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Foosball Fun

Jones: Who wants to live longer?

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TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2009
VOLUME 83 ■ ISSUE 157

THE DAILY TOREADOR

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(IN BRIEF)

STATE

Man kills himself after shooting ex-girlfriend

TYLER (AP) — Police say a man killed himself Monday after shooting his ex-girlfriend as she arrived for work at a Tyler hospital.

The woman was shot three times near East Texas Medical Center, but she managed to run to the emergency room, where she is an admissions clerk.

Police say 29-year-old Charles Aundrell Bell was waiting for 27-year-old Amber Lashea Pinkney to arrive around 2:20 a.m. Monday.

NATION

Clinton: U.S. believes al-Qaida in Pakistan

NEW DELHI (AP) — U.S. officials "firmly believe" al-Qaida leaders who planned and carried out the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, are hiding in Pakistan, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday.

At a news conference, Clinton said Washington has told the Pakistani government what it believes about the location of al-Qaida leaders on its soil.

"With respect to the location of those who were part of the planning and execution of the attack of 9/11 against our country, we firmly believe that a significant number of them are in the border area of Pakistan," she said.

WORLD

Astronauts in space celebrate anniversary

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The astronauts aboard the shuttle-station complex are celebrating the 40th anniversary of man's first moon landing with their own spacewalk.

Late Monday morning, David Wolf and Thomas Marshburn ventured out to hook spare parts to the international space station. It is the second spacewalk in three days, and it's taking place 40 years to the day that Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon. "How cool," is how one shuttle astronaut described it.

DEATH TOLL

4327

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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WEATHER

Today Partly cloudy



Thursday Scattered T-Storms



Obama defies GOP on health care

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR AND DARLENE SUPERVILLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama pushed back hard against Republican critics of his health care overhaul plan Monday, vowing to fight "the politics of the moment" but also giving ground on his tight timetable for passage of legislation.

"We can't afford the politics of delay and defeat when it comes to health care," Obama said after meeting with doctors, nurses and other health care workers at Children's

National Medical Center. "Not this time. Not now. There are too many lives and livelihoods at stake."

Without mentioning his critic by name, the president recounted South Carolina Republican Sen. Jim DeMint's comment that stopping Obama's bid for health care overhaul could be the president's "Waterloo," a reference to the site of Napoleon's bitter defeat.

"This isn't about me," Obama responded. "This isn't about politics. This is about a health care system that is breaking America's families, breaking America's businesses, and breaking America's economy."

Striking a more populist tone than in past remarks, the president complained that "health insurance companies and their executives have reaped windfall profits from a broken system."

He criticized those "fighting reform on behalf of powerful special interests" and others out to put off action for "another day, another year, another decade."

"Let's fight our way through the politics of the moment," Obama said. "Let's pass reform by the end of this year."

That reflects a shift in his repeated

timetable. Obama had said previously that he wanted the House and Senate to vote on legislation before lawmakers leave town for their August recess, with a comprehensive bill for him to sign in October.

Obama spoke after the chairman of the Republican Party called the president's push for health care overhaul "socialism," and accused him of conducting a risky experiment that will hurt the economy and force millions to drop their current coverage.

Michael Steele, in remarks at the National Press Club, also

said the president, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and key congressional committee chairmen are part of a "cabal" that wants to implement government-run health care.

"Obama-Pelosi want to start building a colossal, closed health care system where Washington decides. Republicans want and support an open health care system where patients and doctors make the decisions," Steele said.

Asked if Obama's health care plan represented socialism, Steele responded: "Yes. Next question."

Ready rookie?

In first year, former Texas Tech forward Martin Zeno wins championship in Greece

By ALEX YBARRA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Even though it was in Greece, near beaches that boast crystal blue water, winning a championship overseas was a bittersweet moment for first-year player Martin Zeno.

The former Texas Tech forward had been through a lot after his team, Sea Star APOEL of the Cypress league, beat Keravnos Strovolos 79-70 in April to clinch the 2009 title.

"Just knowing all the stuff that went on the whole year, and we still ended up winning the championship, that felt good," said Zeno, who had 10 points in the championship game and averaged around 12 points per game during the season. "But also, after that happened, I was just ready to get out of there."

In the summer of 2008, after he graduated from Tech, Zeno twisted his ankle while playing with the Los Angeles Lakers' summer league team, killing any shot he had at following up his Tech career with a rookie season in the NBA.

So Zeno packed his bags and headed for Greece to play for one of the more successful clubs there. He quickly became a starter but a coaching change several games into the season had Zeno sitting on the bench more than he was used to.

So right in the middle of the season, he left.

"It was very frustrating, knowing that I should be playing. I should be out there," he said. "Every person got

bumps in the road, you just gotta find a way to get over them."

That's what happened. The club started calling him, telling him it was a mistake. He returned and immediately got his starting role back, helping the team finish in fourth place with an 8-8 regular season record.

Zeno said that record was good considering the team had to play several home games away from its normal arena.

None of the past mattered once the playoffs started though.

"Everything just started clicking for us," he said. "The guard play really carried us through the playoffs. We just started gelling, and we ended up just taking it all."

The whole experience had it's "bad moments and it's good times," said Zeno, who has been back in the United States since May resting his body to gear up for next season. However, he won't be playing in the NBA or with the defending champion APOEL in Greece. He didn't try to make a summer league team this summer, he said, and he decided to forego a second season in Greece.

He's looking to land with a different European team and hope for less turmoil. As for teaming up with former Tech guard and sharpshooter Alan Voskuil, who recently signed with Fuenlabrada in Spain, or former guard Jarrius Jackson, who

ZENO continued on page 6



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

FORMER TEXAS TECH forward Martin Zeno returned to the United States this summer after winning a national championship with Sea Star APOEL, a team in the Greek professional leagues, in April. Zeno, who finished his playing career at Tech in 2008, left APOEL during the middle of the season because he was not happy with his role. However, he returned to help his team win a championship in 2009.

July is deadliest month for US in Afghanistan

By JASON STRAZIUSO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL — Four Americans were killed Monday when a roadside bomb exploded in eastern Afghanistan, NATO said, making July the deadliest month for U.S. troops in this war.

A NATO statement did not give nationalities, but U.S. spokesman Lt. Robert Carr confirmed that all four were Americans. The deaths bring to 55 the number of international service members killed in July, also the deadliest month for NATO forces.

At least 30 U.S. troops have died this month — two more than the toll

for June 2008, which had been the deadliest month for the American force in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, a British fighter jet crashed at NATO's largest base in southern Afghanistan on Monday, the second aircraft to go down there in two days.

The Royal Air Force GR4 Tornado crashed inside Kandahar Airfield during takeoff at 7:20 a.m., said Capt. Ruben Hoornveld, a spokesman for the NATO-led force. The crew's two members ejected and were being treated for injuries at the base hospital.

The Tornado is the fourth aircraft to crash down in Afghanistan in

three days and the sixth this month. Military officials say there doesn't appear to be a common reason for the spate of crashes.

There was no indication that insurgent activity caused the latest crash, Hoornveld said, but officials could not immediately say why the plane went down. The jet caught fire and emergency personnel responded.

In the northern province of Kunduz, meanwhile, German forces killed three Afghan civilians Sunday when they fired on a pickup truck they suspected contained Taliban fighters, provincial governor Mohammad Omar said.

The German army said two civilians were killed and two seriously wounded and that the forces opened fire because the vehicle was approaching at high speed and ignored warning shots. It wasn't clear why the death tolls differed.

German and Afghan forces were conducting an operation Sunday in the Chahar Dara district when they observed two Taliban fighters entering a minivan, Omar said. When the minivan later drove toward the German forces, they opened fire, he said, but it appeared the Taliban may have exited the vehicle.

In the west, in Farah province, a van carrying civilians hit a roadside

bomb Sunday, killing 11 people aboard, including a child and his mother, said Mohammad Younis Rasouli, the deputy governor.

A British soldier was killed by an explosion Sunday while on a foot patrol in the Sangin region of Helmand province, the British Ministry of Defense said. At least 16 British troops have died in Afghanistan in July, a death toll that has sparked an outcry in Britain.

On Sunday, a Russian-owned civilian Mi-8 helicopter crashed at Kandahar Air Base, killing 16 people on board.

Hoornveld called the two crashes "coincidence."

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Gates announces 22,000-soldier increase

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced Monday that the size of the Army will be increased temporarily by 22,000 soldiers to help meet the needs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and other missions around the world.

This is the second time since 2007 that the military has determined it doesn't have a large enough force. Gates had already increased the size of the Army and Marine Corps shortly after taking the Pentagon job.

Gates noted that while progress in Iraq will lead to a reduction in the number of troops there, more troops

are needed in Afghanistan because of the worsening violence in that conflict. He said the persistent pace of operations in the two wars over several years has meant a steady increase in the number of troops who are wounded, stressed or otherwise unable to deploy with their units.

Also causing a shortage is the decision earlier this year to stop the unpopular practice of keeping troops beyond their enlistment dates, a practice known as "stop-loss."

"The cumulative effect of these factors is that the army faces a period where its ability to continue to deploy combat units (with enough troops) is at risk," Gates said.

"This is a temporary challenge that will peak in the coming year and abate over the course of the next three years," Gates told a Pentagon press conference.

The Army currently has a total troop strength of 547,000, including 65,000 soldiers who were added in recent years.

Gates said he would not seek additional money for the extra troops in the 2009 and 2010 fiscal year budgets.

"This decision will result in additional tough choices for the department," he said. "However, I'm convinced that this is an important and necessary step to ensure that

we continue to properly support the needs of our commanders in the field while providing relief for our current force and their families."

Gates also said it was "not inevitable" that more U.S. troops would be needed in Afghanistan beyond the 68,000 American force expected to be there by the end of the year.

He had said Thursday that there "may be some increase, but not a lot."

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who took over as commander for all U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan last month, is nearing the end of a 60-day review of the campaign what is needed there. The former

U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. David McKiernan, had said he needed an additional 10,000 troops, beyond the 68,000. The White House put off that decision until the end of this year.

According to the Army, 13 percent of the personnel in a typical unit heading to war are not available, compared to 11 percent previously.

The Pentagon said roughly 30,000 soldiers can't deploy with their units. About 9,400 soldiers are in so-called "warrior transition units," with either physical or stress-related injuries. Another 10,000 are unavailable because of other less

serious injuries, medical screening problems and pregnancy. The other 10,000 have been tapped for other duties, or have just returned from the battlefield and are guaranteed one year at home before they redeploy.

The buildup in Afghanistan and the shift in Iraq from a combat to a training and assistance force added to the problem by pulling individual soldiers out of their units to fill specialized positions, officials have said. That includes the recent Obama administration decisions to create special advisory brigades with extra trainers and other specialists for Iraq.

Lower IQ linked to pollution

CHICAGO (AP) — Researchers for the first time have linked air pollution exposure before birth with lower IQ scores in childhood, bolstering evidence that smog may harm the developing brain.

The results are in a study of 249 children of New York City women who wore backpack air monitors for 48 hours during the last few months of pregnancy. They lived in mostly low-income neighborhoods in northern Manhattan and the South Bronx. They had varying levels of exposure to typical kinds of urban air pollution, mostly from car, bus and truck exhaust.

At age 5, before starting school, the children were given IQ tests. Those exposed to the most pollution before birth scored on average four to five points lower than children with less exposure.

That's a big enough difference that it could affect children's performance in school, said Frederica Perera, the study's lead author and director of the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health.

Dr. Michael Ssall, a University of Chicago pediatrician not involved in the research, said the study doesn't mean that children living in congested cities "aren't

going to learn to read and write and spell."

But it does suggest that you don't have to live right next door to a belching factory to face pollution health risks, and that there may be more dangers from typical urban air pollution than previously thought, he said.

"We are learning more and more about low-dose exposure and how things we take for granted may not be a free ride," he said.

While future research is needed to confirm the new results, the findings suggest exposure to air pollution before birth could have the same harmful effects on the developing brain as exposure to lead, said Patrick Breyse, an environmental health specialist at Johns Hopkins' school of public health.

And along with other environmental harms and disadvantages low-income children are exposed to, it could help explain why they often do worse academically than children from wealthier families, Breyse said.

"It's a profound observation," he said. "This paper is going to open a lot of eyes."

The study in the August edition of Pediatrics was released Monday.

In earlier research, involving some of the same children and others,

Perera linked prenatal exposure to air pollution with genetic abnormalities at birth that could increase risks for cancer; smaller newborn head size and reduced birth weight. Her research team also has linked it with developmental delays at age 3 and with children's asthma.

The researchers studied pollutants that can cross the placenta and are known scientifically as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Main sources include vehicle exhaust and factory emissions. Tobacco smoke is another source, but mothers in the study were nonsmokers.

A total of 140 study children, 56 percent, were in the high exposure group. That means their mothers likely lived close to heavily congested streets, bus depots and other typical sources of city air pollution; the researchers are still examining data to confirm that, Perera said. The mothers were black or Dominican-American; the results likely apply to other groups, researchers said.

The researchers took into account other factors that could influence IQ, including secondhand smoke exposure, the home learning environment and air pollution exposure after birth, and still found a strong influence from prenatal exposure, Perera said.

Police: Man accused in murder of six started spree in Alabama

FAYETTEVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The man accused in a rampage that killed six people first beat an acquaintance to death at an Alabama business before moving north into Tennessee to kill his wife, her family and a neighbor, an investigator said Monday.

Jacob Shaffer's first victim was Sidney Wade Dempsey, Sgt. Mark Roberts of the Huntsville, Ala., police department told The Associated Press. Dempsey, 50, was apparently killed by blunt-force trauma at Hall Cultured Marble Granite, where he worked and was allowed to live, Roberts said.

Roberts said Shaffer, 30, confessed to killing all six victims, including his wife, Traci Shaffer, 38. A friend of the victims said her family owned the Alabama granite business.

Investigators have said Shaffer's motive was "domestic," though it was unclear why Dempsey was attacked.

"I think the guy (Dempsey) was just in the wrong place at the wrong time. I think the guy (Shaffer) just decided to start there," Roberts said.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said autopsies on the Tennessee victims have been completed and information on how they were

killed would be released later Monday. Officials have not yet released a full chronology of the killings.

Shaffer was arraigned on homicide charges Monday in Fayetteville, Tenn. He faces five counts there and another in Alabama.

Shaffer appeared by video link between the Lincoln County Jail and a courtroom.

Visible on a video screen, Shaffer wore an orange prison jumpsuit and was handcuffed, answering the judge's questions by saying only "yes" and shaking his head in response.

General Sessions Judge Andy Myrick appointed two assistant public defenders to represent Shaffer.

Family friend James Wilson said he had seen fights between Jacob and Traci Shaffer. He said police told him Shaffer spared the couple's 4-year-old daughter, who was home at the time, but investigators haven't yet confirmed that.

"As far as seeing him do something like this, you just can't see it," Wilson told The Associated Press. He said he is dating Traci Shaffer's sister, Jennifer.

"She's not handling it and I can't

blame her," he said. "What can you say to someone who has lost everybody?"

Traci Shaffer was found dead Saturday in her home in rural Fayetteville along with her son, Devin Brooks, and neighbor Robert Berber, both 16, said Tennessee Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman Kristin Helm. The bodies of Traci Shaffer's brother, Chris Hall, 34, and father Billy Hall, 57, were found in a home across the road.

The Shaffers were no longer sharing a home but had not filed for separation, said Wilson, who was gathering belongings from Traci's house in Lincoln County. Wilson said he met Jacob Shaffer when they were installing drywall, but they had stopped being friends about a year and a half ago.

Shaffer was still installing drywall around Huntsville, and Billy Hall had been driving him back and forth to work before the couple split, Wilson said.

"Her dad done everything he could for Jacob," Wilson said. "I have no idea why he walked across the street to her daddy and her brother. Her daddy never done anything wrong."

CIT board approves \$3 billion rescue

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIT Group Inc.'s board approved a deal late Sunday with major bondholders to keep the company out of bankruptcy with a \$3 billion rescue loan, the New York Times reported.

The emergency financing is intended to give the ailing company time to restructure some of the billions of dollars in debt payments coming due this year, the Times re-

ported, citing anonymous sources.

CIT representatives could not immediately be reached for comment.

New York-based CIT had been negotiating with key bondholders — including bond manager Pimco — in an attempt to avoid a bankruptcy filing. Jeffrey Peek, the company's chairman and chief executive, was actively involved

in the talks, according to a person briefed on the matter. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks are confidential.

CIT has been scrambling to raise \$2 billion to \$4 billion after the federal government refused to bail out the company. Rescue talks with government regulators broke off late Wednesday after days of round-the-clock negotiations.

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2		9			3 5
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			4	5	6
			3		
		3	6	9	
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3					1

Puzzles by PageFiller

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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Man arrested, accuses racism

BOSTON (AP) — Henry Louis Gates Jr., the nation's pre-eminent black scholar, is accusing Cambridge police of racism after he was arrested while trying to force open the locked front door of his home near Harvard University.

Cambridge police were called to the home Thursday afternoon after a woman reported seeing a man "wedging his shoulder into the front door as to pry the door open," according to a police report.

An officer ordered the man to identify himself, and Gates refused, according to the report. Gates began calling the officer a racist and said repeatedly, "This is what happens to black men in America."

Officers said they tried to calm down the 58-year-old academic, who responded, "You don't know who you're messing with," according to the police report.

Gates was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge after police said he "exhibited loud and tumultuous behavior." He was released later that day on his own recognizance and arraignment was scheduled for Aug. 26.

Gates referred comment to his lawyer, fellow Harvard scholar Charles Ogletree, who was not immediately available. Cambridge police declined to comment, and the Middlesex district attorney's office said it could not do so until after Gates' arraignment. The woman who reported Gates did not return a message Monday.

Many of Gates' African-American colleagues believe his arrest is part of a pattern of racial profiling in Cambridge, said Allen Counter, who has taught neuroscience at Harvard for 25 years.

Economy up in June

NEW YORK (AP)—More plans to build homes, higher stock prices and fewer people filing first-time claims for jobless aid sent a private-sector forecast of U.S. economic activity higher than expected in June.

It was the third straight monthly increase for the New York-based Conference Board's index of leading economic indicators, and another sign pointing toward the recession ending later this year.

The index rose 0.7 percent last month. Wall Street analysts polled by Thomson Reuters expected a gain of 0.4 percent. May's reading was revised up to a gain of 1.3 percent from 1.2 percent, while April was scaled back to 1 percent growth from 1.1 percent.

The group also said activity in the six-month period through June rose 2 percent, with an annual growth rate of 4.1 percent. That's the strongest rate since the first quarter of 2006.

The index is meant to project economic activity in the next three to six months.

If these conditions continue, "expect a slow recovery this autumn," said Conference Board economist Ken Goldstein.

The Conference Board's leading indicators index bottomed in March after peaking in July 2007. The decline accelerated last fall after investment bank Lehman Brothers collapsed and credit markets froze.

"We're now getting data which points to stabilization," said Josh

Shapiro, chief U.S. economist at research firm MFR Inc. "The overall signal they're sending is the slide in economic activity is poised to end. The jury is still very much out in terms of what happens after that."

Many analysts expect modest economic growth in the fourth quarter after the gross domestic product posted the worst six-month performance in about 50 years at the end of 2008 and beginning of this year.

Stocks rose on Wall Street after the better-than-expected index reading and on reports that commercial lender CIT Group had reached a deal with bondholders to avoid bankruptcy. The Dow Jones industrial average added about 50 points in afternoon trading, and broader indices also gained.

Saying 'sorry' good for some doctors

DETROIT (AP)—When a treatment goes wrong at a U.S. hospital, fear of a lawsuit usually means "never daring to say you're sorry."

That's not the way it works at the University of Michigan Health System, where lawyers and doctors say admitting mistakes up front and offering compensation before being sued have brought about remarkable savings in money, time and feelings.

"What we are doing is common decency," said Richard Boothman, a veteran malpractice defense lawyer and chief risk officer for a health system with 18,000 employees and a \$1.5 billion annual budget.

The estimated \$5.8 billion annual cost of malpractice claims nationwide has drawn scrutiny as President Barack Obama and Congress plot an overhaul of the nation's \$2.4 trillion health care system. So far, Obama has spoken in broad terms about shielding doctors

from unwarranted lawsuits without capping damage awards, but medical malpractice is an issue that deeply divides. Doctors, hospitals, trial lawyers and patient advocates disagree not only on the solution but the problem itself.

Is it the high price of malpractice insurance? The difficulty for victims of medical errors getting justice? The cost of unneeded tests ordered by lawsuit-wary doctors? The "burying" of medical errors that kill tens of thousands of Americans yearly?

Officials at the University of Michigan say their approach addresses doctor, patient and public concerns.

The willingness to admit mistakes goes well beyond decency and has proven a shrewd business strategy, according to a 2009 article in the "Journal of Health & Life Sciences Law" by Boothman and four colleagues at the Ann Arbor school.

According to Boothman, malpractice claims against his health system fell from 121 in 2001 to 61 in 2006, while the backlog of open claims went from 262 in 2001 to 106 in 2006 and 83 in 2007. Between 2001 and 2007, the average time to process a claim fell from about 20 months to about eight months, costs per claim were halved and insurance reserves dropped by two-thirds.

Boothman said the health system learns of possible medical errors from doctors themselves, as well as from patients or their lawyers. In any case, the university conducts a peer review to see if there was an error and if changes are needed to prevent a recurrence.

Equally important, health system doctors and officials offer to meet with patients and their families, sometimes to explain that treatment was appropriate and sometimes to admit a mistake.

Apollo 11 crew: U.S. should aim for Mars; planet more hospitable

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first astronauts to walk on the moon want President Barack Obama to aim for a new destination: Mars.

On Monday, the Apollo 11 crewmen, fresh from a Washington lecture Sunday in which two of them expressed concerns about NASA getting bogged down on the moon, are meeting with Obama at the White House.

In one of their few joint public appearances, the crew of Apollo 11 spoke on the eve of the 40th anniversary of man's first landing on the moon, but didn't get soggy with nostalgia. They instead spoke about the future and the more distant past.

Sunday night, a packed crowd at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum — 7,000 people applied in a lottery for 485 seats — didn't get the intimate details of the Eagle's landing on the moon with little fuel left, or what the moon looked like, or what it felt like to be there.

They got second man on the moon Buzz Aldrin's pitch for Mars. He said the best way to honor the Apollo astronauts "is to follow in our footsteps; to boldly go again on a new mission of exploration."

First man on the moon Neil Armstrong only discussed Apollo 11 for about 11 seconds. He gave a professional lecture titled "Goddard, governance and geophysics," look-

ing at the inventions and discoveries that led to his historic "small step for a man" on July 20, 1969.

Armstrong said the space race was "the ultimate peaceful competition: USA versus USSR. It did allow both sides to take the high road with the objectives of science and learning and exploration."

Apollo 11 command module pilot Michael Collins, who circled the moon alone while Armstrong and Aldrin walked on it, said the moon was not interesting, but Mars is.

"Sometimes I think I flew to the wrong place. Mars was always my favorite as a kid and it still is today," Collins said. "I'd like to see Mars become the focus, just as John F. Kennedy focused on the moon."

SC gov.'s trips to be studied

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina legislators say Gov. Mark Sanford's travel spending needs closer scrutiny, following an Associated Press review that showed he was booked on pricey flights despite laws that say state employees must travel as cheaply as possible.

"That's a big problem," said state Sen. Kevin Bryant, a Republican from Anderson and former Sanford ally. "Certainly when the average South Carolinian couldn't afford first-class, there's no reason they should be paying for someone else to be flying on a first-class ticket."

Details have emerged on Sanford's travel spending since last month's revelation of his yearlong extramarital affair with an Argentine woman. The governor, who has vowed to stay in office, has said the two longtime friends became physical during a 2008 state Commerce to South America that first took officials to Brazil.

Records show Sanford charged the state \$8,687 for the Delta Air Lines trip that included a leg in business class while other state employees spent less than \$2,000 each on economy seats for the Brazil flight. The governor last month reimbursed the state for \$3,300 tied to the Argentine portion of the 2008 South America trip.

The AP review also showed a 2006 U.S. Airways flight to London by the governor cost \$7,065 in "envoy" class, the same as first class.

WORLD EVENTS IN BRIEF

Bosnian Serbs convicted of burning Muslims

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — A U.N. war crimes court convicted two Bosnian Serb cousins Monday for a 1992 killing spree that included locking scores of Muslims in two houses and burning them alive.

Yugoslav war crimes tribunal judge

Patrick Robinson said burning at least 119 Muslims to death in the eastern Bosnian town of Visegrad "exemplified the worst acts of inhumanity that one person may inflict on others."

He sentenced Milan Lukic to life in prison and Sredoje Lukic to 30 years.

Robinson said Milan Lukic was the ringleader in both incidents, helping herd victims into the houses, setting the fires and shooting those who fled the flames. The judgment said his cousin Sredoje Lukic aided and abetted in one of the blazes.

Israeli settlers set fire to Palestinian fields

NABLUS, West Bank — More than 30 Israeli settlers, some of them on horseback, set fire to fields and olive trees and stoned Palestinian cars during a rampage in the West Bank on Monday, a Palestinian official said. Two Palestinians were lightly injured.

The settlers went on the rampage near the city of Nablus in the northern West Bank to protest the Israeli army's removal of an unauthorized settlement outpost in the area.

Chassan Daglas, a Nablus mu-

unicipality official, said the riot began with 10 settlers on horseback and grew to a mob of 30 south of the city, where the settlers attacked Palestinians who passed in cars.

Daglas said smoke from the burning fields blanketed the area, but no houses were damaged. Daglas said Israeli forces tried to stop the rampaging settlers.

Israel's paramilitary border police force said it arrested one settler.

Israel has pledged to the U.S. to remove more than two dozen tiny,

unauthorized settlement outposts in the West Bank, but has taken little action against them. Hardline settlers commonly attack Palestinian property as retaliation for demolished or evacuated settlements — a tactic they call the "price tag."

The Palestinians oppose all settlement activity on land they claim for a future state, and the U.S., which considers settlements obstacles to peace, is demanding a freeze on all settlement construction in the West Bank.

Fujimori sentenced 7 1/2 years for embezzlement

LIMA, Peru — A Peruvian court has sentenced Alberto Fujimori to 7 1/2 years in prison for embezzlement after the former president admitted illegally paying his spy chief \$15 million in state funds.

Fujimori appeared unfazed by Mon-

day's conviction and told the court he was moving to overturn the ruling.

Fujimori has already been sentenced to 25 years for authorizing military death squad activity during his 10-year rule. Previously, he was convicted of abuse of power and sentenced to six

years for an illegal search. Prison sentences do not accumulate in Peru.

The 70-year-old ex-president faces yet another corruption trial for allegedly authorizing bribes and illegal phone taps.

Iran supreme leader warns opposition to back down

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's supreme leader issued a tough warning Monday to the opposition to back down after a pro-reform former president called for a referendum on the government's legitimacy, a sign of the movement's growing boldness in challenging the country's clerical rulers.

The exchanges between the opposition on one side and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his core of hard-line clerical supporters on the others appeared to be heating up, reflecting

how the monthlong conflict over Iran's disputed presidential election is entering a new level — a struggle within the leadership itself.

The opposition has been energized by a show of support last week from former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a key figure within the ruling clerical hierarchy. On Monday, opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi made some of his harshest comments yet at hard-liners and, implicitly, Khamenei himself.

Mousavi said they had insulted Iran's people by claiming that the anger over June 12 presidential elections that exploded into massive protests was fueled by foreigners.

"You are facing something new: an awakened nation, a nation that has been born again and is here to defend its achievements," Mousavi said during a meeting with families of those arrested in the postelection crackdown, in which he called for the detainees' release.

Ousted Honduran leader pushes for more sanctions

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Aides to ousted President Manuel Zelaya pushed Monday for international sanctions against Honduran officials who took power in a coup and foreign nations stepped up pressure after negotiations for his return reached a deadlock.

A top Zelaya adviser, Enrique Flores,

told The Associated Press that other governments should take steps such as freezing the bank accounts of members of the interim government.

The European Union announced Monday that it is suspending some 65 million (\$92 million) in aid to Honduras after the government installed by a coup

rejected a mediator's plan for Zelaya's return.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton added to the pressure, phoning interim President Roberto Micheletti over the weekend to warn of consequences if he fails to reach a negotiated settlement.

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BIZ WEEKLY

Beastie Boy Adam Yauch has 'treatable' cancer

NEW YORK (AP) — In an upbeat video, Beastie Boy Adam "MCA" Yauch announced via the group's Web site that he has a "very treatable" cancerous tumor in his salivary gland and a nearby lymph node.

As a result, the band announced Monday it is canceling its tour dates and postponing the release of their upcoming album, "Hot Sauce Committee Part 1."

"About two months ago I start-

ed feeling a little lump in my throat," Yauch, seated next to fellow Beastie Boy Adam "Ad-Rock" Horowitz, said in his video message on the site. "I started think I should talk to my doctor ... and he sent me to a specialist, and they did tests, and I actually have a form of cancer."

Yauch, 43, said he will likely undergo surgery next week, followed up by some form of radiation.

"The good news is that they did

scans of my whole body and it's only localized this one place, and it's not in a place that effects my voice, so that's nice," he said with a laugh. "This is something that's very treatable in most cases, they're able to completely get rid of it and people don't have continuing problems with it and it's not anywhere else in my body."

Yauch is not only part of the pioneering rap trio, but has also emerged as a film producer.

Sony bids \$50 million for Jackson film

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sony Corp.'s movie studio has bid \$50 million to acquire the worldwide distribution rights to a film based on rehearsal footage from Michael Jackson's "This Is It" comeback concert series, according to a person familiar with the bid.

The person said Monday that the bid came after several studios, including Paramount, Universal, 20th Century Fox and Warner Bros., were shown footage starting early last week. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the bidding had not been completed.

The winning studio would produce the film with Jackson's con-

cert promoter, AEG Live, and his estate.

It would go a long way to helping AEG Live recoup some of the \$30 million to \$32 million it spent producing the concert before Jackson died June 25.

Sony Pictures has a leg up on other bidders because Sony Music distributes Jackson's music and is in a 50-50 partnership with his estate in Sony/ATV Music Publishing.

The bidding was reported earlier by the Los Angeles Times and industry blogger Nikki Finke.

The estate and AEG Live are also negotiating with several television networks and pay-per-view

outlets on a TV special that would be a stage show featuring Jackson's music and dancing. It would be directed by "This Is It" director Kenny Ortega.

The selling price being discussed for the rights to show the TV special is also in the tens of millions of dollars.

General Electric Co.'s NBC has been in talks on the TV show, but the concept, air date and cost for the rights has not been finalized, said NBC spokeswoman Rebecca Marks.

"We have no deal for the rights to the Michael Jackson special," Marks said.

Brown apologizes for Rihanna beating

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Brown has publicly apologized for his beating of Rihanna.

Brown released a two-minute video on his Web site on Monday apologizing to fans and saying he is sad and ashamed of his conduct.

He also says on the video that he has repeatedly apologized to Rihanna.

Brown was arrested Feb. 8 and later charged with assault likely to cause great bodily harm.

He pleaded guilty to the assault charge last month and faces sentencing on Aug. 5.

He is slated to serve five years of probation and perform six months of community labor.

Brown says on the video he wanted to speak out earlier, but was advised not to by his lawyer.

The 20-year-old calls his actions "unacceptable."

Jones won't fly to the moon, but his music did

WASHINGTON (AP) — Quincy Jones won't fly to the moon — but his music did.

As the crew of Apollo 11 rocketed toward their historic moon landing on July 20, 1969, astronaut Buzz Aldrin listened to Jones' arrangement of Frank Sinatra's "Fly Me to the Moon."

In a phone interview from Marbella, Spain, Jones told AP Radio that

when he heard the news from Sinatra, it was "like something that's surrealistic. You can't believe it."

Jones' connection to the space program doesn't stop there.

"The same time they were on the moon," the 76-year-old composer-conductor said Friday, "I was recording 'Walking in Space,'" the CD that would earn Jones a Grammy for best

jazz instrumental in 1970.

Astronaut Leland Melvin used "Walking in Space" as his wake-up music on the Atlantis space shuttle last year.

Jones said he would never follow his music into space.

"You couldn't pay me to go to the moon, man," he said. "I don't even drive a car."

Al Roker launching Weather Channel show

NEW YORK (AP) — If NBC Universal's takeover of The Weather Channel wasn't already noticeable to that network's fans, it was at 6 a.m. EDT on Monday.

That's when the "Today" show's Al Roker, probably the country's best-known weatherman, began an hourlong weekday morning show. It's a symbol of his celebrity status that the show is named "Wake Up With Al" even though he has a co-host, Stephanie Abrams.

The show includes news and business headlines along with the weather, and is designed to be re-

freshed every 15 minutes for people getting ready for work. Roker drew a comparison to "Today," where he will continue to work.

"We look at this as kind of a weather-centered version of that show," he said. "Everything you need to know you're going to get, and you're going to get it quickly and concisely and with a little flair."

Technically, it's a show that would have been difficult to pull off a decade or so ago. Roker and Abrams will try to create morning show chemistry despite rarely being in the same state. Roker

will work at NBC's Manhattan headquarters, a quick walk across 49th Street to the "Today" studio, and from the road when "Today" travels. Abrams will be based at The Weather Channel's Atlanta headquarters.

Besides the forecasts, the team will do a "Take it or Leave it" segment, a thumbs-up or thumbs-down on the weather in a particular city. Roker will periodically "wake up" celebrities or viewers with arranged phone calls.

"We will not be cold-calling people," he said.

GOAL!

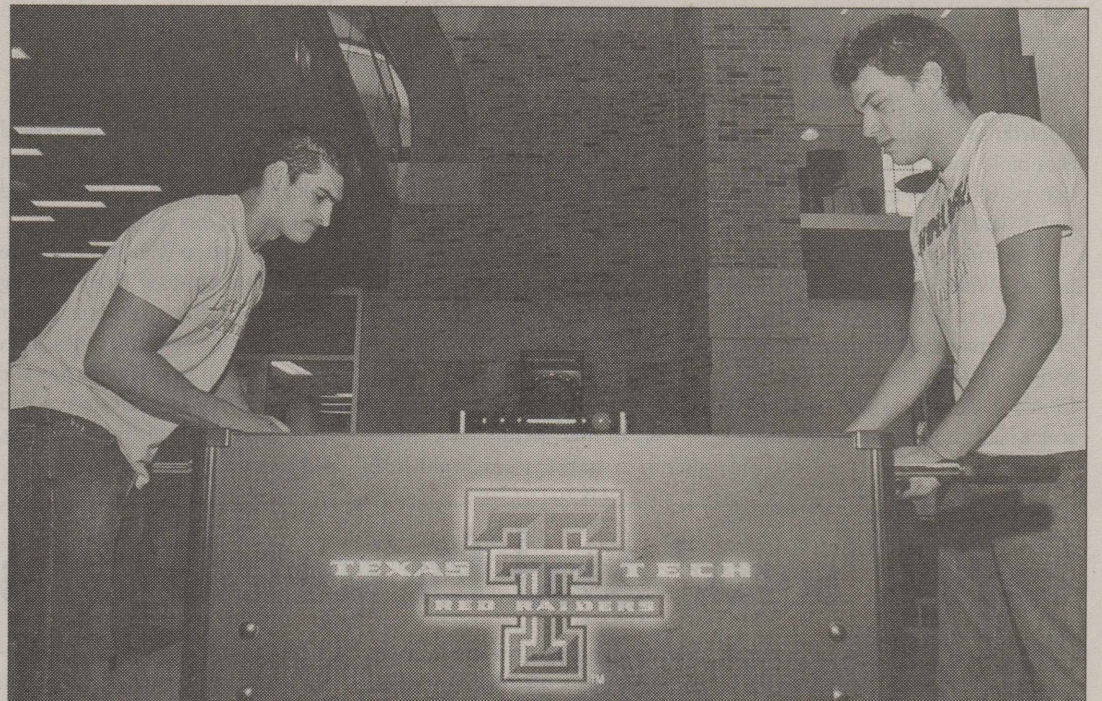


PHOTO BY COLEMAN MOREFIELD/The Daily Toreador

ALFONSO MENDEZ, A senior industrial engineering major from Mexico, and Jose Omar Camarency, a junior industrial engineering major from Mexico, play a game of foosball Monday in the Student Union Building.

La. zookeeper cares for joey

FOLSOM, La. (AP) — Christina Cooper has been wearing a kangaroo lately — a foundingling named Skippy, who was rejected by his mother at a wildlife park in eastern Louisiana.

Inside a canvas carryall over Cooper's shoulder is an artificial kangaroo pouch for the 6-month-old red kangaroo.

It's demanding duty — Skippy must be bottle fed every four hours, though he's starting to eat grass and other green stuff.

Workers at Global Wildlife Center in Folsom found the joey, as young 'roos are called, on the ground May 13 in the area where about 40 red kangaroos live.

Cooper, one of the park's two animal care specialists, waited about 90 minutes, hoping the mother would pick it up.

"That was really hard just to watch," Cooper said. "But the adults

were really not interested in him. Nobody came to claim him."

He was probably about 4 months old and utterly helpless.

Though adult red kangaroos can grow more than 6 feet tall, a newborn joey is about the size of a jelly bean. Eyeless, earless, all but skinless and with only buds where its hind legs will be, a newborn hauls itself into its mother's pouch. There, the "pouch embryo" clamps its mouth onto a teat. It cannot even open its mouth for about a month, and usually stays attached for about six months.

Cooper doesn't know how or why Skippy came out of his mother's pouch. A female that is stressed or chased by a predator may expel a joey, Cooper said. But the Folsom reserve keeps no carnivores on its 900-acre property north of New Orleans.

When he was found, Skippy

weighed a bit more than a pound. His head was smaller than a man's thumb.

Hairless at first, Skippy began to grow gray fur. Now, some of that fur is showing traces of the reddish-brown that gives the species its name.

Cooper had never hand-raised a wild animal before, let alone a kangaroo. She started with a call to a friend at the Baton Rouge Zoo, some urgent Internet research, a rush order for "The Complete Guide to The Care of Macropods" — a scientific name that translates roughly as "hugefoot" — and an e-mail to its author, Lynda Staker, an Australian kangaroo rescuer.

"I had read previously that the best way to regulate the body temperature in an animal that young is to wear them. Put them close to your skin, inside your clothes," Cooper said.

So she turned a sweatshirt into an impromptu pouch and wore it inside another shirt and a warm fleece jacket. "That's pretty unbearable in May in Louisiana," she said.

Novel still causes drama

DUBLIN (AP) — Bitterness over Frank McCourt's memoir "Angela's Ashes" still smolders in his hometown of Limerick. Residents of the western Irish city have never agreed whether his Pulitzer-winning account of childhood survival amid soul-crushing poverty was more fact than fiction.

Limerick City Hall opened a book of condolence in memory of its most famous writer Monday, the day after McCourt's death and 13 years after "Angela's Ashes" put the city by the River Shannon on the literary map.

The vocal minority who have long branded McCourt a self-promoting liar kept a respectful silence — but observers wondered how long this restraint would last.

"The book was a delight and 80 percent true," said Tony Browne, a Limerick amateur historian who has found himself caught between two verbally warring camps in his past career as a local radio host. "Some people will keep saying it's all lies. They'll go to their deathbeds still in denial."

Official Ireland offered united condolences for the 78-year-old writer, who at age 19 left behind a Limerick that — through a combination of wretched housing, sanitation, sickness and hunger — had claimed the lives of three young siblings.

"Limerick is very proud of, and will never forget, Frank McCourt," said the mayor, Kevin Kiely, who plans to attend the U.S. funeral service and expressed hopes that McCourt's family would set aside some of the author's own ashes to be scattered on the Shannon. McCourt himself once expressed that hope — later adding the barb that he hoped his ashes would pollute the river.

For many locals, McCourt's memoirs have forever tarnished their own families' reputations and their parents' sentimental memories of a happy, harmonious Limerick.

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Publishing Information
Periodical Postage paid by The Daily Toreador, Student Media building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409. Publication number: 766480. The DT is a student newspaper published Monday through Friday, September through May; Tuesdays and Fridays June through August, except during university examination and vacation periods. The DT is funded primarily through advertising revenues generated by the student sales staff with free campus distribution resulting from student service fees.

Subscriptions
Call: (806) 742-3388
Subscription Rates: \$120 annually, single issues: 25 cents.
Postmaster: send address changes to The Daily

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Science has found 'cure' for living longer, but what for?

Want to live longer? As it turns out, we may have the answer. A report in the July 10 issue of Science showed a dramatic difference between the lifespan of two different sets of Rhesus monkeys in a 20-year study. The results were so shocking that scientists have already begun seeking additional funding for another 20 years of research.

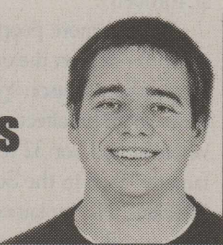
One scientist called the findings, "simply incredible." In the study, nearly three times as many control monkeys have died than test monkeys, a remarkable achievement even in the most selective of environments.

So what is the magic formula for long life? Calorie restriction. Boy that's exciting. After 20 years and millions of dollars, researchers at the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center at the University of Wisconsin—Madison showed us all 38 starved monkeys live longer than their slothful, indulgent counterparts.

By decreasing the test monkeys' diets by 30 percent fewer calories, the Rhesus monkeys were shown to have 70 percent fewer instances of cancer, heart disease or other age-related conditions. Furthermore, test monkeys exhibited greater mental capacities and energy levels while the control monkey's exhibited noticeable signs of aging: wrinkles, hair loss and slumping posture.

And it seems as though the good news doesn't end there. Researchers at the National Institute on Aging's

Ben Jones



millions of Americans in this age group, it remains a product of a burgeoning senior section.

It is a product of our society — human nature — to seek long life. According to Genesis, Hebrew patriarch Methuselah was said to live 969 years. Ponce de Leon discovered the Fountain of Youth in 1513 that fostered a youth-preserving mineral water. And James Hilton's Shangri La cultivated health, happiness and of course long life. We even look at the Hunza Valley of Pakistan and the Vilcambamba of Ecuador, where people are said to live as long as 120, as examples of genetic age retardation. In the last two years alone, the United States has poured in over \$1.5 billion in anti-aging research funding.

Yet I for one believe that there is a complement to everything. With youth, comes age. With time, there is space. And with birth, there is death. There are constants that impact our lives that a pill cannot change. Aging remains a subtle, no doubt vital, part of our progression to this mortality. We spend all of our time trying to avoid death when truth be told, we don't even know when death happens.

Now can somebody please feed those poor starving monkeys?

■ Jones is a sophomore economics major from Lubbock. E-mail him at ben.jones@ttu.edu.

Interventions Testing Program matched this study by showing that the common drug Rapamycin exhibits similar effects of calorie restriction. Alas, the elixir for long life. Now all we have to do is take a pill and we can live longer.

But while these findings are surely a step toward the ultimate goal of a long and healthy life, they are far from groundbreaking. The Institute for Aging Research reported just two years ago that women under 5 feet 2 inches and 105 pounds are more likely to live longer than any other demographic. Thus, there seems to be at least some link to low weight and long life.

The late 20th century technological boom helped advance anti-aging research methods and expanded the field of biogerontology dealing with age related issues. But the real increase in anti-aging attention comes as baby boomers seek geriatric care.

With nearly one in five Americans over the age of 65, the demand for longevity never has been higher. And while it may be true that each advancement in biogerontology brings a new hope for the

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Animal experimenters often claim that the use of animals is a highly regulated process and that animals are used only when there is no adequate alternative available. A commitment to animal welfare is almost universally espoused.

Yet, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center provides a distressing counterpoint. The institution's alleged commitment to animal welfare is betrayed by its actions.

The university has been using the same cruel methods for pediatric life support training for more than twenty years. In that time, medical simulation technology has become extraordinarily sophisticated, has been widely adopted and endorsed by top medical professional organizations and according to scientific literature, has proven to be superior to the use of animals for training.

Far from the cutting edge, Texas Tech continues to purchase cats from an Odessa animal shelter and to subject them to physically traumatic training procedures, including

having plastic tubes jammed down their throats and needles repeatedly stabbed into their chests.

Texas Tech has yet to offer any serious justification for employing these decades-old training methods and has been unable to cite any evidence whatsoever to suggest that these methods are as good as using alternative, humane methods. The reason for this is simple: They cannot offer such a justification because their position is not supported by science, ethics or common sense.

This casual use of animals for invasive and deadly training procedures is not merely callous and uncaring. While the ethical considerations alone should be sufficient motive to end the practice of using live cats for these training sessions, there is a legally compelling case to be made that this use of cats is also a breach of the letter and spirit of the federal law.

Under the Animal Welfare Act, the university is legally obligated to seek out and implement non-animal

teaching methods whenever they are available. Given the ubiquity of non-animal methods for training in these skills, it is simply not plausible that the university could have met this legal burden. Non-animal methods are the currently accepted standard of practice.

Texas Tech's new Marie F. Hall SimLife Center and the school's Pediatric Advanced Life Support course already employ simulation mannequins for pediatric medical training — including the procedures for which cats are being used elsewhere on campus. This further highlights the fact that it is not necessary to harm animals in order to train medical professionals.

We can only hope that university officials are moved by their consciences before they are moved by our legal system.

Robyn Katz is a third-year-Tech law student from Little Silver, N.J., and president of Texas Tech's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a physician who has many times used and taught the procedures for which Texas Tech Health Science Center is using shelter cats, I was perplexed by Mr. Clayton's opinion piece (Procedures using cats can save lives — July 17). It includes many unsupported statements and conclusions that make it clear that the author has never done — or likely even seen — the very practice he supports. What in fact saves lives is not

the use of cats, but the knowledge and skill to perform emergency procedures quickly, deftly and without errors. That is best taught either in real-life situations under supervision, or by using the remarkable human-like intubation simulators already available at TTUHSC. Organizations that accredit and conduct pediatric intubation training know this. TTUHSC has backed itself into a corner, and should just quietly announce that

this training will henceforth be done using the much superior and infinitely more humane simulators. Then other Texas physicians like me can stop feeling embarrassed that TTUHSC is still using outdated and discredited training methods, and is shamefully involved in pound seizure of shelter cats.

Dr. John Pippin, 1980 Harvard graduate from Dallas

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Armstrong admits teammate Contador deserves victory

VERBIER, Switzerland (AP) — When Alberto Contador launched his bold attack, it was reminiscent of Lance Armstrong's golden years.

The fast pedaling was the same, the determination was the same — but it was a different rider on the saddle: his teammate Alberto Contador, already one of the sport's greatest at the age of 26.

The Spaniard crushed all other Tour contenders on Sunday's first Alpine stage from Pontarlier, France, to the Swiss ski resort of Verbier, claiming the leader's yellow jersey he wanted more than anything else.

As he already did last week in the Pyrenees, the 2007 Tour winner showed he has no rival in the mountains — and

took a serious step toward a second victory in cycling's showcase event.

"Lance Armstrong was my idol, but dropping him today wasn't important — he was just like any other rider ... It's an honor for me to have him working for me," Contador said.

During his seven-year reign from 1999 and 2005, Armstrong always used hilltop finishes to stamp his domination. This time the Texan was unable to follow the insane pace imposed by Contador, whose legs are 11 years fresher than Armstrong's.

"As far as I'm concerned, I'm happy to be his domestique," a fatalistic Armstrong said. "I'm proud of him."

Last week in the Pyrenees, Armstrong

criticized Contador following an attack which allowed the Spaniard to leapfrog him. The Texan then accused his Astana teammate of riding against team strategy — and even hinted he could have followed Contador if he had really wanted to.

It was a different story after the final, 5.5-mile ascent to Verbier, where Armstrong fully understood that he couldn't compete. The cancer survivor, back on the Tour four years after his last victory, accepted his chance of victory is minimal.

"Yeah, it will be hard," Armstrong said. "A day like this really shows who's the best, and I wasn't on par with what's required to win the Tour. So for me, that's the reality, that's not devastating news or anything."

Time is running out on Tom Watson

TURNBERRY, Scotland (AP) — Tom Watson was among the British Open champions whom the R&A consulted when it decided the game was getting younger and it was time to lower the age limit to 60 for winners of golf's oldest championship.

It might be time to reconsider.

Imagine how much different that conversation would have been had the Royal & Ancient seen a performance for the ages at Turnberry, where a 59-year-old Watson was in the lead the final three days and came within an 8-foot putt of winning.

"I'm sure if someone at age 59 had been winning the championship, bringing down the age limit would have been lower on the agenda," R&A chief executive Peter Dawson

said Monday. "But we brought down the age limit in order to give more spaces in the championship to younger players allegedly in their prime to compete."

Watson sure looked in prime time at Turnberry.

Perhaps more people should have paid attention on the eve of the British Open when Watson spoke in reverent tones about his affection for Turnberry, where he had won 32 years earlier in the famous "Duel in the Sun" against Jack Nicklaus. He explained all week why he can still compete on links courses that require shots to be struck pure, not necessarily with power.

Watson wound up beating all but one player in the field.

Tiger Woods didn't even make it to the weekend, hitting the ball poorly into a northwest wind during a pivotal stretch along the coast. Two-time de-

fending champion Padraig Harrington was never a factor, finishing 14 shots behind.

Stewart Cink, a worthy champion who closed with a 69, still needed help from the old man. Watson's 8-iron on the 18th had just enough bounce to roll off the back of the green. In the playoff, Watson looked his age for the first time and lost by six shots.

"It would have been a hell of a story," Watson said. "It wasn't meant to be. And, yes, it's a great disappointment. It tears at your gut, as it always has torn at my gut. It's not easy to take."

Cink was too young to remember Watson's victory at Turnberry, although he played a practice round with him at the Masters this year and was struck by how cleanly Watson hit the ball. Playing against him when it counted was more impressive.

Suit accuses Mavericks owner of diverting profits

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban is accused of wrongfully diverting millions of dollars from the NBA franchise's home arena to help make up for cash shortfalls incurred by the team, according to a lawsuit filed by a company controlled by the team's former owner.

The lawsuit claims Cuban covered the Mavericks' financial shortfalls by obtaining more than \$29 million in unauthorized loans through a limited partnership de-

signed to distribute profits from the arena, the American Airlines Center. It accuses the Mavericks and three other companies controlled by Cuban of breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and unjust enrichment.

The company that filed the suit, Hillwood Center Partners, is controlled by former Mavericks owner Ross Perot Jr. and holds a small interest in the arena's limited partnership, Radical Arena. A related Perot company sold the

Mavericks to Cuban in 2000.

Cuban declined comment in an e-mail to The Associated Press. The lawsuit was filed Wednesday in state district court in Dallas, and a copy was obtained Monday by the AP.

Hillwood spokesman Eddie Reeves said the company tried unsuccessfully to resolve its issue with Cuban before filing the lawsuit.

"At this point, we feel this is the only option we are left," he said.

A long way from No. 1 to 18 at this course

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Hit a few loose shots or three-putt the first green at Nullarbor Links and you'll have plenty of time to think about your errant ways before teeing off at the second.

That's because No. 2 is 42 miles down the highway.

Billed as the world's longest golf course, Nullarbor is set to open next month — an 842-mile trek through the desolate Outback of Australia's Nullarbor Plains, starting at Ceduna in the state of South Australia and finishing at the mining town of Kal-

goorie in Western Australia.

The course is a novelty, for sure, but its organizers reckon the par 71, which includes holes borrowed from existing golf courses and others built from scratch near motels and tourist attractions, is sure to bring out the adventurous player.

"I don't think there is any two ways about it, it will be unique," Alf Caputo, the course's project manager said in a telephone interview from the western city of Perth, where he is organizing the finishing touches on the course for a planned Aug. 15 opening. "The scenery

along this stretch of the Eyre Highway is unlike anywhere else in the world."

Ditto the golf course. The seven holes taken from existing golf courses include some with sand greens that are raked, oiled and then rolled to maintain their smoothness.

The first two holes are among them, and they have natural grass fairways, but the 11 holes that are being built for Nullarbor Links will have synthetic tees and synthetic greens — the most workable plan from a maintenance standpoint due to the lack of rainfall in the flat, dry land of south-central Australia.

Zeno

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

averaged 13.5 points per game in 2008-09 for two different Ukrainian teams, Zeno said it probably won't happen.

"I just think life will play its course

out. I really can't say," he said. "I can't bash Europe because it was pretty good. I'll just see how everything goes, how it all works out. I'll just play it as it goes, that's how I feel about it."

Tech coach Pat Knight said he has not gotten a chance to speak with Zeno since he's been back, but he would like to see him come and

practice in Lubbock to help the Red Raiders prepare for next season.

"We're trying to get a lot of our past players when they come back from overseas to work out with our guys," he said. "I know Zeno was really pleased with his play, my assistants told me and he really enjoyed it over there."

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NBA defends age minimum to Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — The NBA defended its minimum age requirement to Congress, but a critical lawmaker was unmoved and is asking to meet with top league officials to discuss it, according to letters obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

The rule, which is part of the league's collective bargaining agreement with the players union, requires that players be at least 19 years old and a year out of high school before entering the league. Last month, Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., urged the league and union to scrap the requirement in the next collective bargaining agreement, calling it unfair.

NBA President Joel Litvin told Cohen in a recent letter the purpose of the requirement is to promote the league's business interests by "increasing the chances that incoming players will have the requisite ability, experience, maturity and life skills" to perform at a high level. The policy also helps teams make informed hiring decisions, he wrote.

In addition, he said, players get an extra year to mature and develop, making it more likely they can handle the challenges of being an NBA player.

Litvin said the policy is motivated by "business considerations," not a desire to force players to attend college against their wishes.

He wrote that many employers require job candidates to have post-high school experience, and that the U.S. Constitution sets minimum ages for House members, senators and the president. Given that, "we do not understand your objection" to the rule, Litvin wrote.

In a letter sent to Litvin Monday, Cohen maintained that players should have the "economic freedom" to make their own decisions. He said he understood that the policy may help the league in its scouting and hiring decisions.

"However, my concern is that the players who must abide by this rule are harmed by the league's pursuit of these business interests," the congressman wrote, adding that the "age discrimination" prevents players from supporting their families.

The policy increases the chance that such players will be injured before getting the chance to play in the NBA, he added.

"I am concerned that the careers of young men who possess all the skills necessary to succeed in the NBA," Cohen wrote, "may be sacrificed in favor of the bottom lines of the teams on which they hope to play."

Cohen, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, asked for a meeting with Litvin and Commissioner David Stern. Cohen has said that that he'd consider both hearings and legislation if the requirement remains.

Neither the NBA nor the union immediately responded to requests for comment Monday.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

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ACROSS

1 Money on the Web

6 Kind of palm tree

10 "Angel": Mae West film

14 Broadway's Rivera

15 Fed under Ness

16 Chesapeake Bay catch

17 "Fanny" composer and lyricist

19 Waffle brand

20 Handwriting on the wall

21 Coupling device

22 Get of one's own medicine

23 Course of study for future docs

25 River that forms at Pittsburgh

26 "Mallrats" costar

31 Approximately

34 Hard to handle

35 Fluffy wrap

38 Belted out

37 Wood for crafts and rafts

39 Fun house feature

40 Social beverage

41 Ticked off

42 Second careers for thoroughbreds

43 "God Bless America" writer

47 Slaughter of baseball

48 Less arduous

51 "You are here" symbol

53 Texas city, familiarly

55 Lunch or dinner

57 Pained cry

58 Frequent "Happy Days" director

60 Boo Boo's buddy

61 Lotion additive

62 Youngest of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"

63 "Ignore that change," to a printer

64 Covet

65 Experimental bomb blast, briefly

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DOWN

1 Parrot

2 Tiltcholder

3 ABC or NBC, e.g.

4 Moonshine container

5 Henry V, as a prince

6 Walked with purpose

7 Frantic way to run

8 Clue, e.g.

9 1300 hours

10 Stranded at O'Hare, perhaps

11 Hershey's product

12 Bothers persistently

13 One of the reads

18 Salon colorist

22 Sailor's call

24 Player at the new City Field

25 Paella pot

27 Brouhaha

28 "Absolutely!"

29 Exude, as confidence

30 Aberdeen turndowns

31 Piedmont wine area

32 '30s heavyweight champ Max

33 As often as not

37 Wet, spongy areas

38 Wall St. hedger

39 Many a gas station store

41 Winter coat?

42 Charlotte, to Anne or Emily

44 A party to the plot

45 Be sorry for

46 Tramp's love

49 Beyond unusual

50 Pours or drizzles

51 Grant and Carter areas

52 Plant anchor

53 "Dracula" star

54 Appliance on a board

56 D.A.-to-be's exam

58 Chew the fat

59 ATM user's need

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Vick's dogfighting sentence ending

HAMPTON, Va. (AP) — Suspended NFL star Michael Vick's federal dogfighting sentence is ending.

The federal Bureau of Prisons lists Vick's release date as Monday. That means Vick can shed the electronic monitor he's been wearing while on home confinement in Hampton, Va., for the last two months of his 23-month sentence.

Freedom also allows Vick to step up his efforts to resume his pro football career. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has said he will review Vick's status after the former Atlanta Falcons quarterback completes his sentence.

If Vick is able to return to the NFL, it won't be with Atlanta. The Falcons released Vick in June.