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(INSIDE) NOT SO SWEET SEE PAGE 5

(INBRIEF)

STATE Number of Texas teen traffic deaths fall

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The number of teen drivers involved in fatal traffic accidents declined in Texas nearly twice as fast as elsewhere in the nation over a five-year period, researchers said Monday.

Texas saw a 27 percent decline in fatal accidents involving teen drivers from 2002 to 2006, said researchers from the Texas Transportation Institute in a release for National Teen Driver Safety Week. The drop nationwide was 13 percent over the same period, the latest for which data is available.

NATION

Neb. lawmakers agree on safe-haven age limit

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Stung by the abandonment of children as old as 17 at Nebraska hospitals, the governor and lawmakers struck a deal Monday to rewrite the state's safe haven law so it applies only to infants up to three days old.

A rash of drop-offs in recent months, particularly those of teenagers and from out of state, thrust the state into the national spotlight. The law was ridiculed on an episode of "Saturday Night Live" this past weekend.

Forty of the 49 senators in the unicameral Legislature and Gov. Dave Heineman have agreed to the changes, Speaker of the Legislature Mike Flood said during a news conference on Monday.

WORLD

20 insurgents killed west of Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The NATO-led force in Afghanistan says its troops assaulted an insurgent stronghold just west of the capital in a two-day battle that left 20 militants dead.

NATO said in a statement Monday that the battle took place in Wardak province. The province has become an insurgent stronghold at the gates of the capital just 40 miles west of Kabul.

NATO says its troops were flown into Wardak's Jalrez District on Thursday and were attacked by insurgents. That sparked a two-day battle in which airstrikes were used to kill more than 20 militants.

DEATH TOLL

4185

U.S. military deaths in Iraq since fighting began

SOURCE: Associated Press, confirmed by the Department of Defense

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Wall Street optimistic about credit recovery

By JOE BEL BRUNO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — A rising wave of optimism lifted Wall Street Monday, propelling the Dow Jones industrials up more than 400 points on more signs of a reviving credit market and support from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke for further steps to aid the economy. All the major indexes finished with gains of 3 percent or more.

Investors who had sold furiously in

recent weeks in response to immobile credit markets became more optimistic as bank-to-bank lending rates eased further. There's also less demand for ultra-safe Treasury bills, another sign that the credit markets are gradually returning to a healthier state.

The improvement in lending rates helped temper concerns that tight credit will contribute to a prolonged recession, but Bernanke still warned that the economy is likely to be "weak for several quarters, and with some risk of a protracted slowdown."

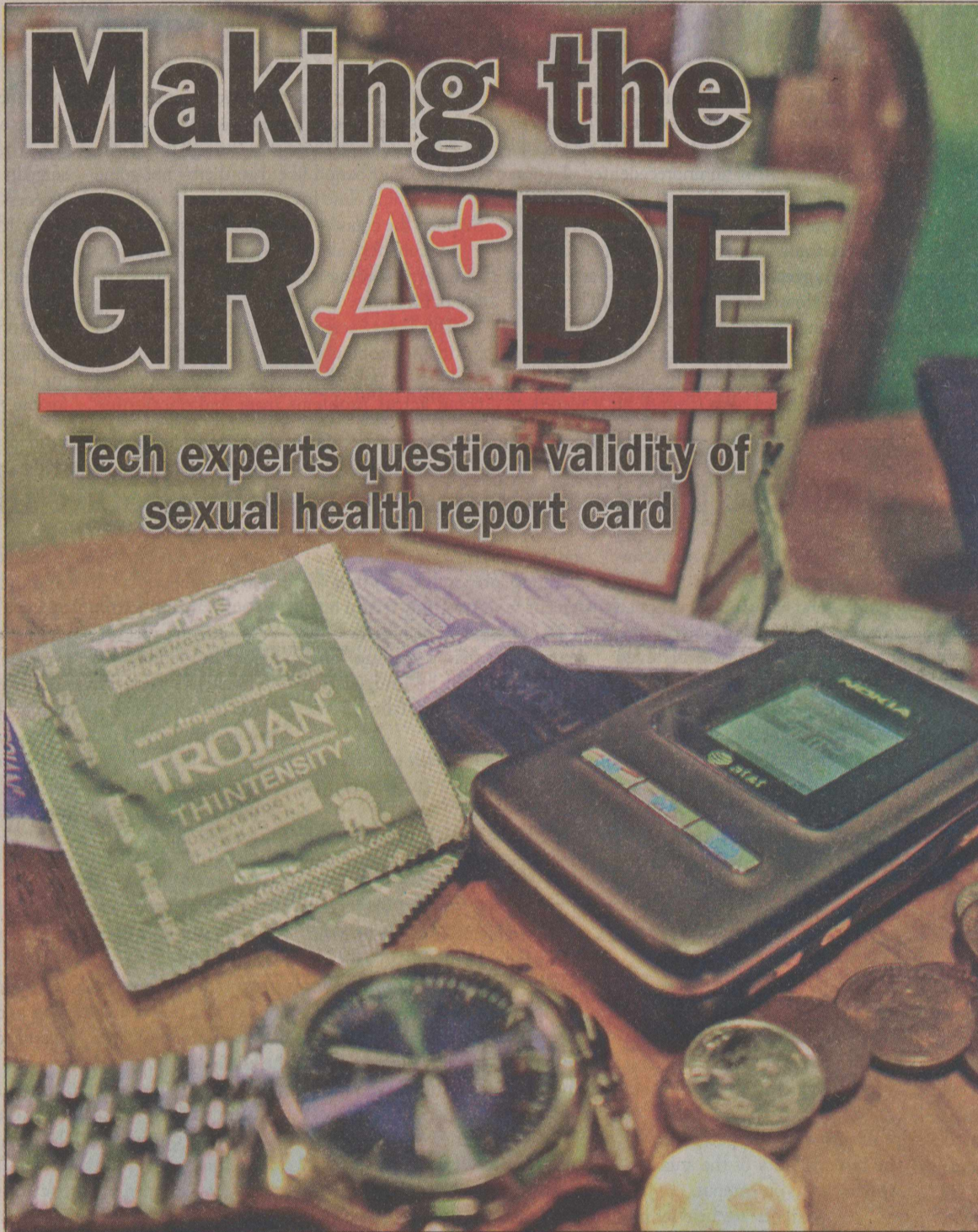
But he also told the House Budget Committee that a fresh round of government measures might help ease the country's economic weakness. There were no details but the White House said it was open to ideas that Congress might put forth.

"The market liked what Bernanke had to say, and there were hints that he's leaving the door open for further moves in terms of rate cuts or economic stimulus," said Ryan Larson, head of equity trading at Voyager Asset Management. "And, with credit eas-

ing in slow baby steps, the market has started to realize that this is going to be a process."

Wall Street was also sifting through the first of hundreds of earnings reports expected this week, seeking clues about future business conditions. Among those reporting, oilfield services provider Halliburton Co. topped estimates, and CEO Dave Lesar told investors and analysts in a conference call, "We expect that any major macroeconomic disruptions will ultimately correct themselves."

Trading was orderly for much of the day, but the final hour again saw frenetic activity, this time to the upside, with the Dow rising nearly 140 points in the last 25 minutes. The market's tone was clearly better than during the previous two weeks, when investors' heightened anxiety about credit markets and the economy sent stocks plunging. The relative calm in Friday's session, when the Dow fell 127, and Monday's trading, had more investors feeling confident that the worst of the market's losses was behind it.



Making the GRA+DE

Tech experts question validity of sexual health report card

By BRIDGET DE STEFANO
STAFF WRITER

A recently released national study about the sexual health at American universities may not be as accurate as it claims.

Texas Tech ranked No. 123 on the 2008 Trojan Sexual Health Report Card, an annual report compiled by the condom company to measure sexual health resources at 139 American colleges and universities.

Some medical professionals at Tech disregard the report's findings and question its legitimacy.

For this year's report card, Trojan partnered with Sperling's BestPlaces, an independent research firm, to collect information on college students' access to sexual health services. The report consisted of 13 different categories, including an online student opinion poll of their school's health center.

Bert Sperling, creator of the research firm, said the methods of data gathering began by mailing surveys to individual health centers across the nation.

If students want sexual health education, he said, they often seek it from the Internet, what he called the "first line of information" for the college generation.

The firm researched individual schools' Web sites and purchased advertisements from Facebook that asked students to take a poll about their university's sexual health. The poll's organizers were careful in their methods because of the sensitive nature of the subject.

"We wanted to reach students," Sperling said, "but not violate their privacy."

Sperling said the firm collected 58 responses from Tech that aided in the report's findings — slightly below the national average of 64 responses. The number of responses it collected were based on the school's enrollment numbers.

Tech scored a B average on its Web site's usability and functionality, he said. The availability of the Student Health Services — allowing walk-ins and appointments — is another area where Tech excelled.

The poll asked students five basic questions about issues associated with sexual health and the availability of resources at their school's health centers, Sperling said. For example, the poll asked if students would consider going to their school's health center and if it was trustworthy.

The students' responses, Sperling said, validates the methodology of the report and represents a close relationship between students' evaluations and their school's ranking.

But Dr. Kelly Bennett, medical director of Tech's Student

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KAT HILSABECK/The Daily Treador

TEXAS TECH WAS ranked No. 123 on the 2008 Trojan Sexual Health Report Card.

CRITERIA FOR THE 2008 TROJAN SEXUAL HEALTH REPORT CARD:		
1. Student opinion of health center	6. Condom cost, availability	10. Lecture, outreach programs
2. Hours of operation	7. HIV testing (on/off campus, at cost)	11. Student peer groups
3. Allows drop-ins, require appointments	8. STD testing (on/off campus, at cost)	12. Sexual assault programs
4. Separate sexual awareness program	9. Anonymous advice via e-mail/column	13. Web site usability, functionality
5. Cost, availability of contraceptives		Source: http://www.trojancondoms.com

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PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Treador
STUDIES SHOW CATS relieve signs of depression in residence halls.

Pet ownership banned at Tech, thriving elsewhere

By HANNAH BOEN
STAFF WRITER

For the past nine years, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has allowed residents to own cats in four of its 11 undergraduate residence halls.

With many universities across the nation following suit, Texas Tech's director of student housing, Sean Duggan, has taken another look at Tech's pet policy.

"Pets are great," Duggan said, "but they're just not conducive to campus life."

Cleanliness, allergies and limited space were among Duggan's reasons for not allowing residents to keep pets in residence halls.

With 6,200 people living on campus,

Duggan said, there is not enough space for animals.

"The dorm is a small space already," he said. "You have to ask: Is that really what is best for that animal?"

Himself an animal lover, Duggan agreed some students are ready to take on the responsibilities of pet ownership, but it is a responsibility better taken when students move off campus.

In addition to limited space and numerous responsibilities, Duggan said, pet owners take on an economic and sometimes emotional burden.

"Students are so mobile," he said. "They may have to deal with the heartbreak of giving that pet up for numerous reasons."

For MIT, allowing students to bring cats to live in the residence halls has been a positive experience campus-wide, said Karen Nilsson, senior associate dean of residential life.

"With the rigor of an MIT education," she said, "it seems to have been a positive thing for students who have them."

Nilsson said MIT has not experienced any problems with its cat-friendly policy. Problems with allergies, for example, have been avoided by allowing students with severe allergies to live in housing that does not allow pets.

"In almost nine years of allowing the

PETS continued on page 2

TODAY	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AM Clouds/PM Sun	Partly Cloudy/Wind	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
High 75 Low 51	High 63 Low 36	High 63 Low 37	High 67 Low 38	High 70 Low 41

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