



Kerry Bost, Battalion photo

There's a method to this madness

Rod Zeimer, an agriculture economics professor, readies to be hit — all for the sake of charity. The entire Agricultural Economics

department volunteers each year to raise money for a needy family in the Bryan-College Station area.

## 3-year-old needing liver described as a 'fighter'

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Jonathon Lehman is doing well after surgery to relieve a painful side effect of his chronic liver disease, the 3-year-old's mother said Thursday, and should be back with his family next week.

Since birth Jonathon has suffered from biliary atresia — a blockage that prevents bile from passing properly out of his liver — and will die before reaching adulthood if he cannot have a liver transplant.

When he was just a few months old Jonathon had a kasai, a surgical procedure that passed a tube from his liver to his intestines. But that caused constant, painful itching all over his body that medication could not relieve.

Surgeons at Childrens Medical Center in Dallas Wednesday performed a revision of the biliary bypass that will now send bile from his liver into a bag and relieve his itching.

"We're sure he'll be able to come home next week," Darlene Seguin Lehman said Thursday in a telephone interview.

"He's a real fighter. He's getting to the age where he's wondering what's going on." Jonathon is on the transplant

waiting list at the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences in Memphis, but the biggest problem is finding a donor.

"The doctors in Memphis are very optimistic," Lehman said. "It shouldn't be too long. He's a good size."

The Memphis transplant team requires that a child weigh at least 20 pounds. Jonathon in the past month had stopped growing at 17 pounds, another factor in his hospitalization and surgery this week, but he already is up to 18 pounds and his mother believes he will continue to put on weight.

Transplant surgery costs \$150,000 and the university medical center requires an

\$80,000 deposit to put a child on its list. Lehman said donations reached that level a couple of weeks ago and are still coming in, especially from her hometown of Brownsville.

Schepps Dairy Inc., a Dallas business known for its charitable contributions, has promised to arrange charter air transportation to Memphis when the Lehman family gets the word on a donor.

Jon Lehman markets video games for a living, but Mrs. Lehman, who is working on her master's thesis in art education from Texas Woman's University, mostly is tied to their home in Irving, a Dallas suburb, while caring for Jonathon and 14-month-old Joshua.

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## Policeman describes mafia of Vietnamese

**United Press International**  
WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah — A mafia of Vietnamese refugees, including some from North Vietnam, has been involved in grisly and brutal murders, threats and extortion against other refugees in western states, a policeman says.

Detective Ron Edwards said the "Vietnam mafia" is active from the West Coast through the Mountain West and into Texas.

But Edwards, speaking to a recent conference of Western and Pacific Association of Criminal Justice Educators, said much of the information

obtained the past year can't be disclosed.

He said he could give not names, dates or specific cities or areas involved because the investigation is continuing.

Edwards said he was asked to talk about the new organized crime group because it has received little attention and law enforcement officers need to be more aware of its activities.

He said he has been asked to appear before a California grand jury investigating the organization.

Most of the group's activity involves extortion of money from Vietnamese nationals and other oriental refugees, he said.

Victims are ordered to pay money under the guise that it will be used to buy guns to help free South Vietnam from the communists, Edwards said. If the money isn't paid, the victim is shot, he said.

At least four Vietnamese men have been coming to Utah from California to extort money from local refugees, he said. He said the local refugees are scared to death.

Edwards also said he said he has received threats because of the investigation.

The investigation indicates some of those involved are from Hanoi in North Vietnam, suggesting ties to the communists, he said.

## Trucker files lawsuit against busline

**United Press International**  
BEAUMONT — The driver of a truck rear-ended by a Trailways bus in a six-fatality accident filed a \$3 million federal lawsuit blaming the company for the accident and his "whiplash" injury, his lawyer said Thursday.

Attorney Joe Tonahill filed the petition in U.S. District Court Wednesday on behalf of Richard Garcia of Livingston, where the collision occurred in early the morning of Nov. 30.

The suit charged the bus company failed to provide properly for the safety of its passengers.

It also charges the bus driver, Edward Perry, 37, who remains hospitalized in Houston with injuries he suffered in the acci-

dent, was driving too fast to control the vehicle.

A federal investigation has not indicated why the bus slammed into the flatbed truck on a four-lane divided highway and fell off a bridge.

Tonahill said Garcia suffered a whiplash injury, the full extent of which is not known. Tonahill said Garcia he cannot work because of the injury and is under a doctor's care.

"He had a whiplash. He was hit pretty hard from the rear. It injured his neck and his spine," Tonahill said. "We don't know yet how bad his injuries are. It sometimes takes a while to manifest itself."

The bus grazed the rear left side of Garcia's truck as Garcia drove in the right lane.

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