

Winterizing vehicles

SEE PAGE 5

Tech aims for road win

SEE PAGE 7

SEALS

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(INBRIEF)

STATE

Get ready Texas: '09 session ready to begin

AUSTIN (AP) — Brace yourself, Texans. How you live, work, play and plan for the future could change over the next 140 days.

The Texas Legislature is back in the Capitol and ready for business. From Tuesday until June 1, state lawmakers will propose and pass new laws that will range from the serious to the silly, and the impact may be felt for many years to come.

There will be vigorous arguments over public schools, criminal justice and how to best prepare for the next hurricane. Hot-button issues like "Choose Life" license plates, casino-style gambling and a proposed ban on smoking in public places will spark outrage.

NATION

Oil falls below \$3B eve of US earnings season

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Falling crude demand in the world's largest consuming nation drove oil prices Monday to a new low for the year as the U.S. enters a corporate earnings season expected to be fraught with bad news.

The strained economy outweighed factors that would normally boost the market — Mideast tensions, signs that OPEC was implementing large-scale production cuts, the ongoing Gazprom-Ukraine gas dispute and a winter season expected to deliver the coldest weather in a decade.

WORLD

13 killed in Islamic attack on Somali Capital

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Islamic insurgents have fired mortar rounds on the presidential palace the Somali capital, and witnesses say at least 13 people have been killed in heavy fighting.

Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein was in the palace at the time of the attack. But government spokesman Abdi Haji Gobdon says no one in the palace was hurt.

Government forces retaliated, hitting a crowded Mogadishu market and a nearby residential area.

DEATH TOLL

4226

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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Comptroller: TX revenue to drop \$9B

By APRIL CASTRO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN (AP) — Tighter consumer spending over the next two years will contribute to an anticipated \$9 billion drop in state revenue over the next two years, Comptroller Susan Combs said Monday in her revenue estimate.

That means lawmakers, who

convene in Austin on Tuesday for the biennial legislative session, will start writing the 2010-2011 state budget with a \$77.1 billion beginning balance — 10.5 percent less than the amount from two years ago, when the current budget was written.

The figure illustrates anticipated drops in consumer spending on a variety of state revenue sources, including vehicle sales taxes, ciga-

rette taxes and the lottery.

The grim number does not necessarily mean the Legislature will have a shortfall. That's because the figure doesn't include \$3 billion in funds that were set aside to cover an expected hole in school spending and \$6.7 billion expected to be in the so-called Rainy Day Fund at the start of the 2010-2011 budget period.

"Though Texas has avoided

the worst economic impacts affecting other states, the national downturn has finally begun to touch Texas," Combs said. "Our new economic forecast indicates Texas will be affected in fiscal 2009, before regaining economic momentum in fiscal 2010."

The revenue estimate covers the 2010-2011 fiscal years. Combs' estimate, which includes a \$2 billion balance left over in

the current budget, is the number lawmakers are required to use to write the budget. State law does not allow deficit spending.

"This is worse than I would have thought," said Dick Lavine, senior fiscal analyst for the Center for Public Policy Priorities. But Lavine said the hefty Rainy Day Fund, the largest since it was created, can keep Texas afloat until the economy turns around.

Purity problems

Study: Premarital sex not prevented by abstinence pledges

By GARRETT SALZMAN
STAFF WRITER



KALIE WOOD, A freshman business major from Midland, wears a purity ring as a symbol of her commitment to abstinence.

Kalie Wood looked down at her ring finger and made a surprising admission.

"Honestly, it doesn't really mean that much to me," said the freshman from Midland while gazing at the purity ring on her left hand.

Wood, a business major, received the ring at a church-sponsored purity conference she attended at age 14. Although the conference provided her with an opportunity to decide to remain a virgin until marriage, she said her decision not to engage in premarital sex ultimately came from what she already believed.

"It gives you a chance to decide on your personal beliefs and values," Wood said. "But it is not necessarily the pledge that keeps you from having sex."

A recent study by Janet Rosenbaum, a post doctorate researcher at the Johns Hopkins Center for Sexually Transmitted Diseases, found that premarital sex is not prevented by abstinence pledges.

The report, which was published in the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, was based on data gathered from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. It concluded that students who take virginity pledges are as likely to engage in premarital sex as students who do not take a pledge.

Also, the study reported students who take virginity pledges are less likely to protect themselves by using contraceptives during sexual activity. According to the report, this decrease in the use of birth control and condoms could be a result of federally

regulated abstinence training that makes students lose faith in the effectiveness of these precautions.

Clayton Walker, pastor for college students and young adults at Indiana Avenue Baptist Church in Lubbock, said he does not believe students who take virginity pledges are uninformed about proper contraceptive use.

"Kids today aren't ignorant about contraceptives," Walker said. "I may be giving the group as a whole too much credit, but I'm pretty confident at least our kids know enough about birth control."

Walker said the results of the study about STDs among virginity-pledge takers could better indicate their contraceptive use.

"If contraceptives are the only things keeping these kids safe from STDs," he said, "then why are the kids that aren't using them not seeing an increase in STD rates?"

Elizabeth Trejos, a Tech professor in the department of Human Development and Family Studies and member of the Teen Straight Talk Committee, said the issue of abstinence training and birth control education is important locally.

"Lubbock is at the top of the list when it comes to STDs, and it's not just one part of town," Trejos said. "People like to think these high STD rates are contained to one area, but this is a problem the entire city is struggling with. It's a problem that affects everyone, either personally or economically."

The Teen Straight Talk program teaches students that abstinence is the best and only guaranteed method to protect from STDs, Trejos said. However, she believes students who are already having sex or will have sex regardless of the possible consequences need to be taught safety.

"Of course it's best if the students never cross that line," Trejos said. "If you don't ever

PROMISES continued on page 5

Israeli leader warns Hamas militants of 'iron fist'

By IBRAHIM BARZAK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert stood within Hamas rocket range Monday and warned Islamic militants that they face an "iron fist" unless they agree to Israeli terms for an end to war in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas showed no signs of wavering, however, with its leader, Ismail Haniyeh, saying the militants were "closer to victory."

Despite the tough words, Egypt said it was making slow progress in brokering a truce, and special Mideast envoy Tony Blair said elements were in place for a cease-fire.

As Olmert spoke in the Israeli city of Ashkelon, Israeli tanks, gunboats and warplanes hammered suspected hiding places of Hamas operatives who control the poor, densely populated territory just across the border.

After nightfall, flares and explosions lit up the sky over Gaza and heavy gunfire was heard in parts of the coastal territory of 1.4 million people.

Hamas fighters battled Israeli troops on the outskirts of Gaza City and launched 15 rockets at southern Israel.

Fighting picked up early Tuesday, as Israeli forces, backed by artillery and naval shelling, advanced closer to Gaza City from the south, wit-

nesses said.

Khader Mussa, 35, a resident of the area under attack, told The Associated Press by telephone that he saw two apartment buildings on fire. He said he was huddling in the basement of his building with 25 other people, including his pregnant wife and his parents. "The gates of hell have opened," he said. "God help us."

Gaza's Hamas prime minister insisted on an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the opening of blockaded border crossings as part of any truce.

"As we are in the middle of this crisis, we tell our people we, God willing, are closer to victory. All the blood that is being shed will not go

to waste," Haniyeh said on Hamas' Al Aqsa television. But he said the group was also pursuing a diplomatic track to end the conflict that "will not close."

Haniyeh sat at a desk in a room with a Palestinian flag and a Quran in the background. His location was unclear; Israeli airstrikes have targeted militant chiefs, and most are in hiding.

The fighting began Dec. 27 and has killed more than 900 Palestinians, about half of them civilians, according to Palestinian medical officials. Thirteen Israelis, including 10 soldiers, have been killed.

As diplomats struggled for traction in truce efforts, Olmert said

Israel would only end military operations if Hamas stops rocketing Israel, as it has done for years, and is unable to rearm after combat subsidies.

"Anything else will be met with the Israeli people's iron fist," Olmert said. "We will continue to strike with full strength, with full force until there is quiet and rearmament stops."

A few hours before Olmert spoke, a rocket hit a house in Ashkelon but caused no casualties. Olmert addressed regional mayors in the relative safety of the basement of a public building during his two-hour visit; he has toured other towns hit by rockets since the war began.

	TODAY Sunny		Wednesday Sunny		Thursday Sunny		Friday Partly Cloudy		Saturday Sunny						
High	52	Low	25	High	58	Low	24	High	53	Low	27	High	63	Low	30

Lubbock police follow Tech example, will receive new in-car equipment

By MIKE GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

Lubbock City Council voted Thursday to authorize a contract worth about \$600,000 on behalf of the Lubbock Police Department to purchase new in-car computers and digital video recording devices in squad cars.

Capt. Greg Stevens, the public information officer for the Lubbock Police Department, said the new in-car computers, called Mobile Data Computers, allocated by the contract will be installed in new police cars.

The MDCs are used by the Lubbock Police to dispatch officers, for officers to update their statuses and to write police reports. The MDCs are connected via a radio network.

In addition, he said, digital cameras will be installed in some cars to replace cameras that record to VHS tapes. The primary vendor for both the MDCs and cameras is Motorola.

Stevens said he believes the new police cameras will be widely used by

the department.

"Cameras have been installed in all the cars since 1998," he said. "A lot of officers wouldn't initially run them though because they felt it was like 'Big Brother' was watching them. But officers began to see the benefits and realized that cameras help. Not only have the cameras provided visual evidence for cases but also many

"This is part of our effort to become a paperless agency and to conserve resources."

CAPT. GREG STEVENS
LUBBOCK POLICE
PUBLIC INFORMATION
OFFICER

officers have been exonerated from internal affairs issues through the use of the cameras."

Lubbock police eventually will eliminate the need for storage of video tapes with digital cameras beginning to be installed in squad cars, he said. Footage the camera captures will be saved to a server, and the video can be viewed on computers connected to the server instead of having to find more storage space for VHS tapes.

"This is part of our effort to become a paperless agency and to conserve resources," Stevens said. "This includes eliminating video tapes. There's an old locker room that officers used to change from street clothes to uniform and to shower in. Those lockers have been entirely filled with video tapes."

In addition to freeing up space, Stevens said, the digital cameras will provide police with a clearer picture than VHS tapes.

"A big benefit of the new cameras are that they are digital," he said. "Digital is much clearer than VHS for viewing evidence."

Linda DeLeon, Lubbock City Council's District 1 representative, said the decision to authorize the \$600,000 contract passed without much debate because the city council wants to provide the Lubbock Police Department with the best equipment available.

Because the city council is in charge of the City of Lubbock's budget, the Lubbock Police Department is not authorized to directly negotiate for new equipment, she said.

Texas Tech Police Chief Ron Seacrist said the their department uses laptops on a local computer network for in-car use as opposed to the MDC's Lubbock police will use. Tech police officers upload police reports to another computer once their shift is complete.

Tech Police made the transition to digital video cameras in squad cars about a year and a half ago, he said.

"We had an old VHS system but it was so old that we couldn't even get spare parts for it anymore when it broke down," he said. "We knew everything was moving in the digital direction so we figured it was time to upgrade. The digital and audio quality of digital far exceeds that of VHS."

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PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Treador

THE ON-BOARD COMPUTERS found in Tech police cruisers allow police to access information as well as record traffic stops. The cruisers also are equipped with digital video equipment. The records of the video taken by the cameras are stored in a network database.

Tech implements new Scantron sheets

By LAURA LENZ
STAFF WRITER

Students now have one more set of numbers to memorize before taking a test.

Texas Tech replaced old Scantron test sheets with a newer version that requires students to input their new Tech identification number instead of a Social Security number.

Gary Johnson, manager of production and operations in the department of Technology Operations and Systems Management, said the switch is part of the transition to the new Banner system and should affect professors more than students. The only disadvantage is learning and remembering a new TechID number instead of just a Social Security number, Johnson said.

The only differences between the two forms are that there is a place for the student's TechID number, beginning with a pre-printed letter "R," in place of the previous bubbles for a Social Security number, and bubbles for the Course Request Number, the way Banner identifies a department, course and section.

"Students could care less about the Course Request Number,"

Johnson said.

The initial cost for the change was \$100 per form, which applied to both the red and orange Scantrons.

The orange Scantrons include five answer options and the red Scantrons include 10 options.

"Any time you have a form change," Johnson said, "you'll incur that setup cost."

Any price increases for students lies at the discretion of bookstores that sell the Scantrons. The change has come at no cost to the bookstores.

Kay Rhodes, associate vice chancellor and system chief information officer, said the switch from Social Security numbers to TechID numbers applies to both students and staff, who can get a new TechID card if they so choose.

Social Security numbers still are legally required for staff and students receiving financial aid, Rhodes said, but will not be used as "primary identifiers" at Tech. She also said that selection for the numbers in a student's new TechID number is random and has nothing to do with the Social Security number.

Johnson said the way grades will be posted is more secure and hopes

the new Scantrons will be faster. Grades will be sent electronically to the professors, who then decide if they want to curve the grades and can then post the grades online.

"Instead of papering the wall, the students will have their grade on (Raiderlink)," he said.

The personal test number will not be used unless a professor has a "deal" to use it with the students taking the test, Johnson said.

Although the switch is important, Johnson said if a student walks into a test with an old Scantron, their professor should not turn them away. Students can bubble in eight numbers out of the nine-character TechID number and the test can still be graded. Professors also have been given extra new Scantrons for distribution, he said.

Johnson said the university "prefers to try to make [the switch] as painless as possible."

Some bookstores might not switch out Scantrons, but students can trade in old Scantrons for new Scantrons at the Technology Operations and Systems Management Department.

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Slim hope for survivors of lost ferry

PAREPARE, Indonesia (AP) — Ferry passenger Baco was fast asleep in the Indonesian ship's lower, economy-class deck when sea water rushed in and swept away about 20 children within seconds as he looked on helplessly.

"They were just sucked away," he said, sobbing as he recalled how the boat suddenly capsized before dawn Sunday in a cyclone off the coast of Indonesia's Sulawesi island, killing hundreds aboard.

More than 230 passengers and crew were missing and presumed dead at nightfall Monday, following a day of intense searching amid high waves and strong winds.

At least 33 people have been rescued so far and one body found. But hopes were fading that anyone else would be found alive.

Baco, a father of five who was taking the ferry to Borneo to look for a job with an oil company, described the sudden horror of the scene.

"Many people were still sleeping when the water came to the second deck just above the engine room," said Baco, 40, who like many Indonesians uses only one name.

"Around 20 little children were taken by the sea. I could do nothing," he said, weeping as he described the screams of the drowning.

Baco clung to a piece of plastic foam and drifted for five hours before

joining another man on a life raft. They were later picked up by fishermen.

Another survivor, Sampara Gassing, floated on a tire for two hours before he was rescued.

"I lost hold of my son and my father-in-law when a big wave hit me," said Gassing, 35. "People were screaming, 'Help, help!'"

The bodies of Gassing's 9-year-old son and father-in-law have not been recovered.

A search and rescue operation with four warships, helicopters and aircraft found just one survivor and a woman's body Monday. The mission was hampered by strong winds and waves higher than 13 feet (4 meters), in what officials said were dangerous remnants of tropical Cyclone Charlotte.

There was no sign of the "other passengers and crew who were on board when the ferry sank," said Col. Jaka Santosa, chief of the rescue operation.

"Due to the weather conditions the chance of finding the missing passengers and crew members alive is little, but we still hope," said Transport Minister Jusman Syafii Djalal.

The crew didn't have enough time to sound a warning and the ship sank so quickly that "many passengers jumped into sea without life jackets," he said.

The 700-ton (635-metric ton) Teratai Prima, which was built in 1999 and declared seaworthy after an inspection last month, radioed that it was in trouble just before dawn Sunday. It capsized about 30 miles (50 kilometers) off the coast of western Sulawesi.

The captain — who also survived — was being investigated for allegedly ignoring warnings from the Indonesian weather agency that conditions on the crossing were too dangerous, Djalal said.

Although 267 people were reported aboard the ship, passengers lists in Indonesia are typically inaccurate, with tickets frequently sold on board without being properly tallied.

The accident was most probably caused by extreme weather, rather than technical problems, the National Transportation Safety Committee concluded after initial inquiries, Djalal said.

Boats are a major form of transportation in Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago with more than 17,000 islands. Poor enforcement of safety regulations and overcrowding causes accidents that claim hundreds of lives each year.

In December 2006, a crowded Indonesian ferry broke apart and sank in the Java Sea during a violent storm, killing more than 400 people.

1 killed, 4 injured in Texas A&M Black Hawk crash

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — One person was killed and four others injured when an Army Black Hawk helicopter on a field training exercise crashed Monday into a field on the campus of Texas A&M University.

The Army UH-60 helicopter crashed at about 3:30 p.m. near the Corps of Cadets field on the school's

College Station campus, about 100 miles northwest of Houston. A crew of four from the Army National Guard and an Army lieutenant assigned to the school's ROTC unit were the only ones aboard the Black Hawk, Texas A&M spokesman Lane Stephenson said. No students were among the injured. Classes resume after winter break on Jan. 20.

Melissa Purl, spokeswoman for College Station Medical Center, said three men were taken to that hospital. All three were in critical condition. Another crash victim was at St. Joseph Regional Health Center in Bryan, a spokesman said, but didn't immediately know any details.

Officials did not release the names of the dead and injured.

Witnesses told the Bryan-College Station Eagle they saw five Black Hawk helicopters taking off and landing throughout the day.

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Stocks tumble as oil falls on economic worries

NEW YORK (AP) — So much for the Santa Claus rally.

A run-up at the end of the 2008 that had some investors hoping the worst was over is crumbling on fear that corporate profit reports arriving this week will signal a recovery in the economy is further off than Wall Street had hoped.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell for the fourth session Monday as oil prices tumbled and as worries about the financial sector grew. So far this year, the Dow is down 3.5 percent. Stocks are still up sharply from late November but investors are quick to look for even subtle shifts in the market after the terrible run for

stocks last year.

A drop in oil added to the pessimism Monday. Crude fell 8 percent to a new low for the year as investors bet economic weakness would curb demand. Wall Street normally welcomes falling oil as a boost for consumers who pay less to put gas in their car, but steep drops can touch off deeper fears in the fragile psyche of the market: if oil falls too much it's a sign that the global economy is showing no signs of improvement.

Stocks have lost ground since the Dow rose 19.6 percent from late November to the first part of 2009 — a year-end advance often referred to as a Santa Claus rally. With so many unknowns about when the economy might recover, analysts say most investors prefer to wait until they get a better read on companies' quarterly numbers and, more important, their forecasts.

Wall Street is expecting fourth-quarter and full-year earnings will be particularly bleak, especially after several companies warned last week that they are being hit hard by the recession. Aluminum producer Alcoa Inc., which last week announced it would slash production, fell again Monday after an analyst lowered his rating on the stock. Alcoa said after the market closed that it lost \$1.19 billion during its fourth quarter as demand for aluminum plunged.

POLICE BLOTTER

Chemical explosion in Chemistry building, ice creates on-campus accidents

Jan. 5

At 7:25 a.m., an officer investigated an accident that occurred in the Student Union Building service drive involving a Texas Tech vehicle. No injuries were reported.

At 9:00 a.m., an officer aided the Lubbock Police Department in investigating an accident without injuries, which occurred on the Fourth Street overpass to the Marsha Sharp Freeway.

At 9:30 a.m., an officer investigated an accident in the 2600 block of 4th Street and discovered a non-student that had two outstanding warrants and was driving with an invalid license. The non-student was arrested.

At 10:45 a.m., an officer documented a vehicle sliding into another vehicle due to ice in the R-19 Sneed Residence Hall parking lot.

At 10:47 a.m., an officer investigated an accident without injuries, which occurred at Student Wellness Entry Station. A post was struck at the entry station.

At 7:30 p.m., an officer investigated burglary in Coleman Residence Hall. A television was stolen.

Jan. 6

At 5:30 a.m., an officer aided a student at Sneed Residence Hall. The student was transported for further evaluation for a possible suicide attempt.

At 7:40 a.m., an officer investigated a traffic accident at the intersection of Tech Parkway and 10th Street. No injuries were reported.

At 8:50 a.m., an officer documented information on unwanted e-mails sent to an office in West Hall.

At 5:14 p.m., an officer investigated a chemical explosion which occurred in the Chemistry building. The Lubbock Fire Department and Emergency Health and Safety responded to the scene. A student received minor burns and was transported to the Covenant Medical Center emergency room for treatment.

Jan. 7

At 6:00 a.m., an officer investigated criminal mischief to a vehicle on the first floor of the Flint Avenue Parking Garage. Motor oil was poured in the interior of the vehicle.

At 3:37 p.m., an officer investigated theft of mountain bicycle from the bicycle rack located on the north side of the University Library.

At 4:07 p.m., an officer investigated theft of a projection screen from Holden Hall.

At 11:30 p.m., an officer investigated a student that appeared to be looking into vehicles in the Z-1B parking lot. The student was arrested for possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and alcohol by a minor following suspicious activity.

Jan. 8

At 10:47 a.m., an officer investigated a burglary of vehicle in the R-14 parking lot. A Tech hang tag was taken from a vehicle. The vehicle was not secured at the time of the theft.

At 2:10 p.m., an officer investigated a traffic accident without injuries in the C-1 north parking lot.

At 5:33 p.m., an officer detained a student in the 2800 block of Drive of Champions for an observed traffic violation. He received a citation for possession of alcohol by minor.

At 9:15 p.m., an officer aided a student at the Carpenter/Wells Residence Hall by transporting the student the University Medical Center emergency room. The student voluntarily requested to meet with a doctor.

Jan. 9

At 1:36 a.m., an officer investigated physical altercation between students that occurred off campus. One of the students received a bloody nose as a result of the altercation.

At 3:16 a.m., an officer investigated a theft on the west side of Murdough Residence Hall. \$90 was taken from an unattended wallet.

At 10:30 a.m., an officer documented an altered Tech parking permit at the Traffic and Parking Office.

At 11:38 a.m., an officer investigated an accident in the C-11 parking lot that involved a Tech vehicle.

At 12:58 p.m., an officer investigated criminal mischief in the Z-4P parking lot. The driver's side mirror was knocked off a car and the driver's side door was scratched.

At 8:05 p.m., an officer arrested a student for public intoxication in the lobby of Gordon Residence Hall.

At 8:05 p.m., an officer detained a student for public intoxication, which occurred in the lobby of Gordon Residence Hall. The student was released pending the filing of charges. The student remained at UMC for treatment of alcohol poisoning.

Jan. 10

At 12:47 a.m., an officer investigated damaged light fixtures and ceiling tiles in the sixth floor hallway of Weymouth Residence Hall.

At 3:44 a.m., an officer detained a student for public intoxication in the Z-5B parking lot. The student was released pending the filing of charges.

At 8:56 p.m., an officer investigated a traffic accident, which occurred at the intersection of Texas Tech Parkway and 10th Street. No injuries were reported.

Jan. 11

At 1:29 a.m., an officer ar-

rested a student for driving while intoxicated in the 700 block of Flint Avenue.

At 3:07 a.m., an officer investigated criminal mischief, which occurred on the 3rd floor of Sneed Residence Hall. A fire extinguisher was discharged in the hallway damaging the carpet.

At 3:28 a.m., an officer arrested a student in the seventh floor men's restroom of Weymouth Residence Hall for public intoxication. The student was taken to the Lubbock County Jail.

At 4:45 p.m., an officer detained two students for minor in possession of alcohol, which occurred at Chitwood Residence Hall. Both individuals were issued a citation and released.

At 5:52 p.m., an officer investigated a report of criminal mischief, which occurred at Weymouth Residence Hall in which a door was damaged.

At 9:08 p.m., an officer detained a student in Coleman Residence Hall. The student was issued a Lubbock County citation for possession of drug paraphernalia and then released.

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Biden meets with Iraqi leaders, four Baghdad bombings kill 10

BAGHDAD (AP) — Vice President-elect Joe Biden conferred Monday with Iraqi leaders after a trip to Afghanistan, capping a tour of U.S. battlefronts on a day when police reported bombings killed 10 people in Baghdad.

The four attacks were a reminder that major violence may still return, complicating the incoming administration's plans to draw down troops in Iraq and focus more attention on Afghanistan.

Biden, a frequent visitor to Iraq as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, met with President Jalal Talabani, Vice President Adel Abdul-Mahdi and deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh after arriving in Baghdad.

U.S. officials issued no public statement.

But Abdul-Mahdi said they discussed implementation of a security agreement that took effect on Jan. 1. The accord sets a three-year timeframe for the full withdrawal of American forces.

The Iraqis also stressed the importance of enhancing U.S.-Iraqi cooperation in fields other than security, the Shiite vice president said in a statement.

For his part, Biden renewed the U.S. commitment toward Iraq and stressed the need to continue developing state institutions, according to the statement.

Biden and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham had dinner with the vice president-elect's son, Beau Biden, and other members of the Delaware National Guard serving in Iraq, Biden's staff said.

Biden's trip to Iraq followed visits to Pakistan and Afghanistan this weekend, a little over a week before the Jan. 20 inauguration.

President-elect Barack Obama has promised to end the nearly 6-year-old war in Iraq and refocus U.S. military efforts on Afghanistan, where al-Qaida-linked militants and the Taliban are making a comeback after initial defeats in the U.S.-led invasion of 2001.

But Obama has promised to consult his commanders and the Iraqi government before ordering withdrawals.

American commanders worry that a quick departure could trigger more violence because Iraqi security forces may not be ready to take on more responsibility.

Although violence has declined sharply in Iraq, the U.S. military has warned that security gains are fragile and extremists are likely to step up

attacks ahead of this month's provincial elections.

During his farewell press conference Monday, President George W. Bush said he was not certain whether democracy will survive in Iraq.

"The question is, in the long run, will this democracy survive, and that's going to be a question for future presidents."

GEORGE W. BUSH
U.S. President

"The question is, in the long run, will this democracy survive, and that's going to be a question for future presidents," he said.

Monday's spate of bombings largely targeted Iraqi security forces, which have increasingly been targeted as they take the lead in military operations. U.S. troops are assuming more of an advisory role under the new security agreement.

The attacks began when two vehicles parked about 50 yards apart exploded in quick succession as a police patrol passed a bakery in the mainly Shiite area of New Baghdad.

Police and hospital officials said four people were killed and nine others wounded. The dead included a policeman who died in the hospital.

"I rushed out with others to see three bodies on the ground in pools of blood," said Mohammed Nasir, 55, who runs a takeout food store in New Baghdad. "There've been several bombings before here, and we're afraid violence will come back."

The U.S. military said the Iraqi police were hit when explosives planted on a truck detonated as they rushed to the scene of the first blast. The U.S. military gave a lower casualty toll, saying one Iraqi policeman was killed and two civilians were wounded.

In western Baghdad, a roadside bomb struck a military convoy with a truck carrying weapons in the mainly Sunni area of Yarmouk, killing three Iraqi soldiers and wounding four bystanders, police said.

Two other roadside bombs apparently aimed at Iraqi army and police patrols elsewhere in the capital killed three people and wounded six others, police officials said.

The Iraqi officials all spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information.

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DHS approves \$450M national bioterror lab in Kan.

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The Department of Homeland Security has approved a site at Kansas State University for a \$450 million lab to study livestock diseases and some of the world's most dangerous biological threats.

DHS released its final record of the approval Monday, confirming a decision announced in December to build the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility at the Manhattan, Kan., campus to replace an aging lab at Plum Island, N.Y.

Sites in Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas were also considered for the new lab, where animal diseases and other potential bioterrorism threats will be researched.

The federal agency said factors in its decision included the proximity of the site to Kansas State's research labs and its colleges of agriculture and veterinary medicine.

Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback, a member of the Senate Ap-

ropriations Committee, said he will work to ensure the project is fully funded. The state has agreed to provide more than \$105 million in infrastructure improvements at the site to cover additional costs.

"This is great news. NBAF is a great win for Kansas and Kansas is a great win for NBAF," said Brownback, a Republican.

The laboratory is to be built on 59 acres at Kansas State near the Biosecurity Research Institute, where similar activities are conducted on plant and animal diseases.

University officials have said that the lab could conduct a portion of the research that will be done at NBAF until that facility is completed, which is expected to be by 2015.

Republican Sen. Pat Roberts called the decision "one of the most significant investments to the Kansas economy in state history."

"With this new lab, Kansas will cement its reputation as the nation's leader in plant and animal health

research and the biosciences," Roberts said. "We will reap the benefits of a cutting edge industry while protecting the nation's food supply and agricultural economy for years to come."

Critics of NBAF raised concerns about the safety of people living near the lab, including in on-campus housing. They also said thousands of head of livestock in the region would be vulnerable if pathogens escaped from the facility.

Officials in Texas and Mississippi have threatened litigation over the decision.

Last week, Texas Gov. Rick Perry called the selection process unfair because his state's legislators weren't in session in 2008 and unable to consider a financial package to augment the state's bid.

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour said last month when the initial recommendation was made that the process was flawed and that his state should have been awarded the project.

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Controversy good for human society

The noble oppositionist, the rebel, the "antagonist" if you will, seems to be looked upon with substantial contempt in our world by many of those in the correct circle of society. Yet rarely to never do those whom hold the majority opinion stop to think to themselves that, essentially, they too are slaves to the views in which they do not look upon with approval.

The brilliant intellectual Christopher Hitchens has coined the term "contrarian" for anyone who attempts to be and is unorthodox to whatever ideologies are considered to be "univocal understandings."

I am a recent transfer student to Texas Tech and am humbly obliged to have the opportunity to write for our school's Opinions section. I am not, nor do I ever wish to be considered, the foremost knowledge on anything. I also happily accept any earnest criticism that may come in my direction.

The reason I have chosen to write about the importance of opposition is because I believe it furthers our comprehensions of different viewpoints, as well as implores upon us the diverse beliefs that we do not share in a way that should humiliate us to learn.

People — myself included — hold diverse perspectives upon matters such as religion, political affiliation, ethics and in some cases, correct morality. After researching the facts, I found it astonishing to learn that the United States population fluctuates between 4 to 5 percent of the world's population. This was a lesson in humbleness — rarely do I wake in the morning and consider to myself how small I truly am.

Far too often I neglect to remember how blessed I am to have been born into a lifestyle with

Parker Mcmillan



running water, accessible clothing and food, as well as opportunities to educate and enlighten myself through vigorous academic training. Even more disheartening is the shocking truth that 80 percent of the world's population lives on less than \$1 U.S. a day.

"In as much as we can hope to pursue to the concept of human solidarity, it cannot and will not be done when we are ignorant to those ideologies we do not see eye to eye with."

Now, I share these criteria with you not because I wish to discuss our "luck" (if you wish to call it as such), but rather because it is immeasurably important for us to understand these things.

Likewise, it is also important for us to understand as much as we can about beliefs that we do not hold ourselves. Examples of this would be that Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism and most notably, Confucianism all existed prior to Christianity. That some of the "prophets", such as Krishna, Mythra, Dionysius and even the Egyptian god Horus, were all said to have been crucified, dead

and resurrected after three days. (And these "messiahs" all existed prior to Jesus of Nazareth.)

Or perhaps it is more intriguing for us to know that the illegal drug marijuana is not only known to ease pain for medicinal purposes, specifically chemotherapy patients, but also it is known to help glaucoma — a disease that can cause blindness.

In as much as we can hope to pursue to the concept of human solidarity, it cannot and will not be done when we are ignorant to those ideologies we do not see eye to eye with. We call it "cherry-picking" when someone attacks the most fundamental of our strong held beliefs. But if there was never a Rosa Parks, or a Fyodor Dostoevsky, a Solzhenitsyn or a Gandhi, how else would we have overcome some of the darker periods in our human discourse?

It is for the sake of dissidence that we should allow people their "unalienable rights" as the Founding Fathers called them. Not because we agree necessarily or because it's unpopular, but because it is one of the pinnacle aspects of equipping our minds with knowledge. I close with the words of Thomas Paine, in his Age of Reason:

"I have always strenuously supported the right of every man to his opinion, however different that opinion might be to mine. He who denies to another this right, makes a slave of himself to his present opinion because he precludes himself to the right of changing it. The most formidable weapon against errors of every kind is reason. I have never used any other, and I trust I never shall."

■ **Mcmillan is a sophomore English and philosophy major from Abilene. E-mail him at parker.mcmillan@ttu.edu.**

Where Bush went wrong

I remember when my "Countdown to Bush's Last Day" calendar said that it was over three-hundred days until the end of President George W. Bush's regime. The calendar on my wall now says that it is one week until Bush leaves office. One week couldn't come soon enough.

I wish it would be acceptable for me to just rant and rave about why I think Bush was an absolute disgrace to America. However, that would not be enough. Instead of just remembering his reign over the American people as a total failure, we should look at the reasons it will be seen as such. By doing this, hopefully we can avoid letting this happen to our great nation again.

According to a video posted on The Huffington Post Jan. 5, Republican National Committee Chairman Mike Duncan believes that Bush's biggest failure was the "prosecution of the war." In the same video, former Maryland Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele spouted a list of Bush failures, including the Bush administration's "failure to communicate the war."

For the first, and perhaps only time, I agree with these top Republicans. The war in Iraq was conducted in a way that caused a complete disaster.

The first mistake in Iraq was acting unilaterally. In doing so, the United States has isolated many key allies, including places like Indonesia. The New York Times reported, "The foreign minister of Indonesia, a critical ally of the United States in the campaign against terrorism," believes that unilaterally acting in Iraq has caused the United States to set a precedent that other countries might soon follow.

In a speech given at a conference organized by the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific, the foreign minister of Indonesia, Hassan Wirajuda, spoke about "relations between the United States and Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country, which are said to be at the lowest point in more than 40

Mackenzie Maxwell



years." This is just one example of how acting alone in Iraq has isolated the United States from many key allies.

The fact of the matter is the United States now has trouble mobilizing the United Nations and getting monetary or military support from any single country.

Not only has waging a war alone isolated America, it has also left us with the entire bill. Because we have taken the entire bill, our country has a huge federal deficit. According to the Associated Press,

"I wish it would be acceptable for me to just rant and rave about why I think President Bush was an absolute disgrace to America. However, that would not be enough."

"the latest estimate (of the federal deficit) is \$1.2 trillion." This number is astounding, especially considering that the AP also says Mr. Bush inherited "a record \$236 billion surplus."

This leads me to the next place Bush went wrong: the economy. Earlier this month, The Telegraph, a Britain-based paper, reported, "America's economy has been assailed by the near-collapse of its banking system triggered by the sharp falls in U.S. house prices." Many Americans find themselves asking what triggered the housing

and banking crises. The answer is deregulation. According to the Bradenton Herald, "Weak regulation was a major factor behind the collapse of mortgage finance last year, which unleashed a housing crisis and a deep freeze in credit markets, tossing the world's largest economy into recession."

When Bush ran for president, he ran on the principle of smaller government, aka deregulation. When he was elected, Bush actually kept that campaign promise, and regulations on the housing and banking industries became lax. Putting these facts together, it is easy to see how the Bush administration's deregulation was a major factor in the economic collapse that has affected most Americans.

This collapse has ruined the lives of many by causing millions of people to lose jobs. According to the BBC, "The U.S. jobless rate rose to 7.2 percent in December, the highest in 16 years." The total number of jobs lost in 2008 was 2.6 million. That's 2.6 million families that are now unsure of how to pay the bills. That is 2.6 million families wondering how to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads. All of this came about because of Bush's deregulation.

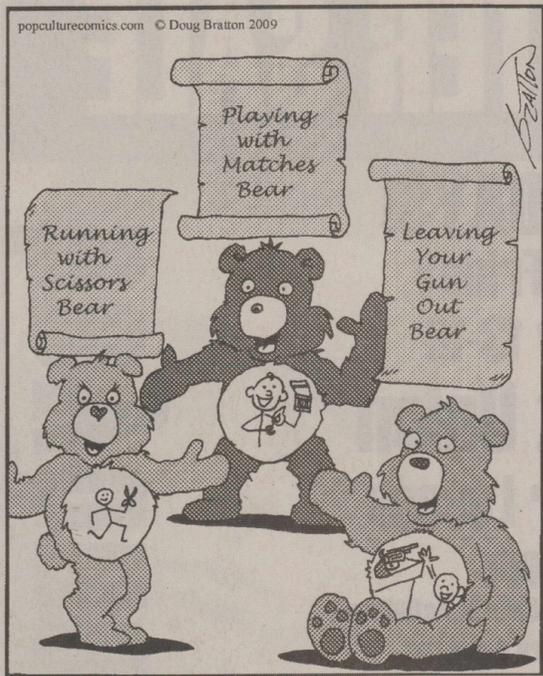
These are only some of the things Bush has done to make our country worse off than it was when he became president. Bush has made this country alienated from its allies while picking up the tab for two wars. In doing so, he created a federal deficit of record amounts.

Furthermore, Bush and his fellow Republicans have practiced a philosophy of deregulation that has caused the greatest economic collapse since the Great Depression.

My hope is that America will not only recover from the horrible things Bush has caused, but also that we will learn from the mistakes that have been made in the last eight years.

Finally, may President Bush live forever remembering what he has done.

■ **Maxwell is a freshman broadcast journalism major from Royse City. E-mail her at mackenzie.maxwell@ttu.edu.**



The Careless Bears

Bush, Congress share blame for war in Iraq

By **MICHAEL LEWIS**
THE LANTERN (OHIO STATE U.)

As our nation ushers in the Obama era, analysts and voters alike are reflecting on the last eight years. We've been in Iraq for five years and counting. The United States has spent roughly \$550 billion and lost more than 4,000 of its finest men and women. Was the decision to invade Iraq a mistake?

If it was, then it wasn't just Bush's mistake, it was the entire government's. Congress authorized the invasion of Iraq in late 2002. An outright majority of the Democratic Caucus in the Senate voted in favor of authorization, including Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, John Kerry and Harry Reid. Yet still we are bombarded with the rallying cry of "Bush lied, people died." I've yet to spot a "Bush and a majority of Democratic senators lied, people died" bumper sticker. I sup-

pose it doesn't quite roll off the tongue, but at least it would be accurate.

These Democrats in Congress saw the same intelligence reports that President Bush saw, and these reports indicated that Saddam Hussein's regime possessed weapons of mass destruction and had something of a burgeoning friendship with al-Qaeda. The first of these points proved to be incorrect, and for that we can blame the intelligence community. But it's easy to see where Bush and Congress were coming from.

Our nation had just been the victim of a major terrorist attack at the hands of al-Qaeda, and then lawmakers were confronted with intelligence that Hussein was a friend of this organization and possessed WMDs. This was the same man who had perpetrated several chemical attacks against his own nation's Kurds, including one attack that killed 5,000.

Would it have been a wise decision, given what we then knew, to say, "Well, let's just see what happens?" We had

already seen what could happen, and we were determined to keep it from happening again. The government did the best it could with what it knew at the time.

But what about refusing to leave once we knew of our mistake? Was Bush wrong for not budging? Think about the consequences of retreating from Iraq before its military was ready to fend for itself. Not only would this have enabled militias to turn Iraq into a terror-sponsoring nation, but it would have exposed the Iraqi people to a bloodbath.

Think about Vietnam. A Democratic congress cut off funding to an unpopular war, and protesters hugged in the streets while Southeast Asia was thrown into chaos. The North Vietnamese killed tens of thousands of civilians and imprisoned hundreds of thousands. An unchecked Communist government in neighboring Cambodia killed 1.5 million people. Liberals remember the ecstasy of "fighting the power;" conservatives remember film

footage of South Vietnamese civilians clinging to the American helicopters that were the last to leave the region.

President Bush was determined not to let this happen in Iraq. Although his initial military strategy was flawed, he showed open-mindedness when he changed course and executed "the surge," which has, by all accounts, been extremely successful. Through sheer will Bush overrode a liberal Congress and has brought us to the precipice of victory.

While Democrats who had supported the war backed off in the face of polls, Bush was willing to weather a hailstorm of vitriol in order to preserve our national security and deliver freedom and stability to the Iraqi people. He is a living testament to a very important principle: what's right is not always what's popular.

President Bush chose the path that was harder but wiser, and while his own country doesn't seem to admire such courage, the Iraqi people will never forget it.

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Vehicle maintenance vital for winter driving conditions

By **GARRETT SALZMAN**
STAFF WRITER

Winterizing a vehicle is a simple but potentially life-saving process.

Felix Bryant, who works at Scott's Complete Auto Care, said there are two very important tasks no driver should neglect to do when preparing for cold or icy conditions.

He recommends that automobile owners check their vehicle's tire pressure and add antifreeze mix during the winter months.

Bryant suggested several other inexpensive and effective ways to make a vehicle safer:

- Do a visual check to ensure the engine belts are in good condition
 - Make sure the battery cable is snug on the terminal and grounded
 - Replace engine oil with a low viscosity oil for cold weather
 - Buy an emergency case
- "But if you don't do anything else,

make sure you check your tire pressure and tread and have antifreeze in your car," Bryant said. "That should be the bare minimum for all drivers. That will keep your engine running and your tires gripping."

Bryant said all cars should contain a half antifreeze and half water mixture in the radiator fluid reservoir and tires should be filled to their recommended pressure and have enough tread left to maintain traction.

Cindi Garrett, who has been a driving instructor for 12 years, said it is just as important to drive safely once a car has been winterized.

"We teach our kids a two-hour discussion involving adverse driving conditions," said the owner of The Drive Trainers driving school. "Even if your car is prepared for cold weather, you still have to be cautious in cold or icy conditions."

Garrett said some instructors recommend driving four to six seconds behind other cars in icy weather,

but she recommends drivers trail other vehicles by at least 10 seconds. Also, she said drivers need to shift to neutral when approaching stops, maintain good traction and remain aware at all times.

Even with these precautions, she said students may find themselves in accidents because they do not leave themselves enough time to get where they are going.

"Students need to stop worrying about their cell call or being three minutes late for school," Garrett said. "If students focus on the drive at task, they'll be better prepared to deal with adverse conditions."

Bryant said improved driver awareness should be required in adverse driving conditions.

"A lot of people think they're number one on the road and don't need to pay attention to what they're doing, and they're the worst," Bryant said. "They're the ones that cause the problems."

garrett.salzman@ttu.edu



MECHANICS CHRIS ARREGUIN and Freddy Gomez change the oil in a vehicle Tuesday at Scott's Complete Auto Care located at 7002 Indiana Ave.

PHOTO BY RUBEN CASTILLO/The Daily Torreador

Yale professor to write Obama's inaugural poem

By **ESTER ZUCKERMAN**
YALE DAILY NEWS (YALE U.)

Last semester, Elizabeth Alexander '84 introduced the presidential race into the curriculum for her African American Studies course "Freedom and Identity in Black Cultures." She added President-elect Barack Obama's book, "Dreams from My Father," to her syllabus and invited guest lecturers to speak about the significance of race.

And then Obama won. "It was really a terrific convergence," Alexander said. "To have the big moment itself and then to have a class the next day."

But when Obama takes office on Jan. 20, Alexander will not be a bystander. The inaugural committee asked her to write and deliver a poem at the inauguration ceremony. Only three other poets have read at presidential inaugurations: Robert Frost at John F. Kennedy's, Maya Angelou at Bill Clinton's LAW '73 first, and

Miller Williams at his second. Alexander, a 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist, is the youngest poet to be bestowed with this honor.

While Alexander did not start writing the poem until after she got the phone call from the inaugural committee on Dec. 17, she said the language for the poem started forming as she followed Obama's campaign.

"The whole campaign and election have put me in this zone of thought," she said.

The choice to feature Alexander at the inauguration—while the previous two ceremonies lacked poets—embodies the spirit of this historic election.

"Obama's decision to give precious moments of the inaugural occasion to poetry is a signal that he believes art has an important place in modern life, important enough to be part of this occasion," Penelope Laurans, associate dean of Yale College and special assistant to University President

Richard Levin, wrote in an e-mail to the News.

Laurans, who also lectures in the English Department, added that choosing an African American poet, Alexander, also has symbolic value.

Next week, Alexander will read an occasional poem, a task she has tackled before. She has been both Yale and Harvard's Phi Beta Kappa poet, has read at some of her friends' weddings, and wrote a poem for former Yale Dean Richard Brodhead '68 GRD '72 to read at his Baccalaureate address about seven years ago. Brodhead, now president of Duke University, taught Alexander in a non-fiction prose writing class when she was a sophomore, he said, not anticipating that poetry would become her primary genre. Brodhead said she wrote an "ABC" poem, each verse beginning with a letter of the alphabet, which he called "a wonderfully lively, witty poem."

George Washington U. students launch online dictionary

By **MADELINE O'CONNOR**
THE GW HATCHET (GEORGE WASHINGTON U.)

When Ian Balina, an experienced Web designer, and Asad Mahmood, a middle school spelling bee champion who speaks four languages, met on the first day of their freshmen engineering class at George Washington University, they had no idea their combined interests would lead them to technological innovation.

This semester the two juniors created Leximo, an online dictionary that they hope will eventually feature user-generated definitions of words from every language.

"What Wikipedia did to Britannica, I guess we're trying to do to Webster," Balina said.

With the tagline "The World's First Social Dictionary," Leximo reflects its creators wish to bring together and engage people from all over the world on their site.

"Dictionaries like Webster are kind of like old in a way, so we're trying to bring user interaction into a dictionary," Balina said. "I guess the main point is that our site is going to be global."

Leximo users will contribute to the dictionary by adding words in any language. Even languages that use non-English characters will be input

using the English alphabet. Users will rank the different definitions for each word, so when someone looks up a word they will be able to see the most popular definition.

Both Balina and Mahmood have global roots. Balina was born in Uganda, and Mahmood, whose parents are from India, communicates on the Internet with friends in India to practice his language skills. Mahmood is also the recipient of a Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Scholarship.

Prior to their current endeavor, the Leximo partners have worked on several school projects together.

Promise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

engage in sexual activity, you never have to deal with the physical, psychological and emotional complications. However, only abstinence and virginity training will not solve the problem."

Walker said the Indiana Avenue Baptist Church college ministry attempts to provide training to help teach college students to resist the temptation to have premarital sex.

"We realize what a hormonal time college is," he said, "and we try to help both genders maintain the purity we believe Jesus wants for them."

Wood said she believed her peers could benefit from both abstinence and birth control training. She said that many of her friends who have taken virginity pledges have had premarital sex.

"I think a lot of them went through the transition of going to college and changed their beliefs," she said. "I know a lot of them were serious about the pledges and ended up having sex. Some people slip into a mentality where sex isn't a big deal, or they convince themselves it's OK because they love who they're with."

Some people are not going to remain abstinent, Wood said, and those who are going to engage in premarital sex should be as safe as possible.

Trejos said many students who take virginity pledges are not educated on

what constitutes sex, which makes it difficult for them to make educated decisions about their sexual activity. She said these pledges are limited because many students do not understand what their pledge means, and many students engage in risky activities they do not consider intercourse.

Trejos said the Teen Straight Talk program attempts to empower parents with information so they can help to educate their children based on their own beliefs. She said this is achieved

through speaking with parents and students at events designed to create an understanding between the parents and their children.

"The Lubbock school district is restricted in what they can teach by what has been mandated nationally, and we don't want to step on any toes," Trejos said. "We respect everyone's own religious and personal beliefs. But we do want to compliment what the kids learn in school with more information."

Wood said her decision to remain

Lubbock native to discuss presidents, cowboy culture

The National Ranching Heritage Center will host a discussion of cowboy culture in presidential politics at 7 p.m. Jan. 15 in the main gallery of the ranching center.

The discussion, titled "Black Hat, White Hat: The Good, The Bad and The Enduring Image," will be led by author and educator B. Bryon Price, a Lubbock native and expert in Western culture.

"Cowboy became more than an occupation," he said in a statement. "The word symbolizes action, individualism and masculinity. It also

came to imply character and behavior embodying both positive and negative connotations."

Price will speak about the influence cowboy culture has had on different U.S. presidents and how the presidency became "intertwined with popular culture's image of the cowboy hero."

Emily Arellano, education program manager at the center, said the speech will span from Theodore Roosevelt to George W. Bush, and Price will also talk about the future presidential administrations and pos-

sible ties to cowboy culture.

"I know people will not always want to sit and hear a forty-five minute speech, but I think it will be really interesting," Arellano said. "I am really excited to hear him speak. Anyone interested in political science or history would really enjoy this."

She said the event is free to everyone, but anyone interested will need to make a reservation by calling her at (806) 742-0497 ext. 228.

caylor.ballinger@ttu.edu

Study: Lack of glucose could cause Alzheimer's

By **GANESH THIPPESWAMY**
DAILY NORTHWESTERN (NORTHWESTERN U.)

A new study from Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine has provided insight into the cause of Alzheimer's disease.

Focusing on sporadic Alzheimer's disease, the study revealed that a slow, long-term deficiency of glucose and oxygen to the brain may provide a link to what triggers the disease, said Robert Vassar, a professor at Feinberg who conducted the research.

The disease, mainly observed in senior citizens, is responsible for the rapid deterioration of a number of cognitive abilities. About 26.6 million people suffered from Alzheimer's worldwide in 2006.

"We don't understand the cause of SAD, only that it is related to age," said Vassar, who specializes in cell and molecular biology.

The experiment sought to inves-

tigate how the aging process may be linked to the onset of sticky, fiber-like clumps of proteins known as amyloid plaques that are responsible for brain cell death.

Naturally, blood flow decreases to the brain as people age, which, over time, starves the brain of the oxygen and glucose needed for it to perform properly, Vassar said. This deprivation of glucose, a sugar that is the principal source of energy for most living things, initiates a biochemical response to offset the stress experi-

enced by brain cells.

This deprivation, however, is "not enough to cause injury, but is enough to make the cells stressed out," Vassar said.

During these periods of stress, brain cells secrete an enzyme known as BACE1 as a defensive mechanism, but the process generates a protein that could lead to plaque formation later in life.

"The enzyme BACE helps cells survive temporary stress," Vassar said.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

1/13/09

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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Drink Specials

Mon: German & British Pint Special

Tue: Whisky River Drink Specials

Wed: All-American Micro brew Specials

Thu: White Lightning Top shelf liquors on special

Fri, Sat & Sun: 3.00 Wells 3.00 Domestic

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BIZ WEEKLY

Lawyer: Winehouse's husband to file for divorce

LONDON (AP) — A lawyer for Amy Winehouse's jailed husband said Monday his client will be seeking a divorce on the grounds of the soul diva's alleged infidelity.

he had been instructed by Blake Fielder-Civil "to commence divorce proceedings on the grounds of Amy's adultery."

he was arrested six months later over an assault. In July he was sentenced to 27 months in jail for beating up a bar manager and then offering him a bribe to keep quiet about it.

MTV to broadcast Obama's 'Youth Inaugural Ball'

WASHINGTON (AP) — MTV will be broadcasting from President-elect Barack Obama's "Youth Inaugural Ball" on Jan. 20, the cable network announced Sunday.

at the event, one of 10 official inaugural balls. The Presidential Inaugural Committee has said the ball for people ages 18-35 will celebrate "the role young Americans can play to serve their communities." Tickets cost \$75, half the price of most inaugural ball tickets.

MTV said the program will also include performances by "top recording artists," although the inaugural committee has yet to announce them.

Fergie and Josh Duhamel wed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Dutchess is a bride. Her manager says Fergie and Josh Duhamel have been married.

Manager William Derella said by e-mail that the 33-year-old "Fergalicious" singer-actress, whose

real name is Stacy Ferguson, and the 36-year-old "Transformers" actor were married Saturday at the Church Estates Vineyards in Malibu.

The pair had been dating since 2004 and were engaged in 2007.

The Black Eyed Peas singer launched her solo career in 2006 with the hit album "The Dutchess" — the title is a misspelled variation of the title formerly held by Sarah "Fergie" Ferguson, the Duchess of York.

Tony Shalhoub looks to life after 'Monk'

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Actor Tony Shalhoub says as much as he loves Adrian Monk, eight years portraying the obsessive-compulsive private investigator is enough for him.

The second half of the seventh season of "Monk" began airing Friday on the USA Network, and the

Green Bay native will start shooting the last season in March.

"It's a great job, and I work with great people, and I really enjoy doing the character, but I think eight years is enough," he said in a phone interview Thursday.

"I think we've kind of explored all the avenues we could possibly

cover, and as much as I like the show and working on it, I really do want to think about moving onto whatever the next chapter might be."

Shalhoub also produces "Monk" and said he wants to produce more after the detective show ends.

Ferrell says his Bush on Broadway will surprise

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP) — Will Ferrell says audiences should expect the unexpected from his upcoming one-man Broadway show and HBO special about President George W. Bush.

Ferrell, known for his Bush impersonation on "Saturday Night Live," said Friday there's nothing

derivative about the production. He says it will surprise people with its twists and turns and what it has to say about Bush.

Executive producer Adam McKay says the show aims to be funny but also hold the Bush administration's feet to the fire.

McKay and Ferrell spoke to the

Television Critics meeting in the Los Angeles area by satellite from New York.

"Will Ferrell: You're Welcome America. A Final Night with George W. Bush" is set to begin previews Jan. 20 and open Feb. 5. It will air live on HBO March 14.

R. Kelly no longer trapped in marriage

NEW YORK (AP) — R. Kelly can officially bump and grind with whom-ever he chooses: He has finalized his divorce from his wife.

Kelly and his former wife, Andrea, confirmed they were officially divorced after 11 years of marriage.

A joint statement on Thursday said

they had reached an amicable resolution concerning all issues related to their marriage and will share joint custody of their three children.

Court grants Love Hewitt restraining order

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jennifer Love Hewitt has won a restraining order against a 62-year-old man she says has been stalking her.

Court records show a judge in Burbank, Calif. on Monday

granted Hewitt's request for a three-year restraining order against David Nolte. The actress stated in a court petition that Nolte recently sold his home in Colorado and moved to Los Angeles to be closer to Hewitt.

Documents also include dozens of letters allegedly sent by Nolte, describing violent and sexual fantasies Hewitt.

The actress wrote that she became more fearful of Nolte after he appeared at her mother's house in late December. Court records do not indicate whether Nolte has an attorney.

Hewitt currently stars on CBS' "The Ghost Whisperer."



ANDREW CRITES, A sophomore business finance major from Lubbock, flips through posters at the Beyond the Wall poster sale, Monday in the Student Union Building Ballroom. The poster sale will continue until Friday.

'Slumdog' wins big at the Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Heath Ledger was honored with a Golden Globe, and Kate Winslet came away with two. But the top dog was "Slumdog Millionaire," the Bollywood fantasy that took four awards, including best drama.

With its awards Sunday, "Slumdog Millionaire" emerged as the potential film to beat at the Academy Awards, an unexpected position for a movie with a cast of unknowns and a story set among orphans and criminals on the streets of Mumbai.

"Is this really happening to me? My first film wins four Golden Globes? I just can't believe it," co-star Freida Pinto gushed to reporters backstage as she stood among her collaborators, including Danny Boyle, who won the best-director prize.

A critical darling and solid box-office success, "Slumdog Millionaire" knocked off best-drama nominees that included Brad Pitt's "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio's "Revolutionary Road" and Ron Howard's "Frost/Nixon."

"They have this expression — which I hope I pronounce correctly — in Hindi, which is when you do something, you should do it from the heart," Boyle said backstage. "The film was made from the heart, and we never expected to be here, and it's incredible that we are."

Best screenplay and musical score

prizes also went to "Slumdog Millionaire," the story of an orphan boy who rises from terrible hardship to become a champ on India's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," all the while trying to reunite with a lost love from his childhood.

"Benjamin Button," "Frost/Nixon" and Meryl Streep's "Doubt" all tied for the lead with five nominations and all went away empty-handed.

Woody Allen's Spanish romance "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" won for best musical or comedy film.

The night belonged mainly to non-A-listers and films below the radar.

Sally Hawkins, a British actress virtually unknown in America, was chosen best actress in a comedy or musical as an eternal optimist in "Happy-Go-Lucky." Colin Farrell took the comedy or musical actor prize as a hit man in "In Bruges," a little-seen movie released last winter. Mickey Rourke returned from the wilderness to earn the Globe for best dramatic actor in "The Wrestler," a film whose comeback theme paralleled the actor's own journey back from Hollywood pariah.

"There ain't no quit in me," said Rourke, whose role as a washed-up wrestler with one last shot at glory re-established him as a viable star after he wrecked his career with bad behavior in the 1990s. "I didn't care about repercussions, and I paid the

price for that. It took 13, 14 years for the doors to open up again."

"The Wrestler" also won the best-song Globe for Bruce Springsteen, who wrote the film's title tune.

Winslet, previously nominated five times without winning at both the Globes and Oscars, won for her role as a woman in a crumbling marriage in "Revolutionary Road" and as a former Nazi concentration camp guard in "The Reader."

"Revolutionary Road" was directed by Winslet's husband, Sam Mendes, and reunited her with her "Titanic" co-star Leonardo DiCaprio.

To DiCaprio, Winslet said: "I've loved you for 13 years and your performance in this film is nothing short of spectacular." To Mendes, she added: "Thank you for directing this film, babe, and thank you for killing us every single day and really enjoying us actually being in such horrific pain."

There was little surprise in the supporting-actor category. Virtually since he died nearly a year ago, Ledger has been the name on everyone's lips for that award.

Ledger won the prize for his diabolical turn as the Joker in the Batman blockbuster "The Dark Knight," raising his chances to become only the second actor to win a posthumous Oscar. The first was Peter Finch, who won the best-actor Oscar for 1976's "Network."

U. Toledo medical student researches case of sleep e-mailing

By MELISSA CHI

THE INDEPENDENT COLLEGIAN (U. TOLEDO)

A woman sent an e-mail invitation to her friends "to sort this hell hole out" and requested they bring only wine and caviar to dinner, all while

she was asleep.

This was the first case reported in medical literature of sleep e-mailing, said Fouzia Siddiqui, a neurology resident at the University of Toledo Medical Center. This uncommon activity performed while sleeping caught the world media's attention in the past few months.

Siddiqui conducted research on the topic at the end of 2005, when she was still working at the New Jersey Neuroscience Institute in the JFK Hospital, and the journal Sleep Medicine published the case in late 2008.

She said this particular patient, a 44-year-old woman, was an insomniac and came to Siddiqui's clinic to seek medical attention as she had episodes of sleepwalking.

The patient sent an e-mail while sleeping with the subject "HELP ME P-LEEEEEESE" to three of her friends.

The e-mail was an invite for them to have dinner with her the next day.

"The intriguing point on this specific case was that she actually went on the computer and typed in her username, typed in her password and went on the Internet and typed her username and password again," Siddiqui said. "The next day, her friends called her back; she was unaware and was shocked. That's when she sought medical attention."

Siddiqui explained there are different stages of sleep: the light stages, the deep stages and REM sleep, which is when dreams usually occur.

"For patients who sleepwalk, they are going through arousal, but they are kind of like caught between different stages," she said. "They are not totally asleep, and they are not totally awake. This is a disorder of partial arousal."

Sleepwalking is a phenomenon that has been known about for a long period of time, and there are different actions people can perform while sleepwalking. The more common ac-

tivities reported are moving furniture around, playing musical instruments, cooking or eating; activities that do not require one to think heavily, Siddiqui said.

Another uncommon activity reported was performing sexual activities while asleep, a disorder known as "Sexomnia."

According to SleepSex.org, Sexomnia is a medical condition that may place one at risk of being accused of sexual assault. It is listed in the most recent edition of the diagnostic manual used by sleep medicine practitioners to make diagnoses.

In an article by The Daily Telegraph, a British newspaper, a man was cleared of rape after insisting he was asleep while having sex with his house guest.

"There are certain implications of these disorders because they can be used for patients by stating that they thought they were asleep, [but] there are forensic-implications to all these disorders," Siddiqui said.

While medications are available to decrease or prevent such incidents, Siddiqui said a good sleeping routine is extremely important.

Siddiqui said a significant number of college students are reported to be sleep deprived and have poor sleep hygiene.

"You need a good night sleep to perform better in the day, and if you don't get a six-hour sleep, no matter how much you're doing that day, the performance would not be to the level where you get a good night's sleep," she said.

It's not just cognition and level of performance, Siddiqui said, inadequate sleep also affects the vascular system, for example, and one's general health.

"[A lot of people think], 'What if I don't sleep and [nap for] an hour here and there?' or 'Maybe I can make up during the weekend.' It doesn't work like that," she said.

Today's su | do | ku

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 2, 8, 3, 1, 7, 5, 4, 9, 1, 3, 6, 7, 5, 1, 9, 6, 5, 8, 7, 2, 1.

Puzzles by PageFlier

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.

3x3 grid solution for the puzzle: 2 4 9 3 1 5 6 8 7, 3 5 7 2 8 6 4 1 9, 6 1 8 4 9 7 2 3 5.

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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TV schedule for Tuesday, January 13, 2009, listing stations like KTXL, KCBT, KLBK, KMYL, KLCW, KAMC, KJTV and their respective programs.

Premiere advertisement for American Idol, featuring the show's logo and the text 'TONIGHT 7:00PM FOX 34 NEWS my FOX lubbock.com'.

Tech aims for conference road win at A&M

By ADAM COLEMAN
STAFF WRITER

Before their upset of then-No. 8 Texas on Saturday, Texas Tech coach Kristy Curry gave her players a shirt with a motivating slogan now that Big 12 Conference play is in full swing.

"Two months left," Curry said after Tech's 65-62 win over No. 16 Texas Saturday. "We have a t-shirt we gave them that says you have to do it to do it. We've gotta undo some things, whether it's more sleep or whether it's spending more time in the gym and not being selfish with your time. Undo it to do it. These kids are ready to undo it to do it. This is one win, and we've got to look at the big picture."

One thing the Lady Raiders may have to undo is their lack of success on the road this season.

They'll get their first shot against No. 8 Texas A&M (13-1, 1-0 in Big 12 play) at 7 p.m. in College Station.

Last season, Tech (10-4, 1-0) did not win a conference game on the road, going 0-8 on the year.

Tech did go 3-1 on the road in non-conference games last year, but this season, the Lady Raiders have



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador
TEXAS TECH COACH Kristy Curry's team went 0-8 in conference road games last season.

yet to find success away from the United Spirit Arena.

All four of the Lady Raiders' losses have come on the road to Iowa, Cal, South Florida and New Mexico with each being on a neutral site except for the New Mexico game, which was in Albuquerque, N.M.

With a win over a Top-10 team under their belts, the Lady Raiders now have to get their first conference win on the road since a 70-69 win against Nebraska Feb. 14, 2007,

and do it against another Top-10 team.

A&M coach Gary Blair said he knows how tough it is to win on the road in the Big 12.

The Aggies recently traveled to Missouri and snapped the Tigers' eight-game winning streak in a narrow 62-56 victory. At one point in the game, A&M had a 17-point lead, but Missouri pulled closer for a chance to win the game. However, Danielle Gant's 22 points made sure the Aggies did not leave Columbia,

Mo., with a loss.

Although he believes Tech is much improved with the maturation of Maria Moore and improvement from Dominic Seals, Blair said he is just happy to be back at home after a Missouri win he called "lucky."

"There's nothing better in the Big 12 than winning a road game," said Blair, who is a Tech alumna. "There is nothing better. Really you're out there by yourself. Normally your fans

do not travel with you on the road. You gotta do it yourself. You gotta have great preparation. You gotta have good decision making. The coaches have got to be able to call the right plays at the right time. You better play defense and you better rebound the basketball."

Right after facing Texas' Brittainey Raven, Tech now has to face more big-name players from the Big 12 in Grant and Takia Starks.

Starks, who had 14 points against Missouri behind Gant's game-high 22, is eighth in the conference in scoring with 14.5 points per game. Gant is right behind her with 14.2 points per game — good for ninth in the Big 12.

Texas A&M is just the beginning for Tech.

Kansas, No. 17 Kansas State and No. 5 Baylor loom for the Lady Raiders. While Kansas is on the road, K-State and Baylor are at home.

Curry said with the way her team is playing now, the next few games are appreciated and welcomed.

"There's probably not a tougher start to conference play than what we have," she said. "Our kids are going to rise to the challenge."

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Tech track high on rankings

By ADAM WADSWORTH
STAFF WRITER

Mike Leach and the Red Raider football team is not the only Texas Tech program grabbing national attention this season.

Tech coach Wes Kittley and the men and women's track team will start the 2009 season with the best preseason rankings in school history, according to the United States Track & Field Coaches Association.

The men improved on their No. 24 ranking at the end of 2008 by coming in at No. 12 and signing a Top-5 ranked recruiting class. Highlights from the young group include freshmen Brandon Tucker, Markus Henderson and Jamele Mason.

"We had a real young team last year and I think that caught on with recruits," Kittley said. "They've seen how they're young and they want to be a part of it."

The women's team finished last season at No. 10 and enters this season at No. 9. The Lady Raiders return All-American throwers Patience Knight and D'Andra Carter, as well as eight-time national champion Sally Kipyego.

Following their successful season last year, the Red Raiders plan to

continue to rely on their veterans' personal drive to be their best and hope to see a high level of commitment and success from the newer members.

The higher ranking also has led to an elevated sense of morale surrounding the team.

"It's pretty encouraging and makes us feel like we can attain the goal that we want," Knight said. "Whether it's to win the Big 12 (Conference) or nationally, the higher ranking makes it feel like it's a little bit more possible."

Carter said her personal goal is to make it to indoor nationals because it's something she has not accomplished yet and the new rankings provide motivation to compete harder.

Both teams face a high level of conference competition this year as the Big 12 continues to remain one of the top athletic conferences in the country.

In the women's division, the Big 12 has three additional teams starting in the Top 25 including No. 1 Texas A&M, No. 12 Texas and No. 24 Nebraska.

The men's division also has No. 6 A&M, No. 7 Texas, No. 14 Baylor, No. 15 Nebraska, No. 18 Kansas State and No. 23 Missouri to represent the Big 12 in the preseason rankings.

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Potts prepared to replace Harrell

By ALEX YBARRA
MANAGING EDITOR

Texas Tech running back Baron Batch is having some fun with quarterback Taylor Potts in the lobby of the practice facility, joking about betting money on a few rounds of bowling.

"When we were bowling," Batch asks, "where were you at?"

"I was trying to find you," Potts said. "I had to kill everybody in laser tag."

Batch talked him into five dollar games, and Potts obliged as if he had already won.

"OK," he said. "I've been practicing on the (Nintendo) Wii."

Since Batch is an accomplished bowler, Potts probably will lose — if the game ever happens — but for Batch's sake, he may want to let the strong-armed quarterback off with a win.

That way during warm ups, he won't smash Batch's hands on a short pass out near the sidelines.

Apparently, Potts tends to do that sometimes, which could be problematic during a game, but it's not his fault he was blessed with a bazooka for an arm.

"He always throws it too hard in warm-ups," Batch said. "He always jams my fingers. I'm just out there and he just guns it, but I guess he can throw it as hard as he wants. I'm the one who looks bad if I drop it."

Batch's teammates understand the situation, especially sophomore receiver Tramain Swindall, who said it is just part of getting "used to catching those fastballs."

"It'll tear your body up," Swindall said, with a chuckle.

Pass-catchers can expect a lot more of those throws from Potts now that quarterback Graham Harrell has moved on after playing his final collegiate game in the Cotton Bowl.

However, Potts will have to fend off a stable of quarterbacks comprised of Steven Sheffield, Stefan Loucks, Seth Doege and Garrett Riley.

When next season rolls around, Potts and Sheffield will be juniors, Loucks will be a sophomore, while Doege and Riley will be redshirt freshmen.

"I think it's his job right now. Going into the spring he's the quarterback," said Doege, who has the talent to make Potts work for the job. "I think the rest of us kind of have to go into the spring thinking of competing and getting better."

Potts, from Abilene, has backed up Harrell for the past two seasons and for the most part looked sharp this year after struggling to sustain drives in spring practices. With a strong arm and good size, the 6-foot-5, 220-pounder presents the most physically gifted and seasoned quarterback Leach has had at his disposal.

None of the hype gets to his head though.

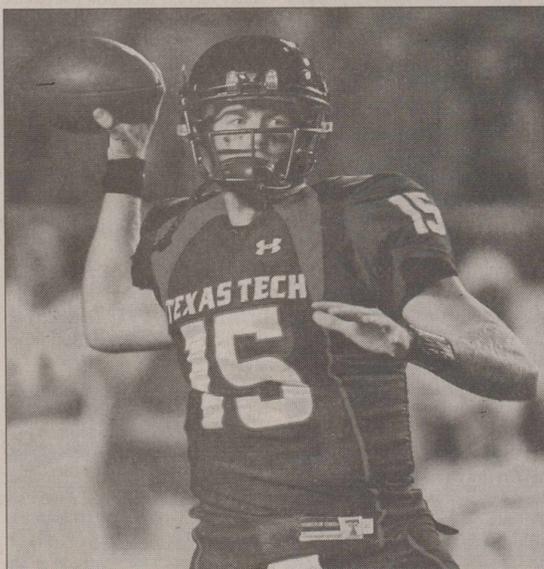
Being the backup for two years and getting snaps with the first team could give any player the impression he is automatically next in line, but Potts knows what to expect.

"The job is gonna go to the best person," he said. "Coach isn't dumb. He's gonna play who deserves it and who is the better quarterback. He doesn't wanna settle for mediocrity or somebody that's not gonna perform what this team needs as a quarterback, to get us to 12 wins. I do have an edge, I've played, but at the same time, he's gonna play the best."

In appearances against SMU, UMass, Kansas State, Kansas and Oklahoma State this season, Potts finished 23-for-36 for 260 yards, two touchdowns and an interception.

His best performance came against Oklahoma State on Nov. 8 when he went 5-for-5 for 60 yards and a touchdown during his only drive in the fourth quarter. After the game, Leach called it

View a related video at
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BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH SOPHOMORE quarterback Taylor Potts leads a bevy of quarterbacks to replace three-year starter Graham Harrell.

the "best drive" of Potts' career.

"I think I can throw harder than Graham, and then in some places that it's needed, a lot of times a touch pass, throwing the ball perfect right on the money, I can definitely do that," Potts said. "In some cases, a strong ball that will fit into a tight corner or a tight spot is really needed. I think I can do that, and I think my arm is strong enough to do those."

It will take some time for Potts to become as accurate or cerebral as Harrell, but he is on his way. Even though he stood on the sidelines for a majority of the season, Potts said he refined his approach to football, whether it be on the field, in the weight room, or watching game film.

"I think I've gotten better mentally," he said. "I've kind of relied on the past year or two to do physical things very well and mental things kind of came

second. As I refocused this season, it was my mental preparation that really helped me out a whole lot. Understanding the game, why we run the play, why defenses do what they do."

An interesting side note, back in 2006, after Potts had already committed to Tech, he turned down a scholarship offer from Michigan while Lloyd Carr was still coaching the Wolverines. Looking back, Potts has no regrets about declining the full ride, especially since Rich Rodriguez took over and led Michigan to its worst season in history this year.

"I don't think I'd be there anymore because Rich Rodriguez kind of needs a fast, mobile quarterback; although I am fast and mobile," Potts said, tongue-in-cheek. "I don't think that would fit me very well."

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Red Raiders' Graham leaves program, cites family issues

By ALEX YBARRA
MANAGING EDITOR

Texas Tech freshman Tyree Graham had an unpleasant announcement for the coaching staff Friday morning.

Citing family issues back home, Tech assistant coach Stew Robinson said Graham, a native of Durham, N.C., expressed his desire to leave the program and is no longer with the team.

Graham did not make the trip to Waco for Saturday's 73-61 loss to Baylor, though Tech did not suffer from his absence. It was his third missed game of the season with the other two coming against Stanford and TCU.

"We talked to him and tried to make sure that he thought it through and that that was something that he should and wanted to do," Robinson said. "We told him we would help him in any way that we could. Basically, it was a really big surprise."

In 13 non-conference appearances, Graham logged 14 minutes a game backing up starting point guard John Roberson, and he averaged 3.9 points, 1.7 rebounds and 1.5 assists per game.

At 30 percent, Graham had the lowest field goal percentage on the team, but he went 13-for-15 from



GRAHAM

the free throw line — good for 86 percent, the highest on the team.

Coming into the season, Tech coach Pat Knight said having Graham round out

a four-guard rotation with Roberson, Alan Voskuil and Nick Okorie made a difference in energy compared to last season when the backcourt lacked depth.

However, after the backcourt's performance through the first 35 minutes against Baylor, Tech may not miss Graham too much this season.

That means senior Michael Prince could see a lot more action. The Red Raiders tweaked their lineup by starting Prince at small forward in place of guard Nick Okorie. Although he fouled out, Prince finished with three points, six rebounds and two steals.

"What we have to do, we've been starting three guards a lot this year," Robinson said. "We may start two guards. What hurt us down the stretch after the first eight games was Mike Prince getting hurt and Michael Prince is back. He can play anywhere from the two to three to four for us."

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Dungy announces retirement

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Tony Dungy will retire after seven seasons in Indianapolis and Jim Caldwell will take over as Colts coach, one of his assistants confirmed Monday.

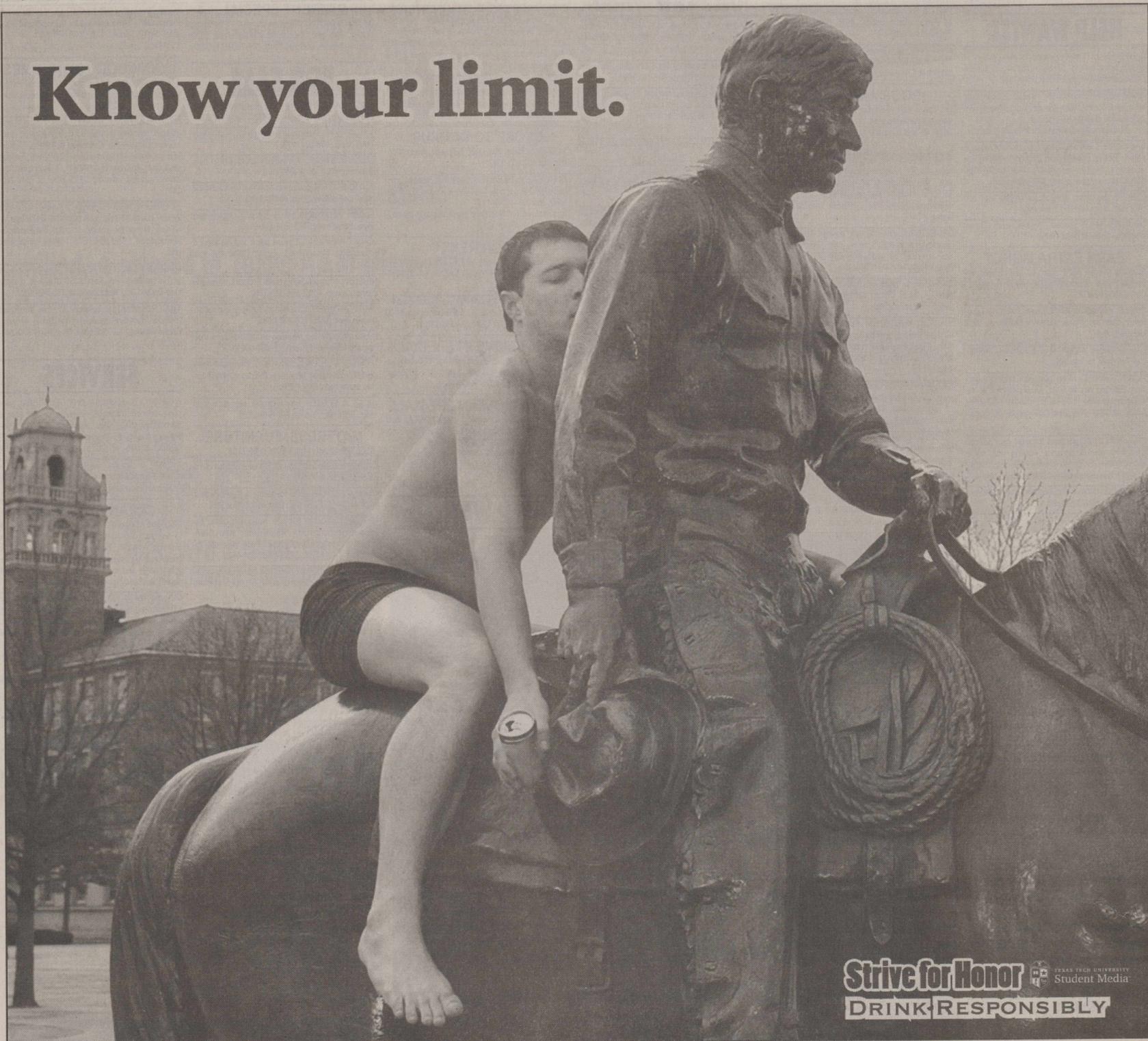
Receivers coach Clyde Christensen said Dungy informed the

staff of his decision earlier in the day.

"I think there was an intensity in there and it was emotional," he said. "We all felt like it was going to happen one of these years."

Dungy met with players throughout the day to say goodbye.

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