700 Inches on the Media

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Western Washington University
Honors Senior Project
June 7, 2003
HONORS THESIS

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Date June 14, 2003
Introduction

Working at a professional publication is the most valuable experience an aspiring journalist can have. An internship at a daily newspaper provides insight into the operation of a news organization, the role of a newspaper in a community and the stresses of working in a place governed by dollars and deadlines. More importantly, it provides practical experience in gathering, writing and reporting the news. For this reason, I chose to extend my internship at *The Olympian* for my Honors project. I worked 160 hours at the newspaper, hours that turned out to be both more valuable and more rewarding than I had ever anticipated. In that time, I was able to write an A1 story, deal successfully with a source worried about the angle of an article and assist in localizing national news stories – rather than being relegated to community-only news. The following pages contain reports that detail my experiences and insights at the newspaper each week, as well as examples of my published work.

After working in the field, I understand how easy it is to get wrapped up in the daily news of graduations, parades and holiday celebrations. Rarely does it cross a journalist’s mind that judges are constantly making decisions that affect the ability of a journalist to perform his or her job. Disclosure laws, information requests, court access, libel suits, the list of those things that can change the rules under which journalists operate is extensive. It is the responsibility of journalists to keep themselves informed. Only journalists who are involved and knowledgeable are able to guard First Amendment rights and protect the tools of the press. That is why, for the second part of my project, I decided to continue my research in an area of interest to me: reporters’ attempts to access information on September 11 detainees. The topic bridges my major and minor studies at Western: journalism and political science.
After such an introduction, one could mistakenly view this Honors project as only a continuation of my coursework and experiences in college. But I believe it was much more than an added car on a train. Instead, it allowed me to understand the practice of journalism in great depth. As an intern, I was able to confront new problems and apply my prior learning to different experiences. And as a researcher, I was able to increase my understanding of government interactions with the press. My hope is that the information contained in these pages will be able to provide at least a glimpse of the experiences and a taste of the knowledge that has enriched my own learning.
The Olympian fact sheet

Newspaper Name: The Olympian
Owned by: Gannett
Executive Editor: Vickie Kilgore
President and Publisher: Robert W. Ritter

Publication schedule: Seven days a week, morning
Circulation: 45,000

Penetration rate:
57 percent of households in Olympia get home delivery of The Olympian
59 percent of households in the Olympia/Tumwater area get home delivery of The Olympian
45 percent of households in Lacey get home delivery of The Olympian
14 percent of households in Yelm get home delivery of The Olympian
27 percent of households in Mason County get home delivery of The Olympian

Key topics: environment/outdoors, entertainment, health, education, state government, prep sports, military, public accountability

Contact information:
Online site: http://www.theolympian.com/
Newsroom: 360-754-5420
Address: 111 Bethel St. NE, Olympia, WA 98506

History:
The Olympian is a descendant of the Morning Olympian, founded in 1890. It’s 400 subscribers paid $10 a year, and type was set by hand. In time, a rival newspaper emerged: The Olympia Daily Recorder. It’s owner B.A. Perkins purchased the Morning Olympian as well and ran both newspapers under the same roof. The newspapers competed for 20 years even though their newsrooms abutted in the same building. The two newspapers merged into the Daily Olympian in 1927. The Gannett Company bought the Daily Olympian in 1971. The word "Daily" was dropped in 1982, the same year USA Today began printing on The Olympian’s presses. Today, The Olympian prints more copies of USA Today than it does The Olympian.

Jayson Blair. His name will be a stain on the journalism profession – and on his employer – for the foreseeable future. The reporter committed frequent acts of journalistic fraud for four years at the finest newspaper in the world. He invented sources and situations, facts and events. He lifted material from other papers, and pretended to be where he was not. But what makes Blair’s story incredible is that he was able to deceive The New York Times. The question is, how?

"Something clearly broke down in the Times newsroom. It appears to have been communication – the very purpose of the newspaper itself," Times reporters wrote in a 10-page article about Blair’s conduct.

The communications breakdown at the Times led to disastrous results. But other communications problems happen every day in newsrooms across the country. Even at the star of the South Sound, The Olympian. I received an assignment early this week from one of my editors. It was a neighborhoods story: T-Mobile wanted to install a cell tower and the residents (surprise) weren’t pleased. The story didn’t have a deadline, so I shifted it to the side and made a mental note to find out when it had to be done. The next day, at about noon, I looked at the news budget for the day only to find that the cell tower article was on it. YIKES! I got busy calling people and the whole day went downhill.

First, my main source had "suffered a tragic loss" and was unable to talk. Next, T-Mobile wouldn’t call back. I finally asked the city editor, Chester, whom else I should call and that was when another editor, Dusti, overheard and let me in on the fact that an elementary school is in the affected area. More importantly, the school board didn’t notify the kids’ parents. It would have been nice to know that earlier. Well, I got on the phone and called the school superintendent. He
was in meetings all day long. As I was calling and calling and calling, getting more frustrated by the minute, I realized that I had no idea if we needed a photo to go with the article.

So I went and talked to the photo people and they weren't free until 5 to take a picture. Fine, I said. Then they wanted to know what to take a picture of. I didn't know. I only had one source. I didn't even know if we had to have the photo because the editor who assigned the story was in a meeting. I checked back with the editor a little while later and found out that yes, we did need a photo and that I got to figure out what it would be. So I lined up my one source for a quick picture at 5:30 p.m.

At 5 p.m. I decided to give up on T-Mobile and the super and head out to the Yelm Highway, find the proposed cell tower site, and knock on some doors. After getting lost, I was able to find the Puget Sound Energy substation (where the tower is supposed to go) as well as the adjacent neighborhoods. As I was knocking on doors and talking to people, I learned that there was a meeting at 7 p.m. with all the elementary school parents so the neighborhood could give them a bunch of information about the risks of cell towers. So, now I had a dilemma: either wait and go to the meeting or go back to the paper and use what I had. I decided that I wouldn't get much other information from the meeting, and to just write the story.

The article would have gone slightly smoother if I had known (1) when it was due (2) if we needed a picture and what it should be (3) all of the background. These problems aren't the fault of any one person. Rather, they indicate a failure to fully articulate expectations for an article. The situation was a good reminder of just how important everyday communication is.
Besides the cell tower article, I wrote about:

- Road improvements along Sleater-Kinney Road
- *The Olympian's* Awards of Excellence (banquet for high school kids – basically good PR)
- A student who volunteered at a reservation
- The band, “bicycle”
- Armed Forces Day at Fort Lewis.
"My daughter has a marvelous sense of empathy for people. Her poetry makes people cry in the good sense of really understanding what it feels like to have a disability."

— Jean Chapman, father of Elizabeth Chapman, who was recognized for community service

Students, loved ones witness a night of high achievement

Winners of Awards of Excellence come together at college

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

LACEY — When Chelci Clark was 4, her older brother used to dress her up in football gear and stand her in the front yard so he could perfect his tackling skills. She would come in crying, then head back out for more.

Those early experiences toughened her up, her parents Lovenia and Martin Clark said. Today, Clark, 18, is an accomplished athlete at Elma High School, where she plays soccer and basketball.

The Olympian honored Clark and 165 other outstanding seniors from South Sound high schools Tuesday night at an awards banquet at Saint Martin's College pavilion.

The third annual Olympian's Awards of Excellence were co-sponsored by Together!, an organization dedicated to preventing youth violence and substance abuse.

Students were honored in four categories; arts, academics, athletics and community service.

Elizabeth Chapman, a senior at Shelton High School, was recognized for her community service.

Chapman wrote a poetry book in which she put herself in the positions of 10 different people with disabilities, including her own, cerebral palsy. She then presented her work to different community groups.

"My daughter has a marvelous sense of empathy for people," said Jean Chapman, her father. "Her poetry makes people cry in the good sense of really understanding what it feels like to have a disability."

Chapman plans to major in education and minor in creative writing at Central Washington University. But she has other plans, too.

"I want to become a writer of some kind of children's books," she said.

Justin McCarron, a senior at North Thurston High School and a National Merit Commended Scholar, was recognized for his academic achievement.

McCarron said he's headed for the University of Washington in the fall and plans to major in computer science.

"It's a little scary going off to something I'm not used to," he said. "It will be a nice change of pace."

The evening included remarks from Bob Ritter, president and publisher of The Olympian, and Gov. Gary Locke.

Locke said he was honored to be in the presence of so much talent.

"Among you are tomorrow's educators, engineers, authors and athletes," he said. "We may even have a future president of the United States."

He urged the honorees to think of the evening as a talisman later in life.

"Remember this moment and what got you here," Locke said. "Because those same qualities will get you through anything."

Brittany Cahoon, an athlete at Shelton High School, was at the banquet with her parents, Robert and Holly Cahoon.

"A lot of people think it comes easy," Holly Cahoon said of her daughter's accomplishments. "But she works really hard."
Cellular tower plans rouse residents' ire

Proposed Yelm Highway site next to school

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

A T-Mobile plan to add a new cell tower along Yelm Highway is meeting criticism from area residents.

The company wants to install the 80-foot tower at the Puget Sound Energy substation at 2700 Yelm Highway, in a neighborhood in an unincorporated area south of Olympia and east of Tumwater. Residents are concerned about potential health impacts on themselves, on their children and on students at Centennial Elementary, which is adjacent to the proposed site.

"It doesn't seem like a good idea to have it so close to the elementary school," said Chris Dutton, who has lived in the area for 12 years. "We don't need to have cell phone coverage everywhere."

John Gray, who lives on Stratford Lane, said he, too, is worried about the tower's proximity to the school.

"Cell phones haven't been around in large enough numbers for a long enough time for any accurate studies to be done," Gray said. "There are no studies that are going to show what the possible genetic effects on these children's children will be."

T-Mobile representatives could not be reached for comment.

However, Gray said the company told residents that a new tower is necessary because of low coverage in the area.

While the Olympia School Board was notified of the proposed tower, Gray said he doesn't know how much information got out to the students' parents.

MaryBeth Ricks, who lives near the school, said Centennial families weren't notified when the rest of the neighbors were. Ricks has two children who attend Centennial.

Residents and the school's booster club helped inform 270 Centennial families of the proposed tower — families that wouldn't have been notified otherwise, Ricks said.

Cynthia Wilson, associate planner for Thurston County, said a public hearing before hearing examiner James Driscoll is tentatively scheduled for June 2.

"All wireless cell towers require special-use permits in residential zones," she said. "That's what takes them to the public hearing. The hearing examiner makes the actual decision."

Any appeal would be heard by the Thurston County Board of Commissioners.

The Federal Communications Commission prohibits the county from considering health effects in its review of the proposal, Wilson said.

Of the five cell tower proposals in the county this year, one was denied, she said.

"As far as I know, the rest of them have been approved."

Residents say they have concerns that go beyond health and safety. Gray contends electromagnetic interference is harmful to birds and other wildlife.

"We have retention ponds, not wetlands because they are man-made, but you ought to see what is in there," he said.

But Ricks' primary concern is for the children.

"To us parents, if there is any risk, why take it?" she said.
Armed Forces Day brings civilians out in celebration

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

FORT LEWIS — Harrison Coleman munched on an ice cream cone topped with M&Ms as he watched a mock Civil War battle.

The 8-year-old was celebrating Armed Forces Day — and having a lot of fun.

"I like the machine guns they have here," Harrison said.

His mouth was stained with red and green M&M coloring, but his face took on an air of seriousness.

"I'm a big fan of the military, and I really want to be in the Army," he said.

"I like to honor my country."

Future soldiers like Harrison, current and former military families, and civilian community members braved the cold and the rain Saturday to get an insider's look at the Armed Forces.

Tonya and Corey Freeman of Olympia came with their four children.

"We thought it would be something fun for the kids to do and see what their daddy does," Tonya Freeman said.

President Truman created Armed Forces Day in 1949. The day stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department — The Department of Defense.

Today, Armed Forces Day is a day of appreciation for those who serve.

"My dad is gone overseas," said Tim Everhard Jr. Everhard, 18, was there for the 2-mile fun run. "It's nice to see people supporting the military instead of sitting out there protesting."

But in addition to being a day of support, Armed Forces Day is also one of the few chances civilians have to see the types of jobs and equipment that can be found at a military base.

For many kids, it involved climbing in, over, around and through the many vehicles.

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John Granville, a former U.S. Marine Corps lance corporal who lost his lower legs to a land mine in Vietnam, tours exhibits. Granville is now an instructor with Rogue Valley Young Marines in Grants Pass, Ore.
Jakob Gould, 12, poked his head through the top of a Humvee. He looked into the SAW, or Squad Automatic Weapon, mounted on top of the vehicle and wrapped his fingers around the end.

"I've never held one of these before," he said.

Laura Davis, public affairs officer at Fort Lewis, said the displays were scaled back this year because much of the equipment is being used.

McChord Air Force Base didn't have planes available for the ranger drop, and the fort didn't have helicopters to show, she said.

Still, there were lots of vehicles to play on. Visitors also could dine on fair-style food, and test their coordination at the game booths.

There was also an Army-Air Force soccer match to watch.

Maj. Steve Dols of the Air Force Reserves watched his 4-year-old son, Joe, bounce on the seat of a Fort Lewis fire truck.

He just returned from Iraq three days ago.

"It's neat to see everyone come out and support the military," he said. "It makes you feel like you're appreciated."
City expected to OK phase 2 of Sleater-Kinney project

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

Initial improvements to Sleater-Kinney Road are a success, and crews should have authorization to complete the project, Olympia officials say.

Rick Dougherty, project manager, will present an evaluation of the Sleater-Kinney project at the City Council meeting Tuesday and suggest the staff move forward with phase 2.

“We’re viewing it as a major success, and it looks like the neighborhood is feeling the same way,” Dougherty said.

Work on the $2.3 million Sleater-Kinney project began last August. Crews added a southbound left-turn lane at Martin Way, completed storm drainage improvements and constructed a six-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side of the road.

Randy Wesselman, transportation engineering supervisor, said he has seen better traffic flow as a result of the changes.

Phase one construction ended in March, a month and a half later than anticipated.

“We had some weather setbacks and underground utility conflicts. ... The contractor was trying to work with a lot of traffic moving through the job site,” Dougherty said.

The second half of the project includes pavement grinding and an asphalt overlay of the roadway, installation of permanent landscaping and raised medians and installation of permanent striping and markings.

Basically, the second phase makes the initial improvements permanent, Dougherty said.

The work, which is set to begin in early August, will take nearly two months to complete.

Dougherty said the impacts on traffic won’t be as extensive as they were in phase 1. However, there will be significant delays on the days when crews overlay asphalt and stripe the road.

“Just drive safely through the work zone,” Wesselman advised.
Seven days. Twenty-three workers. And two vans full of sleeping bags, food and tools.

Amanda Foran, a Capital High School graduate, headed for McDermitt, Nev., for a week of volunteer work at the Indian reservation and the high school.

Foran and the other students were part of Willamette University’s alternative spring break program, “Take a Break.”

“Who can beat going down to Nevada for a week and doing service?” Foran said.

The students volunteered at the Fort McDermitt Shoshone-Paiute Indian Reservation and at McDermitt High School, in the town of McDermitt.

Like other rural communities, McDermitt is suffocating under the effects of alcoholism and poverty. A mercury mine used to be a source of income for many tribal members, but the mine closed when demand for the substance fell — no one remembers exactly when.

“The only business that I really saw was one small casino, a gas station and a woman who made beadwork,” Foran said. “What I got from that is that most people didn’t work. They mostly lived off the land, what the government gave them, and the tribes.”

The land is largely bare, save for grass, a lot of rocks and a few horses and cows. And the houses that perch on the land are in various states of disrepair.

Foran worked on one such house. The building didn’t have running water, and there were huge holes in the wall. The elderly owner used a little piece of wire to close the door because he didn’t have a lock.

“The hardest part about it was everything was just disintegrating,” Foran said. “Everything was really flimsy.”

Foran said she and other students patched the holes as best they could, painted the inside, cleaned the floors, painted bright blue trim around the window and built a woodbox. They also bought a space heater for his bedroom.

When the students weren’t scraping and painting, they volunteered at McDermitt High School, a school that, despite its name, provides K-12 education. All of the students at McDermitt receive free breakfasts and lunches, Foran said.

Foran spent two days in a fourth-grade classroom helping the teachers.

“I like working with the younger kids because they have so much hope. They were so excited to learn,” Foran said.

But Foran said the hope and interest in knowledge died somewhere along the line.

“It didn’t even occur to them to go to college,” Foran said. “After a certain point they felt defeated and went back to reservation and got married or drunk or whatever it was.”

She said the Willamette students struggled to comprehend how that disconnect could happen.

“We saw all the little kids had sparkles in their eyes and somewhere in there they lost it,” she said. “It was hard because we were trying so hard to inspire them, but you can only do so much.”

“Seeing how little those people have and realizing how many resources I have and how many opportunities I have in terms of an education, it made me want to put that to good use so I can serve as an example.”

— Amanda Foran, student volunteer

Besides working during the day, the Willamette students also had the task of keeping themselves going. Foran was in charge of the food committee.

“She was probably one of the most instrumental people,” said Brian Haley, a student leader on the trip. “She helped prepare a lot of the meals. A lot of times, she took on meals by herself and did those.”

But Haley said he appreciated more than Foran’s culinary skills.

“Whenever things got stressful or tiring, she was always positive and always had a good out-
look on life," he said.

One of the highlights of the group's trip was a potluck with some of the tribal members. They ate tacos with frybread and watched a tribal elder bring out his headdress and dance regalia.

"The people were so accepting and so happy we were there," Foran said. "They kept asking when we were going to come back."

Foran said that after her Nevada experience she wants to try harder.

"Seeing how little those people have and realizing how many resources I have and how many opportunities I have in terms of an education, it made me want to put that to good use so I can serve as an example," she said.

To suggest an individual or community group for spotlight as a Pacesetter, write to Jerre Redecker, The Olympian, P.O. Box 1219, Olympia, WA 98507, or e-mail jredecke@olympia.gannett.com. Include your nominee's specific accomplishment.
The punk band bicycle pedals into town for Utopian 500

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

Other rock musicians test their limits by taking narcotics and drinking to excess. Kurt Liebert takes a different challenge: touring via pedal power.

"It's like a decathlon," the bicycle singer/songwriter said. "Can you bike all day through rain, heat and flats and play your gig?"

The four members of bicycle, a Seattle punk rock band with a purposefully lowercase moniker, are circling the Puget Sound in a tour christened Utopian 500.

They're riding seven days, playing seven nights and covering nearly 500 miles of road. Joining bicycle on the Utopian 500 tour are Kipchoge and the Axles of Evil, Jeremy Fisher and John Oszajca.

"I think this is the sustainable tour I've always been looking for," Liebert said. His search for the "perfect" tour has been long and often arduous.

Since 1995, Liebert and the various incarnations of bicycle have pedaled over 10,000 miles in nine tours across the country and up and down both coasts. (Liebert is the only original member of the band, which got its start in New York City.)

Despite evidence to the contrary, Liebert, 37, was quick to say he's not a "gear head."

"I've always been a musician first, but (biking is) something I really enjoy," he said. And although he has a passion for biking, he doesn't require his band members — or the other acts — to bike as well.

"There have been guys who have rented a U-haul to haul their bikes," he said, referring to a cross-country tour when his band said they had enough. His bass player quit the band upon reaching New York. Jason Legat, the band's 31-year-old drummer, knows he's going to be exhausted at the end of the tour.

"Playing the drums, I use everything. After biking all day ... I'm going to be a wreck when we're done," Legat said.

But guitarist Andrew Massey, 32, isn't concerned about keeping up.

"I piss off a lot of guys in the band because I smoke and I drink and I still whoop them," Massey said.

Liebert's band is unlike many others, because bicycle performs mostly during the summer — and it's not just because of their transportation method.

"I'm a family man, too," Liebert said. "I want to spend time with my family."

Liebert and his wife, Sarah, have a 2-year-old son, Max.

"When I had Max, it was 'sayonara' to the road," he said.

Though Liebert said his main focus is his son, he still has big dreams for bicycle and for the tour.

"Someday, we'll get those big performers," he said. "How cool would that be? A Lollapalooza on bikes."
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One of the first articles I covered this week was a house moving. Not a packing-up-boxes-and-selling type of move, but a transporting the actual house type of move. Unfortunately, I only got to see the crew drive the house down the road because much of the prep work, including raising the house and setting it on the truck, was done earlier in the week. The story would have been more interesting if people were going to move into the house once it got to its new location. However, the structure will eventually be converted into office space. The only reason the owner decided to pay to have the house moved was that it was cheaper than tearing it down. The article focused mostly on how smoothly the move went, what the house looked like as it lumbered down the road, and what the vacated space will be used for.

The reason my editor had me write the article in the first place was because he said a house moving is out of the ordinary. But after talking to the movers, I don’t think that is necessarily true; they move a house almost every week. I don’t think there was much news value in the article. It made a good picture, but that’s about it. With this article as an example, I have to say *The Olympian* relies on centerpieces with questionable news values far too often. I’ve written a number of them myself. True, Olympia is a small town and there is less “hard” news. But with the heart of Washington’s government steps away, there are ample opportunities for more concrete articles. Instead, we covered a house moving.

Moving on, I’ve become the de-facto bicycle-event person for the paper. This week I covered two events: free lunches for bicycle commuters and a bicycle parade. The Washington State Department of Transportation and Climate Solutions, a non-profit environmental group, sponsored the free lunch event, and local restaurants provided the sandwiches, chips and fruit. According to organizers, the lunches were a way to reward people for riding and to add visibility
to the Bicycle Commuter Contest – which encourages people to ride their bikes instead of using other forms of transportation.

After spending the morning talking to riders, I went back to the office to type up my article. That was when I got a call from the WSDOT representative. She said that she was worried about the coverage leaning too far to the left and making bicycle commuters look extreme instead of like the every-day people that they are. So I told her that I had interviewed a city council member, state workers and student from Evergreen, so I had a broad representation. I said that with all articles, The Olympian always tries to provide balanced coverage, and that we would do the same with this article. She also mentioned that the photographer had taken a lot of pictures of “Greeners” (equivalent to Western’s hippies) and that she was afraid the visual coverage might be swayed toward one side. My response was that it is the staff photographer’s job to choose the best image or images for a story, and that it could be a “Greener.” But I also said that we are sensitive to people’s input on the type of coverage and if we hear that coverage – written or visual – leans one way or another, then that is a concern the newspaper takes into consideration. I ended by thanking her for her input. Well, the next day, she called back and said the article, and the photo, were “perfect.” She said she was very pleased with the coverage. Then she asked who my supervisor was, and she sent an email to them saying what I nice job I did with the article. It was flattering to say the least. Although, I remain leery about accepting the praise of sources. They like flattering coverage, but it isn’t the job of a reporter to make their sources look good. It’s to tell a story and relay information to their readers.

The second bicycle piece I wrote was about a one-mile bicycle parade from Marathon Park to Heritage Park. It was basically a family event aimed at parents with young children. There were a lot of preschool-age children on tricycles and first-graders on training wheels doing
their best to keep up with bigger adults. The kids weren’t very talkative, as evidenced in the lead of my article: “‘Fun’ was the operative word at the sixth annual Olympia Bike Parade on Saturday. ‘It was fun,’ said Lian Eytinge, 7, who sat on a bike decorated with stuffed panda bears. ‘Fun,’ said Ryan Thies, 4, who was still riding his bike in determined circles. ‘Fun,’ said Elsa Boyd, 5 and three-quarters. Her younger brother, Isak, nodded his head in agreement.”

I did get an incredible opportunity this week. I got to write the A1 centerpiece for Friday’s newspaper. It fell in my lap because their “regular” reporters were busy with other pieces. It wasn’t huge news, but it was worth writing about. This beautiful, 90-year-old wooden schooner docked in Olympia the day before. So, I got to drive down to the landing and talk to the captain and some of the crew about how long they were going to be in town, what they were doing, and when and if the public could see the boat. It turns out that the Adventuress is an educational vessel. It travels from port to port and runs classes about marine life and environmental problems. I got a tour of the boat – which was one of the best parts. Who can beat spending the afternoon walking around a boat and talking to the crew about how much they love their jobs? The story went on A1, but unfortunately, not exactly as I had written it. I wanted the news about the public having a hard time getting a tour to be in the second paragraph, rather than the less newsy information about the boat’s mission. Not to mention that an error was added in that wasn’t there originally. It’s especially frustrating because it’s on one of my few front-page articles.

Another article I wrote this week was a lengthy piece on some local boys who were about to earn their Eagle Scout awards. I interviewed them over the phone and they really didn’t have much to say about scouting or their projects. While an Eagle Scout award is the highest award in scouting, and few boys actually earn their eagle award, it is very difficult for me to take the
awards or projects very seriously. My brother was a Boy Scout for most of his school years, and
many of the merit badges, and often the Eagle Scout projects themselves, are a little hokey. For
example, one scout painted a map of the United States on a school playground. No one figured
out how it was a service to the community or school, but he got his Eagle. Parents also have a
way of doing a lot of a scout’s project for him. It was hard for me not to tell the scout master that
I have an idea of how scouts really works, and it has a lot to do with camping, eating cookies and
running around whatever playground is closest.

Interviewing a Filipino man about his family’s scholarship fund was one of the more
difficult things I’ve had to do at The Olympian. There was a significant language barrier. I felt
bad because I had to keep asking Villanueva to repeat himself. After I got off the phone with
Villanueva, I had to interview other members of the Filipino community. There I encountered
more language barriers. But the article made me consider just how easy it is for a newspaper to
neglect a community because of a language barrier. I’m sure there is a lot of news that doesn’t
make it into mainstream papers simply because newspapers don’t have the staff to get involved
in other communities and really learn what the issues are.

The final article I wrote this week was a localizing article about Annika Sorenstam’s
journey at the PGA tour. I had to call up high school women golfers and ask if Annika was an
inspiration to them. I think that is a bit of a stretch in order to get a local angle. It worked, but
barely.
A crew negotiates overhead wires lining Littlerock Road near Israel Road as it moves a house Tuesday morning for the owners of Homespun Antiques Mall.

50-year-old house takes two-mile trip along Littlerock Road

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

TUMWATER — Manley Goodwin can park a house on a dime. At least that's what his wife says.

Jane Goodwin watched as her husband, co-owner of a house moving company, backed his 25-ton load into position and killed the truck's engine.

"It was a pretty smooth move," she said.

Goodwin and his crew spent nearly two hours Tuesday guiding a 50-year-old green and white house down Littlerock Road to its new location — two miles away — on Prime Road.

The house was empty when Rainier Movers Inc. sent it lumbering down the street.

The house, which is 28 feet wide and 44 feet long, moved 3 to 4 mph on its journey.

Brian Wilson ran back and forth on the roof, lifting power lines to clear the way.

"It's kinda fun but freaky," Wilson said of his job. "You don't want a car to crash into you or Manley to slam on the brakes."

Besides moving power lines, the crew had to clip tree branches and dig up two mailboxes to get the house through.

"Those back roads like this, you have to take 'em out to get by them," Charlie Newcomb said as he shoveled dirt back into one mailbox hole.

Newcomb said he lived across the street from the house as a kid.

"I knew the kids that lived there — the McCartys," he said. "There were a whole bunch of houses there."

Susan and Scott Ritter bought the old house and the property last year, intending to further develop what is now Minks Plaza.

"When we bought the property, we had no intention of renting it as a house. It was either going to be demolished or relocated," Scott Ritter said.

It was cheaper to move the house than demolish it, he said.

An average house costs about $15,000 to move.

The house will be converted into office space, Ritter said.
THE ADVENTURESS IS IN TOWN

90-year-old schooner offers a real education

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

OLYMPIA — The Adventuress, a 90-year-old gaff schooner, has docked at Percival Landing.

The Adventuress serves as a maritime classroom, and its crew as serve as educators, allowing students — and adults — to study water quality and marine ecology.

Passengers also learn how to handle sails and to navigate Puget Sound.

But South Sound residents will have a tough time getting a tour of the historic vessel during the boat’s 11-day stay.

“All of the days are booked up with groups. There’s not a lot of opportunity to get on.” Captain Gordon Sims said. “But people can certainly come down and, if there is a break in the action, we can let them on board.”

See SCHOONER, Page A2

Adventuress specs
- **Rig type:** Gaff topsail two-masted schooner
- **Length overall:** 136 feet
- **Length on deck:** 101 feet
- **Sail area:** 5,478 square feet
- **Auxiliary engine:** 250 horse power diesel
- **Hull:** Wood
- **Designer:** B.B. Crowninshield
- **Commissioned:** 1913
- **Builder:** Rice Brothers, East Boothbay, Maine
- **Information:** For more information about the Adventuress and its programs, call 360-379-0438 or visit the organization’s Web site at www.soundexp.org.

The Adventuress is docked Thursday at Percival Landing, where it will be based until June 1.

Jared Wachter, 6, tours the Adventuress on Thursday with kids from Preschool by the Bay, where his mother, Anne Wachter, teaches.
Sound Experience, a non-profit organization in Port Townsend, owns the boat. It sends the Adventuress from port to port for classes and cruises.

"As more people move to the Puget Sound, the water quality problems become more acute," Sims said.

But educational programs, such as the Adventuress, reach children early so they'll grow up with an appreciation for the place they live, and learn to respect it, Sims said.

Shannon Hagen, an educator and deckhand, said she has fallen in love with the boat and its mission.

It's great to watch the faces of kids raising a sail so big, Hagen said. "They know they are holding onto the line."

Myles Kautsky, 6, discovered the boat's charms during a tour Thursday.

"It wasn't wiggly, just perfect," Myles said. "Everything was just good. The wood was shiny and nice. The steering wheel was like a pirate ship."

The Adventuress was built as a private yacht for a Chicago millionaire.

After nearly 40 years as a pilot boat in San Francisco Bay, "Doc" Freeman brought it to Seattle in 1952. It has remained in Puget Sound since then.

The Adventuress will leave for Tacoma on June 1. The next public day sail is June 14, from Bainbridge.

"The boat has been around for 90 years," said Dave Carlson, deckhand and educator. "Now, it's a big part of the Sound. You see it all over."
Lunch to go: Commuters on bicycles fuel up for free

‘Record year’ for local contest spurs gift of sustenance

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

Who says there’s no such thing as a free lunch?
More than 100 South Sound bicycle commuters picked up a free brown-bag lunch Thursday morning on their way to work.

"I think it’s a great idea," said Bob Bippert, who commutes from Marytown to his job in Olympia. "I wish they would do it every day."

Bippert leaned over and selected a bag containing a vegetarian sandwich. He has won the annual Bicycle Commuter Contest for eight or nine years, he said.

The annual May contest encourages hard-core bicyclists and novices alike to pedal instead of using other forms of transportation, particularly cars.

Thursday’s free lunches were part of the annual contest and National Bike-to-Work Month.

Cyclists picked up free eats in Lacey, Tumwater and at Heritage Park in Olympia.

“It’s a record year for the Bicycle Commuter Contest," said Barbara Davis of the Washington state Department of Transportation. "We wanted to add more visibility to their efforts."

The DOT co-sponsored the event with KAYO radio and Bike Tech.

See BICYCLISTS, Page B2

INSIDE: Contest sponsors offer bicycle parade, band performance. B2

Commuter bicyclists Joe Joy (left) and Matthew Landers pick up free lunches near Sleater-Kinney Road in Lacey. The Washington State Department of Transportation teamed with KAYO radio and Bike Tech to sponsor the lunches Thursday as part of the annual South Sound Bicycle Commuter Contest and National Bike-to-Work Month. Lunches also were distributed in Tumwater and at Heritage Park in Olympia.
BICYCLISTS
Continued from Page B1

Chris Hawkins, Climate Solutions transportation program coordinator, said the idea behind the free food was to recognize and reward those who take their bicycles to and from work every day.

“We hope it will be an annual event,” he said.

Bagel Brothers and Coco’s supplied 150 vegan, vegetarian and meat sandwiches, each of which can fuel about 20 miles of cycling. Chips, fruit and a cookie also were included.

Olympia City Councilman Matthew Green was one of those who stopped by.

“It’s great,” he said. “I’d forgotten they were going to be here.”

Evergreen freshman Lena Davidson also grabbed a lunch.

Davidson bikes to work at least three times a week — a 10-mile commute.

“It’s a really visible incentive to bike and to make a conscious effort to be sensitive to people who are bicycling — or to bike themselves,” she said.

By the end of the morning, volunteers at the three sites had fueled 140 local riders.

T.J. Johnson, who was stationed at the Heritage Park site, had given away 66 lunches by 8:45 a.m.

“It’s good that it’s not perfect weather and there is still a lot of traffic,” said Johnson, commute trip reduction coordinator at WS-DOT. “That’s 66 cars that aren’t spewing pollution into the air in Olympia today.”

What’s next

Sponsors of the monthlong Bicycle Commuter Contest organized several events to get people interested in using alternative forms of transportation for commuting. The final event:

**Olympia Bicycle Parade**

and concert by the band “Bicycle” is set to begin at 1 p.m. Saturday at Marathon Park on Deschutes Parkway.

Participants should decorate their bikes and themselves using flags, bells, whistles, banners, music and other creations.

The band will perform after the parade at the Midnight Sun on Columbia Street in downtown Olympia.
Babe Prante practices her putts as her brother Sheldone (right) does the same Friday at Tumwater Valley Golf Course.

Sorenstam opens doors, young area golfers say

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

Even though Annika Sorenstam's historic participation in a PGA Tour event ended without awards or fanfare, the fact that she competed is an inspiration to many women.

"I think they'll look up to her just because she played with the men," said Allie Denzler, a senior golfer at Tumwater High School. While a former teammate is her own inspiration, Denzler said younger women golfers will look to Sorenstam as a role model.

The winner of 43 tournaments, Sorenstam was the first woman to compete in the PGA tour in more than 50 years. She's considered the best female golfer in the world.

Babe Prante, a junior on Black Hills High School's golf team, was rooting for Sorenstam to not only make the cut, but to win the tournament.

"I think she's gotten a lot of respect over this," Prante said. "I think she's proven she can play."

Sorenstam did hold her own, but her tour ended after two days. Still, Prante said, Sorenstam is making history.

"It opens doors for women in sports, not only in golf," she said. "It shows that women can compete with men."
A parade packed with cyclists

Participants decorate their bikes and themselves for one-mile ride downtown

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

"Fun" was the operative word at the sixth annual Olympia Bike Parade on Saturday.
"It was fun," said Lian Eytinge, 7, who sat on a bike decorated with stuffed panda bears.
"Fun," said Ryan Thies, 4, who still was riding his bike in determined circles.
"Fun," said Elsa Boyd, 5 and three-quarters. Her younger brother, Isak, nodded his head in agreement.

More than 50 kids and adults braved heavy clouds and a sprinkling of rain to ride the mile from Marathon Park to Heritage Park in Olympia.
The parade was part of the monthlong Bicycle Commuter Contest sponsored by the Washington State Department of Transportation and Climate Solutions.
Tricycles, training bikes and regular two-wheelers took to the road along Capitol Lake in a flurry of motion.
Some of the shorter-legged participants had a hard time keeping up and depended on parents for an extra push.
Other kids thought the sidewalk looked more leisurely.
Participants of all ages spruced up their frames with streamers, flags, ribbons and flowers.
Sheila Brown, president of the Capitol Bicycling Club, filled the wire basket on her bike with million bell flowers and petunias from the Olympia Farmers Market.
Like the kids, Brown said she showed up for the parade because it was fun. But she had another reason:
"I like to support cycling," she said.
Some parade-goers rode unique bikes, like a penny farthing (an old-fashioned bicycle with a large front wheel), a low-rider, characterized by its extra-tall handlebars, and a swing-bike, which can be steered from both the front and the back.
The parade wasn't without some minor mishaps. Lian crashed en-route to the park.
"We were going too close, and then we fell down," she said. "I just got back up and started riding."

Rick "The Penny Farthing Fool" Kanz of Olympia wears appropriate apparel for Saturday's bicycle parade. Kanz's nickname comes from the old-fashioned "penny farthing" he rode in the parade.

Jim Dees, Bicycle Commuter Contest coordinator for Climate Solutions, said he thought the parade was a wonderful chance to show support for bicyclists in the community.
"(It was) a chance to demonstrate... that bicycling is fun and creative."
LACEY man sets money aside to send students in the Philippines to college

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

LACEY — In the United States, $40 can pay for two tanks of gas or a cheap seat at the theater. But in the Philippines province of Pangasinan, $40 can pay for an entire semester of tuition at Pangasinan State University.

And it has, thanks to Lacey resident Fil Villanueva.

Villanueva and his family have been sending needy Filipino students to the Pangasinan college since 1996.

"My wife and I wanted to repay more or less what was given to our children," he said. Villanueva, now 69, served in the U.S. Navy for 24 years.

Villanueva and his wife, Cely, couldn't afford to send their three children — Victor, Valerie and Valiant — to college. Instead, they had to depend on the U.S. government, he said.

Valerie attended the U.S. Naval Academy and then served for five years. Valiant joined the Peace Corps and then went into the Forest Service, which helped pay for part of his education. Victor depended on loans and the money he earned while working during school.

Because of the education his children received, Villanueva decided he wanted to give something back to the community. After he learned how little it would cost to help a Filipino student attend college in Pangasinan, he decided to start a scholarship fund.

"When we found out what it is going to cost us, my wife and my children, we started with 10 scholars," he said.

Since 1996, Villanueva and his family have continued to sponsor students. To date, 32 of their scholarship students have graduated — three with honors.

"It has helped students that might not have had the opportunity to go to college go," Villanueva's daughter, Valerie Dohoda, said. "In the Philippines, that's a very important thing, because the poverty is so great."

Villanueva said the students who receive scholarships, while academically gifted, are practically homeless.

"They do have houses, but one room, two rooms," he said. "Some of these villages, every time there is a monsoon, they got flooded. They really need help."

Fely Wiedebush, former president of the Filipino American Community of South Puget Sound, said a college education in the Philippines is like emancipation from the bondages of poverty.

"There, if you don't have a diploma ... there are no jobs that will take you except for labor, but labor is limited because of the lack of construction and buildings," she said.

Dohoda said her father's family has always been generous. Villanueva's mother and father used to feed prisoners in the jails.

And Villanueva has done more than start a scholarship fund. He also sends money to feed Pangasinan schoolchildren breakfast. And he has helped get computers into the schools.

"He's always the one who invites the strangers over for dinner," Dohoda said.

"He's always had a generous heart. It's always been there."

To suggest an individual or community group for spotlight as a Pacesetter, write to Jerre Redecker, The Olympian, P.O. Box 1219, Olympia, WA 98507, or e-mail jredecke@olympia.gannett.com. Include your nominee's specific accomplishment.
Wolf Haven reaps benefit of teenagers’ final badge projects

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON  
THE OLYMPIAN

Wolf Haven has a new campfire pit, three new picnic tables and a new campground area because of the efforts of three local teenagers.

Curtis Pollard, Ben Coppin and Daniel Larsen worked on their Eagle Scout projects at the wolf conservatory near Tenino.

The projects were the boys’ last step in earning their Eagle Scout badges, which will be awarded in June.

“Anybody who is at Eagle level has put in a lot of years of effort,” said Vicki Kay, Troop 318 committee chair.

■ Curtis Pollard, a sophomore at North Thurston High School, has been in Scouts since he was 8 years old.

“At first I thought it was all about camping, but I learned a lot of things like a lot of wilderness qualities like first aid and knot tying — and all that important stuff,” he said.

More recently, Pollard’s involvement in Scouting also has taught him quite a bit about picnic tables.

He found the plans for his Eagle project on the Internet, and the materials came from lumberyards and hardware stores. With the help of volunteers, Pollard was able to construct the tables in a day.

“It didn’t seem like it was going to be the best of tables, but when I completed them, they were really strong and sturdy,” he said.

Since completing his project, Pollard is on to another goal: he wants to become a physical education teacher.

“I’m really interested in coaching,” the golf, basketball and soccer player said.

“That’s my main drive to be a teacher, so I can be involved in high school sports.”

■ Ben Coppin said Hurricane Ridge hiking trips and San Juan Islands bicycling tours were some of the highlights of his many years in scouting. But the Timberline High School sophomore said his favorite experience was just last year: a river-rafting trip near the Tri-Cities.

“I don’t believe anyone in the troop had ever gone river rafting before, so it was kind of a cool experience,” he said.

The newly addicted river-rafter was the energy behind Wolf Haven’s new fire pit. The pit will be used for howl-ins, a program where groups of people listen to the wolves while they learn more about the animals.

The actual fire pit is 4 feet across and ringed by gravel. A hinged grill goes over the top. Coppin said he plans to add a rock wall around the fire pit, as well as some logs so people have a place to sit down.

Coppin’s goals include attending community college, then transferring to the University of Washington to major in construction engineering, architecture or computer science.

■ Daniel Larsen, a sophomore at North Thurston High School, cleared land for nine campsites at Wolf Haven.

“The hardest part was finding people to donate the sand and gravel I needed for the project,” he said.

After leveling hills, clearing leaves, digging, landscaping and laying rocks, Larsen’s campsites were complete, and Wolf Haven staff was amazed.

“They were blown away by how good it was,” he said.

Larsen has ambitious plans for the future. He’s going to enroll in Running Start next year, a program where high school students can take classes for high school and college credit.

After that he will transfer to a four-year college. He eventually intends to earn a doctorate in physics.

“I really like math, and I’m taking physics right now, and the class is total math,” he said.

“I like all this new information, the explanations of how things work.”

But those plans aren’t set in stone. Larsen is also thinking of joining the military and using the bonus money to go to college.

“I want to fly helicopters in the military,” he said. He would prefer an Apache, but said any helicopter would really be fine, “as long as I could fly it.”

The Troop 318 boys follow in the footsteps of other South Sound Scouts who have achieved the highest award in scouting.

■ Justin Bramlette, a senior at Capital High School, earned his Eagle Scout badge last fall.

Bramlette said it “feels pretty good” to have his Eagle, especially since it took 11 years to earn.

Bramlette said he learned many lessons in Scouts, from how to survive outdoors to how to work with people.

“A lot of it is about leadership — and it’s pretty tough being a leader,” he said.

Bramlette built a $1,000 seating structure at First United Methodist Church for his project. It took a month to plan and two months to build, he said.

Bramlette’s plans include attending the University of Washington next year and majoring in aerospace.

“I’ve always been interested in aircraft and rockets,” he said. “I think I may want to get a pilot’s license and build an ultralight as a private aircraft.”

But Bramlette said his life goals are modest.

“I just want to have a job that I enjoy and have a comfortable lifestyle,” he said.
Josephson, Leanne
From: Allen, Chester
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2003 1:55 PM
To: Josephson, Leanne
Subject: FW: Thanks for good coverage of Bicycle Commuter Contest

Well done!

-----Original Message-----

From: Davis, Barbara [mailto:DavisB@wsdot.wa.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2003 1:23 PM
To: Redecker, Jerre; Allen, Chester
Cc: Chris Hawkins (E-mail); Jim Dees (E-mail); Johnson, TJ
Subject: Thanks for good coverage of Bicycle Commuter Contest

Ms. Redecker and Mr. Allen,

I want to express my appreciation for the extensive and positive coverage the Olympian has given to this year's Thurston County Bicycle Commuter Contest. The newspaper has been a generous partner in raising public awareness of the personal, environmental, and community benefits of bicycling.

Today's article written by Leanne Josephson turned out well. http://www.theolympian.com/home/news/20030523/southsound/12364.shtml She creates interest in the cycling promotion while helping readers make sense of how cycling relates to broader issues in transportation. In addition, I heard from a co-worker and partners working the promotion site at Heritage Park in downtown Olympia that Leanne was effective in interviewing the cyclists who stopped to get a lunch. The comments were that she was poised, personable, and well-prepared in her questioning.

Steve Bloom's photograph for today's article was just great.

I organized yesterday's promotion as part of a legislatively-mandated responsibility to raise public awareness of commute options. My communications and public involvement work is minimally funded through the state's Commute Trip Reduction Program, with the balance of a small budget coming from federal dollars, including grants. Since there are very few dollars for paid media for this work, my work emphasizes promotions and builds on well-established campaigns like Rideshare Week, Smart Moves, and the Thurston County Bicycle Commuter Contest. These campaigns succeed only where we have good partnerships.

Thank you again for the Olympian's work with Climate Solutions in making this year's Thurston County Bicycle Commuter Contest an unprecedented success.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Davis
Communications and Public Involvement Manager
Public Transportation and Commute Options Office
Washington State Department of Transportation
voice (360) 705-7874
fax (360) 705-6862

WSDOT projects, travel, and commute info: www.wsdot.wa.gov
Internship Report
May 27 – 31, 2003

One of the great things about covering Saturday articles is that I get to work closely with the best photographer on staff, Tony Overman. Tony has won a number of awards for his pictures – and I can see why. He has a photographer’s eye and can capture telling expressions, include context and frame and light subjects better than most. Tony’s photos always make my articles look good, a situation which any reporter would love! Tony also has a lot of experience.

At the beginning of my internship, he gave me one tip about the type of events we’d be covering: “It’s all about families.” I took his advice to heart. For example, when I covered a parade and was in a confused daze because of all the action going on around me, I found a family to interview. Readers can relate to families and family relationships. So when a reporter can interview a family she can capture the excitement of the kids and also get the in-depth information adults are capable of providing. Finally, I enjoy working with Tony because we can collaborate. I can’t count the number of times he’s said: “I just talked to that person over there. He has an interesting story.” Or he’ll say, “I think I got a really good picture of so and so.” That way, the story subjects can also be featured in the pictures, making the whole package complete.

This last Saturday, Tony and I covered Special Olympics Washington. Because this is an annual story for The Olympian, we wanted to find a way to make it fresh. So we decided to cover the gymnastic and swimming competitions in Federal Way, rather than the track & field events at Fort Lewis. So we headed up to Federal Way High School to catch the gymnastics competition early Saturday morning. When we got there, we discovered that no one from the Tumwater – Olympia – Lacey area was competing. Vicki Kilgore, the executive editor, would filet us alive if there weren’t local people in the story. So we headed for the King County Aquatic Center.

Luckily, the swimming event was much more popular, and local people were competing.
The pool was a bit of a zoo. It was sweltering hot, smelled like chemicals and completely packed. We were eventually able to find the Thurston County Thunderfish assistant coach. She had a clipboard and was able to point us to Thunderfish swimmers. But we never had much notice. It was more like “Oh, Heather is going now.” And she would point at the lane. Then I’d run over and wait for the participant to climb out of the pool and cross my fingers that she or he would be capable of answering a few questions. Eventually I learned that the Thunderfish parents were sitting in the bleachers above, watching their kids compete. It was fairly awkward to interview them because I had to ask, “What kind of disabilities does ______ have?” Then the parents would tense up and answer hesitantly, suddenly worried about my intentions. I decided not to put the swimmers’ particular disabilities in the article because I only knew some of them. I didn’t know the disabilities of participants whose parents I couldn’t or didn’t meet, and it seemed unnecessary to print personal information on some people but not others.

Besides Special Olympics, I worked on another sensitive article this week. Okay, it was technically a sidebar, but the thing was 20 inches long, so I think it qualifies. Basically, a Thurston County man is accused of molesting six young girls at area daycares. The trial started last week, and the day I wrote the article, an 8-year-old girl took the stand. My article was about the effects on young children when they testify in sexual abuse cases, the necessity of their testimony, and if their testimony is indeed reliable. I had to call local lawyers and psychologists to put the piece together. I really detest calling psychologists because it seems that newspapers always turn to them for insight. What leads a child to become violent? What happens emotionally when you’re in a car wreck? Why do people suffer anxiety? Every time there is a school shooting or major disaster, newspapers are speed-dialing shrinks. Yes, psychologists are schooled in people’s mental and emotional actions and responses. But the questions we
journalists want them to answer are too broad. Every time I’ve had to cover an article such as this, the psychologist’s answer is: “It depends on the individual.” It seems like articles such as the one I wrote have little news value and provide the reader with little information. Instead of writing an article on children who testify in court, I believe my time would have been better spent writing an article about victim advocates. Victim advocates work with the abused child during the entire trial and make sure the well being of the child comes first. The advocate will ask for breaks, make sure the child can see familiar faces in the courtroom, and sometimes, sit with the child when she or he testifies. I think this would have been a much more interesting read than “It depends.”

Another article I covered was Dr. James Reilly’s visit to Black Hills High School. The astronaut flew on two different space missions and is scheduled for another flight in the fall. He walked the students through a mission to the International Space Station. It’s amazing that in a day when space travel is so routine, it’s still possible to be awed and impressed by NASA technology. NASA, and space flights in general, still evoke JFK-era feelings of hope, pride and progress. At least at Black Hills High School, it was evident that NASA is still America’s darling. The students were completely absorbed in Reilly’s narration and the answers to audience questions.

Other articles I covered this week include:

- The Journey of Hope, PUSH America program that raises money to benefit people with disabilities
- A fundraising breakfast for the Tumwater Boys and Girls Club
- Man-on-the-street, mugs and quotes covering what people will do with money from Bush’s most-recent tax cut.
To Brianne Trottier, 13, the Boys & Girls Club in Tumwater is more than a place to hang out.

“When I’m here, I feel like I’m at several friends’ houses, and I can almost call this a second home,” she said.

Brianne shared her club experiences with government, business and community leaders Wednesday during the Foundation for the Future Breakfast at Saint Martin’s College Norman Worthington Center.

The breakfast was a way for the Boys & Girls Club to share some of its success stories and to garner support for its programs.

At least 80 percent of the club’s financial support comes from the community.

Brianne, a student at Tumwater Middle School, is the Tumwater club’s Junior Youth of the Year.

“She has come a long way,” said Monica Cavinaw, branch coordinator. “She shows leadership to the younger kids (and) she’s a role model.”

The Washington State Youth of the Year, Romelle Bradford, was the other student speaker. Bradford told the audience how the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club mentors turned his life around.

Bradford, 18, attended four days of school during his ninth-grade year, which his 0.8 GPA reflected. After joining the club, Bradford raised his GPA to a 3.4. Now, he has a job offer from Microsoft and college ambitions.

“The Boys and Girls Club, it changed my life,” Bradford said.

Bob Ritter, president and publisher of The Olympian, served as master of ceremonies. He said that youngsters need a place to go and someone to provide guidance, and that the club does just that.

Other kids participated in the breakfast. Club member Mikey Burrow played the violin, and club cheerleaders performed.

Kaylee Napoleon and Dallas Roberts, Future Youths of the Year, also attended. Kaylee and Dallas, both age 9, are students at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School.

The young leaders said they plan on staying in the Boys & Girls Club for a long time.

“You have a lot of fun there,” Dallas said. “You’re never bored.”

To donate: Mail to Boys and Girls Club administrative office, 111 Market St. NE, Suite 375, Olympia, WA 98501, or call 360-956-0755.

The Boys and Girls Club also accepts in-kind donations.
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR TAX CUT?

"I would like to send it out of the country. Half to some grassroots organization in Colombia doing some social change, and the other half I would like to give to a human rights organization in Colombia, Credhos."
— Yul Gamboa, 32, Olympia

"I’m going to spoil my child, buy him a bike."
— Sabrina Simmons, 17, Yelm

"I’ll probably use it to buy stuff I didn’t have before, like a DVD player."
— Chris Parshalo, 25, Olympia

"I’m really tempted to donate it to organizations that will get him (Bush) out of office, but I’ll probably just pay the bills."
— Robin Morissette, 38, Olympia

"I probably won’t see any of it. I don’t have any children at home. If any money does come, we’ll probably improve the house and the yard or save it. No fancy trips to Paris. It won’t be that type of money coming in."
— Doug Thomas, 48, Olympia

"To be honest, it will probably just go into the household finances and get absorbed. I don’t think it’s going to make much of a difference. I would rather pay the tax because I think it would do more good for our country."
— Theresa Scott, no age given, Olympia
Sexual-assault trials have special perils for children

Effects depend on severity of crime, court’s treatment

THE OLYMPIAN

An 8-year-old girl testified in Thurston County Superior Court on Thursday that she was molested by James P. DeGroff at age 5. Another girl is scheduled to testify in the coming week.

The age of the children and the nature of the case raise questions about the role of children in sexual-assault trials.

Experts in children and in legal and therapy matters were contacted to answer these questions:

■ Why do children testify in court?

The Constitution guarantees the right of a defendant to face his or her accuser, even if that person is a child.

"It’s something that is a necessity," said Jim Powers, senior deputy prosecuting attorney for the special victims team of Thurston County. "We do it because we have to."

A child’s testimony needs to be in person, Powers said.

However, there are a few exceptions.

In cases where the child will be severely traumatized by going into the courtroom, the child can testify via closed-circuit television, he said.

“It’s only available in extreme situations," Powers said. “We don’t do it, hardly ever, because it’s so restrictive.”

Additionally, if the child is under age 10, a judge might allow persons outside of the court to help the child tell his or her story.

In almost all cases, that testimony cannot be used in place of the child’s, Powers said.

There are also provisions concerning whether a witness is competent to testify under a certain age.

■ What are the potential effects on a child who testifies about sexual abuse?

The effects on a child vary widely depending on the child, the type of abuse and the support she or he gets, said Lynn Grotsky, clinical director of the therapy program at Monarch Children’s Justice and Advocacy Center.

"For many children, that (testifying) can be very frightening and embarrassing," Grotsky said. "For some kids, it’s very empowering and therapeutic."

Facing an abuser and saying that what happened was not OK can give a child his or her control back, Grotsky said.

Then again, if the child doesn’t have a support system, the child will hold on to the shame of being abused, she said.

Olympia defense lawyer George Steele said most of the children who testify handle it well.

"But I’m not there after the trial and after the fact," he said. "I go on to the next case. My observation is that most of them do all right, and most of that is due to what prosecutors do to help the children out."

— George Steele, Olympia defense attorney

■ Is a child’s testimony reliable?

“I don’t think it’s a question or not of them being reliable witnesses, it’s if they are truthful,” said Richard Woodrow, defense attorney, former Kitsap County prosecutor.

Children are very suggestible and often try to answer in a way that will please the adult, so interviewers should be specifically trained for the job and the interview should be taped, Woodrow said.

"I do think children can be coached," he said.

“I don’t think it happens as much as people think it happens.”

As long as a child understands what it means to tell the truth, she or he is just as reliable as anybody else, Powers said.

“...the fact that these are children and that creates a problem with their reliability is way overblown.”
Astronaut touches down at Olympia’s Moon Tree

Dressed as astronauts, Natalie Mckone (from left), Emma Sagor and Keeley Schwalger join NASA astronaut Dr. James Reilly for a ceremony Friday at the “Moon Tree” on Capitol Campus. Students from J.D. Zellerbach Elementary in Camas unveiled a plaque for the tree, the first permanent marker identifying the tree as one grown from a seed that traveled to the Moon aboard Apollo 14 in 1971.
James F. Reilly decided to become an astronaut while sitting in a dentist's chair. On that day in 1962, the dentist kept pausing his work to listen to reports of John Glenn circling the earth. “Wouldn’t it be amazing to do that?” the dentist asked.

Reilly agreed.

Reilly, now 49, has flown in two space shuttle missions and logged 517 hours in space. He currently is assigned to the crew of STS 117, which is scheduled for space flight in the fall.

Reilly shared his space experiences with Black Hills High School students Friday. Earlier in the day, Reilly helped 250 Clark County kids dedicate a plaque at the Moon Tree, a Douglas fir whose seed traveled to the Moon with Apollo 14 before being planted on the Capitol Campus more than 30 years ago.

Reilly shared his space experiences with Black Hills High School students Friday. Earlier in the day, Reilly helped 250 Clark County kids dedicate a plaque at the Moon Tree, a Douglas fir whose seed traveled to the Moon with Apollo 14 before being planted on the Capitol Campus more than 30 years ago.

Dressed in a blue flight suit, Reilly walked the students through a video of a mission to the International Space Station, where the astronauts delivered and installed a joint airlock module. “It’s a real team effort,” Reilly said. “Everyone has to do their job exactly as trained.”

He pointed out the equipment, the people and the food on board. “See the cat food cans?” he asked, pointing at tins containing some Russian fare. The food was actually quite tasty, Reilly said.

After the video ended, he answered students’ questions. “Were you scared?” a student asked. “I was not scared,” he said. “I half expected to be, but I wasn’t. When I got in the vehicle, it was just like being in a simulator.”

Another student wanted to know how long it takes to become an astronaut. Reilly said he submitted applications to NASA for nine years before being accepted for the 1995 class at age 40.

Reilly wasn’t the only one answering questions.

U.S. Rep. Brian Baird accompanied Reilly. Baird, a member of the House Science and Technology Committee, fielded a question about NASA’s funding. “The money comes from your taxpayer dollars, $22 billion,” Baird said. “Some people have suggested that we could save money by ending the program.”

NASA is an expensive but worthwhile program, Baird said. “But I believe it is human destiny to question.”

Black Hills junior Riana Nelson said space has always interested her, so meeting Reilly was an amazing experience. “It was a great way to teach students about the benefits of working hard and meeting your goals,” she said. “And I got to shake his hand!”
Ben Hammon of Yelm cruises the warmup pool as he prepares for his 25-meter freestyle race at the Special Olympics of Washington Summer Games on Saturday morning in Federal Way. Hammon, a member of the Thurston Thunderfish, will represent the U.S.A. at the World Games in Dublin, Ireland, later this month. He finished second in the freestyle race.
Shawn Drebick positioned herself on the swim platform and eyed the cold water beneath. The buzzer sang, and Drebick, 42, dived into the pool, sending a spray of water onto her Special Olympics coach and other volunteers.

Lynnea Wagener of Everett won the Level A artistic gymnastics competition.

She had waited months for this day. "I love it!" said Drebick, of Olympia. "I just like swimming with my friends. I don't care if I come in first or last."

More than 350 athletes swam in the Special Olympics Washington competition Saturday at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center in Federal Way.

Other athletes competed in Olympic events at Fort Lewis and Federal Way High School.

"They just give it their all," said Terry Zocco, Thurston County Thunderfish coach. "In Thurston County, we swim year round. It's a culmination of a year's worth of work."

He looked at a dripping Drebick proudly. "She's a hard worker," he said.

The Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation created Special Olympics in 1968. Since then it has blossomed to include more than 1 million athletes in 150 countries. The program reaches children and adults with mental retardation or closely related developmental disabilities.

Bound for Ireland

Ben Hammon, a Thunderfish team member, is one such individual. Hammon, who had "U.S.A." printed on his forehead and stomach, said he likes swimming a lot.

But Saturday's events were small potatoes compared to where he's headed in June. Hammon will compete at the international competition in Ireland.

"I'm going to do my best," the Yelm resident said, grinning expansively.

Parents, grandparents, sisters and brothers sat in the chlorine-scented air, cheering their athletes on from the bleachers.

Beth and Mike Harper of Olympia were there to support their daughter, Heather. "She loves this. It's very important," said Beth. "It's a real special treat. They don't get a whole lot of fun things."
The trip covers more than 3,900 miles and lasts more than two months, but Tyler Arnold and Carl Hartung are stoked. The two Pi Kappa Phi fraternity brothers and Olympia natives are riding in the Journey of Hope Presented by Saturn, a bicycle tour benefiting people with disabilities.

"I thought it would be a really cool way to see the country and it would be an amazing experience," said Arnold, a junior majoring in biology at the University of Washington.

More than 70 Pi Kappa Phi members raised $5,000 each for the opportunity to ride from shore to shore.

But cycling is only half of the journey. The group will also stop in towns along the way to spend time with people with disabilities and to raise awareness in local communities.

"The cycling is just a means to the end," said Rob Kelly, director of team services for PUSH America, the fraternity's service organization, which is responsible for the event. "It is an impressive thing to ride your bike across the country, but to do it for others is the most important aspect of what we're doing."

Arnold and Hartung will go to barbecues and water parks with people with disabilities, and present an innovative puppet show to teach people about the issues people with disabilities face.

"Society in general has a tendency to shun or ignore people with disabilities, when the fact of the matter is they are people like you and me," said Hartung, who graduated from the University of Washington last March.

Arnold and Hartung won't actually ride the same routes. The cyclists are divided up into three groups so they can reach more people.

Arnold's route starts in San Francisco and ends in Washington, D.C. Hartung leaves from Florence, Ore., and ends in D.C., a route that is 400 miles longer.

"It's sort of a mental-physical challenge," Hartung said. "Some of those mountain passes can be pretty intense."

This isn't the first time the men have done service work for PUSH. Both have volunteered at an Easter Seals camp for people with disabilities.

There they have improved facilities by building wheelchair ramps and wheelchair-accessible picnic tables, and extending overhangs.

"I think it's taught me a lot about appreciating what I've been given," Arnold said.

The Journey of Hope is the biggest service event for PUSH, and for the fraternity brothers.

Arnold starts pedaling June 16, Hartung on Saturday.

"Every single person that comes back from the journey will tell you it's the best thing they've ever done," Kelly said. "It will change the life of the person who does it."

To suggest an individual or community group for spotlight as a Pacesetter, write to Jerre Redecker, The Olympian, P.O. Box 1219, Olympia, WA 98507, or e-mail jredecke@olympia.gannett.com. Include your nominee's specific accomplishment.
The big news this week was the record-breaking June heat. It was big news because (1) it actually was super hot and (2) *The Olympian* needed a B1 centerpiece and the editors didn’t have any other ideas. So, I got to write my first weather article. I was afraid it would be a “squirrels in the park” exercise, but I was able to find a news angle. I called the National Weather Service in Seattle to get the forecast and led the article with information that the nice weather was going to continue through the week. Also included was the fact that Thursday and Friday temperatures could break records set in the 1970s. I then called local businesses that sell summer-related items (bathing suits, ice cream, hoses) and asked them if customers were snatching up those items. Finally, at the end of the day, DNR issued a press release warning people to be careful with flames because vegetation is drying out and the wildfire season is starting.

So, I thought I had finished with my weather-story duty. Nope. Three days later *The Olympian* was again short a B1 centerpiece and the weather was a scorcher. This time the idea was for me to call roofers and see what their advice is for dealing with the heat, call the hospital for heat-related tips and then talk to the National Weather Service again. But I got lucky. A Lacey bus driver called dispatch to report that her bus had gotten stuck in construction traffic and a couple kids were complaining of feeling dizzy and being sick to their stomachs. The bus pulled off at a mobile home park so paramedics could cool the kids down. So, I chased out to Marvin Road (it’s way the heck out there) to try and find the bus. Well, there’s a ton of construction in Lacey so by the time I got out there it was too late. (Our photographer did make it in time.) So I had to drive all the way back and call the fire department and the school district rep from the office. It really was a “cops” story and should have been covered by our main fire-murder-
drowning-abuse reporter. But he was gone, so it fell to me, which was a nice turn of events. On top of the school-bus incident, a couple small wildfires broke out. While I didn’t get to cover those, it just goes to show how quickly a slow news day can turn into a breaking news day.

It’s interesting because my initial reaction to covering a weather story was that it was a stupid idea. Everyone knows what the weather is like; what extra analysis does it need? But any type of weather – heat, hail, snow, rain – can have a large impact when it is more toward the “extreme” end. It’s just a matter of finding the news element, whether it is the upcoming wildfire season, record-setting temperatures, or increased ice cream sales. However, it does help to have a bus of sick kids.

The other stories I covered this week were very “intern-ish,” one in particular. I had to write about the Lacey Duck Dash. Now, when I first heard about a duck dash I pictured a bunch of cute little mallards paddling around in a lake and people trying to cheer “their duck” over the finish line first. After looking at our archives I learned that, unfortunately, the Rotary uses rubber ducks. They take 8,000 of them, dump them in a river, and check downstream a quarter of a mile to see which one won. After getting over my disappointment, I decided to call the Rotary and ask a few more questions. Well, there wasn’t a number on the press release. So I looked up the Rotary in the phonebook and found a general number for Thurston County rotaries. I called that number and got an answering machine that said that no one really checks the messages, so don’t expect to get a call back any time soon. I ended up looking through the archived stories and finding names of past sources, looking them up in the phone book, and calling until I could track down the person in charge of the event. Now, I wouldn’t be so peeved, but common sense dictates that if you send a press release, you should put a contact number on it. And for an
organization that has done the duck dash for 14 years, and has worked with *The Olympian* for 30, you’d think they would know just how important phone numbers are.

Other articles I covered this week include:

- A group of Nisqually Middle School boys who won a state math, engineering and science competition
- A neighborhood association that created its own association Web site
- The first-ever Northwest Native WoodCarvers gathering.
Heat wave brings crowds to local shores and stores

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

The Popsicle-licking, short-wearing, sprinkler-running weather is likely to continue into the weekend, meteorologists say.
Forecasts call for temperatures near 90 degrees Friday.
“It’s going to be above-normal temperatures and summertime weather,” said Dustin Guy, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service Seattle station. Thursday and Friday will be the warmest days, Guy said.
The warm weather is a result of a ridge of high pressure and an offshore flow, he said. A ridge of high pressure usually causes fair skies, while an offshore flow keeps cooler, marine air at bay, allowing the interior parts of the state to warm up.
The result for Olympia? Temperatures that are about 20 degrees warmer than average.
Early June high temperatures are typically 68 degrees.

“It’s above normal, but it’s not uncommon to have a warm spell this time of year,” Guy said. “It happened last year, too.”
For South Sound businesses, the heat means a spike in “summer buys.”
“Anything warm-weather related will pick up, whether it be the swimming pools or sunglasses,” said Kevin Zoch, apparel manager at the Lacey Fred Meyer.
When the heat hits, people buy more than sandals, tanks and shorts. Sunny weather also spurs home improvement and gardening projects.
At the Cooper Point Road Ace Hardware, garden seeds, lawn fertilizer, steer manure and yard work equipment have been flying out the door.
“I think it’s going to be a pretty crazy week,” Assistant Manager George Hoelsing said, contemplating the next few days.
Bill Christiansen, owner of Eddy’s Westside Diner, has ordered six different flavors of Olympic Mountain ice cream to be delivered Friday.

“Hopefully the store I have now will last me through this hot weather,” he said. “We do burn through it.”
But the rising mercury isn’t just about flip-flops, garden hoses and shakes.
The onset of summer brings a serious problem: wildfire season.
The Washington State Department of Natural Resources issued a news release Tuesday cautioning people to use special care around flames. Because May precipitation was less than half of normal levels, vegetation is drying out.
“Unless Washington receives normal amounts of June precipitation, Washington’s fire danger is going to be higher than normal the rest of the summer,” Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland warned.

ALSO: Forecasts for South Sound, the state and the nation. DB
Gathering fosters unity among Northwest woodcarvers

Keith Thomas, from the Tlingit-Haida village of Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, works on a small totem pole Saturday at the First Gathering of Northwest Native Woodcarvers at The Evergreen State College.

"I'm shaping it," Bennett explained, his forehead glistening with sweat. "It's the hardest part."

He took another swipe with the block plane and stopped to suck in some air.

Bennett was among 15 featured artists at the First Gathering of Northwest Native Woodcarvers at The Evergreen State College. The American Indian artists, many of whom have displays in major museums, demonstrated their tools and techniques to the public Saturday.

The day before was reserved for the artists as a chance to talk with each other about the issues of their craft.

Bennett, a member of the Haida tribe, said his totem pole will commemorate this first gathering and the contributions of woodcarvers.

"I'm hoping some unity could come from this," he said.

The totem's bear and three carvers will represent body, mind and spirit.

"My grandmother taught me that everything has a spirit," he said. "As artists, we get to bring that which is invisible into view."

In addition to totem poles, artists were carving plaques, paddles and rattles and painting traditional masks. Many of the artists were using knowledge passed down from generation to generation.
Some, like Squaxin Island tribe member Andrea Wilbur-Sigo, were self-taught.

Wilbur-Sigo was using a straight knife on a spindlewhirl. She is the first woman carver in her family, a family she can trace back seven generations.

The woodcarvers' gathering was good for networking, she said.

"It's helpful for artists to get together and share resources and techniques."

Though the carvers had to compete with the sunny weather for attention, visitors still dropped in.

Debra Wilson of Olympia came because of her lifelong interest in American Indian art.

"I think it's very beautiful, and the fact that they are preserving their culture is very important," she said.

Rep. Sandra Romeo, D-Olympia, also visited the exhibition.

"I don't know enough about Northwestern Indian art, and the stuff just takes my breath away," she said.
"It's beautiful."
Lucky duck will win $5,000 in river race

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

The Deschutes River will turn yellow Saturday during the annual Deschutes Duck Dash and Bite of Olympia.

Nearly 8,000 rubber ducks will bob down the chilly river as South Sound residents cheer them on.

"Once you see it, it's like 'Boy, that was pretty cool,'" said Mike Marohn, the man responsible for starting the Duck Dash 14 years ago. "As they splash into the river, that's pretty exciting."

The event is the main fund-raiser for the Lacey Rotary Club and is sponsored in part by Trout Unlimited, a conservation organization aimed at habitat improvement for trout and other Northwest fish.

Here's how it works: Donors pay $5 to sponsor a numbered rubber duck. The sponsored ducks are dumped into the river, and the first to navigate the falls and cross the finish line across from the old brewery site will net its owner $5,000.

Other prizes include a blue tourmaline pendant, a Las Vegas vacation, a steelhead fishing trip and gift certificates.

"It's just a fun day for the family, and that's what we like to make it," said Rod Reining, the club's president-elect and event organizer. "It's a fairly inexpensive way to have a wonderful day with your kids."

In addition to the Duck Dash, the day will include activities for kids, such as face painting, balloons and games.

Local restaurants, including Bagel Brothers, 7th Heaven Bakery, Casa Mia and O'Blaney's, will provide duck owners with a variety of treats as part of the Bite of Olympia.

Event organizers hope to raise $25,000.

The Lacey Rotary will use its half of the money for service projects, Reining said.

Last year, more than 2,000 people showed up. Organizers expect this year will be just as successful, especially with the sunny forecast.

"It's a nice way to help Rotary and its service-above-self model," Reining said.

If you go:

- **What:** The 14th annual Deschutes Duck Dash and Bite of Olympia
- **Where:** Tumwater Falls Park on Deschutes Way
- **When:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, with Duck Dash at 4 p.m.
- **Cost:** Each duck costs $5 and can be purchased at the event until 3 p.m.
- **Transportation:** A shuttle will run from 419 Linwood Ave. to Tumwater Falls Park.

If you go: The 14th annual Deschutes Duck Dash and Bite of Olympia will take place on Saturday, with Duck Dash at 4 p.m. Each duck costs $5 and can be purchased at the event until 3 p.m. A shuttle will run from 419 Linwood Ave. to Tumwater Falls Park.
Nisqually boys land plane prize

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

LACEY — The tail section of their balsa glider cracked a week before the state Mathematics Engineering and Science Achievement competition.

That didn’t deter four Nisqually Middle School boys. They carefully repaired the glider, readying it for flight in Spokane.

Their doggedness paid off.

The entry for Bryce Howald, Ryan Rood, Tyler Ranada and Frank Reams — which included the glider, a technical paper and a technical display board — captured first place.

“They really worked hard on this project, a lot of time and commitment,” MESA teacher Jime Dhamers said.

The MESA program encourages students from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities to enter math and science fields.

See NISQUALLY, Page B2

NISQUALLY

Continued from Page B1

While the nationwide program is usually funded by state legisla­tures, Intel and State Farm Insurance pay for the South Sound program.

MESA emphasizes hands-on activities and application of scientific principles. It also sparks kids’ interest with guest speakers and field trips.

“A lot of the activities I plan for the kids, they don’t even know they are learning,” Dhamers said.

“I sneak it in.”

But for the students, MESA has another perk.

“It’s not like our other classes where we have to do homework,” Howald said.

Homework aside, the students still are busy. They have to get their project ready for the national competition, which begins June 27 in Albuquerque.

Because the flight distance portion will be outdoors this time, they must consider the impact of wind on the glider.

“Just a little bit of wind will drive the plane down, so we have to make it heavier,” Howald said.

They also plan on raising the launch pin and touching up the technical paper.

True to MESA’s goal, many of the boys have plans to continue in the math and science fields. Howald wants to work for the FBI as a forensics specialist. Rood is considering structural engineering. And Ranada is interested in paleontology and computers.

For now, though, they’re happy to celebrate their recent win.

“It’s just fun making it this far,” Rood said. “I really never thought we were going to get first in state.”
Record heat, traffic make sickening mix

A Seven Oaks Elementary School student holds an ice pack on her head after becoming overheated Friday afternoon on a North Thurston School District bus that was held up in construction traffic for nearly a half-hour during record-high temperatures.
Bus driver pulls over to get kids seen by medics

BY LEANNE JOSEPHSON
THE OLYMPIAN

Paramedics treated eight Lacey schoolchildren for heat-related symptoms Friday after their school bus was delayed in construction traffic.

It was the hottest day of the year, with temperatures in the Olympia area climbing to 93 degrees, breaking a record of 88 degrees set in 1977.

School students were heading north on Marvin Road at 1:30 p.m. and got caught in construction traffic.

As the bus sat barely moving in the heat, temperatures rose inside.

A handful of children started complaining of dizziness and being sick to their stomachs.

"It was very warm outside, and it got really warm inside the bus," said Susan Tornay, risk manager at North Thurston Public Schools.

The driver called the dispatch center, which then called 9-1-1. Paramedics met the bus at Rainier Vista, a mobile home park and the first stop on the bus route, where they cooled all the kids down.

"We pulled them off, put them in the shade and gave them some cool water," said Capt. Bob Petersen of Lacey Fire District 3.

Eight of the children were given ice packs and extra attention, Tornay said.

Petersen said paramedics evaluated the children and checked with Providence St. Peter Hospital before sending them home with parents or putting them back on the bus. It was actually a very minor incident, he said. The kids were hot but fine.

Inside

Learn signs of heat-related illnesses.

The bus containing nearly 60 Seven Oaks Elementary School students was heading north on Marvin Road at 1:30 p.m. and got caught in construction traffic.

Shiela Well hugs her daughter, Emma, 9, after finding out she was not among the students who began feeling ill Friday on the hot bus ride home from Seven Oaks Elementary School. Wall brought water to cool the children as they were checked by paramedics.

Forecast

Weekend weather will be sunny and hot, with highs today in the upper 80s to 90 degrees, National Weather Service meteorologist Jay Neher said.

Sunday will be cooler as an onshore flow brings in clouds and marine air. Highs will be 75 to 85 degrees.

"This was nothing," Petersen said.

"Happy ending."

Tornay said the county has promised to give school buses priority through the construction zone starting Monday.

Despite the hot weather the past few days, Petersen said his department hasn't been getting heat-stroke-related calls.

"People are being good, staying hydrated and cool, not over-exerting themselves," he said.
Detainees Update

Leanne L. Josephson
Western Washington University
June 7, 2003
Detainees Update

U.S. government agents captured Muhammad Qayyum during a raid on a mosque November 18, 2001. The Pakistan citizen was jailed for seven months – three of them without legal representation and without contact with the outside world. Qayyum survived months of tricky interrogations and secret court hearings before lawyers were able to release him on bond. Qayyum had overstayed his visa. (Lee, 2002).

Whether Qayyum was given due process, whether his rights were violated, and whether his case deserved to be designated as a “special case,” no one knows. No one knows because the court sealed Qayyum’s proceedings. Reporters, the public, friends and family were denied access to the Immigration and Naturalization Services’ hearings.

And Qayyum’s case is just one of 600 secret cases, according to the U.S. Department of Justice (Lee, 2002). On the premise of national security, other foreigners caught in the government dragnet after the September 11 terrorist attacks have not been allowed public proceedings.

In November, the researcher examined reporters’ attempts to gain access to these secret immigration and deportation proceedings, as well as sources of information on government detainees (“Fighting for Informational Freedom in the Wake of September 11”). This article is an update on that report. It examines changes in the major court cases previously discussed and government tactics to legalize officials’ treatment of non-U.S. citizens. It also takes a closer look at the material witness statute as well as ways non-U.S. citizens are responding to the government’s actions. Finally, it looks at a blistering report issued by the Department of Justice only a few days ago. The report found the roundup and
jailing of September 11 detainees was plagued with “significant problems,” problems reported earlier by the press but denied by government spokespersons.

**Methodology**

As with the original report, this too will rely on primary documents — including court cases and the Justice Department’s recent report — press releases and newspaper articles. Primary documents provide the most complete and the most accurate statements of both parties, as well as context often lost in other mediums. Newspaper articles are central because they track court decisions and the numbers the government releases on detainees. Newspapers are often the first to analyze the implications of court decisions and government documents. News articles for this report will come primarily from the *New York Times* because it is the nation’s newspaper of record and the agenda-setter for the rest of the media. Finally, The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press will be an important source due to its dedication to following media topics, and this issue in particular.

**Literature review**

Literature focusing on journalists’ attempts to access information on Sept. 11 detainees is limited because the topic is still new. Occasional newspaper reports mention reporters’ difficulties in obtaining information, but most struggles are inferred, or mentioned off-hand. However, since the researcher’s November report, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press issued a third edition of its document: *Homefront Confidential*, which details post-9/11 threats to media. This document broadly focuses on government actions posing a threat to the media’s ability to gather information and thoroughly and accurately report the news. The whitepaper ranks threats to the media using the government’s own color-coded terrorist threat level indicator. Access to immigration and terrorist proceedings is coded
at the highest level, red for “severe.” In addition to *Homefront Confidential*, the committee also focused its fall issue of *The News Media & the Law* on precedent-setting access cases. “Circuits Circus” examines secret courts and material witnesses, among other disclosure issues.

**Issue review**

The U.S. government has detained over 1,100 non-citizens since the September 11 terrorist attacks (Martin, 2001). While some of the individuals have been questioned and released, others have been imprisoned under criminal charges, held for immigration violations and kept as material witnesses. Many have endured secret INS proceedings and criminal court proceedings. Since the dragnet began, the government has, in the name of national security, rejected Freedom of Information requests and blocked access to immigration and terrorism proceedings. Thus, the American public knows little of what is being done in its name.

**Numbers update**

In December 2002, the Department of Justice broke its silence and released information to the Associated Press revealing what had happened to some of the foreign detainees. It was the most detailed information the government had released in months:

Almost 500 of the foreign nationals arrested on immigration charges during the FBI’s Sept. 11 probe have been deported to their home countries, officials said. An additional 281 were released in the United States and are free or are awaiting determination of their immigration status, authorities said.

In addition to the 765 people detained on immigration charges, 134 others were arrested on criminal charges and 99 were convicted, according to the new figures. A separate group of more than 300 were taken into custody in the early months of the campaign by state and local law enforcement agencies, the department said (Eggen, 2002).

When the Justice Department released the information in December, it also revealed that six of the 765 individuals detained on immigration charges were still in custody (Eggen, 2002).
The next update came in June when the department released figures specifically concerning those arrested on immigration charges. According to the department, 762 foreigners were held on immigration violations, 500 were deported and one, Zacarias Moussaoui, has been charged with a terrorism-related crime (Stout, 2003).

And nearly a year and a half after the majority of the arrests were made, the Department of Justice released information on individuals held under the material witness statute. The material witness statute “permits the detention of any person who may have information pertaining to a criminal investigation for the purpose of testifying before a grand jury or during a criminal proceeding” (Gauthier, 2002). The government says it can hold material witnesses indefinitely, without charging the individuals with a crime.

As of January, the department said it detained fewer than 50 people as material witnesses without charging them in the war on terror. Approximately 90 percent of the individuals were detained for 90 days or less. The document does not say how many individuals are still being held. The details were part of a 60-page response to a House Judiciary Committee request for information on prosecutions on the war on terror and the government’s use of the USA Patriot Act (Anderson, 2003).

Of those individuals detained as material witnesses, all were represented by counsel and all were found by a federal judge to have information material to a grand jury investigation, according to the Department of Justice document. The department also said all the material witnesses were free to identify themselves (“Sensenbrenner/Conyers release Justice Department oversight answers regarding USA Patriot Act and war on terrorism,” 2003).
In the courts

The Creppy Memorandum, issued by U.S. Chief Immigration Judge Michael Creppy Sept. 21, 2002, choked off access to deportation proceedings and court documents. The memo ordered judges to close all “special interest” cases. “Special interest” cases are those in which the FBI has a continuing interest because they relate to government terrorism investigations. After two media groups were denied access to proceedings, they filed lawsuits challenging the directive: Detroit Free Press et al. v. John Ashcroft et al. and North Jersey Media Group Inc., New Jersey Law Journal v. John Ashcroft, Attorney General of the United States; Michael Creppy, Chief Immigration Judge of the United States.

Both lawsuits centered on Rabih Haddad, a Muslim community leader the U.S. government suspected of raising money for terrorist activities. And both lawsuits held that deportation proceedings concerning Haddad should be open to the press and other members of the public. The newspapers argued that the First Amendment prohibits a blanket closure of court proceedings.

In the Detroit Free Press case, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati found in favor of the newspaper, ruling that the press and public had a right of access to Haddad’s deportation proceedings. In essence, the court ruled that the blanket closure of INS immigration and deportation proceedings was unconstitutional. And on Jan. 22, 2003, the federal appeals court rejected the Justice Department’s request that the entire court review the ruling (Ashenfelter and Warikoo, 2003). Free Press lawyer Herschel Fink said the court’s refusal to review the case set the stage for a showdown in Washington (Ashenfelter and Warikoo, 2003). The government, however, has not said whether it will appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.
The Third Circuit Court of Appeals, which heard the case brought by the North Jersey Media Group, came to an entirely different conclusion. Oct. 8, 2002, the Third Circuit panel ruled against the reporters in a 2-1 decision. Unlike the Sixth Circuit judges, judges on the Third Circuit found that Congress has never explicitly guaranteed public access to deportation procedures. On March 3, 2003, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking to nullify the lower court’s ruling. The ACLU petitioned the Supreme Court to review whether the federal government violated the First Amendment when it closed the hearings (“Newspapers ask high court to resolve conflict over access to secret immigration hearings,” 2003).

In a move that surprised media and legal scholars, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case. No vote or reasoning was announced when the court announced its decision May 27, 2003 (“High court won’t review ‘special interest’ deportation case closures,” 2003). A circuit split is usually considered one of the most compelling reasons for the court to hear a case. “It shows the court is not eager to jump into the civil liberties-national security issue at least until it perceives it has to. It’s content to see the government win,” said Erwin Chemerinsky, a law professor at the University of Southern California in an Associated Press article (“Court allows secret deportation hearings,” 2003).

In a synopsis composed by the Center for Constitutional Rights, the center said the Supreme Court “may have ducked the North Jersey Media Group case because the Bush administration is not currently conducting any more secret hearings under the Creppy memo, and it is reviewing, and will likely change, its policies” (“Supreme Court declines to rule on legality of closed immigration hearings,” 2003).
The courts refusal to intervene means the public has no presumptive right of access to hearings in the Third Circuit – which includes Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the Virgin Islands. However a right of access does exist in the Sixth Circuit – which includes Tennessee, Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan.

Reporters have also been working through the courts to try and obtain written information on detainees. On Dec. 6, 2001, the Center for National Security Studies and other civil rights and press organizations filed a lawsuit against the Department of Justice alleging it violated the federal Freedom of Information Act (Center for National Security Studies, et. al. v. Department of Justice, 2002). Reporters had requested the names of the detainees, where the detainees were being held, and the names of the individual’s lawyers. The center won the lawsuit and the court ordered the Department of Justice to release the names of detainees. The government appealed to the D.C. Circuit court, and the case was argued before Judges Sentelle, Tatel and Henderson on November 18, 2002. Information currently available suggests that the judges have not yet ruled.

**INS detainees rule**

The Department of Justice has been prohibiting access to detainees using other methods as well. When the ACLU sued to get information on New Jersey detainees through the state’s open records laws, and won, the Department of Justice issued an interim rule. The rule prohibited state and local governments from releasing information on federal detainees housed in their jails, despite any sunshine laws states might have. A state appeals court later reversed the ruling and the names stayed secret. “Most [detainees] have been housed in local jails around the country and it has been nearly impossible for reporters or civil liberties organizations to determine who they are or where or how they have been detained,” the

On January 29, 2003, the INS issued a final rule, codifying the gag order ("Final INS rules keep local jailers mum about detainees they house," 2003). The INS said the rule does not violate the First Amendment because requests for information will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. In the same breath, the government asserted that the forced secrecy does not violate detainees’ due-process rights. Their "privacy," (not being connected with terrorism proceedings) will be protected through Freedom of Information Act exemptions, the government said (Daugherty, 2003).

**Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003**

The Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003 is a sweeping proposal that gives the government increased domestic intelligence-gathering, surveillance and law enforcement abilities while decreasing judicial review and access to information (Lewis and Mayle, 2003). Though not formally released – the secret document was leaked – government officials have not denied the validity of the legislation drafted by the staff of Attorney General John Ashcroft. Section 201, "Prohibition of Disclosure of Terrorism Investigation Detainee Information" applies directly to the government’s questionable practices concerning foreign national detainees.

The draft would create authority under Section 3 of the federal FOIA for the government to withhold detainee information. Section 3 prohibits the disclosure of information "specifically exempted from disclosure by statute." "This would be a blanket secrecy policy for the government concerning detainees held under the suspicion of terrorism releasing the government from its burden to prove its need for secrecy in each case" ("Patriot
Act II also limits the public's right to know," 2003). This section expands Ashcroft's October 2001 directive to error on the side of secrecy when granting FOIA requests. "The proposed legislation would enhance the department's ability to deny releasing material on suspected terrorists in government custody through FOIA" (Lewis and Mayle, 2003).

Material witnesses

The majority of the thousand-plus detainees held by the federal government were held on criminal charges and immigration violations. However, some detainees were held, and are being held, as material witnesses.

Until two weeks ago, the U.S. government remained mum on its use of the material witness statute. Two writers from the Washington Post explained the government's position in a November 2002 article: "The Justice Department has refused to say how many material witnesses have been taken into custody since the September 11, 2001 attacks, or to reveal any information about them, including their names or which courts are supervising the cases. Officials said the detentions are related to grand jury proceedings, which are secret under federal law" (Fainaru and Williams, 2002).

The problem with the material witness statute, in the eyes of reporters, is that once an individual is labeled a material witness, it is virtually impossible to learn anything about the nature of the individual's information or why he is being held.

The obscure material witness statute is meant to secure the testimony of grand jury witnesses in cases where they are likely to flee. But the government is using it to detain terrorism suspects while it investigates their pasts. According to the Washington Post article, over half of the material witnesses haven't testified in court (Fainaru and Williams, 2002).
The witnesses are often held under maximum-security conditions anywhere from a few days to several months or more (Fainaru and Williams, 2002).

"Just as a presidential designation of someone as an ‘enemy combatant’ can trigger indefinite military detention without any formal charge, federal prosecutors are accomplishing that same result of indefinite detention without charge by relying on the material-witness statute, legal experts say" (Richey, 2002).

The government holds that the material witness statute is an important avenue in the fight against domestic terrorism. Officials need not show probable cause to imprison someone; instead, they must only show the individual has critical information relating to a government investigation. They also say the law allows the government to disrupt terrorist activities without building a mountain of evidence of illegal conduct (Richey, 2002).

For example, James Ujaama was arrested July 22, 2002 as a material witness. The government actually arrested him because officials believed he took computer equipment to an al-Qaida camp and may have trained there. Additionally, officials alleged Ujaama was planning to set up a terrorist training camp in Oregon. Ujaama was later indicted for engaging in terrorism-related activities; his case was closed and his proceedings were sealed. He is being prosecuted in a federal court in Seattle (Dalglish, 2003).

The potential to abuse the material witness statute is great. Legal scholars say the material witness statute was not written with the intent that the government could use it to detain individuals so that it can investigate them (Fainaru and Williams, 2002). Additionally, there is little case law outlining what rights material witnesses have. "For example, it remains unclear to what extent material-witness detainees have a right to see documents related to their detention, have a right to Miranda warnings, or even have a right to consult with
counsel” (Richey, 2002). Finally, the fact that information about material witnesses was
hidden from the public for more than a year indicates the possibility of abuse. The press, and
thus the public, are unaware of how the detained individuals are treated, and whether the
courts handle their cases fairly.

Turkmen v. Ashcroft

While reporters are struggling with government secrecy, foreign nationals detained
after September 11 are now fighting back against U.S. officials. The Center for Constitutional
Rights, on the behalf of INS detainees, filed a class-action lawsuit against Attorney General
John Ashcroft and FBI director Robert Mueller. The CCR is a non-profit legal group that uses
litigation to protect Constitutional rights. The lawsuit, Turkman v. Ashcroft, alleges that
government officials violated the U.S. Constitution and international human rights and treaty
laws.

"These plaintiffs can be counted among the victims of the September 11th tragedy,”
said CCR Assistant Legal Director Barbara Olshansky. “We have treated visitors to the
United States worse than we treat those accused of serious crimes. They have been held
without charges, without a hearing before a judge and without ever being accused of a crime”
(“CCR files suit on behalf of INS detainees,” 2002).

CCR Legal Director Bill Goodman said Ashcroft, Mueller and other officials have
been using immigration laws to circumvent protections guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.
Goodman said the government has violated individuals’ rights on a “massive scale” (“CCR
files suit on behalf of INS detainees,” 2002). The Department of Justice has responded by
asserting that non-citizens are not entitled to the same rights as American citizens.
The government moved to have the case dismissed in August 2002. The CCR objected, and the decision is still pending.

**Department of Justice Report**

The most detailed report on September 11 detainees was issued just days ago: “The September 11 detainees: a review of the treatment of aliens held on immigration charges in connection with the investigation of the September 11 terrorist attacks.” The report, initiated by the Department of Justice and released by the House Judiciary Committee, found “significant problems” in the government’s handling of aliens (Fine, 2003). While the report recognized the upheaval the country witnessed during September 2001, its analysis was highly critical.

The report validated journalists’ articles reporting government abuses during the immigrant roundup. Prior to Inspector General Glenn Finn’s report, the government had denied allegations that detainees’ rights were being violated. “Each and every single person we have taken into custody since September 11 has been accorded the full panoply of rights,” Assistant Attorney General Viet Dinh said at the annual conference of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Diego” (Eglio, 2002).

The report found that detainees who had no connection to terrorist activities were forced to languish in jail under unduly harsh conditions (Lichtblau, 2003). It took officials an average of 80 days to clear prisoners for removal or release because the situation was not given a high enough priority (Fine, 2003). “A total of 84 inmates who were held in Brooklyn in terrorism investigations were subjected to highly restrictive, 23-hour ‘lockdown’ . . . They were limited to one phone call a week and they were put in handcuffs, leg irons and heavy chains any time they moved outside their cells” (Lichtblau, 2003).
The report also suggested there was a pattern of “physical and verbal abuse by guards” (Finn, 2003). “Guards were accused of slamming prisoners against walls and walking on their leg shackles. Three detainees reported that guards told them, “You will feel pain,” and “Someone thinks you have something to do with the World Trade Center, so don’t expect to be treated well” (Bridis, 2003).

Department of Justice spokeswoman Barbara Comstock responded to the report after it was released. “We make no apologies for finding every legal way possible to protect the American public from further terrorist attacks,” she said (Lichtblau, 2003). Attorney General John Ashcroft defended the Justice Department in front of a congressional hearing June 5, 2003. He said the department believes in justice for all, and does not stand for abuse. At the same time he insisted that the department’s policy is to protect American people. “Let me just say this, that all of the individuals … were in the United States illegally” he said (“Ashcroft defends U.S. government on detainees, 2003).

**Summary and conclusion**

The Department of Justice report detailing the lack of due process afforded detainees, and the physical and mental abuses they endured makes it clear why open government is vital. Journalists tried repeatedly to force the government to account for detainees. They questioned officials in press conferences, submitted FOIA requests to multiple agencies, objected to court closures and filed lawsuits. The government blocked journalists attempts every step of the way. Immigrants, legal or illegal, deserve due process and fair treatment – but that’s not what they got from the American system of justice. If society is looking for an example of why reporters’ access rights must be protected, this is it.
Senators and representatives should be wary of granting the security officials too much power. The government's non-disclosure policy on material witnesses is of particular concern in light of the Justice report. The rights of INS detainees who were held on immigration charges were not protected. Given this poor track record, what assurance does the public have that the rights of material witnesses are being upheld? And why should the government have additional authority under the Domestic Security Enhancement Act when it abuses its current powers?

While the questions the Department of Justice report raises should bolster journalists' arguments for information access, because both sides claim the report affirms their respective positions, it is unlikely that journalists will see many changes. And with the detainee situation slowly becoming moot, as most individuals have already been processed, it is less important for the legal system to support journalists' specific access cases. Journalists must hope that the justice system will see the merit in a free and unrestrained press and honest government in all situations.

And so the fight continues, with the government making security issues its primary focus, and the press making First Amendment rights its main focus. Both sides appear to be neck-and-neck. Thus far, the government has managed to:

- Prevent open INS hearings in the third circuit courts
- Gag state and local governments from releasing detainee information under the new INS rule
- Create a section under the Domestic Security Enhancement Act which would allow the government to withhold information on suspected terrorists - no questions asked
- Continue to exercise the material witness statute with impunity

Reporters, civil rights organizations and the detainees themselves are making headway in some areas:
• The Six Circuit Court refused to review its decision that deportation proceedings should be open
• With additional pressure from the House Judiciary committee, the press has obtained more information on material witnesses
• Detainees have filed a lawsuit objecting to their treatment by the U.S. government
• The Department of Justice admitted to "significant problems" in regards to its handling of detainees, validating concerns published in American newspapers

The war with Iraq will further challenge the courts to protect Constitutional rights in a climate of fear and doubt. The stakes are high: government and court decisions made now will set legal precedent for future disputes between openness and security, as well as the rights afforded foreigners on American soil. One must hope that this country's commitment to a free press triumphs over its present desire of secrecy.
References


