

Disney's beginnings come to life



DON'T GET STUCK WITH THE FUZZ

Making the switch from analog to digital

It's Patriots vs. Jaguars in playoffs

VOLUME 273 NUMBER 7

50 cents 75 cents beyond 30 miles from Boston

The Boston Globe

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2008

THERE WILL BE MUD

TODAY: Highs in the mid-50s with cloudy skies. Evening temps in 40s. TOMORROW: Breezy, but with even milder temperatures; highs to 59.

HIGH TIDE: 10:15 a.m., 10:55 p.m. SUNRISE: 7:13 SUNSET: 4:27

FULL REPORT: PAGE B8

In the news

Kenya's opposition leader said he was willing to discuss sharing power after his loss in the disputed election, but his call for more protests raised worries of new violence. A3.

Security officials seized far fewer dangerous items from carry-on bags at Logan Airport in 2007 than they did the previous two years. B1.

Poland said it will not accept a US plan to deploy part of an antiballistic missile shield without further analysis. A3.

A purported Al Qaeda video urged militants to respond with bombs to President Bush's Mideast visit this week. A3.

Three attacks killed at least eight people in Baghdad after soldiers had rejoiced in a decline in terrorism. A4.

Analysts raised safety concerns over NASA's plans to double the number of shuttle flights this year. A2.

The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy exceeded its goal of raising \$20 million by the end of 2007. E1.

A technique under development at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center could lead to surgeries with no scars, less pain, and less infection risk. C1.



West Coast storms caused at least three deaths, downed hundreds of miles of power lines, and left many grappling with flood waters, icing, and deep snow. A2.

A 23-year-old man was gunned down in Dorchester early Sunday in Boston's first homicide of 2008. B3.

Former Red Sox ace Roger Clemens insisted in a televised interview that he took no steroids and challenged anyone to come forward as a supplier of syringes and drugs. D1.

POINT OF VIEW: KEVIN CULLEN

"Liesguys Lit is a lucrative genre. It's revisionist history for murderers, allowing them to imbue their venality with a sense of nobility that is otherwise missing from the brutal act of shooting someone in cold blood." City & Region, B1.

Inside

Table with 2 columns: Features, Classified. Includes items like Deaths D10-12, Editorials A10, Lottery B2, Weather BB, Movie times E6-7.

For breaking news, updated Globe stories, and more, visit:



A whirl of words in the N.H. homestretch



ELISE AMENDOLA/ASSOCIATED PRESS



MICHAL CZERWONKA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



LM OTERO/ASSOCIATED PRESS



CHARLES DHARAPAK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The messages were omnipresent yesterday as New Hampshire counted down to tomorrow's primary election.

Obama's role in the world

The candidate who trumpets his international roots has by traditional measures a slight record on foreign policy and national security. A7.

An evolving Edwards

The former senator's condemnation of rapacious corporations stands in contrast to the more moderate position he struck in the past. A8.

Clinton's '90s record

Perhaps-telling differences emerge in the candidate's current and past accounts of her involvement in Northern Ireland peace efforts. A7.

Having the first say

Dixville Notch and Hart's Location keep up their history-steeped competition to be the first New Hampshire community to tally its votes. B1.

Full coverage, A6-8.

Clinton sharpens aim at two rivals

By Scott Helman GLOBE STAFF

NASHUA — Facing what many analysts believe is a must-win New Hampshire primary tomorrow, Senator Hillary Clinton has stepped up her assaults against her Democratic rivals, questioning their records, their resolve, and their ability to deliver on their promises of change.

Clinton yesterday expanded on her criticism of Senator Barack Obama and former senator John Edwards in Saturday night's Democratic debate, highlighting Obama's past shifts on major issues and accusing both rivals of preaching empty rhetoric.

The race, she told a rally at Nashua High School North, hinges on this question:

"How will we bring about change by making sure we nominate and elect a doer, not a talker?"

The implication was clear, and it reflects the major fault line in the Democratic race. Clinton contends that while her opponents give inspiring speeches about changing Washington, she has a long record of actually changing people's lives — bringing healthcare, for example, to low-income children and military veterans.

Clinton has spent much of the campaign seeking to be the candidate of both change and experience, at times uncomfortably. But she and her campaign have concluded that her best shot at winning the nomination

DEMOCRATS, Page A7

Romney and foes tangle over taxes

By Michael Kranish GLOBE STAFF

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Mitt Romney sought to seize back the initiative in his presidential campaign yesterday, using a final Republican debate and a meeting with voters here to hammer at rivals John McCain and Mike Huckabee on taxes and other issues. But with just two days before the crucial New Hampshire primary, McCain struck back, charging that Romney has "changed his position on almost every major issue," while Huckabee said Romney was making misleading attacks.

After a day of campaigning, the Republican candidates held their second debate in

two nights and tussled repeatedly over taxes, another central issue in the first-primary state. Romney charged that McCain opposed President Bush's tax cuts and "continues to believe that was the right vote to take." McCain responded that he wanted to couple tax cuts with spending cuts in order to stop what he called unnecessary spending.

Romney then went after Huckabee on taxing and spending, repeatedly asking the former Arkansas governor to admit that he raised taxes in his state by a net \$500 million over 10 years. When Huckabee declined to respond directly, Romney inter-

REPUBLICANS, Page A6

Colleges turn to Web tools in hunt for '08 freshmen

Interactive sites aid recruiters, school-shoppers

By Peter Schworm GLOBE STAFF

Once dominated by glossy brochures, college fairs, and campus tours, the college admissions landscape is rapidly shifting toward online social media, as schools blanket the Internet with podcasts, blogs, and videos to recruit wired high school students.

With virtual campus tours, live chats with college students, professors, and admissions officers, and videos about campus life, colleges and universities are increasingly turning to interactive and multimedia technology as recruiting tactics to connect with prospective students who are far more likely to scroll down a Web page than thumb through a college viewbook.

Think of it as College Admissions 2.0,

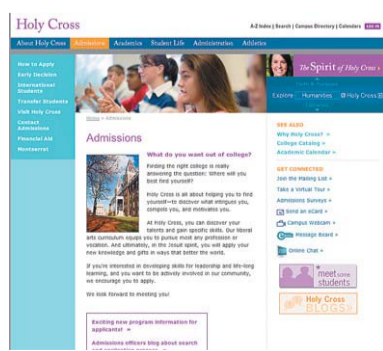
college officials and consultants say.

"Higher ed is really trying to embrace it on all fronts," said Nora Barnes, director of the Center for Marketing Research at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. "There's no doubt that's where their audience is."

In a study released this fall, UMass-Dartmouth researchers found that colleges are adopting Internet technologies such as podcasts, message boards, blogs, and social networks faster than Fortune 500 companies. The explosion of social media, higher education specialists say, is revolutionizing the college search process and the way colleges and prospective students interact.

Eager to prove their cutting-edge credentials to tech-savvy teenagers, colleges

COLLEGES, Page A9



Colby and Holy Cross Web pages link to blogs and virtual tours.

Firemen getting enhanced pensions

Over 100 reported injuries while filling in for bosses at higher salary levels

Supplements will cost Boston \$25m in long run

By Walter V. Robinson and Jesse Nankin GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

In the last six years, 102 Boston firefighters have substantially enhanced their tax-free disability pensions by claiming career-ending injuries while they were filling in for superiors at higher pay grades, according to a Globe review of city retirement and payroll records.

By making their injury claims while on temporary assignment, the firefighters were able to boost their pensions an average of \$10,300 a year, to \$61,737 apiece. The average lifetime increase for the 102 firefighters works out to \$248,000, according to actuarial tables. The supplements, made possible by a provision in the firefighters contract, will cost the city \$25 million over time.

The rash of injuries involved personnel at every level on the chain of command, including 67 firefighters, 16 lieutenants, and 11 captains, all of them filling in at the next-highest rank while their superiors were on vacation or out sick, sometimes for a single day. The list also includes eight district chiefs saying they were seriously hurt while performing desk jobs as deputy chiefs — among them, one who said he permanently injured his back while moving a file cabinet.

Boston Fire Commissioner Roderick J. Fraser Jr. said he believes injuries claimed by firefighters who perform manual work are most likely legitimate. But if they sustained the injury but didn't say it occurred until they were filling in for their superiors at higher pay, Fraser said, it would be fraud.

But for district chiefs filling in for deputy chiefs in administrative roles, Fraser said he doubts some of those injuries occurred. He cited the district chief

FIREFIGHTERS, Page A9

Feeney wants 1-day forum for city's residents

Mayor questions feasibility

By Donovan Slack GLOBE STAFF

Boston City Councilor Maureen Feeney, who is widely expected to be elected to a second term as council president today, wants to start 2008 with a bang and unveil plans for an unprecedented gathering of city residents — a New England-style town meeting of sorts — at the South Boston convention center this spring.

Feeney said she wants to invite every neighborhood and business group, parent-teacher organization, and crime-watch group in the city as well as residents unaffiliated with any group, and even those who are not civically engaged at all.

The one-day gathering would be akin to a congress, where people could voice their concerns and hopes for the future of the city, a forum for innovative ideas and finding common ground, she said.

"I would like people to think about their role, to recognize their role in shaping this city," Feeney said in an interview last week.

"For far too long, I think there has been this compartmentalization, where people don't see what's happening in the neighborhood next door."

Feeney has secured the support of several colleagues on the council and said the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority has agreed to donate use of the 500,000-plus square-foot Boston Convention Center.



'This is a day for us to reach out and say, "What can we do better?'"

MAUREEN FEENEY

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US executions in a lull as court examines lethal injection

Drug cocktail that's used to kill prisoners at issue

By Mark Sherman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A quarter-century has elapsed since the United States experienced as long a pause in executions as the one the Supreme Court has occasioned with its current examination of lethal injections.

No one has been put to death since Sept. 25 and the earliest that

executions will probably resume is in the summer. Forty-two people were executed in 2007, the lowest total in 13 years. Last month, New Jersey became the first state in four decades to abolish the death penalty.

But when the justices return from their holiday break and hear arguments today in a lethal injection case from Kentucky, their questions are unlikely to focus on whether capital punishment or even the method of lethal injection is right or wrong.

The two death row inmates whose challenge is before the

court are not asking to be spared execution or death by injection. Their argument, at its most basic, is that there are ways to get the job done relatively pain-free.

So the court could delve into a highly technical, almost medical, discussion of how executions work in practice:

■ Do condemned prisoners receive enough anesthesia to knock them out?

■ Do the people who insert intravenous lines know what they are doing?

■ Is it best to use a combination of three drugs?

■ Would it work better to deliver a fatal overdose of barbiturates? That is the method used by terminally ill people in Oregon and by veterinarians in most parts of the country who euthanize animals.

The court also will be weighing what risk of pain is acceptable for prisoners who are being put to death for horrendous crimes and what standard judges should use in evaluating the risk.

Ralph Baze and Thomas Clyde Bowling Jr. were convicted of murder and sentenced to death by juries in Kentucky. Baze killed a

sheriff and a deputy who were attempting to arrest him. Bowling shot and killed a couple and wounded their 2-year-old son outside their dry-cleaning business.

The two men, in a 2004 lawsuit, contended that lethal injection as practiced by Kentucky amounts to cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the Eighth Amendment. The lawyers say other states routinely botch executions by using poorly trained people, complex procedures, and even dim lighting that makes it hard for executioners to see what they are doing. The procedures in

many states are kept secret, making challenges to the procedures difficult.

The Bush administration, backing the state, argues that because the Supreme Court has said capital punishment is constitutional, there must be some method for carrying it out.

The case could come down to an examination of the three drugs that are administered in succession to knock out, paralyze, and kill prisoners. If the court decides that the three-drug mix is problematic, it could order states to develop a different procedure.

Firemen getting enhanced pensions

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with the file cabinet injury, as well as another district chief who asserted his injury occurred when he stepped off a curb outside Fire Department headquarters.

"An office job at headquarters is not a hazardous work environment. So these claims raise questions about the integrity of the individual and the integrity of the claim," Fraser said in an interview yesterday.

Samuel R. Tyler, president of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, a business-funded watchdog group, said he finds the numbers "mind-boggling."

"This pattern raises serious questions about how legitimate many of these disability claims are... and indeed, whether a criminal investigation is warranted," Tyler said.

To qualify for a disability pension, an applicant must file an injury report, obtain medical documentation, win departmental approval, and gain an affirmative vote by the Boston Retirement Board. In addition, two members of a three-doctor, state-appointed panel must certify that the injury claim is authentic.

While disability pensions are tax free, regular pensions are taxable.

Boston firefighters are retiring on disability pensions — with or without the enhanced benefit — in striking numbers. From 2005 to 2007, 166 Boston firefighters retired — 123 of those on disability. Of that number, 67 received the higher pensions because their injury claims coincided with their temporary service at higher grades.

At the end of December, an additional 58 firefighters were awaiting approval of disability pensions — 30 of those claimed by men who said their injuries occurred while they were working in place of their bosses, according to an analysis of Boston Retirement Board and city payroll records.

The records also show that many of those who have claimed disabling injuries remain on injured leave status — at the superior's full pay, tax free — for two to four years before they retire. Once they take a disability retirement, they receive 72 percent of their salary at the time of injury, exempt from



Boston Fire Commissioner Roderick J. Fraser Jr. visited the Engine 53, Ladder 16 firehouse in Roslindale in April.

state and federal taxes.

Fraser said it had been taking the Fire Department 10 to 12 months on average to process disability pension applications. He said he has ordered backlogged claims to be cleared up quickly.

"This is wrong," Mayor Thomas M. Menino said of the enhanced pensions, in a City Hall interview last week. "This is public money." The mayor said the city would cooperate if federal or state criminal investigators intervene.

But Edward A. Kelly, president of the union that represents nearly 1,600 uniformed members of the Fire Department, took issue with Fraser and Menino, noting that each of the disabilities had been vetted at several levels.

"If a panel of three doctors agrees that a person has become disabled, then where's the fraud?" Kelly asked.

Assistant US Attorney Brian T. Kelly, chief of the Public Corruption Unit, said his office takes allegations of public pension fraud "quite seriously. We will review whatever is brought to our attention on this matter."

Boston's overall disability retirement rate is so high that it represents a disproportionate share of all disability pensions across Massachusetts, according to the annual reports of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission.

The commission reports show that City of Boston employees are getting 16.3 percent of Massachusetts disability retirements, up from 10.7 percent in 2002. City employees make up 6.8 percent of employees covered by the system.

Fire departments in other comparable cities have substantially lower disability retirement rates than Boston. In Baltimore, according to city officials, 22 percent of firefighters retire on disability. In Milwaukee, the rate is 15 percent,

and it's 20 percent in Raleigh.

The contract provision allowing firefighters to file for retirements at higher grades stems from contract language the city and union agreed to in 2000. Designed to streamline assignments, the contract agreement stipulated that when a superior officer was out ill or on vacation, the most senior person in years of service would fill in, at the higher grade. Before that, the contract required that the person next in line for promotion would fill in.

But as soon as seniority on the job became the prerequisite, the number of retirements at the higher grade began, with five in 2001, and climbing to 28 in 2006.

Menino, in an interview last week, said City Hall officials first learned of the phenomenon in early 2006 when they were preparing for another round of contract negotiations. Citing the abuses, Menino said, the city asked the union to forgo the provision. Contract negotiations, he said, broke down when the union insisted that it would give in only if the city's offer of a 14 percent pay raise were increased to 21 percent. "They want to be paid for stopping an abuse of the system. That's wrong," Menino said.

Kelly denied the union had demanded such an increase, though he declined to say what give-back the union was seeking.

Firefighters have been working without a new contract since 2006, and talks broke down last year over this dispute. Further complicating the negotiations is the city's insistence on drug and alcohol testing in the wake of the August deaths of two firefighters in a West Roxbury blaze. The autopsies of the two men showed one was intoxicated and the second had traces of cocaine in his system.

Fraser, a former US Navy offi-

BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREMENTS, 2001-2007

Total retirements: **424**

Number of accidental disability retirements: **266**

Disabled retirees as percentage of all retirees: **63 %**

Number of accidental disability retirements based on injuries sustained while firefighter was filling in at higher grade: **102**

Percent of disabled retirees who retired at higher grade: **38 %**

	NUMBERS BY YEAR							TOTAL
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Retirees	64	59	95	40	58	58	50	424
Disability retirees	37	29	54	23	43	44	36	266
Disability retirees injured at higher grade level	5	6	12	12	20	28	19	102

SOURCE: Boston Retirement Board

GLOBE STAFF

cer who was appointed as commissioner by Menino a year ago, said he is "disgusted" by the higher-grade disabilities, especially when they have been taken advantage of by senior officers.

"If you're a leader, guys are going to follow you. It is where you take them that matters," Fraser said. "Right now, they are being taken down an unethical and immoral path by these chiefs." Fraser acknowledged his comments would cause him trouble in the department, but said, "I may have to barricade myself in my office. But the truth shall set you free."

In telephone interviews yesterday, several of the retirees refused to discuss how they became injured. Not only are their medical records deemed private by state and local pension officials, but even the reason for their disability is kept confidential in most cases.

But one, retired district chief John J. Ellard, whose disability pension was just approved on Dec. 18, said he had a bad back, two

knee surgeries, and a hip replacement that were job-related. One night, he said, he was filling in for a deputy chief when there was a fire at the aquarium.

The scene, he said, was hectic, he wasn't paying attention, and he tripped and fell down. His tax-free pension is \$89,532 at the deputy's rate, nearly \$12,000 more than he would have gotten otherwise.

As for applying while at the higher grade, Ellard said: Every individual should have the opportunity to apply for disability at a higher grade, and to go through the disability and retirement board process to see if it's legitimate."

Globe correspondent Nikki Gloudeaman and Globe staff reporter Matt Carroll contributed to this report. Walter Robinson's e-mail address is wrobinson@globe.com. Confidential messages can be left at 617-929-3334.

Plane's door is blamed in crash

Survivors recount details in Alaska

By Rachel D'Oro
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE — A chartered plane that crashed into a shallow harbor after taking off from Kodiak Island, killing six people, was carrying a group of fishermen from an offshoot of the Russian Orthodox Church home for the Orthodox Christmas.

Four people survived the crash Saturday, and one of them told investigators that the door to a baggage compartment in the nose of the small plane had popped open.

"We want to look at the aerodynamic qualities of opening a very large door in flight," said Clint Johnson, an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board. "This does not signal an end of our investigation of the crash by any means, but it at least played a part in it."

The Piper PA-31 Navajo Chief-

'Once I got them in they were really cold, and they were just pretty hysterical because they had told me that their family's in that plane.'

DEAN ANDREW
Pilot who helped rescue survivors

tain crashed about 50 yards off the end of a runway after taking off Saturday afternoon, according to the Federal Aviation Administration and the NTSB.

The passengers were members of Alaska's community of Russian Orthodox Old Believers who had been fishing in Kodiak and were taking a short flight north to Homer to celebrate Eastern Orthodox Christmas at home today.

Dean Andrew, the pilot of a float plane that had been taxiing nearby, said he pulled the four survivors aboard.

"Once I got them in they were really cold, and they were just pretty hysterical because they had told me that their family's in that plane," Andrew told the Anchorage Daily News.

That survivor, whose name was not immediately released, told investigators that just as the Piper got airborne, the baggage area door opened at the nose of the plane on the pilot's side. That prompted the pilot, Robin Starrett, 50, of Kodiak, to try to return to the airport.

Also killed in addition to Starrett, were five passengers from Homer: Stefan F. Basargin, 36; Pavel F. Basargin, 30; Zahary F. Martushev, 25; Iosif F. Martushev, 15; and Andrian Reutov, 22, officials said.

Two survivors were flown to Anchorage for treatment. One was released Saturday night, and another remained there in good condition. Old Believers split from the Russian Orthodox church in the 17th century in protest of changes made in the church. Their members are scattered throughout Russia, Asia, and the Western Hemisphere, shunning much of the modern way of life. About 1,500 are believed to live in Alaska.

The flight was operated by Kodiak-based Servant Air.

College recruiters are going where the students are: online

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are accelerating efforts to bolster their online presence amid sharp competition for students and the proliferation of Web video and broadband Internet access.

"It's not about staying ahead of the students, it's about keeping up with them, but without seeming desperate to be hip," said David Hawkins, director of public policy and research for the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Prospective students can now instant-message recruiters and befriend them on Facebook, where scores of their future classmates are just a click away. They can take in classes on iTunes, tour campuses on YouTube, and create a profile on college websites to receive customized news a la Amazon.com.

At Colby College, which last year scrapped its traditional admissions brochure in favor of a student-run magazine, online visitors can view photo galleries and

video podcasts with interviews with students and professors. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology features a range of student blogs to give prospective students an unvarnished look at the college, while Northeastern University posts video clips of campus life on iTunes. The College of the Holy Cross lets high school students create quick profiles as they would on Facebook to connect them with Holy Cross students who share their interests.

"This is their world," said Ann McDermott, Holy Cross director of admissions. "We want to make them feel at home."

Students say they are most drawn to features that give them a genuine glimpse of what the college is like and whether they'll like it. Colleen Curran, who went to high school outside Atlanta, chose to attend Holy Cross after months of reading a student blog.

"I was able to see firsthand what I'd be going through," said Curran, a freshman. "I felt ex-

tremely connected."

Ronné Patrick Turner, dean of admissions at Northeastern University, has received 6,000 hits on her blog since it launched in October. As more students fail to respond to direct mailings, the traditional mainstay of college admissions, nearly one in five students apply without having ever contacted the university, she said. The surge in so-called "stealth applicants," who mainly conduct their college search online, is spurring colleges to expand their e-marketing efforts.

"Students find us on the Internet," said Pam McCafferty, dean of enrollment management at Fitchburg State College, which in October launched a video campus tour featuring interviews with students and faculty that has drawn more than 21,000 visits. "It's the most consistent thing we see."

Some colleges, such as Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, have launched marketing videos on YouTube, where Dickinson's presi-

dent even demonstrates how to tie a bowtie. Wellesley College's website provides a glimpse of the campus from a helicopter. Simmons College admissions counselors have Facebook and MySpace pages and regularly correspond with prospective students and applicants via instant- and text-message.

"This is how they prefer to communicate, and it gives us a chance to build a relationship with them," said Catherine Capolupo, Simmons' director of undergraduate admissions. "Technology is changing the admissions landscape very quickly."

Hundreds of colleges are recruiting through sites where high-school students post searchable personal profiles.

"Today's students live online, and have as long as they can remember," said Mick Hagen, president of Zinch.com, a leading new matching site. "All the mail and brochures are just ending up in the trash."

But Ryan Munce of the National Research Center for College and University Admissions said direct mailings are still effective, even though many students respond online instead of by postcard.

With today's students reflexively resistant to sales pitches, the marketing shift is as much about message as medium.

"This generation is very savvy to media," said Karen Giannino, of Colgate University admissions. "They see right through the posed photograph."

Such thinking spurred Colby College to launch insidecolby.com, a student-run site designed to give potential applicants an authentic perspective into college life.

"We essentially decided to let Colby students do the talking," said Ruth Jacobs, who oversees the site. "In the age of YouTube and Facebook, if we don't give it to them, they will find it themselves."

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