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Advisory committee strives to give graduate population voice

Group working with SGA, administration to improve graduate student life

By CAROLYN HECK
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Graduate Student Advisory Committee is striving to make itself more prominent while representing the voices and opinions of a growing graduate student population — something it will continue working on as the year closes.

"We pretty much were established to assist graduate students in bettering their quality of student life," said Florencio Aranda, the president of the GSAC.

GSAC was started as a means to support the growing number of graduate students coming to Tech as part of the university's attempt to achieve tier-one status, said Jacek Jonca-Jasinski, the director of GSAC.

The group is new, Aranda said, having just been formed last semester, but it is only taking true form this spring.

"The elections happened in February," he said, "and officers were chosen around that time as well. And since then, we've just been working at it to try to create the government. Now that it's established, we're focusing on the graduate students, which is our primary goal."

The government organization is comprised of eight commissions and a graduate council made of 20 people, he said.

Within the council there are four positions — internal vice president, external vice president, president and the chief-of-staff.

However, he said the majority of the work goes to the commissions and their members.

The eight commissions include the Student Welfare Commission, the Public Relations Commission, the Academic Development Commission, the Finance Commission, the Judicial-Legislative Commission, the Student Advocacy Commission, the Social Commission and the Community Outreach Commission, he said — all of which play a part in reaching out to the graduate student community and university administration to promote change.

The commissions allow graduate students to voice their concerns and make changes in areas such as academic life, financial allocations, student welfare, diversity awareness and social events, Aranda said.

GSAC continued on Page 2 >>>

Academic Acts



PHOTOS BY LAUREN PAPE AND SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

TOP: ADRIAN JIMEMEZ, THE general manager at Amigos United, grills links of sausage during the Undergraduate Research Conference's outdoor kick-off event at the Engineering Key on Monday. Amigos United and Red Raider Meats provided the sausage, condiments and potato chips for the event. ABOVE: Levi Johnson, an assistant coordinator for STEM outreach, hands Devin Sanchez, a senior communication studies major from Midland, her student ID after scanning it for a free shirt in the Engineering Key on Monday as part of the research outdoor kick-off event.

MCOM team works to build better communication in Rhode Island hospital

Professors establish training program for better response time, patient satisfaction

By NICOLE MOLTER
STAFF WRITER

The idea for Project CLEAR began on a flight when Kevin Stoker, associate dean of faculty at the Texas Tech College of Mass Communications, sat next to Brian Zink, chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University in Rhode Island.

After discussing how some doctors and medical staffers have trouble communicating with their patients, they formed the concept for Project Communication Leading to Excellence and Ameliorating Risk, a sustainability campaign meant to provide structure and consistency in hospitals.

"Dr. Stoker ended up sitting next to one of their administrators and they got to talking," said Trent Seltzer, chairman of the Department of Public Relations at Tech.

"Dr. Stoker talked about what we did here and the administrator said 'Well, we have something going up there that maybe you guys can help us with.'"

These issues deal with all medical facilities in the United States, not just ones unique to the Rhode Island hospital system, Seltzer said, such as low patient satisfaction and limited health care.

"It's a very hectic environment, basically," Seltzer said. "Because of that, that creates a lot of barriers to effective communication."

Lynn Sweeney, assistant professor of emergency medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School, wanted to enforce training to increase patient satisfaction with the emergency department staff, said Coy Callison, associate dean for graduate studies at the Tech College of Mass Communications.

CLEAR continued on Page 3 >>>

Students present academic research at annual Undergraduate Research Conference

By EMILY REYES
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech's Center for Undergraduate Research began its annual Undergraduate Research Conference this week, a campus-wide event giving students the opportunity to showcase their undergraduate research to institutions from around the nation.

Jeannie Diaz, the director of the undergraduate research team, said all events this week are open to any students interested in undergraduate research or graduate school.

She said students from all fields across campus are welcome.

"This is an opportunity for students to showcase their research in different formats and build that network of colleagues and students that are doing research throughout the university," Diaz said.

The center hosts workshops throughout the semester for any students interested in undergraduate research, she said. The center helps students connect with faculty and gives direction for students who choose to pursue undergraduate research.

There will be about 177 student participants showcasing their research in the conference this week, she said. There are also students from South Plains College who will be participating in the conference. The center tries to promote research to students and engage students with faculty to ensure academic success.

"Our main purpose is to promote our students and visiting students, and create that culture of research here on campus," Diaz said.

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Community Calendar

TODAY

Texas Tech Undergraduate Research Conference
Time: 9:45 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Where: Student Union Building, Room 232

So, what is it?

Present your research and network with fellow researchers from around the country at this undergraduate research conference that will continue until Friday.

Da Vinci: The Genius

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Science Spectrum Museum

So, what is it?

This traveling exhibition features some of da Vinci's full-scale machine inventions crafted from his personal notebooks, as well as reproductions of his most famous Renaissance art, including the "Mona Lisa," "Virgin of the Rocks," "The Annunciation," the "Last Supper," the "Vitruvian Man," and the "Sforza Horse."

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute presents "Banned Videos in China: What Do They Reveal?"

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center

So, what is it?

Jinglan Feng, a student and instructor in the Chinese program at Tech will lead the class, which will expose a variety of media material about China and will discuss the values China wants to represent in modern society.

Vietnam Center and Archive Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Film Festival

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Where: Southwest Collections/Special Collections Library, Formby Room

So, what is it?

For the Fourth Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Film Festival the Vietnam Center and Archive will present four films: "The Scent of Green Papaya," "Sita Sings the Blues," "Indochine," and "Thanh's War."

Texas Tech Softball vs. Texas A&M Doubleheader

Time: 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Where: Rocky Johnson Field

So, what is it?

Support the Red Raiders as they compete against the Aggies in this doubleheader.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute presents "What to Listen for in Music"

Time: 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center

So, what is it?

Thomas Cimarusti, an assistant professor of musicology at Tech will lead the class, which will explore the music tools you can use in order to improve listening skills and heighten your sensitivity to music.

Texas Tech Baseball vs. New Mexico

Time: 6 p.m.

Where: Rip Griffin Park

So, what is it?

Support the Red Raiders as they compete against New Mexico.

WEDNESDAY

Texas Tech Baseball vs. New Mexico

Time: 1 p.m.

Where: Rip Griffin Park

So, what is it?

Support the Red Raiders as they compete against New Mexico.

PreLaw Program April Roundtable: "What Can I Do With a Law Degree?"

Time: 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Where: College of Education

So, what is it?

A panel of practicing lawyers from a variety of specialties will discuss the different careers students can pursue in the legal field.

Texas Tech Softball vs. Texas A&M

Time: 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Where: Rocky Johnson Field

So, what is it?

Support the Red Raiders as they compete against the Aggies.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Men's Coalition Movie Screening

Time: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

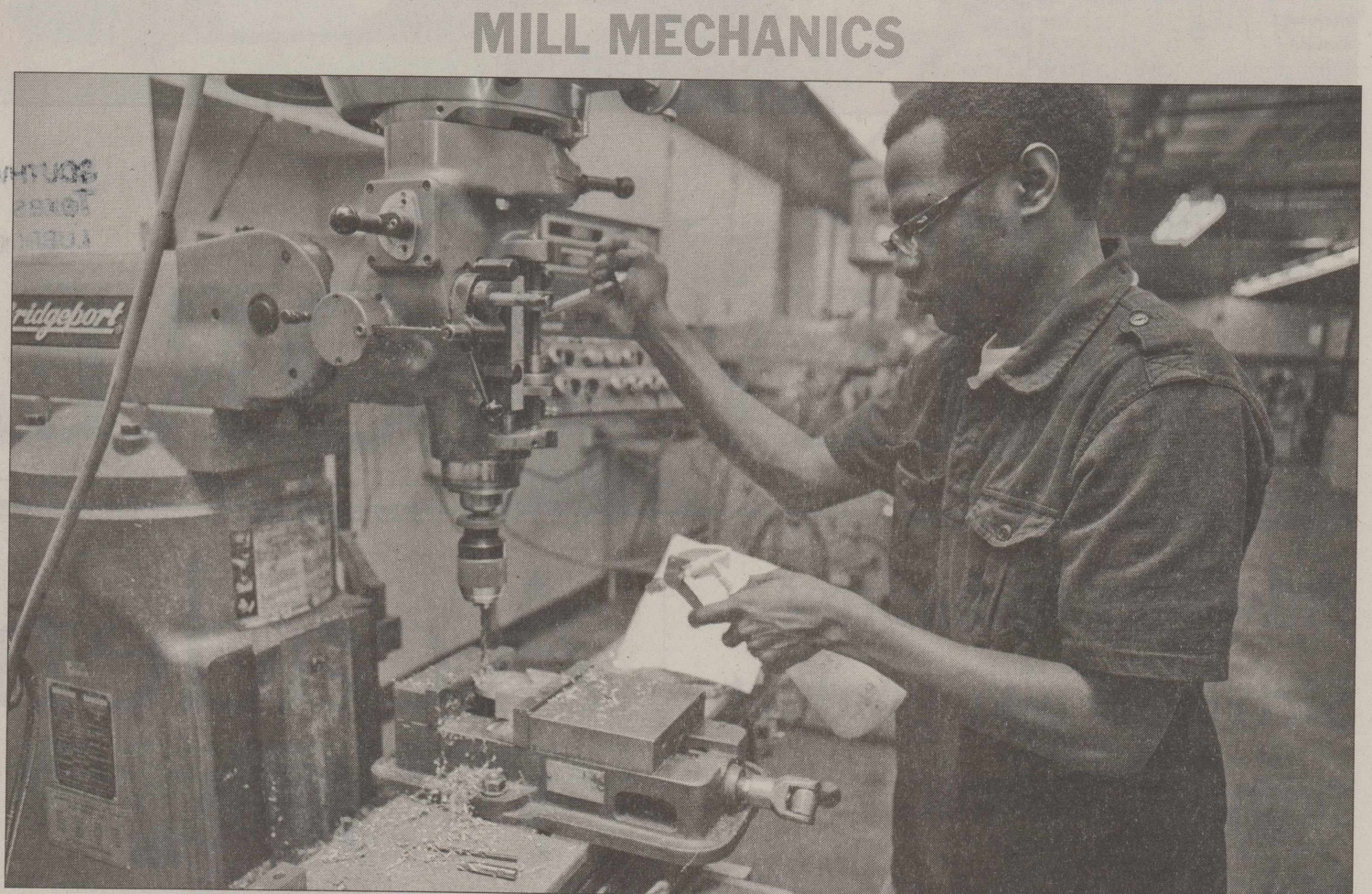
Where: Holden Hall, Room 5

So, what is it?

Hosted by the Student Counseling Center, Women's Studies and Women's Protective Services, this men only event will give a screening of the film "Tough Guise," which is about the intersection of violence, the media and the crisis in masculinity.

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.



HERBERT ODHIAMBO, A graduate student studying mechanical engineering from Kisumu, Kenya, sprays lubricant on a vertical mill while making a load set in the Mechanical Engineering building on Monday.

GSAC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"As of right now, since we are fairly new," he said. "We pretty much hear the concerns of the graduate students; we present it to our director and the dean of the graduate school."

GSAC has developed a working relationship with administration and the Student Government Association on behalf of the graduate students as well, Jonca-Jasinski said.

John Middleton, the internal vice president of GSAC and a graduate student from Desoto, said he believes the GSAC is beneficial to any graduate student who is looking for a voice in the university.

"We've just started out," he said, "but definitely it's helped me with being diplomatic and interacting with other graduate students and university

administration in a more positive way than most people are able to do."

A big problem the group is facing, he said, is that the community is altogether unaware of what GSAC is and what it does.

"The big thing that that we're pushing for is for more graduate students to be active in helping the council in what we want to do; reaching out to the graduate community," he said, "because there's only 20 of us and there's 5,500 graduate students, so that's a pretty tall order for us."

To solve this problem, Aranda said, the GSAC is providing outreach to both the Tech community and to Lubbock.

"One of the things, in order for us to get members in the future," Aranda said, "is we are encouraging our graduate representatives to reach out to other graduate students and let them know that they can form part of our commissions

as commission members, because that's really where all the work happens."

GSAC is also hosting events for graduate students to help raise awareness of its existence, said Jonca-Jasinski.

They hosted the First Grad Bash at Bar PM on April 9, where more than 200 graduate students attended, he said.

Students were provided with free coffee, desserts and snacks, and given the chance to co-mingle with each other, he said, while live music performers played.

SGAC is hosting a Prezzi Workshop on April 26 to demonstrate how to use the presentation software, he said.

"It promotes more concise and lively presentation," he said, "and this is good for both teaching as well as for sort of the research presentations so people don't snooze when you talk to them for about 15 minutes."

An outing at Buffalo Lake is also in the planning stages for April 27, he said.

"This would be sort of an opportunity for people to bring their families," he said.

"Some of the students volunteered to actually do the Indian-style barbecue. And if people want, they can stay overnight. We can sit by the fire and enjoy each other, socialize with each other, meet each other."

Though they may still be a fairly small group, Jonca-Jasinski said, he hopes they will grow in the future and be able to make a difference in graduate students' lives.

"At the end of the day, we won't be really judged based on what we say, we'll be judged on what we actually do," he said. "And I hope that through the work with the commissions, Graduate Student Advisory Council will be actually able to address some of the problems that specifically graduate students are facing and at the end make a difference in the quality of graduate student life."

check@dailytoreador.com

POLICE BLOTTER

Student transported to UMC for possible alcohol poisoning

Friday
9:21 a.m. - A Texas Tech officer investigated forgery of prescription medication at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center.

9:57 a.m. - A Tech officer investigated a theft in the C4 parking lot. Several bicycle parts were taken from a secured bicycle.

12:01 p.m. - A Tech officer investigated a theft of a power-tool from the HSC.

1:32 p.m. - A Tech officer investigated a theft of a bicycle rack from the Z6A parking lot.

2:34 p.m. - A Tech officer investigated harassment at Chitwood Residence Hall. A student was harassing another student with text messages and emails.

4:44 p.m. - A Tech officer arrested a student for a Lubbock County Sheriff Department warrant. The student was

transported to the Lubbock County Detention Center.

7:28 p.m. - A Tech officer documented a medical emergency at Urbanovsky Park. A student injured his shoulder.

8:13 p.m. - A Tech officer documented information on damaged property in Weymouth Residence Hall. One ceiling tile was damaged.

11:30 p.m. - A Tech officer documented information on a medical emergency on the north side of Stangel Residence Hall. A student was transported to the University Medical Center Emergency Room by Emergency Medical Services for possible alcohol poisoning. Three students, who dropped off the injured student, were detained in the Z5B parking lot and each was issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of alcohol by a minor.

Saturday

4:02 p.m. - A Tech officer arrested a non-student for two Lubbock County warrants in the Z6A parking lot. The non-student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail.

5:34 p.m. - A Tech officer investigated a traffic accident, without injuries, in the Z5C parking lot.

Sunday

1:12 p.m. - A Tech officer arrested a student for public intoxication in the intersection of 4th Street and University Avenue. The student was transported to Lubbock County Jail.

2:20 a.m. - A Tech officer arrested a student for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia in the Z5B parking lot, following a traffic stop. The student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail. The vehicle was left legally parked.

3:08 a.m. - A Tech officer investigated criminal mischief in Weymouth Residence Hall. Three ceiling tiles were damaged.

6:40 p.m. - A Tech officer investigated criminal mischief in the Z3L parking lot. A vehicle was damaged.

8:06 p.m. - A Tech officer investigated criminal mischief in the R19 Wiggins Complex parking lot. A vehicle's trunk was damaged.

10:56 p.m. - A Tech officer documented information on the odor of burnt marijuana coming from a room at Weymouth Residence Hall.

11:20 p.m. - A Tech officer investigated criminal mischief to several ceiling tiles and emergency exit signs on the 7th and 11th floors of Weymouth Residence Hall.

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

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71			72			73		74			
78			79			80		81			

By Gareth Bain 4/17/12

1 Filet mignon order
2 Not as much
3 Derby-sporting Addams
4 "Yes, mon ami!"
5 Rechargeable battery
6 Shrank in fear
7 Oil-drilling equipment
8 Be up against
9 "Quo Vadis" emperor
10 Mark's love, casually
11 Distort, as facts
12 Microwave no-no
13 Black, to Blake
14 Six-time baseball All-Star Moises
15 Like a newborn
16 Holiday entrée
17 Trampoline maneuver
18 Physics particle
19 Jules Verne captain
20 Powder on a puff
21 Sundance Film Festival state
22 Green prefix
23 Toyota subcompact

MONDAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED

J A I L S D I V A S C O W
O L L I E E V O K E A D O
T O S S E S A L A D S E W
S T A T A I N T A L P S
S A N G B N A I P S
N O S C E N T E R S T A G E
O C E A N O S E T I N I L A
S U R G E S U P P R E S S O R
E L M O G N U C H E S T
D O O R S T O P P E R A S H
N A P S O P U S
V I S A C A M I H A L T
F E Z S T O R M C H A S E R
A G E M O V I E A M I N O
B A D S T E A L L E F T Y

40 Compromise with the district attorney
41 Tirade
42 Chew the fat
43 For a...pittance
44 Plains native
45 Gal's guy
46 Trims the lawn
47 Green-bellied sap sucker
48 Schindler of "Schindler's List" opposite
49 Clingy, in a way
50 Oil acronym
51 Object that may be struck by the answers to starrd clues
52 Thought
53 Tivo, for one
54 Wide shoe letters

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The one real object of education is to have a man in the condition of continually asking questions.

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Judges, journalists clash over courtroom tweets

The tension was highlighted recently by a Chicago court's decision to ban anyone from tweeting or using other social media at the upcoming trial of a man accused of killing Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson's family.

Reporters and their advocates insist the practice is essential to providing a play-by-play for the public as justice unfolds.

"We're troubled by this ban," said Ed Yohnka, Chicago spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union. "Tweeting and social media are merely the 21st century version of what reporters have always done — gather information and disseminate it."

Judges, he said, should embrace Twitter as a way to shed light on the judicial process, which, for many Americans, remains shrouded in mysterious ritual.

The judge in the Illinois case fears that feverish tweeting on smartphones could distract jurors and witnesses when testimony begins April 23.

"Tweeting takes away from the dignity of a courtroom," said Irv Miller, media liaison for Cook County Judge Charles Burns. "The judge doesn't want the trial to turn into a circus."

Burns is allowing reporters to bring cellphones and to send e-mails periodically, a notable concession in a state that has only recently announced it will begin experimenting with cameras in court and where cellphones are often barred from courtrooms altogether.

There's also an overflow courtroom where reporters can tweet freely. But there will be no audio or video of proceedings in the room, just live transcripts scrolling across a screen.

The issue extends beyond journalists to jurors, whose tweets have raised issues of their own across the country.

Last year, the Arkansas Supreme Court threw out a death row inmate's murder conviction after one juror tweeted during proceedings and another slept. Juror Randy Franco's tweets ranged from the philosophical to the mundane. One read, "The coffee sucks here." Less than an hour before the jury returned with a verdict, he tweeted, "It's all over."

There's little gray area regarding jurors tweeting. The Arkansas trial judge had warned jurors, "Don't Twitter anybody" about the case. Burns was similarly explicit during jury selection in Chicago.

CLEAR ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sweeney applied for funding of Project CLEAR and received it. Part of the grant was to figure out how to get people interested in the project, how to motivate them and how to make sure the training was implemented.

"From the very beginning, we were involved — before the training even started — with getting positive word of mouth, buzz about 'Hey some really cool training is coming up,' and then slowly they went through the training," Cal-

lison said.

To work on the CLEAR project, Callison established a team, which included Seltzer and assistant professors Shannon Bichard and Liz Gardner.

"I put that team together because I thought they all had particular interests and skills that I didn't have," Callison said, "and we did some research — found out a few things about what was going well within the communication system, what was going poorly, the layout of the emergency department — and then have been advising them since then."

The training was reinforced

with materials, such as pamphlets and brochures, he said. Even after the training, posters were put up as reminders of the quality of the training.

The Alpert Medical School has a simulation room that looks like the Emergency Room, Seltzer said, with lifelike dummies, which have heartbeats and can simulate certain medical complications, such as a stroke. Microphones and cameras record peoples' practice and progress, which can later be reviewed in a conference room.

After several months, more than 600 people — including doctors, nurses and staff — went through

the training program.

"We didn't do the training," Callison said. "We were involved with making sure the training stuck."

One of the main goals of Project CLEAR's training program is to reduce medical errors, Seltzer said.

"It's also intended that better communication between the doctor and the nurse then translates to better communication with the patient," he said. "So the patient, not only is getting good physical care, but is also getting ... they might have more satisfaction with their stay or be more likely to comply with what the doctor's telling

them to do because they were very clearly communicated with. (Their mental), emotional well-being translates into quicker recovery."

Other medical programs, newspapers and websites have shown interest in the project, Callison said, so it may be implemented elsewhere in the future.

"I went out to San Diego in January," he said, "and ... presented these findings, this research about this thing working — really the idea — to a conference of physicians. Then from there it's sort of picked up a little speed. Some people have started to take interest in it. I've gotten a few phone calls about 'Can

you do this for our hospital?'"

The training module has only implemented in Providence, but is looking to use the training at multiple hospitals in Rhode Island. While the program is finishing its first year, there is still work to do, Callison said.

"In the whole scheme of things, I think we've made some really good progress," he said, "but we can't really declare victory or anything. It's been a really cool project. It got a lot of us to be involved and some of our grad students and it's getting a little bit of publicity for the college, which has been good."

►nmolter@dailytoreador.com

Research ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There will be a Graduate School Fair on Wednesday in the Student Union Building. Diaz said the fair is an open event for all students interested in attending graduate school. Students will have the opportunity to engage with representatives from 23 different graduate schools and will also be able to network with current graduate students.

Conference participants Courtney Lewis, a sophomore nutrition major from Grapevine, and Ramona Mittal, a sophomore biology major from Lubbock, are presenting their research on the effects of overfishing on populations of *Lutjanus campechanus*, or red snapper. They said they have been working all semester on their project.

Lewis and Mittal said their involvement in Tech's Proactive Recruitment in Introductory Science and Math program sparked an interest in undergraduate research. Besides the resume factor, they said, their participation in the conference will open doors for them and give them a chance to network with students and faculty.

"I have friends who have done undergraduate research and they always talk about how good it is and how much fun it is," Mittal said. "It's just a different experience that you don't get every day."

The Center for Undergraduate Research funded more than 30 undergraduates to travel to local and national conferences to present their research during the 2011-2012 academic year. Some of the awards supported student travel to Ogden, Utah, for participation in one of the largest undergraduate research conferences in the nation. The Center for Undergraduate Research at Tech works with various school partners to promote and support undergraduate research success.

Anita Fintan, a sophomore social work major from New Jersey, is volunteering to help out with the event. She said her interest in cognitive research, particularly with children, made her want to volunteer to have a better understanding of how the conference works.

She said she applied to volunteer for the event through TechAnnounce.

"Since I'm already interested in undergraduate research, I thought volunteering for the conference would be a great way to see how it is beforehand, if I do happen to present next year," Fintan said.

There will be a number of events occurring during the week through the Center for Undergraduate Research, including oral and paper presentations, vendor fairs and workshops. A full list of events can be found at <http://www.undergraduateresearch.ttu.edu>.

►ereyes@dailytoreador.com

Drought sparks water dispute with Texas, Mexico at border

McALLEN (AP) — Melted snow providing water for irrigation had barely begun bubbling down a bone-dry Rio Grande toward a thin 4-mile-wide strip of farmland straddling the U.S.-Mexico border when a war of words erupted.

Mexico wanted a traditional early release from reservoirs so spring planting wouldn't be delayed. Texas farmers, fearing a historic drought could tighten its grip again this summer, wanted to delay the release for a couple of months to ensure enough water was left to help crops survive the hottest, driest part of the year.

Dividing the Rio Grande's waters is a complicated annual undertaking governed by arcane agreements and imperfect calculations. When there's plenty of water it flows smoothly, but with farmers on both sides of the border confronting severe drought — officials expect to have about one-third of the water of a normal year — Texas officials quickly lashed out an international commission's decision to release the water, accusing it of putting Mexico's water needs ahead of drought-stricken Texas farmers in the El Paso Valley.

Mexico is guaranteed a fraction

of the water from Rocky Mountain snows that drain into two New Mexico reservoirs. Once released, the water flows down the Rio Grande toward Texas, where it's diverted to Texas and Mexican farmers by dams. Local irrigation districts move the water through canals to farmers' fields.

With water expected to be scarce this year, two irrigation districts in New Mexico and Texas — which receive most of the water — decided in February to take their first deliveries in May rather than in March as they typically do. The idea was to delay the irrigation season in an effort to stretch what little water would be available to the end of the growing season.

But this posed a problem for Mexican farmers who need water to get their cotton started in late March and April. Mexico asked the International Boundary and Water Commission, a binational body charged with applying the treaties governing the river and boundary, to take its share in March.

The IBWC ordered the water released, and Texas farmers accepted it, although under protest. It's more efficient to move a lot

of water than a little, especially when the riverbed has been a sandy sponge for months. Irrigation districts estimate twice as much water will be lost to seepage than delivered to Mexico in this release, and those losses come out of the U.S. share, not Mexico's.

"The March delivery request is very normal for Mexico," IBWC spokeswoman Sally Spener said. "What caused the concern was that in an ideal world everybody would take the deliveries at the same time because that's a more efficient way of moving water."

Farmers in West Texas are trying to make the best of the situation, planting more now to take advantage of the early release but knowing it might mean they run out of water before the end of the growing season.

"It's a mixed blessing," said Kevin Ivey, who grows cotton, pecans and other crops near El Paso. "I'm getting water on the alfalfa where I need it. However it's going to affect our total allotment by the end of the year."

The IBWC's U.S. commissioner said he followed a 1906 agreement when siding with Mexico in March. But a letter issued this

month by Texas agriculture and environmental officials said the decision violates terms of the deal and "results in the protection of Mexico's citizens at the expense of U.S. citizens."

Jesus Armando Reta Mar, delegate for Mexico's agriculture secretariat in the Juarez Valley, just across the border from El Paso, was aware of Texas' unhappiness with the IBWC's recent decision, but said his farmers had no choice as they face the country's worst drought since the government began tracking rainfall in 1941.

Mexico requires its farmers to have their cotton established by May 15, so they must plant earlier, he said. With fewer wells than their U.S. neighbors, they depend more on the river water. And, they must irrigate at planting to get the cotton to germinate. Later, they can shut off water for a time without harming the plants.

Across the border, the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 supplies water to thousands of farmers on more than 69,000 acres, creating an oasis of cotton, pecan orchards and row crops that ends abruptly at the desert.

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Inspire

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**Undergraduate
Research
Conference**
April 16-20, 2012



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Amigos
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Kaplan
Raider Pass
Red Mango
The Princeton Review
The Village at Overton Park
University Pointe
University Trails

Schedule of Events

Today, Tuesday 4.17.12

8:30 am – 9:15 am
Registration: Judges & Visiting Institutions
*Continental Breakfast, Red Raider Lounge
9:15 am – 9:30 am
Conference Welcome, Ballroom
9:30 am – 11:00 am
Poster Presentations, Ballroom
11:15 am – 12:15 pm
*Conference Luncheon, Matador Room
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
e-Portfolio Workshop, Traditions Room
Afternoon Registration: Judges, Visiting Institutions,
Oral/Paper Presenters, Red Raider Lounge
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Oral & Paper Presentations, 2nd Floor SUB
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Day 1 Poster Take Down, Day 2 Poster Set Up
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
Conference Networking Reception for presenters (must
have VIP conference card to attend), TTU Club,
West Suite Level

Wednesday 4.18.12

8:30 am – 9:15 am
Registration: Judges, Visiting Institutions, Oral/Paper
Presenters *Continental Breakfast, Red Raider Lounge
9:00 am – 9:45 am
Publishing Research: STEM Workshop,
Traditions Room
Humanities/Social Sciences Workshop, Toreador Room
10:00 am – 11:30 am
Oral & Paper Presentations, 2nd Floor SUB
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Graduate School Fair WTAWIS Science Vendor Fair,
Ballroom
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Come & Go Lunch for Presenters, Red Raider Lounge
11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Afternoon Registration: Judges, Red Raider Lounge
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Poster Presentations, Ballroom
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm
Closing Remarks
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm
Poster Take Down

Thursday 4.19.12

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Center for Undergraduate Research Spring Banquet,
Merket Alumni Center

Friday 4.20.12

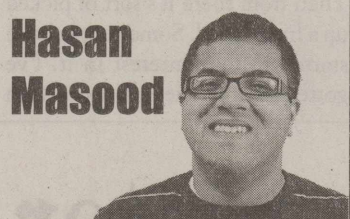
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm TTU/HHMI Spring Banquet,
Matador Room

Two remain: Presidential race narrows

In a Republican presidential primary season that seemed to have lasted longer than it takes to register for classes on Raiderlink, Mitt Romney has finally emerged as the presumptive nominee to take on President Barack Obama in the upcoming election.

Yes, Ron Paul and Newt Gingrich are technically still in the race, but, at this point, it is nearly impossible for either of them to surpass Romney.

Many different candidates surged to the top of the polls and faded just as quickly into obscurity. Herman Cain, former Federal Reserve Bank chairman and pizza mogul, surprisingly led the polls for a period of time on the back of his dubious "9-9-9" tax plan. His campaign eventually came to an end before the first primary, as a result of sexual misconduct allegations.



Hasan Masood

There was also Rick Perry, who entered the race fairly late and immediately became a leading figure. He became a proverbial knight in shining armor for Tea Party and conservative Republican activists and supporters. But, eventually, his campaign was sunk by debate gaffes, inter-staff fighting and — um, what was the third one?

Finally, the first series of primaries began. Within these primaries, Rick Santorum, a former senator from Pennsylvania, shockingly emerged as a legitimate contender. His heavy campaigning in Iowa and appeal to evangelical voters made San-

torum a perfect conservative foil to the relatively moderate Romney. Eventually, it was his appeal to moderate and independent voters that handed Romney the nomination.

Romney's all but assured victory seemed to have bucked the national trend for Republican political candidates. In recent years, conservative and Tea Party Republicans have taken control of the party, while the moderates in the party have fallen by the wayside. But the historically moderate Romney completely goes against this trend.

An Obama-Romney election also bucks the national trend of heated and vicious political rhetoric. I have written in this space before, on the hateful

rhetoric that has become the norm in politics in recent years. But Romney has, for the most part, refused to engage in the same hateful rhetoric that Santorum and Gingrich became infamous for.

This air of civil political rhetoric can change, of course. I still remember how the 2008 presidential campaign of John McCain, a politician noted for his civility, took a hateful

turn in the later stages of the campaign when he accused Obama of "palling around with terrorists."

At this point in time, Obama has the advantage. While Romney was busy slugging it out with Santorum and other Republican candidates, Obama was quietly building up his 2012 campaign and war chest. In February, Obama raised about \$20 million — which was almost twice the amount Romney raised in the same period of time. Now that the Republican presidential fight is over, Romney should be able to raise more money.

Obama also has an enthusiasm gap on Romney. The 2008 presidential election was won by Obama's extremely enthusiastic grassroots base, which is being actively engaged during the 2012 election cycle. Despite his Republican victory, Romney has been greeted with lukewarm

support, even from those who are planning to vote for him.

Many voters have also pointed to a lack of core values in Romney. Recently, a "Saturday Night Live" skit mocked Romney pandering to many different groups, including a Jewish group and even a role-playing gaming convention. While absolutely hilarious, the skit had some truth. Many voters do not know what exactly Romney stands for and who he is.

Regardless, the months remaining in the presidential campaign season should be full of drama and surprises. No matter who wins the election, it is sure to be interesting. Fasten your seatbelts, because we are in for a bumpy ride.

Masood is a senior history major from Plano.

► hmasood@dailytoreador.com

“Despite his Republican victory, Romney has been greeted with lukewarm support ...”

CISPA has replaced SOPA, PIPA

Beware scholarship income on tax filing

By **JACOB BATCHELOR**
THE DARTMOUTH (DARTMOUTH COLLEGE)

This past winter, hundreds of thousands of people banded together to strike down the Stop Online Piracy Act before it became law.

It was beautiful: young people getting involved in politics, if only to protect their God-given right to download the latest episode of "Mad Men" and repost clips of their favorite shows.

However, it seems unlikely that the Internet's masses would have been victorious in this case without the assistance of the technology industry — giants like Google, Facebook, Wikipedia and Twitter who lobbied, purchased full-page ads in The New York Times and blacked out their websites in protest.

Now a new bill has emerged, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act, that has the potential to violate our rights and privacy in perhaps a more sinister way.

But this time, the powers that be in the tech world have sided with Washington. Exactly why they've done so is a lesson in cynicism. And business. Sadly, without them, we may not win.

CISPA is a proposed amendment to the National Security Act of 1947 that seeks to make it easier for the government to get information from internet service providers in cases of perceived threats against national security.

The problem with the bill is in its

vagueness. According to the text of the bill, the law would allow the full seizure of a large segment of an internet provider's user data if there is any evidence of "efforts to degrade, disrupt or destroy" or of the "theft or misappropriation of private or government information, intellectual property or personally identifiable information."

Worse, government agencies can

search this user data for personal information unrelated to the original seizure — all without a warrant. This is good in the case of foreign cyber attacks aimed at civilian defense contractors but bad for the fourth amendment.

In response to significant opposition from the online community, lawmakers have proposed several amendments to the bill, to be voted on later this month.

Amendments include making the government liable to lawsuits filed against its seizures. Another saddles accountability with the civilian Department of Homeland Security, whereas the current bill designates the more secretive, military National Security Agency as the organization to receive and act upon the information.

However, vague terms like "national security" and "cyber threats" remain undefined, and we still have the tricky problem of the government being allowed access to private, identifiable information without warrants or much oversight.

Technology companies like Facebook and Microsoft have come out in support of the new bill, which essentially allows for the same violations of civil rights and privacy as SOPA. So why?

With SOPA, the legislation put the burden all on the tech companies, holding them liable for infringements, a move that would indeed have hindered growth, profits and innovation.

In CISPA's case, however, the government regulates user content instead, lifting the heavy burden of liability from the shoulders of tech companies. No longer can these companies be sued for supplying the government with user data. No longer do they have to pay the price in dollars or negative

publicity. They'll say, "a law's a law" — no one will be able to blame them for following it. As one blogger put it, "Supporting CISPA is in these companies' interest. Supporting SOPA/PIPA was not." Sucks for us.

The following months will be an interesting time for the Internet and will serve as a kind of democratic litmus test to determine whether or not the self-congratulations from SOPA and other internet campaigns have been deserved.

We will see if the increasingly not-so-anonymous masses can indeed rise up to combat legislation that violates their rights and the privacy they hold so dear.

I would call on tech companies to reconsider their roots and think about what CISPA could mean to the online world they helped create. I would plead for industry leaders like Google, Microsoft and Facebook to pressure Congress — to work with them — to create a bill that can simultaneously keep our nation safer while protecting the principles on which it was founded: to tell them "doing no evil" does not mean doing nothing at all.

But that would be silly, I guess; I'm sure they don't pay much attention to the pleas of a single college student. Instead, I'll sit here, sign that petition, write this article and pray to the Gods my voice — our voice — still matters.

“Technology companies like Facebook and Microsoft have come out in support of the new bill ...”

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Fundraiser helps Ronald McDonald House Charities

By **ASHLYN TUBBS**
STAFF WRITER

Dine and be kind. This is the slogan the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest is using for a fundraiser with participating McDonald's within 13 different cities from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday.

McDonald's in Lubbock, Slaton, Levelland, Post, Brownfield, Muleshoe, Littlefield, Denver City, Seminole, Plainview, Lamesa, Clovis and Hobbs, N.M. will donate 20 percent of all proceeds from Wednesday to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest,

which receives 80 percent of its income through donations.

"We want everyone to know more about us," said Haily Assiter, with community relations of the Ronald McDonald Charities of the Southwest, "and to meet people who have benefited from us in the past or are still benefitting from our programs."

Assiter said this is the first Ronald McDonald House to do a fundraiser like this with McDonald's and they hope to inspire other Ronald McDonald Houses to do the same if the event is successful.

Volunteers and employees will be at the participating McDonald's, spreading the word

about the services the charity provides as well as personal

experiences from families affected through the programs.

The affected families will be located at the McDonald's in Post, Clovis and Hobbs, N.M. and in Lubbock on 90th Street and Quaker Avenue.

Assiter said the Ronald Mc-

Donald House Charities of the Southwest keep families together

while their child has a serious injury or sickness. It allows families to stay close to their child by providing them a place to stay close to the hospital.

"Children going through that need support because they shouldn't even be going through something at that age,"

said Yasi Crumpler, a freshman accounting major from San Antonio. "That's why I'm choosing to support this fundraiser."

In order to stay in the Ronald McDonald House, the families cannot already live in Lubbock. For families that do live in Lubbock, there are family rooms provided by the charity in Covenant Health Systems and University Medical Center Health System Hospital, as well as in Odessa.

Assiter said the charity also provides a care mobile that treats about 3,000 children in elementary schools throughout the Permian Basin who would not receive treatment otherwise.

The mobile has two medical exam rooms, a laboratory, an on-board pharmacy and a medical record area.

Assiter encourages people to support the charities by eating at McDonald's Wednesday in order to help sick children and their families. She said if it is successful, they will host it in the fall as well.

Camille Adamson, a freshman studying pre-med from San Antonio, plans to eat her dinner at McDonald's Wednesday.

"If I were in their position, I would want someone to help me," she said. "It's the least I can do."

▶▶atubbs@dailytoreador.com

Alabama Shakes on a magic carpet ride to debut

AUSTIN (AP) — Brittany Howard already had her life planned out by the time she hit her 20s, and it didn't include any of this.

The lead singer and force of nature in Alabama Shakes, rock 'n' roll's newest phenomenon, already had a good job delivering mail and hoped to hold onto it. Like many folks reared in the rural South, she didn't expect much more. Maybe she could carve out a little happiness with a husband and some kids.

"Where we're from, playing music and just playing music is not an avenue to take," Howard said. "It's not an option. Because like, where we're from, most of the people, they've tried their best to get the best job they can and then they stay with that job until they can retire. So music was just kind of like our hobby. It was something we would do to like release at the end of the day or still feel like human beings."

In less than a year, all that has changed and her quartet from Athens, Ala., has become a success story so unlikely even the band's manager calls it "an anomaly." Maximum buzz has preceded the Shakes' debut album "Boys & Girls" with sold-out tours of the United States and Europe, fawning media coverage and

an endless string of surprises.

Howard, 23, sat down for a morning interview early in the band's overstuffed run through the South By Southwest Music Festival last month. The band rented a house in a tony section of town and was loose and celebrating over breakfast tacos after a successful "Austin City Limits" taping and in anticipation of a heavy schedule of live showcases at the music conference.

They'd just learned they'd be joining Jack White for part of his tour and big opportunities seemed to be coming up every day. Howard admitted it all still felt a bit miraculous, even in the age of instantaneous Internet buzz. Until the band started to tour she'd never been farther away from Athens "than somewhere in Tennessee."

Warm and open, but a little shy and hesitant to make eye contact, Howard hardly resembled the larger-than-life figure she is on stage. With only an EP, a handful of professionally produced videos and a legion of YouTube fan postings, there's been little for the curious to go on since the band first started gaining attention last summer. But every time Howard and her bandmates — bassist Zac Cockrell, drummer Steve John-

son and guitarist Heath Fogg — play out live, they gain more true believers who turn and pass on the word.

The Shakes' musical approach is laid back — simple riffs that sway and build laid down over fertile grooves. There's nothing elaborate and no need to be because within a few bars, Howard comes in with a voice that rattles the room and shakes the soul. Already visually arresting — it's not often you see a bespectacled, full-figured black woman with red electric guitar strapped over her shoulder fronting a rock 'n' roll band — when Howard opens her mouth and sings, it's like completing a circuit.

Patterson Hood, The Drive-By Truckers frontman who spread the gospel as an early adopter and took the group on the road, compared her ability to mesmerize a crowd to Bruce Springsteen's audience-winning ways. He says she has "the undecipherable thing — the thing that separates people who are really good from those that have that extra something."

"To me that applies there," Hood said. "There are people who technically have as good a voice as she does; I'm sure better. She doesn't do anything fancy. It's not a new way of doing anything. But it's the way that

she connects with the people in the audience that, so far everywhere I've seen them, it's been pretty amazing. It seems like the bigger the room, the greater the connection seems to be."

Kevin Morris remembers being a part of that connection for the first time as a transcendent experience. The band invited the prospective manager to a show in Tuscaloosa, home of the University of Alabama. Morris boarded a "dilapidated cruise thing" with 150 college kids crammed aboard and found the Shakes jammed into a corner.

"And they go into 'Hold On' and within 30 seconds I couldn't believe what I was seeing," Morris said. "I started texting every single person, 'Oh, my God! Oh, my God! Oh, my God!' And so we sort of started working with them right then."

"Boys & Girls" — a self-funded album of raw, jubilant rock 'n' roll that's very much of the northern Alabama soil it was recorded on — sold 25,000 albums during an iTunes exclusive release last week, good for No. 16 on the Billboard 200 list, and was released wide last week. No one knows what to expect next because everything so far has been, well, unexpected. Morris hasn't experienced anything like it.

PITCH PRACTICE

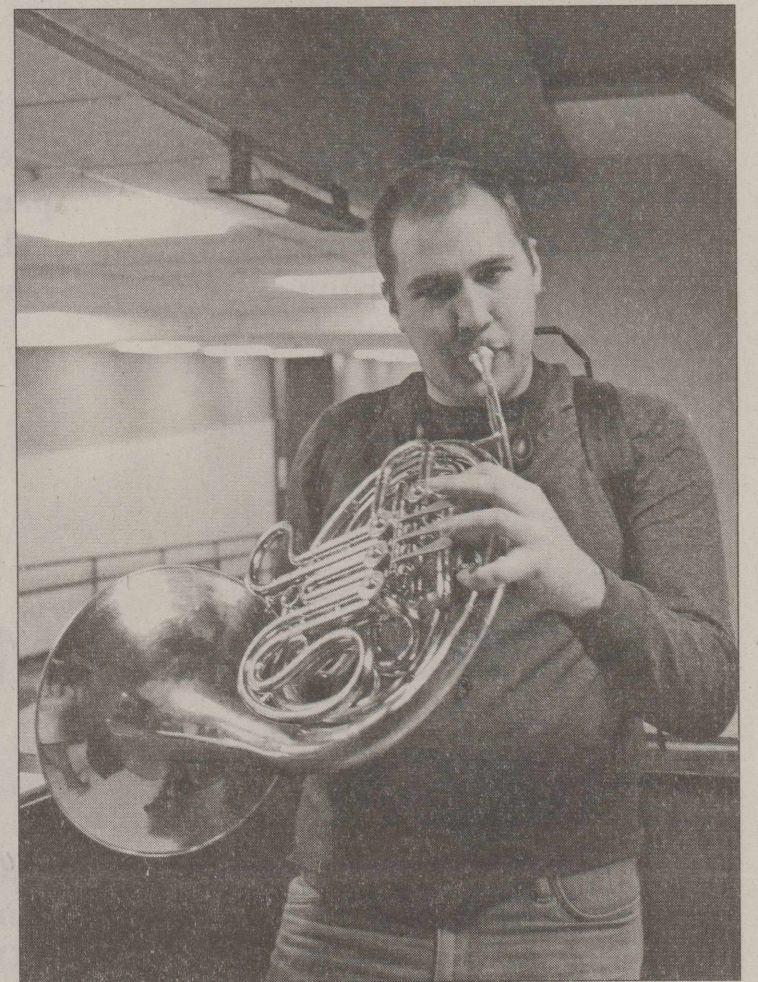


PHOTO BY ASHLEY RATCLIFFE/The Daily Toreador
PATRICK REED, A junior music composition and music education major from Carrolltown, is sustaining a pitch before a lesson in the Music building Monday.

'GMA' poised to snap long 'Today Show' winning streak

NEW YORK (AP) — The 16-year ratings dominance of NBC's "Today" show, one of television's most epic streaks, has apparently ended.

The Nielsen Co. said Monday that ABC's "Good Morning America" beat NBC's morning show last week by a razor-thin margin of 13,000 viewers — and ABC owes Tim Tebow a hearty thank you.

The "Today" show had won 852 consecutive weeks in the ratings, a streak that began in December 1995 when Bryant Gumbel and Katie Couric were the chief anchors.

The streak was a huge point of pride at NBC as the rest of the network declined. Morning shows are also an important revenue source, and a changing of the guard could have significant financial repercussions. The "Today" show earned an estimated \$484 million in revenue in 2011, according to Kantar Media, more than "GMA" (\$298 million) and CBS' morning show (\$156 million) combined.

NBC this month signed "Today" co-host Matt Lauer to a contract extension that reportedly makes him the highest-paid on-air talent in television news. Lauer, however, was on vacation last week. David

Gregory and Carl Quintanilla subbed for him

"Good Morning America" averaged 5.147 million viewers for the week, to the "Today" show's 5.134 million, Nielsen said in its fast national estimate. ABC was cautious in its response because the final ratings aren't due until Thursday and, occasionally, the numbers shift as Nielsen looks for conflicts in local markets.

Co-host George Stephanopoulos tweeted some celebratory remarks, however.

On Twitter, he thanked "GMA" viewers "for giving us a week we'll never forget," adding, "What a milestone!"

"Today" actually won in the ratings three of the five mornings last week. But "Good Morning America" won on Wednesday, when bounced "Dancing With the Stars" contestant Sherri Shepherd was featured, and on Friday, when co-host Robin Roberts traveled to Jacksonville to interview football star Tebow and his mother.

"GMA" beat "Today" by 330,000 viewers on Friday, Nielsen said. The week before, "Today" won on Friday by a margin of 15,000 viewers, a swing that made the difference

between winning and losing for the week.

"Today's" 852-week winning streak had taken on a life of its own and as odd as it is to see it end, we should acknowledge just how remarkable it has been," said Jim Bell, executive producer of the NBC morning show. "So as we tip our caps to the team at 'Good Morning America,' we can take also take a bow ourselves and recognize the

work done by countless staffers for so long. It is not an overstatement to call it one of the most incredible achievements in television history, one that is not likely to ever happen again."

NBC noted that "Today" still won by 254,000 viewers among 25- to 54-year-olds, the group that its ad sales are based upon. In that demographic, the "Today" show has won for 884 consecutive weeks.

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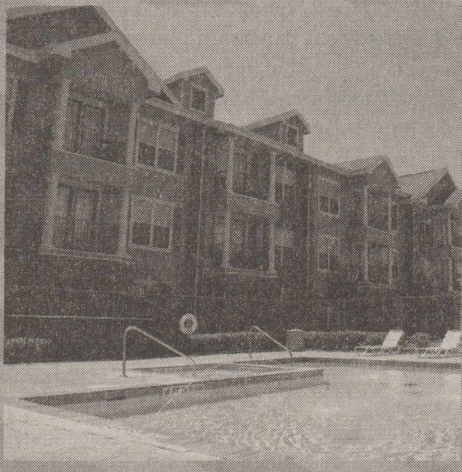
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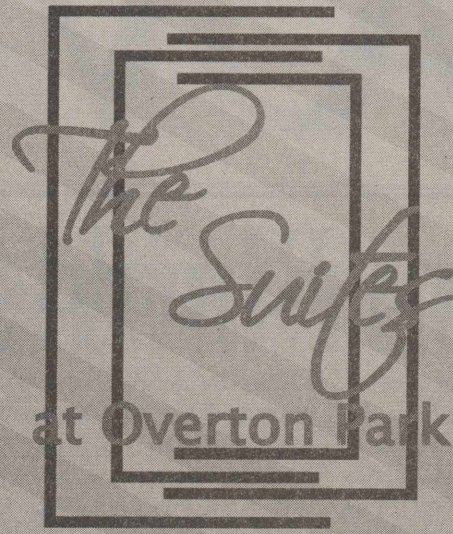
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SPORTS BRIEFS

Reserved seats offered at discount rate for current Texas Tech students

Beginning May 1, current Texas Tech students will have the ability to purchase reserved seating for the 2012 Tech football season.

Students will have the opportunity to purchase up to two season tickets with a valid Tech ID for \$120 or \$152, a 20 percent

discount from what will be offered to the general public. The tickets will be for all six home games Tech will play at Jones AT&T Stadium this year.

According to a news release, only 1,000 of these tickets will be allocated — so students are urged

to reserve these seats as soon as they can.

The seats for the tickets will be located outside of the normal student section, as they will be in sections 109 to 111 and 114 to 116 with the price depending on which section the seats are in.

Special ticket rates for Texas Tech football offered to recent graduates

Any Texas Tech graduates who completed school last December, or who will graduate in May or after summer sessions, will have the ability to purchase 2012 Red Raider football season tickets at a discounted rate.

The recent alumni will be able to purchase one season ticket for \$129 or two season tickets for \$199 with

both seats for the tickets located in section 122, which sits directly behind the student section.

Also, these individuals will be able to attain a Red Raider Club membership and a parking pass in section R13 for the football season with a \$10 monthly donation.

Membership to the club includes perks such as a membership card, a

pregame meal and priority points for benefits given in limited quantities, like postseason tickets and the opportunity to purchase additional home and away games before they go on sale to the general public.

Tickets will go on sale May 1. Graduates can contact the Texas Tech Athletics ticket office at 806-742-4412.

Texas Tech baseball hosts New Mexico, looks to extend four-game win streak

Rip Griffin Park has been kind to the Red Raider baseball team during the past week, as they have won six out of eight of their games during the current 10-game home stand.

However, Texas Tech will take on New Mexico today and Wednesday to bring this streak of games at Rip Griffin Park to an end.

After taking three out of four against the Red Raiders during the 2011 season, the Lobos will come to with a 17-18 record. New Mexico has had somewhat of an opposite schedule as Tech has, as the Lobos have played 12 of their last 14

games away from their home field. During those games, New Mexico has resembled its overall record, as it went an even 6-6.

Starting on the mound in the two-game series for the Red Raiders will be Rusty Shellhorn, who in his last start went five innings without giving up a run on just three hits during a 7-1 Tech victory against Dallas Baptist. The Wednesday starter for Tech is still yet to be determined.

Game one between the two teams will begin at 6 p.m., while game two will be an early afternoon

game, as it will get started at 1 p.m.

These games will also conclude a stretch in Tech's schedule where it has played six-straight games against nonconference opponents.

After this midweek series, the Red Raiders will jump back into Big 12 Conference action, as it goes on the road to face Oklahoma State.

However, Tech will see the Lobos once again after facing the Cowboys, as the Red Raiders will travel to New Mexico on April 24 and 25 to finish up its home and away set with New Mexico.

►sports@dailytoreador.com

Texas DA seeking to revoke Ryan Leaf's probation

LUBBOCK (AP) — The Texas prosecutor who brokered a plea deal with former NFL quarterback Ryan Leaf filed a motion Monday to revoke his probation and will press for prison time.

Randall County district attorney James Farren said his motion probably will be amended as he gets additional details about Leaf's latest legal problem. Leaf faces four felonies in Montana after allegedly breaking into a home to steal prescription painkillers, then robbing a second home after being released from jail.

"I anticipate amending that motion to reflect other potential charges," Farren said.

Leaf is likely to face the Mon-

tana charges first. He was given 10 years' probation in Texas in 2010 after being accused of burglarizing a player's home while he was a coach at West Texas A&M. An investigation found he obtained nearly 1,000 pain pills from area pharmacies in an eight-month span.

Leaf is jailed without bond on a 30-day hold to allow prosecutors in Montana and Texas to sort through the separate cases. Leaf's Texas attorney, Bill Kelly, declined to comment because he had not seen the motion.

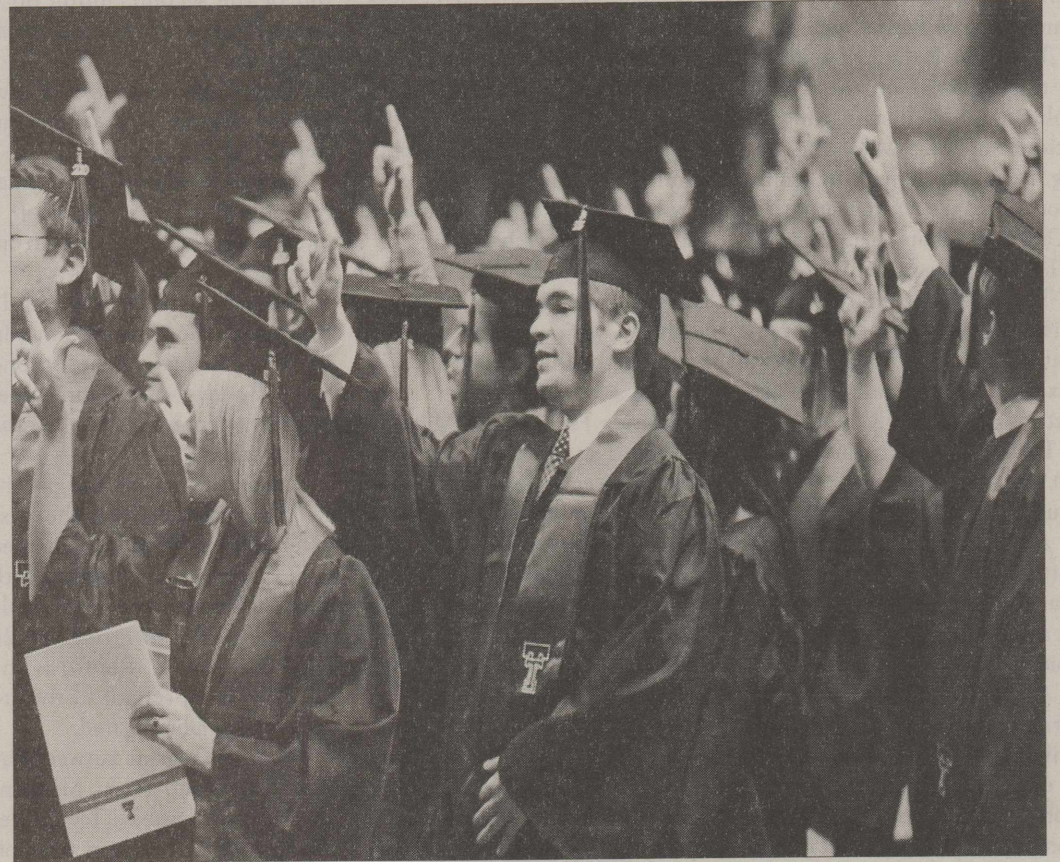
Farren said he is fine with Montana proceeding with its case first, though "our process would probably be shorter because revocation doesn't take as long" as getting a

case to trial.

Late last week, Cascade County (Mont.) prosecutor John Parker charged Leaf with two counts of burglary and two counts of criminal possession of a dangerous drug. If convicted, Leaf faces a maximum prison sentence of 20 years on each burglary charge and five years for each possession charge.

Should the judge in Leaf's Texas case revoke his probation, the former Washington State standout and the No. 2 pick in the 1998 NFL draft, could be sentenced to 20 years. The revocation motion cites Leaf's admission twice to a probation officer in Montana that he had taken oxycodone pills not prescribed to him.

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SPORTS

PAGE 8
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012

Tech takes two out of three from Missouri in Columbia

By MATT VILLANUEVA
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech is on a mission to prove it belongs in the conversation of Big 12 Conference softball teams to be reckoned with.

The Red Raiders backed it up this weekend on the road in Columbia, Mo., by clinching the series from No. 9 Missouri; making it the first series win against a top-10 team since defeating No. 7 Oklahoma State in an April 22, 2010 doubleheader.

The win also marks Tech's third victory against a top-10 team in its past four games — Texas and Oklahoma were also victims of the Red Raiders.

Friday night, Brittany Talley got the better of her pitching counterpart, Chelsea Thomas — a top three finalist for USA Softball's National Player of the Year last year — by allowing one hit and ensuring a Red Raiders 2-0 shutout victory.

Although Thomas got the better of Talley in punch-outs by striking out 11 batters compared to one, the left-handed sophomore retired 19-straight following a one-out triple in the first inning.

"After that first triple, I mean, my heart's just pumping and ready to go," Talley said, "and I knew I

needed to get out of it because if they score that first inning, they get that momentum and they keep going."

Talley's execution in the circle gave Tech plenty of time to work around Thomas' pitches.

In the sixth inning, Tech finally found opportunity with Emily Bledsoe and Logan Hall hitting back-to-back singles. Both would eventually score due to a wild pitch and a bases-loaded walk to Raven Richardson.

Saturday night, Tech ensured the series win against the Tigers with a Cydney Allen two-run homer in the third to give the Red Raiders a 5-4 advantage.

Ashley Fleming — Mizou's top hitter last season — gave the Tigers the early lead in the first with a RBI double to left center. Fleming came around to score off a double steal attempt, which was successful because of Holley Gentsch's throw from behind the plate that went over second base and into center field.

The next inning, Tech generated some offense of its own with the first two batters being walked by starting pitcher Kristin Nottelmann, leading to an Emily Cooper double off to left center to drive in Sandy James.

A batter later, Taylor Powell

reached home after Richardson performed a well-executed squeeze bunt between the circle and first base.

Cooper would score the final run of the second inning off a narrow tag-beating steal from third base.

Cara Custer was heavily depended on after Allen's home run to hold off Mizou's bats.

Cooper would score the final run of the second inning off a narrow tag-beating steal from third base.

However, Mizou's Nicole Hudson got the better of Custer in the fifth inning with her second hit of the day — a two-run homer past right center field to close the gap to one.

Custer staved off the potential Tiger rally, retiring the next seven hitters. With the recorded win, Custer joins company with Amanda Renfro as one of the only two players for Tech to reach 20 wins in a season. Renfro is the only player in school history to have her number retired.

In the final game between the Red Raiders and Tigers, Mackenzie Sykes prevented a Tech series sweep with a three-run walk off bomb in the eighth to give Missouri a 4-1 victory.

Tech gained the lead in the



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH FIRST baseman Sandy James catches the ball to get out an Iowa State runner during the Red Raiders' 5-3 victory against the Cyclones on April 1 at Rocky Johnson Field. Tech will return home today, as they begin a three-game series against Texas A&M after winning its series at Missouri.

fourth inning thanks to aggressive base running by Mikey Kenney.

After reaching first because of a Tiger error, Kenney stole second. She attempted a steal at third but ended up coming home to score after Mizou catcher Jenna Marston failed to thwart the steal and threw the ball into left field.

Hudson evened the score in the sixth off a leadoff home run.

Thomas earned the win for Mizou, striking out 11 Red Raiders, while Custer recorded the loss.

The top-ranked competition is nowhere near finished. The Red Raiders bid farewell to No. 17 Texas A&M with a doubleheader Tuesday and the other game Wednesday in the two teams final meeting before the Aggies relocate to the SEC.

With the ratings percentage index being a key factor in how teams are chosen for postseason play, head coach Shanon Hays said the team is aiming to exceed preseason expectations of merely making another regional.

"You're trying to get in that top 20 in your RPI to reach our ultimate goal right now and that's to try and host a regional," he said.

►mvillanueva@dailytoreador.com

4 commissioners talk BCS, expansion, other college football issues

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Southeastern Conference Commissioner Mike Slive and Conference USA head Britton Banowsky agree that change is likely coming in the method of crowning college football's national champions.

Banowsky expects more than

just cosmetic changes to the system.

"It's my sense that there's an interest in change, some meaningful change going forward," he said Monday. "I don't know how dramatic that will be, but I don't think that means making tweaks to the current system."

Banowsky, Slive, the Sun Belt's retiring Wright Waters and Atlantic Sun chief Ted Gumbart spoke at the Associated Press Sports Editors Southeast regional meeting across from Southeastern Conference headquarters.

Discussions on changing the

BCS, conference realignment, agent rules and paying college athletes were among the topics.

BCS leaders are scheduled to meet for a fourth time April 24-26 in Hollywood, Fla., when the Football Bowl Association holds its annual meetings.

"We're all trying to do what's good for college football," said Slive, whose league has captured the last six football national titles. He has previously pushed for a plus-one model with a title matchup decided after the bowl games.

The All-SEC BCS championship game matchup of LSU and Alabama in January helped spark the movement for change.

A new BCS format must be in place before television negotiations with ESPN open in the fall. The current four-year deal runs through the 2014 season.

The commissioners have acknowledged a four-team playoff is among the options being considered.

USA Today has reported that the potential plans also include a "plus one" format, an amended version of the current system, and a four-team playoff proposal that would ensure a Big Ten/Pac-12 Rose Bowl semifinal pairing.

The last model prompted a smile from Slive.

"It's not one of my favorites," he said. "What we're trying to do is simplify in many ways. I don't think that adds to the simplification of the postseason."

The commissioners also weighed in on other hot issues.

— Slive doesn't mince words on the current rules governing agent dealings with college athletes.

"The rules we have are more part of the problem than the solution," said Slive, who pointed out there are ongoing discussions to address what has become a major issue. "I don't think those rules work. I don't think they're realistic."

— An advocacy group's report last September estimated the average fair market value of top-tier college football and men's basketball players is over \$100,000 each. Slive, though, is not in favor of paying players beyond the full cost of getting an education, saying that would make them professionals and "unaffiliated with the academy."

"It's a very tender line," Slive said. "We are in the world of academia. One can get cynical. But we are in academics, and I think therefore the universities are not interested in having professional athletes as a subset of its academic mission."

Then again: "We're talking about an academic enterprise that has culturally become a phenomenon it was never intended to be."

Waters, who is being replaced by former Western Athletic Conference Commissioner Carl Benson, noted that the athletic scholarships don't cover the full cost of attending college.

"There are scholarships on campus that do cover all of the costs of going to college," he said. "We have to recognize that our grant has to be competitive to any grant on campus."

— Banowsky addressed the recent conference expansions and Conference USA's plans to merge with the Mountain West, creating a league with as many as 24 teams across five time zones.

"I view these changes as more or less natural changes," he said. "I think it just happens and you can decide how you want to react to it, whether you fear it or embrace it. We're trying to reposition our universities in the best possible way and move them forward."

He said consolidation "continues to be something that's getting a lot of traction."

In the big picture, Slive said college athletics isn't in altogether new territory with current challenges.

"We have to work hard to keep the balance and try not to tip it over," he said. "The issues we face are difficult, but every era of collegiate athletics have faced significant issues of this nature."

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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.

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

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