

See Page 3

Grupo Fantasma: different kind of music



Lady Raiders take on Mizzou

See Page 6

THE DAILY TOREADOR

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LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

SGA budget bill goes through first reading, open to appeals

By JOEANN BON-JORNO
STAFF WRITER



TAYLOR

Student organizations not happy with allocations given to them by the Texas Tech Student Government Association Student Senate now will be able to appeal those allocations after the budget went through first reading at the senate meeting Thursday.

The Tech Student Senate reviewed the budget bill, passed a bill and resolution and decided to table a resolution about veterans education.

Feb. 26 through Feb. 28 was allocation weekend for the Student Senate's Budget and Finance Committee and members allocated $341,663 to 191 undergraduate organizations that applied for funds, according to the committee report, leaving $8,338 for organizations that win appeals on allocations.

The committee also allocated $47,155 to the 23 graduate organizations that applied, leaving $2,845 for organizations that win appeals.

Brandon Taylor, chairman for the Budget and Finance Committee, said letters were sent out Wednesday to advisers and presidents of organizations.

Committee members will be available during the day on March 30 for mediation hearings to allow organizations to appeal initial applications, he said.

The members of the committee then will meet March 30 to review appeals and make necessary changes, he said.

"This year we were able to increase the number of organizations and were able to serve over 40 more organizations," Taylor said.

The senate will get the chance to discuss the bill more next week, he said, as well as after spring break.

"The bill will come up to be passed on April 1," Taylor said.

According to the committee report, the committee was given $400,000 instead of $350,000 this year because of the increase in enrollment this year.

Senate Bill 45.17 will bring back the RaiderGate Committee, a branch of the Public Relations Committee, after it was passed with a vote of 92 percent in favor.

The bill called for the Public Relations Committee to encompass RaiderGate as a fall activity. The bill allows for at-large members to serve on the committee and the co-chair of the Public Relations Committee to serve as the chair of the RaiderGate Committee.

Clayton Cobb, an author on the bill, said the committee involved with RaiderGate will provide senators to be involved with it and help it run more efficiently.

According to the bill, the Public Relations Committee will be responsible for representing the SGA and conducting RaiderGate with the Tech Activities Board and at-large members.

"At-large means it is open to anyone on campus that wants to come to the SGA offices and fill out an application, not just senators," Cobb said.

About five or six at-large members will be chosen, he said.

Senate Resolution 45.47 also was passed by the senate with 98 percent in favor of the resolution urging Tech to create a sustainable design minor degree for Tech students.

Mark Kronberg, an author on the resolution, said this spring is the first semester a sustainable design class has been offered at Tech.

"We were hoping for 30 students and had to put a cap on it for 57 because we couldn't find a big enough room to fit everyone who showed interest," Kronberg said. "Tech is behind in educating its students in sustainable design."

A sustainable design minor degree, he said, would enhance students education in sustainability.

Senate Resolution 45.46, attempting to implement a supportive education for returning veterans program, was tabled. Jacob Floyd, a Veterans Association representative, spoke to the senate and requested it be tabled.

Sen. Daniel Syptak, the author of the bill, said tabling the resolution gives veterans more opportunity to read and discuss the resolution and allows for changes to be made if needed.

"It's about giving students what they want," Syptak said, "not just passing legislation."

The Tech Student Senate will meet again 7 p.m. Thursday in the Senate Room of the Student Union Building.

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Board of Regents revises employee benefit programs

By RALSTON ROLLO
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Board of Regents approved adjustments to the Employee Dependent Scholarship Program and the Employee Tuition Assistance Program during its meeting Feb. 26 in Amarillo.

The adjustments will reduce restrictions on tuition waivers and scholarships for Tech employees and their dependents

Beverly Cotton, assistant vice president of Financial Affairs, said changes to the program include the removal of a minimum time of employment for employees to receive tuition waivers, the removal of minimum GPA requirements beyond maintaining a good academic standing with the university, the removal of a limit on the number of terms for which scholarships or tuition may be applied and expanding the benefits for use during summer sessions.

Scholarships and tuition waivers amount to $600 for the fall, spring and the summer and are funded by an endowment totaling about $10.5 million, she said.

Spendable interest from the endowment totals about $850,000 and is growing, Cotton said.

Becky Wilson, director of Student Financial Aid, said the scholarships and tuition waivers can only be used at Tech and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Helen Carter, associate director of Student Financial Aid, said the Division of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs recommended the changes to the board because of the potential to expand enrollment and make higher education more accessible to Tech employees and their dependents.

"(The changes) will broaden the scope of eligibility requirements," she said.

REGENTS continued on Page 2 >>

Toyota secretive on 'black boxes'

By CURT ANDERSON AND DANNY ROBBINS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUTHLAKE (AP) — Toyota has for years blocked access to data stored in devices similar to airline "black boxes" that could explain crashes blamed on sudden unintended acceleration, according to an Associated Press review of lawsuits nationwide and interviews with auto crash experts.

The AP investigation found that Toyota has been inconsistent — and sometimes even contradictory — in revealing exactly what the devices record and don't record, including critical data about whether the brake or accelerator pedals were depressed at the time of a crash.

By contrast, most other automakers routinely allow much more open access to information from their event data recorders, commonly known as EDRs.

AP also found that Toyota:

— Has frequently refused to provide key information sought by crash victims and survivors.

— Uses proprietary software in its EDRs. Until this week, there was only a single laptop in the U.S. containing the software needed to read the data following a crash.

— In some lawsuits, when pressed to provide recorder information Toyota either settled or provided printouts with the key columns blank.

Toyota's "black box" information is emerging as a critical legal issue amid the recall of 8 million vehicles by the world's largest automaker. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said this week that 52 people have died in crashes linked to accelerator problems, triggering an avalanche of lawsuits.

When Toyota was asked by the AP to explain what exactly its recorders do collect, a company statement said Thursday that the devices record data from five seconds before until two seconds after an air bag is deployed in a crash.



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/*The Daily Toreador*

TEXAS TECH FRESHMAN pole-vaulter, Shade Weygandt, a heralded high-school recruit, has lived up to the hype this season.

Weygandt making history as top pole-vaulter for Tech

By TOMMY MAGELSSEN
STAFF WRITER

Shade Weygandt's mentality is defined best by her tattoo: I am what I am.

"It just means that I am the person that I am, and I'm not going to sit there and conform and change and bend to people's will," Weygandt said. "I've gotten as far as I've gotten because I am me.

"It helps remind me every day that you don't have to be like everyone else, you can be yourself. I think I am definitely — I'm a little bit different."

Sporting eight body piercings and a longboard, Weygandt may appear to be a little different at first glance. However, her real difference is her status as an elite collegiate athlete.

Weygandt, a freshman from Mansfield, is Texas Tech's top female pole-vaulter.

The top pole-vaulting recruit in the nation a year ago, Weygandt already has set personal, school and Big 12 Conference records this year competing for Tech.

Weygandt won the Big 12 championship in women's pole vault Feb. 26 in Ames, Iowa, with an impressive mark of 14 feet, 2 1/2 inches.

Her mark ranks fifth in the nation, and is the top freshman height of the year.

Although only in her first year of competing in the Big 12, Weygandt is no stranger to success. She won three state championships in high school and was part of the 2009 U.S. junior team.

Additionally, she placed second at the Junior Pan-Am games in Trinidad and Tobago, where she said she learned to be part of a team for one of the first times.

"It was definitely really different," Weygandt said. "None of my parents went, and none of the vaulters' parents went, so we just hung out in a little group. ... It was my first taste of teammates because we were the only ones who had each other's backs."

Weygandt said traveling outside the country was great, but she loved to interact with her teammates and help coach each other.

Despite being one of the top pole-vaulters in the nation, Weygandt said she picked up the sport by a stroke of good luck.

In seventh grade, she was a part of her middle school cross-country team and was asked to try out for track and field because she was a good athlete.

Weygandt said one of her friends wanted to pole vault, so she tagged along even though she had no interest in the sport. Weygandt ended up not being very good at it, but she liked pole-vaulting enough to keep at it.

To some, pole-vaulting can seem like an unusual sport to get into, particularly at a young age. However, Weygandt was never one to take on the usual sports.

Her father, Van Weygandt, said his daughter tried team sports such as soccer when she was younger, but she did not like those too much. Van said the main thing was Shade thought the other kids would not practice as hard or as much as she would.

One of the first sports Shade excelled at was Olympic taekwondo. Shade said she wanted to practice the martial art because the gym was right next to her gymnastics and dance class when she was younger, and the sport looked more exciting to her.

Van said Shade's determination and drive to be the best she can be ultimately will help her become a well-rounded individual later in life.

VAULT continued on Page 5 >>

INDEX

Classifieds.....5
Crossword.....2
La Vida.....3
Opinions.....4
Sports.....6
Sudoku.....4

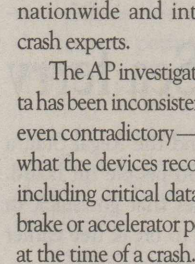
WEATHER

Today — Partly Cloudy — 66/40

Saturday — Partly Cloudy — 65/48

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IN BRIEF

STATE

Texas jobless rate holds steady at 8.2 percent

DALLAS (AP) — The unemployment rate in Texas held steady at 8.2 percent in January, matching the revised figure from December, a state agency said Thursday.

The Texas Workforce Commission said the release of detailed job figures for each industry was delayed by recent bad weather on the East Coast.

The delay also affected an annual revision of the state's job numbers that is usually announced the first week of March, said commission spokeswoman Ann Hatchitt.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas reported this week that Texas lost more than 329,000 jobs last year, nearly 20 percent higher than the commission's preliminary figure of about 276,000. Hatchitt said the revised figures could be closer to the Dallas Fed estimate.

Despite the job losses, the Texas labor force reached a peak of 12.1 million workers in January, the commission said. The jobless rate in Texas remained well below the national figure of 9.7 percent.

NATION

Paterson's stature erodes even in stomping grounds

NEW YORK (AP) — David Paterson, New York's first black governor and a product of the Harlem political machine, faced rapidly waning support Thursday as many of the influential black leaders who have worked with him for decades gathered to discuss crafting a message to persuade him to resign.

The Rev. Al Sharpton convened a meeting of black New York City politicians at a soul food restaurant in Harlem to consider asking Paterson to leave office, according to a senior state Democrat briefed on the meeting. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the topic.

WORLD

Iraqi police: Baghdad suicide attacks kill 9

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi police officials say nine people have been killed in two suicide bombings, bringing the daily death toll in Iraq's capital to 16 as hundreds of thousands across the country took part in early voting ahead of Sunday's nationwide vote.

The officials said insurgents wearing suicide belts targeted Iraqi security forces in both attacks. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The suicide blasts took place after an explosion in a crowded market earlier Thursday killed seven people.

U.S. and Iraqi officials have warned insurgents could launch attacks to disrupt Iraq's March 7 ballot.

Early voting began Thursday for security forces and others.

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 mistakes in this spot as soon as possible.

If you feel there is an error in a story, please call Editor-in-Chief Kevin Cullen at 806-742-3395 or e-mail kevin.m.cullen@ttu.edu.

Congress gives DC leeway

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton didn't flinch when comedian Stephen Colbert congratulated her on Washington, D.C., becoming a state.

"Not quite," she replied during a segment on his show not long after President Barack Obama's election.

Colbert may have been joking, but with Democrats in control, Congress seems increasingly willing to loosen its grip on Norton's city and allow it to function more like a state. That's no laughing matter for some 600,000 city residents.

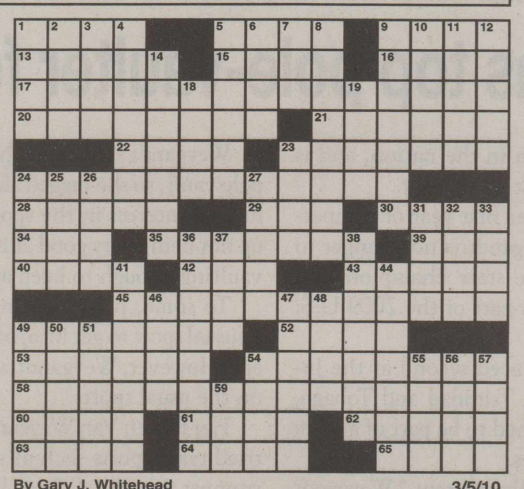
Congress still must OK the district's budget and it can veto laws the District of Columbia Council passes, though that's rare. And despite some optimism early in Obama's administration, Norton still can't vote on the House floor, though she can introduce bills and vote in committees.

But cracks in congressional control have started to appear.

For the first time in recent memory, Congress didn't attach any restrictions, called "riders," when it approved the city's budget in December. That lifted bans preventing the city from using tax money to help poor women pay for abortions and implementing a decade-old measure legalizing medical marijuana.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis



By Gary J. Whitehead 3/5/10

ACROSS
1 Bank statement no.
5 The Miners of Conf. USA
9 One way to attend a party
13 Lincoln feature
15 __ City: Baghdad suburb
16 Cook book
17 Suggestion to singer Lennox after a garlicky meal?
20 Half of the Brady bunch, to Carol
21 Clothes line?
22 Samuel Johnson portraitist John __
23 Traitors
24 Jamaican group winding down after a gig?
28 "Yours truly calling"
29 Downed
30 "Ditto"
34 Warmup toss
35 City in Thessaly
39 "Oedipus __"
40 Sylvester's problem
42 Hägar creator Browne
43 Roman moon goddess
45 Moocher at McDonald's?
49 Acid neutralizers
52 Outer area of an escutcheon
53 Afternoon service
54 Fragments
58 Feared words from an accountant?
60 Frankfurt's river
61 Canceled
62 Emcee's job
63 Nos. divided by dashes
64 He played Obi-Wan
65 Strong taste

DOWN
1 "__ le roi!": French Revolution cry
2 Tiny amount
3 Mr. Peanut prop
4 Surveyors' tools
5 Online newsgroup system
6 Does lacework
7 Eponymous ice cream maker
8 Gets by special means
9 Roller coaster sounds
10 Senate apparel
11 Tickle pink
12 Fun partner
14 Pillage
18 "__ Out of My Head": 1964 hit
19 Language heard in Karachi
23 Flies, in a way
24 Law in the works
25 Paris possessive
26 Writing points
27 17-syllable poem
31 Libyan, probably
32 You might get one right after being seated
33 Checkup
36 Ticket order?
37 Barbecue order
38 Long Island university
41 Sci-fi weapons
44 Words of atonement
46 Baldwin of "30 Rock"
47 Recent Zippo acquisition
48 Gumption
49 Oldest musketeer
50 It's on the Aire
51 Carpenter with a soothing voice
54 Nintendo rival
55 This, in Tijuana
56 Make a right, say
57 Industrial pollutant
59 Cut

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	R	O	M		I	R	S		W	H	A	C	K
A	L	O	N	E		N	O	M		H	A	N	O	I
R	E	A	D	D		S	T	O	R	E	R	O	O	M
S	E	R	V	I	C	E	C	O	U	R	T			
			D	O	R	A		C	D	E		N	O	B
A	M	U		C	A	S	E	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y
T	A	T	E	R	T	O	T				A	G	E	R
T	R	A	D	E		N	O	R		D	I	A	L	O
A	S	H	E				N	O	B	E	L	I	S	T
C	H	A	N	N	E	L	S	U	R	F		N	E	E
K	A	N		E	V	A		T	A	O	S			
			B	O	A	R	D	I	N	G	P	A	S	S
W	O	R	D	C	H	A	I	N		G	A	V	E	L
P	A	U	L	O		M	O	E		E	D	I	N	A
A	T	T	E	N		S	R	S		R	E	A	D	Y

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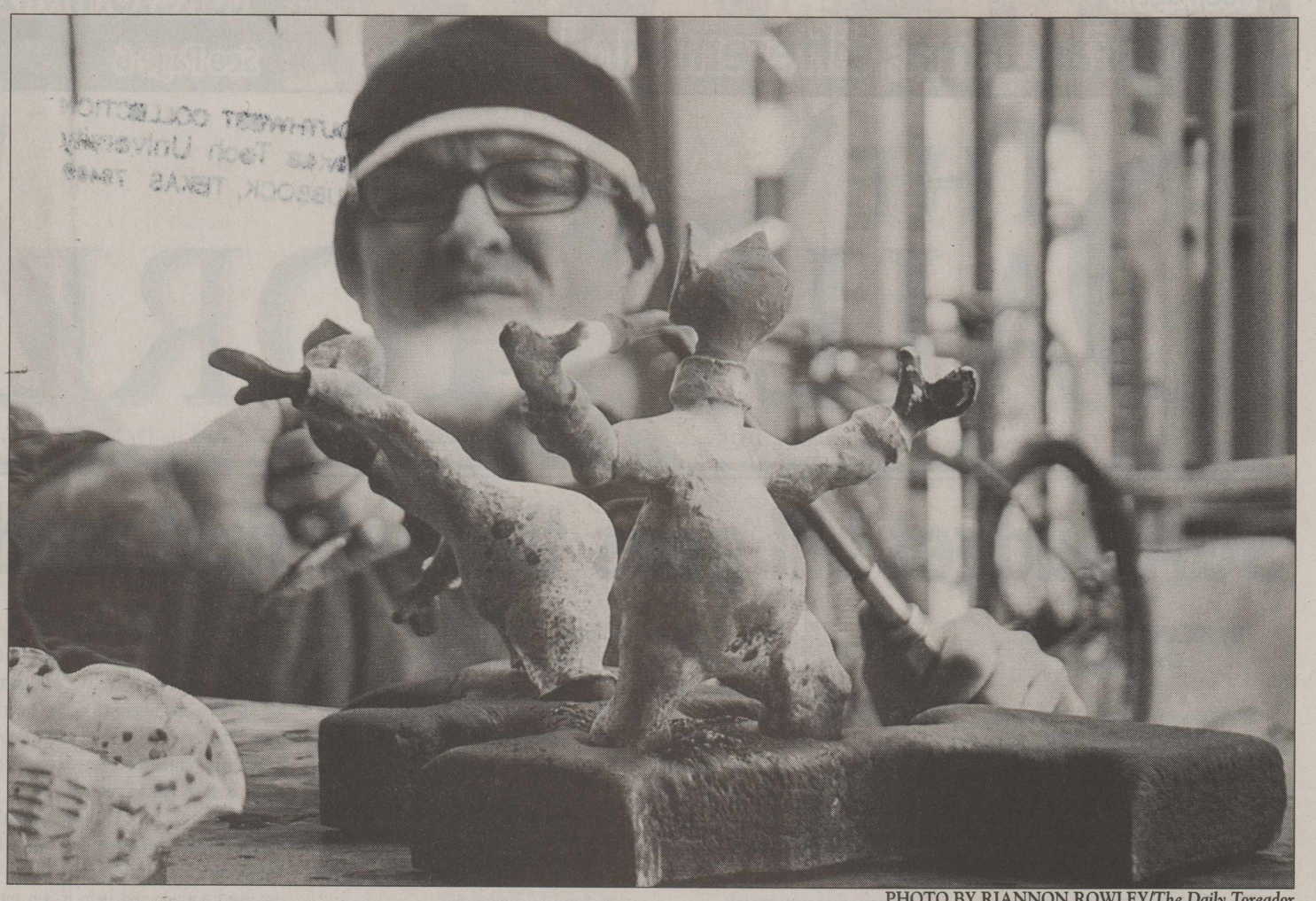


PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/*The Daily Toreador*

MICHAEL SYNATZSKE, A senior studio art major from Anton, works on a patina, or a cast aluminum sculpture, he calls "Quagmire" on Monday outside the Art building.

Fraternities host comedy event for Yéle Haiti

By ALEXANDRA PEDRINI
STAFF WRITER

The co-ed pre-law fraternity Phi Alpha Delta teamed up with Delta Sigma Phi and Phi Beta Sigma to bring in comedian Corey Miller to raise money supporting Yéle Haiti for their Haiti relief comedy show last night.

Yéle Haiti began as a foundation as a way for people to help the country improve their health, education and communities, said Jasmine Crawford, Phi Alpha Delta president and a junior philosophy major from Houston. Started by Grammy-award winning musician Wyclef Jean, the organization now is focusing on the relief effort for the Haiti.

"(The money) goes directly to Haiti, and it's not going to be distributed to any corporate executives or anything like that," Crawford said. "If you look at pictures on television or on the Internet, it's extremely devastating. It's the same as Katrina when the houses were completely washed away, when people put themselves in their position they understand why they're in need and that's the reason why we chose to do this."

Starting with nothing, the group fundraised $1,500 to bring Miller to Texas Tech, which was less than they originally planned. After explaining the situation to Miller's publicist, they agreed to pay for their own airfare, decreasing the bill by more than $2,000, Crawford said.

"We had no money, we had nothing and it was just me," she said. "I came up with a proposal and went to everyone in the administration and got donations."

Businesses could sponsor the event for publicity on the programs, tickets and flyers. But even with the donations and sponsorships, the group had trouble selling tickets. Originally selling for $10 a piece, the organizations ended up giving tickets away and asking for donations instead, Crawford said.

"We didn't have enough promotion," she said. "We just booked him last week. We were trying to get the money out as fast as we could — next time we'll try and get the word out sooner."

Miller's opening act was Tech's improv troupe Alternative Fuels, which was excited to help out free of charge, Crawford said. After their act, Miller took the stage.

"I enjoyed the improv because it was a good and very positive atmosphere," said Latrice Price, a senior education major from Lubbock. "We didn't buy our tickets, but we did donate and would definitely come to more events in the future."

Crawford and Phi Alpha Delta have been working to create this comedy show for the last two months she said. The two social fraternities "were on board with anything and everything we needed them to do," and helped with the promotion of the event and ticket sales.

"Those organizations are all men, but they are awesome," Crawford said.

The new social fraternity Delta Sigma Phi wanted to get involved with this event because they are interested in getting involved in any community service, said DJ Koessler, Delta Sigma Phi national expansion coordinator.

"I think it's a really great time, really funny, worth the money and for a really great cause," said Charlie Mansour, Delta Sigma Phi sergeant at arms and a junior music major from Houston.

All proceeds from the event will go to supporting Haiti alone, Crawford said. Even with the natural disasters in Chile and recognition of the need for help there, the group kept to its original plan to benefit Yéle Haiti. Even many weeks after a natural disaster, the group believes it can help.

"People are going to forget about Haiti because it's not in fashion," Crawford said. "When I search Haiti, the first picture I see should not be Brad and Angelina; they're going to get that back in their taxes, and that's not philanthropy. People don't give anymore because it's not in fashion."

At the end of the evening, the groups raised $800 and realized they should plan ahead more to get people involved, Crawford said.

"If 10,000 people donated because it was the in thing to do, then that's still 10,000 people that donated," Miller said. "The ones that want to stick with it will keep donating for future causes."

Kelsey Heckel contributed to this article

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Regents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Before these changes, Carter said, there were restrictions to the programs that may have prevented many employees and their dependents from taking advantage of the programs.

She said although the changes may allow more Tech employees and their dependents to seek a higher education, those employees and dependents still must go through the same online application process on Tech's Web site.

"It's not hard to apply," Carter said.

Amidst Chancellor Kent Hance's push for an enrollment of 40,000 students by 2020, Carter said these changes have the potential to provide a significant boost in Tech's enrollment.

However, any significant boosts in enrollment, she said, likely would be most notable during the summer sessions.

Cotton said she hopes the changes will encourage more employees and their dependents to make use of the funds that are available to help them afford an education at Tech.

"I don't know why more employees don't take advantage of (these programs)," she said.

Cotton said 250 employee dependents received scholarships in Fall 2009 and 276 employees received tuition waivers in Fall 2008. She said she hopes the changes in the restrictions of the programs will help these numbers grow.

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CHANGES TO BENEFIT PROGRAMS

- Changes to the Employee Dependent Sholarship Program.
- Scholarships made available to dependents of employees that are employed at Tech prior to the beginning of the term.
- Removal of minimum GPA requirements. However, dependents must maintain a 2.0 GPA to maintain a good academic standing with the university.
- Removal of limitations on the number of terms for which dependents may apply for scholarships.
- Expansion of dependent scholarships to include summer sessions.
- Changes to the Employee Tuition Assistance Program:
- Tuition waivers made available to employees who have been employed prior to the beginning of the term.
- Removal of minimum GPA requirements. However, employees must maintain a 2.0 GPA to maintain a good academic standing with the university.
- Removal of limitations on the number of terms for which employees may apply for tuition waivers.
- Expansion of employee tuition waivers to include summer sessions.

1,000 trapped on Baltic Sea ferry

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Dozens of ships including a passenger ferry with nearly 1,000 people on board were trapped Friday in heavy pack ice in the Baltic Sea off Sweden's east coast, officials said.

Ice breakers were trying to free the ferry Amorella and two cargo ships stuck at the edge of an archipelago northeast of Stockholm, while rescue helicopters and military hovercraft were on standby to evacuate passengers if needed. Gale-force winds were hampering the effort, the Swedish Maritime Administration said.

"As soon as they break the ice, it freezes over again," sea rescue spokesman Peter Lindquist said. He said no one was hurt and there were no immediate plans to evacuate the ships.

The Maritime Administration said the Amorella had 753 passengers and 190 crew on board. The 10-deck ship belongs to Viking Line, which operates Baltic Sea cruises between Sweden and Finland.

The other ships stuck in the area were the roll-on-roll-off ferry Sea Wind with 32 people and the Regal Star, a cargo ship with 56 people on board. Three other ferries that got stuck in the ice were able to break free earlier Thursday.

One of those ships, the Finnfellow, collided lightly with the Amorella when the ice pressed the two ships together, but there was no major damage to either ship, Lindquist said. "Just some paint that was scratched off," he said.

A total of about 50 ships were stuck in ice along Sweden's eastern seaboard, said Johny Lindvall, who manages the maritime administration's ice breaker service. Heavy ice cover is not uncommon further north, but the ice rarely gets thick enough in the Stockholm archipelago to trap powerful passenger ferries like the Amorella.

"There's no danger for the passengers as long as there's food and drink on board," Lindvall told The Associated Press.

Mats Nystrom, a passenger on the Amorella, told Swedish broadcaster SVT that there was no panic on the ship.

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Performers unleash inner stars in TAB talent show

By ALEXANDRA PEDRINI
Staff Writer

Channeling their inner American Idols and America's Best Dance Crew moves, students and faculty competed in the first Tech's Got Talent contest hosted by the Tech Activities Board in the Student Union Building Allen Theatre on Thursday.

The night featured performances by students, faculty and staff. Of the seven performances, five were musical and two were dance numbers. The Tech Pom Squad opened the show with one of its competition pieces.

Kish Rajput, special programs coordinator and sophomore business management major from Plano, said because the team trains to perfection, TAB believed the competition would be unfair if the team participates.

But even with its practice, the team didn't live up to audience members' expectations, said Veronica Mitchell, a junior architecture major from Dallas.

"They could have done better," Mitchell said. "I've seen them perform at basketball games and they are great. There were a few missteps, but for the most part it was still very exciting."

Rajput said TAB allowed anyone associated with the university to participate.

"We figured that because it's the first time doing the event, we wanted everyone to have a chance," he said. "We didn't know what the response would be so we encouraged all Texas Tech associates to come out and showcase their talents."

The judges and audience noticed this; after the Chinese cultural dance, one of the judges said it was nice to see some of the graduate students get out of the lab and do this show.

"I thought it was awesome because it breaks the wall between student and staff," said Darik Bradley, a junior architecture major from Lubbock. "You see that they're people, too, and not just your instructors and I think that involvement was really interesting."

Mike Gunn,. Deepti Vanguri and Rahul Kanungoe acted as judges for the evening and were selected by the TAB committee because they believed the three could provide good, reasonable comments on the acts, Rajput said.

By the end of the show, Kanungoe had almost as many fans as the winner, Brittney Phillips. Students began cheering for him before he gave his commentary on the acts and became the crowd favorite.

"Overall the judges were pretty comical," Bradley said. "I thought he was a pretty lucky guy to have a name so cool. It was pretty funny."

Although the judges had positive comments to say about most of the contestants, they stopped one performer mid-song by holding up their Xs. The TAB committee gave them this power because the real judges on "America's Got Talent" can do the same thing, Rajput said.

"I wasn't that happy with it (when they stopped her) because she was doing fine," Mitchell said. "Her only problem was that she needed to open her eyes and to stand with confidence."

When creating the event, TAB didn't know how successful it would be, Rajput said. This was a trial run and a learning process for the group and will look back and decide if they want to do this again.

"I thought it was really good and was a great opportunity for students to show their talent," Bradley said. "Tech definitely has a lot of talented people."



PHOTO BY MATT MOFFATT/*The Daily Toreador*

THE CHINA SPIRIT dance group performs the "Matsumi" dance, at the TAB event "Tech's Got Talent," on Thursday at the Student Union Building Allen Theatre.

>>> alexandra.pedrini@ttu.edu

Grammy-nominated funk-orchestra Grupo Fantasma performs tonight

Q&A

Making a few quick stops around Texas to promote their upcoming album, the Latin-funk orchestra Grupo Fantasma will stop in Lubbock to perform pieces from their album "El Existential," which hits stores May 11. Bass player Greg Gonzalez spoke with *The Daily Toreador* about the band's past success and plans for its latest project.

The group will take the stage at 10 p.m. tonight at The Foundation and doors open at 9 p.m. Tickets cost $10 in advance and $15 at the door for anyone older than 18.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL PERLAKY

THE 10-PIECE funk orchestra band Grupo Fantasma will perform at 10 p.m. tonight at The Foundation.

How did the band get started?

We were two bands originally and we played our first gig in Austin together, and we jammed at house parties and co-op parties and we were just kind of just thrown together. So we booked a gig and we both had promoters so that we'd have 200 people show up. Somehow we were right and 200 did show up that weekend. And the next weekend 250 people showed up and then 300 people, and we're like, "Wow man, this is really taking off." And ever since then it's really taken a life of its own.

Why did the group decide to go from the traditional rock band to a funk-orchestra?

It's a 10-piece band featuring a blow-horn section as well as two guitars, a drum set and we play a wide variety of styles mostly in Spanish, but it's all tangible music. It's a little bit of traditions of what you'd expect, but it also has the rawness and energy of a rock band.

Why did the two bands want to combine themselves to create this new funk-style orchestra?

We didn't necessarily set out to have this, we happened to have two rock bands. Two guitars and drummers and a horn section, but as time we became more familiar with Latin style and started adding more percussion instruments as well. That's what we were before, and we didn't change overnight into what we are now.

What projects is the band working on?

Our next album. It's called "El Existential," and we'll be performing songs off of this upcoming album (at the show). (Our last album "Sonidos Gold") was Grammy nominated and was a great record and took us a long way, so now we're ready to put out this next one. We discovered a lot of new things when writing and a new style that we used on this album. It's probably the most hands-on album we've ever had and a lot of the material was written in the studio, which is a rarity for us.

Do you expect to get another Grammy nomination for this record?

It'd be a nice bonus, but the category we were nominated in last time has been done away with and we'll be put in another category like "Latin/Urban" or something, so no. We're going to be competing with alternative Spanish rock or whatever they call it, so it will be a lot more difficult to get recognition. It's like you keep playing basketball and then they make basketball into football then hockey, so it'll be a little harder to stand out.

Why did the band decide to change this and record the entire record separately?

We recorded our stuff before and we had this little project called "Brownout," which is essentially stuff that we all recorded ourselves. We decided to give it a shot and it worked out great.

Will this be a typical show or should fans expect something different than usual?

I don't know if anyone will be expecting anything since we've never played Lubbock before, so it'll be a surprise to everyone there. We do our best to change it up — even if somebody has seen us before and they see us again, they'll see us do something that they haven't seen or done before. The music is awesome and people should come out and have good time to laugh and smile. I think our material and performance stands on its own. What I say won't do it justice.

Compiled by Alexandra Pedrini
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V-Day Coalition performs 'Vagina Monologues'

By HALLIE DAVIS
Staff Writer

The word has many euphemisms and usually brings up a few nervous giggles, but as part of the Lubbock V-Day Coalition, "The Vagina Monologues" is hoping to change that.

"It's about the ability to say, 'Vagina,' in public," said Linda Kaye Larrabee, a sociology professor performing in the show.

> *"It's about bringing attention to women and not making it a shameful subject."*
>
> **LINDA LARRABEE**
> SOCIOLOGY PROFESSOR

The coalition is hosting a performance of the show 7 p.m. Saturday in the Human Sciences building Room 169.

"The Vagina Monologues" play came from Eve Ensler, who interviewed women of all statuses and races, Larrabee said, asking "What would your vagina say if it could talk?" Ensler wrote the monologues and universities across the country perform different selections. The project is evolving as more stories get added, Larrabee said. Each university and organization chooses specific monologues and the line up changes from event to event and year to year.

It started four years ago in Lubbock through a feminist organization, but V-Day events became such a huge undertaking that this past year, the Lubbock V-Day Coalition split off from the organization, said Elizabeth Sealy, the advertisement chairwoman of the coalition.

"A lot of people hear the name and are shocked," Sealy said. "They think it must be offensive and strange."

She said the show wasn't for everybody, but that everyone should at least give it a chance.

The money raised will go toward several charitable causes, which is one reason Larrabee said she encourages attendance. The profits support Women's Protective Services, Victim's Voice and other non profits that raise awareness for violence against women.

Larrabee, who had no previous acting experience, got involved with the show three years ago. She said she hopes to make the topic OK for people to talk about.

"It's like a secret, but 50 percent of the population has it," Larrabee said. "I'm pretty brazen, but the first year, it was a little intimidating. Now I just look forward to it."

Larrabee will be performing a monologue with one of the more taboo words in it, though now she is perfectly comfortable saying it onstage or in the classroom.

"It's about bringing attention to women and not making it a shameful subject," Larrabee said.

The monologues range from hilarious to heartbreaking, Larrabee said, and performers hold a card during their monologues to remind the audience that this isn't the actress' story but it is true for someone else.

"We talk about the good things and the bad, there are uplifting stories as well," Sealy said.

The audience grows each year, Larrabee said, and has recently grown to include more males.

The V in V-Day doesn't stand just for vagina, according to the group's Web site. It also stands for victory and even valentine. It is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. It supports creative events like the performance Saturday to raise money and awareness.

The Vagina Monologues will be performed at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 27 and April 3 in the Human Sciences building Room 169. The coalition also will host a V-Men workshop in which only men can attend at noon Saturday in the Human Sciences building Room 174. Other V-Day performances will take place throughout March and April.

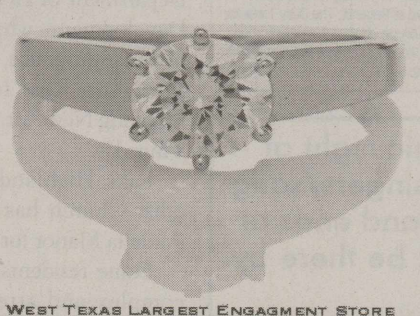
>>> hallie.davis@ttu.edu

Palin loads up on free gifts at suite

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Sarah Palin showed up at a Hollywood gift suite with two daughters, her brother and a small entourage in tow and loaded up with free promotional cosmetic and fashion items being given away in connection with Oscar-week festivities.

Lorna Khoo of Cardstore.com and various other vendors exhibiting their wares at the Silver Spoon gift suite said the former vice presidential candidate snapped up organic soaps, personalized stationery, and a designer robe and sandals on her Wednesday visit.

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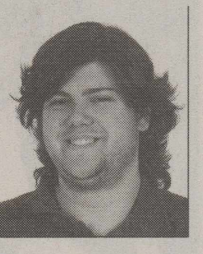
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OPINIONS

Stars' opinions don't matter



Cole Shooter

There are lots of people who seemingly adore getting angry when some people say controversial things.

I can understand having an opinion on different topics or even taking slight offense and being somewhat annoyed, but I've never understood the use in going into a downright tizzy over it. After all, it's only one person's opinion.

It was announced a short time ago that legendary musician Elton John would perform a concert in Lubbock next month. A magazine article also ran in Parade Magazine, in which John discussed a few of his views, including religion.

John said, "I think Jesus was a compassionate, super-intelligent gay man who understood human problems. On the cross, he forgave the people who crucified him. Jesus wanted us to be loving and forgiving. I don't know what makes people so cruel. Try being a gay woman in the Middle East."

While discussing the upcoming concert during a radio show I co-host, a few people began calling in, vehemently denouncing the singer for his views. One woman said Lubbock would fall to the ground in a heavenly fury due to a lack of love and churches, and that nobody should go see John because of the interview. A few other calls came in espousing the same message, sans the crumbling Hubbaplex idea, thankfully.

Although I may have a difficult time envisioning Christ trotting along the dusty paths of Jerusalem with a rainbow triangle on the rear of his donkey, John's opinion doesn't bother me. I'm a bit curious as to what led him to believe the way he does, but it's not really my issue.

The truth is, I simply don't care about a musician's political leanings or religious beliefs. I didn't buy tickets to hear John discuss his views on a super-fabulous savior, but rather to hear him perform the songs many have loved for decades. I doubt he'll bring it up, because he most likely realizes that his fans are there to hear him perform rather than pontificate as well, and I'm all right with that.

There are very few people in the musical world that I would likely agree with politically, and that's fine. You don't have to agree with someone in order to appreciate and enjoy their talents. When enjoying the music of Maurice Ravel, Kinky Friedman, The Who or any other artist for that matter, the performer's political beliefs just do not matter. What really matters is their talent and ability to speak to you in a way that simple words cannot, regardless of what emotions they evoke.

Although it may sound a bit trite, if his opinion doesn't affect me, I really don't care. I might care a bit more if John were an elected official, but he's not, and I'm quite glad for that. He probably is too, since I'd imagine his gig pays quite a bit more than any honest politician could ever hope to make.

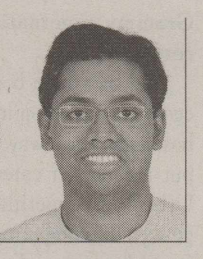
There have been many recording artists who have said many things I disagree with throughout the years. Take the Dixie Chicks for instance, and their actions during the George W. Bush administration. At a 2003 concert in England, Lubbock native Natalie Maines decided to gripe about the United States' leadership in saying, "Just so you know, we're on the good side with y'all. We do not want this war, this violence and we're ashamed that the president of the United States is from Texas."

Although I think the content of her political whining was stupid, it didn't change my feelings toward her group's songs. Their music was garbage before her statement, and it was just as bad afterwards.

It may be difficult to completely remove political and religious angst from your feelings toward certain musicians and their music, but it's just not worth worrying about. Just relax, know your view is the correct one and enjoy their music. You can rest assured they'll be doing the same thing.

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Diversity needed in campus employment



Alan Dsouza

"Where in the world can that shuttle be?" groaned Sid, as he waited for the long, cold minutes to pass by. Somewhere distant, faint chimes indicated the clock had struck midnight. A chilly breeze blew across his face and he shivered, reminiscing about the time he had come here filled with hopes and dreams, after being an experienced software developer back home in India.

"How did I become someone whose only job was to serve sandwiches and mop the floor when I used to write code for one of the biggest telecommunications companies in the world?" he lamented ruefully.

If you're reading this and going "Ohhh," you probably are an international student who has experienced such a situation before. The main point I would like to draw attention to here is the inefficiency of the usage of the resources at Tech. Consider the sheer waste of human intellect, not including the business skills and international knowledge possessed by students from abroad.

A lot of foreign students have a diverse educational and cultural background. Take, for example, students from countries such as India, China and France. Technology is forging ahead with incredible speed in these countries and at the same time they are churning out white-collar workers with an equally unbelievable pace. There are hundreds of thousands of computer professionals out there who can wolf down software code in languages as varied as .Net to C# to Jsp's for breakfast every day, figuratively speaking.

It is really a pity to sit back and watch the knowledge of these professionals going down the drain when they are coerced into taking up jobs which far undermine their knowledge and skills so they can pay next month's rent and tuition.

On the flip side of the coin, several jobs on campus that require expertise in a particular software language or domain remain unfulfilled or remain posted for a long time after they are past due, as fateful reminders of one of the deepest fears inherent in the human psyche; the fear of ostracism, of being left out, of no longer being a part of a group.

It is often said, "Familiarity breeds contempt." Well, unfamiliarity is worse, because it costs jobs. Imagine the thought process going through a potential employer about a potential employee. "Well, have you heard about Ms. Simpson? The news is that she might hire a foreign student as an assistant. I can't even pronounce her name," says Mr. Jack.

And so what does Ms. Simpson do? She doesn't hire the assistant with the funny sounding name, of course. She doesn't want to be ostracized from the birthday parties and office lunches. Who cares if the would-be assistant knew seven software languages and had a bounty of accomplishments at her last job?

A better way to streamline the process actually could be make the hiring system autonomous and anonymous. There could be a central body or department that would handle the hiring for various divisions at Tech. For example, there could be an IT-HR function, to which all employers requiring computer professionals would submit requests to. This function would comprise of IT professionals themselves who are experts in a particular field.

So say, for example, the library needs a software technician well-versed in .Net; the .Net expert in the IT–HR function could screen applicants for that particular job.

Another way to improve the system would be to make the process anonymous to both the potential employer and the future employee. The student cannot see which department his or her application is being submitted to and the employer can't see the name of the candidate whose profile he or she received. Only the employer's posted job requirements and the submitted qualifications of the student employee would be visible to either side. This would ensure any preconceived biases do not hinder the hiring process.

Such a streamlined process would go a long way in ensuring there is a perfect match between the right candidate and his or her dream job; and hopefully in the long run give Texas Tech the Tier One status it so rightfully deserves, making it the nation's premier choice for education, research and work opportunities.

■ Dsouza is a graduate finance major from Mumbai, India.
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Today's sudoku

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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

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This Sunday, be a part of open mic night at Starbucks across from Tech. All singers/songwriters welcome. Starts at 8 pm and ends at 10 pm. If you would like to play, be there by 7:30.
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GUEST COLUMN

Sports stadiums should always be filled with fans

I am a graduate student at Tech, and I consider myself an avid sports fan. As a result of my status as a graduate student, Tech waives some fees that undergraduate students are required to pay. However, each semester, I elect to pay the fees that grant me access to on-campus medical care, the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center and athletic events.

I do so not only because my status as a graduate student also drastically reduces my disposable income, but because I feel that supporting the teams of my institution is important. I try to attend as many sporting events as my schedule allows.

Earlier this week, I attended the final home game for the Texas Tech men's basketball team and had an experience that was very disappointing to me.

When the seating sections reserved for the General Admission (free) tickets began to fill up, my friend and I decided that one of the many sections that were less than 20 percent full would provide a little more elbow room than the General Admission sections.

> *"Naturally, fans that do not pay for tickets shouldn't be favored over the fans that do pay, but when the fans that do pay are not showing up to games, does it really make a difference?"*

We moved over to one of the sections that were close to empty and were promptly asked to provide our tickets to a United Spirit Arena staff member. When he informed us that our tickets were restricted to another section, we asked when they would stop checking tickets for the section in which we wanted to sit. His answer was that he would be checking tickets the entire game.

I then asked, "So, the arena and university would rather these seats sit completely empty, on television, than let someone sit here instead of in the upper tier of the arena?" He informed me that the poorly populated areas were comprised of seats that were owned by "fans" that purchase Personal Seating Licenses and that the owners of such seats have expressed to the university that they cannot justify paying for the seats if just anyone can sit there.

Don't get me wrong, I do see their point. They paid for the seats and should be able to do with them what they see fit. However, the section from which I ended up watching the game had about 100 fans in it, and our view was atrocious. Naturally, fans that do not pay for tickets shouldn't be favored over the fans that do pay, but when the fans that do pay are not showing up to games, does it really make a difference?

Throughout the game, my friend and I discussed the various consequences of such poor attendance at men's basketball games. Although we both understand that football appears to be king in Texas, the state of Texas puts out great basketball players every year that end up playing Division I basketball across the country. There's no reason Tech shouldn't be in the running for landing those recruits. However, with attendance like I've seen at the past few games, I have to believe that it will never happen.

When Kansas State (ranked No. 6 nationally at the time) was in town for a game, the attendance was equally as putrid as the attendance for Tuesday's game. When potential recruits turn on ESPN to see Tech play teams like A&M or Kansas and they see a half-full arena, they have to ask themselves "Would I want to start for three years in front of crowds like that?" My guess is that, based on the past few recruiting classes, the answer is no more often than yes.

My major complaint is not that basketball should be more popular here, or that Tech's basketball teams are under-performing based on their recruiting classes. My primary complaint is that if $1 and free tickets can't fill the arena more than they have for the past few games, why not make every section General Admission and let the fans that are willing to show up spend money at the concession stands, buy team merchandise and cheer on the Red Raiders move down to the lower sections and have a better seat for the game?

We counted at least three of the luxury boxes that were empty last night, one of which we think belongs to the HSC. How many employees are there at the HSC who would have gladly taken free access to that box and cheered for the Red Raiders?

I know that the response from many readers will be, "Well, the university is making money by selling the seats whether the fans show up or not," and I agree. However, if those people aren't showing up by halftime, let's fill the seats so the televised games don't look so empty. Or, given the ample amount of empty seats in the lower sections, if a ticket holding fan does show up late, just have the General Admission ticket holders move to new empty seats. There are plenty of

■ Mark Ortegren is a graduate accounting major from East Alton, Ill.

DHA halts services at housing unit

DALLAS (AP) — A church that has held Sunday worship service at a public housing apartment complex for the elderly for more than a decade must stop, according to the Dallas Housing Authority.

The church services violate the constitutional separation of church and state and the city housing authority's contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which funds public housing programs, DHA President MaryAnn Russ told The Dallas Morning News for a story published Thursday.

Lake Highlands United Methodist Church has held services at Audelia Manor for 14 years.

Some residents who live at the complex and attend the services were upset by the housing authority's decision.

"A lot of us are older people," said resident Myrna Hardy, 84, who has attended the services since they began. "We've been to church all of our life, and we can't get out to go to other churches very easily."

Jerry Brown, a HUD spokesman based in Washington, D.C., said there may be a misunderstanding. The Fair Housing Act allows religious activity in common areas of public housing as long as it does not result in unequal treatment of residents, Brown said, adding that HUD would "like to chat" with the DHA.

The watchdog group Americans United for Separation of Church and State said it wasn't opposed to the church holding its services at the housing complex, as long as no federal funds were used, other religious groups could also hold services and residents were not forced to attend or subjected to unwanted proselytizing.

The Rev. Pamela Clark, a Lake Highlands United Methodist Church associate pastor, said she hopes to work out an agreement with Russ to allow the services to continue.

Missouri up next for Lady Raiders after Griner incident

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Brittney Griner's attack on Texas Tech forward Jordan Barncastle on Wednesday night in the United Spirit Arena is still big news in the sports world.

It even reached Missouri coach Cindy Stein, whose Tigers will face the Lady Raiders at 1 p.m. Sunday in Columbia, Mo.

"I think (Tech head coach) Kristy (Curry) and (Baylor head coach) Kim (Mulkey) handled it well," she said. "Those are things that can happen so quickly when you have a high intensity game. Teams across the country are very fatigued right now. There's a lot of pressure, so that's where sometimes emotions get involved."

But the Lady Raiders may have bigger tasks at hand with the upcoming matchup against the Tigers.

Curry believes Tech still has a shot at an NCAA tournament berth, and a win at Mizzou (11-17, 1-14 in Big 12 play) along with a some success in the Big 12 Conference tournament might do the job.

Tech head coach Kristy Curry said a win against the Tigers will be just one more step toward the team's ultimate goal.

"I have no doubt in my mind that we can go to Missouri and win, win the first round of the tournament," Curry said after Wednesday's night loss to BU. "And I know you're going to say, 'Well Kristy, nobody's ever gotten in at 6-10.' Well you know what, the past is no predictor of the future. When you're on the committee and you look at the body of work, you look at our UCLA win, who's second in the Pac-10 (Conference) and ranked in the Top 25, our New Mexico win, and how we've done down the stretch.

"They always look at how you finish, I still think we can get in."

Having Barncastle on the court can only enhance Tech's (17-11, 5-10) chances of getting a victory.

The junior forward was scheduled for a doctor's appointment Thursday to determine her availability for the end of the season. Barncastle suffered what seemed to be a nose injury during the Griner incident.

But Stein said her team will be ready for Tech with or without Barncastle, who had been a catalyst for the Tech offense down the stretch.

"Well I think it'll be in our best interests to prepare for Tech at its strongest," she said. "Whatever happens, happens. We've got to look at preparing regardless of who we think might be in and all of that. We will prepare for (Barncastle) to be out there. If she's not out there, we'll prepare for that angle as well."

There was some good news for the Lady Raiders off the court Thursday.

The Big 12 announced that Barncastle and guard Jordan Murphree were named to the 2010 Academic All-Big 12 Women's Basketball Team. Both players earned spots on the first-team, with Murphree making her third appearance on the squad.

Coaches and players are not available for comment until today.

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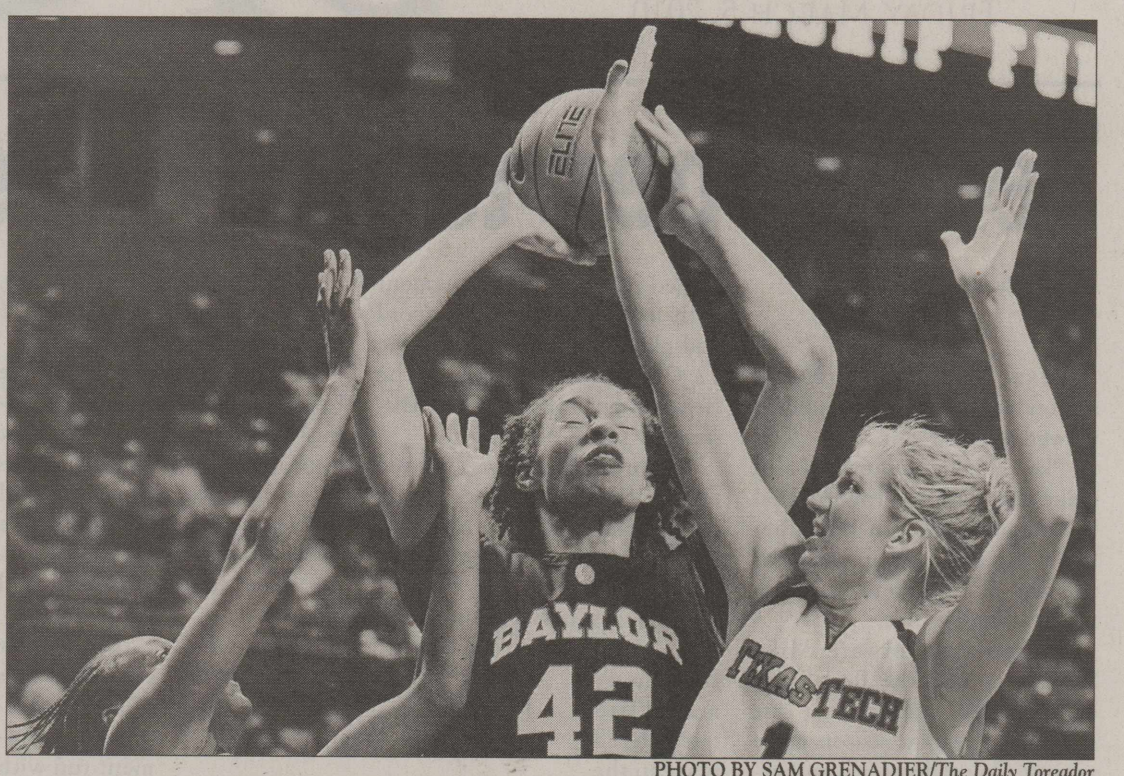


PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/*The Daily Toreador*

BAYLOR'S BRITTNEY GRINER reportedly has been suspended for two games after delivering a forearm to Texas Tech forward Jordan Barncastle's head. The Lady Raiders move on to face Missouri at 1 p.m. Sunday in Columbia, Mo.

Tech men's tennis in Corpus for HEB tourney

After another successful weekend, the Texas Tech men's tennis team will head to a place where success is expected.

The HEB Tournament of Champions is hosted every year in Corpus Christi, bringing multiple teams from different conferences together. Tech, who competes in that tourney this weekend, is the defending champions from last year.

For Tech coach Tim Siegel, it's a chance for his squad to keep improving.

"We've had some success there, not only winning the last two years, but we've won it before," Siegel said. "We just like going there. It's a good tournament. Our first two matches, we feel confident that we can get those two. And then potentially we will play BYU in the finals, and they're ranked (No. 23) in the country, so it's a great opportunity."

The most recent ITA rankings were released Tuesday and Tech jumped 14 spots to take control of the No. 18 spot. The Red Raiders are one of four Big 12 teams in the Top 20.

Tech is one of eight teams competing in the tournament this weekend. Some of those teams include Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, DePaul, Middle Tennessee State and No. 23 BYU.

Tech (9-1) faces Louisiana-Lafayette (2-7) at 9 a.m. today at the HEB Tennis Center on the campus of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Then the Red Raiders will face either No. 64 Western Michigan (10-4) or South Alabama (3-4) at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Along with team rankings, the singles and doubles rankings were released this week.

In singles, sophomore Raony Carvalho jumped 51 spots to No. 12 and fellow sophomore Gonzalo Escobar took the No. 58 spot.

Carvalho and Escobar playing in the No. 1 and No. 2 spots, respectively, have a combined record of 16-2 on the season.

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Hays trying to keep softball streak going

By TOMMY MAGELSSEN
Staff Writer



HAYS

Six days after defeating Wichita State in a 2-1 nailbiter, Texas Tech softball will take on the Shockers again Saturday and Sunday at Rocky Johnson Field as part of a three-team tournament.

The Red Raiders open the second of three Tech tournaments against Boise State at 3 p.m. today at Rocky Johnson Field. Tech will play at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. and noon Sunday.

Tech coach Shanon Hays is a firm believer in taking one game at a time, and just because his team beat Wichita State five days ago, doesn't mean he is taking them lightly.

"It was a different game last week because the wind was really blowing in hard, so it's a really low scoring game," he said. "We hit some balls hard, they hit some balls hard. Could've been a much higher scoring game.

"I'm anxious to see how that turns. Wichita State's a solid team. They're well-coached and they have some girls that can really swing the bat in the middle of their lineup."

At 15-1, the Red Raiders are off to their best start ever. Additionally, their 13-game winning streak is tied for the longest in program history.

"It's very positive, everyone's confident," said clean-up hitter Emily Bledsoe. "Coach tells us not to expect to win because you can't go in saying 'I'm going to win the game.' But you're looking to play the best you can. And each game is different. You can't take any game lightly at all.

"He definitely humbles us for sure."

Bledsoe leads Tech with a .442 batting average and 16 RBIs. As a team, the Red Raiders are hitting .333, top in the Big 12 Conference.

Tech's win against Wichita State provided its players with a look at a future opponent, but the Red Raiders know every game is different.

Pitcher Karli Merlich has seven of the Red Raiders' wins, but did not pitch against the Shockers.

"We have a scouting report on them because we saw them play, but every game's different," she said. "So since every game's different. We just have to go out and play hard."

On the season Wichita State is 6-6 and Boise State is 2-7. Hays said the Broncos are a much better team than their record might indicate.

"I've been keeping up with them," he said. "They took OU to the wire last week. ... They had to bring in Keilani Ricketts, their ace, to close the game out. I think five of their seven losses are one-run games against good people. So this will be our toughest weekend so far."

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Vault

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He also said when his daughter sees an obstacle or a hurdle, she can get around it no matter what.

"The way they are now is the way they are going to be when they are adults," Van said. "I think that's going to be good because, again that's the hurdle deal. If she's in business or if she is a professional somewhere, challenges will always come to you and she'll figure out how to get past it."

Shade has been pole-vaulting at an elite level since she was a freshman in high school. After she won her first state championship that year, she and her parents hired prep coach Paul Richards to help improve Shade's technique.

Richards said Shade is a self-motivator and no one can tell her what she can or cannot do.

While the freshman has a strong work ethic, the sport still had to be fun for her.

"It's a tough sport and it takes a lot of conditioning and perseverance to get it right," Richards said. "And if you're not having fun at it, it's hard to keep up with all that intensity as long as you have to."

When she competed in high school, Shade said she sometimes thought of pole-vaulting as her job and she wouldn't enjoy it as much. Now that she is in the college atmosphere, she said she is able to relax more, and truly have fun.

"Now it's easier for me to view it as something that I do for me," she said. "For something that makes me really happy."

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SPORTS

Tech hopes to end season on good note at CU

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech's final regular season basketball game could be viewed as a last gasp.

Players believe they can still make the National Invitational Tournament and, on the other hand, a good tune-up game for the Big 12 Conference tournament would be nice.

Either way, forward Mike Singletary said the Red Raiders basketball team cannot lose their final regular season game against Colorado at 3 p.m. Saturday in Boulder, Colo.

"It's just a must-win in all situations," he said. "We want to get rid of the losing streak, we want to get to the NIT, and we want to be playing well going into the tournament. So, in all situations, I think it's a must-win for us."

Tech (16-13, 4-11 in Big 12 play) is on a six-game losing streak and once bright hopes of making some form of postseason play seem over at this point. But players believe if the Red Raiders win Saturday's game followed by a couple in the conference tournament, they still might have a chance.

Tech's best chance of making postseason play would be winning the conference tournament and the conference's automatic bid into the NCAA tournament.

Baylor defied those odds last year.

In the 2008-2009 season, Baylor started as the ninth-seeded team in the tournament with a 5-11 conference record and played its way into the Big 12 Championship game. The Bears dropped that game to Missouri by seven points.

However, Baylor was invited to the NIT and subsequently played its way into the NIT title game in Madison Square Garden in New York.

This season, Baylor is ranked No. 21 in the country and is tied for third place in the conference.

> *"We just know that we've got to win this game and everything else will fall into place after that. We just need to get out of this losing streak and start playing well again."*
>
> **MIKE SINGLETARY**
> TECH FORWARD

If Tech loses to Colorado (14-15, 5-10), the Red Raiders will be the ninth seed in the Big 12 tournament unless Oklahoma — also 4-11 — defeats Texas A&M in Norman, Okla. If the Red Raiders win, they will be the eighth seed in the conference with the tiebreaker against the Buffs, who will drop to the ninth seed.

But Tech most likely will play Colorado in the opening round of the conference tournament Wednesday in Kansas City, Mo. If the Red Raiders defeated Colorado in the conference tourney, they would square off with No. 2 Kansas in the quarterfinals.

"I don't think any of us have looked at the tournament (seeding)," Singletary said. "We just know that we've got to win this game and everything else will fall into place after that. We just need to get out of this losing streak and start playing well again."

Baylor started its 2009 conference tournament run with a win against Nebraska just four days after losing to the Huskers, then knocked off first-seeded Kansas in the second round.

But leading up to Saturday's game, Singletary said the Red Raiders' attention is simply on defeating the Buffaloes.

"I think we're all ready, all our minds are set to the task at hand," Singletary said. "We're just kind of ready to just get back out there, and if we could play today, I think we'd be ready."

Other players and coaches were not made available to the media Thursday.

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PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/*The Daily Toreador*

BAYLOR'S JOSH LOMERS goes up for a shot against Texas Tech's D'walyn Roberts during Baylor's 86-68 victory against the Red Raiders Tuesday in the United Spirit Arena.

Red Raiders get one last chance to improve marks before nationals

By TOMMY MAGELSSEN
STAFF WRITER

Senior Brian Porter will have one last chance to qualify for the Track and Field Indoor NCAA Championships on March 12 and 13.

Porter, a pole-vaulter from Maypearl, is among a handful of Red Raiders who will be sent to compete in track meets the weekend in Iowa and Washington.

Having qualified for nationals his sophomore year, Porter said he is used to the nerves associated with trying to get a good mark before the NCAA Championships.

"You always want to feel that same way when you try to go out and jump," he said. "About the way you felt when you did well before."

He said he is usually a little nervous before a meet, and this Saturday should be no different. However, he tries to use his nerves to his advantage and not let them get to him too much.

Porter will be traveling to Seattle for the Washington Last Chance Meet in order to improve on his provisional mark of 17 feet, 3 inches. The NCAA automatic mark is 18-1/2 inches. Porter jumped 17-6 3/4 inches when he qualified as a sophomore.

Other athletes traveling this weekend include Terra Evans, who will be competing in Ames, Iowa, in the 60-meter dash and 60 hurdles, and Bryce Brown who will be competing in the 60 hurdles.

The men's and women's 4x400 relay team are headed to Ames for the second consecutive week to attempt to maintain and improve their seeding for the NCAA Championships.

"Everybody in the country will be running, and so we just want to make sure that we don't lose the spot, and that they also want to run faster," said Tech coach Wes Kittley. "The better you run the better heat you're in at the national meet."

Kittley said he is sending his relay teams and runners to Iowa because the best competition of the weekend will be there. He said the best pole-vaulters are convening in Washington, so Porter is going there to compete.

"When you're around the best competition, it brings out the best in you," he said. "And I think they will have a great opportunity to — you know, when somebody is jumping higher or running faster, the best in nature just makes you want to do the same. I feel real good about the competition there — it will help us."

The men's team of Bryce Brown, Jamaal Butler, LaToy Williams, and Zach Plinario ran a time of 3 minutes, 9.56 seconds in the indoor Big 12 Conference Championships on Saturday, and the same four will be running to improve their time this weekend, Kittley said.

The women's team of Trudeann Clarke, Candace Jackson, Kelsey Lloyd, and Taylor Evans ran a time of 3:36.30 in the indoor Big 12 Championships. The mark ranks the team 14th in the nation, trailing the first-place time by less than six seconds.

Of the athletes competing Saturday, four are seniors. Kittley said Porter has been a great leader for his team, and he believes Porter has the ability to get a mark good enough to send him to nationals.

"I fully think he can jump that high this weekend if he feels good and has a good meet," he said. "So we just want to give him that chance. He deserves it and he's a senior, and like I said, he's a great leader on our team."

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Red Raiders in Houston for College Classic

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/*The Daily Toreador*

TEXAS TECH'S BARRETT Barnes, a Sugar Land native, looks forward to playing in the Houston College Classic at Minute Maid Park this weekend.

Playing in the Houston College Classic this weekend means coming home for a few players on the Texas Tech baseball team.

And what better place than a Major League ballpark to play in front of family and friends?

The tourney, which also features TCU, Houston and Rice, will be played at Minute Maid Park.

"It's kind of like the last go-around for me," said senior shortstop Joey Kenworthy, who is a Houston native. "I know my sophomore year I had a great time down there. I was thinking, 'Man, this is awesome. I can't wait to play here my senior year.' I kind of took it as, 'I get to play here again.'

"But now I'm looking at it as, 'Hey, I'm not going to be able to play here again.' So I think this weekend I'm just going to take it all in."

Including Kenworthy, five Red Raiders on the roster are from the Houston area and have the opportunity to be in front of familiar faces this weekend. The Red Raiders begin the Houston College Classic against TCU at noon today. Games against Rice at 7 p.m. Saturday and Houston at 2:30 p.m. Sunday follow the matchup against the Horned Frogs.

Kenworthy's family is excited for the chance to see the senior play at Minute Maid Park. He said his mom sent him an e-mail list of friends and family who wanted to attend the game, but he had trouble finding tickets for everyone.

Tech right-fielder and freshman standout Barrett Barnes also is from the Houston area, coming out of Fort Bend Austin High School in Sugar Land.

Being back home in front of family is nice for Barnes, but it's some of his former teammates from his summer league team that he looks forward to seeing.

"We got four on Rice, two on U of H and five on TCU," he said. "So I know a lot of kids out there. It'll be fun to see my old friends again. I really want to go out there and beat them all, just to set a statement for Texas Tech and have a good time out there, and hopefully we get three wins this weekend. That's the goal."

Tech would definitely make a statement with some wins this weekend. TCU, Rice and Houston are some of the top programs in the nation right now.

TCU is ranked in all four of the major college baseball polls, No. 7 being its highest. Rice is ranked No. 9 in the nation by Baseball America.

Tech and Houston will be the squads looking to make the most noise — both teams are unranked.

But if Chad Bettis is as solid as he has been so far this season, the Red Raiders might fare well against the Horned Frogs.

At 2-0 with a 3.21 ERA, the junior right-handed pitcher will be on the mound today against Steven Maxwell, who is 2-0 with a 0.82 ERA.

The Horned Frogs aren't just all pitching. They bat .365 as a team, with standouts such as Josh Elander and Jason Coats. Elander is hitting .556 and Coats has three home runs and 11 RBIs.

Just four years ago, Bettis could have been in the majors. He was drafted by the Astros out of high school in the 2007 MLB Draft.

But a tough TCU team is now the focus for the junior.

"I know they're good," Bettis said. "Everyone we're going to play from here on out is going to be good. I know they made a regional last year and they have a lot of pitching. I know a guy I played with this summer. He's a pitcher. He's pretty good. So we talked a lot about their team, how they're going to get a lot of players back. So I'm expecting them to be ready for me."

Aside from the homecomings and the top-notch opponents, it's also the first time Tech is away from Dan Law Field.

Tech coach Dan Spencer said that alone should make this weekend a worthy test for his squad.

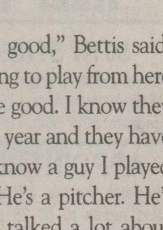
"It'll be a good gauge for us," he said. "It'll be a good gauge just to see how we take care of our business again on the road. Houston's not a Top 25 team right now, not ranked as one, but they're solid. And playing two Top 10 teams — that's a good deal."

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Sunday: 9:30am, 10:30am and 5:00pm
Monday – Friday: 7:00pm

For more information call 928-9262 or visit
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