



'I just cannot take another test'

Charlie Webber, a general studies major, doesn't seem to notice the hardness of his bed as he takes a quick nap between classes. With most professors giving tests this week,

many students are taking every possible opportunity to catch up on their lost sleep.

Battalion photo by Katherine Rathburn

'Rainbow Warrior' does battle for whales and environmentalists

United Press International
SOUTHAMPTON, England — Four months ago Greenpeace launched its oneship combat fleet and, although the battles have been few, at least the enemy knows there is a war on.

The "Rainbow Warrior," which patrols European waters for the worldwide environmental organization Greenpeace Foundation, steamed into this harbor with banners flying and all 15 hands on deck at the end of a summer that took them from Iceland to Spain, chasing whale hunters and radioactive waste dumping ships.

In May, the white dove of peace on the green hull flying off into the horizon and rainbow stripes gleaming, the boat set sail for Iceland to take on the four-ship Icelandic whaling industry.

"We'd been out looking for the whalers for a couple of weeks before we got into a confrontation situation," said Alan Thornton, 28, Canadian-born director of the Greenpeace London branch. "We finally caught up with Catcher No. 1, which hunts fin whales, the largest after the blue."

"We went out in our rubber dinghies and there we were between a whale and the whaler. This guy came running down the plank to the harpoon, slipped off the catch and after 20 minutes just waited. But in the end he didn't shoot it. At that range he'd have killed someone if he had," he said.

The "Rainbow Warrior" stayed with the whaler for 10 hours, saving at least two whales, said Thornton, since one had been captured already and there is an international whaling agreement limiting the time a whaler can stay out once a catch has been made.

But the major achievement of the campaign was that whaling became a national issue in Iceland, forcing debate and possibly eventual action, said Briton Peter Wilkinson, 31, another member of the London office.

In Britain they made headlines when in June the "Warrior" crew placed themselves under the chute of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority vessel "The Gem," which was dumping radioactive waste into the ocean 600 miles southwest off the British coast. One of the radioactive containers fell on a dinghy, damaging it but luckily not injuring any of the crew.

There is considerable competition to become a crew member, carefully selected by a committee for specific skills necessary on board.

In Spain we had three women and 12 men," said Joanie McVilly, 22, a former biology and ecology student at Canberra University in Australia. "Everyone is a volunteer, including the five-man crew who are all professional sailors. The degree of commitment varies, because some people have to go back to jobs after a trip, but everyone is here because they want to do something cause they want to do something instrument of a campaign."

Such help does not always offer the high drama of confrontation with whalers on the high seas. Daily routine includes cooking, swabbing down the decks, and doing repairs to the rubber dinghies that carry crew members from the "Rainbow Warrior" to the whalers they challenge.

The crew played host at a wine and cheese party to which friends and supporters were invited at the start of a week of open house in the harbor. It was useful publicity, but at the price of privacy. For the "Rainbow Warrior" is more than an

instrument of a campaign. "After all, this is our home, too," said McVilly.

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Egore no longer a jailbird

United Press International
BAR HARBOR, Maine — Egore the raven used to be a wild bird, but judge says he's just one of the family now.

Gloria Davis took Egore under her wing 15 months ago when one of her children found the injured baby bird.

Last month game wardens learned of the family's new pet and charged the woman with possessing a wild bird out of season.

They said others might be encouraged to keep wild animals if she was allowed to keep the bird.

But Bar Harbor District Court Judge Jack O. Smith found Davis innocent and said Egore can live with the Davises.

Before his decision, Smith heard testimony from several witnesses and received petitions signed by 577 people supporting the Davises.

"He stays on the front porch most of the time, but every day I take him out to fly around a few hours. Then he gets in the car and we go home. He loves to ride."

After Davis was charged Aug. 6, officials took the bird away from her.

She said she visited him every day for two weeks, then took him back home without asking permission. "He wasn't eating and he didn't look good," she said.

He's even learned to get along well with her three cats — "as long as I don't pet them. That makes him mad."

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Educate for leadership

MAD adopts county study

By SCOTT PENDLETON
Battalion Staff

Members of the Brazos County Mexican-American Democrats organization adopted a plan Thursday to educate the group on county affairs and prepare them for county leadership positions.

"Knowledge is power. And that's the one thing we don't have," MAD Chairman Daniel Hernandez told the members.

Hernandez presented the "Leadership Brazos County" plan at the regular MAD meeting Thursday night.

Under the plan, county and city

officials and Texas A&M University professors would meet with MAD members to teach them about utility rates, taxes and other public affairs. Some professors and officials have already agreed to help, Hernandez said.

Upon completion of the plan, Hernandez said, MAD members would be able to talk with anyone about county affairs.

"We're trying to create leaders," Hernandez said. "But the majority of us don't have the knowledge to change things in this state."

Participation in the plan should be limited to MAD members, Her-

nandez said. The plan, he said, would be a benefit of MAD membership. Membership fees are designated to pay for any of the plants expenses.

The education program will begin in January, and will probably consist of weekend meetings.

Hernandez said the idea for the plan came from a similar program operated by a Dallas political group.

MAD members also voted to invite all the local Democratic candidates in the November election to speak at their next regular meeting on Oct. 26.

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Mixed drinks and beer will be served. Come out, be a winner.