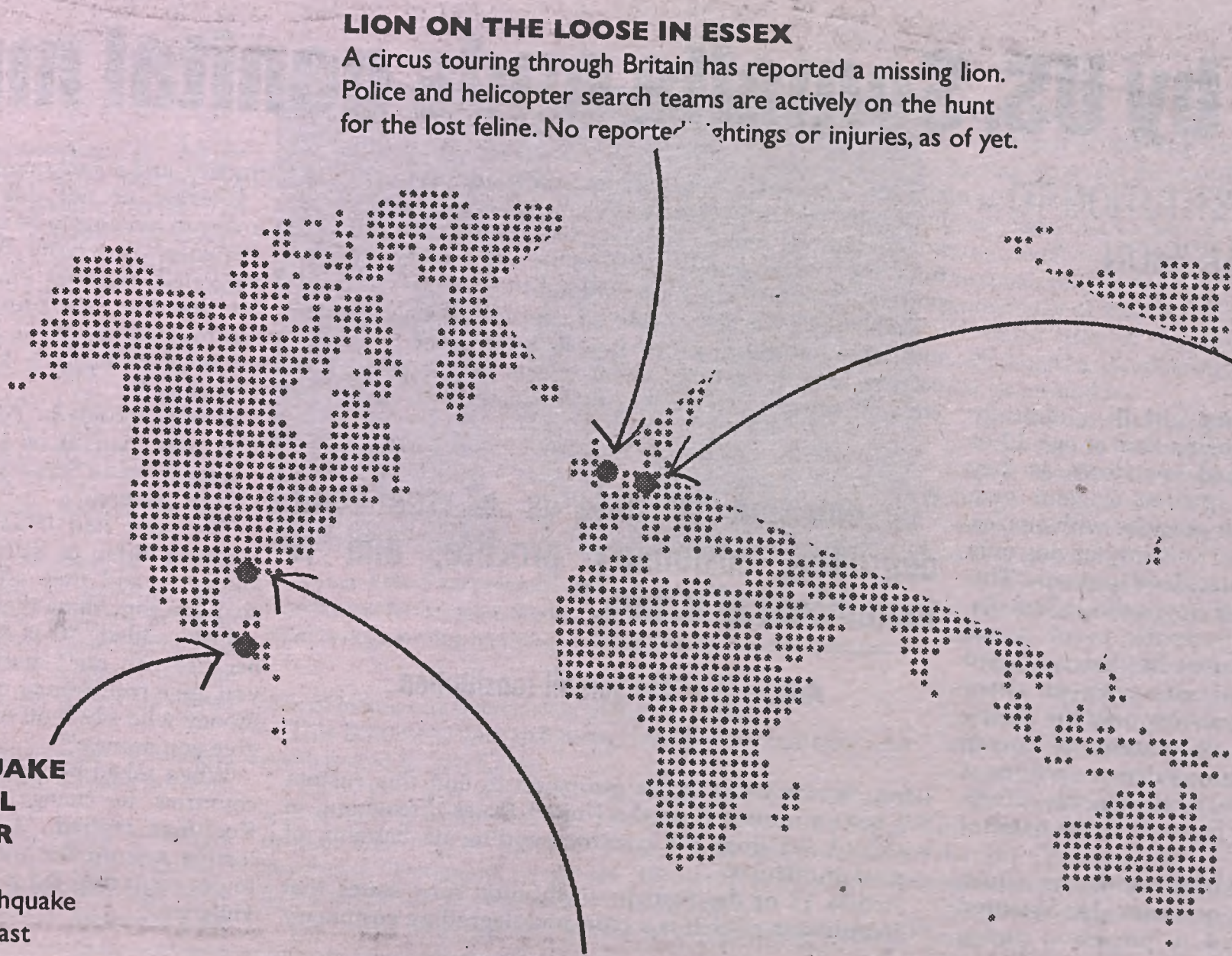
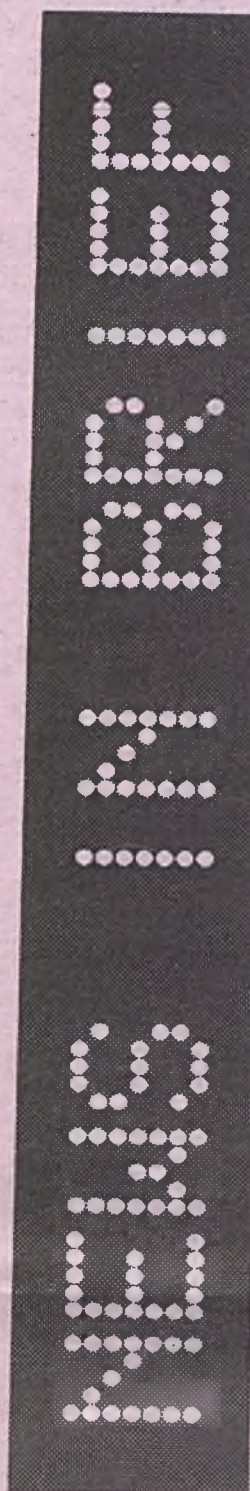


STORIES BY CATHERINE SCHURZ
GRAPHIC BY ALICIA HANCHOCK



LION ON THE LOOSE IN ESSEX

A circus touring through Britain has reported a missing lion. Police and helicopter search teams are actively on the hunt for the lost feline. No reported sightings or injuries, as of yet.

MALE CIRCUMCISION IN GERMANY DEBATED

Mixed opinions surround the German debate on male circumcision. Many parents express concern for the child's right to choose what is done to his own body, while doctors have released information suggesting circumcision is useful for health reasons and a preventative measure of diseases such as HIV and cancer-causing HPV. Religious and medical reasons aside, Germans aren't quite ready for the big snip.

EARTHQUAKE SHAKES EL SALVADOR COAST

A major earthquake shook the coast of El Salvador on Aug. 26. With a powerful magnitude of 7.4, damage and destruction proved severe.

GULF BRACES FOR HURRICANE ISAAC

Hurricane Isaac took 19 lives in Haiti and 2 in the Dominican Republic. Isaac stormed through the Florida Keys and has now arrived in New Orleans, just in time to mark the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. A federal state of emergency has been issued by President Obama, requiring precautionary measures be taken in all potentially affected locations.

Arizona law redefines pregnancy timeline

BY VICTOR LOPEZ
SENIOR WRITER

Arizona lawmakers have passed three anti-abortion bills, including one declaring that a pregnancy begin two weeks before conception, according to the Huffington Post.

The new law, titled Women's Health and Safety Act, was signed by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer and went into effect Aug 29.

According to the Examiner, "The bill was sponsored by Arizona State Rep. Kimberly Yee.

Yee is also an ardent supporter of drug testing anyone who receives welfare assistance."

Cynde Cerf, director of communications & marketing for Planned Parenthood Arizona told The Guilfordian that "the doctors represented by the ACLU and the Center for Reproductive Rights have stood up for all women in this state by challenging this unconstitutional law."

Cerf said that Arizona's abortion ban has several damaging provisions that pose a threat to women's health. The provision that bans abortion at 20 weeks is a particularly "cruel and dangerous attack on women's health."

The law now requires any women who want to have an abortion to undergo an ultrasound 24 hours before the procedure. The old law would allow abortions to be performed up until the time that the fetus could "reasonably survive outside the womb," the Examiner said.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of Arizona subsequently sued to challenge an Arizona law banning pre-viability abortions on behalf of two Arizona doctors whose patients include women who seek this procedure.

While the outcome of this new law is uncertain, more debate is likely as the appeal progresses through the courts.

Autism center aids Iraqi youth and families, proves humanity

BY ALAYNA BRADLEY
STAFF WRITER

In recent months, not-always-progressive Iraq has introduced hope to the community of Baghdad, especially for families with developmentally disabled children.

In March 2011, the Iraqi Development Organization (IDO) created a center for children with autism, which provides a safe place for autistic children to receive care, as well as an outlet for education in parenting and caring for autistic youth. It currently hosts about 28 children and is increasing in size.

According to PubMed Health, autism is a developmental disorder that typically appears within the first three years of a child's life.

Symptoms include difficulty with social interactions and communication. Children with autism may be unable to talk, make friends or play games.

They tend to be withdrawn and overly sensitive to sensory information.

Sam Cole, a resident advisor and sophomore, has a twin brother, Riley Cole, with autism. Riley's autism is a key component of Sam's interactions with his brother.

"His social interactions are strained because he does not understand social cues," said Sam. "When he was younger, Riley had trouble communicating with others and would talk to himself, if he talked at all."

According to a 2009 CBS News article, there was almost nothing known about this condition in Iraq. The one doctor who did diagnose and treat the condition fled the country.

This left the treatment facility with only a few unpaid social workers to help the children and the families

affected by this disorder. It was located in what was once one of the most dangerous parts of Baghdad which, as a result, prevented a lot of families from receiving the help they needed.

Wafaa al Nuaimi, mother of an 8-year-old with autism, told CNN, "What is preventing the development of specialized centers in Iraq is the war." She eventually fled to Syria to obtain help for her child.

Before the IDO created the new center, there was the Al Rahman Institute, another center for autistic children.

According to Al Jazeera, this institute was created by Nibras Sadoun, a woman who adopted an autistic child formally abandoned by his mother. The Al Rahman Institute has grown to include six centers around the country, the newest now in Baghdad. However, Iraq's government does not fund any of them. Instead, the Institute is supported by the families that use its resources.

It is estimated that there are up to 5,000 Iraqi children diagnosed with autism, but there are likely more who remain undiagnosed. Unfortunately, due to the stigma in Iraqi culture associated with autism, there is not much known about the details of this particular disorder, leading Iraq to label those with autism as merely "slow learners" when in reality, the disorder is much more pervasive than that description.

Iraqi autism centers have helped the children learn simple social skills, and for some children, have made them less violent and more manageable. The centers also provide the parents with a brief respite during the day.

These progressive motions to assist autistic children provide a more positive and humane depiction of Iraq, a country commonly regarded as a negative world power.