

Montford accepts Southwestern Bell position

By MELISSA GUEST
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech Chancellor John Montford has accepted a position at Southwestern Bell Communications, Inc. He will begin as senior vice president for external affairs Sept. 3.

Although Montford had said he would not announce his decision until after his resignation took effect on Sept. 3, Board of Regents chairman Robert Brown said rumors of his decision were already circulating.

"I think it's really no secret he was

going to SBC," Brown said. "I think it was starting to get out pretty much all over Lubbock."

Montford did not return phone calls to *The University Daily* by press time.

However, Cindy Rugeley, vice chancellor for News and Informa-



Montford

tion, confirmed he has accepted the position.

She agreed that numerous speculations about Montford's plans prompted him to confirm his decision publicly.

"I think it's an opportunity he saw as the best decision for himself and his family at this time," she said. "It's an opportunity for him to work in the private sector while at the same time keeping his hand in public affairs, which he is very interested in."

In the meantime, incoming Interim Chancellor Dr. David Smith is in

the process of meeting with members of the Board of Regents to develop a plan for his new role, Rugeley said.

"The university and Health Sciences Center are still moving forward," she said.

Chris Talley, SBC spokesman, confirmed Montford has accepted a position as the senior vice president for external affairs. He said Montford will be responsible for SBC's regulatory and legislative operations throughout its 13-state territory.

"He brings a distinguished record of public service as chancellor of the

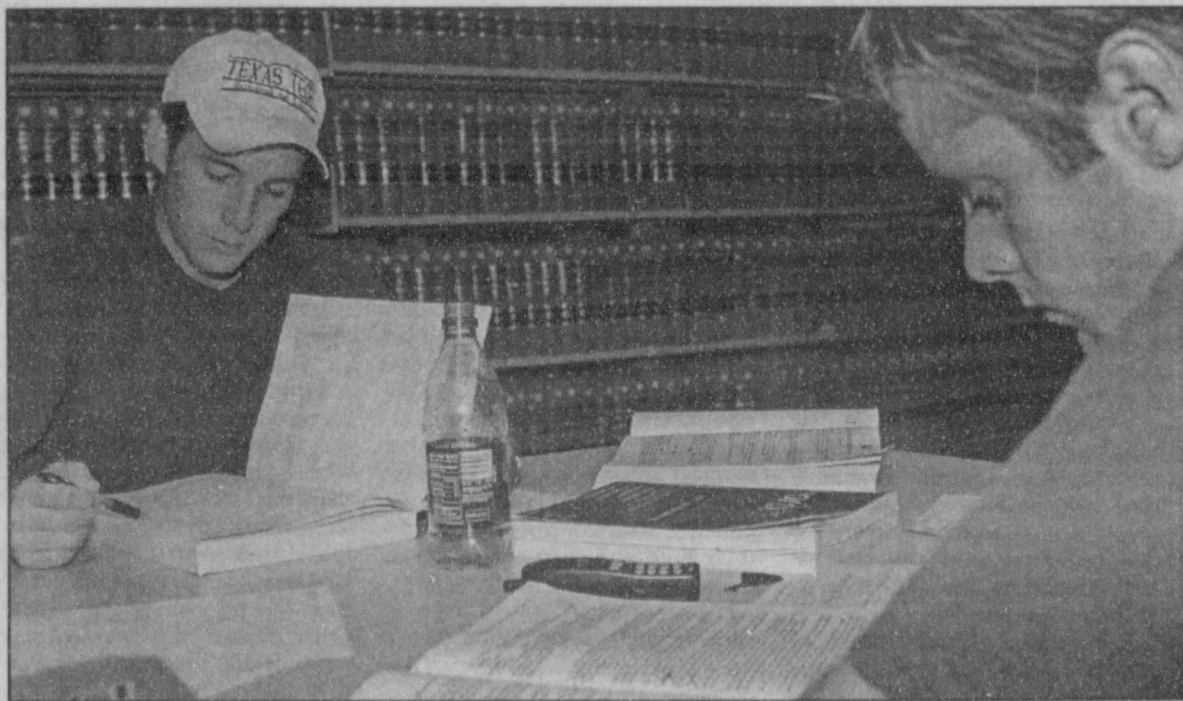
Texas Tech University system and 14 years of service in the Texas senate," he said. "We look forward to his insight and leadership in the public policy arena."

Talley said Montford will begin after he concludes his work at Tech on Sept. 3. Talley said the job will probably be at SBC's San Antonio headquarters.

Montford will represent SBC when dealing with state commissions and lawmakers who oversee policies that

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Down to the wire



Craig Swanson/THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

Amos Barton, a senior law student from Ballinger, and Jon Olafson, a senior law student from North Dakota, study for the Texas Bar Exam in the Tech law school library Monday. The exam begins today.

Legislators recognize Tech's role in rural projects

By TIFFANY E. KINGSTON
STAFF WRITER

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs and several Texas Rural Caucus legislators recognized Texas Tech for its role in rural community development Monday afternoon at the Ranching Heritage Center.

Combs unveiled new resources to help rural communities across Texas to attract and retain businesses.

The new legislation will strengthen the smaller communities, she said. The poverty rate in rural Texas is 26 percent.

"Rural Texas cannot thrive without strength," Combs said.

Texas Representative Bob Turner from Voss commended Tech on its effort to improve the health care in rural areas.

Combs said 26 rural counties in Texas do not have a primary care physician. In 1990 the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center implemented Telemedicine. The service allows Health Sciences physicians to communicate with patients through video conferencing.

Don McBath, Telemedicine director, said his staff sees about 2,700 patients a year via television.

"Telemedicine is a great tool to enhance Health Sciences Center access in rural communities," he said.

Last year, at the request of Tech President David Schmidly, a temporary rural development taskforce was created to publish a white paper, which is a condensed summation of Tech projects related to rural development.

A. Dean Fontenot, managing director of projects at the College of Engineering and a former member of the taskforce committee, said the group developed a list of Tech centers that provide a point of contact for people in the

see **RURAL**, page 3

Marijuana legalization talk set for Wednesday

■ *Speaker hopes to educate, persuade students about effects of legalization.*

By MELISSA GUEST
STAFF WRITER

Rick Day, founder and executive director of Texas' National Organization for the Reformation of Marijuana Laws (NORML), will speak Wednesday on issues concerning the legalization of marijuana in Texas. The speech will be at 5 p.m. at J&B Coffeehouse.

Day said he hopes to inform young people of their rights and provide an alternative view to the marijuana issue. He has been involved in efforts to reform the marijuana laws for more than 25 years and is considered a policy expert on marijuana.

"What I want to have happen is to put enough question in people's minds that they begin to ask their elected leaders if this is really the best way to deal with this," he said.

The government's war on drugs has created mounting costs, infringed on freedom and created an overall distrust in government, Day said.

"The bottom line is that you have a right to get high," he said. "If you have a right to smoke Marlboros or drink Martinis, you should have a right to smoke marijuana, which is arguably less harmful. Conversely, the government has no right to tell you what you can or can't put in your body as long as you're not harming anyone else."

Another reason for the speech is to inform young people of their rights when being confronted by law enforcement, Day said.

"It's important for young people to understand that they too have a big target on their back," he said. "The drug war is directed at the young, the poor, and people of color. It results in a shake down, and young pot smokers are the victims of this philosophy."

Last year, approximately 51,000 people were arrested for marijuana possession. Of those, Day said almost all were the result of a routine traffic stop. In many cases, these arrests result from illegal or unauthorized searches, he said.

"They're not busting in people's doors on their houses, they're busting them however they can and when they can, even if that means violating the Constitution," Day said.

Day said his speech is not aimed solely at those who share his opinion. He encourages others to challenge his views.

"I'll answer the hard, tough questions and I'll change my mind if they can convince me that the best way to deal with this problem is to lock up and criminalize young people."

The mission of the Texas chapter of NORML is to reform laws prohibiting use of marijuana in Texas and support the interests of law-abiding adult citizens in Texas to smoke marijuana responsibly without threat of criminal or civil penalties.

"The marijuana smoker has been portrayed as some kind of slacker, loser, or ne'er-do-well,"

see **MARIJUANA**, page 3

Pipeline deaths cause concern

AUSTIN (AP) — More than 200 people have been killed and more than 1,000 injured in the past decade from oil and natural gas pipeline fires and explosions across the country.

Yet the federal agency that polices the powerful industry is small, underfunded and understaffed and rarely imposes a fine, even when a pipeline explosion leads to death, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported in its Sunday edition.

The Office of Pipeline Safety, which has jurisdiction of over more than 2 million miles of pipelines, has 55 inspectors and is budgeted for 107 full-time employees.

The office is one of the smallest units within the U.S. Department of Transportation and delegates inspection and regulation to state and local authorities for much of the infrastructure.

The *American-Statesman*, in a yearlong study, found that for decades the agency has not known the exact whereabouts of thousands of miles of pipelines under its jurisdiction.

"There is almost an absence of regulation," said Jim Hall, until recently chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, the federal agency that investigates airliner crashes, train wrecks and other transportation disasters.

The federal government gives pipeline companies broad authority to inspect their own lines and decide

when they should be repaired or taken out of service. But the system, the newspaper reported, subjects the public and the environment to increased risk.

That system has resulted in companies continuing to operate lines known to be damaged.

After test results showed there were "anomalies" in a pipeline that ran through Bellingham, Wash., Olympic Pipe Line Co. failed to excavate the section of pipe, according to an interim report by the NTSB. The following year, two 10-year-old boys and an 18-year-old man died when 277,000 gallons of gasoline burst through that section of line and ignited.

The system also leads to questionable data being reported and thousands of miles of "gathering lines" that carry crude oil and natural gas from wellheads in rural areas to collection points not being regulated at all. Nationally, there are more than 200,000 miles of these lines. In Texas, there are 43,000 miles of gathering lines.

The amount of oil that drips into the environment from the gathering lines may never be known because companies are not required to report such leaks to the OPS.

The newspaper's study of the system also found that the OPS is on friendly terms with companies it regulates, warning the companies when inspectors are coming.

Drifter gets life terms for gay bar rampage

ROANOKE, Va. (AP) — A drifter who told police he was angered by jokes about his last name — Gay — was sentenced Monday to four life terms for a shooting rampage in a gay bar that killed one and wounded six others.

Ronald E. Gay, 55, told Circuit Judge Clifford Weckstein it would take months to explain the Sept. 22 shooting at the Backstreet Cafe.

"I have a lot of things running through my head," he said.

Gay pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and six malicious wounding charges. In court and interviews with police, he said he was on a mission to kill homosexuals and was upset over the slang connotation of his last name.

Witnesses said Gay walked into the bar, ordered a beer and opened fire when he saw Danny Lee Overstreet, 43, and a friend, John Collins, bend to hug each other. He shot both, then turned and wounded the others.

Gay, a Vietnam veteran, told authorities he had become obsessed with fulfilling four "missions": To stop corruption, to stop communism, to bring all Vietnam vets "out of the mountains" and to make all homosexuals move to San Francisco, which he thought

would stop the spread of AIDS.

While Gay has not been found legally insane, defense attorney Roger Dalton said his client heard voices telling him to kill homosexuals.

"Is this an evil person, or is this a sick person?" Dalton said.

Gay was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder by Veterans Affairs doctors. He was divorced six times and became an alcoholic and a drug abuser.

As early as 1986, Gay had expressed thoughts of violence toward gays. He became convinced that they were trying to destroy society with AIDS, according to court testimony.

Prosecutor Donald Caldwell compared Gay to a hand grenade: "You can understand what makes it function. But understanding doesn't cancel out the lethality."

Caldwell brought shooting victims to the stand to show how their injuries continued to control their life.

"I've been through more pain than what some people are able to endure," said Page Webb, who showed the judge with her index finger how Gay's bullet entered her temple and rattled around her skull.

Analyze this



Craig Swanson/THE UNIVERSITY DAILY
Brad Thornhill, a computer lab manager in the civil engineering program, demonstrates to students Monday afternoon how to use a new sample analysis program. The program is being used to analyze water.

AHA: Estrogen could hurt women

■ *Evidence links the drug to a growing number of strokes and heart disease.*

DALLAS (AP) — The American Heart Association is changing course and recommending that women not be prescribed estrogen solely to prevent strokes and heart disease, because of growing evidence that the supplements might cause harm.

Doctors long believed that hormone supplements are good for women's hearts. But the heart association — one of the most authoritative organizations in the field of heart disease prevention — cited conflicting evidence that has come out over the past few years.

Hormone supplements combining estrogen and progesterone are prescribed to about 20 million American women, mostly to treat hot flashes and other post-menopausal symptoms and to lower the risk of brittle bones.

The heart association said that

women taking hormones for the non-cardiac benefits do not need to stop. But women should not start taking hormones to prevent heart trouble.

The guidelines were published in Tuesday's issue of *Circulation*, a journal of the AHA. They represent a shift from 1999, when the organization said doctors may consider the use of hormones to help prevent heart disease.

The lead author of the guidelines, Dr. Lori Mosca, director of preventive cardiology at New York Presbyterian Hospital of Columbia and Cornell universities, said the widely held assumption that estrogen offers a protective effect is based on the fact that women generally have their first heart attack 10 years later than men.

But a review of research on the topic found no clear evidence that hormone replacement therapy reduces the risk of heart disease in women, and actually found that in some cases, women had a higher risk of heart problems, Mosca said.

For example, a study published earlier this month in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* concluded that post-menopausal women who have had a

heart attack or diagnosis of heart disease and are on hormone supplements for less than one year have an increased risk of another heart attack or dying from heart disease than those who are not on hormones.

While hormone treatment does benefit the heart by raising good cholesterol, reducing bad cholesterol and relaxing blood vessels, doctors know it also can have negative side effects, such as inflammation of blood vessels and blood clotting.

"The thing we thought was giving a benefit may cause problems in some women," Mosca said. "I think that a woman should be aware as to why she is taking hormone replacement therapy. Is she taking it because she thinks it's protecting her heart? I think women need to reflect upon why they are on it and consult with their doctor."

Dr. JoAnn E. Manson, chief of preventive medicine at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital, estimated that 20 percent of women taking hormone replacement therapy are doing so expressly to prevent heart disease.

Officials give more difficult Lotto A plus

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lottery officials say their gamble is paying off.

In the year since lottery officials made it harder to win lotto jackpots, prize money is growing and so are ticket sales, according to figures released by the Texas Lottery Commission. Average weekly Lotto Texas sales are up nearly 30 percent compared to a year ago.

Last July, lottery officials changed the rules for their biggest game, requiring players to match six numbers selected from a pool of 54, instead of the old, smaller pool of 50. That meant tougher

odds to win and the likelihood of bigger jackpots.

"What we did was change the game to make the jackpots larger, which is what the players really indicated to us they wanted," said Tom Clowe, chairman of the Texas Lottery Commission.

"These games are for the people of Texas and any of our neighbors who want to play. In retrospect, the change to the matrix of Lotto Texas has been a positive one that the players are accepting and liking."

According to figures released before last Saturday's drawing, the last 102 drawings before the change saw

about \$558.8 million in total sales with an average jackpot of \$9.89 million. In the first 102 drawings after the change, total sales were at \$706.5 million with an average jackpot of \$16.99 million.

The jackpot prize for Wednesday night's drawing is estimated at \$16 million.

The larger field of numbers bumped the odds of winning from one in 15.8 million to one in 25.8 million.

The change helped produce a record jackpot for Lotto Texas when the March 7 drawing was worth a state record \$85 million.

Police want more from Condit in Levy case

■ *The congressman again is showing willingness to answer questions.*

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Gary Condit signaled his willingness Monday to be interviewed a fourth time by police who are investigating the disappearance of missing former federal intern Chandra Levy.

A sixth day of searching in Washington parks yielded nothing.

"If the police or FBI have anything new they want to discuss, we're happy to cooperate," said Marina Ein, a spokeswoman for the California Democrat.

Ein declined comment on a possible time or place for a fourth meeting, which a police official has said could happen this week.

Condit was last questioned by police July 6, and investigators now want to enlist his help in developing a profile of Levy as a possible crime victim, a police official said.

An FBI profiler probably would sit in on the interview and attempt to

elicit from Condit some information about where Levy may have gone or who may have targeted her, assuming she was harmed, the official said.

Executive Assistant Police Chief Terrance Gainer said Condit may also be asked about a watch box he apparently discarded in a trash can in an Alexandria, Va., park, hours before police began searching his apartment late in the evening on July 10.

"I think he certainly owes us an explanation," Gainer told The Washington Post in Monday editions.

But police do not believe the

watch box has any relation to Levy's disappearance, officials said.

In a July 6 interview with police, Condit, 53 and married, admitted to an affair with Levy, 24, a police source said.

Police have said they do not consider Condit a suspect in Levy's disappearance, which they are treating as a missing person case, not a crime.

She was last seen April 30 at a Washington gym, a week after her internship ended at the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. Police believe she used her computer until about 1 p.m. the following day.

When police searched her apartment, they found her packed bags and most of her possessions. Levy's keys were missing.

Levy had told her parents and others that she would be back in California in time for May 11 graduation ceremonies at the University of Southern California. She was intending to pick up her master's degree in public administration.

Police cadets looked for Levy in two Washington parks without success, police spokesman Sgt. Joe Gentile said. They plan to resume the search Tuesday.

■ MARIJUANA

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Day said. "Most people that smoke are just like Willie Nelson; and that's my question, how will it help to put someone like Willie Nelson in jail?"

One issue many overlook in the debate over marijuana legalization is the economic impact it has, Day said. Texas spends more than \$2 billion each year enforcing marijuana laws, he said.

"I feel like the marijuana is-

sue is the most expensive and the most damaging. The damage is having the social stigma of being a drug convict," he said.

In addition, Day said the 67-year-old prohibition of marijuana has done little to deter its use.

"All it's done is expose more of it to young people through the black market," he said.

The Texas Tech School of Law's chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) sponsors Day's speech.

Allison Heathman, a Tech law student and ACLU member, said she first approached

Day to interview him for her legislative decision making class, in which she will make a presentation to four legislators in August. He agreed and suggested the speech.

"I realized it had been too long since Lubbock and Texas Tech have had an alternative point of view to the marijuana issue," Day said.

Heathman said she agrees marijuana should be legalized. She said she hopes the lecture will be an opportunity for more people to learn about the positives of legalizing marijuana.

"The reason I was really for this lecture is that he wants to talk to people who aren't for the legalization of marijuana and show them all the economic issues and reasons it should be legal," she said.

Heathman said she is trying to start a NORML chapter at Tech, and hopes more students will get involved as a result of the speech.

"I think lawyers should know the facts about marijuana and the legal side of it for sure," she said. "An economics major would be interested to find out how much money is

lost every year and what it is spent for. If they're a political science major they might want to find out policies and why it was prohibited," she said. "And of course there's the people who smoke pot and don't want to get in trouble. They'll want to see if this legislation is possible."

Law students are a prime audience, Day said, because of the impact they will have on the legal system after they graduate.

"Primarily, the group I'm speaking to is young attorneys or graduating attorneys. I want

them to be aware they could be more of a problem than solution," Day said.

In addition to founding the Texas chapter of NORML, Day is a member of Drug Policy Forum of Texas and Americans Against the Drug War. As executive director of the Texas NORML, he is responsible for organizing the efforts of Texas NORML members, petitioning state representatives regarding the reform of marijuana laws and educating the public on misconceptions about cannabis fostered by the Federal government's war on drugs.

■ RURAL

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rural community.

"If Lubbock loses its surrounding rural communities," she said, "we lose our community. Tech serves all of Texas, because it is a public state school, but we are obligated to focus on West Texas."

Fontenot said Tech depends on the surrounding rural area for research and students

"We want students in the rural community to think about higher education," she said. "Large universities can intimidate students from small communities."

Aside from the recruiting possibilities that stem from Tech's rural development ventures, Fontenot said the research gathered from the rural land is good for Tech's overall performance and quality of education.

In addition to the summation of Tech rural development resources, Bob McCombs, vice president of economic development and former chairperson of the taskforce, said a major accomplishment of the com-

mittee is the implementation of a permanent Office of Economic Development. The staff at the new office offers economic advice to the community as well as a guide to other economic resources Tech has to offer.

McCombs said all the rural development projects stay within the mission of the university. But most importantly the projects build up economic infrastructure to enable rural communities.

Fontenot said broadband Internet access is a primary concern for rural areas.

"All they have are expensive dial-up services," she said, "Some of those lines are long distance, which makes it difficult to do business."

McCombs agreed that broadband access is crucial to rural communi-

ties in order for them to compete for bigger business.

The taskforce formed a coalition to generate funding for one of Tech's rural development projects that will connect Hobbs, N.M., to Lubbock and then north to Tulia with broadband cables. McCombs roughly estimated the cost of the project at about \$1 million. The coalition has already acquired about \$400,000 in nonfederal funds and needs about \$100,000 more. The funds raised will then be matched by the state.

Fontenot said with the more efficient broadband technology, people in the rural communities can access Tech's online resources and communicate with the staff.

He said Tech wants to expand its broadband project to other rural areas in the future.

■ MONTFORD

from page 1

affect the company's business, Talley said.

The move to SBC is a good one for Montford and for the university, Brown said.

"As far as John going to work for SBC, obviously we'd rather keep him at Tech, but if he had to leave to go anywhere it's great it's with them," he said. "They've been a huge supporter of Texas Tech and I can't help but think it will only strengthen our relationship with them."

The board will meet Aug. 10 to discuss the search process for a permanent chancellor, Brown said.

"At this point, we are more focused on getting our interim chancellor in place and getting through that process."

Brown said it is hard to determine how long the process will take before forming a search committee.

"We will seek out the best person we can. Until then, I think we are in excellent hands with Dr. Smith," Brown said. "He obviously knows the university system and I feel comfortable with him in the slot until we are able to fill that position."

Debbie Montford, director of Campus Caregivers, said she would not comment on her husband's decision. As far as Campus Caregivers, she said they will take action when students return for the fall.

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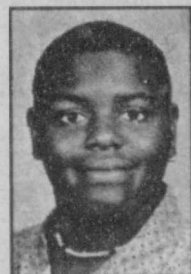
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OPINIONS & IDEAS

[COLUMN]

Americans too weight obsessed

Every year \$40 billion is spent on things that we don't need. Things that are supposed to help and cure, but they don't. These dollars don't go to household items or toward products that work correctly.



Damion Davis

This money is spent on diet products. Products that people use to fit into their size eight or three. Our society is fixated on weight — who has it and who doesn't.

Are you one of those people

who walk into a restaurant and pick out the people that you feel should not be there? Do you look at certain people and think that they are too fat to do anything but sit and eat? Do you make it hard for overweight people to make it through the day?

Obesity is a growing problem faced by thousands on a daily basis. In some places being obese is somewhat of a celebration. People crowd around these people, praise them and make them feel beautiful.

But America is not known for those types of gestures. In America, if one doesn't have the supermodel body type he or she is not considered attractive to most people.

I know I am overweight. I have lived with it my whole life. But I, unlike most

people, am secure with how I look and who I am. I was bigger than I am now, but because of words that came from the mouths of others and the snickers I received when arriving at a destination, I decided that being overweight was not a good thing for me.

Weight, unlike color, can be changed. I changed myself for the wrong reasons. I wanted to be part of the attractive section of the world. It was not until I looked at myself in the mirror to see what I was doing and how I was acting, that I realized I was trying to change my appearance for the wrong reasons. If I wanted to look better, then I was going to do it for myself — not to fit into a stereotype made by other people.

So that is what I did. Then I received the glory of losing weight for no one but myself.

If you are one of those people that think there is a certain look everyone must configure to, then you are the one that needs to change.

You need to look deep within yourself and realize you are the one with the problem against weight. It's not the people that actually are overweight; it's the people that think they're better because they are not. Remember that the next time you are at a buffet and start looking at the people who should or should not be there.

Damion Davis is a freshman communications major from Lubbock. He can be e-mailed at threeed5@hotmail.com.

[LETTER TO THE EDITOR]

To the editor: While reading Tuesday's opinions page, I was shocked to come across Damion Davis's article, "Drinking age is right where it should be."

Many of the arguments he made make little or no sense. For example, when Damion writes "I do not think there would be fewer violations, I think children would just start to drink at a younger age." Wouldn't this be an expected thing if the drinking age was lowered? Lower the legal age, and people at a younger age can drink. Is this really that hard of a concept to perceive?

Damion also makes mention of how other countries have lower drinking ages, and that if we really want that, we should move. The idea of America was that the people have the power to change the government. Freedom of the people allows them to work toward changing laws they feel don't work. And just so Davis is aware, the founding fathers did not set a legal drinking age in this country. The Uniform Drinking Age Act we have was not established until 1984, in which all states are required to have the legal drinking age of 21.

Also, in foreign countries such as France and England, the blood-alcohol levels for being legally drunk are much lower than our own. Though they have lower drinking ages, they seem to be more responsible with alcohol. Don't these ideas seem to contradict Damion's arguments?

So please, Damion, when you decide to write an argumentative column, research your thoughts. People will take you more seriously in your articles, and be less angered by your ignorance.

*Ryon Elliot
senior, design communications
Arlington*



[COLUMN]

Politicians could use a good dose of morality

As the future of U.S. Rep. Gary Condit hangs in the air, we must again decide if public life and private life are two separate things or one in the same.



Katie Harris

After the story of missing Washington intern Chandra Levy broke, yet another official in our nation's capital was under heat for having sexual relations with a young intern. Though the facts relating to Levy's disappearance have yet to become clear, one thing is for sure — once again an elected official admits to having an extramarital affair only after first lying about the incident during an investigation.

Again the question of whether or not a public official's personal life matters is being asked. Condit has the support of many of his colleagues in Congress, including Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and U.S. Rep. Charlie Rangel, who believe Condit's

actions outside the office do not affect his job.

Others aren't so sure. Several of Condit's constituents organized a protest outside his California office last Tuesday, asking the congressman to resign.

Condit has yet to break any laws, though obstructing a police investigation certainly comes close, yet he is being asked to give up his job.

Work and home are generally separate places. For most people what they do aside from their job often does not directly influence their performance, nor effect patrons of the business. You probably would not care what your mechanic does in his spare time. There are exceptions however.

The New Webster's Dictionary, pocket edition, defines public as "not private; affecting a community; widely known." Condit, as a congressman, is a public official. When first elected to the office in 1989, he took the responsibility of representing his constituents. By running for office, Condit knew he would be in the public's eye.

Having a private life while in public office is essentially a conflict of interest.

Would we expect the president to stop being the president after 5 p.m.? It is not possible to pick and choose

times when you are a or aren't a governor, mayor or another public official.

No one is perfect and we all make mistakes. However, when we elect officials into office, we hope they will serve us by not only bettering the country, but by also instilling the principle values of America. Values such as sincerity, fidelity and above all, honesty.

Is it too much to ask that people in power maintain a standard of morality? If a congressman makes the mistake of having an affair then he should apologize for it, not lie about it.

The scandals involving things like lying and sex are not making our country better. These scandals are detrimental to a country that is already struggling with low morality.

Maybe, one day, politicians and voters alike will realize that public office is not just a job, but something that demands an individual to sacrifice a sense of privacy in order to better the country in which they serve.

Maybe we should start putting a disclaimer on public office. Keep your pants on.

Katie Harris is a sophomore English major from Lubbock. She can be e-mailed at raiderx81@cs.com.

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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.

Man convicted of racial dragging death in Jasper still unapologetic

LIVINGSTON (AP) — Nearly 2 1/2 years have passed since John William King made his last public impression, an obscurity uttered from the courthouse steps as he headed to death row for chaining a black man behind a pickup and dragging him to death.

Today, King remains unapologetic, firm in his racist beliefs and confident he'll eventually be found innocent of one of the most notorious hate crimes in modern history.

"I'm not a hate-monger murderer," King said in an interview with The Associated Press, his first since arriving on death row. "I'm a racist. People don't like a white racist, so I make a perfect target."

"I don't resent the fact of being labeled a racist, even though their politically correct definition of racist varies drastically from mine. Just as a Baptist loves and supports his religion, so a racist loves and supports his race."

King, 26, was condemned to death for the June 1998 murder of James Byrd Jr., who was chained at his ankles behind a pickup truck and then dragged for nearly three miles along a bumpy, country Jasper road until he was dismembered and decapitated.

Jurors at King's trial spent days hearing about his white supremacist writings and the intricate racist tattoos he obtained while imprisoned for burglary. The tattoos include a black man hanging from a tree and Ku Klux Klan symbols.

From a tiny cage in the visiting area of the Terrell Unit, King said that while his beliefs and tattoos were a major focus of the trial, prosecutors still did not prove he murdered Byrd.

"I'm proud to be white," he said. "And if they're going to kill me because of that, so be it. I'm not going to denounce my beliefs and be subjugated by society."

"I know why they chose me. I see myself in the mirror every day. I see these tattoos every day. I know the facts of my case. I know the truth. If that truth ever comes to light, people will say: 'I'll be damned.'"

King offers only the barest details of his case, but insists the truth is that he wasn't at the crime scene in the early morning hours of June 7, 1998; that he was on the telephone with his girlfriend; that he played no role in the 49-year-old man's gruesome death.

At his trial, prosecutors presented evidence that King's lighter, inscribed with his nickname "Possum," was

found in a remote Jasper County area where Byrd apparently was fastened to the back of Berry's truck. King's DNA was found on a cigarette butt nearby.

King explained that his lighter had been stolen a week earlier and the cigarette came from a previous trip in Berry's truck. He suggested the ashtray was kicked and dumped when Byrd resisted as he was pulled out of the truck.

He said he chose not to testify because it would not have affected the trial's outcome.

"People hear what they want to hear," he said with a shrug, blaming a conspiracy by his attorneys, prosecutors and others for contributing to the case against him.

"They had to use all the emotional appeal generated behind my case to get a conviction," he said. "If they didn't give the community what they wanted, there would be repercussions. When you've got armed black militias marching in the streets and the cops can't do nothing about it, if you were a juror on that trial, would you have gone against the grain?"

Two other white men also were found guilty of capital murder in Byrd's death. Lawrence Russell Brewer received a death sentence. Shawn Allen Berry was sentenced to life in prison.

Prosecutor Guy James Gray, who won convictions against all three men, was blunt in his assessment of King's story.

"My reaction," he said, "is that he's a liar."

Gray pointed to witnesses who testified seeing King with the lighter the night Byrd was killed and who said the ashtray in the truck had been cleaned and not used for some time. He said the telephone call to King's girlfriend was made after 5:30 a.m.; while Byrd was killed about 3 a.m.

"They were back home by then," Gray said.

He denied King was the victim of any kind of conspiracy and responded to King's suggestion that he would leave prison a free man with a simple declaration: "No, sir."

King said he knows his fight for

freedom through appeals would be unpopular but he is convinced he will prevail. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals already has affirmed his conviction, moving the appellate process into the federal courts.

"Considering the emotionalism of this case, it's going to be a hell of a battle," he said. "I know no judge is going to want to rule in my favor, simply because of repercussions."

"There is no doubt that if it was anybody else, I'd be walking out of here."

In the meantime, King spends 23 hours a day alone in a cell, passing time by reading and writing. He's received at least four reprimands for disobeying rules, leading to reductions in the few privileges condemned inmates get. Only two of the reprimands were justified, King said.

"I've got a smart mouth," he acknowledged. "I speak my mind. I won't conform. I won't be subjugated if I know I'm right. I'm going to stand up and scream it and people don't like that. They'd rather have my head on a platter and my blood on their hands than my words in their ears. That's the way I see it. The truth hurts."

King did say he wanted to clarify what happened on Feb. 25, 1999, outside the Jasper County Courthouse, as he was confronted by a taunting crowd and a mob of reporters shouting questions. The insult he uttered was not directed at the Byrd family, he said.

"I was answering the media. At the same time, somebody hurled the question about the Byrd family. That was just a quirk of fate," he said.

When asked if he had anything to say to the family today, he replied: "I can understand how they feel. It's best I just keep my mouth shut about that. I have my own feelings but I have nothing to say to them. I understand their position in the matter."

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Galveston drownings lead to reevaluations

GALVESTON (AP) — Four deaths this month off a stretch of the Houston Ship Channel near Galveston Island's east end have raised questions about how best to use resources to prevent further drownings.

That area of the island, marked by a rocky shore and strong currents, is not monitored by lifeguards. Signs are posted warning swimmers of danger.

Some activists last week suggested that the ship channel be closed to swimmers. But drownings have happened in other unguarded parts of the island this year as well, *The Galveston County Daily News* reported in its Sunday editions.

About three million people visit island beaches each year. In the last three years, there has not been a drowning in guarded areas of the beach during the times when lifeguards are on duty, says Beach Patrol director Vic Maceo.

Lifeguard towers are located along the seawall at each rock jetty, with four on Stewart beach and five at R.A. Apfel Park.

"The location of towers is determined by past history and past experience," said Maceo, who has been working with the agency for 35 years, and has been in charge for 20 years.

"We know for a fact that over 90 percent of the accidents on the beachfront occur near or around

the rock jetties," he said.

Beach Patrol officials say they concentrate their efforts along the jetties because of the danger around them.

Around the rock jetties, the water builds up, and has to find a way to run back out to sea, which causes rip currents on one side or the other of each jetty, depending on wind direction.

This is one reason warning signs are posted at the rock jetties advising swimmers to stay at least 100 feet away from them, Maceo said.

On the island's east end, out by the ship channel, lifeguards are not posted because it's not an area the beach patrol normally covers. The west end of the island is also unguarded.

In the last three years there have been 32 drownings in unguarded areas of the beaches, according to Beach Patrol records.

Quanell X of the New Black Panther Party said last week that the drownings on the island's east end indicate a systemic problem with that beach and the lack of safety measures at that location.

He asked that the city consider closing the beach unless these safety problems can be corrected.

But fewer people using beaches on these parts of the island and a lack of rock jetties means the beach patrol has to focus its manpower on other areas of the island, Maceo said.

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Music- Bleu Edmondson
- Saturday \$5 Pitchers / Music- Dub Miller



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Boy band impresario experiencing rough times

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — When it comes to riding the boy-band wave in pop music, nobody has done it better than Lou Pearlman.

The Backstreet Boys, 'N Sync and O-Town are just a few of the groups the Orlando-based impresario and his company, Trans Continental Entertainment, have launched on the road to hormone-fueled success.

But in the past few months, Pearlman has hit some sour notes.

About 15 key executives and staffers, including company vice presidents, the chief operating officer, a tour manager, accountants and publicists, have left or been laid off.

O-Town, Pearlman's latest breakout success, recently left for a management firm run by former Trans Continental executives, although Pearlman will still earn money from them under a production agreement.

Trans Continental also had trouble finding a distributor for a movie it made for \$15 million and shopped around Hollywood.

Only one artist now managed by Trans Continental, 16-year-old Richard Lugo, has a U.S. record label, al-

though Pearlman recently took under his wing B4-4, which has a label in Canada.

Two of the acts Pearlman developed — the girl group Innosense and the boy group Take 5 — recently tried to get out of their contracts. Take 5, which has lost its lead singer, succeeded, and Innosense's release is being negotiated. Innosense manager Dennis Steinmetz said he didn't feel Trans Continental was behind the act anymore.

Music industry watchers and former employees aren't about to write Pearlman off, however, saying he may just be on a downward slope in a business that has regular peaks and valleys.

"From what it seems to the public eye, they may have reached a low, but I think it's premature to say that they're through or the company is going downhill," said Jil Shingledecker, a former Trans Continental marketing and public relations coordinator, who was laid off in October.

Pearlman has dismissed any problems, characterizing the layoffs as people leaving whose projects were finished. He said the executives

who departed did so on amicable terms and just wanted to branch out on their own.

As for the artists who have left, Pearlman said it was part of a strategy to separate his management and production operations.

"You can't be both, to avoid any conflict of interest," Pearlman said. "It's a matter of us amicably dividing church and state where management and production have to be separated."

He added, "We're making more money this year than we did last year."

Trans Continental has recently tried to transform itself from a management and production company to a full-service record company, said Scott Bennett, vice president of Trans Continental Records. The company is putting particular focus on a new act, Natural, which is touring with the Monkees.

Natural was the subject of a lawsuit earlier this year filed by another manager who accused Pearlman of stealing the group away from him. The lawsuit is currently being settled. "The company is very healthy,"

Bennett said.

Billboard magazine senior editor Chuck Taylor, for one, was impressed with Natural. The boy-band phenomenon is going to be around for some time, he said, as evidenced by the hype over 'N Sync's latest album, and despite the recent misfortunes of Backstreet Boy A.J. McLean, who checked into rehab.

"Lou Pearlman is the Madonna of the business side of music. I think he reinvents himself with the trends that go on in music," Taylor said. "I think he's going to be around longer than most of the bands that he creates."

Pearlman was hurt by the defection and subsequent lawsuits, eventually settled, filed by his biggest successes, the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync, in the late 1990s. Both groups sued to be released from their deals, accusing Pearlman of deception and cheating them out of money.

Recent changes in the industry have also worked against Pearlman, some say.

The pop market is harder for groups to break into now than it was just a few years ago because there are so many acts taking up radio time,

said Alan Siegel, Trans Continental's former executive vice president for records.

Siegel, who left the company three months ago to form his own business with another ex-Trans Continental vice president, said it's common for singers to change managers, and noted that companies nationwide are going through downsizing.

"There have been changes in the entertainment industry as a whole," Siegel said. "I don't think Trans Con should be singled out."

Pearlman may have lost some traction by investing millions in the movie, known at different stages as "Longshot" and "Jack of All Trades." Described variously as a vanity project or home movie of his pop acts, it stars soap-opera actress Hunter Tylo and Trans Continental vice president Tony DeCamillis; features actor Paul Sorvino and comedian Gilbert Gottfried; and has cameos by Britney Spears and 'N Sync's Justin Timberlake.

Pearlman said last week that it has found an international distributor and will be released in Europe in September.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

MTV ANNOUNCES VIDEO MUSIC AWARD NOMINEES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK (AP) — Fatboy Slim received nine MTV Video Music Award nominations Monday for "Weapon of Choice" — a video in which he never appears. Its sole star: actor Christopher Walken, dressed as a businessman who dances around an empty hotel lobby.

Among the leading nine nods it received were for best video and best director (Spike Jonze of "Being John Malkovich" fame).

"Lady Marmalade," a "Moulin

Rouge"-inspired collaboration featuring Christina Aguilera, Lil' Kim, Mya and Pink, received six nominations. Also getting six nods were 'N Sync's special effects-laden "Pop" and Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott's dance-oriented "Get Ur Freak On."

"Weapon of Choice" will compete for video of the year honors with "Lady Marmalade," "Get Ur Freak On," Eminem's "Stan," featuring singer Dido, Janet Jackson's "All for You" and U2's "Beautiful Day."

Destiny's Child's "Survivor," "Stan" and "U2" each got five nominations,

Jackson's "All for You" four.

The awards will be presented Sept. 6 in New York.

THIRD 'JURASSIC PARK' INSTALLMENT TOPS WEEKEND BOX OFFICE RECEIPTS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Jurassic Park III" dominated the competition at the weekend box office, earning \$50.7 million to claim the top spot.

The third sequel in the dinosaur saga has earned \$81.3 million since it debuted Wednesday.

The Julia Roberts comedy "America's Sweethearts" opened in

second place with \$30.1 million. Last week's top movie, "Legally Blonde," fell to third place with \$11.1 million.

TELEVISION CRITICS ASSOCIATION NAMES BEST SHOWS, PERFORMERS

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — "The Sopranos" was named program of the year by the Television Critics Association Saturday and tied with "The West Wing" for top drama honors.

Sid Caesar, who set the benchmark for TV comedy with "Your Show of Shows" in the 1950s, received a career achievement award from the

critics' group.

Acting honors went to "The Sopranos" star James Gandolfini and to Jane Kaczmarek of Fox's "Malcolm in the Middle," which was chosen as the outstanding comedy. The WB's "Gilmore Girls" was named best new program. HBO's "The Sopranos" and NBC's "The West Wing" will compete for the best drama award at the Emmy ceremony Sept. 16. "Malcolm in the Middle" also is an Emmy nominee.

Filmmaker Ken Burns received the news and information award for his PBS series "Jazz," while ABC's "Life with Judy Garland: Me & My Shadows" was honored in the movies, miniseries and specials category.

Two PBS programs, "Between the Lions" and "Sesame Street," shared honors in the children's programming category.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION KICKS OFF ITS INAUGURAL COMPETITION

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The SIBL Project, a new nonprofit organization that connects musicians and authors to promote reading and adult literacy, has kicked off its inaugural songwriting competition.

Songwriters may submit songs inspired by books, plays or poems for inclusion on a benefit CD. The "Chapter One" CD will be released in February 2002, according to the organization.

One grand-prize winner will receive a \$2,500 award.

Deadline for entries is Sept. 8, International Literacy Day.

The SIBL Project plans to produce annual songwriting contests, benefit CDs and concerts that will feature the work of authors and musicians. Net proceeds will benefit adult literacy programs in different regions around the country each year.

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U.S. cyclist riding strong to Tour finish

■ Armstrong may be six stages from his third straight Tour de France title.

PAU, France (AP) — Stronger, faster, leaner than ever before, Lance Armstrong is turning this year's Tour de France into a Tour de Force.

A rare third consecutive title in the world's toughest cycling event is within easy reach six days from the finish, thanks to his stunning performance in the Alps and the Pyrenees.

But more impressive is the Texan's complete domination of the field that has rivals and observers in awe.

"Simply unbeatable," is how Armstrong's main challenger, Jan Ullrich of Germany, described the two-time champion and cancer survivor. "This year, he is stronger than ever."

Ullrich, the 1997 champion, is widely regarded as in his best ever form. Yet in almost every mountain stage, he has pulled ahead of Armstrong only to be overtaken and left stranded in the final stretch.

"I don't know what I should do," Ullrich said after Armstrong won the grueling first mountain stage between Aix-les-Bains and L'Alpe d'Huez. "I did everything well — except for Lance."

The Team Telekom rider had led the main pack for most of the day when, at the foot of the last climb, Armstrong moved in front. He looked behind, staring into Ullrich's sunglasses, then sped off into the distance.

A familiar pattern emerged in two other mountain stages: the stretch from Perpignan to Plateau de Bonascre and the leg between Foix and Pla d'Adet, which Armstrong won.

He also triumphed in the

uphill time-trial from Grenoble to Chamrousse, taking the start after Ullrich and slashing one minute off the German's blistering time.

"Lance Armstrong once said that Jan Ullrich is the greatest talent in cycling. This doesn't seem to be the case," Ullrich said afterward. "But I am not giving up, despite everything, and I'll try everything. I've never been in such good shape."

He did beat Armstrong once — in Sunday's Tarbes-to-Luz-Ardiden stage — but that was because the Texan let him.

"At this point, it's not worth being any more aggressive than we need to be," Armstrong said of his fourth-place finish behind Ullrich.

By the time Armstrong reached Luz-Ardiden he was in the overall lead, ahead of Ullrich by 5 minutes and 5 seconds — an almost unbeatable advantage with only six flat stages remaining before the

race finish in Paris on July 29.

"This year, we worked even harder than we did in 1999 and 2000," said the U.S. Postal Service rider, explaining his performance. He won the first title after an extraordinary

the difference with Jan," said Ullrich's team manager, Walter Godefrout. "Armstrong is an exceptional champion, who takes his place among the all-time greats."

Armstrong has been

"I have a questionable reputation because I'm a cyclist," he said. "People love to single out cycling. This is an issue of sport. The problems are not exclusive to cycling or the Tour de France or Lance Armstrong."

Armstrong admitted that his relationship with Dr. Michele Ferrari, an Italian linked to drug use, might appear questionable and said he would review it after the doctor's September trial.

But Armstrong reiterated that he believes Ferrari is innocent.

"People are not stupid," he said. "They will look at the facts. They will say: 'Here's Lance Armstrong. Here's a relationship. Is it questionable? Perhaps.'"

"But people are smart," he continued. "They will say: 'Has Lance Armstrong ever tested positive? No. Has Lance Armstrong ever been tested? A lot.'"

"I don't know what I should do. I did everything well — except for Lance."

Jan Ullrich
GERMAN CYCLIST

comeback from life-threatening testicular cancer that required brain surgery after it had spread.

The dedication hasn't escaped the attention of his rivals.

"Armstrong is someone who lives 12 months a year, 24 hours a day, for his job. That's

dogged in France by speculation about drug use. On Monday, he said this was inevitable because of cycling's tarnished reputation: the 1998 Tour de France was nearly wrecked by a doping scandal that led to the conviction of several people.

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DOUBLE T Bookstore is now hiring for August rush. Please apply at any location, 4140 19th, 1009 University, 3204 4th Street.

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Officials to see trial over Knight's firing

■ **Open meeting laws may have been broken before the coach's termination.**

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — A lawsuit claiming that Indiana University trustees broke the state's open meetings law the day before coach Bob Knight was fired can proceed to

trial, a judge ruled.

"I think this is IU's worst nightmare," said Gojko Kasich, the lead attorney for a group of alumni and basketball fans who are challenging whether the university legally fired the Hall of Fame coach last year.

The university wanted Judge Cecile Blau to decide the entire case in its favor without going to trial, but she ruled a portion of the claim dealing with the open meetings law should move forward.

Kasich said the ruling, issued last Thursday, means he can begin deposing IU President Myles Brand and IU trustees to find out what happened during a series of small group meetings held the day before Brand fired Knight last September.

"That's the one thing they wanted to avoid more than anything, was to expose Brand and the trustees to depositions," Kasich said. "I haven't seen the ruling but I think (Blau) would want to know what went on

behind closed doors."

No trial date has been set.

Blau granted part of the university's summary judgment request by ruling that Brand had acted within his powers when he fired Knight.

IU spokeswoman Susan Dillman said university attorneys were pleased with the ruling and were discussing their next step.

The lawsuit claims that meetings between Brand and separate groups

of four trustees were public meetings as defined by state law. As such, the lawsuit argues, the university should have given 48 hours notice so the public could attend.

The suit also argues that Brand did not have sole authority to fire Knight.

Brand met with trustees in small groups on Sept. 9 and announced Knight's firing the next day, saying Knight had violated a "zero-tolerance" behavior policy imposed in May 2000.

Cowboys' Tony Banks not expected to mirror Aikman's glory days

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — The new starting quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys wears No. 3 and has diamond studs in both ears. He's lost 11 more games than he's won and he's never completed a pass in a playoff game.

Tony Banks is no Troy Aikman. And the Dallas Cowboys aren't expecting him to be.

"We asked Troy on a number of occasions to win the football game for us. We're not asking our quarterbacks to do that now," coach Dave Campo said. "They're going to manage games, do what they do best and get the ball to the guys that have a chance to win games for us."

Banks is the first player other than Aikman to go into training camp as Dallas' starting quarterback since Steve Pelfeur in 1988.

But making fans forget Aikman isn't even on Banks' radar. At 28, going into his sixth season and third team, his biggest concern is to finally establish himself as an NFL quarterback.

"I think I've got one year left, maybe, with the potential label," Banks said, smiling. "I'm almost past my limit."

Banks was a second-round pick by St. Louis in 1996 and became the starter right away. He lasted two more years but wasn't consistent enough, so he was traded to Baltimore.

While the Rams were on their way to winning the Super Bowl, Banks got off to a good start with the Ravens, going 6-4 and throwing a career-best 17 touchdown passes. He remained the starter going into last season, but lost the job to Trent Dilfer in October.

Dilfer remained in charge all the way to a Super Bowl title. Banks threw only five more passes all season.

This off-season, the Cowboys were the only team offering Banks a chance to step in as a starter so he accepted an offer of \$500,000 for one year, with no signing bonus — and the onus of replacing Aikman.

"I know there's a lot of tradition and legend there with Troy, but I'd rather come in after a guy like Troy and expectations are high than come in after a guy who didn't do anything and have no expectations," Banks said.

The 6-foot-4, 230-pound Banks is more mobile than Aikman and has the arm strength to zing the ball downfield and let speedy receivers Joey Galloway and Raghib Ismail run under it.

Banks isn't as accurate on the short- and medium-range timing passes that were Aikman's specialty. He's also been fumble-

“

I think I've got one year left, maybe with the potential label. I'm almost past my limit."

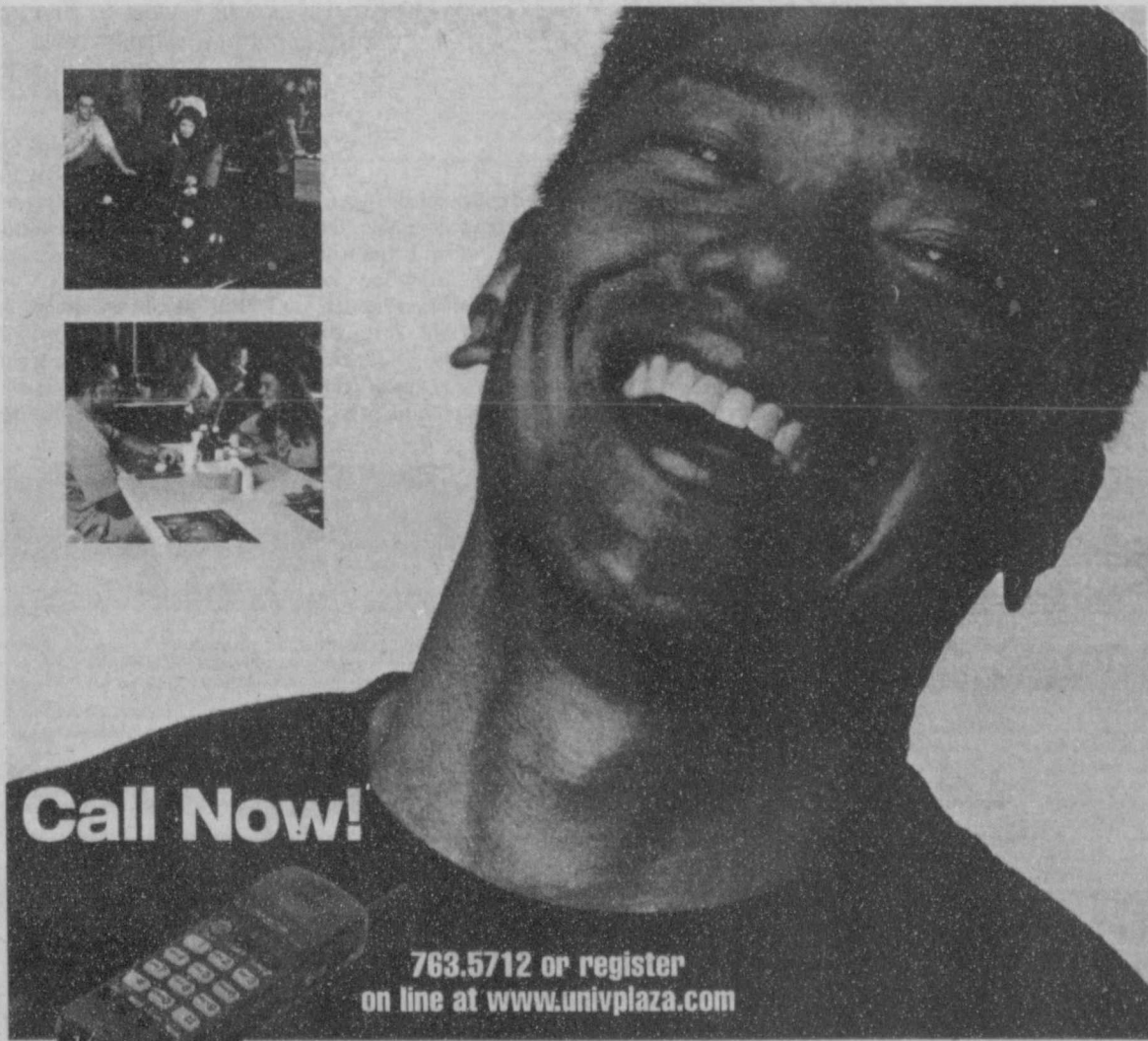
Tony Banks
COWBOYS' QUARTERBACK

prone and has thrown nearly as many interceptions (58) as touchdowns (61).

"The offenses I've been in before have had a lot more freedom to audible," he said. "Basically this is call-the-play-and-run-it. That makes it a little easier."

The Cowboys aren't looking to Banks as their long-term answer at quarterback, especially not with owner Jerry Jones already putting that tag on top draft pick Quincy Carter. Dallas also likes Anthony Wright, who broke into the NFL in the final four games of last season.

But there's no question Banks is the starter. How he handles this third chance will determine where he's playing next year and for how much.



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