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Texas Tech student arrested, charged with murder

Oguntope began as person of interest in fatal shooting

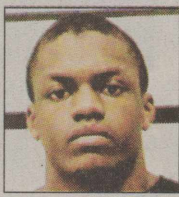
By **CAITLAN OSBORN**
NEWS EDITOR

Texas Tech student Sampson Blake Oguntope, 21, is being charged with murder in regard to a fatal Slaton shooting which left one woman dead and another injured.

He is currently in police custody at the Lubbock County Detention Center and his bail was raised to at least \$5 million — formerly \$500,000.

Steven Wheeler, chief of the Slaton Police Department, said originally Oguntope, a Houston

native, was a person of interest regarding the homicide and he was detained at the Detention Center on charges of theft.



OGUNTOPE

Slaton police found Faye Gray, 89, and her female caretaker, 21, had both sustained gunshot wounds. Gray was pronounced dead at the

scene while the younger woman was transported to University Medical Center for treatment. Her condition is described as stable.

Lubbock police asked that the caretaker's name not be revealed because of the sensitivity of the case.

Wheeler said the police are not releasing any additional information regarding charges against Oguntope at this time.

Members of the Lubbock County Sheriff's office were dispatched

to 1480 W. Crosby St. in Slaton to assist the Slaton Police Department with a homicide investigation, according to a news release by the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office.

Wheeler said at 8:12 a.m. authorities received a complaint that a black male had made contact with a Slaton resident and was asking personal questions, including what times the resident went to work and would return home. Wheeler said the resident said Oguntope was

asking if a woman around 21 years old lived at the home.

Authorities later received information that Oguntope's white Honda was found at the Knights Inn on Highway 84 near Slaton.

When police confronted Oguntope at the inn, he told them he was looking for a woman he had been talking to and went to the wrong address.

MURDER continued on Page 3 >>>

Randy Neugebauer discusses politics with students

Describes educational, financial problems with current generation

By **EMILY REYES**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech students gathered in the Student Union Building on Wednesday afternoon to hear the life journey of Randy Neugebauer, from businessman to congressman.

Neugebauer, a Lubbock native, Tech alumnus and a member of the House of Representatives, shared his story of going from a local business owner to a congressman. The discussion not only focused on the success of Neugebauer, but he also pushed the importance of political knowledge among students.

"When I was in school, I didn't run for student council," he said. "I didn't run for student offices. I just wanted to get my degree and get a job and make money. Being a member of Con-

gress was the furthest thing from my mind."

Neugebauer said he encouraged students to share their opinions on the U.S. government or ask questions about his personal story of becoming a congressman.

Neugebauer said he wanted to promote political education to Tech students. He said young adults should know more about the government and its political candidates for future's sake.

"In many cases, young people are not as engaged in this process as they should be," he said.

The discussion of politics and the financial aspect of the U.S. government was a prevalent topic of the afternoon. Tech students had the opportunity to ask any question in regard to politics.

NEUGEBAUER cont. on Page 2 >>>

Projector Power

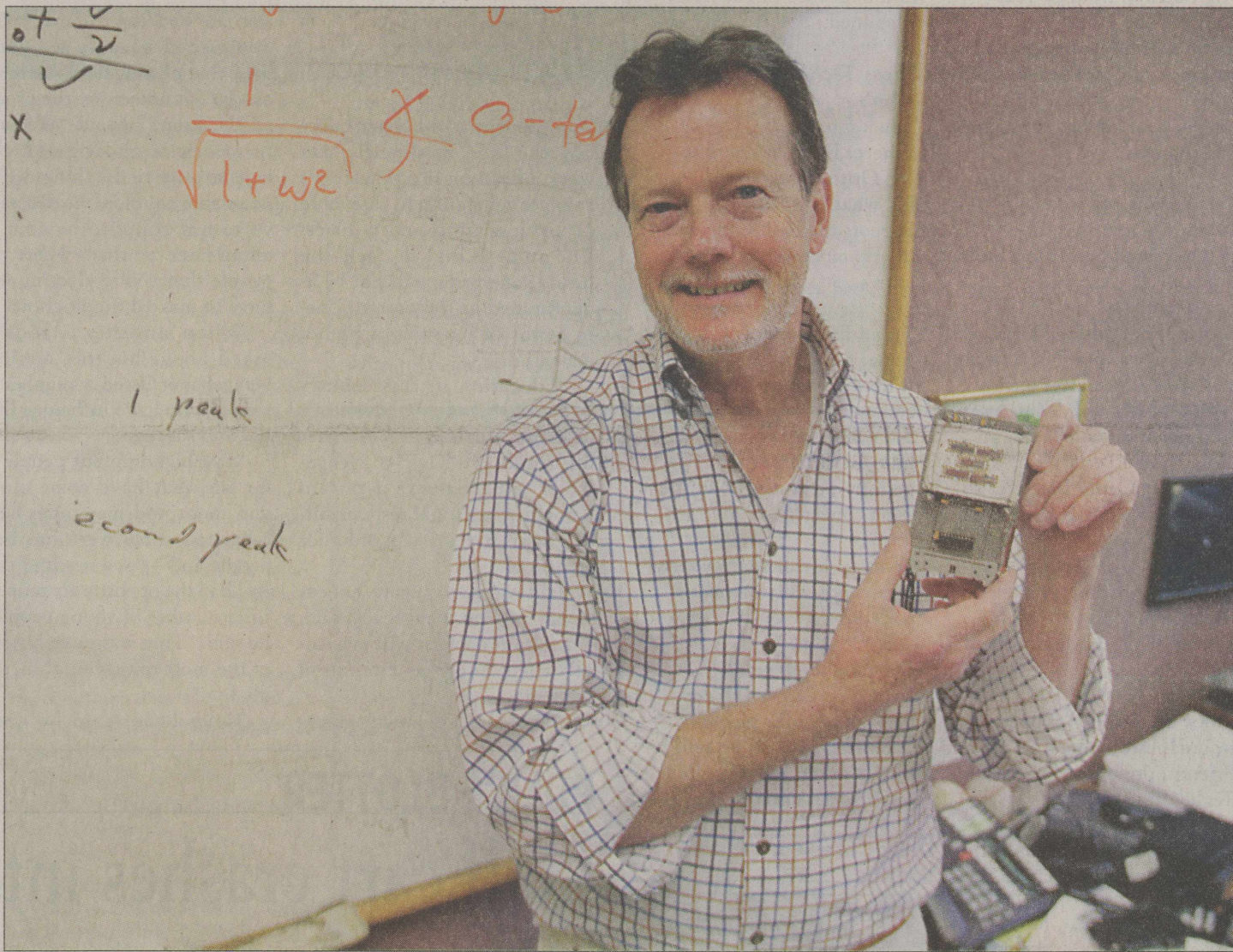


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador

RICHARD GALE, ASSOCIATE chair and professor of graduate studies in electrical and computer engineering, was on the team that developed the Digital Light Processing technology while working at Texas Instruments. Gale still has the original prototype from 1988.

Tech professor shares his unique experience with students

By **HALLIE DAVIS**
STAFF WRITER

They are in nearly every classroom on campus and students spend a lot of time looking at what they do. No, it is not the professors, it is the projectors.

"Most people, when they look at a projection display, they don't understand exactly what they are seeing," said Richard Gale, professor and associate chair of graduate studies in electrical and computer engineering.

Gale, on the other hand, knows exactly what is going on. While working at Texas Instruments, he was part of the team that developed Digital Light

Processing — the technology that makes many projectors work.

TI began work on the technology in 1979 and Gale joined the team in 1985. The project was funded by various grants and was helped by the defense administration, which was interested in the applications in data manipulation and management. Eventually, TI cut ties with the government and reallocated money into consumer technologies.

"They funded three or four of those kinds of technologies and DLP is the one that made it," Gale said.

The end goal was to create a high definition display chip, he said, and the first prototypes

came out in the early 90s.

When the first projector using DLP was released, it weighed about 30 pounds, Gale said. Now, the technology can fit in a pico projector the size of a deck of cards.

The applications of DLP's work are widespread. DLP is used for everything from medical imaging, to TVs, to his classroom — where he not only uses DLP for PowerPoints, but also demonstrate to his students how far they can go with electrical engineering.

"It's very handy to have this example," he said.

In the '80s, Gale said, the team had no idea what they were

working on would make it as far as it did.

Tim Dallas, an associate professor in electrical and computer engineering, said their micro mirror device is now in the top three commercial applications of Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems.

DLP works as a system of tiny mirrors and, Gale said, it is a perfect example of nanotechnology used in everyday life. The hinges that move the mirrors are made of aluminum, but are so small that about 10,000 of them can fit on one of the digital mirror devices used to power DLP.

PROJECTOR cont. on Page 5 >>>

Suicide prevention sessions offered to students by School of Law

By **CAROLYN HECK**
STAFF WRITER

Every 17 minutes someone in the United States commits suicide.

Suicide is also the second leading cause of death for college students.

These are just a couple of facts provided by the Texas Tech Student Counseling Center, which provides free training to help college students deal with suicide.

An example of this training was Friday, when professionals came to teach suicide prevention skills and how to persuade someone to get help as part of an event hosted by the School of Law.

Marie Moerkbak, a counselor at the Student Wellness Center, directed the class.

"We talk about the rates of suicide

and the importance of knowing how to prevent suicide," she said, "and then we talk about different elements of QPR training, which is how to ask the question about suicide, how to ask questions to persuade someone to get help and how to make a referral."

Kay Fletcher, assistant dean of the law school, said she arranged the meeting and it was meant to help students and staff learn preventative measures to take for someone in distress.

"And it's just to provide guidance to anybody in the law school — faculty, staff or students can come — just on, you know, taking the appropriate steps when someone is exhibiting some signs of depression, frustration and anxiety," she said.

PREVENTION cont. on Page 3 >>>

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WEATHER

Today	Sunny	Friday	Sunny
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Gleinser: 'Obamacare' heads to Supreme Court
OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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Community Calendar

TODAY

Laboratory Safety Seminars for TTU Students, Faculty and Staff

Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Where: College of Education, Room 001
So, what is it?
James Kaufman will discuss "Taking Ownership of Your Laboratory," using safety situations found in real laboratories.

Free Movie Matinee: "Immortals"

Time: 3 p.m.
Where: Student Union Building, Escondido Theatre
So, what is it?
Enjoy a presentation of the feature film "Immortals" thanks to Tech Activities Board.

Training Session: How to Create a Conference Poster

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Where: Student Union Building, Senate Room
So, what is it?

Learn how to design, create and present a research conference poster.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Where: McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center
So, what is it?
OLLI presents "The Emphasis Give to Human Evolution in High School Biology Textbooks in the 20th Century," led by Gerald Skoog. The class will look at how the emphasis of human evolution in U.S. high school biology textbooks has changed.

Trish Downing

Time: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Where: Student Union Building
So, what is it?
Professional athlete Trish Downing was paralyzed from the waist down after a car accident, but didn't let it stop her from competing in more than 15 triathlons and launching Camp Discover to help other women with similar struggles.

Mentor Tech Poetry Jam

Time: 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Where: Frazier Alumni Pavilion
So, what is it?
Enjoy an evening of poetry from Houston poets, SeTen and Friends, presented by Mentor Tech.

FRIDAY

French High School Day
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: International Cultural Center, Hall of Nations
So, what is it?
The Texas Tech International Cultural Center will host students in the Lubbock Independent School District for the day to learn about the French program at Tech.

Buesseler Lectureship Featuring Robert Montemayor: "Media, Mentors, and the Truth"

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center
So, what is it?
Robert Montemayor, the director of Rutgers Latino Information Network, 1984 Pulitzer Prize winner and a Texas Tech alumnus, will be the featured speaker at the Buessler Lectureship.

Feminist Forum: Feed Your Body and Soul

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
Where: Teaching, Learning and Professional Development Center, Room 153
So, what is it?
Enjoy this forum to further discuss the past, present and future of feminism, and how to create an environment where the cultural construction of gender can be freely examined.

Texas Tech Baseball vs. St. John's

Time: 5 p.m.
Where: Dan Law Field at Rip Griffin Park
So, what is it?
Support the Red Raiders as they compete against St. John's.

Sound Encounters

Time: 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Where: Hemmle Recital Hall
So, what is it?
Enjoy a variety of Texas Tech performing groups all in the same concert.

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.

MUSCLE MEMORY

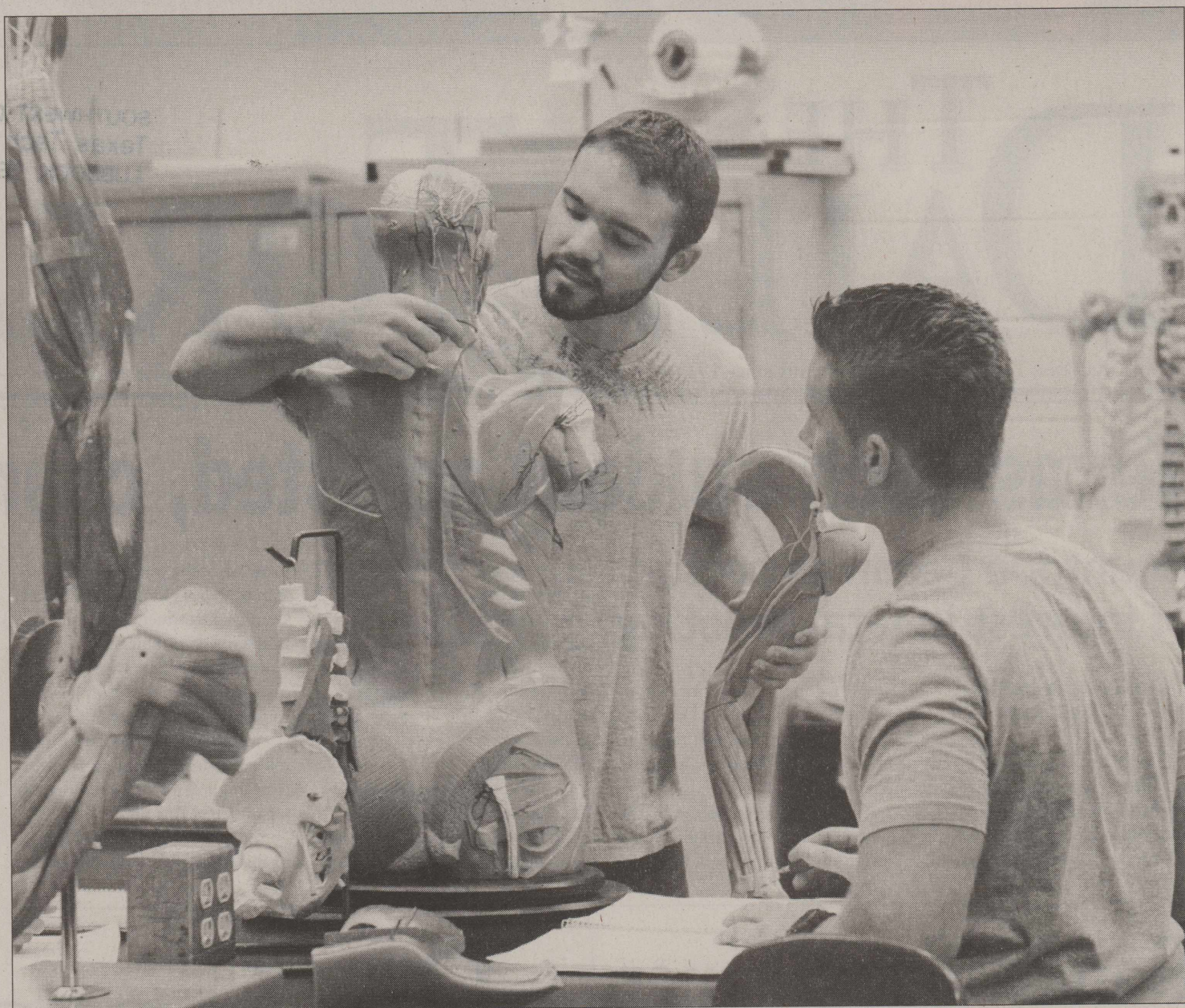


PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

STEPHEN ROUSSOS, A graduate student and teaching assistant of zoology from Athens, Greece, points out different muscle groups on a model to students during an anatomy lab Wednesday in the Biology building. In the lab, students learned how to identify and label different muscles and muscle groups in the upper limbs.

Neugebauer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A student asked Neugebauer how the U.S., as a society, can work on engaging America's younger generation to care more about education and politics. The student said he feels the future generation will not be as determined as the current one, in terms of pursuing a higher education.

"Education in this country is an opportunity and I want as many people that want that opportunity to have it," Neugebauer said. "There's a certain amount of personal responsibility that is necessary in order for that to happen."

In regards to future educational funding, Neugebauer said, the nation's deficit will eventually affect future generations of students.

"The benefits about educa-

tion are heading towards being diminished because we don't have that playing field where we can go out and enjoy the proofs of education," he said. "We have to prioritize and tighten our belts so some of the things we've been able to afford in the past, we're not going to be able to afford later. So that's where the people that you're electing will have to make difficult choices."

When another attendee asked about his role models, Neugebauer listed a number of people who have influenced his life and success.

"I've had different people in my life that have come along and mentored me, some were teachers, some were business people and — as a result of that — I had the opportunity to mentor a number of young people," he said. "That was probably one of the most rewarding things in my life."

Neugebauer said he cares

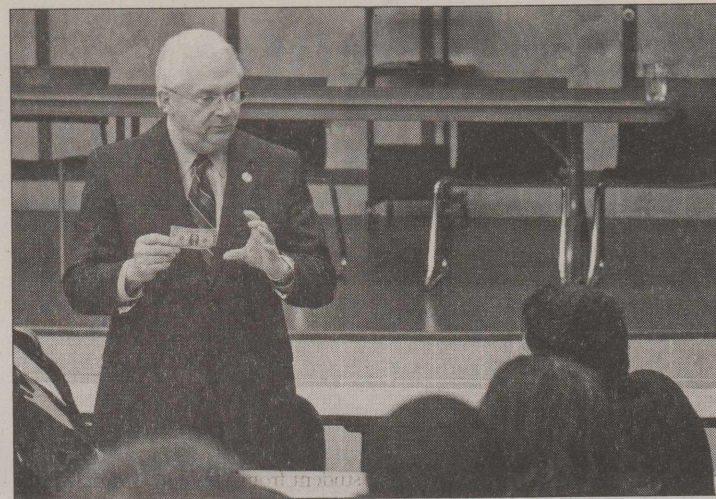


PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

CONGRESSMAN RANDY NEUGEBAUER, the representative for Texas' 19th district in the House of Representatives, holds up a shrunken dollar bill to illustrate a point to students in the Senate Room of the Student Union Building on Wednesday, as part of a Mentor Tech student organization event.

about the educational development of the future and also encourages students to learn and stay in touch with politics. He said students in the future

are bound to see some major changes and it is the younger generation's responsibility to set the future.

►ereyes@dailytoreador.com

POLICE BLOTTER

Tuesday

8:05 a.m. — A Texas Tech officer investigated a traffic accident, with minor injuries, in the intersection of 15th Street and Detroit Avenue. A pedestrian student was struck by a vehicle. The student was transported to the University Medical Center Emergency Room by Emergency Medical Services.

11:08 a.m. — A Tech officer documented a medical emergency at the Human Sciences building. A student was suffering from anxiety

attacks. The student was transported to Covenant Emergency Room by Emergency Medical Services.

10:56 a.m. — A Tech officer investigated theft at the Barnes and Noble bookstore in the Student Union Building. An unsecured mechanical pencil was taken.

11:27 a.m. — A Tech officer documented information in reference to a Texas Tech University golf cart colliding with a vehicle in the R8 parking lot.

5:39 p.m. — A Tech officer in-

vestigated a theft on the 4th floor of the Health Sciences Center. A Coach designer wallet and contents were taken from an unsecured room.

7:14 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated a traffic accident in the R37 parking lot.

9:17 p.m. — A Tech officer documented a medical emergency at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center. A student injured his shoulder while playing racquetball and was transported

to the University Medical Center Emergency Room by Emergency Medical Services.

Wednesday

1:52 a.m. — A Tech officer detained a student in Weymouth Residence Hall. The student was issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of alcohol by a minor and released.

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 Payment option
 - 5 The Arthur Ashe Award for Courage is one
 - 9 Detergent target
 - 13 Peak
 - 14 One-named singer of "Rolling in the Deep"
 - 15 Creepy lake?
 - 16 Joint
 - 19 Burns rubber
 - 20 Sources of inspiration
 - 21 Spy novelist
 - 22 Pres. before RWR
 - 23 Joint
 - 32 Sheepshank, e.g.
 - 33 Cleveland's Quicken Loans

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13											
16											
19											
23	24	25							29	30	31
32											
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38											
41											
47	48	49									
56											
58											
61											

By Rich Mausser

2/23/12

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

- DOWN**
- 1 Cleveland cagers
 - 2 Contribute to, as a crime
 - 3 Sound measure
 - 4 Portable cooker
 - 5 Site of an early exile
 - 6 Space exploration org.
 - 7 It's hatched
 - 8 Ja or da, stateside
 - 9 Take off, as a discount
 - 10 Malleable metal
 - 11 Thieves' group
 - 12 Earl Grey et al.
 - 14 Rice
 - 17 App downloader
 - 18 Colleague of Clarence
 - 22 Dick's partner
 - 23 Internet telephony provider
 - 24 Jawbone of Samson's weapon
 - 25 Type of acid found in veggies
 - 26 Mystic's medium
 - 27 Home to Maine's Black Bears
 - 28 Lowest card in Kladderjass

- MICK TARO RAFTS
- AWAY ABIT ATRIA
- COLORS OF THE WIND
- TOT LAO ALEE
- AWHOLE NEW WORLD
- WOE LBO ALT
- NONO UPC TAPS
- ZIPADEEDOODAH
- YEST LOU SPEW
- OAS OTS ERE
- CHIMCHIMCHEREE
- CAEN IAN LIV
- IFIDIDNTHAVEYOU
- AEGIS TRES RANK
- OSHEA YAMS SKEE
- 29 Essential acid
- 30 Of a higher quality
- 31 Praise
- 36 Played, but not in the field, briefly
- 37 Ice cream truck offering
- 39 1992 Summer Olympics country
- 42 Roosters, at times
- 43 Lyre-playing Muse
- 44 Ladies' court gp.
- 47 Stuck, after "in"
- 48 Major
- 49 Rapper
- 50 Pulitzer-winning WWII journalist
- 51 \$150 Monopoly prop.
- 52 Carry
- 53 Gloomy
- 54 Present opening?
- 55 Asian flatbread
- 57 "The Purloined Letter" monogram

Golf cart crashes into vehicle in parking lot

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

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~Beverly Sills

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Murder

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When confronted about why he was at Knights Inn, Oguntope said he wanted to use the hotel's wireless Internet.

According to a statement released by the Slaton Police Department, "Sampson did not seem to be nervous or act suspicious to the officers (and) Sampson was not wanted for any warrants at the time of this contact."

The Slaton Police Department then received a call at 11:48 a.m. claiming there was a white female bleeding within the 1400 block of West Crosby Street in Slaton.

Wheeler said Lt. Trevor Barnes was the first officer on the scene and advised the police chief to investigate a residence near the end of the 1400 block. Wheeler said he and Slaton detective David Wood arrived at 1480 W. Crosby St. and found an elderly woman dead at the scene, appearing to have sustained a gunshot wound.

Barnes and another officer told Wheeler that the younger victim stated the intruder was a

black male with a white car. "I immediately had officers clear the house to make sure the suspect was not still in this residence," Wheeler said. "I then contacted the Lubbock County Sheriff's Department and Texas Rangers to assist. I had my dispatch put out a state-wide search for the vehicle and possible suspect."

Wheeler said Lubbock County police arrived at the scene shortly after, where they collectively decided to lock down the crime scene and begin searching houses nearby to assure there were no more victims. Wheeler also said they were assisted by the Lubbock County SWAT team and the Department of Public Transportation launched an air unit to aid in the search.

"I want to personally thank Lubbock County Sherriff's Department, DPS Highway Patrol, Texas Rangers and Texas Tech PD in their efforts in assisting my agency," Wheeler said. "We have had so many resources helping solve this crime but more importantly keeping this suspect from injuring more people."

Wheeler said authorities dis-

covered the person of interest lived in Lubbock and was enrolled as a student at Tech. After contacting the Texas Tech Police Department, they found Oguntope's vehicle was entered under Tech property. Tech PD, DPS and the Texas Rangers tried locating him on campus, and the Lubbock SWAT team set surveillance on Oguntope's residence in north Lubbock at 3620 Marshall St.

Oguntope was arrested in Lubbock at his address. The Lubbock County Sheriff's Office said two other individuals — Charles Henry Burgess, 28, and Philip Michael Murphy, 26 — were also arrested for attempting to prevent officers from conducting an investigation at the property.

"As Chief of Police for the City of Slaton I want to ensure our community that the Slaton Police Department works hard every day so that we have a safe community," Wheeler said. "Slaton is a small farm town and our community pulls together like family. This is a tragic event and our prayers go out to the victims and their families."

»cosborn@dailytoreador.com

Inmates start fire inside Mexico prison

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — Inmates set fire to mattresses and trash Tuesday after officials announced that three prisoners would be moved from the prison where 44 gang members were massacred this week to a maximum security jail in western Mexico.

Thick gray smoke rose from inside the Apodaca prison shortly after several federal police officers went in.

Outside, about 50 women related to inmates clashed with police and set fire to a pile of cardboard and wood at a gate. Crying women threw stones at officers when they poured water on the fire from behind the mesh gate, while others tried to climb the fence.

The women told a local television station they were desperate for information about their imprisoned loved ones.

Nuevo Leon state public security spokesman Jorge Domene Zambrano said a federal judge ordered that three inmates be transferred to the Puente Grande federal prison in Guadalajara. He said he couldn't identify the men until they arrived in Puente Grande.

Earlier Tuesday, three inmates were killed in a prison a few miles (kilometers) from the Apodaca prison, where authorities say 44 prisoners who belonged to the Gulf drug cartel were bludgeoned and stabbed to death by inmates from the rival

Zetas cartel.

The latest victims, two men and a woman, had been booked into the Topo Chico prison Monday on suspicion of kidnapping, Domene said. He said the men were stabbed to death in the prison's observation area and the woman in the infirmary.

At the time the three suspects were presented to the media in early February, Domene described them as members of the Gulf cartel.

Sunday's massacre at Apodaca may have been the deadliest prison killing in at least a quarter century in Mexico. The prison's director and 40 guards are being held on suspicion of allowing imprisoned Zetas members to escape before the massacre.

Prevention

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The hour-long training session was given at noon in room 103 of the law school, Fletcher said, and up to 40 people from the college could sign up to attend.

Attendees learned the QPR method of prevention, Moerkbak said, a program created by the national suicide prevention organization, the QPR Institute.

"It's a nation-wide program in suicide prevention," she said, "and it stands for question, persuade, refer. And those are the skills that are taught during the QPR program."

The best way to recognize if someone is suicidal, she said, is to simply ask them.

"You would take them somewhere where you can have privacy to talk to them and you have time to talk to them and ask them, you know, 'Have you been thinking about harming yourself or killing yourself, or are you feeling so bad that you have thoughts about dying?'" she said. "Things like that. And if they say yes, then the next thing you need to do is talk to them about getting some help. And if you're here on campus and it's during the daytime, a great referral is to take that student out to the Counseling Center."

Those who attended the session also learned signs that might indicate when someone is considering suicide, she said, including verbal statements of a desire to kill themselves, the giving away of personal items and the acquiring of tools to commit suicide with, such as pills or a gun.

Fletcher said she believes it is important for law students to learn these skills because of the pressures and stress they may be put under.

"There are numerous extracurricular opportunities for competitions and advocacy training that can take up significant amounts of time. There's a huge emphasis on finals exams for law schools," she said. "Some professors, still, the final exam is the final grade that you receive. So, as it approaches finals time, certainly the anxiety level ratchets up. And it's a competitive environment. When you get out for jobs, some employers place great emphasis on grades, so the pressure begins the day you start law school."

Faculty at the law school can also go to the meeting, Fletcher said, to receive training on how to appropriately react if a student comes to them under duress.

"The law school prides itself on its accessibility to faculty," she said, "and people under extreme stress might

talk to faculty or staff about their situations. And knowing how and when to intervene, we hope, would be beneficial someday.

Chris Kelley, a third year law student from Mesquite, attended the session and said it made him consider things he had never thought of before.

"I think it's a serious subject matter that people like me just don't think about or don't want to think about," he said. "I think it was really useful, and it's something we should think about and acknowledge that people do have thoughts of suicide."

Just reaching out to someone and intervening could save a life, Kelley said.

"I think just going and talking to someone can be a real help," he said. "And you never know how serious things are, but just talking could never hurt anything."

Suicide prevention skills are something every student should learn, Moerkbak said, not only to protect themselves but also fellow students and friends.

"Well it's important for students and staff to know because suicide rates are a lot higher than you think they are," she said. "Up to 15 to 18 percent of college students have thoughts about suicide, and that's about 2,000 students here on campus."

Despite all the resources offered, she said, the Student Counseling Center cannot help students who do

not seek help or are not referred.

"We can't help people who don't come over here. So, we need other people to know what to do when they come across somebody who might be suicidal," she said. "It's kind of like CPR, you know. Anybody can learn to do CPR. You don't have to be a doctor or an EMT or anything like that. You can temporarily keep somebody alive until you can get them to professional help. That's the same with QPR. It's keeping somebody safe until you can get them professional help."

Any college at Tech can request the prevention class, Moerkbak said, as long as there are more than 15 people present.

The Student Counseling Center also offers monthly training sessions open to anyone, she said, which are advertised on TechAnnounce.

The next session at the law school is on March 23 at noon, Fletcher said, and she encourages law students to sign up.

"Really, this class is informational and educational and it's useful for everyone," she said. "We all may have friends or family members who have different things that impact their lives and if anyone is going through some difficulties, perhaps attending this session will help them understand that there is readily available sources for help."

»check@dailytoreador.com

FLYING FRISBEE



PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador
TAYLOR NEIGUT, A sophomore finance major from Clear Lake, jumps to catch a flying disc while practicing ultimate frisbee with Greg Muth, a senior electronic media and communications major from Sugarland, between classes Tuesday in the Engineering Key.

Quran burning incites deadly riots in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Clashes between Afghan troops and protesters angry over the burning of Muslim holy books at a U.S. military base left at least seven people dead and dozens wounded Wednesday as anger spread despite U.S. apologies over what it said was a mistake.

The demonstrations across four eastern provinces illustrated the intensity of Afghans' anger at what they saw as foreign forces

flouting their laws and insulting their culture.

The violence was also a reminder of how easily Afghan-U.S. relations can deteriorate as the two countries work to forge a long-term partnership ahead of the withdrawal of foreign forces in 2014.

The unrest started Tuesday when Afghan workers at the main American military base, Bagram Air Field, saw soldiers dumping books in a pit where garbage is burned and noticed Qurans and

other religious material among the trash.

The top U.S. and NATO commander, Gen. John Allen, quickly issued an apology and telephoned President Hamid Karzai and major news organizations to explain that a collection of religious materials, including Qurans, had been mistakenly sent to be incinerated. As soon as someone realized what they were burning, they stopped and retrieved what was left, Allen said.

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'Obamacare' heads to Supreme Court

Next month the United States Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on *Florida v. United States Department of Health and Human Services*, which will prove to be one of the most important decisions of the last decade.

Twenty-five states, including Texas, have joined Florida to contest the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. At stake is whether or not the "individual mandate" section of the law is a violation of an individual's constitutional rights.

Personally, I see the answer as clear. Mandating that a person purchase a product — in this case health insurance — is unconstitutional. It is a blatant violation of civil liberties.

I understand there is a need to fix healthcare, but this is not the way to go about it. There

Andrew Gleinser



are, of course, people who want health insurance, but cannot get it. Then there are people who do not have health insurance and do not want to have it.

Regardless of how badly the decision might sound to many of us, it's a personal choice. It should be easier for those who want health insurance to get it, but no one should be forced to buy anything.

Despite the fact that I see this as a clear-cut case, it's very unlikely the Supreme Court will see it the same way. The court is ideologically divided with different justices tending to vote according to their particular

ideology. It is for this reason some assumptions can be made about the decision.

Justices Alito, Roberts, Scalia, and Thomas are the more conservative justices. They will likely rule that the healthcare law is unconstitutional.

Justices Breyer, Ginsburg, Kagan, and Sotomayor are the more liberal justices. They will likely rule that the healthcare law is constitutional.

Then there is Justice Kennedy who, although appointed by Ronald Reagan, tends to be more moderate, often serving as the "swing justice"

in many of the 5-4 decisions. It is my belief his vote will ultimately decide which way the court leans.

Regardless of the decision, no one can argue this is not one of the most important decisions by the Supreme Court in the last decade. Making things even more interesting is the announcement of the court's decision will likely come sometime in June, which would place it right in the middle of the presidential campaign.

The healthcare law will already be a hot-button issue in the campaign, with every Re-

publican candidate opposing it. The decision will only heighten the argument made by both sides.

Further complicating matters with the decision is the argument that Justice Kagan should recuse herself from making a decision on the case. As solicitor general, Kagan was involved in getting the healthcare law passed through Congress.

According to law, justices should recuse themselves if they have a personal bias toward one side or if their impartiality would be in question. With Kagan being one of the architects and proponents of the law, it seems wrong that she should rule on the constitutionality of such a law.

However, I find the likelihood of Kagan recusing herself to be slim. My thinking is that President Obama nominated her for the Supreme Court because of her affiliation with the

healthcare law. It's possible that he knew there would be a future constitutional challenge to the law, so he wanted someone on the bench who would rule in favor of the law and possibly influence others to do the same.

Regardless of whether or not Kagan makes a ruling in the case, it will undoubtedly be a major decision. The rhetoric of the presidential campaign will be greatly affected by the decision, as will the actions of the next president.

Hopefully, the court will find the law to be a violation of constitutional rights and politicians can get down to actually fixing the healthcare system rather than making it worse.

Gleinser is a junior political science and history major from Kingwood.
» agleinser@dailytoreador.com

"It should be easier for those who want health insurance to get it, but no one should be forced to buy anything."

For Lent: Add something, don't subtract

It's that time of year again, kids. The time of year when everyone on Facebook suddenly thinks they can speak French and when I wish I went to LSU or Lafayette. Yes, I'm talking about Mardi Gras.

Now, I realize the week of Mardi Gras is coming to a close, but I would like to focus a little bit on the idea of lent, or what I like to call, the 40-day fun fast.

Essentially, lent is a period of time when Christians, or sometimes people who just like a good challenge, give up something they enjoy for 40 days — only after pushing themselves to the brink of diabetes and alcohol poisoning on Fat Tuesday, that is. Oh, the irony of it all.

I was under the impression that whatever you give up for lent is supposed to be something hindering your relationship with God. However, when I hear what my friends who actually participate in lent — or as I call them, lent-balls — are giving up, I start to think my theory, and the overall basis of lent, is invalid.

For example: giving up Facebook. I'm sorry, but I didn't realize a social network could keep you from bonding with the Almighty.

The only way I could see

Sydney Holmes



giving up Facebook bringing you closer to God is if you're leading a satanic worship ring via a friend group.

In which case, you may consider giving up a little more than just Facebook. Try Twitter, too.

Also, there are those of you who give up chocolate, junk food or anything of the like. I don't get this one, either. I don't know that eating nothing but carrots for 40 days can make you any less of a heathen than you already are.

Seriously though, how much chocolate are you eating to keep you away from God? Furthermore, say you do give up junk food for lent. Then what hap-

pens? You stuff your face with chocolate and Peeps until you're sick on Easter Sunday.

Call me dense, but I do not understand the point.

The last lent sacrifice that I don't quite comprehend is all my girlfriends who say they're giving up men, and vice versa. I absolutely can see the point in giving up dating if you really think it's hindering your spiritual life, but I have seen far too many people whine about how awful men are to think this is the case.

It's not the men that are keeping you from being the saint you've always wanted to be, it's the fact you are acting like a dime-store hussy with all of them.

And, as always, no judgment. If that's what you're into, that's

fine. But don't go blaming the entire male species for the fact that they've been inside you more than Jesus has lately.

Same goes for guys. Stop being a man-whore and we won't have this issue.

If you're going to give up something for lent, consider giving up something that actually perpetuates what the idea of lent really stands for. That is, bettering yourself and making yourself spiritually stronger.

Or, instead of giving something up, add something to your life. Maybe prayer, or reading your Bible more, or even take up an instrument and use it as part of your spiritual life.

I'm not the resident expert on religion by any means. Actually I'm not really the resident expert on anything, but this idea of adding instead of subtracting from yourself makes far more sense to me.

Regardless, good luck to all you lent-balls and happy lenting.

Holmes is a junior broadcast journalism major from Houston.
» sholmes@dailytoreador.com

"If you're going to give up something for lent, consider giving up something that actually perpetuates what the idea of lent really stands for."

Nuclear energy not right choice for US

By BRYAN WASHINGTON
THE DAILY COUGAR (U. HOUSTON)

Once upon a time, nuclear energy was just a domineering question mark.

Its variables, limits and potentials were only a matter of speculation, without any variables to draw from, and the more curious nations resembled first time bike riders.

Their neighbors, the tropical agriculturalists, tentative Easterners and cross-eyed Westerners would watch to see how they fared from their respective living rooms, while somewhat interested, but not enough to dip their toes in.

They saw single speeds, hybrids and city bikes, noting how they fared in traffic and the durability of the paint. There would be mental notes when they fell, with crossed fingers at the intersections. Inevitably, in the face of an accident, the mantra rose that it wouldn't ever happen to them.

The kids have grown and we've seen that. For all of our concerns with the nuclear activity on adjacent shores, we've turned blind eyes to our own. Nuclear plants in this country resemble the aforementioned bikes, sans kickstands, breaks, or an adjustable steering wheel.

From the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station in Arizona to our very own South Texas Nuclear Generating Station, the plants, as well as their surrounding areas, have almost certainly been accompanied with their own respective time bombs. The magic question isn't if they'll find themselves in jeopardy, but when.

If a reason is needed to re-evaluate our nuclear stance, you'd only need to turn to the 1984 incident in Athens, Ala., which resulted in a six-year

outage in the area, and was immediately followed by another incident in the same area the following year.

Or Plymouth, Mass. in 1986, yielding an emergency shutdown of the plant and a shadow that still looms over the area. Or Chernobyl, Ukraine; Idaho Falls; Leningrad Oblast or Oak Harbor, Ohio.

Most recently, the three-fold disaster in Japan demonstrated the unforgiving nature of nuclear slip-ups, killing three workers, and rendering parts of the country uninhabitable for at least the next couple of years.

Even still, there are opponents to a shut down, with their reasons in tow. "Nuclear energy is more efficient," "It's less wasteful in the long run," "Once the ball's rolling, the increase in productivity is exponential" and, maybe the most recurrent of all, "Nuclear energy is the future."

But whose future, exactly? More than negligent, it is stupid to say that these factors, along with countless others, justify the potential disarray our entanglement with nuclear endeavors entails.

After the incident on Three Mile Island in 1979, during which radioactive gases and iodine were released into Dauphin County, Pa., the public's nuclear endorsement dropped to 43 percent. Last year's "accident" in Fukushima knocked the bar even lower, so that "64 percent of Americans opposed the construction of new nuclear reactors."

It's a start, but if these are the magnitudes required to raise awareness, it'd be a tragedy to find out what would result in a unanimous approval.

With more than 100 nuclear plants still operating in the nation, it's a terrible method for punctuating progress.

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Pinterest becoming new social media hit, new creative outlet

By **HALLIE DAVIS**
STAFF WRITER

After a day spent reading dry biology textbooks and learning the different factors influencing membrane fluidity, senior Katie Butler said, she needs a creative outlet.

So, she logs into Pinterest. "I love Pinterest," said Butler, a biology major from Garland. "On Pinterest I can be creative, crafty and left-brained."

Pinterest is an online pinboard where users "pin" things — usually photos — they find online and share them with their friends.

Lin Humphrey, a doctorate student in marketing specializing in social and mobile media, said the site is all about curating content. And for such a simple idea, its popularity is explosive.

During the Christmas break, Butler said, she opened her Pinterest account.

"It was a combination of things," she said about why she began with

the site, "of having a good resource for crafty things and just the fact that everybody else had one."

The site reached 100 million users faster than any other social media website in history even though the system is invitation based, said Humphrey, who was named Global Mobile Marketing's Academic of the Year.

"When you hear about your friends being on it, you want to be on it," he said. "When you see you need an invitation, you want it even more."

Humphrey said students were especially drawn to the medium because college is a time when their futures seem wide open and Pinterest is the perfect place to plan that future.

Some of the things most often pinned, Butler said, are wedding ideas and cute crafts or recipes. This speaks to the demographic of the users, Humphrey said, which is 97 percent female in the U.S.

"It's weird to see boys on Pinterest," Butler said. "Society doesn't give boys much room to be creative."

In the United Kingdom, Humphrey said, there are more men on the site; but the nature of a site with mostly women is that it drew in more women.

Despite the gender majority, the site can be used for almost anything. Butler said she had a friend who had boards for everything from "Harry Potter" to "beautiful people." Her friends connect with each other across continents on the site, where, Butler said, she spends about 7 to 10 hours a week.

"It's like diving into the rabbit hole," Humphrey said. "There are a million things to look at."

The simplistic design of the site makes it easily accessible. He said the way the layout goes from edge to edge and the scroll is nearly an infinite contribution to how people can spend so much time on the site.

By pinning things, Humphrey said, users can become tastemakers and trendsetters; the site offers to

help anyone become a style guru, whether it be in fashion or home decor. He said it could be used as a tool to help online presence as well.

"As long as you're authentically pinning what you like, it gives employers an insight to you outside of work," he said.

If the pins on a user's site portray the user as cultured and interesting, he said, it is the perfect thing to turn up in a Google search.

However, the site, which was founded in 2010, is so new it rarely shows up in searches, but it will not stay a small site for long. Humphrey said the statistics change from week-to-week as the site continues to grow.

"Christmas will be different this year," he said.

Since Pinterest serves as a sort of wish list, Humphrey said, the site and its users are very aspirational.

"It's an escape," Butler said. "You can plan your wedding, your future house or your future husbands."

hdavis@dailytoreador.com

Projector

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It was an amazing sort of experience," Gale said about working at TI. "There was a lot of really high quality talent."

Toward the end of the project, TI realized how big DLP was becoming and began pushing the team to create faster. At one point the company hired 100 more employees to add to the team of what used to be about 12. The team also got its own fabrication plant — to create the physical chips — which cost about \$40 million a year to run.

Gale continued with TI until he was 50, when they offered him early retirement. He had been receiving many job offers and decided to pursue them. He became a consultant for a few years and then came to Tech, where he has been teaching for the past 10 years.

"It's been good having someone who is recognized nationally and internationally for their

work with MEMS," Dallas said.

Now, Gale continues to teach and he helps with a cop with TI which has placed more than 200 Tech graduates into positions at the technology company. He also works with the RoboRaiders and GEAR robotics, a program using Lego robots, as well as FIRST Robotics, and is the regional director for Best Robotics.

Gale will present some elements of robotics at the upcoming Lubbock Mini Maker Faire.

"His level of expertise has benefitted both projects we've done together," Dallas said, "and some of my independent projects."

That level of expertise is somewhat well known, but often goes unrecognized. When Gale tells students he helped to create the technology behind the most used teaching tool in most classrooms, he said, he almost always gets the same response.

"Oh," Gale said, laughing. "They don't believe it."

hdavis@dailytoreador.com

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FLIPPING OUT



PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador
EMILY OLIVAS, A sophomore restaurant, hotel and institutional management major from Copperas Cove, and Peyton Farrell, a junior communication design major from Austin, pose during the Tech Activities Board's "Make Your Own Flip Book" event in the Student Union Building on Wednesday.

Man's childhood comic collection fetches \$3.5M

DALLAS (AP) — Billy Wright plunked down dime after dime for comic books while growing up in the late 1930s and early 1940s, caring for the collection he started around the age of 9 until his death more than half a century later. On Wednesday, most of that collection sold for a whopping \$3.5 million.

Wright's 345 comics, nearly all of which were published from 1936 through 1941, included many of the most prized issues ever, including Detective Comics No. 27, which features the debut of Batman, and Action Comics No. 1, in which Superman's first appears.

Experts say Wright's collection, which included 44 of The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide's top 100 issues from comics' golden age, was remarkable for its number of rare issues, but also because it was compiled by a single person in childhood who kept it in good condition until his death in 1994 at age 66.

"This really has its place in the history of great comic book collections," said Lon Allen, the managing director of comics for Dallas-based Heritage Auctions, which oversaw the auction in New York City.

The copy of Detective Comics No. 27, from 1939, drew the highest bid Wednesday, selling for \$523,000, including a buyer's premium, Allen said. Wright's Action Comics No. 1, from 1938, sold for about \$299,000; Batman No. 1, from 1940, sold for about \$275,000; and Captain America No. 2, a 1941 issue with Adolf Hitler on the cover, sold for about \$114,000.

"It was amazing seeing what they went for," said Michael Rorrer, who discovered his late great uncle's neatly stacked comics in a basement closet while cleaning out his great aunt's Martinsville, Va., home after she died

last year. Most comics from the golden age — the late 1930s into the 1950s — fell victim to wartime paper drives, normal wear and tear and mothers throwing them out, said J.C. Vaughn, associate publisher of Overstreet. Of the 200,000 copies of Action Comics No. 1 produced, about 130,000 were sold and the about 70,000 that didn't sell were pulped. Today, experts believe only about 100 copies are left in the world, he said.

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Barncastle juggles athletics with school responsibilities

By CHOIS WOODMAN
STAFF WRITER

Jordan Barncastle has a bigger load than your average student. She is a biology major applying for medical school and a leader on the Lady Raider basketball team.

Barncastle said playing Texas Tech basketball has impacted her college life.

"It's affected my life every day," she said. "Whether it's coming from practice or going to practice, or getting mentally prepared for a game or packing up to travel — it's an everyday thing."

It took a lot of time to learn how to juggle her schoolwork with her life on the basketball court, Barncastle said.

"The first two years was definitely a major adjustment," she said. "Time

management was very critical, but I'm kind of seeing the light at the end of the tunnel now; so it's easier to stay motivated knowing that school is almost over."

Barncastle makes the program proud on and off the court wherever she goes, Lady Raider coach Kristy Curry said.

"Whether it's been practice or the bus or the hotel or the weight room or in the community or the practice floor or game floor, it's just been a relentless effort on her part to show great leadership and great effort," Curry said.

One of Barncastle's professors, Gregory Baker, has been a positive

influence in her life while she has been at Tech, Barncastle said.

Baker said he follows the women's basketball team closely.

"I'm a great fan of hers, as well as I am of every other Lady Raider over there," he said. "I have a great time interacting with the basketball team."

It takes great work ethic to be a student athlete and even greater work ethic when the student is majoring in biology, Baker said.

"Biology is one of the most complicated fields of science that

there is," he said, "and it's such a rapidly evolving field and things people didn't know five years ago are being used to cure diseases. It's not an exact science, but it's really, really complicated."

Baker said he will help Barncastle in any way he can

in the future.

"The role that I play as a professor here at Tech is to try to identify people that are competent and anxious to succeed," he said, "and help them understand what things in their life, if they were improved, would be and make them more competitive for medical schools or whatever job opportunities they want."

Baker has always been a fan of the Lady Raider team and now she is doing undergrad research for him, Barncastle said.

"It's cool," she said. "I see him almost on a daily basis, and it's fun to talk about basketball and then



PHOTO BY EMILY DE SANTOS/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH FORWARD Jordan Barncastle, a senior biology major, has developed a close relationship with Dr. Robert Baker after working under him for the past two semesters. Dr. Baker has been teaching at Texas Tech for the past 45 years and focuses much of his research on the Chernobyl disaster.

turn around and talk about lab research or something like that."

Being a doctor is an occupation she has always dreamed of, Barncastle said.

"It's something that I've always wanted to do," she said. "I've developed really good relationships with people in medicine, whether it's been our team doctor or just people around here — trainers, or just anybody involved in medicine — has really encouraged me to try to strive for that."

Barncastle said she is not sure

what field she wants to go into yet, but she likes dermatology and sports orthopedics and she is interested in Tech's medical school.

"I would love to go here. I would love to stay in Lubbock," Barncastle said. "The community is awesome, so we're shooting for here."

The senior has come through on the court when the team has needed her most, Curry said.

"Just her sense of urgency has been awesome — her energy down the stretch here," she said. "She's wanting to put an exclamation

point on her senior season."

The senior has assumed a leadership role on the court and is proud of the direction it is headed, she said.

"This is the hardest working team and the most easily motivated team," she said. "Everybody has the same goal in mind and everybody wants to succeed and everybody wants to get to the tournament. With the experience, we kind of all know what to expect with no surprises along the way."

Curry said she has watched

Barncastle mature throughout her career at Tech.

"The classroom, the court — she's the epitome of what a student-athlete should be," Curry said, "and what the Double-T represents in every regard; and to see her continue to represent the Double-T the way she does every day, whether it's with a basket or community service, or an A in the classroom. Like I said, she's just the epitome of what a student-athlete should be at Texas Tech."

>> cwoodman@dailytoreador.com

BCS leaders far from agreement on changes

GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP) — Before there will be significant changes to college football's postseason and how to determine a champion, there are plenty of options to be considered.

Conference commissioners who run the Bowl Championship Series are just getting started on that process.

"We're just trying to understand conceptually what the pieces are. ... It's at the very beginning," Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany said. "While I think people have a reasonable idea on the range of what's under consideration, the study and the inspection and understanding of that range I think is going to be months in the making."

The 11 conference commissioners and Notre Dame's athletic director spent two days meeting with BCS Executive Director Bill Hancock at a hotel at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport. They are scheduled to meet there again March 26.

Hancock characterized the meetings, which encompassed more than eight hours over two days, as "very, very, very productive" with great dialogue and sharing of ideas. He wouldn't get into specifics about what discussed.

"They are determined to do what's best for the game," Hancock said. "Everything is still on the table and there will be a time when they obviously have to start taking things off the table. But that point hasn't come yet."

In a joint statement posted on Facebook even before they had emerged from their meeting room, the group said it had a self-imposed deadline of "sometime this summer" to decide what changes to propose.

The process could take much longer to get finished.

"No one really knows what the actual drop-dead date is," said longtime WAC Commissioner Karl Benson, who takes over as the Sun Belt's commissioner in April.

As Delany described it, "Nothing has been ruled out, nothing has been ruled in. ... This is going to be an

extra-inning game."

While there seems to be growing support for creating a four-team

playoff to determine a champion, how exactly that would work remains to be seen.

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Texas Tech softball looking to build off hot hitting this weekend

By MATT VILLANUEVA
STAFF WRITER

Fresh off a six-game winning streak this past weekend in Las Vegas during the Louisville Slugger Desert Classic, the Texas Tech softball team is looking to build off of this momentum after a disappointing start.

The hot streak could not have come at a better time for the Red Raiders. The team started off the season 1-4 in the Arizona State Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Ariz., against some of the nations best — such as currently ranked No. 10 Tennessee and No. 14 Stanford. The Red Raiders were outscored in their four losses 26-7.

In Las Vegas, Tech not only limited their opponents to low run outputs, but put up runs in multitudes, outscoring the opposition 35-12. Notable wins were against Ohio State, who has received Top 25 votes this season, along with 2011 NCAA Division I regional participants Long Beach State and DePaul.

“Our pitching was in sync,” first baseman Sandy James said, “and our hitting was. It was just a great feeling for all of it to finally come together and do what we should have done the first weekend.”

Hitting .409 along with nine RBIs and a couple of home runs, James was a key factor for Tech’s offensive success. The junior was rewarded for her tournament performance earlier this week by being named Big 12 Player of the Week for the second time in her career. It marked the first time in school



TEXAS TECH LEFT handed pitcher Kelsey Dennis pitches a ball during a game against Bryant last season at Rocky Johnson Field.

history a player has been given the award twice.

“It feels like a huge accomplishment,” she said, “especially for the beginning of the season, and I kind of felt like I got a little bit of a slow start ... but it’s still a big deal.”

Another player responsible for leading the offensive surge was designated player Adriana Perez. A recent addition after transferring from a California junior college, Perez recorded eight hits, five RBIs and blasted two home runs. She

currently leads the team at the plate with a .400 average.

Perez said she was not comfortable with her batting performance at the Kajikawa Classic, so she decided to focus on the fundamentals in the batting cages at practice leading up to the tournament in Las Vegas.

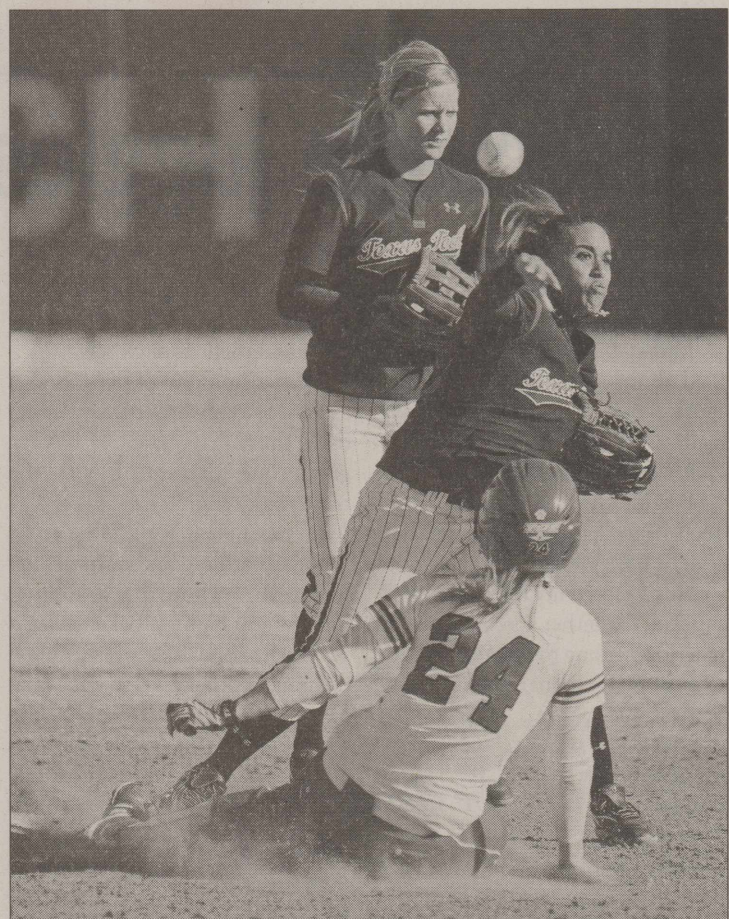
“I was more disciplined at the plate,” she said. “Not swinging at bad pitches and staying in my zone. And it worked out.”

With Tech already having faced top-ranked pitching the past two

tournaments, head coach Shanon Hays said the experience is a definite plus for the team.

“Seeing this good pitching early, that we’ve been seeing, hopefully gets us ready for the Big 12 where sometimes runs are few and far between,” he said. “So you have to figure out a way to manufacture runs and play good defense and pitch well yourself.”

This weekend, the Red Raiders will face six Texas-based programs in Waco for the Texas Shootout.



TEXAS TECH SECOND basemen Logan Hall throws the ball to first base after forcing out Northern Illinois Alexandra Wulbecker during a victory against the Huskies last season at Rocky Johnson Field.

Matchups include Texas State, North Texas, UTEP, Stephen F. Austin and a possible date with No. 9 Baylor in the championship if both Tech and the Bears go undefeated.

Hays said with the depth of upperclassmen and the offensive explosiveness the lineup has, the Red Raiders have a chance to be as

good as they have ever been.

“We’re only going to be as good as our pitching,” she said, “We have such a good infield defense that if our pitching can stay away from walks and keep the ball on the ground and give us a chance to make plays, then we’ll be in every game.”

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Nolan Ryan says these Rangers are his best team

DALLAS (AP) — Billy Wright plunked down dime after dime for comic books while growing up in the late 1930s and early 1940s, caring for the collection he started around the age of 9 until his death more than half a century later. On Wednesday, most of that collection sold for a whopping \$3.5 million.

Wright’s 345 comics, nearly all of which were published from 1936 through 1941, included many of the most prized issues ever, including Detective Comics No. 27, which features the debut of Batman, and Action Comics No. 1, in which Superman’s first appears.

Experts say Wright’s collection, which included 44 of The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide’s top 100 issues from comics’ golden age, was remarkable for its number of rare issues, but also because it was compiled by a single person in childhood who kept it in good condition until his death in 1994 at age 66.

“This really has its place in the history of great comic book collec-

tions,” said Lon Allen, the managing director of comics for Dallas-based Heritage Auctions, which oversaw the auction in New York City.

The copy of Detective Comics No. 27, from 1939, drew the highest bid Wednesday, selling for \$523,000, including a buyer’s premium, Allen said. Wright’s Action Comics No. 1, from 1938, sold for about \$299,000; Batman No. 1, from 1940, sold for about \$275,000; and Captain America No. 2, a 1941 issue with Adolf Hitler on the cover, sold for about \$114,000.

“It was amazing seeing what they went for,” said Michael Rorrer, who discovered his late great uncle’s neatly stacked comics in a basement closet while cleaning out his great aunt’s Martinsville, Va., home after she died last year.

Most comics from the golden age — the late 1930s into the 1950s — fell victim to wartime paper drives, normal wear and tear and mothers throwing them out, said J.C. Vaughn, associate publisher of Overstreet. Of the 200,000 copies of Action Com-

ics No. 1 produced, about 130,000 were sold and the about 70,000 that didn’t sell were pulped. Today, experts believe only about 100 copies are left in the world, he said.

“The scope of this collection is, from a historian’s perspective, dizzying,” Vaughn said.

There were 227 of the collection’s comic books sold on Wednesday for \$3,466,264. The remaining comics, which are of lesser value, will be sold in online auctions Friday and Sunday and are expected to fetch about \$100,000.

Rorrer, 31, said he didn’t realize how valuable the comics were until months after returning home to Oxnard, Calif., when he mentioned them to a co-worker who mused that it would be quite something if he had Action Comics No. 1.

“I went home and was looking through some of them, and there it was,” said Rorrer, who then began researching the collection’s value in earnest.

He reached out to his mother, Lisa

Hernandez, who still had half the comics at her home in League City, Texas, that she intended to give to his brother in Houston. They then went through their boxes, checking comic after comic off the list.

Hernandez said it really hit her how valuable the comics were when she saw the look on Allen’s face when the auction house expert came to her house to look through the comics.

“It was kind of hard to wrap my head around it,” Allen said.

The find was a complete surprise for the family, and it is unclear if Ruby Wright was aware of the collection’s significance. Rorrer said he remembers her making only one fleeting reference to comics: Upon learning he and his brother liked comic books, she said she had some she would one day give them. He said his great uncle never mentioned his collection.

Allen, who called the collection “jaw-dropping,” noted that Wright “seemed to have a knack” for picking up the ones that would be the most valuable.

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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.

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1	3	9	8	7	2	4	5	6
8	6	5	4	1	9	7	3	2
3	4	2	1	8	7	9	6	5
7	1	6	2	9	5	3	8	4
9	5	8	6	3	4	1	2	7
5	2	3	9	4	8	6	7	1
4	8	7	5	6	1	2	9	3
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Why Greg Oden wasn't right for Portland

Greg Oden is battling yet another injury and will miss another season in his NBA career, due to injuries. It is terrible to see a young man who seemed to have a promising future in the association, have so many problems.

I understand why Portland selected Oden with the first pick of the 2007 NBA draft. I just don't agree with it.

The selection of Oden shows both the inability of a franchise to make a forward thinking decision for the future and that history repeats itself.

Oden was one of two freshmen to be named to the AP All-American team since 1990 in his one year at Ohio State. He was a man among boys. He showcased elite rebounding po-

Cody Stoots



tential with an offensive upside that wouldn't be a hindrance to his team.

The Portland Trail Blazers were coming off a 32-50 record in 2006. Only five teams had worse records during that season. The team was built around a young core of Brandon Roy and LaMarcus Aldridge. The Blazers were the lottery and surely thought another piece could be added to their team to match the leagues best.

Oden didn't make the most sense for Portland as they had

just agreed to a big deal on another young big man in Aldridge, along with Joel Przybilla and Zach Randolph. Therefore, the Blazers didn't necessarily need Oden. Portland was looking into the future, but not far enough into the future.

The NBA was changing. The days where teams needed a consistent All-Star at the center position were waning. The two previous NBA champions — the Spurs and Heat — did have a notable presence at the center spot, but Tim Duncan and Shaquille O'Neal weren't the most important players on their teams. In fact it was Dwayne Wade and Tony Parker who were more important to each team.

I know Roy had just won the Rookie of the Year award, but the decision was still clear

for Portland: It needed Kevin Durant.

Look, I went half way into this article without mentioning Durant's name but let's face it, Oden will always be linked to Durant because no one will ever talk about Oden when Durant's legacy is finished.

Remember when I wrote a few paragraphs ago about Oden being named to the AP All-American team? Well, Durant was the other freshman. He provided superstar potential in the future landscape of the league. There was no way Oden was going to change a franchise, but Durant could have and is proving that.

The Blazers not selecting Durant is worse than passing on Michael Jordan to draft Sam Bowie. At least the league

was dominated by big men and was going to stay that way back then.

The league's draft is a joke sometimes. The 2007 draft has only produced two first-round All-Stars. The chance to get someone significant, and game changing, was passed on by Portland.

The Blazers reasoning was to pair a young duo of big men in Aldridge and Oden with a budding star wing player in Roy and dominate the Western Conference. It was a good idea, but Portland was planning for the NBA to stay the same and didn't see the changes happening all around them.

The Oden selection is compounded tenfold with Roy's career being cut short, Randolph finding a small measure of suc-

cess elsewhere, and the realization that Aldridge is better than many thought he would be.

It is sad to see Oden miss another season. It is never fair to call someone a bust when their body doesn't allow them to showcase their potential, but Oden will find the bust label attached to his name. What was his real upside? I am sure he could have eventually grown to averaging a double-double, but Oden never smelled like a superstar.

I hope with the advancements in modern medicine and health, Oden, who is only 24, will still see the NBA court on a consistent basis.

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

Woods survives, Donald doesn't at Match Play

MARANA, Ariz. (AP) — Tiger Woods had to play a left-handed shot out of the desert. Retief Goosen holed out from 156 yards and didn't even win the hole. Dustin Johnson twice won a hole after taking a penalty drop.

But the strangest sight of all Wednesday at the Match Play Championship didn't come from the golf course.

It was Luke Donald on his way to the airport.

"Golf is like that sometimes," Donald said after his 5-and-4 loss to Ernie Els, becoming only the third No. 1 seed to lose in the opening round. "It's a fickle game, and sometimes it bites you."

It almost took a bite out of Woods, who had to rally to beat Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano; and U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy, the No. 2 seed who was 3 up with three holes to play and was sweating on the 18th until George Coetzee missed a short putt for par.

Donald was so dominant last year in winning the Match Play Championship that he closed out all six of his matches before they reached the 18th hole. He won't be playing the closing hole at Dove Mountain this year, either.

Els, who only got into the 64-man field when Phil Mickelson took his family on a ski vacation, delivered the biggest shocker in the first round by taking the lead for good on the eighth hole and putting the world's No. 1 player in a hole from which he couldn't recover.

Donald lost in the opening round for the first time in eight appearances in this World Golf Championship.

"I don't think it would have mattered who I played today. I just didn't play well," Donald said. "I struggled. I gave away too many holes and made too many mistakes. You can't do that in match play against anyone, let alone Ernie."

Woods nearly found that out, too. He trailed the Spaniard with

four holes to play, and both of them looked beatable. That changed when Woods drove the par-4 15th green to win with a two-putt birdie, won the 16th with a par and then closed out the Spaniard with an 8-foot par putt for a 1-up win.

"We both made our share of mistakes, there's no doubt about that," said Woods. "But somehow, I was able to move on."

That was the only objective in this World Golf Championship, a single-elimination format in which the only proper use of the word "upset" is the mood of the 32 guys who are headed home.

Among them: — Ian Poulter, the Match Play winner two years ago, suffered his worst loss in nine appearances when Bae Sang-moon beat him, 4 and 3.

— Bill Haas, coming off that monster win at Riviera just three days ago, looked like a winner when he was 1 up on the 17th green and had a 5-foot birdie putt. Ryo Ishikawa

holed from 18 feet, Haas missed, and the Japanese star made par on the 18th to win.

— In the most thrilling match of the opening round, Jim Furyk was on the verge of sending Johnson home early for the fourth straight year when Johnson hit his tee shot into the desert and had to take a penalty drop on the 20th hole. Furyk chipped across the green and three-putted for bogey to lose.

— Rafael Cabrera-Bello was 3 up with three holes to play against Jason Day when he bogeyed three straight holes, and Day beat him with a 4-foot birdie putt on the 19th hole.

The other top seeds didn't have too many problems, although McIlroy had a nervous moment.

He won four straight holes on the back nine to seize control against Coetzee and was 3 up with three to play when McIlroy lost the next two holes with bogeys, then popped up a tee shot and made par a challenge. Coetzee, however, blew his approach

some 60 feet long on the 18th and three-putted for bogey, giving McIlroy a 2-up win.

Lee Westwood never trailed in his 3-and-1 win over Nicolas Colsearts of Belgium. The test for Westwood comes on Thursday against Robert Karlsson, when he tries to advance to the third round for the first time. Martin Kaymer easily dispatched Greg Chalmers, while Steve Stricker outlasted Kevin Na.

McIlroy and Westwood now have a chance to replace Donald at No. 1 in the world if either were to win this week.

"Obviously, it's another incentive waking up each morning and knowing that if you win your match at the end of that day, at the end of the week you could be world No. 1," McIlroy said.

Donald will head home to Florida to shake off a poor start to his season.

"It's a terrible ride home, believe me," said Els, who has lost five times in the opening round. "I feel for

him. Yeah, I know exactly what it feels like."

Fernandez-Castano got some attention this week for saying Woods was "beatable" and not at his best. "He's beatable, too," Woods replied, and the way they played, both were right.

Woods lost the opening two holes and looked as though he might fall 3 down until making a 10-foot par save. Woods won three of the next five holes, one of them with a 50-foot birdie putt, and that's when the match became a case of give-and-take.

He wasn't wild all the time, but it cost him when he was: a left-handed shot out of the desert on No. 2; too much club that sent him over the 11th green and into the desert. But he settled down right about the time the Spaniard began to struggle with the putter, missing putts inside 10 feet on the 15th and 16th holes that enabled Woods to take the lead.

Astros get C Jason Castro back from injury

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — As bad as last season was for the Houston Astros, it was worse for Jason Castro.

The season never really happened for the team's standout young catcher, who tore his right ACL during the second exhibition game a year ago. He had reconstructive surgery March 4 and spent the entire season rehabbing the knee.

"You can't take anything for granted. That's definitely something you learn from something like this, and how quickly it can be taken away from you," Castro said. "Realizing that all it takes is one play is something that makes you appreciate it more."

The 24-year-old Castro had surgery on his left foot in December, but he has been moving well in the early days of spring training. There is no visible

evidence of an injury.

"Given the circumstances and the way things are playing out, I'm happy with where I'm at," he said. "The rehab process went as good as I could have hoped for."

Six weeks before opening day, the Astros are playing his return cautiously.

"Nothing is hindering him as far as pain or stiffness or soreness or anything else, but because he missed a whole year, we're going to monitor him and make sure he's not trying to overdo it," said manager Brad Mills. "He's doing all the drills, but maybe not to the extent or as long as the other catchers."

A first-round draft choice in 2008, Castro earned the Astros' regular catching job as a 22-year-old rookie in 2010. He was part of a young group

of players who gave the Astros some hope in the second half of the season that year.

There was no such hope last year with Castro in a cast.

He was injured during the second game of spring training while trying to avoid a tag by Detroit Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera. The original diagnosis was a sprain, but an MRI revealed a meniscus tear in his right knee. A torn ACL was discovered later and operated on immediately.

As he rehabbed, the Astros went on to lose 106 games.

"We all saw how this ballclub played when he took over in 2010 as a rookie, how this guy took charge of our pitching staff. It was such a crushing blow last year to not get a game out of him," Mills said.

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