



Texas A&M University Pre-Law Society



On Tuesday, December 2 we will be discussing how to prepare for the LSAT.

Please join us at 7 p.m. in Koldus 110 to hear Karen Severn and representatives from Kaplan Test Prep and Princeton Review as they give you insights into the LSAT preparation process.

The Pre-Law Society hopes to see you on Tuesday!



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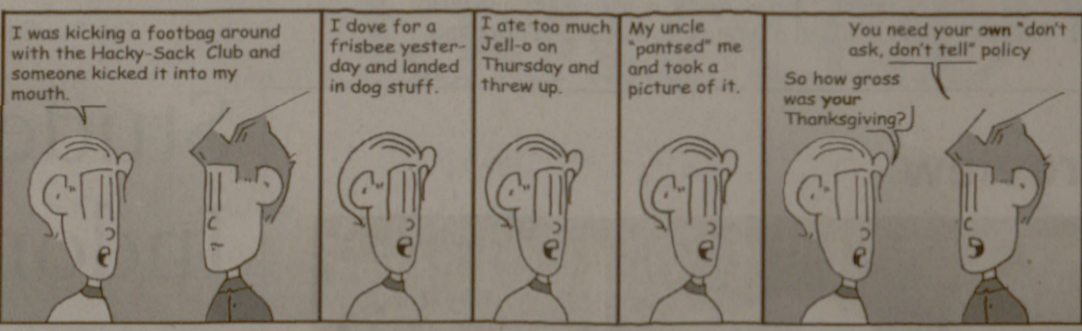
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Obesity

Continued from page 1

food the person can eat. A part of the small intestine also is bypassed to reduce nutrient absorption.

Risks include wound infections, stomach leaks and occasionally life-threatening blood clots.

The International Bariatric Surgery Registry estimates one in 1,000 patients will die within four weeks of the surgery, and three in 1,000 will die within three months. Some surgeons in the field put the fatality rate as high as one in 100 who have the surgery.

Powers, 42, of Worcester, was lucky. Even carrying more than 400 pounds on his 5-foot-11 frame, he had not developed many of the common ailments associated with obesity. Still, sleep was fitful, and walking, particularly upstairs, was exhausting. And he lived in a fourth-floor apartment.

Powers underwent laparoscopic gastric bypass surgery in May 2001 and now weighs 280 pounds. He believes the surgery likely staved off the onset of diabetes, and he has had no complications.

Surgery is not used to treat

minor obesity. Candidates must be 100 pounds above their ideal body weight and have failed at other attempts at weight loss.

Still, an estimated 15 million people would qualify for the surgery, said Dr. Scott Shikora, head of bariatric surgery at Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston. Tufts, which has the city's largest obesity surgery program, closed to new patients for nearly six months earlier this year to catch up with its backlog of patients. At one point, there was a waiting list of 500 patients, Shikora said.

Attacks

Continued from page 1

attackers opened fire from rooftops and alleys with bombs, small arms, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, he said. U.S. troops responded with rifles, 120mm tank rounds and 25mm cannon fire from Bradley fighting vehicles.

U.S. fire destroyed three buildings the attackers were using, MacDonald said.

"It sounds like the attack had some coordination to it, but the soldiers responded, used their

firepower, used tank and Bradley fire and other weapons available to them, to stop this attack and take the fight to the enemy," he said.

When the smoke cleared, 46 Iraqis were dead, 18 were wounded and eight were captured, MacDonald said. Five American soldiers and a civilian were wounded, he said, adding that none of the injuries were life-threatening.

"We have been very aggressive in our convoy operations to ensure the maximum force protection is with each convoy," MacDonald said. "But it does send a clear message that if you attempt to attack one of our convoys, we're going to use our firepower to stop that attack."

blamed the previous code for the state's growing prison overcrowding, which later became a crisis the Houston Chronicle reported Sunday's editions.

The overcrowding problem became so severe in the late 1980s and early 1990s that the state parole board released violent criminals to make room for those with more recent convictions.

A commission formed in 1990 later responded to the crisis with a revised penal code. The new standard ended early parole for those convicted of violent crimes, reduced the prison population by easing penalties for nonviolent offenders and created a state jail system. New prisons also were built in an effort to alleviate the bulging prison population.


Additionally, the rewritten code broadened the discretion of prosecutors and judges when it came to assessing punishment.

"The main things in 1997 were the lowering of punishment for drugs and some property crimes but also raising sentencing for violent offenders," said Carl Reynolds, former executive director of the Punishment Standards Commission. Reynolds now is general counsel for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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