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Reese Center

could see

\$16 million

in funding

Rep. Larry Combest, R-Lubbock, announced Wednesday the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense has

The proposed plan involves the cre-

ation of a new research program to be

conducted at the Institute on Environ-

mental and Human Health at the Reese

measures to Biological and Chemical

A new National Center for Counter-

forwarded a plan to the full Appropriations Committee that would bring an estimated \$16 million to Texas Tech re-

by Matt Green Staff Writer

A Color All Their Own



Onion invention named after Tech's Lady Raiders

story by Tricia Jarmer • photos by Wes Underwood

or the first time in Texas Tech history a vegetable has been named after a campus entity.

Texas Tech professor Ellen Peffley from the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences has developed a new breed of the Texas Grano sweet onion. The breeding for the onion began in 1996, and Peffley decided to name the onion "Lady Raider."

The onion has a unique dusty rose color that reminded Peffley of the Lady Raiders, so she decided to name the new breed after the team.

"It (the onion) has an unusual rose color," Peffley said. "The dusty rose color reminded me of the Lady Raiders. I thought it would reflect the champion Lady Raiders."

Because the sweet onion is not genetically engineered, the regeneration of cycles of seeds take some time, Peffley said. This regeneration process causes the delay to the public. The onion, planted in the fall and harvested in June, has acquired the dusty color through the regeneration processes.

Tech Athletic Director Gerald Myers lauded Peffley's work.

"Anytime you got a team and

you got a professor that names a vegetable after the program, that is very complimentary to the program," Myers said.

Peffley and several graduate students have been working on the project for several

It takes about 20 years from the time breeding first begins in order for the onion to reach the market. So, individuals will not be able to purchase the onion for at least another de-

Kevin Lombard, a graduate student in horticulture from Fort Worth, has been researching the health benefits of the Lady Raider onion for the past

"Some of the health aspects of onions include the prevention of cancer, heart attacks and strokes," Lombard said.

Peffley said she plans to see the project through until the end — as long as funding is provided. It takes \$50,000 per year in funding to allow the research to happen.

The funding for the Lady Raider onion comes in part from state money and the Institute for Plant Stress and Water Research.



Onion of Champs: Ellen Peffley, professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, checks her Lady Raider onion at a research plot on Fourth Quaker

Threats would receive \$13 million, and an Institute on Environmental and Human Health would receive \$3 million. If approved, this would be the largest amount of research funding ever given to The proposed BioTech research program would be a consortium project between Tech, the University of Texas System and the University of South Florida.

Turf replaced in stadium

see REESE, page 2

by Andy Jones

Staff Writer

For the first time in 11 years, Jones Stadium is receiving new artificial turf.

The old turf is being replaced at a cost nearly \$1 million, said Texas Tech Athletic Director Gerald Myers.

The new turf was purchased from Southwest Recreational Industries, Inc., of Leander, a company specializing in sports surfaces including AstroTurf.

Southwest, the company that invented AstroTurf in 1965 and first featured the artificial turf in the Astrodome in Houston, installed all the previous turfs at Tech and recently put down new turf at Dan Law Field.

Jim Savoca, vice president of sales at Southwest, said the new turf at Jones Sta-

DA's office to pursue charges against Sholars

by Angel Wolfe

Staff Writer

The Lubbock District Attorney's office confirmed they are still pursuing charges against former Director of Track and Field Greg Sholars for simple assault.

Assistant District Attorney Tom Stanfield, who will be the prosecuting attorney, said the case against Sholars is still pending.

"The next step is that he will be placed on an announcement docket and he will have to hire

an attorney," Stanfield said. "He will then have to show up with a lawyer and will have a jury trial." A recent report in the Houston Chronicle named Jesse Mendez as Sholars attorney.

see SHOLARS, page 5

see TURF, page 3

Tech duo to compete in Brazilian tournament

Instructor, student to vie in Jiu-jitsu World Championship

by Matt Green

Staff Writer

A Texas Tech instructor and one student will compete in the Brazilian Jiu-jitsu World Championship in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on July 23-25

Klay Pittman, a physical fitness and wellness instructor who graduated from Tech in 1998 with a degree in business management, and Rex Benson, a junior public relations major from Fort Worth, left Lubbock on Tuesday night.

The pair will train for several days with masters from around the world at the Gracie-Barra school in Rio before the competition.

"It's the best jiu-jitsu school in the world," Pittman said.

Pittman has won numerous tournaments across the United States, but said this one is the most prestigious.

"It's a tough tournament,"

Pittman said. "The best fighters in the world will be there."

Pittman has trained for five years under Brazilian master Carlos Machado, who thinks he has a good chance of winning the tournament.

"I think he is one of the top 10 fighters in his weight class," Machado said.

Machado attributed Pittman's success in previous competitions to

his unique style on the mat.

"He fights in a very methodical and controlled way," Machado said.

Jiu-jitsu is considered the national sport of Brazil, and is second only to soccer in popularity.

The sport began gaining popularity in the United States when Royce Gracie used the style to win the first Ultimate Fighting Championship.

"Brazilian Jiu-jitsu is quickly becoming the most dominant martial art in the U.S.," Pittman said.

Of the 2000 fighters scheduled to

compete in the tournament, only 100 are from the United States. Most of the fighters have been trained in Brazil, Japan or European countries.

Pittman said Americans bring a different aspect to the sport.

"Brazilians are highly technical, but Americans are physically stronger," Pittman said.

Benson trained for the competition as a student at Pittman's Academy of Martial Arts and Brazilian Jiu-jitsu at 2233 34th St.

He said he will work hard to win, but looks forward to the tournament as a learning experience.

"I'm going there mainly for the experience," Benson said, "I look forward to training in the motherland."

Pittman will return to Lubbock on July 28, and resume teaching at his academy.

He will be teaching two self-defense sections at Tech this fall.



Give Him A Hand: Brazilian Jiu-jitsu master Carlos Machado congratulates Tech instructor Klay Pittman after a win. Pittman, along with Tech student Rex Benson, will travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to compete for the Jiu-jitsu World Championship.

TURF, from page 1

dium will be AstroTurf 12-2000, making Tech the first school in Texas to get the newest line of turf on the market.

Savoca said the AstroTurf 12-2000 starts from the bottom up with a 26-millimeter layer of reground rubber, followed by a 3/8-inch specially-developed alloy foam that is punched

for drainage. Savoca said the turf offers less dry traction and better wet traction.

The field will have a full warranty for eight years and will need hardly any paint with most of the lines and markings on the field being inlaid into the turf, Savoca said.

Myers said only the hash marks

will need to be painted on and that with a life expectancy of 8 years, the old turf was beginning to be a little worn-out.

"The system will be a lot more shock absorbent than previous systems," Myers said. "The padding is an improved system."

The estimated \$1 million cost is

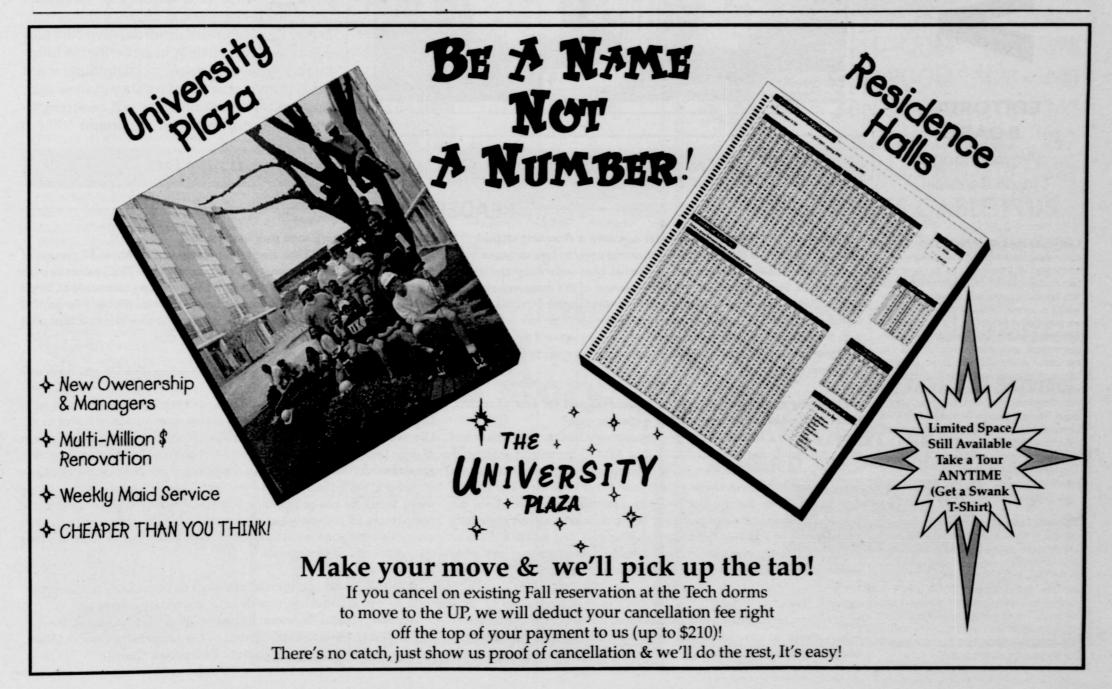
being financed primarily through donations, \$870,000 of which has already been raised, Myers said.

Savoca said the crew has about 30 days of work left on the field, which overlaps the completion date and the date for fall football practices in early August.

Myers said the football team will use

the grass practice field north of Jones Stadium until the new turf is complete. The field is expected to be ready for the Red Raiders home opener September 18 against North Texas.

The Red Raiders open the season on the road against Arizona State on September 4 on a natural grass playing surface.



Campus officials will not tolerate illegal weapons

by Angel Wolfe

Staff Writer

On the Texas Tech campus, along with all other education facilities, it is illegal to be in possession of a weapon.

A weapon includes, but is not limited to, a club, an illegal knife and a fire arm including anything that fires a projectile by means of gun powder, as defined by the Texas Penal Code, Section 46.03.

Dan Hale, public information officer for the Texas Tech Police Department, said the strictest interpretation of the law says if a person is caught with a weapon on campus, they are to be immediately arrested, the weapon confiscated for evidence and the person taken to county jail.

"The law is black and white," Hale

said. "The application is sometimes gray."

Hale said it is up to the officer as to whether or not he or she will arrest the person.

"When an officer runs across a situation (where someone has a weapon on campus), they have to weigh the circumstances," Hale said. "We do arrest people for this."

Michael Shonrock, dean of students at Tech, said there are disciplinary actions independent of what the law states for students caught with a weapon on campus. The ultimate disciplinary action that could happen to a student is expulsion, but Shonrock said that was rare to happen.

"There could be some extenuating circumstances that might occur as to why the student has the gun on campus," Shonrock said. "Each situation

is looked at on a case-by-case basis.

Shonrock said students could arrange to store their guns at the TTPD and would be able to check out the gun when needed.

"Being in West Texas, we have some hunters," Shonrock said. "If they had the gun checked out (from the TTPD) and locked in the trunk, obviously that would be different than having a pistol in the front seat of the car."

Shonrock said no gun is permitted on this campus, whether it is a student, faculty or staff member.

"If no shot is ever fired on this campus, that's fine with me," Shonrock said.

There were no gun violations on the Tech campus in 1998 and statistics have not yet been released for the 1999 year, Shonrock said. Reese, from page |

Robert Sweazy, senior associate vice president for research at Tech, said both programs would be primarily staffed by Tech researchers, and Tech would control the funding for the BioTech research program.

"We would be the lead institution in the program," Sweazy said.

Tech researchers in the areas of biological sciences, chemistry, engineering, agriculture and Health Sciences Center personnel would be used to conduct studies under the new program.

"There are about 50 Tech faculty members involved in the project," Sweazy said.

The Institute on Environmental and Human Health already is in place at Reese Center, but the BioTech research would bring a

new aspect to studies being conducted there.

"It would devise ways to defend ourselves from biological warfare," Sweazy said.

Becca Underwood, Combest's press secretary, said this plan must complete many other stages before it could be put into effect.

"The plan is still in the preliminary phase," Underwood said.

The proposal still must be approved by the House Full Appropriations Committee, the Senate and then agreed upon by both groups. Area lawmakers are trying to complete all of these approval phases before the end of the fiscal year on Oct. 1.

"We're trying to move on this plan before the August recess," Underwood said.

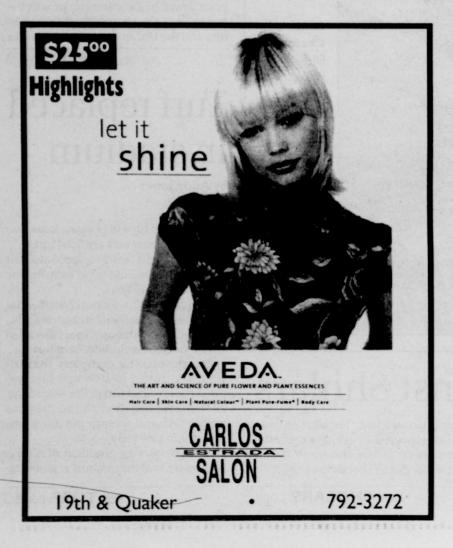
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House passes bill to protect religious practices

WASHINGTON (AP) — Muslim policemen growing beards and Jewish boys wearing yarmulkes in public schools would be better protected from government restrictions under legislation the House approved Thursday on religious rights.

The bill, passed 306-118, has broad support from the Clinton administration, major religious groups and organizations ranging from the Christian Coalition to the Anti-Defamation League. But some civil rights groups also warned of people using

WASHINGTON (AP) — Muslim new religious protections to justify racial or sexual discrimination.

The legislation aims to override Supreme Court decisions and restore a principle that laws and regulations may not interfere with the exercise of religion unless there is a compelling government interest in doing so.

Supporters cited numerous cases of what they considered bureaucratic interference with religious practice. Besides city and school dress and appearance rules, they spoke of local zoning laws that force churches to close down after certain hours, autopsies on Orthodox Jews in violation of their religious beliefs, a person denied employment because her faith prevented her from taking a loyalty oath.

"It puts some common sense in the murky waters of the First Amendment regarding the separation of church and state," said Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Ga.

The bill, which still requires Senate action, is the latest congressional move in a decade-long dispute with the courts over how far the government can go to protect religion.

In 1990 the Supreme Court ruled that religious practices did not have special rights in the enforcement of laws and regulations. Congress responded in 1993 by passing a measure stating that governments must have a compelling reason to bar religious practices, but in 1997 the Supreme Court struck down that law, saying Congress had exceeded its constitutional authority.

The "Religious Liberty Protection Act" passed Thursday attempts to meet constitutional standards by limiting its scope to federally funded state and local programs and issues involving interstate commerce. It also applies to land use regulations that discriminate against houses of worship.

Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., chief sponsor of the legislation, said the spending and commerce provisions were also backbones of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

SHOLARS, from page 1

Mendez could not be reached for comment.

Cantrece Hayslett, former assistant women's track coach, said she would help the assistant district attorney in any way that she can.

"I will provide documentation," Hayslett said. "I am not going to attack Greg, but I will give names and witnesses to help with the case."

Hayslett said although it was not in her nature to attack someone, she did want to make sure the truth comes out.

"I will protect myself," she said. "If the DA needs help, I will do as much as possible so the truth will be known."

Hayslett had dropped the simple assault charges she filed against Sholars on May 5 after he allegedly scratched, punched and bit her on March 16 in the R. P. Fuller Track parking lot, located west of the track field on campus. The two had been arguing in her vehicle when the alleged assault took place.

"I dropped the charges because I did not want the athletes to suffer," Hayslett said. "I knew there would be a lot of bad press. The athletes would have to go to school everyday not knowing the answers."

Sholars resigned his position on June 30. He told The University Daily his resignation had nothing to do with the allegations of the assault.

A statement was released from the athletic department saying Hayslett resigned her position June 30 also, but she denies the resignation.

"I never resigned," she said. "That was a mistake on (Tech's) part."

Gerald Myers, athletic director, confirmed it was a mistake and Hayslett did not resign.

"Her contract was up with Greg's resignation," Myers said. "I take responsibility for (the reports) coming out the way that (they) did."

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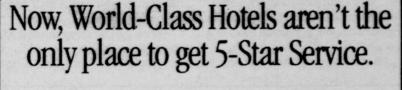
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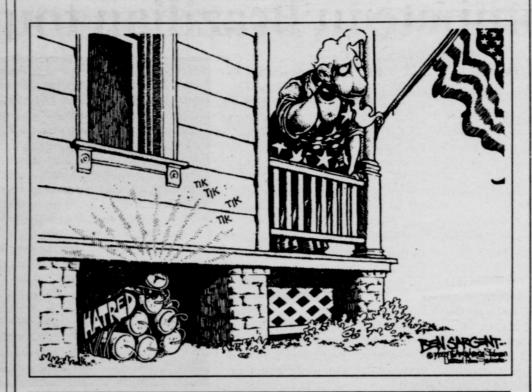
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EDITORIAL

Legislation won't change racial attitudes of law enforcement

(AP) - Finally, some officers have acknowledged that they do stop drivers because of their race.

Their admissions sparked a fiery national debate on stereotypes and the law. Lawmakers nationwide are scrambling to pass legislation requiring law-enforcement agencies to record information on all traffic stops. That's fine as far as it goes, but legislation can't change the racial attitudes at the heart of this practice.

Every day, many blacks and Hispanics are stopped, searched and questioned because they fit the stereotypical image of a drug trafficker, car thief or some other criminal. ...

In the wake of several incidents nationwide. President Clinton issued an executive order last month. He called for federal law-enforcement agencies to collect, and make public data on the race, ethnicity, age and gender of all people they stop or arrest, and encouraged state agencies do the same. ...

Neither law-enforcement agencies nor the public benefit from a system that victimizes law-abiding citizens and erodes public confidence. Law enforcement officials need to make a good-faith effort, then, at gathering the information. If, as they claim, racial profiling is not a widespread practice, the data will show that. And the public's confidence will be strengthened. - Austin American-Statesman

The semester is winding down. Get your opinion in before it's too late.

READER'S ASK

Is it true that the Heimlich maneuver can save a drowning victim?

Although we think of the Heimlich maneuver as a way to save someone from choking, it can also work on someone who has been underwater and whose lungs are full. Henry J. Heimlich, M.D., the inventor of this maneuver, suggests that you wrap your arms around the victim's waist from behind, placing the thumb side of one fist against the person's abdomen. With your other hand, grab the fist and press into the abdomen with a quick upward thrust. This not only pushes water out but also gets breathing started again by pushing up on the victim's diaphragm.

We're going camping in August at a place known for lots of snakes. What's your advice for a snake bite — just in case?

Unless you are a biology major or someone very familiar with snakes and who can identify the venomous ones, then head to the nearest emergency room if a snake bites you. Remove all of your jewelry if you're bitten on the arm or hand because of swelling. Keep your bitten body part very still and don't apply ice or cut the bite or try to suck out the venom. Clean the wound with soap and water and cover with a clean dressing. You might look into the cost of a Sawyer Extractor Pump for your first aid kit. It could be useful if you camp out a lot in snake infested areas because it can aid in venom removal while you are on your way to get medical care.

What is "lube?"

Lube is short for lubricant and is a water-based, non-greasy, gel-like substance which allows for safer, more pleasurable sex and protection by aiding the body's own natural lubrication.

How long does marijuana stay in the body?

The answer depends on the user and how they used it. About 50 percent of the active chemical in marijuana (tetrahydrocannabinol or THC) passes through the body within 24 hours. The other half however, stays connected to blood proteins, enters cells or moves into fat before it leaves the body for good. If you are asking because you have to pee in a cup, you should wait at least a full month before you might expect to pass a drug test.

I love to cook, but it's hard to stick to a healthy diet. Do you have any ideas for success?

Many recipes call for too much sugar, fat and salt. Try using non-stick pans. Use herbs and lemon or lime juice to season meat instead of butter or oil. Use two egg whites to substitute for a whole egg. Try using half the amount of sugar the recipe calls for. Substitute skim milk, low-fat or non-fat yogurt in place of whole milk, cream or sour cream. And, if you don't cook and choose to eat out, most places provide you with enough food for two to three meals. So, ask for a to-go box immediately when your food is served and take half or more off your plate and put it away in your box before you ever start eating. That way, you are not tempted to "clean your plate" and end up eating enough for two or more meals.

READER'S ASK is a service provided to Texas Tech students by Jo Henderson, health education coordinator at Student Health Services. Students are urged to submit their questions in drop boxes located in the University Center, West Hall and the Student Recreation Center.

(AP) - A marriage is like an egg. The slightest jostle will crack it wide open. And yet, it is strong enough to withstand pressure from both ends.

In "Eyes Wide Shut," Stanley Kubrick's intelligent probe of the scratchy intersection between love and sex, the egg cracks.

The film, Kubrick's last, is hardly a masterwork. It lacks the simple passion of "Paths of Glory," the bite of "Dr. Strangelove" and the brilliance of "A Clockwork Orange" and "2001." And at times, the pacing falters and the film is disturbingly tedious. His meticulous eye does beautifully capture the terrifying ease with which a good marriage can suddenly run aground over sexual dalliances.

The movie also takes some side trips along the way, glimpsing other, profound twists of sexuality: a father who pimps his adolescent daughter; a grieving daughter who transforms the love she had for her father into a passion for his doctor.

At the heart of the story, inspired by "Traumnovelle," a 1926 novel by



the Viennese writer Arthur Schnitzler, are Alice and Bill Harford (Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise), an affluent young couple who move among Manhattan's privileged few.

Alice is a housewife and mother; Bill is a doctor. The Harfords are so complacent in their marriage, so seemingly comfortable, that they take each other for granted.

Alice gets tipsy at a party and dances flirtatiously with another man, while Bill charms two silly models in another room. They love each other, and that's enough glue to keep them together. Until ...

Alice gets stoned on pot and confesses a sexual fantasy to Bill. It involves a naval officer they once saw in public who so attracted her that in her mind, she would have been willing to give up everything for one

night in bed with the stranger. Although she hastens to add that at that moment her husband was never dearer to her, her confession hits Bill like the 8:15 from Babylon. Fear, anger and insecurity consume him; images of Alice engaging in wild sex take hold of him and won't let go.

Sex and sexuality suddenly blossom all around him. He visits the daughter of a patient who has just died, and the young woman presses her body into his, confessing her love. The presence of her father's corpse in the room makes the scene all the more unsettling.

Once on the street, Bill is taunted by a group of punks who think he is homosexual. He happens upon a nightclub where an old friend, Nick Nightingale, a pianist, is finishing a set with his combo.

He has a quick drink for Nick, who reveals he's on his way to a secret masquerade ball. The pianist is kept in the dark - literally: He must wear a blindfold when he plays. Bill sees the password, worms an invite and begins a journey that threatens not only his sensibilities and values, but also his marriage and possibly his life.

The masked ball he crashes is an orgy held in a North Shore mansion. Hooded, masked revelers stand in a great, marble hall while naked nymphs perform a laughable ritual to ever-so-earnest Gregorian-like chants. It's a wink at the soft-core genre that produced movies like "The Story of O" and "Emmanuelle."

Computerized images of hooded figures have been inserted to obscure heaving bodies and earn the movie an R rating. Overseas, the scene will be shown as filmed.

Kubrick gives great care to each scene. It's the little things that matter, like ornate, elaborate talking Venetian masks; or the opening scene in which Kidman, her back to the camera, allows a slinky black dress to slip down her naked body to a crushed heap on the floor.

Kidman throughout is a revelation. She is luminescent, thrilling and in full command of the many shadings of her character. It is a nuanced, Oscar-worthy performance.

At first, she is eager - a young wife and mother leaving her daughter with a baby sitter as she and her husband go to a Christmas party. Then we see her at the party, squiffy on champagne and sexually ripe. She easily attracts an older man - the dance they share is one of the sexiest on film. Later, she's the stoned wife who admits her sexual fantasy; the hurt wife; the angered wife; the forgiving wife.

She enraptures with subtle inflection or a wisp of a glance.

Cruise is less successful. He seldom reaches any depth with his portrayal of Dr. Bill and he tends to play it all on one level. There is little shading; little nuance. He is ill-served by having to comically run about flashing his state medical credentials like an FBI agent, earnestly declaring: "I'm a doctor." Kind of reminds you of Bones on "Star Trek."

But he does add a certain boyish

ancer challenges age norms

WACO - In "Titanic," she's one of the Irish dancers whirling in the rear belowdecks. In "Wild Wild West," she's a masked dancer in the cotillion

And for residents at the Regis/St. Elizabeth Center last week, she was the one-woman show who charmed her older audience with stage songs, tap dancing and even a bit of puppetry.

In an entertainment industry known for its youth fixation, Andrea "Andie" Hicks keeps employed at age 54 thanks to a quiver armed with talent, varied skills, a willingness to try and the knowledge that age is only confining if one imagines it to be.

"It's a very rich time for me," she acknowledged in a recent interview in Waco.

Hicks, the wife of Waco native and UCLA screenwriting professor Neill Hicks, accompanied Neill for a Waco visit this month to help his mother, Mary Frances Hicks, as she moved to the Regis. And since Hicks has performed her one-woman show at retirement centers and nursing homes for the last two years, she cheerfully obliged when her mother-in-law told her fellow residents that she would.

The show Hicks performed at the Regis is similar to others that she regularly does in Southern California. Similar, since she makes a point of never repeating the same show twice,

"I sing show tunes, old standards, some parodies and some audience participation numbers. I want to keep them awake and alive and thinking," she explained in a recent interview. "There's an energy that comes back and forth between the audience and you that makes it worthwhile.

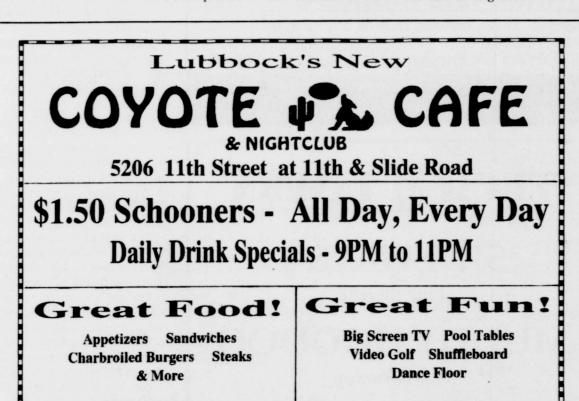
Her senior audiences have included the founder of Writers Guild West, a former Busby Berkeley dancer and an entertainer who remembered seeing Ginger Rogers perform early in her career.

Hicks' experiences have left her convinced that most communities don't realize the wealth of experience and insight that's untapped in their senior centers. Most people don't take the time to go beyond the ste-

"People ask me how I can do this," she said. "I tell them I see their brains. I see their intelligence."



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Amish country is ground zero for new gene therapy

STRASBURG, Pa. (AP) -Lancaster County's Amish and Mennonite people, the plain folk who mostly live, work and dress the way they did during the 19th century, are nevertheless serving as test subjects in one of the most advanced areas of medicine - gene therapy.

Scientists hope to learn more about genetic diseases by studying members of the insular community, people who often ride in horsedrawn buggies and don't have electricity but are willing to climb into an MRI machine.

"I can see how it could be confusing if you don't understand our beliefs," said Leon Newswanger, a Mennonite whose son will be one of the first participants in human trials of a new gene therapy.

"But if we don't do whatever it

takes, if we know what could help then that is worse."

The Amish and Mennonites, known as the Plain community for their simple, dark clothes and rural way of life, have a higher rate of certain inherited diseases than other people.

They have become instrumental in genetic research because the estimated 75,000 sect members are descended from just 47 families. The sects have been providing blood samples and family histories to geneticists for years.

Similarly, scientists have studied Ashkenazi Jews, Cajuns in Louisiana and other groups with a high degree of genetic uniformity.

"Amish people know the reality of genetic diseases and so any advances are welcomed," said Dr. Holmes

Special Children in the heart of Pennsylvania's Amish country in

It is one of the most advanced gene research clinics in the country, situated in a timber-frame house surrounded by fields plowed by mules.

Newswanger's son, Marlin, and two other children from Morton's clinic will be the first subjects in a test of a process called chimeraplasty, which involves tricking the body into correcting a gene mutation. If successful, the technique could be used to treat up to 80 percent of all genetic diseases.

All three children are stricken with Crigler-Najjar, a rare liver disease that is more common among Amish and Mennonites.

About 300 people worldwide have

Morton, who opened the Clinic for Crigler-Najjar; 16 trace their roots to Lancaster's Plain sects and are being treated by Morton.

> Crigler children suffer severe jaundice and must sleep under special rehabilitating lights for up to 16 hours a day to prevent deadly brain

> Altogether, Morton treats hundreds of children with more than 70 rare genetic diseases, and many regularly undergo MRIs and complicated blood tests and may be hospitalized for months at a time.

Some children must be fed special formulas and vitamins - another contrast in a community where nearly all the food is homegrown.

With the opening of Morton's clinic, many Amish and Mennonite have shed their traditional fatalism about disease.

Coca-Cola earnings drop 21 percent

ATLANTA (AP) - Coca-Cola went flat, and a turbulent global economy and a health scare in central Europe are largely to blame.

The Coca-Cola Co. reported a 21 percent drop in net income for the second quarter, although the company still made nearly \$1 billion in the three months ending June 30.

"We should all be so lucky to have Coke's problems," said John Sicher, editor-publisher of Beverage Digest in Greenwich, Conn.

Coke attributed the drop in earnings in part to withdrawal of its products from markets in Belgium and France after hundreds of people complained of illness from drinking its beverages.

Then came the June 25 discovery in Poland of mold in a bottle of Bonaga mineral water, which led the company to recall nearly 8 million bottles of water and other beverages.

The company has been criticized for a slow response to the contamination in Europe. Coke took out newspaper ads to apologize and chairman and chief executive officer M. Douglas Ivester went to Europe to reassure customers.

"The Coca-Cola system is diligently working to rebuild the trust of our customers and consumers, and we remain very optimistic about the future of our business in Europe," Ivester said.

As for the overall economic picture, Ivester said: "Looking back, the depth of the economic downturns in many markets has been greater than we had originally anticipated."

Net income for the three months came to \$942 million, or 38 cents per share, down from \$1.19 billion, or 48 cents per share, in the same quarter a year earlier.

Coca-Cola's quarterly revenue rose to \$5.38 billion, up 4 percent from \$5.15 billion a year earlier, even though worldwide unit case volume a standard industry measure representing 24 eightounce servings — dropped 2 percent.

"The company is still very profitable, very strong and a very sound organization," said Skip Carpenter, an analyst with Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette in New York. "And it has never been in a stronger strategic and competitive standpoint."

Investors responded positively, boosting Coke's stock price \$2.12 1/2 to \$64 a share on the New York Stock Ex-

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Australians happy to see Sampras sitting out single

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP) — Pete Sampras wasn't kidding, after all.

The Australians barely suppressed their glee Thursday when U.S. captain Tom Gullikson made it official at the Davis Cup draw: Sampras, arguably the greatest singles player in history, will play only doubles in the quarterfinal duel starting Friday.

Sampras chose team camaraderie over the common sense that his presence in singles would make the U.S. team stronger. Gullikson, forced to accept that decision, wore the worried look of a man who knew he would face a lifetime of second guesses if the gamble fails.

More than a few skeptics expected Gullikson to announce that Sampras had changed his mind, or had been persuaded by his teammates, to join the singles fray.

But when Gullikson submitted his lineup at noon — which cannot be changed except for injury — Sampras was posted in the doubles with Alex O'Brien, and Todd Martin and Jim Courier were posted for singles.

After tennis balls bearing the players' names were drawn from the mag-

nificent silver Davis Cup, Martin was set to open against fast-rising 18-yearold Lleyton Hewitt on the hardcourt of the Longwood Cricket Club. That match will be followed by Courier vs. two-time U.S. Open champion Patrick

In Saturday's doubles, Sampras and O'Brien will take on Mark Woodforde and Sandon Stolle.

On Sunday, Martin is scheduled to play Rafter before Courier takes on Hewitt.

"I am very sensitive as far as being here this week," said Sampras, who originally hadn't planned on playing Davis Cup this year, but changed his mind after being inspired by the U.S. team's victory over Britain in April. After what Jim and Todd did in England, the last thing I wanted to do was kind of come along and jump on the bandwagon. That is why I have said for the past couple of months that I was just going to play doubles. Jim and Todd deserve to play singles.

"They have shown, not only this year but the past couple of years, their commitment to Davis Cup. I haven't been in the same boat. ... I just never

felt comfortable, two months ago, a month ago. I don't feel comfortable now."

Gullikson said the decision was made by "consensus" of all the players and himself. Martin said he would have stepped aside if Gullikson thought that would make the team better.

"Obviously, we have come to a decision that I think most of the guys are very comfortable with, and we will make the most of it," Martin said.

"We all feel good about it," Gullikson said, not very convincingly. "I feel good about it. The players feel good about it. If other people don't feel good about it, that is their problem."

The Australians certainly feel good about it.

Australian captain John Newcombe said if he had been in Gullikson's shoes with, say, Rafter making a decision like Sampras, he would never have considered benching Rafter in singles.

"I wouldn't like to be in Gully's shoes if we win, either," Newcombe said.

Woodforde, one of the world's best

doubles players, thought Sampras would have a difficult time adjusting to doubles.

"Obviously he is one of the best singles players around at the moment, but that doesn't necessarily mean that he is going to be a great doubles player," Woodforde said.

"I think, given the opportunity to play more matches, sure, he definitely could be with that serve. It is a big, big plus. I just can't see how he can just walk out there and believe he can play good doubles."

Woodforde's regular doubles partner, Todd Woodbridge, is injured, but Stolle has plenty of experience playing doubles.

Sampras didn't seem too worried about not having played doubles much. He's won only two doubles titles in his career — in 1995 with Martin on the grass at Queen's Club, and in 1989 with Courier on clay in Rome. He's 3-1 in Davis Cup doubles, the loss coming with Martin against Woodforde and Woodbridge on hardcourt in Washington in 1997.

"It is still the same sport out there —keep it in the lines and serve big and

return well," Sampras said.

"I have practiced quite a bit with Alex this week, and I think we feel pretty good. I can play good doubles. I know I can. So I think we are going to be ready."

The best-of-five match format will put a lot of pressure on Sampras and O'Brien if the opening singles are split. But Newcombe thought the opening match — Martin vs. Hewitt — would be the key.

"I think the draw came out very well for us," Newcombe said.

"It is a must-win situation for them in that first match, which puts a tremendous amount of pressure on Todd."

Martin will have the added pressure knowing that he is on the court instead of Sampras, who is fresh from winning his sixth Wimbledon title, and that, on paper, he is expected to beat Hewitt.

"There will be some anxious moments for them in that first match," Newcombe said.

"If we lose the first match, we are not going to be as worried as they will be if they lose the first match."

Beukeboom unable to play because of concussions

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Rangers defenseman Jeff Beukeboom said Thursday he will be unable to resume his NHL career because of a series of concussions last season.

Beukeboom, 34, originally was injured Nov. 19 at Los Angeles when he was hit by Matt Johnson.

He was hurt again in December and his season ended with another concussion on Feb. 12 against Carolina.

He has been under the care of doctors since then.

"Since the latest episode, from day one I've been on notice that it was quite possible I might not be able to play again," said Beukeboom, who played on four Stanley Cup championship teams, three with Edmonton and one with New York.

"The thing that is most glaring, the thing that makes it easy is that the Feb. 12 knock was quite slight, something you see most every night in the NHL." Beukeboom said.

"My situation over five months, the symptoms have not subsided."

Just a few hours later, the Rangers signed forward Tim Taylor, who played for the Boston Bruins last season. He had four goals and seven assists in 49 games.

Beukeboom said he suffers from headaches and loses concentration in conversations.

He has been unable to work out or do anything physical since the

February injury.

"It's never an easy decision to walk away, but it's easier to walk away because of medical problems," he said. "I believe physically I could still compete. I know medically the risk I would put my family in.

"It's a medical retirement. I'm not able to come back and compete in the NHL the way I'd love to. Everything in the game comes to your health. My body is healthy. My mind is not healthy right now."

Beukeboom played in 45 games with nine assists and 60 penalty minutes last season.

In 804 NHL games, he scored 30 goals with 129 assists and 1,890 penalty minutes.

Radioactive sand delivered to Russia for Davis Cup match

MOSCOW (AP) — A special mix of sand and clay for covering tennis courts that Russia imported from Sweden for a Davis Cup match was radioactive and had to be sent back.

The 45-ton mixture was detained by Russian customs officials who found it to be emitting radiation at seven times the normal level, said the captain of the Russian team, Shamil Tarpishchev.

Swedish officials said the increased radiation level was caused by trace remains of radon, and that it would quickly disappear as the gas evaporates. But Russia insisted that the mix be shipped back, adding that destroying it would have cost

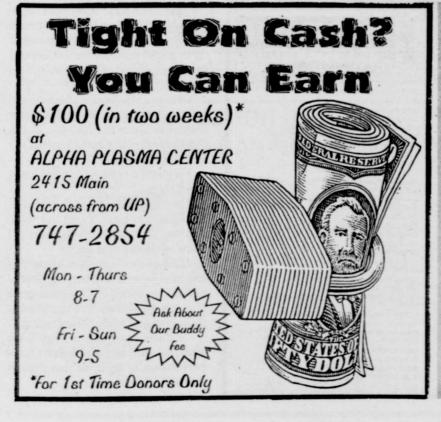
MOSCOW (AP) — A special mix Moscow \$1 million, Tarpishchev sand and clay for covering tennis said.

Radon is a natural radioactive gas that is a byproduct of decaying uranium deposits, which are present in nearly all soil. Radon is considered to be the second-leading cause of lung cancer.

Ordering the mixture from Sweden had been recommended by the International Tennis Federation. After the shipment was found to be radioactive, the ITF allowed Russia to use domestically produced sand for the tournament, Tarpishchev

Russia plays Slovakia in a quarter-final match this weekend.

www.ttu.edu/~TheUD







Burkittsville braces for 'Blair Witch' exposure

BURKITTSVILLE, Md. (AP) — The scariest thing in Burkittsville isn't the Blair Witch.

It's the curiosity-seekers who may converge on this small western Maryland town that was the setting for the horror film "The Blair Witch Project," a mock documentary opening nationally this month. It purports to show the final days of three student filmmakers who vanish mysteriously while traipsing through the Black Hills Forest to make a movie on the

legendary witch of Blair.

But there is no such legend here. No Black Hills Forest. And there never was a town named Blair around here.

Officials in Burkittsville — which consists of just 75 old homes, a post office and a Lutheran church near a country crossroads at the base of South Mountain — fear the sort of tourist siege that Amityville, N.Y., suffered 20 years ago after "The Amityville Horror" was released.

Last week, council members ap-

proved payment for 10 additional patrol hours by a Frederick County sheriff's deputy during July and August, especially at an old graveyard featured in the film.

The council also sent a notice to the town's 214 residents disclaiming any advance knowledge of the production and warning: "After viewing the movie, people may want to come out and see what Burkittsville is really like. We ask that you be cautious and reinforce safety precautions

within your family."

Mayor Joyce M. Brown said Burkittsville has "a very Christian quality," with little patience for witches and such.

"We cannot know what impact this will have on the community," she said, "and it's better to be alert."

Already, someone has left chalk markings on the weathered tombstones at the old hillside cemetery, and reporters have been pestering people on the street. Some residents have received inquiries by e-mail from people following the film's marketing campaign on the Internet.

Filmmakers Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sanchez, a native of neighboring Montgomery County, have acknowledged the story is fiction.

The town was indeed founded in 1824, as the film says, but not, as it contends, on the site of an 18th-century community called Blair, where witchcraft was practiced. Burkittsville was originally known as Harley's Post Office, named for one of the two farmers — Henry Burkitt was the other — who settled the area.

The film's forest scenes were shot mostly in the Seneca Creek and Patapsco Valley state parks farther east. But South Mountain, the densely wooded ridge just west of Burkittsville, has its own ghostly folklore.

Fallen soldiers from the Civil War Battle of South Mountain are said to haunt the area. Along one stretch of road, known as Spook Hill, legend holds that your car will roll uphill, pushed by Civil War ghosts.

"They say if you put powder on your trunk and stop up there, you'll see the hand prints on your car," said John Millard, a farmhand who has lived in Burkittsville for 20 years.

Twelve women file suit against fen-phen makers

Mcallen (AP) — Twelve Rio Grande Valley women have filed individual personal injury lawsuits against the manufacturers of the now-banned diet drug combination known as "fen-phen," claiming the drug caused irreparable and life-threatening internal injuries.

The women are seeking unspecified damages from 15 drug manufacturers including, American Home Products Corp. and Smithkline Beecham Corp.

Fen-phen is how the combination of fenfluramine and phentermine is commonly known. The drugs, prescribed by doctors, were used for weight loss.

In September 1997, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration pulled fenfluramine from the market, citing evidence it may have scarred users' heart valves irreversibly and sometimes fatally. An estimated 6.6 million people have used the diet drug combination.

Phentermine has not been linked to illnesses.

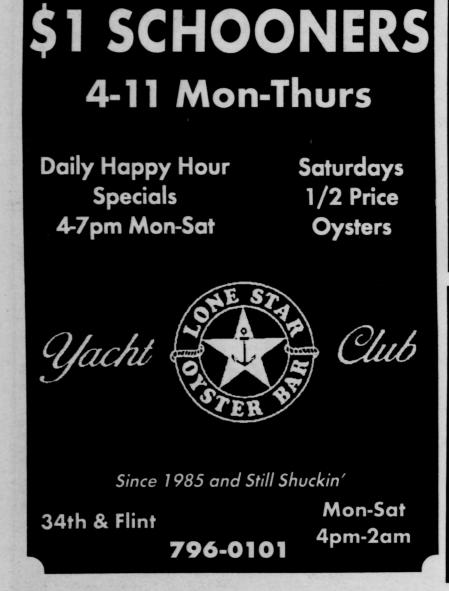
The suit also names another diet drug, dexfenfluramine, commonly known as Redux, also taken off the market in September 1997.

Among plaintiffs' claims are that fen-phen caused valve damage, depression, and memory loss.

Thousands of lawsuits have been filed across the nation against the makers of fen-phen.

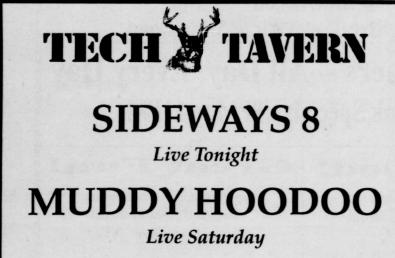
Two Texas trials have ended in settlements.







ONIGHT



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IRS relents in case involving boosters of college athletics

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Big-time college athletics got an assist from an unlikely corner Thursday when the Internal Revenue Service ruled that boosters can deduct most of the donations they make to lease stadium

The ruling in the case of Nebraska businessman Rod French means major schools such as Nebraska, Penn State and Texas will not have to rethink their methods for funding their athletic departments.

College officials were obviously elated by the ruling.

"That's great news. It makes good sense," said Jim Meister, special assistant to the athletic director at Penn

"A ruling otherwise ... would have made it very, very difficult for college athletics to keep up with increasing costs."

At issue was whether boosters should be allowed to deduct part of their contribution as a charitable donation if they receive the right to lease a skybox in exchange.

The issue surfaced when the IRS audited French of Omaha, owner of R.L. French Corp.

French gave \$200,000 to Iowa State University's foundation for a 10year skybox lease at the renovated lack Trice Stadium. He claimed the contribution was intended to assist the athletic department at Iowa State financially and not simply to pay for

The IRS balked when he tried to deduct nearly \$145,000 as a charitable contribution. The agency concluded French was not allowed any deduction for a skybox. He lost an appeal and asked the IRS to recon-

"I'm very proud that we won this decision," French said. "If we had lost and that donor base had been attacked ... I don't like to think what might have happened."

French estimates that skybox arrangements account for billions of donated dollars to Division I univer-

Tamara Ward, spokeswoman for the IRS, said the agency had no immediate comment.

Dutch Baughman, executive director of the 112-member Division I-A Athletic Directors' Association, said the impact of an opposite ruling would have been terrible for athletic programs.

"The effect would have had devastating impact on Division I institutions and all athletic departments that ... generate deductible contributions for donors," he said.

Booster donations help the athletic departments pay for scholarships and myriad sports, many required under a federal law that says female athletes must be given equal opportunities to compete in athlet-

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Most major league umpires to resign Sept. 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Major league umpires, at odds with owners since Roberto Alomar spat at an ump three years ago, voted Wednesday to resign Sept. 2 and not work the final month of the season.

The decision, announced following a meeting of the Major League Umpires Association, amounted to the first blow in their latest dispute with baseball.

Owners, meanwhile, seemed almost pleased.

"This is either a threat to be ignored, or an offer to be accepted," said Sandy Alderson, executive vice president of baseball operations, speaking for commissioner Bud

There are 68 major league umpires, and 57 of them attended the meeting and said they wouldn't work the last 4 1/2 weeks of the season. The other 11 were expected to announce their resignations in the next few

What set the umpires off this time was NL president Len Coleman's three-day suspension of umpire Tom Hallion on July 2 for bumping a player. It was the first such action that baseball officials could remember.

"The purpose of this meeting was to address quarrels with baseball," umpires' union head Richie Phillips said.

"The tension is much greater than it's ever been. Baseball is in a state of

He said umpires will form a new corporation on Sept. 3 and the AL and NL would have to contract for services with the new body. Umpires would supervise themselves and make their own schedules, he said.

Owners, however, could hire umpires from minor leagues, high schools and colleges, as they have during previous work stoppages.

None of the umpires would comment following the four-hour meeting, the day after the All-Star game at Boston's Fenway Park. Games resume Thursday.

The umpires have a contract that runs through this season and pays them \$75,000-to-\$225,000 annually. The deal bars strikes, so the resignations are an attempt to get around that, Phillips said.

Phillips said the contract calls for resigning umpires to collect a total of \$15 million in severance pay. Most senior umpires would get \$400,000 severance, and baseball would have until early January to pay.

"It might be our cheapest solution," Alderson said, meaning that it would be preferable to costly litigation or a work stoppage.

"Unless I'm mistaken, I don't think these tactics have convinced a single

person to be supportive. That would include the fans, the media and baseball itself."

Phillips said umpires originally voted to strike immediately, then changed their votes and decided to

In 1995, umpires were locked out and missed the first 86 games of the regular season.

They also struck and missed the first seven weeks of the 1979 season and the first seven games of the 1984 playoffs.

Tension has been high since September 1996, when Alomar was suspended for five games for spitting in umpire John Hirschbeck's face - a penalty deemed too lenient by the umps. When they attempted to strike during the postseason, owners obtained a court injunction.

Owners, tired of the repeated threats, seem to have adopted an attitude that the umpires are replaceable. Alderson said the umpires' actions made him wonder if this would "escalate this situation to the point were it might be irretrievable.'

- "It's a shame that it's gotten to this point," Kansas City Royals manager Tony Muser said. "For them not to want to be accountable, and to be policed by their own is not fair.'

Selig wants to shift responsibility for umpires from the leagues to Alderson. He originally wanted to make the shift before this season, but was blocked by Phillips, who demanded severance pay if the leagues were no longer the umpires' official

'There had been a hope on our part that we'd be able to commence negotiations early," Alderson said. "In light of this increasingly belligerent posture, that would seem to be out of the question."

Dierckxsens wins 11th stage

SAINT-ETIENNE, France (AP) -With the main contenders relaxing tired muscles after two days in the Alps, Belgian champion Ludo Dierckxsens won the 11th stage of the Tour de France on Thursday.

The overall standings remained virtually unchanged with American Lance Armstrong retaining his comfortable lead at 7 minutes and 47 seconds.

"If Armstrong doesn't crack, the rest of us will simply be playing for podium places in Paris," said Richard Virenque of France, who finished sixth in Wednesday's 10th stage in the Alps.

Armstrong, the 27-year-old Texan making a remarkable recovery from testicular cancer, acknowledged he is in good shape.

"After two stages in the mountains, I've got to be happy," Armstrong said. "I'm in a good position. After yesterday I was tired, so I just tried to control my competitors.'

There was a low-key atmosphere to the day as the cyclists headed downhill, snaking through villages, vineyards, apricot orchards and fields of

But that didn't take away from Dierckxsens' joy, the 35-year-old veteran ranking the stage victory among his best finishes ever.

"At last I've done it!" he exclaimed after the race. "I've fought since the first day and have been in all the breakaways, but I never had any luck.

"This time it was different." In second place was Dmitri Konyshev of Russia, 1 minute 27 seconds behind. He narrowly edged Kazakstan's Alexandre Vinokourov.

Belgium had two high finishes, with Rik Verbrugghe coming in fifth.

The main pack finished more than 22 minutes later, including Armstrong, Virenque, and other top contenders.

The 11th stage was a relatively flat 124-mile ride from Le Bourg d'Oisans in the Alps to Saint-Etienne, capital of French bicycle manufacturing.

A group of seven riders broke away after about 62 miles and led for the whole race.

Armstrong's U.S. Postal team was happy to lead the pack for much of the race to control the only riders likely to eat into Armstrong's lead.

Astros manager resumes duties following brain surgery

length hair is returning to Larry Dierker's head, but a conspicuous scar across the top of the Houston Astros manager's scalp is a stark reminder of the life-threatening event he endured a month ago.

Dierker had a grand mal seizure in the Astrodome dugout that required brain surgery, but he'll return with a clean bill of health Thursday night as he resumes managing duties against the Detroit Tigers.

Fans have been asked to wear brightly colored Hawaiian shirts -Dierker's favorite — to welcome him back. He spoke to reporters Wednesday wearing a lei.

"I'll be delighted (Thursday), but I haven't been antsy to get back," Dierker said. "I don't feel anything but normal. I'd say at no point did I

HOUSTON (AP) - Peach fuzz- worry about my recovery. I had confidence that I would recover."

Keeping track of time has been one side effect that Dierker has noticed since his surgery.

"The strangest thing is that time seems to have no meaning, I find myself out of touch with time," Dierker said. "It's been a month since this happened and it seems like two weeks.

"I may still have a little sense of losing track of what time it is, but that's getting better."

Dierker won't be allowed to drive for another five months and that bothers him more.

"Not being able to drive is driving me up the wall," Dierker said. "Every day I have the urge to get in the truck and drive somewhere. My wife has a busy life and she's going to get tired having to drive me everywhere.'

The Astros begin the second half of the season with a long injury list that includes two of their stars, third baseman Ken Caminiti and left fielder Moises Alou.

'I'd rather have Alou back than myself and I'd rather have Camy back than myself," Dierker said. "But what we've gotten from the outfielders and third basemen we have wasn't so

Dierker's No. 49 jersey came down from the dugout where it has been in his honor since his collapse in the eighth inning of a game against the San Diego on June 13.

He plans no changes in his managing style.

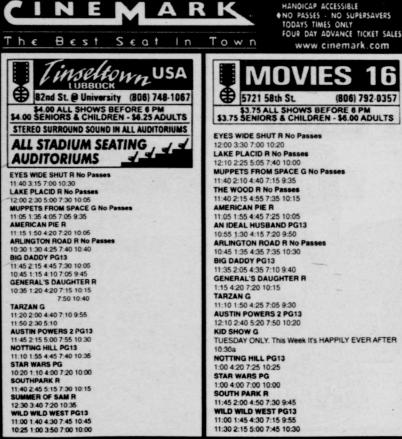
"Nothing has affected my intellect," Dierker said. "I feel the same and my philosophy is the same. I know what I want to do."

Dierker checked out of Methodist Hospital June 23 and has been recuperating at home. He has managed a few visits to the Astrodome and a few rounds of golf while convalescing.

"I don't have the energy for a stressful workout and I don't have permission to do it, so that doesn't matter," Dierker said.



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WNBA All-Star game played to sold out crowd

NEW YORK (AP) — A basketball All-Star game that had some defense. How original.

The first-ever WNBA All-Star game included that unique element Wednesday night as the Western Conference defeated the Eastern Conference 79-61.

"Our defense was about 300 percent better than I ever dreamed it would be in an All-Star game," said Van Chancellor of Houston, who coached the West team. "We were switching on screens. We looked like we had been working on defense for a long time."

Playing with purpose, the West limited the East to 35.1 percent shooting from the floor and led from start to finish. The task was made easier when the East stars lost

Chamique Holdsclaw of the Washington Mystics, who broke the index finger on her left hand.

Holdsclaw was injured in the first half and did not return to the game after X-rays revealed the fracture. She will be re-evaluated by team doctors on Thursday.

"I think it was within the first three minutes," Holdsclaw said. "It was the first time I went in. Theresa Weatherspoon passed me the ball and Michele Timms tried to steal it and the ball just hit me dead on, on the tip of my finger."

Holdsclaw said she was in pain after the game but thought she would be able to play when Washington visits Charlotte on Saturday.

The game was a sellout and Madison Square Garden was packed with

celebrities, from courtside regular Spike Lee to five members of the women's World Cup soccer championship team.

The West had a size advantage inside and made the most of it, outrebounding the East 48-36.

"There wasn't much we could do to combat that when you don't have size on your bench," said East coach Linda Hill-MacDonald of Cleveland. "The tallest player on our team was 6-foot-3. Next tallest after that was 6-2. We had three post players; they had five. There's not much you can do."

That left the West's Lisa Leslie, at 6-foot-5, free to roam. She scored 13 points and was the game's most valuable player.

The game included a full supply of layups and breakaways, 3-pointers

and no-look passes.

But sorry, still no dunks.

There never has been one of those basketball exclamation points in the three years of the WNBA and even with the league's best players assembled, that didn't change.

Leslie had one in warmups, but nobody seemed to notice.

"I was pretty surprised," she said.
"No one noticed because they weren't
paying attention. It was a good one,
wasn't it?"

The players were there to have some fun and there were plenty of grins all around. And a few floor burns, too, as the women lunged madly after loose balls.

The West led from the start, opening the margin to as much as 20 points and seeing it shrink to a few

as two but never yielding to the East

Leslie and Sheryl Swoopes led a 10-0 spurt at the start of the game. After a basket by Holdsclaw interrupted that run, the West upped its early lead to 17-2.

Holdsclaw's basket was the only one the East scored in the first 6 1/2 minutes. Once the East got going, it cut the West lead to a single basket as Taj McWilliams and Shannon Johnson led the comeback.

"I've been down before," McWilliams said

"I play for the Miracle. We tend to get down a lot. We don't believe in giving up. When we came in, it was two points at a time and we came back. We knew we were going to come back."

Williamson lighting up Major League Baseball

HOUSTON — Five years ago, Scott Williamson was fresh out of high school and still a big Houston Astros fan. Now, he's one of baseball's hottest young stars and doing everything he can to help the Cincinnati Reds wrest the National League Central title away from the Astros.

Williamson, 23, graduated from Friendswood High School in 1994 and spent two years at Tulane University in New Orleans before transferring to Oklahoma State University for a year. He was the ninth player taken by the Reds in the 1997 June free-agent draft.

Little did he know when he signed his first professional contract, that he would be pitching in the major leagues in less than two years.

Williamson, a hard-throwing right-hander, quickly worked his way up through the Reds farm system. As a starting pitcher, he was 8-2 with a 1.78 ERA in 13 starts for Billings in the rookie league in 1997. He also was named co-MVP for the team.

The following year, he was 4-5 with a 3.78 ERA in 18 starts for Class AA Chattanooga before getting called up Class AAA Indianapolis. He started five games for Indianapolis before a strained tendon on the middle finger of his pitching hand ended his season.

Still, the 6-foot, 185-pound Williamson was invited to the Reds' spring training camp in Sarasota, Fla., this year. However, not even Williamson could imagine that he

would break camp as a regular member of the Reds. Instead, he was planning on returning to Indianapolis and polishing his skills as a starter.

"Everybody projected me in Triple A as a starter," Williamson said. "So, that's what my mindset was: Go to Triple A and do well. Maybe at the All-Star break or even in the September call-up, I might get to the major leagues."

However, the Reds had a different plan for Williamson, one that would make a dramatic change in his baseball career.

"I think it was the first or second

day there, they asked me how I felt about going to the pen to help myself get to the major leagues faster," Williamson said. "I said, 'Yeah, that's my ultimate dream. Whatever I can do to benefit the team, that's what I'll do.' I ended up having a good spring and breaking camp with the team."

After playing in only 36 games in two years in the minors, and only one full year at that, Williamson packed his bags for Cincinnati and was on the opening-day roster when the Reds played the San Francisco Giants on April 5 at Cinergy Field. And for now, it appears he's there to stay.

