

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Dog days at the doctor
Hank, a basset hound, receives an examination from Texas A&M Veterinarian students Wayne

Deson and Sue Chastain at the Small Animal Veterinary Clinic Monday.

Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Johnson loses medal because of drug test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Ben Johnson was stripped of his victory in the 100 meters for taking steroids, and Carl Lewis was given the gold medal Tuesday as the Olympic movement recoiled in shock over one of its grimmest moments.

"This is a blow for the Olympic Games and the Olympic movement," International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch said.

Johnson also was banned from competition for two years by the International Amateur Athletic Federation and almost certainly will be stripped of the world record he set here.

Thus, at age 26, Canada's "Big Ben" will lose two of his best years of his career.

And the Olympics loses one of its proudest moments, now cast in shame.

"We feel sick about it," Pat Reid, a Canadian coach, said. "The whole world feels sick about it."

Canadian chef de mission Carol Anne Letheren said, "We are acutely aware of how devastating this news will be to millions of people."

Johnson left Seoul Tuesday morning aboard a Korean Air Line flight destined for New York, unable to defend himself or his actions.

Letheren said when she spoke with Johnson, he appeared to be in a complete state of shock and not comprehending the situation and not comprehending the information.

The IOC said in a statement that a urinalysis taken after Johnson won the 100 meters in world-record time Saturday showed traces of the anabolic steroid Stanozolol, which builds muscle tissue and speeds healing.

Dr. Robert Dugal of Canada called the drug one of the most dangerous anabolic steroids, and said it could lead to liver cancer.

Lewis was second in the world's fastest 100 meters, and with his second gold, he may now resume his bid for another four-gold grand slam at the Olympics. Four years ago, he won four gold when the Soviet bloc stayed away. Now, he could win four gold without actually finishing first in the 100.

Johnson's manager, Larry Heidebrecht, said the finding of steroids was either a mistake or sabotage.

In a news conference Tuesday morning, Heidebrecht said he believed the steroids were contained in a bottle of sport drink given to Johnson either before the 100 semifinals or finals.

Astronauts go to Florida for launch of Discovery

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The five Discovery astronauts flew through stormy skies to this launch site Monday for the first U.S. foray into space in three years, and their commander said, "We're excited, we cannot wait to do this."

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Before landing at the Kennedy Space Center, the astronauts took their T-38 jets in a turn around the space shuttle, almost obscured on the oceanside launch pad by low-hanging clouds.

The astronauts, who had flown from their training base in Houston, delayed their departure from a refueling stop at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa because of lightning warnings at the Cape and arrived 45 minutes late.

NASA set the countdown clock in motion Monday morning for liftoff at 9:59 a.m. EDT Thursday of the first shuttle flight since the Challenger disaster.

Shuttle commander Frederick H. Hauck said based on the troublesome weather history at the Cape, there is a 60 percent chance of a launch on schedule.

"The mission control team is ready," Hauck said. "I know the launch control team in Florida is ready, the bird is ready and we're ready."

NASA's rules, tightened since Challenger, forbid launching when there is lightning within 10 miles of the pad or rain.

Thursday's forecast was for scattered and broken clouds, a wind of 10-15 knots from the southeast, temperatures of 85 degrees and widely scattered showers. Winds over 17 knots from the south or 24 knots from any direction would automatically scrub the liftoff.

Hauck said he would keep his fingers crossed.

"But I tell you, we're excited," he said. "We cannot wait to do this, and we are ready."

With a wave of scores of waiting journalists, Hauck said, "We're back on track. Y'all take care."

The astronauts landed two miles from the launch pad, on the space center runway that would be used in case the shuttle had to make an emergency return. After his brief speech, Hauck and his four crewmen embraced their wives, embraced them and walked with them off the runway hand-in-hand.

At the launch pad, where the Discovery was being groomed for flight, green ribbons, the local symbol for America's return to space, fluttered from beams and scaffolding.

Hauck and pilot Richard O. Covey spent the morning in liftoff rehearsals in Houston before flying to Florida.

Mission specialists John M. Lounge and David Hilmers were in the back seats and mission specialist George D. Nelson was a passenger in a third T-38.

County settles voting issue

By Susan B. Erb
Staff Writer

In what County Judge Dick Holmgreen said will probably be the final decision on Brazos County absentee voting sites, the Brazos County Commissioners Court Tuesday let stand its Sept. 13 decision to designate the county courthouse and the College Station Community Center as Brazos County absentee voting sites.

Commissioner Billy Beard's motion that an absentee voting site be established on the Texas A&M campus died for lack of a second.

On Sept. 6, the commissioners court designated the Brazos Center as the county's only absentee voting site. The court rescinded its decision the following week and voted to designate the College Station Community Center as a temporary absentee voting site and to reinstate the

county courthouse — Brazos County's historical absentee voting site — as an absentee polling place.

Decisions were based on site accessibility, fairness to minorities and cost of polling sites.

Holmgreen said he thought the final decision was a good one. The sites, he said, are accessible to anyone in the county.

"We are not trying to stop anybody from voting," Holmgreen said. "We are trying to improve the situation."

GOP Party Chairman Rodger Lewis said the advantage of having an absentee site on campus is that Brazos County residents from all precincts can vote there. Lewis said long waiting lines on election day could be a hindrance to voters who have jobs or classes to go to.

"In 1984, there was no time during the day when the wait at Precinct

35, the Northgate dorm area, was less than an hour. There will probably be over 4,000 voters registered in that precinct this year."

Minority leaders voiced concerns at previous commissioners court meetings that an on-campus voting site would dilute the minority vote because of the concentration of the Hispanic-minority community in the west and northwest parts of the county.

Robert Orozco, a Bryan attorney, suggested at the Sept. 13 meeting either equal convenience, in the form of a site in every precinct — which he recognized as economically unfeasible — or equal inconvenience, one site at the county courthouse.

Costs of \$3,000 per absentee site prohibited the establishment of a site in every precinct.

Lewis said he felt the minorities had been manipulated to oppose

something that would help them as much or more than it would help A&M students, who are predominantly Republican.

"The truth," Lewis said, "is that more minorities work on the Texas A&M campus than anywhere else in Brazos County. I drive past them every day while they're standing on the road waiting for their rides to work. They don't have cars.

"It will be a long hike for them to walk all the way across campus to the community center," Lewis said.

Holmgreen stressed the fact that Brazos County residents may vote at 40 different locations throughout the county on election day, Nov. 8.

Absentee voters may cast their ballots Monday through Friday, Oct. 19 to Nov. 4, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rape defendant begins testimony

SAN DIEGO, Texas (AP) — The first of 10 men to be tried in the alleged gang rape of a woman testified Monday that he was romantically involved with her and had sex with her on the hood of a car outside an illegal cockfight at her insistence.

The defense promptly rested its case, and State District Judge Rodolfo Gutierrez presented his charge to the jury, and told the six-man, six-woman panel to be prepared to deliberate late into the night if necessary.

"I told you yesterday to be prepared to work late, because that's what we're going to do," the judge told the jury as lawyers for both sides worked on their final arguments.

The judge told the jury that dinner would be ordered for them. Gutierrez said he wanted to finish the trial no later than noon Tuesday because he needs to leave then to attend a judicial conference.

Orlando Garza, 24, testified that he and the alleged victim had been having an affair for about two months before the night she says she was assaulted.

The state put on the stand as a rebuttal witness a 16-year-old boy who testified for the defense Saturday that he watched several men sexually attacking the woman but didn't remember any of their names.

Garza testified Monday before more than 160 people in the jammed courtroom.

Professor: Students not safe from AIDS

By Kelly S. Brown
Staff Writer

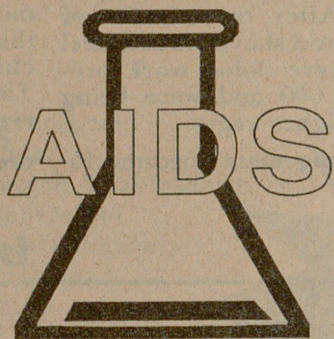
Editor's note: This story is the second in a three-part series on acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Staff writer Kelly Brown attended a state conference on AIDS and the College Campus — Policies and Perspectives earlier this month.

AIDS only happens to "other people," so methods of prevention are not necessary, or so many college students believe.

They think it happens to the promiscuous, the homosexuals, the intravenous drug users, but not to their friends and especially not to people like them, an Oregon State University professor said.

Lizabeth Gray, an assistant professor of counseling at OSU, said studies conducted on campuses around the country keep turning up with the same conclusions — students possess accurate knowledge about AIDS, but knowledge is not enough to change their "at-risk" behavior.

And a risk does exist. Research completed at California State Uni-



versity, the University of Texas and OSU indicates that this decade's college students, heterosexuals and homosexuals alike, will be the group hardest hit by AIDS in the future.

Dr. Barbara Tyler, staff member at A.P. Beutel Health Center, said she knows of A&M students who are infected with AIDS now, and a number of A&M students already have died of AIDS.

"There is cause for great concern, and that's why we formed a committee this summer to develop a policy A&M will have toward AIDS," Tyler

said. "We want to recommend to the president the adoption of a general statement on the institution's response to AIDS, and a policy and procedure guideline relating to the specific issues involving AIDS. We would also like to stimulate and promote education and information programs to the university community."

Many campuses already have policies regarding AIDS, and A&M will look at theirs to see how effective they have been. A&M also is keeping a close watch on the AIDS studies other colleges have done on their campuses.

Gray said her studies show that college students are not talking to each other about AIDS or the risk of getting the disease.

"For example, they aren't asking a new partner about their sexual history and they aren't talking about the need to use a condom, even though they know its risky to have intercourse without protection," she said.

Researchers agree that the research findings confirm the impres-

sion that behavior and knowledge are not in sync on the issue, and they want that to change.

In a study completed this spring at the University of Texas by Dr. Demetri Vacalis, an associate professor of kinesiology and health education, results showed that 75 percent of the students surveyed had a good understanding of AIDS and "risky" behavior.

However, 55 percent said they never use condoms, 31 percent said they sometimes use condoms and 14 percent said they always use condoms.

Of the 2000 students in the study, 47 percent said they had sex with more than one person. Fifteen percent said they had had sex with people they didn't know and 33 percent said they were not interested practicing safer sex.

The same study showed that 33 percent of the students thought AIDS could be transmitted while sharing a hot tub. Forty percent said

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Cutting card needed to work at bonfire site

By Kathleen Reilly
Staff Writer

Texas A&M students who want to work on bonfire this year need to get a cutting card before first cut on Sunday. Bonfire cutting classes start today and continue on Wednesday and Thursday.

The classes will be held at the Grove at 5:15 and 6:15 in the evening.

Mike Prothro, a senior redpot, said the classes will stress safety. "Students will be shown the proper way to use an ax and to watch for and avoid dangers," he said. "They will also learn about maintaining the equipment."

No one will be admitted to the cutting site without a cutting card. Attending cutting class is the only way to obtain a card.

For those who cannot make it to the weekday classes, one will be

held at the site on Sunday morning at 7:30.

The same cutting site will be used, only a different area will be cut. It is in Carlos, on Texas Municipal Power Agency property.

Prothro is one of eight senior redpots in charge of the operation. Senior redpots prepare junior redpots for next year when the juniors will be in charge. Five brownpots act as mediators between the junior and senior redpots. Brownpots and junior redpots do the actual building of bonfire.

Civilians also can work on bonfire. Each dorm has a yellowpot and crew chiefs in charge of motivating residents. Women usually are pinkpots. They provide lunch at the cutting site and work with the cookie crew as bonfire is being built.