

Narcotics officers base 'street value' of drugs on purity level, market

WASHINGTON (AP) — Narcotics officers seize a mound of cocaine and say it's worth \$300,000 on the street. But whose street?

A crack dealer is arrested carrying dozens of crack rocks worth \$1,000, officials say. But what is a rock?

An informal survey by the Associated Press of narcotics officers nationwide found a kilo of cocaine ranges from \$10,000 in Los Angeles to \$35,000 in Iowa City to almost \$70,000 in Shreveport, La.

The street price of powdered cocaine, meanwhile, ranges from \$16 per gram in Los Angeles to \$20 for poor quality powder in Yakima, Wash., to \$35 in New York City to as much as \$125 in Iowa City and Shreveport.

A "rock" of crack cocaine, meanwhile, generally runs about \$20 nationwide, but the size of the rock varies tremendously, even within one city.

Drug Enforcement Administration officials often get wary when asked the street value of cocaine. Spokesman Frank Shults cites "the extreme variations in major cities across the country, the widespread variation in purity level and the frequent, regular market fluctuations."

The street value also doesn't reflect the wholesaler's loss, a crucial factor when law enforcement is trying to cripple drug trafficking organizations.

When officials do try to estimate the street value of drugs seized, they sometimes trip over themselves.

Federal agents in Los Angeles seized about 20 tons of cocaine from a warehouse Sept. 29, the largest such seizure in history. Local DEA spokesman Ralph Lochridge issued the first "very conservative" estimate of street value — \$2 billion. The DEA special agent heading the Los Angeles office, John M. Zienter, later placed the street value at \$20 billion.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles police calculate the street value of cocaine at \$170,250 per pound, making the haul worth \$7 billion.

But the people who bought that cocaine lost far less than even \$2 billion. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sgt. Tim Beard said the price per kilo runs about \$10,000

to \$15,000, depending on the quantity and buyer. Based on the \$10,000 price, the 20 tons would have cost \$181 million.

The impact of Colombia's crackdown on drug traffickers, launched in August, remains unclear. Cocaine prices have gone up in some areas while declining in others.

Law enforcement officials say some of the increase may be due to entrepreneurs taking advantage of fears that supplies may dry up.

Wholesale prices of kilos around the country are \$14,000 to \$15,000 in Texas near the Mexican border; \$14,000 in New York; \$16,000 in Dallas; and \$18,000 to \$20,000 in New Orleans.

INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

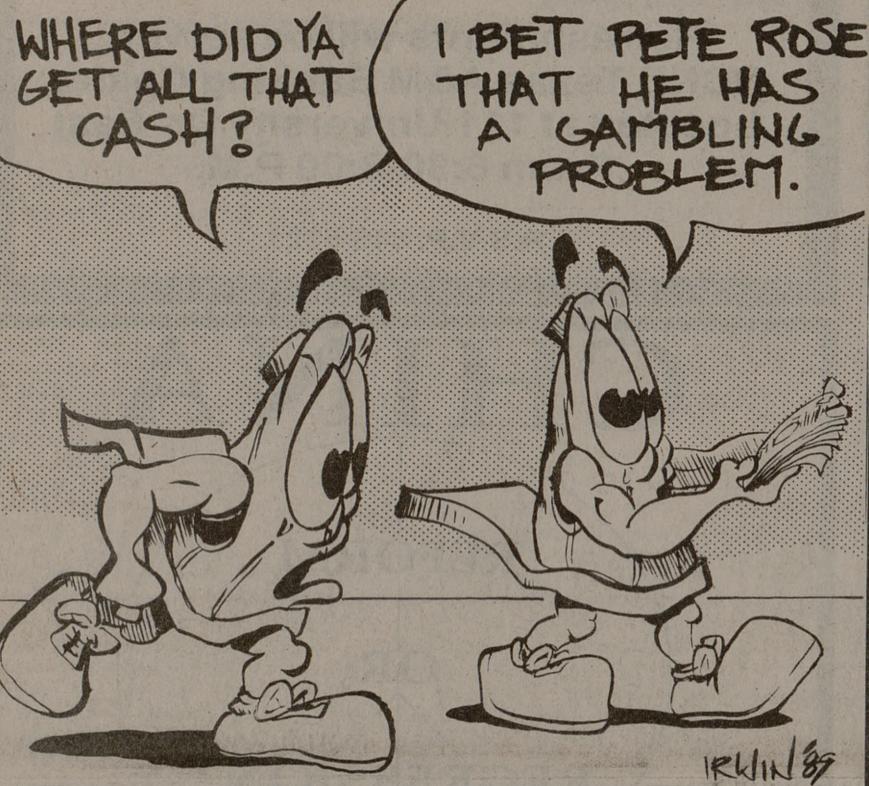
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IM GAMEPLAN

Entries Open: Oct. 2 Entries Close Oct. 10

CoRec 2-Pitch Softball	Field Goal Kicking
Entry Fee: \$20.00 per team	No Entry Fee!
Play Begins: Monday, October 9	Contest Date: Wednesday, October 11

Entries Open: Oct. 9 Entries Close: Oct. 17

Pickleball Singles	Punt, Pass, & Kick
No Entry Fee!	No Entry Fee!
Play Begins Tuesday, October 24	Contest Date Sunday, October 22
Golf Doubles	
Green Fees \$6.25 w/ Student ID \$7.50 w/ Recreational ID (Weekend Rates)	Qualifying Round Sunday, October 22 Monday, October 23 Tuesday, October 24

Flag Football playoffs will be posted Monday, October 16. Play begins Wednesday, October 18.

Volleyball begins tonite. Teams should pick up schedules in 159 Read.

Champions !!!

Congratulations to the winners of the following intramural sports!

Cross Country Run

Age Group	Men's	Women's
18	Chad Bentley	Brooke Hill
19	Lang Nguyen	Kelly Gilliam
20	Steven Croniser	Juliana Phillips
21	Brad Brandham	Lisa Knudson
22 - 25	Jim Jones	Carola Brand
26 - 35	Luis Ruedas	
46+	Bart Braden	

Would the real champion please stand?

Last week's McDonald's Page incorrectly identified a preseason championship Flag Football team. The Corps Open Division Champion team is

Gator A-1

Recreational Sports regrets the error.

Acknowledgements: McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored in by your local McDonald's Restaurant at University Drive, Manor East Mall, Hwy 21, Texas Ave. at SW Parkway and Post Oak Mall. Stories are by Mark Figart, graphics are by Paul Irwin and photographs are by Rec Sports photographers.

CLUB NOTES

Trap and Skeet Club will meet Wednesday, Oct. 11, 8:30 pm, 507 Rudder. New members are welcome. For information call Bunker Hill at 696-9686.

The TAMU Judo Team will compete in the Cactus Jack Invitational in Uvalde, Texas, Saturday, October 14. Good luck Ags! For more information about the Judo Team, call Bobby Perez at 693-1891.

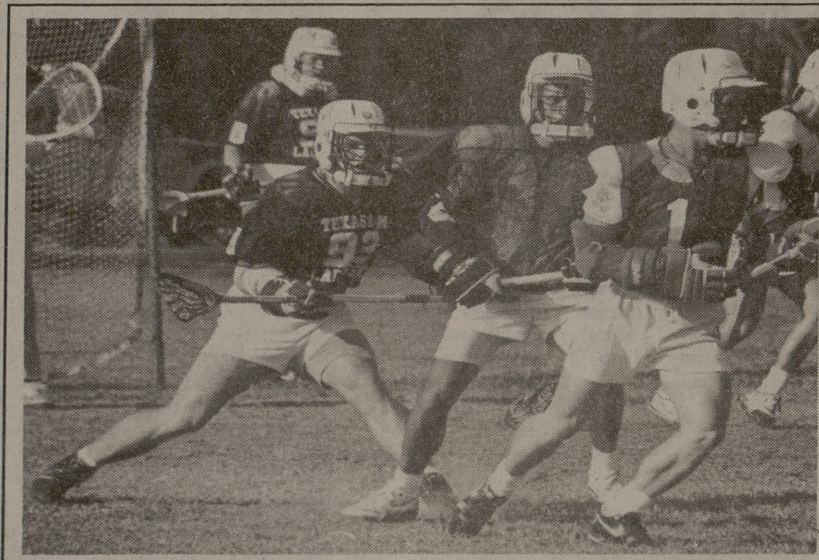


Photo by Mark Figart

Lacrosse team members Blair Allison (#92), Pat Jones, and Dave Martin show their best moves during practice last Monday afternoon. The team plays its first tournament October 28-29 on Simpson Drill Field. About 14 teams are expected to participate, says club president Craig Bernas.

TAMU OUTDOORS

Kayak Roll Instruction Clinic

October 10 & 24, 6:15-8:30 pm, Outdoor Pool

Clinic Fee: \$8 (\$10 non-A&M) covers instruction, kayak rental, and pool time.
Registration: Sept. 18-Oct. 9 for Oct. 10 clinic, and Oct. 9-23 for Oct. 24 clinic. Limited to 10.

Canoe the San Marcos River

October 21-22

Trip Fee: \$35 (\$40 for non A&M)
Registration: October 2 - 16. Trip is limited to 12.

Kayak Workshop

San Marcos River

October 28-29

Fee: \$40 (\$50 non-A&M), includes camping and kayak equipment, camping permit and experienced instruction.
Registration: Oct. 9 - 23. Class size limited.

Big Bend Escape

November 22-26

Spend Thanksgiving on the Rio Grande River in Big Bend Nat'l. Park. We'll paddle through canyons, hike, and relax in the hot springs.

Fee: \$150 (\$165 non-A&M) includes transportation, food, and boating and camping gear.
Registration: Oct. 9 - Nov. 13.

Scuba Dive in Cozumel !!

December 15-18

Fee: Divers - \$450 (\$470 non-A&M), Non-divers - \$375 (\$395 for non A&M), air fare and lodging included. The diving package includes 2 boat dives, 2 lunches, unlimited beach diving and tanks, weights, and belts.
Registration: Sept. 18 - Nov. 1. Limited to 20 participants.

Back Country Skiing

January 6-13

Ski St. Paul's superb powder, in the San Juan Mountains between Silverton and Ouray, Colorado! The St. Paul is a comfortable inn, complete with kerosene lamps, woodburning stove, and a sauna.

Fee: \$399 (\$420 non-A&M) covers transportation, lodging, food, equipment, instruction and guides.
Registration: Oct. 9 - Nov. 30. Limited to 13.

All registration for TAMU Outdoors is taken in 159 Read. For more information, call Patsy Greiner at 845-7826.

REC SPORTS WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY October 9	TUESDAY October 10	WEDNESDAY October 11	THURSDAY October 12	FRIDAY October 13	SATURDAY October 14	SUNDAY October 15
Entries Open: Pickleball Singles Golf Doubles Punt, Pass, & Kick Registration Continues: Cozumel Diving Trip Kayak Roll Clinic	Entries Close: Corec 2-pitch Softball Field Goal Kicking Soccer Playoffs posted 10 am	Field Goal Kicking Contest	Captain's Meeting: Corec 2-pitch Softball 6 pm, 164 Read Soccer Playoffs begin	Rec Sports Track Meet	Men's Rugby vs. University of Houston A&M Football vs. Houston	Men's Soccer vs. Southwest Texas Women's Varsity Soccer vs. Hardin-Simmons