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Take 2

Tech wins in overtime after buzzer-beater nullified



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH FORWARD Mike Singletary takes the would-be game winning shot only to have it nullified moments later, sending the game into overtime.

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech has a head coach — Pat Knight. But with the game on the line late in Tech's 99-92 overtime victory Thursday at the United Spirit Arena against No. 12 Washington, it was guard John Roberson who made the call that all but sealed the game for the Red Raiders.

Then, he capitalized on his call with a steal of a Washington inbound pass and turned around for a fastbreak lay-in that gave Tech a four-point lead with just 44 seconds remaining in overtime.

"In the huddle, the coaches were telling us to go 2-3 (zone)," Roberson said. "I was like, 'No, we should go man. Pat had confidence in me, he listened to me and we ended up going man.'

"Everybody did a good job denying their man the ball, so I just read his eyes and knew no one was open. Nobody was open and I knew there was a guy up top and I knew (the ball) was going there and I just got a good break on the ball and ended up laying it up."

About 16 seconds later, after Washington's Venoy Overton's foul, Roberson removed any doubt in the outcome of the game with two free throws.

Knight said he worried about his team responding to the challenge of overtime after the team and Tech fans thought the game had already been won.

Tech forward Mike Singletary seemingly hit a game-winning 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Red Raiders their best start to a season since 1930, leading to a rush of the court by students.

However, the officiating crew determined the shot had left Singletary's hand just after the buzzer had sounded, sending almost thousands of fans back into their seats and the Red Raiders back to the huddle.

OVERTIME continued on page 5 ➤



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S BRAD Reese shoots while being defended by Washington's Quincy Pondexter during the Red Raider's 99-92 overtime victory against the Huskies on Thursday in the United Spirit Arena.

Regents discuss residence halls

By JETT THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Board of Regents Facilities Committee met for a supplemental meeting Thursday morning at the Dallas Love Field Airport Conference Center to discuss several potential sites for new residence halls on campus.

Although no official votes were taken during the meeting, the committee did a comprehensive review of the Tech campus master plan and discussed several possible locations for a new residence hall, said Tech Board of Regents member Daniel Serna.

The ongoing discussion on the possible demolition of Weeks Hall and the Doak Conference Center was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting of the full board later this month, he said.

The committee has been in an ongoing discussion for several months of demolishing the aging buildings, Serna said, and constructing a new residence hall in their place.

Tech President Guy Bailey, who attended the meeting, said the major holdup surround-

ing the demolition of the two halls would be the need for large amounts of new parking for students who would occupy the potential residence.

"We decided right now is not a good time to replace Weeks Hall because of several parking issues," Bailey said.

Due to the lack of parking spots in the area around Weeks Hall and the limited amount of

space for new construction, Bailey said the committee put off making a final decision on the issue.

He said the committee also discussed two other possible locations for a new residence hall: one in the northwest part of campus near

the Marsha Sharp Freeway and the other across 19th Street from Covenant Hospital.

The next meeting of the Board of Regents will be Dec. 17 and Dec. 18, at which time the board will discuss further plans for residence halls more in detail.

➤ jett.thompson@ttu.edu



SERNA

"We decided right now is not a good time to replace Weeks Hall because of several parking issues."

GUY BAILEY
PRESIDENT
TEXAS TECH

Health care overhaul survives Senate Dems' Medicare test

By DAVID ESPO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unflinching on a critical first test, Senate Democrats closed ranks Thursday behind \$460 billion in politically risky Medicare cuts at the heart of health care legislation, thwarting a Republican attempt to doom President Barack Obama's sweeping overhaul.

The bid by the bill's critics to reverse cuts to the popular Medicare program failed on a vote of 58-42, drawing the support of two Democratic defectors. Approval would have stripped out money needed to pay for expanding coverage to tens of millions of uninsured Americans.

The broader legislation aims to extend health coverage to 31 million who now lack it, while barring insurance industry practices such as denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions. Though the overhaul is estimated to cost about \$1 tril-

lion over a decade, the Congressional Budget Office has said it would cut federal deficits by \$130 billion over that period, and probably reduce them further in the 10 years beyond that.

"Our bill does nothing to reduce guaranteed Medicare benefits," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., as several fellow Democrats accused Republican critics of making false claims of potential harm during three days of debate.

The AARP supported the 10-year package of cuts in projected spending, giving Democrats political cover for their decision to pare back subsidies to private Medicare plans as well as payments to hospitals, hospices, home health agencies and other providers.

Republicans disagreed vigorously. "Medicare is already in trouble. The program needs to be fixed, not raided to create another new government program," said the party's leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

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INBRIEF

STATE

Texas executes killer of 11-year-old girl

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Texas has executed a 44-year-old man for raping and murdering an 11-year-old girl, despite pleas from his attorneys he is too mentally impaired to qualify for capital punishment.

The execution had been delayed briefly while attorneys for Bobby Wayne Woods asked the U.S. Supreme Court to halt the lethal injection pending a court ruling.

Justices denied Woods' last-ditch appeal just after 6 p.m. CST, just before his scheduled execution for the death of Sarah Patterson.

Woods, 44, had been transferred

45 miles from his death row cell at the Polunsky Unit near Livingston to a holding cell in Huntsville, a short walk from the death chamber.

Woods' attorney had argued that Woods was mentally impaired and ineligible for execution under court guidelines, and that previous appeals to spare Woods' life were unsuccessful because of shoddy work by his lawyers at the time.

Tests administered to Woods have put his IQ anywhere from the 60s to the 80s. An IQ of 70 is considered the threshold for mental impairment.

NATION

Congress worries about Obama's plan for Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing the prospect of more American deaths in Afghanistan as the war escalates, lawmakers lashed out at neighboring Pakistan on Thursday as an unreliable ally that could spare the U.S. its bruising fight with al-Qaida if it wanted.

"They don't seem to want a strategic relationship," New Jersey Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez said of the government in Islamabad. "They want the money. They

want the equipment. But at the end of the day, they don't want a relationship that costs them too much."

A crucial ally in fighting the al-Qaida terrorist network, Pakistan is also a major recipient of U.S. aid. President Barack Obama and Congress recently approved a \$7.5 billion aid package for economic and social programs in Pakistan in a bid to strengthen the civilian government there.

WORLD

Karzai willing to talk to Taliban

KABUL (AP) — Afghanistan's president says he's willing to talk with the Taliban chief in a bid to bring peace to the country.

President Hamid Karzai said in an interview Thursday with The Associated Press that he would do "whatever it takes" to bring peace, including meeting with Taliban leader Mullah Omar.

But Karzai says he wants guarantees that the U.S. and its inter-

national partners are backing any peace bid. He says previous efforts at talks with the Taliban were undermined when ex-members of the hard-line movement were "harassed" by international forces even though they had quit the insurgency.

Karzai says not all Taliban are terrorists but members of al-Qaida and other terror groups are not welcome in the country.

UN prosecutor gives Serbia positive report

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Serbia is cooperating with the U.N. war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia but the arrest of the fugitive former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic is crucial, the chief prosecutor said Thursday.

Serbia's bid to join the European Union has been stalled because Europe's most wanted fugitive remains at large and prosecutor Serge Brammertz's assessment of Serbia's cooperation with the tribunal is considered very important when the EU decides on Serbia's integration into the bloc.

Brammertz told the U.N. Security Council on Thursday that "Serbia's cooperation with my office has continued to progress."

"Prosecution requests to access documents and archives are being dealt with more expeditiously and effectively," he said, stressing that "this level of assistance" is crucial during current and future trials and must be maintained.

But Brammertz said "the most critical aspect of Serbia's cooperation is the need to apprehend the fugitives."

He said one of his "highest priorities" is to apprehend Mladic and Goran Hadzic, a former leader of rebel Serbs in Croatia.

Serbia's leaders told Brammertz last month that capturing Mladic is a priority for the Balkan country. But a government official has said a majority of Serbs still are opposed to his extradition to the tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

BATTERY BLUES

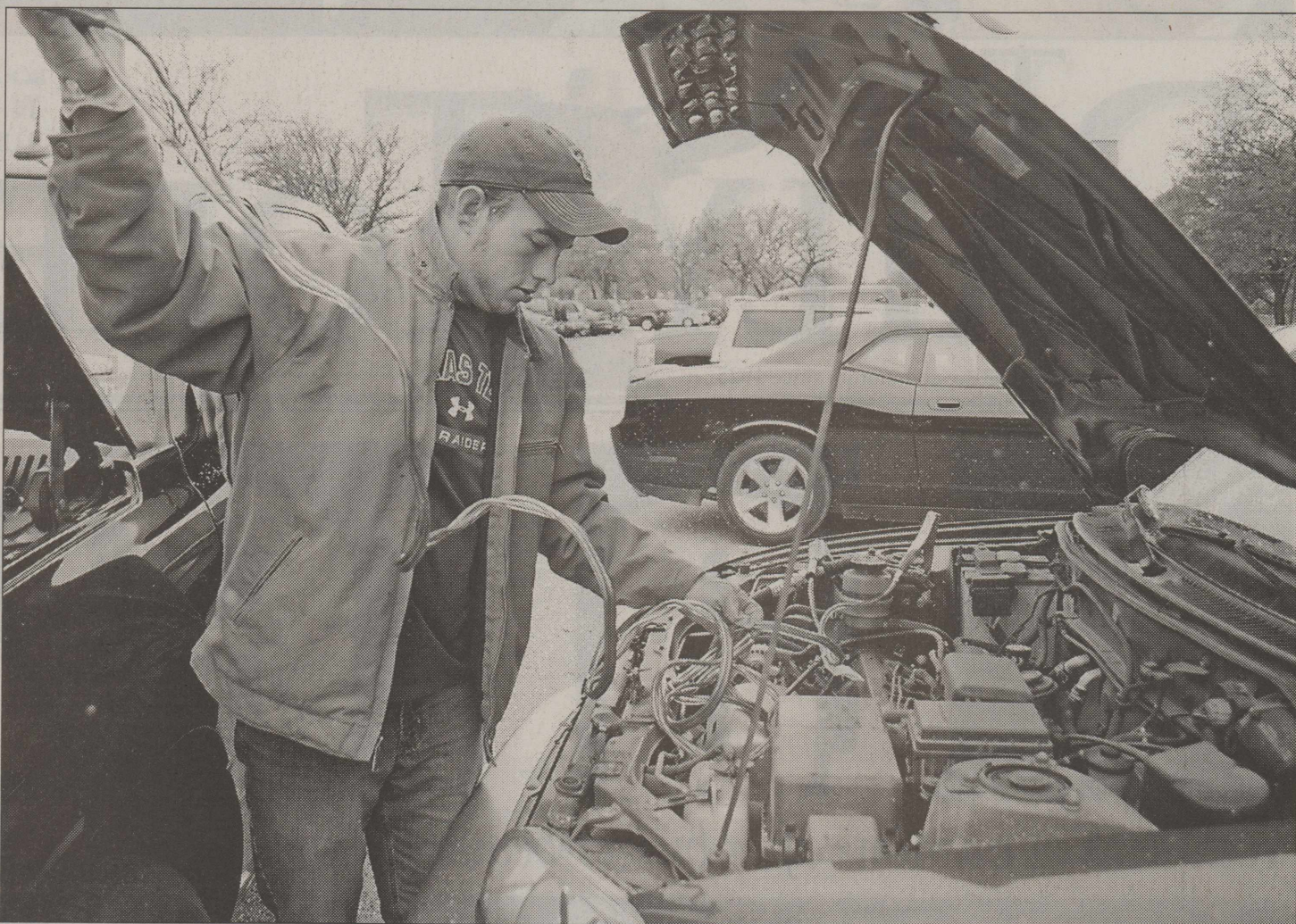


PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador

CASON CARROLL, A freshman mechanical engineer major from Brownwood, jump starts a friend's car after it didn't start Thursday in the Hulen/Clement parking lot.

Senators subpoenaed for rules violations

By JETT THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Student Government Association Rules and Administration Committee presented report in the last student senate meeting of the year Thursday night about a number of senators who did not record required weekly office hours.

The report, presented by Sen. Kat Harris, named between 10 and 20 senators who had not made up their missed time since the last SGA Senate meeting in November.

An initial report was presented two weeks ago, which implicated almost 30 senators for not recording one office hour required of senators each week.

Harris said several senators likely forgot to sign in during the required

office hours. Nonetheless, senators who failed to meet the requirement were subpoenaed by the committee to attend a hearing Jan. 18.

When asked for the names of the senators who did not record office hours, Harris refused to disclose the information to *The Daily Toreador*.

The senators could be brought up for impeachment by the senate for missing too many office hours if they fail to attend the hearing in January and continue to miss weekly office hours.

"You were voted into office for a reason," Harris said to the senators who missed office hours. "Start acting like it."

A senate impeachment would require a unanimous vote by the Rules and Administration Committee and a two-thirds vote from the senate, according to the SGA constitution.

Student senate President Sarah Saunders also said the senators who have been missing office hours need to start making a more concerted effort.

"This isn't just a job," Saunders said. "Senators are supposed to draft legislation and work with their constituents during office hours."

The senate also unanimously approved a resolution to excuse students in the military from classes while on active duty orders.

Senate Resolution 45.36, written by Sen. Daniel Sytrak, will work in conjunction with a regulation in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Administrative Code.

The resolution will excuse students on short-term mobilizations of a few weeks in deployments for hurricanes or disaster relief projects, he said.

More than 450 students at Tech

serve in the military, he said, and several students have come to him expressing professors have not excused them from coursework or class while participating in active duty military service.

Senate Resolution 45.33, which also passed Senate approval Thursday, requires bikers on the Tech campus to install reflectors on their bikes. Co-author of the resolution Sen. Sankett Deshpande said it has come to his attention there has been an increase in the number of bicycle accidents on campus after dark and the resolution seeks to lower that number.

The new law will appear on campus maps and will work in conjunction with an already existing state law, he said.

The SGA senate will not meet again until next year's first meeting Jan. 21.

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India to slow carbon emissions growth by 20-25 percent

NEW DELHI (AP) — India pledged Thursday to significantly slow the growth of its carbon emissions over the next decade, becoming the last major emitting country to announce a climate change policy before a U.N. summit opens next week.

The plan is less aggressive than those announced by the U.S. and

China in the last two weeks, and one critic called it nothing more than a reiteration of the status quo.

But the pledges gave momentum to negotiations on emission limits, which had been snagged for months while three of the largest emitting countries waited for each other to make the first move.

Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh

told Parliament that India plans to reduce the ratio of pollution to production by 20 to 25 percent compared with 2005 levels, but it would not accept a legally binding emissions reduction target.

The emissions measure, known as "carbon intensity," means India's emissions will keep rising but at a quarter of the pace they would otherwise have done.

"We must be flexible without compromising basic national interests," Ramesh said, acknowledging that emissions will continue to grow as India moves toward a more energy efficient economy.

India ranks fifth in world carbon dioxide emissions, accounting for 4.7 percent of the world's emissions. The U.S. and China emit roughly 40 percent of the world's emissions, with Russia and Indonesia completing the top five emitting countries.

One critic dismissed India's plan as insignificant. It merely justifies the low standard set by the U.S., said Sunita Narain of the New Delhi-based Center

for Science and the Environment.

"This reiteration of India's existing domestic commitment so close to Copenhagen is being done to provide a cop-out for the Americans ... and will endorse the weak, meaningless commitment of the Americans," she told The Associated Press.

Ramesh said that India's carbon intensity had dropped by 17.6 percent from 1990 to 2005, and that government experts agreed further reduction was possible.

Per capita emissions are low in India — the government says the average Indian produces one ton of carbon dioxide a year, compared with about 20 tons per person in the U.S. Its 1.2 billion-strong population is what makes it one of the world's leading emitters of greenhouse gases.

The U.N. convenes a two-week 192-nation conference on Monday in Copenhagen intended to fashion the outline of a treaty to control greenhouse gas emissions. The agreement, to be completed in six to 12 months, seeks to check the rise in global temperatures that scientists warn could lead to devastating results in rising sea levels, shrinking access to drinking water, shifting agriculture and spreading diseases.

Today's
su | do | ku

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

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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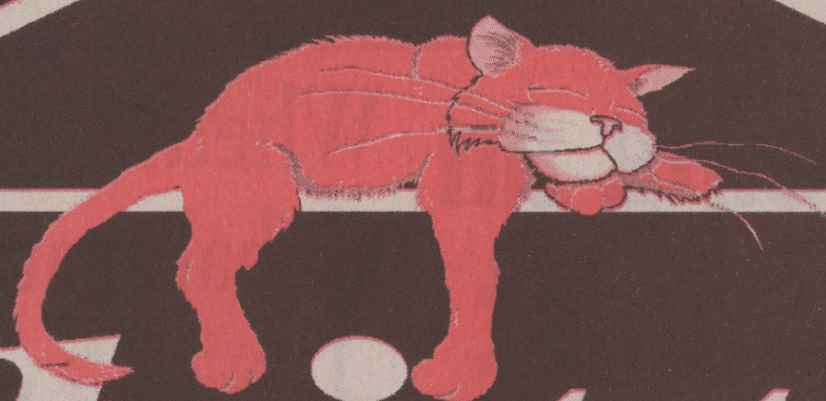
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OPINIONS

The joys of being an opinions columnist

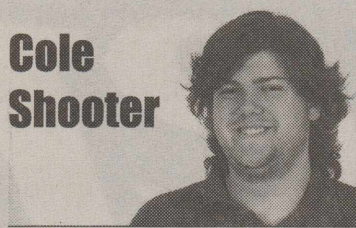
I've never been easily offended, particularly by people I don't know. If I read a column or hear something on the radio that does annoy me, I find it's quite simple to remedy that by turning the page or changing the station. There are some, however, who don't abide by the same sensibilities.

Douglas Adams said, "Being offended by things is the world's big hobby at the moment. It's almost taken over from wearing goatee beards." I've done my fair share of offending people while being involved in the media, and generally, I do get enjoyment out of it. I know it's somewhat perverse, but when writing or discussing matters of politics for an audience, I've always felt if I'm not offending someone with opposing views, I'm not working hard enough.

I don't spend every day seeking out people to harangue, though. I don't choose my friends in any way on how their political beliefs sync up with mine, and I'll steal a line from one of my political science professors here in saying, "If I did, I wouldn't have any friends left." On a one-on-one basis with people, I'm generally not out to slam down their beliefs and prove beyond a reasonable doubt everything they know is wrong. Unless they do it first, of course.

It's simple to be that way too, because in the beliefs I've formulated over the years, I know I'm correct, in the same fashion everyone else does. What I don't understand though is some people's penchant for attempting to browbeat another person, who could have merely stated an opinion they disagreed

Cole Shooter



with, into submission.

It's as if the vexed person feels, powered by righteous indignation and furious anger, they could whip the person who dared to have a differing opinion into intellectual and moral shape, or at the very least, punish the poor soul by forcing them to listen to a useless tirade by a babbling, yet very passionate idiot.

I've been subjected to the marked displeasure of some people at various events throughout my tenure in the media. Once while out covering a campaign rally for a Lubbock city councilman (whom I disagree with constantly, but still like the guy), I introduced myself to a woman sitting across from me at the table, as is only polite.

She looked at me as if I had spat on her shoe, called her saintly mother a prostitute and stabbed her beloved dog, Chomsky. "I know who you are," she replied coldly while turning away. Later, I gained the knowledge she worked at Texas Tech and was a regular reader of *The Daily Toreador*. Once she realized, however, I wasn't going to tackle her and tattoo a picture of former President Ronald Reagan on her forehead, she toned down her obvious displeasure with my existence.

I've also dealt with this, especially on the issues of alcohol sales

and soccer fields in Lubbock, during radio shows while at work. Some of our callers tend to believe they're somehow entitled to repeat the same pathetic arguments repeatedly, and if we disagree or argue with them, then being belligerent and rude is the next best step. Acting that way toward the person who has his or her finger on the "hang up" button isn't the brightest method of getting your message across, but some have yet to realize that.

One thing I will never understand is the lust of some to let us know exactly why we're wrong. As far as I see it, I'm just another political science undergrad with plenty of opinions to go around, and *The Daily Toreador* editors are nice enough to keep me on to bother the student body. The radio show host is just some person in front of a microphone, and neither of us have any bearing on the reader or listeners' mental wellbeing or their beliefs.

So why bother getting mad? I'm not particularly worried how my articles or off-the-cuff remarks make others feel, because they're my opinions and have no bearing on anyone else's life. Maybe it's a callous approach to it, but I firmly believe if someone lives life caring about what every person thinks of them and their ideas, they will never be able to enjoy life or success.

Just sit back and assume you're right and everyone else is wrong. Except for me of course because I'm always right.

■ Shooter is a senior political science major from Lubbock.
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Whether you believe it or not, global warming affects us all

Like many other students at Texas Tech, I spent my Thanksgiving break travelling and finding adventure around every corner of Texas.

Part of that adventure was looking out the windows at the rolling hills, mesas and large oak trees. Of course, Texas is not exactly like what it used to be, but time moves on.

People now have a wide range of lifestyles to choose from anywhere they go. It's not hard to see people have changed, and so has the landscape. The "swoosh, swoosh, swoosh" sound a wind turbine makes is a far different cry than what used to be the "thrush, thrush, thrush" of oil rigs across the greater South Plains.

Honestly, I find it ironic the one place that has been one of the richest places on Earth for oil and gas is also the location of one of the largest environmentally sound projects in the world. Land owners who may have used their fields for cattle

Colleen Gartner



or cotton have embraced the fact the wind that passes through their land is now a new source of income.

Even alternative fuels are more widely recognized here in West Texas than much of the rest of the nation due to the proximity to Interstate 10, where the tips of West Texas serve as a gateway to the West. I also do not want to see these baby industries flounder. West Texas always has a need for a stable industry because it is difficult to have consistent growth with an oil bust ready to burst every decade.

Considering it snowed in Lubbock a lot this week, it is safe to say the global warming issue is not that prominent right now. However, whether global warming is one of our namesake

phrases or is a legendary warning sign to humanity, we are all affected by it.

The fear alone of global warming has manipulated dozens of nations to invest hundreds of millions of dollars toward anything ranging from site cleanup to alternative energy. In addition, the prices of our food, electricity usage and safety measures in plants also are affected by any level of speculation put forth.

Just this week, established economist Lord Stern of Brentford, Britain, revised his estimates for the cost of tackling global climate change to about double the amount stated in 2006, according to *The Guardian*. To an extent, it seems like a majority of anything attached to the issue of global warming is all speculation.

West Texans of all people know best about speculation, and this budget could get very ugly if left untamed. At the point where tax dollars that should be spent on far more pressing domestic needs are going toward some sort of renewable abstract safety net, we are all being affected.

Of course, there recently were leaked e-mails dated from 1999 discussing the fudging of numbers involving global warming statistics, something that is now being called Climategate.

The director of the climate research unit in East Anglia University has since stepped down. I am not surprised about the invention of numbers, but at the same time, I have to sympathize. Much of this new science is relative. Still, it is one thing to use those numbers and another to parade them around like final, absolute numbers.

So, no, I really haven't said anything new in this article, and that's because I am not expert on global warming. Then again, who really is an expert on global warming? Not to say we should take every bit of global warming news with a grain of salt, but what really qualifies someone as an expert in that field?

So, while it may be a field of study, I keep my reservations at that. Global warming should and always will remain in my mind as information that I take note of, but choose to act or not

■ Gartner is a junior finance major from The Woodlands.
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-Use artwork to convey a social or political message.

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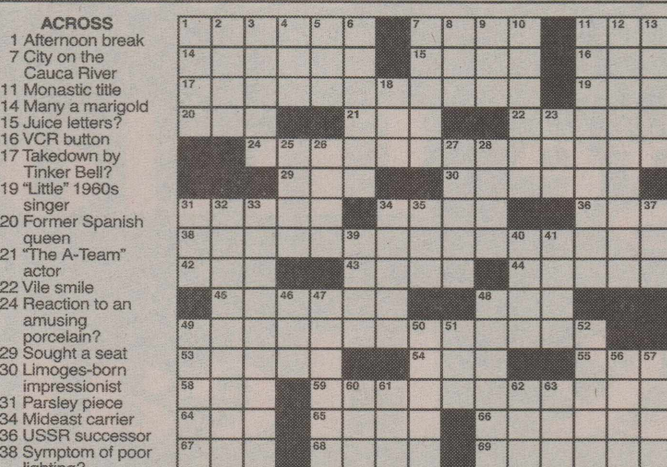
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis



By Jack McInturff

12/4/09

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

EDAM ADZE RICE
DRUM LEES ANODE
GENERAL ELECTRIC
EDT ASIS LIED TO
JACK RIEL
ELEPHANT EAR TSO
TEMPE ERGS GENX
TWILL WAR RONEE
AIME VASE HONEY
SSA LIGHT MY FIRE
CORE AMYS
OCELOT RARE BUS
DAME MURIEL SPARK
ELITE TORI OLDE
SIRET ETION PLUG
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1 Afternoon break
7 City on the Cauca River
11 Monastic title
14 Many a marigold
15 Juice letters?
16 VCR button
17 Take down by Tinker Bell?
19 "Little" 1980s singer
20 Former Spanish queen
21 "The A-Team" actor
22 Vile smile
24 Reaction to an amusing porcelain?
29 Sought a seat
30 Limoges-born impressionist
31 Parsley piece
34 Mideast carrier
38 USSR successor
39 Symptom of poor lighting?
42 NASDAQ listings
43 Military station
44 Western prop
45 Out in the open
48 Title for Roger Moore
49 Supermarket group taking a coffee break, perhaps?
53 Jersey groups
54 Super Bowl played in MMVII
55 Expression of satisfaction
58 Sporty truck, for short
59 Store-brand chili?
64 MC's aid
65 First name in architecture
66 Block
67 Pie chart fig.
68 Inert gas
69 Like some foot bones
5 Scotland's longest river
6 "Golfed Park" director
7 Saguaro, e.g.
8 Comics cry of disgust
9 Cholesterol initials
10 Strands at the ski resort, perhaps
11 Consequences of some soccer fouls
12 Big-time parties
13 With it
18 Shirt part
23 31-Down, e.g.
25 La Salle of "ER"
26 Pizza Quick sauce maker
27 Scrapbooking, e.g.
28 Recount
31 Army E-7: Abbr.
32 Like some visions
33 Bring back into practice
34 Cain's eldest son
35 Kojak and Crocker: Abbr.
37 Sign of a big hit
39 Bajaj California
40 Nastase of tennis

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Adam Lambert still frozen out by ABC network

NEW YORK (AP) — A week after getting dumped from "Good Morning America," glam-rocker Adam Lambert is still in hot water with ABC for his racy performance a couple of days earlier on its "American Music Awards" telecast.

Now Lambert says he's been dropped from ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and its "New Year's Rockin' Eve."

The network "decided not to move forward" with booking Lambert on Kimmel's Dec. 17 show, ABC said in a statement.

ABC spokeswoman Patrick Preblich said the talent lineup for the New Year's Eve special has not been announced.

Lambert addressed the two bookings on his Twitter account on Wednesday.

"Yes, sadly, friends, ABC has cancelled my appearances on Kimmel and NYE," wrote Lambert. He added, "Let's focus on being positive!"

In the meantime, all is not lost. NBC says he'll be a guest on "The Jay Leno Show" on Dec. 21. And he's interviewed by Barbara Walters on her "Most Fascinating People of 2009" special — airing next Wednesday on ABC.

Overtime

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I was worried at overtime," Knight said. "To take that adrenaline flow like that really worried me. You get a high like that and you're told that the game is going into overtime. I was really worried we'd start off flat."

Tech (8-0), however, did not start off flat.

Washington took the lead at the 4:33 mark of overtime after an Overton layup.

Less than 10 seconds later, D'wain Roberts hit both of two free throws after a Darrell Gant foul to tie the game back at 82-82.

For about the next three minutes, the teams traded leads on seemingly every possession down the floor.

A Nick Okorie layup gave Tech a 91-89 lead with 1:10 left in overtime, and the lead was solidified with Robertson's big play and fans got a second chance to celebrate on the court.

Robertson led five Red Raiders who got into double-digit scoring with 25 points, while Washington's Quincy Pondexter scored a career-best 31 points for the Huskies.

Singletary had a double-double with 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Prior to Thursday's game, Tech received votes in both The Associated Press and Coaches' Top 25 polls. The Washington win on national television may give Tech the push it needs to be ranked next week.

"The students and the fans were incredible tonight. There's no way we could do it without them. I just want to say thank you to them."

PAT KNIGHT
COACH
TEXAS TECH

But the tougher half of nonconference play has just begun and the players said they recognized they have big challenges ahead just minutes after arguably the biggest win during the Pat Knight coaching era.

Tech's next two games are on the road at TCU and Wichita State before taking on Stanford, another Pac-10 Conference team, Dec. 22 at home. Tech also has games against New Mexico, McNeese State and UTEP on the schedule.

"I think our challenge is to just not be satisfied," Singletary said. "TCU beat us last year, granted we're a different team this year. We've got to go into TCU and come out and just not have a let down."

Knight normally does not begin his postgame conference with an opening statement, but made an exception to salute the fans in the stands.

"The students and the fans were incredible tonight,"

Knight said. "There's no way we could do it without them. I just want to say thank you to them. I hope this team gained their respect and excitement even if it wouldn't have gone our way. I think these guys deserve to have crowds like that every night."

In a game where many Red Raiders could have been awarded the team's game ball, Knight gave out four — to Tech's managers. The managers handed out more than 3,000 fliers advertising Thursday's game.

► michael.graham@ttu.edu

Lady Raiders get shot at redemption

By **ADAM COLEMAN**
SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Raiders aren't admitting revenge is a factor when New Mexico adds to the latest chapter in the series between the two teams this weekend.

The Lobos handed Tech a 63-54 loss last season in Albuquerque, N.M.

Instead, Tech forward Ashlee Robertson believes it's about redemption.

"I felt like they wanted it more last year," she said. "We just have to come out this year and work harder and want it more. Go after every loose ball, make every shot, easy basket. Just go out there and play our game and don't let them affect us."

Indeed, the Lady Raiders (6-1) have a chance to do all the things they didn't do last year against New Mexico (5-2) when the Lobos came to town at 2 p.m. Saturday in the United Spirit Arena.

Tech is riding a five-game winning streak since the 91-53 loss to Tennessee, while the Lobos are in the middle of a three-game road trip.

The Lady Raiders have seen big contributions from the frontcourt as of late, with Kierra Mallard scoring 64 combined points in the last three contests. Robertson chipped in with a double-double Wednesday against Texas State. She had 12 points with 10 rebounds.

But all is not perfect in Tech coach Kristy Curry's eyes.

After the 75-71 win against Texas State on Wednesday, Curry pointed out how the Bobcats outplayed her squad at times in the game — a mistake that can't be made against an opponent who beat Tech last year.

Tech had trouble pulling away in

Wednesday's game and although the Lady Raiders jumped out to a 17-point lead late in the second half, the Bobcats gave Tech a little scare by cutting the lead to four.

Curry said there is no extra emphasis on the New Mexico game Saturday.

But she also said a motivated Tech team should take the floor Saturday considering what happened last year at New Mexico.

"That's probably one of Texas Tech's most natural rivalries because of distance," she said. "It always has been and always will be. There's something wrong if you can't get fired up and you were a part of what we experienced last year there."

Robertson wasn't lying when she said the Lobos wanted it more last year. New Mexico made a difference on the boards, outrebounding Tech 46-33.

Then there was guard Amy Beggin, who dropped 27 points on the Lady Raiders. She's still around as well, entering the season with Mountain West Conference Player of the Year aspirations.

Along with Beggin, Eileen Weissmann and Sara Halasz are the starters still on the roster from last season's New Mexico team.

It seemed like the second half was the time for the Lobos to shine — they outscored Tech 41-34 after being up by two at the half.

Tech also shot 28.1 percent from the field in the New Mexico game, and that sticks out to Curry when she looks at film.

"We missed so many easy baskets over there a year ago, you're just sitting there today, scratching my head,"



PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH FORWARD Jordan Barncastle shoots over Texas State's Megan Homan during the Lady Raiders' 75-71 win against the Bobcats on Wednesday in the United Spirit Arena.

she said. "It's not so much about last year. It's more about living in the moment."

And living in the moment is exactly what the Lady Raiders are doing, considering the upcoming game.

With the Lobos having to travel to

Lubbock, Mallard said there shouldn't be any excuses this time around.

"I remember we struggled," she said. "So I think this would be a motivation for us to come and play and defend our homecourt."

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LA VIDA

athletic advantage

Assistant professor shares drive for success with students

By **DEVIN SANCHEZ**
STAFF WRITER

Fluent in six languages and a former member of three national sports teams in Ghana, assistant professor Comfort Pratt developed a hunger for success at a young age.

Pratt, who played tennis, field hockey and volleyball for Ghana national teams, began playing sports in elementary school. Then, at the urging of her Peace Corps teacher, Pratt began to play tennis.

"When I called home to tell my mother, she told me that my father had loved to play tennis," she said. "I didn't even know."

In high school, Pratt excelled at sports, participating in nine events, including shot put and discus, both of which she held her school's record for. By her senior year, Pratt was named sports captain, and in her freshman year of college, she participated in three national teams.

"If any team was leaving the university, you were sure I was on the bus," Pratt said. "I did it all."

Pratt said she did not realize her talent could take her to the Olympics.

"People would ask me why I didn't go to the Olympics, and it's because I didn't know about them," she said. "I was just doing sports."

She left Ghana to finish her undergraduate degree in Spain, but said if she had been in the United States, she may have advanced to the Olympics.

"At the time that I was really on top of my game, I was not in the United States," Pratt said. "I think if I had been, it would have been a different story."

As a child, Pratt's family moved often, exposing her to several languages. The native language of Ghana is English, but the country is surrounded by French-speaking countries, making it necessary to know French.

In high school, Pratt was fluent in English and French, and today she is fluent in six languages. When the time came for Pratt to attend college, she said she knew what she wanted to study.

"Languages have always been interesting to me, and I was exposed to many different languages," Pratt said. "I decided

to study French and linguistics."

Her advisers urged her to study another language in addition to French, and Pratt chose Spanish. Pratt said because she did well in Spanish, the government of Ghana paid for her to finish her undergraduate degree in Spain, where she also planned to do her graduate studies in translation.

While in Spain, Pratt said she heard of a job opportunity she was qualified for: secretary to the Nigerian ambassador.

"They told me the Nigerian ambassador needed someone who could speak not only Spanish, but also French," she said, "because that embassy had to work a lot with the French embassy."

Pratt, who is the assistant professor of secondary education and bilingual education and diversity studies and the adviser for Sigma Delta Pi — the Spanish honor society at Texas Tech — said she recognizes the advantages she has by being multi-lingual, especially in her teaching.

"My teaching has benefitted so much," she said. "I can connect with students from all over."

Pratt said she thrives on connecting with her students and making sure they are benefiting from her teaching.

"I know so many cultures and that has been so helpful in connecting with my students," she said.

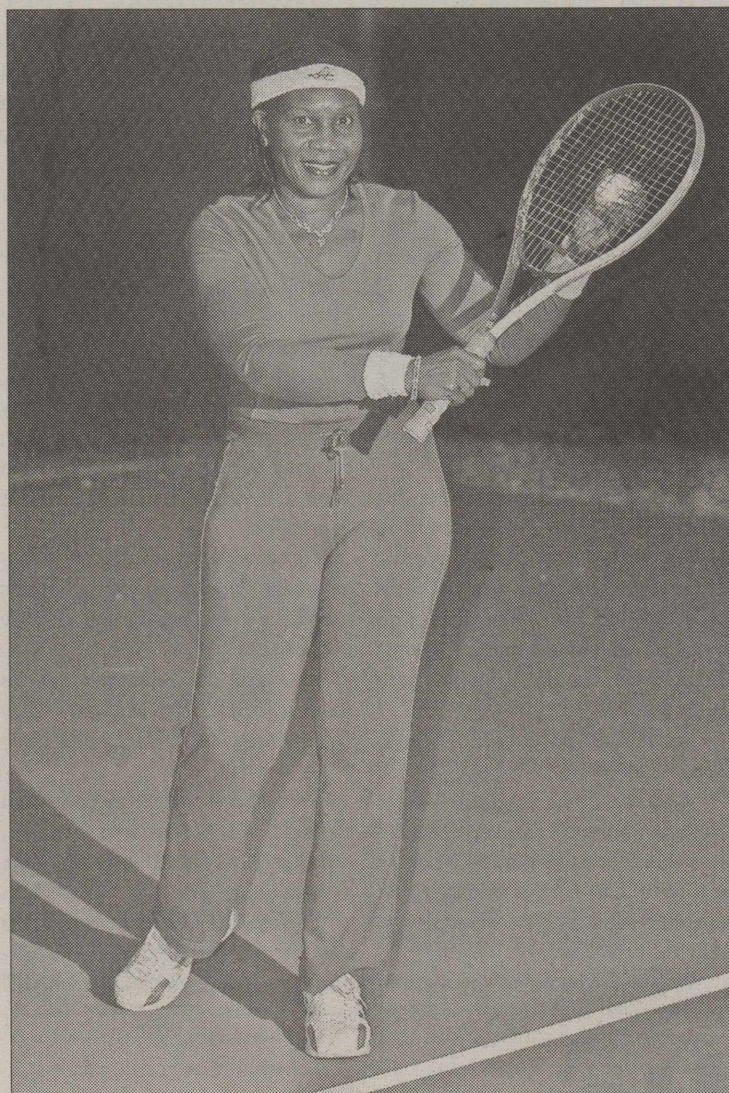
Lourdes Aguilar, a senior bilingual education major from Lubbock, said having Pratt as a teacher was an amazing experience.

"She has such a passion for teaching others," Aguilar said. "She always believed in her students."

Pratt came to Tech in 2005 from Louisiana to work at a research university. Since coming to Tech, she has set up a Spanish club. While she served as the adviser, Sigma Delta Pi has earned two top national honors, won the Honor Chapter Award and Pratt received the Adviser of the Year award.

"We have just been flying," Pratt said about the organization. "We are doing a fantastic job."

Kent Wilkinson, director of the Institute for Hispanic and International Communication, said he and Pratt served



BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Treador

COMFORT PRATT, AN assistant professor of secondary education and bilingual education and diversity studies, was a member of Ghana's national tennis, volleyball and field hockey teams.

together on graduate council and he was asked by Pratt to become an honorary member of Sigma Delta Pi.

"She knows of my work with Spanish language media and Spanish-speaking audiences," he said, "and I am glad to be part of the organization."

Wilkinson said he also believes Pratt's students benefit from her knowledge of several languages.

"I think she is a living example of the kind of diversity that this country is experiencing," he said. "She does so much important work with such a varied background."

Pratt also makes sure the organization is involved in the community.

"She never ceases to amaze me how she is always doing service projects to help improve learning whether it is for her college students or younger students," Aguilar said. "She has an undying love for teaching others."

Pratt said she volunteers as a court-appointed special advocate.

"Community work is so fulfilling," Pratt said. "It is important to reach people because when you do, it touches that person's heart."

>> devin.sanchez@ttu.edu

New "Ratchet and Clank" game lackluster, predictable

Let's say seven years ago you found an amazingly delicious type of candy, as in it looked and tasted like the best thing on Earth ever. Eating it was like dipping your tongue into liquid concentrate of awesome.

However, as the years wore on, the sensation became less special, which isn't a slight on the treat itself because it definitely wasn't a bad candy, but it just wasn't special anymore. That's kind of how it feels to play "Ratchet & Clank Future: A Crack in Time."

The "R&C" series has always been known for its off-the-wall weapons, with each game packing 20 or more new, zany creations for players to use in their quest for intergalactic justice.

Knowing that, it was a really big disappointment to learn "A Crack in Time" only has five or so fresh weapons to offer, and even those aren't all that original. Those five are fun to use, but half the fun of "R&C" games is discovering how best to use your ever-expanding arsenal. Luckily, it's not all about the weapons.

After playing the other six non-handheld iterations, it's clear "A Crack in Time" is the best-handling one of the bunch. The differences are minute, but just know experienced or not in the series, you'll definitely notice how fun it is to simply move about in the world. Shooting, jumping and wrenching all feel excellently refined and streamlined for faster action, especially the tweaked wrench throw and the hoverboots.

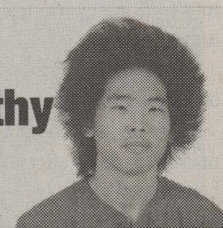
In addition to feeling the best, "A Crack in Time" also looks the best. At certain points during the cutscenes, it's hard not to think Pixar had a hand in this. Clank looks especially impressive with his brushed-metal texturing and lack of discernible aliasing.

The cutscenes look great but don't convey much story-wise, as the plot is actually quite lackluster. The ending is cheesy and predictable, overused action tropes are strewn about like literary sprinkles, and the impetus for Ratchet's side of the game just feels so bland, despite how much it really means to him.

The game's style also feels a little stale, like week-old bagels left out on the counter. The game is about as linear as it gets, the difficulty is definitely on the easy side even on the most difficult mode, and smashing boxes for ammo and health just feels so uninspired.

In an admirable attempt to remedy the linearity, though, the game turns space into an open world where you can land on various planets to find

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Zoni, gold bolts and weapon mods. There are only six or seven of these little planets per sector, which is disappointing since they also offer the only platforming and combat sequences that even approach becoming a challenge.

However, since the game constantly rewards you with useful perks for going out of your way to gather these collectibles, fetching all of these goodies becomes rather addicting and actually gives reason to use your ship.

Flying through space, unfortunately, is a somewhat sad affair. Space travel is limited to a flat plane, which makes dog fights and exploration much more manageable but less fun. It ultimately leaves an extremely strong desire to play some "Star Fox."

If the space fighting mechanics had been more fleshed out, they could have easily been turned into a nice little online multiplayer distraction. In fact, after "Up Your Arsenal's" fantastic multiplayer component, it's always been disappointing to find out the PS3 "R&C" iterations never include some sort of competitive or cooperative mode.

However, some unexpectedly awesome fun can be had as Clank in the Great Clock. During these segments, Clank must solve puzzles that involve cloning himself through time pads to press the corresponding buttons needed to open a door. This mechanic (best described as single-player co-op) is nothing new for Flash game addicts (Google "Cursor* 10" or "Chronotron"), but it's fun nonetheless.

Unfortunately, as with the rest of the game, there just needs to be more of it, preferably with some increased difficulty as even later puzzles can be solved on your first attempt.

"A Crack in Time" is definitely a good game. It handles well, looks absolutely stunning and can offer up plenty of fun. If you're looking for some new legs on the "R&C" horse, you're out of luck because this is just more of the same. If you're looking for about 12 hours (more if you're into maxing out your gear) of high-quality Insomniac design, you've come to the right place.

■ **Poon is The DT's tech critic.**
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Cambodian women chew tobacco for nausea during pregnancy

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — When pregnant Cambodian women suffer morning sickness, they often reach for an unlikely source of relief: a wad of chewing tobacco.

Many become hooked, and the World Health Organization warned Thursday it is a tradition putting the health of both mothers and babies at risk.

The largest tobacco survey ever conducted in Cambodia found that about half of all women older than 48 regularly chew tobacco, and about one in five rural women first took up the habit during pregnancy, to soothe their

prenatal nausea.

The survey conducted by WHO and other researchers found that midwives are the country's biggest users of smokeless tobacco, with 68 percent chewing it. About half of traditional female healers use it as well.

"Chewing tobacco appears to be strongly influenced by beliefs passed on by older relatives," lead author, Dr. Pramil N. Singh from Loma Linda University in California, said in a statement. "The behavior is seen as a rite of passage into womanhood. Further research is needed to find out whether village health workers actively promote

its medicinal use."

The tobacco leaves are typically mixed with lime and betel nut, a mild natural stimulant that produces a bright red juice and has been used for centuries across the Asia-Pacific. Cambodian women place the concoction inside their mouths for an extended period, increasing their risk of suffering oral cancer.

As with pregnant women who smoke, those who chew tobacco also put their babies at risk for problems such as low birth weight, decreased lung function and stillbirth.

"Some women believe that when they chew tobacco, they look better,"

said Dr. Mom Kong, director of the non-profit Cambodia Movement for Health. "And some start chewing tobacco when they get pregnant to cope with morning sickness in the first trimester of pregnancy. Some crave something sour. But some women get addicted while using it during the pregnancy."

As many as three-quarters of all men in some Southeast Asian countries smoke cigarettes, but fewer than 20 percent of the region's women ever pick up the habit. While about half of older Cambodian women chew tobacco, only about 4 percent of them smoke, compared to nearly half of all men in the country.

The rate of Cambodian women using tobacco increased with age. Similar trends have been observed in Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Taiwan, India, Palau and China.

NASA puzzled by failed parachutes

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA still isn't sure why two parachutes failed during a test flight of its prototype moon rocket just over a month ago.

The two-minute flight of the Ares I-X rocket went well Oct. 28. But only one of the three main parachutes on the first-stage booster opened properly. That caused the booster to slam harder than intended into the Atlantic Ocean. The booster was badly dented.

An engineering manager, Marshall Smith, said Thursday that one parachute may have inflated too quickly, putting too much load on the system. The flapping parachute lines may have damaged the second parachute, which opened

only partially, he said.

Several more months of analysis are needed.

NASA's proposed Ares rocket is supposed to replace the space shuttles and eventually fly astronauts to the moon. But the White House may scrap that plan. In the meantime, the space agency is considering additional flight tests, possibly in 2012 or 2013. The first manned flight of the Ares I rocket is targeted for 2015.

There were a few other snags with the \$445 million flight of the experimental rocket: Some cable connectors did not separate and the final 80 seconds of data on the on-board recorder were lost. Neither of those problems affected the mission, however, officials said.

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