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# University officials cut ribbon for The Commons

## New dining facility makes opening official with ceremony

By **KATIE MCKEE**  
STAFF WRITER

Sixteen months and \$45 million later, the 20,000 square foot, two-tier dining facility, The Commons by United at Bos-

ton Avenue, officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Chancellor Kent Hance performed the ribbon cutting and said The Commons will serve as a cornerstone and will alleviate

the lunch rush from the Student Union Building.

"Well it solves a couple of tactical problems," said Michael Molina, vice chancellor of facilities planning and construction. "One, as the chancel-

lor mentioned, in our Student Union Building, in the schedule for students you don't always have an hour and a half to eat so to get in there, this takes a huge burden off our food service from the SUB."

Better service will also be a product of the new facility,

Molina said.

"(It) will shift some of that load here, so it'll be better service across the board for all of our students in terms of timeliness and being served quicker," he said.

The Commons, Molina said, features eight different styles

of cuisine ranging from Vietnamese, Mongolian and Italian foods, to Einstein Bros Bagels.

Gantt Bumstead, co-president of United Supermarkets, said he was blown away by the new facility.

**COMMONS** continued on Pg. 2 ➤

# Lambda Chi Alpha returns to Tech, battles fraternity stereotype

## Lambda Chi Alpha reestablishes chapter

By **HALLIE DAVIS**  
STAFF WRITER

Forty years ago, the men of the national fraternity Lambda Chi Alpha made a decision even its own members could not believe.

The Greek organization abolished pledges.

Senior educational leadership consultant for the group, Nicholas Ludwig, said the group avoids falling into fraternity stereotypes in many ways, but the lack of pledges is the No. 1 way LCA stands out.

"It's not just another drinking club," Ludwig said.

Texas Tech had a chapter of LCA from 1975 to 2001, he said, when the group dwindled to only about four members and disbanded.

"The plan was always to come back," he said. "(They wanted to prove) a fraternity on campus can be a positive thing, they couldn't find what they were

looking for."

Last spring, the return was set in motion by a group of about eight students. Sophomore Zach Zahn, an energy commerce major from Houston, said they simply began by googling "how to start a frat."

"We saw the fact that (Lambda Chi) was so big, but so young," said founding member Demont Campbell, a junior architecture major from Mansfield. "We assumed they were doing something right."

Ludwig said LCA is the third largest international fraternity and is the fastest growing, with about 11,000 undergraduate members.

Within 50 miles of Lubbock, he said, there are more than 500 alumni. Campbell said he contacted some alumni, who were eager to help and returned to Tech to meet the new group.

**FRATERNITY** continued on Pg. 5 ➤

# Zealous Zombies

## Class about zombies offered to honor students

By **ASHLYN TUBBS**  
STAFF WRITER

To Rob Weiner, zombies, of all monsters, are the most terrifying; yet, he believes they can teach his students various worldviews.

Weiner, a humanities librarian, currently instructs an after-hours class to 20 Honors College students called zombie culture: The zombie in history, film, literature, sequential art and the popular imagination.

"Zombies want to make you one of them," he said. "They want you to be part of the collective hive, so they bite you in order to spread their infection. Maybe what we can learn from that is to think for ourselves and think critically and wonder if maybe following the crowd is always a good thing."

Weiner said zombies help communicate to society to be careful of science unchecked.

"We can relate to zombies," he said. "They're more than just monsters that eat people. We should see them as a warning



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador

**ROB WEINER**, TEXAS Tech librarian, is the instructor of a new class being offered this semester about zombies.

of science gone wrong."

Weiner said zombies are present in all cultures and have become increasingly popular. Theme parks, movies, video games and even

Humans vs. Zombies on Tech's campus reflect society's attraction to the living dead.

"With George Romero's 'Night of the Living Dead,' all of a sud-

den the zombie as a monster and a filmic genre of horror became mainstream," he said.

**ZOMBIES** continued on Page 5 ➤

# Higher education membership offers benefits to therapeutic riding students

By **CAITLAN OSBORN**  
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Therapeutic Riding Center is making strides to ensure students make the most of their time at college.

This summer, five students were the first at Tech to become certified instructors as part of Professional Association of Therapeutic Horse-

manship International's Higher Education Membership, which allows students to receive therapeutic riding instructor certification as part of their degree plan.

"(PATH Intl.) is a global authority, resource and advocate for equine-assisted activities and therapies and the equines in this work that inspire and enrich the human spirit," according to its website.

Heather Hernandez, co-director of the Tech Therapeutic Riding Center and a PATH International advanced therapeutic riding instructor, said the Higher Education Membership program was created a year ago and the center joined as soon as it was available.

"It's not the first time students have gotten certified, but it's the first time they've gotten certified through

our Higher Education Membership with PATH International," she said. "When they first created this membership we were one of the first people that joined and were one of only three at the top level in the world."

To become a certified PATH Intl. instructor, students must take two online tests measuring their knowledge on basic horse skills,

horsemanship, and the standards and procedures each center must follow. The students also must complete 25 hours of teaching with mentor supervision and show their teaching and riding skills to two evaluators. Once this is completed and they pass, they become PATH Intl. certified instructors.

Students also have to know the basic to intermediate difficulty of

riding and how to teach a lesson to individuals with disabilities. They were tested on safety, procedures, guidelines, objectives and knowledge of their riders, as well.

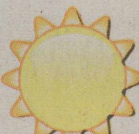
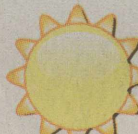
Tanya Williams, a senior animal science major from Lubbock, said she thought she would be more nervous while she was being evaluated.

**PATH** continued on Page 3 ➤

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### WEATHER

<b>Today</b>	Sunny	<b>Friday</b>	Sunny
	92/61		93/65

**Rodriguez: Liberal arts education is beneficial**  
**OPINIONS, Pg. 4**



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# Community Calendar

## Today

**The Rawls Course Clubhouse and Team Facility Ribbon Cutting**  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
**Where:** 3720 4th St., The Rawls Course

**So, what is it?**  
 Come celebrate the opening of The Rawls Course Clubhouse and Team Facility. It is funded by the Vision and Tradition: The Campaign for Texas Tech.

## Friday

**President's Welcome Picnic**  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Where:** Student Union Building

**So, what is it?**  
 Come welcome the interim president. The picnic is open to all Tech students and free hot dogs and refreshments will be served by Tech administration.

**Texas Tech Women's Soccer vs. Nevada**  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Where:** John Walker Soccer Complex

**So, what is it?**  
 Come support women's soccer as they compete against Nevada.

**Casey Donahew**  
**Time:** 10 p.m.  
**Where:** 2216 Interstate 27, Wild West

**So, what is it?**  
 Come out and enjoy the tunes of country musician Casey Donahew.

## Saturday

**Red Raider Football vs. Northwestern State**  
**Time:** 6 p.m.  
**Where:** Jones AT&T Stadium

**So, what is it?**  
 Come cheer on the Red Raider football team as they play their first game against Northwestern State.

**Saturdays at the Art Factory**  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to noon  
**Where:** 4215 University Ave., Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center

**So, what is it?**  
 Come spend Saturday morning exploring different art forms, including comics, manga and fantasy art.

**Reckless Kelly**  
**Time:** 10 p.m.  
**Where:** 2216 Interstate 27, Wild West

**So, what is it?**  
 Come out and two-step while listening to the country music of Reckless Kelly.

## Sunday

**South Plains Area Singles Club**  
**Time:** 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
**Where:** 5610 Frankford Ave., South Plains Single's Dance

**So, what is it?**  
 If you're 30 years old or older and single, come out and mingle with other South Plains singles.

To make a calendar submission email [dailytoreador@ttu.edu](mailto: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.

## MUSIC MAN



PHOTO BY EMILY DE SANTOS/The Daily Toreador

JAMES PATTERSON, A freshman music education major from Midland, practices playing music from Fundamental Methods for Mallets on Wednesday in the Music building.

## Commons

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This is like, really high quality food served in an unbelievably cool atmosphere," Bumstead said. "It's open kitchen and you have almost a 360 view of some of the kitchens. It's a lot of theater involved in the cooking and then really cool menus."

This is the first time something other than a United Supermarket has had the title of United, Bumstead said.

Although United Supermarkets is not providing the food for The Commons, Bumstead said United felt it was natural to sponsor the dining facility.

"Realistically, we're a supermarket and this is food so there's sort of a natural tie," he said. "I think it's going to be great for student life here on campus. To me, it's as cool a food

court as I've ever seen."

This year, United Supermarkets began providing \$2 million in graduate scholarships to Tech students, which was matched by the government, totaling \$4 million scholarships for Tech students, United Supermarket CEO Robert Taylor said.

In the next two years, Taylor said United Supermarkets will begin funding \$700,000 in undergraduate scholarships.

Students who live in communities with a United Supermarket can receive help from the store to get an education, Bumstead said, which is an exciting thing.

"The thing that they did was to provide scholarships," Hance said. "And the [graduate] scholarships they provide will allow us to have matching money that we'll get from the state. United is a great place and we really appreciate them."

Molina said the dining hall has a



PHOTO BY DAVID VAUGHN/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH STUDENTS, faculty and staff dine at The Commons by United at Boston Avenue on Wednesday. The Commons dining facility is a two-story building that houses more than nine different food outlets.

seating capacity of 350, digital menu boards, private meeting spaces, which can be catered, and sound reduction technologies in the ceiling.

The Commons by United at

Boston is located where the Sports Studies Center once stood at the corner of 18th Street and Boston Avenue.

>>> [kmckee@dailytoreador.com](mailto:kmckee@dailytoreador.com)

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## Isaac steers clear of direct blow on New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Hurricane Isaac sidestepped New Orleans on Wednesday, sending the worst of its howling wind and heavy rain into a cluster of rural fishing villages that had few defenses against the slow-moving storm that could bring days of unending rain.

Isaac arrived exactly seven years after Hurricane Katrina and passed slightly to the west of New Orleans, where the city's fortified levee system easily handled the assault.

The city's biggest problems seemed to be downed power lines, scattered tree limbs and minor flooding. Just one

person was reported killed, compared with 1,800 deaths from Katrina in Louisiana and Mississippi. And police reported few problems with looting. Mayor Mitch Landrieu ordered a dusk-to-dawn curfew just to be sure.

But in Plaquemines Parish, a sparsely populated area south of the city that

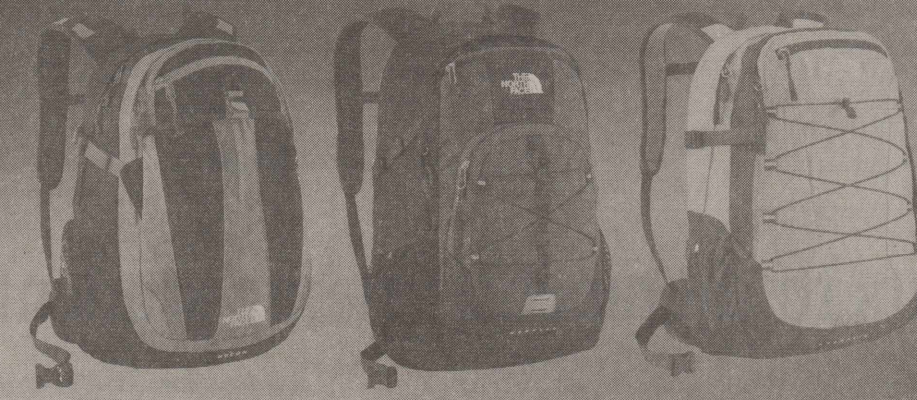
is outside the federal levee system, dozens of people were stranded in flooded coastal areas. The storm pushed water over an 18-mile levee and put so much pressure on it that authorities planned to intentionally puncture the floodwall to relieve the strain.

"I'm getting text messages from all over asking for help," said Joshua Brockhaus, an electrician who was rescuing neighbors in his boat. "I'm dropping my dogs off, and I'm going back out there."

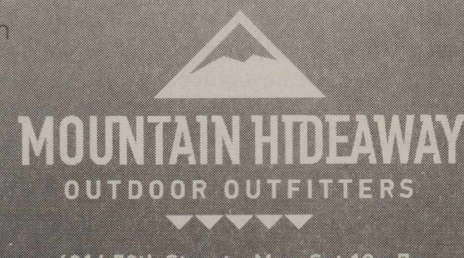
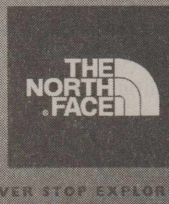
By midafternoon, Isaac had been downgraded to a tropical storm. Even at its strongest, it was far weaker than the 2005 hurricane that crippled the city. Because its coiled bands of rain and wind were moving at only 5 mph — about the pace of a brisk walk — the threat of storm surges and flooding was expected to last into a second night as the immense comma-shaped system crawled across Louisiana.

"We didn't think it was going to be like that," Brockhaus said. "The storm stayed over the top of us. For Katrina, we got 8 inches of water. Now we have 13 feet."

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# Ryan says Romney will not 'duck tough issues' on economy

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Seizing the Republican National Convention spotlight, vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan promised Wednesday night that Mitt Romney "will not duck the tough issues" if he wins the White House this fall and their party will move forcefully to solve the nation's economic woes.

"After four years of getting the run-around, America needs a turnaround, and the man for the job is Governor Mitt Romney," the Wisconsin lawmaker said in remarks prepared for delivery to a convention dogged by Tropical Storm Isaac. The storm, though downgraded from a hurricane, was still inflicting misery on millions along the nearby northern Gulf Coast.

Ryan's vice presidential acceptance speech marked not only his turn to address convention delegates but also a prime-time national debut by a 42-year-old lawmaker lauded by fellow Republicans for his understanding of the complexities of the nation's budget.

In a secondary role if only for a moment, Romney accused Democratic President Barack Obama of backing "reckless defense cuts" amounting to \$1 trillion. "There are plenty of places to cut in a federal budget that now totals over \$3 trillion. But defense is not one of them," Romney said in remarks that referred elliptically to the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Romney spoke to the American Legion in Indianapolis as his aides in Florida scripted an economy-and-veterans-themed program in their own convention hall and kept a wary eye on Isaac. The storm was threatening levees in the New Orleans area almost exactly seven years after the calamitous Hurricane Katrina.

In excerpts released in advance of his speech, Ryan said, "The present administration has made its choices. And Mitt Romney and I have made ours: Before the math and the momentum overwhelm us all, we are going to solve this nation's economic problems."

"And I'm going to level with you: We don't have much time."

As chairman of the House Budget Committee, Ryan is the architect of a plan to curb long-term deficits by reducing taxes and making deep cuts in accounts ranging from farm programs to education. He also advocates saving billions from remaking Medicare and Medicaid, the government's health care programs for seniors and the poor.

The Medicare changes, in particular, are potentially incendiary in an election campaign. Democrats say that Romney, with his selection of Ryan, has accepted political ownership of a plan that would turn the program from one in which seniors' medical bills are automatically paid into one in which the government would give them checks to purchase coverage at costs that would require them to dip deeper into their pockets.

Romney delivers his own nationally televised acceptance speech Thursday night in the final act of his own convention. The political attention then shifts to the Democrats, who open their own convention on Tuesday to nominate Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden for a second term.

Deep into a two-week stretch of national gatherings, the race for the White House is in a sort of political black hole where the day-to-day polls matter little if at all as voters sort through their impressions.

Despite the hundreds of millions of

dollars spent on television commercials by the candidates, their parties and supporting groups, the race has appeared unusually close since Romney clinched his nomination last spring.

Only eight or so battleground states appear to be competitive, although Republicans say they hope to expand the campaign after Labor Day, particularly in industrial states struggling to recover from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression.

Yet for all of the attack ads and inflammatory rhetoric, the two campaigns tiptoed carefully around the storm ravaging the Gulf Coast, vying to demonstrate concern for the victims without looking like they were seeking political gain.

Obama told an audience in Virginia he had spoken on the phone with governors and mayors of the affected states and cities while aboard Air Force One earlier in the day. Romney's aides let it be known he might visit the region once the storm had passed.

Romney's reference to \$1 trillion in defense cuts was a 10-year figure that combined reductions already enacted by Congress and reductions scheduled to begin next January as a result of Congress' failure to reach agreement on a broad plan to cut deficits.

He did not say so in his speech, but most Republicans, including Ryan, voted for the first installment as well as the second.

The reference to 9/11 was glancing in a speech that accused Obama of unwise defense cuts. Romney noted the economy is the top issue in the race, but he said, "Our debates can change suddenly, with a ringing phone in the dead of night ... or a plume of smoke on a clear blue morning."

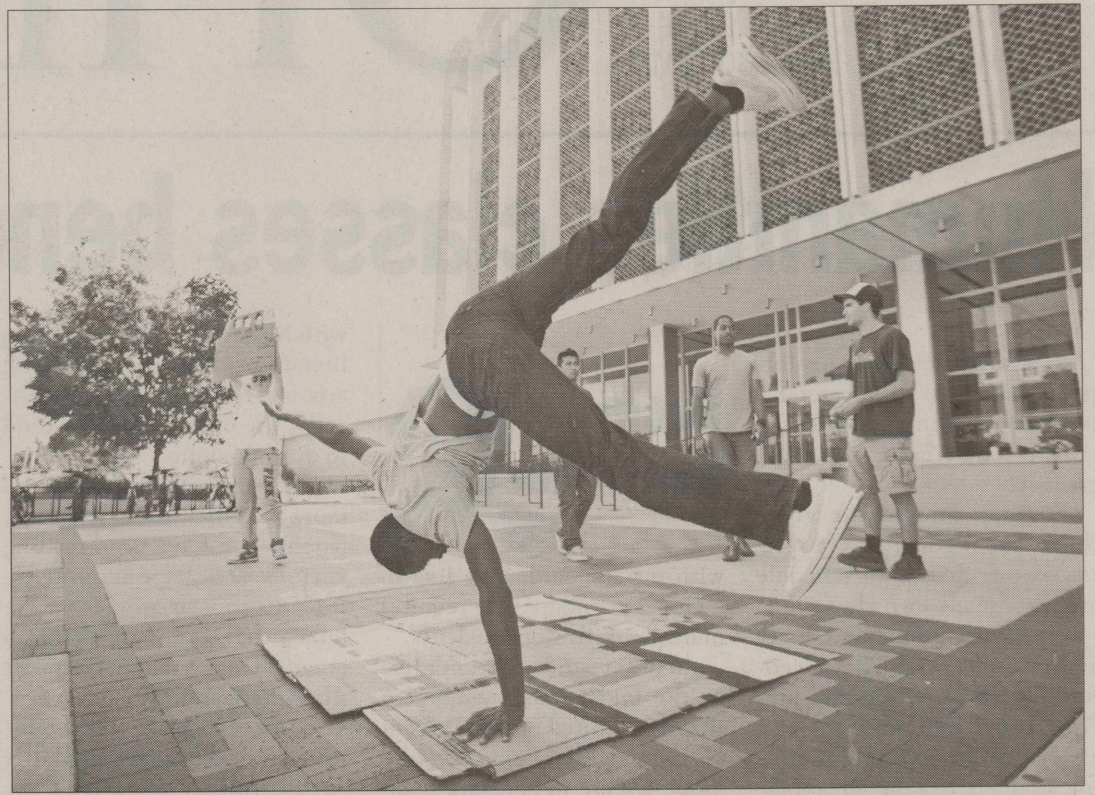


PHOTO BY ISAAC VILLOBOS/The Daily Toreador  
ERIC WILLIAMS, A junior business major from Houston, does a handstand and dances in front of the library Wednesday evening in order to spread awareness for the Texas Tech Hip Hop Dance Team, Dancers With Soul. The organization is hosting auditions for people to join the team and is open to all Tech students.

## PATH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I was confident," she said. "When it came time to show them all I can do, I just enjoyed everything that was in that moment. I felt that the lesson I taught for certification was the best yet. The clients connected with me and I connected with them. I kept the (clients) engaged in the lesson and inspired learning."

Hernandez said the Higher Education Membership program is more efficient for students. Because the Therapeutic Riding Center is an accredited center through the program, students can be tested at the facility, instead of going to another center.

"Now it's just more cost-effective because the traditional route to certification is going to cost you well over \$1,500 to go through the process," she said. "You have to travel somewhere to test, so there's additional expenses in that as well. Whereas, now it only costs students \$350 ... and this covers the cost of their testing, their online courses that they have to take and the Therapeutic Riding class that I teach that counts toward their educational component of certification."

Once students become certified they can teach at any PATH Intl. center anywhere in the world, Hernandez said. She said this summer's certified students had a 100 percent pass rate, which she has not experienced anywhere else.

"I'm a faculty member for PATH International," she said. "I do certifications all over and the only place where I've seen 100 percent passing is here at Texas Tech. Oftentimes I go to other centers, not just in Texas, but across the United States, and I've never had a whole group pass fully. I think that really speaks to the level of training that they get here at Tech. These students are really prepared when they come through our program to pass their certification."

The Therapeutic Riding Center offers other classes besides therapeutic, including principles of hippotherapy and equine-assisted mental health.

Hernandez said a new group of 11 undergraduates and one graduate student are starting to work toward their certification this fall. Because of the required class and internship, the program takes about a year to complete, she said.

Meagan Florence, an exercise and sports/sciences major from Mansfield, was

another student in the first group certified through PATH International's Higher Education Membership.

"There's really no words to explain it," she said. "It was just really awesome and I'm excited to see where this program is going to go. I've seen it change many lives from kids walking for the first time to kids talking for the first time. I just can't wait to see what else the program has in store."

Williams said she could not be more proud to be a Red Raider. "I hope this option for people will draw more attention to the field of therapeutic riding or therapeutic horsemanship in general," she said.

The Therapeutic Riding Center could also always use more volunteers, Hernandez said. Those interested can call 806-785-2564 or send an email to tamara.chitwood@ttu.edu. There is also a volunteer orientation at 3 p.m. Tuesday.

"We always need extra hands out here," Hernandez said. "We need people to side walk with the clients, we need people to lead horses. It's a great way to get involved and give back to the community and meet people from different majors across the university."

cosborn@dailytoreador.com

# Prosecutors seek Colo. shooting suspect's notes

DENVER (AP) — Prosecutors in the Colorado movie theater mass shooting trial will attempt to convince a judge Thursday that investigators should have access to the suspect's notebook, which they think contains descriptions of a violent attack.

Defense attorneys for James Holmes, charged in the July shootings that killed 12 people and wounded 58 others at a midnight screening of the latest Batman movie, say the notes should be off-limits.

Holmes' attorneys say their client sent the journal to a psychiatrist he was seeing at the University of Colorado, Denver, where he was a studying neuroscience. They say the notebook is inadmissible because it's protected by doctor-patient privacy laws.

Prosecutors argue they should be allowed to review the notes as part of their investigation. Legal experts say district attorneys could offer several arguments, including an attempt to prove Holmes already mentioned the notebook, either during questioning or to professors or other students in emails, voiding any legal privacy protections.

Judge William B. Sylvester seems inclined to listen to their point of view, ruling Monday that issues regarding "a serious threat of imminent physical violence" are not protected by privilege.

Holmes is charged with multiple counts of first degree murder. He is not required to enter a plea until after a November hearing. Holmes' attorneys could argue he is not mentally competent to stand trial or that he's not guilty by reason of insanity.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys are under a gag order and cannot discuss details of the case.

Holmes was expected in court Thursday, and the psychiatrist, Lynne Fenton, could be called to testify. Calls to Fenton's attorneys, who were hired by the university, were not returned.

Another argument to open the notes to investigators, experts say, is a challenge to whether Fenton was treating Holmes at the time he sent the notebook.

Holmes left the school without explanation weeks before the mass shooting in which he is accused. Fenton sent Holmes' case to the school's Behavioral Evaluation and Threat Assessment Team, but the unit didn't take action because he already had taken steps to withdraw from the university, KMGH-TV reported on Aug. 1, citing unnamed sources.

School officials have refused comment, citing the judge's gag order.

The hearing could provide more insight to a possible defense strategy for Holmes based on his mental health. Defense attorney Daniel King told the court on Aug. 9 that Holmes is mentally ill and requested information held by prosecutors to determine "the nature and depth of Mr. Holmes' mental illness."

The judge's order regarding imminent violence was one of a few key

developments in the case this week, including prosecutors gaining access to some of Holmes' educational records.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Karen Pearson said the records show planning and motive. In court documents, Pearson said that Holmes made a threat to a student in March, failed a key exam in June and was denied access to the school after threatening a professor.

Pearson said Holmes' educational records help show "dissatisfaction with what occurred in his life" and his failing academic career before the shootings as a possible motive.

Defense attorneys are seeking sanctions for prosecutors for "reckless disregard for the truth," though it's unclear whether Pearson's statements regarding threats or a possible motive are the basis for the request.

A hearing on the matter will be scheduled later.

## Today's su | do | ku

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

## TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY Student Resolution Center

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# OPINIONS

## Humanities classes beneficial now, in the future

A new semester has arrived for Texas Tech veterans, transfer students and fresh-off-the-yellow-bus high school graduates.

For me, one of the great things about going to a university is the chance to schedule and choose my own classes.

Goodbye, grammar classes and Texas history! Hello, adventure and travel writing and Latin American/ Iberian studies! I encourage the new and returning students to take advantage of the classes offered and not take for granted the humanities classes.

Being a prospective student recruiter, I have met many parents who have questioned me on the validity of a liberal arts education, to which I always reply

**Rocio Rodriguez**



with my standard, "We live in a global economy that requires multiple skills from students."

In other words, we don't live in the mid 1800s anymore in the rural United States with our closest neighbor being 50 miles away. We are in constant communication with people from all over the world. That means speaking English is not enough and knowing the best Pokémon moves won't help you connect with that cute Romanian girl.

Just to clarify, a liberal arts education is heavily encased

with humanities courses such as literature, visual and performing arts, and foreign language – basically, the classes students tend to dislike taking.

I have been hearing more and more recently from students, parents and have been reading various articles encouraging students to veer away from the humanities and instead find a practical major that will support the American dream.

I, myself, have been subjected to that when my father delightfully encouraged my decision to change to microbiology from anthropology. He is, by the way, a sociology professor.

Now I live with sleepless nights and nightmares of missing online homework.

Keeping with the theme of defending the humanities, it

helps develop students into articulate and self-aware members of society. It also helps them learn more about methods and history that can aid our society in the present and future.

My familiarity with a research lab environment for the past four years has taught me how crucial basic skills are within one person. Researchers need to know how to write so they can develop grants in order to get money to allow them to continue researching. It doesn't hurt to have a second or third language to collaborate and communicate with international facilities and labs.

A certain set of social skills that includes an awareness of cultural behaviors is needed to keep up good relations, not only within research labs, but

also at conferences and business deals. My biology courses have been surprisingly writing intensive, because who wants to read a poorly written research paper? Certainly not people who matter!

The humanities have been described by Stanley Fish of the *New York Times* as having been on the "endangered species list for decades." With budget cuts on arts and music programs in primary schools and the effect that has on childhood education, it is not to be taken lightly.

Music teaches young children listening skills. As adults, they have "improved ability to process sounds and are better listeners," research from National Institutes of Health shows. That is just one example of what a humanities education can provide.

It makes for great conversation when you can discuss human embryo development, engine combustion, Linux software, the implications of President Guy Bailey and Senior Vice President of Research Taylor Eighmy leaving Texas Tech (read your local newspaper), the pros and cons of globalization, and last but not least, Linkin Park's newest album.

As cliché as it is, history is doomed to repeat itself if one does not study. Don't brush off your so-called freshmen classes. They will benefit you in the long run when you can carry on an intelligent conversation with your employer or interviewer.

**Rodriguez is a junior microbiology major from Brownsville.**

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## 'Forward' slogan for Obama a tricky sell

By **SCOTT STIRRETT**  
THE HOVA (GEORGETOWN, U.)

With only two months to go until the 2012 election, President Obama has an average lead in the polls of only a few percentage points, according to [realclearpolitics.com](http://www.realclearpolitics.com). In essence, the race is tied.

With the numbers so close, it's really anyone's guess at this point whether President Obama will win a second term in office. It is often said that two weeks is a long time in politics and two months is an eternity. A lot can still happen before election day.

But some of the biggest determinants of the fall elections are largely out of the control of either candidate. For instance, neither has much say in whether Greece chooses to exit — or gets thrown out of — the Euro Zone, which could substantially impact the American economy and thus the elections.

That being said, there is still great potential for both presidential campaigns to shift the 2012 election in a whole new direction.

Contrary to the glee that many of my fellow Democrats felt when Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) was announced as Romney's vice presidential nominee, I actually believe it was quite a shrewd choice.

As scores of Republican commentators have argued, the Ryan pick brought economic issues to the forefront. The national unemployment rate is 8.2 percent, and millions more Americans have simply chosen to leave the workforce. It may not always be justified, but voters tend to blame the incumbent for economic problems.

Moreover, while the adjective "wonkish" is often used to describe Ryan, he is in some ways equally passionate about social issues. While many GOP voters are both fiscal and social conservatives, a substantial number of Republicans subscribe to only one of the aforementioned realms of conservatism, and it is important for Republicans to work to appeal to both major constituencies.

As in 2010, the Tea Party is making it difficult for the Republican Party to appeal to more moderate voters. One need only look at current headlines

and the scandal surrounding Rep. Todd Akin's (R-Mo.), inflammatory remarks regarding rape. In 2010, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) was able to win a fifth term in large part because he had the good fortune of facing Tea Partier Sharon Angle. Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) may also be able to pull off re-election because of her opponent Akin's lack of sensibility.

Consequently, the Democrats in this race have increasingly made this election about cultural modernity and the GOP's opposition to many facets of it. The fact that the Obama campaign has decided to use the slogan "forward" indicates how Democrats have worked to present themselves as the party of the future.

In some ways, this is a dangerous path to follow. Placing so much emphasis on representing the future leaves room for Republicans to portray Democrats as not being the party of the present.

The reality is that the United States is changing economically, socially and demographically at a rapid pace. These changes have caused increased social alienation, as evidenced by the Occupy Wall Street movement and the Tea Party.

That is the main challenge for Democrats: How do you present yourself as the party of the future when it is the future and the accompanying changes that scare so many voters?

Americans are uncertain about their future. They're witnessing the rise of countries like India and China as the United States' global dominance seems to disintegrate. At home, they see a stagnating economy. And many older Americans see a country that is being transformed in a way that would have been hard to forecast half a century ago.

That is why the GOP has rather unapologetically run as the party of the nation's past. One has only to listen to a few minutes of Romney's stump speech before hearing lines about "restoring America" to its former glory.

The 2012 elections have come down to a debate between one vision that looks hopefully to the future and another that looks fondly to the past. Who will win at this point is anyone's guess, but much of the result will hinge on each party's ability to present the aforementioned narratives effectively.

### GUEST COLUMN

## Letter from the student body president

By **ALEX ALSTON**

Hello, Texas Tech community and welcome back to campus. Student government worked hard this summer planning programs that will better your experience at Tech. We are excited to announce that students will be able to use their university IDs to purchase food and beverages at sporting events. Student government is proud to promote this program because easy purchase of food and beverages will make sporting events a safer, student-friendly environment. With temperatures reaching more than 100 degrees, food and water must be highly accessible at outdoor sporting events to prevent heat exhaustion.

Students can visit the website of the ID office and follow the steps to load money onto their university IDs. Make sure to load up your card before the 2012-2013 sports season.

Another project SGA took on this summer was the digital calendar publicized during the campaign last February. Our office and Tech's IT Department have worked closely to develop a digital calendar, which will aid student organization membership. The idea of the calendar is to make students more aware of student organizations' meetings and activities and in return increase the organizations' membership numbers.

Involvement on campus is the secret to having the best college experience possible. The calendar will allow students to join a variety of campus organizations since the meetings times and dates will be advertised in a central location. Digital calendars can be seen on all campus television screens. Organizations interested in posting on the calendar must contact IT.

One of the best parts of working for SGA this summer was

meeting the new students coming through Red Raider Orientation. Representatives from our office welcomed new students and parents to our campus and let them know our office was there to help them in any way possible. Student government appeared at each student organization fair and recruited a record number of freshmen who were interested in learning more about SGA.

Our office has many opportunities to get involved this fall. Freshman leadership, freshman council, university committees and fee committees are great ways for students of all classifications to join a group of people with common interests. Freshman leadership is a program that pairs a freshman student with one of our directors in order to teach them how to be leaders at our university. Freshman council is a branch of the student senate that brings elected freshman together to discuss issues pertaining to

their fellow class members.

Student involvement with university and fee committees is extremely important to helping the university make informed decisions about policies and issues. Students attend meetings with university faculty and staff and offer a student perspective. To learn more about available university and fee committee positions visit our website at <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/sga>.

Student government looks forward to serving you all this year. We will continue to work hard to make Tech the best campus it can be. Look for our articles Wednesdays, following senate meetings, to stay up to date on what is happening around your campus. Please feel free to contact us with questions, comments or concerns at [sga@ttu.edu](mailto:sga@ttu.edu) or call 806-742-3631.

**Alston is the SGA's president.**  
**>> sga@ttu.edu**

## Mudslinging in presidential campaigns obscures real solutions

By **DAN DESHROCHERS**  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT (U. ARIZONA)

On Aug. 11, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney finally told to the political world that he had chosen U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, from Wisconsin, as his running mate for the election. But even before the official announcement, the Obama campaign had already tweeted about Romney and Ryan four times.

And thus, the dirty, muddy, slanderous political campaigning goes on.

The Obama campaign has continued to tweet things like, "Paul Ryan is an architect of the top-down GOP budget that cuts education, energy, & innovation even as it gives tax cuts to the wealthy." Tweets also included "Romney-Ryan: The Go Back Team" and "The no. 1 thing you need to know about Paul Ryan: He's extremely conservative — at the expense of the

middle class."

Mudslinging is a political tactic that has been used for hundreds of years. During the 1820s, John Quincy Adams called Andrew Jackson's mother a prostitute and his wife an adulteress. While Romney and President Barack Obama aren't going as far as saying that each other's mothers were loose with gentlemen, they still sound like kindergarten bullies.

There isn't completely conclusive evidence that a negative campaign will gain or lose voters. In 1994, the American Political Science Review published a study that suggested that attack advertisements drive potential voters away. In 1996, the UCLA Center for Research in Society and Politics found the opposite.

But there is a reason campaigns involve mudslinging: if someone is mean, instinct says be mean right back.

However, this is one of the most politically divisive times in U.S. history since the antebellum era. The 112th Congress may be the least productive Legislature since 1947, according to USA Today. While people complain about Obama not doing anything, the real problem is that Congress isn't doing anything.

It is the president's responsibility, however, to convince Congress to pass bills and to unite the legislative branch for the greater good of the country. Instead of tweeting about the other guy's problems, his campaign should try tweeting solutions.

While mudslinging may be effective in getting a candidate elected, it divides the two political parties. Right now we don't need a candidate who is good at being mean, and we don't need a candidate who won a dirty election. We need a candidate

with the ability to lead. We need a candidate who can unite the two parties so that they can finally agree on something and stop trying to repeal health care reform for the 31st time.

Negative campaigning may be a good political strategy. It may work wonders for getting a candidate into office. But getting a candidate into office means nothing if he or she isn't going to get anything done. It's easy to say that once the election blows over, all that negativity will be forgotten. But it won't. The two parties complain about each other more often than John Boehner gets a spray tan.

Maybe, under a good leader, the children in Congress will finally put aside their differences and work together — but that doesn't seem likely in a race filled with candidates who are calling the other party's candidates big meanies.

Let us know what you think.

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**Publishing information**  
Periodical Postage paid by The Daily Toreador, Student Media building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409. Publication number: 756-680. 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.  
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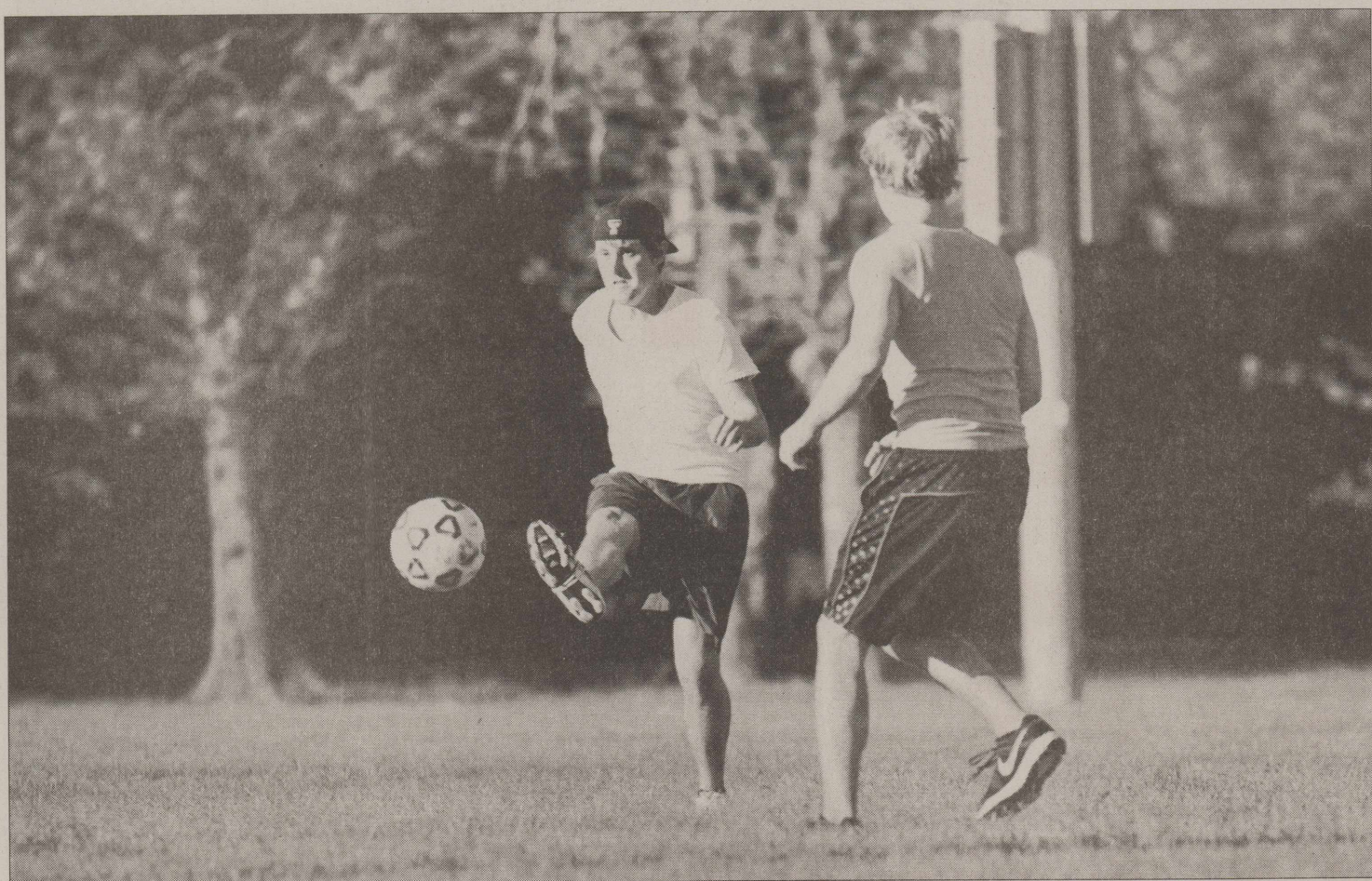


PHOTO BY WILLIAM ROBIN/The Daily Toreador

CHRIS TUGGLE, A senior hotel and restaurant management major from Keller, kicks the ball down field as Wes Luckock, a junior accounting major from Plano, approaches him during one of Lambda Chi Alpha's open recruitment events Monday at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreational fields.

## Fraternity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We instantly felt the bond," Campbell said of meeting the older men and seeing them reunite 10 to 15 years since their graduation.

After recruiting about 20 men, the group contacted nationals. Ludwig said the process of starting a new "colony" usually takes a few years, but seeing the group already assembled and excited sped up the process.

"Our office, in Indianapolis, immediately took them very seriously," he said. "We're trying to give the group the best to do what they want to do."

The process took hard work all summer, Zahn said, but the group remained dedicated to the goal.

After coming to Tech and interviewing the group, Ludwig said, the national organization was impressed; these were exactly the kind of men it was looking for to uphold its core values.

The ideal candidate is dedicated,

whether on campus or in his personal life, willing to step out of his comfort zone and ready to stand up for what he believes in, Ludwig said.

"A fraternity should let members be surrounded by people who will make themselves better," he said.

LCA, he said, aimed to be the furthest thing from a Hollywood representation of a fraternity.

"It's a step forward as a person who is trying to grow as an individual," Ludwig said, "this could be a place for them."

The fraternity is recruiting new

members in an open recruitment, where men can hang out with current members to see what the group is about. The fraternity's next event is in the Free Speech Area from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today, as well as meeting at 5 p.m. at the Leisure Pool.

Any men who excel to make Tech a better place are invited.

"It's a guidebook on a way to become a well-rounded person," Zahn said, "to be successful not only for the college career, but for the rest of your life."

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## Zombies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Weiner said he finds zombies interesting and said they have a rich history in film, literature and music.

"My goal is to have my students exposed to a wide variety of historical, literary and filmic concepts surrounding the zombie," he said. "Even though you teach a class on popular culture doesn't mean you dumb it down or don't hold students accountable or that it's not rigorous in any way."

Marjean Purinton's class about Frankenstein's monster in the English department and Erin Collopy's vampire class in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures inspired Weiner to begin teaching about zombies.

"I knew from going to conferences that there were people studying this and people taking classes at other universities on this, so I just proposed it," he said. "So we'll see how it goes."

Weiner said his students will compare and contrast zombie films created before and after 1980 to reveal information about society during those eras.

Clifton Beech, a senior philosophy and business major from Southlake, said he originally picked Weiner's class because he needed to graduate and it sounded easy.

"However, with just the first three hours of class, I realized how much material there is on zombies in American culture,"

he said. "Between political and social statements, varying types and forms of zombies and the evolution of the zombie itself over time, I've realized that a class on zombies is much deeper and more interesting than I ever imagined."

Charles Miller, an instructor in the Department of Communication Studies, also teaches a class in which zombies are a common topic. In his special topics in rhetoric class, he discusses zombie apocalypse.

"It's a unique course because it will probably never get taught again," he said. "I thought it would be timely given the hysteria surrounding the Mayan apocalypse right now, so if they're right about what they're predicting, this will be my last chance to teach it. I'm excited about the class, and I think my students are as well."

Weiner said he hopes to offer his zombie class again in the future. One of his students, Jessica Puthenparampil, a junior psychology major from Missouri City, said she never knew zombies had such an interesting and rich culture.

"It is such a refreshing alternative to the typical writing and reading intensive course," she said. "The material is unique and Dr. Weiner is successful in making this course more enjoyable and intriguing than I expected. Personally, I've only seen one zombie movie in my lifetime because I was never an avid fan, but going to his first class alone has made me want to watch so many more."

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## Cat videos get their moment at Minn. film festival

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Warning: This is a story about online cat videos. If you're among the seemingly tiny minority of the general population not interested in watching a 1-minute clip of a cat in a T-shirt pounding on a keyboard, then move along.

For everyone else, a new measure of respectability is looming for an Internet pleasure that is both massively popular and, for some people, a bit embarrassing. The Walker Art Center, a well-regarded museum of modern art in Minneapolis, on Thursday is presenting its first "Internet Cat Video Film Festival" to showcase the best in filmed feline hijinks.

With about 70 videos over 60 minutes, the Walker is mounting a social experiment as much as a film festival. At issue is whether cat video lovers used to gorging on the clips in the privacy of their homes will do so in public — an online community of fellow aficionados interacting face to face for the first time.

"It is a cultural phenomenon that raises some interesting questions," said Katie Hill, the Walker program associate who first suggested the festival.

But Hill, a self-described "art historian and cat lady," was quick to add: "I'm not a behavioral psychologist, I'm not a sociologist. I just think they're funny and cute, and I think a lot of other people do too."

The numbers bear it out. Some of the classics of the form have racked up tens of millions of YouTube page views. The aforementioned "Keyboard Cat" posted 26.3 million page views since it was posted in 2007. A 30-second clip titled "Very Angry Cat" — can you guess the plot? — has 78.5 million page views since 2006.

"Some you just watch over and over and over again," said Angie Bailey, a cat blogger and owner from Chisago City, Minn., covering the film festival for the website Catster.com. "When you want to laugh and feel good it's sort of an escape from what happens in the real world."

Walker programmers got about 10,000 submissions for the festival after initially expecting several hundred. They whittled that down to the 70 videos to be shown on an outdoor screen on the museum's grounds.

Afterward, festivalgoers will be able to vote online for a "Best

in Show" award. In addition, the Walker programmers picked a

"Golden Kitty Award" to be bestowed at the end of the night.

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# SPORTS

PAGE 8  
THURSDAY, AUG. 30, 2012

## Demons have faith in upset capability

By ZACH DISCHIANO  
STAFF WRITER

Coming from the heart of Louisiana, the Northwestern State Demons head into Saturday's game against Texas Tech with poise and confidence, relying heavily on their senior leadership and veteran offense.

The Demons, coached by Bradley Dale Peveto, return 16 starters from last year, including nine on offense and seven on defense. Despite strong defensive play, the team struggled to a 5-6 record, finishing fourth in the Southland Conference.

A tough non-conference schedule gave the Demons a difficult start to the season, with a 46-point loss at LSU and a 33-point loss at SMU.

Northwestern State senior quarterback Brad Henderson said the visit last season to Baton Rouge, La., was a foundation for Saturday's game against Tech.

"Communication will be the key and that's a thing we learned against LSU, that our communication has to be really good," he said. "That experience helped a lot."

In the 49-3 loss to LSU last season, Henderson completed 16 of 26 passes for 74 yards and one interception, while also rushing for seven yards on five carries.

His favorite target, senior wide receiver Phil Harvey, was only able



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHWESTERN STATE ATHLETICS  
NORTHWESTERN STATE WIDE receiver Phillip Harvey runs the ball down the field in a game last season for the Demons. In 2011, Harvey led the team in all-purpose yards with 82.5 yards per game.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHWESTERN STATE ATHLETICS  
NORTHWESTERN STATE QUARTERBACK Brad Henderson cuts up the field after scrambling away from the defense during a Demons game last season. In 2011, Henderson set school records in three different categories including passing accuracy in a season.

to record one catch for one yard in the game. Both players said they feel more confident after a year of improvement and their level of teamwork will be pivotal in deciding the outcome.

"We need to play as a team," Harvey said. "If we play as a team, we can play with anybody. We just want to win. 'Beat Tech,' that's all we talk about."

In order to take down the Red

Raiders, the Demons will need to try and match Tech's offensive firepower. Last year, Tech produced 480 yards per game, compared to Northwestern State's 283.4 yards per game, which tied for last in the Southland Conference. Although the Demons' production from last season wasn't ideal, Harvey said the Northwestern State offense will give Tech a difficult time, especially after recent improvements in the ground attack.

"Our running game is getting better and better, and our offensive line is getting better and better," he said. "All we have to do is execute and they won't be able to stop anything."

Harvey said it's one thing to score points on the Red Raiders, but not allowing them to retaliate with touchdowns of their own will be the biggest challenge for the Demons.

"Figuring out what they do is not the complicated thing, it's stopping it," he said. "It's going to be a great test for our team and we're looking forward to the challenge."

Senior defensive end Wade Williams said he has tremendous respect for the Tech offense, especially the quarterback play of Seth Doege. Williams said the key to winning Saturday's game is to force Doege into making bad decisions.

"You hope for sacks but if you can make him make a mistake, throw an interception here or there, and get in his head, that's kind of the way you can win a big game like this," he said. "We're coming to play, we understand that they're a bigger school, but we didn't prepare this whole week to lose and we didn't prepare this whole summer to lose."

In order to come away with the victory, Peveto said his defense needs to be on the field as little as possible. He gave an example of the Tech - Texas State matchup from last year, citing the Bobcats defense playing 106 snaps in their 50-10 defeat against the Red Raiders.

In a decisive 41-7 victory, Iowa State's defense played only 65 snaps against the Tech defense. So, Peveto said, the goal is clear for Northwestern state: keep the

defense off the field.

"Offense and defense is going to complement each other in this game," he said. "We have to get off the field, get the ball back, and the offense has got to make first downs, chew the clock, keep the defense off the field and get points. That's kind of the key to success."

Williams said another factor in determining the winner is the ability of Northwestern State to handle the loud fans at Jones AT&T Stadium. While many of the Demons were able to get some experience in a noisy atmosphere at LSU last year, there are still several freshmen and transfer students who will need to adjust to the hectic playing environment.

"We have a bunch of young kids that are coming in to play, and in that kind of situation, a lot of them can lose their cool and just be overwhelmed by the size of the stadium and the fan base," he said. "We've got a lot of older guys that will help us out with this particular game because it's such a larger arena, it has such a great fan base, and it's an honor for us to play there."

Harvey said coping with the crowd volume will not be a problem.

"I just try to block it out as much as I can," he said. "It's going to be

loud, regardless, but you got to get used to it."

If the Demons can work through the difficult playing environment, keep their defense off the field as much as possible and force mistakes on defense, they have a shot at an upset, Peveto said.

He also said the main issue between Football Championship Subdivision and Football Bowl Subdivision teams is the depth, or lack thereof. Peveto said many FBS teams are able to hang with their FCS opponent until about the fourth quarter, where they just tire out and don't have the sufficient replacements. Henderson said all Northwestern State needs to do is get into a position where it is in the game at the end of the game.

"We have to keep competing and be in the game by the time the fourth quarter comes," he said. "Texas Tech is known for scoring a lot of points and they make plays on defense, so my thing is we want to go in and be in a situation to win the game in the fourth quarter."

Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium.

"We're going to win this game for our team, for our town and to represent ourselves very well," Williams said.

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## LSU waits out Isaac, hopes to play Saturday

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — LSU coach Les Miles rode out Hurricane Isaac on Wednesday at the Tigers' football operations building, where he and members of his staff continued planning for Saturday night's scheduled home opener against North Texas.

Players for the third-ranked Tigers were given the option of staying in their own apartments, at the football operations building or in Tiger Stadium.

"All those guys that will be in their own apartments off campus have been told to reconcile where they're at and recognize this is a

significant storm and that they need to be safe," Miles said on the Southeastern Conference's weekly conference call with coaches.

Miles added that those who had the opportunity to be with family in south Louisiana were encouraged to consider that option as well.

"Each guy's really been given that choice," Miles said. "They had time to find the safest shelter and hunker down."

Wednesday's practice was canceled, and Miles said he was hoping his players would be able to resume preparations for the Mean Green on Thursday, depending on the speed

at which Isaac moves out of Baton Rouge and how much damage it leaves behind.

"We're meeting in football and handling our business and reconciling the fact that we missed Wednesday's practice and all the things that we needed to get covered on what was a Wednesday we need now to get covered on Thursday," Miles said.

Isaac crept slowly across south Louisiana on Wednesday, which happened to be the seventh anniversary of much more powerful Hurricane Katrina. It was a hurricane for part of the day before being downgraded to a tropical storm.

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'Spirit in Motion' gala opens London's Paralympics

LONDON (AP) — "Enlightenment" was the theme, physicist Stephen Hawking the guide and Olympic Stadium the venue...

about transforming our perception of the world. We are all different, there is no such thing as a standard or run-of-the-mill human being...

and succeed at," he added. The extravaganza, directed by Bradley Hemmings and Jenny Sealey, was billed as a voyage across "a sea of ideas"...

at the Big Bang — considered the beginning of the universe — as a glowing sphere turned the stadium into a giant nebula. In a nod to the famously erratic British weather...

issued a big welcome home "to a movement that shows what sport is all about." "Sport is about what you can do, what you can achieve...

expected to be sold by the time it ends Sept. 9. As the athletes paraded in under a full moon, a huge roar filled the stadium for South African flagbearer Oscar Pistorius...

Armstrong says he's 7-time Tour de France champ

MONTREAL (AP) — Lance Armstrong introduced himself as a seven-time Tour de France champion at a cancer conference Wednesday.

tained his innocence, focused on his experience as a cancer survivor and the work of his charitable foundation. He said he struggled to get enough information following his diagnosis in 1996.

his remarks, vowing it wouldn't impact his charitable work. "I think the real issue here is one of distraction," he said. "I'm going to tell this to you all as if you're friends and partners and allies. I'm not going to be distracted from this fight."

Later, hundreds of people joined Armstrong on an hour-long training run up Mount Royal. The runners cheered and tried to pose for photos with Armstrong when he arrived at a park.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle section including clues and a solved puzzle grid.

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