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Opinion:
Health insurance should cover prescriptions of Viagra, the recently-marketed drug for curing impotence.

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Two teens arrested in Jun. 2 carjacking

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Houston Police arrested two 17-year-old males in connection with an aggravated robbery in Houston Friday.

An investigation determined the two suspects, identified as Justin Hopper of Hearne and Aaron Richards of New Baden, were the same individuals captured on the security video related to a June 2 carjacking at Post Oak Mall.

The video was obtained from mall security footage after a woman reported that she had been approached from behind by a man who demanded her vehicle at gunpoint.

With the assistance of the news media and local Crimestoppers, photos of the subjects were shown on television and the College Station Police Department received numerous calls from persons identifying the suspects.

Both the Hearne and Franklin Police Departments and the Robertson County Sheriff's Department assisted the College Station Police Department in obtaining full identification information on the subjects captured on the security video.

Through further efforts of officers from all agencies, a possible location for the suspects in

Houston was developed. Through coordination with the Houston Police Department Robbery Division and the HPD Patrol Division officers were sent to that location.

The HPD received a report of an aggravated robbery in which the suspect vehicle matched the description of the vehicle stolen from College Station on June 2.

When Houston police located the suspect vehicle and attempted to stop it, the suspects fled in the vehicle.

The vehicle was involved in a minor accident, at which time the three passengers fled on foot. A short time later, the three were apprehended.

The driver was charged with aggravated robbery and unauthorized use of a vehicle. The passenger and a juvenile were charged with evading detention.

Detectives with the College Station Police Department went to Houston where they met with the two suspects arrested by the HPD.

Detective Capps of the College Station Police Department obtained arrest warrants Friday on both individuals for one count of aggravated robbery relating to that offense.

Additional charges by the College Station Police Department are anticipated.

On the prowl



Mark Breedlove, a senior finance major, fires at the opposing team Saturday during a paintball game at Brazos Valley War Games. Breedlove is the president and founder of the A&M Paintball Club.

AMA president reminds graduates importance of medical ethics

By AMBER BENSON
City Editor

The incoming president of the American Medical Association admonished graduates to remember the importance of compassionate care during the eighteenth commencement exercises of the Texas A&M College of Medicine.

Dr. Nancy Dickey, associate professor of family and community medicine at A&M and the first woman president-elect of the AMA, addressed the 49 graduates receiving doctoral degrees in medicine Saturday in Rudder Auditorium.

Dickey will officially take the helm of the respected medical organization on June 17.

Dickey, who joined the College of Medicine in January 1996,

is director of the Family Practice Residency Foundation of the Brazos Valley and directs the Family Medicine Center in Bryan, which provides training for up to 18 family medicine residents.

In her commencement address, Dickey gave the graduates a "prescription for modern-day medicine."

She stressed the importance of ethics and professionalism in the medical field, especially in an age in which profits and patients are often intertwined.

"Far too many patients today are unsure of what or who is driving medical decision-making," Dickey said.

"Some of them are concerned—and rightfully so—that health plans, CPAs and bean-counters are calling the shots, not their doctors."

Quality also made Dickey's list of essential ingredients for modern medicine.

"Increasingly, managed care, insurers and health care facilities themselves are measuring performance and with literally dozens of different yardsticks," Dickey said.

"As physicians, part of the cure for today's challenges is simply to take up our own role in developing the tools and providing our patients with the care they need."

While encouraging graduates to embrace technology, Dickey reminded the Class of 1998 that above all, medicine is a human endeavor.

"Patients need your compassionate touch, your caring words, every bit as much as they need medicine's tools," she said.

Minority medical school enrollment debated

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas medical and dental schools plan to enroll as many African-Americans and Hispanics this fall as in 1996, before the federal court *Hopwood* decision eliminated affirmative action programs at state colleges.

Records released Friday showed UT making strides as it looks beyond grades and test scores when choosing future doctors, UT System chancellor William Cunningham said.

"I'm very pleased with the progress the medical schools have made," he told the *Austin American-Statesman*.

UT admissions officers interviewed more candidates and considered a broader range of qualities, including family background, dedication to learning and success in overcoming adversity.

But Cunningham said he is not prepared to claim victory over the *Hopwood* decision that was rendered by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Among Hispanics, 134 applicants — the same number as in 1996 — have made commitments to enroll in UT medical schools this fall. That's a third more than the 100 of last year.

At the two dental schools, in San Antonio and Houston, two African-Americans and 19 Hispanics are slated to enroll in the first-year fall class of 151 students. That compares to two African-Americans in 1997 and one in 1996. Seven Hispanics enrolled in 1997 and 12 in 1996.

"We won't have final figures until fall registration," said Budge Mabry, director of the medical and dental applications center at the UT System. But "very, very few" will back out now, he said.

Diversity is especially important in medical schools because minorities often return to work in their home communities, some of which badly need doctors, said David Jones, chairman of admissions at the UT Medical School at San Antonio.

"Our whole process was not geared to simply cast a wider net to pick up more minority students," Jones said.

"It was to pick up people who had the same qualities or values. Just using grades and MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test) scores . . . do not predict the success of a medical student or a physician."

Enrollment changes have not been made at Texas A&M's lone medical school, and there is a continued decline in enrollment of African-Americans and Hispanics.

A&M had fewer applications from minorities and countered by making more offers to African-Americans and Hispanics.

But medical schools compete fiercely for minority students, and A&M has held onto only three Hispanics among the 64 students it intends to enroll, said Filo Maldonado, assistant dean for admissions.

The school offered admission to six African-American students and lost them all, one by one — the last one on Friday, Maldonado said.

The school is planning changes for 1999 admissions procedures, including interviewing more applicants and evaluating students more broadly, as UT has done.

Texas Tech University won't have enrollment data for several more weeks, a spokeswoman said.

“Our whole process was not geared to simply cast a wider net to pick up more minority students.”

— David Jones

Chairman of Admissions, UT Medical School at San Antonio

At UT's four medical schools — in Galveston, Houston, Dallas and San Antonio — 42 African-Americans plan to enroll out of 790 students. That compares with 24 African-Americans in an entering class of 800 last year.

In 1996, before *Hopwood* took effect, the medical schools enrolled 41 African-Americans.

Information on race-based aid considered OK, Morales says

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas colleges and universities can give students information about private scholarships awarded on the basis of race, according to Attorney General Dan Morales.

The attorney general's office said it wouldn't be a violation of a federal court ruling barring the schools from using race to determine admissions or financial aid.

Assistant Attorney General Mary Crouter released a legal opinion late Friday regarding the federal *Hopwood* court ruling.

The decision forced any institutions accepting state funds to drop race as a factor in admissions and financial aid decisions.

She wrote that the ruling limits only actions taken by the state.

"We do not believe that a private, nonprofit organization's scholarship program would rise to the level of state action merely because a state university provides students with information about the scholarship program," Crouter wrote.

"We cannot definitively resolve whether a state university's involvement in the scholarship program of a particular private nonprofit organization transforms the organization's private activities into 'state actions,'" she added.

"We believe, however, that a state university may provide to a private, nonprofit organization any student information that the university would generally provide to any other member of the public and would not thereby transform the organization's private activities into state action."

The 1996 *Hopwood* decision had been

blamed for lower minority enrollment at the state's top universities. But UT and Texas A&M recently announced slight upturns in minority enrollment.

According to the UT law school, 21 African-American students had been offered admission for fall 1998 last week, compared with 11 last year. There had been 48 admission offers to Hispanic students, up from 40.

Freshman enrollment figures released by UT last month showed confirmed admissions from 174 African-Americans, about 3 percent of the 6,070 total. Hispanic freshmen admissions totaled 858, or 14 percent.

In fall 1997, African-American admissions totaled 163, or two percent, of the fall 1997 class. Hispanic admissions totaled 807, or 12 percent of the class.

In fall 1996, before *Hopwood*, UT enrolled 266 African-Americans and 932 Hispanics in a freshman class of 6,430.

For fall 1998, the number of confirmed African-American students at Texas A&M was 146 late last month. That was about two percent of the 6,983 total. At the same time in 1997, the total was 129 of 5,332, or 2.4 percent.

The number of Hispanic students confirmed to enroll at Texas A&M was 567, or just more than eight percent. Last year's tally at the same time was 515, or 9.6 percent.

UT is appealing the *Hopwood* ruling. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund are expected to file a motion to intervene in UT's appeal. The groups consider the university's appeal to be too limited.