



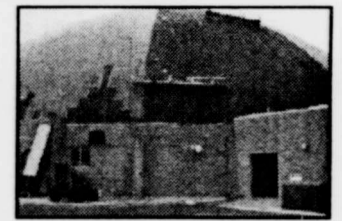
# the University Daily

Texas Tech University

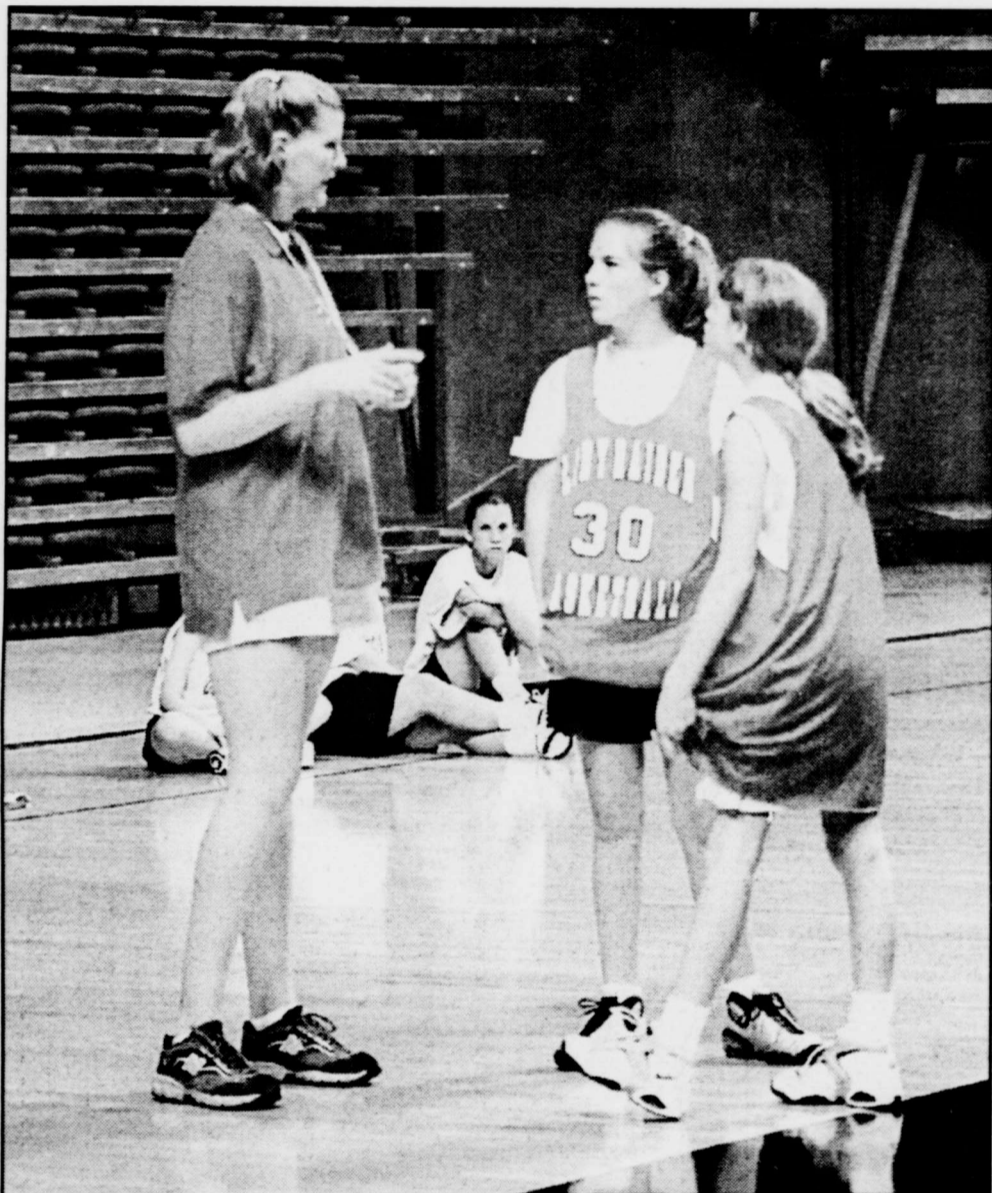
INSIDE TODAY'S ISSUE

Coliseum roof nears completion after delays.

PAGE 3



FUTURE LADY RAIDERS



Joe Mays ■ The University Daily

Lady Raider Jamie Nagle, a sophomore undecided major from Garthage instructs two participants in Marsha Sharp's annual basketball camp. The camp is used to teach the fundamentals of basketball to youngsters. It began this week and will run for three weeks.

## Committee selects presidential finalists

by Pam Smith  
Staff Writer

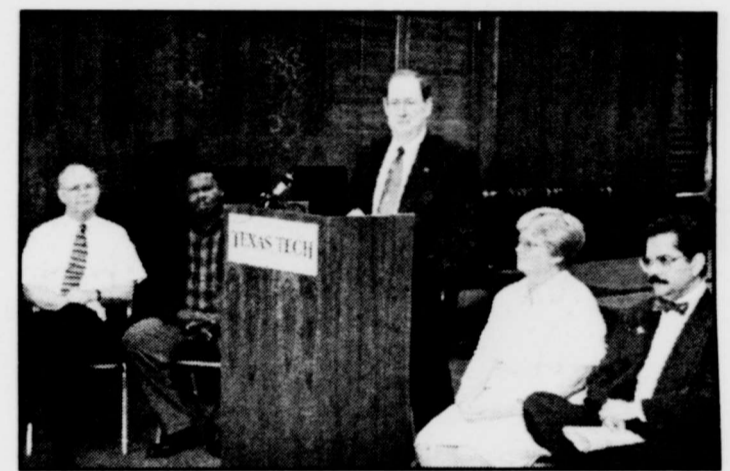
Three finalists were named for Texas Tech president today by the Presidential Search Committee, William Marcy, Dean of Engineering and committee member said.

The committee unanimously decided to name three candidates they were considering as finalists for the position.

William Marcy said the finalists names will be submitted to Chancellor John Montford who will make the final selection.

Thomas M. Keinath, Dean of Engineering and Science at Clemson University; Richard Ringeisen, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at East Carolina University and David Schmidly, Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and Technology Transfer and Dean of the graduate school at Texas Tech University were named as finalists.

"We spent a lengthy time looking into all the candidates and consulting with an executive search firm and asking ourselves if there were any other candidates that we felt we needed to consider," said Nancy Jones, chairman of the



Joe Mays ■ The University Daily

William Marcy, Dean of Engineering and other members of the Presidential Search Committee announced the finalists for the presidential position on Thursday.

Presidential Search Committee and Board of Regents. "At the end of that, we decided that we had made excellent choices."

The committee said each candidate brings a different approach to the position of president of the university.

"One of the things we were hoping for is that we would put people forth that had alternative views as to how they would realize the vision of Texas Tech University," Marcy said.

Marcy said one of the key issues the committee was

looking at was how well each of the candidates would fit the university and local community.

"One of the early issues we identified were how well they fit the Texas Tech University and West Texas and the local community," he said. "There was also an issue of what values these people put forth and how well those values mesh with the values of Texas Tech University."

He also said the committee was looking for people who would not only support the

see **FINALISTS**, p. 2

## Students remember, mourn lost friend, colleague

by Jeff Lehr  
Staff Writer

Stefanie Hill was known by all her friends as someone who was always there when they needed her to be.

Now she is gone, leaving her friends with unanswered questions.

"I don't understand how something like this could happen to someone so full of a love for life," said Meaghan Vinson, a senior social work major from Capitan, New Mexico and friend of Hill. "It makes me cringe just thinking

about it."

Hill, who was a senior psychology major from Monohans, entered Texas Tech as a freshman in 1997 at the age of 17. Soon after, she pledged the Christian sorority, Sigma Phi Lambda Sisters for the Lord.

Friend and sorority sister, Kristin Shamburger a Texas Tech graduate from Lubbock was astonished at how easily Hill made the adjustment



Hill

from high school to college a year early.

"In my mind, she did something extremely brave by coming to college a year early and then joining a sorority," she said. "She even had plans to graduate in a year which I find truly amazing because it has taken me five (years)."

Hill's plans however, were cut short Sunday night when firefighters were called to her apartment to find her dead in the living room.

Co-worker Corrie Haws, a senior history and biology major from Katy said she noticed

nothing unusual about Hill on Sunday night before she left work at Outback Steakhouse. Haws said she left work 15 minutes before Hill and said she remembered seeing Hill talking to other waitstaff about their plans for the night.

"She (Hill) was the type of person who was real shy, but at the same time, capable of having many different friends," she said.

Haws said many of the people who worked at Outback would go out drinking on occasion, and Hill would sometimes come but

would never drink.

"She was such an accepting person who could be your friend whether you were Christian or not," she said.

Hill attended Indiana Avenue Baptist Church regularly with many of her friends and participated in the church functions.

Vinson, who attended church with Hill, said they were both involved in a church program called Acts of Kindness. Through this program, Hill helped with Special Olympics.

"She was a very genuine

person that cared deeply about what other people were involved in," said Vinson.

Police spokesman Bill Morgan said the Lubbock Police Department is still investigating what took place the last hour of Hill's life.

Until the reason for Hill's death is uncovered, her friends said they must come to grip and accept that she is gone.

Shamburger believes the entire incident is horrifying but said, "the only peace I have is knowing that she is with God in heaven."

# Crew finally nails Coliseum roof project

Due to poor weather conditions, shortage of materials, new roof requires more time, money than originally anticipated

by Jeff Lehr  
Staff Writer

The new roof on the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum is nearing completion, but not without costly delays.

The completion date for the Coliseum roof has been set for sometime between the middle to end of June, Lubbock facilities manager Gary Smith said.

He said work began on the roof in December 1998, and with an estimated cost of \$1.2 million, the roof was scheduled for completion in January 2000. Due to technical errors as well as unfortunate weather, the date had to be pushed back.

Tommy Gonzales, director of civic services for Lubbock, said the wind was a definite cause of many of the

delays encountered during construction.

"It was just too windy on some days for the workers to do their job," Gonzales said. "But the main issue was that there was not enough roofing panels originally ordered for the job."

The contract originally stated 600 tectum roofing panels, but to date there have been more than 5,000 ordered for the job.

The city of Lubbock chose to use the tectum panels, which are metal because of the long life expectancy and the 20-year warranty, Gonzales said.

"There was a lot of debate about whether to use metal or shingle for the roof," he said.

The tectum paneling is a fibrous

metal material that is placed under the red-colored covers that are visible on the roof.

Gonzales said initially he was "not pleased with the work being done."

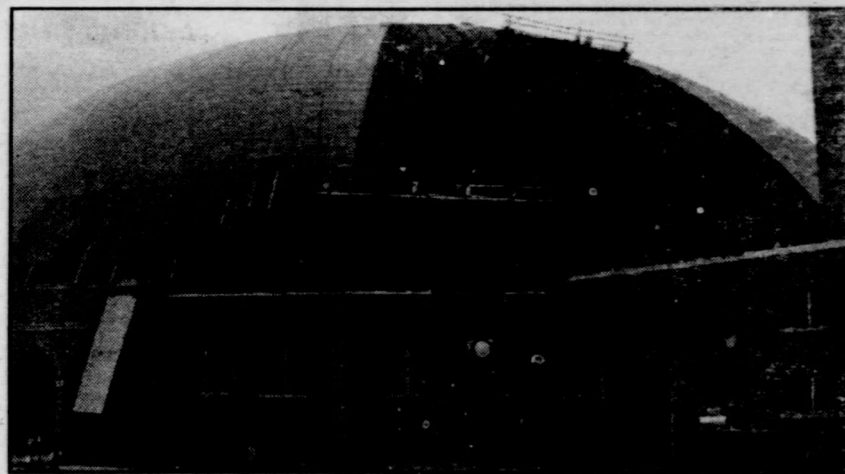
"In early August the roof was leaking significantly, and there was literally pieces of the roof falling onto the floor and seats of the Coliseum," Gonzales said.

The Coliseum was hosting many events during that time, and these falling pieces were becoming a liability for the city of Lubbock, he said.

The roof was also leaking after heavy rain forcing the situation to be rectified immediately, Gonzales said.

"One good thing that has come out of this is that the leaking has been fixed," he said.

Gonzales said in the past few



Joe Mays ■ The University Daily

Although the date of completion was set for January 2000, workers encountered several setbacks which prohibited them from finishing the project on time. The latest date for completion was set for June 2000, pending no further delays.

months progress on the Coliseum roof has been expedited significantly due to more workers being brought in from other sites.

"Everything is about to be completed, and I am very thankful for the quality workers we have had as well as a good superintendent," he said.

# Bush blocks execution of convicted child killer

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush, campaigning for president as a compassionate conservative, blocked Thursday evening's scheduled execution of a convicted killer by approving his first reprieve in a Texas death penalty case.

Bush issued a 30-day reprieve for Ricky McGinn, less than a half-hour before the convicted murderer was set to die for killing his 12-year-old stepdaughter seven years ago.

Bush has allowed 131 lethal injections over his 5 1/2 years as

governor of the nation's busiest execution state.

McGinn and his attorneys want additional DNA testing, which they say will exonerate him. Although DNA evidence was used by prosecutors to help convict McGinn of the May 1993 rape and ax slaying of Stephanie Flanary, his lawyers contend more sophisticated testing now exists to aid his case.

Bush did not act until McGinn's appeals were exhausted. Both the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals refused to grant McGinn a stay Thursday.

Because Bush was campaigning out of state, the reprieve actually was issued by state Sen. Rodney Ellis, a Democrat from Houston, who has approved three previous executions. As president pro-tem of the Texas Senate, Ellis constitutionally was in charge because Lt. Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, also was out of the state.

"Throughout this process, I have been in close contact with the governor's office and we agree that a reprieve is necessary in this case," Ellis said.

"I sincerely believe in the principle of swift and sure punishment, but our

paramount concern must always be that justice is done," he added. "In my view, it is in the best interests of justice to delay Mr. McGinn's execution and permit new DNA testing."

McGinn's attorney, Richard Alley, said he felt "intense relief" when the reprieve came down.

"We had planned for this contingency, and we expect to have a working agreement within 48 hours as to how we're going to get the evidence and how we're going to get the testing done," Alley said.

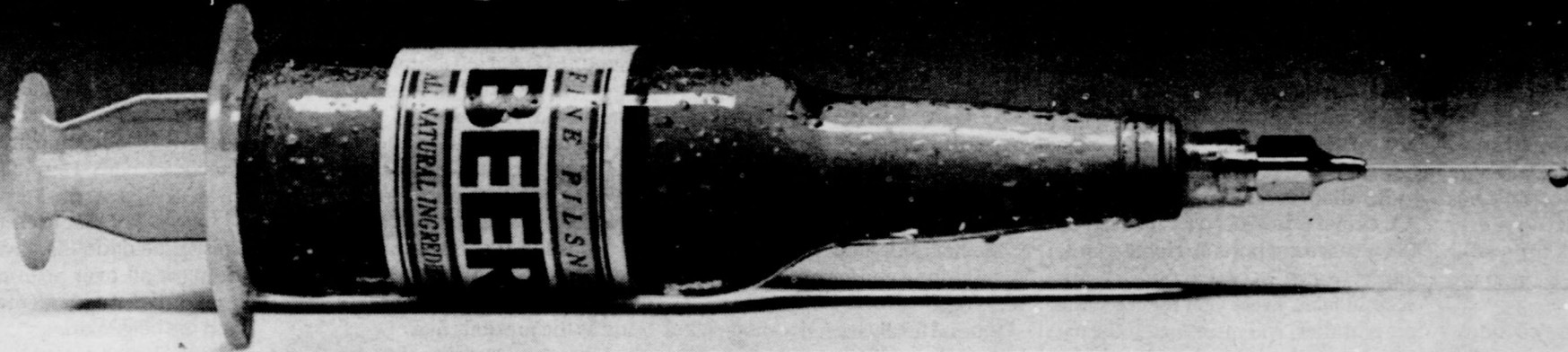
Despite the anticipated reprieve, Texas prison officials had prepared

for the execution of McGinn, who had even eaten what was to be his final meal: a double-meat cheeseburger, french fries and a Dr Pepper, which he ate in a small cell a few feet from the death house.

Earlier, he spent more than 3 1/2 hours meeting with relatives, then was taken at midday from the Terrell Unit near Livingston, about 45 miles to the east, to the Huntsville Unit, where executions are carried out.

The McGinn case illustrates a heightened national debate over the death penalty, which Bush favors.

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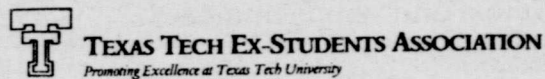
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# New Mexico firefighters get assistance from rain

PECOS, N.M. (AP) — Firefighters in northern New Mexico got some unexpected help Thursday as rain fell in the Sangre de Cristo mountains, where a fire has charred more than 25,000 acres.

"At first we thought we were going to get dry lightning, but it's real rain," said Maria Garcia, a fire information officer. "We'll need to be cautious with the potential for lightning but with the moisture maybe it'll all even out."

Just weeks after the worst wildfire in New Mexico history devastated Los Alamos, this fire began Monday and ballooned from 6,500 acres Tuesday to more than 25,000 acres Thursday. It was burning in the forests east of Santa Fe and was about 70 miles from Los Alamos.

The flames surged through dry timber, threatening the Pecos Wilderness — a state preserve — and the main watershed for Las Vegas, N.M. There have been an undetermined

number of evacuations but no serious injuries reported.

The blaze was 15 percent contained Thursday, and firefighters were making their big push on its north end, where it headed toward the wilderness area and the watershed.

Some crews remained on the south end, where the fire started, trying to catch any hot spots. Some tree stumps still were smoldering, and there were only a few patches of green on the charcoal mountainsides.

Authorities said the fire was human-caused.

In Arizona, firefighters gained a little ground on a wildfire burning through 10,000 acres in the Kaibab National Forest. Crews had the fire 50 percent contained and expected to connect lines around the fire by Saturday, Forest Service spokeswoman Emily Garber said.

That fire started with a lightning strike.

## FINALISTS, from p. 1

value system of Texas Tech, but who would bring something to it.

Now that an official list of finalists has been given to Chancellor Montford, he is expected to detail an additional selection process that will be announced at a later date. This process will be used to make his final selection.

Marcy said Montford has a legal requirement to wait at least 21 days before a final decision can be announced, but he said his decision would probably fall at a later date.

Jones said she will debrief with Montford as soon as possible in order to give him the full benefit of the gathered information.

"I'd be surprised if he announced on the twenty-first day," Marcy said.

"There is just an awful lot of work that has to be done and if there are any interactions with

the three people and (the ones) that have to travel to campus to complete that, the logistics of it will make it hard to do."

Montford said he would likely make his selection around June 30.

Marcy said the committee reviewed 84 candidates that were either nominated or applied for the position.

Out of those 84, 11 were invited for screenings with committee members at the Dallas/Ft. Worth airport. Six of these candidates accepted these invitations while only the three finalists visited the campus.

One of the six who did not visit the campus accepted the presidency at another university and another withdrew from consideration.

"In the intervening two weeks (since the candidate visits), there has been a tremendous amount of diligence that has been accomplished in order to hold today's meeting," he said. "All of the com-

mittee members participated in that diligence."

Each candidate underwent standard background checks. Marcy said the committee talked with peers at other universities and gathered one-on-one information on these individuals and how they performed in their current job functions.

Jones said since the search for finalists is complete, she feels the committee will take on an informal role in the presidential selection by helping to ease the transition of the new president into office.

"Each one of the committee members has a vested interest in the selection of the president," she said.

"I think the committee members will work to ensure a smooth transition into his new position and to have a successful first year."

# New governing strategy for new wave of politicians meeting in old city

BERLIN (AP) — In the city that symbolized the hard lines of the Cold War, President Clinton, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and leaders of a dozen other nations are trying to chart the indistinct boundaries of governing in the age of globalization.

It is an elusive undertaking, a sort of political talk and think tank, amid the relics and remnants of the perilous, divided years when Berlin was a front line island, surrounded by the communist East bloc.

In another time, little more than a decade ago, it would have been the most unlikely of settings.

The common enemy, and the Wall, have been gone for a decade. Now Berlin is a place for Western

leaders to talk not of crises but of everyday domestic problems.

They talk of a path between the old left and right, to a new center, the Third Way, although the buzzwords have been supplanted for a weightier title, the Conference on Progressive Governance.

A half-dozen leaders conferred at the first such conference, six months ago in Italy. When it was over, they did not say much except that they met.

Whatever that centrist strategy is called, it worked for Clinton in two elections, and for British Prime Minister Tony Blair and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, when they came to power. (Blair, a new father, sent regrets and skipped the Berlin session.)

There is no formula, no rulebook to making it work. While issues and problems span national even continental boundaries, politicians have to fashion their own answers to fit their own circumstances and constituencies.

So progressive governance is what the politician pursuing it says it is.

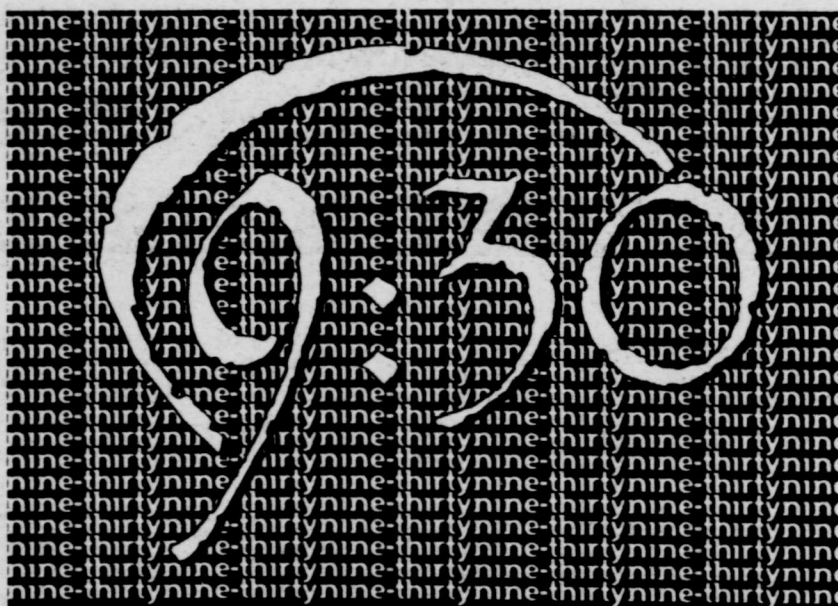
"It would be an illusion to believe that there is one Third Way, or one model approach to this," said Thorsten Benner of the German Council on Foreign Relations. For there are no certainties here, no decisions to be ratified, only talk about issues such as immigration, education, health care 3/4 economic decision-making jobs.

"After the common enemy is gone, we not only discuss Bosnia, but we discuss the development of our societies," said Karsten D. Voigt, U.S. specialist at the German Foreign Ministry.

"These issues bind politicians more than the foreign policy issues do," he said in an interview.

They do now, amid reminders of the Cold War the West won. Relics of that 50-year struggle mark Berlin among the construction cranes of a booming city.

There are remnants of the Wall that sealed the communist East from 1961 until 1989. A garishly painted sculpted ball, symbolically bound by ropes, is what remains of Checkpoint Charlie, the U.S. entry point where American and Soviet tanks once seemed at the trigger of war.



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# Library wing closed for renovation

by **Pam Smith**  
Staff Writer

The East Wing of the Texas Tech Library will be closed throughout the summer in the final phase of the library renovation, said Jennifer Lanoir at the Library Development and External Relations office.

The construction currently in progress is due to renovations to the main lobby and to the Croslin room. Renovations began after final exams in May and are expected to be completed before classes in the fall, Lanoir said.

Due to the construction, the East entrance of the library has been blocked off and students have had to access the library through the West entrance located towards the back of the building.

"Personally, I haven't had any inconveniences. I get dropped off close

to the library. We've had some confusion about it when students enter, many don't realize that you can enter from the back, even though there are signs posted," said Chuck Wuthrich, a senior MIS major from Plano, who also works in the ATLC.

Lanoir said that the reserve service has temporarily been relocated in the circulation area.

The Archive of Turkish Oral Narrative is now located on the second stack level and the Institute for Pragmatism and the Commission for the Blind have been temporarily moved to the fifth stack level. The renovations are part of a four-year project to re-design the library and to make the new wing more consistent with the international style of the building's architecture.

Renovations were made to make the library more user friendly and to increase the interaction between students, faculty and the librarians.

"Honestly, I think that it is still very hard to find my way around the library. I don't know which elevators go where, even though I work in the basement," Wuthrich said.

Renovations to the library began in the summer of 1997 and are scheduled to end in January of 2001 after the second and third floors are renovated in the final phase of the project. The last phase of construction to be completed was on the West Wing of the library, which was completed around April 19.

The West Wing now features a reference room with 48 computer workstations, all of which will have access to the Internet and to the library's online catalog. Also, the circulation and interlibrary loan services will be housed in the West Wing. The library has also added a mezzanine level that will be used for offices, a conference room and study tables.

"I think that the coolest thing about

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the renovations is the ethernet connections under the tables (in the West Wing), and the lighting is better," said Jason Gabriel, a MIS major and graduate student.

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# Opinions & Ideas

Friday, June 2, 2000

## The University Daily

LETTERS: The University Daily welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, social security number and a description of university affiliation. Letters selected for publication have the right to be edited. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication.

GUEST COLUMNS: The UD accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 750 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.

## Note to Bush: Get with the program

Personal note to George W. Bush: Wasn't that a great graduation ceremony last Thursday night? I know you are terribly proud of your daughters, Barbara and Jenna.



Molly Ivins  
Columnist

You probably remember Kristy Reyna — she was the only one of the 400 Austin High graduates who was in a wheelchair. Kristy was the young woman with the million-dollar smile — always reminds me of Magic Johnson's. That smile and the big thumbs up as she rolled across the stage lit up the whole Erwin Center. I think she got a bigger hand than your daughters. It was a lot harder for her. The entire Reyna clan was there, on their feet, cheering madly.

Kristy was born 21 years ago with spina bifida and has been through 10 operations to correct some of the effects of that birth defect. So it took her a little longer to get through school. Her mother is Hope Reyna, single mother of five, who supports her children by working as a housekeeper. (Let's hear it for Big Rudy who kept up the child support and who was there to see their second-oldest child graduate.)

For many years, every year on Kristy's birthday, Hope got on the Greyhound bus and rode six hours down to San Juan to pray at the shrine there for a miracle for Kristy. Then she got back on the bus and rode six hours back to Austin. I believe that miracle came last Thursday night when Kristy graduated high school.

Governor, I think you should know there is not one single thing you have ever done in public office that has helped the Reyna family. If you've ever wondered why I seem a little sour about your record, chalk it up to the Reynas.

I know you've helped the oil industry, and the insurance industry, and the funeral industry, and the herbal-diet industry, and the utility industry and all those air polluters with your new voluntary clean-up program — all those people who have given so generously to your campaigns. But everything you have ever done that touched the life of the Reynas has made it harder for them.

When Big Rudy wasn't working, the other kids had no health insurance. Kristy got Medicaid and SSI from the federal government. (The Republicans

in Congress wanted the SSI taken away on the grounds that poor parents like Hope might have coached their children into "faking disability." You should come and see Kristy's "fake disability" some time.)

You wanted to keep 200,000 Texas children like the Reynas off the new federal children's health insurance program, even though it would hardly cost the state. But then maybe you agree with your Health Commissioner Reyn Archer that health insurance isn't important.

You tried to make it harder for poor moms like Hope to apply for Medicaid for their kids. You got a tax cut for property owners, but Hope doesn't own any property — she pays the same regressive sales tax everyone else does, but it eats a bigger proportion of her income. It's nice that the high-tech industry you favor has made Austin boom, but it's also made it impossible for people like Hope to buy a house, and it has forced up rents.

And now, let's talk about something completely different. The New York Times ran the saddest story last week, about the Guatemalan squatters who are burning down the great rainforest in the Peten region in the north of that country.

Illegal loggers cut down the great mahogany and cedar trees while land-starved peasants torch what remains to clear the land for cornfields, reports the Times. Of course, the jungle soil is so poor they produce only two or three crops, then the squatters have to move on and burn more rainforest. All this is taking place in a national park, but it is protected only on paper.

The director of the Guatemalan Wildlife Conservation society said to the Times, "How can Guatemala prioritize conservation in the face of overwhelming pressure? When you're hungry for tomorrow, it's impossible to think 20 years down the road."

So, what's our excuse? As they say in AA, denial is not just a river in Egypt. Every year the reports on global warming get worse. Every year the evidence accumulates. Every year the forecasts get grimmer. The insurance industry, which can think 20 years down the road, knows what's coming. Even some oil industry execs are starting to talk about it. But our government is following the lead of such great thinkers as Jesse Helms. The senator gets apoplectic at the thought of ratifying the Kyoto Accords to cut greenhouse gases. What an indictment of our ability to respond intelligently this is. And we have no excuse.

Molly Ivins is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.



## For all of you incoming freshmen

I remember my first day on campus like it was three years ago. I was so green you could have called me Gumby and got a laugh out of me because I was too scared to stand up for myself.



Jeff Lehr  
Staff Writer

Now I stand tall as a senior at this wonderful institution, and when I think about the last few years of my life, I don't see that much difference.

The green color my skin once favored has since faded to a nice shade of beige with a reddish tint, and my demeanor has grown some hair, but all in all I am still the same intimidated freshman I was three years ago.

I guess I finally started to understand how a college kid is supposed to act the day I met my "pot-luck" roommate.

I have nothing against the guy, but when the powers that be make their decision on who you are going to live with based on whether or not you smoke, it seems to me that the system is due for an overhaul.

You move your stuff up here from wherever you are from, which has to be at least a square foot larger than your new dorm, and when you first open that vandalized door, reality sets in.

I was lucky enough to arrive before my assigned roommate did, which meant I got to choose the bed I preferred to partake of my sleep. I felt comfortable on the left side of the room. I do not know why, but I somehow knew that before I got there.

I hurriedly settled in and staked my claim to the left side not minutes before the next semester of life arrived at the door, belongings in hand.

I was lucky enough to get a single room my second semester at Tech, but those five months weren't as entertaining as the previous five.

I guess everything that made me who I was up to that point in my life I

can attribute to my high school years, which didn't really do as much for my social life as they should have. Little did I know that what you did or who you were in high school meant little to who you were in college.

What bothered me most about dorm life was sharing such a small space with someone I had very little knowledge about. I know that you are expected to be happy about meeting new people, but I need time to myself every once in a while.

Also, for those of you who have ever lived with someone pledging a fraternity I need only say one word — @\$%^/&\*#!

Anyway, I made friends as the days went by, and I really did get lucky with the floor I lived on and the friendly guys that lived there. I am still friends with most of them to this very day.

I must say that even though I despised the dorm life, I wouldn't mind doing it all over again. Of course I wouldn't do it without the single room and the beige skin.

Jeff Lehr is a senior journalism major from Katy.

## HAVE A FEW WORDS TO SAY?

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# 'Survivor' holds it's own against 'Millionaire'

NEW YORK (AP) — Regis Philbin may have some competitors for television supremacy: a band of castaways on a rat-infested tropical island.

CBS executives were ecstatic Thursday about the opening night ratings for its high-profile summer reality series, "Survivor."

The endurance contest filmed on an island off Borneo managed to hold its own despite ABC's last-minute decision to launch a programming bomb, scheduling an edition of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" as direct competition.

"Survivor" drew an audience of 15.5 million people Wednesday, according to Nielsen Media Research. The "Millionaire" viewership was 16.8 million,

the lowest for an edition of the game show since last November.

More encouraging for CBS was that "Survivor" drew a younger audience than any other show on the network's prime-time schedule does regularly, beating "Millionaire" by 63 percent among viewers aged 18-34.

Young viewers are prized by advertisers and CBS, whose audience has a median age of over 50, said the "Survivor" viewers had a median age of 39.

"It's a new audience for CBS and it's very exciting for us," said David Poltrack, CBS's top researcher.

They saw something quite unlike anything that's been on American network TV, even though "Survivor" is an adaptation of an idea that's been

successful overseas. The 16 castaways are locked in a competition that, by the summer's 13th episode, will result in one winner getting \$1 million.

The contestants voted out the first of their colleagues in Wednesday's episode. Sonja Christopher, a 63-year-old musician from Walnut Creek, Calif., who stumbled and fell while carrying a raft in a race, was sent home. Christopher, who brought a ukelele to the island and has written a song about her experience, said on CBS's "The Early Show" that she learned that "I'm sort of naive."

"I went there with certain ideas about how we might play this as a team and, sportsmanship was important, having done sports in the past. And I learned that not everybody thinks

that way," she said.

There will be three contestants left by the final episode this summer. Christopher and others who were voted off the island will return to determine who wins the prize.

CBS, which has already scheduled a rerun of the first "Survivor" episode for Saturday night, said it hoped that the audience will build through word of mouth as the series goes on — much like it did for "Millionaire" last

summer.

One encouraging sign: researchers found the audience for "Survivor" grew Wednesday as the hour went on, which meant few people gave up and switched the channel.

ABC said it has no immediate plans to schedule another edition of its game show opposite "Survivor." CBS executives were miffed by ABC's decision to use "Millionaire" on Wednesday.

## Men with high risk lifestyles continue unhealthy behavior that can spread AIDS

ATLANTA (AP) — The number of AIDS cases among gay men who use intravenous drugs have been decreasing since 1992, although many men in this high-risk group continue behaviors that spread the disease — including sharing needles and having unprotected sex, the government said Thursday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 5 per-

cent of men in that category had been diagnosed with AIDS in 1998, down from 8 percent in 1990. The decline is due in large part to increased use of antiretroviral therapies that delay disease progression, the CDC said.

CDC officials said studying men in this high-risk group was important because they have multiple risks for contracting and spreading the disease.

## Hunter 'mining' for integrity in latest film

NEW YORK (AP) — Holly Hunter responded to the idea of "Harlan County War" the same way viewers might on first hearing about it: What, again?

Hunter was being asked to star in a drama about a Kentucky coal miner's wife; a year-long labor strike; danger, poverty and pride. "But Barbara Kopple had made that amazing documentary" — the Oscar-winning "Harlan County, U.S.A." about the real-life mining strike of 1973-74 — "so I kind of went, 'What for? Kopple's done it,'" Hunter says.

"Then," she goes on, "I read the script, and I wanted to say the words out loud. That's always a signal that I'm very, very interested."

Among the many scripts she reads, too many are set in her na-

tive South.

"And that Southern material is almost always lousy," she says. "It's almost always inauthentic to me. The dialogue sounds canned and the people are stupid."

"But in this case," she happily reports, "I thought the writing had an incredible integrity and the dialogue was impeccable."

So off she headed last fall to Toronto (Toronto!) to make the film, which is set in the backwoods of Appalachian coal country a quarter-century ago.

Directed by Tony Bill from the screenplay by Peter Silverman, it premieres Sunday at 8 p.m. Eastern on Showtime.

A touching, human portrait of a hardscrabble life, "Harlan County War" swallows Hunter whole as she becomes Ruby Kincaid, the strong,

devoted wife of Silas, played by Ted Levine, who similarly vanishes into his character.

As Hunter discovered when she first read the screenplay, the part of Ruby — spirited and wry of wit — nearly leaps off the page.

Not so Silas, who in a lesser actor's hands would come across as little more than a 'shine-swilling victim.

"Ted's part was not there in the script, man," says Hunter. "It was a beautiful thing to watch him work."

Completing the dramatic triangle is Stellan Skarsgard as Warren Jakobovich, the union organizer who, arouses Ruby to the struggle, among other things, lands Ruby knee-deep in chores — and suspicious of his call to arms.

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# Gore, Bush to consider women for VP position

WASHINGTON (AP) — The cheering, foot-stamping and tears lasted for eight minutes after Geraldine Ferraro accepted the Democratic nomination for vice president, the first woman to be nominated by a major party.

Sixteen years later, both Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore say they are considering women for the No. 2 spot. But despite gains made by women elsewhere in politics, most observers figure the chances for a female veep this year are slim.

"It's ironic that women voters are such a key target group and yet there is so little talk about a woman for VP," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster.

For the GOP, there's Elizabeth Dole, who made a run at the top job, and New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman, a moderate from a swing state.

But Dole didn't make much of a showing in her presidential bid, dropping out before the first votes were cast. Whitman is a strong supporter of abortion rights, and religious conservatives have warned Bush not to pick her. For the Democrats, Gore is expected to consider Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who hails from California, the biggest electoral prize. But Feinstein is also running for re-election this year, complicating her prospects. And if Gore is to win, California should be in his column even without a local on the ticket.

Other names are bandied about, but none are thought to be serious prospects.

Vice presidential nominees are typically considered from two groups — people who have run for president themselves and governors, Lake said. And despite women's advancement

through the ranks of politics, very few women fall into either group.

Only three states have female governors, and Dole is the only woman from either major party to have been regarded, however briefly, as a serious contender 1/2 for her party's presidential nomination. "That's the ultimate glass ceiling," Lake said.

Former Vice President Walter Mondale and Ferraro, then a New York congresswoman, lost in 1984 as Republicans Ronald Reagan and George Bush easily won re-election. And each of the three elections since then has pitted one pair of men against another.

"It didn't work out the first time, so I think candidates were wary of choosing a woman," said Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, the lieutenant governor of Maryland who is viewed as a rising star in the Democratic Party.

## McCain skips bus, fund-raising to visit home state

PHOENIX (AP) — George W. Bush picked up political cash and support in Arizona Wednesday, while his former presidential rival, Sen. John McCain, stayed away from a fund-raiser involving the "soft money" donations he opposes. "He has stated all along that

he will do everything he can for the Republican Party and for Governor Bush, but he will not help to raise soft money," said McCain's spokesman Tod Harris.

The Arizona senator, who endorsed Bush on May 9, was campaigning for congressional

candidates in California instead.

His unsuccessful White House bid was based on a platform of campaign finance reform, including a total ban on so-called soft money, or unregulated, party-building donations.

Bush said he was not offended by McCain's absence.

## Summer travel drives market fuel prices to season highs and lows

(AP) — Crude oil roared back over the \$30-a-barrel mark Thursday, ending a brief slump with a bang after industry data showed oil and gasoline supplies shrinking as summer begins.

Natural gas prices, meanwhile, went into free fall as a two-week rally collapsed.

In other markets, silver nosed to a one-year low before recovering and wheat fell.

Weekly data showing a decline in stocks of reformulated gasoline just as summer driving starts were the catalyst as crude prices jumped four percent.

West Texas intermediate crude for July delivery rose \$1.13 to \$30.14 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, regaining all but 21 cents of the previous day's big OPEC-inspired selloff.

The cleaner-burning reformulated gas has come into much greater demand as the result of new requirements that took effect Thursday.

Retail stations must now sell a summertime blend of the fuel that meets even more stringent emissions standards than before.

Short supplies of the fuel were highlighted in a report by the U.S. Department of Energy showing inventories of reformulated gas declined by 2.5 million barrels last week and are now 10 percent below 1999 levels. That was an even greater figure than

reported late Wednesday by the American Petroleum Institute, which found stocks down by 2.2 million barrels.

On top of the gasoline data, both industry reports also found an unexpected decline in crude supplies over the previous week, adding even more buying enthusiasm in the oil trading pits.

"The numbers are just bullish across the board," said analyst Bill O'Grady of A.G. Edwards and Sons in St. Louis.

The analyst said the buying frenzy that resulted from the reformulated gas situation may have been an overreaction, however.

"You are seeing some spot shortages across the Midwest," he said.

"But inventories are still only about 1.5 million barrels below the five-year average. They're tight but not extraordinarily tight."

Natural gas prices plummeted more than 13 percent at one point on a wave of profit-taking before recovering somewhat to finish down 7 percent for the session. Market-watchers said the correction was overdue after a rally that had pushed the price up by some 30 percent in two weeks.

July natural gas fell 29.2 cents to \$4.064 per million British thermal units (1,000 cubic feet) after sinking as low as \$3.80.

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## Plane piloted by Swayze crashes

PRESCOTT VALLEY, Ariz. (AP) — A small plane piloted by actor Patrick Swayze crashed Thursday while he was trying to make an emergency landing on a dirt road in central Arizona. Swayze was not injured.

Swayze was flying a 1978 twin-engine Cessna 414A from Van Nuys, Calif., to Las Vegas, N.M., when he was forced to attempt an emergency landing, said John Clabes, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

FAA monitors who control that airspace lost sight of Swayze's plane on radar at 13,000 feet around 11 a.m. and couldn't contact him by radio.

A witness who saw the plane make the emergency landing called police, said Sgt. P.J. Janik, a spokesman for the Prescott Valley police.

The plane apparently sheared off its right wing after hitting a light pole as it was coming down near this town about 90 miles north of Phoenix.

# One-room school closing after almost a century

PAWLEYS ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — The lesson for the day is farewell at Miss Ruby's School, a one-room schoolhouse where black children have been taught for generations.

Budget and maintenance problems have prompted the Episcopal Diocese to close the school permanently after Friday evening's commencement. The 35 students in preschool through fourth grade will be sent to other schools.

"I'm sad, but I was expecting it," said headmistress Carolyn Wallace. "I really don't think the community realizes what it is losing."

Holy Cross-Faith Memorial School, as it is formally called, was founded in 1903 by the Episcopal Church and moved to its current gray-blue clapboard building in 1932. At the turn of the century, the church ran 19 day schools for black South Carolinians.

For 53 years, until her death in 1992, Ruby Middleton Forsythe

was headmistress. She taught generations of students in as many as 11 grades at the school, which is sheltered under oaks off a busy highway about 25 miles southwest of Myrtle Beach.

"Small girls, small boys, come into Miss Ruby's school," the children sing. "Small girls, small boys, come to learn the golden rule."

Nine-year-old Lavern Dozier, sad at being one of the last graduates, said he enjoyed helping the younger students at their desks across the room.

"I helped them write their ABCs correctly and I helped them with their numbers," he said.

Miss Ruby's philosophy was not to charge tuition. In recent years, students have paid a modest tuition, perhaps a few hundred dollars per year, based on their parents' ability to pay.

That meant the school had to raise about \$30,000 a year from donations, bake sales and similar fundraisers. Wallace, who graduated from the school in 1951 and became headmistress after Miss Ruby's

death, is the only paid employee.

In 1997 there were about 1,600 one-room schools nationwide. That probably has not changed much as public schools close and some religious and private schools open, said Mark Dewlap, an education professor at Winthrop University and an expert on one-room schoolhouses.

"Everything must come to an end," said Bertha Smith, another graduate who is one of Holy Cross' two volunteer teachers. "It's done a lot for me and for the people in the community. Miss Ruby especially — she taught me and I consider her to be my mentor."

In the 1980s, Newsweek magazine named Miss Ruby an American hero.

"My reaction is bittersweet, recognizing time is progress and that we have had here for 97 years a successful institution," said Norman Deas, a 1950 graduate who volunteered to teach after his retirement from the federal government.

"I'm getting more than I'm giving. These young people are really amazing. It's hard to cut loose from them once you're attached to them."

# Growth hormone improves symptoms in Crohn's patients

Human growth hormone combined with a high-protein diet significantly eased the symptoms of Crohn's disease in three-quarters of patients with moderate to severe cases, a study found.

Crohn's affects the digestive tract, causing persistent diarrhea, abdominal pain, bleeding and breakdown of the intestinal wall. About half of all Crohn's patients require surgery at some point to remove intestinal obstructions or repair holes in the bowel. There is no known cure, though drugs can ease symptoms in some patients.

The study in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine found that 11 of 19 adults treated with growth hormone while on a high-protein diet went into remission. Three others saw significant improvement. Eighteen patients taking a dummy drug while on a high-protein diet saw no significant improvement.

The study was supported by grants from Eli Lilly and the Genentech Foundation for Growth and Development, a nonprofit that gets funding from Genentech Inc. Both pharmaceutical companies make growth hormone.

As many as 1 million Americans suffer from Crohn's disease, according to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America. Up to 120,000 people are diagnosed with moderate to severe disease each year.

Several anti-inflammatory and immune-suppressing drugs can send the disease into remission but do not prevent long-term relapse. Others prevent relapse in some patients but do not make the disease go into remission.

The leader of the new study, Dr. Alfred Slonim of North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y., said growth hormone causes few harmful side effects in children and adolescents who take it for years.

If further studies find it is effective for long-term treatment of Crohn's, it may prove safer than current remedies, he said.

The cause of Crohn's is unknown, but one theory is that infections or hereditary factors weaken the intestinal wall, making it more susceptible to inflammation and tissue breakdown when it comes in contact with disease-causing organisms. An exaggerated immune response may also play a role.

## Online DMV traffic course available to Virginians

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — For Virginia motorists, getting a speeding ticket no longer means sitting in a classroom all day Saturday at driving school.

Those looking to keep the violation from affecting their insurance rates can now go online to [TrafficSchoolOnline.com](http://TrafficSchoolOnline.com) and take the traffic safety course at their convenience.

In May, Virginia joined a few other states that accept the Internet course. California, Oregon, Utah and Nevada also use the service.

Virginia is the only one to accept it statewide, said Sam Crump, president of [TrafficSchoolOnline.com](http://TrafficSchoolOnline.com).

About 80,000 people each year are cited in Virginia for a variety of traffic offenses and opt for driver improvement

clinics. "It was easier to do and cheaper," said Sven Bridstrup, 37, a Leesburg air traffic controller who was ticketed for speeding in March.

Bridstrup chose the \$49.95 online course over the traditional one, which can cost up to \$75.

It took him four hours to finish, half the time a traditional course would take.

A supervised final exam is required to guard against cheating.

After completing the course, Virginia users must take the final test at certain Kinko's copy centers.

"You could take the test on your lunch hour if you wanted," Crump said.

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## Rap star 'Slim Shady' sells 1.7 million copies of latest album in one week

NEW YORK (AP) — Foul-mouthed rapper Eminem sold 1.7 million copies of his new album last week, blowing past the sunny teen pop stars he disdains.

"The Marshall Mathers LP" is second only to 'N Sync's "No Strings Attached" as the fastest-selling album in the nine years that the industry-tracking company Soundscan has been keeping accurate count. No other rap album has sold so many copies in its first week.

Eminem, who also goes by the nickname Slim Shady, has a profane style akin to a musical horror movie. He gained street credibility when his own mother sued him for defamation of character.

MTV built anticipation for the album with heavy airtime, letting Eminem serve as host of a two-hour "EmTV" special the weekend before the May 23 release date. He was a guest on the network's popular "Total Request Live" the first afternoon the album was on sale.

His appeal lies primarily with rap and rock fans but has crossed over into MTV's larger pop audience, said Tom Calderone, MTV senior vice president for music programming.

"As far as aggressive hip-hop or rock, there isn't anything new out there," Calderone said. "He's a welcome new sound that hit the stores at a time people hadn't heard it for a while."

Eminem pushes aside the teen pop he has mocked. His album came a week after Britney Spears sold 1.3 million copies of her new CD, which temporarily put her second to 'N Sync.

It means the three fastest-sell-

ing albums have come in the last two months. Soundscan has measured music sales since 1991; precise sales figures from before that are considered unreliable.

Eminem has rapped that the popular boy and girl groups "make me sick" and joked in his music about Spears and Christina Aguilera performing a sex act on him.

As a white artist in a field popularized by blacks, Eminem benefited from a key endorsement from rapper Dr. Dre. Eminem, whose real name is Marshall Mathers, grew up near Detroit and has played up his "trailer park" upbringing.

His new song "Kill You" talks about killing women — including Mom — with the lyrics, "I'm ready to play, I got the machete from O.J."

At the song's end, he laughs and says: "I'm just playin', ladies. You know I love you."

He says half the things he puts on disc are done just to annoy people, but not everyone thinks it's a joke. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation criticized him Tuesday for anti-gay lyrics, including the line: "Hate fags? The answer's yes."

Eminem has told MTV that he doesn't hate gays. But GLAAD said it is irresponsible for him and UNI/Interscope Records to promote such material.

"This is especially negligent when considering the market for this music has been shown to be adolescent males, the very group that statistically commits the most hate crimes," GLAAD said.

Even his grandmother has joined his mother in publicly criticizing him.

## 'Bad Boy' gives 'Big Mama' attitude

(AP) — Whether its "Bad Boys," "Blue Streak" or the new "Big Momma's House," Martin Lawrence always ends up playing the same character in his movies — which is Martin Lawrence.

And playing Martin Lawrence basically consists of making exaggerated facial expressions, exhibiting a comically defiant attitude and using off-color words in as many different combinations as possible.

Even though Lawrence's act is getting repetitive, it's still good enough to make for an amusing time in "Big Momma's House," in which he not only plays an FBI agent, but dons a fat suit and rubber face to go undercover as a 70-year-old woman whose granddaughter is being investigated by federal authorities.

Malcolm Turner (Lawrence) is a federal agent and master of disguises who loves the dangerous elements of his job and shuns the ho-hum family life. His partner, John (Paul Giamatti), is of course the complete opposite — preferring to stay in the station rather than go out and chase the bad guys.

When Lester, a deadly bank robber (Terrence Howard), busts out of jail, Malcolm and John are assigned to

monitor the house of Big Momma (Ella Mitchell), the feisty Southern grandmother of Lester's gorgeous ex-girlfriend Sherry (Nia Long). Authorities suspect that Sherry has hidden the loot from Lester's earlier bank robbery and is planning to run away with Lester and the \$2 million booty.

The surveillance is running smoothly until Big Momma is suddenly summoned out of town on an emergency. With Sherry heading to visit her, Malcolm figures the only way to keep Sherry from leaving is to become Big Momma himself.

Just the sight of Lawrence dressed as a hefty old woman with a blond wig and huge breasts is enough to garner a few laughs. But watching him try to stay in character as Big Momma while admiring Sherry's sexy body, fighting off the advances of a randy old coot and bouncing his large frame off some young punks on the basketball court is hysterical.

While Lawrence is not always confined to the fat suit — Malcolm does emerge to woo the beguiling Sherry — it's as Big Momma that he is most entertaining. Lawrence has long been adept at donning women's clothes for laughs: His Sheneneh

character on his defunct sitcom "Martin" still has people in stitches in reruns.

Lawrence's turn as Big Momma is certain to draw comparisons to Eddie Murphy's "The Nutty Professor," in which Murphy played at least five different characters, some requiring fat suits and prosthetics and making him completely unrecognizable. (A sequel is scheduled to hit theaters this summer.)

The makeup job here is less convincing. First, to make Lawrence and Mitchell look alike, Mitchell's face was altered with prosthetics, making her look distractingly unnatural. Lawrence's face has similar problems, although since it is supposed to have been made on the quick by Malcolm and John, it's more forgivable — and kind of humorous.

Darryl Quarles and Don Rhymer wrote the mostly formulaic screenplay. But it has enough funny moments and Lawrence antics to keep the audience from concentrating on the predictability of it all.

"Big Momma's House," directed by Raja Gosnell, is distributed by Twentieth Century Fox. It's rated PG-13 and runs 105 minutes.

## After a decade of good times, there are signs Americans are tiring of all this good stuff

NEW YORK (AP) — Maybe a slowdown is really what's called for. You have heard the Federal Reserve talk about that for at least year, but there are other signs as well that the past decade's pace has left Americans tired.

All those records: In the 1990s they bought 6.8 million new houses and 38.1 million existing units, and they paid record-high prices for them. They boosted car and small truck buying to a record of almost 17 million vehicles in 1999, and of course they pushed the stock markets higher than ever before.

They built some of the world's big-

gest companies in a mere fraction of the time it took to build companies such as U.S. Steel and AT&T, and they took over ownership through massive purchases of mutual funds and stocks.

They turned a theoretical information age into a reality seemingly in a blink, raised living standards, cut costs, reduced unemployment to what some believe is the irreducible minimum, raised gross domestic product every year since 1991 (after adjusting for inflation) and, of all things, paid enough taxes to end budget deficits for the first time in three decades.

They earned steadily rising wages, donated record amounts to charity, spent with abandon and borrowed as if the next year always would be better, and they were right. And they never seemed to tire — until now.

Maybe the slowdown is the Fed's work, because consumers know enough about numbers, as in rising interest rates, to consider taking a breather. But maybe not. For a full year they ignored the Fed, as the world's mightiest monetary power raised rates six times, and they still maintain a gut full of confidence.

Maybe the economy is slowing simply out of boredom. As economist William Dunkelberg observes, after all that getting and spending Americans have an awful lot of stuff and probably feel like chucking half of it.

Anything can be overdone, and after a while it's no longer fun. Even in the stock market. If you listened to brokers over the past few weeks you heard the same refrain, "There's an absence of buyers."

New cash flowing into mutual funds, which added up to \$2.376 trillion during the decade of the '90s (bringing the total to more than \$6 trillion) has been slowing in recent weeks. Many folks have become fully invested, but you can bet that just as many are wary of the stock market's jolts and wary of it all.

A particularly significant figure, released during the past week by the Commerce Department, showed purchases of goods over the Internet continued to grow during the first quarter of the year. The news was greeted by new-age enthusiasts as additional evidence of progress, as they viewed it.

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# British jockeys escape plane crash

NEWMARKET, England (AP) — Frankie Dettori and fellow jockey Ray Cochrane made a life-saving climb to safety Thursday from the burning wreck of a plane crash that killed the pilot.

Britain's best-known and most flamboyant jockey, the 29-year-old Dettori suffered a broken ankle, a hand injury and severe burns to his head and face when the twin-propeller plane went down at the Newmarket race course complex just yards from the track.

Cochrane, 41, who suffered burns to his head and hair, helped Dettori out through the rear of the plane and then failed in an attempt to rescue the pilot.

"They got out and Ray went back to help him," said Peter Burrell, the business manager for the Italian-born Dettori. "But by that stage the plane was on fire and they weren't able to get to him."

Nick Lees, the clerk of the

Newmarket course, said he arrived minutes after the crash and found the two jockeys conscious and huddled together about 50 yards from the scattered wreckage.

"Frankie Dettori was complaining of severe pains in his ankle and he had blood on his face," Lees said. "But he (Dettori) was using his mobile phone fairly shortly afterwards and ringing his wife."

Lees said Cochrane had burns to his face and hair and "was complaining of pain on the top of his head and his left hand."

"He (Cochrane) was in pain ... but he gave me four separate telephone numbers to phone for his wife and brother-in-law and other people while he sat in the back of my car."

"It wasn't what I call an inferno, but it was quite a bad fire and there were a few small explosions."

The crash is strikingly similar to one a month ago in Lyon, France, in which Formula One driver David

Coulthard, his girlfriend and trainer walked away from a jet crash that killed the two pilots.

American golfer Payne Stewart died last year when his private plane flew out of control for several hours and then crashed.

Former Buffalo Bills quarterback Jim Kelly also sustained minor cuts and scrapes when a two-seat plane he was in crashed in the Bering Sea off the coast of Alaska last month.

A spokesman for a local ambulance service, which airlifted the two jockeys to a hospital near Cambridge, said the unidentified pilot was dead at the scene.

A hospital spokesman said Dettori could be released as early as Thursday evening.

Burrell said the two jockeys were en route from Newmarket to race courses at Goodwood and West Sussex, which Burrell described as a normal day of travel for the two high-profile athletes.

Police said the plane went down shortly after takeoff on the race course complex — the home of English thoroughbred racing — in an area known as Devil's Dyke.

Dettori, Britain's best-known jockey and famous for his flying dismounts, made English racing history in 1996 when he won all seven races on the same day at Ascot.

Cochrane is a veteran and well-respected jockey who has won the English Derby, England's top thoroughbred race. Dettori, who finished seventh aboard China Visit in the Kentucky Derby on May, was preparing for the June 10 Derby at Epsom, a race he has yet to win.

"All we are thinking about right now is the pilot and his family and whether Frankie and Ray are going to make a full recovery," Burrell said. "They have a very hectic lifestyle. They are flying all around the world. I am sure both Frankie and Ray will bounce back from this."

## Rekar pitches Tampa past O's

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Bryan Rekar came within two outs of his first career shutout as the Tampa Bay Devil Rays beat the Baltimore Orioles 2-1 on Thursday night.

The victory gave Tampa Bay its first two-game winning streak since May 11-12. The Devil Rays spilt the four-game series against Baltimore, stopping a skid that saw them drop eight straight series.

Rekar (2-3) took a five-hitter into the ninth inning before allowing a one-out solo homer to Brady Anderson. Roberto Hernandez came on and got two outs for his sixth save.

Rekar struck out four and walked none to get his first win as a starter since beating Florida last July 10.

Baltimore starter Scott Erickson (2-2) allowed two runs and eight hits in his first complete game of the season.

Fred McGriff's RBI-single in the first inning gave Tampa Bay a 1-0 lead. McGriff moved within four hits of 2,000.

Gerald Williams' run-scoring single in the fifth gave Tampa Bay a 2-0 lead.

## Agassi makes early round exit from French Open

PARIS (AP) — Defending French Open champion Andre Agassi, hobbled by a blistered big toe, limped out of the tournament with a stunning second-round loss Thursday.

Karol Kucera won 16 of the final 17 games to upset the top-seeded Agassi 2-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-0.

The near-capacity crowd on center court, which included Agassi's girlfriend, Steffi Graf, watched in stunned silence. Agassi was so disappointed by the defeat that he left Roland Garros without talking to reporters, which left him subject to being fined.

"He's not taking it well," said his coach, Brad Gilbert. "He's very upset."

Agassi controlled the match early and led 5-3 in the second set

before two blisters on the big toe of his right foot began to bother him. Agassi requested a trainer at 5-4, Gilbert said, but didn't receive treatment until falling behind 4-1 in the third set.

Gilbert said the blisters tore open and Agassi couldn't move, even after he had the toe taped.

"We put our heart and soul into all of this and just get bad luck sometimes," Gilbert said.

As the match progressed, Agassi occasionally winced in pain and became increasingly erratic with his shots.

On break point in the opening game of the fourth set, he didn't try for a shot by Kucera down the line.

Agassi won only six points in the final set and finished with 60 unforced errors. After hitting a service return into the net on match point,

he waved to the crowd and signed autographs before walking off the court.

The loss ends his run of four consecutive Grand Slam finals, a feat last achieved by Rod Laver in 1969. Agassi was trying to become the first man to win consecutive French Open titles at Roland Garros since Sergi Bruguera in 1993-94.

Agassi planned to return to his home in Las Vegas. Gilbert said he hopes the blisters will heal in about a week, well before Wimbledon starts June 26.

Kucera came into the tournament with just three wins in seven years at Roland Garros, and he's 65th in this year's ATP champions race.

He's now 2-0 in Grand Slams against Agassi, including a five-set upset at the 1998 U.S. Open.

This time Kucera started slowly,

double-faulting on break point twice in the first set. He served better after that and became more aggressive with his groundstrokes, keeping the ball deep and making Agassi move.

"The first two sets, he's got the match in his hands," Kucera said. "I was lucky to get back, actually, in the second set."

The upset left No. 3 Magnus Norman as the top remaining men's seed. Moments after Agassi's defeat, Norman completed a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 win over Fabrice Santoro.

"I'm playing the best tennis of my life," Norman said.

No. 2 Pete Sampras lost in the first round to Mark Philippoussis. The top American in the women's tournament, No. 2 Lindsay Davenport, lost Wednesday.

## Minnesota scoots past Blue Jays

TORONTO (AP) — Eric Milton allowed five hits in eight innings, and Ron Coomer homered as the Minnesota Twins beat the Toronto Blue Jays 5-1 on Thursday.

Milton (5-1) has won three straight starts and has allowed just two earned runs since getting shelled for nine in 2 1-3 innings of a 14-0 loss to Seattle on May 15. Milton had a season-high nine strikeouts and walked none before being replaced by Bob Wells to start the ninth.

With the score tied at 1 in the fifth, Jose Cruz Jr. led with a triple, but Milton stranded him at third after Alex Gonzalez struck out, Chris Woodward popped up and Alberto Castillo grounded out.

Carlos Delgado homered off Milton in the seventh. Coomer's eighth home run capped a three-run sixth. Jacques Jones hit an RBI triple off Frank Castillo (1-5) to give Minnesota a 1-0 lead in the third.

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# Williamson, Lowery tied for first at Kemper

POTOMAC, Md. (AP) — Jay Williamson, revisiting the scene of his embarrassing collapse four years ago, tied the course record with a 29 on the back nine Thursday to share the lead with Steve Lowery after the first round of the Kemper Insurance Open.

Williamson put together an eagle-birdie-birdie stretch from holes 13 through 16 to reach 6 under en route to a 7-under 64. He matched the nine-hole record set by Brad Bryant in 1991, although Bryant did it on the more difficult, par-36 front nine.

"Glad I didn't know," said Williamson, when told about the record. "I'm an emotional player."

Justin Leonard was a stroke back at

65, but he would have been tied for the lead were it not for a stroke penalty incurred when his ball moved just before he putted on No. 13. Leonard was tied for third with Greg Chalmers, Brett Quigley and Craig Barlow. The TPC at Avenel course is full of haunting memories for Williamson — or "demons" as he calls them. He was a wide-eyed, second-year player on the tour when he led this tournament after three rounds in 1996. Then he lost his nerve on Sunday and shot a 79, and it's still the closest he's come to winning a PGA Tour event.

"I don't think I was really good enough to handle the pressure of whatever a Sunday round brings when you're in the lead," said

Williamson, who has missed seven of 15 cuts this year in his annual struggle to stay on the tour. "And I really believe this year, I'm looking forward to the opportunity. ... I think I'm more mature. I'm definitely a better player."

Williamson eagled the par-5 13th even though his drive landed in a small divot. He hit a 5-iron to the green and sank the putt from 40 feet. He had a chance to tie the 18-hole course record, but he missed a 12-footer at the 18th. Lowery's round was more touch-and-go. At 7 under through 14 holes, he clipped a tree going for the green on his second at the par-5 6th. It took several minutes and about a dozen people to find his ball buried amongst the briars and

leaves on a hill overlooking the green.

The ball was ruled "embedded," allowing Lowery a drop in the woods. He chipped to the green and saved par.

"I was lucky somebody over there found it," Lowery said. "I actually had a chance to make birdie, but at the time it was looking like bogeying."

Lowery also landed in the woods at the 8th and in the sand trap at the 9th. Both times he saved par. Because he teed off early — and because malfunctioning scoreboards didn't let the crowd know who was leading — Lowery attracted a gallery of just eight people as he strode a fairway near the end of his round. It was quite a contrast from Monday, when Lowery was paired with Tiger Woods in the final round of the rain-delayed Memorial.

"It's a lot different," said Lowery, who tied for fifth as Woods won eas-

ily. "There were a lot of distractions Monday, but today I felt, you know, a lot freer. It was a lot easier to play today."

Williamson, Chalmers, Quigley and Barlow are seeking to add to the Kemper's legacy of first-time winners. Tom Scherrer, also looking for his first PGA Tour victory, shot a 67.

Defending champion Rich Beem shot a 70. Ernie Els, the only player in the top 10 in the world rankings in the field, had a 72.

Williamson, Lowery and every player on the leaderboard except Leonard and Barlow took advantage of early tee times as a beautiful morning for golf evolved into a hot, humid and windy afternoon. Leonard started after lunch and missed several good birdie chances on the back nine as the greens got bumpy, but he will enjoy the advantage of an early tee time Friday.

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