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## Tech chess program names new director, new head coach

Texas Tech has hired Al Lawrence as the full-time chess program director and Alex Onischuk as the chess team's head coach.

Lawrence said it is exciting to be a part of Tech's chess program.

Tech's chess team was named national champions in 2011 and 2012 and the former head coach, Susan Pogar, left Tech for Webster University and took the team's top players with her.

However, Lawrence said, the team still has many returning quality players, including a returning grandmaster.

Lawrence's background includes being the executive director of the U.S. Chess Federation and one of the founders of the World Chess Hall of Fame.

According to Onischuk's website, Onischuk has won several awards and medals for playing chess and is one of the

top grandmasters in the world. Lawrence believes the hiring of Onischuk will attract top chess players from around the world to play at Tech.

Training for tournaments begins immediately, Lawrence said, and the program plans to compete in the championship level again this year.

Lawrence said he thinks his past experiences will bring something different to the chess program at Tech.

"Working together with Head Coach Onischuk to organize training for our team members and outreach projects, we'll keep TTU competitive at a championship level while involving more student and community members in chess," Lawrence said in an email. "Team members will be stepping up efforts at visitations to community schools to help more teachers offer the benefits of chess to their students."

► pskinner@dailytoreador.com

## Supreme Improvements



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

STUART WILLIAMS, A senior history major from Lubbock, is the chief justice of the Texas Tech Student Government Association's Supreme Court.

By CAITLAN OSBORN  
STAFF WRITER

### SGA works to establish functioning Supreme Court, increase visibility

The Student Government Association is working to bring more power to Texas Tech students, starting with establishing a functioning Supreme Court.

Stuart Williams, chief justice of the Supreme Court, said the judicial branch of SGA was ineffective, something the current executive officers are determined to change.

"No one really knew about it," he said. "We didn't know how many people were on the Supreme Court or who was on it. I was in the Senate for two years before this and we would have questions about the Supreme Court, but no one

there really knew what was going on."

Mike Uryasz, associate justice, said the Supreme Court's absence was noticeable when he served as executive vice president for the 2011-2012 school year.

"One of the biggest things lacking in SGA was a Supreme Court," he said. "I don't think there has been a case filed in the Supreme Court in over 10 years. Over the years SGA has learned to operate with both the legislative and executive branches and it's worked. But this past year when I was in the executive branch, we came across some issues where we might need a Supreme Court."

The Supreme Court is made up of one appointed chief justice and six associate justices who evaluate petitions made by students. If a student feels like something within the SGA is wrong, he or she can bring a case to the Supreme Court.

"You don't have to be a senator or in the executive branch to bring an issue to us," Williams said. "Any student can file with the Supreme Court because any student is a part of Student Government Association. Our constitution (involves) every student enrolled at this university."

Students can file a petition for review

by going to the SGA website and filling out an online form under the Supreme Court tab, Williams said.

When the petition is submitted, Williams is sent an email and notifies the opponent of the petitioner. The defendant has five days to reply. If there is not a response in five days, the Supreme Court automatically rules in favor of the plaintiff. If there is a reply, the Supreme Court has 14 days to establish a preliminary hearing, where they decide if the case is within the court's jurisdiction.

JUSTICE continued on Pg. 2 ►►

## Lochte falters again, but Franklin, Grevers shine

LONDON (AP) — Michael Phelps has yet to win a gold medal, and Ryan Lochte's star is fading. So along came Missy Franklin to restore American swim hopes with a gutty performance at the Olympics on Monday night.

Coming back less than 14 minutes after swimming a semifinal heat, the Colorado teenager won the first gold medal of what figures to be a dazzling career, rallying to win the 100-meter backstroke.

"Indescribable," the 17-year-old Franklin said. "I still can't believe that happened. I don't even know what to think. I saw my parents' reaction on the screen and I just started bawling. I can't even think right now."

Matt Grevers kept the gold medals coming in rat-a-tat fashion, following up Franklin's win with one of his own in the men's 100 back. For good measure, Nick Thoman made it a 1-2 finish for the red, white and blue by taking the silver.

Rebecca Soni nearly pulled out a third U.S. gold, rallying furiously on the return leg of the 100 breaststroke. But she couldn't quite catch blazing Lithuanian Ruta Meilutyte, a gold medalist at the tender age of 15.

Good thing for the U.S. that Franklin and the other Ameri-

cans are coming through.

Phelps missed the podium in his 2012 Olympic debut, and Lochte has turned two straight disappointing performances after opening the games with a dominant win in the 400 individual medley. He finished fourth and off the podium Monday night in the 200 freestyle, which France's Yannick Agnel won by a full body length against a field with gold medalists galore.

On Sunday, Lochte anchored the U.S. in the 4x100 free relay, taking over with a seemingly comfortable lead. But Agnel chased him down on the final leg, giving France the gold.

Now, another defeat.

"I did my best," Lochte said. "I guess sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. I gave it 110 percent. There's probably some things I messed up on, but you live and learn. (Agnel is) a great racer. There's no doubt about it. He's quick and he showed it last night and tonight. I'm happy for him. He did good."

Franklin, who was rattled less than two weeks before the Olympics by the Aurora theater shooting not far from her home, showed tremendous resiliency racing with such a short break following the semis of the 200 freestyle.

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FRISBEE FUN



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador  
LANCE COPELAND, A senior biology major from San Antonio, jumps but fails to catch a flying disc during a game of Ultimate Frisbee outside of the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center on Sunday.

# Texas Water Smart initiative drawing attention

AUSTIN (AP) — On a hot day in mid-July, Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples visited a steamy chamber of a North Austin Home Depot teeming with plants to promote his newest initiative, Texas Water Smart, which encourages homeowners to conserve water.

Not a cent of tax money is being spent on the campaign, and in a budget crunch, no tax dollars spent seems like something to cheer about.

Meanwhile, the chief state-sponsored water conservation strategy is practically dormant, with a modest budget that leaves no room for advertising or outreach.

That dynamic has left water conservation messaging to companies that favor a mild conservation strategy.

The situation speaks to a larger issue, of officials seeing political benefit in talking about water conservation and water supply, but still far away from spending the needed money — estimated at \$53 billion in coming decades — or political capital to seriously address the state's water problem.

In short, just as water has become important to politicians, water conservation itself has become political. In the drought of 2011, as watering restrictions grew more draconian, landscaping companies faced a grim future. Lawn watering became not only unfashionable but downright illicit.

Landscapers "were really afraid of being run out of business if outdoor watering were completely shut off," said C.E. Williams, general manager of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation

District and member of the state Water Conservation Advisory Council. "That was their fear that got them started down this road."

That fall, companies — led by Scotts Miracle-Gro and joined by Home Depot, Wal-Mart and the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, among others — landed on the Water Smart campaign as a middle-road approach to conservation as the state grapples with long-term lawn watering.

After considering a host of spokespeople, they picked Staples as a trusted voice on water issues.

In September, Scotts Miracle-Gro contributed \$1,250 to Texans for Todd Staples.

At the Home Depot presser, Scotts Miracle-Gro's southwest region president, Jim Tate, who gave \$200 to the commissioner in December, stood next to Staples.

The Water Smart initiative currently has a budget of \$500,000. No state dollars are used, said Bryan Black, a spokesman for Staples.

Texas already happens to have at least one water conservation program.

But by comparison, the Water IQ program has an annual budget of only about \$100,000, and no funding for media outreach, advertising or program promotion, said Merry Klownower, a spokeswoman for Texas Water Development Board.

Water IQ's progress has been piecemeal. The Lower Colorado River Authority and the City of Austin are among the few major entities to have

promoted the plan.

At a March meeting, many Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council members said they were concerned about duplicative efforts of Texas Water Smart and about possibly confusing audiences with multiple messages, according to meeting minutes.

"We're not trying to change messages local municipalities are using," said Brian Mayes, a spokesman for the Water Smart initiative.

The employees of the companies sponsoring the Water Smart initiative, which has a wide membership that includes some cities, "work and live here in Texas and in a crisis want to rally together," said Mayes.

Ken Kramer, director of the Lone Star chapter of the Sierra Club, who said he welcomes any water-saving promotion, had a different take: "They want to try to be seen and be out there promoting water use techniques so their business can continue existence and not be seen as water hogs."

At the Home Depot event, Bryan Shaw, the chairman of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, who has acted as Staples' wingman on the water initiative, delivered the middle-ground message of the Water Smart campaign:

"The common-sense oriented (watering tips do not mean) your yard should look like the Sahara desert," he said. "Most (water-saving) programs tell you what you can't do. This one tells you what you can do."

"You can still enjoy a lush, beautiful landscape and use less water," Shaw said.

The Water Smart campaign, which amounts to a website and radio and television public service advertisements, promotes basic, sensible watering tips: Homeowners ought to water early in the morning to reduce evaporation; adjust sprinklers so that they water lawns, not sidewalks or driveways; and use plenty of mulch to keep gardens and flower beds moist.

"Making water conservation a part of your daily life is something every Texan can do to ensure we have water tomorrow and into the future," Staples told a group of reporters at the press conference.

For Staples, who will run for lieu-

tenant governor in 2014, it was a successful day as he introduced himself to urban voters — he also appeared in San Antonio — and associated himself with a seemingly winning issue in drought-minded Texas.

Earlier Water Smart press conferences were held in Dallas, Amarillo and Lubbock.

Staples is not the only candidate for lieutenant governor who has addressed water issues this year. Earlier in July, Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said he would investigate the possibility of building a desalination plant in Central Texas, and in February, state Comptroller Susan Combs, another likely candidate, released a report, "The Impact of the 2011 Drought and Beyond."

To Kramer, with the Sierra Club, those stances make political sense.

"It's very clear that water, because of the drought in 2011 and continuing in many parts of Texas, is an issue on the minds of a lot of people, including public officials," Kramer said. "Public officials are sort of pursuing what I'd call enlightened self-interest. Any politician running for office or higher office has to be seen as doing something about water issues."

Williams puts it more bluntly: "Water conservation has gotten pretty sexy lately. It's politically correct today."

But actually getting politicians to raise money to create water projects, which are forecast to cost as much as \$53 billion over decades, will be a harder task.

Even sides that agree that conservation efforts need to be improved can't agree on who should bear the onus.

At the Austin event, Staples never talked about limiting water for farmers and ranchers, who still use roughly half the state's water, even as some, such as Colorado River rice farmers, have faced at least temporary cutbacks.

About a week later, when environmental group Environment Texas said the Legislature should require water metering on farmland, which has been found to cut water use by at least 10 percent, Staples sounded a defensive note.

"Blaming agriculture is hogwash," he shot back. "Modern agriculture has been doing more with less for decades."

"Agriculture may be a convenient

# Sitcom creators mine laughs from their real lives

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Got a goofy older brother? Parents you still live with even though you're grown up? An unconventional friendship?

If so, you're too late to turn those ideas into a hit sitcom.

But while you comb your life for something else to fuel a comedy that a network will love, consider three fall sitcoms spawned from the personal lives of their creators.

CBS' "Partners" explores the lifelong friendship of Louis, who's gay, and Joe, who's straight, as they navigate their architecture business and their respective romantic ties. Their best-friends dynamic is inspired by the friendship of Max Mutchnick and David Kohan, who met in high school and, after partnering as TV producers, co-created shows including the mega-hit "Will & Grace."

There's no attempt to hide the lineage of Fox's "Ben & Kate." It's the tale of a freewheeling brother, Ben, who comes back into the life of his single-mother younger sister, Kate, to serve as a surrogate dad while continuing his lifelong role as a mischievous child. The show is based on the relationship of its creator, Dana Fox, with her own big brother, whose name is, yes, Ben.

Meanwhile, ABC's "How to Live with Your Parents for the Rest of Your Life" finds a young mom from a broken marriage seeking refuge at her parents' with her young daughter. It was drawn from the domestic situation of creator Claudia Lonow, who well into adulthood and despite career success (including producing the sitcom "Less than Perfect"), continues to live with parents she describes as "charismatic," "super entertaining" and "very weird."

## Olympics

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She barely advanced in the first race, qualifying for Tuesday night's final with the eighth-fastest time, but she was clearly saving something for the one with a medal on the line.

Australia's Emily Seebohm, the top qualifier, led at the turn and was under world-record pace, but Franklin showed a remarkable finishing kick. With her arms whirling, the 6-foot-1 swimmer passed the Aussie in the final 25 meters and lunged toward the wall for a winning time of 58.33 seconds.

She broke into a big smile but was clearly exhausted, her head dropping back against the wall. Seebohm settled for silver in 58.68 and Japan's Aya Terakawa took bronze in 58.83.

"You never know until you see that scoreboard, so I was just going as fast as I could until I got my hand on the wall," Franklin said. "It was 110 percent effort, and all the work paid off."

The 6-foot-8 Grevers pulled off a similar rally on his return lap, winning the 100 back in 52.16 — the fifth straight Olympics, dating to the 1996 Atlanta Games, that the U.S. men have won the backstroke. Thoman joined his teammate on the medal podium at 52.97, a finish they were thinking about all along.

"Going into the ready room, we were

both just sitting there and we shared a look and shared a thought," Thoman said. "I think that was in both of our heads."

Japan's Ryosuke Irie was third in 52.97.

"I've been watching the Olympics for as long as I can remember," Thoman said. "The first one I really remember is the '92 Barcelona Games and just watching guys back then. Seeing Lenny Krayzelburg, my idol, and then Aaron Piersol, again my idol, who I got to train with for a little while. Just being able to carry on that tradition, it's a great thing."

Agnel showed that his brilliant swim on the Olympic relay was no fluke. The 6-foot-6 Frenchman did it again in the 200 free, leading from start to finish in perhaps the most star-studded race of these games — even without Phelps, who passed up a chance to defend his Olympic title.

That might have been a good move by Phelps. It was hard to see anyone beating Agnel on this night, as he pulled away to win by a full body length in 1 minute, 43.14 seconds. No one came close to challenging him, and he looked just as strong at the end as he did at the beginning.

South Korea's Park Tae-hwan and China's Sun Yang tied for the silver in 1:44.93. But Lochte, the reigning world champion who seemed poised to have a huge Olympics just 48 hours earlier, faded out of the medals. So did world-record holder Paul Biedermann of Germany.

## Justice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"If it's something goofy or something someone brought out of spite, that's the preliminary hearing and that's when we decide if we can hear it," Williams said. "We have the power to decide if we hear anything. So if we don't want to hear it, we don't have to."

Alex Alston, president of SGA, said the organization is currently trying to raise awareness that there now is a functioning Supreme Court.

"We haven't had a functioning Supreme Court in a while," he said. "That's one of the reasons why I felt like it's a perfect opportunity to do it in the summer. So that when students come back, we show them, 'Hey we have a Supreme Court that works. If you have any issues with any bills or anything that Student Government does, you can take it to the

Supreme Court."

Alston said the goal of the Supreme Court is to make sure the SGA has a system of checks and balances.

"This is my third year in SGA and I've heard multiple senators say that we need a Supreme Court," he said. "There have been people who have been appointed, but they don't do anything. This basically tells the Senate, 'Hey we're going to take this seriously.' You can't do something unconstitutional because all in all it's going to impact the students."

Williams said it is also important for students to know that the Supreme Court is not biased.

"We want them to know that we're here and — most of all — independent," he said. "We don't take a side. We're not on the executive side, we're not on the Senate side, we're not on anyone's side. We're on the side of what the constitution says is legal. No matter what any bill says, any resolution, that doesn't matter to us. What matters is what is in the constitution."

Uryasz said he believes many students can benefit from the Supreme Court when they realize it is there.

"We've always been here to protect their rights," he said. "The student Supreme Court is a powerful tool. If we just knew how to use it, I think we could use it precisely and positively to help the students."

"There are some students who don't even know what SGA is, and so there's a PR issue across the board. I think most students want to know, it's just going to take some time."

Alston said SGA members have spent the summer coming up with ways to increase student awareness of the organization, including improving SGA's website.

"Basically we're trying to be as visible as possible," he said. "We up at the executive branch have nothing to hide and we want the students to know that we're out to help them, which is why we wanted to create this functioning Supreme Court. Ultimately, if students have an issue, they need to go to the Supreme Court and it needs to be heard by students who can relate."

» cosborn@dailytoreador.com

Today's  
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Puzzles by PageFiller

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7	1	9	2	3	4	5	6	8
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WINDOW WASHING



PHOTO BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador  
**JAMES BRADFORD**, A window washer for Invisible Windows, uses a brush and hose combination to clean windows on the second floor of the Student Union Building on Monday. Bradford says that the windows are cleaned once a month.

Conservatives work to cull moderate Republicans

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Frustrated by their inability to achieve some policy goals, conservatives in Republican states are turning against moderate members of their own party, trying to drive them out of state legislatures to clear the way for reshaping government across a wide swath of mid-America controlled by the GOP.

Political groups are helping finance the efforts by supporting primary election challenges targeting several dozen moderate Republicans in the Midwest and South, especially prominent lawmakers who run key state committees.

Two years after Republicans swept into power in many state capitols, the challengers say it's time to adopt more conservative policies.

"If you don't believe in that playbook, then why are you on the team?" declared Greg Smith, who is trying to oust a moderate incumbent from the Kansas state Senate.

The push is most intense in Kansas, where conservatives are attempting to replace a dozen moderate Republican senators who bucked new Gov. Sam Brownback's move to slash state income taxes.

The Club for Growth, a major conservative interest group, is spending about \$500,000 in Missouri this year. That's double the amount it invested two years ago. The anti-tax group Americans for Prosperity opened new chapters in Iowa, Minnesota and New Mexico. The conservative business group Texans for Lawsuit Reform spent \$3.5 million on legislative candidates in the first half of 2012, more than double its total during the same period two years ago.

The primary strife reflects differences that were somewhat concealed in the party's triumphant victories in 2010, when, aided by public discontent about the economy, the GOP won its broadest control of state government since the Great Depression. After the vote, Republicans held governorships in 29 states and control of most of the legislatures from Michigan to Texas.

Conservatives, some aligned with the tea party movement, hoped to begin re-

izing their vision of smaller government and of a reformed education system that would give parents more alternatives to traditional public schools. But some of their initiatives were scaled back by GOP colleagues to soften the impact on public schools and other public services.

Oklahoma Republican Gov. Mary Fallin's plan to begin phasing out the state income tax was blocked entirely, and Brownback and Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman had to settle for a fraction of the tax cuts they wanted.

Conservative leaders say they are determined to seize a historic opportunity. Primary elections and runoffs are continuing in key states through August. The results so far have been mixed, with the overall effect this year likely to be incremental.

"It's no secret that there's kind of a battle for what the Republican Party will be into the future and, as a consequence, what this state will look like into the future," said Mark Desetti, a lobbyist for the largest teachers' union in Kansas.

The conservative push is being felt in states that are already solidly conservative, like Texas and Idaho, along with others, like Missouri, with a tradition of political moderation and divided power.

"Republican legislatures continue to move more and more to the right of center," said Alan Cobb, who's overseeing state-level operations for Americans for Prosperity. "You do have this tension everywhere."

The conflict in Kansas is heading toward a showdown in the Aug. 7 primary. Conservatives want to oust Senate President Steve Morris, Senate Majority Leader Jay Emler and the leaders of most of the important committees in the state Senate, which acted as a check on Brownback's move to make Kansas a laboratory of conservative fiscal and social policy.

"It is all about taking over the state in a conservative vein and eliminating as much as possible anybody who didn't agree with their philosophical ideas," said moderate GOP incumbent Sen. Tim Owens, one of the targets.

His opponent, conservative freshman state Rep. Jim Denning, said Owens has "lost his edge to lead, to negotiate, to stick to just Republican principles."

The governor is taking the unusual step of formally endorsing some challengers because the moderates, in resisting his proposals, "promote a Democrat agenda," he said.

Colorado theater lacked security, unlike some peers

DENVER (AP) — The Colorado movie theater complex that was the scene of a gunman's massacre this month didn't have any uniformed security guards on duty the night of the shooting, even though other theaters operated by the same company did provide such protection for the busy premiere of the Batman film "The Dark Knight Rises."

It's impossible to know whether guards — often off-duty police officers — at the Aurora Century 16 would have spotted the suspected gunman, James Holmes, and thwarted the attack that left 12 moviegoers dead and dozens wounded on July 20.

Officers hired as guards are generally armed and usually spend their time roaming the complex, checking bags or dealing with minor disputes.

Cinemark provided off-duty police guards at the Aurora theater on busy Friday and Saturday nights. As for other nights of the week, theater operators decide on a case-by-case basis whether to hire security, depending on the likelihood of trouble. The attack came early Friday, shortly after the midnight screening of the Batman film began.

Larry Lowak, whose son Brent was among the wounded, said security personnel on the scene possibly could have stopped the gunman, and he was dismayed to learn that guards weren't on hand.

"If you bring in security on Friday or Saturday, you sure as hell want to bring it in for this particular function," Lowak said.

Plano, Texas-based Cinemark, which operates the Aurora theater, declined to explain why guards weren't provided in Aurora that night and declined to discuss safety policies in general.

Through interviews with police officers and officials outside the theater

company, The Associated Press was able to identify places around the country that did use armed security workers for the July 19-20 Batman showings — including places like Beaumont, Texas; Lake Charles, La., and Tupelo, Miss.

Some other locations, including a Cinema Century 16 theater in the western Denver suburb of Lakewood, did not have security.

Aurora Police Chief Dan Oates has said that the Cinemark in Aurora normally uses off-duty officers to provide security on weekend nights but did not have any working for the July 19 showings that went into the next morning. The theater does not have an unusually high record of complaints or crimes, police Sgt. Cassidee Carlson said.

In Moosic, Pa., Cinemark has worked for years with off-duty officers from the local police department — typically on Fridays and Saturdays — and authorities said they were asked to provide two officers on July 19 because the midnight showing was likely to be a major event.

"If they're expecting large crowds, they call our department for additional police presence," said Moosic Borough Police Officer James Giehl.

Two major multiplexes in Amarillo, Texas, including one Cinemark facility, also ensured that off-duty uniformed police officers were present for the first screenings of the Batman film. Amarillo Police Cpl. Jerry Neufeld said that the off-duty officers work in pairs; the town's theaters made a point of asking for them on the busy opening night.

There were no incidents at the screenings, and Neufeld said he heard that people were, as always, happy to see people there to deal with any dangers.

"When they're there, they're visible, people see them and people come in and say, 'hey man, we're glad you're here,'" Neufeld said. "It gives people a

sense of calm."

The Aurora shooting has stirred discussion about appropriate security precautions at gathering places commonly considered safe from the cares and worries of the outside world. Experts say that security at public venues has increased substantially over the past decade, but they also note that it's impossible to maintain perfect safety at all times.

Officials have said the Aurora shooting suspect bought a ticket to the midnight showing and went into the theater as part of the crowd. A federal law enforcement official said suspect Holmes is believed to have propped open an exit door in the theater as the movie was playing, donned protective ballistic gear, re-entered about a half-hour into the film and opened fire.

Aurora police said the suspect tossed two gas canisters into the crowd and had an AR-15 assault rifle, a shotgun, and two .40-caliber Glock handguns.

Some theaters have added security guards for all nights of the week since the shooting, and police departments around the country have also conducted extra patrols that focus to movie theaters, though it's not clear if those shifts will be permanent. AMC Theatres has barred people from wearing masks or bringing fake weapons inside its buildings.

Many theaters, including the Cinemark in Aurora, prohibit patrons from bringing in their concealed weapons they use for personal protection.

That irks people like Dudley Brown, executive director of Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, who said that he has refused to go to Aurora theater because of that ban.

"What could have stopped this is law-abiding citizens being allowed to carry," Brown insisted.

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## Oklahoma professor helps keep science straight for 'Breaking Bad'

By **KENDRA WHITMAN**  
OKLAHOMA DAILY (U. OKLAHOMA)

"Breaking Bad," the Emmy Award-winning television series, has had help getting the science right since the show's early days from a source at U. Oklahoma.

Donna Nelson, chemistry professor, has been a consultant for the show since 2008 and said she wants to give the writers an accurate portrayal of what scientists are really like, not just the stereotypes.

When Nelson first heard about the show, the first season was well underway, she said.

She read creator and producer

Vince Gilligan's appeal to scientists in the American Chemical Society magazine. He was seeking "constructive criticism" to help accurately portray the science on the show, Nelson said.

"Breaking Bad" tells the story of a cancer-riddled chemistry teacher, Walter White, who cooks meth to save money for his family after he is gone, according to IMDb.com.

Nelson said she considered many things before signing on, including elevating the drug industry and her own reputation. When the show started winning awards, she said she realized how big it would be.

"This show is going to be a hit with good science or with bad science,"

Nelson said. "I really need to step up and help the scientific community."

Plus, the show is not a how-to guide for making meth because it never demonstrates the synthesis of the drugs, Nelson said.

"If they (the viewers) tried to reproduce this, they would get garbage," Nelson said.

She said she visited Burbank, Calif., to meet with Gilligan. When the show's writers grilled her, Nelson said she had to give insight into the lives of scientists.

"They started asking me all these questions about my life," Nelson said. "What makes a person be a scientist? What makes a person be a chemist?"

They had not talked to many scientists, and she wanted to give them an accurate portrayal to dispel the known caricatures, Nelson said.

"The mad scientist, the evil scientist, the bad scientist, the nerd scientist," she said. "They don't know us. So I tried to make a connection and make them realize we are just like normal people."

Since that meeting, Nelson said she has been a regular consultant for the duration of the show.

She said a highlight from working on the show has been seeing her contribution on television. She also has met the cast, visited to the set and appeared at Comic-Con.

It is important that science is accurately portrayed on shows because they can reach the next generation of scientists, Nelson said.

"We need to have more U.S. kids going into science," she said. "There are going to be a lot more people watching that show then there are going to be sitting in my classes."

Her interaction with the show is reaching people. Cameron University in Lawton invited Nelson for a panel Feb. 23 to discuss scientific accuracy in film, Cameron chemistry professor Ann Nalley said. Nalley said she was surprised when the room filled with undergraduates, graduates and TV news crews.

"It was very popular; I was amazed," Nalley said. "Television stations don't usually come out when I have ordinary chemists speak."

Cleaning up scientific error does not stop with the show. Currently, Nelson is working with OU undergraduates to evaluate organic chemistry textbooks to help improve their accuracy.

"There were severe flaws. I don't mean the styles or typos — I mean they were getting the science factually wrong," she said. "So we are going to clean it up."

Biochemistry junior Jean Wu, an undergraduate participating in the study, said Nelson wants to create a uniform textbook just for organic chemistry.

It also is a learning opportunity because researchers can compare and contrast the information in different textbooks, Wu said.

Nelson said she also is doing research into the national numbers of women and minorities among faculty in 15 scientific fields.

"We are showing whether women are represented appropriately in proportion to their numbers and also how that has changed over time," Nelson said.

Nelson said she is open to consulting on other shows in the future.

## I take my food without politics

By **JOSEPH VANDEHEY**  
DAILY ILLINI (U. ILLINOIS)

Coming to Illinois from across the country, I have scoured the Champaign-Urbana area for unique cuisine and new eateries that are unavailable in my native Oregon. Papa Del's, of course, is a favorite haunt of mine, and I try to make a trip out to Steak 'n Shake every month or so as well.

However, despite its absence in my hometown, I have felt no strong impulse to give the local Chick-fil-A a try.

The chicken-specializing fast-food chain hit the news recently after remarks by its COO Dan Cathy in defense of the biblical definition of the family unit. Chick-fil-A has earned fame for basing its business practices on biblical principles, most visibly closing Sundays, but these practices have led to some infamy as well: The company has donated millions of dollars over the years to what it calls pro-family groups — and what others call anti-gay groups.

The COO's remarks have thrown the company's business practices back under the limelight. The Jim Henson Company severed its ties with Chick-fil-A, pulling Kermit and Miss Piggy from kid's meals across the nation. Several mayors, including Rahm Emanuel of Chicago, have objected to the building of any more Chick-fil-A franchises in their cities (for which, in turn, the mayors have been scolded by the left and right).

And there have been renewed calls for a general boycott.

Odds are if you have hung around the Quad long enough, dear reader, you have met someone whose whole raison d'être entails convincing you to join their boycott of choice. You try not to make eye contact. You run. You hide. But they find you all the same, shoving a pamphlet under your nose until you are forced, guiltily, to take it and slink off the Quad.

Half the time, the reasons given for joining the boycott make me less interested in protesting, not more. I do not need the concern of animal cruelty hanging over my head to make me forsake eating a steak in favor of a few more

carrots; wanting to eat healthy does that job just fine. Reducing global bovine discomfiture is then a nice bonus, rather than a gnawing guilt.

Likewise, I have no desire to transform into a seething ball of hate and bile toward Chick-fil-A; most would be turned away by my anger, and it would give the targets of said anger a martyr complex they do not need. Still, I do not want to go there. The way Chick-fil-A has politicized its food (and thereby, my purchase of its food) has pushed me away.

In some sense, one cannot avoid politics in food. I am sure that I have, at some point, purchased an onion grown on the farm of a racist, misogynist twit who believes that Muslims and anyone of Mexican descent should be deported without due process. There is nothing I can really do about that.

After all, grocers do not place stickers on each onion they sell warning potential buyers of the political inclinations of the grower. The good and bad are tossed in alike. There is no way to support any political view over another by picking a certain kind of onion — unless you pick up the organic one, but that is another issue entirely.

However, Chick-fil-A's statements and contributions might as well have slapped that sticker onto their meals: If you purchase this lunch, part of the proceeds will go to these causes. It would be one thing if Cathy himself, using the wealth he has accumulated from successfully managing his company, were to support these causes; at least then there would be a step removed and no direct connection to what my money would support. But here, the company itself is giving the money.

Simply put, if my lunch has to be political, I at least want it to be political toward things I support.

So, Chick-Fil-A, as cute as your cows are suggesting that I "Eat Mor Chikin," if I feel the need for a fast-food lunch, I might skip your place and pick up a smoothie instead.

Which, as a nice bonus, will probably make some animal cruelty crusader quite happy.

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**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**  
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS  
1 Set in motion  
8 Letters for an open schedule slot  
11 LAX calculation  
14 Soho "So long!"  
15 "Still and all ..."  
16 Fish-fowl connector  
17 One may spoil the whole bunch  
19 No. that's zero at the equator  
20 Golfer Palmer  
21 Store, as a hose  
22 Get wise with  
23 Plaintive sound  
24 State capital near the Comstock Lode  
26 Economist Smith  
28 Old draft classification  
29 Gaza Strip gp.  
32 Sleep, for Every Favor; old hymn  
34 1950s WMD  
38 Handy guy to have around, or a hint to this puzzle's theme found in 17-, 24-, 50- and 62-  
Across  
42 Margaret Mead subject  
43 Besmirch  
44 Drag behind  
45 A or Jay, e.g.  
48 "Jesus, shortest Bible verse  
50 Monetary assets  
54 Dost own  
58 Weight on one's shoulders  
59 Games cut  
60 19th-century German poet Heinrich  
61 Genetic letters  
62 Substitute player  
64 Soho sir  
65 Philanderer  
66 Syrian's neighbor  
67 Suffix with infant  
68 Pitcher's stat  
69 Beats, and how  
DOWN  
1 "Get outta here!"

By Matt Skoczen 7/31/12

Friday's Puzzle Solved

O	F	I	E	A	B	C	S	H	A	B	L	E	
F	A	D	E	C	O	A	L	T	A	B	L	E	
T	R	O	Y	S	T	O	R	Y	D	I	J	O	N
G	I	O	C	L	L	A	G	E	R	I			
S	T	R	E	A	N	D	B	Y	M	E	C	I	O
F	I	O	R	E	S	E	A	V	A	I	T	A	R
T	U	E	S	I	O	N	I	C					
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R	E	L	H	O	M	E	R	A	L	O	N	E	
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E	L	E	A	N									
E	T	T	E										

37 Incidentally, in lms  
39 Whose ark it was  
40 County subdivision  
41 Zipped along  
46 Make beloved  
47 Beach boys title girl  
49 Aries  
50 Welsh dog  
51 Invalidate

53 Nuclear agcy. formed under Truman  
55 Pop singer Mann  
56 Fishhook connector  
57 Garr and Hatcher  
60 "No... no foul"  
62 Pre-A.D.  
63 Sch. with a Vancouver campus

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