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THE DAILY TEXAN

Friday, June 30, 2006

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New federal grants announced

Programs will reward advanced students, those with math, science, critical foreign language majors

By Justin Ward
Daily Texan Staff

Around 500,000 college students nationwide will be eligible for two new federal grants starting on Saturday, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced Thursday.

One of the grants, the Academic Competitiveness Grant, is designed to reward students for taking rigorous high school courses, such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes, in preparation for college. The other, known as the Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) grant, pro-

vides additional aid for college juniors and seniors pursuing degrees in the sciences and foreign languages deemed "critical to national security," according to a release from the U.S. Department of Education.

Department officials cite a growing need to keep America competitive in the arenas of education, science and technology as the motivation for creating the programs.

"Math, science and critical foreign language skills are the new currencies in our global economy," Spellings said.

Academic Competitiveness Grants will be issued to incoming freshmen

and sophomores who participate in approved high school programs considered to be rigorous by the Department of Education.

The department requested that states submit additional programs for consideration to be included as qualifying programs, such as dual-credit programs in which students receive both high school and college credit simultaneously. Thirty-seven states responded, and at this time the Department of Education is still in negotiation with those states, said Holly Kuzmich, deputy assistant secretary for policy for the Department of Education.

Students who may be eligible for the Academic Competitiveness Grant will be notified by mail or e-mail with

instructions on how to determine if they qualify. The grant will pay up to \$750 for first-year students and up to \$1,300 for the second year.

In order to qualify for a SMART grant, a student must be a junior or a senior enrolled full-time with a 3.0 GPA and a major in mathematics, sciences, technology, engineering or a "critical" foreign language, including Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Russian, among others. SMART grants will pay up to \$4,000 for each year.

Students must be eligible for Pell Grant aid to qualify for both grants.

UT Student Financial Services has already identified 460 students who

GRANT continues on page 5A



Photo courtesy of NASA

Astronauts Lisa Nowak, left, and Stephanie D. Wilson, STS-121 mission specialists, enjoy a brief break from training in the Space Vehicle Mockup Facility at the Johnson Space Center.

UT graduate will fly in next shuttle launch

Aerospace engineering alumna will serve as mission specialist

By Stephanie Matlock
Daily Texan Staff

UT alumna Stephanie Wilson is among the seven-member crew scheduled to embark Saturday on test mission STS-121, the second trip of NASA's space shuttle Discovery in its return-to-flight sequence.

Wilson received a master's degree in aerospace engineering in 1992 from the University.

She said in an interview for NASA's Web site that her interest in space started at an early age. Wilson was unavailable for comment Thursday.

"Later, though, I became more interested in engineering, and I thought that aerospace engineering would be a good combination of my interest in space and my interest in engineering," Wilson said in the interview.

During her time at the University, Wilson's research focused on the control and modeling of large, flexible space structures, according to a written statement.

In 1996, Wilson began her work with NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. After qualifying for flight as a mission specialist once she'd completed two years of training, Wilson worked in Mission Control, communicating with in-orbit crews.

STS-121 will test equipment, will include two space walks and will be an important step in getting back into flight, said Joe Pally, spokesman for NASA.

"The primary attention of the mission is that this will only be the second flight for the shuttle since the Columbia disaster," Pally said, referring to the space shuttle Columbia, which was lost along with its seven-member crew when it re-entered the atmosphere in 2003.

A main component of the 12-day mission is to join with the International Space Station, Pally said. There is the possibility for an extra day, depending on fuel supply and necessity to the mission.

Along with repairs, the mission will deliver more than 28,000 pounds of equipment and supplies to the station. The shuttle will also flip over for the crew to take pictures of the shuttle's belly and determine any possible damages to its heat shield.

One of the astronauts on board, European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Reiter, will remain on the station for up to six months, Pally said. His involvement with the mission is part of an ongoing cooperation with international partners involved in assembling the space station.

Consideration is being taken by NASA for any possible complications on launch day, including bad weather and bird activity.

This time, feathers won't fly over Kennedy Space Center. A new program entitled the "Bird

LAUNCH continues on page 2A



Brennan Linsley | Associated Press

Gitmo trials unlawful

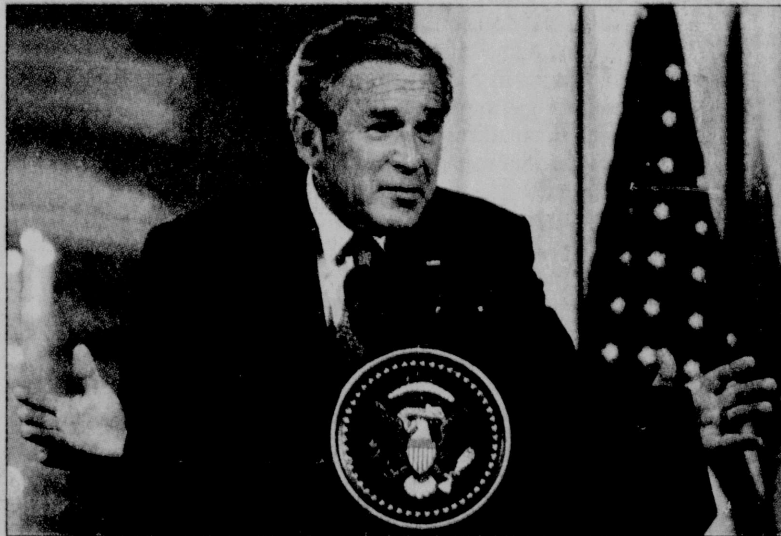
Supreme Court nixes anti-terror policies at Guantanamo Bay

By Gina Holland
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court rebuked President Bush and his anti-terror policies Thursday, ruling that his plan to try Guantanamo Bay detainees in military tribunals violates U.S. and international law.

The president and congressional Republicans immediately pledged to work on a new strategy for special trials for some of the hundreds of suspected al-Qaida and Taliban operatives rounded up in Afghanistan, Pakistan and other countries.

Bush said the ruling "won't



Charles Dharapak | Associated Press

Top, an American flag waves in the breeze behind razor-wire and fences within the compound of Camp Delta military-run prison at the Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base. Below, President Bush speaks to reporters during a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi Thursday.

UT Law students, local lawyer plan to represent detainees

By Behnaz Abolmaali
Daily Texan Staff

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday dealt a sharp blow to how the Bush administration has conducted its war on terrorism, saying that military tribunals in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, violate both American and international law.

Now a group of law students at the University, as well as an Austin lawyer representing a few of the 450 detainees in the prison, say they have a legal mandate to move forward with plans to represent detainees.

The School of Law's Rapoport

GITMO continues on page 2A

TOMORROW'S WEATHER

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Low

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Sports.....6B



SEND IN THE ELEPHANTS

Two-year-old Alex Larson and her father Scott watch as elephants eat lunch outside of the Erwin Center Wednesday afternoon. Their "Super-colossal Sonic Salad" included whole watermelons, apples, oranges, bananas and heads of lettuce.

» SEE PAGE 2B FOR STORY

Callie Richmond
Daily Texan Staff





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CORRECTIONS

In Wednesday's story, "MAD League upset with hero for defying laws of physics," the spelling of Nobel Laureate Ilya Prigogine's name was incorrect. In Thursday's edition, in the article "Coalition challenges shock therapy use," the requirement for conducting other forms of depression treatment prior to electroconvulsive therapy was inaccurately described as a legally binding requirement. The line should have read, "Under medical practice, other forms of treatment, including counseling and medication, are first used to cure depression."
The Texan regrets the errors.

CONTACT US

Main Telephone:
(512) 471-4591

Editor:
JJ Hermes
(512) 232-2212
editor@dailytexanonline.com

Managing Editor:
Zachary Warmbrodt
(512) 232-2217
managingeditor@dailytexanonline.com

News Office:
(512) 232-2207
news@dailytexanonline.com

Web Office:
(512) 471-8616
onlineeditor@dailytexanonline.com

Sports Office:
(512) 232-2210
sports@dailytexanonline.com

Life & Arts Office:
(512) 232-2209
lifeandarts@dailytexanonline.com

Photo Office:
(512) 471-8618
photo@dailytexanonline.com

Retail Advertising:
(512) 471-1865
joanw@gmail.utexas.edu

Classified Advertising:
(512) 471-5244
classified@mail.tsp.utexas.edu

The Texan strives to present all information fairly, accurately and completely. If we have made an error, let us know about it. Call (512) 232-2217 or e-mail managingeditor@dailytexanonline.com.

LAUNCH: Bad weather may delay liftoff 24 hours

From page 1A
Abatement Plan" was designed after last year's return-to-flight launch of the Discovery resulted in a vulture striking the top of the external tank during takeoff.
There will be a trap with bait five miles away from the launch pad to attract birds, which will be released after take-off, said Michael Leinbach, shuttle launch director. Radars will also be used to detect birds and decide whether or not to hold the clock in order to reduce the issues of

impact and debris.
The weather conditions remain an important factor as well. There is a 60 percent chance of bad weather affecting Saturday's launch, in which case the flight would be delayed for 24 hours, said U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Kaleb Nordgren of the 45th Weather Squadron. Predictions are the same for Sunday.
"Space flight is a risky business," said John Shannon, chairman of the Mission Management Team. "We just need to make sure we make good decisions."

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Classified word ads: 11 a.m. (Last Business Day Prior to Publication)

COURT: Ruling may impact administration's policies

From page 1A
cause killers to be put out on the street."
The court declared 5-to-3 that the president's attempt to resurrect a type of military trial last used in the aftermath of World War II violates U.S. military law and the Geneva conventions that set international standards for dealing with people captured in armed conflicts.
The ruling focused on Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a one-time driver for Osama bin Laden who has spent four years in the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He faces a single count of conspiring to commit terrorism.
Lt. Cmdr. Charles Swift, Hamdan's Navy lawyer, said he told the Yemeni about the ruling by telephone. "I think he was awe-struck that the court would rule for him and give a little man like him an equal chance. Where he's from, that is not true," Swift said.
The decision could have a broad impact on the administration's legal justification for many of its policies in the global war on terror, from eavesdropping to detention policies in Iraq.
The ruling united the four most liberal justices with moderate Anthony M. Kennedy in an opinion that showed the high court would not watch the controversy over Bush policies from the sidelines.
It was a sequel to a ruling two years ago that found the administration did not have a "blank check" to lock up alleged combatants without any legal rights. Again, the court said the Bush administration had gone too far.
"The Constitution is best preserved by reliance on standards tested over time and insulated from the pressures of the moment," Kennedy wrote in one opinion.
The ruling came on the court's final day before the justices began a three-month break. Court members spent more than half an hour announcing the decision and reading dissents.
Chief Justice John Roberts was sidelined in the case because, as an appeals court judge, he had backed the government in this case last year. That ruling was overturned Thursday.
The other three conservative justices, Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, strongly supported the government.
"It is not clear where the court derives the authority, or the audacity, to contradict" Congress and the executive branch, Scalia wrote.
Thomas, reading a dissent from the bench for only the second time in his 15-year career, said the court's decision would "sorely hamper the president's ability to confront and defeat a new and deadly enemy."
The majority found that Congress had not given Bush the authority to create a special type of military trial and that the president did not have a valid reason for the new system. The justices also said the proposed trials did not provide for minimum legal protections under international

law.
While the administration could come up with a new system, a better option would be to hold regular military courts-martial for detainees, the high court said. Those trials, used for soldiers, provide somewhat similar legal protections to those that defendants receive in U.S. courts.
The Bush administration did not appear ready to accept that.
White House counselor Dan Bartlett said the administration's task now is to determine how to design military tribunals that will pass muster. Bartlett said Bush could portray any lawmaker who objected to legislation as supporting the release of dangerous terrorists.
Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said he would introduce legislation after the July 4 recess that "authorizes military commissions and appropriate due process procedures for trials of terrorist combatants." The Senate Armed Services Committee and Judiciary Committee plan hearings over the summer.
The ruling said nothing about whether the administration should close Guantanamo Bay, as Bush has said he would like to do eventually. The administration erected the prison in the months after the Sept. 11, attacks, and it has been a flashpoint for international criticism.
For now, there are about 450 detainees at Guantanamo, and 115 of them have been deemed eligible for release or transfer to their home countries. Ten, including Hamdan, have been charged with crimes. The chief Guantanamo prosecutor had said about 65 more detainees were likely to be charged if the court ruled differently.
Army Maj. Tom Fleener, who represents another detainee facing charges, said "there certainly will be some fallout from this. ... It's going to change everything from how people are held to interrogation techniques that are used to the types of information they can have or can't have."
Though ruling against the Bush administration, the court took pains to show it was not taking the terror attacks lightly.
Justice John Paul Stevens, who wrote the main opinion, said, "Americans will never forget the devastation wrought by these acts."
Justice Stephen Breyer, in a side opinion, said that Bush could fix some of the problems by going to Congress and that "judicial insistence upon that consultation does not weaken our nation's ability to deal with danger."
In a significant part of the ruling, the court said a law passed by Congress last year to limit lawsuits by Guantanamo detainees does not apply to pending cases like the one brought by Hamdan. That probably keeps alive lawsuits on behalf of many detainees.
That may provide justices with a chance to revisit some of the major presidential power issues raised in Thursday's ruling.

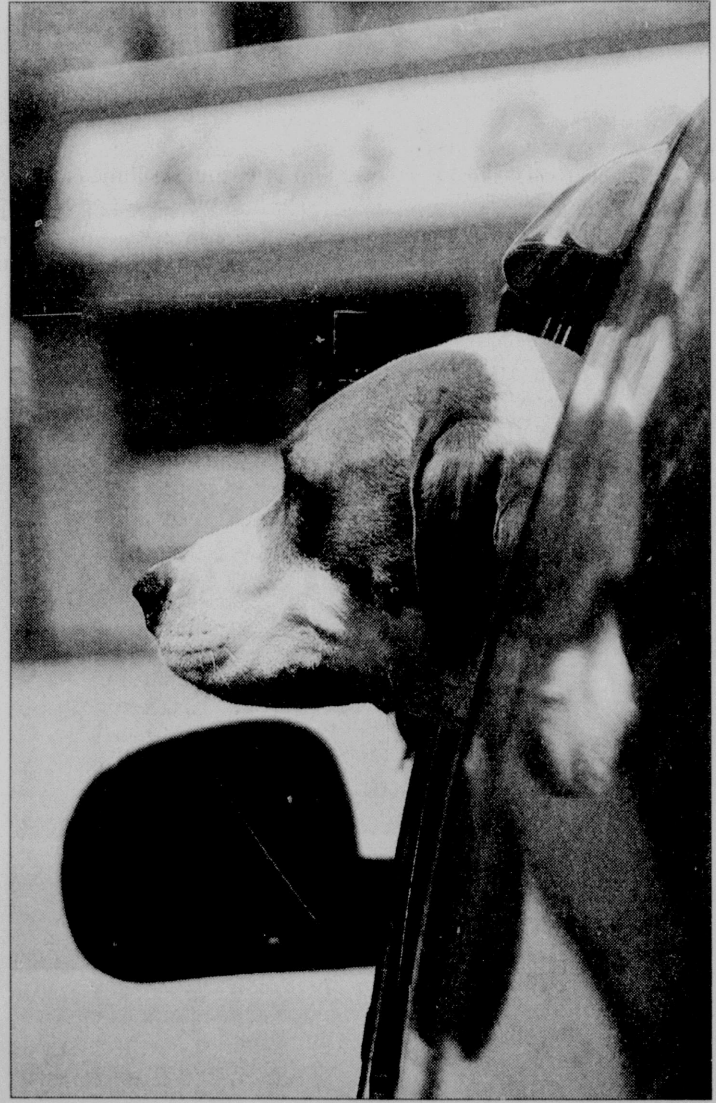
Associated Press writer Toni Locy contributed to this report.

GITMO: Austin attorney will represent detainee

From page 1A
Center for Human Rights and Justice is now preparing steps to train students to represent some of the detainees, said Karen Engle, a professor and director of the center. The issue of Guantanamo will fit into the center's mission of advancing human rights and applying interdisciplinary studies in a way that "considers the commitments of the U.S. under international law and that brings to the fore the human faces of those who are affected by its policies," she said in an e-mail interview.
The issue has been one of great concern over the last years, Engle said. Last spring, a panel discussion and play at the School of Law, put together by students, addressed the issues. Derek Jinks, assistant law professor and one of the panelists, said during the

discussion that the treatment of prisoners in the camp was "devoid of any merit."
After the Supreme Court ruled in 2004 that detainees had the right to challenge their confinement in American courts, a confederation of trial lawyers and legal scholars around the country have rallied against the prisons, which they say violate the fundamental principles of the American system of justice.
Now, with the court's decision, they are ready to move forward.
"It's a victory for the rule of law in America," said Dicky Grigg, an Austin attorney selected through the Center for Constitutional Rights to represent a detainee. "The Supreme Court has basically said that President Bush is not above the law and the executive still has to submit to the legal system and the court system."
The court's decision Thursday still leaves some thorny issues about what will happen to the prisons, Grigg said, but it will force the Bush administration to renew its earlier consideration to close the prisons entirely.
"It is a source of embarrassment for the United States and the international community, and it flies in the face of what America stands for legally and morally," Grigg said.

WHO ISSUED HIM A LICENSE?



Kalyan Vajapeyajula | Daily Texan Staff

A dog awaits its owner who had run in for a quick bite on Guadalupe Street on Thursday.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Women vote for first time in Kuwait election

KUWAIT CITY — Some female voters came in buses, and others stepped out of chauffeur-driven cars at polling stations Thursday, as women in Kuwait voted in parliamentary elections for the first time.

Women, who won the right to vote and run for office last year, comprise 57 percent of the electorate, and many were delighted to cast ballots for the first time.

Many analysts predicted women would vote according to the wishes of their husbands and fathers, especially in districts where tribal and Islamic fundamentalist influences are strong.

The election sparked a surprisingly strong campaign for reform in Kuwait.

Bin Laden praises al-Zarqawi in latest video release

CAIRO, Egypt — Osama bin Laden praised slain al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi as the “lion of holy war” in a new videotape posted on the Web on Friday.

The 19-minute message shows an old still photo of bin Laden in a split-screen next to images of al-Zarqawi taken from a previous video. A voice resembling bin Laden’s narrates a tribute to the Jordanian-born militant, who was killed in a June 7, airstrike northeast of Baghdad.

The authenticity of the video could not be immediately confirmed.

Venezuelan president set on U.N Security Council seat

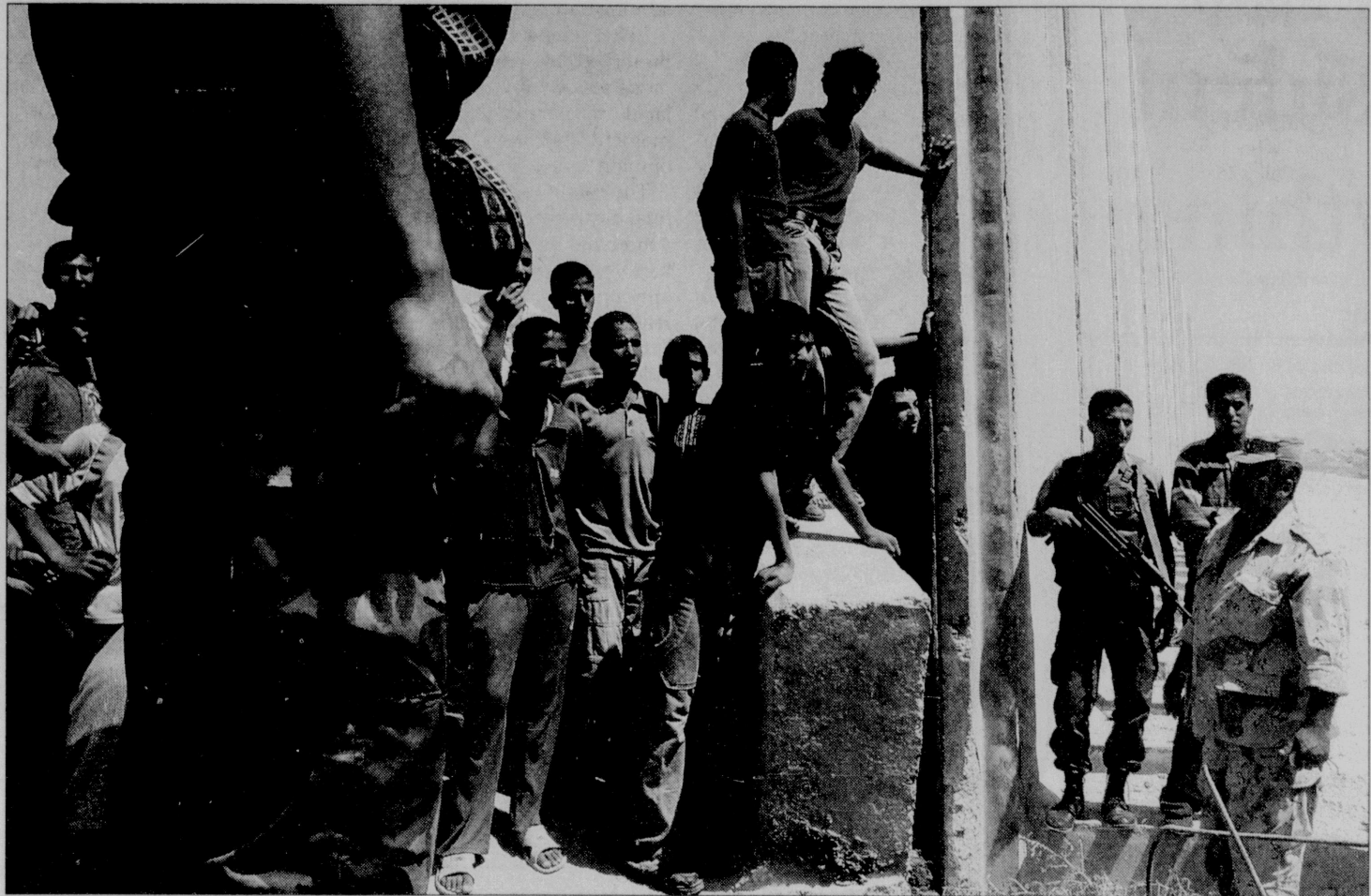
CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chavez vowed Thursday that Venezuela would win a seat on the U.N. Security Council despite U.S. opposition.

Washington officials have encouraged Latin American and Caribbean nations to vote instead for Guatemala’s bid to hold the region’s rotating seat on the 15-member Security Council.

The Security Council may soon have high-stakes decisions to make about nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea. Chavez has sought to improve Venezuela’s ties with both Iran and North Korea, complicating U.S. diplomatic efforts.

Compiled from Associated Press reports

Bombings in Gaza continue



A Palestinian policeman stands, as Palestinians gather next to the gaping hole caused by a land mine detonated by militants on the concrete wall on the border with Egypt in southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah Thursday.

Officials: diplomatic options for soldier’s release still possible

By Ravi Nessman
Associated Press Writer

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli warplanes struck the Palestinian Interior Ministry early Friday, setting it ablaze as Arab leaders tried to forge a deal that would halt the Israeli offensive and free a 19-year-old soldier held by gunmen allied with the ruling Islamic Hamas.

The bombing was one of more than a dozen across the Gaza Strip after midnight, though Israel called off a planned ground invasion of northern Gaza on Thursday in order to give diplomacy another chance.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said militants agreed to a conditional release of the

kidnapped soldier but that Israel had yet to accept their terms, which he did not specify. Israel said it was not familiar with any such offer.

No one was hurt in the strike on the Interior Ministry in downtown Gaza City. The Israeli military said the ministry office, controlled by Hamas, was “a meeting place to plan and direct terror activity.” The Interior Ministry is nominally in charge of Palestinian security forces, though moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas removed most of its authority.

Israeli warplanes also hit a Fatah office as well as roads and open fields. During the day, aircraft and artillery pounded sites across the coastal strip, including suspected weapons factories, an electrical transformer and militant training camps.

A strike at a Hamas facility near the Gaza beach ignited a

fire and set off explosives, witnesses said. Another air attack, in the southern Gaza town of Rafah, set an intelligence office on fire, Palestinian security officials said.

Casualties began to mount. The local leader of Islamic Jihad was seriously wounded in an airstrike in Rafah, hospital officials said, and three Fatah-affiliated gunmen were wounded in a gun battle in the Jebaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza.

Earlier, a 5-year-old girl was wounded in an airstrike in northern Gaza, the first casualty in more than two days of military action that began with a ground invasion of southern Gaza. Doctors said her wounds were not life-threatening.

On Gaza’s southern border, hundreds of Palestinian and Egyptian police formed human cordons to block Palestinians trying to escape into Egypt after

militants blasted a hole in a cement wall near the crossing.

Israel also vowed to hunt down the killers of an 18-year-old, whose body was found Thursday in the West Bank with a gunshot wound to the head. Hamas-linked militants said they killed him.

Abbas, a moderate, met with Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas and spoke twice with Mubarak to try to end the crisis, an Abbas aide said.

In remarks published Friday, Mubarak told the pro-government Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram that “Egyptian contacts with several Hamas leaders resulted in preliminary, positive results in the shape of a conditional agreement to hand over the Israeli soldier as soon as possible to avoid an escalation. But agreement on this has not yet been reached with the Israeli side.”

NATION BRIEFLY

Evacuations halt, but deadly floods continue to threaten

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — Levees around this vulnerable city held against the swollen Susquehanna River on Thursday, but other towns anxiously watched as rivers approached record crests that threatened to extend the misery from flooding that already has killed at least 14 people.

Emergency officials said conditions were improving and that a recently improved levee system was holding back floodwaters. The river crested at just over 34 feet, below expectations and well shy of the top of the 41-foot floodwall.

Stolen data recovered uncompromised, says FBI

WASHINGTON — Social Security numbers and other personal data on 26.5 million veterans and military troops were not copied from a Veterans Affairs computer missing for eight weeks, the FBI said Thursday.

Burglars stole the computer equipment from a data analyst’s Maryland home on May 3. Law enforcement officials recovered the laptop and hard drive after an informant on Wednesday notified the U.S. Park Police.

The equipment was then turned in to officials in Montgomery County, Md. No suspects were in custody.

Bush fails to call enough Guardsmen to border

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Bush administration has been unable to muster even half of the 2,500 National Guardsmen it planned to have on the Mexican border by the end of June.

As of Thursday, the next-to-last day of the month, fewer than 1,000 troops were in place, according to military officials in the four border states of Texas, California, New Mexico and Arizona.

President Bush’s plan for stemming illegal immigration called for all 50 states to send troops. But only 10 states, including the four border states, have signed commitments.

National Guard officials said Thursday that they probably won’t reach the 2,500 target until early to mid-July.

Compiled from Associated Press reports

Lack of poll workers imperils Mexican elections this Sunday

Mexico’s poll-worker draft unable to match economic concerns

By Olga R. Rodriguez
The Associated Press

VALLECILLO, Mexico — This town of farmers and cattle ranchers has about 1,300 registered voters. But officials had to spend weeks begging residents before they found the 14 people needed to staff its two polling places on Sunday.

Days before the hotly contested presidential election, observers say voting sites across the country still lack enough people to provide a crucial first defense against a return to Mexico’s fraudulent electoral past. Many towns have been depleted, their able adults now in the United States. Of those who remain, many simply refused, saying they couldn’t afford to miss work.

As of June 22, 11 percent of the country’s 130,555 polling places were missing one or more

poll workers, according to Civic Alliance, a nonpartisan citizens group that based its findings on data from Mexico’s Federal Electoral Institute. IFE officials did not respond to repeated requests by The Associated Press for comment on the problem.

The race is neck-and-neck between former Mexico City Mayor Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party, and Felipe Calderon, a former energy secretary from outgoing President Vicente Fox’s conservative National Action Party.

Running in third place is Roberto Madrazo, the candidate for the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which ruled Mexico for 71 years until its stunning loss to Fox six years ago.

During the PRI’s seven decades in power, poll workers often turned a blind eye to vote-buying and fraud in elections that were merely symbolic acts, ushering in leaders chosen in advance by the outgoing president.

But in 1990, four years after

an election many decried as rigged, IFE was created as a self-governing electoral body, with a mission that includes selecting and training poll workers. It laid the groundwork for Fox’s historic victory in 2000 by guarding against fraudulent practices and educating voters about their rights.

Unlike other countries where poll workers are volunteers, Mexico drafts much of its election day staff, in a process similar to jury duty in the United States. This year, IFE began tapping registered voters born in January or February and whose last name started with the letter W. Those who take part receive \$17.

Those who refuse to participate can’t be penalized.

More than 900,000 workers will be needed to set up polling places and check voter rosters Sunday across Mexico, and even some of those who have agreed to help out may not show up, forcing electoral authorities to grab the first few voters and draft them into service.



Supporters gather for the closing rally of Mexican presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador of the Democratic Revolution Party at the main Zocalo Plaza in Mexico City, Mexico, on Wednesday. Mexico will hold elections on July 2.

Marco Ugarte
Associated Press

Federal Reserve boosts interest rates again, Wall Street soars high

Stocks boom after hint that hikes could end, inflation may be stymied

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve hoisted interest rates to the highest point in more than five years Thursday but also raised hopes that a respite from two years of rate pain may be in sight. Wall Street rallied, breathing a sigh of relief.

The Dow Jones industrial average soared 217.24 points to 11,190.80, its biggest single-day jump in more than three years.

Wrapping up a two-day meeting

Thursday, Chairman Ben Bernanke and other Fed policymakers didn’t rule out another bump in rates. But they seemed hopeful that a slowing economy would lessen pressure on prices, leaving open the question of whether more increases would be needed to declare victory in their battle against inflation.

Fed policymakers said “the extent and timing” of additional rate increases would hinge on how inflation and economic activity unfold.

They also dropped a phrase, contained in a statement issued at their last meeting on May 10, that further interest rate increases “may yet be needed” to fend off inflation.

That omission, along with observations that economic growth was

slowing, was viewed by some investors and economists as the Fed striking a slightly less hawkish tone about the future course of interest rates.

The Fed’s goal is to raise interest rates enough to keep inflation in check but not so much as to hurt economic activity.

To fend off inflation, the Fed unanimously decided on Thursday to increase its federal funds rate by one-quarter percentage point to 5.25 percent. It marked the 17th increase of that size since the Fed began to tighten credit in June 2004.

“With 17 straight increases now under its belt, is the work of the Federal Reserve finally done? Very possibly,” said Bernard Baumohl,

executive director of the Economic Outlook Group, a consulting firm. The Fed’s statement “did not rule out another increase, but it did suggest that the economy was clearly slowing and all that was left at this point is to see how quickly it will be followed by lower inflation,” he said.

Some economists predicted the Fed might boost rates again in August or maybe again in September, then stop for a while to assess how the economy is doing. Some analysts said they were now far less certain another rate increase would come.

The economy grew at a brisk 5.6-percent pace in the first quarter of 2006, the fastest in two-and-a-half

years. But activity in the current April-to-June period is expected to clock in at about half that pace, from around 2.5 percent to 3 percent, analysts predict.

Job growth lost momentum heading in the summer. Employers boosted payrolls by just 75,000 in May, the fewest new jobs since October. The government’s employment report for June is released next week.

The Fed said readings on “core” inflation, which exclude food and energy prices, have been elevated in recent months. High prices for energy and for some raw materials “have the potential to sustain inflation pressures,” the Fed noted.

Although moderating econom-

ic growth “should help to limit inflation pressures over time ... some inflation risks remain,” the Fed concluded.

Rising inflation barometers “are unwelcome developments,” Bernanke said in a June 5 speech that sounded a tough tone against inflation and sent stocks swooning on the prospects of higher interest rates.

Consumer prices for the first five months of this year are bounding ahead at a 5.2 percent annual rate, compared with the 3.4 percent increase for all of 2005.

Prices, excluding food and energy, are advancing at a 3.1 percent pace this year; it was 2.2 percent last year.

VIEWPOINT

Hegarty, vice president of everything

Kevin Hegarty is like a utility infielder.

When high-level administrative positions around the University go unfilled, the vice president and chief financial officer steps in as interim director until a permanent replacement is named.

It happened first in 2004, when UT's development director left for Emory University. Hegarty then added interim vice president of resource development to his portfolio for about eight months.

Most recently, Hegarty became interim vice president for Information Technology Services, after Daniel Updegrove announced earlier this month that he would step down. Hegarty will lead the national search for a permanent replacement and said he expects to fill the role for however long it takes, by his estimate six-to-nine months.

Rather than acting as a silent placeholder, though, Hegarty looks interested in taking a hands-on approach.

In an interview Thursday, Hegarty called the funding model for Information Technology Services "broken" and said restructuring the way departments are assessed IT fees will be one of his goals before he returns to his singular vice presidency.

But Hegarty should face scrutiny on two fronts.

In his capacity as chief financial officer, he will continue to sit on the University Budget Committee while asking departments to pony up more funds for IT services. The committee plays a heavy hand in budget decisions for the University, and many of its members have been instrumental in looking at how to restructure the IT fees.

Hegarty said he has built enough trust during his five years at the University to battle these concerns.

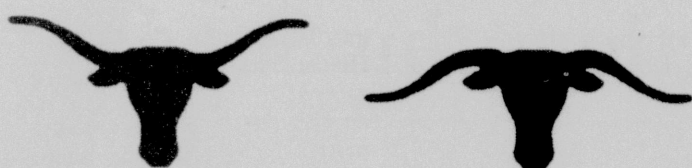
More pressing are Hegarty's business connections with Austin-based tech companies, most specifically Dell. Hegarty spent three years as vice president and corporate controller at Dell Computers and several months as vice president and chief financial officer of Dell Financial Services before joining the University in 2001.

He said there are no plans in the works to put together an exclusive arrangement with Dell for computers on campus but cited statistics that the campus "votes with their feet" when it comes to staff desktop and laptop purchases. Excluding printer sales, he said UT staff members spend about \$2 million on Apple computers, \$10 million on Dell computers and about \$1 million on all other brands each year.

"Part of the beauty of the academic world is freedom of choice," he said. Compared to office supplies, where he snagged the University into an exclusive contract with Office Depot in which all departments must use the store for relevant items, he's got a point. But this has less to do with freedom of choice than with a lack of financial leverage over Dell.

While we are confident he will not abuse his new appointment, it deserves continuing transparency.

Horns up, Horns down



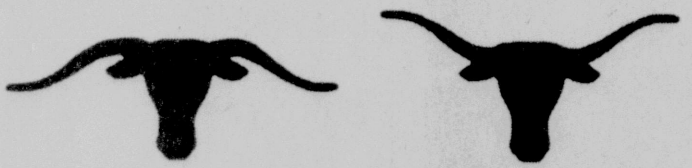
The First Amendment

Widespread anger toward The New York Times — over a story exposing a secret Bush Administration program to access a vast international banking database while hunting terrorists — is misguided.

Forget the arguments you've heard about the program's effectiveness or its secrecy. That's not enough to justify holding the story.

In a democracy, the press mustn't hold back important information, except in the most extreme cases of imminent peril.

This case doesn't pass the test.



The Triangle

The plot of land at the intersection of Lamar Boulevard and Guadalupe Street was surely under-utilized as it sat empty up until about a year ago.

But the ridiculously expensive, pedestrian-unfriendly Triangle super-plex is another bad housing idea to plague the UT area.

Yet again, developers have created the type of urban development that makes people hate urbanism.

Playing with cannons

San Antonio residents complained of severely distressed pets, shaken homes and painfully ringing ears Thursday after soldiers practicing for Fourth of July festivities aimed World War II-era cannons directly at nearby homes.

Military officials claimed to be confused as to why they actually shot the weapons. One colonel apologized to residents for "disrupting their quality of life as a result of inappropriate training by soldiers."

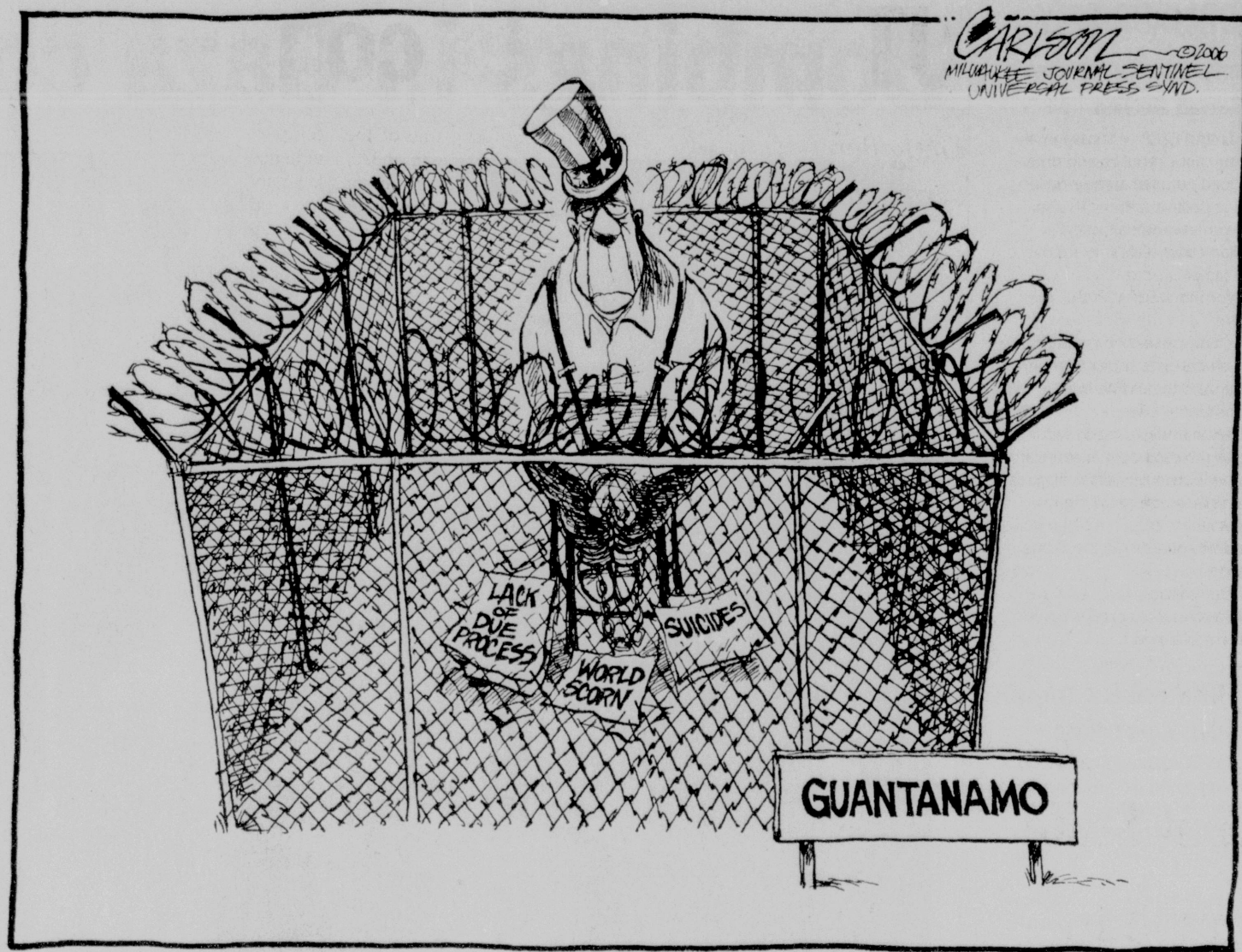
Perhaps the soldiers were still angry about the Red Rider BB gun their parents never let them have.

Gitmo ruling

Kudos to the Supreme Court for striking down the obviously unconstitutional use of military tribunals for detainees held at Guantanamo Bay.

In the United States, all prisoners — even foreign captives — deserve a fair trial.

That's obvious. But in the days of often-unchecked executive branch power, a little reminder can't hurt.



Toss caps on appraisals

By Garth Heutel

Daily Texan Columnist

Property value appraisals are rising again, and that is likely to rekindle an argument over a very bad policy idea that thankfully died once again in the most recent Texas Legislative special session: strengthening appraisal caps.

State law doesn't allow taxable property value appraisals to increase more than 10 percent each year. City Councilmember Brewster McCracken, in his recent successful re-election campaign, pandered to homeowners by proposing a measure that would allow cities to cap appraisal appreciation at as low as 5 percent. Its failure is good public policy and especially beneficial to UT students, who are disproportionately hurt by appraisal caps.

If you're a student at UT, though, you're probably a renter, which means you might think this appraisal cap business doesn't affect you.

Not quite.

Since the cap only benefits homeowners, everyone else has to pay the costs, either in the form of reduced city services or increased taxes. Residences that aren't owner-occupied, such as apartment complexes and rented houses, are not capped by current state law. The portion of rent that goes towards paying the landlord's property taxes (a hefty por-

If you're a student at UT, you're probably a renter, which means you might think this appraisal cap business doesn't affect you. Not quite.

tion) is thus free to increase as far as the housing market will take it.

An article in last Sunday's Austin American-Statesman raised warning signs that will chill the hearts of many Central Texas homeowners.

A Tarrytown home is shown increasing in value by 26 percent, and a puny 720-square-foot house with a garage apartment in East Austin skyrocketed by 72 percent.

Such high property value increases, though still limited by the state 10 percent cap, make property taxes rise to the point of public outrage.

If we all hate tax increases, shouldn't we all be happy about a cap that limits how much they can increase? No, because we should be smart enough to look closely at the cap and figure out whom it benefits.

Limiting property tax increases undoubtedly benefits wealthier taxpayers, because they are more likely to be homeowners rather than renters and because they are more likely to own homes with high appreciation. While Travis County's average property value increased by 16 percent, the medi-

an value increased by only 7 percent, indicating that a disproportionate share of the increases hit the most expensive homes.

City-by-city, Austin's median increase was 8 percent, dwarfed by those of tony West Lake Hills (27 percent) and Rollingwood (29 percent) and exceeding those of tragically un-tony Leander and Manor (4-percent each).

Since the bulk of these tax increases are hitting the richest homeowners the most, the cap benefits the rich more than the poor. Some poor homeowners are helped by an appraisal cap, but more would benefit from an increase in the homestead exemption.

It's also important to consider what happens when a household's property value shoots up. The reason property value appraisals are going up so much is because property values are skyrocketing. Put another way, people are becoming a lot richer. If your home value increased by \$50,000, you just made \$50,000. Congratulations! Stop complaining about the fact that your property taxes increased by a hundred bucks a month.

Of course, unlike winning the lottery or getting a Christmas bonus, it's harder to benefit from the gains of home value increase. You only see that extra \$50,000 if you sell the home. If you have no intention of moving, then you're stuck with a house that might be more valuable, but that makes no difference to you, aside from the stiffer tax bill.

So less-wealthy homeowners have a legitimate beef. Appraisal hikes can lead to gentrification where poor and working-class people get priced out of neighborhoods they have traditionally lived in, like East Austin.

This is indeed a problem, but appraisal caps are one of the worst ways of solving it.

Maybe tighter caps will have an effect on some people living in poorer neighborhoods, but if our leaders care about those places, then why not pass legislation specifically aimed at them? That's a much more effective way of dealing with gentrification than a blanket appraisal cap that affects every neighborhood in the city, not just the gentrified ones.

Screwing students and screwing the less wealthy. Sounds like a bad idea. Legislators should toss the appraisal caps and instead search for a real solution.

Heutel is an economics graduate student.

THE FIRING LINE

Standardized tests work

It's nice to see The Daily Texan Editorial Board oppose the heavy hand of the feds in requiring certain kinds of testing and other regulatory unnecessary. But it seems you do so for entirely the wrong reasons.

There is nothing wrong with standardized tests. They measure what they measure, no more no less. And as long as it is clear what they do and do not measure, they do no harm.

The intangibles of a higher education over which you seem to obsess are not denigrated in any way by the measurement of certain portions of the curricula, like math and language skills. You should grow up and accept that much educational achievement, even in college, can in fact be measured.

Chris Burns
 UT alum
 June 29, 2006

Justice not reserved for humans

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' protesting outside the Barnum & Bailey Circus may cause the average reader's eyes to roll, but taking five minutes to Google "elephants circus" reveals the validity of PETA's objections. Sure, it's fun to see massive pachyderms lumber about, but the arthritis-inducing, lifelong confinement and bullhook-jabbing pain these sentient creatures endure for our momentary amusement seems beneath civilized society.

Some will inevitably argue that caring about such cruelty to animals

is unimportant in a world where soldiers are slayed in Iraq and toddlers starve in the Sudan. Justice, however, is not a finite commodity reserved only for members of our own species.

Mahatma Gandhi said the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way it treats its animals. By that standard, we've got a long way to go.

Chantelle Wallace
 Journalism graduate student
 June 29, 2006

The new drivers tax

Do you know about the new drivers tax? Some people call it Central Texas toll roads. Gov. Rick Perry calls it "innovative financing."

I call it highway robbery, and here is why.

Local elected officials such as Mayor Will Wynn, State Rep. Mark Strama and Travis County Commissioner Gerald Daugherty voted to privatize and toll our public highways, also called Phase II tolls. But these toll roads are nothing like any toll road we've seen in our country.

Traditional toll roads are designed and built as whole new routes or highways. Central Texas Freeway Tolls privatize and toll our existing public highways for the first time in the United States.

Traditional toll roads have been brand new roads utilized as a means of raising money to pay for them. With traditional toll roads, investors pay to build it — only after viability studies warrant the investment and

the toll revenue pays for the road. With traditional toll roads, the public always gets a choice between the toll road and a public expressway.

In contrast, Perry's new "Freeway Tolls" permanently take the expressway away from us. Freeway tolls are created using our tax dollars, without viability studies, and the tax booths will never be removed. The toll revenue goes into a slush fund. Freeway tolls generate revenue — they don't solve congestion.

The comptroller's investigative report on the Central Texas freeway tolling authority calls the toll plan "Double Taxation without Accountability." The comptroller found unelected board members giving no-bid contracts to themselves and their friends:

<http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/ctrma05/>

Our group (AustinTollParty.com), and a majority of Texans, are opposed to tax collecting machines on our freeways. Contact your local representative and let them know what you think about freeway tolls.

Sal Costello
 Founder of People for Efficient Transportation
 June 29, 2006

Beware animal abuse

Andy St. Jean's story about Ringling ("The circus comes to town, but sacrifices traditional big-top tents," June 28) failed to mention why animal advocates oppose the circus. Ringling Bros. has been cited by the USDA

numerous times for failing to comply with minimal animal-welfare standards. More specifically, the circus has been cited for causing animals unnecessary trauma, behavioral stress, physical harm and discomfort, a failure to provide animals with veterinary care, a failure to provide animals exercise, a failure to provide sufficient space, as well as not keeping proper veterinary records.

Moreover, circus animals live miserable lives. Elephants, for one, walk approximately 30 miles per day in the wild. Ringling keeps them chained and beats them with bullhooks in order to force them to perform unnatural tricks. Please make your next circus story one that exposes the unequivocal cruelty under the big top or at the very least present a fair and balanced view.

Lacey Levitt
 Graduate student
 University of Virginia
 June 28, 2006

ON THE WEB

Additional Firing Lines were posted today on the Web site at www.dailytexanonline.com.

SUBMIT A FIRING LINE

Please e-mail your Firing Lines to firingline@dailytexanonline.com. Letters must be fewer than 300 words and should include your major and classification. The Texan reserves the right to edit all letters for brevity, clarity and liability.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Opinions expressed in The Daily Texan are those of the editor, the Editorial Board or writer of the article. They are not necessarily those of the UT administration, the Board of Regents or the Texas Student Publications Board of Operating Trustees.

SUBMIT A COLUMN

Please e-mail your column to editor@dailytexanonline.com. Columns must be fewer than 600 words. Your article should be a strong argument about an issue in the news, not a reply to something that appeared in the Texan. The Texan reserves the right to edit all columns for brevity, clarity and liability.

UNIVERSITY BRIEFLY

Student advocates say new Virginia law violates privacy

On Saturday, all colleges in Virginia must submit the complete name, date of birth, gender and Social Security number or "other identifying number" of each accepted college applicant to state police officials, according to an article by the Student Press Law Center.

The law was written in an effort to keep addresses of sex offenders attending college up to date.

In Texas, sex offenders are required to notify campus security upon registration at an institution of higher education, according to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

According to the article, some are concerned about privacy violations of students.

"I'm not sure why you wouldn't want to make sure kids are safe at school," Kenneth Stolle, R-Virginia Beach, the bill's chief sponsor, said in the article.

— From staff reports

Kent State may ban Facebook for athletes

UT athletics officials not considering similar ban

By Andy St.Jean
Daily Texan Staff

Kent State University athletes may not be allowed to be a part of the community of people making up Facebook, the "seventh-most trafficked site in the United States," according to its Web site. The Ohio university is considering banning all of its athletes from putting their profiles on Facebook.

Kent State University was concerned with the safety of its student athletes, according to officials.

"It is not a definite determination," said Debbie Dantz, athletic administrative secretary.

Facebook.com has quickly become one the most visited Web sites on the Internet for students and businesspeople. The social directory has more than 7.5 million registered members, with more than 2,200 colleges, 22,000 high schools and 2,000 companies supported, according to its Web site.

The exact policy of Kent State is still under discussion by the administration, parents and athletes, according to officials. A letter to athletes and their parents has been sent out to open discussion on the issue.

Laing Kennedy, director of athletics for Kent State, could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Kent State is not the only university where what athletes post online has been discussed. The coaches and athletes of Texas Tech University had a similar discussion about the type of conduct that was expected of their athletes on the Internet.

"Our coaches had a meeting and talked to our student athletes to remind them that they represent the university on and off the court," said Blayne Beal, associate director of media relations for Texas Tech University. "If they had any questionable photos online they were asked to remove them."

At this time they will not go to the extremes of banning athletes from Web sites, he said.

UT has not discussed at length the issue of student athletes and their use of the Web sites such as Facebook, according to an athletics official.

"Our coaches are doing a really good job of helping our athletes on real life issues like these," said Nick Voinis, senior associate director of communications for UT Athletics. "I would like to think our student athletes would do the right thing."

UT prof gets computer science award

Doug Berger created system for messages to travel faster

By Matt Powell
Daily Texan Staff

University professor Doug Burger received the 2006 Maurice Wilkes Award from the Association for Computing Machinery on

Wednesday, becoming one of the award's youngest recipients at 37.

Burger, an associate professor in the Department of Computer Sciences, received the award for his work in spatially distributed processors and memory-system architecture.

The honor, named for 20th-century computer pioneer Maurice V. Wilkes, is an international award acknowledging contributions to the

computer design world by individuals who have been in the field fewer than 20 years. The Association for Computing Machinery, who started giving the award in 1998, is an educational group for scientists and computer engineers.

"There are so many quality people working in this field," Burger said. "I really wasn't expecting it at all."

The work that Burger was award-

ed for involves designing processors so that messages are quickly transferred despite the physical limitations of the processor.

While he was not expecting the award, he knew it was a possibility, Burger said.

"UT is usually one of the top 10 colleges in the world in computer science and top five in system architecture," he said.

Burger is currently the co-

leader of UT's "Tera-op, Reliable, Intelligently Adaptive Processing System" project, which is working on advanced system prototypes of powerful new microprocessors that could "revolutionize computing," according to the project's Web site. The project, which is a collaboration with IBM, has garnered numerous awards and received more than \$20 million in grants from various groups.

MUCH-NEEDED BREAK



Katrina Perry | Daily Texan Staff

Darrick Lundy takes a morning break from his construction work in the basement of the UTC Thursday.

Welfare recipients can no longer use money for tuition

Financial aid officer does not foresee law affecting University

By Daniel Stone
Daily Texan Staff

New Bush administration regulations could make it harder for some welfare recipients to attend college.

States will have to step up their supervision of welfare recipients' work activities or face the prospect of losing some of their federal funding under regulations being issued Thursday by the Bush administration.

The new monitoring require-

ments could force many states to dedicate substantially more time and effort into guaranteeing that recipients do what their case workers have given them credit for doing.

More than 1.8 million families are currently on welfare, and 58 percent of the people on welfare did not do one work-related activity last month, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The regulations will put people to work, said Sidonie Squier, director of the Office of Family Affairs with HHS. The department, which manages the rules and distributes the funds to the states, will enforce the new regulations.

Officials passed the new regulations because the states weren't doing enough to get people working, Squier said.

"All and all, I think more people will get the services that they need," Squier said.

The Center on Policy and Budget Priorities released a statement on their Web site denouncing the recent changes as "rigid."

"We're disappointed with the changes the Department of Health and Human Services has made, and we're not too happy with the law either," said Liz Schott, a senior policy analyst for the center.

The key issue for the center is the fact that the new rules make it harder for states to give benefits to

people, Schott said.

"The people who are hurt the most are those with disabilities and those with English as a second language," Schott said.

The new rules make it harder for the states to train people for new jobs, creating unrealistic expectations for those living with children and even penalizing states that give welfare funds to children after the five year limit — states such as Texas, she said.

Although the new rules prohibit welfare funds for obtaining a bachelor's degree or higher, they do not eliminate the option of using it for obtaining an associate's degree, Squier said.

The new rules came out as

interim changes, with Health and Human Services allowing organizations to comment on the changes over the next 60 days, but how much those comments could affect welfare regulation changes is uncertain, Schott said.

UT officials foresee little change to the University as a result of the reforms, because only a small number of students are in the welfare system.

"We serve a diverse clientele, and those on the [welfare] system make up a very small percentage of those who apply for financial aid," said financial aid assistant director Henry Urick.

Additional reporting by The Associated Press.

AFTERNOON STROLL



Katrina Perry | Daily Texan Staff

A walk past the new Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art provides an inspiring way to wrap up a long Thursday.

GRANT: Congress approves \$45 billion for programs

From page 1A

will be eligible for the grants, said Assistant Director Sonje Johnson.

It's possible that more will qualify, but the office is still waiting for clarification on what constitutes a foreign language critical to national security, Johnson said. Their initial list includes 14 languages taught at the University.

Congress approved the grants under the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005, which was signed into law by President Bush earlier this year. For the 2006-2007 academic year, Congress has appropriated \$790 million to the two programs, and a total of \$4.5 billion has been set aside for the next five years to cover the costs of the grants.

Religious leaders urged to avoid partisan politics

By Andrew Egan
Daily Texan Staff

Citing abuses from politicians and clergy, a religious group announced an initiative Thursday to relieve Texans from partisan politics.

"We must provide a place where we as public theologians can provide perspective, free from the taint of the seduction and the delusions associated with proximity to power," said the Rev. Gerald Britt, a Baptist pastor and executive director of Central Dallas Ministries.

The Respect Our Faith campaign is an attempt by the Texas Faith Network, a group of roughly 600 religious leaders, to encourage clergy in Texas to allow people with varying political viewpoints the opportunity to be heard. This is an effort to keep

clergy from engaging their congregation in partisan politics. The campaign also encourages non-clergy to pledge to respect alternate viewpoints and encourage others to participate in the democratic process without demeaning their faith or their views.

The network sees intrusions, such as a Bush-Cheney 2004 reelection campaign request that pastors hold voter registration drives and that churches turn over their directories, as a sign that partisan politics is encroaching too far into religious institutions.

"Partisan politics should stop at that door," said the Rev. Tim Tutt, a pastor at the United Christian Church in Austin.

The Respect Our Faith initiative has already gained support from nearly 100 religious leaders across

the state. James Rigby, a minister with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Austin, said he joined the initiative because he believes that limited viewpoints are harmful.

"It can be problematic to simply say that one candidate is good and that the other candidate is bad," Rigby said. "Faith and politics are not incompatible, but it is important that the church not be used for political campaigning."

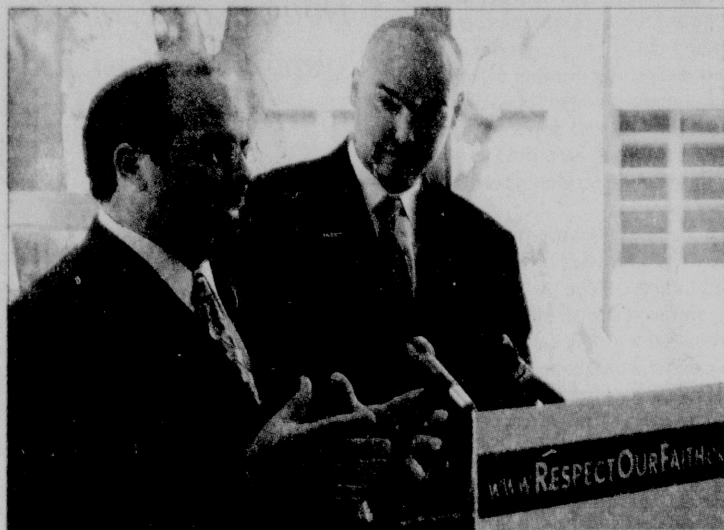
Others involved in the initiative said they see the power of the religious leader and the pulpit from which they speak as all too tempting to politicians.

"If [the clergy] are supposed to be God's authority on earth, I think there should be some boundaries," said Neil Blumof, a hazzan, or trained musician who leads the synagogue in prayer,

with the Congregation Agudas Achim.

While some organizations distribute voters' guides to churches informing people of how candidates answered a questionnaire relating to relevant issues, none of the literature specifically endorses any candidate, said Joe Pojman, executive director for the Texas Alliance for Life. Specifically endorsing any candidate violates Internal Revenue Service code and could endanger a church's tax-exempt status. Pojman said the Alliance distributes the guides to churches because of their traditional support for anti-abortion causes.

"I would be surprised if the churches who took our voter guide also took a voter guide from [an abortion rights organization]," Pojman said.



Kalyan Vajapeyajula | Daily Texan Staff

Rabbi Neal Katz speaks as the Rev. Tim Tutt looks on at a press conference at the University United Methodist Church on Thursday. The conference was organized by the Texas Faith Network as part of their Respect Our Faith campaign to protect churches from partisan politics.

STATE BRIEFLY

Witness says Yates thought deaths would destroy Satan

HOUSTON — Andrea Yates believed she was fulfilling a prophecy that would destroy herself and Satan when she drowned her five children in the bathtub, a jail psychiatrist testified Thursday during her second murder trial.

Dr. Melissa R. Ferguson talked to Yates the day after she drowned 6-month-old Mary, 2-year-old Luke, 3-year-old Paul, 5-year-old John and 7-year-old Noah in their Houston-area home in June 2001. Ferguson said Yates picked at her lip until it bled and at first showed no emotion during the evaluation, but then started crying and yelling.

Ferguson testified that Yates said her children were not righteous and had stumbled, because she was evil, and they could never be saved because of how she was raising them. Yates then paraphrased Luke 17:2, saying, "It is better for someone to tie a millstone around their neck and cast them into a river than to stumble," Ferguson said during her six hours of testimony.

Ferguson was the first defense witness for Yates, who has again pleaded innocent by reason of insanity. She is being retried because her 2002 conviction was overturned last year by an appeals court citing erroneous testimony.

Yates, who turns 42 on Sunday, will be sentenced to life in prison if convicted.

Compiled from Associated Press reports

Group advocates reform of juvenile rehabilitation

Department of Justice to investigate possible abuses at youth center

By Maggie Sharp
Daily Texan Staff

The U.S. Department of Justice will investigate allegations of abuse at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center in South Texas.

Parents and children's advocates say the state's youth jail system is substandard and children held there are subject to abuse.

The Texas Youth Commission, which is in charge of the center, issued a statement saying it welcomes the investigation and is ready assist the investigation.

"The Justice Department will have a wealth of expertise that can only benefit TYC and the state," said Executive Director Dwight Harris. "We all want the same thing: safe facilities to rehabilitate young offenders."

Isela Gutiérrez, coordinator for the Texas Coalition Advocating Justice for Juveniles, is advocating for reform within the facilities. The coalition would like to see many changes, such as fewer

youths incarcerated because 64 percent of inmates are nonviolent offenders, she said.

"The facilities are too large, they house over 300 youths and are difficult to staff," Gutiérrez said.

The coalition brought 33 commission youths to the Texas House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Wednesday, where a few testified about the need for prevention programs. Most of the youths at the correctional facilities come from the same seven or eight economically disadvantaged zip codes across the state, Gutiérrez said.

"These kids come from low-income families," Gutiérrez said. "They do not have the money for art classes or camps, the kinds of things parents use to keep kids out of trouble."

The coalition would also like an independent third party to investigate allegations of abuse within the Texas Youth Commission, Gutiérrez said.

The commission said it was devoted to providing a safe environment for youths to receive treatment, and any unsafe conditions or abuse are not acceptable.

Additional reporting by The Associated Press.

Janitors suing Target

By Mark Muecke
Daily Texan Staff

Target Corp. and the company employed to clean its stores have been hit with a federal lawsuit filed by 12 immigrant janitors, alleging minimum wage and overtime violations at Austin and San Antonio stores.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court in San Antonio Thursday, lists cleaning company Jim's Maintenance & Sons Inc. and its CEO Jim Funderburgh, as well as Target, as defendants in the case. The suit alleges the janitors were paid less than \$5.15 per hour, the federally mandated minimum wage. The suit also alleges the workers were required to work seven days a week for 55 hours to 70 hours without overtime pay and receiving only one day off every two weeks. Federal law requires labor exceeding 40 hours per week be paid one-and-a-half times the normal pay rate.

"It's pretty clear that this was a systematic violation that affected not only these 12, but all the co-workers they were working with and workers in a number of stores, but we don't know how widespread that is yet," said Bill Beardall, UT law professor and director of the Equal Justice Center, one of the parties representing the plaintiffs in the case.

Target said in an e-mail it could not comment on any specific allegations because it had not yet been served with the lawsuit, but noted that it currently does "not have a relationship with Jim's Maintenance & Sons Inc."

Oklahoma-based firm Branch, Connel-Hurt & Hurt, P.C., representing Jim's Maintenance and its CEO, had not completely reviewed the allegations, said John Branch, an attorney with the firm. But he said federal minimum wage and overtime laws only apply to employees, not contractors.

The plaintiffs are contractors and not employees because, in previous tax-return audits, Jim's Maintenance had not been required to withhold taxes from wages, pay employees' Social Security tax or carry an unemployment premium, practices required for employees, he said. Those workers were not necessarily these plaintiffs in particular, Branch said.

"They signed contract agreements," Branch said. "They're not even part-time employees."

Beardall said that the characteristics of the plaintiffs' jobs are more like those of an employee, rather than a contractor.

"These are unskilled workers that come to work every night and work set hours for a set wage doing labor that is an ordinary, daily, integral part of the business of Target," Beardall said. "That doesn't describe an independent contractor."

This case is important, because it challenges what Beardall calls "a widespread scam" of misclassifying employees and independent contractors in order to avoid federal wage requirements.

"If they can be misclassified as independent contractors, anybody could be," Beardall said.

LOCAL BRIEFLY

Court sets date for sides to suggest redistricting plans

A federal panel gave both sides in Texas' redistricting fight two weeks to propose fixes to a vast South and West Texas congressional district whose borders were ruled unconstitutional this week by the U.S. Supreme Court.

U.S. District Judge T. John Ward set oral arguments in the case for Aug. 3 in Austin. Proposed changes to the map are due to the court by July 14, and the responses, a week later.

The Supreme Court upheld most of the pro-Republican Texas congressional map, but tossed the 23rd Congressional District, which stretches from San Antonio to Laredo and west almost to El Paso and remanded its redrawing to a three-judge panel.

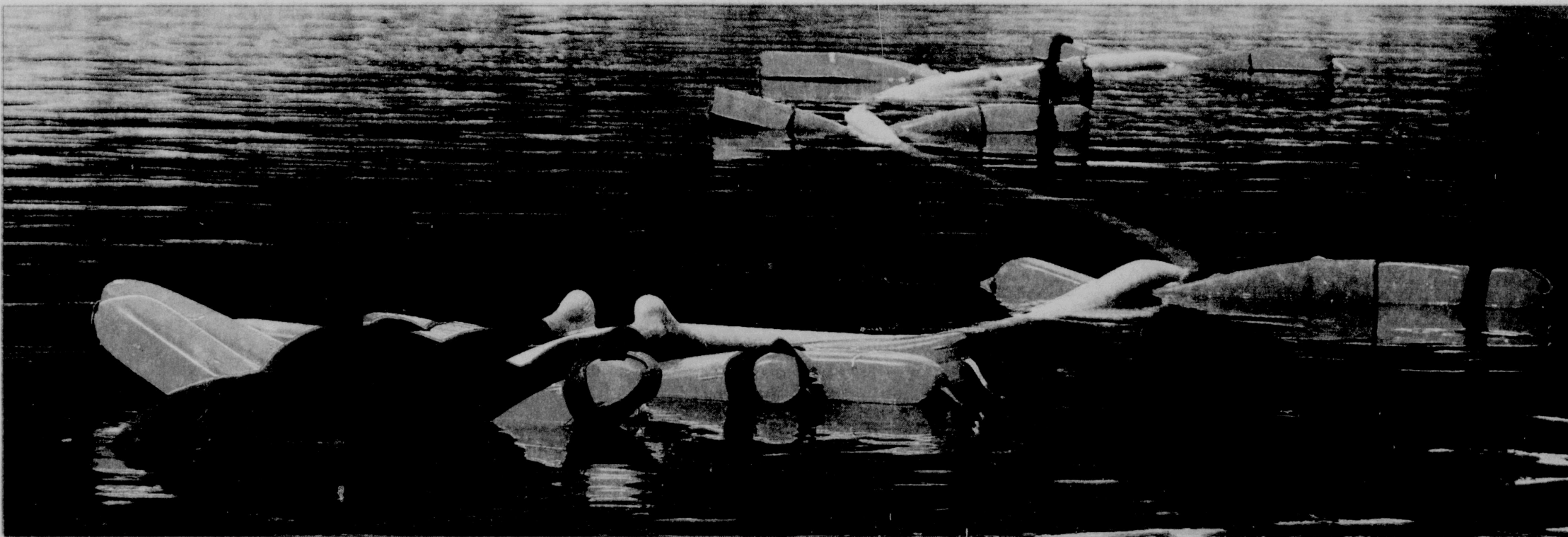
The high court did not set a deadline for a new map, but changes would have to be made soon to be effective in the November general election.

Gov. Rick Perry said Thursday he prefers the Legislature make redistricting decisions, rather than the courts. Perry, who has authority to call lawmakers into session, said he would wait for the court's decision.

The GOP-controlled Legislature redrew the map in 2003 to put more Republicans in office.

Compiled from Associated Press reports

HE'S OK, REALLY



Brian Hollingsworth | Daily Texan Staff

Kyle Solana and Benjamin Davis clean up Barton Springs Pool on Thursday. Every Thursday from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., Barton Springs Pool closes for cleaning and maintenance.

Dell expands recycling programs for safe electronic waste disposal

By Matt Powell
Daily Texan Staff

Computer giant Dell Inc. announced Wednesday that it is increasing its recycling goals and plans to provide free recycling of any Dell product across the globe.

"The EPA encourages eWaste recycling to the fullest extent," said Dave Bary, an Environmental Protection Agency spokesman. "Dangerous substances found in computers — cadmium, mercury and lead — when left in landfills

can lead to serious environmental issues."

Cadmium, an element used in semiconductors and computer monitors, is hazardous to ecosystems and toxic even in small amounts. Mercury is essential in the electronics of computer wiring but can cause mercury poisoning which can lead to brain damage and birth defects. Lead is used in computer hard drives but can be highly poisonous.

The Round Rock-based company already offers free-of-charge

recycling of any used computer or printer — regardless of the brand — to any consumer who purchases a new Dell computer product. The recycling service also includes home pickup at no extra charge.

The recycling program, which Dell calls Asset Recovery and Recycling Services, encourages all Dell consumers to dispose of their computer products in a "secure and environmentally safe way." The program also guarantees that all labels from the hardware will

be removed and the hard drives will be deleted to help protect the consumer.

The EPA works to encourage both citizens and corporations to recycle computer products. E-Waste presents serious environmental problems, and Bary said recycling it helps prevent hazardous disposal methods.

The Dell recycling program is expected to be available in the United States in September, and globally by November, according to the Dell Web site. Full service,

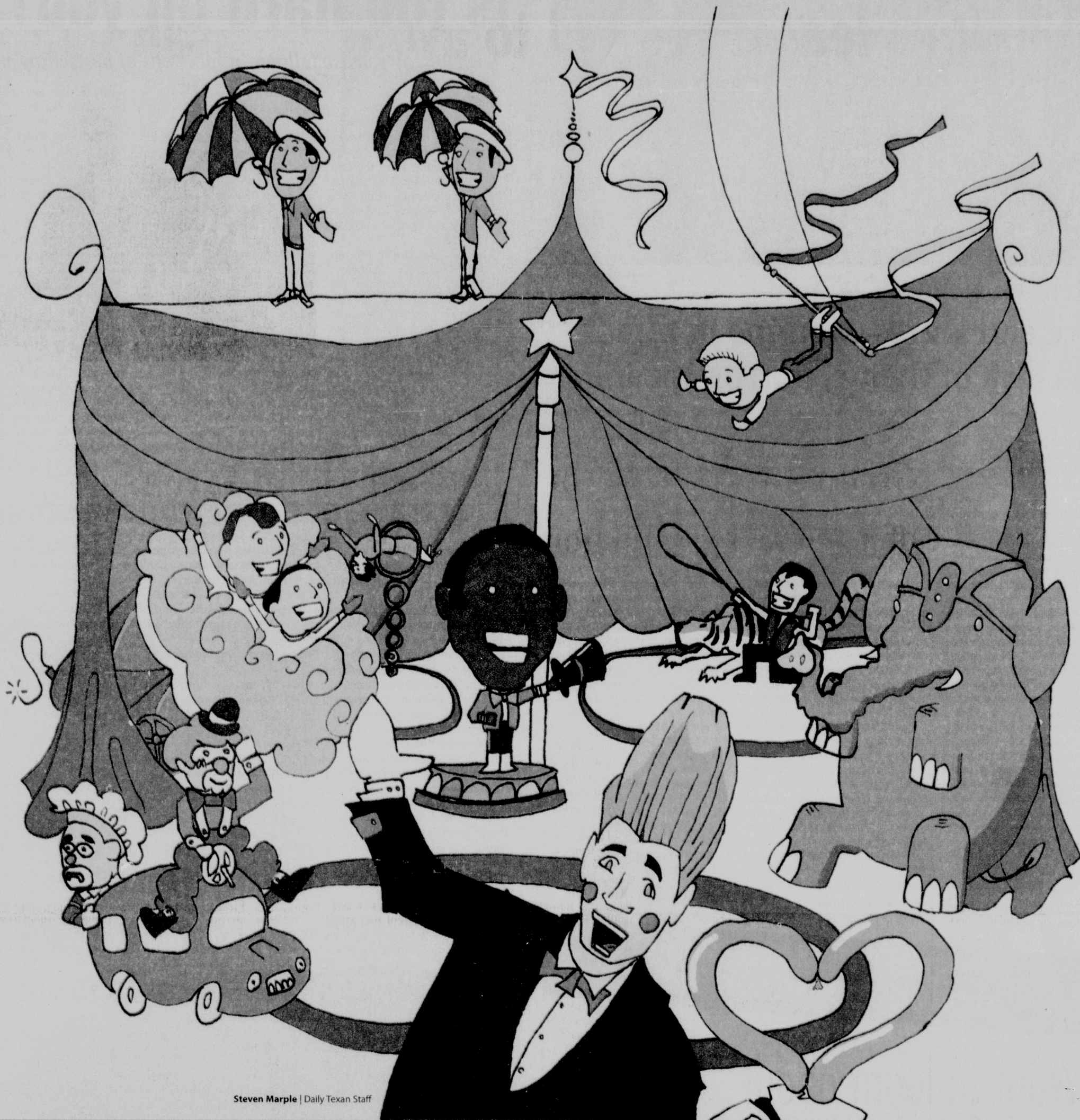
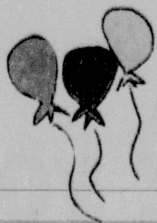
free of charge eWaste recycling by Dell is already in place in Europe, and Dell encouraged other computer manufacturers to do the same.

Dell also sponsors the Austin Computer Recycling Project, which offers eWaste management options. The program, which started in fall of 2004, allows Austin-area residents free drop-off sites for any brand eWaste and curb-side pickup for a \$10 fee.

Apple Computer Inc. and

the Hewlett-Packard Corp. also offer free any-brand in-home eWaste recycling under the condition that the consumer purchases a brand new computer product from the respective company.

Dewayne Digby, of the UT Surplus Property office, said the University donates as many of its computers as possible. "We donate our used computers to area school districts and other agencies, and state law mandates that we send the remaining computers to correctional facilities."



Steven Marple | Daily Texan Staff

The 'Greatest Show' hits Austin

A family business, the circus offers lifelong careers

By Katherine Fan
 Daily Texan Staff

"C" is for circus," children say.

But for Alex Vargas, "C" is for community. "We're like a big family," Vargas said of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus troupe traveling approximately 350 people strong in a train 1.5 miles long. "A small town on wheels."

A fifth-generation circus performer, the 46-year-old has traveled across the U.S. and Mexico, as well as Europe, with various circuses.

Vargas has performed different acts throughout the years, including a "Vargas Family Flying Trapeze Act" with his brothers for more than 20 years. Vargas has four brothers and six sisters who have all been involved with the circus at one time or another. His parents met in the circus when his father, Miguel, was an elephant and lion trainer in Mexico. Vargas was born while his family was on tour in Mexico City.

Now head of animal care for the circus, Vargas said he hopes to stay with the circus even after he retires.

"It's a good opportunity, because you can learn a lot. There's a chance to see the world as well as different cultures, even sometimes to go outside the country."

Alex Vargas,
 head of animal care for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus troupe

The circus troupe is a big family, or a small community, all its own. With performers from Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Russia, Kazakhstan, Spain, England, France and Italy, loyalties run strong during World Cup season, Vargas said. People gather in Vargas' trailer to watch and cheer for the games on satellite TV.

Sometimes new families begin within the circus. Vargas met his wife Lolis, a costume designer for Ringling Bros., in 1984 when they were both touring with the Carson Circus. Vargas was a flying trapeze artist. His wife performed on the high wire.

"She had a nice body," he said when asked

about his initial attraction to her. "I watched her every time she performed." She always looked beautiful, he said, so he asked her to dinner one night, and that was that.

The Vargases know everything about performance. "When you perform, at first you're scared, but when you see the audience getting excited about the show, you forget about everything," Vargas said. "We're born into this. It's very nice to perform. You just want to smile and be sure the job is right."

Vargas' children are the family's sixth generation of circus performers. Alex, 21, is currently a dancer and is developing her act as a solo

trapeze artist. Ivan, 15, tumbles with the Windy City Acrobats.

Vargas and his wife "try to teach our kids everything we've learned and hope for the best," he said. "And so far, we've done OK."

It's easy to tell that Vargas' heart is with the circus. "[Ringling] definitely is the greatest show on earth because there are places to go and things to see," he said. "I'm happy with what I do, my kids are in school and doing what they love, and you're having so much fun."

To all the kids who have dreamed of running away and joining the circus, Vargas said, "It's a good opportunity because you can learn a lot. There's a chance to see the world as well as different cultures, even sometimes to go outside the country. You meet people from all over the world."

When asked what he would do if he weren't a circus performer, Vargas said, "I don't know. ... I've never thought about it. I'd probably find another circus to join."

INSIDE PAGE 2B

Time proves little change in style of circuses

Take a brief look at the history of acrobats, clowns and elephants.

INSIDE PAGE 3B

PETA activists charge circus with animal cruelty

Animal-rights activists worry about the welfare of circus animals.

INSIDE PAGE 2B

Kids travel all over when on the road with the circus

Performers' children are given education in variety of subjects.



Courtesy of Tartan USA

Chan-wook Park's final installment of the "Vengeance" trilogy is devoid of meaning.

Gore and scares combine in film with lack of theme, horror, meaning

By Evan LeRoy
Daily Texan Columnist

"Lady Vengeance," the final chapter in South Korean director Chan-wook Park's "Vengeance" trilogy, lacks the luster and horror of the first two. It has all of Park's signature beautiful cinematography and backwards narrative style, but unlike its predecessors, it is without meaning.

"Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance," released in 2002, and "Oldboy" in 2003, were two South Korean gems in the latest Asian film surge to hit the West. They bring the gore and scares of Japanese horror films "The Ring" and "The Grudge," while adding a hip storytelling method and a twist that will leave any audience member squirming and screaming.

A theme is what brings a film together. It is the glue that holds the photography, lighting, sound, and acting in place and gives the film a purpose. Without a solid theme or with poor delivery, even the most artistic and imaginative films can miss their mark. This is the flaw of "Lady Vengeance."

Geum-ja Lee is a 19-year-old girl who is wrongfully accused

of kidnapping and slaughtering a small boy. After being in prison for 13 years, she is released, and with the help of her newfound ex-con friends, takes revenge on the man who framed her. It sounds simple, but the narrative is stretched out by telling all the stories of Geum-ja Lee's cellmates, which have nothing to do with the story.

All of a sudden in Act Two, the audience finds out that Geum-ja was pregnant before she went to prison. Now, including the revenge and prison stories, the audience has to deal with the main character's orphaned child. And then, when Lee is about to take her revenge, she completely changes her plan that she has been working on for 13 years.

No doubt the result is the most brutal thing to be put on screen in years and is the artistic climax of the film, but it lacks depth. The scene works extremely well as a gruesome, bloody, horrific, beautiful short film, but it seems to be stuck on the end of the film like a dangling participle.

Park spends so much time focusing on Geum-ja's fellow prisoners

that the audience never really gets to know the villain. Thus when his uppance comes, it feels unjustified. His crimes were justification enough for even the most cruel and unusual of punishment, but the narrative death of his character lacks significant reason.

"Lady Vengeance" is three great movies stuffed into one, but they all deserve their own story. It is a shame to know that the rest of the stories and the characters will never be told properly. I would suggest seeing "Lady Vengeance" before "Oldboy" or "Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance," because it is not as good but definitely worth seeing. "Lady Vengeance" suffers from "The Godfather: Part III" syndrome.

It stands up all right by itself, but compared to its ancestors, it is sad to see what this family has come to. "Lady Vengeance" makes great artistic leaps in front of "Oldboy" and "Sympathy," but Chan-wook Park got caught up in making his film look pretty rather than giving it a proper theme and closing his trilogy with a bang.

Thinking your boss is too hard on you?

New comedy release follows in footsteps of bestselling novel

By Alex Navissi
Daily Texan Columnist

Strutting down the runway today is the fish-out-of-water comedy, "The Devil Wears Prada." The film stars the legendary Meryl Streep as intimidating fashion magazine editor Miranda Priestly and Anne Hathaway as her new assistant, Andy Sachs.

After landing a dream job with Priestly's magazine, "Runway," Andy realizes how tough the fashion world can be as she balances her new challenging career with her personal life and sense of self. Priestly's demand for perfection and attention puts a strain on Andy and, as her personal life unravels, she is forced to examine why she started working for Priestly in the first place.

"The Devil Wears Prada" is perfectly cast. Only Streep could

speak about cerulean with the gravitas of a Shakespearean performance. Hathaway's role as a woman in transition reflects her real-life struggle as an actress moving past the Disney days and into more adult fare. Stanley Tucci also delivers a strong performance as Streep's right-hand man and Hathaway's confidant.

"The Devil Wears Prada" is replete with humorous moments and, to a degree, is a good satire of the fashion industry. Even eating disorders are played for laughs. The absurdity of that whole world is apparent from the onset when everyone at "Runway" categorically refers to the stunning Hathaway as fat and ugly.

The film stumbles when it tries to sell the viewer on the "be true to yourself" theme. It presents Andy with two options:

work for the evil magazine or be a good person. At no point does the film suggest that Andy can do both, which is how life really works. The film is critical of ambition — Sachs is chastised by her family, friends and boyfriend for trying to succeed in her career. She is allowed to play dress-up and give them all \$1000 purses, but when she starts working late and being successful, they turn their back on her. Since when is ambition a vice and not a virtue?

The preachy core of "The Devil Wears Prada" ultimately detracts from the overall quality of the film. However, on a more superficial level, it's a pleasant summer distraction. With fine leading performances and many humorous moments, "The Devil Wears Prada" will be sure to turn some heads.

Kids train, perform while in school

By Bhargav Katikaneni
Daily Texan Staff

The circus isn't all fun and games for these kids.

When the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus came to Austin on Wednesday, it brought along teacher Maureen Breslin to teach the 14 children who travel with the circus. Breslin teaches them for three hours every day between daily performances and training sessions.

As members of a traveling circus, children are a crucial part of the act, often performing with the animals or working as acrobats and gymnasts. When they're not impressing audiences, they're doing everyday activities like attending class and doing homework.

"They have quite a full schedule," Breslin said.

While some of the kids are performers, such as the Windy City Acrobats who are in the ring every day, others are too

young to be left home by parents traveling with the circus, many of whom are performers. "One of [the parents] is a tiger handler, another is a band leader. Half of the younger students have parents performing," she said, while the rest of the parents are support staff.

As the circus' only teacher, Breslin teaches one group of students from first to fifth grade, and then another group from eighth to 12th grade. Despite teaching across grade levels, the lessons run smoothly. "It's difficult, but the kids are pretty good. They're patient. If I'm helping one student, they can wait."

The tricky part of the job, she says, is balancing the requirements of a proper education without ever falling into a routine. The fact that they're in a new city every week helps.

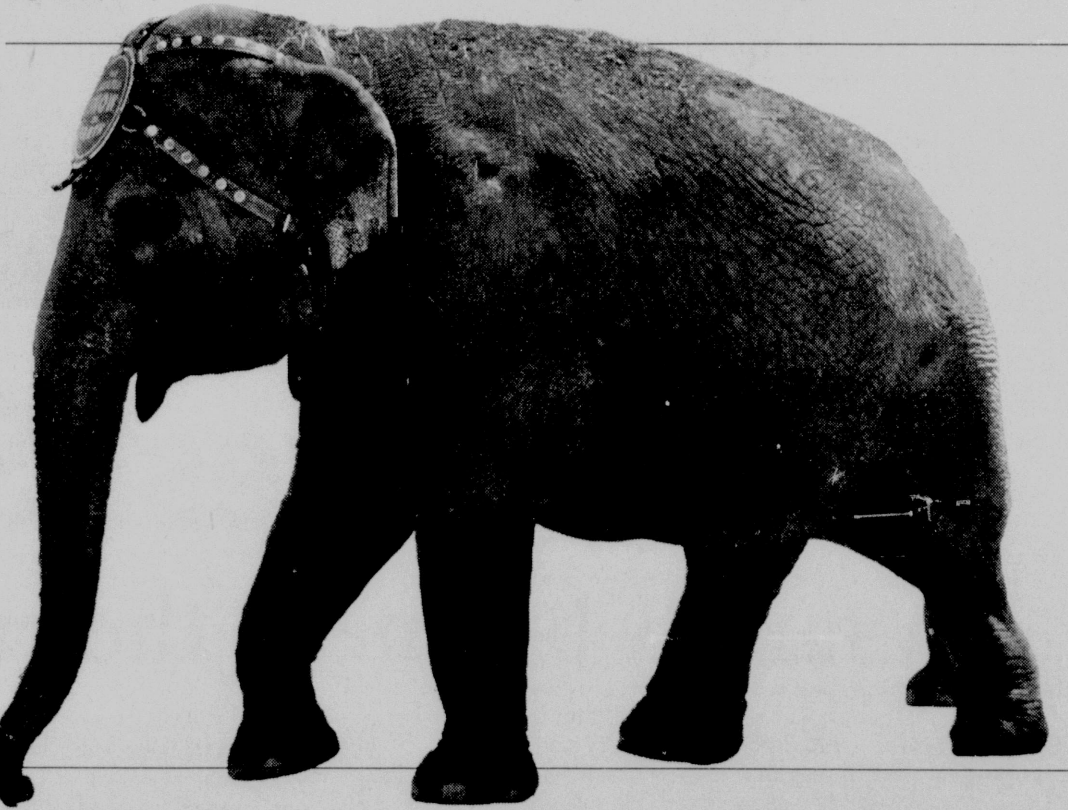
"When we were in Washington D.C., we did a ton of field trips. We went to the Capitol monu-

ment and saw all the museums. In San Antonio, we went to visit the Alamo."

Breslin, who has been on the job for five months, said these kids are "just like any other population of school students ... Some of the students are progressing faster than others." Compared to her previous job as a regular school teacher, Breslin thinks the constant travelling creates a much stronger student-teacher bond and stronger friendships among the students.

While many circus families have been performers in a circus for multiple generations, Breslin does not think children automatically follow in their parents' footsteps.

"I don't think there's any real pressure," she said. "A lot of the parents are open to their children doing other things, maybe even going to college and having their own separate careers."



Circus has roots centuries in Roman era, then came to United States

Historians believe the circus has its roots in Ancient Rome. Popular sights were the chariot and horse races, acrobats and jugglers, trained animals, and more — not too unlike the shows of our modern circus.

Circus Maximus was the first circus in Rome, followed in importance by the circuses Flaminius, Neronis and Maxentius. The circus of ancient Rome was special as it was the only public exhibition where men and women were not seated separately.

The title of "father of the modern circus" belongs to Englishman Philip Astley, a skilled horse rider. Astley was naturally gifted as a trick rider and opened a riding school in London in 1768. He taught lessons in the morning and in the afternoon gave entertaining shows. Jan. 9, 1768, is regarded as the date of Astley's first circus performance. He is responsible for the circular shape that has become a staple in circuses, known for easier viewing for the audience and the centrifugal force offered by running in circles assists the horse riders' balance.

The word *circus* even comes from the shape that Astley decided on. After two successful seasons in London, he hired other attractions to his show. These included clowns, musicians, jugglers, tightrope walkers and dancing dogs, and his performances grew closer to the circuses of today.

The circus gained popularity in the U.S. during the early 1800s thanks to Purdy, Welch & Co. However, the American circus was truly revolutionized by the efforts of P.T. Barnum and his Museum, Menagerie & Circus, which featured animal and human oddities. Barnum's circus merged with James Anthony Bailey's after Barnum's death. They toured Europe as "The Greatest Show On Earth" from 1897 to 1902 and introduced the style

and format that would become the standard in Europe.

Circuses began to lose popularity in the 1960s when concerns about animal rights were brought to light, and people sought other forms of entertainment. Many circuses were forced to merge with others just to survive. As it stands, the performing acts of the circus today really aren't too different from the circuses from many years ago.

— Nathan Tsui

The Elephant Brunch varies by city, is part of community program

A feast of fruits and vegetables were laid out in the parking lot of the Frank Erwin Center Tuesday as part of a slew of events leading up to tonight's opening of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. The circus' elephants lined up in front of a small crowd and devoured the salad provided by the fast food chain Sonic. Once the pachyderms finished their brunch, trainers brought out watermelons. In true Gallagher fashion, the elephants crushed the melons with their feet in order to eat the insides.

The Elephant Brunch is a long-running tradition, though the details vary by city. Sometimes the trainers will provide ice blocks with fruit frozen inside, to provide variety for the animals.

"We try to mix it up for them," said Melinda Rosser, spokeswoman for the circus. "They can't be eating the same thing every time they come out."

The Elephant Brunch is part of an outreach program and the circus' way of giving back to the community. CASA of Travis County and Settlement Home kids were invited out for Tuesday's event.

— Halie Pratt

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Point South & Bridge Hollow

THE DAILY TEXAN SUDOKU

Fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear once in each row, column and 3x3 box.

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

by Shaun Stewart June 30, 2006 Difficulty: Medium

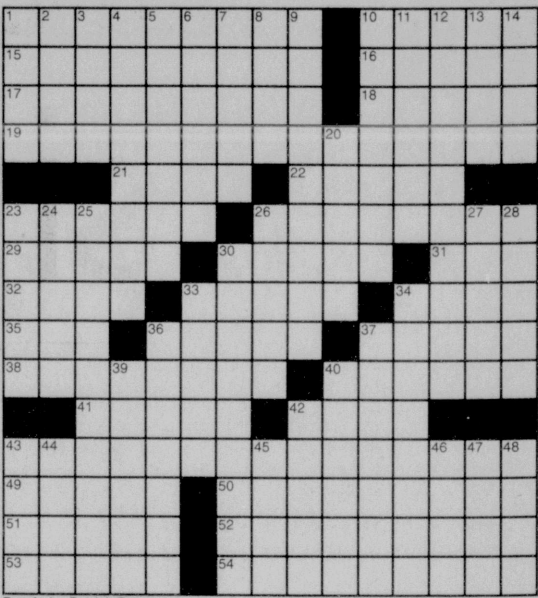
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 00519

- ACROSS
- 1 Top of the pops
- 10 In the loop
- 15 Flowering plant used in folk remedies
- 16 Toughness
- 17 Undeniable facts
- 18 Teacart goodie
- 19 "Hup, two, three, four" caller
- 21 "Ba-da-____, ba-da-boom"
- 22 ____ Williams, Huck Finn's female alias
- 23 Arranged anew, as paintings
- 26 One taken by an artist
- 29 Conception
- 30 Sand castle destroyers
- 31 Unpopular singer?
- 32 Baptism castoffs
- 33 Spaced (out)
- 34 War correspondent Ernie
- 35 Cows and bulls
- 36 Sound technician
- 37 Romantic hopeful
- 38 English portraitist who championed the Grand Style
- 40 It may add up
- 41 Tightwad
- 42 Hefty hammer
- 43 Telecommunications needs
- 49 Beam joiner
- 50 Backdrop of "What Price Glory"
- 51 Where a bungee cord might attach
- 52 Built for comfort
- 53 Emulated a coyote
- 54 Units of X-ray exposure

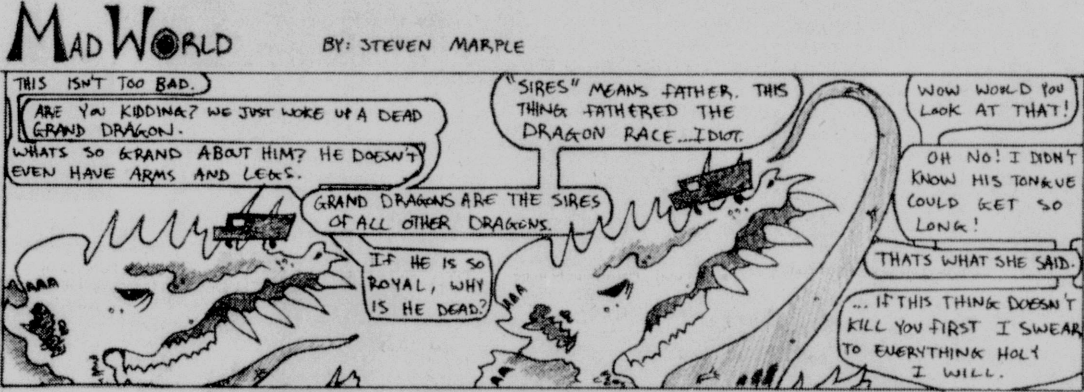
DOWN

- 1 Moving stock
- 2 One putting on finishing touches
- 3 Like kickboxing, originally
- 4 Isopods known as roly-polies
- 5 Oily compound used in dyes
- 6 Number of stars, perhaps
- 7 Getting 100 on
- 8 Radio Hall-of-Famer Rick
- 9 Certain Manhattanite
- 10 Warrants
- 11 Believer in the Rule of Three
- 12 Final Wilder/Pryor screen outing
- 13 Frequent target of old Ferrell "S.N.L." skits
- 14 Porcelain piece
- 20 Without leaves
- 23 Stage item
- 24 French sociologist Durkheim
- 25 Funny business
- 26 They comprise a part
- 27 "The Crucible" setting



- Puzzle by Patrick Berry
- 28 Like disciplinarians
- 30 Excellent
- 33 Big name in jewelry
- 34 Gill-breathing amphibian
- 36 Symbolized
- 37 First word sung on the Beach Boys "Pet Sounds" album
- 39 Wife in Fitzgerald's "Tender Is the Night"
- 40 Visit
- 42 Pool
- 43 Go
- 44 Former Royals manager Tony
- 45 Lawnmower handle
- 46 Break
- 47 Name meaning, literally, west island
- 48 Unleashes

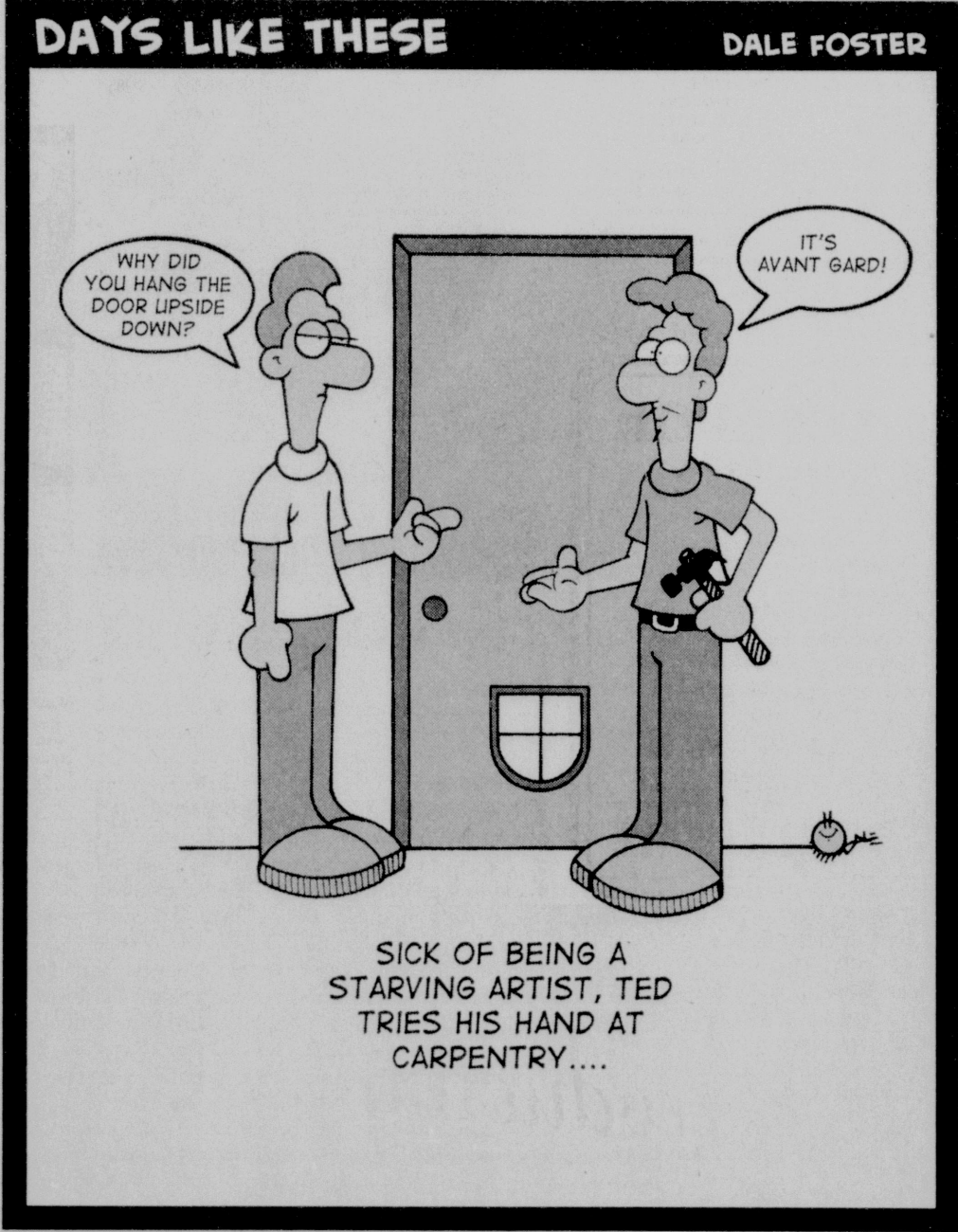
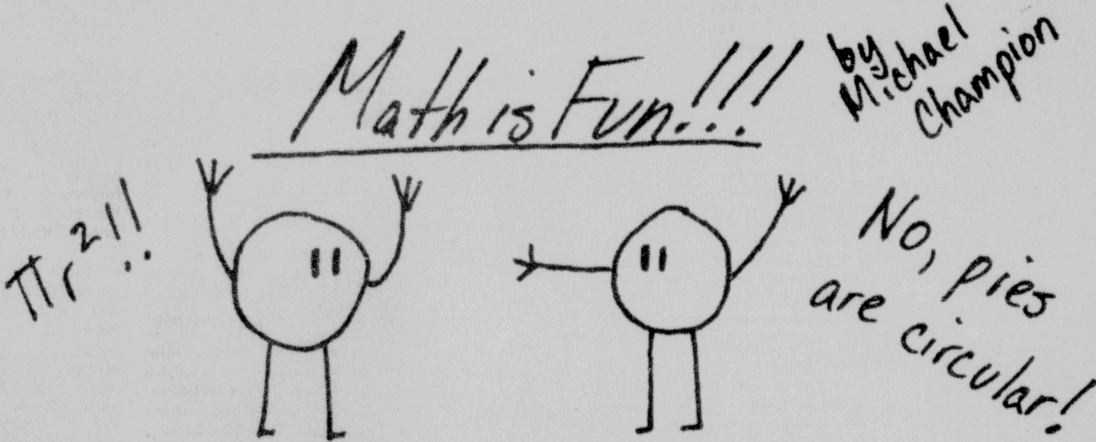
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URBAN SUPERHEROES



MATTUOUS by matt douglass mattuous@aol.com



Answers to the Thursday, June 29 puzzle

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

Newsworthy

Holyfield begins another title run

DALLAS — Evander Holyfield is 43. He hasn't fought in nearly two years, hasn't won in more than four and hasn't been the heavyweight champ in six years.

So?

Here's the timeline he considers more relevant: His contract to box for Don King expired about two weeks ago, he was licensed to box in Texas last week and, on Thursday, he announced the start of his latest comeback bid, an Aug. 18 fight against journeyman Jeremy Bates.

"I actually believe I can whoop anybody," Holyfield said at a news conference featuring local fighters on the undercard, but not his opponent. "I'm ready. ... Sure as I sit here today, I will be the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world."

Now working for his own company, Real Deal Events, his return to the ring after a 21-month absence is being hyped as "Holyfield V, The Final Chapter."

Holyfield quickly notes there are many pages in a chapter, and this one won't end until he gets his fifth heavyweight title. He's already the only person ever to claim it four times.

"If this was one fight, it'd be the final page," Holyfield said. "Whatever it takes to fulfill that chapter, that's what it is."

— The Associated Press

Boxer McNeeley arrested again

STOUGHTON, Mass. — Former heavyweight contender Peter McNeeley, who lost to Mike Tyson in 1995, was arrested Thursday on charges that he drove a getaway car in a drugstore robbery.

The 37-year-old was being held without bail pending arraignment in Stoughton District Court. McNeeley was arrested with Robert Perry, who was charged with armed robbery. McNeeley was charged with accessory after the fact.

Perry stole a fanny pack from the Walgreens drug store in Stoughton on Thursday police Lt. Thomas Murphy said.

Police in neighboring Canton, who had been alerted to watch out for the car, pulled over a vehicle driven by McNeeley. He and Perry were arrested after witnesses identified the men, Murphy said. Police recovered \$180 in cash and an empty fanny pack.

In March, McNeeley was arrested after an alleged assault on a bar patron in Norwood. He pleaded not guilty to charges of assault, battery and unarmed robbery.

— AP

Rangers trade Castro to Phillies

BALTIMORE — The Philadelphia Phillies acquired left-hander Fabio Castro from the Texas Rangers on Thursday for minor league pitcher Daniel Haigwood and cash.

Castro was 0-0 with a 4.32 ERA in four appearances with the Rangers earlier this season. He was designated for assignment on June 24.

"Fabio is someone we've had our eye on since the Rule-5 draft approached last December," Phillies assistant general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said. "He has a quality arm, is young and someone we are pleased to have in our organization. We feel that he has a chance to develop into a setup-type reliever."

The 21-year-old Castro held right-handers to a .192 batting average (5-for-26) during his brief stay in Texas. He is expected to join the Phillies in Toronto on Friday.

Haigwood, a left-hander, was 2-5 with a 3.54 ERA in 15 starts with Double-A Reading. He was acquired in the November trade that brought Aaron Rowand and Gio Gonzalez from the Chicago White Sox for Jim Thome.

— AP

Wranglers announce new head coach

Agenda for Partlow includes improving offensive production

By Cody Hale

Daily Texan Staff

Deion Sanders knew something had to be done before the game had even ended.

The Austin Wranglers part-owner sat in dismay during the fourth quarter of the Wranglers 52-35 loss to the Philadelphia Soul in Austin's first playoff game in franchise history.

Upset with the lack of offensive production in the second half of many games during the season, the Wranglers' front office was looking for that missing piece. On Thursday, they found what they were looking for.

The Wranglers named Brian Partlow as their new head coach and offensive coordinator. He signed a five-year contract with the team to stay through the 2011 season. The terms of the contract

have not yet been disclosed.

"I'm really excited about becoming part of the community here in Austin, and I couldn't think of a better place to start a family," Partlow said. "I'm proud to be a part of this organization and community, and I can't wait to build a team that this region is proud of both on and off the field."

Throughout the season, Austin's offensive production became stagnant in the last half of many games. After releasing Skip Foster from his head coaching duties in late May, the search was on for the Wranglers next head coach.

"We wanted someone with experience and a passion for excellence," General Manager Glyn Milburn said. "He comes from a winning tradition, and we feel Austin will be a great fit for him."

Partlow began his career in the Arena Football League as an offensive coordinator for the Indiana Firebirds from 2002-03. He then moved on to become one of the most sought-after offensive coordinators in the league after help-

ing propel the Colorado Crush to become the second ranked scoring offense, 56.4 points per game, in 2006.

Crush quarterback John Dutton flourished under Partlow's system, setting a career-high in touchdown passes with 95 in 2006 for the second consecutive season en route to helping Colorado earn the second best record in the AFL at 11-5.

Partlow worked with offensive specialist Damien Harrell since 2004 in Colorado and was important in the development of Harrell as he was named the AFL's Offensive Player of the Year for the second season in a row.

"We're all very excited, and we look to have a great offense next season with the types of schemes he'll bring in," Wranglers quarterback John Fitzgerald said. "Our core group is now in place, and it's been five years since I've been this excited for the next season."

Partlow helped lead the Crush to the 2005 AFL Championship. He and his wife will move to Austin in mid-July.



Photo courtesy of Erin Griffin | Austin Wranglers

New Wranglers head coach Brian Partlow, center, stands beside Doug MacGregor, left, and Glyn Milburn, right, at Thursday's press conference.

"This is a great opportunity for me here in Austin, and the brand of offense you'll see next year is exciting," Partlow said. "I want to make the Frank Erwin Center the toughest place to play in the AFL."

This will be 29-year-old Partlow's first head coaching job, coming to

Austin as a proven coach with a winning attitude.

"He will not only affect this team, but we want him to infect these players with a winning atmosphere," Sanders said. "We love everything he brings to the table. He's the total package."

Emerging from an Armstrong-sized shadow



Leader of Team T-Mobile, Jan Ullrich of Germany (center), and leader of Team CSC, Ivan Basso of Italy (left), ride behind seven-time race winner and leader of Team Discovery, Lance Armstrong (right), during the fifth stage of last year's Tour de France.

Christophe Ena
Associated Press

Basso, Ulrich leading large field of cyclists in Tour de France

By Brad Gray

Daily Texan Staff

It's about as wide open as it gets in the 2006 Tour de France now that Lance Armstrong has retired. After delegating the winner's stand on the podium to Lance for seven straight years, the "other guys" are ready to give it a try.

When the mob of roughly 200 cyclists sets out for Saturday's time trial in Strasbourg, as many as 10 cyclists will have a strong chance at donning the maillot jaune. However, most insiders believe

that this race will come down to Ivan Basso and Jan Ulrich.

Basso, considered the world's best climbing cyclist, was the only rider to challenge Armstrong last year and even kept up with the Austin native during the strenuous mountain stages in the Alps. Although he fought hard in the mountains, Basso crossed the line on the Champs Elysees a distant 4:40 behind Armstrong in the overall race. His Achilles' heel seemed to be the shorter time trial stages where he usually loses ground to the stronger sprinters. Basso will ride for Team CSC, one of the most talented and well-equipped teams in the race.

Ulrich, riding for Team T-Mobile, is equally poised for a Tour victory. Although Basso is

the man to beat, Ulrich's sprinting ability should help him with this year's route set with two fewer mountaintop finishes and longer time trial stages. Armstrong's exit also lifted a huge burden from Ulrich's back. The German finished second behind Armstrong five different times and has not won the Tour since 1997.

Besides the two favorites, American George Hincapie has been dubbed the surprise factor to watch for this year. Hincapie was the only rider to team up with Armstrong for all seven of his victories and feels the pressure to carry on his mentor's success. Last year during the Tour's toughest mountain stage, Hincapie earned his first-ever stage victory and gave American cycling fans a pre-

view to what could be a successful 2006.

Despite his success last year, Hincapie has had to struggle with injuries this season. During one stage of the Paris-Roubaix race in April, Hincapie fell while riding on a cobbled road and injured his shoulder. Doctors first thought that he had broken his collarbone and required surgery, but then re-evaluated him to find that he had separated his shoulder and would have to wear a sling for a few weeks, but would be ready for the Tour pending a successful recovery.

Hincapie is ready to go for Team Discovery Channel and could continue the American stronghold on the Tour that Armstrong began. Other notable Americans com-

peting in France that are capable of winning are Levi Leipheimer for Team Gerolsteiner and Floyd Landis for Team Phonak.

This year's route differs slightly from last year. Unlike most races, this one will not feature the exciting team time-trial stage. The race will start off in Strasbourg on Saturday, and then sail through the flatland stages before heading to the Pyrenees Mountains. After the Pyrenees, the riders will tackle the Alps in a climb that climaxes at the world famous Alpe d'Huez on July 18. On July 23 the riders finally arrive in Paris to complete eight celebratory laps on the glamorous Boulevard des Champs Elysees and crown a winner on the podium beside the Arc de Triomphe.

NCAA tournament field not likely to expand next year

Committee rejects latest coaches' proposal of 128-team bracket

By Michael Marot

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The NCAA's little guys could still get locked out of the most lucrative championship event in college sports, even after George Mason's improbable tournament run last year.

On Thursday, the Men's Basketball Committee announced it rejected a coaches' proposal

to nearly double the size of the NCAA tournament field from 65 to 128, calling expansion unnecessary and not imminent.

It also voted down a more modest offer that would have added fewer than eight teams to the bracket and increased the number of opening-round games in Dayton, Ohio.

"There is no enthusiasm on the part of the committee to expand the tournament at this time," Craig Littlepage, chairman of the Men's Basketball Committee, said in a statement. "In the interest of sustaining the quality of the tournament, the committee has

decided to maintain the current structure."

The women's committee, in an almost identical statement, also rejected expansion.

"The committee is committed to the growth of the game and the championship," chairwoman Joni Comstock said. "We will continue to work with membership groups to assess, identify and provide additional and equitable competition opportunities for women's basketball student-athletes."

Men's committee members considered information about the quality of competition, logistics, television ratings and the overall

popularity of the event.

After meeting for five days, the 10 committee members determined the tournament would be best served by remaining at 65 teams.

Thursday's announcement ends, for now, a debate that Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim started during this year's Final Four.

Boeheim argued George Mason's tournament success was indicative of the parity in college basketball and argued more teams should be rewarded for strong seasons so eventual contenders are not left out.

At the time, Boeheim also said

he supported increasing the number of teams by three to seven.

Last month, however, National Association of Basketball Coaches executive director Jim Haney told NCAA officials the coaches' group supported a bracket of 128 teams. One reason, Haney said, was that more postseason bids would provide coaches with greater job security.

But Haney acknowledged last week the proposal was unlikely to win committee approval this year.

The committee made no announcement about reconsidering expansion in the near future.