

NEWS

# Gone with the wind

Page 2



Khurram Rehmatullah and Carlos Yapura, research associates at the Texas A&M low-speed wind tunnel, prepare a model of NASA's new X-38 space shuttle for aerodynamics testing.

# Pressure rises on Bush, board Urges to stop execution of Gary Graham increase

creasing pressure to stop Thursday's execution of Gary Graham, convicted of murder on the word of a single eyewitness to a holdup outside a supermarket.

In the nation's most active death penalty state, the case has drawn exceptionally close attention — largely because of Bush's status as the Republican presidential candidate and the recent national re-examination of capital punishment.

Graham, 17 at the time, pleaded guilty to 10 aggravated robberies during a weeklong spree in 1981 but has steadfastly denied the rampage began with a fatal nighttime shooting in a Houston parking lot.

No physical evidence tied Graham to the crime, and ballistics tests showed that the gun he had when he was arrested was not the murder weapon. Graham's backers have also argued that his lawyer did a poor job at the trial and that at least two other witnesses never were allowed to testify that he was not the killer. Prosecutors say that his case has been reviewed repeatedly, as many as three dozen times, and that it is time to bring the case to an end. The parole board, made up of 18 people appointed by Bush, is considering Graham's request for a 120day reprieve or a commutation to a life sentence. The board was expected to announce its decision by noon can, has said the lack of prompting Thursday, six hours before the from Bush is racial. Lucas is white. scheduled execution. "We do give these cases a thorough evaluation. We do not take our responsibility lightly," board chair Gerald Garrett said. Bush is empowered to grant a one-time 30-day reprieve in death penalty cases, but Graham already his 5 1/2 years in office. Graham got one in 1993 from Bush's prede- would be the 222nd person execut-

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — cessor, Democrat Ann Richards. That ed in Texas since the state resumed The Texas parole board and Gov. means Bush cannot act in Graham's George W. Bush came under in- case on his own without a recommendation from the parole board.

Two years ago, Bush told the parole board to review the case of serial killer Henry Lee Lucas because of questions about the slaying for which Lucas was about to die. Lucas' death sentence eventually was commuted to life.

"That's my job, to uphold the laws of

BUSH the land of the state of Texas. I will continue to do so as long as I'm the

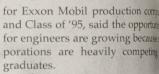
carrying out capital punishment in 1982; he would be the 135th of Bush's 51/2-year tenure.

"I analyze each case that comes across my desk and look at the innocence and guilt of each person," Bush said in Los Angeles. "That's my job, to uphold the laws of the land of the state of Texas. I will continue to do so as long as I'm the governor. I believe the system is fair and just."

Graham has said he would not go quietly and would "fight like hell" when led to the death chamber. At one point he urged supporters to come to Huntsville armed to protest what he called his legal lynching and assassination.

The entire block around the prison system office building across the street from the Huntsville Unit prison, which houses the death chamber, was ringed with yellow police tape Wednesday. The building, normally open during business

## PETROLEUM



'The job market is so very a tive because petroleum engine very scarce," Omar said.

Omar also said the uncertainty oil industry tends to discourage tial students. She said the oil indus cycles, with years of prosperit years of depression.

Sreenivas Muthukrishnan, a pe um engineering graduate student, he is concerned about finding a job graduation because the industry day often. He also said working in petrol engineering means accepting them of the business.

"The industry is fickle with resp stability," Muthukrishnan said. Omar said that because of the la petroleum engineers, companies

having to assign more responsible new engineers than in past years. "New (petroleum) engineers ha prioritize more now than 20 years because they have to supervise projects," Omar said.

To combat the shortage of petrol engineers, employers are lookingto er avenues.

Omar said companies like Exxm bil train other engineers, especially ical engineers, to work in petroleum

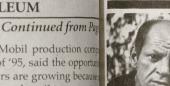
"We (Exxon Mobil) have beent ing engineers from other fields for because the shortage of petroleum neers has been an increasing conce Omar said.

Digital video use in dorms

CHICAGO (AP) — Collegena potatoes, take heart: Schoois the country are considering quality online video networks dormitories, meaning lectures of be only a mouse click away.

Northwestern University isin middle of a \$2 million network grade that will deliver digital vid to all of its dorms, allowing stude to watch lectures or other inst tional videos without ever leavi their homes away from home. er colleges are following suit.

University computing d said Tuesday that the technolog



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ew American V which houses Po ngs, said Pollock nost creative era

art. "Pollock v American artist iously everywl said. "This perio World War II, wa any American an seriously in Euro

lock, art was dor great Europeans ike Dali and Ch out us on the ma Walker said

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## governor. I believe the system is fair and just."

Bush has sent no similar message about Graham's case to the board, whose members include a former Secret Service agent, former parole workers, a teacher, a psychologist and a rancher.

Graham, who is African-Ameri-

The attention on Graham's case increased this week when demonstrators interrupted him at an appearance in California.

Bush on Wednesday repeated his contention that no innocent person has been executed in Texas during needed an escort to enter.

"We're aware of threats and we'll react accordingly," prison spokesperson Larry Fitzgerald said. Most offices in the building will be closed Thursday and prison employees who live on the grounds close to the unit's front door were advised to leave for the day.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who has been speaking in support of Graham and planned to attend the execution, said "those of us who protest on the outside .:. should be nonviolent and disciplined."

Graham was convicted of the killing of Bobby Lambert, 53, on May 13, 1981. The key testimony came from a Houston woman, Bernadine Skillern, who watched from inside her car as Lambert was confronted by the gunman, struggled with him and was shot.

one step toward linking hu of institutions through a new! of Internet.

"What the Internet did wi present capability, it made itp ble for anyone to become a publi er," said Mort Rahimi, North ern's vice president of informat technology. "The environment are creating at Northwesternis ing to allow each one of our stude at Northwestern and our face members ... to become producer

Digital video conveys crisp ages into a computer through tremely high-speed connection eliminating jumpy images and download times associated with ical Internet video.

Northwestern plans to finish upgrade within a month, allow all 6,000 students in its dorms send and receive digital vid Rahimi said.

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