

Pennsylvania guardsman evokes a tear, shed by Staff Sgt. Ronnie Butts and brushed away by his fiancée, Gail Howard. They were yesterday of Sgt. Michael Egan, 36, a Pennsauken native and comrade of Butts' who was killed Sept. 19 in Iraq. **Story, B5.**

PETER TOBIA / Inquirer Staff Photographer

he right, a Bush IOU is supreme

IN DEBATE

The conservatives have a message for President Bush: Satisfy us, or else.

A historic moment has arrived. For decades, they have pined for a conservative takeover of the U.S. Supreme Court. They have tried to mute their concerns about Bush's first nominee, John G. Roberts Jr., a pillar of the legal establishment and therefore not the conserva-

tive ideologue of their dreams.

But now that Bush is poised — any day now — to name his second justice, to replace Sandra Day O'Connor, they seem anxious to collect an IOU from the man who would not have won the White House without their votes.

To fill the seat that could tip the court rightward, either Bush serves up a die-hard conservative nominee who doesn't

mince words about opposing abortion and gay rights (in other words, someone more outspoken than Roberts), or he will surely infuriate many of his own followers — who will then assail him as a betrayer of the movement, and bash him with

See **POLMAN** on A8

■ Justices will reenter the fray over campaign financing. **A6.**

Philadelphia Inquirer

to save people?
their animals

on: Evacuees won't leave pets.

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WRITER
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storms had
nd Katrina

Katrina's message was not lost on Galveston, Texas, where officials evacuating the city in the face of Hurricane Rita allowed residents to take their pets with them on escape buses — a marked contrast to the New Orleans policy.

In Pennsylvania and New Jersey, officials started to plan for animal evacuations last year, but Katrina has focused their efforts.

They are in the vanguard of 16 states now assembling veterinarians, animal experts and laypeople into voluntary, county-based rescue teams that would evacuate and shelter animals during a disaster.

Some U.S. lawmakers and animal advocates are now saying the federal government needs a plan, too.

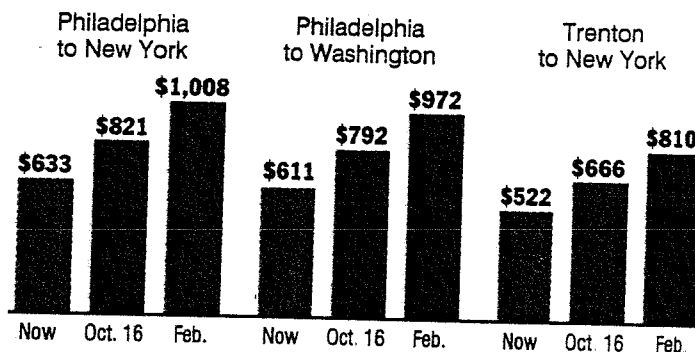
Katrina "has really shined the spotlight on the absence of a fed-

See **PETS** on A14

Commuters Facing Fare Hikes

Amtrak has announced large increases for monthly pass customers starting next month. See story on **B2.**

Cost of a monthly pass for selected Amtrak routes



SOURCE: Amtrak

JOHN TIerno / Inquirer Staff Artist

Inside

Iraq al-Qaeda No. 2 dead
U.S., Iraq troops say they shot the suicide-bombing mastermind in Baghdad. **A3.**

Phila.: "Next Great City"
National Geographic Traveler magazine touts our town. **C1.**

Elijah Wood's next step
The no-longer-hobbit stars in *Everything is Illuminated*. **E1.**

WEATHER

High 77, Low 63

Sunny and pleasant.
Exclusive
NBC10

EarthWatch forecast, **B7.**
Air quality: Good

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See **ECONOMY**

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Amtrak revives plan for fare increases

By Larry King
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Amtrak, which recently postponed steep fare increases for Northeast commuters, revived that plan yesterday on a slightly more gradual schedule.

Beginning Tuesday, general fares on most trains will increase by 5 to 7 percent, the railroad announced.

A larger wallop awaits regular riders who buy monthly passes, some of which carry discounts of nearly 70 percent off the regular fare. The cost of getting to and from work for those riders will increase by hundreds of dollars per month.

The monthly discounts will drop to about 60 percent on Oct. 16. In February, the discounts will be cut to 50 percent.

For example, a monthly pass for travel between 30th Street Station in Philadelphia and Penn Station in New York sells for \$633. By February, that would rise to \$1,008.

The increases are almost identical to a plan, announced by Amtrak Sept. 9, which was to take effect Monday.

Six days after that initial announcement, amid harsh criticism from riders and some politicians, Amtrak announced it was postponing the increase, pending further review.

"Everything they are doing is what they originally planned, except that the time element is a little different," said Ross Capon, executive director of the National Association of Railroad Passengers. "I would have preferred for them to reexamine the targets."

Capon said some commuters may choose to stockpile advance monthly passes at current rates. But, he added,

"That's only helpful if you have a lot of cash lying around, and the people who get hit the hardest are the ones who don't."

About 2,000 Northeast Corridor riders use monthly passes, most of them commuting between Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, according to Amtrak. The 50 percent discount will still be the largest given to commuters by any railroad, Amtrak added.

In its announcement yesterday, the heavily subsidized railroad blamed rising fuel costs and other operating expenses.

"I obviously think it's a major error," said U.S. Rep. Robert E. Andrews (D., N.J.), speaking from an Amtrak train bound for Washington. "At a time when gasoline prices are rising, it makes no sense to raise the price of mass transit."

U.S. Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick (R., Pa.) had met in his office with Amtrak president David Gunn on Sept. 15, the day the increases were postponed.

"I don't understand their business decision-making," Fitzpatrick said yesterday, though he remained pleased that Amtrak canceled plans to cut service at Cornwells Heights, its only Bucks County stop.

But yesterday's announcement surprised him.

"There was an understanding that there would be good communication," Fitzpatrick said of his meeting with Gunn. Instead, "I was handed a press release that this decision was made."

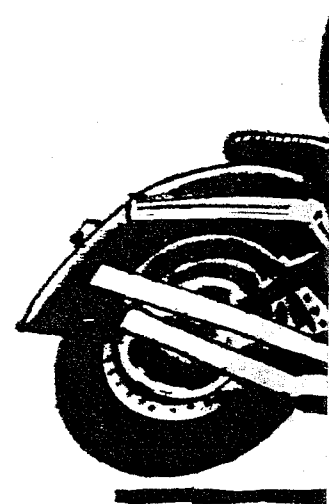
Contact staff writer Larry King at 215-345-0446 or lking@phillynews.com.

The Cappies: Critics and Awards Program

Friday is the deadline for high schools to sign up for the Greater Philadelphia Cappies, a theater program sponsored by The Inquirer.

The Cappies — the Critics and Awards Program — allows high school theater and journalism students to be trained as

Com



Helmet law

By Stewart L. Cohen

I am a pro football fan, a lifelong Eagles fan, so I fully appreciate that the all-popular sport can bring attention to social issues in a way that few other things can.

On its Sept. 18 *Sportscenter* program, ESPN televised a report about two football players who also have an interest in riding motorcycles.

One of them, Jamie Henderson, a former defensive back for the New York Jets, was in a motorcycle accident in April 2004. Despite his injuries, he is now conditioning himself to get back into pro football. "I'm alive because I wore a helmet," he told ESPN. State law in Georgia, where he was riding, requires motorcyclists to wear helmets.

Henderson's story was followed by an interview with Ben Roethlisberger, star quarterback of the Pittsburgh Steelers. He said he



Stewart L. C.