

WEATHER

TODAY:
High - 93 / Low - 69
TOMORROW:
High - 93 / Low - 70

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Doak changing to all male, freshmen

By KRISTEN GILBRETH
STAFF WRITER

Because of increased demand for on-campus housing, Doak Residence Hall is making the transition to an all-male residence hall, said Sean Duggan, director of Housing and Dining at Texas Tech.

The hall was designated an upper-classman and graduate co-ed residence hall. Fifty-five students were scheduled to move into Doak this fall, leaving the hall at 25 per-

cent capacity. The 204 freshmen taking their place will leave the space better utilized, Duggan said.

"This will help us with reducing the amount of temporary housing," he said. "We anticipate that many students will not be happy, but what we were trying to do is grant their request for upper-class and graduate housing. We thought that would be better than having a mix. I don't want to make anyone unhappy, but it is just one of those difficult decisions that had to be made."

Students planning on living in Doak were sent letters this week alerting them to the change in living arrangements, Duggan said.

They can accept the move to another residence hall or cancel their contract with no penalties or loss of money.

Michael Shonrock, vice president of Student Affairs, said in the Fall 2001 semester, about 6,000 students were living in residence halls and Fall 2002 will show an increase of several hundred.

"The good news is we are growing. We are starting to see a lot of retention of students who live on campus. They are staying instead of moving off campus," he said. "We are trying to balance new students and returning students. We are going to be as prepared as we can for this fall."

Duggan said most students will transfer to Gaston Residence Hall because there is plenty of space open. However, other, more expensive options, such as Carpenter

Wells residence complex, are being made available.

According to the Tech Housing and Dining Web site, non-air-conditioned rooms in Gaston are the same cost to students as those in Doak.

Shonrock said the first consideration was to provide something of comparable cost for those affected.

"(The students') first consideration would be cost because that is probably why they chose to live in those facilities," he said.

Citibus proposes complexes pay for routes

By KELI JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Representatives from 15 apartment complexes located along the west Fourth Street and north Indiana Avenue Citibus routes will have one week to decide whether to help fund the routes, which serve the Texas Tech campus.

In a presentation Thursday, Citibus representatives outlined current funding problems and asked the complexes for help.

Because of growing enrollment, Tech can no longer afford the off-campus routes and also meet on-campus demand.

Lesli Seaman, Citibus director of transportation, said Citibus is now trying to deal directly with the apartment complexes.

Seaman presented the projected costs for the 2002-2003 academic year at about \$1.3 million for both on and off-campus routes.

Citibus needs more than \$500,000 to cover the cost of off-campus transportation for the upcoming year.

"Basically, there are no funds available at Tech to fund the off-campus bus routes, and we don't want to cut a service to the students," Seaman said. "We see that the apartments benefit from our services because they advertise that they are on the bus route, which is why we're asking for their help."

Tech's budget for transportation is about \$997,000, said Michael



CRAIG SWANSON/The University Daily

Jon Mark Bernal (left), Student Government Association external chief of staff, and Leigh Mauer, SGA external vice president, stand before apartment operators in a question and answer session in the Citibank room of the United Spirit Arena. Citibus officials and local apartment complex representatives met Thursday to discuss funding for bus operations between the complexes and Texas Tech.

Shonrock, vice president of Student Affairs, the whole of which would be used to cover on-campus transportation.

"Our numbers at Tech are growing so fast, we need more busses on campus," Shonrock said. "The budget for transportation did not expect this kind of growth. Unfortunately, we don't have the money to

pay for off-campus routes, which is why Citibus is making a proposal to the apartment complexes to help pay."

Student Government Association External Vice President Leigh Mauer is responsible for all student-city relations at Tech.

"Citibus is making the proposals," she said.

An alternative to the apartment complexes funding the route would be for them to sell passes to students to use as luggage tags on their backpacks, Mauer said.

Seaman said she hopes the apartments will assume the funding.

see **CITIBUS**, page 5

Smoking issue to be reviewed

By APRIL TAMPLIN
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech student Marcus Parks said if Tech became a smoke-free campus it would not stop him from sneaking in a cigarette when he got the chance.

"Well, I think if Tech banned smoking, we would all turn into a bunch of high school kids hiding behind a building trying to catch a nicotine break here and there," said Parks, a creative writing major from Rochester.

Michael Shonrock, vice president for Student Affairs, said there are two separate issues the administration is facing.

One issue is smoking on campus. The other is buying and selling cigarettes on campus.

"Student Affairs is more involved with the second issue because we are in charge of the Sam's Places' and Raider Express at the Student Union," he said.

Shonrock said the reason the policy on buying tobacco products is being reviewed is because residence halls are smoke-free.

"Since the residence halls are smoke-free, it may not even be reasonable that we sell tobacco prod-

see **SMOKING**, page 5

Census says single mothers are doing better financially

WASHINGTON (AP) — Evelyn Dortch left her husband more than a decade ago, got a college degree and now makes enough money to support her four children and stay off welfare.

The 2000 census showed poverty rates declined for families led by single mothers like Dortch during the 1990s. Welfare reform, a booming economy, greater acceptance of single mothers in the workplace and crackdowns on deadbeat dads contributed to the trend, experts say.

Nevertheless, more than one-third of families led by single mothers still live below the poverty level, census data shows.

Many who left welfare rolls in the 1990s simply nudged themselves up to "working poor" status and are particularly vulnerable to the economic slowdown

since then, said William O'Hare of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a child advocacy group.

Dortch makes just \$22,000, barely above the poverty line. Still, she calls herself a "welfare success story." She collected welfare off and on until 1999, when she graduated from college with a social work degree.

Now Dortch works full time at a community development outreach program and plans to move her family — her children are 11 to 16 years old — out of public housing in St. Albans, W.Va.

"Education was my ticket out of poverty and to gaining my self-respect," she said. "When (Congress) considers welfare reform, education needs to be the first priority, not employment."

The census showed 34 percent of households led by a single

mother with a child under 18 lived in poverty in 1999, an improvement from 42 percent in 1989. The Census Bureau asks about a person's economic status in the calendar year before forms are distributed.

For all families, poverty rates improved from 10 percent to 9 percent, while the rate for all residents improved from 13 percent to 12 percent, the census found.

"But the question is whether these lower rates are sustainable," said Jill Miller of the advocacy group Women Work!, which coordinates job training and education programs. "Our concern is that we see women who work two or three jobs who managed to get themselves out of poverty, but at a very high cost."

Diana Hernandez said things have gotten worse for her in recent years. She divorced in 1996 and raises her 8-year-old son and two teen-age daughters in temporary housing in San Leandro, Calif. She found the home with help from the Family Emergency

Shelter Coalition.

"In 1990, I was fine. It's the last six years that have been difficult," Hernandez said.

She said the \$79 in monthly child support she gets from her ex-husband barely helps pay for food. She sometimes skims money off utility bill payments to afford things like her son's Little League uniform.

"The big issue for me is child care — not having it," said Hernandez, who is taking classes at a local college. As Congress debates whether to change the welfare system, Hernandez hopes lawmakers offer more child care help to single parents.

Paying for housing also is a problem for many single mothers.

Poverty levels differ according to a household's makeup. For instance, in 1999, the poverty threshold for a family of five, including four children, was \$19,578. By comparison, the threshold for a three-person household with one child was \$13,410.

Videotaped cop punching teen pleads innocent

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The police officer who was videotaped punching a handcuffed teenager pleaded innocent to assault Thursday and his attorney said the incident was "reasonable" use of force under the circumstances.

Inglewood Officer Jeremy Morse, 24, the lawman seen roughing up the teen, appeared briefly in court with Officer Bijan Darvish, who pleaded innocent to filing a false report. Bail was set at \$25,000 each.

The videotape recorded July 6 by a bystander shows Morse lifting 16-year-old Donovan Jackson to his feet after being arrested and slamming him onto a squad car. Morse, who has a streak of blood next to his ear, then strikes Jackson on the face with his fist.

The incident has sparked federal and local investigations, and demonstrations in Inglewood, a southwestern suburb of Los Angeles.

Morse is charged with felony assault under the color of authority, which applies under state law to any person in law enforcement accused of using his or her position to unlawfully assault or beat someone. He has been suspended with pay.

Morse, a three-year police veteran, said in the police report that Jackson was arrested after he struggled with officers, scratched Morse above his ear and grabbed the officer's testicles after being handcuffed. Morse was in "extreme pain" and punched Jackson to make him let go, according to the report.

Morse's attorney, John D. Barnett, said what his client did was "reasonable" given the circumstances of the arrest.

Darvish, who wrote the police report, said he punched Jackson twice in the face before the teen was handcuffed because he believed the boy would hit him. He did not describe how Jackson was placed on the trunk of the car, saying only that officers "assisted Jackson to his feet and had him stand facing the police vehicle."

The arrest was filmed by Mitchell Crooks, 27, who was at a motel across the street from a gas station where Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies had stopped Jackson and his father, Coby Chavis, because the car they were in had expired vehicle tags.

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Delta Airlines continues to lose money since Sept. 11 attacks

(AP) — The nation's third- and fourth-largest airlines, Delta and Northwest, reported a combined second-quarter loss of \$279 million Thursday.

Southwest, the leading low-cost airline, remained profitable, earning \$102 million in the second quarter. That was a sharp drop from a year ago, but a stark contrast to the big losses at its major competitors.

Delta and Northwest blamed continued losses on the air travel slump since Sept. 11.

Analysts expect the nine biggest U.S. airlines to report a combined quarterly loss of \$1.3 billion, and airline executives said the losses will continue next quarter.

Major airlines lost \$2.4 billion during the first three months of 2002. And analysts do not expect the industry to post an annual profit until 2004.

Passenger demand was 8.4 percent below year-ago levels in June, according to the Air Transport Association.

Delta lost \$186 million in the second quarter, more than double the loss of \$90 million in the same period a year ago. Revenue declined 8 percent to \$3.47 billion.

Northwest posted a second-quarter loss of \$93 million, considerably steeper than the loss of \$55 million during the same period in 2001. Revenue was down 11 percent to \$2.41 billion.

Southwest said its profit was down 42 percent from \$176 million a year earlier. Revenue fell 5 percent to \$1.47 billion.

Delta rose 10 cents to \$16.55 in midday trading Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange. Northwest was up 36 cents at \$9.82 on the Nasdaq Stock Market. Southwest fell 8 cents to \$13.85 on the NYSE.

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Five finalists named for new LPD chief

KELI JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Interviews begin Monday for five finalists vying to become Lubbock's next Chief of Police.

City Manager Bob Cass will conduct the second round of interviews for the five remaining candidates.

"I hope to make a final decision by the end of next week, but I'm not sure if that will be possible," Cass said. "We have five very good, very credible candidates. I'm just keeping my mind open on the subject."

The candidates are John Compston, a lieutenant colonel with the Dayton, Ohio Police Department; G.M. Cox, chief of police in Corsicana; Donald Franklin, Addison police chief; David Purdy, Deputy Chief of Public Safety in Kalamazoo, Mich., and Claude Jones, LPD interim police chief.

After the initial onslaught of applicants, the pool was narrowed to 10 to 12 candidates, Cass said. An initial round of interviews were performed by a panel comprised of city staff and community members who chose the top five candidates who will go on to the second round of interviews that will be conducted by Cass on Monday.

A reception for the five candi-

dates will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center.

The only native Lubbock citizen is Jones, a 28-year veteran of the LPD. Compston has 27 years of law enforcement experience. Cox has 22 years of experience, Franklin has been in enforcement for 16 years, and Purdy has 32 years of experience.

The position has been vacant since Ken Walker resigned last year following the July 13, 2001 LPD SWAT team incident that left one officer dead as a result of friendly fire. Jones has since served as interim.

"I think it would be difficult for anyone to take over the responsibilities of chief after something

like that happened," Jones said. "There were many difficult questions that had to be asked and

many hard decisions. Disciplinary actions also had to be taken."

City council members will be on hand to hear the interviews.

"I don't really feel any additional pres-

sure because I am currently the interim chief," Jones said. "I'm staying plenty busy and everything seems to be going pretty

smoothly."

Cass is responsible for interviewing and making a final decision, which must then be approved by the city council said Mary House, who works in the Human Resources department of the LPD.

"The chief of police is a unique position because it requires the ratification of the city council," she said.

Before posting the job, Cass said he got feedback from the community because he did not know how the public perceived the department following the SWAT team incident last year.

"There was an overwhelming degree of support for the LPD," Cass said. "What the community does seem to want is a strong department, but also an open department. They want to know what is going on within the LPD."

"I hope to make a final decision by the end of next week, but I am not sure if that will be possible."

Bob Cass
CITY MANAGER

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Pageant participants possess poise, courage

Those of you who regularly peruse this newspaper will have noticed our recent cover stories discussing the ups and downs of the Miss Texas USA pageant, here in town.

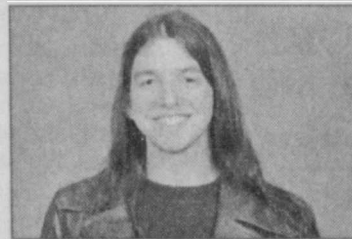
What you may not be aware of is the above is the second such contest in the past month. Two weeks ago, the Miss Texas Scholarship Pageant (forerunner to Miss America), a far more fantastic circus, took place in Fort Worth. It was on your behalf, dear readers, that I undertook the grueling journey southwards.

True, my sister also was competing in the event and my dear family compelled me to go under threat of death, but my agreeing to go along was, in fact, a clever ruse allowing me to sneak in under the radar and capture, for the public, one of the truly eccentric and enjoyable events of our time. Appropriate for this paper, too. Tech had five students competing: Nicole Austin, Erica Charlton, Morgan Matlock, Katie Rhode (sister) and Stephani Stokes.

Perhaps you're expecting me to make fun. And there's a heap of absurdity in the Miss Texas pageant, to be sure. Women bearing titles like "Miss Lake O' the Pines" and "Miss Farmer's Branch" battle for the crown royal.

Not since the birth of the American theatre have so many gorgeous women and deeply effeminate men come together to produce such bizarre spectacles.

There are more memorable lines in an hour at Miss Texas than in a day spent reading Bartlett's Quotations. Gaiety, in both senses of the word, is full-blown when the First Daughters of the state and their assorted hangers-on annually gather to



Jason Rhode

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select Miss Lone Star for the next year.

But under the comedic terrain lies a warm-heartedness that parody fails to capture. Pageant life is certainly unlike reality, but it's much less ridiculous than the small worlds of horse racing, golf or Congress. There is an odd combination of kindness and competitiveness that is rare.

Although the Fort Worth police occasionally stood on lawn sprinklers so the passing contestants wouldn't get wet, these women are anything but spoiled princesses. Courageous is the word I would use. There isn't any other sort of competition I can think of where all facets of the participant — their purpose, intelligence, fitness and skill — are so unflinchingly judged and criticized. "That is so not her color, Billy Wayne."

The Miss Texas people emphasize it's a scholarship pageant. "Talent" and "interview" are more highly prized than genetics. The dedication required is Olympian. A lucky novice expecting to grin and win is laughed at.

Pageant competitors deserve to be ranked alongside the practitioners of any other serious amateur sport. And like sport, vast amounts of time and money are thrown at the goal, the victory being primarily one of honor, not of reimbursement. The outfits might be designer, but underneath are women of steel. Just don't call them "beauty queens."



HIV muppet raises tough questions

The South African version of Sesame Street is planning to add an HIV-positive Muppet to its cast of characters.

The first time I heard this, I thought it was a joke, but Reuters News Service confirms the proposal, and congressional Republicans are already planning to oppose it if they try to introduce a similar character in the United States.

This led to one of the most bizarre headlines in recent memory: "Republicans target HIV-positive Muppet." This suggests a line of men with red ties and baseball bats, advancing on Big Bird. There is an AIDS epidemic sweeping through Africa, but if we grant this justification, how far will it go? Will Big Bird be afflicted with heart disease? Will the Cookie Monster turn diabetic? Will Oscar the Grouch go on Prozac? Will The Count finally get treatment for OCD?

It pains me to say this, but I think the congressional Republicans are



Michael Duff

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on the right track. They support the idea of AIDS education on PBS, but they feel the topic is too mature for Sesame Street.

So, what are they saying? Is there such a thing as too much truth? The philosopher in me says no, but is truth the ultimate goal here? As much as I love truth, I acknowledge it is not an end in itself. Truth is a means to an end. In the media, our goal is understanding, and with that goal in mind, I'm afraid Sesame Street's new character will cause more harm than good.

Half a truth can be worse than a lie, and the context of Sesame Street guarantees only half the truth will be told. We'll learn this character

has HIV, but we won't learn how she got it. We'll learn people hate her, but we won't learn why.

AIDS is a complex disease, mixed up with a lot of serious adult issues. You can't have an honest discussion about AIDS without discussing sex, drug use, homosexuality and death.

This character will spawn a host of questions that Sesame Street is not prepared to answer: How do you get this disease? How can you prevent this disease? What kinds of people get this disease? Why do grownups avoid people who have this disease? If I get this disease, will I die?

Sesame Street will lead children to these questions, but it won't answer them. Are you ready to talk to your toddler about sex, drug use, condoms and death?

The producers are selling this program under the banner of truth, but the end result is a half-truth. The show will tell the children how to behave, but it won't tell them why — and why is the most important question of all.

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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.

WHEELED AWAY



CRAIG SWANSON/The University Daily

A 15-year-old unidentified female is carted off by Lubbock EMS workers outside Chitwood Residence Hall after the female complained about chest pains. She never lost consciousness and was later taken to the University Medical Center for observation.

SMOKING

from page 1

ucts," he said. "The Student Affairs division is thinking and rethinking about this policy."

Parks said he does not buy cigarettes on campus so removing cigarettes from the Student Union would not bother him.

"I really don't buy cigarettes on campus because they are too damn expensive," he said.

The current smoking policy states that smokers must stand 12 feet away from any building entrance on campus. Smoking is prohibited in all campus academic, administrative and athletic facilities.

Francisco Miramontes, a senior mechanical engineering major from Pecos, said Tech would be better as a smoke-free campus.

"I think it is a great idea be-

cause there is nothing worse than when you come out of the doors and all the smoke blows back into the building anyway," he said.

Shonrock said the Student Union Advisory Committee and Student Senate will be included in the decision making process.

"We will base the decision on feedback from the committee and the Senate. We might even have some forums and discussions," he said. "The primary focus will be what the students want. This issue is not black and white."

Max Hinojosa, vice president of operations for Tech, said he is already making a budget of how much it will cost to put up more signage.

"We are working on putting up the signage to designate where to smoke," he said. "We recognize the fact people enjoy the privilege to smoke. We are just going to remind them of the designated distance."

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CITIBUS

from page 1

"If the students have to purchase passes, it will only hold up the buses while the driver checks each pass. It would be a very inefficient means of travel," she said.

Shonrock said he also hopes the apartment complexes will respond to the proposals.

"We expect a tremendous response from the apartments because it's important to them as well as the students," Shonrock said.

All but one apartment complex on the bus route attended the luncheon. If the apartments decline to aid Tech, there are two options available, Seaman said.

"The first option is to discontinue the service," she said. "It's not something we want to do because the students will suffer. The other option is to scale back on-campus transportation and redirect to off-campus routes."

Branchwater apartment manager Linda Schoonover said she is skeptical of the proposal.

"Where we're located, it's just not necessary to pay to get our students to school," she said. "We do use the bus route in our advertisement, but I don't think we'd lose business if the bus no longer stops there."

Leah Mitchell and Jennifer Gilbert, representatives from Raiders Pass Apartments, said the cost worries them.

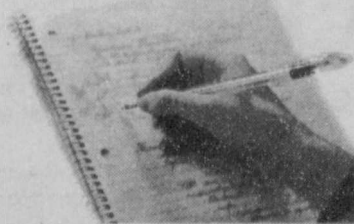
"It's gonna be very expensive, but we are interested in the proposal,"

Mitchell said. "Many of our students walk anyway because we're so close. Paying for the bus routes would cost our apartments about \$30,000 per year."

Tech student Travis Watson, a senior finance major from Roswell, N.M., said the busses provide better access to campus.

"It all depends on time whether or not I ride it now," he said. "If I'm in a rush, I drive; if not, I ride the bus. One advantage of the off-campus bus system is that it brings you to Holden Hall and other places right on campus. If you choose to park in the commuter lot, you have to walk a long distance."

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Plans continue to allow Tech Express to be used off campus



CRAIG SWANSON/The University Daily

The Tech Express Card was previously accepted at 24 locations on campus. Now, after an agreement with Wells Fargo, the card will be accepted at local businesses if the store owner agrees to accept the card. Student Government President Kelli Stumbo said the SGA based the idea from Texas A&M's similar method called Aggie Bucks.

BY KRISTEN GILBRETH
STAFF WRITER

This fall the Texas Tech Express Card's purchasing power should expand to participating off-campus businesses if local businesses agree to accept it for purchases.

Tech signed a contract with Wells Fargo in June to help recruit area businesses to participate in the program.

The Tech Express Card is similar to a debit card because only the money placed on the card can be used for purchases.

Dolores Harper, manager of University ID/Tech Express, said all paperwork has been completed, and the university is waiting to see which merchants will sign up. At this point, no businesses have confirmed they will participate.

"This is a service to the students so they can use their card off campus. We felt like the students wanted this and the SGA really wanted this. So they have been very helpful," she said.

Student Government Association President Kelli Stumbo said this has been a goal of the SGA for a long time.

"We based it off of Aggie Bucks," she said. "We have taken their system and improved it, and we hopefully will have a big kick in the fall depending on how fast the businesses sign up. Then we can promote what businesses are utilizing the service and how much it benefits the students to not carry cash or checks."

Stephanie Sanchez, a senior communication studies from Houston, said she uses her card frequently for laundry and other items on campus.

"In the summer time I live in an apartment off campus so if I could use my Tech Express Card at say, United (Supermarket) that would be great," she said. "Or lets say they are having a really good sale at the Spirit Shop and I need a survivor for the baseball game. Then I can buy one."

When students receive their Tech ID's, their Tech Express account is automatically activated. Students may choose whether or not to use their account. Students or parents can put money in their account on the web at www.techexpress.ttu.edu or at the Tech Express desk in the Student Union, Harper said.

Previously the card was accepted at 24 locations throughout campus including Copy Tech, Varsity bookstore, and the United Spirit Arena.

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Three Midland youths accused of setting fire to 17-year-old

MIDLAND (AP) — Three teenagers face assault charges after allegedly dousing a Midland youth with lighter fluid and setting him on fire in a videotaped stunt that the victim appeared to take part in voluntarily, officials said.

Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter said the videotape appeared to make reference to the MTV program "Jackass," a show featuring a series of strange and dangerous stunts.

"There was a mention made of

'Jackass' on the tape," he said Thursday. "I can't say for sure they were referring to that show, but they were simulating things that are done on that show."

Telephone calls placed to MTV's New York offices weren't immediately returned Thursday.

Jonathan Perry, 17, remained in critical condition Thursday at University Medical Center in Lubbock with second- and third-degree burns over 60 percent of his body, officials said.

Eva Marie Cedillo, 17; Casey Tim Owens, 18; and Monroe Rathbone, 17, turned themselves in Wednesday to Midland authorities and were charged with aggravated assault causing bodily injury. They were released after posting \$5,000 bail.

Painter and other officials have reviewed the videotape and said Perry apparently was a willing participant in the burning, which took place Sunday.

On the tape, Perry is completely covered in flames.

The investigation is continuing, Painter said.

"We believe we've got a good case," Painter said. "We're still investigating other kids that were present that may be criminally liable."

Despite the appearance that Perry cooperated, the youths ac-

tions are "clear-cut violations of the law," Painter said.

"A person can't give someone consent to violate the law," he said. "We looked at all the charges that could be filed. This is the one that most fit the facts and the evidence."

"Jackass" became an instant hit when it debuted in October 2000, featuring a series of pranks and stunts, including being doused with pepper spray, sitting in a portable bathroom as it was tipped over, and lying down on a barbecue in a fire-resistant suit hung with steaks.

But several young people were seriously injured trying to copy the stunts, prompting MTV to move "Jackass" to a later time slot and run disclaimers.

The show is no longer in production, but is still shown in reruns.

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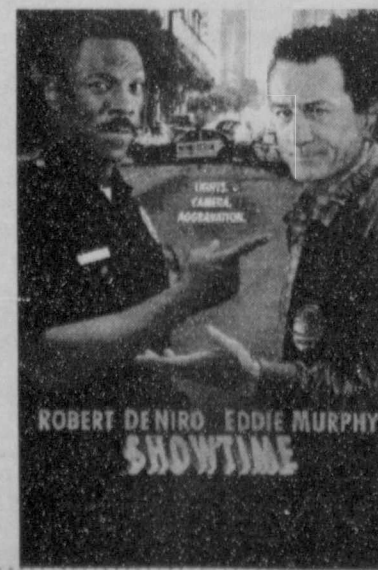
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Attorneys general of 42 states ask FDA to ban sales of tobacco lozenge

CHESTER, Va. (AP) — The attorneys general of 42 states want the Food and Drug Administration to regulate sales of a tobacco lozenge made by a Virginia cigarette company.

Ariva, manufactured by Star Scientific Inc. of Chester, is made of compressed tobacco flavored with eucalyptus. It delivers a dose of nicotine equal to a cigarette. The company promotes Ariva as an alternative for smokers when they are in places where smoking is banned.

Star Scientific began test-marketing Ariva in November and said

it now sells the lozenges at about 30,000 stores in 40 states.

The attorneys general said that Ariva has never been tested for safety and that its bright packaging and sweet taste could appeal to children.

They submitted their comments to the FDA on Monday.

"Tobacco-laced candy is the ultimate wolf in sheep's clothing," Michigan Attorney General Jennifer M. Granholm said. "Adding a little sugar and a pretty wrapper can't disguise the fact that tobacco is a killer."

FDA spokeswoman Kathleen

Kolar said Thursday that the FDA is reviewing the matter.

Major tobacco-producing states, including Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia, did not join the appeal to the FDA.

Star Scientific contends that Ariva is neither a food nor a drug, and thus cannot be regulated by the FDA.

Paul L. Perito, Star president and chief operating officer, denied Ariva is candy and said the company prefers to call it a "cigalett." Ariva packages contain warning labels that say it is not for children.

The FDA regulates kick-the-habit products such as nicotine patches and nicotine gum made by

pharmaceutical companies. But the Supreme Court has ruled that the agency has no authority over tobacco products.

The FDA has taken action re-

cently against such products as nicotine-laced water, nicotine lollipops and nicotine lip balm. Those were being marketed as products to help people quit smoking.

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'Reign of Fire' a scorching blast of summer fun

[MOVIE REVIEW]



James Eppler
jeppler@hotmail.com

Admittedly, the trailers look dumb. From watching teasers for "Reign of Fire," you might assume this is just some corny summer flick with big monsters with little punch following in the footsteps of such films as 1998's "Godzilla" or last year's "Jurassic Park 3."

You'd be wrong.

In the year 2020, the not-too-distant future, creatures once

thought to be purely mythical have literally burned the natural earth. Dragons run rampant and humans are left to cower in little reservations starving to death and fearing the next fatal attack.

Christian Bale stars as Quinn, an Englishman who saw his mother burned by the first-sighted dragon when he was a young boy. He is the leader of a fort that houses 50 to 60 people including women and children. There also is murmuring of mutiny in the ranks as they starve, unable to reach their small garden of food for fear of scalding results.

Soon, a group of Americans, "the only thing worse than a dragon attack," roll up to the fort in tanks and Jeeps. They are led by a gruff and bellowing man called Van Zan (Matthew McConaughey). Van Zan claims to be on a mission to kill

dragons, one in particular for reasons I will leave undisclosed. His troops of soldiers are well trained and have a special way they hunt these beasts. The Americans are looking for shelter for a night or two before they continue their journey.

Quinn and the English are a little more than reluctant to allow these "heathens" into their camp, for fear of being taken over, but they are left with little choice.

Quinn and Van Zan butt heads from the get-go. Van Zan is frighteningly overzealous — a twinkle in his eye for death and a snarling hatred for the beasts he seeks to kill. Quinn may be more afraid than anything, but he also is wise and courageous, and not so hasty to make rash decisions that could get people killed.

The English and the Americans soon decide to work together after

the Americans demonstrate their valor and cunning methods against the dragons.

The scene in which we witness how the Americans hunt is some of the most exciting stuff I've seen this summer.

Bale and McConaughey deliver surprisingly convincing performances.

McConaughey has been having an interesting year, this following his performance earlier this year in the excellent "Fruity." He's obviously having a great time here chewing on cigar butts and growling through clenched teeth. Bale, who was downright perfect in "American Psycho" continues to flex his versatility.

Naysayers will be quick to point out the film's flaws: how fuel is still attainable to run trucks and lamps, how electricity still works, or if the plan to

eliminate these dragons is plausible at all.

You're not supposed to ask those questions. Asking nit-picky questions only takes away from the fun. You'll either choose to buy into it, or disregard it as a poorly thought-out flop.

This is really what summer popcorn movies are all about.

EPPLER'S RATING: ★★★

★★★★★ - Flawless
★★★★ - Excellent
★★★ - Good
★★ - Mediocre
★ - Awful

HBO funeral home drama, 'Six Feet Under' leads Emmy nominations with 23

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The macabre HBO funeral home drama "Six Feet Under" received a leading 23 Emmy nominations Thursday, as the television academy recognized an unusually wide range of shows and performers.

While Emmy favorite "The West

Wing" was a close second with 21 nominations, top bids also went to actor Michael Chiklis, star of the violent and volatile cable police drama "The Shield" on FX, and to another cable series, HBO's sardonic comedy "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

"I hoped that academy voters

weren't swayed by the dogma that was being thrown around. Fortunately, they weren't," said Chiklis, whose program has been criticized for its gritty depiction of crime and corruption.

Besides a best drama series mention, "Six Feet Under" also earned a half-dozen nominations for cast members including best actor nominees Peter Krause and Michael C. Hall and best actress nominees Rachel Griffiths and Frances Conroy.

However, the series failed to

equal the record 26 nominations earned by "NYPD Blue" in 1994.

Other shows up for best drama series are NBC's "The West Wing," which won the category the past two years, CBS's "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," Fox's "24" and NBC's "Law & Order," which received its 11th nomination in the category, tying "Cheers" and "M-A-S-H" for the most consecutive bids for a best series nomination, comedy or drama.

"Now we're tied with two of the greatest shows of all time," Dick Wolf, the executive producer of

"Law & Order," said from his porch in Maine. "One word — ecstatic. This is the icing on the cake."

The mob heat is off the competition as last year's front-running nominee "The Sopranos" was out of the running because new episodes didn't show during this year's the eligibility period.

Perennial favorites that failed to nab top nominations included NBC's "ER," ABC's "NYPD Blue" and shows from producer David E. Kelley, including "Ally McBeal" and "The Practice."

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