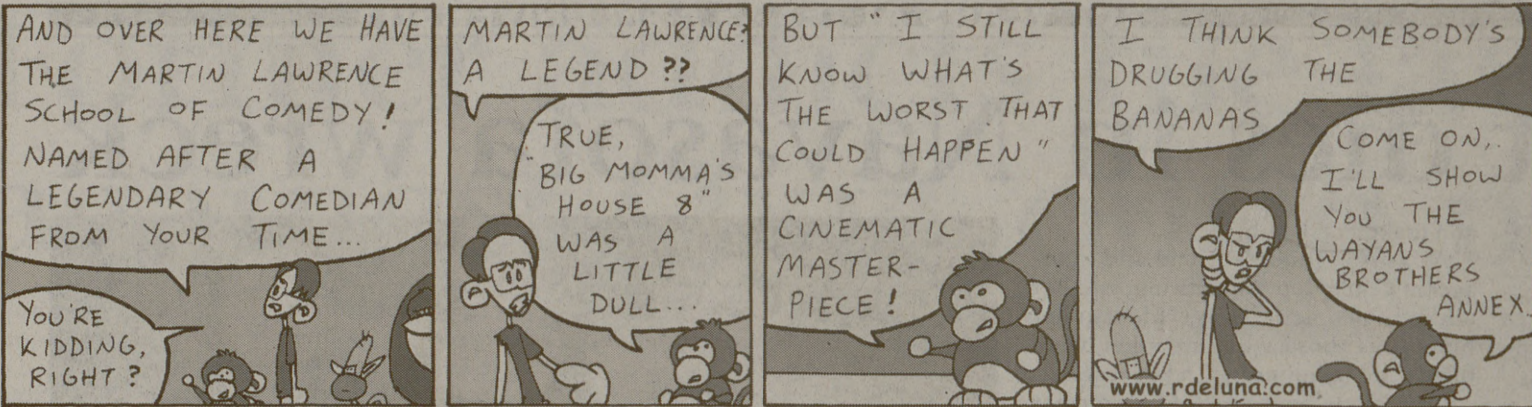


DIRTY APES



BY R. DELUNA

Republicans debate cutting disaster relief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are divided over their plan to cut \$389 million from the government's chief disaster response agency, even as Tropical Storm Allison finished tearing a path from Texas to New England.

Republicans in the House approved last week the measure providing \$6.5 billion for the rest of fiscal 2001 for defense, education and other programs that the House Appropriations Committee approved last week. The full House plans to debate the measure Wednesday.

But with the Houston area alone reeling from an estimated \$2.1 billion in damage, one local congressman — who happens to be Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas — is against the FEMA reduction, spokeswoman Emily Miller said Monday.

In addition, White House budget chief Mitchell Daniels and FEMA Director Joe Albaugh have written letters questioning the reduction. And other lawmakers from stricken states say they want to put disaster funds into the spending bill as it makes its way through Congress.

Asked if DeLay might also seek disaster aid for his community, Miller said, "When he knows the needs, he'll do the responsible thing."

The episode demonstrates the cross-currents Republicans face as they try balancing the re-

sponse to a destructive storm with their — and President Bush's — desire to limit federal spending.

GOP leaders say they are determined to hold the bill's tag to \$6.5 billion. Erasing the proposed FEMA cuts would force them to choose among either increasing the measure's cost, finding other reductions elsewhere or removing spending from the measure.

Republicans on the appropriations panel said the reduction was justified because FEMA had more than \$1 billion in reserve left this year. The GOP-written spending bill instead includes \$389 million for flood control project repairs to federal facilities and other types of assistance, many of which is aimed at individual lawmakers' districts.

"We think given what we know now they have sufficient money to get through the year," said Rep. James Walsh, R-N.Y., a senior member of the Appropriations Committee. The 2001 runs through Sept. 30.

At the panel's meeting last week, Democrats tried to store most of the FEMA money, losing 32-29 on an amendment that also would have boosted spending for emergency heating and cooling aid for the poor.

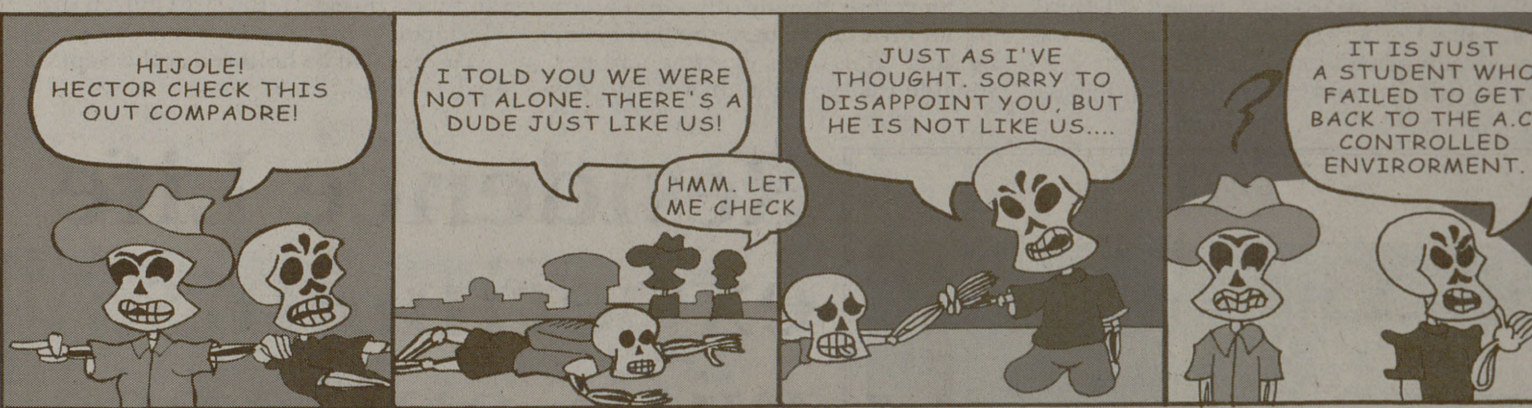
"This (the FEMA reduction) is something that isn't going to stick," said the committee's Democrat, Rep. David Obeyesekere, D-Wisconsin.

The Fantastic Chronicles



BY J. GOLDFLUTE

HECTOR Y PEDRO



by Adrian

HOUSING

Continued from Page 1

"It generally takes an off-campus facility three years to settle down," Thomas said. "Plus, Traditions and the Callaway House are not cheap, which causes the price of housing to become a factor."

Within the 8,300 residence hall spaces available, the Department of Residence Life has decided to diversify on-campus living options and tailor to customers needs.

"We are currently experimenting with

different types of halls," Thomas said. "We are working on converting more rooms into private rooms."

Thomas said that the demand of private rooms is on the rise, and they will begin converting some of the balcony-style rooms in Hughes and Keathley of the FHK complex during Spring 2002 to private rooms.

He said that the balcony dorms are perfect for converting to a private room because of their size. He also said that the Department of Residence Life has converted some of the modular rooms into apartments.

GARZA

Continued from Page 1

sentences. Attorney General John Ashcroft ordered further study but also said in a statement Monday that there was no evidence of racial bias in Garza's death sentence and no reason to delay his execution any further.

"Juan Raul Garza's guilt is not in doubt," Ashcroft said.

Garza was convicted of murdering a man by shooting him five times in the head and neck.

Ashcroft said Garza also ordered

the murders of two other men, paying the killers \$10,000 each for one of the slayings and money and a car for the other.

"The facts of Garza's case are important," Ashcroft said.

"Seven of Garza's eight victims were Hispanic; the prosecutor in the case is Hispanic; the presiding judge is Hispanic; at least six of the jurors are Hispanic; and all of the jurors individually certified that race, color, religious beliefs, national origin and sex were not involved in reaching their re-

spective decisions."

The original Justice Department study showed that 80 percent of defendants charged with capital offenses over a five-year period were minorities.

The study also found that just one of the 94 U.S. attorney districts counted for about 43 percent of cases in which prosecutors sought the death penalty.

Garza's attorneys cited 26 cases involving crimes similar to Garza's where prosecutors did not seek the federal death penalty.

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THE BATTALION (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and other periods) at Texas A&M University, Periodicals Post Office Paid at College Station, TX 77840. POSTMASTER: address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, 1111 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Department of Student Media, a unit of the Department of Journalism. News offices are in 014 Reed McDaniel Building. Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647; E-mail: Thebattalion@hotmail.com; Web: <http://www.thebatt.com>

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