



Head and shoulders above the rest

Juniors Chris Primeaux, from Lake Charles, La., and Wade Burton, from Killeen, attach lights to a perimeter pole at the bonfire construction area on Duncan Field Wednesday afternoon.

Photo by Dean Saito

School district invokes drug testing of students

WINNIE (AP) — Students of the East Chambers Consolidated School District will have to submit to a drug test before they can participate in extracurricular activities.

The mandatory drug testing, implemented Thursday, calls for students in grades six through 12 to be tested for a dozen types of drugs including marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines and steroids.

"I envision the kids taking some pride in being drug-free," East Chambers High School Principal James Crews said. "What we're after right now is parent awareness. We want to intervene before it becomes a crisis."

About 88 percent of the district's high school and junior high school students participate in extracurricular activities, including band, cheerleading, student council, athletics, speech clubs and drama clubs, school district Superintendent Keith Davis said.

That leaves about 65 students in the district who don't participate in any of these activities and won't be tested for drugs.

Winnie, about 60 miles east of Houston, will be the third community in the state to implement mandatory student drug testing, school officials said.

School districts in Hawkins and Timpson, both in East Texas, have similar programs.

The issue has raised a thicket of legal questions and has prompted the American Civil Liberties Union to declare the plan unconstitutional.

"They're clearly not thinking of a drug-free campus because there's a whole segment out there that's not being tested," Bruce Griffiths, legal director for the Greater Houston chapter of the ACLU, said.

Griffiths said the ACLU is prepared to file a lawsuit on behalf of any student who feels the test would violate their Fourth Amendment rights against illegal search and seizure.

For the next several weeks, about 30 students a day will file into the school principal's office for a brief interview with the school nurse and to give urine samples.

The tests will be unsupervised, and samples will be sent to a Houston laboratory.

If a student tests positive, they will be banned from extracurricular activities and their parents will be notified.

School officials will then encourage

drug counseling for the student, who can request a retest at any time and resume activities as soon as their test results are clean.

Students have mixed reactions to the program.

"If someone is on drugs maybe we can find out and help them," said Ezell Brown, 17, a football player and senior class president. "But if we are the only school district in the area getting tested I

think other schools we compete against should have to be tested."

But Kelley Smith, 17, disagrees and quit the football team in protest.

"I don't think it's any of their business what you do when you're off school, and my parents agree," Smith said.

He said he quit the football team as a matter of principle to protest the testing.

Senate approves resolution urging plans for library

By Kelly S. Brown
Staff Writer

The Student Senate unanimously voted Wednesday for a resolution requesting the administration to make a sincere commitment to the library system by immediately establishing long-range plans for budgeting, library endowment, book and serial acquisition and facility expansion.

The resolution was introduced by Mark Williams, a graduate student in land development and a member of the academic affairs committee, who said the library must become a top priority of the administration.

The Chronicle of Higher Education ranked Texas A&M seventh in the nation in library endowments with \$1.2 billion, while it ranked the library forty-seventh in budgeted expenditures with \$9,022,614 in 1986-87. The budget has remained constant for the last four years.

Where endowments are concerned, Williams said, A&M is being ranked with Harvard, Princeton and Yale. But when looking at budget totals, they don't even compare, he said. Harvard has a budget of \$34,792,739, while its endowment is \$4 billion.

Another resolution introduced by Williams also was unanimously passed. It stated that courses taken at other institutions in which the student receives a

grade below a "C-" will not be transferable or applicable toward A&M's degree requirements.

Williams said the current practice at A&M of accepting transfer credit for courses in which a "D" grade has been received puts students who take those courses at A&M at a disadvantage because transferred courses can count toward a degree without any detrimental impact on the student's GPR.

Whereas students taking classes at A&M receive whatever grade they earn in a class, transfer students who earn a "C" or above in a class have it transferred without the grade affecting their GPR, Williams said.

The Senate voted down a bill appointing class representatives to the Senate. The bill was intended to have members of Class Council serve as intermediaries between their class and the Senate. It wouldn't have given them voting privileges in the Senate, but would have been allowed speaking privileges.

The bill drew a lengthy debate and discussion from both sides.

Opponents of the bill said each student is already represented by two senators — one from his major and one from where he lives. Opponents also argued that

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Students play jury in mock trial, convict 'local bank teller' of DWI

By Juliette Rizzo
Staff Writer

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, was found guilty Wednesday night of Driving While Intoxicated — but only in a mock trial.

Wiatt participated as Bob Kelly, the accused "friendly College Station bank teller" in the trial put on as part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

"The trial was set up to show students what a real DWI trial is like," Wiatt said. "Our purpose was to hopefully deter students from driving while under the influence of alcohol. It's a lot less expensive for the student to witness a DWI trial than to go through one."

In the prosecution's opening statement, Alex Walter, student legal adviser, explained that the prosecution must prove through "burden of proof" that the accused was guilty beyond a rea-

sonable doubt of being intoxicated while driving a vehicle in a public place.

In the trial, it was made clear that intoxication means not having the normal use of physical and mental capabilities while under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substances or having a blood alcohol level of 0.10 or more.

Arresting Officer, Sergeant Ron Horner of the UPD, said the accused was driving "erratically" and swerving across lanes when he was stopped and administered three field sobriety tests to determine if he might be drunk.

"After noting his slow, deliberate unbalanced mannerisms, his glassy eyes and detecting alcohol on his breath, we took him in," Horner said.

Wiatt said students should be aware that they can be stopped for having broken brake lights or expired license plates and, upon the officer's inspection of the driver and the vehicle, if alcohol is detected, they can be arrested for DWI.

"The officer does not have to stop the person initially for being drunk," Wiatt said. "At the point the person steps out of the car, the officer uses his own experiences and his eyes and nose to look for discernable features of intoxication such as red eyes, slurred speech and staggering."

If the person's performance on the tests is minimal and the officer can detect the aroma of alcohol on his breath, the person can be arrested. After being taken to the courthouse, the person is asked to repeat his performance of the sobriety tests for videotaping. An intoxilyzer, a breath-alcohol level test, or a blood sample is then required.

Dr. Tim Coppinger, representing an intoxilyzer expert, explained the process behind intoxilyzer testing.

The results of an intoxilyzer are available immediately, but if the person chooses the option of the blood test, they are taken to a local hospital where the

sample is drawn and sent to the Department of Public Safety. Persons choosing this option are charged with DWI at the officer's discretion nonetheless, until the results come in. If the tests come in negative, the charges are dropped.

If the person refuses both options, his driver's license can be suspended for 90 days.

"If they do refuse both options," Wiatt said, "the whole case rests on the credibility of the officer's testimony, and jurors have been known to convict without the scientific evidence of blood tests or intoxilyzers."

Bob Kelly, represented by Wiatt, had a blood alcohol level of 0.16 with the minimum level being 0.10. Kelly and his attorney, Jim Locke, tried to plea for innocence, but by a verdict of 105 to 28, jurors, played by the attendees of the trial, found Kelly guilty.

Three American scientists win Nobel Prize in physics

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Three Americans won the Nobel Prize in physics Wednesday for their work with subatomic particles, and three West Germans shared the chemistry prize for unraveling a mystery of photosynthesis.

Americans Leon Lederman, Melvin Schwartz and Jack Steinberger shared the physics prize for capturing neutrinos in a high energy beam to probe the structure of atomic particles.

Chemists Johann Deisenhofer, Robert Huber and Hartmut Michel of West Germany were honored for discoveries that may be critical in harnessing the sun's energy. They were rewarded for work completed only three years ago, indicating the importance attached to their breakthrough by the awarding committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Many recipients wait decades for recognition.

Committee chairman Bo Malmstrom said their work was an essential step toward artificial photosynthesis,

which scientists hope will provide the key to converting the sun's energy to man's needs.

"The only way in the long run to solve the energy problem of the world is to utilize solar energy," Malmstrom said.

Although it had no immediate practical application, the academy said the research had importance beyond the study of photosynthesis, the process of converting sunlight into energy.

It said the research could be used in understanding central biological functions, including the transport of chemical substances between cells, hormone action and nerve impulses.

The physics award also was for basic research with no practical use as yet, said Bengt Nagel, secretary of the academy's physics committee.

The physicists discovered a way to concentrate neutrinos by the hundreds of billions into a beam capable of probing the inner parts of protons in the same way an X-ray penetrates the human body, the academy said.

Libertarian candidate suggests alternative vote

By Scot Walker
Staff Writer

Carrying the Libertarian Party's message of "Liberty, freedom and independence," presidential candidate Ron Paul told about 150 people in the MSC Wednesday night the future of the United States should include a return to the gold standard, no personal income tax and the legalization of currently illegal drugs.

"We (the Libertarian Party) offer a vehicle to deal in the principle of what government really ought to be all about," Paul said. "The Libertarian Party offers a solution to a political system that makes voters choose between a party that wants economic socialism and one that wants to eliminate personal liberty."

Paul, an obstetrician-gynecologist from Lake Jackson, speaking at the MSC Political Forum's presidential candidate series, was applauded several times during his speech, including when he said Selective Service registration and gun control should end. His biggest ovation came when he called for the abolition of the personal income tax and the Internal Revenue Service.

"In a free-market society, you just don't tax incentives," Paul said.

When Paul paused for the applause, Kate Rutledge, a co-director for Political Forum, stepped to the microphone and announced that Paul's speech was over.

Patty Herr, Political Forum's national program director, said the candidate had agreed beforehand to limit his remarks to 30 minutes in order to allow time for a question-and-answer period after the speech.

"Because there was such a large turnout, we let him run over the time limit," Herr said. "But we wanted to make sure everyone in the audience had a chance to ask their questions, so we decided to cut him off."

During the question-and-answer session, Paul said all anti-drug laws should be repealed and all drugs legalized.

"We're not talking about selling heroin to five-year-olds," Paul said. "But drug dealers can only operate because of the inflated price of their product due to anti-drug laws. And it's a fact that 50 percent of all crimes are to raise money to buy these drugs. Legalizing drugs would solve both problems."

Paul, a former four-term Republican congressman from Lake Jackson, said the current prosperity enjoyed by many people in the United States is an illusion brought about by Republican and Democratic administrations spending more money than they have.

"If I borrow \$10,000 my standard of living just improved," Paul said. "But when the time comes to pay that money back, my standard of living drops way down, and pretty soon we're going to have to pay back that debt. The people in power now think that the solution is to get you (students) into the workforce and tax you like crazy."

Paul said that the Libertarian solution is a return to the gold standard.

"If I counterfeit money, the government can put me in jail," Paul said. "But without the gold standard, that same government can engage in the fraud of printing money with nothing to back it up in order to work its way out of debt."

Bob Martin and Bob Hild, both graduate students in nuclear engineering, attended the program and said that the Libertarian Party was a viable alternative to the traditional parties.



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Libertarian presidential candidate Ron Paul.