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Alumni Association defends parking garage agreement

Clayton Isom responds to Raider Park claims, "unrelated lawsuit"

By IOANNA MAKRIS, APRIL CUNNINGHAM and CAROLINE COURTNEY THE DAILY TOREADOR

The Texas Tech Alumni Association criticized The Daily Toreador's coverage of its lease of Raider Park parking garage, claiming the story implied a "sweetheart deal" among the alumni association, the Isom family and Phi

Delta Theta fraternity alumni.

The Daily Toreador reported Wednesday about how Texas Tech and its alumni association stand to lose as much as \$1.2 million from leasing the Raider Park parking garage in a deal involving a number of prominent alumni of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Clayton Isom, a Phi Delta Theta alumnus, is the only principal of Raider Park Limited Partnership to break his silence Thursday after learn-

ing The Daily Toreador was going to report on a recent bankruptcy in San Antonio and lawsuit in Lubbock in which one of his investment groups was involved.

Isom denied any connection between the recent lawsuit and bankruptcy with Raider Park parking garage.

"So, are you going to report that these two projects had nothing to do with each other? Because that is a fact," Isom said. "They were carefully set up in a way they can't have anything to do with each other."

Isom has a business venture in San Antonio, which filed for Chapter 11

bankruptcy in June of 2011. Isom said the venture is a Holiday Inn, which began construction in 2007. He said a couple of months before construction completed, the bank failed and was placed in receivership, and he claimed the receiver did not pay the needed construction money for several months.

Isom said his attorneys in Austin recommended the best option was to file bankruptcy. The current holder of the note has sued Isom individually, as well as his partners, Rhashid Aland John Sellers.

Bill Dean, a Phi Delta Theta

alumnus who is the executive vice president and CEO of the alumni association as well as an associate professor in the College of Mass Communications, said he was unaware of the bankruptcy and lawsuit.

The lease agreement with Raider Park Limited Partnership and Tech and the alumni association requires the university and the alumni association to pay the partnership \$750,000 a year for 1,000 parking spaces and 18 RV spaces.

In a renegotiated lease, the losses Hmoud, a Tech economics professor, to Tech and the alumni association are limited to \$1.2 million. Isom and his company, Tao Development,

guaranteed they would pay Tech up to \$675,000 for its losses. The alumni association, which stands to lose a maximum of \$525,000, had no such

To date, the losses to Tech and the alumni association total approximately \$800,000.

However, according to the statement released by Dean and the alumni association, Clayton Isom's father, Rex Isom, a Phi Delta Theta alumnus, assured Dean last year that "the alumni association would not lose any money on this project."

GARAGE continued on Page 2

Late-night chemical explosion raises questions



PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

MEMBERS OF THE Lubbock Fire Department Haz-Mat team prepare to enter the Engineering and Technology Lab on the north side of the Civil and Environmental building after a reported chemical explosion was called in late Thursday. At time of press there were no reported

Building evacuated, Haz-Mat responds to clean up area

By CAITLAN OSBORN NEWS EDITOR

A small chemical explosion occurred at Texas Tech's Engineering & Technology Lab building at approximately 7:30 p.m. Thursday. The Lubbock Police Department and the Lubbock Fire Department arrived

promptly at the scene. Police officers, firefighters and university officials all refused to comment on how the accident occurred, which chemicals were involved and what the extent of the damages

Professors and students who were inside of the building at the time of the accident also refused to make any comments on their reactions or involvement.

Chris Cook

managing director of communications and marketing for Tech, said the explosion was miniscule.

Cook said a compound of nitric acid and some type of waste product was left unsupervised in a room. A student in a nearby lab heard a popping sound and recognized the smell of the chemicals

The building was evacuated shortly after. Six people were inside of the

Engineering & Technology Lab at the time of the explosion, Cook said.

Police officers said their primary focus was keeping people out of the

The Lubbock Fire Department's Haz-Mat team arrived to clean the area. It is unknown

when the

building will

be reopened

for students,

faculty and

no injures

were reported.

the incident

does not in-

terfere with

Tech's mission

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safe environ-

accident, we

had (in the

Chemistry

"After the

Cook said

He said

staff.

After the accident, we had (in the Chemistry building)... changes were made. We've come

a long way since then. **CHRIS COOK**

MANAGING DIRECTOR TTU COMMUNICATIONS

> building) in January 2010, changes were made," Cook said. "We've come a long way

> > since then." Cook also said the university would conduct an investigation concerning

the incident. Further details about the incident

were not known at the time of publication. The Daily Toreador will provide a follow-up on the story in a later issue. >>> cosborn@dailytoreador.com

ONAMSSON



PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreadon

TEXAS TECH WIDE receiver Alex Torres shakes off a tackle during Tech's 41-34 loss to Kansas State on Oct. 15 at Jones AT&T Stadium. The Red Raiders take on Iowa State on Saturday at 6 p.m. at home in hopes of avenging last season's 52-38 loss in Ames, Iowa.

Tech looks to avenge its loss at Iowa State in 2010

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ MANAGING EDITOR

Shocking.

That is how Texas Tech wide receiver Alex Torres described the Red Raiders' 52-38 loss to Iowa State in 2010 in Ames, Iowa.

Tech (5-2, 2-2 in Big 12 Conference play) entered the weekend of Oct. 2, 2010, coming off a bye week that had followed a conference-opening loss to Texas in Lubbock on Sept. 18, 2010.

What unfolded in Ames that weekend was something Torres said the team just was taken back by.

"Man, it was just a shock," Torres said Monday. "That's one thing. They came out and just hit us in the mouth right away, and I don't think we handled it as well as we should have.'

Now, the No. 20 Red Raiders get their opportunity to avenge the loss when they host the Cyclones (3-4, 0-4) at 6 p.m. Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium.

A concern heading into Saturday's bout is the possibility of a hangover for Tech following its upset of No. 9 Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., last Saturday.

Tech coach Tommy Tuberville and players made it clear early in the week that the Oklahoma win was behind them.

One game the Red Raiders did get to dwell a little bit on was the loss to Iowa State last year, considering the amount of film study centering on last year's defeat. Tech quarterback Seth Doege said it

was bizarre to see the flow of the team's loss to the Cyclones in 2010 through

"It was weird because we got down so bad early, and then we fought back," Doege said. "It felt like we were coming back and about to win the game, and then things go sour. We still have that taste in the back of our mouths, so it's just one of those things. We're motivated because we know exactly what they can do to us if we're not really there to play."

On Wednes-

day, Tuberville said the similarities are striking between the play of both the Cyclones and the Kansas State Wildcats.

The similarities also extend to the ways in which Tech lost to Iowa State in 2010 and to Kansas State earlier this season.

The Red Raiders outgained both teams in those

losses but lost the turnover battle. Doege's worst game of the season

was a loss to the Wildcats on Oct. 15,

a game in which the junior threw three interceptions.

Against the Cyclones last year, Tech turned the ball over three times.

Taking those They're very sound numbers into account, Doege in what they do. said the key to success for teams They don't do a like Iowa State and Kansas whole lot, but State is the bawhat they do sic style of play the two squads they're really incorporate.

"I think (Iowa State is) pretty similar to Kansas State," Doege said. "They're very sound in what

they do. They don't do a whole lot, but what they do they're really good at."

» jrodriguez@dailytoreador.com

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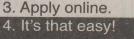
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SETH DOEGE

QUARTERBACK

TEXAS TECH



OREADOR

More colleges use social networking to check applicants' background

By GLORIA LERMA STAFF WRITER

As the digital age progresses, so has the use of social media sites by students, and universities across the nation are beginning to take notice.

Although checking social networking sites is not an official part of the admissions process, university admissions officers are beginning to use search engines to research their applicants online and even look at their Facebook pages, according to a recent Kaplan Test Prep study.

According to the survey, 41 percent of law school admissions officers said they have searched an applicant online to learn more about them, while 37 percent have checked out an applicant on Facebook or on other social networking sites.

college admissions officers and 27 percent of business school admissions officers have searched an applicant, and 24 percent of college admissions officers and 22 percent of business school admissions officers have visited an applicant's Facebook page.

The survey, which was conducted this summer, included responses from 128 of the nation's 200 American Bar Associationaccredited law schools.

Kaplan Test Prep surveyed universities in order to give students information about the application process and ways to improve their applications, but in this year's survey, new questions were added.

'This year, we decided to ask technology questions and on how (technology) influences acceptance into these schools,"

In comparison, 20 percent of said Jeff Thomas, Kaplan's director of pre-law programs. "Facebook and other sites have become part of everyday life, so it makes sense that schools would want to do this."

> Texas Tech admissions officers are not required to check social networking sites, but officers do go beyond looking at what are on applications when accepting students.

"I cannot tell you whether Tech does it or not," said Stephen Perez, assistant academic dean at Tech Law School. "But, I do know people that have (Googled applicants) in the past.

"Also, when students come to visit and get to know the school, we take notice of the things they say. If they talk about how they drink all the time or the crazy party they went to last weekend and I hear it, I'm going to re-

Michael Lara, a current graduate school applicant, has conflicting views on the subject.

"For me personally, this is a yes-and-no thing. I would not mind if admissions (officers) looked at my Facebook. In fact, I think it would be a good thing because they can see pictures of me doing my community service, receiving awards in my fraternity and being involved in my school.

"But, at the same time, I feel like if the school is willing to go above and beyond to accept me to their school, then they need to go above and beyond in the education they provide, helping me achieve my goals too."

According to Kaplan's research, not only do law schools have the highest prevalence of admissions officers checking

they also have the highest frequency of discovering damaging content that reflects negatively on applicants.

In comparison, 12 percent of college admission officers and 14 percent of business school admissions officers surveyed found something online that negatively impacted an applicant's admissions chances.

Melanie Chaffin-Poeling, an admissions adviser for Tech's graduate school, said there are a large number of students who apply, making it impossible to keep tabs on each applicant.

'We have a huge amount of applications that we go through everyday such that it would be impossible to Facebook all the applicants," she said. "But, the problem we do have is that we, as admissions officers, get friend

applicants' online records, but requests by applicants daily. We have to deny it due to policy, but we redirect them to our official Facebook and Twitter pages."

A reason why the statistics for law schools are so high, Thomas said, is because they accept less than 20 percent of their applicants and students have to learn to make themselves more qualified.

"The number of schools that have adapted this into their application process is in the single digits, and they do this when they have outstanding questions about their applicants."

Both Perez and Thomas advised students to be vigilant, check their privacy settings and to be certain the information they make public is the information that represents them in a positive light.

>>> glerma@dailytoreador.com

Garage ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"He (Rex Isom) just told us that at the end of the four years, he would not allow anything to happen that would hurt the alumni association," Dean said.

In a statement released Thursday, the alumni association stated that it "feels the project is a good investment in Tech's future, as the parking study showed a critical need for additional parking in the next three or so years.'

After the parking garage was built and contracts were signed, the study cited by the alumni association revealed how "the project is five years premature.'

The study, which was funded by the university and conducted by Walker Parking Consultants, a national consulting firm, also stated "the Raider Park location is not located in the optimal site to meet the most pressing parking deficit residential student demand."

have stated that Sawyer Vest

Daily Toreador, the article 'Orga-

nization hosts haunted Tech tour:

DT reporter takes a peek,' should

have included LaQuetta Purkiss

saying, "I am LaQuetta Purkiss,

your host for the ghost tour. Some

be in every row,

column and 3 x 3 box. Use

logic to define the answers.

SUB Suite 024 East Basement

Russell Thomason, the special assistant and counsel to the Tech chancellor, said one of the reasons the parking garage was so attractive was because of its location.

losses by Tech and the alumni association on the lease would range from approximately \$450,000 in the first year to about \$215,000 in year 10 of the lease.

When presented with information that the alumni association would not make a profit 10 years into the agreement, Dean said, "So?"

Dean later clarified the alumni association statement never mentioned making a profit, but he said it did mention it would be considerably less expensive than Tech building its own parking garage. The study did not compare these costs to additional ground parking.

The Daily Toreador reported Wednesday that Heather Medley, marketing and training coordinator for University Parking Services, said the uni-

chemistry lady' because I make

them leave the lab if they violate

safety rules," instead of referring to

her as the "mean chemistry lady"

for being "mean to students." The

DT regrets these errors.

versity did not immediately need more student parking, and parking services did not request more student parking from the university.

"(The parking garage) was The study also reported a university decision," Medley said. "It wasn't a choice. We were just kind of told to do it. They wanted it for game days and other things.'

University Parking Services is currently conducting research on building another on-campus parking garage. The parking garage on Flint Avenue and 19th Street provides the university with 791 parking spots and cost \$10.5 million.

Clayton Isom said he approached the university and the alumni association at the same time in 2009, but he said he never thought about marketing and selling the parking garage spaces himself.

"I never looked at it that way," he said.

The statement released Thursday by the alumni association said, "In 2009, the 33-member TTAA National Board voted unanimously to participate in this project."

Dean said only 28 members voted, but added that a member might have abstained.

Sources close to the board said at least one board member opposed the deal.

The alumni association statement said the money paid to Raider Park "has come out of come from "any contributed

Dean claimed that no alumni donations earmarked for scholarships will go to pay any lease losses.

The amount in reserve on the credit card, which is not reflected in the organization's income tax return, is approximately \$3.2 million, Dean said.

The credit card revenue for the 2010 fiscal year is \$470,000, Dean said, which is included in the total royalty revenue of \$660,822.

The alumni association's 2010 tax return shows the credit card royalties included in the total general revenues and the Raider Park expenses — listed as \$315,000 — are included in the total general

Clayton Isom said 25Twenty, the apartment complex just east of the parking garage that leases 500 parking spaces in the garage, pays from \$20,000 to \$25,000 a month for the spaces. Tech and the alumni association pay \$62,500 a month for 1,000 spaces plus 18 RV spaces.

He refused to divulge the annual debt service on the \$18-million bank loan that financed the construction of the parking garage. However, he said the \$750,000 annual payment from the university and its alumni association does not cover the debt service.

Clayton Isom has other ventures in Lubbock, including Raider Ranch, which also involves the alumni association, a sex offender-free developcredit card earnings that span ment located at 34th Street the last 10 years," and did not and Milwaukee Avenue and a La Quinta Inn.

> >>> imakris@dailytoreador.com >>> acunningham@dailytoreador.com >>> ccourtney@dailytoreador.com

Bacteria may have caused dolphin abortions, deaths

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A common bacteria known to cause abortions in marine mammals killed some of the hundreds of dolphins more than 100 of them babies and fetuses — that have washed ashore in the northern Gulf of Mexico since February 2010, dolphin ex-

What they don't know is why a germ that has been found in healthy animals and that occasionally killed single animals is now apparently causing an animal epidemic and "abortion storms" like those caused by its land-based cousins.

The deaths are continuing, said Teri Rowles of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency and Stephanie Venn-Watson, head of a group that has been studying the deaths.

The marine Brucella bacteria confirmed earlier this month in two adult dolphins and three fetuses may have become more lethal, or another infection or environmental stress — possibly caused by last year's oil spill — may have hurt the dolphins' ability to fight disease,

"We cannot rule in or rule out a role for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill or oil exposure or chemical contaminants or additional infectious diseases," Rowles said during a teleconference Thursday.

She said scientists are also looking for contaminants from oil and dispersants, though only about 15 percent of the 580 cetaceans that have stranded since February 2010

— three months before the spill began — have been fresh enough for tissue samples.

Those found before the spill were generally too decomposed to test, Venn-Watson said. She thought at least one was tested without finding Brucella, but "I really get the feeling that if we don't test the right organ we might not know if the dolphin had Brucella."

The deaths are continuing from Louisiana through the Florida panhandle, Rowles said. Texas has not had unusual numbers of dolphin deaths, said Connie Barclay, spokeswoman for NOAA.

The "unusual mortality event" has killed a few whales and more than 570 dolphins, nearly 520 of them bottlenose dolphins. They included more than 100 pups and

More than 20 of the youngest dolphins were among 114 that died before the Deepwater Horizon exploded in flames on April 20, 2010. Another 122 stranded or were reported dead offshore between April 30, 2010, and Nov. 2, 2010. And 344 have stranded since then.

Almost all the stranded animals died, Venn-Watson said.

She said Brucella was found in five of 21 animals tested for it: two adults and three fetuses. It had infected the fetuses' lungs and the linings around the adults' brains, and it's possible that those tissues were not tested in at least some of the 16 in which the germ wasn't found, she said.

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Corrections

Daily Toreador, the story "Student The auto accident also occurred

dies after auto collision" should Saturday morning. The DT regrets

In Wednesday's issue of The was Keaton Owens' stepbrother.

In Tuesday's edition of The of the students call me the 'mean

1 5 9 8 4 6 7 5 4 6 1 3 7 8 9 2 Solution to yesterday's puzzle www.ombuds.ttu.edu Ombuds Office A safe place to bring concerns and find solutions.

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"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

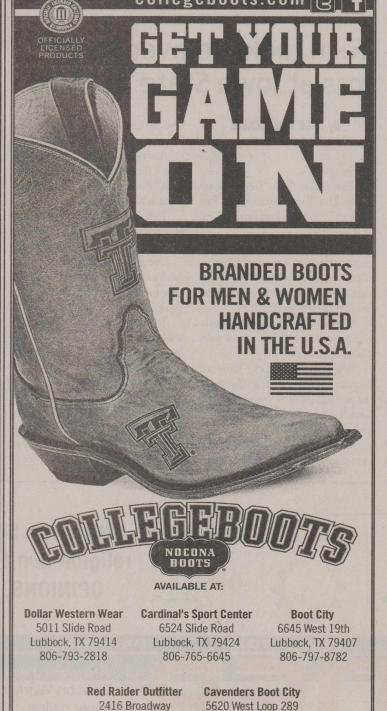
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Former Tech student continues modeling scam in San Marcos By GLORIA LERMA

think someone

would do that.

AMY COX

FRESHMAN PRE-MED

BOOKER

STAFF WRITER

Terill O'Bryan Taylor, a former Texas Tech student, is being accused by a current Texas State University student, Brandon Barrows, for scamming him into posing nude for \$2,500.

Earlier this year, Taylor had been indicted by a Lubbock County grand jury

for promising young Tech males up to \$4,000 for posing nude. Taylor would tell students he worked for a modeling company called KG Studios, but

was never forthcoming with "We presented a couple of

cases to the district attorney's office a couple of semesters ago, and that is as far as our involvement goes," said Col. Kenny Evans, Tech deputy chief of police. "Tech PD is no longer involved with the case." In earlier police reports, Tay-

lor had attempted to scam five other young males - all Tech students. Police believe there are other victims who have yet to be identified.

Now, less than four months later, members of the Texas State University Police Department

are investigating Taylor for scamming a current Texas State student under the same pretenses.

"There was a formal accusation by a current student, but this is an ongoing investigation," said Alex Villalobos, an investigator for the Texas State police. "The investigation is on an alleged theft."

Current students from Tech expressed their concerns. It's appalling to "It's appall-

ing to think someone would do that," said Amy Cox, a freshman premed major from Booker. "Everyone knows that college students are broke and they are taking

advantage of the situation." Joseph Flores, a political science major at Texas State from Houston, also voiced his opinion.

"This is really bad," Flores said. "You are dealing with fraudulent contracts and people's lives. This could destroy lives. Pictures last a lifetime."

Although the investigation is still ongoing and San Marcos courts have yet to review the cases, the Texas State University Police Department is taking measures to protect students.

'When things like this happen, we always try to educate students about it," Villalobos said. » glerma@dailytoreador.com

WIDA

FRIDAY, OCT. 28, 2011

Tech experts weigh in on aspects of Halloween

By PAIGE SKINNER STAFF WRITER

Stores are colored orange and black and spooky tales are being told.

Halloween is Monday and people are preparing for it by shopping, seeing movies and more.

Debbie Laverie, a research specialist in consumer behavior at Texas Tech, said it is estimated that Ameri-

cans will spend \$6.9 billion on Halloween costumes, candy and decorations this

This is an increase from last year, which saw a total of \$5.8 billion in sales.

"You would never think, with the economy and with the way it is, it would increase that much, but it is," Laverie said.

She said the average person spends more than \$70 on

Halloween-related merchandise, even though it's not traditionally a gift-giving holiday.

"I think, probably, consumers are often seeking to escape from the bad economic times, and this is an inexpensive way to do it," she said. Rob Weiner, a film studies librar-

ian, said horror movies have been around for decades.

"I would say probably in the late 50s and early 60s, watching scary movies as a ritual around Halloween

was in full bloom," he said.

He said he believes people enjoy watching scary movies as an escape from everyday life.

"Halloween is the holiday for being spooky, for monsters, ghouls, demons, devils and that kind of thing," Weiner said. "But, it's a fun holiday. Being scared while watching movies is a fun thing to do.'

Though there has been a re-

Halloween is the

holiday for being

spooky, for

monsters, ghouls,

demons, devils and

that kind of thing.

FILM STUDIES

LIBRARIAN

cent fascination with vampires and zombies, Weiner said those kinds of movies have been around for a while.

"As we know, the vampire legends and myths are hundreds of years old," he said. "And there has always been a fascination with vam-

pires. There are literally several hundred Dracula movies alone and thousands upon thousands of vampire movies. Many of them do have the sexy vampire. Many of them have the ugly vampire that is a sex machine."

Weiner said he has heard plenty of haunted myths and stories while growing up in Lubbock.

He said he knows one story about a haunted hospital in town.

"There is a story about a haunted hospital where this doctor was kill-

ing these babies and burying them underneath the hospital," he said.

"The story goes that the spirits of the babies were not pleased by this, and the doctor was met with an illfated end. Anytime, after that, that anyone wanted to do harm to any young babies, the spirits of the babies would make sure no harm would come to (the babies). And anyone who had the intention — whether it be a nurse, someone off the street or another doctor — of harming another child, especially a baby, they would come to an ill-fated end."

Weiner said he believes the doctor was probably performing abortions, but he doesn't believe there is any truth to the myth.

Another story he heard growing up in Lubbock was a myth called the "Prison Man's House."

"There is a house in Lubbock that looks like a prison," he said. "It is known as the 'Prison's Man's House.' To respect the privacy of the man who lives there, I'm not going to say where it is. I will say it's by Lubbock Christian University. The story goes that there was this man who killed his wife, and he was let out of prison before he felt like he paid enough (of his) contribution. So, he's building a prison around himself. When you look at the house, that's exactly what it looks like. It's in the middle of this sort of quaint, fairly upscale neighborhood. I remember, as a kid, going back there and — sure enough someone kept building onto it with these red bricks, and that's kind of how the story got started.

"Apparently, he died and his spirit haunts that block." » pskinner@dailytoreador.com

PERCUSSION PASSION

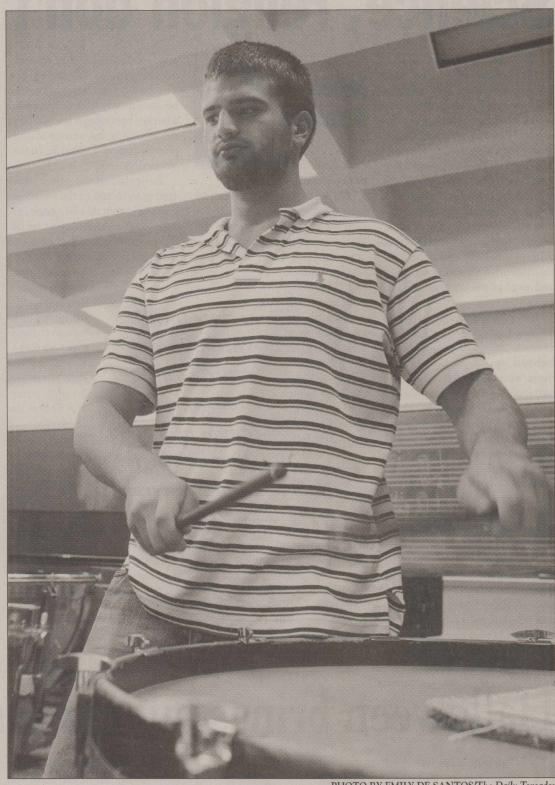


PHOTO BY EMILY DE SANTOS/The Daily Toreador

TREVOR HALL, A sophomore music education major from San Antonio, practices the percussion ensemble "Lift Off" in the Music building Thursday.

College of Mass Comm celebrates

STAFF WRITER

With Halloween almost here, it is the perfect time to watch a classic horror movie.

Well, that's exactly what Texas Tech's College of Mass Communications did when it hosted a screening of George A. Romero's 1968 classic, "Night of the Living Dead."

Rodney Donahue, a professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance, said he thinks it is the perfect time to screen a film like this.

"Zombies have become dominant (cultural) figures in the United States and even here at Texas Tech," Donahue said. "Just look at our campus games of Humans vs. Zombies."

Rob Weiner, librarian for humanities and film studies, said many modern audiences haven't had the chance to experience Romero's classic.

"We felt it was an important film to screen for modern audiences," Weiner said. "Lots of young folks have heard of this film, but most haven't seen it."

He also said that by screening "Night of the Living Dead" on campus, more Tech students have the opportunity to

But, another important reason for choosing "Night of the Living Dead" is because of the social commentary, said Allison Whitney, an assistant professor of film studies.

"This film is a fine example of how genre films can express social critique," Whitney said.

Whitney said she also recognizes the aesthetic qualities of "Night of the Living Dead." "The cinematography is beautiful

and the sound is very carefully designed and effective," she said. In comparison, Donahue said he believes many modern horror films lack

the quality found in older horror flicks. "Many newer horror films are built entirely on shock value. There is nothing to gain — only time to lose," Donahue said. "The genre is more than finding different cool ways to die, shock or kill

Although, Weiner said he does believe some modern horror films have deeper and more intelligent meanings.

"Modern horror films, like '28 Days Later' and 'Session 9,' have thoughtprovoking meanings that go beyond the scares," Weiner said. "They try to explore

The influence of "Night of the Living Dead" on today's culture is farreaching, said Robert Peaslee, a professor in the Department of Electronic Media and Communications.

"Generations of filmmakers, writers and game designers have all been influenced by Romero's work," Peaslee said. "He brought to life a story structure that allowed us to explore our deepest fears through the uncanny of creatures."

Whitney said she also believes Romero is responsible for introducing zombies to popular culture.

"Zombies are all around us now," Whitney said. "They're in films, television, graphic novels and even other parts of popular culture such as zombie

Peaslee said he believes there are some valuable lessons he hopes students learned from the screening.

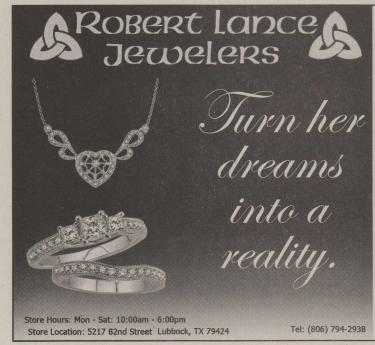
"It shows us that it's possible to make something lasting with limited resources and that it's possible to say something profound with a medium or a genre generally reserved for frivolity," Peaslee said. "It also emphasizes that much of what we see today has a lineage." >>> akhan@dailytoreador.com

Experts try to cast doubt in Jackson doctor case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The battle of scientific experts in the trial of Michael Jackson's doctor took a new turn late Thursday as defense lawyers made an 11th hour disclosure that their scientific expert has devised a new computer simulation shedding light on what killed the pop superstar.

Prosecutors told the judge they were surprised by the new development and need time to study the software program used by Dr. Paul White, a top expert on the anesthetic propofol. The judge agreed.

He said White could conclude his defense testimony Friday but he would give the prosecution the weekend to analyze the computer data before the star witness of Dr. Conrad Murray's defense is crossexamined.





PINIONS

Science, religion don't conflict

... since these two

systems measure

entirely different

things, science

cannot be used to

disprove religion

and vice versa.

n the beginning, God said, "Let there be light," and, boom, there was light. Well, that's what I usually like to say when asked whether I ascribe to the tenets of creationism or the Big Bang theory, anyway.

Another question commonly asked is whether life on Earth was created by a higher being - a thesis known as Intelligent Design — or if it evolved over time, which often turns debates about religious beliefs and scientific theories into shouting matches and exchanges of personal at-

In a previous column I wrote for The Daily Toreador last November, "Religious people should lighten up," I suggested that those who follow a religion, and particularly Christians, should learn to take criticisms about their beliefs in stride. Being quick to take offense at critics of one's faith — I used the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster as an example — is a sign of insecurity, and turning volatile does nothing but embarrass yourself and others who consider themselves

However, since then, I've grown a little older and a little wiser — or at least I like to think so - and have had many sciencewith people who do not share my

Reynolds

to new conclusions.

On the first day of my physical anthropology class, my professor gave a survey to gauge where the class stood on the evolutioncreationism debate, which was through the scientific method

for someone teaching a class about evolution at a university in the Bible Belt. After asking the class some questions, he explained there is, in fact, no real conflict between science and reli-

a smart move

At first, the rest of the class and myself were rather bewil- ences in these two systems and

dered by this statement. However, it makes sense once you think about it.

Science is a tool used to quanand religion-themed discussions tify things that can only be observed in the natural world. faith, yet some have brought me It contains a system called the

on the tenets of falsifiability. This means science is limited because it only tries to determine whether hypotheses are false. For something to be a scientifically proven "truth" it must be incontrovertibly true.

Religion, on the other hand, applies to things in the supernatural world that do not necessarily carry over to the natural world. Religious beliefs cannot be tested

> because they do not require evidence capable of being observed through the senses. Religious beliefs, therefore, do not operate under the constraints of falsifiability, so they cannot be scientifically

disproven. It is because of the fundamental differ-

the restrictions both have on the other that the suggestion there is no real conflict between science and religion is valid.

This also means that since these two systems measure entirely different things, science can-

scientific method that operates not be used to disprove religion and vice versa. It is not a valid claim to say, "Since God created all life on Earth, the theory of evolution is false." Neither is the statement that <insert scientific theory here > can disprove the existence of <insert deity here>.

Furthermore, saying religious ideas such as creationism are viable scientific alternatives to scientific theories is wrong because they operate on completely different rules and offer no scientific evidence in support of their claims. It seriously makes one wonder why these religious notions should be taught in science classes.

Personally, if I am having an intellectual discussion with someone and I hear them say something along the lines of, "I think this thing the scientific community agrees upon is false because God says something that contradicts it in the Bible," they lose credibility in my eyes.

Having faith in one's religious beliefs or using science to understand the way our world works is fine, but trying to use one to disprove the other is a fine way to make yourself look and sound like a complete fool.

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attend college by offering low, fixed-interest student loans. The program, known today as the College Access Loan, currently boasts one of the lowest interest rates in the nation at 5.25 percent.

Unlike many other types of loans available to students, the state is able to keep interest rates purposefully low because the program answers to tuition-payers, not to profit

Throughout its long history, the program has also never relied on taxpayers to repay bond obligations or administer the program. The fiscally sound management principles employed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board have ensured that the benefits of low-interest and low-cost loans are passed directly to student borrowers. It is for these reasons that Texas voters have reauthorized the program in six elections since 1965.

On Nov. 8, voters will once again be asked to approve bonding authority to support this program. This election marks a critical juncture for the future of the program and access to funding to help students pay for college.

If passed, Proposition 3 will significantly extend the reach of the program to serve more students than ever before. It will also provide long-term

On Monday, I had the pleasure

of conducting a Ghost Tour of

some of the haunted buildings on

the Texas Tech campus to a group

of more than 75 people. It seemed

to go well, as many people asked

questions and shared some of their

ghost sightings or other unusual ex-

said the tour and the legends of the

ghosts explained some of the strange

they had when in certain buildings.

For the most part, the mood was

one of enjoyment, fun, and very

much in the spirit of Halloween.

Imagine my surprise when, on Tues-

day, I saw my picture on the front

page of The Daily Toreador in an

article written by Paige Skinner. No

reporter introduced his or herself to

me at the tour. This is very unprofes-

sional and also impolite. The article,

and I use that term in the loosest of

saying I was mean to students. I nev-

er said I was mean to students. She

also implied that I made up the

stories. I did not. I related them as

they had been told to me and, if I

had known a reporter was going to

be there, I would have given names

and dates. There was at least one

case that I did give a name, because

I personally knew the chemistry

professor who committed suicide.

Skinner said I didn't take them to

not to mention putting test answers

In it, Skinner misquoted me as

definitions, was obviously biased.

For more than 40 years, the sustainability and predictability state of Texas has been com- so the THECB can effectively mitted to helping students respond to current and future demand for low-interest loans.

At a time when financial aid programs and family budgets are more strained than ever, this program has the potential to offer a low-cost alternative for students. For example, the THECB estimated last spring that a student with a \$20,000 CAL loan would save \$7,500 in interest payments over 20 years compared to the federal Parent Plus loan.

As students, we understand the challenges of paying for college. For many of us, there are not enough affordable resources to cover the college cost gap. While the CAL program alone cannot solve this problem, it can make a real difference.

The outcome of Proposition 3 affects Texas students more than any other constituency. It is for this reason it is critical that Texas college students inform themselves about the amendment and register their votes on Nov. 8. This is an opportunity for students to have a direct impact on the future vitality of one of the longest running financial aid programs in Texas history.

■ Jill Fadal is the Texas Tech University System Student Regent.

■ Amir Barzin is the Student Representative for the Texas **Higher Education Coordinating** Board.

» abarzin@live.unthsc.edu

Halloween brings out crazies, strange

hristmas has just about overridden Halloween - just check Hobby Lobby — but I still feel like people wave their "freak flags" proudly on

My dad used to tell me old wives' tales like the following: "On nights with a full moon, hospitals Xbox and Playstation games they have the most patients and see the were going to dress up as. weirdest things." Seeing as my dad never worked in the medical field, I just ignored him. There's not a full moon this week, but I feel like Halloween has the same effect as full moons do on people.

I was sitting on campus the other day, minding my own business, when a group of "gamers" plopped down next to me and started chatting loud enough to drown out my music. These three overexcited individuals began ranting about which characters from various



Then, all of a sudden, they started talking about these fantasy characters as if they had feelings, turning them into real people. I am not a "gamer" at all, so this is probably one of my biggest pet peeves. I'm cool with people playing Xbox for six hours a night, but please don't sit next to me and transform game characters into three-dimensional human beings.

Earlier this week, there was a guy ranting between the Student Union Building and the library

— no surprise there. First of all, I don't know how he sat there and screamed for four hours straight. I wanted to get him water because I know his voice had to hurt. I do not understand why religious zealots feel they need to come scream at college students. They are setting themselves up for failure. It's 30,000 over-opinionated, educated individuals in the middle of finding self-independence versus one crazy person shouting.

I read a lot of offbeat news and follow current events on Twitter daily. This week in particular, the news has seemed to focus on slightly stranger events in a broader range of topics.

On USA Today's website, I read about a senator in Florida wanting to legalize "dwarf tossing," an archaic practice that was banned in the 70s. He doesn't think there should be these types of restrictions on Americans, as he feels the government has become too involved. I can agree with this, but I would say to find a more pressing issue to fight and to not discriminate against the dwarf community. As a side note, since I don't want to offend anyone, I looked it up, and "dwarf" is not a derogatory term.

Also, I learned to never put an age limit on a drug mule. This week, an 87-year-old man was stopped by local police and caught with 104 bricks of cocaine, which

allegedly is equivalent to \$2.9 million dollars in street value. I guess even the elderly are feeling the effects of the bad economy. The man tried to tell the judge he was forced to do it.

Celebrity gossip has even been a little wacky this week. Bruce Willis — the guy older than most of our fathers — is having a baby with his 35-year-old wife. Here's a fun fact; his youngest child is 17. As if being a celebrity isn't hard

enough, Lindsay Lohan just could not make We only get to be it to her courtappointed comfully crazy once a munity service year and get away recently. The troubled star is with it ... now working at a local morgue

for her com-

munity service, which should teach her not to miss another court date. However, to cope with all this stress, she has decided to pose for Playboy. Hopefully, she'll get her rotting

teeth fixed first. We all see crazy in the world today. Sometimes it comes in waves and is triggered by something as simple as a myth about full moons or something as important as a celebrated holiday tradition. Typically, we only get to get away with being fully crazy once a year, so dress up as ridiculous as possible and blame it on the altered you. Have a safe Halloween.

■ Doughty is a junior English major from Nederland.

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any of the haunted places, which is not true. I took them to the exact spot where I saw the ghost of the chemistry professor. I saw him in the basement hall of the Chemistry building. I cannot take them into offices - not only because I do not have keys to them, but also because current professors use some. To do so would not only be a violation of their privacy but also bad manners,

> Perhaps she should consider when people take tours of movie stars' and rock stars' homes in Hollywood that they do not actually go into the homes. The principle is the same. Besides, with the size of the tour group, some limitations had to be put in place. A group of 75-plus individuals was not going to fit in the Bell Tower even if I had keys, which I do not. It also would not have been safe to take such a large group into some of the "haunted" areas. I object to the tone of the article, which was one of criticism and condemnation. She obviously had made up her mind not to have fun or even to be fair. A professional leaves their preconceived ideas out of their reporting even if it is supposed to be one of personal experience. Skinner did not

do this. The article reads like a blog. So, on Tuesday morning, I called The Daily Toreador and spoke to a member of the staff, who said they would correct the misquotation and the misspelling of my name. This did not happen. So, on Wednesday, I called again, and I spoke to another member of the editorial staff and still received no periences. A few of those attending apology or corrections. All I received was a letter from Skinner stating she was sorry for misspelling my name noises they had heard or feelings and for not being more "transparent."

People often get my name wrong and this was not my main concern. Nowhere in her letter did she apologize for publishing my picture without my consent. Nowhere did she apologize for misquoting me or for saving I was mean to students, which I never said. Nowhere did she apologize for an obviously slanted article.

The language in the letter was intentionally vague. It reads as if she was forced to write one and her apology did not seem sincere. From the way she phrased her letter, she does not understand how wrong and unethical her actions were. Being very frustrated at not getting the corrections the staff previously promised, I finally spoke to the Editor-in-Chief on Thursday, who said the corrections would be made.

I tried to tell myself that Skinner is young and perhaps just can't write well. Then came the Oct. 27 paper with the very well-written and sensitive piece about a student with childhood leukemia. Now I was re-

The article, though well-written, was obviously slanted toward Christianity. She knew the sponsoring organization of the Ghost Tour, the TPSU is Pagan. Thursday's article was wellwritten, while the Ghost Tour article was not. It seems like religious bias or discrimination. You do not have to be Christian to have faith. Yes, Christians have faith, but so do Muslims, Jews, First Nation or Native Americans and, yes, even Pagans. No single religion has a copyright on Faith. So, it seems there will be no sincere apology from Skinner or The Daily Toreador for their biases in reporting, and the correction is to appear on page two instead of the front page, where the article originally did. I hope Skinner learns to check her personal biases if she is to follow a career in journalism. The Ghost Tour could have been a fun piece if Skinner had attended the Ghost Tour with an open mind and a more professional attitude.

■ LaQuetta Purkiss is a Research Associate and Prep Lab **Chemist for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.**

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Red Raiders beat Baylor for season's first conference win

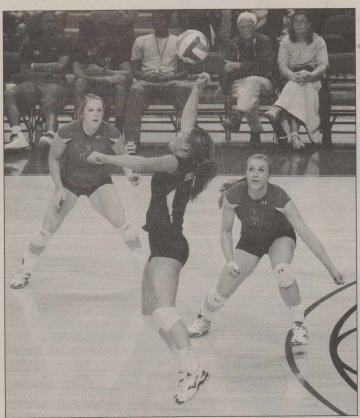


PHOTO BY EMILY DE SANTOS/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH DEFENSIVE specialist Tory Vaughn leaps to keep the ball in play during Tech's 3-2 victory against Baylor on Wednesday in United Spirit Arena.

By CHOIS WOODMAN

The Texas Tech volleyball team ended its eight-match Big 12 Conference losing streak Wednesday night with a five-set victory against Baylor at home.

The victory pushed the Red Raiders to 1-8 in conference play and 15-9

The win was a relief for the entire team and well-deserved, Tech coach Don Flora said. The win was also the first in Big 12 play for the first-year head coach.

"The proverbial monkey is always good to get off of your back," he said. "For these young athletes to stick with it, it's really impressive."

The back-and-forth match was decided in the fifth set as Tech wrapped up the match. The Red Raiders won 15-13.

Flora compared the match to recent matches against Oklahoma and Texas A&M, where Tech lost by two in the fifth set of both matches.

"When we got down, we didn't freak out," he said. "They put some pressure on us in game five. We just stuck to it, and stuck to what we needed to do, so that's really important for us to have learned that it just takes one more good play, and not worrying about the last play."

The Red Raiders won the first set of e match 25-13 which is Tech's largest win in a set win since Big 12 play began. The team hit .429 in the first set.

Tech's fast start was attributed to the players' excitement coming into the game, along with Baylor underestimating the ability of the Red Raiders,

Flora said. "Part of it was some people taking us lightly, and so be it. Good, knock yourself out," he said. "And another part of it was

that we really passed at a high level." The win came at a good time before the bye Saturday, Flora said. The Red

Raiders will play their next game at A&M on Wednesday.

"We'll take a little time to rest and recover," he said. "This is a good phase for us. We can relish the win and go into a weekend where we can have some down time and lead into A&M next Wednesday."

The team is excited for its hard work to finally pay off, Tech senior Karlyn Meyers said.

"It's such a relief and it's so exciting because we've been working for it all year," she said. "We've been so close so many times. So, to finally win that final game 15-13 instead of losing it 15-13 is indescribable.'

The crowd was an important factor in the win against the Bears, Meyers

"This year we've really had awesome crowds," she said. "They've been really getting into the games. Every point, they're getting into it. They're yelling at the refs. Hearing that is just such a pick-me-up."

Meyers finished the match with a double-double, posting 37 assists and 17 digs. Amanda Dowdy also had a doubledouble with her 18 digs and 15 kills.

The seniors on the team will cherish the win because it is the first time they have beaten Baylor during their tenure at Tech, Dowdy said.

"It feels so great because that's our last time for me and Karlyn (Meyers) to play Baylor," she said. "It's the first win against them since 2004, so that's a pretty big deal."

The crowd deserved a lot of credit for the hot start and the team's ability to sustain the lead, Dowdy said.

"It's our home turf and we had to protect it," she said. "We had a great crowd tonight and we came out fired

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The DT Staff College Football Pick 'Em

Games of the Week	Kevin Cullen Editor-in-Chief Overall Record 24-16	Jose Rodriguez Managing Editor Overall Record 28-12	Kassidy Ketron La Vida Editor Overall Record 25-15	Caitlan Osborn News Editor Overall Record 28-12	Brett Wineganer Sports Editor Overall Record 31-9	Chris Leal Opinions Editor Overall Record 24-16	Danny Neylon Copy Editor Overall Record 25-15	Brad Tollefson Photography Editor Overall Record 23-17	Andrew Nepsund Electronic Media Editor Overall Record 23-17
lowa State @ No. 20 Texas Tecl	Texas Tech 52-14	Texas Tech 45-20	Texas Tech 42-14	Texas Tech 56-7	Texas Tech 45-24	Texas Tech 49-7	Texas Tech 42-0	Texas Tech 41-16	Texas Tech 38-21
No. 11 Michigan St. vs. No. 14 Nebraska	Michigan State	Nebraska	Michigan State	Nebraska	Michigan State	Michigan State	Michigan State	Nebraska	Michigan State
No. 9 Oklahoma @ No. 8 Kansas State	Oklahoma e	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Kansas State	Kansas State	Oklahoma	Kansas State	Oklahoma
No. 22 Georgia vs. Florida	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Florida
Illinois @ No. 19 Penn St.	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Illinois	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State

indicates "Game to Watch"

Red & Black Series put on hold because of weather, resumes Friday

By CHOIS WOODMAN STAFF WRITER

The Black team will try for its first win of the Red & Black Series on Friday after losing the first three to the Red team and the fourth game being cancelled Thursday.

The game Friday will begin at

The team's roster is deeper than it has been in the past, Tech coach Dan Spencer said.

"We have more depth I don't think in the infield, we have more depth on the mound and we have more depth behind surprised us. I the plate," he said. "We like think we're kind of our depth and we need to hold where we thought on. Obviously, for the most part, we've been relatively healthy this

fall, and hope-

fully it contin-

ues to stay that team should make it a solid force this

season, Spencer said. "On paper, we've got a pretty good bunch, and, like I've said, we've got to figure out the shortstop position," he said. "Then, we've got to learn to get them all on one team and play against somebody else."

No one on the team has surprised the coaching staff by their play in the

series up to this point, Spencer said. "(Bryant) Burleson hit all fall and he's hit so far in the Red & Black," he said. "And I'm sure he will probably

hit tomorrow, too." Burleson, a freshman, is one of the players competing for the shortstop position needing to be filled, Spencer said.

Burleson helped lead the Red team to clinch the series over the Black in victories scoring at 3-1, 5-3 and 9-5.

The level of Division I baseball is faster than what he is accustomed to from high school, Burleson said.

"I knew the

start some-

where," he said,

"so I knew I had

to play good

game would be a lot faster, but I didn't really know what to expect," he said. Burleson said he is fighting hard for the shortstop position up for grabs at this point. "I want to play (shortstop) and I want to we would be.

RUSTY SHELLHORN TEXAS TECH PITCHER

anyone has

necessarily

throughout the fall to be able to do that." Tech pitcher Rusty Shellhorn

said he got better during the summer, which helped him during the fall. "I had a good summer, so I came in ready to go," he said. "My arm was in shape and I think I just carried

momentum from the summer into the fall, and I think it's really helped Shellhorn is pitching for the Red

team during the Red & Black Series. The team is exactly where they feel like they should be, Tech senior Reid Redman said.

"I don't think anyone has necessarily surprised us," he said. "I think we're kind of where we thought we would be."

The team was ready to finish fall practices with the series to showcase its progress, Redman said.

"Red & Black is a good way to fin-

ish out the fall," he said. "It gives you a real game-like atmosphere. We've got fans in the stands and everything. It really just shows us who is going to perform under pressure, and it gives us a good feel for who is going to perform when we've got 4,000 to 5,000 people in the stands."

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SPORTS

Cyclones look to stop 4-game skid Saturday

STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech proved last week that records and rankings are moot in the Big 12 Conference.

By going to Norman, Okla., and knocking off the then-No. 3 Sooners 41-38, the No. 20 Red Raiders showed how every conference team is vulnerable to an upset.

And, rest assured, Iowa State took

"I watched the whole game," linebacker Jake Knott said. "It was interesting. You saw that lead at halftime and everything, so I had to stay up and watch the game."

Although the Cyclones will visit Jones AT&T Stadium on Saturday night reeling after four straight losses, there's a new sheriff in town. After starting the first seven games and also nursing a foot injury, Steele Jantz was replaced by redshirt freshman Jared Barnett in last week's 33-17 loss to Texas A&M.

"Steele has not played at a level that we would see him continue on as a starter in this game, based on especially what Jared (Barnett) did coming off the bench against Texas A&M and Missouri for that part," head coach Paul Rhoads said. "It's a relatively easy decision for me to see the need for a change and put Jared in that position."

The Garland native stepped in admirably, with 180 yards passing and another 73 on the ground. For Iowa State, the youthful exuberance and blissful unawareness is an asset

"(Considering) the fact that he's so inexperienced and remains so calm, I think it is a little bit surprising to myself as well as to our staff," Rhoads said. "He's probably calmer on the outside than he is on the inside, and I think he admitted to that."

Barnett was the first quarterback recruit signed by Rhoads since he took over the program prior to the 2009 season. Since his arrival in Ames, topping the depth chart has been a

"It's definitely a goal that I've been trying to reach, and now that I've reached it, there are a lot more goals that I have to reach now that I've gotten to this point," Barnett said.

Next to the freshman in the backfield is running back James White, who has amassed 497 yards and six touchdowns this season. The Cyclones will utilize the zone read play to maximize the versatility of Barnett, who has already garnered the respect of White.

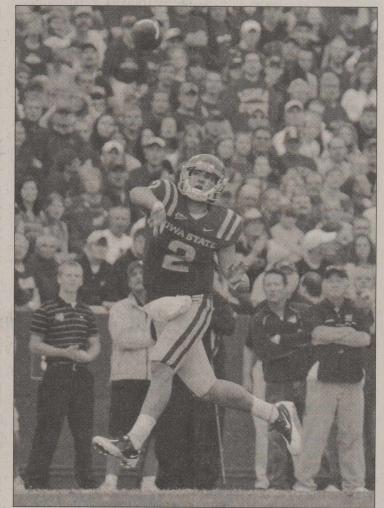
"Barnett came in and he was efficient out there and completed some passes," White said. "I understand why we're passing the ball more. We just have to be a more balanced team with the run and pass."

Making his first career start in Lubbock may not be a cakewalk for Barnett. Rhoads said he's seen the dynamic of the carefree second-string quarterback-turned-starter play out

"He's got more time to think about it, he's got more preparation and all that," Rhoads said. "It remains to be seen how well he'll do when he gets that role both leadership-wise and playing-wise."

The signal-caller across the field has not been shabby lately either. Seth Doege threw for 441 yards and four touchdowns in the win against Oklahoma, instantly vaulting him from regional notoriety to national

"There are so many great quarterbacks in this league that I think he might have been overshadowed at first," Knott said. "(From) just watching him play and watching him throw and run and do all those things, he's



COURTESY OF REBEKKA BROWN/Iowa State Daily

QUARTERBACK STEELE JANTZ aims his throw to a fellow teammate during the first half of the game agaainst Northern Iowa on Sept. 3 at Jack Trice Stadium. Jantz threw 187 yards to help lead the Cyclones to a 20-19 victory against the Panthers.

Doege is a semi-finalist for the Davey O'Brien Award, which is given to the nation's top quarterback, and was also named the Walter Camp Offensive National Player of the Week after his performance. Even with the recent accolades, Iowa State was already well aware of the junior's capabilities.

"I think the only reason why

one of the best quarterbacks in the maybe he isn't already is because of the other quarterbacks and offensive stars in the league," Rhoads said. "From a defensive staff standpoint and from our players' standpoints, we've been aware of him and we don't need any introduction to him."

> The entire Tech offense could pose problems for the Cyclones, a team that has given up an average of 370 yards and 35 points per game

different level of fast-paced teams," Knott said. "They try to get you out of alignment and make you make mental mistakes. That's the stuff we're going to have to eliminate if we're going to be able to stay in the ball game."

Although Rhoads no longer calls the defense, he has a track record as a defensive coordinator. His last coaching stop was at Auburn, serving as defensive coordinator under Tech head coach Tommy Tuberville.

"He's a great football coach," "They're an extremely athletic Rhoads said. "I'm very appreciative

OUARTERBACK STEELE JANTZ scrambles around while looking for a receiver during Saturday's game against Northern Iowa. The Cyclones beat the Panthers in a 20-19 victory Sept 3. allows his coach to coach — what I think is a fantastic trait in him. It was a very enjoyable experience I had the year under him."

COURTESY OF TIM REUTER/Iowa State Daily

The familiarity of the coaches may not be a factor, but last week's Tech victory was a poignant example for the country and Iowa State for how anything can happen in league play.

"The Big 12 is just absolutely crazy and loaded with talent this year," Knott said. "That's one of those things. Anybody can beat anybody in this conference."

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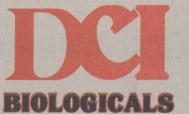
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A&M's Kennedy has early stages of Parkinson's disease

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M coach Billy Kennedy said Thursday that he is in the early stages of Parkinson's disease.

Kennedy took a leave of absence from the team earlier this month to undergo testing after experiencing neck and shoulder pain for several months that led to an inability to sleep regularly. The tests revealed that Kennedy was in the early stages of Parkinson's disease, a progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects movement.

"I am heeding the advice of my doctors and addressing the disease and its symptoms," Kennedy said in a statement. "We have begun a longterm treatment plan and recovery. My doctors are encouraged and are telling me I will be able to come back soon."

Associate head coach Glynn Cyprien took over when Kennedy took his leave and will continue to be in charge of the team.

"We have a good prognosis," Kennedy said. "My intention is to return to the court as soon as it is prudent. Until my return, I have great confidence in Coach Cyprien and the staff I have assembled to lead this great group of young men and this basketball program."

The 47-year-old Kennedy was hired from Murray State in May after Mark Turgeon left to become coach at Maryland.

Texas A&M athletic director Bill Byrne said the school's No. 1 concern is for Kennedy's health and that the Aggies will support him as he deals with this disease.

"I fully expect Billy to have a long and illustrious coaching career here ... when he is cleared to return to the court," Byrne said.

Senior guard Dash Harris said he spoke with Kennedy on Thursday and that he "looks well." He added that the team is hoping to have him

"He left this team in great hands," Harris said. "We have great leadership ... on this team and on this staff, and everyone knows what he expects, so once he comes back it'll be a smooth ride."