

President **George W. Bush** announces Thursday that he will send Secretary of State **Colin Powell**, left, to the Middle East to help peace efforts.

Bush demands military halt Israel allows U.S. mediator to meet with Arafat

NABLUS, West Bank (AP)—Israeli tanks lightened their chokehold on the West Bank's biggest city, and battles raged Thursday at nearby Palestinian refugee camps. The United States intensified its involvement by sending a mediator to meet Yasser Arafat and ordering in the secretary of state.

President Bush demanded that Israel halt its weeklong military offensive and pull out of Palestinian territory. Prime Minister Arie Sharon avoided a direct public response.

"Operation Defensive Shield will continue," his office said in a statement, although officials said it was not a reaction to Bush's announcement.

Ahmed Qureia, speaker of the Palestinian parliament, praised Bush for urging an end to the Israeli offensive.

The fall of Nablus on Thursday

put six major West Bank cities and towns under Israeli control, with only two left unoccupied: Hebron and Jericho. But Israeli tanks, helicopter gunships and soldiers struggled to wipe out pockets of resistance and flush out hundreds of militants holed up in one of Christianity's most sacred sites, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

Five Palestinians were killed Thursday, including three gunmen and a man who worked as the church's caretaker and bell ringer: Samir Ibrahim Salman, a Palestinian Christian. The 45-year-old man was shot in the chest while waking to the church, said hospital director Peter Koumr.

Palestinians also accused the Israelis of blowing open a metal door leading to a courtyard in the ancient basilica,

breaking a pledge not to damage the church, built over the traditional birthplace of Jesus. They said the troops fired inside, wounding three people.

The Israeli military denied the accusation but prevented reporters from reaching the church to assess the claims. Reporters have been ordered to leave all six West Bank towns seized by Israel.

Amid growing world concern that the tensions could spark a regional conflict, a European Union mission arrived and asked to meet with Arafat—a request the Israelis swiftly denied.

U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni, who met with Sharon on Thursday, was given permission to visit the Palestinian leader, Sharon had initially turned down such a request by Secretary of State Colin Powell.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sierra Club says many plants, animals in trouble

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Many of the plants and animals first reported by Lewis and Clark expedition nearly 200 years ago are on the decline in the West, the club said Thursday.

Of the 122 animals discovered by Lewis and Clark, at least 40 percent are in decline, the club said.

"There is no better way to commemorate the upcoming Lewis and Clark bicentennial than to protect and restore wild America," said Mary Kiesau of the environmental group.

The report offered sweeping recommendations for preserving plants and animals.

Rate

Continued from page 1A

A facility study done in 1996 by outside experts concluded that the residence halls have \$26,436,257 in deferred maintenance. Renovations such as roof replacements, air conditioning and heating systems and electrical lighting are needed to bring the residence halls in line with current safety codes.

With the money the Department of Residence Life expects to have available, an estimated 18.49 percent will go to the residence hall to cover debt serv-

ice, 18.19 percent will cover renovations, 6.56 percent to cover utilities, repairs and maintenance, 2.6 percent for telephone and 2.6 percent for security.

In Fall 2000, residence hall fees increased by 7 percent and 5 percent in Fall 2001.

Compared to other Big 12 schools, the University was ranked fifth in campus living costs. The University of Colorado ranked first with a rate for 2001-2002, the University of Texas was ranked second, followed by Texas Tech, Iowa State and the

Results

Continued from page 1A

regret running and enjoyed the campaign.

"It was definitely an amazing experience," Lima said.

Erin Bennett defeated

Jon Kleckley in the runoff for Class of 2004 president with 1,223 votes (57 percent) to Kleckley's 924 votes (43 percent).

Stephanie Goodman was elected Class of 2004 vice president, receiving 1,124 votes (59

percent) to Christine Farmer's 767 votes (36 percent).

Curt Steinhorst won the runoff election for Class of 2005 president with 1,352 votes (51 percent) to Jared Grubbs' 1,087 votes (45 percent).

Senate

Continued from page 1

would encourage senators to take on a more active role within the Senate.

"We have a motivation problem," Carlton said.

Senator Daniel Pearson, chair of the Student Services Committee and a junior political science major, expressed concern that the legislation would tax an already over-worked Internal Affairs Committee. He added that the committee might face problems in deciding how many points senators would need to earn.

"A lot of discussion can happen before we come down to a vote," he said.

Responding to fears that legislation would permit senators to skip meetings and make up points in other ways, Carlton said the new system would require meetings "no more optional" than already are.

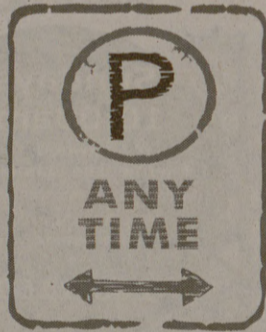
The bill was sent to the Rules and Regulations Committee for review.

In other Senate business, a resolution bill was proposed by Senator Bobby Williams, a graduate student. The bill would grant graduate students two seats on the student senate. The choice of seats was not based on any hard numbers and would make the total number of student senators 60, Williams said. Bills will be voted on at the next Senate meeting.

Northgate Parking...No Problem

Northgate Parking Rates Have Been Slashed!!

Some of it is even free!



**10 Bars
8 Restaurants
ALL IN ONE BLOCK**



*713 PARKING SPOTS IN THE COLLEGE MAIN GARAGE
and now easy to use*

**PARKING LOT BEHIND NORTHGATE
NOW EASY AND CHEAP TOO!!!**

NORTHGATE, TEXAS

"Where Aggie Tradition Lives"

INTERNA
THE BATT
THE BATT
Afgl
coo]
pop
ANKARA
Afghanistan
minister
plans to take
the internatio
force and said
countries wo
in the fight a
tion of opium
Karzai arriv
government p
cultivation of
source of inco
and a huge pr
through whic
opium is smug
"We asked
Turkey to coc
erate wi
Afghanistan
the continuati
of its fig
against pop
cultivation a
the smuggli
Class of 2005 pres
with 1,352 votes (51
cent) to Jared Grubbs
news confe
ance with Prin
Minister Bule
Ecevit.
Ecevit sa
tion which
impleme
measures to ha
poppy cultivati
under U.S. pres
would share its
Last weeken
seized 7.5 ton
morphine, a po
originated in
Police said it w
haul of crude
Karzai, who a
Turkish govern
pleased that Tu
on the peaceke
Turkey's milita
that the country
principle to lead
Karzai played
Rese
drug
LONDON (A
thritis, could l
research sug
Methotrexate,
rheumatoid arthr
slow progressi
el better, but a r
Experts said t
journal, was
Rheumatoid a
middle age.
People with th
al, according t
thritis researche
It is not the ty
ear-and-tear of
It occurs whe
nts, causing se
and stiffness.
It is also linke
Scientists beli
e spans partly l
ease and dying
The latest st
research Center
medicine, found
ely to die pren
They were 70
e from heart di
Experts said t
at inflammation
Inflammatory me
Methotrexate
on caused by th
Dr. David Sc
ing's and St.
Pivotal findings

Monday - F
Wednesday - Ch
10%
200 S. Texas Av
College Station
(979)260-30