

SPAWN (R)	7:30 9:40
CONTACT (PG)	7:00 10:00
FACE OFF (R)	7:00 10:00
GOOD BURGER (PG)	9:40
NOTHING TO LOSE (R)	7:30 10:10
MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING (PG-13)	7:15 9:50
HERCULES (PG)	7:15

BOX OFFICE OPENS 6:30 pm
TUESDAY through THURSDAY

- Karen, I called. They said that you left the country. Where are you? I miss you! John
- John, I'm in Scotland, working for Dowell. I love it! Sorry I didn't say goodbye! Karen
- Karen, What about us? What about me? What about the ring that I bought you? John
- John, I'm sorry, but it really is a great job! I'm a Field Engineer Trainee, working offshore! Karen P.S. The ring turned green!
- Karen, Will Dowell hire me? Will they send me to Scotland too? Do the Scottish men really wear kilts? John
- John, I don't see you working in the field! You're more of the office type. Sorry, Karen. P.S. They're kilts you idiot!
- Karen, You don't even know me! I could be a good Field Engineer! What is Dowell looking for? John
- John, Dowell hires mobile, adaptable engineers, who like hands-on-work. You won't even change the oil in your car! Karen
- Karen, I'll let Dowell decide! Where do I sign up for an interview? Can you put in a good word for me? John
- John, Submit your resume to the Placement Center ASAP or attend Dowell's information meeting on 10/22/97, interviews on 10/23-24/97 Please don't tell them you know me! Karen

Officials defend TAAS

Lawsuit challenges exam on behalf of minorities

AUSTIN (AP) — The state test required to get a high school diploma was defended Tuesday by state education officials after a federal lawsuit challenged the exam on behalf of minority students who failed it.



Gov. Bush

The lawsuit, filed in San Antonio by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, calls the exit-level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills invalid and discriminatory. Students have their first chance to take the test as sophomores.

According to Texas Education Agency figures, 84.7 percent of the 1996 graduating class passed the TAAS statewide by graduation. That included 76 percent of blacks, 76.2 percent of Hispanics and 91.7 percent of whites.

MALDEF contends the overall passing rate is much lower — under 69 percent overall for the class of 1996. It says the passing rate was 77.9 percent for whites, 59.6 percent for Hispanics and 54 percent for blacks.

Among its claims, the lawsuit says the state unconstitutionally denies black and Mexican-American students educational and career opportunities equal to those available to white students.

It also says the test denies diplomas to students without sufficient proof that use of the exam will enhance students' education or life opportunities. Despite that lack of proof, MALDEF says, about 7,500 students don't pass the TAAS each year and are denied diplomas.

The lawsuit asks that the state be barred from requiring the TAAS for students to graduate.

State Education Commissioner Mike Moses said the test, which is required by state law, was demanded by Texans who want to ensure students who graduate have reading, writing and math skills.

"It is my sense that the public has said it that it wants a high school diploma to mean something," Moses said.

He and others said the state accountability system for public schools — based largely on student performance on the TAAS beginning in elementary school — turns the spotlight on problem areas and thus helps spur improvement.

"The accountability system ... has unquestionably helped improve minority student performance in this state," Moses said.

While more work is needed to improve TAAS performance, he said, the percentage of Hispanic students passing all sections of the exam rose 17 percent between 1994 and 1997. Black student performance went up 19 percent, while the passing rates for whites rose 14 percent.

"I am satisfied that they are not being discriminated against on the exit-level TAAS," Moses said.

Gov. George W. Bush said in a statement that he strongly opposes any effort "to undermine the Texas accountability system."

"I want a Texas high school diploma to mean that every child who earns one has learned basic academic skills essential to a successful life," he said.

State Board of Education member Mary Helen Berlanga of Corpus Christi and John Stevens of the Texas Business and Education Coalition said the TAAS provides a statewide standard to show how students are doing. Classroom grades, by contrast, are more subjective, they said.

Doing away with the test "would be regressing. It would be lowering standards," Ms. Berlanga said.

Moses said "meticulous care" is taken to ensure TAAS test questions are free of bias. The state has made test questions public since 1995.

He said he could not agree with a proposal to keep the accountability system but not require students to pass the test to graduate.

"All students must share in the accountability for their learning," he said.

Several independent school district superintendents were quoted in a TEA statement defending the TAAS and the accountability system.

"We have got proof that since we have been using the test, we have gotten tremendous growth" in student performance, said Houston ISD Superintendent Rod Paige. "We don't think the test discriminates between ethnic groups."

The TAAS earlier was assailed by the Texas branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which alleged the exam was discriminatory in a challenge filed with the U.S. Department of Education.

JOURNAL

Continued from Page 1

"Science students can explore the vital peer review process and the validation of others," she said. "Non-science students can learn about this important process, be-

cause without it, there would be no real basis for scientific research."

Elms said the journal educates undergraduate students as well as the faculty about undergraduate research.

"Lots of people think a good education takes place in a classroom and that undergrads can't do real research, but that is not necessarily so,"

Elms said. "This is a great opportunity for undergrads to gain experience that is not limited to a classroom and to publish real research."

The Undergraduate Journal of Science will publish its next issue Dec. 10, and it will be available on campus and on the Journal's website at ujs@tamu.edu.

Man settles lawsuit in de-pantsing case

HOUSTON (AP) — A man has agreed to settle the lawsuit he filed against a medical supply company over a practical joke in which three female co-workers pulled his pants down to his ankles.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed but Sterile Reprocessing Services, Inc., the medical supply company where the man worked, denied any wrongdoing.

The man said after he mentioned one day at work that he sometimes wore no underwear, the women targeted his trousers for a full take-down.

"At one point, all three women pulled the plaintiff's pants to his knees and caused him to fall," according to documents filed by his attorney, Peter Brannan. "While struggling to get away, they dragged him across the floor by his pants."

physical attributes and how sometimes wore no underwear. One female supervisor she thought his co-workers considered his statements as an indication for an "inspection."

The man had worked for the company for three years before he left in 1994. He filed the lawsuit last year.

The three co-workers were cited in the lawsuit. Instead,

"While struggling to get away, they dragged him across the floor by his pants."

PETER BRANNAN
PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY

Later, the women occasionally referred to him by a derogatory name, he complained in the suit.

The man said he was subjected to humiliation, ridicule and mental anguish to the point of requiring medical treatment. He also said the company later gave potential employers unfavorable recommendations about him.

Some of the women told case investigators that before the incident, practical jokes were common at work and that the plaintiff had chatted about his relationships and

sued the company, accusing it of failing to keep his concerns confidential, invading his privacy, defaming his character to future employers, committing assault, battery, and committing negligence for failing to adequately hire or supervise employees.

After the lawsuit was filed, the company responded by lecturing employees that horseplay was not to be tolerated and could lead to dismissal.

LEADERS

Continued from Page 1

Through public speaking experiences, networking contacts and scholarships, former members of these agriculture youth organizations have developed a background in leadership.

Katie Hanselka, secretary of the Class of '00 and an agricultural development major, was a former del-

egate to State 4-H Council. She prepared students for the workforce and develop their leadership potential.

"Local, state and national programs and activities help members develop public speaking skills and participate in meetings to manage financial matters, strengthen problem-solving abilities and assume civic responsibility," Hanselka said.

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