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Lubbock, Texas © Copyright 2005

Dennis lacks force many predicted

By David Royse/
The Associated Press

NAVARRE BEACH, Fla. (AP) — With a sigh of relief, Gulf Coast residents began hurricane cleanup — again.

Hurricane Dennis hit the storm-weary Florida Panhandle and Alabama coast on Sunday with less force than forecasters feared, sparing the region the widespread destruction caused by Ivan last September.

There was scattered flooding in Florida and Georgia, and more than 680,000 customers in four states were without power, with

some likely to be out for three weeks or more. However, officials reported little major structural damage.

"I think we dodged a pretty large bullet," said Nick Zangari, a restaurant and bar owner in Pensacola. "I think people took more precautions the second time around."

It was already business as usual Monday morning for casinos along Mississippi's Gulf Coast.

Dennis quickly weakened to a tropical depression. By late Monday morning it was centered over northern Mississippi and moving north-northwestward at 15 mph, and was expected to

eventually stall over the Ohio Valley, the National Weather Service's Hydrometeorological Prediction Center said. Rain fell across parts of the mid-Mississippi, Tennessee and lower Ohio valleys and into the Carolinas.

One band of rain stalled over Georgia and Peachtree City, a suburb of Atlanta, got more than 6 inches in 18 hours, the National Weather Service said.

"We could still see another few inches; it's just not moving," weather service meteorologist Eric Avila said Monday.

The weather service said other rainfall amounts included 6.27 inches at Camden, Ala.; 6.64 at

Tallahassee, Fla.; 9.57 at Austell, Ga., and 3.18 at Meridian, Miss.

Dennis caused an estimated \$1 billion to \$2.5 billion in insured damage in the United States, according to a projection by AIR Worldwide Corp. of Boston, an insurance risk modeling company. Munich Re, the world's biggest reinsurance company, estimated the insured loss at \$3 billion to \$5 billion.

Michael Brown, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said Monday that while damage wasn't as widespread as expected, the storm was still devastating to those whose homes were damaged.

"We have to get help to them," he said on NBC's "Today." FEMA crews planned to be out Monday distributing emergency supplies and then will begin providing long-term relief, he said.

Two deaths were reported, including a man killed in his sleep early Monday by a 40-inch-diameter tree that crashed onto his bedroom in Decatur, Ga. On Sunday, a man was electrocuted in Fort Lauderdale when he stepped on a fallen power line. Dennis was responsible for at least 20 deaths in the Caribbean.

A fast-moving Category 3

DENNIS continued on page 2

Attacks may quiet activists

By Scheherezade Faramaezi/
The Associated Press

LONDON (AP) - For years, radical Islamic activists have operated freely in Britain, raising money for their cause, beaming satellite TV spots or running Internet sites condemning America in support of al-Qaida.

But even supporters of Osama bin Laden's ideology say the London bombings were the wrong thing to do.

"The goal here was illegitimate," said activist Yasser al-Sirri.

Al-Sirri, head of the Islamic Observation Center, said Muslims who live in Britain — even those who consider the host government their enemy — have an Islamic duty under an unwritten "security covenant" to obey the country's rules.

His comments suggest a possible split within Britain's radical Islamic community about how to wage the struggle against the West — through terrorism like Thursday's bombings or through psychological warfare as well as violence only in clearly defined

LONDON continued on page 2

'Orange alert' affects Lubbock

By Carlos Bergfeld/
The Daily Toreador

In response to the attacks in London, the U.S. Government increased the threat level Thursday from Code Yellow to Code Orange, but only for mass transit systems in the transportation sector.

Though the United States was not targeted in this attack, and Lubbock may seem far from peril, transportation and safety officials are taking precautions.

Melinda Harvey, director of planning at Citibus of Lubbock, said the company

informed their drivers of the increase in threat level and asked for their vigilance in regard to safety.

"The drivers are asked to look out for suspicious activity, and we asked everybody to be more diligent in looking for things like that," she said.

The company has significantly increased their safety precautions since Sept. 11, 2001, she said, but it also recently implemented security protocols due to Lubbock's growing population.

"We implemented a formal safety and

ALERT continued on page 3

STORMY EVENING

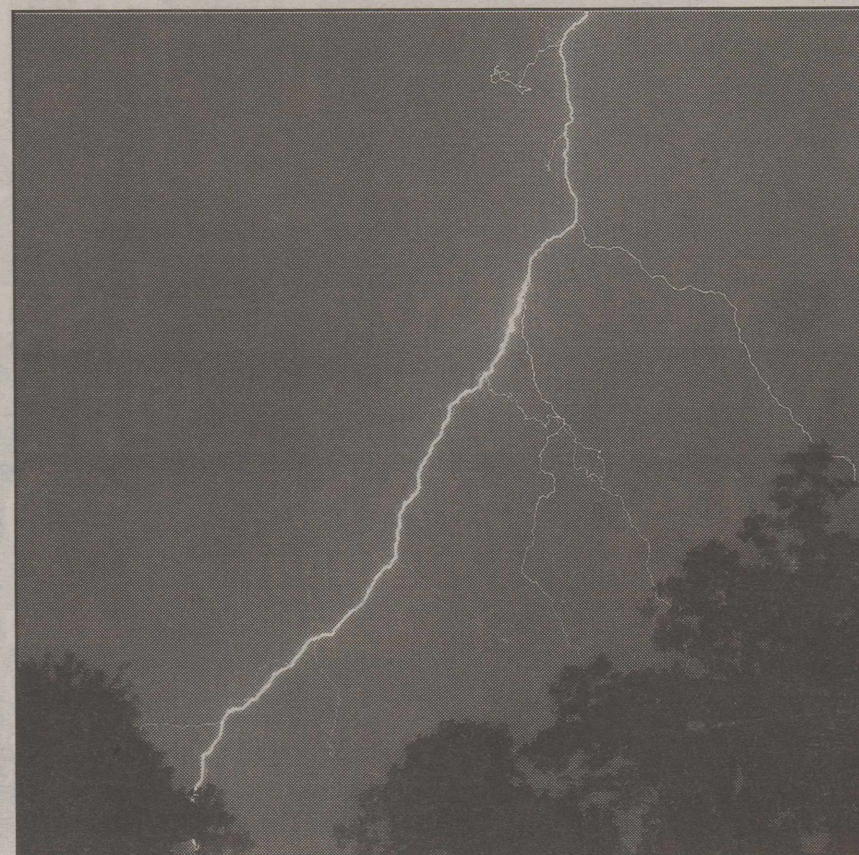


Photo by David Johnson

LIGHTNING STRIKES PROVIDED a spectacular light show during Sunday evening's thunderstorm.

Dennis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hurricane when it came ashore with 120 mph winds, Dennis was smaller than Ivan and weaker than when it churned through the Gulf of Mexico as a potentially catastrophic Category 4 storm.

"We're really happy it was compact and that it lasted only so long," said Mike Decker, who lost only some shingles and a fence at his Navarre home, near where the storm came ashore.

The wind forced the shutdown of the Escambia Bay Bridge, a symbol of Ivan's destruction when a section collapsed and a trucker plunged to his death. Waves offshore exceeded 30 feet, and in Pensacola the gulf spilled over sidewalks eight blocks inland. At Navarre Beach, the storm cut a fishing pier in two.

There was scattered flooding. Some of the worst occurred in St. Marks, south of Tallahassee, where a marina, other businesses and homes were under water, but

the water had receded by Monday. Water on U.S. 98, the major coastal highway in the Panhandle, cut off main routes into beach communities.

Southern Georgia also had flooding, and people had to be rescued from about 400 homes in two counties, said Kandice Weech of the state Emergency Management Agency. No injuries were reported.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said a preliminary survey found 45 homes with varying degrees of damage in coastal Jackson County.

Power outages affected more than 279,400 homes and businesses in the Panhandle, some 340,000 in Alabama, 55,000 in Georgia and at least 7,000 customers in Mississippi.

The Alabama outages were down to about 245,000 Monday morning. Gulf Power Co., the main utility for the western Florida Panhandle, said customers should be prepared to do without electricity for three weeks or more.

Still, officials and residents had feared worse. Hurricane-force wind stretched only 40 miles from the center, compared with 105 miles for Ivan, and the eye of Dennis tore through at nearly 20 mph, compared to Ivan's 13 mph.

The hurricane made landfall in a lightly populated area between Navarre Beach and Pensacola Beach.

"If that thing had shifted 20 miles to the west, we'd have been in trouble, but we got real lucky," Escambia County Commissioner Mike Whitehead said.

Dennis was the fifth hurricane to strike Florida in less than 11 months.

Meanwhile, a fifth tropical depression was far out in the Atlantic on Monday. Forecasters said it was could become a tropical storm in the next day or two; it would be named Emily.

At 11 a.m., the depression had wind of 35 mph and was about 1,120 miles east of the Windward Islands, and heading in the general direction of the Caribbean islands and Florida.

London

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

combat zones.

"God says if anyone wants to do something (against the country), he must leave that country and fight them outside. ... He can go to Iraq and fight the American forces there, or British forces, but he shouldn't (kill British civilians). What's the fault of the civilians?" said al-Sirri, an Egyptian accused by the United States of sponsoring terrorism in Afghanistan.

He said Islam puts limits on the form and extent of jihad, or holy war, one can wage. Many Britain-based Islamic radicals also fear the attacks will lead to a crackdown that will prevent them from operating freely.

"I am sure many of the radicals are extremely unhappy with what happened. It will make their lives more difficult now. They will not be able to do things as freely as they used to," said Mishari al-Thaydi, a Saudi writer who follows Islamic militants closely.

True, the British government supports the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. And bin Laden had warned that Britain, as well as some other European countries that have troops in those countries, would be the target of an attack.

But some radical activists were convinced London would not be hit. It was too useful, the thinking went, as a base for transmitting bin Laden's message worldwide.

Despite a recent tightening of security — including a Prevention of Terrorism Act that allows authorities to place terror suspects under house arrest — Britain's long history of tolerance has given Islamic extremists the impression that they could operate undisturbed as long as they don't make trouble.

Saad Fagih, a Saudi-born Islamic activist in London, said he thought targeting Italy would have generated a bigger impact because of the outpouring of emotion caused by the fatal shooting of an Italian intelligence agent by U.S. soldiers in Iraq as he escorted a freed Italian hostage.

An attack on Italy would have put pressure on the government to withdraw troops from Iraq, much as last year's Madrid bombings led to the fall of Spain's conservative government and the departure of Spanish troops, Fagih said.

Fagih, who is under U.N.

sanctions for alleged links to al-Qaida — links he denies — said he believed bin Laden knew that an attack on Britain would turn Muslims in Britain against al-Qaida. That's something he says bin Laden would have wanted to avoid.

Al-Thaydi, the Saudi writer, said London was the cultural base of the radicals, while Germany was where military planning took place. Members of the so-called Hamburg cell, for example, allegedly carried out the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

"Military operators didn't work in London. They used to come here on holidays," al-Thaydi said.

But to many people, an attack on London was just a matter of time.

"London was a college for many radicals," said Jamal Khashoggi, a spokesman for the Saudi Embassy in London. "They were graduating radicals; they were exposing them abroad and it wouldn't surprise me that some of them are the ones that carried out the attacks or (were) some of their students."

London has its share of extremist preachers, including Abu Qatada, the 45-year-old Palestinian cleric described by British officials as bin Laden's "spiritual ambassador in Europe" and an inspiration for Mohammed Atta, the lead Sept. 11 hijacker. His real name is Sheik Omar Mahmood Abu Omar.

After spending three years in jail, he was freed in March and has been kept under strict surveillance — he is electronically tagged and required to live under a 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew. He is denied the use of telephones or the Internet and must apply to the government to talk to outsiders.

Other radical preachers include the jailed Abu Hamza al-Masri as well as Omar Bakri. London is also home to a wide range of radical thinkers who espouse the al-Qaida ideology.

Many Islamist activists expressed hope that Britain wouldn't resort to curbing free expression or cracking down on their activities.

"The British will not react like the Americans (did) — revenge cowboy behavior response," Fagih said. "The British will sit down and discuss the reasons, the circumstances, the consequences and they will take the decision accordingly."

"And I think they will reach the conclusion that putting restrictions on freedoms of Muslims will not help. It will actually increase the chances of terrorism," he said.

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Alert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

security program last January when the population went over 200,000," she said.

The Federal Transit Administration has funding available specifically for safety and security issues in the form of competitive grants, Harvey said, but Lubbock would be an unlikely candidate for these funds.

"We're not seen as being at-risk to the same extent that New York City is at-risk," she said. "I don't think we're necessarily at-risk, but on the other hand, we need to pay attention to what's going on."

The increase marks the sixth time the federal government has raised the threat level from Code Yellow, Elevated, to Code Orange, High, since Tom Ridge unveiled the Homeland Security Advisory System in March 2002.

This is not the first time the threat level has been heightened in a specific area of the nation: on Aug. 1, 2004, the U.S. government raised the threat level to Code

Orange for the financial sectors of New York City, northern New Jersey and Washington, D.C.

Dennis Patterson, who holds a doctorate in political science at Tech, said raising the threat level in response to intelligence and not an actual event could desensitize Americans.

"If you raise the awareness as a result of a report you could run into the boy-who-cried-wolf problem," he said.

The Code Orange in place for the transportation sector is the only occurrence of an elevated threat level set in response to an actual incident.

Patterson said raising the threat level in this situation may show the government's changes in the reported level of danger are not arbitrary.

"When you raise the alert status in response to an actual event, chances are you're going to get people's attention more clearly," he said. "This time, I think people are going to be aware of it."

The threat level was not increased for the Madrid train bombings on March 11, 2004, in which 191 people were killed and

1,460 were wounded.

However, the advisory system is necessary for the United States after Sept. 11, 2001, Patterson said, in spite of its shortcomings.

Major Gordon Hoffman, assistant chief of police at Texas Tech, said the police department receives word of any alert level changes and often makes procedural changes to adapt.

"We've made considerable changes in the way we do things with respect to large crowds," he said. "We stress officer visibility more than we have in the past."

Notification of the increase to Code Orange was received by the department, Hoffman said, and Tech police officers will remain watchful.

"I think all of us consider ourselves vulnerable," he said. "We have to do what we think is right to protect the people on campus and the citizens that come to visit."

The Department of Homeland Security's Web site advises all American citizens, but especially those traveling, to be cautious and report suspicious activities to local authorities during this period of heightened alert.

HSC receives Gold Seal

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has continued to distinguish itself from other institutions through national recognition of its schools.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations recently granted the HSC School of Medicine clinics the Gold Seal of Approval, an award given to health organizations for meeting certain performance standards.

Becky Jones, the director of performance improvement for the School of Medicine clinics, said the commission's methods of determining accreditation are thorough.

"It looks at every aspect of the organization and what processes are in place to provide safe, quality patient

care," she said.

Organizations voluntarily undergo the accreditation process, and Jones said the streamlining of certain processes has lent to the clinics' accreditation through increased efficiency.

"We have, over time, standardized some processes where there are particular regulations about how we deal with certain areas," she said.

The survey, conducted every three years by the commission, marked the sixth time the School of Medicine clinics were awarded the seal.

The Joint Commission, created in 1951, is a not-for-profit organization that evaluates more than 15,000 of the United States' health care organizations, according to the commission's Web site at <http://www.jcaho.org>.



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New hiring practices should be implemented

Professors at Texas Tech provide for us the scholastic opportunities which lead us to attend school here. It is through them that we acquire the knowledge and know-how of our various degrees. Therefore, it is imperative that we have a strong voice in the process by which they are hired, and the standards by which they are measured.

The most vital of those stated above is the employment process. Currently, most schools and departments rely on so called "search committees" to analyze entries from the applicant pool. After all applications have been thoroughly reviewed, the committee then selects the one they feel best fits the position.

While this seems to be the most sensible system to select someone for a job, it also forces the student's voice to the background. At most, these committees usually include only one student in their ranks. Even then, it is most reasonable to assume that the chosen student is an older student, due to the fact that he will be "wiser" about their selection. However, I tend to disagree with this assessment.

The wiser preference would be for students with perhaps, a year or so of experience, who will be in the position of studying under the person chosen. Students should make up at least a large portion of the core committee.

A group of students is much more likely to be attuned to the actual educational needs at hand than is an assemblage of professors and department heads. Besides, is it not the student's interest that

drives the university's underlying purpose?

The same idea that drives the suggestion mentioned above also applies to the method by which we assess those professors currently employed by the university. Many students are probably currently aware of the process of assessment, as we are required to fill out an evaluation on each class at the end of a term.

While the current method is beneficial to obtain an overall view of the class, and to help future students decide on which class to enroll for (assuming you can effectively manage the sometimes cumbersome Web site), I find it difficult to believe a simple Scantron can efficiently gauge a professor's performance.

Moreover, the task becomes increasingly complicated when you consider that not all students take

these evaluations seriously, commonly they are handed out with little or no time to be filled out to their utmost capacity, and there is no effective check and balance to determine whether the number of evaluations submitted equals the number of students registered for the class.

A solution to this situation is also one that can be accomplished rather easily. The present Scantron could easily be retooled to allow for more involved student response. A more involved form would require more in-class time for completion, but no more than a dedicated 20 or 30 minutes for completion. Ad-



Trey Caliva

ditionally time-consuming would be the gathering of information for these forms. However reluctant it may be to warrant another office on campus, the university bureaucracy could stand to add an office specifically for the task of counting and processing student evaluations fairly.

Though different from our current system for hiring and evaluation, the concepts I have introduced above are not radical or all that dissimilar from what is currently in place. Rather, it is simply incorporating a sorely-lacking student voice in the process -- a voice which should and needs to be heard above all others.

Caliva is a senior math major from San Antonio. E-mail questions and comments to him at trey.caliva@ttu.edu.

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Guest Column

London attacks make visiting Tech grad appreciate life

David Wiechmann

We all take things for granted like electricity, running water, a roof over our heads or life. It takes a major occurrence for us to open our eyes to the reality that we are mortal, and at any moment the biggest blessing we all have could be taken away.

Stepping on a train at 8:15 a.m. at King's Cross Station in London on Thursday brought that home to me.

I did not know of the tragic events that had taken place where I visited just hours before until I landed in America. It brought the world to a stop for me and my family.

My father took off work to be with my mother that Thursday and my cell phone was inundated

with messages from my dad, brother and crying sister to call as soon as I landed so my mother would quit worrying. To add to the drama, the airlines would not confirm to my family I was on my flight that left two hours after the attacks in London.

Just like that, for 12 hours I was no longer here.

I watched the news and saw that a bus was blown up just a block from the youth hostel I called home for a week in London. I ate lunch in Tavistock Square just the other day. I walked down Tavistock Place every day.

That afternoon I went see some friends at our favorite bar to tell stories of my trip and how close of a call I had to not making it home. I was then again reminded of how precious life is and how much we

take it for granted.

I shared stories and said hello to local musician Marc Mason Harper. He wasn't going to play that afternoon because he was a bit under the weather from his final chemo treatment. Seeing his bald head reminded me of how important it is to take every moment as a blessing.

That is why I will be watching Marc and a whole host of other musicians this Saturday at a benefit concert for Harper. The man has influenced many local aspiring musicians, been a member of a Grammy-winning country group and will have dozens, hopefully hundreds, of people reach out to him and show their support for a man refusing to give up. He is making the most of what he has been given - life, family, friends, music and the ability to share it

with others.

Marc has not let cancer slow him down. He plays, tells stories of his old playing days and looks forward to getting on stage to entertain audiences. It's what he was born to do.

For \$10 you can show your support and see the Marc Mason Harper Benefit Concert yourself. It will be a great show no doubt and just one way you can take advantage of a chance to have a great time and make the most of what you have been given for one more day.

Wiechmann is a recent graduate of Texas Tech University and can be contacted for more concert information. E-mail him at dwiech@hotmail.com.

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

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Man shot, killed in Las Vegas near university

By Anne Butler/
The Rebel Yell

LAS VEGAS — A man was shot and killed Sunday June 12 less than a mile-and-a-half from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Gary Lavoll, 28, was found by Las Vegas police around 11:18 p.m., said the R-J, just outside of a convenience store located at 3507 Maryland Parkway. Shortly after police took Lavoll to Sunrise

Hospital and Medical Center where he died.

A 24-year-old patron was shot in the leg.

"Police are looking for a thin 5-foot, 9-inch tall black man, weighing about 130 pounds, with a bald or shaved head and possibly a small goatee.

He was wearing a large, black T-shirt, black pants and black shoes," reported the R-J.

The R-J also found that nearly 20 minutes before Lavoll

was shot, police responded to three fights in the vicinity of Cambridge Street between Flamingo and Desert Inn roads.

"They were investigating reports of a series of shots being fired in the 1000 block of Lisbon Avenue, near Dumont Boulevard, when they heard the gunfire that killed Lavoll."

"The fights and subsequent slaying occurred after a 'step' party at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, which ended at about 8:30

p.m., said police.

The Student Life Greek Unity High School Step Show was a dance event that night involving numerous high school youth groups and fraternity members.

Witnesses placed Lavoll, who was not a UNLV student or alumni, at the event.

"We have a lot of things happening in one area, in one direction, at one time," said Las Vegas Sgt. Ken Hefner in the

R-J. "And usually, even though that's an area that isn't immune from police activity and things like that happening, so many of them happened in such a short period of time that undoubtedly they're related."

The R-J also found that "Police said they also are investigating whether a shooting Monday [June 13] morning near Paradise and Desert Inn roads was related to the previous night's violence."

Texas senate rejects tax plan Sunday by 1 vote

By Marie Delahoussaye/
The Daily Texas

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Senate narrowly rejected a tax plan Sunday that would have asked voters to decide whether to expand business taxes to pay for property tax cuts.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst cast the deciding vote to accept an amendment that, instead of expansion, calls for critical review of the entire business tax program in Texas.

Sen. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, author of the original tax plan, said he was disappointed in the amendment, as it would allow too many business to avoid paying taxes.

Sen. Kyle Janek, R-Houston, a co-author of the amendment, said

the entire franchise tax is flawed and should be repealed.

"We kid ourselves that we're going to come up with the level playing field," Janek said. "There is no level playing field because not everyone is playing the same game."

The Senate tax plan as amended would reduce property taxes from \$1.50 per \$100 property value to \$1.30 in 2006, \$1.25 in 2007 and \$1.10 in 2008.

Before amendment, the plan would have reduced property taxes to \$1.11 by 2007 and \$1.05 by 2009.

The current bill would cut property taxes by closing loopholes in the current business tax on corporations and raising sales taxes.

The sales tax reform shares as-

pects of the plan the House passed Thursday, including tax increases on cigarette, car and boat sales.

However, the Senate plan avoids the one-cent hike in the state sales tax the House proposed, which would give Texas the highest sales tax rate in the nation. The Senate plan would half that increase.

"I'm very, very comfortable with a half-cent sales tax increase," said Ogden in a written statement. "I'm very uncomfortable with going above that."

The Senate has expressed concern with equity issues involved in raising sales taxes since last session, when that issue among others kept the two branches of the Legislature from reaching agreement on a final plan.

HSC raises awareness among pregnant women

Students in the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing held the third annual Stork's Nest Baby Shower Monday at the International Cultural Center.

Linda Brice, an assistant professor in the School of Nursing, said the purpose of the event was to aid pregnant teens.

"The mission of the Stork's Nest is to try to get pregnant individuals to start prenatal care as early as possible," she said.

Numerous raffle and auction items were featured, including a basketball signed by Coach Bobby Knight and a football signed by Coach Mike Leach, to

raise money for pregnant women in need.

Brice said approximately 65 percent of the recipients of aid from the Stork's Nest are teens from ages 12 to 18 years old.

"This is a way of giving back to the community and helping those that can't help themselves," she said.

The March of Dimes and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. collaborated to hold the event, a national undertaking held in 100 cities nationwide, Brice said.

The event was open to the public, and included a premature baby photo exhibit from the March of Dimes.

Esperat awarded large fellowship

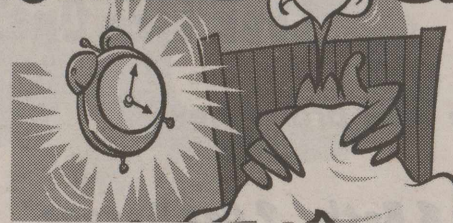
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently selected Christine Esperat, associate dean for research and practice at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, as a 2005 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow.

The position is designed to help registered nurses in senior executive positions collaborate with each other and develop new programs in health care.

Esperat said she is excited to receive training from the program, but also glad that she can continue her research.

"I'm really interested in the continuing refinement of the conceptual framework we've started developing," she said.

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'Water' won't quite quench horror fans' thirst for scares

"Dark Water" is a great movie sitting inside a fish bowl. Looking at it through the bowl, it is very distorted and often hard to completely understand, but the audience knows that there is a great movie somewhere in there. When they finally see what the movie has to offer in the final minutes of the film, it becomes clear that it is nothing more than a Walt Disney version of a horror flick.

The film suffers from an identity crisis. It doesn't know if it wants to be a horror film or a mystery thriller. The lines are blurred, and the audience does not realize that they are actually watching a horror movie until the last five minutes of the film.

Oscar-winner Jennifer Connelly ("A Beautiful Mind") stars as Dahlia, a mother who had a traumatic childhood and is trying to

prevent that from happening to her daughter. She is recently divorced and moved with her daughter from Manhattan to Roosevelt Island because of the high cost of living in the city.

The building they move into looks like the bird droppings are the only things keeping it standing. It is constantly leaking water in the bedrooms, the halls and the elevator.

Water plays a significant role in the film, hence the title. There is a leak in the top corner of Dahlia's bedroom. At first the leak is small and only dripping, but as the film progresses, and Dahlia's grip of reality loosens more and more, the leak grows and builds until half the wall is black from water.

John C. Reilly ("The Aviator") is always a great actor to have in a supporting role. He plays

Mr. Murphy, the apartment building owner, who is always looking for ways to cut corners. Any other actor would have turned the character into a weasel that only looks out for number one. But Reilly makes the character human with real addictions and deeper emotions.

Tim Roth ("Reservoir Dogs") plays another well-developed character. He is a lawyer who works from his car and is possibly homeless. His character was well thought out, because the little traits given to him really make him stand out even though he is in the film for less than



Jeremy Reynolds

ten minutes.

Other supporting characters include Dahlia's ex-husband Dougray Scott ("Mission Impossible 2"), Dahlia's daughter Ariel Gade ("Envy") and Camryn Manheim ("The Practice").

All the actors are at the top of their games for the movie. Connelly has never been better, and Roth is a real treat to watch every scene that he is in. The acting is the only thing that saves the film from being just any other ghost story.

Screenwriter Rafael Yglesias ("From Hell") adapted the script from the original Japanese movie of the same name. Yglesias spends too much time on character development and eerie settings and he completely forgets that it is a ghost story so it needs a few scares tossed in.

Acclaimed director Walter Salles ("The Motorcycle Diaries") gave the film the classic ghost story feel and style. Since the plot is actually confined to the third act, most of the film revolves around the characters, and even Salles cannot prevent the movie from dragging.

"Dark Water" is an almost-there film, but it never moves out of first gear. It rolls along and the audience is interested, until they realized that this is nothing more than a character-horror movie, which is the worst kind there is. Characters are important parts of film, but they should never overshadow frights in a ghost movie.

Reynolds is senior journalism major from Lewisville. E-mail him at newspaperjeremy@mac.com.

League refuses to fold despite district attorney's poker tournament decision

By Clara Cobb/
The Daily Toreador

A rabbit hunt on the river this summer does not refer to a weekend road trip, rather, it is advanced poker slang being thrown around the table when the South Plains Poker League comes out to play.

Texas Hold'em poker tournaments became popular after ESPN

made poker mainstream by airing the "World Series of Poker." Poker has remained a popular pastime for Texas Tech students.

"I've been playing forever," Becky Norman, a senior technical communications major from Panhandle said. "I've been playing competitively for a year."

The league was formed in April as a way to bring organized poker back to Lubbock after a district

attorney decision in February stating in-house poker tournaments is considered illegal gambling where prizes are awarded

Norman said she play because she enjoys hanging out with the other people that play.

"It's fun. I'm like one of maybe six girls in the league," she said. "It's fun hanging out with the guys."

Norman said when she plays, she wants to win. She enjoys "going in for the kill" and eliminating what she called bad players from the tournament-style play.

"It's not actually about the game, it's about the competition. You

have to learn who plays the crap cards and who plays the good cards. That's what's fun for me—learning how everybody plays," she said. "If you've never player poker, it's hard to understand. It's the thrill of winning."

The league is mainly comprised of Tech students and college-age individuals. The membership fee is \$6, and the league meets four nights a week.

Jamie Conlon, a junior personal financial planning major from Carrollton said he started playing when it began, and had been playing competitively four months before in both tournaments and home games.

"I play whenever I get a chance, whenever I am not working," Conlon said. "I just like to play poker, just the competition. I like having to read your opponent. I see how other people play, first of all. I look for more premium hands than anything."

Since the district attorney decision, many students have moved their "money games" underground to house tournaments. Not all home games are played for money.

Conlon said he plays home games to improve his skills as a player.

"There's always going to be home games no matter what," he said. "They should legalize (poker tournaments) anyway."

All league play is based on a point system, in which members receive points for participation, skill, and rank at the end of the tournament-

style game. The league hopes within the next few weeks, the DA will reverse the original decision regarding prize tournaments.

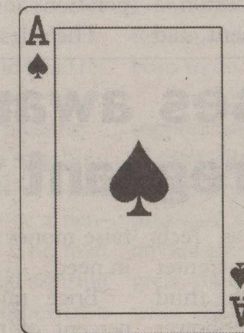
Meanwhile, members of the league will continue to "go all in" for poker.

Norman said poker is a very popular pastime among college-

age individuals, regardless if the winner is playing for bragging rights or extra cash.

"It's always been a big thing in Lubbock," she said. "I think it'll get back up."

For more information regarding the South Plains Poker League, go to their Web site, located at www.nutdraw.com, or join them 6 p.m. Sunday and Wednesday nights at Bash Riprock s and Tuesday and Wednesday nights at Jake's Sports Café.



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Hemp-flavored candy promises marijuana taste, no highs

MARIJUANA FLAVORED LOLLIPOPS, like the one pictured here, offer users the taste of hemp without the effects of THC.

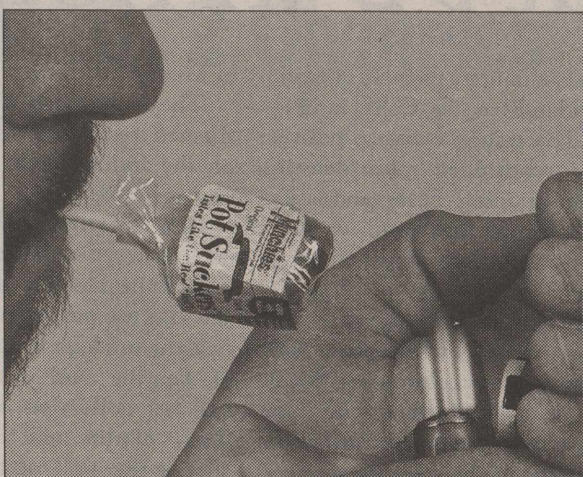


Photo by Caity Colvard

By Jay Langley/
The Daily Toreador

They say it tastes like the real thing. Kids can buy it. It is legal because it does not contain THC, the real drug in marijuana. A new marijuana-flavored lollipop is causing a controversy around the nation.

Two companies sell hemp-flavored lollipops: the International Company of Useless Products, or

ICUP, and Chronic Candy. International Company of Useless Product's lollipop "The Pot Sucker" is being sold at Spencer's Gifts at the South Plains Mall.

Bobbie Britton, the unit manager of the Raider Assistance Program for Student Health Services, said she understands the controversy.

"Personally I don't see the use for it (the lollipop)," she said. "It promotes drug use."

Britton said the pot-flavored lollipop sends the wrong message.

"If someone never smoked, it probably wouldn't push them over the edge," she said. "But it sends the message that smoking marijuana is okay."

Britton said she would never buy the lollipop.

"It is not illegal, but it is also not very ethical," Britton said. "It's probably not a good idea for the general public."

After falling off in the middle of the 1990's, marijuana use nationwide has risen over the last few years, Britton said.

Phone calls to International Company of Useless Products by the Daily Toreador were not returned. The label of "The Pot Sucker" lightheartedly says it is made with real hemp oil, tastes like the real deal and is highly addictive.

Heather Golin the Director of Public Communications for Spencer's Gifts said the stores cannot monitor who buys the hemp flavored candy.

"Our target audience is 18 to 24 year olds," she said. "It is just a piece of candy like any other piece of candy."

According to the Chronic Candy Web site "every lick is like taking a hit." Anybody can purchase the lollipop online. When buying the lollipop online the consumer is never asked for their age.

Tom Durkin is the lawyer for Chronic Candy. Durkin said he does not know if the company monitors the age of people who buy the candy. Durkin said he does not understand the controversy.

"There is no controversy," he said. "If there is any controversy it has been created by the media."

Durkin said it is a matter of legality. The lollipop is not marketed to children, Durkin said, and it is intended for adults only.

Clay Hooten, a senior communications studies major from Lubbock, said he thinks the lollipop does target children.

"When you think of lollipops you associate them with little kids," he said. "It is candy and candy ca-

ters to young kids."

Hooten, who said he has seen drugs destroy some of his family and friends, said just because the candy is legal does not make it ethically okay.

"There are a lot of things that are legal but are not okay from an ethical standpoint," he said. "Especially for children."

Hooten said the real issue is not that the lollipop targets children. The problem with the candy, he said, is that it promotes something that is illegal to anyone regardless of his or her age.

The country's drug problem, Hooten said, is not something to be taken lightly.

"People have to realize," he said. "Drugs do not just affect the individual user, but everyone involved in the user's life."

According to the International Company of Useless Products' Web Site, due to the recent controversy, the company is considering stopping the distribution and the sale of "The Pot Sucker."

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Frances Langford dies at 92 in home

By Terry Spencer/
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Frances Langford, whose steamy rendition of "I'm in the Mood for Love" captivated soldiers when she was part of Bob Hope's USO tours during World War II, died Monday at the age of 92.

Langford had been ill with congestive heart failure and died at her home in Jensen Beach, said her lawyer, Evans Crary Jr.

Langford, a recording artist, radio star and actress from the 1930s to 1950s, joined Hope's troupe to boost wartime morale at military bases and hospitals in Great Britain, Italy, North Africa and the South Pacific.

She also entertained new generations of soldiers in Korea and Vietnam.

Even with her hair swept up in a bandanna, the 5-foot-1 singer was

a glamorous vision of home and became known as the "Sweetheart of the Fighting Fronts."

Her trademark was "I'm in the Mood for Love," written for her for the 1935 movie "Every Night at Eight."

Langford appeared in 30 Hollywood movies, including "Broadway Melody," "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and "The Hit Parade."

She played herself in her final film, 1954's "The Glenn Miller Story."

She was also known for her role as the insufferable wife, Blanche, opposite Don Ameche on the popular 1940s radio comedy "The Bickersons."

She recalled in interviews decades later that entertaining the troops "was the greatest thing in my life."

"We were there just to do our job, to help make them laugh

and be happy if they could," Langford told The Associated Press in January 2002.

"She was a charming person, very warm-hearted," said Crary, who had known her for more than 70 years. "She was very interested in other people and appreciative of their interest in her."

Born in Lakeland in April 1913, Langford was discovered by bandleader Rudy Vallee when he was in Florida for a performance, and he invited her to be a guest on his radio program.

After a brief stint in the Broadway musical "Here Goes the Bride" in 1931, she moved to Hollywood, where she appeared on Louella Parsons' radio show "Hollywood Hotel" and began to appear in movies.

She was singing on Hope's "Pepsodent Show" when he held

his first military program at March Field in Riverside, Calif., in 1941.

The response was so positive he continued broadcasting from training bases and asked Langford to join him.

Soon there were enough soldiers overseas to bring his variety show to them.

Langford wrote a daily newspaper column, "Purple Heart Diary," about her war experiences and later starred in a movie of the same name.

Her first marriage was to actor Jon Hall, who appeared in films such as "The Hurricane" and "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves."

After World War II, she was singing in nightclubs when she met outboard motor heir Ralph Evinrude.

They married in 1955 and moved to her 400-acre estate in Jensen Beach, 100 miles north

of Miami.

The couple built a Polynesian-themed restaurant and marina on the Indian River called the Outrigger Resort.

She entertained locals and celebrities, including Hope, until Evinrude died in 1986 and she sold the property.

Langford kept up her pastimes of boating and sport fishing and her collection of mounted tuna, marlin and other fish adorns the wall of the Florida Oceanographic Society's visitor center in nearby Stuart that is named after her.

In 1994, she married Harold Stuart, assistant secretary of the Air Force under Harry Truman.

They spent summers on Canada's Georgian Island, traveling from Florida aboard her 110-foot yacht.

She is survived by her husband. She had no children.

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Fans line up for Potter book

By Ryan Ebelhar/
Kentucky Kernel

(U-WIRE) LEXINGTON, Ky. — On July 16 millions of fans will descend on bookstores around the world to pick up the sixth book in the wildly successful Harry Potter series.

With 10.8 million copies being printed for the first run, it is the largest first print of a book to date, according to the Boston Globe.

All across the world bookstores will be hosting parties on the evening of July 15 and begin selling the book at midnight.

Joseph Beth Booksellers at Lexington Green has already pre sold 1,500 copies of the new book, and is expecting at least 2,500 people to attend the book release party.

"The Half-Blood Prince" is expected to stay on top of the best sellers list for at least a month after the release. In the United States alone the

series has sold over 100 million copies.

As with her other book releases, author J.K. Rowling has been secretive about the contents of the book, revealing only the titles of three of the chapters: Chapter 2: Spinners End, Chapter 6: Draco's Detour; and Chapter 14: Felix Felicis.

Other than that Rowling has been very cryptic about what appears in the book, only alluding to things that may or may not happen or flat out denying rumors.

Rowling has confirmed that the "Half-Blood Prince" is neither Harry nor the character known as Lord Voldemort, and that the opening chapter of the book has been brewing in her head for 13 years. As posted on Rowling's official website, at least one more character will die in the future, although it is not known who will die or in which of the books it will happen.

In 2003 when "Order of the Phoenix" came out, bookstores

stocked themselves full of Harry Potter memorabilia. Wands, capes, stickers, and any other product upon which a logo could be slapped were sold alongside the book, but met dismal sales.

This time stores will focus exclusively on the book. Due to the hype surrounding the book, security is a top priority for the publisher and bookstores. In England, according to MSNBC.com, two men were charged with stealing a copy of the book and attempting to sell it to London tabloid The Sun for almost \$91,000.

The New York Times reported that any store caught selling the book before 12:01 a.m. on the 16th faces severe penalties from publisher Scholastic and may lose the rights to sell the seventh book when it comes out in 2007.

The Barnes and Noble location in Lexington was reached by phone but could not comment on the status because it is "a matter of security."

Read online at www.dailytoreador.com.

Softball, baseball called out of 2012 Olympics

By Gilbert Quinonez/
Daily Bruin

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — The Olympic hopes of many athletes in this country were dashed this week when the International Olympic Committee voted not to keep softball and baseball as a part of the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

The move potentially affects many UCLA athletes, as six former Bruin softball players competed at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, as did one former UCLA baseball player.

Softball and baseball's elimination marked the first time since 1939 that a sport was terminated from the Olympics. The IOC's announcement sparked much outcry across the United States, where both sports were invented and are most popular.

"It's shocking," said UCLA softball coach Sue Enquist, who also helped in the selection process for players in the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. "I'm devastated for the generation of athletes that will hit their prime in 2012."

Softball and baseball will still be held at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, and the two sports are eligible to reapply in 2009 for the 2016 Olympics.

The loss of Olympic ties, however, will likely be felt greater in softball than in baseball. In baseball, most players grow up dreaming

of playing in the major leagues, where the best players in the sport play (one of the reasons cited by some for the discontinuation of baseball in the Olympics), but in softball, the best in the sport play at the Olympics.

There is a new professional softball league, National Pro Fastpitch, in its second year of existence. But last year, the players competing in the Olympics did not play in the NPF.

"The Olympics are the pinnacle of any player who participates in the game," Enquist said. "Winning the Division I softball championship is a close second. I'm saddened that there will no longer be softball for the 2012 Olympics."

Some other reasons for the dropping of softball may have included the U.S. domination in the sport (the United States has won all three gold medals in softball and outscored its opponents 51-1 in Athens) and the lack of European interest in the two sports (no European country has won a medal in either sport, and about half of the IOC voters are from Europe).

The votes were done in secret by the IOC, with each sport needing half the members to support it.

"The vote by the IOC members is a crushing blow to the millions of young women around the world who dream of taking the field as Olympic athletes in our sport," the Amateur Softball Association said in a statement.

Boise State player quits team

By Dustin Lapray/
The Arbiter

(U-WIRE) BOISE, Idaho—Boise State football player Cam Hall announced Tuesday he has removed himself from the Boise State Broncos' active roster. Hall won't return to the BSU roster until his "court proceedings are resolved."

"Living with the thought of the tragedy every day, and after realizing the impact this will have on my teammates," Hall said at a press conference June 14, "I decided it would be best to step aside and not compete with the Broncos this season."

Although Hall, a psychology major, will not be on the active roster,

he will retain his scholarship to attend classes at BSU and may take on a role as a scout team player -- those who run the opponent's plays to help the starters prepare for games -- or as a student assistant coach.

When Hall decided not to play this season, his suspension from the team was removed. Hall is allowed to work out with the Broncos, but it is not confirmed whether he had joined in the summer workouts.

Ada County Sheriff's deputies say Hall and Lazinka were engaged in a "road rage" incident May 7, in which they were driving in excess of 100 mph down Idaho 55. Tony Perfect pulled his car onto 55 from Beacon Light Road as the pair of vehicles sped toward him.

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Armstrong falls behind, prepares for rest of ride

By Jerome Pugmire/
Associated Press

MULHOUSE, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong surrendered the overall lead in the Tour de France to take some pressure off his team.

The six-time defending champion fully intends to wear the yellow jersey again soon.

Germany's Jens Voigt — not a contender to win in Paris — took the jersey by finishing three minutes ahead of Armstrong in the ninth stage Sunday.

"I felt like (Sunday) might be the day when the jersey would be given away, and it turned out it was," Armstrong said. "We don't need the yellow jersey. We don't need to keep it in the Alps, we need to have it at the end."

Denmark's Mickael Rasmussen won the stage with a gutsy solo ride. He was first over the six climbs,

covering the 106.3-mile route from Gerardmer to Mulhouse in eastern France in 4 hours, 8 minutes, 20 seconds.

Voigt finished 3:04 later, just behind France's Christophe Moreau. Armstrong, who had worn yellow for five days, finished in 28th place, crossing the line comfortably in a pack with his main rivals.

On the first of three punishing Alpine stages starting Tuesday, Armstrong will let Voigt's team do the defending while he picks off riders he considers more dangerous rivals.

"Let's see how the race unfolds," Armstrong said. "The first priority is that the guys feel better and get their confidence back."

Wednesday's stage is one of the hardest this year, with three ascents in quick succession peaking with the monstrous Col du Galibier, the

Tour's highest point at 8,677 feet.

The good news for Armstrong is that his Discovery Channel teammates appeared to have recovered quickly from their collapse on a climb Saturday, when all eight abandoned him, unable to match the quick uphill pace. That left Armstrong alone to fend off his rivals.

"We were better," Armstrong said. "That's good going into the rest day: regroup and get ready for the big climbs."

Rivals said Discovery's blowout probably was nothing more than a temporary bout of fatigue after a fast first week of racing, and Armstrong remains the man to beat.

"Don't sell the bear's skin before you've killed the bear," Moreau said.

"That won't happen again," U.S. rider Bobby Julich of Team CSC said. "You can maybe disappoint

Lance once, but it's better not to disappoint him twice."

Discovery rode hard Sunday at the front of the main pack, strategically allowing Rasmussen and then Voigt and Moreau to pedal off ahead, confident they cannot challenge Armstrong for the overall Tour title.

"Today was my very last chance to take the jersey," Voigt said.

Moreau is second overall, 1:50 behind Voigt. Because they finished together in a group, the time differences between Armstrong and his main rivals — Jan Ullrich, Ivan Basso and Alexandre Vinokourov — remained unchanged.

Rasmussen won a stage for the first time. By being first over the day's six ascents, he also accumulated points for the Tour's mountain-climbing competition. That contest awards a polka dot

jersey to the rider with most points, currently Rasmussen.

"It's the only thing I'm good at, climbing mountains," Rasmussen said.

Among the ascents Sunday — and the hardest of the race so far — was the famed Ballon d'Alsace, first climbed on the Tour 100 years ago. Rene Pottier ascended first that day in 1905, but later dropped out of the race with tendinitis. The Frenchman won the Tour the next year.

Five riders dropped out Sunday, including American David Zabriskie of Team CSC. Zabriskie won the yellow jersey on the Tour's first day but lost it to Armstrong three days later when he fell in the team time trial. Zabriskie had struggled with injuries from the crash.

"It's been a real rollercoaster for me," Zabriskie said.

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3/2. Hardwood floors, central h/a, W/D hookups. Near Tech 3803 38th. \$800, 535-7011.

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Ranger teammate expects Rogers to go to All-Star game

By Stephen Hawkins/
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Kenny Rogers left the Texas Rangers' clubhouse Sunday without saying whether he will participate in the All-Star game. Still, one of his teammates expects to see the pitcher in Detroit.

"I'm pretty sure he's going," Mark Teixeira, the AL's starting first baseman, said after the Rangers beat Toronto 9-8 in their final game before the break. "He made his own decision. He definitely wants to be there."

Rogers told team of officials that he wasn't speaking to reporters, and he didn't comment when asked questions while walking out of the clubhouse. Rangers spokesman Gregg Elkin said he didn't ask the pitcher what his plans were, and major league baseball spokesman Pat Courtney

said as far as he knew, Rogers would be in Detroit.

The 40-year-old left-hander has continued to pitch while the players' association appeals his 20-game suspension and \$50,000 fine from commissioner Bud Selig for shoving two cameramen last month. Rogers' contract includes a \$50,000 bonus for being an All-Star.

"Once he makes his decision, we will support him," manager Buck Showalter said.

After pitching seven innings to beat Toronto on Saturday night, Rogers (10-4, 2.54 ERA) said he felt like he deserved to go to the All-Star game. He was voted in by the players for the second year in a row, his third All-Star selection in his 17 seasons.

"I know that I belong there without a doubt," he said. "Even though there's other opinions out

there, I really don't give them much weight. But players put me in there. They voted me in there, so I know it's one thing I deserve without a doubt, and that has a lot of weight."

Rogers, speaking to a group of reporters after a game for the first time this season, also said he didn't want to be a distraction to the game and the other players there.

"I like to go do my job and go home and have fun," he said. "If I took away from someone in the All-Star game ... if it's their first time or 10th time, that's not something I want to do."

In his first start at home since his videotaped tirade June 29, Rogers was greeted by a mostly supportive response from Rangers fans. Cheers overwhelmed an audible chorus of boos.

Rogers said he didn't know what to expect and that the reaction surprised him.

After getting through an emotionally charged first inning in

"I know that I belong there without a doubt. Even though there's other opinions out there, I really don't give them much weight."

—KENNY ROGERS
Pitcher for the Texas
Rangers

which he gave up three runs, he didn't allow another run. The Rangers led 12-3 when he left after seven innings, and won 12-10.

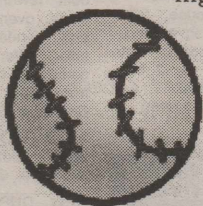
"Just hearing what they did was moving without a doubt," Rogers said. "It took my focus off for a little

while. After that, I almost really didn't care about the game."

It was Rogers' first start at home since June 17, when he beat Washington for his career-best ninth straight victory but broke a small bone in his non-pitching hand when he punched a cooler in frustration after leaving in the eighth inning with a 4-1 lead.

After giving up six runs in 3 1-3 innings at Los Angeles in his next start, he skipped his turn at home against the Angels. The day after the missed start, Rogers shoved the two cameramen when he walked onto the field for pre-game stretching.

When reading a two-page, handwritten apology Wednesday, Rogers apologized to his teammates, family, fans and the cameramen who have filed assault reports against him with police. He didn't explain his actions or take questions then, and offered no explanation Saturday night.



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