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**ROUGH RIDING:
NUMBER OF BUSES
AND DRIVERS' HOURS
CUT BECAUSE OF FUEL
PRICES**

SEE PAGE 2 FOR STORY

THE
DAILY TOREADOR

**Black
& Red**

Tuesday, June 10, 2008
Volume 82* Issue 147

Fuel prices restrict number of on-campus buses, drivers' hours

BY MIA WALTERS
STAFF WRITER

Waiting to be picked up by the bus can be irritating, but that may be something Texas Tech students will have to get used to this summer.

Campus bus drivers are taking a blow to their work schedules as the number of buses and the amount of hours they run are being cut back due to rising fuel costs.

Tech pays Citibus approximately \$2.2 million each year to have buses available for Tech students, which is determined mostly by fuel costs. So far, unexpected fuel costs have incurred an additional \$89,410 this year. That budget will have to be expanded if fuel costs continue to increase.

As the Student Government As-

sociation's External Vice President, Austin Pennington has the job of working with Citibus to decide the best plan to deal with rising fuel costs and keeping buses on campus.

"This has become a real nightmare, and I have only been here since April," he said. "Gas has become so volatile, the amount the prices are increasing is just ridiculous. We have never seen it in our lifetime."

So far the budget for the 2008-09 school year has been revised three times in the past two months, Pennington said, which is a result of the constantly increasing fuel prices. He said the administration does not want to raise transportation fees.

Students pay for Citibus through these fees, which start at \$1 per en-

rolled hour per student and fees increase \$3.50 for every additional enrolled hour up to 12. All full-time students pay the same amount of \$42, whether taking between 12 to 21 hours. The university, however, pays Citibus \$50.38 per student, an \$8 deficit.

The alternative option to help cut back expenses has cost the bus drivers. The number of buses and the hours they run have dropped significantly. The original contract between Tech and Citibus requires the busses to run for a total of 52,000 hours each academic year.

"Originally when gas prices started going up we negotiated the new contract based on 47,000 hours," Pennington said. "Now we have already had to drop those hours to 45,000."

Pennington and Citibus officials work together closely to remain within budget, said Hoyt Day, the director of Citibus' Texas Tech services. Profit, however, does not motivate Citibus' partnership with Tech.

"This year we're going to have 24 buses running at Tech," Day said. "At one time we have had as many as 30 buses running on campus. We have had to cut back to keep Tech in budget and the main reason is the price of fuel."

Day said he now has fewer hours

to divide evenly amongst his staff and has found it difficult to appease all his employees' scheduling needs. With nine buses operating during the summer, there are about one-third of the drivers working, so he said it is easier to manage now but will become more difficult in the fall.

One bus driver who has been working on the Tech campus for two years said she is worried about what could happen to many drivers who are losing hours.

Cheryl Harris and her husband both drive Tech routes, and she expects they will be able to make do with the new cuts because of her dual-income family, but there are many drivers who will not be able to support themselves on the amount of hours they are given.

The campus bus drivers drive only on campus, and Harris said some people may have to resort to driving off campus to gain hours, which would be a major adjustment for them.

"It would be more nerve racking," she said, drawing from her experience. "There is more traffic and you drive at much higher speeds. There are also more people with young kids that ride the bus in Lubbock and more people that require special care. Students are pretty much self reliant, and I really love the kids. Most of them are great, and I really never have any trouble."

Harris said she usually drives eight-hour shifts, but her schedule has been cut back to six hours, and she does not have the option to work more. She said her husband's schedule already has been cut back an hour as well.

Carla Smith has been a bus driver at Tech for 16 months and her husband also is a driver.

Smith said she does not want to have to look for another job and, so far, has no plans to do so. She enjoys working on campus, seeing the students and also — because, by law, the buses do not run when school is not in session — enjoys having the same vacations the students have.

Many of the drivers who work on campus do so because they think working with students is less stressful, Smith said, and those who work on campus would prefer to not be forced to leave.

"The drivers really appreciate the students who are nice and say thank you, it's a great feeling," she said. "I am concerned about the cutbacks for sure. Of course it would be nice to keep the hours and not have to potentially look for more or new work."

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THE FRONT PAGE: Photo illustration by Coleman Morefield. The number of buses and hours have been cut.

RUNDOWN

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Kennedy makes return to Cape Cod after brain surgery

BOSTON (AP) — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy said it was “good to be home” after flying back to Massachusetts on Monday, one week after undergoing an aggressive and delicate surgery to treat a cancerous brain tumor.

Kennedy left the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., on Monday morning and arrived at his family's compound in Hyannis Port on Cape Cod just before noon.

Kennedy, wearing a beige, wide-brimmed hat, told reporters waiting outside his home it was “good to be home, good to be here.”

When asked how he was feeling, he said, “Glad to be home, I’ll tell ya.”

The Massachusetts Democrat was diagnosed last month with a malignant glioma, a lethal type of brain tumor, after having a seizure. A malignant glioma is one of the worst kinds of brain cancer, and malignant gliomas are diagnosed in about 9,000 Americans a year.

“His doctors are pleased with his progress since surgery a week ago, and he will continue to recuperate at home before starting the next phase of his treatment,” Kennedy's office said in a statement. “He is thankful for the extraordinary care of the doctors and nurses at Duke, and also for the continued prayers and well wishes from the

people of Massachusetts and all over the country.”

Kennedy, 76, underwent the risky, 3½-hour surgery last Monday to remove as much of the tumor as possible, a procedure aimed at improving the success of chemotherapy and radiation. His surgeon at Duke, Dr. Allan Friedman, said Monday that Kennedy “is making an excellent recovery.”

“He will continue his recuperation at home in Massachusetts under the supervision of the very capable doctors at the Massachusetts General Hospital,” Friedman said in a statement.

Kennedy's son, Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., said he planned to have dinner with his father Monday night.

“My dad's doing great,” the younger Kennedy said Monday after an appearance at Brown University. “He's benefited enormously from the surgery he received and he's on his way home, and we're so fortunate that, you know, he's going back to the place that he loves. It always makes him feel great being near the ocean.”

Patrick Kennedy told the Providence Journal on Sunday his father was looking forward to returning to the Senate and working with Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama on universal health care legislation should the Illinois

senator win the White House.

“That is what he is talking and thinking about,” Kennedy said. “It adds a great deal of poignancy to his recovery. But that's how he sees it — he has to recover so he can get health care for the millions of people who don't have access to the care that we do.”

Kennedy told the newspaper that his father wants to begin writing the legislation this year so it would be ready if Obama was victorious.

Kennedy's family and doctors have released few details about the particular type of tumor, which plays a key role in determining his survival odds. Some cancer specialists have said Kennedy appears to have a glioblastoma multiforme — a serious and tough-to-remove type of tumor — because other kinds are more common in younger people.

Doctors familiar with the type of surgery have said it almost never leads to a cure, but radiation or chemotherapy treatments have a better chance of success because there's less tumor to fight.

“The senator and his wife Vicki are wonderful people, and I hope you will join me in wishing them the best as they continue their difficult journey to fight this disease,” Friedman said. “Their courageous and positive attitude is a lesson for us all.”

Bush talks of troubled economy in Europe

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, beginning a splashy farewell trip to Europe, expressed both concern and confidence Monday about the U.S. economy, shaken by soaring energy prices, rising unemployment and a severe credit crunch.

Bush's first stop is in Slovenia for his final U.S.-European Union summit. He also will visit Germany, Italy, France, England and Northern Ireland. Next month he will go to Japan and in August he will attend the Olympic Games in China.

Like many Americans, Europeans have Bush fatigue. His decision to invade Iraq stirred anti-American sentiment in many countries, although that has receded as Europeans watch the U.S. presidential campaign and weigh prospects for change under a new president.

“A lot of people like America. They may not sometimes necessarily like the president but they like America,” Bush said in an interview with POP TV of Slovenia. “They like what America stands for.”

Bush, in a departure statement on the South Lawn, sought to address anxieties about the economy.

“A lot of Americans are concerned about our economy. I can understand why,” he said. “Gasoline prices are high; energy prices are high.” He said the economic stimulus package approved by Congress should help matters.

He also called on lawmakers to allow oil drilling in an Arctic wildlife refuge and offshore on the Continental Shelf to “give this country a chance to help us through this difficult period by finding more supplies of crude oil, which will take the pressure off the price of gasoline.” However, even if drilling were approved, it would take about 10 years before oil would flow from ANWR, according to government estimates.

Echoing recent remarks by Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Bush said “a strong dollar is in our nation's interests. It is in the interests of the global economy.” The weakness of the dollar is blamed as a factor in rising oil prices.

Bush said the U.S. economy is “large and it's open and flexible. Our capital markets are some of the deepest and most liquid. And the long-term health and strong foundation of our economy will shine through and be reflected in currency values.”

Midwest copes with recent floods

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Military crews joined desperate sandbagging operations Monday as Indiana streams flooded to record levels, while the East Coast turned into a steam bath with temperatures simmering toward the century mark.

Nine deaths were blamed on stormy weekend weather, most in the Midwest. Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle declared an emergency for 29 counties and President Bush late Sunday declared a major disaster in 29 Indiana counties. Iowa Gov. Chet Culver said nearly a third of his state's 99 counties need federal help.

Rivers in the Midwest swelled with the runoff from heavy weekend rainfall, topped by the 11 inches that fell Saturday in Indiana, and reservoirs overflowed their dams in Wisconsin.

“This thing came on fast with such a radical deluge of water that people were describing going from a feeling of security to waist-deep water in a matter of 15 or 20 minutes,” said Indiana

Gov. Mitch Daniels, who canceled a trade mission to Japan.

Some small Wisconsin towns became isolated islands.

“It ain't normal,” said Monte Sheldon, 47. The weekend rain washed out part of his yard outside Viroqua, Wis.

A new storm system was headed toward the Ohio Valley from the southern Plains on Monday — Oklahoma got up to 6 inches of rain by late morning and utilities reported nearly 5,000 customers blacked out — and the National Weather Service said as much as 3 inches of rain could fall on already waterlogged Indiana late Monday.

Some 200 Indiana National Guard members and 140 Marines and sailors joined local emergency agencies Monday in sandbagging a levee of the White River at Elnora, about 100 miles southwest of Indianapolis. The White River was forecast to crest Tuesday at nearby Newberry at 16 feet above flood stage.



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- Why don't we watch C-SPAN?
- Does pornography drive Internet technology?
- Do violent video games affect kids?

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Clinton's bid for White House a noble, futile effort

Last week, Barack Obama, D-Ill., clinched enough delegates to make him the Democratic Party's nominee going into the presidential election. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., put up a good fight, but came up short in the end. Now that the race for democratic nominee is over, it's time to decipher what went wrong and why she just couldn't cut it.

Clinton once had a very strong fan base consisting mostly of women. Especially made up of the more aged variety, these women clung to her and vowed allegiance. But as the race for delegates heated up, more and more pressure was placed on Clinton both as a woman and a politician. The feminine qualities Clinton offered to the nation began to become questionable. One moment she sobbed about her triumphs as a woman candidate against all odds, only to become fiercely masculine in her debates with Obama, showing her claws in all their glory. The strategy ultimately led to her downfall and instead produced a weakened sense of character in front of the public. She couldn't be both feminine and masculine in the media

Jaclyn Thies



spotlight, and something had to give. Her shifting personalities confused an American audience that couldn't afford to be confused by politicians, an audience that was already skeptical about a secretive government.

Whether or not it is fair that Clinton slipped in numbers for that reason is up for debate, but Barack Obama fed off her washy demeanor. His team of political advisors jumped on Clinton's seemingly split personality. Obama kept a cool, level head in comparison with Clinton, leaving the audiences to decide for themselves which candidate would be more fit for office.

Slowly but surely, Obama's campaign chewed into her fan base of women with this tactic. However, Obama also used another tactic in bringing more support to his side of

the democratic campaign. You may recall that Barack Obama's wife, Michelle Obama, started to make more media appearances at the end of the race, which lasted over a year. That wasn't her just being friendly; that was a strategic wife trying to convince Clinton's female supporters to change sides from Clinton to Barack Obama. By showing Barack Obama as a family man out for the interests of the typical American household, it was a shoo-in. More and more women trusted Michelle Obama's voice, switched allegiances, and bid Clinton farewell.

The media wasn't exactly kind to Clinton in retrospect, but can't be blamed for simply doing their job. Undoubtedly, Barack Obama has an appeal that Hillary Clinton is missing, and the media certainly capitalized by focusing attention on Barack Obama. An attractive and personable "young" man, Barack Obama was given more coverage than Clinton simply because he was able to make the media more money and attract more viewers. Through the internet, newspapers,

and television talk shows, Barack Obama was the targeted interest. He even had a slew of celebrity supporters like Oprah Winfrey and Scarlett Johansson, both individuals who are highly looked up to in the public spotlight. His campaign was more interesting and zestful than Clinton's, as her campaign was targeted to an older audience. The slogan "Change You Can Believe In" adorned Barack's campaign trail. John McCain himself copied Barack Obama's style by altering the slogan into the phrase "A Leader You Can Believe In."

That's right.

The slogan was so catchy that the Republican candidate copied his style.

Sure, Hillary Clinton might have been the more qualified candidate, but the nation didn't seem to care. The United States as a whole prefers a candidate that has yet to be tainted by White House affairs and major controversy.

In the end, Clinton's lack of strong personality is what led to her ultimate failure in the race to the big chair. It turned her female fans away, cut her

off from the media and flopped her campaign into a blob of boring politics. Who wants that?

And yes, I have to mention it: Women's suffrage took considerably longer to pass as an amendment when compared to the black man's right to vote. The country might be savvy enough to elect a black president, but not hip enough to put a woman in charge. A sad realization, yes, but stark reality nonetheless.

If John McCain stands a chance in November's election, he should consider copying Barack Obama's style to a greater extent. He should seriously think about sending wife Cindy McCain out for some quality time with reporters and talk-show hosts to take some women voters out of Barack Obama's camp. The upcoming months are going to be exciting, invigorating, and most importantly, full of controversy. It's nice to finally know what the nation has to work with.

■ **Thies is a sophomore English major from Plano. E-mail her at jaclyn.thies@ttu.edu.**

Drunkorexia: the newest source of moral panic

STAFF EDITORIAL
THE ORACLE (U. SOUTH FLORIDA)

"Drunkorexia," a term coined by the media to describe habitually starving oneself or vomiting to offset the calories ingested by drinking, is the media's new pet.

Recall other so-called social ills conjured by the media in recent years, like the infamous "rainbow party" scare. Media outlets across the nation warned of parties in which young women would supposedly apply different colored lipsticks and shamelessly perform oral sex on various males, who competed to rack up as many colors as possible.

As it turned out, the allegedly widespread rainbow parties were a lot of hype without a lot of substance. In 2004, an NBC-People survey revealed that only 12 percent of girls aged 13 to 16 had performed oral sex, and a scant 4 percent of those had attended an oral sex party. The director of the San Francisco State University Center for Research on Gender and Sexuality said the

rainbow party "phenomenon" created by the media displayed "all the classic signs of moral panic ... despite any actual evidence."

What these topics have in common is that they were touted by the media as indicators of the recklessness and danger that supposedly define contemporary youth — specifically girls — with no scientific or statistical bases.

The troubled youth subtext of these media-created urban myths is used to lure readers and viewers. It appeals to the basic fear that children and young adults are running rampant and being tarnished by the lurid elements surrounding them that threaten to corrupt traditional American family values.

The media capitalizes on this fear by advertising the problems as pervasive and hidden — parents, it could be happening right under your noses! — and inciting moral panic in the audience. Catchy little buzzwords for the problems are even created so that news outlets can refer to the epidemics in future stories.

In the 24-hour news culture that characterizes much of the mainstream media, there is no such thing as an absurd or superfluous story. However, the bottom line is that drunkorexia is simply a media play-on-words to describe a pre-existing relationship.

Eating disorders and binge drinking/alcoholism both involve behaviors that are often used as coping mechanisms. It is no surprise that someone who is coping with an eating disorder would be driven to numb his or her pain or anxiety with a substance such as alcohol. It is similarly unsurprising that an alcoholic or habitual binge drinker would have other self-destructive behaviors, such as eating disorders.

Such behaviors have always been linked, long before the media decided to exploit them, assign a cute nickname to the combination and tout it as a "new" danger. In fact, sensationalizing "drunkorexia" as an emergent social ill detracts from the attention that should be paid to the diseases in which it is rooted — anorexia, bulimia and alcoholism.

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Publishing information

The Daily Toreador, publication number 766480, is a student newspaper published Monday through Friday, September through May, and Tuesdays

and Fridays in the months of June through August (except during university examination and vacation periods). Published by the Department of Student Media at Texas Tech University, *The Daily Toreador* is funded primarily through advertising revenues generated by the student sales staff, with free campus distribution resulting from student service fees. Periodical postage paid by The Daily Toreador, Student Media, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409.

Subscriptions

Call: (806) 742-3388

Subscription Rates: \$120 annually; single issues: 25 cents.

Postmaster: send address changes to *The Daily Toreador*, Box 43081 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

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Rowling charges grads to accept failure, cultivate imagination

BY ESTHER I. YI
HARVARD CRIMSON (HARVARD)

One could forgive J.K. Rowling for mistaking Thursday's afternoon exercises for a Gryffindor reunion.

Despite a persistent drizzle, a lively audience — including more than its typical share of youngsters — gathered under an assortment of University shields in Tercentenary Theater to hear the author of the acclaimed "Harry Potter" series deliver the Commencement address.

A group of young girls scribbled effusive, adulatory letters to Rowling on their laps. Others peered through binoculars to catch get a closer view of the author on stage. At least one graduating senior eschewed her mortarboard for a wizard's hat.

Even University President Drew G. Faust, proclaiming herself "muggle-in-chief" for the day, announced in her introductory remarks that Harvard "would be hard pressed to measure up to the magic of Hogwarts."

But despite the warm welcome, Rowling, by her own account, did not feel entirely in her element.

"The weeks of fear and nausea I have endured at the thought of giving this commencement address have made me lose weight," said Rowling to sympathetic laughter and applause.

In a speech that touched only tangentially on the stories she has woven in her books, Rowling called on members of the Class of 2008 to use their capacity to empathize and their experiences of failure to conquer apathy.

Rowling, who has a degree in

French and the classics from the University of Exeter, said her greatest fear as a recent graduate was failure, adding that she "failed on an epic scale" in her early adult years as an unemployed single mother who was "as poor as it is possible to be in modern Britain without being homeless."

But upon reaching her lowest point, Rowling said, she stripped away the "inessential" in her life and ceased to pretend to be anything other than what she was.

"I was set free because my greatest fear had been realized, and I was still alive," she said. "Rock bottom became the solid foundation upon which I rebuilt my life."

Since the first "Harry Potter" book was released in 1997, the seven-part series has sold more than 375 million

copies, making Rowling, by some calculations, wealthier than Queen Elizabeth II.

Rowling also said she believes imagination is a crucial skill, enabling people to empathize with others whose experiences they have never shared.

Rowling recalled her experiences working in the African research department at Amnesty International, where she met torture victims and read letters documenting rapes, kidnappings, and summary executions.

Through such exposure, Rowling said, she came to recognize the power of human empathy to mobilize those who have never been oppressed to act on behalf of those who have.

A stubborn refusal to be empathetic not only represents a collusion with evil, but can have negative personal

effects as well, Rowling said.

"The unwillingly unimaginative often see more monsters," she said.

As graduates of a world-renowned university and residents of the world's last superpower, Rowling said, Harvard's newest crop of alumni can touch the lives of others "simply by existing."

"That is you privilege and your burden," she said.

"We do not need magic to transform our world," Rowling said. "We carry all the power we need inside of ourselves. Already, we have the power to imagine better."

Rowling is the fifth woman since 1950 to speak at Commencement. Previous writers to address graduates include Ralph Ellison, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and Lionel Trilling.

THE BIZ' BRIEFLY

Wonder Woman actress finds body on river in DC

WASHINGTON (AP) — The actress who played Wonder Woman on TV in the 1970s says she didn't do anything extraordinary when she discovered a body this week on the Potomac River in Washington.

Lynda Carter tells The Washington Post she was alone in a boat when she saw the body Wednesday. She says she didn't have a cell phone with her, so she yelled to some fishermen and asked them to call police. Carter waited until rescuers arrived and directed them to the body.

Rapper Warren G arrested on drug-related charge

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Warren G has been arrested on a drug charge after police pulled over the car he was riding in.

Police say the 35-year-old rapper was arrested early Sunday after being pulled over for a red light violation. Officer Karen Smith says marijuana was found in the vehicle.

The rapper's real name is Warren Griffin III. Both he and the driver were booked on suspicion of possessing a controlled substance.

Jessica Alba gives birth to baby girl

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jessica Alba and her husband Cash Warren are new parents.

The 27-year-old actress gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Honor Marie Warren, on Saturday, her publicist Brad Cafarelli said Monday in an e-mail to The Associated Press. Cafarelli didn't provide further details.

Alba and Warren wed last month after becoming engaged in December. They met on the set of the 2005 film "The Fantastic Four," which costarred Alba. Warren was a director's assistant.

Anne Heche pays the price in divorce settlement

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Anne Heche's five-year marriage to Coleman Laffoon is officially over, but not without a pinch to her pocketbook.

A judge ruled that Heche must pay \$275,000 to her ex-husband, along with monthly child-support payments of \$3,700 for the care of their 6-year-old son, Homer, according to court documents released Friday.

Heche starred in TV's "Men in Trees." She and Laffoon, a cameraman, met while working on a documentary about Ellen DeGeneres — with whom Heche was romantically linked for three years.

Hundreds attend documentary screening in Bush town

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP) — Instead of limousines and a red carpet, there were pickup trucks and a grassy football field for the local premiere of a documentary film about a tiny farming town that suddenly became the Western White House.

About 300 people turned out Sunday night for "Crawford," which started playing at dusk on a 50-foot-tall inflatable outdoor screen at the football field; the town has no movie theater. Folks sat on blankets and lawn chairs on the warm, windy night and munched on \$2 bags of popcorn.

David Modigliani's documentary tells how small-town life changed for many of the 700 residents after George W. Bush, while governor, bought a 1,600-acre ranch here in 1999 in the early days of his presidential campaign.

The movie shows residents' varied reactions to the influx of tourists, the media and war protesters as the town's economy initially boomed with new souvenir shops and other businesses.

"All those people in the movie are my friends, and it was neat to see them up there on the screen," Cindy Damon said after the film. She said she's lived in Crawford for 53 of her 54 years.

The crowd laughed Sunday night during a scene showing several elderly men playing dominoes and playfully bickering over their views on Bush.

Some laughed when resident Ricky Smith bragged about — and the footage showed — riding through town with his friend on horses emblazoned with "Cindy go home" and other messages during Cindy Sheehan's war protest during the summer of 2005. The California mother's four-week protest during Bush's vacation drew more than 10,000 people and sparked counter protests.

Not everyone in the crowd was from Crawford. Robin Pfeiffenberger of Dallas, who had never been to Crawford, said she went to see the film Sunday because she was intrigued by what she heard about it.

"It showed the various points of view of the town," she said. "I can certainly see how it's been turned upside down and back again. And I think it has some very colorful characters."

Modigliani, who moved to Austin several years ago, said he made the film after feeling "betrayed" when he learned that Bush was not from Crawford. The documentary has been shown at several festivals.

The film spans about eight years, although Modigliani filmed in Crawford from 2004 through last fall. He also used news footage and residents' home videos — such as when Bush spoke at the school's high school graduation in 2000 and when the band played at his first inauguration.

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Study finds Americans to be clueless about seeking medical care

BY LINDSAY FETZNER
THE DAILY CAMPUS (U. CONNECTICUT)

While health related issues — from affordable health care to easy exercise tips — are often in the headlines, a University of Connecticut study reveals that overall, Americans are uneducated on matters concerning their health.

Only 12 percent of Americans are health literate enough to handle their own care, according to the 2007 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report.

Health illiteracy harms not only patients and the quality of care that they receive but the economy as well. It is estimated that poor health literacy costs the United States between \$106 and \$236 billion dollars annually, according to a UConn report released last year.

"Many people do not have primary care physicians and if they become sick, they go to the emergency room,"

said Julia Morrison, a 7th-semester nursing student at Simmons College in Boston, Mass. "This can increase hospital costs and become a detriment to the economy as well."

Many Americans go to the emergency room when they experience health problems because they don't know where else they can go, according to Megan Enzmann, a 7th-semester allied health science major.

In 2003, Americans made 113.9 million visits to hospital emergency rooms, a 26 percent increase from 1993. At the same time, hospital emergency departments have decreased about 12.3 percent, according to the National Center for Health Statistics for May 2002.

American health illiteracy is a

worsening epidemic. In 2003, 22 percent of people were classified as having basic health literacy whereas an astonishing 14 percent ranked below basic, according to a Reuters article. Nearly one-third of people did not have the ability to determine their medical dosage stated on their prescription bottle.

Health illiteracy is the result of several factors, including demographics, age and education. Minorities such as blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans are more likely to score under the categories of below basic health literacy. Furthermore, they are more likely to lack health insurance, according to article.

"In my experience working in hospitals in Boston and Hartford area,

patients are hesitant to ask questions to doctors and nurses if they don't comprehend the diagnosis or medications they are put on," Morrison said. "Whether it is intimidation or the literacy aspect, it is important for Americans to be advocates for their own health."

For a majority of patients, increasing age comes with increasing prescriptions. The large population of baby boomers will probably make the health literacy problem worse before getting better, according to John Vernon, the leading author of the UConn study.

To address the health illiteracy problem, the Department of Health and Human Services has set the stakes high and has a goal to get rid of health disparities by the year 2010, accord-

ing to Cindy Brach from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

One major issue that needs to be addressed and refined is health information communication. Often, the health care information patients receive is confusing and complex. Offering people information in a basic manner that everyone can understand would be a start to putting this country on the right path for better health literacy, Brach said. With adequate education and communication, people would be more apt to understand their individual health coverage, how to properly administer their prescriptions and have a better general understanding of their health care as a whole.

Media term 'drunkorexia' links binge drinking, anorexia

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
THE ORACLE
(U. SOUTH FLORIDA)

Summer has arrived. As students diet and exercise to get into swimsuit shape, an extension of an eating disorder called drunkorexia makes headlines.

Drunkorexia, a non-medical term, was coined by the media. It refers to "people who do a combination of binge drinking with the typical self-imposed starvation. It has also been used to refer to individuals who use purging to try to reduce caloric intake to offset the calories consumed in alcohol," according to an article by Dr. Melissa Conrad Stoppler on Medicinenet.com.

Although the media have recently given attention to drunkorexia - it's been featured on The Today Show and in the New York Times - it is not a new eating disorder.

"There really isn't such a thing as drunkorexia," said Jill Langer, psychologist at the University South Florida Counseling Center.

Kim May, registered dietician at the USF Health Center, said that she's dealt with students exhibiting that type of behavior, but it's usually part of a bigger disorder.

"I see students with a variety of eating disorders in addition to restriction or purging," May said.

She said that students with eating disorders don't typically admit to drunkorexia right away, but the subject may eventually come up in the discussion.

On campus, however, there are no statistics to show an increasing or emerging trend of drunkorexia.

"I haven't heard of it (drunkorexia)," said communications major Travis Nottingham. "This is the first time."

Every year, the American College Health Association does a National College Health Assessment (NCHA) in which they survey students' health habits, behaviors and perceptions.

The 2007 NCHA found that 6.2 percent of students were impacted academically because of alcohol abuse. The same study found that 1.3 percent were impacted because of eating disorders.

Additionally, of the students surveyed, 40.7 percent of females reported dieting to lose weight. On The Today Show, it was said that 30 percent of women between the ages of 18 to 23 diet so that they can drink.

"I kind of do that," said communications major Megan Gederian. "But I'm not hard-core about it. More so I don't have so many calories."

Despite the recent media attention stressing a rise in eating disorders, the NCHA showed that within the last 30 days of the survey, 2.1 percent of the students reported vomiting or taking laxatives to lose weight.

For those practicing drunkorexia, however, starving for booze can have serious adverse health effects since the person doing so is missing out on nutritional caloric intake.

The BBC reported that "alcohol is often referred to as a source of 'empty calories,' meaning it has no nutritive value other than providing energy." Empty calories can leave a person inclined to have a late-night snack because purging or self-imposed starvation has left them

with cravings.

Langer said she is usually told about behaviors that contradict drunkorexia.

"I will hear the opposite," Langer said. "I will hear that women that are dieting won't drink because of calories."

International business major Stacey Wood said she can understand restricting calories in order to drink, but it depends on how often a person drinks.

"I think making good decisions is always important," Wood said. "There's a balance in everything."

Although USF has no research or statistics showing that students on campus have the drunkorexia disorder, both Langer and May understand why the media are covering it.

"The media is picking up on something that is a dangerous, trendy problem," Langer said.

May agreed and said she understands why the media would focus on the topic.

"Alcohol is a hot topic on campus. Eating disorders are another hot topic," she said.

"The two of those going on together is kind of a double whammy," Langer said.

Winehouse apologizes for slurs; husband pleads guilty to assault charges

LONDON (AP) — Amy Winehouse denied that her singing of a slur-filled ditty made her a racist Monday, the same day it was learned that her husband — who videotaped the performance — pleaded guilty to assault and other charges that could cost him more jail time.

The video, taken by Blake Fielder-Civil sometime before his arrest late last year and published Sunday by the News of the World, shows Winehouse and another woman sitting on a couch, singing a string of racial epithets to the tune of the children's song "Head, Shoulders Knees and Toes."

Fielder-Civil, holding the camera, is heard encouraging them to sing it, insisting afterward he "wasn't recording it ... I swear on my life." The video goes on to show Winehouse passed out on the couch.

Winehouse later stood outside her north London home, telling paparazzi

that she was sorry, adding: "I don't want to play anything down, but I'm the least racist person going."

Fielder-Civil, 26, was being tried in London on charges of attacking pub landlord James King, and then conspiring with King to have the landlord withdraw as a witness.

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Tech baseball draftees embark careers as Major League hopefuls

BY ADAM COLEMAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

There are many players on the Texas Tech baseball team who look to extend their careers, but will run into some obstacles before joining the professional ranks.

Seven Tech players were taken in Thursday and Friday's 2008 Major League Baseball Draft and the beginning of a new career as a Major League hopeful.

Outfielder Roger Kieschnick and pitcher Zach Stewart were drafted Thursday by the San Francisco Giants and Cincinnati Reds, respectively. Pitchers James Leverton, Owen Brolsma and outfielder Doug Thennis were taken on Friday by the Chicago Cubs, Chicago White Sox and Pittsburgh Pirates, respectively. Leverton went in the eighth round as the 254th overall pick. Brolsma went in the 48th round and Thennis went as the 810th overall pick in the 27th round.

Pitchers Jason Gurka and Colt Farrar were selected in the 15th and 32nd-rounds, respectively.

"With guys like Kieschnick and Stewart — really everyone of them, when they were coming in you felt like they all had a chance," former Tech coach Larry Hays said. Kieschnick and Stewart were taken in the third round, with Kieschnick being the 82nd and Stewart being the 84th

overall pick

Kieschnick finished the 2008 season with a .305 average with 15 doubles, 17 home runs and 65 RBIs.

Stewart finished the season with a 3-2 record with a 4.98 ERA and three saves as a transfer from North Central Texas College.

Hays said the road to the majors is difficult for any player.

"I forget what the percentage is of guys that sign, something like 60 percent make it," he said. "That's not real good odds, but I think with Kieschnick and Stewart both, those are guys who have a real good chance of making it."

Stewart was drafted in the third round by the San Francisco Giants said Draft day had twists and turns he was not prepared for.

"I was real surprised because I was actually expecting to be drafted by the Astros or Royals," he said. "Then the Red Sox told me they were going to take me with

the 85th pick, and right before the Red Sox could pick me, the Reds got me with the 84th pick. I hadn't really had much contact with the Reds, so it was kind of a surprise."

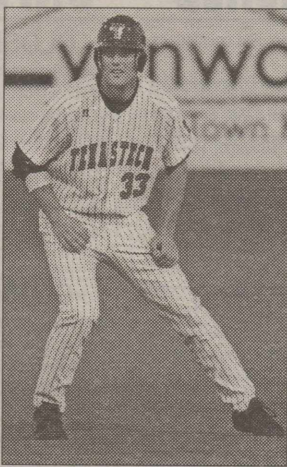
The season took some adjusting to for some players, not only dealing with competition on the field, but with agents and scouts off the field.

"It's always difficult for players just to play for the fun of it," Hays said. "The aggressiveness now of agents, the aggressiveness of scouts, the lack of supervision by the NCAA to limit that, it's just putting too much pressure on these kids."

The next step for some players is to sign and play rookie baseball. If underclassmen decide not to sign, they are allowed to return for another season. Stewart, who has already signed, will head for Sarasota, Fla. today for four days before heading to Billings, Mont. for rookie baseball.

"I've always wanted to play baseball for money, now I get the chance," he said. "I'm just ready to get started and get on with it."

► adam.coleman@ttu.edu



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S ROGER Kieschnick was drafted in the third round by the San Francisco Giants

Giants' Michael Strahan retires

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Seven-time Pro Bowl defensive end Michael Strahan retired Monday after a 15-year NFL career with the New York Giants that was capped by a Super Bowl title four months ago.

The 36-year-old Strahan, the NFL's active leader in sacks, informed the front office in the morning without telling his coaches and teammates.

"I'm just finding out about it; let me get organized," coach Tom Coughlin said after a team workout.

Strahan is walking away from a \$4 million salary for the final year of his contract. He has long said he wants a job in television.

Tony Agnone, Strahan's agent, said the Giants offered Strahan more money to play another season, but that was never the key issue. He noted that winning the championship might have been most important for Strahan.

"I really believe that was it," Agnone told The Associated Press. "He really felt he has a chance to repeat this year, so it was tough to walk away."

Giants co-owner John Mara

was disappointed after Strahan telephoned him to say he was leaving football.

"I told him he's been a great Giant," Mara said. "He thanked me for everything the organization has done for him. I said, 'I think you've done more for us than we can ever do for you.'"

Strahan's retirement was first reported by Foxsports.com

"It was important that my teammates knew which way I was going before they got on the field to start the work to defend our title," Strahan told the Web site. "It's time. I'm done."

Strahan seriously considered retirement before the start of last season, missing almost all of training camp while coming to a decision.

He returned days before the season, anchoring a defensive line that was instrumental in hounding New England quarterback Tom Brady in New York's stunning Super Bowl 17-14 victory over the previously unbeaten Patriots.

"I knew it was going to (eventually) happen," quarterback Eli Manning said. "He had a tremendous career. If that is the case, he picked a great season to go out on."

Tech tracks hopes to finish season on high note at nationals

BY ADAM COLEMAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Texas Tech track team will send 18 athletes to the NCAA Championships all with one goal in mind: bringing home a national title.

With high expectations, the Red Raiders prepare to go against the its best competition yet in the NCAA Championships at 10 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

Tech coach Wes Kittley said nationals could be historic for the Tech women.

"We've got a chance to make history in the (women's events)," he said. "We're ranked fifth in the country. We'd like to be Top 4 because that gives us an NCAA trophy. We'd just love to have that opportunity. I am real excited to see what our girls can do. We're taking seven girls. We think they all have a chance to score."

The Tech women will feature some of their top performers of the season in the NCAA Championships.

Patience Knight will compete in two events, making appearances in the discus and shot put events.

D'Andra Carter, who had a discus throw of 175 feet, 1 inch, is aiming for her second All-American honor as a Red Raider.

With six national titles, Sally Kippigo enters nationals aiming for a few more in the 5000M race and the 1500M race.

With seven Tech women heading to nationals, 11 Tech men will join them. Shawon Harris is the only Tech male athlete that will compete in two events at the NCAA Championships, with an appearance in the 110M hurdle event and, along with Rodney Harrison, Tim Foster and Gil Roberts, an appearance in the 4x400 relay race.

Michael Cast enters nationals with a Big 12 Championship and a title at Midwest Regionals in the javelin event.

"Michael Cast, he's just been phenomenal all year long," Kittley

said. "He's been a tremendous leader for our senior group. Shawon Harris, you couldn't ask anymore from him. Been really proud of him. We're proud he could come back. He's been healthy all year long."

Six of the 11 Tech men are heading to nationals for the first time in their Tech careers. Two of the seven female athletes also are making a debut at nationals.

Sandra Iwunze will compete in the 400M hurdles while Gladys Kipsang will look for a title in the 800M event.

First timers for the men include Omo Osaghe in the 110M hurdles, Wouter LeRoux in the 400M hurdles, Harrison Benjamin in the shot put and Gilbert Limo in the 3000M steeplechase.

Kittley said he wants to see his athletes continue to strive, even at the highest level of competition.

"I'm really going to be disappointed if our women don't go in there and score in the Top 5 in the country," he said. "I think we're capable of that."

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