



**MORNING RAIN**  
High 48 / Low 36  
**Saturday**  
High 54 / Low 52

# The University Daily

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**FRIDAY**  
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## Police, FBI agents testify at Butler trial

By Heidi Toth/News Editor

Four more witnesses testified Thursday that Dr. Thomas Butler talked about the missing plague bacteria calmly, which they thought was inconsistent with his statement that he thought 30 vials of *Yersinia pestis* were stolen.

The prosecution continued presenting its case against Butler, the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center professor implicated in the Jan. 14 incident. He is charged with 69 counts of lying to the FBI, mail and wire fraud, embezzlement and smuggling.

Sgt. Frank Miller of the Tech Police Department said on Jan. 14 Butler calmly an-

swered all of his questions, including telling Miller he noticed the vials missing on Jan. 11, and the bacteria could be aerosolized and weaponized in as little as four days.

Billy Lang, who in January was a detective sergeant with the Tech Police Department, said the same thing about his interview with Butler.

"He didn't really show any concern; he was nonchalant," he said.



Butler

FBI Special Agent Michael Orndorff agreed. "He had a very calm demeanor; he didn't look like he was in any way stressed about anything," he said.

Charles Bradley, a professor of pathology at HSC, said when he talked to Butler that day Butler did not mention he had a problem with his lab. There was no break from his usual demeanor.

Miller said he went to Butler's lab to investigate and did not find any signs of forced entry. After confirming the vials were missing, he asked Butler to accompany him back to the police station for more questioning and because the FBI would probably want to talk to him. Butler first asked if it could wait until

the next morning, then agreed to go.

Lang took over the case when Butler arrived at the station. Both Lang and Orndorff, who interviewed him at about the same time, said he did not appear tired or sick; he was offered food but declined it; and Lang said there was no coercion on the law enforcement's side. Gutten was cooperative.

On cross examination Lang said he was aware of other thefts that took place, and security at the HSC was not incredibly tight. Butler did not request a lawyer, he said.

Orndorff said he asked Butler to compile a list of people who had access to his lab and people who were adversarial toward him. Two members of the Institutional Review Board,

as was the assistant vice president above the IRB. The board had suspended Butler two months earlier from doing human research.

Several FBI agents and Tech police officers immediately went to the homes of people on this list. Orndorff and special agent Shannon Fish went to Dr. Donald Wesson's house, Butler's immediate supervisor, then to the houses of the two IRB members, neither of whom had any knowledge that Butler even had the plague bacteria.

"It was even more troubling to them because he had been suspended in November from any type of human study," Orndorff said.

BUTLER continued on page 3

## LORD of the dance

World known act performed Thursday

By Justin Vallejo/Staff Reporter

The world-renowned Irish step dance and musical performance Lord of The Dance arrived in Lubbock last night.

Tech students as well as members from the local community were on hand to witness the performance.

As an opener for the "Give Your Regards to Broadway" season produced by Celebrity Attractions and Civic Lubbock, Lord of The Dance is giving four performances in the Hub city.

Lord of The Dance combines Celtic music and dance to depict tale of the classic battle of good versus evil. From the onset of the performance, audience members were captivated by the artistic style and grace displayed by the performers of the dance troupe that makes up the Lord of The Dance.

"I heard a lot about it and I wanted to see it for myself. It's everything I expected," said Stan McCallich, resident of Lubbock.

He said he was impressed with the choreography and the level of enthusiasm of the performance.

Matt McCollum, a senior marketing major from Eastland was impressed with the show.

"It all flows together," he said. "The energy is really neat. It looks like they're really having fun."

Katie Gollan said she enjoyed the Lord of the Dance because it is something new to Lubbock.

The senior psychology and pre-nursing major from Plano said she was most impressed with the synchronization of the troupe.

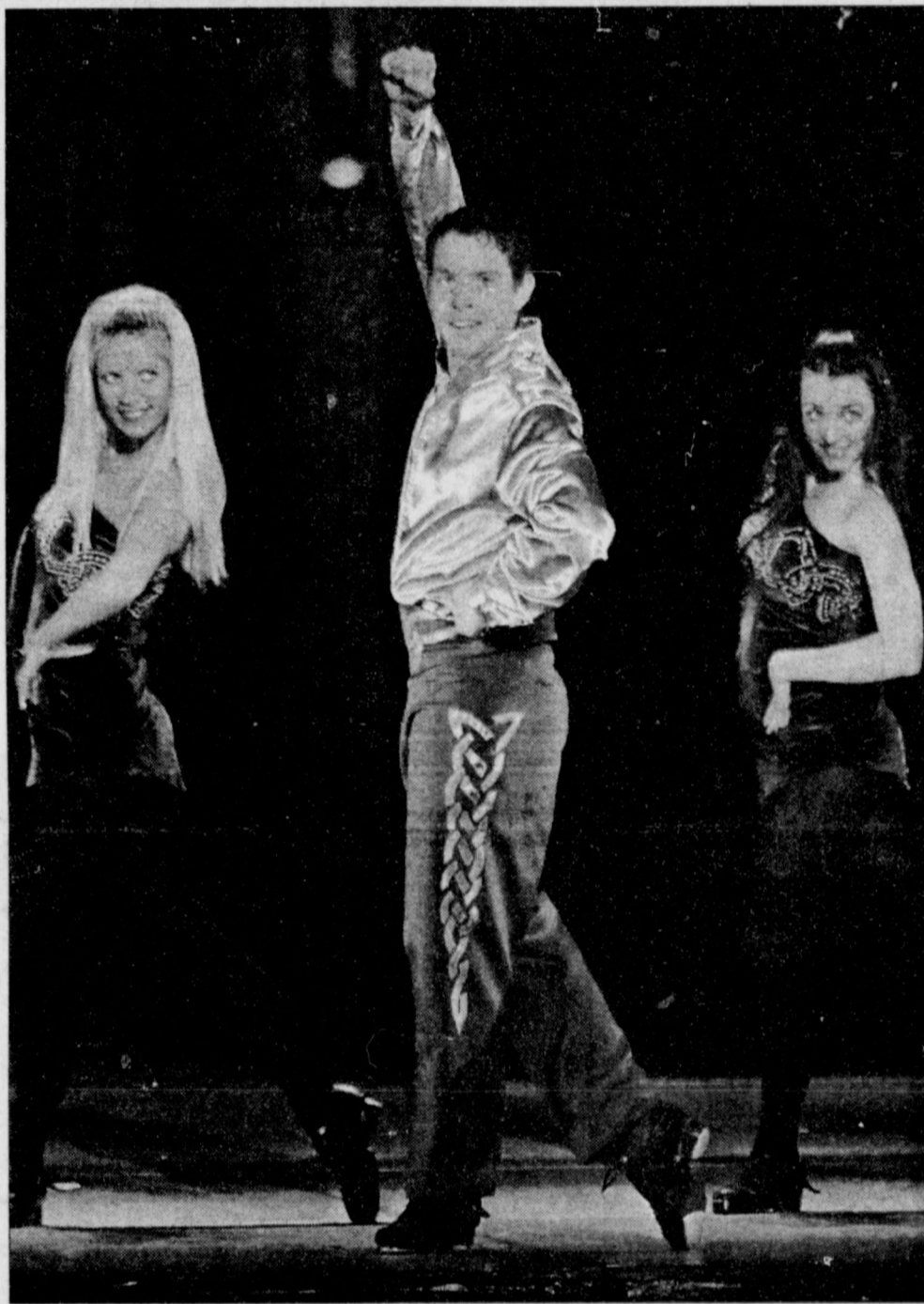
"It was a wonderful experience," said Gollan. Some Tech students were happy to take advantage of the opportunity to see Lord of The Dance first hand.

Katie Daneker, a junior civil engineering major from Midland said she was excited to take advantage of the opportunity because it is rare that events like Lord of The Dance come to Lubbock.

Daneker said her and a friend were on hand to see the show.

"My friend enjoyed it a lot. She was real eager to come and see it again," said Daneker. "I'm just excited to be here. It's a cool opportunity, especially since its been going on for so many years. "These people are so talented and they're so amazing to watch."

DANCE continued on page 3



DANCERS PERFORM TO the opening number of the Lord of the Dance show held in the Lubbock Municipal Auditorium Thursday afternoon. The group of dancers will perform again at 2 p.m. today and 7:30 p.m. Sunday.  
JENNA HANSEN/Photography Editor

## Student Senate discusses ways to graduate earlier

By Jennifer Prieto/Staff Reporter

The Texas Tech Student Senate met Thursday to discuss issues concerning the number of years it takes students to graduate from Tech, and some of the options students have to help them graduate on time.

James Brink, vice provost, said it takes an average of 5.5 years, which is 11 semesters for a Tech student to get an undergraduate degree.

"It is costing our students about \$30,000 per semester," he said. "I'm sure you think there is no way students pay that much, but you have to add in fees, books, room and board and any other expense a college student might have."

Brink presented a proposal to the Student Senate about a new program called Incentives to Graduate On time that will be an incentive to get students to graduate on time.

He said the state offers a \$1,000 tuition-rebate if a student completes a degree within three attempted hours of a specific degree plan.

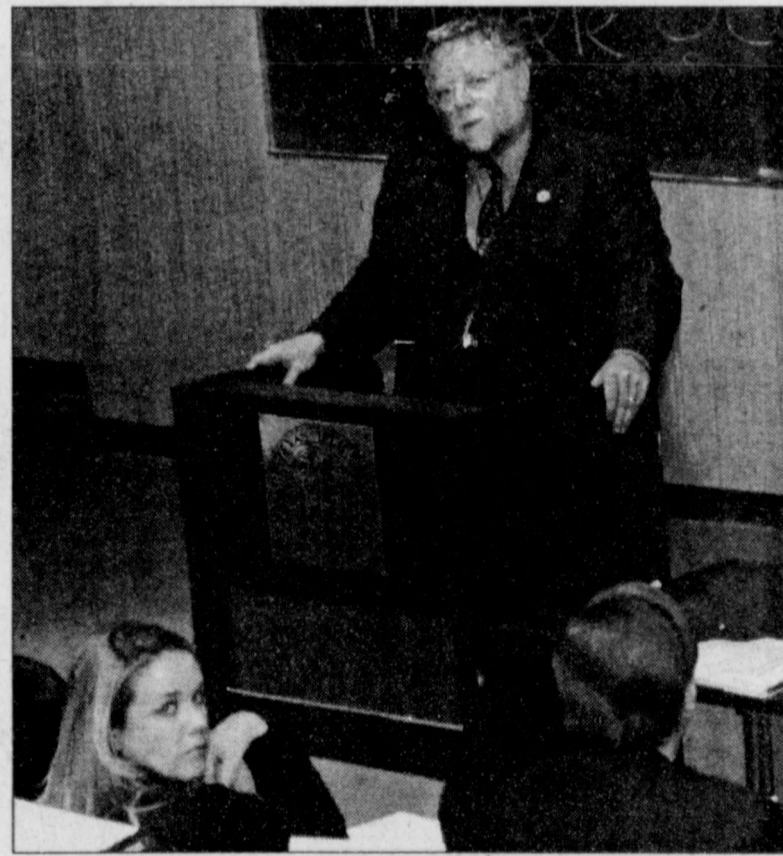
Also, students have the chance to qualify for the B-On-Time Loan, which offers an interest free loan, he said. Students who complete their degree within four years, and have a 3.0 grade point average will be forgiven the loan.

He said if the student finishes within six attempted hours of the degree plan and have a 3.0 GPA the loan will also be forgiven.

Brink said there are students who think if they take 12 hours each semester they are considered to have a full load of credit hours.

Students who take 12 hours per semester are considered a full time student, and a student who takes 15 hours is considered to have a full load of credit hours.

SENATE continued on page 3



JAIME TOMÁS AGUILAR/Staff Photographer  
JAMES BRINK speaks to the Student Senate about graduating earlier.

## Post doctoral student injures himself after chemical explosion in research lab

**UNSAFE SCIENCE:** The Tech student sustained minor injuries.

By Beth Aaron/Staff Reporter

A scale being used to weigh a research compound exploded, injuring a post doctoral associate in his research lab in the Chemistry building Thursday about 9:30 a.m. The Lubbock Fire Department, EMS, and Environmental Health and Safety arrived at the scene.

The student was transported by ambulance to University Medical Center for cuts caused by glass fragments from the scale that burst from the reaction, said Richard A. Bartsch, chemistry department chairman.

"A small amount of material was being weighed on an analytical balance, and it detonated," he said.

Maj. Gordon Hoffman of the Tech Police Department said the person sustained minor injuries from the blast.

"This individual came out of the building injured by glass fragments," he said. "There were injuries to the person's hand and a possible burn to the face."

Hoffman said the associate appeared to be fine despite his injuries, and was seen walking around after the incident.

"The damage to the person is not life threatening,"

he said. "This was just an accident."

Hoffman said the student was alone in the lab at the time of the explosion, and no one else was injured. The student had authorization to be in the lab; no legal action is necessary.

The only thing damaged in the laboratory was the scale.

Bartsch said the person conducting the explosive experiment has a Ph.D. and was taught to properly handle the sensitive materials he was working with. The amount of chemicals used in the experiment was equivalent to about 10 grains of salt.

"This fellow was working on a new reaction," he said. "The re-agents he was working with can explode under certain circumstances, he knew that. He was told what to do and what not to do. I think he did something that was not safe."

Bartsch said the research was fundamental, meaning it concerns the basic foundations of science.

"He was conducting fundamental research to determine how this compound interacts with other chemicals," he said.

Bartsch said it is always important to conduct experiments such as these with proper attention to safety. Accidents like these are uncommon.

EXPLOSION continued on page 3



DARREL THOMAS/Student Media  
LUBBOCK FIREMEN CHECK with one another before leaving the Chemistry building after an explosion in a research lab in the Chemistry Building Thursday afternoon.

The Rundown



Man found guilty of rape banned from UNT

DENTON (AP) — In the wake of the University of North Texas newspaper's story about a student's recent rape conviction in Oklahoma, the man has been banned from campus, school officials said.

Michael Stephen Mann, 27, pleaded guilty Oct. 1 as part of a plea agreement, said Suanne Carlson, an assistant district attorney in Oklahoma County.

When he is sentenced Dec. 15, Mann will be ordered to serve 90 days in the Oklahoma County Jail, followed by five years of probation. Then Mann must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life, Carlson said.

Until sentencing, he is not considered a sex offender, she said.

But Mann apparently kept attending classes at UNT in Denton, and his case was publicized this week after his victim called the student newspaper. The North Texas Daily reported that the Oklahoma county clerk's office, at the request of prosecutors, is monitoring Mann by phone weekly.

UNT spokesman Roddy Wolper said that as of Thursday, Mann was no longer a student at UNT.

Office shooting in Ohio leaves two dead

WEST CHESTER, Ohio (AP) — A trucker opened fire with two handguns at a company that once employed him, killing two men and wounding three before fleeing, authorities said. Police arrested him at an Indiana truck stop more than two hours later.

Police identified the suspect as Tom West, who was believed to be in his 50s and had worked for Watkins Motor Lines in Atlanta. Police Chief John Bruce said the employees in the West-Chester office where the shooting took place did not know him.

"We have nothing to lead us to believe that he had a grievance against a specific person," Bruce said.

Watkins Motor Lines, based in Lakeland, Fla., issued a statement saying West had worked out of the Atlanta office from 1998 until he resigned in 2001. The company did not say why he left, and West Chester police said they did not know.

The attack began shortly before 10 a.m. in an industrial park in suburban Cincinnati.

Marijuana pill may show possible benefits

LONDON (AP) — A marijuana pill appeared to relieve some of the symptoms of multiple sclerosis in the first scientifically rigorous study of the strongly debated drug.

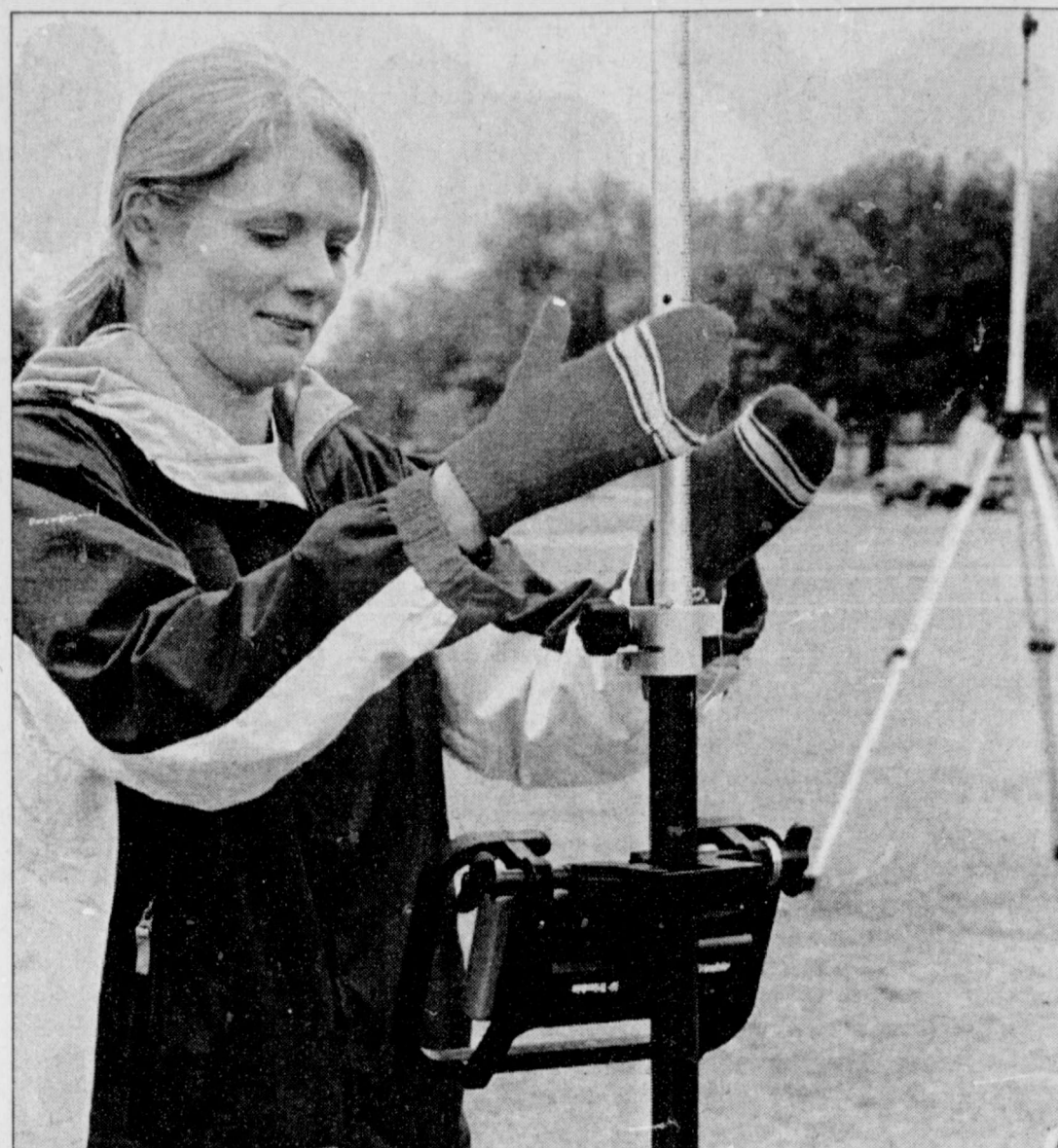
The research, published this week in The Lancet medical journal, found that even though improvements could not be detected by doctors' tests, a greater proportion of patients taking the drug reported reduced pain and muscle stiffness than those taking fake capsules.

Experts said the mixed results make them tricky to interpret. Some said they were encouraged any improvement was noted, while others said if there had been a major effect, it would have shown up in the doctors' tests.

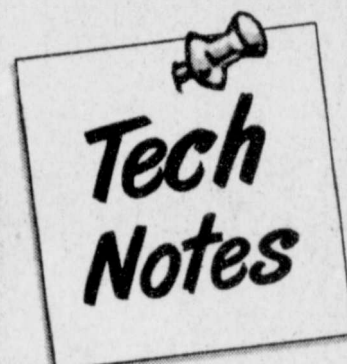
One study leader, Dr. John Zajick of the University of Plymouth in England, said the research raises questions about what's more important: a doctor's measurements or the patient's perspective.

"I think if there's a conflict, it's what the patient feels which is important, so I think it's quite encouraging," said Roger Pertwee, a professor of neuropharmacology at University of Aberdeen, who was not connected with the study.

SECURE SATELLITE



HEATHER DOUGHERTY/Staff Photographer  
KATIE LEWANDOWSKI, a senior construction engineering teaching assistant from Keller, helps set up and secure a piece of GPS equipment in the Engineering Key on Thursday morning.



"Bad Boys 2," starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence, will be shown free of charge today at 8 p.m. in the Allen Theatre in the Student Union building. Only bottled drinks are permitted.

The University Singers, conducted by Pamela Elrod, will perform today at 8 p.m. in Hemmle Recital

Hall in the Music Building.

The Society of Music Engineers is sponsoring Casino Night at the Science Spectrum Saturday at 7 p.m. The Science Spectrum is located on South Loop 289 between University Avenue and Indiana Avenue. Cost is \$10 per student and \$15 for faculty or staff. For more information, e-mail swecasinonight@yahoo.com.

The "Feast or Famine" banquet will be held Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Frazier Alumni Pavilion. In order to demonstrate what it is like to not have a choice as to what to eat, participants will have to test their luck to determine whether they have a gourmet meal or soup, beans and rice. Admission for students is free. Donations of canned foods also will be accepted. For more information, call the Center for Campus Life at 742-LIFE.

The University Daily

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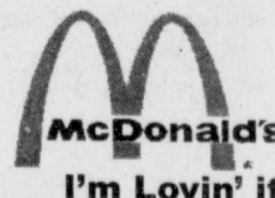
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