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Renovations to Jones AT&T Stadium set for completion in time for season opener

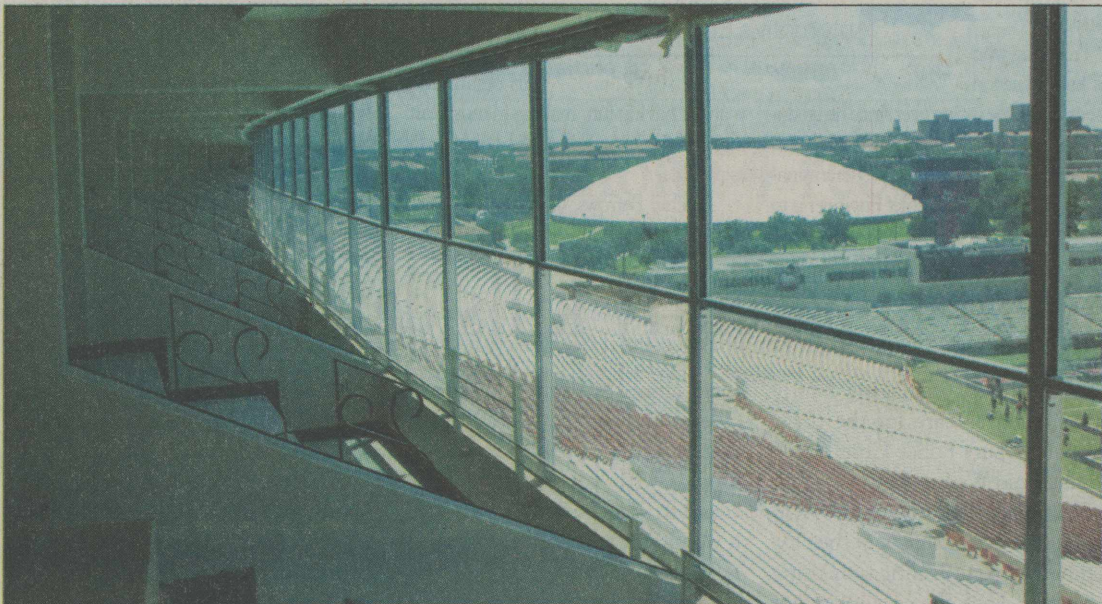


PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CLUBCORP

THE FIFTH FLOOR of the new complex on the east side of Jones AT&T Stadium will feature 22 suites, each separated from the others by glass partitions. The suites will provide fans with a vantage point from which most of Tech's campus will be visible.

TEXAS TECH CLUB, which will be located on the fourth floor of the new complex on the east side of Jones AT&T Stadium, will have an invite-only member list but will be open to fans with suite and club seat access on game days.

By EVAN JANSA
STAFF WRITER

Anticipation for Red Raider football is not the only thing building in the Texas Tech community.

The east side of Jones AT&T Stadium has undergone significant changes during the off-season.

The new \$36.4 million, five-story addition that will provide a variety of amenities for Texas Tech enthusiasts is nearing completion.

According to project manager Debbie Cox, construction is on track to be completed by the first football game despite unfavor-

able weather conditions for Lee Lewis Construction Inc. — the construction manager at-risk.

"We've had some hiccups because of weather," Cox said. "We've had a lot of rain lately that's kept us from site work because we're trying to pave the parking lot at this point but we've got to have it open Sept. 5. There's no getting around that."

The first floor will feature the Red Raider Club offices, a retail store, ticket offices and an extra gate for fans to enter the stadium.

The retail store — Double T Zone — will be managed by Ovations Food Services, LP, the same company that supervises

all of the stadium's concessions. Giving people the opportunity to purchase Red Raider gear in close proximity could prove favorable for fans.

"It'll be nice for the people that come from out-of-town," Tanner Dunn, a junior energy commerce major from Big Lake said. "Some people might not know where the stores are along University (Ave). It will be convenient for people that want to grab a jersey or a t-shirt at the last second."

Cox said the second and third floors will consist solely of relocated Tech athletic offices, although the specific sports have yet to be announced.

The fifth and top floor will be the suite level for the east side. There are 22 suites across the floor.

The new addition's fourth floor will also have suites, with three regular-sized and one large on one end and four regular-sized suites on the other edge of the facility. There will also be 542 outdoor club seats.

On Sunday, the Red Raider Club will give fans the opportunity to select their seat on the east side, Cox said. There will be tours every 30 minutes. According to Cox, there are a few suites left and around fifty percent of the outdoor seats still available.

There will also be a private

members business club called Texas Tech Club, located between the suites on the fourth level. According to the club's general manager Rory O'Neill, Texas Tech Club's founding board has already sent out invitations for membership this fall.

Texas Tech Club will be managed independently but will be incorporated with ClubCorp, a company that manages over 160 private clubs across the country. Texas Tech Club members will be granted access to all of those clubs also.

The Texas Tech Club will have an 82-seat dining room and a bar area with a capacity of around 50, O'Neill said. It will be

open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, as well as host special events for members.

Even though membership is by invitation only, fans with suites and club-level seats will have access to the club on game days.

Texas Tech Club should provide a unique opportunity for its members, fans, and also benefit Tech as a whole.

"One of the big things for us is partnering with the university and developing a product that the university can be proud of," O'Neill said. "It was exciting for us to have a chance to build that product for them and give that product to the university."

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BP: No oil leaking into Gulf from busted well

By COLLEEN LONG AND HARRY R. WEBER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A tightly fitted cap was successfully keeping oil from gushing into the Gulf of Mexico for the first time in three months, BP said Thursday. The victory — long awaited by weary residents along the coast — is the most significant milestone yet in BP's effort to control one of the worst environmental disasters in U.S. history.

The news elicited joy mixed with skepticism from wary Gulf Coast residents following months of false starts, setbacks and failed attempts. Alabama Gov. Bob Riley's face lit up when he heard the oil flow had stopped.

"That's great. I think a lot of prayers were answered today," said Riley.

The stoppage came 85 days, 16 hours and 25 minutes after the first report April 20 of an explosion on the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon oil rig that killed 11 workers and triggered the spill.

"Finally!" said Renee Brown, a 35-year-old middle school guidance counselor visiting Pensacola Beach,

Fla., from London, Ky. "Honestly, I'm surprised that they haven't been able to do something sooner, though."

Kent Wells, a BP PLC vice president, said at a news briefing that oil stopped flowing into the water at 2:25 p.m. CDT after engineers gradually dialed down the amount of crude escaping through the last of three valves in the 75-ton cap.

"I am very pleased that there's no oil going into the Gulf of Mexico. In fact, I'm really excited there's no oil going into the Gulf of Mexico," Wells said.

Now begins a waiting period to see if the cap can hold the oil without

blowing a new leak in the well. Engineers will monitor pressure readings incrementally for up to 48 hours before reopening the cap while they decide what to do.

"For the people living on the Gulf, I'm certainly not going to guess their emotions," Wells said. "I hope they're encouraged there's no oil going into the Gulf of Mexico. But we have to be careful. Depending on what the test shows us, we may need to open this well back up."

Though not a permanent fix, the solution has been the only one that has worked to stem the flow of oil since April. BP is drilling two relief wells so

it can pump mud and cement into the leaking well in hopes of plugging it for good by mid-August.

BP has struggled to contain the spill and had so far been successful only in reducing the flow, not stopping it. The company removed an old, leaky cap and installed the new one Monday.

Between 93.5 million and 184.3 million have already spilled into the Gulf, according to federal estimates.

For some, it was hard to believe the flow had really stopped.

"Completely?" asked Michelle Blanchard, the wife of a shrimper in Chauvin, La., when she heard about the oil stopping from an AP reporter. "Come on," she said in disbelief.

"It's a good thing it stopped. I'm excited," she said.

Steve Shepard, Gulf Coast chair of the Mississippi Chapter of the Sierra Club, said he's still skeptical about the news.

"I think it's a little premature to say it's definitely over. They've gotten our hopes up so many times before that in my mind I don't think it's going to be over until Christmas."

Nine-year-old Lena Durden threw up her hands in jubilation when her mother told her the oil was stopped.

"I think it's a little premature to say it's definitely over. They've gotten our hopes up so many times before that in my mind I don't think it's going to be over until Christmas."

STEVE SHEPARD
Gulf Coast Chair
Sierra Club

Tech, other state universities to research oil leak prevention

By MERIDETH MURPHEY
STAFF WRITER

Scientists and other participants in the Gulf Project — some of whom work for Texas Tech — will meet with the governor July 28 to discuss details and unknowns related to the project's up-and-coming efforts to learn more about methods of preventing and responding to deep-water oil disasters.

Gov. Rick Perry, following his announcement of the project on July 6, began the formation of a research group for the Gulf Project — a collaborative, state-wide effort that will research methods of preventing and responding to deep-water oil spills such as the Deepwater Horizon spill.

Currently the group consists of more than 25 scientists from Texas Tech, the University of Texas, Texas A&M University, Rice University and the University of Houston. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Research Partner to Secure Energy for America, the Texas General Land Office and the

Texas railroad commission are also participating in the group.

Chas Semple, assistant vice chancellor of Governmental Relations for the Texas Tech University system, said no one is excluded from the research group — universities and state organizations are providing scientists, but the project is not limited to them alone.

He said the Gulf Project's goal is to make sure something like the BP oil spill does not happen again.

"We got called by the Governor's office because they were interested in making sure (something) like the BP oil spill doesn't happen in Texas, or anywhere," Semple said.

Lucy Nashed, spokesperson for the Governor's office, said the project is going to look into responding to deep-water leaks by starting with what they already know.

"They're going to look into what the existing technologies are and what the gaps are and how to bridge those moving forward," Nashed said.

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WEATHER

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Formula SAE prepares for nationals



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRAD TOLLEFSON

GREG RIGGAN, A senior Mechanical Engineering Technology major from Lubbock, drives the recently rebuilt 2005 competition car during the Texas Autocross Weekend event hosted by The University of Texas at Arlington Saturday in Arlington.

By **TRISTIN WALKER**
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Formula Society of Automotive Engineers is an organization that competes in the designing and production of its own, original Formula One race car. The organization is based in the Edward

E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering, and the cars they build over a period of one year are taken to an annual competition for judging. There, they compete with 120 other vehicles from colleges and universities from around the world.

The team took a trip to Arlington late last week for the Texas Autocross Weekend,

where they had the opportunity to compete with other teams from different universities and race their car at Pennington Field in Bedford to drive at an official Sports Car Club of America event.

Some of the other teams that participated were the University of New Mexico, the University of Texas, the University of

South Florida, the University of Windsor, Wichita State University, the University of Kansas and more.

Ross Freehling, Chief Engineer of the Formula SAE, said the team had a great time and really enjoyed being there. He said they learned a lot and are going to put what they learned in Arlington toward the national competition next May at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich.

"Besides the sunburn and lack of sleep," Freehling said, "the trip to Arlington was pretty fun."

Freehling, who has had a passion for Formula One racing ever since he graduated from high school, became a member in the fall 2009 semester with great determination. He said his job as Chief Engineer is to

keep the design leaders motivated and to make sure their designs are compliant with the competition rules.

Freehling said there certainly is the possibility that he and his team will be going to nationals next summer. He said he has worked very hard and is determined to get his team up there to Michigan.

"I haven't stayed with the team this long to just see it die and never go anywhere," Freehling said. "I'll be doing everything in my power to make it to Michigan in 2011."

To Freehling, this organization is about having fun, making friends, learning, gaining experience and going as fast as possible.

Nischal Barrows, vice president of the

Formula SAE, said he has had some of his best learning experiences through the organization, and he agrees with Freehling about its chances for nationals.

"We are going to try to attend the competition at Michigan in May 2011," Barrows said. "There will be a lot of work and planning, but we can do it."

Barrows said Formula SAE is an organization where students with interest in racing or automobiles meet up to build — from the ground up — a Formula One race car and push that car to its limits to compete against a large number of schools.

"Our goal is to build the ultimate race machine and train the best driver," Barrows said, "so we can be on top of it all."

Justin Rivera, president of the Formula SAE, said the team now is focused on finishing up the designs on its new car and looking for material donations to start fabricating it.

He said they have also recently received sponsorship from General Motors and Green Street Construction, but are looking for more because the project is an expensive one.

Rivera said for those who have a passion for motor sports, or simply those who have always wanted to be involved with Formula One racing, the Formula SAE is heavily recruiting students from all colleges.

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"We are going to try to attend the competition at Michigan in May 2011. There will be a lot of work and planning, but we can do it."

NISCHAL BARROWS
Vice President
Formula Society of
Automotive Engineers

Corrections

The Daily Toreador's reporters and editors strive for accuracy in the news-gathering process. However, mistakes are inevitable.

It is The DT's policy to correct mis-

takes in this spot as soon as possible.

If you feel there is an error in a story, please call Editor-in-Chief Ralston Rollo at 806-742-3393 or e-mail rolston.rollo@ttu.edu.

Dallas-area mayor apparently kills daughter, self

COPPELL, Texas (AP) — When police arrived at a suburban Dallas mayor's sprawling upscale home, they quickly realized something was very wrong. Rather than attend a City Council meeting, Mayor Jayne Peters had apparently taped an envelope to the door with a key and an ominous note inside.

Something unpleasant awaited them, warned the typed missive.

Inside the two-story brick house, Coppel police found a horrific scene Tuesday night. Peters and her 19-year-old college-bound daughter were both dead of gunshot wounds to the head, an apparent murder-suicide committed by the mayor, investigators say.

Three other notes were found at the house. But they did not offer an explanation for the deaths, only

instructions for managing family affairs, such as care for the dogs, Coppel Deputy Police Chief Steve Thomas said Wednesday.

Bob Mahalik, mayor pro tem who is now acting mayor of the city, said he had a gut feeling something was wrong when the usually prompt mayor didn't show up for the meeting Tuesday night.

"But nowhere in your wildest dreams did you think it would be that far not right," he said.

Thomas said a semiautomatic handgun was used in the shootings, and there were no signs of a struggle.

A small collection of flowers, wreaths and cards decorated the front porch of the Peters' 3,850 square-foot brick home, where the mayor and her daughter, Corrine,

lived alone. A printed letter said: "Please know that you are loved no matter what happens. I know that God is with you and giving you comfort. You both are with Don, a wonderful husband and father. A family again."

The mayor's husband, Donald Peters, died of cancer in 2008 at the age of 58.

Jayne Peters was a contract software developer who served as mayor of Coppel, a city of about 40,000 located 15 miles northwest of Dallas, for the past year. Her term was to expire in 2012. She had been a council member since 1998.

She attended Miami University in Ohio. In her official biography on the city's website, she said, "Coppel is a community with a huge heart, and we take care of one another."

"She enjoyed what she was doing as mayor and she was good at what she did," said Mahalik, who last saw Peters waving and passing out candy at the city's Independence Day parade. "She attended almost everything, every ribbon-cutting, speaking at the schools, the chamber, regional meetings."

Todd Storch, of Coppel, had known Peters for about a year. When his 13-year-old daughter died in a skiing accident in March, Peters was there for him and his family and later took a spot on the foundation he formed in his daughter's name to increase awareness for organ donation.

"She was just one of those rocks that was always there. We kind of grieved together," Storch said.

Corinne Peters graduated from Coppel High School this year. A classmate said she was bound for the University of Texas at Austin, and neighbors said the mother and daughter seemed happy.

A close friend, Ashley Johnson, said Corinne loved animals and was a phenomenal ballet dancer. There were no signs of serious strain between Corinne and her mother, Johnson said.

"Her and her mom fought sometimes, but it was like a normal teenager and mom relationship," Johnson said. "I never would have thought this would have happened."

Neighbor Diane Ianni said Corinne was excited about enrolling at Texas and frequently donned shirts with the university's longhorn logo and colors.

She said that when she recently saw Corinne, the teen was upset about having to miss at least two different summer orientation sessions at the Austin campus, the last time because her mom was having problems with her eye and had to go to a doctor's appointment. But she said Corinne recovered and had been back to her happy self.

Today's su | do | ku

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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UT removes Klansman's name from Austin dorm

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — University of Texas regents agreed Thursday to strip the name of a former law school professor and early organizer of the Ku Klux Klan from a campus dormitory.

The dorm named after William Stewart Simkins will now be known as Creekside Residence Hall. The two-story brick building was constructed in the 1950s near Waller Creek.

The unanimous vote came after a motion from regent Printice Gary, who is African-American, to make the change.

"From time to time we are reminded of ugly periods in our nation's history regarding civil rights," Gary said. "The history behind the name is not in line with today's University of Texas and its core values."

Simkins, who was a Confederate colonel, helped organize the Klan in Florida after the Civil War. He taught law at Texas from 1899-1929 and gave speeches and wrote papers promoting the Klan and terrorizing blacks.

Regents also voted to change the name of Simkins Park, a small green space next to the dorm that had been named after Simkins' brother, Eldred Simkins, who also was involved with the Klan and served on the university board from 1882-1896.

Gregory Vincent, Texas vice president for diversity and community engagement, said the Simkins Hall sign outside the building would likely be removed by the end of Friday.

The name change came after weeks of deliberations by an

advisory panel and two public hearings.

The issue sparked in May after former Texas law professor Tom Russell published an online article detailing resistance by the university to integration in the 1950s and 1960s. Texas named the dorm after Simkins in 1954, the same year the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown vs. Board of Education decision ended legal segregation.

With wavy white locks and a fondness for chewing tobacco, Simkins was a popular figure on campus and his portrait still hangs in the law school.

In a campus speech in 1914 and an article two years later in the alumni magazine, Simkins said he never drew blood as a Klansman. He did, however,

admit to assaulting a black man, participating in a train robbery and sowing fear in Florida's "black belt" as a masked night rider.

When a white woman in Florida complained of being insulted by a black man, Simkins wrote, "I seized a barrel stave lying near the hotel door and whipped that darkey down the street."

Vincent said university officials had heard from some, including a Simkins descendent, who wanted to keep the name.

"We're not erasing professor Simkins from our campus. He is still in our history books," Vincent said.

Taking his name off the building, however, "is a powerful symbol of the direction of UT-Austin," Vincent said.

GUNS UP

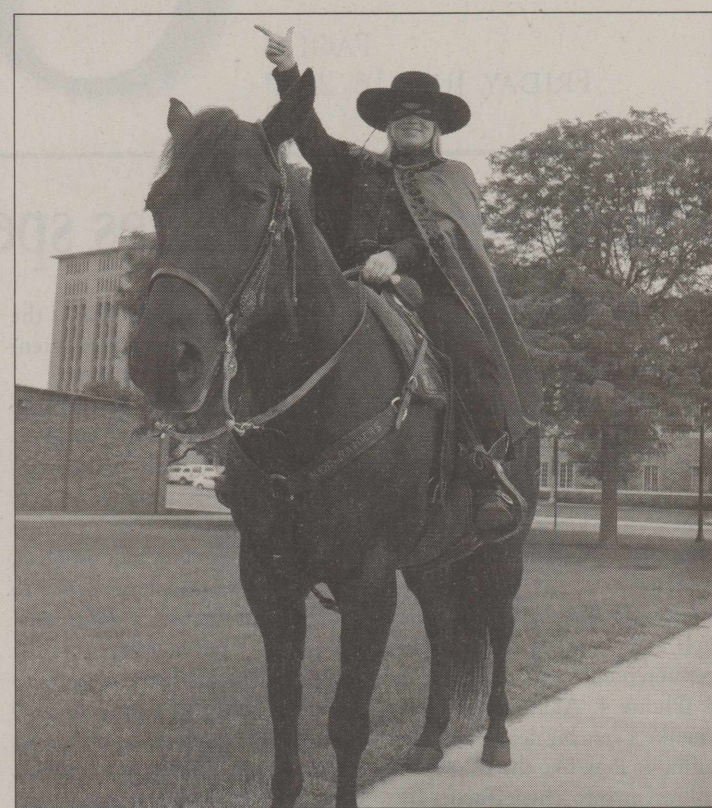


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador
TECH MASKED RIDER Christi Chadwell sits atop Midnight Matador on her way to greet new students at Red Raider Orientation. This year is Midnight Matador's ninth year as the official horse of The Masked Rider.

Apple to speak on iPhone 4 reception

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple Inc. will hold a press conference today to discuss the latest iPhone model amid complaints about its antenna and Consumer Reports magazine's refusal to endorse it until the problems get fixed.

Apple would not provide details on the nature of the event at the company's headquarters in Cupertino, Calif., other than to say it will involve the iPhone 4.

On Monday, Consumer Reports said careful testing has confirmed user reports that holding the phone over a particular spot drastically reduces the signal strength it receives. Covering the

spot with duct tape or a case alleviates the problem.

Apple hasn't commented on Consumer Reports' finding yet. Company watchers are speculating that the company may give iPhone buyers its "Bumper" case, which normally costs \$29.

The phone went on sale three weeks ago and outsold previous iPhone launches in its first three days, with 1.7 million units sold. Complaints about the signal strength soon followed.

In an early response, Apple acknowledged that holding the phone in a certain way impeded the wireless signal somewhat, but said this happens with many other phones. It said the

real reason for the apparent big drop in signal strength was that the company has been using an incorrect formula to convert signal strength into the bars displayed on the screen.

Consumer Reports said it tested other phones and found none to have significant loss of signal strength when held.

While complaints about the iPhone 4 have been driving headlines, not everyone has had such problems. Some people say they can't replicate the so-called "death grip" — and have even seen reception improve in San Francisco and other big cities where previous iPhones stuttered.

AZ immigration law gets first hearing

PHOENIX (AP) — A federal judge heard arguments on Thursday morning over whether Arizona's new immigration law should take effect at the end of the month, marking the first major hearing in one of seven challenges to the strict law.

U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton also is considering Gov. Jan Brewer's request to dismiss the challenge filed by Phoenix police Officer David Salgado and the statewide nonprofit group Chicanos Por La Causa.

Bolton began by quickly dismissing Brewer as an individual defendant to the lawsuit, a motion

unopposed by Salgado's lawyer. She then began considering whether to dismiss the case.

Bolton said last week that she may not rule on the officer's request to block the law before it takes effect July 29.

Hearings on the six other lawsuits, including one filed by the federal government, are set for next week.

The large ceremonial courtroom at the main federal courthouse in Phoenix was packed with more than 100 spectators as the hearing began. More than a dozen lawyers were in place along two L-shaped tables,

evenly divided between each side. The jury box was filled with law clerks for judges who work in the building who came to observe.

Protesters and supporters of the law gathered outside the courthouse amid heavy security.

About two dozen supporters of the law, many dressed in red, white and blue, held up signs praising Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, a major backer of the crackdown on illegal immigrants, and one said "American Pride."

About 50 feet away a group opposed to the law held up signs calling for repeal of the law.

GULF

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Simple said there are still a lot of unknowns, but the meeting with the governor late this month should help to resolve them.

He said one of the major problems the project faces is the lack of facilities that will enable them to test different methods of prevention because oil spills take place deep below the sea surface.

"When the sea levels are a mile deep or more the pressure down there is such that we can't have divers," Simple said, "so the industry uses

Remote Operated Vehicles."

Nashed said since the project is so young it has not yet established where exactly funding will come from or what specific prevention methods will be tested.

Kent Hance, Texas Tech University System Chancellor, said in a news release that he appreciates the opportunity Tech has been given to participate in this research.

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iPhone reception issues spell media disaster for Apple

By CHRIS LEAL

A few weeks ago I penned a piece discussing a brief history of Apple and some potential road blocks that threatened to knock the company off its current high horse. Well, it looks like those road blocks may have come sooner rather than later.

Recently the media has given much attention to the antenna reception problem that has plagued the iPhone 4. At first this didn't seem like a very big deal, but it's beginning to look like the issue could be blown up into a huge Toyota-like PR nightmare.

Now to specify, there are two separate issues with the iPhone reception, one is software-based and the other is hardware-based. The software problem is something that has been around for the past two years. Apparently the phone can display completely inaccurate reception signal, such as showing four bars of service when the quality of signal is really only equivalent to one bar. This is something Apple is supposed to fix with an update in the near future.

The hardware problem is something specific to the iPhone 4, and has to do with the display of reception signal, but with the actual

receiving of the signal. This is the problem that has got the most attention since the phone's debut.

It seems Steve Jobs' first mistake has been to take a page from Akio Toyoda's public relations manual and to not give the situation enough credibility from the start. After the discovery of the antenna problem, Jobs issued a statement saying to simply 'hold the phone differently' or to 'buy a case' in order to fix the problem. The last thing customers want to be told after they spent \$600 for a brand new phone that turns out not to be top quality is to 'hold it differently' or to 'buy a case.'

This statement comes off as arrogant and pompous, and seems to be what turned a number of tech reviewers, bloggers, and other members of the media against the iPhone 4.

Consumer Reports, one of the most respected reviewers of consumer products in the United States, recently conducted their own tests on the iPhone 4 to discern how much of the problem was the phone's fault versus how much was the signal carrier's fault. After concluding the problem was decisively with Apple's hardware, they issued a warning to not buy the iPhone 4. This may not seem like a big deal to a younger demographic of consumers, but

Consumer Reports holds considerable sway with how products are viewed and could have a top-down affect from an older, more seasoned demographic of consumer.

Suddenly things continue to look more and more Toyota-like, and now people are beginning to throw the word "recall" out.

Is this necessary? It certainly seems like it would be an effective way of quelling all this negative PR before it becomes a full-blown nightmare, but it could come with some backlash. For one, Apple would have to *gasp* admit that there is a defect in the phone, and this could possibly tarnish their reputation ever so slightly. Business analysts have figured a recall could have monetary costs of \$1.5 billion. While this is small compared to its nearly \$40 billion in cash and securities, it would certainly eat into its quarterly earnings, and the damage done to its image and consumer base could be far worse.

Another option would be to offer free cases to its customers who bought the iPhone 4, which would only cost an estimated \$1 each. But this fix might not go far enough, and could make it seem like Apple took the easy way out.

Regardless of how Apple handles this, it's already another addition to a growing streak of negative publicity that was almost non-existent a few years ago. I'm not assuming that people will stop buying iPhones tomorrow, but the beginning of the tarnishing of a brand and consumer base just opens the door even wider for competitors. I haven't seen Android badmouthed in the press lately.

I guess we'll just sit back and see if the media frenzy over this Apple issue gets as blown up as the Toyota recall.

Leal is a junior finance and economics dual major from The Colony.

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Society often reacts to differing views unfairly

By THOMAS LOTT

What I am writing about is a very sensitive subject. This article does not reflect my views on homosexuality. I have my own opinions on the matter, and I wish to keep those out of it.

Dr. Ken Howell was a professor at the University of Illinois who taught courses on Catholicism. Let me make this clear: he was a professor who specialized in the Catholic Church, and was brought to the school to educate the students about it. It was not necessarily a course requirement, and was mostly an elective class for students.

Near the end of this past semester, Howell taught a class which focused on Catholic

moral positions. As many people know, any religious position can, and quite often does, offend a few people.

Professor Howell gave two certain lectures every year on Catholic moral positions. One was an explanation of Natural Moral Law as affirmed by the Church. The second was designed as an application of Natural Law Theory to a disputed issue in our society.

The disputed law he talked about in the lecture was homosexuality. Howell said the Catholic Church teaches homosexuality is not morally wrong just as no moral guilt can be assigned to any inclination a person has. But based on natural moral law according to the church, homosexual acts are contrary to the human nature and therefore are morally wrong.

He sent these statements in an e-mail to his students as preparation for a test. A few weeks later, he was called before the chairman of the department of religion and was informed someone had sent a letter — in response to the e-mail statements — accusing him of "hate speech".

He was then told he would no longer be teaching in the department at the university. He tried to sue for breach of contract, but the university covered all their bases and he found out it would be impossible.

The question I had to ask after hearing this story is: how in the world could the university fire him so quickly? I understand the moral position of most Christians is offensive to many types of people. To be honest with you, moral positions of some denominations of Christianity offend other denominations as well.

But if you take a course on an introduction to Catholicism, is it not necessary to learn the morals behind it? If you do not learn them, how will you understand the religion?

I think "hate speech" is starting to become more and more widely defined. Whether it is about race or sexual orientation, it seems people are just looking for ways to be offended.

Who wants to talk to someone who gets offended by everything a person says?

I am not saying this person was just looking for a way to be offended or trying to have Howell fired, but they were overreacting. I read the e-mail and it was a very simple statement which was stated as a fact and not as an opinion.

The man was telling the students what the church believes. He did not go out and say he believed homosexuality was a sin, he simply told the students what the Catholics believe.

How can you fire someone over a statement of fact? I am not saying homosexuality is morally wrong. But how can you fire someone for simply teaching what an entire denomination teaches in a class at a respected university?

I do not understand this. It seems to me our culture is getting more and more sensitive. What happened to people having thick skin? I have to live with science classes which assume the theory of evolution is fact and completely disregard what I believe, but I get through it.

I might disagree, but I am not going to write a letter complaining about what is taught in a class.

I know this is a sensitive subject. I know the teaching of science is different than someone's sexual orientation, but the idea that a teacher can be fired for stating a well-known fact is insulting to me.

The Catholic Church has its own beliefs. The student took a class that taught those beliefs, and when they heard something they disagreed with, they went above the professor's head and got him fired. Does anyone else see something wrong here?

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS
1 Place to get clean?
6 Dip
10 Grade-schooler's reward
14 Roasted, on Mexican menus
15 Animal in two constellations
16 "Hiya, José"
17 Amaze a racing legend?
20 Seek retribution, in a way
21 Prefix with meter
22 Unchallenging courses
23 "I ain't got no quarrel with the Viet Cong" speaker
24 A goner, in slang
26 Simple but exciting abode?
30 On the road
34 When Macbeth kills Duncan
35 Blender brand
37 Knock out, so to speak
38 Brainchild?
40 Iris parts
42 Time Warner spin-off of 2009
43 America's most wanted?
45 "vette's "our"
46 " chif"
48 Headgear delayed in shipment?
50 Draw out
52 "Ma" ma
53 Basic religious tenet
56 Silents star Naldi
58 Four-song discs, briefly
61 Furniture design flop?
64 Toward shelter
65 Stoope chuckle
66 Off one's trolley
67 House member
68 Choosing word
69 Newark's county

DOWN
1 Angular measures: Abbr.
2 Twin in the Torah
3 Skyline obscurer

By Joon Pahk 7/16/10

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

COSTS AT ALL PAD
ASTOR DINGO AGE
BARBARA EDEN ROM
AGUE CPR GITGO
LETSEAT COAST
USSSHANGRILA
CHIRP ALTO MAD
LONE COSMO LEND
ALA SLAT WARES
MYBLUEHEAVEN
AEIOU YESDEAR
AUDIT SEE ELSE
BTW SALPARADISE
MAA MOSEY HOSED
SHY ELUDE ANTSY

36 Like wind energy
39 Shed light on
41 Slow mover
44 Simply designed British firearm
47 Appropriated
49 Crumbly cheese
51 Broadband option: Abbr.
53 Maker of nonstick cookware
54 Big Island city

55 Weizm
8-Down
57 Like 41-Down, perhaps
58 Chimp in the Mercury program
59 Skunk Le Pew
60 Charon's river
62 Emmy-winning scientist
63 Cyclades island

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