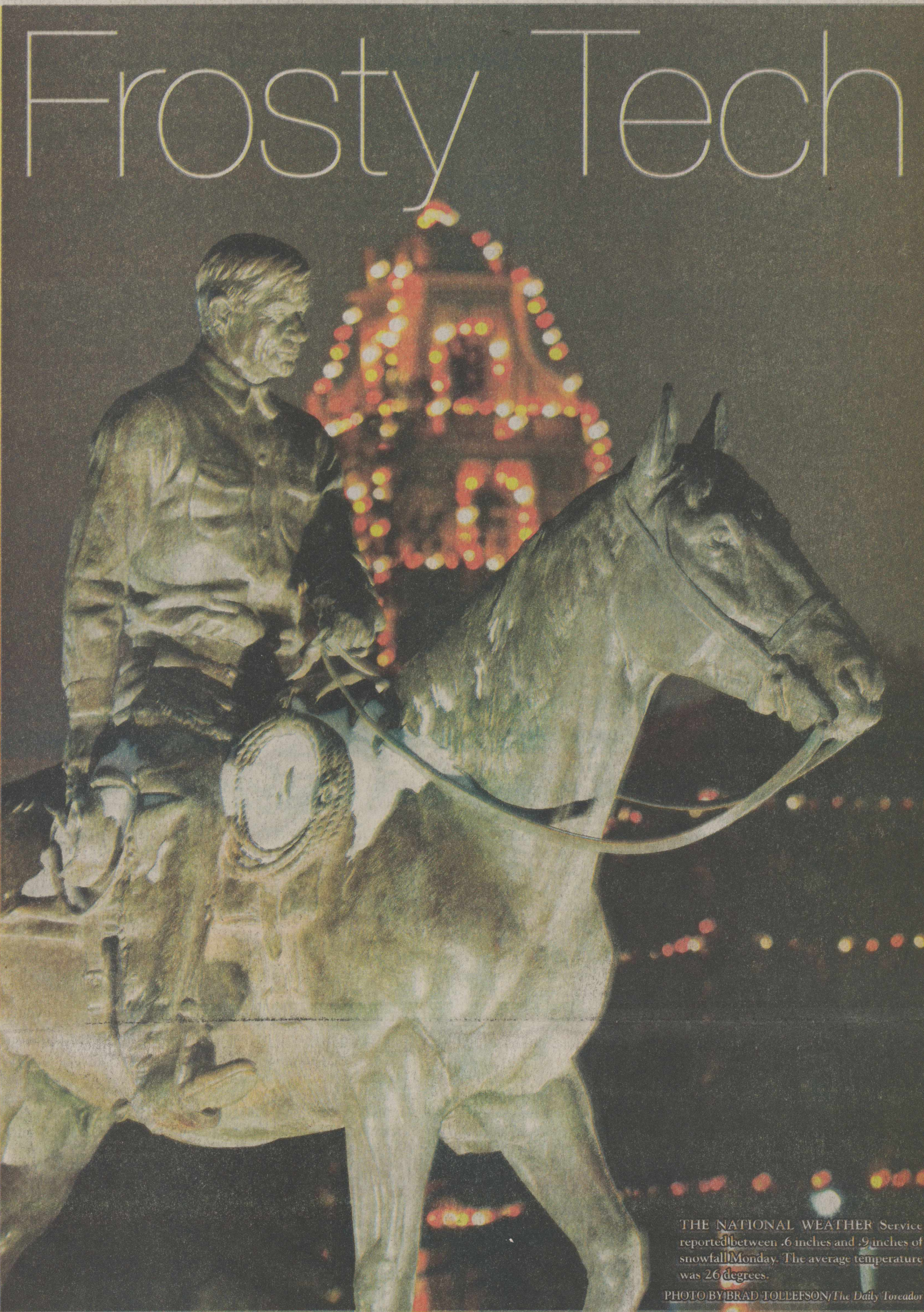


THE DAILY TOREADOR

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BCS is right system | Sports, Page 7

Tech ISD provides diplomas | La Vida, Page 5



THE NATIONAL WEATHER Service reported between .6 inches and .9 inches of snowfall Monday. The average temperature was 26 degrees.
PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

Campus, Lubbock get first snowfall of fall semester

By CAITLAN OSBORN and ANDREW NEPSUND
THE DAILY TOREADOR

The Texas Tech community experienced the first snowfall of the school year Monday and chilly conditions are expected to persist throughout the week. Classes today were delayed by Tech until 9:30 a.m. as of press time Monday.

Officials at the Lubbock Police Department reported more than 100 auto accidents Monday, and at least 60 of them occurred throughout the course of four hours.

The Texas Department of Transportation cited several city bridges and overpasses as being covered with ice and snow and mentioned that drivers should travel with caution.

Joe Jurecka, a meteorologist with the Lubbock Weather Service, said as conditions move further into winter weather, people can expect

temperatures to drop below freezing.

"We're going to continue to see cloudy conditions tonight, and temperatures northwest of Lubbock will get into the single digits," he said. "Here in Lubbock, we're probably going to see something along the mid-teens or below tonight across the South Plains."

Several students were thankful for the snowfall, especially after the 100-degree weather they have become accustomed to from the statewide drought.

"It was really awesome," said Michael Nelson, a freshman mechanical engineering major from San Antonio. "It was a unique experience and it made all my friends (back home) jealous."

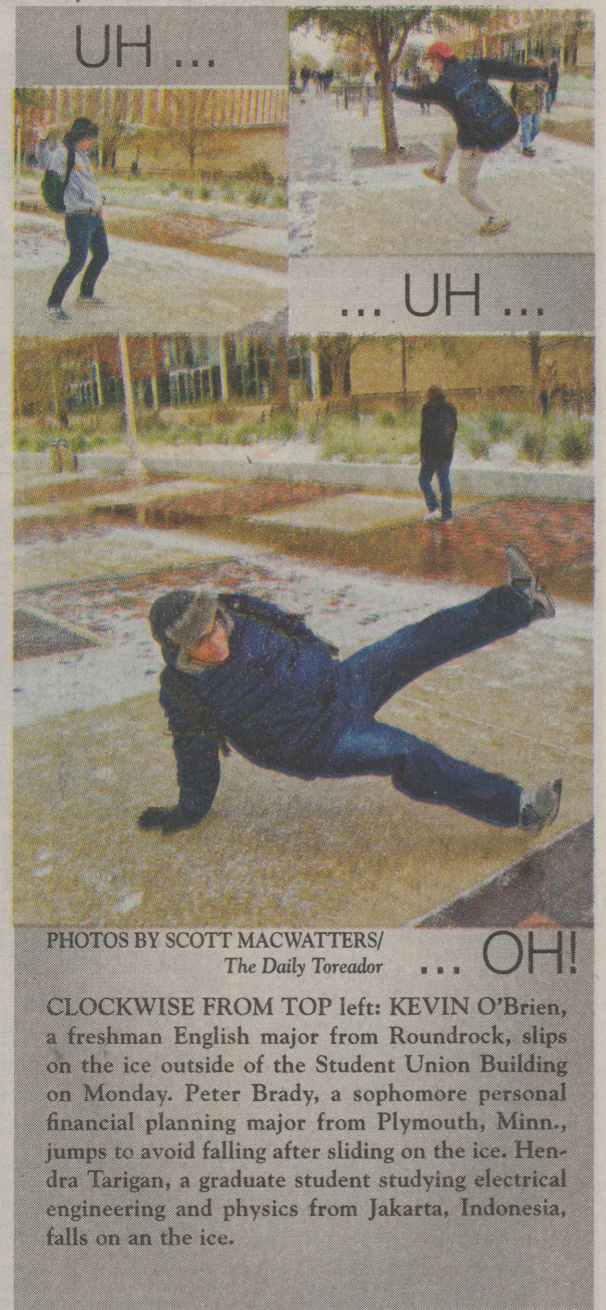
Jurecka said students should bundle up as much as possible because today the weather is expected to get no higher than 25 degrees and will slowly decrease as the day continues.



PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador

SIDNEY SMITH, A freshman physical therapy major from Tulia, and another student throw snowballs at Cedric Macklin, a sophomore electrical engineering major from Houston, during a snowball fight in front of the Student Union Building on Tuesday.

SNOW continued on Page 5 >>>



PHOTOS BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/
The Daily Toreador ... OH!

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP left: KEVIN O'Brien, a freshman English major from Roundrock, slips on the ice outside of the Student Union Building on Monday. Peter Brady, a sophomore personal financial planning major from Plymouth, Minn., jumps to avoid falling after sliding on the ice. Hendra Tarigan, a graduate student studying electrical engineering and physics from Jakarta, Indonesia, falls on the ice.

Program allows people to adopt grandparent

Volunteers to give gifts

By ASHLYN TUBBS
STAFF WRITER

This Christmas season, the Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc. is cooperating with the Mi Casita Care Center to spread holiday cheer in a special way.

The fraternity's members and residents of the Care Center are coming together to have their first Adopt a Grandparent event, where volunteers will give their newly adopted grandparents non-expensive presents to extend kindness to the nursing home's residents.

"We came up with this idea in October," said Sergio Guzman, a senior political science major from Plano and a member of the fraternity. "We volunteer there regularly throughout the semester and go there a couple of times to play games with the residents, and we decided to end the semester with a community service project over there."

ADOPT continued on Page 5 >>>

Tech recognized for use of Foursquare

Social media Platform came to Tech in 2010

By GLORIA LERMA
STAFF WRITER

U.S. News & World Report showcased Texas Tech for uniting students and the school's campus through its use of the social networking site Foursquare.

The magazine listed Tech as one of three universities using Foursquare to "dig into school history and share tips for exploring campuses."

Foursquare is a mobile platform that allows users to "check in" to any location and share their locations with friends.

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WEATHER

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Derby drink
- Scully on "The X-Files"
- "Wasn't I amazing?"
- Met offering
- Carded at a club
- "It's ... to tell ..."
- Caribbean preserves?
- "Amazing!"
- NBA tiebreakers
- Mino of movies
- Vitality
- WWI's Red
- Moths-flame connector
- South American fellow?
- Backed-up, in a way
- Lined up
- Not blabbing
- ...Z... classic Camaro
- The Bee Gees' "Gee"
- Fred's dancing sister
- Prefix with -naut
- Japanese noodle
- "... dum tootin'!"
- Arrives
- Play exchange
- Noun modifier: Abbr.
- Spring tide counterpart
- Allow entry
- East African beachgoer's color?
- On a rampage
- Oatmeal cooker
- Corp. leader's degree
- Many a Saudi
- Balkan priestly vestment?
- Oscar winner Minnelli
- Brio
- Harriet's TV hubby
- Bakery worker
- Polite rural agreement
- Ceaselessly

DOWN

- One-named singer with the debut album "Leave (Get Out)"
- the crack of dawn
- Moon landers, briefly
- Internet ...
- Pal
- 5 Pal
- 6 Play exchange
- 7 Noun modifier: Abbr.
- 8 Spring tide counterpart
- 9 Allow entry
- 10 East African beachgoer's color?
- 11 On a liner, say
- 12 Cameron on camera
- 13 1999 insect-world animated film
- 14 Seed used in sauerkraut
- 15 West Indies watering hole?
- 16 C or D, to old Romans
- 17 A cappella group bookings
- 18 Confederacy foe
- 19 Start of a Flintstone cry
- 20 Brynner of "The Ten Commandments"
- 21 Dimin.'s opposite
- 22 Andrea ... ill-fated ship
- 23 Nuclear test unit
- 24 Yale Univ. state
- 25 Yule's mo.
- 26 Textbook update specification
- 27 Got into a stew?
- 28 Flamethrower fuel
- 29 2 eights
- 30 4 Indonesians island
- 31 "Modern Family" actor Stonestreet
- 32 Demolish, as a building
- 33 Bauhaus painter Paul
- 34 Pencil puzzle
- 35 Pancake with caviar
- 36 In the sack
- 37 Eng. majors' degrees
- 38 Nitrogenous dye

Monday's Puzzle Solved

By Julian Lim 12/6/11

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

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Woodlark University Courtyard	Raiders Pass
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Bentwood Apartment Homes	The Retreat
Windsor Creek	Reserve on Frankford
The Village at Overton Park	

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Community Calendar

TODAY

Holiday Movie: "Elf"
Time: 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Where: Student Union Building, Escondido Theatre
So, what is it?
Join Tech Activities Board for the feature film, "Elf."

Make Your Own Ornament
Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Student Union Building, West Basement
So, what is it?
Tech Activities Board is inviting students to get into the holiday spirit by decorating your own ornament.

Teaching the Ne(x)t Genera-

tion: Version 2.0
Time: 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Teaching, Learning and Technology Center
So, what is it?
Join Allison Boye and Suzanne Tapp as they re-examine the traits identified by Howe and Strauss, consider how the recession has affected this generation and discuss what this all means for the higher education classroom.

Symphonic Wind Ensemble/ University Symphony Orchestra
Time: 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Where: Hemmle Recital Hall
So, what is it?
Enjoy a performance by Symphonic Wind Ensemble and University Symphony Orchestra.

WEDNESDAY

Rest and Relaxation Night
Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Where: Student Union Building, Matador Room
So, what is it?
Join Tech Activities Board and de-stress before finals with games and treats.

Up Against the Wall: Posters of Social Protest
Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Landmark Arts at the Texas Tech School of Art
So, what is it?
This exhibition has more than 70 posters by a group of designers from Europe, the U.S. and Mexico highlights the power of design.

Texas Tech Women's Basketball vs. UT Arlington
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: United Spirit Arena
So, what is it?
Support the Lady Raiders as they compete against UT Arlington.

"Miracle on 34th Street"
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: City Bank Auditorium
So, what is it?
Enjoy the musical "Miracle on 34th Street," by Valentine Davis.

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.

Texas Tech students join Coca-Cola to raise awareness

By **CAITLAN OSBORN**
NEWS EDITOR

People across the nation are beginning to notice the change in Coca-Cola's cans and bottles, and two students at Texas Tech are working to make sure college students know the reason for it.

For the first time in history, Coca-Cola is turning its signature red cans to white to raise awareness about polar bear conservation.

Ryan Ramos, a sophomore business accounting major from Amarillo, and Jaelyn Herbst, a junior marketing and cultural anthropology major from Bellville, were selected by Mister Youth, a marketing agency, to promote the new face of Coca-Cola to Tech students.

"It really stands out on the shelf now," Herbst said. "This is the most dramatic change they've made with their cans, from the red to the white."

Tech is one of 25 universities across the nation chosen to be a part of the marketing campaign.

Not only do they plan to educate students about Coca-Cola and polar bear conservation, Ramos said, but he and Herbst plan to interest students by having raffles outside the Student Union Building this week and by giving out food and school supplies during finals.

"It's hard to connect with a college student," Ramos said. "College students are busy, and we're not really concerned with anything outside our own universes really, and I think our job as campus brand ambassadors is to raise awareness about this issue."

Coca-Cola is also pledging up to \$3 million dollars to the World Wildlife Fund's polar bear conservation efforts, Herbst said. The company is making an initial donation of \$2 million and is encouraging others to donate one dollar to the WWF by texting their package code to 357357. Coca-Cola will match every donation made with the package codes until March 15, 2012, with a ceiling of \$1 million.

To date, the company has raised more than \$56,000 for WWF.

"Everyone is trying to put in an effort to fix this problem of depleting ice caps, and Coca-Cola is deciding to make a step toward this effort," Ramos said. "They're putting their brand on



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador
COCA-COLA IS turning its red cans white to raise awareness for the World Wildlife Fund's polar bear conservation efforts.

the line, which is one of the most recognized ones in the world."

Herbst said white bottle caps have replaced the ones on Coca-Cola drinks, including Coke, Diet Coke, Coke Zero, Sprite, Minute Maid and other beverages.

"We want to help the polar bear — a beloved Coca-Cola icon since 1922 — by helping conserve its Arctic habitat," said Muhtar Kent, chairman and CEO of Coca-Cola, in a news release. "That's why we're using one of our greatest assets to raise awareness for this important cause. And, by partnering with WWF, we can truly make a positive difference for these majestic animals."

There has always been an association between Coca-Cola and polar bears, Herbst said, especially around the holidays, and it would be great for as many students as possible to contribute.

"I think it's good to reach our age group because it's our generation and our kids' generations that are really going to be affected," she said. "If children never get to see a polar bear, that's sad. So, that's why I think it's important to get younger people more aware of the problem. We're going to be the ones who will have to look for a solution, so we might as well get it started now."

»» cosborn@dailytoreador.com

4Square ←
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Foursquare, which was launched in 2009, made its way to Tech in 2010. The mobile application allows for users to receive information and suggests interesting things to do at the locations they check into.

Kaley Daniel, director of communication and marketing for Tech's library,

said the university is using Foursquare to its full advantage.

Since its launch in September 2010, the number of students using Foursquare on campus has increased dramatically, she said.

"At first, we only had one page of 'tips' for people checking in at the library," Daniels said, "but now we have over four pages of students checking in and commenting on the services the library provides."

Using Foursquare as a "social guide" on Tech's campus began through the network's Universities Program.

"We want to keep all of our audiences engaged with the campus," said Allison Ralston, senior editor for public relations in new media at the Office for Communications and Marketing at Tech. "When people check into the different places on campus, they can learn information they didn't know and also learn of places on campus they are not familiar with."

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Foursquare has also helped in advertising the university, Ralston said.

"Not only do we use Foursquare to share historic information about the buildings on campus, but we use it for marketing purposes too," she said. "We keep track of how many people are checking into places on campus and get their feedback."

Tech's Foursquare has come a long way since being implemented last year, Ralston said.

"We partnered with Foursquare as part of their educational outreach program," she said, "but before using Foursquare across campus, (Tech staff members) had to use it to get a feel for it."

Foursquare now provides students with more than just historical facts.

As part of their Bookworm Bender Badge, Tech's library is promoting its services through the site by allowing students to gain rewards.

"If students check in after 2 a.m. in the library, they can earn points, and after a certain number of check-ins, they can earn prizes," Daniels said. "This also allows us to see immediate feedback, live and uncut. I would encourage everyone to use it on campus because there are a lot of opportunities to win prizes and discover deals on campus. It's also helpful for us because it lets us see what we can improve upon."

Joey Martinez, a sophomore health, exercise and sport sciences major from Lorenzo, said he finds using Foursquare on campus beneficial.

"I find a lot of my friends who are on campus by checking into buildings on campus," he said. "Another benefit is that restaurants around campus give a lot of discounts to Foursquare users."

»» glerma@dailytoreador.com

POLICE BLOTTER

Student tries to steal food

Friday
7:52 a.m. – A Texas Tech police officer arrested a non-student for possession of more than one valid driver's license following a traffic stop in the C1 parking lot of University Medical Center. The non-student was transported to Lubbock County Jail.

9:02 a.m. – A Tech police officer documented information on a person receiving intimidating emails from an estranged spouse.

9:34 a.m. – A Tech police officer arrested a non-student for one Lubbock County Sheriff's Office warrant following a traffic stop at the 3500 block of Fourth Street. The non-student was transported to Lubbock County Jail.

1:04 p.m. – A Tech police officer investigated a theft that occurred at the food court in the Student Union Building. A student took several food items without paying for them.

1:16 p.m. – A Tech police officer investigated an incident of domestic violence between roommates that occurred at the Carpenter-Wells Apartment Complex. Two roommates got into a physical altercation. Neither student chose to pursue criminal charges.

2:29 p.m. – A Tech police officer investigated a theft of unsecured clothing that occurred in the laundry room of Chitwood Residence Hall.

3:14 p.m. – A Tech police officer investigated a traffic accident that occurred in the R15 parking lot. No injuries were reported.

5:32 p.m. – A Tech police officer investigated a traffic accident that occurred in the C1 North parking lot. Minor injuries were involved, but the injured person refused treatment.

5:50 p.m. – A Tech police officer investigated a traffic accident that occurred in the Z6A parking lot. No injuries were reported.

11 p.m. – A Tech police officer documented a medical emergency that occurred in Stangel Hall. A female student was incoherent in the women's first floor restroom. The female student was transported to the emergency room at University Medical Center.

11:36 p.m. – A Tech police officer investigated the burglary of a vehicle that occurred in the Z6B parking lot. A vehicle's front driver's side window was broken out and numerous items were taken.

Saturday

5 a.m. – A Tech police officer issued

a student a Lubbock County citation for possession of alcohol by minor that occurred in Chitwood-Weymouth Hall.

2:01 p.m. – A Tech police officer investigated criminal mischief and a theft that occurred in Clement Hall. A student took another student's personal belongings.

10:45 p.m. – A Tech police officer investigated a laundry theft that occurred in Murdough Hall's laundry room. Several articles of clothing were stolen. During the investigation, two students were released pending the filing of charges for theft. The stolen items were returned.

10:50 p.m. – A Tech police officer arrested a student for two outstanding Lubbock County warrants following a traffic stop at the 1200 block of Flint Avenue. The student was transported to Lubbock County Jail.

Sunday

12:18 a.m. – A Tech police officer issued a student a criminal trespass warning at Chitwood Hall following an investigation into suspicious activity in the lobby.

2:19 a.m. – A Tech police officer arrested a student for driving while intoxicated following a traffic stop at the 2400 block of 22nd Street. The student was transported to Lubbock County Jail.

2:44 a.m. – A Tech police officer arrested a student for public intoxication and possession of a fictitious driver's license following a call in reference to a possibly intoxicated individual in the Z4P parking lot. The student was transported to Lubbock County Jail.

2:47 a.m. – A Tech police officer responded to a medical emergency that occurred in the lobby of Coleman Hall. A student was complaining of an irregular heartbeat. The student was transported to University Medical Center.

1:52 p.m. – A Tech police officer arrested a student for displaying another driver's license as his own, consumption of alcohol by a minor and possession of drug paraphernalia in the Z4P parking lot. The student was transported to Lubbock County Jail.

Monday

12:21 a.m. – A Tech police officer documented damaged property that occurred on the first floor of Stangel Hall. An ADA access button was damaged unintentionally.

Information provided by B.J. Watson of the Texas Tech Police Department.

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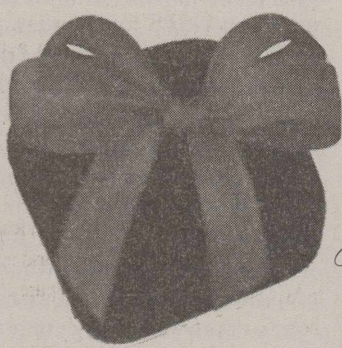


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SGA conduct unacceptable

The U.S. Congress has an approval rating of about 9 percent. This puts Congress in a position where there are more Americans who would advocate the transition of this country to a communist system than approve of Congress.

It's not much of a secret. I am of the opinion that this Congress and this generation of leadership are beyond repair. Looking forward provides a slight glimmer of hope.

However, after reading this week's *The Daily Toreador*, the glimmer looks far dimmer than I had hoped.

Last year, in my last columns before the winter break, I wrote two long columns about the failure of the student senate to do its job for the student body. The senate got considerably better in the spring semester. But, the latest developments regarding the SGA have made me wonder if it is a seasonal problem.

Is the season of giving just too much for our student government?

I started with an innocuous article Tuesday about the lack of student involvement in the Raider Park deal. In the article, SGA president Tyler Patton was upset about the lack of cooperation between the Texas Tech Board of Regents and the elected student government.

"I think the way this decision was made definitely left out some key stakeholders," he said.

This was an understandable, calm and generally good public relations move by Patton.

Wednesday, however, was when things got more interesting. On that day, a \$91,000 bike pad approved by the SGA's executive officers headlined the paper. This much money could do a lot of good on this campus, especially in a time of budget cuts and financial squeezes. Was a bike rack an acceptable use of these resources?

I think the power to decide this should be in the hands of the student senate.

For some unfathomable reason, the executive officers of the student government can spend any money without approval from the legislative branch, with the exception of small day-to-day operational expenses.

There's a big difference between being allowed to do something and it being right to do it. Especially when, earlier this week, the student newspaper was told how the Board of Regents should consult with "key stakeholders."

Also for some unfathomable reason, the executive branch promised that an additional allocation of student organization

Tony Cardone



funding would be made available to groups that attended an athletic forum. Why would the executive branch be allowed to circumvent the funding process for student organizations?

Understandably, the senate, which should have control of student service fee spending, was rather upset about this. During Thursday's session, a resolution was passed requiring Patton to come before the senate and explain the purchase of what will most likely be the only bike rack in Lubbock with valet service.

Not to be outmaneuvered, Patton told *The Daily Toreador* that the senate had removed two hours of mandatory office hours.

Then, someone in the senate took out an ad in the classifieds section saying Patton's car was ugly. This is behavior I would expect from those elected in Washington. I expect better from student leaders.

There is a common threat to the student government, as was illustrated in this year's Raider Park scandal. Not one member of the Board of Regents has accepted responsibility for the

fiasco. Why should they? Tech is run by the good ole' boys club and the student government hasn't demanded any accountability.

The student body needs a unified student government to stand up for the interests of students.

It should come up with a compromise for this bike rack gone amok and patch the SGA's rules to prevent future spending of budget overrun.

It should come up with an apology to the student organizations that spent time at a forum only to not receive the benefits. Take them out to dinner, host a second forum to discuss the SGA's issues or do something that acknowledges the true loser in this scenario.

Stop pointing fingers at each other when things go wrong. Even if the high road isn't the easy road, someone has to take it. Whether it's the executive officers or the student senate, someone has to start the process. Otherwise, we'll see more scandals like Raider Park, and I'm pretty confident neither side wants another Raider Park.

■ **Cardone is a junior computer science major from San Antonio.**

► tcardone@dailytoreador.com



CARTOON BY TAYLOR SHOFNER/*The Daily Toreador* — taylor.shofner@ttu.edu

Postal Service's struggles still resonate

By **REBECCA ROSMAN**
DAILY ILLINI (U. ILLINOIS)

You may want to consider giving your postman a little something more than a holiday fruitcake this year, for his job may be gone before next Christmas.

A press release posted on the United States Postal Service (USPS) website this past November reported that the USPS would be ending its 2011 fiscal year with a \$5.1 billion net loss. Had it not been for passed legislation postponing a congressionally mandated \$5.5 billion to pre-fund retiree health benefits, that loss would have been at \$10.6 billion.

This is not good news. For months now, media speculation has predicted that the 236-year-old institution could be closing its doors sooner than we think.

This May, Bloomberg Businessweek's cover story, "The U.S. Postal Service Nears Collapse," predicted that without a major makeover, USPS would "implode."

A September opinions headline in the *International Business Times* predicted the USPS could be finished by the end of this year.

Yes, the U.S. Postal Service may be going away for good — but do we care?

For the vast majority of today's tech-generation, where bills can be paid online and emails can be sent and received anywhere in the world with an Internet connection instantly, the USPS has essentially become obsolete.

If that isn't enough of an answer, check your mailbox. My mailbox unveiled an Internet bill (likely to be paid online), two coupon catalogues (likely to be thrown in the trash) and one package addressed to my roommate (sent via UPS).

So yes, for many, the closing of the USPS may very well go unnoticed.

Others, upon hearing the news of the possibility, may wander into a state of nostalgia, reminiscing the days of handwritten love letters and holiday party invitations in sealed envelopes.

And for the 571,566 full-time workers employed by USPS (the second-largest civilian employer after Wal-Mart Stores), a closing wouldn't simply be nostalgically depressing, it would mean over half a million people would be out of a job.

Since its opening in 1775, the USPS has worked something of a miracle, delivering pen pal letters, Halloween candy parcels, love poems and the like anywhere within the U.S. borders.

Today's delivery guarantees go so far as postmen using snowmobiles to reach the high hills of Alaska or mules to deliver parcels within the depths of the Grand Canyon, starting at 44 cents for a simple letter. How's that for a deal?

Its own government agency, the USPS has been legally obligated to deliver the mail six days a week anywhere within the United States, "binding the nation together through the personal, educational, literary and business correspondence of the people."

One large problem, however, is that much of today's "correspondence" is built upon the mass junk mail advertisers, which last year consisted of "9.3 billion pounds" of the nation's mail — compared to only 3.7 billion pounds of first-class envelopes.

In a recent *New York Times* article, "Junking of the Postal Service," Ian Lee, a professor of strategic management at the Sprout

School of Business at Carleton University in Ottawa asked, "If the Postal Service has become a subsidized tool for mass mailers, why does the state still own it?"

It's a valid point. But I still stand with the post I've grown up with for 21 years for a blended mix of reasons from nostalgia, worker support, to — quite honestly — sheer reliance.

Just like my parents, I pay the majority of my bills by check sent through the post.

Each month, I ritually send a handwritten letter to my pen pal in Arkansas. And while I may be an oddity considering my age, there remains a large bracket of Americans who have relied on USPS for decades.

Which is why, maybe for this Christmas, that something extra you give your postman should be a first-class letter. In fact, make it a handwritten letter to a loved one far away, or even close by.

This year especially, there's going to be more than one reason to appreciate a 44-cent post.

Today's delivery guarantees go so far as postmen using snowmobiles to reach the high hills of Alaska ...

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The Daily Toreador accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community. Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submittal.

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TTUISD providing students with new and flexible opportunities

By **ARIF KHAN**
STAFF WRITER

Since its inception in 1994, Texas Tech University Independent School District has assisted in providing local and international students with the chance to earn high school diplomas.

TTUISD's distance learning program fulfills the core curriculum required for a high school diploma, making it the only one of its kind in Texas.

"In our first year, we only graduated two students," said Elizabeth Mason, unit coordinator at the Outreach and Distance Education Center. "And while it has taken us some time, we can now proudly say that we have well over 2,500 full-time students enrolled, and our numbers are growing."

One Lubbock native has benefited from the program.

"Being able to earn my high school diploma through the TTUISD distance learning program has been greatly helpful," said Linda Johnson, a TTUISD student from Lubbock. "Since I work and provide for my children, TTUISD allows me to work for my diploma when I have the proper,

available time. So, I'm not forced to adapt to a timetable that isn't suitable to me."

Johnson said she is able to travel with her family without having to worry about school.

"We also want to provide unique opportunities to students who are interested in different learning experiences," said Stephanie Schettek, media correspondent for TTUISD.

"For example, Sarah LeMaire has been able to star in the Disney series 'Wannabes' while also working toward her high school diploma because of our program."

Many of the courses provide the same amount of depth as a regular classroom setting, Schettek said, so the amount of learning is not handicapped in any way.

"We adapt our course curriculum to fit the distance learning process," Schettek said, "because we want to make sure the students are still gathering the knowledge without getting lost or confused."

In 2002, TTUISD branched out internationally by establishing partnerships in Brazil.

The idea of going international

with TTUISD came from wanting to showcase Tech on a different platform, Mason said.

"And because our relationship with Centro Educacional Leonardo Da Vinci school in Vitoria was such wonderful experience, we quickly expanded to more schools across Brazil," she said.

TTUISD has currently instituted a full English curriculum within 24 Brazilian schools with courses including reading, writing, history, economics, government and public speaking.

Because of this cross-communication learning, the students can earn a Texas high school diploma without having to leave the country, Mason said.

TTUISD is also looking into expand its program into other international countries.

"There is the possibility of us working our distance learning program into other South American countries, including Chile and Argentina," Schettek said. "Because we have had such valuable experience working with the Brazilian institutions, we want to explore more possibilities with other diverse schools."

>> akhan@dailytoreador.com

"... while it has taken us some time, we can now proudly say that we have well over 2,500 full-time students enrolled, and our numbers are growing."

ELIZABETH MASON
UNIT COORDINATOR
OUTREACH & DISTANCE
EDUCATION CENTER

Snow ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Tomorrow it's going to be pretty low as well," he said. "We're expecting very light additional snowfall this evening. Tomorrow it'll be tapering off and will go away with the clouds."

Jurecka also said that despite how the snowfall will only reach a couple of inches, drivers should still be careful on the road.

"One thing people should remember

is to not drive too fast or too slow," he said. "They need to realize there are patches of ice out there as well. They're quite difficult to see, especially at night."

"Lubbock is probably the first place I've ever lived where people drive routinely under the speed limit on highways," Jurecka continued, "and that does cause some extra collision hazards because people are going really slow. It's important to go with the flow, so to speak, but always remain under the limit."

Chris Garza, a junior computer science major from Houston, said he almost

had an accident while coming to school because of the ice.

"I almost spun out on the road on Texas Tech Parkway coming to school (yesterday) morning," he said.

However, not all accidents students had occurred on the road.

"I slipped and fell on my butt in the parking lot," said Corie Cerda, a freshman biology major from Georgetown.

Many students, such as Jessica Elk-houry, are expecting a delay sometime this week, other than the one today, although meteorologists consider it unlikely.

"If the conditions are like today, I guess it's OK to have school tomorrow," said the mass communications graduate student from Austin, "unless the roads are slippery and would cause accidents."

Cici Richardson, a sophomore early childhood education major from Vega, said having snow on Tech's campus is perfect for the holiday season.

"The snow brought more spirit to the Texas Tech campus," she said, "especially after the Carol of Lights."

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Adopt ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We wanted to do something focusing on seniors instead of kids because they usually don't get much attention."

The grandparents available for adoption are put on an adoption angel tree. There are 55 total and the fraternity's brothers aim to try to adopt at least 30 of them.

"We want to adopt as many as we can to ensure that everyone gets a present," Guzman said.

Ideas for gifts include sugar-free candy, books, blankets, socks, pajamas, decorations for rooms and other similar items.

"We really suggest buying a little gift for them like a scarf, gloves or house shoes just to let them know that you appreciate them and to make sure that they have a present this Christmas," Guzman said.

Eric Rodriguez, a junior finance major from San Antonio and the president of the fraternity, said this will be a touching event for those who participate.

"For students, it will probably be an eye-opening experience for them to see the joy that simple time and small gifts give to the residents of the nursing home, and it will hopefully mean the world to them," he said. "Any little attention that they get they really value, and little gifts add onto that."

Guzman said they hope this experience will extend past the holidays.

"The initial idea is to be in touch with them that one time at the holiday party," he said. "However, we encourage them to keep in contact with them and have a relationship with them all year."

Any students interested in participating in the event are encouraged to email Guzman at sergio.guzman@ttu.edu to adopt a grandparent.

"It's a great opportunity, and these people really do appreciate the time we put out," Rodriguez said. "We've been there before, and they really enjoy being around us and having people to interact with."

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Let it Snow

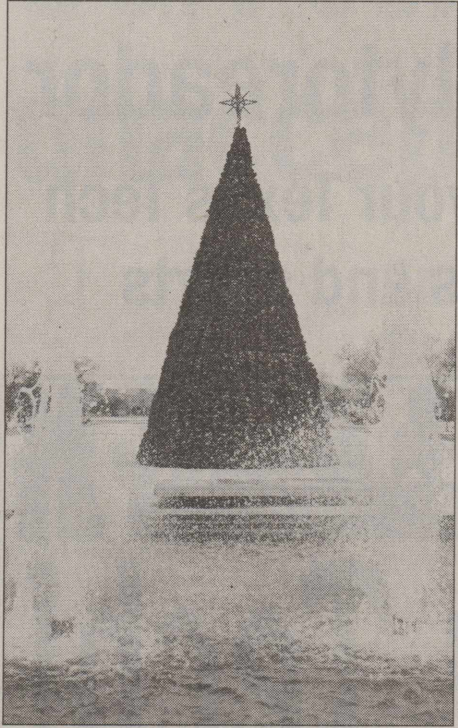


PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador
LUBBOCK RECEIVED ITS first snowfall of the fall semester Monday. The fountain on Broadway pictured here continues to flow despite below freezing temperatures.



PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador

VERA EKPO, A freshman exercise sports science major from Houston, is hit with a snowball during a snowball fight in front of the Student Union Building on Tuesday.

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PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

JACEK JONCA-JASINSKI, A graduate school staff member, hands a recently filled balloon to Colin Haley, a student assistant and senior marketing major from San Antonio. The balloons were being filled to celebrate the end of semester social for all graduate students.



PHOTO BY LEXY PETREE/The Daily Toreador

MIRANDA SANCHEZ, A freshman pre-nursing student from Corpus Christi, adds a mouth to a snowman on a bench outside of the Architecture building Monday.

Today's **su do ku**

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

Puzzles by PageFiler

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.

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle
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SPORTS

PAGE 7
TUESDAY, DEC. 6, 2011

Luck, Griffin, Richardson lead Heisman finalist race

NEW YORK (AP) — Andrew Luck, Robert Griffin III, Trent Richardson, Tyrann Mathieu and Montee Ball are the Heisman Trophy finalists.

The group, announced Monday on ESPN, includes the pre-season favorite — Stanford quarterback Luck — and at least one player, Mathieu, who was low profile when the season began.

Luck is a finalist for the second straight season, while the other QB on the list, Griffin, is the first Baylor player to get an invitation to the Heisman dinner in New York. The school has never had a player finish better than fourth in the Heisman voting.

Richardson is the second Alabama running back to be a finalist in the last three years. Former teammate Mark Ingram won the Heisman in 2009.

Ball has scored 38 touchdowns for Wisconsin and needs one more to match Barry Sanders' NCAA record.

Mathieu, the LSU defensive back nicknamed Honey Badger, has made numerous game-changing plays for the top-ranked Tigers.

The Heisman Trophy will be

presented Saturday night.

Luck was the Heisman runner-up to Auburn's Cam Newton last year and passed up a chance to be the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft to return to Stanford for his junior season. From the moment he made the decision to stay in school in January, he became the odds-on favorite to win the Heisman this season.

Luck had another stellar season, passing for 3,170 yards with 35 touchdowns while leading the Cardinal to an 11-1 record and a second straight BCS bid. But the competition has been so fierce that it's been tough for Luck to hold onto his front-runner status.

In fact, Griffin seemed to take the lead in the race over the last month of the season.

The quarterback called RG3 by Baylor fans leads the nation in passer rating (192.3), with 3,998 yards and 36 touchdowns. He has also run for 644 yards and nine touchdowns. And much like Luck, Griffin has led a long-struggling program to its greatest success in decades. Baylor is 9-3 this season, its first nine-win season since 1986.

BCS the best way, not most fair

The votes are in for the final BCS standings. It seems people are less informed when filling out these ballots than they are when they vote for politicians.

The National Championship matchup does not boast two super exciting offenses, it does not feature excellent quarterback play and there is a likelihood that points will come at a premium. Defense will be the name of the game.

The BCS got it right

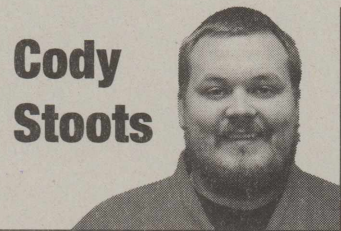
LSU and Alabama are the two best teams in college football. People just aren't happy with how they get to decide the best team.

I have always maintained that the BCS usually gets the matchup right. The BCS could be improved upon, though. There are people who vote and don't pay attention. The computers could weigh more to take out bad voters, but this also hurts good voters. Most voters, especially coaches, have biases. It's a flawed system due to the fact that most people don't get to watch all the teams they put on their ballot play.

There is no quick fix to the BCS

The plus-one system always seems like it would work so well. The No. 1 team plays the No. 4 team and then the No. 2 team plays the No. 3 team. Then, the winners of those matchups meet each other. It is simple enough, but there is plenty to argue about in

Cody Stoots



this scenario.

This year the final standings had Oklahoma State and Stanford coming in behind Alabama and LSU. The problem with the plus-one system is everyone ranked higher than fourth can gripe as well. There are less people deserving of being ranked one and two than people deserving the third to eighth rankings. Arkansas, Kansas State, Boise State, Oregon and maybe even Wisconsin have a case to be in the running for top four considerations.

With a plus-one system this year, there would be more excitement about the National Championship game, but

it would still be the same. Alabama would beat Oklahoma State and LSU would beat Andrew Luck and Stanford in what I think would be an exciting matchup. It's the same result, but well-earned.

The problem with the BCS is how people want the journey to be more spectacular. It has always been about the journey that is college football. The regular season is the most meaningful and exciting in sports. To change the way the champion is crowned would be risking the integrity of the regular season.

As far as the matchup goes, the best way I can describe it is with a comparison.

I would rather watch two Oscar winners, Alabama and LSU, in a sequel to an OK film than watch an Oscar winner and someone who is typecast, which in this case is Oklahoma State's stellar offense. I know I am taking a chance on

the underperformance of the two Oscar winners, but I would prefer a repeat of the mediocre performance to a blowout.

The matchup may not be popular, but if the game were good, would everyone be happy? If the game is competitive for 60 minutes and comes down to the last few drives, I think they would be.

Nothing is perfect. The BCS isn't perfect and neither is the plus-one system or a large playoff. Not everyone can be made happy, but the current system angers the fewest people with legitimate arguments.

So, as the sports holidays approach with the bowl season, your big gift may not be exactly what you want, but I hope Bowling Claus brings you a goodie bag of fantastic bowl games.

Stoots is a senior broadcast journalism major from Houston.
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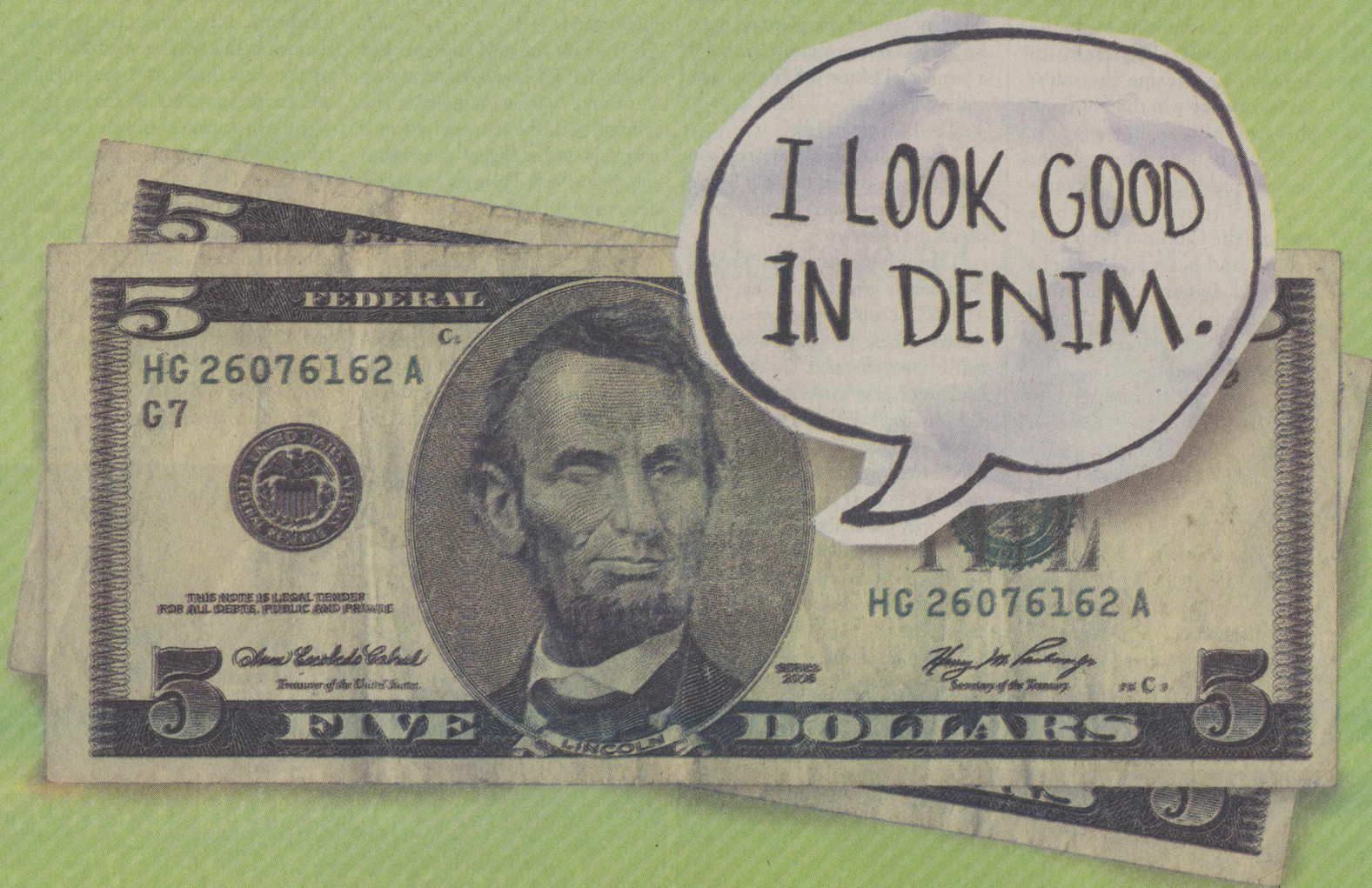
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