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Tech campus in Germany closes

By CAITLAN OSBORN
STAFF WRITER

The Department of Study Abroad has chosen to close the doors of its Texas Tech International Center in Quedlinburg, Germany, by 2012, due to budget cuts and lack of student participation.

The program, which is directed by the Department of Classical and Modern Languages in Literatures, began in 2005. The department is allowing one more semester of study this fall before closing the campus.

"In the six years that we have had this center, we have never been able to recruit enough students," said Meredith McClain, associate professor of German and director of the Quedlinburg study abroad program. "The Germany program was underpopulated for six years, and now in the financial crunch of America and Texas and Texas Tech, they could no longer allow that type of luxury."

McClain said in order to keep the International Center running, there needed to be 10 students in both beginner and intermediate classes. However, she said, each year the program fell short of its goal. Because of the limited number of students, the university could not afford to pay for the German faculty, McClain said.

"I certainly understand when Tech says they can't afford to pay faculty over here teaching only six to eight students, when everybody back home must have 10," she said. "Faculty chairs of the department had been given around a 28 percent cut of their budget, and they were looking for where they could cut that. In our foreign language department, Quedlinburg was the obvious thing to let go. It's a high quality, low quantity program."

Quedlinburg, once a member of East Germany before the fall of the Berlin wall, is a town of almost 30,000 people. McClain, who created the study abroad program in Germany, said she chose Quedlinburg as a "pedagogical experiment"

to see how students reacted when pushed outside of their comfort zone.

For example, she said, Quedlinburg does not have a university, clubs or a movie theater.

"In Berlin for example, people would not have the quality experience that they would have here," she said. "They would hear a lot of English, whereas these families mostly speak just German. It's the most opposite thing of Lubbock, Texas in all of Germany and what students find in this specific place is particularly life changing. It's very hard to describe."

McClain also said she wanted to learn how Tech students reacted to such a different culture and show them there is more to Quedlinburg than meets the eye.

"I believe it is a weakness in our country that we are such a big and wealthy place that we tend to think simply as Americans," McClain said. "For people to be confronted with what is really different, is very difficult at times, but is also an ultimate learning experience because they have the chance to learn more about themselves."

Because the department wants to give all students the opportunity to experience the Quedlinburg campus one last time, McClain said the university is offering every student who applies a \$2,500 scholarship to participate in the fall program.

Another benefit of studying in Quedlinburg in the fall, McClain said, is that students do not need to be studying German to participate and can start at the beginner's level. She also said the program provides internships to students that specifically tailor to their interests and educational needs.

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Bell's a Singin'

Former 'American Idol' contestant and Tech student performs at Cactus Theater



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

JEROME BELL, A former Tech student, performed his own original music as well as today's hits at his concert Saturday at the Cactus Theater.

By KASSIDY KETRON
STAFF WRITER

Jerome Bell, a Lubbock native and former "American Idol" contestant, wrapped up his homecoming performance by singing Jason Mraz's "I'm yours," and walking up and down the isles singing to and with his audience.

Bell, a Frenship High School alumnus and former Texas Tech student, performed at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Cactus Theater in front of fans, family and old friends.

Bell said he believed most of the audience was made up of high

school and junior high classmates that he has not seen since he left Lubbock, which, he said, was a pleasant surprise.

"I was totally happy with the crowd," he said. "I didn't have any expectations. I just wanted to come home and kind of, like, let people see what I've been doing, what I'm up to and what's going on in my life right now."

Liz Woods, a high school classmate, said after all of Bell's publicity and success, "he's still the same Jerome."

Woods said she expects Bell to be successful.

"He's been trying to do this

since after high school," she said. "So, he's been trying to get this big, and now that he has his name out there he'll make it. He'll make it far."

Bell said because Lubbock is his hometown it was important for him to give the audience his best performance.

This particular performance made him more nervous than usual, he said.

"These are the people that have been keeping up with me and following me even before Idol," Bell said. "They've been following me since I've been to New York. It was like, I have to really show them

that they've been following me for a reason."

Bell performed a few original songs like his new single, "Collide" as well as top hits like Adele's "Rolling in the Deep."

Steve Chandler said he chose to attend the performance because his daughter, Elizabeth Turner, attended high school and participated in choir with Bell.

After the meet and greet with Bell, he said he noticed Bell was still the same person.

Chandler said Bell proves Lubbock is not short of talent.

BELL continued on Page 2 ➤

Student visa program: New rules, same problems

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The State Department is publicly acknowledging that one of its most popular exchange programs leaves foreign college students vulnerable to exploitation, but it's unclear if new regulations the agency is pushing will do enough to stop the abuses.

The revised rules aim to shift more responsibility onto the 53 entities the department designates official sponsors in the J-1 Summer

Work Travel Program. Historically, many sponsors have farmed out those duties to third-party contractors, making the sponsors "mere purveyors of J-1 visas," according to the State Department's proposed new rules published this spring in the Federal Register.

Federal auditors have criticized the department for years for depending on sponsors, some of whom make millions of dollars off J-1 students, to

oversee the program and investigate complaints. Yet the new regulations would require little or no direct oversight by State Department employees, leaving sponsors free to continue policing themselves and their partners.

The changes are to take effect July 15, too late for thousands of students already in the country for another season of cleaning hotel rooms, waiting tables and working

checkout counters.

Students visiting under J-1 visas make ideal victims since they are here temporarily and may not know how to seek help. An Associated Press investigation published six months ago found that many participants paid thousands of dollars to come to the U.S., only to learn the jobs they were promised didn't exist. Some had to share beds in crowded houses or apartments, charged so

much for lodging and transportation that they took home no pay. Others turned to the sex industry, while some sought help from homeless shelters.

In posting the proposed new rules, State Department officials detailed problems that largely mirrored the AP's findings, then blamed lack of oversight by the sponsors, and expressed confidence the changes will help clean up the program,

partly by requiring sponsors to verify that students have jobs and that the employers are legitimate.

A review of the new regulations shows they have few teeth, however. While the changes spell out how sponsors are to vet third-party brokers and how often they are to touch base with visiting students, the rules are vague on how vigorously the State Department will check to verify those duties are done.

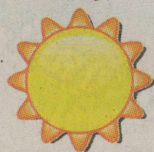
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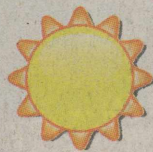
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Sunny



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Skinner: "The Voice"
is not just about
the voice.
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Germany

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Professor Laura Beard, interim chair of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures, said students who still want the chance to study abroad in Germany will have the opportunity, but they will only be able to attend during summer sessions, instead of year-round. It may be in Quedlinburg, she said, or it may be in different cities throughout Germany.

"We've done study abroad in Germany for many years before the center in Quedlinburg was established," she said, "and it has been in many different locations over the years, depending on what the department decides."

Beard said she wishes the study abroad program was more popular in Germany, and that German classes have been declining around the country compared to languages like Spanish and French, for example.

"Spanish is our highest enrollment language in the department. It is very popular here at TTU and across the United States," Beard said. "The center in Seville has been able to grow upwards in ways that the one in Quedlinburg has not. There have been ways to grow it and publicize recruitment, but the different efforts we have made have not been as successful as we would have liked them to be."

The university has no plans to open another international campus so far, Beard said, but

she said Tech has always been an advocate for study abroad and if the opportunity presented itself the idea could be explored.

Michael Merrill, a Tech graduate who was McClain's student assistant in Quedlinburg and now is the director of studies at an English speaking school in Leipzig, Germany, said the program provided a great atmosphere and was something he would not have been able to experience anywhere else.

"I can honestly say that I would not be in the position I am in today if it were not for my experience and time as a student at the center in Quedlinburg," Merrill said, "and through the enormous help I received from Dr. Meredith McClain and everyone connected to the Quedlin-

burg Program at Tech."

McClain, who has been teaching for more than 35 years, also said the program was an enriching personal experience and is thankful to Tech for giving her the opportunity to share the historical town with students and other faculty members.

"I turn 70 in a couple of months, so I didn't need to be here," she said. "But it was an experiment at the end of a long career of teaching and that was really worth so much to me. I'm very grateful that I was able to convince people to let me do this. We had six good years and we'll have one more semester for anyone who wants to come."

Even though the International Center is closing, McClain said she considered the program



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEREDITH MCCLAIN

TECH STUDY ABROAD students outside the Quedlinburg campus.

a success to everyone involved.

"I was aiming for us to do something world class and we did it, and I'm very happy about that," she said. "It was bigger

success than anybody knows except for the students who came here. It's been a great experience and I'm just thrilled with the

>>>cosborn@dailytoreador.com

Bell

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Well you know Lubbock's got a lot of talent. That's what I found amazing," he said. "I'm not a native here, but when I came here I just found it amazing that there was so much talent."

Bell said he and the opening band, Coffee Cream and Everything Between, had rehearsed twice prior to the show, which strained his voice.

Familiar faces, Bell said, made him forget about how tired and nervous he was and helped him get through the show.

"The energy (was different) from the minute I walked out," he said. "I could see, like, so many teeth through the entire crowd so that, off the bat, was like, 'Ah, okay. I'm home.'"

>>>kketron@dailytoreador.com

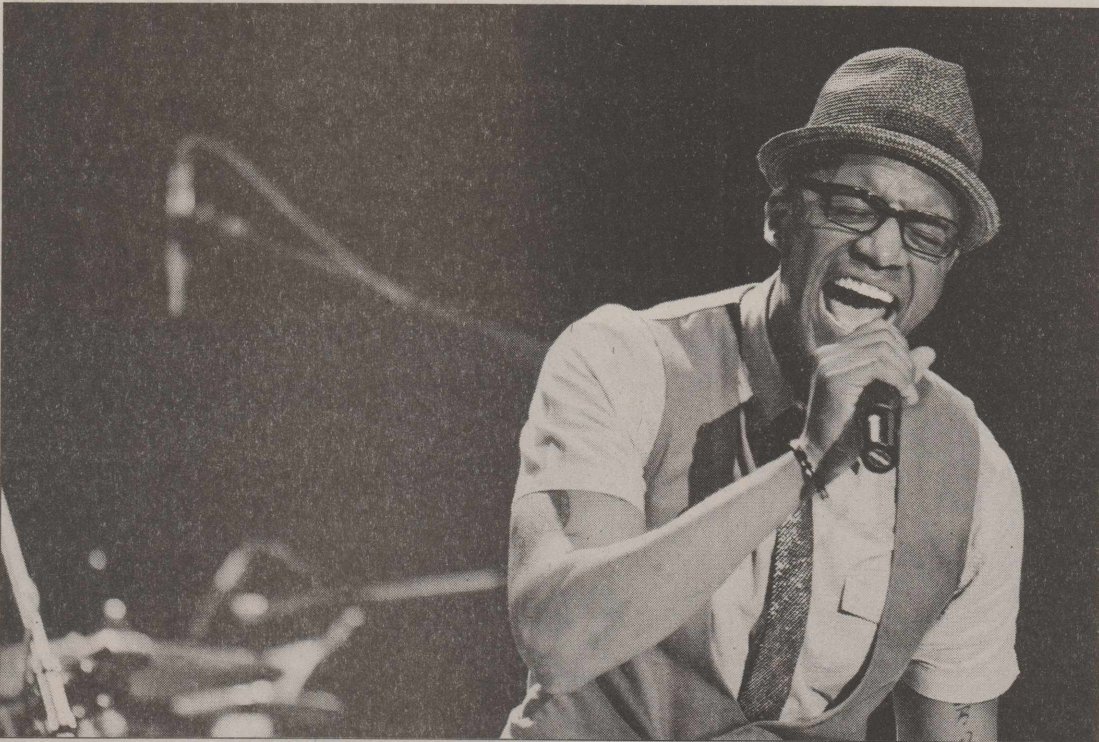


PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

BELL CURRENTLY IS working on his first album, which he expects to be complete this fall.

Officials tally damage in southern Arizona blaze

PHOENIX (AP) — Authorities in southern Arizona on Monday were going through neighborhoods to tally the damage from a wildfire that was pushed by fierce winds into a heavily-populated area, burning homes and businesses.

Officials say the fire came off a mountain Sunday afternoon into the outskirts of Sierra Vista and forced about 3,000 residents of 1,700 homes to flee. The evacuations brought the total number to about 10,000 people from 4,300 homes forced out by the Monument fire.

The blaze began June 12 and had destroyed 44 homes before Sunday.

Among the confirmed losses Sunday was a popular Mexican restaurant. Officials expected to get a confirmed count of the losses by midday, said Carol Capas, a spokeswoman for the Cochise County Sheriff's Office.

"I can't speculate right now," Capas said Monday. "We really need to wait and see."

Much lighter winds Monday were allowing aircraft to again attack several fires in Arizona and New Mexico. Air crews had been grounded for most of Sunday. Fire-fighting efforts have been dogged for days by hot, windy weather.

Meanwhile, the massive Wallow fire that has been burning in eastern Arizona for three weeks kept about 200 residents of Luna, N.M., under an evacuation order for a third day.

One of the last areas in Arizona still evacuated was reopening Monday. Residents of the picturesque resort town of Greer were being issued passes to return home. Early in the day, Greer Fire chief Mark Wade was personally escorting the owners of 22 destroyed homes in first.

"The fire chief really wants to handle them with kid gloves, handle them with dignity, and give them time to deal with it before the masses return to their homes," fire information officer Larry Tunfors said.

Touring the Wallow fire area on Saturday, Sen. John McCain said "there was substantial evidence" that some of the fires in southern Arizona may have been started by illegal immigrants and tighter border security would have prevented them.

On Monday, his office issued a clarification, saying he was not referring to the eastern Arizona blaze.

"The facts are clear. For years, federal, state and local officials have stated that smugglers and illegal immigrants have caused fires on our southern border," said a statement from Brooke Buchanan, McCain's communications director.

Syrian army cuts off lifeline to thousands

BOYNUYOGUN REFUGEE CAMP, Turkey (AP) — Syrian troops combing through restive villages near the Turkish border set fire to homes and a bakery Sunday, cutting off a lifeline to thousands of uprooted people stranded in miserable open-air encampments.

Activists said the military carried out mass arrests and threw up checkpoints in the village of Bdama and

surrounding areas to block residents from fleeing across the frontier, as thousands of others have done.

Turkey, whose leaders have denounced the Damascus regime's deadly crackdown on dissent, began distributing food to those encamped on the Syrian side of the border, in the first such aid mission since the campaign against anti-government protesters turned into a refugee crisis

two weeks ago.

People from the Syrian side were collecting food at the border to take to the stranded families, the local Turkish governor's office said.

With the 3-month-old pro-democracy uprising raging on, the Syrian government appeared desperate to put an end to the embarrassing stream of refugees fleeing their homeland. Activists said Syrian

authorities at the border were making it more difficult for people to reach Turkey.

As he escaped to this area of Turkey on Sunday, one refugee from Bdama, identifying himself only as Hassan, said he could hear gunfire as he fled.

"Soldiers have blocked roads and many people are walking through fields and mountains," he said.

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New report shows early chaos at Japan nuke plant

TOKYO (AP) — A new report says Japan's tsunami-ravaged nuclear plant was so unprepared for the disaster that workers had to bring protective gear and an emergency manual from distant buildings and borrow equipment from

a contractor.

The report, released Saturday by plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co., is based on interviews of workers and plant data. It portrays chaos amid the desperate and ultimately un-

successful battle to protect the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant from meltdown, and shows that workers struggled with unfamiliar equipment and fear of radiation exposure.

The March 11 earthquake and tsunami destroyed the plant's power and crucial cooling systems, causing three reactor cores to melt and causing several explosions.

TEPCO has been criticized for dragging its feet on venting and sea water cooling — the two crucial steps that experts say could have mitigated the damage. Company officials have said the tsunami created obstacles that were impossible to anticipate. An investigation by an independent panel is pending.

The report revealed insufficient preparations at the plant that TEPCO hadn't previously acknowledged. It said plant workers had a disaster drill just a week before the tsunami and "everyone was familiar with emergency exits," but it apparently did not help them cope with the crisis.

When the Unit 1 reactor lost cooling functions two hours after the quake, workers tried to pump in fresh water through a fire pump, but it was broken.

A fire engine at the plant couldn't reach the unit because the tsunami left a huge tank blocking the driveway. Workers destroyed a power-operated gate to bring in the engine that arrived at the unit hours later. It was early morning when they finally started pumping water into the reactor — but the core had already melted by then.

They eventually ran out of fresh water and had to switch to sea water, which meant scrapping the reactor.

Other workers were tasked with releasing pressure from Unit 1's containment vessel to avoid an explosion. But first they had to get the manual, which was not in the control room but in a separate office building at the plant. Aftershocks struck as they retrieved it.

To activate an air-operated part of the vent, workers had to borrow a compressor from a contractor. And the workers who had to get close to the unit for the venting had to get protective gear from the offsite crisis management center, 5 kilometers (3 miles) away from the plant.

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'The Voice' not just about the voice

With "American Idol" slowly on the decline, a new singing competition has emerged onto the reality TV scene.

"The Voice" has tried to give new meaning to the music industry by proclaiming a talented singer should be recognized purely for their voice and not their act. Described as a "vocal competition" on its website, "The Voice" has become much more than that.

What truly sets "The Voice" apart from shows like it, such as "American Idol" or "Making The Band" is that the first round of auditions is completely blind.

The judges decide whether they want the singer to move on and be on their team based solely on their musical pipes, and not what they look like or what sob

story they have to tell.

When any of the judges turn their rotating chair around to finally see the singer, more often than not their physical appearance is not what they had in mind.

Judges and mentors Christina Aguilera, Cee Lo Green, Adam Levine and Blake Shelton consult their team members every week and advise them on what song to choose and what their performance should look like.

But, in the recent live shows, it has been made apparent that it's not just about the contestant's voice anymore. Dancers,

costumes and other gimmicks have been added, often taking away from what got them noticed in the first place: their vocal chords.

My question, however, is when will we see the day that these music competition shows are on the radio, instead of the TV?

Superstars like Lady Gaga and Katy Perry have ultimately become household names because of their get-up and the performances they put on. I do not doubt they can sing with the best of them, but in the end, who comes out on top?

Lady Gaga and her meat costumes or Adele and her simple stage presence of singing behind a mic stand?

We have become so accustomed to attention grabbing costumes, lyrics and stage lights, that when a show with a blind audition comes around, we stop and take notice.

As far as I can see, I think there will be plenty more Lady Gagas and, as buyers, we will continue to buy over-the-top music and attend over-the-top concerts.

We will almost always choose an easy-on-the-eyes singer with flashy performance techniques. Just go look at your iTunes top 10 songs.

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Paige Skinner



Can comedy be a good source of news?

BY PATRICK FRANCOM
THE DAILY UNIVERSE, (BRIGHAM YOUNG U.)

On election night 2008, television news outlets were buzzing with polls and predictions, graphs and gossip. CNN, MSNBC and FOX news were all on the story — but millions tuned in to "The Daily Show" with Jon Stewart on Comedy Central instead.

"The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report," both political humor TV programs, have the most late-night cable viewers, according to a news release on Comedy Central's website.

Their viewers are people all across the political spectrum and include many BYU students. There are more and more indicators that comedy shows are becoming the main news source for young adults.

Jonathan Morris, associate professor of political science at East Carolina University and author of "Laughing Matters: Humor and American Politics in the Media Age," said the main goal of these shows is to present news in an entertaining and humorous way, though it may be biased.

"It's a biased perspective," Morris said. "They are going to paint the right and Republicans in not a very positive light."

He said despite the portrayed bias, most viewers of "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report" are politically informed and are watching to get more information. However, he said among the young adults who watch the shows, some use them as a main source of news.

"[With] young adults under the age of 30, about 25 percent use Colbert or Jon Stewart as a primary source of news," Morris said, "not necessarily their only

news, but the source that they rely on most."

Morris conducted a survey during the 2008 election where he asked young adults which journalists they trusted the most.

The two names listed with the most frequency were Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert. He said young people are drawn to this type of news because it is on late at night, they want to be entertained and they tend to lean more politically left.

Morris said trusting one of these programs to be a primary news source could give a skewed view of the world, even to the point that viewers think the government is full of hacks, criminals and incompetent people. He said these types of viewers could be turned off and decide to not become involved in politics at all.

In contrast, he said political humor TV shows could spark interest in the

political world and become a gateway to political activism.

John Weaver, a junior psychology major from Salem, said he has been affected by "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report."

"I can definitely see how it's effected my political views," Weaver said. "I've definitely used their same arguments when I try to make a point politically."

Weaver said after watching some of the featured guests, he has researched and discussed the topics with others.

Morris said "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report" could also increase awareness of issues among those who do not watch the news at all.

"A lot of young adults that learn things from these political humor shows would not seek out the news otherwise," Morris said. "[They] go with the intent to be entertained but actually learn something."

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Today's
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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.

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

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