

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

McCain closes in on nomination

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Sen. John McCain moved closer to clinching the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday.

McCain won at least 34 delegates, with six delegates still to be awarded in Wisconsin and 16 in Washington state.

Overall, McCain had 942 delegates and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee had 245. It will take 1,191 delegates to claim the Republican nomination at this summer's national convention.

Clinton in need of comeback bid

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Barack Obama cruised past a fading Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Wisconsin primary and Hawaii caucuses Tuesday night, gaining the upper hand in a Democratic presidential race for the ages.

The twin triumphs made 10 straight for Obama and left the former first lady in desperate need of a comeback in a race she long commanded as front-runner.

The economy and trade were key issues in the race in Wisconsin.

Cubans hope that Raul Castro will bring reforms, defy brother's rule

HAVANA (AP) — After a 19-month tryout by acting president Raul Castro, Cubans seem ready to focus on what his government will bring once Fidel Castro formally steps down as Cuba's all-powerful leader on Sunday.

Their expectations, already raised by Raul Castro's talk of "structural changes" and "big decisions" to come, couldn't be higher. Many Cubans hope he will let more people open businesses, own homes and even travel abroad.

As acting president, Raul Castro has only hinted at reforms,

a reticence many see as a sign of respect for his more doctrinaire older brother. And while hoping that Raul and his likely No. 2, Carlos Lage, will advocate for change, Cubans wonder how that will fly with 81-year-old Fidel, who made it clear Tuesday that he isn't going away, even though he's stepping down as president.

The resignation, announced Tuesday, should give Raul Castro more autonomy than he's had as the government's caretaker since Fidel was sidelined by intestinal surgery in July 2006.

Shuttle Atlantis finishes mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis and its crew returned to Earth on Wednesday, wrapping up a 5-million-mile journey highlighted by the successful delivery of a new European lab to the international space station.

The shuttle and its seven astronauts landed at 9:07 a.m. at NASA's spaceport at Kennedy Space Center, where the crew's families and top space program managers gathered to welcome them home.

Atlantis circled Earth 202 times during its mission, which began Feb. 7.

Al-Sadr threatens to end cease-fire

BAGHDAD (AP) — Radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has threatened to lift a six-month cease-fire, credited with helping to reduce violence in Iraq, by the end of the week, a spokesman and another official said Wednesday.

Sheik Salah al-Obeidi, a spokesman for al-Sadr in Najaf, said that if the cleric failed to issue a statement by Saturday extending the cease-fire, "then that means the freeze is over." Al-Sadr's Mahdi Army is among the most powerful militias in Iraq.

The threat was confirmed by another al-Sadr official.

N.C. proposes animal euthanasia restrictions

Intended to make killing humane

BY JACKI HUNTINGTON AND DEVIN ROONEY
STAFF WRITERS

In an effort to make pet euthanasia more humane, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has proposed rules to standardize the procedure across the state.

The regulations, which were more than two years in the making, are scheduled to be before the Rules Review Commission of the N.C. General Assembly on March 20 and could take effect as early as April 1.

The process began in 2005 when the General Assembly passed legislation requiring standardized regulation of euthanasia practices, said Brian Long, director of public affairs for the agriculture department.

Animal shelters nationwide perform euthanasia using lethal injection or carbon monoxide chambers.

Long said some shelters, like those in Wake County, won't have to change much, as they were already using the kinds of commercially produced gas chambers required by the proposed regulations.

"Some counties that were using carbon monoxide were using more crude methods or ways of delivering carbon monoxide, and there was no consistency," he said.

Long said there were reports that animal shelters in Stokes

County were asphyxiating animals with car exhaust.

"They were using something that was a box in the back of a dump truck," he said. "That had a hose ... and the hose was attached to a car exhaust."

John Snyder, vice president of companion animals at the Humane Society of United States, said that the new regulations are a step in the right direction but that further action should be made.

"Ideally, we would like to see carbon monoxide go away."

Despite the claims of animal rights groups that any euthanasia using carbon monoxide is inhumane, Long said the method is merited in certain extreme cases.

"There are circumstances where (lethal injection) may actually be more stressful for the animal and more dangerous for the social workers, if you're dealing with more vicious animals."

Snyder said the shelters seem to be more concerned about their employees and the cost of the procedure than the animals' welfare.

"They're concerned about employees being bitten."

He added, "A lot of injection complaints are from employees who don't want to handle the animals. That's it. ... Carbon monoxide is easier for the employees, but whose life are we counting here?"

Robert Marotto, director of Orange County Animal Services, said that euthanasia rates are high because people don't spay and neuter their pets, and that the overpopulation necessitates the practice.

Proposed euthanasia regulations

► Only certified euthanasia technicians, probationary euthanasia technicians or licensed veterinarians may euthanize an animal.

► The department can revoke licensure of a certified euthanasia technician.

► If carbon monoxide is used for euthanasia, only commercially compressed bottled gas shall be used and the euthanasia must be performed in a commercially manufactured chamber.

► The animal must die in fewer than five minutes and remain in the carbon monoxide chamber with carbon monoxide for at least 20 minutes.

► Animals that appear to be less than 16 weeks old, pregnant animals, animals that are significantly ill and geriatric animals cannot be gassed.

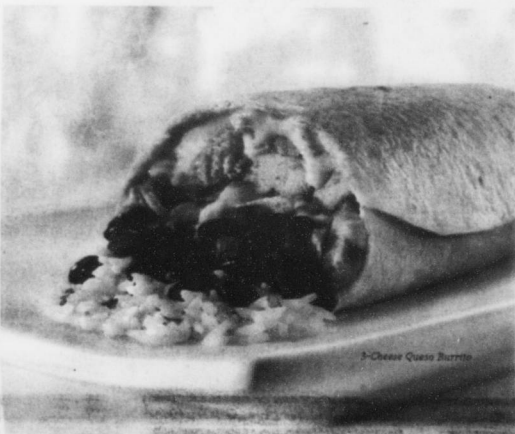
► Live animals cannot be placed into a chamber with dead animals.

► In extraordinary off-site circumstances, a shelter employee may shoot an animal. But a report of the circumstances must be made and kept on file for at least two years.

Source: www.ncagr.com/vet/aws/documents/euthanasia-boa_final.pdf

"We shouldn't take euthanasia for granted as population control, whether it is done under the best standards or not."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.



THE MORE FLAVORFUL THE SAUCE,
THE MORE FLAVORFUL THE BURRITO.

A unique sauce makes a unique burrito. That's why, at Qdoba, we've invented some inspiring sauces that are far from ordinary Mexican fare. From our wildly popular Warm 3-Cheese Queso and sexy Ranchero sauce to our proprietary Poblano Pesto sauce and Ancho Chile BBQ, there's a flavor with your name on it here. What are you going to love at Qdoba?™

Qdoba
MEXICAN GRILL

Corner of Franklin & Columbia • 100 West Franklin Street
929.8998 • www.qdoba.com

MTV SPRING BREAK
Panama City Beach

800-488-8828

www.sandpiperbeacon.com

FREE SPRING BREAK

MODEL SEARCH CALENDAR*

*VALID FOR FIRST 1000 RESERVATIONS.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

intern abroad



summer 2008

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Dublin Internship Program
London Internship Program
Los Angeles Internship Program
Madrid Internship Program
Paris Internship Program
Sydney Internship Program
Washington, D.C. Internship Program

Application Deadline: March 1, 2008

ALL INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS ARE:

- Guaranteed for each student
- Personalized for each student
- Project-based/academically directed

COMMON PROGRAM FEATURES

- Open to all majors
- Housing provided
- Organized excursions and activities
- Financial aid available

VISIT WWW.BU.EDU/ABROAD
TO REQUEST YOUR
SUMMER 2008 CATALOG!

live intern explore www.bu.edu/abroad