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the blues  
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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2, 2009  
VOLUME 84 ■ ISSUE 63

# THE DAILY T O R E A D O R

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## TTUHSC students participate in World AIDS Day 2009

By CARRIE THORNTON  
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech participated in nationally recognized World AIDS Day 2009 on Tuesday night to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS.

The American Medical Student Association and International Medicine Club co-hosted the event at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

The theme of this year's event was Universal Access and Human Rights.

It featured a lecture on breakthrough research in the field of HIV and AIDS and a documentary and a candlelight vigil in honor of those who have suffered or are suffering from the disease.

"It's important to understand the disease has shown us it has no boundaries," said Revathi Ravi, president of the International Medicine Club. "HIV does not know race or demographic. We need to discover what it is that we are miss-

View a related video at  
www.dailytoreador.com

ing, and what more we can do." The opening lecture featured Premlata Shankar, co-director of the Center of Excellence for Infectious Disease Research at TTUHSC in El Paso, who spoke about her research findings concerning a new possible way to eradicate HIV.

"This epidemic began more than 30 years ago, over 40 million people have been infected," Shankar said. "It has ravaged communities and cultures, and knows no limits."

Yet during this period in which more than 25 million have died, long strides have been made to understand the virus, what it actually does and how it mutates, she said.

Doctors have the ability to give those infected a good life without much pain.

And the facts stand; most vaccine trials fail

and no cure exists. However, Shankar and her team have been working on new research that has provided some hope.

They have developed a new form of HIV vaccine that appears to be more promising than those in the past, but she said nothing is set in stone.

"RNA interference is a natural gene silencing mechanism," she said. "It can be harnessed as anti-HIV therapy."

Shankar said she was more than happy to speak at the night's event and believes it is important for students to learn about AIDS and how they can help.

"It's a great and positive event; everyone is so enthusiastic here," she said. "There is great need for AIDS awareness and the problems that still need to be solved."

Following Shankar and a fellow researcher's

AIDS continued on page 2



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador  
SOLEIL ARRIETA, LEFT, a first-year medical student from Plano, and Revathi Ravi, a second-year medical student from Richardson, light each other's candles Tuesday during the World AIDS Day events at the TTUHSC.



ABOVE: MANY STUDENTS' trips to class were made more interesting Tuesday morning as Lubbock received its first snowfall of the school year. Right: Amber Sager, a freshman in the College of Mass Communications from Cuero, throws a snowball through the bushes at another team during a snowball fight Tuesday in Urbanovsky Park.

### Tech prepared for winter weather

By JETT THOMPSON  
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech officials have been keeping a close eye on the wintry weather and the potential for hazardous conditions since Tuesday morning.

Ronald Phillips, special assistant to Tech President Guy Bailey, said the President's Office was in the process Tuesday evening of determining the closure of roads and the potential delay or canceling of Wednesday classes, although no decision was made as of press time.

He said the decision of canceling university classes is determined by Bailey and usually involves input from the Tech Provost's Office and the Tech Police Department in conjunction with the Texas Department of Public Safety and the National Weather Service.

If the decision was made by the president to cancel classes, he said, the information would be released to students through several different media including the TechAlert system and local media.

Phillips said the decision by

the president would be made early enough that people could be made aware before class and work.

"We want to make decisions that are in the best interest of the Texas Tech community and its safety," Phillips said.

Col. Gordon Hoffman, deputy chief of the Tech Police Department, said the department has been in contact with the National Weather Service and is assessing the potential for hazardous conditions.

Hoffman said with the low temperature today at about 29 degrees and mix of precipitation on campus, roads may need to be closed and classes canceled.

In the event of hazardous conditions, he said students and faculty should allow plenty of time for their commute and to anticipate problems along the way. It is important for drivers to maintain good visibility, scrape ice from windshields and increase following distance between themselves and the car in front of them, he said.

WEATHER continued on page 2



PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

## Volunteering increases post-grad job prospects

By CARRIE THORNTON  
STAFF WRITER

In today's economy where students will go to great lengths to secure a job, volunteering may be the key to a career.

College students are encouraged to pursue internships to gain experience and broaden their resume, but it is easy to forget volunteering at an organization can be just as effective at building relationships and finding a job.

"From the employers' perspective, it makes perfectly good sense," said David Kraus, director of the Texas Tech University Career Services. "Why wouldn't (employers) strongly consider someone who has shown an interest and passion for the organization by volunteering?"

People tend to volunteer at places that mean something to them, he said. They

are attracted to an organization with similar values, causes and people, which reveals to their potential employer their true character.

"They are more of a known quantity than another candidate who has not performed voluntary service," Kraus said. "So, bottom line is, yes, I think students should certainly see their volunteer work as places of potential employment."

Even if the employer does not have any available positions at the time, if the student has done a good job in volunteering and made an impression, he or she likely will receive recommendations and assistance through contacts the employer might have, he said.

Volunteering is just as valuable

as an internship, Kraus said. It is sometimes hard to distinguish the two.

"I look at volunteering experience much like an internship," he said. "It's an opportunity for students to get experiences for employment, make contacts, network and show how good they are (at something)."

Kerbi Smith, program coordinator for group volunteering at the Volunteer Center of Lubbock, said volunteering is an effective way of finding jobs, especially considering today's job market.

"Because companies may be not ready or able to hire at the moment, but they will take on a volunteer," Smith said. "And it can really be a great tool (for students) to develop their skills or learn something new in an environment where they are not being paid."

Like an internship, volunteering allows students to learn skills they can put to use in their future jobs, she said. It gives them a chance to experience several career paths without officially taking on a job.

There is no one specific type of organization or company students should volunteer at, it depends on what the student's ultimate goals are, Smith said.

"There are opportunities for such a huge variety of people from doing legal work to tax preparation to organizing big events," she said. "The best thing to do is do research and find organizations that fit into your career goals in a non-profit atmosphere."

JOBS continued on page 3

*Why wouldn't (employers) strongly consider someone who has shown an interest and passion for the organization by volunteering?*

DAVID KRAUS  
DIRECTOR  
TECH CAREER SERVICES

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**IN BRIEF**

**STATE**

**Charities defend asking for social security number**

HOUSTON (AP) — The Salvation Army defended its practice on Tuesday of requiring at least one social security number for each family registering their children to receive Christmas gifts.

Some had seen the practice as a way to check immigration status but the charity said it's a way to cut down on fraud.

"Our work is not to verify immigration status," Juan Alanis, a spokesman for the Salvation Army in the Hous-

ton area, said Tuesday. "That's really not something that we're concerned with."

The controversy came up after the Houston Chronicle reported that the Salvation Army and another charity, Outreach Program Inc., were requiring Social Security numbers or documents that indicate immigration status.

The Salvation Army in the Houston area asks for at least a child or parent's social security number so a family can register children to receive toys.

**NATION**

**Seattle police kill suspect in officer slayings**

SEATTLE (AP) — A lone officer on patrol in the middle of the night Tuesday spotted a stolen car, its hood up and engine running, and pulled over to check it out. As the patrolman sat in his cruiser, a burly man with a large mole on his cheek came up from behind.

The officer turned and instantly recognized the most wanted man in the Pacific Northwest — the ex-con accused of gunning down four cops

at a coffee shop.

Moments later, Maurice Clemmons, 37, lay dead in the street, shot by the patrolman after Clemmons made a move for a gun he had taken from one of the slain officers, police said.

Clemmons' death brought to an end two days of fear across the Seattle-Tacoma area and one of the biggest manhunts the region has ever seen.

**WORLD**

**Kosovo tells court its independence is permanent**

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A decade after NATO airstrikes ended Serbia's bloody crackdown on its rebellious province, Kosovo told the U.N.'s highest court Tuesday its independence is irreversible and warned that any attempt to cancel it could set off a renewed conflict.

Serbia, noting that the case is the first attempt in the blood-soaked history of the Balkans to peacefully resolve a dispute, said Kosovo's unilateral independence tore at the very

fabric of Serb national identity and breached international law.

The 15-judge International Court of Justice is being asked to render its legal opinion on the validity of Kosovo's February 2008 independence declaration, which has been recognized by 63 countries but not by the Security Council.

The opinion has no binding effect, but other countries with potential breakaway regions, like Spain with its Basque district, are closely watching the outcome.

**Obama orders 30,000-troop boost in Afghanistan**

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP) — Declaring "our security is at stake," President Barack Obama ordered an additional 30,000 U.S. troops into the long war in Afghanistan Tuesday night, nearly tripling the force he inherited as commander in chief. He promised an impatient public he would begin bringing units home in 18 months.

The buildup to about 100,000 troops will begin almost immediately — the first Marines will be in place by Christmas — and will cost \$30 billion for the first year alone.

In a prime-time speech at the U.S. Military Academy, the president told the nation his new policy was designed to "bring this war to a successful conclusion," though he made no mention of defeating Taliban insurgents or capturing al-Qaida terrorist leader Osama bin Laden.

"We must deny al-Qaida a safe

haven," Obama said in spelling out U.S. military goals for a war that has dragged on for eight years. "We must reverse the Taliban's momentum. ... And we must strengthen the capacity of Afghanistan's security forces and government."

The president said the additional forces would be deployed at "the fastest pace possible so that they can target the insurgency and secure key population centers."

Their destination: "the epicenter of the violent extremism practiced by al-Qaida."

"It is from here that we were attacked on 9/11, and it is from here that new attacks are being plotted as I speak," the president said.

It marked the second time in his young presidency that Obama has added to the American force in Afghanistan, where the Taliban has recently made significant advances. When he became president last

January, there were roughly 34,000 troops on the ground; there now are 71,000.

After the speech, cadets in the audience — some of whom could end up in combat because of Obama's decision — climbed over chairs to shake hands with their commander in chief and take his picture.

Obama's announcement drew less-wholehearted support from congressional Democrats. Many of them favor a quick withdrawal, but others have already proposed higher taxes to pay for the fighting.

Republicans reacted warily, as well. Officials said Sen. John McCain, who was Obama's Republican opponent in last year's presidential campaign, told Obama at an early evening meeting attended by numerous lawmakers that declaring a timetable for a withdrawal would merely send the Taliban underground until the Americans began to leave.

As a candidate, Obama called Afghanistan a war worth fighting, as opposed to Iraq, a conflict he opposed and has since begun easing out of.

A new survey by the Gallup organization, released Tuesday, showed only 35 percent of Americans now approve of Obama's handling of the war; 55 percent disapprove.

He made no direct reference to public opinion Tuesday night, although he seemed to touch on it when he said, "The American people are understandably focused on rebuilding our economy and putting people to work here at home."

"After 18 months, our troops will begin to come home," he said flatly.

In eight years of war, 849 Americans have been killed in Afghanistan, Pakistan and neighboring Uzbekistan, according to the Pentagon.



SNOW COVERS THE campus Seal and Christmas tree early Monday.

PHOTO BY SAM GRENIER/The Daily Toreador

**Weather**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Drivers also should be cautious on bridges and overpasses, use their brakes judiciously and "steer into the skid" in the event of slippage on ice, Hoffman said. Bikers should be cautious and be aware that cars may not be able to stop

as quickly.

Capt. Gregory Stevens, Lubbock Police Department public information officer, said 16 traffic accidents were reported on Lubbock streets between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. Tuesday.

During particularly bad episodes of icy roads, typically between 30 and 40 traffic accidents are reported on Lubbock roads, he said.

"There have been a few more wrecks than normal, but we haven't been inun-

dated," Stevens said.

Municipal and Texas Department of Transportation sand trucks in the Lubbock area have been put on stand by, Stevens said. TxDOT sand trucks are meant to treat ice on state highways and interstate highways while municipal sand trucks will treat local roads.

"We're holding our breath, but we'll have to wait and see what happens," Stevens said.

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**AIDS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lectures, a 30-minute screening of a documentary following two East African women as they lived infected with HIV.

At the candlelight vigil, students read the stories of others who have or are suffering from the disease.

Ravi, a second-year medical student from Richardson, said all students need to be aware and involved in efforts to stop the spread of AIDS despite whatever discipline they are interested in.

"Students are the future of this research," she said. "These are the people who will make a difference by their actions. People have the chance to be that light for a world that's in need."

Divya Danda, a first-year medical student from Houston, said because of the gravity of the issue, students should be knowledgeable of the latest on AIDS and HIV research.

"The event (was) great. It's good to see that everyone can come together and honor those who have suffered from (AIDS) and passed away due to it," she said. "It shows we as a community can come together and fight against it."

>>carrie.thornton@ttu.edu

**Corrections**

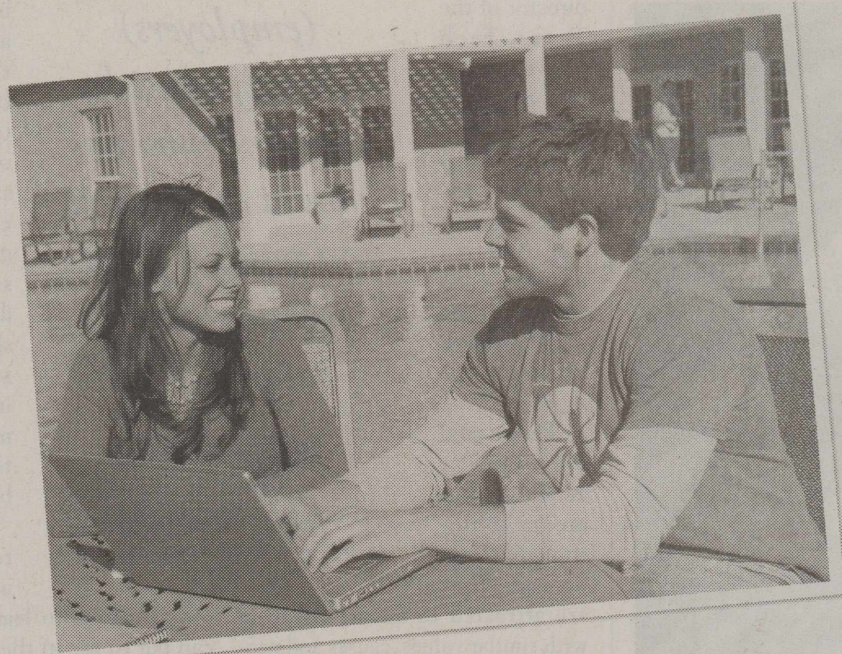
The Daily Toreador's reporters and editors strive for accuracy in the news-gathering process. However, mistakes are inevitable.

It is The DT's policy to correct mis-

takes in this spot as soon as possible.

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

**study + play + live**



6:32 still havent studied for the quiz. what about u?

6:33 nope :( want to get together to study?

6:34 my place. study lounge or wifi by the pool?

6:35 def the pool. cant beat the sun while studying

6:36 lol. see you in a few



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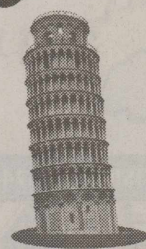
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### Heartbeats

A quick pulse around the Rec Sports World...

#### Fit/Well

We are looking for ZUMBA certified fitness instructors for the spring! Please email Leslie Eyerly at [leslie.eyerly@ttu.edu](mailto:leslie.eyerly@ttu.edu) or call 742-3828 for more information!

#### Rec Center

The Rec Center will be closing at 6:30pm on Wednesday, December 9th for our Fall Semester Student Worker Recognition Dinner. We would like to thank all of the student employees who work hard to make the Rec Center the best workout facility in Lubbock!

Christmas Break schedule will be available in the Rec Center or online at [www.rescsports.ttu.edu](http://www.rescsports.ttu.edu) beginning Thursday, December 3rd.

### Outdoor Pursuits



# SKI SHOP

The Outdoor Pursuits Center's Ski and Snowboard Shop is now open! If you are looking for a weekend rental or over Christmas Break, we have great equipment that is brand new and ready to go! Choose from a full ski or snowboard package or just parts that you need! We are currently taking reservations for Christmas Break!

Christmas Break Prices:  
December 18 - January 4  
Ski Package: \$62 Snowboard Package: \$77

December 18 - January 13  
Ski Package: \$124 Snowboard Package \$154

Ski package includes skis, boots and poles. Snowboard packages include board and boots. Helmets and other accessories are also available for rent!

Already have equipment, but just need them waxed or P-texed? Waxing is \$25 and a P-tex/gouge is only \$5!

## 9th Annual WINTER SLAM

### Intramurals



Men's Fall Outdoor Soccer Champions: Fiji A



Women's Fall Outdoor Soccer Champions: That Team



Co-Rec Fall Outdoor Soccer Champions: Upper 90's

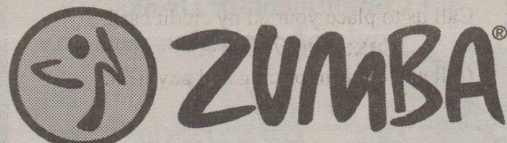
### Intramurals

Check out these Spring 2010 Intramural Dates!

Basketball Registration:  
January 19 -21 with games starting January 31.

Basketball Officials Meeting;  
Looking for a job? Become an Intramural Basketball Official by attending a meeting on January 19th or 21st from 5:30 - 8:00pm

#### Fit/Well



We are looking for ZUMBA certified fitness instructors for the spring! Please email Leslie Eyerly at [leslie.eyerly@ttu.edu](mailto:leslie.eyerly@ttu.edu) or call 742-3828 for more information!

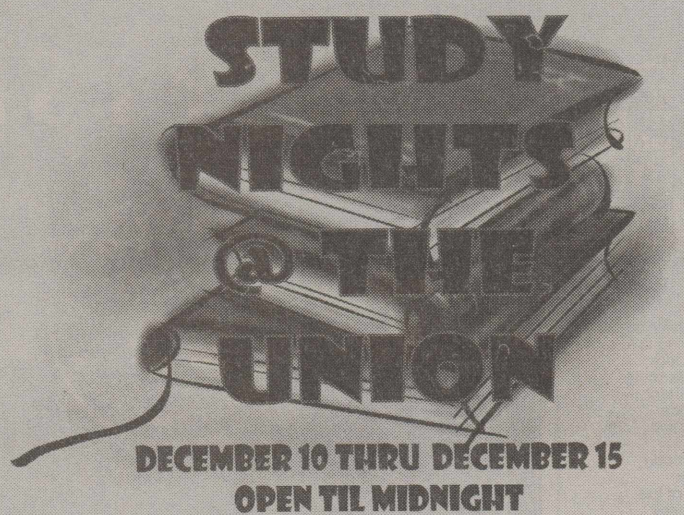
Check [www.rescsports.ttu.edu](http://www.rescsports.ttu.edu) for the break RaiderX schedule. Even though the University will be on break, doesn't mean your favorite classes are all taking time off!



December 5th 2009  
Registration Nov. 16th - December 3rd  
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## student union

coming together in the union



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## activities

whats coming up at the union

Dana Alexandra  
Tuesday, December 1  
SUB Courtyard | 12:00pm

Movie -- The Hangover  
Thursday, December 3  
SUB Allen Theatre | 8:00pm

Matinee Movie -- The Hangover  
Friday, December 4  
SUB Escondido Theatre | 3:00pm

Movie -- A Christmas Story  
Wednesday, December 9  
SUB Escondido Theatre | 10:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 8:00pm

R&R Night  
Wednesday, December 9  
SUB Matador Room | 6:00pm

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