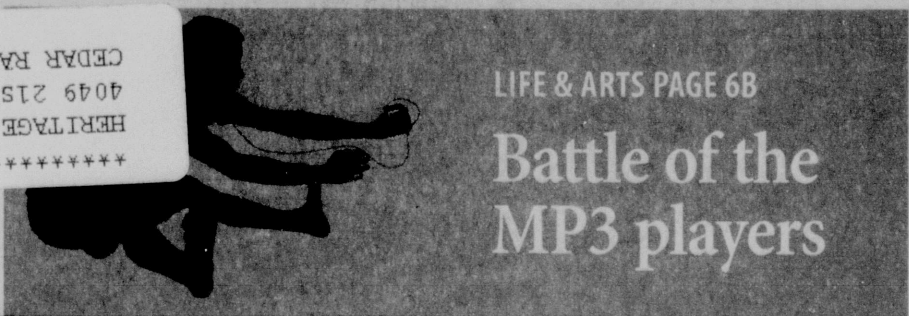




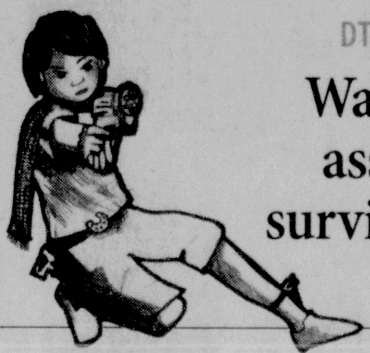
WORLD & NATION PAGE 3
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with Iraqi
murders



LIFE & ARTS PAGE 6B

Battle of the
MP3 players



DT WEEKEND

Water-gun
assassin's
survival guide

THE DAILY TEXAN

Thursday, June 22, 2006

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New rules may rein in tubers

New Braunfels considering more ordinances aimed at taming the crowds floating on the rivers

By Cassandra Kirsch
Daily Texan Staff

When the cold fronts disappear from Austin, the first thought on many students' minds is how soon they can grab their swimsuits and head to New Braunfels, where the Guadalupe and Comal

rivers wait for those exhausted by the turmoil of the school year.

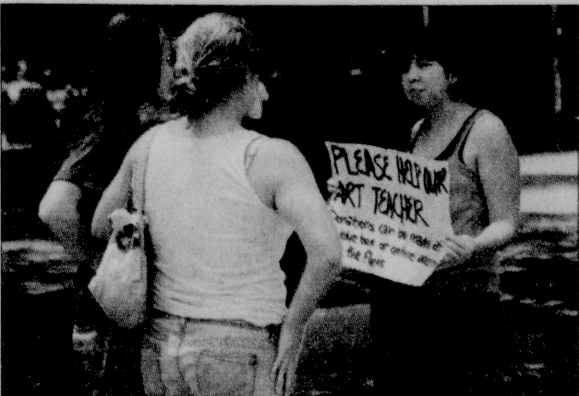
Many tubers could soon feel the burn from more things than the sun.

The New Braunfels City Council has proposed plans to increase law enforcement on the river,

ban people from jumping off bridges and prohibiting beer bongs. In addition, the council has discussed limiting the volume of containers that people can take on the river.

"The main problem comes from the fact that the two rivers see two different personalities," said Officer Steve Hanna, river supervisor of the New Braunfels Police Department. The Guadalupe typically attracts a rowdier crowd, while the

RIVER continues on page 2A



Christopher Soliz | Daily Texan Staff

Ashley Landavazo stands on the Drag collecting donations for Tamara Hoover. Administrators fired Hoover for posting nude pictures of the Internet

Students protest firing of teacher

Group of pupils raise money for dismissed art instructor's legal fees

By Justin Ward
Daily Texan Staff

A group of Austin High School students are campaigning to have dismissed art teacher Tamara Hoover reinstated. The students believe Hoover was unfairly fired for nude photos found on the Internet, which they say are artistic, not pornographic.

The small group of students, all soon-to-be seniors, went to the Drag yesterday to raise awareness about Hoover's case. The students, bearing signs that read, "Save our art teacher," passed out flyers, talked to passersby and collected donations for Hoover's legal fees.

Hoover was fired after nude and semi-nude pictures, posted on a photography Web site, were displayed in a classroom. Hoover will appeal her dismissal before the Austin Independent School District board of trustees some time before the end of next week.

PHOTOS continues on page 2A



Jeremy Balkin | Daily Texan Staff

SG Vice President Marcus Cenicerros looks at a possible Cesar Chavez statue design by Pablo Eduardo during a show of designs on Oct. 6. President William Powers Jr. said Wednesday that the University has selected Eduardo to be the sculptor for the final statue of Chavez that will be unveiled in April 2007.

Memorializing a visionary

Committee chooses sculptor from Massachusetts for Cesar Chavez statue as plans move forward

By Justin Ward
Daily Texan Staff

Student dreams of building a statue to honor civil rights leader Cesar Chavez moved one step closer to becoming a reality yesterday, said Associate Dean of Students Margarita Arellano.

President William Powers Jr. announced yesterday the University has selected Pablo Eduardo of Gloucester, Mass., to be the sculptor for the statue.

Eduardo's design was selected out of 70 applicants and four finalists, Arellano said. The statue depicts a standing Chavez bearing a long, waving flag symbolizing the Chicano migrant worker movement.

Models of the four finalists' designs were displayed in the Perry-Castaneda Library, and comment boxes were provided for each. The statue committee read more than 200 comments and voted unanimously to select Eduardo's design, Arellano said.

Comments from students ranged from short expressions of approval to detailed opinions about the meanings conveyed in the statues, said statue committee member Stacy Torres, a government and Mexican American studies major.

"A lot of students liked that it would be a good portrayal of, not only Cesar Chavez, but also the movement," Torres said.

Eduardo said that he was thrilled and honored to be portraying the man whom he idolized as a small boy.

"I designed it to show a lot of movement, because that was who Cesar Chavez was," Eduardo said. "He was always moving. He

CESAR continues on page 2A

Teach for America increases recruiting

By Kim Carmichael
Daily Texan Staff

Among the developed countries throughout the world, America has some of the greatest stratification of educational standards. Nine-year-old students in some urban and rural areas are up to three grade levels behind those in wealthy suburbs.

Figures like these provide an impetus to recruit America's top college graduates from institutions such as UT, an effort that is growing each year, according to Teach for America recruiters.

Teach for America has been recruiting college seniors and graduates since 1990 and currently has more than 14,000 alumni. The organization started with 500 members and now currently employees 3,500. The organization also has 90 full-time recruiters around the country to accommodate the growing interest in the program.

"It's a fantastic comment on America's young generation on the awareness of a more shameful aspect of our society — the achievement gap between the high-income and low-income sectors," said Steven Sarr, vice president for knowledge development and public

TFA continues on page 2A

Condos will rise higher than Frost Bank Tower

Mayor cites building as part of efforts to up downtown population

By Jessica Kludt
Daily Texan Staff

Rising 44 stories, the 360 Condominiums, which broke ground Tuesday, will surpass the Frost Bank Tower as Austin's tallest building by approximately 65 feet.

The 432-unit building, along with expansions of Capital Metro service, are steps in Mayor Will Wynn's initiative to increase downtown residents from the current 5,500 to 25,000 by 2015.

"Austin has doubled in size every 20 years since 1900. If we grow is not an option — it's how we grow," said the mayor's spokesman Matt Curtis.

The plan will generate a larger



Callie Richmond | Daily Texan Staff

Construction employees work at the site for the new 360 Condominiums.

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High
92
Low
73

If you put us together
we make one chick.

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LIFE & ARTS PAGE 5B

World Cup
fashions



'Don't Mess with Texas' up for ad award

'Just Do It,' 'What Happens Here, Stays Here' also competing for top honors

By Rachel Youens
Daily Texan Staff

Willie Nelson has said it. Ashley Judd has said it. Now the whole country might be saying it, as the "Don't Mess with Texas" campaign runs for Advertising Week's Favorite Slogan Award.

Created by Austin advertising agency GSD&M Advertising back in 1986, the "Don't Mess with Texas" campaign celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and stands to earn a major honor at the nation's top advertising event. Advertising Week, held in September in New York City, is a gathering of the nation's top advertising agencies and a valuable showcase for the slogan and the company behind it.

"This is a great accomplish-

ment, because the 'Don't Mess with Texas' campaign is a public service announcement, not a consumer ad. It's not about choosing Coke or Pepsi, it's about literally changing behavior, which is the greatest challenge in advertising," said Eric Webber, spokesman for GSD&M.

The Texas Department of Transportation, who commissioned the campaign, said the slogan is recognizable to 95 percent of Texans. After 12 years the campaign is no longer run by GSD&M — it has been taken over by advertising agency EnviroMedia — but the story of how the phrase "Don't Mess with Texas" evolved is still legendary at the agency. Tim McClure, a UT alumnus and one of GSD&M's

founders, came up with the phrase at the 11th hour before the pitch.

"I took a walk to clear my mind and noticed litter in my neighborhood. I'd never heard the word litter before, except in relation to kittens, but I remembered my mom telling me as a kid, 'Your room is a mess!' and I thought maybe it would affect people to tell them their state was a mess," McClure said.

The slogan was not an instant hit with the Texas Department of Transportation, who asked that it be changed to "Please don't mess with Texas." McClure said no.

"It was a statement that was aggressive and confrontational. It's not about being nice, it's about challenging people to take care of something that's important to them," Webber said.

Twenty years after its debut during a UT football game, "Don't Mess with Texas" has become the most successful anti-litter campaign ever. In a survey of Texans by GSD&M, it overtook "Remember the Alamo" as the most memorable Texas phrase. It's even spawned a book by McClure titled, "Don't Mess with Texas: The Story Behind the Legend," to be released in September.

"The important part about this ad is not just how well-known it is, it's how well it worked. In five years roadside littering was reduced 75 percent," Webber said. "People all over the country know this ad, and many of them don't even realize it's related to anti-litter now."

Being memorable and being effective are two of Advertising Week's criteria for a winner, said the event's executive director Matt Scheckner. Being short and sweet and resonating with the audience are also qualities considered by the judges. And although sworn to secrecy, Scheckner hint-

ed that in early voting the slogan has done quite well. The winner will be announced at the end of Advertising Week on Sept. 29.

The slogan is up against some stiff competition, facing off against such entries as Nike's "Just do it" and Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority's infamous "What Happens Here, Stays Here."

But Texans aren't going down without a fight. Tuesday at the competition's kick off press conference, Texans swarmed Times Square sporting the slogan and Texas-themed clothing, said Scheckner. Even New York personality the "Naked Cowboy" got in on the fun, plastering his guitar with "Don't Mess with Texas" stickers and singing "Mommies tell all your babies, don't mess with Texas."

"The brilliance of the line comes from the DNA of Texas pride," McClure said. "It's a message with a higher calling."

2006 slogan nominees

- "Have it your way"
— Burger King
 - "Only you can prevent forest fires"
— USDA Forest Service
 - "Good to the Last Drop"
— Maxwell House
 - "Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk"
— Ad Council
 - "Raising the bar"
— Cingular
 - "A Diamond is Forever"
— De Beers
 - "The Breakfast of Champions"
— Wheaties
 - "This is your brain. This is your brain on drugs."
— Partnership for a Drug Free America
 - "We Answer to a Higher Authority"
— Hebrew National
- Vote for your favorite slogan at www.VoteDMWT.com
- Source: Advertising Week 2006



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6/22/06

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Tuesday	Thursday, 12 p.m.	Friday	Tuesday, 12 p.m.
Wednesday	Friday, 12 p.m.		

Classified Word Ads: 11 p.m. (Last Business Day Prior to Publication)

RIVER: Tubing arrests skyrocket this summer

From page 1A

Comal River stretch, which is under the New Braunfels Police Department jurisdiction, attracts a calmer group, NBPD officials said. This year, the Guadalupe has slowed down to 50 feet per second, resulting in more people choosing the Comal River as their choice for drifting.

Last year, the police department arrested 252 people on the river during the summer season, with 360 charges and a total of 2,200 tickets. So far in 2006, 280 people have been

arrested, and there are still two more months of summer left. Police said they worry this year's numbers will by far surpass the previous year's. In 2001, the city approved another law enforcement increase.

Despite concerns from the police department, frequent river-drifters and businesses argue things are getting blown out of proportion, and a greater police presence could diminish the tranquility of the waters. Colby Reno, owner of Texas Tubes, one of New Braunfels' most popular places for tubing on the river,

said less than half of the people he sees actually have beer bong. "[The city] will go ban crazy sooner or later if they can keep going after one thing after another," Reno said. The city also passed noise ordinances on the river last year.

Reno said he doesn't think the bans will deter people from frequenting the river, but Steve Anderson, an electrical engineering senior at the University and a frequent tuber on the river, said he feels the proposed changes could make the river less enjoyable.

"The river is a place to relax

and have fun, and this will just increase tensions instead," Anderson said. He has rarely ever had problems with people on the river, he said.

"There are a lot of different perspectives. You have the guests, spectators, police and the parks administration, each bringing their own perspectives and responsibilities to the rivers," said Stacy Laird, director of the parks administration for New Braunfels.

The New Braunfels City Council will make a final decision on the proposed changes on Monday.

TFA: Program's average GPA is 3.54

From page 1A

engagement for TFA.

Audrey Simmons, a program recruiter working with UT and Baylor, said UT has one of the highest application and acceptance rates in the country, with 29 graduates this year alone. Other universities with high recruitment rates include Yale, Dartmouth and Harvard.

The recent surge in applicants means acceptance into the program is becoming more competitive. The typical grade-point average of current members at graduation was 3.54, and 95.2 percent had held leadership positions on their campuses.

Various fields of study for applicants are an important factor for bringing diversity to the program. In 2005, 27 percent of the organization's members graduated in social

sciences; 16 percent in math, science and engineering; 4 percent in business; and 2 percent in education, according to their Web site.

Simmons graduated from the University in 2002 with a degree in public relations. Her path after graduation led her to teaching the fourth- and fifth-grade at Wilson Elementary School in Houston.

"Teaching is a very challenging profession," said Simmons. When she arrived, many of her students were below their grade level but "by the end of my time there, the students had made significant gains in their academics," she said.

Farr, also a UT graduate and TFA alumnus, currently works with research teams in Washington, D.C., to find the most successful method of bridging the achievement gap. The organization is beneficial to

all participants, because it brings the most dedicated individuals to disadvantaged students, and the students give insights into different aspects of society, he said.

Participation in Teach for America benefits not only the students but also the participants in their future, post-TFA endeavors.

"Volunteering gives the chance of experimental learning, which is a valuable part of career development," said Sally Jackman, senior administrative associate at UT's Career Exploration Center.

Many graduate programs provide benefits for alumni including course credit, waived application fees and fellowships. Several companies also recruit members, including Morgan Stanley and Wachovia Bank, according to their Web sites.

CESAR: Statue will be built by April '07

From page 1A

was not the type of person to sit behind a desk."

Eduardo has sculpted statues for universities and government buildings, such as the Rhode Island State House, Boston College, the House of Representatives and the Ministry of Foreign Service. Out of all the statues he has done, Eduardo said he is most honored to be sculpting Cesar Chavez for the University, according to a UT press release.

The statue was approved in 2003, after years of discussion on the need for statues and works of art representing the ethnic and gender diversity of the University.

"Students have worked a long time to have this project be there," Torres said. "This is a step in the right direction in recognizing the hard work and contributions of Latinos to the University."

The University raised the \$400,000 needed to build the statue by charging a \$1 fee per student.

Eduardo said he will begin on the statue as soon as contractual arrangements are made. The statue will be unveiled in April 2007, Torres said.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Bush administration declines North Korean call for talks

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea called Wednesday for direct talks with the United States over a potential missile test, but the Bush administration rejected the overture, saying threats aren't the way to seek dialogue.

"You don't normally engage in conversations by threatening to launch intercontinental ballistic missiles," U.N. Ambassador John Bolton said.

U.S. president gets mixed reaction on Europe trip

VIENNA, Austria — President Bush won solid European support Wednesday for his handling of escalating nuclear crises with North Korea and Iran but was challenged over the Iraq war, the U.S. prison camp in Cuba and rising anti-American sentiment.

About 1,200 students chanting "Bush Go Home!" marched through Vienna to a church square not far from Hofburg Palace where the leaders met. They were led by Cindy Sheehan, who lost her son in Iraq and energized the anti-war movement a year ago with a monthlong protest outside Bush's Texas ranch.

Bolivian president claims U.S. sending clandestine troops

LA PAZ, Bolivia — President Evo Morales drew a sharp denial from the U.S. Embassy when he claimed in a speech that the United States is sending soldiers disguised as students and tourists to Bolivia.

The accusation, which the U.S. Embassy dismissed as unfounded Wednesday, comes as Morales faces political attacks for his cozy relationship with President Hugo Chavez's Venezuela, including accepting aid from that country's military.

Morales offered no evidence to back his claim. Spokesman Alex Contreras said Morales would provide evidence, though he did not say when.

Tamil Tigers warn bombings to continue if unrest escalates

KILINOCHCHI, Sri Lanka — Sri Lanka should expect more suicide bombings if the island returns to full-scale war, the Tamil Tiger rebels' political chief warned Wednesday.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press, S.P. Tamilselvan said recent bloodshed has rendered the country's 4-year-old truce "a piece of paper that has no meaning at all."

Still, he said the Tigers were willing to sit down with the government again for peace talks.

Compiled from Associated Press reports

Military charges Marines in Iraqi's death

By Thomas Watkins
The Associated Press

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Seven Marines and a Navy corpsman were charged Wednesday with premeditated murder in the shooting death of an Iraqi man and could face the death penalty if convicted.

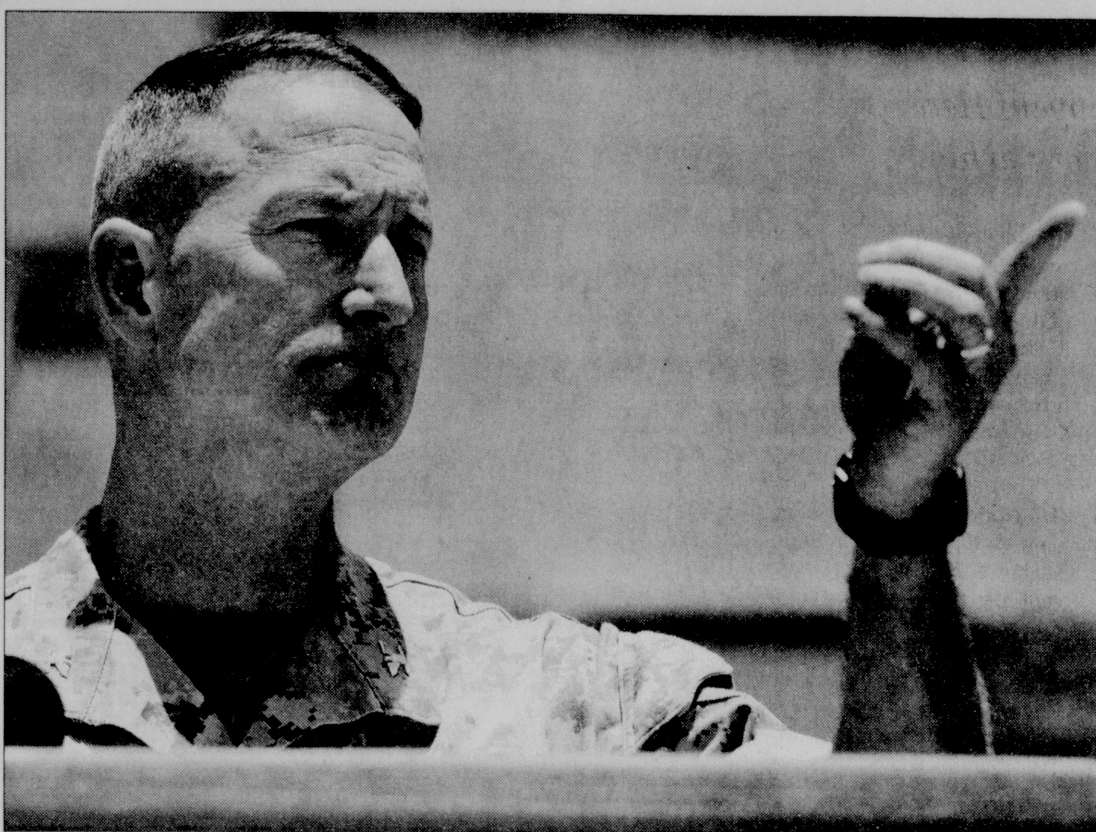
All eight also were charged with kidnapping. Other charges include conspiracy, larceny and providing false official statements.

Col. Stewart Navarre, chief of staff for Marine Corps Installations West, announced the charges at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base, where the eight are being held in individual cells for 23 hours each day. The troops are members of the Pendleton-based 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Regiment.

All eight have hired private attorneys and also have been given military defense lawyers.

Maj. Haythan Faraj, who represents Marine Cpl. Trent D. Thomas, said he has yet to see details from the investigation but claimed that at least some of the information provided by the troops was "was coerced out of them" by military investigators.

The Pentagon began investigating shortly after an Iraqi man identified as Hashim Ibrahim Awad was killed April 26 in Hamdania, west of Baghdad. Navarre did not disclose details about the incident but a senior Pentagon official with direct knowledge of the investigation has said evidence indicates troops entered the town in search of an insurgent and, failing to find him, grabbed an unarmed man



Chris Park | Associated Press

from his home and shot him. After the killing, the troops planted a shovel and an AK-47 rifle at the scene to make it appear the man was trying to plant an explosive device, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. The larceny charge

relates to the theft of an AK-47 and a shovel.

On Monday the military announced that three soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division had been charged with murder and other offenses in connection with the May 9 killings. It was not clear why charges against the fourth soldier were not announced until

Wednesday.

Together, the Hamdania and Haditha cases have generated international criticism of the U.S. and unfavorable publicity for the Marine Corps. Gen. Michael Hagee, the Marine commandant, recently visited Iraq to reinforce the importance of adhering to ethical standards.

Saddam stages hunger strike protesting lawyer's murder

By Patrick Quinn
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Saddam Hussein and his seven co-defendants went on a hunger strike Wednesday to protest the shooting death of an attorney on the ousted Iraqi leader's defense team, their chief lawyer said — the third such killing in the 8-month-old trial.

Lawyer Khamis al-Obeidi, a Sunni Arab who represented Saddam and his half brother Barzan Ibrahim, was abducted from his home Wednesday morning. His body was found riddled with bullets on a street near the Shiite slum of Sadr City. Police provided a photo of al-Obeidi's face, head and shoulders drenched in blood.

Saddam's chief attorney, Khalil al-Dulaimi, blamed the killing on the Interior Ministry, which Sunnis have alleged is infiltrated by so-called Shiite death squads.

"We strongly condemn this act and we condemn the killings done by the Interior Ministry forces against Iraqis," he said.

There was no comment from the ministry.

Bushra al-Khalil, a Lebanese member of the defense team, said al-Obeidi was taken from his house by men dressed in police uniforms and driving four-wheel-drive vehicles used by Iraqi security forces.

However, al-Obeidi's wife, Um Laith, was quoted on The New York Times' Web site as saying

the attackers wore civilian clothes. She said 20 men burst into their house while the couple and their children were sleeping, and identified themselves as members of an Interior Ministry security brigade.

The Times also quoted Iraqi witnesses as saying al-Obeidi was transported in a convoy by people known as belonging to the anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's militia, the Mahdi Army.

"We consider his killing a mes-

sage to us in the defense: To continue what you are doing will result in death in broad daylight on the streets of Baghdad." It is a message that's written in blood," said Mohammed Moneib, an Egyptian lawyer retained by Saddam.

Associated Press writers Hamza Hendawi and Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Baghdad, Lolita C. Baldor in Washington and Bassem Mrroue in Beirut, Lebanon, contributed to this report.

NATION BRIEFLY

Republicans quarrel over Voting Rights Act renewal

WASHINGTON — Renewal of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which eliminated many anti-black voting practices, suffered a setback Wednesday when House Republicans disagreed on whether to require bilingual ballots and federal oversight of Southern states.

Several Republicans, many from Southern states, complained at the meeting that the renewal unfairly singled out nine states for federal oversight, without according them credit for making strides against discriminatory voting practices now in their pasts.

Overwhelming bipartisan support for the renewal, from House Speaker Dennis Hastert on down the leadership hierarchy, stems from the strides the original act has made toward stamping out discriminatory voting practices such as poll taxes and literacy tests.

Lawmakers pledge fix for data brokers' questionable methods

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers promised on Wednesday to end shady practices by private data brokers who gather Americans' telephone records without subpoenas or warrants on behalf of banks, bail bondsmen and, sometimes, federal and local police.

These brokers, many of whom market aggressively on the Internet, have tricked telephone carriers into disclosing private customer information and broken into online accounts, in some cases guessing passwords that were the names of pets.

Space shuttle launch a go despite foam concerns

WASHINGTON — The decision to press ahead with the launch of space shuttle Discovery next month without fixing the foam problem came down to whether six months would be too long to wait for repairs, NASA's chief engineer said Wednesday.

The debate concerned the risks of foam flying off the shuttle's massive external fuel tank and potentially punching a hole in the spacecraft's protective skin. Falling foam damaged the Columbia in 2003, causing the shuttle to disintegrate during re-entry and kill seven astronauts.

Compiled from Associated Press reports

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VIEWPOINT

Give charters a chance

There's a little school in far East Austin called the Austin Discovery School.

Students at this elementary school get a different curriculum than an ordinary school, described as "constructivism," which promotes autonomy and nurturing of students' natural creativity.

There is another characteristic that sets this school apart from others: It's a charter school, and although teachers engage students in ways that often don't align with state standardized testing, it must produce the same minimum number of passing tests that public schools do.

Students aren't subjected to the standard seven-period class day.

They learn the basics of organic gardening and participate in three-hour nature hikes on their campus, located on a 200-acre Colorado River reserve.

There are also no letter grades, but only teacher-kept portfolios detailing each student's progress and completion of objectives.

On the school's Web forum, one parent said she chose the Austin Discovery School because her head ached "from banging it against the mighty AISD brick wall." She said her son went from feeling like an outcast in regular public school to feeling accepted by other students at the Austin Discovery School.

This East Austin education option, which just completed its first year in operation, is definitely unique in comparison to the norm.

But specialized charter schools like the Austin Discovery School hardly ever look good on paper.

Nor are they often given a chance. Out of 55 applications in Texas to open a charter school for the 2005 school year, only five were granted. The Austin Discovery School was one of those five.

Ratings, surveys and reports based mainly on testing suggest charter schools are a waste of taxpayer money, therefore making it difficult to get access to state funding.

For example, the Texas Education Agency reports that only 38 percent of charter school teachers are certified, and they average about half as much experience as normal public school teachers. We don't think a resume is always the best way to judge a teacher's potential.

According to a 2004 Texas Sunset Commission report, only 42 percent of charter school students passed the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test, compared to 67 percent of students statewide.

But the TAKS test, with its science, math and reading standards, fails to cater to students' individuality and doesn't allow kids the freedom to explore their curiosity, like many charters do.

Plus, charter schools have a high concentration of students with special needs or interests, or pupils who "lag behind." These schools provide a warm environment for disadvantaged and at-risk students who are more difficult to educate, and therefore should not be compared head-to-head with other schools.

But charters must still adhere to state testing standards and are held accountable according to their scores.

The Austin Discovery School was given a one-year exemption period before the state starts looking at their scores, but Superintendent Sam Greer said he still gave students the test. He was pleased with the results, though they weren't above the average.

"We have the guidelines in the back of our head, but we don't approach them like other schools do," Greer said. "If the kids are having fun and you don't put an emphasis on it, then they are going to do fine."

Earlier this month, an investigation by the Texas Education Agency suggested 9 percent of Texas schools could be cheating on the TAKS test. This suggests the state's high-stakes testing system — that most always portrays makers as being not up to par — is doing some serious damage and making it necessary to resort to cheating. Among the schools flagged for "irregularities," such as erased answers and inconsistent responses, were 16 Austin-area schools.

It is true that taxpayer money is being spent on privately managed schools that are exempt from governmental red tape and are consistently failing on paper, but it is not a waste.

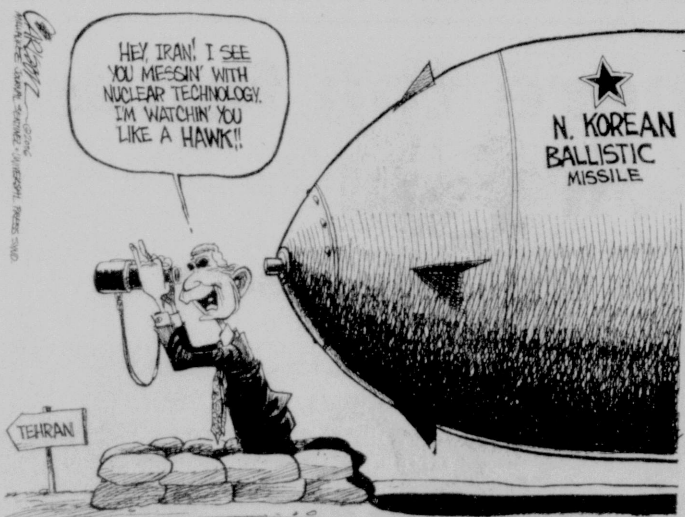
We think charters are being shortchanged.

Test scores should not be the basis in assessing this new type of school, which has only been around in Texas for a decade. A more meaningful way of holding them accountable would be examining gradual improvement, extracurricular involvement, study habits and personal growth through valuable life experiences.

The Austin Discovery School has a hard road ahead in presenting new curriculum and teaching methods that go against the norm. Not only do they receive only \$5,500 per student in state funding, as opposed to the Austin Independent School District's \$7,000, but they are catering to many students whose parents are seeking other educational options, possibly due to failure in public school.

We highly commend the presence of such a unique educational option and hope the Austin Discovery School, as a model for other charters, does not face a struggle adhering to bureaucratic standards.

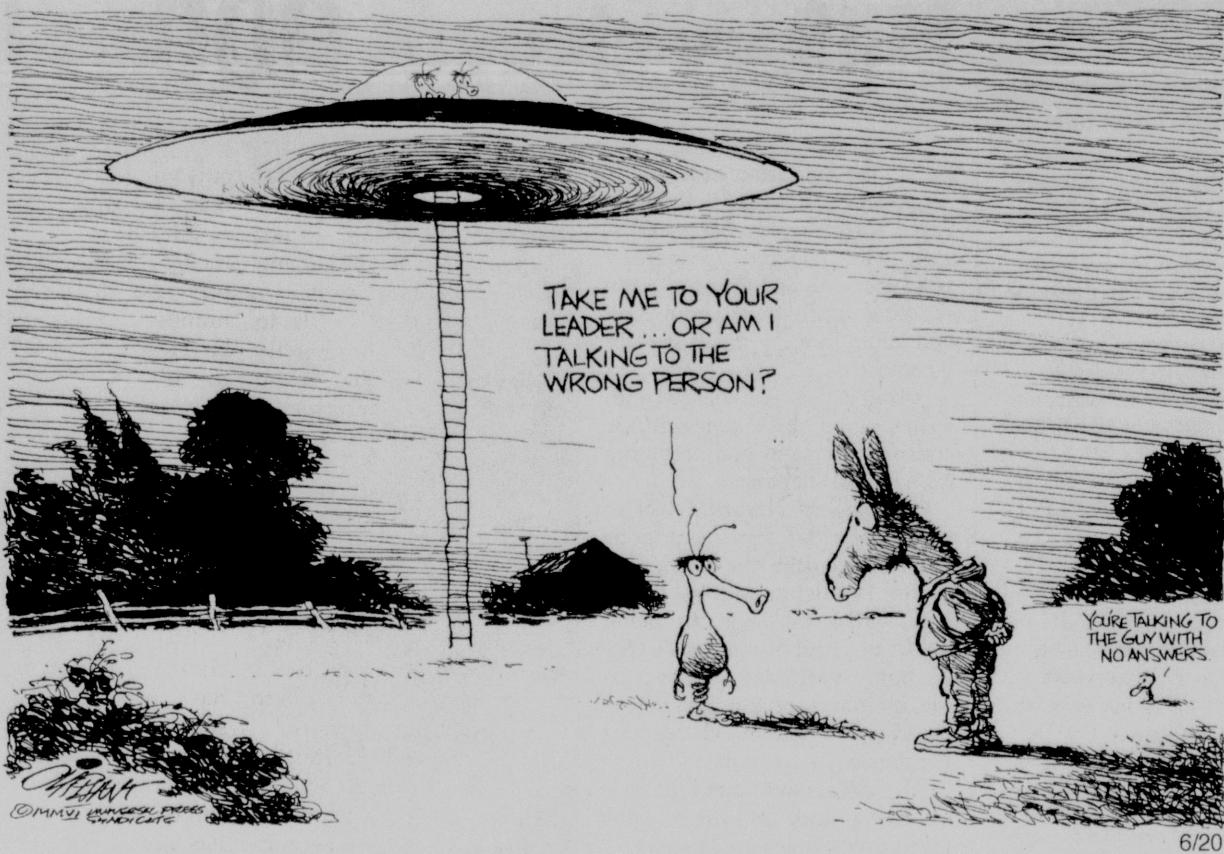
GALLERY



CALLING ALL COLUMNISTS

The Daily Texan Editorial Board is currently accepting applications for columnists and editorial cartoonist positions. We are looking to provide the Texan Opinion Page with as much diversity of opinion as possible, which can be grown by a mixture of different racial, economic, political and educational backgrounds. Wherever you feel that you fit on those scales, you are welcome on this page.

If you are interested in getting paid on a regular basis for being creative, or if you think your opinions are worth sharing, please come to the Texan office at 25th and Whitis streets to complete an application form and sign up for an interview time. If you have any additional questions please contact JJ Hermes by phone at 512.232.2212 or by e-mail at editor@dailytexanonline.com.



6/20

Making sense of toll debate

By Garth Heutel
 Daily Texan Columnist

The debate over Central Texas toll roads consists of a whole lot of pandering with a dash of shrieking, and the main reason the debate has sunk so low is the influence of the Austin Toll Party and its founder, Sal Costello.

While citizens ought to be engaged in transportation planning, they ought also to act with reason and thoughtfulness, consider arguments about costs and benefits, and refrain from inane attacks. The Austin Toll Party has failed to do any of this. Instead, it has added confusion and mischaracterization to the issue and has fed off knee-jerk reactions to sustain its ill-advised agenda. Costello would have you believe that among the freedoms that Travis and Bowie died for is the right to drive anywhere across the state without having to toss in a nickel.

The Toll Party has managed to align disparate groups of voters, including anti-tax conservatives and pro-environment liberals. It has done this by creating a unified issue — being anti-toll-roads — through confounding two

separate issues — being anti-toll and being anti-roads. Both issues have their merits but should be addressed separately.

Good reasons for being anti-roads include the environmental impact of laying more concrete, and the potential for corruption and sweetheart deals to donors or relatives of policymakers. The Toll Party even throws a bone by saying it doesn't oppose "traditional" toll roads, only the new-fangled monstrosities called "double-tax tolls."

That's hard to believe. Would they have the same level of support opposing the Trans Texas Corridor if it was a freeway instead of a tollway? Where was their opposition over the I-35/Ben White interchange, a project with loads of concrete and a potential boondoggle to builders, but one that had the good fortune of not being tolled? No opposition this shrill has arisen over any non-toll roads in the past. By leeching off of the anti-roads sentiment, the Austin Toll Party is mischaracterizing its true aim of trying to avoid having to pay tolls on highways, wherever they are or however they are built.

Framing the debate as being just anti-toll instead of also anti-road would help the Austin Toll Party, since there are plenty of good arguments against tolling roads. Toll roads are likely to be regressive, since the poor will have to pay just as much as the rich to drive. The Toll Party, though, prefers to focus on the argument that tolls are a "double tax," despite the fact that this argument is so much baloney it hurts me every time I hear it.

Since roads are funded by gas taxes, also funding them by tolls is "double taxation," the story goes, and we should immediately throw such tollbooths into the Boston Harbor. That's ludicrous. As State Rep. Mike Krusee and others have pointed out, you're not double taxed when you swim at Barton Springs, see a game at the Erwin Center or park downtown at a meter, all services that are paid partially by taxes and partially by user fees.

In fact, given the choice between funding roads with gasoline or other taxes and funding them with user fees (tolls), the latter option is much fairer and more reasonable. It's also something that liberals

and conservatives ought to agree upon.

Those who hate sprawl and overdependence on automobiles should welcome a measure that adds an explicit cost to driving long distances. This will reduce driving, improve the environment and alleviate the problems of congestion.

Those who hate excessive taxation and inefficient government programs should welcome a measure where a service is paid for by a fee on those who use the service, rather than a blanket tax that affects others.

Who should pay for roads? How about people who drive on them? Tolls aren't a "new" tax; they're a shift of revenue from a less efficient source to a more efficient one.

Though measures should be taken to alleviate the disproportionate burden that tolls place on the poor, toll roads should be built on both new and already existing roads. It's hard to reach that decision over the clatter coming from the Austin Toll Party, a sound even more irritating than the clanking of coins into the toll chute.

Heutel is an economics graduate student.

Tax swap a step to school equity

By Matthew Nickson
 Daily Texan Guest Columnist

No Texas child should be at a disadvantage because of local variations in available funds for public schools. Equity demands that educational opportunities be uniform across the state. The quality of a public school should not depend on the prosperity of its taxing district.

Texas has long been plagued by an unevenly funded school system and by galloping property tax assessments. Fortunately, the Perry-Sharp "tax swap" — enacted last month to increase the centralization of education funding while cutting property taxes — is a good first attempt at comprehensive relief.

The swap is the state's response to a 2005 Texas Supreme Court decision that held, among other things, that the existing school funding system has degenerated into an unconstitutional state property tax.

There are considerable reasons why the Perry-Sharp plan is respectable legislation. First, the plan increases the state government's responsibility for funding public education by reforming the

state business tax. Second, the plan yields badly needed tax relief by lowering an important maximum local property tax rate. This relief will hopefully offset a growing statewide trend of overzealously increasing the assessed values of taxable properties.

The specifics are as follows. Over the course of two years, the Perry-Sharp swap lowers the maximum rate at which school districts may assess property taxes to fund school maintenance and operations from \$1.50 to \$1 per \$100 of taxable property value. It compensates for the foregone revenue by overhauling the Texas Franchise Tax to tax Texas businesses on annual gross receipts exceeding \$300,000, minus deductions for certain employee and merchandise costs. It also increases the state cigarette excise tax by \$1 per pack, and it changes the method of taxing used vehicles.

The package is laudable in light of the circumstances of its formulation.

Even with an \$8 billion surplus, funding education is a challenge. On one hand, the Supreme Court has ordered the Legislature to allow

local taxing districts a meaningful discretion to vary (and, by implication, to be able to lower) property tax rates. On the other hand, legislators are constitutionally barred from enacting a new state school property tax that would enable them to distribute the revenues among local districts based on student and community needs.

Such a tax could be cost effective, because it might cut wasteful administrative expenses by eliminating the need for duplicative, sparsely populated school districts, some of which are mere local property tax shelters.

Further, it is a good thing that the Perry-Sharp plan does not raise the state sales tax rate. Sales taxes are inherently regressive, as they tax basic necessities at an unchanging rate and are blind to the payer's income bracket. The Legislature should always aspire to slash the sales tax.

One disadvantage of the swap is that it weakens existing "Robin Hood" laws, which mandate the transfer of property tax revenues from wealthier school districts to their poorer counterparts.

Arguably, Robin Hood finds its

progenitor in the Texas Constitution, which requires "a general diffusion of knowledge" throughout the state. It provides that "it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools."

How is a "general diffusion of knowledge" possible when the facilities and resources at many urban public schools are lacking? How can a poorly funded school system be "efficient" at educating Texans?

In the final analysis, solving the state's educational problems and reducing property taxes will require discipline, ingenuity and bipartisanship. Increased contributions — and an end to the practice of failing or refusing to fund educational mandates — under the federal No Child Left Behind Act are also imperative.

The bottom line? When it comes to children, our guiding philosophy must always be equality of opportunity by way of the fair and even distribution of public benefits.

Nickson is a 2006 graduate of the School of Law.

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The Texan has extended tryouts for entry-level positions in most departments until today. Jobs available include news reporter, columnist, entertainment or sports writer, features writer, copy editor, designer and cartoonist. Please come to the Texan office at 25th and Whitis as soon as possible to sign up.

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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.

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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.

THE FIRING LINE

Hazing tantamount to torture

Can it be that Matthew Hammond has not yet heard that hazing is illegal and that wannabe frat kids die from it every year? I find it extremely disturbing that Mr. Hammond would try to minimize the allegations of torture by comparing it to "good ol' fashioned hazing at a pledge initiation." It is a disgrace to the memory of Phanta "Jack" Phoummarath and the many others who have lost their lives to this terrible tradition.

Natasha A. Czapszys
 Graduate student
 School of Information
 June 21, 2006

Make a statement with your bra

The worst trend is to have your plain-looking bra straps showing. Some women wear tiny tops and dirty straps, and they seem to be OK with it — a complete no-no.

Please, we are the ones who have to look at them. There are pretty bra straps you can buy and try to match them to your outfits so it doesn't look like your underwear is showing up everywhere. I found a great option: *brastraps.com*. They also have a comfy convertible bra.

Nohora Medina
 Nurse
 June 21, 2006

UT Medical to cut 1,000 jobs

Uninsured patients, budget shortfalls lead to streamlining

By Kami Loukipoudis
Daily Texan Staff

The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston will lay off 1,000 employees by Sept. 1 because of budget deficits.

"These are challenging times," said UTMB President John Stobo at a meeting of faculty, staff and clinical personnel Tuesday. "People will be affected, but this will allow UTMB to be a better institution."

About 150 jobs were cut in 2003 following a \$50 million state budget cut. At the time Stobo said, "[These cuts] will enable us to reach our financial targets without making even

deeper cuts," according to the UTMB Web site.

Since 2000, the number of uninsured patients has been increasing — putting pressure on the school's finances, Stobo said. Tuition received from the approximately 2,000 students does not have a huge impact on the institution. About 60 percent to 65 percent of money received by UTMB comes from patients, said Chris Comer, associate vice president for public affairs at UTMB.

UTMB has a history of helping patients who are not insured or are unable to pay their medical bills. The university puts 20 percent of the premiums paid by commercial patients toward helping those without insurance. Since only 15 percent of UTMB's patients are commercially insured, the university spent \$120 million on uninsured

patients, Comer said. Federal and state programs such as Medicaid and Medicare do not keep up with inflation, leaving the institution underfunded.

Stobo said UTMB needs to draw in more commercially funded patients so that it can spend more money on research and clinical enterprises.

UTMB hired a third-party consulting group to address their deficit issues. Over a 10-week period, all parts of the institution were scrutinized and a decision was made. For the next three years, UTMB will "re-engineer the work process," Stobo said. The first measure to be taken will be the job cuts.

Which jobs will be affected has not yet been decided, but the administration plans on looking at each employee individually and deciding on a one-by-one basis, said Comer. The

cuts will not be concentrated in only one area of the institution — all levels will be downsized, including faculty, administrators and clinical personnel. A number of jobs are expected to be cleared by gradual retirements and people leaving the university.

Those near retirement will not be terminated, and measures will also be taken to ensure that if multiple employees belong to the same family, not every member will be laid off, Comer said.

"We want to recognize the contributions that employees have made to UTMB," Stobo said.

The decrease in personnel will not affect the patients themselves because UTMB already has a more than sufficient number of employees for the volume of patients it sees, Comer said.

WATCH OUT FOR THE CHUPACABRA



Andrea Redino gets a handful of corn to feed the goats at Callahan Brothers Orchard & Specialties Inc. near Williamston, S.C., on Wednesday.

Sefton Ippock | Associated Press

Officials deny petition for simpler student loans

Groups want less government regulation, caps on required payments, forgiveness for chronically impoverished

By Mark Muecke
Daily Texan Staff

The U.S. Department of Education has declined to implement a recommendation by student groups and lenders to simplify its regulations on student loans and make them more fair.

"We regulate only if absolutely necessary and then in the most flexible, most equitable and least burdensome way possible," the department wrote in a letter to the petitioners June 5. The letter stated the process proposed in the petition was not consistent with those principles.

The petitioners were led by the Project on Student Debt, which conducted a poll in March that

found that 64 percent of adults said the federal government was not doing enough to make higher education available to people of all backgrounds. Other petitioners included the College Board, American Student Assistance, Public Interest Research Groups, Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corp., the United States Student Association, College Parents of America, the Council for Opportunity in Education and the Howard Center for Family, Religion, and Society.

Petitioners recommended changes that included capping the amount of required payments at 15 percent of discretionary income, which is income greater

than 150 percent of federal poverty guidelines. Petitioners also wanted to forgive certain debts for borrowers who have lived near the poverty line for more than 20 years and simplify the process of confirming what borrowers are eligible for reduced payments, according to the Project on Student Debt Web site.

"There are some regulations that say if you earn a certain amount of money and work full time 'you're out of luck,' but if you earn that same amount of money and work part time, they'll help you out. So it's things like that — not big picture student loan issues — but things like that really make a difference for a lot of students having

difficulty," said Sandy Baum, a College Board senior policy analyst.

The College Board is disappointed with the decision, but it could be optimistically interpreted to mean that other events may cause the department to address all of these issues at a later date, Baum said.

"It makes sense that they don't want to do this twice," Baum said.

A number of policies have made obtaining financial aid for higher education more difficult, said Jennifer Pae, United States Student Association vice president. A recent budget reconciliation bill, which passed by narrow margins in both the House and

Senate, cut \$12.7 billion from student loan programs, Pae said.

Students and parents are going to be paying higher interest rates and additional mandatory fees, Pae said.

Pell Grants have also been funded at the same level for the last five years and have not been adjusted for increases in tuition, living and textbook costs, Pae said. The maximum Pell Grant award has been \$4,050 per year, but Pae said her organization is asking Congress to increase that amount to \$4,500.

"If anything, this past year, we've seen the largest cuts to education in history," Pae said.

UT BRIEFLY

UT Southwestern Medical prof wins \$1 million prize

DALLAS — A professor of biochemistry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center was awarded the \$1 million Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine, the university announced Wednesday.

Dr. Xiaodong Wang, 43, will receive the award from the Hong Kong-based Shaw Prize Foundation "for his discovery of the biochemical basis of programmed cell death, a vital process that balances cell birth and defends against cancer," according to the award citation.

The Shaw Prize also gives awards for astronomy and mathematics. This year's prizes will be presented to recipients in September at a ceremony in Hong Kong.

—The Associated Press

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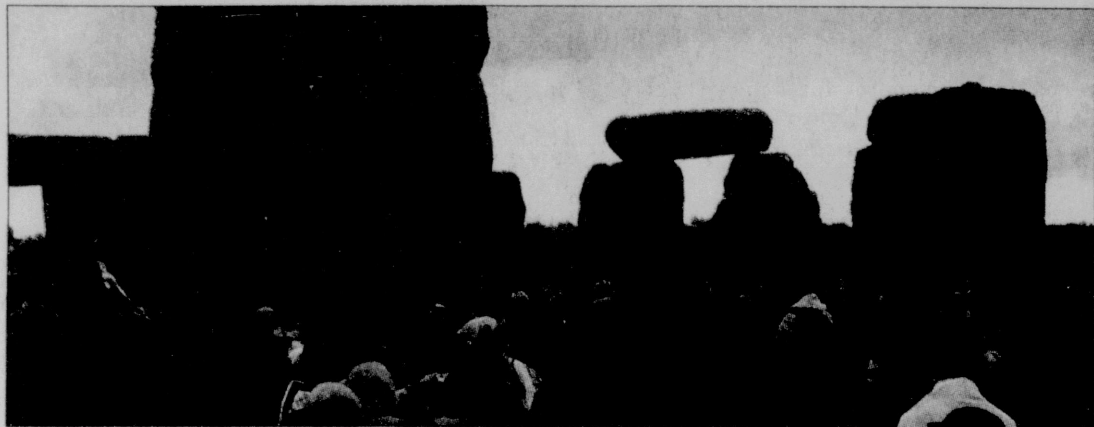


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SUMMER AT STONEHENGE



Sang Tan | Associated Press

Thousands of revellers gathered at Stonehenge, near Salisbury, England to celebrate the Summer Solstice Wednesday.

CONDO: Building set to open in 2008

From page 1A

tax base — taxes that will benefit the entire city, Curtis said.

Development firms Andrews Urban and the Novare Group are building the new condo, which is set to open in early 2008. Demand is huge for competitively priced downtown condos, said Taylor Andrews, president of Andrews Urban.

With more residences being concentrated in the center of the city, Capital Metro is working with city officials to expand alternative transportation services

and make them easier to use and more efficient. Bus services are expected to double over the next 20 years, according to Capital Metro's Web site.

Capital Metro's Rapid Bus Service will begin in 2007, featuring higher speeds, more buses and high-tech perks, such as real-time "next bus" information at designated stops.

Operating on Capital Metro's existing freight tracks, the urban commuter rail service from the convention center to Leander will be the first route in operation, opening in 2008. Capital Metro is

also investigating the proposed commuter rail service circulator service, possibly using streetcars. The circulator would connect different transit services like buses and rail connections, with extensions in downtown, UT, the Mueller development area and the Pickle/Gateway research area.

Capital Metro staff may present the results of their study into the potential extensions to Capital Metro's board of directors as early as July, Adam Shaivitz, a Capital Metro spokesman, said in an e-mail.

PHOTOS: Students say teacher well-liked

From page 1A

Student Jamie Brindley recalls how Hoover paid students' entry fees for an art contest out of her own pocket. Often Hoover would go to hazardous waste dump sites and pick up discarded cans of paint for her class to use.

"It really hurts knowing that

this person who has inspired you so much will be taken away," Landavazo said.

Brindley said that Hoover was known and well-liked by most of the students, even those who never had classes with her.

The students went to the Drag at about midday and were nearly rained out by a brief downpour.

Undaunted by the storm, the students continued to campaign throughout the day, collecting more than \$100 in a few hours.

The students are planning a show of support at next week's school board meeting, but they do not know what form it will take.

The group is also accepting donations on Hoover's MySpace.com page.

Legislators lax on offering donation info

By Victoria Rossi
Daily Texan Staff

Some Texas lawmakers haven't followed their own requirements to disclose information about top campaign donors, according to a report released by a state watchdog group Tuesday. One hundred eighty-one lawmakers reported collecting nearly \$17 million in contributions, but only released the occupations and employers of 58 percent of individual donors.

A 2003 campaign reform bill required the information for contributions more than \$500 in order to inform voters where elected officials receive their funds.

"Lawmakers have two constituents," said Andrew Wheat, research director of the Texans for Public Justice report. "One are voters, the others are the donors. By donors, we're not talking about average Texas families. These are the big fish."

Researchers looked to nearly 15,000 campaign finance reports and ranked individual lawmakers based on their number of large donations with sufficiently disclosed information, as well as the total value of those contributions. The full legal requirements of the bill still haven't been set in stone, said Wheat, who acknowledged the TPJ report held lawmakers to higher standards than the law currently entails.

Most legislators get half or all of their money from districts outside their own, which usually comes from the Texas ZIP code closest to Capitol grounds — a clear sign the money is coming from special interests and lobbying groups, he said.

Three senators and 28 representatives didn't disclose information about any of their donors, according to the report, which also said inadequate disclosures didn't pertain exclusively to either party. Some state officials listed job descriptions that were too vague, Wheat said.

Three legislators with donations from Alice Walton, for example, should have described her as the owner of

Wal-Mart instead of the terms that were actually used: "businesswoman, investor or rancher," according to the report. Bob Perry, Texas' top donor and owner of a billion-dollar Houston real estate firm, was categorized by some as a builder and would have been better identified as a CEO, Wheat said.

"Those are very public figures," said Rep. Mark Homer, D-Paris, who was named in the report for not designating his parents as anything more than "retired." "There's not a whole lot of people who don't already know what people like Bob Perry and T. Boone Pickens do for a living," Pickens is an oilman and corporate raider.

Some lawmakers, like Sen. Judith Zaffirini, a Laredo Democrat who has the most contributions with undisclosed data, say they weren't familiar with the new requirements and will redraft their reports. But when the law went into effect nearly two years ago, the Texas Ethics Commission sent out a notice telling legislators the listings were no longer optional, said Tim Sorrells, commission spokesman.

Others were less apologetic about their choice of terms. Homer disagreed that he should have said his parents were retired Sonic franchise owners, saying he "wasn't hiding anything."

"We believe we complied with the law," said Alexis DeLee, spokeswoman for House Speaker Tom Craddick, R-Midland. According to the watchdog group, Craddick reported only 75 percent of the required information, with several of his loosely described donors among the top contributors in Texas. "The law requires that legislators make their best effort to identify the occupation of donors, and we made our best effort to do so."

According to House Bill 1606, which was hotly debated when it passed through the Legislature in 2003, a lawmaker's "best effort" would involve requesting donors' background information within 30 days of drafting their finance reports.

MySpace restrains adults who access teens' profiles

By Maggie Sharp
Daily Texan Staff

MySpace.com announced Wednesday that it would implement new safety measures to protect children from Internet sexual predators.

Starting next week, users 18 and older will no longer be able to "friend" and access the profiles of 14- and 15-year-old users unless they already know their e-mail addresses or full name, according to The Associated Press.

The announcement comes on the heels of a \$30 million lawsuit filed against MySpace and News Corp. Monday by a Travis County teenager and her mother, claiming the Web site neglected to provide security measures that would have prevented a sexual assault the teenager suffered by an older man she met on MySpace.com.

MySpace is a social networking site that currently has more than 80 million registered users and an estimated 30 billion page views per month, according to court documents.

Pete Solis, the 19-year-old who allegedly sexually assaulted the 14-year-old girl, met the teenager on Myspace.com and told her that he was a high school senior who played on the football team, according to court documents. After several phone conversations, they arranged to meet, and Solis allegedly sexu-

ally assaulted the girl.

MySpace does not have any verification process to prove users are the age they claim to be online, "effectively providing a complete blanket of anonymity," attorney Adam Loewy wrote in the lawsuit.

The suit comes after attorneys general from four states, including Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, requested that the Web site change security settings to prevent adult users from accessing the MySpace profiles of minors — such as requiring a credit card number for age verification and banning minors under the age of 16 from the Web site.

"Although I understand that you currently use an age verification system," Abbott said in a letter to MySpace CEO Christopher DeWolfe, "our investigators have found it uncomfortably easy in a relatively short period of time to locate many underage profiles on your site."

The lawsuit also alleges the Web site actively and passively markets, itself to teens, since 22 percent of MySpace visitors are minors and the surge in the popularity of the Web site is due to the underage users demographic.

MySpace did not return phone calls Wednesday.

Additional reporting by The Associated Press.

LOCAL BRIEFLY

Austin ISD optimistic about end of 'Robin Hood'

The Austin Independent School District expects positive outcomes from the gradual dismantling of the "Robin Hood" school funding system, designed to redistribute funds from wealthier school districts to poorer ones.

"This year, [we] sent \$135 million to other districts in Texas," said Julie Lyons, AISD's Director of State and Federal Accountability.

The end of the program should generate extra revenue, and AISD released a new budget for the 2006-2007 school year to accommodate these new available funds. The major change in next year's budget is a pay raise for teachers. Lyons estimates the pay raise will increase the average teacher's salary by 7.5 percent.

"A first-year teacher could expect their income to increase from \$35,080 to \$38,190, and a teacher in their 20th year could expect their pay to increase from \$44,780 to \$47,890," she said.

There will be a public hearing for the preliminary budget today at the Carruth Administration Center at 111 W. Sixth St. at 7 p.m.

— Ian Warren

Police arrest mother after 3-year-old eats LSD candies

CEDAR PARK — The mother of a 3-year-old boy was arrested after her son ate candies laced with the hallucinogenic drug LSD during a weekend party.

Ashli Rene Freas, 22, was charged with child endangerment on Monday after taking her son to the hospital. She posted \$10,000 bond and was released Tuesday.

According to a police affidavit, Freas and her boyfriend took her son to a party at an apartment. They went outside, leaving the boy inside with another adult.

— The Associated Press

STATE BRIEFLY

Construction begins on detention center for illegals

RAYMONDVILLE, Texas — Ground has been broken for a 2,000-bed detention center to help end the "catch and release" policy for non-Mexican illegal immigrants, federal officials said.

News of the facility comes just weeks after President Bush's May 15 vow to continue to add detention space for immigrants awaiting hearings or deportation proceedings.

The "catch and release" system has been blamed on a lack of detention space.

The planned \$50 million facility would so far be the largest of five such facilities in Texas, Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Nina Pruneda said in Wednesday's edition of the weekly Raymondville Chronicle.

— AP

Serial killer found competent for execution next week

HOUSTON — A state district court judge Wednesday ruled that serial killer Angel Maturino Resendiz, who gained notoriety as the "Railroad Killer" linked to at least 15 murders, is mentally competent to be executed next week for the rape-slaying of a Houston-area physician in 1998.

Defense attorneys for Resendiz, 46, argued the Mexican national, who gained his nickname by hopping on freight trains and committing murders near railroad tracks, did not believe he was going to die because he was half-man and half-angel and would return three days after he went to the death chamber gurney.

— AP

Waco city council apologizes for lynching 100 years ago

WACO — The City Council has approved a resolution condemning lynchings and the "mob mentality" that led to them in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

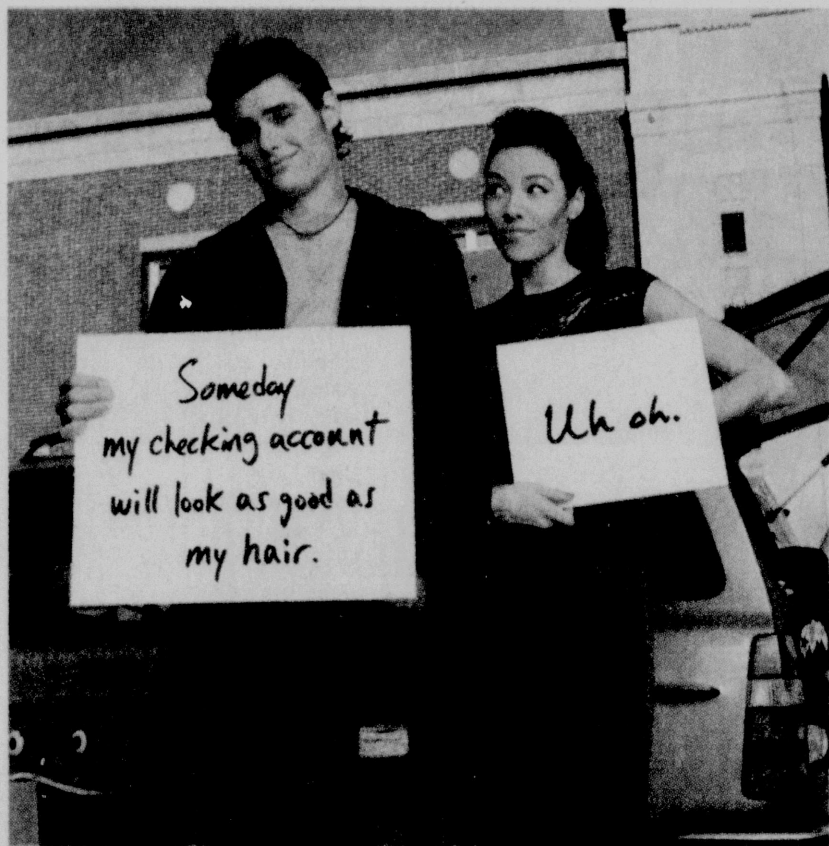
The action came a month after the Community Race Relations Coalition asked the city and county to adopt a resolution apologizing for the lynchings, saying it was necessary for the community to heal.

But some locals said leaders and residents should not apologize for something that happened before they were born.

— AP

On the Web

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SPORTS

THE DAILY TEXAN

Newsworthy



Longhorn track stars to compete

Ten Longhorn track and field athletes will test their skills against the country's best professional athletes today through Sunday at the 2006 AT&T USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Indianapolis.

Marshvet Hooker, who announced last Sunday her plans to pass up her last year of eligibility at Texas, will compete for the first time as a professional sprinter. Hooker will be sponsored by Adidas and will compete alongside her sister, undeclared freshman Destinee Hooker. Destinee will try her hand at the high jump and try to improve upon her outdoor personal record of 6-2 3/4.

Texas-ex Sanya Richards, currently the world's fastest quarter-miler, will attempt to hold on to her crown in the 400-meters.

Recent graduate Trey Hardee will attempt to wipe away the memories of his breakdown in the decathlon. Hardee set the NCAA record for the decathlon in April, but was unable to clear the bar on the pole vault at the NCAA Championships earlier this month in Sacramento.

Other members of the Texas men's team that will be in Indy this weekend include Leonel Manzano, Andra Manson, Brian Robison and Derek Randall. The Longhorn women will be represented by Alex Anderson, Michelle Carter and recent grad LaTashia Kerr.

Justin Gatlin will attempt yet again to break the world record tie with Jamaica's Asafa Powell in the 100-meters in front of a national television audience Saturday evening on ESPN2. Both men currently have set times of 9.77 seconds and plan to race against each other later this month in London.

— Brad Gray

Stadium lights up for auction

They're big, bright and burnt-orange. And they're also for sale.

The University of Texas has put out for bid on the online auction site eBay a large set of Longhorn lights that sat atop the north end zone scoreboard for nearly 20 years.

The lights, in the shape of the Longhorn logo, came down when the Darrell K Royal Memorial Stadium scoreboard was recently dismantled for stadium renovations and expansion.

Texas officials call it a "once in a lifetime gift" for the avid Longhorn collector.

The initial bid was set at \$2,000 with an immediate purchase price of \$30,000. Proceeds will be put toward the stadium expansion fund.

But buyer beware: these lights are large.

They stand more than 8 feet tall, 13 feet wide and 6 feet deep and weigh about 400 pounds. And the buyer must arrange for pickup or shipping by July 31.

"It's not a night light," said Texas athletic department spokesman John Bianco. "It's intended for a special fan with a lot of space."

— The Associated Press

United States faces must-win

By Ronald Blum

The Associated Press

NUREMBERG, Germany — Win and hope.

That's what it comes down to for the U.S. soccer team.

After four years of painstaking preparation, after an opening flop and a valiant tie, the Americans must beat Ghana on Thursday and get some help to advance to the World Cup's second round.

Boom or bust?

That will be answered Thursday in an eight-sided stadium in Bavaria made famous by Hitler Youth marches.

"We know what we have to do," U.S. captain Claudio Reyna said Wednesday. "There's no hiding the fact that we need to win."

For the United States to have a realistic shot at advancing to the second round, the Americans need Italy to beat the Czech Republic in a game that kicks off in Hamburg at the same time. There are other

outcomes that could send the Americans through, but they are improbable, because their 3-0 thumping by the Czechs means, in most combinations, the United States would have to beat Ghana by at least four goals.

If any of this happens, the likely reward would be a date with reigning champion and tournament favorite Brazil.

Reyna and coach Bruce Arena said they would consider the team's performance a success with a victory, even if their World Cup ends.

"If we had four points, and it wasn't good enough to advance into the knockout stage, that's life," Arena said.

Do American players want to be told the score in the other game while they're out on the field?

"If it's 4-0 at half for Italy, I probably would want to know," Landon Donovan said. "Otherwise, don't tell me."

The world's fifth-ranked team has

a tournament-low one shot on goal. The only U.S. goal was accidentally scored by Italian defender Cristian Zaccardo in Saturday's desperate 1-1 tie — a game in which the U.S. got its first point during a World Cup held in Europe by playing much of the second half one man down to the Italians.

On Thursday, the U.S. faces a Ghana team ranked 48th by soccer's governing body. But it's also a team that won 2-0 over the Czech side that made the U.S. look like World Cup misfits.

"I think the World Cup has clearly indicated their quality," Arena said of the Ghanaians. "I would not have thought that in some of the lead up games."

A former British colony that became independent in 1957, Ghana has one of the world's top players in midfielder Michael Essien. Acquired last August by Chelsea from Lyon for \$47 million, the 23-year-old helped the London



Elise Amendola | Associated Press

The U.S. soccer team loosens up before the start of its training session in Nuremberg, Germany, Wednesday. U.S. will play Ghana Thursday.

club win its second straight English Premier League title.

"Essien is one of the top players in this tournament," Arena said.

"He's brilliant, and he's a player that we can't just let him do anything he wants to do over 90 minutes, or else we'll lose the game."

Rocket makes first start for Astros

By Brad Gray

Daily Texan Columnist

Tonight, the race for the National League Central Division truly begins.

In front of a sellout crowd usually reserved for playoff games, Roger Clemens will make his first major league start of the 2006 season and prove once again why he is considered to be the game's best pitcher. Clemens' presence from tonight on will fill the void that has been pestering the Astros all season: a lack of consistency.

The Astros started the season this April with the best record in the major leagues, but in May they squandered away their division lead with a rapid downward spiral and are just beginning to turn things around.

Taylor Buchholz and Andy Pettitte each threw complete game shutouts in Sunday afternoon home games this year. Pettitte finished his first complete game as an Astro on Mother's Day, and Buchholz even began to cry on camera after he scorched six batters for strikeouts on May 14.

The Giants series provided the perfect antithesis to those solid outings. Astros fans squirmed, tried not to look at the TV screen, or just broke down and cried while the young trio of Buchholz, Wandy Rodriguez and Fernando Nieve were lit up for 34 runs in the three-game series. The only positive light for fans out of that series came in the form of a Russ Springer "wild pitch" that drilled Barry Bonds in the back and prevented yet another questionable home run record from being broken in Houston.

And yes, the Astros bullpen thus far in the season looks nothing like last year's defensive stronghold. But alas, all is not lost. Except for a shaky appearance Tuesday night against the Twins, Brad Lidge is back to his habits of turning the lights out on every batter. Russ Springer even reacted from his game of spread eagle with Barry Bonds to post some impressive stats, giving up one run in his 10 appearances since May 16.

Even before Clemens returns, the Astros will have already benefited from his presence. Manager Phil Garner announced Tuesday

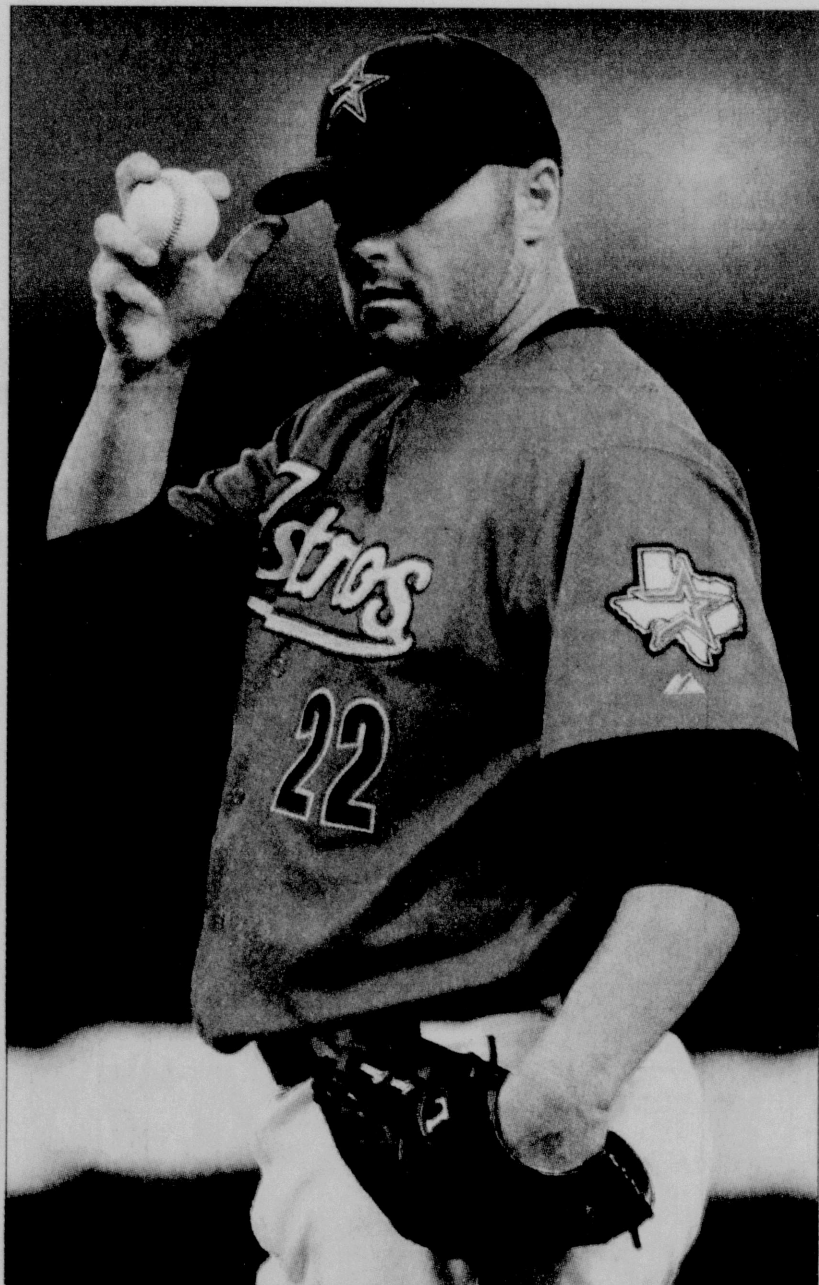
that Fernando Nieve would move from the starter's role into the bullpen for relief work and that Buchholz would keep his job as a starter. Nieve will strengthen a struggling bullpen and no longer have to struggle to fight through six innings of starting work, giving the Astros a better chance at retaining close leads in the late innings.

Some observers might look at Clemens' nightmare first inning in Round Rock as a sign of weakness, old age or that the veteran has lost his edge. Make no mistake, folks, the Rocket is here to stay. He's proven it over and over again. He wasn't done in 2004 or 2005, and he's not going to be done in 2006.

By the time the playoffs roll around, most players are in some way fighting off injury. The 162-game schedule takes a toll on any player, and adding on an extra series or two in the playoffs normally drives most major leaguers beyond the point of physical exhaustion. When Clemens' legs ailed him to the point where he had to be pulled from Game 1 of the World Series, he realized that he couldn't pitch a full season at his age. The Astros management realized it too, and they declined him arbitration with the hopes that a half-season and a small fortune would lure the Rocket back to his home team.

When Clemens starts tonight, he will have the benefit of two extra months of rest and easily could start his season with numbers similar to what he posted during the first half of last season where he held an ERA around 1.00.

With Clemens back and Brandon Backe scheduled to return in about a month, the Astros will once again have the most consistently competitive rotation in the league. The additions to the bullpen along with Brad Lidge's continued return to normality could put this team in a serious run with the St. Louis Cardinals for the National League Central Division. Even if the Astros don't win the NL Central, one glance at the other divisions in the NL reveals the overwhelming probability that they'll earn the Wild Card spot. And, hey, we all know how that turned out last year.



David J. Phillip | Associated Press

Houston Astros pitcher Roger Clemens adjusts his cap while pitching against the St. Louis Cardinals in 2005. Clemens returns to the Astros rotation Thursday.

'Fifteen strong' won first championship for Miami

By Anup Shah

Daily Texan Columnist

"This is a team award, just like the championship is."

Those words uttered by Dwyane Wade as he was named the Most Valuable Player for the 2006 NBA Finals said it all.

The championship was won by a team effort, fifteen strong as Pat Riley said.

When one looks at the adversity the individuals on this team had to overcome, there is no doubt that the reward was much sweeter for the Heat than it could have ever been for the Mavs.

Start with Flash.

The guy had been criticized in every way imaginable despite his dominance throughout the season.

When he and Gary Payton got into a five-minute time-out scuffle in the series against the Chicago Bulls, Miami held it together. No soap opera here.

Then came the Detroit series. D-Wade was told he couldn't domi-

nate. His answer was simple: take over the series and lead Miami to its first Eastern Conference Championship.

When the Mavs walked in the door, Wade was told he couldn't shoot. All he did in response was shoot lights out in the finals — 46.8 percent from the field.

Then take Shaquille O'Neal. Superman held it together all season. No kryptonite for him.

It all began when he made amends with Kobe Bryant — which caused one of the most anticlimactic Christmas Day games ever when Miami visited Los Angeles.

Then, Diesel let Flash take over the team, something he had resented doing with the Lakers and Orlando.

Finally, on Tuesday, when Wade was to receive the Finals MVP trophy, the world saw the big fella try to take the hardware away from David Stern and put it into his teammate's hands.

When Pat Riley won his last

championship with the Lakers in 1988, little did he know it would take him 18 years to finally win one again. He knew this would be one of his last chances, and he had been in the same situation before going into Game 6.

When Riley and his New York Knicks came to another Texas team (Houston Rockets) in the 1994 NBA Finals with a 3-2 lead, the team squandered the opportunity.

He wasn't going to let it happen again.

Then there's the feel-good story of the finals that not even Mavs fans can despise: Alonzo Mourning.

Nobody deserved a championship more than Zo. After losing his opportunity in 1999, when his then-top-seeded Miami team was dethroned by the feisty eighth-seeded Knicks, Mourning received word in 2000 about a kidney ailment that forced him into temporary retirement, so he could get a kidney transplant.



Donna McWilliam | Associated Press

The Miami Heat reach for the Larry O'Brien Trophy after winning the NBA Championship by beating the Dallas Mavericks 95-92 in Game 6.

He made his dramatic comeback in 2004, and everyone knew he wanted that elusive first ring.

So when Mourning sat at the press conference following Game 6 and preached to the media for seven minutes about how impor-

tant it is to enjoy every moment of life, the world knew that nobody deserved it more than Miami.

In the end, it was the team that had the heart, and the team that had the inspiration that walked away with the crown.

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THE DAILY TEXAN SUDOKU

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

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

by Shaun Stewart

June 22, 2006

Difficulty: Medium

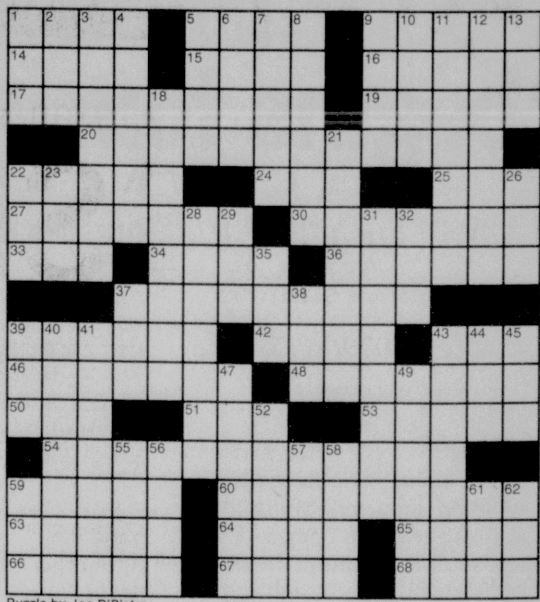
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0511

- ACROSS
- 1 Commercial
- 5 Storm-bringing wind in Hawaii
- 9 Card game similar to Texas Hold em
- 14 Stadium, sports venue since 1997
- 15 Help when one shouldn't
- 16 Rice
- 17 School specializing in multiplication?
- 19 Not to be missed
- 20 Sisyphus punishment, in myth?
- 22 Didn't measure up
- 24 John Denver's "Thank God Country Boy"
- 25 Hero
- 27 Blatant deception
- 30 Artsy one
- 33 Kitty mitt
- 34 Tenor Carreras
- 36 Riding
- 37 What almost every pro golfer wants to do?
- 39 Laughable
- 42 Egg holders: Abbr.
- 43 Heat meas.
- 46 Bauble
- 48 Even smaller
- 50 It's a welcome site
- 51 Very active Japanese volcano
- 53 Mullally of "Will & Grace"
- 54 Group of round shapes, in geometry?
- 59 City near Dayton
- 60 What 17-, 20-, 37- and 54-Across flip-flop on?
- 63 Attack locale
- 64 Hospital supplies
- 65 Gumbo vegetable
- 66 It appears in droves
- 67 Olympian archer
- 68 Tiny fraction of a min.

- DOWN
- 1 score
- 2 Pitchfork-shaped letter
- 3 Current rule
- 4 Move unsteadily
- 5 Sports writer/editor Roger
- 6 Playwright's award
- 7 Pola of the silents
- 8 In
- 9 Fire
- 10 Noted woman?
- 11 Four-time Indy 500 winner
- 12 Exhibits courage
- 13 Back of the boat
- 18 Float preparer, maybe
- 21 Cheesy pasta dish
- 22 Narc's find
- 23 "Just as I thought!"
- 26 Garden visitor, perhaps
- 28 Negotiate with success
- 29 Biblical suffix
- 31 Caption for a tournament round of four
- 32 Old TV knob: Abbr.
- 35 Mail Boxes



Puzzle by Joe DiPietro

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CIA	ASLAN	APAST
OFF	TOILE	LATTE
OAF	TRIPLE	CROWN
ENRICO	INITIO	MOONIE
BOMB	FLOOR	ESTS
BLEST	IMBIBE	
SOD	ASSAULT	CHI
ACTO	NEATH	ETON
GARGLED	UBOATS	
AMATIS	LAMENT	
SECRETARIAT	IQS	
SITON	DONNA	OUT
INSTS	ANTES	NAY

- 37 Dog holder
- 38 Addams Family cousin
- 39 Store convenience, for short
- 40 Mexican laborer doing seasonal work in the U.S.
- 41 Audit, as a class
- 43 More than just giggles
- 44 & 45 Beverage dispenser
- 47 Dreaded fly
- 49 Wrestling hold
- 52 "A Jury Peers" (classic short story)
- 55 Cabal
- 56 Censor of ancient Rome
- 57 Designed for flying
- 58 Unaccounted-for G.I.s
- 59 Former grid org.
- 61 Byronic "before"
- 62 Egg holder

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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URBAN SUPERHEROES

rossi m.



3132

3

#3

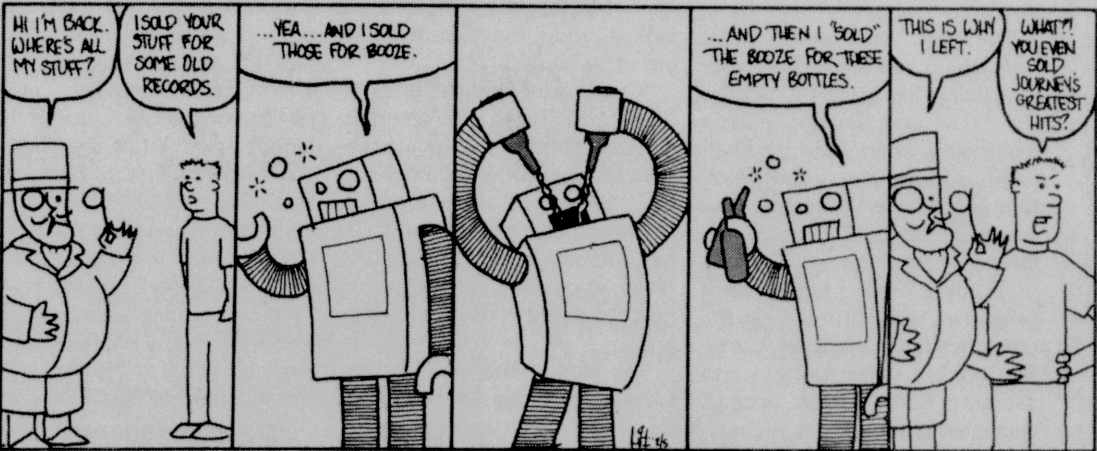
DARST and LOPEZ



Undeclared

by Jesse Franceschini

theukrainian@gmail.com



DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THAT ROBBERY? I WONDER WHO NABBED THE CROOKS.

TWAS THE NEWEST HERO IN TOWN, YOURS TRULY.

THAT YOURS TRULY DOES GOOD WORK.

Nic Keller
m.m.



MATTUOUS

by matt douglass

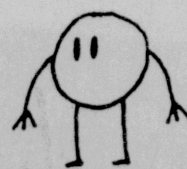
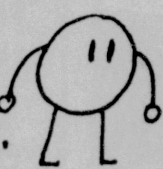
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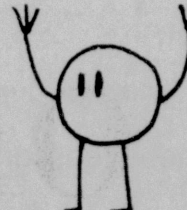
by Michael Champion

I heard a number was killed!



Yeah! It was brutal and messy!!

Who was it?!



The number couldn't be defined!!

DAILY TEXAN COMICS:

YOUR SOURCE FOR UNRIVALED NATURAL BEAUTY AND STUFF.

Answers to the Wednesday, June 21 puzzle

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

Sci-fi radio show begins touring

Austin serial had 10 week run, channels Flash Gordon episodes

By David Toscano
Daily Texan Staff

Action. Adventure. Excitement. "Pulitzer prize-winning reporter" Molly Sloan is no stranger to danger. When she's not off winning the hearts of the nation, she's fighting for the scoop to save the galaxy in *Salvage Vanguard Theater's* "The Intergalactic Nemesis." The fight against evil invaders from the great beyond has entertained audiences across Austin for a decade and will begin touring nationwide in September.

Originally written for radio broadcast and performed before a live audience at the Little City Coffee House over a period of 10 weeks, *Salvage Vanguard's* latest production of the three-part serial radio piece is a wonderfully silly romp in the vein of radio adventures and *Flash Gordon* episodes.

The show follows the adventures of Molly Sloan, portrayed by actress Lee Eddy, the only reporter with the savvy to get the story for the sake of mankind. Her partners are Ben Wilcott, played by Brent Wertzner, a man from the future, back to stop the alien invasion and subsequent world wars, and Timmy Mendez, played by David Higgins, a goof, but a goof with a gift. Shannon McCormick and Jenny Larson round out the show as the main villains and assorted other characters throughout the production. The entire cast captures the stylistic feel and rapid-fire repartee of a radio serial broadcast perfectly.

Toss in Buzz Moran and Hilary Thomas with live Foley-art sound effects — simulating a whole world of sounds using odd knick-knacks, toys and everyday items, and the experience is nothing short of unforgettable.

"There's no flashy special effects. It's all about your imagination creating the world," said Jason Neulander, director of the nemesis trilogy. "It's amazing. Some of the ridiculous devices that are used for the sound effects, if you close your eyes, they really work."

The show captures the great old-time radio broadcast feel. The set is bare except for an

Thursday happenings

- "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," a Tony Award-winning American musical by the author of "The Dead Presidents' Club" 8 p.m. at the Austin Playhouse at Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress Ave, Suite A-200
- Esther's Follies: Comedy, Music, Magic Show 8 p.m. at 525 E. Sixth St.
- "The 24th Day," a play by TV and Screenwriter Tony Piccirillo 8 p.m. at Arts on Real, 2826 Real St.
- Thursday Comedy Showcase 8 p.m. at The Hideout, 617 Congress Ave.
- "Crowns," a gospel musical based on the book "Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats" by Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry 8 p.m. at Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey Road
- "H.M.S. Pinafore," a Gilbert and Sullivan Society production about a lass who loved a sailor 8 p.m. at Forrest Kline Performing Arts Center, 5601 Manchaca Road

artistic backdrop, five microphone stands and a raised area for the Foley artists to work their magic in full view of the audience.

Actors strike poses as the announcer, LB Deyo, performs a short intro or outro for each scene, and between each segment there are short improvised commercials for local businesses, performed with hilarious results. The trilogy is 10 years refined and still manages to capture the attention of audiences.

"The first week, much to our surprise, about 120 people showed up just to hear the radio serial," says Neulander. "I did not expect that kind of turnout at all, and the amazing thing was that these folks stuck with it. Week after week they came back."

The trilogy is played out weekly over the course of three days beginning on Thursday and ending Saturday with the final performance scheduled for July 1st. On Sept. 8, *Salvage Vanguard* will move the show into the Hogg Memorial Auditorium for the launch of their nationwide tour.

KINKY: 'Logic' from a cowboy

From page 1A

consistently remind his audience of his goal to win the throne of Texas governor. For a political candidate well aware of his tenuous position on the ballot, one would think Friedman would avoid inflammatory wisecracks. "Native Americans believe you can't really own land, a horse or a waterfall. The only thing they believe you can really own is a casino" is neither witty nor wise, as the title of the book advertises. His outrageous claims, even amidst the delight of his sharp wit, may give his competitors enough ammunition to take the Kinkster down.

Is "Cowboy Logic" as Friedman suggests, his "greatest literary achievement?" Probably not.

Despite being a hardcover, "Cowboy Logic" and the 30 minutes of amusement it offers is hardly worth the hefty \$17.50 St. Martin's Press charges.

Hopefully for his sake, his campaign will prove to be more successful than his book.

Kinky quotes

"I'm going to lower the drinking age to 18. If you're old enough to die in Iraq, you're old enough to drink."

"Ballet is basketball for homosexuals."

"Fried pig rinds are disgusting."

"The only two good balls I ever hit was when I stepped on the garden rake."

"The important things in life are not things."

"I've never really cared much about what people think, but I do care about what they dream."

"No teacher left behind."

"I've got a head of hair better than Governor Rick Perry's. It's just not in a place I can show you."

"I'm not afraid to live. I'm not afraid to die. I'm not afraid of success. I'm not afraid of failure. I'm not afraid to fall in love. I'm just afraid I may have to stop talking about myself for five minutes."

"When I meet someone I'm usually good for about three minutes of superficial charm. After five minutes, I can often see the pity in their eyes."



Above, Olivia Lahe-Gonzales, curator of "Josephine Baker: Image and Icon," an exhibit at the Sheldon Galleries on April 25, 2006, in St. Louis stands by a poster. Below, Baker holds a rhinestone-studded microphone as she performs during her show "Paris, mes Amours" at the Olympia Music Hall in Paris, France, on May 27, 1957.

Singer, activist's legend turns 100

Josephine Baker rose from St. Louis poverty to the world's stages

By Cheryl Wittenauer
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Freda Josephine McDonald Martin was only 13 when she left St. Louis to begin the journey from poverty to international star.

But just as T.S. Eliot's poetry was influenced in this Mississippi River city by his "childhood beside the big river" and playwright Tennessee Williams met his Stanley Kowalski in a factory here, Josephine Baker's artistry and passion for human rights sprang from her early years growing up black in the St. Louis slums.

The dancer, singer and actress whose erotic and comedic performances stunned and endeared French audiences, was also a humanitarian, civil rights activist and French Resistance fighter, and she was born 100 years ago this month.

"She got her training on the streets and neighborhoods of St. Louis," said her 78-year-old nephew, Richard Martin Jr., who is credited with keeping her memory alive in this Missouri city. "She was a clown, but look what she did with that. She created a style of dance and personality that I don't think could be duplicated today."

The early years are the least understood and researched parts of Baker's life, perhaps because "St. Louis isn't thought to be a remarkable place," said Jonathan Smith, an American studies scholar at Saint Louis University. "But something about St. Louis had to inform her aesthetic sensibility."

"Tumpie," as her family called her, was born in 1906, the out-of-wedlock child of Carrie McDonald, a domestic, and drummer Eddie Carson. Tumpie, and later, baby brother Richard, tagged along to the honky-tonks and vaudeville houses where Carson played until the couple's love affair ended.

McDonald later married Arthur Martin, who adopted Tumpie



and Richard, and fathered their stepsisters, Margaret and Willie Mae. The family was poor — Tumpie routinely walked two miles to fetch spoiled produce at the historic Souard Farmer's Market and climbed freight cars to steal precious chunks of coal for the family's stove.

St. Louis was musically rich, a major ragtime center with a piano in every bar and parlor. The family's red-brick Mill Creek Valley neighborhood was near where ragtime pioneer and saloon owner Tom Turpin hosted Scott Joplin and other ragtimers. "Mill Creek had Chinese, Greeks, Italians, Jews and gypsies," Martin said. "When they took it down, they tore the soul out of St. Louis."

"Crazy Aunt Tumpie" loved to dance and clown, and entertain on street corners and in a makeshift theater in the cellar, charging a penny or a pin for each performance, Martin said. In her autobiography, "Josephine," Baker wrote that she found her neighborhood "terribly exciting."

"As soon as the music began, I would move my arms and legs in all directions in time to the rhythm or mark the beat with my friends on the treasure we pulled from the trash — tin cans, battered saucepans, abandoned wooden and metal containers." She eventually performed

at the Booker T. Washington Theater, which featured prominent black artists.

She left St. Louis at 13 to join a traveling black vaudeville group, "The Dixie Steppers."

Her mother seemed unfazed, saying, "Josephine has chosen her life," Martin said.

In New York, she landed a spot in the black musical, "Shuffle Along," and made a splash. Then she was chosen for "La Revue Nègre" in Paris. She performed topless, in feathers, and turned Paris upside down. Baker soared to stardom and never looked back.

Baker had been a "very precocious, determined little girl," who desired an idyllic, fairy-tale life at a young age, said Olivia Lahe-Gonzales, curator of "Josephine Baker: Image and Icon," an exhibit at The Sheldon Art Galleries in St. Louis that moves to the National Portrait Gallery in August.

Baker said that her impoverished childhood had made her "remain human" and "understand my fellow brothers of misery," and that a 1917 race riot in neighboring East St. Louis, Ill., had affected her. She became a French citizen, served in the French Resistance during World War II, and adopted and raised 12 ethnically different children at her French estate.

She also fought racism by refusing to perform in segregated places, and the New York Stork Club's refusal to serve her in 1951 led to a confrontation with columnist Walter Winchell. False accusations of communist sympathies came next, and the FBI started a file on her.

In 1952, Baker performed in St. Louis on the condition that seating be within the financial reach of its poorest citizens. Martin, who was there that night, said rich and poor filled the theater.

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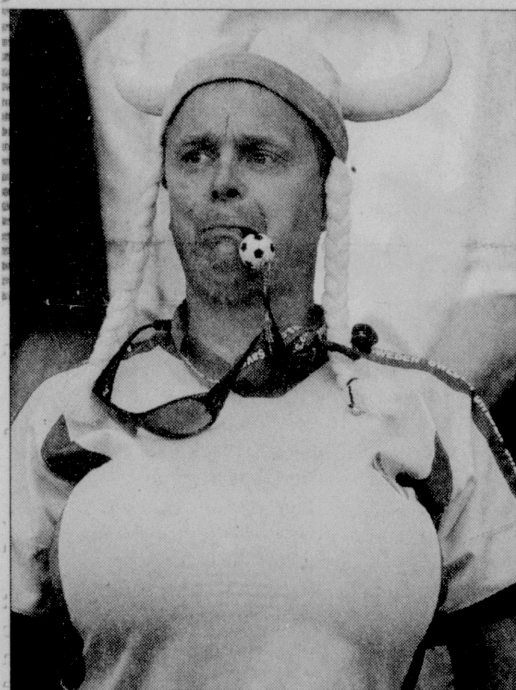
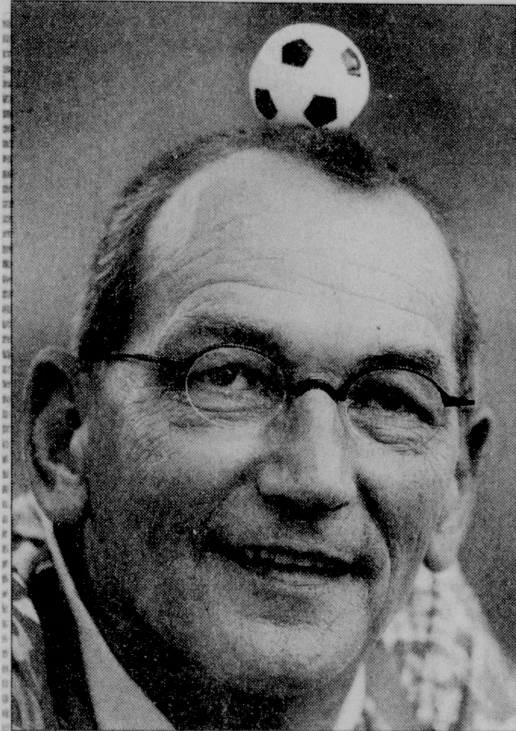
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Above, a masked supporter of Mexico. **Below, in descending order**, a Dutch soccer team supporter wears a small soccer ball on his head, a busty fan for Sweden, a fan for the Argentinian national soccer team, a medieval English soccer fan.



Photos by Associated Press

Fashion is a passion for World Cup fans

By Nancy Armour
The Associated Press

COLOGNE, Germany — Dan Lavender needed something special to show his irrational devotion to England — a simple hat and T-shirt wouldn't cut it.

His first thought was a short mohawk, similar to David Beckham's at the 2002 World Cup. Then came his epiphany: His dome would resemble St. George's Cross, the symbol on England's flag, if he left another thin strip of hair from ear to ear.

And why not dye the whole 'do England red?

Fifty bucks and 45 minutes later, Lavender had put the fan in fanatic, needing only to nod his head when others wave England's flag.

"I can't explain it," said Lavender, cheerfully unapologetic. "It's in your blood, really. You feel like you have to go to your full length for your country."

Certainly to the edges of good fashion sense.

The World Cup is the greatest sporting spectacle in the world, and a style bonanza, as well. Head-scratching hairstyles, bold color choices, accessories that defy logic — and that's just the players.

It's like New York's Fashion Week, only without the cattiness and the Olsen twins.

"Style really has nothing to do with soccer," said the Ivory Coast's Bakary Kone, who wears his hair long and shaggy in the back. "Winning is all that matters."

Yes, but when the world's watching, you've got to look your best. Or at least make yourself stand out.

The Dutch and Ivory Coast clinched the all-Halloween team for their orange glows. Angola's bright yellow socks could double as flashlights if the team bus gets lost, while defender Loco has a hairstyle to match his name — his head shaved except for a small, fringe-like patch of braids at the front hairline.

Ukraine is halfway to a Beatles cover band. Ivory Coast's Ndri Romaric went for the Dennis Rodman look, bleaching his hair.

"It's just a style I came up with," Romaric said. "Just a style and nothing else."

The Croatians appear to have gotten a deal on their red-and-white checked uniforms from the Big Boy restaurant chain, but they get a pass. The checkerboard dates back to the first Croatian king, though it was banned while Croatia was part of Yugoslavia and people were jailed for displaying it. Now that they're free to wear it again, don't think they're doing it small.

Fifteen Americans went to the first U.S. game dressed as Elvis: white polyester jumpsuits with silver and gold eagles on the front. And bad black wigs, of course. Some of the Swiss are sporting cheeseheads, and the Swedes are wearing Viking helmets, complete with yellow braids.

One England fan was spotted in a blowup sumo wrestler's costume. What sumo has in common with soccer, or England, wasn't clear. Scottish fans in kilts are roaming Germany — and their team isn't even here.

Fans are, of course, wrapping themselves in flags and painting them on their faces. But the more unusual display is the skunk-flag combination: mohawks made of synthetic hair in the various nations' colors. For women, there are multi-colored extensions that look like Barbie hair.

"They're crazy," Ramona Goerlitz, who works at a souvenir shop in Dortmund, said when asked if she had an explanation for the fad.

Another big seller is the stove pipe hat that Abe Lincoln favored — except Abe's hat wasn't puffy, fuzzy, or red, white and blue.

"I traded some guy on the subway for it," said Patrick Hammond of New York, who swapped a red, white and blue fishing hat to get the big, furry version.

"You want to be unique when you go to sporting events," said Ben Dekker, a Chicagoan following the U.S. team. "Here you want to be unique, but with the overall goal of supporting your country."

AP sports writers Robert Millward, Ronald Blum, Brett Martel and Andrew Dampf, and Associated Press writer Eugene Bricc contributed to this report.

MP3: Variety of factors to consider before purchasing

From page 6B

Nano nanu

Released last October, the super sleek and pencil-thin Nano comes in 1, 2 and 4 GB sizes, and in black and colors. The 1.5 inch square screen is ultra bright, the colors very vivid. However, the Nano is quite vulnerable to scratching. The intuitive click wheel is comfy, precise and easy to navigate through the menus. You can listen to music and view photos, but the main drawback is no FM transmitter or video support. Battery life is around 14 hours with one charge. The 4 GB is priced at \$249.

Signature move: Status symbol, size and perfect controls.

Pinned down by: Price, lack of video, voice recorder or FM transmitter.

Zen state of mind?

Creative continues the war against Apple by releasing another MP3 player. The Zen V comes in two flavors (made popular by the Xbox 360), dubbed the Zen V and the Zen V Plus. The Zen V release date is set for July and the Zen V Plus for August. Both come in 1, 2 and 4 GB sizes as well as an assortment of colors. It features a bright 1.5 inch square screen that

can be used horizontally or vertically by rotating the orientation of the screen. The five-direction joystick feels good, but it's too small. Other features include a photo viewer and a voice recorder. The Zen V Plus differs from its little brother by offering an FM tuner and the ability to watch videos. The battery life lasts 15 hours on one charge. The Zen V 4 GB is \$199 and the Zen V Plus price has not been announced but will be available in coming weeks.

Signature move: Customizing ability, awesome sound.

Pinned down by: Tiny joystick, screen hard to see in bright sun.

Click Clix

The iRiver Clix, released in May, boasts a unique design interface. The four sides of the screen are the control mechanism. Tap the top and bottom portions of the screen to scroll through the menus and tap left and right to confirm and cancel. The 2.2 inch square screen is a great size for viewing, but collects fingerprints. It can be used to watch movies, view photos, transmit radio and voice-record. You can buy a cradle with speakers that allows this device to be used as an alarm clock. The battery life is an astounding 25 hours. It only

comes in a 2 GB size, which will cost you \$199.

Signature move: Packed with features, great new controls.

Pinned down by: Cradle not included, fingerprints on the screen get annoying.

Blu for you

MobiBlu, popular for releasing its die-sized DAH-1500i, returned this May with the B153 (Could they come up with a more consumer-friendly name?). The screen size is 3.5 inches by 1.8 inches, but features a very basic, text-only display. It utilizes a five-button joystick to scroll around the menus. The key feature this product boasts is its battery power, which lasts a whopping 153 hours on a single charge. Very boxy and chunky, this device is heavier than its competition thanks to that out-standing battery life. It lacks the ability to play videos and photos but does sport an FM transmitter and a voice recorder. It comes in a 512 MB and 1 and 2 GB versions. The 2 GB will run around \$129.

Signature move: Battery life any backpacker would love.

Pinned down by: Blocky design, room for improvement with menu display.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFLY

Brain game boom

This summer the focus is on intellect. The National Spelling Bee scored high ratings in a prime time slot, and the new documentary "Wordplay" features crossword connoisseurs. Sudoku puzzles are kept in stock at book stores. America's love of puzzles has not gone unnoticed. Video games are jumping on the bandwagon, with an array of delight puzzlers of all levels. Nintendo recently debuted two "Brain" games — "Brain Age" and "Big Brain Academy." Even crossword puzzles have found their way into video games with the Crave game "Puzzle Challenge: Crosswords and More!"

Dog fight DVD raises outcry

"Hood Fights, Vol. 2, The Art of the Pit" is being pulled from Amazon.com, Circuit City Stores, Netflix and Best Buy. The DVD features pit bulls fighting, often resulting in debilitating and deadly injuries. The Humane Society requested U.S. Attorney Roger Roper III investigate whether the DVD breaks any federal law against profiting from the interstate commerce of depicted animal cruelty. The DVD was released in April by Texas-based Web site streetheatdvd.com, which is owned by 50/50 Entertainment and Glenn Hudson.

Compiled from Associated Press reports.

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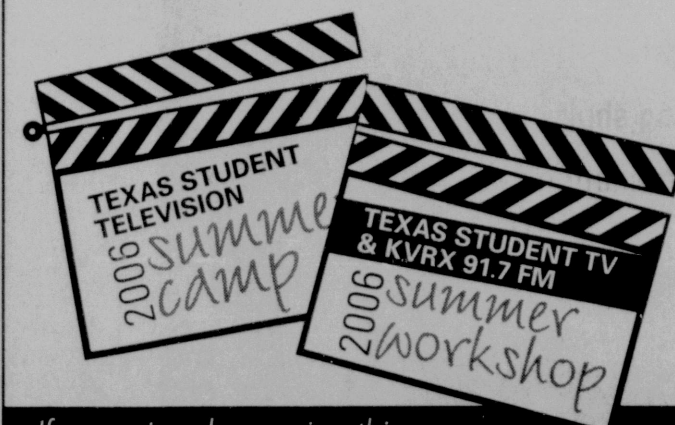
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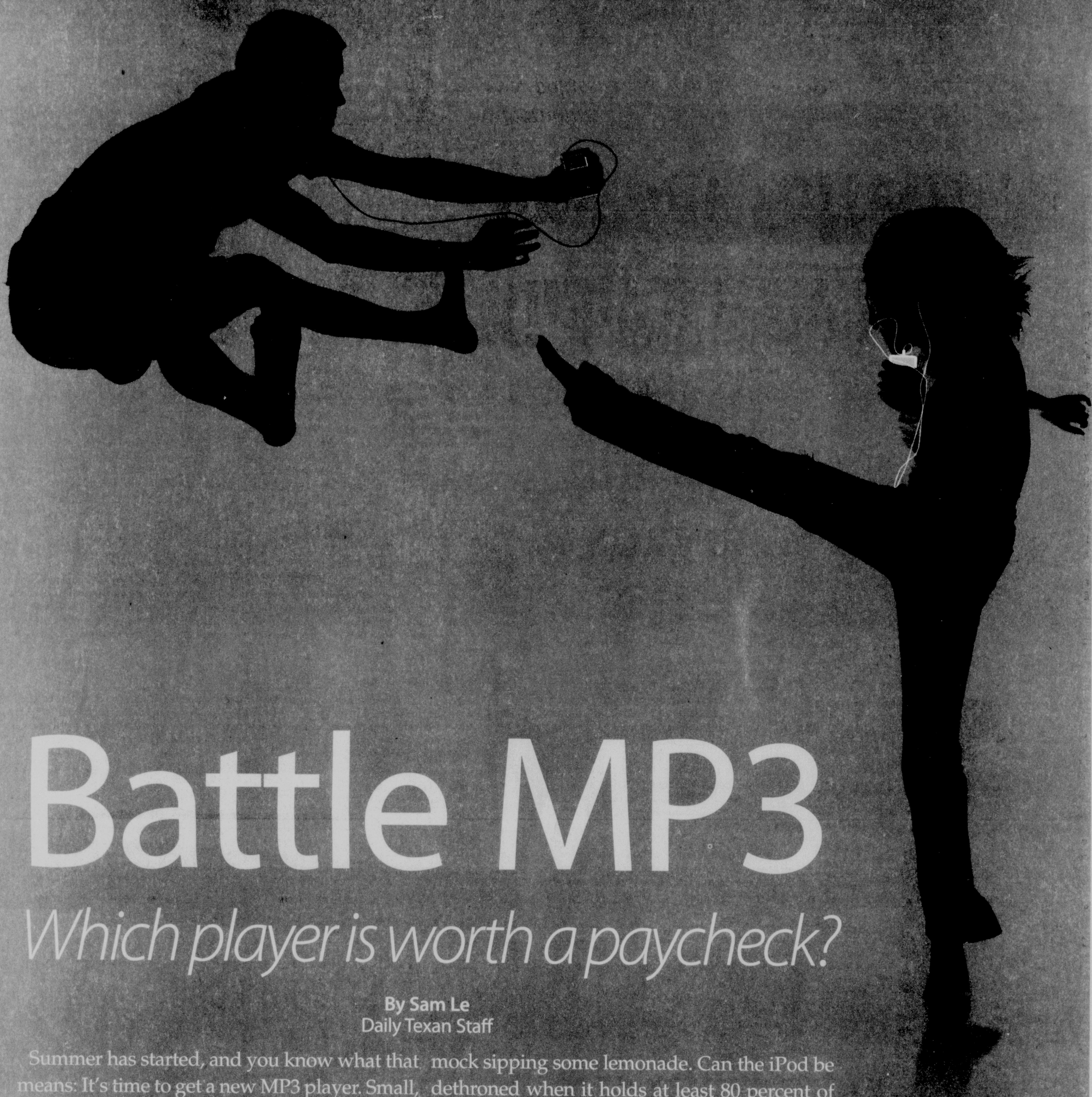
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Visit www.TexasStudentTV.com for more information.



If you missed a session this summer, keep us in mind for next year!



Battle MP3

Which player is worth a paycheck?

By Sam Le
Daily Texan Staff

Summer has started, and you know what that means: It's time to get a new MP3 player. Small, Flash-based MP3 players, made popular by the iPod Nano, are great for entertainment at the beach, while running or just lying in a ham-

mock sipping some lemonade. Can the iPod be dethroned when it holds at least 80 percent of the market share? Its competitors think so.

MP3 continues on page 5A

Photo illustration by Shaun Stewart | Daily Texan Staff

THE WINDMILL IS POWERING HIS BRAIN

A Dutch national soccer team fan reacts while watching the match between Argentina and the Netherlands in Frankfurt Wednesday. The match ended in a 0-0 tie. Other teams in Group C are Ivory Coast and Serbia and Montenegro. Hats are just one of the crazy fashion statements being made during the World Cup.

» SEE PAGE 5B FOR STORY ON WORLD CUP FASHION



Hasan Sarbakhshian
Associated Press

Kinky's new book amusing, offensive

Gubernatorial hopeful ruminates on life, love, poltics in his 24th literary effort

By Michelle Ty
Daily Texan Columnist

Along the Drag, where local vendors set up shop between 23rd and 24th streets, mysterious dots of yellow paint brighten the small plot of Guadalupe Street that has yet to be claimed by the ever-growing University Co-op mega-complex. In the center of one of these dots, scrawled red paint — even brighter than its yellow background — proclaims one word: Kinky.

Kinky Friedman's campaign has been a ground-up movement from the beginning. During his crusade to collect the 169,574 signatures that

gained him a place on the November ballot, Friedman has somehow found time to churn out yet another book—his 24th: "Cowboy Logic: The Wit and Wisdom of Kinky Friedman (And Some of His Friends)."

"Cowboy Logic" is a collection of Kinky-esque one-liners supplemented by Texas-themed comics by cowboy cartoonist Ace Reid. His maxims cover everything from marriage to Rick Perry's hair. His nuggets of wit are grouped into cleverly named chapters such as "Things You Would Never Hear a Real Texan Say" and "Love, Marriage and Other Hopeless Causes."

As expected of a man of protean talent, his book hosts its share of seeming contradictions. The back cover of "Cowboy Logic" features praise from both George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. In an early chapter he remarks: "I support gay marriage. I think they have every right to be just as miserable as the rest of us." He may likely lose credibility amongst the gay community with a slightly homophobic quip in Chapter 8, "Ballet is basketball for homosexuals." Other times, his tone shifts rapidly from deeply cynical to overly sentimental. ("I've never really cared much about what people think, but I do care about what they dream.")

While the success of Friedman's humor sometimes wavers, he does

KINKY continues on page 4B



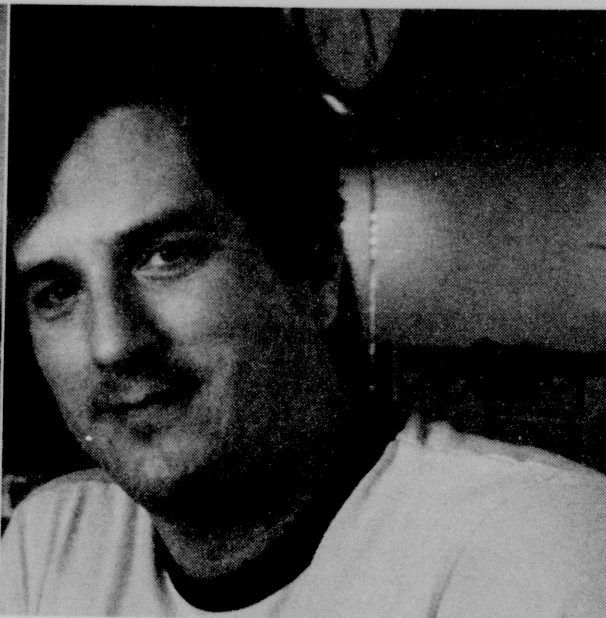
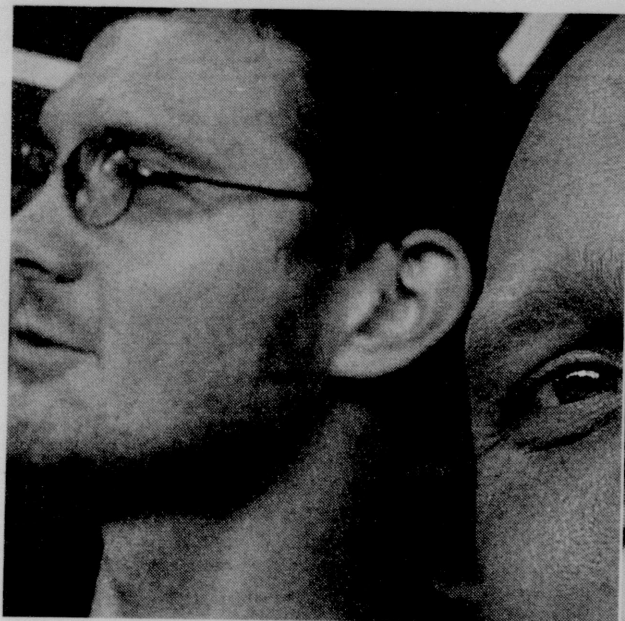
dt weekend

H₂O

ASSASSIN
Official player's
guide inside

PLUS—
Church of the
Friendly Ghost

The story of the legendary
— eastside venue. See page 6.



Five years in the land of beers

Beerland celebrated its self-made history yesterday. See how it all got started and where they got all the arcade games.

By Ella Miesner

page 5

Sex on Real

Raising eyebrows at the Real Theatre, the 'Tweekend finds out what's in Blake Yelavich's head.

By Rebecca Fondren

page 8

Assassin H₂O player's guide

Get the recon on places to refill your artillery on campus, and why you shouldn't rely on an umbrella to save you.

By Scotty Loewen

page 9

A mansion on a hill

By Jonathan York
page 6

The story of the Church of the Friendly Ghost and how it's one of the Live Music Capital of the World's greatest legends.

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Editor's note



by
**Scotty
Loewen**

In late 2003 fliers started showing up in the usual places, but they were advertising shows at a church of a denomination no one had heard of.

Aaron Mace founded the Church of the Friendly Ghost and started to have bands and art exhibits there. It was a far cry from the mainstream blues, rock and beer specials at Momo's, and it was weirder than the noise pop at Emo's (or even at the Parish, for that matter). Most downtown venues program their schedules banking on sure things. The Church treaded ground that other venues purposefully avoided — and that made people curious. Was it a church? Was it a cult? Who in their right mind would play at a gutted church? Do you want to go check out that gutted-out cult church on Pedernales and

see who's playing?

Any band or audience members who went were driven by curiosity, but from there it was a leap of faith. It was deep in a residential area of East Austin away from any residual foot traffic. Like Texas, it was a destination, not a rest stop.

The Church was also grossly under-equipped. The "wish list" for the venue (still up online) says it all:

Folding chairs

PA

An architect or any expert in building design

Someone with a pickup willing to make dump runs

A fat endowment

"CARPENTER TO HELP ME REPLACE A WINDOW"

Inside the church sat eight or nine pews, strewn about and worn. Lighting was usually provided by lamps connected to the walls with extension cords or by whatever projector was handy. It felt like the worst possible place to have a show, but that was the charm — it couldn't get any worse.

Other venues that have sunk had to go through a slow demise and decay. Steamboat opened in 1975 on Sixth Street where Aquarium now is. They were bought out in 1999 and moved to the Red River location in 2002 where they could start fresh.

There was room to breathe — a decent-sized parking lot, more floor space, bleachers.

The first few months the club welcomed Austin bands back to the fold. The joint spared no expense when bands came to play — the lighting, a polite soundman and a cooler full of bottled beer backstage.

Near the end, about a year later, the polite soundman was now gruff and sped through sloppy sound checks. If your band wanted lighting, it was extra. The cooler was gone (polite soundman took it).

Maybe what Austin needs is more madmen like Aaron Mace to break into the music scene unexpectedly with an idea so crazy that people can wonder about it before Austin forgets about wondering at such things.

Amen,
Scotty Loewen

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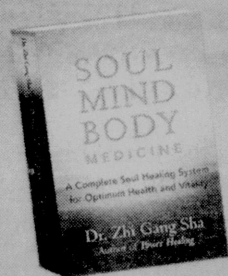
An MD in China and traditional Chinese medicine doctor in China and Canada, Master Sha has trained in the most advanced cellular healing science now occurring in China, and is involved in the West in breakthrough research on the effect of spirituality on the human system.

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June 30	8 AM – 12 PM	Soul Mind Body Medicine* Free Healing Morning	Holiday Inn Hotel - Northwest Arboretum
June 30	7 PM	Soul Mind Body Medicine* Book Signing	Book People
July 1 – 2	9 AM – 3 PM	Soul Mind Body Medicine* 2 - Day Workshop	Embassy Suites Hotel - Austin North
July 1	7:30 PM	Soul Mind Body Medicine* Book Signing	Borders Books - Westgate Marketplace
July 3	7 PM – 9 PM	Soul Mind Body Medicine* Healer Introductory Evening	Holiday Inn Hotel - Northwest Arboretum

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News

Arctic Monkeys lose bassist

Arctic Monkeys bassist Andy Nicholson has left the English indie-rock band, reports Pitchfork Media. Nicholson had not been touring with the band on their North American tour, which concluded in Toronto on Friday, due to "fatigue following an intensive period of touring."

They have not yet named a permanent replacement for Nicholson, but the Monkeys do say, "Nick O'Malley, who stood in for Andy while he was absent from the recent tour of North America, shall carry on playing bass for the remaining shows this summer."

O'Malley is bassist for fellow English band, The Dodgems. The Monkeys continue the European leg of their tour at the Hurricane Festival in Germany Friday. "[We] have been through some amazing things together that no one can take away. We all wish Andy the very best," the band said.



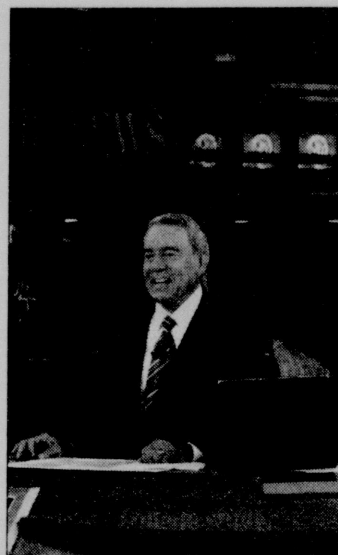
Dan Rather no longer with CBS

NEW YORK — CBS News said Tuesday it is cutting ties with Dan Rather, concluding a messy professional divorce with the hard-charging anchor who had worked there for 44 years until things went sour over a story about the president's military service.

His departure before the November end of his contract is an acknowledgment that CBS News wants to leave the Rather era behind as it awaits the arrival of Katie Couric.

Rather, 74, has no intention of retiring. He is weighing an offer to do a weekly show at the tiny HDNet, a high-definition network offered on some cable and satellite systems.

—The Associated Press



What is a six-letter word for crosswords suck: Sudoku

NEW YORK — Sudoku, the addictive puzzle craze that originated in Japan, has captivated Britain and is now — in Will Shortz's, longtime editor of the New York Times crossword puzzle, words — "crushing" crossword puzzles in the United States.

Sudoku involves numbers, not words, and logic, not accumulated knowledge. But Shortz has embraced it, and it's been very good to him: According to his editors, he has 27 Sudoku books on the market, the largest market share of any author. Put another way, he's got 5 million copies in print, and another million rolling off the presses.

—The Associated Press

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FIVE YEARS IN THE



BY ELLA MIESNER

If you host about four bands a night, six nights a week, 365 days a year for five years, that makes about 44,000 shows. For Beerland owner Randall Stockton, that's not enough. With Beerland's fifth anniversary this week, Stockton is still driven by the desire to give more bands a place to play.

Stockton was, as he put it, "bitten" by the music-club bug while working at Bates Hotel. After that venue closed, Randall worked briefly for a video game vending company, but then knew he wanted to return to the live music scene in Austin. With the help of his wife Donya, Randall found space in an old storage building on Red River Street and began building what would become Beerland.

Five years later, the storage building has been transformed into a classic Austin live music club. A low platform at the end of the room serves as the stage. Randall was initially reluctant to put in a stage at all. He wanted to keep the bands on the level of the audience, many of whom are fellow musicians. He wanted Beerland bands and fans to mix comfortably.

People can mingle at the bar or a few feet away, across the narrow room, at the wall of classic video games left over from Randall's time as a vendor. In addition to working with video games, Randall and Donya also delivered newspapers for a while to help with money during Beerland's beginnings.

Money was tight at first, and the Stocktons had to do many things themselves. Next to the video games is a patch of wall in which Randall personally set the blocks. Across the room the eyes are drawn to a strip of off-color concrete where Randall dug a trench to install plumbing. After the building opened, Randall worked sound, Donya tended bar, and his brother Billy worked security at the door.

Listeners sit at the tables between the bar and the video games. The closeness of this small, dark space is one reason people keep coming, said Max Dropout, bouncer and booking guy for the club.

"When you're seeing a show with so many people jammed in a room, you're just forced to meet people," Dropout said.

Meeting people at Beerland was especially significant in Dropout's life: it got him



Jeremy Balkin for the DT Weekend

From right, Tyler Vanaken, a bartender of more than a year, Randall Stockton, owner, and Max Dropout, who has worked for Beerland in the booking and security departments for about three years, pose in front of the Beerland Texas sign. The club celebrated its fifth anniversary yesterday.

a job. He relates how he'd been frequenting the club for a while when he saw an especially rowdy show by The Riverboat Gamblers. Two men from Dallas grabbed the microphone stand off the stage. When Dropout took the stand away and returned it to the stage, one of the troublemakers got a little too close to him.

"He seemed to resent it," Dropout said. "He started wrestling me and cracked my jaw."

Eventually, Dropout hauled the two men out the door and told Billy Stockton, who was watching the door that night, to keep them out.

The next day Randall saw Dropout at Beerland again, gave him \$25 and told him to go get certified in security. Billy moved on to work sound.

"Before I came to Austin I worked in a cubicle in New York, doing booking on the side," Dropout said. "Working at Beerland has revived my soul and made me feel young again."

Over the years the club has hosted everything from bluegrass to punk rock. Though he laughs and calls Beerland's traditional Monday night rock-and-roll karaoke a "guilty pleasure or a necessary evil," Randall cannot deny that people enjoy it.

Even for the bands who don't succeed, Randall is glad he gave them a place to start.

"It's like people who play baseball in high school, but then don't go into the major league," Randall said. "It's still a valuable experience." ■

EVENTUALLY, DROPOUT HAULED THE TWO MEN OUT THE DOOR AND TOLD BILLY, WHO WAS WATCHING THE DOOR THAT NIGHT, TO KEEP THEM OUT. THE NEXT DAY RANDALL SAW DROPOUT AT BEERLAND AGAIN, GAVE HIM \$25 AND TOLD HIM TO GO GET CERTIFIED IN SECURITY.

A mansion on a hill

By
Jonathan York

Aaron Mace, a lanky young man with dark hair, went into the East side with no girlfriend and no purpose but the jobs he kept getting. Cooking tacos in a mobile kitchen where everyone was stoned. Performing science experiments at kids' birthdays. Subbing at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

He went to East Second Street and Pedernales Street in search of a place to live. What he found was the church — and just when he needed it.

The church stood in the shade across from housing projects where boys ran at dusk. Its unused sanctuary was dark, as the earth had been before God made light pierce the empty oceans. The first time Mace and his friends saw it, they thought, "We'll fix it up. We'll have art shows. We'll have music."

In Mace's mind, the seas were separating, the first birds splashed and flapped their wings, and the void took shape.

The four friends rented it for \$1,200 a month plus utilities (\$700). They fixed the bathroom and cleaned the rooms, sweating while East Austin drifted past in beat-up trucks and on children's bicycles.

The old Hispanic families could see that the church was losing its dust. But they could not foresee what it would bring to their quiet streets: the drunkenness, the urine, the noise. The landlord imagined a "scene" developing there, a hip spot in that old quarter of the city.

By October of 2003, it had opened under the name "The Ministry of Arts and Culture." The MAC. As Alex Coke blew his first saxophone notes over the pews, Mace fell into the music. Perhaps it wasn't by accident that he'd given the place his last name, minus the E. Maybe his excitement had already tipped toward obsession.

He renamed the building "The Church of the Friendly Ghost," since there was already a MAC, and he did not want to invite confusion. At first he had to seek the bands, but in little time they were calling four or five times a week. People with horns or projectors or weird footage or rubbery costumes knew where to bring them.

At the shows during his first few months — John Coltrane's "OM," Rubber, Six Organs of Admittance — he worried terribly. Were the musicians happy? Were the promoters happy?

They were. The Austin Chronicle's critics named it "Best DIY Venue" in their "Best of Austin: 2004" issue. Mace tried to be humble. He tried to keep a clear head. When asked, "Oh, you run the church?" he'd reply, "Me and some other people."

But he and the others had begun to disagree. He'd already booted one roommate, a man who turned on the big air conditioners in the chapel simply to practice guitar.

"At some point, I acquired a vision for what the place could be or what could happen to the place," Mace says in his downtown living room, among CDs and late-1970s toys. "The thing that happens when you have a vision is that everybody says it's wrong or it doesn't matter."

By the end of 2004, the church had put on at least 200 shows, and the neighbors were tired of it. This was deep East Austin, much less touched by development and young professionals than, say, East 11th Street. Those who lived in the houses nearby had restaurants to cook in and cars to paint and buildings to clean and children who had to be fed and sent to school.

They needed their sleep. They called the police.

On one of their first visits, the police asked, "We got a noise complaint. Is it... you guys?"

APD got used to it; they came about 50 times. Though the cops didn't ticket the church as much as they could have, Mace and a roommate both ended up with violations of the city's noise ordinance.

In a bad month, the church was booked for five or six shows; in a good month, for 20. Magazine parties spread its reputation while doing little for its finances, which were perpetually in bad order. (Audiences often walked right in, refusing cover.) Vice Magazine tried to put on a bash there, and the church said no. But they did let Arthur and Chunklet magazines use the space.

The latter, during South by Southwest in 2005, was the church's undoing.

The sanctuary held perhaps 100, the fenced-in yard was modest, and there were just two bathrooms on the premises. So when more than 700 people swarmed the church and its 15 kegs, East Austin became a great portable toilet.

Pictures online show the throngs



Joe Buglewicz and Stephen Durda for the DT Weekend

November 2004



June 2006



Above, the former location of the Church of the Friendly Ghost has been repainted primary red and pastel yellow, the hedges and chainlink fence are gone, and the grass has given way to xeriscaped gravel. The fan of third-stream jazz who wanders inside will find a different sort of art — Monica Caivano's tango studio.

"At some point, I acquired a vision for what the place could be or what could happen to the place," Mace says in his downtown living room, among CDs and late-1970s toys. "The thing that happens when you have a vision is that everybody says it's wrong or it doesn't matter."

stretching out the door like a giant arm. Someone had inflated a 40-foot tall Abita bottle. A band called Wolfmother blared into the afternoon.

"I'm standing out in the sunlight, half-drunk, thinking, 'How did it get to this?'" Mace says.

In the yard, a neighbor held a video camera.

A man from the city of Austin arrived the next month and asked for a certificate of occupancy. To Mace's bad fortune, the document was for a religious group.

If he had tried to explain to the bureaucrat that there was something religious here, that the church was his vision — a fiery, drunken, urine-filled vision — but still a sacred thing, he would have wasted his breath.

The man told him to stop putting on shows. While Mace talked to his landlord about getting a new certificate of occupancy, the persecuted church went into hiding. Mace moved his summer booking to Beerland and treated the church as an art gallery with occasional small parties. Fifty people wouldn't draw the cops out.

I visited the church just once, during this period, for the birthday party of a man I didn't know. A projection show flickered over the back wall against the wavering chords of a keyboard player with a tube in his mouth. The birthday boy tottered drunkenly, ready to make out with anything.

Outside, children ran through the projects in flocks — some of them tried to steal beer — and a disabled old man found the parking spots by his house were all taken. "I thought this was a church," he told one of my friends in dismay.

Mace is always trying to explain what he's about. He has told the Texan more than once of how he advertised a Dia de los Muertos party around East Second and Pedernales Street. When he offered a flyer to one old woman, she glanced at it in disgust.

"Ugh! Muertos!" she exclaimed.

One couple from the vicinity showed up.

"I think most of the problem was with the neighbors not understanding what we were trying to do," Mace says. "We were terrible neighbors."

The landlord had helped Mace before, cutting rent to \$800 when money was tight. However, he knew by now that the church

couldn't function where it was, so he found a buyer: an Argentine tango instructor who choreographed for Zachary Scott Theater.

Mace felt as though the rug was pulled from under him, and he decided not to leave until the last possible moment. He'd been jobless for eight months and owed rent for three. The roommates were gone. The bands were gone. The money had gone to keep the bands there. He would answer the door grouchy, in his underwear. Eventually, he got an eviction notice.

In his last days on the premises, he set up a 48-hour installation party. Anyone could install anything without the fear of its removal. He went the whole time without sleep, surveying the dreamlike contents of his gallery: a hippie jam band, a giant tentacle, a suitcase with fake Arabic labels that played horrid sounds when plugged in.

When he left the church, he left his things in a pile on the lawn, and he took the air conditioners.

Aaron Mace doesn't need the church anymore. He has a girlfriend and an apartment at 12th and Nueces streets and a job tending bar at the Driskill Cafe — one of the last restaurants in town, he says, to freeze its own ice cream.

But as he remembers what happened on Pedernales Street — the jazz, the projection shows, the angry neighbors, the tentacle, the terrorist suitcase, the lights of police cars, the stench of urine, the inflatable bottle, the dog that attacked him, the kid who smacked him with a water balloon — his mood seems to darken.

He sinks into the couch, his girlfriend brushes the cat, and a window ornament in the shape of a blue dragon catches the light.

He calls his church "a horrible mess" and his booking "very poor," yet has jumped at the chance to book shows at Salvage Vanguard's new theater, a warehouse at Chicon Street and Manor Road. While the theater company has a booking manager already, the plan is for Mace to present music there too under the church's name.

"I'm glad I didn't buy it. That would have been a terrible, terrible mistake," Mace told me by phone before describing how Salvage Vanguard would help him keep his fix.

Aaron Mace doesn't need the church. He just can't live without it. ■

Sex on Real

Arts on Real is normally pretty randy with their repertoire, but a play with a message, too?

By Rebecca Fondren

Turn left off I-35 South and head east on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Just more than a mile down, take a left on Alexander and another left on Real Street. It's there you'll find the Arts on Real Theatre and Soundstage. This off, off, off location is home to one of Austin's livelier theatre houses whose past production "Pageant," a drag show, and a musical version of "Debbie Does Dallas" were of the randier fare in Austin.

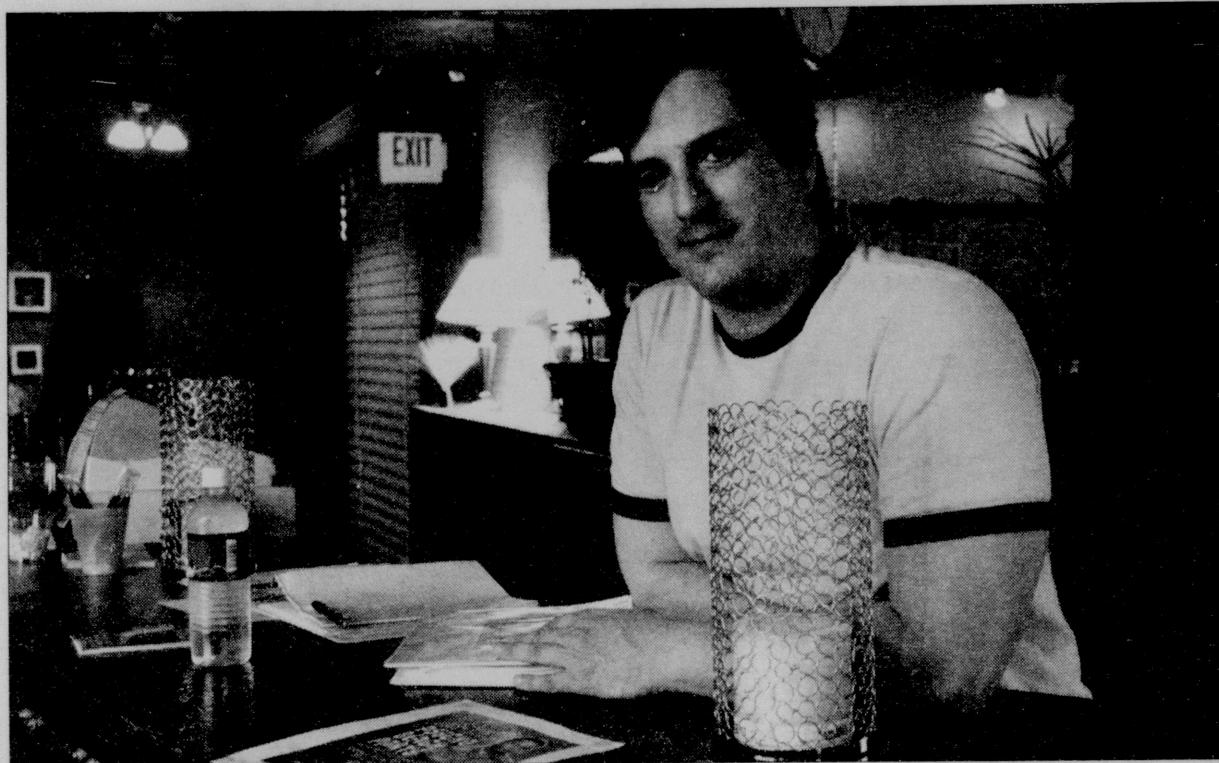
Deep in the eastside warehouse district, surrounded by chain-link fences topped with barbed wire, is Arts on Real. The inside of the theater better resembles a cozy lounge than a typical theater. Leopard-covered recliners with plush red pillows line the walls. Vinnie, the theatre's black cat, roams freely around the bar. Blake Yelavich, an imposing man of more than 6 feet, 2 inches, is the general manager for Arts On Real. In 2002, Yelavich was a game show contestant on "Win Ben Stein's Money" and "The Weakest Link." After winning both shows he took the game show earnings and bought and renovated a 5,900-square-foot empty warehouse into Arts on Real. DT Weekend entered Yelavich's lair on Real and this is what we found under the sheets.

Daily Texan: Why did you want to own this theatre?

Blake Yelavich: Austin theater was/is in a slump. We have a joke around this theatre about, "We don't do art." I actually had a high-ranking theater reviewer tell me to my face that we don't do art, we do popular theater. As if selling tickets is a bad thing. Then I remind myself the whole art form is called "show business." I felt I was no longer going to be put down for doing shows people want to see. The year before we took on the Arts On Real space, my theater company spent \$30,000 in rental fees to other theaters. The "business" in show business told me that that was bad business. The only way I could benefit from that rental money was to have my own space.

DT: Did you want to have a space that would put on shows that are a little strange and a little off?

BY: Well, only a little. There are some theaters who put on much stranger and shows that are much more off. Other theaters have blood-soaked lesbian vampires singing opera in some space language, or interpretive art forms, or a performer who invites you to approach the stage and study her vulva ... Naughty Austin is pretty tame when it comes to that. I want to hear people laugh and applaud and laugh some more. Not always PC, not always G-rated, and not allied to any faction left or right, or gay or straight, or trendy or traditional.



Jennifer Soto for the DT Weekend

Blake Yelavich, owner and general manager for Arts on Real, leans over a counter in the lobby of the East Austin warehouse-turned-theatre.

I want to put things on stage that make the patrons crack a smile immediately. There is also a running theme of people who discover something non-traditional about themselves in every play. Not just some dude coming out of the closet, or some moral dilemma but some theme that celebrates and nurtures human acceptance.

DT: Do you think you are being provocative or risqué when you put on shows like "Pageant" or "Debbie Does Dallas?" Or do you think you are giving the audience what it wants?

BY: Both. When I heard the soundtrack to "Debbie" I thought "Oh, God, we can't do this." But then I remembered that I can really produce the show with a dignified style that makes it okay to have three dancing bananas do crappy ballet while a librarian is on her knees. Sure, it is provocative and risqué in one way, but at the same time it's done with a sort of class that makes the audiences laugh instead of offending them.

DT: What do you think audiences want to see? Do you think they want to see shows that make them grin and make them happy?

BY: I think "theater" has become this boring, out-moded, shut-up-and-watch experience that is only appreciated by the actor who is painted blue and jumping out of cans of corn. The audience doesn't get it, but they applaud lightly at the end and pat the performer on the back for a job well done, though they didn't understand a minute of it. We are plagued with this "art" stuffed down our throats by elitist critics, over-degreed artists, and their slim patrons. We've stood up and said "The Emperor Has No Clothes," and we are right, and people appreciate that in our shows. A much broader base can come to our shows and see that the whole theater experience can be a laugh from start to finish."

DT: Do you think you have a loyal audience?

BY: It's growing. We have about 100 people who come so regularly that I know their names and faces and make every effort to greet them personally. One hundred may not sound like a lot, but these 100 are people I would have never known outside this theater, and they are constant support for the venue. On top of that there are hundreds of return customers that I don't know personally, who are not as involved as the core 100. With that fan base of, say, 500 bringing their friends and families to various productions, we have quite a following that is growing with every show.

DT: "The 24th Day" is a play with multiple themes and it hits on some very raw and real issues. Why the departure from comedy and camp to drama?

BY: I know! What's that about? That one snuck in there somehow. Actually, the show's message was so powerful to me, and a lot of the people involved with the production, that we decided to forego the slapstick and instead had the actors slap each other around. On the Web site, I deem the show "a very special episode" or "Lifetime Movie Of The Week" in jest, but it is because I wanted to forewarn the audience that this is a departure for us — not something we'll do all the time, but good enough to trump the usual silliness that happens here on stage. I think our audiences are dedicated enough that they'll enjoy the departure. Plus the story hits so many topics — being gay, being straight, having HIV, testing positive, testing negative, the moral responsibility, husbands, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, who we are inside versus who we are outside. It's the public speech that someone should at least say. It's the elephant in the room no one is talking about. I think my boys do the script very well, and no one in the audience feels preached to or made to feel guilty or berated. The actors keep the blame on stage, but it can't help but affect an audience.

Tony Piccirillo's "The 24th Day" runs through July 1st.

ASSASSIN H₂O SURVIVAL GUIDE

You may not know it, but it's coming. Monday, 200 armed and dangerous Austinites will descend upon our fair city for a gigantic three week assassin-off that will leave a huge mark on the history of Austin.

A huge watermark.

For the participants, the 'Tweekend has decided to make the hunt a

little easier with this handy-dandy player's guide, profiling artillery, outlining the rules and how to avoid the wet kiss of "death."

For the rest of you, ponchos are available at the University Co-op for \$5.95. And remember, a kill happens on anything your carrying.

Best of luck.

THE USUAL SUSPECTS



The business types

More than likely, many of these cut-throat jet-setters will flock to the game in droves to work out any cubicle claustrophobia. Messenger bags, purses and briefcases give them many places to conceal sidearms for the workweek.

Watch out for the weekend warriors. Their fury, normally exercised with TV sports and online poker, will be redirected into a kill-happy frenzy.

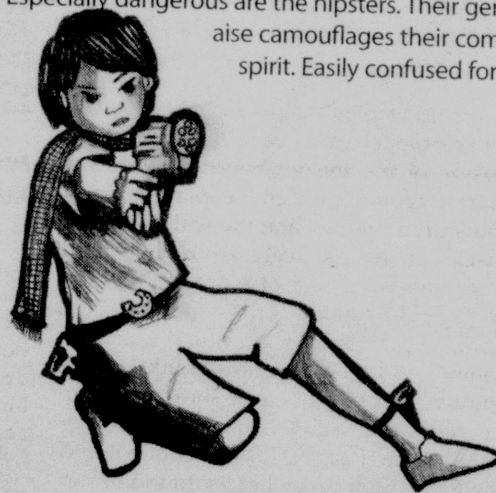


College students

(hipsters, fraternity brothers, sorority sisters, etc.)

Especially dangerous during the summer months when water play is the natural habitat. These contestants, usually in their spry early 20s, are quick on their feet and know all the good hiding places from sleeping between classes on campus and trolling Sixth Street every Thursday through Wednesday.

Especially dangerous are the hipsters. Their general malaise camouflages their competitive spirit. Easily confused for scenery.



Hippies

Least likely suspect to participate in the fight. However, it's possible for these flower children to make a personal statement about violence in our society by mocking that violence in a water-gun fight. Or, they just really like fun.

THE RULES

At registration, (<http://www.assassinH2O.com> for more info) for a \$35 entry fee you will receive your mark's photo, home address, work address, e-mail address and code name. Players are safe at classes in which they are registered and at work. They are also safe at any Alamo Drafthouse and its parking lot, as well as the Woody's South location.

WINNING THE GAME

After the three week snipe has past, the last man standing is the winner. If there isn't a clear winner, the game stops at 4 p.m. and resumes downtown at 8 p.m. for a four-hour free for all. The winner comes away with \$400. The losers, well, someone somewhere will still have enough respect to throw a towel at them. Good luck.

THE ARSENAL

The rules of the contest state that to make a "kill," contestants must get water on their opponent or anything their opponent is carrying. Here are the tools the professionals use.



SHORT RANGE

Eye dropper

For the close, subtle hit, nothing beats it. Extremely portable and whisper quiet, the eye dropper is perfect for those situations (roommates) when a little dab'll do you.

Weight - Less than a pound

Capacity - A few drops

Price - \$0.55

Water bottle

Be prepared for the battle to get hostile with this weapon. Your mark will be angry enough after some jerk just spilled water on him. After they realize that some klutz just knocked him out of the game, it will probably be on like Evian.

Weight - About a pound

Capacity - 16 ounces

Price - \$0.99

SIDE ARMS

Assorted side arms

Packs of these are available at most toy and dollar stores for cheap. Excellent for chases and situations where you are cornered by assassins. Great versatility as a throwaway weapon when your payload has expired.

Weight - .92 pounds

Capacity - Varies

Price - \$6 - \$7

"SpiderMan 2" Web Water Tank Blaster

Only good for situations when your target is stationary (coffee shop, or if you're really smooth, the library). The tank can be disguised and the hose can fit under your sleeve.

Weight - 3.65 pounds

Capacity - 40 oz.

Price - \$3.97



MID-RANGE

Larami Uzi

Hard to find, easy to carry. An older model water gun that uses batteries instead of man power for pressure. Best for when you're changing your bat halfway through the inning. An additional drawback is its realistic appearance. Don't try packing it through the airport.

Super Soaker Flash Flood

When Hasbro bought the Super Soaker line from Larami, the guns took on a more conspicuous appearance. Gatorade oranges replaced mute blues, and the bulky designs look like something out of "Batman and Robin." While that makes the Flash Flood difficult to carry into work without catching a few glances, the payload more than makes up for it. Mounted on top is the Flash Flood trigger that unleashes all the pressure reserve in the gun. Overkill compared to the regular nozzle, but it gets the job done.

Weight - 3.41 pounds

Capacity - 40 ounces

Price - \$19.96

Larami Super Soaker 100

Sets the standard for modern water gun warfare. Made in the early '90s, these hand cannons made hand-pumped pressurized water guns commonplace. One benefit that sets it apart from its Hasbro descendants is the visible pressure chamber. This lets you gauge how much push your gun has left before you have to waste valuable seconds recharging. Like the Uzi, its drawback is availability.

Weight - 1.43 pounds

Capacity - 100 ounces

Price - Varies

Water balloons with launcher

Great for the assassin on the go. The raw materials are easy to store and, used properly, the balloons are good for the big score. They are extremely hard to store and very volatile. You can't take yourself out of the game, and if it explodes on your person it can get messy. The launcher is difficult to aim but great for when you want your opponents to stay several yards away.

Weight - Less than a pound

Capacity - Varies

Price - \$20 with launcher

SPECIAL WEAPONS

Super Soaker Monster XL

The swan song of the Larami series. Twin rotating barrels and a range of over 30 feet make this a formidable (but bulky) addition to your arsenal. It's only available through special dealers and online merchants. Asking prices of \$200 dollars or more limit the number of mercenaries carrying these, which is good.

Weight - 10 pounds

Capacity - 116.7 ounces

Price - \$200 and up

The Ultimate Water Gun

If you have the swagger to make up for wearing a nozzle on your head and a huge tank on your back, then by all means get this weapon. Developed by former Austin resident John Young, this "gun" has superior range and capacity to any on the commercial market. On his Web site (<http://www.ultimategun.com>), Young has an open offer to lend out his model for two weeks, enough time to soak everyone from campus to Barton Springs. There are also instructions for making your own UWG. Perfect for those enthusiasts who spend the weekend cleaning their water guns.

Price - Varies

Stayton Bonner

Think I'm Gonna Move to Australia

Blue Trout Records

If there was ever a perfect album for sitting on the back porch, drinking beers and beaming quietly with Texas pride, this is it.

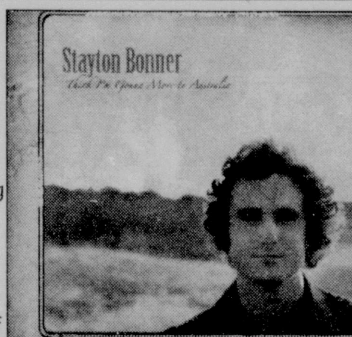
Stayton Bonner's songs resonate with much love for the Texas twang. They carry the same appreciation he probably tried to retain while playing pubs in Ireland, where he found himself working for six months after graduating from UT with an English major and no clue what to do with himself.

But the album easily connects with any audience, Texan or not, as Bonner sings of breakups and bad days with humor and subtle emotion. The title track, inspired by Bonner's favorite childhood book, "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day," has the singer contemplating the idea of just dropping everything and moving to Australia when life gets him down. The drunken aftermath of a bad breakup is the topic of "It Hasn't Been Pretty," with lyrical gems like "Sitting in my underwear/ strumming my guitar/ Talking with my dog about why you're gone."

Bonner's sophomore release is a demonstration of the laid back, lyric-driven style that put the Henderson, Texas, native in second place at 2004's MerleFest songwriting contest.

Only a few songs can make you laugh out loud, and MerleFest-winning "Me and My Poodle" will definitely make you smile between sips of your, hopefully, Texas-brewed beer.

-Ricardo Lozano

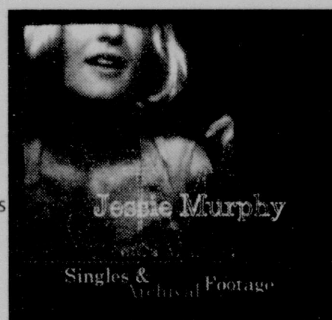


Jessie Murphy

Singles and Archival Footage

Murphy is conscious of her pop-sprinkled, ready-for-a-teen-drama sound. While songs like "The Love" are destined to be played over a montage in "One Tree Hill" with characters staring forlornly out of rain-spattered windows, the song's cursory shallowness hides deeply personal and provocative lyrics. Love is a terminal disease? Sounds pretty accurate from this soul singer in pop star clothing.

-RL



The World/Inferno Friendship Society

Red-Eyed Soul

Chunksaah Records

The World/Inferno Friendship Society throws everything they have at you. Multiple horns, two guitars, two drums, a piano and an accordion make up this ensemble of punk, Broadway beauty.

But while this mixture of artists and instruments could easily have ended up sounding thrown-together and sloppy, W/IFS manages to keep every song under control — incredibly catchy, but no less surprising. Like tossing the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle into a blender and somehow producing a kitten, it's not at all what you expected, but everything is in the right place. It's well-organized, adorable lunacy.

While the Brooklyn-based orchestra's large number of performers and Halloween-themed history make them sound campy, they are most assuredly not the Polyphonic Spree. And front man Jack Terricloth keeps them from sounding like another emo-you-can-dance-to band with a deeper voice and faster lyrics.

-RL



Vanna

The Search Party Never Came

Epitaph Records

Vanna's cover sticker says this "metalcore" band is great for fans of Underoath. But while Underoath can sing about Jesus and still sound hardcore, Vanna misses the mark most of the time.

It's not that Boston-based Vanna doesn't know how to throw out the metal thrashes and long, throat-destroying death screams that give credence to their metalcore-ness,

it's just that most of their songs interrupt the head-thrashing good times with whiny slaps of lyrical coherence.

The group dips into some real potential, and their abilities peak on "Schadenfreude," their only real song of the genre. But it's lost amongst other off-target metalcore attempts.

Vanna is perfect for fans who like their metal a little toned down.

-RL



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SUPERMAN RETURNS

PRESENTED IN DLP DIGITAL
SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available

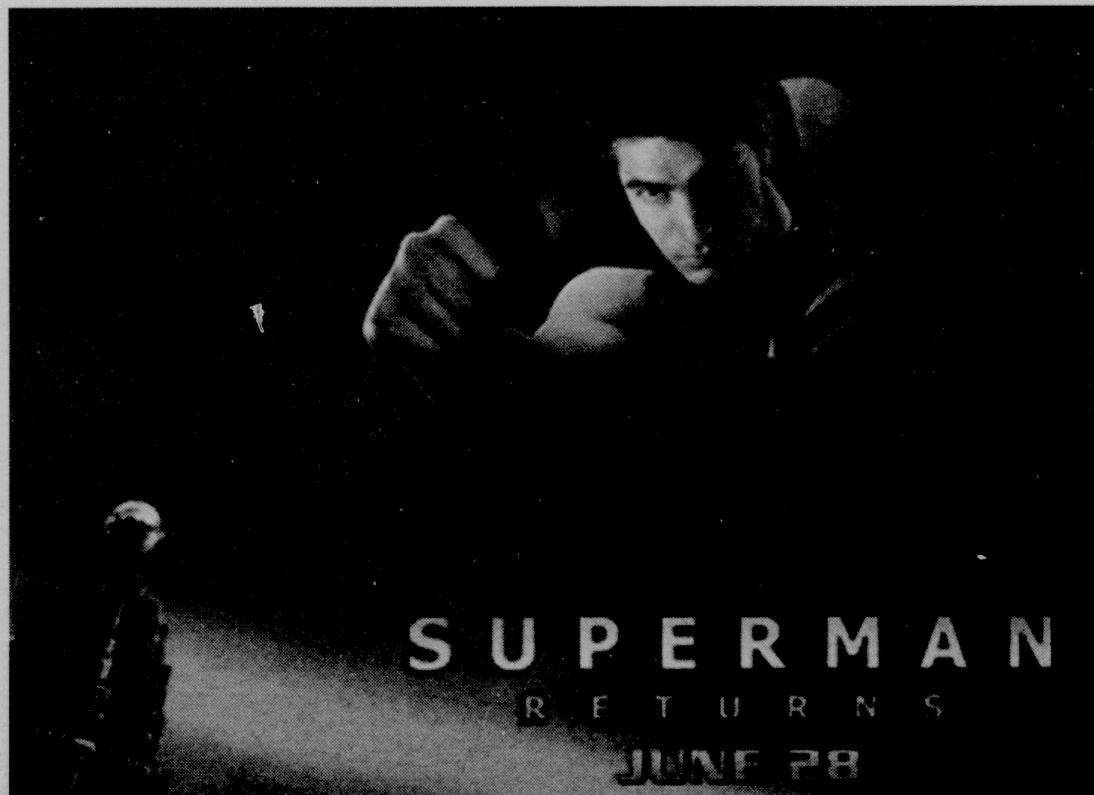
PRESENTED IN DLP DIGITAL
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
Opening July 7th, 2006 - Midnight Show 12:01 AM (Thursday Night/Friday Morning)

PRESENTED IN DLP DIGITAL
★ THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT (PG-13)
10:25 12:40 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:10
★ NACHO LIBRE (PG)
10:55 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:20 9:25
★ THE LAKE HOUSE (PG)
10:40 12:45 2:55 5:10 7:15 9:30
★ GARFIELD: A TALE OF TWO KITTIES (PG)
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

PRESENTED IN DLP DIGITAL
★ CARS (G)
10:45 11:15 1:30 2:00 4:15 4:45 7:00 7:30 9:45 10:15
★ THE OMEN (R)
10:30 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:10
★ THE BREAK-UP (PG-13)
10:45 12:55 3:15 5:25 7:40 10:10

PRESENTED IN DLP DIGITAL
X-MEN 3: THE LAST STAND (PG-13)
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
OVER THE HEDGE (PG)
11:20 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15

Showtimes for Thursday, June 22, 2006
• Special Engagement: No Passes Coupons
Tickets available online at GALAXYTHEATRES.com



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and Lakeline Cinema 9

We can't afford pop-up ads. so do us a big favor and tape this to your friend's computer screen while they aren't looking.

dt weekend

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Adv. Tix on Sale PHISH IN CONCERT (NR) ★
FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 (PG-13) DIG (1100 1205 100 140 245 410 440 540) 650 720 815 930 1000 1055 5301 730 805 1015 1045
NACHO LIBRE (PG) DIG (1150 1230 230 300 500 5301 730 805 1015 1045
X-MEN 3 (PG-13) DIG (1120 1140 1245 205 220 400 445 520) 645 725 800 935 1010 1040
THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) DIG (1105 1135 235 305) 630 705 955 1025
POSEIDON (PG-13) DIG (1125 450) 1005
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 (PG-13) DIG (1250 400) 710 1020
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Adv. Tix on Sale SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13) ★
FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 (PG-13) DIG (1000 1230 300 530) 800 1035
GARFIELD: A TALE OF TWO KITTIES (PG) DIG (1010 1220 230 435) 645 905
THE LAKE HOUSE (PG) DIG (1005 1225 250 515) 745 1015
NACHO LIBRE (PG) DIG (1000 1220 240 500) 725 950
CARS (G) DIG (1015 1100 110 145 405 430) 700 730 945 1015
THE OMEN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1210 245 520) 755 1030
THE BREAK-UP (PG-13) DIG (1145 215 445) 715 955
X-MEN 3 (PG-13) DIG (1200 225 455) 720 1000
OVER THE HEDGE (PG) DIG (1030 1235 245 450) 655 900
THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) DIG (1215 340) 650 1000

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Adv. Tix on Sale PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13) ★
FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 (PG-13) DIG (1125 205 440) 710 945
GARFIELD: A TALE OF TWO KITTIES (PG) DIG (1155 230 430) 630 900
THE LAKE HOUSE (PG) DIG (1200 235 510) 740 1025
NACHO LIBRE (PG) DIG (1145 1215 210 240 435 505) 700 730 930 1000
CARS - DIGITAL PROJECTION (G) DIG (1150 245 530) 905
CARS (G) DIG (1120 1220 215 315 345 500) 650 720 750 940 1010 1040
THE OMEN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1135 220 450) 725 950 1020
THE BREAK-UP (PG-13) DIG (1140 1240 225 335 455) 705 735 1015
X-MEN 3 (PG-13) DIG (1210 520) 745
OVER THE HEDGE (PG) DIG (1130 200 420 640 915
THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) DIG (1205 320) 645 1005
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 (PG-13) DIG (1230 325) 640 935
OC & DA: X-MEN 3 (PG-13) DIG (250) 1030

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LOST CITY (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1130 250) 640 940
WAH WAH (NR) DIG (1210 245 510)
PUFFY CHAIR (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1140 220 500) 740 1020
THE PROPOSITION (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1145 240 505) 730 1000
KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS (PG-13) DIG (1200 230 450) 710 930
AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH (PG) DIG (1150 1230 210 300 440 520) 700 750 935 1010
FRIENDS WITH MONEY (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1220 235 445) 650 920

Times For 6/22/06 ©2006 www.REGALMOVIES.com

DT WEEKEND TOP FIVES

Box office

National ranking as of 06/18

		Sales in millions	This week	Last week
Cars		33.7	1	1
Nacho Libre		28.3	2	*
The Fast and Furious: Tokyo Drift		23.9	3	*
The Lake House		13.6	4	*
The Break Up		9.83	5	2

Record sales

National ranking as of 06/20


AFI <i>Decemberunderground</i>			1	*
Dixie Chicks <i>Taking the Long Way</i>			2	1
Yung Joc <i>New Joc City</i>			3	*
Ice Cube <i>Laugh Now, Cry Later</i>			4	*
Various Artists <i>High School Musical</i>			5	2

Source: The Associated Press

LOCAL TOP 10

Waterloo Records and Video

Sales as of 06/16

	This week	Last week	Units since last
Dixie Chicks, <i>Taking the Long Way</i>	1	1	153
			
Gnarls Barkley <i>St. Elsewhere</i>	2	2	134
Sonic Youth <i>Rather Ripped</i>	3	*	100
Alexi Murdoch <i>Time Without Consequence</i>	4	8	97
Knopfler/Harris <i>All the Roadrunning</i>	5	6	89
Widespread Panic <i>Earth to America</i>	6	*	51
Costello/Toussaint <i>The River in Reverse</i>	7	7	48
Slaid Cleaves <i>Unsung</i>	8	4	46
Sound Team <i>Movie Monster</i>	9	3	44
Futureheads <i>News and Tributes</i>	10	*	38

This flyer is pretty crappy. You think you can do better?

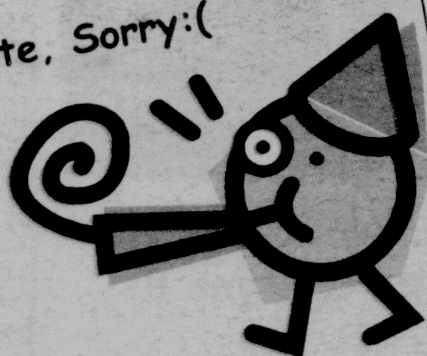
The 'Tweekend is having a little contest for the best flyer artwork in town. As long as the headliner is a local band and the show is before today (June 22) then send in your flyer as a PDF, mail it in or bring your best on down to the home office. The best will be reprinted in a future DT Weekend. Be sure to include the designer's name and contact information with your submissions.

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Deadline: June 30, 2006