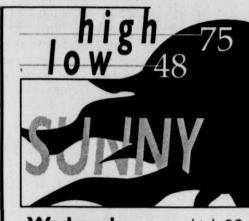
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Lubbock, Texas



TUESDAY

April 4, 2000 Volume 75, Issue 120



Wednesday: sunny, high 89

STATENEWS — Cost of credit insurance drops,

buyers should still beware

AUSTIN (AP) — The cost of credit insurance has dropped, but consumers should still be leery of claims that they must buy the product along with the financing on a new car or furniture.

The cost of credit life insurance, which pays off a loan when the borrower dies, decreased an average of 21 percent on April 1, the Texas Department of Insurance announced Monday.

"Texas consumers who elect to purchase credit insurance have been paying too much," said Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor, who ordered the reduction in October 1999.

Montemayor also ordered an average 18 percent reduction in credit disability insurance, a related product, that makes loan payments if the borrower can't work due to sickness or injury.

Flyin' high



Will Braswell, a junior computer science major from Hobbs, N.M., takes advantage of mild weather Monday and flies a kite at Memorial Circle. Weather forecasts predict even warmer weather later this week.

Researcher develops finger to test fabrics Invention could be used as prosthetic

by Kevin McEwen

Staff Writer

One Texas Tech researcher has given society the finger — literally.

Seshadri Ramkumar, a research scientist at Tech's International Textile Center, has developed an artificial finger than can do the same thing as an actual finger.

The artificial finger measures the quality of fabrics using touch just like a human finger. The difference is the artificial finger gives a rating to the fabric.

"This is about developing a simple quality control technique to measure the quality of a fabric," Ramkumar said. "For example, when you squeeze a shirt at Kmart, it is all subjective. At every stage of making a fabric, there should be some kind of analytical tool."

The finger, made from a rubber-like material, called poly-synoxane, is part of a machine that simulates human touch.

"It simulates the reciprocal motion of sliding the material between your fingers," Ramkumar said. "I just place the fabric on a platform. The pulley creates a to-and-fro motion. The finger touches the fabric where the nerve endings meet. The finger simulates what a normal finger would feel."

The tool then comes up with a number that rates the quality of the fabric.

"The higher the number, the better the quality," Ramkumar said. "These numbers are in Pascal, a pressure unit. My maximum will print up to 600 Pascals."

Ramkumar said the type of fabric is not limited to certain fibers.

"It can be anything," Ramkumar said. "It could be jeans, polyester or a cotton shirt. We can even do a baby diaper."

eather eather eather ather beather companies will benefit from the fake finger, and it could lead to even more uses.



Greg Kreller/The University Daily

Tech researcher Seshadri Ramkumar has developed an artificial finger that has similar characteristics to an actual finger. The fake finger is used to determine the quality of fabrics used for clothing.

"It also benefits cosmetic centers, the skin industries and medical hygiene industries," Ramkumar said. "If this works, this could be used for artificial replacement of human body parts. If I can find it compatible with the human body, then this solves a lot of problems."

He said the project has not always been so promising.

"When I started, I focused strictly on the textile," Ramkumar said. "I started in late 1997 and didn't get results until the end of 1998."

For his creation, Ramkumar received the Fiber Society Student Award and was named a charter physicist in London.

But the job is not over for Ramkumar. He said with the money he is receiving, he plans to further the project.

"I am working on enzyme finishing," Ramkumar said. "I am presenting two papers in Winston, Salem, in September. Once I have the theory approved, it will be easy to make more."

NATIONALNEWS

Second engine of EgyptAir 990 wreckage recovered

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. (AP) — A robot from a salvage ship raised the second engine of EgyptAir Flight 990, and the wreckage was returned to shore Monday.

The debris was found in an area 60 miles south of the Massachusetts island of Nantucket where the plane crashed Oct. 31. The robot also raised parts of the first engine that had been left behind in previous salvage missions.

FBI and National Transportation Safety Board investigators will study the plane parts, which then will be stored at the former Navy base at Quonset Point along with the rest of the recovered debris, NTSB spokesman Keith Holloway said.

An estimated 70 percent of the plane had been recovered in previous missions. Holloway did not know how much was raised in this latest trip or how much remains on the ocean floor.

"I don't know all the content of what they have, but they were able to accomplish quite a bit of what they set out to do," Holloway said.

WORLDNEWS — Japanese prime minister in

coma after having stroke TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi was on life support Monday after a stroke, leaving the Japanese government to grapple with a leadership crisis and the possibility of dissolving the Cabinet and finding a successor.

Despite assurances from officials that Japan would not veer from its economic and political course, speculation was rife that Obuchi's illness could plunge Japan into turmoil and possibly lead to early elections.

However, the political establishment appeared to be moving quickly to name a successor to the prime minister, with media reports saying the Cabinet could resign as early as this week so a new one can be formed. With that as a possibility, it appeared likely that Chief Cabinet Secretary Mikio Aoki, who took over as acting prime minister on Monday, would be able to keep the government together until then.

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Nasdaq plummets on Microsoft woes, Dow up

NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft devastated the Nasdaq composite index Monday, falling sharply as Wall Street anticipated a federal judge's antitrust ruling against the software company. The plunge in Microsoft set off another stampede away from technology stocks and sent investors searching for blue-chip issues.

The swing toward financial, retail and drug stocks helped the Dow Jones industrials soar 300 points.

The Nasdaq plunged 349.15, or 7.6 percent, to close at 4,223.68. It was easily the Nasdaq's worst point drop in history, surpassing a 229-point plunge on Jan. 4.

Microsoft fell 15 3/8 to 90 7/8 as the company appeared poised for harsh penalties. After the close of trading, U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson delivered his verdict that Microsoft violated the Sherman Antitrust Act.

Although Microsoft is also a component of the Dow, and its steep plunge was the equivalent of nearly 80 Dow points, Wall Street's best-known indicator gained as investors sought the stability that typically comes with blue-chip stocks. The Dow ended the session up 300.01 at 11,221.93.

Microsoft, which has traded places with General Electric and Cisco Systems as the world's largest company according to stock market value, affected the Nasdaq more dramatically than it did the Dow because the Nasdaq is a weighted index, giving more significance to larger companies. The Dow gives equal weight to each of its 30 components.

With Monday's decline, Microsoft shed more than \$80 billion in stock market value, an apparently unprecedented decline that sent the software maker tumbling to No. 3 behind GE and Cisco.

Microsoft's woes exacerbated growing nervousness over the entire technology sector, analysts said. Since closing at a record high 5,048.62 on March 10, the Nasdaq has fallen 17 percent.

"Microsoft kick-started the selling, but the weakness is pretty intense across the board," said Kenneth M. Sheinberg, head of listed trading at SG Cowen in New York. "A lot of these stocks went straight up for months, and now they're going straight down."

Other high-tech decliners included Legato Systems, a maker of storage software, which lost more than half its value. Shares fell 24 3/ 4 to 19 7/8. The company told the Securities and Exchange Commission late Friday it would delay the filing of its annual financial statement, raising concerns that the company would restate earnings and revenues.

Parametric Technology, a maker of computer-aided design software, plunged 10 5/ 16 to 10 3/4 after announcing that its earnings for the current quarter will dramatically miss estimates.

In an already nervous market, those disappointments brought stiff punishment to the entire sector, analysts said.

Edward Yardeni, chief economist at Deutsche Bank Securities, described the Nasdaq's ongoing decline as a "new economy correction," in which investors are driving down stocks that may have run too far in favor of long-neglected industrial shares.

"There is some sense coming back into the market," Yardeni said. "Down the line, there will be a greater appreciation for stable and predictable earnings."

Market watchers generally define a correction as a drop of 10 percent from a peak. It signifies a reversal of an upward trend, but doesn't necessarily mean a long-term change is imminent.

The blue-chip stocks that comprise the Dow drew most buyers. American Express rose 6 9/16 to 155 1/2 and J.P. Morgan shot up 10 to 141 3/4.

Home Depot rose 3 to 67 1/2 and Merck gained 4 5/8 to 66 3/4.

"The flip side to the Nasdaq's problems is that there's some pretty strong buying in quality names," Sheinberg said.

With Microsoft occupying center stage on Wall Street and in Washington, investors paid little attention to the latest report from the National Association of Purchasing Management. The group reported growth in the manufacturing economy continued in March, but at slower rate than in February.

Broader market indicators were mixed, with none matching the drama of the Nasdaq and the Dow. The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 7.39 to 1,505.97 and the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 23.03 to 516.04.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a slender margin on the New York Stock Exchange, while decliners led by a 3-to-1 margin on the Nasdaq.

Students to trek across country on bicycles

by Molly Russell Contributing Writer

From the Golden Gate Bridge to the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., two Texas Tech students will ride their bicycles across the country in an effort to raise awareness for people with disabilities.

From June 11 to Aug. 12, Gregg Turner, a senior finance major from Lubbock, and his brother, Nick Turner, a senior management information systems major from Lubbock, will peddle their way across the United States for the 2000 Journey of Hope bicycle ride.

The event is sponsored by Push America, a non-profit organization founded by Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. The organization's intention is to improve the lives of people with disabilities through service, volunteer work, education and awareness.

Sixty-two Pi Kappa Phi members from across the nation are participating in the journey, and three are from Tech.

The brothers have been training for about two months and ride an average of 20 milesper-day to gear up for the journey.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience to see the world from a bike," Gregg Turner said.

The bicyclers will ride an average of 75 miles each day and sleep in school gyms at

night. Each morning around 5 a.m., team members will wake up, have breakfast and leave for the next city around 6 a.m.

After finishing for the day, riders will promote Push America through visits with people at state or children's homes, interactive puppet shows, dances, recreational swimming and barbecues.

All of their activities are aimed at helping others understand the issues facing those with disabilities.

Money for the trip has been raised by each rider. As Pi Kappa Phi's national philanthropy, each rider for the team must raise a minimum of \$4,000, and the crew member must raise a minimum of \$3,000.

Push America has received more than \$3 million raised by collegiate members of the fraternity.

In addition to raising awareness, the Journey of Hope will raise more than \$300,000 for future educational projects and programs.

"It's about what people can do with disabilities, not what they can't do," Nick Turner said.

The third member of the Journey of Hope team is a crew member in charge of keeping media informed and making sure the riders are safe.

"My main focus is for (the riders) to make



Gregg Turner, a senior finance major from Lubbock. **Nathan Gilliam** a junior MIS major from San Marcos and Nick Turner, a senior MIS major from Lubbock, will join forces to ride across the country for charity. **Greg Kreller** The University Daily

it safely," said crew member Nathan Gilliam, a junior management information systems major from San Marcos. "I'm there to make it go as smooth as possible,"

Members of the fraternity are very supportive of their brothers.

"Those two guys are good guys, and whoever they talk to, they will influence in a positive way," said Pi Kappa Phi member Chad Creel, a senior finance and economic major from Monahans.

The Journey of Hope team will travel from city to city, spreading the message of Push America. They will travel through Lubbock on July 13.

For more information on how to support Push America's Journey of Hope, please contact Gilliam at 799-7103.

2 • The University Daily • Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Tech Spirit Squad tryout deadline nears

The Texas Tech Spirit Squads will have tryouts for the 2000-2001 season at 8 a.m. April 22 in the Women's Gym.

An informational meeting will be at 5 p.m. Sunday in the University Center Lubbock Room.

Positions on the co-ed cheer squad, pom squad or as a mic person, who is in charge of leading cheers over a microphone at Red

Raider football games. Those interested in trying out must submit an application, a signed contract and a \$10 tryout fee by April 14.

Applications are available at 210 UC and at the Athletic Marketing Offices at Jones Stadium

For more information, contact Britta Tye, Spirit Squad adviser, at 742-1195.

Ranchers unsure of water rights proposal

LUBBOCK (AP) — Some Roberts County ranchers think an oilman's offer to buy up their water rights and sell them to cities like San Antonio, El Paso, Dallas and Fort Worth only benefits one person - T. Boone Pickens.

"I don't mind selling my water rights but Pickens is trying to tie up my water rights," Miami rancher Ronnie Gill said Monday. "He is offering a \$100 bill if you have one acre or 1,000 acres."

"His offer is good for Mr. Pickens, but not good for the land owner."

Pickens has offered ranchers in the county, which has fewer than 1,000 years, he promises \$350 per acre. "The \$100, that isn't even worth

discussing," Pickens said. "The \$350 is what we are all interested in. If that can be accomplished, we will increase our property value twofold. There is no way that anybody can be damaged by the offer.

"I wouldn't make an unfair offer. All it is, is just an option to see if I can put a deal together. ... I'm not even sure it makes economic sense to move water from the Texas Panhandle."

Gill thinks it does. He just doesn't think Pickens' plan is best.

ter one way or another," the rancher said. "I think eventually there will be a lot of water pumped out of Roberts County to these municipalities. They are the ones that wield the power."

Pickens isn't the only oilman trying to scoop up water rights and resell them. Billionaire brothers Ed and Lee Bass of Fort Worth, who made money in oil and silver, snapped up 45,000 acres of water rights in Southern California in 1997, intending to sell them to thirsty San Diego residents. They sold their interests to U.S. Filter Corp., for \$250 million and experts say they hope to complete a

The former mayor of McAllen, Othal Brand, also found cash by selling water. He sold the city of Laredo water rights he got for \$780,000 last month.

Canadian rancher and oilman George W. Arrington hasn't decided what he'll do about Pickens' offer. and plans to have an answer for the oilman within the month. His main concern is that Pickens' deal would buy the water rights outright.

The deal would be more enticing if it were set up like an oil lease where the rights would return to the surface owner when pumping is no longer beneficial, the rancher said.



ent. Texas Tech University nor The University Daily encourages in

tion offers this opportunity in an effort to someday prevent lung disease. For more information on how to

dedicate a memorial, contact 1-800-

national boom in illegal imports of ecstasy, the synthetic "psychedelic amphetamine" also known as

tablets - some are embossed with smiley faces, shamrocks or Playboy bunny ears - have multiplied like rabbits. U.S. Customs reports it confiscated 3.5 million pills throughout the country in fiscal 1999, compared to 750,000 in 1998; the total has already reached 4 million this year.

In the New York City area alone. the totals were 1.3 million pills in 1999, up from 48,400 in 1998.

Agents have discovered ecstasy stashed in airmailed packages, and in imported cars and antique furniture. But mainly, it's smuggled in luggage carried by couriers from Europe, where pills are produced for less than a dollar for sale in a youthful and expanding U.S. market for up to \$40 a

Using undercover officers and cooperating suspects, authorities have learned that the New York imports serve a vast Northeast market. Federal officials, who asked not to be identified, said New York appeared to be the largest American gateway for ecstasy based on number of pills

Sat

7a - 4p

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Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Film rated 'Mother' of all movies

by Brev Tanner Staff Writer

There have been only a few times where I have cried during a movie, and there was only once where I almost broke down and cried in the car on the way back. That "once" was during "All About My Mother."

I highly recommend this film to anyone who can enjoy foreign films (it is from Spain) or who understands the importance of a mother or the strength of a woman.

The film's message is extremely deep and very touching. It is about a young boy, Esteban (Eloy Azorin), and his search for the truth about his father. But in order to begin, he must learn all about his mother.



Cecilia Roth plays Manuela, Esteban's mother, and she gives a performance worthy of an Academy Award.

Roth goes through the entire emotional reactions of a mother who has tragedy in her life and had the courage to battle it.

The entire cast is made up of Spanish actors and actresses, so many faces are not memorable, but the performances will astound vou.

The cast are real people with real flaws and never once is writer/ director Pedro Almodovar afraid to show that.

Almodovar directs the film with a strong sense of compassion and intelligence and shows us the strength it takes to be a woman.

The film is so much more than just a study on women. It also says a lot about not believing your eyes and that people are not always what they seem.

One of the film's most profound scenes is where Manuela finds out that the innocent and sweet Sister Rosa (Penelope Cruz, "The Hi-Lo Country") is not what she appears to be.

This film recently won the Best Foreign Film award at the Oscars, and it deserved a nomination for screenplay, actress, director and picture, in my opinion. It is better than many of the films that were released last year, and I'm happy that Lubbock is finally having the courage to show such a deep and powerful film such as this one, even if the subject matter is, at times, tough to handle.

I saw this film once by myself and then took my mother. She loved it.

For any woman out there who wants to see a film that displays strong female characters who are not firing guns or being bitchy, but instead are true to the feelings and desires that all women have, then I strongly urge you to see this film.

This film touched my heart in ways I never knew a film could, and I am only a man.

NBC, WWF to wrestle with NFL after losing broadcasting rights

struck a deal to broadcast games from the World Wrestling Federation's new "extreme" football league and take a 50 percent stake in the XFL venture.

The agreement announced March 29 comes after NBC lost the rights to broadcast NFL games two years ago, then tried but failed to start a separate league with Turner Broadcasting.

NBC will broadcast XFL games on Saturday evenings, leading into "Saturday Night Live," in the latest bid by a major broadcaster to capture the ever-elusive young male audience that advertisers covet.

While the new league may not be considered genuine football by purists, NBC is hoping that teaming up

NEW YORK (AP) - NBC has with the marketing prowess of the WWF will win back the viewers that have flocked to "Smackdown!" on UPN and "Raw is War" on USA.

The University Daily

NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue had no comment on the new league.

The companies insist that the eight-team XFL will be a real sport, not entertainment programming like WWF wrestling, where chairsmashing, outrageous antics and bizarre story lines are the preferred tools for luring in viewers.

There will be several changes to traditional football to soup up the game, however, including eliminating the "fair catch" rule, shortening half-time to 10 minutes, and placing microphones in huddles, in locker rooms and on the sidelines.

Milk mustache campaign to choose college athlete for ad

by Alicia Field Staff Writer

Texas Tech athletes will have the chance today to win an ap pearance in a Got Milk? mustache advertisement in Rolling Stone magazine.

The Milk Mustache campaign tour will be on the Tech campus from noon to 2 p.m. in the University Center Courtyard.

Jackie Kravick, campaign representative with BSMG WorldWide, said there will be a free-lance photographer in the UC to take milk mustache photos of students.

Students can pose with Stone Cold Steve Austin and Tyra Banks cutouts and keep the Polaroid picture with a Got Milk? frame," she said.

Kravick said the professional photographs of athletes who pose will be sent to a panel of judges. She said they chose to use a college athlete because they are setting the example on campus.

"One student from each campus will be featured on the www.whymilk.com Web site and then a panel of judges will select

one athlete to be featured in the Got Milk? ad in Rolling Stone," she

Fifty college campuses are included in the tour.

said.

"There's a calcium crisis among college campuses," Kravick said.

She said one out of two college men and four out of five college women are lacking in calcium in-

take.

PROBLEM PREGNANCY

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"Even drinking chocolate milk will provide the body with the same nutrients - that's just adding calories," she said.

Free T-shirts, posters and information on the health benefits of milk will be given out.

"College students are smart," Kravick said.

"They know what they're doing but need a reminder every once in a while.

Natalie Steadman, Tech assis-

tant athletic director, said the athletic department hired two nutritionists to work with the athletes. To Tech athletes, milk is an essential part of a daily diet.

"Milk is one of the most nutrient-packed drinks you can drink," Steadman said. "This is a crucial time in life that determines problems later in life, like osteoporosis, and you can't make up for it later."

Steadman said all students should drink 1,000 milligrams of milk each day, which is equivalent

to three cups.

"It's as easy as having a bowl of cereal in the morning, and smoothies also provide a good source of milk," she said.

Steadman also said there are misconceptions about the concerns surrounding fat content in milk, and the information provided through the Milk Mustache campaign will clarify many of these nutrition myths.

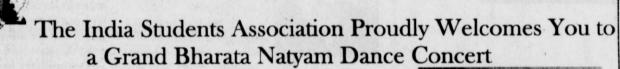
"We can put the information out there, but students make the

choices day in and day out," she said.

College athletes drink on average 2-1/2 cups of milk a day, while the average student drinks only a half a cup, according to a survey conducted by the Impulse Research Corporation in association with the National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Board.

For additional information about the Milk Mustache campaign, call 1-800-WHY-MILK or log on to www.whymilk.com.





The World-renowned artist Madhusri and the Srutilaya dance troupe will perform fast paced Indian classical and folk dances to enchanting songs and music



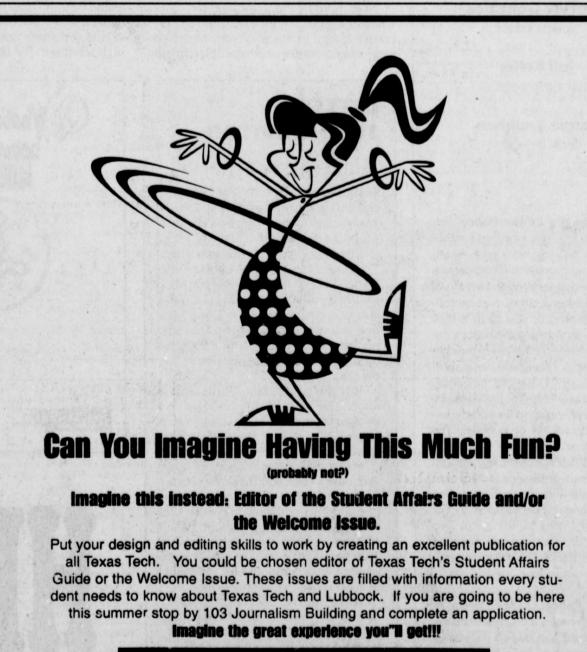


from the flute, drums and cymbals. Also performing with Madhusri will be her eight-year-old daughter, Shilpa.

Venue: Allen Theater, UC, TTU. 8th April 2000 Date: 7:00pm Time:

Tickets: \$10 Adult, \$5 for Students with valid Tech ID, Children 12 and under & Senior Citizens. Tickets are currently available at the UC Ticket Booth (742-3610) and at any Select-A-Seat (770-2000) location (there will be a \$1 service charge for tickets purchased through Select-A-Seat).

For more details visit the link ISA-4-CRY on the ISA's website www.ttu.edu/~isa.



Deadline is 4 p.m. Friday, April 14

Interviews April 25-28

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The University Daily • Tuesday, April 4, 2000



Don't blame me, I'm not voting

Tou often hear it said that if you don't ions than you as being human beings, so vote in a presidential election, you don't have a right to complain.

Well, I can't believe I'm saying this, but maybe the 2000 campaign has shown us and will continue to show us that exceptions can be made. Maybe it's not too much of a stretch to say that those apathetic Americans who choose not to vote have a right to complain to the person who does.

Now I'm going to

Strickland

Greg Okuhara

maybe that's not saying much. But I've still had a really difficult time backing Gore and the Democratic Party on this issue.

Now, I have several friends who are openly gay. In fact, several of them are really close friends, and they know how I feel about the issue of homosexuality and the military. In no way do I feel that being a homosexual would keep someone from performing the duties required of military personnel, but I'm also realistic.

Homosexuality is causing dissension among our armed forces. This isn't my personal opinion here, this is statistical data compiled from the opinions of military personnel. I truly hope that one day homosexuals will be able to take up arms in defense of our nation without facing the ridicule, harassment and safety concerns that they face today. But right now, this just isn't the case.

Our military is the last line of defense and seeing its present condition doesn't restore too much faith in the longevity of our democracy. In a military that has to teach its engi-Columnist I've been trying with neers about nuclear physics with comic books, dissension is the last thing we need.

I'm talking about Israel, in case you were wondering.

In the entire history of "yes" men, I don't think they've had a bigger ally than George W. Bush. If I wanted to enter into a society of people who couldn't think on their own, I'd join the NRA. But I don't, so why would I want to elect one as our president?

Of course, Bush isn't as open on the issue of guns as presidential hopeful Gary Bauer was. I truly miss hearing Bauer speak of how awful it is that we have yet to ban abortion. He had me going for awhile until I found out that he was a puppet of the NRA. Yeah, Gary, why don't we elect you as president so we can bring 20 million more kids into the world and have them shot dead before they get out of the second grade because of legislation you passed? This is where I came up with the children with guns reference I made earlier. I'll go off on the NRA again later in the year, probably the last week of school so I don't have to listen about how we have to enforce present gun laws, when in fact we can't because of NRA lobbying.

Frankly, even if Bush wasn't an NRA puppet like Bauer, I still wouldn't vote for the guy.

Lubbock: A nice, warm blanket

have lived in Lubbock for three years now, and one theme that constantly comes up in conversations I have with other students is how much the younger crowd doesn't like it here. There have been countless columns written on how much Lubbock sucks, and most of the people I talk to want to get out of Lubbock as soon as possible.

I don't particularly care who likes Lubbock and who doesn't - it's a matter of taste and opinion - but I have to admit that I fall into that tiny minority that enjoys living in Lubbock.

I know it's hard to believe that column after column I've written about things that piss me off, and when I finally decide to write about something I like, it happens to be the despised Lubbock.



from Tech, so I figured, why not? Oh yeah, and I thought it was pretty cool that the **Red Raider mascot carries** guns. Joseph Colley Columnist

Tech gets bashed all the time for not meeting the standards of some of our rivals, but if you ask me, Tech is much better than many

I was born in Lubbock,

but I grew up in the small

town of Mount Pleasant. I

decided to come to college

at Texas Tech for rather

simple reasons. My dad and

my brother both graduated

of the alternatives.

Although I have a tendency to point out the mental shortcomings of the administrators, I think we have good professors and good students. And unlike most people, I don't have a problem with our mediocre football team or our ancient English/Philosophy building.

I have more productive things to gripe about, such as the Student Government Association campaigners who yell and shove signs in your face as you try desperately to get to the front door of Holden Hall and then get offended when you tell them where you're going to shove the sign if they don't get it out of your face. It's just one of those minor irritants we all have to deal with. Well, that's enough praise for Tech. Let's move on to Lubbock.



Kenneth

come out and say it: the 2000 campaign sucks. I can't put it in any simpler terms. Neither of the candidates are worth voting for, plain and simple.

alism and hope when my boy John McCain was still in the picture, did my patriotism.

much zest to find an is-Las Arabel LA sue supported by either one of the two remaining candidates that would make it worth my while to go out to the polls in November, but so far, I've come up emptyhanded. I figure the only issue that truly stands out between George W. Bush and Al Gore is who they want to have the guns, homosexuals or children. Let me explain. The platform Gore has remained adamant about is that he wants to integrate the U.S. military by removing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy present today. It's one of the primary issues he's campaigned on, so more than likely, if elected president, he'll move on it. Now, myself, I'm usually pretty liberal when it comes to homosexual rights. Of course, liberal in this town only means that you recognize those who have different opin-

I was holding on to a meager amount of ide-

but when he left, so too

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ters to the editor are accepted for publication on the Viewpoints page. All letters must be no longer than two, doublespaced, typed pages. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters must be submitted in person, by mail or by e-mail. Letters are published at the editor's discretion, and the editor reserves the right to edit letters for libelous material, spelling and vulgarity. "Letters to the Editor" is intended as a forum for public discussion of issues relating to Texas Tech; personal attacks will not be published. The UD does not discriminate because of race, creed, national origin, sex, age, disability or sexual preference. Letters must be submitted with picture identification and telephone number to Room 211 of the Journalism building, or to UD@ttu.edu. Letters sent by e-mail must include the author's name, social security number and phone number.

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One day, hopefully soon, homosexuals will receive the respect they deserve, the same respect every human being deserves. But if the civil rights movement of the '60s taught us anything, it's that these things take time, and unfortunately, this columnist doesn't believe we're to the point where we can safely integrate the military with the carelessness Gore has proposed. So that's why, among other things, that I won't be voting for Gore this year.

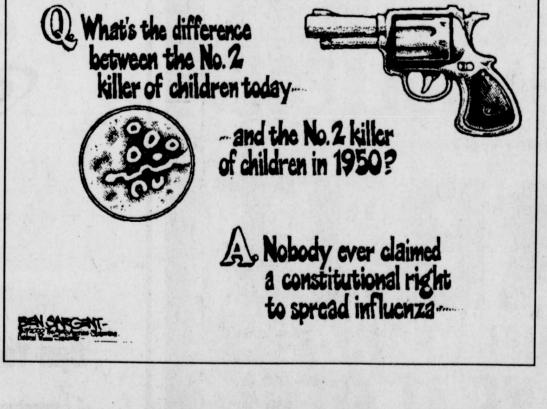
What about the Grand Old Party, what beef do I have against them? Well, here it goes. Electing George Bush Sr., again, (that wasn't a typo, just so you know) into the Oval Office would be the biggest mistake this country has made since we decided that we'd fund a chunk of land with more violence than all the public high schools in the United States combined.

When your foreign policies deal primarily with Oklahoma, you know you're in trouble.

In the months ahead, you'll hear a lot of talk about who you should vote for. Well, I'm here to say that you should save your time. Don't vote for either of the candidates. In fact, don't vote at all. And if you're like me and still feel that obligation to take part in the democratic process, fill in your own name on the ballot.

As much as I hate to say it, I guess it's time we started printing up the bumper stickers the ones that will basically sum up the next four years of politics - the ones that say, "Don't Blame Me, I Didn't Vote!"

Kenneth Strickland is a freshman political science major from Mesquite. He's researching a method to elect Bill Clinton to a third term.



WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR! Drop it by 211 Journalism, have your Tech ID; or e-mail it to UD@ttu.edu, include your social security number and phone number.

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... Lubbock will be one of the best places to live in the United States as soon as they finish the construction between here and The Strip.

Most college students don't like Lubbock for the usual generic reasons: There's nothing to do, nowhere to shop, the wind stirs up too much dust, and the city floods when it starts to sprinkle.

I guess I can't quite comprehend the notion that there is nothing to do. Lubbock has sports bars, dance clubs, nudie bars, restaurants, bowling alleys and even an amusement park. I suppose all the kids want more of a variety, though.

As far as shopping goes, there are stores all over the place, including a mall. I really can't give an unbiased opinion on the whole shopping scene. I hate shopping, and I really loathe malls. Malls are symbolic of all that is evil, materialistic, avaricious and indolent in American society - but that's just my opinion. Most people seem to think they are a necessity.

I can't see what the big deal is about the West Texas weather. We have days of good weather and days of bad weather - hmmm, kind of sounds like every other place on the face of the earth. The flooding is nothing more than a minor distraction, and the blowing dust doesn't bother me much either because I don't care if my car is dirty; it's just a car, and I don't dust my furniture because it already looks like I got it out of the trash,

Lubbock is not too big and not too small. Dallas, along with other big cities, is just a big mess if you ask me. I can't think of anything more unproductive in life than to sit in traffic for an extra hour or two every day. That time is much better spent doing what I want to do.

My contention is Lubbock will be one of the best places to live in the United States as soon as they finish the construction between here and The Strip. Those few miles are fundamental to my well-being for some reason.

I'm not trying to convince anyone to love Lubbock since I completely recognize differences of taste, so I'm not really sure why I feel the need to take up for the city. I'd probably be happy anywhere as long as I have my recliner, a six-pack, a good book and my best friend, Abby, the megadog.

Joseph Colley is a junior English major from Mount Pleasant.

LETTERS **TO THE EDITOR** Wake-up call

To the editor: Why is George Washington an important figure? Is it useless knowledge to know who was the first president of the United States?

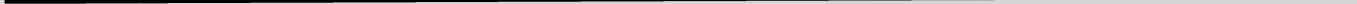
The following tidbits of knowledge, "Who was the first president of the United States?", "How do you spell Mississippi?", or even, now this is a difficult one, "Who was Betsy Ross?" are not meant to stump people. They are not meant to crowd your brain so that other "useful" information is lost in the breeze.

It is the simple fact that how can anyone go through life and not encounter the answers to these and many other "difficult" questions? Have you ever looked at the picture on the \$1 bill?

So, let me get this straight, at Texas Tech, they teach you that Washington "was merely a general who became popular." In addition, he wasn't "a smart general" nor a president. Beautiful. Mr. Strickland mentions he likes Tech because it is an easy A, he doesn't have to work hard, and he can drink beer and treat "women like crap."

Wake up, Tech! Second best does not cut it in the real world! Second best is the difference between the Challenger disaster of '86 and the successful Mars mission of '98. Second best is the difference between the Exxon Valdez spill and those people who spent months cleaning it up. Oh, and if you like, second best could be the difference between a Tech graduate and a basic high school education. Jesse Fagan

graduate student mathematics



Tuesday, April 4, 2000 • The University Daily • 5

Knight is untouchable, here to stay

'm sure you've read about it in the newspapers or seen the numerous reports of it on Sportscenter. What am I talking about?

Well, I am talking about the ongoing circus surrounding allegations that Indiana coach Bobby Knight has abused some of his players in his nearly 30 years at the head of the Indiana program.

Former Indiana players, such as Neil Reed and others, have quit the program claiming Knight physically abused them.

I am not saying whether he did or not, but I have questions regarding some of these players' motives for coming out now and criticizing Knight at this point and time.

Now, I know that when Reed and other players quit the program, these subjects were addressed. But Reed left the team in 1997, and some of the other players making allegations left the team before that.

Why is this becoming such a big

story now?

I think I have an idea why it is becoming such a big deal. After firstround exits in

the

nerable.

so, guys.

why Knight is



Jeff Keller Assistant **Sports Editor**

not vulnerable now or ever: First, let's look at his performance off the court. Ninety-eight percent of his four-year players have graduated. That is an unbelievable number. For that reason alone he is untouchable. Now, let's look at his coaching abilities on the court.

He has more than 700 wins as a Division I coach. He has coached three Indiana squads to national NCAA and his 1976 Tournament **Unless** some the last couple squad was the last of years, I think Division I team to these players post a perfect think Knight record as they evidence appears and his coachwent 32-0 en route

to the championing status at Indiana is vulship. So what if his I don't think teams have made early exits from Here are the NCAA Tournasome reasons ment in the last

couple of years? At least his squads chairs across the court, gotten in are perennial tournament teams.

Twenty-seven of Knight's former assistant coaches and players have gone on to become head coaches.

Knight has coached such successful collegiate and NBA players as Calbert Cheaney, Isaiah Thomas and Quinn Buckner.

concrete

What strikes me as odd is the fact that some players are coming forward and saying that Knight mentally championships (1976, 1981, 1987), and physically abused them, but even more play-

ers are coming forward and saying that none of that ever happened.

So somebody is lying.

that Knight We are all faabuses his players, miliar with the temper that then let him be. Knight has. Sure, he has thrown more than one of his players' faces and screamed at them and shot down his share of questions from the

> media that he did not deem worthy of a response. But does this make him an abu-

sive coach?

I am sure that some would say, "Yes Jeff, that is exactly what that makes him."

I don't agree with those people. I think that just makes him an aggressive coach who will do what it takes to win in one of the toughest conferences in college basketball, the Big 10.

So I say leave the man alone and let him coach how he sees fit. Come on, the guy has won three national championships and runs arguably the most successful program in college basketball today.

Unless some concrete evidence appears that Knight abuses his players, then let him be.

If that would have happened this year, maybe Indiana could have concentrated on its first-round game instead of all of the allegations surrounding its coach.

Jeff Keller is a junior broadcast journalism major from Cloudcroft, N.M. He can be reached via e-mail at jdkvhou812@aol.com

Baseball's Big 12 Players of Week announced

DALLAS (AP) - Oklahoma senior first baseman Rick Park was named Big 12 Player of the Week and Oklahoma State junior Matt Smith was named pitcher of the week Monday by a media panel for games played March 27-April 2.

Park was 8-for-16, including two doubles and a homer, and drove in seven runs in four games. He scored five runs, including the game-winner in a 4-3 victory over Cal State-Fullerton, and had a .750 slugging percentage.

Smith won two of the Cowboys' three games last week. He tied a career-high with 14 strikeouts in seven innings of a 2-1 victory over Arkansas Tuesday, then struck out nine in 6-2/3 innings in an 8-5 victory over Cal State-Northridge on Sunday.

But next season is too far away for Ralph, the gritty 6-foot junior who underwent reconstructive knee operations less than six months apart in 1997. She then fought back to become an All-American and MVP of

'We're just going to enjoy this and everything about this," she said. "We've worked so hard this year, and we're going to enjoy every minute of it."

Nothing is certain, of course. Tennessee's championship in 1998 was the third straight for the Lady Vols and they returned all their key players the following season, yet didn't even get to the Final Four.

Still, when the national championship is settled in St. Louis next year, look for Connecticut to be there.

UConn title stirs debate; which champ was better?

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Now that Connecticut has won its second championship in women's basketball, its fans can start arguing: Who was better? This team or the one that went 35-0 in winning the 1995 title?

It has the makings of a lively debate, but might sell the team short. How about comparing this team to the 1997-98 Tennessee team that went 39-0 and is considered the best ever in the women's game?

True, Connecticut lost once this season. But it was by one point to Tennessee, the same Tennessee team the Huskies defeated in Knoxville earlier in the season, the same team they dismantled 71-52 in Sunday night's championship game to complete the run through the NCAA tour-

nament.

Connecticut (36-1) averaged 91.3 points in its six NCAA games and had an average victory margin of 31. No game was closer than 15. The 19point margin over Tennessee was the second largest in a championship game.

In '98, Tennessee averaged 88.5 points in the tournament and won by an average of 25, but had to fight for its life to beat North Carolina 76-70 in the regional finals. The Lady Vols won by 18 in the title game.

With Connecticut returning almost everyone next season, the tide might be turning in the battle for supremacy in women's basketball. Even after its 1995 title, UConn had been chasing Tennessee through the final

years of the decade.

Judging by what happened Sunday night, the Huskies have caught up - or perhaps taken the lead.

"You know Tennessee is a tough team," Connecticut's Shea Ralph said. "They have upheld a tradition for as long as I've known the game of basketball and watched it, as long as I've known I wanted to play at this level. "Then UConn came around and

they have challenged them. I think being a part of this rivalry is something very, very special."

The championship certainly was special for UConn coach Geno Auriemma, who grew up in the Philadelphia area and had dozens of friends and family members among the crowd of 20,060 at the First

Union Center.

Auriemma also guided Connecticut to its 1995 title. He brushed aside any talk of comparisons, but he did salute his current team's unselfishness. The Huskies were loaded with high school All-Americans and national players of the year. None averaged more than 15 points or 29 minutes a game.

"This team ... is going to go down as a great team because of the way they gave up of themselves,' Auriemma said. "A lot of these kids were questioned repeatedly about, wouldn't you be happier playing somewhere else, playing more minutes, scoring more points or doing this and doing that.

"The fact that they were able to

put that aside and win a national championship. I think this team sacrificed more and deserves everything it got."

And now, the Huskies want more.

"This season we had a great team and I think next year is going to be even better," All-American Svetlana Abrosimova said. "For a whole year, coach was telling us we have to be perfect, we have to make perfect passes, play great defense."

Better next season? It's possible. Connecticut loses only Paige Sauer and Stacy Hansmeyer off this team. Neither started late in the season and each averaged just 3.9 points.

Plus, there's a top-five recruiting class coming in, led by Diana Taurasi, the national player of the year.

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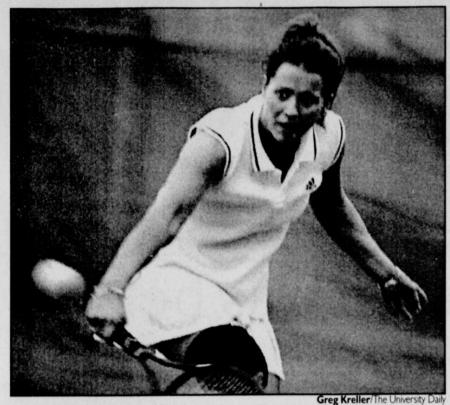
Event: Canidate Forum, Where: UC Red Raider Lounge, When: April 4 @ 7pm. Contact: txtechgop@juno.com or Charles at: 765-

TEXAS STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION Event: Interview/ Resume preparation, Where: AD/ ED 313, When:

11

The University Daily

Women's tennis collects win



Amanda Earhart and the women's tennis team picked up their third win over the weekend.



The Texas Tech women's tennis team picked up its third win of the season over the weekend but also dropped two other matches in a nonconference road trip to Southeast Texas.

The women (3-14 overall) collected their third win of the season with a 6-3 win against Lamar on Friday in Beau-

TEXAS

mont. Four of the six singles players from Tech picked up wins

in singles action, and the **Red** Raiders

took two of the doubles matches from the Cardinals.

Tech's doubles team of Amanda Earhart and Avako Suzuki won their doubles match and climbed above the .500 mark on the season as they improved to 8-7 with the victory.

Saturday, Tech could not continue its winning ways during a trip to Houston to face Rice as the Owls defeated the Red Raiders, 7-2.

Tech's No. 2 singles player Suzuki picked up the lone singles point for the Red Raiders as she defeated Rice's Charlotte Feasty in straight sets.

Earhart and Suzuki again proved victorious in doubles action for the Red Raiders defeating the Owl duo of Charlotte Feasty and Erin Waters, 8-2.

Sunday, the Tech women concluded their road trip with a 7-2 loss at the hands of the Houston Cougars in Houston.

Tech was shut out in doubles action, but No. 3 singles player Sonnia Orellana and No. 4 singles player Noel Ruiz picked up

points for the Red Raiders with victories.

The women will return to conference play when they face Texas A&M at 1:30 p.m. Friday at the Tech Athletic Training Center.

This season the Tech women have yet to win a home match and are 1-7 in Big 12 Conference play.

They have dropped all four of their home matches, losing to Abilene Christian, Oklahoma State, Kansas State and Baylor.

Tech has three conference matches left in its regular season.



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Cleaves leads MSU over Gators, 89-76

Michigan State, with Magic Johnson cheering in the stands, won its second national championship as Mateen Cleaves led the Spartans to an 89-76 victory over Florida on Monday night.

It was 21 years ago that the championship game between Michigan State and Indiana State - Magic vs. Bird — changed the landscape of college basketball.

This one may not have the magnitude, but it had the drama thanks to Cleaves, the Spartans' limping leader, who needed crutches for his injured ankle after celebrating with his teammates.

"He has the heart of a lion. He has done it for four years, not just one," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "That's why you love him. He's what our program embodies."

Cleaves rolled his ankle early in the second half and had to go to the locker room. Earlier, he helped the Spartans build a 43-32 halftime lead by scoring 13 points, including going 3-for-3 from 3point range, and negated Florida's vaunted full-court pressure with his ballhandling and passing.

"I told them he'll be back. Let's not get our heads down," Izzo said. "I just knew."

When Cleaves left with 16:18 to play the Spartans led 50-44. His teammates got the lead to 58-50 by the time he returned 4:29 later. But the senior guard who missed the first 13 games of the season while recovering from a stress fracture in his right foot, was again the team's emotional leader.

His long pass to Morris Peterson for a layup made it 60-50. He was leveled while setting a screen a few minutes later but it was enough to spring A.J. Granger for a 3-pointer that started a 16-6

game away.

Michigan State had been on a mission since losing to Duke in the Final Four last season. Anything short of a national championship would have been a disappointment.

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

"We made some promises. We answered the promises," Izzo said

Cleaves certainly didn't beat Florida by himself.

Peterson finished with 21 points on 7-for-14 shooting and Granger had 19 and was 7-for-11 from the field.

Cleaves was 7-for-11 from the field - all the shots coming before he was injured — and had 18 points and four assists.

Cleaves returned for his senior year after many thought he would go to the NBA.

"This is what I came back here for," he said.

"This is as storybook as it gets for Mateen," Izzo said. "He gave up a lot of money, a lot of things to be back here.'

The Spartans (32-7), the only top-seeded team to reach the Final Four, finished 33-for-59 from the field (56 percent), the best against Florida's frantic pace by far in the tournament. The previous best was 43 percent by top-ranked Duke in the regional semifinals.

Michigan State never seemed fazed by the pressure, beating it early with long passes. The Spartans were their usual efficient selves when they did run their halfcourt game, getting good looks and crashing the boards when they missed.

The Michigan State bench was considered a key to any chance the Spartans had. Florida's reserves had outscored it 175-45 in the tournament, but Jason Richardson had nine points as the

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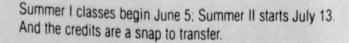


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