
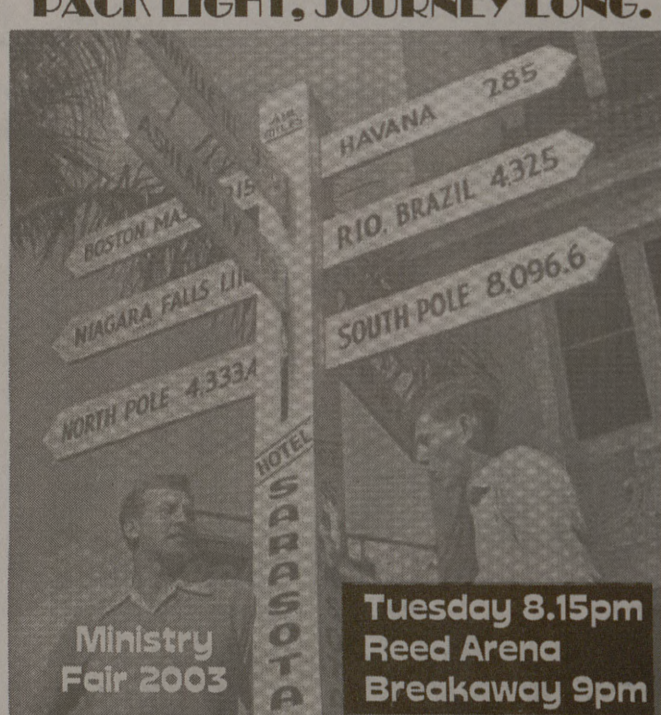
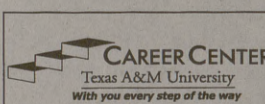


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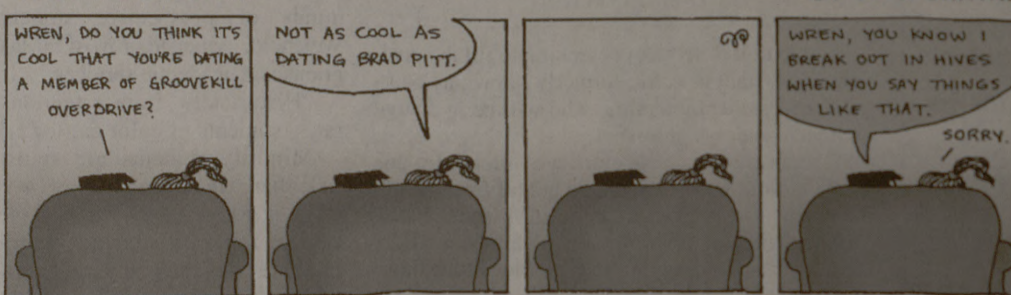
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Democrats

Continued from page 1A

troubling examples of Republicans trying to make a power grab in several states. "Democracy matters," Shapleigh said. "If a majority can change the rules anytime it wants to win, democracy loses." The Democrats said they are trying to expose involvement of the president, presidential adviser Karl Rove and House Majority Leader Tom DeLay in the Texas redistricting effort and the last-minute redrawing of a congressional map in Colorado. But David Beckwith, a spokesman for Republican Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, said that the senators are off base in their accusations. Democrats hold 17 of Texas' 32 House seats in Congress. Republicans say they should have a majority of the seats to

reflect Republican voting trends in the state. "Bush and Rove have nothing to do with this redistricting plan," he said. "The fact is, our congressional delegation does not reflect voting patterns in Texas." The national campaign also comes a week after Sen. John Whitmire left his 10 Democratic colleagues who have been in self-imposed exile in New Mexico and returned to Texas. His return could possibly give Republicans the quorum they need to pass the congressional redistricting plan. Texas Gov. Rick Perry has to call a third special session to take up the measure. He has not indicated when he may do that. Perry, Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick spent several hours meeting in Perry's office Monday afternoon in Austin, Texas. Perry left without speaking to reporters. Dewhurst said no decision had been made on when a special session might be called. He said several factors were being considered.

New radio and TV ads saying Bush abandoned Latino voters will begin running within the next two weeks and will target swing presidential states, including Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Texas, along with the District of Columbia. The ads were paid for from funds raised by Moveon.org, an Internet group formed in the late 1990s to oppose impeachment of then-President Clinton. Texas Republicans criticized the national swing and the support of Moveon.org. "They're off on this national fund-raising tour for Moveon.org, which is a hard-core anti-Bush organization that is using their purposes," Beckwith said. White House officials did not return a telephone call Monday seeking comment. A federal three-judge district panel is hearing arguments on pending motions in the Texas redistricting case in a Laredo courtroom Thursday.

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