

Audits reveal DNA problems at DPS crime labs across state

HOUSTON (AP) — The same problems that shut down the Houston Police crime lab's DNA section more than a year ago have been found at Texas Department of Public Safety crime labs across the state, a newspaper reported Sunday.

In a review of the 2003 DPS internal audits done at labs in Houston, Austin, El Paso, Garland, Lubbock, Corpus Christi, McAllen and Waco, the newspaper said it found procedural flaws, security lapses and poor documentation at some of the labs.

"I would not characterize them to be as severe as the problems at the HPD lab," DPS spokeswoman Tela Mange told The Associated Press Sunday. "The point of the audits is to find potential problems and to correct them. We would expect an audit to find things that we need to improve on and we use them as an opportunity to improve."

DPS officials told the newspaper the agency stands by the quality of its work and that none of the problems cited resulted in the false identification of a suspect.

State Rep. Kevin Bailey, D-Houston, pushed through the Legislature a law requiring accreditation of the state's DNA labs by September 2005 and made DPS responsible for overseeing the effort.

He said he has subpoenaed records from state agency and plans hearings into the DPS as early as next month.

"I have lost confidence in DPS and their ability to oversee these labs," said Bailey, who chairs the House Committee on General Investigations. "Clearly we're going to have to hold hearings, ask them to come forward and give us their analysis of what's going on."

Problems cited by the newspaper at the labs include a lack of understanding of how to interpret results by DNA analysts; possible cross-contamination of blood samples and a lack of lab security.

In Houston, \$4.6 million has been authorized for the retesting of almost 400 DNA cases that came into question after an outside audit revealed serious deficiencies within the police department's DNA section.

The Houston lab was closed in late 2002. The audit found a lack of training for analysts, insufficient documentation by workers and possible exposure of DNA samples to contaminants.

The first retest returned last March found DNA evidence to link Josiah Sutton to a 1998 case in which he was sentenced to 25 years in prison. He was freed on bond days after the retest and is seeking a pardon.

YOU DON'T NEED A PH.D TO UNDERSTAND "NO COMMISSIONS"

The math is pretty simple. Hidden charges, high fees, and sales commissions can erode the retirement savings your working so hard to build. Contact us, a company known for giving clear, objective guidance and keeping costs low. We'll show you how our principled approach to long term investing can really add up.

TIAA-CREF.org or call 800-842-2776

Find out more about TIAA-CREF IRAs and our other tax-smart financial solutions



Managing money for people with other things to think about.™

RETIREMENT | INSURANCE | MUTUAL FUNDS | COLLEGE SAVINGS | TRUSTS | INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

You should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. Please call 877-518-9161 for a prospectus that contains this and other information. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC and Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc. distribute securities products. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing. © 2004 Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), 730 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017 C31471

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gorilla pair at zoo is splitsville after passionless years

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Five years have passed without the pitter-patter of baby gorilla feet, and zookeepers have decided that Demba and Chaka just aren't working out.

Introduced to each other five years ago at the Philadelphia Zoo amid high reproductive hopes, it's not even clear the gorillas ever mated. That's a big change for Chaka, who had been dubbed "best stud muffin" after fathering eight little ones at Cincinnati's zoo.

"Things have not gone that way," said Andy Baker, the Philadelphia Zoo's senior vice president for animal programs. In May, Chaka, a 380-pound

silverback, will travel to Columbia, S.C., to the Riverbanks Zoo's "Gorilla Base Camp." Philadelphia's two other male gorillas, Mike and Kimya, will go with him. Demba gets to keep her Philadelphia home, and she will be joined by a troupe from the St. Louis Zoo: a toddler, his parents and another female.

Gas prices hit record high with no end in sight

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gasoline prices across the country climbed another 3 cents in the past two weeks to a record-high average of \$1.80 per gallon for all grades, according to a study released Sunday.

There is little chance prices falling significantly in the near future, because increased demand will result from an improving economy, Memorial Day travel, and even the extra hour of daylight from daylight savings time, said Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey of 8,000 stations nationwide.

"The demand push this time of year is adding to supply tightness and therefore price," Lundberg said. "I don't see a recipe for substantial gasoline price cuts anytime soon."

Friday's average price passed the record of \$1.77 in the last Lundberg Survey conducted March 12. But when adjusted for inflation, prices remain well below levels reached in the early 1980s.

Are you ready? NO

REC SPORTS

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RECREATION recsports.tamu.edu

Texas A&M Intramurals Swim Meet

STUDENT REC CENTER SERVICES

- BANQUET AND EVENT SERVICES**—Have your next meeting, party or presentation at the Rec. Rec Sports now offers banquet and event services for Texas A&M affiliated organizations and departments. For more info call 845-7826.

GET A JOB WITH REC SPORTS!

- Marketing Assistant Positions**—Position focuses on marketing research and planning, customer satisfaction surveys and special projects related to all aspects of Rec Sports PR. Beginning pay is \$6.25. Applications are available at the Rec Center and will be accepted through April 9th.
- Personal Trainers**—Now hiring certified personal trainers to serve on our Rec Sports staff. Contact Jerod Wilson at 845-3058 for more information and application details.
- Golf Course Maintenance Staff**—Now hiring maintenance student workers. To apply or more info visit us at the Golf Course or online at recsports.tamu.edu.

DRIVE ON-TEXAS A&M GOLF COURSE

- NEW Full Length Driving Range**—Come by and enjoy the full length driving range. Get out to the course this Spring.
- Lessons with the Pro**—On your own, with a partner or in a group—the Golf Course Pro will get your game on track.
- Under the Lights 2-for-1 Special**—Now through April 3, \$3 gets you a large bucket of balls from 6:30-9:15 pm! Open to the public! We are located on the south side of the A&M campus. Call the Pro Shop at 845-1723 & visit us online at <http://recsports.tamu.edu>.

BREAK A SWEAT WITH REC FITNESS

- Unlimited Aerobics Pass SALE!**—Get YOUR unlimited aerobics pass to all of over 80 classes per week for only \$30! Fun and fitness has never been so easy. Get yours TODAY!
- Last FREE Healthy Living Lecture**—Getting More Food for Your Money Can Be Waistful! Portion Distortion! Jenna Anding, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Nutrition will discuss the nutrition consequences of super sizing and large portions. Join us Wed. March 31st, 5:30-6:30 pm in room 281. Come early!
- MASSAGE THERAPY**—Give yourself the gift of relaxation with a one hour Swedish Massage given by a Texas Department of Health licensed therapist. Both male and female therapists are available and appointments are available every day of the week during the academic semesters!

SPRING 04 IMs, HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

The following IM sports **OPEN** for registration March 22:
Baseball Hitting **FREE**
Sign up at Member Services by March 30th at 6:00 p.m.
The following IM sports **CLOSE** for registration March 30:
Swim Meet **FREE**
Softball Playoffs—Posted in Rec Center. Play begins tonight, Monday, March 29th.

Congratulations—To the 2004 NIRSA 5-on-5 Regional Basketball Champs! Good luck in the NIRSA National Tournament. Congratulations to James Winton for being named one of 2 outstanding NIRSA tournament officials!

Go All Out with TAMU OUTDOORS

Upcoming Events	Event Date	Registration
Kayak Roll Instructional Clinic	March 30	NOW-March 29
Canoe Day Trip	April 3	NOW-March 30
Fly Fishing for White Bass	April 4	NOW-March 30
Kayak Roll Instructional Clinic	April 6	NOW-April 5
Bike Clinic—Flats & Maint.	April 7	NOW-April 5
Lead Climbing Clinic	April 13	NOW-April 12
Intro to Fly Fishing Workshop	April 16	NOW-April 13
Solo Canoe Wkshp/Trip	April 16-18	NOW-April 13
Day Hiking Trip	April 16-18	NOW-April 13
Climbing Tech Clinic-Games	April 20	At Event-FREE
Dutch Oven Cooking Clinic	April 20	NOW-April 19
Climb Cracks-Enchanted Rock	April 23-25	NOW-April 20
Backpacking Trip	April 24-25	NOW-April 20

Canoe Day Trip—Join TAMU Outdoors in paddling a winding river through the heart of the beautiful and scenic Texas landscape!

Day Hiking Trip—A day of hiking and orienteering in the Piney woods of Bastrop State Park! Learn map and compass techniques and enjoy exploring the variety of vegetation and wildlife of the Lost Pines of Texas.

WALK OF CHAMPIONS LEAVE YOUR MARK

Aggies, buy your Walk of Champions brick for a reduced price. Visit <http://recsports.tamu.edu> for more information and an order form. Leave your mark on the A&M campus.

recsports.tamu.edu