





The Rundown



Space station crew coming back to Earth

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — His five-month mission almost over, the space station's skipper said Tuesday he will miss living in orbit but cannot wait to be reunited with his family and colleagues who are still suffering from the Columbia disaster.

"I feel a little bit like I'm being kicked out of my apartment for not paying my rent," said U.S. astronaut Kenneth Bowersox, surrounded by his two roommates and the two-man replacement crew that arrived Monday. "But when I get back to Earth, the best part is going to be, to be able to hug my wife and hug my kids."

Bowersox and his crew, American Donald Pettit and Russian Nikolai Budarin, will return to Earth this weekend aboard the Soyuz capsule that has been docked at the station for the past six months. They were supposed to come back aboard space shuttle Atlantis in March, but the fleet has been grounded since Columbia broke apart during descent Feb. 1.

Earthquake in South shakes seven states

FORT PAYNE, Ala. (AP) — An uncommon Southern earthquake shook people out of their sleep early Tuesday, fraying nerves and cracking foundations but causing no major damages or injuries.

Some people thought the boom and rumble was a bomb, an explosion, a tornado, even terrorism, but their fright soon gave way to nervous laughter.

"The quake shook up the chicken shed so bad they all laid scrambled eggs," Jim Toler joked over breakfast at a restaurant. "It bounced us pretty heavy."

The magnitude 4.9 quake, tying the record for Alabama, struck at about 4 a.m. and was centered near Fort Payne, close to the Georgia line, the U.S. Geological Survey said. It was felt in parts of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Mississippi.

Residents said the earth moved for as long as a minute, including mild aftershocks that were described as being like a hard wind blowing against the side of the house.

Nigerian strikers take 100 foreign hostages

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Striking Nigerian oil workers have taken about 100 foreign workers hostage on several offshore oil installations, company officials and union workers said Tuesday. The hostages include 21 Americans.

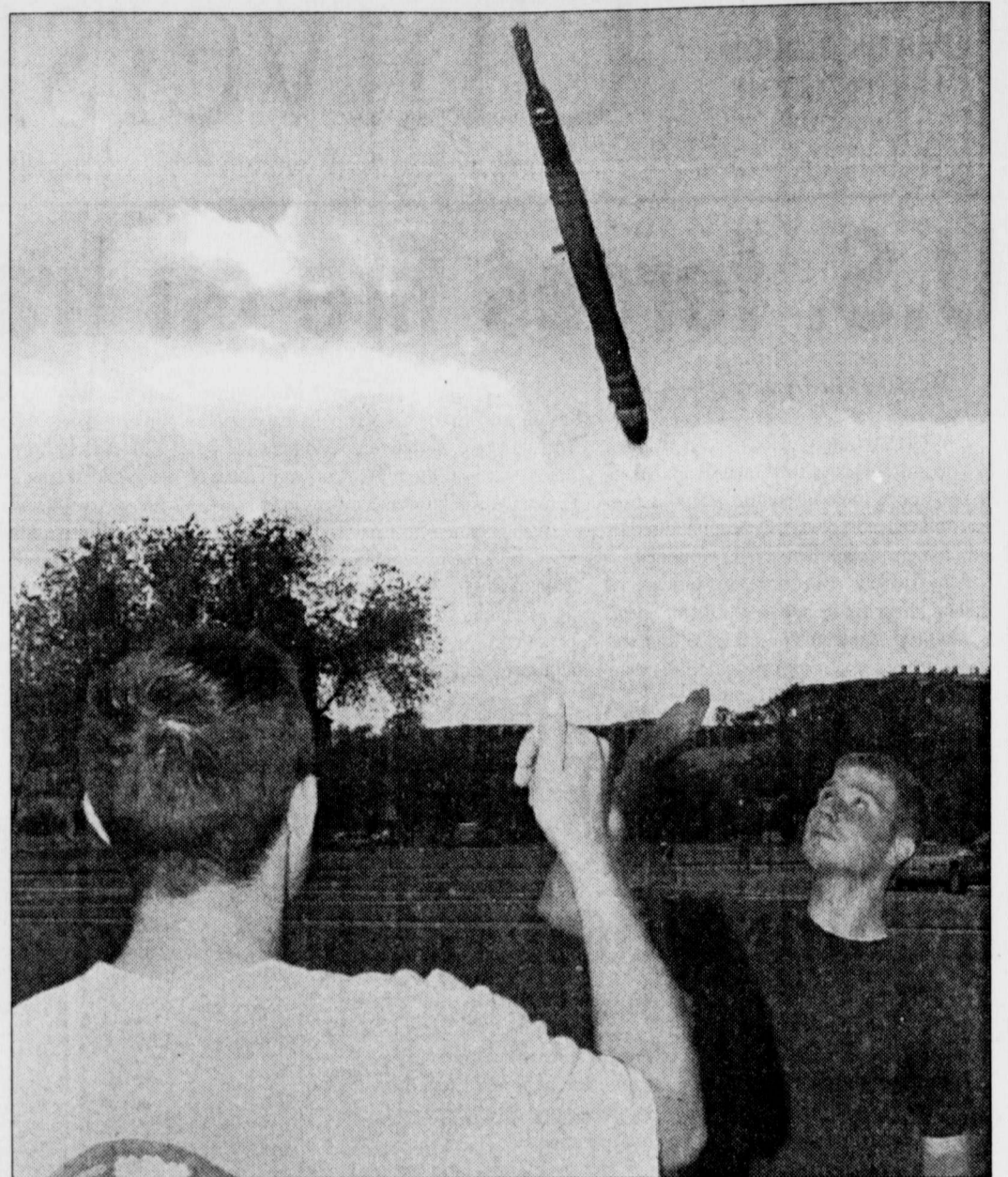
The strikers have been holding 97 foreign workers, including 35 Britons, aboard four offshore drilling rigs owned by Houston-based Transocean since April 19. The events occurred in a remote area off the coast of the West African nation, one of the world's largest oil exporters and the fifth-largest producer of U.S. oil imports.

The rigs were drilling wells for oil multinationals Royal/Dutch Shell and Total/Fina Elf.

Western diplomats said the hostages included 21 Americans and 35 Britons. Their conditions were unclear, although there were no initial reports of injuries or deaths.

Sabotage and hostage takings by community activists, labor groups and thugs demanding compensation for land use are relatively common in the Niger Delta.

RIFLE TOSS



MATT VANARSDALL, A sophomore geography major from Graham, prepares to catch the spinning rifle tossed by his partner Aaron Borszich, a freshman mechanical engineering major from Grapevine.

Report: Jack Osbourne enters rehab

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Jack Osbourne, the 17-year-old son of heavy metal star Ozzy Osbourne, has checked into a drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinic, People magazine reported.

The teenager entered Las Encinas Hospital in Pasadena on April 23, according to the issue appearing on newsstands Friday.

"I got caught up in my new lifestyle and got carried away with drugs and alcohol," Osbourne told the magazine. "Once I realized this, I voluntarily checked myself into a detox facility for my own health and well-being."

A publicist for the Osbourne family did not immediately return calls seeking comment Tuesday.

The magazine said Osbourne acknowledged to his mother, Sharon, in January that he was overindulging in marijuana and alcohol.

Jack Osbourne is the youngest of Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne's three children. He and his 18-year-old sister, Kelly, became international stars with the success of MTV's reality show "The Osbournes." Their older sister, Aimee, did not take part.

"It takes a lot of courage and strength to admit you need help, and both Sharon and I are proud Jack is facing his problems head-on," Ozzy Osbourne said.

Ozzy Osbourne has been candid, both on and off the show, about his decades of battles with substance abuse. The second season began in November on a somber note, with the

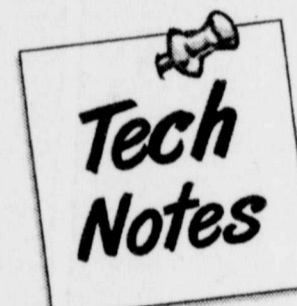
54-year-old rock star boozing heavily to cope with Sharon's diagnosis of colon cancer.

Ozzy since has said his wife is cancer-free after months of treatment.

In an interview last year, 50-year-old Sharon Osbourne told People magazine, "Kelly was four months old and being wheeled around the Betty Ford Center."

"The kids have always known what it does, and they know they're not going to get away if they mess with it," she said.

Last summer, Jack Osbourne injured his arm when he jumped off the Malibu Pier while surfing with members of the rock band Incubus. He also made a cameo on the WB series "Dawson's Creek."



The Texas Tech student chapter of the National Science Teachers Association will host a workshop on the topic of teaching science with animals in the classroom. The work-

shop will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. today in the Lecture Hall 101 of the Biology building.

Omega Delta Phi is raffling an autographed 2002-2003 Lady Raider basketball signed by the team and coach Marsha Sharp. Proceeds will benefit a Special Olympics scholarship. Tickets cost \$2 each or \$5 for three. Tickets can be purchased from members, or contact Jon Bentancourt at (806) 632-0319 or jonnoj@hotmail.com. The drawing will be today.

Students for Social Justice is holding a protest against American Imperialism. There will be a discussion of

America's history and the war. The event will take place from 11:50 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. today in front of the Student Union building.

The Muslim Student Association invites students to attend a lecture on Muslim youth relations at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Senate Room of the Student Union building. The lecture will be by Sami Hijazi, headmaster of the Muslim School in Michigan, with a question-and-answer session afterward. For more information, contact Ali.Gowher@ttu.edu.

The Pre-Vet Society is having a rabies drive and dog flea dip from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Dub Parks Arena at 4th Street and Quaker Avenue. Rabies vaccinations cost \$8, and dips cost \$10.

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# PERCEPTIVES

## All should help keep planet clean

Friday was Arbor Day, that special day when everybody sets aside their differences and comes together to plant some trees. Or, more accurately, a day when everybody comes together to sit back and have a smoke while the university's full-time groundskeepers plant some trees.

The weather was beautiful, the food smelled good, and I believe fun was had by all. Even the grounds crews, who truly did appear to be in charge of the actual work involved with the event, were having a good time.

Doing landscaping while surrounded by a twittering mass of nubile sorority girls is probably an enjoyable variation of their usual duties of perpetually planting and replanting tulip beds.

The recognition of Arbor Day is our polite nod to environmentalism, a movement that's had a difficult time exercising any sort of influence in the United States.

The environmental movement doesn't enjoy much support among Americans, most of who see the entire effort as a waste of time — the purview of those too young or idealistic to see that caring about things isn't

worth the time or the trouble.

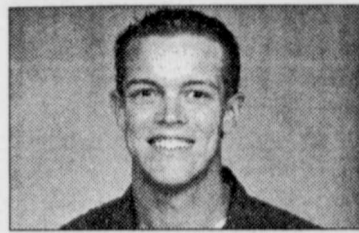
Others would go so far as to suggest that being conscientious stewards of our one and only planet is wrong and un-Christian, citing ambiguous scriptural evidence that turning the planet into a giant, oil-coated parking lot is somehow part of God's plan.

On a fundamental level, the idea that planet Earth is something to be cherished and preserved is offensive to our national character. For American settlers striking out into a vast new continent, the environment was little more than a deadly assortment of animals and disease, ever conspiring to kill you and your family in some awful, exotic way.

Add to that the settlers' need to somehow scratch a living out of this hostile wilderness, and it's obvious how our country developed such a cynical, adversarial view toward God's creation.

All of that is further compounded by our unwavering devotion to the idea that if something is profitable, it must be all right. Strip mining and clear-cutting are making someone some money, so they can't be bad, right?

I think location also has much to do with a people's desire to preserve



**Brian Carpenter**  
ilovedyourcolumn@hotmail.com

*The recognition of Arbor Day is our polite nod to environmentalism, a movement that's had a difficult time exercising any sort of influence in the United States.*

their surroundings. It's no coincidence that places like Oregon and Germany host widespread support for low-im-

pact living and environmental sensitivity, while in places like Lubbock and New Jersey, people's attitudes are decidedly less sympathetic. In short, some places would be a shame to destroy, while others are harder to love.

I'll never forget my disgust and disillusionment upon seeing the immaculate condition of the suburbs of greater Frankfurt, a city as large and developed as they come. The place was clean, green and pleasant to walk around. And this wasn't a touristy, cobblestone section of some old town, rather the German equivalent of a new housing development for middle-class office types.

It was analogous to one of those newer subdivisions you'd see in Coppell, the ones with the ironically bucolic names like Smytheburne Abbey or Worcestershire Estates as an attempt to deflect attention from the place's treeless, windswept bleakness.

I'd forgiven the conditions of suburban Dallas, accepting that large, urban areas are going to inevitably be squalid jungles of strip malls and parking lots too vast to see across. Having to get in your car to buy a loaf of bread or a newspaper was just part of being

modern, I'd thought.

It became immediately clear that size has much less to do with the condition of a place than the attitudes of the people who live there. This is especially striking when you consider that most of Frankfurt was built since WWII, just like Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, etc.

Rather than carry on with the rant, I shall offer some really easy steps you can take to do a little bit of good toward preserving our big blue globe. Avoid grossly unnecessary waste.

When you buy a greeting card or a pack of gum, tell the cashier that you don't need a bag. They really, will think you need a special plastic sack to carry your purchase to your car, so specifically tell them not to. They go straight to the landfill.

Smokers, please, I know they're disgusting, but cigarette butts are trash. They're not some special exception that doesn't count as litter (as an ex-smoker, I know how it is, but the fact remains).

And finally, take walks. This time of year, being outdoors in the evening will reaffirm your belief that even West Texas is worth caring about.

## Nerds responsible for self-inflicted social standing

I have some friends who think they're still in high school — a collection of grown-up nerds who are still obsessed with the way they were treated around the lunch table once upon a time.

Yesterday, they were discussing an essay written by Paul Graham, an overwrought fragment of angst, written by a guy who started low on the popularity totem pole and eventually rose high enough to get a date with one of the recognized class beauties.

His secret? Playing soccer and running a scandalous underground newspaper. (This is the first recorded example of journalism actually enhancing someone's social life.)

There are a couple good questions lurking here. Why are jocks more popular than nerds? Does being smart cause a person to not be able to get a date? Do high school popularity standards affect your success in real life?

And most important, is it really useful to speculate on all this drama now that we have (supposedly) moved on with our lives?

No one really doubts that looks, popularity and money affect your status in real life. The question is a mat-

ter of degree. How much do these things affect your life, and how much of it can we control?

My first instinct is to rebel against the traditional assumptions and encourage nerds to recognize their own culpability here.

The fact is, being popular is a career path. People don't just walk up and hand you money just because you were born with nice hair and good teeth. You have to cultivate these things. Eat right. Workout. Spend money on clothes. And most importantly, you have to develop a personality that is pleasing to others.

Nerds complain about how unfair it is to see popular kids having all the luck, but if you look at what they had to go through to get those breaks, it's really not luck at all.

Too many geeks underestimate the value of social skills, as if dressing well and being nice to people was just useless fluff packed around the things that really matter.

The fact is, modern business projects require humility, cooperation and teamwork. You have to learn your limits, respect your place in the hierarchy and learn to work within the sys-



**Michael Duff**  
www.michaelduff.net

*Success requires diplomacy — the ability to recognize and adapt to the need of others. Nerds resent this. They call it sucking up.*

Nerds hate teamwork. They're so brilliant, they think they should be allowed to break the rules. They may be the most brilliant programmer on Earth, but if you can't get along with

the finance, distribution and marketing people, your brilliant code will never see the light of day.

Success requires diplomacy — the ability to recognize and adapt to the needs of others. Nerds resent this. They call it sucking up. There's plenty of sucking up done in the corporate world, but there's also a lot of genuine cooperation.

This ability to cooperate is what separates the nerds from the popular people, and popular kids learn this early, engaging in projects that require cooperation within a recognized organizational framework.

Like it or not, politics is a legitimate part of our world, and people who practice it get good at it, just as surely as the computer geek will get good at software.

Popularity is not simply a matter of natural gifts. It's a series of conscious choices. You have to choose your path, and you have to make sacrifices along the way. Maybe you'd rather be home writing a Quake mod, but you show up at the fund-raiser because you value your place in the organization.

Grown-up nerds complain about low pay for technical jobs, while la-

menting the raises given to useless executives and middle managers. This arrogant disdain for the process of business narrows their vision and limits their progress. The fact is, running a business requires real knowledge. The technical boom taught us that.

There is nothing easy about production, management or finance. These are legitimate skills that require extensive training, but nerds ignore these skills, as if technical work is the only work that matters.

I'm not trying to deny the role of looks and popularity in adult success. Of course, discrimination happens everywhere. But instead of blaming favoritism for the success of others, it might be more productive to look at their qualifications and think about the skills that got them there.

I've been a nerd my whole life, and I know how it feels to be ignored. It's easy to develop a persecution complex when you've spent your childhood staring at the beautiful people from the wrong part of the lunchroom.

It's easy to feel abused and jealous, but in my experience, nerds hate popular people more than they ever hated us.



The University Daily

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**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.

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**Heartbeats**  
A quick pulse around the Rec Sports world...

**Pool Closed Next Week**  
The Tech Aquatic Center is scheduled to close Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> for removal of the air supported roof and additional major maintenance items. It will resume operational hours sans top beginning Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.  
If weather prohibits the removal process from occurring during this time the pool will have to close again on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of May for work to occur. If you have any questions please call Melissa at 742-3896.

**EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH**  
**These Guys Are Good!**  
Every month, the Department of Recreational Sports and United Supermarkets recognizes employees who go out of their way and above the call to duty to make the Student Rec Center the best location on campus. We'd like to recognize these individuals and say thanks to all our employees, we couldn't do it without you!

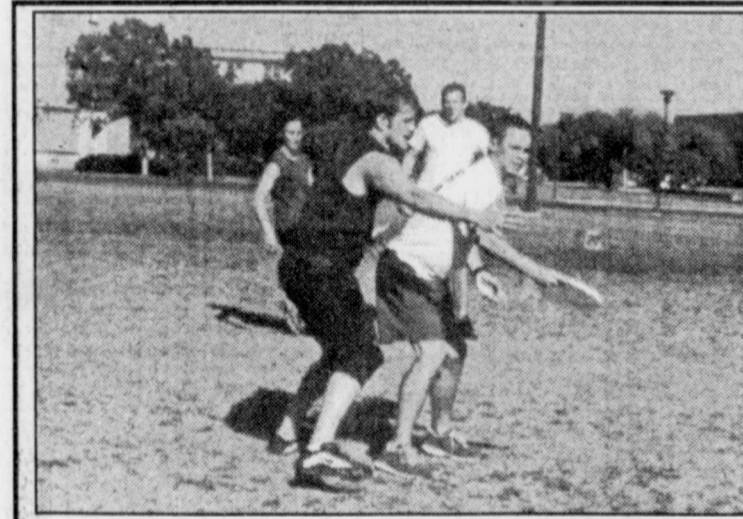
**2002-2003 Employees of the Month:**  
September: John Medlock and Scott Walters  
October: Donell Burckhard and Lindsey Methvin  
November: Chad Powell and Jack Harper  
December: Judy Chui  
January: Luke Moorhead  
February: Adorah Okafo and Chip Dierson  
March: Brett Jackson and Lauren Byrd  
April: Michael Hoover and Sara Olague

**FITNESS/WELLNESS**  
**Don't Be A Dead Beat**  
It is time to get jammin', have some fun and relieve some stress before finals. This year the Jam will include: BELLY DANCE, FUNK, STEP and KICKBOXING Jam from 5:30-7:00 pm on May 6 the first dead day. Door prizes, gift certificates and lots of fun await you in SRC room 114!

**Wow! This Feels Great!**  
Attention Rec Center members! Sign-up now until May 7th and receive \$5 off a one-hour massage! Massage therapy will create a relaxed state of alertness, reduce mental stress, and enhance the capacity for calm and creative thinking. Gift certificates are not included and massages need to be scheduled by May 31st. Stop by the Fit/Well center today and relax a bit!

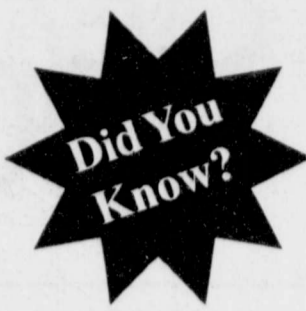
**Finals Fitness Schedule**

Tuesday, May 6	5:30 pm Fitness Jam	
Wednesday, May 7	12:10 pm Step Express	5:30 pm Cardio Step
Thursday, May 8	12:10 pm Step Express	5:30 pm Total Body Conditioning
Friday, May 9	12:10 pm Step Express	5:30 pm Cardio Step and Abs/Back
	5:30 pm Shape & Tone	
Saturday, May 10	3:00 pm Weekend Energy	
Sunday, May 11	5:30 pm Weekend Energy	
Monday, May 12	12:10 pm Step Express	3:00 pm Total Body Conditioning
	5:30 pm Shape & Tone	5:30 pm Total Body Conditioning
Tuesday, May 13	12:10 pm Step Express	3:00 pm Total Body Conditioning
	5:30 pm Cardio Step	



**Flippin!**  
A Tech "CRU" ultimate frisbee player is closely guarded by a Superheroes defender during last Friday's ultimate game played on the Recreational Fields. The Superheroes are one of the teams advancing to the finals being played this Friday.

Ultimate Frisbee and other Intramural Playoff Brackets can be found with the click of a mouse at [ttu.edu/recsports](http://ttu.edu/recsports).



**Rec Center Closes Early May 7th**  
The Rec Center will maintain their normal operation hours during the upcoming finals week except for Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> when the building will close at 7:00 pm for the annual Recreational Sports Student Employee Banquet. All other hours will remain the same through May 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Remember, the Rec closes early on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>!

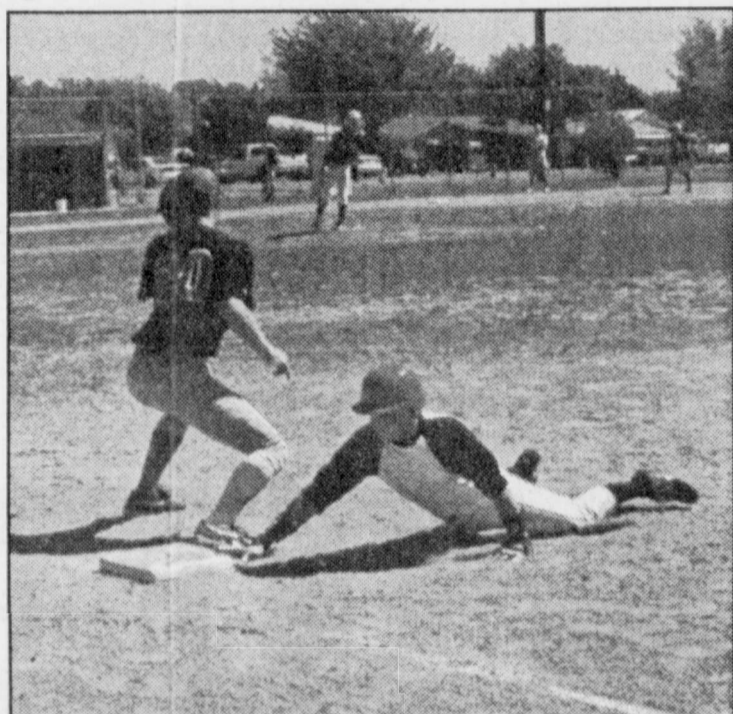
**STUDENT RECREATION CENTER HOURS**

Open Recreation Hours		Aquatic Center Hours	
Mon. - Thurs.	6a.m. - midnight	Monday - Friday	Saturday-Sunday
Friday	6a.m. - 10:30pm	6:30am - 8:45am	2pm - 6:45pm
Saturday	9am - 9pm	Noon - 1:20pm	
Sunday	noon - 11pm	3pm - 8:45pm	

check out [ttu.edu/recsports](http://ttu.edu/recsports) for May hours

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Baseball Championships Move To Dan Law Field**  
Four teams won opening round games in the annual Recreational Sports' Baseball Tournament and will play Saturday at Dan Law Field for a chance to advance to Sunday's championship contest. The Mustangs go up against the Wildcats at 12 noon Saturday while Sugartown plays Bling in the 2:30 pm game.  
In last Saturday games, the Mustangs downed D Town 11 to 5 at Hodges Baseball Field. Zach Newberry and Jeff Turton led the way with three runs scored each. The Wildcats reached the semi-finals with an 11 to 8 win over the A Team after scoring 5 runs in the fifth inning to withstand the A Teams comeback. On the other side of the tournament bracket Sugartown advanced to play Bling with a convincing 15 to 0 victory over The Slaps. Jared Shelton got on base four times and scored four runs. In the most exciting game of the day, Bling scored 2 runs in the bottom of the final inning on a double by Eric Horton to edge the Big City Strippers 10 to 9.  
Playing Sunday in the Consolation finals will be D Town and Big City Strippers. Both were winners Sunday in the losers side of the bracket.



Safe! A D Town base runner beats the pick off throw from the Mustangs pitcher during Saturday's baseball tournament game held at Hodges Field. The Mustangs won this game to advance to Saturday's semifinals at Dan Law.

**INTRAMURALS**

**Herrera, Edwards Claim Multiathlon Championships**  
66 competitors, 27 events and two grueling days of competition defined the intramural multiathlon. The event, which pairs up competitors in a series of challenges went down to the final pair in the final event to determine the championship. The athletes competed in swimming, 100 yard dash, homerun hitting, tennis, racquetball, and a host of other activities over the two days.  
In the large Greek division Steven Herrera of Beta Theta Pi defeated David Goodman of Kappa Alpha to claim the title. Herrera and Goodman advanced to the final 8, and on day 2 of the competition went through Home Run, Free Throw, 600 Yard Run, Tennis, Shuttle Run, 100 Yard Swim, 1 vs. 1 Basketball and Soccer Speed Shot. Following this grueling evening the two were dead even and played a final match of Racquetball to determine the Champion. Herrera led the Beta team which tied Phi Delta Theta for the team title. Representing Beta were Herrera, Robert Brown, Jacob Velasco, Wylie Eagle, Michael Hawkins and Blake Moorman. Representing the co-champion Phi Delta Theta team were Chad Jacobson, Shawn Earwood, Derek Noble, Ty Strickland, Cody Hodges and Wes Welker.  
The small Greek division was a Theta Chi chapter meeting. Three of the four finalists were Theta Chi including champion Zach Edwards. The only competitor preventing the sweep was Matt Thompson of Sigma Pi. Thompson led his team to a second place finish in the event. The Theta Chi team champions were Edwards, Kirk Sieling, Matt Vasquez, Kevin Dixon, Michael Woods and Greg Silva. Edwards defeated Sieling in the final. The Open bracket was disappointing as contestants did not make the events. Mike Graham ended up winning the title in a walkover.

**Spring Golf Tournament Sees Plenty of Birdies**  
16 teams, consisting of two people each, participated in this semester's Recreational Sports Spring golf tournament. The Stonegate Golf Course hosted the tournament on Sunday, April 27, 2003. The winner of the event was the team consisting of Drew Pennington and Zach Thomas who posted a low score of 55. They defeated two other teams (Jeff Estrada & Ben Greek; Brandon Griffin & Sean McGregor) by three strokes.  
Other awards included a longest drive contest and closest ball to the pin. Matt Fisk launched a drive of 345 yards on the eighth hole. Ben Greek took the closest ball to the pin contest. His shot on the short par 3, hole #15, was only 3' feet away from the cup. Rec Sports would like to thank Stonegate Golf Course and the participants for making this semester's golf event both fun and eventful.

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