



LSUS sponsors new competitive swim team.

-Pg. 3

“BY FAILING TO PREPARE, YOU ARE PREPARING TO FAIL.” - Benjamin Franklin

## Chancellor Clark accepts challenge

Corey Drummond  
PRINT EDITOR

Chancellor Larry Clark participates in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge and allows students and faculty to bid on the chance to dump the bucket of icy water on him personally.

“F. King Alexander is president of the LSU system and he did it, and turned around and challenged us chancellors on the campuses to do it,” Clark said.

Clark believes activism on the campus is absolutely important. Student involvement in external causes and events are important for personal growth.

“I think that for LSUS to be a really great university for our students, we need to accommodate some really great academics, and a great student experience outside of the academic setting. I want us to be about both,” Clark said.

Charitable and non-profit organizations are important for students and the community. Clark would like to expand charity work in the future, but understands that it must be at a careful pace. He has future plans to involve students in charitable events down the road, but it may take time to put them in motion.

“I would love to see LSU Shreveport have an expectation of students giving back at some point. I have to be careful coming in that I don’t initiate too many things that people say ‘What’s up with this?’ But I want to be respectful of what people are doing and understand what things are already in place,” Clark said. “I do think the whole idea of giving back, being aware, being engaged, and being a part of a community; I think those are important for the students and the university over all.”

Clark explains how the auction idea started, and mentions previous proposed ideas.

“I became aware that the TKE fraternity was going to do something based on ALS. Given the fact that they were already going to do something, I aligned myself with them because of the fact that they were doing this and said ‘Hey, do you want the alignment or not?’ So I offered what I was going to do to them, to be supportive of what they were doing, and to not have two competing things happening there,” Clark said.



Photo by Chris Rebouche

Chancellor Larry Clark participates in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

At one point, TKE wanted to have people, including Clark, dive into a pickup truck with ice water, but he figures that was a little much. The plan was always to have a fun way to interact with students with the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge phenomenon.

“It allows the students to have a bit of fun. My clothing is still hanging out there from yesterday, and my tie might never be the same again, but I think it is good that the chancellor can laugh with the students,” Clark said.

The chancellor laments the challenge’s end, but says events like this will absolutely happen again. It may not be too soon, but he wants it to happen.

“I loved yesterday. I loved seeing all the students, and I loved all the energy of the day. I would have every day be that day if I could, but it can’t be,” Clark said.

Regarding the importance of a close relationship with the students, Clark plans to interact with the campus on a consistent basis. Hopefully in the near future, students can benefit from this interaction.

“One of the things I am hoping to look forward to is working with the student activities board, and what we want to do with the Almagest, is, once a month, have students be able to ask me questions about whatever is on their mind. Where I don’t hold the microphone; you hold the microphone,” Clark said.

The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge was initiated by the ALS Association to fight Lou Gehrig’s Disease. As of July 29, the ALS Association has raised \$94.3 million in donations due to the ice bucket challenge.

## Opinion: Electronic cigarette ban on campus

### An Almagest at LSUS Editorial

Chris Talerico  
STAFF VIDEOGRAPHER

Zero tolerance policies have become common-place. From the legal system to the education system, “strike one, you’re out” is an interdisciplinary, institutional phenomenon. Over time, this systemic culture infiltrates main-stream thought and policy, and ways of dealing with extreme circumstances become adapted for common-place use.

In-line with about half of the student body, I am a non-traditional student. Born in the mid-80s, I was a “child of the 90s.” I remember being a freshman in high school, in JROTC class. The vice principal came over the intercom, instructing all teachers to turn the television on to “channel one” (yes, it’s that old; in fact, that is something that came into existence in the 90s too- well, 1989, but it didn’t “take-off” until the 90s). It was April 20, 1999; it was also best friend’s birthday.

America’s perception of adolescents changed forever that day. Fear for their children led parents into allowing, often advocating, for zero-tolerance policies in schools.

Nothing was too good for the protection of children. Metal detectors and see-through bags? Check. Police officers and K-9 dogs? Check. Random searches and questionable arrests? Check.

This dynamic of overreaction, of irrational decisions with diminishing rates of return, is so endemic to the American cultural mindset that once our society has decided something is wrong, there is no nuance. Everything is black or white. There is no room for grey, no room for reason. This is playground logic, and it rules this country.

The 90s also saw the rise of the anti-tobacco movement. California’s limited bans enacted in the mid-90s were extended permanently a few years later and paved the way for other states to put limitations or bans on smoking. A successful anti-smoking advertising campaign is often credited with the precipitous fall in teen smoking, a decade-long plummet.

As of this semester, the LSU Shreveport campus is “tobacco free.” On no part of campus property is anyone, student, employee, or visitor allowed to consume tobacco products. I am a smoker. As a smoker, I support almost every tobacco ban I’ve encountered. Second-hand smoke is a

serious concern, especially indoors, and no one should have to avoid a public location to ensure their health.

However, the tobacco ban at LSUS follows the same intellectual bankruptcy that many other zero tolerance policies fall prey to. While the ban obviously bars smoking and chewing tobacco, it also bars electronic or “E” cigarettes.

E-cigarettes function by heating nicotine infused oil with a metal filament. The glycol oil evaporates and is inhaled as water vapor. The vapor carries no scent and poses no danger to bystanders. The oil is absent the plethora of poisons and carcinogens usually found in tobacco products. In fact, whether or not it remains a practice, electronic cigarettes are touted as a way to quit, much like gum, patches, or lozenges.

The logic of banning electronic cigarettes, which is more akin to a tobacco substitute than a true “tobacco product,” does not make rational sense. Electronic cigarettes contribute nothing tangible the ban intends to remove, and they provide an alternative for those few who may break the new rule. As consenting adults, the zero tolerance policy moralizes against nicotine itself, chastising those legally partake.



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Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be e-mailed or submitted to the *Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

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According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a retraction is a public statement, either in print, or by verbal statement that is made to correct a previously made statement that was incorrect, invalid, or in error. The intent of a public retraction is to correct any incorrect information. *The Almagest* holds all rights if deemed necessary to retract such statements made, and shall, at will. Retraction notices should be made by e-mail or phone.



# Vector makes fools of many students

## An Almagest at LSUS Editorial

Corey Drummond  
PRINT EDITOR

Vector Marketing is, to many people, a putrid hole for scam artists to settle in and wipe up the poor students unfortunate enough to believe their lies. On the first day of this semester, they began posting their flyers all over the LSU Shreveport campus. A crusader has been fortunate enough to just as quickly take them down.

A quick search for Vector across the Internet will provide numerous accounts of misleading advertisements, harassment by office employees, and a lack of any kind of financial gain after weeks, and even months, of work.

Students whom were directly manipulated by Vector detail many of these accounts in college publications. While certain details seem to differ depending on the office location, reports are consistent about the ways students have been deceived.

According to these reports from students across the country, Vector convinces high school and college students to arrive to a group interview, in which they are coerced to drop \$99 to \$150 on a knives set by Cutco Cutlery, and sell this product ranging from \$200 to \$2000 to family and friends. In this process, Vector is reportedly gaining access to the contact information of the employee's loved ones for their own use.

Vector is a nation-wide distributor of a product by a New York-based manufacturer called Cutco Cutlery. This company's production of knives is made in a factory housed in Olean, New York since 1949 and employs over 700 workers in its corporate headquarters.

The lone distributor of this product, Vector, fishes its workers out of a pool of high school graduates, college students, and generally "all ages 17+", according to the company's flyers.

Vector has been sweeping up students and young adults for decades, with advertising some

people have claimed to be misleading and disingenuous. Its posters around campus boast "flexible schedules", "no experience necessary", and "all majors considered".

Many of these flyers also happen to have at least one of the contact tabs torn off; possibly to give the illusion of real people considering what the company deems a "business opportunity"



Photo by Corey Drummond

Vector Marketing posts these flyers all around campus under the web address, [workforstudents.com](http://workforstudents.com)

rather than a job.

Vector has faced numerous legal battles for over 10 years, and even pushed students to form an organization to protect people from the company's disingenuous business practices. Students Against Vector Exploitation (SAVE) formed in June 2003 to fight against Vector.

The Direct Selling Association (DSA) houses 171 direct selling companies that sell appliances, cosmetics, sporting goods, and a host of other

small items directly to consumers. They do not use retailers as a middleman to sell their products. The list of goods available by the DSA is located on its website [directselling411.com](http://directselling411.com).

Companies in the DSA offer other personal products. Many of them, like Cutco Cutlery, are Fortune 500 startups that offer their merchandise directly to consumers. However, many of these companies remain vague regarding what specific good or service it offers.

2 Cutie Patootie, based in Georgia while having a dozen locations in each state, seems to offer embroidered knick-knacks. However, its page doesn't offer any detailed examples of its products or a catalog. The "Spring Catalog" page only shows one embroidered cloth-based item, with no details regarding price or even a description of what the item is or is used for.

The company also appears to offer a "catalog show" to friends and families, but doesn't describe what that entails. The show requires a host to pay for a items to present to one's friends and family, and making sales with those people presents discount rewards to the host, but only if sales reach \$200, as the site stresses.

The "About Us" page shows pictures of its CEO and Directors of Product Enrichment and Sewing, but these photos display entire families without detailing who specifically in the photos are in charge. Instead, it seems to attempt to manipulate possible customers into feeling a sense of love and family while really presenting nothing at all.

Many of these direct selling companies appear to offer products and services without a clear message regarding what these products are and pricing. Vector Marketing is well-known for its alleged misleading advertisements and continues to post its flyers all around the LSUS campus with the website title of [www.workforstudents.com](http://www.workforstudents.com).

Keep your eyes on the Almagest for more information next week.

# Twitter proves to be valuable news tool

## An Almagest at LSUS Editorial

Tyler Moody  
STAFF VIDEOGRAPHER

I honestly don't know that I've ever written something that wasn't sports related. Suddenly, something compels me to do just that.

What I have to express stems from a county in Missouri. You know the place...Ferguson. No, this isn't my view on something I could never relate to. Not only racially but also my first amendment rights have never been impeded upon as some of the media's were.

No matter your stance on the issue, there is one thing that is undeniable. Witnessing this historic event through the eyes of Twitter is truly fascinating.

Twitter: a social media outlet of 645 million users and about 100 million actual active American users, I guesstimate. Never in history has the world had a media outlet that was as instantaneous.

Twitter has become the official news outlet for my life. I know I am far from the only one. Our craving for up-to-the-second accounts of

something that is going on hundreds, thousands of miles away has finally been satisfied. You are hand-fed information by thousands of people within a minute.

Monday night, much of the media was removed, leaving Twitter as the only live outlet for news. A first hand account of being gassed after the media left sent Twitter into an uproar. Soon others tweeted similar occurrences. The only problem with "everyone has a voice" is there is no validation of accounts.

"Picture or it didn't happen" as many in the Twitter world would say, and Twitter world couldn't be a more accurate depiction of what it is.

Despite that minor flaw, there were a vast majority of eye-opening tweets. Fortunately and unfortunately, along with this information, you receive thousands of people's raw, unfiltered opinions.

This was honestly the part that forced me to put words to this to article. Twitter is like sitting in the same room with 100 million other people.

Every race, nationality, age, belief, and class

is represented. Sometimes you truly are unable to grasp a situation because you don't completely understand it. I didn't understand the gravity of it all until I was able to see thousands of people's viewpoints on the matter. View points backing every side from racism to fascism to support. It was all accounted for and raw.

Finally, we have a place where the entire nation's voice is actually heard on issues. Without it, I would have dismissed this as another news story that I took no interest in. It is crazy to say that Twitter changed my life, but it couldn't be more accurate. It opened my eyes to things I had never seen. It conjured thoughts I have never been close to thinking alone, and it truly has changed some of my ways of thinking and interpreting matters. It has been a small bit of beauty in an ugly situation.

This matter is much bigger than Twitter, but its presence is deeply woven into the matter, as well. One day, will tweets be cited as history, or is it just a trend? Only time will tell, as will the facts in the case.



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# HPE changes schedule due to lack of student usage

**Corey Drummond**  
PRINT EDITOR

This semester, the schedule for the Health and Physical Education building changes based on student usage and a lack of student workers and funds.

Starting August 25, the HPE building has made several tweaks to the schedule of its various facilities. The most significant of these changes is the omission of Saturday availability. Students have only Monday through Friday to access the main facilities including the gymnasium, pool, and exercise weight room.

The pool in the HPE building sees the most change of the facilities. It has the most inconsistent schedule, due a large part to the requirement of a lifeguard to be present for the availability of the pool.

"We can't seem to get college students who want to lifeguard," said Dr. Timothy Winter, chair of the kinesiology/health science department. "We've always had a hard time getting students as lifeguards."

According to Winter, the HPE building has had difficulty acquiring student workers in the past, and still struggles with it today. The lifeguard position in particular sees the least amount of student applicants, which is unfortunate for its importance for pool usage.

"What a lot of people don't understand is that sometimes the [HPE] building depends on our ability to get student workers," Winter said.

Last year, outside contractors had to be hired to cover some of the necessary positions in the building. Money will likely be on short supply soon. This year, Winter stresses those possible budgetary concerns may prevent the possibility of filling positions with outside workers.

"A lot of our ability to operate comes from those outside contracts we do. Students ask, 'Why do you have all of these outside users coming in?' Well, number one, if we had this big demand for students, it would be our pleasure for it to be students only," Winter said. "Students don't take complete advantage of [the facilities]. Number two; contracts with outside groups allow us to run the building."

According to Winter, the budget they are given does not cover the cost for a year. These contractors are given access to the soccer fields, pool, gymnasium, and other HPE facilities.

The HPE building absorbs the money gained from these contracts to continue operation, while allowing the administration to attempt to expand with new ways to generate

Fall 2014 LSUS-H&PE Facilities						
(August 25 – December 13) (Closed Labor Day, Sept 1; Fall Break, Oct 16-18; Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov 27-29; Christmas Break, Dec 13)						
Access for LSUS Students/ Faculty/ Staff & H&PE Fitness Participants with Current/Valid ID Card						
	Pool*	Gym**	Racquetball/ Walleyball	Indoor Track/ Dance Studio	Exercise Weight Room**	Bag Room***
<b>Mon.</b>	11:00am – 1:00pm 5:30pm – 7:30pm	8am – 8pm	8am – 8pm	8am – 8pm	8am – 1pm 2pm – 8pm	8am – 8pm
<b>Tues.</b>	11:00am – 1:00pm 5:00pm – 7:00pm	8am – 8pm	8am – 8pm	8am – 8pm	8am – 1pm 2pm – 8pm	8am – 8pm
<b>Wed.</b>	11:00am – 1:00pm 5:30pm – 7:30pm	8am – 8pm	8am – 8pm	8am – 8pm	8am – 1pm 2pm – 8pm	8am – 8pm
<b>Thurs.</b>	11:00am – 1:00pm 5:00pm – 7:00pm	8am – 8pm	8am – 8pm	8am – 8pm	8am – 1pm 2pm – 8pm	8am – 8pm
<b>Fri.</b>	11-1pm	8am – 5pm	8am – 5pm	8am – 5pm	8am – 1pm 2pm – 5pm	8am – 5pm

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS TO THE REGULAR BUILDING HOURS:**

**\*Planned Pool Hours:**

- Certified Lifeguards are required for the pool to be open. All attempts are made to secure these services at the regularly scheduled recreational times, otherwise the pool must close. The pool will also close during thunderstorms.

**\*\*Gym and other areas:**

- Regularly scheduled courses, athletics, intramurals, and scheduled events will take precedence in the use of the facility.
- This schedule is subject to change; weekly events are posted for each room/site.

**\*\*\*Bag Room:**

- Must wear proper equipment e.g., gloves.

Graphic Courtesy of Nathan Dunams

The new Health and Physical Science building schedule for the Fall semester

revenue. The new kickboxing studio and LSUS-sponsored swim team are examples of this expansion.

Student usages of these facilities are the reason for outside contracts playing such a large role in HPE operation. The changes in the building schedule are based on the feedback provided by the front desk card reader.

The card reader scans every student that enters the HPE building and determines what facilities they plan to use, which keeps a log of how many students enter, when they enter, and where they go. This data is informing the administration about the facilities being used the most and the specific times of usage.

With this information, Nathan Dunams, HPE facilities coordinator, and Winter determine how to fit the altered schedule with the budgetary restraints. They came to the conclusion that Saturdays could be completely removed from the schedule, since the facilities were scarcely used.

"We take a look at [the schedule] every semester. There is a kind of ebb-and-flow. We try to see when we have the most use," Dunams said. "We see when we have the highest traffic, so that is why we have also started to do the scanning at the front...we can see when students are coming in and better adjust the schedule depending on the budget."

The building isn't being used as often as it needs to be. A serious lack of student usage is forcing Winter and Dunams to turn to outside sources.

The weight room, newly upholstered and refurbished, still doesn't see much use from students, despite its apparent convenience and availability. The pool doesn't have a consistent schedule, due to a lack of lifeguards to keep it open.

More and more, the HPE building is turning to outside sources to remain operational. Current measures are being taken to gain more funds, but student involvement is crucial to its survival.

## New kickboxing studio opens on campus

**Corey Drummond**  
PRINT EDITOR

Mixed Martial Arts comes to LSU Shreveport this semester with a brand-new kickboxing studio located in the Health and Physical Education building.

The studio was previously a racquetball court, and is now being repurposed with new equipment to allow students to train in kickboxing style.

"It started in the middle of spring. We asked around a lot of students that came in to see what kind of activities they would like, and MMA was the biggest thing," said Nathan Dunams, HPE facilities coordinator.

Dunams gathered together the necessary tools and equipment to open the studio. The plan is to outsource the studio for extra funds through self-defense lessons and classes for recreational sports. Of course, the studio will also be available to all LSUS students.

"There is a general open rec time if students want to go in there and punch the bags and do some cardio as well. That is something that we finally did get finished this summer and this will be the first time [the studio] will be open for general use," Dunam said.

The studio hopefully provides a much-needed boost of funds for the HPE building. For the past few years, student usage of the facilities has decreased, leading administrators to bring in more outside revenue through private contractors.

This kickboxing studio works as a

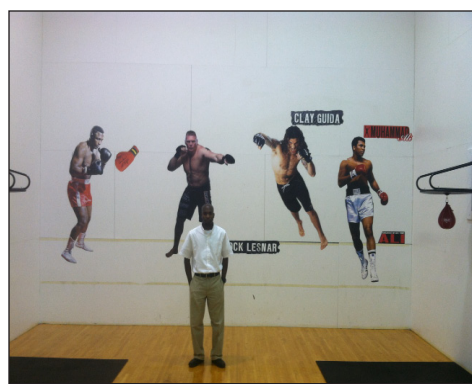


Photo by Corey Drummond  
Nathan Dunams, HPE facilities coordinator,  
inside the new kickboxing studio

more contemporary way to bring in students at LSUS since MMA-style combat has gained a significant following in recent years. However, the studio still has applications for people outside of LSUS, in case students do not show up.

"This was a little while ago, but we had the building open on Sunday afternoons. Please, come during the week, bring your families, come to the gym and play. We've tried to tweak hours," said Dr. Timothy Winter, chair of the kinesiology/health science department.

The kickboxing studio is just one part of a wave of new methods the HPE building is using to generate revenue to compensate for the minuscule budget, along with the new LSUS-sponsored swim team and fitness membership rolling out soon.

The kickboxing studio is open to students from 8 in the morning to 8 in the evening Monday through Thursday, and from eight to five on Friday.

## LSUS Aquatics prepares competitive swim team

**Corey Drummond**  
PRINT EDITOR

LSU Shreveport prepares to sponsor a competitive swimming team to represent the school in USA Swimming.

LSUS Aquatics is the representative for the campus pool located in the HPE building. While the pool is open to all students, recently it has had a hard time remaining open on a consistent schedule. Due to a lack of student workers interested in lifeguard duties, the pool has been closed when no one was available.

"Friday evenings is when we have the biggest use of facilities and it is mostly the gymnasium. Most students don't even know we have a pool, so the most use we get from the pool is from outside groups, not students," said Nathan Dunams, HPE facilities coordinator.

Thankfully, the LSUS pool has arguably the most outside usages of any HPE facility. Swimming lessons, instructor certifications, swim coach training, and CPR training are all offered by LSUS Aquatics. Also take into account that the films *The Guardian* and *Mr. Brooks* were partially shot using the campus pool.

About a month ago, the LSUS Aquatics website went live. Last summer is when the swim team program was developed.

"We had kind of a summer swim team to see how it would go, but now we are going to transition to year-round," Dunams said.

Dr. Timothy Winter, chair of the kinesiology/health science department, stresses

that the new swim team is not part of the school's Athletics program. LSUS Aquatics is an external program sponsored by LSUS and is meant to provide swimmers with physical, emotional, and intellectual skills that last a lifetime.

"It is not intercollegiate. I don't want to get students upset. This is a more unique service," Winter said.

The swim team is divided into three groups based on age, skill level, maturity, and motivation. Placement is determined by the coaches.

The Silver group is designed for the younger or less experienced swimmers five years and older. The White group places swimmers based on efficiency and tests them on endurance and speed.

Finally, the Blue group is the most competitive. Swimmers in this category are meant to have the same commitment to the sport as the coaches and regular attendance is required, unlike the other groups. Currently, there are between 20 to 25 people signed up for the swim team.

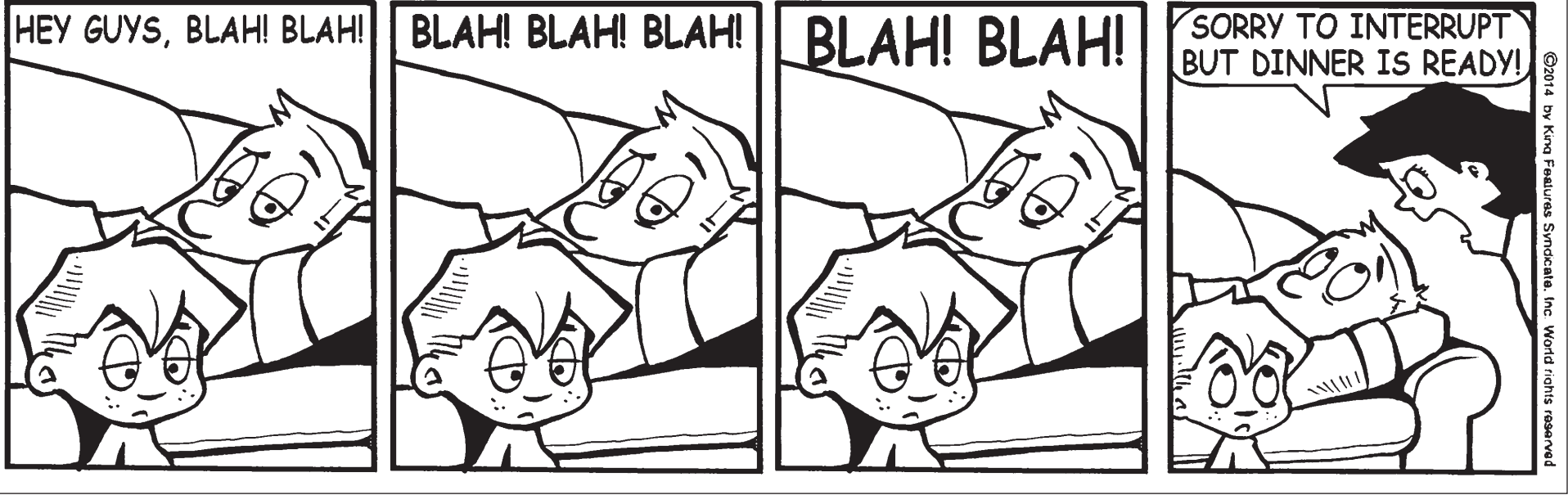
The teams will be going up against other statewide teams in the Louisiana Swimming tournament.

"It all ties in to us promoting swimming, and safe swimming, because our swimming lessons feed directly into the swim team. The next step is for them to join our swim team," Dunam said.

The season will last from August through May.

# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

