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**China**  
 Continued from page 1

The three finalists to become China's first "taikonaut" (TYE-koh-nawt) were reportedly waiting at a Gobi Desert launch base near this dusty city of concrete apartment buildings in the remote northwest.

Security was tight around the remote base, some 175 miles northeast of Jiuquan: Cars were turned back and phone calls to the base were blocked.

"It's a big thing for the country," said Zhang Ming, a man buying a leather jacket in Jiuquan on Tuesday.

The astronaut candidates — all fighter pilots — were to undergo final tests as little as one hour before the flight, state media said. The government's Xinhua News Agency has said the "No. 1 astronaut" among them would go up — the strongest sign yet that the flight will carry only one person.

People's Daily said the Shenzhou 5 capsule had completed its own final tests and, on Tuesday, was "sitting on the launch pad with more fuel being injected."

**Interns**  
 Continued from page 1

Another objective of the program is to increase the number of qualified applicants for professional positions at A&M as it will be providing students with the experience needed to apply for these jobs. If this objective is carried out, qualified students will be able to move into staff positions.

"Many students enjoy the atmosphere of College Station and the dynamic environment of such a broad reaching university and would prefer to utilize their skills in an academic setting versus a corporate one," Carter said. "In order to do so, they must have certain experiences under their belt, and this program is formulated to provide that."

The SGA will be assisting in the promotion of the program, fulfilling the platform initiative of Student Body President Matt Josefy.

"The platform initiative is to take an active role in informing students of their opportunities, because many times students are the best marketing device a program or department can utilize," Carter said.

Internships are one of the initiatives that will be discussed at a forum focus on the entire scope of Experiential Education.

A second initiative that will be discussed at the forum are the Student Services initiative, aimed at providing students with an opportunity to work hands on with their instructors to aid in the development and improvement of services for students on campus. Carter said. The third initiative on the agenda is a program that will give students the opportunity to have individuals in their area of study teach a class.

The program will be held Nov. 11 at 5:15 p.m. in MSC 292A.

**Redistricting**  
 Continued from page 1

gerrymandering.

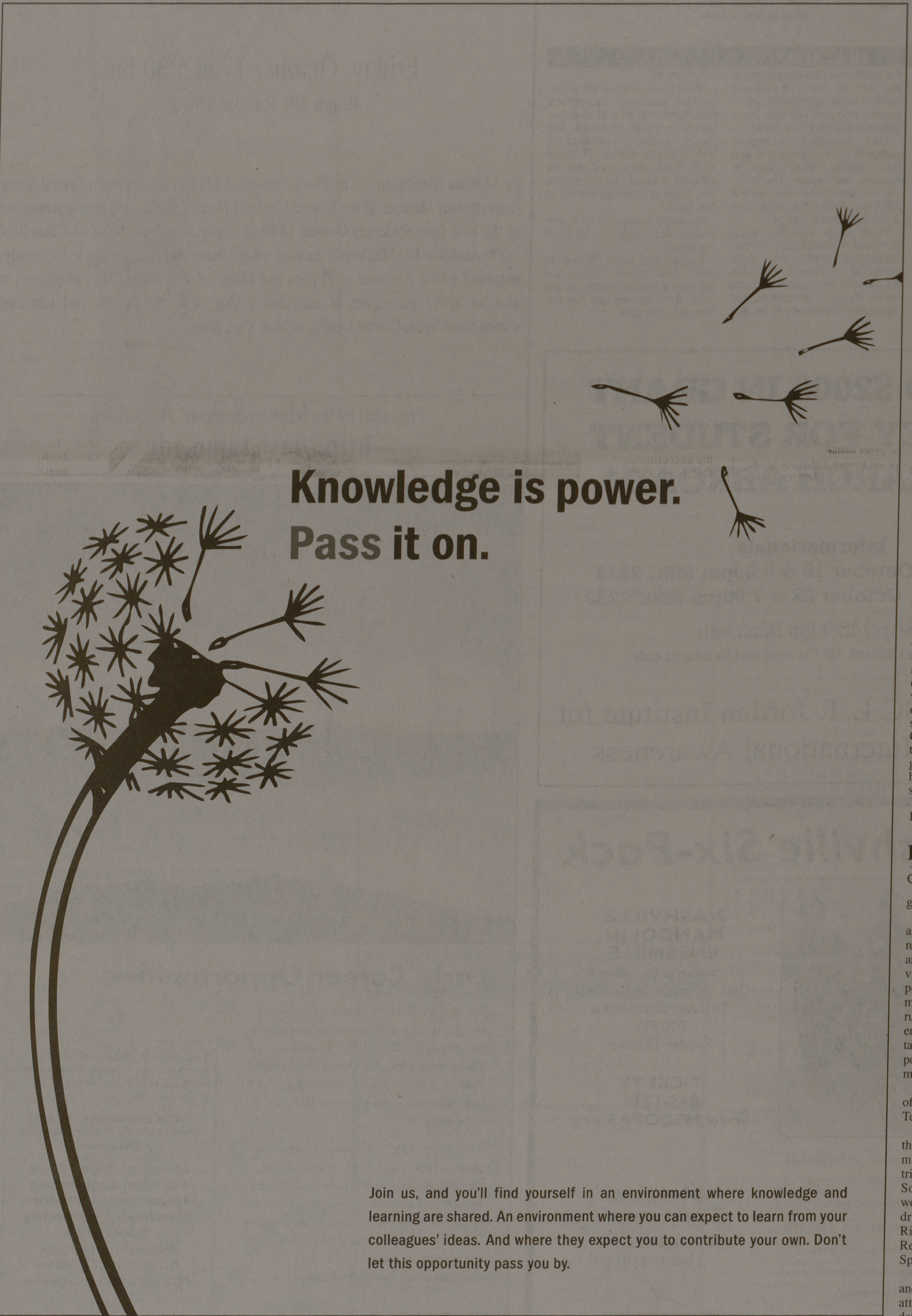
The map "is an unprecedented and unconstitutional attempt to replace a legal and fair map with an illegal plan to try to guarantee victory for seven Republican politicians by disenfranchising minority Texans and silencing rural communities and independent voters," Frost said. "It's a brutal and ugly trade-off: Seven GOP politicians win, but 3.6 million minority Texans lose."

The map reduces the number of effective minority districts in Texas from 11 to 10, he said.

Republicans have disputed that analysis, saying the new map adds a new minority district in Houston and another in South Texas. Lawmakers worked with attorneys as they drafted the maps, said Bob Richter, spokesman for Republican Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick.

"We believe it is a legal map, and we're going to leave it to the attorney general's office to defend it," Richter said.

"We intend to defend the state's redistricting plan and we anticipate the Department of Justice and the courts will uphold the plan," said Angela Hale, a spokeswoman for Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott.



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