

Right: Saddle Tramps 75th anniversary | La Vida, Page 5

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Big 12 moves to add TCU Formal invite extended

By JIM VERTUNO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN (AP) — After more than a year of watching their league get picked apart, leaders of Big 12 Conference finally made a proactive move Thursday by voting to add TCU as early as next season.

It was the first aggressive act by a league desperate to secure its membership amid dramatic shifts in conference affiliation. And if the Horned Frogs join the Big 12, it would be another sharp blow to the Big East, which was expecting to welcome TCU next season.

TCU Chancellor Victor Boschini Jr. suggested TCU is all but ready to join the Big 12.

"These discussions with the Big 12 have huge implications for TCU," Boschini said. "It will allow us to return to old rivalries, something our fans and others have been advocating for years. As always, we must consider what's best for TCU and our student-athletes in this ever-changing landscape of collegiate athletics. We look forward to continuing these discussions with the Big 12."

All is fare in love and Raiderville

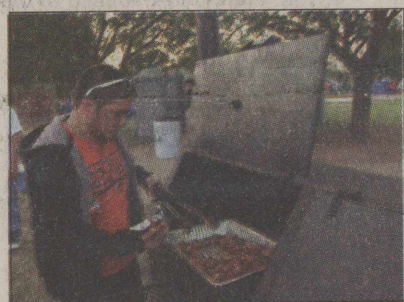


PHOTO BY ANNIE OSTERLUND/The DT

RICHARD REYNA, A sophomore mechanical engineering major from Houston, gets free chicken wings at Raiderville on Thursday.

Raiders chow down

By ASHLYN TUBBS
STAFF WRITER

After a week of sleeping outdoors to support the Red Raiders, Raiderville residents will pack up their sleeping bags and take down their tents after the long-awaited Texas Tech-Texas A&M football game Saturday.

Instead of missing their own rooms and bed, many of the 564 campers are disappointed to see the week pass so quickly. Their appetites will no longer be catered to by restaurants like Dominos, Fuddrucker's, Chicken Express, McDonald's and Blue Sky, or the peach cobbler, Caesar salad, garlic bread, boneless ribs and Italian sausage some residents cooked while camping out.

FOOD continued on Page 6 >>>

SGA discusses raising awareness, transparency

Guest speakers attend

By GREG LINDEMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association met at 6:32 p.m. Thursday following a 30-minute delay due to a photo shoot to update the SGA website.

Once the delay was over, the SGA got down to business as the newly appointed Senator Mills was sworn in.

Afterward, Heather Medley announced Motion Awareness on Campus during the week of the Texas game.

SGA continued on Page 3 >>>

TEXAS TECH VS. TEXAS A&M | 2011

LAST OF A RIVALRY

Saturday's game against Texas A&M represents the end to the yearly clash between Big 12 foes as the Aggies head to the SEC next season. Tech plans to end that on a high note.



FILE PHOTOS/The Daily Toreador

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM left: In 1999, the Red Raiders upset the No. 5 Aggies, and fans proceeded to rush the field and tear down the goalposts. Texas Tech's Alex Torres and his fellow receivers will be relied upon to keep pace with the Aggies on Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium. In 2001, Tech again upset the Aggies and tore down the goalpost before pushing it into the Texas A&M section at Jones AT&T Stadium.

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
MANAGING EDITOR

Similarities are not at a shortage when it comes to Seth Doege and Ryan Tannehill.

The two quarterbacks command offenses that average more than 500 yards of production per game, each throw for more than 280 yards per contest and both have accumulated more than 1,000 yards passing entering this week's action.

And they both grew up as Texas Tech fans. "Growing up as a Tech fan, you always had a sour taste in your mouth for A&M," Doege, Tech's starting quarterback, said Monday. "So, we're excited about playing them. This is what you sign up for. This is why you sign your name on the dotted line to play for Texas Tech. This is one of those things where when you think about playing for Tech, you think about playing A&M."

Tannehill may have shared the same view

on the Aggies growing up in West Texas, but that certainly is not the case anymore.

Tannehill, a Big Spring native and quarterback for the Aggies, attempts to beat Tech for the second straight year when the two teams meet at 6 p.m. Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium.

Coming out of high school, Tannehill, a then-6-foot-4, 193-pound dual-threat quarterback, received no interest from Tech and then-coach Mike Leach.

Instead, Tannehill signed with A&M and was converted to wide receiver before replacing Jerrod Johnson as the team's starting quarterback against, ironically, the Red Raiders on Oct. 30, 2010.

In his first collegiate start at quarterback, Tannehill torched the Red Raiders for a school record of 449 yards passing to go with four touchdowns.

RIVALRY continued on Page 7 >>>

Time is running out for A&M

By EVAN JANSA
STAFF WRITER

The clock is ticking slowly and subtly for Texas A&M.

This is not the countdown to their imminent departure from the Big 12 Conference, and not the clock striking zero on what may be the final regular season clash between the No. 24 Aggies and Texas Tech.

This is the clock deciding whether A&M can respond to two debilitating losses and save their season from teetering into the decrepit doldrums of mediocrity.

A&M continued on Page 8 >>>

TECH SERIES RECORD: 32-36-1 | 16-12 IN LUBBOCK

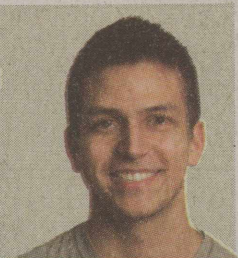
INDEX

- Classifieds.....7
- Crossword.....7
- Opinions.....4
- La Vida.....5
- Sports.....8
- Sudoku.....5

WEATHER

Today 82 / 58	Isolated T-storms	Saturday 70 / 55	Scattered T-storms
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Leal: The world needs more like Steve Jobs
OPINIONS, Pg. 4



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LA VENTANA RECORDING TECH HISTORY SINCE 1925 ORDER TODAY

Community Calendar

FRIDAY

First Friday Art Trail
Time: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Where: Museum of Texas Tech

So, what is it?
Take a ride with the First Friday Art Trail with its new exhibits, activities, movies and more as organized by the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts.

Unwanted Visitor: Portrait of Wildfire
Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Where: Ranching Heritage Center

So, what is it?
See an outdoor art installation in the "Unwanted Visitor: Portrait of Wildfire" exhibit's opening.

Texas Tech soccer vs. Texas A&M

Time: 7 p.m.
Where: John Walker Soccer Complex

So, what is it?
Support the Red Raiders as they compete against the Aggies.

Kalf Fry

Time: 8 p.m.
Where: Lone Star Amphitheater

So, what is it?
Celebrate the 2011 Kalf Fry while listening to the Josh Abbott Band.

Cinderella

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m..
Where: McDonald Moody Auditorium

So, what is it?
Watch a performance of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella presented by the Lubbock Christian University Theatre.

Texas Tech volleyball vs. Kansas State

Time: 1 p.m.
Where: United Spirit Arena
So, what is it?
Support the Red Raiders as they compete against Kansas State.

30th Annual Red Raiders Road Race

Time: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Where: Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center

So, what is it?
Choose if you want to race the 5k or 10k in this roadside competition.

Native American Day

Time: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: The Museum of Texas Tech
So, what is it?
Come celebrate "Native Texas Cultures" by participating in hands-on activities such as leatherworking, weaving, basketry and pottery.

Texas Tech football vs. Texas A&M

Time: 6 p.m.
Where: Jones AT&T Stadium

So, what is it?
Cheer on the Red Raiders as they compete in their final Big 12 Conference game against the Aggies.

To make a calendar submission e-mail
dailytoreador@ttu.edu.

Events will be published either the day or the day before they take place.

Submissions must be sent in by 4 p.m. on the preceding publication date.

SATURDAY



PRE-KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS from Ramirez Charter School reach out to pet a llama Thursday in the English Philosophy Courtyard. Texas Tech students with Jump Start, an organization that helps children succeed, read the story "Llama Llama Red Pajama" to the children earlier in the day as a part of Read for the Record, a program that promotes reading abilities for young children. The llamas were provided by the College of Animal and Food Sciences.

PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

Mass Communications sets 30-hour MA track

By MORGAN CRUMP
STAFF WRITER

The College of Mass Communications Master of Arts degree offers a new option for students who want to advance their academic careers in shorter amounts of time.

Coy Callison, associate dean for graduate studies for the College of Mass Communications, said the Master of Arts program has been around for a long time, but the 30-hour, one-year degree option is new.

"The goal of this program is to provide people with a more pragmatic foundation of mass communications," Callison said. "The traditional thesis option is more

academic, but this new professional option provides advanced training for media careers while looking at theory and research."

This program is not meant to train researchers and theorists, he said. The goal is to train students to use the research and theories they learn about in professional settings.

Jerry Hudson, dean of the College of Mass Communications, said a number of students wanted to obtain their master's degree who did not want to commit to school for another two years. He said many faculty members have suggested in the past the idea of a program that would get graduate students in and out of school in one year.

"This program provides students with the opportunity to extend their academic careers by

one year and leave with a master's degree," Hudson said. "The program is just 30 hours and also allows for six hours of internship opportunities."

The COMC faculty felt that past programs were not serving

the needs of students interested in advancing their careers in the professional world, Callison said, as opposed to students who wanted to advance themselves academically.

"We were doing a good job with students getting their doctorates, but not so much with students who wanted to get their master's," Callison said. "We saw this program as a way of addressing students' needs for advancement in professional careers rather than just academics."

Comprehensive exams have fallen to the wayside in obtaining

master's degrees. Callison said there was a time when everyone took these exams, but the faculty felt that these tests did not serve the department's purpose to better prepare people for careers in mass communications.

"We have decided to replace the exams with final projects that require research and theory instead of answering test questions," Callison said. "Students apply research and knowledge to addressing real concerns of actual businesses or scenarios in internships. Students are still using the knowledge they have learned, but they do it in a setting that is more applied to the 'real world.'"

Hudson said he thinks the program is an excellent opportunity for students who want to expand their academics further than a bachelor's degree, but who are not looking to obtain a degree beyond a master's.

"I think this is something that most students want to complete for more skills, knowledge and experience," he said. "The program is timely, saves a lot of money and contributes to students' knowledge and skills."

Scott Self, a development officer in the College of Engineering, is currently a student in the Master of Arts program. He said he just started in the program and thinks it is beneficial because it is a practical — rather than solely theoretical — program.

"I am loving it so far as a working professor, and I am glad to see Tech and the College of Mass Communications offering a 30-hour program," he said. "It is really beneficial for recent graduates or folks already in their mid-careers."

Having an abbreviated graduate program is very much appreciated, Self said. There are night classes offered, and he said it has been easy to plan classes that work with his schedule.

"I was an undergraduate in journalism and had interests in several components," Self said. "This program matches my life schedule and is helping me attain the different communication techniques I will need in an ever-changing media environment."

Callison said the current job market for people with a media undergraduate degree requires more understanding of research in America. He said this program is going to be valuable because it naturally opens doors across the media business.

"It isn't enough to just produce content, which was how we were training students in the past," Callison said. "This degree gives people opportunities to learn about why they are doing what they are doing."

Callison said he is excited about the program and he has found many students who are excited as well.

"We will see how it goes," he said. "I'm expecting to see this program do good things for us and the students who want to advance their careers."

» mcrump@dailytoreador.com

"I'm expecting to see this program do good things for us and the students who want to advance their careers."

COY CALLISON
ASSOCIATE DEAN
MASS COMMUNICATIONS



LOWE'S
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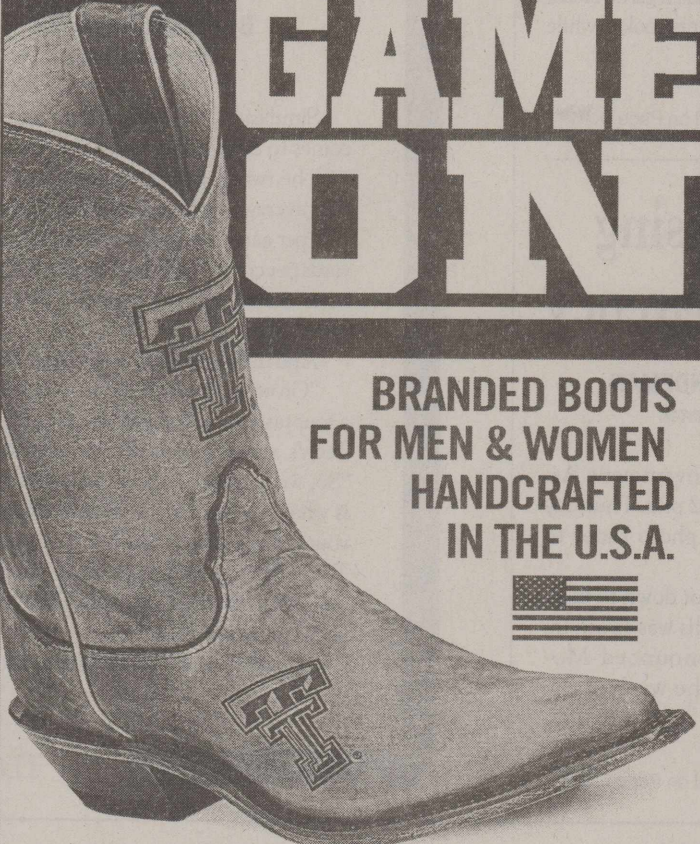
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Chancellor Hance addresses tier-one status in "Inside Texas Tech" premiere

By MIKE GUTIERREZ
STAFF WRITER

The premiere of "Inside Texas Tech," hosted by Chancellor Kent Hance, aired Wednesday night on KTX-TV's Channel 5 and showcased the university's efforts to achieve tier-one status.

Robert Giovannetti, co-host of "Inside Texas Tech" and director of communications at Tech, said Hance wants to use the telecast to feature a wide array of what makes the Texas Tech University system so great.

"I think the chancellor brings such a unique perspective," Giovannetti said. "He's a West Texas guy, he's a Red Raider and he loves Texas Tech more than anybody. I think people want more insight and exposure from the chancellor, and I think this show gives them that opportunity."

After the retirement of former general manager Pat Cates in January 2010, KTX-TV began a nine-month search for the right person to replace him. In October 2010, they appointed John Kirby to the position.

John Kirby, has a line to describe his goal at the station upon being hired nearly a year ago, making the promise to "put the 'public' back in 'public broadcasting'" in Lubbock.

Kirby, a former political reporter, said he met Hance on the campaign trail.

The idea to put "Inside Texas Tech" on air was something he had in common with the chancellor, Kirby said.

"Hance is a very interesting guy," he said. "He's very well-spoken and he's really very, very smart. We talked about it and he said, 'Hey, I'd like to get on television,' and I said, 'I'd like to put you on,' so it wasn't hard to work out the details. We both wanted to do this, but he deserves a lot of the credit for making the time from his busy schedule to do this for Channel 5 and the community."

KTX-TV wants to give people a better look at Tech with this program, Kirby said.

"This is one of the world's great universities," he said. "(Tech) is going to a new level with tier one, and we want to give viewers an insider's look at the university and the people

who work here."

Jason Velez, a junior advertising and electronic media major from El Paso, said he appreciates how much Chancellor Hance is doing for Tech.

"Hance really cares about the students," Velez said. "The fact that he is trying to make this a tier-one university is great. It opens up future opportunities to attract students to come here and it makes people realize that Tech is an elite school. It'll benefit students who graduate from here because Tech will look better on their resumes and tier one will also probably open up opportunities for students to get more funding from the government for graduate research and tuition costs."

Giovannetti said their main goal with the premiere episode was to simply inform viewers on what exactly "tier one" is.

"The average citizen or average alumni may not understand what goes into tier-one," he said. "Chancellor Hance tried to explain tier one and what it takes to make this status possible for the university in this episode."

"Inside Texas Tech" will offer interesting information viewers will not be able to get anywhere else.

JOHN KIRBY
GENERAL MANAGER
KTX-TV CHANNEL 5

"Interesting information viewers will not be able to get anywhere else," Kirby said.

"We're going to give them inside Texas Tech information that will benefit the community," he said.

"This community and Texas Tech are married. The two halves of the marriage will learn a lot. We're going to have community leaders on, as well as university leaders, and everybody will learn something and everybody will benefit."

He expects the reception for this program to be very positive, Kirby said.

"It's an opportunity for people to take a look inside Texas Tech," he said. "It's an opportunity for people in the community to talk to the chancellor. We have a segment where anyone can submit a question on camera and we're going to make sure that a wide range of community people are represented."

New episodes of "Inside Texas Tech" will air the first Thursday of each month at 8 p.m., with reruns airing the remaining three Thursdays of the month at the same time.

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Tech, El Paso CC receive grants to expand joint architectural program

By GREG LINDEMAN
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech University and El Paso Community College have teamed up and were granted a \$5.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education that spans five years.

The money is meant to help enlarge Hispanic-serving institutions and the grant targets Hispanics who would like to excel in architecture.

Andrew Vernoooy, dean of the College of Architecture at Tech, said this program allows students at El Paso Community College to receive an associate's degree in two years, then allow them to transfer into Tech's architecture program at the university's El Paso location and study for another two years.

"The innovation is that the students do not have to leave El Paso to begin the six-year process to receive a professional degree in architecture," Vernoooy said.

Associate professor Robert Gonzalez, who is the director of the program in El Paso, said this is a great opportunity for students to get on the right path towards a professional degree.

At the same time it makes the students marketable for companies with the intent that when they graduate from the program, they will be prepared to enter the world of architecture, he said.

"(It is a) wonderful opportunity," Gonzalez said. "It allows students to enter a pathway into an accredited professional program while they're here at home."

Tech started this program because the American Institute of Architecture, or AIA, makes architecture students become members once they graduate. The universities noticed only two percent of architects in America are Hispanic, Gonzalez said, and only one percent are African-American.

"Tech took the initiative to implement a program in an area with an 80 percent Hispanic population to help educate and give a pathway for these students to excel," he said.

This semester, between 300 and 350 students will enroll with the expectation of entering the pre-architecture program, Gonzalez said, with only 100 to 120 students making the cut.

Martin Medina an architect-

ture major from Parval, Chihuahua, Mexico, said he went through this program in El Paso. After receiving his associate's degree from El Paso Community College, he was able to transfer to Tech.

Medina said he loved the experience the program gave him and it helped him make the decision that architecture was indeed the correct fit for him.

"(It was) definitely a good thing," he said. "From being a transfer student from Mexico who moved to El Paso, it was a great opportunity to get involved in school and learn about the profession of architecture."

Martin said he decided to move to Lubbock because he had no connections in El Paso and the facilities to help him excel are found at the Lubbock campus. He said he thinks this new grant will expand the current program and place necessary facilities to help students

at El Paso Community College succeed.

"When you start architecture you have no idea what it is about, and in El Paso it was a smaller classroom (where) students can get more one-on-one time" Martin said. "The advantage is (getting) to stay here. Maybe the idea of going to Lubbock is too far (for some and) this program gives (students) another chance to get to school."

After finishing the four-year program, students will have the chance to not only apply to Tech, Gonzalez said. The program opens the door for students to apply to any master's program found in the U.S., he said, which gives the students enrolled in the program infinite possibilities.

"This is a movement to try to improve the community and the way a city operates," he said.

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Occupy Wall Street spin-offs come to Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Hundreds of protesters took to the streets in Dallas, Houston, Austin and San Antonio on Thursday as cities across Texas joined the Occupy Wall Street demonstrations demanding an end to corruption in politics and business.

Upwards of 300 marchers worked their way to the Federal Reserve Building in Dallas, which police fortified with metal barriers. Houston police estimated that 200 people marched from the J.P. Morgan Chase building to City Hall. In Austin, a crowd gathered outside City Hall and swelled to over 700, many waving signs things like, "End the Fed" "I graduated from college and all I got is debt" and "Greed is evil. I am the 99 percent."

Nearly 100 protesters gathered in San Antonio's Travis Park, meanwhile, and later marched past the Alamo and toward the Federal Reserve Building there.

Organizers are using social media to coordinate activities, and say they plan to occupy those locations for as

long as possible.

There were no reports of arrests or major disturbances, though Houston police stepped in after a crowd surrounded one counter-protester. Justin Conry, a 28-year-old owner of a carpet cleaning business, was waving a sign that read, "Blame yourself not the bank. Hard work pays off."

SGA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It will kickoff with a flash mob on Monday to bring awareness to the event and end that Friday with a car clinic. The purpose of Motion Awareness Week is to bring attention to the ever-growing student body about moving around on campus safely, she said, whether students are on foot, on bike or in a car.

A Navy officer spoke to recruit members on joining the Navy's Nuclear Compulsory Program. It requires an engineering degree, although he said math and science degrees are also acceptable. For more information regarding the Nuclear Compulsory Program, he advised members to go across the street from campus to the Navy's recruiting offices.

A representative of Tech's Chief Information Officer came in to promote Cyber Security Awareness Month. Corey Ciocchetti, a guest speaker, will have a lecture later this month about ethics and how social media has changed society.

A senator representing graduate students announced his desire for *The Daily Toreador* to introduce a new section to the paper focusing on graduate research. He believes this new section would make graduate students more visible and help Tech reach tier-one status quicker.

A heated debate was sparked when Senator Colin Davis disagreed with Senator Stuart Wil-

liams' decision to handpick the new chairman of the ethics subcommittee, arguing there should be a vote within the committee when it comes to electing a chairman.

After much debate about whether Williams had the power to appoint a chairman, Internal President Alex Moore stepped in and asked if Davis would like to appeal to the chair, which he did. After the appeal, a vote was taken over whether they should keep the appointed senator as chairman. With 52 "yays," the majority voted to keep Williams appointed as chairman.

Williams announced to the members to be aware of LGBT History Month, which is October. The senate passed a resolution to go through with LGBT History

Month after Williams delivered a moving message about Tech's own involvement with LGBT members and the Tech Gay-Straight Alliance.

The SGA is also proposing a charity event in December, which would ask students and faculty to donate old clothing to the Dream Center of Lubbock. The proposed event will host a fashion show with models wearing the donated clothes and money from the tickets sold to the fashion show would be used for a need-based scholarship to go to local high school students that will attend college in 2012.

In the meantime, the Senate is working on placing Red Box booths around campus for the benefit of students.

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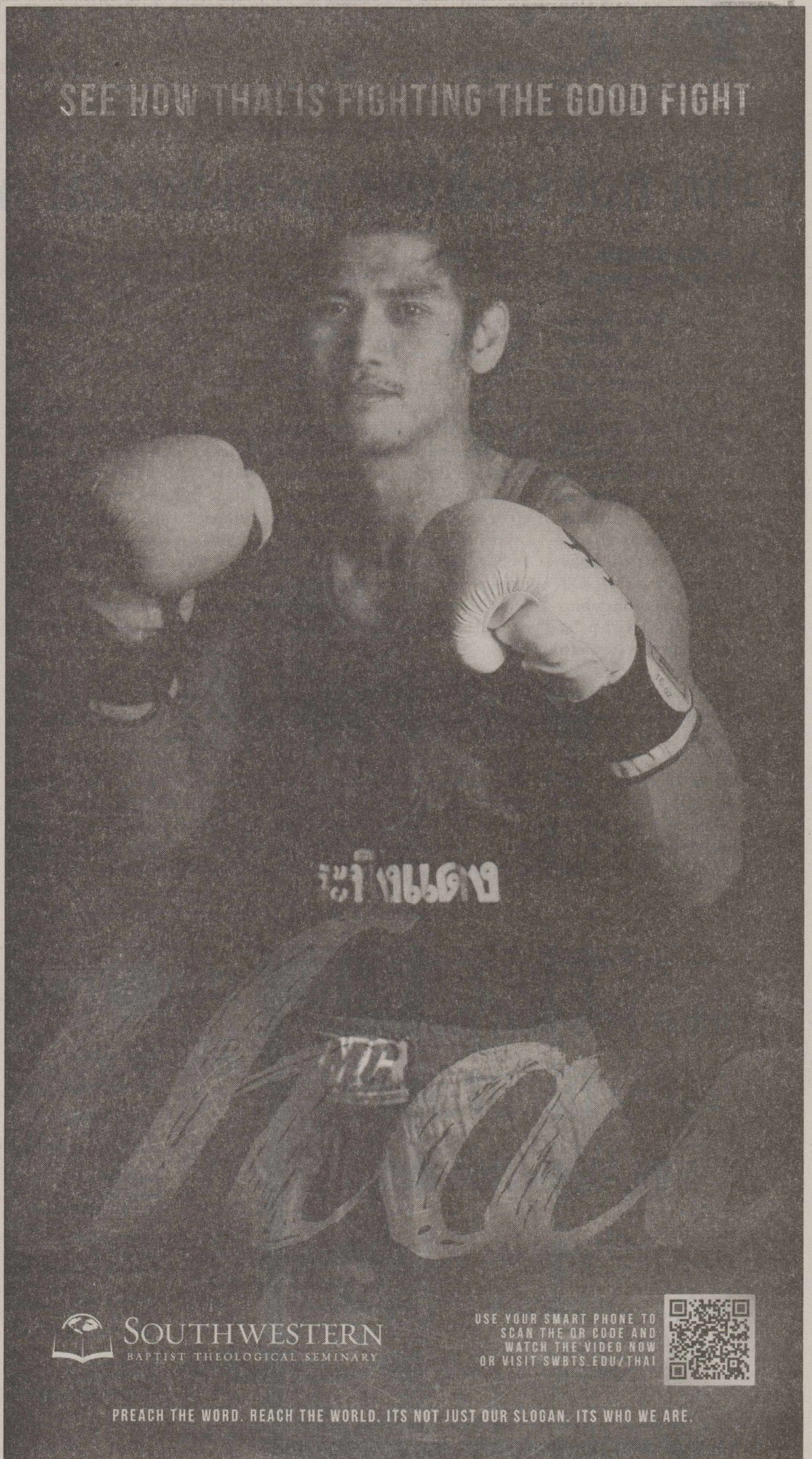
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Legacy of Steven P. Jobs: 'Stay hungry. Stay foolish'

“Do you want to spend the rest of your life selling sugar water, or do you want to come with me and change the world?”

This was the tenacious proposition 28-year-old Steve Jobs offered the then-CEO of PepsiCo, John Sculley, to quit his job and join his budding computer company. Just a few years prior, Sculley was promoted as the youngest CEO of one of the largest companies in the world. Yet, Sculley accepted Jobs' offer. Could you turn down a proposal like that?

As a long-lived Microsoft supporter, I can't say I've ever waited in long lines to purchase the latest iProduct, though I do own an iPod Touch that I'm, naturally, very pleased with.

However, one need not sub-

Chris Leal



scribe to the “Church of Apple” to understand and revere the magnitude of this generation's most prolific innovator.

This week, our country lost a man who was single-handedly responsible for one of the few shining oases of prosperity in our current economy.

In a world full of stale institutions and systems that make repeated attempts at pushing square blocks through circular openings, Jobs was one of the few men with the vision and persistence to do away with the

blocks altogether and blaze an entirely new path.

Without any chance of overstatement, Jobs will be remembered as our generation's Thomas Edison or Henry Ford. Yet, although Jobs was a titan of industry, his greatest legacy is perhaps something much more intangible than an iPhone or an iPad.

“Do you want to spend the rest of your life selling sugar water, or do you want to come with me and change the world?” That question makes an immediate impact, much like anything Jobs did.

From pioneering personal computing to reinventing entire industries, from battling Microsoft to being ousted from his own company only to return later as its savior, and from Macs

to iPhones to iPads, everything Jobs did oozed a passion for life and dared you to dream bigger than you did the day before. Forget what you were used to or what people told you was normal. Live your life as a piece of art and never settle for anything less than the painfully beautiful.

Jobs gave the world a product that will never need to be upgraded or improved, and that's a life-tested blueprint for aspiring and rethinking the world around you. If you only learn one thing from the man, it should be to stay hungry and stay foolish.

The world needs more people like Steve Jobs.

■ **Leal is The DT's opinions editor and a senior finance and economics major from Dallas.**
» opinions@dailytoreador.com

Some win, some lose: tough times for Tech students

Let's take the meaning of that old cliché, “When it rains, it pours,” literally for a second.

Right now, I am sitting in Barnes and Noble completely drenched and afraid to take off my jacket. It is laundry day and the piece of clothing closest to being clean I had was a Texas A&M shirt. Not checking my weather app, I threw this shirt on under a jacket and ran out the door.

Of course, with the week I am having, it was par for the course that I had to lose the Columbia fleece and sport my A&M shirt for the latter part of the day, with the big kicker being that we play A&M in football this weekend.

However, to fully grasp the extent of my week, I need to back up to Monday. I spent an uncalculated amount of time studying for a completely incomprehensible English test. The fill-in-the-blank test was extremely vague. I understand how teachers want to extend my brain to irretrievable boundaries, but I am in 15 hours worth of

English classes. I can only analyze every reading to a certain extent.

Tuesday gets even better. My teachers decided everything was due on Thursday, giving me a small heart palpitation considering Thursday was only two days away. Midterms week is killer, and when you are an English

major, it's not just tests. The teachers want you to analyze everything we have talked about in class from their cat's medical histories to pictures of their trips to Spain.

However, school wasn't even the worst part of my week. My parents sent me a package that was supposed to be in Lubbock by Monday. After navigating my way through three infuriating recordings from an infuriatingly calm recorded voice, I finally got in touch with a Lubbock United Parcel Service operator.

Apparently, UPS tried to deliver my package, but since I wasn't home, they were shipping it back to my parents. After about 20 minutes of coaxing and selling my soul to UPS, I got them to hold it for me in Slaton, which is about 15 miles away from Lubbock.

The cherry on top of my Tuesday was dropping my iPhone into a puddle of water and it shutting off. Seriously, Lubbock has not gotten rain in three months, and somehow I manage to find the one small puddle

Andy Doughty



within a 50-mile radius. I am still without a phone, and my only lifeline to the outside world is Facebook.

The good news is I am not the only one having a less than mediocre week. For all of you out there thinking you were getting the iPhone 5, you were wrong. Say “hello” to the iPhone 4S. For a couple of years now, Apple has been on top of the industry, but they're about to say “hello” to mediocrity with this new lame product. Get back at me when you make a phone where my screen doesn't shatter from being looked at the wrong way.

Also, it's a bad week for the GOP. I promise not to talk about politics, but I do like to gossip about the things going on in the personal lives of politicians. They are the new reality TV.

Chris

Christie had to call a press conference to put the media to rest for the last time. He will not run in the 2012 presidential race. Governor Rick Perry took a beating this week. He may or may not have been a member of a hunting lease that had a rock with profane language on it.

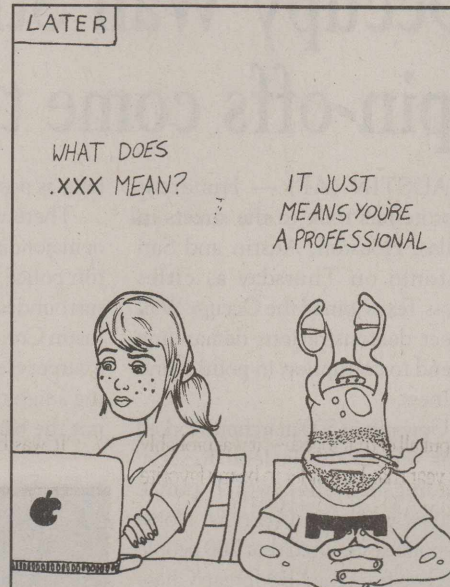
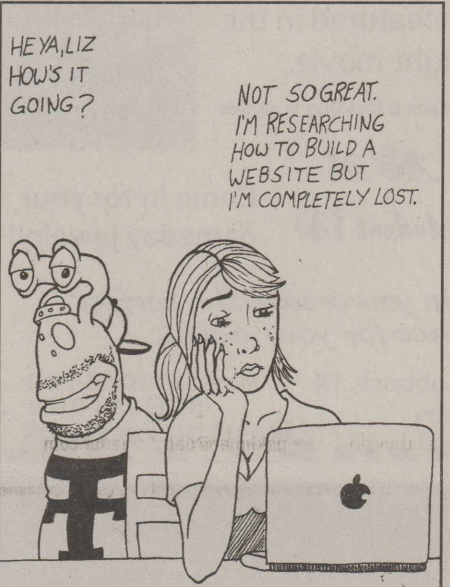
What's next? Will he be photographed next to some obscene graffiti? I mean, give the guy a break. It's not like he was the one tagging Mother Nature with racial slurs.

I want to end on a good note here, so I will tell you who did have a good week, and that's Amanda Knox. Things have been looking rather grim for her these past couple of years, but, as of Monday, she was acquitted of all serious charges and recently landed back in the United States, presumably to go into hiding with Casey Anthony. I bet the Lifetime Movie Network could make a killing making a modern “Thelma & Louis” with these two.

Some weeks are good for some and bad for others. If you can laugh it off and take everything as it comes, then you are less likely to need medication by the time you graduate. Like I always say, don't be bitter — it leads to Botox.

■ **Doughty is a junior English major from Nederland.**
» adoughty@dailytoreador.com

WASTOIDS



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Palin not seeking presidential nomination

By **HUMZA BOKHARI**
HARVARD POLITICAL REVIEW (HARVARD U.)

FOX News Commentator and former governor Sarah Palin announced today, in a statement, that she would not be running for the Republican nomination in 2012.

Her supporters were not thrilled. After months of tireless organizing, fighting back on Palin's behalf, and hoping against hope that all the signs pointing against a run were false, her supporters experienced a painful blow. The candidate whom they sincerely believed was the GOP's best hope in 2012 let them down.

Palin claimed that it was her dedication to her family that prevented her from mounting a run, an argument that is difficult to make, seeing as America already knows all there is to know about them and all the attacks that could have been slung their way, unfortunately, have been.

Ever since she entered the national stage in 2008, she and her family's personal lives have been a target. None of that will disappear now that she has decided not to run. Gossip about her will be clumped

with information about soap operas, former child stars, and miracle medicines, and her life will continue to be a source of interest for those who find her views and lack of a record amusing.

And that is precisely why she should have mounted a run. Running would have given her a chance to set the record straight, to impress in debates and make serious statements on policy. She could have given America another opportunity to see her as something other than an SNL caricature of questionable intelligence. I am not saying she could have won. But she could have restored her image. That isn't exactly what one would call a “legitimate” reason to run for the highest office in the nation, but Sarah Palin and legitimacy are less than synonyms.

But she chose not to run. Perhaps she prefers the easier path — playing rabble-rouser for the Right, rather than holding serious jobs with serious responsibilities. Even her excuse for stepping down as governor in 2009 seems far weaker now — she is simply reinforcing what her opponents said all along.

Is it, as Jon Stewart has mentioned, that she simply does not appreciate that being “president,” like being “governor,” is more than a title, but an actual job?

If elected, would she have been willing to serve?

In 2008, Palin was handed a microphone and called up on stage. America since turned that microphone off, but Palin hadn't been willing to leave. She kept voicing her concerns on national issues, acting as a sort of pseudo-spokesperson for the Right even when much of the right no longer took her seriously. But now, she has money. She can build herself her own stage, possibly covered with a grizzly bear pelt, with a giant American flag backdrop and a cubic zirconium-encrusted podium right in the center, a megaphone placed neatly on top.

She can do what she loves — be “unshackled” and say what she wants — without worrying about “consequences.” If she isn't worried about her national image, she can continue to cater to a small fan club which will continue to write her checks. Her career as a commentator is alive

and well. But her political career — and though I would ordinarily be wary of such statements, I make one now — is over.

The also-ran-for-2nd-place from What's-its-name, Alaska couldn't possibly mount a presidential run in 2016, or later. She could potentially run for lower office at some point, build a resumé, and get back in the game, but her reluctance to do any sort of real government work over the last three years indicates that she has no plans to do so. Had she run in 2012, she would have had some sort of national political resume to speak of down the line. Not anymore.

She'll keep ghostwriting more and more books, which will sell fewer and fewer copies. Her contingent of die-hard fans, which already took a major hit today, will shrink. The country will remember little more about her than that she was, for McCain, The Great Mistake of 2008.

And now, though she has loitered around the corner of the national stage for some time, the cue has come for her to exit — naturally, to the right.

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Periodical Postage paid by The Daily Toreador, Student Media building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409. Publication number: 766480. The DT is a student newspaper published Monday through Friday, September through May; Tuesdays and Fridays June through August, except during university examination and vacation periods. The DT is funded primarily through advertising revenues generated by the student sales staff with free campus distribution resulting from student service fees.

Subscriptions
Call: 806-742-3388
Subscription Rates: \$150 annually; single issues: \$1.
Postmaster: send address changes to The Daily

Toreador, Box 43081 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

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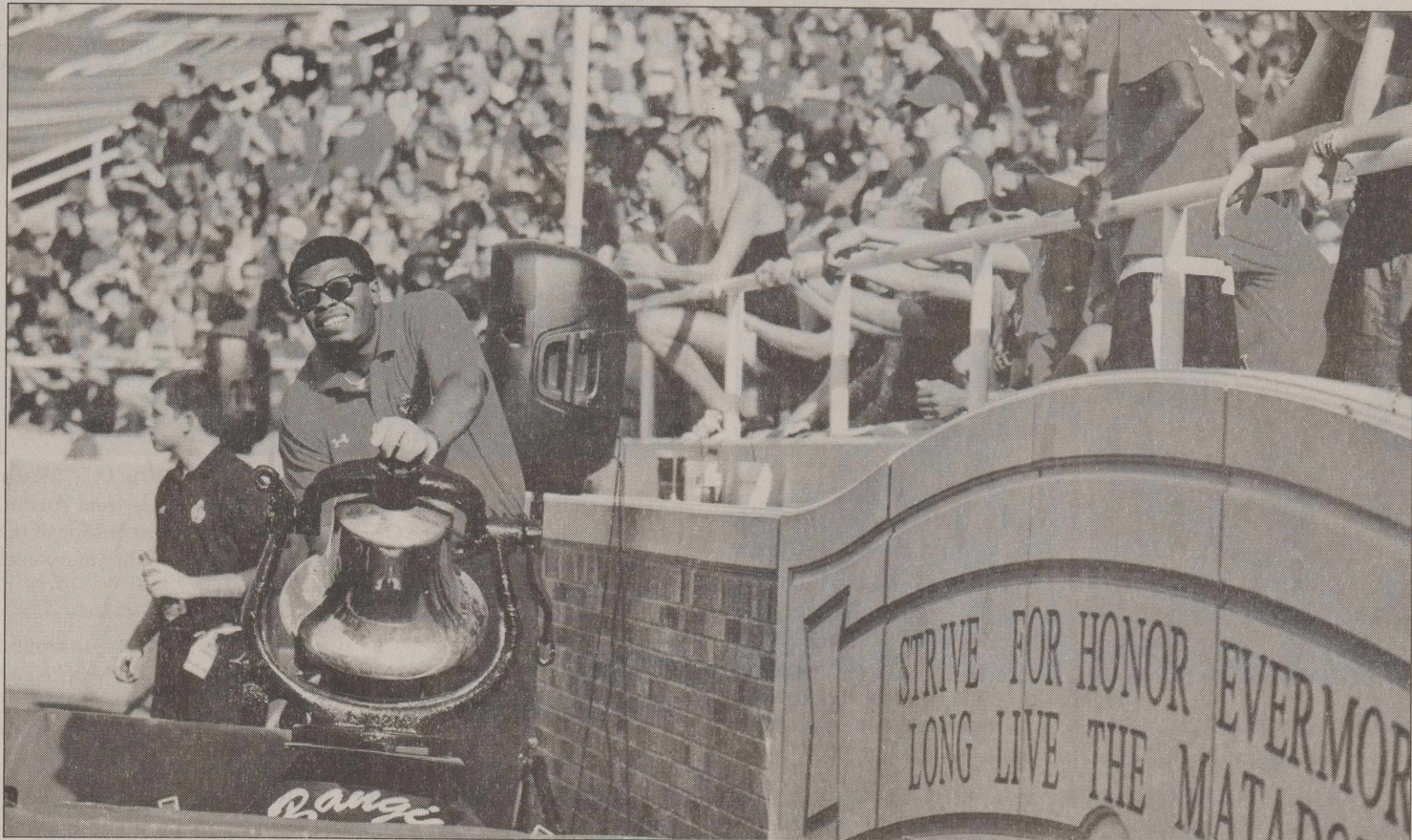
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75 YEARS IN THE SADDLE

ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY AS PROTECTORS OF TEXAS TECH TRADITIONS



GARY MCCRORY, A human development and family studies junior from New Orleans, La., rings Bangin' Bertha before Tech's 50-10 victory against Texas State on Sept. 3.

By **PAIGE SKINNER**
STAFF WRITER

This weekend, men dressed in red and black will guard various statues on campus as the Texas A&M Aggies come into town to play the Texas Tech football team.

Those 65 men belong to the organization known as the Saddle Tramps. During weekends when Tech plays a rival team in A&M or Texas, the Saddle Tramps guard the Will Rogers statue, the Seal, the Masked Rider statue and many others from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Thursday through Sunday.

This year, the organization is celebrating its 75th anniversary by honoring the men before them and dedicating a wall in the Market Alumni Center to their founder, Arch Lamb.

Alex Lake, president of the Saddle Tramps, said members are responsible for "upholding the traditions of Texas Tech."

Lake said the Saddle Tramps participate in many activities throughout the school year, including guarding statues on campus and hosting a pep rally called "Midnight Raiders."

Midnight Raiders is every Thursday at midnight before a home game.

"It's just, kind of, like a mini pep rally for the Saddle Tramps and any guests that would like to come," Lake, a senior multidisciplinary science major from Spring Branch, said, "and we just get the spirit jump started by doing all that."

Before Midnight Raiders, the Saddle Tramps wrap the Will Rogers statue, light poles around campus, the Frazier Alumni Pavilion, the coach's bridge and the Business Administration building with red crepe paper.

Afterward, they stand guard all night to protect the monuments from vandalism.

After protecting the statues and wrapping parts of the campus, the Saddle Tramps are involved with many things during football games, Lake said. They have two members who shoot off the shotguns at kickoff, the end of every quarter and every time Tech scores.

A new practice the Saddle Tramps have begun is the push-up board. A Saddle Tramp or the mascot, Raider Red, will do push-ups equal to the amount of Tech points on the scoreboard.

Another tradition at football games is ringing the Bangin' Bertha bell every time Tech scores.

Jarod Michalsky, a senior geology major from Mont Belvieu, is this week's designated bell ringer.

"We'll ring the bell every time the team comes onto the field and after any big offensive or defensive play," said Michalsky, a fourth-year member of the Saddle Tramps. "And then on third or fourth downs, if we're on defense, I'll start a gradual entry, like a slow ring. Then, at

the end, I'll be going really fast."

Lake said the traditions have been carried down through the Saddle Tramps' 75 years.

"My dad was a Saddle Tramp and they wrapped the horse, they did Midnight Raiders and they did the bell circles," Lake said. "They did the main things that we do. They rang their own cowbells at the football games and they welcomed the players on and off the field. A lot of the basic things are the same."

Kent Lake, Alex Lake's father, was a Saddle Tramp from 1975 to 1977 and said Tech's spirit was high in those years.

"In 1976, we were co-Southwest champions," Kent said. "It was just a banner ball for the Saddle Tramps because we were going to all of the out of town games. We were ranked in the top 10. The spirit

that year was probably as good or better, and not just Saddle Tramps-wise. The entire student body was just great. So, when you put all of that together, it was probably that year that I consider to be my favorite memory of being a Saddle Tramp."

Kent said the Saddle Tramps used to be similar to ambassadors for Tech.

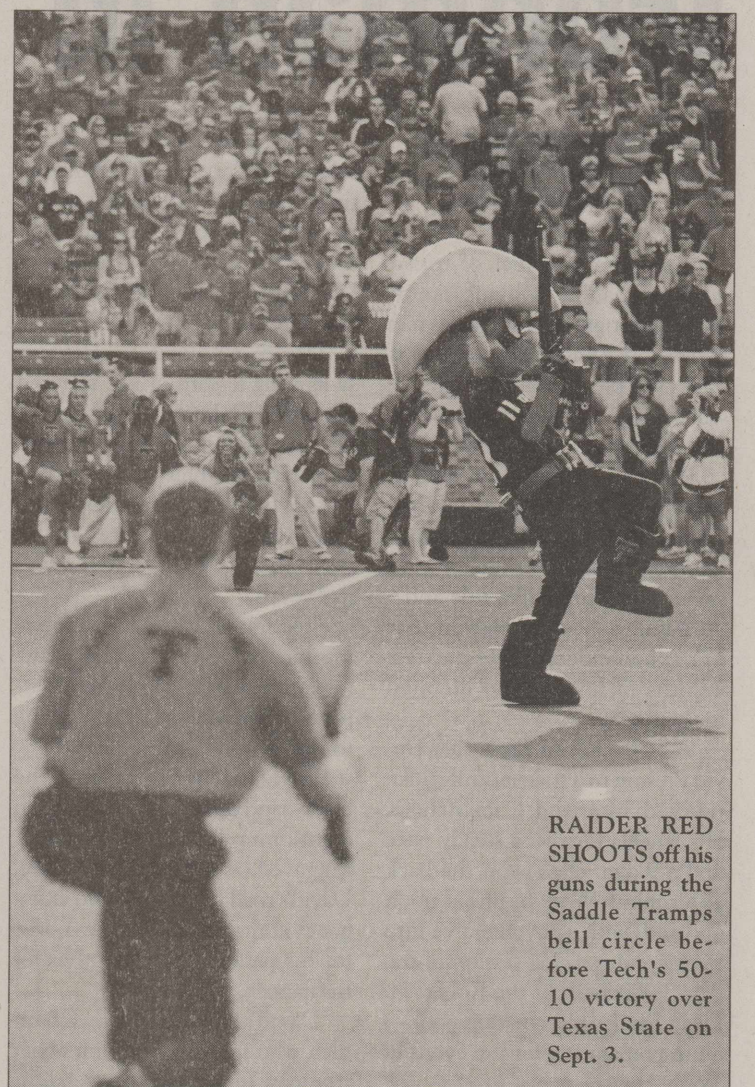
"We would meet dignitaries at the airport and take them to their hotels," he said. "We would meet highly recruited football and basketball players. They would match a Saddle Tramp with a co-ed recruiter. We would take the potential recruit all around the campus and explain the campus and the Tech way of life and show them the sights. We were really heavily involved with that at the time."

As well as being representatives of Tech, the Saddle Tramps created the

Raider Red mascot.

Raider Red was created in 1971 by Saddle Tramp Jim Gaspard, Kent said.

"It was back in the early '70s when



RAIDER RED SHOOTs off his guns during the Saddle Tramps bell circle before Tech's 50-10 victory over Texas State on Sept. 3.

the Southwest Conference said you could not take a live mascot to out of town games," Kent said. "The Saddle Tramps made the Raider Red costume."

Bill Dean, adviser to the Saddle Tramps for about 20 years, said they asked him to be a part of the organization and he agreed. He attends their executive and organizational meetings to offer his opinions and guidance. He said he reminds the Saddle Tramps that they must maintain the honor of the school at all times.

He said the Saddle Tramps' traditions have not changed too much. The Masked Rider used to make a complete lap around the football stadium, and the Saddle Tramps would line up on both sides of the stadium to keep people out of the way, he said. They also modified what they do

with the shotguns in the end zone.

"The Saddle Tramps are here to uphold Texas Tech's traditions, and as Texas Tech modifies or changes some of those traditions, the Saddle Tramps act accordingly."

Friday night, the Saddle Tramps are hosting a meet-and-greet for all the past Saddle Tramps.

Lake said their big event is a Saturday morning breakfast where Tech's athletic director Kirby Hocutt and Tech's president Guy Bailey will speak and recognize what the Saddle Tramps have done for Tech.

Lake said more than 100 Saddle Tramps alumni are going to go on the field with the current Saddle Tramps during the game Saturday.

►pskinner@dailytoreador.com

FILE PHOTOS/The Daily Toreador

Today's su | do | ku

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

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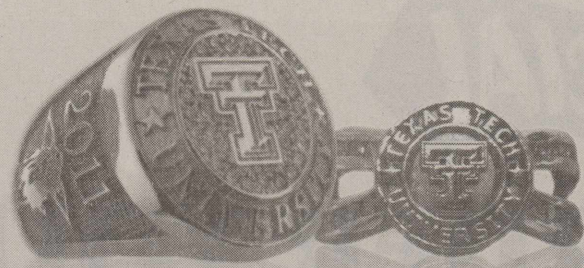
"And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."

~Nelson Mandela

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From Lubbock to Kona, Ironman in the making

By **SHELBY CHAPMAN** and **LAURA WALTZER**
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Six-and-a-half feet of toned muscle straddle a black metal frame. His tightened forearms rest between the handlebars while his blue eyes pierce the road ahead, searching for someone to pass. No one is around — not today.

His thoughts are aimed at one goal: the Ironman World Championship. It is a demanding race consisting of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run set in Hawaii that has commandeered the past six months of his life and dictated his routine.

A 5:30 a.m., an alarm calls David Preston to a stale morning bike ride with his friend, Cam Mencion. His wheels turn to a steady pace and a 9 a.m. class is on the back of his mind. Work begins at noon and ends with a devoted dive into his second training session of the day: 3,000 yards at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation pool — all in preparation for the event in Kona, Hawaii.

Since beginning triathlons five years ago, David has hoped to hear the cannon starting the athletes in the pier in Kailua-Kona. This wish will be fulfilled Saturday at 7 a.m. HAST.

"I thought I would set a goal to try and qualify before I'm 25, but I didn't know how realistic that was," he said. "Two years ago, before signing up for the event, I thought that was pretty ambitious."

Yet, David won his age division at an Ironman qualifier in his hometown of Houston in May, gaining a bid to the world championship.

The 24-year-old mechanical engineering major said when crossing the finish line of Ironman Texas, he thought he had placed fifth or sixth.

"My time, 11 hours and six minutes, isn't typically a qualifying time," he said. "I thought about not going because I felt like, well, if I went to Kona, it's a place where I should feel good about being competitive."

David, who was enrolled in swimming lessons at age five and purchased a bike in college, had his first triathlon in 2006. He thanks his parents for their support and for getting him into swimming.

David's parents, Mike and Janet, and sister will attend the race in Hawaii.

"It's important to him, so we wouldn't have it any other way," his mother said. "He loves all aspects of the race, so I'm not going to worry."

David ran his fingers across the black band on his right wrist when mentioning his parents' support. Engraved on a silver metal plate, David's road ID displays two emergency contacts, just in case — one for his parents and the other for his fiancée.

David's fiancée, Clare Chandler, who initially told him about Ironman Texas, will not attend the race. Since meeting on the Tech Triathlon team, they've waited for the opportunity to compete in Ironman. After scraping up the \$600 entry fee, the couple's dream came true.

She said David, a gifted person and an amazing athlete, inspires her.

"It doesn't surprise me that he gets to do this," his training partner, and future wife, said. "I'm glad he gets to go, even if I can't be there."

With every set of wheels treading the pavement near the interview spot, David turns his head to see which bike rode past, wanting to know what comes next. For triathletes, knowing what to expect gets them to the finish line.

"At the beginning of the race, you know you have 140.6 miles to

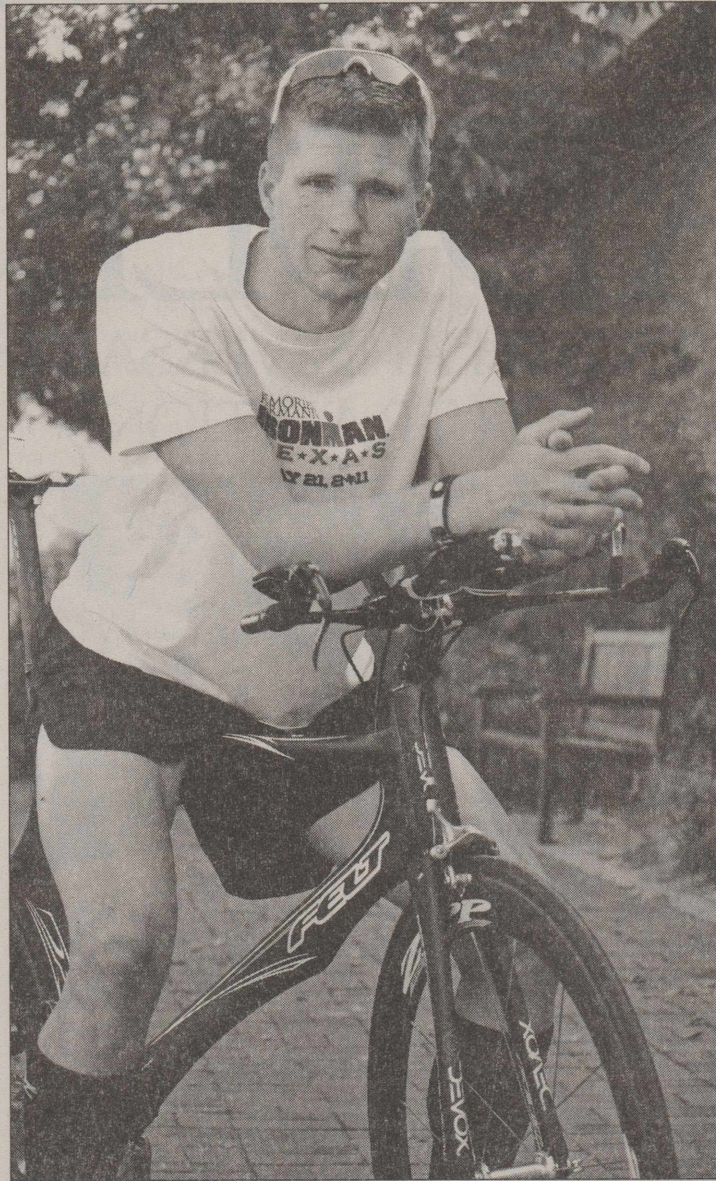


PHOTO COURTESY OF RIANNON ROWLEY
DAVID PRESTON WILL compete in the Ironman World Championship on Saturday at 7 a.m. in Kona, Hawaii.

cover," he said. "You know you are going to do it, and you know it's going to hurt, but you just hope it doesn't hurt too bad."

David said six to nine hours into the race people start to collapse.

"Peoples' bodies do not normally do this kind of thing," he said.

The early morning bike rides, runs and laps led David to Kona. He's prepared the best he can and finished his training. He has now

tapered down to just a short swim, bike and run before placing his race number, 1885, on his jersey.

And yet, while he explains what is ahead, David's mind and conversation return to his friends and family.

"You can't prepare for the unexpected, and that's probably the hardest part of Ironman," he said. "You never know what is going to happen."

You can follow David's progress in the race Saturday by typing in his number, 1885, on www.ironmanlive.com.

»features@dailytoreador.com

OCCUPIED



PHOTO BY ANNIE OSTERLUND/The Daily Toreador
LANCE COLTON, A freshman computer science major from Austin, raises a poster supporting the Occupy Together movement outside of the Student Union Building on Thursday. The Occupy Together movement raises awareness about financial wealth distribution.

Food

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This is atypical camp food for an anything but ordinary campsite.

"Raiderville definitely did not go hungry this week," Raiderville Mayor Colton Ancell said. "We had so much food provided for us."

"I've been here since Monday, and it just keeps getting better," Raul Saenz, a freshman business management major from Houston, said. "It's kind of depressing that Friday is the last day, but the week has been awesome. I wouldn't mind doing this every football game."

Ancell said he has enjoyed

coordinating with people around the community who wanted to help out with Raiderville. On Thursday, Texas Tech President Guy Bailey visited the campers, bringing donuts and T-shirts. The Lady Raider basketball team delivered pizza later that day.

"The community in and around Tech really stepped up to the plate this week," he said. "They fed us, they helped us and they made this an even better experience. I thank them all."

While Raiderville provided food, residents had to come up with their own means of entertainment by playing Twister, having dance parties, making s'mores and many more activities.

"Eight people fit themselves in a one-person tent, and we all gathered around and counted them out," Saenz said. "It was hilarious."

Saenz even came prepared for the weather forecast.

"If we get rained out, we brought Monopoly just in case," he said.

Tech police made sure the multiple activities stayed under control.

"We haven't needed the campus police, but they have maintained a presence and it's great to know they're here," Ancell said. "They've told me on several occasions to just call if I need anything, and that's a great comfort to have."

Raiderville has created memories for many campers. Carissa Tarnowski, a junior business finance major from Midland, said she encourages everyone to join the population next time.

"I like being around people at all hours of the night laughing, singing and talking," she said. "It will be like 4 a.m., and someone will yell 'Raider,' and all across the camp people will yell back, 'Power.' This is a good way to get in touch with your inner Raider."

Andrew Abbott, a sophomore special education major from Bernie, said he will miss the social aspects of the camp.

"This is not only a good way to get people excited for the game, but it also gets you interacting with people you wouldn't normally hang out with," he said. "I've met a lot of people here."

Christian Price, a freshman biomedical technology major from Celina, plans to carry on the tradition of Raiderville in the years to come.

"There's going to be many more of these," he said. "We're going to continue doing this every year, even as grad students, but we're going to be more prepared next year. I absolutely loved it and there hasn't been anything I can complain about."

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The DT Staff College Football Pick 'Em

Games of the Week	Kevin Cullen Editor-in-Chief Overall Record 15-10	Jose Rodriguez Managing Editor Overall Record 17-8	Kassidy Ketron La Vida Editor Overall Record 15-10	Caitlan Osborn News Editor Overall Record 19-6	Brett Wineganer Sports Editor Overall Record 21-4	Chris Leal Opinions Editor Overall Record 16-9	Danny Neylon Copy Editor Overall Record 18-7	Brad Tollefson Photography Editor Overall Record 15-10	Andrew Nepsund Electronic Media Editor Overall Record 16-9
No. 24 Texas A&M @ Texas Tech	Texas Tech 49-45	Texas A&M 37-24	Texas Tech 45-31	Texas Tech 38-35	Texas Tech 42-38	Texas Tech 54-21	Texas Tech 52-45	Texas Tech 21-20	Texas Tech 64-62 (3 OT)
No. 3 Oklahoma vs. No. 11 Texas (in Dallas)	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
No. 17 Florida @ No. 1 LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU
No. 20 Kansas St. @ No. 15 Auburn	Kansas State	Missouri	Kansas State	Missouri	Kansas State	Missouri	Missouri	Kansas State	Missouri
No. 10 Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn

★ indicates "Game to Watch"

Rivalry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tannehill, though, will not surprise this time around considering he's started every game at quarterback for A&M since that 45-27 win against Tech in College Station.

Tech's defense, however, would like to take away one of Tannehill's several weapons, particularly 6-foot-4, 220-pound receiver Jeff Fuller.

Fuller's performance against Tech last season stands out to Tech coach Tommy Tuberville.

"We got schooled last year in this game," Tuberville said Wednesday. "(Fuller) just absolutely out-jumped us on some plays."

Fuller, a senior, recorded 171 receiving yards and two touchdowns against the Red Raiders' secondary, proving to be Tannehill's go-to guy for the big play.

Too much focus on Fuller could open up more opportunities for A&M receiver Ryan Swope, who leads the Aggies in receiving yards in 2011 with 380 at this point.

Swope and Fuller both have two touchdown receptions this season.

According to Tech corner Tre' Porter, containing Fuller appears to be the secondary's top priority.

"(Fuller is) a tremendous player," Porter said Monday. "He's a big target on the outside, so we're going to probably have to double coverage him more or get a taller guy out there to cover him."

Tech's projected starting corners are Porter and Jarvis Phillips,

with Derrick Mays and Eugene Nebosh set to be their backups.

Of the four, Porter presents the best physical matchup with Fuller, who has a 6-foot, 200-pound frame.

While Fuller, Swope and the rest of the Aggie receivers keep Tech's secondary busy, the front seven of the Red Raiders will be occupied by A&M's third-ranked Big 12 Conference rushing attack.

Running backs Christine Michael and Cyrus Gray, respectively the league's fifth and seventh ranked rushers, get a favorable match-up when they line up versus Tech's 117th-rated rush defense. Tech is 117 out of 120 FCS teams, allowing an abysmal 229 rushing yards per game.

In last year's meeting, Michael suffered a broken right tibia in the third quarter, thrusting Gray into the lead.

Gray made the most of Michael's absence, finishing the game with 16 carries for 102 yards and two scores.

The Red Raiders will look to their own workhorse in Eric Stephens, the Big 12's second-leading rusher, to provide a balanced Tech attack.

Stephens does not get the luxury of facing a sub-par rushing defense. A&M's defense has few peers with 63 yards on the ground per game, the best mark in the Big 12 and the nation's fifth best.

Tuberville said Saturday is a big test for Stephens, not just because of the Aggie defense's dominance, but also because of last year's loss to A&M.

After Stephens had put Tech up 7-0 with a touchdown run midway through the opening

quarter, Stephens, then a sophomore, saw the opportunity to give his team a two-touchdown lead.

A fumble at the goal line derailed those hopes, as the Aggies went on a 17-0 run to take back the lead, and eventually won.

"Last year, I thought he really hurt his confidence in this game when he dropped that ball on the one-foot line," Tuberville said. "That's hard to get over when you're a young guy and not a starter. You kind of feel like you let your team down a little bit by giving away seven points early in the game."

Stephens' 87 carries also rank second in the Big 12 among running backs, which could be viewed as a testament to Tech's trust in the junior.

Through four games, Stephens

has yet to lose a fumble.

Individual storylines, though, are sure to take a backseat to the fact Saturday will be the final meeting between the two schools for an extended period of time, as the Aggies leave for the Southeastern Conference next summer.

Doeg said he would like to continue the rivalry with A&M because he grew up a Tech fan, but knows there is virtually no chance of playing the Aggies' annually starting next year.

But, a win Saturday would make coping with the rivalry's end a lot more bearable.

"Just personally, I'd love to play them two years," Doeg said. "But, if this is the last time we get to play them, we want to end it on a good note."

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Beltre, Napoli help Texas replace Lee

ARLINGTON (AP) — Adrian Beltre most likely wouldn't have been around to hit three home runs in the AL division series-clinching victory for Texas had Cliff Lee agreed to a big contract and stayed with the Rangers last winter.

Beltre's big bat and slick fielding and a breakout season by catcher-first baseman Mike Napoli, the other key offseason addition, certainly helped the Rangers get over losing the ace lefthander after their first World Series. And get them into the AL championship series for the second year in a row.

"They fit right in from the first day they walked in the clubhouse," manager Ron Washington said.

Lee won the opener and clinching Game 5 of the AL division series at Tampa Bay last season. The Rangers

won the rematch against the Rays in four games this year with big contributions from Beltre and Napoli.

The three-homer game by Beltre, only the seventh time a player did that in the postseason, came in a 4-3 victory in Game 4. That came after Napoli had a nine-pitch at-bat that resulted in a tying two-run single in Game 2 and hit the go-ahead homer in Game 3, prompting Rays manager Joe Maddon to declare it "The Year of the Napoli."

"You get to see what they can do on the field and the impact they make that way," Ian Kinsler said Thursday before the team's workout at Rangers Ballpark. "They also make a huge impact in the locker room, in the dugout and they're just great guys to have around. They fit in perfect with this team. They made it better."

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Puts a little too close to the flame
- Does away with 11 Spirit
- Set straight
- Narrow space
- Pay add-on
- Where many changes occur
- August
- Boast to la Donald Trump?
- Patriot Act protesters: Abbr.
- Malt finish?
- Goddess of motherhood
- "Our overly fussy friend has a point?"
- Waskowska of "The Kids Are All Right"
- "Trinity" novelist
- Union agreement
- Illegal pitch
- "Have some"
- Kid on "The Cosby Show"
- Big name in '40s-'50s Argentina
- Joplin piece about modern weaponry?
- Went under
- Emulate
- Eminem
- Irascibility
- Delay from an 18th-century English ruler?
- LA and MI, but not DO or RE
- Gas up?
- NRC predecessor
- Can get you credit in a store
- Shrink, in a way
- "The ___ of Pooch": '80s best-seller
- "Flight away, Mammy"
- It's zero in free-fall—and, put another way, a hint to how the four longest puzzle answers were formed

DOWN

- Religious org., perhaps
- George's lyricist
- Show little interest in, as food
- Get ready for action
- Sicilian resort
- Unaccompanied
- Biology text topic
- Roadside attention getters
- Water brand named for its source
- Diam up
- Fertilizer substance
- Draw forth
- Treaties
- Water source
- Surround with dense mist
- Spherical opening?
- Hirsute pet
- Like the sticks
- Sizzling
- More fleshy, perhaps
- Four longest puzzle answers were formed
- Under the weather, e.g.

By Pete Muller 10/7/11

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

EMBER	DRUG	CRIB
MEARA	RENO	ZERO
ANTON	APPLE	ADAY
GETTING	GOLDER	
LINE	UAL	REC
MSEC	SANG	DEVO
UPC	ASHE	BRAVES
SURPRISE	EELEMENT	
CREATE	DOOM	LEA
ATEN	CYST	OARS
TSK	DAH	TINT
EUGENE	ONEILL	
CARGONETS	LOOSE	
BLOG	FISIO	ANNAN
SEWIS	WEBS	WESTS

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Esson makes it count in first year at Tech

By EVAN JANSA
STAFF WRITER

The work ethic of Texas Tech goalkeeper Victoria Esson is one thing safe from questioning.

"I show up at 7:15 a.m. for 8:30 a.m. practice, and she's already out there training by herself," head coach Tom Stone said. "No one else is here. She's got the lights on and she's on her own. That training, level of professionalism and her training habits were so above and beyond everyone on our team."

Her devout commitment speaks volumes for her character, and her seven wins this season are impressive for someone who was halfway around the world this

time a year ago. So far, her decision to join the Red Raiders has been the right one.

"You know, you never know what's going to happen today or tomorrow, so I was just hoping it would be all that I had planned it to be," Esson said. "It's been more than that, so I feel very lucky to be here."

Esson played on the under-17 and under-20 national teams in New Zealand, but as with all new recruits, there were a number of unknowns prior to the 2011 season.

"I knew she was a really nice girl, but we didn't really know much about her," defender Casey McCall said. "When she first came in, we were really excited and really surprised she was as

good as she was."

In the net, Esson has been unflappable, stopping 88 percent of opponent's shots. If a sly sneaker gets past her, regardless of the occasion, the sophomore makes sure it does not happen twice.

"If she messes up in practice on one ball, she wants 50 of those exact balls for the rest of the day to clarify and clean it up," Stone said.

The scoreboard has been another thing left unscathed this season with Esson between the pipes. She has registered seven shutouts and been named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week four times, a Big 12 season record.

"Every goalkeeper wants to get a shutout," Esson said. "As far as getting

shutouts, it's leading by example. If you don't let any goals in, then it's up to the strikers and the rest of the team to try and score the goals. If the defensive unit as a whole can do their job on their end, then hopefully the strikers can do their job on that end."

Solid goalkeeping play will be crucial tonight against a Texas A&M team boasting a potent scoring attack. Forward Annie Kunz leads the conference with 10 goals and is part of an Aggie offense that substitutes forwards at a rapid pace.

"Fortunately, I think we have the fastest backline in the Big 12, so they'll be up for it," Stone said. "We may have to use some fresh legs back there to compensate for how many fresh players they throw at us."

Jones AT&T Stadium will not be the only Tech facility blacked out this weekend. The John B. Walker Soccer Complex will receive the same treatment, and Raiderville will even transplant outside of the stadium prior to kickoff.

The rambunctious, rowdy environment is something the Red Raiders relish after enduring plenty of vitriol against A&M on the road in the recent years.

"Three out of four years, we're always in College Station, with their maniacs screaming at us and chanting football scores and yelling at us and digging up stuff from our past," Stone said. "Their fans have put a beat down on us. We're happy and excited to return the favor."

Earlier this season, then-No. 17 A&M dropped a 1-0 match to Missouri, the same team the Red Raiders knocked off 1-0 in their conference opener Sept. 23.

Matches like the one this evening



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TECH'S MIDFIELDER TAYLOR Lytle dribbles the ball past Northwestern Arizona's defender Emily Roth in a 5-0 Tech victory. The Red Raiders will host the Aggies on Friday in a Blackout game.

are something Tech does not have to manufacture hype for.

"Those are the games that we live for — especially Friday night games," McCall said. "It's going to be an awesome competition and we're all really excited. We've all been preparing for this game for a long time."

The Red Raiders may never prepare for another regular season tilt with the

Aggies again since they will be a part of the Southeastern Conference in 2012.

"Everyone wants to give them a big sendoff to the SEC in the worst possible way," Stone said. "We certainly want to contribute to that."

Tech also will be in action at 7 p.m. Sunday when they face TCU in Fort Worth.

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A&M ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the last two weeks, the Aggies have blown a 17-point lead to Oklahoma State and an 18-point lead to Arkansas.

A&M lost both games by a combined five points, falling 30-29 to the Cowboys and 42-38 to the Razorbacks.

The second-half fallouts were fraught with a variety of faux pas.

"Both games we should have won, but for whatever reason we didn't," defensive lineman Tony Jerod-Eddie said. "We have no one to blame but ourselves. It's nothing that any of our opponents did to us. We didn't win."

Once again, the Aggies are victims of their grandiose preseason expectations by a rabid, passionate fan base and the national media. Their collapses have left both parties aghast, ineloquently removing A&M from their No. 8 ranking in Week One, and leaving them out of conversations about

the country's elite teams.

The idea of closing out the debacles against Oklahoma State and Arkansas is not something the Aggies are pondering.

"If you start looking at what-ifs, it becomes overwhelming and you start to fall apart," A&M head coach Mike Sherman said. "But you have to have the maturity and the focus to fix what you can fix at that second and not worry about what-ifs. You can't play with

what-ifs. You have to play with what is right now."

At this point, a complete revamping is not in order, but Sherman has said there will be changes in personnel against the Red Raiders.

When turmoil hits a program — even this early in the season — every aspect is amplified, magnified and put under the microscope.

"When you don't play well, you examine everything from how we coach to personnel to how we practice and to how we run meetings," assistant head coach Tim DeRuyter said. "And we're examining everything."

The probing will be thorough. It is not as if A&M simply lost. More than that, they were defeated in a heart-wrenching, fist-clenching fashion.

"Sometimes, you're almost better off getting your butt kicked," Sherman said.

Despite the excruciating losses, a veteran team like A&M is capable of summoning the necessary gall to overcome. Simply put, the Aggies are not panicking.

"It's no time to get crazy or freak out. We just need to make plays," quarterback Ryan Tannehill said. "We are so confident in what we can do."

There is no doubting the calm assurance exuded by the senior. He has thrown for 1,139 yards and completed 68 percent of his passes this season.

One of his favorite targets, wide receiver Ryan Swope, has 26 grabs and three touchdowns. Swope knows the Aggies will not focus on the negativity surrounding their season.

"For the most part, we will stay positive," Swope said. "That's something we can do. We have a great team and great character on

the team. We have to keep moving forward and can't move back."

The junior is part of a versatile attack that maintains a balance anchored by standout running backs Christine Michael and Cyrus Gray.

Against the Razorbacks, Michael hummed through the defense for 230 yards and three touchdowns — enough to garner him Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week honors.

"If there's a crack there, (Michael) will hit it full speed," Tannehill said. "Guys bounce off of him. He's a strong guy that you're not going to arm tackle. Usually, he's falling forward when he makes contact. He doesn't get hit and go backwards."

The A&M offense is talented and capable, but their defensive unit has struggled to bottle up opponents even though it returned nine starters.

One of the missing cogs in the defense is 2010 consensus first-team All-American linebacker Von Miller. Last season, Miller landed 10-and-a-half sacks en route to winning the Burkus Award, which is given to the nation's top player at the position.

More pressure on opposing quarterbacks is prized for the Aggie secondary, who has given up 1,347 yards passing this season, 948 of which came in their previous two games.

Those numbers are something Tech quarterback Seth Doege might salivate at, as he has thrown for 1,315 yards and completed 73 percent of passes this season to lead the nation's 20th best aerial attack.

"We are trying to block that stuff out," defensive back Terrence Frederick said. "We're a secondary. We're in there to make plays. If we don't make plays, the refs are going to put their hands up."

Finding a way to stop Doege from adding to his 14-touchdown total could be vital for A&M in their first true road game this season at Jones AT&T Stadium on Saturday night. That is a given, considering their lackadaisical lapses in the second half of their last two games.

"We have good coaches and good kids, and I think we have a good team," Sherman said. "We haven't demonstrated that the last couple of weeks, but I think we'll get there. And we need to get there soon."

They need to get there before the clock ticks down to zero and it is too late.

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