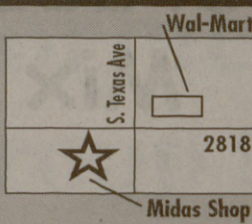


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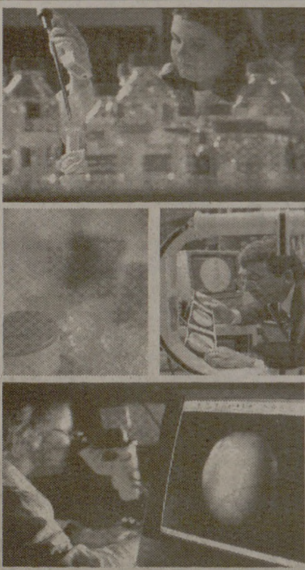
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Representatives from Lexicon Genetics Incorporated will be hosting an informational meeting on Monday, March 4 at 5:30 pm in Rudder Tower, room 510. Life Sciences and Veterinary Medicine graduates and undergraduates who will be available for full time employment in 2002 are encouraged to attend.

Lexicon Genetics Incorporated is a bio-pharmaceutical company located in The Woodlands, Texas. Through the combination of Lexicon's novel *in vivo* validated drug targets, and the innovative drug discovery chemistry at Lexicon Pharmaceuticals, we have established a superior position from which to rapidly implement an integrated gene-to-lead drug discovery platform.

Presently, we have career opportunities for Scientists, Research Associates and Research Assistants in several departments. For additional information on our company and available full time opportunities, please visit our website at [www.lexicon-genetics.com](http://www.lexicon-genetics.com).

Students interested in attending this informational meeting are encouraged to RSVP to [mvoigt@lexgen.com](mailto:mvoigt@lexgen.com).

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**Funnyman Michel Lauziere**

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**There's Something About Michel**

That something is comic genius! Equal parts musician, inventor, acrobat, juggler, and, of course, comedian, Lauziere will delight OPAS JR audiences this Saturday with his hilarious one man show. In addition to the stunt you see in this photo (yes, his body is inside a balloon), one of Lauziere's many other gags includes performing classical and popular music with his famous suit of horns. If that doesn't entice you to get a ticket, nothing will!

**FUNNYMAN MICHEL LAUZIERE**  
Sun, March 3 • 2 PM & 4 PM  
Rudder Theatre  
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Online at [opas.tamu.edu](http://opas.tamu.edu)

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Radio News from the newsroom  
**THE BATTALION**  
campus and community news  
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**Permanent detention center being built**

QUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP) — Navy workers hammered and hoisted wooden planks Wednesday, building the first units of a permanent detention facility at the U.S. base for hundreds of prisoners in the war on terrorism.

"The good news is that we have received...congressional authority to proceed on the detention and security facilities," Marine Brig. Gen. Michael Lehnert, who is in charge of the detention mission, said Wednesday.

Naval construction workers were building 16-by-32 foot wooden huts. The permanent prison will have 75 of them for military guards; a large white recreation tent and nine facilities with showers, toilets and sinks.

While the huts are being built, land will be cleared for the detention facility, and cell blocks — 48 in all — will be built at another location and then trucked to the prison.

It will have 408 separate cells and more amenities that the hastily built Camp X-Ray, where 300 prisoners of the war in Afghanistan are being held.

At Camp X-ray, inmates sleep on foam mattresses in cells with chain-link walls open to the elements and a corrugated iron roof. Military guards have to escort them to toilets or showers.

Each new cell will have a toilet, sink and a metal bed. Individual cells will be separated by wire mesh so inmates can "see each other and talk to one another," Schulman said.

The blocks will have an area for showers and

will be ventilated, but not air conditioned, and will also be a concrete deck where inmates stretch and exercise.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld Tuesday U.S. interrogations of al-Qaida Taliban prisoners have begun focusing on — if any — of the detainees being held in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay may be a U.S. military tribunal.

"Some may very well be," he said. "I was to get ready and be prepared," Rumsfeld adding that he would be ready soon.

Up to now, the interrogators have sought information that might help pre-empt future attacks or that might shed light on the work of the al-Qaida network or the whereabouts of leader, Osama bin Laden.

The next step, now under way, is to decide whether and how to prosecute, Rumsfeld said. Those not tried by a military tribunal would be prosecuted in a U.S. civilian or military court, he said.

A military tribunal could put accused terrorists on trial faster and in greater secrecy than a criminal court. The Bush administration determined that no Americans would face a military tribunal. The 494 prisoners come from more than 40 countries. Some, including Saudi Arabia, asked that their citizens be returned for prosecution.

**Afghanistan still a supplier of heroin despite opium ban**

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Despite a ban on cultivation of opium poppies by Afghanistan's new interim government, poppies have started blooming everywhere and the country remains a key supplier of heroin, the U.S. member of the International Narcotics Control Board says.

Herbert Okun said Afghanistan's leader Hamid Karzai is not to blame because Afghan farmers need to grow something to survive and at the moment there are not any alternatives to poppy production.

"We need to wean the peasants of Afghanistan away from growing the opium poppy so crop substitution is required," he told a news conference on Tuesday. "It has to be serious and it has to be sustained. We hope it will happen soon, and we hope it will be successful."

The Vienna-based board has called on the U.N. Security Council to promote U.N. programs that would substitute

crops like wheat, cotton and sorghum for poppies, and to assist Afghanistan in preventing production and trafficking in opium and heroin.

"We need to wean the peasants of Afghanistan away from growing opium poppy so crop substitution is required," Okun said.

— Herbert Okun  
International Narcotics Control Board

Afghanistan became the world's leading source of opium, from which heroin and morphine are produced, in the early 1990s and remained so under the Taliban that took power in 1996 and was ousted by U.S. forces late last year. An U.N. edict in 2000 banning poppy cultivation reduced production about 10 percent — and is expected to rise to 20 percent as some claim, Okun said.

"It was a con job and the drought did it for them," he said.

While banning poppy cultivation, the Taliban held on to a six-year supply of opium, which continues to make up a large part of the country's economy, primarily in the south, Okun noted.

"Under the Taliban, we never saw a drug seizure in Afghanistan — not one case of a recorded seizure of heroin," he added at the conference to launch the annual report.

In the report, the board said "large quantities of opium made available from stocks" in Afghanistan during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

**Suspect may be handed to United States**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan does not object to handing the chief suspect in the abduction and killing of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl to the United States, but certain legal issues must be resolved first, a high-ranking Pakistani diplomat told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

"We have no objections" to confessed kidnapper Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh being handed over, said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The diplomat said Pakistan is considering

whether to first try Saeed here before handing him over. He said Saeed could be transferred to American custody by classifying him as a combatant fighting against the U.S. war on terrorism, thus allowing the two countries to bypass the issue of extradition. The United States and Pakistan have no clear extradition treaty.

Pakistani Interior Minister Moimuddin Khan vowed Wednesday to bring Pearl's killers to justice, and said allegations about a link between Saeed and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency were "malicious and wrong propaganda."

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