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Spring brings many athletic opportunities



ANDREW SCHOPPE/
COLUMNIST

By the time everyone returns from Spring Break refreshed and, in many cases, tanned, the buzz from the women's NCAA Tournament games held in the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum will be fizzling to a serene calm.

There will be no more swishing nets, earth-shattering dunks or hospitable greetings by Tech fans directed to the opposing team's players during introductions until the 1998-1999

basketball seasons arrive.

This year the Tech football team provided fans with many moments of bliss and many moments fans would like to forget. In a nutshell, the season was a rollercoaster ride that was intriguing to the end. The women's volleyball team continued their winning ways, ending its season with an overall record of 23-11. Often unmentioned, the Tech women's golf team showed it was a force to be reckoned with. The team grabbed the 19th ranking in the final Mastercard rankings in the fall. The iron men and women of Tech athletics, the Tech cross country teams, also made strides over last season's performance. The women's team returned from the Big 12 Championships this fall with an impressive fifth-place team finish.

Leaping into the new year, the Tech men's and women's basketball teams took to the court and gave Red Raider fans something to scream about. The Lady Raiders were dominant as usual and, in just a few short weeks, hopefully will be bringing home a national championship. The men's team, although coming up short in the Big 12 Tournament, put together a flurry of victories to surprise the experts a bit.

Now, with spring in full bloom, let's not forget about the other athletes here at Tech putting in countless hours of work and gallons of sweat to represent Tech. Baseball is king in the spring, but it's not the only sport around. The men's and women's track teams are gearing up to turn in some fast times and lengthy throws this outdoor season, especially with several qualifiers for the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships among their ranks. And then there's the women's softball team that has been plowing down opponents on their way to a 23-6 record at the moment.

This is just a taste of the action going on in the world of Tech athletics. During the next week, everyone will be able to take in a little R and R to gear up for the home stretch of the spring semester. When classes resume, take notice of all the remaining sporting events that will take place here at Tech between now and the end of finals. The following is a schedule of all of the upcoming sporting events here at Tech. So take a second to clip this out, stick it on your fridge and get ready to cheer the Red Raiders on to victory.

Andrew Schoppe is a junior broadcast journalism/business management major from Houston.

Softball	Baseball
April 4 — Oklahoma State	March 24 — Eastern New Mexico
April 5 — Oklahoma	March 31 — College of SW
April 10 — Nebraska	April 3-5 — Missouri
April 11 — Iowa State	April 14 — Abilene Christian
April 18 — Baylor	April 24-26 — Oklahoma
Track and Field	April 27 — College of SW
March 27-28 — Texas Tech Invitational	May 8-9 — Kansas State
April 22 — Texas Tech Invitational	
Football	
April 4 — Red/Black Game	

Voting — private, privilege



WAYNE HODGIN/
A&E EDITOR

Wednesday was voting day on the Texas Tech campus. Once again, students went to the polls to re-vote for the best candidate to fill the external vice president office for the Student Government Association next year.

As I was walking to class, like any other Joe on campus, I was bombarded, once again, with students saying, "Vote for so and so. He's the best candidate. We'd appreciate your vote ... yadda, yadda, yadda."

And, like any other Joe on campus, I smiled and said thanks or that I

already had voted.

Once during the course of the morning, I walked by a group of guys passing out fliers and whatnot, and as they went on their spiel of who to vote for, one had the nerve to ask who I voted for.

The last time I checked, voting was a Constitutional right given to us by our forefathers. I was under the impression, or so I had been taught all my life, especially since I have been able to vote, that asking others who they voted for is down right rude.

Other people do not have the right to know who their neighbors voted for, nor do they need to know. That is

why voting booths, with the little walls and curtains, are private.

I know a lot of people are probably saying, "Why does it matter? I don't care if anyone knows who I voted for." But it does matter.

Lately, people seem to take for granted the rights and responsibilities of being an American citizen. The voting privilege, which allows you to go to the polls and vote for who you think is the best candidate, is a sacred privilege and should not be taken lightly.

Throughout time, the right to vote has continuously been expanded on by our chosen leaders who speak out

for disenfranchised people who have struggled to have a voice in our country. Over the years, our country has seen the elimination of barriers to voting rights such as property, race, gender and age to the exclusion of white primaries, poll taxes, high candidate filing fees and vote dilution schemes.

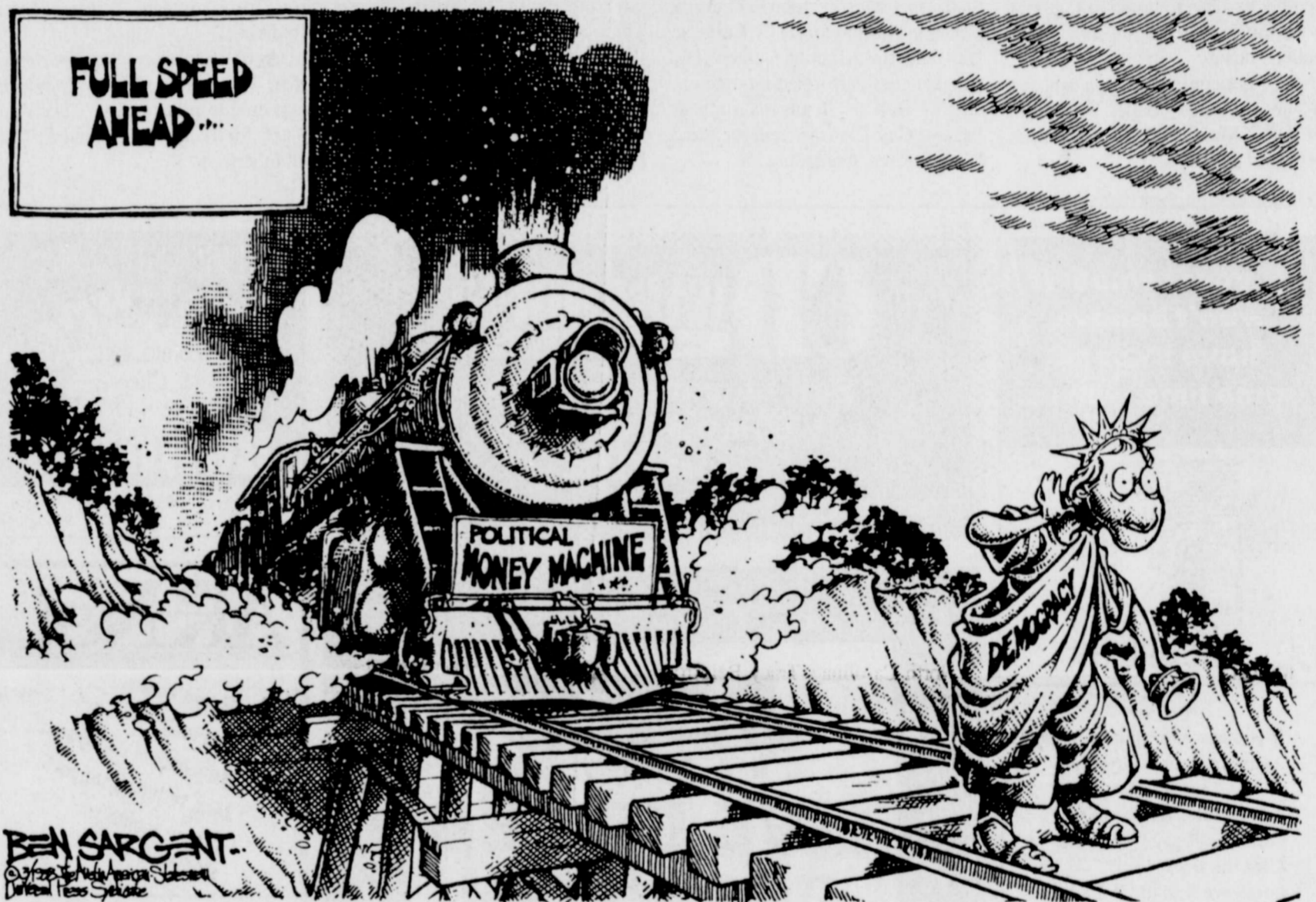
Although these facts are mainly stressed at the national political level, it never seems that these rights apply to lowly college students voting in an SGA election — but it does.

We, as a voting public, never will have complete confidence in the electoral process, but it is our duty, as a Democratic society, to be the ultimate watchdog.

We must preserve the sacred duty given to us by the people who founded this country and molded the principles we stand on.

Wayne Hodgin is a senior journalism and English major from Haskell.

“ We must preserve the sacred duty given to us by the people who founded this country ... ”



BEN SARGENT
© 1998 by Ben Sargent
Dallas Texas, USA



Bill Day

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SGA elects should be more responsible

To the Editor: Last Wednesday, SGA Elections occurred and several people were elected to represent the student body of Texas Tech. The opportunity to be in SGA obviously requires a great deal of time, hard work and,

most importantly, responsibility.

As the election becomes almost a week old, almost none of the people running for office have taken the immediate responsibility of removing campaign signs from the various buildings across campus.

If the SGA elects are responsible, like they say they are, at least do the student body a favor.

Take your campaign signs down.

There's no reason why I should walk to lunch in one of the various dining halls across campus and see a sign with a name and a face running for SGA still hanging on a wall when the election occurred almost a week ago.

I appreciate the fact that fellow students have taken the initiative to run

for an office to represent myself and everybody else who attends Tech, but I wonder whether the people who ran for office truly are "responsible" when the lack thereof has become apparent.

Frank Ledwell
sophomore
general business

Write a letter to the editor.
Bring it to the journalism building, Room 211. Or e-mail it to TheUniversityDaily@ttu.edu.

Horned Frogs slip by Red Raider baseball, 8-7

BY HEATH ROBINSON
The University Daily

Texas Tech and TCU played 11 innings of hard-fought, even baseball Wednesday, but the Red Raiders could not overcome a porous defense and a bloop single.

Tech lost, 8-7, dropping their record to 14-8. It also was the Red Raiders first loss at Dan Law Field in 11 games this season.

Rodriguez booted Royce Huffman's grounder to put him on first. After David Wallace singled and moved Huffman to third with no outs, Jordan could not handle a grounder from Matt Howe. The ball skipped into left field, and Huffman scored. A double to right by David Silva scored Wallace and Howe, and TCU led, 4-2.

Tech took a 2-1 lead. But in the fourth, the Horned Frogs scored two unearned runs.

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"I thought both teams pitched pretty well," Tech coach Larry Hays

said. "But we were sloppy in the field. The difference was the other team played a little defense."

But not much. Three TCU errors in the fifth and sixth innings led to three Tech runs and a 5-4 Red Raider lead.

But for the second time, the Red Raiders' failure to field the ball let TCU back into the game. Jordan again could not handle a ground ball, this time from shortstop Jef Yarbrough, who ended up on second with no outs.

A Marshall Wilson single put runners on first and third, and leadoff hitter Sam Lunsford responded with a double to score two runs. Lunsford then scored on a groundout by Chris Connally.

In the eighth inning, Tech turned the pitching reins over to reliever Brad Ralston. Ralston pitched the final four innings in relief of starter Shane Wright, who allowed seven runs, only three of which were earned.

Tech forced extra innings when Jordan scored in the eighth, and both teams went scoreless in the 10th frame.

But in the top of the 11th inning, the Horned Frogs scratched out the winning run. After Howe struck out, Silva walked and Yarbrough struck out.

Wilson singled, sending Silva to third with two outs. Lunsford then hit a bloop single to right on a check swing, scoring Silva.

"The winning run for them shouldn't have been on base," Hays said, referring to the walk. "But Brad pitched really well, he just gave up a couple of bloop hits and got beat."

Ralston called the experience frustrating.

"I thought I had thrown a good pitch," he said. "He just kind of made some contact, and got a cheap hit."

For the junior reliever, it was a tough loss to take. In four innings, Ralston allowed just two hits and struck out five batters.

"I was just looking to get our hitters back into the dugout and give them a chance," Ralston said.

"They got some cheap hits on me in the end, but that's just how baseball goes."

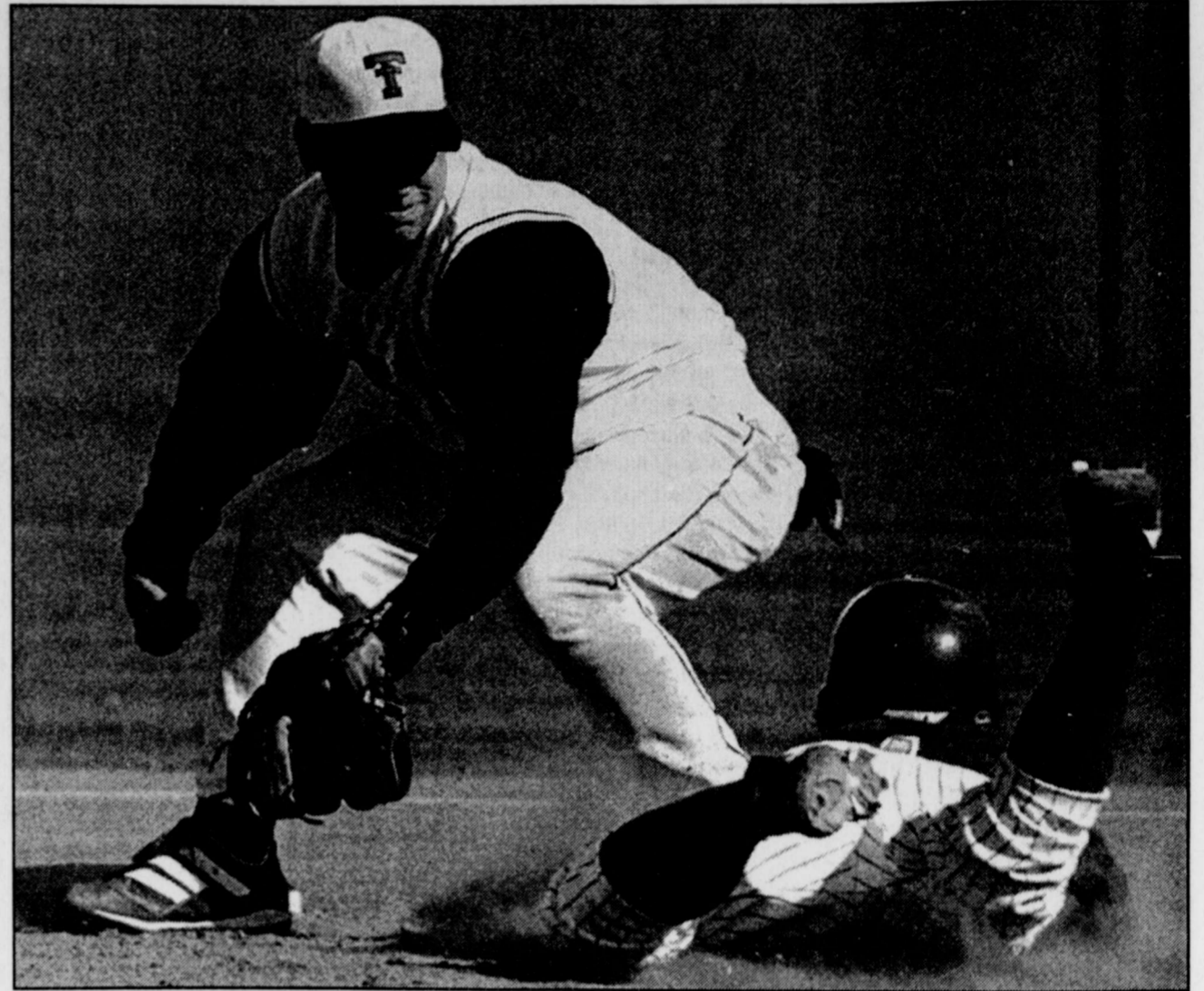
The Red Raiders had one last gasp in the bottom of the 11th. With two outs and runners on second and third, Horned Frog pitcher Jeff Shaddix intentionally walked Ginter.

It proved to be a good move. Instead of facing the All-American, who went 3-for-5 with four runs and two solo homers on the day, Shaddix pitched to Brennan Burns with the game on the line.

On a one-ball, one-strike pitch, Burns sent a chopper to Wallace at first, who flipped to Shaddix for the out.

Ginter said he wanted the chance to hit.

"I was really hoping I would get



Tag Team: Tech second baseman Keith Ginter looks for the tag out in the Red Raiders' 8-7 loss to TCU Wednesday. Wade Kennedy/The University Daily

the chance to swing the bat there," Ginter said. "I felt good at the plate all day. But even after I walked, I

thought Brennan was going to come through. It's just a tough loss."

Shaddix picked up the win, which gave TCU a split in the two-game set, and a 13-8 record. The two teams also split earlier this year in Fort Worth.

Tech fastpitch softball squad travels to H.I.T. Tournament

The Texas Tech fastpitch softball team will continue to prepare for conference play by participating in H.I.T. tournament beginning today in Spring.

Tech (22-6 overall) already has

shown signs of promise by capturing the University of Alabama Tournament March 1 and stunning then-No. 1 Arizona, 6-0, Friday.

Tech coach Renee Luers-Gillisie said she is confident the higher lever

of competition will help the team.

It seems as though the tougher schedule already has paid off for Tech. At this point last season the Red Raiders were a respectable 18-14-1, and in their inaugural season they were a

mediocre 3-23.

Tech's schedule does not get any easier after this weekend.

The Red Raiders will travel out to the west coast to battle St. Mary's Tuesday.

Men's golf team places 15th

Even though the weather conditions at Tuesday's final round of the Louisiana Classics in Lafayette, La., were better than Monday's, the Texas Tech men's golf team placed 15th.

Individually, the top finisher for

Tech was Philip Tate, who shot an average of 76 in three rounds on the par 72, 7,002-yard course. Red Raider Tom Baldwin tied for 49th out of a field of 81 golfers.

Capturing first place was Texas A&M's Tom Palmer.

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