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TAKING A TURN ON THE CATWALK

AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL HOSTS CASTING CALL

SEE PAGE 8



Sudanese president first sitting head of state charged with genocide in Darfur

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court filed genocide charges Monday against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, accusing him of masterminding attempts to wipe out African tribes in Darfur with a campaign of murder, rape and deportation.

The filing marked the first time prosecutors at the world's first permanent, global war crimes court have issued charges against a sitting head of state, but al-Bashir is unlikely to be sent to The Hague any time soon. Sudan rejects the court's jurisdiction, and senior Sudanese officials said the prosecutor was politically motivated to file the charges.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo asked a three-judge panel at the International Criminal Court to issue an arrest warrant for al-Bashir to prevent the slow deaths of some 2.5 million people forced from their homes in Darfur and still under attack from government-backed janjaweed militia.

"Genocide is a crime of intention — we don't need to wait until these 2.5 million die," he told The Associated Press.

"The genocide is ongoing," he added, saying systematic rape was

a key element of the campaign. "Seventy-year-old women, 6-year-old girls are raped," he said.

Moreno-Ocampo was undeterred by concern that his indictment against al-Bashir might ignite a storm of vengeance against Darfur refugees and spur Sudan to shut out relief agencies and possibly peacekeeping troops. Al-Bashir's ruling National Congress Party on Sunday warned of "more violence and blood" in the vast western region if an arrest warrant is issued against the president, state TV reported.

"I am a prosecutor doing a judicial case," Moreno-Ocampo said. He filed 10 charges: three counts of genocide, five of crimes against humanity and two of murder. Judges are expected to take months to study the evidence before deciding whether to order al-Bashir's arrest.

Al-Bashir "wants to end the history of the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa people. I don't have the luxury to look away. I have evidence," the prosecutor said in a statement after submitting his case to the judges.

One victim cited by prosecutors said rapes are woven into the fabric of life in Darfur.

"Maybe around 20 men rape one

woman. These things are normal for us here in Darfur," she said. "I have seen rapes too. It does not matter who sees them raping the women — they don't care. They rape girls in front of their mothers and fathers."

Moreno-Ocampo said the rapes were producing a generation of so-called "janjaweed babies" and "an explosion of infanticide" by victims.

The head of Sudan's Bar Association and ruling party stalwart, Fathi Khalil told The Associated Press that Sudan was not a member of the International Criminal Court and was not bound by Moreno-Ocampo's decision.

"The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court with his announcement demanding the arrest of President al-Bashir has proved that he is playing a political role, not a legal one," Khalil said.

Khalil said the decision came after international pressure on the court, undermining its reputation and independence. He said neither the ICC nor the U.N. Security Council have the right to refer a country that is not a member to the ICC to the court.

The Sudanese Liberation Movement-Unity, a rebel group in Darfur, offered to help arrest and extradite

any war criminals from Sudan.

If judges issue an arrest warrant, they will effectively turn al-Bashir into a prisoner in his own country. In the past, Interpol has issued so-called Red Notices for fugitives wanted by the court, meaning they should be arrested any time they attempt to cross an international border.

In the United States, which is not part of the ICC, American officials said they were examining the indictment.

"We make our own determinations according to our own laws, our own regulations with respect to who should be subject to war crimes, genocide related statutes. The ICC is a separate matter and we are not part of the ICC. All of that said, we certainly stand for accountability," said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack.

Moreno-Ocampo said most members of the three targeted ethnic African groups were driven from their homes by Sudanese forces and the janjaweed in 2004. Since then, the janjaweed have been targeting the camps aiming to starve the refugees.

"These 2.5 million people are in camps. They (al-Bashir's forces) don't need gas chambers because the desert will kill them," Moreno-Ocampo said, drawing comparison's with Nazi Germany's most notorious method of mass murder during the Holocaust.

The refugees "have no more water,

no more food, no more cattle. They have lost everything. They live because international humanitarian organizations are providing food for them," he added.

An estimated 300,000 people have died in Darfur since conflict erupted there in 2003 when local tribes took up arms against al-Bashir's Arab-dominated government in the capital, Khartoum, accusing authorities of years of neglect.

Moreno-Ocampo said the international community needs to act.

"We are dealing with a genocide. Is it easy to stop? No. Do we need to stop? Yes," he told AP.

"The international community failed in the past, failed to stop Rwanda genocide, failed to stop Balkans crimes," he added.

There are fears that the fresh Darfur case could spark a backlash against the 9,000-strong U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur.

The prosecutor said it was up to the U.N. Security Council, which asked Moreno-Ocampo in 2005 to investigate crimes in Darfur, to "ensure compliance with the court's decision." Achieving unanimous backing for any action will be fraught with problems since two of the council's members, China and Russia, are Sudan's allies.

A spokeswoman for the force said it had not suspended any military operations.

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Tech program targets minority students at South Plains College

MATT COBB
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Institute of Environmental and Human Health was awarded \$1.08 million by the National Institutes of Health to encourage minority students at South Plains College to pursue a degree in science at Tech.

This initiative, which is called the Plains Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program, is meant to assist minority students who are pursuing degrees in science at SPC, said Jaclyn Canas, the program's director. This program will

make it easier for the students to transition to Tech, where they can pursue upper-level degrees in their fields.

Students who are involved with the program will spend their first two years of college at SPC, after which they would transfer to Tech to complete their bachelor's degree, Canas said. The overall goal is to encourage students to get their bachelor's degree, and then, hopefully, continue on to graduate school.

"There's about 50 programs across the nation like this," Canas said. "Three are in Texas, but they are all

at smaller schools. This really is a big thing for Texas Tech."

A goal of this program is to assist about 48 students within the next five years, Canas said. The first twelve students will begin the program at SPC this fall, and they are scheduled to transition to Tech in the fall of 2010.

Minority students often face problems that many people are unaware of, Canas said. This program will provide the additional support they need to successfully excel in a college atmosphere.

"A lot of times they don't see peo-

ple who look like them," Canas said. "Our goal is to help them realize they can do it and they can succeed."

All of the students involved with the Plains Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program will be involved in Mentor Tech as well, Canas said.

Mentor Tech is a program that aims to improve the educational experiences of underrepresented students and groups at Tech, according to the Mentor Tech Web site. This is done through a number of programs, services and advocacy groups.

Jaclyn Cañas, Stephen Cox and

Trey Brown, who are all institute researchers at Tech, received the five-year grant to create this program, according to a Texas Tech news release.

The 2005 Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Report found that African-Americans, American Indians and Hispanics comprised only 12 percent, 1 percent and 7 percent, respectively, of all graduate degrees, according to a Texas Tech news release, even though they made up 13 percent, 1.5 percent and 12.5 percent, respectively, of the 2000 U.S. population.

▶ matt.cobb@ttu.edu

New York magazine's 'satirical' cover about Barack Obama stirs controversy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barack Obama's campaign says a satirical New Yorker magazine cover showing the Democratic presidential candidate dressed as a Muslim and his wife as a terrorist is "tasteless and offensive."

The illustration on the issue that hits newsstands Monday, titled "The Politics of Fear" and drawn by Barry Blitt, depicts Barack Obama wearing sandals, robe and a turban and his wife, Michelle, dressed in camouflage, com-

bat boots and an assault rifle strapped over her shoulder — standing in the Oval Office.

The couple is doing a fist tap in front of a fireplace in which an American flag is burning. Over the mantel hangs a portrait of Osama bin Laden.

"The New Yorker may think, as one of their staff explained to us, that their cover is a satirical lampoon of the caricature Senator Obama's right-wing critics have tried to create," said Obama

campaign spokesman Bill Burton. "But most readers will see it as tasteless and offensive. And we agree."

In a statement Monday, the magazine said the cover "combines a number of fantastical images about the Obamas and shows them for the obvious distortions they are."

"The burning flag, the nationalist-radical and Islamic outfits, the fist-bump, the portrait on the wall? All of them echo one attack or another.

Satire is part of what we do, and it is meant to bring things out into the open, to hold up a mirror to prejudice, the hateful, and the absurd. And that's the spirit of this cover," the New Yorker statement said.

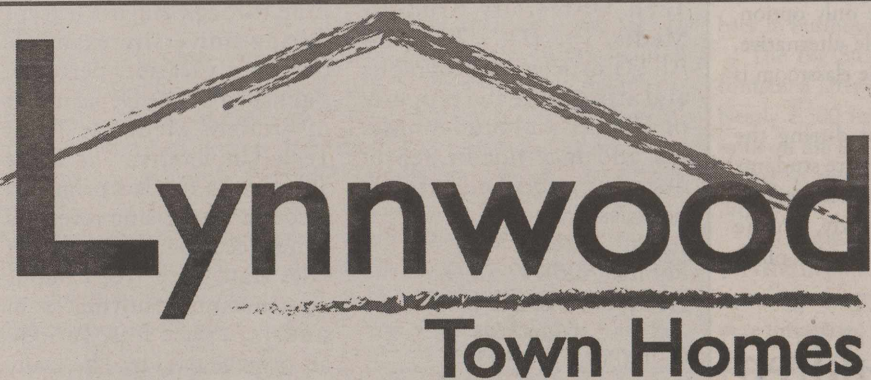
The statement also pointed to the two articles on Obama contained inside the magazine, calling them "very serious."

In Arizona, Republican John McCain said the cover was "totally inap-

propriate and frankly I understand if Senator Obama and his supporters would find it offensive."

Already the cover was generating controversy on the Internet.

The Huffington Post, a left-leaning blog, said: "Anyone who's tried to paint Obama as a Muslim, anyone who's tried to portray Michelle as angry or a secret revolutionary out to get Whitey, anyone who has questioned their patriotism — well, here's your image."

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Democracy for sale: Selling vote on eBay deserves punishment

STAFF EDITORIAL
IOWA STATE DAILY (IOWA STATE U.)

A University of Minnesota student found himself with more than summer classes to worry about when he incurred a felony bribery, treating and solicitation charge last week.

His crime? Putting his vote in November's presidential election up for sale on eBay.

Max Sanders, 19, explained on his eBay post over a month ago: "The rules are simple. The highest bidder will tell me who to cast my vote for in the election. I will vote for any candidate of any party, as

long as they are on the ballot."

However, Sanders' minimum bid, \$10, was never met.

An 1893 Minnesota law makes offering to buy or sell a vote illegal. It's also a crime on the federal level, but it's unlikely that the Department of Justice would pursue such a small incident, a University of Min-

nesota election law professor told the university student newspaper.

Sanders could face up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for his actions, but the Hennepin County deputy attorney says that won't happen, hinting that Sanders could see some community service hours.

Call us fun haters, but it's good to see the Hennepin County Attorney's Office taking this seriously. It would be naive to think that votes don't get "bought" all the time — one only needs to take a short glance at the lobbying industry — but the outright sale of someone's vote is an affront to democracy.

Education during information age: Online courses cannot replace classrooms

STAFF EDITORIAL
DAILY BRUIN (UCLA)

High gas prices, well above \$4 a gallon in most parts of California as well as most parts of the country, have caused a new trend in higher education: online classes.

Four-year institutions and especially two-year institutions have seen surges in enrollment for online-only classes this summer, and many of the students surveyed are citing gas costs and transportation-related issues as their motives for taking online classes.

This opportunity to cut costs in regards to education without having to completely cut back is a plus for financially limited students.

However, we hope that online classes do not become a norm in higher education. The University of California, Los Angeles does offer a number of online classes during the summer and other esteemed institutions such as Villanova and the University of Massachusetts

include large online departments.

Even with regard to in-person courses, UCLA has seen the continued increase of professors posting full lecture slides or podcasts online for student use.

Such materials are obviously meant to be supplemental to the learning process but unfortunately, certain students simply use these tools to justify skipping class.

Technology has changed the face of education through the amount of data and research available at the click of a mouse, but such positives usually also hold negative effects.

In the case of online-only courses, the advantages do not outweigh the disadvantages enough to warrant a huge change in the way classes are set up.

Online lecture slides or podcasts

cannot replace the experience of an intimate face-to-face discussion section or a heated and informative debate between classmates.

The ideal situation would obviously be lower gas prices, to increase accessibility and build a stronger economy.

But between not enrolling in classes at all and opting for education via the World Wide Web, the latter is a viable option for the percentage of the country's 15 million

college students that are strapped for cash.

If the situation is so dire that online classes are the only option, then it's an acceptable alternative, but real-life time in the classroom is preferable.

As for enrollment during the regular school year, where students are usually on campus for a certain amount of time already, online classes should not take the place

of regular in-person lectures.

With online courses, it is hard to say how engaged the student is with the material.

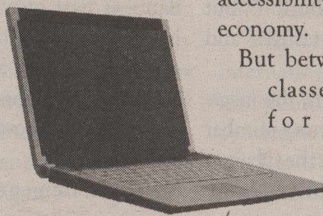
There is also the question of how easy it is for students to communicate questions and concerns to their teachers over instant messaging, discussion boards or e-mail rather than face-to-face.

When it comes to online testing, there is the worry that students have a better ability to cheat, whether it be through the Internet or by enlisting help from a friend or parent in the room.

The basic question is whether online courses can provide an equal education when the student is removed from an academic setting. We feel that students are less connected to the subject matter when they are not engaging in person with the material.

In a perfect world, everyone should be able to easily attain a quality education they desire. Regularly taking online courses reduces the quality of one's education.

We encourage students to understand the drawbacks of online education and to take that into account when planning their schedules.



Americans should talk about sex, educate children

BY LEAH FINNEGAN
DAILY TEXAN (U. TEXAS)

In Texas, lawmakers are busy using federal money to control exactly what is being said to Texas schoolchildren about sex. According to the Austin American-Statesman, Texas received \$6.2 million from the coffers of the federally funded Community-Based Abstinence Education program last year.

Under the guard of this program, Texas groups like Austin Lifeguard and Worth the Wait are given the responsibility to educate Texas teens about sex. According to the Statesman, the only mission of these groups under federal law is "teaching the social, psychological and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity." The curriculum does not include lessons on contraception or safe sex, and the groups require noth-

ing more than a background check of their instructors.

When an adult — whether it is a teacher, parent or nun with a ruler in hand — instructs a teenager not to have sex, they might as well be telling a brick wall not to stand still. According to recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Texas schoolchildren are having more sex compared to youth nationwide and are less likely to use protection.

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Breaking News

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Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submittal.

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Stocks trade mixed on plan to aid Fannie, Freddie with recent decline

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks mostly declined Monday as investors worried that even a safety net set up over the weekend for mortgage financiers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac couldn't head off further troubles in the financial markets.

Wall Street's latest unease about the banking sector comes in a week when many financial names are to issue quarterly reports — many of which will likely include sizable write-downs of souring mortgage debt.

The Treasury and the Federal Reserve said Sunday that they would aid the companies if needed. Wall Street has been on edge about the well-being of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac because the companies hold or back \$5.3 trillion of mortgage debt, about half the outstanding mortgages in the United States. Washington's efforts to shore up confidence in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac helped those shares

but troubles have arisen in other corners of the financial sector.

Investors are also worried about a run on IndyMac Bancorp Inc. that led to the bank's takeover by the government Friday. IndyMac is the largest regulated thrift to fail and the second largest financial institution to close in U.S. history, regulators said after taking control of the bank.

"My sense is that investors are taking a pretty cautious stance," said Jack A. Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank in Chicago. "The government can't bail out the whole industry."

In late morning trading, the Dow rose 4.16, or 0.04 percent, to 11,104.70 after spiking nearly 140 points in early trading and at times slipping into negative territory. Worries over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac on Friday led to a volatile session in which the Dow dipped

below the 11,000 mark for the first time in about two years before paring its losses.

Broader stock indicators declined Monday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.51, or 0.28 percent, to 1,235.98, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 14.04, or 0.63 percent, to 2,225.04.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by about 2 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 461.5 million shares.

Bond prices jumped as investors sought the safety of government debt. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its yield, fell to 3.87 percent from 3.96 percent late Friday.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices rose.

Light, sweet crude fell 29 cents to \$144.79 on the New York Mer-

cantile Exchange.

In corporate news, shares of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac advanced in volatile trading after tumbling last week amid concerns they would succumb to losses in their mortgage portfolios. The Fed said it would lend to the two government-chartered companies "should such lending prove necessary." Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said his department is asking Congress for quick approval of a plan to expand its line of credit to the two companies and to make an equity investment in them if necessary.

Fannie Mae shares rose 55 cents, or 5.3 percent, to \$10.80, while Freddie Mac jumped 30 cents, or 3.9 percent, to \$8.05.

While the companies say they have adequate access to capital, the government's effort to help the companies is designed to reassure investors who have grown nervous

about further fallout from the nearly year-old credit crisis. A weak housing market has eroded the value of many securities backed by now faltering mortgages.

"There's a disconnect with saving Fannie and Freddie and bailing out the shareholders," Ablin said. "If the government steps in and ultimately creates a bailout of these entities, I'd be astounded if equity holders were left with anything. I think the market is realizing that. The bonds are holding in pretty well, and it's just a matter of time before the stock is worth zero."

Elsewhere in financials, investors worried about whether the trouble at IndyMac would portend broader troubles. Sen. Charles Schumer on Sunday defended himself against claims by regulators that he was in part to blame for a run on IndyMac.

Big Sur highway reopens after wildfires, people return to Paradise

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — More Californians returned Monday to homes they fled when wildfires threatened and a scenic coastal highway was open to traffic again as a slight improvement in weather eased the burden on firefighters.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said 288 blazes were still active around the state, most of them in the mountains ringing the northern edge of the Central Valley.

Most of those areas did not get any of the weekend rainfall that caused a huge mudslide on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, at a spot that was

stripped of vegetation by wildfires last year. The mud closed a highway and forced occupants of 50 homes to leave, but state officials said the highway was reopened early Monday.

However, cool, moist air flowed inland from the Pacific early Monday in the area of Big Sur. Residents driven away by flames just days ago were returning to their homes, said Paul Van Gerwen, a battalion chief for the forestry and fire protection department, or CalFire.

And state authorities had reopened the last piece of scenic Highway 1 near Big Sur that had been closed because of the fires, he said. The California

Highway Patrol was urging drivers to be careful because fire crews were still using the highway.

A large cleanup effort was underway in the Big Sur region Monday morning and most restaurants and hotels were back in businesses.

The Big Sur fire was 61 percent contained after destroying 27 homes. Nearly 2,300 firefighters were still at work on the Big Sur fire, and officials expect to have it fully contained by July 30.

There was also no rain during the weekend in Butte County, north of Sacramento, where thousands of homes were threatened as recently as Friday.

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U. Minnesota student faces felony charge for vote auction

BY ANDY MANNIX
MINNESOTA DAILY (U. MINNESOTA)

Max Sanders' vote does matter. At least it does to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office.

Sanders, a 19-year-old University of Minnesota student, was charged with a felony for bribery, treating and solicitation Thursday after attempting to sell his presidential election vote to the highest bidder on eBay more than a month ago.

"The rules are simple," Sanders explained on the eBay post. "The highest bidder will tell me who to cast my vote for in the election. I will vote for any candidate of any party, as long as they are on the ballot."

Sanders also offered to abstain from voting if the winner desired.

"Good luck! You're (sic) country depends on you," Sanders stated on the post.

According to a scarcely visited 1893 Minnesota law, offering to buy or sell a vote is illegal.

Deputy County Attorney Pat Diamond said this is because elections are supposed to be a competition of ideas rather than bankrolls.

"Everybody gets one vote," he explained. "You can't get another one by buying somebody else's."

And the fact that no eBay users were willing to meet Sanders' \$10 minimum bid doesn't help him. The law states one only has to offer to sell

"The highest bidder will tell me who to cast my vote for in the election."

— MAX SANDERS
University of Minnesota
student on eBay post.

a vote for it to be illegal.

However, if someone had bid on the vote, they could have been

charged as well, Diamond said.

Sanders declined to comment for this story, but he told a Hennepin County investigator last month that the eBay post was a joke.

Minnesota law states that Sanders could face up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, but Diamond said that won't happen.

"Clearly this is not a case where somebody has to go to prison," Diamond said. "This is the kind of case where you need to make it clear to the person that what they did was wrong, and maybe put a little bit back into the community."

Diamond was not more specific on the sentence his office will recommend.

University election law professor David Schultz said that with the unusual specifics of this case, there's no recent precedent in Minnesota.

"More common is when someone tries to bribe someone to vote a particular way," he said. "I've never seen, in Minnesota law, a situation where somebody (tries to sell their vote) on an auction basis."

Schultz said there is also a federal anti-bribery law that Sanders violated, but it isn't likely that the U.S. Department of Justice will get involved with the case because "it's small potatoes."

Sanders will likely make his first court appearance in mid-August, Diamond said.

Bush trumps Congress; Moves first on drilling for offshore oil reserves

WASHINGTON (AP) — Putting pressure on congressional Democrats to back more exploration for oil, President Bush on Monday lifted an executive ban on offshore drilling that has stood since his father was president.

But the move, by itself, will do

nothing unless Congress acts as well.

There are two prohibitions on offshore drilling, one imposed by Congress and another by executive order signed by the first President Bush in 1990. The current president, trying to ease market tensions and

boost supply, called last month for Congress to lift its prohibition before he did so himself.

"The only thing standing between the American people and these vast oil resources is action from the U.S. Congress," Bush said in a statement in the Rose Garden. "Now the ball is squarely in Congress' court."

Bush criticized Congress for failing to lift its own ban on offshore drilling.

"For years, my administration has been calling on Congress to expand

domestic oil production," Bush said. "Unfortunately, Democrats on Capitol Hill have rejected virtually every proposal. And now Americans are paying at the pump."

Sen. John McCain, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, called Bush's move "a very important signal" and said his Democratic rival, Sen. Barack Obama, should drop his opposition to offshore drilling.

Congressional Democrats, joined by some GOP lawmakers from coastal states, have opposed lifting the prohibition that has barred energy companies from waters along both the East and West coasts and in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. A succession of presidents, from Bush's father — George H.W. Bush — to Bill Clinton, have sided against drilling in these waters, as has Congress each year for 27 years. Their goal has to be to protect beaches and coastal states' tourism economies.

"Once again, the oilman in the White House is echoing the demands of Big Oil," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. "The Bush plan is a hoax. It will neither reduce gas prices nor increase energy independence. It just gives millions more acres to the same companies that are sitting on nearly 68 million acres of public lands and coastal areas."

"This proposal is something you'd expect from an oil company CEO, not the president of the United States," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., chairwoman of the Senate Environ-

ment Committee. "The president is taking special-interest government to a new level and threatening our thriving coastal economy."

Environmental groups, too, blasted Bush's move.

"President Bush has once again ignored the wise precedent set by his father and taken reckless action that has neither hope of reducing gas prices nor concern for long-term consequences," said Gene Karpinski, president of The League of Conservation Voters.

Asked if Bush's action alone will lead to more oil drilling, White House press secretary Dana Perino said, "In terms of allowing more exploration to go forward? No, it does not."

The president, in his final months of office, has turned to increased oil exploration among other options amid record gas-prices. None would have immediate impact on prices at the pump, according to White House officials, who say there is no quick fix. But starting action now would help, they say.

Bush's proposal echoes a call by Republican presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, to open the Outer Continental Shelf for exploration. Democrat Barack Obama has opposed the idea and instead argued for helping consumers with a second economic stimulus package including energy rebates, as well as stepped up efforts to develop alternative fuels and more fuel-efficient automobiles.



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Health officials talk straight about sex to Lubbock teens

BY BRIDGET DE STEFANO
STAFF WRITER

Nothing was taboo.

Sex was the topic of the day for teenagers and parents who attended Lubbock's first Teen Straight Talk presentation at 10 a.m. Saturday at Grace Clinic.

Issues of teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, contraception and peer pressure were addressed by health care providers and Texas Tech counselors.

The "talk" also was presented simultaneously at three other locations throughout the city, including Guadalupe Neighborhood Center, The Bridge Community Center and the Science Spectrum, with hopes of reaching more people throughout the city.

The Lubbock Family Council, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and University Medical

Center are just a few of the groups who sponsored and supported the event to educate local teenagers and parents on sexuality issues.

Yolanda Gonzaga, coordinator of the Grace Clinic presentation, said the idea of a Teen Straight Talk came about through a myriad of issues in the Lubbock community.

As a county, Lubbock has one of the highest rates of STDs and teen pregnancies.

According to a 2006 Texas Department of Health STD report, Lubbock had 1,434 cases of Chlamydia, a bacterial STD spread by vaginal, anal or oral sex.

The same report totaled 496 cases of Gonorrhea, also known as "the clap," which is a bacterial STD spread by sexual and oral contact with an infected person.

"It's a topic that we just can't keep putting away and brushing under the table," Gonzaga said, "because

abstinence hasn't worked for the last twenty years that we've been talking about it so we need to just educate our kids and be responsible."

On a state level, Texas had 75,319 cases of Chlamydia in 2006, an increase from 71,621 cases since 2005.

The goal of the event, Gonzaga said, was to be an ice-breaker for teens and their parents to discuss sex and the responsibilities that come along with it.

She said the presentation was very well-received and both parents and teenagers seemed engaged and open to discussion.

Gonzaga said the committee of Teen Straight Talk hopes to conduct the presentation again, and will reconvene to discuss the issues, questions and turn out, as well as future sponsorship opportunities.

Amanda Eldredge, health educator at the Student Wellness Center, said the program was beneficial for the Lubbock community because the university provided the public with highly researched material and credible health care professionals who encounter these issues everyday.

Eldredge presented information

on peer pressures at the program, and said she is a firm believer that the media is to blame for negatively influencing youth about body image and the realities of sexuality.

Adolescents and college students face some of the same influences, Eldredge said, especially within the first two years of college, when experimentation with sex, drugs and alcohol are readily available.

She said there is a possibility that high-school-aged youth in Lubbock, a college town, face greater exposure to sexually dangerous behaviors. Also, they often emulate the behaviors of the thousands of older Tech students in Lubbock, regardless of how responsible that behavior really is.

A future goal of the program is to implement it into local high school curriculums.

Gonzaga said the presentation "Big Decisions" was put together by a group of medical students as a program that has been piloted at high schools within the Lubbock Independent School District. She said the program was well received.

"We're hoping that eventually LISD board will be more open and receptive to increasing their education

in high school," Gonzaga said.

The program should be taught on all campuses, said Teen Straight Talk volunteer and Coronado High School teacher, Vicke Cooper.

From a parent's perspective, Cooper said, there is definitely a need for a mandatory sexual education class and it should be started at a younger age.

Within the school setting, Cooper said, it is amazing how many students think that they are exempt and nothing bad could happen to them.

Despite the controversy behind the touchy topic of youth and sex, Cooper and many other guests said they thought the presentation was very objective and simply factual information that teenagers need to accept and utilize.

"This is definitely a very good thing," Cooper said. "It's very positive and it's just strictly that — it's informative, there's nothing persuasive."

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Album Review: Beck feels the 'Guilt'

BY LUIS FLORES
DAILY TEXAN (U. TEXAS)

Beck has been around for a while. He has spent more than 15 years creating postmodern anthems, such as his most popular hit "Loser." His two previous musical efforts, "Guero" and "The Information," were a return to the eclectic style of "Odelay," his most critically acclaimed album. He's well-known for his playful and mercurial musical signature and for his exploration of diverse genres.

BECK MODERN GUILT



But Beck's almost 40 now, and it seems like he has a hangover. "Modern Guilt," his latest effort, shows us a more adult Beck, one who is concerned with war, global warming and other contemporary issues. There is an apocalyptic tone throughout the album, reminding us of his calm and moody "Sea Change."

Danger Mouse, most widely known from Gnarlz Barkley, produced this

album. Heavy basslines and wild drums drowned in reverb saturate the melodies of the songs, giving them a '60s psych-rock touch. But the addition of certain elements, such as string accompaniment and energetic beats, is too reminiscent of Danger Mouse and overshadows Beck's effort.

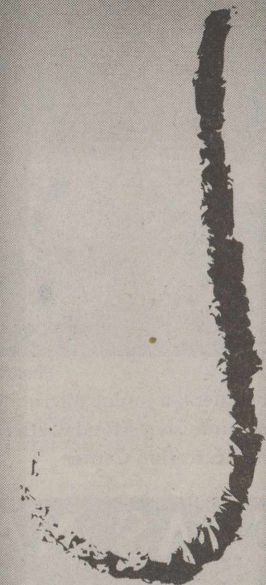
The first half of the album works better because it stays more true to Beck's style. On the other half, Beck tries to cover new ground, experimenting with more contemporary genres. Unfortunately, these experiments don't totally work.

Still, Beck's 10th LP closes on a good note with "Volcano," which manages to embody the tone and motifs carried throughout the album. In the end, "Modern Guilt" delivers several good songs crafted by an adult artist who is reaching maturity both in his musical style and in his own mentality.

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Vogue: 'Americas Next Top Model' hosts auditions in Lubbock

BY ANGELA FARMER
STAFF WRITER

Crowds gathered to watch more than 40 young women walk down a fashion model runway, all with the hope to move one step closer to their lifetime dream.

"America's Next Top Model" hosted an open casting call at the South Plains Mall on Saturday.

Local TV markets submit a proposal to host a casting call in their city, said

Branden Waits, promotions director for the Lubbock CW and the coordinator of the event. Certain cities then are selected to hold an audition with their very own local judges. This is the fifth year the event has been host in Lubbock.

"We get the opportunity, as an affiliate of CW, to do these events," he said. "Lubbock being a college town absolutely helps with the process, and, honestly, I think we have a good group of girls."

There are three judges for the event,

all with fashion or modeling background. The judging criteria include appearance, personality and age. Contestants must be at least 5 feet 7 inches tall and between the ages of 18- and 27 years old. They also are judged on their character and the creativity of their responses to questions.

The day began at 10 a.m. with videotaped auditions for the contestants, Waits said, with the judges asking a series of questions to gain a better understanding of contestants' personality. The runway show took place in the afternoon, after the morning video tape auditions.

There were a total of 47 women in this year's competition. The judges announced one winner, who is guaranteed a spot in front of the casting director of the show.

Although the judges only pick one winner, Waits said all contestants' pictures, applications and information are sent to the CW, providing a chance for them to audition elsewhere.

"I think that we've had an excellent turnout," he said. "I definitely think a lot of these girls have the potential to go on

to modeling. If it doesn't work out here, I think they definitely have an opportunity to work in the industry."

Linda Rodriguez, a native of Denver City, competed in the event three times. Last year, Rodriguez was the runner-up. She did not compete this year.

With background experience in pageants and modeling, Rodriguez said her ultimate dream since she was a child is to become a Victoria's Secret model.

Rodriguez said she often attended local modeling auditions with her friends and did photo shoots with her cousin, who is a photographer.

"The very first time I did Top Model, I was wearing this big fur jacket with these leggings," she said. "I was so nervous, it was sad. And then I kinda grew and thought, I shouldn't have worn that. My first time was bad but it's a growing experience."

Rodriguez said the industry is attempting to break the trend of skinny models. Judges are seeking tall girls and, being 5 foot 6 inches tall, she was not chosen as the finalist last year. One judge told her

that she had what they were looking for, except she was not tall enough.

"It hurt, it broke me," she said. "No one can tell you that you're too short or too tall. You should just push for it anyways."

Last year, judges narrowed the contestants down to a few that they believed were the best, Rodriguez said. Those finalists were asked the same questions again. There are many great participants for the event and it is tough for the judges immediately to pinpoint one person.

With the event still growing in popularity, Rodriguez said many young women lack self-confidence because they believe the industry only is seeking a certain type of model. Therefore, they do not attend the auditions. However, motivation is the key in this situation.

"Don't let them tell you that you're too short, or you're too curvy," she said. "It's like a new era and you want to break out of that. We don't want the small models. We've got curves. We're women. Just strive for what you want. As long as you believe and have faith, it can happen."

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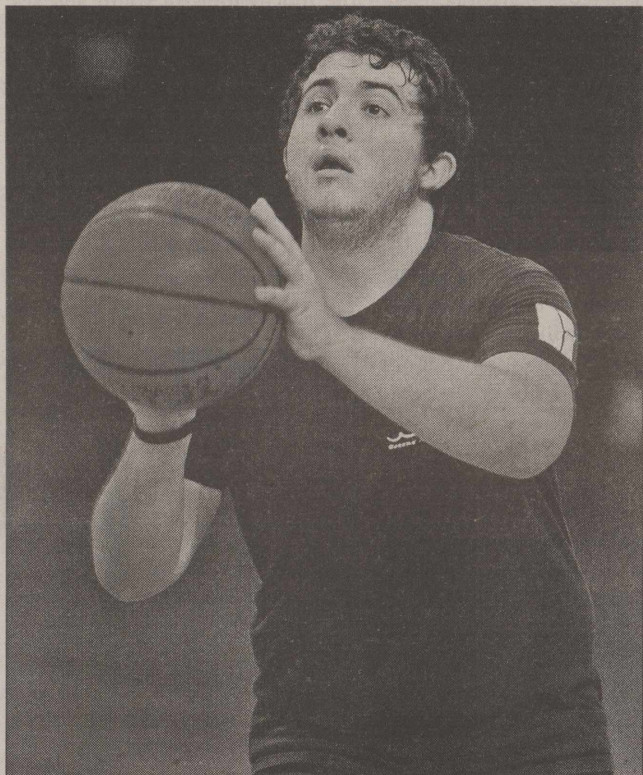


Photo by Coleman Morefield/The Daily Toreador

Matt Pesquera, a junior microbiology major from Houston, practices his jump shot Monday afternoon inside the Robert H. Ewal Student Recreation Center

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Beatles producer Martin honored in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sir George Martin, the classically trained producer who helmed the Beatles recordings from their mop-

top phase through their late musical masterworks, was honored Saturday night in Los Angeles.

Martin, 82, received a career

award from The Recording Academy's Grammy Foundation, which provides education programs for future music professionals and works to preserve musical history.

Martin is the most successful record producer of all time, according to the academy, with more than 50 chart-topping hits and one-billion units sold. He also holds the record for the longest run of No. 1 pop-chart hits in history, spanning 36 years.

Martin, who has said he is hard of hearing, sprinted by reporters on the event's arrivals line. But son Giles Martin spoke on behalf of his father, with whom he remixed original recordings to create the soundtrack for "Love," the popular Cirque du Soleil Las Vegas production inspired by The Beatles' music.

Receiving the Recording Academy tribute "is a huge honor for him," Giles Martin told AP Television. "But he always said, 'They give me an honor for still being alive.' You know, because he's English, and we're very self-deprecating. But it's a huge honor for him. And his life has been the music industry."



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THE FRONT PAGE: Kristian Gonzalez, a model hopeful from Lubbock, poses at the end of the catwalk Saturday.
MEDIA CREDIT: Coleman Morefield/ The Daily Toreador

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Cliff Lee, Ben Sheets to start in 2008 All-Star game

NEW YORK (AP) — Cliff Lee of the Cleveland Indians and Milwaukee ace Ben Sheets were picked as the starting pitchers for Tuesday night's All-Star game at Yankee Stadium.

Lee is 12-2 with a 2.31 ERA, a remarkable resurgence after the lefthander was demoted to the minors last season. He was chosen by American League manager Terry Francona of Boston.

"I'm just honored to be here, to be honest with you," Lee said Monday. "To get the start is just icing on the cake. ... I'm kind of awe-struck by it."

NL manager Clint Hurdle of Colorado tabbed Sheets, who is 10-3 with a 2.85 ERA. Several other National League All-Stars pitched Sunday, making the well-rested Sheets a logical choice.

"I've never been to Yankee Stadium so I'm going to try to take it all in and just enjoy myself," Sheets said.

Both managers announced their lineups Monday in the same Manhattan ballroom where the Mitchell Report on drugs in baseball was released seven months before.

Seattle right fielder Ichiro Suzuki will bat leadoff for the AL, followed by Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, Texas center fielder Josh Hamilton, New York third baseman Alex Rodriguez, Boston left fielder Manny Ramirez, Rangers designated hitter Milton Bradley, Red Sox first baseman Kevin Youkilis, Minnesota catcher Joe Mauer and Boston sec-

ond baseman Dustin Pedroia.

Francona kept more than numbers in mind when putting together his batting order.

"To me, Derek Jeter deserves to hit second in a lineup like this, especially in this place," he said.

The manager also acknowledged he thought about whether to honor Yankees closer Mariano Rivera with the start in his home ballpark — but only because Francona was asked about it by reporters.

"Mariano Rivera may be the greatest reliever of all-time, but he's not a starter," Francona said. "We will treat every player in this game with a lot of respect, certainly knowing that there are Yankees in this game — but other than that I think doing it correctly."

Francona wouldn't commit to calling on Rivera to close out a ninth-inning lead, saying he didn't want to divulge his plans.

"I'm going to stick my neck out and say we'll prepare from him," Hurdle said.

Hurdle put Florida shortstop Hanley Ramirez at the top of his order, followed by Philadelphia second baseman Chase Utley, Houston first baseman Lance Berkman, St. Louis slugger Albert Pujols at designated hitter, Atlanta third baseman Chipper Jones, Colorado's Matt Holliday in right field, Milwaukee left fielder Ryan Braun, Chicago's Kosuke Fukudome in center and Cubs rookie catcher Geovany Soto.

"That's the best lineup I've ever

written on paper. We'll see where it takes us," Hurdle said.

Sheets is set to become the first Brewers pitcher to start an All-Star game — three days before his 30th birthday. His most recent outing was last Wednesday, when he struck out 11 batters in six innings of a loss to the Rockies.

"Caught my eye," Hurdle said with a smile. "I'm kind of smart like that."

Hurdle said he looked closest at the All-Star pitchers who were voted in by players when he was deciding which one would get the start.

That group included Sheets, Chicago's Ryan Dempster, San Francisco's Tim Lincecum, Cincinnati's Edinson Volquez and Arizona's Brandon Webb. Dempster, Lincecum and Webb all started Sunday, while Volquez earned his 12th win Saturday.

Sheets' All-Star bonus doubled to \$50,000 for being selected as the starting pitcher.

The 29-year-old Lee compiled a 0.67 ERA during his first seven starts. He was 18-5 in 2005 but went 5-8 with a 6.29 ERA last year, when he was optioned to the minors for more than a month.

"There's a lot of pitchers having outstanding years," Francona said, "and none measured up to Cliff."

The last Indians pitcher to start an All-Star game was Charles Nagy in 1996 at Philadelphia — the last time the National League won.

Piepoli of Italy wins tough 10th stage of Tour de France

HAUTACAM, France (AP) — A bruised and sore Cadel Evans of Australia took the yellow jersey at the Tour de France on Monday after Leonardo Piepoli of Italy won a punishing climb through the Pyrenees to capture the 10th stage.

Evans, the Silence Lotto leader and one of the race favorites, entered the stage six seconds behind Kim Kirchen of Luxembourg. Kirchen had worn the yellow jersey the past four days. Evans beat him by more than two minutes despite aches and cuts from a nasty crash Sunday.

"I thought my Tour was finished yesterday," Evans said.

Evans' eyes welled up with tears as he donned the yellow jersey. This was the first time he has held the Tour lead, having finished second behind Alberto Contador of Spain last year.

Evans emerged with a one-second lead over Frank Schleck of Luxembourg, who finished ahead of Evans but had trailed the Australian by 1:50 coming into the stage.

Riders have their first of two rest days Tuesday. The three-week race finishes in Paris on July 27.

Most of the top favorites distanced themselves from the main pack in the 97-mile stage from

Pau to Hautacam. The course featured the passes of Tourmalet and Hautacam — climbs so hard they are beyond classification.

Piepoli crossed the line a split second ahead of his Saunier Duval teammate, Juan Jose Cobo Acebo of Spain. Schleck was far behind in third, with Evans in a trailing pack with the other main contenders.

The day's biggest loser was Alejandro Valverde, the Spanish national champion seen as a potential title threat. He couldn't keep up with his main rivals in the first climb up Tourmalet and lost precious minutes.

History may work in Evans' favor. In the three Tours with a stage finishing at the Hautacam, the rider who emerged with yellow jersey after the grueling 8.9-mile ascent kept the lead all the way to the finish: Miguel Indurain in 1994, Bjarne Riis in 1996 and Lance Armstrong in 2004.

"Like the others who took the yellow jersey on the Hautacam, I hope I can continue in it," Evans said.

Remy di Gregorio, a Frenchman who crashed out of his first Tour last year with a broken elbow, led the pack over the 11-mile Tourmalet pass. The favorites ultimately overtook di Gregorio early in the climb up the Hautacam, with less than eight miles to go.

Court drama and sex farce merge in Formula 1 boss's suit

LONDON (AP) — The ingredients are explosive: an affluent Englishman, a handful of dominatrices, a tabloid newspaper and allegations of Nazi role-play.

After a week that combined courtroom drama and British sex farce, a judge will rule on the nature of sadomasochistic sessions involving five women and Max Mosley, president of the organization that oversees Formula One racing.

Were they depraved acts by a powerful public figure, or private sexual encounters shamefully exposed by a prurient press?

Mosley is suing the News of the World newspaper for invasion of privacy over a story alleging he attended a five-hour Nazi-themed sex session.

The newspaper argues that Mos-

ley's public profile and "depraved" behavior make the story a matter of public interest. Summing up the paper's defense case Monday, lawyer Mark Warby said the issue at stake was "the fundamental importance in a democratic society of a free press — a free press which may say things which shock and offend."

The hearing ended Monday, and Judge David Eady said he hoped to give his ruling next week. Whatever he decides will have huge implications for Britons' right to privacy — and the media's freedom to publish.

"It's advancing the interpretation of the balance to be struck between respect for individuals' private and family life and the right to freedom of expression," said Caroline Kean, a partner at media-law specialists Wig-

gin. She is not involved in the case.

Britain has no formal privacy law, but it is a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees the right to respect for privacy and family life. Celebrities have increasingly used this clause to fight media exposes.

In 2004, Naomi Campbell won a privacy case against the Daily Mirror newspaper over a story that included pictures of her leaving a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. The next year, Canadian musician Loreena McKennitt won a privacy suit against a former friend who had published a book about her. The court ruled that information about her feelings and relationships was private and should be removed.

The judge in that case, and in

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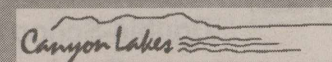
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All-Stars fight for attention in Midsummer Classic

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball is saying goodbye to Yankee Stadium during the All-Star break, a time when the sport's best gather and fans focus on one ballpark. New York general manager Brian Cashman hopes it isn't a final farewell.

"Certainly we're hopeful that we can get our act together," he said, "and extend it into October."

As the scoreboard in center field points out, just 32 regular-season games remain at Yankee Stadium, the 85-year-old monument to baseball history. There have been 106 World Series games played at the big ballyard in the Bronx — more than one-third of the American League's home total of 300.

"I've had a lot of great memories here and a lot of sad memories," said Hall of Famer George Brett, who hit three homers during a 1980 playoff game at Yankee Stadium but is best remembered for the 1983 Pine Tar Game, when his go-ahead, ninth-inning homer was disallowed by umpires, then reinstated by the AL president.

While 13 of the Yankees' last 24 regular-season games are sold out and the team is headed to its fourth straight 4 million-plus season at the box office, the stadium was at best half-filled for Sunday's All-Star Futures game, which had an announced attendance of 48,383. Season ticket-holders had to buy seats for Sunday as part of strips that included Monday's home run der-

by and Tuesday night's All-Star game, the commissioner's office said.

Tuesday's game is the highest priced in baseball history, with lower-deck seats costing \$525-\$725 and bleacher tickets going for \$150. In New York's Wall Street-driven economy, the home run derby sold for \$100-\$650 and the Futures Game for \$50-\$225.

And that's the list price.

On StubHub.com, tickets for Tuesday's game were on sale for up to \$6,390 each. That's cheap next to the regular-season finale against Baltimore on Sept. 21 — the asking price on StubHub is as much as \$65,000. Per seat.

"It is a museum. It's a baseball museum," said NL manager Clint Hurdle, who listed Yankee Stadium alongside Boston's Fenway Park and Chicago's Wrigley Field. "They're dripping with the historic ambiance of the game — the individuals that have played the game, the world (championships) that have been won there, the monuments in the outfield. I mean, the pope. Correct me if I'm wrong, didn't he speak at Yankee Stadium? It is a venue that holds its own amongst all venues."

Davey Johnson, manager of the U.S. squad that lost 3-0 to a World team in the Futures Game, remembered when he played at Yankee Stadium in the 1960s for the Baltimore Orioles against Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris.

"I hate to see it go," Johnson said. "I didn't think Yankee Stadium would

ever change."

So what was his fondest memory? "It wasn't that Jeffrey Maier game," he shot back quickly, remembering back to when he managed the Orioles in the 1996 AL championship series and a 12-year-old fan leaned over the right-field wall, above right fielder Tony Tarasco, and deflected a fly ball that wound up as a home run for Derek Jeter.

Futures players had to sign three dozen baseballs, two home plates, two pitching rubbers (pitchers only) and three jerseys. When the major leaguers walk into the clubhouses Monday, each will have 14 dozen baseballs to sign.

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner is expected at the All-Star game. The 78-year-old owner's health has declined in recent years, and he hasn't attended a game at the ballpark since opening day.

Yankee Stadium hosted the All-Stars in 1939, 1960 and 1977 — the latter on a day when it was 102 degrees. The '77 game was played 1½ years after the stadium reopened following a reconstruction that cost \$167 million.

The new Yankee Stadium, which will be 63 percent larger, is rising across the street at a cost of at least \$1.3 billion. It will feature a Hard Rock Cafe, a Martini Bar and regular-season seats that cost up to \$2,500 a game. But it won't be the same.

Yanez banned from U.S Olympic team

(AP) — USA Boxing's judicial committee upheld the organization's decision to ban Luis Yanez from the Olympic team Monday, leaving the light flyweight with just one more chance to make it to Beijing.

Yanez is expected to appeal his punishment to an independent arbitrator this week, hoping for a decision before his eight teammates leave for China next week.

Yanez was kicked off the roster July 1 for skipping more than three weeks of workouts last month at the team's residency training program in Colorado Springs. Coach Dan Campbell and USA Boxing CEO Jim Millman said they didn't hear from Yanez, who left June 4 for his native Duncanville, Texas, until shortly before they sent a formal letter setting a final deadline for his return.

Yanez, a two-time U.S. champion who won a gold medal at the Pan-Am Games last year, missed a training trip to Argentina in late June, instead attending a send-off dinner in Dallas where a Texas state representative gave him a commemorative plaque.

When Yanez finally got back in contact with his coaches, he was reluctant to say why he had missed workouts. He eventually claimed he was caring for his sister and her four children while she went through

rehabilitation for an addiction to crack cocaine, but the team still barred Yanez from the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

Yanez retained a lawyer and requested an appeal hearing Friday in which he presented evidence that he claimed would show he had attempted to contact team officials during his absence. Yanez also asked for mercy from the judicial committee, claiming his absence didn't justify crushing his Olympic dreams.

Millman and Campbell, who declined comment on the hearing, were expected to say the evidence was irrelevant because Yanez's lengthy absence was unexcused.

USA Boxing's residency program, reinstated by Campbell after a 24-year absence, has caused friction with several boxers who wanted more work with their hometown coaches. Campbell demanded residency to foster teamwork and to improve the long-struggling team's adaptation to the international game.

Most of the eight remaining boxers who will head to Beijing now say they appreciate the program's benefits, but Campbell also had disciplinary problems with light welterweight Javier Molina, who missed more training time than allowed. Campbell has been flexible with other fighters who needed time off to raise money for the trip to Beijing.

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HOUSE FOR sale. 4/3/2. Bike to Tech. Rush area 4507 16th. Christine Nelson, Realtor 797-2165.

Favre: Pack should let me play elsewhere

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Brett Favre finally is speaking for himself: He wants to play but doesn't feel welcome in Green Bay, so he's asking to be released.

The quarterback's first substantial comments on his latest retirement decision reversal come in an interview with Fox News on "On the Record with Greta Van Susteren."

"I am guilty of retiring early and there is a reason for that," Favre said, according to an excerpt provided to The Associated Press before the Monday night broadcast. "And the major issue is 'Why did he retire?,' and 'He asked for a release because he doesn't want to play in Green Bay.' That's not true. And I hope people are hearing this and saying 'OK, that clears it up.'"

According to Van Susteren, who spoke to the AP by telephone Monday afternoon, Favre said he was "never fully committed" to retiring and felt pressured by the Packers to make a decision, a notion Packers general manager Ted Thompson and coach Mike McCarthy

tried to dispel in an interview with the AP on Saturday.

"Ted always wanted Brett back," McCarthy said. "We always wanted Brett back."

Favre told Fox he understands that the Packers want to move on — but if they're doing so, they should let him go.

"Them moving on does not bother me," Favre said. "It doesn't. I totally understand that. By me retiring March 3rd, I knew that could possibly happen. All I was saying is, you know, I'm thinking about playing again."

Van Susteren, who is from Appleton, Wis., and is a Packers shareholder, said Favre made it clear he would not return to the Packers if he wasn't the starter. And while Favre said the Packers asked him for a list of teams to which he would accept a trade, he wants to be released to make sure he ends up on a competitive club.

Thompson said the team wasn't going to release Favre, but he could come

back in a "different role than he was" because the team is committed to going forward with Aaron Rodgers.

Thompson and Packers coach Mike McCarthy wouldn't discuss the possibility of trading Favre and said they hadn't received any trade inquiries as of Saturday.

Thompson and McCarthy gave AP a detailed description of their dealings with Favre throughout the offseason, including an episode a few weeks after Favre's retirement where the two were prepared to fly to Mississippi to seal the deal on a Favre comeback — only to have the quarterback change his mind again.

Favre's interview — which was receiving top billing over an interview with John McCain in promos for Van Susteren's show that aired during the day Monday — is the latest development in what is looking more and more like an irreparable schism between one of the NFL's most revered franchises and perhaps its most beloved quarterback.

Nolan out as NY Islanders coach

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Ted Nolan's return to NHL coaching ended after only two years Monday when he split with the New York Islanders over "philosophical differences" with general manager Garth Snow.

Although there had been a growing rift throughout last season between Nolan and Snow, the somewhat surprising midsummer move was made after a morning meeting at Nassau Coliseum before the opening of a rookie training camp.

"The process for me was something that took a lot of time to come to terms with," Snow told The Associated Press. "We all know we probably weren't all on the same page in certain areas."

"It wasn't going to work if two people aren't on the same page. That's why the meeting was healthy because we both realized that there were differences in philosophy."

After getting the Islanders into the playoffs in 2007, Nolan guided the club to a 35-38-9 finish last season. He finished his New York tenure with a 74-68-21 mark.

"He did some good things for us," Snow said. "He's a good person. That first year we snuck into the playoffs ... this year, obviously, was a sub-par season."

Nolan had one season remaining on the deal he signed in 2006, when he and then-GM Neil Smith were hired on the same day. Smith was fired several weeks later and Snow, then the Islanders' backup goalie, took over as GM.

Nolan sought an extension last season, when New York failed to make the playoffs for only the second time in six seasons, but was turned down by team owner Charles Wang. Nolan is expected to be paid for next season.

"There have been philosophical differences and we've agreed it's a good time for me to move on," Nolan said in a statement released by the team. "I want to thank the Islanders organization for giving me a chance to coach in the NHL again. I have tremendous respect for what the team is trying to do and I wish them well."

Snow said he had a list of coaching candidates in mind but

didn't plan to make his first phone call until Monday afternoon.

Gerard Gallant, an Islanders assistant, has been an NHL head coach with Columbus and might be considered. Fellow assistants John Chabot and Dan Lacroix are expected to return, Snow said.

Former Tampa Bay coach John Tortorella, who led the Lightning to the Stanley Cup in 2004, and recently fired Toronto Maple Leafs coach Paul Maurice are also on the market should Snow seek a higher-profile choice.

Jack Capuano, the coach of the Islanders' Bridgeport (AHL) affiliate, is likely on the list, too.

"Let me get through today," he said. "There are several candidates out there and I know we're going to find a great coach for this team. If it takes two days or it takes two weeks, we're going to find him."

Before coming to the Islanders, Nolan hadn't been in the NHL since 1997, when he was selected as coach of the year while with Buffalo. After that season, he parted ways with the Sabres over a contract dispute and couldn't get another job.

He spent the next eight years running his own business in Canada and the U.S., and coaching his son's youth team before returning to professional coaching the season before his Long Island arrival with Moncton of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

The 50-year-old Nolan was a finalist for the Islanders' job in 2001 but lost out to Peter Laviolette, now the coach of the Carolina Hurricanes. Nolan replaced interim coach Brad Shaw, who took over after Steve Stirling was fired in January 2006.

Nolan's motivating style clicked in his first season with the Islanders, and behind a stirring run behind backup goalie Wade Dubielewicz in the final week, New York clinched the last Eastern Conference playoff spot with a shootout win at New Jersey.

The Islanders couldn't continue the momentum in the playoffs and were eliminated in five games by top-seeded Buffalo. Last season, a slew of injuries — including to franchise goalie Rick DiPietro — curtailed any chance New York had of returning to the postseason.

Only three NHL teams finished with fewer points than the Islanders.

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