

THE LANTERN

THE STUDENT VOICE OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
JULY 8, 2003

TONIGHT:
THUNDERSTORMS
LOW 70

TOMORROW:
THUNDERSTORMS
HIGH 82, LOW 63



ON THE WEB

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www.thelantern.com



Cool guys all around

The Wexner Center is ready
to kick off its 'Cool Guys'
summer movie series.

ARTS page 5



U.S. recovers from losses

Men's team slides by
Paraguay for its fourth
Columbus shutout.

SPORTS page 6

New Jersey attack foiled

Three teenagers arrested
after murder plot.

WIRE page 10

CLASSIFIEDS

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lantern@osu.edu

NEWSROOM (614) 292-5721

EDITOR: MATT DUVAL
NEWS EDITOR: TODD LAPLACE
OPINION EDITOR: JOHN ROSS
WIRE/INTERNET EDITOR: JOHN MAY
CAMPUS EDITOR: AMANDA HARDESTY
CAMPUS EDITOR: AMY MCCULLOUGH
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ARTS EDITOR: ERIC CHRIST
PHOTO EDITOR: ELIZABETH NIHISER
GRAPHICS EDITOR: SARAH NEYAZ

NEWS FAX (614) 292-5240

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Lawsuit sparked by building delays

By Michelle L. Dupler
For The Lantern

Ohio State may be the losers in a battle against four construction companies.

An Ohio Court of Claims referee recommended OSU pay \$3.3 million plus interest in a lawsuit last week.

The plaintiffs filed a complaint against OSU and the State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services, claiming delays in the construction of three buildings in the Fisher College of Business cost them money.

OSU penalized the contractors for completing the project six months beyond the scheduled deadline, according to referee William L. Clark's report.

Peter D. Welin of Thompson Hine LLP, attorneys for Dugan & Meyers, argued that the delays were caused by inadequate and defective plans.

"Questions came up during construction about the details of design, and how it would be built," Welin said. "Those questions delayed their ability to build by six months."

Attorneys for OSU and ODAS claimed all delays were the contractors' fault.

Because of the complexity of the case, Clark was appointed by the Ohio Supreme Court to hear the

case and make a recommendation to the Court of Claims judge.

Both sides presented witnesses and evidence during a 17-day trial in February. According to Ohio law, the referee has the authority to hear

the case then issue a recommendation. However, only a Court of Claims judge has the power to issue a final judgment.

After hearing the evidence, Clark issued a 75-page report detailing the facts of the case and his findings.

The report stated a precedent in Ohio law makes a "public owner" responsible to provide a contractor with plans that are "sufficient." The plans provided by OSU contained extensive errors.

"We are very disappointed with the referee's recommendation, because we do not feel it is consistent with the case presented or with the law."

Elizabeth Conlisk
OSU spokeswoman

"When plans contain errors and omissions affecting the work, a contractor has the right to be compensated for additional costs resulting from those deficiencies," according to the report.

OSU will ask the court to discard the recommendation, said Elizabeth Conlisk, an OSU spokeswoman.

"We are very disappointed with the referee's recommendation, because we do not feel it is consistent with the case presented or with the law," Conlisk said.

The parties must object to the recommendation by July 25. Judge Shoemaker's ruling is expected later this year.

Abuse of funds may increase monitoring

By Ben Nanamaker
Lantern staff writer

Alleged mismanagement by Ohio's State Teachers Retirement System's director has led a state senator to introduce legislation that would allow the Ohio Inspector General to act as a watchdog for Ohio's retirement systems.

Sen. Teresa Fedor, D-Toledo, introduced Senate Bill 104 Thursday in the wake of allegations against STRS executive director Herbert Dyer. A local media article accused him of mispending public funds, causing the STRS to lose \$12.3 billion in 2001. This led 105 legislators to call for his resignation.

"STRS members in the retirement system are very upset with the current management and over-

sight, and I don't blame them," Fedor said in a statement. "One hundred and five legislators agree with them as well."

A similar provision was included in the biennial budget but was line-item vetoed by Governor Bob Taft. It would have given the Ohio Inspector General authority to investigate the retirement systems, Ohio Retirement Study Council and the Ohio Historical Society.

Taft said he vetoed the Ohio Inspector General's provision in the budget because the retirement systems already have oversight procedures provided.

"State law already has established entities to oversee the policies and operations of the retirement systems," he said in a state-

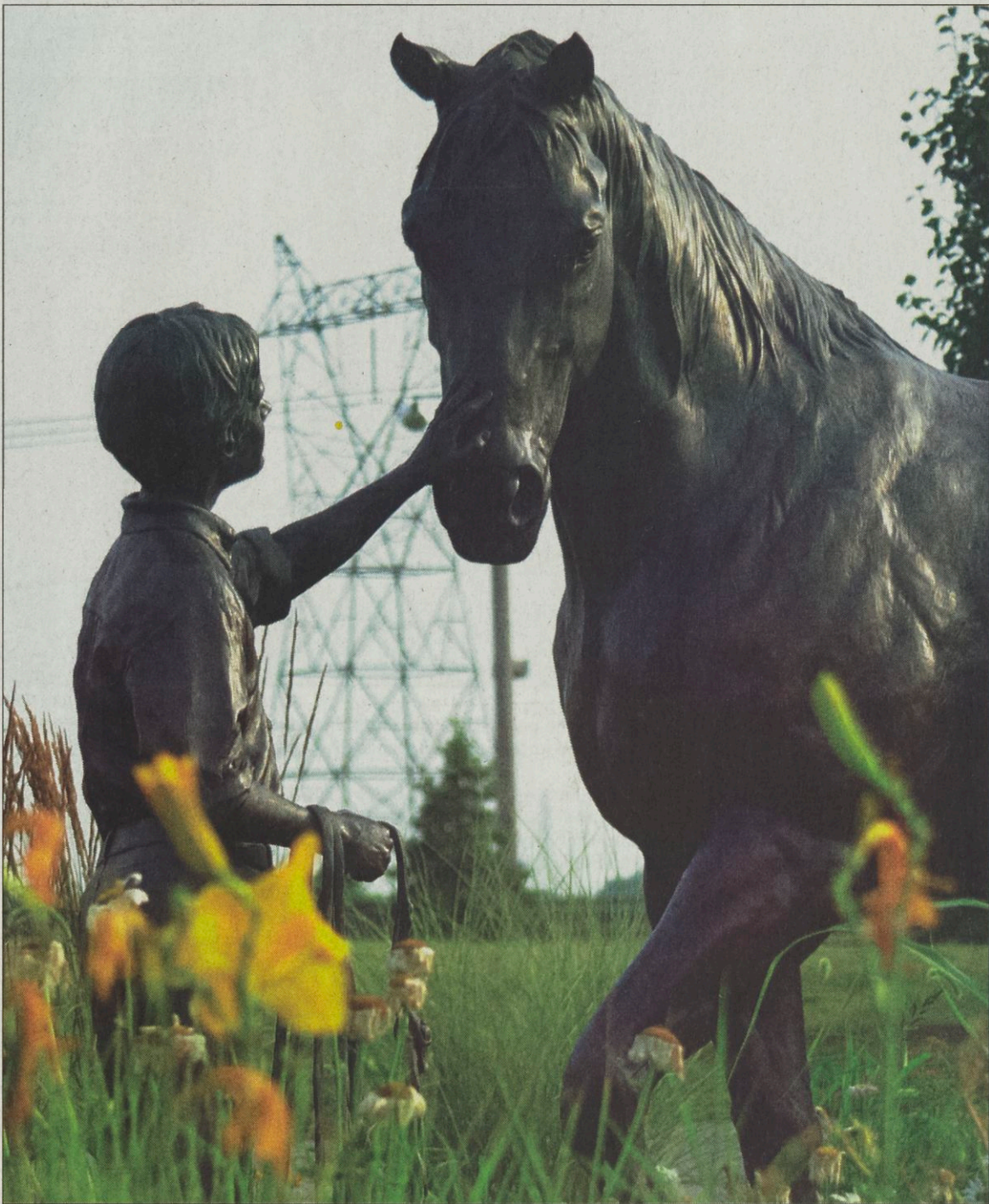
SEE RETIRE PAGE 2

MOTHER NATURE STRIKES AGAIN



MELISSA MILLER/THE LANTERN

Yesterday's strong storm ripped apart a tree on the corner of Neil and 17th avenues. Forecasts call for more storms throughout the rest of the week.



ELIZABETH A. NIHISER/THE LANTERN

A statue stands in front of the entrance of Buckeye Ranch in Grove City. Equine-assisted therapy help disabled individuals learn basic horse-training skills.

Horses help handicapped

Disabled get new lease on life through equine-assisted therapy program

By Mandy Heth
Lantern staff writer

Native Americans once thought horses were majestic beings sent from the gods. For many people today, they are life-giving creatures who have given them the ability to function and grow.

Since the 1960s horses have been used in therapy programs for individuals suffering from physical, mental and emotional problems.

In 1969, the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association was formed to help promote equine-assisted therapy. It has since operated the therapeutic riding instructor certification program.

Equine therapy is a combination of many horse-related activities created to help individuals with cognitive, physical, emotional and social disabilities. The patients learn basic horse-care skills and horseback riding.

These activities improve balance, mobility, muscle tone,

coordination and posture for patients suffering with physical disabilities.

"The horse's movements stimulate muscles in the rider's body," said Robert Kline, associate professor of animal sciences.

Along with stimulating muscles, the horse's movements closely simulate normal human walking, said Joelle Devlin, a mounted lesson coordinator at Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Fieldstone Farms offers a number of programs that focus on therapeutic riding and riding abilities as well as hippotherapy, a program for less social patients that involves one-on-one lessons with a licensed therapist.

Horses are chosen for the programs because of their behaviors.

"A horse doesn't care what the patient's disability is," Devlin said.

The horses chosen for the therapy programs must have good dispositions and patience and must pass many tests to even be considered.

"They must be very quiet and unaffected by actions going on around them," Kline said.

When selecting horses, many facilities evaluate the animals for months before accepting them into their programs.

"All our horses are donated,"

"A horse doesn't care what the patient's disability is."

Joelle Devlin
Fieldstone Farm
Therapeutic Riding Center

Devlin said. "They go through at least a month trial period where we show them wheelchairs and lifts to make sure they can handle the noise and equipment used in the riding lessons before they are brought in for patient use."

Not only are the horses screened, so are the patients.

"Kids are mainly referred to our facility through Franklin County Children's Services, courts and doctors," said Lousia Worthington, a spokeswoman for Buckeye Ranch, a facility that offers treatments for children with emotional, behavioral and mental health issues.

To be put on the waiting list

SEE HORSE PAGE 2

Grant would boost crisis care

Ohio seeks additional funds to prepare for potential bioterrorism emergencies

By Seth Teter
Lantern staff writer

The Ohio Department of Health is seeking \$52.5 million in federal funds to help hospitals and local health departments prepare for bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies.

If received, the grant, which is in its fourth year, will be the largest to date. Following the Sept. 11 attacks, the amount of money provided jumped from less than \$10 million combined in the first

two years to \$34.9 million the third year. Nearly \$1 billion was distributed nationally in 2002.

"We certainly want to be prepared for anything," said Bret Atkins, spokesperson for the ODH. "Preparation is more of a process than a goal."

In requesting money, health institutions will need to outline specific strategies for accomplishing general goals, Atkins said.

"Part of it is based on sheer population. Additional money is based on what they need to fulfill those goals," he said.

Although the majority of the money — \$32 million — will come from the Centers for Disease Control, \$18 million will come from the Health Resources and Services Administration and \$2.5 million from the Department of Homeland Security.

The grant year begins Aug. 31, and the ODH expects a response from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services late that month.

Of the total amount requested, \$38.9 million will be shared with hospitals and local health departments.

Hospitals will be receiving a larger percentage of that money

SEE GRANT PAGE 2

Addition to Hale to be beneficial

By Misty Alli
Lantern staff writer

The Hale Black Cultural Center has been awarded \$250,000 from Nationwide Insurance for renovations and possible additions. The renovation will add to the 20,000 square-foot building, located on the southern part of the center.

"The Hale Center will have a five-year plan to expand, with the option of a second floor or adding additional footage," said Larry Williamson Jr., the director of the Office of Minority Affairs in the Hale Center.

Although the Hale Center already has enough space to display many paintings and artworks, the larger space would provide a better atmosphere to help with academics and programs for all Ohio State students, Williamson said.

Students also think the addition will be beneficial.

"I am happy to see that they are investing money on renovating something that will mostly benefit minorities," said Jerry Lipkins, a junior in early childhood development.

"The addition of a second floor will not only further showcase our culture, but it will become a new attraction that will invite OSU students of all races and bridge the gap between our cultures," he said.

Changes to the basement area were part of the original renovation plan, but can not be accomplished because of the mechanical structure; however, the addition will be equal in size to the current basement.

"The basement area is at least two-thirds of the building and a vitally important area that can be used for academic and cultural programming," Williamson said.

The building offers a number of



The Hale Center has undergone some renovations in the past years including the addition of this hallway. The hallway showcases artwork from Ohio artists. The center plans to further expand, thanks to a donation from Nationwide Insurance.

rooms for academic and cultural programming, such as the Arthur Schomburg Resource and Reading Room, the African/African American Hall of Fame, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Lounge and kitchen facilities also are available upon request.

The Hale Center also has two

computing labs — one is available to students and the other is reserved for community and visitor use.

Glen Funk, the director of facility planning, said planning was not yet complete for the addition to the Hale Center.

"Before any building addition can be started through the planning and construction process a space request must be initiated and signed by the appropriate administrator," Funk said.

"We here at the Office of Financial Planning have not yet seen a space request for the project," he said.

The option of either adding a second floor or increasing square footage at the Hale Center has not yet been selected; however, it is expected to be complete in 2004 or 2005.

ELIZABETH A. NIHISER/THE LANTERN

"I am happy to see that they are investing money on renovating something that will mostly benefit minorities."

Jerry Lipkins
junior in early childhood development

RETIRE FROM PAGE 1

ment. "The Ohio Retirement Study Council, a majority of whom are legislators, has oversight authority over the retirement funds. The Auditor of State and the Attorney General serve as members of the boards of the pension funds and the Auditor of State had audit authority for the systems. In addition, the Securities and Exchange Commission regulates the retirement systems' investment activities."

Taft's spokesman Orest Holubec said he would work with the General Assembly and discuss oversight issues. Holubec said if the legislature wants to move ahead with oversight issues, any additions should be made through the ORSC.

The Inspector General has jurisdiction to investigate state agencies and officials in the executive branch for allegations of waste and abuse.

The ORSC reviews existing laws about retirement systems and investment policies and studies legislation proposed in the General Assembly that could affect the retirement systems, then makes recommendations about them, said Sen. Kirk Schuring, R-Canton. Schuring is a member of the ORSC board and is also the lead co-sponsor of Fedor's bill.

Ohio's retirement systems are the STRS, Public Employees Retirement System, School Employees Retirement System, Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund and State Highway Patrol Retirement System.

According to the Office of Human Resources retirement benefits Web site, all Ohio State staff

members are eligible for PERS retirement benefits, and all faculty members are eligible for STRS benefits.

Schuring said Taft's veto message was unclear on the objectives of the ORSC.

"I find that to be paradoxical," he said. "On the one hand, he says that we have oversight and on the other hand he says that we need to give this more authority. There is no oversight that relates to the mismanagement and waste or abuse that just recently occurred."

"There is no investigatory authority within ORSC to look at day-to-day operations of Ohio's retirement systems," Schuring said.

The Ohio Inspector General could fill a gap that exists in current law.

"For instance, the Ohio Attorney General can investigate criminal acts," Schuring said. "The Inspector General has the ability to inspect waste and abuse that might not be criminal but nonetheless inappropriate. Then they can make recommendations for change."

Laura Ecklar, a spokeswoman for the STRS, said sufficient procedures were in place.

"We believe that there's already a number of oversight mechanisms in place for the pension system," she said.

Trudy Rammon, a spokeswoman for Fedor, said the bill has not been given to a committee because the state Senate is currently on summer break until September. Once the bill is given to a committee, they will decide when and if it is heard by the Senate.

GRANT FROM PAGE 1

than in previous years.

"After Sept. 11, everyone took a harder look and started spending more resources to prepare for an emergency," said Eric Kunz, executive director of corporate support for The Ohio State University Health System.

The Ohio State University Hospitals have already spent money for a decontamination tent and oxygen masks. The hospitals also have used the money for upgrades in communication and refitting its emergency center.

If federal money was available, the hospitals would request reimbursement for those costs,

Kunz said.

"The changes are more related to terrorism than when it comes to SARS or monkey pox," he said. "Clinically we're already prepared to deal with those things."

The OSU Hospitals will be investing more in training and education.

The focus will be on learning how to coordinate a response to an emergency with the government and other hospitals.

"We're doing more exercises to get people exposed to more information," Kunz said. "What we've done and continue to do is heighten our awareness."

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HORSES FROM PAGE 1

for Fieldstone Farm's program candidates must complete paperwork, have a physician's order stating the benefit to the patient and not exceed 180 pounds, Devlin said.

Equine-assisted therapy's success rates are hard to measure in numbers and statistics, but many people stand by it.

"Our success rates are measured by parents telling us it's working and physicians reports," Devlin said. "We had one child who had a 45 degree curve in his spine; by the time he finished the program the curve had been reduced to 18 degrees."

Besides just equine-assisted therapy, many facilities offer other forms of therapy and treatments.

Buckeye Ranch treats over 1,200 children a day in programs such as residential care, foster care, community support, outpatient counseling, deaf services, educational and vocational services, prevention, permanent family solutions and research.

Fieldstone Farms also offers carriage driving and vocational education courses.

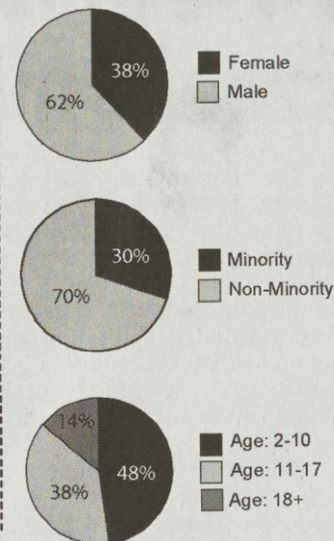
"Our goal is to improve the activities of daily living for our patients," Devlin said.

Disabilities of Clients 2002

Autistic Spectrum	18.3%
Cognitive Impairments	11.4%
ADD/ADHD	11%
Developmental Delays	10.4%
Behavioral Disorders	9%
Cerebral Palsy	8%
Down Syndrome	6%
Learning Disabilities	5.2%
Emotional/Mental	5%
Psychological Disorders	5%
Other	3%
Sensory Impairments	3%
Neurological Disorders	1.4%
Spinal Disorders	1%
Seizure Disorders	1%
Fragile X Syndrome	1%
Multiple Sclerosis	.3%
Head Trauma	.3%

For more information on equine-assisted therapy and other treatments for teens or to volunteer, contact:
Buckeye Ranch: 5665 Hoover Road, Grove City, OH. 43123
614-875-2371
Fieldstone Farms: 16497 Snyder Road, Chagrin Falls, OH. 44023
440-708-0013

Fieldstone Farms Statistics 2002



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Alternative fuel source uses vegetable oil

College students drive veggie car across America to make environment pitch

By Frank Witsil
Knight Ridder Newspapers
(KRT)

DETROIT — This summer, David Brown and Rachel David, 21-year-old art students at Oberlin College in Ohio, plan to take the familiar journey seeking pre-graduation enlightenment on the road.

While Jack Kerouac raced cross-country in a Hudson Hornet, Brown and David will peel out in their Veggie Wagon — a 2003 Volkswagen Jetta fueled by vegetable oil.

The friends test-drove their modified silver station wagon for the first time last month, whooping as they took their short ride down the streets of Brown's Oakland Township neighborhood.

"Everyone we talked to about this thought it was either so cool or it wasn't going to work," David said, excited that their car didn't conk out during the trial. "The ride was so smooth."

The classmates got the veggie-car bug last year from a man they met while attending the Rainbow Gathering, a counterculture event in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. They decided to do the same thing to make a political and social statement about the environment.

"It was so cool," said David, who has a pierced nose and several tattoos, but no auto engineering training.

But vegetable oil-powered cars interest others, too. The U.S. Army, auto manufacturers and even the Fowlerville school district in Liv-

ingston County, Mich., are taking a look at them.

To the establishment, veggie power is bio-diesel.

Vegetable oil will not work in conventional gasoline engines. But it will burn in diesel engines.

The concept of using vegetable oil as fuel in diesel engines is nothing new, said Joshua Tickell, author of "From the Fryer to the Fuel Tank: The Complete Guide to Using Vegetable Oil as an Alternative Fuel."

When Rudolf Diesel developed the diesel engine 1895, he expected it to operate on a variety of fuels, including vegetable oil. In 1900, Diesel ran his engine at the World Exhibition on peanut oil, Tickell said.

The modifications are so simple the two college students could figure out how to do it by visiting Web sites and talking to clerks at auto parts stores.

Tickell estimates there are fewer than 10,000 cars in the United States that run on vegetable oil. The idea seems to be catching on as more people become environmentally conscious.

"It's hip to be environmental," he said.

Tickell, who lives in Covington, La., spent two years in the late 1990s driving a vegetable-oil-powered Winnabago, the so-called Veggie Van, to every state to promote the use of the alternative fuel.

He buys his oil by the 55-gallon drum for \$2.48 a gallon.

Some enterprising environmentalists are advertising kits — which

"Everyone we talked to about this thought it was either so cool, or it wasn't going to work. The ride was so smooth."

Rachel David
Veggie Wagon co-owner

include valves, switches, fuses, fuel lines and filters — that can be used to modify cars to run on vegetable oil for about \$500.

In Fowlerville, Mich., where the school system got a federal grant to test a 20 percent bio-diesel blend in 36 buses for a year, school officials said they are hoping that the fuel will be more efficient and lower maintenance costs.

It also is better for the environment and the fumes don't smell as bad, said assistant superintendent Linwood Hibbard.

The fuel costs 15 cents to 20 cents more per gallon than diesel. But, if total operating costs are lower, the school system might continue to use the alternative fuel, he said.

"The economics is always an issue," Hibbard said.

General Motors Corp., the



David Brown and Rachel David have equipped Brown's 2003 Volkswagen Jetta Diesel Station Wagon to run on vegetable oil. They are shown with the car in Bloomfield Township, Michigan, in June.

world's largest automaker, is looking at how it can use renewable fuels, said Gary Herwick, the company's director of alternative fuels.

But, he does not recommend drivers use vegetable oil.

"That's a little scary," he said.

Still, Brown and David, said they are not afraid to try. The seniors, studying "art stuff," plan to drive

from Detroit to Columbia, Md., where David's parents live, and then to California.

The trip is the payoff for months of research and mastering basic mechanics. They even took welding classes. The modifications took about a month and cost about \$250, they said.

They welded a 22-gallon steel tank for the vegetable oil and

installed it in the back of the Jetta. They added valves and filters to purify the oil. The job required some rewired electronics.

To drive, they start the car with diesel fuel and switch to vegetable oil once it has been heated enough to be burned. And they are on the road.

(c) 2003, Detroit Free Press.

Prescription drug abuse offers risky edge

By Mahvish Khan
Knight Ridder Newspapers
(KRT)

Two prescription stimulants widely bought and sold on the university underground in South Florida and across the country are increasingly drawing criticism from doctors, law enforcement, ethicists and fellow students.

The drugs, Ritalin and Adderall, are used illegally to enhance studying by as many as one in five college students, according to a November 2002 study published in The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

At the University of Miami, administrators have put up fliers and posters around campus in recent years warning students of adverse effects from misuse of the drugs. The University of Florida is studying the level of use.

Experts say Adderall and Ritalin help students focus longer and get their work done quicker.

"It's a miracle drug," said Matt, 19, a finance major at UF who grew up in Fort Lauderdale. "It is unbelievable how my concentration boosts when I use Adderall."

Matt, who did not want to be identified for fear he would be charged with a crime, credits Adderall use for his improved grades. He says he went from a 2.75 grade-point average in his first semester to a 3.25 in the second.

The small blue or orange pills are typically prescribed for children and

adults with attention-deficit disorder (ADD) and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). But their effects on normal adults make it sound like a wonder drug.

"Caffeine is fine. This is better," said Dr. Eric Heiligenstein, director of clinical psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin. "Students are able to accumulate more information in a shorter time frame. These drugs keep you awake longer. They minimize fatigue and help maintain a high performance level."

But the drugs, chemical cousins of cocaine, can cause increased heart and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, sleep deprivation, dry mouth, and lack of appetite. They can lead to withdrawal symptoms and, in rare cases, have been linked to aggression and cardiac arrhythmia.

"When the effects of the drugs wane, there is a tendency for some individuals to crash and experience withdrawal," said William Dorfman, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Nova Southeastern University in Davie. "They are prone to irritability, low mood, fatigue and depression."

Ritalin and Adderall also can serve as gateway drugs for further substance abuse, and — according to a recent UM study on laboratory mice — could make cocaine addiction harder to beat.

That has not dissuaded many college users, even though use without a prescription is a felony that can result in jail time.

With 4 to 6 percent of Americans diagnosed with ADD, the drugs are widely prescribed and easy to come by. Federal drug enforcers list Adderall and Ritalin among their most tightly regulated prescription drugs.

"The abuse of these substances is of great concern to us. They have a high potential for dependency and abuse," said Rogene Waite of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

The underground price for a standard 10- or 20-milligram dose of Adderall or Ritalin is about \$5 or \$6, students say. Finding the drug poses little challenge.

"I just walk down the hall in my dorm and knock on a friend's door. It's very widely used and really easy to get," said Matt, the UF student. "Prices definitely go up during final exam times, and it's harder to get because people get stingy with their supplies."

Some students who don't use the drug say their pill-popping classmates have an unfair edge and consider use of the pills a form of cheating.

"I think it's deceptive. A GPA is what employers and graduate schools use to select students. It is supposed to be indicative of your natural academic ability," said Ramin Baghai, 25, a master's of business administration student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "I want to graduate and get a good job. If someone is passing off their drug-enhanced GPA for a

natural one, it's unfair."

"They can be viewed as brain steroids because in some way the drugs give students an unfair advantage," Heiligenstein said. "The productivity levels are so much higher when comparing with students who do not use the medication."

Other students disagree and say the pills are just as fair as hiring a private tutor or paying for test preparation services.

"These drugs are study tools, just like tutors and caffeine pills. We use what's available to us. It's not cheating," said Kevin Shulman, 22, a University of Central Florida senior from Cooper City.

Some worry that tomorrow's lawyers, doctors and business professionals are committing felonies before they have even begun practice.

"This is considered unethical behavior, and it is treated very negatively," said Judy Rushlow, assistant director of Florida Lawyers Assistants. "We are aware that these drugs are being used as a study aid by university and law students. These individuals run the risk of getting caught and damaging their careers."

Evidence of Adderall or Ritalin abuse can hinder law students from gaining admission to the bar association, and students known to have abused drugs are carefully evaluated and put through investigative hearings.

"As a lawyer, you are an officer of the court," said Heather Gatley, an

employment and labor attorney at Miami-based Steel, Hector & Davis. "This firm does not want to admit individuals who have problems complying with the law."

Campus law enforcement officials said they are doing their part to curb the problem.

"These days, we are a lot more suspicious of these kinds of abuses. There is a lot more attention paid to what is in a prescription bottle now than a

few years ago," said Sgt. Raul Pedrosa of the University of Miami police.

"This is clearly a widespread social phenomenon, and there is clearly a black market on the university scene for these drugs," said Dr. Jon Shaw, a psychiatrist at UM. "There is no question that this abuse goes on, and clinicians are constantly trying to reduce the problem."

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OPINION

TUESDAY JULY 8, 2003

THE LANTERN

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OUR VIEWS

Love & marriage

Same-sex unions not a problem

On June 29 — Gay Pride Day — Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., told a crowd lining the streets on downtown New York City, “Let’s hear it for gay pride. Let’s even hear it for the Supreme Court — who ever thought we’d say that?”

In a controversial decision three days earlier, the U.S. Supreme Court declared a Texas same-sex sodomy law — which includes both oral and anal sex — was an invasion of privacy and thus illegal. The ruling also quashed similar laws in 12 other states.

Unsatisfied with the ruling, invigorated conservative congressmen are strongly pushing for an official ban to homosexual marriages. Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo., introduced a bill on May 21 proposing a new constitutional amendment outlawing same-sex marriage. Her proposal says, “Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman.” Musgrave also co-sponsored a similar marriage bill in 2000.

While the amendment she proposed predates the Supreme Court sodomy decision, the heightened interest in the marriage proposal seems like a last ditch effort to save face. In addition to Gay Pride Day and the sodomy ruling, an Ontario court added to the support by legalizing same-sex marriage, making Canada, along with the Netherlands and Belgium, only the third country to permit gay marriage.

Although recent polls do show the majority of Canadians are supportive of the ruling (55 percent support same-sex marriage, 44 percent oppose) while the majority of Americans do not (39 percent support, 55 percent oppose), the ruling should serve as a template for future American rulings. If the studies are any indicator, it seems Americans are beginning to accept the idea of homosexual couples. In a similar 1996 poll, 69 percent of those asked opposed same-sex marriages compared to 27 percent in support, which is a large jump to the recent Gallup Poll numbers. The poll also showed a swell of support from the 18-29 demographic, with 61 percent saying same-sex marriages should be legal.

One of the most common arguments made by those opposed to same-sex marriage is marriage is a sacred bond that should remain intact. But with a divorce rate nearing 50 percent, it seems marriage isn’t as pure or as solid as conservatives want it to be. In the first few weeks of Canada’s new law, several hundred same-sex couples had already gotten married, many of whom were already in long-term commitments.

Because the proposed amendment would require approval from two-thirds of both houses of Congress, as well as 38 state legislatures, it doesn’t seem likely to pass anytime in the near future. Even President Bush is wary to support the amendment, which seems more like a reflex tactic by conservative officials than a genuine push for new legislation. As the amount of support in favor of equal rights for homosexuals swells, conservatives should concede the fight and consider following in Canada’s footsteps.

Rebuilding Liberia

U.S. role should help foster peace

Breaking from his previous stance that had put Africa at the bottom of his long list of presidential priorities, George W. Bush seems to making important steps toward a positive agenda for at least one of the continent’s war-torn and poverty-stricken countries.

Sending a 20-person team of military advisors to Liberia yesterday to assess the country’s socio-economic situation and possible U.S. options, the president seems to be following up his recent intent to help the West African country out of more than 13 years of civil wars, and into an era without the reign of Charles Taylor, a despot who has been notoriously connected to and indicted for an entire laundry list of savage war crimes.

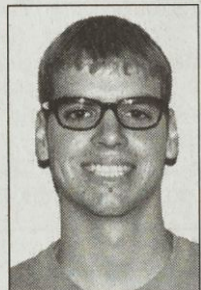
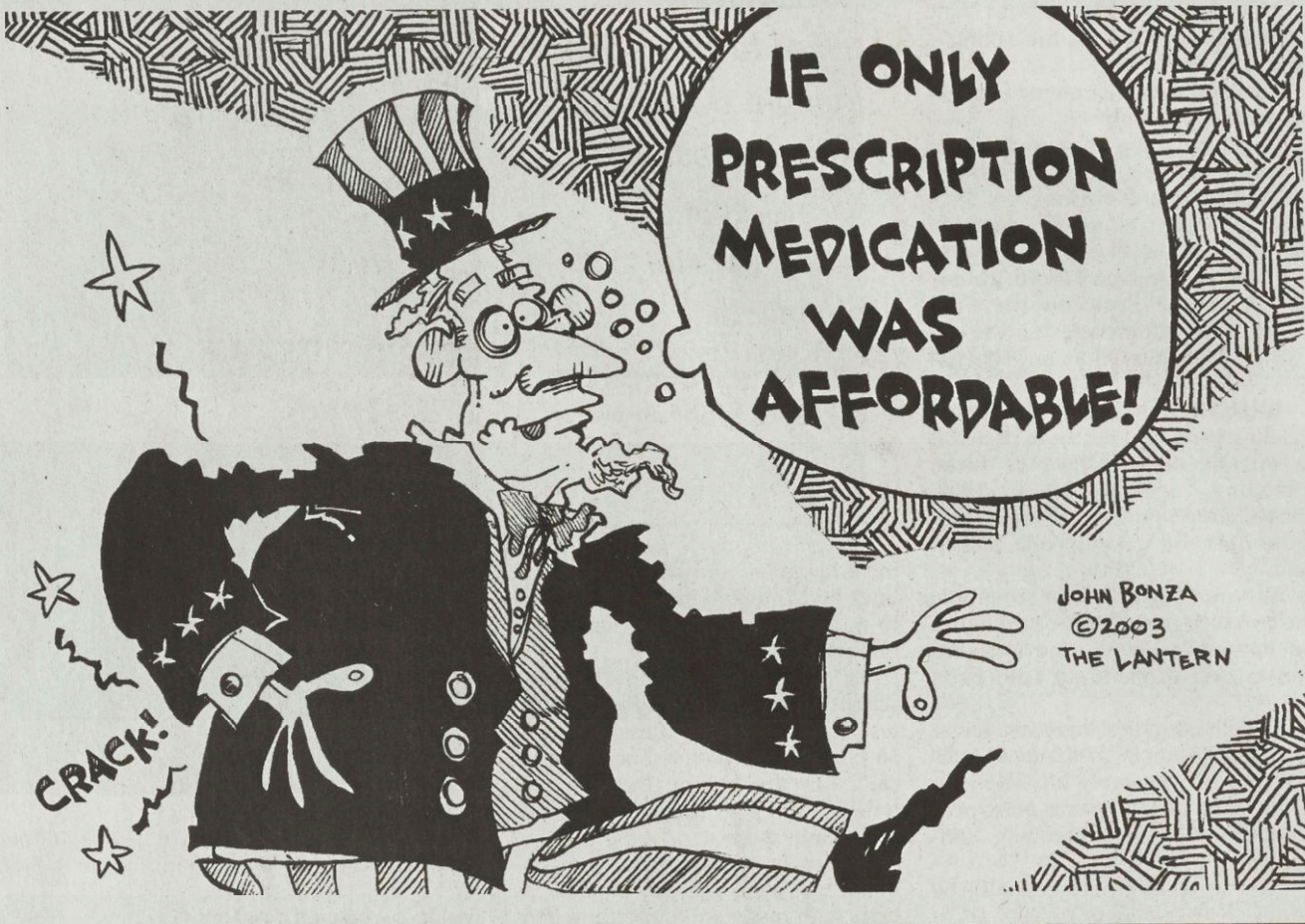
According to the *Washington Post*, Bush officials have “drawn up plans for the dispatch of about 2,000 U.S. troops” and have discussed “a strategic and moral obligation” to the rebuilding of Liberia, noting the unusual history the U.S. has had with the African nation, since its establishment in 1822 for freed American slaves.

Indeed, the questionable actions in Iraq have many Americans wary of another foreign operation, since the U.S. does seem somewhat stretched by having military and diplomatic forces positioned in numerous places around the globe. But sending forces to Liberia is markedly different than the situation in Iraq. First of all, the Liberian leader has agreed to take asylum in Nigeria, provided military forces occupy the country to prevent warring chaos, and he is not pursued by any tribunal. Second, the more than 200,000 dead during the last decade is a pressing issue than cannot be ignored.

But, most importantly, the U.S. role in aiding Liberia does not have the undertones of the “Shock and Awe” campaign by which Operation Iraqi Freedom was guided. Instead, U.N., West African and European nations are urging the U.S. to assist in the country’s peace-keeping in order to begin the rebuilding of its national structure. The Associated Press has noted that West African nations have contributed around 3,000 troops and have asked the U.S. to add 2,000 more.

If the joint, humanitarian character of the U.S. role in Liberia can be maintained, Bush will not only regain much of his squandered esteem abroad, but a war-torn country will hopefully be rebuilt to the benefits and standards of a people too long living under the rule of war and despotism.

Adviser **Vicki Rishling**
Business Manager **Ray Catalino**



DAVID LAWRENCE

is a senior in computer and information systems. He can be reached for comment at lawrence.185@osu.edu.

RIAA overacting with lawsuits

Look out, the Recording Industry Association of America is coming to get you.

Just recently, the association announced it will soon be filing lawsuits against people who share files on peer-to-peer networks such as Kazaa or Morphueus. They’re planning on suing certain users \$150,000 for every copyright violation — that is, for each song being shared or made available to the network.

This is an exorbitant amount. Just recently, four college students were sued for operating file-sharing networks. They allegedly had over a million files, which at \$150,000 each, comes to a total of \$150 billion. To prove a point, the RIAA never even let the defendants’ colleges know about their misuse. Instead, they themselves monitored the students to prepare a lawsuit. Why? To make an example of a few to scare millions.

I agree downloading music instead of spending money on it is wrong, but the RIAA is overreacting to and exaggerating the problem of online music piracy. Music sales may be down, but not as much as the industry would have you believe. According to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, there has been a 6.5 percent drop in the sale of recording music. However, that includes a 10 percent decrease in the sale of cassette tapes and 16 percent drop in CD single sales. CD sales only dropped 5 percent, and the dollar value of all

music shipments decreased by only 4.1 percent.

Also, no one ever mentions the number of releases has decreased by several thousand over the past two years. There are fewer choices, and prices are rising continuously. It’s unreasonable to raise prices at a time when demand is down. People are simply expressing their discontent with an unfair system.

Even artists are being taken advantage of by the current music industry under the RIAA. Artists see very little profit, even from successful albums. According to the *New York Daily News*, a rock band had sold 500,000 copies of an album, grossing almost \$8.5 million. But after deductions from the record company, paying back advances, and financing producers and recording, the band ended up making only \$161,909. The record companies clean up. Meanwhile, music fans continue to spend more on live music and merchandise each year, partially because many realize more money goes to the artists that way.

The RIAA represents the five big record labels and has an immense influence on American politics, considering only one of the five is American owned. Just recently, judges ruled the RIAA could sidestep the Constitution because of an administrative rule. Now anyone claiming to represent a copyright interest can simply fill out a form and get information about “alleged copyright violators” without having to present any evidence of wrong-

doing. This is an immense violation of privacy, and barely avoids violating the freedom from unreasonable search and seizure.

The RIAA will stop at no lengths for profit. This past May, they almost forced the shut down of Penn State astronomy department’s computer system, simply because a professor with the last name Usher had a great deal of astronomy-related files with his name in them.

Many civil liberties are being trampled in the crackdown on trading. And the focus on trading itself is ridiculous. Each year, nearly 25 percent of all music shipments are either given away free or are unaccounted for. This costs the industry much more money than does Internet file sharing.

The RIAA is simply trying its best to keep an outdated distribution method in place. The record companies are afraid of a direct distribution system from the artists to the fans. Recently, artists such as Don Henley, Sheryl Crow and Courtney Love have spoken out against the unfairness of many record labels, at the same time showing their support for online trading. The Smashing Pumpkins even released their final album online, by themselves, when their record company refused to release it. The labels are not just trying to prevent loss due to online trading.

They’re trying to prevent a new system that does not allow them to take advantage of both the artists and the consumers.

How about McModeration?

Over a week ago, a group of professionals met in Boston for what is known as a “strategy session,” a meeting to plot upcoming litigation, aimed at fast food companies and other food producers. What they really were doing, though, was justifying a new American trend of shifting responsibility from consumer to producer and advocating the end of another ideal upon which this great nation was built — a person’s right to choose.

The real highlight, though, is that these lawyers managed to do all this in addition to finding the cause of obesity and its cure.

At this point, you may wonder what they figured out about obesity that you haven’t figured out in your own lifetime. For starters — like most people on Earth — you’ve probably been tricked your entire life into thinking you are responsible for the way you look. Second, forget the dieting and the exercise; those aren’t the answers. Quit wasting your time. You’ve obviously been tricked into thinking how much you ate, or what you ate was your own decision.

Well, this group up in Boston has found this isn’t the case. It’s certainly not your fault you’re fat.

Whose fault is it? It’s McDonald’s. If they hadn’t made their food so delicious, we wouldn’t all be fat. And by suing them, along with other food manufacturers like Kraft, these lawyers are going to make everybody slim again, right? I don’t want to be the bearer of bad news, but they aren’t. They aren’t going to tighten your abs or slim your hips. They are simply going to fatten their own wallets.

This group of do-good professionals haven’t found a cure, they have only found yet another excuse. This same group of lawyers — that manipulated you into believing your smoking habit is somebody else’s problem — are now going to convince a judge and a jury obesity isn’t caused by over-eating or lack of exercise, but by McDonald’s and Kraft food products. It’s not your fault you got the Super-Size fries, it’s theirs. It’s not your fault you ate half a bag of Oreos, either. If Nabisco hadn’t put so much delicious transfat inside each cookie, you’d have eaten just one, right?

The truth is: This group of Boston lawyers is getting ready to unleash another onslaught of litigation.

John Banzhaf, the law professor and attorney who has been

leading the charge, says his goal is simply to get fast food companies to offer healthier choices. Healthier choices? If I’m looking for a healthy meal, I’m not going to McDonald’s in the first place — I’m going to Subway. Whose place is it to tell a business what they can and cannot sell?

There’s no two ways about it: This philosophy is wrong and un-American. Is it a legal issue most of us never order the McLean Deluxe? Are the American people — who live under the auspices of personal freedom and liberty — going to let a couple of lawyers dictate what an industry can sell and, more importantly, what you and I can eat?

What happened to our right to choose?

There is clearly only one word to describe this whole ordeal, and frivolous is the word I’m looking for. It may be sad that 30 percent of people over the age of 20 are considered obese, but it is even sadder when it is acceptable to blame somebody other than a consumer for his condition. When did it become acceptable in American society to completely ignore the concept of personal responsibility?

Maybe it snuck in the back door with political correctness.

VIEWS FROM ABROAD



R.H. ALY

Egyptian colleges offer few job options

As a college student, I can’t wait until I graduate.

Although finding a job may be difficult, I know in the end I’ll find one, as long as I put a lot of effort into the search. But, Egyptian college students face a different reality. They attend school hoping to have better opportunities in a wider range of careers, but the future can be very dim.

Rarely does a student find a good job after graduation. The universities just keep churning out graduates who have nowhere to go. Many students end up with menial jobs such as waitressing, delivering or selling kebab sandwiches to make money. A degree means nothing these days in Egypt, because there are just too many students who have already graduated and are looking for jobs. In 1998, unemployment was as high as 14 percent for college graduates.

The market demand for college graduates is not as high as it used to be for a number of reasons. First, the education students receive has suffered. Something had to give when the Egyptian government was trying to reform the educational system, and officials concentrated funding on giving all students access to education. Schools buildings have deteriorated. The number of students per teacher has increased. To compensate for low, fixed salaries, many teachers have started offering private tutoring. Therefore, regular students don’t receive the training they need.

Since the educational system is in such a poor state, some have asked why government officials aren’t trying to fix the situation. But there is no incentive. The government runs all the schools and universities. Actually, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak’s brother-in-law is in charge of the government’s education department, and as long as he sits happily in a chair conducting business in a proper manner, everything is OK. Nobody will ask any questions.

According to a study by Ahmed Galal from the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, the government “leaves teachers with limited motivation to teach in the classroom, because their salaries are low and follow a rigid civil service code. Their career development is not contingent on the results of their students. At the same time, they find it rewarding to teach outside the classroom.”

As a result, many teachers don’t care about what happens inside the classroom. In everyday settings, instead of teaching, teachers just sit at their desks. They don’t utter a word, because they know they will be seeing those students again after school to give them private tutoring. At the same time they’ll be giving out the private lessons, parents will be handing them large amounts of cash.

It’s a sad situation for all students. No one is saying the educational system hasn’t improved. Throughout the years, the Egyptian government has done what it can to improve access for all Egyptian students. Years earlier, there had been a bias in the educational system. Boys usually received a better education than girls. Now, both females and males receive the same education.

But everything should not be focused on access. There are other factors to consider as well. However, it is pathetic when those in charge of the education system aren’t doing anything to help correct the mistakes.

R.H. Aly is a senior in journalism. She is living in Egypt for the summer, but can be reached for comment at aly.4@osu.edu.

LETTERS POLICY

Send letters to the editor of *The Lantern* to lantern@osu.edu, or fax to the opinion editor at 292-5240. Letters can also be sent by mail to 242 W. 18th Ave. Room 271, Columbus, OH 43210.

In order to be considered for publication, all letters must include the author’s name, rank or title and major. Letters must not exceed 400 words.

BOOK REVIEW Collection foretells of dystopian nightmare

By Brian Duff
Lantern arts writer

Matthew Derby's debut work, "Super Flat Times", is a staggeringly ambitious collection of short stories, interwoven against the backdrop of a post-apocalyptic future.

In the grandest traditions of science fiction, "Super Flat Times" creates a world so bizarre and terrifying that it can only serve as an allegory for modern human existence. Derby is Jorge Luis Borges, H.G. Wells and Kurt Vonnegut, all rolled into one.

In "Super Flat Times," Derby paints a future that is devastating, awful and fundamentally devoid of hope. His first story focuses on the survivors of a Stalinesque regime. Called "Those Who Have Been Allowed to Remember," these men and women spend their lives compiling a history of their grotesque times.

During the frequent purges, victims were drowned in enormous pools of concrete — hence "Super Flat Times."

"By drilling down into the concrete pools we were able to extract their last breaths, piercing with a sharp metal straw the tiny crescent-shaped sac of air forced out of their lungs as they collapsed under the weight of the rapidly solidifying medium."

Using near-magical technology, these future scientists are able to listen to and transcribe the victims' final thoughts in enormous prayer tomes.

Throughout the narrative, Derby maintains this same tenuous grip on reality, spiking his generally straightforward prose with delicious moments of surrealism and bizarre dream-like sequences.

Each individual story is an original and powerful text alone, but read as a complete work, "Super Flat Times" is remarkably cohesive, as concepts and themes repeat.

The language in "Super Flat Times" is brutal and violent, mirroring the textual events. Images of an acrid, war-baked landscape abound, and desperate characters reflect the desperate landscape. Multi-colored solid clouds — a failed civic experiment in atmospheric beautification — overhang everything, prohibiting agrarian living and poisoning the populace.

As a result, meat becomes not only the primary, but the only, form of sustenance — eliminating the "Joy of Eating" and transforming the populace into homogeneous and unattractive drones.

"Super Flat Times," in the mold of Vonnegut's best work, is morbidly hilarious in its depiction of mankind's struggle for survival. The book is more than a cold sociological study however, as personal portraits and sympathetic characters show Derby's humanistic intentions.

In a story called "Stupid Animals," the darkly pathetic female narrator is trapped in inhospitable domesticity.

"One night we spoiled ourselves and ordered Chinese food. The fortune cookie I picked said only, 'Sorry.'"

Structurally, "Super Flat Times" is a masterpiece. Each chapter is entirely separate, but the book builds upon itself in remarkable ways.

Although the final chapter is narrated by the same voice as the opening story, the book is not dependent on that cyclical structure for cohesion. Rather, the entire work forms a coherent — if disjointed — vision of near-future reality.

In short, "Super Flat Times" is a remarkable work of prose. It is the type of fiction that transcends traditional boundaries and is successful at every level. Weak textual moments are few and far between; each line is penned with painstaking detail and clarity of thought.

Creatively conceived and expertly transcribed, "Super Flat Times" proves Derby's power and solidifies his potential alongside Dave Eggers and Ben Marcus as the next generation of great American writers.



"Bond, James Bond." Sean Connery brandishes his trusty Walther PPK in "From Russia With Love," one of many films to be shown at the Wexner Center's "Cool Guys" film series. Connery will be joined with partners in manliness Steve McQueen, Humphrey Bogart, Richard Roundtree, Chow Yun-Fat and Zbigniew Cybulski.

Cool guys heat up screen for summer Wexner series

By Chad Curts
Lantern arts writer

When you think of "cool" characters in movies, there are certain movie actors that are iconic and stand out in everyone's mind as being cool. This summer the Wexner Center is bringing 14 of these actors back to the screen with its presentation of the "Cool Guys" film series.

"They are the actors that women wanted to be with, and that men wanted to be," said Chris Stults, assistant curator of the Wexner Center's film/video program.

Bill Horrigan, the curator of media arts for the Wexner Center, said the film series focuses on international stars that embodied certain notions of masculine behavior or style.

Stults said the purpose of this particular series is to get audiences reacquainted with these stars and with this "cool guy" persona. The summer film series also introduces new things to movie viewers, like the French image of masculinity, he said.

"The Bogart persona was enormously influential on the French cinema of the '50s and '60s," Horrigan said.

Alison Wales, spokeswoman for the Wexner Center, said there

will be 14 films shown. She said each film will feature a different "cool guy," ranging from American stars such as Steve McQueen to foreign film stars such as the Polish actor Zbigniew Cybulski, who is known internationally as "the Polish James Dean."

Stults said these actors were chosen from a long list of names that he and Dave Filipi, the curator of the Wexner Center's film/video program, developed. He said the actors had to fall into a certain category where they were not too brutal in order to keep the adoration of the female audience, but also not too sensitive in order to keep the admiration of the male audience. Stults said, for example, that James Dean was too sensitive to make the final cut.

Wales said these actors evoke a "definitive aura of manliness."

"Watching Lee Marvin walk down the hall is about as cool as it gets," Stults said.

Stults said they wanted the actors to have "iconic presence" that transcends nationality and language for movie viewers.

"The notion of 'cool' in American popular culture evolved in the '40s and '50s," Horrigan said. "An early influential example being Humphrey Bogart, whose characters suc-

ceeded more by attitude and wise-cracking than by physical exertion."

Horrigan said this is present in the film "The Big Sleep," in which Bogart plays the classic film noir detective Phillip Marlowe (airing July 16).

"A central aspect of 'cool' has to do with maintaining a poker face when confronting adversity and not breaking a sweat no matter how arduous the challenge," Horrigan said.

Horrigan said all these movies helped illustrate the international language of "cool" over the last fifty years.

Wales said there will be two movies beginning at 7 p.m., shown each Wednesday as a double feature in the film/video theater in the Wexner Center. The series will run for the next seven weeks starting Wednesday with the double feature of "Bullitt" (Steve McQueen) and "Point Blank" (Lee Marvin).

Stults said the movies are the best deals of the summer, because they have what today's movies are missing, and they are cheaper to go to.

Ticket prices are \$5 for the general public, \$4 for students and senior citizens and \$2 for children under 12.

MOVIE REVIEW

Indie film reveals dark family secrets

By Cyndy Witz
Lantern arts writer

Despite — or perhaps because of — the controversy surrounding its premiere, "Capturing the Friedmans," directed by Andrew Jarecki, ranked No. 1 among independent films at the box office in its opening weekend.

Composed largely of vintage home videos and family interviews, "Capturing the Friedmans" is a compelling, voyeuristic documentary, literally capturing the lives of husband Arnold, wife Elaine, and sons Jesse, David and Seth Friedman.

Through these videos, the audience meets the Friedman family one-by-one.

Teacher Arnold Friedman is a family man. While not outwardly affectionate with his wife, the close relationship he shares with Jesse, David and Seth is evident. The time spent with the boys is filled with joking, magic shows and piano lessons. He even teaches computer and piano lessons to neighborhood children. No one would guess he is a pedophile.

Elaine Friedman tries hard to be a good mother. She is naive, not very affectionate and doesn't react favorably to humor. But she desperately wants to fit into the fraternity shared by her husband and sons. Despite her best efforts, she is often excluded.

Jesse Friedman is the youngest son. He is charismatic, charming, and an attention fiend.

David Friedman, the man behind the camera, is the most intriguing character of the film. He is the instigator of family arguments, especially those between the boys and their mother.

After a long, but necessary introduction to these starring characters, the audience is suddenly exposed to conflict. Without warning or transition, Arnold and 19-year-old Jesse are arrested on suspicion of myriad acts of

sexual abuse of children during the father-and-son-administered "computer lessons."

In the course of a day, this seemingly typical Jewish-American family from New York is swept up in a media frenzy, becoming the object of public outrage and pain.

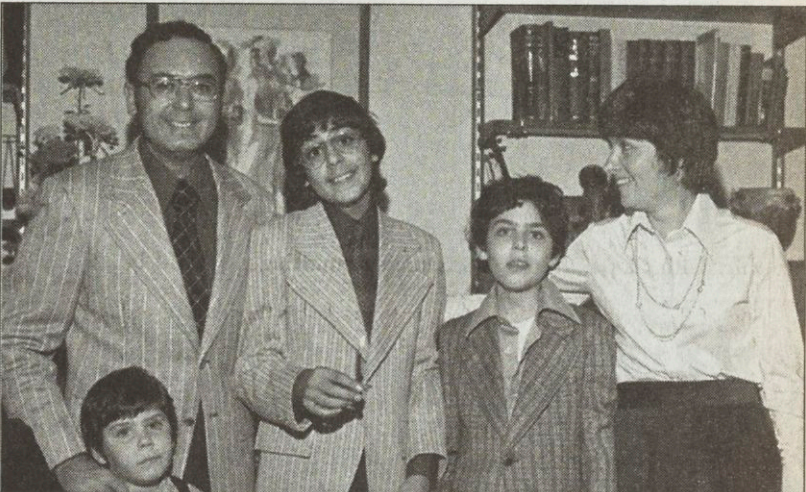
The film, 107 minutes in length, seems more like 307 minutes. This is not because it's boring or complicated — to say less than captivating would be unfair — it's just emotionally exhausting.

What's most disturbing is the fact that unlike "The Blair Witch Project," "Best in Show" or other recent big screen "documentary" successes, "Capturing the Friedmans" is not fictional. Everything the audience sees is 100 percent authentic, from the police invasion on their Long Island home to the disrespectful ways in which the Friedman boys taunt their mother.

As the film progresses, the audience learns the Friedman case is far from open-and-shut. Just when one feels sure of the truth, the film takes unexpected turns leaving viewers dumbfounded.

Jarecki, somewhat of a directing genius, should be commended for the outstanding way in which he presents such an emotional case — with absolute objectivity. His use of lawyer, police, student and journalist testimonials convincingly presents both sides of the case and the grey matter in-between, certainly proving himself worthy of the "Grand Jury Prize" he received at the Sundance Film Festival this year.

The intent of "Capturing the Friedmans" is not to offer a sufficient explanation as to what really happened in the Friedman house during the late 1980s. That's left up to the viewer to decide. But it will skillfully challenge filmgoers to question their instincts, something they're taught not to do.



COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA PICTURES
A family portrait of the Friedmans taken on the occasion of David's Bar Mitzvah

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Pair of goals gives U.S. men's team win over Paraguay



Midfielder DaMarcus Beasley of the U.S. Men's National Team tries to break away from Paraguay defenders. Beasley earned an assist after a 12th minute goal by forward Landon Donovan.

By Melanie Watkins
Lantern sports editor

The colors of red, white and blue were displayed Sunday at Crew Stadium as the flags of the United States and Paraguay covered the stands in the fourth appearance by the U.S. Men's National Team.

A goal in the 95th minute during stoppage time by U.S. midfielder Earnie Stewart captured the 2-0 win, leaving Paraguay with no time or chance of recovery. The goal had been long-awaited during the second half after the defensive play of the United States kept Paraguay from scoring.

"For the most part we did pretty well defensively," U.S. forward Landon Donovan said. "We had a lot of chances to get the second goal, and finally we got it at the end."

The goal was an unassisted effort by Stewart following an open shot he took earlier that skimmed the back corner of the net without going in during the 49th minute of play.

A 12th minute goal by Donovan was the only other score during the game. The goal was a combined effort of midfielder DaMarcus Beasley, who was credited with the assist, and Donovan. DaMarcus made the pass after claiming the ball away from a Paraguay defender.

"The goal was all Beasley. He went down the side and got a couple of yards on his guy, and I thought he was going to cross it and

the next thing I know, the guy is sliding past him," Donovan said. "I backed up in the box and hit it, and it went through some people and bounced off a guy's leg. I was complaining that I never get easy chances like that, and then there it was."

It was one display of the beautiful passing game of Beasley and the rest of the U.S. team that allowed them to take 13 shots during the game. The advantage was slightly above the 12 Paraguay shot attempts.

"In terms of our team, I think we played a good game," said U.S. coach Bruce Arena. "They are a pretty good team—Paraguay, with good serious players. We had to concentrate for 90 minutes."

Goalkeeper Kasey Keller played a large role in shutting out Paraguay as he made three saves. One of these was in the 39th minute when Paraguay forward Derlis Soto made his second attempt in two minutes at putting his team on the board. The shot was a result from a break by Soto.

"It was very nice because after I made the save, the first person I saw coming back was one of my own men, (defender) Greg Vanney, and he gave me that time to collect the ball a second time," Keller said. "When you get that type of work rate and that type of cover after a mistake, it makes it so much easier for me to make the save."

The win was the second for the U.S. at Crew Stadium and the fourth shutout in four appearances there. The team has a record of 2-0-2 in Columbus. It followed a number of losses on the season including a loss and two draws at the 2003 FIFA Confederations Cup in June.

"I think after the Confederation Cup, this game was very important for us to win," Donovan said. "We hadn't won one in at least three games so it was good to get back on track."

It is a track the team is hoping to stay on as it defends its title at the CONCACAF Gold Cup later this month.

"It is always good to play a quality type game before we enter into competition such as the Gold Cup," Arena said. "Hopefully we can move forward from here and be able to defend our Gold Cup."

The game was also important in getting some U.S. players back on the field. Midfielder Claudio Reyna went in during the last thirty minutes of play after being out due to an injury. It was his first international appearance since the 2002 FIFA Cup. Crew forward Brian McBride also saw some minutes at the end of play.

"Getting Reyna back on the field was big," Arena said. "McBride was only on the field for a couple of minutes, but it is good to have him back on the field as well."

Bryant arrested on rape charges

By Judith Kohler
Associated Press

VAIL, Colo. — Prosecutors met with sheriff's officials yesterday to discuss whether to file charges against Kobe Bryant, who is accused of sexually assaulting a woman at a hotel near Vail.

In a brief statement, District Attorney Mark Hurlbert said the talks were intended to figure out the next move. He declined further comment.

The 24-year-old Los Angeles Lakers' star surrendered to authorities Friday and was released after posting a \$25,000 bond, the Eagle County sheriff's office said. Bryant's lawyer said her client is innocent.

An arrest warrant was issued for Bryant after a woman accused him of sexual misconduct June 30 in a hotel in the Edwards area, outside Vail, authorities said. The woman was not identified.

No other details were released and the case has been sealed by a judge. Attempts to reach Bryant for comment were not successful and his whereabouts were not immediately known.

Bryant was in Colorado for surgery on his right knee at Vail's Steadman Hawkins Clinic, said Bryant's attorney.

"Mr. Bryant is innocent and expects to be completely exonerated," Denver attorney Pamela Mackey said in a statement.

Mackey accused the sheriff's office of "complete bias," saying it ignored the wishes of the district attorney in obtaining the arrest warrant. She did not immediately return a call seeking elaboration.

The sheriff's office concluded there was enough evidence for a felony sexual assault charge and sought the arrest warrant from a judge. The usual practice is for authorities to request a warrant from his office, said Hurlbert on Sunday.

In Colorado, police and sheriff's deputies can arrest someone on suspicion of a crime but only the district attorney's office can file charges. It isn't unusual for authorities to go directly to a judge, said Sheriff's spokeswoman Kim Andree.

The allegations were completely out of character for Bryant, said Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak.

"For the seven years he's been with us, he has been one of the finest young men we've known and a wonderful asset to both our team and our community," he said in a statement.

NBA spokesman Tim Frank said the league had no immediate comment.

Bryant was the NBA's second-leading scorer last season, averaging a career-best 30 points. He scored 40 or more points in nine straight games in February and also had career-high averages of 6.9 rebounds and 5.9 assists.

Save in stoppage time douses Burn opportunity at victory

By Emily Haynam
Lantern staff writer

Goalie Tom Presthus, in his second start for the Columbus Crew, made a great save in the second minute of stoppage time to help preserve a 0-0 tie for the Crew Saturday against the Dallas Burn.

The save came off a direct kick taken by Dallas forward Jason Kreis that deflected off a Crew defender and then off another Dallas forward. Presthus had already dove to his right to block the original shot of Kreis, and found himself on his knees reaching back in the direction he came from to knock the ball out of the goal with his left hand.

"It took a bounce, but I was still able to deal with it," Presthus said. "I'm sure it looked more dramatic than what I'm going through."

The Burn (2-7-4) came into Columbus with two straight losses, one of which was last Wednesday at home. Having only two days of rest between games, Dallas coach Mike Jeffries didn't think it was a game in which his team was prepared to run for 90 minutes on a big field on a warm night.

"After the last few games for us coming out 0-0 is not a victory, but a little bit of a moral victory," Jeffries said.

"I thought we played with some intensity that we didn't have in the Wednesday game, and I thought we managed to create a few chances on counters."

It seemed early in the game that Dallas' game plan to sit back on defense would eventually falter as the Crew forwards attacked the goal relentlessly. The Crew outshot the Burn 14-6, but only put three shots on the frame of the goal. One exciting attack generated by the Crew came in the 32nd minute of play when Crew forward Brian McBride performed a bicycle kick off a dangerous corner kick that ended up being deflected by a Dallas defender. The ball landed at the feet of Crew defender Brian Dunseth, who blasted a shot on Dallas goalie Jeff Cassar. Cassar managed to get a hand on it and push it over the cross bar for the save.

"We were a little off offensively," Crew coach Greg Andrus said. "The defense did its part, but we need to sharpen up at the other end."

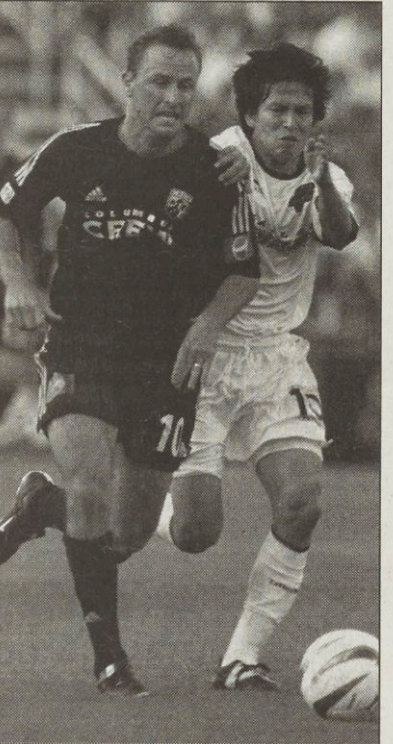
The Crew played without Kyle Martino, Jon Bush, Edson Buddle and Ross Paule due to injuries, and Frankie Hejduk because of national team responsibilities. These players, along with 14,412 attending fans, watched a game without

"We were a little off offensively. The defense did its part, but we need to sharpen up at the other end."

Greg Andrus
Columbus Crew coach

many scoring chances by either side.

One of the most exciting events of the evening was prior to kickoff when the Crew received their 2002 U.S. Open Cup Championship rings. The 2002 U.S. Open Cup title was the Crew's first major championship. The Crew will have their first chance to defend the prestigious 90-year-old title on Aug. 6 against the MetroStars or Mid-Michigan of the Premier Development League.



CHRIS PUTMAN/AP
Columbus Crew's Brian Maisonneuve, left, and Dallas Burn's Joselito Vaca, battle for the ball in the first half at Crew Stadium Saturday. Neither team had many scoring opportunities during play. The Crew celebrated its 2002 U.S. Open Cup Championship with a ring ceremony before the game.

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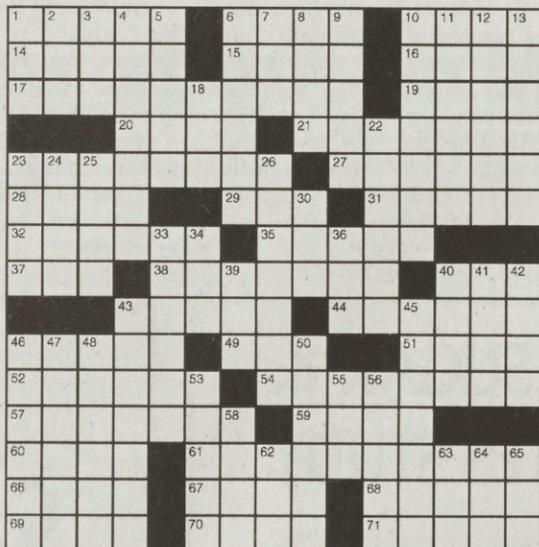
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Amended Winter, 2002



IVAN SEKRETAREV/AP

Police officers stand by the body of an unidentified victim of a blast at a giant rock festival in suburban Moscow, Saturday. Two women suicide bombers blew themselves up at the festival, killing at least 16 people, Russian officials said.

Chechen suicide bombers renew anti-terrorist policy

By Jim Heintz
Associated Press

MOSCOW — In the wake of twin suicide attacks at a Moscow rock festival, President Vladimir Putin vowed yesterday that Russia would not give in to terrorism and asserted that Chechen rebels are supported by international groups.

The separatist rebels that have been fighting Russian forces for nearly four years in Chechnya are seen by officials as being behind the Saturday blasts that killed 15 people, including the two female bombers, and injured scores.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but news reports have said a passport was found at the site showing that one of the bombers was a Chechen.

Putin, in a meeting with his Cabinet, said "today, after the latest series of terrorist acts, we can say that the bandits active in Chechnya are not simply connected with international terrorist organizations, they

have become an integral, maybe the most dangerous part, of the international web."

"No country in the world bows to the dictates of terrorists, and Russia will not do so either," Putin said, according to the news agency Interfax. "We must pluck them out from the basements and caves where they are hiding and destroy them."

The statement echoed the harsh language that Putin used as prime minister in 1999, shortly before Russian forces swept back into Chechnya at the start of the second war in the republic in a decade.

The conflict has deteriorated into a bloody stalemate in which Russian forces pound rebel positions with artillery and air strikes, while the rebels kill Russians in near-daily hit-and-run attacks.

The Kremlin has refused to negotiate with Chechnya's rebel president Aslan Maskhadov, and prominent human rights activist Lev Ponomarev said yesterday that policy only encourages "ultraradicals."

"Save the lives of tens and hundreds of future victims of 'living bombs' — demand the start of peaceful negotiations with Maskhadov," Ponomarev, head of the For Human Rights group, said in a statement directed at Russian politicians.

The bombing of the rock festival was a grim reminder of how the sprawling Russian capital is vulnerable to terrorism. The bombing brought back painful memories of last October's raid on a Moscow theater by scores of Chechen rebels; 129 hostages died, almost all from effects of the narcotic gas that special forces pumped in to end the siege.

Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov declared today a day of mourning in the city, meaning that entertainment programs will not be shown on local television, and comedies will not be performed in the city's theaters.

He announced that relatives of those killed would receive \$3,300 in compensation, and victims who needed hospitalization would get \$1,650.

U.S. may aid in war-torn Liberia

By Glenn McKenzie
Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — A team of U.S. military experts arrived in Liberia yesterday to assess whether to deploy troops as part of an intervention force that would restore order to a nation torn by civil war.

A blue and white wide-bodied helicopter swept in over Monrovia's Atlantic coastline to alight on a helipad within the heavily-guarded walls of the U.S. embassy compound.

About a dozen soldiers in combat garb jumped out to be met by staffers from the U.S. embassy in Liberia.

Navy Capt. Roger Coldiron, leader of the 32-person team, told reporters that his mission is to "assess the security environment" in the country as well as study the humanitarian needs of its 3 million people — suffering greatly from more than a decade of civil strife.

"There is a security component," Coldiron added. "We want to be sure that whomever comes in is safe on the ground."

A decision on whether U.S. soldiers will join an intervention force shouldn't be expected soon, U.S.

Ambassador John W. Blaney told reporters. Coldiron said the mission would take as long as needed before making any recommendation.

Liberian President Charles Taylor, beset by rebels and indicted by a U.N.-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone, said Sunday he would step down and take exile in Nigeria, but urged the United States to send peacekeepers to ensure an orderly transition.

Taylor gave no timeframe for when he would quit power, and he did not specify whether the deployment of a peacekeeping force was a condition for his departure.

President Bush headed to Africa yesterday for visits to five nations.

Leaders from the United Nations and Europe have increased pressure on Bush to send U.S. troops to enforce an oft-violated cease-fire between forces loyal to Taylor and rebels fighting for three years to oust him. West African nations have offered 3,000 troops and have suggested that the United States contribute another 2,000.

With his capital Monrovia surrounded by rebels, Taylor is under intense international pressure to step down. Bush said Saturday he would

"not take 'no' for an answer."

The Bush administration also showed little enthusiasm for Taylor's acceptance of Nigeria's asylum offer.

White House spokesman Jimmy Orr said: "What the president has said is Mr. Taylor needs to leave and leave soon. He needs to leave so peace can be restored."

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo met Taylor at Monrovia's airport to offer him asylum.

"I thank my big brother for coming," Taylor said. "He has extended an invitation and we have accepted an invitation."

Taylor said, "it is not unreasonable to request that there be an orderly exit from power." He said U.S. participation in an international peacekeeping force planned for Liberia was "crucial in every way."

Both Taylor and Obasanjo would not say when the Liberian president would step down, but Obasanjo said "we believe that it will not take place in the near future."

Both warned that too hasty a departure could spark new fighting in the West African nation, where hundreds were killed in a failed rebel push into the capital last month.

Teen murder plot disrupted

By Geoff Mulvihill
Associated Press

OAKLYN, N.J. — An alleged plot by three teenagers to kill their enemies and then target other victims at random unraveled when they tried to carjack a motorist and were arrested, authorities said.

"We could have had a disaster here in Oaklyn," Camden County Prosecutor Vincent Sarubbi said Sunday night after police said they uncovered the trio's cache of guns, knives and swords in this small town near Philadelphia.

Matthew Lovett, 18, was arrested along with two boys—ages 15 and 14—whose names were not released. They were charged with attempted murder, weapons offenses and attempted carjacking. Sarubbi said he would seek to have the 14- and 15-year-olds tried as adults.

Lovett, who is accused of pointing a gun at the police officer who

arrested him, also was charged with aggravated assault, Sarubbi said.

Authorities seized two rifles, a shotgun, two handguns, two swords, several knives and 2,000 rounds of ammunition. Additional weapons were found at Lovett's home. Sarubbi said the weapons belonged to Lovett's father and were legal.

A phone message left Sunday night with his father, Ron Lovett, was not returned. In an interview with CNN yesterday, he described his son as a good youngster who became "kind of withdrawn" after his mother died nine years ago.

Lovett, who described himself as a gun collector and target shooter, said his son was never interested in guns. "I don't think he'd know how to use one," he said.

Later in the morning, a family spokesman, Tom Crymes, read a letter from Ron Lovett offering his apology "for what my son has done" and expressing the hope his son

would receive counseling.

Sarubbi said the attacks had been planned over the course of several months. The suspects intended to target people at random once they had attacked specific victims, police said.

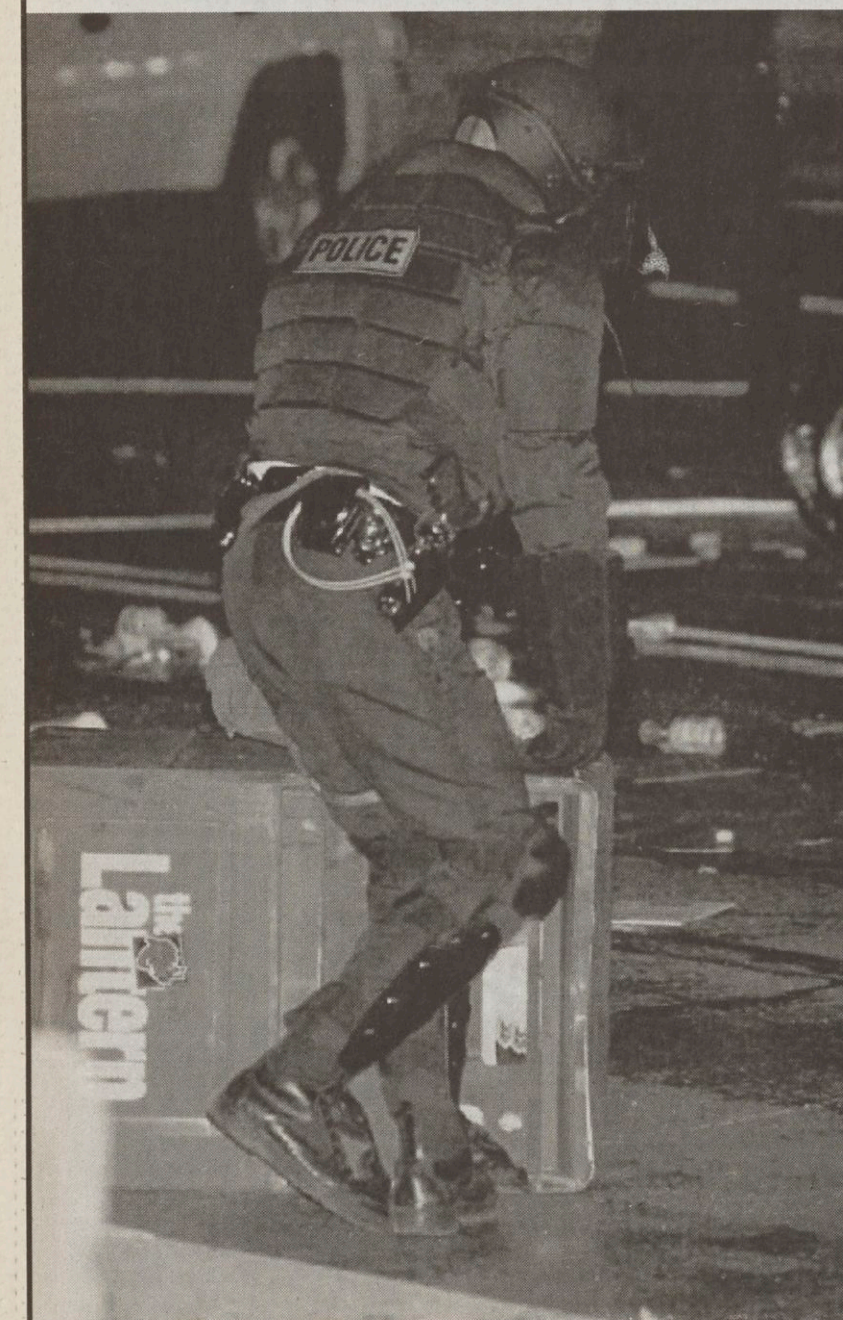
Sarubbi said three people believed to be intended victims were notified Sunday of the alleged plot. The prosecutor declined to identify them, but police indicated they were students.

Mathew Rich, 34, who reported the carjacking attempt, said he was leaving for work when he saw the three teens, dressed in trench coats and standing in front of Oaklyn Public School.

One crossed the street in front of him, opened his coat to reveal a handgun, then signaled for his friends. Rich said he drove around them, then notified police.

When Rich returned to the area after driving to the police station, he saw the weapons being confiscated.

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