

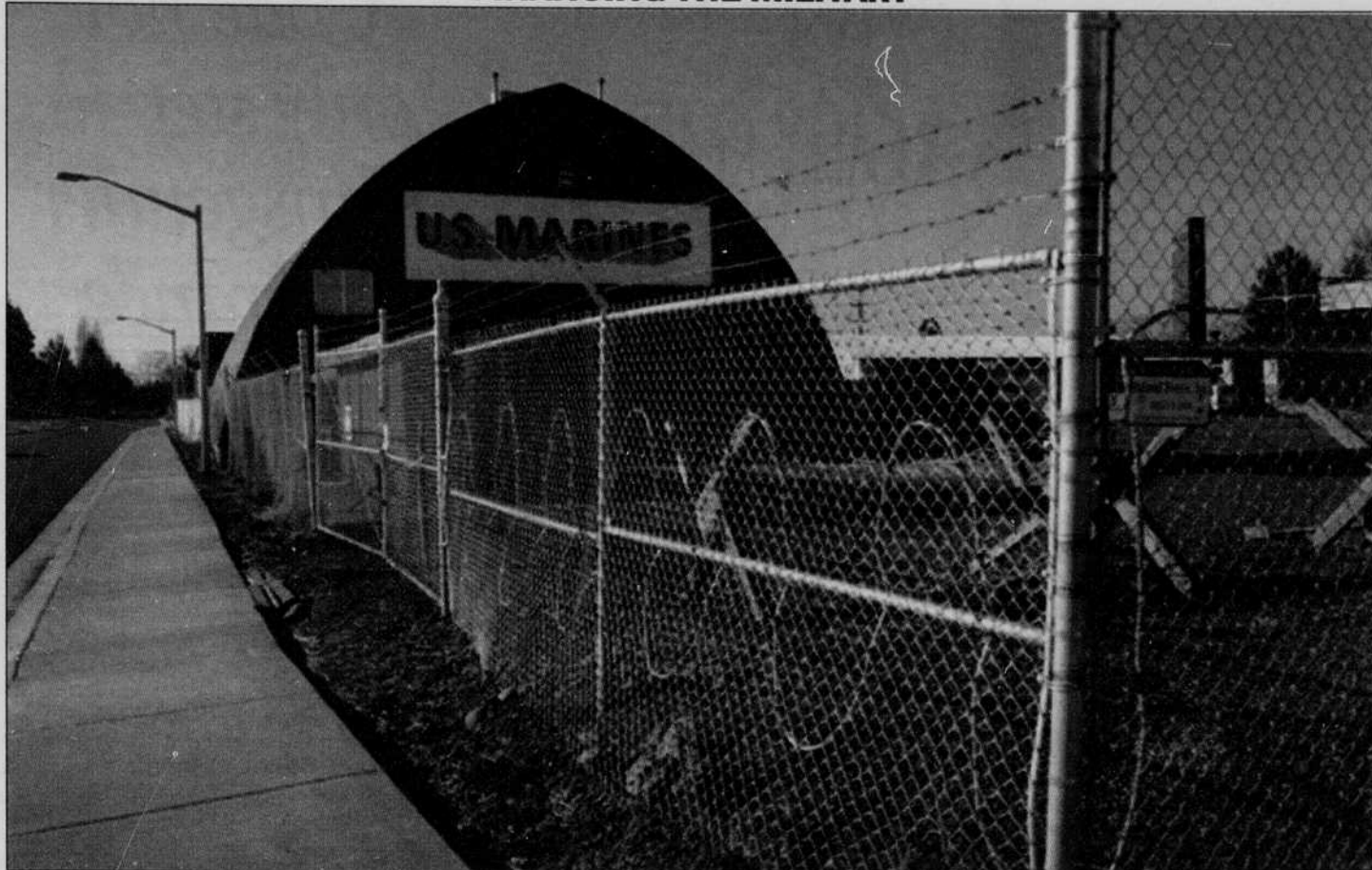
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FINANCING THE MILITARY



LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The Marine Corps and Army would be among the recipients of the \$82 billion in supplemental military funding President Bush requested Monday. The request includes \$5.3 million to begin restructuring the Army and Marines.

Bush requests \$82 billion addition

The proposed budget increase would boost funding for military equipment and tsunami-affected areas

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

President Bush asked Congress on Monday for an additional \$81.9 billion next year to pay for military and intelligence operations in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as benefits for the survivors of service members and tsunami relief. The action clarified one of several elusive items not included in last week's initial budget proposal that may affect the administration's plans to deflate the federal deficit.

Homeland security and defense spending were already slated to get a boost next year at the expense of domestic programs under the initial \$2.57 trillion federal budget Bush submitted last week.

The original proposal, which will likely face difficulties in Congress, is the first one to include cuts to non-defense discretionary spending since the Reagan administration.

It cuts spending in nine of 15 cabinet-level departments, decreasing overall non-defense discretionary spending by about one percent.

It also includes efforts to implement permanent tax cuts during Bush's first term.

The budget reflects Bush's recent promise in the Feb. 2 State of the Union address to keep spending increases below inflation and stay on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009 by freezing domestic discretionary spending for five years.

Yet the original proposal does not include expenses that would be incurred from the ongoing

wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, from efforts to make prior tax cuts permanent and from controversial changes to Medicare, University political science assistant professor Eric McGhee said.

"All of these things are not trivial costs," he said. "They've done everything they can in this budget to not include these costs. That's the thing that's striking about it."

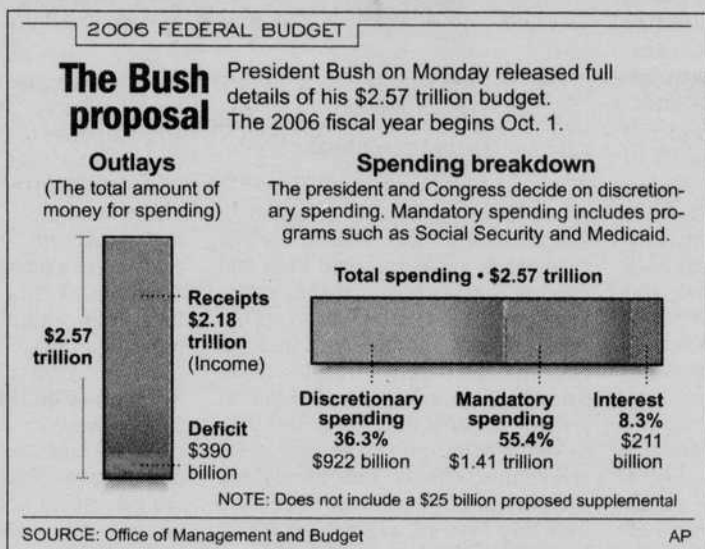
The supplemental request released Monday would earmark \$12 billion to repair, refurbish or obtain equipment to replace items worn out during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, including \$3.3 billion to armor convoy trucks and buy helicopter survivability systems.

It also includes \$7.4 billion to aid Iraqi and Afghan security forces; \$5.3 billion to begin restructuring the Marine Corps and Army into self-sufficient, modular units; \$2 billion to help rebuild Afghanistan; \$400 million for the survivors of service members; and \$950 million for areas affected by the tsunami.

Bush said the money will allow U.S. forces to "play a critical role" in working to cement democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The majority of this request will ensure that our troops continue to get what they need to protect themselves and complete their mission," Bush said in a statement Monday. "It also provides for the continued pursuit of al-Qaida and other terrorist elements in Afghanistan and elsewhere."

Bush urged Congress to "move



quickly so our troops and diplomats have the tools they need to succeed."

McGhee said the initial proposal differs from past budgets issued by the Bush administration because it tries to cut discretionary spending, or spending Congress can decide whether to approve each year.

"It makes a lot of efforts at cutting discretionary spending and not many efforts at cutting Medicare or Social Security," he said. "They don't tackle those big entitlement programs. That's where all the money is."

McGhee said cutting only discretionary spending won't lower the federal deficit, as the administration predicts.

"When you're attacking discretionary spending, you're attacking a chunk of the federal budget that is actually smaller in total than the deficit," he said. "You could actually shut down the federal government ... and cancel every discretionary

program, ... and you still wouldn't solve the federal deficit."

He said the administration may cut some large programs with its proposed Social Security reforms, but costs from new prescription drug benefits offered by Medicare would outweigh those savings.

"What they're doing is trying to make a show of deficit reduction, but in reality there's not much in the budget that does that," he said.

During the 1990s, President Clinton and the Republican Congress came to an agreement about how to cut the deficit that involved some tax increases and adjustments to entitlement programs, McGhee said. Because Bush has said he won't raise taxes, he can't use that method.

He added that discretionary spending has generally increased since Bush took office, during a time when tax receipts have decreased.

"It's an uphill battle to get to a

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ASUO court dismisses attempt to begin recall

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

The ASUO Constitution Court on Tuesday denied a University sophomore's request to begin gathering signatures to initiate a recall of the ASUO Executive and the ASUO Student Senate.

The court rejected computer science major Silas Snider's petition because it "does not conform to the requirements of bringing a matter before the Court" as defined in court rules, according to the decision.

Snider filed the request because he was concerned by student government leaders' actions on an Oct. 8-10 Sunriver retreat, at which ASUO officials drank alcohol and smoked marijuana, a violation of the Student Conduct Code.

The court opinion, written by Chief Justice Randy Derrick, stated that Snider's paperwork fails to meet the requirement of Rule 10.1.1.5, which states that petitions must contain "a concise statement of the case containing the facts material to the consideration of the questions presented."

Snider didn't specify the nature and specific instances of the "alleged incidents that occurred at the Sunriver retreat" or the specific rules and regulations the students violated as a result of their actions, according to the decision.

"In reviewing the facts material to the case, the Court is bound to review the petition based on its merits and without interference from

PETITION, page 12

Former Chi Psi pledges accept suit settlement

The two men sought damages for injuries sustained when the fraternity house's balcony collapsed

BY KARA HANSEN
NEWS REPORTER

Two former Chi Psi Fraternity pledges who filed a lawsuit after a balcony at their fraternity house collapsed and left them injured avoided a trial Tuesday after accepting a settlement for an unidentified amount of money.

Nathan Baston and former University student McDaniel Brookman were suing the Chi Psi Fraternity, its local chapter and its associates for about \$1.5 million after a second-story balcony they were standing on at the Chi Psi house collapsed and sent them sprawling onto the ground.

Brookman and Baston received an unidentified amount of money in a confidential settlement reached in December 2004, according to the office of their attorney, Neil Lathen.

In the lawsuit, filed in December 2003, Brookman and Baston claimed Chi Psi Fraternity members ushered them onto a second-story balcony at the house at 1018 Hilyard St., along with a group of other students pledging the

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