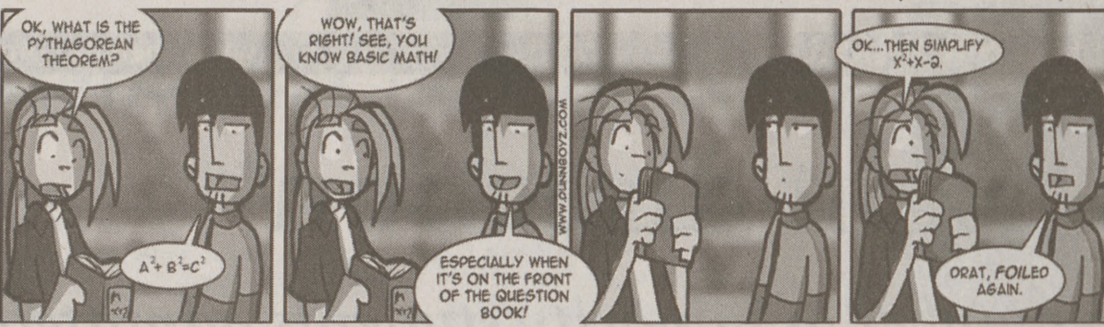


# DUNNBOYZ

by Will Lloyd



## Loans

Continued from page 1

The share of poor students who borrowed stayed about the same over the decade, almost 50 percent. Yet higher participation came among the upper income range of the "average family." By 2000, about half of students from middle-income families had taken out loans. Among students at the highest end of the income range

— from families making \$124,600 per year — 35 percent took loans, up from 13 percent in 1990. The loans often went toward more expensive schools. "Families have just decided that this was a good resource," Choy said. "The loans are low-interest. They're easy to get — any student can get them. They're just deciding to borrow through student loans as opposed to whatever else they would have done, ... possibly even instead of using savings."

## University training vessel ordered back to port

GALVESTON (AP) — A university's annual summer training cruise is on hold after a leak was discovered on board the students' vessel. The Texas Clipper II serves as a floating classroom for students of Texas A&M at Galveston earning

their licenses to work as Merchant Marine officers. It was to have sailed to Port Canaveral, Fla., and then on to Ireland, England and Puerto Rico before returning to the Lone Star State. But shortly after departure, crew members on Monday discovered a problem with seals on the 394-foot training vessel, Capt. Sam Stephenson told the university's associate vice president for research and academic affairs,

James McCloy. Coast Guard rules enacted after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks prevented the ship from returning to port on Monday. Ships are to receive notice before entering American ports, said McCloy. The ship was anchored in the Gulf of Mexico late Monday evening awaiting Coast Guard approval to return to the dock at Galveston.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Gasoline

Continued from page 1

the New York Mercantile Stock Exchange.

"There obviously is a fear premium," said Seth Kleinman, an oil market analyst at PFC Energy, a Washington-based consulting firm. While there always has been such a premium in oil prices, with the targeting of Saudi's oil industry, "It's gotten a lot further, and it's gotten a lot bigger." One reason is that Saudi Arabia, which pumps 10 percent of the world's oil, is the only producer that has significant spare capacity to produce more as needed to stem demand and prices, economists said. While the attacks did not target Saudi pipelines, terminals or oil fields directly, the psychological impact has rattled the markets. After receding somewhat last week, the price of light crude for July delivery jumped \$2.45, settling Tuesday at a record \$42.33 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. "Increasing terrorist activities around the world and uncertainty and instability have driven oil prices over the last six months. It's not a lack of supply," argues Fadel Gheit, an energy strategist for Oppenheimer and Co. in New York. Gheit estimates that when oil prices were at roughly \$42 a barrel, as much as \$15 might have been generated by traders pushing up prices because of worry over disruptions. Other estimates have put the fear premium at \$5 to \$12 a barrel. The size of the premium, whatever it may be, is of less importance than that it exists and has helped propel gasoline prices to record levels to the current average of more than \$2 a gallon nationwide. The cost of crude accounts for nearly half of the cost of a gallon of gasoline at retail pumps, according to the Energy Department. Energy economists estimate an additional \$1 in the cost of crude adds 2.4 cents to the retail price of gasoline. Analysts said tight crude supplies, growing demand and a refining industry struggling to produce enough gasoline has added to the gas price surge. But the Khobar rampage and the killing on May 1 of six Westerners at Yanbu, a Saudi refinery and petrochemical hub, have escalated the fear factor because they dissolved the notion that Saudi Arabia could protect its oil complexes, according to analysts. These incidents "have shattered the market's confidence that everything was well-protected in Saudi Arabia," said Amy Myers Jaffe, a director of energy programs at the James A. Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. "Before, there were pipeline attacks in Iraq, general instability. But the (Saudi) attacks turned ongoing anxiety into deep anxiety." Al-Qaida terrorists, claiming responsibility for the Khobar attack, said the aim was to disrupt oil markets, psychologically if not by blowing up a pipeline, oil terminal or tanker. A similar message was made clear to oil markets when Iraqi insurgents recently unsuccessfully targeted an Iraqi oil terminal. Many oil industry analysts estimate that without the cloud of uncertainty posed by terrorists and the continued violence in Iraq, oil prices probably would be in the \$30 range. They say there's still plenty of oil available. Some analysts believe speculators are using the fear of possible disruptions to game the system and push prices beyond where they should be even assuming some disruption. The Bush administration's high-profile stance that it will not use its emergency government oil reserves has made it easier for oil speculators to drive up prices, contends Jaffe. "He is giving them (speculators) a security blanket," agrees Gheit of Oppenheimer, explaining that traders have been able to push up prices for oil deliveries at a future date without fearing they may be caught in a price squeeze if the government should release oil from its emergency stocks. Has the fear premium become a permanent part of today's crude oil markets? "The fear factor might narrow a little bit," said Gheit. "But I doubt it will completely disappear. We better get used to it."

## Award

Continued from page 1

international as well." Kamprath said he had his share of interesting experiences with the event, including when he was cleaning out a barn and found a large snake his sophomore year. "I didn't want to kill it, but my friend picked it up and chopped its head off," he said. Kamprath said one of his favorite memories was when he planted flowers and painted at a retirement home in Bryan his freshman year. After completing the work, he and his team went inside and talked to the residents. "I don't think they get a lot of interaction with college students," he said. The Big Event is the largest one-day, student-run service organization in the world, Kamprath said.

"The Big Event is our way, as college students at Texas A&M, to say 'thank you' to the community for putting up with us ..."

— Richard Kamprath, senior electrical engineering major

"We start planning the next Big Event week after the Big Event happens," he said. Cantu said The Big Event was judged May 18 and selected by an independent panel of judges from different parts of the state. One overall youth winner will be announced at the June 16 conference. Keep Brazos Beautiful had been the winner for several years to get enough information from The Big Event to nominate it for the award, Glenn said. "We figured if we could get it all together we knew that they would probably be able to win," she said. Kamprath said he is happy The Big Event is being recognized for helping improve the community. "It shows a lot of work and dedication goes into it," he said. "We're really happy to receive an award that shows how great people can be when they put a little effort

# Prosecutors open their case in the Peterson double-murder trial

By Brian Skoloff  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — Within a day of reporting his pregnant wife missing, Scott Peterson lied about his extramarital affair, gave conflicting accounts of his whereabouts and brushed off in-laws helping search for Laci Peterson, prosecutors said in opening arguments of Peterson's murder trial Tuesday. Prosecutor Rick Distaso wants jurors to connect those dots, along with other circumstantial evidence, to conclude Peterson killed his wife. Peterson, 31, could face the death penalty or life without parole if convicted in a trial that is expected to last up to six months. From the moment Peterson called his mother-in-law on Christmas Eve 2002 and said he had returned from a fishing trip to an empty house, things didn't make sense, Distaso said. "He says, 'Mom, Laci's missing,'" Distaso told jurors. "Right then, Sharon Rocha knew that things were very seriously wrong." By nightfall, family had joined police to investigate a

missing person report, that would unfold into a case that captivated the nation. Their search first focused on a park near the couple's Modesto home, where Laci Peterson, eight months pregnant, used to walk the family's golden retriever before a doctor recommended she stop because of recurring dizziness. In the park, a panicked Rocha was rifling through garbage cans in the fog-shrouded evening. When she saw Scott Peterson, she asked, "What's going on? Where were you fishing?" Distaso said. After giving

Rocha "one-word responses," Peterson wandered off, the prosecutor said. Distaso ticked off what he implied were a series of lies Peterson told. Peterson told Rocha he was fishing on San Francisco Bay but later told Laci Peterson's uncle and two neighbors he had been golfing all day. He was unable to tell police what had been trying to catch up on his fishing trip. He told investigators he never had an affair — a lie that would become very public when his mistress, massage therapist Amber Frey, stepped forward

## Gates

Continued from page 1

excellence," he said. Texas A&M Board of Regents member John D. White was also encouraged by the statistics. "I'm very pleased with the progress," White said. "I think the most important consideration

is our graduation rate, but Gates' report validates the message that we want students who can be successful admitted to A&M." Student Body President Jack Hildebrand said the fall admission numbers show that Gates' decision to use merit-based admissions policy is effective. "A&M has proven to be a more welcoming place and a unique environment for all stu-

dents to attend," Hildebrand said. Anderson said there is no concrete goal in terms of percentages. "Such an estimate would be impossible because there are too many complex factors in an individual student's decision on which school to attend," Anderson said. White says the administration is still working on achiev-

ing a critical mass and the admissions numbers should reflect the population of the state of Texas. "We want to reflect the population of the state of Texas because that's who we're here to serve and the closer we get to that, the better off we'll be," White said. "This is an obvious dynamic process and it changes over time."

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