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Temperatures reach record high Wednesday

Temperatures reached 100s, will cool down

By CAITLAN OSBORN
News Editor

Temperatures hit triple digits Wednesday for the first time this year and many members of the Texas Tech community are ready to take advantage of the warmer weather.

Jeff Vitale, of the National Weather Service of Lubbock, said temperatures hit a high of 104 degrees.

"That was the hottest all-time April temperature for Lubbock," he said.

Vitale said while temperatures today will be warm, they are expected to be no higher than in the 90s.

"This weekend though, we're getting some pretty good relief," he said. "We're expecting a cold front on Saturday, with temperatures back in the 80s and we're looking even at probably 70s on Sunday and Monday."

While the hotter weather is not consistent just yet, Vitale said temperatures will have a stable rise in the coming months.

"It seems like just a pre-heat wave right now," he said "but ... we typically see temperatures above 100 just about every summer in Lubbock."

Jeff Buffing, a bus driver, said he has not noticed the effects of the heat, because his bus is air-conditioned, but has noticed students have been taking advantage of the weather by using alternative methods of transportation.

"It's been a pretty slow day," he said. "I've noticed a lot more people riding their bikes and things."

Caitlin Jones, a freshman wind engineering major from Austin, said she prefers the cold.

"My reaction is pure laziness," she said, "but I've lived in Texas my whole life, so it's not that bad."

Brian Childers, a sociology graduate student from El Paso, said the weather is making him ready for the summer.

"I love it," he said. "A lot of people I've talked to the last few days have been complaining about it, but I love hot weather and sunshine; I like the water. I've already been to the pool, like, five times."

Vitale said there are things people can do to make sure the summer weather does not get the best of them.

"I think probably the most important thing would be to stay inside in an air-conditioned area and probably keep hydrated and drink lots of fluids," he said.

Though last summer brought a record-breaking drought, Vitale said he does not know if Texas will see the same effects this year.

"It's really hard to tell right now long-term for the rest of the year what it's going to be like," he said. "Generally, I think we're not expecting temperatures as hot as last year right now, but it's pretty hard to tell this far out."

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Mascot Mystery



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

RAIDER RED SHOOTS his guns during coin toss before Texas Tech's 45-40 loss to Texas A&M on Oct. 8 at Jones AT&T Stadium. At the Passing of the Guns ceremony Friday, two former Raider Reds, Erik Gonzalez and Jordaine Holden, stepped down and welcomed two new people to the position.

Passing of the Guns continues Tech tradition

By HALLIE DAVIS
Staff Writer

For all the Texas Tech students who have looked out on the field during a football game and thought, "Raider Red looks just like a cartoon," they would be right.

In 1971, when live animals were outlawed at conference games, Jim Gaspard created Raider Red, basing the character off of a drawing by a local cartoonist.

Now, Raider Red is the official public relations mascot for Tech, cheer coach Bruce Bills said. The mustached mascot attends nearly 250 events a year, representing the red and black.

"If we walk in a room, immediately people see Texas Tech," said the Saddle Tramp, whose identity cannot be revealed until he passes on the guns at the end of his term. "There's just this energy we have at the school."

Raider Red is a team effort, with four people in the coveted position each year, the Saddle Tramp said. And each year, a ceremonial Passing of the Guns transfers two of the positions on to two new Reds and keeps two of the past Reds.

Junior Erik Gonzalez and sophomore Jordaine Holden relinquished their titles Friday during the Passing of the

Guns ceremony.

"To signify the end, it was nice," said Gonzalez, a theater arts major from Brownsville. "It was bittersweet."

The journey begins with tryouts, open to all Saddle Tramps and High Riders, Bills said. The first day, candidates must react to music and cheers they might encounter on the sidelines.

Next, they must master the official Raider Red walk, which the Saddle Tramp called a strut, and all the characteristics that go with physically becoming Raider Red.

Holden, an early childhood education major from Oklahoma City, said this was one of the tougher parts for females trying out.

Even as Raider Red, she said it was a challenge to appear masculine and others would notice her feminine walk sometimes.

All Raider Reds could agree the biggest challenge of all was enduring the heat.

"When it was really hot out, like 100 degrees," she said, "it felt like 150."

Still, Holden said, she loved the position and was glad she tried out.

RAIDER RED continued on Page 6 >>>

TechBriefly

Gov. Perry appoints Texas Tech student as new regent

Gov. Rick Perry appointed second-year law school student Suzanne Taylor as the new Texas Tech University System student regent.

Taylor has experience with politics, having once served as the president of the Texas Tech Student Government Association.

"This is a tremendous appointment, not just for Suzanne, but also for Texas Tech," Tech president Guy Bailey said, in a news release. "Suzanne is a third-generation Red Raider and a great ambassador for the university. She has led her moot court team to national competition and is the first Texas Tech student to receive an internship with the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. We are proud to have her continue serving the university in this capacity."

Taylor, of Arlington, begins her one-year term June 1. She is replacing Jill Fadal, who was appointed in 2011.

Faculty honored at annual convocation

Multiple faculty members at Texas Tech received awards for their research and teaching skills at the annual Faculty Honors Convocation.

Recipients of the President's Excellence in Teaching Awards were: Lars Christensen of the College of Arts and Sciences, Mayukh Dass of the Jerry S. Rawls College of Business Administration, David Doerfert of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Clifton Ellis of the College of Architecture, William Gelber of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, Jarod Gonzalez of the School of Law, Erin Hardin of the College of Arts and Sciences, Robin Lock of the College of Education, Ranadip Pal of the Whitacre College of Engineering, Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo of the College of Human Sciences and Robert Wernsman of the College of Mass Communications.

Other awards included, among others, the President's Academic Achievement Awards, the President's Books Awards, the Texas Tech Alumni Association New Faculty Awards, Outstanding Researcher and recognition of Paul Whitfield Horn Professors.

>>>news@dailytoreador.com

Tech football player hit by bus

A campus bus struck Texas Tech football player Austin Stewart on Wednesday morning, confirmed Blayne Beal, Tech's associate athletic director.

Beal said a bus hit Stewart, who was taken to University Medical Center after the incident. Medics—including the football team's physician and the training staff—evaluated Stewart, he said.

"From what I've been told, Stewart has minor injuries," Beal said, "so, everything looks good there."

Eric Finley of UMC confirmed the student was treated at the hospital for his injuries and released, but did not know the extent of his injuries.

Nick Diminture, a freshman business major from San Antonio, was riding the Retreat/Courtyard bus when it hit Stewart, who was on his motorized scooter in front of Jones AT&T Stadium near the Drive of Champions.

"He came out of nowhere," he said. "He cut in front of the bus, the bus driver hit him and the windshield cracked and broke. Everyone was kind of freaking out."

Diminture said once the bus driver hit Stewart, the bus driver said,

"Oh, shit."

The bus driver then called the ambulance and Emergency Medical Service technicians arrived, Diminture said.

"I don't even know if he fell," he said. "If he did, he wasn't down for more than five seconds."

Diminture said no buses could get through for about 20 minutes and everyone on the bus just walked away.

From what he could see, Diminture said it looked like Stewart had a scratch on his leg.

But, he said, he does not think the bus driver is at fault.

"From what I saw and talked to other people," he said, "it wasn't the bus driver's fault. I don't think he's at fault at all."

Representatives for the Retreat, now the Republic at Lubbock, said they would not comment on the incident because they were not there to witness it.

John Wilson, general manager of Citibus Lubbock, said the company is aware of the incident and is currently conducting an internal investigation on the issue to determine the cause.

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WEATHER

Today Partly Cloudy 98/63	Friday Sunny 91/56
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Gleinser: Schools must rethink zero-tolerance OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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Community Calendar

TODAY

Texas Tech Clothing Collection Drive
Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Student Union Building
So, what is it?
As part of Strive for Honor Week, donate your old clothes to be recycled by Goodwill Industries. Clothes can be dropped off in the SUB across from Copy/Mail.

Strive for Honor Week
Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Student Union Building, Courtyard
So, what is it?
Join the TTU Senate Staff and celebrate Strive for Honor Week and pick up a Strive for Honor T-Shirt and create your own online billboard.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute presents "Safe Computing Practices"
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center
So, what is it?
This class is led by Sam Segran, associate vice president and chief information officer for the Information Technology Department at Tech. He will discuss how to protect your computers from hackers, scammers and viruses, as well as discovering the benefits of technology.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month: "Exotic" Women: Myths and Stereotypes about Women of Color
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Where: Student Union Building, Red Raider Lounge
So, what is it?
This presentation, hosted by the Student Counseling Center, will explore images of women of color across a range of media and discuss how the images contribute to a culture of violence.

Sowell Collection Conference Banquet
Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: Frazier Alumni Pavilion
So, what is it?
This is the opening ceremony for the Conference on the Sowell Family Collection in Literature, Community and the Natural World.

which gives high school juniors and their families a chance to experience Texas Tech.

Arbor Day
Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Memorial Circle
So, what is it?

Arbor Day gives students, faculty and staff the opportunity to come together and listen to live music, eat free food and get T-shirts — all while planting alongside each other to beautify the Tech campus.

Feminist Forum: Women Leading Women Through Passion and Perseverance
Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Where: Teaching, Learning and Professional Development Center, Room 153
So, what is it?

In observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, guest speakers of this forum will discuss ways they have brought the community together to organize, plan and discuss sexual violence, and how they feel these events have reinforced the need for preventative efforts.

Texas Tech Baseball vs. Missouri
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Rip Griffin Park
So, what is it?
Support the Red Raiders as they compete against Missouri.

Gretel Ehrlich Lecture
Time: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Where: English building, Room 001
So, what is it?
Enjoy a lecture given by Gretel Ehrlich as part of the Sowell Collection Conference.

10th Annual Mentor Tech Celebration Banquet
Time: 7 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Where: Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
So, what is it?
As part of the Lauro Cavazos and Ophelia Powell-Malone Mentoring Program, the actor, author and activist Hill Harper will give the keynote speech for the 10th annual Celebration Banquet.

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.

FRIDAY

Red Bag Alert

Time: All day
Where: None
So, what is it?
The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will host the first Techsan Preview,

BONE TO PICK

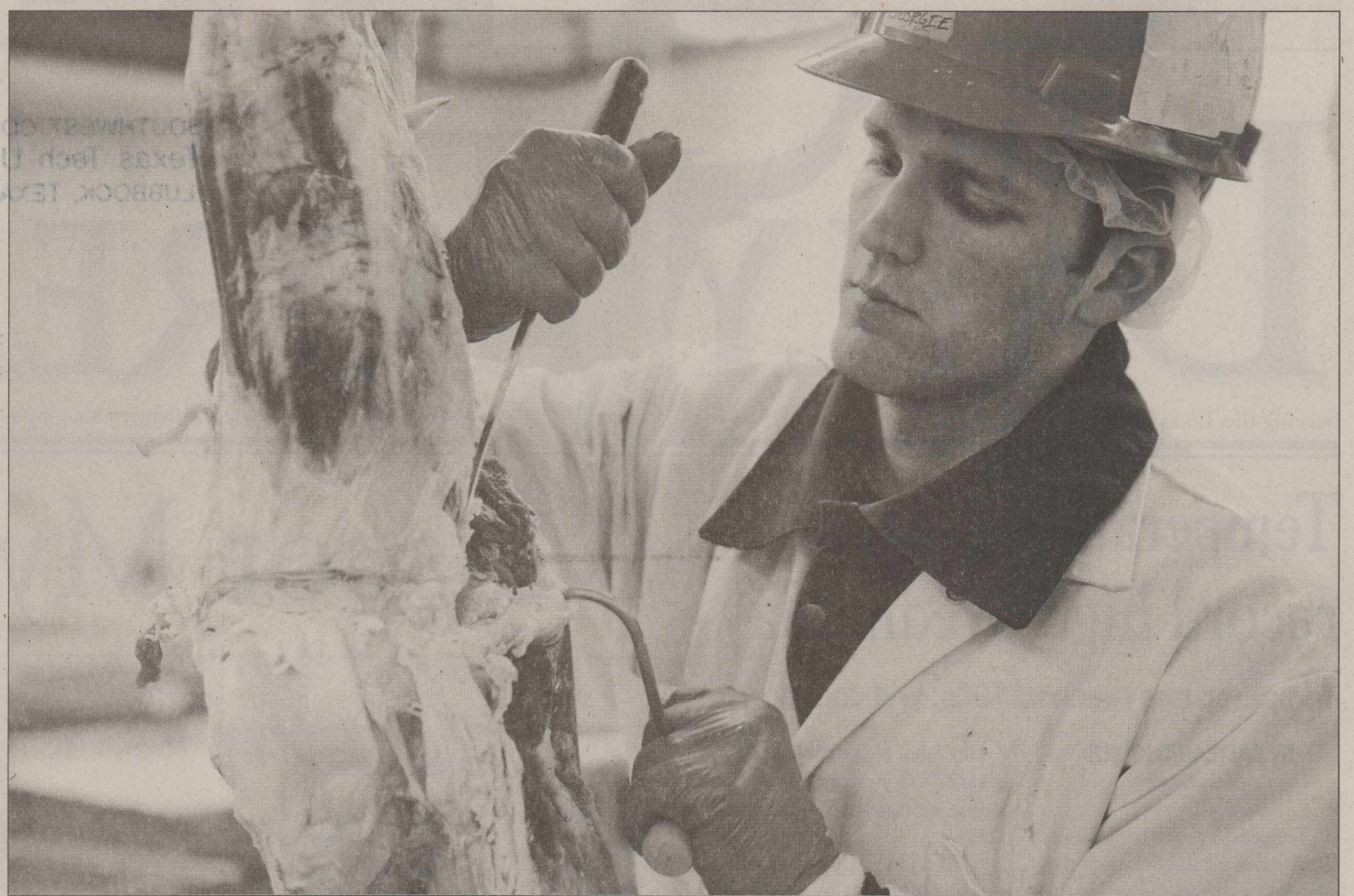


PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

GEORGE GOLIGHTLY, A junior animal science major from Hico, uses a meat hook and a knife to remove a piece of beef from a bone in the Meat Lab on Wednesday.

El Paso officials seek answers on canceled fight

EL PASO (AP) — Officials demanded more details Wednesday about the security threat that prompted the University of Texas System to block a boxing match in El Paso.

City leaders were stunned to learn a June 16 fight between WBC world middleweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez, Jr., of Mexico and Andy Lee of Ireland, could not go on as planned at the 51,500-seat Sun Bowl stadium, which also hosts the UTEP Miners football team and the annual Sun Bowl game.

The UT system said Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa made the decision on Tuesday based on a "higher than normal" risk assessment but released no details.

The move prompted a wave of anger from officials who say they constantly fight assumptions their city has fallen victim to spillover violence from Mexico. Despite ranking among the safest cities in the nation in terms of violent crime, El Paso officials have long complained their town gets falsely portrayed as a war zone because of drug violence rampaging

just across the border.

"It stems from this general climate of fear being created by some ... that the border is unsafe. This is the latest example of the kind of decisions that are going to do incalculable harm to border communities," said state Sen. Jose Rodriguez, an El Paso Democrat.

El Paso City Manager Joyce Wilson and El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen insisted Cigarroa give them the risk assessment used to make the decision, and any others conducted for major events that have been held on system property for the last five years.

Last weekend, UTEP's Don Haskins Center basketball arena hosted a Showtime boxing card, and the Frank Erwin Center at the University of Texas in Austin is hosting ESPN's Friday Night Fights this week.

The UT system said "this decision should not be generalized to other events at UTEP or other UT institution facilities. If there was an elevated risk determination associated with any event hosted by the other 14 UT institutions, the same decision would have been made."

A UT system spokesman said he could not discuss the El Paso fight risk assessment and that Cigarroa was not immediately available for comment.

Ramiro Cordero, a spokesman for the U.S. Border Patrol, said the agency has received no specific threats or intelligence indicating violence in El Paso related to the fight.

All of the state lawmakers who represent El Paso sent a letter to Cigarroa calling the decision "ill-informed, baseless and destructive" and urging him to reconsider.

Rodriguez said he spoke with Cigarroa on Tuesday and pressed him for details on the risk assessment, including whether law enforcement intelligence suggested the fight would be a dangerous event for the university and the city. Rodriguez said Cigarroa told him he had nothing specific.

"It is very difficult for me to accept," Rodriguez said, noting that former President Bill Clinton visited El Paso on Tuesday without incident. "You just don't make decisions based on 'higher than normal"

risk without details."

Cigarroa informed UTEP officials of his decision one hour before a news conference to promote the fight. Bob Arum, president of boxing promotions company Top Rank, said he's ready to move the fight to San Antonio or Houston but promised El Paso officials to wait another day to see if they can't get Cigarroa to change his mind.

El Paso is a natural place to host a fight with a popular Mexican fighter like Chavez, Jr., Arum said, noting the Sun Bowl drew more than 40,000 people for an Oscar De La Hoya fight in 1998.

"It's a hot boxing town," Arum said. "I'm totally befuddled. If there is a high security problem, tell us what it is."

Arum said fights in Las Vegas at the MGM Grand and Mandalay casino resorts require spectators to go through metal detectors.

Sending 50,000 people at the Sun Bowl through metal detectors would be inconvenient and expensive, but "it's doable," Arum said.

Burger King makes cage-free promise

(AP) — Burger King on Wednesday became the first major U.S. fast-food chain to pledge that all of its eggs and pork will come from cage-free chickens and eggs by 2017.

The move by the world's second-biggest burger chain helps it satisfy growing demand among customers for humanely produced fare and adds fuel to an industry-wide shift to consider animal welfare when purchasing food supplies.

"There's no question in my mind, especially on the heels of pink slime and BPA, that everyone in the food world is very concerned about consumer reaction," said food industry analyst Phil Lempert, referring to the beef-based food additive and the chemical used in plastic bottles and

canned food.

"Even if you're buying a burger, you want to buy it from someone you like and respect," said Lempert, who writes a daily industry newsletter. "It's proven that consumers are willing to pay a little bit more for fairness, whether it's to humans or animals."

Conventionally raised eggs come from hens confined in "battery cages," which give them roughly the same space as a sheet of standard notebook paper. Most pork comes from sows confined during their four-month pregnancies in narrow crates.

The hens would still be housed in a barn, but they have room to roam and perches and nesting boxes. Sows are also held indoors, but they would not be confined in the cramped crates while they are pregnant.

Egg and pork producers have argued that easing confinement standards for animals raises production costs and makes those who adjust their practices less competitive.

Animal welfare groups applauded Burger King's decision.

"So many tens of thousands of animals will now be in better living conditions," said Wayne Pacelle, president of the Humane Society of the United States, which has been pushing Burger King and other companies to adopt similar policies.

"Numerically, this is significant because Burger King is such a big purchaser of these products," he said.

Burger King uses hundreds of millions of eggs and tens of millions of pounds of pork annually and its decision could be a game-changing move in the supply business as a huge new market opens up for humanely raised food animals.

Already 9 percent of the company's eggs and 20 percent of the pork served at its 7,200 restaurants are cage-free. In the European Union, all eggs are already of the cage-free variety.

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DESIGN TIME



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

AMANDA STALCUP, A junior apparel design and manufacturing major from Odessa, uses a serger to work on a dress design in the Human Sciences building Wednesday.

Man ordered to pay \$2.7M for starting NM wildfire

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — A Texas man has been ordered to pay \$2.7 million in restitution for burning used toilet paper that sparked a wildfire, scorching nearly 83 square miles of a national forest in New Mexico.

Rodrigo Ulloa-Esquivel of El Paso also was sentenced Tuesday to five years of probation and ordered to complete 200 hours of community service.

Ulloa-Esquivel, 30, in October pleaded guilty under a plea agreement to a misdemeanor charge stemming from the April 2011 wildfire. Two other charges in an indictment were dismissed in the deal.

The fire started when Ulloa-Esquivel was with friends near a campsite, and he lit some used toilet paper on fire to keep from leaving behind litter. High winds sent sparks from the burning paper into nearby brush, and Ulloa-Esquivel and his friends were unable to control the fire in the area known as the

Guadalupe Ranger District.

The blaze eventually charred more than 53,000 acres in the Lincoln National Forest, through the Last Chance Canyon in Eddy County, N.M. It burned for several days and caused damage to four structures in the Sitting Bulls Falls Recreation area, according to U.S. Forest Service reports.

After Ulloa-Esquivel and his friends tried unsuccessfully to extinguish the fire, they left the area without calling the Forest Service or local authorities to report it, authorities said. Ulloa-Esquivel also admitted initially denying knowledge of the fire or that he caused it. He later admitted to U.S. Forest Service personnel how it started, authorities said.

Officials said the estimated cost to suppress the fire was around \$2.3 million and the initial estimate to repair the damages to structures in the recreational area was \$67,500.

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

ACROSS	1 Party boss?	5 Bunks, e.g.	9 Lavish meal	14 Wine-growing region	15 Neural conductor	16 '80s-'90s legal drama	17 Frustrated crossword solver's cry	20 Kindle competitor	21 Chew toy material	22 Scholarship, e.g.	24 Spits out, as a DVD	27 Small beef	28 Move through muck	30 Brand at Williams-Sonoma	31 Little songbird	34 Frustrated crossword solver's cry	40 Kindergarten rejoinder	41 Kan. hours	42 Hacienda honorific	43 Frustrated crossword solver's cry	46 Formula One racer	47 Enzyme suffix	48 Spirited horse	49 Shiner hat	52 Two-time Bond portrayer	55 Ph.D. seeker's exam	56 Keys at a bar, perhaps	59 Onetime larva	61 Relieved crossword solver's cry	66 Nice states	67 Co-star of Tom in 'Angels & Demons'	68 Telephone request	69 It may be roja or verde	70 Shirts with slogans	71 Walkout walk-in						
DOWN	1 Yes, in Yoichama	2 Kosh B'Gosh	3 Superior talents	4 Save for later, in a way	5 Holdup	6 Bus. line	7 Track relentlessly	8 Show derision	9 One may be fatal	10 Per capita	11 Bold poker bet	12 Jiddo native	13 Short online posting	18 Job ad abbr.	19 'Delicious!'	22 It has defs. for '128 characters'	23 'Didn't bring my A-game'	25 Business biggies	26 By the sea	29 Respond smugly to 23-Down's speaker	32 -bitsy	33 Greek letter	35 It may be retractable	36 Desert trail	37 Like non-hydrocarbon compounds	38 Baseballer married to soccer's Mia	39 Diving bird	44 Mountain warble	45 Takes another look at, as a cold case	49 Small winds	50 Musical with the song 'A New Argentina'	51 Divided into districts	53 Till now	54 Rapa...; Easter Island	57 'Peanuts' cry	58 She met Rick in Paris	60 UPS deliveries	62 Carry a balance	63 Brush-off on the brae	64 Reproductive cells	65 Homespun home

By Steven J. St. John 4/26/12

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	I	L	O	B	E	T	A	E	L	K	S		
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~Mark Twain

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Schools must rethink zero-tolerance

Yet again, another example of the poor consequences of a school's zero-tolerance policy on fighting has reared its ugly head.

Last week, a nine-year-old Colorado boy was suspended from school after being involved in a fight with another student who had been bullying him. Normally, standing up to a bully would be commended, but in this case, the boy was punished.

The zero-tolerance policy stipulates any student involved in physical violence on campus is automatically suspended, regardless of the circumstances. Many school districts across the nation have adopted similar policies toward fighting and other issues.

The problem with these policies is obvious: they do not take the circumstances of the altercation into account. So, in cases like these, the bully and the child defending himself are punished equally.

Taking this policy and applying it to the justice system shows how unfair it truly is. If a home-

Andrew Gleinser



owner who shot an intruder were sent to prison for the same length of time as a serial murderer, there would likely be a public outcry. Yet there is no large-scale outcry about zero-tolerance policies.

The school defended its position by stating students are taught to deal with bullying in ways other than resorting to violence. The boy's parents, however, countered that their son had been complaining about being bullied, but the school did very little, if anything at all.

I understand the need for schools to do something to prevent violence, but this is the wrong way to go about it. Punishing students for defending themselves only puts those students at further risk. For fear of being suspended, many would

choose to simply take the abuse.

Unless the school can provide a bodyguard to each individual student, there is no way to prevent fights. Bullies will be bullies, regardless of how many times their victims complain to a teacher.

If the school is trying to teach children to solve bully problems diplomatically, they obviously don't know jack squat about how bullies operate. In many cases, diplomacy would only get you laughed at or beaten even worse.

This is indicative of a dramatic shift in the way we raise our children in America. The message we used to send in this situation would be for our children to stand up for themselves,

but now we have them run and tell a teacher. If they do stand up for themselves, they get punished.

Instead of taking care of things on our own, we're taught to let someone else do it. We just run to a higher authority and let them do everything for us. What happens when these children reach adulthood and look for a higher authority to run to? They go to the government.

Not allowing children to take care of themselves creates a culture of dependency. This is why students who defend themselves should not be punished. Fighting back might not be the liberal way of doing things, but it sends a much clearer message to a bully

than does running away.

Now, I'm not a violent person by any means. I consider myself fortunate to not have been involved in any fights during my time in school. But there are times when retaliation and self-defense are necessary. It allows children to develop confidence and self-reliance.

If you punish students for defending themselves, bullies will know their victims will be less likely to fight back. This is similar to taking guns away from law-abiding citizens. If a burglar or rapist knows their victim is not armed, they will be more likely to go through with their attack and to later repeat it on someone else.

In these cases, it is easy to see why zero-tolerance policies are sometimes referred to as zero-intelligence policies. Not every situation is the same. Students who start fighting because of an argument, or simply because they don't like each other, should be punished equally. A student who defends himself against a bully,

however, should be treated very differently.

Teachers and administrators should use their best judgment as well as the testimonies of other students who witnessed the events to come to a decision. I'm not saying schools should necessarily condone fighting, but standing up for oneself should not be a punishable offense. The child being bullied is not responsible for starting the fight, so schools should focus on punishing those who are responsible.

If schools could stop every fight before it happens, then this policy would be fine. Seeing as how this is just not possible, children who defend themselves should not be punished. Injecting a little bit of common sense into schools would go a long way toward making them a better place for our children.

Gleinser is a junior political science and history major from Kingwood.
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“... it is easy to see why zero-tolerance policies are sometimes referred to as zero-intelligence policies.”

Semesters similar to TV seasons

I was recently talking to my friend about the end of the semester quickly approaching. He had an interesting theory about each semester being like a TV show season. With each end of a semester, it's like a season of a TV show ending.

The last episode of each season usually has a cliffhanger, like someone being pregnant or moving away. And semesters are the same way. Before the winter break or summer, a lot of the times we are faced with decisions that can affect our future and life. What job will we take? Where will we live? Will we continue the relationship with our significant other? Will we be a Lauren Conrad and choose love over the internship in Paris?

So much happens to us throughout the semester, much like a season in a TV show. Drama, relationships, classes, jobs and more are just some of the things that take up much of our time.

TV season finales are always bittersweet. We are excited for the character's new beginnings, challenges and dramatic finishes, but we are also sad to see the show finally come to an end. Your Monday nights change and suddenly, you're left with an empty

Paige Skinner



feeling inside when you can't turn on "The Hills," "The Bachelor" or whatever.

I recently came home to my roommate bawling her eyes out over the series finale of "Boy Meets World." Apparently, her bond with Cory and Topanga's relationship was deeper than I assumed.

Her crying over "Boy Meets World" was pretty bad, but kind of understandable. However, watching my other friend tear up at the series finale of "One Tree Hill" was amusing. She explained to me that nine years of her life had been heavily dedicated to these character's lives.

The more I laughed, the more

I thought about how much it was like our own seasons. So far, three years of my life have been dedicated to Texas Tech, my professors, my friends here and Lubbock itself. When the semester ends, my emotions begin.

This summer will be a blast, but it's so long that something is bound to change. There will be break-ups, moves, haircuts and scandals during the hiatus

and none of my Houston, New Mexico, San Antonio or Lubbock friends will experience it with me while I'm in Dallas.

And after the long, hot summer, most of the main characters in our college life TV show will

return for the next season, but some will have moved on to real-world things.

Homecoming will be like the reunion show when graduated students return to the Hub City, much like how Mr. Big makes random appearances to the "Sex and the City" cast throughout the season.

And as shocking as the season finales are, season premieres are usually just as equally stunning. The characters in our lives typically look different after a long break and sometimes act completely different as well.

There's no telling what your neighbor will be like when he or she returns for the fall. They could be married, divorced, practicing a different religion than before or become blonde. Hey, three months is a long time. A lot can change.

Just remember, my friends, while season finales are bitter-sweet, the season premieres are always worthwhile and exciting.

Skinner is a junior public relations major from Garland.
» pskinner@dailytoreador.com

“... while season finales are bittersweet, the season premieres are always worthwhile and exciting.”

Students get raw deal with rising costs, cuts

By THE LOUISVILLE CARDINAL EDITORIAL BOARD
THE LOUISVILLE CARDINAL (U. LOUISVILLE)

The recent unveiling of tuition increases paired with education budget cuts can be quite worrisome for students, and for young people looking to get the most out of college and plan for the future.

U. Louisville has yet again raised student tuition. That's understandable, given the growing demand for education, but it would be an easier pill to swallow if we could be assured that we are getting what we pay for.

With college degrees becoming more and more common, the saying that "a bachelor's degree is the new high school diploma" has never been closer to truth.

With a college degree costing more every day and carrying less weight, colleges and universities should be finding new ways to increase the value of education to keep up with the rising costs. But with the budget cuts thrown on top of tuition increases, it seems the gap between value and cost is spreading, with one going up and the other going down.

Mitt Romney's education stance doesn't exactly make students feel optimistic either. As a country, we should be investing in the future. With the economy in its current state, the future is an unclear site. It seems we should be doing as much as we can to ensure a bright future instead of an uncertain one.

The future starts with education, and if we want great things for future generations, shrinking

the Department of Education is not a promising solution.

We know that one defining characteristic of conservatives is the push for a smaller government and less government spending, but it seems there are plenty of places to trim before the education system must go to the chopping block. For some reason, our government feels the need to create tax burdens instead of tax payers, when in fact, the opposite would make more financial sense.

If the government would invest more in education, they would create taxpayers with higher paying jobs and in turn generate more tax revenue. But instead, we disperse tax funds that discourage ambition.

We understand that many people need and benefit from welfare systems, and they shouldn't be punished for the misuse by the abusers of the system. But a restructuring is in order; a structure that encourages ambition, personal growth and education, instead of one that suppresses it.

Whether an abuser or not, it's hard to go get a minimum wage job when sitting at home is financially more beneficial. This just means that the government will continue to pay these bills and never gain revenue from these investments. The system should work as a helping hand, not a crutch.

We simply feel that education is the basis of local, national and personal progression, and if the government feels the need to reorganize the system, education should be off limits, unless changes are going to be made for the betterment of it.

“The future starts with education ...”

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Publishing information
Periodical Postage paid by The Daily Toreador, Student Media building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409. Publication number: 766480. The DT is a student newspaper published Monday through Friday, September through May, Tuesdays and Fridays June through August, except during university examination and vacation periods. The DT is funded primarily through advertising revenues generated by the student sales staff with free campus distribution resulting from student service fees.

Subscriptions
Call: 806-742-3388
Subscription Rates: \$150 annually; single issues: \$1.
Postmaster: send address changes to The Daily

Toreador, Box 43081 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

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Department of Theatre and Dance presents play 'The Learned Ladies'

By **ASHLYN TUBBS**
STAFF WRITER

Love, philosophy, male/female dominance conflicts and ... kazoo playing?

Today marks the first performance of the production, "The Learned Ladies" by Moliere, a classic of 17th century French theater with a modernized translation by Jonathan Marks, who is also directing the play.

"It's going to be a wonderful time," Marks said. "I'm not particularly nervous about our first performance, all is going so well."

The show will run from April 26-29, and show times are at 8 p.m. today through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Maedgen Theatre.

This is not Marks' first play to translate. He said this play, originally written in French in 1672, took him a couple of months to translate to English.

The cast began rehearsing in early March, six nights a week, he said, and the elevated language was difficult for the cast

to perfect at first.

"They're making perfect sense of it now, as far as I'm concerned," he said.

Elizabeth Stromsness, a second-year theater graduate student from New York City, said working with Marks has made the play easier to master because he has worked with it so much.

"He has been a great source of knowledge to go to," she said. "It's been wonderful to have our director as the translator."

Joel Ison, a senior theater major from Brownfield, said he has always wanted the chance to act under Marks.

"When I first came to the department, I didn't think I would get a chance to work with him," he said. "It has been an easy, smooth process and I have enjoyed every minute of it."

Andrew Campbell, a senior acting major from San Antonio, said this play is unlike anything he has been in before.

"This is the biggest production I've been a part of," he said. "The language was not easy to master, but the great thing



PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador
PHILAMINTE, PLAYED BY JAMY GILLESPIE, EXCLAIMS HER FASCINATION OF THE WORD QUACONDITION AFTER HEARING A POET USE THE WORD DURING A DRESS REHEARSAL FOR "THE LEARNED LADIES" ON TUESDAY IN THE CHARLES E. MAEDGEN JR. THEATRE. "THE LEARNED LADIES" WILL BE PRESENTED TODAY THROUGH SUNDAY IN THE CHARLES E. MAEDGEN JR. THEATRE.

about this one is our translator is our director, so he helped us out a lot."

Stromsness said it has been enjoyable working on this play.

"The cast has been great to work with," she said. "We've had freedom to explore and many fun

moments with each other."

Ison said he hopes the cast and crew's hard work pays off with a large audience.

"We are definitely ready for an audience," Ison said. "I can't wait for our first performance."
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Country star George Jones makes family feud public

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — It's not his health but a family feud that is bothering George Jones.

The 80-year-old country star posted a video message on his website Wednesday, thanking fans as he recovers from an upper respiratory infection. He then accused his daughter Georgette Lennon of spreading lies about him on the Internet.

He was hospitalized for nearly a week last month and had to postpone shows.

"I would like to apologize for my daughter Georgette and her new husband for putting so much bad things about me on the Internet and Facebook," said Jones in the video. "None of these things are true. They are all about money. I have gave

and gave until I can no longer give. I will never let her go hungry, but I am tired of putting out, and I am not the person they claim I am."

Lennon, 41, said she is "completely devastated" by his message and denies making any negative statements about him. Lennon's mother was country singer Tammy Wynette, who died in 1998.

"All I've ever wanted is to have a relationship with my dad and for him to know how much I love him and for him to love me and want to be a part of my life," she told The Associated Press. "I had hoped that we could resolve this between the two of us privately and at some point he would talk to me. Unfortunately, things have escalated even further."

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Raider Red ← CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It was so much fun," she said. "Raider Red is the main man."

Bills said the last day of auditions is a trip to the mall, where the hopeful Raider Reds interact with families and shoppers while being observed. They are also presented with worst-case scenarios, to see how they might react under pressure.

The candidates are then interviewed. Although being Raider Red requires no talking, Bills said, it is important for Raider Red to know his or her history and Tech traditions.

Then, after receiving the guns, Raider Red nearly becomes a part of Tech itself, Gonzalez said.

"When (attendees) aren't

looking at the game," he said, "they're looking at you."

So, during any game, Gonzalez said, it was up to him and Raider Red to keep the fans excited, without negativity. Even when the team was losing, Raider Red remains energetic, involving the fans in encouraging the team, rather than bringing the opposition down.

"He's a symbol of the university, it's more than 'Just Raider Red,'" he said. "You're there to support the team no matter what."

Gonzales said Raider Red travels with the teams and recruits all over the state and country. This leads to some interesting questions, all three said, when it comes to keeping the alter ego a secret.

After two years as Raider Red, Gonzalez said, he was glad to finally tell people why he was always busy and miss-

ing class.

Holden said people would ask her about her spirit squad backpack, asking if she was a cheerleader.

The Saddle-Tramp said most Raider Reds tell their parents at the very least, who are far worse at keeping secrets.

"So many people are dying to know," he said. "Who is this ... under the mask?"

The secrecy, days missed and long drives are worth it though, the Saddle Tramp said. The bond Raider Red makes with everyone he or she meets is a rare opportunity.

When Raider Red arrives, whether to a game or to a hospital room, eyes light up, he said.

"(He) brings a lot of fun," Bills said. "He brings smiles to people's faces."

In this way, taking photos and shaking hands, the Saddle Tramp said he has met thou-

sands of people.

"It was one of the best experiences anyone could have," Gonzalez said. "I was lucky to be a part of it."

For students interested in becoming a part of this Tech tradition, Bills said, it is important to be able to uphold everything the character means.

The Saddle Tramp said Red has to be funny, outgoing and energetic, but also laid back.

Raider Red has to be ready for anything, the Saddle Tramp said, from a child taking his fake guns and playing with them, to a devastating game loss. In each instance, Raider Red must personify Tech.

Still, he said he has a playful side, too.

"The Masked Rider and I constantly fight (about who is better)," the Saddle Tramp said, laughing. "I always win."

►hdavis@dailytoreador.com

In murder tale, 'Bernie' an ode to Texas

(AP) — The real stars of Richard Linklater's "Bernie" are, unquestionably, the townspeople of Carthage, Texas.

In documentary-like interviews, the East Texas locals (a mix of real Carthage folk and Texas actors) fill the film from start to finish — a gang of colorful gossips whose heavy accents and wry prattle essentially narrate "Bernie."

What drives their fascination is the true-life tale of a mannered, devout mortician, Bernie Tiede (Jack Black), who in 1997 was arrested for killing the elderly millionaire heiress Marjorie Nugent (Shirley MacLaine). The remarkable thing about the case is just how out of character such an act is for Tiede.

As Black plays him, he's cartoonishly cheerful — not just a churchgoing man, but a member of the choir and just about every other community

group. He's beloved around town, especially among, as one townspeople terms it, the "DOLs" (dear old ladies).

Even Nugent, who is as bitterly grim as Tiede is hopelessly bright, eventually succumbs (that is, eases a sliver) to allow Tiede into her life. He becomes her companion and manservant, filing her toe nails and reading her Reader's Digest.

Her possessiveness (MacLaine is hardened as never before) eventually cracks Tiede who, in a moment of fury that astounds even him, shoots her in the back. The fallout brings in the smooth, self-promoting district attorney Danny Buck Davidson (Matthew McConaughey, perfectly cast and with perfect Texas D.A. eyewear).

The script was co-written by Linklater and Skip Hollandsworth, whose 1998 Texas Monthly article is the basis of the film. Throughout, there's a tension of real life and fiction, and a pervading sense that fiction has little chance of matching the real thing.

"You cannot have grief tragically become comedy,"

Tiede advises while teaching the art of embalming — specifically, how to form a slight smile on the deceased.

"Bernie" never quite rises to full comedy, but remains locked in a state of satirical curiosity, marveling at its own contradictions. Black, who memorably starred in Linklater's "School of Rock," never gives in to a punch line, but his grand, absurdist performance is much closer to parody than realism.

With his pants pulled high on his round frame, a dark mustache, and his incredible jumping eyebrows, Black effeminately strolls through the film. Tiede is portrayed as a closeted gay man, or as one Carthage citizen explains, "that dog don't hunt."

Often, maybe too often, he's singing, whether "Amazing Grace" at a funeral or "Love Lifted Me," full-throated while driving alone. But seeing Black, in full musical regalia, earnestly belt out "Seventy-six Trombones" can only be considered a pleasure.

One wishes "Bernie" submitted fully to dark satire and shed its milder tone. But

it also could be that the film works better as a curiosity — a dark comedy that's not entirely dark and not quite a comedy, either.

The Austin-based Linklater ("Me and Orson Welles," "Dazed and Confused") has by now amassed one of the more varied filmographies in contemporary American movies, and most everything he makes is worth seeing.

"Bernie" is his Preston Sturges comedy, an ode to small town Texas life. The town isn't appalled by Tiede's act; on the contrary, they're sympathetic. Tiede, after all, was a great neighbor and, to them, civil society is so prized as to outweigh a little ol' thing like murder.

Such clannishness ends at the city limits, though. When one townspeople maps his view of Texas, accounting for the "Dallas snobs" and the "liberal fruitcakes" of "the People's Republic of Austin," Linklater is clearly having fun.

"Bernie," a Millennium Entertainment release, is rated PG-13 for some violent images and brief strong language. Running time: 104 minutes.

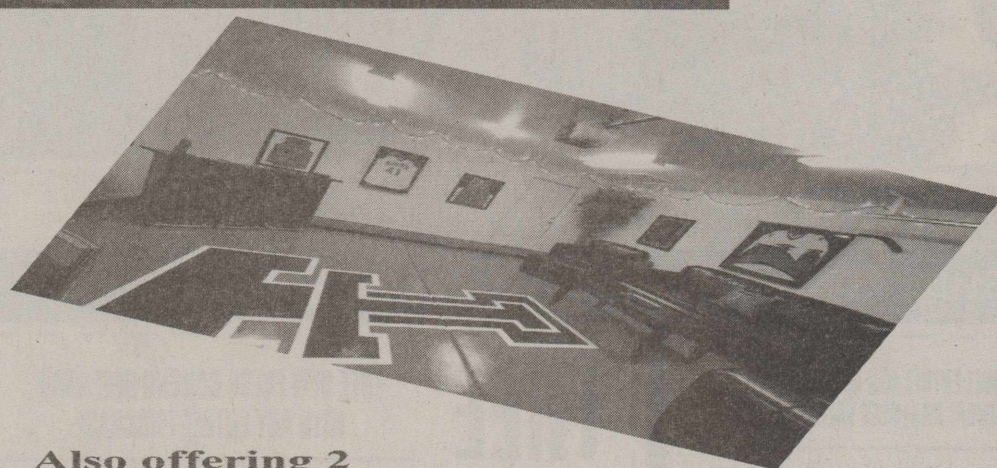
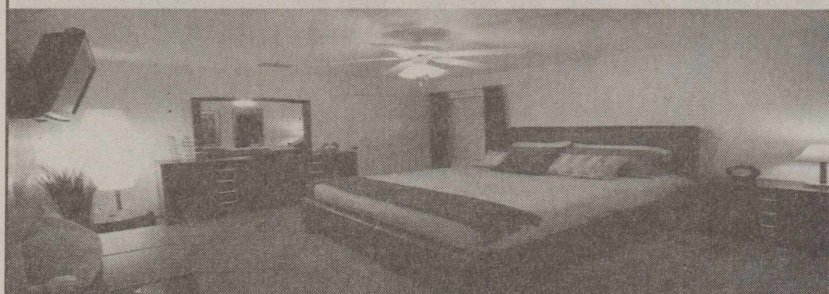
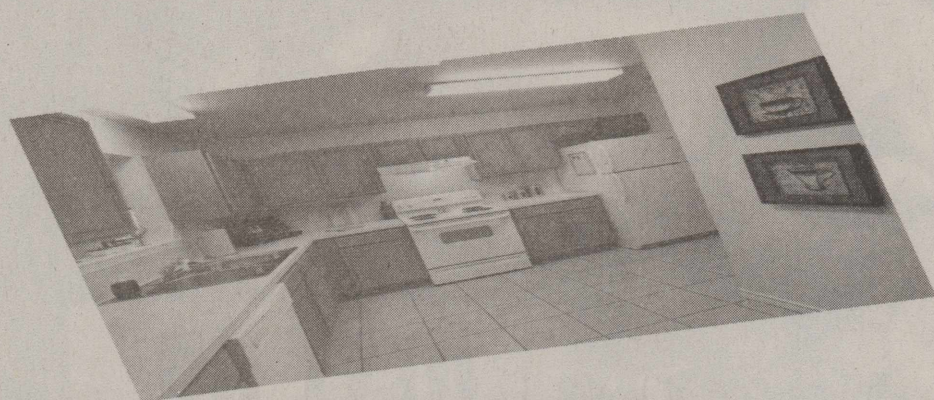
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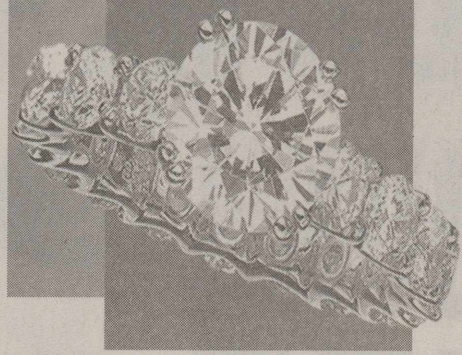


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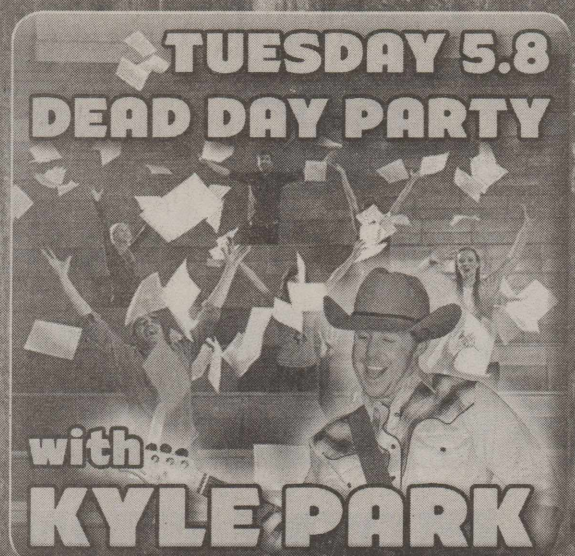


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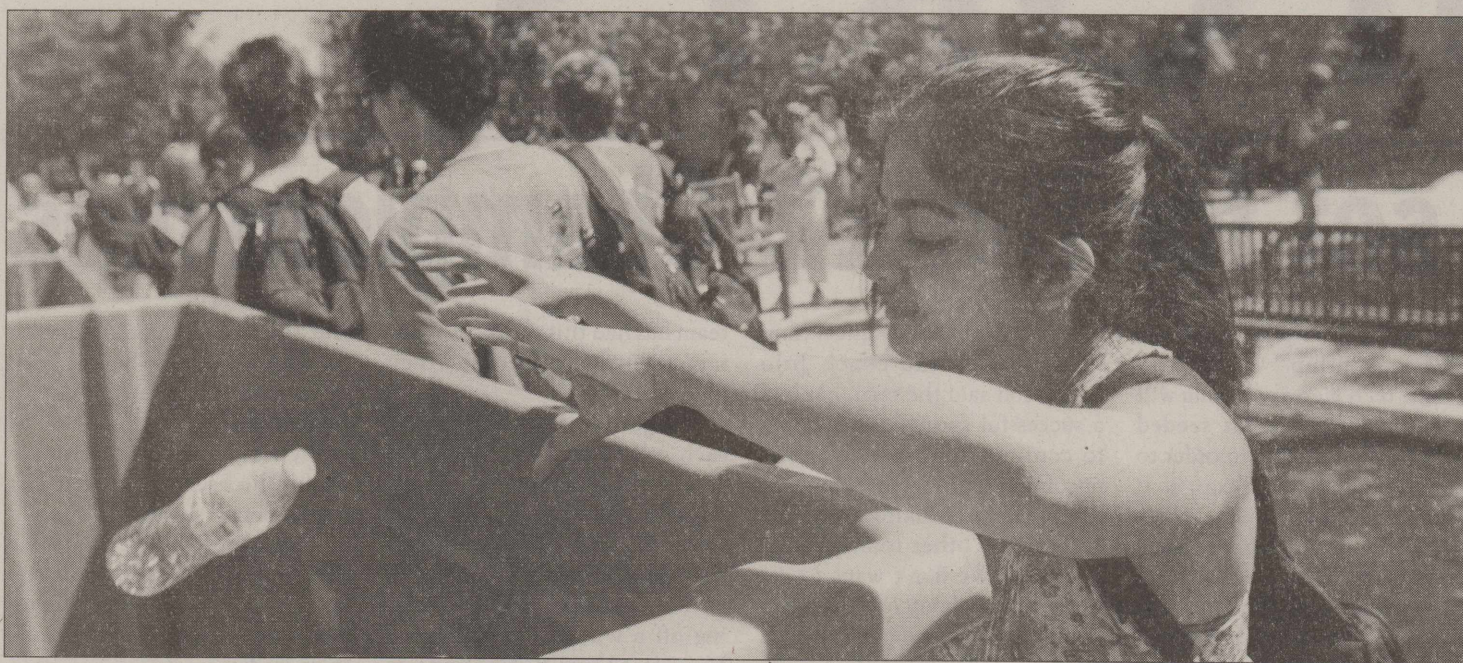


PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador

STUTI GAKHAR, A freshman undeclared major from India, throws two plastic bottles into a recycling bin at the Crush'em Tech Recycling Event Wednesday outside of the Student Union Building to raise awareness of campus recycling through the partnering of Hospitality Services, University Student Housing and The Physical Plant. At the event, students exchanged two plastic bottles for a free T-shirt.

Rather's suit against CBS was worth it, anchor writes

NEW YORK (AP) — Retired CBS anchorman Dan Rather says his lawsuit against his former network was worth it, even though the \$70 million breach-of-conduct case was rejected by New York courts.

In his new book, "Rather Outspoken," he said the case forced some of the "ugly truths" about CBS into the open. The longtime CBS newsman left the network acrimoniously after a discredited 2004 report about President George W. Bush's military service.

Rather's book is due out Monday. A copy was purchased Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Rather wrote that the lawsuit "took a big whack out of my time, my psyche and my bank balance, but even so, it was worth it."

He said his wife, Jean, had

even advised against suing. She thought it wouldn't be prudent but agreed to support him no matter what he did.

Although questions were raised about the legitimacy of documents supporting the report made during Bush's reelection campaign, Rather has said he still believes the story was true.

In his book, Rather describes being iced out of CBS during the 15-month period after he left as anchor of the "CBS Evening News" and finally left the network altogether in June 2006. He was working for "60 Minutes" during that period but said he constantly saw his stories criticized and ideas rejected.

"It was clear to everyone but me that I was being erased," Rather wrote. "Nevertheless, I refused to believe what my eyes were seeing and my ears were hearing."

'30 Rock' to live it up with live episode Thursday night

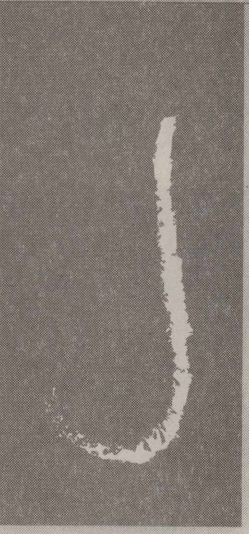
NEW YORK (AP) — In a move to inject new life into its kookiness, "30 Rock" is going live this week.

It will be the second such outing for the NBC comedy, which is normally a polished, single-camera filmed affair. It went live for a night in October 2010 with an episode performed during the show's nor-

mal time slot, then re-staged for West Coast viewers.

The same plan will be followed this Thursday: Originating from NBC's Studio 8H (fabled home of "Saturday Night Live"), "30 Rock" will air live for viewers in the Eastern and Central time zones at 8:30 p.m. EDT, then be reprised at 8:30 PDT for the rest of the country.

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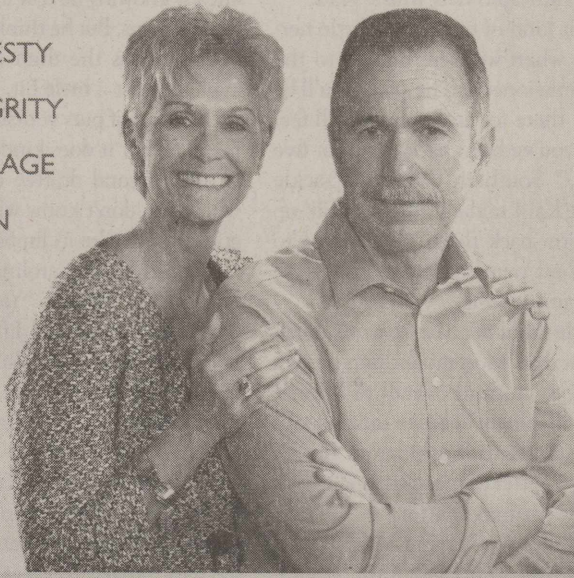
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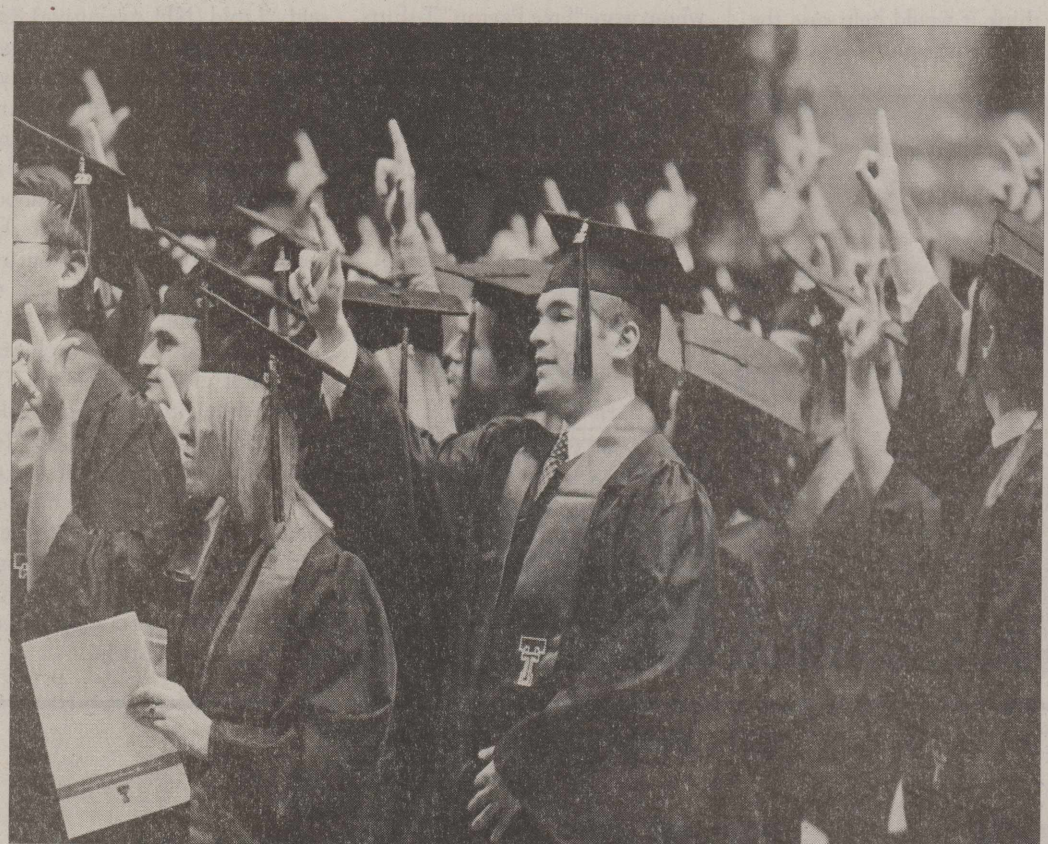


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SPORTS

PAGE 8
THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012

Tech golf teams set for Big 12 Championships

By **MATTHEW BEHRENS**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Big 12 Conference Championship takes place this weekend and both the Texas Tech men and women's golf teams look to improve their records in the final stretch of the season.

Despite the unsatisfactory finish last weekend at the Aggie Invitational, men's head coach Greg Sands said he hopes this young team will play well at Whispering Pines golf course in Trinity.

He said with four true fresh-

men on the team of five, it will be interesting to see how this weekend turns out.

"We've had this line up before and they've performed well," Sands said. "Anytime you take young guys like that, you just have to wait and see."

After a disappointing ninth place finish in the Aggie Invitational, Sands said he hopes the team will be more patient with its golf game.

"We just need to take our time," he said. "We have a young team, and if they're a little more patient we should be able to cor-

rect last weeks errors at the Big 12 Championship."

The Tech men's golf team will enter this tournament seeded sixth, Sands said, and in order to take out top-seeded Texas, it is going to need some help.

"Golf's golf and I've seen some crazy things happen," he said, "but if we can stay in contention in the last 18 holes I'll be happy."

Oklahoma State has won six of the last seven Big 12 golf championships.

The women's team also will be competing this weekend for a Big 12 Championship at Lawrence

Country Club in Lawrence, Kan. Women's head coach JoJo Robertson said the team has had a successful spring and it hopes to continue that success in the upcoming tournament.

"We're just looking at the Big 12 like any other tournament," she said. "We don't want to get too excited about it, but try to accomplish the things that we've done all spring."

Robertson said she believes if everyone shows up for each of the three rounds of golf, the team is going to be just fine.

Of the success the women's

team has had this spring, Robertson credits her players and their hard work.

"Together they're pushing each other and Kim (Kaufman) and Gabby (Dominguez) are seeing who is No. 1 at the end of the year," she said. "Altogether, it's been good for us."

This women's team is coming off a win at the Collegiate MountainView tournament in Tucson, Ariz., and a second place finish at the Knights and Pirates Invitational in Melbourne, Fla.

This team's tenacity can be seen through Robertson, who

said she was disappointed with the final result after having been in the top spot the first day of competition.

"It was kind of unfortunate we finished second in that last tournament," she said.

However, Robertson said the players have worked hard the last six days, and she believes the players are going to be ready to go Friday.

Both the men and women's Big 12 Championships are scheduled to begin Friday and end Sunday

►matthew.behrens@ttu.edu

After Luck, RGIII, it's anxious time for players

NEW YORK (AP) — Andrew Luck knows exactly where he's heading, and so does Robert Griffin III.

For the rest of the college stars preparing for the NFL draft Thursday night, the anxiety is building. Nobody is looking forward to the green room at Radio City Music Hall.

"It kind of made me a little nervous when we were talking to the commissioner and he said, 'You'll be back there for an hour and it'll feel like you've been back there for five days,'" Southern California tackle Matt Kalil said. "I'll be sweatin' up a storm back there, and I want to have my name called and not have to wait too long."

He shouldn't have to worry much about that. Most mock drafts project Kalil to go third overall to Minnesota after Luck heads to Indianapolis and Griffin to Washington. But he knows better than to put much stock in the predraft chatter.

"I stopped paying attention to all of that stuff," said Kalil, attending an NFL event at a playground in Manhattan. "No one really has a clue. Unless you're the GM of a team, you don't really know who a team is going to pick, so you just let it all play out."

That's the approach for the nearly two dozen other players who'll be at Radio City and have no idea when they might walk onto the stage, shake Commissioner Roger Goodell's hand and hold up the jersey of the team with which they'll start their professional career.

"For Luck and RGIII, they know what's going on and they know where they're going to live and all

that kind of stuff," Alabama safety Mark Barron said. "A lot of us other guys, we're still wondering where we're going to be living for the next however many years."

Griffin, the Heisman Trophy winner from Baylor, is comforted by already knowing he'll be a member of the Redskins. But he thinks he might actually miss the draft-day jitters. Well, at least a little bit.

"It kind of puts yourself at ease," he said, "but it does kind of rob you of that natural draftee experience where you don't know where you're going and you're in limbo."

Added South Carolina defensive end Melvin Ingram: "Yeah, I guess that would be kind of different. You won't get that adrenaline of, 'Oh, man. I hope they pick me,' when you know where you're going."

Luck will go No. 1 overall to Indianapolis after a terrific career at Stanford. Like Griffin, he is also expected to step right into a starting job as a rookie.

"I guess it's nice, but there's always competition in football and if I go out there and lay an egg and I'm not the best quarterback out there, I hope they don't start me," Luck said. "I'm excited, though. I'm going to go out there and hopefully play, obviously, and put my best foot forward and enjoy all the guys."

Luck, the son of former NFL quarterback Oliver Luck, acknowledged that it was a "relief" to know he'll be going to the Colts — even if they're starting from scratch after they released Peyton Manning.

"Obviously, the slate has been wiped somewhat clean with some



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

FORMER A&M QUARTERBACK Ryan Tannehill runs down the field during a 45-40 win against Texas Tech last season at Jones AT&T Stadium. Tannehill is projected to be the third quarterback taken in the NFL draft after Andrew Luck and Robert Griffin III.

new coaches and some players who have gone or left, but I'll try to come in there and work as hard as I can," Luck said. "If that means it's a rebuilding process, I guess you can label it as that. The guys I'm sure are working very hard and I just want to get out there and join them."

After Luck and Griffin, Texas A&M's Ryan Tannehill is expected to be the next quarterback taken —

possibly eighth overall by Miami, where he'd be reunited with Mike Sherman. The new Dolphins offensive coordinator was Tannehill's head coach the last four years.

"If I did happen to go there, it would be good," said Tannehill, who would compete with starter Matt Moore. "It would give me some familiarity with the offense, so I think it would help ease the transition a little bit."

Suspended Payton plans to coach his son in 2012

AVONDALE, La. (AP) — Sean Payton played a round of golf with tour pro Ryan Palmer, posed for photos with his ever-supportive fans and then spoke about his eagerness to get back to coaching football as early as this fall.

No, not pro football. Payton said he's staying in constant contact with NFL officials to ensure he doesn't run afoul of the rules of his season-long suspension in connection with the league's bounty investigation of the Saints.

However, Payton's son, Connor, who will soon turn 12, will be playing football in suburban Dallas in the fall. Whether the younger Payton's team runs the double-reverse known as the Superdome Special remains to be seen, but his father plans to be on the sideline and very involved.

"One of the things I'm looking forward to doing this fall is helping coach my son's football team and doing a few things that you normally wouldn't be able to do" while coaching in the NFL, Payton said Wednesday after playing in the Zurich Classic pro-am.

"I look forward to cutting the oranges, hauling the Gatorade and watching my son play every game — and being a part of calling plays for his offense and doing some things like that that really get me excited and I know get him excited."

While Payton seems to be coming to grips with his suspension, and appeared gratified support at the course from fans — some of whom wore "Free Payton" T-shirts — he was annoyed by recently reported wiretapping allegations against the Saints.

"It's hogwash," Payton said about the allegations that general manager Mickey Loomis' Superdome booth was wired so he could eavesdrop on opposing coaches.

"I'm not going to comment on that," Payton said. "I'm just going to focus on my son and my family." Payton said he phoned Anderson after recently running into linebacker Akin Ayodele at a restaurant and also called about whether he could play in the Saints Hall of Fame golf outing in May. He was given the OK to take part in that as well.

The allegations, made public in an ESPN report Monday, have spawned a joint Louisiana state police and FBI probe. The alleged activity covers a period between 2002 and 2004, before Payton took his first head coaching job in New Orleans in 2006.

"It's garbage," Payton continued. "Obviously, I wasn't here, but I know Mickey Loomis well enough and I would consider him a close friend and professionally one of the best general managers in sport. ... If you really study what he does in the booth, he listens closely to the broadcast, watches the games and for him to begin to try to dissect that language and everything — just the way it was reported was awful, I'll say that."

Payton's suspension began April 16 and runs through the Super Bowl, which, incidentally, is in New Orleans. During that time, Payton may not even have casual, non-football conversations with anyone on any NFL team without at least notifying the league office.

The pro-am was one such event where Payton had to be careful because Saints running back Mark Ingram attended the event and hit some balls on the driving range. If Payton finds such extensive restrictions upsetting in any way, he did not let on about that after his round of golf.

"It's unimportant how I feel. Really it's just the terms of the suspension and it'll be easy to follow and pay attention to," Payton said. "I told (NFL executive) Ray (Anderson) when we first began talking that we'll talk frequently."

Payton said he phoned Anderson after recently running into linebacker Akin Ayodele at a restaurant and also called about whether he could play in the Saints Hall of Fame golf outing in May. He was given the OK to take part in that as well.

Payton said he'll watch the NFL draft closely, albeit on TV, likely while sitting at home like a fan. He said there were no "24-hour meetings" in his final days of work and that he simply reminded his experienced staff to do their jobs as they have during the past few seasons, which had included three straight playoff appearances and a Super Bowl title.

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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.

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

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NFL Draft important for now, future

This is the most important NFL draft in recent memory.

The NFL is a league where one good draft can turn a team around right away, and a few great drafts can turn a team into a regular playoff guest. The league is built for a quick turn around. The draft is the most essential way to turn the teams around. Free agents are expensive, and many times have some of their most successful years behind them.

Draft prospects are young, cheap and have their entire usefulness to NFL teams ahead of them. This draft is special for many reasons.

Andrew Luck and Robert Griffin III are already tabbed as franchise quarterbacks. Both teams preparing to draft these players made sacrifices to get in position to obtain the services of these hopeful

Cody Stoots



superstars. The Indianapolis Colts gave up their chance to have the waning years of Peyton Manning's career. The Redskins gave up future opportunities to find help in their trading of draft picks.

A franchise signal caller in this pass-happy league can turn a team around. A bust on a first-round quarterback could set someone back years.

Ryan Tannehill — who I consider to be a future disappointment under center — has been associated with a number of teams who could peg him as their future.

This draft also sees great wide

receivers available. Oklahoma State's Justin Blackmon has been dominant at the college level and has garnered interest from almost every team past pick No. 2.

Michael Floyd has dazzled scouts this off-season, moving into the conversation as a top-10 pick.

Then there is the dynamic partner of crime of the impending number two selection. Kendall Wright brings explosiveness and speed to the wide out and return positions.

There has been plenty of discussion about trading back from the top of the draft teams. This is interesting because, unlike the NBA draft, traditionally serviceable NFL players can be found and — with the slotting price — rookies don't carry such high price tags. The fact that teams want to trade back is a commentary on the lack of dynamic talents. It is, however, an

intriguing thought when so many teams were so close in record.

Only two games separated the team drafting 11, the Kansas City Chiefs, and the team selecting 21, the playoff worthy Cincinnati Bengals. With so many teams being within shouting distance of each other, teams in the middle or back of the draft could make a move up for a player similar to the Atlanta Falcons move last year for Julio Jones.

The talent in this draft does seem down from last years, but other drafts have surprised in the back. The thing to remember is just because there was success in college, it doesn't immediately translate. I have been guilty of selling Texans' draft picks short — most recently Brian Cushing and J.J. Watt.

It will be easy to complain about the pick tonight, but at-

tempt to reserve judgment until December.

The defense is outweighed by the offense this year. There will be chances to add talent at the wide receiver position. Alshon Jeffery was fantastic in the SEC at South Carolina and his size is unique at the position. Stephen Hill is a speedster from Georgia Tech with good size, but the run heavy attack of the Yellowjackets has him being a seemingly unknown quantity.

Though the offense is more talented, there are good defenders in this draft. Mark Barron is a wild card in the first round.

The Cowboys have been heavily linked to him because of their safety need and he would be a great get for Dallas. Jared Crick from Nebraska on the defensive line and Tank Carder from TCU at linebacker could both be interesting pick-ups for teams looking to

add depth. There may not be a great amount of diamonds in the rough in this draft, but it is easy to sit here and say as much.

The draft assessment process is far from flawless and there is no right way to approach the draft. Some teams prefer to fill needs while the best talent is valued on other rosters.

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

Yankees RHP Pineda out for season

ARLINGTON (AP) — New York Yankees starter Michael Pineda will miss the entire season without pitching in a game because of a tear in the labrum of his right shoulder.

The Yankees said the right-hander will have arthroscopic surgery Tuesday in New York and be out for about a year.

"It's a loss," manager Joe Girardi said Wednesday. "He was a guy that we were counting on this year. We traded for him, and unfortunately he's hurt."

New York acquired Pineda from Seattle in January, giving up top catching prospect Jesus Montero to get the 23-year-old All-Star pitcher.

Pineda felt weakness in his shoulder during an extended spring training game Saturday, which came three weeks after he had problems in a spring training start. The tear was discovered

in a medical exam after that.

When Pineda experienced discomfort in the back of the shoulder during spring training March 30, the initial diagnosis was tendon inflammation in his right shoulder.

Girardi said Pineda wasn't quite himself during spring training, but that the 6-foot-7, 260-pound pitcher was making his starts and doing his bullpens without any complaints of pain.

"He just felt like his arm was weak, so it explains why it was weak now," Girardi said. "When and where and how and what we did doesn't matter now. What we have to do is move forward and try to get this kid healthy."

Pineda was 9-10 with a 3.74 ERA in 171 innings last year as a rookie for the light-hitting Mariners. He's now going to miss an entire season, and

possibly more.

"It's hard because you get a chance and you realize your dream and you have a good first year and you're looking forward to taking the things that you've learned from your first year and applying them to the second year and you get hurt. It's a frustrating time," Girardi said. "Our job is to make sure that we keep him focused on his rehab and we get him back for next year."

The manager expressed optimism that Pineda would return healthy because he's young and strong.

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