance," Kiesling said.

Kiesling said it does not mat-

ter whether the shelter is above or below ground, as long as it is built according to the NSSA standards it will provide its occupants protection.

Depending on the size and finish, Kiesling said shelters can cost anywhere from \$3,000-\$10,000.

Kiesling said basements with a concrete roof over them can serve as a shelter, but they still have to worry about debris flying through the door and into the basement.

"When weather watches or warnings occur, or when the sirens go off, people are, needless to say, unnerved or just uneasy and particularly if they have no place to go. If you have a safe room then you can maintain pretty normal living patterns knowing that there's a safe place available and reach it readily if a storm occurs."

Kiesling said he had spent the last week in Alabama doing workshops for architects, engineers, builders and the general public trying to answer questions that have advanced.

Tech, Kiesling said has a worldwide reputation for mitigation from natural disasters and has made "significant" contributions to mitigating the effect of disasters.

"The above ground storm shelter was developed here at Texas Tech over 40 years ago, and now we see an idea that's come to reality and we see national programs to promote the concept and to foster quality in the industry, and so it's very gratifying to see all that. It's kind of like a career effort coming to fruition," Kiesling said.

Darryl James, a professor in the department of mechanical engineering and a wind engineering and science associate, has spent more than a year building a tornado simulator at the Reese Center.

VorTECH, James said is a tornado simulator that simulates the velocity distribution and pressure distribution similar to what they collect from storm chasing data.

He said their hopes are to better understand the kind of effects tornadic winds have on structures.

STORMS continued on Page 2 ➤

Commuter Commotion



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

Images of dead children lead Syria's protests as government seeks answers

BEIRUT (AP) — The images grow no less shocking with time — a gaping wound on a tiny skull, the hair matted with blood; a gunshot that pierced the skin of a small torso and went straight toward the kidney; and finally, the broken neck and severed penis of a 13-year-old boy, his mangled body contorted on a plastic sheet.

The images of children activists

were killed in a government crackdown on protests are circulating widely among Syrians on YouTube and Al-Jazeera, Facebook and opposition websites. And they are stoking even more fury against a regime the opposition says has lost all legitimacy.

Syria's government tried to blunt the anger with promises Wednesday to investigate the killing of 13-year-

old Hamza al-Khatib, whose tortured and mutilated body turned him into a symbol of the Syrian uprising. But protesters deride that and other government concessions, including an amnesty that freed political prisoners on Wednesday and a committee to prepare for national dialogue, as nothing more than a ploy to buy time for President Bashar Assad. They say

at least 25 children are among more than 1,000 dead, with government crackdowns that increase the toll almost daily.

The deaths of two girls — a 12-year-old killed Saturday when her school bus came under fire, and an 11-year-old shot to death Tuesday while her town was being shelled — appeared certain to inflame tensions. Already, a Syrian opposition page refers to the older girl, Hajar Tayseer al-Khatib, as "the flower of Syria's martyrs."

Military operations in southern and central Syria killed at least 33 people Tuesday and Wednesday, even

as the government released hundreds of political prisoners. The government claims the revolt is the work of Islamic extremists and armed gangs.

Rami Abdul-Rahman, director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, told The Associated Press that more than 500 prisoners were freed, including some who took part in the latest demonstrations marking the most serious challenge to the Assad family's 40-year rule. Activists say 10,000 have been rounded up since the protests began mid-March.

Syrian state television on Tuesday said the amnesty covered "all members of political movements," including the

outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, which led an armed uprising against Assad's father in 1982. Membership in the party is punishable by death.

Both the U.S. and France said the amnesty would not be enough.

"We need to see all political prisoners released, and we need to see an end to the violence that Syrian forces have been continually carrying out against civilian populations," State Department spokesman Mark Toner said in Washington. "The gesture of releasing a hundred or so political prisoners doesn't go far enough, and I think that the Syrian people would feel that way."

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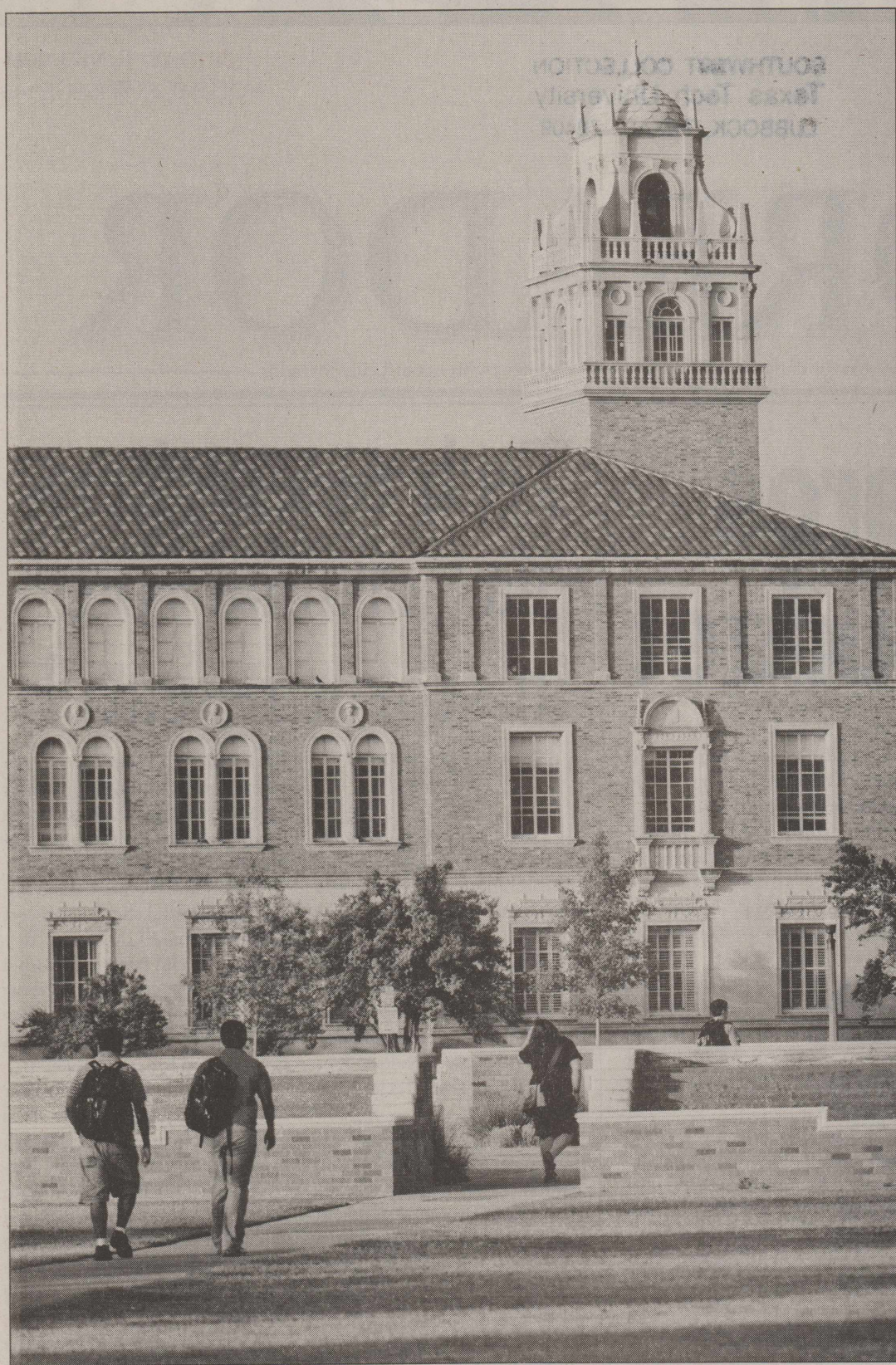


PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

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Budget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This is a committee that just reviews every request to fill a position," Bailey said. "They try to determine if we can get by for a while without that position and if we can get by — at least for the time being — without that position, then we don't fill it. If it is something that is absolutely critical and we can't get by another day without it, then we fill

the position."

What the university is trying to do is keep from eliminating more jobs than it has to, Bailey said.

"We would really like to handle all of this as much as possible by simply by not filling jobs," he said. "Most of the layoffs that we've done we have already done. But we're hopeful we won't have to do anymore."

But still, Bailey said, even having positions unfilled makes everyone else's jobs harder.

Assuming the budget stays the same, he said, the university has done the worst of its cutting.

"Unless something really turns out bad, we've done a lot of the heavy lifting already," Bailey said. "We're hopeful things will turn out okay and we won't have much more to do. I wouldn't be overly optimistic, but at the same time, I think there should be no panic about jobs right now."

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Storms

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

James said in their preliminary research with VorTECH they have found when a tornado passes through, a structure undergoes compression and tension, which when coupled with debris can cause significant damage.

"We're really just trying to understand how the tornadic winds damage and destroy buildings and from just the wind standpoint initially," James said. "Then when you try and couple in the debris field with the wind, which ultimately is what happens in these terrible events like what happened in Joplin."

Daan Liang, an associate professor in construction and engineering, said Tech's Wind Science and Engineering Center has made contributions to storm research by developing the Enhanced Fujita Scale, which was adopted by the National Weather Service.

Then Enhanced Fujita Scale, Liang said, is a scale from one to five from lowest wind speed and damage to the highest wind speed and damage, providing guidance for rating a tornadic event.

In terms of damage, Liang said there are 28 damage indicators, including residences and trees, which each have different levels of damage ranging

from minimal damage to total destruction.

Liang said of right now they are not able to directly measure the wind speed during a tornado, so they have to rely on the expertise of engineers and scientists to provide their best estimation on what type of wind speed would cause the damage seen.

"I think we have made tremendous progress," Liang said. "One example is the Enhanced Fujita Scale, you know, it's been developed here, but it's been adopted by the National Weather Service. It's really had a huge impact on how we investigate tornadoes."

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Cellphones serve as 'possible' carcinogen

LONDON (AP) — A respected international panel of scientists says cellphones are possible cancer-causing agents, putting them in the same category as the pesticide DDT, gasoline engine exhaust and coffee.

The classification was issued Tuesday in Lyon, France, by the International Agency for Research on Cancer after a review of dozens of published studies. The agency is an arm of the World Health Organization and its assessment now goes to WHO and national health agencies for possible guidance on cellphone use.

Classifying agents as "possibly carcinogenic" doesn't mean they automati-

cally cause cancer and some experts said the ruling shouldn't change people's cellphone habits.

"Anything is a possible carcinogen," said Donald Berry, a professor of biostatistics at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas. He was not involved in the WHO cancer group's assessment. "This is not something I worry about and it will not in any way change how I use my cellphone," he said — speaking from his cellphone.

The same cancer research agency lists alcoholic drinks as a known carcinogen and night shift work as a probable carcinogen. Anyone's risk for cancer depends on many factors, from genetic makeup to the amount and length of time of an exposure.

After a weeklong meeting on the type of electromagnetic radiation found in cellphones, microwaves and radar, the expert panel said there was limited evidence cellphone use was linked to two types of brain tumors and inadequate evidence to draw conclusions for other cancers.

"We found some threads of evidence telling us how cancers might occur, but there were acknowledged gaps and uncertainties," said Jonathan Samet of the University of Southern California, the panel's chairman.

"The WHO's verdict means there

is some evidence linking mobile phones to cancer but it is too weak to draw strong conclusions from," said Ed Yong, head of health information at Cancer Research U.K. "If such a link exists, it is unlikely to be a large one."

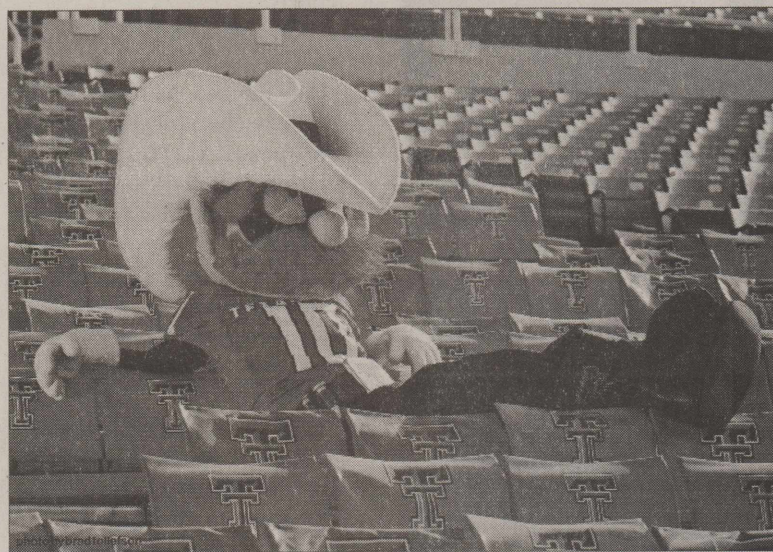
Last year, results of a large study found no clear link between cellphones and cancer. But some advocacy groups contend the study raised serious concerns because it showed a hint of a possible connection between very heavy phone use and glioma, a rare but often deadly form of brain tumor. However, the numbers in that subgroup weren't sufficient to make the case.

The study was controversial because it began with people who already had cancer and asked them to recall how often they used their cellphones more than a decade ago.

In about 30 other studies done in Europe, New Zealand and the U.S., patients with brain tumors have not reported using their cellphones more often than unaffected people.

Because cellphones are so popular, it may be impossible for experts to compare cellphone users who develop brain tumors with people who don't use the devices. According to a survey last year, the number of cellphone subscribers worldwide has hit 5 billion, or nearly three-quarters of the global population.

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OPINIONS

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Today's sudoku

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

Ombuds Office

A safe place to bring concerns and find solutions.

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Advantages of a long-distance relationship

With summer here, many couples have had to part ways and decide whether to endure the difficulties of a long-distance relationship, or to just let distance win and say goodbye for the summer, or sometimes worse, forever. Whether we like to admit it or not, many of us don't get too involved with another person when we know, in the back of our minds, that we'll be separated by distance one day. To a certain degree, we pick our boyfriend or girlfriend based off of where they'll be living in the summer and how that concerns us.

When the phrase "long-distance relationship" comes up,

people automatically relate it with negative thoughts. Cheating, miscommunication and lonely nights all start to creep into a dater's mind.

However, there are plenty of advantages of a long-distance relationship. The act of "going LD" is easily achieved if looked at positively.

With your significant other in another city, state or even country, your relationship looks completely different than it would if they were right next to you. Instead of sitting on the couch watching a rerun of "Jer-

Paige
Skinner



sey Shore", you and your significant other are spending time texting, Skyping or chatting on the phone. Pure communication becomes the only option

and truly tests whether you and your boyfriend/girlfriend really care for each other, or if the stresses of being physically apart begin to take a toll on the romance, ultimately ending it.

When ever couples get together it seems as though they are literally one person. They finish each other's sentences; they laugh at each other's dumb jokes; and they even sit on the same side of the booth at a restaurant. However, being in a long-distance relationship, your individuality is kept intact. Girls and guys alike are able to hang with their own gender and explore their personal interests. Girls, with their boyfriend not by their side, aren't forced to sit with him and his "bros" through a championship game in which they know nothing about. Instead, they gladly go to dinner with the girls and gab about last

night's "Bachelorette" episode, something that only causes a boyfriend to cynically roll his eyes. Fighting over the remote and not spending enough time with your best friends are not an issue in a long-distance relationship.

Let's face it; long-distance relationships cannot be near as hard as they were back in our parents' age. There are 10 times more ways to stay connected to someone in a different time zone. Throughout the day you can text, email, Hey Tell, Facebook, tweet and then when you get home from work or school you can talk on the phone or Skype. Keeping in touch with each other could not be more convenient this day and age.

Long-distance relationships are never going to be easy or ideal. You always want your other half around. Girls want their boyfriends around mainly when they have car trouble or they're unloading their groceries, and guys want their girlfriends in town when they have dirty laundry or an empty stomach.

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Publishing Information
Periodical Postage paid by The Daily Toreador, Student Media building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409. Publication number: 766480. The DT is a student newspaper published Monday through Friday, September through May, Tuesdays and Fridays June through August, except during university examination and vacation periods. The DT is funded primarily through advertising revenues generated by the student sales staff with free campus distribution resulting from student service fees.

Subscriptions
Call: (806) 742-3388
Subscription Rates: \$120 annually; single issues: 25 cents.
Postmaster: send address changes to The Daily

Toreador, Box 43081 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

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