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Research funds lead to next step in tier-one status

Tech receives \$7.9 million from National Research Fund

By ASHLYN TUBBS
STAFF WRITER

President Guy Bailey received a check for \$7.9 million in research funding from the National Research Fund on Monday.

Texas Tech met the necessary criteria two years in a row to receive

this funding.

This is the third step out of five of Bailey's 10-year business plan for moving Tech to tier-one status.

"This is not something a select few have worked to meet," Bailey said. "This was a university-wide effort. Everyone worked together to meet this criteria."

Bailey said he plans to spend the funds on new research facilities, restoration of buildings — such as the Mass Communications building — and start-up packages for new faculty.

The required criteria Tech met in both 2010 and 2011 includes being designated an emerging research uni-



HANCE of \$400 million; having membership in Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa

versity by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; having \$45 million in restricted research; having an endowment



BAILEY cent of entering freshmen in top 25 percent of their class; having more

Phi and ARL; granting 200 Ph.D.s; having a high quality of freshman class in the 75th percentile of ACT at 26 and 50 per-

than 50 graduate programs; having GRE scores for five Ph.D. programs greater than or equal to the national mean; having the masters graduation rate greater than or equal to 56 percent and the doctoral rate greater than or equal to 58 percent; and the median time to doctorate at eight years or less.

FUNDS continued on Pg. 2

Judge grants Tech student lower bond

Watson facing sexual assault charges

By KASSIDY KETRON AND EFRAIN DUARTE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND STAFF WRITER



WATSON

According to the release, Watson maintains his innocence and has no prior criminal history.

"I'm pleased that David (Watson) is out of jail so we have a chance to better prepare for a fair trial," Lanehart said in the release. "My concern is that he will be deprived of a fair trial by prejudicial pretrial publicity orchestrated by the police and the prosecution."

No indictments have been brought against Watson, but a grand jury is expected to consider the cases sometime in June, Lanehart said.

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Texas Tech student David Watson, 21, was arrested May 6, according to police reports, on charges of aggravated sexual assault of an adult, aggravated kidnapping, possession of child pornography, improper photography and retaliation in connection with an alleged "date-rape" encounter with a fellow Tech student.

On May 18, according to the report, Watson's attorney, Chuck Lanehart of Lubbock, filed a writ of habeas corpus asking the court to reduce bail and having no cause to hold Watson on the complaints.

Judge Jim Bob Darnell granted the writ and heard both sides of evidence on May 26.

According to a news release, Watson's initial \$1.5 million bail for all three

Sweet Dreams

Former student opens restaurant unique to Lubbock

By KATELIN KELLY
STAFF WRITER

Former Texas Tech student and Lubbock native, Carson McCabe, found success in Lubbock pursuing his dream to open a restaurant.

In September his dream came true when he opened The Chocolate Mousse Pie Bar.

McCabe said he graduated from Coronado High School in 2001 and stayed at Tech for two years before realizing his major in political science would not fulfill his creative desires.

"I told my parents that I would go out and do everything I could to make money to save up to open some kind of restaurant," he said, "and at the time I never had any idea of what kind of restaurant I wanted it to be."

McCabe said he wouldn't be where he is today without the support of his family. The idea for the pie bar came from McCabe's father, he said, who started his own worldwide corporation from nothing and was very supportive of McCabe opening his own restaurant.

"My dad and I were talking one day and he said, 'Well if you want to do a restaurant, why don't you do pies, there hasn't been a good place for pies in Lubbock in forever,' that he could remember," McCabe said, "They kind of pushed me into it, but in a good way. It's something I wanted to do and they backed me 100 percent."

Prior to opening The Chocolate Mousse Pie Bar, McCabe said, he waited tables and managed a Chili's in Dallas to save up some money and work out the kinks of what the pie bar was really going to be and look like. McCabe wanted a bar atmosphere but without the alcohol, so with a clear vision in mind and the support of his family, McCabe said, he came back to Lubbock.

"I grew up in Lubbock and



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador
CARSON MCCABE IS the owner of The Chocolate Mousse, a pie bar in central Lubbock. Before opening the pie bar, McCabe attended Texas Tech.

Lubbock is like a magnet, it always brings you back — but for good reasons," McCabe said, "I grew up here and I was excited to leave and experience something different

and I realized that in a big city everyone's the same, but in a smaller city, like Lubbock, you can stand out and you can do something really neat that will benefit a place that

has so much cool stuff happening that people don't understand until you're gone."

SWEETS continued on Pg. 2

Tim Tadlock named new head baseball coach for Texas Tech

Tim Tadlock, former interim and associate head coach, formally will be named the ninth head coach of the Texas Tech baseball program at noon today inside the stadium club at Rip Griffin Park.

"I am very proud and honored to have been given this great opportunity to lead the Texas Tech baseball program," Tadlock said in a news release. "I appreciate the commitment that the Texas Tech administration has given to me. We will honor the legacy at Texas Tech and we are looking forward to hitting the ground running."

Tadlock was named interim head coach on May 21 after the firing of Dan Spencer.

The Tech athletic department made the announcement just a day after Tech set a school record on the number of Major League Baseball First-Year Player draft picks this year, leading the Big 12 Conference with nine picks.

"I am very excited to announce

Tim Tadlock as Texas Tech's new baseball coach," Athletic Director Kirby Hocutt said in a news release. "Tim has prepared himself for this tremendous opportunity and honor to lead our baseball program. As one of the nation's most respected recruiters and coaches he has demonstrated the ability to attract, teach, and win at the highest level. There are great days ahead for Texas Tech baseball."

In the Fall of 2011, Tadlock joined the Tech staff under Spencer after spending six seasons at the University of Oklahoma, where he helped lead the Sooners to five trips to the NCAA Tournament with two Super Regional appearances in 2006 and 2010. The team also competed in the 2010 College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

Tadlock was a two-year starting shortstop for the Red Raiders and was a member of Tech's first 40-win team his senior year in 1991.

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Funds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chancellor Kent Hance said Sen. Robert Duncan was critical in receiving the funding because he sponsored the legislation in the Senate and got it passed.

Hance said he thinks within the next few years, Tech will be listed as a tier-one university.

"We are already a tier-one school as far as teaching is concerned," he said. "Now we're trying to get it for research as well."

The next steps in the stairway to tier one are to obtain a U.S. News & World Report Top 100 ranking, and to be emitted into the Association of American Universities, Bailey said, which is an elite group of 61 universities. He also plans to put facilities online and to hire 500 additional faculty members

over the next 10 years in order to reduce class sizes.

"Those are people who can bring research money with them," he said, "and there will be more faculty interaction."

In Bailey's business plan, he lists the benefits to moving to tier one as enhancing the value of a Tech degree, both for current students and previous graduates; making Tech first choice for high-performing students; reducing the student-to-faculty ratio and make it possible to reduce class sizes; providing a greater number of enriching educational experiences for Tech students; making Tech a more significant player in the larger world of higher education; and having a significant economic impact on Lubbock. He said becoming a tier-one university would have more than a \$2.3 billion economic impact.

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Tech sets new school record, leads Big 12 in MLB draft

Texas Tech not only set a new school record this year, but also led the Big 12 conference with nine Major League Baseball draft picks, according to a news release.

In the first round, the Pittsburgh Pirates selected center fielder Barrett Barnes, who was the No. 45 pick overall. Second baseman Jamodrick McGruder was selected by the Seattle Mariners in the ninth round, as the No. 281 pick overall in the MLB draft. The Colorado Rockies selected right-handed pitcher Shane Broyles in the 14th round as the No. 438 pick overall.

In the 15th round right-handed pitcher Duke von Schamann was selected by the Los Angeles Dodgers as the No. 476 pick overall. Catcher Bo Altobelli was selected in the 21st round, the No. 640 pick overall, by the Minnesota Twins. Second baseman Reid Redman was selected by the Tampa Bay Rays in the 23rd round as the No. 722 pick overall, according to the news release.

In the 25th round, the Los Angeles Dodgers selected left-handed pitcher Daniel Coulombe as the No. 776 pick overall. Right-handed pitcher John Neely was selected by the Houston Astros in the 30th round as the No. 909 pick overall. The final pick from Tech was Rusty Shellhorn to the Seattle Mariners in the 31st round as the No. 941 pick overall, according to the press release.

According to the news release, Tech also had four signees selected in the MLB draft. Left-handed pitcher Dalton Friend was selected by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 12th round as the No. 367 pick overall. The Texas Rangers selected catcher Charles Moorman in the 17th round as the No. 546 overall. In the 20th round, left-handed pitcher Logan Ehlers was selected by the Detroit Tigers as the No. 634 pick overall. In the 37th round, right-handed pitcher Matthew Withrow was selected by the Texas Rangers as the No. 1,146 pick overall.

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Sweets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

McCabe came up with the idea for the name of the pie bar after being in the Dallas and Austin areas. He realized a lot of popular, trendy places included a funny animal in the title, so mousse was the perfect wordplay fit with the moose mascot of the restaurant, McCabe said.

"Whether you call it The Pie Bar or The Choc'late Mousse, as long as people keep coming in, they can call it whatever they want," McCabe said.

After studying for finals at The Pie Bar, Tech student Alexandra Gardner was hooked.

"I've worked here for about three weeks and I love the atmosphere, the 1940s music they play is my favorite. From the decorations to the pie, even the coffee is so good," Gardner said.

The Choc'late Mousse Pie Bar features about 40 pie recipes, McCabe said, 60-70 percent of which are recipes from his grandmother.

Owning the pie bar has been a fun learning experience, he said, and he has learned the ins and outs of making pies and has

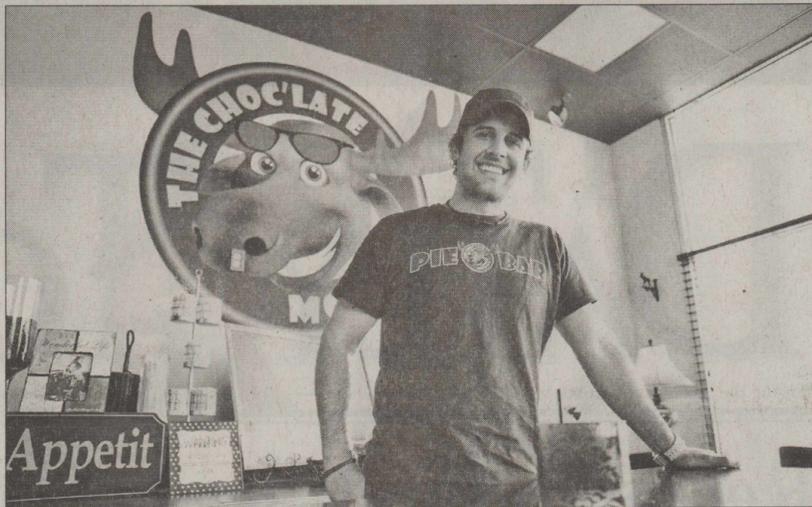


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador
 CARSON MCCABE IS the owner of The Choc'late Mousse, a pie bar in central Lubbock. Before opening the pie bar, McCabe attended Texas Tech.

experimented with a few recipes of his own.

"That's been the fun thing that I didn't really expect," he said. "I just figured I'd come in and make all of my grandmothers pies but then I have people who come in and say, 'Hey, try this or that.' It's just fun

stuff like that, in my spare time I like to think of weird combinations to sample."

McCabe said, he plans to expand his business to the southwest side of Lubbock and eventually open franchises in other cities. McCabe said he also plans to expand

the menu by including hot pies.

"I think another pie bar on the south side of town would do very well," said first-time customer and Tech graduate student Ansen Pond.

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LUNAR LOPE

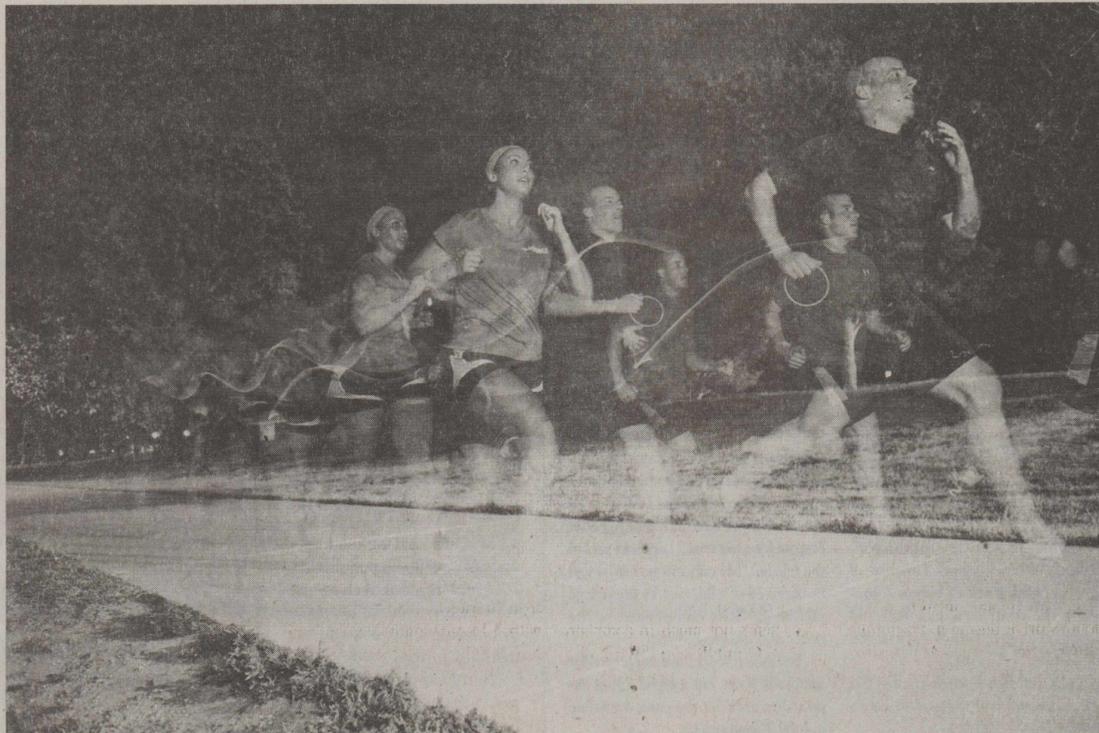


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador
 PARTICIPANTS IN THE Lunar Lope, a night-time 5K, runs toward the finish line near the Leisure Pool on Tuesday evening. The Lunar Lope was hosted by the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center and had participants run around campus or walk around the walking track.

NM busts alleged driver's license fraud ring

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico authorities on Wednesday detailed what they called a "recipe for fraud" as they announced the bust of a sophisticated ring that specialized in helping illegal immigrants obtain fraudulent driver's licenses.

The recipe included reams of fraudulent documents — from rental agreements to bank statements, vehicle titles and insurance paperwork — that were used as proof of residency to obtain licenses in at least 54 cases, authorities said.

The probe is continuing, and authorities said during a news conference that investigators believe hundreds of licenses have been

fraudulently obtained through the ring over the past couple of years for illegal immigrants living outside of New Mexico.

Arrest warrants were issued for nine people.

"We know without a shadow of a doubt there are several other rings operating right now in the state, and the only reason they continue to operate is because it's a profitable business they're in," said Demesia Padilla, secretary of the state Taxation and Revenue Department, which oversees New Mexico's Motor Vehicle Division.

Padilla said her concern is that the stories about vanloads of illegal immigrants being brought to New

Mexico from as far as Florida and Illinois for driver's licenses will continue until the state Legislature takes action.

New Mexico and Washington are the only states that allow illegal immigrants to obtain the same driver's license as a U.S. citizen.

Padilla charged that the Legislature has created a "mess" by not repealing the law.

"We need to end the issuance of driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, and until we do that, we're going to leave ourselves open to this type of fraud and this type of crime," she said.

Republican Gov. Susana Martinez has repeatedly pressed state lawmakers to repeal New Mexico's law over fraud concerns. During this year's session, the state Senate passed a bill that would have made it harder for illegal immigrants to obtain state driver's licenses. Yet, the bill did not get a vote in the House.

"This fraud ring only confirms what New Mexicans already know — the only way to put an end to this criminal activity is to repeal the law

that gives driver's licenses to illegal immigrants," the governor said in a statement issued Wednesday.

A criminal complaint details the ring that authorities say was operating in the eastern New Mexico communities of Clovis and Portales. Those named in the complaint face dozens of charges ranging from forgery to conspiracy to commit altered, forged or fictitious licenses.

Of the nine warrants issued, two people have been arrested and two others have agreed to turn themselves in.

The alleged ring leader, Luis Raul Collazo-Medrano, his wife, Olivia Esther Campos, their daughter Viridiana Campos and two others have yet to be located.

The investigation began eight months ago after several foreign nationals were found to be using the same phone numbers in Roosevelt County to make appointments at the Motor Vehicle Division office. Several applicants also were using the same addresses in Clovis and Portales as their places of residence, even though they did not live there.

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Puzzles by PageFiller

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VENUS VENTURE



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador
MATTHEW BETZ, A technical communication and rhetoric graduate student from Chicago, Ill., watches the planet Venus pass between the Earth and the sun through a telescope as others line up behind him for a turn during a viewing hosted by the Texas Tech Museum, the Graduate Student Advisory Board and the South Plains Astronomy Club in front of the Texas Tech Museum on Tuesday. According to NASA's website, the next time Venus will pass between the Earth and the sun is in the year 2117.

Durant takes charge, pushes Thunder to NBA finals

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—For all the points, rebounds and assists that filled Kevin Durant's impressive stat line, it was a defensive play he made that fired up his coach and teammates.

"That's his first charge of the year," Russell Westbrook interjected when Durant was asked about drawing an offensive foul against Manu Ginobili in the fourth quarter of Oklahoma City's 107-99 win in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals on Wednesday night.

Indeed, it was. The league's three-time scoring champion had 34 points and 14 rebounds while playing all of regulation for the first time all season, leading the Thunder into the NBA finals. But it was taking that charge that got his team pumped up.

Durant stepped in front of Ginobili's drive during a 3½-minute scoreless stretch by San Antonio that allowed Oklahoma City to take the lead for good.

"I just wanted to go out there and sacrifice my body for my team. I knew that would give us a little spark," Durant said.

"Manu's an unbelievable player at twisting his body and making crazy shots, so I just wanted to time it right. It felt good to get that for my team and I could tell they were excited that I got my first one when I looked at the bench."

Westbrook added 25 points for the Thunder, who trailed by 18 in the first half and erased a 15-point halftime deficit.

The Thunder took the lead for good early in the fourth quarter, getting nine of their first 13 points on free throws as the fouls started to pile up for San Antonio — six on the defensive end and three on the offensive end in the first 7 minutes.

That included Durant's stop just outside the restricted area under the basket.

"Down the stretch, it seemed like they got every whistle possible and that really changed the tide," San Antonio's Tim Duncan said. "We were playing tough defense and trying to get stops, but the whistle kept blowing and they went to the line."

Tony Parker finished with 29 points and 12 assists, but only eight of the points and two assists came after San Antonio took a 63-48 halftime lead. Duncan chipped in 25 points and 14 rebounds, and Stephen Jackson hit six 3-pointers and scored 23 points.

The Spurs had won 20 in a row, moving past the Thunder for home-court advantage in the West and then taking a 2-0 lead in the series, before losing four in a row.

"There's not much to complain about," Ginobili said. "We had a great run. We just couldn't beat these guys."

Durant grabbed the final rebound, dribbled the ball across half court and raised his right fist to celebrate with a sold-out crowd wearing free white T-shirts. The franchise will play for the NBA title for the first time since 1996, when it was in Seattle.

Game 1 of the NBA finals will be Tuesday night in Oklahoma City against either Boston or Miami. The Celtics lead that series 3-2 and can earn a trip to the finals with a win at home in Game 6 on Thursday night.

Durant celebrated even before the final buzzer, hugging his mother and brother seated courtside after a foul was called with 14 seconds remaining.

"I never want to take those moments for granted," Durant said. "I know it's just one step closer to our dreams, but it felt good."

Coach Scott Brooks said he was

not going to take Durant out of the game, no matter how many times his All-Star gave him a fatigued look.

"Kevin's an amazing young man," Brooks said. "His stat line is not even close to who he is as a young man. He's respected by his teammates, by the staff, by the city. He's a great ambassador to this league and I'm proud to coach him. He wants to be coached."

"He's a great leader." The Thunder, only three years removed from a 3-29 start that had them on pace for the worst record in NBA history, went through the only three West teams to reach the finals since 1998 — Dallas, the Los Angeles Lakers and San Antonio — to earn their shot at the title.

Derek Fisher and James Harden hit 3-pointers in a three-possession span to increase the lead to 99-93 with 3:13 remaining. Jackson, who had made his previous six 3-pointers, and Parker both missed 3s that would have gotten the Spurs within 103-102 in the final minute.

San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich thought the game was lost in the third quarter, when the Spurs were "playing in mud."

The Spurs got quick offense in the first half and made 9 of 15 from 3-point range while shooting 55 percent overall.

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Texas Democrats to elect leader, seek relevance

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas' top Democrats met Thursday in Houston, where they will hold a convention to elect a new leader and strategize about how to win more elections in the Republican-dominated state.

The party's executive committee met to lay the groundwork for the convention, which officially opens Friday. Party Chairman Boyd Ritchie is stepping down after six years and the convention will pick a new leader. Ritchie said the convention also will show off the party's new talent.

"Progressive mayors and county judges are part of our bench for the future," he said.

San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro will give the keynote address and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, a former Dallas mayor, will give a major speech Friday. Democrats also will feature Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins as someone to watch in the party, Ritchie said.

Democrats will spend much of the time in Houston holding caucus and district meetings as well as workshops

on fundraising and social media. No Democrat has won statewide office since 1994, and Republicans hold a 102-48 supermajority in the Texas House. But redistricting is expected to bring that number down in November and Ritchie feels Democrats could make additional gains.

"It seems to me that a lot of the extreme rightwing positions that a lot of the Republicans took to get out of their primaries will ultimately be responsible for us having an opportunity to win in November," Ritchie said.

Ritchie also wants to motivate Democrats to vote in runoff primary elections set for July 31. The only statewide race pits former state Rep. Paul Sadler against retired educator Grady Yarbrough for the U.S. Senate nomination. Yarbrough did not mount a campaign, and Sadler will speak at the convention Friday night.

Ritchie said the fact that Yarbrough made it into the runoff was proof that having a well-known name influences voters. Yarbrough's name is reminiscent of one of the Texas

Democrat's greatest progressive heroes, Ralph Yarborough, who served in the U.S. Senate in the 1960s.

"Lots and lots of voters, I am satisfied, thought that this somehow was either a relative or the former senator," Ritchie said. "The problem is that Mr. Yarborough has run for office before, for statewide office, as a Republican. There are some people who decide to run for the heck of it."

So far Democratic donors have given Sadler, the front-runner, less than \$100,000 for the Democratic primary race and he will seek to rally support for his runoff and a possible race against the winner of the Republican runoff, either Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst or former Texas Solicitor General Ted Cruz. Combined they spent more than \$20 million on their primary race.

"We're not ever going to be able to play on a level field as far as money is concerned," Ritchie admitted. "People I think are disgusted with that, and hopefully they can understand that it all came about from extreme right-wing positions."

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No quick fix for student loan debt crisis

By **COURTNEY L'ECUYER**
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT (U. ARIZONA)

Experts link high education levels with better health, work productivity and economic growth, but what happens when tuition costs continually increase, employment opportunities fizzle and student debt hits \$904 billion?

Since the 1990s the average tuition rate at four-year universities have doubled. The average cost of attending an in-state university was \$20,000 and the average cost of attending a private school was \$40,000 in 2010-2011 according to the National Center for Education and Statistics.

Tuition at U. Arizona for residents has increased 82 percent since 2007 and is approximately \$9,300 per semester. In the last year alone, in-state tuition rose 17 percent, the largest increase out of all Arizona universities and the second highest spike in the nation next to California State University, whose tuition rose 25 percent in 2011.

And to make the situation brighter, unemployment rates of recent 2011 graduates are at 9.1 percent, a national high.

On top of the outlandish tuition costs and high unemployment, student loan interest rates are expected to increase from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent on June 30, 2012. Legislative action could stop the increase, but it would cost the government \$6 billion according to the Congressional Budget Office to extend the lower interest rate.

Is an increase in loan interest rates really that bad?

Here's something to consider: The government provides students loan to those in need and want of a college education. For example, the popular unsubsidized federal Stafford loan gives a student \$6,063 per year. Universities realize they won't get as much out-of-pocket money from students, so they raise tuition. Raising tuition makes students cry to the government for lower interest rates and higher loan amounts. This cycle continues and ends up costing taxpayers

and the federal government more money along the way.

Is there one right answer to the student loan crisis? It's the chicken or the egg.

Does the blame fall on the higher education system and the federal government? These are the entities that determine the cost of education and the amount of aid available. Statistically 50 percent of graduates are either unemployed or in jobs that don't require degrees. Two-thirds of college seniors who graduated in 2010 had an average debt of \$25,250 according to an article by *The New York Times*.

Is it fair to financially drain students with high tuition and high interest rates, in return for a degree that promises only half of their graduating class a job?

At the other end of the spectrum, there are the college students who flounder away money for four years and end up with a whimsical degree that won't help them pay back their loans. Eight million people rely on taxpayer subsidized Stafford loans

and nearly 9 percent or 720,000 students default on them according to a report by the U.S. Department of Education. This rate is higher than delinquency rates of mortgages, auto loans and personal credit card debt according to economists.

Are lazy students to blame for squandering federal money? Or the job market?

The answer is not simple. Just like the housing bubble and unemployment, there is no quick fix. It's going to take time. The education system needs a makeover that maintains opportunity for those in need of academic loans, wisely allocates taxpayer money and finds more innovative ways to pay for college expenses.

Don't believe any politician that promises they will fix the student debt problem if elected. Ask in return how they will first fix the unemployment rates. The reason education is worth the investment, is because it secures a job. Until our country renews job security, a college degree can only take you so far.

Trayvon Martin case beyond black, white

By **LEAH LANCASTER**
MINNESOTA DAILY (U. MINNESOTA)

After the shooting of Trayvon Martin in late February, police identified George Zimmerman as a white man. It's no surprise that once the press got their hands on the story, the media sunk its teeth in, delighted to make headlines with another narrative on white-on-black crime.

Blog posts on major news outlets abounded with titles like "Why

white people should care about Trayvon Martin?" "White people, you will never look suspicious like Trayvon Martin!" and "I am not Trayvon Martin! Dismantling white privilege in activism." YouTube, Facebook and Twitter exploded with emotional responses. People speculated over what exactly happened that night. Were Zimmerman's motives racial? Did Trayvon assault Zimmerman? Who yelled for help?

A bigger question, however, was put on the backburner — the question of Zimmerman's ethnicity. Zimmerman's father is white, but his mother is from Peru. He speaks Spanish. On his voter registration form, he checked off the box labeled "Hispanic."

Recently, the media has attempted to fix this discrepancy by referring to him as "white Hispanic." The term is clearly only used so the word "white" can continue to be printed in big, bold letters (ever heard of the term multiracial?). The hypocrisy of this is apparent in that the media has almost unanimously

decided to refer to President Barack Obama as simply black or African-American; despite the fact Obama's mother is a white Kansas native.

The media defines people based not on who they are but on who they need them to be in order to legitimize their propaganda. After all, if we have a black president, then racism between black and whites (therefore, all racism) has disappeared.

Though Zimmerman's racial ambiguity has thrown a major wildcard into a case that yearns to perpetuate the all-too-familiar white/black hierarchy, probing it would require us to ask too many questions that could only lead to even more ambiguous answers.

America needs Zimmerman to be white so we won't dare to redefine what racism means. The media needs Zimmerman to be white so we will isolate racism as white-on-black or black-on-white crime and not as something that is also very prevalent in other ethnic communities.

Racism also overlaps with vari-

ous types of discrimination based on gender, sexual identity, socioeconomic status and other factors that cannot be boiled down to an obvious difference in skin color. The media focuses so heavily on the black-white dynamic so it looks like racial tensions (and prejudice in general) in America are being addressed, when really a massive segment of it continues to be ignored.

People are constantly asking, what if Trayvon was white? What if Zimmerman was black? Would we still have witnessed the death of an innocent teenager? The situation leaves us with more questions than answers on how far the U.S. has come with race relations and the treatment of multiracial citizens.

Yet, one thing is for certain, if Trayvon was a different race, the story would have been told differently because it would not fit the media's narrative of race relations. Zimmerman was reported to be white because of prejudicial assumptions, the media's simplification of race and a near-automatic decision of Zimmerman's guilt. In order for race relations in America to truly improve, it is important for the media to address all cases of discrimination, even if doing so forces us to ask ourselves some very controversial questions.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

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By Peter Koettler
6/8/12

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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6/8/12 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

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