

## THE PLAIN DEALER

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2007

## Chinese schools flourish



THOMAS ONDREY | THE PLAIN DEALER

Sally Keyes listens to instructions with her daughter, Samantha, 6, during Chinese as a Second Language class at the Chinese Academy of Cleveland in Gates Mills. Mother-daughter pairings are one strategy the school is using to respond to a surge in enrollment by local parents who adopted from China.

## Adopted children outshine their American parents

ROBERT L. SMITH  
Plain Dealer Reporter

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Eight-year-old Mary confidently wheels a Hello Kitty backpack into Saturday Chinese school, where she's often the first in class to raise her hand.

She should probably move up a grade, says her mother, who adopted

her daughter from China. In fact, Mary once sat with a more advanced class at this growing, all-Mandarin school in Gates Mills.

But, well, mom was struggling.

"I couldn't keep up," said Kathryn Robakowski of Garfield Heights, turning a shade of pink. "There's a lot of work!"

And the children learn faster. It was Mary who advised mom one day, in a whisper across the desktops, that she was holding her book upside down.

Such mistakes draw smiles but really no shame in a class where American-

born moms and sometimes dads sit beside their child adopted from China, each trying to fathom one of the world's most difficult languages.

Their presence here, in a school where staff meetings are held in a Taiwanese dialect, was unimaginable even a few years ago.

SEE CHINESE | A6

## Kucinich owes public funds used late in '04 run

SABRINA EATON  
Plain Dealer Bureau

WASHINGTON — Dennis Kucinich's 2004 presidential campaign didn't get many votes, but it did receive nearly \$3.1 million in federal matching funds from taxpayers.

Now it has to return \$137,358 of that money.

On Thursday, the Federal Election Commission determined that Kucinich misused that much by continuing to campaign with federal money long past the point when he should have. That point precisely: March 4, 2004, when poor showings in several consecutive primaries disqualified Kucinich from campaigning with money the federal government previously gave him.

The government provides limited matching funds to candidates who agree to abide by FEC guidelines and steadily get at least 10 percent of primary votes. Although Kucinich kept campaigning until John Kerry became the official Democratic Party nominee on July 29, 2004, the FEC said he wasn't qualified to use federal money past March 4.

SEE FEC | A14



Kucinich

Read the latest on Campaign 2008



GUS CHAN | THE PLAIN DEALER

Tripp Forstner, the son of a primary plaintiff in a lawsuit against Land O'Lakes, shows off a scrappy new alpaca that will later plump out with a woolly soft fleece like its watching mother.

## Alpaca breeder sues feed maker

ALISON GRANT  
Plain Dealer Reporter

A top U.S. producer of animal feed and one of North America's biggest alpaca breeders are heading to federal court Monday over claims that contaminated feed killed and injured hundreds of animals.

Magical Farms in Litchfield Township and a smaller alpaca operation in Medina — Majestic Meadows Alpacas — together are seeking \$15 million in damages.

They claim an antibiotic that can be lethal to alpacas, or cause severe heart, liver and kidney damage, was somehow added to feed they

bought in early 2003 from a Massillon mill owned by defendant Land O'Lakes Farmland Feed.

The two alpaca operations are suing Farmland Feed and its parent company, Land O'Lakes Inc., in U.S. District Court in Cleveland.

SEE LAWSUIT | A3

## ANALYSIS

## In focus: Iraq war all about end game

Bush forges ahead; Democrats seek exit

PAUL RICHTER  
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The new Democratic proposals for Iraq eventually may be weakened or killed, but in one stroke they have transformed a many-sided debate about the conflict into a sharp-edged argument about the end game.

Ever since the midterm election signaled deepening public unhappiness with the war, Republicans have urged a push toward victory, while Democrats have complained about the administration's course but failed to gather around a single alternative.

Now, the Democratic mainstream has made its decision and offered the public a choice: Follow the president's plan to use U.S. combat troops indefinitely, or shift U.S. soldiers to a secondary role and begin withdrawing them.

President Bush and Republican loyalists believe the public, despite its unhappiness with the war, will stop short of trying to intervene in the management of the war in a way they say risks defeat.

"This is like Lyndon Johnson picking targets for the Air Force in Vietnam. The public won't go for it," said one senior House Republican aide.

But the Democratic leadership, after weeks of a shifting intramural argument, has decided that the best indicator of America's mood came in the November election.

A USA Today-Gallup poll released this week showed that 60 percent favor setting a deadline for U.S. troops to leave by the end of next year.

SEE IRAQ | A8

## What Democrats want

## House legislation

- Begins withdrawing troops from Iraq by the end of the year and ends combat duties by August 2008.
- Brings troops home sooner if the Iraqi government does not meet goals for easing violence in the country.

- Adds \$4 billion to President Bush's request for military spending, including \$1 billion extra to ramp up efforts in Afghanistan.

- Prohibits military action against Iran unless Congress authorizes.

## Senate legislation

- Requires Bush to change the mission of U.S. forces to protecting U.S. personnel and infrastructure, training Iraqi forces, and conducting counterterrorism.

- Mandates troop withdrawals to begin within 120 days of enactment, with most combat forces out by March 31, 2008.

- Requires progress reports from the president to Congress.

 FORECAST, B10:  
Milder, partial sunshine.  
High 48, low 37.


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## NEWS MINUTE

## ENTERTAINMENT

## An even dozen

Adios, Antonella and Sabrina. Adieu, Jared and Jason. There are now just 12 finalists in the "American Idol" competition. **Details, E3**

## BOOKS

## Book prizes

A book of poetry with a press run of only 750 copies wins the top poetry prize at the National Book Critics Circle awards. **Details, E6**

## ARTS &amp; LIFE

## Our finest hour

Are you ready for daylight-saving time to arrive on Sunday morning? Really ready? Are you sure? Examine the pros and cons of this year's early start. **Details, E1**

## WASHINGTON

## Senate wins scrap on U.S. attorneys

Backing down in the dispute over its firing of eight federal prosecutors, the Bush administration agrees not to oppose legislation requiring Senate confirmation for all U.S. attorneys. **Details, A4**