

THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

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TOP NEWS

NATION

Lawmakers rush to make minimum hospital stays

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — It's the '90s version of politicians kissing babies: They're lining up behind newborns and mothers in a battle against insurance companies over the trend critics call "drive-through delivery."

Many insurers say there's no reason for most mothers to be hospitalized more than a day after a normal birth or two days after an uncomplicated Caesarean delivery.

Many doctors and nurses argue that's too quick: Some medical problems don't show up in the first day and brand-new moms haven't yet learned to feed, care for and spot health problems in their newborns.

STATE

Hidalgo judge strikes back against prosecutors

McALLEN (AP) — Hidalgo County Judge J. Edgar Ruiz lashed back at federal prosecutors Monday, complaining that he was given no chance to testify before a grand jury that accused him of taking kickbacks.

"I think justice will prevail. We will win this case. And I will continue my political career," Ruiz told reporters in his first public response to a federal indictment issued Friday.

Ruiz said he had no plans to step down.

FDA urges stricter nicotine rules

By GARY BLACK
The University Daily

The Food and Drug Administration is trying to curb minor's use of tobacco products by regulating nicotine as a drug and placing tougher restrictions on tobacco.

Under proposed regulations, cigarette vending machines would be banned and merchants would be held responsible if they are caught selling tobacco to minors.

"The focus of our attention is to find ways to discourage children from starting in the first place. Smoking begins as a pediatric disease," according to a statement recently released by the FDA.

The American Cancer Society applauded the FDA's announcement that it wants tighter controls on tobacco use.

"It would be a wonderful step to take," said Christy Reeves, executive director of the Lubbock chapter of the American Cancer Society. "We feel the tobacco industry's philosophy has been 'We aren't going to tell you it's harmful.'"

Reeves said she hopes President Clinton and Congress support the proposed regulations.

The FDA sent its proposed regulations to the White House for action.

"We also want the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to go ahead with a plan to protect non-smokers in the work place," Reeves said.



JASON GRAY: The University Daily

Smokeless

FDA is attempting to gain a tighter control on tobacco use.

"It's about time the FDA spoke out. We hope city council and the mayor have been listening to the FDA reports. We hope this urges them to confirm the ordinance," added Reeves, referring to a proposed city ordinance passed by the

Lubbock Board of Health in June that would ban smoking in public places.

The proposed ordinance now goes before the city council to be voted on.

Randy Neugebauer, Lubbock

mayor pro-tem, said the FDA's proposed regulations would have little impact on the council's vote.

"The FDA is going to regulate the amount of nicotine in cigarettes," Neugebauer said. "The ordinance will deal with second hand smoke. I don't see them correlating very much."

Lubbock City Councilman Victor Hernandez said he was not very familiar with the FDA's proposal to ban vending machines.

"I do think it's another piece in the puzzle that needs to be factored in," Hernandez said.

"It will come down to the line on this issue. I doubt any city council members would take a side on it yet," he said.

One restaurant in Lubbock already has taken action to limit minors' access to cigarettes.

A cigarette vending machine in the lobby of Gardski's Restaurant on Broadway Avenue has been removed, said Gardski's associate manager Bart Sanders.

The vending machine was moved so minors would not be able to purchase tobacco and smoking would not be promoted in the restaurant, Sanders said.

"But we never had a problem with minors getting to it," he said.

Business at the restaurant would not be affected by the banning of cigarette machines, Sanders said.

If the FDA finds nicotine should be regulated as a drug, the agency would have authority over the sale, distribution and promotion of tobacco products.

Contestants focus on fitness, not flesh in swimsuit controversy

By ALEESA MILLER
The University Daily

The Miss America Pageant began as a swimsuit competition on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City more than 50 years ago, and now pageant officials are letting the public decide whether to keep the swimsuit portion in the pageant.

Julie Tisdale, a senior psychology major from Dallas and a Miss Texas runner-up, said she feels viewer ratings will decrease if the swimsuit portion of the pageant is voted against by the public.

"Miss America has to have a lot of stamina to survive the kind of day she goes through,"



Julie Tisdale

she said. "She has to be in really good physical shape."



Eve Johnson

But Tisdale acknowledged that she could not find much relevancy

about how swimsuits pertain to the pageant.

"The judges at Miss Texas asked me how I felt about it," she said. "I really couldn't justify it."

She said she would like to see it stay in the pageant for traditions sake:

"Since that is how the pageant originated, I would like to see it stay."

Pageant officials are looking for a 1990s way to test physical fitness, thus, prompting public voting, Tisdale said.

"Two years ago (officials) asked the same question about swimsuits, and it passed about 60 percent to 40 percent," she said. "I'm not sure

if it was because of tradition though."

Eve Johnson, a junior international marketing/public relations major from Lubbock, won the swimsuit portion of this year's Miss Texas pageant and was first runner-up overall.

"The judges say they are judging physical fitness," she said. "I think (officials) should keep (the swimsuit portion). I see no problem with it."

Johnson said the perfect way for judges to judge physical fitness is to have a fitness competition like playing volleyball or running.

Please see Swimsuit on page 3.

America divided against itself will not stand for long



J.J. Chapa

Ever heard the saying, "A house divided against itself can't stand?" I hold it to be very true.

If two sides in a marriage continually pull to their own best interest, the marriage will fail. I see another situation where understanding this parable is essential to the survival of an institution. Ever heard the one "A nation divided can't stand?"

Ever since I have become conscious of the political divisions in our country, I have become concerned that America has quit coming together for the benefit of the nation, but rather for the benefit of an agenda that stands only to benefit a certain segment of the population.

The bickering in our country is disheartening.

Cooperation is a thing of the past, and the term "meet in the middle" has lost its meaning.

I drive around Lubbock, and it irks me to no end to see a "Don't blame me I voted for Bush" bumper sticker.

Is bashing our president not just as bad as flag burning? I didn't vote for President Clinton, but I wish him the best. Think about it. If we have a bad president, who suffers? The American people.

Why do so many people want our leader fail? Do they not care about our country? When George Bush became president, even though I strongly opposed, I didn't whine. I wished my new president the best. When Clinton won, I heard some of my Republican friends saying, "This country is going to

hell in a hand basket."

Is that what they wanted? Have relations in our nation regressed to the point that "if I don't get my way, I want to see the whole country fail?"

What happened to maturity? What happened to tolerance? What happened to putting yourself in somebody else's shoes?

Reese Air Force Base is a really good example of the population only wanting what is best for themselves and not their country.

I felt that if it was best for our nation's interest to close the base then it needed to be closed.

Are you a Lubbockite first and an American second? Sure, it's going to hurt our economy. I'd rather it be ours than the nation's economy though.

Listening to the Rush Limbaugh show frightens me because this

demagogue preaches the religion of "we will whine and be uncooperative until we get things our way."

An opening blurb that introduces Limbaugh's radio show states "America held hostage" (of course he is saying the Democrats are those holding us as hostages). I don't feel like I'm a hostage.

It's maddening that he is one of many that are promoting this division in our country and standing behind a respectable political party (I'm a Democrat by the way). Don't misunderstand me, I know it happens from the left, too. My point is why?

Are we not all Americans? Aren't we on the same team? Do we not all love our country just as much as the next person?

Sure, there are different ideas floating around out there that you

don't agree with. The beauty of humanity is that we are all different. Be it ideas, personalities, moral character and feelings, we are divided because we are different.

A man and woman do not hold the exact same ideals and feelings when they become married. It takes a great deal of effort to compromise and make a marriage work. No one is ever getting their way all the time.

It's no different when we try to live under one nation. You may not agree with the left or the right, but those who do, believe that way for a reason. It's not wrong for people to hold their own ideals about the world. It's called tolerance people — try it some time.

J.J. Chapa, a senior public relations major from Canyon, is a staff writer for *The University Daily*

Combined family of the Nineties provides more to love, support



Laura Waldusky

Two weeks ago, my parents came to visit me in Lubbock for the first time in the five years since I've been here. At first, it was kind of strange having them on my turf. What a nice change of pace it was, though, to see them face to face instead of using Ma Bell or the Pony Express (er... U. S. Postal Service).

Dad has gone completely gray. The last time I saw him it was a biased mixture of salt and pepper. The salt was definitely winning. That was a year and a half ago.

This may seem unheard of to those folks whose parents have

been married for the better part of their entire life span, but to me this is just who my family is.

I consider myself to be a member of a typical '90s family as defined by the mass media. Although, by my calculations we were setting the trend back in the mid-'80s, when it wasn't quite as fashionable as it is now.

All you have to do is tune into shows like "Murphy Brown" or "Grace Under Fire" to see what I'm talking about. Single mothers of the world unite!

And what about all the newly divorced dads running around Hollywood with their kids in tow? Would Kevin Costner ever be accused of not being there for his offspring?

Unlike little Avery Brown, though, my mother is not a famous television journalist. However, she did encounter the same problems of trying to have a career and kids at the same time. One of them she decided to give up when she remarried. I'm happy to say I wasn't the one to get the boot.

But also unlike Avery, I have four parents instead of one and all of them are asking the big question, "When the heck are you going to graduate?" There is also one sister of the same gene pool as myself and four step-siblings spread out across the United States.

Sound confusing? Not really.

I have to admit, it's not easy being a part of a multifaceted family. We've definitely had our ups

and downs, but each of us survived the best way we knew how. The years between 1976 and 1983 were not particularly great for me as a latchkey kid, but that's life.

Eventually my parents married other people, which expanded my immediate family to include some other pretty wonderful individuals.

Had it not been for my stepmom and her folks, I may not have learned the finer points of golf (though I can't seem to break a 68 on nine holes).

Had it not been for my step-dad I don't know if I would be at this university pursuing a degree.

Had it not been for my four over-achieving step-siblings I may not have pushed myself hard enough to go to school in the first place.

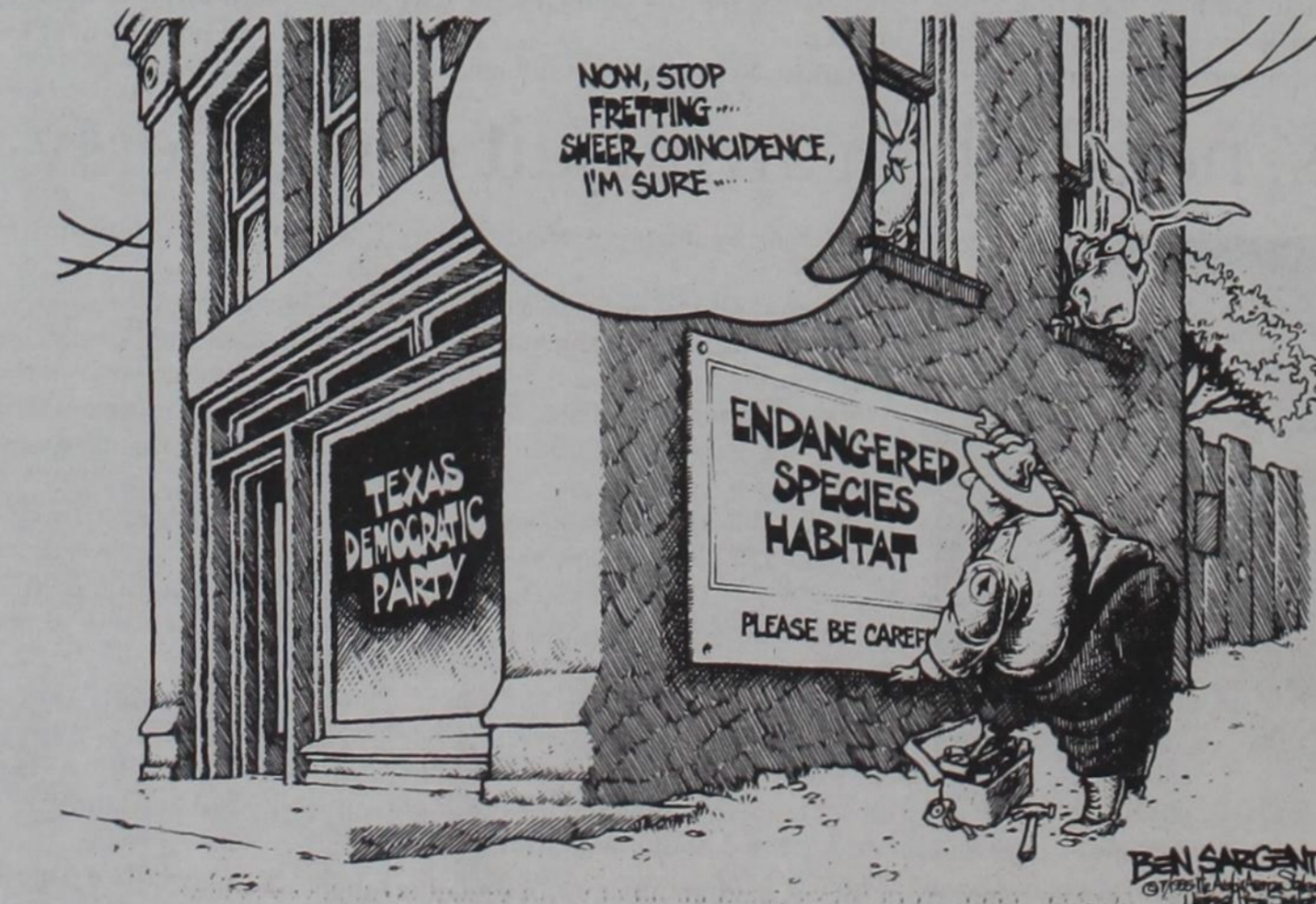
It's important to give credit where credit is due. Whenever you feel yourself getting too big for your britches (I'm not talking about

the freshmen fifteen), just take yourself back to the days of childhood when you were a messy eater and the only one who could get the gum out of your hair was a beloved family member. In this huge, crazy world of chaos and catastrophe it's not about who you have to step on to get to the top. It's who's gonna catch you if you happen to stumble.

My family has always been there in some shape or form when things were really good or downright ugly.

I have a different relationship with each of my four parents which I can only hope that they see as unique. It's taken a long time for my family to develop and forge into what it is today. I'm glad I'm a part of it.

Laura Waldusky, a senior art major from Houston, is a guest columnist for *The University Daily*



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Virtual reality games provide 3D entertainment

Mind's Eye Virtual Reality Store opens in South Plains Mall

By ALEESA MILLER
The University Daily

Six weeks ago Lubbock stepped into a world of virtual reality when the Mind's Eye Virtual Reality Store opened in the South Plains Mall.

Virtual reality games allow users to feel like they are inside the game, said Ty Ellis, an employee at Mind's Eye.

"Virtual reality is a high tech video-like game," he said. "The player has total control of everything."

Mind's Eye has several games to offer their customers, Ellis said.

"We have a game with futuristic marines who destroy robots, airplane simulators, space games and a game called Battle Tech," he said.

Ellis said the store's biggest clientele is teen-agers.

"They seem to enjoy the intensity of the games," he said.

Mind's Eye has 1993 models in the front of the store that are sit-down games and 1995 models in the back that are stand-up games, Ellis said.

He said 1995 models have better graphics and allow for 360 degrees of movement. 1993 models only

allow 180 degrees of movement.

"Players feel like they are the actual character because they control every movement," Ellis said.

Players put on a headpiece that weighs about two pounds and control their movements with a joystick that allows them to move and shoot at objects in front of them, he said.

Nikki Rollins, another Mind's Eye employee, said the attraction to virtual reality is that it is a relatively new concept.

"No one has really seen it before," she said.

"It's different than a video game because of the control the player has," Rollins said.

Michael Hendrick, 13, said he loves the intensity of the virtual reality games.

"I get so into the game that I try to walk around and move like I am really in there," he said. "I always get so dizzy when it's over. It's great."

Prices for the sit-down games are \$4 per person or \$6 for two players.

To play the stand-up games, prices are \$5 per person or \$4 for two players, Ellis said.



Virtual World

JASON GRAY: The University Daily

Ty Ellis, an employee at Mind's Eye in the South Plains Mall, plays a virtual reality game Monday afternoon.

Swimsuit

Continued from page 1.

"Girls can not eat and be thin, but that doesn't mean they are healthy and physically fit," she said.

If someone makes a conscious decision to participate in the Miss Texas Pageant or Miss America Pageant, the participants are not being exploited by the swimsuit competition, Johnson said.

"I don't feel like I am being exploited," she said.

"To me, being exploited is being tricked into doing something you don't completely understand."

Johnson, who had never competed in a pageant before winning Miss Lubbock, said it was a learning experience.

"The whole pageant thing isn't my cup of tea," she said. "To me, it doesn't mean anything if you don't go to the pageant representing your hometown."

Researchers seek Jesse James' bones

KEARNEY, Mo. (AP) — With a graveside gallery of about 200 people watching, a team of scientists on Monday dug delicately toward a casket that may — or may not — contain the remains of the outlaw Jesse James.

The search got tougher as scientists failed to hit a metal casket they had expected to find.

Lubbock Internet designed to ease access; opens new location

By ALEESA MILLER
The University Daily

Lubbock Internet, which opened its newest location at the South Plains Mall last Saturday, is designed to ease Internet accessibility for computer users, according to Neal Shaw, computer operations director.

Shaw said Lubbock Internet provides full Internet access through a local phone call and flat monthly rates so its customers have no long distance charges and no limitations on connect time.

"We are very unique because of our flat monthly rates," he said. "For Tech students, staff and faculty, monthly rates are \$19.95 and for others the rate is \$29.95."

He said there also is a one-time activation fee of \$19.95 for Tech students, faculty and staff and \$29.95 for others.

"In technical terms, the Internet is a collection of millions of computers linked together," Shaw said. "In layman's terms, it is a huge wealth of information that anyone can access."

In Lubbock alone, there are about 30,000 people who are online in some way, said Shaw, a junior math major from Nacogdoches.

Many people who are not online do not realize what they are missing until they go online, Shaw said.



Chris McClimans

JASON GRAY: The University Daily

"The Internet is booming," he said. "There is so much information out there that it is hard to detail every aspect of the Internet."

Shaw said Lubbock Internet is an independent Internet consulting firm that markets to both individuals and companies.

"We place businesses on the World Wide Web, an advertising medium," he said. "A lot of businesses have started to realize the

potential of advertising on the Internet."

Lubbock Internet produces pages and information for businesses and then puts those pages on the Internet, Shaw said.

"We offer a 24-hour technical support system for our customers," he said. "We help install systems and train users as well."

Chris McClimans, a sophomore computer science major from Mexia, said an advan-

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- Software
- Installation
- Flat Monthly Rate

tage of Internet mail is that it is instantaneous.

"It takes about 30 seconds for mail to reach Tokyo," he said.

Anyone interested in more information about Lubbock Internet should call 793-1228 or e-mail at lubbock@sat.net.

Doppler radar technology improves weather tracking

By J. J. CHAPA
The University Daily

Black clouds, soaking rains and blistering winds are common in West Texas and most people watch for it like a prodigal son.

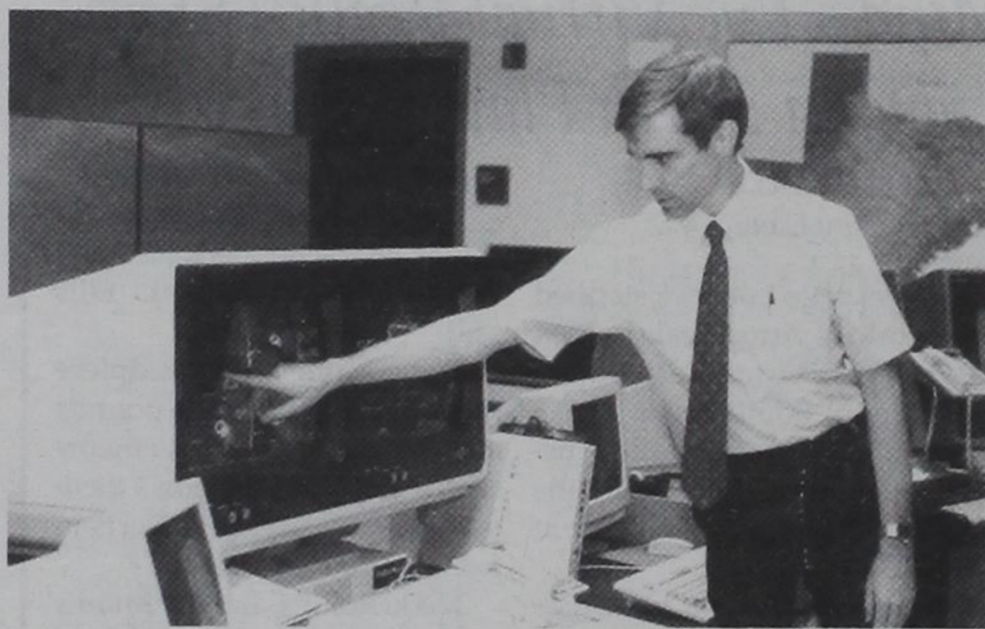
To familiarize the public with the Weather Surveillance Radar 1988 Doppler the National Weather Service held an informational seminar Tuesday.

The WSR-88D, which is its common name, is the nation's first line of defense against nature's elements.

Lubbock's WSR-88D radar is located at the Lubbock International Airport with a closed phone line connecting it to the weather service's central offices in south Lubbock.

Currently there are 159 WSR-88D sites worldwide.

"The South Plains is now blanketed with radar coverage," said Larry Vannoizzi, warning coordinator meteorologist at the weather service.



JASON GRAY: The University Daily

National Weather Service

"If our radar goes out, Amarillo or Midland can cover our area."

The radar measures wind speed and rotation in a storm based on the Doppler principle, Vannoizzi said.

The radar can also estimate height of a storm, and can be used as an effective hail indicator, he said.

"Another benefit of the system is the ability of the WSR-88D to measure precipitation for an hour, three hours or a storm's total precipitation," Vannoizzi said.

With this improvement to Doppler radar technology, two graduate students have developed thesis research relating to the use of the WSR-88D.

"One project will compare what the radar's rainfall shows and what actual rainfall gauges measure," said Richard Peterson, chairman of the geosciences department.

Evaporation or problems with the radar may lead to discrepancies in the rainfall measures, Peterson said.

"Meteorologists want to know what reaches the ground and if the radar readings are off, they need to be corrected," he said.

The second project will deal with wind speeds at ground level.

"The radar measures winds at ground level and the weather service is interested in what is happening on the ground," said Steve Weinbeck, graduate student in atmospheric sciences.

When the radar reads winds that are associated with thunderstorms, Weinbeck turns on the research tower at the engineering research field lab just east of University Medical Center.

"I measure what is happening on the ground," Weinbeck said.

He then gives the results to the weather service to analyze.

"As nice as the radar is, it still has limitations," said Loren Phillips, science and operations officer at the weather service. "Sometimes the radar can't detect storms under its beams."

The WSR-88D is subject to the limitations of any radar which includes ground clutter.

"The radar is so sensitive that it will detect flying bugs," Phillips said.

Looking at Interstate 27 on the radar shows wind patterns that measure 70 miles per hour.

"The radar measures the speed of vehicles on certain roadways," Phillips said.

The weather service sells the information from the radar readings to vendors that repackage the information and sell it to the media and other customers.

"The radar images you see on the television news are not coming from our radar, but going through private companies," Phillips said.

Mother's story doubted from start: 'I told her she was lying'

UNION, S.C. (AP) — From the first hours after she claimed her two young sons were abducted, Susan Smith came under increasingly strong suspicion herself, investigators testified Monday.

Almost immediately, parallel investigations were launched — one focusing on her, the other on the alleged abductor. During the

next nine days, before Ms. Smith confessed to drowning the boys, agents who questioned her said they made no secret of their doubts, even accusing her of the killings.

"I told her she was lying to me," FBI agent David A. Espie III testified. He described an Oct. 27 interview with Ms. Smith, two days after she claimed that Michael

Smith, 3, and his brother Alex, 14 months, had been taken by a black man who purportedly commandeered her car.

"I'm sure she was 100 percent clearly aware that I did not believe her," said Espie, whose lie detector tests on Ms. Smith added to his certainty.

Espie testified at a hearing to

determine whether jurors will be allowed to hear statements Ms. Smith made to investigators before she confessed to drowning the boys.

Judge William Howard ruled all the statements admissible.

Howard also dismissed one juror — the only black woman on the panel — and ordered her arrested

on criminal contempt for failing to disclose she had pleaded guilty to charges in federal court.

He replaced her with one of two alternates and said he would continue the trial with only one alternate juror.

Espie testified it was more than Ms. Smith's words that made him suspicious.

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Slinky, prickly creatures prove good pets for Tech students

By GARY BLACK
The University Daily

Throwing convention out the window, some Texas Tech students have opted for pets that are not considered the norm.

Jenny Pitman, a senior human development major from Midland, bought a hedgehog, which she named Dart, because he was unusual and different.

"It's better than a hamster," Pitman said. "And he doesn't bite." However, hedgehogs do have quills similar to porcupines which can draw blood and cause pain.

"He's drawn blood about four times," Pitman said. "It doesn't

hurt too much. It feels like a needle."

Dart's spines stick up whenever there is sudden movement or when he is woken up, Pitman said.

"If you get them as babies, you can raise them to be really tame," Pitman said.

"I think he knows my scent. He will come to me in his cage but he is shy of other people. They're real good as pets."

Hedgehogs are nocturnal, so Dart sleeps most of the day, she said.

Dart's diet consists of cat food, celery and boiled eggs and his cage is cleaned about once a week, Pitman said.

Jason Cox, a sophomore English major from



Kristin Berrier

Little Rock, Ark., owns one iguana and is baby-sitting two for a friend.

Cox said he bought his iguana, named Sleep, because he was low maintenance and did not bark.

"You don't have to clean up after them too much," Cox said. "If you keep their toe nails trimmed and keep playing with them, they get real tame."

Iguanas can even be walked on a leash, Cox said.

Sleep is fed mustard greens, turnip greens, Monkey Chow and a mouse about once a month.

"They are primarily vegetarians," Cox said. "They don't need too much protein."

People give mixed reactions when seeing Sleep, Cox said.

"Some people freak out because it's a big lizard and some people are cool about it," Cox said.

Iguanas take about five or six years to mature and are inexpensive if they are bought when they are small, he said.

Ferrets are a little more common pet, but owning three can be a handful, said Kristin Berrier, a junior dietetics major from San Antonio.

"They are only a lot of trouble when they get into things and tump glasses over," Berrier said of her three ferrets, named Socks, Teddy and Sage.

Berrier said she first saw a ferret while on vacation with her parents.

"When I was 12, my parents and I went to St. Thomas and there was a ferret on the boat we chartered," Berrier said.

"I wanted one when we got back, so we got one."

Berrier had her first ferret for seven years. When she came to Tech, she bought Sage and Teddy and Socks was given to her by a friend.

The ferrets are bathed once a week, have their toe nails clipped and get their ears cleaned. They are even trained to use a litter box.

Often, Berrier takes her ferrets to local parks to let them play and get exercise.

"It's real interesting to watch them all play together," Berrier said. "I even have a leash to walk them on."



JASON GRAY: The University Daily
Jason Cox



Jenny Pitman

JASON GRAY: The University Daily

Two men arrested after rapper Queen Latifah's car recovered

NEW YORK (AP) — Two men were arrested Monday on charges of carjacking rapper-actress Queen Latifah's luxury car and shooting her bodyguard.

Richard Rodriguez and Mickey Brown, both 18, were accused of

ordering Queen Latifah, the bodyguard and another passenger out of the BMW early Sunday after she parked along a street in Harlem.

Sean Moon, 22, was shot in the chest as they complied. He was in stable condition Monday.

Police found the green 1995 car Sunday night about six blocks from Rodriguez's home, said Sgt. Sean Crowley, a police spokesman.

Rodriguez and Brown were charged with attempted murder, robbery, assault, criminal posses-

sion of stolen property and criminal possession of a weapon.

Police believe the carjackers chose the BMW simply because it was an expensive car, not because Queen Latifah was inside.

Queen Latifah, who stars in

"Living Single" on Fox, had no immediate comment.

Queen Latifah's given name is Dana Owens. She is the daughter of a New Jersey police officer and is known for her rap lyrics denouncing violence.

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Juan-Daniel Coronado

Beam up the human DNA sequence in 1974 and one's bound to receive a response. From who? Other intelligent life, of course. The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) lab is the premise to the new sci-fi thriller "Species." The film is directed by Roger Donaldson.

Years after an apparent correspondence with other intelligent life, the Utah-based SETI lab runs an experiment. The experiment produces a human female containing a creature. Thus, enter the beautiful model Natasha Henstridge as the Creature.

Dr. Fitch (Ben Kingsley) decides to end the experiment, but the Crea-

ture has other plans to the tune of survival. Oblivious to who she is and where she is, the Creature asks a hotel desk clerk, "Where's a good place to find a man?" (Survival includes reproduction.) Thus, Fitch hires two scientists, a mercenary and an "empath" (psychic) to track down the escaped Creature.

That's the heart of the movie. Actually, "Species" has no heart. Let us begin with the Creature.

Make-up artists and special effects engineers always deserve applause. Unfortunately, their creative talents have gone to waste in a wanna-be "Alien" film. Hence, casting model Henstridge appears for the sole purpose of drawing centerfold seekers to the box office.

Kingsley, from strong films such as "Ghandi," "Schindler's List" and last year's "Death and the Maiden,"

must have experienced an agent change or is in dire need of a new

Movie: "Species"

Starring: Ben Kingsley, Alfred Molina, Forest Whitaker, Michael Madsen & introducing Natasha Henstridge

Showing at: Cinemark Movies 16

Rated R

one. He's an actor who can make a bad script sound good.

Dan, the empath, portrayed by Forest Whitaker at one point says, "(It) kills if it feels threatened." As the film progresses (or digresses), other characters repeat the same

line in different terms. Other dialogue repeatedly states the obvious that the Creature "has been through here." Tell us something we do NOT already know.

Have I painted enough of the picture?

There's more. The foursome chosen to search and destroy the Creature appears sillier than asking Big Bird, Snow White, GI Joe and Casper to hunt down the T-Rex from "Jurassic Park." Only in Hollywood.

A thriller this movie is NOT. The scenes leading the viewer into nail-biting suspense diminish just before the punch.

For example, Press (Michael Madsen) says, "It's not moving. I think I killed it." "Think" is the operative word. We have seen too many alien, monster, boogie-man movies to know that "thinking" is

not enough to destroy an evil entity.

I thought the 2 STARZ "First Knight" was the disappointing movie of the summer. Wrong. Even the "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" movie was more enjoyable than "Species." How did such a group of impressive actors land in the same flop of a film?

"Species" is the type of film to watch at a LOW price (hint, hint). Brace yourselves should a sequel prevail. Finally, as it was brought to my attention: had it been billed as a campy film, you'd be reading a different story with more STARZ.

1/2 STARZ (1 being poor—5 being excellent)

Juan-Daniel Coronado, an education graduate student from Lubbock, is a guest columnist for The University Daily

Country western newcomer Rhett Akins wows Midnight Rodeo crowd



Mary Hudspeth

Spicing up Lubbock's nightlife Thursday night was a concert by up-and-coming country music star Rhett Akins. The crowd at Midnight Rodeo, ranging in age from 18 years and up, cheered and screamed as Akins belted out song after song from his debut album,

"A Thousand Memories," which was released Jan. 17.

He co-wrote nine of the 10 songs on his CD.

Thursday marked 22 days straight of being on the road for Akins, playing clubs and bars all around the country. Lubbock was one of the last stops for the singer before starting a year-long tour with Reba McEntire and Toby Keith.

Akins, 25, dazzled the crowd by

singing such hits as "What They're Talkin' About," the first single off the album, "That Ain't My Truck," his current hit, and a crowd favorite, "I Brake for Brunettes."

He also mixed in classic favorites by country stars Merle Haggard and George Strait.

The crowd was completely enthralled by such songs as "Katy Brought My Guitar Back Today," in which the lyrics describe a couple breaking up, and "She Said Yes," which was inspired by the image of a shy boy at a high school dance.

Akins was enthusiastic and energetic throughout the concert and the crowd responded with an equal amount of enthusiasm as they cheered and asked for more as the concert came to an end.

Usually Midnight Rodeo is strictly an over-21 club, but they

allowed ages 18 and over to be admitted for this concert because Akins draws a younger crowd.

Although Akins is now enjoying success at all levels, he is no stranger to small town life. Born in Valdosta, Ga., on Oct. 13, 1969, his original ambition was to be an NFL quarterback.

But after playing football for a year at the University of Georgia, he returned to his hometown and married. He will celebrate his sixth wedding anniversary this year and has two children.

Akins' first public performance was at his brother-in-law's wedding rehearsal dinner in 1991.

While in college, he sang at fraternity parties at Valdosta State and local hotel lounges.

"In those days I played everything from George Jones to the

Grateful Dead to Ozzy Osbourne," Akins said before the Lubbock concert.

He said his move to country music came later, influenced by such stars as Hank Williams Jr. and Sr., and George Strait.

"But it was the influence of Clint Black and Garth Brooks that actually persuaded me to try and make it as a singer in Nashville in 1992," Akins said.

When asked about his thoughts on Lubbock, Akins said, "It's real flat, but all the cows around remind me of home. It looks a little like Georgia, just fewer trees, but anywhere in America is awesome."

Akins' said his future plans include a singing cameo in a movie starring Julia Roberts, which is due out next month called "Something to Talk About."

He also will begin working on a follow-up CD Sept. 5.

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Cricketers acquire new baseball players

By GARRETT MCKINNON
The University Daily

If you build it, they will come. And if they don't, then you pull the plug and think about expansion teams for next year.

The thinking of the Texas-Louisiana League must run somewhere along those lines, because after the All-Star game the league announced that it was suspending the franchises of Laredo and Pueblo.

The teams, neither of which had averaged more than 700 fans per game during the season's first half, were in last place in the South and North Divisions, respectively.

49ers begin season with renewed enthusiasm

ROCKLIN, Calif. (AP) — With Steve Young and Jerry Rice leading a group of early reporting veterans, the San Francisco 49ers put their Super Bowl title behind them and began seeking another Monday with their first training camp workout.

Their loss, though, is the Cricketers' gain. A disbursement draft allowed the eight remaining league teams to acquire players from the two defunct franchises. The Cricketers picked up Nikco Riesgo, who will play designated hitter, and Southern Division All-Star Rouglas Odor, who will play shortstop, from the Laredo Apaches.

From Pueblo, Lubbock grabbed outfielder Glenn Sullivan, who batted .352 for the Rams during the season's first half.

Also picked up during the All-Star break was second baseman David Lowery, an All-Star from Winnipeg, Canada, of the independent Northern League.

"Yes, we won the Super Bowl. But some people say, 'Are you guys satisfied?' We're not satisfied," said linebacker Lee Woodall, who was among the veterans in camp three days before the team's first scheduled full-squad workout on Thursday.

"I think we have really added a lot to our squad. This is a talented group of four, who I know will contribute to our team," said Jason Bogle, general manager of the Cricketers.

The Cricketers released outfielder Tre Bogan, shortstop Felix Salvador, designated hitter Greg Cushman and infielder George Kilford to make room on the roster for the newcomers.

On Monday, the league released a revised schedule for the season's second half. Games that the Cricketers were scheduled to play against Laredo or Pueblo have been replaced with games against other league teams.

"We want to win another one," Woodall said.

The 49ers finished 13-3 last season and beat Chicago and Dallas in the playoffs before defeating the San Diego Chargers 49-26 for their record fifth Super Bowl title and first without Joe Montana.

Cricketers split weekend series with Alexandria

By GARRETT MCKINNON
The University Daily

If the Texas-Louisiana League championship series is anything like the series played this weekend at Dan Law Field, it's going to be fantastic.

The Lubbock Cricketers played host to the Alexandria Aces in a four-game series pairing the first half champions of the league's North and South Divisions. The Cricketers and Aces split the series, 2-2.

In the first game Friday night, the Cricketers came out on fire, rapping out 12 hits in a 12-0 shellacking of the Aces. Lubbock pitcher Keith Pelatowski tossed a complete-game five-hitter while striking out nine.

The Aces, though, were not to be outdone, striking back Saturday with a 14-0 tail-whipping of the Cricketers. In all, Cricket pitch-

ers were rocked for 16 hits. Alexandria pitcher J. Brannon Peters mirrored Pelatowski's performance from the night before by going nine innings while only giving up five hits. Peters struck out eight Cricket batters.

The Aces started Sunday's double header by handing the Cricketers their second loss of the season's second half, 5-2. Eric Moran, the Alexandria pitching ace, improved his record to 6-0 with the win.

The Cricketers bounced back during the second game winning 7-2.

Lubbock's Rob Pierce pitched five innings, gave up only one run, and recorded his first victory as a Cricket. Lubbock also took advantage of four Alexandria errors.

The Cricketers play Amarillo at home for the first time today at 7:05 p.m. at Dan Law Field.

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Cowboys begin quarterback camp

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys began their quest to re-establish themselves as the cream of the NFL crop with their "Quarterback School" mini camp Monday.

The series of practices held this week at the team's Irving headquarters is a precursor to the official training camp, which begins Friday in Austin.

Quarterback Troy Aikman says he's ready to go.

"I think training camp determines the tempo for the whole season," he said. "I think if you perform well, if positive things happen and you feel you can believe in the players around you, then I think a team becomes tremendously confident."

"Right now, I like the attitude of this football team, and I like our chances this season."

Coach Barry Switzer and his staff decided to push the start of training camp about a week later than normal in a measure to protect players from contact for as long as possible.

The three-day sessions in Irving are training camp simulations. The primary participants will be rookies, free agents and certain veterans vying for starting roles.

"I've seen the (level of) commitment of Michael Irvin and other players," Aikman said.

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