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## Tuesday letters: Earthquakes, Baylor University, Art Briles

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Photo: PAUL HELLSTERN, MBI

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Sandstone bricks from the side of the historic Pawnee County Bank litter the sidewalk after an early morning earthquake in Pawnee, Okla., on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016. The United States Geological Survey said a 5.6 magnitude earthquake happened in north-central Oklahoma, on the fringe of an area where regulators had stepped in to limit wastewater disposal. That temblor matches a November 2011 quake in the same region. (Paul Hellstern/The Oklahoman via AP)

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### ***Shaky Sooners***

Regarding "Texas can learn from Sooner State on quakes" (Page B1, Thursday), Chris Tomlinson's column is off-target suggesting that Texas can learn from Oklahoma on how to mitigate earthquakes related to oil and gas fracking. The U.S. Geological Survey and the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology have been studying fracking and earthquakes in Texas for years, and the results of their studies have been widely disseminated. The Railroad Commission of Texas has hired a seismologist to study the same issues. And, as for the RRC's use of a landowner to obtain information on the surface effects of earthquakes, the observations of the public on the effects of earthquakes have been relevant to understanding earthquakes for hundreds of years

and still play a part in modern-day earthquake investigations.



The Sooners' knee-jerk reaction to shut down injection wells and thereby shut down oil and gas production makes no sense. A rational solution to the problem is to determine a best solution from the various alternatives. Some of these alternatives include reducing the disposal well injection pressures, which can be done immediately, while still producing the oil and gas wells; drilling disposal wells in environmentally safe areas; evaporating the water and hauling away the residue; recycling the water after removing any toxic materials, and hauling away the toxic water. If the Sooners first reaction is one of political expediency instead of one of engagement in serious deliberations with experts on the subject, Texas does not have a whole lot to learn from Oklahoma politicians on the subject of mitigating the surface effects of induced earthquakes.

Tom Bjorklund, Houston

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OPINION

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**These are unsettling times that require a steady hand, and**



**Estamos viviendo momentos inquietantes que requieren de una mano**

**Houston Chronicle Clinton Endorsement for President (Mandarin)**



**Houston Chronicle Clinton Endorsement for President (Vietnamese)**



**Houston Chronicle Clinton Endorsement for President (Arabic)**



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### ***No piling on***

Regarding "Thumbs up, down" (Page A19, Saturday), your praise of Rice's Marching Owl Band ("MOB") is appreciated, but Baylor's administration's or its fans' "squirring" during Friday night's half-time show should not be anyone's wish or purpose.

At the heart of Baylor's shame are co-ed victims of violence, cowardly covered-up by some athletic department leaders and apparent neglect of duty at the highest level. That the school's board of trustees took appropriate remedial action, punishing and discharging a number of culpable individuals, and hopefully, belatedly, coming to the aid of the victims, seems altogether proper. Baylor might be rightly embarrassed by the sad sequence of events but that should not be the source of glee to anyone, particularly a university of the first class whose guest the Green and Gold will be on Friday.

There is plenty going on in the world that readily lends itself to the MOB's brand of parody and humor. To include Baylor's grief as "fair game" would be classless "piling on."

Jim Greenwood, Houston

### ***Shrill justice***

Regarding "Briles' misguided apologies" (Page C2, Sunday), in her assessment of

former coach Briles, Jenny Dial Creech forgets one of our basic American ideals. Innocence is presumed until guilt is proved. She writes, "Not disciplining players being investigated for rape is immoral and unethical." No matter how heinous the crime, we offer the accused his day in court before punishment is doled out. Any other action is immoral and unethical.

Look up the injustice doled out to the Duke lacrosse team and the cost of what Creech's kind of shrill justice did to them and their families.

Charles I. Sitomer, Houston

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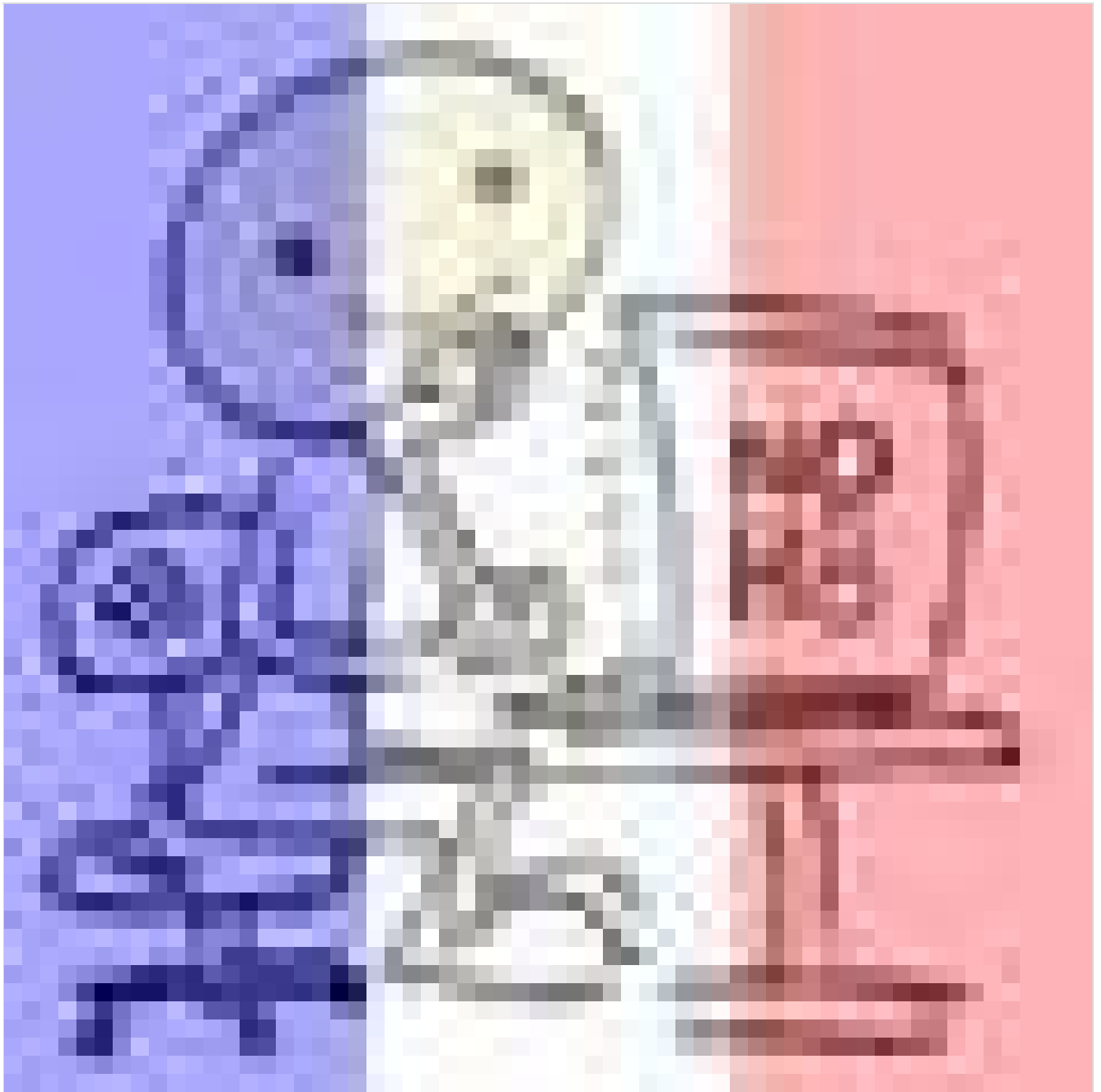
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**The preponderance of anecdotal evidence has to remove all doubt. Those having to dispose of fracking fluid have to find a new way.**

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**Tom Bjorklund could not be more mistaken. Numerous studies in recent decades have shown the unequivocal connection between seismic activity and certain deliberate actions by humankind, including the high-pressure injection of water into underground storage wells,**

particularly when there are nearby faults. This is not a controversial subject for most seismic scientists. The Texas Railroad Commission (RR) hired one seismologist who labelled a major seismic study's results as "arbitrary". That one... » more

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**Shaky Sooners -**

It appears you are in the fracking business, Tom. As a land owner on the Barnett Shale, small earthquakes occur on a periodic basis. There had never been an earthquake in memory of the oldtimer's from my area until recent years. Since the drilling has slowed down, so have the frequency of earthquakes. Not very scientific, but that is the way it is. Your alternatives sound like good ideas with merit, but they bring to mind one question. Does Texas already have these...

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**TOM@FOTO Guest**

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**@RightwingLiberal Exactly.**

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