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TUESDAY, SEPT. 26, 2006
VOLUME 81 ■ ISSUE 21

(INSIDE)



TEXAS TECH POLICE BLOTTER
SEE PAGE 2

(INBRIEF)

STATE

Judge says testimony of wreck is out in trial

McALLEN (AP) — The trial stemming from the fiery bus accident that killed 23 nursing home residents as they fled Hurricane Rita will not include testimony about the wreck, a judge ruled Monday.

A lawyer for James H. Maples, president and director of Global Limo Inc., filed a motion asking that the trial be limited to allegations of mismanagement during the four months before the September 2005 accident.

U.S. District Judge Ricardo Hinojosa granted the motion and told defense attorney Charles Banker that he had no plans to mention the wreck.

NATION

Lone survivor of Kentucky crash has leg amputated

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Doctors have amputated the left leg of a co-pilot whose plane crashed on takeoff after it turned onto the wrong runway, and he does not remember the accident that killed 49 people, his family said Monday.

James Polehinke, the lone survivor of the Aug. 27 crash at the Blue Grass Airport, faces several additional surgeries to repair fractures, one involving his spinal cord, the family said.

WORLD

Mottaki: Talks are "on track"

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iran's foreign minister said Monday that talks between top Iranian and European negotiators on his country's disputed nuclear program are "on track" and he believes a negotiated solution to the standoff is possible.

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told The Associated Press that he expects European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana and Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani to hold their third meeting "very soon," probably in Europe, though he didn't have an exact date or location.

DEATH TOLL

2703

U.S. Military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

WEATHER

Today



SUNNY
HIGH 85/
LOW 55

Wednesday



SUNNY
HIGH 87/
LOW 53

INSIDE

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Stabbing suspect arrested in Chicago

By PAUL ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

A man accused of fatally stabbing a Lubbock resident was arrested Thursday in Chicago, three days after the victim's body was found by police.

The victim, 46-year-old Ozell Craft, was found dead on the floor of his home at 1915 42nd St. on Sept. 18 with multiple stab wounds

in his back, police said.

Craft's white Chevrolet Suburban was found on fire in an alley near his residence at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 18.

The Lubbock fire department determined the fire to be caused by arson and informed Lubbock police.

Police officers discovered the vehicle and identified it as Craft's, leading the officers to his home where they found Craft's body.

Lubbock police Sgt. John Gomez

said the discovery of the burning vehicle was the beginning of an intense murder investigation.

Gomez said Craft's front door was open when officers found the body.

After several crime-line tips, police were able to gain enough probable cause to name Saul Mendez, 28, as a suspect in the case.

"Many evidence is still being analyzed, so we can't get into the specifics of the investigation, but probable

cause was established to name Mendez as a suspect," Gomez said.

Once Mendez was labeled as a suspect, police tracked his location and found him in Chicago.

"We received information that his mother lived in Chicago, along with other relatives," he said. "Mendez recently moved to Lubbock from Chicago to work with some of his uncles here in Lubbock."

Gomez said U.S. Marshals found

28-year-old Mendez in Chicago and took him into custody Thursday evening.

"As investigators, it is very important to get evidence as quickly as possible to get the criminal off the streets," he said.

Gomez said it was obvious to investigators the white Suburban was a case of arson and not a natural fire.

ARRESTED continued on Page 2

Part Two — Diversity at Texas Tech



COURTESY PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

PARTICIPANTS PLAY DRUM circles Saturday in Clapp Park, part of the festivities for Lubbock's Inaugural Pagan Pride Day.

PATRONS PARTAKE IN PAGAN PRIDE DAY

By ANNA SCHUMANN
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech students, families, young children and pets gathered Saturday in Clapp Park to celebrate Lubbock's first Pagan Pride Day.

According to the Pagan Pride Project Web site, Pagan Pride Day is celebrated in countries throughout the world, including Australia, Brazil and Italy, as well as in 42 states and five Texas cities.

Denise Guinn, who goes by her Wiccan name, Kiandra, coordinated the event for Lubbock.

Guinn said she had wanted to plan a pride day in Lubbock for a few years but first had to register with the national organization based in Indiana. She said it is required by the national office that each pride day fall around the autumnal equinox, which was Saturday, serve a networking purpose, have an open ritual and have a charity drive.

Lubbock's pride day had a coin jar and food bin for donations to Lubbock's South Plains Food Bank.

The day's festivities included face-painting, a labyrinth for walking, a drum circle, story circle, an open Pagan religious ceremony and discussions on how to raise children as Pagans and how to talk about being Pagan in the modern world.

Guinn said she converted to Wicca four years ago from being a devout Christian. Her mother is an ordained protestant minister. Guinn said as a child, her mother talked about other religions and wanted her children to know what each believed.

In turn, Guinn said she strives to teach others about Paganism.

"I'm very big about educating," she said. "I'm very open about talking about it at work and wherever."

She said she believes there are many common misconceptions about Paganism.

"After I explain what it is, people still don't think of it as a religion," she said.

Guinn explained Paganism is a general term for many different religions. She said it is a blanket term for religions that are nature-based and sometimes polytheistic.

She said types of Pagans include witches, those who practice Wicca, Druids, practitioners of most African religions and those who practice Native American religions such as Shamanism.

Guinn said she had a two-part goal when establishing Pagan Pride Day in Lubbock: she wanted to get Pagan people together in the community and

PAGAN continued on Page 5

Tech researcher identifies new species of daddy longlegs

By NAOMI KASKELA
STAFF WRITER

When Matthew Bowser, a biology graduate student from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, discovered a daddy longlegs which appeared unusual last year, he said he knew James Cokendolpher, a research associate at the Texas Tech Natural Science Research Laboratory, was the person to contact.

"He was obviously the guy to identify them," Bowser said.

Bowser learned from Cokendolpher that he had discovered a new species of daddy longlegs.

He said he came across the daddy longlegs while investigating bristle tails, a type of small wingless insects, which a colleague had found. The discovery was made in the Mystery Hills section of the Kenai Mountains on the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska.

Bowser collected the daddy longlegs inci-

dentally while capturing other organisms living with bristle tails.

At first the discovery did not seem unusual, but after studying the daddy longlegs, he said he knew it looked like something different.

Soon after contacting Cokendolpher about a year ago, Bowser received news that the species was new.

"Of course I was excited," he said. "It's just a neat thing to be able to do but not that unusual. There are a lot of things still out there to be found."

Cokendolpher has been studying arthropods and harvestmen, another name for daddy longlegs, since 1970. However, his interest in the field of entymology started much earlier.

"It started at age 4," he said, "I've been collecting arthropods my whole life."

A discovery of a new species of daddy longlegs in Alaska is somewhat unusual, but not unheard of, he said.

In the world there are around 7,000 species of daddy longlegs. Most of them are found in the tropics and other warmer regions.

"It'll be very useful in knowing what these animals do out on the snow and the ice," Cokendolpher said.

So far, Bowser said he has not found out as much about the new species as he would like.

He said he will need to take several steps to learn about the species, including making more visits to the remote region where the discovery was made.

Bowser and Cokendolpher are currently working on a collaborative article on the daddy longlegs to be published this winter.

He said he plans on making a couple of trips during the fall to continue the research. After those, however, his focus will turn to other research projects.

LONGLEGS continued on Page 5

Intelligence director denies claims of a greater risk

WASHINGTON (AP) — National Intelligence Director John Negroponte acknowledged Monday that the jihad in Iraq is shaping a new generation of terrorist operatives, but rejected characterizations stemming from a leaked intelligence estimate that the United States is at a greater risk of attack than it was in September 2001.

Rather, he said, the high-level assessment from the nation's top analysts doesn't "really talk about" an increased threat inside the U.S. border.

"We are certainly more vigilant. We are better prepared," said Negroponte. "We are safer. The threat to the homeland itself has — if anything — been reduced since 9/11."

Negroponte's words came at a dinner at Washington's Woodrow Wilson Center after the disclosure of a National Intelligence Estimate this weekend, which gave new fervor to an election-year debate about how the Iraq war has affected national security threats.

The report, Negroponte said, broadly addressed the global terrorist threat, not just the impact of Iraq. Yet Negroponte acknowledged that U.S. analysts believe "the Iraq jihad is shaping a new generation of terrorist leaders and operatives."

The report distills the thinking of senior U.S. intelligence analysts working throughout the nation's 16 spy agencies. Its conclusions are considered to be the voice of the U.S. intelligence community.

The *New York Times* first reported Saturday that the highly classified assessment finds that the U.S. invasion of Iraq has helped fuel a new generation of extremists and that the overall terror threat has grown since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 — a conclusion at odds with President Bush's assertions that the nation is safer.

But Bush administration officials, including Negroponte, are contesting the media accounts, saying they describe only a portion of the conclusions and therefore distort the analysts' findings on trends in global terrorism.

The top Republican and Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee urged the Bush administration Monday to declassify the intelligence assessment.

Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., said the American people should be able to see a public version of the report and draw their own conclusions about its contents. So far, he said, the public discussion has given the "false impression" that the National Intelligence Estimate focuses exclusively on Iraq and terrorism.

INTELLIGENCE continued on Page 2

Texas Tech police blotter

By NAOMI KASKELA
STAFF WRITER

Sept. 21

A student suffered from a seizure in the Agricultural Communications building, but refused treatment by Emergency Medical Services. A Texas Tech police officer responded to the 911 medical emergency. A Texas Department of Public Safety Driver Improvement Bureau Examination/Request form was completed.

Two students were detained by a Tech officer for possession of marijuana and released pending the filing of charges with the Lubbock County district attorney's office. The incident occurred in a residence hall room on campus.

An oboe and an English horn were taken from an unsecured vehicle off campus. Two Tech officers documented information concerning the theft of the Texas Tech property.

The passenger-side mirror of a vehicle in the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center A2 parking lot was damaged. Two Tech officers documented information concerning the damage to the vehicle.

A student was arrested by a Tech officer for driving while intoxicated. The arrest was made following a traffic violation at Drive of Champions and Brownfield Highway and a subsequent traffic stop in the 2900 block of Brownfield Highway. The student was transported to the Lubbock County Jail and the vehicle was towed.

A student was arrested by a Tech officer for public intoxication. The arrest was made in the lobby of a residence hall on campus. The student was transported to the University Medical Center emergency room for treatment prior to admittance into the Lubbock County Jail because of the high level of intoxication. The

student was detained and released pending the filing of charges with the Lubbock County district attorney's office for criminal mischief concerning a window and towel dispenser that were damaged.

Sept. 20

A counterfeit \$100 bill was used to make a purchase at Union Plaza in the Student Union Building. A Tech officer investigated the forgery.

A Tech officer investigated a possible harassment after a student received a threatening e-mail on a computer. The incident occurred in a residence hall on campus.

A cell phone left unattended at the recreation field was stolen. A Tech officer investigated the theft.

A student was detained by a Tech officer for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana. The student was issued a Lubbock County citation for the possession of drug paraphernalia and was released pending the filing of charges with the Lubbock district attorney's office for possession of marijuana.

A Tech officer confiscated drug paraphernalia located by the housing staff in a room of a residence hall on campus by the housing staff.

Two traffic accidents occurred resulting in no injuries. Both were investigated by Tech officers. One accident occurred in the 600 block of Indiana Avenue, and the other occurred in the 1800 block of Flint Avenue.

A front license plate was taken from a student's parked vehicle in the Z1-B parking lot. A Tech officer investigated the theft.

Another traffic accident occurred, resulting in no injuries. The accident occurred in the R7 reserved parking lot. A Tech officer investigated the incident.

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Intelligence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"That is not true," Roberts said, noting that the committee has had the report since April. "This NIE examines global terrorism in its totality."

In a letter to Negroponte, West Virginia Sen. Jay Rockefeller, the committee's top Democrat, said declassifying the report's conclusions would provide a complete picture of the report and "contribute greatly to the public debate" on counterterrorism policies.

Negroponte said he would consider the proposal in the next several days, given the serious interest in the

document.

Generally characterizing U.S. intelligence assessments, Negroponte said counterterrorism efforts have seriously damaged the leadership of al-Qaida, but the group continues to pose the most significant threat to U.S. interests.

He said analysts believe the global jihadist movement is adapting to U.S. counterterrorism efforts and is spreading. The fuel, he said, includes:

- Entrenched grievances such as corruption and fear of Western domination.
- The jihad in Iraq.
- The slow pace of sustained economic, social and political reforms in many Muslim nations.
- Pervasive anti-U.S. sentiment among most Muslims.

Negroponte, the former U.S. ambassador to Iraq, was asked Monday whether he was surprised by the level of violence between Iraq's Sunni and Shiite populations. He said he didn't expect the sectarian violence to reach the levels it did, particularly with the intensity that came after the February bombing of a revered shrine in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad.

He said the establishment of the military and police forces is "one of the great challenges that one confronts in these kinds of conflicted situations."

"How do you help build up local capacity, whether it's military or police?" Negroponte asked. "Perhaps we didn't start soon enough with that endeavor, but we are certainly totally committed to it now."

Arrested

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said police used clues from the scene of the burning vehicle, which helped the eventual arrest of Mendez.

"It was evident early on in the investigation that the vehicle had been set on fire by a suspect," he said.

Since the vehicle was still on fire during the morning hours of Sept. 18, police established that the suspect was nearby and fled the scene earlier that day.

Gomez said Mendez will return to Lubbock following an extradition hearing in Chicago. If Mendez fights the extradition hearing, it will take him longer to return to Lubbock, police said.

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Border bills come up short when it's time to pay for them

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans have whipped through a series of bills to crack down on illegal immigration with hopes they might provide an election boost in November.

But there's wide disagreement on what they would cost and little inclination among lawmakers to come up with the money in any case.

The House has passed and the Senate is debating legislation to build 700 miles of fence on the U.S.-Mexico border with no certain idea of how much it would cost.

Estimates range from \$2 billion, cited by Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., chairman of the appropriations subcommittee for homeland security, to \$7 billion, the figure used by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said Monday the fence issue needed to be finished this week, the final one before Congress breaks for the Nov. 7 elections. But Pennsylvania Republican Sen. Arlen Specter, who is on the Senate Appropriations Committee, resisted.

"I'm for that fence. But I'm not for the fence piecemeal," Specter said in a speech at the

National Press Club on Monday.

Homeland Security officials told congressional aides it would cost about \$5 billion. The department would not confirm that figure nor address the cost of the 107 miles of fencing already up along the nearly 2,000-mile border. The cost can vary depending on whether the government or a private contractor builds the fence.

"We're trying to figure out how much it will be, but we have been funding it," House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said last week.

In a vivid demonstration of how hard it is to come up with the money, Hastert played to the cameras at a news conference by slapping red check marks on a placard to show border security accomplishments by House Republicans.

He left two items unchecked: funding for Border Patrol agents and for a Homeland Security contract for a high-tech border fence called the Secure Border Initiative.

The Senate put \$1.8 billion in a Pentagon bill for 370 miles of fence plus another 500 miles of vehicle barriers. But they shifted the amount to a homeland security bill, where some of the money will pay for additional Border Patrol agents and jail space for immigrants awaiting deportation.

"We need to make sure we don't have a shell game," said Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., who is sponsoring the money for the fencing.

Frist, R-Tenn., said that because a 700-mile fence can't be built in a year Congress can provide just some money for it next year and the rest in the future.

Lawmakers, however, repeatedly have passed legislation ordering increases in border security without the money to pay for them.

The 2004 intelligence bill Congress passed called for doubling the number of Border Patrol agents by hiring 2,000 new ones each year for the next five years. It also authorized building or expanding detention centers for illegal immigrants by 8,000 beds a year during the period.

So far, however, Congress has put up enough money to pay for only 2,500 of the agents that were supposed to have been hired by next September, and only half of the 16,000 new detention center beds called for by then.

Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and John Kyl, R-Ariz., tried to get \$3.9 billion to pay for authorized projects or those sought by President Bush, but got nowhere. Left unfunded were new Coast Guard vessels and aircraft and a program

for employers to verify that new hires are legally in the U.S.

A recent national survey found it will cost states \$11 billion to implement a new federal law tightening rules on driver's licenses to prevent illegal immigrants from getting them. Congress is supposed to pay for some of it, but so far has come up with only \$6 million for pilot programs.

"It's clearly a case of overpromising," Cornyn said. "There's two steps. One is the authorization and the other is the appropriation and if appropriations don't follow, then it doesn't get done and that's been our track record."

Democrats say Republicans have rejected their seven attempts to increase border security funding since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. They contend there would now be 6,600 more Border Patrol agents, 14,000 more detention beds and 2,700 more immigration and customs agents if they had succeeded.

Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Texas, charged that when the House passed three more immigration bills last week, Republicans were just "blowing more hot air at voters who are angry that we say we're doing things to improve our border security."

"We never pay for them," said Ortiz, whose district includes the southernmost border with Mexico. "On the border, our not funding our promises brings local law enforcement a very large bill — yet another unfunded mandate."

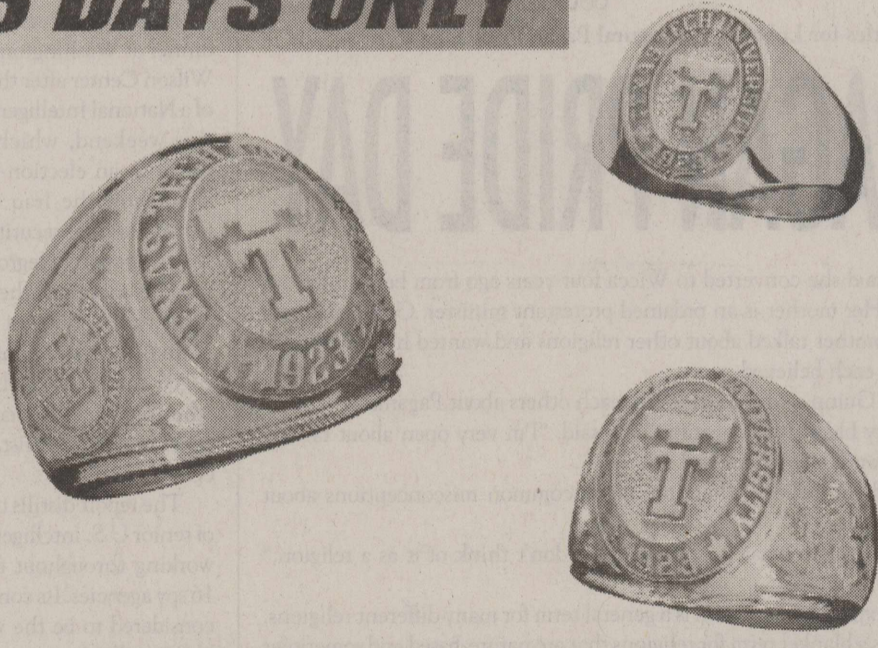
The House and Senate are trying this week to send Bush a homeland security bill with more border protection money, including for agents, detention beds and security projects.

Neither of the measures meets the targets of some already enacted laws. For example, the House would pay for 1,200 new Border Patrol agents, the Senate 1,000. Both are short of the 1,500 that would have to be hired to comply with the promise two years ago of 4,000 new agents by next September.

"We've done a lot, but we haven't done all we need to do," Cornyn said. "We need to quit taking small baby steps."

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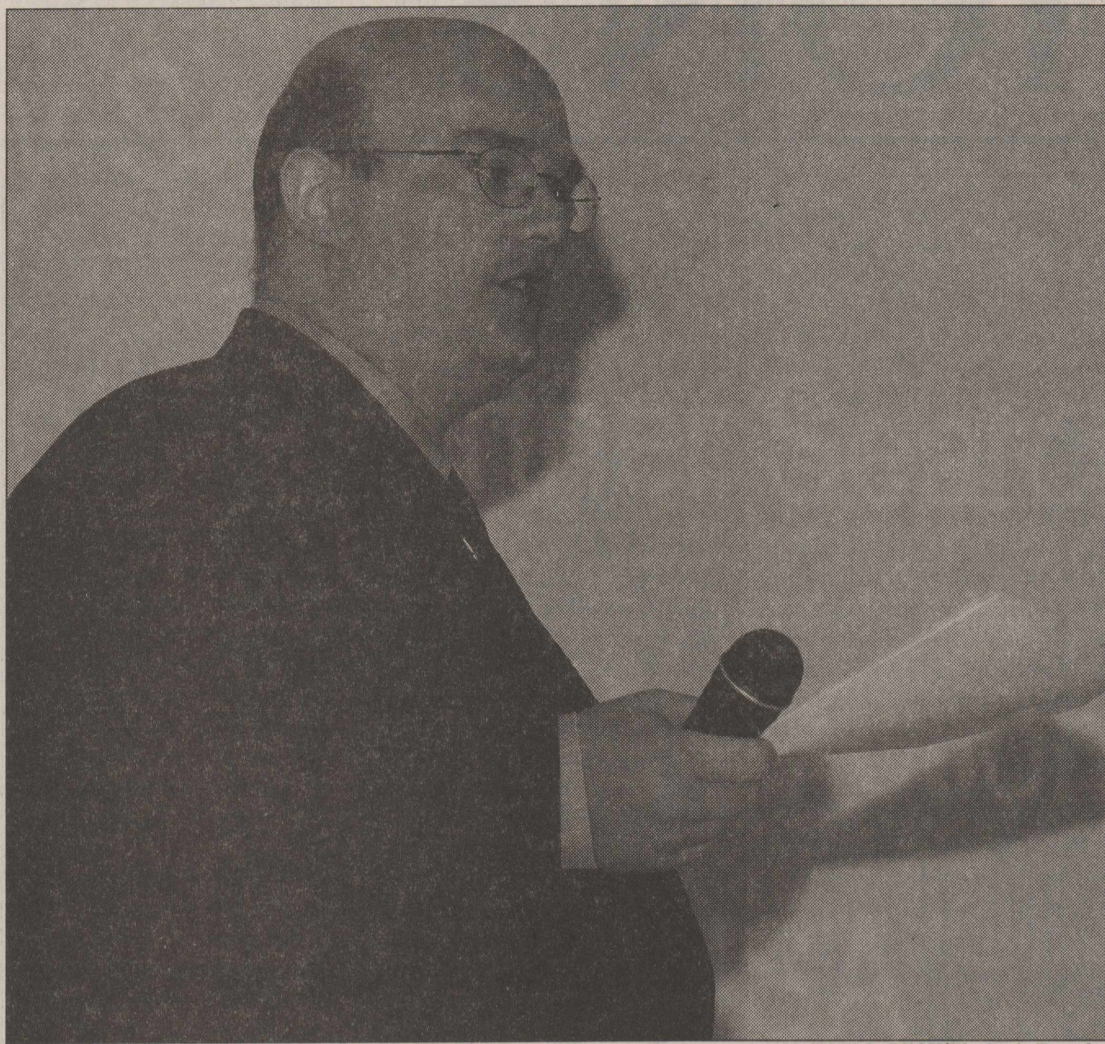
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BRILLIANT BUSINESS



KAT HILSABECK/The Daily Treador

RAY LAURENT, SENIOR Business Counselor of the Small Business Development Center, speaks on financial solutions for exporters and lenders Monday morning at the Science Spectrum.

Airports loosen strict bans

TSA decides to lift restrictions on liquid substances

By ANDREW GLOVER STAFF WRITER

According to The Associated Press, the U.S. government is loosening airline security rules on liquids.

Liquids were banned on flights after a plot was uncovered to bomb jets flying into the U.S.

Andrea McCauley, a spokesperson for the Transportation Security Administration, said lifting the ban will give passengers more flexibility in packing.

"Essentially it will allow passengers to bring a limited amount of liquids into the airport," McCauley said.

Products like lip gloss and lotion will be allowed, McCauley said, but they will have to be put in a 3-ounce bottle inside a 1-quart bag.

"It limits the liquids people can take through," McCauley said. "If the passengers put them in bags, they can screen the bag and have everything in one bag."

Callie Price, a junior studying accounting from Roscoe, said when she packs she just throws every-

thing in and doesn't pay attention. "I think when you have to measure stuff it's a hassle," Price said. "I think it is OK if it is at the bottom of your bag."

Jay Wofford, a sophomore majoring in biology from Lubbock, said the previous ban on liquids really was not a problem.

"They served drinks on the plane, so it wasn't a big deal," Wofford said. "I knew about it, so I didn't take any."

Todd Buckingham, a sophomore studying civil engineering from San Antonio, said he thinks the U.S. is compromising security by lifting the ban.

"It depends how hard they investigate each bottle," Buckingham said. "They (terrorists) could fit a harmful substance in a bottle they bring on."

McCauley said passengers can buy

liquids after they go through security at airport stores and take those liquids on the plane.

"All of the items in the stores are screened, and the people who bring them in are screened with back-ground checks," McCauley said. "Those items are managed."

McCauley said the liquid ban being lifted should make it easier for passengers to fly.

"People going on vacation or short business trips don't have to check their baggage," McCauley said. "It will allow them flexibility but at the same time maintain security."

McCauley said if people want to know more about airline bans they can visit the Transportation Security Administration Web site at <http://www.tsa.gov>.

andrew.glover@ttu.edu

Essentially it will allow passengers to bring a limited amount of liquids into the airport.

— ANDREA MCCAULEY Spokesperson for Transportation Security Administration

Pope says Christians, Muslims must reject violence, overcome historic enmities

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AP) — Seeking to end anger in the Islamic world over his remarks on holy war, Pope Benedict XVI told Muslim envoys Monday their two faiths must overcome historic enmities and together reject violence, saying the future of humanity is at stake.

The pope also urged "reciprocity" in religious freedom, calling for preserving the rights of Christians throughout the Islamic world.

"The circumstances which have given rise to our gathering are well known," Benedict said, referring to his remarks on Islam in a Sept. 12 speech at Regensburg University in Germany, which set off protests around the Muslim world. He did not dwell on the contested remarks, in which he quoted a 14th-century Byzantine emperor as saying: "Show me just what Muhammad brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached."

Benedict has already expressed regret for offending Muslims and said his remarks did not reflect his personal views, but he has not offered a complete apology as some have sought.

Still, his five-minute address Monday at a meeting with 22 foreign diplomats and representatives of Italian Muslim organizations — whom the pope greeted one-by-one, clasping their hands warmly — seemed to be well received by his guests at

his vacation palace in the Alban Hills south of Rome.

"The Holy Father stated his profound respect for Islam. This is what we were expecting," Iraqi envoy Albert Edward Ismail Yelda said as he left the 30-minute meeting. "It is now time to put what happened behind and build bridges."

Nearly all the other envoys left without speaking to reporters. The embassies of Egypt and Turkey said their ambassadors would have no comment. The Iranian, Indonesian, Lebanese and Libyan embassies did not answer their phones.

Fahmi Howedi, a liberal Islamic writer in Egypt, said that since the pope did not apologize, protests may continue. "(Benedict) addressed the ambassadors but didn't deal with the Muslim street, the anger in the street will continue," Howedi said in a telephone interview.

Tariq Ramadan, a professor of Islamic studies at Oxford University, called the meeting "mainly political" intended to improve relations with Muslim states. "The people that were convinced he was against Islam are not going to change their minds," said Ramadan, who recently wrote that Muslims must respond to Benedict's view of the Christian character of Europe and what it means for identity.

Al-Jazeera, the Arab-language broadcaster, carried the pope's

speech live.

Benedict touched on religion and violence, saying Christians and Muslims "must learn to work together ... to guard against all forms of intolerance and to oppose all manifestations of violence."

He quoted from a key document of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s stating that "although considerable dissensions and enmities between Christians and Muslims may have arisen in the course of the centuries," both faiths must move on and work for "peace and freedom for all people."

Benedict said he invited the diplomats to "strengthen the bonds of friendship" between their religions, but did not offer any analysis of the controversial passage, which came in a speech exploring faith and reason. The pope said dialogue be-

tween Christians and Muslims "cannot be reduced to an optional extra. It is, in fact, a vital necessity on which in large measure our future depends."

Benedict has been seen as less interested in promoting close relations with Muslims than his predecessor, John Paul II, whose travels in the Muslim world included a visit to a mosque in Syria.

He cited John Paul in his speech Monday, noting his predecessor's words, during a visit to Morocco in 1985, urging that "respect and dialogue require reciprocity in all spheres," particularly religious freedom. This is a major issue for the Vatican in Saudi Arabia and other countries where non-Muslims cannot worship openly.

Saudi Arabia does not have diplomatic relations with the Holy See. Among predominantly

Muslim nations with diplomatic ties to the Vatican, only Sudan did not participate in the meeting.

Among those attending was a diplomat from Indonesia, where Christian-Muslim tensions were heightened last week by the execution of three Roman Catholic militants. Benedict had appealed for the men's lives to be spared.

Turkey also participated. Benedict plans to travel in November to that predominantly Muslim but officially secular country, which was among the first to vigorously protest the Regensburg remarks.

Last week, the Holy See's ambassadors in Muslim countries met with officials to assure them the pope respects Islam and to urge a complete reading of the

speech.

The Vatican and much of the Muslim world share some important goals, including the battle against legalized abortion. Benedict also was among the first to urge Israel to turn to dialogue in its battle in Lebanon against Hezbollah guerrillas.

Benedict gave "a very clear, very intelligent speech," said Mohamed Nour Dachan, an Italian of Syrian origin who heads the Union of Islamic Communities, one of the more radical Italian Muslim groups. "In a few words, the dialogue goes on. The dialogue is a priority for both Muslims and Christians."

In a departure from usual practice, the Vatican press office included a translation of the speech in Arabic.

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OPINIONS

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TUESDAY, SEPT. 26, 2006

Students need to study up on fitness

As students in college, the more serious among us focus expanding our intellectual horizons, while the more social may view college as prime time for social networking and partying. Either way, training the body as well as the mind isn't usually many people's first priority.

Sarai Brinker



Sure, the university requires a couple of hours of physical education credits as part of the "core curriculum," but let's get real. I got my credits from marching band, and I didn't even march — I played the xylophone. Keeping our bodies healthy is up to us, but too often it takes the backseat to academics.

It doesn't make it any easier to focus on health with so many unhealthy options surrounding us. There's the endless buffets in all of the residence halls, the beers with friends at Cricket's on the weekends (and weeknights, sometimes) and the high calorie "study food" that ends up being consumed at 3 a.m. during all-night study sessions for killer tests.

Of course, the food on campus isn't entirely to blame for our unhealthy choices. There are plenty of places to get nice green salads, not to mention our incredible recreational center — a 240,000 square-foot haven of health. Even so, there's a reason why the infamous "freshman 15" earned its reputation. We all know we're supposed to drink water, eat veggies and exercise, yet so many of us still succumb to poor health decisions during college.

For many students, the reason why our health deteriorates as our knowledge increases could be as simple as a sudden shift not only environment, but priorities. A prime concern at this point in many student's lives is grades. And when you're stressed about making an A, the chips and the sodas can start taking up residence on your desk next to your computer. And exercise? When?

Once, in an attempt to make a healthier choice, I once snacked on dried apricots while studying. This was an equally poor choice, not because apricots are bad for you but because, well, apricots produce rather unwelcome after-effects when eaten in large quantities.

The point is, too often we use food as a way to assuage school-related stress or make otherwise unhealthy choices, and the result is never good.

It wouldn't make much sense to change the oil in your car but not fill it up with gas. It doesn't make much sense to train your mind

through classes and study without also training your body either. After all, your brain is just one part of your body. It makes sense that your mind doesn't function at peak performance if the other 90 percent of the body isn't being cared for.

Personally, I've also had my ups and downs in personal health. Through these ups and downs, I've noticed that during the times that should be the most stressful (like the first round of exams coming up), if I'm exercising regularly and eating right, I actually feel less stressed. It's counter-intuitive, but exercising, especially if you're feeling lethargic, actually gives you more energy, making it easier to study and do well in school.

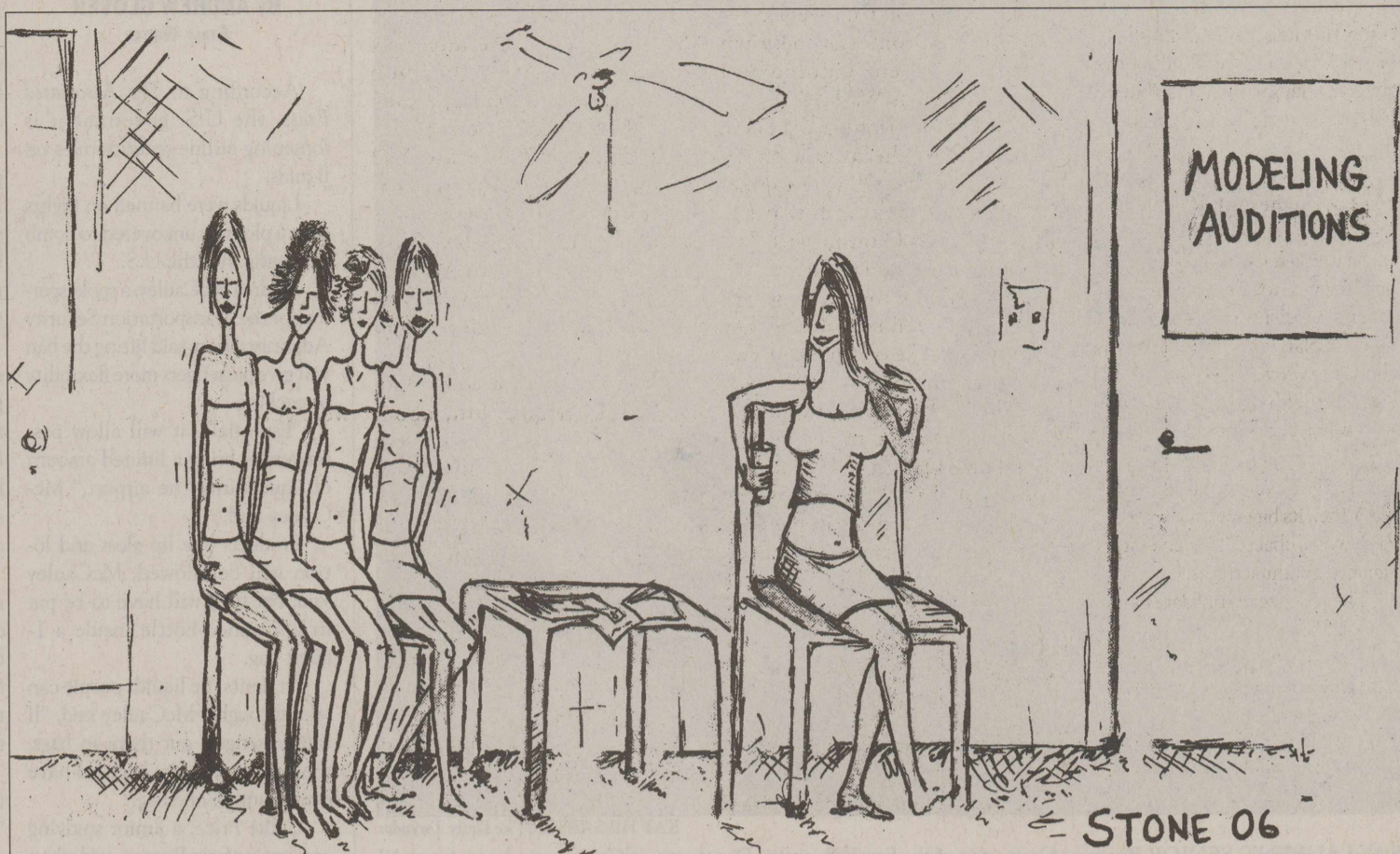
The reasons for this are well known: exercise releases endorphins, good nutrition keeps you more alert, a healthy breakfast results in higher test scores, etc. Yet when we get busy, the first things that get dropped are exercise and healthy food.

As hard as it may be, though, good health needs to be just as important as school work. The two go hand in hand; you have to feed your body if you want to feed your mind. For many, like myself, this means waking up while it's still dark in order to have time to fit it in. Luckily, though, if you can get past the first couple of weeks, you start having tons of energy at 6 a.m., when it used to be hard to get up for an 8 a.m. class.

So while academics tend to be the focus of university life, don't forget what it is that actually gets you to class: your body. Take care of it! There's no good reason that the most educated people on Earth need to also be the fattest, unhealthiest people in the world. We need to put good health back in the front seat, right next to academics.

And, with our bodies functioning at a higher level, we just might also see our intellectual performance increase, too.

■ **Brinker is a graduate student in music history. E-mail her at sara.hughes@ttu.edu.**



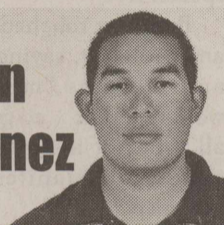
MODEL BEHAVIOR

There was once time when shapely women like Marilyn Monroe were seen as the epitome of female beauty in America and around the world. Models and actresses had distinguishable hips, curves and other body parts as well. Slowly but steadily, the image of the ideal woman has been shrinking, quite literally, to that of an unhealthy and stick-like physique. The fashion industry's endorsement of this waif model movement has weighed heavily on the consumers' collective conscience, forcing us to ask ourselves if presenting the standard of beauty as a size zero could be dangerous to our female youth. Now, it seems, the fashion industry has answered that question, and decided to do something about it.

In an unprecedented move, organizers of Spain's top fashion show turned down 30 percent of the models who were scheduled to walk down the runway last weekend. Any model with a Body Mass Index less than 18 was virtually fired. According to *The Associated Press*, the Association of Fashion Designers of Spain said that they wanted their show to feature a healthy image, rather than a withered one. The decision to ban ultra-thin models from the catwalk has resonated well with some in the industry, and quite poorly with others.

With many other cities holding their own fashion extravaganzas around the world, it was quite obvious that the show organizers in Spain were hoping their actions

Adrian Martinez



In the world of fashion, it seems like the traditional consumer-producer relationship has been flipped on its head. Instead of the consumer telling the producer what it wants and the producer responding, fashion designers show the public what it wants and we accept it.

might be imitated. Those outside the fashion industry certainly chimed in and shared those hopes. Many in the fashion industry and the modeling agencies have expressed their desire for the reign of more curvy models to return. One British cabinet minister even asked for the London fashion show to follow suit by imposing a similar ban for their fashion week. Unfortunately, organizers of the London

fashion show have shied away from such a ban.

Many are now seriously questioning the decision in Madrid, asking whether or not it is fair for models to be turned down based on their weight, essentially assuming that they have an unhealthy lifestyle. But isn't that what's been happening all along anyway? It's no secret that models have had to closely monitor their weight, making sure that they are still competitively thin to get the jobs that they want. Many have driven themselves to seriously hindering their well-being by developing eating disorders or participating in diets that lead to malnutrition.

The perpetuation of these unhealthy trends has become so well-known that it's almost cliché, almost acceptable. I don't buy in to the stereotype that every fashion model and every woman that wears a size zero has to have some kind of eating disorder, but I also don't delude myself to believe that their aren't women out there who do fit that same stereotype.

What about the agencies and designers themselves? Many of them argue that having a BMI of less than 18 is less dangerous to your health than someone who is clinically obese. That may be a true statement, but no one out there is enticing people to stay obese and inactive. There is no fame or fortune to be found for those that have exceptional cases of heart disease. Luisel Ramos, a 22-year old model who died of a heart attack last month after step-

ping off the runway, was told that she needed to lose weight, and was living off of little more than water. Shouldn't those who told her she needed to lose weight be held (or at least feel) responsible? Or are we responsible for letting them get away with it?

In the world of fashion, it seems like the traditional consumer-producer relationship has been flipped on its head. Instead of the consumer telling the producer what it wants and the producer responding, fashion designers show the public what it wants and we accept it. But we don't just accept the clothes and the fabrics; we accept the image of beauty that they present. Physical beauty is so important to our society that it's now almost unheard of for someone who is rich to not have done something major to improve his or her appearance, be it hiring a personal trainer or undergoing rhinoplasty.

In a country where an estimated 10 percent of college-aged women have an eating disorder, it seems that we care more about the fashion industry's perception of beauty than we do about our own health. You might not feel that the ban in Spain was the right decision, but as long as we continue to allow the fashion industry to dictate what we see in the mirror, only they can stop it. Personally, I regard the decision as heroic and revolutionary. But then, I also had a hamburger for lunch. Silly me.

■ **Martinez is a senior music major from San Antonio. E-mail him at adrian.j.martinez@ttu.edu.**

The political side of obesity

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN — Not yet one week ago, Travis county commissioners voted on the implementation of a new pilot program ultimately designed to curb rising health-care costs among county employees. After reviewing the relevant data and testimonials presented by the employee benefits committee, the commissioners voted 3-to-1 in favor. At the time, commissioner Gerald Daugherty described the vote as being "a pretty easy decision to make."

Apparently, not so much. The program, which involved the authorization of up to 15 bariatric surgeries per year for morbidly obese workers, became the target of a barrage of public criticisms, and, on Friday, Daugherty and the commission decided to do what most politicians would give the circumstances — reconsider.

"I'm still gathering information," Daugherty said "but clearly there may be a reason for me to differ with the decision I made last week." The commissioners will reconvene Tuesday when, one can only assume, whatever mind-altering illness they think afflicted them a week ago will have passed.

An estimated 300 to 400 Travis county employees will be eligible for bariatric surgeries, which involve trimming the stomach or realigning the intestines. Studies show that the procedures can prevent, help or cure many of the adverse health conditions associated with obesity, including coronary

heart disease, stroke, congestive heart failure, type 2 diabetes, asthma and certain cancers. The procedures for treating the aforementioned diseases post-manifestation, such as kidney dialysis, are of exorbitant cost and have marshalled a sizeable chunk of the health care budget.

County workers would only be eligible for surgery if they were morbidly obese (defined as having a body-mass-index of more than 40, or being at least 100 pounds overweight) and had undergone a year's worth of physician-monitored diet and exercise.

At a maximum of 15 surgeries per year, the program would require a relatively small portion of the county's \$60 million health budget. Furthermore, the program's "pilot" status means that it will be reevaluated at the end of a five-year period and adjusted or terminated as is deemed necessary.

The wave of opposition to the program is indeed curious. However, criticisms, which sometimes point to the "unproven" repute of bariatric surgery, often echo negative attitudes toward the obese and rarely merit the rejection of what is essentially a step toward a much-needed progressive health-care policy.

On Tuesday, Travis County commissioners should show some resolve and stand by their initial vote.

—Daily Texan (U. TEXAS) Staff Editorial



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Army extends combat tour of a brigade in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army is stretched so thin by the war in Iraq that it is again extending the combat tours of thousands of soldiers beyond the promised 12 months — the second such move since August.

Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division had been expecting to return to their home base in Germany in mid-January. Instead, they will stay an extra 46 days in Iraq, until late February, the Pentagon announced Monday. The soldiers are operating in western Anbar province, one of the most violent parts of Iraq.

The Pentagon also announced that the 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division will deploy to Iraq 30 days earlier than scheduled, starting in late October. The announcement did not say why the speedup was deemed necessary, but three officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said it is part of a plan to beef up forces in Baghdad, where U.S. and Iraqi troops are struggling to contain insurgent and sectarian violence.

The Pentagon said troop rotations could be changed even further "based

upon changes in the security situation." Sectarian killings in Baghdad and continuing insurgent violence elsewhere in Iraq have foiled Pentagon plans to begin a troop reduction this fall.

"The Army is coming to the end of its rope in Iraq," said Loren Thompson, a defense analyst at the Lexington Institute, a private research group. "It simply does not have enough active-duty military personnel to sustain the current level of effort."

Of the 142,000 U.S. troops now in Iraq, nearly 120,000 are Army soldiers.

The tour extension affects about 3,800 soldiers in the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored, officials said.

Asked about the matter at a news conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld declined to confirm the extension but said that "from time to time there may be" units required to stay in Iraq longer than scheduled. He spoke before the Pentagon issued its written announcement.

Last month, the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade was ordered to extend

its tour in Iraq by up to four months. Some members of that unit had already returned to the brigade's home base in Alaska when the decision was announced. About 300 soldiers had to go back to Iraq, drawing public complaints from some families.

Rumsfeld also appeared to hint at other adjustments to the troop rotation plan.

"We're also bringing some other units in earlier, which is another way of dealing with that issue" of how to keep a sufficient number of troops in Iraq with a limited number of combat brigades available, Rumsfeld said.

The extension reflects a dilemma for Army leaders: either keep one group of soldiers in Iraq longer than promised, or replace them with another group that has not yet had its minimum 12 months at home between combat tours. Either choice risks upsetting some soldiers and their families. And the fact that the choice cannot be avoided is a sign that troop rotations in Iraq are squeezing the Army from several directions.

Some members of Congress are expressing concern that the military is over-stretched by the war. On Monday, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said the situation in Iraq is "disintegrating"

into a civil war. "My instinct is once the (November) election is over there will be a lot more hard thinking about what to do about Iraq and a lot more candid observations about it."

The pinch is evident also in closed-door deliberations between the Army and administration officials over the size of the service's budget for 2008. The Army chief of staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker, took the highly unusual step in August of delaying submission of the Army's budget plan, arguing that the service requires either a much bigger budget than the administration has proposed or relief from some of its worldwide commitments.

The Los Angeles Times reported in its Monday editions that Schoomaker is seeking \$138.8 billion for 2008, or nearly \$25 billion more than the limit originally set by Rumsfeld. The Army's budget this year is \$98 billion.

The 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division is being extended in Iraq because the unit that is scheduled to replace them — the 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Stewart, Ga. — needs more time to prepare. If it had deployed as originally scheduled, it would not have had the minimum 12 months at home between combat tours.

Ports, commuter transit systems to get millions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration doled out nearly \$400 million Monday to help protect seaports, commuter trains and other transit systems from terrorists, boosting money to high-risk cities that saw funding cuts earlier this year.

Major winners included New York City, which won \$79.5 million to secure its port, subways, bus and rail systems — up from \$50 million in 2005.

Losing cities that got no money for 2006 after being on the Homeland Security Department funding list last year included Memphis, Tenn., and Tampa, Fla., which lost funds for ports.

In all, the department distributed \$399 million in grants — up from \$388 million last year — to secure key buildings, transportation systems and other sites that might seem attractive targets for terrorists. The money follows a furor nearly four months ago after Homeland Security cut funding for New York and Washington, the two cities targeted on Sept. 11, 2001, by 40 percent.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the new round of department grants

was given out based only on risk — and should not be viewed as a competition to see which city gets the most money.

"What we're trying to do is move away from looking at grants as if every year, it's a horse race, and let's see who wins each race for each grant," Chertoff told reporters in Washington. "If you want a horse race, go to Pimlico."

But Chertoff said his department would take new steps to assure cities that future grant applications are understood and thoroughly discussed to prevent a similar outcry. The way Homeland Security announced the earlier grants for high-risk cities, awarded in May, "was not what it should have been," Chertoff said.

Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., said boosting funds for New York ports and rail systems hopefully reflected "a sign of things to come."

If Homeland Security "is finally admitting that they short-changed New Yorkers and are looking to make recompense, then that is all for the good," Schumer said.

Department officials said many cities — like Houston and Atlanta — asked for fewer funds this year than what they received in 2005 because they no longer needed as much money for security projects that were completed or already under way.

The grants announced Monday included:

- \$168 million for seaports.
- \$135 million for commuter rail, bus, and ferry systems.
- \$48 million for critical infrastructure, like water or electricity systems.
- \$25 million for chemical plants.
- \$7.2 million for Amtrak.
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CORRECTION: In the outline of the photo that ran in Monday's edition of *The DT* with "Texas Supreme Court candidate takes side trip to Lubbock," the people inadvertently were identified incorrectly. The subjects in the photo were Ralph Brock, lawyer, Neale J. Pearson, professor emeritus of political science at Texas Tech, and Bill Moody, Texas Supreme Court candidate. *The DT* regrets the error.

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