

Republicans assail Bush's proposed cuts in farm payments

By Libby Quaid/Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans on Wednesday attacked President Bush's effort to cut farm payments, telling new Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns it would be a "huge mistake."

"Farmers work hard, and they play by the rules that are given to them by the Congress," said Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Ill. "... Now all of a sudden the payment structure that we put in the (2002) farm bill is not going to be there."

Johanns defended the president's plan at a House appropriations subcommittee hearing on the agriculture budget. Bush seeks to shave farm spending by \$5.7

billion during the next decade, trimming payments to producers by 5 percent and sharply curtailing the ceiling on subsidies, among other cuts.

But LaHood told him: "The idea of reducing these payments to farmers is a huge mistake."

LaHood's constituents are Midwestern farmers who would suffer less from new payment limitations than Southern growers. Rice and cotton producers would feel the impact most keenly because their crops cost more to grow and get higher subsidies.

Bush proposes to lower the cap on subsidies from \$360,000 to \$250,000 and eliminate loopholes that let bigger operations claim payments well above the limit.

"That's a whole lot of money, as you well know, and most of our producers can't sustain any sort of loss because they're operating on such a thin margin," said Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, a Missouri Republican whose district has rice and cotton growers.

She cited cotton industry estimates that income could drop by 10 percent for smaller farms and by 23 percent for farms of 1,000 acres.

Foes of cuts say they represent significant changes in the 2002 farm law, which doesn't expire for another two years. Bush faces opposition from fellow Republicans in the Senate, too.

Johanns, a former Nebraska governor familiar with farm-state issues, contended agriculture must help all

of government cut the deficit, which is projected to reach \$427 billion this year.

"Deficit reduction is so essential to the economic prosperity of farmers and ranchers that we can't have a budget discussion without drawing back to that realization," Johanns said.

Keith Collins, the department's chief economist who testified with Johanns, said it was only fair to cut payments more for those who get the biggest subsidies.

"Cotton receives the highest level of benefits in our farm programs," Collins said. "It's not unreasonable to think they would have to contribute a little more than the other commodities."

CONDOM AWARENESS WEEK

Staying Protected

National Condom Day turnout lower than expected

By Lindsay Wharton/The University Daily

Texas Tech students' openness about sexual protection was lower than expected, according to IMPACT Tech's results from National Condom Day.

"We had a lot of negative reactions because we had a sign with different (sexually transmitted infections) that had graphic pictures," said Amy Westphal, president of IMPACT Tech and a junior nutrition major from Goliad.

Westphal said the majority of students who passed the poster depicting STIs seemed disgusted and unwilling to obtain the information she was distributing.

Westphal said while she was there, only three students took the time to look at the pictures of the various STIs and ask questions.

"I think people should be open about condom usage and not be shy," she said.

Because she did not approach students, Westphal said IMPACT Tech did not get much information out to the public. She said she passed out information about STIs for two and a half hours and gave out about 20 packets.

IMPACT Tech is not encouraging students to have sex, Westphal said. The organization just wants to encourage students to discuss important sexual health information.

"It's important for students to have good information about ways they can keep themselves sexually healthy," said Juli Benson, manager of health education and sponsor of IMPACT Tech.



ELIZABETH BROWN, A senior political science and pre-nursing major from Brownsville, talks about practicing safe sex Wednesday afternoon.

Tech students discuss Condom Awareness Week

By Clara Cobb/The University Daily

Angela Fowlkes, a junior political science major from Amarillo, said her method of contraception is abstinence.

"Using a condom really doesn't apply to me so much because I am a good catholic girl," Fowlkes said. "But if someone uses a condom, that is a step in the right direction."

Fowlkes added that she did not believe a majority of Texas Tech students used condoms or made an effort to practice safe sex.

"I think it was MTV that said Tech had the highest STD rate in the country," she said. "People aren't taught in this part of the world — the Bible belt — that condoms prevent STDs because of the Christian right believes in teaching abstinence, which I practice, but it's rare that someone practices abstinence in college. Using that as your only lesson plan is impractical and dangerous."

Those who agree that abstinence education needs at least to be supplemented with information on prevention have declared this week National Condom Awareness Week.

Beau Turner, a junior biology and chemistry major from Ballinger, said he is already aware of how to properly use a condom, adding that he believes most students use this precaution.

"I am sure I know how to use a condom correctly," he said. "I think a majority of students — at least the guys — do use condoms, but it depends on the time, the place, if alcohol is involved and the girl."

Turner said that using a condom is self-explanatory,

CONDOM continued on page 6

AWARENESS continued on page 6

Tech PD reports continuing alcohol problems on campus

By Katherine Amerson/The University Daily

While most students understand the severity of alcohol abuse and misuse, this knowledge is habitually spoken ill of, according to evidence from the Texas Tech Police Department.

Since Feb. 10, according to Tech police reports, there have been eight incidents involving students alcohol.

According to police reports, two students were arrested for public intoxication, one student was arrested for driving while intoxicated and one student, a minor, was arrested for alcohol possession.

Friday, two students, both minors, were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, according to the police reports.



Saturday, another minor was arrested for consumption of alcohol and one student was arrested for driving while intoxicated, according to the police reports.

Raider Assistance Program Unit Manager Bobbi Britton-Stroud said there is a lack of understanding about alcohol-related issues.

"There are a lot of myths in the general public about what alcoholism is and what alcohol abuse is," she said.

"We're trying to do more education on campus."

Students do not need alcohol to have fun, Britton-Stroud said, nor is alcohol necessary for relaxation — plus DWIs are expensive.

ALCOHOL continued on page 6

Candidates speak in front of SGA panel

By Meghann Lora/The University Daily



The Texas Tech Student Government Association held a candidate forum in the Student Union courtyard Wednesday to give candidates for executive offices an opportunity to present their platforms to the students.

Ryan Worley, a candidate for external vice president and current chief of staff, said the forum is a way for Tech students to get to know the candidates.

Worley said the current executive officers ask the candidates questions about their plans and how they would implement them.

"It's an accountability factor," he said.

The forum helps students make informed choices when voting, Worley said.

"I wish more students would come," he said. "It would help everybody out if they knew what they were voting for and if they would vote."

Voting for SGA officers is important because the officers represent students when decisions are being made at the university, Worley said.

"With all the tuition and fee increases, we sit on executive committees, and we have a say on a lot of those committees," he said. "It's important that we elect people who will hold the administration accountable."

Candidates for SGA president addressed issues that affect students, including bus routes, bike lanes, identity theft, tuition increases and fees.

Nathan Nash, a presidential candidate and current internal vice president, said the SGA president must be committed to his job.

SGA continued on page 6



JOHN HANSON, A graduate student studying biology from Abilene, is running for graduate vice president of the Student Government Association. He answers questions from the SGA panel Wednesday afternoon.

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Bush administration officials warn of future terrorist acts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Speaking with one voice, President Bush's top intelligence and military officials said Wednesday terrorists are regrouping for possible new strikes against the United States.

They said the best defense was for Congress to approve the president's military and anti-terror budget. But some in Congress, including prominent Republicans, were questioning some of that spending.

Offering few specifics on terror threats, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told a House hearing the government could reasonably predict attacks would come from terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and other means.

Meanwhile, new CIA Director Porter Goss told the Senate Intelligence Committee the Iraq war was giving terrorists experience and contacts for future attacks, and FBI Director Robert Mueller expressed worry that a sleeper operative in the U.S. may have been in place for years, awaiting orders for an attack.

"I remain very concerned about what we are not seeing," Mueller said in remarks he submitted to the senators.

Rumsfeld told the House Armed Services Committee that the proposed \$419 billion defense package for 2006 would set an ambitious course to "continue prosecuting the war and to attack its ideological underpinnings."

Yet the Republican-controlled

Congress may exercise its considerable authority over federal spending and reject White House requests to simply sign the checks.

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., the new chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said lawmakers were questioning billions in foreign aid and State Department spending that Bush requested in an emergency bill this week.

DeLay, R-Texas, said some of Bush's foreign aid proposals "probably do not qualify" for the expedited treatment he's seeking.

The current congressional debate about how to allocate billions of dollars on initiatives aimed at spreading peace and ensuring security follows three years of massive spending in response to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Senior administration officials appearing at a series of congressional hearings Wednesday described a Muslim extremist threat that's become more diffuse, encompassing al-Qaida and like-minded associates.

Goss said al-Qaida remains intent on circumventing U.S. security measures and attacking the United States.

"It may be only a matter of time before al-Qaida or other groups attempt to use chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapons," Goss said at the Senate Intelligence Committee's annual hearing on threats.

In his first testimony as CIA chief, Goss said the Iraq conflict has become a cause for extremists.

"Those jihadists who survive will leave Iraq experienced in and focused on acts of urban terrorism. They represent a potential pool of contacts to build transnational terrorist cells, groups and networks," Goss said.

Even as terrorism remained at the forefront, senior diplomatic and intelligence officials outlined a number of countries that pose conventional diplomatic, military and intelligence problems to the United States.

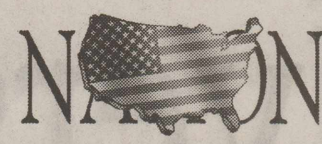
Goss said North Korea continues to "develop, produce, deploy and sell ballistic missiles of increasing range and sophistication." He said the secretive regime could "at any time" resume flight testing of a long-range missile capable of reaching the United States with a nuclear payload.

Iran, too, is further improving its Shahab-3 long-range ballistic missile, which has a range of more than 800 miles, Goss said.

In written testimony, Vice Adm. Lowell Jacoby, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said he believes Iran will continue its support for terrorism and aid for insurgents in Iraq. "Iran's long-term goal is to see the U.S. leave Iraq and the region," he said.

Speaking to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice blamed Syria for having undermined stability in neighboring Lebanon. On Monday, a massive car bomb explosion in downtown Beirut killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The Rundown



Wreck ends chase, Eight die in plane crash in Colorado Brazil sends 2,000 troops to Amazon

ARLINGTON (AP) — A man remained jailed Wednesday after police say he abducted a 9-year-old girl, sexually assaulted her and led officers on a chase that ended when he crashed into a school bus.

Jeremiah Sexton, 22, of Springtown, was jailed in Arlington on a \$350,000 bond on charges of aggravated kidnapping and aggravated sexual assault of a child, authorities said.

The girl apparently was abducted in Arlington while walking to school alone Tuesday morning. She was found about 30 minutes later when a police officer in nearby Grand Prairie saw suspicious activity in a car parked at an apartment complex, said Arlington police spokeswoman Christy Gilfour.

The man noticed the officer and drove away, through Grand Prairie into Arlington — running red lights and driving on the wrong side of the road before crashing into a van and a school bus, Gilfour said.

The girl, who was naked, got out of the car and ran to the officer who had been pursuing the car, Gilfour said.

Sexton was arrested, and police later executed a search warrant at his Parker County mobile home and confiscated a computer, authorities said.

A child on the school bus was treated for minor injuries.

Police are investigating whether Tuesday's incident is connected with the kidnapping and molestation of a 7-year-old Arlington girl five months ago.

PUEBLO, Colo. (AP) — A small jet owned by electronics retailer Circuit City crashed in freezing drizzle Wednesday as it approached the Pueblo airport, killing all eight people aboard, including four company employees.

Two witnesses told investigators they heard loud popping noises from the twin-jet Cessna Citation C-560 shortly before the crash at about 9 a.m., Pueblo County Sheriff Dan Corsentino said. The cause of the crash was unknown.

"I don't have any idea why it went down. It is just an unfortunate thing," sheriff's spokesman Steve Bryant said. A National Transportation Safety Board official was at the scene, and a team of investigators was expected to arrive late Wednesday.

FAA spokesman Mike Fergus said the pilot was relying on the plane's instruments to make the airport approach because of poor weather. The National Weather Service reported low clouds, fog and freezing drizzle with visibility of about six miles at the airport at the time. The temperature was 27 degrees.

In 1998, the FAA required operators of several Cessna models, including the one that crashed Wednesday, to add a warning to their flight manuals that flying in freezing drizzle and other conditions "may result in ice build-up on protected surfaces exceeding the capability of the ice protection system."

Aviation analyst John Nance said freezing drizzle is risky because it makes it easy for ice to form on the wings, which adds weight and can affect the plane's handling.

"You can overwhelm almost any airplane, even a 747 if you get into certain types of icing," said Nance, a pilot and author based in Seattle.

ANAPU, Brazil (AP) — About 2,000 soldiers headed Wednesday to a lawless Amazon rainforest region where an American nun was shot to death last weekend amid escalating violence between peasants and loggers vying for the area's vast natural resource riches.

The troops were sent to restore order hours after thousands of people converged on this remote Amazon town to bury the bullet-riddled body of Dorothy Stang, the 73-year-old nun who was killed trying to defend the jungle where she had lived for decades.

As mourners paid their last respects to Stang, a peasant and a former union president were found shot to death in the rural state of Para, where Anapu is located.

The soldiers were mobilized by Vice President Jose Alencar, who is also Brazil's defense minister. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva cut short a visit to Suriname to return home and deal with the conflict.

Advocates for poor settlers in the region said the soldiers' presence will probably calm tensions for now. But they warned the violence in Para could easily spiral out of control again without solid steps to resolve the bitter disputes among settlers, land speculators and loggers and ranchers who hire gunmen to eliminate opponents.

"How long are these troops going to stay?" asked Bishop Tomas Balduino, president of the Roman Catholic Church-linked Land Pastoral group, which helps landless farmers throughout Brazil. "As soon as they leave, we'll be back in the same situation."

Judge rules infant can be pulled from life support

HOUSTON (AP) — An infant with an often lethal skeletal disorder could be removed from life support after a judge lifted a restraining order Wednesday because there is no reasonable chance another hospital will take over his care.

Wanda Hudson's 4-month-old son, Sun, has been on a ventilator since birth. Texas Children's Hospital officials have said no treatment can save him and wanted to remove him from life support. Hudson believes her son will recover and had fought to keep him on the ventilator.

"I'm not saying whether they

can or can't, but I am saying that they are not restrained," Harris County

Probate Court Judge William C. McCulloch said. "I am no longer prohibiting the hospital from removing Sun from life support."

Hudson's lawyer, Mario Caballero, said he would appeal the ruling Thursday.

"Texas Children's Hospital has made extraordinary efforts to provide the best possible care for Sun,"

the hospital said in a statement. "We are deeply saddened that no treatment can save this child."

Texas Children's has set no timetable for when they plan to disconnect Sun from life support.

"We will try to work as closely as possible with Ms. Hudson regarding

the future of Sun's care," the state-

ment said. Hudson did not appear to understand the verdict at first.

She asked her lawyer, "So they're saying they can take Sun off now?"

The infant suffers from thanatophoric dysplasia, a genetic condition characterized by extremely short limbs, a narrow chest, small ribs and underdeveloped lungs. Infants usually are stillborn or die shortly after birth from respiratory failure. There have been rare documented cases of survivors, however.

"He is slowly suffocating to death because his lungs lack the capability to support his body," the hospital said in its statement.

“He is slowly suffocating to death because his lungs lack the capability to support his body.”

— OFFICIAL STATEMENT
Texas Children's Hospital

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Publishing information

Periodical Postage paid by *The University Daily*, Student Media building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409. Publication number: 766480. *The UD* is a student newspaper published Monday through Friday, September through May; Tuesdays and Fridays June through August, except during university examination and vacation periods.

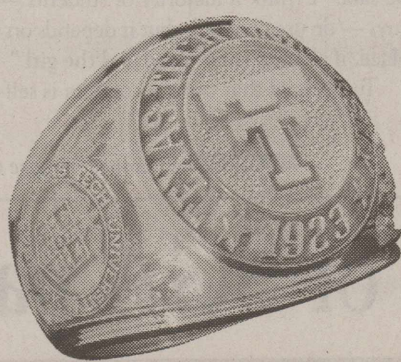
The UD is funded primarily through advertising revenues generated by the student sales staff with free campus distribution resulting from student service fees.

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SGA to discuss elections, Austin trip and impeachment

By Brandi Fleming/
The University Daily

Tonight's Student Government Association Student Senate meeting will focus on the revision of the election code and impeachment charges against two senators.

According to the SGA meeting agenda, two senators, Clayton Isom and Matthew Sherwood, will be presented with impeachment charges for having four absences from mandatory meetings.

"The absences are all excused, and I don't see it as a big deal," Isom said.

Sherwood said SGA's policy is to bring impeachment charges against any senator who has missed four or more meetings.

"I had to work several Thursday nights, and the Senate understands that," he said. "It isn't anything serious — just have to work to pay the bills."

Casey Harmon, SGA journal clerk, said the meeting also will deal heavily with issues concerning the upcoming elections.

"We will be working hard to just clean up the election code," she said. "Some of the campaign posting places and things like that are really out of date and need to be revised."

Guest speaker Bill Dean will talk to the SGA briefly about the Alumni Association and class rings, Harmon said.

Members of the SGA visited the capitol in Austin last weekend to lobby against the rising cost of higher education.

SGA External Vice President

Anne Hunninghake said about 50 Tech students and SGA members went on the trip.

"It was fantastic for everyone who was able to be involved," she said. "We took some Tech students with us so that they could voice their opinions as well."

Each group of students were able to meet with at least two senators or someone on their behalf, Hunninghake said.

"We didn't get to speak to everyone, but we were exciting with what we accomplished," she said.

Ryan Worley, SGA chief of staff, said the postcard campaign was a success, even if the turnout was not what SGA had hoped.

"We had really planned on taking all 2,000 cards with us to talk to them about the main concerns of Tech students, and we only received about 500 back," he said. "We did receive the cards late, and I am sure that caused some of the problem with the low number of returned cards."

The cards made it easier for the representatives to see what Tech was trying to illustrate, Worley said.

"We wanted to let them know that Texas Tech students are not just from West Texas," he said. "We are from all over the state."

Harmon said overall, she believes the Austin trip was successful.

"We arrived on Wednesday and began preparing immediately for our trip to the capitol," she said. "We were able to visit the offices of senators and voice our concerns about the rising cost of higher education."

Representatives and senators are accessible to anyone wanting to get involved in policy, Harmon said.

"You can walk right into a senator's office and tell them what you are concerned about," she said.

Internal Vice President Nathan Nash said Tech had a presence in the Capitol.

"It was great when we broke into groups and visited the senators' offices," he said. "We got to talk to them about the main concerns of Tech students, and they really listened."

The state legislators knew Tech was present in Austin, Nash said.

Adelaide Castillo, a senator for the Rawls College of Business Administration, said she is glad she was able to participate in the lobbying trip.

"The representative for my area spoke with me," she said. "He said he was overwhelmed by the Tech students and how adamant we were to get our concerns out there."

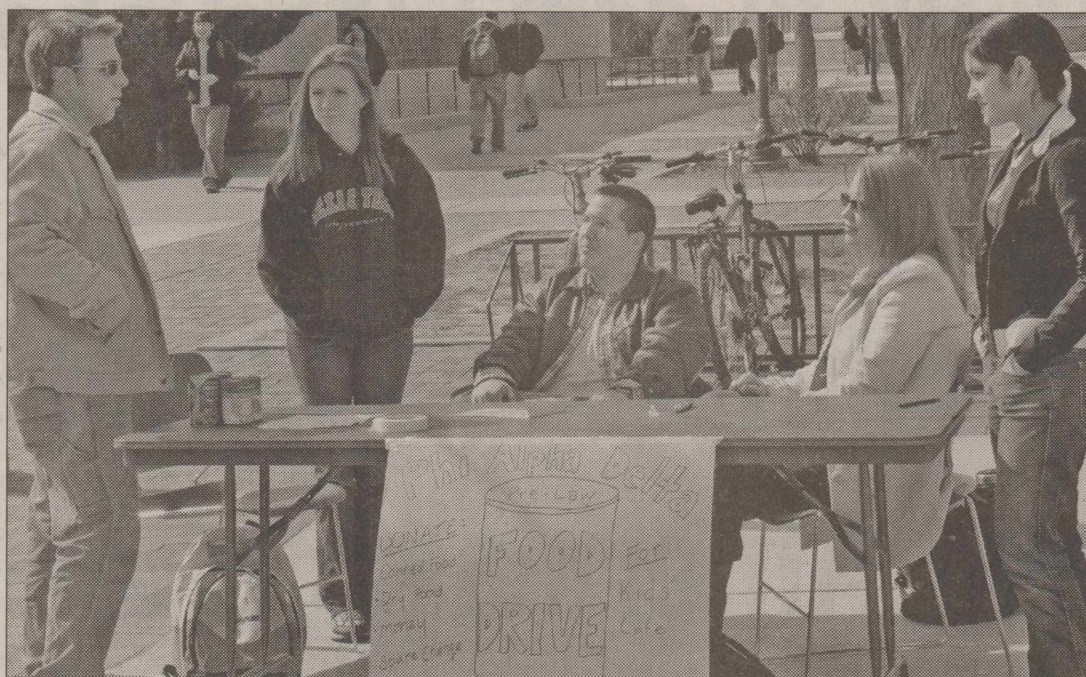
The meeting is at 7 p.m. today in the Lankford Lab in the Electrical Engineering building Room 101.

"You can walk right into a senator's office and tell them what you are concerned about."

— CASEY HARMON
SGA Journal Clerk



CANDID CANNING



LINC ARMES/The University Daily

(FROM LEFT) KYLE Dufour, A sophomore public relations major from Austin, Jennifer Pfeiffer, a freshman international business and pre-law major from Plano, Doug Marquez, a senior psychology and political science major from Midland, Angela Fowlkes, a junior political science major from Amarillo, and Stephanie Franco, a sophomore English major from San Antonio, set up a table outside the Student Union building for the Phi Alpha Delta canned food drive Wednesday afternoon.

Priest gives \$14,000 to congregation

GROVE, Okla. (AP) — Usually, parishioners offer money to their churches. This time, the church handed out money.

Pastor Steve Dyer of the Newsong Church gave \$14,000 to congregation members to invest for seven weeks, after which they are to bring the money and profits back to the church to be used in missionary work.

"The idea has always been in the back of my mind," said Dyer.

Loud gasps were heard throughout the 125-member, interdenominational church as the envelopes containing \$100 and \$50 bills were ripped open after the Sunday sermon.

Dyer had placed crisp \$100 bills in red envelopes for adults and \$50 bills in green envelopes for school-age children.

"That is going to be a lot of fun," Dyer said. "A lot of people already have ideas."

Teacia Williams, 14, of Grove Dyer said the church is not keeping track of who has the money. He only gave one stipula-

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North Korea's nukes and America's pukes

And people wonder why America isn't loved by the global community.

A week ago today, North Korea publicly and explicitly announced it had nuclear weapons. And for the past seven days our administration has tiptoed around the issue like we were not the world's superpower.

This shouldn't be the case. Par for the course we should be deploying troops — yanking fathers from their families and sending them overseas to protect us from one third of the Axis of Evil.

That's what we did in Iraq. We thought there might be the possibility of people thinking about making weapons of mass destruction, so we invaded. North Korea is an enemy that openly admits to having WMDs and we're going to try to stick it to them economically — because that always works. Wait. No it doesn't. That's why we finally had to invade Iraq.

White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan isn't too worried about the situation though, because "it's a regional issue." Well, Iraq's problems were the Middle East's problems, not ours. See, that makes the whole issue a regional one. But we intervened.

Donald Rumsfeld is urging the use of legal, diplomatic and intelligence efforts. He also made a broad appeal for support: "By now it must be clear that one nation cannot defeat these extremist alone...and it surely takes a community of many nations to... apprehend suspected terrorists."

Oh Rummy, what a difference a few years make. It seems like only

Sarah Looten



I do not feel threatened by these nukes, real or not.

I think this is a throwback to Cold War diplomacy where nuclear deterrance was the word. This seems to be the only card North Korea has left and I'd be happy to let them play it out.

yesterday you were giving the finger to the rest of the world while you gaily continued your unilateral plans for ridding the world of Saddam Hussain. So the question begs to be asked: If we didn't need the rest of the world then, why do we need them now?

It might seem I am advocating going to war with North Korea. This

is not the case, because I, as well as the government, know these are not justification for a war. Currently the administration is playing down North Korea's declaration, believing it is only a lie to boost negotiation powers.

I am not saying I believe what the government tells me because it's a widely known fact the government is in the business of lying. But in this case, I happen to agree that North Korea is more interested in self-preservation than nuclear holocaust.

I do not feel threatened by these nukes, real or not. I think this is a throwback to Cold War diplomacy where nuclear deterrance was the word. This seems to be the only card North Korea has left and I'd be happy to let them play it out. I personally think if we just wait it out everything will be OK.

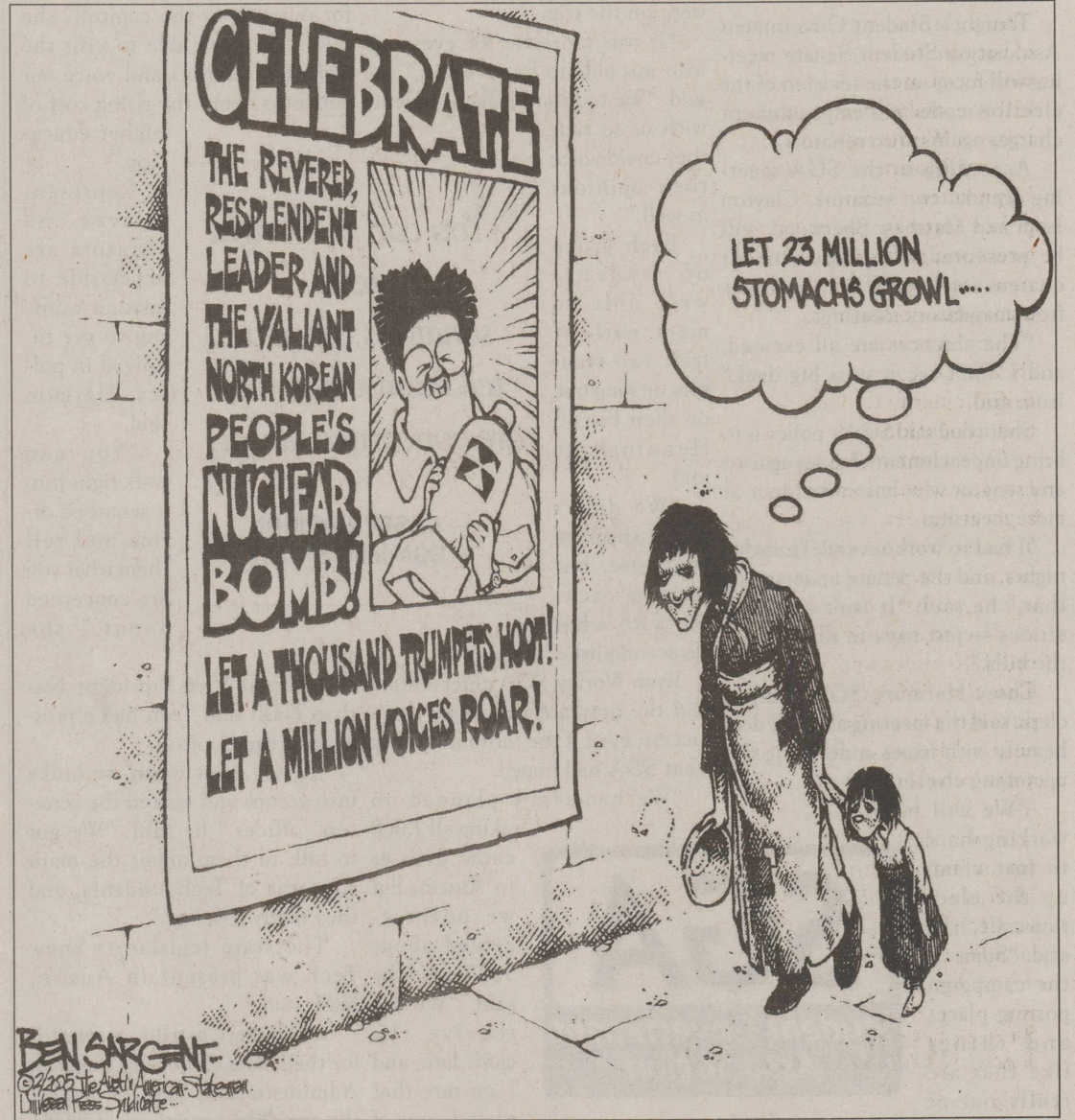
So the problem here isn't necessarily North Korea and its nukes. The problem is the United States and its consistency problems.

I realize all countries are self-serving to their interests, but there is some inherent hypocrisy in Iraq and North Korea issues.

And the rest of the world sees this hypocrisy, too. That is where the real danger lies.

In the end, I think we can all learn a lesson from Trey Parker and Matt Stone. Apparently Kim Jong Il is just a "rittrre ronrey," and needs a friend — or at least a break.

Looten is a senior sociology and political science major from Panhandle. E-mail her at sarah.n.looten@ttu.edu.



Student involvement key to change in government

In Texas, bureaucracy is a bad word. In a state that prides itself in small government, bureaucracy has the connotation of being some covert group who pull strings behind the scenes.

At minimum, it is a necessary evil. At its best, it is an opportunity for everyday citizens to be involved in governance.

When most voters head to the polls, they have some idea of the policies and ideologies of those on the ballot.

What many do not realize is that those elected officials are only a small percentage of the overall government at the city, state or national level.

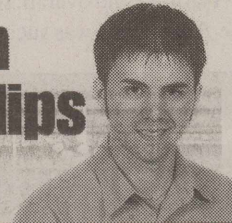
Most do not realize their involvement in politics does not have to stop at the polls. Their future input is still desired.

In the city of Lubbock, there are 39 different board and commission involvement opportunities.

Some of these are advisory boards which give feedback to the City Council, while others are imbued with official policy-making power.

Currently the appointments and advisory board for the city of Lubbock is encouraging Lubbock citizens to apply for appointments

Seth Phillips



I believe only when students begin to become involved in the city of Lubbock will elected officials begin to be open to the concerns of students.

to these city boards and commissions.

College students in Lubbock comprise nearly 20 percent of the total Lubbock population. We should thus be the ones engaged in such endeavors: 1) to demonstrate our involvement in the Lubbock community and 2) to have our concerns addressed by both these commissions and the City Council.

The duties of such commissions range from promoting the arts in

Lubbock to regulating utilities and zoning ordinances. Others deal with issues such as youth involvement and the animal shelter.

Boards and commissions generally have about one meeting per month or as few as three to four per year.

The application for these positions can be completed online at www.ci.lubbock.tx.us by clicking on "Boards and Commissions." A full description of each board or commission is also available on that page.

Aside from applying for a post on a commission itself, this Web page is also a way to become involved in community service and volunteer activities with in Lubbock.

If you are interested in volunteering but not public service, you can just complete the application toward that end.

Only when students begin to become involved in the city of Lubbock will elected officials begin to be open to the concerns of students.

Civic involvement is not just reserved for a booth in November. It also can be direct and helpful toward making informed decisions in governance.

Phillips is a senior communications studies major from Tyler. E-mail him at seth.l.phillips@ttu.edu.

TECH TALKS BACK

Traffic and Parking taxes students for inadequate services

Tuesday's UD shows a department inadequately providing an essential student service.

Buddy Knox, director of Traffic and Parking, states the parking situation is "not as bad as some students believe" and "We have an adequate supply of parking. The available parking is not near the demand." Yet, according to his own presentation, Tech has a deficit of 299 spaces this year, and the deficit will only continue to climb. This number also counts the satellite parking. As a major department I would be embarrassed to provide to any student or visitor.

Knox's "proactive, positive, client-focused transportation and parking plan" comes in three distasteful flavors. In his first plan he suggests that Tech T&P do nothing about the parking shortage, but instead

rely on nearby housing developments to provide parking for students. This plan is an irresponsible and lazy excuse. Why would students want to give any money to T&P if the department does not provide anything in return?

The second plan proposed by Knox involves building adequate parking and charging students for it.

The third involves building more parking facilities, but increasing the cost of permits and adding a \$2 surcharge to every event ticket. These charges seem unnecessary. A surcharge will end up costing money for many people who do not use the parking services. Is it too innovative of an idea to only charge people who are using the new parking structures? Why should freshmen living in residence halls pay for a new commuter garage they will never even see the inside of?

The article mentions T&P receives

funding from park-and-pay lots, student transportation fees, event parking, federal and state grants, permits and citations. Knox claims "we do not charge enough." With more than 29,000 students paying transportation fees and buying permits, it is hard to believe there is not enough money to keep people from parking in a muddy lot. Where does all this money go? I challenge T&P to rethink its budget and defend its use of funds to the student body before taxing more. I believe this department has forgotten it exists as a student service and not an income-generating machine. Don't let this wasteful organization charge whatever it wants. Expect more from a student service department.

— Jared Kuper, graduate student studying electrical engineering from Arlington

Trashy talk at Texas Tech

People on campus are wasteful with their resources

So, what are you going to do with this paper when you finish reading it?

An observation of just about any room on campus leads to the impression that most likely you'll take the option of leaving it lying around, and some of you will throw it away.

Neither is a great alternative; the bin is just a tidier solution. Everywhere you drive and walk in this town, the streets and sidewalks (where they exist) are littered with trash, from drink cups and bottles to shirts and shoes. It doesn't have to be like this, so why is it?

The easy answer would be to say there aren't enough bins in town and whine about what the City Council should do to collect it. Unfortunately, the problem here seems to be far deeper than that.

Other symptoms of the greater disease eating away at this city are the cars left running for five, 10 or even 20 minutes while the driver is elsewhere; and people who drive half a mile from one part of campus to another when walking is almost as quick.

The water wasted in this area is phenomenal, despite the fact that the water table is rapidly depleting; grass is sprinkled, even while it is raining. Not only the grass — don't forget the streets that get irrigated too.

Why don't you respect your environment? Don't you care that the world's climate is being affected by our actions? Global warming is a reality, not a myth. Across the world, weather patterns have shifted significantly; new record highs and lows are being seen everywhere. Why? Because we waste so much energy, burn so

Daniel Kubler



Why don't you respect your environment? Don't you care that the world's climate is being affected by our actions? Global warming is a reality, not a myth. Across the world, weather patterns have shifted significantly; new record highs and lows are being seen everywhere.

much gas, and throw away so much trash.

What is really upsetting about this part of the world? No effort is made.

Where are the recycling bins? Why don't I have to separate my trash into plastic, paper and glass? Do you have hosepipe bans? Are there systems to reuse household

water? Why don't you walk 400 yards?

Even rainy England has hosepipe bans during particularly dry summers. Water is a precious resource anywhere, but especially in a region like this. It's a horrible contradiction that the same people who seem to have no problem throwing trash everywhere have to have some nice green grass to look at.

Across the world, huge efforts are being made to reuse resources through recycling programs or just common sense like saving a plastic container and reusing it for something else — or the classic cutting up of aluminum cans to turn into toys.

Yes, it is more expensive to have four collections, it does take more time to sort the trash, but can we really afford to build vast mountains of waste?

You don't always have to buy the latest and greatest that advertising insists you should and bin the old one. You probably already have just what you need. So you're not just saving yourself money; you're doing the whole world a favor.

So do the right thing with this paper when you finish reading it. At the least throw it out, but better still, give it to someone else to read, reuse it for something or take it to a recycling center. There are three in Lubbock. They are located at 2002 Elmwood, 208 Municipal Drive and 1631 84th St. You have no excuse other than that you are selfish, ignorant and just don't care.

Kubler is a visiting undergraduate studying from Beaconsfield, U.K., studying international equine and agricultural business management. E-mail him at daniel.kubler@hotmail.com.

LETTERS: The UD 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. Students should include year in school, major and hometown. We reserve the right to edit letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters will be verified before they are published. Letters can be e-mailed to UD@ttu.edu or brought to 211 Student Media. Letters should be sent in before 3 p.m. to ensure the editors have enough time to verify and edit the submission.

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 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.

Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as for identification and submission.

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Police Academy trains largest class in years

By Brittany Barrientos/
The University Daily

The Lubbock Police Department began training 44 new recruits Monday in an effort to increase the force to 400 officers. The recruits walked into the classroom to see the first of many weekly quotes, "What does not kill me makes me stronger," by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Roy Bassett, a Lubbock Police Department lieutenant, said the police force is staffed by 299 officers and has begun training the new recruits. They will undergo a 23-week course at the Lubbock Police Academy before taking the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, Officer Standards and Education exam.

"We want one officer for every 2,000 people," he said. "It's a great career, you cannot find a better way to serve your community and take part in making our city a better place."

The recruiting class is made up of 40 males and four females. The class is 2 percent black, 27 percent Hispanic and 71 percent white, said Robert Hook, a training academy lieutenant for LPD.

Hook said this is the largest recruiting class since the class of 1987, which had 35 recruits. He said the class has lost two male members since the beginning of

training. He said the Lubbock City Council has been supportive in the police departments search for more recruits and the academy is not lowering its standards for applicants.

"We try to get good people that we can trust, and (we realize) for that, you need to pay," he said. "If you keep someone you can't trust, it's going to cost you a lot of money eventually."

The police department pays \$18 per hour as a recruit and for their first year of service, Hook said. Each year thereafter, officers receive a pay raise. In addition, officers with a college degree receive Education Incentive Pay added on their checks.

While at the academy, Hook said the recruits primarily do academic work, but they are tested on their physical abilities.

"We are giving them what amounts to an associates degree in 23 weeks," he said. "It is a lot of high-speed training." City councilman Floyd Price

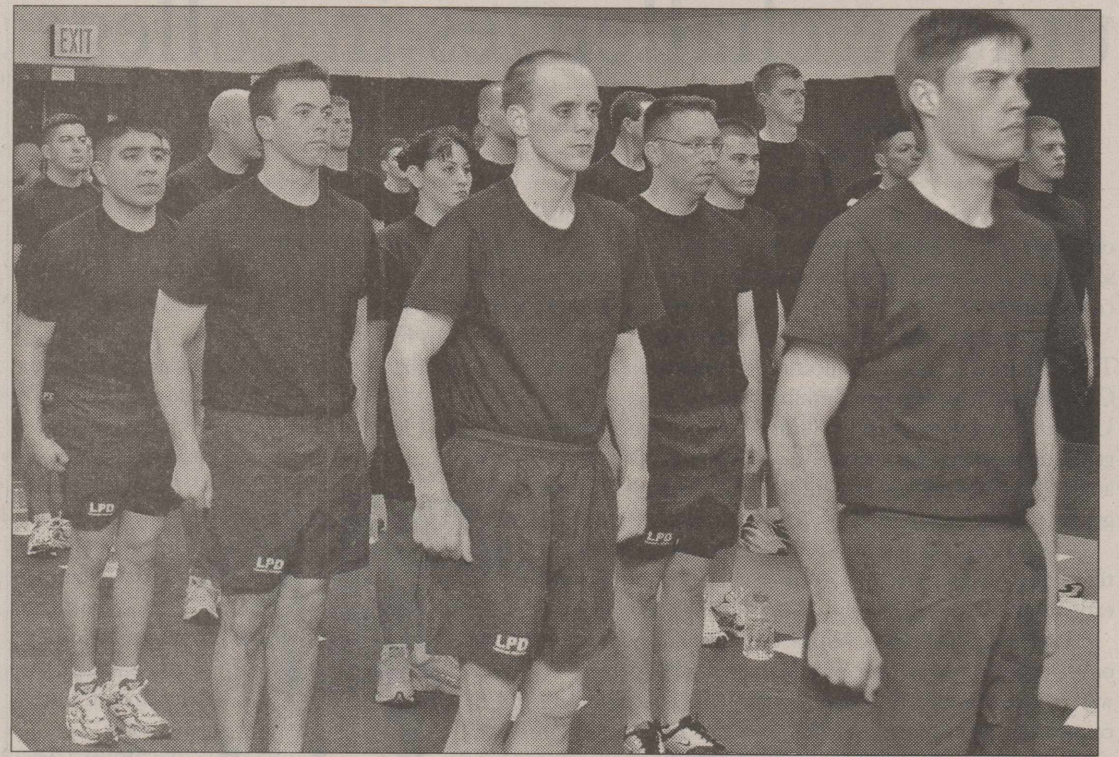
said the need for more police officers in Lubbock is apparent. More officers will not only bring a more timely handling of cases, but better traffic patrol and better neighborhood relations.

"We need one police officer for every 1,000 people," he said. "We are going to need 400 plus police officers to match the population of Lubbock."

Price said he and the City Council recognize the need for more officers, and although they would like to reach the 400-officer mark immediately, they realize

their goal is large. "I want 400 officers ASAP. I see a need and I always want that need accomplished yesterday; but that is not feasible," he said. "We have a 23-week program, and with the (field training course), the new officers won't be on their own for a year to 18 months."

The police department also has to account for retiring police officers and losing officers to federal jobs, Price said. "We lose people to retirement,



LINC ARMES/The University Daily

RECRUITS FOR THE City of Lubbock Police Department train at the Lubbock Police Academy on the South Plains College campus Wednesday afternoon.

federal jobs and private sectors," he said. "We have the best academy in the state and we have to be competitive with (the markets) who are taking lots of our high quality men and women."

Hook said the training the recruits receive at the police academy should prepare them to pass the TCLEOSE and move on to field training. The TCLEOSE

is the exam all officers must pass to be licensed in the state of Texas.

While at the academy, recruits study everything from Spanish to traffic procedures to the penal code before they are tested. Hook said the academy is nationally it is closer to a 50 percent passage rate on the first attempt, while still actively seeking recruits, including Texas Tech students. For more information, visit the Lubbock Police Department or www.lubbockpolice.com.

Explosion in Iran sets off fears

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — An explosion in a southern city prompted instant fears Wednesday of a missile attack in an area where Iran has a nuclear facility, and Iranian authorities gave conflicting explanations for the blast — including Iranian friendly fire in a military area and construction work.

The explosion came hours after the country's intelligence chief confirmed U.S. drones have been flying over Iran for months to spy on nuclear and military facilities.

U.S. and Israeli officials denied involvement with the blast, but it spiked oil prices and showed how jittery the world is that growing international pressure would lead to an attack on Iran.

The explosion near the southwestern port city of Deylam, about 110 miles from the Bushehr nuclear facility, was reported by Iranian state

television, which said it may have been caused by a fuel tank dropping from an Iranian plane. A government spokesman said the blast may have been caused by friendly fire.

Later, a top security official said the blast was part of construction work on a dam. The official, Ali Agha Mohammadi of the Supreme National Security Council, said Iran's enemies were not in a position to attack Iran.

Man accused of kidnapping Smart removed from competency hearing

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The drifter and self-proclaimed prophet accused of kidnapping Elizabeth Smart was removed from his competency hearing twice Wednesday for singing a religious song — the third time he has done that in court in recent months.

Brian David Mitchell, 51, and his wife, Wanda Barzee, 59, are charged with kidnapping, sexual assault and

burglary in the 2002 abduction of teenager.

Mitchell was removed from the courtroom when he sang "Who's on the Lord's side? Who? Now is the time to show."

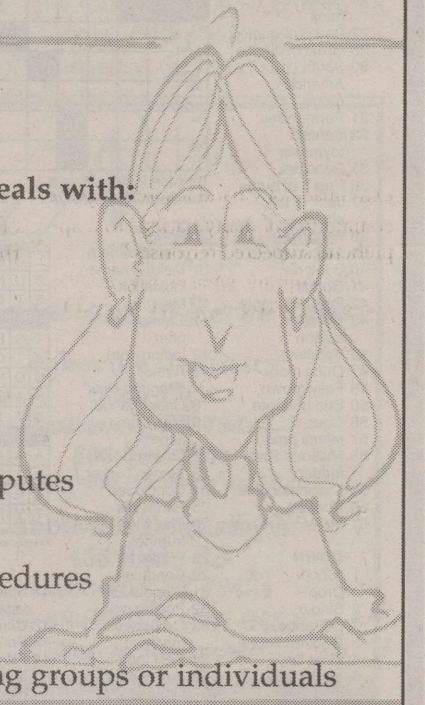
When Judge Judith Atherton later allowed him to return, he sang "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven's at hand," and was removed again.

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First-generation students face unique challenges in college

By Erin McMath/
Contributing Writer

First-generation college students often experience college differently than second-, third- or multiple-generation college students.

Ryan Scheckel, the coordinator of Texas Tech's Pioneers in Education: Generations Achieving Scholarship & Unprecedented Success program for first generation college students, said he was a first-generation college student and graduated from Tech in 2000.

Scheckel said being a first-generation college student affected his college experience.

"I just really didn't know who to ask or where to go or even that something was out there," he said. "I thought it was completely and totally up to me."

First-generation college students often have similar reactions when they get to college, Scheckel said.

"Traditionally, the students who are first-generation college students are coming from backgrounds where they are less prepared or less familiar with or less comfortable with higher education," he said.

Assistant Coordinator of PEGASUS, Jodi Gonzalez, said she also was a first-generation college student. Gonzalez said she experienced pressure from her parents as a college student.

"I did a lot of major-hopping," she said, adding first-generation college students often have a difficult time explaining their college experience to parents who never attended college and might have unrealistic expectations.

Scheckel said he experienced the challenge of communicating with his parents while he was in college and that he and his parents fought often.

"We learned the hard way," he said. "That's how we dealt with it. That struggle affected my (GPA), and that struggle affected the way I felt about college and the way I felt about myself."

Scheckel said factors other than a student's high school GPA, class rank and test scores affect a student's success in college.

"If you would have looked at me on paper as a student based on traditional determinants of college success," he said, "everybody would have thought, 'He'll do fine.'"

Scheckel said being involved in a program like PEGASUS that connected him with resources would have benefited him.

Denise Sanchez, a freshman biochemistry major from El Paso, is a first-

generation college student involved in PEGASUS. Sanchez said neither of her parents completed high school, and her mother grew up in Mexico and does not speak English.

Sanchez said she was able to come to college because she is self-motivated and independent.

"My mom didn't really understand the application process for college," she said. "She doesn't understand how to do things like that."

Although some challenges come with being a first-generation college student, Sanchez said, she likes to focus on the advantages.

"When I am here it gives me the sense of accomplishment that I am doing it on my own," she said. "I've made my parents proud. They get real excited when they hear what I'm doing."

Sanchez said she wants to be a good role model for her 16-year-old sister.

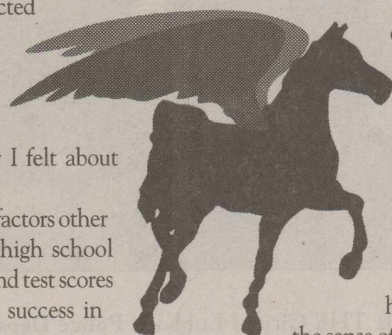
"I want her to succeed and go to college," she said.

Scheckel said first-generation college students have the opportunity to develop a healthier sense of self and purpose.

Many college students believe they are doing something positive and setting a new standard for their family, he said. This feeling often has a significant impact on first generation college students.

"I think the revelation," he said, "is a stronger impact for first generation college students when they see the benefit of higher education for the first time in their family."

For more information about PEGASUS, visit the Advising Center at Texas Tech Web site at www.act.ttu.edu.



Condom

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IMPACT Tech's members passed out packets that were designed to help students look at some of their options if they were to contract an STI, Benson said.

"We were prepared to hand out 250 packets; we didn't hand out all of them," she said.

Students should realize there are qualified health providers working for Student Health Services at Thompson Hall, Benson said.

"We were prepared to hand out 250 packets; but we didn't hand out all of them."

— JULI BENSON
IMPACT Tech Sponsor

IMPACT Tech members were encouraged to not yell out or approach students, Benson said. She said she wanted students to be comfortable with talking about STIs and receiving free condoms.

The information packets handed out by IMPACT Tech included a plethora of information that is important for students to know, Benson said. There were brochures on contraceptive options, STIs and Student Health Services.

Jennifer Weaver, coordinator of department resources and a sponsor of IMPACT Tech, said students usually are appreciative of IMPACT Tech's efforts.

However, Weaver said some students choose to remain abstinent and may not be interested in the sexual health information.

In the past, sexual health events have had strong student participation, Weaver said. IMPACT Tech has a good record for informing the student body about health issues including STIs, she said.

Awareness

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

but not always necessary.

"If it is a girl you have been with forever and you didn't have one, you could do it," Turner said. "You don't want to pass up a good opportunity."

In an effort to educate students who choose to use condoms as their form of protection, IMPACT Tech presented Risque' Roulette in Chitwood/Weymouth lobby Tuesday night as part of Focus on the Positive Week. Elizabeth Brown, a senior political science and pre-nursing major from Brownville, explained the importance of condom use while detailing the proper way to use a male condom, a female condom and a dental dam.

"You want to be sure to use a latex or polyurethane condom," Brown said. "Condoms should be stored in a cool, dry place."

Brown said male and female condoms are available over-the-counter. It is important to not use a female and a male condom at the same time because the level of friction could cause condoms to break, making them ineffective. She also suggested using a lubricant to help prevent the friction that makes condoms break.

"Always use a water-based lubricant," Brown said. "Oil-based lubricants deteriorate the condom."

Brown also said that to practice safe sex, dental dams or condoms should be used when engaging in oral sex or anytime one partner's mouth was coming in contact with the other partner's sex organs.

Jennifer Weaver, unit coordinator at Student Health, said that IMPACT Tech programs could be done by request. Also, any student who wanted to ask questions about sexual health or have a sexual health check-up could make an appointment at Thompson Hall. All appointments at Thompson Hall are free for students.

"Be safe, be healthy and your outlook will be positive," Weaver said.

Weaver said any student needing immediate assistance could call and reach two nurses at Thompson Hall.

Spencer West, a junior advertising major from Arlington, said he knew how to use a condom correctly. He offered advice for someone who has never used a condom.

"Buy a good one," West said. "Don't get the 75-cent ones from a gas station bathroom."

West said the quality of the condom is important to its performance.

"I check the expiration date on everything," West said. "You can tell though, if it is yellow, if it is old or not, or if it has been in the sun."

IMPACT Tech educator Brown said the No. 1 thing she wants for the student body is getting proper education on sexual health.

"The better educated you are, the more positive your outcome will be," Brown said. "I encourage students to learn all they can about the issue of sexual health."

SGA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"What it takes to be a good president at this university is a desire to serve and willingness to work hard," he said.

J. Ross Lacy, a presidential candidate, said constructing bike lanes on campus is a top priority, especially since the death of Kedric Hobbs, a Tech student killed while riding his bicycle in west Lubbock Feb. 7.

"I see bike lanes as a top priority ... to make sure we protect the safety of our students," Lacy said.

Presidential candidate Kelly Harris, currently a senator, said SGA should focus on the students.

"I want to turn the focus on the students and less on the people representing them," she said.

Focusing on the students would involve finding out how students feel and what they want, Harris said.

"I will work to accomplish the things that are student priorities and continue to be student priorities," she said.

The candidates addressed tuition and fee increases and how they would work to represent the students' needs in those areas.

Lacy said government funding is an important part of keeping college affordable.

"We need to push to get more state and federal funding for financial aid," he said.

Nash said securing more money for scholarships would be a priority for him.

The candidates spoke about SGA's involvement with graduate students at Tech.

Harris said graduate students are important to the university.

"As we strive to become a tier one research university," she said, "the graduate students are the ones that bring notoriety."

Nash said graduate student orientation is important for graduate students.

"I want to continue to support graduate student orientation," he said. "The graduate students really benefited from that."

Casey Harmon, a candidate for internal vice president and current senator, said the internal vice president works closely with the senators.

"The main part of the internal's job is making sure the 68 senators are organized and informed," she said.

Harmon said she would work with the Student Senate to continue improving the university.

"I just want to continue the positive things the Senate has been doing for Texas Tech University," she said.

John Hanson, a candidate for vice president of graduate affairs, said graduate students are essential part of the university's desire to be a tier one institution.

"A tier one research institution is built on the back of graduate students," he said. "We need to recruit and retain more graduate students."

Hanson said students should vote for officers even if a candidate is running unopposed because votes legitimize a person's position.

"Any vote is important," he said.

SGA elections are scheduled for Feb. 22 and 23. Students can vote online through the SGA Web site, www.sga.ttu.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
1 Edible tubers
6 Fed
10 "The Joy of Cooking" author
14 Rombauer
15 Not moving
16 Field event
17 "Hud" Oscar winner
18 Start of Danny Kaye quote
20 Wish grantor
21 Confiscate
22 Very angry
26 Loose-leaf book
27 Part 2 of quote
28 Great brilliance
30 South American range
31 Farm milieu
32 Santa's toymaker
35 Recolors
36 Part 3 of quote
37 Jack of talk shows

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By Alan P. Oleschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

2/17/05

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

- 8 Farm measurement
9 Maiden name indication
10 Meaning
11 Change an offer
12 Indian corn
13 Author of "Ragged Dick"
14 Understands Japan
15 Man from
16 Lots and lots
17 Singer Tucker
18 Concluded
19 Farawells
20 Play the trumpet
21 Works for
22 Coagulate
23 Clupeid fish
24 Potting soil
25 Carpentry machine
26 Fast food order
27 Fox chaser?
28 Cronies
29 Infantryman
30 Infantrymen
31 Specific locations
32 Confederate printer stack
33 Playing marble
34 Mythical water nymph
35 Strokes on the green
36 In a fresh way
37 Pushbutton forerunner
38 So it's your opus
39 Dos Passos opus
40 Hack
41 Earlier
42 Bird's beak

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Alcohol

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Some of the people who get DWIs may care (about the cost), but when you use alcohol, it loosens your inhibitions," she said. "I think that if there was more information in the media about the consequences of drinking and driving, there would be less incidents."

A law came into effect September 2003, Britton-Stroud said, and now anyone who is charged with a DWI for the first time must pay \$1,000 per year to the DPS for three years to keep a driver's license.

"That's over and above any fines you get through the court, the court costs, the bonding costs, the attorney fees, probation fees and any other classes the judge sentences you," she said. "A lot of people don't really understand that."

Many students do not understand the severity of alcohol abuse, Britton-Stroud said, and addiction to alcohol.

"The definition of abuse is when the consumption of the substance starts causing negative impact in the person's life," she said. "It's not necessarily how many drinks a person has."

Greenspan warns Congress on Social Security

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan urged Congress on Wednesday to take a go-slow approach in setting up the private Social Security accounts favored by President Bush. The president said he was not ruling out taxing high-income workers more to help the retirement program.

Bush, who has been stumping across the country for the personal accounts, kept up that effort in New Hampshire. But his comments about levying Social Security taxes on more of big wage-earners' income got the attention.

He was asked in an interview whether he would oppose raising the current \$90,000 cap on income subject to the Social Security payroll tax. Bush said he remained opposed to boosting the tax rate but left the door open to a possible increase in the amount covered.

"The only thing I'm not opened-minded about is raising the payroll tax rate. And all other issues are on the table," Bush said in an interview published in the New Haven (Conn.) Register.

In Washington, Greenspan lent a

respected economic voice to the political debate, saying Congress would be wise to take a cautious approach to setting up personal accounts. He said increased government borrowing would be needed to cover Social Security obligations to current retirees because a portion of the payroll tax would be diverted to the private accounts.

"If you're going to move to private accounts, which I approve of, I think you have to do it in a cautious, gradual way," Greenspan, 78, told the Senate Banking Committee, where he was delivering the Fed's semi-annual monetary report to Congress.

Bush is proposing allowing workers born after 1949 to convert up to 4 percentage points of their Social Security taxes to personal stock and bond investments. The administration has estimated that the transition costs for the next 10 years would be \$754 billion.

But critics of the plan have said that vastly understates the true costs, which some estimate in the trillions of dollars.

Greenspan said the problem was

determining whether the government's increased borrowing needs would push up interest rates, and for that reason he said any changes should proceed "slowly and test the waters."

The two sides in the Social Security debate saw different aspects of Greenspan's testimony before the Senate Banking Committee, as supporting their approach.

Republicans noted that Greenspan said he had long been in favor of setting up private accounts as a way to address Social Security's long-run financing problems. But Democrats said his insistence on a go-slow approach represented a lukewarm endorsement at best for Bush's overhaul effort.

"There were lots of caveats," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. "This was not like the ringing endorsement of the tax cuts in 2001."

"If you're going to move to private accounts, which I approve of, I think you have to do it in a cautious, gradual way."

— ALAN GREENSPAN
Federal Reserve
Chairman

Because of the respect Greenspan commands on Wall Street, his endorsement of an economic proposal is sought by members of both parties.

Bush cleared a major hurdle in his drive to enact tax cuts in 2001 when Greenspan endorsed the idea of cutting taxes, arguing at the time that the government's projected budget surpluses were so large that tax cuts were a good idea. Those surpluses never materialized.

In his appearance Wednesday, Greenspan did endorse making a major switch in

how benefits are calculated for workers when they reach retirement age.

Under one of the proposals put forward by Bush's Social Security advisory panel, the level of benefits would be tied to increases in inflation, rather than increases in wages.

Currently, retiring workers get about 40 percent of their wages replaced by Social Security. However, switching to an inflation index could cut that amount roughly in half.

Greenspan, who in the past has said benefit cuts will have to be part of the solution to Social Security's problems, called the switch in indexing "one of the most effective ways to come to grips with closing the ... gap between expected revenues and expected benefits."

All last year, Greenspan used various appearances before Congress to push for action to deal with the impending retirement of 78 million baby boomers, saying the government had promised more than it could deliver not only in Social Security but also in Medicare, where the funding shortfall is even more severe.

FDA opening hearing on safety of Vioxx

WASHINGTON (AP) — There were preliminary indications of heart problems with the painkiller Vioxx before it was withdrawn, but it was difficult to sort through conflicting data, a health official said Wednesday at the opening of hearings on the risks of popular painkillers.

"We were not asleep at the wheel, we were actually engaged in reviewing a lot of data," Dr. Lourdes Villalba told a joint meeting of the Food and Drug Administration's arthritis advisory committee and its drug safety and risk management advisory committee, which are looking into Vioxx, Celebrex and Bextra.

Vioxx was pulled from the market Sept. 30 by manufacturer Merck & Co., after a long-term study showed a higher rate of strokes and heart problems in people using the drug.

Related drugs Celebrex and Bextra, made by Pfizer Inc., remain on the market, though some studies have also indicated they, too, may

carry an added heart risk.

Villalba, medical officer responsible for Vioxx at the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, pointed out that a study done in 2000 comparing Vioxx with the painkiller naproxen, showed a higher rate of heart problems with Vioxx, but other studies had conflicting results. In discussions with Merck officials, she said, the company suggested naproxen might have a heart protective effect.

Nonetheless, in 2002 the agency carried an added warning on the Vioxx label urging caution in prescribing it for people with heart conditions.

"We never bought the naproxen theory," she said, and Merck officials said they no longer make that argument.

Pfizer vice president Dr. Joseph M. Feczko said the reports of increased heart problems need to be seen in context, considering that these drugs, known as Cox-2 inhibitors, bring an important benefit by reducing the sometimes serious

stomach and intestinal problems that occur with many painkillers.

Dr. Kenneth M. Verberg, Pfizer vice president for inflammation and immunology, defended Celebrex as safe, though he said there is little data on use of the drug for more than one year. Further long-term testing of Celebrex is needed, he said.

Earlier, Dr. Ned S. Braunstein, senior director of Merck Research Laboratories, reported that the biggest increase in heart problems occurred after 18 months of use.

Earlier in the day, Dr. Garrett FitzGerald of the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine told the committees that, considering the hazard reports, similar new drugs may have to face tougher testing to win approval and those on the market ought to be put through the same new testing to retain approval.

FitzGerald told the panels that, just as low-dose aspirin affords heart protection and a small but

definite risk of stomach and intestinal problems, so the Cox-2 inhibitors "afford gastrointestinal protection and a small but absolute risk of cardiovascular events."

The two committees are holding a joint three-day session to gather data on the safety of the drugs and to make recommendations regarding their future use.

Recommendations could range from limiting these drugs to people not known to be at risk of heart problems, reducing the dose or duration of use, requiring tougher warning labels and even taking the drugs off the market.

World population aging rapidly, says U.N. secretary-general

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Half the world's population will live in cities in two years, the U.N. chief said, adding the number of elderly people is rising rapidly, prompting a need for economic and social changes.

The biggest problem for developing countries was high mortality rates, while wealthy countries faced falling birth rates and a decline in the working-age population, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a report to the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

Annan said the population of all countries will continue to age, but the increase will be faster in developing countries, and social security systems that depend on workers to

pay for retirees will be affected.

"Such rapid growth will require far-reaching economic and social adjustments in most countries," he said.

More people also are living in cities, the report found. It predicted that half the world will live in urban areas by 2007. In less developed regions, the number of urban dwellers will equal the number of rural dwellers by 2017, the report said.

The United States is the most highly urbanized area of the world with 87 percent of its population living in cities. Latin America and the Caribbean followed, with 78 percent of the population living in urban areas, the report said.

Human rights group links Iraq's 'Chemical Ali' to massacres

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Recently gathered information links one of Saddam Hussein's most notorious former generals to the massacres of Shiites in southern Iraq and could result in new charges against the man who allegedly ordered the use of poisonous gas against Kurds in the north, a human rights group said Thursday.

Gen. Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali," was involved in the massacre of at least 34 Shiite Muslim men in the southern city of Basra in 1999, New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a new report.

"Al-Majid's role in the genocide against the Kurds is well-known, but it appears his hands are dirty in Basra in 1999 as well," Joe Stork, director of the group's Middle East and North Africa division, said in a statement.

Investigators interviewed victims, family members and eyewitnesses, and also examined documents and evidence from mass graves, the group said.

Human Rights Watch obtained a handwritten list that named 120 young men executed from March to May 1999 for taking part in protests over the assassination of Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Sadiq al-Sadr, a senior Shiite cleric.

The remains of 34 men were found in a mass grave in May 2003, and family members have identified 29 of them.

Among the documents found by the group is an apparent execution list, which names 120 men who were executed by the "order of the Commander of the Southern Sector," a post held by al-Majid at the time.

Al-Majid earned his nickname for allegedly ordering the use of poisonous gas against minority Kurds in northern Iraq, a crime with which he has been charged by an Iraqi court. Officials have not set a trial date.

In the same statement, Human Rights Watch expressed concern that authorities were not respecting al-Majid's civil rights in a year of interrogations during which he had no access to a defense attorney.

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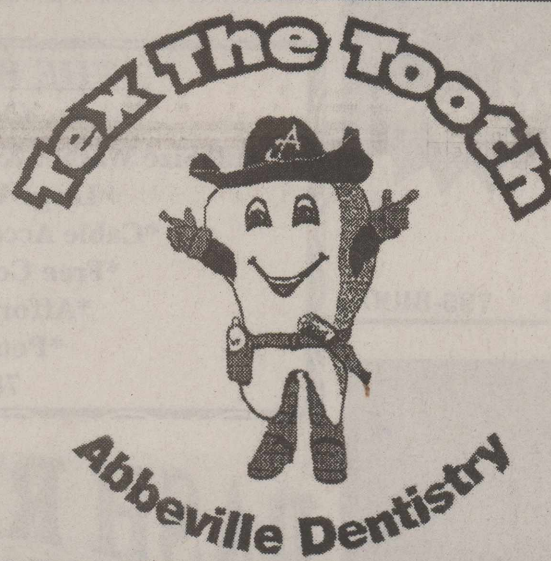
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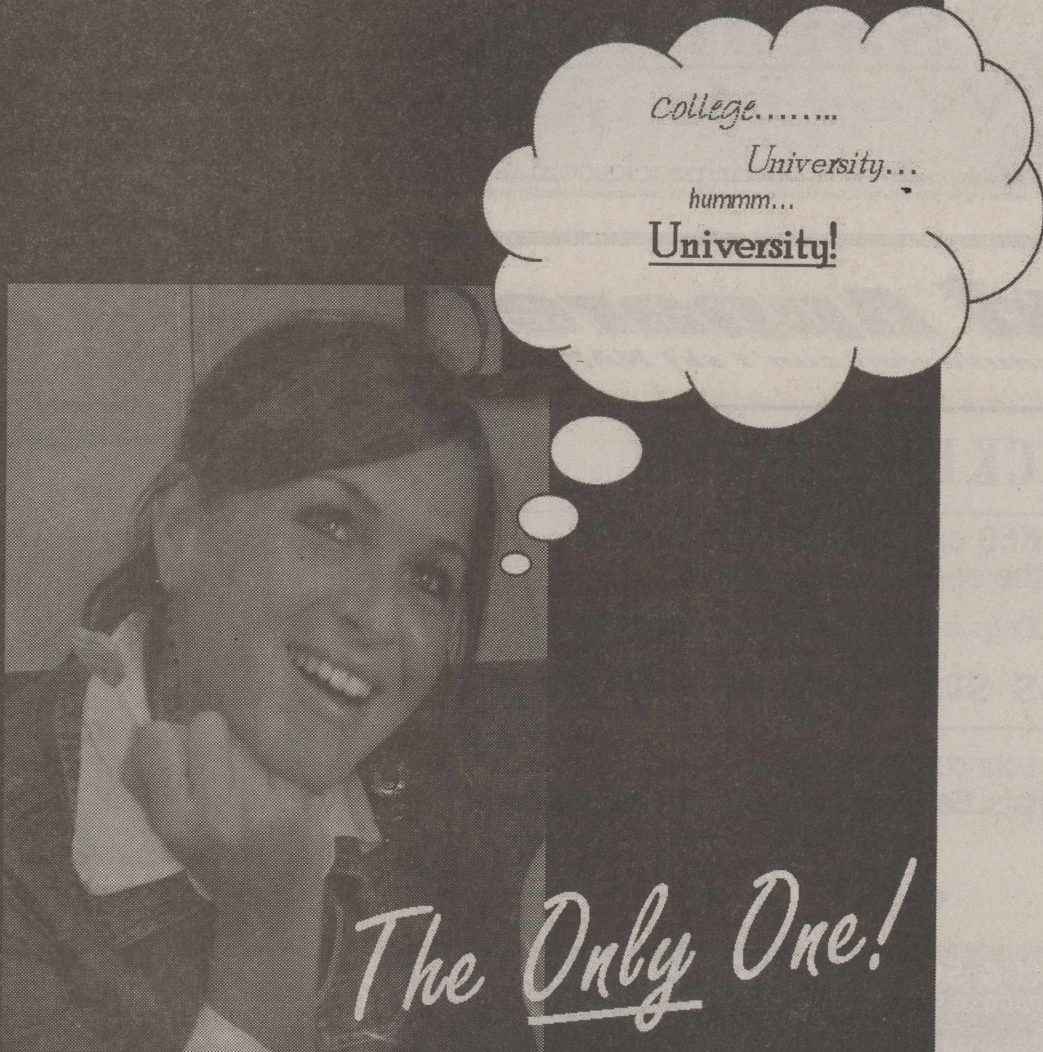
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Study: early epidural not linked to C-sections

BOSTON (AP) — Pregnant women can be given a low-dose epidural early in labor without raising their chances of a Caesarean section, according to a study that could change the way obstetricians practice and make childbirth a lot less painful for many mothers-to-be.

The finding could lead doctors to consider offering early epidurals to hundreds of thousands more American women in first-time labor each year.

Though medical authorities recently dropped their reservations about giving women epidurals early in labor, some doctors and patients still prefer to wait until labor is further along. They worry that the painkiller's numbing effect will interfere with a woman's ability to push, prolonging labor and prompting a C-section.

This study appears to debunk the notion about C-sections and calls into question the one about prolonged labor, too.

"Women often feel guilty or weak when they request an epidural early in labor. I hope this study will help women see that there is no shame in asking for an epidural," said lead author Dr. Cynthia Wong of Northwestern University in Chicago. "The message for women and their obstetricians and gynecologists is that there is no reason why women who want an epidural should not get it when they first request it."

The study was reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

More than 3.5 million women go into labor each year in this country. Epidural use has greatly expanded

throughout the past decade, to more than 1.5 million women annually.

Epidurals deliver numbing medicine through a skinny plastic tube that is threaded into the back, close to spinal nerves, mostly bypassing the mother's bloodstream. More recent techniques, sometimes called "walking epidurals," provide lighter doses, allow women to push, and even enable them to walk throughout labor.

Doctors have welcomed epidurals as an alternative to "systemic" pain medicine through the bloodstream, which can leave a woman feeling nauseated and doped-up and even enter the baby's body.

The Northwestern University study tested a type of low-dose pain relief known as a "combined spinal epidural." A small dose of pain re-

liever is first injected into the spinal fluid, and the epidural is later fed through the same hole into a space a bit farther from the spine.

In this study, 728 women in first-time labor were divided into two groups. One group received the spinal shot and then got epidurals when the cervix was dilated to about 2 centimeters. The other group initially received pain-relieving medicine directly into their bloodstreams, and put off epidurals until 4 centimeters if they could tolerate the pain.

In the end, the C-section rate was statistically a tie: 18 percent in the early epidural group and 21 percent in the delayed group.

The early epidural group also delivered 90 minutes sooner than the other women, who averaged

eight hours in labor. However, Dr. Gary Hankins, an obstetrician at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston who helped shape the medical guidelines, said it is not clear if that finding would apply broadly.

Lisa DeCook of Glenview, Ill., was a study subject in the early epidural group and delivered her daughter vaginally. She said the pain before the epidural was "intense."

"Then once I got it, I really don't remember feeling any pain or contractions. It was good for me," she said.

She chose an epidural on Tuesday when she vaginally delivered her second healthy baby, a boy, at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

The finding seems to contradict some previous research showing that women who got early epidurals under-

went more C-sections. In 2002, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommended against epidurals before 4 centimeters of dilation. In July, though, it dropped a specific threshold.

"There's really no reason to withhold the treatment if a woman is in terrible pain at 1 or 2 or 3 centimeters dilation," said Dr. David Birnback, a University of Miami anesthesiologist who is on the College of Obstetricians committee that devises the guidelines.

As for why the earlier research reached a different conclusion, it could be that some of the women had underlying problems — such as an unusually big baby — that can cause more pain, make women request early epidurals, and also require a C-section, researchers said.

Jackson released from hospital

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — Pop star Michael Jackson was released Wednesday from a hospital where he was treated for flu symptoms, which delayed jury selection for his trial on child molestation charges.

The entertainer returned to his Neverland ranch, Jackson spokeswoman Raymone K. Bain told The Associated Press.

She said Jackson's nausea and other symptoms had subsided enough for him to leave. "He's still not feeling well, but he's going to continue his recovery at home," Bain said.

Jackson left Marian Medical Center shortly after a brief late afternoon press conference in which Dr. Todd Bailey said the 46-year-old entertainer still had "viral symptoms"

but was in good spirits.

"Mr. Jackson continues to be in stable condition and remains under observation at this time. He continues to need care for some persistent viral symptoms, but otherwise he's in good spirits," the doctor said.

Reporters and photographers did not see Jackson leaving, but two black SUVs pulled up to a hospital loading dock out of sight of news media, then left swiftly.

Jackson's hospitalization Tuesday caused jury selection in his child molestation trial to be delayed for a week, until Feb. 22.

Before Jackson left, his parents, Joe and Katherine, and brother Jermaine visited the hospital for several hours.

Kid Rock arrested on assault charges

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Kid Rock was arrested Wednesday by Nashville police on charges that he punched a disc jockey at a strip club.

The 34-year-old rapper was released after posting a \$3,000 bond on a charge of simple assault, a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail.

"Everything is wonderful. It was a beautiful night," Kid Rock said as he left the Criminal Justice Center.

His arraignment was set for March 30.

A few hours earlier, Kid Rock had appeared before Night Court Commissioner Howard Taradash.

He chewed gum and laughed and joked with police officers.

Authorities said he was charged after a 2:50 a.m. altercation at Christie's Cabaret near downtown Nashville.

Police said 30-year-old Jerry Campos of Cedar Hill, Tenn., was in the DJ booth when he exchanged words with someone in the audience. Believing his friend had been insulted, Kid Rock demanded an apology.

Campos refused, and Kid Rock struck him in the face twice, police said.

Television footage from outside the club showed Campos with a red mark on his face and holding his broken eyeglasses.

"They said I broke his glasses? Who?" Kid Rock said to reporters after his release.

Police Lt. Calvin Hullett said Kid Rock left through a back door of another strip club when authorities showed up to arrest him.

Police finally caught up with him about 7 a.m. at an apartment near Vanderbilt University where the singer had been staying.

Dog busts owner on pot charges

GRAPEVINE (AP) — The owner of J.D. the Labrador may be wishing his dog were not such a good retriever.

Matthew Porter of Richland Hills and two friends were playing Frisbee golf in a suburban park Monday when a police officer who thought he smelled burning marijuana began questioning them.

As the officer was checking for outstanding warrants, J.D. waded into a nearby creek and emerged

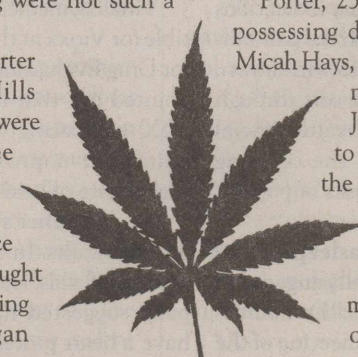
with a plastic bag containing the drug.

Porter, 25, was charged with possessing drug paraphernalia. Micah Hays, 24, was charged with marijuana possession.

J.D. was turned over to the third person at the park, who faces no charges.

J.D. also faces no charges, but may have a new job opportunity.

"People have been asking if we're going to recruit the dog for police work," said Grapevine police Sgt. Todd Dearing.



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MUSIC REVIEW

'Milk-Eyed Mender' is challenging, yet unforgettable

Folk, like any other genre, has been declared more times than anyone can count. From the first time Woody Guthrie sang Depression-era ballads about the dust bowl of Oklahoma, artists have constantly searched for new ways to approach what is one of the most distinctly American styles of music.

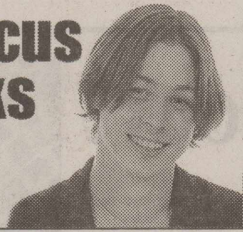
While the actions that lead up to the creation of a genre are pure chaos (remember Jurassic Park?), the constant cycle of music is what defines it. With each rotation a genre takes, it inevitably picks up something new, borrowing from the genres around it.

Folk is no exception to this. Bob Dylan, who once described himself as a Woody Guthrie jukebox, borrowed from Hank Williams and Elvis on the way to becoming the greatest influence on folk of his time.

In the last couple of years, folk music has found its way back into the underground scene with the arrival of freak-folk, a sub-genre that includes bearded virtuoso Devendra Banhart.

The musicians involved are frequently so eccentric, even the most

Marcus Parks



Newsom's lyrics are like looking at a surrealist painting: you might have no idea what it means or what is the artist's intentions were. But it is obvious that everything was chosen for a reason.

seasoned of music critics have a hard time defining them. I can at least tell you this: freak-

folk often is beautiful, challenging and very, very strange. Possibly one of the most exciting artists playing this type of music right now is a young woman from Nevada named Joanna Newsom.

Her 2004 release, *The Milk-Eyed Mender*, is so amazing, I'm almost ashamed to admit I didn't hear it until this year.

The first thing you notice about Newsom is her amazingly unique voice, a wail that is somehow child-like and wise at the same time. While her voice is odd and admittedly a somewhat acquired taste, strange singing voices are a hallmark of freak-folk.

Artists pride themselves on unconventional approaches, and Newsom is no exception.

On precious few occasions, most notably on "Peach, Plum, Pear," multiple tracks of Newsom's voice are layered upon each other to create a choir of one. Newsom's singing is the personification of whimsy, lilting and playful.

Just as whimsical are the instruments Newsom plays throughout the album. A classically trained harpist

and harpsichordist, Newsom plucks the strings of both in such a way that the instrumentation is simultaneously delicate and percussive.

On "Sadie," the standout track of the album, Newsom plays the harp with a bouncing rhythm that hearkens back to the folk artists of old that didn't need a drummer to keep rhythm for them either.

She is her own percussion section, a measure of a good folk artist.

As impressive as that is, it doesn't compare to the most scrutinized part of any folk song: the lyrics. Honestly, I have no idea what Newsom is talking about half the time. I don't need to.

Newsom's lyrics are like looking at a surrealist painting: you might have no idea what it means or what the artist's intentions were. But it is obvious that everything was chosen

for a reason. A lack of understanding makes it no less beautiful.

I have no idea what "Even molusks have weddings" means. But I know Joanna Newsom does.

When one begins to listen to music that is immeasurably more challenging than simple pop or rock, the lyrics inevitably advance to the point in which they seem almost indecipherable.

There have been many songs with nonsense lyrics that have become hits, but often it is obvious they are nothing but nonsense. I know Newsom's lyrics have a deeper meaning; I just have yet to figure it out.

Challenging albums are the ones the listener has to spend the most time with before truly grasping the musical vision of the artist. More often than not, these albums end

up being the best, the albums that always have a place in your collection no matter how much your music tastes change.

A listener will tire of a catchy tune that is listened to passively. An active listener to a challenging work, however, can be a rewarding experience.

The Milk-Eyed Mender is one of those records. It requires time and a special sort of ear to truly appreciate it in its entirety. It is almost private in its approach, begging to be listened to alone. It's the best kind of album; it's a secret.

And while many won't be able to handle the delivery, those that do will hear something the ones that refuse couldn't possibly understand.

Like the lyrics these musicians write, this concept is the core of the freak-folk movement. All they want is for you to try and see the world as they see it. Granted, it will be strange and you may not like it. But if you are able to make it there, it is a world beyond imagination.

■ Parks is *The UD's* music critic. E-mail comments and questions to Marcus.J.Parks@ttu.edu.



Coffee and its effect on culture a popular topic on college campuses

DANVILLE, Ky. (AP)—For years, sociology professor Beau Weston has held informal office hours off campus in a local coffee shop, sipping his mocha latte while advising students.

As he did, he formed relationships with other coffee shop regulars who might otherwise have remained strangers. That caused a sort of academic epiphany, and now he's one of a handful of teachers across the nation who have developed courses that study coffee and its effect on society.

Do not drop your morning cup of joe. Weston's class, offered during a recent intensive three-week term at Centre College, was hardly "Starbucks 101," although the 15 students who enrolled in "The Cafe and Public Life" could be forgiven if that was their original impression.

Audrey Rogers, a freshman from Dallas, said she initially wondered about the academic strength of the class: "I didn't know how it was going to last a week."

Weston understood such skepticism and designed his course to focus not only on coffee as a drink, but on how its consumption has changed society through the centuries.

A class on coffee might seem strange at a college like Centre, an elite private school known for producing two Supreme Court justices and hosting the 2000 vice presidential debate between Dick Cheney and Joe Lieberman.

Then again, unique classes are becoming commonplace at the school of about 1,100 students. Last year, a Centre professor taught a class called "Basketball As Religion," playing off the passion for hoops in the Bluegrass State.

John Ward, Centre's vice president for academic affairs, said all the college's courses are approved by a curriculum committee that consists of faculty from across the campus who examine the "intellectual contexts" of any proposed course.

Ward said offering classes like the ones on basketball and coffee "is as if you hold a microscope up on something really interesting. We apply the same academic and intellectual rigor in courses like this as we do in advanced literature, language or science courses. It's the same tools at work."

The feedback from parents has always been positive. "What they say is, 'Wow, my kid was really motivated.' They do not say, 'I want my money back,'" he said.

Weston's regular trips to coffee houses led to "an interest in cafés as a place in which strangers can talk to one another" and discuss the issues of the day. In Europe, coffee shops and cafés have served that purpose since the 17th century, he said.

Through the centuries, "cafés became places where informed men, some educated and some not, would come together and talk about stuff," including literature, plays, poems, economics and politics, Weston said.

In recent years, the emergence of the Seattle-based Starbucks chain has brought the coffee house back into vogue in this country.

"Having a place to do that enriches a culture," Weston said. "It takes us out of the cocoon of private life and into the public world. Cafés are important for creating a public

life, particularly in a democracy. It becomes a place where the town, or in the big city, where the neighborhood develops."

At Atlanta's Emory University, the University of Washington and the University of California-Irvine, similar courses are taught by professors with academic backgrounds ranging from anthropology to chemistry to history.

"It really combines so many disciplines," said Mark Pendergrast, of Colchester, Vt., the author of "Un-

common Grounds: The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World," which was used as a textbook in Weston's class at Centre.

"Everywhere you look in our culture, coffee has a fairly profound effect," Pendergrast said. "I think it's a wonderful way to teach history and culture and economics."

Cal-Irvine history professor Steven Topik began teaching his "History

of Coffee" writing seminar course in 1996.

Coffee "is just not something we think about," Topik said. "History is usually taught as the history of great men and wars and great events. We don't think about the history of everyday things. But historians have been increasingly thinking about these things."

Studying coffee "is a palpable,

liquid way of understanding globalization," Topik said.

University of Washington chemistry professor Joe Norman had another practical reason for developing his honors seminar, "Coffee and Humanity."

"It's fun, and I think education should be broad like this to some extent," Norman said. "Of course, Seattle is a good place to offer such a seminar. There's enough coffee around here!"

There apparently also is plenty goes."



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DJ CRUZ IN THE CHAMPAGNE ROOM

Ross' talents not confined to basketball court

By Joey Kirk/The University Daily

Of all the talent guard Ronald Ross possesses, he has to be ready — even if it is just playing around.

Texas Tech students know him as No. 24 for Bob Knight's Red Raiders, but his teammates know him as an artist.

Ross does not use his skills to draw or create beautiful paintings, but rather to create rhythm and fun in the locker room and on the court.

"Yeah, I heard him a couple of times," guard Jarrius Jackson said.

Prior to practice and sometimes before games, Ross will break out into a freestyle to lighten the load and create a little more brotherhood among the Raiders.

"Yeah, he's all right," Jackson said.

But Ross will not start rhyming on any day or just anywhere. He has to be in his element, sort of like when he is on the court.

"I can hit you with it another time, just not right now," Ross said Feb. 10, the day after he scored 25 points against Baylor.

He was not in the locker room with the rest of the team. "I just gotta be thinking," Ross said.

Although his first love is basketball, Ross said freestyling is one of the things he does on the side — mainly for laughs.

"It's just something fun to do," he said.

Ross explained why he cannot just jump into singing. "Go out and have fun with your boys," he said. "Just saying what's on your mind and letting it rhyme."

At that time, Iowa State was on Ross' mind. Even scoring 27 against the Cyclones last Saturday was not enough to bring the Raiders back to Lubbock with a victory.

But after a loss, guard Martin Zeno said Ross still has no problem keeping the atmosphere up in the locker room.

"It just helps us come together as a team, making us closer and better," he said.

Being a freshman among four seniors, one of whom is Ross, Zeno said he has gotten used to the factors that make the team work — both on the

court and off the court.

"Everybody's gotta do what they gotta do," he said.

But as for whether Ross has talent for singing, Zeno said one time is enough to tell.

"Well...I don't know," he said. "I think I heard him once in the locker room. Not too bad. It's just us having fun."

Evidently, the artist struck again prior to the game against Kansas. Ross had 21 points to help lead Tech in a double-overtime victory against the Jayhawks, 80-79, Monday night.

And as the leading scorer for Tech, Ross said if he had to choose the one thing he is better at — basketball or freestyling — the answer would be easy.

"Basketball," he said. "I think I can make it better in basketball than freestyling."

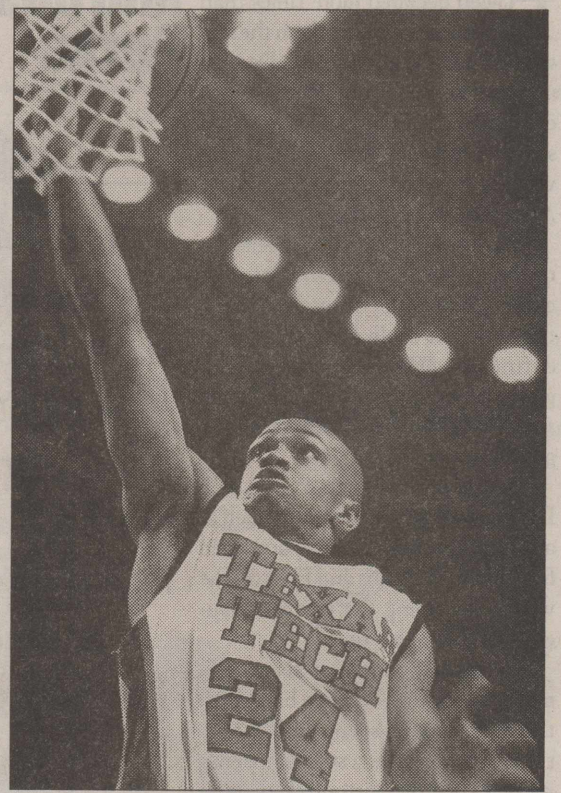
Jackson would agree, and he said he does not have anything of that sort to share with his teammates.

"I don't, but he's pretty good at it," he said.

If the trend continues, Ross could be developing a new song about a trip to the NCAA tournament. But before that, the Raiders have to prepare for Oklahoma State Saturday in Stillwater, Okla.

Tech lost to the Cowboys Jan. 8, 76-66. Whether the Raiders will end in victory Saturday is unknown, but Ross knows in both freestyling and basketball, there is always a second chance — as long as he has the particular issue on his mind.

"Next time, I'll get it," he said.



DAVID JOHNSON/The University Daily

SENIOR GUARD RONALD Ross attempts a shot during the 2004-2005 basketball season. Ross leads all Red Raiders in points per game with 17.3.

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By the Numbers:
Ronald Ross

Statistics through Feb. 15

No. 1 on team with:

- 17.3 points per game*
- 2.55 steals per game**
- 51.7 percent 3-point shooting
- 31.3 pointers made
- 32.7 minutes per game
- 151 field goals made

No. 2 on team with:

- 56.6 percent field goal shooting*
- 5.0 rebounds per game

No. 3 on team with:

- 71 assists
- 80 percent free-throw shooting
- 20 games started

Also noteworthy:

- Ross' 34 turnovers are the fewest among starters

* Fourth-best in Big 12
** Best in Big 12

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Game off! NHL season canceled

NEW YORK (AP) — A hockey season on the brink is now a season gone bust.

The NHL canceled what was left of its decimated schedule Wednesday after a round of last-gasp negotiations failed to resolve differences over a salary cap — the flash-point issue that led to a lockout.

It is the first time a major pro sports league in North America lost an entire season to a labor dispute. The resulting damage could be immeasurable to hockey, which already has limited appeal in the United States.

"This is a sad, regrettable day that all of us wish could have been avoided."

— GARY BETTMAN
National Hockey League Commissioner

"This is a sad, regrettable day that all of us wish could have been avoided," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said.

"Every day that this thing continues we don't think it's good for the game," NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow said in Toronto.

To begin with, all momentum gained in the final days of negotia-

tions has been lost — late offers that appeared to bring the sides close to a deal are now off the table, and there is no telling when the NHL will get back on the ice.

No Stanley Cup champion will be crowned, the first time that has happened since 1919, when the 2-year-old league called off the finals because of a flu epidemic.

Without an agreement, there can be no June draft. The sport's heralded next big thing, Canadian phenom Sidney Crosby, will not pull on his first NHL sweater anytime soon.

Then there is the parade of aging stars — Mario Lemieux (39), Mark Messier (44), Steve Yzerman (39) Brett Hull (40), Ron Francis (41), Dave Andreychuk (41) and Chris Chelios (43) — whose playing days could be ending on someone else's terms.

"This is a tragedy for the players," Bettman said. "Their careers

are short and this is money and opportunity they'll never get back."

Despite being the NHL's best-known star, there was never a chance that Pittsburgh's Lemieux, the first owner-player in modern American pro sports history, would side with the players.

"A few years ago, I thought the owners were making a lot of money and were hiding some under the table, but then I got on this side and saw the losses this league was accumulating," he said Wednesday.

Hockey was already a distant fourth on the popularity scale among the nation's major league sports. The NHL lost the first season of its two-year broadcasting agreement with NBC that was supposed to begin this season, a revenue-sharing deal in which the network is not even paying rights fees.

Taking a year off, or more, will only push the league further off the radar screen.

"The scary part now for hockey is do the fans come back? We're

not baseball, we're not the national pastime," Nashville forward Jim McKenzie said.

Between shifts of a pickup game at the Denver rink where the Avalanche used to practice, fan Don Cameron called the cancellation "a shame."

"When they come back, it's not going to be as easy to pay for a \$90 season ticket," he said.

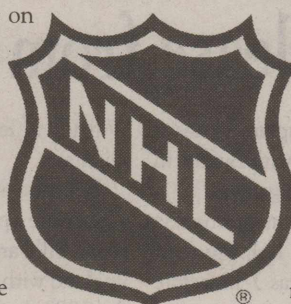
Not to mention how difficult it will be for all the ushers, trainers, officials, Zamboni drivers and businesses near arenas that will continue to be affected.

"We profoundly regret the suffering this has caused our fans, our business partners and the thousands of people who depend on our industry for their livelihoods," Bettman said.

"If you want to know how I feel, I'll summarize it in one word — terrible," he said.

Bettman said the sides would keep working toward an agreement.

"We're planning to have hockey next season," he said.



Tech baseball gets first 5-0 start since 1999

The Texas Tech baseball team is off to a 5-0 start for the first time since the 1999 season when the team started 6-0.

The fifth win was the toughest as Tech battled the No. 22 TCU in Fort Worth Tuesday night. The Red Raiders won, 7-4.

Junior pitcher Billy Carnline got the start and the win for the Red Raiders by throwing six strikeouts in five innings of work.

When junior Adam Lawford came on in relief of Carnline in the sixth inning, Lawford matched his predecessor's strikeouts total and walked one batter to record the save.

Despite tallying eight strikeouts, TCU starter Brad Frikken allowed four runs and recorded the loss in the game.

The Tech bats were somewhat silenced in this game, driving in seven runs.

Coming into the game, Tech was averaging 15 runs per game.

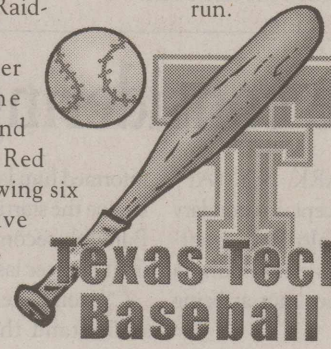
Freshman Chris Richburg continued his strong offensive production in Tech's first road contest, driving in three runs, including a two-run home run.

Richburg picked up his third RBI of the game in the sixth inning when he hit a sacrifice fly to left field to score a run.

Senior shortstop Cameron Blair, who has been moved to leadoff hitter, drove a leadoff double down the left field line in Tech's first at-bat of the game.

Richburg now leads the Raiders in RBI, home runs and slugging percentage.

Tech returns to the confines of Dan Law Field for this weekend's series against the Western Illinois Leathernecks.



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TEXAS TECH 66, KANSAS 53

No. 15 Lady Raiders upend Jayhawks

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — LaToya Davis had 14 points and seven rebounds to lead No. 15 Texas Tech to a 66-53 win against Kansas on Wednesday night.

Alesha Roberts scored 12 points and Cisti Greenwalt added 10 points and eight rebounds for Texas Tech (18-5, 9-3 Big 12).

Crystal Kemp had 10 rebounds and scored 19 points, including the 1,000th of her career for Kansas (11-12, 4-8). She became the 18th member of the Jayhawks to reach the milestone.

Trailing 39-18 with just under 20 minutes left in the second half, Kansas went on a 9-2 run to close within 41-27.

With under just under 4 minutes left, Kemp scored back-to-back baskets as the Jayhawks cut their deficit to 61-47.

The Lady Raiders responded with a basket by Chesley Dabbs and withstood the Jayhawks' comeback try.

The Lady Raiders shot 80 percent in the first 10 minutes and shot 25-for-44 in the game.

Bledsoe considering Dallas after release from Buffalo

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Unwilling to accept a secondary role with the Buffalo Bills, quarterback Drew Bledsoe is seeking a new team for another shot at being a starter.

Granting Bledsoe's request to be cut, the Bills announced Wednesday they will waive the 12-year veteran Feb. 22, the first day NFL teams are allowed to officially release players. The decision came after the Bills

informed him last week of their plans to give the starting job to J.P. Losman, Buffalo's second of two first-round draft choices last year.

"I completely disagree and can't understand their point of view," Bledsoe said during a conference call from his home in Oregon. "Do I think this is fair? No, I don't think it's fair. But I'm also aware that that's how it works, and I understand that.

Describing it as "a sad day," the

33-year-old wrapped up an inconsistent three-year tenure with Buffalo in which he started all 48 games.

Bills president Tom Donahoe credited Bledsoe for helping turn around a team that was 3-13 before Buffalo acquired him for a first-round draft pick in a deal with New England in April 2002.

He will be one of several veteran quarterbacks on the market: Cleveland is releasing Jeff Garcia and Kurt

Warner is leaving the New York Giants.

Bledsoe said Dallas would be a possible spot for him. Cowboys coach Bill Parcells chose him for New England with the first overall pick in the 1993 draft. The Bills have given him permission to negotiate with other teams.

Saying he briefly considered retiring, Bledsoe said he is itching to find a new place to play.

Armstrong to race for 7th Tour de France title

PARIS (AP) — Still hungry to race but wary he is not in the best shape, Lance Armstrong wants to take his Tour de France record to even mightier heights: He will try for a seventh straight title this summer.

Armstrong had left open the possibility he would not compete this year in cycling's showcase event to pursue other races. But in an announcement Wednesday on the Web site of his Discovery Channel team the Tour's only six-time winner said he will again commit himself to the race to which he's dedicated his cycling life.

"I am grateful for the opportunity that Discovery Communications has given the team and look forward to achieving my goal of a seventh Tour de France," Armstrong said.

Armstrong has overcome testicular cancer to become one of the most inspirational stories in all sports, and his sixth Tour crown last year sent him past four five-time champions: Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and

Miguel Indurain.

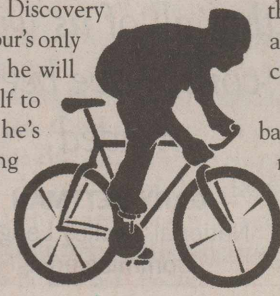
Armstrong will start his 2005 season with the Paris-Nice stage race in March, according to the team Web site. He will then compete in the Tour of Flanders on April 3 before returning to the United States to defend his title at the Tour de Georgia that month.

Armstrong said he and Johan Bruyneel, his friend and team manager, "will evaluate my fitness later this spring and possibly add some races to the calendar."

"I am excited to get back on the bike and start racing," Armstrong said, "although my condition is far from perfect."

Other racers probably will not attach much importance to that last assessment, and British bookmaker William Hill immediately installed Armstrong the 4-7 favorite. Jan Ullrich, the 1997 Tour champion and five-time runner-up, was at 7-2.

"It's good that he is there," Ullrich said. "The best should be at the Tour."



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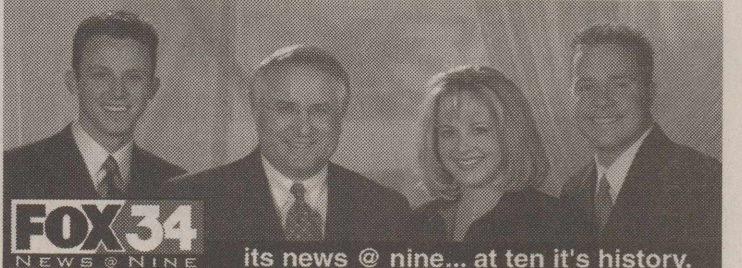
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STAT. CHAN. AFFIL. CITY	KTXB 5 PBS Lubbock	KCBD 11 NBC Lubbock	KLBK 13 CBS Lubbock	KUPT 22 UPN Lubbock	KAMC 28 ABC Lubbock	KJTV 34 FOX Lubbock
7 AM	Body Electric :30 Callou	Today	Early Show Jeff Probst	Believers Voice Life Today	Good Morning America	Awesome Adv. Spin City
8 AM	Bears :30 Barney			Paid Program Paid Program		Roseanne Roseanne
9 AM	Dragon Tales :30 Arthur			Paid Program Paid Program	Judge Mathis Domestic violence.	Home Delivery Becker Dharma & Greg
10 AM	Sesame Street :30	Regis & Kelly	Price Is Right	Judge Joe Judge Joe	The View	Ambush Ambush
11 AM	Mister Rogers :30 Teletubbies	Jeopardy!	Young and the Restless (HD)	Paid Program Paid Program	Paid Program Home Impro	Access Hollywd Extra
12 PM	This Old House :30 T. Madden	News	KLBK 13 News KLBK & Beaut.	Jerry Springer	All My Children	Good Day
1 PM	Needle Arts :30 Zoom	Passions	As the World Turns Guiding Light	Paid Program Paid Program	One Life to Live Paid Program	People's Court Texas Justice
2 PM	The Lions :30 Reading	Inside Edition	Animal Adv Paid Program	General Hospital	Divorce Court	Divorce Court
3 PM	Buster :30 Cyberchase	Oprah Winfrey	Mauri	Dharma & Greg Sabrina	Jane Pauley	Fear Factor
4 PM	Puppy :30 Arthur	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy Judge Judy	That '70s Show Malcolm	Montel Williams	Fox 34 News First@Four
5 PM	Maya Miguel :30 Nightly Business	News	KLBK 13 News Evening News	Access Hollywd Family Feud	News World News	Malcolm Simpsons
6 PM	NewsHour with Jim Lehrer :30	Wheel Fortune	Who Mil.	Extra	Entertainment	Friends Raymond
7 PM	This Old House :30	Joey (HD) Will & Grace	Survivor: Palau	WWE SmackDown!	Extreme Make-over	The O.C. "The Test" (HD)
8 PM	To Be Announced :30	The Apprentice (5) ER "Alone in the Crowd" (HD)	CSI: Crime Scene "King Baby"	Without a Trace "Party Girl" (HD)	King of the Hill	Prime Time "Michael Jackson's Secret World"
9 PM	Egypt's Golden Empire :30	News	KLBK 13 News	Magnum, P.I.	News	Fox 34 News@ Nine
10 PM	Nightly Business :30	Destinos (35) Jay Leno Dave Matthews.	(35) David Letterman	That '70s Show	(35) Nightline (05) Insider	Friends Seinfeld Frasier
11 PM	Charlie Rose :30	(35) Conan O'Brien	Late Late Show Kathryn Morris.	Blind Date Paid Program	Paid Program	Cheers Just Shoot Me
12 AM	Off Air :30	(35) Last Call	Paid Program	Bella Luce	Jimmy Kimmel Jaime Kennedy.	Just Shoot Me Paid Program



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