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PART FIVE OF A FIVE-PART SERIES ABOUT STUDENTS OVERCOMING ADVERSITY



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

GILBERT ESPARZA, A senior journalism major from Lamesa, stands underneath the archways in the Science Quad holding an Apple computer box. Esparza returned to Tech last semester to complete his journalism degree and be up-to-date on the latest broadcast and print technologies.

REVITALIZED

Student returns for senior year after more than two decades

By CARRIE THORNTON
STAFF WRITER

Returning to college for the second time to finish his degree was a daunting but necessary decision for 58-year-old Gilbert Esparza.

"Coming back, I'm on the same playing field of a freshman who walks on: completely lost," said the senior journalism major from Lamesa.

Esparza first attended Texas Tech in 1986. During his senior year, just months away from graduation, he made a sudden decision to walk away from campus with no intention of returning.

"I just couldn't handle it," he said. "There was no drive for me anymore. If teachers wanted something by a certain date, if I had it, fine. If I didn't have it, that was fine too. It wasn't like I was taking it out on the teacher, but it was just

the attitude I had, the way I felt; I just couldn't handle it. There was so much pressure school wise, work wise and family wise. Something had to give."

But more than 20 years later, Esparza said he realized he had to complete his degree to continue to be successful at his job at Barton Broadcasting. Advances in technology have made the broadcast and print industries competitive, and to stay afloat, companies need to be updated.

"At the workplace, everything is changing. Back then, changes would occur every decade," Esparza said. "Evolution of everything was much slower. Nowadays, if you buy a computer, it's out of date by the time you take it out of the store. I saw that happening at the radio station."

When Esparza began at Barton Broadcasting, he worked with vinyl records. Then came CDs, and now, mp3s and wav files dominate the field; CDs are not needed anymore.

"I figured if the media or broadcast and print is moving at such a tremendous pace, I need to do something about it," he said. "It's very difficult to keep up with the competition, the big boys, whereas I work for a small, independent company."

Esparza took action and faced the challenge of returning to school with students who he is about three times older than. He began taking classes in January 2009, and plans to graduate in December 2010.

"Tech accepted me under the condition that I had to bring up my GPA, because it was pretty poor since I left so much stuff unfinished," he said.

Coming back, Esparza said he is amazed by the changes Tech has undergone. With the support of his family and Tech faculty, he said he has been able to adapt and succeed.

REVITALIZED continued on page 3

DPS to increase patrols during Thanksgiving

By JETT THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

As Texas Tech students travel home for Thanksgiving break, Texas State Troopers will be stepping up patrols this weekend because of the dangers associated with holiday travel.

Tech administrators and state officials said they want to be sure students are prepared for the challenges long-distance travel can bring.

Lt. Steve Shatley, with the Texas Department of Public Safety, said all available troopers will be on patrol during the long

weekend because of the additional travel the Thanksgiving holiday brings. Officers posted along the highways will be looking for hazardous driving, speeding vehicles and intoxicated drivers.

He said it is important for drivers and passengers to wear seat belts and for children to be in a proper child seat for safety.

Heather Medley, the marketing and training coordinator for Tech's University Parking Services, said students driving during the holiday should be sure to get at least seven to nine hours of sleep the night before a long drive. Drowsy driving poses a risk to drivers, especially during the holiday season.

According to the National Sleep Foundation's Web site, about 1,550 deaths and 71,000 injuries every year are caused by drowsy driving in the United States.

Texas DPS recommends drivers rest 15 minutes for every two hours spent driving on the road to avoid potential hazards.

"Students should be sure to get plenty of rest," Shatley said.

"It's something that can be as dangerous as drunk driving."

Speed is another factor students should keep in mind, he said, and a safe speed depends on the road conditions. He said hazardous weather and increased traffic would mandate a lower-than-posted acceptable speed.

Medley said she recommends students check their cars before hitting the road this week by checking their belts, hoses, fluids and tires. She also said students can receive a discount at Scott's Complete Car Care in Lubbock with a Tech ID.

The Tech Office of Parent and Family Relations also sponsors the Road Raiders program, which publishes an updated list of Tech parents and alumni throughout the nation who can provide assistance to traveling students. Participants agree to render aid to students with car problems, give directions or just provide a place for a short rest.

Camille Baker, a Tech parent in Seymour listed in the Road Raiders phone directory, said she signed up for the program when she joined the Tech Parents Organization a year ago. Though she has not received a call from a student help, she said she would be able to phone a local mechanic in Seymour at any hour to provide assistance to Tech students if needed.

Jan Smith, a mother of six in Sweetwater, said she added her name to the list during her oldest son's orientation at Tech and has assisted a student in the past.

"I would be able to get them whatever they need," Smith said. "Get them gas or give them a ride. Whatever they would need."

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Tech cross country places 4th at nationals for highest finish ever

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

It seemed like the Texas Tech cross country team couldn't do much more to impress spectators except a strong finish at nationals.

But the No. 9 Lady Raiders found a way to make program history once again.

Tech finished in fourth place at the NCAA Cross Country Championships on Monday in Terre Haute, Ind., at the LaVern Gibson Championship Course.

It's the highest finish in school history for the Lady Raiders at nationals and it comes a year after the departure of All-American Sally Kipyego.

"Sally did a great job for us," Tech

coach Jon Murray said. "She set the stage for success in the future. They learned how to work from her. She set high standards."

"This was a better team one through seven, than we've ever had."

Indeed it was depth that helped the Lady Raiders out this season. Tech already had a handful of accolades in 2009 with a second consecutive Big 12 Conference championship and team wins in five of the seven races this season — the two being at nationals and Mountain Regionals on Nov. 14 in Albuquerque, N.M.

And it was strong contributions from many runners that put Tech on top for most of the season.

The top four teams received trophies, so the Lady Raiders made sure

they did not come back to Lubbock empty handed.

Lillian Badaru and Purity Biwott were named All-Americans with 17th and 23rd place finishes, respectively. Badaru finished with a time of 20 minutes and 25 seconds and Biwott finished at 20:35. It was Badaru's second consecutive All-America selection and Biwott's first.

They weren't the only runners who shined at nationals for Tech.

Winrose and Caroline Karunde finished 38th at 20:48 and 47th at 21:00, respectively. Gladys Kipsang finished in 66th place with a time of 21:11, leaving Michelle Guzman and Kaci Westervelt as the last two Lady Raiders to finish the race — Guzman in 202nd place with a time of 22:57 and Westervelt at 205th

place in 23:09.

Murray said one of the strange things about running in Terre Haute was the weather. He said last year at nationals, the weather was a little colder, but in Terre Haute on Monday, the temperature was in the 60s, which is unusual for that area at this time of the year.

With nationals indicating the end of the season, the Lady Raiders lose Badaru and Kipsang, leaving the core of the group with another shot at a higher finish next year.

Winrose and Caroline Karunde are finishing up their first cross country season after time at Abilene Christian and Wayland Baptist, respectively. Westervelt is a junior. Biwott, who also went to Wayland Baptist, is a sophomore.

The Lady Raiders already entered the field with tough competition on deck. Colorado's Jenny Barringer was dubbed the favorite to win the individual race without Kipyego to run against this season, but she finished in 163rd place after collapsing early in the race.

Tech finished with 191 points as a team, putting it behind Villanova's 86 points, Florida State's 133 and Washington's 188.

So Murray said it leaves the Lady Raiders with a few more goals to achieve.

"Just keep on working," he said. "We were almost third, three points away from third. So being in the top four of the national meet is a terrific goal."

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TOP 10

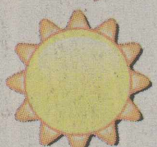
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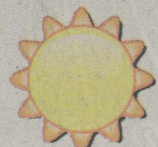
WEATHER

Today



60/27
Sunny

Wednesday



64/29
Sunny

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IN BRIEF

STATE

Atty: Fort Hood suspect may seek insanity defense

FORT WORTH (AP) — An attorney for an Army psychiatrist accused of killing 13 people during an attack at Fort Hood says his client will likely plead not guilty and may pursue an insanity defense at his military trial.

John Galligan, the Fort Hood-area civilian attorney for Maj. Nidal Hasan, told The Associated Press by phone Monday that the court must consider his client's mental status

because the allegations against Hasan contradict his lifestyle and military career.

Hasan is charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder in the Nov. 5 shooting. Galligan says military law requires that his client plead not guilty if prosecutors seek the death penalty.

Hasan remains in intensive care at a San Antonio military hospital, where he was taken after being shot during the attack.

NATION

Pipe-cutting led to radiation at Pa. nuke plant

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Radioactive dust unexpectedly blew out of a pipe being cut by workers during weekend maintenance at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, and officials on Monday were trying to determine exactly how and why it happened.

The accident at the central Pennsylvania plant — the site of the nation's worst nuclear power

plant disaster — exposed a dozen employees to radiation, but the public was in no danger, plant officials and government regulators said.

Plant officials likened workers' maximum exposure to the equivalent of two medical X-rays, while the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said the workers were exposed to a small fraction of the annual federal regulatory limit.

WORLD

Israel, Hamas near swap of prisoners for soldier

JERUSALEM (AP) — Hamas leaders raced to Egypt on Monday amid signs of progress on a deal to swap hundreds of Palestinian prisoners for a captive Israeli soldier held by the Islamic militant group for more than three years.

The exchange could boost Hamas at the expense of its key rival, Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, in part because one of the prisoners to be freed is Marwan Barghouti, his main challenger.

Officials on both sides cautioned against exaggerated optimism that a deal is about to be concluded. Even so, conditions for a deal appear to be ripening on both sides.

Israel and Hamas have been locked in on-again, off-again talks since Gaza militants tunneled into Israel and captured Sgt. Gilad Schalit in a 2006 raid that killed two other soldiers. Until recently, the Egyptian-mediated talks had made little progress.

Corrections

The Daily Toreador's reporters and editors strive for accuracy in the newsgathering process. However, mistakes are inevitable. It is The DT's policy to correct

mistakes 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

Woman found 25 hours after ferry sank

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Rescuers plucked a woman from choppy waters Monday, some 25 hours after she jumped from a crowded ferry that sank in a storm off Indonesia's Sumatra island. At least 29 people drowned, and 20 others were missing.

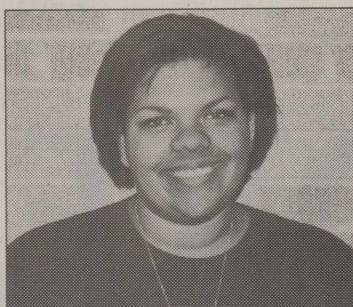
A total of 255 survivors have been pulled from the sea since Sunday when the Dumai Express 10 was hit by towering waves and sank about 90 minutes into an inter-island trip from Batam to Dumai in Riau, a province off Sumatra

island in western Indonesia. A second ferry ran aground nearby, but all its passengers were said to be safe.

The rescued woman in her 30s was spotted by fishermen, and she was in stable condition in a hospital, said Lt. Col. Edwin, a navy officer. Like many Indonesians, he only uses one name.

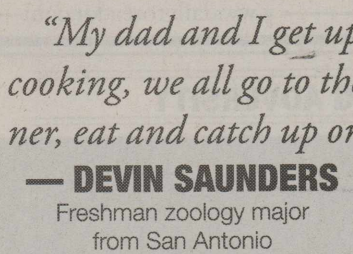
"Fishermen saw her floating with a life jacket on the rough sea in the rain. ... She is very tough," said Edwin.

Thanksgiving traditions



"We celebrate a multicultural Thanksgiving. It's a mix of the African-American, Anglo and the Mexican or Spanish cultures. We alternate between them every year for the food. If we are celebrating the Anglo side, we will have the more traditional dinner. If it's the African-American side, we will have gumbo and jambalaya. Then for the Mexican culture we will have tamales, beans and rice."

— **BREANNA MOLIX**
Junior early childhood development major from Rowlett



"My dad and I get up early and prepare everything. While everything is cooking, we all go to the movies. When we come back, we sit down to dinner, eat and catch up on everything. We also watch the Macy's (Thanksgiving) Day Parade while we cook. My brother and I used to sit down every year and watch it."

— **DEVIN SAUNDERS**
Freshman zoology major from San Antonio



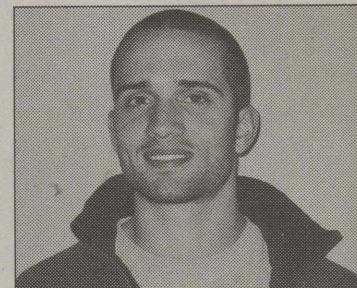
"Normally I go visit family in Korea. We don't have the same holidays, October is a holiday in Korea. For the Korean Thanksgiving we meet with cousins and family and share food. My mom cooks a big meal every year, but the food is different from Thanksgiving here. We make something called yakgwa. It's like rice cakes."

— **CHOI YOON KYNG**
Senior in the intensive English program from South Korea



"I always go home and have Thanksgiving at my grandparents' house. We normally cook and eat a lot of food. I like going home to see my family and old friends."

— **BRIAN DILLON**
Senior Spanish major from Dallas



COMPILED BY KELSEY HECKEL/The Daily Toreador

Break allows students to recharge before finals

By **LAUREN GLOVER**
STAFF WRITER

With only two weeks between the return from Thanksgiving break and finals, Texas Tech officials and students said the key to success is focusing on finals immediately after the break.

"I think that students are excited for the Christmas break and excited for classes that are closing up once they return from Thanksgiving break," said Student Government Association President Suzanne Williams. "I do think students know that they need to buckle down because the finals are the last chance for students to get the grade they want."

Zane Curry, program director and professor for interior design, said he thinks the positivity or negativity of Thanksgiving break depends on the student's major.

"Interior design students need

to use school materials for studio courses, so the break makes it difficult for students to complete their projects" he said. "Some students put things off, thinking they will catch up during the break, and others think they will work really hard after returning; sometimes that doesn't happen."

Thanksgiving break also is a chance for students to lose focus gained during the semester, said Alan Arduain, a junior computer science and electrical engineering major from Lubbock.

"Sometimes I can lose some focus, but usually I come back and switch back to study mode immediately," said Arduain. "It's pretty easy for me to do that because I have to work over the break."

Despite the short amount of time between the end of break and finals, Mashairi Halifu, a freshman public relations major from Houston, said

she is thankful the break takes place when it does.

"If we had to wait until Christmas break, students would be more stressed out," Halifu said. "With this short break, I get to be with my family and refocus on my classes before finals."

Monty Strauss, director of undergraduate programs for mathematics and calculus professor, said he believes the effect Thanksgiving break has on students depends on their work ethic.

"Many students have worked hard this semester, but some need to work a little harder," Strauss said. "The break is positive if students recharge their batteries and work on what they need to, but it is negative if they slacked off during the semester and do nothing to fix that."

One of the positive effects of the break is an increase in students who visit their professors during office

hours to discuss new material and review old material, said Michael San Francisco, associate dean of the Honors College and honors professor of microbiology.

"We will still cover material right up to the end of the semester," San Francisco said. "I don't give my students a break the last few weeks because one thing I strongly believe is that students pay our salaries, so we have to strive to maximize the learning potential of students."

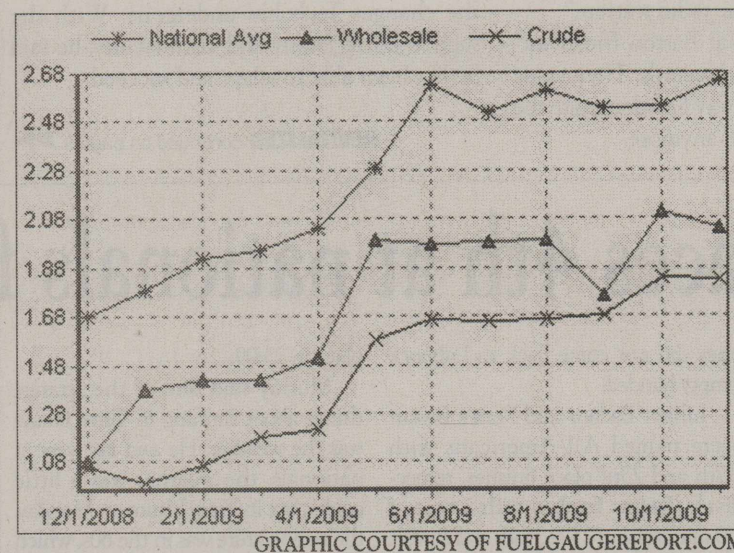
Tech President Guy Bailey said any future changes to Thanksgiving break would be the result of student desire.

"From the point of view of the administrators, it's just fine," Bailey said. "We have a fall break because students requested it, and I don't see anything about Thanksgiving break changing unless students request a change that we might consider."

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Gas prices not slowing student travel as holidays approach

By **ZACH QUINONES**
STAFF WRITER



Despite the increase in gas prices during the past week, Texas Tech students do not seem to be letting it change their minds about traveling back home for the Thanksgiving holidays.

"I don't care if gas is \$100, I'm still driving home to see my family," said Brandi Lockhart, a sophomore psychology major from Fort Worth.

Sarah Schimmer, a AAA Texas spokeswoman, said 12 percent of the state's population — almost 2.96 million people — is expected to travel by car for the holidays. Almost 200,000 Texans are expected to fly during the holidays, and

another 140,000 will use other transportation such as bus or train.

"Airlines are tightening and limiting their number of flights per destination, and the closer it gets to the holidays the more expensive it is," she said. "It's just more affordable to drive."

Schimmer said the Texas gas price average for this week is \$2.48 per gallon — 15 cents less than the national average.

"The least expensive gas prices can be found in Fort Worth and Galveston at \$2.44," she said. "The most expensive will be in El Paso at \$2.62."

Compared to the rest of the nation, Texans are expected to travel an average of 300 more miles than the rest of the country and expected to spend \$100 more than the national average, Schimmer said. However, it is not uncommon to see gas prices increase during holidays because gas stations are anticipating travel, she said.

Charles Bolton of Bolton Oil Company said various factors influence the cost of gas — the wholesale cost of oil, refineries and competition.

Refineries decide what the retailers will pay for gas and sometimes the price of gas goes up even when the wholesale cost decreases, he said.

"It's strictly on a cost basis along with competition," said Bolton. "People are going to be competitive. That's what drives it."

Gas prices had a slight increase during the past few months then tapered off and began to decrease, he said. Now that the holidays are closer, gas prices are starting increase again, but the market changes on a day-to-day basis and so do the prices passed from the gas station to the consumer.

"It makes it more stressful cash-wise but most people are still going to travel," said Rebecca Kyle, a junior human development and family studies major from Dallas. "Especially for holidays that your supposed to be with your family."

— zach.quinones@ttu.edu

Today's **su | do | ku**

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

Ombuds Office

A safe place for students & staff to bring concerns.

Wednesday, Nov. 25th – Sunday, Nov. 29th is Thanksgiving holiday. If you're driving, check out www.roadraiders.ttu.edu for a list of parents willing to help traveling students.

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Gypsy Caravan hopes to leave mark on Lubbock

By **MELISSA MCMILLAN**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Within the past several months, Lubbock has become home to a group of artists, musicians and performers who call themselves the Gypsy Caravan.

Sandra Casparis, a senior art major from Odessa and head of cohesive design and theme of the caravan's events, said the Gypsy Caravan intends to change the label people put on gypsy culture.

"We're passionate about what we do," Casparis said. "We want to put a professional face on it and be taken seriously. We want to show that not all of us in the underground culture fit that strung-out on drugs, getting arrested stereotype. We can be just as respectable and loving as everyone else — and make a difference too."

Amy McEldowney, known within the caravan as Amiji, started the caravan with her husband and several of their art-enthusiast friends. She said the caravan wants to make a difference in the Lubbock community and beyond.

"The Gypsy Caravan is planning some benefit shows in the future to raise money for a few non-profits and charity organizations," McEldowney said. "Some of the organizations we want to assist include the Lubbock Housing Authority, the American Cancer Society and Women's Protective Services."

On Halloween night the Gypsy Caravan hosted an event consisting of live music, a healing tent, vendors and performance art.

"We constructed a tent village to create the atmosphere of a Gypsy Caravan," Casparis said. "It's made with recycled materials and is extremely colorful to say the least. We had a bonfire and lots of blankets, so there were places to keep warm in the haunted gypsy village."

McEldowney was one of the main orchestrators of the event the caravan hosted Halloween night.

"We had a variety of musical performances from individual singer/songwriters, to full bands, to live DJs, to drum circles

with a didgeridoo," McEldowney said. "There was live black-light art, graffiti art, body art, sculpture, fire dancing and vendors. Since it was Halloween people could even dress up as characters using our costume closet."

In addition to providing entertainment, McEldowney said, the caravan hopes to serve a greater purpose with its audience-involvement-oriented performances.

"The Gypsy Caravan is all about loving and accepting everyone," McEldowney said. "It is important to unite as a species to preserve the planet and create peace. So far, everyone I have talked to said they had an amazing time. They always say that Lubbock needs this type of thing."

McEldowney said the purpose of the events is not only to educate and entertain but to provide a therapeutic experience.

"The bonfire, with the music and art, creates an energy that is almost unexplainable," McEldowney said. "Creating heals people. The more we create, the less we are focused on things that limit us. We provide a safe place for people to be themselves and be free."

McEldowney said the caravan's future looks bright.

"There are so many great ideas with enormous potential that our members have come up with," McEldowney said. "It was like we were each a finger in the clay; we didn't know there were other fingers at first. We realized that we are like a hand working together and we can mold the clay. We want to find the other fingers of the other hand so that we can change the earth."

All of their events are hosted to raise funds for the caravan.

"All the gigs and all the parties we throw on the side are to help raise some money," Casparis said. "It's all going to go right back into the caravan to get supplies and to get us to the next gig. We don't get paid, we make money and it goes right back into our shows."

Casparis said the Gypsy Caravan is raising funds to go to Dallas and Denver.



PHOTO BY MELISSA MCMILLAN/The Daily Toreador

VICTOR ANDREW JACOB BRIGGS dances with fire at the Gypsy Caravan's Halloween event in Lubbock. The event also featured live music, a healing tent, black-light art, body art and sculptures.

"We're currently raising money to pay for the insurance on our vans and get to our next two gigs," Casparis said. "We're going to Dallas for the Dallas Harvest Festival, which is an invite-only party. Next, we're going to Denver, Colo., where the Freezing Man Festival happens every December."

Larry Simmons, owner of the Tornado Gallery — a gallery that has worked with the Gypsy Caravan — said he hopes to continue working with the group in the future.

"They've all been real stand up people so far," Simmons said. "From a business standpoint, they've been great. They're spontaneous enough that (their events) don't follow the same formula; they've gotten more people involved in a lot of things they might not have been involved in."

In addition to the caravan's professionalism, Simmons said there are other reasons the caravan will continue to be successful.

"It's a good concept, they've really taken the ball, and I'm really pleased about it," Simmons said. "They're very responsible and organized. I think it's going to be successful in the future, and I hope that we can help them. I'd like to see it as a monthly event here at the gallery."

Future events are sure to come, McEldowney said, and the caravan intends to leave its mark on Lubbock and society as a whole.

"Eventually we plan to join other festivals to become a giant festival, with all types of visual and performance art and eco-friendly technologies and products to encourage the changes the earth needs," McEldowney said. "The profits could go to building eco-efficient homes for the homeless or to cities that have been involved in natural disasters."

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PHOTO BY MELISSA MCMILLAN/The Daily Toreador

SANDRA CASPARIS, A senior art major from Odessa and head of cohesive design and theme of the Gypsy Caravan's events, admires art created during the caravan's Halloween event in Lubbock.

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.
-John F. Kennedy



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Revitalized

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Coming back, it was like the very first time I came onto campus at (age) 36. Everything is so different, but I thank my God that my family supports me so much and my boss supports me big time," he said. "And the people here at Tech have been awesome; they have gone beyond the call of duty. They will sit down and explain stuff to me and take into consideration that there is a lot of stuff that I don't know."

The biggest challenge he said he faces is not having enough time. Balancing a family, a full-time job, volunteering at his church and maintaining his grades has proven to be a

tough challenge.

"I'm pretty sure all students at Tech have the same problem: not having enough time," Esparza said. "They can't slow the classes down to fit my schedule, so I have to keep up with them. But if you tell the professors here you are struggling, they will make time to help you."

Ernest Barton, general manager of Barton Broadcasting, said he is impressed with Esparza's work ethic and determination to finish his degree.

"It's impressive that he did want to go back to school, whether he was doing it to better himself or better us, which was secondary for him," Barton said. "(What he is learning) is definitely going to be beneficial for us. With all this modern technology coming at us from all sides, it's

upside for him to be learning all the new stuff."

Going back to school at an older age presents many challenges, not only because of age, but being out of school for many years means study habits are not what they used to be, he said. Returning to college is a "tremendously great challenge, but I know he is up to it."

Irene Esparza, Gilbert Esparza's wife, has seen how difficult going back to school has been on him, but continues to show her support.

"He's hanging in there, and I'm so proud of him," she said. "I know he is proud of himself also. I know that he is going to be very happy whenever he does get his degree and I'll have my husband back."

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OPINIONS

PAGE 4
TUESDAY, NOV. 24, 2009

Show gratitude this Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is an American tradition. We often think of early morning football games, turkey and stuffing, pumpkin pie, family, friends, tryptophan and afternoon naps.

However, it is often a time of remembering and nostalgia. Literally, it is a day dedicated to thanking others. So, I pose a question: Is Thanksgiving all it used to be?

Today, gratitude is a highly undervalued and underdeveloped virtue. We live in a day of achievement. We tend to believe in our own lives; we deserve all we receive. We are somehow responsible for the blessings in our lives, and so, instead of being grateful to those which make success possible, we have a tendency to take credit ourselves. It is interesting to note in our society "Black Friday," a day of materialistic idolatry, follows Thanksgiving. Life is about people and relationships, not about things.

Part of this problem, I believe, results from the secularization of our society. Gratitude stems from the Latin word gratia, which means pleasing or thankful, according to the Etymological Dictionary Online. From this same word stems the old French word grace, meaning divine help or favor. Originally, gratitude and grace were connected ideas, and one was grateful for the grace of God.

Roy Long



This is not to say those who do not believe in God cannot be as grateful, or even more grateful, than those in whom religious beliefs rest. However, I am concerned we have almost forbidden such expressions of gratitude from public life. We must remember the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, not freedom from religion. We should not fear expressions of gratitude from religious groups, whether we believe in God or believe in the same God as another group.

There are many to whom we should be grateful, such as our families. They have invested so much time and effort to our wellbeing. We should be grateful for the sacrifice of those who have fought for our freedom — past and present.

We should be grateful to the country and to the president of the country, regardless of whether we believe in the bills and laws he has promoted. There is a certain gratitude and honor due to all of the leaders of our country and those in public service.

What does gratitude do for us? Quite simply, it gives us perspective. It helps us understand we are not the only beings in the world and we benefit from the contribution of others. This, in turn, will motivate us to provide for others. In other words, gratitude helps promote connection. We are more connected to others because we are grateful to them for our blessings, or vice versa. We become anxious to bless the lives of others.

With this in mind, we can see the positive effect gratitude can have, both in us and in others. By being grateful, we can connect with those with whom we greatly disagree and build mutual ground. I am sure we can find at least one thing from every person in our society for which we can be grateful. However, for this newfound understanding to function, we must voice that gratitude to those to whom the credit is due.

Gratitude is a recognition that future accomplishment is established on past success. It does not diminish our ability to succeed. It merely states we can progress in life because others have contributed to our society or have made investment in us. It does not diminish us at all. It helps us see our place in society, our niche is history and how we can bless the lives of others.

As we have a break from the university, let us use this time to reflect on and express gratitude to those who have contributed to our success. We can let our families know what we think of their contribution, or we can write a letter to a veteran. Let us use this Thanksgiving break to give thanks to those who deserve

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Waffle, vaccine shortages create great crisis

Last week, Kellogg Co. announced a dilemma the likes of which this country has never seen. In a strange twist of delicious breakfast fate, heavy rains in Atlanta wiped out one of the largest frozen waffle production facilities in the United States, leaving millions of Americans in panic.

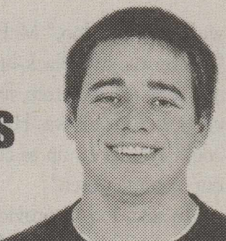
Buttermilk, apple-cinnamon, blueberry, chocolate chip — you name it, they're missing. According to Kellogg, makers of the Eggo brand waffle, this is the first time the United States has faced a waffle shortage, and for the company's sake, I hope it's the last.

As if having a massive rainstorm break down the fabric of this country's great waffle line isn't compelling enough, it appears as if this crisis extends beyond just an isolated accident in Atlanta. It appears as if the waffle gods are behind this problem. In September, equipment at another waffle facility in Rossville, Tenn., unexpectedly shut down, forcing extensive repairs that could take months.

As if that wasn't enough, in September, Kellogg voluntarily recalled 4,500 cases of Eggo waffles after flooding in the Atlanta facility caused an outbreak of the harmful bacteria *Listeria* in the Eggo line. The problem is, Kellogg isn't disclosing what caused the flooding in the facility, how long it was flooded or how long it took to clean the bacteria, leaving waffle lovers skeptical about their frozen goodness.

Coincidentally, about the same time Kellogg started facing these shortages, the Center for Disease

Ben Jones



Control released the swine flu vaccine, just weeks after the Food and Drug Administration declared the vaccine safe. Unfortunately, the vaccine has faced mass nationwide shortages since its release. Across the country, people have been begging to get the vaccine, waiting in line for hours only to be turned away.

The CDC declared everyone under 24, those with children and those exposed to large crowds are at a high risk of catching the virus, meaning almost 120 million Americans need the vaccine. But, with only 50 million vaccinations produced to date, health officials across the country are left in the dark.

So, why the huge shortage? Well, it begins in the method the vaccine works. Essentially, all flu vaccines (swine or seasonal) work by injecting a strain of the actual virus into the body that prevents the harmful virus from taking hold. But the vaccination virus for the swine flu has been spreading slower than the virus, making the virus spread faster than the vaccination

is being produced.

Health officials are attempting to counteract this problem by prioritizing the distribution of the vaccine, letting younger children receive it first. However, the long-term effects aren't fully known, and the vaccine has been subject to a lot of negative publicity, not to mention the large corporations like Goldman Sachs and Citigroup which received the vaccine before some schools.

Basically, this country is without two of its greatest achievements: the frozen waffle and the swine flu vaccine. Certainly, Americans will need to prioritize their ration of Eggo waffles and swine flu vaccines. Kellogg and health officials claim these shortages could last well into 2010, leaving Americans sick and hungry until at least June.

And for Tech students, the consequences are even more severe. With frozen waffles a student favorite and the swine flu a campus-wide problem, I can't even fathom the repercussions of these shortages.

As students go home for the Thanksgiving holiday, there are at least a couple things I can be thankful for: I have a freezer stocked with pancakes and a cabi-

■ Jones is a sophomore economics major from Lubbock.
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Job detail, briefly
- First appearance
- Irish dances
- Prefix with space
- Really peeved
- Campus south of Sunset Blvd.
- Investor's goal
- Subsidiary building
- Thoughtful
- Sophisticated tastes, foodwise
- B&B's
- Jane Fonda, to Peter
- Ping-Pong need
- Airing, as an ESPN game
- Schmooze
- See eye to eye
- "Night" author Wiesel
- Nod off
- Studio item with a thumb hole
- Datebook entry: Abbr.
- Improves in the wine cellar
- Western
- Guitarist — Paul
- 1982 Disney sci-fi movie
- Pessimistic types
- Sidekick
- Sargasso et al.
- Portable shipping platform
- "The Haj" novelist
- Racetrack borders
- Giant screen format
- Vitality
- Elts on the links
- Free from doubt
- Foreboding date for Caesar
- Dublin-born poet
- Romanov ruler

DOWN

- Droop
- Anjou or Bosc
- Toledo's lake
- Free from doubt
- California senator Feinstein
- Maritime raptors
- Robin Hood's merry men, e.g.
- Longhorn State sch.
- Oil, informally
- Biblical traitor
- Rapper-turned-actor
- Tickled-pink feeling
- Maple yield
- Bay or cove
- Actress Tyler
- Of the Holy See
- Showing shock
- Plumbing problems
- Jimmy of the Daily Planet
- Playful bites
- Gangster dubbed "The Telfon Don"
- Ancient Mexican
- Tavern round
- Consequently
- Academic honor
- Tea named for William IV's prime minister
- True-blue
- Mai — cocktail
- Breaks off
- O'Hara home
- Action film gun
- Gen. — boomer's kid, usually
- Groot the day
- Cocksure
- Aesopian racer
- "Saturday Night Live" alum Fey
- Outback runners
- O'Hara home
- Action film gun

By Gary J. Whitehead 11/24/09

Monday's Puzzle Solved

SLAMS HARM SHAM
TAROT BEAU HOSE
ANKLEBOOTS INCA
BASELY NEC NOIR
LEA SANGRIA
OLDHANDS TAU
DIII OLLA MAMAS
DEEP WAACS RAGA
SUSHI TISTO DUEL
USE HILLSIDE
HANGMAN NAE
AAGORIM READD
DAINE LEGWARMERS
EVERACOME ASEAT
SETS PETE TOMBS

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► timothy.poon@ttu.edu

Holiday shopping list gets technical

As far as holidays go, the winter ones apparently have a Manifest Destiny on the rest of them. Each year, everything between Halloween and New Years takes one step closer to fusing into a kind of master holiday, analogous to some sort of Megazord of celebrations. However, this consequently also means lots of presents. Yay commerce.

This year saw a lot of gadgets enter the market, enough to leave the average consumer dizzy with model numbers, specs and hallucinations of blindingly shiny electronics. How fortuitous, though, you should be holding a holiday gift guide at this very moment. Even better is that said guide is broken down into categories for your convenience.

Netbooks — These pint-sized laptops are all the rage, and it's easy to see why: They're cheap, light and bursting with excellent battery life. All they lack are optical drives and high-performance components, but such additions would negate the netbook's edge and simply make them an expensive, yet excellent, source of eyestrain.

However, under the "cheap" umbrella of things, \$349 can net you an Asus Eee PC 1005HA. It has the standard netbook guts (Intel Atom N280, 1GB RAM, Windows XP), but the kickass six-hour battery life and fantastic keyboard and touchpad put this netbook way above the competition.

For slightly more money, though, at \$399, you can snag an HP Mini 311 which has an Nvidia Ion graphics processor, making it almost as capable as a full-sized laptop. However, you will have to put up with a subpar touchpad and slightly, almost negligibly worse Intel Atom N270 processor.

Portable Media Player — Strictly MP3 players are so Willenium. If your portable media player can't handle videos, apps, games and Web browsing on top of music, you have a problem. AKA a first-

Timothy Poon

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generation iPod (zing), and you are in desperate need of an upgrade because that just won't suffice in this day and age.

Cream of the crop honors in this category goes to the iPod Touch (\$278), what with its almost endless App Store and the top-notch apps offered within. However, once the Zune Marketplace starts to shape up, the Zune HD (\$289) and its stupidly brilliant OLED display and superior audio quality will easily knock the socks off the Touch.

E-Reader — If you're unaware, e-readers are devices made for the express purpose of providing the user with things to read, namely books. What's the point, you ask? Well, they use this technology called e-paper, which works by reflecting light off of black and white charged particles to hold text and images indefinitely without using electricity. This not only means amazing battery life but also zero eyestrain since it operates almost exactly like regular paper, i.e., it uses ambient light for reading rather than emitting its own light. This eliminates the need to refresh the display and constantly bombard the user's eyes with direct light.

These are some things that LCD gadgets just can't provide, but that generally won't convince avid smartphone and laptop users to make the switch to an e-reader for their literary needs. It's a good thing, then, the Amazon Kindle (\$259) comes with a service called Whispersnet for downloading and purchasing books wirelessly with the device. The Kindle has some issues such as its low-contrast display and lacking organizational features, but the Whispersnet service is hard to pass up, and it is definitely more technically capable than the Sony Reader or iRex iLiad.

For the same price as the Kindle, a couple weeks of patience and some faith, you could wait for Barnes & Noble to release the Nook Nov. 30. Such patience will net you an Android powered device that comes with a similarly sized 6-inch E Ink display, a 3.5-inch color touchscreen for input (compare this to the Kindle's comically pedestrian keyboard), and a pretty sweet share feature that allows you to share certain books with other Nook users for up to two weeks.

There's plenty more to cover in the realm of gadget wish lists, but these categories seemed the most likely to require immediate attention. TVs, handheld gaming systems, cameras and the like will have to wait for another time, but don't worry, they're coming.

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A safe place for students & staff to bring concerns.

If you plan on driving over the Thanksgiving break, make sure you have food, water, a blanket, and a flashlight in your car. Also, make sure someone else is aware of your travel plans. Happy turkey day!

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SPORTS

PAGE 6
TUESDAY, NOV. 24, 2009

Leach: 'We'll stick with Nick for now'

By ALEX YBARRA
MANAGING EDITOR

Just as Baylor was making its way out of the Big 12 Conference cellar behind the playmaking ability of quarterback Robert Griffin, tragedy struck.

He suffered a season-ending knee injury against Northwestern State on Sept. 26, and the Bears' have lost six of seven since.

With Texas Tech and Baylor squaring off at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Red Raider coach Mike Leach doesn't have any compassion for the Bears' struggles this year.

"I have no sympathy whatsoever," he said. "I've played three guys (at quarterback)."

Make that four.

There's Steven Sheffield, Seth Doege, Taylor Potts and the most recent addition: Nick.

That was the name stitched to the back of Potts' jersey Saturday, when he threw for 388 yards and two touchdowns in a 41-13 win against Oklahoma.

After the game, Leach cleared up any questions regarding the name change. It's in reference to former Kansas linebacker and 2005 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year Nick Reid, who personified the quintessential tough football player — as Leach put it.

Based off Potts' performance, Leach said the name is here to stay.

"We'll stick with Nick for now," he said. "Potts will be Nick, and we'll just

leave it at that and see how that goes for a while."

What was more confusing than "Nick" on the jersey was how it got there in the first place. During the postgame press conference, Leach said the name was his idea and it was Potts' idea to have it on the jersey.

Potts was confused about it, saying none of it was his idea. Then he was notified of Leach's comments and immediately took responsibility, tongue-in-cheek, of course.

"He didn't have any say in it being his nickname," Leach said during his weekly press conference on Monday. "He did have some say on it going on the back of his jersey and now that it's there, he no longer has any say over that."

Potts' situation this year has been a microcosm of the entire season for the Red Raiders, which has been riddled with inconsistencies.

A concussion knocked him out of games against New Mexico, Kansas State and Nebraska. He returned after fans already had lost confidence in him and invested it in Sheffield, who seized the starting role with convincing victories in the aforementioned games. But then Sheffield had an injury of his own against the Huskers and was out for the next three weeks.

With Sheffield out, Potts started against Texas A&M only to throw two interceptions and be replaced by Doege in the second half. Doege got his first career start against Kansas a week later but couldn't refrain from playing like a redshirt freshman.

Potts came in and led Tech to a win against the Jayhawks, but that still didn't solidify him at quarterback.

Leach then shuffled Potts and Sheffield, who was coming off his foot injury, in a loss to Oklahoma State a week later.

But after what Potts showed against the Sooners, Batch came away impressed with the resilience it takes to absorb constant criticism only to tuck it away and be ready at a moment's notice.

The disapproval got to the point where fans at Jones AT&T Stadium chanted, "No more Potts," during a 52-30 loss to the Aggies.

"It takes a tough, tough, tough person to be able to withstand all that and come out of that on top," Batch said. "That's what he's done. I don't know how I would've responded in that situation. I don't know how a lot of people would respond in that situation. He's shown that he's mentally tough, and he has a lot of heart."

Potts and tackle Marlon Winn mentioned an inside joke called "surround sound," that involves blocking out everything outside of football — good or bad. When asked about fans once chanting against him, Potts quickly said with a smirk, "surround sound."

Potts admitted he learned a valuable lesson by watching Tech's receivers perpetually rotate in and out — sort of like the quarterbacks started too — and realized he has to be just as dialed-in as they are no matter the adversity.

"If I'm not starting," he said, "coach

pulls me or whatever — It's my responsibility to this team to stay focused and to stay with it and keep my head in the game and not just lose it."

Now Nick turns his attention to the lowly Bears, who nearly beat Tech a season ago. The Red Raiders rallied from 14 down to escape Jones AT&T Stadium with a share of the Big 12 South Division title.

This year marks the first time in the 67-year history of the series that the game is played on a neutral site. However, that doesn't mean fans aren't paying attention.

Cowboys Stadium — the \$1 billion brainchild of owner Jerry Jones — will have more than 65,000 in attendance as all reserved seats have been sold. This is the first year of a two-year contract that the game will be played in Arlington, meaning both Baylor and Tech lose a home game.

Leach said he had "little to none" input on the decision to move the series to a neutral site and acknowledged he'd rather play in Lubbock next season, but the end result is "kind of a wash really."

Tech cornerback Jamar Wall has no problems playing there, and he said he fully expects Tech fans to try and make it a Jones AT&T Stadium atmosphere.

"I think we'll still have a majority of the people there," he said. "I honestly think we will have a lot of people there to support us. We have to come out and prepare. Even if it was an away game, we would do the exact same."

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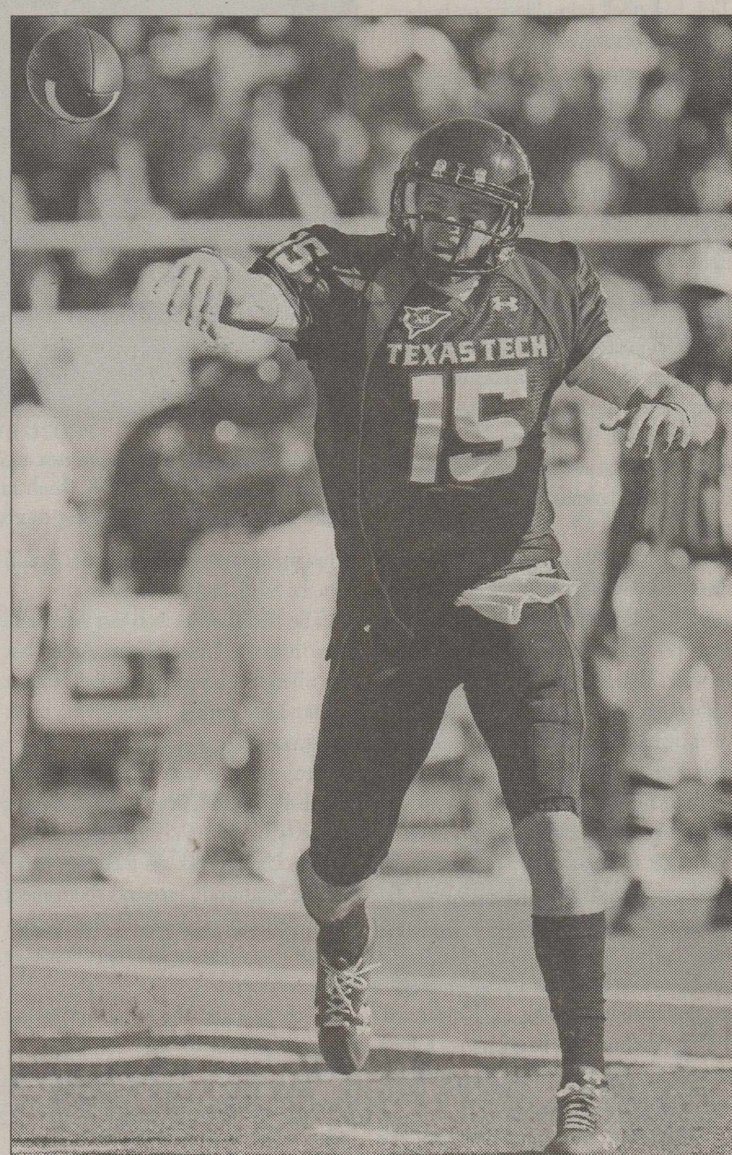


PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH QUARTERBACK Taylor Potts throws a pass during a 41-13 victory against Oklahoma Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium.

Tech volleyball plays last road match against KU

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

Setter Karlyn Meyers is quick to note the Texas Tech volleyball team has had more struggles at home compared to being on the road.

So a match against Kansas at 6:30 p.m. today in Lawrence, Kan., in the Horejsi Family Athletics Center may be a good thing for the Red Raiders.

"I don't know why it's harder for us to play at home," Meyers said. "On the road we don't know anybody, so we're just playing for ourselves. We're not nervous,

and that's how we need to be playing all the time. We just got to go in there and play hard."

Tech (2-25, 0-18 in Big 12 Conference play) was swept by Texas A&M Sunday, which gave the team only one day to rest before today's match.

Today's match also is the Red Raiders' final one on the road before they face Kansas State at 11:45 a.m. Saturday in the United Spirit Arena. That match also will be Senior Day. Tech's senior class consists of outsider hitters Hayley Ball and Caroline Witte along with defensive specialist and libero Jenn Goehry.

Despite little time between the matches, limited rest is something the Red Raiders have seemed to feed off in past weeks.

After being swept by Colorado earlier in the year, Tech had the misfortune of traveling to Kansas State the next day. The result was another loss, but the Red Raiders still won a set.

Three days later, Tech took the opening set from a No. 2 Texas team that had not surrendered a set at home all season prior to that.

The Red Raiders have yet to win a set at home in Big 12 play

this season.

Meyers said the scarce amount of free time is another obstacle the team has to overcome.

"We can't let it affect us," Meyers said. "We know that we have one day and so we need to work at what we need to fix and be ready for Kansas. Every team is going to have some sort of adversity and right now this is ours. It's just something we have to deal with."

Kansas (15-13, 7-11) is a team Tech players and coaches say can be defeated.

The last time the two teams played each other, the Jayhawks did more than just sweep the Red Raiders.

KU held Tech to only 29 kills and a measly .050 hitting percentage, while the Jayhawks tallied 45 kills along with 57 digs. Kansas dominated the match and left the Red Raiders searching for answers.

Although her team has made large strides in the right direction, Tech coach Trish Knight said her team still is looking for ways to put together a win.

"I think that once you play them you know how they'll do things and we'll have a better game plan," she said. "We know what to do against teams, we just can't do it right now. It's one of

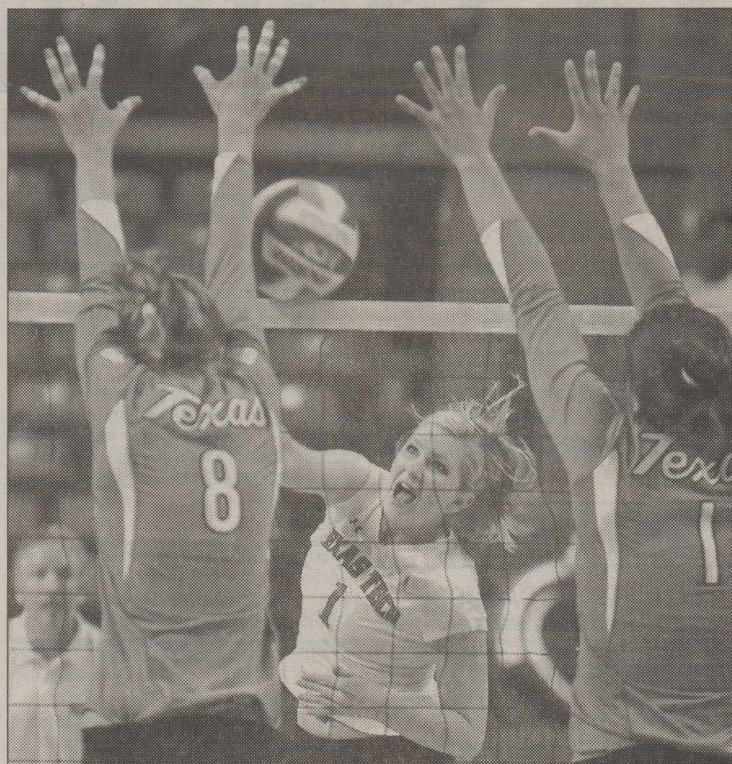


PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH'S HAYLEY BALL spikes the ball past two Texas players. The Red Raiders take on Kansas at 6:30 p.m. today in Lawrence, Kan.

those things where we don't have the strength to do some things we need to carry out."

Tech's two remaining matches means time is running out to put an end to a 57-match losing streak to conference opponents. Knight said putting a win together is going to require

reliability and consistency from her players.

"It's a matter of kids showing up and me being able to count on them," she said. "If I knew they were going to show up to play every time it would be a lot easier."

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