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Tech looks to raise alcohol awareness with screening event

Students assessed on alcohol, its effects on entire body

By MICHAEL DUPONT II Staff Writer

Sunday brought the beginning of a month that typically opens with many expressions of tomfoolery and shenanigans.

However, April is also National Alcohol Awareness Month and today students can participate in National Alcohol Screening Day at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

Desiree Markham, a health educator, said staff members from Student Counseling Services and Impact Tech have volunteered to help with the event.

"We're offering free alcohol screening to all Texas Tech students," she said. "We'll be set up in the Rec Center from 3-6 p.m. and we'll have volunteers from Student Counseling Services, and what they are going to do is evaluate and score the alcohol screening so that you can get instant feedback about your screening from a medical health professional."

Students will fill out a questionnaire which will categorize students based on their levels of consumption and then students will be able to speak with a health professional about what their options are or what steps they may want to take.

"Based on your score from the screening, the system will put you into different categories," she said. "If you're in a higher risk category they might talk to you about your options and they could refer you to places where you could do a substance abuse evaluation or seek counseling."

Students will be assessed and given tools to measure whether alcohol is having a positive or negative effect on their bodies, Markham said.

"Any time something related to food or drink is put into our bodies it's

hard to realize what our habits are," she said. "It's easy to lose track or know about how much of something you're putting into your body, so it's good to be aware."

Markham said 20 percent of the people who filled out a screening evaluation at last year's event fell into the high-risk category.

"That is good information for us," she said. "We were able to sit down face-to-face with people who were in that high-risk category and make them aware of the information and provide additional help."

Amal Soomro, a junior psychology major from Houston is a representative from Impact Tech, a student organization that will be assisting Student Health Services at the screening event.

"I was in charge of this event last year," she said. "It was tough because not everybody wants to sit down with people and talk about what's going on with them. It still ran pretty smoothly and we had a pretty good turnout."

Thomas Schaeffer, a senior cell and molecular biology major from Waxahachie thinks students should make educated decisions in regards to alcohol.

"Alcohol is a very prevalent factor on a college campus," he said. "We're not here to harp on all of the bad things, but we do want students to be educated so that they can make responsible decisions for themselves and also for others."

Schaeffer said he does not want to encourage students to not drink, but for them to drink responsibly and in moderation.

"On college campuses, a lot of parties and social events as well, revolve around drinking and alcohol, or things like that," he said. "I think a lot of students think that they are entitled to that experience while they're in college."

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Founders' Finale



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador
LYNDESEY PHIPPS, A junior anthropology major from Canyon, runs toward a zombie while playing Humans vs. Zombies on Monday near the Chemistry building.

Humans vs. Zombies' campus founders play last game

By PAIGE SKINNER Staff Writer

It's back. Lime green bandanas, Nerf guns and students playing a giant game of on-campus tag in Humans vs. Zombies will consume Texas Tech's campus for the rest of the week.

The students who originally brought HvZ to Tech in 2010 will graduate in May.

Paul Evans and Lauren Goudekert are two of the 13 moderators in the game today and were the ones who introduced the game to Tech.

Goudekert said she read about the game on a blog and then decided to get it started at Tech.

The senior restaurant, hotel and institutional management major from Tomball approached Evans with the idea of HvZ. From there, they created a Facebook page about the game and had about 70 people join the group overnight.

"It took off from there," Goudekert said.

Evans, a senior civil engineering major from Houston, said HvZ peaked last semester with

more than 600 students playing the game. "We have a pretty strong following," Evans said. "Every year we have at least 300 people play. I think last year we had 600."

Since Evans and Goudekert introduced the game, they said they have received more positive feedback.

In order to play each semester, HvZ must get permission from the grounds use committee on campus.

"Every year we have to go and ask permission to play here," Evans said. "The first four or five games, they were just completely against us playing. We went in there and they read off the paper, 'Humans vs. Zombies,' and you can just see them go, 'Oh, no.'"

"But, it's grown a lot and just from us being so responsible and nothing bad happening, this last semester when we went to ask and they were like, 'Oh, yeah. Humans vs. Zombies: check. You guys have fun.'"

HvZ continued on Page 3 >>>

TechBriefly

DT members win national award

Journalists for *The Daily Toreador* placed first in student reporting in the Investigative Reporters and Editors 2011 awards, a national competition that recognizes commendable watchdog journalism of the year.

Texas Tech seniors Caroline Courtney and Ioanna Makris, and Tech graduate April Cunningham, were honored for their story, "Million-Dollar Bust," regarding the controversy surrounding the Raider Park Parking Garage.

According to a statement released by the IRE judges, "Three student reporters took on powerful Texas Tech University alumni over a sweetheart deal to build, and then lease back to the university, a parking garage that wasn't needed. Their investigation probably saved the university \$1 million. The student reporters got the state's attorney general involved in forcing documents to be released under the Texas Public Information Act. They also used emails, tax records and other documents to show the cozy relationship between members of the same fraternity who built an unnecessary private parking garage and then leased it back under a contract that put the burden of renting the spaces on Texas Tech and its alumni association."

"The students showed great initiative and stood their ground in the face of public criticism of their reporting. For using that criticism to dig even deeper, IRE honors *The Daily Toreador* and its student journalists."

This year's winners were selected from more than 430 entries. The awards, given since 1979, cover 15 categories across media platforms and a range of market sizes. The student reporting prize also carries a \$250 scholarship and a trip to the IRE national convention in Boston in June.

TTUHSC receives grant for projects

The Texas Tech Health Sciences Center's Garrison Institute on Aging received a \$434,000 grant from the Texas Department of State Health Services to fund projects meant to improve the lives of citizens by creating a healthy community.

According to a news release, the grant will allow the Healthy Lubbock Coalition to expand its resources in Lubbock and Hale County through projects like educating worksites on the effects of tobacco, enforcing healthy eating habits and increasing the use of high-quality clinical services.

The grant will also be used to collaborate with health care providers to combat high blood pressure and cholesterol, and diabetes. This is the third grant the Garrison Institute has received this year.

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LifeGift, others encourage people to sign up as organ donors, save lives

National Donate Life month celebrates organ donors

By ASHLYN TUBBS Staff Writer

Every 18 minutes, a person who needs but did not receive an organ transplant, dies.

Every 10 minutes, a person is added to an organ waiting list.

This is a continuous cycle, a process that cannot be stopped without one missing factor — more organ donors.

April is National Donate Life Month, a time to celebrate generous organ, eye and tissue donors and the lives they help save.

"These statistics will continue to happen across the country without more donors, and this is a health crisis," said Laura Davis, director of communications for LifeGift, a local organ and tissue recovery agency. "We need to get more people on the registry."

LifeGift helps people needing transplants in 109 Texas counties. Davis said across the country, there are more than 113,000 people awaiting transplants. In Texas, this number is more than 11,000.

"Since I've been at LifeGift for two years, the number of

people added to the waiting list continues to grow," she said. "It's detrimental people take those steps to become donors."

Unlike blood or bone marrow donations, Davis said, organ donations are a gift given in death.

"It's only after medical professionals have done everything to save your life and it did not work, that your organs can be donated," she said.

Davis said one organ donor can save up to eight people, and one tissue donor can impact more than 100 lives.

In Texas, she said, just a little

more than 2.2 million people out of 24 million people are in the official database of those who authorize to be donors when they die. Although this number may seem high, Davis said, only 1 percent of these people will actually be able to donate.

"Even though you may want to be a donor, not everyone can," she said. "Certain things have to happen for someone to be a donor, such as medical suitability factors."

Sgt. Jonathon Stewart with the Lubbock Police Department is a registered donor and said he is proud to be one.

He said when he dies, he will not need his organs anymore and would like to help someone else who is in vital need of them.

"There's always going to be people in need of an organ," he said. "The noble thing to do is to pass the gift of life on to someone else."

Davis encourages people to make the decision whether or not to become an organ donor now, instead of leaving the decision to family members after death.

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WEATHER

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Masood: Childhood obesity: Growing US epidemic OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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Agency stops seismic tests; worries about dolphins

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — With sick and dead dolphins turning up along Louisiana's coast, federal regulators are curbing an oil and natural gas exploration company from using seismic equipment that sends out underwater pulses known to disturb marine mammals.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has told Global Geophysical Services Inc. to not conduct deep-penetration seismic surveys until May, when the bottlenose dolphin calving season ends. The agency says the surveys are done with air-guns that emit sounds that could disrupt mother and calf bonding and mask "important acoustic cues."

The company said it laid off about 30 workers because of the restriction, which it called unnecessary.

But environmental groups suing BOEM over the use of underwater seismic equipment say restrictions should be extended to surveys across the Gulf of Mexico.

The new limit on exploration highlights the friction over oil drilling in the Gulf since the April 20, 2010 blowout of a BP PLC well that resulted in the death of 11 workers and the nation's largest offshore oil spill in the nation's history.

After the 2010 spill, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Center for Biological Diversity sued to get curbs placed on underwater seismic surveys. The environmental groups argued they harm marine mammals and that the federal government violated animal protection laws after it declared in 2004 that the surveys were safe.

IRON MAN



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

SATONIUS WEBB, A senior studio art major from Dallas, uses a torch to weld an iron bridge together for a sculpture class Monday in the 3D Art Annex building.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
 Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

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By Steven J. St. John
 Monday's Puzzle Solved
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4/3/12

POLICE BLOTTER

Fire occurs at Murdough Residence Hall under stairs

Thursday
 2:31 p.m. — A Texas Tech officer arrested two students in Wall Residence Hall for possession of marijuana. Both students were issued one Lubbock County citation for possession of drug paraphernalia, which they signed. The students were transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

3:57 p.m. — A Tech officer responded to a medical emergency at Gates Residence Hall. A student was feeling ill. He was transported by Emergency Medical Services to the University Medical Center Emergency Room.

Friday
 10:48 a.m. — A Tech officer responded to a medical emergency at the Texas Tech Library. A student was feeling light-headed, which caused her to fall. She was transported by EMS to the University Medical Center Emergency Room.

12:04 p.m. — A Tech officer documented information in reference to an altercation between three students at an off-campus location.

3:52 p.m. — A Tech officer documented a medical emergency at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center. A student suffered an ankle injury

while playing basketball. The student was transported to the UMC Emergency Room by EMS.

5:00 p.m. — A Tech officer issued a criminal trespass warning for all Tech property to a non-student at the Student Wellness Center. A former employee was coming on campus and annoying current employees.

5:39 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated a theft in the Bledsoe Residence Hall laundry room. A student's bed sheets were taken from a dryer.

6:43 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated a traffic accident, without injuries, at the intersection of 10th Street and Texas Tech Parkway.

7:23 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated a traffic accident, without injuries, in the 5A parking lot.

8:00 p.m. — A Tech officer arrested a student for public intoxication at the Frazier Alumni Pavilion.

Saturday
 12:30 a.m. — A Tech officer arrested a non-student for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of more than one valid driver license, and was issued a Lubbock County citation for driving under the influence of alcohol by a minor, in the 2900

block of Marsha Sharp Freeway following a traffic stop. The non-student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail. The vehicle was impounded by Lubbock Wrecker Service.

12:55 a.m. — A Tech officer issued a non-student a Lubbock County citation for possession of an alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle in the 2800 block of 4th Street.

5:23 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated a traffic accident, without injuries, in the Z2C parking lot.

7:50 p.m. — A Tech officer documented a medical emergency at the Maedgen Theatre. A student had fainted and was transported to UMC Emergency Room by EMS.

9:09 p.m. — A Tech officer documented information on an odor of marijuana call in Coleman Residence Hall. Officers had responded to the same room numerous times. This case will be forwarded to Student Judicial Programs Office for review.

Sunday
 12:49 a.m. — A Tech officer detained a non-student in the R18 parking lot. The non-student was issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of drug paraphernalia and released.
 1:24 a.m. — A Tech officer

arrested a non-student for an outstanding Lubbock County warrant, following a traffic stop in the 3800 block of 4th Street. The non-student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail. The vehicle was impounded by Lubbock Wrecker Services.

3:52 a.m. A Tech officer responded to a medical emergency at Knapp Residence Hall. A student was transported to the UMC Emergency Room by EMS for possible alcohol poisoning.

4:25 a.m. — A Texas Tech officer documented damaged property at Murdough Residence Hall. A glass windowpane was shattered.

11:14 a.m. — A Tech officer investigated criminal mischief on the 5th, 7th, 8th and 10th floors of Weymouth Residence Hall. Three ceiling tiles and six exit signs were damaged.

9:08 p.m. — A Tech officer documented information on a fire call on the south side of Murdough Residence Hall. A small fire started under the southwest stairwells and Lubbock Fire Department was called out to extinguish it.

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

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Couric, Palin to face off again on morning shows

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearly four years after they clashed in a memorable TV interview, Sarah Palin and Katie Couric face off again — this time in a morning-show battle royale.

Viewers will cast their votes with their clickers Tuesday.

If you're a Couric fan who misses those bygone mornings on the "Today" show, then click to "Good Morning America," where Couric, now an ABC star, is subbing all week for co-host Robin Roberts.

But maybe you love the "mama grizzly" panache of Sarah Palin. And maybe you're still miffed by how Couric, then anchoring the "CBS Evening News," went to town on Palin during the 2008 presidential race. Then tune into NBC's "Today," where, during the 8 a.m. (EDT) hour, Palin will serve as a guest host at Couric's old haunt. (Take that, Katie!)

Welcoming the former Alaska governor to Studio 1A is the "Today" show's brashest counter-move after

"GMA," the scrappy ratings runner-up, announced Couric's fill-in role last week.

On Monday's show, the "Today" crew checked in by phone with Palin, who, reporting from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, declared, "We're making that trek cross-country to see y'all and say hi to your good viewers."

"What are you doing to prepare — are you reading some newspapers?" joked host Matt Lauer. He was alluding to an embarrassing moment from the Couric interview, when Palin couldn't name any newspapers she regularly read, instead replying that she read "all of them, any of them that have been in front of me over all these years."

"That's a fine how-do-you-do! Here we go!" Palin laughed on Monday. But, turning serious, she added, "I appreciate NBC's boldness in having me on. Doesn't it kind of reflect some of that diversity of opinion that you

espouse?"

"Or desperation," cracked former host Meredith Vieira, who was making a surprise appearance.

But "Today" isn't exactly desperate. Unrelenting is more like it, especially as "GMA" whittles away at the ratings gap that has kept "Today" on top every week since December 1995. The most recent Nielsen report found "GMA" had only 137,000 fewer viewers than "Today" (an average of 4.84 million to 4.98 million), the closest the two shows have been since 2008.

Clearly, "Today" isn't going to sacrifice its winning streak without a fight.

The guest turn by Palin, who, before she entered politics worked briefly as a local TV sportscaster, was announced over the weekend on NBC's website. The network promised she would "reveal a different side" than viewers have seen before. During the 7 a.m. hour, she will also submit to an interview.

Gray hair's in fashion, but what about at work?

NEW YORK (AP) — Jeanne Thompson began going gray at 23. She colored her hair for years as she worked her way into management at a large Boston-area financial services company, then gave up the dye for good about a year ago.

The earth didn't shake, and the 44-year-old Thompson was promoted to top management the following year.

She is among a new type of gray panther, a woman who aspires to do

well and get ahead on the job while happily maintaining a full head of gray.

"Women put pressure on themselves to color," the Exeter, N.H., woman said. "It's a bold statement to be gray because it's saying, 'You know what? I did let my hair go, but I'm not letting myself go.' People take me more seriously now. I never apologize for the gray hair."

But not everyone finds it so easy. Laws, of course, exist to ward off

discrimination in the workplace, yet legions of men and women have no interest in letting their gray fly. Not now, when the struggling economy has produced a stampede of hungry young job-seekers.

But gray heads have been popping up on runways and red carpets, on models and young celebrities for months. There's Lady Gaga and Kelly Osbourne — via dye — and Hollywood royalty like Helen Mirren, the Oscar-winning British actress.

HvZ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One of the 13 moderators this year, Alex Scott, said HvZ is basically a game of survival.

"It's just a game of survival going from class to class like you normally would, just with tag built into the system," said the freshman arts and sciences major from San Antonio. "Slowly over the week, zombies build up their number and eventually the humans are put into a final showdown with the zombies. Then whoever wins, wins the entire game."

Scott played HvZ for four years

in high school with his friends. Even though Tech had a HvZ game on campus, it was not the deciding factor in him choosing to attend Tech, he said, but it was something that added a "nice little kick to it."

On Saturday, the humans and zombies will compete in a final mission to determine who wins the entire game.

Scott said the final mission is the highlight of the game for him because everyone comes together to fight.

"Everyone is congratulating each other regardless of who won, who lost, who did good, who did bad. It's a big

conglomeration of different walks of people," he said. "You've got jocks and you've got nerds. You've got all these different kinds of people just together and talking and hanging out. We're all friendly with each other."

Goudek said she has confidence in the people who will take over the game once she and Evans graduate.

"I think we are leaving it in the hands of some really capable moderators, so I'm excited to hear about it later," she said. "I feel like we've left our legacy on Texas Tech's campus pretty effectively."

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Donors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This is what is great about the registry — it takes the grief off the family," she said. "It's one less thing they have to worry about."

Davis said someone she was close to died recently, while waiting for an organ donation.

She recommends more people sign up as donors to minimize the lives taken from a lack of organ availability.

To register online, go to donatelifetexas.org. Davis said it

takes less than five minutes to go through the registration process. She said once a person registers and signs, it is legally binding, which makes it a legal obligation to fulfill the wishes of the donor.

Andrew Warren, a sophomore history major from Houston, is currently not a donor, but plans to register soon.

"I would definitely like to be of service to my community," he said. "It just seems right and what everyone should do. I would be proud that I would help somebody and I would hope to inspire others to do the same."

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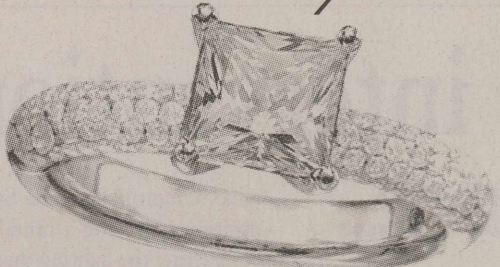
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Childhood obesity: Growing US epidemic

This week, I would like to discuss an epidemic that threatens the future of this nation.

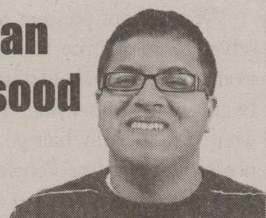
No, I am not talking about a crazy viral epidemic such as the one depicted in the film Contagion. I am talking about childhood obesity.

It is not difficult for any of us to see the sobering reality of this epidemic. Simply put, American children and adolescents are too big. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity rates have tripled among children in the past 30 years. 10 percent of infants and toddlers are considered to be dangerously overweight.

The childhood obesity epidemic is not an issue of aesthetics, though. With obesity comes a multitude of health problems, such as cardiovascular disease and type-2 diabetes. Health problems previously unseen in children, such as high cholesterol and high blood pressure, are now occurring at an increasing rate in youths.

The numbers regarding the

Hasan Masood



health issues associated with childhood obesity are incredibly alarming. In a study published in the *Journal of Pediatrics*, 70 percent of obese children have at least one risk factor for cardiovascular disease.

The American Diabetes Association also estimated that if current trends continue, nearly one in three children born in 2000 will develop type-2 diabetes at some point in their lifetime.

The financial ramifications for health care are staggering, possibly costing Americans hundreds of billions of dollars. Many medical experts also believe that for the first time in American history, life expectancy will decrease.

How did we get to this point? The childhood obesity epidemic

is emblematic of the culture of convenience and ease we have grown to love in the United States. Innovations meant to improve our lives, such as inexpensive fast food, have instead begun to have a corrupting influence.

This epidemic is especially ubiquitous in poorer neighborhoods and regions in America. Many grocery stores have abandoned these areas, leaving what many people call "food deserts." These food deserts are notable for their lack of easily accessible and affordable healthy food. In their place are convenience stores and fast food restaurants that offer an array of high calorie food products that lack much nutritional

content. When you are a working parent with a very limited income and little time, you will not opt for driving miles and miles to get the ingredients to make healthy grilled chicken. Instead,

you are likely to opt for some chicken nuggets from the McDonald's right around the corner. Your children might be lovin' it, but their arteries certainly will not.

Even when you do have convenient access to a grocery store, the choices are often less than ideal. Enter any grocery store and you will notice heavily processed foods full of carbohydrates and high fructose corn syrup are much more inexpensive than healthier

options. Much of this is due to subsidies for commodities, such as corn that makes cheap sodas and snacks that lack nutritional value, much cheaper than actual fruits and vegetables.

Our nation's school and education policies have also, unfortunately, played a role in increasing childhood obesity. Physical activity, such as recess and gym class, used to be a quintessential part of the American school experience. But, due to budget constraints, school-mandated exercise has fallen by the wayside.

School lunch programs have also not adequately addressed the issue of childhood obesity. In many school lunch lines, you are much more likely to find burgers and French fries as opposed to fresh fruits and vegetables. There is nothing wrong with giving your child an occasional burger, but under no circumstance should children be served burgers everyday.

What can be done about this problem? Childhood obesity is a

complex problem that will not be solved by one or two simple policies. Instead, it will require a complete cultural shift.

Children need to learn healthy eating habits early in their lives. Schools must have the funding to serve fresh and healthy foods instead of just reheating processed foods. Access to healthy and nutritious food must be improved for our nation's poorer families and communities.

I believe we are heading in the right direction. Nutritional awareness has increased tenfold in this country. Schools are removing vending machines full of soda and candy, while replacing them with water and healthier snacks. We still have a long road ahead of us, but we must continue to tackle childhood obesity. Our nation's future depends on it.

Masood is a senior history major from Plano.

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US intervention in Syria can't wait

By **JARED SZUBA**
MICHIGAN DAILY (U. MICHIGAN)

It has inexplicably taken until now, as the Syrian opposition's death toll surges toward 10,000 and over a year has passed since Bashar al-Assad's government resorted to unrestricted violence to put down a previously peaceful uprising, for tangible assistance to be provided to the Syrian resistance movement by the Western world.

Until this week, the most that international leaders could muster has consisted of a few feeble words of condemnation and pitifully ineffective economic sanctions. But even now, the granting of "non-lethal aid" (primarily medical supplies with some communications equipment) by the United States and Turkey is nowhere near enough.

As British photographer Paul Conroy recently declared after escaping the siege of the Syrian city of Homs, "It's not a war, it's a massacre. An indiscriminate massacre of men, women and children."

This uneasy hesitation should have been expected. Learning from the explosive consequences of heavy Western military presence in predominantly Muslim countries, it's obvious why the option of inserting significant numbers of ground troops is off the

table. Unfortunately, the Syrian opposition is having a brutal time of conducting the fighting themselves.

The improvised Free Syrian Army, comprised mainly of ragtag defectors from Assad's slaughtering ranks, has repeatedly called for foreign weapon supplies to protect the civilian populace and beat back the onslaught, but arming them could prove gravely reckless.

U.S. intelligence agencies have indicated that al-Qaeda may be joining the uprising, complete with suicide car bombings and the vocal support of al-Qaeda's ring-leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri. It was even reported that at least one rebel army commander fought against American forces in Afghanistan.

Though the major opposition groups have disavowed ties with the terrorist network, the U.S. cannot afford to take this risk. Historically, Washington's arming of opposition groups has tipped the battle scales for the benefit of immediate policy gratification, but this habit perpetually returns to bite the government with

troubling human rights headaches (think the Afghan mujahedeen or the Indonesian army in East Timor).

The opposition Syrian National Council and Free Army have also persistently requested a no-fly zone such as the one that was implemented over Libya with overwhelming success. They assert that Western air control would immediately enable the safe defection of tens of thousands of Assad's soldiers.

Critics retort that unlike Col. Muammar Gaddafi's legions, the Syrian military has generally brutalized civilians from the ground rather than with aircraft and that armored vehicles are difficult to hit from NATO planes without significant risk of collateral civilian death.

Thus, our leaders have shied away from this potential action as well. But it's only a matter of time before the opposition develops into a serious threat to the regime's existence. It is then that Assad's air force will swiftly join in the murder, this time, from the skies and out of reach of the opposition's AK-47s and RPGs. When heavy air attacks on civilians and rebels are unleashed, it will be truly shameful if the world's military powers continue to turn their heads.

Offensive military options are not the only weapons being used by the Syrian government. Assad's army recently planted tens of thousands of landmines along the border with Turkey, viciously blocking a major escape route for refugees fleeing the bloodbath.

Turkish leaders have suggested that their military may establish a "buffer zone" on the Syrian side of the border to generate shielded refugee escape routes, but they refuse to do so without international security support to defend against probable

attacks from Assad's forces. This is the closest any capable nation has come to firmly considering a viable plan for effective aid.

If Turkey continues to refuse to intervene without foreign security forces, then the international community is morally obligated to provide them, even if it's only in the form of UN peacekeeping troops.

The United States and all Western powers have major strategic interests in endorsing these two reasonable intervention options. Syrian opposition leaders are bound to evolve into weighty political authorities in the future post-Assad government. To ignore their calls for help now is to imbue in them an unforgettable memory of abandonment later.

They will not soon forget that the U.S., who in 2003, invaded their close neighbor Iraq, and for years imposed economic sanctions upon them that crippled their poor, subsequently chose to stand idly by and watch the butchery of yet untold thousands of their brothers, wives, cousins, husbands, mothers and children.

It's an understatement to say that the United States is in painful need of strong allies in the region. The longer the Syrian people are massacred, the further the opposition may be pushed to extremist tactics and ideals to achieve their victory. The last thing Washington needs is an extremist-sympathetic (or worse, radicalized) Syrian government grudgingly bitter about the United States' lack of support in their revolution — which is adjacent to Israel.

Assad will ultimately fall, but the longer he remains in power, the higher the bodies of innocents will pile. The implementation of a no-fly zone and the enforcement of civilian escape corridors are the moment's most logical potential courses of action, but whatever is done, the ultimate aim must remain restricting Assad's forces' capabilities of slaughter. As the late Christopher Hitchens so potently wrote, "Neutrality favors the side with the biggest arsenal."

"... Neutrality favors the side with the biggest arsenal."

Obama's efforts in Cuba appropriate

By **THE DAILY CAMPUS EDITORIAL BOARD**
THE DAILY CAMPUS (U. CONNECTICUT)

President Obama recently accomplished one of the specific campaign promises he made with respect to the U.S.'s Cuba policy. He awarded Americans open rights to send money to and visit family in Cuba.

Of course, even this small step was met with criticism and attempts have already been made in Congress to try roll this policy back. But Obama has held his ground, threatening executive veto in order to make sure his policy remains.

Obama's new policy restores the "people-to-people" contacts between the U.S. and Cuba that existed under the Clinton administration, reinstating the embargo exemptions for Americans traveling for humanitarian, religious and academic purposes that were barred under Bush. Also, more direct flights to Cuba will be permitted.

More academic and research travel will mean increased contact between U.S. academic communities and the new generation of students and faculty

in Cuba, sparking active debate at a time when the country needs it. In the last years of the Clinton administration, Cuban colleges and universities enjoyed contacts with their counterparts in the U.S., and these new rules will restore them.

Now that Obama has made his move, the Cuban government should rise to the occasion. Cuba should implement programs that are more open to academic connections, allowing individual applications by Cubans to undergraduate and graduate study in the U.S.

The question now is whether the governments of Cuba and the U.S. can maintain a positive course of engagement and manage the volume of "people-to-people" contacts, which is bound to increase.

In any case, Obama should continue opening up the U.S. to Cuban society. Relations with Cuba have always been tricky, and the U.S.'s actions have not always produced reasonable responses from Cuba. But Obama has wisely broken from the habits of prior presidents, risen above domestic politics and put America's greatest assets: its scholars, religious groups, and cultural figures — to work on bringing the two countries closer.

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Tech looks to get back on track, takes on Angelo State

By **BRETT WINEGARNER**
MANAGING EDITOR

A solid midweek game, followed by a strong Friday headlined by Duke von Schamann, concluded with a disappointing weekend. This has been the story for Texas Tech baseball since Big 12 Conference play started.

For the second straight weekend, von Schamann shut down an opponent by throwing a complete game without giving up a run, leading Tech to victory. Then the Red Raiders proceeded to drop both the Saturday and Sunday games, leading Kansas to the series victory.

The team needs to get things turned around and figure out how to win some games, Tech coach Dan Spencer said.

"The only option is to re-evaluate again — what you are doing — and try to change things up, be creative and try to get their attention that we are better than that, and that we can get better

and that there is still a lot of season left," he said.

With the slow start in Big 12 play, Tech finds itself in second-to-last place in the conference with a 2-7 record, leaving the Red Raiders with a lot of work to do if they want to make a regional.

These last few losses have been hard to take because this team is a lot better than it is performing, von Schamann said.

"It's been pretty tough man, to lose these Big 12 series right in a row like that; it's really tough," he said. "Just coming from the aspect of our team, I feel like our team has a lot more talent than last year and we were doing better last year than

we are now, so it's definitely been real tough."

Although the team may be struggling, von Schamann hasn't experienced any difficulty in his last two starts. The sophomore has combined for back-to-back complete games while letting only one unearned run to cross the plates in both. With his recent dominance, von Schamann has now moved up

to second in the Big 12 with a 1.72 ERA and has led Tech to both of its conference wins. He also was named the Phillips 66 Big 12 Baseball Pitcher of the Week, marking

the first time any Tech player has won the award since Chad Bettis did so Feb. 20, 2010.

Despite von Schamann's string of solid starts, Spencer said, the team needs to get rolling offensively and not rely on him to carry the team every time he takes the mound.

"I hope we don't take him for granted," he said. "There's going to be days when we need to score a few runs and clean up all the balls because he could really pitch, but he's a college pitcher, so there's going to be days when we're going to have to pick him up."

Tech will once again look to gain some momentum from a midweek game, as it will take on Angelo State at 5 p.m. today at Rip Griffin Park. Although the Rams are a Division II school, Tech may not look past them, as Angelo State continues to climb up in the rankings and is cur-

rently the No. 9 team in Division II baseball.

The Red Raiders will send Brannon Easterling to the mound to make his third straight midweek start and will pitch against ASU's Matt Rechkemmer, who has pitched eight innings for the Rams so far this season, and has given up three hits and no runs.

The team needs to get back on

track and not dwell on its recent struggles, von Schamann said.

"I wouldn't say (the losing streak) defines a team," he said. "You know, everyone goes in slumps, especially in baseball. So I just say we need the baseball gods back on our side and we'll be fine because this team has a hell of a lot of talent."

► bwinegarner@dailytoreador.com

The team needs to get things turned around and figure out how to win some games.

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Today's
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1				6	
8	3	4		1	
6					8
			2	5	1
	2	5	3	7	9
7	9	1			
3					9
	7			6	8
	6				1

Puzzles by PageFiller

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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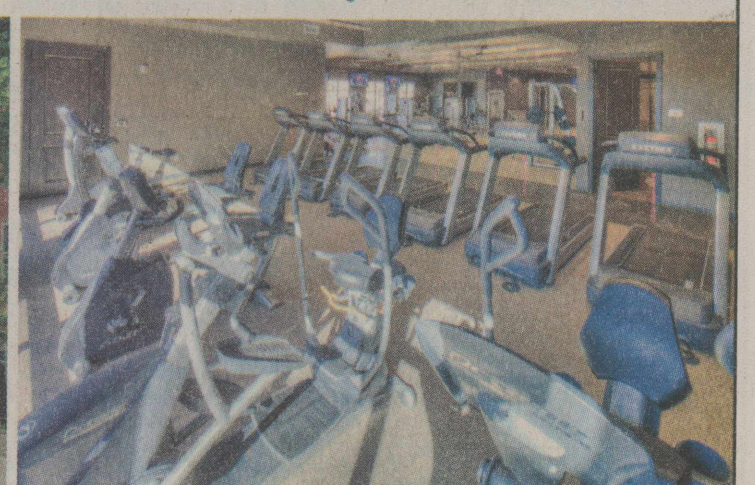
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