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## Tech ROTC student dies in car accident

Texas Tech Air Force ROTC student Spencer LaBrie died Saturday morning in a car accident in Abilene.

According to the Abilene Police Department's news release, the accident occurred at South 14th Street and South Danville Drive involving a 2008 Nissan Altima and a 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer.

LaBrie was driving the Altima with Jillian Thomas in the passenger seat, according to the release. LaBrie and Thomas were transported to Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene in critical condition. They were pronounced dead after arrival. The driver of the Trailblazer, Tiffany Haynes, had minor nonlife

taken to the hospital.

According to the news release, Abilene Traffic Division officers determined LaBrie did not stop for a flashing red traffic signal and was broadsided (or hit from the side) by Haynes, who had the right-of-way.

LaBrie was a sophomore mathematics major with a mithreatening injuries and was not nor in computer science from a friend."

Abilene, said Spencer Jordan, a senior mathematics major from Arnold Air Society, a military

"I had the privilege of being Spencer LaBrie's flight commander last year, and I spent a lot of time with him," Jordan, an Air Force ROTC member said. "He's a great guy. He's an outstanding cadet, student and

LaBrie also was involved in happen to him."

During LaBrie's first semester at school, he attended Lubbock Christian University, and then transferred to Tech.

guy," Jordan said. "I would never Church. expect something like that to megardner@dailytoreador.com

There will be a visitation service organization, Jordan hosted from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Elmwood Funeral Home and Memorial Park in Abilene, according to the Abilene Reporter-News. A funeral mass also will occur at 11 a.m. Wednes-"He's just a good Christian day at Holy Family Catholic

## Tech accounting program moves up in national ranks

By ALSTON TRBULA STAFF WRITER

The Public Accounting Report, a newsletter that annually ranks the best accounting programs in the United States, recently ranked the Rawls College of Business Administration's accounting program as being in the top 50 nationally.

Robert Ricketts, accounting department head and Frank M. Burke chair in taxation, said

the report is published by Commerce Clearing House, a business that provides information and services for accounting and tax workers.

"Every year, they basically survey accounting professors across the country and ask them

what they think are the top accounting programs," he said. "You're asking them their opinion. Basically, what it means is that out of the 3,000 to 5,000 accounting professors who participated across the country, the majority of them think highly of this program."

The graduate program moved from outside the top 50 to No. 39, Ricketts said. The other Texas schools that placed in the top 50 for the graduate rankings were Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin. The University of Texas placed first and Texas A&M placed No. 14.

According to an analysis of pass rates on the Certified Public Accounting Exam in 2011, of all the students who earned an advanced degree from Texas Tech and who were eligible to take the exam, 60.6 percent of them passed. In comparison, 59.2 percent of graduate students from Texas A&M

and 63.1 percent of graduate students from the University of Texas at Austin passed all the testing events. The national average for passing rates of all testing events is 45.5 percent.

Tech accounting students are adaptable, and adaptability is valued in a field such as accounting, Ricketts said.

In the workplace, accountants and auditors are expected to know a great deal of material and are always learning something new.

> Some of the responsibilities of accountants and auditors include budgeting, policy recommendations, reconciling financial discrepancies and making sure everything is

> > compliant

DEPARTMENT **ACCOUNTING HEAD** 

ROBERT RICKETTS

Our students and

alumni have a

really strong work

ethic. That's the

feedback we get...

with local, state and federal financial requirements.

"Our students and our alumni have a really strong work ethic," Ricketts said. "That's the feedback we get, and we've been getting that kind of feedback for years."

William Pasewark, an accounting professor for the college, said the field of accounting is less affected by a fluctuating economy, and the new ranking is a byproduct of positive changes made to the accounting program.

Students who earn a master's in science and accounting are not limited to accountingrelated jobs, he said. There are a variety of careers graduate students can choose from.

"What we're talking about here is a master's program that has 100 percent job placement at salaries of \$50,000 a year and above," Pasewark said. "Everybody gets a job."

» atrbula@dailytoreador.com

# I A HILL HERS



PHOTO BY EMILY MCCARTHY/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH GUARD Josh Gray dribbles up to the net while Jackson State guard Jonathan Lewis tries to steal the ball during the Red Raiders' 84-75 victory against the Tigers on Monday in United Spirit Arena.

## Red Raiders use 2nd-half rally to defeat Tigers

By MICHAEL DUPONT II STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech struggled in its 85-74 victory against Jackson State on Monday night in United Spirit Arena.

The game was a tale of two halves for the Red Raiders, with the team having difficulty finding any offensive rhythm in the first half. The Red Raiders shot 36 percent in the first half, including 10 percent from behind the arc, and scored six points from fast break opportunities. Despite all of Tech's first half mishaps, the Red Raiders trailed by only three points at halftime.

Junior forwards Dejan Kravic and Jaye Crockett led the charge for Tech early in the game. Each team was able to make about 37 percent of its shots, allowing for numerous opportunities to establish a rebounding presence. Kravic and Crockett each tallied five rebounds for Tech, while Crockett also added nine points, a high mark for both teams in the opening half.

Freshman guard Josh Gray was unable to get his shot to fall in the first half. Gray made two of his 11 shot attempts in the first half. Gray was able to force several steals for Tech, which allowed the Red Raiders to get out and run the transition offense interim coach Chris Walker envisioned for

Junior forward Crockett said this game proved to be a great test for Tech before facing Arizona this weekend.

"They played with us," Crockett said. "The first couple of games we've been going into the half with the lead. In this game we went in struggling. I think we were down three, so we just knew we had to come out hard in the second half.

"It was a good test especially for this weekend coming up. We've got a top-10 team coming in here so it was a great test for that.'

In contrast, the Red Raiders shot a more efficient 53 percent in the second half and scored 14 fast break points against the Tigers.

Junior guard Jamal Williams said making an impact defensively was Tech's main focus coming out of halftime.

"We made it up in our minds that in the first five minutes of the second half we were going to play our hardest defense and that's what we did," Williams said.

Although he was never able to establish himself offensively, Gray proved to be a workhorse for the Red Raiders on the other side of the court. Gray finished 12 points on four of 17 from the field and added four assists with seven steals, which tied a Tech record for the most steals in a game.

Walker said Gray's defensive efforts turned the game in Tech's favor in the second half.

"We are about defense," Walker said. "We are about defense and locking people down, and when adversity struck tonight, and it did strike, we had to come up, and we had to dig in and get steals. That was the best that Jackson State played this year."

Crockett led the Red Raiders in scoring with 20 points, adding eight rebounds and two steals in the winning effort. Kravic finished with 16 points, eight rebounds, five blocks and an assist for the Red Raiders.

Tech will face No. 9 Arizona at 8 p.m. Saturday in United Spirit Arena.

Walker said the primary concern will be playing Tech basketball rather than focusing on a top-10 opponent coming to face the Red Raiders.

"We're excited," Walker said. "But at the end of the day it's about Texas Tech, it's not about Arizona. It doesn't matter who the next game is or the next team is, the next game is always the biggest game on our schedule, and we're looking forward to that. Yeah, our guys are excited, and we're going to be ready to go, and we're going to play the same way — Texas Tech basketball. We're going to press them, we're going to get up in them, we're going to play harder and more

>>> mdupont@dailytoreador.com

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## WEATHER



Sunny





Cloudly

Partly

**Gleinser: Libertarian Party** should be given more attention, exposure OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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Hurricane Isaac makes landfall late Tuesday



# Community Calendar

## **Eday**

**Tuba Christmas Concert** Time: 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Where: Hemmle Recital Hall So, what is it?

Come out and enjoy a free concert from the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Harvest Dance Party with the Club. All levels of competition are TTU VMC and the Caprock Ceili welcome.

Time: 7 p.m. Where: 4508 8th St. So, what is it?

Come out and with your coolers Where: Jake's and instruments and join the Vernacular Music Center and celebrate the season. Tickets are \$10 each.

CD Release Party- Lonnie Joe Howell

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Where: Jack and Dianne's So, what is it? Come out and celebrate Lonnie Joe Howell's CD release.

Tuesdays at the Art Factory Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Where: Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center So, what is it?

Bentonville police announced Mon-

day evening that they have made an

arrest in the slaying of a 6-year-old girl whose body was found two days

Jersey Bridgeman was reported

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

**BLEU EDMONDSON** 

ACROSS
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26 Star footballer
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By Peter A. Coll DOWN

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21 Holy terror 22 Gulf State

25 Loan shark 26 Immortal PGA nickname

nickname 27 Thick 29 Control freak in a white dress 30 Syrian leader 31 "CSI: NY" actor Sinisa

arena 13 Christmas quaffs

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

missing the morning of Nov. 20, and

before Thanksgiving.

and exciting fine arts project. \$20 every Tuesday.

## dnesday

Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: Market Street So, what is it? Come out and join the local Scrabble

A Bullet For Pretty Boy, Casino Madrid and A Royalty Awaits Time: 6:30 p.m.

So, what is it?

Come out and enjoy this rock concert. Jesse Ballew and Darren Welch

Time: 10 p.m. Where: Cricket's Grill and Draft House So, what is it? Come out and enjoy this acoustic rock show.

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 pub-Come out and participate in a new lication date.

in an abandoned house two doors

center of a case that saw her father

and stepmother sentenced to prison

for abuse that included chaining the

NOV 27-NOV 29

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Jersey previously had been at the

Arrest in death of Ark.

girl in prior abuse case

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP) — her body was found a short time later

from her home.

## PIANO MAN



PHOTO BY EMILY DE SANTOS/The Daily Toreador

JOSH JACKSON, A junior business management major from Grand Prairie, plays a song he is writing Monday in the Music building.

## Students honored at biannual ring ceremony

By EFRAIN DUARTE STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech students, friends and family gathered at 7 p.m. Monday in the McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center for the biannual Texas Tech Class Ring Ceremony, hosted by the Tech Alumni Association and co-hosted by the Student Alumni Board.

The ceremony honored students who have completed 75 credit hours or students who are classified as seniors. Colleges honored at the event Monday included, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Human Sciences, College of Media and Communication, College of Visual and Performing Arts, Honors College, College of University Studies and University

"I decided to get a ring because it is a great tradition Tech has," Lauren Zacharias, a junior chemistry major from Weatherford, said.

One parent, Robert Melinder, a Houston resident said it was exciting to see his daughter as well as other individuals receive their ring.

To begin the ceremonies, Bill Dean, executive vice president of the Alumni Association, spoke about the changes students have encountered during their time at Tech, as well as what Tech has accomplished.

Dean also announced students who ordered a ring were given a year-long membership to the Alumni Association.

Lawrence Schovanec, interim president of Tech, spoke about the significance

"I am proud to be a Red Raider," Boston Spiva, a junior exercise and sport sciences major from Arlington said.

After Schovanec's message, Robert Wernsman, instructor in the College of Media and Communication read the names of those who were going to receive a ring. Students also were presented with a ring scroll, which had information about the ring, and a paperweight, which is a replica of the ring.

XAS TECH ALUMN CKENZIE - MERKET ALUMNI CENTER

PHOTO BY WILLIAM ROBIN/The Daily Toreador

INTERIM PRESIDENT LAWRENCE Schovanec shakes hands with and passes a ring off to Kevin Cummings on Monday during the Texas Tech Class Ring Ceremony in the McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center.

James Brink, professor in the Honors College, gave the students a run through of what the different symbols around the

Brink said the Double T and seal created controversy throughout the years, specifically the cotton bowls within the seal.

The cotton bowls, Brink said, symbolized industry, the book symbolized church, the key represents home, the lamp represents school and the star represents the State of Texas.

Other symbols on the ring include his girlfriend. the Bell Tower and the Matador, which Brink said made its first appearance in the 1954 Gator Bowl. On the inside the words

"Strive for Honor" are inscribed. the symbols of the ring, Dean asked the students to place the ring on their finger and the students sang the "Matador Song" to end the ceremony.

Austin Henke, a senior biology major from Allen, said he came to support

DAILYTOREADOR

"It is cool to see the family and friends supporting the students," Henke said.

Following the ceremony, a member of Saddle Tramps rang the victory bells, After students were given a history of one for each person who received a ring Monday night.

The ceremony also will be at 7 p.m. today and will honor the remaining colleges. There are more than 600 students to be honored at both ceremonies. » eduarte@dailytoreador.com

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Germany 53 Gin flavoring 55 Direction

reversals, in slang 56 "Yeah, what the

heck!" 57 Communion, for

59 Miler Sebastian

"He that is good for making excuses is seldom

good for anything else." ~Benjamin Franklin

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32 Bunch of

glasses wearer 38 Wet behind the

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TUESDAY, NOV. 27, 2012

## Tech cheer team ready for national meet in Orlando

The Texas Tech cheerleading squad will have four members of the squad compete in the Universal Cheerleaders Association College Cheerleading National Championship. The four members will compete in teams of two.

One team consists of members Jordyn Capehart, a senior general studies major from Allen who has been a member of the Tech cheer squad for four years, and Tanner Lyday, a senior exercise and sport sciences major from Lewisville who has been a member of the Tech cheer squad for three years.

The other team consists of Calvin Beene, a senior exercise and sport sciences major from Humble who has been a member of the Tech cheer squad for two years, and partner Alex Pulido.

Lyday said each team had to submit a one-minute video performing various partner stunts before Nov. 6. "People are proud we are going to represent the school," he said.

The team of Capehart and Lyday placed 16th and the team of Beene and Pulido placed ninth.

Capehart said the competition only let in 20 qualifiers to proceed to the competition in Orlando, Fla.

After the video had been submitted, Beene said they found out a week later they had qualified for the competition in January.

Lyday said he went to the competition last year and placed sixth.

The teams, Lyday said, arrive at the competition in Orlando, then begin practicing. The competition is held the day after they arrive, where they will perform in the partner stunt

The competition will be Jan. 18 through 20.

>>> eduarte@dailytoreador.com

## Florida man choked to death in live roach-eating contest

MIAMI (AP) — A Florida man "Unfortunately, it doesn't always work. choked to death after downing dozens of live roaches to win a contest earlier this year in which the grand prize was a python, according to an autopsy released Monday.

Edward Archbold, 32, of West Palm Beach died as a result of "asphyxia due to choking and aspiration of gastric contents," according to the report released by the Broward County medical examiner's office. It said his airway was obstructed by the roach body parts, which caused him to not be able to breathe.

"There is a flap called the epiglottis that is supposed to stop objects from going into the lungs," medical examiner Craig T. Mallak wrote in an email to the AP.

In the video you could see him trying to swallow and breathe at the same time. We can't do both simultaneously."

Lab tests for drugs came back negative. The death has been ruled an accident.

"It's hard to even think about it," said Kim Crawford, co-owner of Busch Canvas & Interiors where Archbold worked for four years. "It does bring a little closure because not knowing always puts that question mark out there."

Crawford described Archbold as a "smart, good guy" who was "really good friends to people. She said a photo of Archbold and news clippings of the accident still hang in the main office.

## Rolling Stones storm London

LONDON (AP) — The verdict is in: The Rolling Stones are back. They may look old, but they still sound young.

That was the consensus Monday as Britain's rock critics responded to the Stones 50th anniversary bash Sunday night, the first of five shows to commemorate their half century of rhythm and blues-tinged rock. It was the band's first London performance in five years, and their own advancing years had led some to be skeptical that they could still perform at the highest level.

They were led by the seemingly ageless Mick Jagger, whose strutting style has not been dimmed, and backed by brilliant guitarists Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood and the energetic drumming of Charlie Watts, who is now past 70 but shows no sign of slowing down. There was a stunning guest appearance by former Stone Mick Taylor, who stole the show during a searing performance of "Midnight Rambler" and a brief visit from former bassist Bill Wyman.

The Daily Mail's Jan Moir said the Stones had somehow beaten the aging process: "You and coming to our shows," he

might imagine that they had said. "Thank you, thank you, been worn down by life, by wives, by arthritis, by scandals old and new, by drugs, but no — they seemed indestructible." She said their swampy, gritty sound remains unique after half

Daily Telegraph reviewer Neil McCormick said the band exceeded all expectations. He described the weaving of the guitarists, mixed with Jagger's blues harmonica, as a wonder.

"When looking for the secret of the Stones, it is perhaps that they actually listen to each other while they play, and almost lose themselves in it, while their brilliant frontman keeps it all together," he wrote.

Ebullient fans agreed with this assessment, as did the Guardian newspaper, which gave the performance four out of five stars.

Jagger, in skin-tight black pants, a sparkly tie and a matching checked jacket and hat, took time out from singing to thank the crowd for its loyalty.

"It's amazing that we're still doing this, and it's amazing that you're still buying our records

thank you."

Lead guitarist Keith Richards, whose survival has surprised many who thought he would succumb to drugs and drink, was blunter: "We made it," he said. "I'm happy to see you. I'm happy to see anybody."

But the band's fiery music was no joke, fuelled by strong guest appearances by Taylor, and Mary J. Blige, who shook the house in a duet with Jagger on "Gimme Shelter," and Jeff Beck.

The 50th anniversary show, which will be followed by one more in London, then three in the greater New York area, lacked some of the band's customary bravado - the "world's greatest rock 'n' roll band" intro was shelved — and there were some rare nostalgic touches.

The concert began with some early Stones' numbers rarely heard in concert, including the band's cover of the Lennon-McCartney rocker "I Wanna Be Your Man" and a cover of "It's All Over Now," written by Bobby Womack and Shirley Womack.

They didn't shy away from their darker numbers, including good."

"Paint It Black" and "Sympathy for the Devil" - Jagger started that one wearing a slightly silly black, purple-lined faux fur cape that conjured up his late '60s satanic image.

He even cracked a joke about one of the band's low points, telling the audience it was in for a treat: "We're going to play the entire "Their Satanic Majesty's Request" album now," he said, referring to one of the band's least-loved efforts, a psychedelic travesty that has been largely, mercifully, forgotten.

He didn't make good on his

Jagger seemed more mellow than usual, chatting a bit about the good old days and asking if there was anyone in the crowd who had seen them in 1962, when they first took to the stage.

He said 2012 had been a terrific year for Britain and that the Stones nearly missed the boat, playing no role in the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the London Olympics, or the new James Bond film.

"We just got in under the wire," he said. "We feel pretty

## 'Two and a Half Men' actor calls his TV show 'filth'

Randy Garza

NEW YORK (AP) — The teenage actor who plays the half in the hit CBS comedy "Two and a Half Men" says in a video posted online by a Christian church that shouldn't watch it.

Nineteen-year-old Angus T. Jones has been on the show, which used to feature bad-boy actor Charlie Sheen and remains heavy with the nephew of Sheen's hedonistic sexual innuendo, since he was 10 but says he doesn't want to be on

"Please stop watching it," Jones the show is "filth" and that viewers said. "Please stop filling your head with filth."

Jones plays Jake, the son of Jon Cryer's uptight divorced chiropractor character, Alan, and

philandering music jingle writer character, Charlie. Sheen, who has publicly criticized CBS, was fired and replaced by Ashton Kutcher, who plays billionaire Walden.

In the video posted by the Forerunner Christian Church in Fremont, Calif., Jones describes a search for a spiritual home. He

Kolby McCormick

says the type of entertainment he's involved in adversely affects the brain and "there's no playing around when it comes to eternity."

"You cannot be a true God-fearing person and be on a television show like that," he said. "I know I can't. I'm not OK with what I'm learning, what the Bible says, and being on that television show."

Bradley Schaefer

Eric Schwertner

William Schramme

## The Texas Tech Alumni Association wishes to congratulate our fall class of Official Class Ring recipients for their commitment to receiving a degree from Texas Tech University. "Bear our Banners Far and Wide!"

April Porras

November 26 Rio Acosta Mikaela Addison Amy Akabue Jessica Alvarado Myles Anyigbo Jennifer Arend Jamie Arnold J.Michael Aston Hillary Austin Daniel Avila William Baker Taylor Banks Alexandria Bates David Bazan Katherine Beard Michelle Bejar Anthony Benitez Francesca Bianchi Bryan Bolger James Bookhout Michael Boughton Jennifer Brook Erik Brown Joseph Brown Elizabeth Bryant Casey Bryant Megan Burns Calvin Burns Catherine Burris Brennan Buxkemper Ruben Cabuto Alisha Caffrey Heather Calaway Kyle Campbell Kenneth Campbell Corbin Carsrud Amanda Castillo Ileana Castillo Veronica Castro Meagan Chambers Zachary Chapman Sophia Chappell Allisen Chumney Cody Clark Spencer Cocheu Elaine Coddington Darian Condarco Daniel Conovaloff Amber Crawford Morgan Crump Nathaniel Culbertson

Steven Culpepper

**Kevin Cummings** 

Lara Davis

Nikolas Dewinne Tosha Doherty Dawson Dorie Alexandria Douglas David Dover Stephanie Drewry Austin Duncan Emily Dunlap Elizabeth Dunn Ashley Eddy Christian Ellison Hannah Eubank Megan Falconer Justin Fang Joseph Fazio Tanesha Fields Jacqueline Fierro Adrianna Fike Aaron Finnestad Krystal Fleming Alexis Flores Jason Flori Nicholas Flynn Robert Fossett Rebecca Frazier Daveyanna Garcia Dulce Garcia Erik Garza Joshua Garza Kristina Gomez Veronica Gonzales Joel Grav Cooper Green Jared Greunke John Griffin Trey Groves Jamie Haarmeyer Allie Hair Jacquelyn Haltom Amber Hamblin Michael Harmon Morgan Harned Alyssa Hartmann Fredrick Hawkins Eric Hellman Markus Henderson Lisa Henderson Ryan Henson Mitchell Hicks Shelby Holloway Ashley Hood Chad Hopkins Hilary Howard

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Russell Richards Macey Rodriguez Jacquelyn Ronquillo Demetria Salinas Jillian Schraeder Christopher Scurlock Stephen Sottilare Steven Stegemeier Jasmine Tambunga James Tankersley Whitney Thomas

Heather Turpin

George Ulmo

Cortney Wade

Riley Wagner

Lauryn Warren

Andrew Vasquez

Alexander Villanueva

Brittany Waggoner

Kaelan Warren Kerri Watson Victoria Weaver James Weiss Travis Westbrook Laquietin White Lacy Whitson Riley Wilhelmi Courtney Williams Taylor Williams Kristopher Williams Jordan Williams Matthew Wilson Caitlynn Woodson Kristen Wright Douglas Yassen Samantha Yianitsas Carley Young Crystal Zamora

## November 27

Tolani Afolab Elizabeth Alaniz Cameron Allen John Allison Simon Alvarez Adam Anderson Cintya Aragon-Hernandez Joel Arce Alexander Arens Travis Arrington Anthony Aulds Donna Balderas Michael Barefield John Barrandey Daniel Barron Laney Bateman David Batista Barrett Beck Lauren Beebe Leroy Benavides Jr Ryan Bennett Rowdy Bergstrom Matthew Blake Garrett Block Brady Bolf Jose Borunda Alex Brashier Jake Bray Jared Breaux Karrie Brooks Brooke Broughton Parker Brown Christopher Browning Andrew Brummitt Travis Bruster Weston Burson Michael Buster Allison Butler Joseph Butler Rylee Calvert

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# OPINIONS.

## Libertarian Party should be given more attention, exposure

In September, the Pew Research Center released the results of a poll conducted this year in which prospective voters were asked if they were satisfied with their choices in the presidential election. As it turned out, only 54% of respondents said they were satisfied, which is the lowest percentage for any presidential election since 1992.

The poll also noted independents were less satisfied with their choices than Republicans or Democrats. This is not surprising, considering both parties catered to their bases throughout the last election. Each party seemingly moved further away from the center, leaving independents and moderates with an uninspiring pair of potential candidates.

There have been a number of unsuccessful challenges to



the traditional two-party system, such as Teddy Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party, the Populist Party, and the Dixiecrats. A few independent candidates have made some noise as well, such as George Wallace and Ross Perot. In spite of that, the last president with a party identification other than Republican or Democrat was Millard Fillmore, who left office in 1853 and was a member of the Whig Party, which was somewhat of a precursor to the Republican Party.

Today, it's difficult for third parties and their candidates to

get their messages out to the than the Democratic Party, and public. In each of the presidential debates, only Barack Obama and Mitt Romney participated. This is by design. There were other candidates, but they were shut out of the limelight so the two major parties could remain in a two-party race, thereby increasing a Republican or Democrat's chances of winning.

I would imagine the majority of Americans would be open to allowing a third party to be included in presidential debates. After all, tens of millions of voters were unsatisfied with their choices. What the country needs is a party to join the fray whose ideology falls between the Democrats' and Republicans', and that party is the Libertarian Party.

There are other third parties, of course, but none would be as successful as the Libertarian Party. The Green Party is farther left

the Constitution Party is farther right than the Republican Party. For independents and moderates, the Libertarian Party would be a viable alternative to the current two-party system.

the best parts of the Democratic and Republican platforms and combine them into one ideology, which at its core is rooted in individual liberty and limited government. Sure, that's

what Republicans purportedly stand for, but the social conservative wing of the party has tarnished that reputation.

Looking at it this way, one of the most troublesome issues for the Republican Party has been its anti-gay marriage stance. Since the Libertarian Party is truly in favor of individual liberty, its platform supports gay marriage, which is gaining more popular support in this country. Likewise, the party also supports the legalization of marijuana.

The Patriot Act has been a problem for Republicans as well, and the Libertarian Party opposes it. For those who disagree with Rick Santorum and believe in the separation of church and state,

Libertarians believe in it too.

An issue that contributed greatly to George W. Bush's unpopularity was the Iraq War, and the Libertarian Party is against such military intervention. Think of Ron Paul's stance Essentially, Libertarians take on foreign policy, and you've ba-

sically got it. At the same time, With the two major the Libertarian Party also parties becoming supports the more polarized, the ideas of fiscal conservatism Libertarian Party and limited government, makes perfect sense. which is the biggest problem with the Democratic

> Party. Government spending and regulation are ridiculously high, as many Americans would agree.

> Basically, the Democratic Party wants the government out of our bedrooms but in our wallets, while the Republican Party wants the government out of our wallets but in our bedrooms. The Libertarian Party wants the government out of both.

With the two major parties becoming more polarized, the Libertarian Party makes perfect sense. Disaffected moderates and independents can have a party to truly support rather than simply choosing between the lesser of two evils.

Yet in spite of this, Gary Johnson, the Libertarian presi-

dential candidate, received only slightly less than one percent of the total popular vote. This can be remedied with more exposure and inclusion in major debates.

Getting the message out is key, and the two major parties have self-serving reasons to quash attempts at doing so. Just look at how the Republican Party essentially cast out the Ron Paul-esque Libertarian base. Johnson himself was only allowed to participate in one Republican primary debate before deciding to run on the Libertarian ticket.

On that note, I find it interesting that there is no College Libertarian chapter here at Texas Tech, though there are chapters at Texas A&M University and the University of Texas. Perhaps it would be a good idea for one to be established:

In conclusion, I would say to moderate Republicans that if the social conservatives want to continue to steer the Republican Party farther to the right, we should let them. Likewise, moderate Democrats should be willing to let the Nancy Pelositype liberals run that party into the ground. I'm perfectly willing to abandon the two-party status quo and join the Libertarians. Who's with me?

Gleinser is The DT's opinions editor and a senior political science and history major from Kingwood.

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## Israel ready to negotiate peace with Hamas

By MICHAEL KALMOWICZ AND **NOAH PEERI** 

THE ORACLE (U. SOUTH FLORIDA)

The conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza arises from a long-stemming clash between the Israeli Defense Forces and the extremist Hamas government that claimed control over the Gaza Strip in 2007 from the more moderate Fatah govern-

But the fate of the Palestinian people living in Gaza is unfortunately at the mercy of Hamas.

the Palestinian people aid and

Today's

end the horrendous treatment that Hamas provides to the innocent Palestinians living

The history of Hamas is one of violence, a direct quote from Article 7 of the Hamas Charter

"The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight the Jews and kill them," it said. "Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out, 'O Muslim, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.'

This reaffirms that Hamas' Israel is attempting to give mission is not to create lasting peace with the Israelis, but to

kill the Jews. The conflict that is now

arising in the Middle East is in response to rockets being fired from the Gaza Strip into the state of Israel. Hamas has been indiscriminately firing them for the last 12 years, paying no heed to what — or whom — they are targeting.

Hamas has been known to use human shields to cause civilian casualties, in an effort to appeal to the international

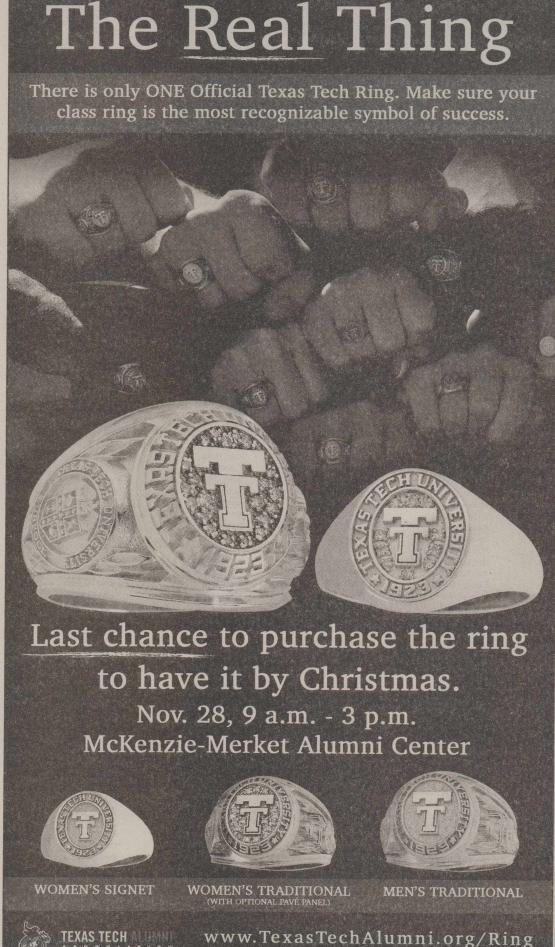
The fact is, Hamas has killed three Israeli civilians and wounded 68, according to the Associated Press. These numbers would be much higher if the Iron Dome defense system did not exist in the state of Israel — it is an anti-rocket defense system that is fired from Israeli soil to intercept and destroy the Fajr-5 rockets that Hamas has been firing into Israel.

Since the beginning of the "Pillar of Defense," the operation Israel launched Nov. 13, Iron Dome has intercepted more than 325 out of 700 rockets fired, heading for civilian populations in major cities such as Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The only purpose of the rockets fired into Israel by Hamas is to kill Israeli civilians.

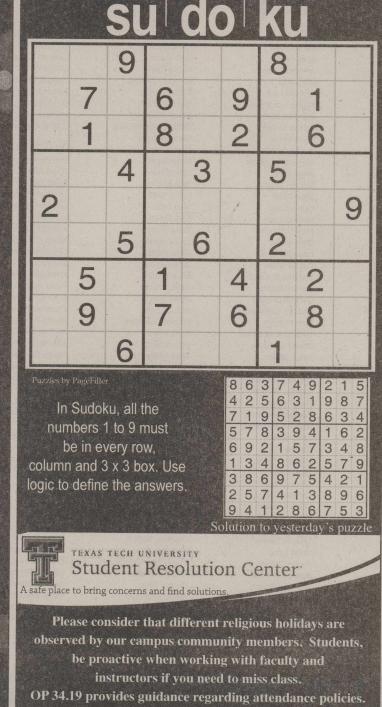
Israel is amassing troops on the border for a possible ground assault. A cease-fire was attempted when the Prime Minister of Egypt met with Hamas leaders on the situation. Yet during the meeting Hamas vowed to continue firing rockets onto Israeli soil, thereby ending any hopes of a cease-fire.

Unfortunately, the Palestinians casualties have been high, but more than 50 Hamas terrorists and leaders have been killed. Israel attempts to clear civilians from bombing sites before any operation. Unfortunately, Hamas keeps women and children against their will, making them vulnerable to Israeli rockets - another example of the mistreatment by Hamas to the people it supposedly represents, and the reason why civilian casualties have been so high.

At the end of the day, what Israel truly wants is a lasting peace and to coexist with its neighbors without the threat of rockets hitting Israel on a daily basis. Israel is ready to negotiate unconditional peace, but it is up to Hamas to do the same.



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## McCoy to start at QB for Texas at K-State

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas is making a change at quarterback, turning from banged-up starter David Ash to Case McCoy to lead the No. 23 Longhorns in their season finale at No. 7 Kansas State.

McCoy, who hasn't started since the last game of the 2011 regular season, relieved Ash in a 20-13 loss to TCU on Thanks-

While coach Mack Brown called the passing game "inept" against TCU, the reason for the quarterback change was a bit murky on Monday: Is it solely because Ash, who has 17 career starts and had been among the top-rated passers in the country early this season, has an unspecified rib injury, or is it because he had a bad game?

Ash is listed as "questionable" for Saturday. Brown wouldn't say whether Ash would start if he

wasn't injured. "He's not (healthy). We don't get into 'ifs' and 'whats," Brown said. We're trying to figure out what to do with what we've got."

pressed whether he considered Ash, a sophomore, his quarterback of the future.

"I see David being a good player in the future," Brown said. Offensive coordinator Bryan Harsin said it was "both" the injury and poor play that factored into the decision to start McCoy.

'Where David's at right now, it was the right thing to do,"

Ash had three first-half turnovers against TCU and was twice pulled from the game. By Sunday, Texas (8-3, 5-3 Big 12) was listing Ash as "questionable" for Kansas State (10-1, 7-1).

Brown said he wasn't sure when in the game Ash got hurt. On Texas' first drive, TCU defensive end Devonte Fields was penalized for spearing Ash in the back. His first throw after the penalty was an underthrown deep route that was intercepted.

Ash was intercepted again in the second quarter when he tried to throw into coverage at the TCU goal line. A fumble, when

And Brown hedged when the ball slipped out of Ash's hand, interception in the final two set up TCU's second touchdown.

> Brown said the injury affected Ash's ability to throw, though Harsin said he didn't see any signs during the game Ash was injured and called the turnovers "poor

"We can't put ourselves in position of turnovers in the red-zone operation like we did last game and expect to win," Harsin said.

Ash has had an up-and-down season after beating out McCoy for the starting job in training camp. He ranked among the top passers in the nation in Texas' 4-1 start, then had a bad game in a blowout loss to Oklahoma. Two weeks later, Ash was pulled in the fourth quarter against Kansas. McCoy rallied Texas with two scoring drives, throwing the game-winning touchdown in the final seconds.

Texas stayed with Ash as the starter and he played well in wins the Blue Devils' scout team. over Texas Tech and Iowa State.

McCoy led Texas to its only touchdown against TCU before throwing the game-clinching

minutes. The loss crushed Texas' hopes of grabbing a share of the Big 12 title and a possible BCS bowl bid.

A Texas spokesman said neither Ash or McCoy would be available to the media this week.

McCoy, a junior has had moments that dazzled and frustrated

His scramble against Texas A&M last season set up the game-winning field goal in the final meeting of that traditional rivalry. The next week at Baylor, McCoy had five turnovers in a Texas loss and he hasn't started a game since.

With Ash hurt, Texas also is preparing punter Alex King as the Longhorns' emergency quarterback. King, a senior who transferred this season from Duke, played quarterback in high school and played the position for

Brown said he doesn't want to pull the redshirt off freshmen Connor Brewer or Jalen Overstreet for the last game.



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

HOPING TO FOLLOW in his older brother's footsteps, Texas quarterback Case McCoy is looking to take advantage of his chance to start for the Longhorns.

## Big 12 to send 9 teams to postseason

12 has been a topic of debate since Nebraska and Colorado kicked off a four-team exodus a few years back.

Judging by the results in 2012, the league is stronger than ever.

No Big 12 team was able to survive through Thanksgiving with a shot at the national title. But nine of the 10 teams, including newcomers West Virginia and TCU, are already bowl eligible.

The league's 90 percent success rate is by far the best in the country and that's with an extra league game for each school and a week left to play.

No. 7 Kansas State can win the league title with a victory at No. 23 Texas on Saturday, while No. 12 Oklahoma needs a victory by the Longhorns and to beat TCU to win the Big 12.

Everyone except Kansas will be playing beyond this weekend.

"I would say it's probably as strong and there's probably as much parity as I've seen," said Kansas State coach Bill Snyder, who has coached in the Big 12 for all but three years of its existence. "You've seen the conference kind of fall out of the national spotlight gradually over the season. But at the end of the day, it's because you're playing such tremendously talented football teams week in and week out. Having

(AP) — The health of the Big a nine-game schedule like that is quite difficult."

> Perhaps the biggest reason why the league is so deep is because West Virginia and TCU have fit seamlessly into the league in place of Missouri and No. 10 Texas A&M, now in the SEC.

The Mountaineers and Horned Frogs have discovered that things are a lot tougher in the Big 12 than their

West Virginia won the Big East's BCS berth in its final season there and hung 70 points on Clemson in winning the Orange Bowl. But after a 5-0 start in 2012, the depth of the Big 12 began taking a toll. West Virginia (6-5, 3-5) needed a late TD to beat Iowa State 31-24 and simply reach bowl eligibility.

"It's a tough league, and each and every week the same thing happens. It doesn't matter who's playing who. It's going to be a battle," West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen said.

TCU went unbeaten in its final season in the Mountain West in 2011. The Horned Frogs have taken their lumps in the Big 12, but they're coming off their biggest win yet as a member of the league.

TCU (7-44-4) fell flat in its home opener, losing 37-23 to Iowa State in quarterback Trevone Boykin's debut. The Horned Frogs also dropped a



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreadon

BAYLOR QUARTERBACK NICK Florence has been a pleasant surprise for Bears fans, leading his team to a six-win season, including an upset against the then-No. 1 team in the country, Kansas State.

wild, triple-overtime affair to Texas Tech, 56-53, and lost to Kansas State

But the Frogs, in place of A&M as Texas's Thanksgiving night opponent, thumped the Longhorns 20-13 for their first win over a ranked opponent

"The thing that everybody said, we'd hear on the recruiting trail before we joined the Big 12 was, 'Well, they win ballgames. But they don't play good competition every week.' And now, we've been in every ballgame and we've won our share of ballgames." TCU coach Gary Patterson said.

"We've got to raise our level of athletic ability at a lot of positions. But I think our kids play hard."

Texas Tech will also return to the postseason after a brief dip in 2011. Despite losing four of their final five regular season games, the Red Raiders are 7-5 after winning just five games last season.

Perhaps no team epitomizes the depth of the Big 12 better than Iowa State. The Cyclones could wind up in ninth place at 3-6 in the league, but they're still going bowling because they swept their nonconference slate.

## Cowboys go extreme on 'next man up' with defensive strategy

IRVING (AP) — The next man up for the depleted Dallas defense is Batman. That's the way newcomer Brady Poppinga is looking at it,

Poppinga joined the Cowboys on Monday as the roster replacement for linebacker Bruce Carter, who will miss the rest of the season with a dislocated left elbow. Carter is the fourth starting Dallas defender to be placed on injured reserve.

A seven-year veteran caught up in a mess of defensive injuries when Green Bay won the Super Bowl two years ago, Poppinga last St. Louis on New Year's Day. He's been working out and waiting for another chance ever since.

"I was in what you call Batman shape, meaning when I get the call, boom, I put the mask on, I'm gone," Poppinga said. "I got the mask on, so here I am."

Problem is, the Cowboys may need Superman and a few of his friends to help a defense missing a third of its starting lineup and two key reserves. It comes off a demoralizing second quarter that put Dallas in a 28-3 hole on the way to a 38-31 Thanksgiving loss to Washington.

Dallas is now without both starting inside linebackers in Carter, injured in the third quarter against the Redskins, and defensive leader Sean Lee, who badly injured a toe last month.

Dan Connor, an offseason free agent pickup from Carolina, will be the third defensive play caller at the start of a game Sunday against Philadelphia. The player next to him will likely be Ernie Sims, signed off the street a month ago after Lee was injured. Poppinga could be the primary backup.

"The next man up philosophy is alive and well with the Cowboys," played in the 2011 season finale for Dallas coach Jason Garrett said. "Always has been, so if you're a part of the 53-man roster, you'd better be ready to play."

Several Dallas defenders apparently weren't ready when the second quarter started Thursday against Washington. Robert III Griffin, the Heisman Trophy winner from Baylor, was 8 of 8 for 178 yards with three touchdowns in Washington's first four-touchdown quarter in 13 years. Another rookie, Alfred Morris, averaged 7 yards per carry and had the other touchdown. The Redskins only faced two third downs, and converted both.

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