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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF:1-11-16-87

CONTACT: Marydawn Webber

LUBBOCK -- The Society of Petroleum Engineers' 11th Production
Technology Symposium will be Nov. 16-17 at the Lubbock Plaza Hotel in
Lubbock.

The South Plains Regional Meeting is sponsored by the South Plains Section and Texas Tech University Student Chapter of SPE. The registration, technical sessions and exhibits will run from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., both days.

Guest speaker during the luncheon from 12-1:30 p.m. Tuesday will be John M. Campbell Sr., president of Petrotech Consultants Inc.

Topics of the various sessions will include "Stimulation and Completion I," "Production Operations," "Enhanced Oil Recovery," "Artificial Lift," "Stimulation and Completion II" and "Scale and Corrosion."

Updates and changes in laboratory and field data will be presented by Tech Petroleum Engineering professors and representatives and consultants from petroleum engineering concerns from throughout the U.S. Also present will be professors from Texas A&M University and the University of Oklahoma.

Presentations will include "Oilfield Power -- Technology and Cost Control," "Control of Microbiologically Influenced Corrosion in Oilfield Production Equipment," "Calcium Carbonate Scale in Oil Field Operations," "Hydraulic Fracture Propagation in the Presence of Stress Variation," "The Effects of Underbalance on Perforation Flow," and "Production Well Testing Utilizing a Mass Flow Meter."

#### PETROLEUM SYMPOSIUM/PAGE 2

Participating in the symposium will be representatives from Amoco Production Company, the New Mexico Petroleum Recovery Research Center, Shell Offshore Inc., Chevron Oil Field Research Company, Schlumberger Well Services, Conoco Inc., Wetherford, U.S. Inc., Standard Alaska Production Company, Halliburton Services, Applied Power Concepts Inc., Vetter Research, Phillips Petroleum Company, ARCO Oil and Gas Company, THEWAY Corp., Nalco Chemical Company and Exxon Production Research Company, Texaco, Gray Wireline Services, Lufkin Industries, Teledyne Merla, Petro-Log, Mobil and Welchem.

A Line

## Texas Tech University Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

News and Publications Box 4640 / Lubbock, Texas 79409-2022 / (806) 742-2136

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 4-11-16-87

CONTACT: Joe Sanders

(EDITORS & NEWS DIRECTORS: Note the change in the starting times for the Boards of Regents meetings this week. The Regents begin committee meetings at 1:15 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 19, in room 2B152 of the Health Sciences Center. Committee meetings will adjourn at approximately 4:30 p.m. on Thursday and resume at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20, in the Board Suite, Administration Building, on the University campus. At the conclusion of committee meetings at about 10:30 a.m., the Regents will begin their formal meeting in the Board Suite. As usual, most of the discussion of board items will take place in the committee meetings. Check the enclosed agendas for the specific times for each committee meeting.

(The most significant items on the Regents's agenda are:

- -- A report to the Board on options for building a plant to generate both heat and electricity for the Tech campus. The report will be presented to the Finance and Administration Committee on Thursday at 2:30 p.m.
- -- Also for the Finance and Administration Committee (same time) is a report on policies governing auxiliary enterprises at Tech. The issue is whether services on the Tech campus refrain from entering into competition with local businesses.
- -- A report on the status of the Enterprise Campaign, which is nearing its goal of \$60 million in private contributions. The report will be given to the Development Committee at about 4 p.m. on Thursday.
- -- A request from the HSC to form an Institute for Rural Health, which will provide services to small hospitals in West Texas. The request will be heard by the Academic Committee Thursday at 3:30 p.m.)

# Texas Tech University Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

News and Publications Box 4640/Lubbock, Texas 79409-2022/(806) 742-2136

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 6-10-22-87

#### By Marydawn Webber

Students on the Texas Tech University campus are cashing in on a new and popular phrase: Just Say YE\$ . . .

To success, that is.

YES, the acronym for the Young Entrepreneurs Society, made its debut on the Tech campus last fall, and now boasts 66 members.

All of the members participate in club-oriented ventures, and most have already initiated their own businesses according to the forum of the society, categorized as "organized, but unstructured."

YES co-founders Todd Riddle, a junior sports physiology major from Austin, and Jason Brown, a senior marketing major from Dallas, conceived the idea for the club after volleying through successful business ventures on their own.

"Interest in this has really taken off more than we ever thought it would. And more people are calling every day," Brown said.

"Everybody runs the organization just like a real business."

Success came first in the form of a "Men of Tech" calendar, which netted about \$1,000 for Riddle. Soon thereafter, Riddle and Brown marketed their "Don't Mess With Texas Tech" T-shirts. The joint venture netted a profitable \$2,000.

"Ollie for Pres" shirts followed suit this summer as a response to the Iran/Contra congressional hearings, and earlier this fall, Brown, and YES Treasurer Tim Wilkins, organized a carpet drive, selling out an entire stock consisting of 900 yards in one day.

#### YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS/PAGE 2

Another YES member has established his own computer software business since he joined the club last year, and a treasure chest of ideas and promos are currently in the works. The money-making prospects range from a maid service for dorm students, (this, conceived by a male), to providing birthday and party cake delivery services. Another YES member, a licensed pilot, has plans to start a chartered flight service and is also working on a prototype for a unique airport construction plan.

Riddle is currently on top of the latest fashion craze -- boxer shorts -- in assorted designs including the university's Red Raider mascot. He estimated about 60 percent of the more than 500 sales so far have been dominated by sorority members.

Riddle and Brown emphasize that membership in the organization is open to students of all majors, and one objective is to be instrumental in creating a course in entrepreneurship to be integrated into Tech's business curriculum.

A precept to that may be a series of talks on free enterprise undertaken by members who voluntarily speak to junior high school classes. The lectures, co-sponsored by YES and the Southwest Lubbock Rotary Club, benefit both the speaker, who is able to boost confidence levels and communication skills, and the younger students, who receive the university student's view of the business world.

The society will begin publication of a monthly newsletter in December which will highlight successful members and feature projects and a potpourri of business tips and helpful hints.

"The club is a vehicle for students with creative ideas to come in and turn their ideas into realities," Riddle said.

"Sometimes they just need a little push, a little motivation and support. Not all ideas require a great deal of money to carry out," he adds.

-more-

Brown said the most stringent code of membership in YES evolves around honesty and trust. "Honesty is most unique in this. There are so many hoaxes and schemes around. Members share their ideas, however, they do not steal or copy ideas.

"We're into change and diversity and young entrepreneurs is a support group that stimulates ideas."

"The world changes, it's dynamic, and that's the kind of people we're looking for. Some people don't want to be locked up in one curriculum and not be creative. A lot of people don't want to go punch time clocks," said Riddle, adding, "I don't plan on ever having a resume. Never."

The key to successful entrepreneurship, according to Brown and Riddle, is a positive mental attitude and 100 percent performance. But give them a second to think about it, and they'll come up with 50 more idyllic tools to the trade.

The two partners say they already feel like old hands in the business, and are preparing ways to spread the word, and the wealth, of YES to other college campuses -- for a nominal fee, of course.

"We don't do anything now that isn't for money. We've put in our free time and we've paid our dues," Brown said.

Brown and Riddle have teamed up to organize their latest venture; a start-up packet of pointers setting directions for other students who are interested in establishing YES societies on their campuses.

Individuals on two other Texas campuses, Abilene Christian
University and West Texas State, have already expressed an interest in
forming their own YES groups, according to Brown.

#### YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS/PAGE 4

"We went through a lot of trial and error and we almost burned out. But we worked well together. We're a very successful team and that successful teamwork really made the club go on from there,"
Riddle said.

The packet will include an organization manual prepared to help pave the way to entrepreneurial success. Various sections in the manual will provide tips on how to construct bylaws and organize meetings, ups and downs of entrepreneurship, ideas for fliers and notices, who to see in the business community and how to set up mentorship programs with business fraternities, and additional information putting the entrepreneur in touch with the business world.

"We'd like to get into this on a leadership basis," Riddle said.

Brown and Riddle said if the package gains acceptance and interest, they hope to expand the information onto video cassette.

They will begin marketing the packet in March at the National Convention of Collegiate Entrepreneurs in Washington, D.C.

(Interested persons can contact Brown at (806) 791-4203 or Riddle at 741-1454) -- Photos available on request.

# Texas Tech University Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 8-11-18-87

CONTACT: Beverly Taylor

LUBBOCK -- Astronomical explanations for the star which led the wise men to Christ are offered in "The Star of Christmas" which opens Nov. 24 at Moody Planetarium of the Museum of Texas Tech University.

The audio-visual program will run through Dec. 31. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and 2 and 3:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Special 2 p.m. shows will be on Nov. 27 and Dec. 22, 23, 29 and 30. Cost is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for Tech students and children.

The program explores what the sky might have looked like on the first Christmas and offers explanations for the star which led the wise men to Christ.

The most plausible astronomic explanation for the bright star is that it was a rare conjunction of planets. Astronomers believe that in 7 B.C. Saturn and Jupiter passed side by side two times to form conjunctions. A third conjunction is believed to have occurred early in 6 B.C. -- the year pinpointed as the birth of Christ. This time, Mars joined Jupiter and Saturn in a rarity which occurs only once in 800 years.

Astronomers say this star could have been bright enough to lead the wise men from Persia to Jesus' birthplace in Bethlehem. Meteors, comets and supernovas are also presented as possible explanations.

The star might also have been a miraculous event which cannot be explained by science. The program leaves the decision about what the star was to the individual, concluding that regardless of what it was, it is a symbolic event which holds the promise of "Peace on earth,"

## Texas Tech University Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 9-11-18-87

CONTACT: Beverly Taylor

LUBBOCK -- "Furniture for one person to sit on, having a back, and usually, four legs" will be exhibited at the Museum of Texas Tech University beginning Sunday (Nov. 22).

Forty-five chairs from the museum's historical furnishings collection will be displayed through July 1988. The exhibit includes lounge chairs, traditional chairs, rocking chairs, barber chairs, toilet chairs, high chairs and a wheel chair.

Chairs are used in almost every aspect of life and few objects are more uniquely human. They have become a basic part of our language, as in the greeting, "Pull up a chair," and the words "chairperson" and "arm chair" coach.

Handmade and manufactured chairs of many different styles for home and office settings are included in the exhibit.

The exhibit highlights the utilitarian nature of chairs, craftsmanship, aesthetic qualities, changes in style and materials and the status which they can imply for individuals who sit on them.

# Texas Tech University Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 10-11-18-87

By Marydawn Webber

LUBBOCK -- A team of Texas Tech University business professors are taking a look at banking practices which they deem "hazardous" to college students in particular, and consumers in general.

The study, being conducted by Prof. Kathleen Hennessey, director of Tech's Institute for Organizational Automation in the College of Business Administration, focuses on checking account practices within state and national banking institutions.

Hennessey said she has been studying the Lubbock banking system for the past two years as part of her research within the ISOA, and has discovered how the system has destroyed many students' lives and will continue to do so by forcing them to quit school due to escalating debts.

The financial nightmare usually begins when a student comes to a university and opens a checking account at a local bank and deposits money, she said. When the student's parents send him or her a check to pay bills, the student begins writing and sending checks, believing that his or her parent's check is clear.

Hennessey said most students believe their parent's checks clear in about three days, when, in reality, it often takes eight days. When the student's checks begin to bounce, the banks begin charging \$15 or more for each check. Collections agencies and most businesses also charge another fee for the returned checks. This amount escalates depending on the number of times a check may be presented to the bank, she said.

"By the time the check clears, the student can owe as much as \$450 or more in banking charges for hot checks. This has a snowball effect," Hennessey said, adding she's seen as much as \$1,000 in bank "service" charges mount in just a three-week period. "The way this process siphons funds from a bank account without the customer's knowledge or consent is also a matter for the Attorney General's Office. The problem appears to be getting worse as bank loan performance deteriorates," she added.

"The students don't tell their parents about their situation and end up getting jobs or finding extra work to pay off their debts. They are embarrassed to say anything to anybody and the banks play off that emotion," she said.

"It becomes an emergency situation, their grades go down, and within two or three weeks, they have to quit school, while the bank is \$300 richer and the collection agencies are \$150 richer also."

She said when the process is over, the student and the supplier or business is out of money and the banks and collection agencies have taken all the money. "This is a very serious problem. The banks are basically milking funds off students' accounts," she added.

Hennessey said when she asked one Lubbock banker to discontinue charging students large fees for bounced checks, he told her that "if we reverse our current policy, we would not make any money."

Two solutions that banks could implement to stop the cycle, she said, are first, to close out a student's checking account if it overdrawn by \$150, and second, not to allow students under 21 years of age to open checking accounts.

Hennessey is currently conducting a campus-wide survey to see how the Lubbock banking industry has been treating all Tech students.

#### BANK PRACTICES CHALLENGED/PAGE 3

She said she is also working with the Student Association to negotiate the problem with local banking facilities to recommend banks place a cap of \$150 for non-sufficient funds charges on checking accounts.

Hennessey said the association will work toward comprising a list of banks which place caps on account charges, and will only recommend those financial institutions to Tech students.

"These charges may be a good source of revenue for the banks, but I'm afraid those days are over as far as Tech is concerned. I think, when we're finished, we'll have one more program at Texas Tech to help our students," she said.

at prices

Texas Tech University
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 11-11-18-87

CONTACT: Marydawn Webber

LUBBOCK -- A highly specialized automated warehouse alarm system for an extensive cotton warehouse complex in Lubbock and the surrounding area is currently being developed by researchers at Texas Tech University.

The complex computer system is being designed by analysts at Tech's Institute for Studies in Organizational Automation in the College of Business Administration, under a research and development contract from South Plains Cotton Coop.

According to Kathleen Hennessey, director for the institute, the updated system will network together more than 100 cotton warehouses in Lubbock to replace the old system which is more than 20 years old. "As parts wear out over a period of time, the alarm system must be linked to other warehouses. But when a signal of trouble comes across, its hard to determine exactly which alarm is being set off," Hennessey said.

"There are so many signals that come into question and it is so easy to get those signals mixed up. If a fire breaks out or there is other damage to the cotton bales, the loss can be pretty extensive," Hennessey said.

She said the new alarm system will provide a network of information such as fire, excess water or humidity, positive air pressure and levels, and will pinpoint the exact location of trouble within the warehouse storage complex.

#### COMPUTER FIRE ALARM/PAGE 2

The new system design will contain about 600 circuit modules which will link into a central panel.

The system is expected to be fully designed and prototyped by next spring, and ready for testing and installation.

## Texas Tech University Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 12-11-18-87

CONTACT: Preston Lewis

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Extensive photography is available. Call Preston Lewis at (806) 743-2143.)

LUBBOCK -- Jamie Herring dreamed of being an art major until a motorcycle accident left her a quadriplegic.

Scott Tooke wanted to major in accounting, but his cerebral palsy prevented him from operating a calculator.

Today, though, both their wishes are coming true through their tenacity and through the Biocybernetics Lab at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC).

Established 18 months ago, the Biocybernetics Lab is combining computer technology with old-fashioned ingenuity to open up the college classroom to students with severe physical handicaps limiting their ability to communicate.

Lab Director James Koerlin describes himself as a high-tech blacksmith and the horse-and-buggy analogy carries over to Herring and Tooke. They are, in effect, pioneers because just a few years ago their physical and communication limitations would have kept them out of the college classroom and out of the opportunities open to a degree recipient.

"Scott and Jamie are pushing back the frontiers for the handicapped," Koerlin said. "They are a new generation of students with severe communicative disorders to reach the college classroom, but they won't be the last. The same technology which is opening college to them is also reaching students in high school, junior high and even elementary school." -more-

Even so, making that link between the technology and the individual need can be as tedious as it is for the handicapped student to communicate. Off-the-shelf computer hardware and software seldom provide all the answers, creating the need for high-tech blacksmiths like Koerlin to hammer out custom-made solutions.

In Jamie Herring's case, Koerlin spent five months writing a special computer program. Her motorcycle accident left her with a spinal separation at the second vertebra, paralyzing her from the neck down. When she came to the Biocybernetics Lab, she had an IBM computer with a sophisticated voice-activated keyboard that could spell out words and sentences a letter at a time for her.

Though Herring had some vocal capabilities, she could only speak when her respirator was not breathing for her. Consequently, about half the time her speech would be disrupted when the respirator took control.

"She spent about as much time backspacing or deleting what she had said as she did spelling out words and sentences," Koerlin said.
"It was tedious and frustrating."

Koerlin went to work writing a program that would come to be called OmniWriter and the initial solution for Herring was to use the first electronic language -- Morse code. Using sips and puffs on a straw to represent the dots and dashes of Morse code with OmniWriter, Herring improved her communication speed to about 12 words a minute.

OmniWriter quickened her communication because the program anticipates words. For instance, if she enters an "A" and a "B," the program will check a 5,300-word dictionary and display on the screen common words which begin with those two letters. Thus, she can select "absolute" from that list without having to spell it out.

#### TTUHSC BIOCYBERNETICS LAB/PAGE 3

Herring's communication system has since been upgraded and she uses "HeadMaster," a headband with an infrared sensor. By moving her head, she points to letters or words on her Macintosh system and puffs a straw to make selections. This modification increased her speed to 20-25 words a minute. With the sensor, which emulates a Macintosh Mouse, she can now do free-form computer drawings. In fact, the Texas Tech University sophomore has become proficient enough to enroll this spring in her first college art class, the first step toward her dream of becoming an art major.

In working with Herring, Koerlin learned that software flexibility is an important factor in computer program design. He designed OmniWriter to be able to respond to impulses from a keyboard, a puff switch or straw, a mouse and even the blink of the eye. That flexibility is important not only because of the various requirements for different individuals but also because of the need to adjust for the deteriorating physical capabilities many of them will experience during life.

Beginning this fall, OmniWriter will be distributed by Medical Equipment Distributors and will be available for about \$200. It requires a computer system with a minimum of 512K memory.

"Even if no one else uses OmniWriter," Koerlin said, "Jamie uses it and it will make a difference in her system and in her life."

The TTUHSC Biocybernetics Lab has also made a difference in Scott Tooke's life. Born with cerebral palsy, Tooke has limited muscular control and lacks the ability to speak comprehensibly.

#### TTUHSC BIOCYBERNETICS LAB/PAGE 4

Though his body has its limitations, his mind is sharp enough that he graduated as an honor student from Coronado High School in Lubbock. While he was capable of handling three-digit multiplication and divisions problems in his head, the more complex problems he was facing in freshman accounting class last year were taxing those capacities.

Though Tooke had a workable communication system, it did not have computational capabilities necessary for accounting. Referred to the Biocybernetics Lab by the TTUHSC Cerebral Palsy Clinic, Tooke approached Koerlin with his needs. In this case, the computer hardware and software were available, but it was a matter of interfacing them to fit Tooke's individual needs.

Hewlett-Packard donated an advanced calculator, two modules for statistics and finance and an interface to connect it with Tooke's LiteTalker Communication system on the lapboard of his wheelchair.

Once Koerlin had all the hardware the job became more than just a matter of making the connections. He had to make the system durable.

"With cerebral palsy patients, the system must have industrial strength durability," Koerlin said. "The system takes a lot of punishment because of a CP's limited muscular control.

"Scott is dependent on his communication system all day long and it gets a lot of use. If you lose your voice, you can whisper or scribble notes to communicate, but if Scott's system goes down he is confined within himself."

To communicate or to do his accounting assignments, Tooke moves a light wand over the light-activated keyboard. He works at a tedious five words a minute but even at that rate he can communicate with others and, given the extra time he needs, can compete with students in his accounting classes. In his spare time, he even writes poetry on the system. -more-

"Scott is a true pioneer because by the fifth grade he had an augmentative communication system," Koerlin said. "That was an early age for then, though not for now, and I think it is why Scott has progressed so far and is so well-rounded as an individual.

Communication is crucial to education. If you can't express yourself, how can anyone know what to teach you?"

When he graduates from Texas Tech, Tooke hopes to put his accounting skills to work for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission or to operate a non-verbal communications network.

Asked about the Biocybernetics Lab, his hand moved across the lapboard and his answer gradually appeared on the display screen. "Without this active facility," he wrote, "our input into the world would not be as possible."

Koerlin thinks technology will improve the possibilities for others with handicaps to have input into the world. Currently, of the 24 patients he sees on a regular basis, Jamie Herring and Scott Tooke are the oldest and the most dramatic in their accomplishments. The others are younger, from high school age on down to first- and second-graders.

"With exposure to the technology at such a young age, more and more of these students will ultimately wind up in the college classroom," Koerlin said. "Sadly, because so many physical handicaps are accompanied by mental limitations, technology may never be able to solve all the needs. However, technology can now overcome even the most severe physical handicaps, if they are accompanied by a sound mental capacity."

## Texas Tech University Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 13-11-20-87

CONTACT: Preston Lewis

LUBBOCK -- The threat of Parkinson's disease appears greater to rural residents than to city dwellers.

That was the message Dr. Gustavo C. Roman, interim chairman of the Department of Medical and Surgical Neurology, delivered to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Board of Regents Friday during a report on the Tarbox Parkinson's Disease Institute.

Created in 1972 at TTUHSC, the institute has sponsored research into the chronic nervous disease and, through the Tarbox Clinic, has provided treatment to individuals who have the disease. Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological malfunction which begins with uncontrolled tremors, eventually leads to a loss of muscular control and ultimately incapacitates its victims.

"The Tarbox Institute exemplifies how the Health Sciences Center has attempted to meet our region's rural health needs," Roman said.

Roman said the late Elmer Tarbox, for whom the institute was named, was a pivotal figure leading to its establishment. Tarbox, who had Parkinson's disease, served 10 years in the Texas Legislature and introduced legislation which led to the creation and funding of the institute in 1972.

The Tarbox Clinic serves about 300 patients from the region.

Initially most of the institute's funding was devoted to research,

but breakthroughs in the study of neurological diseases have provided

methods for treating, though not curing, parkinsonism.

In addition to treating patients and conducting research, the institute has sponsored several neuroscience symposia resulting in five published books. The institute also sponsors the ongoing Tarbox Lecture Series which has brought more than 35 of the world's leading experts on parkinsonism to the campus.

Additionally, the institute has supported the Tarbox Fellowship Program. The program provides monetary support for young researchers to conduct studies into the neurosciences and the neurology of aging, Roman said. Almost a hundred articles have been published by students who have received fellowships from the institute.

"These young researchers are the ones who will influence the treatment and possible cure for parkinsonism in the future," Roman said. "They provide a long-range balance to the institute's more immediate goal of patient treatment."

Roman said the Tarbox Institute, through its symposia, lecture series, fellowships, publications and patient treatment, has been an integral factor in the evolution of a neurology of the aging emphasis at TTUHSC.

"When combined with our work in Alzheimer's disease, the accomplishments of the Tarbox Institute have earned the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center a growing reputation for excellence in the neurology of aging," Roman said.

# Texas Tech University Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

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HEALTH TIPSHEET
from
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
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PARKINSON'S DISEASE -- It begins with a tremor. That muscle tremor, however slight, is the first sign of the neurological disorder known as Parkinson's disease. That tremor and the ones that follow can grow progressively worse until the brain loses control of the body's muscular functions and the individual is incapacitated. A decade ago, there was virtually no hope for treating the disease, only its symptoms. But since then neuroscience has made significant advances in understanding parkinsonism, reports Gustavo C. Roman, M.D., director of the Tarbox Parkinson's Disease Clinic at TTUHSC. For instance, drugs are now being tested which may delay or halt the progression of the disease. And, adrenal transplants to the brain have produced promising results. Though a cure for the brain disorder has not yet been found, researchers are focusing on the role of the MPTP molecule. This molecule is present in drugs which are known to induce the effects of Parkinson's disease. MPTP molecules are believed to oxidize in the body, setting off a chain of neurological events which contribute to the disease. For more on the disease, its treatment and its effect on patients, contact Roman at (806) 743-2721.

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For assistance in covering this or other stories, contact TTUHSC news manager Preston Lewis at (806) 743-2143. Photographs and video footage can be arranged upon request.