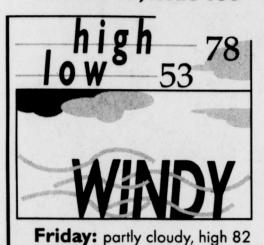


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THURSDAY

April 27, 2000 Volume 75, Issue 136



Stocks Nasdaq S&P 500 Dow Jones

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change: -81.14 -16.45 -179.32 Wednesday's closing figures

10,945.50

STATENEWS —

Mother pleads guilty to charge of injuring premature baby

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 26-year-old mother has pleaded guilty to a federal charge of injuring her premature baby by removing a medical tube inserted into the infant while he was undergoing treatment in an Air Force hospital.

Erin L. Hicks of San Antonio entered the plea Wednesday before U.S. District Judge H.F. "Hippo" Garcia. Hicks could face between five and 99 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

Hicks' son, Cameron, then 3 months old, was at Wilford Hall Medical Center on Lackland Air Force Base for respiratory trouble last September when his tracheal tube was removed from his throat and he suffered cardiac arrests.

The infant was alone with his mother on pt. 25 when the tube was removed and he suffered three cardiac arrests. Air Force investigators became suspicious and had a hidden camera placed in Cameron's room.

NATIONALNEWS -

Computer CEO rewards 20 executives with Porsches

CHELMSFORD, Mass. (AP) — The driving force behind the surge in Mercury Computer's stock price might have been a fleet of sports cars.

Mercury chief executive Jay Bertelli in January 1999 offered his top executives a new Porsche Boxster if the company's stock price doubled by the end of the year.

It tripled.

Shares were trading at \$21.25 when Bertelli made his offer. The stock split twofor-one in November and closed Tuesday at \$37.38.

So this week Bertelli delivered 20 new silver Porsche Boxsters. Two more of the \$48,000 cars will be loaned for two weeks at a time to top performers among the company's 450 other employees.

"We called it the ultimate performance challenge," said David Bertelli, Jay's brother and Mercury's vice president of organizational development.

WORLDNEWS —

Four charged in 1998 disco fire that killed 63

GOTEBORG, Sweden (AP) - Four men were charged Wednesday with aggravated arson in a fire that swept a crowded dance hall in western Sweden, killing 63 people and seriously injuring 50 others.

Prosecutors say a flammable liquid was poured over a pile of chairs in the stairwell leading to the rented second-floor dance hall, and at least one of the defendants set them on fire.

The Oct. 29, 1998, fire was allegedly started after an argument broke out with party organizers over the entrance fee, prosecutors claimed.

"They were indifferent to the danger they had caused by their actions," the summary of a 3,000-page judicial report said.

The four men all denied the charge, though defense attorneys acknowledged at least three were present at the stairwell of the Macedonian cultural association where the fire started.

Contact	to teach humanities	
		classes at the Honors Goilege. His farewell
ports	742-2939	concert will be
		this weekend during the 24th
	742-3384	annual scholarship
ax	742-2434	concert.
etters	UD@ttu.edu	Jennifer Galvan

Burns named finalist for NMSU president

by Kelsey Walter Staff Writer

Texas Tech Provost John Burns could be trading in his "guns up" to become an Aggie. Burns is not leaving for the Texas A&M

campus in College Station but is one of five finalists for the president's position at New Mexico State University.

Originally an NMSU graduate, Burns was interviewed by the presidential search committee April 19 and April 20.

Burns said he had multiple sessions with faculty, staff, students and local legislatures as part of the interview process. "It was a packed agenda," he said. "It was

a very grueling experience." If selected for the position, Burns would leave Tech after 31 years of service, all of which he said were great.

The NMSU campus is located in Las Cruces. N.M., and has an enrollment of about 15,000 students.

The official job description for the president states the person selected will exhibit a com-

mitment to excellence in teaching, research, extension, education and public service. It said the new president should demonstrate the leadership and administrative skills required to effectively manage a complex university in a multicultural environment.

Along with Burns, the four other finalists for the position are Rodolfo Arévalo from the University of Texas-Pan American; Jill Beck from the University of California-Irvine; Eu-

gene Garcia from the University of California-Irvine; and Jay Gogue from Utah State University.

"I really don't want to leave Texas Tech, and I am not on the job market," Burns said. He said the president position at NMSU is the only thing that would lure him away from Tech.

of tenure," Burns said. "We'll just see what happens." More than 50 applicants were considered

"It is kind of hard to leave after that kind

for the position since the search began reviewing applications last November. An official in the president's office at

NMSU said none of the other candidates have been interviewed but are scheduled for visits in the next two weeks. She said the committee will make a final decision by May



Dr. Jill Beck

Dr. John Burns Texas Tech University

Dr. Eugene Garcia Dean, Graduate School of Education University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Jay Gogue Utah State University

Officials break ground on HSC geriatric center

Tech teams up with Sears to provide care for seniors

by Shannon Davis

StaffWriter

Officials from the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and Sears education and care center "We are proud of the fact that Wednesday morning.

The ceremony also honored Mildred and Shirley L. Garrison, benefactors of the center, which will be named after the couple.

"We are honored to have our name on a facility that will train future medical providers and caregivers of seniors, plus provide the opportunity to do research in Alzheimer's disease and other diseases that plague our senior population," Shirley Garrison said.

The center will provide longterm care for senior citizens while upholding a teaching environment for the geriatric profession. The 66,000-square foot center will be located north of the Tech medical center on eight acres of the Tech campus.

"Sears Methodist is excited about being a part of this joint venture with Texas Tech," said Keith Perry, president of Sears Methodist Retirement Center. "Together, we have the opportunity to play an important role in the improvement of the quality of care in nursing facilities throughout Texas.'

The facility will be owned and operated by Sears Methodist Retirement System and will offer residential care for 120 residents. with 60 beds dedicated to Alzheimer's care and 60 beds dedicated to traditional nursing care, said Randy Johnson, senior vice president of management

services at Sears Methodist Retirement System.

"This will be one of the nation's first comprehensive teaching facilities focused on ge-Methodist Retirement System riatric health care issues," said broke ground on a new geriatric HSC President Dr. David Smith. Tech and Sears are getting it right when it comes to aging.

> The partnership will include research and educational efforts that contribute to the knowledge in the care for the elderly and will find more effective and efficient means of delivering care. The facility also will be used

> to educate students on methods of caring for medically-frail senior citizens and Alzheimer's patients. Distance learning programs will be offered through telemedicine technology.

"The presence of this facility represents important economical development to Tech and West Texas," said Tech Chancellor John Montford.

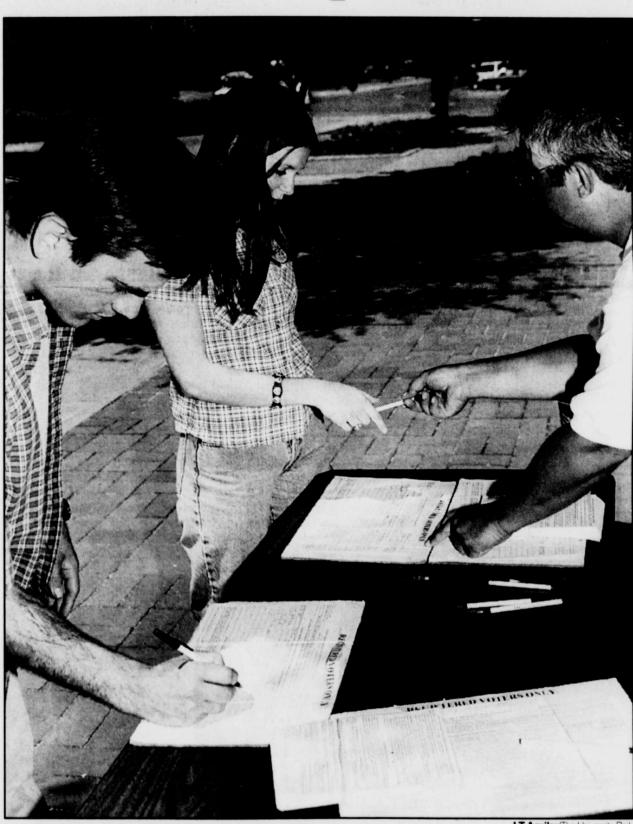
The bottom line with the Health Sciences Center is caring, and if we don't lose that, we can try to make the world a better

This \$12-million project is scheduled for completion in 2001, and a 70-year ground lease arrangement has been made with Tech and Sears.

"With the geriatric population exploding and an increase in senior citizens, we are having to find new approaches to the growing demand," Johnson said. "This center will provide quality health care."

Sears Methodist Retirement System has been a provider of long-term care in the United States for more than 30 years.

Political petition



Barry Smith, a graduate student from the University of Nevada-Reno, asks Tech students Jeremiah Riggins, a junior psychology major from Ackerly, and Stephanie Rosales, an undeclared major from Grand Prairie, to sign a petition Wednesday at the free speech area between the University Center and the library to include Independent presidential candidates on the general ballot for the election in November. Smith works for the National Voter Outreach center, based in Carson City, Nev. He also will be on campus today in the free speech area for students who want to sign the petition.

Choir director to replace baton with chalk sticks

director Kenneth **Davis directs his** orchestra during a practice session Wednesday at **Hemmle Recital** Hall. Davis is stepping down as chorale director to teach umanities ses at the rs College. is farewell ert will be weekend

Tech chorale



by Jennifer Bailey

StaffWriter

After more than a decade of making music, Kenneth Davis will trade in his baton for a stick of chalk.

Davis, director of Texas Tech's chorale activities in the School of Music, will move to the Honors College and teach humanities classes beginning in the fall semester.

He will direct a concert this weekend, his last before transferring to his new position.

"This is kind of nostalgic," Davis said. "This is my 11th year teaching, and I have very mixed feelings about leaving."

Davis said while he is ready to move on, he will have fond memories of his years at the music school. "I am excited about the move,"

Davis said. "I have had many moments teaching here at Texas Tech." Davis and his countless students

have traveled all across the nation. "I have had many great moments have traveled to San Diego to sing and was invited to perform at the

annual Texas Music Educators Association convention in Austin." Davis' stu-

dents also have performed live ABC's "Good Morn-

ing America" and were invited to perform at the Lincoln Center in New York.

"Those trips were truly amazing and were so beneficial for each stu-

dent," he said. Davis said he will miss the time he spent teaching and getting to

know his students. "I love making music with all the students here at Tech, and my time

teaching at Tech," Davis said. "We with them has been an incredible experience," he said. Jennifer Fridge, coordinator for concerts and promo-

tions in the

School of Music,

said teaching and

his students are

cares for his stu-

dents," Fridge

said. "The music

department will

be losing a trea-

sure, but the hon-

ors department

will be further en-

riched by his tal-

"(Davis) truly

Davis' life.

"I love making music with all the students ... and my time with them has been an incredible experience."

Kenneth Davis Tech chorale director

The 24th annual scholarship concerts will be at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Hemmle Recital Hall, and proceeds from the event will benefit the music department's scholarship fund.

Tickets cost \$10.50 and \$12.50. For more information, call 742-2070.

BUNIVERSITY DAILY

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Principal charged with harassing student

ATHENS (AP) - A Brownsboro school principal accused of sexually harassing a high school student has been formally charged by the Henderson County Attorney's Office.

Officials charged Brownsboro Junior High Principal Joe David Guerra on Wednesday with "official oppression." He is suspected of sexually harassing a 18-year-old high school student, according to court records.

The young woman was working in the junior high office when Guerra allegedly made "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature

comment.

Brownsboro Independent School District Superintendent Elton Caldwell declined to comment on the case Wednesday, but confirmed that the district placed Guerra, a former assistant principal and Spanish teacher, on indefinite, paid leave April 5.

The Power of Redemption mong the cries of disgruntled infants and the

by J. Leeson Staff Writer

soothing melodies of a red-robed choir, stands two single-filed lines of Methodists anticipating their portion of Holy Communion in a rustic church in Albany.

At the end of the aisle and in the middle of the altar stands Rev. Carl Andersen. He's an oak - tall and thick and barky. He towers above the recipients' bowed heads and cupped hands.

A burly hand places the bread in a member's palm, and the other hand extends a cup. As the recipient dips the bread, a deep Texas drawl affirms, "You have been redeemed."

Former alcoholic preacher, professor teaches sobriety

That was about 20 years ago and spreading the message of man's redemption was Andersen's business. But for his last six months as a minister in Albany, he was an alco-

Today, Andersen, a Texas Tech associate professor of human development and family studies, stands before a new congregation in his new sanctuary and tells of a new redemption.

This redemption does not center on Calvary. In fact, his congregation is made of Tech students, and his sanctuary is Room 226 of the Human Sciences building. He teaches a Dynamics of Addiction and Family course each semester in efforts to educate students about alcoholism.

But make no mistake, Andersen still is a minister and blatantly considers his work a ministry. The message of his new ministry is of his own redemption.

Andersen grew up in Sweetwater. His father, a teetotaling Swedish immigrant, came from a long line of alcoholics.

When he graduated high school, Andersen was 6-foot-

7 inches. He was primed to excel in athletics, and many

notable schools pleaded with the basketball standout to come play for them. Andersen left dozens of athletic directors scratching their heads when he decided to go just 60 miles south to Abilene's McMurry University. "Back in those days, we would pull out cots and sleep

in the opposing team's gym (after the basketball game)," Andersen said. "I can't recall now where it was, but in the middle of the night, I had a religious experience."

His "experience" convinced him he was to be a min-Assistant County Attorney Brian ister. So Andersen graduated from college and went on Schmidt could not be reached for to seminary. The United Methodist Church then appointed him to his first pulpit in Darrouzett, Texas.

"I was a real good minister," Andersen said. "I was very pleased with that role and that profession. Everywhere I went I enjoyed, and the people really enjoyed

Andersen's boisterous drawl boomed throughout each sanctuary he preached in and inspiration, if not intimidation, convinced pew sitters that there was a redemption for man.

However, it was at the age of 33, during his appointment at First United Methodist Church in Albany, that Andersen would find another role that was an uncanny, second nature.

"I loved alcohol from my first pull of it," he said. "It was a role that I quickly became familiar with and a role that I was very pleased with."

Though the minister loved his job, Andersen knew



alcohol from

my first pull

of it. It was a

role ... that I

was pleased

Texas Tech students Stephanie Bech, a sophomore family planning major from Boulder, Colo., and freshman family studies majors, Christa Savage, from Lubbock, Jesse Charles from Nashville, Tenn., and Ashley Hix, from Houston, talk with Carl Andersen about their class discussions.

same curriculum."

the role as an alcoholic and role as a minister "would not mix." So Andersen left Albany, redemption and church ministry all together with his wife and two children for a human sciences teaching job at Tech. Here, Andersen could and did mix his personal and professional lives.

"There were so many factors that I became very aware that my drinking was devastating," he said. "But my parenting role was the most debased area of my life from drinking ... I became painfully aware of what it was doing to my kids."

Andersen wrestled with his alcoholism for years. Small streaks of sobriety, four of them for a year or more, would come to a crashing stop with devastating relapses. The fatigued Andersen stood helpless to an addiction he said he was destined for.

Andersen, broken emotionally and financially, needed to enter a rehabilitation clinic and needed \$2,000 to get into one.

He went to loan officer at a local bank. Andersen understood the officer's reluctance to give him another loan but convinced him if he stayed drunk, he would never repay any loans.

On Dec. 12, 1982, Andersen took his last pull, and during that Winter Break, he left. In Hazelden, he was acquainted with 12 steps and learned of a new redemp-

"After I came back to Tech and taught for two years ... that was 1984, and I was looking for a new avenue in

life," he said. "I wanted to try something different." After recovering, Andersen decided he would begin an academic program to train addiction counselors.

Andersen had written "Classroom Strategies for Behavioral Modifications." That book would become the class curriculum. After much lobbying in front of the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the idea became a course.

In Fall 1984, Dynamics of Addiction and Family began in 226 Human Sciences, and there it has remained, with no empty chairs every semester.

"This course was the first of its kind in the nation," Andersen said. "Now every school and junior college in the country offers this class and uses the "I loved

From the zeal for the class and testimonies within came the minister's new ministry. It is called Celebration of Recovery, and it recognizes addicts who have stayed straight for a period of time. The recovering addicts receive "recognition chips" for each anniversary milestone they achieve.

"It is awesome," said Tech student and recovering addict Stephanie Beck, a sophomore family planning major from Boulder, Colo. "It has impacted so many people's lives, including my own. We all realize the tightness of the community and how much they care about the newcomers and want the (newcomers) to be involved."

At the forefront of Room 226, high up on the wall hangs a sign. It reads "The 12

Steps." To other classes meeting in that room, it must seem weird, but to the recovering community, it is sacred.

The last step on the sign reads, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry the message to____, and to practice these principles in all affairs.'

The minister realizes this last step is the Great Commission of addiction recovery. He has done redeeming work for hundreds of people, and one might concede that the old alcoholic minister has done a fine job of fulfilling the commission.

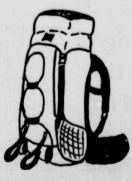
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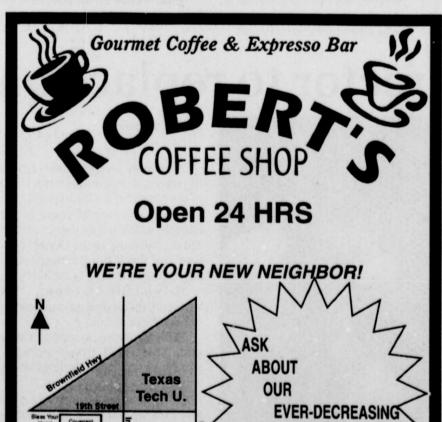
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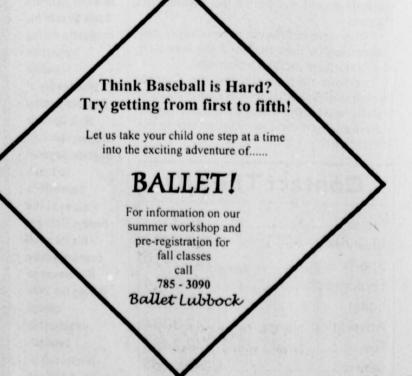
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Vermont signs newly-approved gay marriage bill

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Gov. Howard Dean signed a first-in-thenation law Wednesday granting gay couples nearly all of the benefits of marriage.

"I think it is a courageous and powerful statement about who we are in the state of Vermont," the Democrat said. "I also believe that this legislation speaks to the heart of this state, and certainly to my heart."

The legislation creating marriagelike "civil unions" reached the governor's desk shortly before lunch time, just a day after the House gave its final approval.

And by the time of a 2 p.m. news

out of view of TV cameras, photographers and reporters.

Dean said he signed the bill privately because he did not want the ceremony to be a triumphal party by supporters of the law. Instead, he said, it was time for the state to be-

"In politics, bill-signings are triumphal," he said. "They represent overcoming of one side over another. These celebrations, as the subject of the matter of the bill, will be private."

The law will allow gay couples to form civil unions beginning July 1. That will entitle them to all of the 300 or so rights and responsibilities availconference, he had already signed it able to married couples under Ver-

"I think it is a courageous and powerful statement about who we are in the state of Vermont."

> **Howard Dean Vermont governor**

mont law in such areas as taxes, inheritance and medical decision-

Other states will probably not recognize Vermont civil unions, and such status will not entitle gay couples to any the benefits available

to married couples under federal law in areas such as taxes and immigration.

Nevertheless, no state has gone further than Vermont is giving gay couples something approximating

The bill came about after the Vermont Supreme Court unanimously ruled in December that gay couples were being unconstitutionally denied the benefits of marriage.

The court left it up to the Legislature time to decide whether to let gays marry or to create some kind of domestic partnership.

The legislation passed after strong debate in which opponents argued that homosexuality is "against natu-

Opponents have warned that they will make their anger known at the polls in November when members of the Legislature are up for re-election.

Under the law, gay couples will be

able to go to their town clerks for licenses and have their unions certified by a judge or member of the

Breakups will be handled in Family Court, just as divorces are, although they will be called disso-

Some lawmakers deeply involved in the issue said they were disappointed there was no bill-signing cer-

"I think the story needs to be that gay and lesbian couples in Vermont had a historical day," said Democratic Rep. William Lippert, the Legislature's only openly gay

One killed in Texas prison brawl

LAMESA (AP) — Racial tensions fueled fights between 300 black and Hispanic inmates at a West Texas prison that left one inmate dead and five others in intensive care, authori-

Some prisoners wielded garden tools in the five-hour melee Tuesday night at the minimum- to mediumsecurity Smith Unit, which remained under lockdown Wednesday.

"We believe it was very racially motivated," said Larry Todd, a Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman. "Some white inmates jumped in the fight, but it was mostly the black and Hispanic inmates who were fighting."

The fights began after a Hispanic inmate confronted a black inmate who was fondling himself in front of a female officer in a dining hall, said Larry Fitzgerald, also a Department of Criminal Justice spokesman.

Word of their confrontation then

brawling in the recreation yard. "It started off with a small group fighting, and the guards got that un-

der control. Then another group got into one, and the fight got bigger and bigger until it got to the point of a mass riot," said John Barton, spokesman for Warden Lupe Lozano.

A total of 31 inmates were injured. The dead inmate was identified as Fernando Trejo, 20, a convicted burglar. His cause of death was not released, but other inmates were stabbed.

Corrections officials said it took about 300 guards to subdue an equal number of inmates. The guards used

spread throughout the unit, and a pepper spray-like substance; one black and Hispanic inmates began suffered minor injuries from a gas grenade that went off in his hand.

One of the prison's kitchens was gutted by fire. The disturbance came

as the Texas "We believe it Department of Criminal was very racially Justice was auditing staffing motivated." patterns at the prison, following guards' **Larry Todd** complaints **Texas Department of** about under-

Criminal Justice spokesman prison was designed to hold 1,276 prisoners but houses 1,322, Barton said. Officials said staffing was not a problem Tuesday night. All of the injured inmates will be returned from hospitals to the prison and questioned. Some of them may be transferred to a maximum-security prison, Todd said.

staffing. The

Pastor files lawsuit against East Texas school for discrimination

DALLAS (AP) — The American Center for Law and Justice is suing an East Texas school district for denying a church the use of a school cafeteria for a religious

play.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in federal court in Marshall on behalf of John Wesley Smith Jr., pastor of CrossRoads Church of Naples, alleges the school district's move violated the church's constitutional right to free religious speech.

Smith asked the Pewitt Consolidated Independent School District in Omaha to use a highschool cafeteria on April 15 for the dinner and religious produc-

The school board rejected the request, saying the nondenominational church only could use the cafeteria if it omitted the "very religious" drama, according to the lawsuit. The district allows non-religious community groups to use the building for

"You can't discriminate against a church wanting to use school property available to other community organizations just because they want to engage in religious speech," said Kevin Theriot, senior associate counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, a conservative group based in Virginia Beach, Va., that specializes in First Amendment

The church declined to cancel its

religious drama and rented space elsewhere.

Pewitt Superintendent Richard Kitchens said Wednesday he was unaware of the lawsuit.

"We don't allow our facilities for religious purposes," he said, declining to comment further.

Smith could not be reached for comment by The Associated Press.

Theriot said the group is seeking an injunction prohibiting the school district from continuing its

The school district superintendent and board of trustees are named as defendants in the law-

Omaha is about 120 miles northeast of Dallas.

Paleontologists excavate ape man skull in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Paleontologists announced Wednesday the discovery of the most complete ape-man skull ever excavated, a 1.5-million to 2-million-yearold skull of a female Paranthropus robustus, a cousin of early man.

The fossil was found beside the lower jaw of a male in "one of the most extraordinary finds that any paleoanthropologist has ever seen,' said Lee Berger, director of the paleoanthropology unit at the University of Witwatersrand.

The finds, named for the mythological lovers Orpheus and Eurydice, will give researchers their best opportunity to compare the differences between males and females of the species, said Andre Keyser, the paleontologist in charge of the site where the fossils were found.

The Paranthropus robustus, a hominid that lived between 1.5 million and 2 million years ago, was a vegetarian that may have used rudimentary bone tools, Keyser said. It became extinct about a million years ago, probably because of the domination of early man, he said.

"They represent a creature that was in direct competition with our earliest ancestors," Keyser said.

Researchers had never been sure what a female Paranthropus robustus looked like, Keyser said. Now they know that females were smaller than males, had smaller teeth and was missing a crest on the top of the skull that anchored the lower jaw muscles, a difference common to male and female gorillas, Keyser said.

The fossils were discovered in October 1994 at the Drimolen site 20 miles northwest of Johannesburg in an excavation area nicknamed "The Cradle of Humankind." Paleontologists have uncovered 80 hominid specimens at Drimolen since it was discovered in 1992.

The remains were found in a prehistoric cave filled with bones dumped there by flash floods over a million years ago.

Eurydice's nearly complete skull will give paleontologists research opportunities they never had with the disparate fragments previously discovered, Berger said.

Ian Tattersall, curator in the department of anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, called the fossil "a magnificent discovery."

Lockheed machinists end strike

"We didn't get

but it's better

than a poke in

the eye."

FORT WORTH (AP) - After a 17-day strike, Lockheed Martin machinists in Fort Worth overwhelmingly approved a new contract Wednesday and agreed to return to the assembly line.

but it's better than a poke in the eye," said what we wanted, T e r r y

Faulkner, 45, a 20-year employee. Members of Local 776 of the International Association of Ma-

chinists and Aerospace Workers

> tract, and many expected to return to work Thursday. The Fort Worth facility is Lockheed's largest manufacturer

of F-16 fighter jets. The striking workers complained that their pay is lower than that received by fellow machinist union members at Boeing

Co., another major contractor for

tactical fighter aircraft. Under the new contract, the

workers will get 3 percent annual raises this year and next and a 4 percent raise in 2002.

The deal also included a \$900 "We didn't get what we wanted, ratification bonus and a \$1,200

cost-of-living adjustment for this year when the contract is signed. Workers would get an additional \$600 cost-ofliving payment at the end of this

Terry Faulkner Lockheed Martin employee

"I'm really excited we've voted 1,514-246 for the new con-reached an agreement and that we'll be starting back to work," said Pat Lane, president of the union local. "It's a very good contract."

Even though production at the mile-long assembly line has been hampered by the strike, Lockheed executives maintain that they will deliver four F-16 fighter jets as scheduled this month, and are ready to deliver two more in May.

Japan to require safety screening of biotech foods

TOKYO (AP) - Japan will demand safety tests for genetically altered food produced both at home and abroad, but a health ministry official denied Wednesday that the move would hurt imports.

Under a proposal accepted by the government Tuesday, agricultural producers will be required as of next year to screen foods that contain genetically modified ingredients before putting them on the market.

Japan imports about 60 percent of its food, much of it from the United States. Last year, Japan bought 76 percent of its soybeans from the United States and 96 percent of its corn used for animal feed and other processing. Noriko Iseki, an official at the Ministry of Health and Welfare, said Wednes-

day that the new screening requirement probably would not affect imports significantly since overseas producers already have been testing their products voluntarily before selling them in Japan. Unlike conventional plant breeding, genetic engineering involves splic-

ing a single gene or a handful of genes from one organism into another to transfer certain traits. The most popular variety of biotech corn carries a bacteria gene that kills insect larvae. While some analysts have said biotechnology can boost a crop's vitamins

and other nutrients, critics have argued that not enough is known about the impact on health and the environment. Across Asia and Europe, biotech food has met consumer resistance. In

Japan, biotech products created a stir last year when the government announced that beef from cloned cows had been sold unmarked for at least Japan's screening requirement will go into effect in April 2001. Producers

allergy-causing or other health problems will have to recall and destroy their products, Asahi newspaper said. The new measure follows a decision by the Ministry of Agriculture last year requiring the labeling of such products. That measure also takes effect

found marketing genetically-altered foods without testing them for possible



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Advances in genetic cloning kick up more ethical dilemmas

two years, scientists have made further advances in the field of genetic

Two teams of U.S. scientists, one from Wisconsin led by Dr. James Thomson and the other from Johns Hopkins led by Dr. John Gearhart, have been successful at isolating and growing indefinitely human embryonic stem cells in the lab.



Andrew Schoppe Columnist

ferentiation of these cells, they could grow just about any kind of human tissue from scratch, which could transplantation of human organs and tissues and help find therapies for numerous diseases and injuries. Still, the scientists must pass the hurdle of making a stem

cell differentiate to form

If scientists can con-

trol and direct the dif-

a specific tissue. Technical issues aside, there is an even bigger array of obstacles to consider when you think of the ethical concerns related to this research. For starters, the isolated stem cells used by John Gearhart's research group were taken from aborted fetuses.

There is no need to explain the controversy that surrounds this choice of cells. To understand an even greater concern, it is worth a second to examine how the cells in question are developed.

After obtaining a culture of embryonic

alk about a tough call. Within the last stem cells, geneticists manipulate the cells to grow certain genes. Then a few of the genetically-manipulated cells are taken and injected into an embryo that grows into a geneticallyengineered being.

> This being would have tissues that could include the cells that give rise to sperm and eggs. If this process is conducted in humans, alterations in the human germline could be created and passed on to future generations.

> So the inevitable question is, should we even be tinkering with the genetic makeup and creation of humans?

According to an article by Steven Dickman released on the New Scientist Web site, Gearhart and his colleagues' intent is to find a use in conventional therapy or in creating greatly improve the tissues that could be used for grafts without the need of drugs to combat rejection.

Despite these good intentions, it is difficult to keep an eye on everyone who is conducting this type of research, not to mention their ultimate intentions.

Intentions aside, this type of work is extremely risky, and outcomes are never certain.

A failed experiment in France earlier this year revealed a potential tragic outcome of cloning. The French research team attempted to clone a cow by using an ear cell from a healthy adult cow. The cloned calf only lived for seven weeks because it lacked important white blood cells needed in its immune sys-

Utilizing adult cells, rather than embryonic cells, could actually eliminate many of the ethical concerns surrounding the need to create and then destroy a viable human embryo in order to make the desired cells.

Yet, the difficulty encountered in such a

procedure is best explained by Dr. Harry Griffin, a member of the institute that created Dolly, the cloned sheep:

"Nuclear transfer involves the reprogramming of adult, differentiated cells and persuading them to act like early-embryo cells."

One other option being pursued in this field is stripping cow eggs, which are considered to be plentiful, of their nuclei and fusing them with human cells to create an embryo that begins to grow in the test tube but would not be viable in the long run. This would essentially create another way to obtain the embryonic stem cells needed for manipula-

This choice seems much easier to stomach than the earlier option of using human embryonic stem cells, but it could still lead to the same outcomes that were mentioned ear-

The options available to produce the genetically-engineered tissues and cells that are desired seem endless. Just as endless, however, are the ethical questions surrounding this issue.

Should human embryonic cells be used in this research? Is it OK to use cow eggs to create the necessary embryonic cells instead? If humans are successful at creating geneticallyengineered cells and tissues for transplantation, could unexpected complications arise in the future that would demand even further genetic manipulation? Most importantly, should we even be tinkering with the genetic makeup and creation of humans?

Talk about a tough call.

Andrew Schoppe is a senior broadcast journalism and business management major from Houston.

Advice to grads, with a twist

adies and gentleman of the Class of 2000: Wear condoms. The long-term benefits of condoms have been proven by college students everywhere, whereas the rest of my ramblings have no basis more reliable than my own experience watching soap operas, talk shows and listening to my friends gripe about their pathetic lives. I will dispense these ramblings now.

Enjoy the power and beauty of the hotties around you. Oh, nevermind. You will not understand the power and beauty of other people until you are trapped in a loveless, choking marriage you cannot get out of. But trust me, in 20 years, you'll look back at photos of these people and recall in a way you can't grasp now how many people you could have shacked with and how fabulous it could have been. You are a little chubbier than you think.



Brandon Formby Columnist

Don't worry about the future. Live in the moment and do whatever you want, regardless of who you hurt or what the consequences may be. But know that worrying is about as effective as trying to pass that statistics class by reading the book and trying to figure things out by using logic. The real worries in your life are apt to be things that other people put on you because they are sorry excuses for human beings and can't solve their own problems or

understand why they keep getting in bad rela-

Do one thing every day that makes people scared of you. Don't ever sing - you have a terrible voice. Don't be reckless with other people's hearts unless you can gain something from them. Don't put up with people who cannot offer favors, money or power. Don't waste your time on jealousy. Revenge and blackmail are far better things. Sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind. But in the end, the race is way too long, and who wants to run when you can sit and watch TV with a beer in your hand anyway?

Remember compliments you receive. Forget the insults. If you succeed in doing this, you will be a stuck-up jerk no one will want to hang out with. Keep your old love letters and every picture you ever take in case one of your scorned lovers ever runs for public office. Burn your old bank statements because that is the kind of paper trail the IRS is looking for. Don't feel guilty if you don't know what you want to do with your life. People our age who have a five-year plan deserve to be roughed up and scorned in a public forum for being so damn perfect.

Maybe you'll get married, but if not, know that the amount of time one spends in a marriage is inversely proportional to the amount of happiness they have in their life. Maybe you'll have kids, and if you do, make sure they aren't the whiny, bratty kind that make other people want to get a vasectomy. Maybe you'll divorce at 40 and realize you should have made your cold, heartless spouse sign a prenuptial agreement that would have prevented them from sucking you dry. Whatever you do, don't congratulate yourself too much because you're still a stupid punk with no potential in life. Don't berate yourself too much either — that's what families are for.

Enjoy your body. Let other people enjoy it, too. Use it every way you can, like to crawl on the floor and slip out of work two hours early before your boss notices you. Don't be afraid of it or what other people might think it looks like - at least you don't look like Liza Minneli. Dance only when you have found some drunken person at the club who you know looks way worse than you ever could on the dance floor.

Do not read beauty magazines, unless it's the Cosmo issue about tantric sex.

Get to know your parents — you never know when they might have an off-shore numbered account. Be kind to your siblings until your parents die, then fight like hell over who should get the money from the numbered account. Understand that friends come and go, and sometimes, you have to stab them in the back and publicly humiliate them to better your own life.

Live in New York City once, but get out before you date someone who turns out to be a cross dresser who is actually the same sex as you are. Live in northern California once, but get out before you start saying things like, "I wonder if Leo shops on Rodeo also!?"

Accept certain inalienable truths — everyone is out to get you, Big Brother really is watching, and the voices in your head have been right all along. Don't expect anyone else to support you because they are jealous of your beauty and talent.

Be careful whose advice you listen to, but be patient with those who give it to you. If you just sit there and nod your head and focus on an object on the other side of the room, you can zone them out and minimize the number of brain cells lost by listening to them whine.

But trust me on the condoms.

Brandon Formby is a senior journalism major from Plano.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Right side up

To the editor: I believe we live in the greatest country in the world. Men and women have fought and died in wars for our freedom. My father served this country in Vietnam, and he has subsequently raised me with a great feel of patriotism for the United States of America. One time, when I was young, my father and I were watching the news, and we saw people desecrating Old Glory protested by their "freedom of speech." When I turned to ask him why people were burning the flag, which represents freedom obtained by bloodshed, I saw tears welling up in his eyes. Later, he expressed how he could not believe that someone would burn a symbol of our country just to protest something they did

Today, people in Miami are flying the American flag upside down protesting the way the Clinton administration has handled the Elian Gonzalez case. If the people of Miami want to protest this is-sue, I have no problem with that. The fact that they are flying the American flag up-side down and waving a Cuban flag, which to many represents communist dictator-ship and Fidel Castro, sickens me. These protesters need to respect the fact that ople have died for what the American flag stands for. If they continue to fly the flag upside down, they need to realize they are spitting on everything the flag stands for, and in my opinion, they need to romember what country they are protesting in. I agree that anyone should be able to come and live here, but I have a hard time with people coming here to live, then turning around and spitting on the foundations of this

From the beginning, the Ellan case has been handled in an embarrassing manner by the Clinton administration. No matter what any attorney, senator or other person argues, INS law plainly states that someone found in the water will be returned to the country from which they came, promptly. People tend to let their emotions overshadow the fact that this great land was founded on laws that govern its people. In no way do I agree with what Castro and his communist dictatorship stands for. The simple fact is the law says Elian is to be returned to his father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, in Cuba no matter what anyone

As for the militant methods used to reunite Elian and his father, I too have questions on how this was handled. Some people think the family should have had some sort of warning that the INS agents were coming to get Elian. Does anybody remember Waco, and what happened when David Koresh was tipped off that the government was coming? I am not saying that the Miami family would have met the officials coming for Elian with guns, but with the emotions both inside and outside the house, no one could predict the outcome of a pre-announced pick up of Elian. The fact that the agents carried selectable rate-of-fire automatic weapons is a new realm of debate. The look of armed agents going in a house after a 6-year-old boy is hard to stomach. Thankfully no one was hurt during a time that must have been both a surprise and a frightening experience at the same time. But think for a moment about the situation from the point of view of the agents who were going in the house. If you were going into a house that has been surrounded by high emotion and tension for days, what kind of protection would you want to carry? Do not think for a moment that the protesters who had been outside the house were a peaceful crowd. Several times, the crowd broke through police barricades and at one time, assaulted a protester carrying a sign that read "Send Elian Back." Once again, I reiterate the fact that this presidential administration has handled the Elian situation in a bad manner.

The only good thing that has come out of this situation is how the Clinton administration looks - foolish. This case has been mishandled from the start. Al Gore, against Clinton and the rest of the administration, suggested that Congress is busy enough with what they are already working on. To have Congress get involved would once again show the foolishness of the administration and would pan out to be a political move. This is a prime example of someone from the Clinton administration politicking and jumping on the bandwagon of a sympathetic case to try to gain political backing and presidential votes.

The way in which the Elian case has been handled is not only an embarrassment but also a waste of \$1 million in taypayers' money. According to INS law, Elian should have been returned four months ago. Unfortunately for Elian, politics decided to raise its ugly head and get involved, thus delaying and complicating the reunification of Elian and his father. Shame on our government and on the Miami family for delaying the reunification and thus scaring this young boy.

Sean Vanderveer mechanical engineering technology

Only 4 more issues to make your opinion count! Write a letter to the editor. UD@ttu.edu

Troupe leaves audience STOMPing

by Amber Morgan Staff Writer

As kids, most of us remember banging on pots and pans in the kitchen, annoying our mothers with our attempts to make beautiful music. As adults, the cast members of

From trash cans to oil drums. Zippo lighters to matchboxes, STOMP pounds out a beat using everything imaginable, including four

STOMP succeed in making music

with anything they can get their

theatre • review

stainless steel kitchen sinks.

In its triumphant return to Lubbock, STOMP opened to a full crowd Tuesday night. The audience was enthusiastic and eager to participate when prompted, including an entire performance toward the end. Occasionally, audience members would scream, clap or "stomp" to their own beat in an attempt to get a reaction out of the cast members. The cast played along, but toward the end of the show, they began to ignore some of these attempts as the timing was inappropriate.

One of the more difficult routines consisted of the cast members using wooden poles. With intense choreography, the routine resembled a martial arts sparring match and was absolutely breathtaking. Their shadows playing off the walls gave an eerie

STOMP • Courtesy Photo

Other routines also were both visually and audibly stunning, with performers swinging from harnesses and playing a variety of "instruments" from wheel rims to toilet

Overall, the STOMP production feeling that added power to the per- put on a spectacular show the audi-

ence thoroughly enjoyed. After receiving one standing ovation, the cast returned to perform again using the audience throughout the entire routine. The show ended with another exuberant standing ovation, and the pumped-up audience left feeling ecstatic.

STOMP will conclude the Lub-

bock leg of the tour at 8 p.m. today. Tickets can be purchased at any Select-A-Seat location or by calling 770-2000. Groups of 20 or more can purchase tickets at a discount by calling 1-800-869-1451. Student Rush tickets are buy one get one free on all remaining seats one hour before show time with a valid Texas Tech ID.

University Ave., and 3322 82nd St., and at Liquid 2000. THURCHAY ADDII 27

Tone Loc to return to Hub City tonight Rap artist Tone Loc will return to Lubbock tonight. He will perform at 10 p.m. at Liquid 2000, 1812 Ave. G. Tone Loc became popular with the hit

Doors will open at 8 p.m., and tickets cost \$10 in advance and \$12 at

Advance tickets are available at both locations of Ralph's Records, 909

the door. Anyone who pays at the door before 9 p.m., can purchase tickets

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AF	FIL.	PBS	NBC	CBS	UPN	ABC	FOX
C	YTI	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock
7	:00	Bloomberg Body Elec.	Today Show	News "	Doug Sabrina	Good Morning	K. Copeland Paid Program
8	30:00 30:00	Sesame Street	:	Early Show	Pepper Ann Recess	America "	Dr. Joy Browne
9	:00 :30	Mr. Rogers Barney	Later Today	Martin Short	Martin Paid Program	Regis & Kathie Lee	Leeza "
10) :00 :30	Teletubbies Wimzie House	M. Stewart	Price is Right	Donny & Marie	View "	Divorce Ct. Divorce Ct.
11	:00	Zoboomafoo Arthur	Ainsley Harriott	Young & the Restless	Forgive or Forget	All My Children	People's Court
12	:00	Old House Cucins Amore	News Days of Our	News Beautiful	Jerry Springer	Family Feud Port Charles	Mills Lane Mills Lane
1	:00	Sit Be Fit Barney	Lives Passions	As the World Turns	Ricki Lake	One Life to Live	Matlock "
2	:00	T. Tugboat Dragon Tales	" Hlywd Square	Guiding Light	Liv'g Single Paid Program	General Hospital	Paid Program Magic Bus
3	:00 :30	Arthur Wishbone	Rosie O'Donnell	Maury Povich	Grace/Fire Paid Program	Saily Jessy Raphael	Magic Bus PR Galaxy
4	:00	Zoom R. Rainbow	Oprah Winfrey	For Women For Women	Enquirer E.T.	Montel Williams	Beast Wars Digimon
5	:00	Betw/Lions Nightly Bus.	News NBC News	News CBS News	Ricki Lake	News ABC News	Home Impr. Simpsons
6	:00	Newshour	News Extra	Jeopardy News	Judge Judy Judge Judy	News W/Fortune	Voyager "
7	:00 :30	Railway Journeys	Friends 'PG Shoot Me 'PG	Diagnosis Murder	WWF Smackdown	Whose Line Whose Line	Ghosts: Fact or
8	30:00 30:30	Mystery!	Frasier *PG Frasier *PG	Chicago Hope *PG	"	Millionaire "	UFOs: Best Evidence
9	:00 :30	Voyages Home	E.R. *PG	48 Hours	Jerry Springer	Wonderland "	Nanny Caroline
10) :00 :30	Nightly Bus.	News Tonight Show	News David	Cops Joe Brown	News MASH	Simpsons Frasier
11	:00		Conan	Letterman Craig	Greg Mathis	Nightline Paid Program	Cheers Coach
12	:00		O'Brien Later	Kilborn Seinfeld	Real TV Newsradio	Incorrect Paid Program	Blind Date Paid Program

ghosts

song "Wild Thing."

see them tonight at ufos

FOX KJTV34

Online pet store socks it to 'Late Night' writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Online pet supply store Pets.com said the friendly reputation of its kitschy "spokespuppet" has been defamed by a foul-mouthed dog puppet featured defaming the ubiquitous sock puppet. on NBC's "Late Night With Conan O'Brien."

In a federal lawsuit filed last week, Pets.com accuses "Late Night" writer Robert Smigel, creator of the show's "Triumph the Insult Comic Dog," of

regularly uses vulgarity, insults both audience appeal and ... to increase specified damages and legal costs.

him and often conducts physical at- lic 'controversy' or 'scandal," Smigel tacks of a sexual nature on female dogs," the complaint said.

The lawsuit goes on to say that in "an attempt to harm the Sock Puppet's

the humans and other dogs around Triumph's popularity through a pubhas claimed to media outlets that "the Sock Puppet is a 'rip-off' of Triumph."

> The lawsuit names only Smigel and not the show or NRC. It seeks un-

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Sandra Lynn Puska

People News

Beatles producer honors record shop

LONDON (AP) - Beatles producer George Martin wants the world to remember the record shop that led the Fab Four to their first recording contract, but his effort comes a little too late.

Martin unveiled a plaque honoring the HMV shop on Wednesday,

though the store is shutting down Saturday.

Beatles manager Brian Epstein visited the shop in 1962 after peddling the group's recordings around London with no luck. He was persuaded to transfer demo tapes onto vinyl in the store's recording studio to make it easier for people to play them.

While there, the music caught the ear of an engineer, who referred

Epstein to a music publisher upstairs in the same building. The publisher, in turn, referred Epstein to Martin, which led to the group's deal with Parlophone Records.

Spielberg contributes to war memorial

BEDFORD, Va. (AP) - A contribution from "Saving Private Ryan" director Steven Spielberg will be used to build a theater at the National D-Day Memorial.

Spielberg asked that the amount of his donation not be disclosed, Richard Burrow, the memorial foundation's executive director, said in

announcing the contribution Tuesday. The theater, part of a \$4 million education center at the memorial. will be named for the director's father, Arnold Spielberg, who flew Army Air Corps missions as a radio operator in Burma during World War II.

The memorial is set to be dedicated June 6, 2001, the 57th anniversary of the invasion.

Arnold petitions against bicyclists

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (AP) - Singer Eddy Arnold doesn't want the world to go away, just bike riders on jogging trails.

Arnold, 83, asked city commissioners on Monday for better signs warning pedestrians of bicyclists.

"I don't want a bicycle riding up my belt," Arnold told the commissioners Monday. "The bicycle riders think they have the right of way. Those of us walking think we do."

The problem, he said, is especially dangerous to "old people." City officials said they have already ordered signs to replace old ones torn down by vandals.

Arnold's signature songs include "Make the World Go Away."

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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Smokers to receive fresh start

by Alicia Field

Staff Writer

t's as common as trips to the Strip - college students who smoke. Whether stressed from a class or hanging out at a club, many Texas Tech students constantly are lighting

The American Cancer Society is offering a free program to aid smokers in kicking the habit.

The Fresh Start program will meet from noon to 1 p.m., May 1, May 3, May 8 and May 10 at the conference room of the City of Lubbock Health Department, located at 19th Street and Texas Avenue.

City of Lubbock Health Educator Kelly Chase said most habitual smokers begin smoking before the age of 18, and once someone starts smoking, it is hard to quit.

"It's something that you try and might become hooked on," Chase

Even social smokers have the same risks of becoming seriously addicted,

Chase said. "They're putting themselves at risk for becoming addicted at any point,"

Financing a smoking habit can be costly, especially for college students who attend classes and work all day,

"If one person out of the entire class quits smoking, then it's a success," she said.

Chase said the Fresh Start program will focus on lifestyle changes and will give smokers health information in regards to smoking as well as how to manage stress by providing a support system.

"When a person smokes, their health is compromised," she said. "It weakens your immune system, making the body more susceptible to in-

Chase said 20 minutes after smoking the last cigarette, a smoker's blood pressure, pulse rate and body temperature will drop significantly. She also said the risk for heart disease, high blood pressure and cancer decreases when a smoker kicks the

"It's never too late to quit, whether you've been smoking for 40 years or one year, the minute you quit, your health will improve," she said.

However, there are smokers at Tech who do not wish to kick the habit and like to smoke.

Myeongseob Kim, a graduate student from Korea, said he enjoys smok-

ing, and it is a way for him to unwind. "I smoke to relax — it's a long habit," Kim said.

He said he is aware of the health risks attached to smoking but does not want to stop at this time.

"I know it's not good for my health, but I just don't want to quit right now, sometime in the future, though," he

Kim started smoking 10 years ago at the age of 23 when a friend asked him to try a cigarette.

Kim said there is not a large number of smokers at Tech as compared to the number who smoke in his country. He also said health issues also are big in Korea, as they are in the United States, but people choose to

smoke despite the fact.

For those interested in kicking the habit, the Fresh Start program is free of charge. The deadline to register is

Lubbock's Health Education Team at 775-2940.

For additional information on the health issues surrounding smoking and information on quitting, call the To register, contact the City of American Cancer Society at 792-7126.

U-boat flick cruises into theatres

by Brev Tanner

Staff Writer

In the tradition of great submarine films like "Das Boot," "The Hunt for Red October" and "Crimson Tide," "U-571" is both exciting, thrilling and extremely entertaining.

This World War II drama is actionpacked and non-stop in its intensity. It is one of those films that never lets up, and you don't want it to.

The movie is about a group of men Atlantic Ocean. ho must infiltrate a German U-boat and steal an Enigma code machine. The Enigma is a secret code device the German Navy used to pass information to and from Berlin and other

movie review

ships in the fleet. It is the one thing the Allies need to stop the German domination of the North Sea and the

The group is lead by Texas-born Lt. Andrew Tyler, played by Matthew McConaughey ("A Time to Kill," "EdTV"). His team consists of David Keith ("An Officer and a Gentle-

man"), rocker Jon Bon Jovi ("The Leading Man"), Harvey Keitel ("The Piano," "From Dusk Till Dawn") and a few young, up and coming actors. Everyone aboard does a good job at keeping the feeling of anxiety and worry in the film. Although the script never lets us get to know the characters very well, it still keeps their struggle to survive as well as their fight to capture the Enigma at the front of our minds.

It is amazing the problems that occur on board the submarine and the issues its crew has to face outside of her. Never once does the film make the impossible possible, and it is only by the men working together will

they have a chance at survival. By the end of the film, you feel just

as soaked as the crew of the U-571, but instead of sea water, it is sweat.

The film never reaches the powerfulness of "Saving Private Ryan" or "The Thin Red Line," but it does manage to keep you on the edge of your seat.

The sound and the visual effects are both incredible. The cinematography is beautiful but claustrophobic. Writer/director Jonathan Mostow has created an intense, exciting, thoroughly enjoyable film that will entertain, if not enlighten, audia ences. If you want a gripping thriller this one's for you.

Cartoon stars go three-dimesional

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A parade of cartoon stars is going three-dimensional as Hollywood mines the animated world for live-action movies starring X-men, the Grinch, Rocky and Bullwinkle, and the Flintstones.

From Superman to Batman, Popeye to Dick Tracy, movie studios have had a long history of transforming comic-book or cartoon characters into flesh and blood. The tradition continues Friday with a second live-

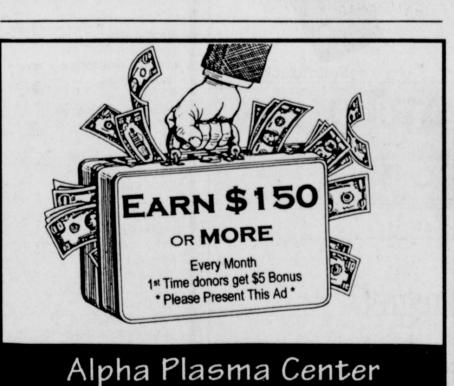
action movie about the prehistoric folks of Bedrock.

"The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas" recounts the early romance of Fred and Wilma and Barney and Betty.

"I was a huge fan of the cartoon when I was kid," said Stephen Baldwin, who plays Barney Rubble in "The Flintstones" flick. "It's kind of coincidental because Barney was my favorite character because he was seemingly the dopey guy who usually had the solution or answer in the

The movie co-stars Mark Addy as Fred, Kristen Johnston as Wilma, Jane Krakowski as Betty and Joan Collins as Fred's mother-in-law.

This summer brings "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle," featuring computer-generated versions of the cartoon moose and flying squirrel. Co-starring as their real-life nemeses are Robert De Niro as Fearless Leader, Jason Alexander as Boris Badenov and Rene Russo as Natasha:



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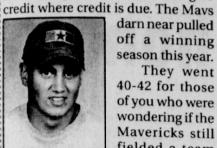
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FAT FRIDAYS

Crunch time for NBA, tee times for Mavs

t's NBA playoff time so, as usual, that means the Dallas Mavericks are warming up their golf clubs and hitting the links. But let's give



season this year. They went 40-42 for those of you who were wondering if the Mavericks still fielded a team annually.

They were leff Keller 16-4 in their last Assistant 20 games and that record was Sports Editor second only to the Lakers over

that same stretch. My point, well, I guess my point is to just keep the faith all of you Mavs fans because next year, I personally guarantee that Dallas will make the

playoffs, maybe.

As for some of the other Metroplex professional sporting teams, well, things are not looking that good.

Mainly I am referring to the Texas Rangers, what is up with these guys? Talk about a group of underachievers thus far this season.

The Rangers have adopted the win-one-lose-two strategy that has worked so well for such storied franchises as the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and Detroit Tigers in recent years. Texas' almost mediocre record this season may have passed for acceptable Ranger baseball a few years ago, but Rangers fans, myself included, have become spoiled over the last few years.

We have become accustomed to winning seasons and American League West Championships.

So, my message to the Rangers, I know the season is young, but you had better get with it or else you will be sharing tee times with Steve Nash and Dirk Nowitzki before you know

Now to hockey in the Metroplex. The Stars may have lucked out with San Jose's surprising first-round playoff series win against St. Louis. Who am I kidding? They did luck out.

Who would you rather face in the second round of the playoffs, the Presidents Cup winner or a team with an aquatic animal biting through a hockey stick for their logo? I personally would rather face the Sharks.

But still Dallas cannot afford to get caught doing the same thing the Blues did-looking past the Sharks.

As for the most important team in the metroplex, the Dallas Cowboys. Well, it wasn't the strongest of drafts for the men in blue this year, or was

They gave up their first-round picks for Seattle receiver Joey Gallo-

Say what you will about his attitude problems, but the fact of the matter is the man can catch anything you throw at him, and he was definitely worth some first-round picks.

I look for next season to be the makeor-break season for Dallas. Troy Aikman has probably three solid years left in him and the same goes for Emmitt Smith.

Raghib Ismael and Galloway will be the key to Dallas' success, or lack there-of, next season.

Without a solid passing game, Dallas will be lucky to win as many as they lose next season. With a solid passing game, the sky is the limit next season for the Cowboys.

Well, this was my final column of the semester, and I hope you have a great and safe summer.

It hasn't been the greatest year for me as far as predicting outcomes of games - I think I was like 0-150 or something like that - but hopefully with a new semester next fall, my luck will change. Anyway, take it easy.

leff Keller is a junior broadcast journalism major from Cloudcroft, N.M. He will always be a Dallas Mavericks fan no matter how many games they win or lose.

Doc Rivers honored as top coach in NBA

things considered, Doc Rivers would rather have been somewhere else Wednesday.

The playoffs began without his Orlando Magic last weekend, and winning the Red Auerbach Trophy as the NBA's coach of the year didn't soothe the pain of being eliminated from contention in the next-to-last game of the regular

"I tell you, I would have loved to have been in Indiana receiving this award," said Rivers, whose team finished a surprising 41-41 but finished a game behind Milwaukee in its bid for the eighth position in the Eastern Conference. The Bucks meet the Pacers in Game 2 of their best-of-five, first-round series Thursday night.

"Having said that, getting it is

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — All still nice ... If you look at our organization, we're absolutely headed in the right direction. As tough as that loss to the Bucks was for me and the players, it makes you want it more now. It makes you put a value on what it takes to get things done.

The Magic finished with a .500 record despite launching a massive rebuilding project that began with the trading of four of five starters from last year's team, including All-Star Penny Hardaway.

Starting four players — Darrell Armstrong, John Amaechi, Bo Outlaw and Ben Wallace - who were not drafted by any NBA team, Rivers kept the Magic in contention until the final week with a hustling, up-tempo style that relied on defensive pressure to create scoring opportunities.

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Briggs battles injuries to garner Big 12 honors

Texas Tech catcher Shauna Briggs earned the Big 12 Player of The Week award last week. She went 4for-6 from the plate in Tech's series sweep of Missour last

weekend.

Wes



by Matt Muench Staff Writer

Texas Tech softball player Shauna Briggs is one of those players who lets her bat do the talking. Last week, her bat did more talking than ever as she received her first career Big 12 Conference Softball Player of the Week

"I am really excited," said Briggs, a junior from Herald, Calif. "I was shocked but happy because it is a first

Against Missouri, who has the top pitching staff in the Big 12, Briggs hit a solid .667 (4-for-6).

She had a two-run home run and a team-high four RBIs over the weekend while scoring three runs of her own against the Tigers.

Although she said her production this past week came easy to her, this season has been a difficult one for the designated hitter/catcher. Briggs has been nursing a sore throwing shoulder that has kept her out of the lineup defensively for most of the season.

She tore her rotator cuff two years ago while playing at Sacramento City College, and it is finally back to normal this season with the Red Raiders.

"I worked real hard over Christ-

mas to get my shoulder back," Briggs said. "It once again started to go down hill this semester, and I had to work hard again. Now it is ready, and I hope coach knows it is ready."

Because of the injury, Briggs has not been able to play her usual posi-

tion of catcher "I just try and this season and has only not think of my been able to show her talent shoulder injury." with the bat. It wasn't until Shauna Briggs last weekend against Mis-Tech catcher souri when she first got to put

on the catcher's gear during a game. Briggs said she felt fortunate that she at least got to bat while her shoul-

der was healing. "It is better than being on the bench," she said. "I just try and tell myself that I could be sitting there doing nothing. I just try and contribute any way I can.

Briggs' average has been rising all season long, and now she is hitting .242 on the year with four home runs and is second on the team with 17

Tech interim coach Carla Marchetti said Briggs plays a very important role for the ball club.

Shauna is one of our offensive powers," Marchetti said. "If we can get her back to the point where she plays defensive and offensive, she

will help us even more." She said she thinks of Briggs as

more of a leader example rather than a

leader by voice. "She is not a very boisterous person,"She said. "She is more of a quiet leader who tries to show the players by ex-

Briggs said she hopes the other players think of her as a leader.

"I think it is easier to be a leader by example rather than by voice because I think sometimes if your try and push people to do something, it doesn't work," she said.

She said she wants to have a good senior season next year and hopes her shoulder never gives out.

"I just try and not think of my shoulder injury," she said. "I just want to take one game at a time like it is my last because I never know when

it is going to give out again."

Nets in market for new head coach after firing Casey

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The New Jersey Nets began what is expected to be a housecleaning by firing coach Don Casey on Wednes-

General manager John Nash and president Michael Rowe also are in danger of losing their jobs after the Nets (31-51) missed the playoffs for the second straight year, but principal owner Lewis Katz said no decision has been reached on their fu-

Casey, who never got the Nets turned around after replacing John Calipari on March 15, 1999, went 44-

"It was a very difficult decision to make because Casey had been a friend of mine for more than three decades," Katz said.

By making the move a week after the end of the regular season, the team will save \$1.3 million, since the second year of the contract Casey signed on June 25 was not guaran-

Katz also announced New Jersey would hire a director of basketball

Hall of Famer Julius Erving, an executive vice president with the Or-

lando Magic and a former Net, is being considered for that new position, the Orlando Sentinel reported Tues-

Several candidates for the coaching job, including NBA great Isiah Thomas; St. John's coach Mike Jarvis; Utah coach Rick Majerus; Lenny Wilkens, who recently quit as coach of the Atlanta Hawks; former player Maurice Cheeks; and former Net Rick Mahorn.

The Nets will probably try to get a high-profile coach to improve their tarnished image, which is what they tried to do last year.

They went after Phil Jackson after Casey finished out Calipari's season in 1999 with a 13-17 record, but the former Chicago Bulls coach signed with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Casey will stay with the Nets doing charitable and community work.

There was no immediate word on the status of assistant coaches Jim Lynam, Eddie Jordan and Mike

The firing of Casey, 62, has been expected for weeks, not only because the injury-plagued Nets struggled this season but also because Katz was YankeeNets, the joint operation that oversees the Nets and Yankees.

The sports and entertainment regional power was concerned about securing future TV contracts if the Nets were not an attractive product.

New Jersey showed potential at times this season, but the team could not overcome a 2-15 start and a 2-14 finish, which was capped by a season-ending 11-game losing streak.

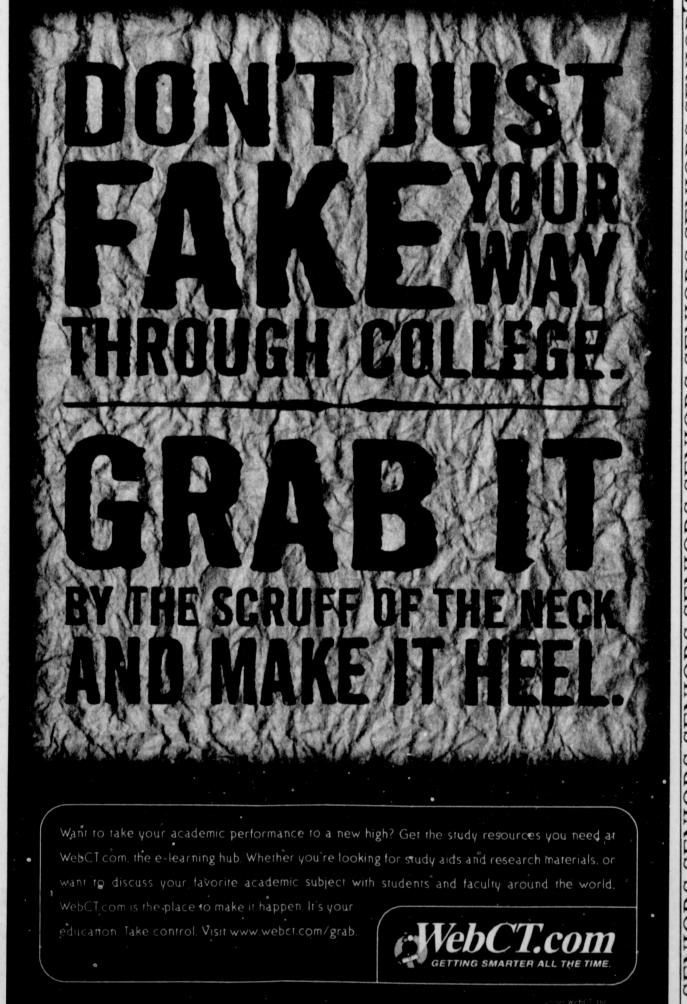
A big part of the problem was injuries. Former All-Star center Jayson because of a knee injury and broken reportedly under pressure from leg on April 1, 1999, in a game against

Shooting guard Kerry Kittles was bothered all season by a knee injury. Casey also could not get his team to win close games. It was 10-24 in

games decided by five points or less. Still, Stephon Marbury and Keith Van Horn helped the Nets post a 27-22 record in the middle of the season, a run that got New Jersey within striking distance of the eighth and final playoff berth in the Eastern Confer-

However, late-season injuries to Marbury and Kittles ended their

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