

**Weather**

**Today:** Thunderstorm.  
High 68, Low 52.  
**Tuesday:** Rain.  
High 72, Low 52.

Details, **B8**

129TH YEAR No. 161 5 DC MD

# The Washington Post

MONDAY, MAY 15, 2006

M1 M2 M3 M4 M5 V1 V2 V3 V4

**DISTRICT & MARYLAND HOME EDITION**  
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BY LOIS RAIMONDO — THE WASHINGTON POST

**Amita Achutuni, 15, of Potomac works with her Indian tutor using a headset and computer writing tablet.**

## Homework Help, From a World Away

*Web Joins Students, Cheap Overseas Tutors*

By AMIT R. PALEY  
Washington Post Staff Writer

It was almost 3 a.m., Alex Del Monte recalled, and he was cramming like crazy. He gulped can after can of Red Bull to stay awake, but the George Washington University sophomore knew he would flunk his Statistics 52 exam later that day if he didn't call his tutor for help.

But so late at night? Not a problem if your tutor works 8,500 miles away and 9½ hours ahead in Bangalore, India.

In an hour-long session that cost just \$18, the Indian tutor, who said his name was Mike, spent an hour walking Del Monte through such esoteric concepts as confidence intervals and alpha divisions, Del Monte recalled. He got an A on the final exam. "Mike helped me unscramble everything in my mind," the 20-year-old said.

Thousands of U.S. students such as Del Monte are increasingly relying on overseas tutors to boost their grades and SAT scores. The tutors, who communicate with students over the Internet, are inexpensive and available around the clock, making education the newest industry to be outsourced to other countries.

Tutoring companies figure: If low-paid workers in China and India can sew your clothes, process your med-

See TUTORING, A8, Col. 1

## Lifting Their Hearts



BY NIKKI KAHN — THE WASHINGTON POST

**Angela Banks entertains her granddaughter, 6-month-old Kamara Merritt, during Mother's Day brunch at Camelot restaurant in Upper Marlboro. At right is Banks's mother, Maxine Banks. Across the Washington area, other women celebrated newfound motherhood with their children adopted from Guatemala, while others honored sons and daughters lost to war. Story, B1.**

## West Virginia Democrat is Scrutinized

*Mollohan Has Close Ties to Groups Handling His District's Appropriations*

By JEFFREY H. BIRNBAUM  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Starting in the 1990s, Rep. Alan B. Mollohan (D-W.Va.) chose an unusual way to funnel federal funds into his poverty-ridden district. He set up a network of nonprofit organizations to administer the millions of dollars he directed to such public endeavors as high-tech research and historic preservation.

Over the same period, Mollohan's personal fortunes soared. From 2000 to 2004, his assets grew from no more than \$565,000 to at least \$6.3 million. The partners in his rapidly expanding real estate empire included the head of one of these nonprofit groups and the owner

of a local company for which he arranged substantial federal aid.

Mollohan used his seat on the House Appropriations Committee to secure more than \$150 million for five nonprofit groups. One of the groups is headed by a former aide with whom Mollohan bought \$2 million worth of property on Bald Head Island, N.C.

Controversy over this blending of commerce and legislation has triggered a federal probe, cost Mollohan his position on the House ethics committee and undermined the Democrats' effort to portray the GOP as the party of corruption because of the Jack Abra-

See MOLLOHAN, A7, Col. 1



Rep. Alan B. Mollohan is under federal investigation.

## Bush Set To Send Guard to Border

*Assignment Would Be Temporary; Critics Cite Strain on Troops*

By PETER BAKER  
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Bush tried to ease the worries of his Mexican counterpart yesterday as he prepared for a nationally televised address tonight unveiling a plan to send thousands of National Guard troops to help seal the nation's southern border against illegal immigrants.

Mexican President Vicente Fox called to express concern over the prospect of militarization of the border, and Bush reassured him that it would be only a temporary measure to bolster overwhelmed Border Patrol agents, the White House said.

"The president made clear that the United States considers Mexico a friend and that what is being considered is not militarization of the border but support of Border Patrol capabilities on a temporary basis by National Guard personnel," said White House spokeswoman Maria Tambarri.

Yet the idea has further stirred an already volatile debate about immigration on both sides of the border even before the president makes his prime-time speech from the Oval Office at 8 p.m. A number of Democrats and even a few key Republicans voiced skepticism or outright opposition to the reported plan yesterday, calling it a politically motivated move that will only further strain units already stretched by duty in Iraq without solving the underlying problem of illegal immigration.

"We have to be very careful here," Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) said yesterday on

See BORDER, A5, Col. 1

## Immigrant Supporters To Counter Bush Speech

*New Alliance Ready To Make Itself Heard*

By DARRYL FEARS  
Washington Post Staff Writer

As President Bush prepares to address the nation tonight about immigration, a newly formed network of groups that organized demonstrations for illegal immigrants is conference calling, brainstorming and consolidating its forces so that it can respond to the government with a unified voice.

The We Are America Alliance of 41 immigrant resource groups, unions, churches, day laborers and Spanish-language disc jockeys opposes House legislation that would criminalize illegal immigrants, but it will lobby Congress and compromise to realize its goal of obtaining legal residency for many of the 11 million people who live in the shadows.

But like the president, whose proposal for a guest-worker program is opposed by many in his own party, the alliance does not speak for all. It is being criticized by a small but influential faction of Latino activists in Los Angeles who say the alliance's compromise strategy could slow the momentum created by the protests.

Bush's speech and the immigrant community's planned response on Spanish-language radio will kick off a week of debate and activity over immigration. The Senate is scheduled to take up the immigration issue today, and its leaders hope to emerge with a bill by Memorial Day. Proposed Senate legislation would allow some illegal immigrants to become legal residents. Once a bill passes, senators would begin negotiations with the House, where proposals that would grant citizenship to anyone who entered

See IMMIGRATION, A5, Col. 1

## On Baghdad Patrol, a Vigilant Eye on Iraqi Police

*U.S.-Trained Allies Are Often Suspects*

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER  
Washington Post Foreign Service

BAGHDAD — Second Lt. Will Shields started night patrol for his 2nd Platoon Delta Company with the Baghdad basics: a reminder to speed up instead of slow down if a bomb hits the convoy, and a heads-up on where to stash any victims of killings, sectarian and otherwise.

"We find any dead bodies, we've got three or four body bags," the 23-year-old Shields said. "Hopefully, that'll be enough."

The young troops in his platoon briefly grumbled good-naturedly about whose Humvee always gets stuck hauling the corpses they find of equally young Iraqi men — stiffened, blood-streaked and open-mouthed. Pretty much every day, U.S. and Iraqi troops are picking up apparent victims of Sunni-Shiite violence on the streets of Baghdad.

Since Feb. 22, when the bombing of a Shiite Muslim shrine in Samarra pushed sectar-



BY ATEF HASSAN — REUTERS

**In Basra, Iraqis rally to demand the resignation of the governor after a wave of sectarian killings in the southern city. In Baghdad, at least nine bombs exploded, killing 35 Iraqis and two U.S. soldiers, as Iraqi politicians wrangled over their new government. Story, A12.**

ian tensions in Iraq to a new plateau, the U.S. Army units have quietly moved back into some neighborhoods that U.S. commanders had just turned over, with fanfare, to Iraqi security forces. Iraqi leaders asked for the return of the American troops into

parts of central Baghdad in March, fearing that efforts to build a stable government would fall apart if they were unable to rein in the Shiite-Sunni killings, said Col. Jeffrey

See BAGHDAD, A13, Col. 1

## Union Leader Presides Over Painful Changes

*United Auto Workers' Gettelfinger Navigates Job Cuts, Concessions*



By DALE RUSSAKOFF  
Washington Post Staff Writer

At a time of maximum uncertainty over their future, the United Auto Workers union will gather next month to re-elect its president. Oddly enough, some of his most enthusiastic supporters are the top executives of the U.S. auto industry.

An ardent, lifelong trade unionist, Ron Gettelfinger, 61, has presided over an era of unprecedented concessions to the Detroit automakers, telling his members that the alternative is for the companies and the union to go down together.

"The companies know that whatever lies before them is vastly worse if something happens to Gettelfinger," said Rep. John D. Dingell (D-

Mich.), the industry's champion in Congress. "They're all teetering at the precipice together."

The man trying to negotiate a future for the imperiled union emerges from experiences vastly different from those of his predecessors. He was raised as one of 12 children on a farm in rural Indiana and is the first UAW president to rise from a plant outside Michigan, the industry headquarters. He is also the first with a college degree (a bachelor's in accounting from Indiana University).

Gettelfinger has a farmer's work ethic and expects the same of his colleagues. As president of his Louisville local in the 1980s, he called surprise

See UAW, A9, Col. 1

### INSIDE

**THE NATION**

**Administration Silent on Calls**

The NSA has logged millions of phone calls in its war against terrorism but has offered little explanation for the volume of interceptions. **A3**

**SCIENCE**

**Discovering Christopher Columbus**

Researchers hope forensic science will reveal clues to the ethnic origin of the secretive 15th-century explorer. **A6**

**THE WORLD**

**Haitian Leader Inaugurated**

President Rene Preval pleads for peace among the citizens of the impoverished island nation. **A10**

**Zimbabwe Farmland Reversal**

A government initiative offers the possibility of white farmers returning to lease land they lost under a campaign of violent evictions. **A10**

**STYLE**

**Snow in the Forecast**

As a former newsman, Tony Snow hopes to avoid the stormy relationship White House spokesmen often have with the press. **C1**

**Paint, Politics and Protest**

The exhibit "Visual Politics: The Art of Engagement" is art as provocation, political commentary, and sometimes, pure unmitigated rage. **C1**

**The TV Column**

Today marks the start of the fall TV program introductions. New shows are unveiled, older shows disappear, and everyone hopes for a hit. **C1**

**WASHINGTON BUSINESS**

**Booming Frederick County**

Almost a million square feet of office space has been built in the mostly residential suburb since 2001, and millions more are on the way, transforming the community into a place where people not only live but work. **D1**