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Engineering departments develop fall-prevention technology for geriatrics

By NICOLE MOLTER
STAFF WRITER

According to the presentation, Autonomous Geriatric Fall Detection System, 30 to 50 percent of women older than the age of 65 will suffer a fall injury and 13 to 31 percent of men older than the age of 65 will suffer a fall injury.

The presentation also stated one in 10 falls results in a broken hip or head trauma, and 25 percent of elderly with a hip fracture die within six months.

Tim Dallas and students Piyush Gupta and Gabriel Ramirez from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering are working on fall prevention technology.

The technology consists of a belt clip, a pair of shoes and AT&T's Acturius Medical Gateway boxes. AT&T is providing the funding and hardware for work on this project.

The belt clip has a micro-electro-mechanical system sensor inside called an accelerometer, said Dallas, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering.

"This (the accelerometer) is designed to measure acceleration in three directions — there's up and down, side to side, and left to right," he said. "So, there's three axes of acceleration that it can measure."

The shoes have electronics that send information by radio

to the AT&T Gateway boxes, he said. There are four pressure zones for pressure readings in the insoles of each shoe.

The AT&T Gateway boxes are analogous to cellphone towers, Dallas said. Data from the fall prevention technology is sent to a central computer that takes the data streams and turns it into information upon which can be acted.

About three dozen of the AT&T Gateway boxes already have been installed at The Garri-son Geriatric Education and Care Center as a part of the research, he said. The boxes have a limited range, so the signal is handed off from box to box. After Institutional Review Board approval, the technology can be tested with nursing home patients.

"My late mother-in-law, a number of times prior to her death, had fallen down sometimes minutes after my father-in-law had left for work," Dallas said, "and so she was down for eight hours until he got home. She had enough physical problems (that) she just could not get up by herself."

"I think this is probably, you know, a daily occurrence around America, of course. Even in good nursing homes, you can be down for a few hours before anybody checks your room again."

TECHNOLOGY cont. on Page 2

Tuberville Talks



PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador

DURING THE KANSAS game Saturday, Texas Tech coach Tommy Tuberville was seen knocking the headset off Kevin Oliver, a graduate assistant. Tuberville apologized during his Monday news conference and answered no further questions about the explanation he gave Saturday regarding the incident.

Football notebook: Tommy Tuberville apologizes for sideline incident, Tech seeks revenge against Oklahoma State Cowboys in Stillwater

By MICHAEL DUPONT II
STAFF WRITER

Tuberville's corner

Texas Tech coach Tommy Tuberville has recently apologized to graduate assistant Kevin Oliver.

Tuberville was seen on camera getting into a verbal dispute with the assistant that turned physical when Tuberville appeared to strike the assistant's headset causing his ball cap and headset to fall from his head.

Tuberville said the incident upset him, and he must hold himself to a higher regard than that he displayed.

"After watching film when I got home, it was obvious what a lot of people were upset about," Tuberville said. "It upset me, too. You don't do things like that, and it was obvious I reached up, grabbed his headset, and pulled

on it. (In the) heat of battle, some things happen, and sometimes you'd like to take (those things) back. I can't remember anything like that happening to me. But that was a tough game. We're fighting hard. I've apologized to Kevin.

"It's unfortunate that that happened. I've got kids of my own. I've got a hundred kids on the sidelines and coaches and I've got to hold myself to a higher regard than that, and I usually do."

Summoned to Stillwater

It took all four quarters and two extra helpings of overtime for Texas Tech (7-3, 4-3) to defeat Kansas (1-9, 0-7) but the Red Raiders prevailed by a score of 41-34 to give the senior class their final home victory at Jones AT&T Stadium.

This week, the Red Raiders are in prepara-

tion for a trip to Stillwater, Okla., where they will face Oklahoma State (6-3, 4-2) at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Boone Pickens Stadium.

The winner of this matchup will be in fourth place in the Big 12 Conference and move into prime bowl-game positioning.

Red Raider Redemption

A season ago, when Oklahoma State traveled to Lubbock to face Tech, the Cowboys beat the Red Raiders by an eye-opening 66-6 drubbing anchored by a five-touchdown performance from former first-round pick and now-Cleveland Browns quarterback Brandon Weeden.

Senior quarterback Seth Doege said the performance was an embarrassment in every aspect of the game.

NOTEBOOK continued on Page 5

PHOTO PROCESS



PHOTO BY DAVID VAUGHN/The Daily Toreador

KATIE RIVERA, A senior studio art from major Lubbock, rolls ink onto a lithographic print negative in a printmaking photo process class Monday in the Art building.

TLMA hosts military care package drive for troops

For the past three years, Valerie Finella has gathered care packages with the Texas Law Military Association for military personnel deployed during the holidays.

Finella, a law student from Orlando, Fla., started the program and has been involved with the military ever since she met her fiancé Jason Hatcher, who is in the Air Force.

Finella and Hatcher met while pursuing their undergraduate degree at the University of Central Florida.

Even though Hatcher will not be deployed during the holidays, Finella said she believes it is important to send packages to the troops to show support.

"I think it's just important to kind of boost

more troops. morale," Finella said. "One of our best friends was deployed, and every time we send him a package he just says it makes his day, and he gets so excited, so that's why I like to do it."

Anything and all items are accepted in the care packages, Finella said, but chocolate sells out fast and is considered a special treat.

"Honestly anything, just a candy bar I think from someone back home just to show that someone's thinking of them," Finella said. "Anything can just make their day."

In the past two years, four care packages have been sent to friends and family members of Texas Tech law students through the TLMA program, but this year, Finella said she is expecting the program to grow and reach

more troops.

"It's really exciting to me," Finella said. "It's just really exciting to me that people care about the military and that they're deployed, and it makes them happy by getting the package. I think it's just been very overwhelming the support that we've gotten, and so it's really made me happy and really touched my heart that people are interested in the care package drive."

Care packages are delivered anonymously and will be sent through mail at the end of the collection period. Packages will be accepted through Nov. 20.

"Something so small can really make a difference," Finella said.

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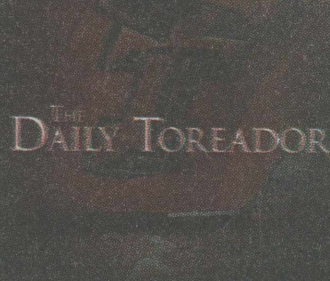
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Community Calendar

Today

Toddler Tuesday: Thanksgiving and Traditions
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Where: Museum of Texas Tech So, what is it?
 For ages 2 to 5 with accompanying adults, \$1.

A Celebration of Excellence
Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Frazier Pavilion So, what is it?
 Come out and show appreciation for the effort from students, faculty and staff with surpassing the criteria required for the National Research University Fund.

PreLaw November Roundtable: Advice from 1L Law Students
Time: 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Where: Education building So, what is it?
 Come out and get first-hand insight on what's expected from a law school student.

New Music Ensemble Concert
Time: 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Where: Hemmle Recital Hall So, what is it?
 Come out and enjoy this free concert.

Wednesday

Studio 360: Beginning Drawing for Adults
Time: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Museum of Texas Tech So, what is it?

Come out and learn to draw. Arts classes will be the third Wednesday of every month.

Texas Tech Men's Basketball vs. Nebraska-Omaha
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: United Spirit Arena So, what is it?
 Come out and support the Red Raiders as they compete against Nebraska-Omaha.

Joint Faculty Recital: Lisa Garner Santa on flute and Nataliya Sukhina on piano
Time: 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Where: Hemmle Recital Hall So, what is it?
 Come out and enjoy a free concert.

Scrabble Club
Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Where: Market Street So, what is it?
 Come out and play with the local Scrabble Club. All levels of competition are welcome.

Holiday Happening 2012- Special Events
Time: 5 p.m.
Where: Lubbock Memorial Civic Center So, what is it?
 Come out and celebrate with a Ladies' Day Luncheon and more.

To make a calendar submission email dailytoreador@ttu.edu.

Events will be published either the day or the day before they take place. Submissions must be sent in by 4 p.m. on the preceding publication date.

CLAY CREATIONS



PHOTO BY ISAAC VILLALOBOS/The Daily Toreador

JANIE PEREZ, A senior studio art major from Whitharral, and Jonathan Mitchum, a senior studio art major from Lubbock, use wheels to spin clay for their advance wheel class final project inside the 3D Art Annex building Monday.

Technology

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Improper balance, medication, gait change, cardiovascular diseases, obstacles, loss of strength, and impaired vision can all cause falls, he said.

For medical practitioners, a simple LED—red for falls, green for stable and yellow for caution of falls—could be used at a nurses' station or on a computer, said Piyush Gupta, a doctoral electrical

engineering student from New Delhi.

There are some systems already on the market where the fallen person has to push a button that sends an alert, he said, but Alzheimer's patients may not remember to push the button and some patients may be knocked unconscious from a fall.

"We can't always depend on their input to provide them help," Gupta said, "and so this system will keep monitoring them without them even noticing it in their daily life. When something hap-

pens, like a fall, it will raise an alarm, and help can be called within seconds."

This project has been underway for about five years, Dallas said.

"We actually started with utilizing the Wiimote that controls Nintendo games," he said, "and it has an accelerometer in it. It has a wireless transmitter and it also has some haptic feedback, meaning that you can get it to vibrate or light up or something."

There have been evaluations over the last month of this technology's use

in a clinical setting at the Health Sciences Center, Dallas said, but putting this technology on geriatric patients in nursing homes will not happen until early next year.

"Hopefully we'll see more and more people being able to live longer at home," Dallas said, "which is usually a lot cheaper and (the elderly) live more safely at home because these technologies allow them to not be in fear of falling down and no one noticing."

>>>nmolter@dailytoreador.com

Indiana blast investigation focuses on natural gas

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The search for what caused a massive, deadly explosion that rocked an Indianapolis neighborhood turned to natural gas Monday, with officials checking gas lines and a homeowner saying a problem furnace could be to blame.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent investigators to check gas main and other lines serving the neighborhood where two people were killed and seven injured in the weekend blast. Local gas supplier Citizens Energy said it also was checking gas lines and a meter at

the home that exploded.

But officials cautioned that it was too soon to rule out other causes, saying only that they do not believe a meth lab was to blame for the explosion that obliterated two homes and severely damaged dozens of others.

"It's too early to speculate that this might have been caused by a gas leak," Citizens Energy spokeswoman Sarah Holsapple said at an afternoon news briefing.

The owner of one of the homes that was destroyed said there was a problem with the furnace in the last few weeks.

BLOTTER

Police investigate reports of alleged sexual assault

Friday
 12:36 p.m. — A Texas Tech officer investigated an assault on the second floor of the Physician's Medical Pavilion near the elevators of the Health Sciences Center. A white male — whom was under the custody of the Lubbock State School — struck a Hispanic female in the face causing no injuries. The victim does not want to pursue charges for assault.

1 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated a theft in Room 503 of the Architecture building. A Hewlett Packard laptop battery was taken.

5:41 p.m. — A Tech officer documented a 911 call in the lobby of Weymouth Residence Hall. A white male student was feeling faint. The student was transported to University Medical Center Emergency Room by Emergency Medical Services.

9:08 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated a theft at the recreation fields. An iPhone 4 was stolen and recovered.

Saturday
 12:07 a.m. — A Tech officer investigated criminal mischief in the Z4-P parking lot. The rear window of a pickup was shattered.

2:56 a.m. — A Tech officer responded to a medical emergency in the Z4-M parking lot. A juvenile student became sick after consuming alcohol. The student was transported to University Medical Center by Emergency Medical Services.

10:22 a.m. — A Tech officer investigated an alleged sexual assault, which occurred at an unknown location in the Boston Avenue Residence Hall. The victim reported being assaulted by an acquaintance she met while attending an off-campus social event the previous night.

12:05 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated a theft on the 7th floor of the Architecture building. A laptop computer was stolen.

3:24 p.m. — A Tech officer investigated a traffic accident, without injuries, at the intersection of 18th Street and Flint Avenue.

2:35 p.m. — A non-student was arrested for public intoxication in the C1-N parking lot. The non-student was transported to the Lubbock County Detention Facility.

2:45 p.m. — A non-student was arrested for public intoxication in section 113 of Jones AT&T Stadium. The non-student was transported to the Lubbock County Detention Facility.

Sunday
 1:48 a.m. — A Tech officer detained a student for consumption of alcohol by a minor, following a welfare check in the

IC parking lot. The student was issued a Lubbock County citation, which he signed, and was released.

1:48 a.m. — A Tech officer arrested a student for public intoxication, following a call for a welfare check on the east side of the Library. The student was transported to the Lubbock County Detention Facility.

3:12 a.m. — A Tech officer arrested two non-students, one for driving while intoxicated and the other for public intoxication, following a 911 call on the northwest side of Jones Stadium. Both non-students were transported to the Lubbock County Detention Facility. The vehicle, which was involved in an accident at the intersection of 4th Street and Flint Avenue, was impounded by Lubbock Wrecker to their lot.

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

Today's su|do|ku

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

FDA finds contamination issues at Ameridose

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal health inspectors found numerous potential sources of contamination, including leaky ceilings and insects, at a drug-making facility that has the same founders as the specialty phar-

macy linked to a deadly meningitis outbreak.

The Food and Drug Administration on Monday released the results of a monthlong inspection of Ameridose, a Westborough, Mass.-based company that makes injectable drugs. The agency's report, posted online, lists a host of problems at the plant, ranging from manufacturing to sterility to quality control.

Inspectors said they found insects within 10 feet of a supposedly sterile area where drugs were manufactured. In another case, inspectors reported a bird flying into a room where drugs are stored.

Elsewhere, the report cites leaks and cracks in the ceiling and walls of a clean room used to manufacture ster-

ile drugs. The same room contained "thick residues that were orange, brown, and green" on equipment used for sterilization.

FDA inspectors also said the company did not investigate at least 53 incidents of bacterial contamination that arose during testing of stock drug solution.

"There is no documented evidence that your firm implemented permanent corrective actions to prevent these sterility events from recurring," investigators wrote.

Ameridose agreed to shut down for inspection in October after tainted steroids from its sister company, the New England Compounding Center, were linked to a fungal meningitis outbreak that has spread to 19 states and

caused 32 deaths. Ameridose operates two facilities in Westborough and provides medication in prefilled oral syringes to hospitals nationwide. Its drugs range from painkillers to blood thinners to pregnancy drugs.

Late last month, the company agreed to recall all of its products under pressure from FDA regulators. FDA officials previously said they have not connected any Ameridose drugs to infection or illness, but they have concerns about the products' sterility.

Inspectors visiting the company's plant also questioned whether some of Ameridose's drugs work properly. Inspectors said that the company received 33 complaints from patients and doctors claiming "lack of effect" with various drugs.

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"The only people with whom you should try to get even are those who have helped you."
 ~John E. Southard

Nation pays tribute to sacrifices of veterans

LOS ANGELES (AP)—From sea to shining sea, the nation paid tribute to its members of the armed services Sunday, both with somber traditions such as a Virginia wreath-laying ceremony attended by President Barack Obama to honor those who didn't make it back from active duty, and more lighthearted perks including red-carpet treatment at Las Vegas casinos for those who did.

In California, a long legal case drew to a close as a war memorial cross that had been deemed unconstitutional was being resurrected Sunday in the Mojave desert, capping a landmark case for veterans fighting similar battles on public lands.

Sunday marked the official com-

memoration of Veterans Day, but the federal holiday will be observed Monday.

President Barack Obama laid the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia and noted that this is the first Veterans Day in a decade with no American troops fighting and dying in Iraq, and that a decade of war in Afghanistan is coming to a close.

In a speech at the Memorial Amphitheater, he said America will never forget the sacrifice made by its veterans and their families.

"No ceremony or parade, no hug or handshake is enough to truly honor that service," the president said, adding that the country must commit every

day "to serving you as well as you've served us."

He spoke of the Sept. 11 generation, "who stepped forward when the Towers fell, and in the years since have stepped into history, writing one of the greatest chapters in military service our country has ever known."

Over the next few years, he said, more than 1 million service members will make the transition to civilian life. "As they come home, it falls to us, their fellow citizens, to be there for them and their families, not just now but always."

Later, the president and his wife, first lady Michelle Obama, and Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, greeted families in the cemetery's Section 60,

home to graves of service members killed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In California, a war memorial cross that once stood on a rocky hilltop in a national park before being deemed unconstitutional and ordered removed was being resurrected in the stunningly stark Mojave desert, marking the end of a longstanding legal dispute that had become entangled in patriotism and religion.

Henry Sandoz, who cared for the original cross as part of a promise to a dying World War I veteran, will rededicate a new, 7-foot steel cross on the same hilltop. The site is now in private hands as part of a land swap with the National Park Service that ended the legal battle.

"Judges and lawyers may have played their roles, but it was the veterans who earned this memorial, and it is for them it rises once more," said attorney Hiram Sasser of the Texas-based Liberty Institute, which represented veterans in the legal fight.

The settlement approved by a federal judge in April permitted the Park Service to turn over the acre of land known as Sunrise Rock to a Veteran of Foreign Wars post in Barstow and the Veterans Home of California-Barstow in exchange for five acres of donated property elsewhere in the 1.6 million acre preserve, about a four-hour drive east of Los Angeles.

The donated land was owned by Sandoz and his wife, Wanda, of

Yucca Valley.

Sandoz has cared for the memorial as a promise to World War I veteran Riley Bemby, who with other shell-shocked vets went to the desert to help heal and erected a wooden cross on Sunrise Rock in 1934. It was later replaced with a cross made of steel pipes.

Then Sunrise Rock became part of the Mojave National Preserve in 1994, putting the Christian symbol on public land.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit in 2001 on behalf of a retired Park Service employee who argued the cross was unconstitutional on government property because of the separation of church and state, and federal courts ordered it removed.

Laughing in the storm: Comics don't shy from Sandy

NEW YORK (AP)—Comedian Dave Attell told a packed house at the Comedy Cellar that New York after Superstorm Sandy had a familiar feel. "It was dark. Toilets were backing up. ... It was pretty much like it always was."

Another comic, Paul Mecurio, told the same crowd that he got so many calls from worried family members that he started making things up about how bad it was.

"I'm drinking my own urine to survive," he joked.

New York's comedy clubs, some of which had to shut down or go on generator power in the aftermath of the storm, dealt with a bad situation like they always have — by turning Sandy into a running punchline.

"If they're going to do jokes on Sept. 12 about Sept. 11, then this thing isn't going to slow us down," said Vic Henley, the emcee of a show Oct. 28 at Gotham Comedy Club.

Sean Flynn, Gotham's oper-

ating manager, said comics were including the storm in their acts but had to be careful nonetheless not to make people feel worse than they already did.

"There's the old adage that tragedy plus time equals comedy. The variable is the time," he said. Still, he added: "You can't ignore the subject. That's what comedy's all about."

The Comedy Cellar, a regular stop for decades for the country's most notable comedians, was closed from Oct. 28 through Nov. 1, but reopened on Nov. 2 after a generator was brought in at a cost of several thousand dollars. Power didn't return until the next day, and the crowds came with it.

"Everyone has a bad case of cabin fever," said Valérie Scott, the club's manager.

Mecurio said he thought the joke was on him when he got a call from the Comedy Cellar saying the club was going ahead with its show even though there was no light in the West Village.

He headed downtown from the Upper East Side, hitting dark streets after midnight.

"It's pitch dark," he said. "And there's a room packed with people laughing. It was so surreal. ... I'm calling it the generator show. It was a really cool thing."

"You could feel there was something special about the show," he said. "The audiences were tempered in their mood. You could tell something was up, something was in the air. I knew it was cathartic for people."

He said a woman approached him after the show to thank him, saying: "You kind of brightened my day."

Sometimes, comics used the storm to get a laugh at the expense of the crowd, like when Mark Normand looked down from the Comedy Cellar stage at a man with a thin beard.

"I like the beard," he told him. "Is that because of Sandy? You couldn't get your razor working?"

Elmo puppeteer accused of underage relationship

NEW YORK (AP)—The puppeteer who performs as Elmo on "Sesame Street" is taking a leave of absence from the iconic kids' show in the wake of allegations that he had a relationship with a 16-year-old boy.

Puppeteer Kevin Clash has denied the charges, which, according to Sesame Workshop, were first made in June by the accuser, who by then was 23.

"We took the allegation very seriously and took immediate action," Sesame Workshop said in a statement issued Monday. "We met with the accuser twice and had repeated communications with him. We met with Kevin, who denied the accusation."

The organization described the relationship as "unrelated to the workplace." Its investigation found the allegation of underage conduct to be unsubstantiated. But it said Clash exercised "poor judgment" and was disciplined for violating company policy regarding Internet usage. It offered no details.

"I had a relationship with the accuser," Clash said in a statement of his own. "It was between two consenting adults and I am deeply saddened that he is trying to characterize it as something other than what it was."

Sex with a person under 17 is a felony in New York if the perpetrator is at least 21. It was unclear where the relationship took place, and there is no record of any criminal charge against Clash in the state.

Clash, the 52-year-old divorced father of a grown daughter, added, "I am a gay man. I have never been ashamed of this or tried to hide it, but felt it was a personal and private matter."

"I am taking a break from Sesame Workshop to deal with this false and defamatory allegation," he said.

Neither Clash nor Sesame Workshop indicated how long his absence might be.

"Elmo is bigger than any one person and will continue to be an

integral part of 'Sesame Street' to engage, educate and inspire children around the world, as it has for 40 years," Sesame Workshop said in its statement.

"Sesame Street" is in production, but other puppeteers are prepared to fill in for Clash during his absence, according to a person close to the show who spoke on condition of anonymity because that person was not authorized to publicly discuss details about the show's production.

"Elmo will still be a part of the

shows being produced," that person said.

Though usually behind the scenes as Elmo's voice and animator, Clash has become a star in his own right. In 2006, he published an autobiography, "My Life as a Furry Red Monster," and was the subject of the 2011 documentary "Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey."

In addition to his marquee role as Elmo, Clash also serves as the show's senior Muppet coordinator and Muppet captain.

TROMBONE TALENT

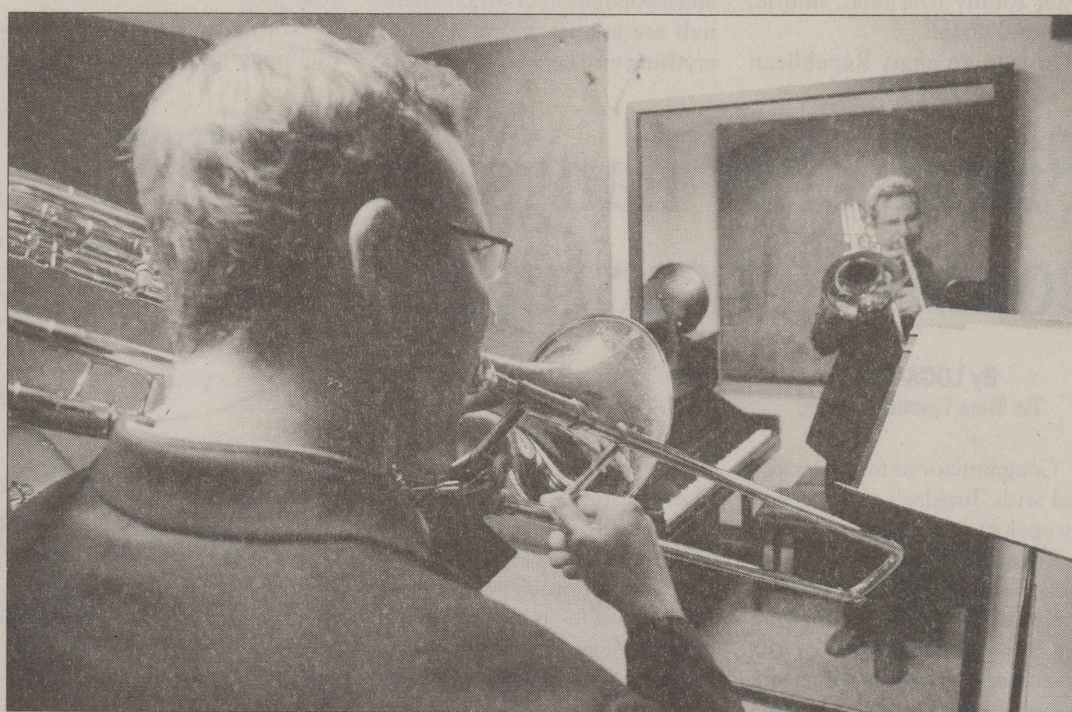


PHOTO BY EMILY DE SANTOS/The Daily Toreador

JEFF STUART, A masters trombone performance major from Albuquerque, N.M., practices "A Hundred Bars for Tom Everett" by András Szöllösy on Monday in the Music building. Stuart will perform the piece during a recital Saturday.

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America should move on from election, start fixing problems

And so this election season finally comes to a close. After months of campaigning and partisan bickering between the Democratic and Republican camps, we can all finally give it a rest, shake hands and move on, right?

Jakob Reynolds



Wrong. After a long, polarizing campaign season, there appears to be a bad rash of absurd discourse going on in post-election America. As you would imagine, the right-wing media, online social networks and conservative blogosphere are rife with messages about how America is once again doomed to be a communist welfare state, how America is dead, how Obama is going to take all of our guns, freedoms and health care away, among many other totally irrational, idiotic, paranoid claims. In fact, an angry Republican

man in Lubbock last week made it into the local news when his neighbors, one of whom is a seven-year army veteran, complained about him flying an American flag upside down in protest of the election.

However, my favorite rant from conservatives is about moving to Canada now that Obama is in the White House and intent on destroying America. Yes, move to Canada because that's totally patriotic and they totally don't have universal health care, state-recognized gay marriage and a population of which almost half are atheist, along with everything else conservatives hate.

I'm sure a bunch of disgruntled Republicans would love it there.

Of course on the other hand, those on the left are jubilant — and equally obnoxious — with their cries of “four more years” and “Republicans suck” and generally hailing Obama's re-election as the automatic salvation of America. I've yet to see anyone on the left say something along the lines of “Congrats, Democrats and Obama. Now do your jobs.”

Normally, I wouldn't think too much about the tense post-

election public. What bothers me about the continued partisan bickering, though, is that it seems worse this time around. I've heard a lot from people I

know, mostly on the left, who have even ended friendships with their conservative counterparts over their differing political views.

Why does this bother me? Because the truth is that aside from the Tea Party Congressmen who said rape was God's will and women could terminate pregnancy with brain waves being replaced with Democrats,

the government of the United States looks more or less the same as it did a week ago. The GOP still controls the House of Representatives, the Democrats still have a majority in the Senate and President Obama is still in the White House.

The only difference between the United States of today and the United States of Nov. 5 is the GOP no longer has “Making Obama a one-term president” as an excuse to play the obstructionist game they hoped would give them an advantage in the 2012 election.

It's time to face facts, people. The Republicans lost, and that's too bad for them. Clearly, telling half the country they are lazy freeloaders unwilling to take responsibility for themselves, coupled with sacrificing the well-being of your constituents to blackmail the president for personal political gain, is not a

winning strategy. Actively working against the rights of women and the LGBT community is equally ineffective.

At the same time, the president and Democrats in Congress need to stop ceding ground and caving to pressure from the right when attempting to pass legislation that will benefit the American people. A second term will motivate President Obama to make good on the promises he made in 2008 without thinking about how it affects his chances of being re-elected.

The next four years have a lot of potential for positive change and progress for the United States. The GOP and the president no longer have any excuses to put the actual needs of their country on hold. It's time to move on.

Reynolds is a junior music major from Lubbock.
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“The GOP and the president no longer have any excuses to put the actual needs of their country on hold. It's time to move on.”

Fiscal cliff hangs in country's near future

By **LOGAN NEE**
THE MAINE CAMPUS (U. MAINE)

Congratulations to those satisfied with Tuesday's verdict, and my apologies to those upset.

To preface this week's column, some words of wisdom from John F. Kennedy: “Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.”

Get your popcorn ready. The “fiscal cliff” that you've been hearing about for the last month is on its way, set to hit theaters — send us into another recession, namely — starting Jan. 1 if policy changes aren't enacted by Dec. 31.

What's this “fiscal cliff,” you ask?

It should be fairly obvious that our country has deficit issues. If that's not obvious to you, take a look at the annual reminder. In the past 30 years, our government's budget has been in the black just four times. This is a serious problem.

If politicians don't act before Dec. 31, tax increases and automatic spending cuts will take place, quickly cutting our federal deficit through sudden austerity measures. This contractionary effect would pull back aggregate demand, casting us into another recession.

Government officials are worried — and they should be — but we can't forget the reason why this cliff is ahead. Congress and the President put these measures into place in the summer of 2011, assuming the economy would be better off at this point.

The problem is, it's not. And it's also not the time to raise the debt ceiling, when the economy is just climbing itself out of a deep recession.

Allowing the government to drop off the fiscal cliff is rather enticing, especially given the fact

that Bank of America estimates the U.S. government would save roughly \$720 billion in 2013 alone, or 5.1 percent of GDP. These austerity measures aren't just ethically honorable; they are unequivocally necessary.

The addition of tax increases and reduction in deficit spending can demonstrate long-term solvency to creditors, thus encouraging consumption spending and yielding overall economic expansion.

Let's face it, being a “deficit hawk” isn't necessarily an electable attribute, but continued awareness and attention towards the federal debt is vitally important to the future of our country in the long run.

Obama and Republicans must come to an agreement, especially when it comes to payroll tax cuts and employment benefits. Extending payroll tax cuts and avoiding spending cuts to benefits are crucial in aiding an economy that's slowly on the up rise.

Bush tax cuts for upper-income Americans are not an effective way to boost economic growth in the short-term. Sorry Boehner, but you're going to have to let that part expire.

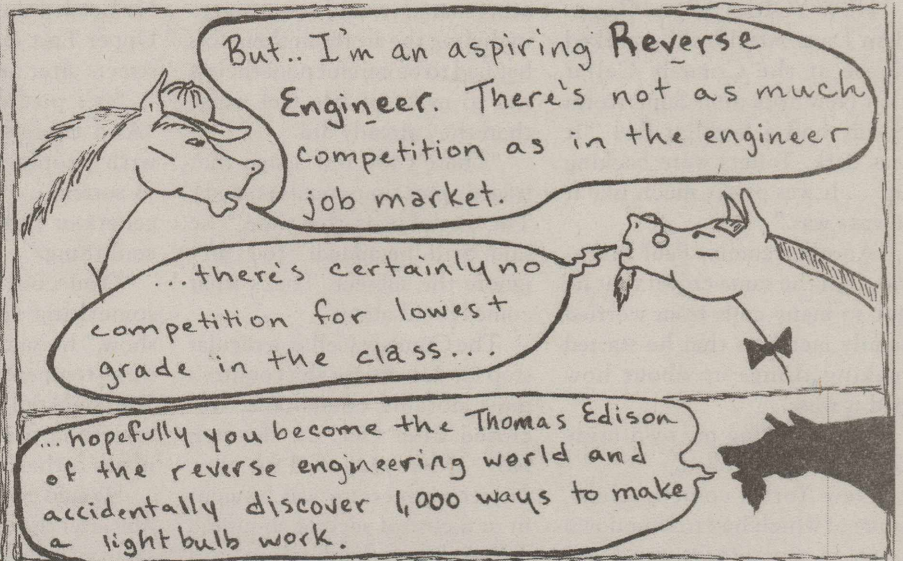
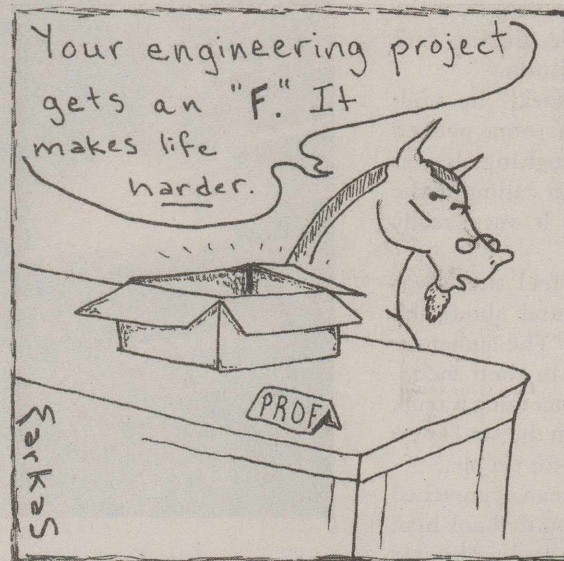
Many Americans chiming in on the “fiscal cliff” debate cite measures. This contractionary effect would pull back aggregate demand, casting us into another recession.

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THE TROTS



BY ANDREA FARKAS

Media bias gradually becoming the new normal

By **SARAH BACKER**
THE DAILY COUGAR (U. HOUSTON)

Throughout this year's highly contentious presidential election, party lines and affiliations have been tightly drawn. I suppose this is why the inherent and pervasive bias of the mainstream media has become so shockingly clear. This is worrisome in that news is being spun in so many ways that the American public has no place to hear the unadulterated facts. This could be the new normal or a long-standing tradition — or a little of both.

The American press has traditionally existed in a highly partisan and propagandist form. The first truly successful newspaper outlets, such as the Boston Gazette and the New York Gazetteer, were forged during the American Revolution as Patriot and Loyalist forces to wage their own journalistic war of words. This merely continued into the debates of 1787 and 1788 over whether to ratify

the Constitution. It is even speculated by scholars that the extreme Pro-Federalist bias of the newspapers at the time can take credit for the ratifying of the Constitution.

History shows that the press has a tendency to showcase its tilt and predilection during times of intense polemics.

Although the 21st century newspaper has been forced to take a more sober, conventional and moderate stance in compliance with the desires of the advertisers and business community that supports them, there is still a distinctly partisan bias. However, the new problem is in the overwhelmingly biased television news organizations. Let's look at the six major providers of television news: ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox News Channel, MSNBC and NBC News. Of these, FNC has a conservative standpoint. The other five are left-leaning, if not outwardly liberal.

Journalists and news anchors are entitled to express their party affiliation and

personal political opinions. But when these beliefs keep networks from dutifully reporting the facts and investigating the truth, there is a problem.

On Sept. 11, 2012, the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya was strategically attacked by a heavily armed group suspected to be part of al-Qaida. Four Americans were killed, two of which died in a stand-off seven hours after the State Department had informed the White House of the attack.

For weeks, the Obama administration alleged that the attack was the result of a riot over an anti-Muslim video. Everyday more information is uncovered that strongly insinuates that the administration not only knew it was a preplanned attack and lied about it, but also could have deployed a Special Operations team in the nearby Sigonella, Italy. And yet, an urgent request for military aid was denied by the chain of command.

Whether Democrat or Republican,

this is an issue that matters. Put yourself in the shoes of those four brave Americans. If something was done wrong, we need to fix the system so nothing like this happens again. It is the job of journalists to not only present the facts, but to earnestly investigate the truth. Only one of the six major news networks has made Benghazi a top issue.

The liberal media has treated President Obama as their first-born son; he can do no wrong and all critics of his policies should be tied to the stake. With 21 percent of U.S. adults reading below a fifth grade level, television media is an important and primary news source for a large block of Americans.

The media has had a long-standing tradition of partiality. But this recent disregard of the basic duties of a media outlet is unacceptable when the press is expected to act as a check on the government. People cannot allow this dereliction of duty to become the new normal.

New Jersey Gov. Christie shows timely leadership in wake of Sandy

By **LEE SELTZER**
THE DAILY TARGUM (RUTGERS U.)

If there's anything Gov. Chris Christie has made clear, it is that he does not care whether people like him. He'll tell anyone off, do what he wants and generally be rude. You know what, the result has been that a lot of people don't like him. Frankly, this attitude has

made it very easy for me to not like him, although it does kind of make me respect him.

However, after the way Christie has behaved with regard to this upcoming election, I cannot help but to applaud him. First and foremost, Christie's praise of President Barack Obama regarding his actions during the hurricane was interesting. What was incredible

about this was the fact that many on the right criticized Christie for saying anything good about Obama, saying it amounted to an endorsement of him.

Rightly, Christie thought this was absurd — and it was. It was a testament to how partisan the political game has become, where you are not allowed to compliment someone who overall disagrees

with you. Christie pointed out that he was the first governor in the United States to endorse Mitt Romney. Regardless, he insisted that in response to Obama's actions regarding hurricane he is “going to say nice things about him because he's earned it.” Are we really so far gone that a Republican is not allowed to say nice things about a Democrat and vice versa?

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Texans tied for NFL's best mark

HOUSTON (AP) — It wasn't pretty, but the Houston Texans found a way to beat the Bears and escape Chicago tied for the best record in the NFL.

Now the Texans (8-1) are preparing for one of the NFL's worst teams in Jacksonville, focused on improving as they inch closer to their goal of reaching the Super Bowl.

Houston coach Gary Kubiak believes Sunday's win will help his team in the future.

"The more ways you find to win in this league, you get more confidence," he said. "Things like that give you a chance to be a

great team. There will be nothing false about what we are when we get there at the end because we've been in some tough situations. And the more we handle them, the better we get."

He said winning a tough game on the road was particularly important with games at New England and Indianapolis coming up in the second half of the season.

Kubiak sees the Texans maturing, and knows that will be key if they hope to become a championship team. He talks to his team often about getting to that goal.

"Can you be a good enough football team or a good enough

organization to win a championship," he said he asks his team. "I think there are different levels and we're trying to work our way toward that mindset."

The Texans got the 13-6 victory on Sunday by forcing four turnovers and grinding out the win with their running game led by Arian Foster's 102 yards rushing and the game's only touchdown on a 2-yard reception.

Foster is third in the NFL with 872 yards rushing. Kubiak has been pleased with him all season, but thought his work on Sunday night was particularly impressive.

"I would say that was about

the toughest 102 yards a man could get," Kubiak said. "If you look at some of the great games he's had, I don't think there's anything bigger than last night because we were running against eight-, nine- man fronts all night. Everybody and their brother knew who was getting the ball and he still found a way to keep us on track."

Houston's line led by end J.J. Watt, usually leads the way defensively. But against the Bears, it was the secondary that came up big. Safety Danieal Manning, a former Bear, led the way with an interception and a forced fumble.

Notebook

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It was an embarrassment," Doege said. "They were probably the better football team last year, but there was no reason that it should have been that lopsided. I didn't play — I probably played one of my worst games I've ever played, and the defense didn't play a very good game either. (Oklahoma State's domination) was just all around. It was just a terrible football game by us. But we're a totally different football team than we were last year. I don't think we'll lay an egg like that ever again."

Defensive familiarity

The Oklahoma State offensive gameplan is somewhat similar to what the Red Raiders scheme has

been in the past. The air-raid passing attack allows the Red Raiders defense to have a certain sense of familiarity with what the Cowboys are trying to accomplish when the two teams meet Saturday.

Senior safety D.J. Johnson said Tech's defense is a little more comfortable playing against Oklahoma State, and this week, the 'chain gang' will go back to the basics.

"This is a team that does basically the same thing our offense does," Johnson said. "We understand the scheme, and this is back to the basics. This week is definitely back to basics. It's back to understanding what we've done against our team and how to prepare for their team, for the passing attack. It's a lot easier to understand route concepts than blocking schemes."

» mdupont@dailytoreador.com

Cowboys can focus on NFC East after win

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Talk of who's replacing Dallas coach Jason Garrett figures to be secondary — at least this week — to how the Cowboys can stay in the NFC East race.

A week after losing in Atlanta, when speculation centered on whether Sean Payton was coming to Dallas, the Cowboys won at Philadelphia on the same day a report surfaced that Mike Holmgren was interested in joining the Cowboys.

Garrett spent all week deflecting the Payton questions, and owner Jerry Jones did more of the same with Holmgren on Sunday, when the Cowboys beat the Eagles 38-23 in what amounted to an elimination game for any realistic playoff hopes.

Tony Romo started the rally with a spectacular scramble and throw that saved a drive and led to a long scoring toss to Dez Bryant. The Cowboys secured the win by scoring fourth-quarter touchdowns on a punt return, an inter-

ception and a fumble. It was the first time Dallas had all three in one game.

The Cowboys will try to keep it going Sunday against Cleveland, where Holmgren has been ousted as president, but is scheduled to remain in an advisory role until the end of the season. He's admittedly unsure whether he wants to coach again, but strongly denied a report he was interested in Dallas if Garrett were fired.

"Hey, look, it gets back to football, but you lose another game and there's going to be more talk," tight end Jason Witten said. "We know what's at stake, and I thought it was big of our team to go find a way to win, and hopefully we'll build on that."

Last week was actually busier than just replacement talk for Garrett and Jones. The Dallas owner started a dialogue with former coach Jimmy Johnson by claiming he had always been in charge of football decisions with the Cowboys. Credit was part of

the reason for their acrimonious split in 1994 after consecutive Super Bowl wins, so naturally Johnson shot back.

Johnson, though, went a little further, calling the Cowboys' practice facility a "country club" and forcing Garrett, one of his former quarterbacks, to answer still more questions. When he took the job, Garrett made it clear he wanted to use the Johnson model of accountability and discipline to try to make Dallas a winner again.

"We have a good approach and a mindset of we don't worry about that outside noise and we know when you're 3-5 that's going to come," Witten said.

The best answer anyone could have given came Sunday against the Eagles, which might help explain Garrett's firm hug around the neck of Dwayne Harris after the punt returner who replaced the inconsistent Bryant sprinted 78 yards in front of the Dallas bench to give the Cowboys the lead for good at 24-17.

"We have a good approach and a mindset of we don't worry about that outside noise and we know when you're 3-5 that's going to come," Witten said.

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

ACROSS

- College donor, often
- 401(k) cousin, briefly
- Garden ground cover
- Mount Olympus wife
- Break bread
- Novelist Zola
- "As if!"
- Halley's sci.
- Full of vitality
- Ideological suffix
- Lit with effort
- '60s counterculturalist
- Timothy
- "As if!"
- Rants about the boss, e.g.
- Jack's brother
- Niagara Falls prov.
- Gorky Park city
- Like hor. puzzle answers
- "As if!"
- Hostility
- Started, as a keg
- P.I.
- Hypnotic trance breaker
- "Friend ___?"
- "As if!"
- Pal of Threepio
- Not at all droopy
- Intro makers
- One might say "shay" for "say"
- Inevitable end
- "As if!"
- Honolulu hello
- Egg on
- Sculling gear
- Headwear in iconic Che posters
- Many ESPN fall highlights
- Way to be tickled

DOWN

- Cry of enlightenment
- Film heroine with memorable buns
- Java vessels
- "Grumpy Old Men" co-star
- Rite words
- Modern caller ID, perhaps
- Part of A.D.
- Drop-line link
- Wrigley Field judges
- Mouthing the lyrics
- Red Skelton character
- Kadiddlehopper
- Cooped-up layer
- Bird on old quarters
- Earl tea
- Groundbreaking tool
- Greenland coastal feature
- Company that rings a bell?
- "Marvyl"
- Green grouch
- "Star Trek" velocity measure
- Word in many university names
- Bar mitzvah reading source
- Didn't lose a game
- Java order
- Off ingredient
- Mike, to Archie
- Upscale sports car
- Perch on
- Like babes
- Dennis the Menace's dog
- Pay extension?
- Stallion or bull
- Craig Ferguson, by birth
- Asian tongue
- Bring home
- "Marvyl"
- Monopoly token
- Has too much, briefly
- Clucking sound

By Jeff Chen 11/13/12

Monday's Puzzle Solved

ALBA GOADS TEAM
SEER UNLIT WANE
SALMONPINK IRAN
IDI KNOB ENCL
SEEPS SIMONSAYS
INFLECT AND NSA
LUGHPLEBAITS
CINAKMONROLLS
SOAKVOWUSE
ADDREVANAGRAM
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