



**Lady Raiders lose  
4th straight**  
See Page 6

**Catching air**  
See Page 2



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# THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

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## REMOVAL REMORSE

PART THREE OF A FOUR-PART SERIES ABOUT THE GROWING TATTOO CULTURE



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

SCARS ON HER lower back are a visual reminder of the tattoo Bailey Nolte, a sophomore advertising major from McKinney, had removed at her parents' request. After a botched procedure and several hundred dollars spent on tattoo removal sessions and eliminating scars, the damage caused by the procedures killed the nerve cells in her lower back.

### Ridding tattoos comes at a high price

By HALLIE DAVIS  
STAFF WRITER

View a related video at  
www.dailytoreador.com

Left without nerve cells in her back, Bailey Nolte wants to warn people possibly getting tattoos of the dangers of eventually having them removed.

Nolte, a sophomore advertising major from McKinney, said her parents asked her to get her first tattoo removed. What followed was the worst-case scenario.

Rather than using a tattoo removal laser, the first place she went to have her tattoo removed used a hair removal laser turned up too high, leaving her back scarred. When she went somewhere else for scar removal, the laser killed all of the nerve cells in her back, Nolte said.

"If you do decide to get it removed, check out the place and ask questions about the laser," she said.

Dr. Kelly Bennett, the medical director for Student Health Services, said Nolte's story is unusual because most nerve injuries heal within a year.

"It's not medically any more dangerous

(than getting a tattoo)," Bennett said, "but there are complications. It's definitely more costly and more time consuming."

Nolte's story reflected Bennett's statement. Removal costs \$150 to \$300 per session, and takes up to six sessions, Nolte said.

The heavy price tag of tattoo removal can be attributed to every tattoo color needing a different laser, Bennett said. A tattoo's removal could cost more than its application and is considered a cosmetic procedure, meaning it is not a procedure covered by insurance.

Nolte said cost isn't the only downside to tattoo removal.

"Getting tattoos hurt a little," Nolte said, "but honestly, getting them lasered off hurts 10,000 times worse."

Treatments are spaced out a month apart to leave time for healing, she said.

"I never wanted to get this tattoo removed; I decided to please my parents and get it done, but now it looks terrible," Nolte said.

As for the three other tattoos she has now, Nolte said she won't even consider getting them removed.

When it comes to removal, Nolte is the exception to the rule in more ways than one, in that she put a lot of thought and planning into her tattoos; most who get removals are not prepared in the first place.

"It's people who don't know what they are getting into," said Tim Kohtz, a tattoo artist and manager at Inkfluence.

Jerome Koch, a sociology professor and member of the Body Art Team, a group of Tech professors who have conducted studies on tattoos and piercings, wrote a report analyzing a study of Motivation for Contemporary Tattoo Removal.

According to the report, more women want their tattoos removed than men. The top reasons for removal were embarrassment, getting tired of it and just deciding to remove it.

"Societal support for women with tattoos may not be as strong as for men," the report said.

TATTOO continued on Page 4

## Voter registration for primaries ends today

The last day to register to vote for the Democratic and Republican primary election for Texas governor is today for the March 2 election.

A person must be registered in the county in which they wish to vote at least one month before the election occurs.

To register to vote, a person must visit the Lubbock County Elections Office Web site and print an informal application, fill it out and send it in the mail to the Lubbock County Elections Office by the end of today.

Early voting for the election begins Feb. 16 and ends Feb. 26 and the last day to apply for ballot by mail is Feb. 23.

Voting by mail requires a person to pick up a formal application from the early voting clerk in the county, from the Secretary of State's Web site or by calling 1-800-252-8683. The early voting clerk must receive the marked ballot by 7 p.m. Election Day.

Locations to vote on the Tech campus include the Robert

H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center and the Student Union Building Ballroom.

The candidates in the election are Kay Bailey Hutchison, Debra Medina and Rick Perry for the Republicans. The Democratic candidates are Alma Ludivina Aguado, Bill Dear, Bill White, Clement E. Glenn, Farouk Shami, Felix Alvarado and Star Locke.

Libertarian candidates are Jeff Daiell, Katherine Youngblood Glass, Steve Nichols, M.J. Smith and Edward Tidwell. Independent candidates are Kevin Still, Fran Cavanaugh, Stephen Dewayne McGee, Thomas Ritter Helm, Louis Podesta and Dale Robertson.

The gubernatorial election will take place Nov. 2.

Locations to vote on the Tech campus include the Robert



HUTCHISON



PERRY

jon.vanderlaan@ttu.edu

## Formula shows tough road for jobless rate

By JEANNINE AVERSA  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The economy's 5.7 percent growth last quarter — the fastest pace since 2003 — was a step toward shrinking the nation's 10 percent unemployment rate.

There's just one problem: Growth would have to equal 5 percent for all of 2010 just to lower the average jobless rate for the year by 1 percentage point.

And economists don't think that's possible.

Most analysts say economic activity will slow to 2.5 percent or 3 percent growth for the current quarter as the benefits fade from government stimulus efforts and from companies drawing down less of their stockpiles.

That's why the Federal Reserve and outside economists think it will take until around the middle of the decade to lower the double-digit jobless rate to a more normal 5 or 6 percent.

Another way of looking at it: A net total of about 3 million jobs would have to be created this year to lower the average unemployment rate by 1 percentage point for 2010, economists estimate. Yet even optimists think the creation of 1 million net jobs is probably out of reach this year.

High unemployment poses a risk to the unfolding recovery because it leads consumers to spend less, keeping economic growth weak. A sharp pullback in spending might even push the economy back into recession.

Joblessness also represents a danger for President Barack Obama's Democratic Party in this fall's congressional elections.

The National Association for Business Economics and the International Monetary Fund think gross domestic product will rise just under 3 percent for all of this year. GDP, the best gauge of economic activity, measures the value of all goods and services produced in the United States.

To get a sense of just how deep a dent the worst recession since the 1930s has made in the economy, consider this: The economy shrank 2.4 percent for all of 2009 — the sharpest drop since 1946. It was also the first annual decline since 1991.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com, and Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock, agree that the economy would have to grow roughly 5 percent for all of 2010 just to ratchet down the average unemployment rate for the year by 1 percentage point — to a still-high 9 percent.

Their math is based on Okun's law, named for economist Arthur Okun. In 1962, Okun produced a formula for the connection he saw between unemployment and economic activity.

Exactly how much GDP growth is needed to lower the unemployment rate for a given period varies. That's because the formula involves several factors besides GDP growth. It also considers, for example, businesses' productivity growth.

## Obama endorses \$3.8 trillion budget to Congress

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration on Sunday endorsed spending an additional \$100 billion to attack painfully high unemployment as it prepared to send Congress a \$3.8 trillion budget that would provide billions more to pull the country out of the Great Recession while increasing taxes on the wealthy and imposing a spending freeze on many government programs.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the administration believed "somewhere in the \$100 billion range" would be the appropriate amount for a new jobs measure made up of a business tax credit to encourage hiring, increased infrastructure spending and money from the government's bailout fund to get

banks to increase loans to struggling small businesses.

That price tag would be below a \$174 billion bill passed by the House in December but higher than an \$83 billion proposal that surfaced last week in the Senate.

Gibbs said it was important for Democrats and Republicans to put aside their differences to pass a bill that addresses jobs, the country's No. 1 concern. "I think that would be a powerful signal to send to the American people," Gibbs said in an appearance on CNN's "State of the Union."

Job creation was a key theme of the budget President Barack Obama was sending Congress on Monday, a document designed, as was the president's State of the Union address, to reframe his young presidency after a protracted battle over health care damaged his

standing in public opinion polls and contributed to a series of Democratic election defeats.

Obama's \$3.8 trillion spending plan for the 2011 budget year that begins Oct. 1 attempts to navigate between the opposing goals of pulling the country out of a deep recession and dealing with a budget deficit that soared to an all-time high of \$1.42 trillion last year.

The Congressional Budget Office is forecasting that the deficit for the current budget year will be only slightly lower, \$1.35 trillion, and the flood of red ink will remain massive for years to come, raising worries among voters and the foreign investors who buy much of the country's debt.

On the anti-recession front, congressional sources said Obama's new budget will propose extending the popular Making Work Pay middle-class tax breaks of

\$400 per individual and \$800 per couple through 2011. They were due to expire after this year.

The budget will also propose \$250 payments to Social Security recipients to bolster their finances in a year when they are not receiving the normal cost-of-living boost to their benefit checks because of low inflation. Obama will also seek a \$25 billion increase in payments to help recession-battered states.

Obama's new budget will set off months of debate in the Democratically controlled Congress, especially in an election year in which Republicans are hoping to use attacks against government overspending to gain seats. Obama has argued that he inherited a deficit of more than \$1 trillion and was forced to increase spending to stabilize the financial system and combat the worst recession since the 1930s.

### INDEX

- Classifieds.....5
- Crossword.....6
- La Vida.....4
- Opinions.....3
- Sports.....6
- Sudoku.....3

### WEATHER

Today	Partly Cloudy	Tuesday	Partly Cloudy
	54/27		54/34

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## IN BRIEF

## STATE

## GOP challengers fueled by Tea Party activists

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House is Republican-led and about as conservative as any political body in the country. But for some in the state's GOP, it's not nearly conservative enough.

A wave of anti-establishment fervor — first harnessed last year with the grass-

roots conservative "Tea Party" movement — has led to a surge of challenges to Republican state House incumbents in the March 2 primary elections. Challengers say the GOP veterans are too moderate and have repeatedly failed to meet conservative benchmarks.

## NATION

## Obama pushes nuclear energy to boost climate bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is endorsing nuclear energy like never before, trying to win over Republicans and moderate Democrats on climate and energy legislation.

Obama singled out nuclear power in his State of the Union address, and his

spending plan for the next budget year is expected to include billions of more dollars in federal guarantees for new nuclear reactors. This emphasis reflects both the political difficulties of passing a climate bill in an election year and a shift from his once cautious embrace of nuclear energy.

## WORLD

## Idaho man says 10 Americans detained in Haiti

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — An Idaho man says 10 Americans on a mission to rescue orphans in Haiti have been detained in Haiti after trying to bring 33 children into the Dominican Republic.

Sean Lankford of the Central Valley

Baptist Church in Meridian said Saturday that his wife and 18-year-old daughter are among those held. He says the 10 were taken into custody at the border Friday and were told they didn't have the proper papers to take the children out of the country.

## Corrections

The Daily Treador's reporters and editors strive for accuracy in the news-gathering process. However, mistakes are inevitable.

It is The DT's policy to correct mis-

takes in this spot as soon as possible.

If you feel there is an error in a story, please call Editor-in-Chief Kevin Cullen at 806-742-3395 or e-mail kevin.m.cullen@ttu.edu.

## BIG AIR



CHRIS PERKINS, A freshman business major from Dallas, snowboards on a homemade ramp Friday in Urbanovsky Park.

PHOTO BY MATT MOFFATT/The Daily Treador

## Russian police break up protests, scores detained

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian police broke up anti-Kremlin protests in Moscow and St. Petersburg on Sunday, and detained scores of demonstrators, including several opposition leaders.

Several hundred demonstrators gathered in a central Moscow square, defying a ban imposed by authorities. The protesters said their rally was banned in violation of the Russian constitution's guarantee of the right to gather.

They denounced the policies of President Dmitry Medvedev and his predecessor and mentor Vladimir Putin, who continues to wield broad powers as Russia's powerful prime minister.

Protesters shouted "Shame!" and "Down with Putin!" as police in riot gear pushed them into buses. Several dozen protesters were detained, including opposition leaders Boris Nemtsov, Eduard Limonov, Ilya Yashin, and the head of the Memorial rights group, Oleg Orlov.

Police spokesman Viktor Biryukov said about 300 people took part in the rally and about 100 were detained.

Police also quickly dispersed a similar rally in St. Petersburg, detaining most of several dozen protesters who gathered on a downtown Nevsky Prospect. Some of the demonstrators were beaten with truncheons.

Protests also were held Sunday in Yekaterinburg, Russia's third-largest city, in the Ural Mountains; in Krasnoyarsk in central

Siberia; and in the far eastern port of Vladivostok. Police didn't move to break them up, according to Ekho Moskvy radio.

Similar opposition demonstrations were held in Moscow on the last days of July, August and October. The timing is a nod to the 31st Article of the Russian constitution, which guarantees the right of assembly.

Each time, the city authorities banned the rallies, saying that some other events would be held in the area on that day.

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## Minority rights fight not over

It's a great time to be a minority American. For the first time in the history of the United States, the Census Bureau is expecting more than one in three Americans will claim minority status. In fact, in 2007, the Bureau estimated 34 percent of the population was of non-European ancestry.

Not only are the number of minorities on the rise, the close of the 20th century has brought a new day in civil rights for minorities. It's commonly accepted today that "all are created equal," and it's finally become morally and legally wrong to discriminate on the basis of minority or gender. There's not much more we as a nation can do to allow full equality for every citizen.

Unless, of course, you talk about the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender or really have a sexual orientation that doesn't include one man and one woman.

Well, clearly it's not the same as the other civil right movements, as this involves the sanctity of marriage, opponents say. Those movements typically involved "the man" or, more specifically in the case of the United States, racially charged white men getting in large groups of power to remove the potential power from the minorities, using every possible loophole to do so.

This movement is obviously not the same. This movement involves the minorities joining the white majority in keeping the gays in check from harming the sanctity of marriage. Sound familiar? In the early 1950s, the white coalition claimed the sanctity of marriage would be harmed by the simple allowance of white/black marriages. If that's true, then I seem to be

**Tony Cardone**



missing that black hole that consumed the Earth in 1967 following Loving v. Virginia.

That was a mere 43 years ago. It took 191 years for these laws of arrogance to be struck down in accordance with the Constitution.

This is 2010, an age where Americans finally are looking at the Constitution seriously and proper reform is underway. For the first time since our inception, organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union have real legal power to challenge the archaic laws written during the period of American ignorance our textbooks blissfully ignore.

Religion is finally being properly removed from official legislation and government offices. The rights of defendants are finally being protected against the notorious police state.

Each of these issues has people lining up on both sides. The religious right claims this country is a

Christian nation. The liberal left points to Article 11 of the 1797 Treaty of Tripoli. In the case of defendants' rights, many claim police should do whatever is necessary to get to the truth. The opposition points to the Sixth Amendment.

However, when it comes to gay marriage, the few arguments against are insufferably weak. The American Family Association, one of the nation's most conservative Christian groups hiding behind the family label, is a group that frequently argues against gay marriage.

Among their more absurd arguments is that allowing such marriages will hurt the children and public schools will teach homosexuality. No serious statistics says gay marriages will make children unclean. In fact, I think seeing a gay couple will only increase a young mind's critical thinking processes.

Perhaps they will begin to

truly realize love is not always between people of opposite sexes, and that there's nothing wrong with it. Perhaps they will grow up and realize true love is not based on physical features and avoid divorce.

Either way, no sane person should think allowing gays to marry will make a child gay. Even if the schools teach homosexuality, there's not a whole lot to fear. Public schooling has been as effective at teaching abstinence in sex ed as a wooden fence is at holding back water, and there is no reason to believe that suddenly will change should it become necessary to teach homosexuality.

Another argument says legal-

izing gay marriage will only logically lead to polygamy. It's easy to use only favorable statistics while arguing a case. However, this is one that even with statistics makes no sense. Arguing legalizing gay marriages will lead to polygamy is much like saying legalizing virus research will lead to a zombie apocalypse.

The arguments for same-sex marriage are considerably more logical. Our government is secular, meaning it cannot promote religion at all. Civil marriages and religious marriages, while very often occur together, are not the same thing.

When a couple gets a religious marriage, they are agreeing to a private institution's rules, typically a church. When a couple gets a civil marriage, they are agreeing to a relationship that officially is recognized by the aforementioned secular government. Civil marriages allow for couples to file for joint income taxes, to make critical medical decisions and to adopt children, among many. Religious marriages do not carry any legal weight.

The government has no right to discriminate on the basis of race, religion or moral beliefs. Why, then, do they have a right to discriminate based on sexual preference?

I've always believed a marriage should be based solely on the love two people share for one another, other issues are secondary. It's puzzling to see so many Americans want to block the rights of others on such a personal issue, especially given the struggles of minorities in our history.

If Adam and Steve want to get married and love each other, they should. It doesn't affect the life of Adam and Eve across the street at all.

**■ Cardone is a freshman computer engineering student from San Antonio.**

**>> tony.cardone@ttu.edu**

*"For the first time since our inception, organizations such as the ACLU have real legal power to challenge the archaic laws written during the period of American ignorance our textbooks blissfully ignore."*

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The Daily Treador welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, Social Security number and a description of university affiliation. Students should include year in school, major and hometown. We reserve the right to edit letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters will be verified before they are published. Letters can be e-mailed to dailytreador@ttu.edu or brought to 211 Student Media. Letters should be sent in before 3 p.m. to ensure the editors have enough time to verify and edit the submission.

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The Daily Treador 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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## GOP faults Barack Obama's handling of terrorism fight

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration's handling of the suspect in the airline bomb plot on Christmas exposed a vulnerability in the U.S. fight against terrorism, a Republican lawmaker said Saturday.

Maine Sen. Susan Collins kept up the GOP drumbeat of criticism following a report by The Associated Press a week ago that a Nigerian man, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, was questioned for 50 minutes without being given a Miranda warning and that when he was later advised of his rights, refused to speak further with investigators. He was treated as a criminal defendant, not as an "enemy combatant," she said.

"President Obama recently used the phrase that 'we are at war' with terrorists. But unfortunately his rhetoric does not match the actions of his administration," Collins said in the weekly GOP Internet and radio address. "The Obama administration appears to have a blind spot when it comes to the war on terrorism."

Collins' choice of the Christmas attack as a topic for the radio address suggests Republicans have found what they consider a weak spot in the Obama administration — the handling of terrorism. That theme is likely to surface frequently during coming campaigns.

White House aides have cited "lapses" and errors in the sharing of intelligence and clues about the Nigerian man accused in the foiled attempt. National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair said the suspect should have been treated like a po-

tential terrorist and questioned by a special detainee interrogation group before any decisions were made on whether to place him in the civilian court system. But White House officials said they have other options for getting more information from the suspect.

Collins seized on the admission by some intelligence officials that the suspect was mishandled.

"When the Obama administration decided to treat Abdulmutallab as an ordinary criminal, it did so without the input of our nation's top intelligence officials," she said, noting that such officials as the director of national intelligence and the director of the National Counterterrorism Center were not contacted.

"They would have explained the importance of gathering all possible intelligence about Yemen, where there is a serious threat from terrorists whose sights are trained on this nation," she said. "They would have explained the critical nature of learning all we could from Abdulmutallab. But they were never asked."

Abdulmutallab allegedly was carrying explosives in his underwear, but they failed to detonate and he was detained with the help of passengers and crew members.

After his capture, Abdulmutallab spoke freely and provided valuable intelligence, officials said. Federal agents repeatedly interviewed him or heard him speak to others. But when they read him his legal rights nearly 10 hours after the incident, he went silent.

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

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

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Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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# LA VIDA

## Teams raise money for CASA in dodgeball tournament

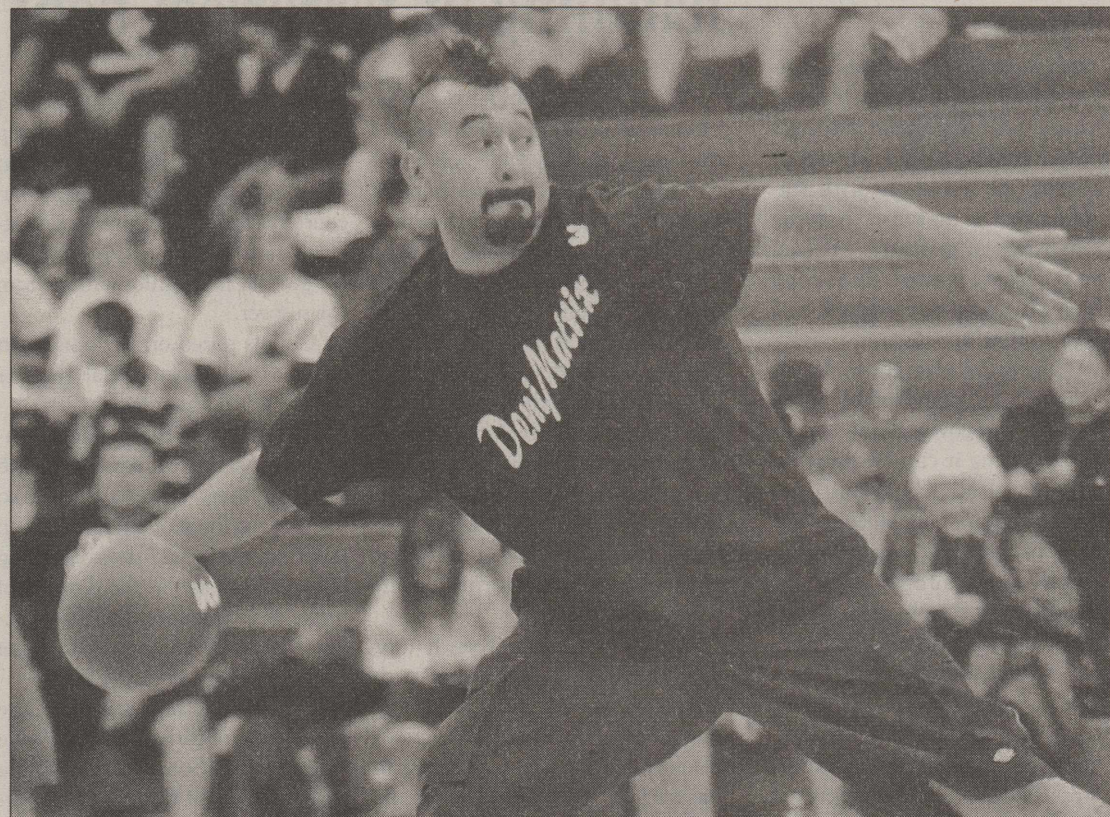


PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador  
MICHAEL GARCIA PREPARES to throw the ball during the dodgeball tournament hosted by the South Plains Chapter of Court Appointed Special Advocates on Saturday at Estacado High School. The annual tournament raises money and awareness for CASA. Forty-three teams participated this year, despite the winter weather.

By ALEXANDRA PEDRINI  
STAFF WRITER

Channeling their inner Peter La Fleur, 43 teams from across Texas and Oklahoma played an old-school yard game while raising money and awareness for the South Plains Chapter of Court Appointed Special Advocates on Saturday at Estacado High School.

Beginning with a simple idea, the annual CASA dodgeball tournament was a different way to raise money and awareness for the organization.

"It was just an idea from the manager of a Starbucks, and he thought it'd be a crazy idea and something fun," said Rose Carkeet, CASA event coordinator.

CASA gives a voice to children in need, she said. The organization follows a child through school, meets with parents or foster parents and accompany the children in court, trying to get what is best for them.

"They have advocates that go speak for abused and neglected children rather than having a court make a decision in five minutes," said Tyler Bailey, a senior accounting major from Houston on the TTU Habitat for Humanity team. "They have a volunteer that goes and talks to the

kid and figures out what they want."

Teams came from all over to support this cause; driving through the storms and hazardous winter weather, one team came from Rockwall and another from Oklahoma. Having a dodgeball tournament helped bring in people who otherwise wouldn't know about the organization, Carkeet said. Since other organizations have golf tournaments and dinners to raise money, the dodgeball tournament was something very different.

"I don't know where they hear about it, but they come from all over," Carkeet said. "I think it's unique. This is something that's fun and it's just different."

Tech students also got involved; Bailey said his team joined because they enjoy helping out. Coming from another organization aimed at helping improve people's lives, this team wanted to help the city of Lubbock.

"We found out about CASA and it was a really cool organization, and we're from Habitat for Humanity; we're all about helping people," Bailey said. "It's a great way to come out and have a good time."

Other teams actually travel around to go to various tournaments, such as Adrenaline Rush, who won last year's competition. Every year the team travels

around the country, playing in different tournaments in hopes of winning. The difference between this tournament and the rest: This one supports a good cause.

"We try to do a lot of these charity ones because we know it's a good cause," said Tim Poon, a senior petroleum engineering major from Dallas.

This year's tournament not only brought awareness for CASA, but also to honor Cpl. D. Robert Harvey, a Lubbock county sheriff who volunteered as a referee for the annual event and was killed in the line of duty.

"This year we're honoring him," Carkeet said. "His family drove to be here, his wife and his kids were here, and the sheriffs have a team. It's definitely a little sentimental for them, but it's something that we wanted to do and he's been such a part of this tournament that we wanted to benefit CASA, but we couldn't have this tournament without honoring him. We want people to know what CASA is, but also to honor Cpl. Harvey in the best way possible."

The childhood game turned charity event brought in a \$125 entry fee from each of the teams, raising money and awareness to CASA's events and work.

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## Adventures in Spain: Weekend in Barcelona

Between soaking my boots in the Mediterranean, eating seafood paella and seeing some of Picasso's first works, it's hard to pin-point my favorite part of my weekend spent in Barcelona.

A group of us visited Spain's largest city this weekend, and its ornate buildings, beautiful beaches and feisty energy made one of the best trips I have ever taken.

Friday our flight left at 1:30 p.m. from Seville. After a mere 75 minutes of attempted head-bobbing sleep on the plane, we were in Barcelona. We took a taxi to our hostel which might have been a mistake; I always forget how expensive they are.

As we sped by the city streets, I immediately noticed a difference from our quaint Spanish hometown, Seville. It looked more like Los Angeles with its towering buildings, tall trees lining its streets and the sparkling sea.

I absolutely loved it. It was refreshing to get a change of scenery, since now is the time when most students are experiencing culture shock; the excitement of living in a new place is beginning to wear off.

Friday was spent gaining our bearings and eating a lot of tapas at this cute little restaurant. I ate too much, but it was delicious. Saturday morning we got up early and began our bus tour adventure — best choice we made all weekend.

The tour had two routes, and we chose the eastward one which included 16 stops. It was freezing outside, but we braved the cold and sat on the top of the bus. The amazing pictures we got were worth the runny noses and watery eyes; in more than half of my pictures it looks like I am very sad about something.

Probably my favorite site we visited was the Cathedral of Barcelona. Its massive archways and stunning detailed sculptures made my stomach drop. We also visited the infamous Sagrada Familia, which I have to say was a little bit of a disappointment.

I saw pictures of what this structure was supposed to look like, not realizing it is not completely finished. The outside was absolutely gorgeous, but the inside was nearly empty, minus the towering rafters

Carrie Thornton



and construction ladders. But we rode an elevator to one of the structure's highest points, and the view of the city was worth the extra euro.

And then came the Mediterranean Sea. When we walked down from the street's stone steps to the sand, I contemplated whether I cared if my faux-suede boots were ruined by the sand. My internal debate did not last long before I was stepping toward the peaceful, sky-blue waves that gently rolled upon the bright sand.

We ate lunch at a beautiful restaurant right next to the ocean. Our waiter looked like one of the Beatles, and we named him Paul. He was nice.

Sunday we walked down to the Christopher Columbus statue pointing and eating a lot of tapas at this cute little restaurant. I ate too much, but it was delicious. Saturday morning we got up early and began our bus tour adventure — best choice we made all weekend.

Along with my adventures, I learned a valuable lesson: in terms of hotels and hostels, you absolutely get what you pay for. Our hostel was in a great location, but when we saw our room we just had to laugh.

The pillows had strange hairs stuck in the mutilated fabric, and the beds were so close together the occupants could hold hands. But we got free breakfast and had a balcony view.

I may have spent much more than the amount I budgeted for this weekend because the markets we passed were oh so tempting, but it was an experience I am likely to never forget.

Thornton is a DT reporter.  
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## Gibson's 'Edge of Darkness' dives deep, strikes quality

"Edge of Darkness" has gotten a lot of flack — most of it is unwarranted.

I will say this; do not go into this film expecting an explosion every few seconds and a camera that won't stop jerking all over the screen that films like the "Bourne" series revolutionized. Mel Gibson's latest picture is much more steeped in drama, in the struggle for truth and the corroding aspect evil people can have on the true nature of things.

Gibson is Thomas Craven, a detective for the Boston Police Department. When his daughter is killed on the front steps of his home, all signs point to a crappy hit man who's intended target was the detective.

While Craven goes hunting to try and figure out just what was behind that night, he starts uncovering pieces to the puzzle and his daughter's secret life, which extended to the deprived souls of the men she worked for, that make the hit being intended for his daughter seem much more plausible.

I had a hard time finding too much to bitch about while watching this film. It is certainly not perfect, but it is incredibly entertaining.

I love Gibson. Granted, his track

Jake Matthews



record personally hasn't been too hot, but the dude can act.

One of the things I've always just appreciated about the way Gibson goes about acting is through his concentration in quiet moments. It's a trait of his that seems to get swept under the rug more often than not and he seems to be picky about when he employs it, but man is it good.

He can have a stare that is intent and unflinching and direct and it seems to pierce right through you. A particular scene in "Edge of Darkness" in which he is talking with one of his late daughter's friends is just dripping in emotion on his part. It is subversively acted by Gibson and just a triumph in this flick. I'm man-crushing on Gibson way too much.

As I mentioned, this film is steeped much more in drama than in action. The catalyst and the climax of the film are action-oriented, which should come as no surprise to

any intelligent person reading this.

Between these two events, however, is the quest of a bereaved man to seek truth.

Professional critics and the likes tend to have ill feelings towards these types of films because they see the protagonist as someone who is so bent on good vs. evil and right vs. wrong they view him as nothing more than a simpleton who cannot appreciate the complexities involved in human existence. They tend to skew more towards deranged, confused types searching around the murkiness of their souls and the outside world to justify what action should be taken.

"Edge of Darkness" isn't like that. There is a man who is right in his anger and there is a world full of evils and in-betweens he must navigate through. That's not to say I don't also love the "murky" films, but I'm not thick enough to say there is never a right and a wrong. There is, and "Edge of Darkness" highlights that in a vivid way.

On more technical notes, I wished they would've explored the main antagonist a bit more. I don't want to go into too much detail of the story, but there were many more layers behind that character I would

have loved to see peeled back. Unfortunately, time constraints and accessibility to the general audience restrict that in many ways.

One last thing: I really appreciated Ray Winstone's performance in this picture as Jedburgh, a man who takes the types of situations facing Craven and puts more loops and layers on top of them to make them impossible to connect A to B.

He puts a real understated warmth and understanding to his character that wouldn't immediately be viewable just by the script. For a man who is just as much "in it" as most everyone else in this picture, he is one of the few sources of sincerity for Craven on his mission. Like I said, it's hard to see, but it's there.

"Edge of Darkness" says there is good and there is evil. Period. It's an entertaining drama you don't want to end, and honestly, I'm looking forward to subsequent viewings. Enjoy.

Matthews is The DT's movie critic.  
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## Tattoo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Koch said the best way to avoid the cost, pain and time of having a tattoo removed is to make sure the tattoo is exactly what the tattooed person wants and has thought long and hard about.

"It's going to be there for as long as you are," he said, "but you may change over time."

Getting a new job or negative comments at work, in public and at school also impacts whether a tattoo is removed, according to the study.

The average time between getting a tattoo and its removal is 10 years; although, the study also stat-

ed many people made the decision to have a tattoo removed within a few minutes of its application.

Many of the people who had tattoos removed were happy with their tattoos for more than a year before considering removal, according to the study.

Andrea Villarreal a freshman, Russian language and area studies major from Norfolk, Va., said she likes her tattoo but isn't completely opposed to its removal.

"I really do love my tattoo," Villarreal said. "Of course, that's not to say that I might snap out of it at some point in the future, but for now, I have no regrets."

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Keith Kohanek contributed to this article.

## Iranians celebrate ancient fire fest

CHAM, Iran (AP) — Thousands of Iranians gathered at dusk against a snowy mountain backdrop to light giant bonfires in an ancient mid-winter festival dating back to Iran's pre-Islamic past that is drawing new interest from Muslims.

Saturday's celebration was the first in which the dwindling remnants of Iran's once plentiful Zoroastrian religious minority were joined by thousands of Muslims, reflecting a growing interest in the strict Islamic society for the country's ancient traditions.

The festival, known as Sadeh, celebrates the discovery of fire and

its ability to banish the cold and dark, and it is held in the frigid depths of winter.

Sadeh was the national festival of ancient Persia when Zoroastrianism was the dominant religion, before the conquest of Islam in the 7th century. Now it is mostly celebrated just in the homes and temples of Iran's 60,000 remaining Zoroastrians.

Recently, however, there has been an upsurge of interest among Iranian Muslims — more than 90 percent of the population — in their ancient heritage, when vast Persian empires held sway over much of central Asia and fought Greek warriors and Roman legions.

## Gandhi's ashes scattered off South Africa coast

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Six decades after his death, some of Mohandas K. Gandhi's ashes have been scattered off the coast of South Africa, where he was confronted by racial discrimination and developed some of his philosophies of peaceful resistance.

An early morning service Saturday in a harbor in the eastern city of Durban on the 62nd anniversary of Gandhi's death included the laying of flowers and candles on the water's surface.

Gandhi, known as the Mahatma or "great soul," was shot and killed by a Hindu hard-liner in 1948 in New Delhi. His ashes were divided, stored in steel urns and sent across India and beyond for memorial services. It was not unusual for some of the ashes to have been preserved instead of scattered as intended.

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# Tech loses to Aggies, 85-70, in College Station

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M has won two straight home games despite horrible 3-point shooting.

They figure that means they'll be pretty hard to stop if their shots finally start falling.

"We'll start making them," said Donald Sloan, who scored 28 points as Texas A&M beat Texas Tech 85-70 on Saturday night. "If we start making our 3s we'll be a heck of a team. Once they do start falling, and I think they will, we'll be pretty dangerous."

The Aggies (15-6, 4-3 Big 12) won despite shooting just 2 of 16 from 3-point range. They have made just 4 of 39 3-point tries in their last two home games.

The win is A&M's 15th straight at home and leaves the Red Raiders (14-7, 2-5) winless on the road in conference play.

Texas A&M trailed for most of the first half but led the entire second half.

Texas A&M coach Mark Turgeon wouldn't discuss his team's long-range shooting woes, but he has added more work in the area.

"We do a lot more shooting in practice," he said. "We do more contests, trying to have fun with it. I think the way we've shot the ball so far, to be 4-3 says a lot about the group I have. We're tough and we fight through things. We know we have to get better though to win in this league."

The Aggies led by 11 before a wild sequence with about 1 1/2 minutes remaining that included four quick points off two steals, the second of which left Tech's leading scorer Mike Singletary on the court injured.

Singletary was hurt while fighting for a ball with Bryan Davis. Play continued with Sloan finishing the fast break with a layup while Tech coach Pat Knight yelled at the officials to

stop play so he could attend to his player.

Singletary was escorted to the locker room holding his right shoulder and grimacing after being looked at for a couple of minutes.

Tech officials said Knight wasn't finished talking to his team after the game and sent associate head coach Chris Beard to address the media. He said they didn't have any information about Singletary's injury.

D a v i d Tairu led Tech with 13 points and Singletary finished with 11.

Texas Tech got within three points with about eight minutes remaining but Davis responded with a dunk to push A&M's lead to 65-60.

The Red Raiders made a pair

of free throws before Sloan made four straight points, including a jumper in the paint off a nifty spin move, to make it 69-62 with 6 1/2 minutes remaining. Texas Tech didn't get within five points after that.

A & M ' s night was helped by committing only four turnovers while forcing the Red Raiders to make 13. The four turnovers are the fewest for the Aggies in a Big 12 game.

"Give A&M the credit," Beard said. "They have great spacing and really good team chemistry. Guys know their

roles. They spread the floor and pass the ball. It's hard to get steals on them."

Texas A&M led 57-51 after a 3-pointer by Nathan Walkup

with about 11 minutes remaining. The Red Raiders then went on a 7-2 run to cut the lead to 59-58 two minutes later.

The Red Raiders wouldn't get any closer as Texas A&M scored four quick points to push the lead to 63-58.

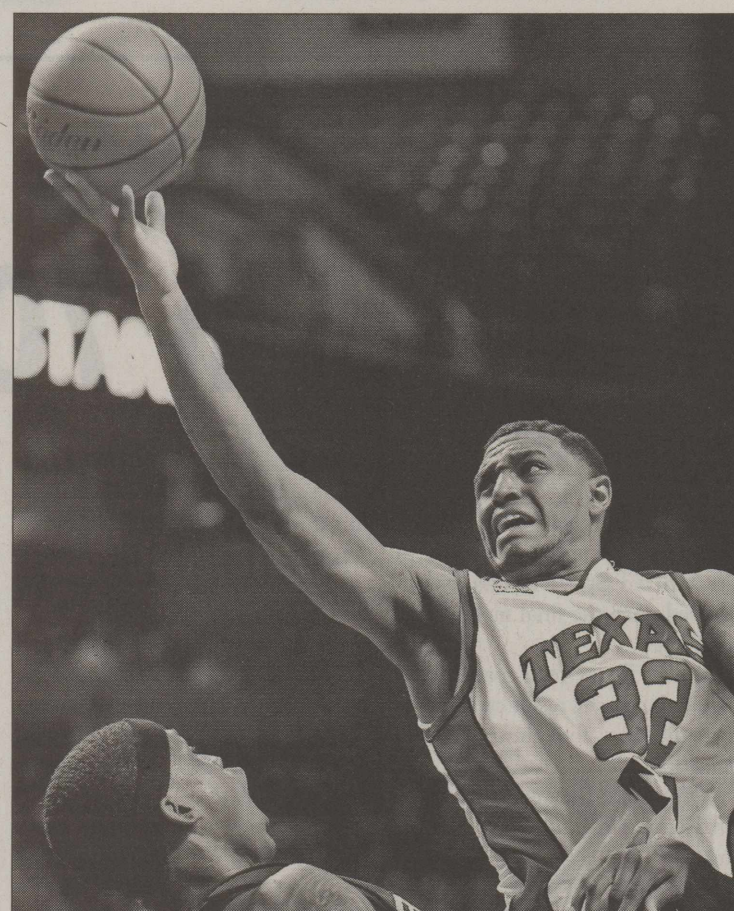
Texas A&M got 19 points and nine rebounds from David Loubeau and Davis added 15 points and had four blocked shots.

"Three players that really concerned us coming in were Loubeau and Davis — and Sloan is one of the best players in the league," Beard said. "We attempted to stop one or the other, but obviously they got off on both ends. Their perimeter game was great and their outside game was great. That's why we sit here with the outcome we had."

Texas Tech scored the game's first six points and led by as many as eight in the first 11 minutes.

Tech was up by eight with about eight minutes left in the first half before the Aggies went on an 13-3 run capped by a pair of free throws by Sloan to take their first lead, 34-32, three minutes before halftime.

The Aggies outscored Tech 7-4 to end the first half and led 41-36 at halftime.



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Treador  
TEXAS TECH FORWARD Mike Singletary left Saturday's 85-70 loss to Texas A&M with a shoulder injury and did not return. The loss drops the Red Raiders to 14-7 overall and 2-5 in conference play.

*"Give A&M the credit. They have great spacing and really good team chemistry. Guys know their roles. They spread the floor and pass the ball."*

**CHRIS BEARD**  
ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH  
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## Free throws plague Lady Raiders in 70-66 OU loss

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Saturday's game between the Lady Raiders and Oklahoma in the United Spirit Arena wasn't decided until the final moments of the game.

But for Texas Tech coach Kristy Curry, the game's result came down to two things: foul shots and fundamentals.

"Hopefully they can leave here understanding that little things make a big difference in life," she said. "Whether it's something for someone at work, or whether it's with your child everyday. Tonight, the little things against a Top 15 team really caught up with us and we've got to continue. I guess the most glaring thing on the night though is free throws."

The Lady Raiders were 7-of-18 from the charity stripe, which were costly considering the final score — the Sooners won 70-66. Tech forward Ashlee Roberson struggled the most, going 1-for-6 from the free-throw line.

But Tech (13-7, 1-5 in Big 12 Conference play) could not capitalize on a few opportunities in the end to pull out the win against No. 11

Oklahoma (15-5, 5-2).

With just 14 seconds left in the game and the Lady Raiders inbound the ball, Kierra Mallard received the pass from guard Monique Smalls and missed a routine bucket that would have tied the game.

Instead it was foul shots from OU guard Danielle Robinson — she went 10-for-10 from the line — that sealed the deal for the Sooners. Robinson led OU with 26 points and five assists.

*"Tonight, the little things against a Top 15 team really caught up with us and we've got to continue. I guess the most glaring thing on the night though is free throws."*

KRISTY CURRY  
TECH HEAD COACH

The outcome now gives Tech three straight losses at home, where the Lady Raiders start the season 11-0.

Oklahoma coach Sherri Coale said her team had a little bit of luck in its corner.

"All wins are good wins and we are fortunate to get away with one tonight," she said. "I thought our kids competed hard. Tech played very well, very hard and we

were fortunate to get away with the win."

The Lady Raiders lost despite a much needed bounce-back game from guard Jordan Murphree.

Murphree went off for a game-high 28 points for Tech — the senior had been held to a total of six points in a two-game stretch against Texas A&M and Nebraska before



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador  
OKLAHOMA'S NYESHIA STEVENSON and Texas Tech's Jordan Murphree struggle for possession of the ball during OU's 70-66 victory against Tech on Saturday in the United Spirit Arena.

facing OU.

She said it was the open lanes and set plays that led to making easier decisions on her part.

"Kierra was setting me some good screens off on balls and I was able to get to the rim," Murphree said. "We were going up there big so they weren't able to trap that. I think just getting to the rim made it easy to not settle for jumpshots."

Tech players and coaches know the loss was something they couldn't afford. Tech dropped a

spot in the conference standings and is only ahead of Missouri, who has a 1-6 record in Big 12 play.

However, Curry is optimistic. "When we compete at the level that I know they can, good things are going to happen," Curry said. "We're going to give ourselves a chance. Believe me, this hurts today. I need to coach better, we need to clean up some little things. I always blame myself first and foremost."

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## Wylie leaves Tech for Tennessee staff

The changes to the Texas Tech football coaching staff continue as the offseason rolls on.

Tech football head strength and conditioning coach Bennie Wylie will assume the same position at Tennessee, according to a press release on UT's athletics Web site. The announcement was made Saturday.

He'll join new Tennessee coach Derek Dooley, who took over the Volunteers after Lane Kiffin's highly publicized move to USC. He also joins former Tech special teams coach Eric Russell, who left for UT in January.

"It's just a great opportunity to be here with Coach Dooley and be on the front end of this movement," Wylie said in the press release. "I'm ready to get this program back on top of the SEC and I'm just really excited about the kids we have here. We have great talent, and I'm just really excited to work with those guys just as soon as I get here."

Wylie spent five seasons at Tech. He also served the last three seasons as strength and conditioning coach for the athletics department.

Before coming to Tech, he had experience in the NFL as an assistant strength and conditioning coach with the Dallas Cowboys for four years. He spent spring of 2002 as head strength and conditioning coach for the Dallas Desperados of the former Arena Football League.

Wylie was known for helping some Tech players train for Pro Day.

He implemented an offseason program to keep Tech players in shape, which many players described as tough, but effective. Wylie also helped keep injured players active with "Muscle Beach" — a sandpit next to the practice fields where players flipped tires and lifted dumbbells, among other things.

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## Tech baseball begins practice despite snow

By MIKE GRAHAM  
STAFF WRITER

Late January brings unpredictable weather to Lubbock as seen by last week's winter blast, but it also means the beginning of baseball practices.

The Texas Tech baseball team commenced practice despite ice and snow at Dan Law Field.

Tech's first scheduled practice was canceled Friday, but players and coaches worked together to shovel snow off the field Saturday to have a playable surface, pushing the snow off to the walls.

"The only day it was an issue was Friday," Tech coach Dan Spencer said while shoveling the last remnants of snow Sunday. "We lost a day (of practice) Friday, but we'll pick it up (today) and we'll be even Tuesday."

Spencer, entering his second year at the helm of the program, also said Tech is going to be a more of a contender in the Big 12 Conference race this season.

Tech qualified for the Big 12 tournament last season after missing it the year before, finishing seventh of 10 teams in the regular season — good enough to qualify for the conference tournament. Circumstances gave Tech the chance to play itself into the tournament's championship game, and an automatic NCAA tournament bid, but the Red Raiders fell a game short.

Catcher Jeremy Mayo said the 2010 Red Raider squad added a lot of depth in the offseason with a solid recruiting class of junior college and high school recruits. However, four players have been lost for the season because of elbow injuries, in-

cluding starting pitcher Robbie Kilcrease and outfielder Nick Hanslick. Additionally, two incoming recruits were lost for the season.

"We're going to be fine," Mayo said. "Everybody has injuries and you've gotta come back from it, so we'll work with what we've got."

Mayo added that early season practices will allow players to get used to playing with each other after the hiatus between fall baseball practices up to Saturday's practice.

Practice also allows newcomers such as freshman outfielder Barrett Barnes to learn his new position on the squad.

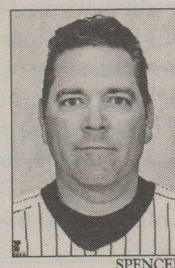
Barnes is playing positions he has never played before after playing shortstop at Austin High School in Sugar Land.

"I've never played outfield before in my life," he said. "It's completely different experience, but they work with me every day after practice and before practice and I feel like I should be ready to play when the season comes around."

Spencer said despite the injuries, the team has more depth than last year.

"Our expectations are that we're going to be better than we were a year ago," he said. "We're gonna compete well, where we finish, that's hard to say right now. If we stay healthy we're going to be competitive. I'd like to tell you we're going to win the Big 12 and that is our goal."

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SPENCER

**Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart.**

— Psalm 27:4

Suggested Daily Proverbs

2/1 - Pr. 1:3,4 - 2/2 - Pr. 2:3-5 - 2/3 - Pr. 3:3,4  
2/4 - Pr. 4:2,3 - 2/5 - Pr. 5:2

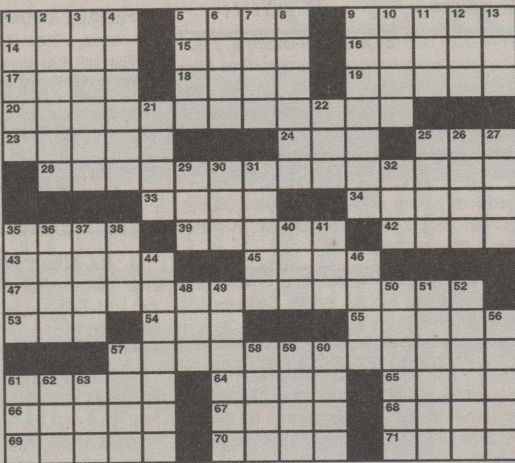
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### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

#### ACROSS

- Cribbage pieces
- Shaving gel alternative
- More than disliked
- Power co. product
- "Tickle me" doll
- Texas mission to remember
- Volcano feature
- Equestrian's control
- Organizes alphabetically, say
- Broadway premiere
- card stud
- Corp. honcho
- Natural spring
- Making lots of noise
- Genealogist's chart
- No-treat consequence?
- Speech impediment
- Arises (from)
- Till bills
- Like draft beer
- 1492 Atlantic crossover
- Start of a wide-area police radio alert
- Artist Yoko
- By way of
- Athletic shoe's turf grabber
- Seating for extra guests, maybe
- Yell
- club: singing group
- Decisive victory
- Lower in esteem
- Name on many Irish coins
- Far Eastern detective played by Lorne
- Texas Hold 'em, e.g., and a hint to this puzzle's theme
- Boys
- British weapon of WWII



By David W. Cromer

#### Friday's Puzzle Solved

LEARS MEARA EARN  
ACTII ARBOR SNEE  
GABON JAIIME SADA  
ERA GHOSTS LATER  
ATTS OREM MAYHEM  
RESCAN DUGUP EMI  
OBOE COD AMES  
THEWALLSHAVEEARS  
EEGS UKE TINT  
AMO SLOPE LANINA  
RAMEAU AXEL ALOP  
ATALL FRAMES LIP  
WIND GLACE ETUDE  
ATTIE MATTE TOSEA  
YEAR ABEAR SWEAR

- Romeo or Juliet, marriage-wise
- Swiss city on the Rhine
- First part of an act
- Plant with fronds
- Designer Cassini
- Ugandan dictator
- Selves of tennis
- Discuss thoroughly
- Often
- La Brea stuff
- CPR giver, often
- Hair styles
- MIT, for one: Abbr.
- Berlin's land: Abbr.
- Porous organ
- Brownish purple
- Inquires
- Tax-auditing org.
- Keep after taxes
- Davis who played Thelma
- Magnon
- Bonkers
- Words before instant or emergency
- WWII invasion city
- Good bud
- Military Range
- Wyom. city
- Firecracker cord
- Hip bones
- Socially inept type
- Thousands, in a heist
- Maple syrup base
- "True Blood" network
- Acorn's destiny

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## Student-Athlete Talent Show takes place today

Texas Tech athletes will step away from the field and court to spend time on stage for the second annual Student-Athlete Talent Show at 7 p.m. today in the Student Union Building Allen Theatre.

The event is aimed to give fans and students a different look at Tech athletes, who will perform various acts for the crowd.

At last year's event, some athletes sang, danced or juggled. Considering those events, Tech Associate Athletic Director Chris Cook said this year's acts should raise the bar a little bit.

"I don't know what people have planned, but I know that every sport is represented," he said. "I know last year, (Tech golfer) Nils Floren juggled golf clubs in a clown suit, (Tech linebacker)

Brian Duncan sang, (Tech basketball player) Wally Dunn played the ukulele and sang."

The event also is giving back to the community. It benefits Special Olympics, which also will have athletes in the performances.

Last year, the show was not extended to the public, but Cook said it will be this year. Admission for students is \$5 with a Tech ID and \$7 for the general public.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for all involved," said Tech Associate Athletic Director Academic Services Felicia Martin in a news release. "Our student-athletes work hard to prepare for this and look forward to sharing the stage with some of the outstanding talent from the Special Olympics community."

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