

WEATHER

TODAY:
High - 92 / Low - 69
TOMORROW:
High - 91 / Low - 68

THE
UNIVERSITY DAILY
SERVING THE TEXAS TECH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

TUESDAY
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Tech receives \$2 million research grant

By APRIL TAMPLIN
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech will be presented a \$2 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at 11 a.m. today in the Board of Regents room in the Administrative Building.

The four-year grant will be used to support undergraduate research, elementary and secondary science education and graduate education.

Julie Isom, project coordinator

of the Tech HHMI Undergraduate Biological Sciences Education Program, said Tech is the only university in the state to receive this grant. Isom said the HHMI is a medical research organization whose principal mission is biomedical research.

Larry Blanton, director of the Tech HHMI, compiled a list of statistics regarding the grant Tech received. Blanton said Tech received \$1.3 million in 1992, \$1

million in 1994 and \$2 million in 1998 from the HHMI. The combined total for the four grants is \$6.3 million.

According to the executive summary statement for the Tech grant, the project goals for the grant are to continue HHMI-funded undergraduate research, maintain characteristics in involving students, support travel by students to professional meetings to present the results of research

and provide students with the opportunity to improve presentation skills and learn about career opportunities.

The grant will feature a teaching fellows program for Tech graduate students.

Blanton said these students will be mentored by award winning Tech faculty and will participate in laboratory instructions offered by the Tech Honors College.

The grant also will go toward current and future faculty development.

Blanton said the new grant will continue to enhance an outreach program to area schools. A traveling laboratory program currently delivers 15 laboratories among schools, he said. Last year, the laboratory traveled over 17,000 miles and was used by 11,000 students.

see **GRANT**, page 5

Tech students wade through flooding in South, Central Texas

By KRISTEN GILBRETH
STAFF WRITER

Tech student Leslie Spradley said the flooding in San Antonio did not have any major effect on her family, but many of her friends living in the Olmos Basin area were forced to evacuate.

Spradley, a sophomore pre-nursing major from San Antonio, is living with her parents for the summer.

"We had to knock down a fence to let water out of our backyard and that was all. People I knew had like a foot of water in their kitchen," she said. "Not anyone was really affected like being trapped in their car or anything but some had to evacuate or remove carpet."

Gov. Rick Perry declared 29 South and Central Texas counties as disaster areas. He made the announcement while in San Antonio assessing the damage.

Spradley said traveling the roadways was the most dangerous part of the weather.

"There was lots of debris and flushed away trash cans and trees. I had to work so I was driving a lot and it was pretty scary," she said. "The water was overflowing into the highway. The entrance and exit ramps were closed so people could not get to where they needed to be."

She said Monday the water was going down and the roads were reopening.

see **FLOODING**, page 5

Decision causes debate over separation of church, state

By APRIL TAMPLIN
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech student Joshua Nelson said he believes no one religion should dominate a society.

"Christianity dominates the United States like the Muslim Taliban dominates Afghanistan," he said.

Nelson, a graduate student studying mathematics from Lubbock, said he agrees with the decision made by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to take away the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance.

"I am happy the words were taken out of

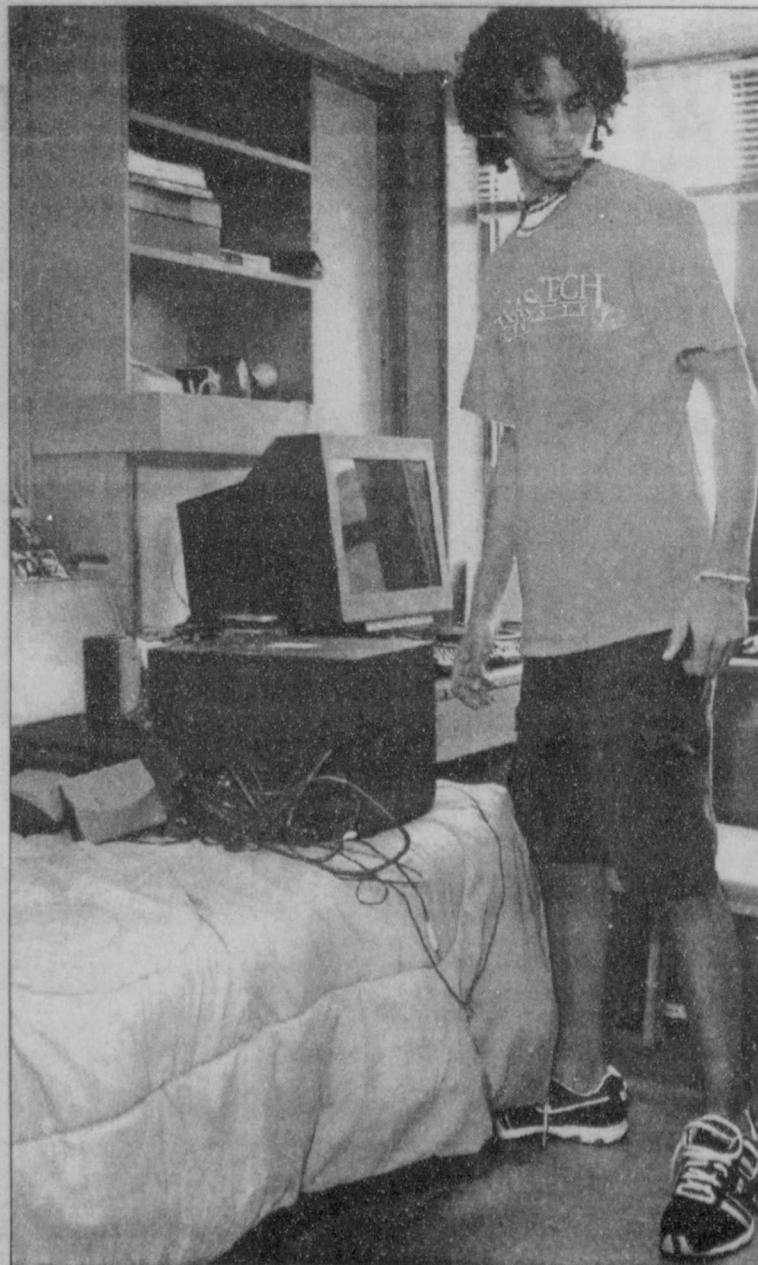
the Pledge, but they should not have been put in in the first place," he said. "I believe kids should not be forced to say the Pledge in schools, it is not the military."

On June 26, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional because of the words "under God."

The decision came after Michael Newdow appealed to the court, concerned about the religious education of his daughter. According to court records, Newdow asked the court to order the

see **DECISION**, page 5

MOVING IN



Luke Gonzales, a freshman pre-law major from Beaumont, moves into his residence hall Monday afternoon in preparation for classes during the second summer session, which start today. The residence halls opened at 10 a.m. Monday. CRAIG SWANSON/ The University Daily

Search committee reviews community feedback

By Keli Johnson
STAFF WRITER

Committee members searching for Texas Tech's next Health Sciences Center president are reviewing information they recently gathered on a listening tour.

Beginning in Lubbock on June 26, the committee launched a listening tour extending to HSC campuses at Amarillo, Odessa and El Paso.

Tech Regent David Lopez, who is chairman for the committee, said the tours were designed to elicit feedback from the community and faculty.

Student turnout was minimal, he said, but the committee intends to ask the Student Senate to serve as a channel between the committee and students.

"We also intend to directly

"The commonality ... was the request for someone who could communicate a unifying vision among the faculty, students and staff at the HSC.

David Lopez
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

contact students in the Health Sciences Center to get an idea of what type of candidate they are looking for," Lopez said.

Each time a search for a new president of the HSC is conducted, he said, the job description is rewritten to accommodate the needs of students, faculty, staff and the community.

Tech chancellor and former HSC president Dr. David Smith said once the job description is complete and criteria from the input is set, the committee will publish it in national journals and evaluate nominations and rec-

ommendations.

"The first organizational meeting went very well because we have a superb chairman and a great committee," he said. "What I did was lay out my expectations and talked about leadership skills and personality as well as to look for innovation."

Community and faculty members who attended the listening tours said they wanted someone who would advocate the HSC, promote growth, possess good communication skills and have strong leadership skills, he said.

"The commonality from the listening tours from the commu-

nity and faculty was the request for someone who could communicate a unifying vision among the faculty, students and staff at the HSC," he said.

Other requests included a candidate who has a strong financial background.

Lopez said the committee will review the requests to formulate the criteria.

"At this stage, it is too early for applicants and nominees, but I expect another meeting at the end of this month or in early August to assess possible nominations after the job description has been set," he said.

After members reflect on the feedback, they will be in touch via e-mail to make recommendations and solicit applications and nominations from within the

HSC as well as nationally.

The listening tours will be continued throughout the selection process, and an e-mail link at www.ttu.hsc.edu is available for suggestions to the committee.

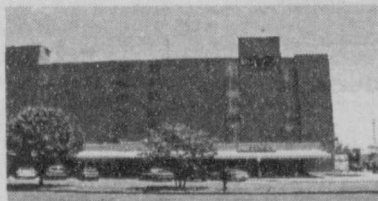
The committee also may hire an executive search firm to assist in seeking candidates who fit the position who may not be aware of the opening, Lopez said.

Associated costs with hiring a firm are about \$100,000, which is typical for a university or corporation, Lopez said. The committee has not decided if the extra expense is necessary.

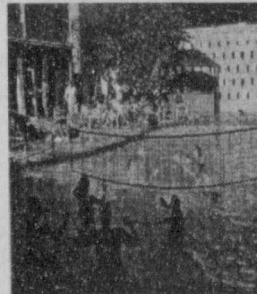
The first organizational meeting for the search committee for a new HSC president also was held June 26.

The 11-member committee met with the intent to get to know one another, to decide how often to meet, to discuss soliciting to internal candidates as well as external and to discuss strategies and plans for the selection process.

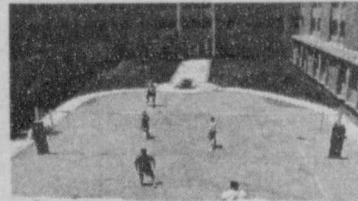
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Tech center in Spain offers culture, classes to students

By KELI JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Not many students have the opportunity to study abroad, and even fewer are able to work for the Texas Tech Center in Seville, Spain.

Martha Alexander, a graduate of University of North Carolina at Chappell Hill, works for a Tech center located inside the University Pablo de Olavide in Spain.

While attending UNC, Alexander studied abroad in Seville.

"I was a Spanish major while in college, and studying abroad here was a great opportunity, which is why I decided to stay here to live," she said. "I just fell in love with Seville."

As a director's assistant, she said she is responsible for various aspects of running the center. She works on locating host families for students, teaches conversational Spanish classes, goes on fieldtrips with the students and arranges travel to and from the center.

Alexander oversees 19 to 26 students each semester who are enrolled in the program.

Donald Haragan, president emeritus of Tech, and Allan Kuethe, a professor of history, established the program in Seville.

According to Tech's Office of International Affairs, students must be currently enrolled, have at least sophomore standing and maintain

above a 2.5 grade point average in order to study in Seville.

The deadline to apply to study in Seville in the Spring is Oct. 18, and mandatory meetings are held Oct. 24

"It is definitely worth it. My experience opened my eyes."

Martha Alexander
DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT, TECH
CENTER - SEVILLE, SPAIN

and 31, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5.

The center is composed of many traveling professors from Tech. Some remain for only a summer session, while others teach for a Spring or Fall semester. Tech faculty members who choose to live in Seville are able to teach at the center for more semesters.

The appeal of living in Seville is evident because there is never a shortage of professors, Alexander said.

There are currently few class offerings, but in the future more courses will be available to accommodate students. Classes offered through the Tech center are taught in English and transfer as viable credit hours at the main Tech cam-

pus, Alexander said.

Two Spanish classes, an accounting class and an information systems and quantitative science class are offered each semester.

Students enrolled in the Tech center are allowed to take classes from the Spanish university as well as those Tech offers. While attending, students are required to live with a host family.

Living with host families gives the students a great opportunity to explore both the language and culture of Spain, Alexander said.

"Constantly hearing and speaking the language allows you to learn it much faster than you would in a classroom," she said. "My host family was wonderful while I was studying abroad. They were very helpful and supportive."

The program includes many opportunities to travel throughout the country on group trips including travel to Granada, Madrid and Toledo.

The tour concentrates on historically significant sites and places of cultural interest, Alexander said. Estimated cost of the program totals more than \$5,000, she said.

"It is definitely worth it," she said. "My experience opened my eyes and showed me there's a lot out there and I had so much fun."

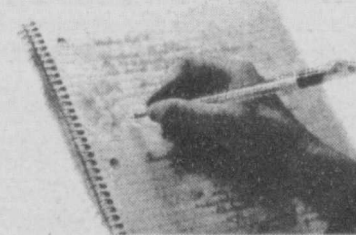
The University Daily

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[GUEST COLUMN]

Michael Duff

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Every so often I am called upon to speak in my official capacity as an Atheist. Christians come to me as if I was from a foreign country. Sometimes I am flattered by this, and sometimes I feel like a zoo animal.

"Look Ma, it's an Atheist! Run up and poke it with a stick!" I can always tell when a good question is coming, because people preface their queries with "As an Atheist."

"As an Atheist, are you offended by the words printed on our money? As an Atheist, what do you think happens when we die? As an Atheist, do you think the Harry Potter books are Satanic?"

The last one is my favorite. Consider that from my

perspective. You're asking me if an ancient mythological character inspired a current mythological character. The question is nonsense to me. It's like asking, "As an Atheist, do you believe Superman could outrun the Flash?"

I love getting questions like this, because I never react the way people expect me to. I don't hate God, and I don't have anything against religious people. For the most part, I admire religious people — the same way I admire Vegetarians and people who join the Army. It takes effort to live by a moral code, to stand up and be counted in a world ruled by apathy and fear.

So you can imagine my reaction when a friend wrote me last week and said, "As an Atheist, do you believe the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional?"

That's not a philosophical question. That's a legal question and it is clearly open to interpretation.

The Constitution says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Do the words "under God" constitute an establishment of religion by the State? As a libertarian, I think people are missing the point here. The problem is not with the words in our pledge.

The problem is with a state-funded institution that requires all children — Christian, Atheist, Muslim and Hindu — to assemble and swear fealty to the

same God. As a libertarian, I don't like the idea of mandatory government schooling.

In a perfect world all schools would be private and parents could explicitly choose the values they want their

children to learn.

I can't answer this question honestly because at this time in history, I think we have more important things to worry about. Our nation, our culture — our very way of life is under attack, and this is not the time to doubt our national symbols. We need our symbols. We need unity, we need hope and yes, in this time of crisis, we need our faith.

We need to have a serious debate about religious pluralism in this country but this is the wrong issue at the wrong time. Terrorists are murdering people on American soil and we're quibbling over symbols. I'm not worried about symbols today. I'm worried about innocent lives — the victims in Israel and New York and Los Angeles.

It is inappropriate to argue about trivial matters in this time of grief. It's like debating politics at a funeral. We need to get our priorities straight.

Our nation, our culture — our very way of life is under attack, and this is not the time to doubt our national symbols.



Tips on soundtracking summer road trips

I found myself in a dire situation this Fourth of July break. There I was, on the open stretch of Highway 114 between Lubbock and Dallas jamming out to a mixed CD when lo and behold, the music died. My mix had run out and I was stuck without anything to listen to.

I realized my problem was I had ignored the Boy Scout motto and was completely unprepared. When it is just you and a long Texas highway, the only thing that keeps you going is the music you bring with you. So with my lesson learned, I figure it is a good idea to impart these words of wisdom regarding the road trip sound track so you don't get stuck searching for local radio stations.

My first bit of advice is this — don't listen to the Dave Matthews Band on a road trip! You might as well turn off the air conditioning, eat a turkey dinner and light up the aromatherapy candles, because you will freaking fall asleep. There is something about Dave that leads to the dreaded swerve and

**Rocky Ramirez**

ramirez_rocky@hotmail.com

correct. Getting sleepy on the road is more hazardous than driving drunk, so do us all a favor and avoid any kind of acoustic music.

If you are falling asleep however, there are certain CDs I have found are golden for revitalization. The best of these is Weezer's blue album. Something about the 'sing-along-ability' in conjunction with the first track, "My Name Is Jonas" that gets the blood flowing. You will be amazed at how fast this CD will start you up. Some other good wake-up CDs are Dr. Dre's *The Chronic*, Pantera's *Cowboys From Hell* and The White Stripes self-titled first CD.

With our unprecedented ability to pirate music on the Internet, it

has become possible to create any mixed CD we can imagine. There are a couple of rules to making a decent road mix.

First, have some diversity dammit! It's a good rule of thumb to never have two songs from the same band on a burn. Have a good blend of upbeat songs and shoe-gazers, but don't have too many mellow songs in a row or you'll be snoozing.

If you are like me, then you do your best thinking on the road. I have gotten most of my ideas for my columns while I was in the car. I even wrote most of this column in my head while I was on my way back from Dallas. If you're a road thinker then you need to get into post-rock instrumentalists. Bands of this genre include Mogwai, Godspeed You Black Emperor!, Explosions In The Sky and the Japanese band Mono. Trust me, pop in one of these CDs on the road, and you will become engulfed in your thoughts, and the trip will fly by.

Keep these things in mind and your next cross-Texas adventure will be worth the gas money.

THE UNIVERSITY DAILY
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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 450 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.

FLOODING

from page 1

Erin Herrick, a sophomore music education major from San Antonio, was in Lubbock during the flood.

"I wasn't really that worried," she said. "I knew my parent's house was on the high side of everything. It wasn't touched, but the yard is kind of gone because we had just moved in."

Her father, Mard Herrick, is the superintendent for Southside Independent School District. He said the Medina Lake runs through the district and the high school was opened by the Red Cross for displaced families.

"Seven people came through because they had absolutely nowhere else to turn," he said. "There are a lot of volunteers down here working very hard."

Pam Alspaugh, associate direc-

tor for communication at Tech-Hill Country, Fredericksburg, said they have received more than 20 inches of rain.

"In seven days we got a lot of rain, but we are doing OK," she said. "None of our students have had any major problems, and the building only had a few leaks."

Bobby Walker, campus director of Tech-Hill Country, Highland Lakes, said the location of the campus saved them from floodwaters.

"We have had a lot of dreary days, but we have been high and dry because we are up on a hill," she said. "We have been very fortunate in being where we are."

Arturo Corrales, student director of Red Raider Camp, said the camp, which is located in Junction, would not be affected by the floodwaters.

"It's not going to have any affect on us, not now anyway," he said.

GRANT

from page 1

Isom said Tech has been placed on the map because of the grant.

"The success of the past Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant project is due largely impart to the excellent faculty and undergraduate fellows," she said. "The director, Larry Blanton, was great with his outstanding leadership and hardwork."

Forty-four research institutes in the United States have received a total of \$80 million from the HHMI. Other schools that received grant money include Indiana University at Bloomington, Purdue, Kansas State University, University of Arizona and Oklahoma State University.

Tech is ranked 13th with \$6.3 million. Cornell University is ranked first with \$8.3 million and University of Colorado is ranked second with \$7.8 million.

DECISION

from page 1

president of the United States to "alter, modify or repeal" the Pledge by removing the words "under God."

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals covers Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

According to the court records, those states are the only ones affected by the court decision as of right now.

Nelson said President Eisenhower added the words "under God" to the Pledge in the 1950's.

Jeremy Brown, internal vice president for the Student Gov-

ernment Association at Tech, said he does not agree with taking away any words from the Pledge.

"I do not think the words 'under God' force religion on anybody, it is what America was founded on," he said. "I once heard that George Washington said a nation without religion is not really a nation at all."

Brown said he does not believe church and state should be separated.

"We are such a blessed nation, and the more and more they take away the religion, the more it takes God's protection out of our nation," he said.

"I do not see how having 'under God' is offensive, I guess I do not understand. I hope it does not offend anyone, I just disagree with it."

Julia Andrews, a senior music major from Lubbock, said she did not have a problem with taking "under God" out of the Pledge, and she believes church and state should be separated.

"I can understand why people would be upset, but personally, I do not have a problem with the decision," she said. "There should be separation of church and state, so take the words out."

Chris Booker, a freshman music major from Lubbock, said he thinks church and state should be united.

"I think it is retarded to take 'under God' out of the Pledge," he said. "I am a Christian and saying God is the natural thing to do. I see everyone's different positions, but I think it is retarded."

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Seasons, symbols to be reflected in garage's ironwork

By KRISTEN GILBRETH
STAFF WRITER

When Texas Tech's Flint Avenue Parking Garage opens this Fall, drivers will have more than a parking space waiting for them. Local artist Steve Teeters is currently turning the facility into a work of art.

Tech public art manager Cecilia

Carter said Tech's public art committee held a nationwide competition to select an artist.

Teeters was chosen to design ornamental ironwork that captured the natural and cultural history of the region.

Carter said the original plans called for an aluminum security grill on the first floor of the garage.

"This is a great opportunity to

introduce public art in the form of ornamental iron," she said. "There is going to be a security grill anyway. It is not all that uncommon in public art to integrate art into a physical structure."

Teeters' art will tell a story as drivers travel around the complex. Each of the four seasons will be depicted. Teeters said elements synonymous with West Texas including the wind, grass and water will be captured.

Carter said the design will add color to the parking garage.

"The basic design revolves around the idea that a university is a place for ideas to be planted, in-

cubated, nurtured, allowed to grow, and seen through to fruition," Carter said.

Carter said each design reflects phases in a student's time at Tech.

"On the west side of the garage will be furrowed fields symbolizing students coming to the university ready to plant seeds of knowledge" she said. "While the south parallels growth and nurturing, the east conveys the harvest of ideas that are the rewards of learning."

Carter said more than 400 public art programs exist across the country, but Tech is the only university in the state that allocates 1 percent of new building costs to-

ward public art.

Total cost for construction of the garage is \$11.5 million, said Bill Droll, associate vice chancellor of facilities planning and construction.

Vice President for Operations Max Hinojosa said the garage will be ready to open in mid-August.

Hinojosa said all student spaces are reserved for the four-floor garage.

"There is some talk around the architecture department about this being an award winning parking garage," Hinojosa said. "They are working very hard to make it aesthetically pleasing."

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PUMPING IRON



CRAIG SWANSON/The University Daily

Kousha Gohari, a sophomore petroleum engineering major from San Antonio, works out on the squat rack in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center on Monday afternoon. He said he wants to get in shape so he can try out for the Tech football team in the Fall as a running back. "I miss the game," he says, "I want to give it one more chance."



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Arizona residents return to homes as wildfire contained

PHOENIX (AP) — The last of the 30,000 people forced to evacuate because of Arizona's massive wildfire are returning home — but not to their normal lives.

"When you get home, there's a tremendous amount of adjustment after something like this. You're still exhausted and you don't realize the mental and emotional strain this takes out

of you," said Mel Coleman, whose home in Linden survived the fire.

"You just sort of break down emotionally, just knowing that your home is safe, that everything you worked for is still intact," said Coleman, who was evacuated for 11 days. "There's also a feeling of despair, particularly for friends of mine who lost their homes."

People were evacuated from nine communities in the path of the wildfire, the largest in Arizona history. Firefighters from around the country were being reassigned to other states or sent home as the fire was finally contained Sunday.

About 1,100 firefighters and support staff remained on the fire lines, down from more than 4,400 in late

June when the blaze was burning out of control and threatening hundreds of homes, fire spokeswoman Lori Cook said.

"There's still work to be done," Cook said. "We're going to be here awhile doing rehab."

The crews also were beginning to restore land that had been scarred by bulldozers and burned clean of

foliage that had been holding the soil in place.

The massive wildfire started in two locations on June 18 and June 20, and burned across 468,638 acres of eastern Arizona's White Mountains, destroying 467 homes and causing at least \$28 million in damage. Authorities put the cost of fighting the fire at \$43 million Sunday.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The proposed Construction of Texas Tech Parkway on the Texas Tech University Campuses. Tuesday, July 30, 2002. City Bank Conference Center Meeting Room at the United Spirit Arena. 1701 Indiana Avenue on the Campus of Texas Tech University. The Texas Tech University System will host an Open House beginning at 6:30 P.M. and conduct a public hearing beginning at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday July 30, 2002. The purpose of the Open House and Public Hearing is for Texas Tech to inform the public about a proposed plan to construct Texas Tech Parkway on the Texas Tech University Campuses and to solicit comments on this proposed plan from the public. The Open House and the Public Hearing will be held at the City Bank Conference Center Meeting Room at the United Spirit Arena, 1701 Indiana Avenue on the campus of Texas Tech University in the City of Lubbock, Texas. The United Spirit Arena is located between 17th and 18th Street on the east side of Indian Avenue. The limits of this proposed project extends from Erskine Street south to 19th Street (State Highway 114), a distance of approximately 2.521 miles. Texas Tech Parkway does not currently exist on the Texas Tech University Campuses. This proposed project is the construction of Texas Tech Parkway (a new principal arterial street) on a new location across the Texas Tech University campus. The construction of the proposed Texas Tech Parkway begins at Erskine Street just south of Loop 289. From Erskine Street, the new Texas Tech Parkway road parallels Quaker Avenue south approximately 0.30 mile where it turns to the southeast and extends approximately 0.60 mile to the land survey half section line. At the half section line (at Memphis Avenue, a dirt road) the parkway road turns south generally following the half section line, crossing 4th Street (F.M. 2255) and U.S. Highway 82 (future Marsha Sharp Freeway), to a point approximately 0.34 mile north of 19th Street (S.H. 114). The route of Texas

Tech Parkway then turns again to the southeast and extends to Indiana Avenue just south of 18th Street. At Indian Avenue, Texas Tech Parkway turns south to an intersection with 19th Street—the project's southern terminus. The design of the new Texas Tech Parkway principal arterial street consist of four travel lanes (two in each direction) and a raised median from Erskine Street to U. S. Highway 82 and from U. S. Highway 82 to 19th Street of six travel lanes (three in each direction) and a raised concrete median. Travel lanes are typically 11 feet wide, median widths vary from 20 to 60 feet, and curb and gutter borders each outside travel lane throughout the project. The typical section also includes a ten-foot combined use bicycle/pedestrian sidewalk along most of the length of the project. Supporting auxiliary lanes (i.e., weaving and turning lanes) occur at locations throughout the project where traffic volumes and/or turning movements warrant these types of lanes. Currently, Indiana Avenue is the principal westmost north-south arterial street across the Texas Tech Campuses. Following the completion of the new Texas Tech Parkway street, the role of Indiana Avenue as a connecting-link roadway in the city will be diminished, and Texas Tech Parkway will become the principal western north-south arterial across the campuses. Following the construction of the Marsha Sharp Freeway at U.S. Highway 82, Indiana Avenue will no longer cross U. S. Highway 82 connecting the Texas Tech University and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center campuses and neighborhoods north and south of the Texas Tech Campuses. Texas Tech Parkway will be the new principal arterial street connecting the university campuses and city neighborhoods north and south of the campuses in this area. This new street will affect directly only land owned by Texas Tech University, however, no right-of-way acquisition by the state is necessary since this street will be owned and maintained by the university following its construction. The right-of-way width for roadway design purposes is 200 feet. This proposed project will not cause the relocation of businesses or individuals. The proposed Texas Tech parkway project will encroach on one floodplain that surrounds nearby Playa Lake #52, which is located approximately 0.25 mile south of Erskine Street and 0.1 mile west of the new parkway. Maps and drawings showing the proposed location and design of Texas Tech Parkway, the project's environmental assessment document, a tentative schedule for construction, and other information about the proposed project are on file and available for inspection at

the office of Mr. William J. (Bill) Droll, P.E., Project Manager, Texas Tech University, Administration Building Room 5, (806-742-2116). The mailing address is Mr. William J. (Bill) Droll, P.E. Project Manager, Texas Tech University, Facilities Planning and Construction, Post Office Box 42014, Lubbock, Texas 79409-2014. A copy of the environmental assessment document for this project, with maps and drawings showing the location and geometric design of this project, is available for inspection with the city engineer's office at the City of Lubbock municipal building located at 1625 13th Street. Persons interested in attending the hearing who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact Ms. Debbie Cox, Texas Tech University, Project Manager, at 806-742-2116, by 5:00 P.M., Thursday, July 25, 2002. Because the public hearing will be conducted in English, any requests for language interpreters or other special communication needs should also be made at least two days prior to the public hearing. Texas Tech University will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs. Written comments may be submitted prior to the Public Hearing and verbal and written comments may also be presented at the Open House, Public Hearing, or submitted within ten days (by Friday, August 9, 2002, at 5:00 P.M.) after the Public Hearing to Mr. William J. (Bill) Droll, P.E. Project Manager, Texas Tech University, Facilities Planning and Construction, Administration Building Room 5 or by mail to Mr. William J. (Bill) Droll, P.E. Project Manager, Texas Tech University, Facilities Planning and Construction, Post Office Box 42014, Lubbock, Texas 79409-2014.

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'Mr. Deeds' pleases Sandler fans, shames Capra classic

[MOVIE REVIEW]



James Eppler
jeppler@hotmail.com

A lot of film buffs are miffed at Adam Sandler. He had the audacity to take a classic Frank Capra film entitled "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town" starring Gary Cooper and turn it into another idiotic Sandler flick.

It would be on the same level if Mike Myers remade "It's a Wonderful Life."

And it's true, when comparing

Sandler to Cooper, that it's nearly an insult to the original film.

But I laughed anyway.

Why? Because if you do not compare the two works, like comparing a third grader's coloring book to a Picasso, then you just may find yourself enjoying Sandler's work. Which is not to say Sandler fans will follow him anywhere. Just look at the unfunny "Little Nicky" from a few years ago, which found loyal fans walking out of theaters before the film ended.

Sandler stars as Longfellow Deeds, a simple and well-mannered guy who owns a pizzeria in Mandrake Falls, N.H. Everyone in town loves him, of course. He soon learns that a rich relative of his has frozen to death while climbing Mt. Everest. Deeds is now the proprietor of a media empire worth \$40 billion.

So Deeds goes to New York with a corporate executive played by Peter Gallagher ("While you Were Sleep-

ing") who is hell-bent on getting control of the company.

Meanwhile, a tabloid news program has decided to make Deeds their target for a series of shows.

Winona Ryder plays Babe Bennett, one of the show's reporters who finds Deeds, creates a false identity for herself and gets him to fall in love with her so she can exploit him.

Of course, she accidentally falls for him, too. The love story is flimsy to say the least, but it's mostly just a gimmick to move from gag to gag. The most redeeming aspect of the love story is when Deeds surprises her by taking her to her so-called hometown to visit old neighbors and friends, which don't exist.

Possibly the best aspect of any Sandler movie are the minor characters that are just so odd and deranged they almost become memorable.

Take for instance Deeds butler Emilio Lopez played by scene-steal-

ing John Turturro ("O Brother, Where art Thou?") who has a fetish for feet and an ability to be very sneaky.

Steve Buscemi is found as another strange original character called "Crazy Eyes," and Rob Schneider makes a cameo appearance as the take-out guy from "Big Daddy."

In this film especially, it's not so much Sandler earning the laughs as it is the characters who surround him.

However, there is one big flaming problem with "Mr. Deeds." The problem can be blamed on the people marketing the film who put about 80 percent of the funny scenes in the trailers.

I would likely have enjoyed the film much more had I not seen most of the funny material beforehand. When will studios learn?

Luckily, the funniest scene in the movie, involving a haughty football player and his father will be fresh to audiences.

Regardless, Sandler fans will most likely enjoy his latest effort, even if it's not up to par with the hilarious "Happy Gilmore" or the charming "The Wedding Singer." Those who are not fans will likely find themselves laughing now and then in spite of themselves. But one wonders how much Wendy's had to pay to get a mini-commercial in the middle of the movie.

EPPLER'S RATING: ★★ 1/2

★★★★★ - Flawless

★★★★ - Excellent

★★★ - Good

★★ - Mediocre

★ - Awful

'MIB II' snags No. 1 box office slot from 'Mr. Deeds,' grossing \$52.1 million

AP — Big guns mean big money. "Men in Black II," the action comedy about agents with huge weapons policing extraterrestrial riffraff, debuted with \$52.1 million in its first weekend.

Starring Tommy Lee Jones and

Will Smith, "Men in Black II" pushed its total to \$87.2 million since opening Wednesday.

The movie took over the No. 1 slot from "Mr. Deeds," which came in second with \$18.4 million in its second

weekend. "Lilo & Stitch" was third with \$12.6 million and "Minority Report" was fourth with \$12.56 million.

The basketball family flick "Like Mike," starring teen rapper Bow Wow, debuted at No. 5 with \$12.2

million. The weekend's other big release, "The Powerpuff Girls Movie," grossed \$3.6 million for a weak ninth-place debut.

"Men in Black II" broke the record for best Fourth of July weekend, beat-

ing the original "Men in Black," which grossed \$51.1 million over the same weekend in 1997. Accounting for today's higher admission prices, however, the sequel sold fewer tickets than the original.

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