# Math building still dealing with damage



### Employees work to fix effects from Friday flood

PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The DT

PHYSICAL PLANT EMPLOYEES vacuum water in the study room of the Math building after a pipe leak caused the first floor and basement to flood Friday.

By GLORIA LERMA STAFF WRITER

Almost a week has gone by since the flooding caused by a maintenance error occurred in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics building Friday, but Texas Tech employees are still trying to negate the effects.

While fixing a broken toilet in a women's restroom on the SOUTHWAST COLLECTION

The first floor is where classrooms, IT center, the mathematics department's office and professors' offices are located. The basement of the building, where some classrooms are located, also suffered damages, officials said.

Although most of the water was cleared on Friday, a private company hired to repair damages Tech's Physical Plant was unable to corrent contributed to the cleanup effort over the

While fixing a broken tollet in a month of the first floor, a maintenance worker accidently hit a pipe, causin **Texas Tech University 00D** continued on Page 2 LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79408

# Library texting program aims to help students with studies

System allows librarians to quickly answer questions

> By MORGAN CRUMP STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech library has adopted a new texting program allowing students to ask librarians questions and receive

M I would definitely prefer to text the library rather than struggle to find answers to questions that seem almost impossible."

**Brandon Ward** 

answers directly to their phones.

"When a student texts a guestion to the library, it comes to us online. We obviously don't have a phone being passed around," Kimbery Vardeman, a reference librarian at the Tech library, said. "The librarians then see the guestion and it is sent to the person who specializes in that subject. We then respond to the questions from the Text-a-Librarian website and the answer is returned to the student's phone just like a text message."

LIBRARY continued on Page 2

# **By PAIGE SKINNER**

STAFF WRITER

Just an average graduate student and teaching assistant, Drew Vierling juggles going to school, teaching speech classes and being a devoted

In three years, he plans to apply for seminary to study becoming a priest.

Vierling grew up in Beaumont and attended college at Lamar University, where he studied communications before coming to Texas Tech for his master's degree.

He said he was interested in coming to Lubbock because his godmother

"My godmother grew up in Lubbock and she's very wholesome, so I thought Lubbock must be a great place to go and be wholesome," Vierling said. "She did say good things about Lubbock, but her life said more good things than her words. Also, her dad worked here. So, when I told him I wanted to go to Baylor, he told me I should go to Tech instead.'

Vierling did not visit Tech before coming here, he said, but had visited "the big city of Lubbock" one time and was "enchanted" by it.

He said his desire of becoming a Catholic priest started at a young age.

Vierling credits his elementary school principal, who was a priest, with inspiring him to become one himself.

"When I was a very little kid, I went to a private Episcopal school and the principal was also an Anglican priest, and I thought he had the coolest job in the world," he said. "Then, I was an atheist for many years, and then I became Christian and decided I should be open to whatever God wants for me," he said.

He said he was an atheist from age

"I moved from atheism toward Christianity through agnosticism, sort of, in acknowledgement that I can't really know for sure," he said.

Shane Baxter, a priest and Vierling's godfather, said he met Vierling in Beaumont when he began to express interest in the Catholic faith.

Vierling chose his godparents when he was 27 years old, he said.

PRIEST continued on Page 5

Grad student aspires to be Catholic priest

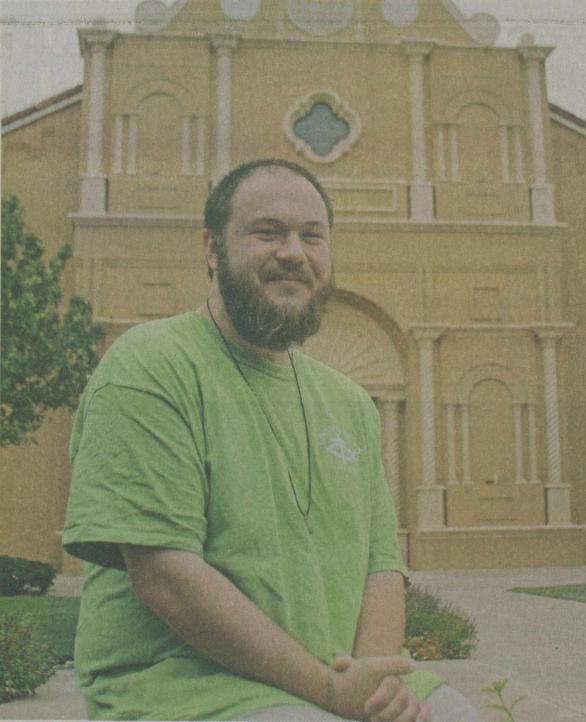


PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador DREW VIERLING IS a Texas Tech graduate student, teaching assistant and aspires to become a Catholic priest.

### New Honors/HSC program combines humanities, medicine

Focus placed on students with health career in mind

> By TERRY MOORE STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Honors College and the Health Sciences Center have come together to establish a new program meant to educate students seeking to apply to medical school.

The Health and Humanities program is a specific track within the Honors College's Arts and Letters degree program. With many paths to choose from, students are now given the option of heading toward more of a medical destination with the Health and Humanities track — something a lot of the college's freshmen are already preparing for.

**HEALTH** continued on Page 3

INDEX Classifieds.....7 Crossword.....6 Opinions.....4 La Vida.....5 Sports......6 Sudoku......3

### WEATHER

### Partly Cloudy

Friday

Mostly Sunny

Makris: Feels so good to finally be a U.S. citizen OPINIONS, Pg. 4





EDITORIAL: 806-742-3393

FAX: 806-742-2434

**CIRCULATION: 806-742-3388** 

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AILY TOREADOR

### Community Calendar

Where: Student Union

Building, Matador Room

discuss safety issues.

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Engineering Key

ing Kick-Off Event will

The seminar, "Taking Owner-

ship of Your Laboratory," will

Engineering Kick-Off Event

The fourth annual Engineer-

showcase the realm of engi-

Hindi Movie Presentation

Where: Cinemark Movies 16

A new Hindi movie will be

featured with English sub-

Tech Soccer vs. Hofstra

Where: John Walker Soccer

Support the Lady Raiders as

they take on Hofstra.

So, what is it?

So, what is it?

Time: 7 p.m.

So, what is it?

Time: 7:30 p.m.

So, what is it?

Complex

Theatre

### TODAY

National Cowboy Symposium Time: 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Where: Lubbock Memorial Civic Center So, what is it? Enjoy cook-offs and music in celebration of the 23rd anniversary of the National Cowboy Symposium.

Communicating Your Expectations with Rubrics Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Where: Teaching, Learning and Technology Center So, what is it? Mary Fehr discusses the importance of making academic expectations clear to students.

Movie Matinee: "The Hangover: Part II" Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Where: Student Union Building, Escondido Theatre So, what is it? Enjoy this matinee presented by TAB.

Grady Spencer and the Steel Magnonas Time 8 pine Griswuld's Time: 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Where: Lubbook Community Where: La Diosa Cellars So, what is it? Enjoy live music from this local band.

### FRIDAY

Laboratory Safety Seminar for Faculty, Staff and Stu-Time: 8 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m.

So, what is it? Enjoy a performance of Steel Magnolias at this community theatre.

> Wade Bowen Time: 10 p.m. Where: Wild West So, what is it? Enjoy original country music from this Tech alumnus.

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.

# Filmmaker chronicles 9/11 cleanup

By TYLER MYATT STAFF WRITER

The day held a disaster endlessly scrutinized by countless people over the past decade. Some, then, would think the events surrounding Sept. 11 have been covered from every possible angle.

However, filmmaker Peter Josyph said there is one side of the story people have yet to see: the cleanup of Ground

Josyph is an artist who created a film about Ground Zero and the neighborhoods around it entitled "Liberty Street: Alive at Ground Zero," which he showed a 30-minute excerpt of to members of Texas Tech's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the Merket Alumni Center Tuesday night.

"It was a remarkable place to be during that time," Josyph said of the Lower Manhattan area. "It was never like that before and it never will be again, and I didn't see anyone else chronicling that."

That was because officials restricted access to Ground Zero, Josyph said, which he believes was the wrong thing

"When I first went down to the site in October, the mayor, Mayor Giuliani, had made a statement that anyone who points a camera at Ground Zero could be arrested," Josyph said. "As it turns out, I've never seen anything else done on that particular subject, partly because you just couldn't get in there."

Josyph was able to gain access to Ground Zero through a man named the site to aid in the cleanup.

The section of the film Josyph displayed showed much of the cleanup work being done by crews and equipment, along with firsthand testimonials of people living on Liberty Street, where the World Trade Center towers were located.

The film is completely without background music, save for a jazz piece entitled "¿Que?" by Reynaldo Ochoa, a friend of Josyph. Josyph's voice is also largely absent except for when he is asking subjects questions.

"I decided it might be an interesting challenge to see if I could make a twohour film and never speak to the viewer," Josyph said, "and you'd get it."

Other than a few scenes of the towers shot by a man out of his apartment window on Liberty Street after they were hit, Josyph said, he filmed this project, which took him about four years to complete, alone.

The film brought back memories for those in attendance, as well as causing them to consider details of the aftermath they had not before.

"It's something that we really haven't has done. seen before," Don Haragan, former president of Tech, said. "Some of the buildings are still not clean. It really scares you."

Haragan's daughter was working in Kevin McCrary, he said, who worked in New York City at the time, he said, and construction and was granted access to while she was not affected, she lived close to the towers.

> "You feel so many different things," Haragan said. "You feel sadness. You feel anger.'

For others, like Joan McComb, an OLLI member in attendance, the personal impact was far more emotional.

"If I start talking about it too much, I won't be able to, so I'll just say I lost somebody there," McComb said, tearing up.

OLLI director Emma Carrasco said the documentary struck her in several

"The film still reminds me of how emotions flood back," she said, "and the realization of how it happened so quickly and has affected us for eternity."

The cleanup of the aftermath also surprised Carrasco, she said, and showed her a side of the attacks she had not considered.

"Somebody had to clean that up," she said, "despite the emotion of knowing that bodies are crushed in all that rubble." Ronja Vieth, a doctoral candidate

in English, said she wants more people to know about Josyph and the work he

"I just know how brilliant he is, and he needs to be shared with the world," she said. "People don't know Peter Josyph and I don't know why."

Vieth was teaching English to students in Germany when the attacks happened, she said, but had been in New York City earlier that year.

"It hit those people harder that actually had a connection to America," Vieth said, "and I've always had a connection."

Josyph also wants people to know about the mismanagement of the cleanup by the Environmental Protection Agency, he said, because people are still at risk.

"People who live in Lower Manhattan are breathing contaminated air all the time," Josyph said. "It's a complicated subject, and one about which I feel passionately, and it drove me to be someone else."

What Josyph ultimately tried to do was use what skills he had to have an impact on his neighborhood and his home city, he said.

"There was nothing I could do in terms of working on the site. I don't have enough abilities to have volunteered in the neighborhood," Josyph said. "But I can write a book, (or) make a movie, and I decided that as an artist that was the one thing I could do: become a citizen artist." >>> tmyatt@dailytoreador.com

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

Currently, officials said, there is no set figure on how much the renovations will cost as the maintenance team is still working on shampooing and restoring destroyed carpets.

Kent Pearce, chair of the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, said there were a number of damages caused to parts of the building.

Some of the ceiling tiles on the first floor, in the women's restroom, and in the basement had to be replaced by the Physical Plant, he said. Also, the water affected baseboards and other wall materials behind the baseboards, like sheetrock, which rotted away. Because of this, Pearce said, it is necessary for the building materials to be repaired or replaced.

The IT room computers being pre- the floor in the office is at an angle, he

Earn Extra Mon

pared for delivery were damaged as well, Pearce said, so they must either be fixed or replaced.

As the flood occurred, professors and IT personnel with offices on the first floor near the soaked area worked hard to protect their equipment any way they could.

"The water was coming from underneath the door and the walls. I had to use paper towels — whatever I could find to prevent more water coming in the room," Edward Allen, a mathematics professor whose office is across the restroom where the flood began, said. "I had to move the things I had on the floor to my desk and anywhere possible to keep them from any damage.

The IT office not only suffered structural damages, but had electrical problems as well.

"My co-worker was the only one in here when the flood first started, and since

suffered most of the damages," Collin Smith, the systems administrator for the department, said. "The walls surrounding his desk were spouting out water, causing some smoke to come from the power supply. You can even see and feel some of the floor tiles becoming loose."

As far as the damages to the computers go, Smith said, the ones checked thus far do not have any visible damages.

They might have a shorter lifespan, but that's something we can't tell right now," he said. "I mean, this is pretty good since most of these computers had water pouring out of them."

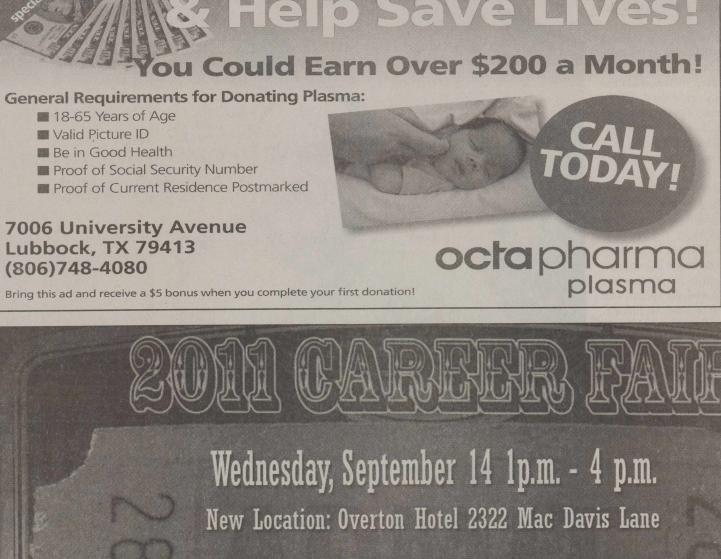
Many students and employees are still dealing with the shock of having the building flood, Smith said.

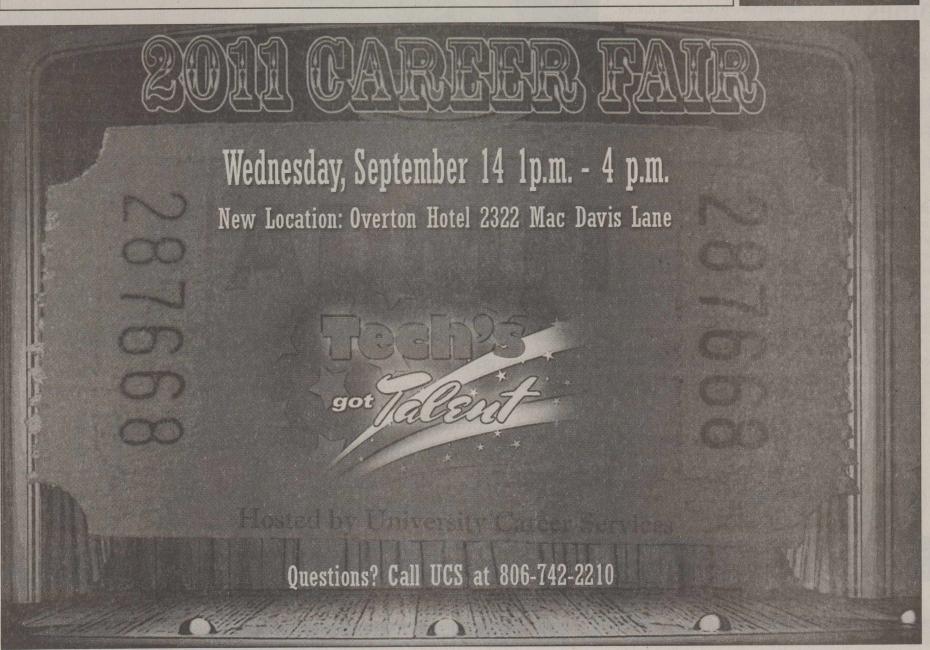
"I have worked here since 2007, and I have never experienced something like this before," he said.

The Department of Building Maintenance & Construction refused to release a statement about the extent of the damages or the proposed cost of repairs.

» glerma@dailytoreador.com







### **Library** ← CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Vardeman said the Text-a-Librarian

program was designed to provide students with a way to text the library and receive answers to any questions they might have when they are unable to come to the building.

Each major has their own personal librarian to assist with questions regarding specific majors, Kaley Daniel, the director of library communications and marketing, said.

The part of the program the library handles is computer-based, but all a user needs is a phone capable of sending and receiving text messages, Ian Barba, a technological and management services librarian, said. He said users just send a text to 66746 with the keyword "TTU-LIB" and their text will then be directed to the library's system.

"As far as questions go, users aren't limited to asking research-based questions. It can be anything from what would be a good resource on wind energy to something simpler like, 'What are your hours today?" Vardeman said. "A student actually sent in a text and asked where on campus he or she could buy a Red Bull. We will truly answer any ques-

tion we receive to the best of our ability." Barba and Vardeman began implementing the program in June as a test run, Vardeman said.

"We saw that a lot of other universities use programs like this and decided that it would be a great system to bring to Texas Tech," he said.

The library plans to have this service until at least next spring, Barba said, to determine whether or not it is successful.

"We are hoping it will become popular and students will find some utility in it," he said. "Other schools' librarians have tried this and had pretty good success with it. Our students are just like theirs, so why shouldn't we?"

In the past, the library offered programs such as library chat, library emails and even face-to-face meetings, Barba said.

'This is just another way the library can connect with its patrons," he said. "You wouldn't even need Internet access to use Text-a-Librarian like you would for our mobile site."

They have yet to launch a marketing campaign for the Text-a-Librarian service, but plan to advertise it in a variety

of ways, Daniel said. Text-a-Librarian is for everyone, Vardeman said, and questions from teachers and staff members are encour-

aged as well. "This program is awesome, and I really hope it becomes well-known on our campus," Brandon Ward, a junior mechanical engineering major from The Woodlands, said.

"I know I would use this program because engineering is very difficult, and I often don't have answers to questions that come up in lectures. I would definitely prefer to text the library rather than struggle to find answers to questions that seem almost impossible."

Trina Baker, a pre-nursing major from Katy, said she is excited about what this program has to offer.

"I would definitely use Text-a-Librarian because I constantly have homework that consists of extremely difficult questions," she said. "School can often be overwhelming, and I think this system will be really effective and helpful for people who choose to use it to their advantage.'

>>> mcrump@dailytoreador.com

### Firefighters gain ground against Texas wildfire

BASTROP, Texas (AP) — Firefighters gained ground Wednesday against one of the most destructive wildfires in Texas history even as the state said the number of homes lost reached almost 800, and an elite search team set out to find any victims in the smoking ruins.

Gov. Rick Perry, meanwhile, resumed his presidential campaign after rushing home over the weekend to deal with the crisis, traveling to California to meet his Republican rivals in his first nationally televised debate.

The blaze has left at least two people dead, blackened about 45 square miles around Bastrop and cast a haze over Austin, 25 miles to the west, where the air smelled strongly of pine and cedar.

Firefighters reported that the flames were at least 30 percent contained after burning uncontrolled for three days. They credited an easing of the winds from Tropical Storm Lee that had caused the fire to explode over the weekend. Nevertheless, the number of homes that the Texas Forest Service reported destroyed rose from around 600 the day before.

The wildfire is the most catastrophic of more than 170 blazes that have erupted in the past week across

Health ←



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Courier

AN ALDINE FIREFIGHTER battles a 300-acre wildfire on FM 1774 near FM 1486 in Magnolia, Texas on Monday, Sept. 5, 2011. Nearly 8,000 residents were evacuated from the area.

the Lone Star State, which is perilously dry because of one of the state's most severe droughts on record. In addition to the two victims in the Bastrop area fire whose bodies were found Tuesday.

the outbreak is blamed for two deaths

One of the two people killed in the Bastrop area fire was identified Wednesday as Michael Troy Farr, 49,

who died at his home in Smithville. Bastrop County officials did not imme-

diately release details about the second victim, who they said was found at a different location.

### five years. Currently a test with a heavy

"Forty percent of our entering class

see themselves as pre-professional health students," Cheryl Carroll, director of admissions at the Honors College, said. "That's quite a substantial number of honors students."

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

The need was evident within the college, she said, so making sure its students were receiving quality in their educations became a driving force for the program.

Ideas for the program began with the arrival of Stephen Fritz, dean of the Honors College. After being hired, Fritz said, he sought after the university's other deans and began collaborating with Steve Berk, dean of the HSC School of Medicine, about an interconnecting program between the two schools.

"We talked about medical school education and preparation for medical school," Fritz said. "He had some clear ideas about preparing students for medical school in a broader-based education."

This "broader" curriculum, he said, could perhaps expand the value of an undergraduate's education and result in a better medical worker.

"I think this is a revamping of the importance of the broadly-educated person who can engage in what I call holistic healing," Fritz said. "What this means is to be able to engage the whole person, to be able to talk to them (and) to be able to understand what their lives are about. I like that approach."

Similarly, Berk said, he finds the appeal of the program in its all-encompassing aspects.

The scope of a healthcare professional, he said, is slowly developing into focusing more about the humanities. A cause of this, Berk said, is the Medical College Admissions Test, or MCAT, which is being revised within the next

organic emphasis, it will be changed to a less organic assessment.

"It will still have an emphasis on science," he said, "but more on molecular biology and less on organic chemistry. Definitely, there will be issues on hu-

To reach an acceptable program, Berk and Fritz concentrated on several subjects for the program's classes.

"We thought there was a group of courses that would be particularly worthwhile for someone before they go to medical school," Berk said. "We're interested in things like ethics, the history of medicine, maybe some of the medical legal issues and a bigger emphasis on humanities. So this Health and Humanities track would be an ideal background for somebody that went to medical school."

Some new courses already in session at the HSC, Carroll said, are the "Seminar in Healthcare" course, meant to educate students on the roles and op-

portunities in the healthcare world, and the "Early Clinical Experience" course, which is usually exclusive to first-year medical students.

"(The medical school is) allowing 10 of our undergraduate seniors to actually sit in on that (class)," Carroll said of the clinical experience course. "So, they're getting a chance to really dip their toes in medical school waters by experiencing this class."

Fritz said he believes the program has many attractive features that could bring many students to the Tech campus. These "points of difference," as he calls them, include close interaction with numerous HSC faculty in the classroom, the close proximity between the two schools, study abroad opportunities, early acceptance into the Tech Medical School, a waiver for the MCAT and free-range within 32 departments to conduct research — all with an under-

With the inaugural semester under-

way with 19 enrolled students, Fritz and Carroll said they expect bright things for the Health and Humanities track.

"I think it will raise the appreciation for Texas Tech in what we offer here to our students," Fritz said. "We have great opportunities and we think that we create an extraordinary access to these pre-professional career paths."

The unique nature of the program, Carroll said, is what brings this appreciation Tech's way.

"There are very few programs like this in the state, or even in the country, where you actually combine the requirements of medical schools or pre-professional programs with the humanities," she said. "I think that's one of the reasons why we are all excited. It's a really unique opportunity."

For more information on the Health and Humanities track, Carroll said to contact the Honors College at 806-742-1828 or send an email to honors@ttu.edu.

>>> tmoore@dailytoreador.com

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In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use 6 9 8 3 7 1 2 4 5 5 1 7 6 2 4 3 8 9 3 2 4 8 5 9 6 7 1 2 4 3 7 9 6 1 5 8 8 7 6 4 1 5 9 3 2 159283467 9 6 2 5 4 7 8 1 3 4 8 5 1 3 2 7 9 6

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

WELLS

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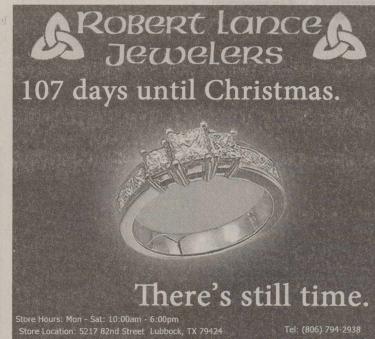
logic to define the answers.

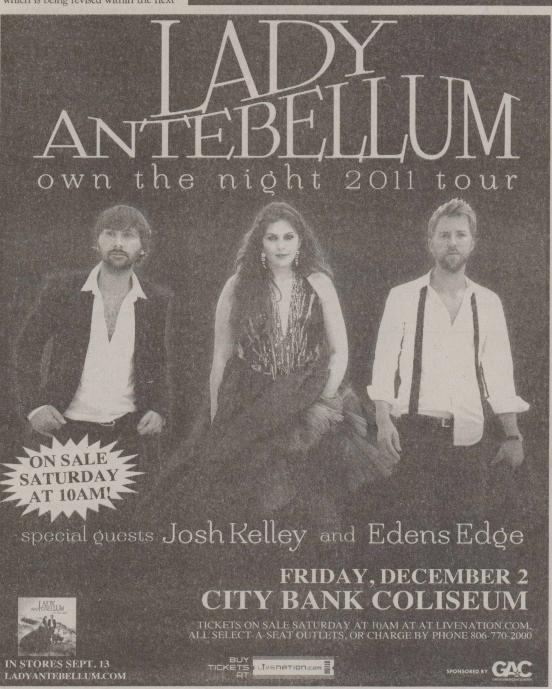
A safe place to bring concerns and find solutions.

"If we learn nothing else from this tragedy, we learn that life is short and there is no time for hate."

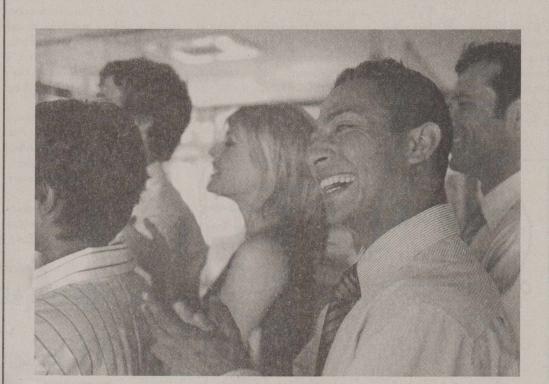
~Sandy Dahl, wife of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl. **Remember 9/11/01.** 

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# Texas' Senate hopefuls gear up for race

One very

interesting possible

candidate is actor

Tommy Lee Jones.

s the news media endlessly follows the candidates for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012, another very important race is getting pushed into the background, a race just as important to those of us in Texas.

Hutchison's impending retirement, our state will be electing a new senator next November.

Democrats generally have difficulty winning statewide elections, which apparently has scared some big names away from seeking their party's nomination. Former Houston Mayor and 2010 gubernatorial candidate Bill White has declined to run, as have San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro and Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia.

Of those who have announced their candidacies, retired U.S. Army General Ricardo Sanchez and former Comptroller of Public Accounts John Sharp are the only ones with any name recognition.

Sanchez was the leader of the coalition forces in Iraq in the year following the fall of Saddam

Andrew Gleinser

With Senator Kay Bailey Hussein. He has been a vocal opponent to the poor political leadership in the war and would likely win much of the Hispanic vote. At this point, he may be the best Democratic candidate.

Sharp has not held public office since he left his position as Comptroller in 1998. He lost two consecutive bids for Lieutenant Governor in 1998 and 2002, losing to Rick Perry and David Dewhurst, respectively. If he couldn't beat a Republican in those races, it's doubtful he would beat one for senator.

Other potential candidates include former US Reps. Chet Edwards, Chris Bell and Nick Lampson. All three are on losing streaks in elections, and neither would likely defeat a solid Republican candidate in the general

sional seat anyway.

candidate is actor Tommy Lee Jones. At this point, it seems likely Jones will decline to run, but in the event

he does run, he would be far and away the best Democratic candidate. His name recognition is off the charts and he would have no shortage of financial support. Of all the

confirmed and potential candidates, Jones has, by far, the best chance of winning the general

In contrast, the Republican Party has plenty of viable candidates for its nomination. Current Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst is seemingly the frontrunner. His name recognition, financial support and immense personal wealth

election. Lampson may have his make him a perfectly legitimate from his campaign to persuade would likely spell doom for a posights set on Ron Paul's congres- candidate to win the general election, and the fact he is a leader One very interesting possible in the fight against child sexual predators should resonate strongly with voters.

Former Texas Solicitor Gener-

al Ted Cruz also has announced his candidacy. A lawyer by trade, Cruz has successfully defended the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms and the recitation of the Pledge of

Allegiance in public schools. He has already received endorsements from multiple senators and many conservative and Tea Party

Former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert is also running. His name recognition does not extend far beyond the Metroplex, but he has good relations with many in the business community stemming Dallas and his history of fighting tax increases — certainly strong campaign points.

Texas Railroad Commissioner Elizabeth Ames Jones has also announced her candidacy. Jones does not have much name recognition across the state and her fundraising may pose a problem. Barring a dramatic rally of support, she may be little more than an afterthought.

Yet another potential candidate would be US Rep. Michael McCaul. While he also does not have much name recognition, he may be able to leverage his immense personal wealth to his benefit.

Lastly, another interesting potential candidate is none other than the Texas Tech community's favorite ESPN analyst, Craig James. When asked about running, James did not hint at any decision. There's no doubt that ESPN would love to have one of their own in Congress, but his role in the Mike Leach scandal

large companies to relocate to tential campaign as he would not carry many votes in the Panhandle or amongst Leach sympathizers statewide.

> Overall, the frontrunner seems to be Dewhurst for the Republicans with Leppert and Cruz being the most viable challengers. Unless Tommy Lee Jones enters the race, Dewhurst is likely to be the frontrunner for the whole election. If he runs a strong campaign, he has the best chance of winning the Republican nomination and, eventually, the general election. But don't count out Leppert, Cruz or Sanchez.

Despite the media's lack of coverage, this race is very important to the people of Texas and it is shaping up to be an interesting competition. Coverage should pick up as the race heats up, especially if Jones throws his hat into the ring. Stay tuned.

■ Gleinser is a junior political science and history major from

» agleinser@dailytoreador.com

# Up to the test: In one door and out another ... as an American citizen

T t was 3:30 a.m. I was supposed to be asleep, but of course my nerves got the best of me. I would close my eyes and see an old man stamping in big, red block letters, "Denied citizenship.

It was 4:30 a.m. when my alarm went off. I rolled out of 208 I tried reading, but my mind bed, showered, dressed and stared at the clock praying the old man would not be mean to me today.

At 6:30 a.m., I finally had pulled into the parking lot of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. I got out of the car, looked one walking through the doors.

My heart was pounding and I was shaking. I could not believe Sept. 7 had finally arrived. A security officer asked me to place and then walk through the metal detector. I walked up a staircase and sat down in an airport-style terminal chair.

was too busy running through a potential list of questions I could be asked. I had zero focus and was just waiting for a door to open. I was waiting for the old man to

Ioanna

Makris

walk out.

At 7:02 a.m., door "A" opened around and realized I was the only and a lady in her mid-forties walked toward a counter, picked up a piece of paper and called my name. Where was the old man I had nightmares about?

I slowly gathered my stuff, any technology I had in a tray got up from my chair and started walking toward her. The only words she said to me were, "Follow me." What had I gotten myself into?

gest and most well-lit hallways of my life. My heart was beating so loud I could swear she could hear it. We walked into her office and I took an oath promising to tell the truth and nothing but the truth. It was finally time to put all of my studying to good use.

She asked me a ton of questions I can't even remember. I was in a daze. The next thing I knew, I was signing paperwork and being asked how many justices are on the Supreme Court.

I froze. I knew I had studied this question. I finally whispered,

She then wrote down my answer and checked a box. We continued to run through the list of 10 questions.

With little else said, the lady who had my future in her hands asked if I would be able to go to the swearing-in ceremony at 1 p.m. Wednesday. I nodded my

I walked down one of the lon- head and was given some paperwork and walked out of the building.

Did I pass?

When I finally got outside, I looked at the paperwork and saw the word "approved." All I did was dance, and yes it was that shameful, horrible, victory dance where everybody stops and stares. But, I did it! I passed!

At 1 p.m., with 78 other people and 21 countries being represented, I said an oath promising to put the United States before any other country and to defend her honor. I did not cry, I did not scream and I was not awestruck, but I was and am honored. I am blessed and grateful. I am not only Canadian, but I am now, and forever will be, American.

Makris is a staff writer and senior journalism major from

>>> ioanna.makris@dailytoreador.com

# You shouldn't have to make excuse for other person in relationship

The best piece of writing advice I've ever received is: "Write about what you know." If there's one thing I know, it's relationships.

Frankly, I think people have become disillusioned with what a relationship should be - no thanks to Hollywood and their endless supply of romantic comedies.

We've been fed this false sense of security when it comes to relationships. We're led to believe you'll meet your prince—or princess—charming, have a possible trial or two, and, when all is said and done, you'll end up kissing on a bridge somewhere while the camera zooms out playing "(I've Had) The Time of My Life."

Clearly, though, if any of us have ever been in any sort of relationship - serious or otherwise - that's not the case. Sometimes, you'll wind up in a truly extraordinary relationship. Other times, a would-be relationship will fizzle out for no apparent reason.

Through years of being both my male and female friends' go-to relationship adviser, I've observed more and more people being afraid of being alone and throwing their eggs into the basket of the first person to pay them any attention. Then, they wonder why it doesn't work out.

Frequently, I hear about pseudorelationships where someone "almost dated" someone else, or where they were "talking" for a while and nothing became of it.

We know these cop-out lines are crap, and the sad part is we buy them anyway because we'd rather have someone treat us like dirt than be alone.

Consider one of these classic lines: "He/She is just not ready for a relationship right now."

I'm sorry, but what is it you have to be ready for in order to date someone? Is there a boot camp memo I missed

saying you have to go through six weeks of training and then you're physically able to go on a date? If you hear this line, chalk

it up for the sham it is and get a move on. Consider another line: "He/She is not calling/texting me because he's busy."

How long does it take to write a text message? One minute? If you're really booking it, maybe thirty seconds? So, how is it possible someone is entirely too busy in the middle of the day when it takes such a negligible amount of time to simply text you, "Hey, how are you?"

Unless you are dating someone who has to shave in their car on the way to work and microwave their Pop Tarts instead of toast them, this excuse is not remotely valid.

I think it's time we stop making excuses for our partners. It's time for all of us to realize if someone isn't committing to us, it's simply because they don't want to. There is no deeper meaning to be found.

I'm a firm believer in fate. When you're supposed to be with someone, it will happen. It's all about timing.

Just because you're not dating someone now does not mean you are destined to be a feature on "Animal Hoarders" as you tend a guinea pig farm waiting to die alone. It's just not the right time yet.

You're in college. Date around, have fun and when it's time for someone to walk into your life, it will happen. When this person does come into your life, he or she will be the one you don't ever have to make any excuses for.

**■ Holmes is a junior broadcast** journalism major from Houston. >>> sholmes@dailytoreador.com

### USPS shutdown means more than less holiday presents

By CHASE DOERR DAILY FORTY-NINER (CALIFORNIA STATE U.-LONG BEACH)

It looks like students may have to live without their Christmas care packages this upcoming winter. And this isn't because their mother doesn't love them anymore, it's because the United States Postal Service may soon be forced to shut down.

If Congress doesn't step in to help

make the \$5.5 billion dollar payment the US Postal Service owes this month,

the agency will default and have to close down this winter. The US Postal Service is out of money because contracts with union employees have their wages taking up 80

percent of the agency's expenses, whereas competitors United Parcel Service and FedEx employees' wages take up less than

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The union that US Postal Service employees join also negotiated no layoff clauses, only making the situation messier.

Even if the US Postal Service does stay afloat after the massive layoffs and cutbacks it doesn't mean their problems are over. The best of times for the US Parcel Service are behind them and saving the agency now would only prolong the inevitable.

Some may argue what a disgrace it would be to allow the historic Post Office, which was created by founding father Benjamin Franklin in 1775 nearly a year before our country's Declaration of Independence, to die.

However, with the growing concern of our current national debt it will be hard to win the financial support the US Postal

Service needs to survive from Congress.

The US Postal Service can look to other avenues to help cover their expenses. They can try to get the rights to delivering beer and wine, or even allow commercial advertising on their trucks.

While these are riveting ideas at bringing in more revenue, they are still not the end to all of our answers.

Come wintertime I do hope the US Postal Service is still around. I don't want to see a vital part of our nation's history just fade away, along with the thousands

However, if this does happen I won't be surprised. With the speedy progression of technology, the old will eventually replace the new. And I won't miss the taste of envelope glue either.

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managing@dailytoreador.com Caitlan Osborn

news@dailytoreador.com La Vida Editor Kassidy Ketron features@dailytoreador.com

**Opinions Editor** Chris Leal opinions@dailytoreador.com

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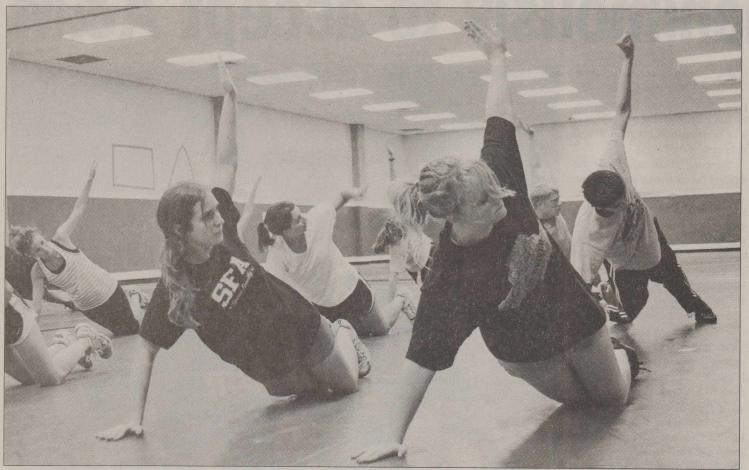


PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador

STUDENTS WORK OUT in Upper Cut, a workout class that focuses on the upper body, in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center on Tuesday.

# Odd couple chairs supercommittee

WASHINGTON (AP) — He's a Texas conservative who chose law school over chicken farming. She's a liberal from Seattle with steel in the toes of her famous tennis shoes. They have almost nothing in common.

Republican Rep. Jeb Hensarling and Democratic Sen. Patty Murray are the Capitol's latest odd couple, two of Congress' most partisan lawmakers co-chairing the new supercommittee that begins work Thursday on a bipartisan deal to slow the nation's mushrooming debt.

They have plenty of reasons to get to "yes." Blowing a Thanksgiving deadline for a plan to shave federal deficits by at least \$1.2 trillion over the next decade would trigger automatic cuts to defense and social programs dear to their respective parties.

Failure also wouldn't do much for Congress' standing in the eyes of jittery investors or the public going into next year's elections. Already, 87 percent of those polled disapprove of the job Congress is doing.

But "no" beckons, too. Hensarling's uncompromising demands for spending cuts, now central to his party's agenda, appeal to a Republican base that party leaders are depending on to defend their House

"There will be a lot of pressure on him to work with her, but there's nothing in Jeb Hensarling's history to suggest he'd be willing to do that," said Cal Jillson, professor of political science at Southern Methodist University.

Murray is Hensarling's ideological opposite, a dogged fighter on behalf of veterans, health and workplace safety programs and regulations.

"There's not a lot there that would indicate that deficit reduction would be a priority for her," said John Wilkerson, a political scientist at the University of Washington.

Neither has to vote for the committee's package in the end. Their role is to make it possible for a majority of the panel to pass it.

### Priest ← CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"He's my godson," Baxter said. "He was an undergraduate student here in Lamar and started coming to the student center with lots of questions about the Catholic faith, and we tried our best to answer those for him. He ended up deciding to become Catholic and attended RCIA classes, which are Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (classes), and, after finishing that, he decided he wanted to become a Catholic and join the church

at Easter two years ago." After being baptized on Easter in 2010 and being confirmed into the church, he said he spends as much time as possible at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, which he attends in Lubbock.

"I spend about two hours a day doing church stuff," he said. "There's something called Liturgy of the Hours that nuns and monks and priests all say, and when I can, I say it in adoration, which is in the presence of Christ."

As well as spending a lot of time at

church, Vierling is in charge of 51 students as a teaching assistant and is taking

nine credit hours as a graduate student. He said being a teaching assistant is "way harder than being an undergraduate student," but doing both fits.

"The head of our graduate studies program actually explains that being a teaching assistant and a graduate student go hand in hand, especially in this department and this program," he said. "I would say it would be harder to be a graduate student without being a teaching assistant because I wouldn't have an office, a building key or the culture of communication studies around me."

This is Vierling's second semester as a teaching assistant and he is learning how to manage his time while being a student, teaching and going to church

Seth Mclean, a graduate student from Canyon, said Vierling is fun to work with and can relate to him.

"I'm a preacher's kid," he said. "So, I get a lot of jokes that other people don't

assistants in the department did.

Baxter said doing multiple things is all a part of growing up.

"I assume he's doing well because he's a very sincere guy and I know he tries," Baxter said. "I know it will be a challenge for him because it's a lot of things to balance, and it's a big change for him to get used to being just a student to also being a teacher. So, he's taking on additional responsibilities and things like that, but that's part of growing up.'

Balancing it all has been stressful, Vierling said.

And, even with what limited spare time a graduate student and teaching assis-

tant has, Vierling is spending his at church. Church time is his "fun" time, Vierling said, so balancing everything has

"It was very stressful last semester," he said. "But, I came to realize that when other people are bar-hopping, I'm at church. I had a girl ask me at the football game when I have fun time. And I said. necessarily get that are biblically related." 'I go to church, like everyday.' So, I guess He also said Vierling had a hard time that's my fun time. It gives me a feeling adjusting last semester as all the teaching of transcendent happiness that pervades

my every moment," he said.

In order to apply for seminary, Vierling said, a person must be in good standing with the Catholic Church for three years.

"I'm not allowed to apply for seminary until Easter of 2013," he said. "There's a waiting period to make sure that you're serious, and to give you time to discern God's will for you."

Baxter said he hopes this is what Vierling wants to do.

"As far as going into seminary, I hope he continues to want to go," he said. "By being a convert, he has to be a Catholic for three years before he can apply. I think he will be a fine priest."

People often ask him if he has any reservations about becoming a priest, Vierling said. He said he believes it's all in God's hands.

"People sometimes ask if I ever have doubts about priesthood," he said. "I do. I love babies and as a Catholic priest would not be able to get married and have children. I also love the priesthood,

want to serve the church and have wanted to become a priest ever since I became Christian and as a little boy. So, it's really something I have to place in His hands.'

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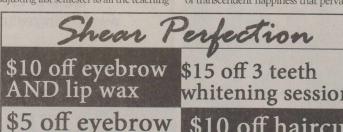
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# SEC votes unanimously to accept A&M

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ MANAGING EDITOR

The Southeastern Conference's acceptance of Texas A&M on Wednesday may become the ripple setting off nationwide conference realignment, changing the landscape of college sports as it stands.

The SEC agreed to accept Texas A&M only if it knew it would not be sued by any other members of the Big 12 Conference.

Texas Tech's fate has yet to be determined and will likely depend on the actions of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas. The conference as a whole, however, remains a mess at the moment.

"We are basically sitting in a traffic jam and going nowhere fast," Tech President Guy Bailey said of talks with Big 12 school officials, according to the Associated Press.

Tech coach Tommy Tuberville said he has not thought much of the entire situation following his team's practice Wednesday.

Tuberville said he would prefer the Big 12 staying intact, but knows as much about the situation as anybody else.

"I hadn't talked to anybody about it," Tuberville said. "Really, there's nothing to say. Y'all know as much as I do

about it: what y'all read, and what you talking ... kind of figure out what's going their senses right here at the last minute and say, 'To heck with it. We got a great league. Let's stay with it."

For the most part, most believe Oklahoma and Oklahoma State will bolt for the stability of the Pac-12, initiating the next big step in developing a "super-conference."

The general consensus is that Tech would likely join the Pac-12 or Pac-16, if Texas decided to head west along with the Sooners and Cowboys.

On Tuesday, though, Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said the annual Red River Shootout would not necessarily have to continue if the Longhorns chose not to follow the Sooners out west.

"No one wants to hear that, but life changes," Stoops said during his weekly news conference Tuesday. "If it changes, you have to change with it, to whatever

the same page as Stoops.

Tuberville said the Red River Rivalry is among the best in college athletics with the Big 12 serving as a quality home and the other teams currently onboard.

"That's one of the great rivalries of all time," Tuberville said. "Everybody's

hear. You just hope everybody comes to on. Again, I hope it all stays as is. We got a good conference. Just hopefully, we can keep this thing going. There's . a lot of speculation, but that's all it is right now.'

More important, arguably, is the future of the conference and its teams.

Aside from rivalries, recruiting is targeted as a potential area that could experience the most change for some of the Big 12's remaining schools because of their uncertain future and how, if the league were to dissolve, the teams would be affected geographically from the realignment.

Stoops also said playing fewer games in Texas would not drastically affect Oklahoma's recruiting pipeline in the state of Texas, the Pac-12 or any other league, but Tuberville said it is something to be played out and analyzed within the coming weeks.

"It's really not a problem yet," Tuberville, however, may not be on he said. "We just got to see how it shakes out. There's really not anything. Recruits aren't saying anything. Everybody's kind of as is. I'm sure in the next two or three weeks we'll have more to talk about, but right now there's really nothing to say.'

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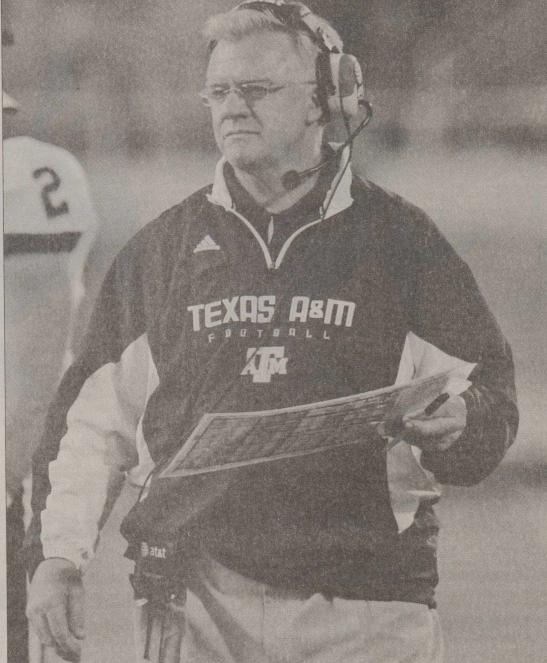
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FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

THE SOUTHEASTER CONFERENCE voted unanimously Wednesday to accept Texas A&M into the conference, pushing the league's total to 13 teams. Mike Sherman's Aggies currently are ranked No. 7 in the country. The SEC, however, will only accept A&M on the condition that none of the remaining Big 12 teams attempt to sue the Aggies.

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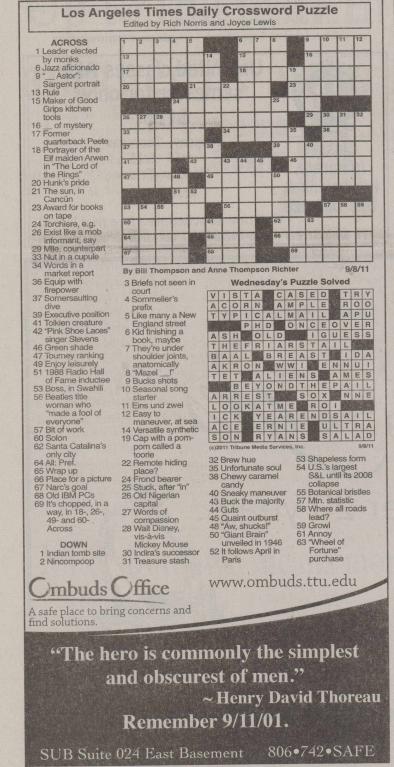
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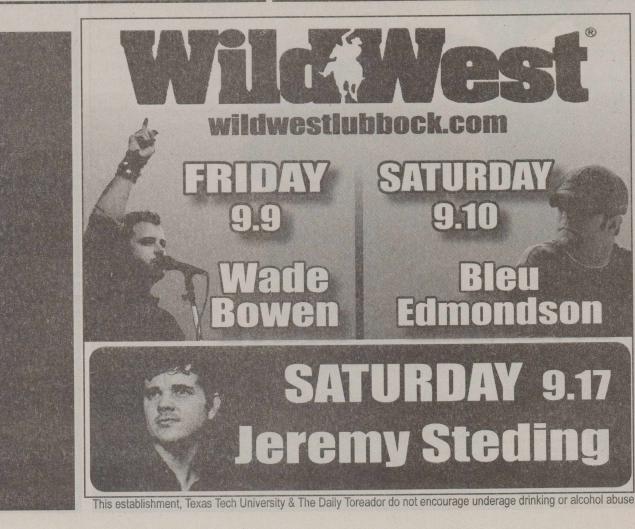
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# Week one fantasy football thoughts

This fantasy football weekly has a little bit of everything.

MANNING WATCH

Peyton Manning is not going to play for the Colts this weekend. If you have him in on your team, this is panic time, especially if you drafted a mediocre or bad backup quarterback. I think Manning will miss more than just drops Wayne out this week, too.

I am not saying, "Abandon ceivers. Running hope all ye who drafted him," but look for a solid backup who has dai shouldn't be trusted as the good matchups this week. Kyle Orton, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Colt Mc-Coy and Matt Hasselbeck could produce a favorable matchup.

As far as Manning's teammates go, they are downgraded in usefulness. Reggie Wayne, Pierre Garcon, Austin Collie and Dallas Clark are not attractive options These guys likely cost a first-round

I think this drops Clark from the list of top-8 tight ends and Cody **Stoots** 

antasy ootball of the top-15 re-WEEKLY back Joseph Ad-

Colts will still try to pass and his offensive line is suspect at best. CALL ME CRAZY

Sit Rashard Mendenhall and Ray Rice.

I know it sounds insane to sit two of the best fantasy running backs the first week of the season. pick, and to have them on the bench may get you ridiculed beyond belief. It may also win your week, though.

If you have a viable option to start in their place, consider doing so. Rice and Mendenhall play each other's defenses this week, meaning the Steelers and Ravens defenses are playing your starting running backs. On any other week, this would be a cause for concern. This week is no different.

Rice played terrible against the Steelers last year. In two games last year, he totaled 79 yards of offense and no scores. That is all of his rushing and receiving yards combined.

Mendenhall's line is a little different. He had an acceptable game the first time against the Ravens, but Big Ben didn't play. I just don't trust Mendenhall against a fullyrested Ravens defense.

Once again, this is only a suggested move if you have a viable option to start in place of these **MATCHUPS I LOVE** 

Josh Freeman, Mike Williams and LeGarrette Blount against

I am not sold on the Lions defense being some scary unit. Tampa was a surprise last year, and is picked as a breakout team this year as well. Their schedule is tough down the stretch, but I don't buy the Lions as a tough defense.

Kevin Kolb and Larry Fitzger-

These two go hand-in-hand this year. One isn't going to find success without the other. I am not a firm believer that Kolb can be a legitimate option at quarterback, but he is playing Carolina this week. The Panthers are terrible, and if Kolb was to host a coming-out party, it would be against them.

DeAngelo Williams, Jonathan Stewart and Greg Olsen.

All three will be called upon to help rookie quarterback Cam New-

ton in his debut. They should see success against a terrible Arizona Cardinals defense. Olsen will be a nice option if Newton finds pressure. Carolina should establish the run with their two-headed monster to help take pressure off the rookie.

MATCH-UPS I HATE Tony Romo, Ben Roethlisberger and Joe Flacco.

All of these guys have tough defenses opposing them this week. Romo gets the Jets on Sunday night and Flacco and Big Ben play each other. It could be tough for Romo and Flacco — both playing behind a pair of shaky offensive lines — to get much going. Big Ben doesn't blow you away with his numbers against the Ravens. As always, if you have a really good backup, take a risk.

Everybody else on Dallas'

The offensive line is rebuilt and I think the Jets will have a field

day with it. Felix Jones will have a tough time running the ball. Dez Bryant, Miles Austin and Jason Witten could see their numbers dip drastically from what's expected if the lets defense is giving Romo

HIGH-RISK, HIGH-RE-WARD STARTER OF THE

Texans Defense

They are playing a Colts team without Peyton Manning. If there was a time to take a risk on the shaky Colts offense and even shakier Texans defense, this is the week.

Don't forget to email me questions about next week for the fantasy football weekly mailbag. Send your questions to cody.stoots@ttu. edu, and I will answer as many as I can. The best ones will make the column next week.

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

# Jet with KHL hockey team crashes in Russia, killing 43

TUNOSHNA, Russia (AP)—A private jet carrying a Russian professional hockey team to its first game of the season crashed shortly after takeoff Wednesday, killing 43 people — including European and former NHL players — in one of the worst aviation disasters in sports history. Two people survived the accident.

The crash also was the latest tragedy to befall the sport of hockey — following the sudden, offseason deaths of three of the NHL's tough-guy enforcers that has shocked fans.

The chartered Yak-42 jet was carrying the team — Lokomotiv Yaroslavl — to Minsk, the capital of Belarus, where it was to play Thursday in its opening game of the Kontinental Hockey League season. Of the 45 people on board, 36 were players, coaches and team officials; eight were crew.

The plane apparently struggled to gain altitude and then hit a signal tower before breaking apart along the Volga River near Yaroslavl, 150 miles (240 kilometers) northeast of Moscow. One of the blue-and-white

plane's charred engines poked through the surface of the shallow water.

'This is the darkest day in the history of our sport," said René Fasel, president of the International Ice Hockey Federation. "This is not only a Russian tragedy — the Lokomotiv roster included players and coaches from 10 nations."

One player — identified as Russian Alexander Galimov — and one unidentified crew member were hospitalized in "very grave" condition, said Alexander Degyatryov, chief doctor at Yaroslavl's Solovyov Hospital.

# Pace of realignment hurts college football

will be up for grabs. The SEC could

(AP) — At some point, Texas A&M seems destined to end up in the Southeastern Conference, whether Baylor or any other member of the Big 12 likes it or not.

Then the focus will turn to Oklahoma. The Sooners leadership, clearly feeling a bit left out with the Aggies and their rivals at Texas hogging all realignment spotlight, have made it clear that they're not about to be "wallflowers" in this high-stakes game of musical chairs. After that, maybe West Virginia

use the Mountaineers to provide some eastern balance to Texas A&M. Or Missouri. Still hoping for the Big Ten to come calling, maybe the Tigers will "settle" for the SEC Last year, after the Big Ten added

Nebraska and the Pac-10 grew by only two, adding Colorado and Utah, many in major college football let out a collective sigh of relief. The seismic shift many felt was on its way, and not good for the game, did not happen.

Pac-12 Commissioner Larry

Scott's plan for a 16-team league that stretched for the Pacific Northwest to southeast Texas did not come to fruition and spark other changes to major college football's landscape.

But what Scott said at the time turns out to be right. The superconference wasn't dead, he predicted. It was simply being put on hold.

Instead of a giant leap toward further consolidation of power and money, major college football is getting there through with a series of agonizing half-steps and missteps.



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# Tech sweeps Texas-Pan American on the road

STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech volleyball team went on the road to Edinburg and defeated Texas Pan-American in straight sets 27-25, 25-11 and 25-21 Tuesday.

The win extends Tech's winning streak to six games.

Tech head coach Don Flora said the team played well after it got off to a slow start.

"We just needed to get our focus after a really slow start in game one," Flora said. "But, we stayed with our plan, and I was proud that we pulled it out in three games."

With the sweep at UTPA, the Red Raiders have now won 17 of their last 18 sets.

The team now heads to Ruston, La., to compete in the Louisiana Tech tournament.

Tech will play against Southeastern Louisiana and Grambling State on Friday and Louisiana Tech on Saturday.

Flora said the host team should be the biggest challenge at the tournament.

"Louisiana Tech has got a coach that's experienced. They've got some international players," he said. "This will be a really good opportunity for us to see if we're continuing to make the progress we need to make."

Flora said he has been stressing defense thus far this season.

"Right now, we're really trying to fine-tune our defensive side of the ball," he said. "We can hit it with most anybody, but we've got to be able to take care of the ball."

Sophomore Aubree Piper has bought in to the defensive scheme of the Red Raiders, as she was named the Big 12 Conference Defensive Player of the Week on Tuesday. Piper is the first Red Raider to earn a Big 12 weekly honor since 2008.



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

KARLYN MEYERS AND Aubree Piper try for a block during Tech's victory over Northwestern on Friday.

for her individually and for the program as a whole," Flora said. "It's just a sign that what we're doing and how we've changed in our growth and development as a program, and, for her personally, how hard she is working as being a middle blocker."

Piper, a middle blocker for the team, said the award was a compliment to the hard work she's put in this year.

"It's a huge honor because blocking is such a huge part of my game," Piper said. "Just to know that all of my hard work is paying off is really special to me."

She said she gets a boost from playing at home because it isn't far from her hometown of

"I love playing at home because a lot of my family and friends can come watch," she said.

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"It's a significant honor both ing to be better on both sides of the ball, but her defense takes

> "Offensively, I always want to get better," she said. "But as a middle blocker, your biggest duty is to block, so that's more important to me."

Tech junior libero Tory Vaughn also takes a defensive mindset heading in to the Louisiana Tech tournament.

captain and leader," Vaughn said, "so I constantly need to help everybody out with defense and just guide everyone where to go." The team is growing in con-

"The libero is the defensive

fidence, but there is still a lot of room to grow, Vaughn said.

"We have all of the skill that we need," she said. "We just need to build our confidence a little bit more, and hopefully we can do that this weekend."

Piper said she is always striv- >> cwoodman@dailytoreador.com

