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Public thinks Olympic terrorist attack is likely

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government officials say the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics next month will be the safest sporting event ever. Yet a third of the public in an Associated Press poll still thinks a terrorist attack is likely.

The number concerned about terrorism at the Games was about half the total in recent polls who feared an attack is likely somewhere in the United States in the near future.

Women were twice as likely as men to think terrorist attacks on the Games were likely, according to the poll, conducted for The AP by ICR of Media, Pa. Only one in 20 people overall thought a terrorist attack on the Olympics was very likely.

"My heart is broken, but I think it can happen," said Dorothy Moser, a 73-year-old retiree from Mt. Pleasant, S.C. "I know they want to hurt our country. I'm not really shocked at anything they want to go for."

U.S. officials are spending more than \$300 million on security for the Olympics and say there will be no safer place in the world than Salt Lake City during the Games, which start Feb. 8 and run just over two weeks.

"I personally don't think there will be a terrorist attack," said Jon Mann, a 34-year-old employee at a Wal-Mart distribution center in Peoria, Ariz. "It's a little too obvious; there's a little too much security."

On a separate Olympics topic, the Games will cost about \$2 billion — with a fifth of that paid by tax money. Much of the cost will be underwritten by commercial interests.

The federal government is spending almost \$400 million, including security costs.

Two-thirds in the poll said they thought the advertising and commercial presence at the Olympics were necessary to pay the bills.

Almost that many — 63 percent — thought tax money should not be used. Older Americans and blacks were more likely to oppose using tax money.

"I'd like to see no tax money used," said Christine Tedesco, a

71-year-old retiree from Rutland, Vt. "Our taxes should go for other things, support the system of helping people who need help."

She mentioned the high cost of prescription drugs.

Six in 10 said they were interested in the Winter Olympics, with 19 percent saying they were very interested. The number who said they were very interested in the Summer Games in 1996 was slightly higher — a fourth of those polled.

Whites were more interested than blacks in the Winter Games by 63 percent to 46 percent. Those with more education were more interested in the Olympics. Seven in 10 with at least a college education said they were interested, compared with half of those with only a high school education.

The interest level in the Winter Games was about the same in every region of the country.

American cities are already positioning themselves to compete for the summer games in 2012. Six in 10 in the poll thought the advantages outweigh the problems in playing host to an Olympics.

"It's something that gives a city a high profile, tends to lift a city," said Bob Mickish, a 67-year-old retiree from Rockwall, Texas, just northeast of Dallas.

Like many people, Mickish said he felt the efforts to protect the Olympics from terrorism would be effective.

"I feel fairly comfortable and fairly confident with the home security that's been set up at the Olympics and in the country generally," Mickish said.

Both Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge and Attorney General John Ashcroft have pronounced the Winter Games a model of security.

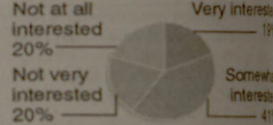
"Obviously, there are no guarantees, but I believe Salt Lake City will be a very safe place to visit in February," Ridge told mayors who were visiting Washington Wednesday.

Still, some have a nagging fear the Olympics will be an attractive target.

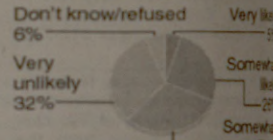
POLL Weighing in on the Games

Here are some results of an Associated Press poll that asked 1,007 adults their opinions on the Winter Olympics. The poll was conducted Jan. 11-15 and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

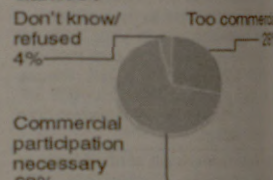
How interested are you in the Winter Olympics?



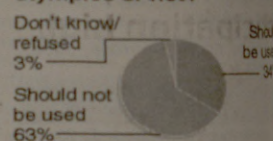
How likely do you think it is that a terrorist attack of some sort will take place at the Olympic games this winter in Salt Lake City?



Do you think the Olympics have become too commercial with companies paying to have their brand names promoted at the Games, or do you think commercial participation is a necessary way to help pay for the Games?



As you may know, the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City will be among the most expensive winter Games ever, costing nearly \$2 billion with a fifth of that cost paid by U.S. taxpayers. Do you think tax money should be used to help pay for the cost of the Olympics or not?



SOURCE: ICR of Media, Pa., for the Associated Press

Worship Directory

Assembly of God

Bethel Temple Assembly of God
2608 Villa Maria, Bryan
776-4835
Sunday Worship 10:15, 6:00 pm
Sunday School 9:00
www.startel.net/bethel

Baptist

Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church
College & Career Class
You are invited to a Bible study especially for students. Sunday mornings at 9:45
1228 W. Villa Maria
779-2297

For more information contact
Marcus Brewer: 731-1890
m-brewer@tamuedu
<http://www.fellowshipfb.org>

Catholic

St. Mary's Catholic Center
603 Church Avenue in Northgate
(979) 846-5717
www.aggiecatholic.org

Pastoral Team
Rev. Michael J. Sis, Pastor
Rev. Keith Koehl, Associate Pastor
Campus Ministers - Deacon Bill Scott, Deacon David Reed, Martha Tonn, Maureen Murray, Dawn Rouen

Daily Masses
Mon.-Fri.: 5:30 p.m. in the Church
Tues. & Thurs.: 12:05 noon in the All Faiths' Chapel
Sat.: 2:00 p.m. (Korean)

Weekend Masses
Sat.: 5:30 p.m. (English), 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Sun.: 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

Confessions
Wed. 8:30-9:30 p.m., Sat. 4:00-5:15 p.m. or by appointment.

Church of Christ

A&M Church of Christ
1901 Harvey Mitchell Pkwy.
(979) 693-0400

Sunday Assemblies:
8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., Sunday Night: 6 p.m.

College Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Mid-Week "Oasis" 7:30 p.m.



Aggies for Christ
Call for on-campus pick-up info
www.aggiesforchrist.org

Independent Baptist

Texas Avenue Baptist Church
3400 Hwy. 6 South, C.S.
(979) 696-5972

Sunday:
College Bible Study 9:30 a.m.,
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.,
Family Worship Service 6:00 p.m.

Shuttle van service from campus: leave from Mosher Circle 9 a.m., All Faiths Chapel 9:15 a.m., returns to campus after worship service - noon

Call Mike for more information
693-5972

Episcopal

St. Thomas Episcopal
906 George Bush Dr. • College Station, TX
696-1726
Services - 8:00 (Rite I), 9:00 (Family Service-Rite II) and 11:15 a.m. (Rite II-for late sleeping Ags)
7:30 p.m. Evensong
Next door to Canterbury House, the Episcopal Student Center

Lutheran

Beautiful Savior Ev. Lutheran Church
1007 Krenek Tap Rd. • College Station
693-4514
Sunday School & Conversational English 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:15 a.m.
Learning what the Bible says 2 p.m. Sundays

Non-Denominational

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sundays
10:00am
@The Hilton
Small Groups
meet weekly
260-1163
[WWW.COMCHURCH.COM](http://www.comchurch.com)

Presbyterian

Covenant Presbyterian Church
"A welcoming community of faith who reaches out, cares for one another & proclaims the love of Jesus Christ to all"
220 Rock Prairie Road
(979) 694-7700
G. Thomas Huser - Minister
Sunday Service: 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Aggie Classes: 9:45
Prayer & Praise on Tuesdays: 7:30 p.m.
fax: (979) 696-4334
www.covenantpresbyterian.org

United Methodist

A&M United Methodist
417 University Dr. (on Northgate) • 846-8731
Church at 8:30, 9:45, 10:50
College Sunday School 9:30 & 10:45
Sr. Pastor Dr. Jerry Neff
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Universities taking aim at credit card companies

DALLAS (AP) — The deluge of credit card offers on campuses nationwide, with pitches in person, by phone and e-mail, has some college students and their schools looking for ways to stop the flood.

University regents in Nevada on Thursday were considering a demand that they stop selling student names and addresses to credit card vendors.

The proposal followed complaints from Denise Wilcox, a part-time community college student from Henderson, Nev., who says one mail pitch suggested she "show your school pride" by getting a credit card.

The student government at the University of California, Berkeley is among those that now require vendors on campus to hand out information about the financial risks involved with credit cards. Lawmakers in California and several other states also have voted to ban companies from luring students to apply for credit with gifts such as T-shirts and calculators.

Greg Combs, a senior at the University of Texas at Dallas, is so fed up he's taken matters into his own hands. He's unlisted his phone number, added his name to "black lists" aimed at stopping credit card vendors from calling and added filters to his email.

His university also has banned vendors from setting up booths on campus. Yet Combs says still gets credit card applications in his mailbox every week and sees advertisements on campus bulletin boards "everywhere!"

He thinks the only way to solve the problem is to ban anyone younger than 25 from having them. But bankers and credit card companies scoff at this idea.

They say college, and in some cases high school, is the perfect time for students to learn fiscal responsibility. Most students, they say, manage their credit cards well.

"How they get the card is really less of an issue than how they handle it," says Joe Belew, president of the Virginia-based Consumer Bankers Association, a national trade association of banks that specializes in retail and consumer financial services.

Some university administrators agree with Belew's assertion that education about fiscal responsibility — sponsored by anyone from credit card vendors to the students themselves — is the solution.

"Limiting information is not the answer to the problem," says Richard Black, an assistant vice chancellor at UC Berkeley, where credit card education sessions will soon be added to orientations for new students.

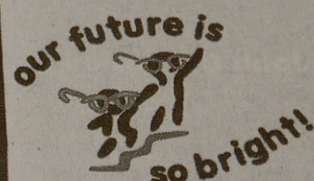
693-0074

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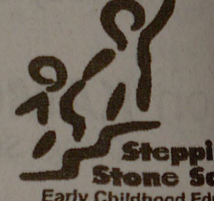
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