

SPORTS Sox sweep Astros, win first title in 88 years **C3**

HIGH SCHOOL Get ready for this weekend's football action **D1**



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CMU researchers develop speech translator

The breakthrough technology erases language barriers.

BY JENNIFER BAILS
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Imagine saying something in English and being understood by someone who speaks only Spanish.

Carnegie Mellon University researchers and German scientists today plan to demonstrate breakthrough technology in human speech translation by computers.

The system pioneered by Alex Waibel, a faculty member at CMU and the University of Karlsruhe in Germany, could bring closer the day when com-

municating in a foreign language is as easy as speaking in a native tongue.

Waibel, who is also director of the International Center for Advanced Communication Technologies, will deliver a lecture that will be translated simultaneously from English to Spanish to German using the new cross-lingual commu-

nication system. The two universities will showcase the technology through an international videoconference at both campuses.

Waibel also will demonstrate new ways of delivering computerized speech translation services beyond traditional headsets and audio equipment.

One involves an array of

small ultrasound speakers that can deliver a narrow beam of sound of translated language to one person, while others nearby hear the same speech in the original language as it is spoken.

Foreign language translation also can be performed using a system that tracks and measures electrical currents on the surface

of a person's cheek and throat as they mouth words instead of speaking aloud — lip reading for the 21st century.

Electrodes attached to the face recognize muscle movement made by mouthing words and then translate and deliver sound in another language.

SEE SPEECH • A11

"Nobody is following what is happening with these people. Nobody cares."

MARICK MASTERS, PROFESSOR AT PITT'S KATZ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Parking attendants block Downtown garage

Police arrest 14 union members during morning rush hour.

BY ANDREW CONTE
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

A Pittsburgh native who grew up in a union household, Brenda Wolfe said she sympathizes with parking attendants who are striking over wages and health benefits.

But as a consultant to Allegheny County, she hasn't received a pay raise in three years — and she parks where she can afford to leave her car.

"It bothers me to cross the picket line but, honestly, things such as they are, I don't have a lot of other options," said Wolfe, 38, of Penn Hills.

Like hundreds of commuters to Downtown, Wolfe parked Wednesday in the Pittsburgh Parking Authority garage on the Boulevard of the Allies even though parking attendants have been on strike there since Sept. 7.

She arrived at 5:45 a.m., shortly before members of Teamsters Local 926 set up a protest outside the garage. Fourteen people — including labor leaders — were arrested and charged with obstructing public passageways, police said.

A demonstration of that size, and a strike lasting for weeks, might have brought Pittsburgh to a halt decades ago. But a lot has changed in the past 25 years, and commuters say they felt more annoyed about not getting to their parking spots than inspired to honor the picket.

The strike — a dispute about seniority rights and employee health care costs — affects the region's largest parking operators: the Pittsburgh Parking Authority, which has 7,225 spaces Downtown, in Oakland and Shadyside; and Alco Parking Corp. and its sister firm, Grant



JAMES E. KNOX/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Teamsters shout at a driver trying to cross the picket line and enter the Wood Allies garage Wednesday on the Boulevard of the Allies, Downtown. Teamsters blocked the entrance to the garage during morning rush hour, locking their arms and refusing to move.

Oliver Corp., which have about 39,000 spaces Downtown, on the North Side and at Pittsburgh International Airport.

The Teamsters rejected an offer from Alco and Grant Oliver Corp. that would have boosted wages by 50 cents an hour over three years, from \$12.70 an hour to \$13.20 an hour. Alco offered to pay 92 percent of employees' monthly health premiums, equal to \$103.66 for a family.

"Nobody is following what is happening with these people," said Marick Masters, professor at the University of Pittsburgh's Katz School of Business.

"Nobody cares. These jobs are looked upon as relatively easy and well-paid. They look cushy, and people are resentful of them going on strike."

The Teamsters, who represent about 280 parking lot and garage

workers, were striking yesterday in anticipation of afternoon contract negotiations with the parking authority. Authority Chairman David Onorato said the union hasn't responded to the authority's latest offer, and the meeting was canceled last week. Merrill Stabile, president of Alco Parking, said he had not received a response to his latest offer either.

SEE PARKING STRIKE • A8

Iran: Wipe Israel off map

President Ahmadinejad calls it 'disgraceful blot'

The U.S. says his words justify watching Iran's nuclear program.

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN, Iran — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad declared Wednesday that Israel is a "disgraceful blot" that should be "wiped off the map" — fiery words that Washington said underscores its concern over Iran's nuclear program.

Ahmadinejad's speech to thousands of students at a "World Without Zionism" conference set a hard-line foreign policy course sharply at odds with that of his moderate predecessor, echoing the sentiments of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of Iran's Islamic revolution.

The United States said Ahmadinejad's remarks show that Washington's fears about Iran's nuclear program are accurate.

SEE IRAN • A11

Candidate's drug allegations stir Bethel Park

Police rebut accusation about lax enforcement at the high school.

BY RICHARD BYRNE REILLY
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

A mayoral candidate's flier referring to Bethel Park High School as "Heroin High" has stoked tensions and raised questions about the community's heroin problem three years after



Kennedy

Chief John Mackey. The police department is

authorities cracked down on drug users by arresting overdose victims after they recovered.

"To call it 'Heroin High' is totally absurd, and beyond that, totally unfair," said police

known for aggressively investigating illegal drug use — at the high school and elsewhere in the community — since Mackey three years ago publicly acknowledged a heroin problem in the community to Bethel Park Council. He stations an officer daily at the school, and K-9 officers search lockers for drugs. Drug-sniffing dogs are sometimes used for traffic stops.

The campaign letter, written by Democratic mayoral candi-

date Jeffrey Michael Kennedy and sent to about 2,500 homes in the town of 34,000 people, asserts the school's "heroin problem is being ignored."

"My two daughters attend local colleges and everyone they meet recognizes Bethel Park as 'Heroin High,'" Kennedy wrote. "Last year, four children died from a drug overdose in Bethel Park. This needs to stop."

SEE ALLEGATIONS • A8

Gov. Bush takes blame for errant relief plans

Florida governor says the state, not FEMA, botched some responses.

BY CURT ANDERSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Gov. Jeb Bush took the blame Wednesday for frustrating delays at centers distrib-

uting supplies to victims of Hurricane Wilma, saying criticism of the Federal Emergency Management Agency was misdirected.

"Don't blame FEMA. This is our responsibility," Bush said at a news conference in Tallahassee with federal Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, who oversees the agency.

SEE RELIEF • A10

MORNING BRIEFING

Weather

46-34



Variably cloudy with a shower today; mostly cloudy tonight. **A14**

Nation/World

■ A New York jury finds port authorities negligent for failing to prevent the 1993 truck bombing at the World Trade Center. **A3**

■ The grand jury in the CIA leak case meets behind closed doors for three hours. **A7**

Opinion

■ No self-respecting commonwealth should have to tolerate self-dealing pay-jackers. An editorial. **A12**

City & Region

■ Allegheny's newest home buyers will get huge property-tax breaks under the new assessment system. **B1**

■ A blog entry on homosexuality gets a Duquesne University student in trouble. **B1**

Business

■ Hundreds of jobs could be created locally as Westinghouse gets orders for a pair of power plants. **E1**

■ Sony will end production of cathode-ray TVs, and the company says it will lay off 275 workers by February. **E1**

Ticket

■ The Zoo Boo scares up more treats this year for little goblins at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. **4**

■ Thirteen Halloween movies — to send giggles up your spine. **18**

Gassing up, naturally

Hoping to fuel motorists' desire for a less-costly commute, Honda will boost production of its natural gas Civic GX, which can be filled up from home. **E1**



Index

VOL. 117 • NO. 266
Business **E1**
City & Region **B8**
Editorials **A12**
Financial **D1**
Lotteries **A14**
Obituaries **B4**
Sports **C1**

In Ticket

Advice **28**
Crossword **29**
Horoscope **28**
Movies **23**
Sudoku **28**
Television **30**