

Battleship intramural
La Vida, Page 7

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Tech alumnus speaks to students about his career, gives advice

By **EFRAIN DUARTE**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech alumnus Greg Perkins, CEO and creative director of Food4Thought Productions, spoke at a discussion Monday in the College of Media and Communication building.

Perkins spoke about his time in advertising sales, to his time as the first senior staff writer at Disney and finally, creating Apple iPad and iPhone applications.

"I started out in advertising sales and wound up being an account executive in a small agency in Dallas," he said.

After dealing with advertising, Perkins ventured into the world of writing.

"I encourage people to learn to be great writers because that is the heart of everything we do in the entertainment business," he said.

Perkins said there are three things people need to be a writer: talent, tenacity and timing.

One of Perkins' first jobs in the entertainment industry was a writer for the television show "Gerbert."

The television show had puppets that were created by Kermit Love, who was associated with the Henson Company. PBS broadcasted "Gerbert."

A few years after the television show, Perkins started writing

for reality television shows like "Blind Date."

Another show Perkins aided in was "Food Network Challenge" where Perkins told an anecdote about the challenge, which was to create something pertaining to skylines and the contestants had to make the design out of Kellogg's Rice Krispies.

While at Disney, Perkins worked on a "Pirates of the Caribbean" online game.

Perkins reflected on times of being involved in advertising and gave his opinion on what constitutes good advertising.

"Good advertising, in my opinion, gets you interested," he said.

Perkins said there is one aspect of writing that makes it difficult.

"The absolute hardest part of writing is coming up with a story," Perkins said.

Reflecting on his time at Tech, Perkins said there is a piece of advice a professor gave him during a test that he carries with him now.

"When I was at Tech, a professor told me on multiple choice tests, always go with your initial instinct, because it is usually right," Perkins said. "I applied that to my writing and I found out that 95 percent of the time my initial instinct is right and usually the best."

ADVICE continued on Page 2 >>>

League of Legends gamers group together

By **VICTORIA HOLLOWAY**
STAFF WRITER

A club of 115 gamers that share the similar interest of playing the video game League of Legends officially formed Sept. 21. The members include eight females, and the remaining are males.

League of Legends, also referred to as LoL, is a free multi-player computer game with five people on each team. The five players are split up into three lanes, and the players' bases are at the end of those lanes. The objective of the game is to destroy something called the nexus, which is inside the base to take the other player's bases. There are 18 levels.

Freshman electrical engineering major from The Woodlands, Geoff Hebertson is the e-sports director of Texas Tech League of Legends. As e-sports director, he said he organizes games between University of Texas, Texas A&M

and other universities.

"League of Legends is a nice way to get into playing very competitive games, but also in a more relaxed environment," Hebertson said. "I also like working in teams rather than doing it solo."

He said he decided to join the club because it is a group of people with the same interests as him.

"My favorite part is the community," Hebertson said. "I think there are over 100 people on our Facebook group now, so we're all just chatting it up, having fun and getting games together."

Junior psychology major Angelica Lunod is the founder and president of Tech League of Legends. She said she started the club because she knew a few people at Tech who played, and a lot of other schools have a League of Legends club.

LEAGUE continued on Page 2 >>>

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Homecoming Haven



PHOTOS BY EMILY MCCARTHY/The Daily Toreador
ABOVE: THE HOMECOMING King candidates are introduced during the Homecoming Kickoff on Monday in the North Plaza of the Student Union Building. RIGHT: Blake Budlong, a junior exercise and sports sciences major from Lewisville, and Taran Hulsey, a junior general business major from Weatherford, perform a cheer at the Homecoming Kickoff.

Homecoming week kicks off with nominees, flash mob

By **HALLIE DAVIS**
STAFF WRITER

Rarely do the members of Panhellenic Greek organizations, the Saddle Tramps, Mortar Board and non-Panhellenic Greek groups find themselves in matching T-shirts.

While waiting for the formal announcement of the Homecoming court nominees, representatives from 30 such organizations found themselves in just that scenario behind the stage in the Student Union Building courtyard for the Homecoming kickoff event.

Texas Tech Athletic Director Kirby Hocutt opened the day, giving a history of Tech Homecoming, which started in 1930.

He went as far back as 1925 though, when the Tech football team beat Waylon Baptist University 120-0.

Then, the team was called the Matadors, not the Red Raiders.

The resulting pride is

something Tech can still identify with as the extra-spirited week begins.

"(Celebrating Homecoming) shows your love for this school, shows why you chose Tech," said Saddle Tramp Collin McLarty, a freshman nutrition major from Lubbock.

Many Saddle Tramps attended the event in uniform with their bells, though McLarty said the group's activities this week wouldn't be much different from the amount of spirit they show for each game. Still, the group will host the Friday night bonfire, and certainly support their nominee for Homecoming king.

After Hocutt's speech, all of the nominees were announced.

Royalty chairperson Brickland Easton said about 30 organizations were represented, and this provided a unique opportunity for students in such different groups to interact and get to know each other.

For him, it is more about the camaraderie that develops

"(Celebrating Homecoming) shows your love for this school, shows why you chose Tech."

COLLIN MCLARTY
FRESHMAN
SADDLE TRAMP



so quickly between the nominees than anything else.

"Have fun," he said. "That's the best thing I can tell the Homecoming candidates. Have fun, have a good time."

The nominees will be judged on their resumes by an esteemed panel of faculty as well as student government members, he said.

The top 20 candidates, 10 for king and 10 for queen, will be announced at S.O. Sing, and the top 10 will be voted on by the student body Friday.

"They're the best of what each organization thinks," Easton said.

Last year's Homecoming king announced the nominees, and the nominees were available for a meet-and-greet with attendees, most of which who were there to support their organizations' nominees.

"She's done a lot for us," said Amelia Flora about the Chi Omega queen nominee, "so, we wanted to do this for her."

Flora, a freshman interior design major from Katy, said she thought the event was a good way to get spirits up for the week.

"What makes Texas Tech special is our student body," Hocutt said.

Both the Saddle Tramps and the Tech cheerleaders were there to energize students for the week. After, the Tech Activities Board hosted a flash mob.

Participants line danced to Alan Jackson's song "Good Time," along with Tab members, to get into the country spirit of the Homecoming theme, "Don't Wreck with Tech."

>>> hdavis@dailytoreador.com

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WEATHER

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Reynolds: Tech students should want more healthy food choices
OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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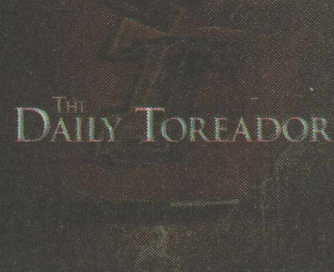
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Community Calendar

Today

Toddler Tuesday at the Museum of Texas Tech
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Where: Museum of Texas Tech
So, what is it?
 Ages 2 to 5 with accompanying adults are welcome. Bring canned goods to waive registration fee.

Tuesdays at the Art Factory
Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Where: Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center
So, what is it?
 Come out and join teacher Mr. Neely for a new and exciting fine arts project. \$20 every Tuesday.

Open Mic Night
Time: 8 p.m.
Where: Jack and Dianne's
So, what is it?
 Come out and enjoy a night of music and friends. Bring your guitar for this open mic night.

Wednesday

Scrabble Club
Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Where: Market Street
So, what is it?
 Come out and join the local Scrabble Club. All levels of competition are welcome.

Mac Miller, Travis Porter and YG
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: Fairpark Coliseum
So, what is it?
 Come out and enjoy this concert at 18th and Buddy Holly Avenue.

Cyber Security Awareness 101
Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: Doak Hall

So, what is it?
 Come out and educate yourself on online dangers including hackers, scammers, viruses and more.

"Preparing for and Thriving in Retirement" Educational Seminar
Time: Noon
Where: Various locations
So, what is it?
 Several events will be throughout the day, including working through your retirement needs analysis and more.

Undergraduate Research Information Session
Time: 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Where: TLPD, Library
So, what is it?
 The Center for Undergraduate Research will host this free event. First 10 students with a Tech ID will receive a free iPhone case.

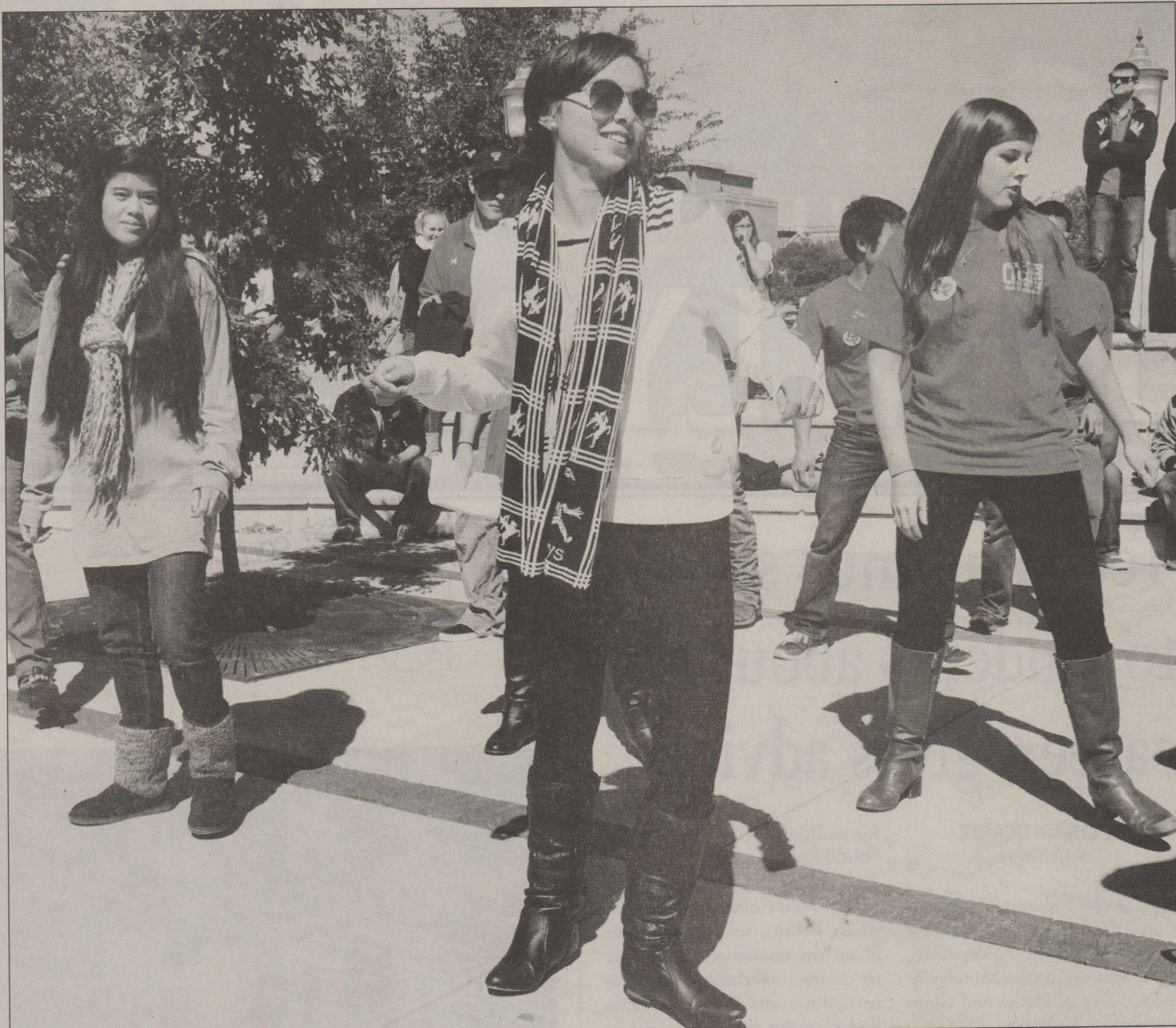
Generation One General Meeting
Time: 6 p.m.
Where: Escondido Theatre
So, what is it?
 If you are a first-generation college student, come out and join an organization with students like you.

Nonprofit Internship Fair
Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: University Career Center
So, what is it?
 Come out and shop different available internships through nonprofit organizations.

To make a calendar submission email dailytoreador@ttu.edu.

Events will be published either the day or the day before they take place. Submissions must be sent in by 4 p.m. on the preceding publication date.

MOB MANIA



CHARLISSE AGUAS, A freshmen biology major from Lubbock, Iveysa Figueroa, a freshmen biology major from Lubbock, and Shannon Lally, a junior biochemistry major from Allen, join in the line dance flash mob after the Homecoming Kickoff on Monday in the North Plaza of the Student Union Building.

PHOTO BY EMILY MCCARTHY/The Daily Toreador

League

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Our purpose in our constitution is to support a growing e-sports community and facilitate intercollegiate relationships," Lunod said. "Because we're all gamers, we like to stay home. Most of us don't go outside a lot, so it's just a good way to meet other people with similar interests."

Lunod said they have met twice so far and are planning on having a meeting and event once a month.

"We usually eat dinner together somewhere," she said, "and we'll talk about whatever is going on in the group. We've mainly

just been planning for our next event at these meetings."

The club's first event will be Oct. 13 to watch the worldwide LoL championship in Los Angeles that will broadcast live on the Internet. She said the group is trying to get a room on campus to watch the championship, but since the event begins at 9 p.m. and has an unknown ending time, there could be conflict with getting a room later than 10 p.m. Lunod said there are about 60 to 70 members expected to attend the event.

"Our first event is a bunch of us just getting together and watching the championship — it's just like watching the Super Bowl," Lunod said.

Event coordinator Gavin

Haynes, a sophomore computer engineering major from Houston, has been a member of Tech LoL for about two weeks.

Haynes said the group is going to be getting software called RaidCall, which is a way to chat online between the club members. He explains RaidCall like Skype, but with a lot of people rather than one-on-one interactions and without the video capabilities.

"It will be really helpful with making games and talking to other people within the group," Haynes said.

Hebertson said once they receive RaidCall, there is the possibility of also joining in competitions of other games such as StarCraft.

"I know there are a couple

other groups (of gamers), and maybe we can join as one giant branch of gamers here at Texas Tech," Hebertson said. "It would be really cool — I mean we're kind of like the pioneers — to get e-sports here as a collegiate sport."

Lunod said a year ago LoL players at Tech had a team that competed against other schools, but do not have one this year because the club is just getting started. She said they will have a team formed next year.

"Our goal is to become a really competitive organization and destroy our rivals on the battlefield as well as have a good time with the other colleges," Hebertson said.

»vholloway@dailytoreador.com

Advice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Perkins said he survived four layoffs from Disney, but eventually got laid off.

"After I got laid off from Disney, I wanted to stay in this medium," Perkins said.

Now the CEO of Food4Thought Productions, Perkins has developed an application for Apple's iPad and iPhone titled "Doody Bird" and an interactive book titled "When Santa Got Sick."

The eBook PDF version of "When Santa Got Sick" was the No. 1 children's book on Amazon from November to December 2011, Perkins said.

When discussing work ethic Perkins said Tech students are different from other students he has worked with.

"I have dealt with other college students and what I notice, particularly about Tech is they have a good work ethic," he said.

After the discussion, Perkins answered students' questions and gave advice to other students.

Phillip Henderson, a junior electronic media and communication major from Dallas, said Perkins had one main theme throughout the discussion.

"He gave a lot of information about creativity," Henderson said.

While students like Henry Wilson, a junior advertising major from Houston, who had heard of Perkins prior to the discussion knew what to expect, Aida Reyna, a senior advertising major from Valles, San Luis Potosi, Mexico said she had never heard of Perkins.

"I did not know about him until

this event, so it was really awesome to know that someone from an advertising program can do something like this," Reyna said.

Wilson said if a person has the drive they can make anything happen even if they do not have the skill.

Perkins gave a piece of advice during his question and answer session after the discussion.

"If you want to write, you need to find people who will give you good, honest, solid critiques," he said.

»eduarde@dailytoreador.com

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Today's

su|do|ku

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

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Obama looks to regroup; Romney appears confident

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the White House race shows signs of tightening nationally, President Barack Obama's campaign is banking on a massive get-out-the-vote operation and state-by-state shades of economic improvement to maintain its apparent polling edge in battlegrounds from Ohio to Virginia.

Republican Mitt Romney, re-energized by last week's debate,

is flashing new confidence on the campaign trail and pressing toward the political center on both foreign and domestic issues. But aides have outlined no clear path to winning the 270 Electoral College votes required to gain the White House.

"Things are going pretty good," the usually cautious Romney said Monday with a smile.

Among Democrats, the swagger of the previous few weeks has all but

vanished since the debate.

"Ultimately this is a tight race, and it's going to remain a tight race until the end," said Bill Burton, who runs Priorities USA Action, a pro-Obama super political action committee.

Indeed, one month from Election Day, polls show a close race. And with millions of Americans already voting and the potential for game-changing moments diminish-

ing, the candidates have little room for error as they seek to sway a narrow swath of undecided voters.

Obama aides acknowledge Romney's strong turn on the debate stage helped him shift gears from a rocky September. But they also argue that Romney's momentum was arrested somewhat by a Friday jobs report showing the unemployment rate declined to 7.8 percent, the lowest level of Obama's presidency.

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Lab Theatre Presents "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead"

By **LIANA SOLIS**
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Department of Theatre and Dance kicked off its year of shows with the opening of its first show, "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead," which opened Monday in the Laboratory Theatre.

Richard Privitt, audience relations specialist for the department, is responsible for promoting the shows and running the box office.

"Considering that we had to turn people away on our sneak peak production night, we are

expecting the show to be popular with the students especially," Privitt said.

The production "Dog Sees God," is an existential parody about the characters of the famous comic Peanuts and the problems they experience as teenagers, he said.

"The idea for the show was suggested last year by one of our students," Privitt said. "The student, Ryan Bruce, is actually the one directing it as well."

The cast of the show has been working for the past month preparing the show, while the technical crew has been at work

a little longer.

Peter Smith, sound designer for the production, has known about the production since last spring when it was decided it was going to be performed, he said.

"I knew I was going to be working on it way back in March, but didn't actively start working on everything until July," Smith said.

The production is going to showcase a mix of the original music from "Charlie Brown," along with tying in other classical music and '60s jazz.

"We wanted the show to have the same type of music as the

original Peanuts without having the actual original recordings," Smith said.

Nancy Charles, a junior early education major from Houston, attended the sneak preview night of the production before opening night.

"After I heard what it was about, I thought it might be something that I'd like to see," she said.

The production focuses on issues such as suicide, eating disorders and other somewhat vulgar ideas, Charles said, so it is more focused toward an older audience.

"It was more out there than I thought it was going to be, but still very hilarious and nicely done," she said. "I would definitely recommend it."

Tech students have an opportunity to get into the show free if they show up an hour before the show, Privitt said.

"We only have a limited number of free tickets for students," he said. "If they don't get here early enough for those, tickets are just \$5 for students and \$10 for adults."

"Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead," will run through Sunday. With per-

formances Monday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and end with a matinee performance Sunday at 2 p.m. Privitt said.

"People can buy tickets at our box office or by phone order with a credit card," Smith said.

The Laboratory Theatre will showcase three more productions in the spring, along with five productions on the main stage as well, Smith said.

"After seeing the kinds of shows they put on here, I am definitely more excited about the other shows that are going to be put on," Charles said.

► lsolis@dailytoreador.com

Mom who glued kid's hands to wall faces life term

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas woman who super-glued her 2-year-old daughter's hands to a wall also beat the girl so badly that she suffered bleeding on her brain, a doctor testified Monday during the mother's sentencing hearing.

Elizabeth Escalona faces up to life in prison after pleading guilty in July to attacking her daughter, Jocelyn Cedillo, last September. Police say the 23-year-old mother attacked the toddler due to potty training problems.

During a sentencing hearing that began Monday, prosecutors presented gruesome photos and details of the attack.

Jocelyn was hospitalized for about one week with injuries that included bleeding on her brain, a fractured rib, severe bruises and others likely caused by direct blows, according to Dr. Amy Barton, a former child abuse specialist at Children's Medical Center of Dallas.

"When I think about the time involved in that and what that scene must have looked like, it's overwhelming," Barton said.

Dallas Police Sr. Cpl. Abel Lopez, who interviewed Escalona after the attack, showed a bottle of super glue taken out of the family's apartment as well as a section of an apartment wall with Jocelyn's handprints.

The sentencing hearing is scheduled to continue Tuesday. Escalona's attorney, Angie N'Duka, said she hadn't decided if her client would take the stand. A state district judge will decide her punishment.

In a videotaped interview with Lopez after the attack, Escalona insisted over and over: "I'm taking the blame." Lopez said Monday that Escalona wouldn't immediately explain why she was taking the blame, even as doctors fighting to save her daughter's life needed information about what had happened.

"She never really asked" about Jocelyn's condition, Lopez said. "I had to tell her."

Escalona's mother, Ofelia Escalona, testified about her panic and confusion when she arrived at the family home after the attack and found Jocelyn lying on the floor, taking shallow breaths. Under questioning from prosecutor Eren Price, Ofelia Escalona acknowledged that her daughter had also hit her several times when Elizabeth Escalona was growing up.

The grandmother said she came over after her daughter called her. She said she could see something wrong in her daughter's face.

"I had my daughter in front of me, but she was not all there," Ofelia Escalona said, her voice often breaking throughout her testimony.

She picked Jocelyn up off the floor and noticed the child had soiled her underwear, the grandmother said. She changed Jocelyn, ran with the girl to her car, and told her son to drive them to the hospital.

But Jocelyn then started talking — asking for food — leading her grandmother to believe the girl didn't need to go to the emergency room. She told her son to turn around.

"I made a horrible mistake," Ofelia Escalona said.

Testimony then concluded for the day because Ofelia Escalona had to pick up another one of her grandchildren from school. The grandmother is now taking care of her daughter's five children, including a baby born this year.

Friends: Ala. student's behavior out of character

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Gil Collar was a guy everybody wanted to be around in high school, friends said: The girls liked his good looks, even his opponents on the wrestling mat became buddies, and adults knew him as courteous and kind.

The nude 18-year-old who was shot to death by a police officer on the University of South Alabama campus wasn't the young man they knew. School officials said the slightly built freshman took a "fighting stance" and chased the officer, though Collar's mother said she was told he never touched the officer. Acquaintances said he appeared to be intoxicated, because of alcohol or something else, as he took his clothes off, ran through the streets, screamed obscenities and claimed he was on a "spiritual quest" in the moments before he was killed.

The case has been handed over to Mobile County authorities and could take weeks to resolve. Meanwhile, friends and relatives are trying to figure out what could have happened to the quiet kid who showed so much promise.

"It's completely opposite of the way he was," said South Alabama student Chandler Wescovich of Long Beach, Miss., who became friends with Collar during his short time on campus.

His mother, Bonnie Smith Collar, told The Associated Press that she was told by someone involved in the investigation that surveillance video shows Collar never touched the officer. School officials with access to that video have said nothing to indicate Collar was armed. And they have refused to say whether the officer who shot Collar was carrying a baton and pepper spray, both of which campus officers typically have with them.

An attorney for the family, former Alabama Lt. Gov. Jere Beasley, said his firm's review of the shooting would include whether the officer followed department rules and regulations.

The university said the officer heard a bang on a window at campus police headquarters and went outside

to investigate. The officer tried to retreat numerous times to defuse the situation before opening fire, the university said in a news release.

Collar's mother said she has received conflicting information about what might have happened before the shooting and declined to discuss it. But she asked people to withhold judgment until all the evidence comes out.

"Whatever caused the incident was something that made him act not in his normal personality," she said.

Collar grew up in the rural outskirts of Wetumpka, about 20 miles north of Montgomery. Brandon Ross, a sophomore at Jacksonville State University, said Collar moved to the neighborhood as an 8-year-old.

"I was the first person he met on the bus, and we've been friends ever since," he said. "He was the kid everybody liked."

Others agreed the actions were out of character for the normally quiet and reserved Collar, whom friends described as a popular and good-looking high school wrestler who stood 5-foot-7 and 135 pounds. Collar wasn't someone to make enemies and even befriended his wrestling opponents, said his high school wrestling coach, Jeff Glass.

Collar wasn't known as a troublemaker and had only two minor scrapes with the law, according to court records: a speeding ticket and a citation for being a minor in possession of three cigarettes in March. He paid a \$25 fine for the tobacco possession.

He was also so good-looking that his teammates didn't like standing next to him in team photos.

"The girls thought he was the best thing they had ever seen, and they may have been right," Glass said.

Wescovich said everything seemed normal when he saw Collar with friends in a student dining hall less than six hours before the shooting. Wescovich said he and others gave Collar a ticket to BayFest, an outdoor music festival in Mobile, and went on their separate way.

Man arrested on suspicion of defacing Rothko work

LONDON (AP) — British police on Monday arrested the man who told journalists he was responsible for scrawling graffiti on a mural by modern American master Mark Rothko at London's Tate Modern museum.

Scotland Yard launched its investigation after the mural, one of Rothko's Seagram series, was defaced Sunday with what appears to be the words "Vladimir" and "a potential piece of yellowism."

Vladimir Umanets, who identifies himself as the co-founder an artistic movement he calls "Yellowism," told journalists he was behind the graffiti. According to an online manifesto, Yellowism is an artistic movement run by Umanets and another person, Marcin Lodyga.

Earlier Monday Umanets told Britain's Press Association news agency that he wanted to draw people's attention to his movement, which he described as "an element of contemporary

visual culture."

"The main difference between Yellowism and art is that in art you have got freedom of interpretation. In Yellowism you don't have freedom of interpretation, everything is about Yellowism, that's it," he said.

The police statement, released late Monday, didn't give a name, but when asked about Umanets, a police spokesman said that a 26-year-old man had been arrested in the coastal town of Worthing, about 95 kilometers (60 miles) south of London. Police in Britain generally use that formula to indirectly identify suspects.

Umanets told Press Association he expected to be arrested, but said he believes his scrawl increased the painting's value.

"I believe what I am doing and I want people to start talking about this. It was like a platform," he said. "I didn't decrease the value, I didn't destroy this picture, I put something new."

Rothko, who died in 1970, is

renowned for his large abstract paintings featuring bold blocks of color.

The defaced painting was one of a series intended to decorate the Four Seasons restaurant in New York. Rothko changed his mind about the commission and gave the works to galleries, including the Tate.

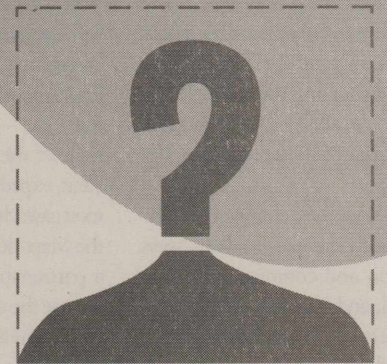
The artist's children, Kate Rothko Prizel and Christopher Rothko, said in a statement that they were "greatly troubled" by the incident, but confident the Tate would do everything it could to remedy the situation.

While the Tate Modern has said it does not have a price for the defaced piece, another Rothko piece — "Orange, Red, Yellow" — sold for almost \$87 million at auction in New York.

This is not the first time an artwork at Tate Modern has been interfered with. In 2000, two Chinese performance artists attempted to urinate on Marcel Duchamp's urinal sculpture "Fountain."

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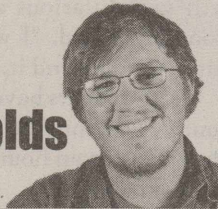
Tech students should want more healthy food choices

One thing I've noticed around campus this semester is a new option for those Texas Tech students looking for a healthier snack.

That's right, folks. Hummus can now be found at the Sam's Places around the Tech campus in the cold foods located next to the \$4 cups of plastic-wrapped, out-of-season fruit. It may not be quite as delicious as homemade hummus, but for those of you who don't have food processors or blenders and the know-how to make your own, you can now purchase the next-best thing.

Being a Lubbock native, I'll admit that eating healthy in Texas is not easy. The abundance of mouthwatering barbecue and Tex-Mex food in this state makes it no big wonder that we have the 11th highest obesity rate in the nation, according to a 2011 report from the Center for Disease Control.

Jakob Reynolds



College students are notorious for poor eating habits. We've all heard of the expression "Freshman 15," which is actually the "Freshman 2 or 3," according to a study by Ohio State University. Regardless, weight gain in college is common and often the result of a combination of high-stress lifestyles and irregular sleep, as well as increased alcohol consumption and less-than-stellar nutrition involved in your average college student's life.

Moreover, eating healthy at Tech is especially tough. In the two and a half years I've been here, I've begun to notice the extreme lack of totally healthy food for sale in

dining areas.

For example, in the food court of the Student Union Building, where the bulk of students eat in the SUB, you have the option of greasy food in a bowl or greasy food on a bun. The only remotely healthy food I've seen in there are sweet potato fries and fried green beans, which are at least \$1.50 extra.

There is a refrigerator in a corner with salads and desserts that have been in it for who-knows-how-long.

There is one "Smart Choices" outlet in the SUB and another salad bar in the new Commons that sells totally healthy food.

Other than that, however, Tech students who dine regularly on campus are hard pressed to find wholesome, nutritious food.

The difficulty of finding wholesome food on campus stems from several different factors. For one, bad food is highly accessible because Tech has contracts with a select few food corporations — such as Frito-Lay and The Coca-Cola Company — that distribute cheap, low-quality food en

Then again, that would be in a perfect world.

Not only is poor-quality food on campus cheaper and more plentiful, it is faster and more convenient than its healthier counterparts. If you're pressed for time, you can have a hamburger, fried chicken sandwich or sugar-laden protein bar on hand in half the time it would take to sit and eat a salad, soup or other non-greasy meal.

Healthy food can be just as convenient. The packaged salads and fruit aren't a terrible idea, and there are countless other ways to make healthy food quickly available and portable. The problem is the limited amount of healthy food on campus means those who want it have to go out of their way to get it.

I think the biggest reason for the lack of wholesome, healthy food at Tech is the lack of demand for it. That is not to say that students wouldn't prefer fresh

and healthy food to the salt and grease-packed food in the dining halls. Rather, there isn't enough active demand for Tech to provide healthier options.

Our problem is the same one that prevents many Americans from political activity: We may complain and get all up in arms about the over-priced fruit cup or salt-loaf breadsticks at the pizza stand, but in the end we're still worried more about the test tomorrow or getting that research paper done by Friday.

I'm sure Tech would be just as happy to sell wholesome food as they are to sell unhealthy food if students are willing to pay for it. However, until students start actively demanding it, we will just have to settle for whatever flavored junk is on the menu.

Reynolds is a junior music major from Lubbock.
» jreynolds@dailytoreador.com

"The biggest reason for the lack of wholesome, healthy food at Tech is the lack of demand for it."

Like Apple, companies should practice honesty

By ALESY ITURREY
THE DARTMOUTH (DARTMOUTH COLLEGE)

In our pop-tech, consumer-based society, every company, product and service is rated, ranked and expected to be perfect. Just last Friday, Apple's highly anticipated release of the iPhone 5 quickly sparked reviews of the design and software. Of all the critiques, what was most striking was how poorly the Apple Maps feature functioned in the new iOS6 operating system. In response to the widespread discontent and consumer backlash, Apple's CEO Tim Cook posted a letter on Apple's website to Apple customers apologizing for this major malfunction. In response to this very public glimpse of corporate honesty, Apple has received positive press. This media response to Apple following its apology for failing to produce a product that satisfied expectations has demonstrated that it can be to a company's advantage to be honest about its product, even if it has shortcomings, in order to maintain the trust of its customers.

Apple Maps featured directions that were largely incorrect, flattened images of famous structures such as the Eiffel Tower and bridges that went underwater, among other glaring inaccuracies. The faulty application was not only limited to iPhone 5 users, but also affected Apple products that were updated to the new operating system, iOS6.

Technology has changed our exposure to such mistakes in many ways. Information and communication are widespread, and blunders such as missing products on Amazon's website or unexpected changes like the implementation of Facebook's Timeline feature are more visible than ever before. This drastically changes the relationship between individuals and the masses, as online and technically-savvy businesses must be transparent in order to gain customer trust. Similarly, individuals are now able to openly express grievances with the intention and expectation that the intended audience — Apple, in this case — will know of their critiques. A company may even respond in a big way, such as Apple has, through a public letter on their homepage.

A quick search notes that many of

the largest and most well-known tech-based companies are frequently apologizing for a variety of issues. In addition to those mentioned at Apple, Amazon and Facebook, the Sony Corporation, Research In Motion's Blackberry Corporation and even Netflix CEO Reed Hastings have all at some point (for some, more than once) apologized for faulty service.

As consumers, we should be pleased that the companies producing goods in our current technologically-advanced and media-regulated age are aware of the incredible loyalty required to ensure the trust of the consumer. Companies producing our products are interested in our satisfaction because it ensures good business. Honesty has become an effective means of managing product shortcomings and is better than previous attempts to mislead an intelligent and capable public.

Not only do these "incredibly high standards" lead major corporations to produce better products and larger profits, but they also are the same driving forces that create some of the most innovative and competitive brands that exist today. When we set these standards, mistakes will happen. But we will also see the emergence of some really good ideas. Errors should no longer be seen in a negative light — they produce and enforce some of the most unique and practical ideas, expediting the creative process in most cases. In Apple's particular scenario, the Maps debacle could perhaps lead to a partnership between companies to change the way applications function on the iPhone and set the stage for more personalized and customizable smartphones.

Apologizing for a blatant inequity will generate respect. In a world in which creativity is a driving force in business and innovation is a proud sponsor of some of the most important cultural developments, there are plenty of opportunities to make mistakes. But in this same world where information is available with a click of a button, those mistakes or faulty claims are never hidden for long. Apple's big-time fluke reminds us of the importance of honesty in our society and that we should demand that individuals and businesses possess integrity in everything they do.

THE TROTS

BY ANDREA FARKAS



First debate important, but does not decide election

By DAVID FREED
HARVARD POLITICAL REVIEW (HARVARD U.)

Two days have gone by since the first presidential debate. Since, we have political pundits decrying Obama's passive tactics, a new Twitter account for Silent Jim Lehrer, and a series of Big Bird memes. Public backlash was strong against Obama, and commentator Andrew Sullivan even suggested that Obama might have lost the election Wednesday night. However, when sorting through these myriad opinions, it is important to use a historical viewpoint and to also view the debate with perspective.

Yes, Romney won. While Obama effused confidence in his plan and maintained a calm demeanor, there was something listless about his movements all night. Perhaps unaware that, for the first time, debates would be viewed on split-screen television, Obama spent much of the night looking down and taking notes while Romney was talking. He was unprepared for Romney's blatant denial of Obama's assertions that the plan Romney champions would add \$5 trillion to the deficit through tax cuts for the rich, repeating it as though stunned when Romney insisted this wasn't the case.

To his credit, Romney—who trailed Obama in the polls coming into the night—played the attacker

from the beginning and went after the president's record on issues from the economy to energy policy. He was animated from the onset and nothing, not even moderator Jim Lehrer, stopped him from a harrowing attack on Obama's record. The aggression was borne out of desperation; Romney has steadily been falling further and further back in the polls since the Democratic National Convention, and nothing truly positive has bolstered his campaign since.

Yet, if the expectations for Romney had not been so low coming into the debate would we have been all that surprised? The knock on Mitt is his inability to empathize with his constituents—his comments about the "47 percent" ruffled criticism that he is out-of-touch—but he displayed a talent for debating during the Republican primaries. His one gaffe, offering to bet Rick Perry \$10,000 on an outcome, was tactless but displayed his comfort on the stage.

You could have watched this debate without sound and proclaimed him the victor, much as you could during the Republican primaries. Here Mitt looks more comfortable than at formal functions; his body language is positive, and his expression reflects his eagerness for confrontation. Obama's reputation as a great orator is well deserved, but Romney is no slouch in this

department. Had we come into this debate acknowledging Romney's skills, perhaps the result would not have been so shocking.

Similarly, it is important to acknowledge the nature of the first debate. The discussion topics—the economy and health care—lent themselves to a discussion of Obama's record. They are major topics in the election, no doubt, but topics that Obama was unable to turn into a discussion of Romney's history. Phrases like "the one percent," "Bain Capital," and "the forty-seven percent" were conspicuously absent from the president's lexicon as he abstained from a full-on attack of Romney's record.

The first debate routinely goes in favor of the challenger, and there are two more to come. In the meantime, Obama will likely regroup and prepare to come out focused and on the attack from the first question. In the first debate, as The Atlantic's James Fallows writes, challengers are "elevated simply by being matched on equal footing with the president." Obama was also forced to publicly argue with someone directly opposed to his views for the first time in four years, while Romney spent his winter crisscrossing the country swapping intellectual banter with Rick Santorum, Ron Paul, and Newt Gingrich. While not the liberal standard-bearer

Romney faced Wednesday, the trio provided a diverse array of attacks on Romney's record he quickly learned to parry and avoid.

Polling shows a wide discrepancy in the number of Americans who declared Romney the victor—as much as three to one by CNN's estimate—but we should view these findings with caution. A simple random dialing method of polling American households still riding the emotional crest of the debate is insufficient evidence for how this will affect the race moving forward. The number of undecided voters remaining is a minute fraction of the total electorate, and few committed voters likely switched sides after Wednesday night.

Media hyperbole like Sullivan's draws good ratings but is too preemptive. There are three more debates and, if the 67.2 million Americans that tuned in Wednesday night are any indicator, the country will be watching. Next week's matchup of two political bulldogs in Joe Biden and Paul Ryan should set the tone for a more adversarial Barack Obama and Mitt Romney matchup the week after.

Certainly Romney outperformed expectations, but lest we forget, some were on the edge of declaring the race over as little as a week ago. The first debate favors the challenger, the second the incumbent. This story is far from over.

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Phone: 806-742-3393, Fax: 806-742-2434
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First Battleship event draws a crowd

By HALLIE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

With team names like "Titanic," "The He-Man Woman Haters" and the "Mermen," Sunday night's event was no regular intramural. The Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center hosted Texas Tech's first intramural Battleship tournament.

The competition features teams in canoes, tossing water into each others' boats until sinking them. Brett Jackson, the assistant director of intramural sports, said it is picking up in popularity at universities around the country.

When he found out about it from friends at other schools, he knew it was something Tech needed to do.

"It's one of the hottest intramural events in the nation," Jackson said.

Teams played round-robin style in a square in the pool, while spectators gathered in the stands. Jackson said 16 teams registered, so the event was split into two competitions and then scored on a point system.

Still, it was mostly about fun. Jackson said he expected a good attitude from anyone playing

intramurals, but specifically a fun attitude from the teams in the aquatic center.

"It's not a competitive atmosphere," he said. "It's just kids who want to have fun in the water."

The competition was a part of the fun, with teams strategizing the best way to sink each other. Apollo Castillo, a sophomore biology major from Amarillo, said his team succeeded because

of the team's planning.

His team, "Big Moby," was made up of students from the Outdoor Pursuits Center. Each team had the option of using one person to hold a foam shield as a defender, and many took advantage of the option.

Castillo said being on the offense as a water-thrower was much more of a workout than he expected.

The OPC had three teams at the tournament, and shop manager and player, Christine Upton said the organization supplied the canoes as well.

She thought the best strategy was in the OPC employees' knowledge of the canoes.

"We had a lot of experience in the boats," said the senior environment and the humani-

"We had a lot of experience in the boats. We thought we could use that to our advantage."

CHRISTINE UPTON
TEXAS TECH
STUDENT



PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

SHELBY HILLIARD, AN exercise and sport sciences graduate student from Comanche, right, and Stephanie Lowery, a senior exercise and sport sciences major from Lubbock, left, throw water at opposing teams' canoes during the Intramural Battleship on Sunday in the Aquatic Center. During the competition teams tried to sink their opponents canoes while staying afloat in their own canoe.

ties major from Lubbock. "We thought we could use that to our advantage."

She and many participants prepared by watching YouTube videos of other universities' competitions. Jackson said these were the best for recruiting players, so they could see exactly

what it was and get excited for it.

"I thought it sounded awesome," Castillo said. "I'll take any excuse to get in the water."

Next time, Castillo said he hoped to see even more teams. It didn't take a lot of convincing to get teams to register once they realized what the competition

was, Jackson said.

"Hopefully," he said, "It just keeps growing."

Sophomore Marco Ortega, of the "Mermen," said his friends were psyched to put together a team as soon as they heard about it.

Though it was like nothing

he had heard of before, he was excited to try it out, and went in with no expectations. After playing, the biology major from Denver City said it was a lot of fun.

"It's a new experience for sure," he said.

>>>hdavis@dailytoreador.com

Liam Neeson doubles the take with \$50M 'Taken 2' debut

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Critics don't like "Taken 2," but Liam Neeson's action sequel has proved twice the hit among fans as the original movie was.

"Taken 2" led the box office with \$50 million domestically over opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. That's double the haul for Neeson's "Taken," which took in \$24.7 million in its U.S. debut in early 2009.

"Taken" went on to become a \$145 million smash for Neeson, the Academy Award-nominated star of "Schindler's List" who has become an unlikely action hero in his 50s.

In "Taken 2," Neeson returns as a retired CIA agent using his expert espionage and killing skills to take on a gang of thugs out for revenge against him and his family.

"He gives hope to aging men," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "He's done the reverse of most actors, where you do the action stuff when you're younger then do the more introspective work when you're older. He's sort of turned it around. When he's 80, he'll probably be kicking even more butt."

"Taken 2," which began rolling out overseas a weekend earlier, added \$55 million more in about 50 international markets to raise its worldwide total to \$117 million.

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie at the U.S. box office, Adam Sandler's animated hit "Hotel Transylvania," dropped to second-place with \$26.3 million. The Sony release

raised its domestic total to \$76 million, and it has taken in \$29.3 million overseas for a worldwide haul of \$105.3 million.

Expanding into nationwide release after a limited debut a week earlier, Universal's music tale "Pitch Perfect" moved up to third-place with \$14.7 million. The movie stars Anna Kendrick as a college freshman spicing things up for her a cappella singing squad.

Sony's sci-fi thriller "Looper," starring Bruce Willis and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, fell from second-place to fourth with \$12.2 million, lifting its domestic haul to \$40.3 million.

Tim Burton's animated monster tale "Frankenweenie" had a slow start, taking in \$11.5 million to round out the top-five. The Disney release is an update of Burton's 1984 live-action short film, about a boy who brings his dead dog back to life.

Released by 20th Century Fox, "Taken 2" gave a big boost to Hollywood revenues, which have lagged most weekends since late summer. Domestic business totaled \$138 million, up 45.5 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Real Steel" led with \$27.3 million.

While the first movie got respectable reviews, "Taken 2" was panned by critics as a replay of the original. Audiences rarely care what critics say, though.

"Most people go to the movies for a certain dose of escapism," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution for 20th Century Fox. "It doesn't have to be high art. It doesn't have to

be serious and contemplative. They go to the movies to be entertained, and my gosh, that's what this movie does."

"Frankenweenie" had a modest debut compared to Burton's last animated feature, "Corpse Bride," which took in \$19.1 million in its first weekend of wide release in 2005. Both films were made through stop-motion animation, using puppets moved incrementally and photographed a frame at a time.

"Corpse Bride" had the advantage of Burton's superstar pal Johnny Depp leading the voice cast. And "Frankenweenie" was a tough sell both for its stop-motion style, which is far less popular than the computer-generated look of today's animation blockbusters, and for its black-and-white presentation, done in homage to classic monster movies.

"Frankenweenie" also faced stiff competition from Sandler's animated monster mash-up "Hotel Transylvania."

But with a budget of \$39 million, "Frankenweenie" cost far less to produce than computer-animated films, whose price-tags can run to \$150 million or more.

Disney is counting on good reviews and positive audience reaction to keep "Frankenweenie" afloat through Halloween and beyond.

"The movie itself is going to be its best selling tool," said Dave Hollis, Disney's head of distribution. "You have people coming out of the theaters, they've had a great experience, and they're telling their friends."

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Kicking an unfamiliar problem for Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas coach Mack Brown has an unfamiliar problem: The Longhorns' field-goal kicking is not good.

For years, good kicking at Texas was simply taken for granted. Scholarship players and walk-ons alike made Texas 9-0 in the Brown era when the Longhorns needed a field goal in the final two minutes to win, including a Rose Bowl victory, a Big 12 championship and bragging rights to end a century-old rivalry with Texas A&M.

But field goals are less than a 50-50 chance through the first five games this season, raising concerns that Texas kickers simply can't be counted on in crunch time with No. 13 Oklahoma (4-1, 1-1 Big 12) next on the schedule. The problem was easy to mask when the No. 15 Longhorns (4-1, 1-1) started 4-0 with three blowouts. Even a nail-biter at Oklahoma State ended with Texas scoring a late touchdown instead of having to kick.

But last week, Penn State transfer Anthony Fera missed a 41-yard attempt with about five minutes left that would have tied the game. Texas ended up losing to West Virginia, 48-45.

It was Fera's first game after sitting out with a groin injury. He had made a 38-yarder in the third quarter that gave Texas a four-point lead. With that miss, Texas is just 4 of 9 on field goals with none longer than 40 yards.

"I think Anthony will be great," Brown said Monday. "We didn't know until pregame that he would kick ... The last one was not a bad kick, it was just off to the right."

Texas kicks have gone right down the middle so many times for so many years that a miss can come as a shock.

"I just expect us to make them,"

Brown said before the season started.

Justin Tucker booted Texas to a win over Texas A&M on the final play in that rivalry last season. He's now with Baltimore Ravens and Texas spent the spring trying to find his replacement.

Freshman Nick Jordan was a high school all-American, but was untested and Texas felt relieved when Fera transferred in the summer after Penn State was hit with NCAA sanctions. Fera was 14 of 17 on field goals for Penn State last season.

But Fera showed up at Texas with a gimpy groin that forced him to sit out training camp and the first four games. Jordan won the job over fellow freshman Nick Rose in the meantime, but was just 3 of 7.

Fera dressed for the first time against West Virginia. Texas watched him closely in pregame warmups and decided he was ready.

"He was one of the best kickers in the country last year. He's had a sore leg," Brown said. "I'm hoping he'll be much stronger and more confident this week."

When asked about the confidence of the kickers, quarterback David Ash said, "I can't kick so I'm not going to try to teach someone how."

The problems could force Texas to adjust its play calling once the Longhorns cross midfield. If Texas isn't confident in its kicking game, the Longhorns may decide to gamble by going for it on fourth down instead of trying a field goal, particularly in a close game.

Offensive coordinator Bryan Harsin said that's for Brown to decide.

"All I hear from him is, 'You've got four downs,'" Harsin said. "I'm always in the mindset that I'm going to go for it until I hear different."



Texas Longhorn coach Mack Brown is used to having reliable kickers, but the 2012-2013 season has not been friendly to Brown and his special teams department.

FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

Sandusky possible future rape victim

(AP) — Because of who he is and what he's done, Jerry Sandusky could be in particular danger of sexual assault when he is sent off to prison this week.

With thousands of inmates raped behind bars in the U.S. each year, statistics compiled by the federal government show that sex offenders are roughly two to four times more likely than other inmates to fall victim.

Sandusky, the 68-year-old former Penn State assistant football coach, will be sentenced Tuesday for sexually abusing 10 boys in a scandal that rocked the university and brought down coach Joe Paterno. Sandusky is likely to spend the rest of his life in prison.

It's entirely possible that he will serve his time without incident. His lawyer, Joe Amendola, said he expects Sandusky will be housed with nonvio-

lent offenders at a minimum-security prison, and the Pennsylvania Corrections Department said it is committed to the safety of all inmates, though it would not comment on what it plans to do to protect Sandusky.

But it's also true that child molesters are reviled inside prison walls just as they are on the outside, and are often subjected to physical and verbal abuse, including sexual assault. Given the horrific nature of Sandusky's crimes, will the public care what happens to him in prison?

"The Sandusky case is one of those moments when our core beliefs are really tested," said Lovisa Stannow, executive director of Just Detention International, a group that fights prison rape. "This is a moment when it's especially crucial to recognize that nobody ever deserves to be raped. No

matter who you are, sexual violence and rape is wrong, it's a crime, and it is something we have to fight."

The U.S. corrections industry has long struggled with sexual violence.

In 2008, more than 200,000 inmates in American prisons, jails and juvenile detention centers were victims of sexual abuse, according to the Justice Department. Male sex offenders were among those at highest risk: Nearly 14 percent reported having been sexually assaulted at least once while incarcerated.

Yet experts say rape isn't an unavoidable consequence of prison life. Justice Department statistics show wide variability in rates of sexual abuse across prisons and jails. Wardens who are committed to ending sexual violence, establishing clear policies against abuse and holding their staffs

accountable are likely to see fewer problems.

"It's all about management tone and style and leadership at the top. If you hear about abuse and sort of roll your eyes and look the other way, that sends a signal. If you tell the staff, 'I want to get to the bottom of this,' that sends a signal," said Jamie Fellner, a prisons expert at Human Rights Watch.

In some ways, Sandusky, who has been held in isolation in a county jail since he was found guilty in June, is not a prime target for assault. Inmates who are young and small in stature are more likely to be sexually victimized; Sandusky is a senior citizen with an imposing frame. Other inmates at high risk include gay men, those who have been previously victimized and those seen as timid or feminine.

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Football notebook: chain gang slides, more

By **MICHAEL DUPONT II**
STAFF WRITER

Days after the devastating 41-20 loss suffered at home to Oklahoma, the Red Raiders re-focused their energy toward No. 5 West Virginia and Heisman-hopeful Geno Smith.

The senior quarterback has yet to throw an interception this season, but will be challenged by the third-best passing defense in the nation, according to *USA Today*, at 6 p.m. Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium.

State of Doege

Quarterback Seth Doege did not have the repeat performance against Oklahoma students may have expected. Doege completed 22 of his 36 pass attempts for 203 yards.

For the senior, the past game is something Doege said cannot be dwelled upon for too long.

"We can't dwell on this loss," he said. "There is another team coming in and they might be even better. So we've got to prepare and practice just the way we've been doing it."

"Having enthusiasm, being excited to play and getting ready, I think we prepared really well throughout the season, and we need to continue to do that."

Doege also added three interceptions to his performance, one

of which was returned for an Oklahoma touchdown.

Doege said his confidence remains unscathed after his performance and more importantly he has learned from his mistakes and quickly moved on.

"I had confidence going into OU," he said. "Some things didn't roll my way — two deflected passes up in the air, that is the most helpless feeling as a quarterback knowing that that's anybody's ball. So some things didn't roll my way, but I learned from it and moved on. I'm confident in this football team."

Chain gang slides in rankings

Tech's defense entered last week's game ranked among the top 10 in total defense, passing defense and rushing defense, according to *USA Today*. This week, the Red Raiders remain in the top 10 for passing and rushing defense, but have dropped to 21st overall in total defense.

Senior safety D.J. Johnson said the connection between Tavon Austin and Geno Smith reminds him of a different kind of football which stems from the understanding they share with each other in terms of receiver and quarterback.

"It really looks a little like backyard football," he said. "What we're really going to have to do is make them eliminate their key receivers and

make him take more time to really figure out what he's going to have to do. So take away those first reads, those initial reads, and give our (defensive line) and linebackers time to get there and make plays."

Tuberville's corner

Tech coach Tommy Tuberville attributed a large amount of Oklahoma's performance to the fact Tech did not make enough plays in open field.

Tuberville said for Tech to get an early jump on West Virginia this week, the Red Raiders are going to need big plays in all phases of the game.

"We didn't have any real big plays to speak of," he said. "We've got to make bigger plays in open field on both sides of the ball."

Oklahoma reached the red zone twice as many times as Tech and also scored twice as many touchdowns when reaching the red zone.

Tuberville said the Red Raiders' inability to take advantage of their red zone trips forged the biggest hill for Tech to climb.

"The thing that really got us in trouble was our third-down conversions in the red zone on both the offense and defense," Tuberville said. "We gave up two third downs for touchdowns and we couldn't convert third downs in the red zone."

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PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH QUARTERBACK Seth Doege looks to throw the ball down the field during the Red Raiders' 41-20 loss against Oklahoma on Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium.

Cowboys refreshed, urgent in return from bye week

IRVING, Texas (AP) — When the Dallas Cowboys returned to work Monday following their bye week, they had the same number of losses as the two teams ahead of them in the NFC East.

More important than the standings was how the Cowboys (2-2) felt about themselves after an extended break.

"We had a week to recoup, refresh, regroup," cornerback Brandon Carr said after their first practice in five days. "I felt like we were refreshed, guys had a sense of urgency. We just erased the last four weeks out of our memory. ... Guys are just eager to get

out there and to have fun, just get out there and mix it up a little bit."

Asked about the New York Giants and Philadelphia both being 3-2, only a half-game ahead of Dallas, Carr said he didn't even know the records of the other teams in the division.

The Cowboys have enough to think about with their upcoming stretch of four of five games on the road. The first is Sunday at AFC North-leading Baltimore (4-1).

"You know they're going to be physical. They play that way. That's their style," defensive lineman Marcus Spears said. "Obviously they've

been playing great ball for a while. But we've got to go up there and handle our business. It's not about them, it's about us."

After the Ravens, the Cowboys are at Carolina before their only home game in a six-week stretch, against the defending Super Bowl champion Giants. Dallas beat New York on the road in the season opener in its only division game so far.

Then the Cowboys travel to Atlanta (5-0) and Philadelphia.

Two starters in the middle could be back after the bye week. Center Phil Costa and Pro Bowl nose tackle

Jay Ratliff both practiced Monday.

Costa was hampered throughout much of training camp by back issues. He returned in time to play the final preseason game, then started the opener and lasted only one series before being sidelined again.

Costa's return comes with Ryan Cook bothered by a hamstring injury. The Cowboys got Cook from Miami in a trade at the end of the preseason, and he had been the center since the second series against the Giants.

Ratliff hasn't played yet this season because of a high ankle sprain. "Getting Jay back is like getting

three guys back. In the nickel packages, in the base packages and then teams actually game plan for Jay Ratliff," Spears said. "It'll give other guys the opportunity to probably make more plays and have more success because he's in the game."

Linebacker Anthony Spencer also was at practice after missing the Cowboys' 34-18 loss to Chicago because of a strained pectoral.

"It feels good to essentially have all your guys back out there," Carr said.

Before practice Monday, the Cowboys added running back Lance

Dunbar to their 53-man roster from the practice squad. He ran for 105 yards with a 58-yard touchdown in the preseason finale against Miami.

But the speedy Dunbar, an undrafted rookie from North Texas, will be used primarily on special teams. He could have an immediate impact.

"He's very aggressive and active," coach Jason Garrett said. "So we want to give him a chance to do that. He's also done some returning for us as well. So just wherever he's needed. We'll give him some work in practice at the different spots and see how he responds."

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