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LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

Tech's 2012 class reaches 26 on signing day

Turner leaves for position with Dolphins, RB Daniels reinstated

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Feb. 2, 2011, Tommy Tuberville and the rest of the Texas Tech coaching staff had just put the finishing touches on the 2011 recruiting class, which became the highest-rated class in the program's history.

Tuberville referred to that day, known by the rest of the college football world as National Signing Day, as the "last game of the year."

So, de-

spite ending the 2011 regular season on a five-game losing streak, Tuberville and the Red Raiders may have notched a win Wednesday — National Signing Day 2012 — as they received a National Letter of Intent from 17 recruits.

"We went into seven different states and recruited against some of the top ranked teams in the country — had success," Tuberville said. "We were able to sell this program, and again, once we get these recruits on campus with their parents, it becomes a lot easier sell. Especially when you've not had the success that you want to have."

Tech's entire 2012 signing class now consists of 26 players after the early signing period produced nine recruits — those nine early signees are already enrolled at Tech

for the spring semester.

The early signing period for incoming recruits began Dec. 21, 2011, and ended Jan. 15, 2012.

The nine early enrollees consist of athlete SaDale Foster, defensive backs Thierry Nguema and Austin Stewart, defensive lineman Lee Adams, offensive linemen Rashad Fortenberry and Jared Kaster, linebackers Chris Payne and Will Smith and wide receiver Javon Bell.

Seven of the nine players come from the JUCO ranks.

"At every position we needed help, some immediate help," Tuberville said. "That's (the) reason we went to the junior college ranks and brought in some early junior college players."

The main attraction of Tech's 2012 class, however, may not be



TUBERVILLE

any of the JUCO players, but instead Michael Starts, a 6-foot-4, 282-pound defensive lineman out of La Vega High School in Waco.

Starts is a four-star prospect according to ESPN.com, MaxPreps, Rivals.com, Scout.com, and was a 2011 U.S. Army All-American.

Starts, who has been committed to Tech since June 2, 2011, chose the Red Raiders over Auburn, Baylor, Michigan, Notre Dame, Stanford, TCU, Texas and Texas A&M.

"Even though (Starts is) much closer to some of the other Big 12 schools, he stuck with us all the way," Tuberville said. "He was one of those guys that gave us a lot of notoriety and security in terms of (other recruits) looking at this guy saying, 'Hey, he's going. So can I. I want to be part of that.'"

On the offensive side of the ball, Tech landed a pair of four-star wide receivers in Reginald Davis out of Tenaha and Dominique Wheeler out of Crockett.

Wheeler, also a 2011 U.S.

Army All-American, compiled 753 receiving yards, 770 rushing yards and 15 touchdowns, averaging 13.5 yards per touch as a senior.

Wheeler had offers from other Big 12 Conference teams such as Baylor, Oklahoma State and Texas.

Davis, a 6-foot-1, 185-pound receiver, recorded 1,915 rushing yards and scored 35 touchdowns as a senior at Tenaha.

The trio of four-star recruits headlines a class that is ranked No. 26, according to Rivals.com.

Surprises were not in abundance for the Red Raiders during signing day, but they were able to pry away a recruit from the national champion Alabama Crimson Tide.

That surprise came in the form of three-star wide receiver Casey Gladney, who opted to decommit from Alabama and sign with Tech.

Gladney, a native of Columbia, S.C., caught 14 touchdowns as a senior in high school.

SIGNING continued on Page 6 >>>

TechBriefly

Former regent hired as Tech vice chancellor

John Huffaker, a former member of Texas Tech's Board of Regents, will begin his duties as the university system's vice chancellor and general counsel Feb. 13.

"It has been a pleasure serving the Texas Tech University System as a member of the board for the last three years," Huffaker said in a statement. "Texas Tech has always meant a great deal to me, and I look forward to contributing in this new role."

Huffaker resigned from the Board of Regents in January, after serving since February 2009. His roles included chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, vice chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Carr Scholarship Foundation and a member of the Audit Committee.

Huffaker is replacing Pat Campbell, who has worked with the university for 30 years.

SGA testing out new safe ride busing system today

New routes planned near bar districts, apartment complexes

By STEVIE DOUGLAS
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech Student Government Association executive officers have launched its test of the S-Bus, the first phase of the SafeRide expansion, today.

SafeRide is a service provided through Student Transportation Fees for taxipickup anywhere within the Lubbock City Limits and delivery to one's residence, according to the SGA website.

While used for other purposes, SafeRide was designed to make sure students with alcohol in their system do not drink and drive, and are able to find a secure way home by calling 806-742-RIDE.

The new bus route will include the apartment complexes in the Overton Park area that currently participate in

the daily bus routes, including University Trails, University Pointe, University Fountains, The Centre, The Suites and The Cottages of Lubbock. There is also a stop at the intersection of Broadway and University Avenue, as well as the intersection of 18th Street and Buddy Holly Avenue in the Depot District, said Mike Uryasz, SGA external vice president.

"Since we are hoping that it will be successful, we are eyeing Fall of 2012 as when we can expand to every apartment complex that receives service on our day routes as well as exploring options for an on-campus bus," Uryasz said. "As for right now, this is a pilot program aimed to service the epicenter of our off-campus living."

BUSES continued on Page 2 >>>

Christian Quest

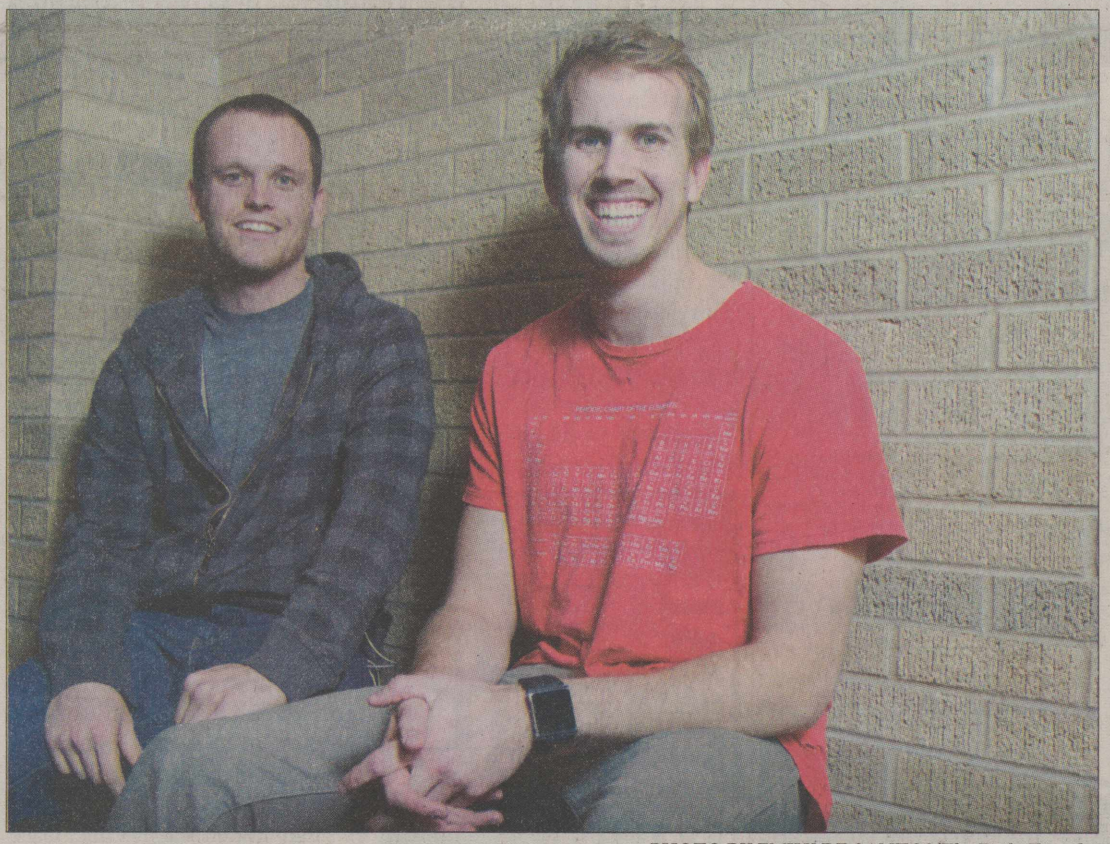


PHOTO BY EMILY DE SANTOS/The Daily Toreador
WILL BAKKE AND Alex Carroll are two stars of the movie, "Beware of the Christians." The movie focuses on four college students who travel to Europe in order to learn about Christian behaviors and in places other than the U.S.

Group searches for Christians abroad

By PAIGE SKINNER
STAFF WRITER

Four college men decided to re-evaluate what being Christian means, and set off to Europe to explore faith outside of their view of American Christianity.

Texas Tech's Raider Sisters for Christ hosted the screening of the movie, "Beware of Christians" at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Union Building's Allen Theatre.

The film stars Michael Allen, Will

Bakke, Alex Carroll and Matt Owen, all friends, decided to travel together for five weeks during the summer of 2009 in search of what it means to follow Jesus.

Carroll said because they had already filmed the movie, "One Nation Under God" in the United States, they decided to film "Beware of Christians" overseas.

"I think the idea was we felt like there was a problem with the way we were associating ourselves with American Christianity," Carroll said. "It's hard to solve a problem when you're sitting right in the middle of it. So, Europe,

there wasn't anything too special about it. I think the idea was it was the most cost-effective place we could go, it made the most sense travel-wise and you could experience a lot of different cultures in a short amount of time."

In the film, the men travel to several European countries including London, Rome and Barcelona, Spain. They asked the city locals their views on religion, religious people, sex, alcohol, entertainment and many other topics.

CHRISTIANS continued on Page 5 >>>

Tech physicians make national list

Fifteen physicians affiliated with Texas Tech have been recognized for their work through The Best Doctors in America List for 2011-12.

Only 5 percent of doctors in the U.S. are listed as Best Doctors. The honorees are chosen through a poll of 45,000 candidates in the nation.

George Brindley, Everardo Cobos, Ronald Cook, Miles Day, John DeToledo, John Griswold, Robert Johnston Jr., Richard Lampe, Melvin Laski, John Marchbanks, David McCartney, Kim Peck, Surendra Varma, Jonathan Vordermark and Edward Yeomans received the recognition.

Tech researchers work to improve beef safety

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded a \$540,000 grant to a group of Texas Tech researchers to provide solutions for salmonella in beef.

The Beef Checkoff program provided an additional \$150,000.

The group, members of the university's International Center for Food Industry Excellence, will collaborate with researchers from the USDA's Agricultural Research Services to reduce the presence of salmonella in cattle lymph nodes.

The group, including Tech researchers Mike Ballou, Mindy Brashears, Todd Brashears, Chance Brooks and Mark Miller, will conduct experiments during an 18 month period and is expected to end in September 2014.

news@dailytoreador.com

Occupy Lubbock general assembly plans further courses of action

By DEVIN GARZA
STAFF WRITER

Occupy Lubbock members hosted their weekly general assembly Wednesday at the corner of their camp on 19th Street and University Avenue, to organize future protests and further community outreach.

When Mark Lawson, a local medical laboratory owner and the first resident of Occupy Lubbock, addressed the general assembly, he reminded them that Occupy is a peaceful, forgiving and respectful movement.

"These are people that are really mad about the longstanding situation of not seeing their income go up, actually

getting cut and their benefits slashed," he said, "but the reiteration of being peaceful, forgiving and having respect, it happens like I see with my kid. I mean, how many times did your mom have to tell you to brush your teeth?"

Kenny Ketner, a Lubbock native, said Occupy Lubbock's message is about restoring democracy.

"It's about restoring citizen participation in democracy and, quite frankly, just creating a public space where people can come and talk about issues," he said. "That's what's so different about it — Occupy is a verb and we're out here discussing the issues."

OCCUPY continued on Page 2 >>>

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WEATHER

Today	Isolated T-Storms	Friday	Sunny
	64/39		62/30

Gleinser: Pipeline good for US
OPINIONS, Pg. 4

DT PHOTOS
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Community Calendar

TODAY

Daniel Kukla: Captive Landscapes
Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Landmark Arts at the Texas Tech School of Art
So, what is it?
Enjoy Daniel Kukla's photographs of the interior of animal living quarters taken from eight zoos across the U.S. and Europe. The exhibit will be on view through Feb. 12.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Where: McKenzie-Merkel Alumni Center
So, what is it?
Anyone interested in joining OLLI and new members are invited to attend a special orientation.

Artist Talk: Nancy Kienholz
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
So, what is it?
Internationally-acclaimed artist Nancy Reddin Kienholz will choose a piece from each decade of her collaborations with her late husband, Ed Kienholz, to discuss.

Free Movie Night: "Twilight: Breaking Dawn, Part I"
Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Where: Student Union Building, Esccondido Theatre
So, what is it?
Join Tech Activities Board for a free viewing of this feature film.

FRIDAY

Navigating the Currents: 100 Ink-teraction Reactions
Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Landmark Arts at the Texas Tech School of Art
So, what is it?
Enjoy a portfolio exchange exhibition featuring 100 small prints. The exhibit will be available through Feb. 19.

Center for Undergraduate Research Training Session
Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
Where: Texas Tech Library, Room 105
So, what is it?
Learn about recent GRE changes and how to prepare for the grad school application process.

Rawls Open House
Time: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Where: Rawls College of Business Administration
So, what is it?
Students, faculty and staff are invited to an open house and showcase of the new Texas Tech Rawls College of Business.

To make a calendar submission email dailytoreador@ttu.edu.

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

CHEMICAL CONCENTRATION

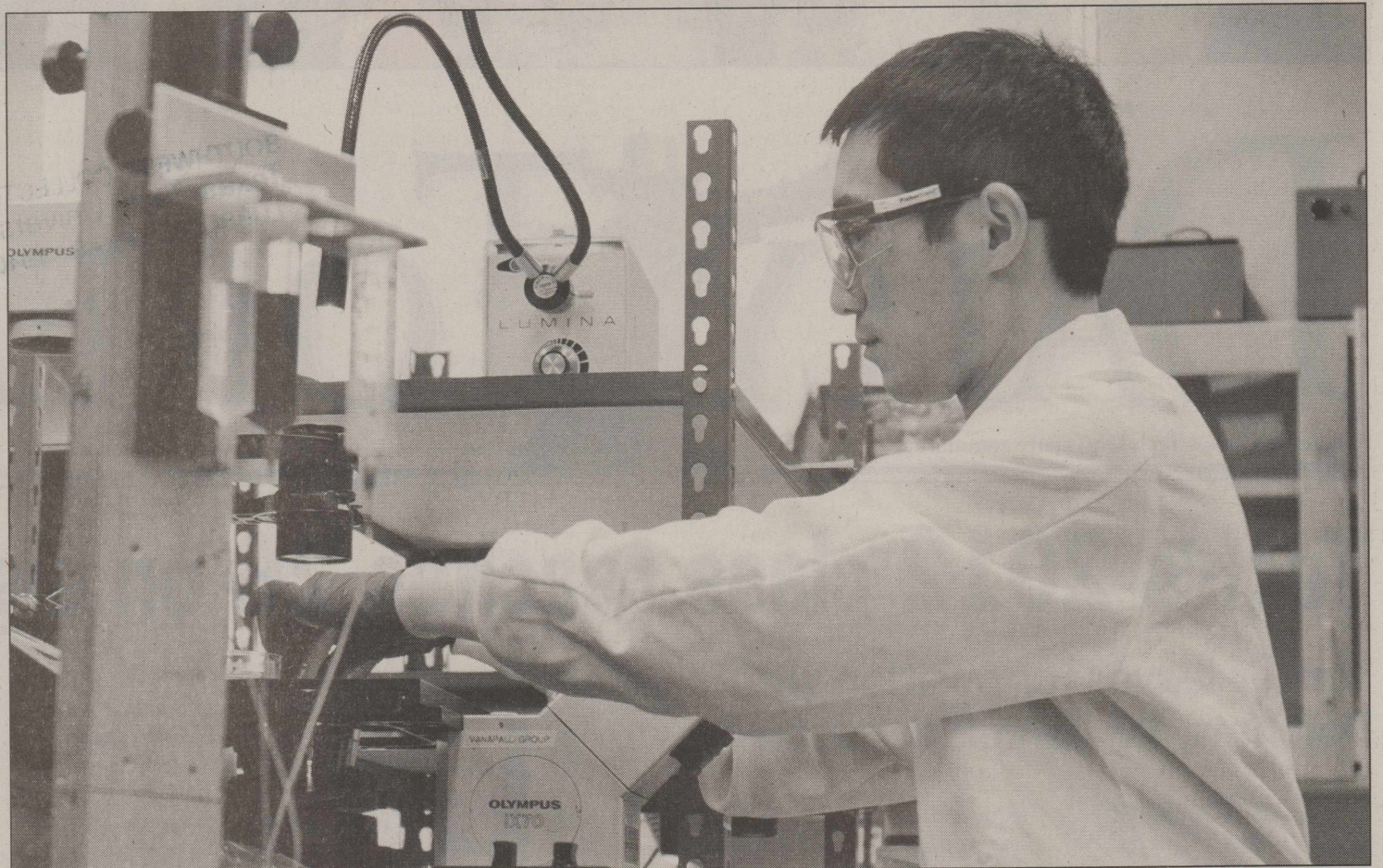


PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

WILLIAM WANG, A chemical engineering major from Houston, focuses a microscope on a microfluidic device to study how water droplets react in oil.

Buses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The S-Bus will run from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, Uryasz said. The estimated length of the entire route is approximately 24 minutes.

The increase of the Tech student population is what prompted the SGA to take a proactive role in securing an expansion of SafeRide, he said.

"Right now, if you call SafeRide on a Thursday, Friday, Saturday night, your wait time for a single cab is going to be from an hour and forty-five minutes to two-and-a-half hours," Uryasz said. "There are a lot of things that could happen in an hour and forty-five minutes, and we certainly don't want students to drive — anywhere — if you can't get yourself home."

Like SafeRide, the S-Bus will only be available to Tech students with a

valid student I.D.

The costs of the pilot program will be financed by the transportation fee paid by students at the beginning of each term, and by the funds made by privatizing buses, said SGA President Tyler Patton.

"Working to expand SafeRide was a campaign pledge," he said. "The structural problems the service has previously faced was a continual problem for years before our administration. Had we not aggressively pursued privatizing off-campus transportation, making this expansion a reality would have never been a possibility."

Last summer, the Patton administration cut off funding for off-campus transportation, and required student housing complexes to pay the costs of busing.

Because the S-Bus expansion is currently a test-run, SGA representatives will track its progress and its ultimate continuation by the number of students who use the service, Patton said.

"As with all of our transportation services, we track ridership," he said. "With the cab component of our SafeRide program, we utilize a simple, confidential ticket system. For this new expansion, we will use total ridership as the standard metric to measure the success of this pilot program."

Ridership will directly decide the fate of the S-Bus, Patton said.

Chelsea Lewis, a sophomore human development and family studies major from San Antonio, said she is more likely to take advantage of the S-Bus than the original cab services.

"I have heard horror stories about 742-RIDE, and I have never even considered using it," she said. "But an actual bus doesn't sound as sketchy. I mean, I ride the bus on campus during the day, so I can't think of a reason that I wouldn't at night."

The SGA hopes that students will react positively to the new busing system. "This pilot program will extend

throughout the full length of the semester, and hopefully yield the demand necessary to implement across all existing off-campus busing routes," Patton said.

Underuse of the S-Bus is not the only concern SGA officers are worried about; overuse of the service could also become a burden.

"An issue I can see arising is the overall success of the bus," Uryasz said. "It's a great idea in theory, but will students actually take to the service? When I say this, another problem is that it might be too popular — although this is a good problem to have. We only have one bus servicing six apartment complexes right now, so if this program is incredibly popular with the students, we might have to look into providing another bus sooner rather than later."

For the debut route, Patton and Uryasz will alternate riding the S-Bus in shifts throughout the night.

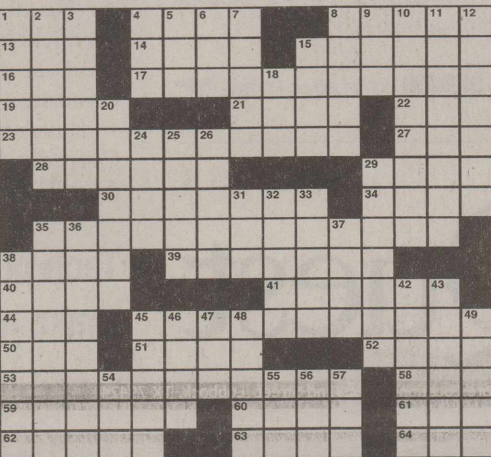
» sdouglas@dailytoreador.com

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Blood typing system
- 4 Sea once dotted with 1,500-plus islands
- 8 Some winds
- 13 Prince, to Cecil Fielder
- 14 Discman maker
- 15 Name that means "pretty"
- 16 Topka-to-St. Pauli direction
- 17 Tropical roadside area?
- 19 Morales of "Jericho"
- 21 Exude
- 22 Ryder Cup team
- 23 Roughly, San Jose's population acting friendly?
- 27 Hazardous current
- 28 Stick on a stake
- 29 Bog
- 30 Unfair wear?
- 34 Literary miscellanea
- 35 Environmental concern ... and what's happening in 17-, 23-, 45- and 53-Across?
- 38 Sound of pain or pleasure
- 39 Satisfied
- 40 ... above
- 41 Don's code
- 44 Sharp-toothed fish
- 45 Sentiments from a hepcat?
- 50 Curling venue
- 51 Frizzy do
- 52 Peel
- 53 Polar
- 58 London-born miler
- 59 Olds models
- 60 Birthright seller
- 61 Tease
- 62 Works at the docks, say
- 63 Email folder
- 64 Hovel



By Don Gagliardo and C.C. Burnikel

2/2/12

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 Tree in a tray | 3 Like macho push-ups | 4 Lenten symbol | 5 Short hopper | 6 Scout on the floor, perhaps | 7 It helps you clean up | 8 Where Monet's cathedral series was painted | 9 Commercial development done in one hr.? | 10 Permanent | 11 Judgment Day poem | 12 Colorful shawls | 15 Clod | 18 ... polloi | 20 Evidence in a rug | 24 Polite address | 25 Like a pelvic artery | 26 Slow, to Yo-Yo | 29 Femme fatale | 31 Layer | 32 Player | 33 Amusement park focus | 35 Minute Maid parent company |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|

Occupy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lawson also emphasized the importance of collective conversation. "What Occupy is to me," Lawson said, "is the idea of like minds getting together, people who see the injustice."

Chris Martin, an Occupier said if Occupy Lubbock were not a leaderless movement, he would be its leader. Martin said he wants to see power return to the American people.

"Anybody can do a little bit of research and see that our government is walking all over our Constitution,"

he said, "and we're done with that." Ketner also emphasized the financial aspect of Occupy Lubbock's message.

"We're trying to restore American democracy by getting big-money influence out of politics," he said, "especially undue corporate influence in politics."

The Lubbock community is generally supportive of Occupy Lubbock, Ketner said, despite some resistance.

"We get a lot of drive by commentary," he said. "Some people heckle us, some people honk and wave and show us support. I think we get a lot more supporters than there are

hecklers that drive by." Ketner said he has been involved with Occupy Lubbock since it began last October and said the group of 25 to 30 permanent members are able to remain where they are because the land has no ordinances, as it is owned by the City of Lubbock, but it is not a park.

"We appreciate the city and the Lubbock Police Department," Ketner said. "They've been good to us and we try to be good to them."

Lawson said the popular idea of Occupiers as unemployed dissenters is untrue.

"One hundred percent of the Oc-

cupy people — the population that's here every day — work," Lawson said. "They have good jobs and are doing this as an extracurricular activity, either like me, to teach my kid, or like Chris (Martin) — just impassioned for the idea."

The group agreed to join together with People of Faith Against the Death Penalty in hosting a joint protest Feb. 20, to advocate abolishing unjust sentences, freeing political prisoners, stopping the repression of activists and ending mass incarcerations.

The group will also host an action meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday.

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Justice Dept rejects gun-smuggling cover-up claim

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department on Wednesday rejected an assertion by a House committee chairman that top Justice officials are covering up events surrounding a flawed gun-smuggling probe, Operation Fast and Furious.

Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., made the accusation in a letter threatening to seek a contempt of Congress ruling against Attorney General Eric Holder for failing to turn over congressionally subpoenaed documents that were created after problems with Fast and Furious came to light. Holder was to testify

Thursday before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which Issa chairs.

Deputy Attorney General James Cole responded that the department will provide material created after Feb. 4, 2011, the day the department gave incorrect information to Congress about Fast and Furious. At the time, the department said federal agents made every effort to intercept illegally purchased weapons. Instead, agents in the Phoenix-based Fast and Furious investigation tried to track the weapons after purchase to make cases against

gun-smuggling ring leaders who had long escaped prosecution.

Cole said the department would make an exception to longstanding policy to provide material on how the erroneous Feb. 4 letter was created but that other material related to congressional inquiries about Fast and Furious would not be turned over.

A committee spokesman, Frederick Hill, responded the department is under investigation for Fast and Furious but also for its response to whistleblowers and investigators who expressed concern about the operation.

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* There is a filing charge which must be paid at the time of filing. It is \$20 for Senators, \$20 for Senators At Large, and \$30 for Executive Candidates. Those wishing to cross file for Executive Office and Senator At Large must meet the qualifications for both offices being pursued and will pay a filing fee of \$35. Please make all checks payable to Texas Tech University. According to the SGA Election Code, "this fee may be waived due to financial hardship or other similar reasons as seen fair and just by the Election Commission."

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
Texas Tech University

www.sga.ttu.edu

Students kick-off Black History Month with unity march

By DEVIN GARZA
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech students marched from the Tech seal to the Student Union Building Wednesday in honor of Black History Month.

The Texas Tech Black Caucus organized the march, said Deland Spencer, a senior business marketing and management major from Round Rock and president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. The Caucus is a collective of African-American Tech student organizations including the National Society of Black Engineers,

the Black Student Association, the Collegiate 100 Black Men and Women, the African Student Organization, the Mentor Tech Student Association, the Black Graduate Students Association, the Texas Tech Chapter of NAACP and the National Panhellenic Council.

Natasha Hemeng, a sophomore nutritional science major from Arlington and the public relations officer for the Black Students Association, said they marched to promote unity among Tech students, faculty and staff.

"One of the main things we want to implement here on Texas Tech campus is unity," she said, "and not just among

African-Americans, but all cultures, and that's what our unity march was about."

Hemeng said about 40 students participated in the march. She said while some held signs promoting unity, the whole group chanted to get their message across.

"One of the chants we were chanting was, 'A people united will never be defeated,'" she said. "Another one was, 'What do we want? Change. When do we want it? Now. What do we want? Unity. When do we want it? Now.'"

Detou Onsin, a junior economics major from Dallas and the public relations officer of the TTUNAACP, said

the prevalence of racism in Lubbock is decreasing.

"There is some, but it's not real big out here," he said. "One thing I've noticed is that a lot of people do come together. You just have to reach out to some (other) people."

Hemeng agreed that racism in this area is less, but acknowledges that prejudices still exist.

"As a whole I feel like Tech has progressed and has moved forward—it's totally different than it was in the 1970s," she said. "But there are little signs of (racism). You can't really blame that on the individuals as much as the society. Some

people just grew up that way."

Chris Davis, a senior university studies major from Houston and former president of the National Society of Black Engineers, said the growth of the African-American student population has increased the number of student organizations on campus.

"Specifically our goals are slightly different, but all together we're trying to empower everyone," he said. "That growth from 2008 to now is really what fueled the type of event that happened today."

B.J. Hemeng, a senior chemistry and political science major from Ar-

lington, said the march represented a milestone for Tech.

"This is the first time we've seen anything like that on campus," said B.J. Hemeng, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and a representative of the Student Government Association. "It was inspiring—it brought a tear to my eye."

He said the African American community at Tech is much larger now than when he started as a freshman in 2008, not only in its numbers, but also in its impact on the Tech community.

"It's a steady, slow progress," he said, "but it's refreshing to see."

»dgarza@dailytoreador.com

Blotter: Students stalked in Tech library

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. — A Texas Tech officer investigated issuance of a bad check, which occurred at Jones AT&T Stadium.

11:08 a.m. — A Tech officer documented a medical emergency, which occurred at the English and Philosophy building. A student was suffering from abdominal pains and was transported to University Medical Center Emergency Room by Emergency Medical Service technicians.

1:15 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated criminal mischief, which occurred in the Z4P parking lot. A vehicle had been

scratched.

4:07 p.m. — A Tech officer arrested a non-student for one outstanding Lubbock County Sheriff's Department warrant following a traffic stop in the 3300 block of 9th Street. The non-student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail. The vehicle was impounded by Lubbock Wrecker Service.

4:16 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated a theft, which occurred on the second floor of Murdough Residence Hall. An unsecured jacket and a set of keys were taken.

5:29 p.m. — A Tech officer

investigated a traffic accident, without injuries, which occurred in the 1200 block of Texas Tech Parkway.

6:04 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated a traffic accident, without injuries, which occurred in the C16 parking lot.

8:14 p.m. — A Tech officer issued a non-student a criminal trespass warning, which occurred at the Texas Tech Main Library. A non-student was following female students and making them feel uncomfortable.

9:14 p.m. — A Tech officer responded to a medical emergency, which occurred in the 1800 block

of Indiana Avenue. An elderly non-student fell and injured his knee in United Spirit Arena. The non-student was transported to University Medical Center Emergency Room by Emergency Medical Services.

Wednesday

12:34 a.m. — A Tech officer investigated a traffic accident, without injuries, which occurred in the east service drive of the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

Information provided by B.J. Watson of the Texas Tech Police Department.

Reactions heated on Planned Parenthood-Komen rift

NEW YORK (AP) — Planned Parenthood said Wednesday that it received more than \$400,000 from 6,000 donors in the 24 hours after news broke that its affiliates would be losing grants for breast screenings from the Susan G. Komen for the Cure breast-cancer foundation.

Komen, meanwhile, incurred heated criticism from some members of Congress, numerous liberal advocacy groups and some newspaper editorial writers. But it was applauded by many conservative religious and anti-abortion groups that abhor Planned Parenthood for its role as the leading U.S. abortion provider.

Planned Parenthood says the funding cutoff was a result of Komen succumbing to pressure from anti-abortion activists. Komen, in a statement issued Wednesday evening, denied that politics played a role and reiterated that its decision was based on newly adopted criteria for issuing grants.

The criteria bar grants to any organization that's under local, state or federal investigation. Planned Parenthood is being investigated for alleged financial improprieties by a Republican congressman acting with the encouragement of anti-abortion groups.

"We regret that these new policies have impacted some long-standing grantees, such as Planned Parenthood, but want to be absolutely clear that our grant-making decisions are not about politics," the Komen statement said.

It pledged to ensure that women who need breast-health services can still have access to them.

Dr. Eric Winer, a breast cancer specialist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston who is chairman of Komen's scientific advisory council, said he was confident that breast-screening availability would not be jeopardized.

"The last thing in the world that anyone at Komen wants to do ... is to decrease the resources that are avail-

able to those women," he said.

Nonetheless, some members of Komen's nationwide network were unsettled.

The Komen affiliate in Connecticut posted a notice on its website saying it has enjoyed a "great partnership" with Planned Parenthood of Southern New England and noting that the funding decision was made at Komen's national headquarters.

"We understand, and share, in the frustration around this situation," the notice said. "We hope that any investigation prohibiting Planned Parenthood from receiving Komen grants is promptly resolved."

Planned Parenthood said the Komen grants totaled roughly \$680,000 last year and \$580,000 the year before, going to 19 of its affiliates for breast-cancer screening and other breast-health services. According to Planned Parenthood, its health centers performed more than 4 million breast exams over the past five years, including nearly 170,000 as a result of Komen grants.

Andrea Hagelgans, a Planned Parenthood spokeswoman, said the

organization was grateful for the outpouring of support since Tuesday evening, when The Associated Press first reported Komen's decision.

"People respond powerfully when they see politics interfering with women's health," she said. "These donations will continue to help expand Planned Parenthood's critical health care services nationwide, especially those affiliates impacted by the Komen cuts."

Several members of Congress who support abortion rights voiced dismay at the grant cutoff.

"I was perplexed and troubled to see the decision by Susan G. Komen for the Cure to cut off funding for lifesaving breast cancer screenings through Planned Parenthood because of a political witch hunt by House Republicans," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. "I truly hope that they will reconsider this decision and put the needs of women first."

The progressive group MoveOn.org launched an online petition calling on Komen to maintain its grants to Planned Parenthood. It said 60,000 people had signed in a matter of hours.

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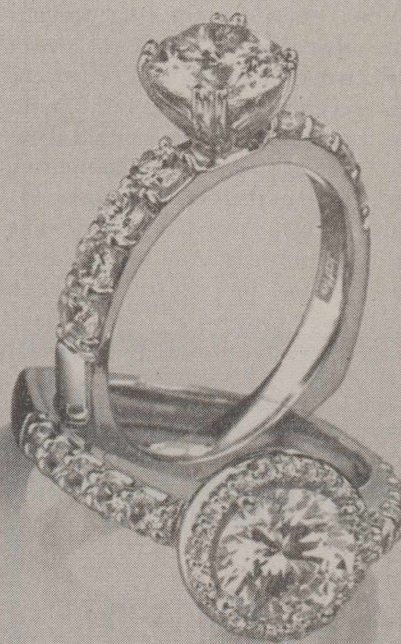
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Keystone pipeline good for US

The debate rages on about whether or not the Keystone XL pipeline is a good idea for America.

People who are for the pipeline argue that it will transport additional crude oil to refineries in the United States, helping to create jobs and lower fuel costs. However, many environmentalists are against the construction of the pipeline because of its potential environmental impacts.

One thing I can't avoid noticing about this issue is how the environmentalists hide their true reason for opposing this project. They say the proposed route crosses the Ogallala Aquifer, which is true. The aquifer provides drinking water to thousands of residents across the Great Plains.

They say a spill could contaminate the water in the aquifer, creating a disastrous situation for local residents. This is also a remote possibility in the vast network of pipelines already atop the aquifer. I can't help but think the motives of the environmentalists in opposing the pipeline are not to save the aquifer, but rather to disrupt the oil industry.

If they were truly concerned for the safety of the aquifer, the environmentalists would have made national headlines out of the construction of a nuclear waste dump in West Texas. Located in Andrews County near the New Mexico border and the dump also sits atop the aquifer,

Andrew Gleinser



yet there has been very little attention given to it.

It's no secret environmentalists want the oil industry to be replaced by cleaner, more eco-friendly sources of energy.

Nuclear energy is believed to be cleaner than petroleum, which is exactly why the pipeline is being targeted instead of the nuclear waste dump.

Likewise, President Obama's decision to reject the application for the construction of the pipeline was most likely motivated by his distaste for the oil industry. One of Obama's major platforms has been the advancement of alternative energy sources. He's got the tree huggers in his corner.

We've already seen some of the effects of the president's green energy agenda. In 2009, the Department of Energy loaned \$535 million of taxpayer

money to Solyndra, a company specializing in solar energy. Last September, the company filed for bankruptcy.

The fact of the matter is construction of the pipeline would create jobs, even if some of those jobs are temporary. Temporary jobs are better than no jobs at all. Furthermore, refinery workers in southeast Texas would be able to keep their jobs because of the steady flow of crude oil coming from the pipeline.

Another benefit is the construction of the pipeline would reduce our dependence on the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries because it would be cheaper to bring the oil from Canada down a secure pipeline than to import oil

from the very volatile Middle East region. We could then deal with those nations, most notably Iran, without having to worry about losing our oil supply.

But the sad truth is the president and his environmentalist bedfellows want to strangle the oil industry in order to push green energy sources upon the country.

Believe it or not, I actually

support searching for alternative energy sources, but it should not come at the expense of our current energy source.

Instead of constricting the oil industry, the government should allow it to expand and encourage more drilling to reduce gas prices and help the economy. Such actions would only prove beneficial to Obama's reelection campaign, as one of the main arguments against him will be the lack of economic improvement during his term.

At the same time, research into alternative energy sources is perfectly valid. We can't run the country on petroleum forever, so looking into new ways of powering the nation is a smart move.

However, until we can adequately utilize these new energy sources to replace petroleum, the oil industry should be allowed to remain productive. The Keystone XL pipeline would certainly be beneficial to the industry as well as to those looking for jobs.

If the president and his environmentalist friends were truly concerned about the nation's economy, they would allow the oil industry to do its job of powering the nation and providing jobs until a better alternative energy source is found.

Gleinser is a junior political science and history major from Kingwood.

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Feds make example of MegaUpload site

By **EMILY BROOKS**
THE DAILY COUGAR (U. HOUSTON)

The Stop Online Piracy Act may have been defeated last week, but the legal war over control of digital copyrighted content and internet distribution rages on.

MegaUpload was raided and shut down earlier this month — and its principals charged — with numerous counts of copyright infringement, racketeering, and money laundering.

Founder Kim Dotcom was arrested in New Zealand in possession of forged travel documents and illegal weapons. He has since been classified as a significant flight risk and denied bail. The indictment alleges that MegaUpload made approximately \$175 million last year providing access to copyrighted materials, and was visited by up to 50 million users each day.

MegaUpload did not provide copyrighted materials directly, but rather provided server space for users to upload files and then share a link with others,

which would allow them to download the file.

The files were not hosted by users like torrents, which merely facilitate ports for getting in and out of the river of traffic. The site generated profit primarily from advertising and monthly fees for "premium" access, which allowed users space to store their files for sharing with others, as well as priority for downloading others' files. Free users were given incentives to purchase a premium membership through various annoyances that accompanied every individual download.

MegaUpload executives claim that they did their absolute best to regulate user uploads in conjunction with the provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, but many of the site's features revolved around user incentives that were clearly designed to encourage distribution of copy-

righted content. A good example of this would be their uploader reward program, which encourages users to distribute links to copyrighted material to as many people as possible in exchange for account credits, which can eventually be redeemed for cash or other rewards.

It's difficult to believe that Dotcom was unaware what the site was being used for and that its operations were likely illegal. He is no stranger to legal trouble. He has been arrested previously in the '90s for stealing calling card numbers and in 2002 for insider trading and embezzlement. Dotcom is a notoriously flamboyant character in the Internet security industry. He owns the most expensive home in New Zealand, as well more than 20 vehicles — including a Rolls Royce Phantom with the vanity plate reading "God."

He has also occasionally participated in Europe's Gumball 3000 rally. Dotcom knew exactly what the site was being used for, and he maintained the site because it was quite profitable. The music and film industries want US authorities to

make an example out of Kim Dotcom. A high profile arrest could "change the calculus," according to MPAA production executive Kevin Suh. But the film and music industries are trying to change the wrong variable. Rather than cracking down on piracy, they should make mainstream purchase less objectionable — iTunes music service has been profitable and popular offering downloads for lower price than the physical disc, as has Amazon's service.

Providing a cheap, legal alternative to piracy won't eliminate it entirely, but it will bring over the consumers on the margin. Eventually the loss of those consumers will cause fewer entrepreneurs like Kim Dotcom to enter the market.

A positive incentive, like fixing the problems that led to the growth of piracy will be far more effective than cracking down on file-sharers.

"A positive incentive ... will be far more effective than cracking down on file-sharers."

GUEST COLUMN

US should switch to nuclear energy

By **STUART ARON**

We hear a lot about alternative energy sources these days.

In these parts, you hear little else than people talking about how wind energy is the wave of the future. Every other month I hear someone mention solar power and, of course, someone will always get a word in edgewise with the almost mythical fuel source of hydrogen power.

Yes, we need to find alternatives, but in our clamor to find alternative energy sources to

petroleum and its byproducts, we always seem to overlook one vital possible power source: nuclear energy.

As usual, the first thought that comes to mind is the idea of a nuclear meltdown. The recent events in Japan are fresh in our minds, and we are worried about something similar happening here in the United States.

Yes, there have been some partial meltdowns in the United States, but there have been more deaths of coal workers than people working in or

around nuclear power plants. Our fear of nuclear energy is akin to peoples' fear of flying: statistically, it is safer to fly than it is to drive.

Even the disastrous Three Mile Island accident, the worst nuclear accident in the history of the United States, was contained and few, if any, deaths were caused by the radiation from the incident. Even with that history, we know to not build our nuclear plants on fault lines, and our safety technology is much more effective than it was years ago.

The second thought that generally comes to mind is the disposal of nuclear waste. Currently, in most cases, depleted nuclear cores are stored in steel containers, submerged in water within. The idea is that once the radiation has diminished from the spent fuel cores, we can then reprocess them for further use.

If we are so worried about the storage of the waste, we could always set up a specific, government-run, location for storing used energy cells. There are plenty of empty spaces in the United States that would be perfect for such a facility.

If that still bothers us, we could always develop a safe way to blast the nuclear waste into space, straight into the sun. The

idea, popularized by television, that people in control of the nuclear waste are evil, sneaky people who try and hide the nuclear waste by dumping it in a lake or the ocean, is long since past.

Nuclear energy's problems are very much solvable, and it is one of the cleanest and most efficient sources of energy we have. According to an article by Yuri Sokolov and Alan McDonald, published by the International Atomic Energy Agency, "Nuclear Power — Global Status and Trends," as of 2005, the United States gains approximately 19.3 percent of its energy from nuclear sources.

Many other countries use much more nuclear power than we do. France, according to the same article, gains approximately 78.5 percent of its energy from nuclear power. How often have we heard of a nuclear meltdown in France? I certainly never have.

There is no reason we could not responsibly and safely build many more nuclear power plants, reducing our energy dependence on petroleum and coal sources.

Aron is a junior vocal music education major from Houston.

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Circle K International offers service opportunities

By **ASHLYN TUBBS**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech students searching for service opportunities in Lubbock, look no further.

Three years ago, a group of Tech students founded an organization to help other students get involved in more community service activities.

They decided to start Circle K International at Tech, a collegiate version of Kiwanis International, which is the world's largest international service organization.

"Basically our whole focus is community service," said Libby King, co-founding vice president. "We go and do all sorts of service projects here in Lubbock every semester."

King helped start the organization along with two other students who were involved in Key Club — another version of Kiwanis — in high school.

Some of the local projects Circle K International participates in include service at the Haven Animal Shelter, Ronald McDonald House, University Medical Center Pediatrics, South Plains Children's Home, South Plains Food

Bank, Relay for Life, Special Olympics and Meals on Wheels. Members also participate in projects that help provide tetanus shots to mothers and children in Africa, as well as book drives for Better World Books.

One of King's favorite projects is visiting the children under 21 years old at UMC Pediatrics. She said last year they visited the children only once a month, but will visit more frequently this year.

"The kids get so excited because it's the first time all day that they get to get out of their bed and just go play, and forget for an hour that they're sick," she said. "It's so much fun. They get so excited to see you, and we do arts and crafts and we play games and sing."

Each semester Circle K offers different community service events and creates a schedule of them at the beginning of the semester, King said. Members are required to have 25 hours of service a semester, 15 of which have to be done through Circle K. The events are not mandatory to attend.

"It's a really great organization if you're in other organizations because it's not a huge time commitment," King said, "and if you're in a sorority or fraternity and

you're doing community service for them, it counts for us as well."

Sarah Haagen, co-founding president of Circle K, is now the district secretary treasurer for the Texas and Oklahoma District.

"I really enjoy this organization and I'm glad we were able to continue to make Tech a great university that offers great things like the other universities around Texas," she said. "It's a great experience to be able to develop something like this and excel in it in many different aspects."

Circle K can help build resumes and is a good source for networking, Haagen said. Members are also eligible for scholarships as well as book discounts.

"I've met a lot of great people seeing the diverse population of those who want to come together to serve our communities," she said. "I've met people in my field in which I hope to use in the future with getting jobs. It's been a great source for me to talk to them and for them to be my mentors and give me professional advice."

Meetings are hosted the first and third Wednesday of every month, and service projects and socials are scheduled on the second and fourth Wednesdays.

The next meeting is 8 p.m. on

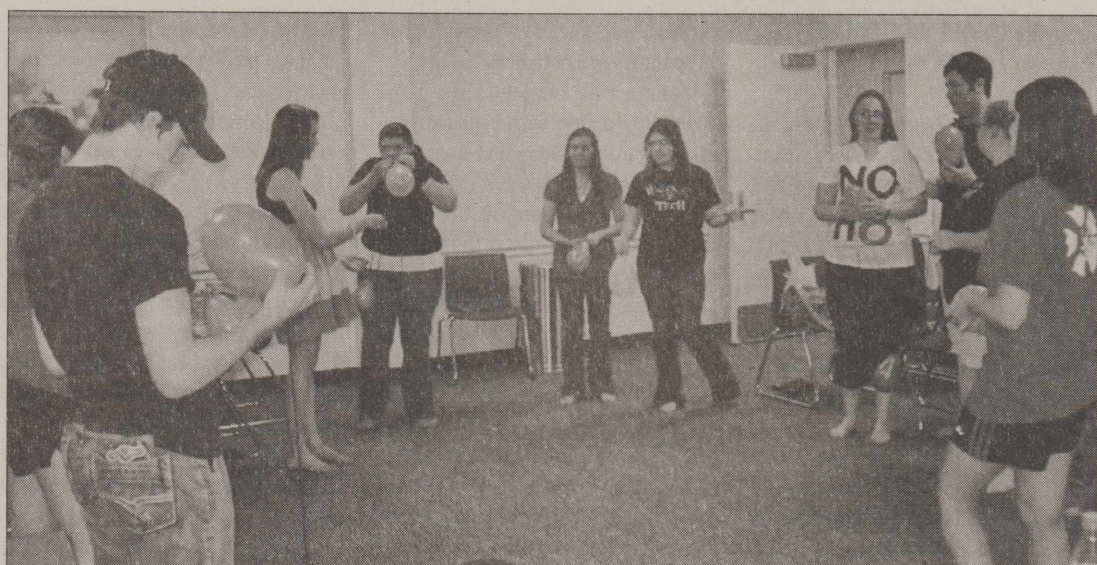


PHOTO COURTESY OF LIBBY KING

CIRCLE K INTERNATIONAL, a collegiate branch of Kiwanis International, offers students a chance to volunteer for different organizations in the community.

Feb. 8 in room 069 of the Human Sciences building.

Students interested in joining are encouraged to attend, King said.

"I love the Kiwanis family, I think that they're a fabulous organization," King said. "Everyone who is in Circle K wants to be there. They want to be help-

ing in the community and it's a really fun group of people to be around because everyone is excited to get out and get their hands filthy to help the community."

Elizabeth Stephenson, a freshman and new member of Circle K, said the organization has been a great way to find out about ways to volunteer in Lubbock.

"It's been a very good, enjoyable experience," Stephenson said. "I've met some good new friends and have gotten to volunteer."

For more information, contact Circle K International at texas-techcki@gmail.com.
» atubbs@dailytoreador.com

Christians

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The stars find that some people view their Christian friends no differently than their non-Christian friends, but Bakke said European Christianity stood out from Christianity in America.

"Christianity is on the decline in Europe, so it was interesting because all the Christians that we did meet really stood out as different from anything we've seen in the states because there's nothing in it for them if they say they're a Christian and if they're following Jesus," Bakke, also the film's director said.

"Whereas here, there are social pressures. It's popular in some places — especially in my college culture in Baylor — everyone is a Christian, but over there because it's not popular, because it's not the cool thing to do. We saw them living out their faith more radically than we were used to, so that is what was so encouraging to us is that they seemed to get it."

The men ran into some trouble while traveling overseas, including not being able to find a laundry mat and having to microwave their clothes to dry them. Allen even lost his pouch that was holding \$300, his passport and the group's train tickets. Carroll said the situation was frustrating at the time, but now the guys can laugh looking back and be thankful for their extra time in Rome.

One situation, however, they learned a lot from, Bakke said.

"We decided to fast for one day

because none of us had really done it," he said. "We decided to take all the money that we would have used for food that day and put it toward someone that was in need, someone that was homeless. And really the idea was just to see how far our money could go for just one day of food."

Bakke and his co-stars went to the Metro in Budapest, Hungary, and met a man named Victor. They soon learned Victor could help them translate with the homeless people they wanted to feed.

"Victor traveled around with us to just talk to homeless people," Bakke said, "and that was kind of the cool thing. We found this one

guy and asked him what he needed, and he needed some clothes and new glasses. So, we hooked him up with some stuff — some Sketchers. That was the cool part. We were just talking to Victor and Victor would say what we needed to say to him and he would talk and Victor would translate.

It was the first time we had really every talked to someone about Jesus through somebody else. It was a really cool experience."

Tech is the cast's 80th tour stop of the "Beware of Christians" screening.

Carroll said the feedback has been positive.

"The feedback has been refreshing, honest and easy to relate to,"

he said. "We definitely wanted that to come across, but I think it's come across a lot more than we originally anticipated."

The movie was able to be screened at Tech because Alyssa Jones, a member of Raider Sisters for Christ, booked them through their website.

The junior social work major from Allen said she had a friend promote and host the movie at Texas A&M University in College Station and decided to do the same at Tech.

Laughs were heard throughout the movie as about 200 people sat and watched the four men challenge what it means to be a Christian.

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SPORTS

PAGE 6
THURSDAY, FEB. 2, 2012

Aggies win final conference game against Tech

By **CHOIS WOODMAN**
STAFF WRITER

The No. 25 Texas Tech women's basketball team lost to No. 18 Texas A&M in a game which marked the last game for the Aggies at United Spirit Arena as a member of the Big 12 Conference.

The Aggies kept the Lady Raiders to shooting 29.6 percent from the field in the game during the 67-55 loss for Tech. Tech was 2 for 17 on shots in the paint during the second half.

"Just credit A&M's defense," Tech coach Kristy Curry said. "You have to credit them. I thought we missed a lot of easy shots to start the second half, and from that point on just couldn't get anything to go down, but again you have to credit their defense."

Both teams had 21 turnovers in the game, but the Aggies capitalized with 28 points off turnovers compared to 11 points off turnovers for Tech.

Sydney Carter shut down Monique Smalls all night, Curry said.

"It definitely affected the game," she said, "and Mo (Smalls) allowed it to af-

fect her. And, you know, it's just one of those learning experiences."

Smalls, who came into the game leading the nation with a 3.37 to one assist to turnover ratio, had two assists and four turnovers in the contest.

Tech struggled from the free throw line, shooting 30 percent in the first half and 64.3 percent for the game.

"When you're having the kind of shooting night that you're having, but yet you can get to the line that many times, you've got to make your free-throws," Curry said.

Tech's leading scorer Kierra Mallard struggled from the floor in her first game back after missing two games due to a hand injury. Mallard was 2 for 13 from the floor.

Having Mallard back was good for the team, but her shooting woes were evident, Curry said.

"I thought she played with a lot of energy," she said. "Obviously I thought she looked a little rusty on her finishes. She couldn't get anything to go down either."

The Lady Raider posts were completely different from how they played in

their last game against Texas, Curry said.

"I am perplexed greatly at our level of consistency from so many spots," she said. "Again, it's understanding that every single day in this league you've got to bring great energy and great effort and find consistency, and the only person that controls that is you individually, which impacts our team as a whole."

Texas A&M had four players score in double figures in the game.

It is hard to beat the Aggies when they spread out their scoring, Aggie senior Adaora Elonu said.

"It's good for us just because teams can't just focus on one player," Elonu said.

A&M coach Gary Blair said he expected the physicality displayed in the game.

"If y'all want to see pretty ball, y'all are in the wrong conference," Blair said.

"The Big 12 is a very physical conference, that's how we play."

Blair, who is a Tech alumnus, said he hopes Tech and A&M will continue to play non-conference games against each other after the Aggies leave for the SEC next season.

"It doesn't have to be the last time," he said. "If y'all want to play we will sign a contract tonight."

Tech probably won't see the Aggies in non-conference games in the near future, Curry said.

"I'm sure that's going to be made as a collective decision across the university," she said. "I can tell you right now that I have no plans to play because I think that's the position I think Texas Tech is going to take on it right now."

Tech fans should be excited and stay behind the team, Blair said.

"This was the best crowd we have played in front of in the last few years," he said. "Give Kristy credit for what she's doing. The schedule is going to turn her way, so y'all get ready to jump on her bandwagon, and she's going to be fine."

The team has a chance to be great if they can respond to adversity, Curry said.

"At this point, our backs are against the wall," she said, "and we've got an opportunity with nine games to go to do something about it, and we control our own destiny."

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PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH GUARD Monique Smalls shot is blocked by Texas A&M center Karla Gilbert during the Lady Raiders' 67-55 loss against the Aggies on Wednesday at United Spirit Arena.

Signing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gladney is one of two Tech signees from South Carolina, while the rest of the class is made up by 14 recruits from Texas, six from California and one from North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Tuberville said the bounty of recruits from the east side of the country is a testament to the recruiting ability of Robert Prunty, the 2010-11 Big 12 Recruiter of the Year.

"Robert Prunty is a guy that's from the east coast," Tuberville said. "Most of those guys you will notice that we signed from those areas this year and even last year was because of him. He's got many contacts in that area."

"That's made him one of the top recruiters in the country."

During the news conference, however, Tuberville also made several announcements regarding personnel moves.

Tuberville announced the resignation of Jim Turner on Wednesday, less than six weeks after Turner was hired to be Tech's offensive line coach.

Turner has accepted the same



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH HEAD football coach Tommy Tuberville speaks at the National Signing Day news conference Wednesday. Tech announced 17 commits Wednesday to bring the total 2012 recruiting class to 26.

position with the Miami Dolphins, reuniting with Mike Sherman.

The Dolphins hired Sherman as their offensive coordinator Friday, leading to the Turner hire — Turner served on Sherman's staff while the two were at Texas A&M.

"I have hired a replacement,"

Tuberville said, "but will not be able to announce that until (Thursday)."

Additionally, Tuberville confirmed Michael Brewer's place as the team's No. 2 quarterback entering spring practices following the announcement that Scotty Young would transfer.

And while Tech loses a player in Young, it will regain one in suspended running back Ronnie

Daniels.

Daniels was suspended for the last 10 games of the 2011 season because of a team rules violation.

"I think that his couple of months away from the team has made him a lot stronger person academically and athletically," Tuberville said, "and I'm anxious to see what he can do for us in the next three or four years."

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Baylor loads up on defense with 2012 recruiting class

WACO (AP) — Baylor is getting defensive after one of the best seasons in school history.

After tying a school record with 10 wins last season, the Bears on Wednesday signed a class of 23 players. That included 13 defensive players — four linemen, four linebackers and five defensive backs.

"This year's class certainly fills needs, we went heavy on defense," coach Art Briles said. "We felt like we needed to make sure that we give ourselves every opportunity to have as good a defense as possible. ... We really tried to address the defensive side of the ball this year"

Baylor last season tied plenty of offensive records with Heisman Trophy quarterback Robert Griffin III, who announced last month that he is bypassing his senior season for early entry into the NFL draft.

The Bears got their 10th win and first bowl victory in 19 years with a 67-56 win over Washington in the Alamo Bowl, which shattered the previous record for points in regulation of a bowl game. That game also set a

bowl record for total offense with a combined 1,397 yards.

The signing class was highlighted by two nationally recognized defenders from Texas, lineman Javonte Magee of Sam Houston High School in San Antonio and linebacker Brian Nance from Trinity High School in Euless.

"I think you would have to dust off a few Texas Football magazines to find somebody as big of a recruit as Magee signing to come on to Baylor. This guy could have gone anywhere in the nation and he chose Baylor. Magee is going to be a dynamic player," Briles said. "Brian Nance is a big physical linebacker, who is an impact player and a really good leader."

All but one of the 23 signees are from Texas.

Two of the players are already enrolled at Baylor and will take part in spring drills. They are linebacker Eddie Lackey from Riverside Community College, the only junior college transfer, and early high school graduate Lynx Hawthorne, a receiver and punter from Refugio High in Texas.

Today's sudoku

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

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

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Howard needs to be patient, remain in Orlando this year

Dwight Howard, come on down. You're the next contestant on My Team Isn't Right.

Now here is how the game works. Every team in the league will court you and you get to essentially choose whatever team you want. Sound good? All right, now the only rule is, quit being a baby.

Howard is a superstar in the league, and he pretty much makes his own rules. He will be a free agent in the off-season. Right now Howard is a member of the Orlando Magic, but that surely won't be the case this time next year.

Before the season Howard said he would be willing to stay in Orlando, but also gave a list of teams he would be willing to be

Cody Stoots



traded to if the Magic desired to approach him that way. He listed off contenders, and the Nets, who he would make a contender. The message was clear. Howard wanted to continue to collect his massive paycheck and compete for a title while doing so.

Howard will compete for a NBA title this season, and he should do so with the Magic.

This is a weird season. Have you seen any team that is a far

and away favorite? I haven't. Any team that is in the playoff picture has a chance to make a run all the way to the title.

If Howard could suck it up, put his head on straight and get motivated, the Magic are a team that can hang around in the playoffs. Howard is playing a dominate brand of basketball right now.

He needs to consider giving Orlando one more solid season of play, and then have the Magic worry about shipping him off to a new zip code in the off-season. He needs to think long and hard, or he could end up in a Carmelo Anthony type of situation.

The New York Knicks are a mess, and it was all because Anthony forced a trade from Denver that gutted the Knicks of quality

players who could've been a stellar supporting cast. Meanwhile, Denver is certainly looking good with the bounty they acquired from New York. Anthony's impatience has placed him on a team lacking the appropriate role players and little cap space to fix their problem.

Howard needs to make sure he doesn't end up like Melo.

If Howard forces a trade to somewhere that has to gut its team to get him, is he really changing anything?

The only team Howard should consider being traded to during this season's deadline is the Lakers. If Los Angeles can put any deal together to get Howard, they should consider it. Howard lacks motivation, but is still lighting

up the stat sheet nightly. Kobe Bryant is the most competitive player in the league, and Bryant could re-ignite Howard's passion.

If Howard can bide his time, and reassure his teammates he is willing to be convinced they can be great with him there, he can chase a title this year and then walk, if and when it doesn't happen.

As a free agent, Howard can chase the big payday or chase a title with another superstar. He can go into any situation he wants. He can find max money where he is the man on a team, or he can find max money with another superstar. Every possibility will be afforded to him if he can wait this season out.

The reasoning that this season's championship can be won by

any competitive team and the fact that he will still have his choice of team to play for in the off season should be enough to keep Howard patient enough.

The Magic should try to get something, anything, for Howard. They can't afford Howard to tease them by staying for one title run, then splitting, leaving the Magic with zero return on him.

The only problem is, as we should all know by now, the superstars make the rules in the NBA. The decision is Howard's to make. If he can finish this season without making a dumb bold move, he can set himself up financially and competitively.

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Sumlin signs 19 players in his first signing class at Texas A&M

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — New Texas A&M coach Kevin Sumlin signed 19 players in his first recruiting class after being hired Dec. 10 to replace the fired Mike Sherman.

Sumlin retained 11 players the former staff recruited and added eight new recruits. He left some spaces open to add players after he evaluates his team and see where he needs more help as the Aggies prepare to leave the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference.

He said recruiting for A&M was a very different experience than it was when he was coach at Houston.

"A lot of these guys, we tried to recruit them at Houston and they threw our mail away or didn't return our calls," he said. "All of a sudden we got here and they answered the phone."

Sumlin's recruiting class was also

buoyed by Texas A&M's move to the SEC, beginning next season.

"There are a lot of players that really appreciate that and embrace that and want to be a part of it," he said.

Sumlin was hired after Sherman was fired following a disappointing 6-6 regular-season finish in a season where the Aggies started out with a top 10 ranking. Sumlin addressed a lack of depth on the defensive line with his change from the 3-4 scheme to the 4-3 by signing five defensive linemen.

"It was an area of need and I think we were successful," Sumlin said of shoring up his defensive line.

"Anytime you're trying to build a championship team, you have to be strong and have depth up front. We were able to accomplish that in a short time today."

The Aggies signed defensive ends Polo Manukainiu, Julien Obioha, Alonzo Williams and Tyrone Taylor and snagged former Missouri commitment, 6-foot-5, 290-pound defensive lineman Edmond Ray.

Texas A&M also boosted its offensive line with the addition of Mike Matthews. Matthews is the son of NFL Hall of Fame lineman Bruce Matthews, who played for the Houston Oilers and Tennessee

Titans. The Aggies added another offensive lineman in 6-5, 304-pound Germain Ifedi.

"Mike Matthews is one of the best centers in the state," Sumlin said. "You know the bloodlines. Mike is smart, strong, and both those guys will be good. Germain is big and can move real well. We're excited about both those guys."

Running back Trey Williams is perhaps A&M's most heralded recruit this season, ranking among the top five players in the state on several recruiting lists. He was named the Texas class 5A offensive player of the year after running for 3,890 yards and

48 touchdowns last season. The 5-8, 175-pound Williams also had two kickoff returns for touchdowns and added another score on a punt return.

Last season topped off an impressive career for Williams, who ran for 2,290 yards and 20 touchdowns as a junior and 1,930 yards and 18 scores as a sophomore.

"Trey is one of the best players in the history of Texas high school football, statistically," Sumlin said. "He can be a 10-15 touch guy early in his career, and maybe eventually get to 20. Those won't have to just be carries. He could get involved in a lot of ways."

The Aggies signed quarterback Matt Davis as they look at options to replace Ryan Tannehill. Davis threw for 1,483 yards and 13 touchdowns and ran for 931 yards and 12 more scores last season. Sumlin said Davis, who enrolled at A&M in January, will have a chance to compete for the starting job with the quarterbacks already on the roster.

Davis will go against last year's backup Jameill Showers and sophomores Johnny Manziel and Matt Joeckel for the job. Sumlin said no one has an advantage right now, but also said he wouldn't mind starting a young quarterback.

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