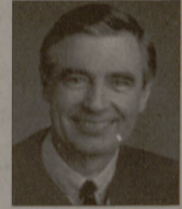


# 'Mister Rogers' dies of cancer at 74

By Todd Spangler THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH — A television icon who put on a zip-up cardigan and sneakers each day and gently invited millions of children to be his neighbor, Fred Rogers never wavered in the mission he considered his ministry: to use "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" as a way to persuade young viewers to love themselves and others.



ROGERS

Early Thursday, Rogers died following a bout with stomach cancer at his Pittsburgh home, leaving friends, colleagues and generations of people who grew up watching him in mourning. He was 74.

For more than three decades, his low-key, low-tech public television show refused to follow its louder, more animated competition, sticking to the format Rogers developed, presenting him as one adult in an increasingly busy world who always had time to talk to children about their feelings and listen to them.

"What a loss to the world. He talked to kids at the ages of 4 to 6 about feelings. That's the age when they begin to realize they have an effect on their world," said Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, an author and child development specialist.

An ordained Presbyterian minister, Rogers produced the show at Pittsburgh public television station WQED beginning in 1966, going national two years later. The final episode, which was taped in December 2000, aired in August 2001, though

PBS affiliates continued broadcast old episodes.

Composing his own songs for the show, Rogers opened each episode in a set made to look like a comfortable living room, singing, "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood."

He would talk to viewers in a slow, quiet voice about their feelings and introduce them to other characters and guests, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma and trumpeter Wynton Marsalis. Then, he would take his audience on a magical trolley ride into the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, where puppet creations — including X the Owl, King Friday XIII and Daniel Striped-Tiger — would interact with each other and adults.

Rogers did much of the puppet work.

On Thursday, staff at Family Communications Inc., which produced the show, brought bouquets of flowers left outside WQED and placed them on the set next to King Friday's castle.

"He was not an actor. People would ask us, 'What is Mister Rogers really like?' The thing was, he was the same," said family spokesman Dan Newell, who played Mister McFeely on the show.

The show won four Emmys plus one for lifetime achievement. Rogers received the Peabody Award in 1993 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in July 2002.

In April 2002, President Bush invited Rogers to help launch a reading program. When Rogers entered the room without introduction, spontaneous applause erupted.

Rogers hushed the audience asking for 10 seconds of silence to "think about anyone who has loved you and wanted the best for you."

School spokesmen said that "emotions were eliminated the program."

# Tech students to pay \$400 extra in tuition per semester

By Betsy Blaney THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LUBBOCK, Texas — Texas Tech University students will pay about \$400 more in tuition and fees after the university's Board of Regents approved the increases Thursday as a way to help deal with the state's budget shortfall.

The 19 percent overall increase in tuition and fees is to help offset a reduction in state funding that stems from the \$9.9 billion shortfall legislators are dealing with in Austin.

Some of the fee increases at the university will go into effect for the summer session with the remainder starting in the fall, Tech spokeswoman Cindy Rugeley said.

The increases at the university's Health Sciences Center will be implemented beginning in the fall, she said.

The university has already put in place a flexible hiring freeze, eliminated state-funded travel outside Texas and is taking a close look at energy costs.

Tech needs to come up with \$14 million in cuts for the current budget year. The regents vote unanimously on the increases.

The largest jump will be in fees, which now are subsidized by state funds. Those state dollars

would instead go to classroom and faculty needs and the fees will be set to maintain the current level of services, Rugeley said.

"We spent a lot of time on this issue," Regent Carin Barth said. "It's not something that we want to do. If we get some help out of the Legislature, we're going to relook at the fees. It's something that's going to be done lightly."

**"It's not something that we want to do. If we get some help out of the Legislature, we're going to relook at the fees."**

Revisiting the fee increase depends on less-than-projected budget deficit, regent said.

Students do not notice a negative change in service, said Michael Shonrock, vice president for student affairs, has said.

The largest proposed increases are in the information technology fee and the library fee. For students taking 15 hours a semester, the library fee would increase from \$75 to \$225 and the technology fee would increase from \$150 to \$210. Other fees that increased slightly include medical services and student recreation center fees.

A new student business services fee will be \$7 an hour.

Tuition would increase from \$44 per hour to \$46 per hour for in-state students and from \$200 per hour to \$313 per hour for out-of-state residents.

IN THE AFTERNOON! Radio News from the newsroom of THE BATTALION campus and community news 1:57 p.m. Monday through Friday on KAMU-FM 90.9 College Station / Bryan

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# Sp Sch

Freedom of received a blow Feb. junior at Dearbo School in Michi, asked to either l school or change antiwar T-shirt h The shirt, worn l Bretton Barber, l ture of President W. Bush on it w Terrorist" undri to go home rathe according to The

Although the ing stirs up conti that is not a reas those views. At a ning to explore t and preparing to community, disci nating those be students' opinio treatment, as wel the censored indi ther political acti Barber's opini against the Ameri, but it should r ignored.

A topic that a controversy and i war demands ana cision to insure th decision is made. percentage of the that will undoubt the nation's entra haphazard decisio made by the Busl is not only benefi question the gove ments it might h although his opin to share that view.

School spok that "emotions w eliminate the pro Although the atm

# Do Public

"I bet you was wo about v: begins Eve Ensl Monologues," w at Rudder Audit trovery last yea the first time on this year has pr remains to be a movement coup the "V-word" in raw display of f of it.

Don't be igno As far as mar na" flagrantly di ordinary person' with sex, and sir using the word "

# Portrayal of incident wr

In response to article:

I am upset at th dragging out the party from this p all, the main story Sure there were but not each an 6,000 were causi As for this being "ghetto party," t between a "ghet described as ghet intention on the p at this school for like they did, but that we are playin People chose to things that they h media, but until y will not know. Ar diversity issue, yo