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Officials say budget cuts will not affect university quality

By CAITLAN OSBORN
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech's Board of Regents approved a 5.9 percent increase in tuition and fees Thursday at a Dallas meeting. This came in the wake of the university's budget being cut \$29.1 million by the state legislature earlier this month.

President Guy Bailey said the loss amounts to roughly a \$14.5 million loss per year over the next biennium. The cut reflects a 7.7 percent decrease in state funds for the fiscal years 2012 and 2013, which begins Sept. 1.

The tuition increase will make up for about 60 percent of the loss, Bailey said, and the university will make up for the other 40 percent with efficiencies and increased productivity.

"We've done some administrative streamlining and cut a fair number of costs there," he said. "We've eliminated or consolidated some low producing degree programs. I think there are as many as 75-degree programs we've consolidated. We also have a Critical Needs Hiring Committee, and we've reviewed every position and delayed some hiring. That's basically how we made up the rest."

Bailey said the university is also working to save money by teaching classes at capacity. He said space

utilization has jumped from 75 to 92 percent and the student-to-teacher ratio increased from 19-to-1 to 23-to-1.

Tech is working to keep the number of students per teacher steady over the next two years, Bailey said.

The Critical Needs Hiring Committee has been working to keep the university from filling any unnecessary positions, Bailey said. However, the administration actually plans to increase the number of faculty over the next two years.

"We actually don't have less faculty members," he said. "Most of the positions that we're down in are almost all staff. We're not planning to reduce faculty at all. We'll look at which colleges had the biggest enrollment growth, and that will determine (the number of faculty) we need to add."

Chris Cook, managing director of communications and marketing, said there will be an estimated increase of \$252 per semester for a maximum of 15 hours, meaning the tuition will increase to \$9,065 for the academic year.



BAILEY

BUDGET continued on Page 2 >>>

BROKEN

Dan Law Field set for renovations



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY for Dan Law Field's renovations began at 10 a.m. Friday, where officials such as Texas Tech President Guy Bailey, Tech Chancellor Kent Hance and Tech head coach Dan Spencer participated and spoke to media and invited guests.

By BRETT WINEGARNER
MANAGING EDITOR

Two hundred and sixteen days from now, Texas Tech's Dan Law Field is going to have a brand new look.

A groundbreaking ceremony took place at the stadium Friday to officially mark the beginning of the construction to update some of the facilities in the stadium.

Tech chancellor Kent Hance said these improvements will help Tech have one of the best venues in college baseball.

"This is a great day for us," Hance said. "Our field, our dressing rooms, everything is in great shape, but this allows us to have the best facilities of anywhere around."

One of the most noticeable upgrades will be the removal of the current luxury suites and press box.

The current suites will be replaced with 10 brand new luxury suites, which will seat 12 people per suite, and a new press box with radio and television broadcast areas.

The area will boast a new club level with outdoor seating for 75 people. A new elevator for club, suite and press boxes access also will be added.

The renovations also will bring the fans to field level, as the current seven-foot wall behind home plate will be removed and replaced with five rows of seating.

These seats will be closer to home plate, and will rise 30 inches from the playing surface. A tensioned backstop netting will protect fans in these seats and give them an unobstructed view of the playing field.

Another key feature will be the addition of 1,154 individual chair-back seats. Prior to this, all of Dan Law Field was comprised of aluminum bench seating.

A new shading structure will cover most of the seats and the center portion of the grandstand.

Additionally, the updated stadium will showcase a redesigned entry gate.

Fans will pass a circular landscaped seating area which is centered around a brick inlaid Double T.

Fans will then go through iron gates to enter the stadium, and will then see newly installed grandstand banners which will display the history of Tech baseball.

DAN LAW continued on Page 6 >>>

Tech Hospitality Services approved as ACF test site



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

CHARLIE BUDD, A chef, flips a chicken breast in the kitchen below Sam's Place West in the Wiggins Complex.

By KASSIDY KETRON
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday and Friday, Texas Tech's Hospitality Services hosted the American Culinary Federation training and practical exam after being approved as a test site for the ACF Culinary Certification.

Alan Cushman, administrator of marketing for hospitality services, said the training site gives hospitality services and Tech the opportunity to have a more diversely trained culinary staff, providing for better service for the university.

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Today Mostly Sunny



Wednesday Sunny



Skinner: It's actually not a generation thing.
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Budget

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Cook said the new tuition costs will take effect this fall, and will generate roughly \$8.6 million in net revenue for the university.

"It could be a lot worse," he said. "There's no question about that. But we do feel like we made some moves in the beginning to offset this in anticipation of these cuts coming. It's not easy, but we hope that what we've done up until now has helped lessen the blow."

Bailey said he is unsure if the increased tuition rate will have a negative impact on enrollment.

"I think what's most likely to affect enrollment negatively are cuts in financial aid," he said, "because there were state cuts in Texas grants, and there have been some federal reductions in financial aid. We don't know how that will affect enrollment. We hope not too much."

The president also said despite the increased costs, Tech's tuition remains

the second lowest in the Big 12 Conference, behind Oklahoma State. Even with the tuition increase, he said, the university will still be below what the other schools are charging now.

Cook said the administration is adamant the current budget shortfalls will not reduce Tech's value in any way.

"The point that was made from the beginning was that in no way would any cuts affect the quality education the students receive," he said. "As a matter of fact, we hope that it will continue to improve."

Devin Upchurch, a senior mechanical engineering major from Lubbock, said he understands tuition increases are necessary during harsh economic times and is proud of what the university is doing to save money in other ways as well.

"I found out that Tech spent upwards of \$5 million on food related expenses during the last fiscal year, most of it necessary and warranted, others excessive and unnecessary. But I also found out that they are cracking down considerably on that issue alone to help offset recent budget cuts. At

least the campus is aware of major money holes and is actively pursuing to cut back unwarranted spending."

Either the administration lets the school fall back from being one of the nicest schools in Texas, or students pay a little extra to help keep it one of the best schools in Texas, Upchurch said.

Bailey said he hopes legislative funding will become more stable, causing Tech's tuition to become stable as well.

"I think (the state) did the best thing they could under the circumstances," he said. "We got caught up in a pretty significant budget shortfall, and the legislature did the best thing they could with what they had. As the state economy picks up, I hope we'll be out of this in two years."

He said while no public school looks forward to state cuts, Tech is trying to do the best with what it has.

"All of us really hate the increased tuition," Bailey said. "We really don't like doing it, but we really try to still have the best value out there."

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New Mexico wildfire grows, shuts famed Los Alamos nuke lab down

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) — A fast-moving wildfire just south of northern New Mexico's Los Alamos nuclear laboratory has destroyed at least 30 structures, including some homes, and has the potential to grow much larger, fire officials said Monday.

The blaze that began Sunday has forced closure of the nation's pre-eminent nuclear lab while stirring memories of a devastating blaze more than a decade ago that destroyed hundreds of homes and buildings in the area.

Los Alamos County fire chief Doug Tucker said the blaze Sunday night was the most active fire he had seen in his career, forcing residents near Cochiti Mesa and Las Conchas to flee with "nothing but the shirts on their back."

He said at 44,000-acre blaze had destroyed at least 30 structures but it wasn't clear how many were homes.

The fire has the potential to double or triple in size, Tucker said, and firefighters had no idea which direction the 60 mph-plus winds would take it.

"We are preparing for the fire to go in any direction," Tucker said.

Los Alamos National Laboratory was closed Monday as the blaze burned within a mile of its southern edge. And the towns of Los Alamos and White Rock were under voluntary evacuation orders.

Tucker said he did not anticipate the fire moving into town, "but we cannot eliminate that potential so we must be ready to react to it."

Officials said that more than 100 residents in the area evacuated their homes as the fire swelled to 68 square miles and loomed just a mile southwest of Los Alamos Sunday night. While overnight winds from the northwest kept the blaze from moving onto lab property, forecasts called for a change in wind patterns by midday.

The famed lab, where scientists developed and tested the first atomic bomb during World War II, activated its emergency operations center overnight and cut natural gas to some areas as a

precaution. Officials said all hazardous and radioactive materials were being protected.

The blaze started on private land about 12 miles southwest of Los Alamos. Flames and smoke could be seen from the outskirts of Albuquerque, about 80 miles away.

On Monday morning, the Pajarito plateau upon which the lab sits was awash in a thick haze, while a charred stench permeated the area. On the southwestern edge of the plateau, white smoke filled the canyons above Cochiti reservoir and on the north end heavy black columns of smokes were rising in the air.

Cars headed down the two-lane highway that snakes from Los Alamos to Pojoaque were stuffed with belongings as residents fled the blaze.

The fire was eerily similar to one of the most destructive fires in New Mexico history. That fire, the Cerro Grande, burned some 47,000 acres — 73 square miles — in May 2000 and caused more than \$1 billion in property damage.

ACF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"In the food service industry, it makes us; it really sets us apart from a lot of other colleges and universities," he said. "It's going to put us into the forefront of basically the food service industry and kind of makes us cutting edge."

Dewey McMurrey, executive chef of operations, said being an approved test site means hospitality services is able to certify cooks and chefs on a national level.

He said there are five levels of certification from a beginner chef to master chef, each with its own specific guidelines.

John Bigelow, catering production manager with hospitality services, was one of the three people testing, and one of the two who

passed the test for certified culinarian — the beginner level.

Bigelow said candidates are required to show knife skills, prepare chicken, make a chicken stock and fabricate a chicken.

"I would practice everyday for about the last month," Bigelow said, "almost everyday for about the last month to get ready for it and a lot of different, they wanted to see specific things, you know, your knife skills, your organization, the way you handle food, and make sure it's properly done and your sanitation and everything is good and up to standard."

The hardest part, he said, was the fact that there were 18 certified executive chefs present during his testing, instead of the four he had expected.

Several noted Texas and U.S. chefs came to Lubbock to participate in the training and examinations.

Bigelow said the extra chefs who were there for training also received

credit for watching and critiquing the candidates.

"It was extremely nerve wracking because there were so many people in there and it's a big kitchen, but it wasn't that big that day because there were so many people watching the three of us."

McMurrey said being an ACF certified chef means everything from networking to a continued education.

All the best chefs are ACF certified, McMurrey said, and becoming certified takes a lot of practice and preparation.

"It is pretty intense," he said, "no one can just walk in and pass it. You really need to practice, the exam is sometimes a pretty big exam; if you don't know what you're doing it's not going to happen."

"They hold you to high standards and you really need to know what you're doing to get certified."

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PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Treador

CHEF CHARLIE BUDD tosses some onions in the kitchen below Sam's Place West in the Wiggins Complex.

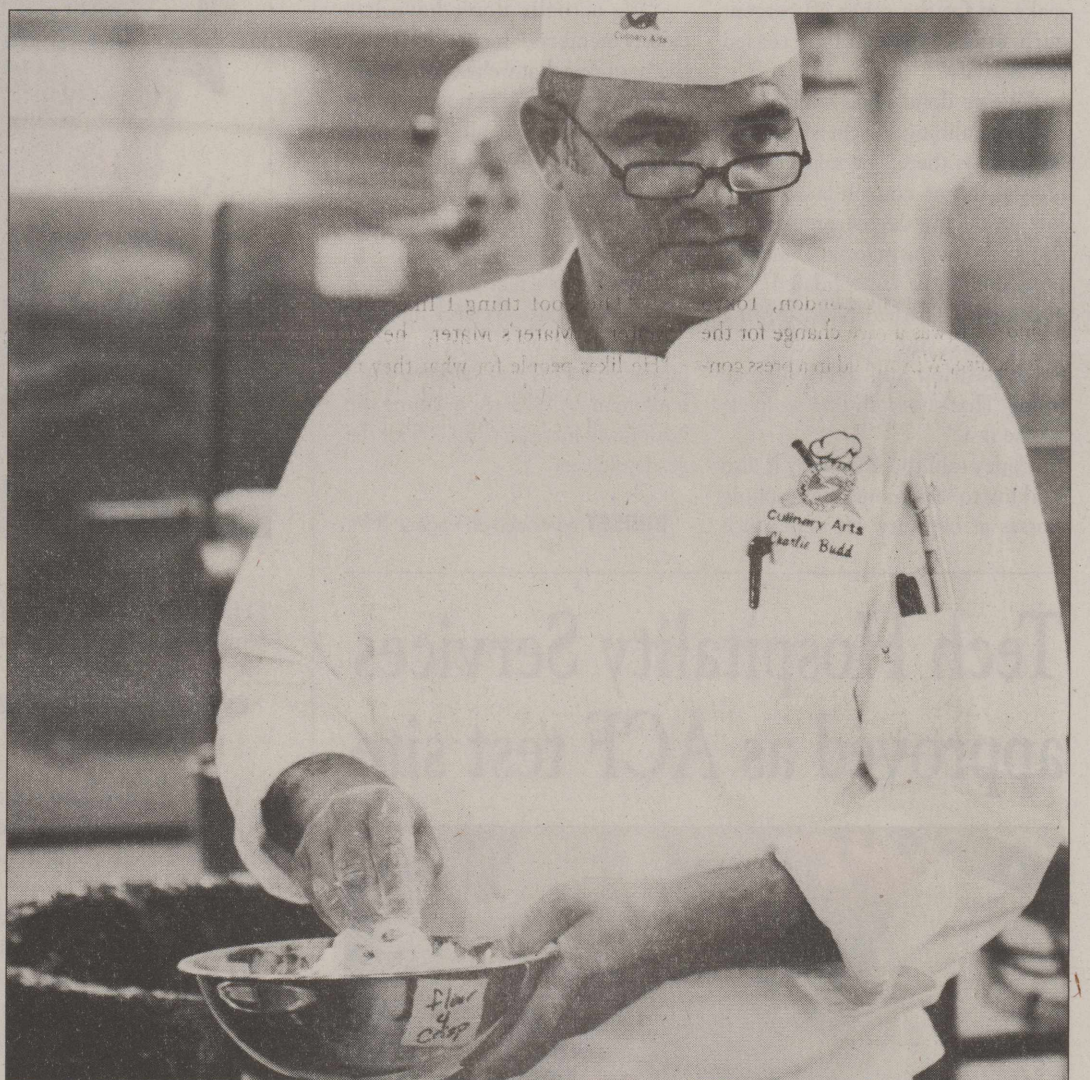


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CHARLIE BUDD, A chef, cooks in the kitchen below Sam's Place West in the Wiggins Complex.

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'The Tree Of Life' is an unforgettable experience

Legendary director Terrence Malick has been working on "The Tree Of Life" for the past ten years, and the result is well worth the wait. He brings us the most polarizing, awe-inspiring, visually astounding and spiritual film of the past decade.

The term "polarizing" truly defines this film. Within the first 45 minutes of the screening I attended, nearly half of the audience left the theater. However, the other half who stayed was either in tears or applauding at the end.

The film is hard to describe, but it does bring memories of

Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece, "2001: A Space Odyssey," and Malick strives to make something even greater.

The plot to the film is about a Texas family in the 1950's. The audience follows the journey of the eldest son, Jack, through his childhood, while flashing forward to witness the disillusionment of Jack as an adult (Sean Penn).

Jack is confused growing up as he is torn between his two parents and which life he should follow. His mother (Jessica Chastain) represents grace, while his father (Brad Pitt) represents nature and survival.

Through this impressionistic story, the audience views the origin of life by witnessing the big bang, evolution, and dinosaurs existing and becoming extinct. The film focuses on themes such as faith, the purpose of life and what it means to exist.

The visuals in the film are utterly mind blowing, and they will last with the viewer for a long time after the film ends. Malick takes the viewer on a journey

Tyler Ware



through the cosmos and across our planet. The viewer witnesses and partakes in cinematography which is unmatched by any film in recent memory.

Every actor brings an extraordinary performance, especially Pitt, who plays a physically and psychologically abusive father. Pitt does a great job building tension in every scene he is in.

However, the real star of the film is Malick as his singularly

deliberate style transfixes the movie and makes it something masterful.

The viewer can feel Malick's soul and ambition in this movie, as the film is not only the director's most personal film to date, but also his most ambitious.

"The Tree of Life" is not for everyone, as it is hard to follow, and consists of a unique narrative with visuals that have many symbolic ties to them.

This will hurt the film in the box office, but for any "film buffs" this is a film that comes once every few years. An original, spiritual, well shot, big budgeted, art film unlike anything

they have ever witnessed.

The film does what art is supposed to do, challenge and make the viewer analyze and look at their own life and the world around them.

Malick shows us the tiniest moment in our lives has value, and that miracles and sorrow exist singularly in all of our lives.

Overall, "The Tree of Life," is not for everyone, but to those who have patience will experience a film unlike anything they have ever or will ever see.

RATING: 5 out of 5
Ware is The DT's entertainment reviewer.

Owen Wilson, Larry the Cable Guy talk driving 'Cars 2' overseas

By ALEX ANTONETZ
THE LANTERN
(OHIO STATE U.)

After zooming through theaters and toy stores in 2006, Pixar Animation Studios is bringing one of its most lucrative franchises back to the big screen this weekend with "Cars 2."

"Cars 2" features star race car Lightning McQueen (voice of Owen Wilson) and his best friend Mater (voice of Larry the Cable Guy) as they head overseas for the first-ever World Grand Prix, a race to determine the world's fastest car.

When Mater is mistakenly caught up in a case of international espionage, he finds himself torn between helping Lightning McQueen and assisting in a top-secret mission orchestrated by British super spy Finn McMissile (voice of Michael Caine) and Holley Shiftwell (voice of Emily Mortimer).

Giving the "Cars" international flavor by visiting London, Tokyo and Paris was a nice change for the franchise, Wilson said in a press conference earlier this month.

"It felt like with this movie that it was sort of just this exciting new adventure that they're kind of going with ... the World Grand Prix and that the friendship between them became sort of a funny story element and has a sweetness to it,"

he said. "But then also just kind of the hilarity of seeing Mater, such a kind of fish out of water in this sort of spy, intrigue and stuff, I think is very appealing."

The film primarily focuses on Mater, Lightning McQueen's trusty, rusty tow truck friend.

Being the focus of "Cars 2" was a surprise for the man behind the character's voice, Larry the Cable Guy, whose real name is Daniel Lawrence Whitney.

"There's a lot of stuff on Mater in there, so I never really thought that when the movie was going to come out that it was basically, boom: a big, long tall tale," Whitney said. "This is a Mater deal."

When Mater realizes in the film that others perceive him as simple and dumb, he questions whether he really is. However, it's Mater's amicable nature that makes the character likable, Whitney said.

"The cool thing I like about Mater is Mater's Mater," he said. "He likes people for what they are. He doesn't judge anybody by how they look or anything like that. He's just — he's an easygoing guy and he's a friendly guy and he just wants to be friends with everybody and so that's why I like Mater."

Also lending his voice to "Cars 2" is acclaimed British actor Michael

Caine, who has appeared in Christopher Nolan's two Batman films as well as other British spy films.

Despite playing spies before, Caine said he's never played one quite like this — a shiny blue Aston Martin.

"I have honestly never played a car before," he said. "I drove some cars in 'The Italian Job,' which was a thing about mini cars, but I've never been a car. This is a brand new experience to me, and one of the reasons I did it (is) because I (have) been in the business a long time and it's very difficult to get a brand new experience."

Still, Caine said voice work was not totally unexplored territory for him and his iconic voice.

"I've done radio plays for BBC when I was young," he said. "So I was absolutely used to that style of work and working with the voice and I have a very distinctive voice and so, it's always great for me."

Recently, "Cars 2" has taken heat from conservative groups for the film's portrayal of big oil companies. The conservative blog The Lonely Conservative said in a June 20 post that "movie directors and producers are coming out and admitting" that "the Hollywood industry is trying to indoctrinate our children with left wing propaganda."

Director John Lasseter, who is also chief creative officer at both Pixar and Walt Disney Animation Studios, said the film isn't trying to be political.

"It's not really like a political view, it's more like who is a good bad guy, a big bad guy in the car world, and we thought it was this interesting thing that's been going on of like alternative fuels and big oil and all that kind of back and forth that's going on," he said. "I'm just trying to make an entertaining film. I'm not trying to say anything political."

Regardless of its political detractors and even its critical detractors — "Cars 2" has a 50 percent on Rotten Tomatoes as of Wednesday evening, far and away the lowest score for any Pixar flick to date — the film is poised to be a financial success.

The first "Cars" film made more than \$490 million in worldwide box office, according to boxoffice Mojo.com. Merchandise based on the film has also raked in an estimated \$5 billion, according to a 2009 report in The New York Times.

However, Wilson said kids still don't recognize him as Lightning McQueen.

"I have parents that (say), 'This is Lightning McQueen,' and the kid just sort of stares there at me blankly," he said.

'Bad Teacher' funny enough

By NICK BROTHERS
THE ARKANSAS TRAVELER
(U. ARKANSAS)

It's date night, you're looking for anything worth seeing at the movies, something funny, maybe something romantic. Well, it's far from romantic, but Bad Teacher is funny. Not to the level of hilarious or "my new favorite comedy," but definitely funny enough and it's worth the price of a movie ticket, or a DVD rental. It's a decent movie, but mostly just for being a good at-par comedy.

The movie doesn't have the best of premises. Basically, the superficial middle school teacher Elizabeth Halsey, (Cameron Diaz) tries to raise money to get breast implants so she can woo the naive Scott Dellacorte (Justin Timberlake) and his large family estate. Of course, comedic antics ensue, and the audience watches Halsey work her way to her goal. In this particular instance, it works. Most of the scenes are actually pretty funny for what the movie is. That's really what good comedies do though; make worthwhile movies out of offbeat premises.

The writing—or at least the written dialogue—is impressive, one of the main things that makes Bad Teacher worth sitting through. A lot of the funny moments in the movie

are what's actually said by the actors versus how the actors perform their lines. The exception to that is Lucy Punch. She delivers a good comedic performance with her hyper character, Amy Squirrel. The majority of the characters work because of their dialogue more so than their performances.

What really helps the film come off as likeable is the strength of its cast. The performances aren't stellar, but seriously, Jason Segel in anything adds quality. At the same time though, Bad Teacher isn't near the top of the actors' filmography, especially Diaz and Segel. It's sort of like putting star actors in bad movies; the movie will ride off the success of its actors. This isn't a bad movie, though, just an average one.

There are a couple cheap laughs thrown in Bad Teacher that could make one groan at their attempt, but the movie never overdoes it. The corny jokes are over with quickly, and the "R-rated humor" isn't too over the top, even though it flirts with that line—a lot. Most of the film's humor is worthwhile; there are many laughs to be had.

Bad Teacher doesn't fail, it gets by. It just lacks a certain amount of quality that could make it loveable. Rating: 3 out of 5 stars

Can't ban violent video sales to kids, court says

WASHINGTON (AP) — States cannot ban the sale or rental of ultraviolent video games to children, the Supreme Court ruled Monday, rejecting such limits as a violation of young people's First Amendment rights and leaving it up to parents and the multibillion-dollar gaming industry to decide what kids can buy.

The high court, on a 7-2 vote, threw out California's 2005 law covering games sold or rented to those under 18, calling it an unconstitutional violation of free-speech rights. Writing for the majority, Justice Antonin Scalia, said, "Even where the protection of children is the object, the constitutional limits on governmental action apply."

Scalia, who pointed out the violence in a number of children's fairy tales, said that while states have legitimate power to protect children from harm, "that does not include a free-floating power to restrict the ideas to which children may be exposed."

Justices Stephen Breyer and Clarence Thomas dissented from the decision, with Breyer saying it makes no sense to legally block children's access to pornography yet allow them to buy or rent brutally violent video games.

"What sense does it make to forbid selling to a 13-year-old boy a magazine with an image of a nude woman, while protecting the sale to that 13-year-old of an interactive video game in which he actively, but virtually, binds and gags the woman, then tortures and kills her?" Breyer said.

Video games, said Scalia's majority opinion, fall into the same category as books, plays and movies as entertainment that "communicates ideas — and even social messages" deserving of First Amendment free-speech protection. And non-obscene speech "cannot be suppressed solely to protect the young from ideas or images that a legislative body thinks unsuitable for them," he said.

This decision follows the court's recent movement on First Amendment cases, with the justices throwing out

attempts to ban animal cruelty videos, protests at military funerals and political speech by businesses.

The court will test those limits again next session when it takes up a new case involving government's effort to protect children from what they might see and hear. The justices agreed to review appeals court rulings that threw out Federal Communications Commission rules against the isolated use of expletives as well as fines against broadcasters who showed a woman's nude buttocks on a 2003 episode of ABC's "NYPD Blue."

The decision to hear the FCC case was one of the last the full court made this session. Before leaving on their annual summer break on Monday, the justices also:

— Voted 5-4 to strike down a provision of a campaign financing system in Arizona that gives extra cash to publicly funded candidates who face privately funded rivals and independent groups.

— Agreed to hear arguments in the fall or winter on whether police need a warrant before using a global positioning system device to track a suspect's movements.

— Refused to hear an appeal from former detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq who wanted to sue defense contractors over claims of abuse.

More than 46 million American households have at least one video-game system, with the industry bringing in at least \$18 billion in 2010. The industry has set up its own rating system to warn parents which video games are appropriate for which ages, with the rating "M" placed on games that are considered to be especially violent and only for mature adults.

That system is voluntary, however. California's 2005 law would have prohibited anyone under 18 from buying or renting games that give players the option of "killing, maiming, dismembering, or sexually assaulting an image of a human being." Parents would have been able to buy the games for their children, but retailers who sold directly to minors would have faced fines of up to \$1,000

for each game sold.

That means that children would have needed an adult to get games like "Postal 2," the first-person shooter by developer Running With Scissors that includes the ability to light unarmed bystanders on fire. It would also apply to the popular "Grand Theft Auto" games, from Rockstar Games, that allow gamers to portray carjacking, gun-toting gangsters.

The California law never took effect. Lower courts have said that the law violated minors' constitutional rights, and that California lacked enough evidence

to prove that violent games cause physical and psychological harm to minors. Courts in six other states, including Michigan and Illinois, reached similar conclusions, striking down similar bans.

Video game makers and sellers celebrated their victory, saying Monday's decision puts them on the same legal footing as other forms of entertainment. "There now can be no argument whether video games are entitled to the same protection as books, movies, music and other expressive entertainment," said Bo Andersen, president and CEO of the Entertainment Merchants Association.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

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By Victor Fleming and Nancy Salomon 6/28/11

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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ERL	SLA	TAO
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EXUDE	DET	OO
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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2011

It's actually not a generation thing

Whenever an older person shakes his or her head at something my generation is currently doing, I have to bite my tongue and hope I can explain rationally that sharing information with everybody, cheating and even music is, in fact, not a generation thing.

Parents, teachers and pretty much anyone older than 35 have ridiculed the young generation for participating in such a thing like Facebook or Twitter. What they haven't stopped and thought about though, is that they did the exact same thing when they were our age, just in a different form.

When our parents were in college, they were cruisin' the streets looking for everyone's cars, and seeing where they were and what they were doing. Now, we simply cruise the Internet to see who are friends are hanging out with, who they are dating, and what they are saying.

And there were and still are introverts and extroverts. Introverts who like to keep it a secret who they are dating, and extroverts who proudly proclaim it by wearing their boyfriend's giant letterman jacket. Now, instead of wearing his letterman jacket, you simply put the relationship status on your Facebook page. All the same idea, but now technology is involved.

Technology has also allowed different ways of cheating to occur. Adults and teachers who are sickened at the fact that someone would put math equations into a calculator and use it on a test have seemed to forget it's just a more high-tech way of cheating. Cheating isn't some new phenomenon to just hit the world when cell phones were in-

Paige Skinner



vented; cheating has been around since tests have been taken. It amazes me professors still insist caps be turned around during testing because I'm pretty sure

if someone was going to cheat, looking awkwardly up at the bill of their cap in the middle of a test would not be the way they would do it. Cheating, just like sharing information and staying connected with your friends, is not a generation thing.

Lastly, provocative singers and their edgy music is not something Lady Gaga invented. I was at The Guess Who concert one time (they sing the hit "American Woman"), and a man casually passing by me looks me straight in the eye and says, "Now this is real music." Opposed to what? I'm sure his parents disapproved of him listening to Rock n' Roll bands like The Guess Who just as much as he would criticize me for listening to a rapper like 50 Cent.

Music and performers that push the borders have always been around. Elvis, The Rolling Stones and Joan Jett set the stage for musicians today like Lady Gaga and Adam Lambert.

Very few things are actually a generation thing. Yes, Facebook, Lady Gaga and fancy calculators were all produced pretty recently, but the things they represent have always been around. Having friends, cheating in school and outlandish singers are all things of the past, present and future.

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The GREndel's basically the mother of standardized tests

By WESLEY VAUGHN
THE CRIMSON WHITE
(U. ALABAMA)

So, you're foregoing the real world for graduate school. Congratulations! You have chosen to delay the inevitable by another two to three (or even six) years. I know, I know. Of course, your intended career path requires graduate school. How could I be so unaware?

I mean to say that I agree with you. The job market is sputtering right now, and it will most definitely recover back to its previous cruising altitude and speed once you have dropped \$40 thousand or more on additional education. For you, I'm sure it'll pick right up as you receive that second diploma. If you can sell yourself that fantasy, maybe you should think about retail – or politics, or advertising, or any of the booming industries that basically just lie to people.

Anyway, before you can actually enroll in the safe haven of a graduate school, you probably have to sign up for the GRE.

This exam and its alphabet-soup cohorts (the GMAT, MCAT, LSAT, etc.) are the Grendel's mother of standardized testing. You should remember dispatching the ACT and SAT before college. Well, they were Grendel. That testing monster terrorized your mead hall of a high school and ate the dreams of your fellow sleeping students until you ripped a score off of the monster and hung it up in your house. It then could only return to its hellish dwellings and bleed out, much like this metaphor.

Four years later, Grendel's mother – the literary version,

not the Angelina Jolie remake – has risen to avenge its son. You must advance into the testing center lair of this beast on your assigned testing date, where you must follow its silly rules as you fight on its terms.

Beowulf could only kill Grendel's mother with a sword forged for a giant, but for the GRE, you are stripped of your calculator, forced to battle unwieldy long division and square roots without a proper blade.

Not only that – the usual and expected battleground is displaced. Academic fights are waged on a computer screen with no room for error as combatants lose the power to revisit problems once completed.

The GRE is divided into three laughably incomprehensible sections that include writing, verbal and math. Rest assured, your graduate school will not be able to ascertain all it needs to know about you from these scores, so remember to qualify them in your personal statements.

Writing (given a score out of six): The GRE begins with two unique essays. The issue essay requires you to argue one side of a given issue, and the argument essay requires you to critique a given argument. This portion of the test readily transfers into a real-life skill, one that mirrors the valuable experience of writing a letter to the editor to The Crimson White. I urge you to practice.

Verbal (given a score out of

800): Welcome back to middle school vocabulary tests. The familiar returning guests are antonyms, similes and fill-in-the-blank questions, in addition to a few reading comprehension questions. I do not mean to recoil with recalcitrant indignation, but to base roughly one-third of a test on an erudite affinity with definitions is disconcerting. Not to mention, these words are given without context in a sentence. That's like a math problem asking for the value of a variable without providing an al-

gebraic expression.
Math (given a score out of 800): Have I mentioned you can't use a calculator? The GRE assures that its problems will not require test takers to perform advanced calculations. But I assure you that is flawed reasoning. Forcing test-takers to squander precious time with long division fails to test the supposed important principles of math. The GRE also has an inferiority complex and openly admits to employing trick questions. If I wanted trick questions, I would have taken the X Games exam.

I'm taking the GRE today as a thank you. With help from the Princeton Review, I hope to return home, like Beowulf, after landing a successful coup de grace on my scholastic foe. Successful or not, I will still have to face that fearsome job market someday – or I could apply to Teach for America.

“Academic fights are waged on a computer screen with no room for error...”

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

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America should let foreign nations solve their own problems

When Obama decided to start pulling troops out of Afghanistan after a decade of fighting, almost all of his critics made a special effort to point out the lack of support for the president's decision by military leadership. However, I think the Commander-in-Chief made the right choice for several reasons.

One thing nobody mentioned in the commentary on Obama's decision was that most of the major progress that has been made in the Middle East in the last 30 years was not made by the U.S. Progressive events. Such as Former Egyptian President Anwar El-Sadat's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, the Green and Cedar

Revolutions in Iran and Lebanon respectively, the various pro-democracy movements all over the Middle East, and the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement in Oslo had little to no U.S. involvement.

See, the key factor that determines whether or not a social movement succeeds is the willpower of the people it will benefit. The toppling of the Taliban government by the Afghan United Front in 2001, the toppling of the Egyptian government by rebels in Tahrir Square, and the peace treaty between

Jakob Reynolds



Israel and Egypt were all successful because the people that benefited from them wanted it badly enough.

What happens when they don't want it? I think the U.S. "War on Terror" in Afghanistan answers that question. It's become apparent (to me, at least) that every time we've tried to involve ourselves in another country's affairs, especially in the Middle East, we've ended up kick-starting a revolution, doing all the heavy lifting and hard work, and ultimately ending up with weak and short-lived results.

As I said in a previous column, the U.S. has a track record of installing Middle-Eastern leaders that end up getting ousted and replaced with leaders that don't trust western governments.

One other thing nobody pointed out was why we invaded Afghanistan to begin with. The "War on Terror" was initially started to eliminate Al-Qaeda after the 9/11 bombings. Interestingly enough, the 9/11 attacks were essentially carried out by a contingent of Saudi and Pakistani nationals out of frustration with previous U.S. meddling in Middle Eastern affairs. The American embassy bombing in Lebanon that followed shortly thereafter was the work of radical

jihadist Muslims from Iran.

We retaliated by invading Iraq and Afghanistan. I like the explanation for this seemingly counter-intuitive action given by *New York Times* commentator Thomas Friedman: "[America] invaded Afghanistan and Iraq because Saudi Arabia had oil, Pakistan had nukes and Iran was too big. We hoped that this war-by-bank-shot would lead to changes in all three countries."

I'm not sure this led to changes in these three countries, but it sure did for the U.S. Since the initial bombings in the Middle East carried out by the U.S., we've seen the worst economic downturn in decades, numerous policies restricting

personal liberties for American citizens in the name of security, and a serious strain on foreign relations for the U.S.

All of this is ultimately the result of the U.S. trying to help start a movement for people who didn't need or want our help that much to begin with. America needs to wake up and see that progress in other nations only really happens when the people in those nations want it badly enough. We need to fix our own problems and do our own nation building before we start trying to involve ourselves in other nations' issues. The sooner we figure that out, the better it will be for all of us.

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Obama's 'drawdown' is not enough

EDITORIAL
THE OKLAHOMA DAILY
(U. OKLAHOMA)

President Barack Obama announced Wednesday the end of the surge in Afghanistan. He did not, however, announce anything resembling a withdrawal.

Obama called the move a "drawdown," but that term is misleading. It implies that the U.S. is closer to leaving Afghanistan than when Obama took office. However, roughly 65,000 U.S. troops will still be deployed in Afghanistan, considerably more than the 38 thousand that were deployed when Obama became our president.

We hope that the president was sincere when he claimed that

all combat troops would be out of Afghanistan by 2014. If this is true, it represents a stubborn refusal to acknowledge the obvious failure of our attempts at nation building in that country. But given all of the broken promises of the past two administrations, 2014 may be an optimistic date. And that's just Afghanistan.

We still have around 45,000 troops in Iraq. Even after they leave, our state department will still command over a dozen bases and a mercenary army five thousand strong. We insist on bombing Pakistan, over the repeated objections of their parliament. We announced a few weeks ago that our bombing campaign in Yemen

would be stepped up. We are still involved in hostilities in Libya, despite the objections of our own Congress.

Right now, the debate in this country is not about whether or not we need to make cuts to our budget. The debate right now is how deep those cuts are going to be. So while it is a good thing that we will be pulling 33,000 troops out of Afghanistan (in the course of the year), keeping the other 65,000 troops are a mistake we can no longer pay for.

Our interventions in the Middle East have not yielded anything appreciable. We have consistently found ourselves supporting and arming the dictators which the democratic protesters of the Arab Spring are trying to overthrow. It is time that we bring all of our troops home.

Before the economic crisis, we could afford to pretend that our occupation of other countries supported democracy. We could afford to pretend that our bombing campaigns did not inspire more hatred and violence than they blasted from existence. We can no longer afford such wishful thinking nor can we afford to be the global police force.

It is time for our president to earn his Nobel Prize and end our many wars in the Middle East.

Gay marriage scores a key victory

EDITORIAL
THE ORACLE
(U. SOUTH FLORIDA)

The fight for gay marriage reached a significant milestone Friday, when a bill legalizing gay marriage passed through the New York Senate.

New York is now the sixth and largest state in the union to allow homosexuals to marry. The kicker is that New York's same-sex marriage bill was approved 33-29 by a Republican-controlled state Senate for the first time, indicating an important turning point in not only the battle for marriage equality, but also in party votes.

State legislatures are only just beginning to come to terms with what some courts have known for some time—that discrimination against gays does not stand up to legal or moral scrutiny. In 2000, the Vermont Supreme Court legalized same-sex unions, and Massachusetts followed suit three years later.

But perhaps the most important judicial ruling on the subject came from California's Republican-dominated Supreme Court in 2008. It declared that discriminating against gays in any way is illegal. In 2009, The Iowa Supreme Court borrowed from California's decision in another ruling validating same-sex marriage.

It was only later that year that legislators, who unlike judges face re-elections, followed the example of the courts by legalizing gay marriage in New Hampshire and Vermont, two

liberal states.

New York has now joined them in the cause with the help of four Republican state senators. This marks a huge turnaround from 2009, when the Democrat-controlled state Senate rejected a similar same-sex marriage bill.

Mark Grisanti, one of the four Republican senators that voted for passage, had even opposed gay marriage in his campaign.

"A man can be wiser today than yesterday, but there can be no respect for that man if he has failed to do his duty," he said, according to *Slate* magazine.

In addition, Republican Sen. Stephen Saland said to the *Christian Post* that he "defined doing the right thing

as treating all persons with equality and that equality includes within the definition of marriage."

"I know my vote is a vote of conscience, and I'm certainly at peace with my vote," he said.

Their attitudes seem to mark a fundamental change in the nature of the debate over equal rights. It seems that Republicans find it acceptable not only to vote in favor of gay rights, but also to be the deciding votes—without which the bill would have died.

While only six states have legalized gay marriage thus far, New York's bill may be the catalyst that begins similar efforts around the country in earnest. Such a change is good for the moral fabric of the country.

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Dan Law

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Athletic director Kirby Hocutt said he is happy to begin on, what he felt to be, a much-needed update to the stadium.

"Baseball was at the top of our priority list," Hocutt said. "Everybody knows the baseball stadium has been a need of ours for quite some time, so to be in a position today to finally start the construction process is an exciting time for us."

Tech has not done any updates to the stadium since 2007; however, it has made many significant upgrades in the past 10 years. In 2002, \$1.3 million dollars was used to construct a new clubhouse complete with locker rooms, coaches offices, training and equipment rooms, along with batting and pitching cages.

A new outfield fence also was constructed along with bullpens in left and right fields. The last cosmetic update occurred during this year as a brick façade was

added above the dugouts and around the front of the stands behind home plate.

Then, in 2004, RaiderVision was introduced to Dan Law Field for the first time as a new video board/scoreboard was installed in right-center field.

The most recent update prior to the current one was in 2007, as the artificial turf and natural grass outfield was replaced with state-of-the-art FieldTurf, which, at the time, made Tech the only Big 12 Conference school to have FieldTurf on the infield and outfield.

This current update also marks the first time the stands have been updated since 1995, when the seating was expanded to 5,050 and a new press box and 14 luxury suites were added.

Tech head coach Dan Spencer said although this process has been somewhat daunting, it is now coming to fruition and is an exciting time for Tech baseball.

"It's a little overwhelming when you think, and dream, and plot and beg and always hope it will come," Spencer said, "And then when it does you're like

"Wow, this really is going to happen."

The renovation is expected to cost around \$5 million dollars, which was amassed via private donors. One family, which remains anonymous at this time, made such an outstanding donation that they will receive a special honor. At the completion of the construction the donor will be revealed, and the stadium will be renamed in honor of the donor.

Hocutt said he feels blessed to have had this family reach out in such a big way, and is looking forward to the unveiling of the donor.

"It will be another exciting announcement for us," Hocutt said, "and an announcement we are looking forward to and we feel so fortunate that this family stepped forward for us."

The renovation of the stadium is already underway, and will continue throughout the rest of the year. The completion of the grandstand portion of the structural improvements is scheduled for Feb. 15, 2012.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCOTT LACEFIELD, TEXAS TECH ATHLETICS
THE TWO RENDERINGS above show some of the renovations of Dan Law Field. These renovations include new luxury boxes, seat-back chairs and a new entrance into the stadium, among other things.

Los Angeles Dodgers file for bankruptcy protection

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers filed for bankruptcy protection in a Delaware court Monday, blaming Major League Baseball for refusing to approve a multibillion-dollar TV deal that owner Frank McCourt was counting on to keep the troubled team afloat.

The Chapter 11 financing permits the Dodgers to use \$150 million for daily operations and buys time for the team to seek a media deal and ensure the team's long-term financial stability, the Dodgers said in a news release. A judge would need to approve use of the money and a hearing is set for Tuesday.

"There will be no disruption to the Dodgers day-to-day business, the baseball team, or to the Dodger fans," the statement said.

If approved by a judge, the financing would come in two chunks from a New York investment management company — \$60 million up front with the remain-

der being paid at a later date. A phone message left with Highbridge Principal Strategies was not immediately returned.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced last week that he wouldn't approve a Dodgers television deal with Fox Sports that reportedly was worth up to \$3 billion. That left McCourt cash-starved and facing the prospect of missing the team payroll this Thursday, leading to an MLB takeover.

McCourt defended his running of the team, saying he had made it profitable and successful. He also said the Dodgers have tried for almost a year to get Selig to approve the Fox transaction.

"He's turned his back on the Dodgers, treated us differently, and forced us to the point we find ourselves in today," McCourt's statement said.

MLB spokesman Pat Courtney did not immediately respond to an email message. McCourt spokesman Steve Sugerman said Frank McCourt would

not be available to comment Monday.

Among the 40 largest unsecured claims, totaling about \$75 million, listed in the bankruptcy filing are former Dodgers slugger Manny Ramirez at nearly \$21 million; Andruw Jones at \$11 million; pitcher Hiroki Kuroda at \$4.4 million; and the Chicago White Sox at \$3.5 million. Longtime Dodger announcer Vin Scully is owed more than \$150,000 as part of his contract, court documents show.

According to the bankruptcy filing, the Dodgers began experiencing "cash flow difficulties" last year due to declining attendance, paying about \$22 million in deferred compensation and revenue sharing.

McCourt has taken out loans to stay afloat but his mounting financial problems were expected to balloon June 30, when he owed roughly \$30 million to meet payroll. The bankruptcy filing also showed a \$67 million

loan taken out against the parking lots at Dodger Stadium was set to mature on Thursday.

The team's vice chairman, Jeffrey Ingram, said in court documents that the Dodgers are "on the verge of running out of cash, the result of a perfect storm of events."

"He's clearly running very low on options right now," said David Carter, executive director of USC Sports Business Institute. "What seems to be the case is a high-stakes chess game between Frank McCourt and MLB, and he's running out of pieces. This is one of the uglier weeks in Dodger history."

McCourt had hoped Selig would sign off on the transaction that would have provided him with \$385 million up front and was vital to a binding settlement reached between him and his ex-wife and former Dodger CEO Jamie McCourt.

"The rule or ruin philosophy that

appears to have motivated today's filing is bad for everyone who cares about, or has an interest in, the Dodgers," David Boies, an attorney for Jamie McCourt, said.

The McCourts have been embroiled in a contentious divorce where their lavish spending habits were detailed in court documents. The former couple took out more than \$100 million in loans from Dodger-related businesses, records show.

In April, MLB took the extraordinary step of assuming control of the troubled franchise. Former Texas Rangers President Tom Schieffer was appointed to monitor the team on behalf of Selig, who said he took the action because he was concerned about the team's finances and how the Dodgers are being run.

The Dodgers' filing follows that of the Texas Rangers, who sought Chapter 11 protection in May of last

year. The Rangers' filing successfully pushed through Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan's \$590 million bid to buy the team. Creditors had stalled the deal for months, arguing that the team had rejected higher offers.

McCourt has maintained he met the criteria set forth by baseball officials in order for the TV contract to be approved and would amend the conditions if needed. The Dodgers' current TV deal with Fox expires in 2013.

The divorce settlement, now voided because of Selig's decision, called for a one-day "characterization" trial Aug. 4 to determine if title to the Dodgers is in Frank McCourt's name or if the team should be considered community property and sold. Robert Sacks, an attorney retained by Frank McCourt, said the trial may be shelved and Superior Court Judge Scott Gordon could decide how to handle the former couple's assets at a later date.

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