Jury selected for Saudi man in alleged bomb plot

AMARILLO (AP) — A jury was ship. Cogdell also asked if they would selected Thursday for the trial of a Saudi man accused of gathering bomb components with the intention of targeting sites across the United States, including the home of former President George W. Bush.

Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari's attorney, Dan Cogdell, asked potential jurors if they would have any issue with Aldawsari's Muslim faith or Saudi citizen-

"think kind of hard about" sitting next to a Saudi citizen on an airplane.

Aldawsari, 22, has pleaded not guilty to a charge of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction. The former Texas Tech University chemical engineering student faces up to life in prison if convicted.

TRIAL continued on Pg. 2

4th of July celebrations to include fireworks

By PHILIP WHEAT STAFF WRITER

The Fourth of July is rapidly approaching and everyone knows what that means — food, flags and, of course, fireworks.

To Lubbockites the coming of the fourth means the coming of 4th On Broadway, the largest free festival in Texas, said Stephanie Nairn, executive director of Broadway Festivals.

This nonprofit organization raises funds and organizes the Independence Day celebration.

"It's a big misconception that the city puts this on," Nairn said. "The funding is up to this nonprofit."

Part of her job, she said, is to raise funds, recruit the food and drink stalls, find activities for the children and organize events — including the fireworks

Last year, Nairn said the fireworks, along with the concert, were canceled due to the burn ban.

"Fireworks are like cigarettes," said Mark Henrich, Lubbock County commissioner. "Wherever they land, if conditions are right, they could start a fire. We pulled the burn ban about a month ago."

Fourth on Broadway, fireworks stands back in business for holiday

Part of criteria, Henrich said, along with wind speed and humidity, for lifting or placing a burn ban is drawn from the Keetch-Byram Drought Index, or

the KBDI. According to the Texas Weather Connection website the KBDI is based

on soil moisture, with a few other factors. The soil moisture can range from 0,

no moisture depletion, to 800, absolutely dry conditions.

"Last summer we were about at 732," Henrich said.

Fortunately, Lubbock County is now at 489, well below the burn ban threshold of 575, Henrich said.

The 4th On Broadway celebration will be launch its fireworks this year, Nairn said, but the event has more than fire hazards to offer.

BURN BAN continued on Pg. 2

Tim Tadlock hires new assistant baseball coach

Texas Tech head baseball coach. Tim Tadlock made his first hire Wednesday, naming J-Bob Thomas to serve as an assistant coach.

"J-Bob has worked extremely hard to earn this opportunity," Tadlock said in a news release. "We are very excited to add him to our coaching staff."

Before joining the Tech team, Thomas worked for seven seasons at Howard College in Big Spring as the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator.

According to the release, Thomas was Howard College's hitting and catching coach and also worked with the team's base runners in addition to his recruiting responsibilities.

Thomas assisted in the Hawks' finish as one of the top five in the country in hitting during each of his seven seasons, including leading the nation in batting on three occasions in 2008.

Thomas helped guide Howard College to a school-record four conference championships, with title on May 21.

according to a news release.

Overall, Howard College went 321-88 during Thomas' time there. Thomas coached 15 players at Howard that led the nation in a major offensive. statistical category, including triples, runs, home runs and RBIs, with three national batting champions, two players leading the nation in stolen bases, two players leading the country in doubles, two players leading the nation in base hits and twice having the nation's leader in on-base percentage.

According to a news release, in seven seasons, Thomas' offensive players ranked in 101 national top-25 statistical

"I couldn't be more excited to join Coach Tadlock's staff and to be a part of the Texas Tech family," Thomas said in a news release. "I'm grateful for this opportunity and can't wait to get started."

Tadlock was named head coach on June 8 after the firing of Dan Spencer

runs in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, »kkelly@dailytoreador.com

National Title



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS GUAY

GREG KERNICK, SOUTHWEST regional director, poses with the women's rodeo team members Haley Nelson Channing, Taylor Langdon, Bailey Guthrie, and Jessica Frost after the regional championships. The women's rodeo team won its first national rodeo title Saturday at the 64th annual College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo.

Katie Hensle named assistant Lady Raider basketball coach



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador KATIE HENSLE, THE new Lady Raider Basketball assistant coach, answers questions in the west lobby of the United Spirit Arena on Tuesday. Hensle was picked by the Texas Tech Women's Basketball

department to take over the position, which was vacated earlier this year.

By SCOTT MACWATTERS PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Katie Hensle, the new assistant coach of the Lady Raider basketball team, is looking forward to the fall when she can begin working

with her new team.

INDEX

Before then, she will be on the road helping to recruit new

Before being hired by Texas Tech, Hensle worked as the head coach at John Paul II High School in Plano where she had an overall record of 107-39 and coached the Nike Cy Fair Elite Club team since 2009, according to a news release.

COACH continued on Pg. 3

Women's rodeo team wins national championship, makes Tech history

and barrel racing, while Nelson, Last Saturday, the Texas Tech Langdon and Frost all compete in women's rodeo team made Tech barrel racing. history at the 64th annual College Early mornings and hours of

> work went into the preparations for training for nationals. Training included slow work physically with the horses and corrections. The girls even entered extra

> competitions along the way, prior to going to nationals, said Chris Guay, Tech rodeo coach and instructor.

> Daily practices and riding was a lifestyle for all four girls on the women's rodeo team, each having grown up around rodeo with their families support.

"I actually started out, I was jumping horses doing all the English stuff, then my dad and family introduced me to rodeo, and when it came time to choose since I couldn't do both, the adrenaline you get running full speed on a horse won out," Frost said. "I guess I became a bit of an adrenaline junkie. So I

chose rodeo over jumping." In 1955, the Tech men's rodeo team won the national championship but the women's rodeo team never achieved the national title - until now.

Going into nationals, Guay said, the team was feeling confident having just won the Southwest region, which is one of the toughest of the 11 regions in the nation, by nearly 2,000 points over second place.

"We had a very strong team, we were pretty confident with ourselves and I had seen in one of the big rodeo magazines that we were

chosen as the team to beat. So that felt good to be picked as the team to look out for. I felt really good," Langdon said.

At first, Guay said, the team was neck-and-neck with the competing teams and fought to come ahead. "After my first round, I was a

little nervous," Langdon said. "I didn't do as good as planned; my mare came in heat and was kind of 'a handful.

"The second round, we came in second. We fought back up in good spot. Third round we had some tough luck with my mare in heat, and the fourth round we did really good. I ended up fifth. It wasn't easy but we fought our way back."

TITLE continued on Pg. 2

WEATHER

Classifieds......3 Crossword.....2 Opinions.....4 Sudoku......3



Sunny/ Windy

Saturday

arship for rodeo.

Sunny

Michael Carolin (U. Arizona): US should adopt universal healthcare OPINIONS, Pg. 4

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By KATELIN KELLY

STAFF WRITER

National Finals Rodeo in Casper,

consists of Bailey Guthrie, an ex-

ercise and sport sciences graduate

from Rigby, Idaho; Haley Nelson,

an English graduate from Chan-

ning; Taylor Langdon, a junior ani-

mal science major from Aubrey; and

Jessica Frost, an animal and food

sciences student from Somis, Calif.

interested in Tech for the rodeo

program and were at Tech on schol-

All four girls said they were

During the regular season, Guth-

rie competes in roping, goat tying

The Tech women's rodeo team

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CHANCELLOR CHAT

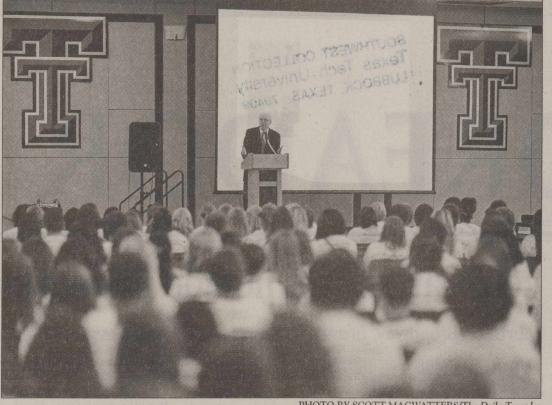


PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

CHANCELLOR KENT HANCE talks to incoming Texas Tech students during the second session of Freshman Red Raider Orientation on Wednesday in the Student Union Building. This year, there are 10 three-day sessions of Red Raider Orientation, which will continue until early August.

Burn ban ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At 7:30 p.m. July 3, there will be a street dance featuring at 7 p.m. July 4, there will be Clark Green and Brandon

On the corner of Broadway and Texas Avenue near the courthouse, Nairn said there will be a fenced-off area where people can gather on the grass with blankets or dance in the

The street dances require a ticket and there will be food,

The Wells Fargo Street Fair starts at 8 a.m. and there will be blocks of vendors on Broadway, Nairn said.

There also will be eight mu-Herrera and Shelly Lares. Then sic stages with bands rotating

Kids have a place to play ing Josh Abbot Band, William at the Hurst Kids Area, where five inflatable play areas, a rock climbing wall, a whiffle ball stadium and a peddler's tent stand.

The peddler's tent is a place where artist can sell their creations, Nairn said, but also inside there is a 20-foot-long mural that children can paint. It is like a giant coloring book, she said. Black and white aniand buildings resemble Lub-

http://twc.tamu.edu/ drought/kbdi

http://www.broadwayfesti-

Pro Bono Winter Break program helps under served communities

By ASHLYN TUBBS STAFF WRITER

A new, statewide Pro Bono Winter Break program will begin in 2013 thanks to a \$21,965 grant the Texas Access to Justice Commission has received from the Texas Bar Foundation.

Those who enroll in the program will reach out to underserved communities and participate in law-related volunteer

"I think it's a fabulous program," said Trish McAllister, executive director of the Texas Access to Justice Commission. "It is such a great way to expose students to some of the things going on in these rural communities that they may have never been aware of before. It's a win-win for everyone."

The program will accept more than 60 law students and professors at all nine Texas law schools. McAllister said anyone interested in public service work can apply. The application is not yet completed and the locations of the program have not been finalized.

She said applicants will be chosen to fit a balance between sexes, languages, public interest work experience and

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

felt like it was going to be a close call

for the first place position and national

he said, "I felt like it was going to be

really close between Central Wyoming

College and Sam Houston State, who

were second and third respectfully, but

The team felt confident at their

"Our team did really great, all of us

I really felt like we came out ahead."

chance to win the national title.

championship title.

After Saturday night, Guay said he

"You know, at the end of that night,"

representation from all nine law schools.

Students interested in the program must be enthused, committed, reliable, concerned with helping disadvantaged people, respectful of the lawyers, and willing to listen and follow professional and responsible boundaries, McAllister said.

"Those spots will probably fill pretty quickly," she said, "but we want to make sure it's as fair as possible and we want to make sure we have the resources and the students we need as far as helping the clients."

The law students chosen for the program will receive valuable hands-on experience as they assist more than 6.1 million Texans who qualify for civil legal aid. It is based on a similar successful program developed by the University of Texas School of Law.

"It will be mutually beneficial to everybody," McAllister said. "There will be a lot of people who will receive legal help who otherwise could not get legal services because they're too poor to afford them.

"We're hoping the law student also will have a positive experience and either go off and do pro bono work when they're licensed attorneys or consider a career in

The program, which is a week long, will allow participants to network with other students and lawyers.

"They get experience doing something they may not get to in any other internship-like program," McAllister

There will be an orientation program to make sure all students know the base line, since some of them have not taken on professional responsibility before, McAllister said.

"They do a basic overview of ethical obligations that attorneys have towards clients and things like that," she said.

Through this program, clients are getting potential resolutions to their legal matters and are having a positive experience with lawyers, McAllister said.

"And the more people who have positive experiences with lawyers," she said, "the better it is."

Larry Spain, a Tech law professor, said he will encourage his students to apply for this program.

"It's a valuable project," he said. "We will encourage students to apply so they can provide services to individuals who otherwise could not afford counsel."

>>> atubbs@dailytoreador.com

the music of Grupo Solido, Ram another street dance featur-Adams.

Coke products and beer sold, all

to raise funds for the free part of down the mural and the street the festival on the fourth.

until 4 p.m.

mal cartoons will be parading

bock's Broadway.

After all the excitement on Broadway, the party moves to Mackenzie Park at 4:30 p.m., where people can eat and enjoy the evening. At dark, Gandy's Fireworks Extravaganza marks the end of celebrating America's independence.

Nairn and more than 200 volunteers have been working for months on the festivities, so naturally, Nairn said she encourages all to come out and have a blast and see a few too. On the web:

vals.com/bfi/index.php >>> pwheat@dailytoreador.com all contributed with points. We had a great chance going into it and after we competed I knew we would have a shot."

The team finished with 423.3 points, securing the win of the College National Finals Rodeo and making Tech history.

"It feels pretty good, Tech is such a big school with so many different programs, and we aren't really a team we're a club, so we kind of get set aside a little bit but I hope I had a part in making rodeo a bigger part of Tech," Nelson said.

As for the team, Guthrie said she is getting married and moving to North Carolina.

Nelson said she is getting her teaching certificate and hopes to teach high school English.

Langdon said she will graduate with a degree in animal science in December and hopes to go pro in rodeo.

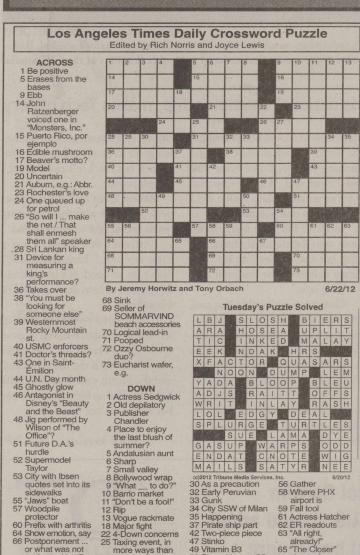
Frost said she has another year at Tech before she graduates.

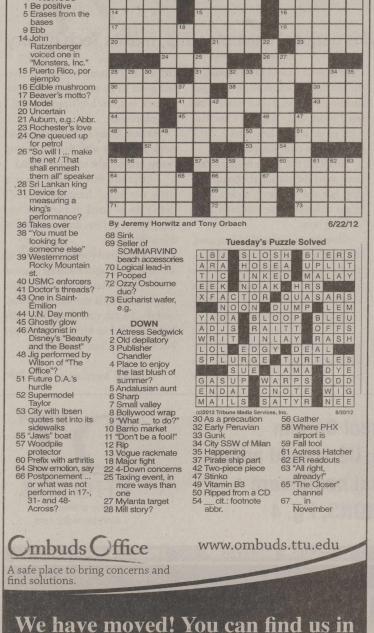
"It makes me feel very happy that we've accomplished a goal," Guay said, "but at the same time I know that rodeo is not the most important thing in life.

"I want to let all my students, if you submit to God and try to put him first and set goals and get an education — I mean that to me, really I love rodeo and its helped me make a living, but it's not everything. It's a great feeling attaining a goal and having a team attain their goal.'

>>> kkelly@dailytoreador.com







Room 232 E in the

Student Union Building.

Room 232E – SUB 806•742•SAFE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

U.S. District Judge Donald E. Walter, presiding over the trial in the West Texas city of Amarillo, questioned more than 40 potential jurors for about 90 minutes. Prosecutors and Cogdell then asked their questions.

Twelve jurors and two alternates were eventually seated. The panel of eight women and six men is scheduled

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Tue-Sat:

to hear opening statements Friday.

had a great week," Guthrie said. "We

Aldawsari sat next to his attorneys in federal court in Amarillo wearing a suit jacket and tie, and sporting hair that was shorter than during his previous court appearances. Court records show his attorneys plan to use an insanity defense.

Federal agents who secretly searched Aldawsari's apartment in Lubbock, Texas, last year say they found almost everything needed to build a bomb, including chemicals,

(across from Tech & ULofts)

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beakers, flasks, wiring, a hazmat suit and clocks, which he had bought online in the previous months. Aldawsari had researched targets including dams, nuclear plants and Bush's Dallas home — and how to place bomb material inside dolls and baby carriages, court records show.

In his journal, handwritten in Arabic, Aldawsari said he had been planning a terror attack in the U.S. for years, even before he came to the country on a scholarship, and that it was "time for jihad," or holy war, according to court documents. He bemoaned the plight of Muslims and Laden's speeches.

Walter ruled last week that prosecutors can use footage from videos found on Aldawsari's computer, including one in which Ayman al-Zawahri, al-Qaida's current leader, praises as martyrs two unspecified individuals killed by "American Crusaders." Two instructional videos that he also allowed show how to prepare the explosive picric acid and how to use a cellphone as a remote detonator.

TNP, the chemical explosive

Aldawsari was suspected of trying to make, has about the same destructive power as TNT. FBI bomb experts said the amounts in the Aldawsari case would have yielded almost 15 pounds of explosive — about the same amount used per bomb in the London subway attacks that killed scores of people in July 2005.

Authorities say they were tipped to Aldawsari's online purchases by chemical company Carolina Biological Supply of Burlington, N.C., and shipping company Con-way Freight on Feb. 1, 2011. The chemical company reported a \$435 suspicious pursaid he was influenced by Osama bin chase to the FBI, while the shipping company notified Lubbock police and the FBI because it appeared the order wasn't intended for commercial use.

Aldawsari came to the U.S. in October 2008 from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to study chemical engineering at Texas Tech. He transferred in early 2011 to nearby South Plains College, where he was studying business. A Saudi industrial company, which was not identified in court documents, was paying his tuition and living expenses.

Boy, 6, dies of wounds after Texas hotel shooting

boy has died after authorities say he was shot by his mother's boyfriend at a South Texas hotel in an attack that also killed his 1-year-old half-brother, a family member said Thursday.

Jaydin Thompson's great-aunt Dianne Cerny said the boy was taken off life support and died Wednesday evening. Cerny has been speaking on behalf of the family since the boys were shot Tuesday, the same day their mother's body

McALLEN (AP) — A 6-year-old was found hidden in a shack in their hometown.

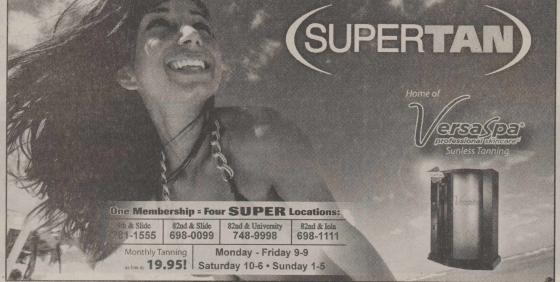
Jaydin's 21-month-old halfbrother, Davian Bluntson, died in the shooting in the Laredo hotel. Demond Bluntson, the younger boy's father, is charged with capital murder and aggravated assault in the attack. Laredo Police spokesman Joe Baeza said the assault charge likely will be upgraded after Jaydin's death.

Bluntson, 36, is being held on \$2.5 million bond and could face yet more charges in El Campo where police believe he killed his 28-year-old girlfriend Brandy Cerny — the boys' mother — and dumped her body at a property where his father lives.

El Campo police Chief Stanphill said a preliminary autopsy determined Cerny likely died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Cerny and her sons were last seen in church Sunday in El Campo. Dianne Cerny said Davian loved playing and exploring, and described Jaydin as being just like his mother.

"He always had an arm around someone, especially his mom and little brother, and he was always laughing and smiling and loving life," she said Thursday. She said Jaydin's family had decided to donate the boy's tissue.



ROBOT RALLY



MATT TARPLEY MOVES to catch a basketball thrown by a robot in the courtyard behind the Electrical Engineering building Tuesday as students in the District 6 4-H leadership lab watch. The robot was built by high school students from Lubbock, Estacado and Frenship high schools as part of a First Robotics competition where this robot and ones built by other teams will play basketball.

Coach ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She said she plans to use her experience with high school players in recruiting for Texas Tech this summer.

"I know a lot of kids throughout the state of Texas and beyond, so I hope to use that in recruiting," said Hensle at a news conference on Tuesday. "I've been fortunate enough to coach some kids who've made it to a really high level."

Although she will be adapting from a high school and club level coach to being at the college level for the first time, she said she's not worried about her recruiting schedule.

"I'm used to being on the road all of July with my club team," Hensle said. "I'll just be watching and recruiting instead of coaching."

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Wednesday- \$1 Drafts, \$2 Capt. Morgan

Aside from her own experience working with younger players, she said she hopes to use Tech's traditions as a selling point while recruiting.

"When I was a kid, this is where I used to come to camp from Dallas, so I'm very versed in the history of the program," Hensle said. "I'm just looking forward to helping to continue to keep everything going."

Hensle said she's looking forward to working with the current Lady Raider team in the fall, as well.

"With camp going on, I've been down at camp and gotten to meet all the players, and I think their mindset is one wanting to be successful and continue to get better and improve," she said.

Hensle said she believes the current Lady Raider team will draw a lot of its strength from

"I think you've got a lot of >>> smacwatters@dailytoreador.com

TECH STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND

returning players who are real experienced, especially at the guard position," she said.

She said working with point guards is her specialty as a coach.

When recruiting guards, Hensle said, there's no formula for identifying a player who may do well in the guard position.

"I think you need a mix of kids with a lot of different abilities to be successful," she said. "And I think that's what's here.'

Overall, Hensle said it will be a big difference to begin coaching at the college level.

"All of the players are elite players when you're coaching in the Big 12, so I think that you're starting ahead of where you would start with the club kids or high school kids," she said. "I think it'll just be different to bring the kids that are already at an elite level to an even higher level."

Saturday- \$2 wells

Thursday- \$2 Crown, \$12 Dom Bucket

Sunday- \$3 Rumple, \$1 drafts

Friday- POWER HOUR \$1 wells, \$1 drafts 1-5pm

Graduate student using technology to test wastewater finds cocaine

By EFRAIN DUARTE STAFF WRITER

Juliet Kinyua, a graduate student, collected samples for her master's research project at the wastewater treatment plant on Mondays and Fridays.

Kinyua's research involved going out to the wastewater treatment plant, collecting samples and taking it back to a lab where she began to find traces of the metabolite benzoylecgonine, which is only produced by cocaine.

"I collected a liter and replicated that three times," Kinyua said.

What she found was the city of Lubbock used 900 grams of cocaine on the average weekday, but the cocaine usage increased to 1,200 grams on the weekends.

To test the water coming into the wastewater treatment plant, Kinyua said she used a process known as sewage epidemiology.

"The process of sewage epidemiology is relatively new, it's been done in Europe for a while, but at the time we started the project there wasn't a lot of research on it in this country," said Todd Anderson, a professor of environmental chemistry and one of Kinvua's advisers.

Another aspect of Kinyua's research was to use gas chromatography-mass spectrometry to test the amounts of benzoylecgonine.

"It's a technique you can use to quantify the amount of different substances," Anderson said.

When cocaine is consumed it is turned into the metabolite called

benzoylecgonine, or BE. "BE is the most stable metabolite

of cocaine," Kinyua said. Anderson reflected on what he thought was most interesting about Juliet's sampling period.

"It's interesting that the sampling period Juliet did included holidays,

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we don't know what impact that may or may not have had on the things that we saw," Anderson said.

Kathy Sperry, senior director of the Institute for Forensic Science and academic adviser of Kinyua, was interested in what Kinyua would find in her research.

"I was interested in the findings, especially from a law enforcement standpoint in terms of the illicit drugs and the impact that it could have on law enforcement in terms of the days of the week and high levels of cocaine that Juliet was finding," Sperry said.

Kinyua went to the wastewater treatment plant and collected samples for approximately four months.

"Juliet started collecting data February 8, 2010, and concluded collecting data June 4, 2010, and collected samples bi-weekly," Sperry

Kinyua published an article in the Journal of Forensic Science.

"The forensic community thought it was a good study because she's gone on and published her work," Sperry said.

Students working on their research projects have to come up with problem-oriented research on their own.

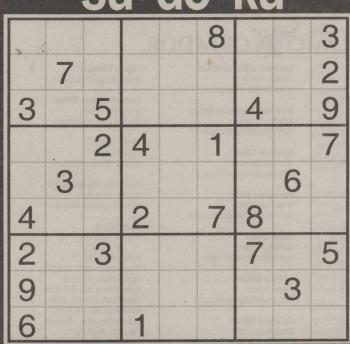
"We require our students to develop new and original research projects that are problem oriented and in-depth," Sperry said.

Although with plenty of findings for Kinyua's research, one drawback, Sperry said, is the lack of other treatments plants, like those in metropolitan areas.

"The problem in Lubbock is that we only have one water sewage treatment plant and if we had the opportunity to test in other parts of the city that would be great because we would be able to know areas that have higher concentrations of drug use," Sperry said.

» eduarte@dailytoreador.com

Today's



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

logic to define the answers.

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U.S. should adopt universal healthcare

By MICHAEL CAROLIN ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT (U. ARIZONA)

The Supreme Court will decide later this month the fate of President Obama's Affordable Care Act, the United States' first attempt at federally mandated, universal healthcare. But the act has already carved a vast division among Americans questioning its constitutionality.

Opponents of the law argue that the government shouldn't force Americans to purchase health insurance and that such a system would reduce the quality. Supporters of it argue that healthcare should be an American right.

Even if the act isn't the right legislation for improving our healthcare system, the president still has the

Providing universal healthcare should be one of our government's fundamental functions. It would cover the nearly 50 million Americans who went without healthcare in 2010, simplify our bloated system and make it easier to gain access. On top of that, it should be free. Yes, free: we're behind the times.

nation that does not guarantee healthcare for its citizens. Even countries that the United Nations doesn't consider developed, like China, are taking steps toward universal care. The U.S. ranks with Turkey and Mexico as being the sole countries without universal health coverage according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Despite our disconformities, we spend far more money on healthcare — 17.4 percent of our gross domestic product — than our counterparts, who spend an average of just 10.6 percent, according to a 2012 study done by The Commonwealth Fund. And although we spend top dollar for health care, the actual health of

Opponents to universal healthcare argue that it would be detrimental to the quality of our medical services, but researchers have found that our current healthcare system isn't superior to that of other developed nations who provide universal health care. According to the same study, the U.S. is second to last in number of practicing physicians.

Americans is subpar.

The U.S. is the only developed Also, the U.S. has less than the average number of hospital beds and below average length of stay for acute care. The cost of U.S. healthcare per person is \$8,000, more than Norway, Switzerland, Netherlands and Luxembourg. These countries spend less and also live longer than the average American. The average life expectancy of an American is 78.2 years, the 27th highest compared to the developed country average of 79.5 years. The U.S. also lags in other measures such as infant mortality and potential years of life lost according to a report from the World Health Organization.

> Critics also argue that free universal care would lead to extreme wait times and a lack of drug innovation from pharmaceutical companies. However, these claims are unfounded.

Evidence shows that wait times may have little to do with universal healthcare. According to a 2005 survev provided by The Commonwealth Fund, only 30 percent of Americans were able to visit with their doctor on the same day they were sick, a lower figure than any other country

but Canada at 23 percent. More importantly, 51 percent of U.S. patients reported having medical needs unmet due to costs, a number that almost doubles Canada's. This is an example of a problem that could be solved by free healthcare.

Those who argue that drug companies would cut back drug research and development due to losses in profit are also misinformed. A loss of profit wouldn't hurt innovation, said sociologist Donald Light of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and economist Rebecca Warburton of the University of Victoria, due to drug companies spending little on drug research to begin with. In reality, federally funded universities do most of the basic research, while drug companies delegate most of their spending towards marketing.

Establishing free universal healthcare takes time, but doing so we will modernize, simplify and improve our system. Even if Obama's law doesn't pass the Supreme Court's test of constitutionality, we should still make efforts toward joining the rest of the developed world by providing everyone free healthcare.

Domestic drones post threat to U.S. privacy rights

By DAVID SCHEUERMANN THE DAILY REVEILLE (LOUISIANA STATE U.)

Earlier this week, I wrote about the

use of drones overseas. Today I want to talk about drones on the domestic front.

In February, Congress ordered the Federal Aviation Administration to create guidelines for the use of drones domestically, paving the way for the technology to become more widespread

However, many Americans, including congressmen, are concerned about what this new technology may mean to

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privacy rights.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., introduced a bill last week that would prohibit any government affiliated person or entity from using drones for surveillance without first obtaining a warrant.

The bill, dubbed the Preserving Freedom from Unwarranted Surveillance Act of 2012, would protect Americans from having their privacy violated at will by the unmanned aircraft and allows citizens to sue the government if it's found in violation of the Act.

However, the bill did not completely cripple the security aspect of the drones. It explicitly specifies exceptions for domestic drone use for patrolling the border and in the risk of a terrorist attack. Thus, Paul's bill is one of the few

examples of a law that embraces a new technology while still protecting citizens from its broad capabilities. nowever, government agencies and

other entities are rushing to make use of drones on American soil as soon as

There are already 300 active operating licenses for drone use domestically, and plenty of organizations — from universities to law enforcement agencies — are lining up to have access to the technology. Drones are expected to become even more widespread in the coming decade. The aerospace industry has predicted that there may be as many as 30,000 drones patrolling the skies

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So who gains from the growing role drones are seeking?

First and foremost, there are the drone manufacturers themselves.

In 2010, the Teal Group, an organization that analyzes the aerospace industry, estimated that drone spending would more than double over the next decade from \$4.9 billion to \$11.5 billion

Thus, drones would seem to become the newest addition to the militaryindustrial complex as taxpayer money subsidizes their creation and distribution around the country.

Drone supporters argue that the unmanned aircraft will assist in search and rescue missions, protecting the border and going after escaped criminals.

Most Americans, including Sen. Paul and myself, have no problems with drones being used this way, as a poll by the Monmouth University Polling Institute of New Jersey indicates. About two-thirds of Americans support using

drones to capture escaped criminals, and 80 percent support their use in search and rescue missions.

However, the poll also showed that 67 percent of Americans are against using drones to issue speeding tickets, and about as many are at least somewhat concerned about their privacy should drones become a more common sight on American soil.

Americans do not want a nanny state in which the government continually has eyes looking over your shoulder, constantly checking if you are up to no good. Even the suggestion conjures Orwellian and dystopian images in my mind as I contemplate a future where people live under the supervising eyes of their mechanical overseers.

Privacy is still important to many Americans, and after years of bills like the Patriot Act, these drones may be vet another blow to what is such a fundamental right.

Of course, there are still those who welcome the boost in security, regardless of the blow to privacy.

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