

SA president says 'no' to taxing student body

by **CHARLES LECKBEE**
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

Although the Student Association president was looking forward to attending last weekend's student government conference in Austin, he said he expected to encounter opposition to his plan to re-focus the organization's goals.

"Honestly I thought we were going to be up against a brick wall in convincing the other schools," said Texas Tech SA President Chris Loveless.

Loveless was concerned about a proposal contained in HB 1919 of the Texas Legislature that would allow student governments the ability to tax their student bodies. Specifically the bill would allow the various student govern-

ments to add a 25 cent tax on top of regular student fees to fund the coalition of student governments and pay for a professional lobbyist for university interests.

Loveless was opposed to this idea, and said he felt it was hypocritical to fight against tuition increases while asking students to generate funds to keep the student organization alive.

Loveless said he spoke with Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, in Austin about the bill, and said he sensed Laney's reluctance. In addition, Loveless said that Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, expressed many of his same reservations when she addressed the student government representatives.

Loveless said he was surprised at Tech's success in eliminating this bill from consider-

ation, but still expressed concerns about the aims of the group.

"The lobbyist is definitely out for our university. I felt that it would be more useful to have the students themselves address the issues, but I still don't care for their idea of a constitution," he said.

Michelle Sutton, internal vice-president, also attended the conference and was Tech's representative concerned with constitutional issues.

Sutton said that the constitution, and the organization itself, concerned her because the small schools would have disproportionate power compared with larger universities.

"Tech is not concerned with things like UT's (University of Texas in Austin) busing problems or another school's athletic program,"

Sutton said.

Sutton described the new funding plan as one in which each university would pay dues into the organization, but would not get enough influence to match expenditure.

Loveless said the organization was useful as source of information, but could not justify spending students' money so that student government could gain an occasionally useful piece of information.

Loveless said also that he felt that the larger universities had a different agenda than the numerous smaller universities and even some other major universities.

Loveless said that Tech was unique in the relationship that the student government and administration shared.

Dropping summer classes detailed process for students

by **KENDRA CASEY**
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

When a student drops a class during the summer sessions, he or she may face a more detailed process than in previous years.

During the summer, students enrolled at Texas Tech for the fall semester are faced with the possibility of withdrawing from the school for the summer semesters if they enroll and then later decide not to attend any classes during a summer session.

"Anytime a student wants to drop all of the classes on their schedule, they must withdraw from the university," said Liz Toombs, assistant dean of students and coordinator of the withdrawal process.

Toombs said students often confuse dropping classes with withdrawal, and do not understand why they are required to withdraw from the university if they intend to attend classes in following semesters.

"It's not assumed that a student is

returning to the university after they have withdrawn even if they tell us they are coming back," Toombs said.

Students withdrawing are required to fill out withdrawal forms at the Dean of Students Office as well as financial aid if they have received any loans or grants.

She said students who do not enroll or make plans to attend summer school do not have to withdraw or make an special provisions with the financial aid office.

"Withdrawal is specific to a semester, but students tend to view it as no longer being a Tech student," Toombs said. "Dropping classes is not defined by the number of classes eliminated from the schedule, but the number left with a minimum of one hour required."

She added that if students are enrolled for the fall semester and were required to withdraw during one or both summer semesters, they do not have to reapply to the university.

please see **WITHDRAWAL**, page 3



Saturday in the park

Lubbock citizens who participated in the Making Strides Against Cancer Walk-A-Thon Saturday at Buster Long Park walked to earn about \$35,000 for cancer research and prevention. Participants

obtained sponsors and chose different means of completing the course by walking and running, pushing a wheelchair or using roller skates or a skateboard.

THE UNIVERSITY DAILY: STEVEN LINE

INSIDE

Playing to win

Three students from the Texas Tech School of Music were selected to compete in a contest sponsored by the International Clarinet Society in Cincinnati, Ohio, last weekend. It is the first time three students from the same school have competed in the same year.

please see **LIFE**, page 6

Weather

Partly cloudy through Wednesday, with a 30 percent chance of scattered thunderstorms today. High near 90.

Five indicted for trafficking cocaine

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Four men and a woman have been indicted for allegedly trying to smuggle about 20 pounds of cocaine through the Port of Houston.

U.S. Attorney Ronald G. Woods said Monday a federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment against

each of the defendants, charging them with possession and intent to distribute cocaine, as well as aiding and abetting on another to possess and distribute the drug.

The indictment, returned Friday, came after the U.S. Customs Office in Florida tipped customs officers in Houston that the cocaine was to be delivered to Houston by passengers aboard the MV President Frei. About

20 pounds of cocaine was found in a box marked "Chilean Fine Wine," and the five people were arrested as they tried to port through a rear gate.

Those arrested were Jose Rosario Pena, Johnny Gonzales Mesias, Santos Ricardo Yallico, Silva Williams Penafiel and Cardenas Jose Mancilla. U.S. Magistrate Judge Nancy Pecht ordered all five to be detained without bail until the trial.

other opinions

The (McAllen) Monitor on spending for the V-22 Osprey:

From the following choose the correct definition for osprey:

A) a large, black-and-white diving bird of prey; B) a new, experimental aircraft; C) an egregious example of late-20th-century pork-barrel politics.

While all three may be technically correct, answer C) is ... perhaps the most relevant answer in 1992. The Osprey, a hybrid of airplanes and helicopters, is an unproven aircraft not wanted by the Pentagon. The push for multibillion-dollar funding comes from Congress, specifically those members of Congress whose home districts would directly benefit from the federal contracts to build the V-22 Osprey. ...

These members serve voters who work for Bell Helicopter Textron in Fort Worth, Texas, and Boeing Helicopters outside of Philadelphia in Delaware County, Pa.

Such make-work projects for the constituents of powerful lawmakers are an outrage and, in a perfect world, would be eliminated from the federal budget. That isn't likely to happen, but Congress should at least be honest about its appropriations. The Osprey should go under a budget heading of "Incumbent Defense Fund." It clearly isn't a military expense that defends the nation.

Dallas Morning News on running mate Gore:

At first glance, Bill Clinton's choice of Tennessee Sen. Al Gore as his 1992 running mate may seem odd. Two white, Southern, reform-minded Democrats from neighboring states? What happened to the idea of a VP who complements the head of the ticket, who brings in other region? But this is 1992, and all conventional bets are off. Think of the three-way race for the White House as a sprint relay: Whoever gets to 35 percent first wins.

The significance for the Clinton campaign is that Mr. Gore would provide real acceleration to the Democratic ticket. The selection represents a return to the center for the Democrats. Sen. Gore has a solid personal reputation, foreign and military experience, and, yes, Washington exposure. Most notably, he has been on the defining edge of the issues of the future, displaying leadership particularly on the global environment.

Texans should note that Sen. Gore has a heightened appreciation for the role science and technology are to play in the nation's future. With funding for the Texas-based Superconducting Super Collider at stake, and the state's commitment to space and medical research of importance, it's key to have someone who has an ear to the ground on these issues. ...

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on pre-war aid to Iraq:

The Democratic majority on the House Judiciary Committee has requested the attorney general to name an independent counsel (special prosecutor) to investigate whether the administration broke any laws in aiding Iraq in the months before the Gulf War and whether there was then an obstruction of justice in efforts to discourage an investigation because it would be politically embarrassing.

The Bush administration calls this request pure politics.

The administration is right about that. There surely is political motivation, this being an election year, and the president is right that continuing to set special prosecutors in motion is expensive.

It is also true, however, that there is, once again, a large cloud of smoke — indicative of a fire — hovering over the administration. If people in the administration realized that agricultural credits to Iraq were in fact used to buy arms, illegally, and winked at the illegality, it should be known. If the administration then lied to Congress and tried to quash an investigation of the Atlanta bank involved in the arms deal, that smells pretty rank and should be investigated also.

Can one call President Bush's policy toward Iraq "mistake?"

by LESLIE GELB
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Did President Bush's policy toward Iraq before its invasion of Kuwait involve law-breaking? Maybe. And maybe some official cover-up afterward. In any event, it would take far too long for an independent counsel to get to the bottom of the matter, and the results would be problematic.

Was the policy merely a "mistake," as Bush officials are wont to say? This remarkably generous description would be laughed off by Republicans if Democrats had committed even remotely similar sins.

Was it a blunder? Yes. And of such proportions that Bill Clinton would be crazy not to drag the issue into the presidential campaign.

This much is already clear from the previously secret documents put on display by Reps. Henry Gonzalez and Sam Gejdenson: The Bush administration knew or had good reason to believe that Saddam Hussein was involved with nuclear weapons, terrorism, genocide with chemical weapons against the Kurds, illegal diversion of loans to buy arms — and that he was a very bad guy with boundless ambition.

Yet in the face of all this, Bush & Co. consistently protected him from an increasingly suspicious Congress.

Protect Saddam to what end? To "moderate" his behavior, the officials say and said.

To glimpse how zany this was, to see what they saw as acceptable behavior, look at what they knew or suspected about Saddam from 1988 on:

They had good reason to believe Saddam had a secret nuclear weapons program. True, international inspectors were giving Iraq a clean bill of health. But they knew of its longstanding effort to acquire weapons — grad uranium, and that in 1990 it tried to smuggle in U.S.-made nuclear capacitors. They also knew that from 1985 to 1990 the United States had approved 771 items of dual-use technology, of which 162 had possible nuclear

applications.

On June 15, 1990, less than two months before the Kuwait invasion, a senior State Department official told Congress that Iraq was not a "near-term" nuclear threat. But he went on to note Saddam's "great lengths to develop non-conventional weapons," including nukes.

Bush aides also had definite information about an Iraqi missile program with capabilities well beyond Scuds. Many officials argued that these missiles, given their potential accuracy, made sense only as carriers of a nuclear payload. Some officials further maintained that Iraq had been diverting loans from the Banco Lavoro to finance this effort.

Administration officials knew that Saddam was still engaged in terrorism. In a secret memo in late 1988, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy wrote that the Iraqis had "curbed their support for Palestinian terrorism, while remaining willing to use international terrorism themselves against their opponents."

Though officials had even harder information later, they continued to reaffirm their decision to remove Iraq from the list of terrorist countries.

Officials also knew that Saddam was trying to exterminate Kurds and had used chemical weapons to do so.

A State Department memo of November 1988 referred to "reliable reports" of chemical weapons use and went on to say that "upward of 500 Kurdish villages have been depopulated..."

Officials also believed Saddam was evil. A typical State Department memo from 1988 said, "His worldview is that of a conspirator who believes that power comes from the barrel of a gun." Another from that year called his state "totalitarian," and added: "The brutality visited on proportions of Iraq's Kurdish population fits into the general framework of repression..."

Knowing or at least worrying about all this, President Bush nonetheless approved new farm credits and dual-use technology sales for Iraq and opposed congressionally imposed economic sanctions. And in July 1990, as Saddam's forces were poised to attack Kuwait, he opposed a Senate move to bar further loans to Iraq.

As bizarre, on Nov. 16, 1990, with 500,000 U.S. troops already in the Persian Gulf, he vetoed a bill that would have forced him to impose sanctions on states that use chemical weapons.

Leslie Gelb is a columnist for the
N.Y. Times News Service
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Service



The University Daily

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Advertising manager: Susan Peterson

Student advertising manager: Lisa Ramirez

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Director of Student Publications: Jan Childress

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Second class postage paid by The University Daily, Journalism Building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

Publication Number 766480.

The University Daily, a student newspaper at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, is published daily except Saturday and Sunday, September through May, and twice a week June through August except during review, examinations and vacation periods.

As a student activity, The University Daily is independent of the academic School of Mass Communications.

Subscription rate is \$30 per year for non-students, and \$1.50 per semester for students. Single copies are 25 cents.

Opinions expressed in The University Daily are those of the writer of the column and are not

necessarily those of the administration or board of regents.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The University Daily, Journalism Building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters must be typed, double-spaced and must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. All letters must be signed by the author. Unsigned letters will not be published. However, an author's name may be withheld from publication with reasons deemed valid by the editor. Letters must be presented for publication with picture identification.

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The editor reserves the right to edit and/or withhold from publication any letter. Letters will be edited for spelling, grammar, punctuation, obscenity, libel and space.

Withdrawal clarification process

continued from page one

Toombs said the withdrawal procedure serves a clarification process for students and the university.

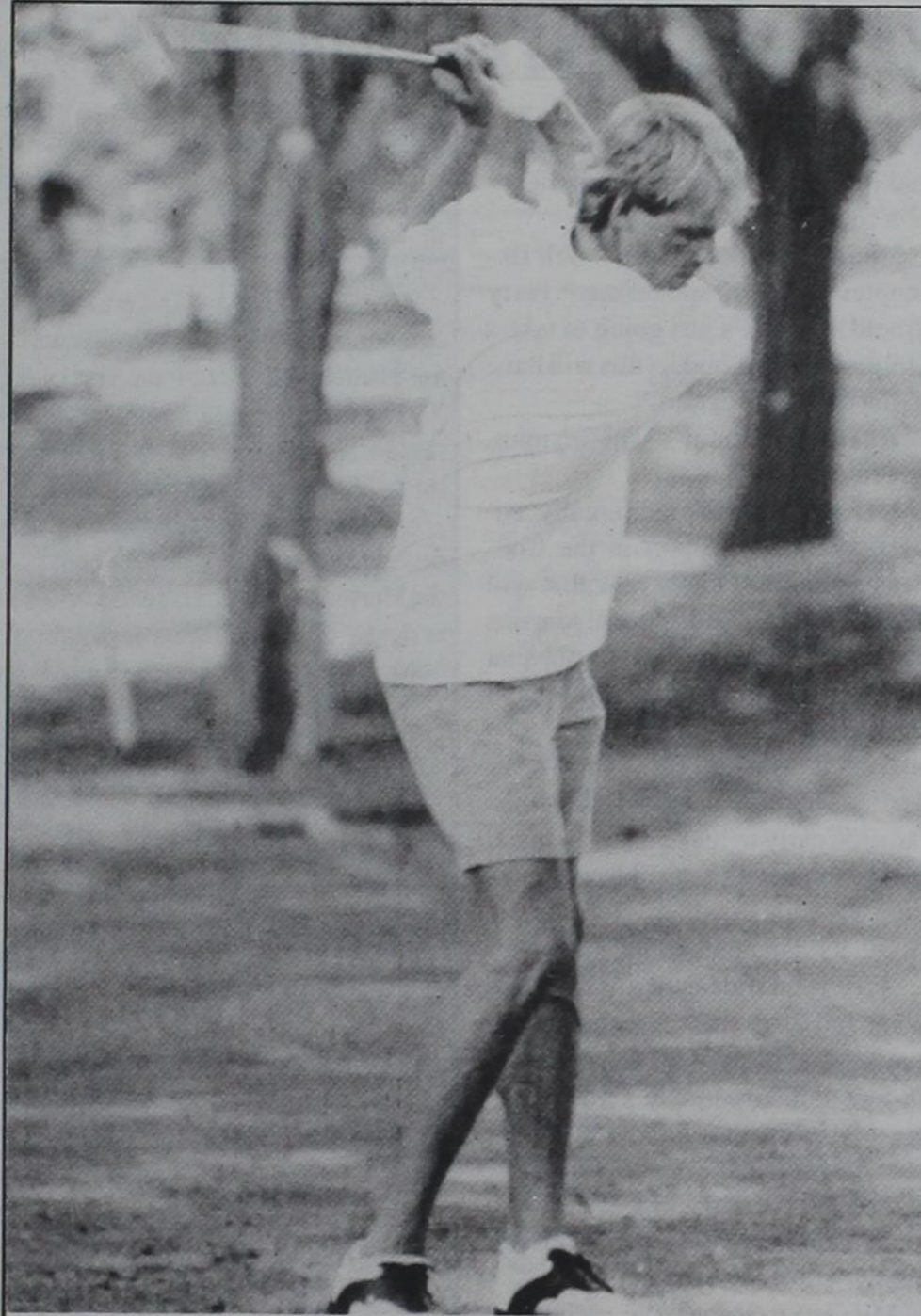
"Financial aid must have correct and updated information in case students owe money or have applied for money for the semester they are withdrawing from," she said.

Toombs added that withdrawal clarifies that a student knowingly dropped all of his or her classes and gives the university an opportunity to correct or change a student's address in order to contact them about such things as grades.

In 1988 the withdrawal process was centralized in the Dean of Students Office where as before it was spread out among the deans' offices in the various colleges.

"The withdrawal process is streamlined now. It's still bulky, but we can't do anything about that," Toombs said.

She said also that part of the inconvenience is a result of having to file with the Financial Aid Office and the Dean of Students Office, but that federal laws governing some forms of financial aid mandate that students notify the Financial Aid Office even if they withdraw for one summer session.



Celebrity tee off

THE UNIVERSITY DAILY, STEVEN LINE

Lubbock native and basketball star Craig Ehlo shoots during the Feist Pro/Celebrity Golf Scramble Monday to benefit the Rotary Cerebral Palsy Center at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. The event was expected to raise more than \$30,000.

Conservation passport alternate vacation idea

by RACHELLE CAMERON
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

With summer in full swing, many local families and students may feel the urge for an inexpensive weekend getaway.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is offering a \$25 Conservation Passport that allows the carrier, among other things, free entry into state parks. Proceeds help support more than 120 state historical sites, natural areas, parks and fishing piers across Texas.

Officials at the parks and wildlife department said the passport is meant to allow groups with a limited budget to enjoy outdoor activities, and at the same time contribute to the protection and enhancement of the state's natural resources and outdoor heritage.

The Conservation Passport can be purchased at the Austin-based headquarters of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and any state park or law enforcement office.

Lubbockites can purchase the passports at the Robert Nash Interpretive Center at the Lubbock Lake Landmark.

Passports are good for one year and exempt visitors from paying the daily entrance fees if one person in a vehicle has a passport. They also provide naturalist-guided tours on wildlife management areas and state

parks, and discounts on overnight facilities such as campsites, shelters, cabins, group camps and lodges.

Another passport opportunity is access to undeveloped state parks, including those previously open only for scientific study. Guided tours are provided by experts in ecology, wildlife biology, archeology and related fields. Department officials said the naturalist-guided tours give visitors a deeper understanding and appreciation of natural phenomena that many have observed only casually before. Some of the wildlife management areas also offer self-guided tours.

Passport holders interested in historic and prehistoric sites can visit any of the 21 historic areas ranging from the Battleship Texas and historic frontier forts to such significant prehistoric sites as Caddoan Mounds in East Texas.

Other nearby parks include MacKenzie Park in Lubbock, Palo Duro Canyon and Caprock Canyons near Amarillo and Copper Breaks Park, located between Wichita Falls and Amarillo on Highway 287.

Travelers also can visit close-by sites in Abilene, Colorado City and Odessa-Midland. Most parks are open every day, year round.

For more information about a particular park, call the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department headquarters at 1-800-792-1112.

Florida volunteer files lawsuit against Perot

by MELISSA CONTI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — A Florida volunteer who donated time and money to get Ross Perot on the ballot filed a class-action lawsuit Monday in an attempt to force the Dallas billionaire back into the presidential race.

Michele Alexander's federal lawsuit, filed in Miami, seeks an order demanding that Perot run for president if he is placed on the ballot in all 50 states, said attorney Douglas Stein, Ms. Alexander's attorney. Perot's name is on the presidential ballot in 24 states, including Texas and Florida. The lawsuit says Perot's decision to pull out of the race was a "breach of his oral promise."

Ms. Alexander seeks "specific performance of Perot's promise to become a candidate for the office of President of the United States of America," the suit said.

"Millions of people, including my client, put forth thousands of dollars in an effort to have him

placed on the ballot," her attorney added Monday.

Jim Squires, a spokesman for the Perot petition committee in Dallas, declined comment on the lawsuit Monday.

Not all Perot's supporters in Florida agreed with the lawsuit.

"She's definitely not acting as a representative of our group," said Bill Spiegel, Miami-area coordinator for the Florida Ross Perot Committee. "It definitely has nothing to do with our committee. We didn't know about it and we don't condone it."

But Spiegel acknowledged the idea was considered briefly.

"There was a period of time Friday when we actually discussed this. There was a terrific amount of tears and disappointment that day," he said.

Ms. Alexander's lawsuit was assigned to Chief U.S. District Judge Norman Roettger, but no hearing was immediately scheduled.

Perot met with campaign volunteers twice over the weekend.

Judge expected to uphold curfew ordinance

by CHARLES RICHARDS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — A federal judge received more evidence Monday regarding Dallas' new teen ordinance and said he expects to uphold the ordinance or overturn it by the end of next week.

On behalf of the ordinance, which requires youths under 17 to be off the streets by 11 p.m. weekdays and midnight on weekends, city attorney Sam Lindsay presented statistics on juvenile crime in Dallas as evidence the ordinance is needed.

But the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of an estimated 200,000 youths affected by the ordinance, challenged the city's interpretation.

U.S. District Judge Jerry Buchmeyer told both sides to come back to him Thursday with a further appraisal of the statistics. He said he should have his decision ready by July 31.

Joe Cook, North Texas regional director of the ACLU of Texas, told reporters at an afternoon news conference the ordinance is a waste of time and money.

Police already have the power to stop and arrest juveniles involved in unlawful activity at any hour of the day or night and should be encouraged to continue with such arrests, the ACLU official said.

Meanwhile, law-abiding citizens should not be stopped and questioned whenever they are out, no matter what the time, he said.

The city presented to Buchmeyer

an analysis of 2,660 juvenile arrests between Jan. 1 and June 30 of this year.

Of those, it said 482, or 18.1 percent, occurred during curfew hours.

Of 450 arrest reports provided separately to the ACLU by the city, only 271 clearly fall under the curfew ordinance and 100 of those were runaways, who would not respond to a curfew anyway, Cook said.

News briefs

Horn professor awarded membership

Horn professor of biological sciences and museum science J. Knox Jones Jr. was awarded honorary membership in the American Society of Mammalogists during its national convention.

The award recognizes a member's life-time commitment to mammalogy and is the most prestigious honor of the 75-year-old society.

Jones, a former president of the society, is the only person to have received the society's top three awards: honorary membership, the Hart Merriam Award in 1977 and the H.H.T. Jackson Award in 1983.

Reserved parking spaces for sale

Reserved parking spaces for Texas Tech research and teaching assistants will be sold at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Traffic and Parking Office. Assistants must be working at least 20 hours each week and must bring a letter from the department or a copy of their contract to verify employment.

All spaces will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis and are expected to be sold out by early afternoon.

Osprey crash draws criticism

by MICHELLE MITTELSTADT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The crash of a V-22 Osprey prototype near a Marine Corps Air Station in Virginia may provide new ammunition to critics of the experimental tilt-rotor program, congressional supporters said Monday.

The accident, which may have claimed seven lives, came as Congress was prepared this week to consider a proposal that would end the stalemate with the Pentagon over the Osprey.

"Of course the crash is a tragedy itself, but it couldn't have come at a more inopportune time," said Brian Keeter, a spokesman for Rep. Robert K. Dornan, R-Calif., a staunch supporter of the program.

Pennsylvania Republican Curt Weldon, another leading congressional supporter, said his first concern was for those on board the aircraft. But he acknowledged the crash could help the anti-Osprey forces.

"If it was some kind of design flaw, that would be a problem," Weldon said. "It could cause us to go back and look at the aircraft and look at technology. If it's a pilot error or a production error... then that has nothing to do with the system and the

technology."

The tilt-rotor, which takes off like a helicopter and flies like a plane, is being developed by Bell Helicopter Textron in Fort Worth and Boeing Helicopters in Delaware County, Pa.

The future had appeared brighter for the Osprey in recent weeks, after Defense Secretary Dick Cheney agreed to free \$790 million set aside last year for the V-22 and spend the \$755 million that Congress is expected to approve this year.

For four years Cheney had sought to kill the Osprey, setting himself at odds with Congress and the Marine Corps over a program both contended was necessary to replace the Marines' aging Vietnam-era CH-46 Sea Knight fleet.

Cheney argued that the aircraft was too expensive, but on July 2 agreed to release the estimated \$1.5 billion for the Osprey's development.

In exchange, he requested that Congress consider funding a new medium-capacity military helicopter program that could compete with the V-22 — leaving a final resolution on the Osprey uncertain.

The House Appropriations Committee and Senate Armed Services Committee were due to take up Cheney's proposal this week.

While some contended the crash

could affect this week's debate, others said it was too early to assess the V-22's future.

"It stunned us right off," Bell Helicopter Textron spokesman Terry Arnold said. "It's just going to take a while to see what impact this will have on the overall program."

Keeter, Dornan's spokesman, agreed.

"The V-22 has traditionally enjoyed excellent support in the Congress and I don't know how that will be affected," he said. "It still remains however, despite today's crash, that the V-22 is the obvious replacement for the CH-46 Sea Knight."

Added Marine Lt. Col. Kerry Gershaneck, a Pentagon spokesman: "It's too early to make an assessment of the impact (on the Osprey program.)"

Others remained optimistic.

"We're confident there is an agreement and that that agreement will stand," said Larry Neal, a spokesman for Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas.

"My guess is (the crash) would have no particular effect," Neal said. "Our sense is that the support is strong enough that the loss of one aircraft simply will have no effect."

Monday's crash is the second involving a V-22 prototype.

An Osprey crashed in June 1991 at the New Castle County Airport in Delaware about three minutes into its first flight while it hovered about 15 feet off the ground. No one was hurt.

Bell Textron spokesman Arnold said a wiring problem caused that crash.

Health official predicts women will be primary victims of AIDS

by DANIEL Q. HANEY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Women around the world are now catching the AIDS virus almost as often as men, and will probably become the primary victims by the end of the decade, an expert predicted Monday.

The fast spread of AIDS among women, especially in the world's poorest regions, is one of the dominant themes of the Eighth International Conference on AIDS, which began Sunday.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome first came to world attention a decade ago primarily as a disease of homosexual men and male drug users in the United States and Europe. Since then, AIDS has spread around the world, and now 80 percent of new infections are in developing countries, where sex between men and women is the main means of transmission.

The Geneva-based World Health Organization estimates that between 11 million and 13 million people are now infected with HIV worldwide.

More than 6 million of those infected are in Africa. In some cities, a third of all adults carry the virus and 80 percent of hospital beds are filled with AIDS patients.

During heterosexual encounters, women are biologically more likely than men to catch the virus from infected partners. So "by the year 2000, more than half of all newly infected adults may be women," said Dr. Michael Merson, a New York City native who heads the WHO's Global Program on AIDS.

"With every passing year, the gap ... between the sexes has narrowed, in both developed and developing countries, as heterosexual transmission has become more common," he said.

So far this year, he said, about 1 million people have caught HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and almost half of them are women.

Dr. Jonathan Mann of Harvard University, the meeting's chairman, contended the growing number of infected females also reflects the subservient status of women in the world.

Men typically initiate sexual encounters, he said, and women often are unable to demand that their partners use condoms. Condoms are the primary way of preventing the spread of AIDS among sexually active men and women.

"Male-dominated societies are a threat to public health," Mann said. Dr. Anke A. Ehrhardt of Columbia University in New York said women urgently need a means of prevention that is under their control.



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'Kiss' puckers up, but no fireworks

by LAURA O'QUINN
THE UNIVERSITY DAILY

Combine one outrageously absurd lady who drinks Dewers scotch like water, a seemingly conservative man with a fascination for Molson beer and an old man on the verge of death who has given up drinking altogether, and you've got one peculiar movie.

"Prelude to a Kiss," starring Meg Ryan and Alec Baldwin, fits categorically into Hollywood's fantasy genre, however, the movie falls short in its attempt to mystically portray two people's different views of life.

Rita, played by Ryan, is a young and beautiful woman who bartends for a living. She is introduced to Peter, played by Baldwin, at a party she wanders in to. As Rita tells Peter of her 16-year sleeping disorder, insomnia, she seductively dances and sips on her Dewers. Of course, Peter becomes entranced by this wonderfully odd woman, who in essence is nothing like himself.

During their brief courtship, Rita reveals her secret fear of life. She tells Peter she never wants children because "the world is such an ugly, horrible place and she does not wish to bring innocent children into it." She describes her vivid nightmares of everything and everyone in her life bursting into flames, bringing life to a screeching halt.

Peter seems to accept this paranoia as one of Rita's quirks, after all, the girl was part of the Socialist Party for a couple of months. He pops the question and the two get married at Rita's parents, played by Ned Beatty and Patty Duke.

At this point the movie is moving along quite nicely and the plot is making perfect sense.

MOVIE REVIEW

Prelude to a Kiss

Meg Ryan, Alec Baldwin, Sydney Walker
Showing at: Cinemark Theaters
MPAA Rating: PG-13
On a scale of 1 to 10, Laura rated "Prelude to a Kiss" a 4.

Leave it to those all-too-creative writers to screw up a good story line.

Enter the mysterious old man, played by Sydney Walker, who hopped a train and ended up at Peter and Rita's wedding. As the old man munches on some barbecue chicken wings, he stares at the happy couple with a lost but wishful look in his eyes.

He is discovered by Rita's parents who just can't seem to place his face. The old man approaches Rita and Peter to wish them a happy life together, and then requests the traditional kiss from the bride. Rita, entranced by this man, voluntarily agrees to the kiss although she had no idea of the stranger's identity.

The rest isn't even worth trying to explain.

Only after the two leave for their honeymoon in Jamaica does the audience get a clear picture of what really happened. During the vacation, Peter notices Rita acting strangely.

She begins buying obnoxious clothes, won't touch a drop of alcohol, only basks in the sun under two tons of sunscreen slathered on her body and is sleeping like a bear at night. This woman with a devil-may-care attitude is begin-

ning to act like an old maid.

Yes, Rita is acting a bit odd, but then again she was odd right from the start. The problem is she isn't acting odd enough for the audience to really understand the movie's premise. Eventually everyone understands, but not until the movie is almost over.

The casting in Prelude to a Kiss was excellent, and all the actors played their parts to a tee. But the cast alone was not enough to make this movie a hit.

In trying to make the point that one should live life to the fullest and accept when your time on Earth is finished, the movie beats around the bush. The audience is supposed to walk away with a good feeling and the sense that perhaps the meaning of life has just been solved, but instead walks away with a headache.

This movie is good for very light entertainment. Perhaps a movie to be watched on cable on a rainy Saturday afternoon.

Wrestler 'Gorgeous George' dead at 84

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — George Arena, who claimed to have originated the primping, platinum-maned wrestling villain "Gorgeous George" and battled others in court for rights to the name, died Thursday of cancer. He was 84.

Arena, who died of bone cancer at Whitehall Boca Nursing Home, first stepped into the ring as Gorgeous George in 1936 and wrestled as that character for nearly 20 years, until he became Barron Arena. At least six others wrestled as Gorgeous George and one, the late George Raymond Wagner, was the more renowned as the star of network television matches in the 1950s.

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt's ambassador to Rome, Hoda el-Marasy, died in Paris during an operation to remove a tumor from her spinal cord, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday. She was 53.

BERLIN (AP) — Heinz Galinski, an Auschwitz survivor who became the head of Germany's Jewish community and warned against neo-Nazism, died Sunday, three days after heart surgery. He was 79. Galinski, who died at the German Heart Center, was leader of Berlin's tiny postwar community of a few thousand Jews — the survivors of a once-flourishing community of 160,000.

People

Brooks says he may retire

PHOENIX — Garth Brooks says the birth of his newborn daughter may get him to retire, and certainly cut his touring schedule.

The 30-year-old country star, who was in Phoenix on Sunday for a concert, became a father on July 8 with the arrival of Taylor Pearl Brooks.

"The actual thought of retirement, just getting out for good, is very much in the picture right now because this daughter needs a father and my wife needs a partner to help raise her," Brooks said at a news conference before the show.

"The second that little girl popped out in this world ... the one thing that I hit on right away was, 'My God, all the things that you fought for, that you risked losing friends over, that you did all this stuff, you realize nothing is as important as human life,'" the country star said.

Brooks' hits include "Friends in Low Places," and "Tomorrow Never Comes."

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Sports brief

Western Texas golfer signs letter of intent with Tech

Western Texas Junior College golfer Jon Roseberry has signed a national letter of intent with Texas Tech, men's head coach Tommy Wilson announced Monday.

Roseberry was an integral part of Western Texas' seventh-place finish at the National Junior College Athletic Association national tournament this spring. In 1991, Roseberry placed seventh at the NJCAA regional tournament with rounds of 74, 69 and 73. His best finish was a sixth-place tie at the 1991 Sam Houston Invitational with rounds of 74 and 77.

A 1990 graduate of Austin Westwood High School, Roseberry was named first-team all-district 25-5A as a senior and second-team all-district as a junior.

Roseberry joins Greg Wetter of Conroe and Bret Odom of Round Rock as Tech's 1992 golf signees.

Age won't stop 'Iron Butt' cyclist

by LINDA MOTT
THE ODESSA AMERICAN

ODESSA — Lewis Ashby doesn't know why he enjoys pushing himself, but he does. He rides his bicycle about 50 miles after work four nights a week — darkness permitting — training for a 24-hour endurance race in October.

Ashby, 72, has only been riding for about four years. He began riding because he was looking for something fun to do and it is good exercise.

"I ride strictly because it's what I

like to do," he said. "I enjoy everything as long as I'm doing something."

He was born healthy and has never had any problems with his health, he said. "That slows some people down. They look old and they act old."

The Iron Butt race is scheduled for Oct. 10-11 in Oklahoma City.

The Tin Butt, or qualifying race, was held May 6. Ashby rode 154.11 miles in 10 hours 25 minutes, for a 15th place overall out of 90 people who rode, said Rich Betham, with the Derby Cycle Corp.

Betham encouraged Ashby to compete in the race and went to the qualifying event as a member of Ashby's "pit crew."

"He was the only one in his age group and there was no one in the age group below him," Betham said in a telephone interview from Denton.

Ashby began his business about five years ago.

He used to sell motorcycles and was very active in cross country motorcycle endurance races. He also raced automobiles, he said.

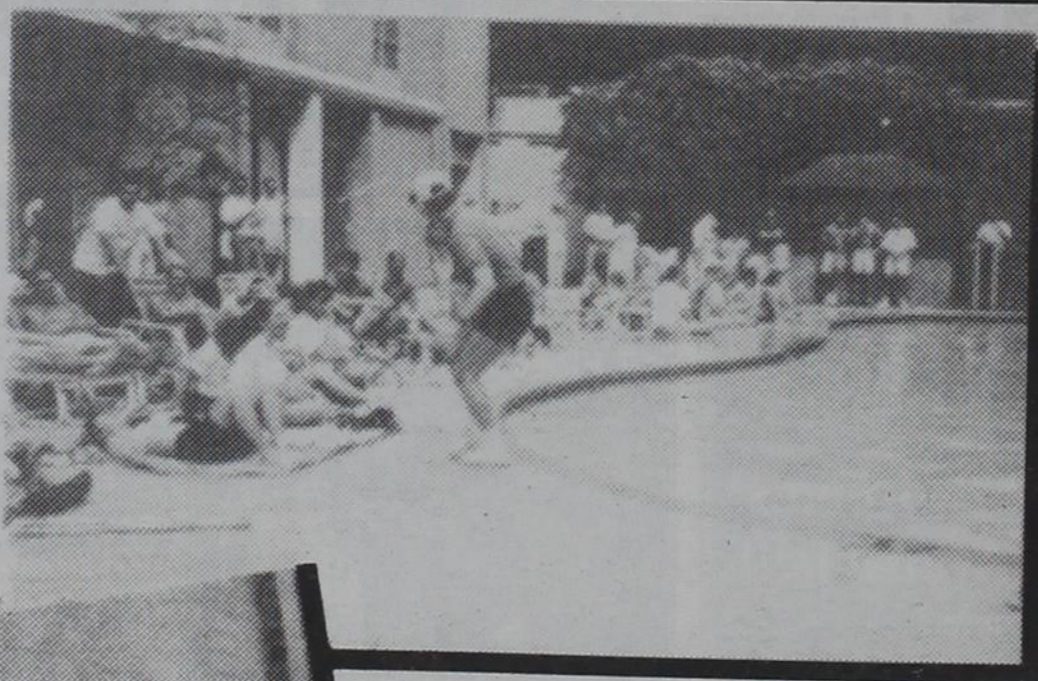
"In 1957 I set a speed record at the Bonneville Salt Flats of 148-something-mpg," he said. "I was in a Buick. Then I took a 1953 Studebaker Coupe and put a Buick engine in it and did 168 mph. Now I never run more than the speed limit."

Bicycles fill his life now, he said. "They will either grow on you or you'll never like them. You can get a biker's high. You have to feel it to know it."

He rode a Raleigh Team in the Tin Butt, on a road that meanders 14-miles around Stanley Draper Lake in Oklahoma City.

"The pavement is as old as Oklahoma City, it has a lot of pot holes," he said. "Some are a foot-and-a-half wide and two to three inches deep, it could ruin a tire or a wheel. You don't just run over those."

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HONEY I BLEW UP THE KID THX
*1:00-3:20-5:40-8:00-10:20 (PG)

STRANGER AMONG US Stereo
*11:30-2:10-5:00-7:50-10:40 (R)

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN Stereo
*11:30-2:15-5:00-7:45-10:30 (PG)

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN Stereo
*1:40-4:25-7:10-9:55 (PG)

PRELUDE TO A KISS Stereo
*12:10-2:40-5:05-7:30-10:00 (PG-13)

COOL WORLD Stereo
*12:20-2:50-5:15-7:40-10:10 (PG-13)

UNIVERSAL SOLDIER Stereo
12:00-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:45 (R)

PINNOCHIO Stereo
*12:40-3:00-5:00 (G)

UNLAWFUL ENTRY Stereo
*12:55-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:35 (R)

LETHAL WEAPON 3 Stereo
7:05-10:05 (R)

SISTER ACT Stereo
12:50-3:05-5:20-7:35-9:50 (PG)

SISTER ACT Stereo
12:30-2:45-4:55-7:15-9:35 (PG)