

Right: Newcomers dominate
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THE DAILY TREADOR

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Administrators vow to investigate crime

Hance: Task force to seek answers to way city, Tech report crime involving students

By IOANNA MAKRIS and CAITLAN OSBORN
THE DAILY TREADOR

Texas Tech administrators are promising to take action with off-campus crime.

Chancellor Kent Hance and President Guy Bailey said they are planning on implementing a special task force this fall to determine what can be done to help ensure students are educated about off-campus crime.

"We need to make sure we do everything possible for the protection of

our students," Hance said, "not only on campus but also off campus."

The concern for students' safety is stemming from an article published in Thursday's issue of *The Daily Treador*. Hance said he was not aware of the high crime rates until reading the article.

In 2009, approximately 1,600 students were victimized off campus, which is about 10 percent of the major crimes reported in Lubbock that year. These

crimes were not included in Tech's federally mandated crime disclosure report, which only requires reporting of on-campus crimes. Numbers from 2010 will not be available until Oct. 1.

University Pointe and Lynwood Townhomes had the highest rates of student crime victimization, according to data compiled after a Texas Public Information Act request was sent to the Lubbock Police Department.

In an interview conducted in spring, Ron Seacrist, Tech chief of police, said the Lubbock Police Department does occasionally notify university police out of courtesy if a Tech student has been a victim of a crime off campus. However, by law, city police are not required to notify university police of crimes concerning students.



HANCE



BAILEY

CRIME continued on Page 5 >>

Study shows AlcoholEdu useful for short term

Program shown to be more effective in fall

By TYLER MYATT
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech first implemented the AlcoholEdu program in 2005 as a way to educate incoming freshmen about drinking and its harmful effects.

According to a federal study released this month, the university's decision was a good one.

The study, "Effects of AlcoholEdu for College on Alcohol-Related Problems Among Freshmen: A Randomized Multi-campus Trial," concluded AlcoholEdu does have positive short-term impact on alcohol consumption, and would be most effective if made mandatory for incoming freshmen in the fall semester.

"I think it's a wonderful course for every student to at least get that information so they can make their own well-informed decision," Delia Tibbs, the program's director, said.

The program consists of five modules that take an estimated two hours and 45 minutes to complete, according to the AlcoholEdu section of Tech's Health Sciences Center website. The first four modules are to be taken before freshmen arrive at Tech.

ALCOHOL continued on Page 3 >>



ABOVE: SAM MICKLER, a junior with an undeclared major from Bogota, Colombia, plays volleyball with his friends Monday on the court outside of the Leisure Pool.



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN NUSSER/The Daily Treador
RIGHT: GREG WRIGHT, a junior mechanical engineering major from Fort Worth, sets the ball.

Heated matchup

PEGASUS event to showcase traditions

Program aims to aid first-generation students, help involve Red Raiders

By TERRY MOORE
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech's PEGASUS program is holding its annual Tech Traditions event Thursday from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Room 169 of the Human Sciences building.

PEGASUS helps first-generation college students gain strong footholds in their new academic worlds. Its main

focus is to steer first-generation students toward a successful conclusion: graduation.

Tech Traditions will include special appearances by the Saddle Tramps, High Riders, an assortment of student athletes and others who represent school spirit, like Raider Red, the Cheerleading Squad and the Pom Squad.

Christopher Forbus, a senior com-

munication studies major from Littlefield, is in charge of organizing the event.

"The focus of this workshop," he said, "is to educate new, incoming FGC students with the traditions at TTU and different ways to become involved in our school spirit."

Activities, he said, will include singing along with spirit programs, such as game-time chants and songs. Forbus also said the fight song will be highlighted in these activities,

EVENT

Who: PEGASUS
What: Tech Traditions
When: 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Thursday
Where: Room 169, Human Sciences building

with an emphasis on using its proper lyrics.

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WEATHER

Today	Mostly Sunny	Wednesday	Sunny
	104 / 75		100 / 70

Morrison: Have humility when considering lifestyle
OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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Women's leadership symposium to highlight female advancement

By **GLORIA LERMA**
STAFF WRITER

The Merket Alumni Center will open its doors to Texas Tech and the Lubbock community for the first Lubbock Women in Leadership Symposium, "Women in Leadership: Rising Above the Ordinary," on Sept. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

The Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement is hosting the event in partnership with the Texas Diversity Council, a non-profit organization that aims to showcase diversity in top corporations.

According to the Texas Diversity

Council website, the symposium will address topics such as speaking up, being one's best advocate, establishing credibility, strategies for financial success, breaking through middle-management, mentoring and taking the next step.

"Trying to get TXDC, a statewide council, in West Texas has been a two-year conversation," said Jobi Martinez, director of the Cross-Cultural Academic Advancement Center. "It's beneficial for all (of) Tech to attend (because) it will highlight important women leaders in West Texas."

The event will be free for all Tech students and, as of now, the symposium will consist of three panels: Irasema

Velasquez of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce; Kelly Overley, vice chancellor for institutional advancement and chief operating officer of the Texas Tech Foundation; and Adrienne Cozart, the vice president of human resources for the University Medical Center.

The panelists will share the individual experiences that led them to their current leadership positions, Martinez said, as well as provide useful tips to empower women in achieving leadership positions within their fields.

"The symposium is not just for

women," Martha Mouret-Sanders, unit coordinator of special events for the CCAAC, said. "I would encourage

everyone, women and men, to attend because it is important to understand all perspectives in leadership."

Frances Martin, a junior history major from Bulverde, said she finds the symposium a great opportunity.

"I think it's a really neat way to showcase women," she said. "There is

a negative bias when using the word 'feminist,' but having an event like this shows women empowerment."

glerma@dailytoreador.com

It's beneficial for all (of) Tech to attend (because) it will highlight important women leaders in West Texas.

JOBI MARTINEZ
CCAAC DIRECTOR

Community Calendar

TODAY

Poster Sale

Time: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: Student Union Ballroom

So, what is it?

Find posters from your favorite movies, bands or scenes at the poster sale.

Otis Heat

Time: 10 p.m.

Where: Blue Light Live

So, what is it?

Enjoy live music at this Depot District venue.

Aloha Karaoke

Time: 8 p.m. to 12 p.m.

Where: Jack and Dianne's

So, what is it?

Enjoy karaoke performances and perform your own originals.

WEDNESDAY

David Schalliol

Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Landmark Art at the Tech School of Art

So, what is it?

Enjoy an exhibit from David Schalliol's photography series, "Isolated Building Studies: Revealing Meaning through Recontextualization."

Poster Sale

Time: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: Student Union Ballroom

So, what is it?

Find posters from your favorite movies, bands or scenes at the poster sale.

Haven Animal Care Shelter Canned Food Drive

Time: 5 p.m.

Where: Haven Animal Care Shelter

So, what is it?

Volunteer and donate canned dog food and cat food. The shelter accepts Friskies, Iams, Fancy Feast, Science Diet and 9 Lives cat food, and Pedigree, Alpo, Iams and Science Diet dog food.

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

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

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Irene brings worst flooding in century to Vermont

WATERBURY, Vt. (AP) — Almost a dozen New England towns were rendered virtual islands Monday as floodwaters from the remnants of Hurricane Irene reshaped parts of Vermont and upstate New York, turning placid rivers into raging torrents and some streets into

treacherous mud bogs.

Hundreds of roads remained closed, dozens of bridges were gone and entire towns were cut off from assistance in the worst flooding some areas have seen in a century.

A day earlier, Irene dumped up to 11 inches on parts of Vermont and more than 13 inches on some areas of New York — a deluge that quickly overwhelmed waterways, storm sewers and drainage systems. At one point, the floodwaters were rising so fast that Vermont officials feared they might have to take the extraordinary step of flooding the state capital of Montpelier to relieve pressure on a dam.

"We prepared for the worst and we got the worst in central and southern Vermont," Gov. Peter Shumlin said. "It's just devastat-

ing — whole communities under water. ... We're tough folks here in Vermont, but Irene really ... hit us hard."

The destruction was etched across the landscape: highways washed out by fast-moving water, bridges and homes crumpled into heaps of broken planks and streets filled with mud thick enough to stop heavy duty vehicles in their tracks.

The images were much the same in upstate New York, where buildings that had withstood a century of hard winters and spring floods were carried away. The floodwaters upended cars and trucks and sent trees tumbling down rivers like matchsticks.

"We were expecting heavy rains," said Bobbi-Jean Jeun of

Clarksville, a rural hamlet near Albany. "We were expecting flooding. We weren't expecting devastation."

The storm was blamed for at least six deaths in New York. Three people were dead in Vermont, and a fourth was missing.

In the Catskills town of Phoenicia, the main street was still covered in red earth Monday, a day after a creek swelled beyond its banks and roared through town.

Chris Smith said the water was 3 feet deep on the street and moving swiftly enough to rock telephone poles. It carried away trees and lawn furniture.

"If you tried to cross the street, you would not have made it. The force you would not believe," he said. "It was just chocolate milk and trees and park benches."

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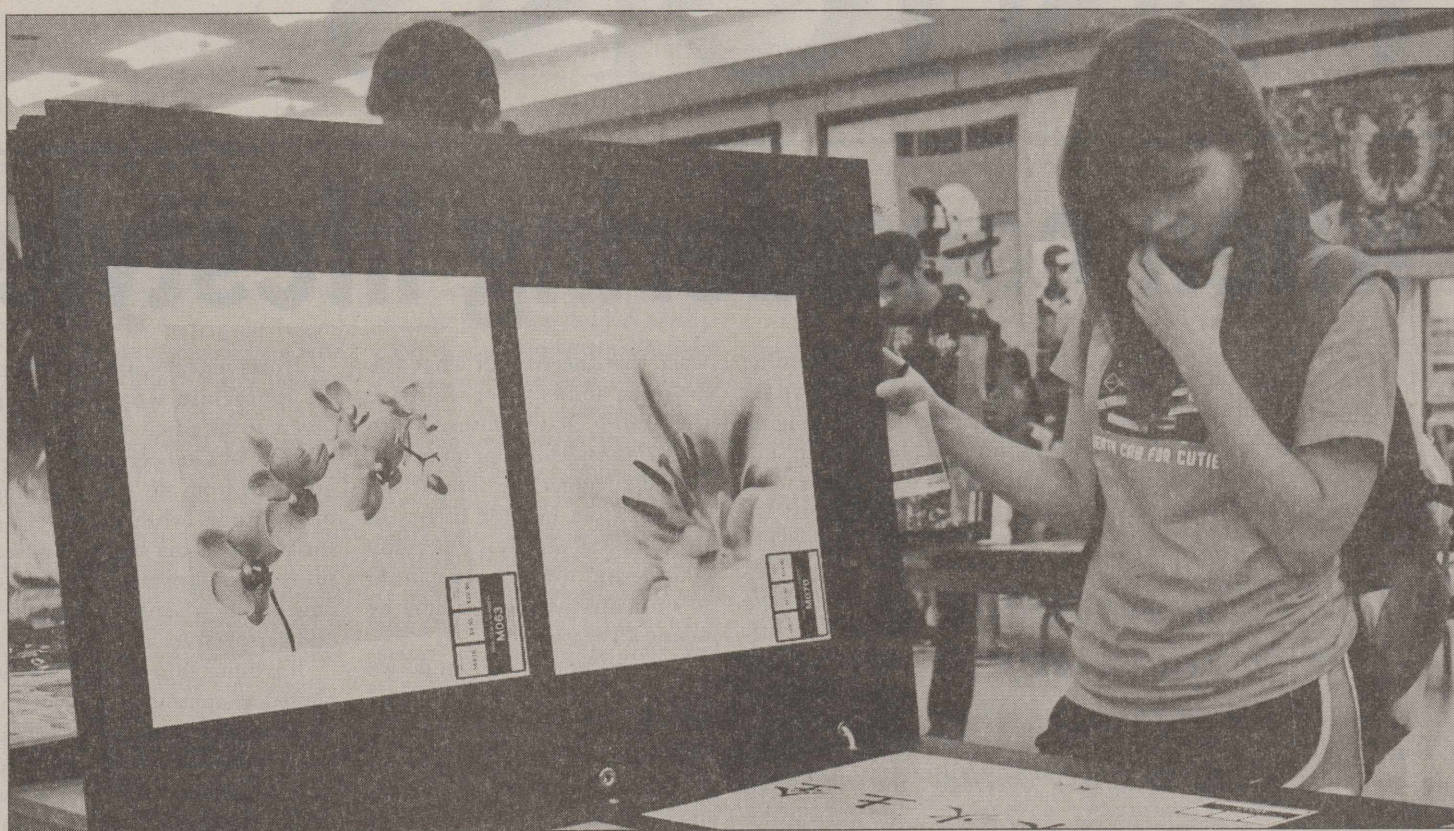
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PERUSING POSTERS



KIMBERLYN MCCOY, A freshman biology major from Cleburne, flips through a book of posters at the poster sale in the Student Union Building on Monday.

PHOTO BY ANNIE OSTERLUND/The Daily Toreador

Event

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We want our students to feel strongly connected to the university," he said, "and have a good sense of our spirit in addition to our fight song."

Ashley Gonzales, the assistant director of PEGASUS, said even though the fight song is on the forefront of students' minds, the basic structure of the event revolves around all spirit traditions.

"This workshop," she said, "serves as an opportunity to connect FGC students to their new institution and inspire pride in the school they have chosen to attend."

Although Tech Traditions has been going on for a while, she said, this year's version will have a "bigger feel" and closer ties to other organizations, such as the Saddle Tramps.

Along with the teaching of Tech's traditions, PEGASUS hopes to help FGC students with the organization's mentors being on-hand at the event.

Kyla Doddridge, the lead adviser for PEGASUS, said they will have around 15 mentors at the event to help with operations and talk to FGC students.

"(The mentors are) older students

who have (college) experience," she said, "and know what it's like to be in school. So, they can guide those new students through the first year."

Doddridge also said their focus is to build the attending students' urges to succeed at Tech. She said when a student respects a school's traditions, it may, perhaps, correlate to a successful academic career.

"If you value the institution you are attending," she said, "the more likely, you are to do well and attend your graduation."

PEGASUS is planning on a good turnout this Thursday night and the continued success of the event, Doddridge said.

"I think our students will just have fun... have a good time," she said, "but learn the correct traditions, learn the value and meaning behind the school song and know that it's important to have good sportsmanship when we're going to games."

"We just want the students to have a positive light on school traditions," Forbus said, "and have great school spirit."

There is no admittance fee, Forbus said, but students are asked to fill out a sign-in sheet.

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Alcohol

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The first portion of the course, which takes roughly 45 minutes, is followed by a 45-day delay, according to the website. Then, students must complete the fifth module, which takes an estimated 15 minutes.

The course also teaches students how to help other students who may be at risk, Juli McCauley, clinical department administrator for Student Health Services at Tech, said.

Earlier programs targeted only small groups of students that had to be physically present to participate, McCauley said.

"AlcoholEdu provided us with a very high-quality, research-based program that could be delivered to all students," she said.

Tech has been somewhat of a pioneer in implementing this course for its freshmen, McCauley said, and other universities like the University of Texas have followed Tech's lead.

Eight studies of AlcoholEdu have shown the program changed behavior related to binge drinking in a positive way, Michael Shonrock, an associate professor of education at Tech, said.

The federal study noted the program had a positive effect on the physiological, social and victimization domains during the fall semester, but the effect did not extend into spring.

The fall semester is the time students need the most help, McCauley said.

"That's a particularly risky time for students," she said, "because they're basically trying to figure out what's normal for college students."

The diversity of students at Tech means many students enter the program with different views, Tibbs said, and the program responds by changing, depending on the answers given in the first module.

Incorrect assumptions about how college students act and what levels of drinking are acceptable also can have an impact on students' views, McCauley said.

"There are a lot of messages in the media, movies, and television shows that give the impression that's what's normal for a college campus is to drink in a really risky way," she said.

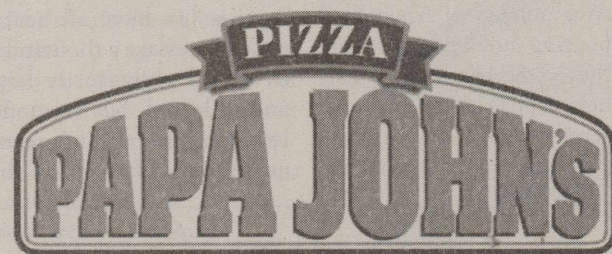
While many students might see AlcoholEdu as ineffective, Meredith Chiles, a senior ranch management major, said the program has benefits and drawbacks as well.

"It gives more of an awareness for the incoming freshmen that really don't know anything about alcohol. They just go out and party on Friday nights," she said. "But it's a long process. I think it needs to be cut down."

People who have been in higher education realize what a positive impact this course has on behavior and retention, Shonrock said.

"This can be one of those tools that might assist in helping students personally, and even helping an institution identify students at risk," he said.

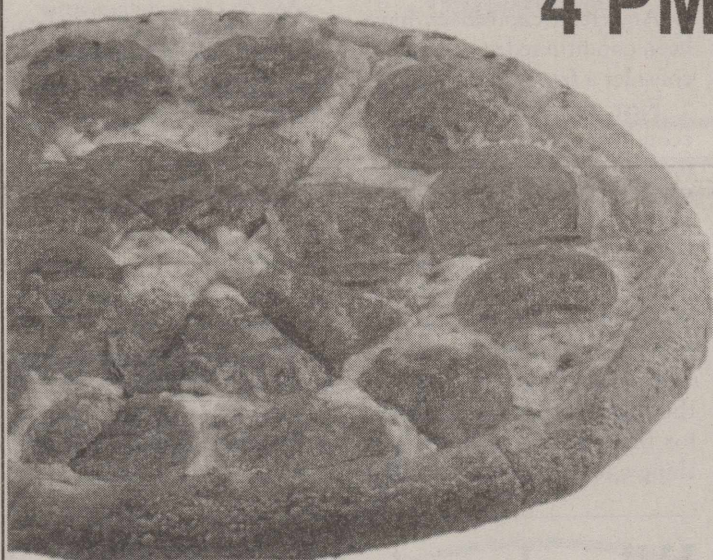
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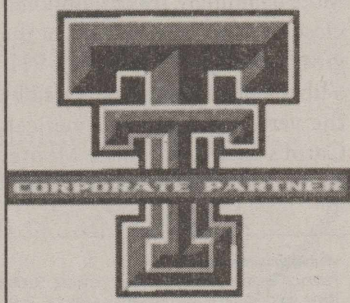
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Have humility when considering lifestyle

This summer, thousands of Americans traveled outside the country for vacation. Many of us traveled to countries far less fortunate than our own yet, nonetheless, have amazing vacation resorts. If it was your first time travelling to such destinations, you may have felt a sense of apprehension from stepping so far out of our protective and wealthy bubble.

This is not unnatural. Apprehension is to be expected in any new situation. However, this particular scenario left me — and, I would hope, many of you — somewhat shocked. After all, to get to these resorts and beaches we have to travel through the real world. First off, one should never feel guilty about taking advantage of the benefits and reasonable prices of these destinations since a large percentage of these countries rely heavily on American tourism to keep their citizens fed

Zach Morrison



and sheltered.

In fact, according to a study on Road & Travel Magazine's website, in a recent survey of more than 1,100 U.S. adults asked about their vacation preferences, heading to the beach and various other warm-weather activities were the top choice of 29 percent questioned. These destinations easily out-poll other leisurely activities such as camping, visiting a spa or playing golf. That is a massive number of Americans each pouring thousands of dollars into these countries, which can only have a positive effect.

Therefore, the point isn't to feel guilty for enjoying what we

are fortunate enough to be able to enjoy. It is, rather, to make a conscious effort to remember to include in our vacation plans a donation of mental energy towards imagining ourselves on

the other side of the situation. We must always remember, no matter how difficult it may get when surrounded by our circumstances, the fact that a majority of our fellow citizens of humanity reside on that flip side.

Now, we have all heard the general message a thousand times over and obligatorily listened and reflected, but we nonetheless return to our lives relatively unchanged. We turn on the tap

without a care while, according to a New York Times article, less than 58 percent of roughly 800 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa have safe water.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are incredibly blessed. We may as well be living on a different planet when we consider the difference between the way we live and the way the impoverished of this world struggle to sim-

ply survive. Many of us have never once felt a sense of apprehension from walking through our communities, while hundreds of millions live in fear on a daily basis.

We should all feel encouraged to, at the very least, appreciate

what that means and what you have the ability — or will have the ability in the future — to do to assist these people. We shouldn't forget the satisfaction derived from helping others in the simplest of ways, especially considering the fact we can do so in many instances simply by taking a vacation.

Let's be honest. When do we ever have the right to complain? We have safe borders, a relatively functional government and an average quality of life far exceeding even the kings of a thousand years ago who, without air conditioning, sweated as much as the next person.

Yes, it is often difficult to make the decision to put one's self in the same types of dangers described here, and traveling abroad to donate all one's energies to a cause isn't always the answer when many opportunities exist at home.

However, making the effort to appreciate what has been given to us when we are owed nothing by God certainly evokes gratitude from all. And a feeling of gratitude, while considering the problems our world is mired in, is an indispensable means of developing a sense of humility and perspective.

It is difficult to appreciate how blessed we are, and it is only natural to have a tendency to forget and live life as if we were entitled to it. However, if even for a few moments a day over a good meal were we to think about what it means to be us versus what it means to be far less fortunate, we can perhaps hope to develop, as a generation, the will to truly make an impact.

■ Morrison is a junior geography major from The Woodlands.
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“...we can perhaps hope to develop, as a generation, the will to truly make an impact.”

Textbooks should be made affordable to all

By **CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE EDITORIAL BOARD**
CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE (U. CENTRAL FLORIDA)

As we all get our fall semester started, there's one website looking to prey on students that are having a hard time affording their textbooks.

A new website, LibraryPirate, has sent letters to several news outlets calling on students to make digital scans of their printed textbooks and post them for free online, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education. This site is a copycat version of another site, Textbook Torrents, which was shut down nearly three years ago by publishers for illegally selling e-textbooks,

according to the Chronicle.

The online trading that LibraryPirate is asking students to engage in violates copyright law, but that has not stopped people from contributing pirated versions of e-textbooks to the site's directory. The site now has 1,700 textbooks which are organized and searchable, according to the Chronicle.

The founder of the website has chosen to remain anonymous for fear of legal action against him, but he hopes that his efforts have an impact on the cost of e-textbooks, which he finds to be unfairly high, according to the Chronicle.

"I want to bring about permanent changes to the textbook industry," he said. "The exorbitant price of a textbook shouldn't hinder students' ability to do well in a class," he added. "I believe there is a moral objective at play here."

Sites such as these get attention and notoriety specifically because textbook costs are spiraling out of control. According to one survey, released Tuesday by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, seven in 10 college students said they had not purchased a textbook at least once because they found the price to be too

high. Not buying the textbook often leaves the student with the less desirable option of borrowing a book or sharing one with another student.

According to the survey, 78 percent of those students who reported not buying a textbook said they expected to perform worse in that class, even though some borrowed or shared the textbook.

Students should not find themselves having to borrow textbooks for a class or having to share them with another student. Sharing a textbook creates an inconvenience for the students sharing it, because now they have to coordinate their schedules and work around each others' time to complete homework and study for assignments.

Another practice, known as "bundling," or packaging a textbook with CDs and passcodes that get lost or expire, also makes textbooks more expensive to obtain. This leaves students often having to pay for a CD that they may not need to use for their class. This increases textbook expenses for students.

The Public Interest Research Group has found textbook costs to typically be comparable to 26 percent of tuition at state universities and 72 percent of tuition at community colleges, according to the Chronicle.

These types of expenditures create a situation that is unsustainable for the average student. The end result is that many students find themselves having to share a book with a classmate and split the cost, or not get the book at all. Some professors will allow students to continue to use older editions of textbooks, but that is not always the case.

Students should not have to go without a textbook due to lack of affordability. Our public universities, in concert with the government entities that provide funding for them, must look for ways to make textbooks more affordable for students.

“...textbook costs to typically be comparable to 26 percent of tuition at state universities and 72 percent of tuition at community colleges...”

Economic lesson comes from unlikely place

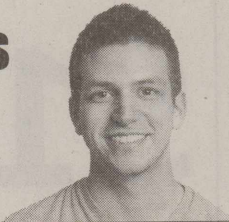
While reading through news and events on the Internet yesterday, I stumbled upon an interesting column, "Give Karl Marx a Chance to Save the World Economy," by George Magnus.

Now, before negative thoughts about Marxism and socialism automatically enter your head in that sort of Pavlovian way in which we, as American capitalists, have been conditioned to react, let's consider a few things.

First, the author is a senior economic advisor at the bulge-bracket investment bank UBS. Secondly, the op-ed was published on Bloomberg's website, a financial media conglomerate founded by entrepreneur and Mayor of the City of New York Michael Bloomberg.

Hearing anything even in the slightest shade of positivity for Marx is probably the last thing one would expect to find

Chris Leal



in a bastion of capitalism.

So what current light did Magnus have to shine on the economist who has been deceased for over a century?

Magnus did not, by any means, advocate implementing policies that would typically be lumped together with the term we colloquially refer to as "socialism." Rather, the UBS economist simply advised that we may benefit by paying attention to some of the predictions Marx made based on fundamental relationships in capitalistic systems.

The main example Magnus draws on from Marx is his view of the inherent conflict between labor and capital, which, as anyone who has taken an eco-

nomics course knows, are the prime inputs for an economy. Magnus cites Marx, explaining, "As [Marx] wrote in 'Das Kapital,' companies' pursuit of profits and productivity would naturally lead them to need fewer and fewer workers, creating an 'industrial reserve army' of the poor and unemployed: 'Accumulation of wealth at one pole is, therefore, at the same time accumulation of misery.'"

The effects of this are certainly visible in our current situation. During these hard economic times, corporate profits are at record levels while these entities hold trillions in idle cash, the official unemployment rate sits at 9.1 percent with measures of underemployment nearly double that and income inequality is at the highest it's been in nearly a century.

Personally, I was elated to find this article on Bloomberg, and written by a person like Magnus. Too often, people believe in the

illusion that "free-markets" exist and that they are the cure-all for our problems. But what do you do when the inherent characteristics of markets have created the problems?

People tend to hold markets as some sacred thing to be preserved — and possibly worshipped — for their own good. But in reality, markets are only a means to an end, with the end being reasonable and sustainable prosperity for an entire population.

Markets are, without a doubt, the best mechanism known to organize resources and create raw economic growth. But the proper role of government is to ensure this raw economic growth gets translated into real and healthy prosperity for the entire population on top of which the market is founded.

■ Leal is The DT's opinions editor and a senior finance and economics major from Dallas.
» opinions@dailytoreador.com

Why there is no conservative counterpart to Jon Stewart

By **AIDAN BONNER**
CORNELL DAILY SUN (CORNELL U.)

In 2009, an animated sitcom entitled The Goode Family aired on ABC. The Goode Family was created by Mike Judge of Beavis and Butt-head fame, and followed the exploits of an ultra-liberal family as they attempted to fit into their community while still upholding their values.

Have you heard of The Goode Family? If you haven't, it's hardly surprising. It was canceled after thirteen episodes due to low ratings, and an attempt to revive it on Comedy Central lasted only four weeks. What's interesting about this is that it came directly on the heels of King of the Hill, Mike Judge's previous animated sitcom. King of the Hill was extremely successful, running for twelve years and becoming something of a television institution.

Why would The Goode Family fail where King of the Hill succeeded? After all, they both have roughly the same creative team behind them and follow the same formula: low-key animated family comedies with elements of sociopolitical satire. They even have similar character dynamics, with fastidious, by-the-book father characters attempting to deal with their

rebellious children. The answer lies in the main, glaring difference between the two shows: King of the Hill directs its satire at conservatives, while The Goode Family directs it at liberals.

This is indicative of a phenomenon that can be seen wherever pop culture and politics intersect in America: Things that make fun of conservatives tend to do much better than things that make fun of liberals. Look at An American Carol, a 2008 film directed, written and produced by David Zucker, a Hollywood old hand responsible at least in part for such classic absurdist parodies as Airplane! and the Naked Gun series. An American Carol is a take-off on A Christmas Carol in which a thinly-veiled Michael Moore pastiche (complete with fat jokes a-plenty) is taught "the true meaning of America" by the ghosts of General George S. Patton and Presidents John F. Kennedy and George Washington. An American Carol was also a massive flop; it grossed a total of \$7 million over all, failing to recoup its \$20 million production budget. More damningly, this \$7 million is close to only three percent of the gross earnings of Fahrenheit 9/11, a liberal documentary directed by the very object of An American Carol's satire, Michael Moore. Right-wing satire just does not

perform well at the box office.

Intuitively, one wouldn't expect this to be the case. As recent elections have shown us, the U.S. is fairly evenly split between liberals and conservatives, and the same sorts of entertainment tend to be available to everyone in the country. It should be true, then, that liberal-satirizing documentaries would do just as well as conservative-satirizing documentaries (albeit with a different audience). Yet this is not the case, and I think this has something to do with differences in American liberal and conservative mindsets.

Modern liberals pride themselves on being activists, revolutionaries and agitators; they think of themselves as reformers and reorganizers. The goal of the modern American liberal is to take our current governmental, social and economic systems, dismantle them, and build better ones from their parts. As such, liberals respond well to irreverence, and irreverence is a key ingredient in satire. Liberals love the idea of mocking existing power structures — of "sticking it to the Man." Therefore it only makes sense that things that lambaste liberals' enemies, especially if those enemies happen to be in positions of power, would resonate with liberal audiences. In other words, liberal satire is successful

because it reinforces left-wing self-conceptions.

Conservatives, by contrast, are extremely reverent. Modern American conservatism is all about preserving the old ways and the old institutions of America, bringing America back to a time, real or imagined, when things were simpler and easier. This can be seen most easily in the religious wing of American conservatism; but even more libertarian conservatism, with its focus on limiting governmental power, often argues that the state is trying to intrude on beloved old local traditions and institutions. Conservatives, therefore, do not respond well to satire, even satire of their opponents. The very medium of satire, with its emphasis on deconstructive mockery, tends to fail with conservatives — who think of themselves as humble and traditionalist — since humility and respect for tradition are two values antithetical to satire.

Conservative parody hasn't been able to invade the world of pop-culture political satire because conservatives simply do not respond well to mockery — not only of themselves but of anyone. People connect well with things that reinforce their own beliefs about themselves, and the idea of satire goes directly against the conservative self-image.

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•Publishing information
Periodical postage paid by The Daily Toreador, Student Media building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409. Publication number: 756480. 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: \$150 annually; single issues: \$1.
Postmaster: send address changes to The Daily Toreador, Box 43081 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

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Perry: No stimulus program if he's president

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Republican presidential hopeful Rick Perry said Monday that no new economic stimulus package is needed to get America working again, but he declined to give specifics about how his still-unannounced plan to jumpstart the nation's economy would create jobs.

During an appearance at the Tulsa Press Club, Perry said he would let his "guiding principles" as a fiscal conservative inform his policies. But when pressed for details, Perry resorted to general statements he has often repeated on the campaign trail.

"No. 1 is don't spend all the money, you can figure out what that means," Perry said at the Tulsa Press Club event also attended by U.S. Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla. "You won't have stimulus programs under a Perry

presidency. You won't spend all the money."

The Texas governor, the newest entry into the 2012 GOP presidential field having announced his candidacy just over two weeks ago, has yet to release a national economic plan.

His campaign often cites the 1 million jobs Texas added in a decade that ended with a national recession. Some critics, however, point out that many of those new jobs are low-paying and the product of a low cost of living, so they question how much credit Perry's business-friendly policies actually should get.

At the Tulsa event, Perry said the nation's "entrepreneurial spirit" would create jobs and that his tax policies would allow Americans to keep more of what they earn. He said his tax system would be "light on job creators"

and called for a more predictable legal system "that doesn't allow for over-suing."

While he shed little new light on his campaign's economic plan, nor did he directly attack President Barack Obama's. Instead, he simply positioned himself as an alternative.

"We have seen a clear thirst for leadership in this country," Perry said.

In the oil-rich Southern Plains — the Tulsa oil boom was so big a century ago that huge containers had to be built around town to hold the overflow. Perry called for additional development of the U.S. nuclear energy industry so the country can become as energy independent as possible.

Earlier Monday, Perry's focus was foreign policy. He said American military commanders

should always control U.S. military forces abroad.

"It's not our interest to go it alone," he said. "We respect our allies and we must always seek to engage them in military missions. But at the same time, we must be willing to act when it is time to act. We cannot concede the moral authority of our nation to multilateral debating societies, and when our interests are threatened American soldiers should be led by American commanders."

Perry did not elaborate on what kinds of world bodies he was referring to, but the Obama administration has backed NATO-led airstrikes in Libya. The Libya operation is being run by a Canadian general from a NATO headquarters in Italy, but an American officer is the top NATO commander — and always has been.

Crime

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bailey said he would like to see the task force research ways to open the lines of communication between city and university police departments.

"We're working to see how the Tech Police Department and the Lubbock Police Department can collaborate more closely and, in a legal manner, to share information to better ensure the safety of our students," Bailey said.

Hance said he would like to see an increase in officer patrolling just east of the Tech campus where many students live.

He said he is hoping that by increasing patrolling and warning students about off-campus safety, apartment owners will feel pressure to keep Tech students aware and safe.

Capt. Greg Stevens, spokesman for the Lubbock Police Department, was not available for comment.

Ronald Phillips, who serves on the general counsel for Tech, said it is

important for students and parents to stay informed about high-crime areas off campus.

"I think (it's best) for a student and his or her family to look not just at Tech, but also the Lubbock community, and see if there are areas that they'd like to stay away from," he said.

However, he said the responsibility should not fall solely on the university and Lubbock police, as parents and students need to actively stay informed as well.

Bailey said he and the rest of the

university's administrators are trying to do everything in their power to keep students safe on and off campus.

"If there is any way we can improve the safety and well-being of our students," he said, "we're willing to take a look at it."

Bailey said the task force will not cost the university a lot of money, but it is still in the early planning stages.

Tom Martin, mayor of Lubbock, was unavailable for comment.

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Warren Jeffs in medically induced coma

HOUSTON (AP) — Polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs was hospitalized Monday in a medically induced coma in critical condition after fasting in the weeks since receiving a life sentence for sexually assaulting underage followers he took as spiritual brides, officials said.

The 55-year-old head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was expected to survive, an official familiar with Jeffs' medical condition told The Associated Press. It was not clear how long Jeffs — who has a history of refusing to eat while incarcerated — would remain in the coma or how long he would be hospitalized, the official said.

The official requested anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss the information publicly.

Doctors were not specific about why Jeffs was put into the coma.

Jeffs' attorney Emily Detoto said her client "hasn't been feeling well" and was taken to East Texas Medical Center in Tyler on Sunday night. She declined to elaborate.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokeswoman Michelle Lyons said Jeffs was in critical condition, but Lyons would not give specific details about his status. Lyons said Jeffs told corrections officers he's fasted in the time since his conviction earlier this month, though it was not immediately clear how long he'd gone without food before being hospitalized.

During Jeffs' trial, prosecutors used DNA evidence to show he fathered a child with a 15-year-old and played an audio recording of what they said was him sexually assaulting a 12-year-old. Both were among 24 underage wives whom prosecutors said Jeffs collected.

Court documents show Jeffs tried to hang himself in January 2007 while awaiting trial on rape charges in Washington County, Utah. He also threw himself against the walls of his cell and banged his head, although he later told a mental health expert he really wasn't trying to kill himself.

During a visit with a brother that same month that was videotaped by jail officials, Jeffs said he'd been fasting for three days and remained awake during the night. Days later, he was taken to a hospital and given medication for depression. The court documents said he'd lost 30 pounds, was dehydrated and suffering from sleep deprivation.

Jeffs also had to be temporarily force-fed in 2009 while in the Kingman, Ariz., jail.

In Texas, Jeffs has been in protective custody, which is among the most restrictive forms of imprisonment in the state. He was to be alone in his cell daily, not be involved in any work programs and to be out of his cell only to shower and for recreation by himself.

Jeffs is among only 85 inmates in the 156,000-prisoner Texas corrections system to be assigned protective custody.

The life sentence was the harshest possible for Jeffs' convictions, and he isn't eligible for parole until he is at least 100 years old. He had been in a Huntsville prison immediately after his trial, then was moved last week to the Powledge Unit outside Palestine, about 100 miles southeast of Dallas.

Former church members have said

Jeffs likely would continue to lead his Utah-based church from inside prison and that his followers likely still revere him as a prophet despite the considerable evidence presented at his trial showing he sexually assaulted girls as young as 12.

The basic principles of Jeffs' fundamentalist sect are rooted in polygamy, a legacy of early Mormon church teachings that held plural marriage brought exaltation in heaven. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the mainstream Mormon church, abandoned the practice in 1890 as a condition of Utah's statehood and excommunicates members who engage in the practice.



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Professors tell funny stories about students

By PAIGE SKINNER
STAFF WRITER

Students stress out and create complicated explanations for slacking off, and professors have heard all the excuses in the book.

Some excuses are more memorable than others.

Miguel Levario, a history professor, said he recalls a student who said he had to pick up his father from jail.

"It was really elaborate," Levario said. "He talked about how he got a phone call from the Travis County Jail and how he had to go get his dad, and that's why he missed a day of class."

Levario caught him because the day the student said he was in class there was a fire drill and class was only for 10

minutes that day. The rest of the time was spent outside.

"At that point, he broke down and started crying," he said. "He talked about how he was in a fraternity and just spilled it out. Mostly, he had been partying."

Some professors said certain excuses and incidents stand out more than others.

"Students think the more complex the story is, then it's got to be true, which is never true," Levario said.

Gretchen Adams, a history professor, said she has some all-time favorite excuses.

One time, Adams said, a male student told her he had just gotten a haircut he did not like and would not be able to attend class until it grew out.

Also, she said one student told her he

was too upset with an election's results to write his paper. He gave the excuse one month after the election.

Bill Dean, professor of mass communications and executive vice president of the Texas Tech Alumni Association, said he has heard plenty of excuses from students for missing class months after their absences.

Some, he said, were more absurd than others.

"Well, I had one student who said he missed a test because his mother was having a vasectomy," he said. "That was pretty outrageous."

Dean also said he had one student who said he couldn't come to class on a Monday because he had taken five Viagra pills the Friday before.

Another story Dean said he remem-

bered was about a student who said he could not take an exam because his mother had died.

"There was just something about his nature when he told me that caused me to call his home and express condolences," he said. "And then his mother answered the phone."

Along with excuses, professors have seen strange behaviors in the classroom.

Levario said he had one couple that would "make-out" in the back of the room.

"They were kissing and cuddling and what have you," he said. "I never thought people would think history is that sexy."

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SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

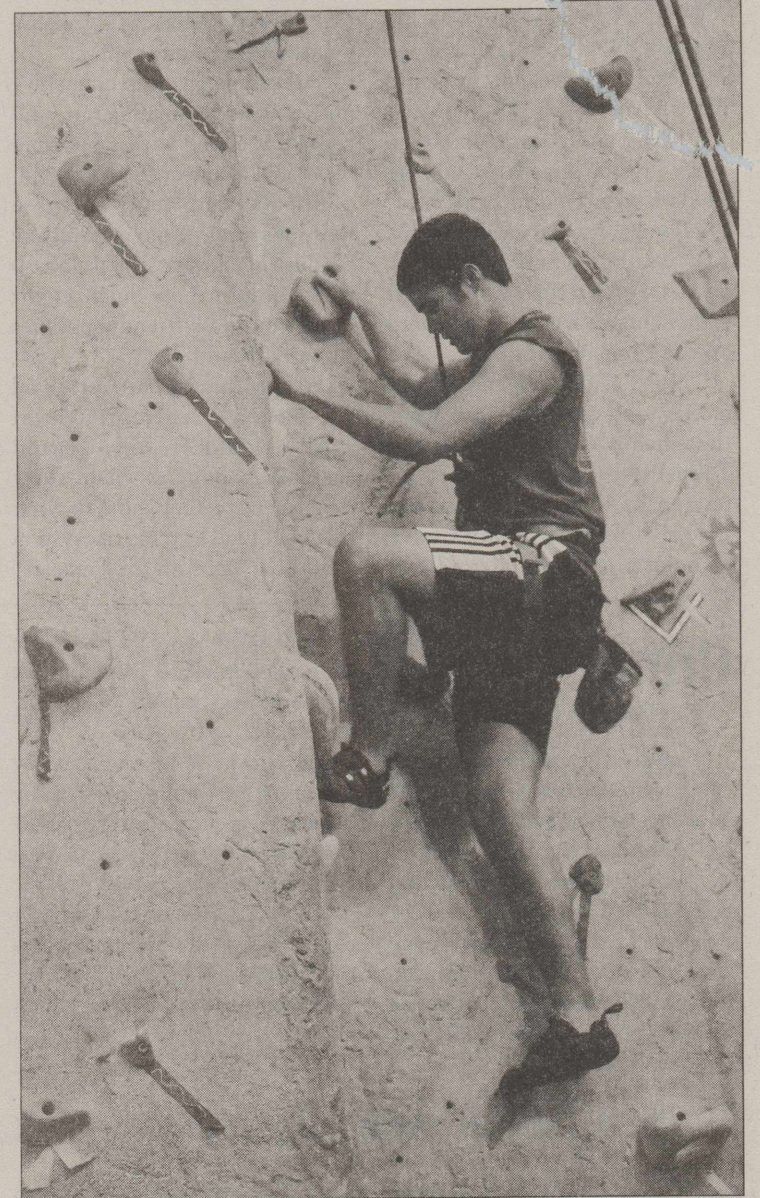


PHOTO BY ANNIE OSTERLUND/The Daily Toreador
SERGIO DE JESUS, a senior architect major from Houston, scales the rock climbing wall at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center on Monday.

'The Help' reigns again over storm-soaked weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Help" remained Hollywood's top draw with \$14.3 million on a slow late-summer weekend whose business was even more sluggish as many East Coast theaters closed to ride out the storm there.

Irene was downgraded from a hurricane to a tropical storm Sunday, but the weekend already was a lost cause for many theaters in its path. Studio executives estimate that about 1,000 theaters shut down for at least part of the weekend

and that business may have been off 15 to 20 percent because of the storm.

"It was a wild weekend," said Dave Hollis, head of distribution at Disney, which released DreamWorks Pictures' "The Help." "All things considered, to kind of come out with business down only 15 to 20 percent is something to be pretty thankful for."

"The Help" has been the No. 1 film for two-straight weekends. The acclaimed adaptation of Kathryn Stockett's novel

about black Southern maids sharing stories about white employers amid the civil-rights movement raised its domestic total to \$96.6 million and should cross the \$100 million mark Tuesday.

Late August often is a dumping ground for movies with slim commercial prospects, and Irene cut even further into receipts for the weekend's three new wide releases.

Zoe Saldana's action tale "Colombiana," released by Sony, opened in second-place with \$10.3 million. Guy Pearce and Katie Holmes' horror story "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark," a Film-District release, debuted in third with

\$8.7 million. Paul Rudd's comedy "Our Idiot Brother," distributed by the Weinstein Co., premiered at No. 5 with \$6.6 million.

"Colombiana" features "Avatar" star Saldana as an assassin out for revenge against the drug lords responsible for her parents' deaths. "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark," produced by Guillermo del Toro ("Pan's Labyrinth") is a remake of the 1970s TV movie about a household terrorized by tiny, savage creatures. "Our Idiot Brother" stars Rudd as a happy-go-lucky guy doing time with his three sisters after serving a short prison sentence.

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Perry wins top award but Beyonce baby tops show

(AP) — Beyonce and Jay-Z's offspring doesn't even have a name yet, but it was the indisputable breakout star of Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards, upstaging everyone, even Katy Perry's win for video of the year.

Perry, who had the most nominations coming into the show with 10, came away with three moonman trophies, including video of the year for the inspirational clip "Firework."

"I feel like I'm doing something right when I sing that song," said Perry, conservatively dressed in a cotton-candy pink jacket, a skirt and something best described as a Green Bay Packers cheesehead decoration.

But the night's big news came from Beyonce, who stole the show before it even began when she announced on the black carpet that after more than

three years of marriage, the dazzling couple had produced the ultimate all-star collaboration. Dressed in a loose-fitting, off-the-shoulder red gown, she clutched the baby bump that so many celeb-watchers had been predicting since the two wed.

Later, Beyonce performed "Love on Top," and if Twitter hadn't already spread the news, her outfit gave clues to her impending motherhood; instead of her typical sexy outfits, she dressed in conservative spangled tux — but still danced around in her signature stilettos.

Beyonce didn't utter a word about the pregnancy, but ended the number by taking off her jacket and rubbing her swollen belly; in the audience, an elated Jay-Z hooted and clapped for his wife as Kanye West hugged him.

In an instant, Beyonce and her soon-to-be child managed to overshadow the night's events. Lady Gaga's much-hyped opening number, during which she performed as a greasy, leather-jacketed male alter-ego during a performance of "You and I," became less interesting. So did the evening's meticulously planned wild moments, from Nicki Minaj's origami-like outfit to a dance-off between the members of Odd Future and Jack Black, Will Ferrell and Seth Rogen.

There was one apparently unscripted moment during Jay-Z's performance with Kanye West of "Otis," off their chart-topping joint album "Watch the Throne." Near the end of the song, someone tried to walk on the stage, but was quickly apprehended by a crew member as a bemused Jay-Z looked on. It was the second time Jay-Z had

someone walk on unannounced during an MTV performance; two years ago, it was Lil Mama.

Britney Spears captured the night's first award, for best pop video, and later was honored with an MTV Video Vanguard award for her visual legacy. Lady Gaga, sticking to her gender-switch shtick, leered at Spears as she paid tribute to her.

"She's a pop music legend, and the industry would not be the same without her," Gaga said. "I used to hang pictures of her on my wall and touch myself when I was in bed."

Later, Gaga fished for a kiss, but as Spears leaned in, she quickly pulled back, reminding viewers, "I've done that before."

The show at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles had no official host, though comedian Kevin Hart delivered an opening monologue and was featured in a series of vignettes during the show. Adele had perhaps the highlight of the night as the seven-time nominee delivered a powerfully understated performance of "Someone Like You," off her top-selling "21" album.

Chris Brown also wowed with an aerial number, soaring above the crowd in between high-stepping choreography.

Russell Brand provided the evening's rare poignant moment during a tribute to his late friend, Amy Winehouse, who died a month ago after struggling for years with drug and alcohol abuse. Brand urged people to remember the 27-year-old for her music, and urged others suffering to get help.

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Students reveal roommate stories

By **ROCIO RODRIGUEZ**
STAFF WRITER

Many changes occur when students move away from home and into a dorm, house or apartment. Being a roommate is one of them, and it is a new and difficult experience many students will soon learn about. "I had a roommate that ... she'd come home drunk all the time," Callie Leahy, a senior journalism major from Coppell, said. "It used to drive me nuts, but there was no mutual respect there, so we had a hard time getting along."

However, Leahy's roommate experience ended on a happy note. She shared a story about pulling a prank on a new room-

mate by covering her door with Post-it notes as a welcoming surprise. "You get to do crazy stuff with even crazier people. Being a roommate is a ton of fun," Leahy said.

One resident's roommate experience was difficult at first, but she eventually found a compatible roommate. "I had three roommates my first semester but finally met my current roommate in class last year," Emily Bradley, a sophomore anthropology major from San Angelo, said. "She had problems with her first roommate, and I didn't have a roommate, so we decided to move in together. "There have been a lot of

times when we'll just be sitting there and we'll say things at the same time and start laughing," she said. "We're kind of crazy, to be honest."

Bradley said her relationship with her roommate works because of their like-minded living arrangements and her roommate's high tolerance for Bradley's "randomness."

Bradley's words of advice encompass mutual respect. "Have a good system, don't exile your roommate, good communication is always good, be willing to have fun and be willing to laugh at each other," Bradley said.

Mixed in with the good and bad experiences, there are others not fitting either

description. "I would be playing video games, and he'd come out of his room and stand five feet behind me, and just watch me for 10-to-15 minutes," Zach Dominguez, a senior advertising major from Arlington, said. "He would just stand there not saying anything."

Leahy's roommate experiences gave her insight into what is important when having a roommate. "Being a roommate is the hardest thing to do because you have to practice patience, which is incredibly hard to do," said Leahy. "But you also have to learn who you are first before you can live with somebody."

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Jackson case barred from doctor's trial

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The judge in the upcoming trial of Michael Jackson's doctor ruled Monday that the defense cannot call any witnesses to testify about the child molestation investigation that led to the pop star's trial and acquittal in 2005.

Prosecutor David Walgren argued that lawyers for Dr. Conrad Murray were seeking to engage in character assassination of the victim in the involuntary manslaughter case.

"The people are concerned about this trial deteriorating into an attack on Michael Jackson," Walgren said. The hearing took place on what would have been Jackson's 53rd birthday.

Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor barred a half-dozen witnesses related to the molestation case, including the police detective who headed searches of Jackson's Neverland home in Santa Barbara County in 2003. The judge said such testimony would be distracting and misleading for the jury in Murray's trial and is irrelevant.

Jackson was acquitted of all charges in a high-profile trial in Santa Maria in 2005.

The judge said he was barring any mention of the molestation case because, "It proves nothing regarding the year 2009," when Jackson died.

Defense attorney Edward Chernoff said he was seeking testimony that in the past Jackson had been addicted to the painkiller Demerol.

Chernoff repeated a previously stated defense position that the pop star was addicted to that drug and was withdrawing from it when he died of an overdose of propofol and other medications in June 2009.

Walgren, however, said Jackson's autopsy found no Demerol in his body.

The judge effectively blocked the Demerol defense when he also excluded the testimony of Dr. Arnold Klein, a dermatologist blamed by the defense for giving Jackson Demerol. Pastor said written reports on Klein's statements could be used but neither

the doctor nor his assistant will testify.

Walgren argued that the defense was seeking to transfer responsibility for Jackson's death to Klein. The judge appeared to agree with the prosecutor.

"The calling of Dr. Klein does raise the issue of third party culpability," the judge said, noting jurors would become distracted by that issue.

Opening statements in the trial of Murray are scheduled to begin on Sept. 27. Murray, who has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter, could face up to four years in prison if convicted.

Authorities allege he gave Jackson a lethal dose of the anesthetic propofol and other sedatives in the bedroom of his rented mansion on June 25, 2009.

In court on Monday, Chernoff suggested that Jackson was desperate for sleep and turned to propofol because he was withdrawing from Demerol.

Pastor said he would permit two other doctors and a nurse to testify about their interactions with Jackson regarding propofol.

One is an anesthesiologist who gave Jackson propofol at least four times, including for dental procedures. Chernoff said the doctor, David Adams, used Murray's Las Vegas office in April of 2009 to give Jackson propofol for sleep on at least one occasion.

Adams is expected to testify that Jackson was so familiar with propofol that he called it "milk," according to documents filed by the defense.

Walgren sought to bar Adams' testimony, saying it will be "a side show."

Outlining the planned defense for the Houston-based cardiologist, Chernoff reiterated that he would claim Jackson self-administered the drug in a desperate quest for sleep.

Also barred was the testimony of Tohme Tohme, a one-time Jackson manager who negotiated the contracts for Jackson's ill-fated "This Is It" concerts, and John Branca, the co-executor of Jackson's estate. Pastor has said Jackson's finances won't be discussed at the trial.

The judge ordered lawyers back to court Sept. 6 to finalize jury questionnaires which will be handed out beginning Sept. 8.

Rare find discovered amid town's Old West kitsch

VIRGINIA CITY, Mont. (AP) — The Gypsy sat for decades in a restaurant amid the Old West kitsch that fills this former gold rush town, her unblinking gaze greeting the tourists who shuffled in from the creaking wooden sidewalk outside.

Some mistook her for Zoltar, the fortune-telling machine featured in the Tom Hanks movie "Big." Others took one look at those piercing eyes and got the heebie-jeebies so bad they couldn't get away fast enough.

But until a few years ago, nobody, not even her owner, knew the non-functioning machine gathering dust in Bob's Place was an undiscovered treasure sitting in plain sight in this ghost town-turned-themed tourist attraction.

The 100-year-old fortune teller was an extremely rare find. Instead of dispensing a card like Zoltar, the Gypsy would actually speak your fortune from a hidden record player. When you dropped a nickel in the slot, her eyes would flash, her teeth would chatter and her voice would come floating from a tube extending out of the eight-foot-tall box.

Word got out when the Montana Heritage Commission began restoring the Gypsy more than five years ago, and collectors realized the machine

was one of two or three "verbal" fortune tellers left in the world.

One of those collectors, magician David Copperfield, said he thinks she is even rarer than that. "I think it's only one of one," Copperfield said in a recent telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Copperfield wanted the Gypsy to be the crown jewel in his collection of turn-of-the-century penny arcade games. It would occupy a place of pride among the magician's mechanized Yacht Race, Temple of Mystery and various machines that tested a person's strength.

Copperfield acknowledged approaching the curators about buying the Gypsy a few years ago but declined to say what he offered. Janna Norby, the Montana Heritage Commission curator who received the call from Copperfield's assistant, said it was in the ballpark of \$2 million, along with a proposal to replace it with another fortune-telling machine. On top of that, he pledged to promote Virginia City in advertisements.

But Heritage commission curators, representing the Gypsy's owner — the state of Montana — rejected the idea, saying cashing in on this piece of history would be akin to selling their soul.

"If we start selling our collection

for money, what do we have?" said Norby, the commission's former curator of collections.

The commission's acting director, Marilyn Ross echoed Norby's sentiments: "That is not something we would ever consider, selling off these antiques."

That dismissal has set collectors grumbling. Theo Holstein, a California collector and renovator of such machines, said he thinks the Gypsy is wasted in Virginia City and should be placed in a private collection for proper care. He said he is trying to gather investors to make a \$3 million bid that would top Copperfield's offer.

"They don't have any idea what they have. It's like they have the world's best diamond and they just pulled it out of their mineshaft," Holstein said. "It's good that it's there and it survived, but now it really needs to be part of the world."

Holstein said he wouldn't be surprised in the machine ultimately sold for \$10 million or more. Copperfield also said he is still interested in purchasing it.

That could put pressure on the state, which, like the rest of the nation, is facing hard fiscal times. Montana's budget is in the black, but keeping the effects of the recession at arm's length

has meant deep budget cuts.

Those cuts have hit the Montana Heritage Commission particularly hard. Just weeks after Norby spoke to the AP, her position and three others were eliminated as part of a larger reorganization to cut \$400,000 from the commission's budget, Ross said.

The state agency that oversees the commission, meanwhile, is not so quick to reject the idea of selling the Gypsy. Department of Commerce deputy director Andrew Poole said he has not seen any offers in writing, and if one were made, it would go through a bid process that includes the scrutiny of the commission and input from the public.

The state inherited the Gypsy in 1998 when it paid \$6.5 million to buy nearly 250 buildings and their contents in Virginia City and nearby Nevada City from the son of Charles Bovey. The Montana collector spent years buying up the buildings to preserve the two crumbling ghost towns and he stocked them with his ever-growing collection of antique games, music machines and oddities.

Bill Peterson, the heritage commission's former curator of interpretation, said the collection includes hundreds of thousands of items, so many that curators are still discovering them.

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Gilbert gets another chance at QB

AUSTIN (AP) — Garrett Gilbert has earned a second chance to be the starting quarterback at Texas.

The junior who threw 17 interceptions as Texas went 5-7 last season was announced Monday as the starter for the Longhorns' season opener Saturday night at home against Rice.

Gilbert won a four-way battle for the job in new coordinator Bryan Harsin's offense. The Longhorns threw the position open after Texas had one of its worst offensive seasons in 20 years in 2010 and Gilbert wound up throwing for just 10 touchdowns.

The question now is just how strong of a hold does he have on the job and how quickly would Texas go to No. 2 Case McCoy if Gilbert struggles?

"He's the starting quarterback at Texas. If he moves the ball and scores, he'll keep it," coach Mack Brown said. "He wouldn't be our

starting quarterback if we didn't have faith in Garrett."

Texas' depth chart had been kept secret through training camp, but Gilbert said he was told a week ago he had moved to No. 1 after the team's second scrimmage.

Harsin tried to make the competition as intense as possible between Gilbert, McCoy, and freshmen David Ash and Connor Wood. The Longhorns charted every pass of every drill, third down conversion and touchdown drive during camp, and Harsin said Gilbert had the best understanding of the plays, defensive reads and audibles.

After Gilbert struggled in the first scrimmage, he was busted out of the top spot and told to work his way back up as the others were given snaps with the first team, Harsin said.

"He competed," Harsin said. "He built himself back into the position he is now."

Gilbert called the competition

fun and said the four quarterbacks have a good relationship.

"All summer, during spring, I was just worried about trying to improve ... The quarterback controversy or whatever, I knew that would settle itself," he said. "I'm not concerned about making mistakes. I'm just concerned about playing football, even if that means handing the ball off every play."

Gilbert's teammates said they have watched him grow into a better leader.

"He has that spark in his eye and wants to do great," guard David Snow said. "He's improved dramatically."

Whether Gilbert proves to be a rah-rah leader or quiet one is immaterial, Harsin said.

"Alpha male or not, ultimately what the 10 other guys care about is 'Are you going to get me in the end zone?'" Harsin said.

The choice of Gilbert as starter

is likely to be met with some derision from Texas fans, who watched the Longhorns lose five of seven home games last season and heaped much of their criticism on the former high school All-American from nearby Lake Travis.

Gilbert often looked frustrated and unable to take control of an offense that sputtered badly, particularly in home losses to Iowa State and UCLA, and a road defeat at Kansas State when Gilbert threw five interceptions.

Gilbert said he can't worry about what fans think of him. He said he held his head high in the offseason and didn't shy away from the public. He also said he didn't hear any criticism.

"I guess I don't have a noticeable face," joked Gilbert, who at 6-foot-4, 220 pounds, stands out in most crowds. "I was able to stay fairly incognito."

A&M making poor choice if it joins SEC

It is only a matter of time before Texas A&M's Aggies turn the Big 12 into a broken home.

Their move to the SEC is one of spite and fright. It's a huge mistake. It doesn't work out well for anyone.

The Aggies are taking their ball and moving down the street. The big and bad Longhorn Network has scared them away from what we all had here. We had a good thing, and I might be in the minority when I say this: Aggies, please don't go.

It feels weird, but I don't want the Aggies to leave. No one should. There is this little thing college football is built on — one thing that runs so deep other sports don't understand and don't match in scale.

College football is tradition and the Aggies are running away from a great one.

They are running away from a gold standard in Texas football. Not having the Aggies and Longhorns play near Thanksgiving is more devastating than my mother not making pumpkin pie. I know more than a few Aggies, and I can't say they enjoy many things more than beating the Longhorns.

Can you imagine if the Aggies didn't make any more trips to Lubbock? We may not be "rivals" in the traditional sense of the word, but it sure seems like a game we all circle on the schedule.

The real gripe for me is the Aggies have done nothing to warrant an invite to the elite football conference. The level of play exhibited by the Aggies is not SEC quality. I really can't understand where the Aggie faithful get the idea this is a fun move. Just look at history.

The Aggies have been sickening in representing the Big 12 against SEC teams. In the past two years — Aggies point to their worthiness of SEC invite — they have fallen to Arkansas twice, LSU and Georgia.

How do the Aggies expect to compete in the SEC when they haven't even been a force in the Big 12? Their record in the past 10 years against what were the Big

Cody Stoots



12 South Division teams is less than stellar.

The Aggies have beaten Oklahoma twice, Texas and Texas Tech three times and Oklahoma State five times in the past 10 years. If they can't run through these teams, how can they expect to compete against a SEC division with LSU, Alabama, Arkansas and Auburn?

The Aggies are making a hasty and unwise choice, not to mention they look like liars now.

If the Aggies wanted to leave, it made more sense to do so last year when the conference's game of musical chairs was in full swing. Now the Aggies have eggs on their faces and look like crying brats scared of the Longhorn Network.

Aggies can preach whatever they want about why they are leaving, but it seems the Longhorn Network may

be the straw that broke Reveille's back. The Aggies are worried about a television network and nobody knows if the network will work or not. It is a shame they have let their inferiority complex with Texas get in the way of good, old-fashioned tradition.

There are plenty of things to make fun of about the Aggies, but their departure will leave a hole in the Big 12 not easily filled. Some think this may spell doom for the conference, but I think there will be a patchwork team added to make it work.

The Aggies can take their 12th man, doggie scoreboard, Yell Leaders and the Corps to the SEC, but neither they nor the Big 12 will be better off.

This time, it seems it's goodbye to Texas A&M.

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

Rangers know stretch run will be tighter this year

ARLINGTON (AP) — Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington stood up from his office chair and started wildly shaking his knees back and forth.

While exaggerating how nervous he might be about the AL West race with the Los Angeles Angels, the division-leading manager and his team know things will be much tighter down the stretch this season.

They already are. "Think about it. If you've got a seven-game lead, of course you're more comfortable," Washington said after settling back into his chair. "But that doesn't mean that panic sets in."

Texas (76-59) took a three-game lead into its off day Monday, after playing 17 consecutive days with only one other break since Aug. 1. There are 27 regular-season games left, the last three at

Los Angeles in four weeks.

"They're not going away. They're a good team. Everybody knows that," second baseman Ian Kinsler said. "We didn't expect them to do that last year, it was just kind of luck of the draw."

At the same point last season before the Rangers won their first AL pennant, they had an eight-game division lead. That never got smaller than seven and they clinched the division title with eight games left.

The Rangers found out Monday they will be without slugging right fielder Nelson Cruz for about three weeks because of another hamstring injury. An MRI revealed a grade 1 strain for Cruz, who got hurt running out a double in Sunday night's 9-5 victory over Los Angeles.

Cruz missed 51 games last season because of three different stints on the disabled list with issues with

both hamstrings. He was on the DL for 17 games earlier this year because of a right quadriceps strain.

Texas went through most of the final month of the regular season last year without AL MVP Josh Hamilton and Michael Young, though both got back for the playoffs.

Before rallying Sunday night against Angels ace Jered Weaver, Texas had lost seven of 10 games. The division gap would have been trimmed to a single game without that comeback.

Their losing stretch began with a 2-1 loss at Los Angeles on Aug. 18, when Texas was three outs away from a four-game sweep and a season-high division lead of eight games. But Mark Trumbo hit a game-ending two-run homer.

"We had a hiccup, had some bumps in our starting rotation, had

some things out the bullpen that didn't work. We had some days where we didn't put the runs on the board," Washington said. "It happens. Every team in the game is going through it. We just hit it right now."

At the same time, the Angeles had a season-best six-game winning streak. They won seven of eight before their last scheduled game at Rangers Ballpark this season.

The Rangers have been alone atop the AL West since July 6, when they were early in a 12-game winning streak.

Boston took three of four at Texas in a potential playoff preview last week. The Red Sox lost the opener 4-0, but then won 11-5, 13-2 and 6-0. The Rangers rebounded to win two of three against Los Angeles.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Beat to a pulp
- 5 Deeper Dars
- 9 Very cold
- 14 Mental block buster
- 15 Guinness who played Obi-Wan
- 16 Memorable mission
- 17 "Sydney's locale, familiarly
- 19 Bantu-speaking South Africans
- 20 Ain't right?
- 21 "Man, according to a longtime Desmond Morris best-seller
- 23 WWII bond designation
- 26 Mental block buster
- 27 Spoiled-rotten kids
- 29 Doggone
- 33 "Bkurlby
- 37 Sun Devils' sch.
- 38 Work like a dog
- 39 Clumsy dummy
- 40 Jettarod racer
- 41 "I'm with ya"
- 42 "Skip-over-ads button
- 46 Like porn
- 48 Very strange
- 49 Skyline-blurring phenomenon
- 51 One begins parallel parking in it
- 55 "Hosting squad
- 59 Lucy's landlady
- 60 "It was you," in a Verdi aria
- 61 Overachievers, and a hint to a word that can precede both words of the starred answers
- 64 Odor of the Lakers
- 65 Pianist Gilels
- 66 Case for notions
- 67 Annapolis frosh
- 68 Smelling awful
- 69 "Look __, I'm Sandra Dee"
- "Grease" song

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By Nancy Salomon 8/30/11

Monday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	R	S	S	E	A	M	M	E	S	H		
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Texas A&M receives letter from Big 12

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M received a letter from Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe on Monday outlining the withdrawal procedure should the Aggies decide to leave the league.

University spokesman Jason Cook said the letter "outlines the withdrawal procedures according to the financial provisions of the Big 12 bylaws and mutual waivers of legal claims."

Cook wouldn't provide any other details of the letter or comment on what A&M's next step might be.

The Aggies are interested in joining the Southeastern Conference and the letter comes less than a week after they formally told Beebe they are exploring their options and asked for the conference to outline the process if they decide to leave. The league's board of directors addressed the possible departure of the Aggies this weekend.

"I certainly appreciate the discussion among the Big 12 presidents/chancellors and the expression of their desire for Texas A&M to remain in the conference," Texas A&M President R. Bowen Loftin said in a statement. "We all agree that Texas A&M is an extremely valuable institution; thus, it is incumbent upon me, as the president of the university, to ensure that we are in a position to enhance our national visibility and future financial opportunity."

Loftin added this is a "complex and long-term decision," but "it is not our intent to prolong our conference exploration for an extended period of time."

The SEC said earlier this month it was happy with its current 12-school membership but left the door open to expansion. Loftin then received authority from the board of regents to take any action he deems necessary in

terms of realignment.

There is concern that a departure by the Aggies could jeopardize the future of the Big 12, which is down to 10 teams after Nebraska (Big Ten) and Colorado (Pac-12) left the league last July. Loftin has said the Aggies would consider how their departure would impact the future of Big 12 before any decision is made.

The Big 12 would need to find a team to replace the Aggies if they exit the conference and there has been a lot of speculation about possible schools. So far, the only school to publicly express interest in moving to the Big 12 is SMU. Athletic director Steve Orsini said he's had informal talks with Big 12 officials for some time to inform them of the school's improvements and growth.

In the letter Loftin sent to the Big 12 last week, he said if the Aggies leave, they would want to do it in a manner that complies with league bylaws. He also has said financial concerns will factor into any decision to leave; the school likely would face an exit fee.

Benson gets jail sentence in Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Cincinnati Bengals running back Cedric Benson was sentenced to 20 days in jail Monday after reaching a deal to settle two misdemeanor assault cases in Texas.

Benson said he will surrender to authorities on Oct. 17, which is the Monday of Cincinnati's bye week.

"This was a difficult decision for Mr. Benson," said Sam Bassett, the running back's attorney. "His priority right now is to get back to work and put these legal matters behind him."

Benson's jail time could be significantly shorter than the sentence.

He could be given credit for any time served when he was arrested and state law requires inmates be given two days credit for every day they are rewarded for good behavior. Jail overcrowding also could shorten his stay.

But for now, the Bengals must make plans to be without their leading rusher. They declined comment Monday.

Benson was arrested in 2010 for allegedly punching a bar employee in Austin, an incident that earned him a meeting with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell last year but resulted

in no punishment. He pleaded no contest to a charge of assault with injury in that case.

He also was arrested last month for allegedly punching a former roommate in downtown Austin. He pleaded no contest to a charge of assault with bodily injury with family violence, and that will be dismissed if he performs 30 hours of community service and pays an undisclosed amount of restitution to the victim.

"We're pleased that Mr. Benson took responsibility for his actions

today and we think this was a just result given the facts of the case," said Corby Holcomb, assistant trial director with the Travis County Attorney's Office.

The 28-year-old Benson was Chicago's first-round pick out of the University of Texas in 2005. He had two alcohol-related arrests with the Bears, who let him go in 2008.

He signed as a free agent with the Bengals and led them in rushing each of the last three years — 747 yards in 2008, 1,251 yards in 2009 and 1,111 yards in 2010.

Gurode's departure shows Garrett means business

IRVING (AP) — Andre Gurode was warned, just like everyone else on the Dallas Cowboys. Under first-year coach Jason Garrett, jobs will be won and lost based on how players perform in camp and pre-season games, not by what they've done in the past.

Having made the Pro Bowl the last five years wasn't enough for Gurode to keep his roster spot.

The Cowboys cut the veteran center Monday for a variety of reasons that included his age and salary, his decision to have knee surgery so late in the offseason that it sidelined him for the start of camp and by the performance by an undrafted, unproven second-year player in Gurode's absence.

"What we've said right from

Day 1 is it doesn't really matter where you came from or what you've done in the past," Garrett said. "We're going to try our best as coaches and evaluators to see what you're doing right now and see what you can do for us going forward. We try to do that individually, we try to do that collectively. We're not in the busi-

ness of trying to send a message to the rest of the team. We're trying to make the best decision for our team."

Still, the decision/message was clear to everyone, from veterans who may feel comfortable to rookie free agents still trying to prove themselves.

"That's the way it should be,"

veteran linebacker Keith Brooking said. "I think when you can create that environment and that message is sent throughout your team - and it's not just a message, there are examples that run through the team - I think that's a really good thing for everyone. That's what pushes you, that's what makes you better."

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Youth, newcomers dominate Tech depth chart

By **JOSE RODRIGUEZ**
MANAGING EDITOR

Blake Dees is on the brink of doing something no other Texas Tech linebacker has accomplished since 2003, when Brock Stratton took the field for the Red Raiders: start as a true freshman on opening day.

Dees spearheads a group of incoming freshmen. Head Coach Tommy Tuberville expects to see make an impact on the field in 2011. They will get their first chance on Saturday at 6 p.m. at Jones AT&T Stadium against Texas State.

"I'm excited about watching the younger guys play for the first time

that I think will be household names for the next four years here at Texas Tech," Tuberville said during Tech's weekly media conference Monday, "and both offense and defense guys like Blake Dees, LaDarrin Robertson, Delvon Simmons, Sam Eguavoen ... and then (on) offense, you have Bradley Marquez, DeAndre Washington (and) Kenny Williams."

Dees, a Spanish Fort, Ala., native, is Tech's lone starting true freshman, while several others are listed on Tech's two-deep roster.

Among those are Marquez at outside "Z" receiver, tight end Jace Amaro, offensive linemen LeRaven Clark and Alfredo Morales,

linebacker Eguavoen and defensive lineman Delvon Simmons.

However, true freshmen not on the two-deep roster have not been ruled out from receiving playing time.

Tuberville said freshman running back DeAndre Washington will take some handoffs this year, while a decision on fellow freshman Kenny Williams has yet to be made.

"DeAndre will play for sure," Tuberville said. "We've not made our minds up on Kenny yet — just a lot depends on some things of what we feel like we're going into this first game with offensively."

The Red Raider offense features a two-year letterman at every starting position except "Z" receiver, where junior Darrin Moore will begin the season.

Despite the amount of experience across the board, Tech quarterback Seth Doege said the offense lacks some leadership and a vocal presence — something they lost with the injury to starting center Justin Keown.

Keown suffered a right-knee injury Aug. 15 that was set to keep him sidelined for three-to-five weeks.

"We still need to find somebody to step up on the offensive line and be vocal," Doege said. "Keown was that guy, and I think those guys listened to him."

Junior guard Deveric Gallington filled Keown's role immediately fol-



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TOMMY TUBERVILLE LEADS his team onto the field before Tech's 24-17 win against then-No. 12 Missouri on Nov. 6 at Jones AT&T Stadium. Tuberville and the Red Raiders begin their 2011 season Saturday against Texas State, with a roster that contains an abundance of youth and newcomers.

lowing the injury, while junior Terry McDaniel took over Gallington's then-vacant right guard spot.

Gallington has since moved back to his right guard position while McDaniel is listed as Tech's starting center against Texas State.

LaAdrian Waddle, Lonnie Edwards and Mickey Okafor make up the rest of what is set to be Tech's starting offensive line.

Experience along the defense is on the opposite end of the spectrum.

Defensive Coordinator Chad Glasgow's newly implemented 4-2-5 scheme will showcase just two starters with more than one year of playing experience in safeties Cody Davis and D.J. Johnson.

Brett Dewhurst, who also has more

than one year of playing experience under his belt, is Davis' backup.

What Tech's defense lost in experience, however, it may have made up in athleticism.

Tuberville has mentioned throughout fall camp the defense may not be as fast as he hopes it will be someday, but is a notch faster than last year's group.

Speed aside, Davis said the defense's intensity is higher and has been so because of the new faces.

"You know, bringing in the youth does bring a lack of experience somewhat," Davis said, "but, at the same time, the intensity is probably even higher, with more focus and more intensity."

Tuberville said he expects the

depth chart to change throughout the course of the season as players like Keown get healthy, as freshmen such as Marquez and Washington gain experience and as newcomers get acclimated to Glasgow's defensive scheme.

Regardless of how things work out, Tuberville said he does not expect 2011 to be perfect for his new-look Red Raiders.

"There's going to be a lot of ups and downs in this football season for us," Tuberville said. "As I said earlier, we have a lot of people that are just looking for an opportunity to play, number one, and then put their best foot forward playing together as a team."

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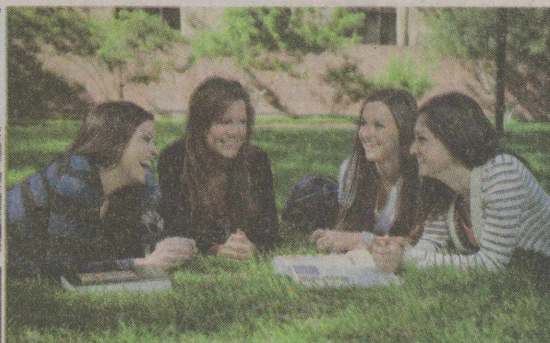
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