

THE DAILY TEXAN

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Serving The University of Texas at Austin community since 1900

www.dailytexanonline.com

UT offers land for CO2 storage

Group plans to develop first near-zero emission power plant, names two potential sites in Texas

By Andrew Egan
Daily Texan Staff

The University's Bureau of Economic Geology has developed proposals for two possible sites of the world's first near-zero emission, coal-burning power plant. While the power plant will not be built on UT System property, the System has offered two separate tracts of land as alternatives for the purpose of underground storage.

The FutureGen Alliance announced four finalists

Tuesday in its search for a location for the \$1 billion project.

"Overall, this is an exciting thing for the environment," said Scott Tinker, director for the bureau. The bureau's 500-page proposals are both for Texas sites — one near Jewett, known as Heart of Brazos, and the other in Odessa.

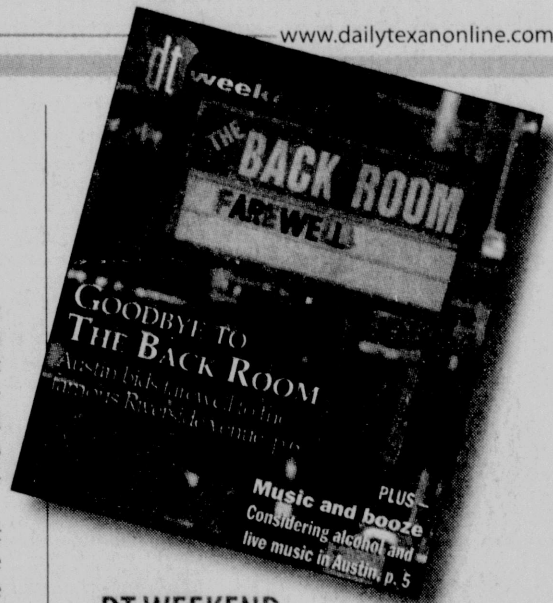
The FutureGen Alliance is joining with the U.S. Department of Energy to develop the zero-emitting plant, which stores carbon dioxide emissions underground, primarily in sandstone deposits found

beneath the sites. The 6,300-acre and 45,000-acre stretches of land are located near the proposed Odessa site in Pecos County and are a part of the 2.1 million-acre University Lands. The University Lands are part of the original million acres granted to the university in the 1876 Texas Constitution to establish the university and create the Permanent University Fund.

"Over time, the CO2 is soluble in water, or it will react with minerals in the ground to make carbonates," said Pete McGrail, a member of the alliance technical support team said.

In addition to the Texas locations, the alliance also selected two sites in Illinois, in Mattoon and

PLANT continues on page 5A



DT WEEKEND

The Back Room closes its doors

Andrea Yates found not guilty of drowning kids

Second trial yields different result, jurors opted for insanity verdict

By Angela K. Brown
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — In a dramatic turnaround from her first murder trial, Andrea Yates was found not guilty by reason of insanity Wednesday in the drowning of her children in the bathtub.

The 42-year-old woman will be committed to a state mental hospital and held until she is no longer deemed a threat. If she had been convicted of murder, she would have been sentenced to life in prison.

Yates stared wide-eyed as the verdict was read, then bowed her head and wept quietly. Her relatives also shed tears, and the children's father, Rusty Yates, muttered, "Wow!" as he, too, cried.

Four years ago, another jury convicted Yates of murder, rejecting claims that she was so psychotic she thought she was saving the souls of her five children by killing them. An appeals court overturned the convictions because of erroneous testimony from a prosecution witness.

Yates' 2002 conviction triggered debate over whether Texas' legal standard for mental illness was too rigid, whether the courts treated postpartum depression seriously enough, and whether a

YATES continues on page 2A

Privatized call centers draw fire for subpar customer service

By Farran Powell
Daily Texan Staff

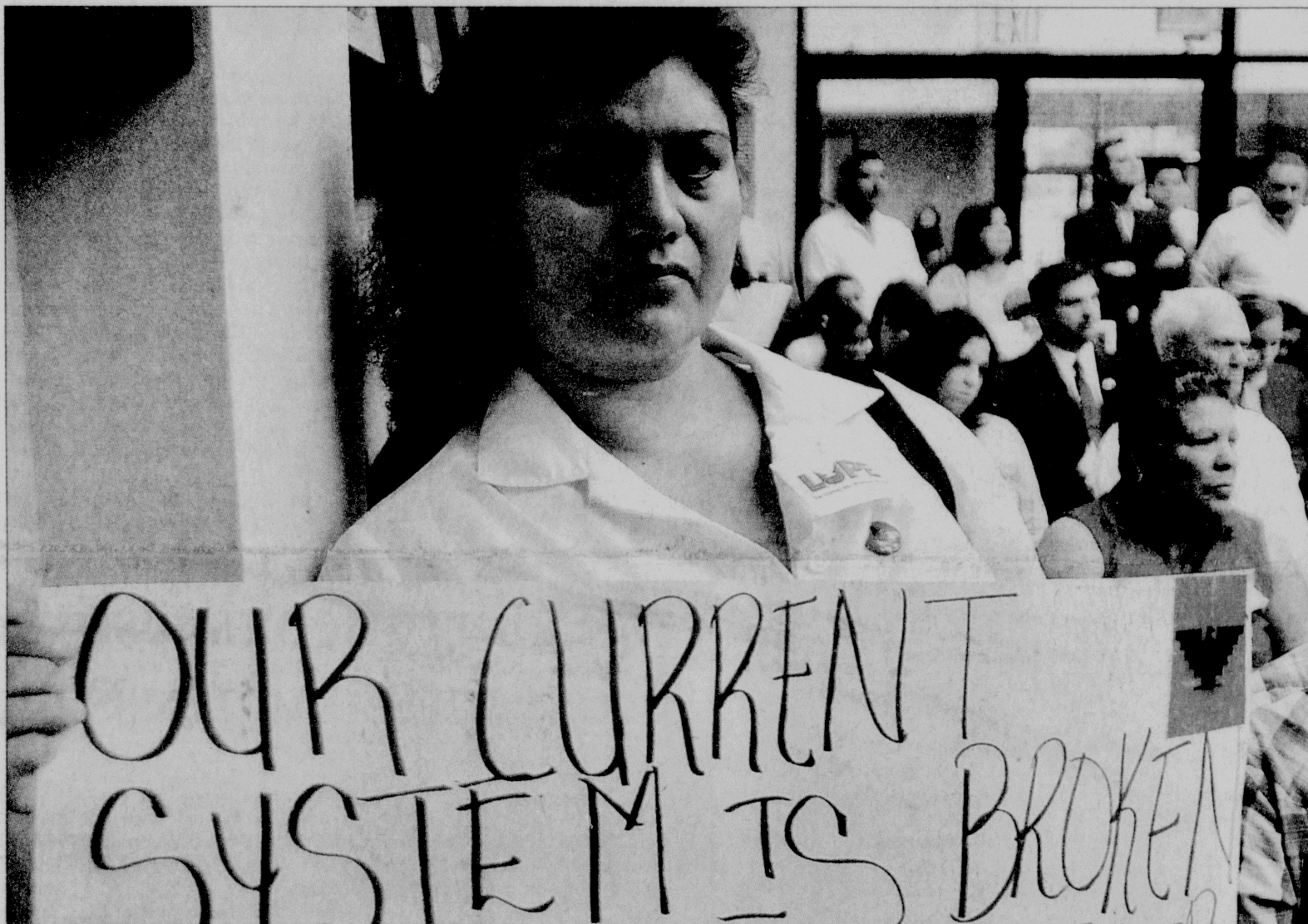
Legislators and children's health-care advocates are criticizing the Texas Access Alliance, led by Accenture, for providing poor customer service.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission defended its \$899 million contract with the alliance before the House Government Reform Committee on Wednesday. In December 2005, the commission signed a contract with the alliance to outsource its enrollment process for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

"It's no secret the enrollment system has had significant problems," said Rep. Carlos Uresti, D-San

HEALTH continues on page 5A

BEING HEARD



Photos by Callie Richmond | Daily Texan Staff

Above, Ramona Nava holds up her message at the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security public hearing at the city hall of Mission, Texas, on Wednesday. Nava was one of many members representing La Union del Pueblo Entero, a civil rights group that assists immigrants with earning their rights. Below, Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa questions testimony given at the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security public hearing.

Senate holds hearing on security

Texas Homeland Security director says crime happening in areas between border cities

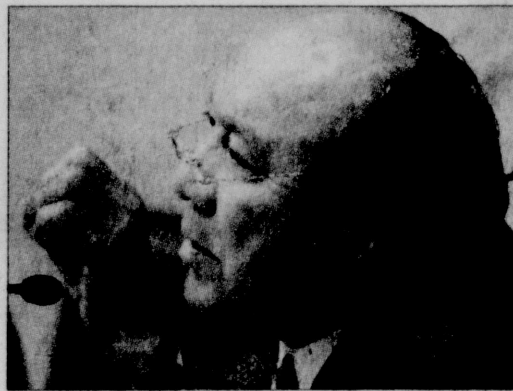
By Victoria Rossi
Daily Texan Staff

MISSION — A distinction between illegal immigrants, Mexican organized crime and international terrorists must be made when discussing Texas' border security, Hidalgo Mayor John David Franz told a state Senate committee Wednesday.

Franz urged the Homeland Security and Transportation panel to pass legislation preventing state and local officers from acting as immigration officers, which is a job of the federal, not state government, he said.

Throughout more than a dozen witness testimonies, silent men and women stood along the edges of the Mission City Hall holding up handmade signs that called for greater protection of immigrant rights. Most listened to the discussion with the aid of translation devices and brought their children, who they tried to

BORDER continues on page 2A



VOLUNTEERING IN THE KEY OF F



Stephen Durda | Daily Texan Staff

Kurt Brunner plays guitar at Renaissance Market on Wednesday. Brunner, a native of Switzerland, has been volunteering in Austin for three years with the "Help for all Nations" missionary group.

TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High
97
Low
75

He'll save the children, but not the British children.

INDEX

Volume 106, Number 188
25 cents

World & Nation.....3
Opinion.....4
News.....5
Sports.....6
Classifieds.....7
Comics.....8
Life & Arts.....9-10

Endowed professorship given to UT journalism alumna

By Stephanie Matlock
Daily Texan Staff

Retired School of Journalism professor Griff Singer's former student Wanda Cash is now following in his footsteps.

Cash was selected for an endowed professorship named after Singer, who retired in 2003.

"For Griff Singer, students were the most important forces in his life," said Communications Dean Roderick Hart. He said he anticipates that Cash will share the same quality.

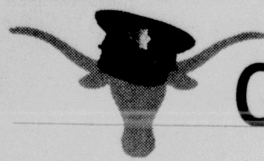
The money to fund the position was given by a former student of Singer's, Joe Phillips of Brownsville, said Russell Todd, a professor of journalism. Todd also served as chair of the search committee in charge of reviewing candidates

and making a final proposal, which was approved by the dean and the provost.

As specified by the donor, two professionals served on the five-member committee, including Austin American-Statesman Managing Editor Fred Zipp. The committee reviewed 80 applicants, including a Pulitzer Prize winner, an Emmy winner and several professionals with high positions at national and international media outlets.

The committee was in search of specific qualifications: a great teacher and someone with close ties to the professional community within Texas, Todd said. They were looking for someone to carry on Singer's legacy, he said.

FLUFFY continues on page 2A



Campus Watch

That was the excuse I used to give my mother

Goldsmith Hall
Silent or abusive calls: A non-UT subject was observed standing near a Police Help call box shortly after the police department had received an activation from that location. The subject informed the officer that he

had activated the call box because he wanted to. The subject then informed the officer that he was paying the campus a visit, since UTPD had arrested him several months ago for doing the same thing. Once again the subject was taken into custody for silent or abusive calls and transported to Central Booking. Occurred on: July 24, at 12:30 a.m.



“THE INTERACTION OF PEN, PAPER, AND SCRIBE,” 7 p.m., Harry Ransom Center. Art History Professor Mark Van Stone of Southwestern College in California will discuss how English writing employs every principle and kind of sign used in hieroglyphic writing from Ancient Egypt and Mesoamerica, including the order and direction of the strokes of letters and other principles that shape English letterforms. Free,

but limited seating. For more information, call 471-8944 or visit www.hrc.utexas.edu.
GRUPO FLOR Y CANTO, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., AHG 136. Everyone welcome. The summer 2006 production, “Rasquache,” will showcase dances of the Mexican Revolution, political theatre and activist poetry. For more information contact grupoflorycanto@yahoo.com.

Find more listings at www.dailytexanonline.com.
To submit your event to this calendar, send your information to aroundcampus@dailytexanonline.com or call 471-4591.

CORRECTION

In Tuesday’s Texan, in the story titled “UT plans to use new test that measures students’ tech skills,” the attribution of Julia Weede should have identified her as an employee of Vollmer Public Relations.
Also, the second headline should have noted that 10,000 students took the test in a pilot version of the program.
The Texan regrets the errors.

CLARIFICATION

In Tuesday’s Texan, the story titled “UT plans to use new test that measures students’ tech skills” should have said the UT System has yet to contract with Educational Testing Service to administer a new computer test. The company has only partnered with the National Advisory Committee, which UT is a part of.

CONTACT US

Main Telephone:
(512) 471-4591
Editor:
JJ Hermes
(512) 232-2212
editor@dailytexanonline.com
Managing Editor:
Zachary Warmbrodt
(512) 232-2217
managingeditor@dailytexanonline.com
News Office:
(512) 232-2207
news@dailytexanonline.com
Web Office:
(512) 471-8616
online@dailytexanonline.com

Sports Office:
(512) 232-2210
sports@dailytexanonline.com
Life & Arts Office:
(512) 232-2209
lifeandarts@dailytexanonline.com
Photo Office:
(512) 471-8618
photo@dailytexanonline.com
Retail Advertising:
(512) 471-1865
joanw@mail.utexas.edu
Classified Advertising:
(512) 471-5244
classified@mail.tsp.utexas.edu
The Texan strives to present all information fairly, accurately and completely. If we have made an error, let us know about it. Call (512) 232-2217 or e-mail managingeditor@dailytexanonline.com.

PAGE TWO

THE DAILY TEXAN

TODAY'S WEATHER

High 96 Low 76

I found my inner peace. I will not hate in this box anymore ...

BORDER: Austin state senator warns that al-Qaida could cross into U.S. from Mexico

From page 1A

keep quiet with Happy Meals and juice boxes.

“It concerns me when you group illegal entry with criminal activity,” Franz said. “The perception is that everyone crossing the border is a violent criminal, and that’s simply not the case. There’s probably more crime in Houston, Texas, per capita than there is here.”

He referred to Hidalgo’s low number of murders and kidnappings. There have been only four murders in the city over the last six years, he said. While the city’s crime has increased in some areas, the rise can be attributed to a growing population rather than any real border security threat, he said.

Mission, a small, McAllen-area city just 30 minutes from

the Mexican border, boasts similar crime statistics. From 2004 to 2005, the city saw no murders or rapes, according Mission Police Department data.

But most border crime now occurs between cities in the outlying brush land typical of the Rio Grande Valley, said Steve McCraw, director of Texas Homeland Security. In the Rio Grande Valley, drug traffickers and human smugglers will commit most violent crimes, and international terrorists — among them, members of al-Qaida — could cross if they wanted to, he said.

“If I was a terrorist, and I came from Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan or Syria, and I looked like a Chicano, and then I was looking at the 13-14 million undocumented people that have come

through Mexican border, where am I going to go?” said Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, vice-chair of the committee, echoing McCraw’s concerns.

Sept. 11 terrorists and recently apprehended terrorists seeking to enter the United States all crossed from Canada, where entry restrictions are less strict than those along the Mexico border.

Zapata County Sheriff Sigifredo Gonzales Jr., representing the Texas Border Sheriffs coalition, said deputies had picked up al-Qaida patches strewn along well-traveled migrant paths. He recounted the 300 rounds fired at Hidalgo County sheriff deputies earlier this month and reports of men carrying semi-automatic weapons and wearing Mexican military uniforms, all signs that

organized crime along the border is increasing, he said.

“I’m very concerned that Congress is confusing immigration with terrorism,” said Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, D-McAllen, who hosted the hearing. “But the federal government tells me there’s a change in the people coming across the border. Many of them are armed,” he added.

He said he worried that Gov. Rick Perry’s “Operation Linebacker,” which awarded \$367,500 to 16 border counties with the goal of integrating border law enforcement, had encouraged sheriffs and border officials to increasingly take on the role of immigration officers because the plan set no clear-cut requirements about how officials should use the money.

FLUFFY: Professor’s former student will hold new position at UT named in his honor

From page 1A

“I think we need somebody like Griff who’s steeped in Texas culture and history,” Todd said.

Cash, with her experience as editor and publisher of The Baytown Sun, along with high-ranking positions at other publications around Texas and her connections with professionals at major newspapers, exemplified what the committee was searching for.

“It demonstrated her close ties to the Texas news industry,” Todd said. He said her connections and specialty in

Texas is one of the reasons why Fluffy, a popular nickname for Cash, rose to the top.

The candidates were narrowed down to seven finalists who came to the University for interviews and were given the opportunity to teach.

Cash, who received her bachelor’s from the University in 1971, said she thinks having a practitioner in the classroom compliments the theoretical learning that students receive.

“I think I can bring a real-world perspective to students,” she said.

There is a natural and healthy tension between research and

professionalism built into the journalism school that the department embraces, Hart said.

Singer said it makes sense for a professional school to have both kinds of people.

“Let’s face it, journalism is a mix of research and a mix of practice,” he said.

Hart said Cash, who does not hold a doctorate, will be on board in the fall.

Cash is looking forward to joining the faculty and being among eager learners, she said.

“Whenever I set foot on the UT campus I get an immediate

surge of energy and excitement and curiosity,” Cash said. “I’ve always wanted to be a part of that.”

As for Singer, he is appreciative of the having the honor of having a professorship in his name, he said. He enjoyed working with energetic young people while teaching at the University, as well as providing mentoring to students.

His message to those who remember his legacy:

“We have to strictly adhere to the principles of journalism of being fair and being accurate and help educate the public,” Singer said.

YATES: Erroneous testimony of expert prosecution witness led to second trial

From page 1A

mother who killed could ever find sympathy and understanding in a tough-on-crime state like Texas.

Yates drowned 6-month-old Mary, 2-year-old Luke, 3-year-old Paul, 5-year-old John and 7-year-old Noah in their Houston-area home in June 2001. Her attorneys said she suffered from severe postpartum psychosis and, in a delusional state, believed that Satan was inside her and that killing the youngsters would save them from hell.

“The jury looked past what happened and looked at why it happened,” Rusty Yates, who divorced his wife last year, said outside the courthouse. “Yes, she was psychotic. That’s the whole truth.”

Prosecutors had maintained that Yates failed to meet the state’s definition of insanity: that she was so severely mentally ill that she did not know her actions were wrong.

Prosecutors had sought Yates’ execution in the first trial but could not in the second because the first jury had rejected a death sentence.

That could help explain the different verdict in the retrial, said Charles P. Ewing, a law and psychiatry professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Juries considering execution tend to be more harsh, he said.

Another difference is that awareness of mental health issues has grown since the first trial, he said.

“There is a bit more sympathy in these cases than there used to be,” said Ewing.

Yates will be sent after a commitment hearing Thursday to North Texas State Hospital in Vernon, a prison-like maximum-security facility encircled by a 17-foot fence and guard towers. Experts say it can take decades before psychiatrists decide that a patient is healthy enough to be released, and even then a judge can reject those findings.

The jury, split evenly between men and women, deliberated for about 13 hours over three days. The jurors, in accordance with state law, had not been told that Yates would be committed to a mental institution if found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Yates did not testify. Her lawyers presented much of the same evidence as in the first trial, including half a dozen psychiatrists who testified that Yates was insane.

During a videotaped 2001 jail interview, Yates told a psychiatrist that her children had not been progressing normally because she was a bad mother, and that she killed them because “in their innocence, they would go to heaven.”

The jury was told about Yates’ two hospitalizations after two suicide attempts in 1999, and about her stays in a mental hospital a few months before the drownings.

But prosecution witness Dr. Michael Welner, a forensic psychiatrist, testified that Yates killed the youngsters because she felt overwhelmed and inadequate as a mother, not to save their souls. He said that it was not until a day after the killings that she talked about Satan and saving her children from hell.

Welner also said Yates showed that she knew her actions were wrong by waiting

until her husband left for work to kill them, covering the bodies with a sheet and calling 911 soon after the crime.

Yates’ 2002 conviction was overturned after Dr. Park Dietz, a forensic psychiatrist, told the jury that before the drownings, NBC ran a “Law & Order” episode about a woman who was acquitted by reason of insanity after drowning her children. It was later learned that no such episode existed.

“The jury looked past what happened and looked at why it happened. Yes, she was psychotic. That’s the whole truth.”

Rusty Yates, Andrea Yates’ ex-husband

This newspaper was printed with pride by
The Daily Texan and Texas Student Publications.

THE DAILY TEXAN

Permanent Staff

Editor	JJ Hermes
Managing Editor	Zach Warmbrodt
News Editor	Nikki Buskey
Copy Desk Chief	Scott Armand
Associate Copy Desk Chiefs	Andrea Negri, Shaun Sweigman
Design Editor	Flannery A. Bope
Senior Designers	All Syed, Ann Enders, Chris Schmidt
Associate Editors	Clara Harlin, Ryan Miller, Clint Johnson
Associate News Editors	Ricardo Lozano, Tessa Moll, Meghan Young
Senior Reporters	Behnaz Abolmaali, Stephanie Matlock, Maggie Sharp, Victoria Rossi, Justin Ward
Associate Managing Editor	Scotty Loewen, Shaun Stewart
Photo Editor	Mark Mulligan
Associate Photo Editor	Joey Castillo
Senior Photographers	Jeremy Balkin, Dusten Cook, Courtney Dudley
Features Editor	Jennifer Jansons, Callie Richmond
Entertainment Editor	Katherine Fan
Associate Sports Editor	Lauren Thompson
Sports Editor	William Wilkerson
Senior Sports Writers	Cody Hale
Senior Life & Arts Writers	Bhargav Katikaneni, Ella Miesner, Hale Pratt, Emily Watson
Comics Editor	Sarah Lim
Web Editor	Shaun Stewart
Editorial Adviser	Richard A. Fennell

Issue Staff

Reporters	Farran Powell, Ian Warren, Jihae Min
Copy Editors	Ariel Lumbard, Andy St. Jean, Robert Chan
Page Designers	Emily Edelman
Photographers	Christopher Soliz, Stephen Durda, Jennifer Soto
Columnists	Garth Heutel
Life & Arts Writers	Matt Davidson, Justin Patch, Sara Scott
Cartoonists	Jeffrey Mikeska

Advertising

Advertising Director	Wayne Roche
Retail Advertising Manager	Brad Corbett
Account Executive/Broadcast Manager	Carter Goss
Campus/National Sales Consultant	Joan Whitaker
Assistant to Advertising Director	Ginger Baker
Student Advertising Director	Brian Tschoppe
Student Advertising Manager	Emily Coalson
Senior Ad Rep	Kate DeWitt
Acct. Execs	Jill Cain, Dave Crawford, Jalah Bridwell, Mallory DeWitt
Classified Clerks	Stephanie Grimes, Jake Werthner, Jack Oberstein, Kat Pareilo
TSM Creative Services	Charles Rives, Danielle Prado
Marketing and Promotion Coordinator	Lisa Benhayoun, Lydia Reynolds
Web Advertising	Elena Watts
Student Circulation Manager	Danny Grover
	Matt Milder

The Daily Texan (USPS 146-440), a student newspaper at The University of Texas at Austin, is published by Texas Student Publications, 2500 Whits Ave., Austin, TX 78705. The Daily Texan is published daily except Saturday, Sunday, federal holidays and exam periods. Periodical Postage Paid at Austin, TX 78710.
News contributions will be accepted by telephone (471-4591), or at the editorial office (Texas Student Publications Building 2122). For local and national display advertising, call 471-1865. For classified display and national classified display advertising, call 471-1865. For classified word advertising, call 471-5244.
Entire contents copyright 2006 Texas Student Publications.

The Daily Texan Mail Subscription Rates

One Semester (Fall or Spring)	\$60.00
Two Semesters (Fall and Spring)	120.00
Summer Session	40.00
One Year (Fall, Spring and Summer)	150.00

To charge by VISA or MasterCard, call 471-5083. Send orders and address changes to Texas Student Publications, P.O. Box D, Austin, TX 78713-8904, or to TSP Building C3 200, or call 471-5083.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Texan, P.O. Box D, Austin, TX 78713.

7/27/06

Texan Ad Deadlines

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

(Last Business Day Prior to Publication)

Made for iPod

New Audio Pack

The ultimate for music on the go

Whole Earth Provision Co.

2410 San Antonio St., 478-1577
(FREE parking w/purchase @ UT Lot)
1014 N. Lamar, 476-1414
WESTGATE @ S. Lamar & Hwy 290 W. 899-0992
www.WholeEarthProvision.com

LiveWire

YOU SAVE!

The Daily Texan's Super Saver Discount Program offers Longhorns specials on a daily basis. Look for their coupon every-day online at DailyTexanOnline.com or in the print edition every Tuesday.

See individual coupons for details.

Participating Advertisers

Geek on Wheels	ProCuts
Office One	Supercuts
Pho Saigon	Thai Passion
Pizza Hut	Wooten Barber Shop

SUPER TUESDAY COUPON

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS STUDENT AT AUSTIN STUDENT
1865438003126634
SUPER SAVER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

For advertising information, call 471-1865

WORLD BRIEFLY

Absentee ballot initiative in Mexico draws paltry 33,111

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's first attempt at absentee voting was a flop, collecting a mere 33,111 ballots, but officials hope to make it cheaper and easier for Mexicans to vote from abroad in the next presidential election.

Millions of Mexicans living abroad were allowed to mail in presidential ballots for the first time in the July 2 election, a right migrants living in the United States spent years fighting for.

Electoral authorities counted 32,632 absentee ballots on July 2. Of those, 28,335 came from the United States — home to some 9 million Mexican expatriates.

The results confirmed fears the effort, despite a \$42 million budget, wasn't well-publicized and was too complicated.

To get an absentee ballot, Mexicans had to be registered in Mexico, have a voting card, and give a valid street address in the country where they were living. The next step was asking for a ballot by registered mail, which cost \$9.

Many migrants couldn't afford registered mail. Even fewer had voting cards with them, and almost none wanted to make their addresses public.

Soldiers arrest 5 accused of being part of 'death squad'

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. soldiers arrested five suspected members of an alleged "death squad" south of Baghdad on Wednesday as Iraqi army troops battled insurgents on a major street in the center of the capital.

The arrests occurred when troops of the 101st Airborne Division swept through a neighborhood in Mahmoudiya, 20 miles south of Baghdad, a U.S. statement said. The five suspects included the team leader, the statement said.

Tensions have been running high in Mahmoudiya since July 17, when dozens of suspected Sunni gunmen killed about 50 people and wounded more than 90, most of them Shiites.

Four days later, Iraqi soldiers backed by a U.S. helicopter killed five gunmen in what U.S. officials said was a move against death squads. Six Iraqi security troopers also were killed.

Saddam requests firing squad rather than hanging

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A thinner but combative Saddam Hussein said Wednesday he would rather die by firing squad like a soldier than hang "like a common criminal," as the defiant ex-president made his final appearance before the tribunal until it renders a verdict.

The prosecution has asked for the death penalty for Saddam and two of the other seven defendants for their role in the deaths of Shiites in a crackdown following a 1982 assassination attempt against the Iraqi ruler in Dujail.

Saddam was in court to hear his court-appointed attorney read a final summation, arguing that prosecution witnesses and documents failed to link the ex-president to any of the atrocities in Dujail.

Supply planes cause some to daim Somalia in a proxy war

MOGADISHU, Somalia — A mysterious Russian-built cargo plane believed to be loaded with weapons landed in this capital Wednesday, setting off a fresh round of allegations that Somalia has become a proxy battleground for its neighbors Eritrea and Ethiopia.

The United States and other Western powers have cautioned outsiders against meddling in Somalia, which has no single ruling authority and can be manipulated by anyone with money and guns. But there's little sign the warning has been heeded.

Somalia's virtually powerless government charged on Wednesday that the Ilyushin-76, only the second flight to land at Mogadishu International Airport in a decade, was packed with land mines, bombs and guns. It said the shipment had come from Eritrea, which supports the Islamic militia that has seized the capital along with most of southern Somalia.

Just hours later, a U.N. envoy confirmed that troops from Ethiopia, Eritrea's foe, were in Somalia to protect the defenseless government from the advancing Islamic forces.

Somali government leaders and Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry previously have denied Ethiopian soldiers were in the county. However, many witnesses have confirmed their presence.

Compiled from Associated Press reports.

Israel loses 9 soldiers in firefight



Lefteris Pitarakis | Associated Press

A Lebanese Red Cross volunteer yells for help at the rubble of a destroyed building, minutes after Israeli warplane missiles attack in the center of the southern coastal city of Tyre, Lebanon, Wednesday. Hezbollah inflicted heavy casualties on Israeli troops as they battled for a key hilltop town in southern Lebanon.

By Sam F. Ghattas

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Hezbollah dealt Israel its heaviest losses in the Lebanon campaign Wednesday, killing nine soldiers in fierce firefights. With key Mideast players failing to agree on a formula for a cease-fire, an Israeli general said the operation could last weeks.

Israel said it intends to damage Hezbollah and establish a "security zone" that would be free of the guerrillas and extend 1.2 miles into Lebanon from the Israeli border. Such a zone would prevent Hezbollah from carrying out cross-border raids such as the one two weeks ago which triggered the Israeli military response.

Israel said it would maintain such a zone, with firepower or other means, until the arrival of an international force with muscle to be deployed in a wider swath of southern Lebanon — as opposed to the U.N. force already there that has failed to prevent the violence.

In Rome, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said participants at a daylong conference on the Mideast crisis agreed Wednesday on the need for a strong international force under a U.N. mandate. Italy, Turkey and Spain all said they might send troops.

Rice said more work was needed to define the force and its mission. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora and diplomats from

European and moderate Arab countries also attended the meeting; Israel, Iran and Syria did not.

The Israeli bombardment has failed to stop guerrilla rocket fire, even while killing hundreds, driving up to 750,000 people from their homes, and causing billions of dollars in damage.

Pushing Hezbollah back with ground troops was proving to be bloody. Several thousand troops are in Lebanon, Israeli military officials said — mainly in a roughly 6-square-mile pocket around the town of Bint Jbail, a Hezbollah stronghold just more than 2 miles from the border.

Violence was also increasing on the other front of Israel's fight on Islamic militants: Gaza, where Hamas-linked militants are holding an Israeli soldier seized a month ago. A force of 50 tanks and bulldozers entered the northern Gaza Strip to battle Hamas gunmen.

Israel was feeling pressure on the international front and anger over a bombing Tuesday night that directly hit a U.N. observation post on the border, killing four U.N. observers.

At the Rome talks, Rice resisted pressure from allies for Washington to change its stance and call for an immediate halt to the violence.

Rice insisted any cease-fire must be "sustainable" and that there could be "no return to the status

quo," a reference to the U.S. and Israeli position that Hezbollah must first be pushed back from the border and the Lebanese army backed by international forces deployed in the south.

While the ground battle was intensifying, the bombardment in rest of Lebanon appeared to be easing. Israeli jets were heard repeatedly over Beirut in the evening, but the capital saw no strikes.

About 24 airstrikes were reported outside the immediate border region Wednesday, down from nearly 30 a day recently.

Warplanes continued to target trucks at a time when aid groups are worried about moving aid to the south by truck.

The eight deaths in Bint Jbail, which Israel has been trying to take for four days, were the heaviest Israeli casualties in a single battle during the Lebanon campaign.

Israeli troops had thought they secured the area around the town, but the guerrillas ambushed a patrol before dawn, said Capt. Jacob Dallal, an Israeli army spokesman. A rescue force went in, and fighting escalated.

Eight soldiers were killed and 22 wounded in the fighting, the army said. It later reported a ninth soldier killed and several other casualties in the nearby village of Maroun al-Ras.

At least 30 guerrillas were killed Wednesday, an Israeli military

official said, speaking on condition of anonymity, because he was not authorized to release the information. Hezbollah announced no casualties; it has acknowledged 19 dead in four days of fighting around Bint Jbail.

Bint Jbail has great symbolic importance for the Hezbollah guerrillas, who are Shiite Muslims. It has the largest Shiite community in the border area and was known as the "capital of the resistance" during Israel's 1982-1990 occupation because of its vehement support for Hezbollah.

An Israeli seizure of the town would rob Hezbollah of a significant refuge overlooking northern Israel and force its fighters to operate from smaller, more vulnerable villages in the south.

Wednesday's deaths brought to 51 the number of Israelis killed in the campaign, including 32 members of the military, according to the military.

In Lebanon, at least 423 people have been killed, including 376 civilians reported by the Health Ministry and security officials, 20 Lebanese soldiers and 27 fighters Hezbollah has acknowledged were killed. Israel says more than 100 guerrillas have been killed.

AP correspondents Kathy Gannon in Tyre, Hamza Hendawi in Sidon, Sheherezade Faramarzi in Beirut and Katherine Shrader and Victor L. Simpson in Rome contributed to this story.

NATION BRIEFLY

Hospital releases former President Ford after stay

VAIL, Colo. — Former President Ford was released from a hospital Wednesday, two days after being admitted for shortness of breath.

Ford, 93, was admitted Monday afternoon and released at noon Wednesday, Vail Valley Medical Center said in a written statement.

Ford's chief of staff, Penny Circle, said in a statement that Ford planned to return to his home in nearby Beaver Creek. She did not immediately return telephone messages.

It was at least the second time Ford has been hospitalized this year. He was admitted to a Rancho Mirage, Calif., hospital for treatment of pneumonia on Jan. 14 and released after 12 days.

Ford suffered two small strokes five years ago and spent about a week in a hospital.

He became the nation's oldest living former president after the death of Ronald Reagan in 2004.

Bush asks Congress to rework spying laws for Internet era

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration pressed Congress on Wednesday to ease decades-old restrictions on surveillance to catch up to Internet-age technology.

As lawmakers debate whether the president's domestic spying program is legal, the CIA director said the 1978 law covering such monitoring is behind the times.

Gen. Michael Hayden cited technological advances and said terrorists, not Cold War rivals, were chief threats today, as he tried to make the case to the Senate Judiciary Committee for updating the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Democrats said it was premature to rewrite the law. They said it was not even clear that current eavesdropping, which includes the monitoring of international telephone calls and e-mails that originate or end in the United States, is legal without a search warrant.

As part of a deal with Bush to submit the wiretapping program for court review, the Republican-controlled committee is considering updating the law. The administration monitors international calls and e-mails of Americans if terrorism is suspected.

Chicago City Council forces Wal-Mart to pay higher wages

CHICAGO — Brushing aside warnings from Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the city council approved an ordinance Wednesday that makes Chicago the biggest city in the nation to require big-box retailers to pay a "living wage."

The ordinance passed 35-14 after three hours of impassioned debate.

The measure requires mega-retailers with more than \$1 billion in annual sales and stores of at least 90,000 square feet to pay workers at least \$10 an hour in wages plus \$3 in fringe benefits by mid-2010. The current minimum wage in Illinois is \$6.50 an hour, and the federal minimum is \$5.15.

Mayor Richard M. Daley and others warned the living wage proposal would drive jobs and desperately needed development from some of the city's poorest neighborhoods.

Iraqi prime minister requests more money, military forces

WASHINGTON — Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki appealed to Congress Wednesday to press the war in Iraq with money and troops, portraying his country as crucial to the U.S. as a front line in the war on terror and comparing violence there to the Sept. 11 attacks.

Lawmakers in the House chamber gave him a warm welcome, but a number of Democrats stayed away, upset by al-Maliki's stance on another Mideast crisis: He has refused to criticize Hezbollah for its attacks on Israel.

Despite tough rhetoric against terrorism in the Middle East, al-Maliki did not mention the combat between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas that over the past two weeks has killed hundreds, devastated parts of Lebanon, and seen rockets bombard northern Israel.

During his address, al-Maliki appealed for more aid from the United States and other nations and sought to solidify Congress' commitment to rebuilding Iraq, though he mentioned no specifics. In earlier meetings at the White House, the Iraqi leader asked for more military equipment and recommended increasing U.S. and Iraqi forces patrolling Baghdad neighborhoods. Bush agreed and said more U.S. forces would be moved into the embattled capital from other parts of Iraq.

Compiled from Associated Press reports.

State court upholds same-sex marriage ban

By Curt Woodward

The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — The Washington Supreme Court upheld the state's ban on marriage for same-sex couples Wednesday, dealing the gay rights movement its second major defeat in less than a month in a liberal-leaning state that had been regarded as a promising battleground.

Massachusetts is still the only state that allows same-sex couples to wed.

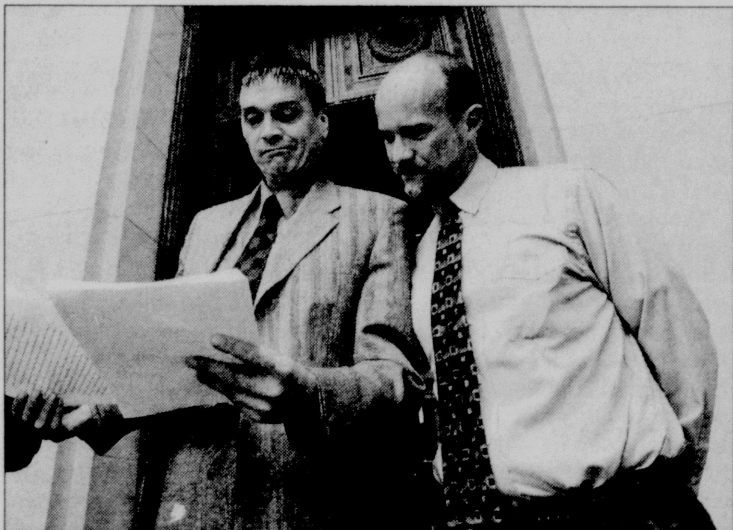
In a 5-4 decision, the court left any action on Washington state's 1998 Defense of Marriage Act to the Legislature or the ballot initiative process.

Wednesday's ruling surprised and delighted gay-marriage opponents, given Washington state's liberal politics, particularly in Seattle.

"This is more than we could have imagined. We are shocked and pleasantly shocked. We were prepared for the other direction," said Jon Russell, field director for the conservative Faith and Freedom Network.

Disappointment was perhaps greatest in Seattle, home of the state's most visible gay community.

"There aren't words to describe how hurt people in the gay and lesbian community are. There's a lot of tears and a lot of anger right now. Emotion is raw," said state Rep. Ed Murray, a Seattle Democrat and one of four openly gay state lawmakers.



Ted S. Warren | Associated Press

Jeff Kingsbury, left, and his partner Alan Fuller, look over the Washington State Supreme Court ruling that upheld the state's ban on gay marriage Wednesday at the Capitol in Olympia, Wash.

The state Supreme Court overruled two lower courts that had found the ban violated the Washington Constitution's "privileges and immunities" section.

The gay-marriage ban "is constitutional because the Legislature was entitled to believe that limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples furthers procreation, essential to survival," Justice Barbara Madsen wrote in the controlling opinion.

However, Madsen and other members of the majority invited the Legislature to take another look at the "clear hardship" that the ban causes for same-sex couples.

In a dissent, Justice Mary Fairhurst said the majority

improperly bowed to public opinion. "Unfortunately, the [majority] are willing to turn a blind eye to DOMA's discrimination because a popular majority still favors that discrimination," she wrote.

The 19 gay and lesbian couples who sued to overturn the law were dismayed by the ruling.

"I believe that our constitution should treat all of its citizens the same, and in this case the court was willing to treat my family differently than other families," said Brenda Bauer of Seattle, who sued along with her partner, Celia Castle. "Today's a pretty sad day for our family."

Leaders in the Legislature

and Gov. Chris Gregoire — all Democrats — did not commit themselves to any course of action.

"Just as the public is divided over the issue, so is the Legislature," said Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown. Gregoire said: "The Supreme Court has ruled, and we must accept their decision whether we agree with it or not."

In Seattle, King County Executive Ron Sims, who backed the push to legalize marriage for same-sex couples, said his next step would be to press for civil unions. They give gay couples many of the rights that come with marriage and are allowed in Vermont and Connecticut.

"There's still hope in the long run," Sims said. "I still dream for a just society."

Forty-five states have laws banning marriage between same-sex couples or limiting marriage to between a man and a woman.

This month, New York's high court dealt gay couples a similar blow when it upheld a state law against same-sex marriage.

In other recent rulings on the issue, courts reinstated voter-approved bans on gay marriage in Nebraska and Georgia, and Tennessee's Supreme Court ruled that voters there should have a say on allowing marriage for same-sex couples.

Associated Press writers David Ammons in Olympia and Donna Gordon Blankinship in Seattle contributed to this report.

VIEWPOINT

Republican liberalism

Comptroller is a word easily ignored. These government auditors are the penultimate bean counters, but they should have the best window seat for assessing federal and state spending.

So we're a little concerned at some of the comments of the U.S. Comptroller General, David M. Walker, during his address to the Sons of the American Revolution two weeks ago in Dallas:

"The federal government still isn't able to obtain an audit opinion on its annual financial statements, primarily because the Defense Department, which spends over \$400 billion per year, is unauditable! Furthermore, the federal government as a whole still lacks a summary annual report that is both useful and used. It's a good thing that the Sarbanes-Oxley law doesn't apply to the federal government. If it did, a number of federal officials might be wearing wide-striped suits."

He went on to lament that U.S. liabilities and unfounded commitments had risen \$26 trillion over the last five years, growing to more than \$411,000 per household. "America's current response to our long-term fiscal condition ... is a little like holding a beach party while a huge tsunami builds on the horizon."

That's it. From here on out, our modern Republicans are no longer allowed to call themselves fiscal conservatives.

At a conference in Austin Wednesday, Gov. Rick Perry strongly encouraged churches to ask for federal faith-based funds. These religiously tagged federal grants (which now can come from the Department of Homeland Security) have risen almost \$150 million in the last year alone. Meanwhile, education accountability has gotten so intense that some New England pre-schools are replacing some playtime with standardized test practice.

Republican fiscal conservatism is dead. Social and political conservatism killed it.

THE FIRING LINE

Open your eyes

Friday's column, "Black and white ads" by Kanaka Sathasivan, was entirely inconsiderable and naive at best. Racism is much more than just preference of skin color. It is the power not only to discriminate against people of color economically, but also the ability to control cultural representations produced by the media that are subsequently interpreted by the masses. Media images, no matter how benign the intentions, that objectify and dehumanize black (or Jewish, Latino, etc.) people should always be challenged, because it is these very images that are used to justify the institutional and everyday racism experienced by black people in this country and abroad.

Your readings of the Sony ads and "America's history of racial violence and tension" divorce contemporary factors from their social and historical contexts. Black people, the targets of white supremacist violence, do not arbitrarily seek out racism, but instead are constantly reminded of their second-class citizenship on a daily basis by those who seek to keep them economically powerless and without a political voice. Although there have been gains made in formal legal equality for blacks in the United States, racial violence is very much a reality for blacks in contemporary American society (i.e. Rodney King, James Byrd Jr.) and will never be eradicated by use of media images like those in the PSP ads. I applaud the NAACP.

The reason these ads are so insidious is because they reify race as a means to signify superiority of one product (white) over the other (black). The aesthetic used to portray the black woman falls easily within a blackface iconography, which the Netherlands has a long history of reproducing in its popular culture (just Google the name Zwarte Piet). Using an alternate image of a black woman enacting the same (threat of) violence against a white victim, contrary to what Sathasivan infers, would also perpetuate a negative stereotype and be just as reprehensible.

Sony could have used any diametric objects in the universe to symbolize hierarchy — why they chose a black woman and white woman, I cannot say. However, your call for us to not "see" racism echoes the same principle of supposed color-blindness that condones white privilege and blames the victims of racism for redressing it.

Bryan Richardson
 African and African American studies senior
 July 24, 2006

EDITOR'S NOTE

Opinions expressed in The Daily Texan are those of the Editorial Board (which pens the Viewpoint editorial), author of the column or author of Firing Lines. They are not necessarily those of the UT administration, the Board of Regents or the Texas Student Publications Board of Operating Trustees.

Eminent, rural domains

While traffic is a significant problem in Texas, a 4,000-mile concrete scar across the state is not the answer. As Karl-Thomas Musselman explains in his July 25 column "A Trans-Texas Horror," the TTC threatens the livelihood of rural farming towns, sidesteps public input and is ultimately counterproductive.

It is interesting to note that as recently as June 23, President Bush issued an executive order for the purpose of "protecting the property rights of the American people." The executive order warns against the acquisition of private property through eminent domain in situations where that property will be used for advancing the economic interest of private parties. While the executive order makes an exception for highway construction, and the Texas government does not plan on transferring its eminent domain authority to Cintra Zachary, the fact that Cintra Zachary will profit on the use of land acquired through eminent domain should jar voters.

Just like eminent domain, the TTC requires no public approval. But unlike eminent domain, building the TTC may require tapping into taxpayer money. Though expenses will be paid primarily through tolling, it is highly unlikely that Cintra Zachary will make its \$7.2 billion back through tolls alone. Which means they'll be subsidized from — guess where — our pockets.

The worst part of it all is the TTC will do little to reimburse Texans. If it is the purpose of the TTC to reduce congestion in urban areas, why is it being built through rural land? The answer, of course, is Cintra Zachary will not profit as much. And the Texas Transportation Commission sees no reason to pressure Cintra Zachary on where to build the TTC. And that's eminent domain at its best: Private interests concealed by the smokescreen of public good.

Daniel Dawer
 Plan II and English sophomore
 July 26, 2006

ON THE WEB

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

SUBMIT A FIRING LINE

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

SUBMIT A COLUMN

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

ARMS SALE

41778

Federal Register / Vol. 71, No. 141 / Monday, July 24, 2006 / Notices

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Israel- JP-8 Aviation Jet Fuel

The Government of Israel has requested a possible sale of JP-8 aviation jet fuel. The estimated cost is \$210 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been, and continues to be, an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale of the JP-8 aviation fuel will enable Israel to maintain the operational capability of its aircraft inventory. The jet fuel will be consumed while the aircraft is in use to keep peace and security in the region. Israel will have no difficulty absorbing this additional fuel into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this JP-8 aviation fuel will not affect the basic military balance in the region.

The Defense Energy Supply Center is unable to identify the vendors at this time due to the competitive bid process for the supply sources(s). There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Israel.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

Aborting Legislative intent

By Garth Heutel

Daily Texan Columnist

You should be careful what you wish for because you might get it, as the cliché goes. A similar maxim applies to the Texas Legislature: You should be careful what laws you pass, because they might actually get enforced.

Some members of the Legislature have found themselves in a pickle after an unpopular opinion was released by the Texas District and County Attorneys Association. It turns out that someone up there at the Capitol passed a law a while back that might send doctors to death row for doing their job.

The law in question is the infamous "Prenatal Protection Act," passed in 2003, which redefines an "individual" in the penal code to include "an unborn child at every stage of gestation from fertilization until birth." The idea behind the law is to offer harsher punishments to those who harm pregnant women or their fetuses.

So they say. The bill was sponsored by and mainly supported by pro-life legislators and lobbying groups. Defining a fetus to be an "individual" (not the same as a "person," by the way,

It turns out that someone up there at the Capitol passed a law a while back that might send doctors to death row for doing their job.

which includes an individual, corporation or association) is one part of the strategy to criminalize abortions. And, as it turns out, abortion providers.

The TDCAA is telling district attorneys across the state that the law, together with a more recently passed law that outlaws third trimester abortions and abortions for a minor without parental consent, means that doctors who perform these illegal abortions are murderers and subject to the death penalty.

The bill even conveniently defines "death" to include "the failure to be born alive."

Too bad the bill doesn't define "common sense." It does, however, define "stupid."

Such an outlandish conclusion is upsetting even to bill supporter David Swinford, R-Dumas. He has filed a request for Attorney General Greg Abbott to issue an opinion on the matter and presumably to contradict the opinion of the TDCAA.

He has history on his side. In January 2005, Abbott nullified a

request by Rebecca King, District Attorney of the 47th District in the panhandle. King had ordered all physicians to contact police if they knew of any women who used illegal drugs while pregnant, arguing that they could be prosecuted for delivery of narcotics to a minor. Charges were brought against at least 18 such women, and two were even convicted, though an appeals court unanimously overturned those convictions.

Both pro-choice and pro-life activists are lining up against these interpretations of the law. The previous request for Abbott's opinion came from Rep. Ray Allen, R-Grand Prairie, the author of the "Prenatal Protection Act." The Texas Alliance for Life opposes abortion doctors being tried for murder.

So is this just an example of some pro-life zealots misinterpreting the law to cater to their political desires? Sadly, no.

The TDCAA isn't misinterpreting the law at all. They're merely reaching the logical con-

clusion of the law, which specifically designates a fetus as an individual. Killing an individual is called murder.

The law makes an exception for any actions committed against the unborn "individual" by its mother, thus keeping the pot-smoking, panhandling preggos from being prosecuted. It also exempts any "lawful medical procedure," presumably including legal abortions. If a doctor performs an illegal abortion (say, one on a minor who was raped by a family member and lacks parental consent), then that doctor is eligible for lethal injection.

The pro-life legislators who passed the law have no right to complain when some district attorneys have the audacity to enforce it. Wasn't the whole point of passing the law having it enforced?

Not really. The point of passing the law had less to do with enforcement and more to do with politics: Calling a fetus an "individual" makes you look a lot more "pro-life." Conservative Christian voters eat that stuff up.

To heck with the legal implications of your moralistic grandstanding.

Heutel is an economics graduate student.

Taming the elusive essay exam

By Kristah Miller

Daily Texan Guest Columnist

Essay exams can give chills to even the most intrepid writers. And it's no wonder.

What could be more intimidating than a test and a paper rolled into one, punctuated by the merciless ticking of the clock on the back wall? The staring blankness of that blue book demands to be filled, and filled quickly.

But not all is lost. Before you let panic set in, take a deep breath and understand that expectations are very different on an essay exam than on a typical take-home paper.

Contrary to popular belief, professors don't expect a perfectly polished essay when time is called. What they do expect is a coherent, intelligent and legible response to the prompt. Your responsibility is to get your ideas down on paper in the most accessible and organized form possible. But where do you start?

Obviously the key to doing well on any exam is studying, which (unfortunately) is not an interchangeable synonym for cramming. Cramming may let you briefly retain a dizzying spectrum of facts, but you'll tend to overlook the big picture, the profoundly simple and elusive concept that links all the little things together. In analogy, after a cramming session you've

Without much thought, a thesis on an essay exam tends to come out painfully obvious, clichéd or vague, and your professor or TA won't be fooled.

memorized all the street names in Austin, but you've not the foggiest idea how to find your way to the Capitol, much less give directions to anyone else.

Hence, you'll be wise to ponder and connect major concepts beforehand through conscientious study, freeing precious minutes of the exam from desperately wandering down dead-end alleys of thought. You want to spend as much test time as possible putting pen to paper.

Discussion with a study group or an interested friend or family member is excellent pre-exam practice; it acts like a litmus test for your preparedness. During the actual exam, you'll essentially be explaining your thought trajectory to the reader, much like a discussion on paper. Plus, you can get a sense of how a reader may respond to your ideas. Take as many of these "practice tests" as you can.

Although pre-exam nervousness may never completely disappear, controlling it is half the battle.

This said, make every effort to remain focused and cool when the exam is handed out. Slowly, calmly and carefully read the

prompt. This is one of the most crucial moments in the test. What is the question really getting at? Above all, how can you answer it?

Before you start writing, be sure you've got a strong handle on what the main idea of your essay will be — the thesis. Many students, myself included, have made the mistake of skimming the prompt, starting off writing at 90 miles per hour, and then discovering too late that we've missed the whole point of the question.

Without much thought, a thesis tends to come out painfully obvious, clichéd or vague, and your professor or TA won't be fooled for a second. Consider the following examples:

- The Great Depression was a very important event in American history.

Saying that something was "very important" doesn't tell the reader much — it truly is painfully obvious. A better thesis might address why the Great Depression was so pivotal or how its impact was felt.

- Friedrich Nietzsche's theory that human beings

are driven by a desire for power can be seen in many human interactions.

This statement is vague and confusing because "human interactions" could mean many things. The audience is left to guess where you're trying to go.

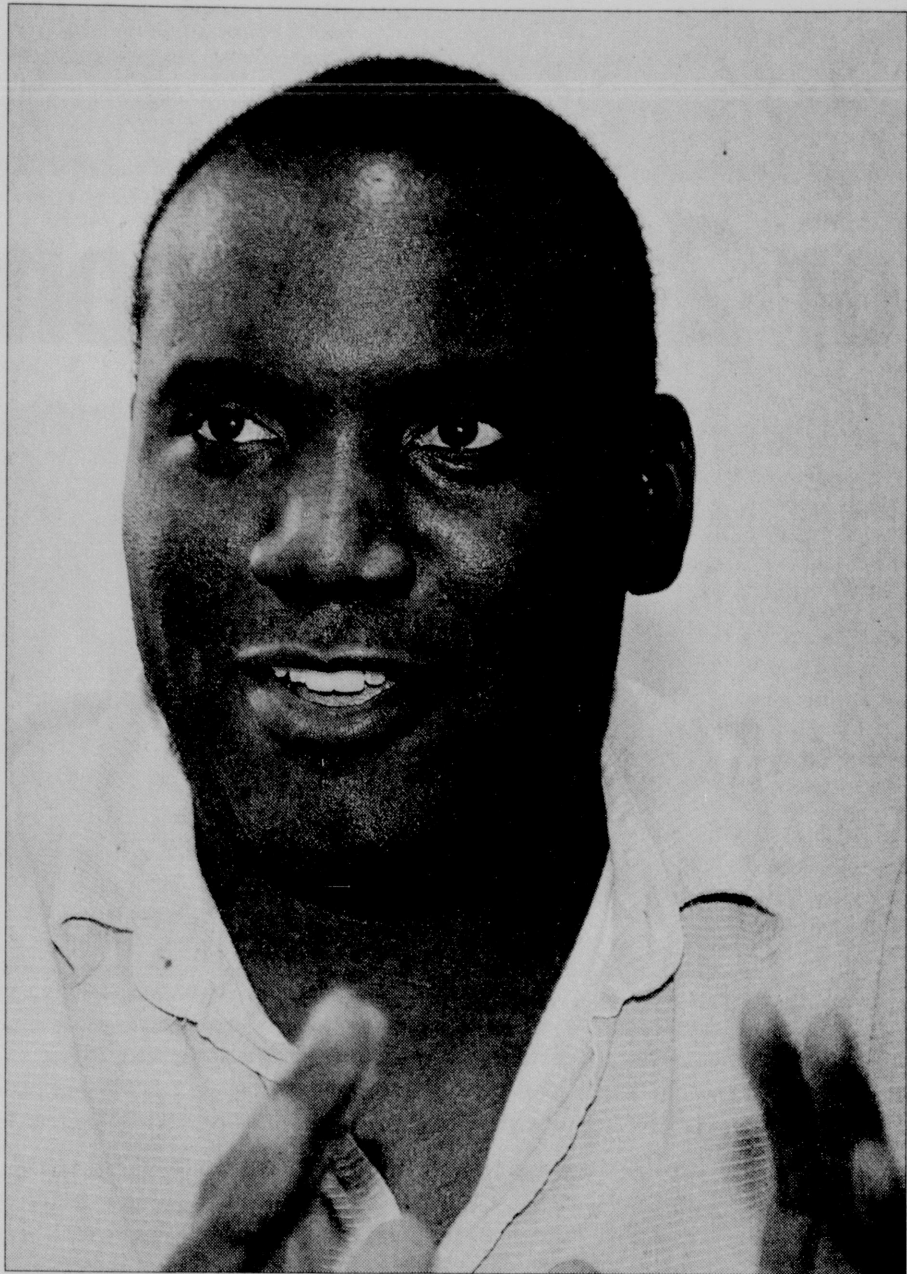
Once your thesis starts to take shape, jot down a quick outline of how you plan to argue. Essay exams can be structured in the same way as typical papers: with an introduction, a body and a conclusion. This will help you organize your evidence into loose paragraph form and save you from redundancy.

Avoid the "information dump," a wasteland of mismatched facts splattered across the page. In other words, don't provide a piece of evidence purely because you memorized it. Strategically use evidence to support your thesis.

If you should get lost, don't panic. Go back to the prompt, and remember your destination. Even if time is running short, stay focused, decide where your time will be best spent and keep going.

Remember that ultimately, your job is to give an answer to the prompt and prove it.

Miller is a human biology senior and staffer at the Undergraduate Writing Center. The center (FAC 211) offers free, one-on-one writing advice for UT undergraduates on any writing project (475-6222).



Stephen Durda | Daily Texan Staff

Associate professor Archie Holmes of the College of Engineering explains his views on proposed curriculum changes Wednesday. Holmes is leaving the University next spring to continue teaching engineering at the University of Virginia.

Curricular reform task force member leaves for Virginia

By Stephanie Matlock
Daily Texan Staff

Archie L. Holmes Jr., who served on the Task Force on Curricular Reform and is currently the chair-elect for the Faculty Council Educational Policy Committee, will leave the University in the spring to join the faculty of the University of Virginia.

Holmes, a UT alumnus who joined the faculty in 1997, is an associate professor in the College of Engineering.

"Archie contributed a great deal to the task force deliberations," said Cale McDowell, former task force member and aide to UT President William Powers. "He took the leadership role in the process of developing legislation for the faculty council considerations in the fall."

The task force made its recommendations for proposed changes to the undergraduate curriculum last fall. The committee takes the proposals and, after reviewing them, presents the final legislation to the council for approval.

"Archie Holmes has done an outstand-

ing job on the Education Policy Committee, and was an important leading voice on the Task Force for Curricular Reform. His departure is a great loss for UT," said David Hillis, professor in the College of Natural Sciences, in a written statement.

Holmes said he hopes that a decision on the motions, which will be brought by the committee to the council by fall, will be reached by the time he leaves for Virginia in January.

Whether or not Holmes will serve as committee chair during the fall is still uncertain. The committee selects its own chair, and an election to decide what to do about the position will be held in early September, Holmes said.

Holmes said he will continue to teach the classes he was planning on teaching in the fall. One of the things he is looking forward to at Virginia is being a part of the school's efforts to improve its engineering and science departments.

Holmes, who grew up in Austin, said he is sad to leave his alma mater.

"I have really enjoyed working with the undergraduates," he said.

PLANT: Proposed power plant would dramatically decrease CO2 emissions

From page 1A

Tuscola. The alliance's proposal selection committee consisted of 15 members from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds. Initially 12 sites were evaluated under three categories of criteria covering each site's positive attributes, bonus features, and ability to meet minimum requirements for the project.

The FutureGen Proposal Evaluation Report ranked the Heart of Brazos bid the highest among the sites, followed by Mattoon, Odessa and Tuscola.

It's too soon to determine which proposed site will host the revolutionary plant, McGrail said.

"In terms of a statistical basis and the uncertainties it represents for the sites, you should not read into a preference," McGrail said. "Right now, the sites are essentially equivalent."

Injecting carbon dioxide into the ground has been practiced in Texas for more than 30 years in order to increase the amount of oil produced from existing oil fields. The potential to store large amounts of carbon dioxide is one of many benefits the Texas sites offer, but

not without some small reason for caution, Tinker said.

"One concern was if there was a large leak off, it wouldn't be very good. But risks are very, very, very low," Tinker said.

Although the plant offers a dramatic reduction in emissions, McGrail admits it is difficult to completely eliminate all emissions from the plant.

"There will be at least a 90-percent capture of CO2, and there are always times where you may have equipment trouble. You can't shut the plant down because of it," McGrail said.

The FutureGen Alliance is a non-profit consortium of various organizations, including power companies such as American Electric Power and the China Huaneng Group, one of China's largest independent producers of power. The \$1 billion price tag for the new power plant will be split between FutureGen, who will pay \$300 million, and the U.S. Department of Energy, who pay the remaining \$700 million.

The final decision on which site will host the plant will be announced in 2007 and will open in 2012.

UT explores options to bring Austin a car-sharing program

Cost of insuring those under 21 poses potential roadblock

By Jihae Min
Daily Texan Staff

Because of a dense student population and increased parking issues, the University has been exploring since last year two ways to bring car sharing to campus: either by bringing in an outside company or by acting as a direct sponsor, said James Strahan, fleet manager of Parking and Transportation Services.

"Car sharing reduces expense and conjunction. It's just matter of timing to make sure that we really do have a market here and people are willing to try that," he said.

The first option is to be a direct sponsor, maximizing UT's resources, including cars and limited spaces, Strahan said.

"We are looking at car sharing for the University as a way to better utilize our current state," he said. "If departments can share vehicles, we can increase utilization and then decrease the amount of parking required for all these vehicles."

The University has been contacted by several companies in the U.S. and almost made a deal with one. However, the problem was insurance for those below the age of 21. Companies did not want to insure them, limiting the market and number of students who could use car sharing greatly, Strahan said.

"It wasn't good enough for us to accept," he said.

Insuring below the age of 21 is too expensive, said Elliott McFadden, the chair of Austin CarShare, a recently announced car-sharing program that will begin in October.

"Right now, for insurance reasons, we only can take applications from people 21 and older. However, we hope to be adding 18- to 21-year-olds fairly soon by the time we launch our program," he said. "There is a new program in Philadelphia with a partial program that allows 18- to 21-year-olds to join as well."

PhillyCarShare, a nonprofit car-sharing organization in Philadelphia,

has just started to offer this new program for people under 21 a week ago, and six people under 21 are using it so far, said Lynn Ellen Wolf, member service coordinator of PhillyCarShare.

To join a car-sharing service, students under 21 years old need to have their own insurance or be covered by their parents'. Additional requirements include a driver's license acquired at least two years ago and a clean driving record — only one accident in the last 18 months or two accidents in last three years, she said.

"The majority of people under 21 tend to be on the someone else's insurance," Wolf said.

If they do not have their own policy, their names need to be on their parents' policy. In this case, they are also required to have a parental signature as evidence that the parents know their child is signing up for car-sharing service and "they understand their responsibility," Wolf said.

"It would benefit students. They would have a better lifestyle if they can drive occasionally and get their own groceries," she said. "It really does improve the standard of living for students because Philadelphia has lots of students."

UT alumna documents educational opportunity in the slums of India

Recent graduate uses film to emphasize the empowering influence of education

By Ian Warren
Daily Texan Staff

When UT administrators say "What starts here changes the world," they mean it literally.

Sweta Vohra, a 2005 graduate from the business honors program who also has a bachelor's degree in radio-television-film, recently left India after living in Mumbai for nine months. While there, she personally filmed a documentary about the educational opportunities available to poor children living in the slums.

Vohra knew she wanted to do some kind of work in India by her junior year in college, because both of her parents were from there, and she had visited several times, she said. She chose film as a medium because it is very powerful and has the potential to carry messages to large masses of people, Vohra said.

Originally, she went to India intending to do a film about women's empowerment, but once she got there, Vohra realized she had chosen too broad of a topic, she said.

"Switching to a focus on education of impoverished children seemed natural because empowerment cannot occur without basic education," Vohra said. "Even the lowest levels of education are not available to a large

number of children in India's poor or rural areas."

She sought out groups trying to change this, such as non-governmental organizations that set up programs to make education much more accessible to these kids.

After filming the work of these organizations, Vohra had about 25 hours of film. She plans to edit the movie down to about one hour. When complete, the film will be characterized by "kids living in very bad conditions, who are amazingly happy and motivated to come to educational programs."

"They love it, because it is a break from the monotony of street life," Vohra said.

Vohra intends to enter the documentary in multiple film festivals to show people that "positive things can come out of even the most negative aspects of Indian society."

The film will have a universal message that will appeal to all audiences,

not just south Asians, Vohra said.

Her project would not have been possible without the Fulbright Scholarship and her parents, Vohra said. As one of 15 recipients of the Fulbright Scholarship for her work in India, Vohra said she received about \$1,000 per month for living expenses. Her parents covered the costs of the filming equipment.

In India, Vohra relied on the skills she learned at UT while double majoring in business honors and RTE, she said. RTE taught her about filming and how to go about interviewing and documenting.

"Even the lowest levels of education are not available to a large number of children in India's poor or rural areas."

Sweta Vohra, filmmaker

Skills from the Business Honors Program helped her to "organize, be flexible and get a point across while still working with other people's ideas," Vohra said, adding, "This is useful because when working in another culture you are constantly reinventing your ideas and working with others."

In the future, Vohra hopes to make more documentaries and independent films about the people of India. During nine months in India, she had just scratched the surface of the problem, she said.

HEALTH: Since January, more than 27,000 children lost gov't insurance

From page 1A

Antonio.

Customers applying for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program said the vendor is providing poor customer service and processing enrollment applications too slowly.

"I think it's poorly trained staff and poor customer services," said Raquel Oliva, executive director of AVANCE, a nonprofit organization that helps eligible families enroll their children in CHIP. "We've had a lot of push recently in the past seven months in our abilities to assist families."

More than 27,000 children have been removed from CHIP and placed on Medicaid since January, according to health commission officials. At the same time, enrollment for children on Medicaid has declined.

"It's still below projected levels," said Albert Hawkins, Health and Human Services executive commissioner, who attributes the decline to "kids aging out of eligibility."

Advocates blame the decline in

CHIP enrollment figures on the alliance, complaining their applications were lost or processed too slowly to be re-enrolled in the program. CHIP and Medicaid applicants have to re-enroll every six months to continue coverage.

"I'm hearing from constituents that they have long periods of waiting and that they go to the doctor and find out that their child is not enrolled," said Rep. Veronica Gonzales, D-McAllen.

Under the new system, the state plans to close 90 of its 310 eligibility offices and provide application services through Accenture's call centers.

"We're not Houston, we're not Austin," Oliva said of non-urban applicants. "It assumes that phones are readily available."

The commission said it needs to privatize some of its services to be cost-effective and keep up with demand.

"Most of our time taken up right now is building records," said Anne Heiligenstein, the deputy executive commissioner in charge of social services for the health commission. "That is

the work that's been contracted out."

To continue the current support system, the HHSC would need 7,000 more employees. "If we don't modernize, the cost implications to the state would be more significant."

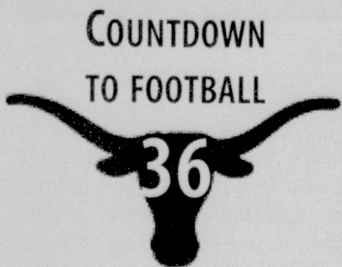
The commission recognizes some of its vendor's blunders, but attributes them to recent policy changes.

"The vendor had to absorb policy changes," Heiligenstein said. "The contractor was aware of the policies, but they took on a population that was unfamiliar with the new requirements."

The alliance is now working on training key staff members with the health commission to provide better customer support and coordinate several outreach events for CHIP enrollment to offset recent enrollment declines.

"We've also increased staff for increased CHIP work loads," said Jill Angelo, spokeswoman for the alliance.

The alliance will hold CHIP enrollment events in Corpus Christi on Aug. 5, San Antonio on Aug. 12 and Dallas on Sept. 9, so families can enroll in CHIP face-to-face.



**BEST QUOTE FROM
Big 12 Media Days**
Kansas' James McClinton referring to each team the Jayhawks will play:
"I don't know how many minutes are in a game, but we are going to give it to them."

Newsworthy
Huff signs hefty contract

Former Longhorn standout and 2006 first-round pick Michael Huff signed a \$22.5 million, five-year contract with the Oakland Raiders on Tuesday that guarantees the safety \$15 million.

According to The Associated Press, Huff agreed to the deal Monday evening, but didn't sign the dotted line until minutes before Tuesday's afternoon practice on the Raiders' first day of training camp.

"This morning, when everyone was out here, I was just wishing I was out here," Huff said. "But I'm out here now."

Huff is being counted on to fill the role Charles Woodson played last year, which was virtually everywhere in its secondary. He's even wearing Woodson's No. 24.

Huff played every secondary position at Texas, making 318 tackles in a career that ended with the Longhorns' 41-38 victory over unbeaten USC in the Rose Bowl for the national championship.

"He's a very athletic guy, a very smart guy, you can give him a couple of different things, and he picks them up very well," coach Art Shell said. "We don't see it as a problem. He can play free safety, he can play strong safety, he can play corner. He can do all those things. That's a plus for us in the secondary."

— William Wilkerson

McBride retiring from soccer

CHICAGO — Brian McBride, the only American player to score in two different World Cups, is retiring from international soccer.

The 34-year-old McBride, who plays for Fulham in the English Premier League, is the second-leading scorer in U.S. national team history with 30 goals in 95 games.

"This is a special day in that I have the opportunity to thank U.S. Soccer for all it has done for me and my family," McBride said. "The consistent and determined efforts of the coaches, staff and players at U.S. Soccer have helped bless me with the honor of being a part of three World Cups, playing the game I love."

— The Associated Press

Rockets sign small forward

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets signed second-round draft pick Steve Novak to a multiyear contract Wednesday.

The 6-foot-10 Novak, selected with the 32nd pick out of Marquette, averaged 16 points and 4.4 rebounds in five games with the Rockets in the Las Vegas summer league this month. A 3-point specialist, Novak went 15-for-35 (43 percent) from behind the arc.

Novak set the Marquette record with 354 career 3-pointers and finished 10th on the school's career scoring list. He became the sixth player in school history to reach career marks of 1,500 points and 500 rebounds. Novak also shot 93 percent from the free throw line.

— AP

Peterson ready for 2006 season

By Ricky Treon
Daily Texan Staff

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Adrian Peterson was good at all of it. He could run over the linebacker, juke the defensive back and outrun the safety on his way to the end zone, so he could hear "Boomer Sooner" one more time.

He was so good that the Oklahoma running back finished second in the Heisman voting as a freshman, and many thought he should have won.

But last year was a different story. Peterson sustained an early ankle injury that rendered him unable to play in the better part of four games. He could no longer make the cuts he used to on his bad ankle.

"It hurt me to sit on the sidelines and watch. It was frustrating at times," Peterson said. "It makes me more determined, more hungry now. My whole attitude and approach changed. I don't take things for granted anymore."

Peterson's time on the bench wasn't served by choice. He tried to play hurt, but it was painfully obvious to everyone watching

that he was unable to run without risking injury to himself.

"Even those games he tried to run a couple [or] three times, realized he couldn't do it but kept pushing himself," Oklahoma head coach Bob Stoops said. "And you appreciate that about a guy not worried about protecting himself but wants to get out there and help his teammates."

Adrian Peterson wasn't Adrian Peterson anymore, and as a result the Sooners weren't the Sooners. Without Peterson, Oklahoma's fate rested on then-redshirt freshman quarterback Rhett Bomar. Oklahoma went 8-4 last season, lost to Texas in the Red River Shootout in Dallas and failed to win 10 games for the first time since 2000.

Meanwhile, Texas, the team he opted not to play for in hopes of winning a national championship with Oklahoma, went on to win it all. Peterson has no regrets about his decision, but he realizes the irony of it all.

"It's crazy. But it's like I say, everything happens for a reason," Peterson said. "I rooted for [Texas]. I have some friends who play for them."

Peterson let his ankle get healthy again after the Sooners' disappointing season, and after a couple of spring workouts, he knew he was poised to have another season like 2004.

"Those workouts are intense," Peterson said. "Just doing the cuts gave me a better look, and I knew I was better."

Peterson is a goal-setting type of player, and now that he's at 100 percent, he's made a few.

"My goal for this season is to rush for 2,200 yards. I set my goals high, I always have," Peterson said. "I don't feel overconfident, that's just who I am. Maybe that's why I'm so successful."

He also has goals for his team, like winning the Big 12 championship and hopefully the national championship.

There is one goal that seems missing from Peterson's list, the Heisman Trophy. After failing to get in the mix with Vince Young and Reggie Bush last year, Peterson is one of the preseason frontrunners for the coveted award.

"I don't think about the Heisman," Peterson said. "I



Matt Norris | Daily Texan Staff

Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson was hampered by an ankle injury last season. But with that ankle now healed, Peterson is ready to run.

would love to win it though. I've been wanting to since I was little."

But for now, Peterson is just happy to be thought of as someone skilled enough to be nominated. After his injury, and a father who was recently released from jail, Peterson knows the

value of being healthy and playing football at Oklahoma.

"I know how much I love this game, love being a part of this game," Peterson said. "You've got to take advantage of all your opportunities, you'll only have one shot. You've got to make the most of it."

Aggies confident in McGee as QB

By Ryan Killian and Ricky Treon
Daily Texan Staff

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Texas A&M quarterback Stephen McGee said he wouldn't want to play for any other coach in the country besides Dennis Franchione. Depending on how he and his teammates play, there's speculation he soon could be.

Franchione posted a 16-18 record in his three seasons at A&M. His lack of success has put him under intense scrutiny and many speculate that he's on the hot seat. 2005's 5-6 mark helped put him there.

"I don't think last year was a reflection of coach at all," McGee said.

The quarterback insists that Franchione has put his team in position to win and that the blame should lie with those out on the field.

"It's our turn as players to take the rope," he said.

That level of support looks promising, especially coming from the team's new quarterback. McGee is replacing Reggie McNeal this year, and his performance on the field could save Franchione's job or cost him his job.

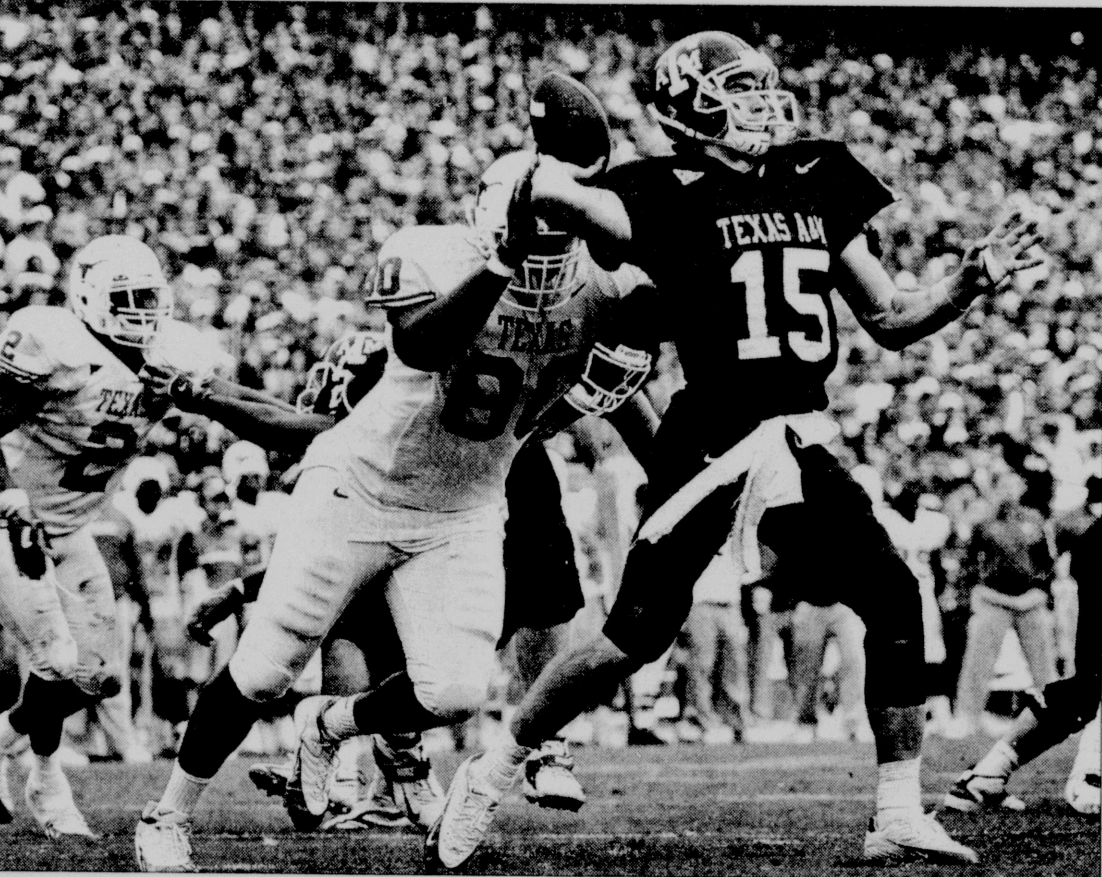
After last year's gutsy performance against Texas, in which he took several hard hits only to pop up each time, the players are ready to follow the sophomore.

"He showed everybody what kind of leader he is," junior Red Bryant said.

Bryant described McGee as more hardnosed than McNeal, and his willingness to take his has drawn attention, and been cause for worry.

McGee is aware of the extra risk he takes by trying to stretch a play for an extra two feet, but said it's his way of showing the team that he cares about them more than himself.

The message was received loud and clear against Texas this year,



Rob Strong | Daily Texan Staff

Stephen McGee showed the type of quarterback he could be with his gusty performance against Texas last season. It was that game that sparked the confidence in his teammates that he could replace the Reggie McNeal.

but you can expect McGee to keep broadcasting.

Oklahoma

The Sooners, coming off a disappointing 8-4 season, will begin this season with a chip on their shoulders.

"We've got a lot to prove," head coach Bob Stoops said. "The bottom line is we need to be better earlier and be a more disciplined and tougher football team."

And according to most polls, they will.

While the Sooner pride took a hit last year, that hasn't stopped people from expecting BCS-quality

football from Oklahoma this season. They are a consensus top-10 in most preseason polls, and Athalon Sports ranked them No. 1.

But none of that matters to Stoops, who knows preseason rankings are of no use to his Sooners.

"I can't do anything about [being ranked No. 1], so I don't concern myself with it," Stoops said. "I don't want to talk about it. Doesn't matter what anybody else says about it."

Two reasons for the preseason No. 1 talk are running back Adrian Peterson and quarterback Rhett Bomar. Peterson is not only healthy, but expected to be a bigger part of the passing game this

year for the Sooners.

"I'm comfortable with that," Peterson said. "People say I can't catch the ball. I can catch the ball. You've just got to throw it to me first."

Bomar began last season slowly, but turned it up toward the end. Stoops believes that's just the beginning of Bomar's growing experience as he looks to lead Oklahoma back to its tradition-rich ways.

"We expect him really to start the year in a good way and continue to improve," Stoops said.

Iowa State

The Cyclones aren't backing

down this season.

In fact, they'll attempt to rise to the toughest challenges the Big 12 South has to offer when they play both Texas and Oklahoma this season — in Austin and Norman, Okla.

"We're going to have some major tests on the road this year," Iowa State head coach Dan McCarney said. "It's season of opportunity."

An opportunity to make it back to the postseason and perhaps prove itself worthy of the big brother southern division.

"The schedule definitely makes it harder on us," quarterback Bret Meyer said. "But we're in the Big 12 for a reason."

"We're not making any apologies," McCarney said. "We've got to be a solid football team, even though we're young on defense."

"If you think I'm going to go, we've got to go out there and outscore everyone every week, because our defense isn't worth a damn, you're wrong."

Missouri

Want to see Missouri's David Overstreet get worked up?

Remind him his team was picked to finish fifth in the Big 12 North.

"That, to me, is disrespect," he said. "And the only reason that Kansas State is behind us is the new coach."

The strong safety out of Dallas said he's wanted to get out on the field ever since the poll came out.

"I always play with a chip on my shoulder," he said. "This is more of a boulder."

The Tigers were 7-5 last year. But with the loss of quarterback Brad Smith, doubt has risen that the team will be able to repeat such success. The idea of failure doesn't sit well with Overstreet.

"I'm not used to losing, and I won't get used to losing," he said.

Big 12 fans beware: post game celebrations on lock down



By Ryan Killian
Daily Texan Columnist

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Big 12 wants to remind you not to rush the field.

Conference commissioner Kevin Weiberg devoted much of his State of the Conference Address on explaining measures being taken by the conference to cut down on the rowdy post game celebrations.

"We've spent a fair amount of time talking about ways to reach out and trying to make sure stu-

dent groups and fans generally are aware of our desire for them to remain in the stands," Weiberg said. "Certainly passionately support the teams, but to do it from that location."

Sounds like much ado about nothing to me, but I realize that might be due to the fact that I go to Texas.

The field doesn't get rushed at Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, because the Longhorns are hardly ever the underdog.

It's not much of a problem throughout the Big 12, except maybe at Kansas. Last year they found three excuses to rush the field and led the nation in number of goal posts torn down,

according to ESPN.

Weiberg said the push to cut down on the practice is underway nationwide. To keep up, the Big 12 has to take new steps. So now we might be treated to in-game video reminders from players and coaches to stay in our seats. Brilliant, draw attention to a problem that doesn't exist. I asked Weiberg what they hoped to accomplish with "video messaging" at Texas, and he replied that the conference would be flexible, and Texas may not need the measure implemented.

Well, there's good news. I can't turn on the TV without being told in a cheesy fashion not to smoke, do drugs or have unprotected sex. Now they want to use the same

tactics on me at a football game?

Spare us all, Big 12.

Those ads on TV don't seem especially effective anyway. If I refrain from smoking pot, it's not because of the image of some crushed girl telling me that pressure has turned her into the monstrosity she is.

Weiberg said he didn't know that any research had been done to suggest that using the stadium screens to admonish fans to stay off the field would work, but in talks with other conferences, he's learned the preventative measure has been "helpful."

The campaign to keep fans off the field will probably cost the conference around \$100,000 according to Weiberg.

"It's not a huge sum," he said.

While that's true in the grand scheme of things, I'm not too excited about \$100,000 being spent on what amounts to an ad campaign with no market research.

But if it makes anyone feel better, the money won't go solely into friendly reminders.

"We also have an obligation in place that there be appropriate video monitoring systems at our stadiums so that fan areas can be observed," Weiberg said.

Cross the line and the tape may be reviewed for "purposes of possibly being included in the university judicial process."

Maybe those video ads weren't so bad after all.

The New York Times

Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0615

ACROSS

1 Much of "Deck the Halls"

4 Old Massachusetts literary family

11 Part that's not eaten

14 Creature on Australia's coat of arms

15 Washington's I-495

16 "13 _____ Madeleine" (1946 spy film)

17 Start of a quote by 56-Across

19 Hagen of the stage

20 Doctor

21 On _____ with

22 They cover all the bases

23 Kind of stick

24 Quote, part 2

26 "_____ said before _____"

27 "The Bourne Supremacy" org.

28 Wears well

29 Encumber, with "down"

30 Deuce follower

32 Identify

33 Quote, part 3

37 Frequent word after yes or no

38 Year in Nero's reign

39 Something that may be rolled over, for short

42 Flashy dance

45 Dear

46 Slam

47 End of the quote

51 "May I _____ favor?"

52 Large lawn

53 Like some Keatsian works

54 Apocrypha angel

55 On the other hand, briefly

56 Speaker of the quote

58 Debtor's letters

59 Amoeba size

60 Ray Bradbury's "_____ for Space"

61 Crew leader

62 Former U.S. poet laureate Howard _____

63 Amalot ingredient

DOWN

1 Southpaw's hit

2 Spanish sherry

3 Unambiguous indication

4 Slightly

5 Book after Exod.

6 Environmentalists' cause

7 Common blood bank shortage

8 Graveyard shift time

9 Alpha _____ (brightest star in the Bull constellation)

10 Onetime U.A.R. member: Abbr.

11 Trail for Hansel and Gretel

12 Production

13 Zoo contents

18 Laughing matter?

22 Lexicographer's concern

24 Down provider

25 Writ of execution

27 Expensive spread

31 Patriot's org.

32 Jimmies

34 "Ah, Wilderness!" mother

35 Bird that feeds on parasitic ticks

36 Least sober

40 Earned copiously

41 Shrink

42 Storm production

43 Reaction to an allergen

44 "The Phantom of the Opera" writer Gaston

48 Who is above the law, theoretically

49 Leigh Hunt's "About Ben _____"

50 Chop finely

51 Son of Prince Valiant

54 Silver State sch.

56 New Jersey politico Corzine

57 "Illusions in G. Major" rock grp.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

STAG	BESET	GENT
LOLA	ALERO	AYES
ITAR	RATIO	LEAK
CARP	PAL	TUNNELS
KLM	PEEP	RETAG
RAVS	ASSYRIA	
EMBER	VIA	AMU
CAROTID	ARTERIES	
ACE	ANT	NINES
SHANANA	ANNO	
HOKEY	ALOU	EWES
DENTAL	BRIDGES	
PLOD	OLDIE	IRAS
HOWL	OVENS	GERE
DYNE	TAROT	STYX

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.
Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$34.95 a year).
Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

THE DAILY TEXAN SUDOKU

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

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

by Shaun Stewart

July 27, 2006

Difficulty: Medium

W. O. R. D.

SCRAMBLE GAME

VULCANVIDEO.COM

A SCRABBLE DOCUMENTARY

ROCKET SURGEON BY JEFF MCKESKA

FOR THE LAST TIME YES IT'S THERE

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT?

SHANE SLEEPER

I LOOK LIKE A MUMMY, A SEXY LITTLE MUMMY!

MUMMY CONFUSED, BUT APPRECIATES ATTENTION

NEVER EVER SAY OR THINK THAT A GAIN YOU ARE JUST WEIRD, YOU FREAKIN' WEIRDY!

MUMMY HOLDS SILENCE

LATER... A SLIGHT CONFUSION OCCURS

WHAT IS THAT?

WHAT IS THAT?

SHANE SLEEPER

HIDOC, I JUST WOKE UP AND THERE ARE DISMEMBERED HEADS OF ANGELS, DEMONS AND MONSTERS IN MY ROOM.

NO, THEY DON'T SEEM HOSTILE. ACTUALLY THEY'RE QUITE POLITE.

NO, I'M NOT STILL BREWING MY OWN BEER. NO, I DIDN'T SPEND ALL MY MONEY ON CANDY... AGAIN, THEY DON'T DO MUCH OF ANYTHING, SHOULD I BE WORRIED?

YOU'RE SURE THAT'LL WORK. O.K. AND TAKE AS NEEDED, THANK YOU BYE.

EGGS & BACON - PROBLEM SOLVED

WHALE by: Joseph Devens.

...WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING.

SIMPLE MARKETING, WHALE. YOU SEE, MOST VOTERS TODAY PLACE A LOT OF STOCK IN RELIGION, SO I'M STARTING MY OWN. THE COLLECTION OF AXIOMS DISPLAYED BEFORE YOU ARE THE TENETS OF MY NEW FAITH.

IF I CAN'T DO IT, IT'S STUPID.

II. THINGS SHOULD COST HOW MUCH I THINK THEY COST.

III. YOU'RE ALL IDIOTS, AND I AM AN GENIUS.

IV. SOUTH AMERICAN WINE IS SWILL.

A SANDWICH BOARD - SMART CHOICE. STONE TABLETS CAN GET EXPENSIVE.

LOOK, I CAN'T EXPECT YOU TO COMPREHEND THE VARIOUS INTRICACIES OF RELIGION, YOU BEING A GODLESS BEAST OF THE BRINY DEEP AND SUCH.

...GET OFF MY PROPERTY.

HEY - CAN I WRITE THAT ON MY SIGN?

I'M STUPID

Answers to the Wednesday, July 26 puzzle

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

SO THIS JOKE IS ABOUT A DOCTOR WHO BROKE HIS ARM. WAIT. THAT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY.

YEAH ITS GOING OUT ON A LIMB.

McKuska

MATTUOUS by matt douglass mattuous@aol.com

HOW ABOUT THEM APPLES?

douglass

BEAVER & STEVE

STEVE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IF YOU DON'T TREAT NATURE KINDLY YOU'LL REGRET IT.

YOU HAVE A THINK ABOUT WHAT I'VE SAID. I'M SURE YOU'LL DO THE RIGHT THING.

DO IT!

IT'LL BE AWESOME!

GRUUUAH!

STOMP

ONE YEAR LATER...

HELP!

DANGER! QUICKSAND

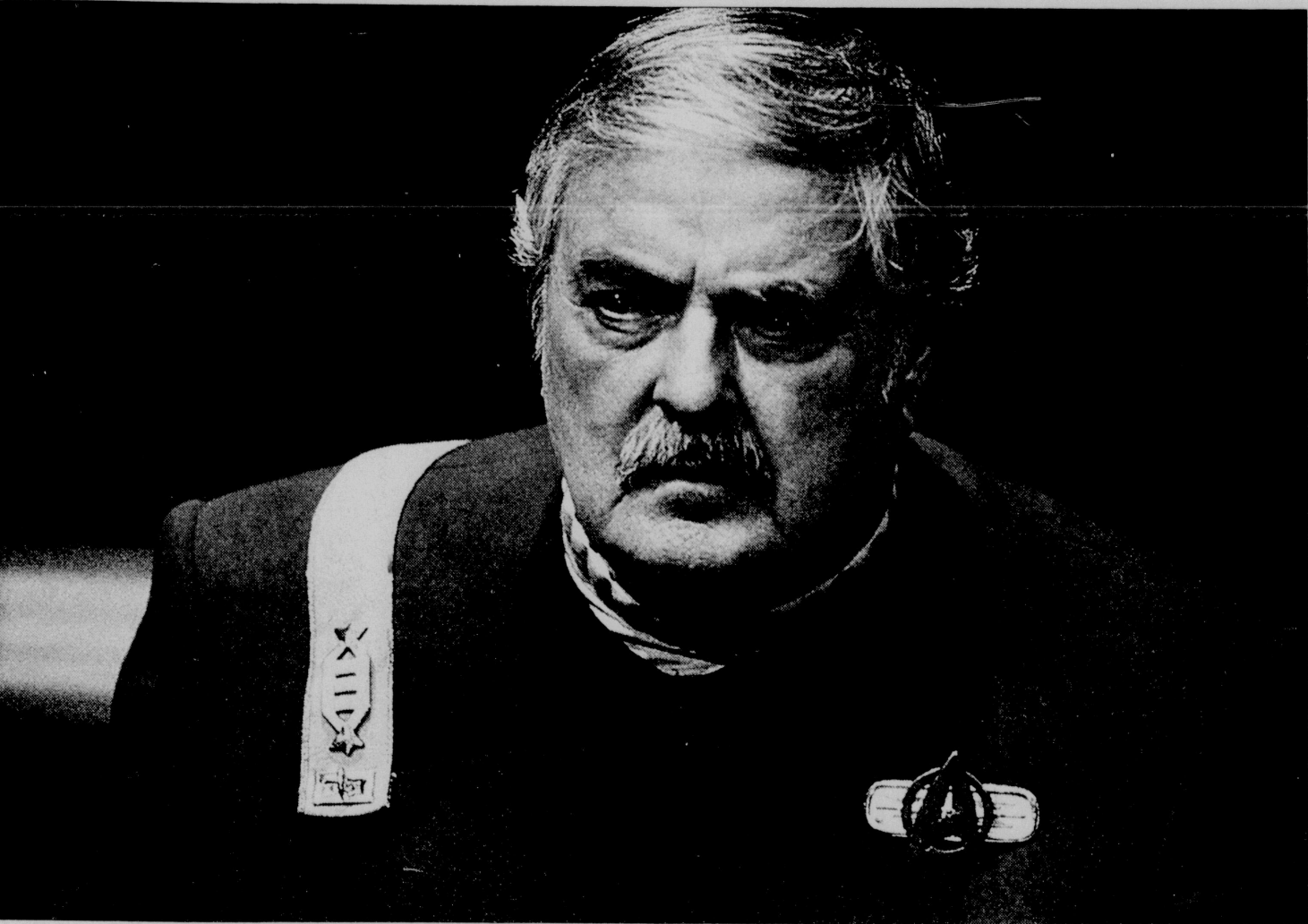
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

OH NO!

STEVE'S GOT HIMSELF INTO A REAL PICKLE THIS TIME! HOW WILL HE EXTRICATE HIMSELF FROM THIS STICKY SITUATION? ALL WILL BE REVEALED IN THE NEXT EPISODE OF BEAVER & STEVE!

© JAMES TURNER 2006

WWW.BEAVERANDSTEVE.COM



Beloved 'Star Trek' star will be shot into space

By The Associated Press
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — James Doohan, who played chief engineer Montgomery "Scotty" Scott in the original "Star Trek" TV series and several movies, will have a few grams of his ashes blasted 70 miles into space this fall from southern New Mexico.

Houston-based Space Services Inc. plans to have the ashes of 100 others aboard the Oct. 21 "memorial spaceflight." Doohan died

last July at age 85. His widow, Wende Doohan, said he would have wanted such a send-off.

"If the privatization of space was available when he was alive, he would have been first in line with a window-seat ticket," she told The Associated Press in a phone interview Tuesday. "It's a way to honor something he would have loved to have done."

The 15-minute suborbital flight is scheduled to launch from the

southern New Mexico site.

"So far on that flight, we have about 100 customers. But if I gave you a good guess, I'd expect it will be well over 100," Space Services spokeswoman Susan Schonfeld said Tuesday. "Everybody wants to be on the same rocket as James Doohan. He was so beloved."

The payload will be carried about 70 miles up before returning. Parachutes will then deploy to bring the ashes back to Earth.

The ashes of Doohan and

Cooper had been scheduled for a launch in California this spring, but Schonfeld said a delay involving another rocket pushed back the company's schedule.

Another rocket carrying more of Doohan's ashes is slated for an orbital launch in December or January. Such flights deliver payloads to orbit, meaning the remains can be aloft for days, weeks or even years before falling back to Earth and burning up in the atmosphere.

A love of education handed down from generation to generation

Daughter, mother and grandmother are all teachers at Taylor Ray Elementary

By Denise Adams
The Associated Press

ROSENBERG — When fourth-grade teacher Kyndra Gurbach wants to talk with her mother or her grandmother, all she has to do is round a corner at Taylor Ray Elementary. All three are educators at the elementary school.

At Taylor Ray, Penny Elder, her daughter, Kathy Kail, and her granddaughter, Kyndra, are linked by more than the same smile and their love of children. They are continuing an educators' legacy in their family that stretches over four generations.

Kathy teaches fifth-grade. Penny is a tutor and substitute teacher, and the three work together seamlessly, sharing ideas, helping each other solve problems and cheering each other when a child accomplishes a goal.

"Our working together has brought our departments and our teams together," said Kyndra, and Kathy agreed.

They hail from different alma maters.

As a graduate of the University of Texas, Kyndra was well prepared for the classroom, Kathy said.

As a mother, she was thrilled when Kyndra completed her undergraduate degree. As a teacher, she was happy to share her knowledge with a new educator about everyday classroom chores, like setting up a grade book.

Penny, 70, is a graduate of Austin College in Sherman, and she hails from a long line of educators. Her husband, Jim, was a minister at First Presbyterian Church in Houston, and she spent 46 years as a preacher's wife, helping him in his ministry.

The Elders moved to

Rosenberg when Kyndra was 13 years old, four short blocks from Kathy. Penny and Jim Elder's house was a fun, warm place to visit, and Kyndra spent many afternoons visiting and talking with her grandmother in the kitchen.

Kathy, 46, was the valedictorian of her high school and she graduated magna cum laude from Angelo State University, knowing she wanted to be a teacher like the women in her family.

Kathy began teaching at Taylor Ray 18 years ago. When a tutoring position opened last year, she suggested her mother for the job. Kathy felt her mother and the children could benefit from each other.

She was right. Penny's infectious smile and patient nature are wonderful matches for students in third through fifth grade who need a bit of encouragement and tutoring in their studies for the TAKS exams.

Kyndra, 23, originally majored in chemical engineering. She turned down a lucrative career in that field to enter education, but it was a decision she's never regretted.

"At first, I thought about how much work my mother put in to her classroom and all the hours she spent making up games and grading papers. I vowed I'd never cut out another thing in my life, but I wanted a job that was more than just going there during the day," said Kyndra.

Kyndra's husband, Brian, is also an educator and Kyndra's sister and Kathy's daughter, Krystin, teaches 4-year-olds at St. John's School for Young Children in Richmond.

Kathy said Krystin's a fabulous teacher and comes up with innovative ways to teach science, even if she does have to

ask her mother's advice from time to time.

Laughing, Kathy said that not all mothers receive phone calls from their daughters asking where they can find slime and flubber.

For Kathy, seeing her daughters assume the teacher's role is the completion of the circle. Kyndra is a graduate of Taylor Ray Elementary, and one of Kathy's proudest days is the first time she saw her daughter in the classroom.

"I just teared up, thinking 'That's my daughter,'" she said.

Kyndra said if she needs extra supplies, she can send a student to her mother's classroom without hesitation because her mother will have what she needs.

If either Kathy or Kyndra needs a last-minute, extra hand in their classroom, mom or grandmom can be there in a flash.

"Kathy's an excellent resource, and she knows when a child needs help with something, and I can help them during tutoring," said Penny.

As a lifelong educator, Penny is careful to let her daughter and granddaughter spread their wings, realizing each has a special gift with youngsters.

Mixed with the joy of seeing each other each day is a sadness surrounding the absence of the family patriarch. Jim Elder was killed in an automobile accident two-and-a-half years ago. Penny was seriously injured. She spent two weeks in the hospital, undergoing numerous operations to rebuild her face. During her long recuperation, Penny came to live with the Kails, and her positive outlook and enthusiasm remain inspirational to the entire family.

All three generations of the Elders go out for Mexican food every Friday night. When they're

together, the conversation naturally turns to school and education, and they enjoy hashing out problems over chips and salsa.

Almost everybody enjoys the teacher talk except Brian and Brett Kail, Kathy and Kyndra's husbands, who good-naturedly try and turn the conversation to sports.

Although Penny, Kathy and Kyndra work in the same building, often they won't see each other for days, just because they're all so busy with their individual students. That's when they're on the phone to each other in the evening, just to be sure everything's going well.

No matter what they're doing or where they are, Penny, Kathy and Kyndra remember to laugh often and remember that motherly advice is right around the corner, both at home and at Taylor Ray.

"This is an awesome campus," said Kathy. "The families here are so strong and we're seeing the kids of the kids we taught in our classes now."

She said their principal, Diana Parks, is just great to work with and she understands if there's a family crisis or celebration, all three will be involved.

They continually feel Jim's strong blessing and presence in their life, because he firmly believed in having and maintaining a close family.

"That was the No. 1 goal for my father, and he was an incredible force in our family and a wonderful pastor," said Kathy. "He worked passionately and creatively to create bonds between people."

That bond is evident between the three generations of educators at Taylor Ray who love nothing more than spreading their love of knowledge to the next generation.

MATTEOLI: Artist tries to 'stay country'

From page 10A

Club on Friday and at the Hole in the Wall on Aug. 2, 16 and 23. For this one, Matteoli is staying close to home.

As far as the Weary Boys are concerned, Matteoli has no idea what the other members in the band think.

"We really haven't talked

about it," he said. "They know I'm doing it. I hope it's not the case that they're so pissed off about it that they won't say anything to me."

But it's clear that this album is not a move away from the up-tempo country outfit; it's just something different. It's a little slower-paced and a few steps away from the hustle and

bustle. For the moment, the Weary Boys are still slated to fire up the Continental Club on Aug. 4.

"I had songs which don't work with a fast country band, and I figured it was time to get off my ass and get a record out," Matteoli said.

Is Mario Matteoli staying country? While no one can sat-

isfy all of the differing definitions, it seems like he is. Even if the album sounds a little more like early Bob Dylan than Hank Williams or Conway Twitty, there's more to being country than just the sound. And his dedication of the album to "Ma and Pa" just puts the suds on the beer and the chicken-fried on the steak.

'On the Road' to unroll next year unedited

Benzedrine-fueled, rambling scroll censored by publisher originally because of drugs, sex

By The Associated Press

LOWELL, Mass. — Jack Kerouac's "On the Road" will be published in its unedited original scroll version by Viking Press, which published the Beat Generation classic in September 1957.

John Sampas, executor of the writer's literary estate and brother of Stella Sampas, Kerouac's third wife, said he has signed a contract with Viking, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA). He hopes the work will be out by the end of next year, the 50th anniversary of the publication.

"Incidents in the original were edited out of the published version because of the censorship of the time," said Sampas, who noted that some of the edited sections refer to drugs and sex. "On the scroll, entire paragraphs are crossed out and not included in the published version."

Sampas said the new version will be in book form, but taken from the original scroll. Any sections Kerouac had crossed out before turning it in to the publisher will be excluded in the new edition.

In 1951, Kerouac, hopped up on coffee and Benzedrine, sat at a typewriter and began retelling the tale of an aimless trek he made across America. In a spontaneous, stream-of-consciousness burst, he typed on long sheets of tracing paper, taping each finished page to the previous one to form one continuous, rolling text.

Published six years later, "On the Road" won critical praise and became an icon of the post-World War II subculture of intellectuals, writers, musicians and rebels who identified with the freedom of Kerouac's cross-country odyssey and embraced his disdain for 1950s conformity.

The original, 120-foot, coffee-stained scroll that is yellowing with age was purchased in 2001 by James Irsay, owner of the Indianapolis Colts, for \$2.43 million. The scroll is touring U.S. museums and libraries.

Lance Bass comes out of the closet to People



By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lance Bass, band member of 'N Sync, says he's gay and in a "very stable" relationship with a reality show star.

Bass, who formed 'N Sync with Justin Timberlake, JC Chasez, Joey Fatone and Chris Kirkpatrick, tells People magazine that he didn't earlier disclose his sexuality because he didn't want to affect the group's popularity.

"I knew that I was in this popular band, and I had four other guys' careers in my hand, and I knew that if I ever acted on it or even said (that I was gay), it would overpower everything," he tells the magazine.

The band went on hiatus in 2002.

Bass says he wondered if his coming out could prompt "the end of 'N Sync." He explains, "So I had that weight on me of like, 'Wow, if I ever let anyone know, it's bad.' So I just never did."

The singer says he's in a "very stable" relationship with 32-year-old actor Reichen Lehmkuhl, winner of season four of CBS' "Amazing Race."

Bass and Fatone, 29, are

developing a sitcom pilot inspired by the screwball comedy "The Odd Couple," in which his character will be gay.

"The thing is, I'm not ashamed — that's the one thing I went to say," Bass says. "I don't think it's wrong, I'm not devastated going through this. I'm more liberated and happy than I've been my whole life. I'm just happy."

LANDMARK'S

DOBIE

21st & Guadalupe • (512) 472-FILM

FREE PARKING IN THE DOBIE GARAGE

\$6.00 Mon-Thur with college I.D.

www.LandmarkTheatres.com

"HANNA LASLO... GIVES ONE OF THE JUICIEST PERFORMANCES AT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL (CANNES)"

Manonita Dargis, THE NEW YORK TIMES

NATALIE PORTMAN
HANNA LASLO
HIAIM ABBASS

FREE

Fri: (4:00) 7:10, 9:30; Sat/Sun: (1:00) 4:00 7:10, 9:30; Mon-Thur: 7:10, 9:30

"Hilarious!"

The New Yorker

STRANGERS WITH CANDY

Fri: (4:30) 7:30, 9:40; Sat/Sun: (1:30) 4:30 7:30, 9:40; Mon-Thur: 7:30, 9:40

"★★★★"

Brilliantly irreverent!"

—Peter Dinklage, WIRELESS MAGAZINE

CLERKS II

Fri: (4:20) 7:20, 9:50; Sat/Sun: (1:20) 4:20 7:20, 9:50; Mon-Thur: 7:20, 9:50

"Twisted... A Major Head Trip."

—Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

A SCANNER DARKLY

Fri: 7:00, 10:00; Sat: (1:10) 7:00, 10:00; Sun: (1:10) 7:00; Mon-Thur: 7:00

NICK NOLTE SCOTT MECHLOWICZ

PEACEFUL WARRIOR

Fri-Sun: (4:10); Mon-Thur: 10:00

SHOWTIMES VALID

FRIDAY, JULY 28 – THURSDAY, AUG. 3

Bargain Showtimes in ()

© 2006 L.T.C.

ALAMO

DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA

DINNER • DRINKS • MOVIES • EVENTS

12 AGILTY: MADE IN SECRET 100 945

13 THE QUEEN SING-ALONG 100 945

14 TERROR THURSDAYS: 100 945

15 THE BEING 100 945

16 YOU ME DUPEE 115 415 715 950

17 LADY IN WATER 100 330 710 1005

18 SUPERMAN 120 330 710 1005

19 PRATES CARIBBEAN 1145 320 730 1025

20 PRATES CARIBBEAN 1220 1020

21 SUPERMAN 330 710 1030

22 SCANNER 1150 220 450 745 1015

23 CLERKS II 1145 210 430 720 945

24 MY SUPER EX 1135 200 425 700 930

25 THE LAST UNICORN 100 (FREE)

26 PRATES CARIBBEAN 1220 245 630 1025

27 PRATES CARIBBEAN 1220 1020

28 SUPERMAN 330 710 1030

29 SCANNER 1150 220 450 745 1015

30 CLERKS II 1145 210 430 720 945

31 MY SUPER EX 1135 200 425 700 930

32 THE LAST UNICORN 100 (FREE)

DIGITAL SOUND • SHOWS BEFORE 9PM \$5.00 • ONLINE TX ORIGINAL ALAMO.COM

ALL SHOWS MON \$5.00 • NO INFANTS UNDER 6 • EXCEPT BABY BAY

ALL SHOWS ARE 18 & UP • NO PASSES

COMING SOON:

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK: THE ADAPTATION

JULY 28 & 29

ALAMO DOWNTOWN

FLIMMAKERS LIVE!



Photo courtesy of Erica Nix

Robert Deike, dressed as his character Nick Bottom, from Tongue and Groove Theatre company's "An Arabian Midsummer Night's Dream," gets some attention from his harem.

Midsummer nights feel like a dream

By Sara Scott
 Daily Texan Staff

David Yeakle has reason to smile these days.

He's taken a beloved Shakespearean fairy tale and made the fairies belly dancers, conjured up a menacing genie, thrown in a hookah-smoking sultan ... and Austin is loving it.

Every performance of his Tongue and Groove Theatre company's production of "An Arabian Midsummer Night's Dream" has sold out, so they're adding two performances to the schedule.

"I don't think everyone who has planned to come Thursday night will be able to get in," Yeakle said. "But now they can come Sunday and Monday night as well."

Audience members pay what they wish at Thursday and Monday nights' performances, while on Friday through Sunday, regular ticket prices apply, \$20 (\$15 for students and seniors). All performances begin at 9 p.m.

The performance space is located in the backyard of Middle Eastern restaurant Ararat, which was part of the inspiration to go Arabian for the play.

Yeakle thinks the show has been so popular because "Midsummer" is one of Shakespeare's most accessible works. You don't have to be an expert on the Bard to understand the play, just open to fantasy.

The enchanted oasis setting "provides so much

opportunity for magic and for audience members to use their imaginations," Yeakle said.

While he anticipated adults enjoying the show, Yeakle has been delighted with the number of children he's seen in the audience, enthralled with what they see on stage. The open-air atmosphere and the puppetry, mime and dancing that have been integrated into the show appeal to everyone.

Another audience-pleasing aspect of the show is its running time. Yeakle found a cut version of the play that uses the original dialogue, plot and all 22 characters, and yet can be done in about 70 minutes.

"It still has all the scenes, all the acts — every-

thing's in there, but it's shorter. They just cut out a whole bunch of the language. And they did it very cleverly to where you really don't miss anything," Yeakle said.

Just as Puck invites the audience at the end of the play to consider the experience a dream, Yeakle hopes the production actually has that effect on his audience. The play is full of hallucinations, dream sequences and special effects that Yeakle hints might not just be meant to toy with the minds of the characters.

"We've done [certain sequences] in a way that no one in the world has done before," he said. "The whole play should feel like a dream."

Cool. Pass the hookah.

Pong brings epic live show to Austin's The Velvet Spade

Chris Lowe
 Daily Texan Staff

As the patio darkened, a voice cried out from the stage, "Are you ready to party with Pong?"

This week, Austin band Pong gave a "Two for Tuesday" show at The Velvet Spade, performing first at 9 p.m. and then again at 11 p.m. The five-piece band perfectly synchronized outlandish light shows, coordinated outfits and a symphony of unconventional sounds into a duo of performances that were extremely fun, if at times, extremely bizarre. Fortunately, Tuesday's weirdness never outweighed the grooviness.

As the show began, black lights illuminated the stage, leaving only the band's white outfits visible. Each member's shirt had an orange Pong logo emblazoned on it. Adding to the arena-like presentation, a fog machine misted the liquid-sky lighting effect across the band members and their instruments. As the band rocked out, two globe-shaped lights sent shards of light across the rest of The Velvet Spade's patio.

Pong might not be as aberrant as Austin's other weird acts, but the band certainly did enough Tuesday night to make their entertaining eccentricity stand out. The band's cosmic, electronic and often-quirky elements draw comparisons with other pioneers of weird such as Devo, the Beastie Boys, Brian Eno and Beck. The name

Pong, along with the band's retro-futuristic style, certainly creates nostalgia for synthesizer-driven songs and perhaps even for that old computer game.

The ambience of the light symphony might have not have been as awe inspiring if not for Pong's tour de force musical display. The band members were like robots programmed perfectly in sync with each other throughout, giving the performance a near-studio quality. Technical and innovative guitar riffs, tight drums, steady bass and the synth's oddball, spacy melodies all coalesced together with each song. Harmonized vocals featuring lyrics such as "What planet are you from?" gave the music an added extraterrestrial feel.

Pong tried to keep things fun and as strange as possible, employing a vocoder during the song "Interpol," using a slide up and down the guitar to create some interesting harmonics, even utilizing the slide whistle to cap off some of band's off-the-wall songs. At one point in the show the members even muted all their instruments for a remarkable measure of a cappella.

Through dazzling light displays and stellar musical performances, Pong turned a relatively small gig at The Velvet Spade into an epic live show that entertained and inspired all in attendance.



Jose Lozano | Daily Texan Staff

Mario Matteoli sits with his guitar on Monday.

Weary Boys lead singer tries luck with solo album

By Justin Patch
 Daily Texan Staff

Emblazoned on Austin musician Mario Matteoli's left forearm is a tattoo that reads, "Stay Country."

"I thought that it would be a good reminder for me in my music career to try and always keep it at least a little country," Matteoli said of the tattoo.

Although the tattoo is not encapsulated between quotes, it's taken from Country Chris,

the self-titled "World's Biggest Willie Nelson Fan," who signs all of his letters "Stay Country." Country Chris was one of the inspirations for Matteoli's Austin-based band the Weary Boys, who convinced fiddle player Brian Salvi during a trip to Germany to come to Texas and start a band.

Matteoli's first solo outing, *Hard Luck Hittin'*, is a collection of songs written over the last three years. The lead sing-

er for the Weary Boys draws inspiration for his album's raw sound from two of the greats, Bob Dylan and Hank Williams. The tracks were mostly cut live, acoustic, bare-bones and on a budget, harkening back to an earlier era of four-tracks and one-room studios.

There are no frills on the album, just lyrics trying to be sincere and true. There are also no fiddles or steel guitars, very little twang and no mention of

jails, trucks or trains. However, there are more than a few hard times and several songs which could inspire one to drink.

Matteoli approaches his marketing in the same down-to-earth fashion. He manages everything himself and has no desire to book a solo tour. His sights are set on a few in-town shows, including solo gigs at Waterloo Records and the Continental

MATTEOLI continues on page 9A

dt weekend

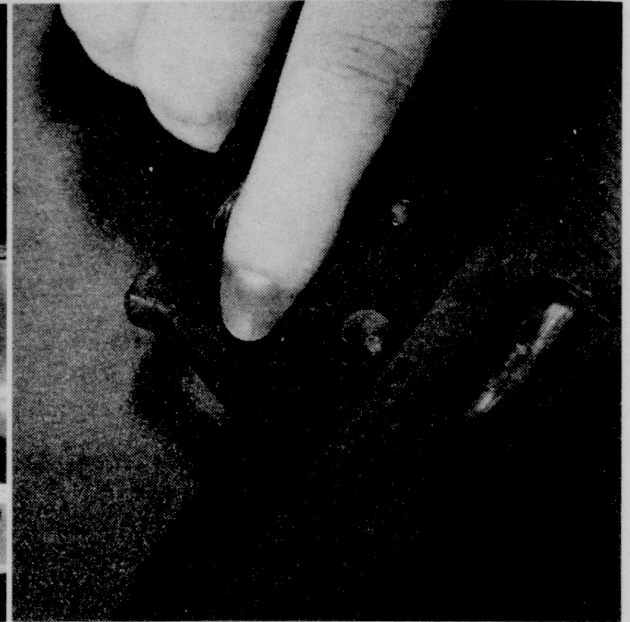
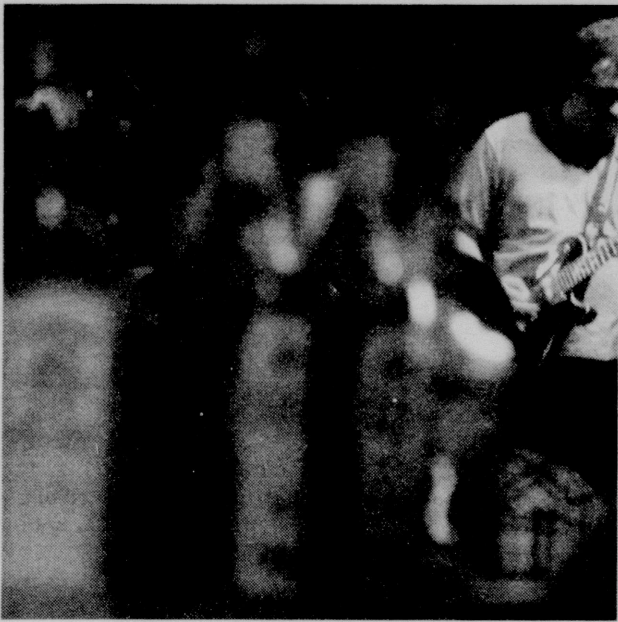


GOODBYE TO THE BACK ROOM

Austin bids farewell to the
famous Riverside venue, p.6

PLUS —

Music and booze
Considering alcohol and
live music in Austin, p. 5



Buying the ticket, taking the ride

Bands in Austin know how to party, but is it too much? Musicians and healthcare experts take a look at drinking and playing.

By Matt Davidson
page 5

Goodbye to the Back Room

After 30 years, one of Austin's best off-Sixth Street music venues shuts down. Relive some memories with the people who lived through it.

By Daniel Stone
page 6

Literary whores

Guns, prostitutes and globetrotting are all in a day's work for author William T Vollmann.

By Daniel Carter
page 8

Editor's note page 3

News briefs page 4

This 'Tweekend in history page 9

Recs page 10

Soundbites page 11

DT Weekend top fives page 12

DT Weekend Staff Editor

Scotty Loewen

Associate Editor

Joey Castillo

Copy Editor

Robert Chan

Designer

Jimmie Collins

Illustrator

Steven Marple

Photographers

Stephen Durda

Jason Sweeten

Dusten Cook

Writers

Matt Davidson

Daniel Carter

Stephanie Matlock

Ricardo Lozano

Web Jockey

Shaun Stewart

Contact Info

e-mail: dtweekend@dailytexanonline.com

phone: 512.232.2209

www.dtweekend.com

www.dailytexanonline.com

Editor's note



by
**Scotty
Loewen**

Saving the Earth is sexy again.

As The New York Times recently reported, Sierra Club membership is up, organic grocery sales are on the rise and former vice presidents are making home movies about the environment. As good as this is for awareness and keeping chickens

free-range and vegetarian (little known secret — hens have a powerful lust for prime rib), the general public's attitude toward the welfare of our ecosystem can be rather fickle.

In 1990 the U.S. was inundated by public service announcements urging network viewers to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle."

The campaign even extended to children's programming. "Sesame Street" had a ditty about waste and recycling (so you can "make less of it"). There was even that green-haired dogooder, Captain Planet, fighting to save the environment (because it was the thing to do).

That year was also the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, a holiday that reminds people that the planet we live on is pretty special and that we are slowly mucking it up good.

Realizing that we were mucking up the planet real good, a gaggle of celebrities got together and made a television special about Earth Day. Bette Midler was cast as Mother Earth and Doogie Howser M.D. was trying to save her. Rhea Pearlman kept interrupting Danny DeVito's poker game with Rick Moranis to nag about how much water they waste flushing the commode. She suggested they install an empty Coke bottle in their toilet to reduce its volume. Harold Ramis was Elon Spengler (brother of Egon from "Ghostbusters") trying to save the Earth with science.

It was a list of celebrity cameos that rivaled all the "Comic Reliefs" put together. After that, Joe TV Dinner was ready to make a difference. Kids talked about it at school with their teachers. People started sepa-

rating their waste into recyclables and trash. The nation was primed to save Bette Midler from destruction.

Then we got on with our lives.

According to a study done by the Environmental Research and Education Foundation, in 1990 aluminum can retention rose to a record of one million tons per year. A decade earlier, that number was at 0.25 million tons. Two decades before that, America was just throwing them on the side of the road.

In 2000, however, aluminum can retention waned to about 0.75 million tons a year, while production, though slower, rose from 2.75 million to over 3 million tons. The average Joe got lazy. Why? Probably because the average Joe had more immediate concerns than tackling the fate of the entire Earth, like holding down a job and feeding a family.

Now the target audience and methods for environmentalism have shifted. Shopping at organic grocery stores, which reduces the reliance on pesticides in the land, is now a status symbol instead of the hippie-stigma it used to be. Retailers like Starbucks offer products like Ethos water and Fair Trade blends that use consumerism to the environment's advantage.

It seems that the BMW set is

better equipped to fight the good fight for Mother Earth. More so than the middle class, who have to brew their own coffee, shop at HEB, and provide for their families with blue-collar jobs.

The A-listers of today have also joined the cause. Not through mass-activism, but consumerism. In last week's edition of Newsweek, the cover story featured "Entourage" star Adrian Grenier, who apparently will install recycled denim as insulation. His home is in Brooklyn though, and most of us still haven't installed that bottle in our toilets.

Heart!
Scotty Loewen

dt weekend

Hold on to the 'Tweekend as long as you can*

*and then recycle it

GALAXY THEATRES

HIGHLAND 10 1-35 & Middle Road 312-467-7233

100% STADIUM SEATING - ALL DIGITAL

BARGAIN MATINEES DAILY

NOTICE: NO ONE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE THEATRE ON FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS AFTER 7PM WITHOUT AN ADULT.

★ **CLERKS II (R)**
11:30 1:35 3:40 5:45 7:50 10:05

★ **MONSTER HOUSE**
PRESENTED IN DLP DIGITAL (PG)
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:05 7:10 9:15

★ **LADY IN THE WATER**
PRESENTED IN DLP DIGITAL (PG-13)
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:25 9:55

★ **MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND (PG-13)**
11:15 1:20 3:30 5:35 7:45 10:00

★ **LITTLE MAN (PG-13)**
11:05 1:10 3:15 5:25 7:40 9:50

★ **YOU, ME AND DUPREE (PG-13)**
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
PRESENTED IN DLP DIGITAL (PG-13)
11:00 2:00 4:00 5:00 7:00 8:00 10:00

SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG-13)
1:10 4:10 7:05 10:05

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (PG-13)
12:05 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:35

CARS
PRESENTED IN DLP DIGITAL (G)
11:10 1:35

Showtimes for Thursday, July 27, 2006

★ Special Engagement: No Passes/Coupons

Tickets available online at GALAXYTHEATRES.com

REGAL CINEMAS

AN REGAL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP COMPANY

OC = OPEN CAPTIONED DA = DESCRIPTIVE AUDIO AVAILABLE

★ Pass / Discount Ticket Restrictions Apply

DIG = DIGITAL SOUND BARGAIN SHOWS IN ()

Wednesday / Discount Shows All Day Excluding Films

METROPOLITAN STADIUM 14
1-35 S. AT STASSNEY LANE 800-FANDANGO 369#

Adv. Tix on Sale MIAMI VICE (R) - ID REQ'D ★

Adv. Tix on Sale DCI QUARTERFINALS (NR) ★

CLERKS II (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1215 250 520) 750 1035

MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND (PG-13) DIG (1105 1145 130 215 415 500) 705 740 940 1030

LADY IN THE WATER (PG-13) DIG (1100 1140 140 230 425 515 715 800 1005 1045)

LITTLE MAN (PG-13) DIG (1115 1145 150 215 430 505) 710 745 945 1030

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (PG-13) DIG (1115 155 440) 730 1025

NACHO LIBRE (PG) DIG (1145 220 505) 735 1010

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13) DIG (1110 1130 1200 1230 130 240 310 400 435 530) 630 700 725 815 930 955 1020 1050

WESTGATE STADIUM 11
SO. LAMAR & BEN WHITE 800-FANDANGO 369#

Adv. Tix on Sale MIAMI VICE (R) - ID REQ'D ★

Adv. Tix on Sale TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY (PG-13) ★

MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND (PG-13) DIG (1205 230 450) 730 1005

LADY IN THE WATER (PG-13) DIG (1140 220 505) 745 1025

MONSTER HOUSE (PG) DIG (1115 150 425) 700 935

LITTLE MAN (PG-13) DIG (1245 305 530) 800 1035

YOU, ME AND DUPREE (PG-13) DIG (1225 255 525) 755 1030

A SCANNER DARKLY (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1200 225 455) 720 950

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13) DIG (1130 1230 250 350) 620 715 945 1030

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (PG-13) DIG (1210 240 515) 750 1020

SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG-13) DIG (1110 235) 615 940

CARS (G) DIG (1100 145 430) 715 1000

Free Family Film Festival Tue, Wed & Thu 10AM

GATEWAY STADIUM 16
CAPITAL OF TEXAS AT 183 BEHIND WHOLE FOODS 800-FANDANGO 366#

Adv. Tix on Sale MIAMI VICE (R) - ID REQ'D ★

Adv. Tix on Sale TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY (PG-13) ★

MONSTER HOUSE DIGITAL 3D: \$1.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG) DIG (1220 245 515) 735 955

MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND (PG-13) DIG (1200 220 455) 725 945

LADY IN THE WATER (PG-13) DIG (1135 1205 205 235 435 505) 715 745 950 1025

MONSTER HOUSE (PG) DIG (1150 215 445) 705 925

LITTLE MAN (PG-13) DIG (1230 250 520) 750 1030

YOU, ME AND DUPREE (PG-13) DIG (1155 1235 225 320 500) 700 730 930 1015

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13) DIG (1145 1215 1245 330 400) 620 650 720 1005 1035

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (PG-13) DIG (1140 1210 210 240 440 510) 710 740 940 1020

SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG-13) DIG (1130 305) 630 1000

CLICK (PG-13) DIG (1225 255 525) 755 1040

CARS (G) DIG (1155 310)

THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) DIG 640 1010

OC & DA: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 (PG-13) DIG (300) 935

★ **REGAL Arbor Cinema @ Great Hills**
JOLLYVILLE RD. N. OF GREAT HILLS 800-FANDANGO 684#

Cinema Art

CLERKS II (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1230 300 530) 800 1030

STRANGERS WITH CANDY (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1220 250 520) 750 1010

A SCANNER DARKLY (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1200 230 500) 720 950

LEONARD COHEN: I'M YOUR MAN (PG-13) DIG (1145 240 510) 730 1000

AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH (PG) DIG (1210 225 450) 710 930

WORDPLAY (PG) DIG (1150 210 440) 650 920

PUFFY CHAIR (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1140 220 500) 740 1020

THE HEART OF THE GAME (PG-13) DIG (1130 200 430) 700 940

Times For 7/27/06 ©2006 www.REGALcinemas.com

News

Compiled from wire reports

MoMA next year: Exhibits on the outside walls

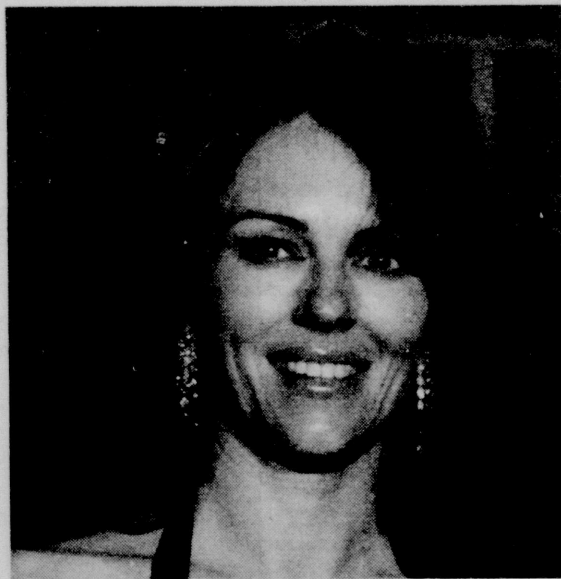


The Museum of Modern Art in New York will present a new public art installation set to run from Jan. 16 through Feb. 12 of next year. A series of five films about urban life will be shown on the outside walls of the structure, generating images large enough to be seen from the streets. The movies will be 15 to 20 minutes long and will run from dusk until 10 p.m.

All that's left now is Cosmo Girl and prom

Time Inc. will stop publishing Teen People magazine, which began publication in 1998. The magazine's Web site will continue on, but the print version was cut due to dropping circulation numbers. Time Inc., a unit of Time Warner Inc., said it is working to find jobs in other company areas for around 50 of the magazine's employees.

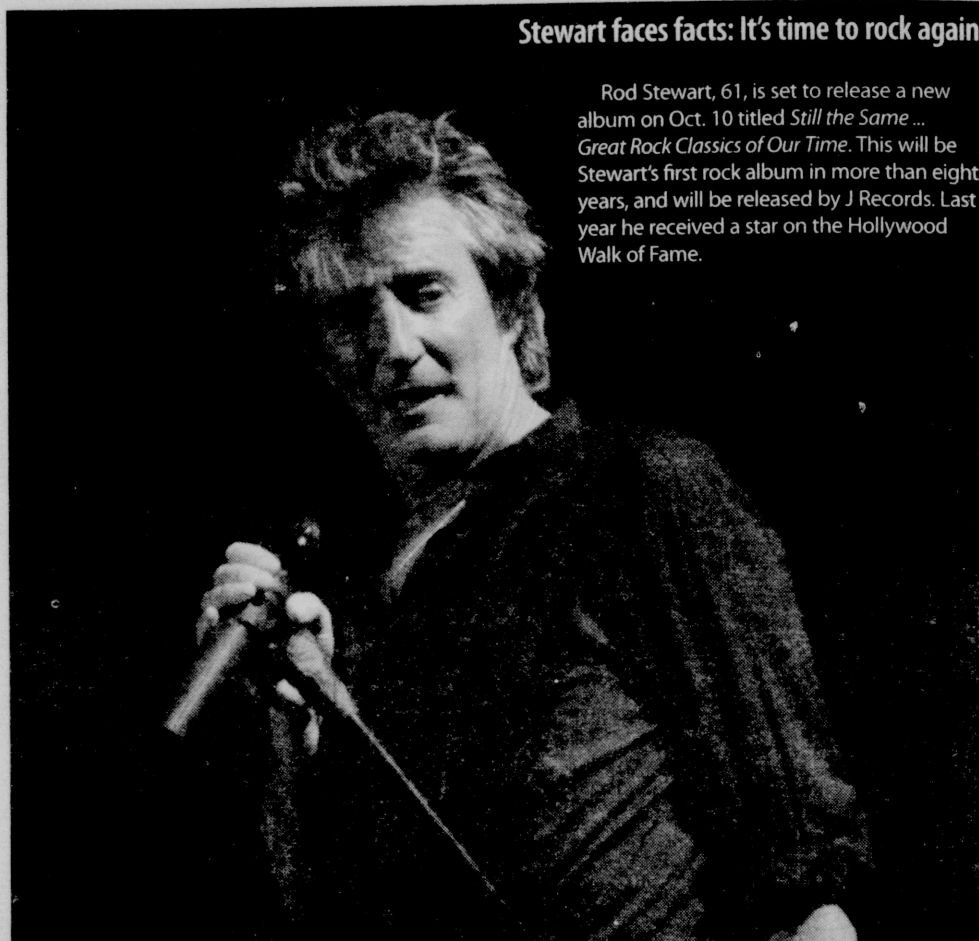
Hurley, bottom in new Jordache ad campaign



Elizabeth Hurley, 41, will appear in the new series of print ads by Jordache. The ads were shot by Michael Thompson and will run in various publications from September until the holiday season. Liz Berlinger, the company's president, said the actress represents what the brand is all about — she is a true modern woman.

Stewart faces facts: It's time to rock again

Rod Stewart, 61, is set to release a new album on Oct. 10 titled *Still the Same ... Great Rock Classics of Our Time*. This will be Stewart's first rock album in more than eight years, and will be released by J Records. Last year he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

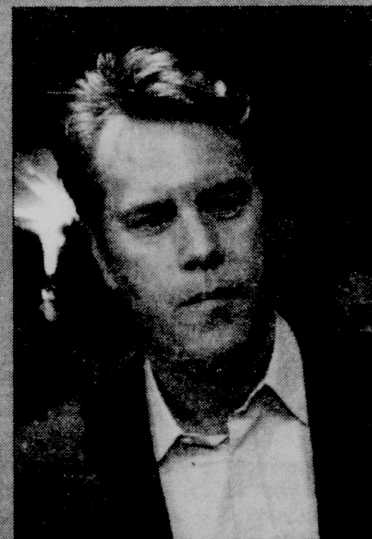


On the outs

Christie Brinkley and Peter Cook

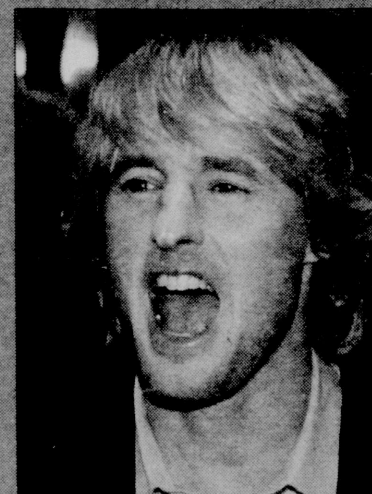


Christie Brinkley's estranged husband, Peter Cook, apologized for his affair with an 18-year-old employee. "I'm sorry. I'm contrite. I'm stupid. Foolish. No excuse," said Cook through a lawyer in a column published Tuesday in the New York Post. The now 19-year-old Diana Bianchi said that Cook had seduced her after her hire at his architecture firm.



Steely Dan and Owen Wilson

The band Steely Dan wants Owen Wilson to apologize for his role in the new movie "You, Me and Dupree," which the band says is based on their Grammy-winning song "Cousin Dupree." A letter on the band's Web site posted July 17 asks Wilson to appear at the band's Irvine, Calif. show in order to apologize to its fans. If Wilson does so, he will receive Steely Dan merchandise and the opportunity to party with the band.



Buying the Ticket, taking the ride

By Matt Davidson

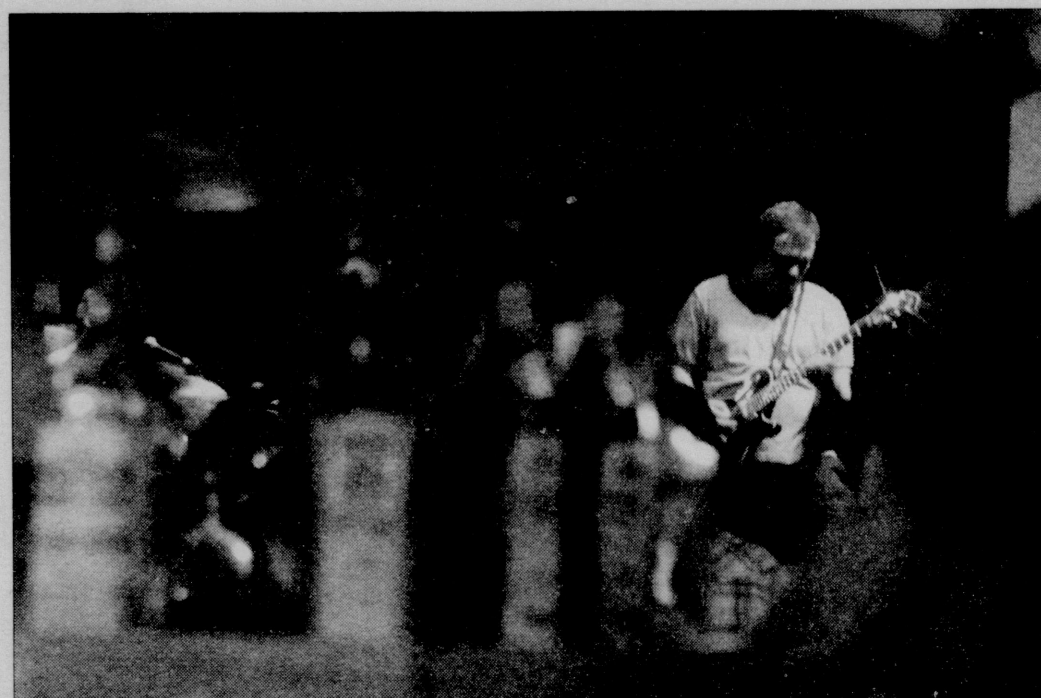
“Used to think

I was a
musician.

Come to find out,

I’m a beer
salesman”

—James McMurtry, *Live in Aught-three*



Dustin Cook for the DT Weekend

Red Eyed Fly owner and booking agent Heath Macintosh witnessed this connection first hand. One time, a band rolled in its equipment and began to get ready for its upcoming show. As the band unpacked equipment, members drank beers they’d brought with them. The only problem was that the eldest band members were only 20 years old. Their beers were subsequently taken away, as was their right to play at the venue that evening and in the future. Although one could easily dismiss the above example as a case of underage drinking, it also speaks to the pressures that musicians face when dealing with alcohol.

Music and alcohol are nearly inseparable. Whether it is the band, the audience, or even the venue, musicians promoting their craft must be around alcohol. Jack Daniel’s has billboards around town that say “With the Band since 1886” and Miller Lite sponsors Pat Green. As a place for live music, Austin businesses thrive on the money spent on alcohol at music events. During the month of April more than \$29,000 of alcohol was sold at the Red Eyed Fly. Stubb’s moved \$111,000 worth, and Emo’s sold more than \$60,000 of alcohol. This amount reflects alcohol sold to both fans and musicians.

Bands are not the only ones who can

get out of control. Macintosh said that the Red Eyed Fly “had more problems with patrons drinking too much as opposed to the bands. Every fight or property damage is always a customer.”

Betty LeMaster, clinical coordinator at the SIMS Foundation, has concerns about how seemingly inseparable music is from alcohol. Musicians simply have to be around alcohol.

“If you’re doing outdoor shows, they are often sponsored by beer companies,” LeMasters said.

The SIMS foundation is a non-profit organization that seeks to connect musicians and their families to counseling and therapeutic services. SIMS was founded in 1995 by the friends and family of Sims Ellison, a local musician who committed suicide after a long battle with depression.

By coordinating a network of around 50 mental-health providers who are willing to provide services at a discounted rate for musicians, SIMS meets its goal of providing mental-health services. LeMaster said that in addition to negotiating decreased rates, SIMS helps musicians pay for the services. Therefore, SIMS, the health-care providers and musicians are all equally invested in treatment.

LeMasters was quick to remind that “it is important not to have tunnel vision

when talking about musicians in Austin and alcohol.”

She said that it is easy to focus only on rock bands when talking about drinking and music. The pressures that a rock musician faces are different than those a member of the Austin Lyric Opera may face, but both are equally likely to need the services of SIMS.

There are many different reasons a musician might drink. For some, a few drinks makes it easier to get on stage and perform. Others are heavily influenced by the expectations their fans have.

“Most of the time [alcohol or drugs] are just a way of coping,” LeMasters said. “Usually there are underlying issues. [Drinking] is a learning technique and a coping mechanism, so it is important to help folks work through that.”

None of the above reasons explain why Games and Theory bassist David Olvera drinks at shows. He doesn’t feel compelled to fulfill the image of a rock-star, but just likes to have fun. Stating it simply, Olvera said, “I like the way beer tastes. Not to dumb it down, but that is just the honest truth.”

Olvera usually has “two or so [drinks] to take the edge off.” Guitarist Tyson Swindell agrees: “We are all social drinkers, and it helps loosen us up before we play. It’s probably mostly a mental thing, but we sure do seem to be a little

more relaxed after a few beers or a shot.” Just like Macintosh at Red Eyed Fly, Olvera has found more problems with drunken fans than bands. “One show, some dude was out of control in the pit and ripped out one of our guitarists’ earrings,” he said.

Russel Dougherty, keyboard player for Triumph of Gnomes, said that he drinks before shows when he can. He drinks to calm his nerves before going on and to relax a bit. He said the amount of time they have before a show usually dictates how drunk they are.

However, Dougherty added that most of the band’s drinking occurs after the show. Currently on tour, Triumph of Gnomes has played the majority of their shows at all-age venues that do not serve alcohol. In that case, band members just get their own.

It is important to remember that both musicians and their fans can enjoy alcohol responsibly. The warning signs for alcoholism are hard to perceive, especially for musicians whose lives involve a lot of partying. That is also why it is so vitally important to seek help when one needs it.

The SIMS Foundation confidential line can be reached at 512-494-1007. For more information about SIMS and their work, visit their Web site at www.simsfoundation.org.

A farewell for the Back Room

by Daniel Stone

Tucked into a strip mall on Riverside Drive, The Backroom may not look like much, but over its 30 years in East Austin, its walls have witnessed hundreds of bands, thousands of patrons and countless stories of passion and music.

This weekend, the live music venue will close, to be used for storage. By 2008, the whole place will become condos.

On Monday night it seemed a desolate place. Patrons exuded a few quiet urges for a pitcher of beer and few rounds of pool, and nothing more. It appeared that the music venue with more than 30 years of history held the same amount of passion.

Mike Budreaux, along with several others, would argue quite differently.

Budreaux, currently a booking agent for Raw Deal Productions, saw the transition of many local bands into signed talent such as Dynamite Boy and Unloco.

"I saw Pearl Jam play for 150 people. I've seen the Stone Temple Pilots play in front of 250. My band Rubberhead even headlined over Papa Roach," Budreaux said.

At the Back Room since 1990 — doing everything from bussing, lighting and

bartending until finally becoming the booking agent in 1998 — Budreaux has seen all sides of the club and all kinds of celebrities and musicians, ranging from Ron Jeremy to Lars Ulrich.

By day, he works a construction job. By night, he vehemently promotes, with his cell phone never leaving his hand.

He saw hundreds of bands play at the Back Room, though in particular, he remembers Public Enemy playing at the venue in 1992.

"I remember this one time Public Enemy played a sold-out show in 1992. After they finished the show, they kept people waiting for autographs, and people started to get pissed. So they got a bunch of cokes and food and just brought it out to the crowd. Flavor Flav says, 'Everybody in here better remember who the coolest band in the world is — Public Enemy!' The best part was they signed everybody's everything, the photos, the shirts, the whole deal," Budreaux said.

The favorite part of the job for Budreaux was to see a band grow and learn from their mistakes. There was the time that local Austin band Preserve the Sound nearly missed the gig at the

Flamingo Cantina where Boudreaux booked them, but eventually became popular enough to fill a room to capacity.

"I really just loved seeing a band excited to do what they do, like do a CD release party or become skilled enough to go on the road and put on a damn good show," Budreaux said.

Musicians such as Dustin Stroud (formerly of the Riddlin' Kids) and Pedro Navarette of Unloco credit Budreaux and the Back Room for lifting their careers to heights they never thought they would achieve.

They also said that the press never gave the place the credit it deserved, because it was deemed a place too "hardcore" for much of the population of Austin.

"It's a little tougher than the places on Sixth Street. If you're wearing blazers and a polo you might wanna stray away from it," Stroud said.

Every New Years Eve from 2001 to 2005, Stroud would play at the Back Room in an '80s cover band known as the Stummies.

"We rocked out playing covers that everybody loved because everyone knew the words, and well, everyone was drunk," Stroud said.

"We'd have at times 10

people playing onstage, with four guitar players, two bass players, a keyboard player, a singer, two drummers — the works. They were all from bands that knew each other like Riddlin' Kids, Rubberhead, Born to Lose and Missing Digits. We got up there and dressed up in cheesy '80s costumes like we were trying to look like the guys from Devo," he said.

"I think last year I went as C.C. Deville (guitarist from the '80s glam rock band Poison). Everyone went crazy when we'd play 'We're Not Gonna Take It' by Twisted Sister, which we'd always close with," Stroud said.

Whenever asked about the general atmosphere of the Riverside bar, everyone related the amount of fellowship within the bar itself.

Phillip Nitch, soundman for the Back Room (a.k.a. Captain Phleabag), summed it up best.

"You could be a burn victim, walk in there, and be a regular customer," he said.

One aspect of the club that all the musicians recall is the pole in the center of the stage. It obstructs the musicians' view of the crowd and provides a logistical nightmare that few bars possess.

"I remember girls would

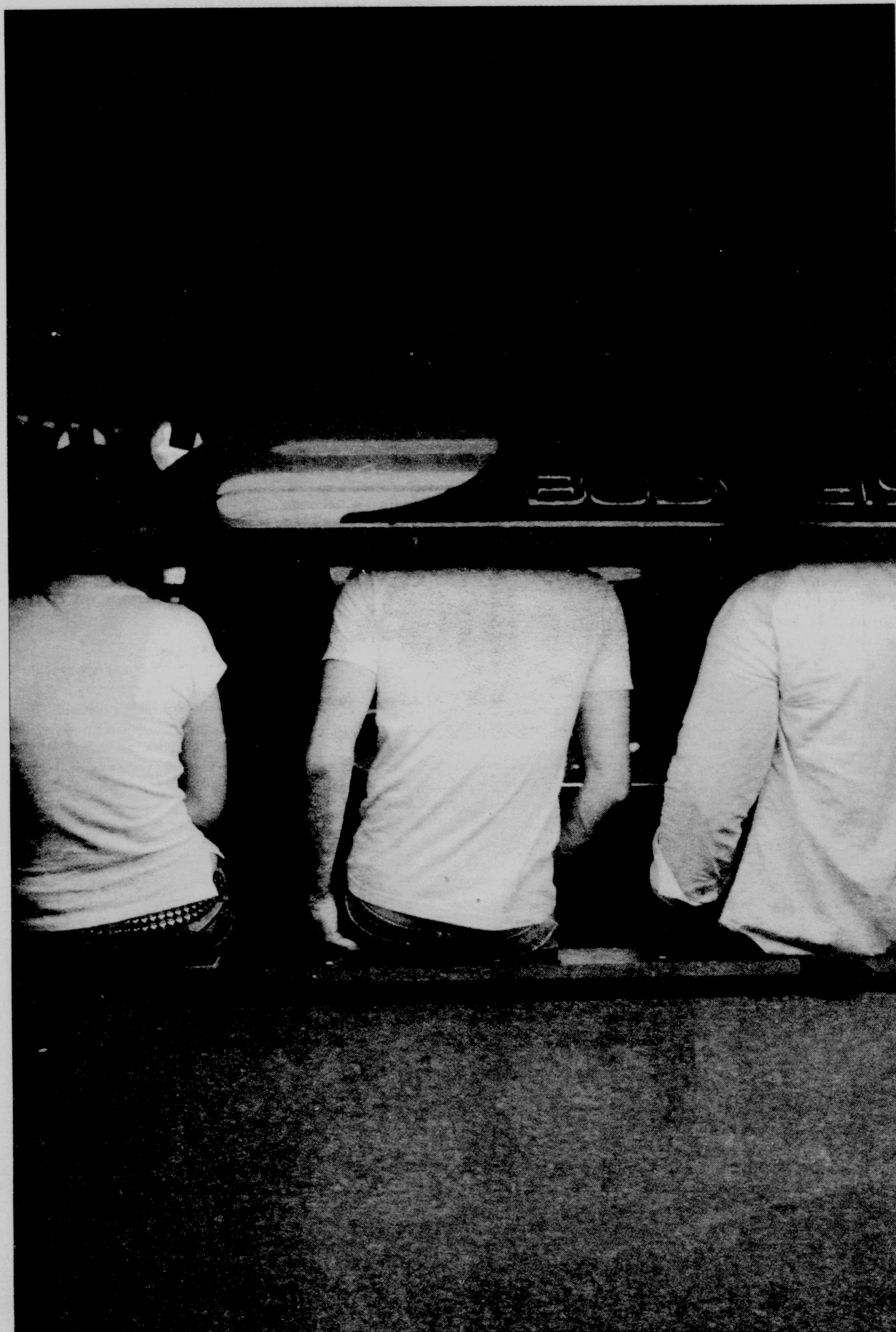
use the pole to strip all the time. It was really great. Guitarists would do the stupidest shit and hit their guitars on it all the time too," Navarette said.

Navarette also commented on the intensity of the shows, something his colleagues concurred with vehemently, saying, "Sometimes it would be so packed in there that it would be hard to breathe. We were basically all breathing each others' fumes. I had so little air that I would just hurl everywhere ... but never miss a beat."

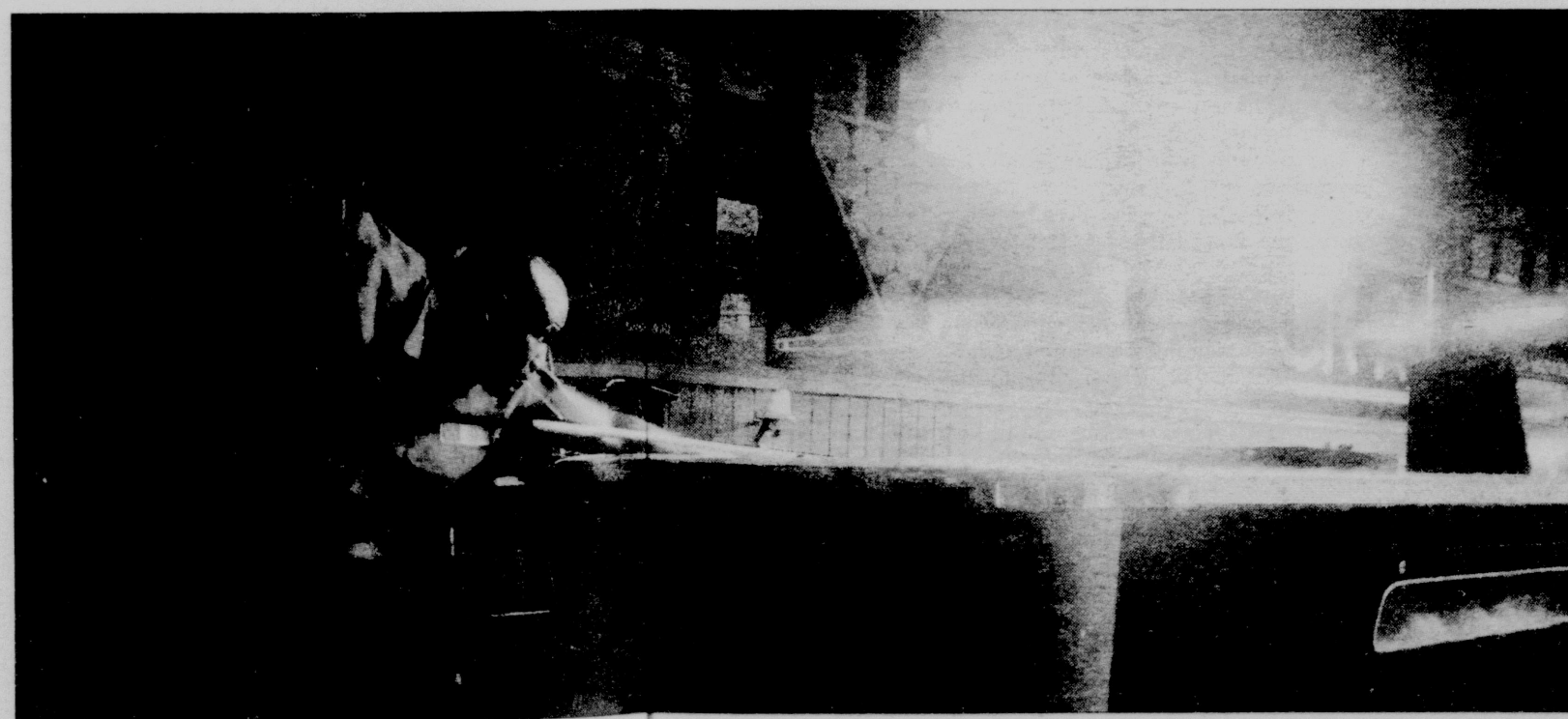
With the Back Room closing down, Nitch predicted a dark road for Austin's music scene, citing a lack of creativity among Austin's new musicians.

"We have more musicians than talent currently. It, to me, just seems like musicians don't care what happens. They don't promote, which is partially why the Back Room is closing. They have the most modern tools available and they just don't see their potential," Nitch said. ■

The Back Room will have its last show Saturday July 29th featuring a collection of bands who have played at the Back Room over the years known as The Back Room Allstars.



Photos by Jason Sweeten for the DT Weekend



Far left, a group of people wait for their turn in a game of billiards. Left, a man who wished to be identified as "KD," attempts to sink the eight-ball Tuesday night. Top right, Henry, a regular at the Back Room since 1996, waits at the bar on Monday night. Middle right, Garry Hannan prepares a drink Monday night. Bottom right, Amber Ehmann and Scott Hill embrace after a foosball victory Tuesday. Although the Back Room's music venue will close this weekend, the bar could remain open for as many as two years.

Literary Whores

Footnotes in the Life of William T. Vollmann

By Daniel Carter

A

long time ago — it was 1985 — in a San Francisco full of women who didn't want to have sex with him, good friends who loved him but didn't especially want to have sex with him, and prostitutes, William T. Vollmann put a gun against his temple and looked into a camera from beneath impossibly thick eyeglasses.

From that came "Thirteen Stories and Thirteen Epitaphs," a story about leaving a place behind and having your world fall apart around you, about trying to take a place with you and about how that can be hard baggage to carry.

"Wouldn't it be fine if endings could be abolished in favor of translations to elsewhere, if the story, the life, were an isometric exercise whose purpose was directed only toward the final glorious release?" Vollmann wrote in the author's note.

When he was younger, he kidnapped a child prostitute in Cambodia and enrolled her in boarding school. He wrote to the Saudi Embassy, volunteering to mine asteroids in space for them, and he went to Afghanistan in 1982, planning to join the Mujahadeen. Six weeks later he left the country having accomplished few of his idealistic goals and instead found dysentery.

Another time he sat on the bed of a hotel room, beers and wine coolers piled around him as bribes, and interviewed prostitutes that his friend Ken brought to him while someone hid in the closet and recorded their responses.

Vollmann asked them what they would do if they were the queen of the prostitutes.

"Oh, I'm the queen of the prostitutes 'cause I can suck a baseball bat through thirty feet of garden hose," one said, misunderstanding his question. A character in "The Royal Family" now has that line.

Vollmann has slept with prostitutes, he takes pictures of prostitutes — digging up old friends from dirty haunts once a year in a strange documentary project — and he writes about prostitutes. They creep into his novels regardless of whether they're expected, asking for a hit as often as not.

Such is the case in "You Bright and Risen Angels," Vollmann's first novel. Written while Vollmann dodged night cleaning crews at a computer programming job for which he was superbly unqualified, the novel is often compared to Thomas Pynchon's "V" — incidentally, Vollmann's version of a madcap sprawler is infinitely more readable. It sings with wild writing done right, but the most surprising part isn't the semen-spraying mantis

bartender or the fact that the narrator very well may be employed by electricity itself. The whole story, a sort of metaphorical history of the United States packaged as a war between insects and humans, comes to a halt at the end, a prostitute starts doing crack, and Vollmann jumps ship. It's as if he couldn't help himself.

And in "Rainbow Stories," a monstrous novel with as many skinheads roving its pages as there are prostitutes propping open its spine, it's not the painted women's presence but their disappearance — bizarrely replaced by a chapter devoted to his version of the biblical story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego — that is noteworthy.

It's almost too easy a question to ask whether Vollmann identifies with his prostitutes.

He smoked crack more than 100 times to write about that experience: "The best way to smoke crack is to suck it from the tube of broken glass as gently as you'd suck the crack-smoke breath from the lips of the prostitute who's kissing you," Vollmann wrote in "The Best Way to Smoke Crack." Prostitutes aren't just another subject in his writing; they're often the origin and the point to which everything returns.

His career too is wrapped around this idea of selling, of compromising. He's written for *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Spin*, and many others and has made it clear that his journalistic efforts are primarily monetary. The final product is something he has no control over and won't read: something butchered by editors.

"Rising Up and Rising Down" is a 3,000 page treatise on violence. It also exists in an abridged form to which

Vollmann gives one justification: "I did it for the money."

In the preface to that abridgement, Vollmann writes, "The long version of 'Rising Up and Rising Down' took me twenty-three years, counting editorial errands. The abridgement took me half an hour."

But in addition to his concessions to economic demands, he has produced behemoth-scale novels about Native Americas written in unreadable Elizabethan prose that he refuses, in elegant letters to his editors, to shorten so they will sell.

The proceeds from his novels are terribly small; he jumps from one publisher to the next not because one won't stick with him, but because they can't afford to absorb the financial losses. He gave back part of an advance to have a novel published in its complete form.

Vollmann's life and his novels are filled with moments of literary bravery and uncompromising devotion. He is never anything but truthful or anything short of courageous. He has been both critically fawned over and ignored.

Even when faced with his critics, Vollmann turns to prostitutes: "All I know is that what I get from being around these women who have helped me so much is something very pure and uncomplicated, something so good that I cannot be much hurt when someone says that I or the prostitutes are bad," he wrote in "Four Essays."

Vollmann's most recent book is "Uncentering the Earth: Copernicus and the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres." His previous effort, "Europe Central," won the National Book Award for fiction. ■

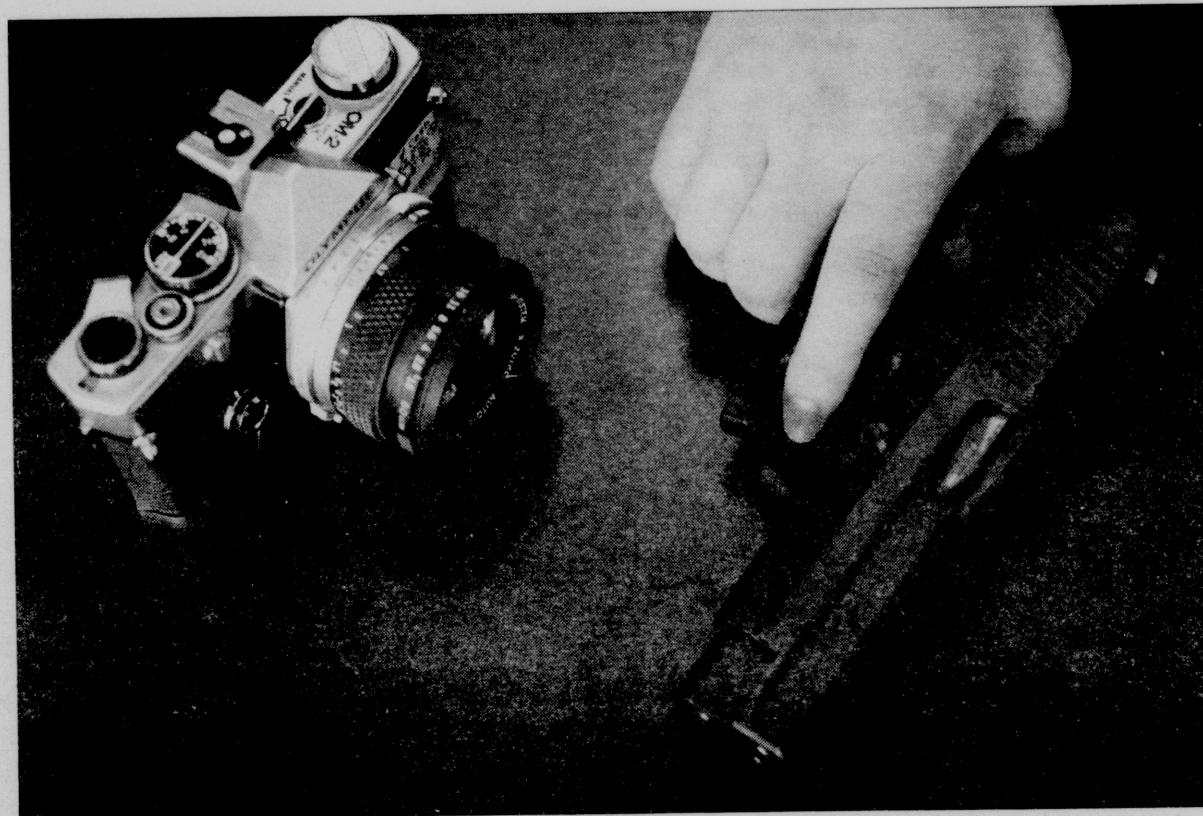
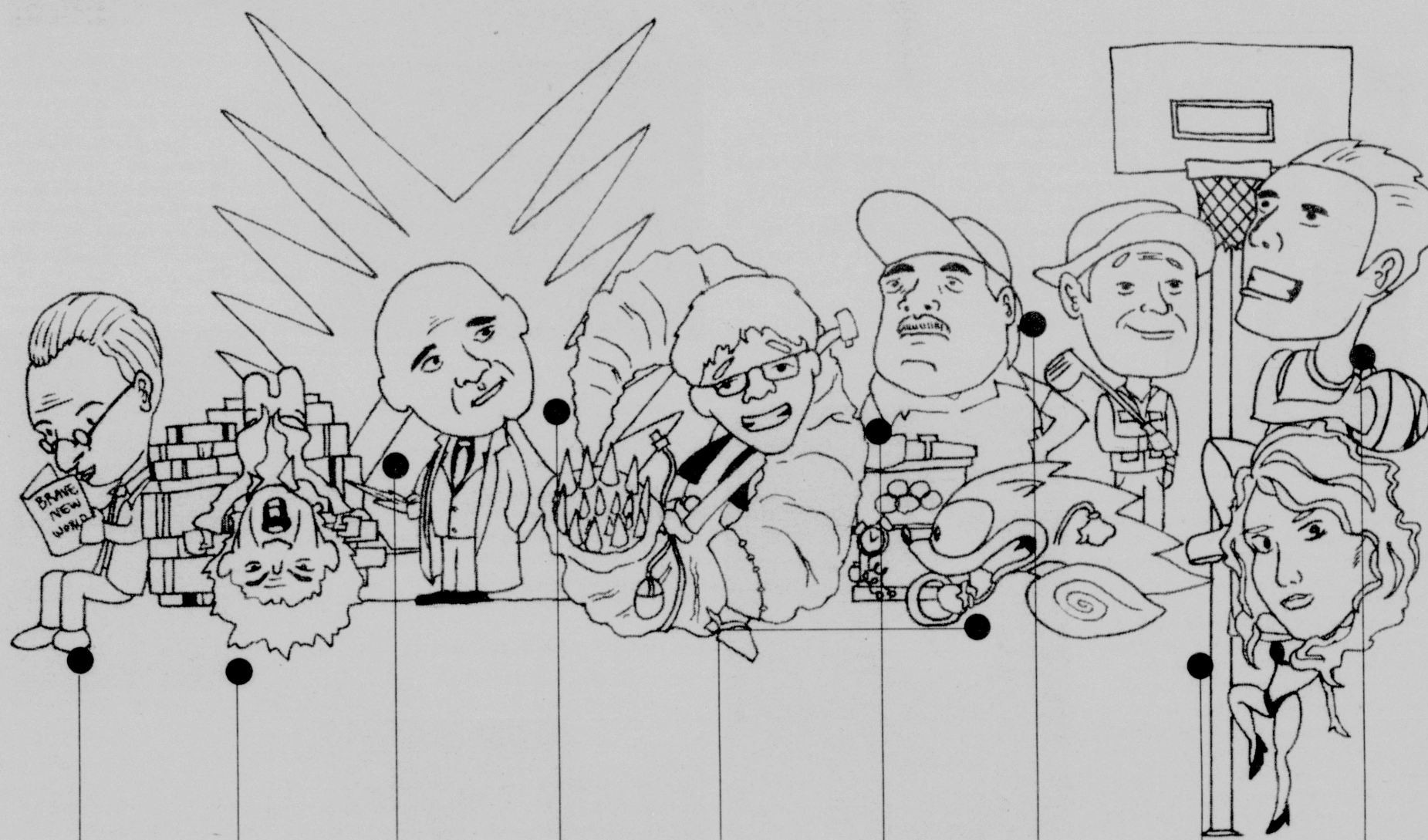


Illustration by Stephen Durda for the DT Weekend

This 'Tweekend in history

Illustrations by
Steven Marple



1894

Aldous Huxley, author of "Brave New World" and "The Doors of Perception," was born in Gadalming, England.

1943

Mick Jagger, lead singer of the Rolling Stones, was born in Dartford, England.

1959

Academy Award-Winning actor Kevin Spacey is born in South Orange, New Jersey.

1989

Robert Morris Jr. becomes the first person to be prosecuted under the 1986 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. A federal grand jury indicted him for releasing the Morris Worm.

1991

The first "Sonic the Hedgehog" game is released for the Sega Megadrive, Japan's version of the Genesis.

1996

During the Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, a pipe bomb explodes. Richard Jewell was the focus of an investigation, and thought to be responsible. He was later cleared.

2003

Legendary performer, Bob Hope, dies at the age of 100.

1972

Elizabeth Berkley, from "Saved By the Bell," "Showgirls" and various infomercials, was born.

1894

Emanuel "Manu" Ginobili, basketball player from Argentina, was born. He currently plays for the San Antonio Spurs.

July 26

July 27

July 28

Recs

Theater



Courtesy of Vortex Repertory Company

The Visit

Written by Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Directed by Le Easter

Summer Youth Theater presents this "tragi-comedy" in which a rich woman returns to her poor childhood home with a proposition: Kill her ex-lover for £1 billion.

Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. at The VORTEX, 2307 Manor Road (free parking). Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and students. For reservations, call 478-5282.

An Arabian Midsummer Night's Dream

Written by William Shakespeare

Directed by David Yeakle

In this inaugural performance for the new outdoor theater space at the Ararat restaurant, Tongue and Groove Theatre presents an hour-long, Middle-Eastern version of Shakespeare's fantasy with a plethora of dancers and actors. Friday through Sunday at 9 p.m., with a special pay-what-you-will performance Thursday, at the Ararat Restaurant, 111 E. North Loop. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students, seniors and children 12 and under, with a two-for-one discount if you eat dinner at the Ararat before or after the show (reservations required). For tickets call Austix, 474-TIXS; for dinner reservations, call Ararat, 419-1692.



Courtesy of Tongue and Groove Theatre

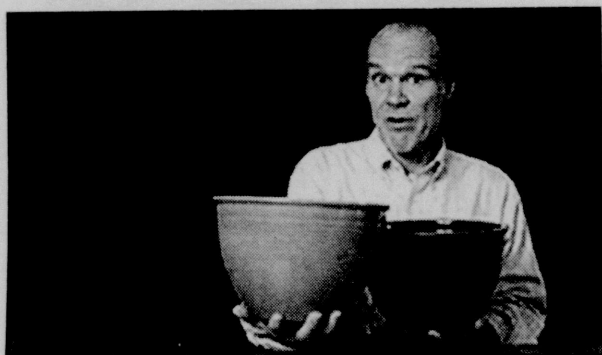
American Fiesta

Written by Steven Tomlinson

Directed by Christina J. Moore

American Fiesta, named top Theatrical Treasure & Pleasure of 2005 and the Best Play of 2005, explores family dynamics, contemporary politics, neurochemistry and the surprising world of vintage dishes.

Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at the University of Texas McCullough Theater. Tickets range from \$10-\$30. Call 866-4-GETTIX to purchase tickets.



Courtesy of Paramount and State Theaters

Music

Thursday

The Church

La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth St.

This Australian alternative band has found more fame in the states than at home. Chill out and listen to this 25-year-old Sydney band.

Doors open at 8 p.m. Show starts at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$23-\$26.



Courtesy of The Church

Friday

Vallejo

Antone's, 213 W. Fifth St.

You know this Austin-based rock band. The show is headed up by Soulhat, Plane of Existence and Tyron Vaughan.

Doors open at 8 p.m. Vaughan goes on stage at 8:30 p.m. Cover charge is \$10.



Courtesy of Vallejo

Saturday

Dremnt the End

Red Eyed Fly, 715 Red River St.

High-pitched, bouncy singing, but entirely worth sitting through. Go bounce around with this Austin-based, self-proclaimed rock/experimental group.

Driver F, Furthest From the Star and Eldridge will open up the show.

Doors open at 8 p.m. Eldridge goes on at 9 p.m. Cover is \$5-\$10.



Courtesy of Dremnt the End



Courtesy of Beggars Group, USA

Peaches

Emo's, 603 Red River St.

Vulgarity at its best. Peaches is on tour promoting her most recent album *Impeach My Bush*. Take a little bit of bass, a few electronic sounds, snazzy beats and mix them all together with the most offensive, yet clear, lyrics imaginable.

Deadboy and the Elephantmen and The Ugly Beats start the show.

Doors open at 8 p.m. The Ugly Beats go on at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$18.

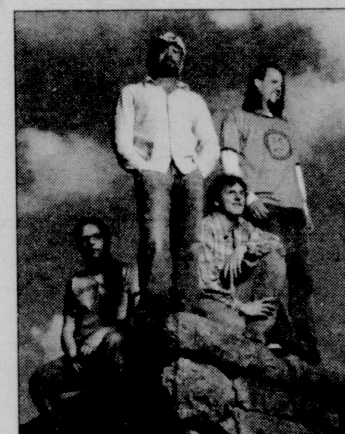
Sunday

Hootie & the Blowfish

The Backyard, 13101 Hwy. 71 W.

This Sunday, there's nothing Hootie can do. They only wanna be with you. This nearly 15-year-old band will be kickin' it old school at The Backyard. The tour promotes their upcoming album *Looking for Lucky*.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30.



Courtesy of Vanguard Records

SOUNDBITES

Towers of London *Blood, Sweat & Towers* TVT Records

Britain's pissing people off. The Darkness was cool, despite the annoyance, because the only catchy "I Believe in a Thing Called Love," was irrepressibly fun, but this new import is simply bollocks.

The Towers of London is a British, big-hair, leather-clad, beer-fueled, head-banging outfit that is somehow famous in England for cursing a lot and breaking stuff.

Don't be fooled by the Andrew W.K.-ness of this band, because Andrew W.K. never had to put on costumes. Or at the very least, he never had to put this much effort into his costumes. The Darkness' kitsch is obvious and meant to be superficial and over-the-top. But the Towers try to sell itself as the real deal. The band's production is too clean, its cursing too manufactured, and its self-referential music too formulaic for it to ever hope to be The Ramones or AC/DC or any other punk or rock band they attempt to emulate.

On first listen, some of the songs such as "Air Guitar" and "Fuck it Up," which debuted relatively high on British charts, are catchy enough and fast enough to enjoy. (And live, it might be fun.) But on this album, after subsequent listens it just become cumbersome and irritating.

Take off the beer goggles, don't let the accents fool you. See this band for what it is: a bunch of grotty plonkers and wankers too preoccupied with their own goolies to shut their gob.

—Ricardo Lozano



The Bronx *The Bronx* Island Def Jam Music Group

The opening track, "Senor Hombre de Tamale," is a slow hum set to the muffled reading of a Mexican restaurant's menu.

Aside from having the worst opening track ever, and aside from the confusion of having two self-titled albums (the first was released in 2003) The Bronx has a very familiar and comfortable sound, which might be contrary to the point.

The group has a classic mid-90s skate-rock sound, like Pennywise or early Offspring, but it tries hard to be the early-80s hardcore punks like Black Flag or The Circle Jerks.

And The Bronx could have had that. Its debut album in 2003 had much closer ties to that era with songs like "Heart Attack American" and "Kill My Friends."

But The Bronx succumb to the usual evolution of any band that gains a little popularity and decides to shoot for success: the band dumbs themselves down.

The titles might still retain the same feel, with names like "Rape Zombie" and "Transsexual Blackout," but the sound has changed. The introduction of a slow, pensive ballad may indicate the maturity of a band, but in the case of The Bronx's "Dirty Leaves," it simply shows a departure from the gritty scene they emulated.

—RL

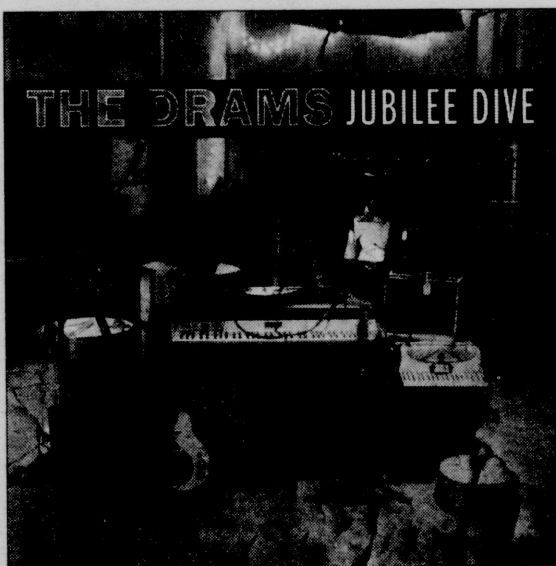


The Legendary Pink Dots *Your Children Placate You From Premature Graves* ROIR Records

Feeling lost? Is the world a cold, unforgiving place? Seriously though, life sucks. Jesus hates you. Your dog is dead. You won't find a job after graduation. There, now you're in the right state of mind to enjoy the Legendary Pink Dots.

The Legendary Pink Dots, akin to Pink Floyd, celebrate 25 years of making eerie, psychedelic rock with one of the most finely titled albums of all time. The industrial synth-sounds all contribute to an album of beautiful gloom. The esoteric lyrics, sung like a ghost story, threaten the listener with a series of metaphorical descriptions and commands describing the futility of existence. "Please Don't Get Me Wrong" ends with the phrase "You have no choice" repeated several times as a sobbing, choking voice mumbles "I can't do it." Amazing that LPD's Edward Ka-Spel has been able to produce so many emotionally heavy compositions, seemingly happy to remain on the outskirts of mainstream for so many years. Maybe it's living on the edge of fame that has kept him breathing and creating for this long. How many other sulky, drug-trip describing musicians have that kind of longevity?

—RL



The Drams *Jubilee Dive* New West Records

After disbanding Slobberbone, Brent Best took most of his former band mates and a few from former Budapest One and put together The Drams.

Slobberbone was a great band. The band felt unpolished, and it cradled the fine combination of country crooners tackling rock 'n' roll, but The Drams move away from that old sound.

This new combination attempts to attach themselves to country-folk Wilco popularity and only adds the occasional guitar rip to retain its rock label.

And the emotional and lyrically heavy songs drag on like a long-winded story from an old man. The Drams beat us to the joke by lambasting themselves in "Shortsighted" with the line, "Let's just make up the songs as we go along." It felt like that was the case at some times. And like an old man, you often get similar near-incoherence when the rambling nature of the songs go into metaphor like in "Fireflies" with, "Your gift is a sweetness wrapped in tin foil and typhoons," or "Des Moines" with the phrase "communicative theft."

This album was an hour and seven minutes long, but it felt so much longer. Which is a shame because a few songs like the seven-minute-long album finale, "Wonderous Life," sounded great and genuinely heartfelt, but got so tired amidst the uninspiring lyrics and monotony of Best's voice.

—RL

Geri Allen *Timeless Portraits and Dreams* Telarc International

Geri Allen's smooth and complex jazz piano pieces are some of the best sounds I've heard in a gig that keeps me mostly up-to-date on the alt-rockers and rising emcees.

While soft jazz may feel like a genre best left to the confines of your grandparents' retirement home, one listen to Allen's 14-track production and you'll feel the novelty in the genre that is every bit as applicable today as it was in the 1950s.

The album is lively and alternates between piano solos and vocally-accompanied tracks. Allen's solo piano pieces are some of the most intricate arrangements to come off the ivories, and the decades she has in the field are truly noticeable.

Those who already have an appreciation for jazz will also enjoy the innovative renditions Allen performs of classics such as George Gershwin's "Embraceable You" and Charlie Parker's "Ah-Leu-Cha."


—RL



DT WEEKEND TOP FIVES

Box office

National ranking as of 07/25

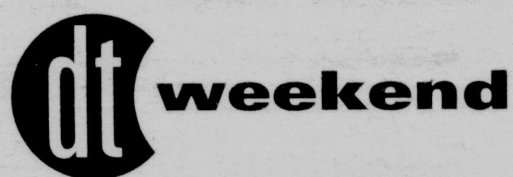
		Sales in millions	This week	Last week
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest		\$35.2	1	1
Monster House		22.2	2	*
Lady in the Water		18.0	3	*
You, Me and Dupree		12.7	4	3
Little Man		11.0	5	*

Record sales

National ranking as of 07/25

Various Artists Now 22			1	*
Thom Yorke The Eraser			2	*
Pimp C Pimpalation			3	*
Nelly Furtado Loose			4	2
Gnarls Barkley St. Elsewhere			5	5

Source: The Associated Press



Pretend like we're hitting on you.


So, what's your top five? Seriously, the 'Tweekend home office is gearing up for our Best of the Summer issue on Aug. 10. Send in your top five summer movies and albums and we just might post them on the Web, or something.

Send in your gossip

dtweekend@dailytexanonline.com


LOCAL TOP 10

Waterloo Records and Video Sales as of 07/18

	This week	Last week	Units since last
Los Lonely Boys <i>Sacred</i>	1	*	504
			
Los Lonely Boys <i>Los Lonely Boys</i>	2	6	129
Thom Yorke <i>The Eraser</i>	3	1	109
Gnarls Barkley <i>St. Elsewhere</i>	4	3	65
Dixie Chicks <i>Taking the Long Way</i>	5	5	54
Ray Wylie Hubbard <i>Snake Farm</i>	6	7	46
Johnny Cash <i>American V</i>	7	10	42
Slaid Cleaves <i>Unsung</i>	8	8	39
Golden Smog <i>Another Fine Day</i>	9	*	39
Muse <i>Black Holes and Revelations</i>	10	4	37

End of an Ear

Sales as of 07/18

Thom Yorke <i>The Eraser</i>	1	1	7
			
Tacks, the Boy Disaster <i>Oh Beatrice</i>	2	3	5
Sufjan Stevens <i>The Avalanche</i>	3	2	4
Isan <i>Plans Drawn in Pencil</i>	4	*	3
James Figurine <i>Mistake Mistake Mistake Mistake</i>	5	*	2
Peaches <i>Impeach My Bush</i>	6	10	2
Burial <i>Burial</i>	7	*	2
Black Angels <i>Passover</i>	8	*	2
Milton Nascimento <i>Milagre Dos Peixes</i>	9	*	2
Various Artists <i>Touch 25</i>	10	*	2