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Moving on Up



Chase Perry/The University Daily

Loadin' Up and Movin' In: Juniors Daniel and David Kelley load moving carts Monday outside Weymouth Residence Hall. Daniel, a business major and David, a finance major, came back for the first summer session.

Med school garners special recognition

by **Matt Green**
Staff Writer

The Texas Tech Medical School received a Family Practice Percentage Award from the American Academy of Family Physicians on May 5.

The award recognizes medical schools for success in making family practice a career choice for graduating students.

Dr. David Smith, president of the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, said the award was well deserved.

"We have an excellent program, and have been able to convince many young doctors to choose family medicine," Smith said.

Tech won an award in the Bronze category for having 23.4 percent of medical graduates choose family medicine as their career. This average was calculated over a three-year period from the 1996-1998 student entry into family practice residency training programs.

Dr. Joel Kupersmith, dean of the Texas Tech School of Medicine, said family medicine is considered to be very important by the medical school.

"With everybody looking at becoming highly paid specialists, we are particularly proud that Tech has stayed true to our vision to produce primary care doctors to serve communities in Texas," Kupersmith said.

Both Smith and Kupersmith attribute the success of the program to Dr. Richard V. Homan, chairman of Tech's Department of Family and Community Medicine.

Homan said he was proud to have won the award, and the university's commitment to excellence made it possible.

"I think the award represents an effort by the department and Texas Tech to provide students with the best possible education and facilities, and to provide West Texas with the best family doctors," Homan said.

Dr. Nancy Dickey, president of the American Medical Association, praised Tech's family medicine department while she was in Lubbock for a medical forum.

"Texas Tech is extremely successful at providing physicians who stay in the under-served areas of West Texas," Dickey said.

The AAFP defines a family physician as a medical specialist trained to care for patients of all ages and both genders.

Lights briefly out on campus over weekend

The southern area of the Texas Tech campus suffered a power outage Saturday afternoon.

Chris Rogers, data acquisition controller for Tech's physical plant, said the outage, which began at 3:44 p.m., was caused by a transformer on the east side of the law school.

"Lubbock Power and Light was contacted immediately and they were able to restore power to most of that area in about a half an hour," Rogers said. "The only building that was affected longer was the law school, and power was out for about 2 1/2 hours there."

Rogers said the outage was caused by faulty wiring in the transformer and that the entire transformer was replaced.

Arena scheduled for Sept. 1 opening

by **Angel Wolfe**
Staff Writer

The United Spirit Arena is safe and will be sufficiently completed no later than Sept. 1, said Cindy Rugeley, associate vice chancellor for Texas Tech News and Information.

A stress test was completed the weekend of May 8 to determine if a handicap area of the upper deck was safe. The test was completed by placing filled sandbags throughout the area to test if an overload of weight might occur during sold-out events.

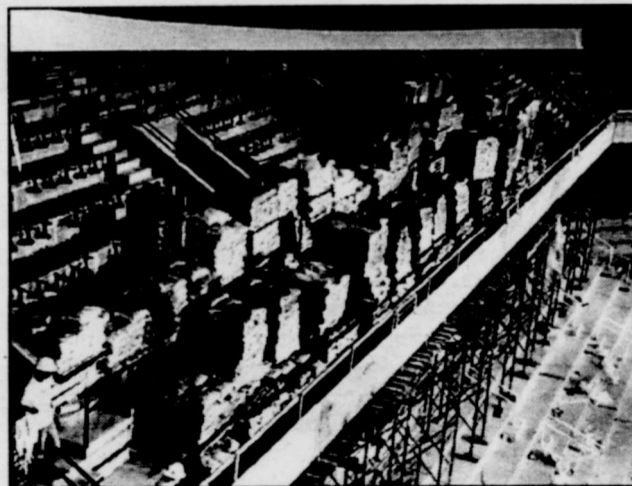
In a press release, Tech Chancellor John Montford said, "These tests demonstrate beyond any doubt that not only will Texas Tech be home to one of the most spectacular arenas in the country, it will be home to the safest and the best built."

Montford went on to say that the arena would never be compromised on safety.

Additional costs for the arena totaling \$8.375 million was approved at the May 14 Board of Regents meeting to complete the project. The additional money was approved by the board, but Montford will have to seek permission to spend the additional money from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Any construction project which exceeds 10 percent of the original costs must be approved again. The new price tag of the arena is sitting at \$59.375 million, which is \$12.375 million more than what was originally quoted when the project began.

The additional \$8.375 million will go toward the completion of the interior of the structure, Rugeley said, including change orders, new scoreboards, food courts and just finishing the



Mark Mamawal/TTU News and Information

Stressful?: Tests on the United Spirit Arena were completed May 8. The arena is set to open Sept. 1.

arena.

According to reports in the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* on May 16, Montford is planning on suing parties responsible for the arena's delays and extra costs after the arena's opening festivities are completed. At this time, Rugeley said no decision has been made on whether or not to sue.

"Right now, the No. 1 goal is to finish the arena," Rugeley said.

The University Daily

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Tornado damages studied to save lives

by **Jonathan Biles**
Staff Writer

While Americans look upon the recent tornados in Oklahoma City in shock and horror, the wind engineering team at Texas Tech University views the disaster as a chance to save more lives.

The wind engineering department at Tech has proven to be one of the best in the country by designing shelters that have saved lives during disasters such as tornados and hurricanes.

The department has been given prestigious recognition by Rep. Larry Combest, R-Texas, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

For the recent disaster in Oklahoma City, FEMA pledged to donate an extra 20 percent of funding to homes that choose to install a shelter designed by Tech in their new homes, said Anna Gardner research assistant in wind engineering.

The Tech wind engineering researchers have investigated more than 200 disasters in the past 29

years, said Larry Tanner, research associate in civil engineering.

The idea of the research is to find better ways to protect victims of the storms, Tanner said.

"There was one shelter in the Oklahoma tornados that saved the lives of two people," Tanner said. "The shelter that survived was not the design Tech has made, but it was similar to it."

The team that investigates each disaster consists of three components, Gardner said.

There is a shelter team that finds the shelters and buildings that survived the tornado and finds out why these particular shelters did so.

The second team is in charge of the debris fields caused by tornados.

"Debris is the most dangerous part of a tornado," Tanner said. "The debris is what kills and tears up buildings."

The last team follows the Doppler On Wheels or the DOW. The team follows the path of the Doppler Radar and the path of destruction and compares the two.



Courtesy Photo/Department of Wind Engineering

Aftermath: The Texas Tech Department of Wind Engineering traveled to Oklahoma City to research the damage caused by the F-5 tornado.

These efforts are to help better predict the path of damage a tornado might cause, Gardner said.

Through the last 29 years, Tech researchers have studied tornado and hurricane disasters and have helped lead the research in tornado

survival.

The next project by Tech's wind engineering department is a 300-meter tower currently under construction that will allow measurements of wind speeds at different elevations, Tanner said.

Chem E department updates system

The Texas Tech Department of Chemical Engineering was given a state-of-the-art Data Acquisition and Control System from Foxboro Corporation to update its current system.

The department received the do-

nation May 14, which is estimated at \$75,000.

The system will replace the current data system, Camile Data Acquisition and Control System, in the Process Control Library.

The donation was made possible

by the joint efforts of Larry Wiggins, principal systems specialist with Foxboro, Mark Wiggins, a senior in the Department of Chemical Engineering, and Mahesh Iyer, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering.

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Summer events available for campus community

Faculty/Staff CoRec Softball Tournament — June 18-19

All Tech employees on contracts (receiving university benefits) and their spouses are eligible to participate in the third annual tourney of fun and frolic. Rosters and entry fees (\$20) are due Wednesday, June 16 by 5 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center Room 202. Teams can be from one department or just friends. CoRec softball rules are available in the rec sports office. Call Pee Wee at 742-3351 with any questions.

Rec Triathlon — June 6

Ever wanted to try a triathlon? Here is your chance. A 400-meter swim, 11-mile cycle and a 2.3-mile run. Open to the Tech community only. Entry fee: \$18 individual/\$35 team. Contact the Fitness/Wellness Center at 742-3828 with any questions.

Lunar Lope 1 and 3 mile run — 10 p.m. June 28

Enjoy a full-moon run. \$8 entry fee includes a T-shirt. Register in the Fitness/Wellness Center until June 28 or on race night from 9:15-9:45 p.m. at

the north entrance of the rec center. **Tennis, anyone?**

USA Team Tennis and USA Tennis 1-2-3 (classes) will be offered this summer. Call or come by the Fitness/Wellness Center, 742-3828.

Dive-In Movie: "The Waterboy" — dusk, July 15

Join the University Center Activities Office and Rec Sports in an enjoyable evening at the Aquatic Center — bring your swim gear if you want to dive-in — don't forget some dry clothes as the evening air is cool. Free.



Waterboys: Students enjoy the cool water, volleyball and the Texas sunshine at the Recreational Aquatic Center. The pool is open from noon until 8:45 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon until 6:45 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Outdoor Program offers workshops, trips

Kayaking Roll Sessions — 6:30 p.m. June 16, July 14 and July 28

These informal sessions are open to all valid rec center users. Beginners as well as experienced paddlers are encouraged to attend. Please pre-register in the Outdoor Shop. Cost: \$3.

Family Camping in the White Mountains of New Mexico — June 12-13

A great get-away for both parents and children in the cool mountain air. All transportation, camping and

equipment and food is provided. You bring personal clothing and an attitude for adventure and fun. Children must be 7 years old. Please have one adult for every two children. Registration deadline: 5 p.m. June 2. Pre-trip meeting: 5:30 p.m. June 3. Cost: \$45/person.

Pecos Wilderness Backpacking, New Mexico — July 2-5

Enjoy an extended July 4 weekend hiking the alpine mountains of New Mexico. A first-hand opportu-

nity to explore the Pecos Wilderness. Cost includes transportation, camping and backpacking equipment, instruction and meals while at the activity site. Registration deadline: 5 p.m. June 22. Pre-trip meeting: 5:30 p.m. June 23. Cost: \$85

Outdoor Cooking — 5:30 p.m. July 24

Enjoy dinner and learn the secrets of outdoor cooking. Learn how to add variety to your camping meals; food that travel well. Cost: \$5

First Term Intramurals — 742-3351

All tournaments are open to students, faculty, staff and spouses who are valid rec center members. Those participating should register in the Recreational Sports Office Room 202 by the entry deadline listed below. Entries will be accepted the first day of classes each session. Entries to all events are limited, so register early.

EVENT	DEADLINE	PLAY DATES
Softball (men's women's, co-rec)	June 1	June 6-June 30
Home Run Hitting	June 8	June 8
Tennis Singles (m & w)	June 9	June 11-June 12
Racquetball Singles (m & w)	June 12	June 15-June 17
Racquetball Doubles (m, w, co-rec)	June 18	June 18-21

FITNESS/WELLNESS CENTER — 742-3828

Wellness is a style of living that encourages you to achieve your highest potential. The Fitness/Wellness Center tries to help you achieve these goals by offering a variety of activities as well as providing information on a drop-in basis. The following activities will

be offered this summer:

Personal Training will give you one-on-one help in setting up an individual exercise program. \$21 for three one-hour sessions.

Exercise Testing and Preparation includes medical history, submaximal bicycle ergometer test, body compo-

sition, one repetition max strength battery, sit-ups, flexibility and blood pressure reading. The resulting exercise program includes an aerobic conditioning program on your choice of equipment as well as a strength program. Cost: \$15; SRC faculty, staff, spouse: \$25. Pick up a form in the Fit/

Well Center.

ACTIVITIES:

Cholesterol and Glucose screening will be from 6:40 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. June 10 at the cost of \$8 for a complete lipid profile; \$2 for a glucose reading. Please register by noon on June 10 by calling 742-3828.

Student Recreation Center — 742-3351

May 25-August 13: Only the north entrance is open

Open Recreation Hours

Monday-Friday 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Family Hours

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 5 p.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Aquatic Center — 742-3896

May 8-August 29

Open Recreation Swim

Monday-Friday noon-8:45 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday noon-6:45 p.m.

Family Hours

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 5 p.m.-8:45 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday noon-6:45 p.m.

Early Bird Lap Swim

Monday through Friday 6:30 a.m.-7:45 p.m.

Check out
RECSPO
online at

www.ttu.edu/recsports



Raiders set to defend home turf in tourney

Coming off of their earliest exit from a conference tournament since the 1993 campaign, the Texas Tech baseball squad will return to Dan Law Field at 7 p.m. Friday as a No. 2 seed in the 1999 NCAA Baseball Regional.

Tech (40-15 overall) will take on third-seeded Rutgers in the second contest of the regional's opening day.

Top-seeded Rice enters the tourney with a 52-11 record after winning the Western Athletic Conference Tournament. The Owls will take on No. 4-seeded Wisconsin-Milwaukee at 3 p.m. Friday at Dan Law Field.

Wisconsin-Milwaukee (30-27



pion.

The two losers from Friday's contests will square-off at 11 a.m. Saturday before the Friday's winners take the field at 3 p.m. All games will be at Dan Law Field.

The championship game is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday with a 4 p.m. start scheduled if necessary depending on Saturday's results.

For ticket information, contact the Tech ticket office at 742-4412.

overall) earned a berth into the tournament as the Mid-Continent Conference Champion.

Coyotes fire Schoenfeld

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Unable to advance past the first round of the playoffs, the Phoenix Coyotes fired coach Jim Schoenfeld Monday.

The Coyotes were knocked out of the opening round of the playoffs by the St. Louis Blues, who came back from a 3-1 deficit to win the next three games in the best-of-7 series.

"Over the past two seasons, our

club has made progress under coach Schoenfeld," Coyotes general manager Bobby Smith said. "We are a more disciplined team, committed to team defense and exhibiting character. However, going forward, the challenges that confront us are different.

"In order to progress, I have determined that a coaching change is imperative."

Robinson, Spurs happy to advance in postseason

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — By sweeping the Los Angeles Lakers, the San Antonio Spurs earned a rare day off Monday.

With no practice scheduled, Spurs players rested and waited to learn whether they'll face Portland or long-time nemesis Utah in the Western Conference finals.

"Whoever comes, we don't have much control and we can't do anything about it," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich. "I don't want to play either one of them."

The Trail Blazers defeated the Jazz 81-75 Sunday night to take a 3-1 lead in their semifinal series. They play again Tuesday.

San Antonio beat the Lakers 118-107 at the Forum on Sunday to win their semifinal series 4-0 and advance to a conference final for the fifth time in franchise history. The last time was 1995, when the eventual NBA champion Houston Rockets beat the Spurs in six games.

San Antonio has never won an NBA championship.

Thousands of cheering fans hungry for a title crowded around a private airport terminal to greet the team's charter plane as it arrived late Sunday night from Los Angeles.

"I've been here off and on for



seven years, even in '95. They're so much more enthusiastic than they were in '95," said Spurs point guard Avery Johnson, reacting to the airport welcome.

This marks only the second time in David Robinson's 10-year NBA career that San Antonio has advanced past the second round, and he's thrilled with the feat.

"It is great," Robinson said. "I like this group. It is a special group. We work all season to put ourselves in this position. ... It is not lucky that we got here."

"We feel like we've worked hard this season," he added, "but we've still got a lot to accomplish."

Tim Duncan, now in his second season and succeeding Robinson as the Spurs' go-to guy, played some of his best basketball against the Lakers over the weekend. Duncan scored 37 points on Saturday in Game 3 and 33 points on Sunday in Game 4.

"It was a huge team effort,"

Duncan said. "People kept coming off the bench and doing things for us that we needed them to do. People just stepped into their roles."

Reserve guard Jaren Jackson scored 20 points Sunday, including six 3-pointers, while Malik Rose and Jerome Kersey came off the bench to score eight and nine points.

Shaquille O'Neal had 36 points and 14 rebounds for the Lakers on Sunday, but it couldn't keep his team from again getting ousted from the playoffs in a lopsided fashion.

In five of his six playoff trips, O'Neal's teams — Orlando and the Lakers — have been swept in the round in which they were eliminated. Last year, Utah beat the Lakers 4-0 in the Western Conference finals.

The Jazz also have a history of defeating the Spurs in the postseason. Utah eliminated San Antonio the last two times the Spurs were in the playoffs, beating the Spurs 4-2 in the Western Conference semifinals in 1996 and 4-1 in the same round last year.

Whether they face the Jazz or the Trail Blazers next, the Spurs can take some comfort in knowing they beat Utah once and Portland twice in the final four games of the regular season.

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Wayne Hodgin
Jason Bernstein

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First summer on campus brings a little anxiousness, homesickness

It's summer time once again and for many kids our age that means catching up on the latest happenings on the soap operas they've been missing all year.



Brandon Formby
Columnist

But Luke and Laura don't interest me, and I could care less if the truth about who shot Franco ever comes out or not. Nope. I have other storylines to follow where the passions run deep and the tension burns with furious anger.

Aaron has begun to date Geneveve despite the fact that Jenica has expressed interest in reuniting with him. He used to date Meghan, whose sorority sister Meredith, has reclaimed her coveted job working with Kami and has quickly become friends with Sarah.

Now, her ex-boyfriend's best friend used to date Susan who now lives with Kami and works with Kyle. His friend Emilie holds jealous tendencies toward her little sister Faith, who happens to be his ex-girlfriend.

But she now dates Jim, though he used to date Kami whose friend Angela is now doing mission work in Florida though she was once involved with Greg whose friend Orion has left town for the Marines but he used to go to school with Jared, who is best friends with both Aaron and Geneveve.

And though I don't get to see what happens

everyday, I'm very interested to see what happens when anger explodes and romance ignites.

It's more than just a soap opera. It's my life.

I thought that me being away from home all summer and all my friends being there would mean that I'd be forgotten about while rotting in the summer school hell of Lubbock.

Quite the contrary, for every time there's another plot twist or surprising turn of events, I get a phone call or e-mail updating me on all of the plots, love stories and deceitful back-stabbings happening back home.

Sure, there are moments when I wish that things were a bit more like "Friends" and less like "Days of our Lives," but actually being outside of the equation has allowed me to have more of a sense of humor about the whole thing, and laugh at the humor that lies deeply hidden within the twisted connections, love triangles and halted weddings.

It's hard to explain how or why everything went from getting coffee at Starbucks to a hellish, twisted version of six degrees of separation where every outing means the risk of running into former loves and arch-rivals. So instead, we just take it all in stride and try to make the best of it, which can get hard at times.

But all in all, my fear of losing touch with my friends while I spend the summer out here alone has passed, for I know that whenever things get really stressful for them, they can always use me to escape the days of their lives. Even if they have to fake their own death to do so.

Brandon Formby is a junior journalism major from Plano.

Things work different 'round here in summer

Summer is finally upon us, and summer school is as well. If this is your first summer on campus, let me fill you in on how the summer UD works.

The UD is printed on Tuesday and Fridays throughout the summer. As you can see, it is tabloid-size, not broadsheet as you are accustomed to in the regular semester. For you crossword junkies out there, I'm sorry, but the crossword puzzle does not run in the summer — life sucks sometimes.



Wayne Hodgin
Editor

We have a smaller staff: two editors, four reporters and a few volunteers. And since we have a smaller staff, it's a little harder for us to get everyone covered in *The UD*.

Now this is where you come in.

If there is a story idea that you have or something interesting your department is participating in, if your department is involved in some big research project, if you have some weird out-of-the-ordinary hobby — let us know about it.

We run into this problem throughout the regular year, and then we get blamed for not doing our jobs to your

satisfaction. Just pick up the phone and call us at 742-3393 or fax the information to 742-2434. It's that easy.

And please let us know about something a good two or three days in advance so we can plan for the story and a photo. Many times people will call us up at deadline and tell us they have something going on later that afternoon, and folks, most of the time that does not cut it.

In the summer, we plan our papers way in advance and allow space for breaking news. And breaking news isn't that your department is having a picnic benefiting the children's home, although it would be a good feature photo.

Sometimes a story may not be appropriate, but a feature photo would be. Just let us know about it so we can get a photographer out there.

The UD is a learning environment and we learn valuable information everyday here just like we learn information everyday in the classroom. I hope this summer, we can work hand-in-hand with you to provide not only up-to-date information, but also provide you with interesting stories and photos that let everyone know what's going on all over campus.

Wayne Hodgin is a senior journalism and English major from Haskell.

This space could have your name written all over it ...

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Just drop it by 211 journalism (bring your Tech ID) or e-mail it to TheUniversityDaily@ttu.edu (include social security number and phone number)

RTS

R S I T Y

Drop-in Fitness Classes

Drop-In Fitness classes are offered to all eligible Recreation Center participants free of charge beginning May 25. Find the class and time that is right for you. Sorry, children 16 and under are not allowed in any classes.

Abs & Back is a 15 minute abdominal/lower back toning and strengthening class.

CardioCraze is an energizing fast tempo class that incorporates hops and jumps into unique floor moves.

Shape and Tone is a muscle conditioning class consisting of exercises to firm, tone and improve flexibility. It will include some use of band and xertubes. A 15 minute Stretch class will follow. It consists of slow, static stretching. No one is obligated to attend the previous class to stretch.

Weekend Express is formatted to the instructor's choice.

Steppin' Out Choose a bench height that fits your ability and step to the music! The class will include a warm-up, aerobic step section, floor exercises and a cool-down.

Total Body Conditioning The perfect mix! A combination of step, hi/lo, low impact, and toning that creates a fun and exciting workout.

Water Fitness Enjoy an aerobics class using the water as resistance. This class is held in the shallow end of the pool so swimming skills are not necessary. A great workout without the joint stress of land aerobics.

Cardio Combo is an intense aerobic workout. The first half is aerobics; the second is step followed by a short muscle conditioning section.

Speciality Fitness Classes

You must register in person with fee in the Fit/Well prior to class. Don't delay — many fill up quickly.

Boxing Techniques is a non-contact class emphasizing muscular endurance. Participants learn the basics of boxing using various equipment. \$24 and \$6 for handwraps. Th/T 2-4 p.m. 6/3-6/29 (MOU & DM)

Knockout Jam is an invigorating combination of aerobics, boxing, kick boxing and Tae Bo moves. This athletic fitness workout will improve both cardiovascular and muscular fitness. \$12 and \$6 for hand wraps. W/M (intro-SIU/MOU) 6:45-7:45 p.m. 6/2-6/28; Th/T (intermediate MOU/DM) 6:45-7:45 p.m. 6/3-6/29

Spin City—get 'cycled' about a group exercise—try riding the Reebok cycles at your own fitness level. Great for beginners/advanced. W/M p.m. (SIU/MOU) 6/2-6/28; Th/T 5:30-6:30 p.m. (MOU/DM) 6/3-6/29 \$20. Drop-in Sunday class at 4 p.m.—\$2 per class.

Fitness Instructor Training prepares individuals to teach fitness aerobics classes. Gain the knowledge and hands-on experience to learn the "Tricks of the Trade." Wed., 6/2-6/30 3-4:30 p.m.

Women N Weights is an introduction to muscle strengthening and conditioning. It will cover equipment as well as weight training techniques. \$12 6:30-7:30 p.m. W/M 6/2 - 6/28 (MOU/SIU)

Yoga helps to maintain and achieve greater flexibility and strength. This is done by learning a series of postures emphasizing dynamic physical precision and balance. 5 passes are \$20, 10 are \$40. M/W/F 5:15-6:15 p.m. 6/2-6/23 (SIU/MOU)

Tai Chi is a Chinese internal martial art that is very good for keeping fit and seeking longevity. It includes external physical body movements as well as internal vital energy exercise. Th/T 5:30-6:30 p.m. 6/2-6/29 \$25 (SIU/MOU)

USA Tennis 1-2-3 is a great way to learn to play tennis. It is group instruction for adult

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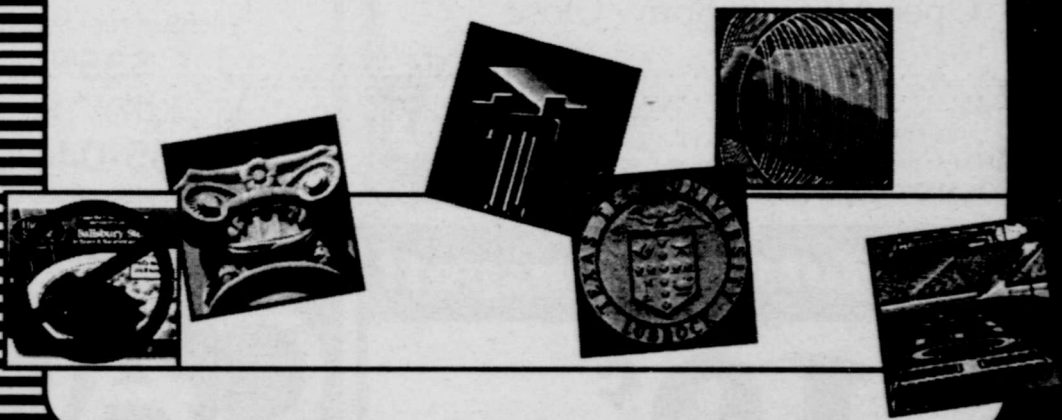
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Chase Perry/The University Daily

Distinguished Speaker: Dr. Nancy W. Dickey, president of the American Medical Association, speaks at a panel discussion on managed health care on Friday.

Panel discusses health care issues

by Matt Green
Staff Writer

The Texas Tech Forum on Health Care was conducted at the International Cultural Center on Friday.

The forum consisted of five presenters and concluded with a panel discussion.

The speakers addressed problems with the managed health care system in America. They proposed possible options for improvement and pointed out crucial flaws.

Guest speakers were Dr. Nancy W. Dickey, president of the American Medical Association and former assistant secretary for health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Phillip Lee and former Dean of the UCLA School of Medicine Kenneth Shine.

Dr. David Smith, president of Texas

Tech University Health Sciences Center, and Dr. Joel Kupersmith, dean of the Texas Tech School of Medicine, also participated in the forum.

Dickey said the managed health care system is a good idea, but that it is not functioning in the best way.

"The system does not allow physicians to practice in the way they are trained and costs a great deal of money," he said.

Dickey, who spends almost a quarter of her time traveling to reach a broader audience, said the upcoming presidential election makes now an important time to address the issue of health care.

"If a political candidate has not developed a strong stance on health care issues, then that candidate's qualifications for office must be seriously questioned," Dickey said.

All of the speakers said managed health care offers numerous benefits, but

there are many problems with the administration and distribution of funds.

Smith said having a university in Lubbock makes forums like this possible.

"Having a major university in the city allows us to have a debate here that would normally occur in Washington," he said.

Smith said he was thankful for the opportunity to participate in a forum with such esteemed speakers.

"It is a testament to the reputation of the Health Sciences Center that we could conduct a forum of this magnitude," he said.

Kupersmith, who organized the forum, said he was pleased with the outcome. He plans to hold a similar forum in about six months if at all possible.

"I would like to have another forum in the near future, but speakers of this caliber often have to be booked one year in advance," Kupersmith said.

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Bill would up speed limits to 80 mph

AUSTIN (AP) — Drivers could cruise up to 80 mph on some rural stretches of interstate in Texas under a bill approved Monday by the state Senate.

The bill would allow the state Department of Transportation to raise from 70 to 75 mph the daytime maxi-

mum speed limit for cars, motorcycles and light trucks on state and federal highways outside urban districts. The agency could raise the speed limit to 80 mph on sections of east-west interstates that cut through counties with populations of 25,000 or less.

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Mystery surrounds death of pro wrestler

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — This was not the first time that pro wrestler Owen Hart made his entrance into the ring by being lowered from the rafters as the high-flying "Blue Blazer," with the feathers of his sky-blue costume fluttering in the arena lights.

But on Sunday night, something went wrong.

The 33-year-old member of a legendary Canadian wrestling family fell 90 feet from the ceiling of Kemper

Arena. His head hit a padded turnbuckle, a metal coupling that holds the ring's ropes together, and snapped backward. He was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Hart's death happened in front of 16,200 fans in the arena.

The World Wrestling Federation's pay-per-view national TV audience was watching archive footage and did not see Hart fall.

Many thought the fall was part of the staged theatrics that have helped

fuel the explosion of popularity in pro wrestling in recent years.

Homicide detectives on Monday were inspecting the rigging that was to lower Hart by cable from the arena catwalk and talking to the stagehands to determine what went wrong, police spokesman Floyd Mitchell said.

Mitchell said the cable did not break, and detectives believe something went wrong when Hart's harness was being hitched to the cable.

WWF President Vince McMahon Jr. said he believes Hart may have accidentally pulled a release mechanism.

The WWF is one of the biggest draws on cable and pay-per-view TV, but critics say the matches often are sexist, homophobic and violent. The WWF admits its events are more entertainment than sport.

McMahon said WWF wrestlers will stop performing the aerial move that killed Hart, but said other stunts will continue.

"Stunts like this are performed at

major sporting events on a routine basis in Hollywood," he said.

"We compete with Hollywood for entertainment."

Hart was the youngest son of Stu Hart, a member of Canada's Olympic wrestling team in the 1940s. All seven of Stu Hart's sons went into wrestling, including Bret "The Hitman" Hart, a World Championship Wrestling star who canceled an appearance Monday on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno."

Hart's mother, Helen, told the Calgary (Alberta) Herald that she always feared one of her sons would be disabled in the ring.

"It's a dangerous sport in more ways than you can know," she said. "I just never thought one of my boys would be killed."

At 5-foot-11 and 227 pounds, Hart was billed as an acrobatic stuntman who acted as a foil for WWF heavyweights.

Hart had been a high-profile character when he broke into wrestling 10 years ago, but he was recast as a plain, straightforward wrestler, in contrast to charismatic personalities such as "Stone Cold" Steve Austin.

"His schtick was he really didn't have one," said Dave Meltzer, editor

of the Wrestling Observer newsletter.

Hart had been lowered by cable into the ring before, and other wrestlers have done it dozens of times, Meltzer said.

Some audience members initially thought the fall was staged.

"We thought it was a doll at first," said Robert McCome, 15.

"We thought they were just playing with us. We were really shocked when we found out that it was no joke."

While paramedics attended to Hart, the arena announcer haltingly told the hushed crowd the incident was not scripted. The event resumed about 15 minutes after he was taken away.

Fans watching on TV were told of Hart's death about an hour after the accident, Meltzer said.

"I hated the way they handled it," Meltzer said. "They should have stopped the show," Meltzer said.

Wade Keller, editor of the *Pro Wrestling Torch* newsletter, said it was the first fatal accident he knew of in U.S. wrestling since 1969, when Mike DiBiase died of a heart attack during a match in Lubbock, Texas.

Alan Schmelzle, general manager of Kemper Arena, said the WWF asked him not to discuss the fall. Local stagehands assisted on the catwalk, but WWF employees were in charge, he said.

A video tribute and testimonials from other wrestlers were planned before Monday night's WWF event in St. Louis.

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