

**Pulling for a good cause**



**Jonathan Clites**, a junior finance major, leads Maggies in a tug of war at Lambda Chi Alpha's 4th annual Watermelon Bash.

The groups compete to win money, which they donate to charities, and canned food to donate to Brazos Valley Food Bank.

RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

**Film dissects German nuclear weapon link**

NEW YORK (AP) — A new investigative film traces the roots of the Iraq nuclear crisis to links between German industry and Baghdad's bomb builders, and questions the lenient sentence — probation — handed a German engineer for treason in aiding the project.

The documentary, "Stealing the Fire," also offers a rare close-up look at a "proliferator," the engineer Karl-Heinz Schaab, who emerges on film as a bland, gray, fastidious 68-year-old technician who protests he's "too small to be turned into a scapegoat for the others."

Blueprints and other documents Schaab and associates brought to Iraq in the late 1980s, along with Schaab's own hands-on skills, were a vital boost to Baghdad's development of gas centrifuges — machines whose ultra-fast spinning "enriches" uranium by separating U-235, the stuff of nuclear bombs, from non-fissionable U-238.

Much of Iraq's nuclear infrastructure was subsequently wrecked by American and allied bombing in the 1991 Gulf War and in 1998. More was destroyed during U.N. inspections inside Iraq in the 1990s, and Baghdad officials deny they are working on atomic weapons today.

But reconnaissance photos released by the Bush administration this week, as it seeks support for a potential war against Iraq, indicate the Iraqis have been rebuilding sites previously used for nuclear development. "Stealing the Fire" looks at the source of these capabilities.

Iraq was failing with other enrichment technologies when German centrifuge experts Bruno Stemmler and Walter Busse, recruited by a German company, H&H Metallform,

came to Baghdad in 1988 and sold the Iraqis old designs for centrifuges. The next year they brought Schaab, who provides components, technical reports and, most important, a stolen design for an advanced "super-critical" centrifuge.

The design, classified secret in Germany, was used in enriching nuclear power fuel at the European government consortium Urenco, for which a small Schaab-owned company worked as a subcontractor. The Iraqis paid \$62,000 for the documents.

*"I think they wanted the Schaab story to disappear. It was intensely embarrassing."*

— David Albright, physicist and U.N. inspection team member

A German court eventually — on June 29, 1999 — convicted Schaab of treason and sentenced him to five years' imprisonment and a \$32,000 fine, but then suspended the prison term because he previously served 15 months in a Brazilian jail.

The light sentence he received raised questions, however, among nonproliferation specialists. American physicist David Albright, who was on the U.N. inspection team, suggested that the German government wanted to minimize public perception of Schaab's crime.

"I think they wanted the Schaab story to disappear. It was intensely embarrassing," Albright says in "Stealing the Fire."

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Iraqis vote yes or no for Hussein, their only choice**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The victory rallies are set and the tributes are ready. In an Iraqi yes-or-no vote on re-electing Saddam Hussein, the only cliffhanger in Tuesday's vote is whether the two-decade Iraqi leader will beat his last showing: 99.96 percent.

In Iraq, where many believe war with the United States is coming, that 1995 result for Saddam is now seen as somewhat tepid.

"This time, 100 percent!" worker Mayad Aiwan cried Sunday. "Because the Iraqi peo-

ple love our leader!"

But as the ballot on which only Saddam's name appears suggests, it's not as if Saddam's people have much choice.

**Best-selling author Ambrose dies Sunday of lung cancer**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Stephen E. Ambrose, a once-obscure history professor catapulted to prominence by his best-selling books that made aging World War II veterans hometown heroes again, died Sunday of lung cancer. He was 66.

Family members were with Ambrose, a

longtime smoker who was diagnosed in April, when he died at a Bay St. Louis, Miss., hospital, said his son, Hugh.

At the National D-Day Museum, which Ambrose founded, his portrait was placed near the entrance and a sign noted his death.

For much of his career, Ambrose was a little-known history professor. He burst onto the best-seller list less than a decade ago with his 1994 book "D-Day June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II."

Based in large part on interviews with veterans, the book recounted the chaotic, bloody beach invasions of Normandy from the American soldier's perspective.

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