

World and Nation

Latest victim of Texas floods raises toll to 6

HUNT (AP) — Floods this week claimed the lives of six people, with the body of the latest drowning victim recovered Tuesday in Central Texas.

The body of Richard Tellez, a 36-year-old scout master, was found in the receding waters of the Guadalupe River about 11:15 a.m., one mile downstream from the low water crossing where he and his brother were knocked into the river, Kerr County deputy Bobby Love said.

Boy scout Frank Tellez, 13, was found dead in the river Monday afternoon, police said.

The river had almost receded to its normal flow by midday, Love said.

"It's almost back to normal and probably will be back to normal in another two to three hours," Love said.

The brothers were in a stalled pickup truck Monday at a low-water crossing with Dan Knight, director of the nearby Bear Creek Boy Scout camp, authorities said.

Knight said he and the two brothers were holding hands to walk to shore when a tree knocked them down.

Student sexual disease rate increases

Doctor: Lack of knowledge, multiple partners cause hike

By Jackie Feldman
Reporter

Although a 1984 government study shows the incidence of sexually-transmitted diseases has declined, doctors believe the incidence among college students has increased.

Dr. W. Paul Roquet of CarePlus Medical Center in College Station estimates that one of every 10 college students who visit the center has an STD.

Although the high rate can be attributed to multiple sex partners and a lack of knowledge about STDs, Roquet believes STDs' image is one of being a "bad person's disease." He said this misconception causes students and others at risk to believe they aren't at risk.

Students know they are in a risk group, Roquet said, but when a student personalizes an STD, he may not think he is at risk because he is not a "bad person."

"A student may say, 'I am a nice person, and I am with a nice person; therefore, I should not be at-risk,'" Roquet said, "but this is not true. STDs are equal-opportunity diseases."

Condoms can reduce the chance of contracting an STD, especially if a person or his partner is not monogamous.

"Most students don't like to use condoms," said Dr. John Moore, acting associate director for A.P. Beutal Health Center. "After a student has been drinking, he is not as careful and more likely to lose his inhibitions."

Chlamydia, genital warts, gonorrhea, genital herpes and syphilis are the most common STDs in the U.S. Among college students, chlamydia is the most prevalent STD.

Chlamydia is serious because it can cause sterility if it is not treated with antibiotics, Moore said, but usually there are no symptoms to alert the person he has the disease. The person unknowingly can spread the disease to others and this can create a vicious cycle, he said.

If symptoms do occur they are mild, such as itching in the genital area, discharge or discomfort when urinating.

The number of chlamydia cases treated by the Brazos County Health Department has dramatically increased in the last few years, records show.

In 1986, the Brazos County Health Department diagnosed two people with chlamydia; in 1987, it diagnosed 58 cases. So far this year, 65 people have been diagnosed with chlamydia by the department.

Gonorrhea's symptoms are similar to chlamydia's, but are more acute. Thick discharge and swelling of genitals occurs. Penicillin will cure the disease, Moore said, but untreated gonorrhea can destroy a person's reproductive organs.

The number of people in the area being diagnosed with gonorrhea is decreasing.

In 1986, 232 people were diagnosed to have gonorrhea by the health department. In 1987 that number dropped to 166, with 42 diagnosed by the department to have the disease so far this year.

Syphilis, genital warts and genital herpes produce lesions in or around the genital area.

Syphilis lesions are hard, slightly raised bumps with a firm edge. They heal quickly, but the virus remains in the body's system. Without penicillin treatment, syphilis is fatal.

The number of people diagnosed by the health department with syphilis is dropping. In 1986, 29 people

were diagnosed with syphilis. In 1987, 13 people were diagnosed with the disease and 13 people have been diagnosed with it so far this year.

Genital herpes produce fever blisters that are very sensitive. This STD virus remains in a person's system for the rest of his life, but a new drug, zovirax, can reduce the outbreak frequency.

Genital herpes is a disease that apparently is not prevalent in the B-CS area. The health department diagnosed one person with syphilis in both 1986 and 1987. Two people have been diagnosed with the disease so far this year.

Genital warts can be flat, raised, rough or smooth, and can be found in clusters or isolated. Three types of treatment are available: deep freezing the warts, electrocuting the warts, and applying an ointment which burns off the warts. Recurrences are common for three to six months after the first treatment.

Six people were diagnosed by the health department with genital warts

in both 1986 and 1987, but 10 people have been diagnosed with them so far this year.

Of the 236 people in the B-CS area diagnosed by the health department with STDs in 1986, 48 — 20 percent — were from College Station. In 1987, 224 people in the B-CS area were diagnosed with 29.5 percent from College Station.

Men seem to be more susceptible to STDs in the B-CS area according to health department numbers.

In 1986, the health department diagnosed 294 people from the Brazos Valley area with STDs, 72 percent men. In 1987, 265 people were diagnosed with the same percentage of men.

STDs also appear to be diseases of the young, with a majority of those diagnosed being college-aged.

Of the men in 1986, 64 percent of those diagnosed were under the age of 22. In the same year, 59 percent of the women diagnosed were aged 18-21.

In 1987, people 18-21 made up 62 percent of those diagnosed with STDs.

Clements supports new school financing system

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements, acknowledging there are inequities in the state's school financing system, Tuesday told school superintendents he will work hard for a constitutional amendment to allow lawmakers — not judges — to make adjustments for those problems.

"There are inequities in our public schools, and they need to be corrected," Clements told a conference of the Texas Association of School Administrators. "But they need to be corrected by the Legislature, not by a state court."

District Judge Harley Clark of Austin earlier ruled that the Texas school finance system was not effective and was, in turn, an unconstitutional system.

In a lawsuit filed by property-poor districts, Clark said the state's system denied equal access to state funds for all districts. The case is being appealed.

Clements said Texans have suffered bad experiences with court control of other state institutions, such as the prison system. Clements also said that he wants judges to keep their hands off of local school districts in the state.

"The people of Texas have had expensive and painful experiences with federal court intervention in the state's prison system," he said. "But Texans will not stand for intervention by a state court in the education of their children."

The governor said he is not arguing that all

school problems have been solved in the state, and he said there is no question that no money must be pumped into public education and public schools.

"Funding, additional funding, is part of the solution," he said, adding that he expects recommendations from his Select Committee on Education to address the problem.

Clements said he will make it a top priority during the 1989 Legislature to place on the ballot a constitutional amendment to guarantee that school funding issues stay in the Legislature.

"To ensure that Judge Clark's court, or any court for that matter, stays out of the legislative process, I support a constitutional amendment reaffirming the responsibility of

legislators and local school districts to provide for public education in Texas," he said.

"Some people believe that defenders of local control and of the concept of the independent school district want only to ratify the status quo or freeze funding or even perpetuate the inequities. That is simply not so. The status quo is not acceptable."

In an interview after his speech, the governor said he had no doubt that voters would approve such an amendment if it is on the ballot.

"They are absolutely in concrete that they want to maintain local control," Clements forcefully said. "That's what the whole issue will be about."

Correction

An article in last Friday's *Battalion* gave an incorrect starting date for the National Cholesterol Education Program diet screening. Preliminary screening for the study will be from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. today through Friday in 145 MSC, and from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Susan Clay, project coordinator, said the study will be the first to use the National Cholesterol Education Program diet in a clinical trial.

The phone number for information also was listed incorrectly. Contact Clay or project director Dr. Joanne Lupton at 845-0955.

The *Battalion* regrets the errors and any inconvenience they might have caused.

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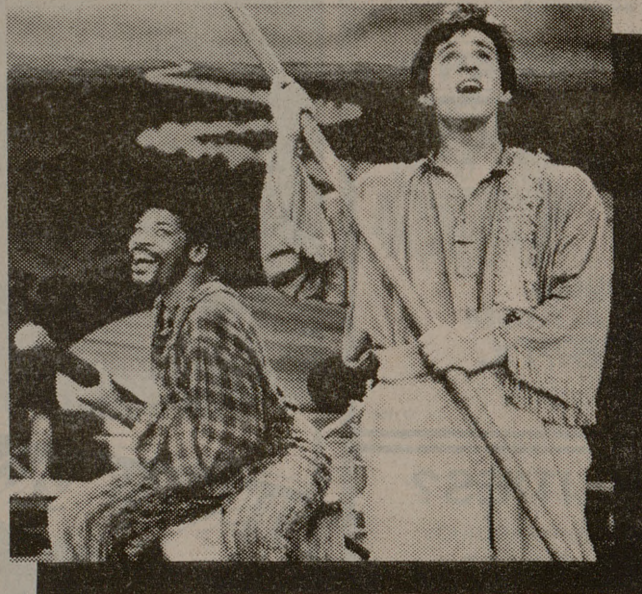
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