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THE DAILY TOREADOR

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University calls special regents meeting

Board to discuss residence hall project, AD seach committee

By TOMMY MAGELSSEN
News Editor

A specially called Board of Regents meeting is taking place by teleconference today to discuss Texas Tech's dire need for new student housing and the use of an outside consultant to search for a new athletic director.

According to the meeting's agenda, the Board of Regents approved the first phase of a project relocating the Exercise Science Center to the PrinTech building. The initial budget for the project was $2 million and was slated for completion by August.

However, the agenda states the Sports Studies Center will need to be demolished earlier than planned to make way for a new residence and dining hall on the site east of Boston Avenue, between 18th and 19th streets.

The new plan calls for the "abatement and demolition" of the building starting in May, causing classes and academic programs to be relocated ahead of schedule.

The Sports Studies Center contains exercise and sport science classes as well as Tech's dance program.

The agenda states the initial project was to renovate 15,000 square feet of the PrinTech building, creating space for cardio-related labs, intervention labs, motor behavior and biomechanics labs, sport and exercise psychology labs, offices, classrooms, and support space.


MYERS

Because of the potentially updated schedule, a multi-use research facility for labs will not be included in the renovation of the PrinTech building project.

According to the meeting's agenda, a new residence hall, with a dining facility and parking, requires the approval of the aforementioned schedule change to relocate the Exercise Science Center to PrinTech three months earlier.

The residence hall will be approximately 174,000 square feet, the agenda states, with 500 bed spaces. The dining hall will be 20,000 square feet.

Additionally, the Board of Regents will discuss the authorization of a consultant to help search for a new athletic director.

Current athletic director Gerald Meyers is scheduled to retire in May.

>>> tmagelssen@dailytoreador.com

ON THE AGENDA

• Residence hall project

- Discussion of the need to expedite demolition and abatement of the Sports Studies Center

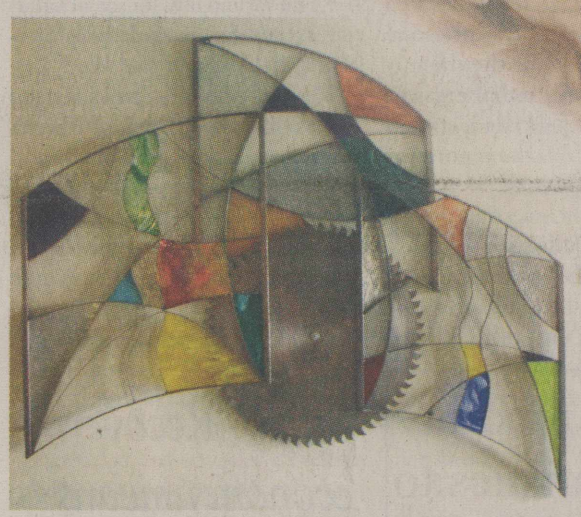
• Athletic director search committee

- Disscussion of the need to bring in outside consulting firm to aid in search

Artistic Tech

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Tech alumna Charise Adams' art can be seen throughout Lubbock. Check out what inspires her. LA VIDA, Page 3

Professor's book explores novel behavioral approach

Work explores idea of lifestyle change

By BRIAN HOWARD
Staff Writer

An assistant professor in the College of Education recently published a book covering the idea of social validity, a new and interesting way to gauge the ultimate success of human behavioral change.

According to WebMD, more than 63 percent of Americans either are overweight or obese, showing that many people have trouble changing their behavior, even when their health is on the line.

The difficulty of behavioral change, along with lack of research into the topic, is why Stacy Carter, assistant professor in the College of Education, said he initially was inspired to research social validity, ultimately leading to the publishing of his new book, "The Social Validity Manual."

"I continually went to conferences in which the presenters recommended that more research should go into social validity," he said. "I began to look for various ways to incorporate elements of social validity into treatments."

"The Social Validity Manual" takes an in-depth look at incorporating the unique behavioral approach, Carter said, which hasn't been done before.

"A few textbooks have had a single chapter covering it, but never before has an entire book been published on the subject," he said. "Researchers typically spend more time on statistical reliability, but it's important to get the consumer's perspective on the treatment."

BOOK continued on Page 2 >>>

WalkingCanvases

Student runs own business painting shoes

By CARRIE THORNTON
Staff Writer

Although only a freshman in college, Weston Betts knows a thing or two about starting, and running, a business.

At 11 years old, Betts managed to sustain a lawn mowing business maintaining nine yards at a time. Nine years later, while many Texas Tech freshmen spend their time getting accustomed to college life, Betts, a business marketing major from Murphy, started his own shoe-painting business that began with a romantic anniversary gift.

"A lot of people have told me I'm a romantic," Betts said with a laugh. "I've been dating my girlfriend for more than two years, and I always try to go above and beyond with gifts.

"For our two-year anniversary she was talking about wanting a pair of TOMS Shoes … so after I checked them out, I had to go above and beyond, and decided to paint a pair I got her."

This gesture caught the attention of several students, Betts said, and he soon realized there was a market for customized apparel—and people were willing to buy.

After that first pair he completed on Oct. 18, Betts said KustomKicks has sold 11 pairs and has eight currently in the works. The base fee for each pair is around $20 to $25, and can increase depending on how complex the design is and the number of hours it takes to complete.

"Basically I give them a $5 to $10 range," he said. "I tell them I just need to figure out how long it will take me because I'm not in this solely to make money. I really do enjoy it, and I love getting to see people's expressions when they get the shoes."

On Oct. 20, Betts began spreading the word about his newly born business, first relying on word of mouth and then creating a Facebook page, he said. Through the page, interested customers can order through a set of instructions he has listed on the info section.



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/*The Daily Toreador*

WESTON BETTS, A freshman business marketing major from Murphy, recently started his own shoe-painting business, KustomKicks.

By the end of the semester, Betts said, he hopes to have an official website with a patented company name.

In terms of design, Betts said the customer has complete control or can surrender it if they don't have anything particular in mind.

"Some people know exactly what they want, but the majority come to me and are like, 'I want a pair of painted shoes, but I have absolutely no idea what I want,'" Betts said. "So after 15 to 30 minutes of me talking to them, just getting to know them and such, we can come up with something that they'd really like."

SHOES continued on Page 6 >>>

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WEATHER

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Community Calendar

TODAY

Comedy Night: Carmen Lynch
Time: 8 p.m.
Where: Student Union Allen Theatre
So, what is it?
Carmen Lynch fell into comedy by accident when reading her journals at open mics: "Dear Diary WTF? I'm 6 feet tall and no one ever thinks I'm Spanish. It hurts."
Carmen made it to the Semi-Finals of this Season's "Last Comic Standing" on NBC, with one of the most talked about jokes (chickenhole!). Carmen's also been on Comedy Central's "Premium Blend" and performed on HBO's US Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen.

FRIDAY

Active Shooter Presentation
Time: 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Where: Human Sciences Room 169
So, what is it?
The Texas Tech Police Department is presenting information about what to do and what not to do during an Active Shooter Situation should one happen on campus.

'60s and '70s Nostalgia Night
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Cactus Theater
So, what is it?
From rhythm & blues to disco, walk down memory lane with the great hits of The Beatles, The Eagles, Jackson 5, Donna Summer, Brenda Lee, Wilson Pickett and more! Tickets are $25.

Musical Madness
Time: 8 p.m.
Where: Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
So, what is it?
First, delve into the complex world of composer Robert Schumann, who was an established writer, music critic and eminent composer. You will also hear Richard Strauss' comical but virtuosic piece, "Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche," that tells the story of a legendary prankster. The final piece, "Asyla," conveys the imagination and originality of the young British composer Thomas Adés.

Texas Cadillac Jack Band
Time: 9 p.m.
Where: Koko Club
So, what is it?
Join this local Hub City band for a night of blues, classic rock and country.

To make a calendar submission e-mail features@dailytoreador.com

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

Grand jury indicts Ariz. shooting suspect

PHOENIX (AP) — A federal grand jury has indicted the suspect in the deadly Arizona shooting that wounded Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

The indictment against Jared Loughner (LAWF'-ner) accuses him of attempting to assassinate Giffords and trying to kill two of her aides.

It does not include two murder charges included in an earlier criminal complaint for the deaths of another Giffords aide and a federal judge.

U.S. attorney for Arizona Dennis Burke said Wednesday's initial indictment was just the beginning of federal legal action against the 22-year-old Tucson resident.

Six people were killed and 13 wounded in the Jan. 8 attack at a grocery store. State charges are pending.

SWEET SAX SOUNDS

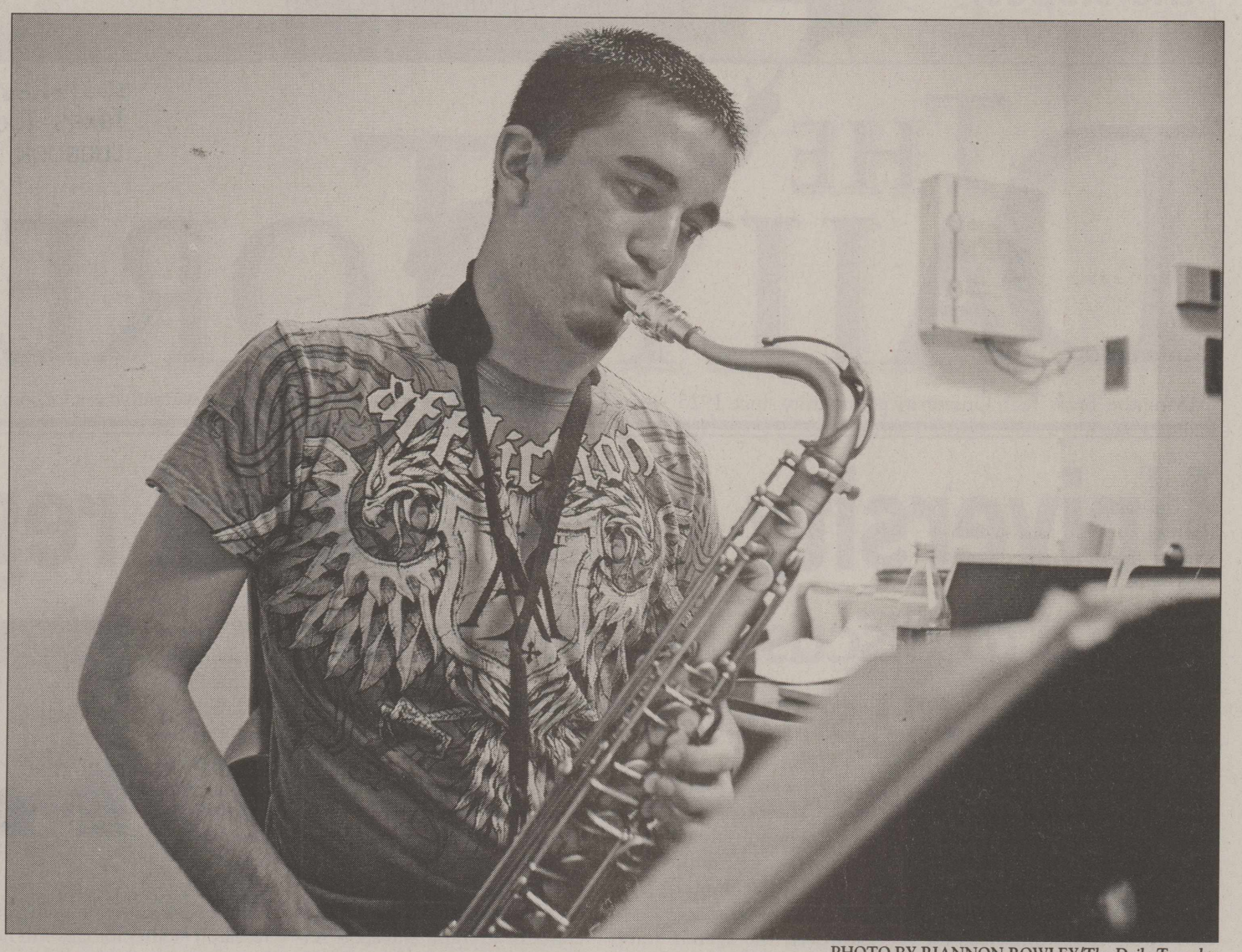


PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/*The Daily Toreador*
TYLER CLARK, A junior music education major from San Antonio, practices his saxophone in the Music building on Wednesday.

Book

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The patient-focused perspective is what sets social validity apart from other behavioral approaches, Carter said.

"Social validity incorporates numerous fields of study, including psychology, education, social work and health services," he said. "Each field typically develops techniques people use. Social validity looks at the reliability, use, acceptance and ultimate success of these treatments."

After looking at possible treatment options, Carter said, the next step in social validity is to get consumer input.

"It incorporates what consumers want and what they value in a treatment," he said. "Most behavioral treatments are based upon statistics you can see in a graph, but you must ask the patient if the treatment was valuable and if it improves their lives."

Carter said the main purpose of the book is simply to spark an interest in the subject.

"Social validity is highly underutilized," he said. "I wanted to put something together that I could use with all the information on the topic in one place."

> *"Due to so many individual differences and preferences, social validity is relevant and useful in so many ways."*
>
> **STACY CARTER**
> ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
> COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

A short story by Stephen King, "Quitters Inc.," was another source of inspiration for Carter.

"In the story, smokers are invited to a treatment center where they are guaranteed to quit smoking," he said. "The patients would be watched and monitored, and if they lit a cigarette, one of their family members was killed, and if they continued to smoke, eventually they would be killed."

While the behavioral therapy and treatment used in King's story is extreme and unrealistic, Carter said it presents a different, albeit drastic, example of how difficult behavior change can be.

"Obviously this example is impractical and unrealistic," he said, "but it hinges on the idea of social validity."

Carter utilizes far more practical applications of social validity in his practice.

"Within my practice, whenever I am consulting with teachers," he said, "I always get their input on their range of acceptability, what they can and can't do or what they may be or may not be willing to do."

The various uses for social validity extend far beyond the professional field, Carter said.

"I had trouble getting my son to take his medication, so I began putting chocolate syrup on his pills and haven't had a problem since," he said. "Due to so many individual differences and preferences, social validity is relevant and useful in so many ways."

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Texas Tech University reports annual campus crime statistics to our university community, prospective students, and new employees. To find out more about the annual report, please view the following website:
http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttpd/clery.php

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Division of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs

Study: Recovering economy means increased traffic

HOUSTON (AP) — Just as Americans started worrying a little less about jobs and money, they got something new to fret about: More traffic.

An annual study done by the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University found that traffic was better than it had been in a decade during the height of the recession. But roads snarled once again as people returned to work and shopping.

Using real-time data to calculate commuter mileage, speed and distance traveled over time, the institute estimated traffic tie-ups cost about $115 billion in 2009. The study released Thursday cites factors such as wasted fuel, lost work hours and delays in shipping goods.

Commuters in Chicago and Washington suffered the most, losing 70 hours a year to traffic delays. Nationally, the average commuter wasted 34 hours in traffic in 2009 — up from 14 hours in 1982, the first year for which researchers have records.

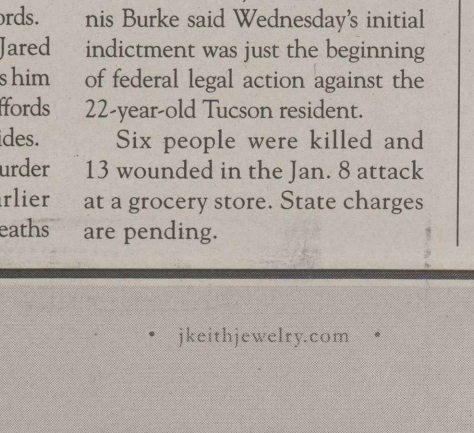
The good news, researchers say, is that traffic also is a sign of prosperity.

"The tie between the economy and congestion is not unexpected," said Tim Lomax, a research engineer with the institute.

Researchers have seen similar regional declines in the past. For example, Lomax said when oil prices plummeted in the 1980s, Dallas and Houston got much-needed relief from traffic as people lost their jobs and stayed home. A similar phenomenon was tracked in California when the high-tech bubble burst in the 1990s, he added. Until now, however, the researchers — who released their first study in 1984 — have not had such a large national recession to track.

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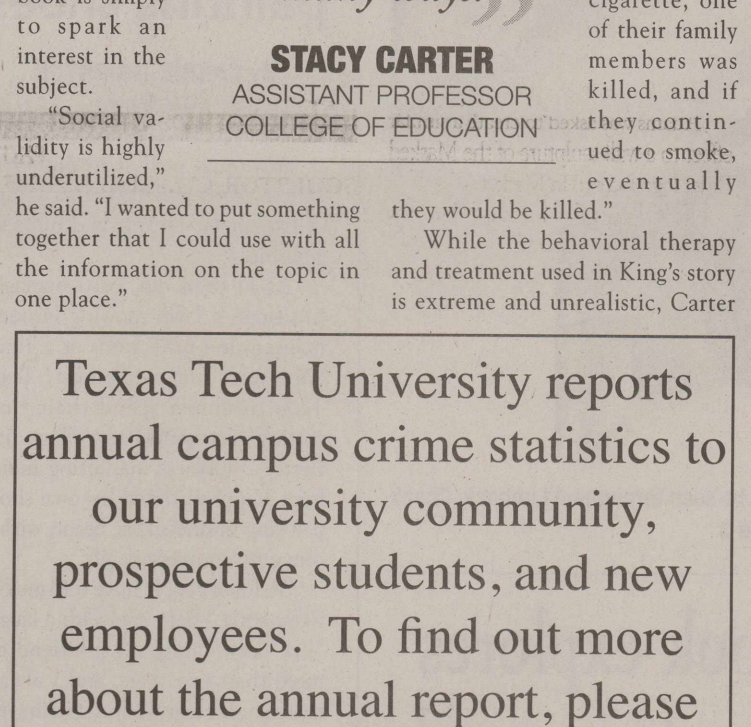
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Artwork of Tech alumna displayed on campus

By ROCIO RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

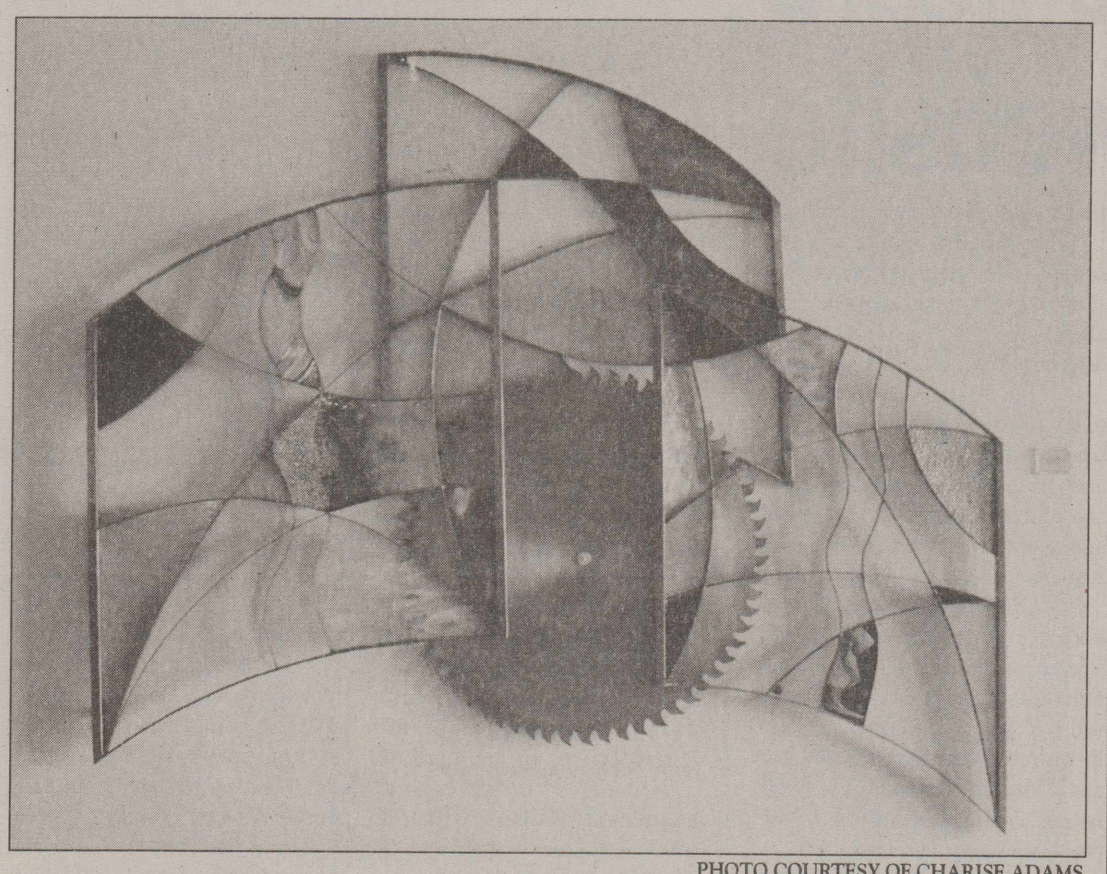


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARISE ADAMS
"DETERMINATION," BY ALUMNUS Charise Adams is displayed in the Student Union Building.

Determination is something all college students need to get through their four-year journey. However, Texas Tech students may not know they can find determination in the Student Union Building.

"Determination," a sculpture made from metal and glass, hangs in the hallway next to the mailroom in the SUB. Tech alumna Charise Adams is the artist behind this piece.

"It symbolize(s) my, or anyone's, process through college," Adams said. "You can have a lot of money or no money, a lot of smarts or no smarts, but it requires a lot of determination."

Adams is the first in her family to graduate from college, she said.

"I have a degree in psychology," Adams said, "and one day I got a crazy idea to take a welding class."

However, Adams said she had a lot of difficulty obtaining permission to take the class. She wanted to learn how to weld, but the class was only available as an upper-level art class.

Adams instead took the class in the agricultural department and was the only female in the class. There she met someone who guided her toward her present vocation.

"I met an artist, a real artist, and he told me to 'just make something, just something sculptural,'" she said.

When she had leftover scraps of metal, she started designing the faces that now hang in the SUB dining area.

After she made the first few faces, an individual from the university came across the art and asked Adams to create more to display on campus.

"She came up to me and said, 'I really like these faces. They look like students. Could you make 30 more?'" Adams said.

Adams credits her gift to God.

"Doing this, it's amazing, it just all works out and I make a living from it," Adams said. "It comes from another source, and I want to give credit where it's due."

She has since created many pieces for Tech and different organizations in Lubbock, Adams said. Several pieces on display in the Health Sciences Center, the Merket Alumni Center and Bless Your Heart are Adams' work.

The piece in the Merket Alumni Center was commissioned by Renee Underwood and serves as a creative plaque system for donations to Tech.

"(I knew of her since) way, way back when I first saw stuff when she started doing metal; actually, when she was doing it as a hobby," said Underwood, a volunteer for the National Board of Directors for the Texas Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors. Underwood was also in charge of marketing for the expansion project at the Merket Alumni Center.

"I've seen installations around town, and I love the metal and glass. I love the contemporary artwork," she said.

Underwood said she first saw one of Adams's creations in The Legacy, the former First Presbyterian Church in downtown Lubbock. It was a piece celebrating women of excellence.

"On each piece of glass, there's etched the names of the women who have won the award," Underwood said.

She kept Adams' art in mind, and when the committee began brainstorming what donors would get for their donations, she brought up Adams and her sculptures, Underwood said.

Adams was asked to create a similar effect to a wall sculpture of the Masked Rider logo located in Merket.

"She designed something that was already here, but then made it her way," Underwood said. "I just think it's so beautiful."

Underwood said she has worked with a lot of artists but Adams proved to be very different and was very collaborative and friendly.

"I think she's a great example of one of Texas Tech's own: friendly, successful, unique in her own way, excellent in her own field," Underwood said.

Charise Adams' husband, Ted Adams, is, by profession, a nurse, but is an artist as well.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARISE ADAMS
SCULPTOR CHARISE ADAMS' work is on showcase in several buildings around Tech campus and around Lubbock.

"I took up art as a therapy after my father passed, and I have always done art," Ted Adams said, "but I wouldn't have ever thought of quitting my very comfortable job as a nurse to become a full-time artist."

He looks up to Charise Adams as a very inspirational person, also describing her talent as an inspiration from God.

"Her outlook on life is reflected in her art, and she is a very free spirit," Ted Adams said. "Her art is a perfect outwards expression of Charise. She has always been very much inspired by God, and that's where it all comes from."

You only have to spend 30 minutes talking to her and you understand everything about her art, Ted Adams said.

"It is a direct reflection of herself, and of her life and her family," he said.

➤➤ rrodriguez@dailytoreador.com

Mrs. Obama wears McQueen fashion design to state dinner

NEW YORK (AP) — Michelle Obama chose a red Alexander McQueen gown with black details for the state dinner she and President Barack Obama were hosting Wednesday night in honor of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

The gown seemed typical of Mrs. Obama's atypical first-lady fashion sense: The gown featured an asymmetrical neckline and a petal-print silk organza fabric, and she wore a narrow wrap around her arms as she posed for photos in front of the White House.

The Alexander McQueen label is one of the most respected in style circles. McQueen committed suicide a year ago, but the brand has continued under the stewardship of his former assistant Sarah Burton, who, like McQueen, is a Londoner who shows her collections in Paris.

"This dress is very glamorous," said Kate Betts, author of the new book "Everyday Icon: Michelle Obama and the Power of Style."

"Red is an obvious color because in the Chinese color it means good luck, but you expect an American or an American-based designer for an occasion like this," said Betts, also a contributing editor at Time magazine. "But she's always surprising, and that's why we're all riveted by her."

The choice of McQueen further adds to Mrs. Obama's fashion credibility, said Betts. She's known as a champion of up-and-coming talent, but also mixes and matches top designers with mass retail brands.

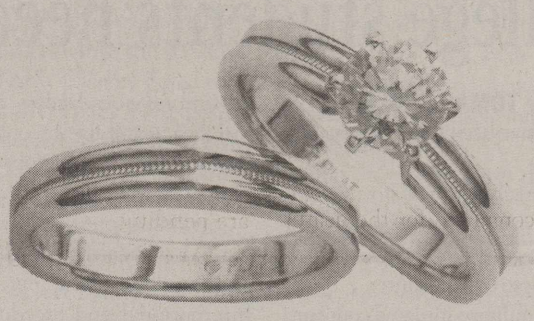
Fashion was further represented at the evening's A-list event with designer Vera Wang and Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour both on the guest list.

Earlier, Mrs. Obama wore a fairly dressy look for her daytime schedule, which included the official welcome to President Hu to Washington.

Her navy ensemble, which included a wool coat and wool-and-duchesse-satin dress, were embellished with silver beads. The outfit was designed by London-based designer Roksanda Ilincic.

"She likes glamour on these very public days," says Betts. "That's a strong, optimistic message, and she helps set the tone. We don't want her to show up in a dowdy, old dress."

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Tell-tale letdown: Poe visitor again a no-show

BALTIMORE (AP) — Telltale hearts beat with anticipation during a rainy, midnight dreary and beyond, hoping the mysterious visitor to Edgar Allan Poe's grave would return after a one-year absence.

But once again, the unknown person who for decades has left three roses and a half-empty bottle of cognac at Poe's grave on the anniversary of the writer's birth failed to appear Wednesday, fueling speculation that he may have died.

Four impostors came and went overnight. The real one never showed. Around 5 a.m., the dozen Poe fans who were left began to wonder if the eerie ritual is indeed nevermore, so they walked to Poe's tombstone and performed their own tribute by leaving roses and drinking a cognac toast.

A fascinating tradition that ran for some 60 years and was never fully explained appears to have ended at the downtown Westminster Hall and Burying Ground.

"I think we can safely say it's not car trouble, and he's not sick," said Jeff Jerome, curator of the Poe House and Museum. "This doesn't look good."

It would be an ending befitting of the legacy of Poe, the American literary master of the macabre who was known for haunting poems such as "The Raven" and grisly short stories including "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Pit and the Pendulum." He is also credited with writing the first modern detective story, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue." He died in 1849 in Baltimore at age 40 after collapsing in a tavern.

Sometime in the 1940s, it seems, an anonymous man began the annual tribute at Poe's grave. It was first referenced in print in 1949 by The Evening Sun of Baltimore.

Those who have glimpsed the "Poe toaster" always saw him dressed in black, wearing a white scarf with a wide-brimmed hat. Jerome has kept watch over the vigil since 1978, watching from inside the Presbyterian church while Poe fans peered through the locked gates of the cemetery.

After last year's no-show, Jerome this year was expecting Poe toaster wannabes imitating the real thing, and they showed up in brazen style. One emerged from a white stretch limo shortly after midnight. Two others appeared to be women. The fourth was an older man. All walked in clear sight of the Poe fans, contrary to the secretive nature of the real Poe toaster. All wore black hats and left roses and cognac, and two left notes, but none of the four gave the secret signal that only Jerome knows, and none of the four arranged the roses in the unique pattern established by the Poe toaster over the decades.

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Today's sudoku

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

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

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OPINIONS

Make your voice heard with new SGA website



Jon Arnold

The Texas Tech Student Government Association made good on its campaign promise of setting up a website for students to make their voices heard on every issue on which the senate votes.

It may have taken a while, but the initiative is certainly one to be applauded. Too many students simply don't pay any attention to the SGA. The articles on SGA never get many hits on *The Daily Toreador*'s website, and rarely, if ever, do I hear anybody chatting about issues the SGA is discussing in the bars, coffeehouses or walking around on campus.

That's too bad because SGA has a lot of influence on campus. Ask the president of a student organization how important the association is to the group's funds. Whether you like it or not, the SGA has the administration's attention and speaks for students.

I'd greatly encourage everyone to visit the site at pulse.ttu.edu every two weeks to vote on the issues that the senate will be discussing.

In a 2010 *New Yorker* article, Malcolm Gladwell wrote about how people will participate in online causes and support revolutions when it's convenient.

Basically, it's incredibly easy to click a button that says you like or don't like something. Going to an SGA meeting is harder. Running for an office shows even more initiative.

> *"If students don't visit the page, it will be rendered pointless."*

Now, it's really easy to take part in the student government process. Super easy. All you have to do is point your browser to the site, type in your eRaider and click away.

If students don't visit the page, it will be rendered pointless. It would be much stronger if everyone went, briefly read up on the issue and voted whichever way he or she sees fit.

The site hasn't been put in practice yet, but one can only hope each bill will be fully explained in plain English, not in the legalese that sometimes encumbers bills.

Hopefully the website will stay current and not become out of date. It should be maintained weekly and always reflect the issues that will be debated at the next senate meeting.

For the *DT*'s part, we'll continue to do our best to make sure you know what's going on in SGA meetings and publish your letters to the editor about the topics that are being debated and voted on by both senators and students.

The SGA officers made sure to note that just because a majority of students are in favor or against something doesn't mean that's how senators will vote. It's good for senators to vote in whatever manner they'd like, but much like our current U.S. political system, it's also necessary to have the people they represent in mind.

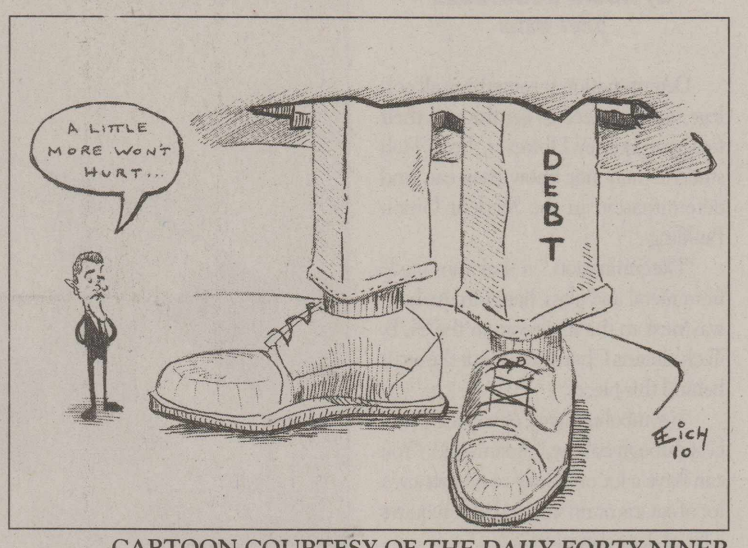
If students overwhelmingly approve or disapprove of a resolution or bill, senators should listen. There are obvious exceptions, but within reason, the votes of students should be respected.

The idea is a good one, and the framework is there. Let's hope students get involved and the SGA listens to what the students have to say.

■ **Arnold is *The DT*'s managing editor.**
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Tax or cut; just pick one

STAFF EDITORIAL
DAILY FORTY-NINER (CALIFORNIA STATE U.)



CARTOON COURTESY OF *THE DAILY FORTY-NINER*

When did spend and tax become just spend? Somewhere between Social Security and health care reform, Congressional leaders, fearing public backlash, continued to pass legislation in the name of social welfare, failing to account for appropriate funds.

A little debt is OK — even the most responsible among us carry a credit card — but the thought of more American debt just sounds ludicrous. As of Sept. 30, the U.S. is $13.56 trillion in debt. That's six percent less than what our country produces yearly in goods and services. Not cool. In fact, the Government Accountability Office, an auxiliary of U.S. Congress, estimates that somewhere between 2030 and 2040 mandatory spending will exceed government revenue.

The tax cuts will be extended — the American middle class cannot afford a tax increase and Republicans will not extend the cuts unless they are extended for the wealthy as a well. Our country's debt ceiling is raised seemingly every year — so this is nothing new. It's just the idea of packaging a debt increase with a tax cut that irks us. After all, this package would really capture the spirit of Congress, wouldn't it?

If Congressional leaders feel the will of the people is to spend, let them spend, but they should tax appropriately. If Congressional leaders feel the will of the people is to cut taxes, let them cut taxes, but they should spend appropriately.

Taxing and spending is a two-way street whether you are a Republican or a Democrat.

Unaware of this two-way relationship, congressmen might ask how else to extend the tax cuts? Cut spending, we would respond, now aware of congressional irresponsibility.

Some may argue for complexity citing anyone from John Keynes to Adam Smith, and they are right; the complexity of economics can't be argued in a 500-word editorial, but when it comes to prosperity, no one would rightly disagree with fiscal responsibility.

A balanced budget is nowhere near as important to anyone in this country as it is to a college student. Long after Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama, this country's college students will be around facing the consequences of their economic decisions. If anyone should be worried about 2040, it's us.

Cutting programs or raising taxes is hard, but in the harsh reality of this world one or the other has to be done. Otherwise, the buck is just being passed. And trust us, we say college students are in enough debt.

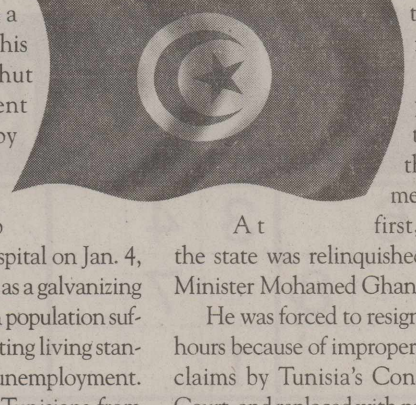
College students need to pay attention to Tunisia

By TOMAS ENGLE
THE DAILY ATHENAEUM (WEST VIRGINIA U.)

In a largely ignored story in the American media, a long-standing and corrupt foreign leader was overthrown by the people of his country.

While military-initiated coups are nothing new for Africa, the recent protests in Tunisia are a definite sign of the times with Facebook, WikiLeaks, and YouTube all playing pivotal roles in a country dominated by young people.

The protests started last month, on Dec. 17, 2010, Mohamed Bouazizi lit himself on fire in protest over authorities confiscating his only means of support, a fruit and vegetable cart.



According to the Toronto Star, Bouazizi was forced to become a street vender when his family's farm was shut down due to eminent domain purchases by the government.

While Bouazizi would later succumb to his wounds in a hospital on Jan. 4, his desperation served as a galvanizing moment for a Tunisian population suffering from a deteriorating living standard and high youth unemployment.

A broad range of Tunisians from every walk of life, from trade unionists and lawyers to musicians, journalists and religious leaders, had come together to call for the ouster of the long-standing and corrupt President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Serving as president for 23 years, Ben Ali was deemed "authoritarian" and "undemocratic" by Amnesty International and Freedom House and routinely exiled his political opponents.

By Jan. 14, the protests had reached such a fevered peak that Ben Ali fled the country to seek sanctuary in Saudi Arabia, taking with him 1.5 tons of gold from the Central Bank of Tunisia.

Though the corrupt leader is gone, Tunisia is not out of the woods yet.

Since Ben Ali had effectively created a one-party state, there is now no opposition party to take over the government.

At first, power of the state was relinquished to Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi.

He was forced to resign within 24 hours because of improper succession claims by Tunisia's Constitutional Court, and replaced with parliamentary speaker Fouad Mebazaa on Jan. 15.

Despite the unpredictable nature of how these events will end, citizens in other Arab countries are already pining for their own version.

In Egypt, still reeling from the after-effects of the Christmas bombing of a Coptic Christian church, there have been protests expressing solidarity with the Tunisians. Many Egyptians see similarities between Ben Ali's thinly veiled dictatorship and their own under Hosni Mubarak, who has been president since 1981.

What makes this current political event relevant to American youth, though, is the role technology played.

Chris Kennedy, writing on the lengths with which the Tunisian government took to control the flow of information said, "With complete control of the comings and goings of Internet traffic in the country, the government was able to totally shut down the secure http's protocol, forcing all Tunisian users to use the less secure http protocol in order to log in to their accounts.

"Utilizing this vulnerability, the government hacked and phished its way into the accounts of popular anti-government activists, shutting them out without their consent or knowledge."

To cancel this out, hacktivist group "Anonymous," famous for its denial of service attacks on entities not supportive of WikiLeaks, declared "Operation Tunisia" on Jan. 2, announcing: "The Tunisian government wants to control the present with falsehoods and misinformation in order to impose the future by keeping the truth hidden from its citizens. We will not remain silent while this happens. Anonymous has heard the claim for freedom of the Tunisian people. Anonymous is willing to help the Tunisian people in this fight against oppression."

Within 24 hours, the national stock exchange, several government ministries and the Palace website, were all hacked into unavailability.

As the situation unfolds, the world's college-educated youth should pay attention to how the frustrated, unemployed youth of this relatively well-developed and educated nation handle themselves in this chaos.

Even with the abstention of violence from protestors and the refusal (early on) of troops to fire at protestors, estimates of civilian deaths number around 78, and theft is rampant.

Though as American college students we may appear to be far from this scenario and other student-related protests in the world, keep in mind we share the same economic outlook as them upon graduation: Lower pay and higher prices for everyday goods.

We need to learn from their mistakes and commit ourselves in the trying times ahead to abhor violence and keep a cool head, as even the

Is America being 'wussified'?

By MIKE MUNZENRIDER
MINNESOTA DAILY (U. MINNESOTA)

Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell recently threw his hat into the hot realm of politico word coinage by "refudiating" — er, repudiating — the NFL for postponing an outdoor game between the Philadelphia Eagles and our Minnesota Vikings due to Alaska-like weather conditions. Rendell claimed this postponement was a "part of the wussification of America."

Impressively rattling off a number of memorably frigid and snowy pigskin moments, Rendell widened his comments from those of a scorned NFL fan into those of a concerned social critic. Calling for a greater sense of personal responsibility and likening the NFL to a "nanny state," Rendell lamented the loss of America's "pioneer spirit."

Is Rendell actually onto something? Are we as a country becoming wussified? Is the cancellation of a football game another signpost on the road to our place in the dustbin of once-great-now-wussy history? Looking more broadly at the country, maybe it's not.

> *"Quit smoking? Where's your pioneer spirit? Don't drink four Four Lokos? Who are you, the FDA? Wuss."*

This past fall, America was caught up in the rhetoric of never retreating and always reloading; calls for manning up rang from sea to shining sea. Back on the campaign trail of 2008, now-President Barack Obama non-wussily remarked, "If they bring a knife to the fight, we bring a gun." It may not make for a fair fight, but it won't be a wuss fight either.

More recently, in the face of the Tucson, Ariz. shootings that left six people dead and Rep. Gabrielle Giffords critically injured, what could have been a totally wussy response of soul-searching from America, was anything but. Within hours, the left was accusing the right of creating an atmosphere conducive to violence and, shortly thereafter, the right was accusing the left of opportunistic blood libels. Heated rhetoric about heated rhetoric is not for the weak of heart, let alone some wusses.

Departing from words and into action, the public has acted with decidedly non-wussy moves. Gun sales have spiked across the country in the wake of the shootings. Those might-be wusses who look to regulate guns a bit more after troubling gun violence are not finding much traction in Congress to work with. In light of all this, I can't see Rendell screaming wussification anymore.

However, looking elsewhere, there's plenty of wussification. Heck, even in light of all the blustery bloviating of political tough speak, the NFL did cancel that game. Isn't the NFL all worried about "concussions" too? Weren't they also afraid that the Vikings would all die if they played outside at TCF Bank Stadium? Maybe it's just the NFL that's wussifying.

But no, it might be America too. Wear a helmet while riding a bike? Wussification. Buckle up? Ditto. Quit smoking? Where's your pioneer spirit? Don't drink four Four Lokos? Who are you, the FDA? Wuss.

It might just be that Rendell's attention-grabbing sound bite was not of social import, but only an attention-grabbing sound bite. Invoking "wussitude" is a playground variety insult on its face and rings even more shallowly when America is judged upon it.

If Rendell speaks to anything, it's America's continuing struggle with personal responsibility and the correct amount of outside intrusion we allow into our lives. Attempting to parse out that balancing act must be left alone for another time, but ponder this: Rendell was ready for some football, darnit, but Mother Nature and the NFL evidently were not.

So what did he do? He invoked wussification, personal responsibility, our innate pioneer spirit, and proceeded to whine for not getting his way.

Added weight gain is collateral damage of added responsibility

By IRENE Y. CHEN
HARVARD CRIMSON (HARVARD U.)

I have a weakness for Double Stuff Oreos. Whenever I eat one, my worries are swept away in a sea of sugar. Nonetheless, each time I prepare to dive into a pack of Oreos to escape a particularly abysmal workload, the number of calories in a single Oreo stops me in my tracks.

Similar to the Boston winter, the "freshman fifteen"—so named for the number of pounds a freshman usually gains during their first year of college—strikes when least expected, despite multiple warnings from friends. Although a night of stress-eating Oreos might cause a higher-than-expected scale reading, this weight gain should not alarm anyone. The freshman fifteen should be embraced and controlled, not feared. Rather than indicating a truly dangerous weight gain, it represents a sign of emerging responsibility in fledgling adults.

Unsurprisingly, college creates a perfect environment for adding pounds. Nearly every student organization promises tasty yet unhealthy food as an incentive to attend their events. The dining halls neither limit the amount of times you can swipe nor the amount of food you can eat. Late-night snack runs and skewed sleep schedules only augment the problem. Because many students come from backgrounds where they were not in charge of their diet, they are ill-prepared to handle the flood of options crowding their plate.

The increased freedom in dietary choices and time management opens wholly unexplored windows. When freshmen navigate the complex labyrinth between sleep, schoolwork, and extracurricular activities, food becomes fuel as nutritional concerns are often left by the wayside. Likewise, although students walk significant distances to get to and from class, cardio-respiratory athletics—activities of which many partook in high school—are forgotten or deemed less important. Freshmen eat and exercise less consciously and gain weight as a result.

The freshman fifteen—sometimes more honestly renamed the freshman five—embodies these liberties. Combating this weight gain requires active assumption of responsibility. Yes, the frozen yogurt in Annenberg is convenient, but that doesn't mean six visits per meal are necessary. Because a standard deviation of five pounds is unlikely to tip someone into obesity, the concern at hand here is how to deal with the added weight of freedom, not how to regain one's lost health.

For most people, college represents the first time attempting to take charge of their lives. In this process, the freshman fifteen is both collateral damage and a tangible indication of increased responsibility. In the end, go ahead and eat that Double Stuff Oreo. Go to Falafel Corner at two a.m. when the munchies hit you. The helpful freshman fifteen opens your eyes to the flip side of every decision and the trade-off of every bite.

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Snowy slopes hot spots for college students during spring semester

By LAUREN FERGUSON
STAFF WRITER

Coming back to school after a fun-filled holiday break makes the spring semester seem boring in contrast, but planning a fun trip with friends can be just the thing to spark up the weekend.

Many slopes are located within driving distance of Lubbock, and with a little planning and budgeting, a ski trip can become a reality.

Michael White, a freshman construction management major from Friendswood, attended a skip trip to Ruidoso with friends before the start of spring classes.

"The whole thing was fun," he said. "It was my first time skiing, and I picked it up really fast, so that was good."

Ruidoso, only four hours away, White said, is a short drive to make to get the skiing and snowboarding experience.

"We went to Ruidoso because it was close to Tech and we had a condo there," White said. "It was good to learn how to ski, but too far south. I would recommend going somewhere more north because there would be more snow."

Samantha Parker, a sophomore speech and language pathology major from Decatur, believes that Keystone, Colo., is the best place to ski.

"In Keystone, we went night skiing, and that was fun," she said. "They also had a snow fort."

Choosing to go further north also has its consequences, Parker said.

"The bus trip ... that was the worst. It was so long," Parker said. "I would also advise ... don't try skiing for your first time night skiing. It is really icy."

Another thing to consider is where to rent equipment. One option is on campus. The Outdoor Pursuits Center, located next to the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center, rents out ski and snowboarding equipment.

Eric Thomas, the shop manager of the OPC, emphasized the importance of students traveling and being active.

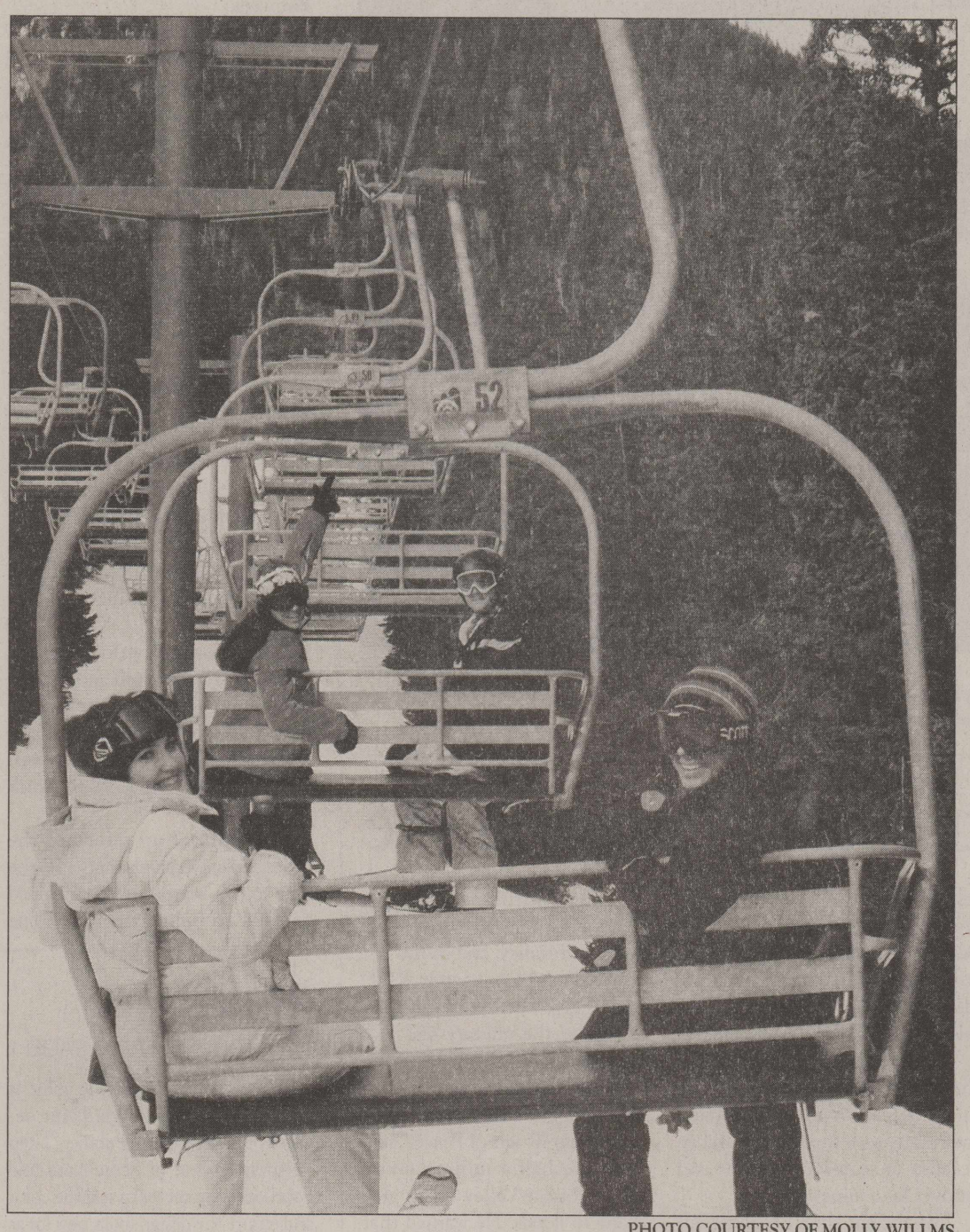


PHOTO COURTESY OF MOLLY WILLMS

RED RAIDERS MOLLY Willms, Aaron Smith, Marcus Correale and David Alexander recently took a ski trip to Ruidoso, N.M.

"We offer to students and are able to give a discounted rate since we are a part of the rec center," he said. "They come, fill out a form and we size them for whatever they need."

The Outdoor Pursuits Center is able to offer equipment in good condition since it is only used a couple of times a year, according to the OPC informational pamphlet. The prices are also more economical than deals many resort town ski shops offer.

> *"In Keystone, we went night skiing, and that was fun."*
> **SAMANTHA PARKER**
> SOHPHOMORE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHALOGY

At the OPC, a skiing package for the weekend is $35 and includes boots, skis and poles, and a weekend snowboarding package is $35 and includes boots, binding and a board.

Another service that the OPC offers is waxing for skis and snowboards, or gouge repairs to make your equipment feel brand new.

"Skiing, despite the cost, is worth the excitement and

lferguson@dailytoreador.com

Cowboys, Globetrotters return to 'Amazing Race'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cord and Jet McCoy are saddling up for another season of "The Amazing Race."

The bull-riding brothers are among the 11 veteran teams competing on the 18th edition of CBS' around-the-world competition (premiering Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. EST), the network announced Wednesday. Other returning duos include goth dating couple Kent Kaliber and Vyxsin Fiala, and Harlem Globetrotters teammates Nathaniel "Big Easy" Lofton and Herbert "Flight Time" Lang.

"We're not intimidated by anyone," Jet McCoy said before setting off in November. "That's the thing about this race, even in the season that we were on, we sized up the competition, but it wasn't the same people that were in the finals or that went out first. When it comes to this race, even though we've seen people on previous seasons, it's too hard to tell."

The McCoy brothers from Tupelo, Okla., came in second place on the 16th season show, narrowly losing to Daniel and Jordan Pious after the distinctly different siblings skipped the McCoys in line at an airport and slipped to the front of the plane. Cord warned that he isn't going to let other teams sneak by him on the "Unfinished Business" edition.

Other racers are sisters Kisha and Jen Hoffman, former cheerleaders Jaime Edmondson and Cara Rosenthal, engaged couple Amanda Blackledge and Kris Klicka, friends Justin Kanew and Zev Glassenberg, mother-and-son Margie and Luke Adams, father-and-son Mel and Mike White, and fathers-and-daughters Gary and Mallory Erwin and Ron and Christina Hsu.

Review: 'The Way Back' vivid but drama-free, predictable

"The Way Back" represents an exquisite example of style over substance, of vast visuals dwarfing the characters and nearly swallowing the story whole.

Veteran Australian director Peter Weir, a six-time Oscar nominee ("Witness," "The Truman Show"), has crafted an old-fashioned historical epic, inspired by the true story of a group of prisoners who escaped a 1940 Soviet labor camp and trudged thousands of miles across unforgiving terrain to their freedom. Not all of them made it, which we might have guessed on our own, but Weir — who co-wrote the screenplay with Keith Clarke, based on Slavomir Rawicz's book "The Long Walk" — informs us with a title card at the start that three men would walk out of the Himalayas at the end of this arduous journey.

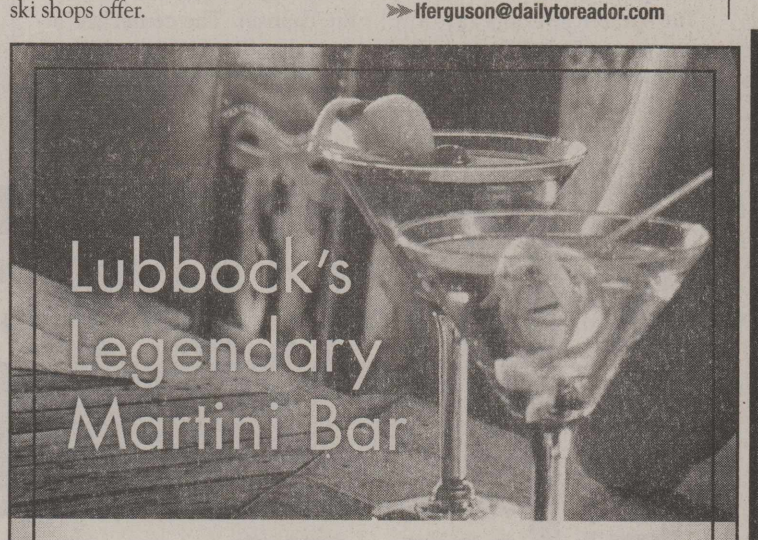
The result: Despite the seriousness of the subject matter, the film loses some of its tension because we pretty much know the outcome, leaving us only to wonder who will live and who will die, as if we're watching an episode of "Survivor: Siberian Gulag."

And it is serious — or at least, it should be. Weir alternates between vivid, convincing images of the harsh surroundings — sweepingly shot on location in Bulgaria, Morocco and India — and detailed close-ups of the toll this trip has taken on the characters' faces, their bodies, and most especially their feet.

But except for Ed Harris as a mysterious American, Jim Sturgess as an idealistic Polish officer and Colin Farrell as an over-the-top Russian thug, the remaining characters are essentially interchangeable. Even though the film feels overlong, insufficient time was spent fleshing out these people to make them, and the threats to their lives, seem pressing and real.

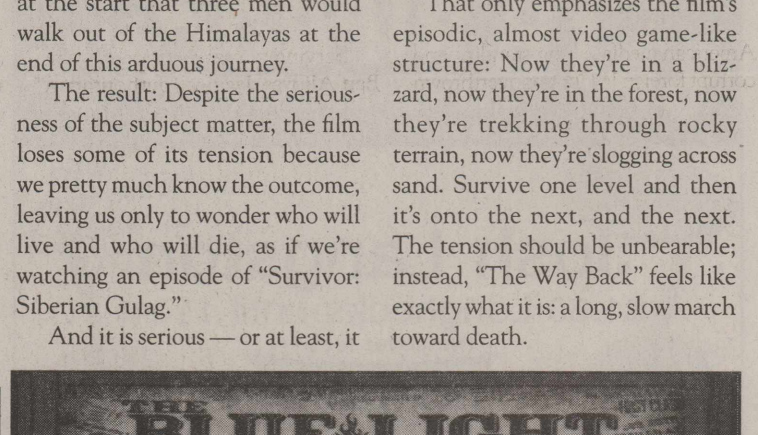
That only emphasizes the film's episodic, almost video game-like structure: Now they're in a blizzard, now they're in the forest, now they're trekking through rocky terrain, now they're slogging across sand. Survive one level and then it's onto the next, and the next. The tension should be unbearable; instead, "The Way Back" feels like exactly what it is: a long, slow march toward death.

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LINGUISTIC LISTENING



PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/*The Daily Toreador*

TEXAS TECH STUDENTS attend an orientation in the Language Learning Laboratory & Resource Center on Tuesday in the Foreign Language building. The Language Laboratory offers technology to aid in the pronunciation of foreign vocabulary.

Mine fields circle Jesus' traditional baptism site

QASR EL-YAHUD, West Bank (AP) — Just months before the official opening of one of Christianity's holiest sites to visitors, the area where John the Baptist is said to have baptized Jesus remains surrounded by thousands of land mines.

Israel says the sites visited by pilgrims and tourists in an area known as Qasr el-Yahud will be safe, but advocacy groups warn that crowds could be in danger.

On Tuesday, some 15,000 Christian pilgrims marched between two fenced-in mine fields to reach the Epiphany ceremony led by the Greek Orthodox patriarch on the Jordan River, 5 miles (8 kilometers) east of the oasis town of Jericho at the edge of the West Bank.

Worshippers from around the world dipped themselves in the muddy waters, facing fellow believers on the other side of the small river. Orthodox clergymen dressed in dark frocks and robes chanted prayers as Patriarch Theofilos III blessed the waters, hurled branches and released white doves into the air.

This site is Christianity's third holiest — after the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, on the spot where Christian belief says Jesus was crucified and resurrected, and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, where tradition holds Jesus was born — and the baptism marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

Since Israel took control of the area in the 1967 Mideast war, pilgrims have had to coordinate their visits with the Israeli military, because of security concerns and leftover land mines.

The ancient churches and monasteries on the Israeli side, some dating back to the fourth century, are surrounded by signs reading "Danger! Mines!"

"Since it was a border, the place is really littered by hundreds and hundreds of mines, and therefore the area is not open to the public and to the believers and pilgrims," said Avner Goren, an archaeologist who works with Israel's Tourism Ministry.

The ministry says about 60,000 people visit each year, but with the upcoming official opening that number is expected to rise to the millions. No date for the opening has been set.

The Israeli military says the baptism site and adjacent churches are located in a "completely mine-free zone," and insists "no danger is posed to tourists or worshippers."

"The (military) regularly clears away minefields in the Jordan River Valley, and in the last year alone approximately 8,000 mines have been removed from the area," the military said in a statement.

Dhyan Or, the Israel director of the global anti-mining advocacy group "Roots of Peace," said there are half a million mines in the Jordan Valley — an area prone to floods. He warned that land mines could drift from the fenced areas, and that overzealous worshippers could stray from the marked paths.

"There is no political problem to remove the mines and no technical problem to do so," he said. "All that is missing is the political will."

In contrast, Jordan cleared the minefields on its side of the border after signing a peace deal with Israel in 1994. Jordan has developed a cultural heritage center on its side across the narrow river from the West Bank shrine, claiming it as the site of the baptism. The center has attracted millions of tourists. Pope John Paul II visited the Jordanian site in 2000, reinforcing the Jordanian claim.

3 comedies score biggest weeks ever on primetime

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a big week — the biggest, in fact — for three disparate TV comedies last week.

BET's revived "The Game," Comedy Central's "Tosh.0" and ABC's "The Middle" each had their largest audiences ever for episodes that aired last week, the Nielsen Co. said.

Meanwhile, it was another dominant week for pro football. The post-game show for the New York Jets-New England Patriots game was the most-watched prime-time show last week, Nielsen said. The game itself, most of which was not in primetime, averaged 43.5 million viewers.

"The Game" was an extraordinary story for BET. The network last Tuesday aired the first episode of a new fourth season of the sitcom about professional athletes and their relationships, and it was seen by about 7.7 million viewers, Nielsen said.

That was a big leap for the series, which never reached more than 1.9 million viewers for an episode during its three years on broadcast television. "The Game" had been shut down by the CW network in 2009.

BET picked up reruns of the series and aggressively marketed the new fourth season as it continued to build an online fan base. "The Game" has a primarily black cast, and with BET it's with a network that appeals mostly to black viewers.

A sitcom that was barely noticed by the general public when it was first on the air now claims the biggest audience ever for an original situation comedy episode on ad-supported cable. The second episode, aired this Tuesday, had 5.9 million viewers, Nielsen said.

"The Middle," starring Neil Flynn and Patricia Heaton as the Hecks of Orson, Ind., was seen by more than 10 million people last week. It has been steadily growing in popularity during its sophomore season, with its audience up 28 percent over last year. "The Middle" was moved to 8 p.m. ET from 8:30 p.m. last year, and the early hour is considered even tougher for many shows to reach an audience.

Last week, "The Middle" may have been helped by rivals showing reruns, since the episode was aired in the East slightly before President Barack Obama spoke at a memorial service for shooting victims in Tucson, Ariz.

"Tosh.0" was seen by 3.6 million viewers for the premiere of its third season on Comedy Central last week, even though the series was moved from Wednesday to Tuesday night. The previous series high happened last July.

Shoes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Betts said he uses acrylic paint as opposed to regular fabric paint because of its long-lasting ability. Then he sprays a coat of Scotchgard and FootLocker protector to seal the color and ensure the design looks new for as long as possible.

Any type of canvas shoe can be painted, not just TOMS Shoes, Betts said, as he did not want to limit his business. He also plans to expand to canvas handbags, but the artist confessed he enjoys working on shoes more.

"I played a lot of basketball (in high school), and I've realized by looking at the guys' shoes, you can honestly tell what type of player they are based on how they look and how worn they are," he said. "And I think it's cool for someone to be able to put part of their identity and what they love into a pair of shoes."

In terms of balancing student life and his growing business, Betts said he is confident things will work out.

"My school work always comes first before anything," he said. "School is my No. 1 priority, and if it requires me to get up an hour earlier to paint shoes, I'll do it because it doesn't only put money in my pocket, but I really do enjoy it.

"I mean, how many people do you know have an awesome job that you can sit down, love what you do and watch TV while you're doing it?"

Betts said he receives nothing but support from his parents who encourage his ventures.

"As a dad, I'm obviously very proud that he takes initiative to find opportunities out there to do something that shows off his talents, both artistically and business-wise," Betts said.

Concerning time management, Tracy expressed the same confidence his son did in his ability to balance school and business. He said he works as an independent medical representative and took Weston along on different calls, which Weston attributes to his love of business.

"It has a lot to do with my dad and grandfather," Weston said. "My dad is a businessman, and I watched him working at home, which was good. My grandfather was in the U.S. Navy for 20-something years, and he taught me hard work really does get you places."

Tracy said he appreciates his son's entrepreneurial thumb and the example he sets for fellow students.

"Hopefully he'll be a great role model to folks out there who also have ideas of their own and want to explore," he said.

Emily Sprunck experienced firsthand Weston's original work, and as his girlfriend sees how dedicated he is to making unique designs for people and listening to what they have to say.

"Weston's just really good with people," the freshman education major from Richardson said. "People can trust him with their shoes, and he's an easy person to talk to."

After more than 10 shoes completed, Weston has only received one complaint in which he refunded the customer's money and redesigned the shoes to the best of his ability. One of his customers said she was more than pleased.

"Personally, I think mine are the best," said Jes Romero, who bought a $10 pair of canvas shoes from Wal-Mart to be painted. "I got them done last semester at the end of November, and they still look new. He was great. I just said go ahead and go crazy; do what you want, but he'll also be really specific, too, with what people want. He's as specific or as general as you want him to be—that's the great thing about it."

To contact Weston, visit his website at www.facebook.com/kustomkicks.shoes or via e-mail at westonbetts@aol.com

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Texas comes to 20-year, $300 million deal with ESPN for Longhorn network

AUSTIN (AP) – The University of Texas, which already has one of the wealthiest athletic programs in the country, is lining up for even more money.

Texas and ESPN on Wednesday announced a 20-year, $300 million deal for a 24-hour television network that will broadcast Longhorn sports, including at least one football game and eight basketball games per season, and other sports and academic content.

"We want to define what it means to be 'the' public university," Texas President William Powers said. "The challenge is to create new sources of revenue to support our mission."

The deal includes Texas' licensing and marketing partner IMG College, with more than 80 percent of revenue set to go to the university. It will not replace existing television deals between the Big 12 and both ESPN-ABC and Fox.

ESPN will handle distribution of the still unnamed network via cable or satellite in Texas and other states, and has already had preliminary conversations with Time Warner Cable and Comcast Corp.

The network is scheduled to launch in September and will broadcast at least 200 Texas sporting events per year. Football will include at least one live broadcast and multiple replays from other networks, the annual spring football scrimmage and pre-game and postgame coverage.

"We're going to cover (Texas) football like it's never been covered before," said Burke Magnus, senior vice president of college sports programming for ESPN, the sports media giant based in Bristol, Conn.

Basketball will include a minimum of eight live games and replays of games broadcast on other networks. Women's basketball, baseball, volleyball, soccer and other sports, coaches shows, biographies and highlights also would be broadcast.

Programming will also include some academic and cultural shows. The contract will send least $25 million to academics over the next five years, Powers said.

George Bodenheimer, president of ESPN Inc. and ABC Sports, called the network "a testament to the school's remarkable, tradition-rich success and widespread, devoted fan base."

The contract raises questions whether other schools in the Big 12 will be jealous of Texas' money and whether it could impact the next round of network negotiations between the conference and ESPN and Fox.

"I personally am not convinced that it's the best thing for their conference," said Steve Solomon, a former ABC and NHL executive who now works as a media consultant. "They can't forget that without those other teams, they could not exist. Give them credit that they have that kind of market power."

The contact also raises the question of whether Texas would consider going independent if the network proves successful. The Big 12 will drop to 10 members in July when it loses Colorado (Pac 12) and Nebraska (Big Ten) after last year's conference realignment shuffle.

Powers said Texas is "firmly committed" to the Big 12 and that league officials knew Texas was pursuing a network deal even conference realignment threatened to pull apart the Big 12 last summer. Texas started researching a network deal in 2007.

With players on Hill, union leader goes to Goodell

WASHINGTON (AP) – NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and union executive director DeMaurice Smith spoke face-to-face in New York on Wednesday, while more than a dozen current or former players were on Capitol Hill for face time with lawmakers and congressional staffers.

Union spokesman George Atallah characterized Wednesday's session between Goodell and Smith as "an effort to advance the bargaining," rather than a formal negotiating session toward a new labor contract. Atallah would not discuss the substance of the meeting in any detail.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello declined to comment via e-mail – and, indeed, would not even confirm that the two leaders were meeting.

The league and union acknowledged last week that they have not held a large-group bargaining session since November. The present collective bargaining agreement – it was agreed to in 2006, but owners activated an opt-out clause – expires in early March, and the union expects owners to lock out the players.

At an owners' meeting in Atlanta on Tuesday, Goodell complained that "there's not enough communication" between the sides. Also in Atlanta, Jeff Pash, the league's lead labor negotiator, took a swipe at the union by saying: "If our focus is going to be on litigating, on decertification, on meetings in Washington, on media events, it will be hard to get a deal done."

The union has held team-by-team votes to approve decertification, which would allow the players to file an antitrust lawsuit against the league if there is a lockout. The union also has filed two claims with a special master – one accuses the league of improperly assuring itself of TV revenues even if there are no games played next season; the other accuses teams of collusion in conspiring to restrict players' salaries last offseason.

On Wednesday, 13 current NFL players and three former players headed to the Hill, trading in helmets, pads, uniforms and cleats for pinstriped suits, colorful ties and leather shoes.

"The players are aware that the antitrust exemptions exist as a gift from Congress. The players are aware that the NFL has nonprofit status that's been given as a gift from Congress. So, look, we're not asking for anything. The players have been clear about that," said Atallah, the union spokesman. "Every business in America, especially a $9 billion industry, has a presence on the Hill. This is not negotiating through Congress. This is just players and employees sharing their issues with people that should care."

Joe Briggs, the union's counsel for public policy and government relations, wanted to make clear: "We're not asking for members of Congress to get involved in this fight at all."

The union has made previous trips to the Capitol, bringing players around to offices for meet-and-greet sessions.

Arizona Cardinals running back Jason Wright sounded, well, just happy to be there.

Calling Wednesday's visit to Congress "a neat little trip," Wright explained: "We're not here to accomplish anything; we're here to meet people."

Before players dropped by his office, Rep. Lamar Smith, a Texas Republican who is the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, released a statement making it clear he doesn't think lawmakers should get involved with the NFL labor talks.

"That is a business dispute," the statement said. "The owners and players are both literally and figuratively big boys and do not need Congress to referee every dispute for them."

Jury weighs sexual assault charges against former Iowa football player

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) –Jurors deliberated for hours without reaching a verdict Wednesday in the case of a former University of Iowa football player accused of sexually assaulting a female athlete while she was passed out in a dorm room.

The jury met for more than 7 hours in the Johnson County courthouse before leaving for the night, and was expected to resume deliberating Thursday morning.

Jurors must decide whether they believe an October 2007 sexual encounter between former Hawkeyes defensive back Cedric Everson and a woman, an Iowa freshman scholarship athlete at the time, was consensual. Everson is charged with third-degree sexual abuse, and faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys agree that the woman was out partying before she ended up in the empty dorm room that night. But they presented jurors with very different accounts of what transpired inside.

The woman testified that she ended up in the room with one of Everson's teammates, Abe Satterfield, and that he forced her to have intercourse despite her pleas for him to stop. She told jurors she was a virgin at the time, and performed oral sex on Satterfield to try to avoid having sex with him.

She said it wasn't until weeks later that she learned Everson had also had sex with her that night. Lahey said Everson had bragged to teammates that he and Satterfield had had sex with the same woman.

Lahey told jurors Satterfield and Everson "traded places" while the woman was passed out. Everson entered the room, told Satterfield to get out of bed, and had intercourse with her before telling Satterfield to get back in bed to cover up his actions, she said.

Satterfield reached a deal with prosecutors in which he pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault in exchange for testifying at Everson's trial. During the trial, Satterfield testified that the woman was "the aggressor" and that the sex between him and her was consensual. He said he got out of the bed in the middle of the night after Everson tapped him on the shoulder, but that he doesn't know what happened afterward because he fell back asleep.

Even if jurors believe Satterfield's testimony that her sex with him was consensual, the woman never consented to sex with Everson, Lahey told the jury.

Everson's attorney, Leon Spies, told jurors the woman consented to have sex with Everson and doesn't remember because she had been drinking heavily that night. He said she doesn't remember many details of the night, including having sex with his client, because she was in a state of "functional blackout."

District Judge Paul Miller, who is presiding over the trial, rejected a request from the jury on Wednesday to review the video testimony of Christine Kuczek, a former Iowa swimmer and friend of the alleged victim. Miller told jurors they would have to rely on their memories of the testimony.

Kuczek testified that she was drinking with her friend hours before the alleged assault and that her friend told her the next morning she had been raped. Kuczek drove her friend to the hospital.

The jury will first consider Everson's guilt on third-degree sexual abuse. If they find him innocent of that charge, jurors could consider two lesser charges – assault with intent to commit sexual abuse and assault.

Miller on Tuesday threw out the most serious charge against Everson, second-degree sexual abuse, which carries a maximum penalty of up to 25 years in prison. He said he found "insufficient evidence" that Everson was aided and abetted by Satterfield, an element essential to justify the charge.

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SPORTS

Lady Raiders' bench play vital to team's success

By JOSHUA KOCH
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Raiders' bench has been a vital component to this season's success so far, to the surprise of some — head coach Kristy Curry isn't surprised at all.

Even before the regular season tipped off, her team's newfound depth was supposed to be a big difference this year, which has been exactly the case to this point in the season.

"That's what you got to have as well, is the depth and the chemistry," Curry said Monday. "We've got to continue to do that. We feel like we go 10, 11 deep, and on any given night it can be a lot of different heroes to some degree, and we've been pleased with that."

There have been many different players this season who have stepped up in some crucial moments to give Tech the momentum it needed to get the victory.

The Lady Raiders' bench averages 24.5 points per game, and scored 27 in a 71-61 loss at No. 14 Oklahoma on Wednesday in Norman, Okla.

Sophomore guard Chynna Brown has been a catalyst for the Lady Raiders in all three Big 12 Conference wins this season. Brown has been the high scorer in two of those three games, including a 22-point performance against Missouri. She was also nine-for-nine from the free-throw line in that game.

But that statistic was not a surprise to anyone considering Brown has been almost perfect from the line the entire season. Brown is 19-for-20 on the season and has been 11-for-11 from the foul line in conference play, a team best.

Brown said the thing she loves the most about the bench is the role they play in the game even when they're still sitting on the sidelines.

"The bench is just wonderful, every time out; every time we huddle they're always — they're always cheering," she said. "You can you hear them talking to us on and off the court even if they're not in the game.

"That's the good thing about the bench."

Whenever the Lady Raiders have been down by a considerable amount, Curry has looked to her bench to answer with some quick points.

Sophomore guard Mary Bokenkamp has been one of the players she has called on a consistent basis, as Bokenkamp tends to answer the call with her shot from behind the arc.



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/*The Daily Toreador*

JULIANNE CHISOLM GUARDS Teena Wickett during Texas Tech's 68-66 victory against Kansas State on Saturday in the United Spirit Arena. Tech lost to Oklahoma 71-61 on Wednesday in Norman, Okla.

Two times this season Bokenkamp's 3-point shooting capability has come in handy, against Idaho State and Kansas State.

Against Idaho State, she led the team with five 3-pointers — a career high — and also was the team's high scorer for the game, logging 15 points.

In the Kansas State game, Bokenkamp only hit three shots from deep, but each shot was essential to the victory. She buried one at the buzzer to wrap up the first half, another to help send the game into double overtime, while the final one came in double overtime.

Jordan Barncastle can nail 3-pointers when called to do so but said there is no difference between the players that get the start and the ones who come in for relief duty.

"Our bench has been key to several of our victories," she said. "I think that just our depth, and then just how, when the subs come in, there's no drop off. We don't really change the game plan; it's still in-your-face defense."

Sophomore guard Christine Hyde also is another player that can be a factor on both the offensive and defensive end of the court.

Hyde has had a couple big performances this season, scoring 15 points against Mississippi Valley State and a seven-rebound performance against Houston Baptist.

Hyde said having the coach turn to the bench and expect so much out of them makes those players feel confident about their contributions to the squad.

"We feel good about that; it always lets us know that we're important, that she has faith in us, that she can trust us," she said earlier this season. "A perfect example is, we went to the chancellor's house, and he says, 'You don't have to be a starter to be a superstar.' And that is so true because we can come off the bench and have a great game and help out."

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Defense no longer key factor for NFL Super Bowl title

Cody Stoots



We have all heard it before: "Defense wins championships."

Well, maybe when your dad started watching football, but not anymore.

The Steelers, Jets, Packers and Bears are all in the top 10 in total defense. Each defense has a leader and playmakers, but each team has a franchise quarterback.

Each of these elements is necessary in the quest to constantly make and win in the playoffs. There are anomalies. The Colts won a championship with a horrible defense. Trent Dilfer was the quarterback when the Ravens they won the big game, 34-7, against the New York Giants in 2001.

Yes, you can win without one or the other, but these factors will lead to consistency.

Just look at the entire playoffs this year. Only two teams have not invested in a franchise quarterback. The remaining teams have some of the best in the game.

> *"Just look at the entire playoffs this year. Only two teams have not invested in a franchise quarterback. The remaining teams have some of the best in the game."*

Like him or hate him, "Big Ben" Roethlisberger has become a mainstay in the NFL playoffs. He is asked to often put a hurt or untalented offense into positions to win. He has had some help, though.

Troy Polamalu leads the second-ranked league defense. The Steelers defense makes Big Ben's job easier. James Harrison rushing from the edge scares opposing teams. The Steelers' 3-4 defense seems to just plug guys in, but they know how to make plays.

The Jets' defensive side of the ball isn't anything to laugh at either. Rex Ryan brought Bart Scott with him to New York from Baltimore. Scott, in the pass rush, along with two talented cornerbacks in Darrelle Revis and Antonio Cromartie, helps the young quarterback Mark Sanchez.

Sanchez, criticized for his early exit from USC, was tabbed as the Jets quarterback of the future when the team traded up to get him in the 2009 draft. Sanchez has had his growing pains but has shown he can make some big plays.

The Packers finally moved past Brett Favre and handed the keys to the green and yellow kingdom to Aaron Rodgers in 2008. After a disappointing first year, Rodgers soon became one of the best in the league, this year doing so without a real running game.

Veteran corner Charles Woodson and superstar linebacker Clay Matthews helped elevate the Packers to the fifth-ranked defense. The emergence of Matthews at the end of last year and throughout this year has catapulted a once-awful Packer defense.

The Chicago Bears have always been about defense. Their run through the playoffs in 2007 was built on a defense that could stop any opposing offense. While this year's defense isn't as stout as '07's, it still employs one of the best leaders and defenders in the game, linebacker Brian Urlacher.

I have bestowed a nice little nickname on Bears QB Jay Cutler. "Coffee" Cutler is great when he is hot, but when he is cold no one wants anything to do with him. Chicago invested tons of draft picks in the trade for Cutler, but when he is on a roll, few are better.

Each of these teams knows who is tossing the football for the foreseeable future. Each team also knows they have built defenses, with playmaking leaders, to stop those gunslingers.

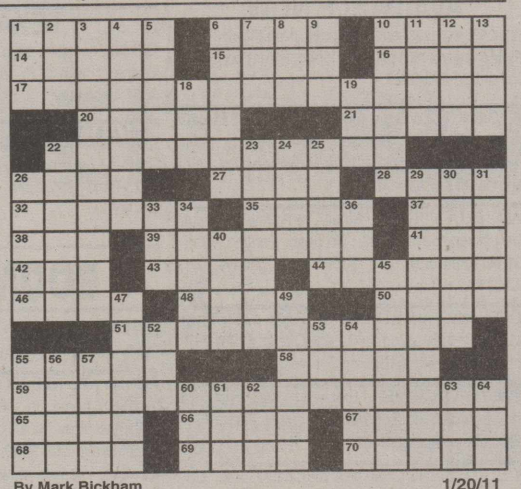
The old adage of defense wins championships is dead; in the pass-heavy NFL, it simply isn't true anymore. Just having a great quarterback doesn't get you there either. Peyton Manning, Tom Brady and Phillip Rivers will all be sitting at home watching this weekend just like you and me.

The new realization is that defense gets you to the championship, but it falls to the quarterback to win the big games.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis



By Mark Bickham — 1/20/11

ACROSS
1 Volkswagen model since 1979
6 Stare
10 Charm
14 Unit of capacitance
15 "Would __?"
16 Baseball's Moises
17 Tough handicap to overcome in a joust?
20 Words after post or suffer
21 Beginning
22 Hoopster featured in a news magazine?
26 Leo, for one
27 Manhattan neighborhood acronym
28 Ready to serve
32 Uncertain concurrence
35 Gave a buzz
37 Snaps
38 Mineo of "Rebel Without a Cause"
39 What "purls of wisdom" is an example of?
41 HBO competitor
42 __ king
43 Hokkaido native
44 Shoot for, with "to"
46 Old Italian bread
48 Puts on
50 Biol. branch
51 Was familiar with Britain?
55 Unlikely lint-gatherer
58 Without delay
59 Bow tied by mortal hands?
65 Pinup Hayworth
66 Pianist Gilels
67 Church parts
68 They have heads and handles
69 Mug imperfections
70 Symbol of strength

DOWN
1 LaGuardia alternative, familiarly
2 Suffix with Caesar
3 Like jibs
4 Movie poster words
5 For a specific purpose
6 Big name in guitars
7 Pledge of Allegiance ender
8 November 2006 Nintendo release
9 Barbie's beau
10 Took one's place at, as a post
11 Cries following charges
12 __ Cuervo tequila
13 Remove from office
18 Sound of reproach
19 End for free
22 Capital of Rwanda
23 Cookie information, perhaps
24 Relax, as tense relations
25 Ancient Aegean region
26 Cordage fiber
29 Retina-brain link
30 Jerk
31 Stand out
33 Calypso offshoot
34 Like ugly remarks
36 Fast sports cars
40 "__ pronounce you ..."
45 Naval attire
47 Loyal Japanese dogs
49 Sluggards
52 "The Matrix" hero
53 Modern dash-mounted device: Abbr.
54 Croquet venues
55 Creole vegetable
56 Windows alternative
57 Handy bag
60 Kasbah headgear
61 "I didn't need to know that!"
62 Best seller
63 General at Antietam
64 Step up from dial-up

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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Consider your study groups, committee assignments, work or family relationships with this quote in mind: "The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime." ~Babe Ruth

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