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# THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

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## Tech, Lubbock collaborations planned

### ■ New fire station, extension of LP&L contract being discussed.

By MELISSA GUEST  
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech University could gain more than \$1.5 million in collaborative deals with Lubbock if they gain approval from the Lubbock City

Council. Although it tabled the issues Thursday, the Council is expected to rule on the issues, including a land lease agreement and power supply agreement extension.

Under consideration is a lease agreement between the city and Tech for the construction of a new fire station. The proposal is for a 50-year lease, yielding \$300,000 each year for five years, and \$1 each year thereafter.

Also tabled was a resolution authorizing Lubbock Power and Light to extend its power supply agree-

ment with Tech for an additional 10 years.

Jim Crowson, deputy chancellor for Tech, said he assumes the issues will be addressed by the Council at a later time.

"We are in negotiations with the city on several things and trying to make a mutually advantageous business deal," he said. "We just ran out of time last evening (July 11) and the action will be postponed."

The agreement, if concluded, would benefit both Tech and the city, Crowson said.

"It benefits the city because by extension of the power agreement they stand to gain a huge amount of fiscal benefit," he said. "Unquestionably, if we can reach a fair deal that can be advantageous to everybody, we will. The question in any negotiation is, what's fair?"

Councilman David Nelson said any time the city is able to enter into partnerships with Tech, it benefits not only the city, but also the community.

"Texas Tech is the largest business and cultural entity citizen within the

community," he said. "Therefore, we must acknowledge the value and worth to our city from a business and economic standpoint. We should try to work in conjunction with their goals and objectives within the boundaries of our governmental constraints."

If approved, the proposed fire station would be built just west of Indiana Avenue and north of 19th Street, and would precede the closing of the current station located at Indiana

see **COLLABORATE**, page 5

## Red Raiders voice support for incoming interim chancellor

By MATT MUENCH  
STAFF WRITER

Student Government Association President John Steinmetz said it was like getting hit with two bricks. But, it didn't hurt.

It was one of those surprise bricks.

Steinmetz said he was stunned to not only learn about Texas Tech Chancellor John Montford's decision to resign, but the news of Tech Health Sciences Center-President Dr. David Smith getting the job as interim chancellor also startled him.



Steinmetz

"It came to a great surprise to see the Board of Regents select Dr. Smith," Steinmetz said. "But the Board of Regents did pick Montford and they must think (Smith) is qualified for the job."

Steinmetz said being surprised does not mean he disagrees with the choice.

He thinks Smith is a smart pick, but expects just-appointed Deputy Chancellor

Elizabeth Haley to get the nod because Montford recommended her.

"Dr. Smith is definitely an educated choice because he knows how to run the system," Steinmetz said. "But I am very surprised that they didn't go with Montford's recommendation. But I back the Regents' choice."

Steinmetz said the university is not in jeopardy, but added he will miss Montford.

He said he recalls the beautification project Montford and his wife Debbie created as one of the best projects of the chancellor's five-year tenure.

"I have seen the changes since I have been here and that is three years," Steinmetz said. "I mean, look at this campus. We have the best looking one in the nation."

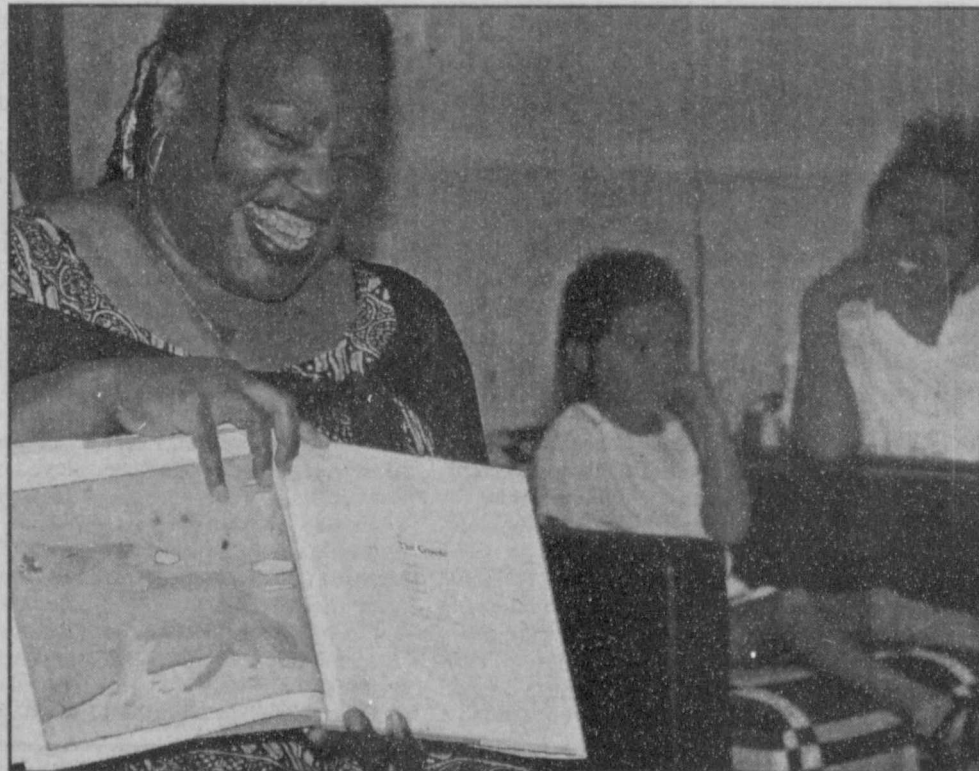
Marcus Williams, a senior pre-medicine and animal science major from Salado, said it is unfortunate to see Montford go.

"I am sorry to hear it," he said. "Tech has moved see **SMITH**, page 2

## SPREADING THE WORD

Tech librarian organizes program to pass love of reading to community children

By TIFFANY KINGSTON  
STAFF WRITER



Craig Swanson/THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

Myra Brown, a resident program librarian, reads a story to Lubbock children during Family Story Hour. Brown first got the idea for the program after seeing a similar one in San Jose, Calif.

The Texas Tech library has opened its doors and its books to local children and their families with a program called Family Story Hour.

Myra Brown, a resident program librarian, said she wanted to start the program after taking part in a similar program at a public library in San Jose, Calif.

"It's those rare times is life when you can actually feel yourself changing," she said. "After looking at the faces of those children, I knew. On the plane ride back I said, 'I just have to do this, it's part of my job.'"

Brown said most reading programs are done at public libraries and she was relieved when library administrators approved her proposal for a story hour.

She said library statistics show that circulation and the number of library patrons have declined partly because of the popularity of the Internet.

Brown said while she also enjoys

see **LIBRARIAN**, page 3

## City Council votes in favor of retooled smoking ordinance

By MELISSA GUEST  
STAFF WRITER

After reworking the much-debated smoking ordinance, the Lubbock City Council rendered a 6-1 vote Thursday in favor of the restrictions.

Councilman Marc McDougal said although he voted against the ordinance in its 4-3 approval

June 14, he supports the clarifications that were made.

"The council had already voted twice on the ordinance. Had we taken no action today, it would have still been an ordinance," he said. "I'm still against any ordinance, but I was in favor of changing the language, which is what we did today," McDougal said.

The new language allows businesses to build a separate room and provide a separate ventilation system for designated smoking sections any time in the future. Previously, business owners had only 90 days from the law's July 22 effective date to decide on designating smoking one way or another.

"So, eight years from now, if

the market changes and I need to add a designated smoking area, I can," McDougal said. "All we did was clean up the language and make that ordinance a little bit better."

The clarifications also include a reworked definition of fast food restaurants, which must comply

see **SMOKING**, page 3



## Pearly whites



Craig Swanson/THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

Masked Rider Katy Carruth, an agriculture communications major from Lubbock, gives her horse, Black Phantom Rider, a bath Thursday afternoon before an appearance. She and the horse, sometimes called Cairo, travel across the South Plains during the summer months promoting Texas Tech about four times a week. Carruth is a second-generation Masked Rider, taking the reins from her father, Johnny Bob Carruth, who served in the position from 1968 to 1970.

# Vet school talk goes to Austin

By COURTNEY MUENCH  
STAFF WRITER

Interest in Texas Tech establishing a veterinary school has spread across the state to Northeast Texas, Abilene, Lubbock and Amarillo.

All are eyeing the proposal, outgoing Chancellor John Montford said.

Tech officials met in Austin Tuesday with members of East Texas legislators and Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff to discuss plans of creating a school of veterinary medicine.

The idea of a Tech veterinary school began in 1971 when the Texas College and University Coordinating Board authorized Tech to establish one.

Montford said it has taken 30 years to raise discussion on the matter because of financial reasons.

"It just has never been funded," he said.

Montford said the costs of starting a vet school are similar to creating a medical school.

He said it would cost about \$100 million to bring a second

vet school to Texas.

Texas A&M has the only vet school in Texas and A&M needs a little competition, Montford said.

He said other communities have expressed interest in housing the school and that Tech will review what each community has to offer.

He said there will be a series of meetings this summer to discuss plans further.

"It would be one more feather in the cap. I believe there is a demand for this and for the study of large animals such as cattle and race horses," Montford said. "I think the vet school would go well with the medical school and the college of agriculture."

There are currently 28 veterinary schools in America.

Incoming Interim Chancellor Dr. David Smith attended the meeting and was unavailable for comment.

Eric Wright, Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff's press secretary, told *The University Daily* that Ratliff was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

## Navy rejects Padre Island training site

PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE, (AP) — The Navy's decision not to consider South Texas as a warfare training site was applauded by environmentalists and state officials Thursday.

"It's a welcome relief to get this news," said Fred Richardson, communications director for the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter. "As bad as the idea was, there might be a silver lining. There seems to be a much greater awareness now about the value of the Padre National Seashore and the Laguna Madre."

"The area is one of the great natural treasures of Texas, but it's being hard hit by a number of human activities."

U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz said Wednesday that the Navy would not look at South Texas because it must have an alternative to Vieques Island by May 2003.

# Cancer claims life of Tech architecture professor

By COURTNEY MUENCH  
STAFF WRITER

Robert L. Coombs, an associate professor of architecture, died yesterday peacefully in his sleep after fighting cancer, said close friend, Robert Perl, associate professor of architecture.

Perl said he and Coombs' friends met with him the day before he died.

"He was smiling, happy to see people. He was telling stories about the old days. We were all joking around. I remember he rolled his eyes and smiled in a sarcastic-jokingly way. He had a cynic sense of humor," he said.

Coombs was born Oct. 16, 1934 in Chicago. He received his bachelor's degree in fine arts in 1957 from the Art Institute in Chicago; a master's degree in art in 1964 from the University of Chicago and a master's degree in architecture in 1971 from Yale University.

Coombs taught 19th and 20th century history of architecture, a required class for students majoring in architecture.

"He had an impact on three or four thousand students over the past 10 or 12 years that he taught that course," Perl said.

He was known by students

as having the hardest of the three required architecture history classes, but also as the professor who would wear a smile when he came to class.

"He really challenged you," said Darren Dobbins, an architecture graduate student from Pueblo, Colo. "His class was a lot of fun, I memorized more in his class than I ever have, but I learned a lot and he was very helpful."

He always had an essay section to his tests, said Joanna Mross, an associate professor of architecture.

She said he would take the time to grade more than 200 tests individually.

"I remember watching him

grade his papers last May," Perl said.

Mross said Coombs believed history to be the foundation of architecture and that he refused to water down his history course.

Colleagues described him as mirroring a life of a true Renaissance man.

"He loved to travel, he loved good food and music. He liked to write and teach," said John White, professor of architecture.

Coombs published a book about Notre Dame in October.

Perl said he recently talked to a friend of Coombs, who said he remembers

when Coombs would talk about the newly built chapel.

He said Coombs visited the chapel several times when traveling in France.

"He studied Le Corbusier's life and has been writing his book for 10 years," Perl said.

His book sold out immediately, leading to a second round of publishing, Mross said.

Coombs also enjoyed photography. Mross said some of his photos are published in his book.

Mross said he also liked to paint landscapes, buildings and self-portraits, and enjoyed gourmet cooking.

"He loved life and he will be well missed," Perl said.

## SMITH from page 1

in a great direction since he has been here. The campus looks nice and the standards for admission has raised."

Steinmetz said he is happy to see Montford pursue a job in the private sector rather than finding another profession in higher education.

"It was a relief to see him not go to another university," Steinmetz said. "Like he said, it would've been a slap in the face."

Steinmetz said because

Tech originally went the politician route and succeeded when it came to hiring a chancellor, other schools will begin to take similar risks.

"I think he has revolutionized chancellors across the nation," Steinmetz said. "They took a risk by taking a politician and it was a success. Other universities will follow our lead and I think we should go for another politician."

Williams said he isn't sure if they should continue with a politician or stay with Smith.

But he said Smith is a

smart choice for interim because he knows how Tech runs.

for the Health Sciences Center and I think he is qualified."

Steinmetz said the change

*"It will be a tough loss, but I think the Regents and Chairman Brown will find a good replacement."*

John Steinmetz  
SGA PRESIDENT

"He is someone that is inside this university," Williams said. "He has done a great job

should not impact the students.

If it does, the student body

president said he hopes the differences are positive.

"It will be a tough loss but I think the Regents and Chairman Brown will find a good replacement," he said. "I think all change is good and it might take a while, but it shouldn't impact the SGA or the student body."

He said a bonus with Smith is that he knows how to work with students because he interacts with them every day.

"(Smith) is very interested in students' interaction," Steinmetz said. "That is a big plus."



## LIBRARIAN

from page 1

using the Internet, and in fact uses it for a lot of her work at the library, she wants to encourage the use of the printed word and books, especially to young children.

One of the goals for the new story hour is to get more people into the library, especially children, she said.

"Story time is part of our outreach into the broader community to help the university recruit students," Dale Cuff, dean of Libraries said, "Who knows but one of these young readers might be a potential Texas Tech student."

Family Story Hour began this summer; it is usually in the afternoon during the weekend to avoid conflict with story time at local public libraries. Brown gave a presentation during a library staff meeting to recruit readers for the program.

Brown and her story time partners read about five books to the group. She said children tend to grow restless so she also includes educational games and refreshments.

Brown and her story time partners use personal animation to make the stories interesting and chose books large enough to show a lot of colorful pictures and illustrations.

Jake Siyma, a senior management major from Taft, said he volunteered because he enjoys working with children and believes in his work at the library.

"For a lot of kids this is their first exposure to a library," he said. "What better way to get kids to enjoy learning and keep them interested in coming here?"

Siyma and Brown both believe story time will hopefully dispel myths that libraries and librarians are boring.

"We want everyone, especially

the children to come away with a feeling that they had a good time," Siyma said. "It's not all on the Internet yet, that's a misconception too."

Brown is in charge of purchasing children's literature for the library. She solicits recommendations and criteria for new books from faculty at the College of Education.

The children's literature department works with a \$3,500 budget. She said that the budget is more than enough because children's books are cheap, averaging about \$15 each.

Taking into consideration the feedback she receives from faculty, Brown buys books that are multicultural and encourage diversity, as well as books about science, history and other academic subjects. She uses a small portion of the budget to buy refreshments and educational materials for the Family Story Hour.

The children are encouraged to

check the library books out after story time and visit other parts of the library. Brown hopes the program will expand and eventually have its own reading area, furnished with beanbag chairs and other children's furniture. Currently, the group uses the library lobby and sometimes the third floor.

Sandy Ramirez, a Lubbock parent, has brought her three young children to all the sessions. Ramirez said she heard about Tech's story time at a local literacy fair.

"She held on to that flier for five weeks," Brown said, "We were so impressed."

Ramirez said she takes her children to story times all over Lubbock, including Tech, to expose them to reading and help them prepare for school.

"They tell me they miss coming and want to go everyday," she said, "I have to tell them we can't go because there isn't a story time today."

Brown has planned future crafts and activities for her young readers. In the fall, Brown and Siyma will work with the faculty in the College of Education and their story telling curriculums.

"We also want to encourage Tech faculty and staff to bring their children," she said. "It's a fun and safe environment."

Cuff, who brings his grandson to story time, said he is excited about the energy and passion Brown has brought to the library since she joined the staff several months ago.

"It's a joy to see anyone become excited about reading," he said, "for every child who learns to read we see an individual who will get along better in our society."

The next Family Story Hours are at noon to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, July 21 and noon to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, August 4.

For more information the library can be reached at 742-2265.

## SMOKING

from page 1

with the ordinance.

In addition, the revised ordinance provides help for business owners eager to comply with the new law. Under the old language, business owners had to pay \$200 for a permit within 90 days of its' effective date to continue to have smoking areas.

McDougal said these additions help alleviate the burden on many business owners, who have three years to make needed renovations.

"I was in favor of those changes because it makes it more business friendly, but I still think it's a bad ordinance," he said.

David Cea, president of the Lubbock Restaurant Association, said he agrees the reworking of the ordinance provides clearer guidelines, which business owners must comply with.

"It means we have a law, a law we have to comply with whether we think it is fair or not," he said. "My job is to run restaurants, not to fight for rights and I am going to get back to running my restaurant."

The only dissenting vote was from Mayor Pro Tem Alex "Ty" Cooke. Cooke said even with clarifications,

the intent of the smoking ordinance remains the same, which is what he disagrees with.

"I'm philosophically opposed to government having that big of a voice in the private sector," he said. "Restaurants are not even the majority of businesses affected, they're just most visible part. Every business owner, every office, every tenant, every building owner in the community will be affected."

He also said the ordinance is not feasible for small operations.

"I think the ordinance goes too far. It touches every area of the private sector to some degree."

However, some believe the ordinance's intent has less to do with the private sector than with the public's health.

"The Smokeless Lubbock Coalition supports the ordinance because it is a comprehensive and fair ordinance that will protect the citizens and make a healthier community,"

said Dr. Donna Bacchi, director of the Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control at Texas Tech Health Sciences

**//**  
*The message should be to the citizens of Lubbock: let's put this behind us and be open to the benefits."*

David Nelson  
CITY COUNCILMAN

Center, and a member of Smokeless Lubbock Coalition.

Councilman David Nelson said part of the triumph of today's decision is that it shows solidarity from those closely involved in the decision.

"I think as important as anything, we had a near unanimous vote and we had voiced support for compliance with the ordinance from both outspoken factions, the restaurant owners and the smokeless coalition."

The next step, Nelson said, is to move on.

"The message should be to the citizens of Lubbock is: let's put this behind us and be open to the benefits. In six months we will not even remember this debate," he said.

One of the committee objectives, Nelson said, was to incorporate the views of the majority of citizens into the local businesses.

Although 75 percent of Lubbock citizens are nonsmokers, less than 20 percent of the restaurants in Lubbock were nonsmoking as of Jan. 1.

"They wanted to invert the pyramid. Instead of having 500 restaurants smoking, have majority rule," he said.

## Credit numbers of writers taken

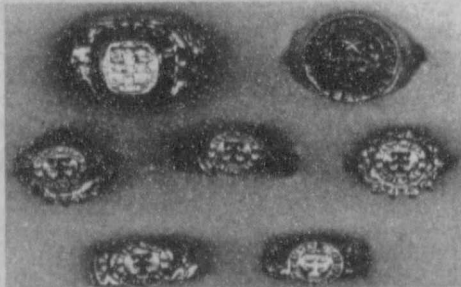
CHICAGO (AP) — While journalists gathered to discuss their investigative craft, somebody was gathering their credit card numbers.

And someone tried to use the numbers to make online purchases in the names of at least three journalists attending a conference of investigative reporters in Chicago last month.

"Am I the only one to see the irony in a bunch of so-called investigative reporters being victimized en masse by credit card fraud?" Russell Clemings of *The Fresno Bee* e-mailed fellow reporters after seeing a mysterious charge of more than \$300 on his credit bill.

"I suppose it is fairly ironic that while people inside are telling wonderful stories about electronic privacy, we're getting our credit cards ripped off," the *Houston Chronicle's* Dan Feldstein said Thursday.

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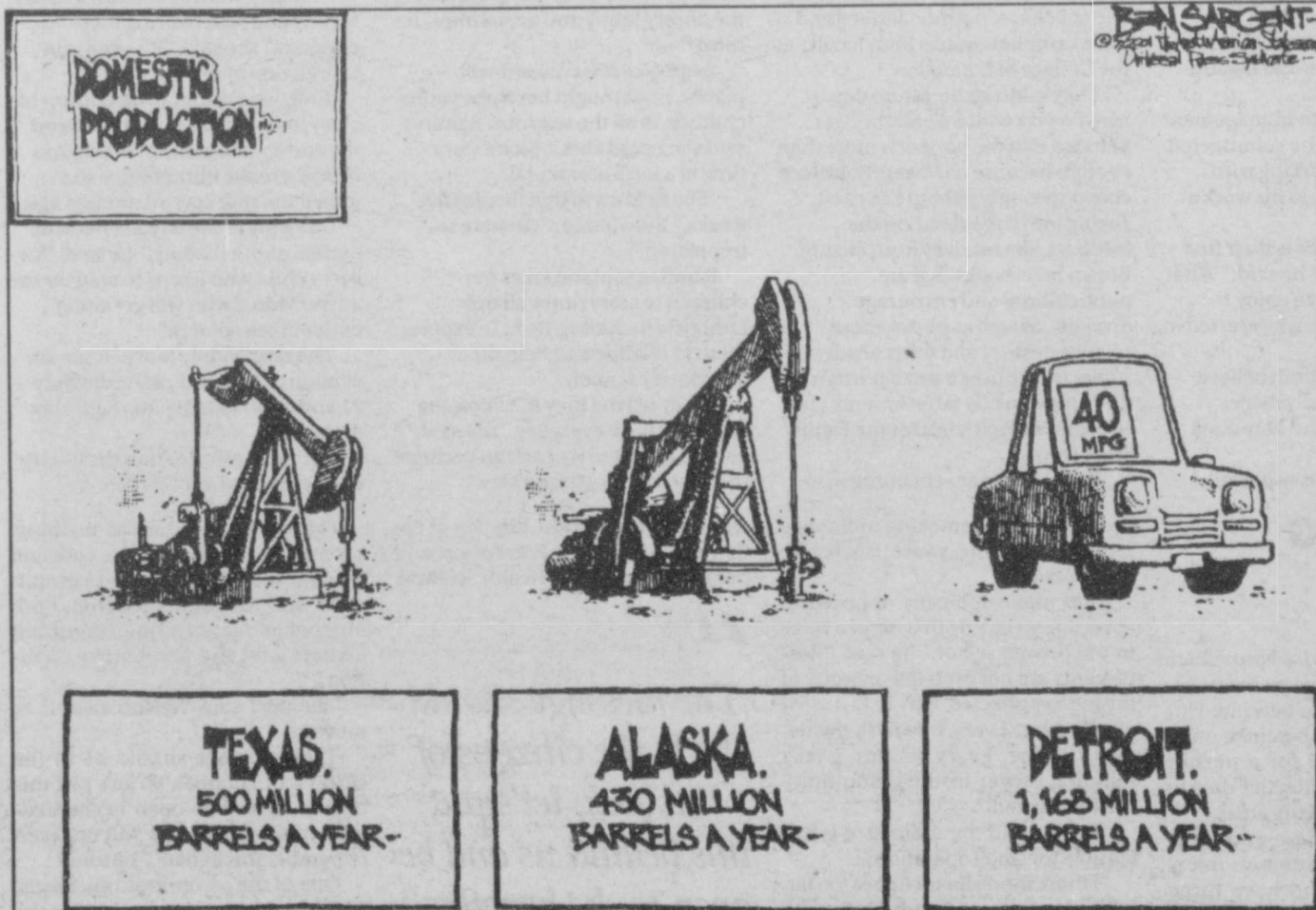
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Friday  
July 13, 2001

## OPINIONS &amp; IDEAS

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[ COLUMN ]

## Mothers killing children appalling

Recently, while reading the newspaper and watching television I have been utterly disgusted. I have failed to realize how parents can do what they have been doing to their children.

All of the killing and starvation makes me wonder how someone could do these things.



**Damion Davis**

First of all, how can you kill a living thing? And second, someone that is of your own flesh? It upsets me to know that people who live in this country, the most independent nation in the world, could kill their own family members.

It's confusing me to know that people could do this not once, but kill all five of their children in one instance. Not only kill all five of your children, but one by one drowning every one of them. Watching their limp bodies falling to the floor,

killed by your own hand—I can't imagine how serial killers and rapists work.

I don't understand how they can violate someone else's life and think that it's justifiable. I don't think that you can justify killing in any circumstance.

I have always thought to myself what would happen to someone if they received no love. No love in their household, none from one's parents and none for the most of their lives.

**This girl was shown no love for months of her life. Once again the question is how can you do this to your own flesh and blood?**

This question was dreadfully answered for me in the case in Dallas, where a mother allegedly locked her daughter in a closet with little to no food, and no contact with the outside world. This girl was shown no love for months of her life. Once again the question is how can you do this to your own flesh and blood? Someone that is a direct reflection of you, that came from your chromosomes and body.

I won't ever say that I understand what goes on in the minds of killers, rapists and people who almost starve their children to death. I can't say that because I don't know how that would feel to be reviled that much. I love my mother and I know when I look in her eyes that she loves me just the same.

I don't think my sweet mother could wake up one day and decide that she wants to end my life over some depression, or because I made her mad the day before. That is one of the most foolish things she could do.

I know I could never place my child in a closet or a bathtub until I choke the life from them. I am better than that. And, as parents they should know how precious life is. It came from them and is a part of them not just during life but also after life. No matter what they try to do they will always be a part of their lives. Their children will live on in memories and in the minds of the parents that do these unspeakable things.

*Damion Davis is a freshman communications major from Lubbock. He can be e-mailed at [threed5@hotmail.com](mailto:threed5@hotmail.com).*

## Pool of possible chancellors very deep

The search is on for a permanent replacement for outgoing Texas Tech Chancellor John Montford. The Board of Regents announced Tech Health Sciences Center President Dr. David Smith



**Brandon Formby**

will take the helm of the university until a permanent replacement is found. But who will that replacement be?

After nearly a week of research, contemplation and beer, I have compiled a list of the most viable candidates for the position, all of whom the Regents should seriously consider.

■ **Martha Stewart.** If you thought Montford's wife Debbie did her part to keep the campus beautiful, step back. Stewart knows how to coordinate, decorate and spiff things up. No longer would we walk to class on dirt (AGHH!) or cement (UGHH!). Instead, Italian marble and Chinese tile would line the campus as if it were the Vatican.

Arbor Day would become an even bigger event, and most importantly, the residence hall cafeterias would become havens for eight-course gourmet meals.

■ **Tony Soprano.** It's obvious that to be successful, a chancellor should be able to bring in the money. Not only would a mob boss be able to handle such a task, but imagine how the students could get involved.

Accounting majors and law students could help Chancellor Soprano launder the illegally obtained funds. And organizations like the Army and Air Force ROTCs could serve as the hitmen who eliminate anyone who stands in the way, dumping the bodies in the several campus construction sites.

■ **Judge Judy.** With her no nonsense policy, this strict disciplinarian would whip everyone into shape and make men's basketball coach Bob Knight look like a lamb. Judy's no b.s. tolerance policy, of course, would then have to lead to an entirely new team of administrators.

■ **Bill Gates.** If he were to donate one month's paycheck, Tech would be able to finish every construction project on campus and would let students who owe

\$1.50 for tuition stay enrolled. Probably.

Best of all, however, is that Chancellor Gates would ensure that students are techno savvy, so the employees in the ATLC at night might actually look up from their homework to solve problems and do the job they're collecting paychecks for.

■ **Anyone with the last name Bush.** While the Regents would have to recount their votes 43 times, then decide which votes really counted for what before finally making the decision, anyone related to good ol' Dubya would do a fine job. Besides, there'd finally be a liquor store and a bar on campus.

■ **Teck \$.** Could you imagine the sate of the university addresses this MTV star would have?

"Chancellor Teck broadcasting lizzive from from the Admin. Building. I'd like to give a shout out to my homeboys — President Schmidly, Athletics Director Myers, Coach Knight. 'Sup!?"

■ **Michael Jackson.** Hey, I hear he's pretty good with kids.

*Brandon Formby is the editor of The University Daily and a senior journalism major from Plano. He can be e-mailed at [brandonformby@hotmail.com](mailto:brandonformby@hotmail.com)*

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LETTERS: *The University Daily* welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, social security number and a description of university affiliation. Letters selected for publication have the right to be edited. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication.

GUEST COLUMNS: *The UD* accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 750 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.



# Witherspoon pulls off risky role

(AP) — Ohmygod, you guys. I saw the BEST movie the other day. It was a-DOR-able.

It's called "Legally Blonde," and it's about this blond sorority girl who becomes a lawyer and saves the day. (Of course. How could she not?)

The movie is a lot like 1995's "Clueless," which was also totally cute, in that it has a brain and a heart. And like its heroine, it's a lot smarter than it looks. Hopefully, it'll do more for Reese Witherspoon's career than "Clueless" did for Alicia Silverstone's. (Hull-o? Anyone remember "Excess Baggage"?)

Witherspoon plays the fabulously dressed and perfectly coifed Elle Woods: president of the Delta Nu sorority, Miss June in the campus calendar, AND she has a 4.0 grade-point average. OK, so her major is, like, fashion merchandising. The girl is an expert on varying shades of pink.

Elle thinks her gorgeous boyfriend, Warner Huntington III (Matthew Davis), is going to pop the question over a special dinner, but he dumps her instead, telling her that his dreams of being a politician demand that he have a more substantial mate — whatever THAT means.

"If I'm going to be a senator by the time I'm 30, I need to stop (messing) around," Warner tells Elle as she cries in her champagne.

One day at the salon, she gets the

BEST idea — she'll show Warner she can be all serious and stuff by following him to Harvard Law School!

She studies super hard for the law school entrance exam, which her best friends (Jessica Cauffiel and Alanna Ubach) TOTALLY don't understand.

And the video she makes to go with her application is hys-TER-ical. She had a Coppola direct it, and she appears dressed in an array of sequined bikinis, spouting legal terms as well as the latest "Days of Our Lives" developments.

Her dad doesn't see the point. "Law school is for people who are boring and ugly and serious, and you, button, are none of those things," he tells her, an ever-present martini in hand.

But she gets in! She totally doesn't fit in at first, especially toting her a-DOR-able Chihuahua everywhere she goes, dressed in a matching outfit.

And she's nothing like those uptight East Coast students — especially Vivian Kensington (Selma Blair, who co-starred with Witherspoon in the 1999 guilty pleasure "Cruel Intentions") that horrible blue-blooded snob Warner is dating.

But her keen intuition, unbeatable enthusiasm and impeccable sense of style see her through. She even helps out on a murder trial. How cool is THAT?

(OK, so the movie does drag a bit here, but you can't have everything, you know?)

Witherspoon showed in 1999's "Election" how complete she can make a character, how she can turn somebody annoying into a sympathetic figure you want to cheer for.

Elle isn't nearly as obnoxious as overachieving Tracey Flick in "Election," but she is interminably perky, which would be hard to tolerate on anyone else. Witherspoon appears in nearly every frame of the movie, and she positively sparkles.

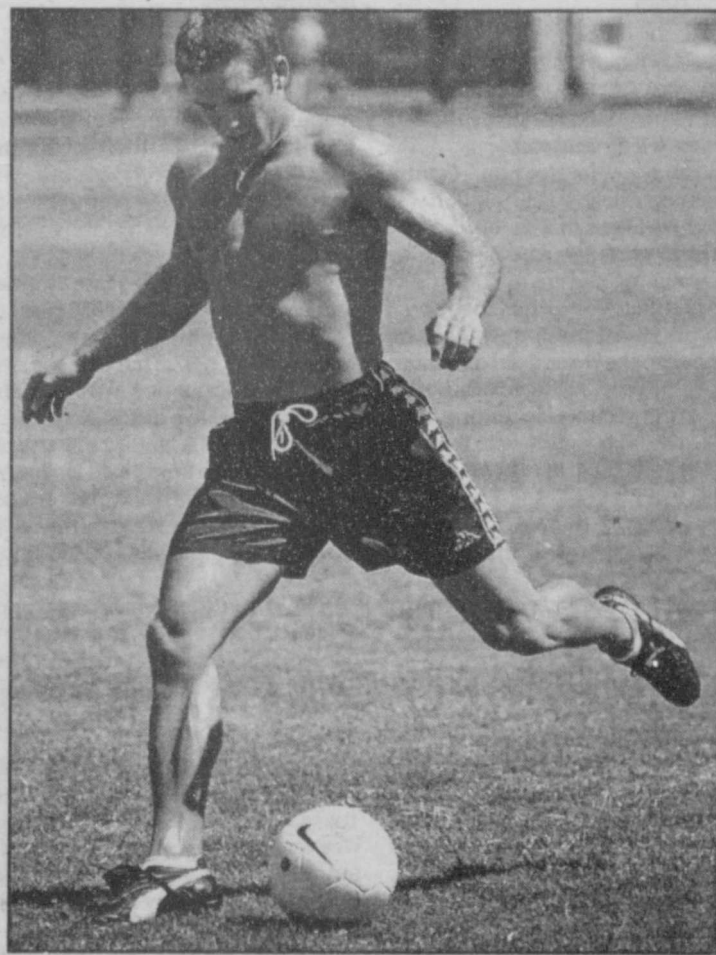
"Legally Blonde" is the feature film debut of director Robert Luketic, and he did SUCH an awesome job!

Screenwriters Karen McCullah Lutz (a blond former sorority girl who took fashion merchandising classes) and Kirsten Smith give her great things to say, and they inject so many cute details.

Her resume is pink — and scented. "I think it gives it a little something extra," she explains to a law professor, smiling. And when she picks up the cordless phone, it's covered in fluffy pink fur.

As a young lawyer working with Elle, Luke Wilson doesn't get to do much but play the straight man, which is too bad because he was so good in "Bottle Rocket" and in small roles in "Rushmore" and "My Dog Skip."

## Practice makes perfect



Craig Swanson/THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

Matt Walden, a pre-med major from Austin, practices soccer Thursday afternoon at the soccer fields east of the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center. Walden is a member of the Texas Tech men's soccer club and was a starting member of last season's team, which finished second in the national ranks.

## ■ COLLABORATE

from page 1

and 35th Street.

Deputy Fire Chief Rhea Cooper said the station would provide better coverage for the city and the university. In addition, the station would provide coverage for the surrounding medical districts and residential areas.

"There is a definite benefit to Texas Tech," he said. "With a fire station on Tech campus you get a good response time. There is a tremendous life safety hazard at Tech when you are in session in the high-rise dorms. The sheer number of people on campus creates a high life-safety hazard."

The realignment will help the department maintain the 4.1-minute response time they have had in the

past few years, Cooper said.

City Manager Bob Cass said the addition of the station could improve response time to that area by one to two minutes.

Cindy Rugeley, vice chancellor for News and Information, agreed the addition of a fire station would benefit the university and the city.

"At the same time it's a prime piece of real estate," she said. "It's a business arrangement."

The construction of a new fire station is part of a safety improvement plan set up by the city that relocates and renovates existing fire stations to provide better coverage for the city.

When the city was building fire stations in the 1950s, planners would put a fire station wherever the population started building the most, Cooper said.

"What we have ended up with is

some areas of the city where the stations are relatively close and some that are relatively far apart," he said.

Bob Goodwin, Lubbock's corporate communications manager, said the construction of a fire station on the Tech campus has been long in the works.

"Our fire dept was very adamant in that they wanted some specific locations on Tech campus," he said.

Goodwin added that the city and the university are still working on coming toward an agreement.

"They are a series of negotiated contracts for deals, and so far that reason there will be some others coming down in order for Tech to get what they want and the city to get what they want," he said. "Hopefully through all of this Tech will benefit, city will benefit and the community will benefit."

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## NEWS DIGEST

## STATE

## KILLER APOLOGIZES TO FAMILIES

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Convicted killer James Wilkens' pleas for forgiveness fell on deaf ears.

"I can never forgive him," Sandra Carpenter, whose 4-year-old son was killed by Wilkens in a shooting spree almost 15 years ago, said Wednesday after watching Wilkens die. "He didn't have to suffer. My son had to suffer."

In an emotional farewell while strapped to the Texas death chamber gurney, Wilkens, 39, urged relatives of his slaying victims, including Carpenter, who was wounded in the Dec. 27, 1986, attack, to accept his apologies.

"I am sorry," he said, looking directly at her. "For your sake, forgive me. All of you, please."

Eight minutes later, he was pronounced dead.

## TWO-YEAR-OLD DIES IN FAMILY SUV

DALLAS (AP) — The death of a 3-year-old Plano boy, trapped in a sport utility vehicle as the outside temperature neared 100 degrees, is a painful reminder of how dangerous automobile interiors can be during the summer months, authorities said.

Police and weather forecasters say people can take precautions to prevent such accidents, including leaving car windows cracked to keep heat from building up in closed cars and never leaving children or pets in vehicles.

Cory Clark died Wednesday after he was found inside his family's Chevy Suburban.

Plano police Sgt. Mark Hunt said the boy was outside playing with siblings and friends. The children had been playing in and out of the car. But Hunt said the door closed and the boy couldn't get out.

Hunt said he did not know the age of the other children.

## NATION

## SYPHILIS RATES ON THE DECLINE

ATLANTA (AP) — American women passed syphilis to their babies last year at less than half the rate they did just four years ago, bringing health officials a big step closer to stamping out the disease, the government said Thursday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recorded 529 cases of congenital syphilis last year, down from 1,077 in 1997. That puts the current rate at about one infected baby for every 7,500 live births.

"Three years is literally a heartbeat in public health time," said Dr. Judith Wasserheit, the CDC's prevention chief for sexually transmitted diseases. "We should all be celebrating the news."

The government said it was more evidence that syphilis, a disease that has fallen to record lows in the United States, can be nearly wiped out in this decade.

## MSN MESSENGER SERVICE RESTORED

SEATTLE (AP) — Microsoft said Tuesday that its MSN Messenger service was mostly restored Tuesday after a weeklong outage, but warned that some users may have lost their personal address books.

A technical glitch left about one-third of users disconnected or without access to the address books, called "buddy lists" or "contact lists."

MSN Vice President Rick Bray said the outage caused some permanent damage and a "small number" of users lost the lists. The exact number of customers affected was not given.

It was the second major outage this year for MSN Messenger, a free service for sending instant text messages across the Internet. A February outage came after glitches and a hacker attack prevented many from accessing the company's Web site.

## WORLD

## VACCINE'S SAFETY QUESTIONED

LONDON (AP) — Scientists are for the first time questioning the safety of the 60-year-old yellow fever vaccine after six suspicious deaths.

The deaths of three Americans, two Brazilians and one Australian after vaccination against the mosquito-borne disease are described this week in *The Lancet* medical journal.

"These are the first deaths supposedly linked to the vaccine virus," said Dr. Ray Arthur, head of the yellow fever division at the World Health Organization.

Experts are calling for an urgent investigation, but strongly recommend that people in parts of South America and Africa, as well as travelers to those areas, continue to get the shots.

## IRISH RIOTERS INJURE POLICE

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Rioters hurled firebombs and bottles at police Thursday night as violent street clashes erupted in the wake of the biggest parades of the year by the province's Protestants.

At least five police officers were injured when the fighting broke out after marchers from the Protest Orange Order made their way home, passing close to a volatile, predominantly Roman Catholic neighborhood in North Belfast.

Late last month, the same neighborhood was the scene of Northern Ireland's worst sectarian clashes in three years.

Police and soldiers in armored vehicles cordoned off the area, but rocks, bottles and firebombs could be seen flying overhead.

Police fired rubber bullets and charged toward demonstrator. On the outskirts of the fighting, men could be seen staggering away with bloodied faces.

## Investigation of missing D.C. intern expanding

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal authorities have expanded their investigation into Chandra Levy's disappearance to determine whether Rep. Gary Condit obstructed justice, law enforcement officials said Thursday.

Meanwhile, police awaited FBI lab tests to see if items removed from the California Democrat's apartment contain blood. They also began searching vacant buildings.

Items sent to the lab after a light and chemical test used to detect possible blood included a portion of a miniblind and swabs of residue taken from spots on the floor and wall, law enforcement officials said.

They cautioned that the light test can react to various organic materials, and that only lab tests could confirm whether the material was blood or some other substance.

Terrance Gainer, Washington's No. 2 police official, said authorities were not expecting major advances in their investigation as a result of the nearly four-hour search early Wednesday morning that was done with Condit's consent.

Police have said repeatedly they do not consider Condit to be a suspect. A police source has said the congressman acknowledged a romantic relationship with the former Bureau of Prisons intern.

The investigation into Levy's disappearance proceeded on several fronts Thursday. Federal prosecutors and the FBI were looking at a flight attendant's allegation that Condit urged her to sign a statement denying a 10-month affair she says they had. Anne Marie Smith also said Condit told her she did not have to cooperate with FBI agents who questioned her.

Authorities were conducting interviews and trying to determine whether to go further, said one official familiar with the matter. Authorities also have also sought any infor-

mation Smith might have about Levy.

Condit, who is 53 and married, has denied asking anyone to lie or not cooperate with investigators who are trying to figure out what happened to Levy, the 24-year-old former intern last seen April 30. He has not commented on any relationship with Smith.

Marina Ein, a spokeswoman for Condit, repeated Thursday that he is cooperating with police in all aspects of the investigation.

Smith, 39, was interviewed Wednesday and again Thursday by FBI agents and prosecutors from the U.S. attorney's office.

Police also were searching vacant buildings in the nation's capital in an effort to find Levy. "We have to explore the possibility that she may be dead and we're looking for the remains," Gainer said on CBS' "The Early Show." "So we're looking at about one-seventh of the District of Columbia right now, at abandoned buildings."

Gainer also said police were working on a picture of Levy that would simulate a different hair style and other possible changes in her appearance. "So if she did go off on her own, it would help recognize her," he said.

He said investigators are working on four theories in Levy's disappearance: that she was a victim of foul play, committed suicide, walked away voluntarily or is wandering around not knowing who she is.

Police negotiations with Condit's lawyer, Abbe Lowell, have failed to produce an agreement on the conditions under which the congressman would submit to a lie detector test, Gainer said.

Meantime, The Washington Post reported Thursday that FBI agents have interviewed a Pentecostal minister who described an affair between his then-18-year-old daughter and Condit.

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# Tourney road to shorten

**NCAA wants to allow the top four seeds to play closer to home.**

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA is changing bracketing rules for the men's basketball tournament to allow teams to play closer to home during the first two rounds.

Beginning next March, the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee will assign the top four seeds in each region to subregional sites with an emphasis on reducing travel, regardless of where the teams would play in regionals the following week.

The change, announced Thursday, is designed to eliminate situations like the one this year that had Maryland, Georgetown, George Mason and Hampton assigned to first-round games in Boise.

The committee will place teams in two groups at each subregional site,

but the groups may feed into different regional sites.

"For student-athletes, it means less travel, fewer missed classes and a more exciting atmosphere in the arenas," said Mike Tranghese, chairman of the basketball committee and commissioner of the Big East Conference. "For parents, friends and alumni, it means easier access to their favorite teams' games."

Until now, teams placed in a particular region played their first- and second-round games at one of two sites in that region, then advanced to the regional in the same region.

"We also believe this change will minimize the need for teams to be away from their campuses for long periods of time," Tranghese said. "Some teams that have been sent out of their region have gone directly from their first/second round site to the regional site; we are optimistic that the need for that to occur will greatly diminish."

Tranghese said the change also should cut teams' expenses and boost attendance in the opening

rounds.

"Of nine non-dome sites in this year's tournament, only three had attendance less than 89 percent of capacity. This adjustment would have significantly enhanced attendance at those sites, which would have created a better atmosphere in those arenas," he said.

Tranghese said the new change will not eliminate teams' having to play outside their home regions.

"Because we want to balance the strength of the four regions, and because of the geography of where our schools are located, the committee will continue to have to move some teams out of their region," he said.

The committee also will now have the flexibility to place the fourth team selected from a conference in the same region as the highest-seeded team from that conference. Previously, once the highest-seeded team from a conference was assigned a region, no other team from that conference could be assigned there until the sixth team was selected from that conference.

## David Robinson reaches contract deal with Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — David Robinson has agreed to a new contract to stay with the Spurs, the player's agent told the *San Antonio Express-News* on Thursday.

Robinson's agent, Jeff Austin, told the newspaper that both sides were happy with the deal. Terms weren't immediately known.

"David wanted to remain in San Antonio and they wanted to keep him," Austin said.

Tom James, the Spurs' director of media services, said the team couldn't comment. No free-agent contracts can be signed before Wednesday.

Austin didn't return a phone call left at his office by The Associated Press.

Robinson, at his vacation home in Hawaii, had on Tuesday questioned whether the Spurs wanted him.

By Wednesday, team officials

and Robinson's representatives were having serious talks.

Robinson had rebuffed the Spurs' suggestion he take a pay cut anywhere from 50 percent to 80 percent of the \$14.7 million he made last season. Spurs chairman Peter Holt had said such a move was needed to keep the team competitive.

Until the NBA releases the official salary cap, the Spurs have about \$16 million available to resign Robinson and Derek Anderson, who wants a contract worth \$7 million annually.

Robinson has played all of his 12 NBA seasons with the Spurs, with career averages of 22.8 points and 11.1 rebounds a game. He is a 10-time All-Star and was the league's MVP in 1995.

Last season, Robinson had career lows with 14.4 points and 8.6 rebounds a game.

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# College BCS revises its point system

■ **Adjustments will award bonus points for wins against the nation's top 15.**

The Bowl Championship Series has revised its formula for selecting teams to play in its designated title game, changes that would have added up to Miami — not Florida State — against Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl last season.

The adjustments, announced

Thursday, include a new quality-win component that will award bonus points in the BCS' mathematical formula for beating a team rated in the top 15 in the standings.

Also, there will be less importance given to margin of victory, which has been a main concern of coaches in the first three years of the BCS standings.

"To some degree this is an evolution in terms of the formula," said BCS coordinator John Swofford of the Atlantic Coast Conference. "It needs to be made better, and if we can make it better, then we feel like we should do so.

"We realize it can confuse people

when we change it, but these are substantial and quality changes in the formula that are better for the game and better for our football programs."

Had the new rules been in effect in 2000, the title game would have been Miami vs. Oklahoma — the Hurricanes would have finished second in the final BCS standings ahead of the Seminoles and behind the Sooners. Bonus points for Miami's wins over Florida State and Virginia Tech would have pushed the Hurricanes ahead of the Seminoles in the final standings.

Oklahoma beat Florida State in

the Orange Bowl to win the national title last season, with Miami beating Florida in the Sugar Bowl and finishing No. 2.

Swofford said changes would have still been made even if the Seminoles had beaten the Sooners.

"The issues would have still been there, I just don't think they would have been quite as high on the radar screen publicly as they were before the game," Swofford said. "But those issues would have stayed on our plate in terms of the BCS."

The BCS standings use The Associated Press media poll and the USA

Today/ESPN coaches poll, eight computer ratings, strength-of-schedule and win-loss records in determining its overall standings.

In addition, the BCS will replace two of the eight computer services next season, including the Dunkel Index, which depends heavily on margin of victory. The *New York Times* computer ratings also are out.

The eight computer rankings to be used in 2001 are operated by: Richard Billingsley, Kenneth Massey, David Rothman, Jeff Sagarin, Scripps-Howard, Seattle Times, Peter Wolfe and Wes Colley.

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## Team's accident hurts Armstrong's title hopes

BAR-LE-DUC, France (AP) — Two of Lance Armstrong's teammates tumbled Thursday on a slippery stretch of a highway known as the "Sacred Route," hurting his chances for a third Tour de France title.

Armstrong was at the head of a nine-man pack when Christian Vande Velde veered suddenly to the right and fell, taking teammate Roberto Heras down on the rain-soaked road.

The seven remaining riders continued, but their pace dropped off, destroying the American squad's chances of winning the stage between Verdun and Bar-le-Duc in eastern France.

"I saw very professional behavior by the team," said U.S. Postal's sports director, Johan Bruyneel. "They stayed calm. At the end, we saw the team finish very strong. It could have been a lot worse."

Still, the fourth-place finish behind the French team Credit Agricole, left Armstrong 15th in the overall standings after five of 20 stages of the world's premier cycling event.

But the Texan remains the favorite to win the Tour. He can easily regain lost time by doing well in the tough mountain

stages that begin on Tuesday.

Friday's sixth stage takes riders on a hilly, 131.34-mile stretch from Commercy in the Lorraine region to Strasbourg in neighboring Alsace.

Australian rider Stuart O'Grady kept the leader's yellow jersey for a third consecutive day after the 41.61-mile stage Thursday. O'Grady, who rides for Credit Agricole, has a total time of 20 hours, 54 minutes, 21 seconds.

He leads teammate Jens Voigt of Germany by 26 seconds. Another teammate, American Bobby Julich, is an additional second back. Armstrong is behind by 1:53.

"Today's been a surprise for everyone," O'Grady said after the team-time trial.

His team was the last to take the start in Verdun and crossed the finish line after 1:21:32, 31 seconds faster than the second-place Once group. Festina was third.

"We've got no real pressure on us to keep the jersey," O'Grady said. "You just take it one day at a time."

The stage itinerary took riders down the Sacred Route, a section of highway that was the French army's only supply line during the Battle of Verdun, one of World War I's bloodiest episodes.



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