(INSIDE)



Carol of Lights is tonight. SEE PAGE 6

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Principal charged with sexual assault

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — A high school associate principal faces assault and indecency charges alleging he had an "inappropriate relationship" with a student, authorities said.

A grand jury indicted Caprock High Associate Principal Jeffrey Alan Moore, 33, on Wednesday. He faces one count of sexual assault of a child, two counts of indecency with a child and three counts of having an improper relationship with a student, Randall County prosecutor Amy Rhoades said.

NATION

Dem Vilsack enters 2008 presidential race

MOUNT PLEASANT, Iowa (AP) - Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination Thursday, positioning himself as a Washington outsider with heartland appeal. Vilsack also emphasized the nexus between oil dependence, national security and the economy, saying he would give high priority to weaning the nation off foreign oil and promoting alternative energy.

WORLD Iraq panel urges troop pullback

WASHINGTON (AP) - A bipartisan commission on U.S. policy in Iraq will urge a pullback of some U.S. troops in Iraq, but will not recommend a specific timetable for withdrawing U.S. forces, an official familiar with the panel's deliberations said Thursday. The Iraq Study Group's report, to be released next Wednesday, will press for a greater shift in responsibility for the country's security from American to Iraqi forces. It will also "acknowledge that the presence of (U.S.) troops is part of the problem" in Iraq, said the official, who requested anonymity because the panel's recommendations have not been made public.

DEATH TOLL

Iraq since fighting began

WEATHER

Today



SUNNY HIGH 53/ **LOW 24**

HIGH 48/ LOW 20

SUNNY

INSIDE Classifieds.....7 Crossword.....6 La Vida......6 Opinions.....4 Sports......8

Iraqis ready for takeover by June

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Two key government leaders have criticized the policies and everything is moving in the wrong direc- Bush, which the Sadrists said amounted to means commitment." of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who tion," the Sunni leader told The Associated also is facing a boycott by key political backers Press. "This situation must be redressed as loyal to anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr soon as possible. If they continue, the country their boycott and admonished them for an after meeting with President Bush in Jordan will plunge into civil war." Thursday.

wanted to see al-Maliki's government gone and another "understanding" for a new coalition put in place with guarantees that ensure collective decision making.

"There is a clear deterioration in security protest against al-Maliki's meeting with

Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi said he Salam Zikam Ali al-Zubaie, also a Sunni, coalition government. argued that the president's government failed to curb the spread of sectarian politics.

Cabinet ministers loyal to al-Sadr was in said at a news conference on

an affront to the Iraqi people.

Al-Maliki appealed to the Sadrists to end action that he said violated the commitment Al-Maliki's No. 2, Deputy Prime Minister expected from partners in his six-month-old

"I hope they reconsider their decision The boycott by 30 lawmakers and five velopment in the political process," al-Maliki

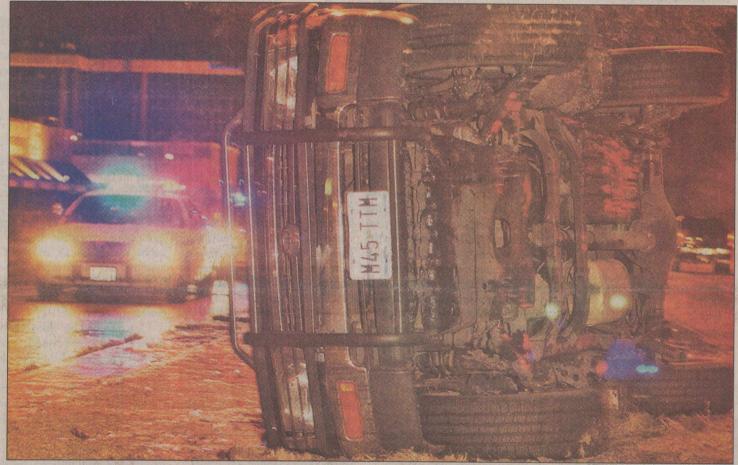
his return to Baghdad. "Political partnership

Meanwhile, in an interview with ABC, al-Maliki confidently claimed that his forces would be ready to take over responsibility for security in Iraq by June, a timeline that is about 12 months shorter than what has been floated by top U.S. military commanders.

"We and the President (Bush) agreed to keep because it doesn't constitute a positive de- the same (U.S.) forces on the ground but to train

IRAQ continued on page 3

TECH gets WRECKED



STEVE LEWIS/The Daily Toreado

A 1998 TOYOTA 4Runner rests on its side in the median of University Avenue north of 17th Street Thursday evening. The driver, a Texas Tech student, was traveling south on University Avenue when she went into a 180-degree spin and hit the curb, overturning the vehicle. The driver was uninjured.

Thursday's snowfall leads to 120 wrecks in Lubbock area

Recent changes in weather may have been received happily by some individuals, but for others it has caused problems.

Lubbock received 3 inches of snow and some areas of the South Plains got as many as 7 inches, said Carlos Gonzales, KLBK-TV's chief

As of 5 p.m. Thursday, there were 120 weather-related traffic accidents reported at the Lubbock Police Department, with several more that had not been responded to yet, said Sgt. Ray Mendoza.

However, despite the number of accidents, he said none have resulted in serious injuries. From midnight to 11 a.m. Thursday, only six weather-related traffic

accidents were reported on the highways, which was less than expected, said Cpl. John Gonzalez of the Lubbock Department of Public Safety. "A lot of calls we were getting were people sliding off onto the medians

or into ditches," he said. Depending on the weather Thursday night, the roads may refreeze, which may cause even more accidents this morning, he said. But

only concerning Thursday, he said he was pleased the numbers were not higher.

"Really, I was expecting even more (accidents) because this is really the first snow," he said. "I applaud the general public for their out-of-city



KAT HILSABECK/The Daily Torea

A LUBBOCK POLICE officer looks into the passenger side of a vehicle after the driver ran off the road and hit a tree on 19th Street on Thursday

Many of the incidents that did occur could be prevented if drivers would follow some simple safety guidelines, he said.

The tips Gonzalez suggested were similar to those from the Police Department, Texas Tech Police Department, Texas Department of Transportation

ACCIDENTS continued on page 2

Grand jury indicts four in child abuse case

By PAUL ROBERTS STAFF WRITER

A Lubbock grand jury indicted four Lubbock adults Tuesday for allegedly abusing two children, ages 15 and 16, according to court documents.

Steve Lively, 40, and his wife Melissa Lively, 37, Kyle B. Sexton, 20, and Jason Lively, 19, were all indicted for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Steve Lively and Melissa Lively received four counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for allegedly assaulting the two teenagers who are Steve Lively's children.

According to reports, Steve Lively and Melissa Lively were arrested for allegedly starving, burning, hitting, and forcing the two teenagers to sleep in a closet.

The teenagers' step-brother, 19-year-old Jason Lively, was indicted Tuesday on 10 counts of aggravated assault for allegedly abusing the two teenagers with a deadly weapon. According to police reports, Jason Lively lived with Steve Lively and Melissa Lively and took part in abusing the teenagers.

Court documents state Jason Lively abused his two step-brothers by using a car battery charger to burn the two teenagers.

One more suspect was indicted Tuesday for the alleged abuse. Sexton was indicted on four counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Court documents state Sexton allegedly caused bodily injury to the teenagers with his hand and assisted in burning the teenagers with a car battery charger.

According to a police report, the four suspects did more than burn and hit the teenagers. The reports state the 19-year-old stepbrother Jason Lively allegedly

CASE continued on page 2

Amid N. Korea threat, Japan tests defensive missile at Fort Bliss

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL ASSOCIATED PRESS

McGREGOR RANGE, N.M. (AP) — The Japanese military, facing a renewed nuclear threat from neighboring North Korea, successfully launched a new surface-to-air defensive missile Thursday in a remote area of Fort Bliss.

The Chu-SAM missile was launched about 30 miles northeast of El Paso at McGregor Range, where Japanese forces have been training on their defensive missile systems. The missile, manufactured by Mitsubishi Electronics, is designed to knock down aircraft, air-to-surface missiles and cruise missiles.

North Korea announced a successful underground nuclear test in October, but Thursday's firing was not in response to that threat, said Japanese Maj. Gen. Masanori Takeda.

The same missile already has been tested six times at Thursday's launch was the first as part of a live training near the end of World War II in 1945.

bolster that nation's missile defense system. The U.S. military has also announced plans to upgrade two ships deployed to Japan and equip them with missile interceptors.

forces would shoot down missiles aimed at another country, including the United States. Fumio Kyuma, the head of the Japanese Defense Agency, has said the country's post-World Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has suggested that the government would review the issue.

Japan became the only country to suffer a nuclear attack when nearby White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, but U.S. atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Takeda and other Japanese military officials cheered and Japanese and U.S. officials have been working together to hugged moments after the successful launch Thursday, which was delayed several times after technical problems with a drone.

The design phase of the \$1.29 billion (150 billion Japanese yen) missile program was completed in 2002. The Chu-SAM Japan has also renewed discussions about whether its will replace the HAWK missiles that Japanese defense forces had relied on since 1965.

Takeda, who spoke through a translator, said the new missile is more effective and versatile than the HAWK. It has a range of War II pacifist constitution prohibits that sort of action. But about 31 miles, or 50 kilometers and is designed to directly hit targets. Up to 10 missiles can be fired from a single launcher to destroy multiple threats, the general said.

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Accidents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and the Texas Department of Public

man of the Tech Police Department especially in icy conditions, he said. included slowing down, allowing more travel time and keeping a safe distance between vehicles.

"Avoid tailgating at all cost," he said. "If you own a cell phone it would be wise to carry it with you."

On the Tech campus, there were two accident reports neither of which resulted in injuries, he said. However, there were 21 requests made by such as vehicles getting stuck in ditches, he said.

had some fender benders," Hoffman to lose control of your vehicle." said.

ed traffic accidents was not a surprise

"It's not uncommon, at least until people get used to the conditions,"

On the state level, Thursday driving on ice." morning did not have any reports resulted in highways being closed, said Theresa Olson, special program ment of Transportation.

Olson's safety tips for drivers vehicle in case of a breakdown and, in general, using extreme caution.

highways. Those are easing up someably be slick in the morning." what, but conditions do still exist."

Texas Department of Public Safety, Department of Transportation's Web stressed the importance of making site, http://www.dot.state.tx.us. sure the vehicle being driven is in naomi.kaskela@ttu.edu

set by the country's Constitutional

Court, which required the marriage

law be changed to ensure equality for

officers to turn away gay couples if their

consciences prevented them from mar-

make preparations for long-awaited

to be recognized," said Melanie Judge,

a program manager for the South

Some couples began hurrying to

"There will be a huge response from

such a long time for their relationship norms.

gay and lesbians.

rying them.

nuptials.

group, OUT.

good working condition.

"One of the things you have to take into consideration is the condition of your car, specifically your tires," he said.

If the tires are not in good condi-Tips from Maj. Gordon Hoff- tion, it could easily lead to accidents,

"Does your defroster work? Do you have the proper coolant in your vehicle?" Vinger said.

Although he said individuals should have their vehicles in proper condition to begin with, if they were to encounter a problem, they should not react hastily.

"This goes for any type of bad weather, you always want to avoid motorists for assistance in instances knee-jerk reactions," he said. "You don't want to slam on your brakes; you don't want to turn your wheel "My understanding is we have quickly because that will cause you

According to winter weather The occurrence of weather-relat- driving tips given out by the Texas Department of Public Safety, two things drivers should remember is "that ice forms first on bridges, overpasses and shady areas" and that 'speed is the main problem with

Even with all of the tips and of weather-related accidents that the number of accidents Thursday, today may result in almost as many weather-related traffic accidents, said coordinator for the Texas Depart- Lisa Karnes, crime analyst for the Lubbock Police.

Individuals should know the roads included having a blanket, gloves, are slick before they start driving and water and snacks available in the adjust their driving habits because of

"We think the numbers will be "If the trip is not necessary, don't close to today," she said about weathtravel," she said. "Earlier there were a er-related traffic accidents, "because lot of icy and slick conditions on the it's going to freeze tonight and prob-

Information on current road Tom Vinger, spokesman for the conditions is available at the Texas

"We are ready to go," said Jacky

couples will need to apply for permis-

to bury all forms of discrimination, rec-

South African leaders, determined

That constitution, the first in the

world to prohibit discrimination on the

basis of sexual orientation, provided a

powerful legal tool for gay rights activ-

ists, even though South Africa remains

Influential traditional leaders said

The Roman Catholic Church and

Muslim groups denounced it as violat-

days leading up to the signing of the

→Washer/Dryer

→Exterior:

connections.

conservative on issues of sexuality.

South Africa becomes the first country

on continent to legalize gay marriages

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) munity Churches in Pretoria said she

The Civil Union Act goes into Mashapu, a spokesman for the Home

Gay rights groups have welcomed ognized the rights of gays and lesbians

the law, although they criticized proviin the constitution drafted after the end

same sex couples who have waited the legislation violated African cultural

Africa-based lesbian and gay rights ing the sanctity of marriage. In the

Glorious Light Metropolitan Com- opposition to the legislation.

Janine Pressman, a pastor with the new law, radio talk shows aired strong

effect a day ahead of a Dec. 1 deadline Affairs Ministry, where altar-bound

— South Africa on Thursday became hoped to marry a couple on Saturday,

the first country in Africa, and only provided the paperwork could be

the fifth in the world, to legalize same rushed through.

sions allowing clergy and civil marriage of apartheid in 1994.

CAITY COLVARD/The Daily Tore

TIFFANY BAILEY, A freshman business major from Rockwall, attempts to snowboard down a hill on the north side of the United Spirit Arena Thursday afternoon while her friends watch.

Lubbock prepared for freezing temperatures

By ANNA SCHUMANN STAFF WRITER

Some of the city's renters have been given notices about how to protect their pipes in case of a freeze. Representatives from the City of Lubbock and power companies say a few similar precautionary measures are necessary to keep the city up and running for its citizens.

Wes Everett, the facilities manager for the City of Lubbock, said when Lubbock has freezing temperatures, each of the city's eight full-time technicians come to work a few hours early to prepare cityowned buildings for the weather.

He said the technicians spread sand and salt across the snow at building entrances to melt the snow and make sure entrances are safe for freeze is over. city employees and citizens.

said, are rare.

tative maintenance to make sure everything is insulated, so you don't freezes do occur," he said.

The full-time technicians, he said, also come in early to deal with emergencies when they happen.

People who work at clearing city streets also are at work before a freeze happens.

Robert Cook, the street superintendent for the City of Lubbock, said workers load each of the city's eight vehicles with a mixture of salt and gravel, then must wait to take action until a freeze actually happens.

"We have everything read to go until we get a call from PD (the

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Police Department) or sometimes our use of programmable thermostats in employees," he said. "We can't really do anything before that."

As soon as a call is made, Cook said workers drive from the east to west, spreading the salt and gravel mix on major thoroughfares such as 19th Street, Fourth Street and University Avenue.

The salt and gravel mix, Cook said, is only effective until temperatures hit the teens when the snow will freeze with the mix in it.

In situations where the roads remain slick because there is ice, Cook spreading salt on the ice, which will be begins to melt and the goal is met.

He said the street workers will protect their own pipes. be on duty 24 hours a day until the

Light, said the power plant does not said one key point the office has tried "Over the years, we do preven- do anything differently when a freeze to stress is that a city ordinance prois on the way.

He said facility management sys- purposes during a freeze. have to be running around when tems are regulated by computers, which is a good thing.

He said all exposed equipment is immediate action. insulated, and there is heat tracing on to how automobiles run.

Sims said LP&L recommends the

houses to save energy and prevent damage. Programmable thermostats can be programmed to run at different temperatures when residents are in their homes or not.

He said electrical emergencies do not happen often.

"People would be too upset," he said. "When they flick a switch, they expect the light to turn on. We spend a lot of money making sure the lines don't freeze up."

Gaylyn Chapman, the customer said workers go throughout the night service supervisor for the city of Lubbock water utilities, said much of beaten into the ice by tires. When the what her office can do to protect their temperatures rise, Cook said the ice facilities from an upcoming freeze is to make citizens aware of how to best

Chapman said her office sent out public service announcements urging Chris Sims, the public informa- people to be aware of the upcoming on officer for Lubbock Power and freeze, especially if leaving town. She hibits the use of water for landscaping

The city itself is protected from its pipes freezing, she said, because "They're regulated by computers, the city has followed engineering like at Tech," he said. "Never have I seen standards for the depth at which pipes them take the temperature down so low must be buried. When something goes that we have to worry about freezing." wrong, Chapman said the city takes

"When a citizen calls and says the power lines. The external water they don't have water," she said, "it sources, he said, use antifreeze, similar becomes our top priority and we take care of it as soon as possible."

▶ anna.schumann@ttu.edu

Winter conservation tips: fast, free solutions to conserve energy

· Let the sunshine in -- open drapes and let the sun heat your home for free. Close them at sundown so they help insulate.

• Rearrange your rooms --- move near interior walls. Exterior walls and older windows are likely to be drafty. • Keep it shut - traditional fire-

places are an energy loser. It's best not to use them because they pull heated air out of the house and up the chimney. When not in use, make absolutely sure the damper is closed. Before closing the damper, make sure that you don't have any smoldering embers. If you decide not to use the fireplace then block off the chimney with a piece of rigid insulation from the hardware store that fits snugly into the space.

• Eliminate wasted energy — turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Unplug that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't truly need it. This seemingly convenient way to keep extra drinks cold adds 10-25 percent to your electric bill.

• Shorten showers.

· Use appliances efficiently — do only full loads when using your dishwasher and clothes washer. Use the cold water setting on your clothes washer when you can. Using cold water reduces your water's energy use by 75 percent. Be sure to clean your dryer's lint trap after each use. • Put your computer and monitor

For more information, see all winter conservation tips at http://www.lpandl.com/ conserve.htm



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Solution, tips and computer

Homeland Security supervisor pleads guilty

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) immigrants. - A former supervisor at the Department of Homeland Security once supervised as many as 50 pleaded guilty Thursday to accept- employees in the Citizenship ing at least \$600,000 in bribes and Immigration Services office to provide fraudulent citizenship in Fairfax, Va., pleaded guilty in documents to hundreds of Asian U.S. District Court to bribery and

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Robert T. Schofield, 57, who to aiding and abetting the illegal procurement of citizenship.

He faces as many as 25 years in prison when he is sentenced in February. Prosecutors said they will seek the maximum sentence.

Case

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shot his stepbrothers with a BB gun and used a pair of pliers to abuse the teenagers and pinch their skin.

All four suspects are currently in the Lubbock County Jail on a \$100,000 bond each.

Each charge given to the four suspects holds a maximum sentence of 20 years and is a second-degree

The teenagers are in protective custody. paul.j.roberts@ttu.edu

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A FEW GOOD MEN



KAT HILSABECK/The Daily Toread

JOEL FINNEGAN, A senior chemicial engineering major from the Woodlands, holds the guidon as Col. Dave Lewis, a professor of Aerospace Studies salutes Michael J. Reese, a senior management information systems major from New Orleans.

Pope offers silent prayer in mosque in hopes of ringing message of reconciliation

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — Pope Benedict XVI joined an Islamic cleric in prayers under the towering dome of Istanbul's most famous mosque Thursday in a powerful gesture seeking to transform his image among Muslims from adversary to peacemaker.

The pope's minute of prayer was in this world." done in silence, but the message after he provoked worldwide fury for remarks on violence and the Prophet Muhammad.

'This visit will help us find together the way of peace for the good of all humanity," the pope said inside the 17th-century Blue Mosque — in only the second papal visit in history to a Muslim place of worship. Benedict's predecessor, John Paul II, made a brief stop in a mosque in Italian. Syria in 2001.

archway and into the mosque's carpeted expanse capped a day of deep symbolism and lofty goals. Hours earlier, he stood beside the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians and passionately encouraged steps to end the nearly 1,000-year messages of reconciliation to Muslims a predominantly Muslim country into divide between their churches.

The pope walked to the mosque after touring another majestic tribute to faith: the 1,500-year-old Haghia Sofia and its remarkable mix of Quranic calligraphy and Christian. mosaics from its legacy as a marvel of early Christianity and then a coveted prize of Islam's expansion.

At the mosque, the pope removed Then he walked beside Mustafa Cag- divisions between rici, the head cleric of Istanbul. Facing the holy city of Mecca - in the tradition of Islamic worship — Cagrici to the world's more than 250 million tholomew at the St. George Church said: "Now I'm going to pray." Bene- Orthodox a centerpiece of his papacy in Istanbul, capital of Christian dict, too, bowed his head and his lips and has set the difficult goal of "full Byzantium before falling to Muslim moved as if reciting words.

Cagrici "for this moment of prayer."

"A single swallow can't bring including papal authority. spring," Cagrici told the pope, who ends his first papal trip to a Muslim

The pope received a painting of reconciliation was designed to showing the Sea of Marmara and a Asia Minor and who tradition says resonate loudly nearly three months glazed tile decorated with a dove. ordained the first bishop of Constan-The mosque is officially known as the Sultan Ahmet Mosque after the Ottoman sultan Ahmet I, who ordered its construction. But it's widely called the Blue Mosque after its elaborate

> The pope presented the imam the first pope. with a mosaic showing four doves.

Benedict's steps through a stone Federico Lombardi, said the mosque visit was added as a "sign of respect" to pray in any place, even a mosque," Lombardi said, calling it an "intimate, personal prayer."

> since coming to Turkey on Tuesday, the bloc. including appeals for greater understanding and support for Turkey's effort to become the first Muslim nation in the European Union.

own demands.

— including the tiny Christian comhis shoes and put on white slippers. munity in Turkey — and denounced described Muhammad's teachings as

Christians as a "scandal."

unity" between the two ancient forces in 1453.

Before the pope left, he thanked branches of Christianity, which split in the 11th century over disputes

"The divisions which exist among Christians are a scandal to the world," nation Friday. "But many swallows the pope said after joining Ecumeniwill follow and we will enjoy a spring cal Patriarch Bartholomew I to mark the feast day of

> St. Andrew, who preached across tinople, now Istanbul.

The homage of the Orthodox feast day Liturgy also was highly significant to Roman Catholics. Andrew was the brother of St. Peter, who was martyred in Rome and is considered

In a joint statement, the pope "Let us pray for brotherhood and and patriarch stressed the need to for all humanity," Benedict said in "preserve Christian roots" in European culture while remaining "open The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. to other religions and their cultural contributions."

The comments could send con-Muslims. "A (Christian) believer can flicting signals to Turkey after the Vatican suggested there was room in the EU for its first Muslim member. They could also serve as a rallying The pope has offered wide-ranging point for groups opposed to bringing

The pope also recalled how the faith was shaped by the encounters of early Christians with the scientific and intellectual traditions of ancient But Benedict also has set down his Greece. It was the same theological backdrop — faith and reason — that The pope repeated calls for greater was the basis for his explosive remarks freedoms for religious minorities in September in which he quoted a medieval Christian emperor who 'evil and inhuman.'

The pope avoided any direct men-Benedict has made reaching out tion of Islam after praying with Bar-

Iraq

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more Iraqi forces," he said, according to excerpts from the interview to be aired later Thursday.

"We did not talk about any timetables and agenda for the withdrawal but now we are focusing on training Iraqi forces and then we will talk about reducing the number of multinationals," he said, alluding to the U.S.-led, 150,000-strong multinational force in Iraq.

He said he had no objection to any timetable for a U.S. troop withdrawal, but cautioned that such action should be put off until

On Thursday, Bush said he would Thursday. speed a turnover of security responal-Maliki that Washington was not looking for a "graceful exit" from a war well into its fourth year.

"So, we'll be in Iraq until the job is complete," Bush said

Saleh al-Ojeili, a Sadrist legislator, said only a timetable for the Iraq would persuade him and fellow Sadrists to resume participation in the parliament and government.

"It is the minimum we can ask for," al-Ojeili said.

A special commission on U.S. policy in Iraq will urge a pullback of some U.S. troops but will not recommend a timetable for withdrawing Iraqi forces were ready to stand on all U.S. forces, an official familiar 37 bodies found dumped in various with the panel's deliberations said regions of the country.

The Iraq Study Group's report, sibility to Iraqi forces and assured to be released next Wednesday, will press for a greater shift in responsibility for the country's security from American to Iraqi forces. It will also indicate that the presence of U.S. troops is part of the problem in Iraq, said the official, who requested anonymity because the panel's recwithdrawal of foreign troops from ommendations have not been made public.

Bush has steadfastly refused to announce a timeline for a troop pullout, saying that such a move would play into the hands of insurgents.

In violence on Thursday, the U.S. military reported the deaths of two soldiers, and Iraqi officials said 47 people had been killed, including

Huge Iraq spending bill to test Democrats

Bush administration is working on its largest-ever appeal for more Iraq war funds — a record \$100 billion, at least, and that figure reflects cuts from wish lists originally circulating around the Pentagon.

The measure will give Democrats, who take control of Congress next year, an early chance to try changing the conduct of the war. But they are limited and do not want to be cast as unsympathetic to U.S. troops.

'We're not going to do anything to limit funding or cut off funds," says Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Senior Pentagon officials have trimmed initial requests from the Army and Air Force. But with \$70 billion already approved for the budget year that began Oct. 1, and more money needed to replace lost or worn-out equipment, spending levels for 2007 easily will be at the highest since the Iraq war began in 2003.

Precise figures have not been set by either the Pentagon or the White House. The requests in February for Iraq and Afghanistan probably will be about \$100 billion, but could climb as high as \$128 billion if the services get their way, said Jim McAleese, a Virginia lawyer who specializes in national security law.

Including the money already approved, the cost of the total military the Congressional Budget Office.

Despite widespread discontent over the Iraq war and President any damn thing they wanted into the Bush's handling of it, Democrats are expected to grant the vast majority of the request. Yet evidence is accumulating that the figure the White House sends to Capitol Hill will not be limited to dollars critically needed for troops and war-fighting.

There is much sentiment among Democrats to protect troops and fear about being portrayed as unsympathetic to men and women in uniform. These factors probably would overwhelm any efforts by anti-war Democrats to use the debate over the Iraq money to take on Bush's conduct of the war.

"Although-the Democrats are very uncomfortable with the way the Iraq policy is being executed, they are at pains not to appear that they are shortchanging troops in the field," said Loren Thompson, chief operating officer of the Lexington Institute, a Washington-area think

"This is their opportunity to

WASHINGTON (AP) — The show that they, too, are pro-defense," Thompson said.

> Democrats are promising to give the upcoming request greater scrutiny than Republicans did when considering Bush's previous requests.

"It won't just be a rubber stamp on what they give us," said Kirstin Brost, spokeswoman for the incoming chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. David Obey, D-Wis.

There is increasing concern about the cost of the war and the fact that Iraq spending is kept on a set of ledgers separate from the rest of government

It is possible that the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group could affect the spending request.

Since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Congress has approved about \$500 billion for Iraq, Afghanistan and other terrorism-fighting efforts.

The Vietnam War cost an inflationadjusted \$121 billion at its height in 1968, according to the Congressional Research Service. The overall tally for Vietnam is \$663 billion, adjusted for inflation, while Iraq so far come to about \$350 billion.

The cost of the war has risen dramatically as the security situation has deteriorated and more equipment is destroyed or worn out in harsh condi-

The Pentagon increasingly is using war spending bills for costs not directly related to Iraq and Afghanistan. Last month, Deputy Defense Secretary spending for Iraq and Afghanistan Gordon England said the four military could come close to \$200 billion in services could add projects connected 2007. About \$120 billion was spent to the broader fight against terrorism, in the 2006 budget year, according to which critics said could be interpreted to cover almost anything.

"He was telling the services to put



supplemental," said Winslow Wheeler of the Center for Defense Information, a think tank policy group, in Washington. Such costs include buying cargo planes and restructuring Army outfits into smaller, more nimble fighting

England's memo led to inflated requests that are now being "scrubbed" by higher-ups at the Pentagon. While that could lower the price for the February request, Wheeler said, the services are likely to try again in future bills.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman had no comment on the upcoming request for money.

Democrats have not been shy about adding money not sought by the president to war bills. Most notably, the Senate in August included \$13 billion for Army and Marine Corps combat readiness in a Pentagon budget measure that had \$70 billion in Iraq.

Farm-state lawmakers such as Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., may try to use the Iraq debate to push billions of dollars in agricultural disaster aid.



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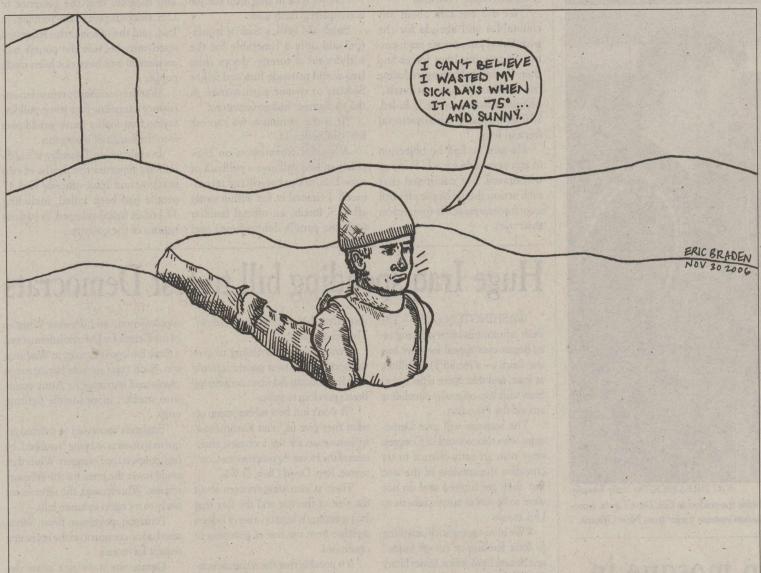
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OPINIONS



Games scare me

something special from Santa Lthis Christmas, provided that they've been a good boy or girl this year. And you can bet that a lot of those special things will come in the form of video games. With the recent release of Sony's PlayStation 3 and Nintendo's Wii, and Microsoft's Xbox 360 still in high demand, the video game industry is doing as well as ever.

without controversy. This week, a study anywhere. "Medal of Honor: Frontline" was released by the Indiana University was the game used as the violent video School of Medicine in Indianapolis suggame, while "Need for Speed: Undergesting a correlation between emotional ground" was used to be an equally fun, arousal and violence in video games. nonviolent game. The study, conducted on 13- to 17-yearthe parts of the brain associated with a war-based game, it's obviously filled tal to their health in serious ways. concentration, focus and control.

of violent media on the brain.



the games being played were not specifically designed for the experiment. They were actual commercial video games But no multibillion dollar industry is that can be purchased at retail stores

with violence, but it's also a simulasignificant because it uses advanced im- to stimulate emotion on at least a skills in detrimental ways? aging technology to monitor the effects small level. Compare that to "Need study is still questionable. For example, racing culture. The object in this game consoles were around, the graphics were adrian.j.martinez@ttu.edu.

is to win races so you can obtain the so poor that no matter how violent the finances and ability to make your car faster and more extravagant. There's no emotional attachment to be made, nor was that the game-makers' intent.

Still, this study comes closer than any other thus far to showing a true and undeniable link between violence in video games and violent tendencies in behavior. At the very least it shows to the person. Maybe you and I can that there are some lingering short-term control our minds and decide what effects on brain activity as a result of that game's content.

No study has been conducted as of everybody can. yet to show similar results over long periods of time, but we already know have become convinced that violence For those of you who are not gambehavior in the form of addiction. Some old males, also showed those who played ers, "Medal of Honor: Frontline" is a people have been so addicted to playing violent video games had less activity in World War II first-person-shooter. As video games that it has been detrimen- seem like this latest research would

If these games can have that kind The debate over the effect of vio- tion and re-creation of one of the most of effect — the kind of power to cause lence in video games is nothing new. important wars in our history. In this us to stop eating and sleeping well, Many studies have been conducted in particular game, there is a story line and to even be linked with attention the past to show a correlation between in which you are part of a close-knit deficiencies — isn't it just as reasonexposure to violent media and increased military unit. Yes, I know that it's just able to consider that they might be violent behavior. However, this study is a game, but it's a game that's supposed influencing out behavior and social

> For years people have been fearful of for Speed: Underground," a racing violence in video games, and with good

games were, it didn't matter because none of the games had any chance of being realistic. Now that the technology has caught up, it's possible to put the most disturbing images in digital form and have it look indistinguishable

I suppose it would have to be up is reality and what is simulation. But it would be foolish to assume that

Some people, politicians especially, that video games can alter long-term in video games can be held responsible for much of the violent behavior seen in schools today, and at first glance it might support that position. But it's still only part of the problem. There is plenty of violence to be seen elsewhere.

> No, even if violent video games contribute to violent behavior, these games were still created after violence already existed. We can't treat them like the cause. We can only acknowledge that they might be a contributor.

■ Martinez is a senior music major Still, some would argue that the game based on the underground street reason. When the first home gaming from San Antonio. E-mail him at

Wait, orgasms?

Orgasm calls for

everyone in the

world to come

together and have

orgasms on the

first day of winter.

Instead of the

usual pillow talk or

cuddling afterward,

each participant

is to concentrate

on beneficial

thoughts of peace,

thereby acting as

a lubricant in the

peaceful world.

By ROB OLSON THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (UC-DAVIS)

(U-WIRE) DAVIS, Calif. —

According to a recent CBS/Associated Press article, Bay Area peace activists Donna Sheehan and Paul climax on Dec. 22.

a lubricant in the transition to a more Oh wait. That is what happened. peaceful world. The Global

"And if that means laying down your gun for a few minutes," Reffell ejaculated, "then hey, all the better." Sheehan said

it made sense that they'd received such a strong response after inserting themselves so vigorously into the debate: " ... the human race is sexual, especially males." She definitely hit the spot of the matter there. Exploring

their Web site, the thrust of the Global Orgasm is "to effect change in the energy field of the Earth through input of the largest possible surge of human energy." It goes on, rather energetically: "The

combination of high-energy orgasmic is what happened. energy combined with mindful inten-

ally isn't so hard to penetrate the hairy caused by a complicated intercourse of religion and history.

Orgasm don't end there. Gentlemen, has such a weak military. They have with orgasms.

so much sex that they can't focus properly on their wars. That's to say nothing of the Middle East, where there is constant warfare exclusively because of a Want to save the world? OK. Have religion-induced lack of sex. Obviously, there is a direct correlation between orgasms and wars throughout the world. Bravo, Sheehan and Reffell.

Let's be real. Peace movements never Reffell have conceived the notion of create peace, except at a cost far greater the Global Orgasm for Peace, set to than that of a timely and just war. If peace activists had had their way in the The Global Orgasm calls for ev- 1850s and 1860s, the North would have eryone in the world to come together had a much tougher time organizing to and have orgasms on the first day of oppose the South's recalcitrant defense winter. Instead of the usual pillow talk of slavery; even when war would evenor cuddling afterward, each particitually break out, these activists would pant is to concentrate on beneficial undermine Abraham Lincoln's power thoughts of peace, thereby acting as and prolong an already terrible conflict.

If peace activists had had their way in the 1930s, no one would've opposed Adolf Hitler's rise to power and his creation of a fearsome military machine, consuming countries whole while the inevitable impending war became worse and worse. Oh wait. That is what happened.

If peace activists had had their way in the 1960s and 1970s, a noble venture to stop the spread of oppression and communism to South Vietnam - and to give a people the invaluable luxury of self-determination - would've been fatally hamstrung, so that in the wake of an American retreat millions of Vietnamese and Cambodians transition to a more would be slaughtered by "enlightened" dictators. Oh wait. That

If peace activists have their way in tion may have a much greater effect Iraq, the "civil war" going on now in that than previous mass meditations and country would soon look like a casual game of Risk. The country would be torn See? When you strip it down, it reapart as Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds would all murder and destroy one another, problem that is war. It's not like war is causing tremendous death and chaos. A rising Iran would step in to support the resources, politics, economics, culture, Shiite majority of Iraq, oil prices would skyrocket and turmoil would spread to The implications of the Global the rest of the Middle East.

War is never a good thing, never it is now incumbent upon you to give something to be enjoyed or eagerly your women orgasms not only for anticipated. But there are things in this their sakes, but for all of humankind. world that are worse than war, and which World peace depends on it. If orgasms can unfortunately only be stopped with promote harmony, no wonder France war. They definitely can't be stopped

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time to verify and edit the submission



STAFF WRITER

Being an only child, his parents always took him with them when they traveled.

For Chris Huff, the Student Government Association vice president of external affairs, traveling to places like the Cayman Islands; Caracas, Venezuela; and Mexico City gave him a nudge into what he wanted to do for a living.

"My parents liked to take me around all over the place," Huff said. "It was a really neat experience to be able to go everywhere with my parents. Seeing all of those different places really sparked an interest in me to want to go into international business."

business major from San Antonio, he's scheduling one thing," she

but before he came to Texas Tech, he attended San Antonio College.

While at San Antonio College, he was a member of the speech and debate team and went to the national competition where he was awarded a silver award in informative speaking and a

bronze award for communication tle system to continue running

helped develop his person-to-person that use the service. and public speaking skills.

senior marketing major from Spring, said she believes those skills help that would make it easier for Tech people trust him and that he leaves students to get internships while a lasting impression on people.

"He knows how to talk to people, and he just has a good heart, and people can see that right away," Bryant said. "My cousin, who has only met him one time, is always asking, 'Is Chris coming?"

Huff said when he arrived at Tech he wanted to get involved in fun is. I like helping my friends organizations, and Tech offered him and the students of Texas Tech plenty of chances.

"Tech has so much to offer as can." far as student organizations," Huff said. "I just dove in head first as far he would like to go to China and as joining organizations."

Alpha Phi Omega, the business frater- immediate aspiration is to get an nity Delta Sigma Pi, the International internship with the White House Business Society, the SGA and the Kappa Alpha Order fraternity. He also is a Rawls College of Business Adminington, D.C. istration ambassador.



It was a really

neat experience to

be able to go

everywhere with

- CHRIS HUFF

SGA External Vice President

my parents.

Bryant said Huff has little free time, but what little time he does have, he manages well. "His phone Huff is a senior international keeps him on top of stuff when

> said. "Because he always knows what else he has that day, he's able to plan very well." As the SGA Ex-

ternal Vice President, Huff said he concentrates his time on raising external funds for the Citibus campus shut-

efficiently in the City of Lubbock Huff said those competitions and in the apartment complexes

Huff said he also is working on His girlfriend, Lauren Bryant, a an internship program with the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce attending the university.

All this work may take up the majority of his time, but he said his enjoyment comes from knowing that he is helping other people.

'I work really hard all the time," he said. "That's where my University in any way that I

Huff said once he graduates see the different business oppor-Huff joined the service fraternity tunities available to him, but his before going to graduate school at Georgetown University in Wash-

▶ benjamin.maki@ttu.edu

Travel inspires SGA | Hezbollah calls protests in Lebanon to FBI joins external vice president bring down U.S.-backed government

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Hezbollah and its pro-Syrian allies launched a long-threatened campaign to force Lebanon's U.S.-backed government from office, calling for mass demonstrations Friday followed by a wave of open-ended protests.

A defiant Prime Minister Fuad Saniindependence is threatened and its democratic system is in danger."

The call for protests threatens to turn a political power struggle between pro- and anti-Syrian factions into a violent showdown in sharply divided

Government supporters accuse Syria of being behind the Hezbollah campaign, trying to regain its lost influence in its smaller neighbor. Hezbollah and its allies, in turn, say the country has fallen under U.S. domination and that they have lost their rightful portion of power.

Hezbollah had threatened to call mass demonstrations unless it and its allies obtain a veto-wielding share of the Cabinet — a demand that Saniora and step down.

The United States has made Leba-Syria and its ally, regional powerhouse Iran. President Bush warned earlier this week that the two countries were trying to destabilize Lebanon.

Fears were high that Friday's protests may turn into street clashes between the ora vowed his government would not two sides or that Hezbollah supporters fall, warning in a nationally televised could try to storm Saniora's government government, with anti-Syrians domispeech Thursday night that "Lebanon's complex in Beirut. The government has placed troops, barbed wire and armored vehicles outside the offices for days.

Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, called for the protests to be peaceful. From the other camp, the head of the anti-Syrian bloc in parliament, Saad Hariri, said his supporters should not hold counter-demonstra-

"Tomorrow is a day when we will show our resolve," Hariri told The Associated Press.

Still, he vowed to be "strong with the government. ... We will not accept to be part of an axis of Syria and

Tensions are high in Lebanon after a string of assassinations of anti-Syrian figures over the past two years, including the anti-Syrian parties have rejected. a prominent Christian government-The aim of the protests is to generate minister gunned down last week and enough popular pressure to further Hariri's father, former prime minister paralyze the government, forcing it to Rafik Hairi, who was killed in a February 2005 bomb blast.

The divisions in Lebanon fall gennon a key front in its attempts to rein in erally along delicate sectarian lines, adding to the potential for clashes. Most of the anti-Syrian forces are Sunni Muslims and Christians, while the pro-Syrians are largely Shiite Muslims, though some Christian, Sunni and smaller factions are allied to them.

The political fight has paralyzed the nating the parliament and the Saniora Cabinet pitted against the pro-Syrian president and parliament speaker.

The battle is a fallout from the summer war between Hezbollah and Israel that ravaged parts of Lebanon. The guerrilla force's strong resistance against Israeli troops sent its support among Shiites skyrocketing, emboldening it to grab more political power. Hezbollah also feels Saniora did not do enough to support it during the fight.

Pro-government groups, in turn, resent Hezbollah for sparking the fight by snatching two Israeli soldiers, dragging Lebanon into a conflict with the powerful Israeli army.

Hezbollah has proven in past rallies that it can draw hundreds of thousands of its Shiite supporters into the streets. The group and its allies said Friday's demonstration would begin 3 p.m. near Saniora's government offices. They called for it to be followed by "openended protests."

British probe

LONDON (AP) — The FBI is joining the British probe into the poisoning death of a Kremlin critic, the agency announced Thursday as investigators found traces of radiation at a dozen sites in Britain and a former Russian prime minister reported symptoms consistent with poisoning.

British authorities requested the involvement of the FBI, agency spokesman Richard Kolko said. FBI experts in weapons of mass destruction will assist with some of the scientific analysis, he said.

There is no suspected link to the U.S. in an investigation that extends to five airliners and locations from London to Moscow. Russian officials said radiation levels were normal on two suspect Russian jets and appealed to British officials for information on how to test Russians who traveled aboard the two British Airways planes on which radiation has so far been detected.

Yegor Gaidar, who served briefly as prime minister in the 1990s under Russian President Boris Yeltsin, vomited and then fainted during a conference in Ireland on Nov. 24, a day after ex-KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko died of radiation poisoning. Doctors treating Gaidar in Moscow believe he was also poisoned, said his spokesman, Valery Natarov.

While Litvinenko was a fierce critic of the Kremlin who during his waning hours blamed President Vladimir Putin for his poisoning, Gaidar, one of the leaders of a liberal opposition party, is a figure with little influence in today's Russia whose moderate criticism of the Kremlin has focused on economic

Gaidar's illness has added strands to a growing web of speculation in Russia over the death of Litvinenko and the Oct. 7 killing of investigative reporter Anna Politkovskaya. Some critics see the hand of hardliners in the country's ruling elite, while Kremlin backers have suggested a murder plot by self-exiled tycoon Boris Berezovsky to blacken the government's reputation.

Andrei Lugovoy, another former KGB spy who met with Litvinenko on the day he fell ill, served as Gaidar's bodyguard at one point. But there was no other immediate link with Litvinenko, who was poisoned by a rare radioactive element called polonium-210.

Rice pushes Israeli, Palestinian leaders for new peace deal

on Israelis and Palestinians Thursday to tions on the step up efforts to achieve a long-stalled peace deal, saying neither side should take actions that would prejudge a final accord.

"Hopefully we can take this moment to accelerate our efforts and intensify our efforts toward the two-state solution that we all desire," Rice said at a news conference with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

to achieve a national unity government aimed at ending an international aid boycott have reached a "dead end." Abbas, a member of the Fatah party, is trying to assemble a more moderate in January handed Hamas control.

Hamas' support of terrorism and following a summit meeting. refusal to recognize Israel's right to exand other nations to impose crushing state. economic sanctions.

Rice declined to get involved.

- he's the elected official not me,"

racy and development summit later, are being taken now, they will not be renewed peace talks.

retary of State Condoleezza Rice called States to do more to ease travel restric-

Palestinians. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abou al-Gheit told reporters the U.S. must "encourage Israel to soften the measures that they have been applying, at least in the she noted. West Bank.'

Rice said she hoped a lasting ceasefire would help address those concerns. She also said the Bush administration wants to ask Congress for money to aid Abbas said talks among Palestinians the development of a tougher Palestinian security force.

"It goes without saying that if you want the Palestinians to take more responsibility for security, then they have to have adequate security forces to Palestinian government after elections do it and I think the Israelis understand that," Rice said in a media roundtable

Standing alongside Abbas, Rice ist prompted the United States, Israel addressed aspirations for a Palestinian ians on Monday, saying he was prepared

"The United States has made clear Asked about Abbas' options now, that we expect it to be a viable and contiguous state when it is created," she "That's for the president to decide said. "Secondly, that no actions that are being taken now should prejudge the

JERICHO, West Bank (AP)—Sec-moderate Arab states asked the United considered by the United States to have prejudge the outcome of final status."

> Rice also said Israel has obligations under the peace blueprint known as the road map. Requirements regarding Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories are "clearly articulated,"

> Rice accompanied Bush during morning sessions concerning Iraq in nearby Amman before breaking away for her meetings later with the Palestinian and Israeli leaders.

> "Our government strongly believes in the two-state solution," Bush said Thursday at a news conference attended by Rice. "I believe it's in the Palestinian people's interest that they have their own state and I believe it's in Israel's interest that there be a democracy on her border and therefore we're working to that end."

Olmert reached out to the Palestinto grant them a state, release desperately needed funds and free prisoners if they choose the path of peace.

Rice's trip threw U.S. weight behind a Gaza cease-fire announced last weekend, with U.S. officials hoping the outcome of a final status agreement. cease-fire would extend beyond Gaza to At a U.S.-backed Mideast democ- That means very clearly that if actions the West Bank and bolster efforts for

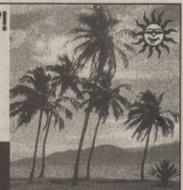
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THE TEXAS TECH campus is illuminated with multi-colored Christmas lights at the Carol of Lights ceremony.

Carol of Lights to illuminate Tech campus tonight

By JEREMY REYNOLDS STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech's 48th annual Carol proud of. of Lights ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. today when the carol line begins to make its way through Memorial

The famous ceremony has become a students, alumni and members of the trombone choir. Hub City community.

to the director of housing, said she ing to a press release. helped plan the event.

to Lubbock for the ceremony.

'We had people calling us last year right after the Carol of Lights ended, asking when the next one would be so

By IAN KLUMPP

STAFF WRITER

Wednesday.

Scott said the Carol of Lights is something a Tech student can be Carol of Lights ceremony)," he said.

"I think students would be very proud that they go to a university that has a program going on like this," she

long-standing campus tradition among feature the Tech choir along with the

There are more than 25,000 lights Alice Scott, administrative assistant strung about Memorial Circle, accord-

John Dickson, director of choral She said alumni always make the trip studies in the School of Music, said the choir's involvement in the Carol of Lights adds to the overall theme of

After the lighting ceremony, the ence Quad. they could mark it on their calendar," choir will present an indoor choir con-

Cross Canadian Ragweed star sounds off on Lubbock show

Canada said he had met Womack

cert at the Hemmle Recital Hall. "Music always helps inspire (the

During the indoor concert, audi-

ence members will have the chance to sing along with the choir on the more familiar tunes.

Kyle Cooper, mechanical superin-The event will last an hour and will tendent for the company that strings the lights around the buildings, said it took about two months to set up all

"It'll take two weeks to take them down," he said. "It takes a lot longer to set up than take down."

The Carol of Lights ceremony is both free and open to the public, and the festivities will kick off at 7 p.m. today at Memorial Circle and the Sci-

Concert for a cause

STAFF WRITER

For those wondering where to donate money during the holidays, the Second Annual Colt Compton Music for Life Benefit Concert, which mixes live music with charity, provides a new avenue.

at 9 p.m. tonight at Jake's Sports Café, and all profits will go to the South Plains Food Bank.

Compton, coordinator of the benefit concert and member of Compton & Hale, said he decided to start the event because he donate to a charity that was putting money where it needed to go.

"I always had the impression charity, but they didn't really know where to go to do it," Compton box. said. "Some people don't know

while, and I think the food bank is."

Admission is \$5 for those 21 years and older and \$8 for those younger than 21 years.

Compton said the featured music is mostly alternative rock, but other musical influences also will be pres-

The benefit concert will begin everybody," Compton said. "That is what I went for."

> and fliers to a variety of locations to money for the food bank.

wanted to give people a chance to 300 people to show up," Compton wanting to." said. "We are just hoping that people will get out and take the time."

The concert features Icarus Fixed, people wanted to donate to a Crimson Envy, Compton & Hale, Waiting to Derail and King Beat-

Compton said Icarus Fixed was what charities are good or worth- the only band returning for the

"They are still here, and they have always been really down with the cause," he said. "None of us are getting paid, obviously. I really appreciate all of the bands."

Jerry Serrano, a member of Icarus Fixed, said the band played at the "I think there is something for benefit concert last year, and it was

"My favorite part is doing some-He said he sent out press releases thing for people, like being a musician, it's a self-serving form of draw a larger crowd and raise more gratification," Serrano said. "Anytime we can use something we do for our-"Our goal is to raise \$1,000 after selves, for other people, it's a great paying for Jake's, so we need about thing, and I'm always willing and

> Scott Stephenson, co-owner of Jake's, said he hopes tonight's crowd will be as large as last year's turnout.

"It should be a good show with local bands, and it's cheap," Stephenson said. "It's nice to do something that is for a good cause."

mary.k.harris@ttu.edu

Local church puts creative spin on holiday classic

By JESSICA HENDRICKS STAFF WRITER

Trinity Church is known for its annual tradition of hosting the production of "The Gospel According to Scrooge," but with a new biggerthan-Broadway-style musical, "The Christmas Shoes," church members hope to start a new tradition.

'That's what 'Scrooge' represented to the community," said Trinity's communications director, Karen Thomas. "Even though we have changed the musical, it's still an opportunity to bring family and

"The Christmas Shoes" production is based on the hit song by Newsong that topped both Christian and secular charts in 2001. The song has also spurred a best-selling book and a made-for-television movie of the same name.

The narrative of the play, according to a press release, follows Robert Layton, a successful attorney whose focus on achievement and material rewards has caused him to lose sight of his family. On Christmas Eve, he meets Nathan, an 8-year-old boy In this encounter, the pair's lives important lesson.

The storyline, however, will only Zoo in Houston, Dade said. be a part of this play's attraction. The special effects, a live nativity scene and a live orchestra.

While 'Scrooge' productions in "The Christmas Shoes" will be completely live - it will be performed by the 22-piece orchestra, Thomas said.

tor and head of the orchestra, said is what they do." the roster of musicians consists of people from the community — from



WALTER ROSADO/The Daily Toreador

DANCERS REHEARSE WEDNESDAY evening for their upcoming Christmas play at Trinity Church located at 7002 Canton Avenue.

high school and junior high band directors to Texas Tech students.

"The music appeals to every age," Dade said, citing songs such as the "North Pole Rock and Roll" and a song about the Grinch that children dancers and a drum line.

"It will be a conglomeration of all types of Christmas music, including favorites of today and yesterday," Thomas said.

Another aspect of the play that is sure to capture attention is the troupe whose mother is battling cancer. of live animals included in the nativity scene. The sanctuary will house a director, said the event is both free and are changed, and Robert learns an donkey, two sheep, two goats and two camels, arriving from Marsha's Petting

production boasts an elaborate set, weighing about 800 pounds, while another is more than 7 feet tall, weighing more than 2,000 pounds.

"That's almost 3,000 pounds of used some music tracks, the music camel in the sanctuary," Dade said, adding that he is not nervous about having the animals inside the church. "This is the animals' full-time job: the petting zoo and doing musicals for

In addition to the animals, the 135member cast will occupy an elaborate two-story stage.

eighth wonder of the world," Dade

It includes a rotating stage center, measuring 16 feet in diameter.

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"We're into as much lumber as it takes to build a modest home," he said. "Countless hours of work by numerous

The stage also will be home to 30 Dade said the church has been work-

volunteers have gone into it."

ing on the production for months. "We're into the thousands of col-

lective hours that everyone's put into this," he said. "It's something we want to give to the community; it's our Christmas gift."

Brian Wysong, Trinity's college open to the public.

"It's an expensive and time-consuming production, but it's our gift," One camel is more than 6 feet tall, he said. "It's not just for Trinity Church people. It's for the whole commu-

> Wysong said the play offers something for everyone.

"The kids will really love the animals, people like us (young adults) will enjoy the drum line and the older crowd will love the production aspect," he said. "Scrooge' was more Josh Dade, the production direc-churches. They're trained for this; this for the older crowd, but all ages will

> Trinity Church is located at 7002 Canton Ave., and the performances will run Dec. 8 to Dec. 9 at 7:00 p.m. "Some have called the stage the and Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. A crowd of more than 6,000 members is expected during the three nights, and overflow services will be provided.

> > ⇒ jessica.l.reaves@ttu.edu





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through playing past shows together, have more of Lee Ann's fans," he said. and she approached him because Cody Canada, of the widely popu-(Cross) fans.' lar Texas country band Cross Cana-

concert. You really get a rush."

she had wanted to get into the Lone Star State in order to start playing at dian Ragweed, is slated to join Lee Ann Womack and friends for an smaller venues again. "The big plan of us getting together acoustic concert at Wild West on was to write music," he said. According to Womack's MySpace

Although the group members Web site, the songstress will be joined originally gathered together to write on stage by Canada, Stoney LaRue music, Canada said the show primarcity tour across Texas with one stop in each individual normally plays. The Stillwater, Okla. The tour will feature only difference lies in the performers' New Braunfels at Gruene Hall and end slower songs the band is usually unable

to play in concert. "It will be a lot quieter than our Brenna Salinas, a sophomore nursing major from Mansfield, said she other shows," he said. "We will play loves Cross Canadian Ragweed and, songs we do not normally get to play if Canada performs as well as he does as much, and there will also be a lot with the band, then the acoustic show more talking in between songs."

should be a lot of fun — especially with Because of the smaller, more personal set, Canada said he assumes the "When he sings, you feel right show will attract more of Womack's there with him," she said. "He has a fan base rather than Cross'. He also good energy throughout the entire said it is likely that each city will have

a different ratio of fans.

"In Amarillo, we will probably "But in Lubbock, there will be a lot of

Canada said he enjoys playing in the Hub City because the crowd is always rowdy, and the band knows they will always have a good time. Still, he is most looking forward to playing in Stillwater, Okla.

"Stillwater is where most my and Wade Bowen for a small, eight- ily will be composed of music that memories are," he said. "That's where

Tumbleweeds, the bar where the an acoustic set and will start today in unique opportunity to play some of the show is being hosted in Stillwater, is set to close down at the end of they year, which Canada said is another reason he is looking forward to playing that specific date.

He said after the bar closes, Stillwater will not have anywhere for bands such as Cross to play - a raw fact that will affect how often the band plays the city in the future. At the interview's end, Canada

said he is looking forward to the writing he is going to be able to do during this small acoustic tour. He said he plans on entering the studio with Cross early next year to have a new album out by summertime.

For more information on this acoustic show, visit Lee Ann Womack's MySpace site at http://www.myspace. com/leeannwomack.

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams



Dec. 9 in Corpus Christi.

the rest of the performers playing.

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15 Playboy Hefner
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19 Finally!
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Tech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the sophomore duo of Lawrence Hill and Anthony Goods who lead the team with 15.3 and 14.0 points per game, respectively. Joining the sophomores only help the team in the long run. in the starting five is Robin Lopez who averages 10.3 points per game and a team-high 7.7 rebounds per game. Lopez, a 7-foot center, is joined on the Cardinal by his twin brother Brook who only averages four minutes played per game.

score the ball. If we can get some more help from the inside, then everything would be complete, and we would be a complete team. Right now, we're a guard-oriented team, and we need some presence down low."

Zeno said in just seven games he can see an improvement in the team from >> jaymie.langley@ttu.edu

last season.

"Last year we didn't know what to do when teams made their runs in the second half when we had a lead," Zeno said. "Now we have a good group of guards that can withstand those runs."

Zeno said the recent road trip will

"The road environments are always going to be rough when a team coached by coach Knight comes in there just because of who he is, and especially now that he's getting close to the record," Zeno said. "I think it's going to help a lot because it's tough to win on "I would love to see the frontcourt the road. But getting the new guys and step up because that would make it a lot showing them how it's going to be on easier for the guards," Burgess said. "We the road is good because we have to go have to defend some good guards and to a lot of tough places on the road in conference.

> A win for Knight would tie him for second place on the all-time career wins list with Adolph Rupp with 876 wins.

Tip-off for the game is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sunday at the HP Pavilion in San Jose, Calif.

AP All-Big 12 team shows distribution of talent

SPORTS

comes to the distribution of talent. Just look at The Associated Press all-conference team.

Eleven schools have firstteamers. Texas A&M is the only exception — and the No. 22 Aggies have more second-teamers than anyone else. The split between the division

is close, too — the South rose again, but its lead was only 14-12. after having only eight top picks each of the last three years.

Texas led the way with six though the No. 17 Longhorns on the all-conference squad. beat the Cornhuskers and Soon-

hit the Big 12, at least when it yet another fitting example of the voted the offensive player of the theme to this year's AP team.

> A panel of 20 sports writers who regularly cover the league for newspapers throughout the conference's seven states were split on so many positions that there were only two lineman Justin Blalock and Kansas running back Jon Cornish.

Cornish was joined at running back by Nebraska's Brandon Jack-That's a big leap for the North son, who narrowly edged out Adrian fellow linemen Lyle Sendlein, at Peterson of Oklahoma. It's interesting that Peterson came so close considering a broken collarbone forced first-teamers, matching the com- him to miss half the season — long bined total of No. 8 Oklahoma enough for his replacement, Allen and No. 19 Nebraska. And even Patrick, to get honorable mention for the third straight year — Colo-

ers, the old Big Eight rivals are Nebraska players picked as the they are seniors, there will be new the ones who'll meet for the best at their position include quar-

DALLAS (AP) — Parity has conference championship Saturday, terback Zac Taylor, who also was year, and defensive lineman Adam

> The Sooners were represented by linebacker Rufus Alexander, the defensive player of the year; defensive back Reggie Smith; and unanimous picks: Texas offensive offensive lineman Chris Messner. Bob Stoops was a unanimous pick for coach of the year.

Other Longhorns joining Blalock on the top squad were center, and Kasey Studdard; and a trio of defensive players: lineman Tim Crowder and defensive backs Aaron Ross and Michael Griffin.

Both specialists were honored rado kicker Mason Crosby and Bay-In addition to Jackson, other lor punter Daniel Sepulveda. Since blood in both slots next year.

Lady Raiders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

contests except for one. Against Hawaii on Friday, Tech scored 54 points in its only loss of the season — a result of defensive pressure and shooting woes.

Tulane pressed Tech late in the game Wednesday — something coach Curry said she welcomes because it is a facet of the game needing improve-

"Believe me, I actually like the fact that people are pressing us," Curry said. "We're finding a way to try and improve better and break that down. There's no way you can get better unless you are in that situation, and we're being thrown into it here lately, so we need to respond and keep working on it in practice."

Tip-off for tonight's game against Fresno State is slated for 7 p.m., and Sunday's game against Stanford begins

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SPORTS

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

in San Jose, Calif.

Cardinal win?

Tech looking to upend Stanford

By JAY LANGLEY ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Texas Tech men's basketball team travels to Stanford Sunday after winning consecutive road games against in-state rivals

UTEP and TCU. In Wednesday night's 70-60

victory TEXAS TECH vs. against STANFORD TCU

guard Charlie Burgess led Tech (6-2) with 20 points on six of seven from 3-point range. But Burgess also committed a team-high five turnovers in the win.

"Honestly I think it's probably one of my worst performances since I've been here," Burgess said, "as far as taking control of the team and doing what was needed. Luckily I was able to hit the shots when I had the opportunity to."

Tech took a 14-point lead into the half against TCU, but the Horned Frogs used a 20-6 run to tie the score at 44 with 10:40 to play. Led by Burgess and guard Martin Zeno, who had 19 points and eight rebounds, the Raiders found a way to win by 10.

Burgess said the team was confident even when TCU came back to tie the game at 44.

"I knew we were going to win," Burgess said. "But it came down to a point where either we were going to get screwed by the refs or some type of play was going to happen like somebody was going to throw up a lucky shot at the end. We kept our character and poise and our composure toward the end and the better team prevailed."

The 6-foot-1 guard from New York said it was important for the Raiders to build a large lead toward the end of the game so the team did not lose because of the

"They started calling a lot of calls for us toward the end, because I think we were winning at the end by about eight or 10 points, and it was kind of out of reach," Burgess said. "Toward the end of the game we got two or three charging calls back-to-back for us. I think if the score was like 51-50 they would have called them blocks just to keep the game interesting."

Stanford (5-1) comes into Sunday's game having won three straight after a 34-point loss at the hands of Air Force. Air Force also beat Tech by a final score of 67-54 Nov. 11.

The Cardinal are led by four players in double figures including

TECH continued on page 7



Lady Raiders travel to Sunshine State for key matchups

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

By STEPHEN MONAHAN SPORTS EDITOR

Heading into two road games in the Sunshine State this weekend, the Texas Tech women's basketball team is out a win.' looking to continue to play lights out.

Coming off wins against UCLA and Tulane this week, the Lady Raiders face road stops at Fresno State tonight and No. 15 Stanford Sunday, two teams that have struggled this season but are not to be overlooked. "Without question, we're walking

into a hornet's nest at Fresno State," Tech coach Kristy Curry said. "I think our kids are going to have to play an A-plus game. They're (Fresno State) a very good basketball team. They are very athletic. We've just got to gut

FRESNO STATE 25 TEXAS TECH vs. STANFORD 15

Curry said her team's wins against then-ranked UCLA Sunday and heading into games against two teams against ranked opponents early this of credit. A lot of people criticize our

that anytime you can have success with Darrice (Griffin) being back and that boosts confidence," Curry said. moving Alesha (Robertson) to the four "That should just springboard us into

unranked Cal-State Fullerton after up- we do have is special."

ending No. 23 BYU who beat Stanford earlier last week.

Tulane, Curry said the play from the post positions and the bench has been one of the key factors for her team's six in the team's opening game against

success this season. "Anytime that we can establish "I don't think there is any question like that if we go five deep right now — I feel like that's more of her natural position — so I think that our posts Fresno State is coming off a loss to really understand, if they're good, what

In each game this season, the Lady be our strength." Raiders have had at least three players In their wins against UCLA and score in double figures, including leading scorer Robertson who is averaging 14.3 points per game after scoring just

Tulane Wednesday breeds confidence a post presence on either end of the she feels that with the array of scorfloor, we're just so much better," she ers on the team, it is difficult for the team because other teammates have depth. There's no excuses. We feel the ability to shoot when others are struggling.

Texas-San Antonio.

"I think that with this team it's hard to stop one of us," Dabbs, who is averaging eight points and four rebounds per game, said. "I don't think another person's going to go for 30, and another is going to go for two. I think there averaged 70 points per game and scored have been a lot of times where three or four people have been in double

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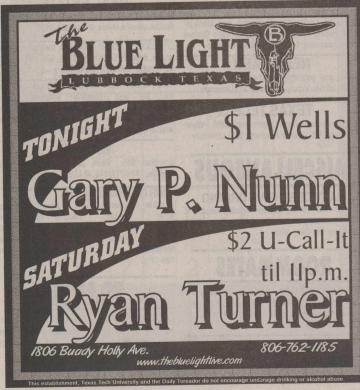
With a lengthy road trip to Hawaii last weekend and another to the West Coast, junior center Erin Myrick, who is averaging a double-double (12 ppg, 10.6 rpg) this season, said having chemistry and gelling together on the Senior guard Chesley Dabbs said court is reciprocated by her team's relationship off the court.

"When we're here we spend a lot who have faltered and had success said. "You have to give our posts a lot opposition to shut down the entire of time together. When we're away we spend a lot of time together," Myrick said. "I see these people every single day and just about all day. It's always good when you get along with those people that you have to spend so much time with. I think it's really good that we get along so well."

In seven games, the Lady Raiders more than 60 points in each of their

LADY RAIDERS continued on page 7

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