

misleading description of my efforts to rebuild the stock exchange in Baghdad ["Best Connected Were Sent to Rebuild Iraq," front page, Sept. 17].

First, on no occasion did I state that the exchange, known as ISX, was to be "the best and most modern in the Arab world." The Coalition Provisional Authority simply wanted a stock exchange that met basic international standards in order to inspire confidence in the domestic and foreign investors who will be so key in driving Iraq's economy. The upgrades the

regulation, removal of price controls and increased transparency, to name a few — are elements valued everywhere in the world. As for a computerized trading system, it was always our plan to phase that in after our coordinated June 2004 opening date.

Second, Chandrasekaran quoted ISX Chairman Talib Tabatabai as criticizing the CPA, saying that the ISX should have opened sooner. However, the author failed to mention that Tabatabai owns a brokerage that lost money while the exchange was closed, so

Finally, most of the quotes Chandrasekaran attributed to me he obtained from the confidential transcript of an exit interview I gave to the U.S. Institute of Peace for internal training purposes at the State Department. Thanks to his unauthorized use of this text, government workers may understandably be less willing to give such interviews in the future.

— Jay Hallen
New York

senior year a lot," he said. "I think he took fewer classes. Why?"

"He expects to finish his degree this academic year. Why wouldn't he? There's no reason why it wouldn't be possible."

"His college education was entirely covered by a grant of scholarships, cost \$200 ... So at this point he's technically running a profit."

What's amazing is that the catty style in which it was written, the pathos of life comes through, not the author.

Maybe it's fashionable overachieving immigrant, a nerdy light, but for my friends it was deeply upsetting. Read the article.

— Rukmini Shrinivasan

Susan Kinzie's article is a one-year academic work. It's positive, upbeat and until she wrote:

"His research project, a fifth-year doctoral candidate, is on the subject of pressure in an acoustic chamber — as if to reduce the pressure in a music chamber or pressure in an aircraft and involves using mathematical equations to — well, I don't know the idea."

No, I don't. Applied acoustics is a very broad field. I've never had to have read research he is engaged in. It's a basic description. That of David Banhart's shatters stereotypes, but Kinzie's disservice to a topic is served more detail. She reinforced stereotypes about mathematics by implying they are beyond your reach. I'm not a mathematician.

— Laszlo

With regard to 18-year-old graduate David Reed, interesting to note that Reed, discoverer of yellow fever, the doctor Walter Reed Army Medical Center is named and, like his Virginia resident, graduated from the University of Virginia with a medical degree months before his 18th birthday after one year of study.

— Edward



BY CHRIS KLEPONS — BLOOMBERG NEWS

Ann Richards at the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston.

Ann Richards Deserved More

What a stunning disappointment it was to see that The Post missed the mark in its coverage of the recent death of former Texas governor Ann Richards at age 73.

Her illness was not a secret; she announced in March that she had been diagnosed with cancer.

But the day after she died, The Post's front page included, for instance, a story about Silicon Valley's problems while Richards got a photo promotion at the bottom of the page and her obituary ran in the Metro section, also at the bottom of the page. The Post also ran an "appreciation" in

the Sept. 15 Style section but no editorial.

Ann Richards was a pillar of the Democratic Party. She was able to connect with people of all backgrounds. She had a gift that galvanized an audience to listen. She told it like it was and was known for her wit. She had guts. She was a trailblazer and an example of remarkable public service and courageous leadership.

Her life deserved far more attention than what she got from The Post.

— Allison Silberberg
Alexandria

Lawn Jockeys Only Offend

What was the reasoning behind your story on lawn jockeys ["In a Simple Lawn Ornament, Echoes of Slavery, Revolution," front page, Sept. 17]? It had no educational value whatsoever. It was juvenile and served only to perpetuate and celebrate the racial divisions inherent in this community and nation.

The simplicity of the article furthered the mythology of the majority — including the white people in the story — that their enjoyment and use of offensive statements and artifacts amounts to harmless fun not meant to disparage anyone.

I guess you are doing what an establishment paper does, and that is to keep the majority feeling superior to the minority.

— Arch L. Arrington Jr.
Stafford

Redskin City

Dave Sherman's prediction [letters, Sept. 14] that if The Post were to refuse to report on the Redskins "the name would quickly be changed" might happen in his city, Charlottesville. In Washington, never. What is more likely is that the team's fans would drop The Post like a hot potato and switch to another daily. Reality trumps "political correctness" every time.

— Everett Hopson
Fairfax