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Project Linus provides labors of love for Texas Tech community

Students make blankets for hospitalized, homeless children

By NICOLE MOLTER
STAFF WRITER

Local organizations — including those on Texas Tech campus — are providing handmade blankets to children in homeless shelters and hospitals to protect them during the winter months, as part of Project Linus.

“Everyone who has read the Charlie Brown comics knows that Linus has a blanket that Lucy, his sister, always tries to steal. It’s his sense of security,” said Kayla Suarez, a freshman public relations major from El Paso. “The goal

of the Linus Project is to provide that same sort of security and comfort to children in hospitals or in homeless shelters.”

Lubbock Project Linus, one of nearly 400 local chapters throughout the United States and Canada of the Project Linus national organization, was established in 2007. Since then, West Texas blanketeers have made and distributed more than 5,000 blankets, quilts and afghans for local children in need, according to the Lubbock Project Linus website.

“The goal of the Linus Project is to provide that same sort of comfort to children in hospitals or in homeless shelters.”

KAYLA SUAREZ
FRESHMAN
PUBLIC RELATIONS

LINUS continued on Page 2 >>

Humble Boy



PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/ The Daily Toreador

TOP: FLORA HUMBLE reacts to George Pye’s attempt of proposal using a black onyx ring during a dress rehearsal for “Humble Boy” on Saturday at the Laboratory Theatre. Above: George Pye confronts Felix Humble for returning home after leaving Pye’s daughter, Rosie, for seven years during a dress rehearsal for “Humble Boy” Saturday at the Laboratory Theatre.

Luke Adams, Sports



Luke Adams may not be the typical Division I basketball player, but the freshman point guard has made an impact for the Red Raiders this season. SPORTS, Page 8

Graduate student directs play which doubles as thesis project

By DEVIN GARZA
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Department of Theatre and Dance’s production of “Humble Boy,” directed by Nathan Jacobs, a graduate student, opened Monday to a nearly full house at Tech’s Maedgen Laboratory Theatre.

Written by British playwright, Char-

lotte Jones in 2001, “Humble Boy” is a tragic comedy centered on the brilliant, yet troubled Felix Humble, played by Randy Woolley.

Felix, a sometimes stammering 35-year old Cambridge astrophysics research fellow, returns home to his hard-to-please mother after his father’s sudden death to grieve and make sense of his turbulent life — and mind.

The production also is Jacobs’s thesis project.

“It’s loosely based off ‘Hamlet,’” Jacobs said. “We took it on as modern British characters going through grief, the loss of a loved one, going through meaning of life and the objectives that come from all that.”

HUMBLE BOY continued on Page 5 >>

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WEATHER

Today	Sunny	Wednesday	Sunny
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Masood: Engines of America will roar again
OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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Community Calendar

TODAY

Toddler Tuesdays at the Museum
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Where: Museum of Texas Tech, New Assembly Room
So, what is it?
 Enjoy Toddler Tuesdays at the Museum of Texas Tech.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center
So, what is it?
 Enjoy a presentation by OLLI led by Al Sacco Jr., dean of the Whitacre College of Engineering, titled "Lunch and Learning-Living and Working in Outer Space: Perspectives of a Scientist, Engineer and Educator."

Know Your Rights Week
Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Student Union Building, Escondido Theatre
So, what is it?
 Join Student Legal Services as they discuss students' rights relating to leases and landlords, security deposit refunds, repair requests, moving in and moving out and roommate problems.

Texas Tech Men's Basketball vs. Texas A&M
Time: 6 p.m.
Where: United Spirit Arena
So, what is it?
 Support the Red Raiders as they compete against the Aggies for the final time in conference play.

Music for Valentine's Day
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: Covenant Presbyterian Church
So, what is it?
 Enjoy songs of love from Medieval and Renaissance France from the College of Visual and Performing Arts and the School of Music.

WEDNESDAY

Engineering Job Fair
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
So, what is it?
 The Whitacre College of Engineering Job Fair is giving students of all classifications the chance to meet companies and find out what careers in engineering are all about.

It's All Greek to Me
Time: 11 a.m. to Noon
Where: Teaching, Learning and

Professional Development Center, Room 151
So, what is it?
 Elizabeth Massengale will facilitate a student panel discussion titled, "It's All Greek to Me: Ethical Issues Facing Students Involved in the Greek Life Community."

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center
So, what is it?
 Enjoy a presentation by OLLI led by dean Des Dunn titled "Master Touch Gardening Series-Vegetable Gardening in Containers," and learn how to grow summer and winter vegetables in pots.

Studio 360: Beginning Drawing for Adults at the Museum
Time: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Museum of Texas Tech, New Assembly Room
So, what is it?
 Enjoy drawing classes at the Museum of Texas Tech for adults.

Know Your Rights Week
Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Student Union Building, Escondido Theatre
So, what is it?
 Join Student Legal Services as they discuss concerns relating your web image and how it can affect your job search.

Heritage Ecologies at the World Heritage Site of Teotihuacan, Mexico
Time: 5:35 p.m.
Where: English Building, 001
So, what is it?
 Enjoy a presentation from speaker Timothy Webmoor, an anthropologist of science, technology and design.

Alternative Fuels (Improv Comedy)
Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Student Union Building, Escondido Theatre
So, what is it?
 Enjoy a night of improv comedy presented by Tech Activities Board.

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.

SNOW BLOW



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

RAUL GONZALES, A grounds and maintenance worker, clears ice and snow from the sidewalks using a leaf blower outside of the Hulen/Clement Residence Hall on 18th Street on Monday.

Linus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After the blankets are made, they can be dropped off at one of many locations in Lubbock, including Hobby Lobby, said Carolyn Smith, department head of fabrics at the store in Lubbock. The blankets are then picked up by the organization and distributed.

"Ladies come into Hobby Lobby and buy our fleece or put together a quilt for children up at the hospital," she said. "The goal is to stock everybody in need with a blanket. People do this for fun and know that they're helping those in need."

Some Tech students recently have been involved as well, Smith said.

"The Association for Women in Communications organization found out about the Linus Project through our community chair," said Shelby Chapman, a junior broadcast journalism major from Austin and president of the AWC. "All we had to do was make blankets and drop them off. We got our fabric from Hobby Lobby and made three tie-blankets last weekend: a Tech blanket, a

boy's blanket and a little girl's blanket." This year was the AWC's first year to participate, Chapman said.

"Hopefully, we can continue this in the future," she said. "The blankets were easy to make. It was a bonding experience for our group that also allowed us to do something good for the community."

Lubbock is the perfect place for the project, Chapman said, due to the unpredictable weather.

"The weather is cold and constantly changing," she said. "People take blankets for granted. They don't realize that some people can't afford them. It was nice to know we could help out."

Gently-used blankets and bought blankets can be donated too, Chapman said.

"To make something first-hand though was great," she said. "It felt really great to be able to give back."

Handmade blankets are preferred because they have a more sentimental worth, Suarez said, and allows the recipient to have a bonding experience with the maker.

"The organization would prefer for the blankets to be handmade," she said. "They say you can tell when something



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAYLA SUAREZ

THE ASSOCIATION FOR Women in Communications made blankets for Project Linus on Feb. 5. Project Linus allows people to make blankets for children in hospitals.

is handmade and that is what makes it so much more valuable."

"Each volunteer and local chapter all work together to help us achieve our mission which is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new,

handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer blanketeers," states the Lubbock Project Linus site.

A regular scheduled meeting for Project Linus will be hosted on Feb. 18 at St. Christopher's Church on 42nd Street and Elgin Avenue. nmotter@dailytoreador.com

POLICE BLOTTER

Officer investigates student assaults in Sam's Place West

Friday
 8:49 a.m. – A Texas Tech officer documented a medical emergency in Wall Residence Hall. A student was suffering from chest pains. The student was transported to the University Medical Center Emergency Room by Emergency Medical Services.

9:32 a.m. – A Tech officer documented a medical emergency at the Student Wellness Center. A student was suffering from stomach pains. The student was transported to the UMC Emergency Room by EMS technicians.

11:40 a.m. – A Tech officer investigated a theft in the laundry room at Knapp Residence Hall. Miscellaneous unsecured clothing was taken.

12:03 p.m. – A Tech officer detained a non-student in the R4 parking lot, after several reports of this individual attempting to solicit. The non-student was issued a criminal trespass warning for all of Texas Tech property.

3:06 p.m. – A Tech officer investigated a theft at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreational Center. An unsecured backpack was taken and then recovered in a locker room.

5:26 p.m. – A Tech officer documented a medical emergency at the Student Recreational Center. A student injured her ankle and was transported to the UMC Emergency Room by EMS technicians.

7:15 p.m. – A Tech officer documented a medical emergency in Wall Residence Hall. A student slipped

in the shower and cut herself in the neck. The student was transported to Covenant Hospital Emergency Room by EMS technicians.

Saturday
 12:04 a.m. – A Tech officer detained three students at Bledsoe Residence Hall. The three students were released pending the filing of charges for possession of marijuana and issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.

2:03 a.m. – A Tech officer responded to the report of a disturbance at Coleman Residence Hall. A student was distraught and voluntarily agreed to commit himself for treatment. The student went to Covenant Hospital Emergency Room for treatment.

2:32 a.m. – A Tech officer responded to a disturbance at Coleman Residence Hall. The student was having an argument with a non-student. The student was issued a citation for consumption of alcohol by a minor and was arrested for public intoxication. The student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

3:11 p.m. – A Tech officer documented information on damaged

property in the C11 parking lot. Three plastic parking bollards were damaged.

Sunday
 4:24 a.m. – A Tech officer investigated graffiti at the Wiggins Dining Hall. A phrase was spray painted on the southeast corner of the building.

2:36 p.m. – A Tech officer investigated a traffic accident, without injuries, in the 3200 block of 4th Street.

2:59 p.m. – A Tech officer detained a student in Horn Residence Hall. The student was issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of drug paraphernalia and was released pending the filing of charges for possession of marijuana.

4:26 p.m. – A Tech officer investigated an assault in the Sam's Place West at Chitwood/Weymouth Residence Hall. A student punched a student in the face and then kicked another student during an argument. Both of the assaulted students received minor injuries and they refused medical treatment. The suspect was released pending the filing of charges for assault.

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

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Place for family game night											
4	Book of poems party by King David											
10	Farm grazer											
13	Egg calls											
14	Communicating regularly											
16	Fat Tire product											
17	Ballplayer's hat											
18	Woods, minstrel-style											
19	N.J. neighbor											
20	Dismiss an occult doll-making practice?											
23	Hanukkah money											
24	Govt.-issued ID											
25	Donahue and Collins											
26	Double Stuf cookies											
28	With 57-Down, wealthy people											
31	Hair removal brand											
32	"What's that chocolate beverage you're drinking, Yogi?" answer?											
36	Raggedy doll											
37	Debate side											
38	PC component											
39	Studio whose films get off to a roaring start											
42	Model train expert?											
45	Speed-of-sound name											
48	Wise, like balms											
49	Sarandon of "Bull Durham"											
50	Snow-block home											
52	Hippie's home											
55	When Romeo meets Juliet											
56	Frilly Hawaiian dress?											
60	Small amount											
61	Temps											
62	Fib, e.g.											
64	Dark time for a poet											
65	Kind of fiction											
66	Recreational transport, briefly											
67	Diller's dog											
68	More sexy											
69	Manhattan liquor											

By Marti Duguay-Carpenter

2/14/12

DOWN

1	Bespoke	dwarf
2	Role for Patti LuPone or Madonna	
3	Layered pastry	
4	"Hogwash!"	
5	Scissors cuts	
6	Periodic table figs	
7	Access with a password	
8	"Faster, huskies!"	
9	John Candy skit show	
10	Golf bag carrier	
11	World Cup chant	
12	Runner-up's news	
15	Earring style	
21	Texter's "From a different aspect..."	
22	"Say it isn't so!"	
23	"La maja desnuda" painter	
27	Second-year student	
29	High, in Hamburg	
30	Spanish river	
33	Top Olympic medals, in Madrid	
34	Rapid economic expansion	
35	Plains tribesmen	
39	Powerfully built	
40	Tip on a table, informally	
41	City bond	
42	Dynasty during Confucius' time	
43	Juliet's family name	
44	American territory in the Pacific	
45	Offended	
46	Signed a pact, say	
47	Circus performers	
51	Slays, mob-style	
53	"Care for...?" after-dinner offer	
54	Numskull	
57	See 28-Across	
58	Hodgepodge	
59	Mouse manipulator	
63	Night of anticipation	

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2/14/12

Cafe J

THIS WEEK'S DINNER SPECIAL

Ménage à Trois à la Mer
 A Salmon, Scallop, and Prawn Seared to Sizzling. Served atop Artichoke Ravioli, Finished with Fresh Basil and Olive Oil Vinaigrette

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Trial set in misconduct suit against Texas lawyer

LUBBOCK (AP) — The State Bar of Texas' case against an attorney that it says charged wrongly convicted inmates unreasonable fees for obtaining compensation went to trial Monday, with attorneys giving their opening statements.

Lubbock attorney Kevin Glasheen helped former inmates get state compensation for wrongful incarceration. He has said he acted appropriately in charging his clients a 25 percent contingency fee, meaning he got paid only if they got compensated.

But the state lawyers' association says the fees were illegal and unconscionable and constituted professional misconduct.

Glasheen has been credited by lawmakers and advocates as the driving force behind a 2009 law that made Texas the most generous state in the nation in compensating the wrongly convicted. The law

increased compensation from \$50,000 to \$80,000 for every year of confinement and provided an annuity for lifetime income.

The trial stems from Glasheen's work for Steven Phillips and Patrick Waller. Phillips spent nearly 25 years in prison for a rape and robbery before being cleared, while Waller was freed after serving 16 years for kidnapping and rape. Both were released in 2007.

The two filed complaints with the state bar, which filed its lawsuit after Glasheen asked it to handle the matter in open court, rather than conduct a private evidentiary hearing. The lawsuit was filed in Lubbock County in January 2011, but the state bar asked the Supreme Court of Texas to assign a state judge from another district to handle the case.

If the court determines Gla-

sheen committed misconduct, he could face punishments ranging from a public reprimand to disbarment.

Glasheen said in a statement emailed last week that his firm spent "thousands of hours" and "hundreds of thousands of dollars" to make the state compensation increase happen.

"The basis of the grievance is that the fee is 'unconscionable' because supposedly all we did was file a one-page form for 'automatic' statutory compensation," the statement reads. "We got great results for the clients, more than tripling their compensation."

Phillips, Waller and another former inmate Glasheen did not represent sued him in 2009, contending his work didn't merit the contingency fee. He reached a settlement with them in November, the details of which weren't made public.

OVER THE TOPOGRAPHY



PHOTO BY EMILY DE SANTOS/The Daily Toreador

TRAVIS BROWN, A senior landscape architecture major from Tomball, makes a model over topography inside the Agricultural Pavilion on Monday.

The fight begins: Obama's budget going to Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — The new budget that President Barack Obama is sending to Congress aims to achieve \$4 trillion in deficit reduction over the next decade by restraining government spending and raising taxes on the wealthy. To help a weak economy, Obama's proposal Monday requests increases in transportation, education and other areas.

While administration officials on Sunday defended the plan as a balanced approach, Republicans belittled the effort as a repeat of failed policies that did too little to attack soaring costs in such programs as Medicare and threatened growth by raising taxes.

The debate is almost certain to go all the way to Election Day in November with gridlock keeping Congress from resolving many pressing issues on expiring tax cuts and across-the-board

spending cuts until a lame-duck session at year's end.

Obama's spending blueprint for the budget year that begins Oct. 1 projects a deficit for this year of \$1.33 trillion. That would mean four straight years of trillion-dollar-plus deficits.

The budget will project a decline in the deficit to \$901 billion in 2013 and continued improvements shrinking the deficit to \$575 billion in 2018.

Republicans said Obama's plan was a stark reminder that the Democratic president had failed to meet the pledge he made after taking office in 2009 to cut the deficit in half by the end of his first term.

But Jacob Lew, Obama's chief of staff, said the administration had to contend with a deep recession and soaring unemployment that had driven the deficits higher than anyone anticipated. He said Obama's plan would cut

the deficit below 3 percent of gross domestic product by 2018, to levels that economists generally view as sustainable.

He said faster deficit cuts now would set back an economy still struggling with high unemployment. Lew, Obama's former budget chief, also said it was critical that Congress agree to extend a payroll tax cut due to expire at the end of February. Failure to extend it, he said, would cause another hit to the economy.

"I think there is pretty broad agreement that the time for austerity is not today," Lew said during a series of appearances on Sunday talk shows. "Right now we have an economy that's taking root ... austerity measures right now would take the economy in the wrong way."

House Republicans are preparing their version of Obama's budget that will propose sharper reductions in government

entitlement programs such as Medicare while avoiding any tax increases.

"We're taking responsibility for the drivers of our debt," said the chairman of the House Budget Committee, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis. "So when the dust settles and people see actually what we're doing, how we're promoting bipartisan solutions."

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said Senate Democrats did not want to vote on Obama's spending plan, so he would once again put it forward for a Senate vote where he predicted it would fail as it did last year.

Lew blamed House Republicans for pushing extreme measures rather than trying to reach consensus with Democrats and avoid the kinds of last-minute crises that roiled financial markets in 2011, such as the summer showdown over raising the

government's borrowing limit.

"Congress didn't do a great job last year. It drove right to the edge of the cliff on occasion after occasion," Lew said. "A lot of that was because of the extreme conservative approach taken by House Republicans."

According to a White House fact sheet, Obama's budget will adhere closely to the approach he outlined in September in a submission to the congressional "supercommittee" that failed to agree on at least \$1.2 trillion in additional spending cuts to keep across-the-board cuts from taking effect next January.

The Obama budget sticks to the caps on annual appropriations approved in August that will save \$1 trillion over the next decade. It also puts forward \$1.5 trillion in new taxes, primarily by allowing the Bush-era tax cuts expire at the end of this year for families making \$250,000 or

more per year.

Obama, as he has in the past, also proposed eliminating tax deductions the wealthy receive and would also put in place a rule named for billionaire Warren Buffett that would seek to make sure that households making more than \$1 million annually pay at least 30 percent of their income in taxes.

Obama would also impose a new \$61 billion tax over 10 years on big banks aimed at recovering the costs of the financial bailout and providing money to help homeowners facing foreclosure on their homes. It would raise \$41 billion over 10 years by eliminating tax breaks for oil, gas and coal companies and claims significant savings from ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lew said the budget would cut spending by \$2.50 for every \$1 in extra taxes it seeks.

Independent group inspecting Apple suppliers

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple said Monday that an independent group, the Fair Labor Association, has started inspecting working conditions in the Chinese factories where its iPads and iPhones are assembled.

Amid growing criticism over labor and environmental practices — especially in China — Apple, last month, disclosed a list of suppliers for its popular gadgets for the first time.

The FLA team began the inspections Monday morning at Foxconn City in Shenzhen, China, Apple said Monday. The complex employs and houses hundreds of thousands of workers.

Foxconn, a unit of Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. employs an estimated 1 million to 1.1 million people in China at a series of huge factory campuses. Foxconn assembles iPads and iPhones for Apple, Xbox 360 gaming consoles for Microsoft and other gadgets for companies including Hewlett-Packard and Dell.

In 2010, there was a rash of suicides at Foxconn's Shenzhen plant. Plant managers installed nets to prevent more people from committing suicide by jumping from the roof. A May explosion at the company's Chengdu, China, plant killed three people and injured 15. A New York Times story published Jan. 26 reported on accidents and long hours in Foxconn factories, based on workers' accounts. Foxconn disputed allegations of back-to-back shifts and crowded living conditions.

Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple has been conducting its own audits of working conditions at factories where its gadgets are assembled since 2006. A month ago, it took the additional step of joining Washington-based FLA, a group of companies and universities focused on improving labor practices.

Apple, the most valuable company in the world, is the first technology company to become a member. It committed, at the

time, to have the FLA inspect its suppliers, who have pledged full cooperation. The FLA plans to interview thousands of employees at several Apple suppliers about working and living conditions. The audits will cover facilities where more than 90 percent of Apple products are assembled.

The FLA's findings and recommendations will begin to be posted on www.fairlabor.org in early March.

Apple's sales have zoomed even as working conditions at its suppliers have drawn more attention. In the October to December quarter, it sold 37 million iPhones, 15 million iPads and 15 million iPhones.

Consumer activism site Change.org gathered 200,000

signatures for a petition to ask Apple to protect workers around the time of new product releases, when the workload spikes. Activists hand-delivered printouts of the signatures to Apple stores last week, but the group has stopped short of arranging protest gatherings or calling for a boycott.

Meanwhile, investors keep bidding up the company's shares in the wake of the company's staggering sales and profit over its holiday quarter. Apple's stock surpassed \$500 for the first time Monday, giving the company a market capitalization of \$465 billion. Exxon Mobil Corp., which has been trading the No. 1 position with Apple since last summer, has a \$400 billion market cap.

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A TechAlert Emergency Alert Notification was issued on February 13th. More than 35,000 students, faculty and staff received voice, text and email alerts. Did you get the message? If not, take a few minutes now to update your information at www.emergency.ttu.edu. Be sure and sign up for text messaging!

TechAlert

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Engines of America will roar again

Last week was the Super Bowl, the biggest sports and television event in America for the year.

I am probably the last person left in this country who gets more excited about the football and the culmination of a great National Football League season than the commercials, which I also still enjoy.

As usual, there were many good, humorous commercials as well as some that completely missed the mark and would make Don Draper from "Mad Men" shake his head in disgust. But there was one particular commercial that struck a chord with me.

Last year, Chrysler, the smallest of the so-called "Big Three" American automakers, aired an ad starring Eminem that discussed the hardships Detroit has endured with the collapse of American manufacturing that nearly brought the city to its knees. But it also talked about

Hasan Masood



the miraculous recovery Detroit has made and is continuing to make.

This year, Chrysler's ad, starring Clint Eastwood, continued the same "Imported from Detroit" campaign. But this year's ad discussed not only the hardships Detroit has faced, but also ones America has faced as well.

In the advertisement, titled "Halftime in America," Eastwood's rough but familiar narration talks of the challenges we face as a nation, both past and present. Eastwood addressed the divisions, discord and pessimism in the country, but also assured us that no matter what, America can pull together and make a

recovery once again.

His narration gave a positive and powerful message about the future in a way no politician or political candidate has made.

This ad struck a chord with me because of how timely it is. It seems every day brings more and more bad news, both domestic and international. But within all of the doom and gloom, there is some hope and bright spots.

For example, the economy seems to be showing some signs of a potential recovery. According to the U.S. Labor Department, the American economy added about 243,000

jobs in January, which was better than originally anticipated. The unemployment rate also dipped to 8.3 percent, marking a 5th consecutive month of declining unemployment.

Make no mistake, there are still many people out of work and hurting, but there does seem to be cause for optimism.

We have also endured two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that have consumed many lives, many years and cost trillions of

dollars. But the war in Iraq has recently ended and the war in Afghanistan will soon be drawing to a close, with thousands

of American servicemen and servicewomen finally returning home.

As I mentioned before, it seems many Americans are extremely pessimistic about the future of this nation and have little hope that things will get better. When I think of the pessimism that seems to consume my fellow students and Americans, I am reminded of President Jimmy Carter's "Malaise Speech."

In this speech, Carter discussed the pessimism and division that gripped the nation at the end of the 1970s, a decade that saw many terrible events such as two energy crises, Watergate and Vietnam. In the speech, Carter stated it was time for Americans to, "stop crying and start sweating, stop talking and start walking." Jimmy Carter's words seem to matter today in 2012 as much as it did in 1979, when he made the speech.

Despite how bad and bleak

everything around us seems to be, it is important not just for our politicians in Washington to stop bickering and rally together, but also we, as a nation, must come together.

This nation has endured greater obstacles in our history. There is no reason why we cannot overcome our current obstacles as well.

Clint Eastwood's powerful monologue ends with him saying, "This country can't be knocked out with one punch. We get right back up again, and when we do, the world is going to hear the roar of our engines. Yeah, it's halftime, America. And our second half is about to begin." It has been a bumpy ride, but America's engines can, and will, roar back to life.

Masood is a senior history major from Plano.

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Better than 'fine' without valentine

As I'm sitting in the airport waiting to catch a flight back to Lubbock, paper hearts hanging in the gate begin to swarm me.

The hearts read, "We luv our customers," "XOXO" and "Luv'n is what we do." I have never associated airports, airlines, planes or airport employees with love. This is when I realize: I cannot escape Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day alone is nauseating, but I have never been the kind of girl to enjoy the mushy, gushy things. Like I've written about before, I don't "ooh and ahh" over engagement stories and I certainly can't stand couples' Facebook accounts or oversized teddy bears. Sweet, sappy things are only cute when they are happening to you.

Hearing every girl in the world claim they have the best boyfriend in the world is really annoying. Mainly because those "perfect" boyfriends are usually complete deadbeats for the other 364 days of the year, but somehow manage to earn an Oscar on Valentine's Day for the performance they give their girlfriends.

As cynical as I am, you can count on me seeing the much-anticipated movie, "The Vow." My single friends insist on taking me to see the romantic flick and I look forward to hearing Channing Tatum say my name over and over again (Rachel McAdams' character name is Paige, for all wondering how that was going to work).

But, let's be honest, Valentine's Day has crazy expectations nobody can actually meet. Music, television and movies hype up the holiday way too much. This day is just like any other day. Society just makes guys feel like crap if they don't meet their girlfriends' fairytale expectations and

Paige Skinner



makes girls feel equally worse if they don't wake up with Channing Tatum at the foot of their bed. The only true winners on V-day are florists, candy stores and Hallmark.

If you are truly desperate for a sweet valentine, just head over to www.craigslist.org. Plenty of lonely, single people are looking for someone to huddle over a candlelight dinner tonight. Some are specific with what they are looking for, while others simply just need a human to interact with. You aren't promised a blast of a time, but you are promised a valentine. And for some, that's all you want and need.

But, please single ladies, I beg of you, don't show up on campus dressed head to toe in pink and red wishing some West Texas cowboy comes and sweeps you off your feet. You'll be fine without a valentine. In fact, you'll be better than fine. You should be happy you don't have to share the box of chocolates with anyone else.

There is one reason the Valentine's Day season is so special to me, though. My true love comes out of hibernation. Pitchers and catchers report in about a week and baseball season officially begins.

Skinner is a junior public relations major from Garland.

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Billionaires beware: US cracks down on tax evasion

By JAY MEYERS
THE DAILY REVELLE
(LOUISIANA STATE U.)

Benjamin Franklin once said nothing in this world is certain but death and taxes.

For many of our nation's wealthiest individuals, the taxes part doesn't hold true.

If the U.S. is successful in molding tax-evasion legislation into a more business-friendly format for foreign financial institutions, that won't hold true.

Last week, Congress won critical support from five leading European nations in an attempt to identify offshore accounts by residents of the United States.

The Treasury Department said Wednesday the U.S. government has signed a joint agreement with France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom to intensify their efforts in fighting international tax evasion. In return, Washington will "reciprocate in collecting and exchanging" information about U.S. accounts held by residents of those countries.

The Treasury also made public Wednesday that the IRS is putting forth rules that investors will have to follow in reporting on earnings from foreign bank accounts.

Both the agreement and regula-

tions originate from the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, known as FATCA, which became law as part of a 2010 jobs bill.

This is how it works: Under the new proposals, firms in FATCA-partnering countries will not be required to enter into a detailed agreement with the IRS, but only register with the taxing authority.

What this means, essentially, is that FATCA will require foreign financial institutions to divulge information regarding any kind of account held overseas by residents of the U.S. This information will be important in making sure U.S. residents are in full tax compliance involving foreign financial assets and offshore accounts.

According to a 2009 congressional research service report conducted by Jane G. Gravelle, a senior specialist in economic policy, the federal government loses both individual and corporate tax revenue from the shift-

ing of profits and income into low-tax countries — estimated to be around \$100 billion per year.

This is an enormous amount of revenue the federal government could use to reduce deficits, increase spending on education and reinvest in programs that spur economic growth.

Unfortunately, this lost revenue figure can be misleading because it includes countries that are not within the FATCA agreement, such as Switzerland, China, Japan and Canada — countries that are frequently used by wealthy individuals and multinational corporations to avoid taxes.

In order for FATCA to be effective, it is essential that every country which possesses major financial institutions is included in the agreement. If not, individual and corporate entities will just move their money into non-participating FATCA countries where their money will continue to escape the reaches of Uncle Sam.

The U.S. needs to make this law more appealing.

Currently, FATCA requires that virtually every financial institution in

the world report any accounts held by Americans, with a withholding penalty for noncompliance. The punishment is a withholding charge of up to 30 percent on any income and capital payments the company gets from the U.S.

The European Commission estimates the cost of compliance will be \$100 million for each multinational bank — which is ridiculous.

If the U.S. really wants FATCA to be successful, they should try to incentivize people to join, not punish them.

Another issue that needs resolution. Initially, FATCA required that financial institutions share private account information with the U.S. government. Obviously, this method of attaining information would infringe upon national secrecy laws.

There has been recent discussion of being able to get around the secrecy problem by having financial institutions share data with their own governments, which would then share with Washington.

This needs to happen. The European Commission welcomed the government-to-government approach, saying it would greatly reduce "the administrative burden, compliance costs and legal difficulties."

FATCA has the potential to be a great law and generate tens of billions of dollars in untapped revenue.

However, in order for FATCA to be effective, it needs to be designed in a business-friendly manner and to include all major financial players.

Make no mistake, there are still many people out of work and hurting, but there does seem to be cause for optimism.

... the federal government loses both individual and corporate tax revenue ... estimated to be around \$100 billion per year.

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Experts offer insight on Valentine's Day

By PAIGE SKINNER
STAFF WRITER

Love is in the air during this time of year, but what do the common Valentine's symbols and rituals mean?

Flowers are a common gift on Valentine's Day, but roses are without a doubt the most popular flower to give a special someone on this particular holiday.

Cynthia McKenney, professor of ornamental horticulture, said different colored flowers have different meanings.

"Primarily, the red roses are a symbol of love," she said. "If you give yellow flowers, that's considered to be friendship. Pink is like what you would give a young girl. White is for purity. So, you can give a little bit more of your statement by your selection of the color that you choose to use for your flowers."

Chocolate also is a common present given as a valentine, along with roses.

"There's a lot of identification with romance and chocolates," McKenney said.

Floral shops tend to see a spike in sales during Valentine's Day, often causing the shops to hire more help, McKenney said.

Communication between couples also is something that spikes during the holiday.

Patrick Hughes, associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies, said Valentine's Day is used as a form of relationship maintenance in romantic couples.

"Well, I think Valentine's Day, as a ritual for romantic couples, can be considered a form of relationship maintenance. And by that, I mean it's a ritual that is used to think on and communicate about those things each person enjoys about the relationship and takes from the relationship."

Hughes said for some, Valentine's Day is a chance for couples to reconnect.

"Valentine's Day is an opportunity to reaffirm the attraction that led to the long-term personal relationship," he said. "I'm speaking maybe of marriage, but Valentine's Day may also be a ritual for providing self disclosure as a vehicle for relationship development. So, Valentine's Day may be useful for newly interested partners with each other, but it also may serve long-term couples."

Couples shouldn't rely on public holidays like Valentine's Day because communication should always be in the relationship, Hughes said. If couples communicate on a day-to-day

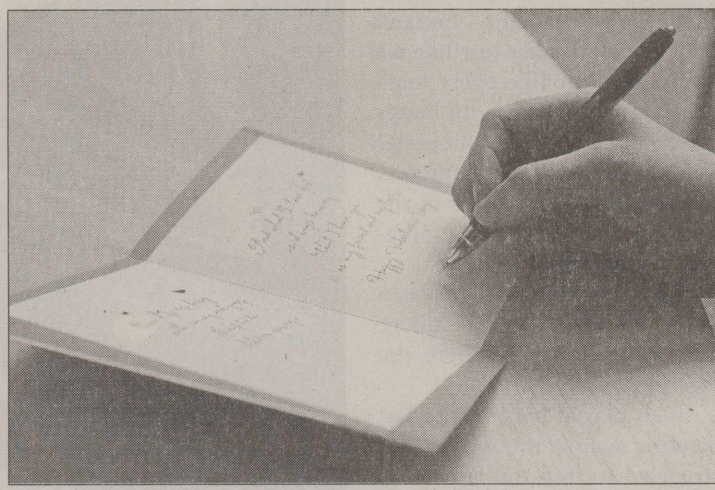


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador
ACCORDING TO HALLMARK.COM, more than 144 million cards are sent on Valentine's Day, which is the second highest holiday of cards sent behind Christmas.

basis, they should not see any difference on Valentine's Day.

"I think for couples who do everyday relationship maintenance work, (they) would not see any difference between the communication that happens on Valentine's Day from any other day," he said. "However, couples who rely more on public rituals to do the relationship maintenance work for them, may see a drop-off or may see a differentiation with the talk that takes places on days like Valentine's Day compared to everyday communication."

He said there isn't one specific activity couples do on Val-

entine's Day, but happy couples tend to create their own rituals.

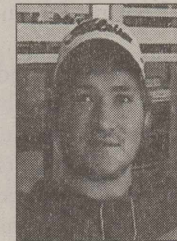
"I think Valentine's Day can be considered a ritual, a relationship maintenance ritual and what we know is that happy couples, or satisfied couples, can be identified any number of ways," Hughes said. "One way we can identify them is they develop their own rituals to their relationship maintenance work. What makes them happy is that they figured out their own ways to develop and work on their own relationship, whether it's Valentine's Day or any other day."

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VALENTINE'S DAY PLANS

"I reckon (my wife and I) will go out to dinner, your stereotypical kind of normal thing."

Blake Garrett - petroleum engineering major from Abilene



"I have no plans. I am currently single, so I'm not planning on spending any money."

Hunter Haralson - senior chemical engineering major from Seminole

"

I'm going to go out to dinner with my boyfriend, and hopefully, it's somewhere nice."

Hannah Bryant - sophomore restaurant, hotel and institutional management major from Keller



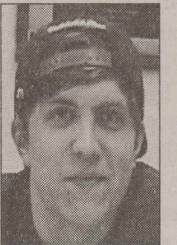
"Sitting at home watching the History Channel with my girlfriend. But, I told her I would take her out to dinner later in the week, so that's how it's justified."

Dustin Lecroy - senior mechanical engineering major from Forney

"

My roommate and I are going out to eat."

Laura Tocker - sophomore restaurant, hotel and institutional management major from Austin



"My plans for Valentine's Day are to go to class. Later on, I'm going to be having a Skype date with one of my friends, who is my valentine this year."

Tyler Cashiola - junior communications studies major from Houston

Compiled by Dylan Nikolettopoulos/The Daily Toreador

NY Fashion Week a high-low mix like never before

NEW YORK (AP) — Oscar de la Renta, say hello to Kohl's and QVC. Carolina Herrera, wave to Bebe and Levi's and J.Crew if you've got a second during New York Fashion Week.

Like never before, mall brands and chain stores are strutting their affordable stuff alongside far pricier glitz and sought-after hipster swank, throwing parties and setting up their own catwalks and red carpets during the frenetic, twice-yearly round of fashion shows.

That, analysts and insiders said, is due to the fashion elite's tighter embrace of top bloggers, live video streaming by a growing number of designers and the explosion of social media allowing anyone with a camera phone to tweet from the once-insular world. "Those traditional walls have

really come down," said Mike George, who heads QVC and has been hosting unofficial New York Fashion Week events for about four years. "We saw that kind of trend in its early stages, this sort of democratization of fashion."

Trend forecaster WGSN considers Levi's a sound case study as the company enters the Fashion Week fray for the first time Wednesday, presenting bits of its global line as it pushes deeper into international markets.

"Many people think of Levi's when you say 'jeans.' But they're about more than a cool pair of 501s. In recent years, their design studio has been a major innovator in denim styling and this is a chance to show that off to a global audience," said Sandra Halliday, a fashion analyst for WGSN. Len Peltier, Levi's global vice

president for creative design, agreed that the New York Fashion Week moment was right.

"We're not trying to be a high fashion brand," he said, "but the lines have blurred between streetwear and fashion, and that's an exciting proposition."

The same could be said for J.Crew as it continues to roll out internationally and move from its preppy base to one that's more about trend and fashion "without losing sight of its heritage," Halliday said.

This is the company's second Fashion Week visit. "It's undeniably beneficial to be associated with other high-end aspirational brands at New York Fashion Week," Halliday said.

With 90 shows at the Lincoln Center tents, dozens more around the city and a swirl of parties in

less than two weeks, Fashion Week is also something else that appeals to companies offering clothes for the rest of us: a huge opportunity to corral world media.

Humble Boy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Joshua Peterson, a freshman theatre arts major from the Lubbock area, plays Jim, the friendly gardener who mentors Felix throughout the play.

"Probably my favorite part has been working with the cast and the director," Peterson said, "because the director is focused, but he allows you to bring what you have to the stage, and if it's not going to work he'll correct it or mold it."

Although the play doubled as Jacobs's thesis project, Peterson said it didn't make the cast or crew any more anxious.

"He never brought any kind of stress from whatever he may have been feeling to the stage," Peterson said. "It came naturally — you just wanted to please him because he was so easy to work for."

Madison Weinhofer, a freshman theatre and anthropology major from Houston, plays Flora, Felix's mother. She described her character as self-centered, and as the root of much of the dysfunction revealed throughout the show.

Weinhofer said during rehearsal, which began soon after the semester started, the cast was not allowed to speak in an American accent.

"It made it easier in case we dropped a line," Weinhofer said, in a British accent. "Instead of being like, 'Oh, shit. I forgot my line, what was that?' in an American accent, we were just like, 'I'm making something up in British.'"

Weinhofer echoed Peterson's praise of Jacobs.

"Some of the other professors," she said, "when they're directing, you're like, 'I'm going to do something wrong and it's going to be really bad.' But, he

was a lot more easy going, and because it was his little baby — it was his first show when he started acting again and it's his last show leaving — it made it really special and very easy."

Jacobs said the temperament and patience of the cast and crew made preparing for the play and his thesis a pleasant experience.

"I was really blessed with a hard-working, dedicated cast who had fun

every night, who came prepared wanting to work and had fun and looked for the humor in things, and I think that we've put together something in the short time we had that people can really appreciate and be entertained by," Jacobs said.

The play will continue through Saturday at 8 p.m. and again Sunday at 2 p.m.

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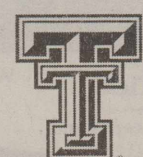
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SPORTS

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TUESDAY, FEB. 14, 2012

Tech looks to build off first conference win, hosts A&M

By CHOIS WOODMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech men's basketball team will host Texas A&M for the Aggies' final time as a Big 12 Conference opponent tonight at United Spirit Arena.

The rivalry has been exciting between the Red Raiders and the Aggies, but Tech and the Big 12 will be great without A&M down the road, Tech coach Billy Gillispie said.

"You hate to see that happen, but they chose to do that," he said. "The Big 12 is going to thrive, and it's going to get better and better and better. As good as it has been, it's going to be better. It's going to be, I think, their loss instead of our loss. It's been a rivalry that's been going on a long time; you hate to see those things end."

Tech is coming off its first conference win of the season and also snapped an 11-game losing streak with a win against Oklahoma on Saturday.

Sunday's practice was the same as it has been all season, Gillispie said.

"Not really any different, and I think that's a testament to how hard they've been working," he said. "It says a lot about them. Practice wasn't any different yesterday than it was before, and we definitely want to win more games — that's what they're shooting for and striving for."

Tech took a different mindset into the game against the Sooners, which helped the Red Raiders pick up their elusive first win in conference, Gillispie said.

"I think with the Oklahoma game, the approach was a little bit different because we always harp on them," he said. "You have to earn something; no one's going to give you anything. You have to take something from them; so I think we really made a big step forward in that respect."

The Red Raiders will try to take momentum from the win into Tuesday night's matchup,

Gillispie said.

"We played a very complete game the other night," he said. "We made mistakes just like we always do, just like every team does, but we can do a lot better screening. We can do a lot better as far as the pace of the offense. It was still too slow as far as the pace goes, but we did a lot of really, really good things."

The last meeting between Tech and A&M was in College Station on Jan. 14, where the Aggies won 67-54.

Tech played hard in the last meeting against the Aggies, but struggled to find the bottom of the net, Gillispie said. He also said the Red Raiders have to improve from the last game in order to win its next.

"We have to do everything better," he said. "We've got to score, we've got to screen better, we've got to move better, we have to take care of the basketball and we've got to rebound better."

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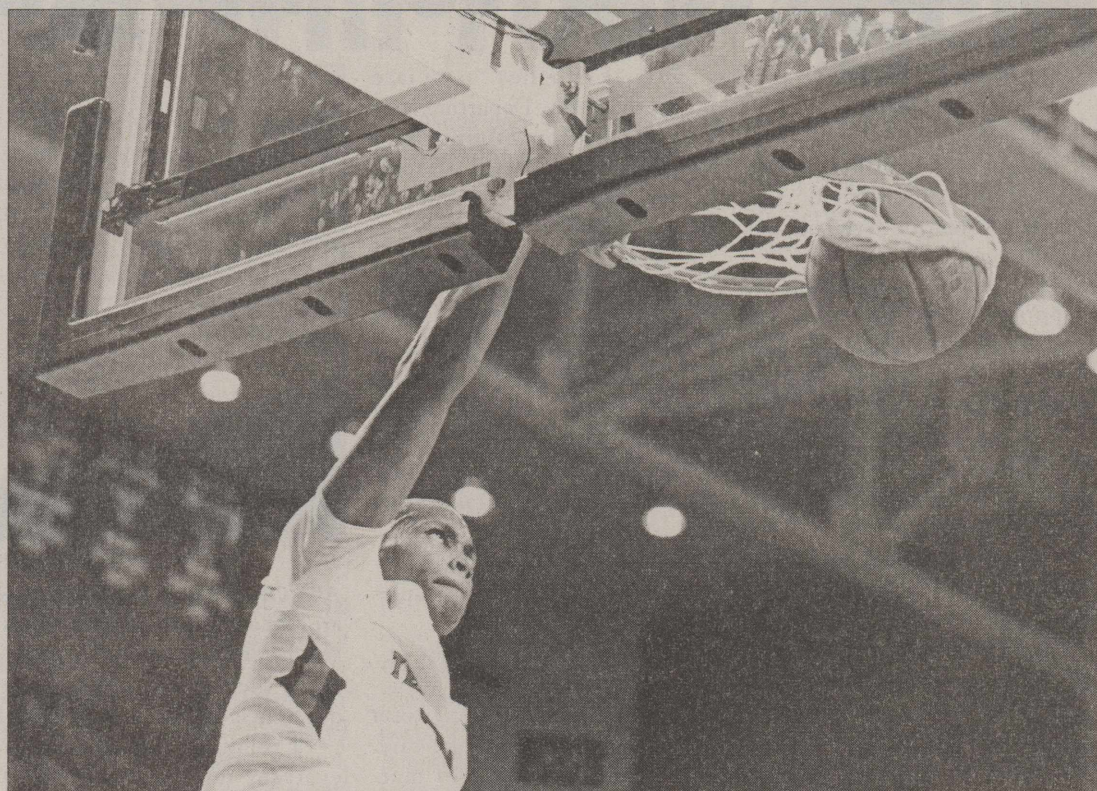


PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador
JAYE CROCKETT DUNKS the ball during a 65-47 win against the Oklahoma Sooners in United Spirit Arena on Saturday. Crockett tied for a team-high six rebounds during the game and also contributed four points to help the Red Raiders secure their first win in Big 12 Conference play this season.

Former Flyer OK with sharing record

DETROIT (AP) — Bill Barber was enjoying sunshine on a spectacular beach in Siesta Key, Fla., the day after the Detroit Red Wings joined his Philadelphia Flyers — and Boston Bruins — in the NHL record book.

The former Flyers star wasn't about to let having company in league lore spoil his stroll on Gulf of Mexico coast.

In fact, Barber is happy that Detroit has won 20 straight home games to equal the league's single-season mark Boston set during the 1929-30 season and he helped Philadelphia match in 1976.

"I think any time an accomplishment is made by a team or from a personal standpoint, it's great for the league," Barber said Monday, a day after Detroit defeated the Flyers 4-3 to tie the record. "I think it's good for hockey because a team that plays the right way has people talking about the game."

The NHL-leading Red Wings will have the record alone if they beat the Dallas Stars on Tuesday night at Joe Louis Arena.

"It would mean a lot, but to be honest we haven't really paid that much attention to it," captain Nicklas Lidstrom said. "We've just been going about our everyday business."

Detroit coach Mike Babcock has downplayed what the streak means to him and his players, insisting he hasn't even addressed the record once with them. He has, however, been effusive in his praise about the current collection of Red Wings.

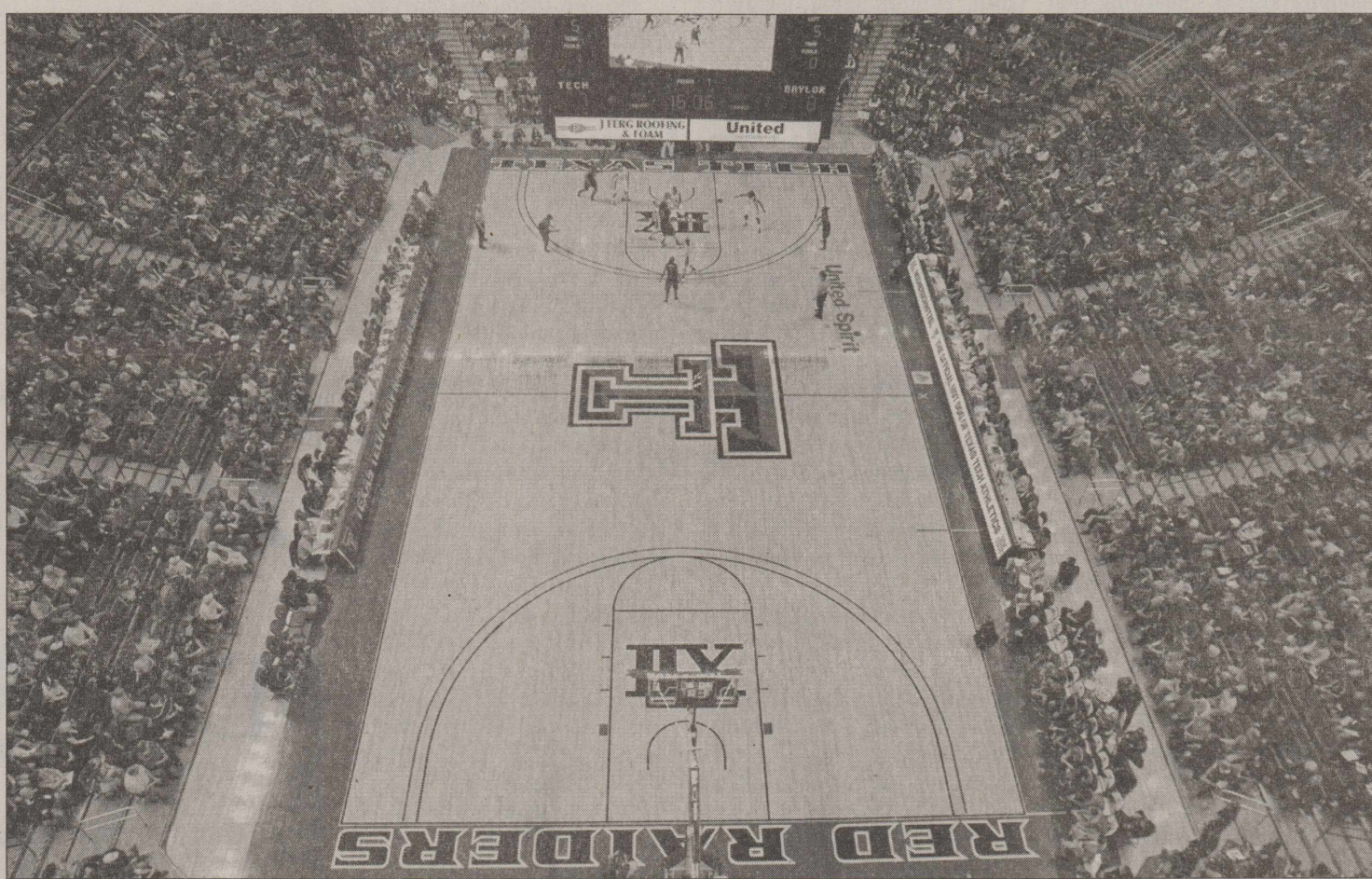
"This has been one of the most consistent teams I've ever coached as far as just bringing an effort each and every day," said Babcock, who helped the franchise hoist its 11th Stanley Cup in 2008.

Lidstrom said he couldn't recall the last time Detroit lost at home.

That setback was so long ago it's easy to forget: Calgary beat the Red Wings 4-1 on Nov. 3 to cap Detroit's six-game losing streak.

Since then, Detroit has not only won 20 straight, four have been by five goals or more.

United Spirit Arena selected to host two rounds of NCAA Women's Tournament



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH WILL host the first and second rounds of the 2013 NCAA Women's Tournament in United Spirit Arena.

The NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee announced Monday that Texas Tech is one of 16 schools to host the 2013 NCAA Women's Tournament's first and second rounds.

Hosting the tournament helps with Tech's exposure to the rest of the basketball world, Tech coach Kristy Curry said.

"It's a great honor," she said. "I appreciate our administration putting a bid out, showing their commitment. We're very honored to be a part of a really special group."

Tech will be one of three Texas schools to host the tournament. Baylor and Texas A&M

will also use their arenas to host opening rounds of the 2013 tournament.

Tech has an opportunity to shine next year when they host the tournament, Tech junior Chynna Brown said.

"It will be a great opportunity to host it here," she said. "Like (Jordan Barncastle) said, there'll be a good crowd. I just feel like hopefully we'll be in it, you know, us hosting it, and I just look forward to it."

Tech has hosted the first and second rounds 10 times in the past, with the latest being in 2009.

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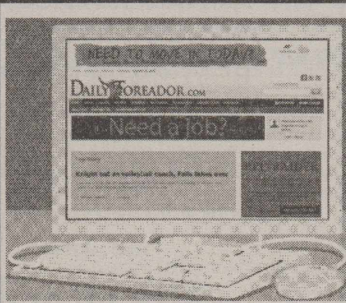
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After fast start, Tech softball drops four straight

By MATT VILLANUEVA
STAFF WRITER

With temperatures ranging from the mid-50s to low 80s, the erratic Tempe, Ariz., heat got the best of Red Raiders this past weekend, as the Red Raiders started off their season by going 1-4 at the Arizona State Kajikawa Classic.

Tech's lone win was during its first game Thursday afternoon against No. 41 San Diego State, 5-4. Tech came back from a 4-2 deficit thanks to the performances of two juniors. One of them being recent outfield transfer Melisa Ryba, who drove in two runs. The other was first baseman Sandy James who blasted two home runs to keep alive the four-year streak of Tech winning its first game of the season.

The Red Raiders' next game against Northwestern on Friday afternoon proved to be a high scoring affair, but a home run to enforce a run rule in the third inning by Northwestern's preseason Player of the Year candidate Adrienne Monka caused Tech to suffer its first loss of the season, losing

14-6. Designated player Adriana Perez recorded two RBIs during the game for Tech, while Ryba had two hits.

True freshman pitcher Cara Custer started and lost her first collegiate game against the Wildcats, and was used quite a bit throughout the tournament. She finished the tournament with a 1-3 record.

Tech head coach Shanon Hays said he opted playing Custer instead of returning starters, such as sophomore Brittany Talley and senior Kelsey Dennis, due to Custer's performance in the preseason and her potential.

"She didn't go deep (in innings)," he said, "so we decided to start her three games and see how far as she could go.

"Custer showed ability — although at times playing inconsistent — and we're just trying to develop her."

After scoring six runs against Northwestern, Tech was outscored 13-2 in its final three games against No. 14 Tennessee, No. 9 Stanford and Cal Poly.

A major reason for lack of

firepower was the elite pitching Tech faced.

Tennessee sophomore pitcher Ellen Renfroe was named Southeastern Conference's Freshman of the Year last season, and proved why by striking out 14 players and keeping Tech to two hits, leading the Volunteers to a 1-0 victory.

Stanford sophomore Teagan Gerhart, sister of current Minnesota Vikings running back Toby Gerhart, was a member of the 2011 First Team All-Pac-10 Conference. She struck out five players and allowed two hits in six innings of work in a 7-1 routing of Tech.

The Red Raiders recorded seven hits in their final game of the tournament as they took on Cal Poly, but were shutout by junior Rebecca Patton, 3-0.

Hays said he plans to work true freshman Chandler Moore and Dennis into the pitching rotation this weekend when Tech will travel to Las Vegas for the Louisville Slugger Desert Classic. He said Custer will continue to play a major role in the Red Raiders plans this season, but acknowledged in order to do so, the team will have



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH PITCHER Kelsey Dennis throws the ball during a game against New Mexico last season at Rocky Johnson Field. Tech came back from the Kajikawa Classic with a 1-4 record. The Red Raiders will look to bounce back against Ohio State on Friday, as they participate in the Louisville Slugger Desert Classic in Las Vegas.

to show the same offensive prowess that broke records last season. "Every game we played (this past weekend) was a winnable

game," he said. "We have to continue to work on pitching. We do that by getting ahead in ball games."

Tech will open its tournament play taking on Ohio State at 1:15 on Friday.
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No. 9 Baylor defeats Iowa State 79-64 at home

WACO (AP) — Perry Jones III and Baylor never lost confidence, even while losing consecutive games for the second time in a month.

They got back on track in a hurry.

Jones rediscovered his shooting touch with 18 points and the ninth-ranked Bears rebounded from two big losses with a 79-64 victory over Iowa State on Monday night, two days after losing at Missouri by the same margin.

"The coaching staff and my teammates kept me confident even though my shot didn't fall the past week or so," Jones said. "They still kept me shooting the ball. It'll go in. It's just not going in right now. At first, I was sort of down because I felt like I wasn't making nothing and hurting my team, but they kept me in the groove."

Jones already had 10 points by halftime, one more than he had combined last week when Baylor (22-4, 9-4 Big 12) lost to No. 4 Kansas and No. 3 Missouri in consecutive games for the second time this season.

The Bears are undefeated against the rest of the Big 12 and everybody else they have played, and clearly proven themselves as the league's third-best team for now. Iowa State (18-8, 8-5) had won four of its previous five games to tie them for third place.

"We definitely needed to bounce back," freshman Quincy Miller said. "Our confidence was still up, but those were very hard blows."

Miller, who matched Jones with 8-of-13 shooting, added 16 points for the Bears. Anthony Jones had 12 points and Quincy Acy 11.

Jones, the preseason Big 12

player of the year, was a combined 3 for 20 in the two games last week.

In Baylor's previous home game last Wednesday, Jones dunked an alley-oop pass to start the game but missed his next seven shots while scoring only five points in the 68-54 loss. Jones was only 2-of-12 shooting

Saturday in a 72-57 loss at Missouri.

Melvin Ejim had 17 points to lead the Cyclones. Royce White added 14 points with seven turnovers after scoring a career-high 25 points in a 69-46 win over Texas A&M.

"We were great, had probably our best effort against A&M on Saturday,

and that's got to be the constant," Iowa State coach Fed Hoiberg said. "You have to defend every night to give yourself a chance to win. I don't get how we defended as well as we did on Saturday and turn and come back tonight and have the type of effort that we did."

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Luke Adams: Not the typical Division I basketball player

By CHOIS WOODMAN
STAFF WRITER

Luke Adams is a 5-foot-9-inch, 150-pound freshman — and he is playing basketball in one of the toughest conferences in the nation.

Adams was born deaf and has a cochlear implant and hearing aides, but he does not let his impairment slow him down on or off the court.

Being a walk-on at Texas Tech, Adams said he chose to be a Red Raider instead of attending other schools such as North Texas, UT-Arlington and several junior colleges.

"I like the challenge," he said. "It was close to home, you know, that's a big thing. My family lives in Lubbock and everything. So going to Tech would just be like a dream come true."

Luke's father, Mark Adams, is the head coach at Howard Community College.

He said his dad is a major influence in his life.

"Oh he's huge," Luke Adams said. "Without him I wouldn't be even close to where I am today."

Despite his hearing disability, Luke Adams said, he tried to maintain a normal lifestyle.

"When I grew up, I never saw myself as different," he said. "I never felt really sorry for myself either."

Luke's success on the basketball court is inspirational and also a valuable asset to the Red Raider team, Tech coach Billy Gillispie said.

"I know he's a good story," Gillispie said, "but he's a very, very good team member and a very good basketball player. He was dealt a tough blow, but he's never let that affect him. It's not made any effect on anything we do on the court. And he's been just like the rest of the guys; what he gets is what he earns, and he's earned a lot."

Luke Adams' passion for the game is the reason he is playing at the level he is at today, the coach said.

"He's the toughest guy on our team," Gillispie said. "You know, they say dynamite comes in small packages, and he's definitely a testament to that saying."

Though Luke Adams could have played for his father on scholarship, he chose to come as a walk-on at Tech and he said his Christian faith played a big role in his decision.

"I prayed about it and I just thought Texas Tech was the right place to be," Luke Adams said.

Luke said he loves playing in the Big 12 Conference because of the high level of competition.

"It's pretty crazy," he said. "It's an experience to play

against so many great players. A lot of guys are going to be in the (National Basketball) League someday, so it's always good to get to match up and take them on as a challenge."

When Luke Adams is playing basketball, he said he is constantly looking around because he cannot hear as well as everyone else on the court.

"Being on the court, I use my eyes more than most people do," he said. "I try to look around any time there is a dead ball or anything — I'm always looking at Coach Gillispie. I've just got to use my eyes to hear."

Luke Adams knows he is Tech's best shooter and his confidence in himself helps him on the court, Tech post Robert Lewandowski said.

"He's got great self-talk," Lewandowski said. "Self-talk is a term that he uses just to kind of talk to himself and keep himself positive and he knows that if one shot doesn't go in, then the next one is going to go in, and if that one doesn't go in, then the next one. Like I said, he's the best shooter and he knows it on the team. He's got great confidence."

Lewandowski, the lone senior on the team, said Luke Adams' passion for the game and his ability are assets for the Red Raiders.

"Luke has helped us in a lot of games this year," he said.

"Just kind of getting us going, or just making baskets, or on the defensive end. He's got one of the biggest hearts on the team, so in that aspect he brings a lot of passion and a lot of intensity to practice and in games."

Luke Adams said he wants to follow in his father's footsteps and be a coach someday. He said he has always admired Gillispie's coaching style and success in the past.

"What better thing to do to play for him?" he said. "And I knew he also gives his walk-ons chances, so I think God showed me that this was the place I needed to go."

The Red Raiders will be one of the top teams in the nation in a few years, Luke Adams said. He believes in the program Gillispie has instilled and trusts in his teammates.

When the team is successful and winning championships, Luke Adams will be one of the last guys on the ladder cutting down the nets, Gillispie said.

"As we move forward," Gillispie said, "he's the kind of guy that can be a foundation stone for your program because he's so important in the things that I really value, the most of which is teamwork, which is hard work. I mean he comes every single day with a smile; he lays it on the line every single day."

►cwoodman@dailytoreador.com



PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador
LUKE ADAMS SEARCHES for someone to pass the ball to during the 65-47 win against the Sooners at United Spirit Arena on Saturday.



PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador
LUKE ADAMS DRIVES to the basket during the 65-47 win against Oklahoma at United Spirit Arena on Saturday.

Mountain West, Conference USA to form new league in 2013

DALLAS (AP) — Members of Conference USA and current and future members of the Mountain West are on their way to forming a new league that will begin in 2013.

The 16 schools announced the plans Monday, taking a bigger-is-better approach that will create a conference with schools in five time zones.

"This is an exciting devel-

opment that will stabilize the current conferences and create the first truly national conference with members in five time zones and television viewership from coast to coast," UNLV President Neal Smatresk said in statement. "We are moving our plans forward rapidly and expect to complete our conversations in the near future. Look for further announcements soon

as we work together on this exciting new venture."

The new conference likely will have 18-24 schools, split into divisions, and not only have a football championship game but also semifinals. It also will hold a conference basketball tournament, the statement said.

School leaders said they plan to complete work on the new

league in six months.

In October, Conference USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky and Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson announced the two leagues were working to merge their football operations starting in 2013.

At the time, both commissioners left open the possibility that the football relationship could grow into something

bigger.

Since then four C-USA members — SMU, Houston, Memphis and Central Florida — have announced they will join the Big East in 2013. Boise State and San Diego State from the Mountain West also announced they would be joining the Big East for football and switching their other sports to new conferences. The Moun-

tain West also lost TCU to the Big 12.

The new plan is for Conference USA and the Mountain West to join forces and start over, possibly with new television deals. Both conferences currently are in the middle of contracts with CBS that run through 2016. CBS has an option to extend the deal with the Mountain West for four years.

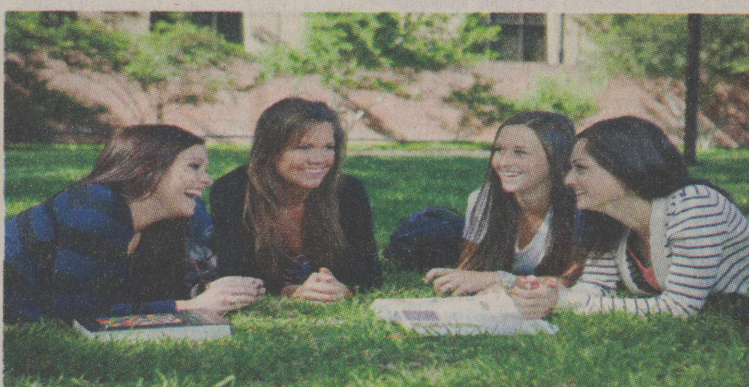
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