NSIDE



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(INBRIEF)

STATE

Perry announces Operation Wrangler

AUSTIN (AP) - Gov. Rick Perry announced Monday a statewide expansion of its border security operation that will use a surge of law enforcement to disrupt crime.

Operation Wrangler will involve more than 6,800 people from federal, state and local agencies and will use vehicles, helicopters, aircraft and watercraft against drug and human

Perry's announcement came almost a year after the launch of Operation Rio Grande, an effort he says reduced crime by an average of 60 percent along parts of the border during five surge operations.

NATION

Senator wants funds for New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, set to deliver the Democratic rebuttal to Tuesday's State of the Union address, suggested Monday that the United States is spending too much on reconstruction in Iraq while ignoring the rebuilding of New Orleans.

Webb said his "gut instinct" tells him not to support more funding for Iraq without a full accounting of the money already spent there.

"If we're putting all this money into Iraq and ignoring New Orleans, then we're doing something wrong," he told reporters during a teleconference.

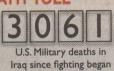
WORLD

Climate experts predict glaciers disappear by 2050

VIENNA, Austria (AP) - Glaciers will all but disappear from the Alps by 2050, scientists warned Monday, basing their bleak outlook on mounting evidence of slow but steady melting of the continental ice sheets.

In western Austria's Alpine province of Tyrol, glaciers have been shrinking by about 3 percent a year, said Roland Psenner of the University of Innsbruck's Institute for Ecology.

DEATH TOLL



WEATHER



PARTLY CLOUDY **HIGH 44/ LOW 28**



PARTLY CLOUDY **HIGH 44/ LOW 25**

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Bombs against Shiite targets in Iraq kill up to 100

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN ASSOCIATED PRESS

bombings Monday tore through stalls of vendors selling secondhand clothes and DVDs in a busy Muslims during a religious festival. A market also was attacked north of the capital, and police said as

Muslim insurgents.

raising the two-day death toll to the crowd. 27 in a particularly bloody week-Baghdad market catering to Shiite roadside bomb killed a U.S. soldier of explosives. and wounded four others Monday in northern Iraq, it said.

Monday's first blast, a parked many as 100 people died in the car bomb, hit shortly after noon in

renewed campaign blamed on Sunni the Bab al-Sharqi market between Figures provided by police and hos-Tayaran and Tahrir squares — one of pital officials showed that as many as cloth littered the outdoor courtyard The U.S. military also reported the busiest parts of Baghdad. Seconds 88 people were killed. BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Twin the deaths Sunday of two Marines, later, a suicide car bomber drove into

Deputy Health Minister Hakim killed and 156 were wounded, making it the deadliest attack in two months.

strewn on the bloodstained pavement dead, screaming in grief and crying Police estimated that each car as black smoke rose into the sky. Po- out oaths. end for American forces in Iraq. A was loaded with nearly 220 pounds lice sealed off the area as ambulances rushed to the scene.

Survivors were taken to nearby al-Zamili said at least 78 people were al-Kindi Hospital where emergency Shiite, denounced the attack. personnel worked feverishly over the bloodied and badly wounded.

Bodies covered in blue and white at the hospital. Family members The explosions left body parts and friends were at the side of the

> A suicide bomber killed at least 63 people in the same area last month. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a

> > IRAQ continued on page 2

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KELLY MATHERLY/The Daily Toreado

Senator proposes nixing TAKS test; says test has 'outlived its usefulness'

By NAOMI KASKELA STAFF WRITER

The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test may join the ranks of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test if a bill created by one

Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, said he is introducing the bill to get rid of the TAKS test because the test is no longer needed. "I believe the TAKS test has outlived its usefulness," he said. "It's really

better for everybody." End-of-course tests may be a better measure of accountability than the

TAKS test, he said. Accountability is something Judith Atcheson, a visiting assistant professor and instructor in the Texas Tech College of Education, said is

"I see the value and the need for accountability," she said. "I think our

public has a right to hold us all accountable."

Atcheson said because she has held the positions of both assistant principal and principal in the past, she has seen the TAKS test in use

"I think maybe some improvement might be needed," she said. Atcheson said she can see both sides of the TAKS issue because she believes there needs to be accountability, and she also has seen the frustra-

tion some individuals undergo concerning the test. "I think there is frustration that there is so much emphasis on it," she said, "but I know of many teachers who do a fabulous job of preparing their students for the TAKS test ... [and] they don't necessarily do the

drill and kill." Atcheson said there has to be another option to take the place of the

TAKS continued on page 2

Bush's State of the Union challenge: show nation he can work with Congress

By BEN FELLER ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) -President Bush will tell Americans Tuesday night he has important plans for health care, education and other kitchen table topics that is the nation's skepticism that he can deliver.

over his shoulder — literally, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi seated address: right behind him. Most people have no confidence that Bush and

The 9 p.m. EST speech is a

chance for Bush to pull his domestic agenda out from the shadow of the Iraq war, if only briefly. So Bush will focus on issues he hopes will appeal to mainstream America — and to Democrats on Capitol Hill, shifting pressure onto them to govern.

"He's got to be convincing, so have little to do with Iraq. Yet if that the American people believe the state of the union is strong, so that he's serious about working in a bipartisan way," said Charlie Black, a longtime Republican strategist and For the first time, Bush will give informal White House adviser. "If his State of the Union address with there's one headline they'd like to Democrats in power and looking have out of this, that would be it."

The president is expected to

- Health care: Bush will propose a tax deduction of \$7,500 for a Democratic Congress can solve individuals and \$15,000 for families problems together, a troubling regardless of whether they buy their sentiment that has only deepened own health insurance or receive since the November election, an medical coverage at work. Health Associated Press-AOL News poll care insurance would be considered

STATE continued on page 2

Photo gallery showcases artists

By ANNE M. SHEPHERD

STAFF WRITER

A person lies flat as if asleep, balled-up on his knees among ing this," Arredondo said. "Young

thorns. Shades of green and purple fill the background along with faded words barely visible enough to read. Such is the content of Amy Holmes George's digital photo "In Thorns." George is the current artist featured in the Texas Tech School of Art's

SRO Photo Gal-

lery, a gallery that features eight artists for solo shows

Joe Arredondo, overseer of the program, said in 2006, the Tech School of Art received more

us." said many

of Canada.

artists across the country received their start through the SRO Gallery; one such artist is Craig Barber, a photographer whose work, according to www.craigbarber.com, is now

shown in the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the

than eighty entries from across the

United States and even some parts

"We have a long history of do-

emerging art-

ists apply to

Arredondo

ART continued on page 5

Al-Qaida No. 2 mocks U.S. strategy for Iraq

By NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - Al-Qaida's deputy leader mocked President Bush's plan to send 21,000 more troops to Iraq, challenging him to send "the entire army" and vowing insurgents will defeat them, according to details from a new al-Qaida videotape released Monday by a U.S. group that tracks terror messages.

Excerpts from the video were distributed by the Washingtonbased SITE Institute, which said it had intercepted the footage of Ayman al-Zawahri. The tape had not yet been posted on Islamic militant Web sites, where his messages are usually placed.

SITE did not elaborate on how it received the video and it wasn't immediately possible to confirm its authenticity.

Al-Zawahri said the U.S. strategy for Iraq, outlined by Bush in a Jan. 9 speech, was doomed to fail.

"I ask him, why send 20,000 (troops) only — why not send 50 or 100 thousand? Aren't you aware that the dogs of Iraq are pining for your troops' dead bodies?" said al-Zawahri in the footage released by SITE, an independent group that assesses and analyzes terror-related intelligence.

"So send your entire army to be annihilated at the hands of the mujahideen (holy warriors) to free the world from your evil," he said, "because Iraq, land of the Caliphate and Jihad, is able to bury ten armies like yours, with Allah's help and power."

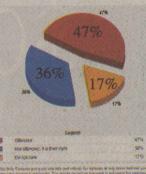
In the video — which showed al-Zawahri in a full gray beard and wearing a white turban, in front of a black backdrop — Osama bin Laden's top lieutenant said it was the "duty" of all Muslims to take up arms against the enemies of Islam or support those who do.

In the excerpt — just over 1 1/2 minutes from 14 minute tape — the Egyptian militant appeared more sedate than in past videos, not waging his finger as he often

The message was the first reaction from al-Qaida's leadership to the new Iraq strategy. The U.S. has said the extra troops aim to crack down on al-Qaida fighters

AL-QAIDA continued on page 3

ONLINE POLLS How do you feel about the KKK's attempted protest of MLK day?



New passport rules start Tuesday for air travelers

and the Caribbean made sure borders against terrorists. to bring their passports Monday

Only about a quarter of U.S. citizens hold valid passports, security check, than possibly beand most Americans are accus- ing blown out of the air because tomed to traveling to neighbor- of lack of security measures," ing countries with just a driver's John Golden of Columbus, Ga., license or birth certificate, which who was headed to Cancun, have long been sufficient to get Mexico. through airport customs on the

Travelers at Hartsfield-Jackbecause of a new rule going into son Atlanta International Aireffect Tuesday that requires them port and other airports said they a passport will be a NEXUS Air to show one to get back into the had no complaints about the requirement.

"I'd rather be going through a

The new regulations require travelers, as well as U.S. citizens. Air travelers who cannot produce agents followed-up with e-mails the increased demand.

United States.

The only valid substitutes for card, used by some American and residents. Active members of the U.S. military are exempt.

air travelers. Land and sea trav-Starting Tuesday, Canadian, elers will not have to show pass-Mexican and Bermudan air ports until at least January 2008.

cans flying to Mexico, Canada Congress in 2004 to secure the or the Caribbean, must display customs agents, who will decide fected destinations. their passports to enter the whether to let them into the country.

> from travelers because we've from the approximately 100,000 been pretty diligent in telling Canadian "snowbirds" who spend Canadian frequent fliers; identi- them for over a year that they the winter in Florida or Arizona fication as a U.S. Coast Guard need a passport. It's written on and feared they might not be able merchant mariner; and the green any piece of paper we have going to fly back without passports, said card carried by legal permanent out," said AAA spokeswoman Lawrence Barker, president of the in line since 5 a.m. Teresa Hildebrand.

Internet travel sites such as (They can, Barker said.) For now, the rules affect only Expedia.com have posted warnings "in bold with exclamation a record 12.1 million passports point," said company spokes- in 2006 and expects to issue 16 woman Erin Krause, adding that million more this year to meet

ATLANTA (AP) - Ameri- ing passports were adopted by flying home from those countries a passport will be interviewed by to customers traveling to the af-

Canadian consulate officials in the U.S. reported fielding "We're not seeing a panic hundreds of calls a day, most Canadian Snowbird Association.

The State Department issued

Mexican consulates are seeing a demand for passports three times higher than usual in some offices. In San Francisco on Monday, the line of people applying for passports at the Mexican consulate stretched around the

Cruz Garcia, a Mexican citizen living in Hayward, had been

"It seems important for the American government to know who comes and goes," she said. She plans to visit her parents in Mexico this summer and wants to be ready. "I don't want any

Iraq

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We condemn this crime and we promise that the security forces will pursue all those involved in this crime a statement.

predominantly Shiite town of Khalis, 50 miles north of Baghdad, killing at least 12 people and wounding 29, police said.

The twin bombing in Baghdad was the single deadliest attack against civilians in Iraq since Nov. 23, when suspected al-Qaida in Iraq fighters attacked Baghdad's Sadr City Shiite slum with a series of car bombs and mortars that struck in quick succession, killing out hostile fire. Col. David Suther- in the at least 215 people.

In other violence, gunmen killed a teacher as she was on her way to work at a girls' school in the mainly Sunni area of Khadra in western Baghdad, police said, adding that the teacher's driver was wounded in the drive-by shooting.

primary school in the Sunni stronghold neighborhood of Dora in southern Baghdad, killing a woman waiting for her child and wounding eight students, police said.

Police also said that a cell phone company employee and a Sunni tribal chieftain were killed in separate shootings in Baghdad, while the bullet-riddled bodies of three men were

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northern city of Mosul, police said.

The two U.S. Marines were killed that is headquarters to the militia. Sunday in separate attacks in the Anbar province, an insurgent stronghold west of Baghdad, the military said. The deaths came a day after 25 U.S. troops and bring them to justice," he said in were killed Saturday in the third-dead-Hours later, a bomb followed by a 2003 _ eclipsed only by the one-day met President Bush, al-Maliki was mortar attack struck a market in the toll of 37 U.S. fatalities on Jan. 26, 2005, and 28 on the third day of the U.S. invasion.

> The heaviest tolls Saturday came from a Black Hawk helicopter crash in which 12 U.S. soldiers were killed northeast of Baghdad as well as an attack on a provincial government building in the Shiite holy city of Karbala that left five U.S. troops dead.

The U.S. military has not ruled land, the commander of U.S. forces in the strife-ridden Iraqi province of Diyala, said the crash was still under violating the state's sovereignty," said investigation.

The violence underscores the chaland Shiite militias that have made battleground.

Meanwhile, two government officials said Sunday that al-Maliki dropped his protection of an anti-American cleric's militia after being convinced by U.S. intelligence that the group was infiltrated by death deep involvement in the sectarian

Al-Maliki's turnaround on the

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technician also was shot to death in the end a U.S. blockade of Sadr City, the northeast Shiite enclave in Baghdad

Shiite militias began taking revenge after more than two years of incessant bomb and shooting attacks by Sunni insurgents.

Sometime between late October liest day since the war started in March and Nov. 30, when the prime minister convinced of the truth of American intelligence reports that contended, among other things, that his protection of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's militia was isolating him in the Arab world and among moderates at home, two government officials said.

"Al-Maliki realized he couldn't keep defending the Mahdi Army because of the information and evidence that the armed group was taking part

killings, displacing people and one official

Both he and a second government lenges faced by U.S. and Iraqi forces as official who confirmed the account rethey seek to rein in Sunni insurgents fused to be identified by name because the information was confidential. Both Two mortar shells also landed on a the capital and surrounding areas a officials are intimately aware of the prime minister's thinking.

"The Americans don't act on rumors but on accurate intelligence," said the second official, confirming the Americans gave al-Maliki overwhelming evidence about the Mahdi Army's slaughter.

On Friday, in a bid to fend off an Mahdi Army was puzzling because as all-out American military offensive, found elsewhere in the capital. An oil late as Oct. 31, he had intervened to al-Sadr ordered 30 lawmakers and six Cabinet ministers under his control to end their nearly two-month boycott of the government. They were back at their jobs Sunday.

Al-Sadr had already ordered his militia fighters not to display their weapons. They have not, however, ceded control of the formerly mixed neighborhoods they have captured, killing Sunnis or forcing them to abandon their homes and businesses.

The first government official said al-Maliki's message to al-Sadr was

"He told the sheik that the activities of both the Sadrist politicians and the militia have inflamed hatred among neighboring Sunni Arab states that have been complaining bitterly to the Americans."

State

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

taxable income, and people with

Americans to buy insurance. — Energy: Bush is expected to based ethanol as a gasoline blend. than tougher border security. He also may seek the power to part of a plan to offer financial incentives for increasing alterfor the same authority last year. to send more troops to Iraq. Some Democrats worry the plan change the system and note the of trying.

measure would not have any impact on current gas prices.

- Education: Bush will push for Congress to renew his education law, No Child Left Behind, which more generous policies could face expires this year. Democrats have tax increases unless they change already signaled their intention to plans. The administration says work with him but will expect him its plan will help people who to go along with increases in spendbuy insurance individually rather ing. The law pushes schools that than through their employers. receive federal poverty aid to show The administration says the yearly progress or face sanctions, intax deductions will allow more cluding allowing students to transfer or demand extra tutoring.

Bush will also push for an immicall for a sharp escalation of corn-gration strategy that includes more

Meanwhile, bitter feelings over raise fuel economy standards the war stand in the way of the for passenger cars, probably as principal goal of the speech — a bipartisan agenda.

Just about everything Bush wants native fuels. The auto industry to do is dependent on a Congress in has resisted upgraded mileage which even some Republicans are requirements and stressed a need resisting his ideas. Within a day of for vehicles fueled by alterna- his speech, the Senate Foreign Relatives such as ethanol, diesel and tions Committee is likely to vote on cise and relevant. Topics that might eventually hydrogen. Bush asked a resolution condemning his move

No matter the emphasis on would give transportation of- domestic issues, Bush cannot skirt ficials overly broad authority to the war, and he has no intention aside, often for separate events.

Without rehashing the Iraq speech he gave two weeks ago, Bush will defend his stand that Iraq is part of a war on terror that will make Americans safer. That contention will come during a foreign policy passage in which Bush will also tout

U.S. humanitarian efforts abroad. Since Bush announced his latest Iraq plan, the White House has pointed to signs of progress by the Iraqi government on both political and security fronts. Yet U.S. forces and Iraqi civilians have also endured some of the heaviest, bloodiest attacks of the war.

Coming after his Iraq speech, which had an enormous buildup, Bush's sixth State of the Union approaches with an anticlimactic feel. The Democrats and Republicans who want his job are already making headlines even though the 2008 election is still 22 months away.

With that in mind, Bush's aides took steps to keep the speech conhave made the cut in other years - such as recent advancements in cancer research and a drop in cancer-related deaths - have been set

TAKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I just think until we know of something better and more accurate, it would be difficult to just say 'go away with it," she said.

Both Anthony Vasquez, a freshman mechanical engineering TAKS test will go away. major from Lubbock, and Lina Kastrup, a freshman nursing student from Houston, said they have taken the TAKS test before. They said they think the TAKS test, or away something similar to it, should be on to another level.

tests should be more of a measure high school really." of what the teachers have taught, not necessarily what the students have learned.

"I didn't really think it was an adequate measure of intelligence thing," he said. because I thought it was really easy," she said.

easy was echoed by some of her classmates in high school, she said.

"A lor of people that I knew were indifferent about it," Kastrup said, "but there were some who thought it was ridiculous we had to waste four days on it."

She said she does not think the

"If you can't pass the TAKS," she said, "then it's ridiculous."

Likewise, Vasquez said he does not think the TAKS test should go

taken by students before they move the best option," he said. "If you don't has a problem with. have a standardized test, it would

classmates concerning the test.

"I really don't see it as being a bad tion member.

Lubbock Coronado High School Principal Eric McKnight said he sees

The sentiment that the test was the proposed change as a possible good thing.

"My reaction is we need to look at a change," he said.

Extra caution, McKnight said, should be taken when going through the process of getting rid of the TAKS test.

"I think we need to be careful when we do it, though," he said. "We don't need to change just for the sake of change.'

He said other types of tests should be administered to replace the test because accountability is something "I don't think getting rid of it is he said he does not believe anybody

Before the Texas State Board of Kastrup said she thinks the kind of be a waste of time going to Education can start looking at the bill and start considering changes, it He said he never heard negative must be passed by both houses and reactions from any of his friends or signed, said Bob Craig, a Lubbock attorney and State Board of Educa-

Craig said he thinks the bill is something that should be considered, but it will take some time before the bill is passed.

"Implementation and time frame will be an issue," he said. "It's not something that you could do in one year necessarily."

Seliger said if the bill is passed and signed, high school students will be affected greatly.

"High school students will see big changes down the road," he said.

Those changes, however, will not be for another two or three years, he said.

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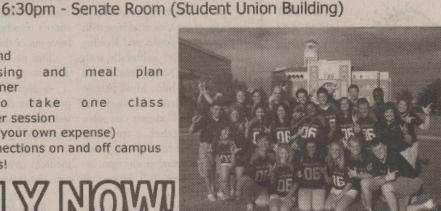
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Iran prepares public for possible military clash

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran threats on Monday is close to Iran's conducted missile tests Monday as its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khameleadership stepped up warnings of a nei—suggesting the highest levels are possible military confrontation with involved in ringing the alarm over the the United States.

In another show of defiance, Tehran said Monday it had barred 38 United Nations nuclear inspectors from entering the country, apparently in retaliation for a U.N. Security Council resolution last month imposing limited sanctions on Iran.

The drum-beating suggested Iran nity — in this case, the IAEA." does not intend to back down in its government and silence increasingly Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's antagonism toward the United States.

Iran's leaders have touted the possibility of a U.S. attack since President Bush announced on Ian. 9 the deployment of a second aircraft carrier to the Gulf region, a move U.S. directed at Iran.

Last month, the Security Council imposed limited trade sanctions on Iran over its refusal to cease uranium enrichment, a process that can produce fuel for nuclear energy or bombs.

The Iranian military on Monday began five days of maneuvers near tested its Zalzal-1 and Fajr-5 missiles, the report said.

The Zalzal-1, able to carry a 1,200pound payload, has a range of 200 miles. That would put Iraq, U.S. bases in the Gulf, and eastern Saudi Arabia in its range. The Fajr-5, with a 1,800-pound payload, has a range of 35 miles.

Neither could reach Israel, but Iran tors from visiting the country. has other missiles that can. It was not known whether the missiles tested are capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

The Iranian show of strength came as the American aircraft carrier USS Stennis was heading toward the Gulf, joining the USS Dwight D. Eisenhowpresence. The Stennis is expected to dossier. arrive in late February.

to the Incirlik base in neighboring criticism at home over his policies.

Iran that the four-year war in Iraq has not made America vulnerable.

Washington and its allies accuse Iran of secretly trying to develop atomic weapons. Tehran denies the allegation, insisting its nuclear activities are aimed only at producing energy. The U.S. also accuses Iran of backing

The U.S. buildup has sparked loud warnings from Iranian officials that the United States will attack.

U.S. officials have long refused to rule out any options in the faceoff with Tehran, but say military action would be a last resort.

ated Press Iranian forces have been put on high alert. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information to the media.

Over the past few days, hardline newspapers have threatened suicide attacks against American targets and claimed missiles fired from Iran would turn Israel into "a scorching hell" if the U.S. takes military action.

American deployment. In Washington, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack rebuked Iran on Monday for barring the International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors, saying it was "another example of the Iranians trying to dictate the terms to the international commu-

The rejected officials are on a list standoff with the West. It could also of potential inspectors drawn up by aim to rally the public behind the the IAEA to visit and monitor Iran's nuclear facilities. Countries submitbold criticism at home of President ting their nuclear programs to IAEA purview have the right to ask that certain experts be taken off rosters of inspecting teams.

"The act of rejecting some inspectors is legal and in accordance with the agency's regulations," Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told officials have said is a show of strength the official Islamic Republic News Agency. He said others on the U.N. nuclear watchdog's list remain eligible, but did not explain how Iran decided which inspectors to bar.

Analysts said the decision appeared to be a measured retaliation for the U.N. sanctions.

IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Flemthe northern city of Garmsar, about ing said designating inspectors was 60 miles southeast of Tehran, state a confidential matter between the television reported. The military IAEA and the country concerned. But she added that the agency had enough investigators lined up to conduct inspections in Iran.

> "In this case, we are discussing with Iran its request for withdrawing the designation of certain safeguards inspectors," she said.

> It was not the first time Iran had asked the IAEA to bar certain inspec-

Tehran last spring asked the agency to remove the head of the inspection team probing the country's nuclear program. More recently, Tehran

delayed entry visas for some inspectors late last year, including Olli Heinonen, the IAEA's deputy director er in a beefed-up American military general in charge of the Iran nuclear

Ahmadinejad said last week that The U.S. is also deploying Patriot Iran is "ready for anything" in its conmissiles and nuclear submarines to the frontation with the United States. At Persian Gulf and F-16 fighter planes the same time that he soundly rejected

Iranian reformers and conser-Defense Secretary Robert Gates vatives, who were once allies of said the buildup aimed to impress on Ahmadinejad, now accuse him of hurting Iran with his virulent anti-U.S. rhetoric, while failing to repair Iran's weakening economy. Rising prices have fueled anger against the president.

Murphy Oil pledges \$50 million to put students from one Ark. high school through college

— In one of the most generous graduating from college. programs of its kind anywhere announced Monday it is putschool graduates in its work- whom go to college. ing-class hometown over the next 20 years.

sign of the cross.

"I wasn't sure if I'd be able paid for."

Murphy Oil said it wants help create better jobs here for benefactor.

EL DORADO, Ark. (AP) students to come back to after

in the country, an oil company spring's graduating class. El Dorado High, the sole high school ting up \$50 million for college in town, has about 250 graduates scholarships for nearly all high each year, about 65 percent of

Under the El Dorado Prom-High School assembly screamed Arkansas institution or at any now have the means to do so." and applauded when Murphy out-of-state college. But the an-Some wept, and one made the at an Arkansas public university, expected to last 20 years. currently \$6,010.

all the loans I'd have to get," are eligible for the full amount; said Scott Zimmerebner, a students who attended for all senior. He said plans to attend four years of high school get 65 Fayetteville "now that it's all in the district for less than four chief executive. years are ineligible:

to increase the number of stu- year in Kalamazoo, Mich., but dents who attend college and the city's graduates must elect perhaps attract new businesses to attend a public university in gas producing region. Many to El Dorado, with the schol- Michigan. The program began people in surrounding Union largest companies, with revenue arships a selling point. It said with an undisclosed amount County have jobs in logging. of \$11.9 billion. It is a major supit also hopes the program will of money from an anonymous The county's per-capita income plier of gasoline stations at Wal-

The program begins with this graduates will have an unprec-poverty. Fewer than 15 percent of their education," Superintendent college diplomas. Bob Watson told students.

have worked hard, but would not ise program, students can use have been able to attend college Students at an El Dorado the scholarship money at an because of financial limitations,

Murphy Oil will put up \$5 refiner, unveiled the program. the highest resident tuition rate the El Dorado program, which is

"We are committed to making Students who attended school El Dorado a great place to live to get everything paid for with in El Dorado since kindergarten and work, and we created the promise to further invest in El Dorado's greatest resource, our children," said Claiborne Demthe University of Arkansas in percent. Those who have been ing, Murphy Oil's president and

> El Dorado (pronounced el A similar initiative began last duh-RAY-doh), a city of 20,500 about 120 miles south of Little Rock, is in Arkansas' oil-and-

"This is a huge day. As of of the state average — and fewer today, El Dorado High School than one in five residents live in edented opportunity to continue Union County's residents have

Guidance counselor Vince "For some students, this is Dawson said he expects to see life-changing. Students who more students in his office, seeking information on colleges. "I'm just floored," said Dawson, who has one child in college and a 14-year-old at home.

Don Wales, president of the El Oil, the nation's ninth-largest nual scholarships are capped at million a year for 10 years to fund Dorado Chamber of Commerce, said the scholarships provide a boost for a community hit last year with 650 layoffs at a plant that makes noise-reduction automotive equipment.

> "There's no excuse not to go to college now," he said.

> Arkansas has the secondlowest percentage of college graduates in the nation at 16.7 percent, ahead of West Virginia's 14.4 percent.

Murphy Oil last year was ranked 193rd on the Fortune magazine list of the nation's is just under \$32,000 — just shy Mart stores and Sam's Clubs.

al-Qaida

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

blamed in the country's spiraling stan. sectarian violence.

It was the third message by al-Zawahri in just over a month. Al-Zawahri's mention of Bush's plan underlined the increasingly fast speed with which the terror ian President Mahmoud Abbas. network comments on events in appearance.

Web on Jan. 5, he urged Somalia's fighting in their country.

In the latest video, he vowed that mujahideen would "break (the) backs" of the Ethiopians in Somalia, according to a full transcript of the tape released by

Al-Zawahri also contended that the al-Qaida and Taliban were regaining control in Afghanistan, denying claims that his terror group no longer has a safe haven

"Al-Qaida and the Taliban under the command of the commander of the faithful mulla Muhammad Omar other Sunni Arab insurgents in are the ones who have deprived Iraq, as well as Shijte militiamen America of safe haven in Afghani-

Al-Zawahri repeated a call he makes often in his messages, for Muslims to turn against secular and nationalist leaders and fight for Islam. He denounced in particular Palestin-

He said Muslims should try to the news. In the past, new videos free Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, an would often refer to events dating Egyptian militant cleric imprisoned back months before the message's in the United States after being convicted in a plot to attack New In an audiotape posted on the York landmarks. He also warned that "Americans must expect to pay the Islamic militants to carry out sui- price for everything they have done cide attacks on Ethiopian troops to" detainees held at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Pig farmer accused of killing 26 women in Canada goes on trial

NEW WESTMINSTER, British Columbia (AP) — An accused serial killer allegedly confessed to killing 49 women and intended to murder one more to make it an even 50, a prosecutor told jurors Monday during opening

Robert William Pickton has been charged with 26 counts of first-degree murder. He has pleaded not guilty to the first six counts in what is expected to be the most macabre and lengthy murder trial in Canadian history.

The 56-year-old pig farmer is charged with murdering the women, most of whom vanished from Vancouver's impoverished Downtown Eastside neighborhood in the 1990s.

The first trial covers the murders of Sereena Abotsway, Mona Wilson, Andrea Joesbury, Brenda Wolfe, Georgina Papin and Marnie Frey, and is expected to last a year.

British Columbia Supreme Court Justice James Williams, who is presiding, ruled that the other charges will be heard in a later trial so as not to overburden the jury.

Evidence presented in more than a year of preliminary hearings, which has been under a publication ban, has been so gruesome that some reporters have sought psychological counseling.



he time has come

nd the 2008 election coverage begins. Each party has at least half a dozen good candidates with good ideas, but unfortunately the media concentrates only on what each candidate is as opposed to their plans for the country.

The energetic black guy. The lady. The aging maverick. You gotta hordes. Unfortunately for Clinton, find out what their issues are. Then in hordes, too. again, does anybody really care?

cided by the time the Texas primary him, too. rolls around. Here are the serious contenders.

Democrats:

will be a solid candidate but also date for the presidency in 2012 or a great running mate. He has the 2016. Unfortunately, he is the only elder-statesman appearance, and person in America who has not for someone like John Edwards or realized that. Barack Obama, that will be vital. He has the potential to attract more the other candidates.

four-star general and former NATO commander, both of which could help with his credibility in running troop surge, in favor of death penalty the Iraq war. He ran unsuccessfully reform and one of the most outspofor the nomination in 2004 but re- ken critics of the Darfur genocide. mains untarnished. He is also a good Religious voters will flock to him, choice for a running mate.

Hillary Rodham Clinton — The I might vote for him. New York senator and former first lady has the most money and the of 9/11" is running a close second most name recognition of anybody behind McCain in the polls, but his thought of four (or eight) more very soon. years of a Clinton White House



blue-state Mormon. The former first will send democrats to the polls in spend three hours researching just to it will send republicans to the polls

John Edwards — The Ken doll If John McCain is the republican is back and running again, this time nominee and Hillary Clinton is with a Howard Dean strategy: focus the democrat, will it matter what on the Internet and young people. their positions are? Everyone in the When everybody gets tired of Hill country already knows them. Even and Obama, they could flock to if Clinton and McCain don't win, the savvy trial lawyer. Plenty of the nominees will have been de- republicans and independents love nominate somebody like Romney,

Barack Obama — The black Illinois senator, who has gained national attention for being both Joe Biden — The Delaware energetic and genuine at the same senator and foreign policy expert time, would be an excellent candi-

Republicans:

Sam Brownback — He's running republicans and independents than as a compassionate conservative, a favorite of the religious right and Wesley Clark — He's a retired a strong promoter of family values. Same song, third verse? Not so. The Kansas senator is against the and if he's the republican nominee, liberal."

Rudy Giuliani — "The Hero pen. in the field. Her moderate position moderate positions on abortion and on Iraq could help her, and the gay marriage could end his campaign

Mike Huckabee — He was wildly kellerman@ttu.edu.

successful as governor of Arkansas and has a strong record on taxes and health care. Although he's currently suffering in the polls, I believe he'll be a major contender after Giuliani drops out of the race.

John McCain — The straighttalkin' Arizona senator is back and at it again — this time trying to make friends with everybody before he runs. He's currently in the lead, but he'll receive hard criticism from moderates because of his strong support of the Iraq-troop surge.

Mitt Romney — The former Massachusetts governor is doing well in the polls and has a strong record concerning taxes and health care. Republicans will be itching to who is conservative and from a hardcore blue state. Unfortunately, the fact he is Mormon could scare voters away.

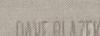
Of course, the democrats could see surprise surges by Gov. Bill Richardson, Sen. Christopher Dodd or even former Vice President Al Gore. The republicans also have former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Gov. George Pataki and Sen. Chuck Hagel.

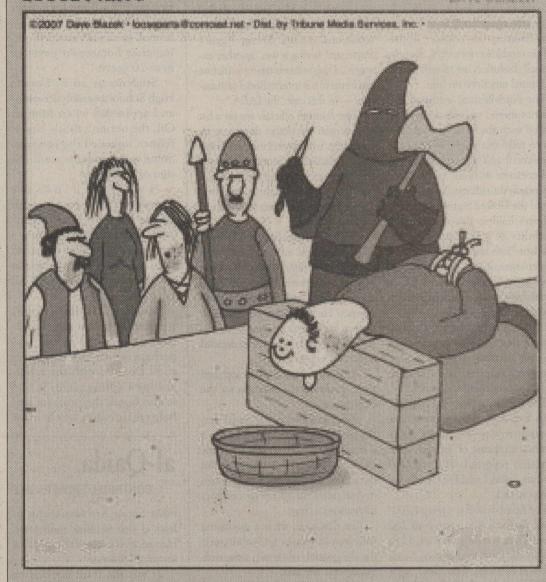
It's going to be a long two years, and I know most of you would rather watch a "My Super Sweet 16" marathon than hear about this campaign, but come on, it'll be fun. You can count how many times Hillary says "Obama" and "lacks experience" in the same sentence or count how many times Rudy is called "too

Savor the moment. Let it hap-

Ready or not, here they come.

M Kellerman is a junior political science and music major from Arlington. E-mail him at chris.





"Now that's just uncalled for "

Forecasts, grocery store panics — where is all the snow?

ust about everyone was predicting snow over the weekend. The National Weather Service issued as early as Wednesday evening in anticipation of what was supposed to be one of the largest snowstorms in Lubbock history.

store to stock up on food, schools farther into the future, those models canceled classes and most of this city become less and less accurate — thus ground itself to a halt in anticipation of the historic storm. But as Friday wore into Saturday, that forecast limitations of their own models a climatologist. He received an unbecame increasingly wrong.

Humans have come a long way climatologists treat their models since the days of using animal sac- as prophecy. Climatology, by defirifices, prayers to pagan gods and nition, is the study of the earth's even the "Farmer's Almanac" to climate system, not the prediction predict the weather. Modern-day thereof. Yet, they'll stand on any weather forecasters are able to use soapbox they can find to talk about computer models to anticipate what the dangers of global warming. the weather is going to do. Yet, computers aren't perfect.

grammed by humans and are just uncovering the science behind as susceptible to error as someone the very complex system we call with a pencil and paper. For the "climate." Bad climatologists, who



People rushed to the grocery do. However, as you go farther and introducing the climatologist.

and frequently discuss those limita-So what guided the forecast? tions in their forecast discussions,

whole, it's important to note that The models they run are pro- many of them do very fine work the weather is generally going to are those like James Hansen, direc- on these types of computer models. brings us to an actual climatologist,

advocate for global warming since he testified before Congress in the late 1980s. Hansen is proud of his own climate model, which, according to him, is one of the most accurate models ever created.

While meteorologists know the about Hansen — he's not actually dergraduate degree in physics and mathematics, a Master of Science in Astronomy and his doctorate in Physics (all are branches of science many of which are extremely difficult to prove).

change won't be verifiable until 20 To be fair to climatologists as a years from now. I'd imagine that Hansen couldn't tell me what the weather in Lubbock is going to be like a month from now as much as he can 25 years from now.

most part, these models can give us sometimes resemble science-fiction theory of global warming is the warming might as well think the a very accurate depiction of what writers more than they do scientists, foundation of the ideas rests solely earth is flat in his or her eyes. This

Hansen has been an outspoken to look at historical temperatures ing. that show the earth has been much warmer than it is now.

They don't want you to consider that nearly 1,000 years ago, Vikings were living on what is now the icy island of Greenland during a period It's important to note one thing of Earth's climate known as the Medieval Warming Period.

They don't want you to consider that for the past two centuries, the Earth has been in a prolonged period of cooling with respect to the entire history of the planet. They where theories are commonplace. don't want you to consider any of those things, yet they want you to blindly put your faith behind His current models of climate computer models created by people whose careers rely on those models being correct.

Despite these problems and inconsistencies, we can't get a civil discussion about the actual science behind their theory. They won't al-The problem with the entire low it. Anyone who's against global

tor of the Goddard Institute for Believers in global warming want Cullen, who last week suggested the Truth," former Vice President Al

What happened to the scientists who couldn't let a theory rest until they had explored every avenue of possibility? Then again, maybe something's wrong with Columbia University, which is where Hansen teaches earth and environmental sciences and where Cullen received her doctorate under the tutelage of

In his movie, "An Inconvenient

Space Studies, and Heidi Cullen, you to look at historical records that American Meteorlogical Society Gore said, "This isn't as much of a on-air climatologist for the Weather show a rise in global-carbon-dioxide should certify any meteorologist scientific debate as it is a moral delevels, yet they don't want you who doesn't believe in global warm- bate." Gore is exactly right — this is a moral debate. When will those scientists, like Hansen and Cullen, let open discussion take place on global warming? When will they stop perpetrating a lie on the American people? This is a question of morals because, clearly, those advocating global warming have none.

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How to fight science with science

By LILLIE KILBURN ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT (U. ARIZONA)

(U-WIRE) TUCSON, Ariz. — If you read an article in this newspaper saying that scientists had discovered amazing new health benefits of juice, It might simply have been due to the would you believe it?

After all, you can't argue with science, right?

Well, sometimes you can.

Industries love to use science to science carries such credibility. That's why our world is full of bad science: miracle weight-loss drugs promising science-based quick fixes, corporations' are funded by an industry and therefore distorted the truth." biased toward that industry.

were not cheerful. Twenty-two percent it seem as though the scientific com-that science proficiency is continuing to of studies they looked at were entirely munity is divided about the existence fall among high school seniors. funded by industry - and of those, not a of global warming. single one found a conclusion that was unfavorable to its industry.

This wasn't necessarily intentional. conflict of interest: Let's please the people who give us money.

Either way, perhaps you might not want to stock up on O.J. after all.

Of course, if we're going to talk about help promote their products, because bad science that misleads the public, we can't go without mentioning Big Tobacco's 50-year crusade of misinformation environmentally. about the science and health effects of its cigarettes. As the federal judge who to use science for their own benefit. It researchers and research studies that they destroyed documents. ... They so is, well, a liberty.

For example, that juice study you the same thing over the years since the selves - although the unfortunate truth read about in the newspaper: Research- Kyoto Protocol. As a scientific watch- is that the current trend is going in the we do every day to see that the active ers in Boston looked at studies about dog reported in December, Exxon Mobil opposite direction. U.S. Department of ingredient in this expensive face cream

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, Exxon Mobil Corp. distorted the findings of real scientific studies and paid their own "scientific spokespeople" to create the illusion of doubt about global warming.

It seems science isn't so infallible,

And it's obvious that our lack of understanding about science is really hurting us - financially, health-wise and

Yet, it's natural for companies to try representatives making statements as last year found it guilty of racketeering would be nearly impossible to stop them make smart decisions about our own if they were independent scientific said, Big Tobacco "suppressed research, doing so, and in a way their liberty to do lives, we have to understand science.

Therefore, the best thing we can do Exxon Mobil Corp. has done much is become smarter about science ourmilk, soda and juice, and their findings Corp. has spent \$16 million to make Education test scores in 2005 showed and that cheap one are the same.

Distressingly, almost half of high school seniors did not have a "basic" level of understanding about science -"basic" being defined as "partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at each grade."

If that's the case, how can half our citizens hope to distinguish good scientific research from claims made by a corporation, research that might be biased from research that probably isn't or even a brilliant new scientific gadget from a piece of junk that won't work?

If we as a nation want to be able to

To interpret health findings claiming that trans fats are bad for us, we have to know what trans fats are. We have to know the basic science behind what

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Brothers team up to make cinematic magic

By JEREMY REYNOLDS STAFF WRITER

places. For Mark and Jay Duplass, chair. the brothers who wrote and directed the new film "The Puffy Chair," inspiration came from their grandfather's sofa.

"He had one of those sofa couches with a phone in the arm give the main character a Clarkrest," Jay Duplass said. "What was funny was he'd call us from that Vacation") appeal, because his phone for no other reason than to character wanted to get something say he's calling from that phone."

In their film, "The Puffy Chair," length movie, Mark Duplass stars "But we didn't want it to be a produce. as Josh, a 20-something-year-old slow-talking movie like a Woody-

who buys a maroon recliner on Allen-apartment flick." eBay and then proceeds to drive Inspiration can come from odd and girlfriend to pick up the full house, Jay Duplass said.

> friend finally are able to define their relationship. Mark Duplass said he wanted to. of 'Dumb and Dumber."

regardless of the circumstances.

"What wanted to make a movie

The film premiered at the Sunacross country with his brother dance Film Festival in 2005 to a Jay Duplass said.

Along the way, the three find and knowing everyone there was is suggesting they make low-bud- Mark Duplass said. "It was like the themselves, and Josh and his girl- there to see your movie," he said. "People were laughing really hard. It was like we were at a screening and learn your craft," Mark Du- many first-time directors worry too-

The brothers have made ap-Griswold (of "National Lampoon's pearances at Sundance in past, although 2005 was the first time they showed a full-length film. In the past, they'd only made low-budget shorts that costed the Duplass brothers' first full that was real," Mark Duplass said. the brothers less than \$50 to the characters in the movie," Mark

'We looked around and thought

ing low-budget movies anymore,"

The best advice the brothers N.Y., fall apart. "It was amazing looking around could give to aspiring filmmakers get shorts.

> "Make the low-budget films. all on your first shot."

The two said aspiring filmmakers should try writing what you'll never be able to compete tion at NBC, a movie in the editthey know.

Duplass said.

there were not a lot of people mak- tween Josh and his girlfriend every little detail. spawned from the brothers seeing a lot of relationships in Brooklyn, get along," Jay Duplass. "It's just

> "It seemed like an epidemic," bubonic plague all around us."

Jay Duplass said he thought too on the set. ents for that \$10,000 and blow it filmmaking, like the cinematog-styles.'

"We put a lot of ourselves in don't have the budget," Jay Du- and deals at Universal Pictures and

Unlike a lot of siblings, Mark direct upcoming movies. The situation in the film be- and Jay Duplass don't fight over bjeremy.n.reynolds@ttu.edu

"A lot of people ask how we as foreign to us why you and your brother don't get a long."

The brothers said there was a lot of therapy talk that happened

"We're different," Jay said. "We plass said. "Don't go to your par- much about the technical side of have similar tastes but different

> For the future, the brothers "Don't worry about it because . have a television drama in producwith other people because you ing room getting ready for release Fox Searchlight Films to write and

Art

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Brooklyn Museum of Art in Brooklyn, N.Y. and the Biblioteque Nationale de France in Paris.

The SRO Photo Gallery was created to give experience to art graduate students, and the 2006-2007 director is Brianna Burnett, a graduate student studying to receive a Master of Fine Arts degree photography and sculpture.

Burnett said she has appreciated the experience.

to correspond with the artists,"

Burnett is already training Tiffany Rousseau, a first-year gradu- memory of a dream." ate student who will be director of the gallery next year.

Burnett said the entries are first voted on - and narrowed down into a pool of 25 finalists - by all Tech art students, then eight contestants are chosen from the final 25 by art faculty and staff.

for next year's exhibits until Faded words can be read: "If you

March 23. The current exhibit by George showcases digital prints.

"She takes a regular photo and combines it with other photography, and then it looks like handdrawn imagery," Arredondo said of George's work.

"Awakening to a Dream."

"Currently, my work addresses in studio art with an emphasis in dream imagery, symbols and interpretation," George was quoted as saying on her Web site, www. exhibit. "It's definitely worth amyhgeorge.com. "My images are "It's a lot of work to learn how not intended to illustrate specific dream stories as much as render is free of charge and open to the idea of something fleeting the public; it is located in the more real, more tactile ... like the

> All the George photos featured in the SRO exhibit have a certain dream-like quality. "Nowhere to Go" shows two hands holding a bird by strings, the bird in midair, the Spring semester: Janet L. trying to fly away.

Another photo entitled "On the Eve" depicts a dream of falling. The background is a dark-blue sky >> anne.m.shepherd@ttu.edu

Students can submit entries with traces of contorted fingers. dream you are falling and hit the ground before you wake up, you will die." In the foreground, near the top of the photo, two feet dangle from the sky among branches and leaves. The toes are extended downward, as if limp. The roof of a house ap-The title of George's exhibit is pears at the lower edge of the picture, directly beneath the feet and branches.

"People should come see it," Burnett said of the George coming to see."

The SRO Photo Gallery basement of the Art Building on the Tech campus. The exhibit is also a stop on the First Friday Art Trails each month.

Three other artists will be shown in the gallery during Pritchard, A.W. Thompson and Joseph Lebate.

▶ Page 1 photo by Sam Grenadier

Tuesday releases

By IAN KLUMPP LA VIDA WRITER

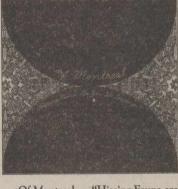


The Good the Bad and the Queen -"The Good the Bad & the Queen" - The Good the Bad and the Queen is a United Kingdom "supergroup," which comprises Damon Albarn (Blur/Gorillaz), Simon Tong (The Verve), Tony Allen (Africa 70/Fela Kuti) and Paul Simonon (The Clash). The group's sound is a tight mixture of slow British rock and Allen's world-renowned-"afrobeat" drumming. This combination creates the perfect new sound that sets the standards for future rock supergroups much higher.



The Shins — "Wincing the Night Away" — This album is the Shins' third full-length release and the group's first studio album since the 2003 release of "Chutes Too Narrow." These "indie-rock" stars have managed to climb to near-rock fame without loosing their indie credibil-

is still worth a listen. The only times the album slips is during songs such as "Sea Legs" in which the group's experimentation overtakes their past sound and leaves the listener a little disappointed.



Of Montreal — "Hissing Fauna are you the Destroyer" — This is the band's third release since 2004, and Kevin Barnes, backdrop for Albarn's droning vocals, the group's leader, creates his best work which are similar to the sound he uses to date. The album is marked by Barnes between the two artists and concentrates with the Gorillaz. The band's first album, maturity as a writer and the ways he has on a progressive style of music that has which contains the singles "Kingdom of developed beyond the fictional-story seemingly been lost in recent years. Doom," and "Herculean," is a refreshing method of songwriting and has began ** ian.m.klumpp@ttu.edu

ity. In their new album, the band mates pulling from his emotions. Of Montreal's seem to be looking for the right groove fans will be pleased with this new, moreduring this transition. "Wincing the Night intimate album, which displays Barnes Away" is definitely not what this talented completely through both his talents of group has proven it is capable of, but it making and writing music.



Rodriguez-Lopez and Omar -"Please Heat This Eventually" — This album is the product of a collaboration between Mars Volta-guitarist Omar Rodriguez-Lopez and Damo Suzuki, the vocalist for the German band Can. This recording is a single 30-minute progressive-rock opus, which is being released only in vinyl. The record covers the generation gap

The official Pre-law Fraternity of Texas Tech encourages you to join them at their first meeting Business Casual Attire Agriculture Education rm 102

Speaker Dean of Admissions Phi Alpha Delta is a co-ed business Fraternity dedicated to better inform undergraduate students interested in selecting law as a cureer.

'Pan's Labyrinth' a grim fairy tale indeed performances that truly engage view- praise from critics worldwide, and

By ROBERT YANIZ JR. THE ORACLE (U. SOUTH FLORIDA)

the casual observer, originality in films seems to have faded long ago.

The Hollywood landscape has primarily been dominated by sequels and assorted retreads in recent years, causing some filmgoers to become disillusioned with the current state of cinema.

dearth of innovation, some filmmakers dare to step outside the cliche-ridden zone of mainstream success and craft a film that reaffirms the artistic potential of films to move and astonish audiences. Guillermo del Toro falls within this elite group of filmmakers, and "Pan's Labyrinth," his latest creation, may be his most striking work yet.

Written and directed by del Toro, this film is about a little girl named Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) who is forced by her pregnant mother (Ariadna Gil) to move to the Spanish countryside with Captain Vidal (Sergi Lopez), Ofelia's new stepfather, in the wake of the Spanish Civil War. As Captain Vidal contends with the guerrilla soldiers seen lurking nearby, Ofelia refuses to acknowledge Captain Vidal as her new father and periodically escapes into a mysterious fantasy world, guided by a

creature named Pan (Doug Jones). In bringing this tale to life, del Toro once again employs his signature visual style, crafting images that are equally stunning and terrifying. Best known to American audiences for comic book adaptations such as "Blade 2" and "Hellboy," del Toro actually began his career with Mexican films, such as 1993's "Cronos" and 2001's "The Devil's Backbone," and "Pan's Labyrinth" continues his unique brand of Spanishlanguage horror and fantasy.

While del Toro's masterful directing and inventive script anchor the film, his cast offers poignant and memorable

SPRING RUSH 2007 WOMEN'S SERVICE ORGANIZATION Service, Briendship and Equality Monday, January 22nd at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 24th at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 25th at 6:30 p.m. In Holden Hall Rm 75 or more info e-mail wso1959@gmail.com

ers in Ofelia's plight. The 12-year-old the film has been steadily expanding Baquero brings an innocence and (U-WIRE) TAMPA, Fla. - To strength to the role of Ofelia, and as her antagonist, Lopez creates a fully realized portrayal of the sadistic Captain Vidal, obsessed with scrubbing out any remaining dissidents, who might challenge his troops. Yet, despite all the impressive performances in the film, Jones makes perhaps the greatest However, despite the seeming impression with his nuanced portrayal of the goat-like Pan.

Jones, who also played the amphibious Abe Sapien in "Hellboy" and is set to bring the Silver Surfer to life in this summer's sequel to "Fantastic Four," manages to transcend even the most extensive makeup to imbue Pan with a true personality. In addition, Jones plays the smaller role of the flesh-eating Pale Man whom Ofelia confronts on one of her numerous quests. A trained mime, Jones has become a master at adopting a character's physical prowess, and his dual roles in Pan's Labyrinth are among his finest performances.

At its core, "Pan's Labyrinth" addresses the role that fantasy plays in times of great struggle. Ofelia's desperation to flee the harsh reality she faces is certainly relatable to viewers who have longed for a grand adventure to whisk them away from their troubles. The film, which features a breathtaking score by composer Javier Navarrete, effectively contrasts the dichotomy between war-torn Spain and the surreal world of the eponymous labyrinth, emphasizing the power an innocent mind can have in a world where cruelty

Since opening last fall, "Pan's Labyrinth" has received unanimous

to more cities every week. Although it only recently arrived in the Bay Area, those interested in catching this brilliant film should rush to see it since it is likely to vanish from cinemas. Theaters are constantly looking to maximize profits, and in the process, smaller films are often disregarded quickly. While this attitude certainly serves the theater's monetary goals, it unfortunately results in a narrow theatrical window for superior material in favor of the next box-office smash.

Though "Pan's Labyrinth" is a fairy tale at heart, the film features graphic violence and is not intended for young audiences. However, for adult viewers, the film is certain to capture the imagination and reignite the faith that, when it comes to quality cinema, all hope is not lost.

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams landmark 6 Stoic Roman philosopher 10 Put down 14 Of birth 15 Security for freedom 16 Ultimatum word 17 Subterfuge used in film demo? 20 Show one's face 21 Sock's end 22 Regret 23 Perfect place 26 Fall bloom 28 Activate a credit card 31 Curtain card 33 U.K. ref. book 34 Place to retire to 35 Easily excused 39 Hippie flexing his muscles? 43 One of a pair of By Gordon Seaberg Los Angeles, CA genes 44 Shell propeller 45 Director Lee 46 Toward the tail-

5 Soap ingredient 6 TV network north of the U.S. 7 Swiss river 8 Piece of man's jewelry 9 Faux butter 10 Tennis call
11 Bright-eyed
12 Magazine copy
13 Ward off
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Lady Raiders fall in double OT Ramirez selected to play in

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) -Backup point guard Kendra Moore scored 13 of her careerhigh 20 points in extra time to help No. 6 Oklahoma hold on and beat Texas Tech 86-81 in double overtime on Monday

Courtney Paris recorded her 45th straight double-double, finishing with 22 points and 17 rebounds for Oklahoma (16-1, 6-0 Big 12), which extended its winning streak against conference opponents to 25 games.

But during the overtimes, Moore became the Sooners' goto player. With the game tied 81-81, it was Paris handing the ball off to Moore on a pick-androll and Moore slicing through the lane for a layup with 34.4 seconds left.

At the other end, Oklahoma's starting point guard, Britney Brown, stole the basketball from Texas Tech's Jordan Murphree as she rose to shoot. Brown hit two free throws with 11 seconds left— her first points of the game — and added another free throw in the final second to seal the win.

Five players scored in double figures for Texas Tech (12-8, 3-3), led by Alesha Robertson, periods. who finished with 20. Six-foot-6 and 10 rebounds for the Lady Raiders.

It was Oklahoma's first double-overtime game since Dec. 21, 2000, when the Sooners beat San Diego. Texas Tech played its last two-overtime game on Feb. 23, 2000, a win over Texas.

Oklahoma struggled with turnovers for much of the game, by three points early in the first Texas Tech and Raquel Christian finishing with 21, and never led overtime but took a 75-73 lead by more than eight points. Paris on a 16-foot jumper by Dabbs went just 9-of-24 from the field, with 1:16 left. Moore tied it eight days because of weather and sitting out nine minutes of the seconds later on a drive at the second half. She did not score in other end. the game's final 14 minutes and

coach in Division I men's basketball

Speaking to reporters Monday

morning during the weekly Big 12

Tech coach sparred with each of his

season victory over Gardner-Webb

The sideline chin lift to get a

in the media.

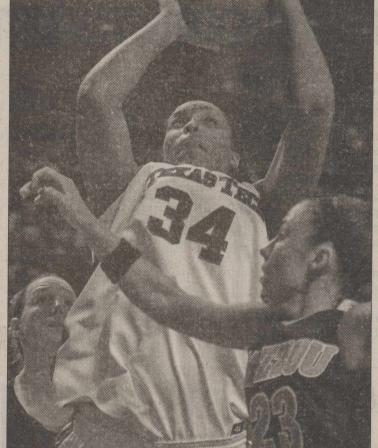
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he said.

TUESDAY

7 AM Curious

KTXT
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PBS
Lubbock



STEVE LEWIS/The Daily Toreador

JUNIOR CENTER ERIN Myrick scores in the second period of the game against the University of Missouri, Wednesday evening at United Spirit Arena. The Lady Raiders defeated the Mizzou Tigers 63-55.

Patrice Edwards added 12 points three minutes left in regulation, with eight-tenths of a second but Texas Tech rallied to go ahead 67-63 with 44.2 seconds left, and Oklahoma needed a 3pointer by Erin Higgins with 7.6 seconds left to forge a 68-68 tie.

who scored 13 points, missed a 15 points for the Sooners, while 10-footer at the buzzer.

The Lady Raiders fell behind

missed five shots in the overtime had another chance to win, but play five games in 12 days.

she altered a jumper by Dabbs The Sooners led by six with and the ball went out of bounds left. Paris stole the ensuing inbounds pass and her heave from 70 feet hit the rim and bounced

Oklahoma outrebounded Texas Tech's Chesley Dabbs, Texas Tech 49-35. Welch added Ashley Paris had 10.

Murphree scored 17 points for

The game was delayed for was the Sooners' first at home Jan. 3. Oklahoma is in the midst After a Paris miss, Texas Tech of a streeh during which it will

Under Armour Senior Bowl

By ADAM COLEMAN STAFF WRITER

Stadium in Mobile, Ala.

49ers, who will lead the South.

started for the Red Raiders since Tomlinson. his freshman year and helped since 2000.

Senior offensive lineman first-day draft picks.

good football player," January next level." said. "It is a game that showcases the best talent in the nation. Every all-star game is good 'cause to get drafted. you get attention from scouts,

first day playing in this game."

the lone Red Raider competing Steelers' wideout Hines Ward, Bal- off the field as well." in the 2007 Under Amour Senior timore Ravens' quarterback Steve will head the North team, and 24 made this year's NFL Pro Bowl. Mike Nolan of the San Francisco The most notable in that group are 2006 NFL Defensive Player of the Ramirez, who made the All- Year Jason Taylor and 2006 NFL Big 12 Second Team in 2006, has Most Valuable Player LaDainian

Victor Knight, a representative the offensive line allow the few- for Ramirez, said Ramirez will be est number of sacks this season among the best and deservingly

"He's like all of our players," Glenn January said it is good Knight said. "It's a reason he's in game because most athletes who tremendous amount of interest in good position to be seen. compete in this game become him as a player on the next level, serving person, and he is a very He's got a great future to play at the

> Knight also made it clear that the players in this game are playing

"This game is about players who but I think this is the big daddy, are going to play in the NFL, it is adam.coleman@ttu.edu

and most guys get drafted on the not an all-star game," he said. "It's a game that features players' ability The all-star game has seen to play in the NFL, and it's a great Texas Tech senior offensive players like New York Jets' run- opportunity to not only show what lineman Manuel Ramirez will be ning back Curtis Martin, Pittsburg kind of person he is on the field but

More than 700 NFL coaches Bowl Saturday at Ladd-Peebles McNair and even the legendary and scouts usually attend the running back Walter Payton. There Senior Bowl, and one of the most The game will feature NFL were 572 former senior bowl play- notable facts about the bowl is that coaches Jon Gruden of the ers who were put on active rosters more than 90 percent of the players Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who in 2006 and out of those players, who play in the game are drafted each year.

> Ramirez will be playing alongside some of college football's best players like Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith and Northern Illinois halfback Garrett Wolfe. The Big 12 Conference brings 12 players with Ramirez including Texas defensive backs Aaron Ross and Michael Griffin and Oklahoma linebacker Rufus Alexander.

Tech's Assistant Athletic Directo see Ramirez selected to the the senior bowl. The NFL has a tor Chris Cook said Ramirez is in a

"We're definitely proud of him, and he's one of the top offensive and he's very deserving of being "I think Manny's a very de- linemen in this year's senior class. listed as one of the Top 100 draft prospects," Cook said. "It's going to be great exposure for him, and he's going to get some NFL coaching."

> The 2007 Senior Bowl will air on the NFL Network, Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

Nebraska joins Top 25 as Duke widens lead

The Cornhuskers returned to the AP women's basketball poll at No. 25 on Monday, while No. 1 Duke widened its lead over second-ranked North Carolina after picking up two additional first-place votes.

25th on Dec. 4, then lost to Minnesota the next night and dropped out of the rankings the following week.

But the Cornhuskers have won 10 of 11 since, including their first victory at Texas, and are off to their best start since 1996-97. Their only loss in that stretch was to No. 6 Oklahoma.

feel pretty good about where we are," Nebraska coach Connie Yori said. "Because that means we're winning." Still, Yori knows the ranking

which is alone in second place in the Big 12 at 4-1 and has a tough game coming up Wednesday at No. 21 Texas A&M. 'Whether you're number 27 or number 25 or number 30, you've got

to prepare and you've got to play the game," she said. "You can't get too. caught up where you're ranked, that's for sure.'

(AP) — Nebraska hopes to stay at No. 1 last week after beating the Terand California. in the Top 25 long enough to enjoy rapins, received 39 of 50 first-place votes 1,237 points — 27 more than North the Top 25. Carolina. The margin was 23 points last week, when Duke had 37 first-place

The Blue Devils beat North Carolina State in their only game last week and Nebraska (16-3) joined the poll at improved to 20-0 with a 74-70 win over No. 4 Tennessee on Monday night.

North Carolina (22-0) received the 11 other first-place votes. The Tar Heels 82-76 victory over Connecticut. They face a much-anticipated game at No. 3 Maryland on Sunday.

national semifinals.

Tennessee trailed Maryland by only 12 points in the voting and Ohio State doesn't change anything for her team, remained fifth. Then came the only change among the top 13 teams, No. 6 Oklahoma and No. 7 Connecticut changing places. LSU was eighth, Stanford ninth and Arizona State 10th.

George Washington, Purdue and Baylor held the next three places. Georgia moved up two spots to 14th after beating Vanderbilt and Florida State last week. Vanderbilt fell one place to 15th and was followed by Bowling Green,

Texas A&M, Mississippi, Michigan from a national media panel and had . State, Texas and Nebraska completed

Kansas State, which had been 25th, lost to Nebraska and Baylor and dropped out after just one week in the poll.

Texas A&M had the biggest drop, falling four places after a 64-45 loss at Texas, which had lost at Iowa State earlier in the week. The Longhorns dropped

Louisville fell three places after splitwon three times last week, including an ting a pair of games. The Cardinals lost at South Florida, then bounced back to beat Rutgers at home.

Nebraska followed its 70-63 victory Maryland (20-1), the defending over Kansas State with a 76-66 win at "If we can continue to stay ranked NCAA champion, has won three of its Missouri, the Cornhuskers' 10th straight well into February, then we're going to last four games with North Carolina, on the road. Their only loss outside including an 81-70 victory in last year's Lincoln was at Arizona State in the season opener.

Experience has been a key in that road success. Yori's rotation includes seniors Kiera Hardy, Chelsea Aubry, Ashley Ford and Jelena Spiric and junior Danielle Page. The Cornhuskers also are getting solid play from sophomores Kelsey Griffin and TK LaFleur and freshman Cory Montgomery.

"We have played with good composure, we have found different ways to win games," Yori said. "The bottom line is we've got pretty good experience. We have a number of players who have been Duke, which replaced Maryland Marquette, Louisville, Middle Tennessee in a lot of tight games over the years."

Knight then responded to the next scheduled 10-minute time slot. question, about the historical impact Knight moved past Smith, the of the 3-point shot, with a curt reply. former North Carolina legend, with a

KMYL 14 MYN Lubbock

Life Today

He then deflected a question about conversation _ if it even happened at Army, Indiana and Texas Tech "It's not just a one-man show."

KCBD 11 NBC

oday (HD)

KLBK 13 CBS Lubbock

Early Show

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Pass- with Wildcats athletic director Tim (14-5, 3-1). ing Dean Smith as the winningest Weiser.

Mellow? Hell no, Knight still flares at media

hasn't mellowed Bob Knight — at atalk to privately is just what it is," rant's early season dominance is widely least when it comes to his adversaries he said. "I don't talk about phone conversations."

A follow-up question about the limited playing time of junior forward Darryl Dora was the apparent last coaches' conference call, the Texas straw: The phone line went dead on Knight's end.

The offending question: "What's it player's attention during an early like to be in your doghouse?"

The assembled media had plenty of was "a situation" created by the media, time to ponder that query, with Knight dropping off just three minutes into his

Jan. 1 home victory over New Mexico. his role as a reference for Kansas He has since added three wins for a State coach Bob Huggins as a private career record of 883-355 in 41 years

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DURANT'S SUPPORTING "Who I talk to and who I don't CAST: Texas freshman Kevin Duknown among Big 12 coaches, fans and the NBA general managers who could make the 6-9 sensation the No. 1 pick in the 2007 draft.

But with Durant floating back to earth after a sub-par performance in the Longhorns' 76-69 road loss at Villanova on Saturday (12 points, eight rebounds), the emergence of teammates such as Big 12 rookie of the week D.J. Augustin has opposing coaches quick to point out the talents

of Durant's supporting cast. "It's not just Kevin Durant. They've got a very, very talented basketball team," said Nebraska coach Doc Sadler, whose Huskers (12-5, 1-2) host Texas (13-5, 3-1) Wednesday night.

Augustin, a freshman guard from New Orleans, scored 19 points while dishing out nine assists and collecting seven rebounds in a 105-103 tripleovertime loss to Oklahoma State on Jan. 16.

He followed that performance 3-point shots.

Raiders hire young Kiffin as head coach

ers hired Lane Kiffin as their coach Monday night, making the 31-year-old Southern California offensive coordinator the NFL's youngest head

Kiffin, the son of Tampa Bay defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, earned the job with a

(AP) — The Oakland Raid- strong interview Monday after firmed the hiring in an e-mail to the Raiders failed to reach a deal The Associated Press. The agreelast week with 32-year-old Steve ment was first reported by the

> Raiders owner Al Davis quickly moved to land another upand-coming offensive mind with ence — as a defensive quality control coach with Jacksonville in 2000.

to Pete Carroll at USC.

Sarkisian, Kiffin's fellow assistant Contra Costa Times and ESPN.

> Kiffin is the Raiders' 16th head coach — and the youngest in franchise history.

The former Fresno State quarsterling college credentials, but terback is younger than at least just one season of NFL experi- nine players who finished the season with Oakland during its NFL-worst 2-14 campaign, including defensive tackle Warren Raiders senior personnel ex- Sapp, fullback Zack Crockett and







Tomlin hired as Steelers head coach

year history.

He accepted the job Sunday night and the hiring was announced Chuck Noll (23 seasons) and Bill Cowher (15 seasons).

difficult not to be overwhelmed with championship games Sunday. the opportunity to coach what he in sports."

"I'm still coming to grips with Dungy said Monday.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Mike what that means," said Tomlin, who, defensive coordinator, was hired by the same age as some of his players. the Pittsburgh Steelers — the first "But I am what I am as coach — I black head coach in the team's 74-, don't call myself a 34-year-old coach or an experienced coach, I'm a football coach."

Tomlin was chosen by the Steelers Monday, with Tomlin expected to on the same day two black coaches make about \$2.5 million a year under made the Super Bowl for the first a four-year contract. He is the Steel- time: Lovie Smith in Chicago and ers' third coach in 38 years, following Tony Dungy in Indianapolis. Tomlin was once an assistant under Dungy at Tampa Bay, and he got the call from Tomlin, an NFL coordinator for Steelers president Art Rooney II only one season, acknowledged it was while watching the NFL conference

called "one of the storied franchises municator and now he'll have a chance to show what he can do,"

Tomlin also might have benefited two strong interviews with Rooney, interview because the Steelers would Rule. Steelers owner Dan Rooney operations Kevin Colbert. successfully lobbied in 2002 for a interview minority candidates for coaching jobs.

Minnesota's defensive coordinator, defense. "He wants to play the kind dozen on a list of qualified minority candidates given Rooney at a mid-December meeting in New York. Rooney is the chairman of the NFL's committee on workplace diversity.

The intent of the Rooney Rule was to give coaches such as Tomlin "He's a good coach, a great com- a forum to display their credentials. Tomlin was chosen largely because of the motivation, enthusiasm and Rivera, the other finalist with Grimm the 3-4, such as All-Pro safety Troy

Tomlin, the Minnesota Vikings'. like Cowher in 1992, will be about from the NFL's so-called Rooney Art Rooney II and director of football have had to wait until Feb. 5 to

rule that requires all NFL teams to ball the Pittsburgh Steelers want to by Cowher, also didn't get a second play," Art Rooney II said of Tomlin's interview. focus on stopping the run, running After a successful first season as the ball well and playing physical Tomlin's name was one of about a of football Steelers fans have come with another team before being to appreciate."

Tomlin's hiring completed a 2 1/2-week search in which he initially was considered an unlikely choice Whisenhunt later accepted the Arizona Cardinals' job.

meet with him again. Georgia Tech "He wants to play the kind of foot- coach Chan Gailey, recommended

Tomlin will be the fourth consecutive Steelers coach who was a defensive assistant coach in his 30s hired. Bill Austin was 37 when he was chosen in 1966, as was Chuck Noll in 1969. Cowher was 34 in 1992.

What could be tricky is assimibehind perceived front-runners Ken lating Tomlin's preference for the Whisenhunt and Russ Grimm, but 4-3 defense into a Steelers system that has been built around the 3-4 since 1983. The Steelers have fitted Bears defensive coordinator Ron their roster with players suited for organizational skills he showed in and Tomlin, did not get a second Polamalu and Pro Bowl nose guard teams.

Tomlin said he wouldn't rush to install the 4-3 and will retain defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau, a proponent of the 3-4 and zone blitzing schemes. Instead, Tomlin plans to match his defenses to the skills of the players he has — and he is not yet ready to say which defense that will be.

"You've got to be flexible and do what your guys do well," he said.

Tomlin also likes the so-called Tampa 2 cover scheme popularized by Dungy and assistant Monte Kiffin in Tampa Bay, one that had its roots in Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain defense of the 1970s — a defense that played a 4-3. Dungy played on one of those four Steelers Super Bowl-winning

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fireplace, door opener. \$825. GeoPropMgmt. 795-9800. 4/3/2 GREAT HOME FOR ROOMMATES 3810 26th Nice large 4 bedroom home. W/ D Pets

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5840 7TH. 3/2/2 small pet. Nice, al-GeoPropMgmt. new. \$795. 795-9800. 9704 AVE U. 3/2/1 fireplace, sprin-GeoPropMgmt. kler \$760.

system,

795-9800.

ATTENTION STUDENTS: Specials 5909 following properties: 13th. Wayne, 3304 32nd, 5442 6th, 2503 30th. 797-2212.

AVAILABLE. 3/2/2, patio, fireplace. appliances furnished. 5744 (37th & Frankford). 863-4781 leave message.

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CUTE 2/1 central h/ a, wood floors, one car garage, close to Tech, pet friendly, 2008 33rd. 600/ mo 500/ dep call Joe 804,441,0611

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2 PC Queen orthopedic/pillowtop mattress set new in plastic, \$175. 3 pc King orthopedic/pillowtop mattress and foundation, \$250, 806-549-3110, 5807 14TH 3/2/2 Central H/A, Ceramic Tile, Nice Neighborhood. Completely updated. Close to

BEAUTIFUL PURE bred Lab puppies. Glossy

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3/2 house near Lynnwood Homes. \$325/ month (plus utilities). Pets welcome. Available now. Call 817-776-1161. ROOMMMATE WANTED female, non smoker,

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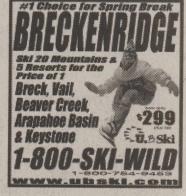
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A Cowboy no more: Parcells leaves Dallas, retires from coaching

IRVING (AP) — Bill Parcells could have returned to the Dallas Cowboys for one more shot at becoming the first coach to lead three teams into the Super Bowl.

ending the longest playoff drought in the franchise's proud history. Or he he started in developing quarterback Tony Romo and a 3-4 defense.

Instead, 15 days after a gut-wrenching playoff loss in Seattle, Parcells decided Monday to call it a career, ending a four-year run in Dallas and included three Super Bowls and two day. championships.

ball," Parcells said in a statement. "I want to thank Jerry Jones and Stephen Iones for their tremendous support lines. over the last four years. Also, the players, my coaching staff and others out the door. in the support group who have done to go forward from here."

Known for a gruff demeanor and colorful quotes, Parcells leaves with the ninth-most wins in NFL history and a career record of 183-138-1. He understanding and respectful of his was 34-32 in Dallas, counting two decision to retire from coaching." playoff losses. He had one year left at extension signed last January.

to have been able to coach in the NFL take his place. for an extended period of time," the 65-year-old coach said.

Cowboys champions again, Parcells 1989. leaves the Cowboys better than he rived to making the playoffs twice in reputation started by Tom Landry.

football and to the NFL are immeasurable," team owner Jerry Jones said in a and now Parcells all tried and failed. statement. "We will always be grateful ment to the Dallas Cowboys."

Romo, Dallas had a two-game division lead in December. Then the Cowboys lost four of their final five games, including the last three. The capper came against the Seahawks after Romo He could have come back to try bungled the hold of a short field goal with a little more than a minute left.

"I did the best I could," Parcells could have come back to finish what said following that game. "But it wasn't quite good enough."

The going theory was that Parcells wouldn't end his career that way. The longer he waited to make an announcement, the likelier it seemed that he would return — especially a 19-year tenure in the NFL that since he was going to his office every

Then came Monday's statement "I am retiring from coaching foot- via a morning e-mail. He didn't even hold one last news conference to entertain with old stories and witty

But Parcells isn't exactly rushing

"Bill will continue to come to work so much to help. Dallas is a great city here at Valley Ranch throughout at and the Cowboys are an integral part least the end of this week, and we of it. I am hopeful that they are able will continue to meet and address the present status of our team while also discussing the future," Jones said. "Clearly, we wanted Bill to return for next season, but I am completely

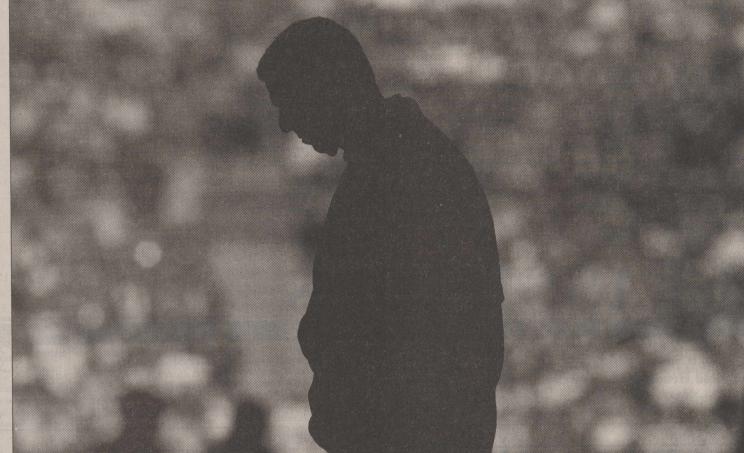
A team spokesman said Jones and more than \$5 million on a contract Parcells will discuss various aspects of progress with the belief that we have massive salaries. He also might chase the organization — though not nec- to do better." "I am in good health and feel lucky essarily whom Parcells thinks should

Expect Jones to handle that him-Although he failed to make the of success since buying the team in search.

His first two hires, Jimmy Johnson found it. The club went from three and Barry Switzer, combined to win straight 5-11 seasons before he ar- three Super Bowls, keeping up the

But the Cowboys haven't even "His contributions to the game of won a playoff game since 1996, under Switzer. Chan Gailey, Dave Campo

"To our fans, I would like them to for his dedicated effort and commit-know that it is still all about winning," Iones said. "We have made progress Parcells expected big things in on that front in the recent past, and Pittsburgh, but both would require



TIM HEITMAN/US Presswire

DALLAS COWBOYS HEAD coach Bill Parcells before the game against the Indianapolis Colts at Texas Stadium.

weeks-plus deciding whether to return, Stoops to Southern California's Pete self, as he's done with varying degrees and a fifth, Oakland, is well into its England a decade ago.

> what kind of coach he'd hire next. or former NFL coaches like San Diego The only hint in his statement was defensive coordinator Wade Phillips this: "Bill's coaching the Cowboys or San Francisco offensive coordinaa different philosophy and approach toward winning. This experience for Dallas' Super Bowl team in 1992 will reinforce that willingness to be

Jones could go for proven commodities like Tennessee's Jeff Fisher or Bill Cowher, recently resigned from 2006 and, thanks to the emergence of we will continue to build on that compensation for their teams and reputation.

a big-name college coach, from Notre While Parcells spent the last two Dame's Charlie Weis, Oklahoma's Bob

Or, maybe Jones will pursue Chica-Jones has given no indication of go defensive coordinator Ron Rivera, represented a willingness to embrace tor Norv Turner. Turner would be a popular choice locally; he called plays and remains close to Troy Aikman.

All candidates will have to accept Jones being the general manager. That of being a lounge act. might have driven away others before, but four years of avoiding ego clashes with Parcells likely has changed his

decision of what to do about receiver racetrack. Terrell Owens, who is due a roster bonus in March. T.O. certainly isn't Parcells' problem any more.

The first time Parcells walked away from coaching, his heart was an issue. The next time he supposedly was content that coaching was out of his system.

He turned down several chances to return before accepting Jones' offer. He said he took it because he liked the challenge of trying to make the Cowboys champions again, comparing it to playing on the main stage instead

After four well-paid years, Parcells could be serious about retiring this time. He's already built a home in do some of the things he truly wants Saratoga, N.Y., to spend his post- to do. I wish him well."

The next coach also will face a football days near his family and the

Parcells' influence will remain because of all the coaches who worked for him, from three-time Super Bowl champion Bill Belichick of New England to New Orleans' Sean Payton, this past season's coach of the year. Tom Coughlin of the Giants and Romeo Crennel of Cleveland also paid their dues under Parcells.

"Bill's an excellent football coach and a very good friend," Coughlin said. "We're going to miss Bill Parcells on the sideline and we'll miss him in the NFC East. I look forward to the continuation of our friendship at a different level now. I think Bill's looking forward to having the opportunity to

Giving thanks to a Parcells feast

niff, sniff ... you smell that? Dallas Cowboys' sidelines after he retired for the third time Monday.

Big Bill Parcells gave us just four That wafting odor is the seasons and was just 34-32, includstench the Big Tuna left on the ing two playoff appearances where "America's Team" was ousted after one game in each instance.

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This should be a feast for Cowboys' fans who want to give thanks to this 65year-old Chunky White Albacore.

Now I'll say grace. Dear Heavenly Tuna,

Firstly, I want to personally thank you for the year 2003. Quincy Carter was such a great quarterback. I want to give you props for allowing him a confidence boost en route to a playoff drubbing at the hands of Carolina.

Mr. Carter is doing well in the penitentiary these days. From what I hear, he throws looks at other cellmates very accurately. I guess we can attribute that to his wonderful 71.4 QB rating in '03 and his 71.7 career rating.

Secondly, thanks for drafting Julius Jones in the second round of the 2004 draft. Not only did you have a late first-round pick in '04 because of the get Jones when you could have selected that Steven Jackson guy that plays for the St. Louis Rams.

I think Jackson finished this season with 2,334 total offensive yards (1,528 rushing, 806 receiving) and 16 total touchdowns (13 rushing, 3 receiving). Mr. Jones had 1,084 rushing yards and four measly touchdowns in his first full season without injury in the pros.

I know the draft is a crapshoot and your selections in previous drafts found instant stars in DeMarcus Ware, Jason Witten and Marion Barber III, but Cowboy fans will need to wait a up to legendary coaches Tom Landry Bobby "The Tool Man" Carpenter and Anthony Fasano, who was selected before the explosive Devin Hester and Maurice Jones-Drew in the 2006 draft

— each who had good arguments for

which you showed more emotion on the sidelines than ever in your career. Laying your luscious lips and back pats on your player after that Carolina game gave Cowboy fans hope that this season would be a resurgence back to Super Bowl glory — at least for a flash.

However, your 'Boys failed to deliver, losing their final three games of the year, including the now infamous nothing these days. "Romonian Slip" (as I like to call it) during the playoff game against the Seattle Seahawks in the first round.

Finally, thank you for not living the can. Hayden Fox could have coached that or tuna? team to victory in Super Bowl XXX. You fall into the category of Cowboy cow patties such as Dave Campo and Chan Gailey, who couldn't help Dallas end its 11-year skid in the playoffs.

winning Rookie of the Year after this likely, leaving your foster child Romo to wait for his next mentor to take over Thirdly, thank you Big Tuna for the franchise. I just wish you would success in 2003, but you traded down to leaving the Cowboys after a year in have put him in sooner — like at the start of the 2004 season, instead of allowing the geriatric convention in Vinny Testaverde and Drew Bledsoe to leave their "dent-ures" in the Cowboys franchise. So what if he wasn't ready yet. Troy Aikman most likely wasn't ready when he was thrown in as the starter as a rookie in 1989.

I guess three Super Bowl rings mean

Oh, and when Tom Coughlin's stint with the New York Giants ends next year (that's a prediction folks), stay in

One more thing — Jessica Simpcouple more years on Marcus Spears, and Jimmie Johnson. Sorry, Cowboy son wants to know if your departure fans, Barry Switzer doesn't count. Even from Dallas means you are chicken

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