

Right: Tech seeks bowl eligibility against Baylor | Sports, Page 5

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PHOTOS BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

MEGAN MIKESELL, A sophomore biology major from Highland Village, trudges through a deep puddle near the Student Union Building on Monday.

Trying to Stay Dry

Tech deals with rainy day

By CAITLAN OSBORN
NEWS EDITOR

Lubbock residents and members of the Texas Tech community received a small reprieve from the ongoing drought Monday, and experts predict further drops in temperature after some warmth during

the Thanksgiving holiday. According to the National Weather Service, a cold front moved in from south Texas and made its way north to the South Plains. Temperatures dropped to the low 40s, causing chilly winds and rainfall.

RAIN continued on Page 2 ➤



STUDENTS WITH AND without umbrellas wait for buses in the rain in front of the Student Union Building on Monday.

Orgs. offer volunteer chances

Various holiday events to give opportunities for Tech students

By ASHLYN TUBBS
STAFF WRITER

Thanksgiving is a celebration of gratitude, thankfulness, fellowship and, of course, a highly anticipated home-cooked meal usually comprised of turkey, dressing and pumpkin pie. Not everyone is fortunate enough to have these experiences, though. In fact, there are many who will go without food on Thanksgiving.

This is why the Salvation Army of Lubbock will host a meal in order to feed those less fortunate than others on Thanksgiving Day. "I think it is really important to give back over the holidays," said Rachel Flores, an adult volunteer coordinator with the Volunteer Center of Lubbock. "There are a lot more opportunities for families to volunteer and give back to the community, which doesn't really happen a lot of the time."

Volunteers are needed Nov. 22 and 23 in order to prepare for the Thanksgiving Day feast. Last year, the Salvation Army of Lubbock served 252 individuals, and about 300 are expected this year. "The majority of individuals who might be without a support system usually have a place to go on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, so our number for total individuals served actually goes down," said Melody Paton, community relations director for the Salvation Army of Lubbock.

VOLUNTEER continued on Page 2 ➤

Bus to shuttle students home for Thanksgiving

Flat fee of \$100 needed to register

By DESTINY BEZRUTCZYK
STAFF WRITER

For students not interested in a nine-and-a-half-hour car ride or a \$300 plane ticket, the Texas Tech Parents Association offers the opportunity for students to get home for a flat fee of \$100. This \$100 will pay for a round trip on a chartered bus for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Parents and students may register and pay through the association's website at <http://www.parent.ttu.edu>. Leaving Lubbock at 8:30 a.m., students will arrive home as soon as 3 p.m. without ever having to make gas stops, go through the Transportation Security Administration's procedures or nervously check their smartphones for directions.

BUS continued on Page 3 ➤

TechBriefly

Tech livestock judging team wins national championship

The Texas Tech livestock judging team won first place at the 2011 North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky. The team won by a 31-point margin and ended with an overall score of 4,677 points. They placed first in the reasons and swine categories, second in the cattle category and third in the sheep category. Ryan Rathmann, coach of the livestock judging team and an assistant professor of animal and food sciences at Tech, said he is grateful for the win. "I'm proud of their achievements, but I'm more excited to see the difference this experience will make in their lives," he said in a news release. Texas Tech also won livestock national championships in 1934, 1953, 1985, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

SACNAS earns Role Model Chapter Award

Texas Tech's chapter of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science received a Role-Model Chapter Award for outstanding sustainability out of more than 60 chapters at a national conference in San Jose, Calif. SACNAS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of Hispanics, Chicanos and Native Americans in scientific fields. "I was truly impressed by the encouraging and inspirational environment of the SACNAS national conference," said Ximena Bernal, the Texas Tech SACNAS co-faculty adviser, in a statement. "It is a pleasure to collaborate with a group of dedicated and hardworking students, and I am happy to see the Texas Tech chapter and Texas Tech recognized for their efforts."

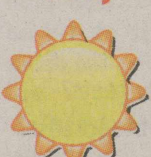
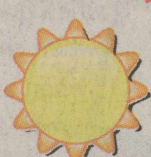
Tech jumps to No. 149 on philanthropy list

Texas Tech was listed as No. 149 in The Chronicle of Philanthropy's list of 400 universities. Last year Tech was ranked No. 246. Tech's rankings were improved due to \$184 million in donations and \$100 million in fundraising efforts. In 2010, university officials announced a \$1 billion capital campaign to support student scholarships, faculty endowments, research efforts and facility expansions system-wide. As of this month, more than \$823 million of the goal has been raised. "Advancing in these rankings is a direct result of Texas Tech's continued fundraising success," said Chancellor Kent Hance in a statement. ➤ news@dailytoreador.com

INDEX

- Classifieds.....5
- Crossword.....5
- Opinions.....4
- La Vida.....3
- Sports.....5
- Sudoku.....3

WEATHER

Today	Sunny	Wednesday	Sunny
	65/35		68/38

Morrison: Pay attention in all classes
OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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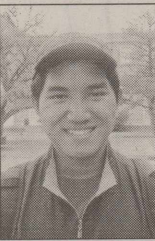
THANKSGIVING THOUGHTS

“ I'm going to India in December, so I would like to shop for my littles back in India.”
Kiran Lokhande -
Management and informational systems graduate student -
from Pune, India

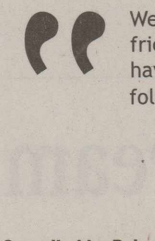


“ Seeing my family because I've been missing them so much and all my friends.”
- Sarah Whitaker
- Freshman mass communications major from Amarillo

“ Sleep, because we don't have Thanksgiving (in England), so it is pretty much like a holiday with me, like, nothing to do. Like, 'Hell yeah! A holiday.' Staying here, just hanging out with a couple friends.”
Jonathan D'Costa -
Junior petroleum engineering major from Liverpool, -
England



“ I'm just looking forward to a holiday because I haven't gotten a lot of sleep, so I'm just going to catch up on some sleep. I'm staying here because I don't know where to go because my family is in Jakarta, so I'm staying in Lubbock.”
- Teddy Triantara
- Junior petroleum engineering major from Jakarta, Indonesia



“ We will have a dinner with some friends. I'm from Cuba, and we don't have this custom in Cuba. I will try to follow the tradition here.”
Luis Grave de Peralta -
Professor of physics

Compiled by Paige Skinner/The Daily Toreador

Judge denies Jackson doc's bid for new testing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge denied a request Monday by lawyers for the doctor convicted of causing Michael Jackson's death to have an independent laboratory test the contents of a key vial of evidence.

Just days before the scheduled sentencing of Dr. Conrad Murray, Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor said defense attorneys could have sought the testing months ago or even during the doctor's six-week trial but chose not to.

"You're not involved in fishing, you're involved in foraging," Pastor said.

Murray's attorneys wanted a lab to test a small amount of liquid found in a vial of the anesthetic propofol that authorities contend was used to help Jackson sleep on the day he died.

Defense lawyer J. Michael Flanagan argued the results would reveal the accuracy of a theory by a prosecution expert who testified that Murray left Jackson's bedside while the singer was on an IV drip of propofol and the painkiller

lidocaine.

Murray had been giving Jackson nightly doses of propofol to help the singer sleep as he prepared for a series of comeback concerts.

Deputy District Attorney David Walgren contended there was no legal basis for the testing and said Murray received a fair trial.

Pastor examined the propofol vial, which was found in the closet of Jackson's bedroom, before issuing his ruling.

Flanagan said it didn't occur to him that the contents of the vial should be tested until after the conclusion of Murray's trial, which ended Nov. 7 with the conviction of the cardiologist on an involuntary manslaughter charge.

Flanagan said if prosecution expert Dr. Steven Shafer's theory is correct, the small amount of liquid that remained in the vial should contain lidocaine. In that case, "that's the ballgame" and would prove Murray did leave the singer alone on an IV drip, Flanagan said.

Bus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Parents Association began offering these bus rides in 2008 as an inexpensive and safe way for students to go home for the holidays.

"A lot of our students don't have cars or don't feel comfortable driving all the way to Houston or even Dallas for that short of a holiday," said Christine Self, unit coordinator for the Office of Parent and Family Relations at Tech.

Students have the option of riding to locations in Houston, Arlington, Austin, San Antonio and El Paso. Students are allowed to stow two bags in the cargo area as well as bring two small carry-on bags.

According to Self, the program has become a popular Thanksgiving holiday event, often selling out quickly.

This Thanksgiving trip was announced at the beginning of September and sold out within a month.

Self estimates approximately 375 students are participating this year.

The Parents Association also offers bus rides home for spring break, but these trips have been found to be less popular.

The buses travel the same route, according to Self, but no money is being made from the trips and the Thanksgiving leftover funds pay for the spring deficit.

Enna Post, a member of the Parents Association and a third-time chaperone, first became aware of the program

when her daughter needed a ride home to the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

"You don't have to drive to Lubbock and drive back," Post said. "People from all over the metroplex go pick up their kids and go home without having to drive all the way to Lubbock."

Post is one of many chaperones who come to Lubbock to help the students check into their buses, ride to their cities and depart to go home from there.

Post cites the heavy holiday traffic and anxiety of young drivers as a good reason for students to take the bus in lieu of driving.

The buses provide a bathroom and stop once for lunch or dinner, depending on the route. Students are encouraged to bring their favorite DVDs, where they then vote with their peers on which ones will be watched during the trip home.

Victoria Esson, a junior science major from New Zealand, said she has seen the advertisements, but she already had a plan to get to a friend's house for the holidays.

"It's four of us going back, so we're just carpooling," Esson said. "If I didn't have a ride, I'd catch the bus."

Jasmine Johnson, a communication studies major from Tyler, said she hadn't heard of the shuttles and that she prefers to drive home to East Texas alone.

"As a parent, knowing someone else is riding with (my daughter) just in case something happens makes me feel very comfortable," Post said.

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RADIO REFORM

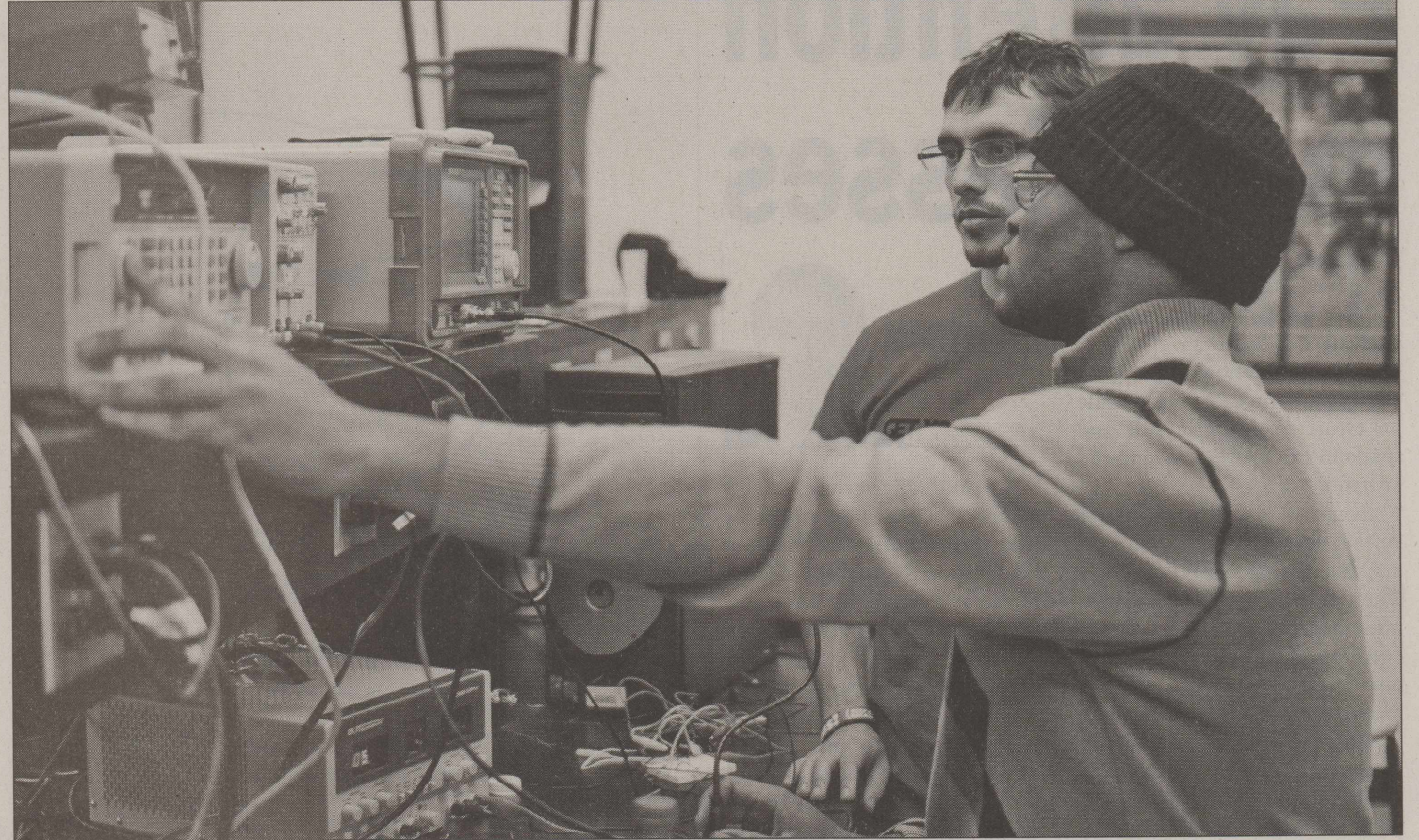


PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

ANGELO TRAYLOR, A senior electrical engineering major from Houston, and Brandon Brewster, a senior electrical engineering major from Van Horn, adjust a radio frequency generator while working on a radio transmitter and receiver for their project lab three in the Electrical Engineering building Monday.

Taylor Swift wins 3 trophies at AMAs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Taylor Swift was crowned artist of the year at the American Music Awards for a second time.

"This is so crazy!" the country superstar said after beat such contenders as Adele, Lady Gaga and Katy Perry to capture all three awards that she was nominated for at Sunday's ceremony, including artist of the year, the show's highest accolade that she previously claimed in 2009.

"I ended up writing the record by myself, so the fact that you would honor it this way, you have no idea what this means to me," said Swift after winning the trophy for favorite country album for "Speak Now." She was also awarded the prize for favorite country female artist.

Nicki Minaj, the pink-loving hip-hop diva, won two awards Sunday. She kicked off the 39th annual fan-favorite ceremony by sporting a pair of speakers on her much-talked-about posterior and was later honored as favorite rap/hip-hop artist, besting a group

that included mentor Lil Wayne, and won favorite rap/hip-hop album for "Pink Friday."

"There's so much love in this room," beamed the pink-haired Minaj.

Adele had been the night's leading nominee with four nods, but didn't have much of a presence at the show: She was absent from the ceremony because she is recovering from recent throat surgery. Adele tied Swift with three awards: favorite pop/rock female artist, adult contemporary artist and pop/rock album for "21."

Other winners included Maroon 5 as favorite pop-rock band/duo/group, Blake Shelton as favorite country male artist, Lady Antebellum as favorite country band/duo/group, Beyonce as favorite soul/R&B female artist, Rihanna for favorite soul/R&B album for "Loud" and Hot Chelle Rae as new artist of the year.

The ceremony inside the Nokia Theatre in an unusually

rainy Los Angeles was drenched with 17 musical performances.

Justin Bieber got in the holiday spirit among a forest of neon lights with "Under the Mistletoe," and Kelly Clarkson, wearing a glittery red gown with her hair swept to the side, delivered a swinging rendition of her hit "Mr. Know It All" as back-up dancers dressed as 1930s-era photographers snapped the first-ever "American Idol" champion.

Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony shared custody of rapper Pitbull, who joined the former couple in a pair of separate performances. Lopez performed essentially a live version of a car commercial starring the "Idol" judge set to "Papi" — with the car onstage — before launching into her hit "On the Floor." Pitbull later returned to the stage and joined Anthony for "Rain Over Me."

Lopez expressed surprise when she won the favorite Latin music artist award.

"It's been up and down and

just exciting and overwhelming and so many things," Lopez said of the last year.

Several artists delivered stripped-down performances: The Band Perry crooned an emotional "If I Die Young," a pink-haired Perry accompanied herself on guitar for "The One That Got Away" and a platinum-blond Chris Brown simply sang "All Back" before being joined by a troop of helmet-clad back-up dancers for a flashy interpretation of "Say It With Me."

There were collaborations, too. Lopez joined a glowing-in-the-dark will.i.am for his new single "Hard." Christina Aguilera dueted with Maroon 5 on their "Moves Like Jagger," and then Maroon 5 lead singer Adam Levine teamed with Gym Class Heroes for their hit "Stereotype Hearts." Bieber joined LMFAO in animal-print pants for the show's finale, which ended with everyone on stage — including David Hasselhoff — stripping down to smiley-face underwear.

International Emmys to honor 'Idol' producer Nigel Lythgoe

NEW YORK (AP) — "American Idol" executive producer Nigel Lythgoe might have to print some new business cards after he receives a special honor at the 39th Annual International Emmy Awards Ceremony.

"I've been nominated (six times) for an Emmy for 'American Idol' ... and haven't won any of them," Lythgoe said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I've even got printed on my business card 'multi-Emmy loser' so it's going to be wonderful to actually accept one."

Lythgoe, 62, who returned as "Idol's" executive producer last season, will be presented the honorary International Emmy Founders Award on Monday night at the Hilton New York Hotel in recognition of his work as "a major reality show innovator" as

well as for "his amazingly deep commitment to dance around the world," said Bruce L. Paisner, president and CEO of the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Lythgoe produced the British TV phenomenon, "Pop Idol," and then was tasked with creating its American version in 2002. He attributes "American Idol's" eventual success to Rupert Murdoch's decision to leave its British production team alone and not try to Americanize the show.

"I think Americans sugarcoated all the critiques that they would do on shows like this," said Lythgoe, who earned the nickname Nasty Nigel for his caustic remarks as a judge on the British show "Popstars." "With bringing Simon Cowell out here we knew we wanted this new honesty."

Today's su | do | ku

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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Pay attention in all classes

I was sitting in my public speaking class a few days ago and honestly felt nothing but boredom. Then, it occurred to me how it had been a long time since I actually made an effort to apply myself and spark an interest in the material at hand.

Zach Morrison



Some of us naturally find certain subjects duller than others, but things only get worse when we continually write them off, cram for tests and forget everything the minute we hand in our exams. We are not actually learning at all using this method.

We are surviving classes and getting the grades necessary to pass (the majority of the time), but we aren't actually taking in a lot of knowledge with the real potential to develop us in

“... focus on the potential application they have to your future. Think of these classes as a foundation for becoming a more worldly person.”

different ways, and perhaps prepare us for a few of life's curveballs. For example, my public speaking class is something I struggle in, and it occurred to me this by itself is a good reason to pay attention to it.

Life in the professional world, especially at the starting line, is all about “pitching” oneself, and given my chosen career path, it could be very necessary to develop a few skills in this area.

We all have classes like this, but we approach them with the wrong attitudes. Yes, due to a lack of interest, it's always nice on some level to just get it over with, but the best parts about finishing a class well are gaining satisfaction and an increased sense of self-confidence.

On this note, let's be honest. We all love sounding smart and demonstrating our knowledge, especially when it was difficult to attain. I would love to be a professional at public speaking and be able to fly my hand all over the chalkboard with complex statistical analyses, but, in the end, these classes are stuck in the “get it over with” category.

I would encourage you to change this attitude, especially in areas that affirmatively answer the question, “Could this be useful later?” We all try harder in classes pertaining to our majors, assuming they still hold our interests for the long haul. And yes, it is probably more beneficial in the long run to have a more detailed and long-lasting memory of that curriculum than of the core requirements. However, this doesn't mean the other classes are space-fillers.

Don't just be interested in them because they hold your attention or because the professor is cool, but instead focus on the potential application they have to your future. Think of these classes as a foundation for becoming a more worldly person.

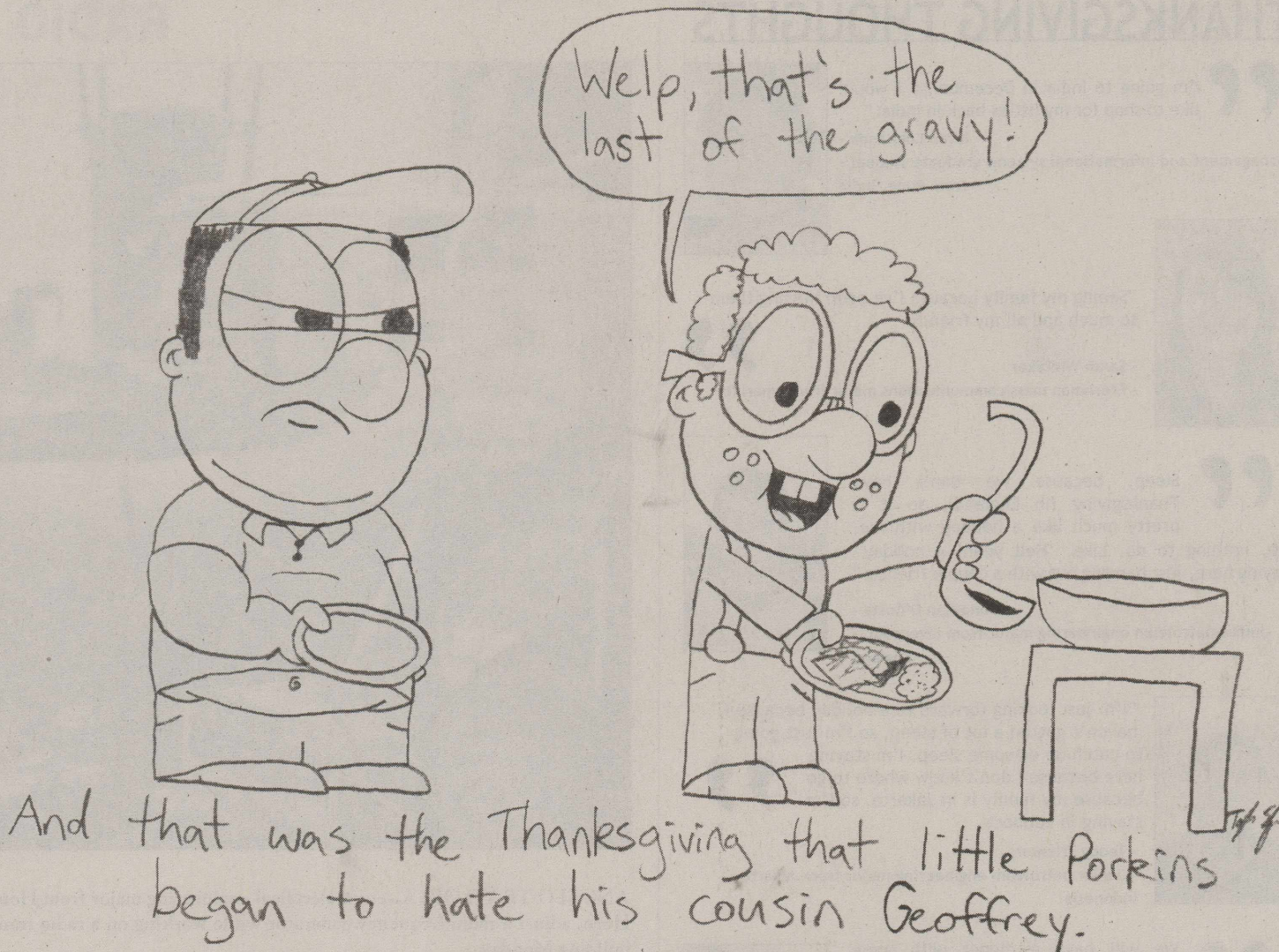
Even beyond the obvious benefits, like the use of public speaking skills in your career, classes not really pertaining directly to our paths may not be so distant from them later down the road.

Some jobs require a very particular set of skills, and there may be other jobs requiring additional skills as well. The purpose of taking classes in all the different departments is to fill those gaps.

These types of situations are the main reasons we endure the university's core curriculum. I encourage you to review the information provided by these courses with just a little more thought toward the future. Your

■ Morrison is a junior geography major from The Woodlands.

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CARTOON BY TAYLOR SHOFNER/The Daily Toreador — taylor.shofner@ttu.edu

Wake up from European lifestyle dream

By **ANDREW JOHNSON**
MINNESOTA DAILY (U. MINNESOTA)

“Why can't we be more like Europe? It's such a pleasant way of life,” students returning from abroad often grumble.

Anything typically American, they sneer, is lowbrow. But using only personal experience as a gauge for Europe's pre-eminence can result in being badly informed, especially amid current political, cultural and economic woes.

Apparently, understanding the centuries old, if not millennia old, culture of European countries is attainable in just a semester in Montpellier, Bologna, Toledo or Freiburg.

Old World sophistication has become a souvenir you can bring back with you just as easily as your Oktoberfest mug or actual Dijon mustard. Throw in a suddenly undying allegiance to the local soccer team and your worldliness is unquestionable. It seems like only a few months ago you were inhaling Jell-O shots to “Party in the U.S.A.,” and now you're a wine connoisseur who insists Sweden was cheated in the last Eurovision.

Smugly acting as if you're now a cultured emissary, fully equipped to teach deprived Yankee Doodles that our lives aren't quite so dandy compared to a café-lounging, siesta-enjoying one, ignores a reality for the sake of a Bavarian or Gaelic castle in the sky. The whole fortified castle mentality for Europe is fitting, its aim to keep some people out.

Even though the United States is nearly 40 percent nonwhite, Eurofans still argue it is relatively intolerant. Meanwhile, despite most of its countries hovering at only 10 to 15 percent nonwhite, Europe is considered tolerant when it comes to race.

It's easy to be color blind to race when you rarely see other races. In France, North African black immigrants are hardly mingling with the idealized image of le français. In-

stead, they're residing in low-income apartments in the Parisian outskirts, where unemployment is near 50 percent among Muslim youths, and crime is prevalent because of the lack of social mobility; the latest assault and murder rates are actually higher in France than in Algeria, where many of these immigrants come from.

This lack of opportunity is hard to see from the comfortable and distant vantage point enjoyed by the “traditional” French. Conveniently, the country's constitution doesn't

“... 57 percent of British Pakistanis were married to their first cousin.”

permit data collection based on race, so they're never directly confronted with hard evidence either.

Even across the Channel, this front of multicultural harmony shows itself. In 2010, officials estimated that 57 percent of British Pakistanis were married to their first cousin. Forget the dating pool, what about the gene one? This sort of trend only comes about through cultural isolation.

I'm not sure who is doing the isolating — the Brits or the Pakistanis — and it doesn't really matter; the point is that it exists in a country regarded for its openness. Correction: a continent regarded for its openness. The Netherlands, Spain and Italy have each experienced their share of race riots over the past couple years as well.

Ah, but even amid these socio-economic issues, nouveau Europeans insist that the lifestyle is so pleasing, with their quaint bakeries and picturesque plazas. As Johnny Depp once said of Europeans, “Most important thing, though, is that people there know how to live!”

But do they? Fourteen of the top-20 countries with the highest suicide rates are in Europe, with an additional 10 countries ahead of the United States, which is 40th. Norway, dubbed “the happiest country”

according to a recent survey, has a higher suicide rate than India, China and Venezuela. What's causing these Europeans to take their own supposedly idyllic life?

Just glance at the European Union's economic troubles and you'll understand the source of their misery. One in five Greeks, Montenegrins and Spaniards is unemployed, and it's even worse for our age group. State-side, we get nervous if unemployment is above 8 percent.

Debts continue to build up and there is popular resistance to doing anything to fix the problem. Turmoil has forced prime ministers to step down, replaced with appointed stand-ins who are entrusted with acting in the best

interest of the people even though they were never elected.

But the dangers go beyond who will decide whether or not Greek government employees will continue getting their 13 monthly checks per year or Denmark can continue paying

students to go to their universities.

As feisty youths, we unwisely herald the latest unrests in London, Paris, Madrid and Athens as inspirational, looking past the injuries, destruction and deaths caused by the demonstrators. If we're lucky, though, we won't have to worry about hearing these menacing tales much longer.

Since the start of the anti-austerity protests in 2008, Reporters Without Borders has dropped Greece 39 spots on its press freedom index, from 31st to 70th, during which a journalist was killed at his home because of his coverage. Apparently, enlightened activists think an environment of free flowing information is an unimportant casualty.

None of this is to discourage travel or studying abroad; my passport is decorated with stamps from across the globe and each stop has been personally enriching. Rather, bear in mind that these experiences are definitively distant from reality, adventures that you embarked on to escape it for a while.

Coming back to your reality will always pale in comparison to a romanticized aura of Europe, but choosing to remain in that fantasy isn't cultured, it is convenient simplification.

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Guest Columns
The Daily Toreador accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community. Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submittal.

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The DT Staff College Football Pick 'Em

Games of the Week	Kevin Cullen Editor-in-Chief Overall Record 36-24	Jose Rodriguez Managing Editor Overall Record 43-17	Kassidy Katron La Vida Editor Overall Record 36-24	Caillan Osborn News Editor Overall Record 42-18	Brett Winegamer Sports Editor Overall Record 42-18	Chris Leal Opinions Editor Overall Record 35-25	Danny Neylon Copy Editor Overall Record 33-27	Brad Tollefson Photography Editor Overall Record 35-25	Andrew Nepsund Electronic Media Editor Overall Record 33-27
Texas Tech vs No. 18 Baylor Game in Arlington	Baylor 49-28	Baylor 43-31	Texas Tech 77-0	Baylor 47-15	Baylor 45-38	Baylor 42-38	Texas Tech 66-6	Baylor 49-46	Baylor 69-62
No. 19 Penn St. @ No. 16 Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Penn St.	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Penn St.	Penn St.	Wisconsin
No. 2 Alabama @ No. 24 Auburn	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Auburn	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Auburn
Iowa State @ No. 9 Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
No. 13 Georgia @ No. 23 Ga. Tech	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia Tech
No. 25 Texas @ Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas	Texas	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M
No. 22 Notre Dame @ No. 6 Stanford	Stanford	Notre Dame	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford
No. 17 Clemson @ No. 12 S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	Clemson	Clemson	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	Clemson	S. Carolina
No. 5 Va. Tech @ Virginia	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia
No. 3 Arkansas @ No. 1 LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	Arkansas	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU

★ indicates "Game to Watch"

The man behind Texas A&M's '100-year decision'

COLLEGE STATION (AP)—In a cordial but firm tone, Texas A&M University President R. Bowen Loftin reiterates that he did not cause this divorce.

True, he sensed a crumbling marriage, noted broken vows, found A&M a new soul mate and gladly filed for this divorce. But no, he did not cause it.

The decree reads that the Aggies are leaving the Big 12, not the University of Texas, but bruised feelings have turned Thanksgiving night's UT-A&M game at Kyle Field into a tense, awkward, nationally televised double-annulment.

It will be the Southeastern Conference-bound Aggies' final Big 12 football game.

Of greater shock to generations of Texans, Thursday's 118th Aggies-Longhorns clash will be the last for the foreseeable future.

"I'm a little saddened by that," Loftin says. "I can't help but be. It's something I look forward to every year. When we won that game, it was a big deal to us. When they won that game, it was a big deal to them."

If they aren't already, multitudes of Texans might wonder about this Loftin fellow while observing this way-of-life Thanksgiving football tradition for perhaps the last time.

Who is this 5-foot-8, bespectacled, bowtie-wearing physicist who has been Texas A&M's president for a mere 21 months? And who does he think he is?

What compelled this professional 62-year-old to set A&M on this bold athletic path that he called a "100-year decision" for the university? And is he truly saddened by the A&M-UT fallout?

Loftin arrived on June 15, 2009,

as a little-known interim president after four years of overseeing A&M's 2,000-student, marine-oriented Galveston branch. But he's an Aggie to his core, Class of '71. He grew up just 20 miles southeast of College Station, in Navasota.

He says he was "a very bad third-string right guard" in Navasota, but his Aggies football passion is profound. As an 18-year-old freshman, he got sunburned while sitting on the top row of Kyle Field's new upper deck as A&M lost its 1967 season opener to SMU.

He glumly watched A&M lose that season's first four games under coach Gene Stallings. But the Aggies won their final six, including a 10-7 upset of Texas at Kyle Field.

"I lost my voice that particular game," Loftin recalls. "Many other Aggies did, too."

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