

In a state
of debate
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No. 12 Washington
comes to town
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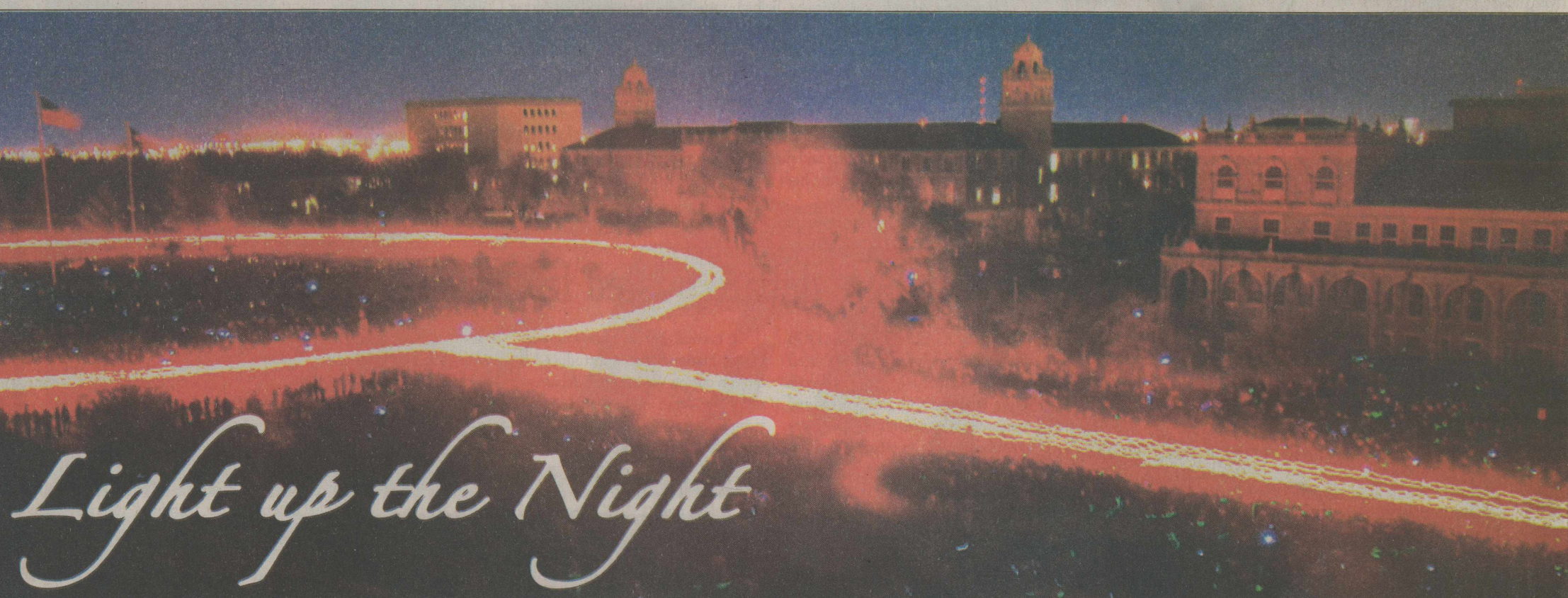


PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

A LONG EXPOSURE captures the Saddle Tramps as they carry torches through Memorial Circle toward the Physics and Geosciences building Wednesday during the 51st Annual Carol of Lights.

Tech holiday tradition dazzles spectators

By ALEXANDRA PEDRINI
STAFF WRITER

The 51st annual Carol of Lights kicked off the start of the holiday season Wednesday evening with students, faculty, staff, alumni and many more anticipating the single flip of a switch illuminating Memorial Circle and the Science Quad.

The Student Government Association and Residence Hall Association have been spreading the word about the Carol of Lights and the date change for weeks, said SGA president and senior advertising major from Arlington Suzanne Williams. Plastering the campus with posters and signs letting students know when the annual event began was only part of how it got attention.

"We do have the spotlight which lets the out-lining towns know as well," said Alice Scott, Carol of Lights faculty adviser for 23 years.

The evening began with the Saddle Tramps "lighting the way" with their torches, walking from the entrance followed by the High Riders.

"The entrance was very interesting," said Emma Fratangelo, a freshman with no declared major from Tyler. "The Saddle Tramps' entrance was splendid, and I liked how the High Riders came in with candles too."

Every few years the RHA decides to spice things up a little by adding something different like a mariachi band or fireworks, but Scott said this year's Carol of Lights was almost exactly like past ceremonies.

"The point is tradition and to have a traditional ceremony," Scott said. "It has pretty much fallen back to the traditional Carol of Lights, which is absolutely gorgeous."

With the entrance of the High Riders and Saddle Tramps, the Masked Rider and Raider Red entered in their holiday best. Raider Red dressed as Santa Claus, with his signature Double T logo and guns. The Masked Rider's cape and hat were lined with Christmas lights as she and her horse, Midnight, leisurely walked Memorial Circle around campus.

"I thought that the Masked Rider's cape was pretty tight, and that was my favorite part," said Jade Harutyunyan, a freshman international business major from Plano. "The Santa Claus costume that Raider Red wore was cute."

After all of the entrances, the combined Texas Tech choirs and soloists performed various Christmas songs including "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." The choirs sang while Santa Claus and his friendly Tech elves and Mrs. Claus distributed candy canes and took pictures with carol goers.

"My friend was pretty into seeing Santa when he came by," Harutyunyan said. "It was cool how he didn't just focus on the little kids, but the big kids too."

Even with the change of date, moving the ceremony from a Friday to a Wednesday, the Science Quad was filled with people. Had the event taken place on Friday evening as is tradition, event coordinators were concerned vital members of the ceremony, such as the Masked Rider, Raider Red and the Saddle Tramps, wouldn't be there due to the possibility of a championship football game, Scott said.

"We got worried about what we were going to do because half the choir and the Saddle Tramps would be there," Scott said. "The fall break has affected this as well, so we were trying to accommodate that too. We do the best we can but can't please everyone."



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

MEREDITH MORTON, A junior public relations major from Austin, sits on the shoulders of Spencer Cox, a junior business major from Austin, near the Chemistry building Wednesday during the 51st Annual Carol of Lights. Morton and Cox became engaged earlier that evening.

The Carol of Lights serves as one of Tech's most recognized traditions on and off campus. When students tour the school and attend Red Raider Orientation, they hear about the Carol of Lights, and usually get really excited about it, Scott said.

"I was really looking forward to it because my sister told me about the tradition and the school pride that you have when you go to it," Fratangelo said. "I thought the lights were really beautiful."

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Tech alumni create scholarship for wrongly convicted Lubbock man

By KELSEY HECKEL
STAFF WRITER

Cory Session saw the words "equal justice under law" engraved on the U.S. Supreme Court building in a vision of his brother Timothy Cole being pardoned after Cole died in prison for a crime he did not commit.

"That's the only place I thought I would see him pardoned, was in my dreams," Session said. "He said, 'I still believe in the justice system even though it does not believe in me.' That's just the type of person he was."

Three Texas Tech alumni and the founder of The Innocence Project created a \$100,000 scholarship Wednesday on the 10th anniversary of Cole's death to the Texas Tech School of Law in honor of Cole to help guide students toward a career in representing justice. Several members of Cole's family also were in attendance.

Cole was a former Tech student who died in prison after he was wrongfully convicted of the rape of 20-year-old Tech student Michele Mallin in 1986. He became the first person in Texas to be exonerated after being convicted of a crime.

"This is an extraordinarily important event for the law school," said professor Arnold Loewy. "In an ideal world, we would be able to use science to get him back everything he deserves. Since we can't, we will do all we can to fill the void of someone we shouldn't have lost."

The four attorneys, Kevin Glasheen, Noe Valles, Chad Indemer and Jeff Blackburn, director of The Innocence Project, contributed to the scholarship,

said Assistant Dean Kay Fletcher.

"It's in recognition of the hard work that they have done to work towards the exoneration of those wrongfully convicted," she said.

Blackburn said the scholarship is a way to bring recognition to how Tech has come to be a great law school.

"Our movement has a safer and better home at Tech than anywhere else," he said. "I've never been prouder to be connected to this school than today."

Glasheen, who presented the scholarship, said he was proud of what they accomplished.

"We wanted to create this scholarship not only in honor of Tim, but to help students work towards justice," he said.

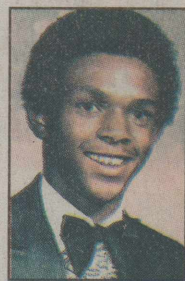
Cole was in prison for 13 years before he died of heart complications after an asthma attack in 1999 at age 39.

Session said his brother never gave up claiming his innocence even after he was offered probation if he admitted to the crime.

"He said to me, 'I would rather spend 25 years in prison than admit to something I did not do,'" he said.

Two years ago, Cole's family received a letter from Jerry Johnson, an inmate who Cole's attorney named as the actual rapist, admitting to the rape and apologizing to Cole.

"We received the letter on Mother's Day," Session said. "He said he would



COLE

do whatever it took to make it known that it was him. We came back to reclaim Tim's name."

Cole's family went back to the courtroom where he was convicted during a tour of Lubbock and was able to meet with Judge Jim Darnell, the man who sentenced Cole.

"He visited with us and with the shame of convicting an innocent man," Session said. "My mother said to him, 'We are praying for you,' because she knew what he must be going through now that he knows my brother was innocent."

Cole's mother, Ruby Session, said she is grateful to the law school for the scholarship.

"We will never forget this," she said. "I am overwhelmed with the honor."

Modesto Rosales, a second-year law student from Tyler, said he believes if more awareness was raised about what happened to Cole, it would make a difference.

"It's crazy that in today's society innocent people are sent to jail," he said. "Hopefully this scholarship will help students interested in pursuing a criminal defense career. It only takes one person to make a change, even if just one other person is reached, that makes a difference."

Walter Huffman, dean of the law school, said the scholarship is something that will continue for many years.

"One of the great things about being a dean is seeing the great things our alumnus do and this is certainly one of them," he said.

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WEATHER

Today	Snow Shower	Friday	AM Snow Showers
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INBRIEF

STATE

Fort Hood suspect charged with attempted murder

FORT WORTH (AP) — An Army psychiatrist was charged Wednesday with 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in the deadly mass shooting at Fort Hood that also injured more than two dozen soldiers and two civilian police officers, military officials said.

Maj. Nidal Hasan has already been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder after the Nov. 5 shooting in a building at the Texas base where soldiers must go before being deployed. Witnesses said he jumped on a desk and

shouted "Allahu Akbar!" — Arabic for "God is great!" Army officials have said he was armed with two pistols, one a semiautomatic capable of firing up to 20 rounds without reloading.

The additional charges come less than 24 hours after Hasan's civilian attorney was notified that the Army plans to evaluate Hasan to test his competency to stand trial as well as his mental state at the time of the shooting.

NATION

Gates, Mullen, Clinton argue for new Afghan plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Failure in Afghanistan would mean a Taliban takeover of the country and "have severe consequences for the United States and the world," Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Wednesday as the Obama administration set out to sell its new strategy on Capitol Hill.

The insurgency already has gained "dominant influence" in 11 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen added in an appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee. The pair went to Capitol Hill with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton a day after President Barack Obama announced he was sending an additional 30,000 American troops to Afghanistan, some as early as Christmas.

Obama also revealed a goal of commencing a U.S. troop withdrawal by the summer of 2011.

WORLD

UN says global economy will bounce back in 2010

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations forecast Wednesday that the world economy will bounce back in 2010 with a global growth rate of 2.4 percent, but it warned that the recovery will be fragile.

In a preview of its annual economic forecast which will be released next month, the U.N. credited the massive fiscal stimulus measures by governments worldwide since late 2008 for the expected rebound. It recommended that

these stimulus measures continue — at least until there are clearer signals of a more robust recovery in terms of increasing consumption, more private investment and rising employment rates around the world.

"Before that, it would be risky and even could be self-defeating to withdraw stimulus," said Rob Vos, director of the Economic Analysis Division in the U.N.'s Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Corrections

The Daily Treador'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.

Henderson exits as GM board seeks faster change

DETROIT (AP) — The leader of the new General Motors was done in by an old problem at the nation's largest car maker: Change wasn't happening fast enough.

GM's board and CEO Fritz Henderson parted ways Tuesday, the board upset that the automaker's turnaround wasn't moving more swiftly and Henderson frustrated with second-guessing, two people close to the former CEO said.

Board Chairman Ed Whitacre Jr., the former head of AT&T Inc. and Texas Tech alumnus, will take over as CEO while a global search is conducted.

It was unclear whether Henderson or the board moved first in the surprise resignation, which came just hours before Henderson was to be the high-profile keynote speaker at the Los Angeles Auto Show. At a hastily called news conference at General Motors Co.'s downtown Detroit headquarters, Whitacre would not answer questions, but said the board and Henderson agreed that he should step down.

Whitacre thanked Henderson, 51, a lifelong GM employee, for his leadership and said the company is on the right path toward offering high-quality cars and trucks worldwide.

"We now need to accelerate our progress toward

that goal," the 68-year-old Whitacre said in a brief appearance.

Both men were chosen for their jobs by the U.S. government, which owns more than 60 percent of the Detroit automaker in exchange for giving it billions in loans. But Henderson is a GM insider, while Whitacre had no car experience before taking the GM chairmanship.

"I don't think this has much to do with Fritz Henderson's performance, I think it's just the wrong time to be a GM lifer," said Logan Robinson, a former Chrysler attorney and professor of corporate governance at University of Detroit Mercy.

Industry analysts said GM likely would look for someone like Ford Motor Co. CEO Alan Mulally, who was hired in 2006 from aerospace giant Boeing Co. Mulally also had no automotive experience, but unlike Whitacre, was well-versed in manufacturing.

An Obama administration official said Tuesday in a statement that "this decision was made by the board of directors alone. The administration was not involved in the decision."

Henderson, who rose through GM's ranks over a 25-year career, took over in March after the govern-

ment forced out former CEO Rick Wagoner. A few months later, GM entered bankruptcy protection and Henderson led the company through a painful government-led and court-supervised reorganization. The company emerged from court protection in just 40 days cleansed of massive debt and burdensome contracts that would have sunk it without roughly \$52 billion in federal loans.

The people close to Henderson, who asked not to be identified because Henderson has not spoken, said he was frustrated from the beginning by the board and government push for faster change and other questions about his decisions.

Henderson, one of the people said, was confident that the company was making progress and thought he deserved more autonomy. In the past few months GM has stabilized its U.S. market share at around 20 percent and has shown some monthly sales increases in the U.S. and Asia.

Henderson also has been largely successful in his goal to scale down GM to just four core brands: Chevrolet, Cadillac, Buick and GMC. He won a tentative sale of Hummer to a Chinese construction machinery maker. But attempts to sell the company's other brands have hit obstacles.

Lawmakers debate ousted leader's future in Honduran gov't

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Honduran lawmakers debated ousted President Manuel Zelaya's future Wednesday under international pressure to reinstate him or face more isolation, despite an election that has chosen his successor.

It's unlikely to make a difference. The interim administration has already resisted months of diplomatic arm-twisting, and has long predicted Sunday's election would weaken demands for Zelaya's return.

Lawmakers who already voted once to support Zelaya's overthrow insist they won't be swayed. And Zelaya himself, who listened to the proceedings Wednesday from his refuge in the Brazilian Embassy, says he won't return for a token two months even if asked.

Still, many Latin American governments warn they will not restore ties with the incoming administration of Porfirio Lobo unless Zelaya is allowed to finish his term, which ends Jan. 27.

A lawmaker from Lobo's conservative National Party introduced a motion during Wednesday's debate to

Zelaya can't be restored because he violated the constitution," Rodolfo Irias, the congressional president of the National Party, said during the debate.

"We stand by our position that Zelaya can't be restored because he violated the constitution."

RODOLFO IRIAS
CONGRESSIONAL PRESIDENT
NATIONAL PARTY

Congress is dominated by Zelaya's Liberal Party, which largely turned against him in a dispute over changing the constitution.

Congressional President Jose Alfredo Saavedra, of the Liberal Party, insisted he felt no pressure from abroad, saying

he had met with diplomats of many countries and none had suggested he vote one way or the other.

"Congress has not been the object

of pressure of any nature," Saavedra told Channel 5. "Nobody, absolutely nobody, has dared to insinuate what the route should be."

Outside congress, 300 Zelaya supporters protested behind police lines.

Lobo, a wealthy rancher, won the regularly scheduled presidential vote that Honduras' interim leaders insist shows their country's democracy is intact.

Many Latin American countries, especially those led by left-leaning governments, say recognizing the election would amount to legitimizing Central America's first coup in 20 years.

"A new form of coup d'etat has emerged," Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said during a televised speech Wednesday. "Just as the money from drug trafficking is laundered, these elections were similar. It's laundering a coup d'etat in a shameless way before the world."

The Western Hemisphere, however, is divided.

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\$30 billion Afghan plan causes concern

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid soaring budget deficits, President Barack Obama is running into congressional qualms over how to pay for his troop buildup in Afghanistan. Military strategy aside, the \$30 billion cost is causing concern on both sides of the aisle.

Still, leaders in Congress predicted Wednesday that Obama would prevail in winning funding for the war escalation.

Some Democrats, favoring the 30,000 troop increase, are supporting a "war tax." But the White House and most lawmakers appeared unwilling to take such a step.

Most likely, the federal government will simply increase its borrowing — as it has before.

The government has already shelled out a combined \$1 trillion since 2001 for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

And Pennsylvania Rep. John Murtha, a senior House Democrat who oversees military spending, predicted on Wednesday that Congress would pass a special \$40 billion war spending bill early next year to pay for the added deployments. He said that he and other anti-war Democrats would not be able to stop it. But the money probably won't come from a special tax increase.

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

By Barry C. Silk 12/3/09

63 Ac, or word that can follow the end of 17-, 26-, 43- or 55-Across

DOWN

1 Slight advantage
2 Stove novel
3 Quaker Oats trademark
4 Marsellie Mrs.
5 Mount McKinley's state
6 Sub station?
7 Puzzle center?
8 Subj. taught bilingually
9 More risqué
10 Spy's briefing contents, briefly
11 Firewood order
12 Correct, perhaps
13 Empire State Building style
18 "Silent Spring" author Carson
19 Inventor Howe
24 Winesap, e.g.
25 Contrition
26 Singer James et al.
60 Merrie England
61 Large game fish
62 School founded in 1440

29 Junk poems
30 Court bouncer
48 City SW of Bogotá
32 Kind of daisy
35 Silly
38 Stop and shop, e.g.
40 Artistic merit
43 Came menacingly into view
54 Surfboard fin
56 Way to go: Abbr.
57 How the weasel goes?

47 Laudatory
48 City SW of Bogotá
49 Mideast bigwig
50 Scream
51 Opening for dynamic
53 Pakistani tongue
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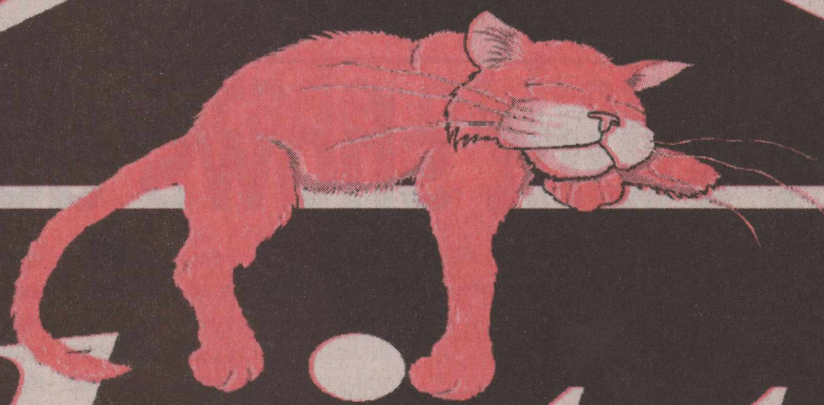
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Lambert's AMA stunt shows double standard

Last week's American Music Awards created a media frenzy over the supposedly controversial performance by American Idol runner-up Adam Lambert. Having not watched the actual airing of the program, I had to find the video online to see what all the fuz was about.

After watching the video, I can understand the reasoning for the criticism the show received. Parents had kids watching or whatever. But let's not forget, it was a late night show (too late to be fined by the FCC as reported on Rollingstone.com) with live performances from unconventional artists (Lambert, Lady Gaga). What did you expect?

Lambert's performance at the AMA's was not that different from others in the past. It has come to be commonplace at these award shows to do everything possible to "stir the pot" to create media attention. With Lambert's CD set to be released just

Travis Ellington



a few days later, I cannot say I was surprised by his actions.

There have been plenty of other performances on national television that did not receive the amount of repercussions Adam Lambert has faced. We all remember the kiss between Madonna and Britney Spears at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards. That raised some eyebrows but not voices of disgust comparable to that of the Lambert kiss.

That kiss was thought to be flirtatious and sexy. What about the "wardrobe malfunction" of Janet Jackson at Super Bowl XXXVIII? Just a couple weeks ago, I was stuck watching Lady Gaga flutter around on

stage with fake blood gushing all over the place. There was no large public outcry after that performance.

Lambert was supposed to perform on "Good Morning America" three days after his AMA performance, only to be canceled amid concerns of airing a similar performance early in the morning. This decision would prove to be yet another double standard as an artist with a slightly improper image (Chris Brown) would be given the opportunity to perform on the early morning show. ABC would rather

have a convicted felon perform on their show than an openly gay male.

A large public uproar pointing out my previous statement cost Brown his chance to perform. Nevertheless, it did not stop him from getting the spotlight. He will now have a chance to talk about his troubled past in a prime-time interview on "20/20."

Parents who had children watching this award show should not feel violated by ABC for showing this performance. If their children are too young to watch two males kiss, they

should be considered too young to see some of the outfits these entertainers wear at these kinds of shows. As soon as the adults find out who is performing, they should make the decision to change the channel or be prepared to answer any questions that might follow.

We are aggressively moving forward as times change and what is considered to be acceptable broadens. Many female performers dance around on stage in undergarments and see-through accouterments with provocative actions similar to that of the Lambert performance only to be praised by fellow entertainers. This double standard against the gay males in the entertainment industry shouldn't be tolerated.

ABC felt deceived by Lambert. He did not perform this kiss during any of his rehearsals prior to the live taping. He claimed it happened in the heat of the moment rather than a premeditated expression of sexuality. After watching the video, I don't be-

lieve there was "heat of the moment" that might have caused this action. Rather an open opportunity to send shockwaves through the media. He certainly achieved that goal.

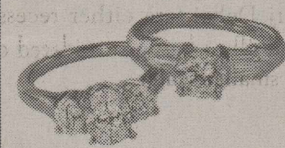
Broadcasters should force performers to sign contracts agreeing to what is going to take place during their performances. If there is a breach of contract, there can be legal consequences. ABC acting appalled is discriminatively unfair to those who enjoyed his performance and were proud for Lambert to stand up for his sexuality.

The double standard of criticizing males' freedom of expression while embracing that of females undermines the First Amendment rights of gay males. Granted, the First Amendment does not grant the right of expression to be shown on live television. Nonetheless the point is still valid.

■ Ellington is a junior business major from Midland.
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“ABC acting appalled is discriminatively unfair to those who enjoyed his performance and were proud for Lambert to stand up for his sexuality.”

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Abortion showdown looms in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators debating health care legislation are headed for a clash over abortion, the issue that threatened to derail the legislation in the House.

Anticipating the showdown, hundreds of abortion rights supporters gathered on Capitol Hill Wednesday to call on senators to keep new abortion restrictions out of the health care bill. Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Nebr., plans to unveil an anti-abortion amendment as early as Thursday that abortions rights supporters inside the Senate and out say they can't support.

Nelson says he won't vote for the underlying bill without his strong abortion language. But opponents say his amendment doesn't have the votes to pass. The outcome could be critical in determining the outcome of President Barack Obama's signature health overhaul legislation.

At issue is how abortions would be handled in the health care bills. In the House, a bloc of anti-abortion Democrats forced Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to accept restrictions that out-

raged liberals as the price for passing the Democratic health care bill last month.

The language passed by the House would forbid any health plan that receives federal subsidies from paying for abortions, except in cases of rape, incest or danger to the mother's life. A new government insurance plan couldn't offer abortions, and women would have to purchase separate coverage for abortion services.

Behind the scenes, Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., who opposes abortions but wants to vote for the overall health care bill, has been working to find language that could satisfy both sides.

“Our goal is to maintain essentially Hyde-like protections that prevent federal funds from being used to pay for and subsidize abortion,” Casey's communications director Larry Smar said Thursday, though nothing had been finalized.

Efforts to find such a common ground failed in the House.

Women's rights groups were caught off-guard by the development and are now vowing to keep

similar language out of the Senate bill. Hundreds of activists organized by Planned Parenthood and other groups rallied Wednesday, holding signs reading “Listen up senators: Women's health is not negotiable.”

Several House Democrats spoke, vowing to oppose final passage of any health bill with the tough abortion restrictions already approved by the House. Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., called it “a devil's bargain” that she couldn't accept.

But the House language is just what Nelson wants to include in the Senate bill. He is not satisfied with the language filed by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., which would forbid including abortion coverage as a required medical benefit, but would allow a new government insurance plan to cover abortions and let private insurers that receive federal subsidies offer plans that include abortion coverage.

The money to pay for abortions would have to come from premiums paid by beneficiaries themselves, kept strictly separate from federal subsidy dollars. Supporters say that would keep government funds from being used for abortions, except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother as allowed under a current law known as the Hyde amendment.

Abortion opponents say Reid's bill circumvents Hyde. For example, they say that any funds a government insurance plan would use to pay for abortion would be federal funds by definition — even if the money comes from premiums paid by beneficiaries.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., said after addressing the crowd that she didn't think Nelson had the votes to prevail, though she stopped short of saying she'd oppose the overall legislation if it included Nelson's language. Reid controls 60 votes, the exact number needed to advance legislation in the 100-member Senate, so he has no room for error.

Boxer told activists at the rally that the anti-abortion amendment adopted by the House amounted to “the biggest rollback in a woman's right to choose in three decades.”

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Las Posadas brings parade of holiday traditions to Tech

By **EMILY MOSER**
STAFF WRITER

Las Posadas, meaning "the inns" in Spanish, is a religious and social tradition re-enacting the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem celebrated during the holiday season by Spanish and Hispanic cultures internationally. Members of the Texas Tech community learned about this celebration as well as other cultures' holiday traditions in the University Library Croslin Room.

Tech's Latino Hispanic Faculty Association hosted the second annual Las Posadas on Wednesday. Las Posadas is an opportunity for the Tech community to learn about international holiday traditions from the diverse faculty and staff at Tech.

Minerva Alaniz, president of the association and assistant librarian at the University Library, said the association hosted the event because it was a good opportunity to continue increasing multicultural awareness.

"We thought it was a good idea, so we thought we'd do it again," she said. "We

wanted to do something cultural."

The Tech community was able to experience holiday traditions as well as traditional food from the season at the international holiday celebration through faculty and staff at Tech. The various holiday traditions presented included customs from Cuba, Turkey, Sweden and Norway, Italy, as well as the Hispanic tradition of Las Posadas itself.

"I like to point out traditions and celebrations. I mean who doesn't like a good celebration?"

FERNANDO VALLE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Jorge Iber, associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of history at Tech, presented Cuban holiday traditions at the event. Iber, born in Cuba and raised in Miami, said growing up he experienced a lot of the Cuban traditions including the first "Three Kings"

parade in Miami.

"I was actually 10 years old when my mom and dad took me," he said. "It's part of my people's cultural legacy that has been brought to the U.S."

During his presentation, Iber described the immigration of Cubans to the United States during the early years of Fidel Castro's rule. Many Cuban customs followed the Cubans' immigration. One

of the traditions brought by the Cubans is the "Three Kings" parade, which honors the Christian story of three kings who followed a bright star to Bethlehem.

The associate dean said Las Posadas gave him an opportunity to share some of his experiences and history to people who might have never heard about it before.

"Not everything is going to interest everyone and hopefully this will impact some people," he said.

Hannah Marko, a sophomore education major from Boerne who attended Las Posadas, said she believes knowledge of different cultures is an important subject people don't embrace enough. Marko said it was interesting to hear about the various holiday traditions and she even learned about her own.

"I was surprised," she said. "I do some of these same things for the holidays, like the candles on the tree. I didn't know that was from Sweden."

Vanessa Rodriguez-Garcia, a Ph.D. graduate student from Valencia, Spain, spoke about the holiday celebrations she enjoyed in Spain.

Rodriguez-Garcia said she believes events like Las Posadas are important because they raise awareness of different cultures to the Tech community. She said learning about other cultures' traditions help people learn more about themselves and their customs.

"When you see a different tradition," the international student said, "you are able to reflect on your own traditions and why you do what you do."

Fernando Valle, assistant professor



PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador

SUSAN HIDALGO, AN associate librarian, spoke about Norway and Swedish holiday traditions Wednesday at the Las Posadas event in the University Library.

from the College of Education, spoke at the event about the Hispanic tradition of Las Posadas. He was happy to be present at the tradition because it gave him an opportunity to get in touch with his roots.

In preparation for his speech, Valle said he visited with his grandparents,

who grew up in the northern Mexico. His grandparents celebrated Las Posadas as a way to bring a community, where people's homes are spaced apart, together. Celebrations like this, he said, are a good place for people to begin learning about different cultures.

"I've talked to students and it's not just the awareness, it's the question of where to start. I like to point out traditions and celebrations, I mean who doesn't like a good celebration?" he asked, with a laugh. "I always see it as a good starting point."

emo.moser@ttu.edu

Sights, sounds of winter call for Christmas tunes

Can you feel it? The brisk cold air, the massive influx of shoppers, the sorority girls busting out the Ugg boots (wait, no, that's all year 'round).

The holidays are right around the corner. Only a little more than a week of classes left, and then I'm only a few finals away from being back home in Houston to finally watch the Rockets on TV (can't sports TV in Lubbock show any Houston love?), enjoy some hot cocoa, and hang out with family and loved ones. But while I'm still here with you guys, I might as well make a few suggestions for music.

One of the best things about the holiday season is the outstanding music it has provided us with. And in the last 50 years, almost every artist who is anyone has made a holiday album, supplying listeners with remakes of classic Christmas songs and original holiday-themed jams. So, ladies and gentlemen of Texas Tech, I present to you my top five must-have holiday albums to get you

Noel Bryant



through this season of jollity.

"Chicago's First Christmas" by Chicago — I grew up on Chicago, and this was always one of my favorite Christmas albums as a kid. A decade later, I still love this album. Chicago is such a unique rock band, with its signature horn section. This album is stuffed with really sweet arrangements of our favorite holiday songs that show off that distinctive horn/rock sound. Don't miss their matchless version of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" or their gospel adaptation of "Let It Snow!"

"Merry Christmas" by Mariah Carey — OK men, please don't disown me. Yes I can do lots of push-ups and I like to drink whiskey, but that doesn't mean I can't enjoy Mrs. Nick Cannon's incred-

ible mid-'90s holiday album. You will hear many of these songs on your local radio station during Christmastime, but the ones that aren't played often, especially her rendition of "O, Holy Night," are just as stunning. Simply put, Carey is one of the greatest voices ever, and this holiday album should be in everyone's collection.

"When My Heart Finds Christmas" by Harry Connick Jr. — This album was what turned me on to jazz, and Connick's voice is smooth as butter. The jazz arrangements of the classic holiday songs are ridiculously good, and the big band backing up Connick is second to none. To make things even cooler, the alto saxophonist on the album was the old jazz director at Tech, Brad Leali. This CD swings. My favorite tracks are "Sleigh Ride," "What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?" and "I Pray on Christmas."

"White Christmas" by Bing Crosby — Many will argue with

me that this should be number one. And they have good reason. You would be hard pressed to find a song that has more charm than Crosby's "White Christmas" or has more class than his "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas." Combine that with the fact your grandparents probably see Crosby as the end-all when it comes to Christmas songs, and you have one of the most influential and beloved holiday albums of all time.

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" by Vince Guaraldi Trio — Recorded in the 1960s, it is the reason we equate the Peanuts gang with Christmas. To say this album is timeless would be an understatement. I think it is the greatest holiday album of all time, and that's not just because I'm a jizzer. This album brought us the beloved "Christmastime is Here" along with "Linus and Lucy" and the super hip "O Tannenbaum." This album is the jam. 'Nuff said.

■ Bryant is *The DT's* music critic.
noel.bryant@ttu.edu

Mega-tower 'last hurrah' to age of excess

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — When work began in 2004 to build the world's tallest tower, Dubai's confidence also was sky high with a host of mega-projects on the drawing board or rising from the sands.

That swagger seems positively old school these days. It's been tripped up by a debt crunch that has humbled Dubai's leaders and exposed the shaky foundations of the city-state's boom years — leaving the planned Jan. 4 opening of the iconic Burj Dubai with a double significance of hello and goodbye.

It will be both a debutante bash for a new architectural landmark and a farewell toast to

Dubai's age of excess.

The Burj Dubai — a steel-and-glass needle rising more than a half-mile (800 meters) — may be the last completed work from Dubai's time of the giants. Most other of the unfinished super-projects announced in recent years, such as a second palm-shaped island or a tower to surpass the Burj Dubai, are either recession roadkill or being considered on a far smaller scale.

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<p>THURSDAY Skyview's Wine Dinner •Skyview showcases some of Tech's finest culinary artists. Tonight will feature a four-course dinner and a wine option for those of age. WHEN: 5:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. WHERE: 6th floor of the TTU Plaza (Bank of America building) COST: \$45.44 wine option, \$29.99 non-wine option, call 806-744-7462 for reservations</p>	<p>FRIDAY Turkish Night •What is better on a Friday night than a cultural event with free food? Nothing. You can't go wrong with Turkish poems and dance. As an added bonus, it's indoors, so you won't freeze your Turkish tookus off. WHEN: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. WHERE: Student Union Building COST: Free</p>	<p>SATURDAY Holiday Pops Concert •It's the holiday season, and the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra will be playing some of your holiday favorites. Don't worry, even though it's a "pops" series, they won't be playing any of that stuff your grandpa listens to. WHEN: 7:30 p.m. WHERE: First United Methodist Church, 1411 Broadway Ave. COST: \$15 to \$30</p>	<p>SUNDAY World Music and Ragtime Concert •World music and ragtime have been played together for centuries. Scholars believe the first world music and ragtime event in tandem was June 23, 1945, with Christopher Columbus playing piano and Caribbean islanders providing the world music drum beat. WHEN: 5 p.m. WHERE: School of Music building M01 COST: Free</p>	<p>MONDAY SkyView Christmas Helicopter Tours •The lights on Tech's campus will be glowing, and the rest of the city's lights should be on as well. If you can't afford the helicopter ride, pile into a car with some friends. WHEN: 6 p.m. weekdays until Dec. 31 WHERE: Town and Country Airport, 12201 County Road 2500 COST: \$275 Call 806-712-1333 for reservations</p>	<p>TUESDAY Lady Raiders v Lamar •The Lady Raiders are off to a strong start this season, and their young team is playing an exciting brand of basketball. Come support Kristy Curry and her team as they look to beat an in-state foe. WHEN: 7 p.m. WHERE: United Spirit Arena COST: Free with Tech ID</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY "A Christmas Story" •Celebrate the last day of class and the start of the Christmas season with a Christmas classic. TAB will be doing their best impression of the TNT channel and run "A Christmas Story" marathon. WHEN: 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. WHERE: SUB Escondido Theatre COST: Free</p>
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Thought-controlled robotic hand successfully connected

ROME (AP) — A robotic hand has been successfully connected to an amputee, allowing him to feel sensations in the artificial limb and control it with his thoughts, a group of European scientists said Wednesday.

The experiment lasted a month, and the scientists say it was the first time a patient has been able to make complex movements using his mind to control a biomechanical hand connected to his nervous system.

The Italian-led team said at a news conference Wednesday in Rome that last year it implanted electrodes into the arm of the patient who had lost his left hand and forearm in a car accident.

The prosthetic was not implanted on the patient, only connected through the electrodes. During the news conference, video was shown of 26-year-old Pierpaolo Petruziello as he concentrated to give orders to the hand placed next to him.

"It's a matter of mind, of concentration," Petruziello said. "When you think of it as your hand and forearm, it all becomes easier."

During the month he had the electrodes connected, Petruziello said he learned to wiggle the robotic fingers independently, make a fist, grab objects and make other movements.

"Some of the gestures cannot be

disclosed because they were quite vulgar," joked Paolo Maria Rossini, a neurologist who led the team working at Rome's "Campus Bio-Medico," a university and hospital that specializes in health sciences.

The 2 million (\$3 million) project, funded by the European Union, took five years to complete and produced several scientific papers that have been published or are being submitted to top journals, including Science Translational Medicine and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Rossini said.

Experts not involved in the study told The Associated Press the experiment was an important step forward in creating an interface between the nervous system and prosthetic limbs, but the challenge now is ensuring that such a system can remain in the patient for years and not just a month.

"It's an important advancement on the work that was done in the mid-2000s," said Dustin Tyler, a professor at Case Western Reserve University and biomedical engineer

at the VA Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. "The important piece that remains is how long beyond a month we can keep the electrodes in."

After Petruziello recovered from the microsurgery he underwent to implant the electrodes in his arm, it only took him a few days to master use of the robotic hand, Rossini said. By the time the experiment was over, the hand obeyed the commands it received from the man's brain in 95 percent of cases.

Petruziello, an Italian who lives in Brazil, said the feedback he got from the hand was amazingly accurate.

"It felt almost the same as a real hand. They stimulated me a lot, even with needles ... you can't imagine what they did to me," he joked with reporters.

While the "LifeHand" experiment lasted only a month, this was the longest time electrodes had remained connected to a human nervous system in such an experiment, said Silvestro Micera, one of the engineers on the team. Similar, shorter-term experiments in 2004-2005 had hooked up amputees to a less-advanced robotic arm, and patients were only able to make basic movements, he said.

THE GREAT DEBATE

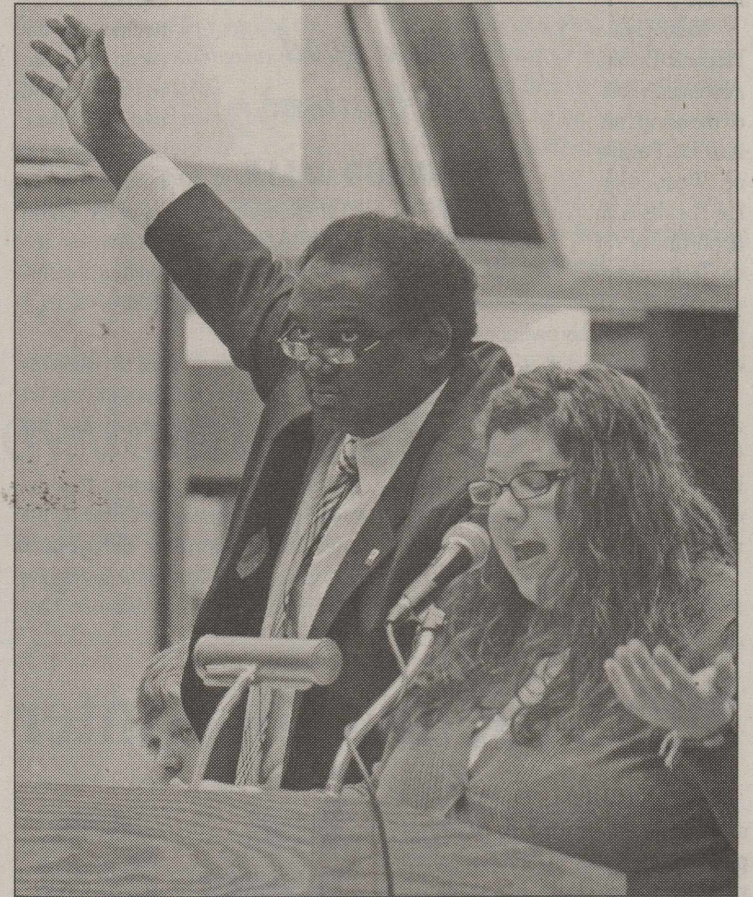


PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador
BRIAN HORTON, A senior political science, geography, and French major from San Angelo, raises his hand to ask Nicole Brown, a senior political science major from San Angelo, a question during the Academic Debate Wednesday in the Student Union Building. The debate was hosted by the Ethics Quality Enhancement Plan committee, which was about indoctrination in classrooms. It covered such topics as instructor viewpoints in the classroom and the issue of mutual respect between professors and students.

Today's
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Puzzles by PageFiller

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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Lady Raiders beat Texas State 75-71 after late scare



PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH FORWARD Jordan Barncastle defends Texas State's Megan Homan as she tries to pass during the 75-71 win against Texas State on Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena.

By ADAM COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Kierra Mallard believes there's not much to her career-high 25 points against Texas State on Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena, which fueled Texas Tech in a 75-71 win.

No special matchups, strategies or game plans for the standout sophomore — it's all about effort.

"I was just trying to help my team out," she said. "It was just effort and try to help my team get going."

Mallard was a bright spot in what ended up as a tough game for the Lady Raiders (6-1) against the Bobcats (2-4).

With a little more than five minutes left in the game and Tech up 66-55, Mallard hit her fourth 3-pointer of the season to break her career-high in points — which was 23 set against Savannah State in 2008.

She was not the only Lady Raider who came up big when Tech needed it. Ashlee Roberson finished with a double-double, earning 12 points, while grabbing 10 rebounds.

Wednesday's performance was the latest in a long line of solid games from Mallard. Against Prairie View A&M on Sunday, Mallard dropped 21 points along with six rebounds and three steals.

Against Texas-Arlington on Nov. 28, she had a double-double with 18 points and 12 rebounds.

The way this game started, however, didn't indicate Tech would see the big performances from its frontcourt.

The Lady Raiders had trouble getting a big lead for the majority of the first half, as the Bobcats capitalized off turnovers.

The largest lead of the half for the Lady Raiders was eight points at 16-8, but outside of that, the Bobcats found a way to stay within striking distance.

Turnovers were a factor for both squads because of the sometimes fast-paced nature of the game. At one point, Tech had three consecutive possessions with a turnover, and as a result, baskets from Texas State's Anna Brzozowski and Victoria Davis had the Bobcats down by two midway through the first half.

It seemed whenever the Lady Raiders forced a turnover, the Bobcats answered by forcing a turnover of their own.

With about five minutes to go in the half, Tech up by one and Texas State looking to take the lead, Jordan Murphree came up with a big steal. But that only was followed by a Davis block.

Still, Tech never relinquished the lead.

There was a little spark from the Lady Raiders after a Murphree 3-pointer

at the 1:23 mark to give Tech a seven-point lead. After back-to-back baskets from Texas State's Diamond Ford and Dawn Kiel, Tilmila Martin answered with a layup as time expired in the first half. Tech was up 41-34.

"Our pressure and defense was key at the end (of the first half)," Roberson said. "Everybody did their part and was talking and communicating, so that helped us out. When everybody was hustling, the energy was there."

Tech coach Kristy Curry said she was not surprised Texas State played the way it did, considering the Bobcats were coming off losses to Colorado State and Houston.

"I thought their energy was better than our energy probably eight out of 10 possessions," she said. "It's called looking at the score sheet and saying, 'Oh you know they just lost two this weekend,' and you knew they were going to respond as a staff because we're the adult and 18- to 22-year-olds just don't

comprehend that."

The Lady Raiders did separate themselves near the end of the game with the pressure on defense and Mallard and Roberson stepping up. Tech got out to a 17-point lead with 3:36 left in the game.

But Texas State continued to battle, as the Bobcats went on a 13-0 run to cut the lead to four, 75-71.

Curry said the energy has to change before New Mexico comes to town at 2 p.m. Saturday in the United Spirit Arena.

New Mexico beat Tech last year 63-54.

"I just think they were playing harder," Curry said of Texas State. "It's pretty obvious. Not to sound critical, not to be ugly, but their energy exceeded our energy and when that happens, good things are gonna happen (for them). We weren't very good listeners down the stretch."

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DOUG SMITH, Texas Country Reporter. Sunday, December 6th 8:00 a.m. KCBD 11 www.dougsmith.com.

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No. 12 Washington big test for Tech

By **MIKE GRAHAM**
STAFF WRITER

A matchup against No. 12 Washington at 6 p.m. today in the United Spirit Arena brings the Red Raiders something they haven't experienced in a while: excitement.

"We're real excited," Singletary said. "We're real happy that we've got a big game at home and they're a top team. I think the crowd is going to be really good for us, and playing at home is always an advantage."

This game might also be the most rewarding for Tech — a win could help the Red Raiders earn some respect in the national polls.

Tech received points in both this week's AP and Coaches polls. Tonight's game will be broadcast by ESPN2 for a national audience, and if Tech can pull off the upset, it could boost the Red Raiders' into the Top 25.

Tech (7-0), however, does not have much of a chance to catch Washington (5-0) off guard.

Washington coach Lorenzo Romar said his team learned a valuable lesson Sunday when the Huskies rallied from a 12-point deficit and shot 31 percent against Montana from the Pacific Coast Conference.

"The Montana game was huge," Romar said. "We were down in

a tough situation when things weren't going right and were able to pull out a victory. We have to play different ways and still be effective. We can draw from (the lessons) later."

Both Tech and Washington have played about the same caliber of opponents in similar situations. Both programs scheduled teams mostly from its region in mid-major conferences.

However, Tech hit the road for a game against Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches and squeaked by with a 63-61 win Nov. 24 before returning to Lubbock Nov. 28 and beating Samford 74-53.

Tech has the only win against a major conference opponent when the Red Raiders defeated Washington's fellow Pac-10 Conference member Oregon State 64-60 on Nov. 15. Washington has not yet played a regular season game on the road.

Still, there's a reason Washington is ranked and Tech is not.

Washington's Quincy Pondexter and guard Isaiah Thomas both average 20 points per game. As a team, Washington averages almost 85 points per game while Tech has scored more than that just twice this season — against South Dakota and Northwestern (Louisiana) State.

However, Romar and Pondexter



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH'S JOHN Roberson runs down court against Oregon State Nov. 15 in the United Spirit Arena.

both said they are not sure how their team will react to a hostile environment. With their ranking, they know a highly motivated Tech team is waiting to knock the Huskies off.

"I'm anxious for it," Pondexter said. "I think we're targeted by every team and I know that they have a great coach and I know they'll give us their best game."

Either Tech or Washington's unbeaten streak will be snapped tonight.

This season's 7-0 start is the best

that the Red Raiders have ever had since the formation of the Big 12. Tech started the 1995-1996 season 7-0 in the final year of the Southwest Conference and finished the season at 28-1 before losing to Georgetown in the Sweet 16 round of the 1996 NCAA tournament.

"Hopefully all our fans come out and support us," said Tech guard John Roberson. "We're gonna need them. It's a big game. If it's a packed house that would be great."

>>> michael.graham@ttu.edu

Tech volleyball moves forward with optimism

By **JOSE RODRIGUEZ**
STAFF WRITER

There are 64 volleyball programs trying to figure out how to advance in the 2009 NCAA Tournament, which begins today in Tampa, Fla.

Texas Tech still is trying to figure out how to win.

With the collegiate volleyball's postseason beginning today, the Red Raiders hope this offseason will be the perfect time for players and coaches to get the team on track after a second consecutive winless season in Big 12 Conference play.

Although the offseason tends to be centered around conditioning and improving play, Tech setter Karlyn Meyers said a new mindset is vital if they want to improve.

"I think you should always expect to be a top competitor," she said. "Especially in the Big 12, you have to believe that you can be a top competitor. There's six Big 12 teams in the NCAA Tournament right now, so obviously it's a great conference."

"I think with the girls we have now and the girls we're getting, if we work hard and really believe we can be a competitor, we will be."

Tech coach Trish Knight's team can only go up considering the way the past two seasons have unfolded.

The 2009 season made Tech the first team in Big 12 history to go 0-20 in back-to-back years and just the third team overall to finish the season winless in conference play. The last time Tech defeated a Big 12 opponent was in 2007 when it beat Colorado. Since then, the Red Raiders have lost 59 consecutive matches to conference opponents.

Despite her team's performance on the court, Knight did get three recruits to sign letters of intent to

join the Red Raiders next year.

Her first recruiting class includes middle blocker Justine Young, whose 2.18 blocks per set rank ninth in the NCJAA for Des Moines Area Community College in Des Moines, Iowa. Young is joined by setter Brandy Huskey, who earned honorable mention all-state honors in 2007 at Columbus High School in the Houston area and outside hitter Aubree Piper, who led Randall High School in Amarillo to two UIL State Championships in three years.

Knight said she doesn't see much of a difference between high school recruits and junior college transfers when trying to build a program.

"When I was a junior college coach, we used to play preseason against D-1 people," Knight said. "It's just a different level of player, the game is not any different, the coaching is not any different."

Having nine returning players can help add to the expectations the team has going for next year.

Despite being a relatively young squad, the 2009 season consisted of high points that have players and coaches looking forward to next year — such as Tech taking the opening set from No. 2 Texas Nov. 11 in Austin.

For the team's hopes to come to fruition, Knight said she plans to set her squad up with opportunities to compete against top opposition in the coming months.

"I'm going to review a lot of film and see what areas of the game we need to improve on," she said. "We're going to work on a lot of individual skills and stuff. We're going to try to play in four of the best tournaments we can play in this spring so we can start off really strong and pick up where we left off."

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