



IN MOVIES & LIFE | D1

## bushed

OLIVER STONE'S BIOPIC LACKS INSIGHT

IN SPORTS  
**LONE STAR QBs  
IN DEMAND**

IN SPORTS | C1

## NUMEROUNO?

FOR UT, KEEPING GRIP ON NO. 1 HASN'T BEEN EASY



IN SPORTS

## TCU HORNED FROGS WIN BIG IN 32-7 UPSET OF NO. 9 BYU

c3

### PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

## For McCain, next 19 days likely to be uphill fight

His mission, experts say: keep Obama from taking red states

By Dan Balz and Shailagh Murray

THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK — Republican Sen. John McCain might have stayed on the offensive during his final debate with Democratic Sen. Barack Obama, but for the last 19 days of the presidential campaign he will be playing nothing but defense.

The global financial crisis, coupled with Obama's steady performance through the three presidential debates, has left McCain with an extremely difficult path to the White House. Absent his ability to pick off any state won by the Democrats four years ago, he must prevent Obama from winning any of a half-dozen Republican states that now appear vulnerable.

Republican strategists see trouble almost everywhere, facing the prospect of not only losing the White House but seeing Democratic majorities in the House and Senate grow as well. That could force a competition for resources during the final weeks, but strategists said a McCain comeback would be most helpful in relieving some of the pressure on other GOP candidates.

See **RACE**, A10



Laura Skelding AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Joe Wurzelbacher of Ohio isn't the only Joe the Plumber. Joe Hernandez of Austin, above, started getting razzed moments after John McCain and Barack Obama invoked his name.

## Local Joe plumber is laughing all the way to the tank

By Andrea Ball

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

John McCain, Barack Obama: You made Joe the Plumber laugh.

No, not *that* Joe the Plumber. Not the guy whose name you invoked 23 times during Wednesday's presidential debate. That's Joe Wurzelbacher from Ohio.

This is Joe Angel Hernandez from Austin, a 34-year-old licensed plumber who thoroughly enjoyed hearing his first name and profession repeatedly cited on national television.

"It's kind of funny," he said.

Hernandez isn't Austin's only Plumber Joe. In fact, the city has more than a dozen similarly monikered plumbers, according to the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners. This Joe happened to be the first one we reached on the phone.

In Amarillo, plumber Joe Francis' phone was ringing off the hook Thursday, apparently because of his Web site, joetheplumber.com. Some people called with offers to buy

See **PLUMBER**, A10

### UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ■ FUNDRAISING

## UT sets \$3 billion goal

Bulk of money destined for faculty pay and academics

By Ralph K.M. Haurwitz

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

The University of Texas today will announce an effort to raise \$3 billion in donations for faculty salaries, graduate student stipends, undergraduate schol-

arships, construction projects, research and athletics.

The so-called quiet phase of the fundraising drive, during which donor waters were tested and momentum was built, began two years ago and has generated \$700 million in gifts, including a \$55 million donation from local philanthropists Sarah and Ernest Butler to the music school. That leaves \$2.3 billion to raise by Aug. 31, 2014, when the eight-year campaign

will conclude.

The announcement comes at a time of national economic crisis, with the portfolios of many prospective donors — individuals, foundations and corporations — suffering substantial losses. But that didn't dissuade UT from proceeding with what President William Powers Jr. called "a reasonable but ambitious goal."

See **FUNDRAISING**, A12



William Powers Jr.  
UT president

### AUSTIN

## Amid morning commute on MoPac, a baby is born



Jay Janner AMERICAN-STATESMAN

'It was a crazy morning for us,' Denise Egbert, who is hearing-impaired, said through an interpreter Thursday. 'We really are appreciative that the police

were around, right there, to help us.' She and her husband, Clyde, haven't picked a name for their daughter, but they say it won't be MoPac.

## Husband, officers help woman deliver child, who just couldn't wait



**Stephen Hines**  
It 'happened quickly.'



**Deats Burbank**  
It was 'pretty intense.'



**James Morgan**  
was present at birth.

By Miguel Liscano and Joshunda Sanders

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Denise Egbert said she thought her contractions would last the 30-minute drive from her home in South Austin to the North Austin hospital where a midwife was to deliver her baby on Thursday.

Instead, Egbert's third child came into this world in the front seat of her van, parked in the emergency lane along South MoPac Boulevard (Loop 1), with a stalled vehicle behind her and

morning traffic zooming by. The closest thing she had to a midwife was her husband Clyde, 36, and three Austin police officers, who happened to already be on the side of the road.

"It was a crazy morning for us," Denise, 34, who is hearing-impaired, said through an interpreter. "We really are appreciative that the police were around, right there, to help us."

She said her original due date was Oct. 26, but she started feeling contractions a few minutes

See **BORN**, A12

### TEXAS ■ CHILD WELFARE

## Empty youth lockup in Eagle Lake costs taxpayers thousands every day

By Mike Ward

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

In early July, the Texas Youth Commission contracted with a Florida-based company to open a center for teenage lawbreakers in Eagle Lake — at a cost of more than \$22,500 a day.

Three months later, the lockup has yet to see its first youth.

But Texas taxpayers have been paying anyway — more than \$1.26 million so far, officials said — because Youth Commission officials agreed to pay for empty beds to cover the startup costs of the company, Youth Services International, state records revealed Thursday show.

Youth Commission and company officials

@ statesman.com/tyc

Read past stories about the agency.

defended the contract, insisting that the payments were proper and appropriate.

"There are two ways to cover startup costs: pay upfront or pay higher rates," said Cherie Townsend, the Youth Commission's newly appointed executive commissioner.

Gov. Rick Perry's office and legislative leaders, however, cried foul.

"Taxpayers should not be paying for goods

See **AGENCY**, A8



Richard Drew ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gregg Reilly works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange as the Dow surged late Thursday in the hour before closing.

### OIL DOWN; DOW UP

Oil prices hit a 14-month low, falling below \$70 and striking fear into the heart of OPEC, **A7**

The Dow finished up more than 400 points for the day, **B7**

## DELL TIGHTENS ITS TIES WITH SMALL BUSINESSES AS THE ECONOMY SLOWS

B7

SUNNY AND  
WARMER  
78/53 ■ B10

INSIDE ■ BUSINESS B7 ■ DEATHS B4-5 ■ EDITORIALS A14-15 ■ MOVIES & LIFE D1 ■ SPORTS C1 ■ WORLD & NATION A2 ■ CLASSIFIEDS E1

COMING SATURDAY ■ TRAVELING EXHIBIT AT BULLOCK MUSEUM EXPLORES THE PRESIDENTIAL FASCINATION WITH COWBOYS ■ IN LIFE & ARTS

TO SUBSCRIBE  
Call 445-4040  
© 2008, Austin  
American-Statesman

