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The University Daily

An independent campus newspaper

Fans help pay for arena with PSL plans

ANJELA ANAYA
UD Staff Writer

Texas Tech basketball fans will be helping to pay for the United Spirit Arena through the Personal Seat Licensing Program. Season-ticket holders can pay from \$1,250 to \$4,000 for a 10-year reserved seat.

Russell Warren, director of athletics for ticket operations, said the program is completely new at Tech.

"It's uncharted waters," Warren said.

Bobby Gleason, associate athletic director, said seat sales have been successful so far.

"Our fans are being offered the opportunity to lease or purchase that particular seat for a 10-year period," he said. "The program has been really well received. It has exceeded our projections at this state."

The seats available in the licensing program are the best 25 percent of the seats in the arena, Gleason said.

The seating is divided into four sections, called the Raiders, Techsans, Matadors and Masked Riders.

The Matadors and Masked Riders

sections will be the closest seats on the east and west sides of the arena and north side of the stadium.

The Raiders section is the west-court side and the Techsans section is the east-court side.

The Raiders section, composed of 748 seats, is sold out, Gleason said.

A total of 948 seats have been sold for the Raiders section, Warren said.

Buyers compete in the Priority Point System, which determines who will sit in the Raiders section for games.

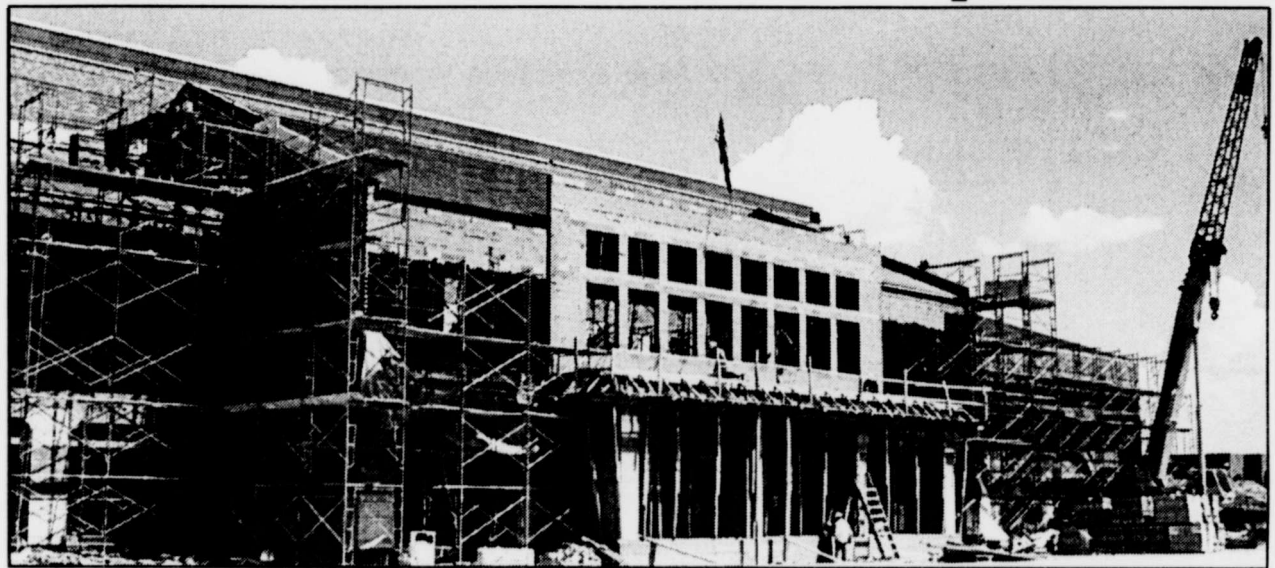
In the system, two points are given for each basketball option purchased since 1987, and three points are given for each consecutive year as a basketball option holder since 1987.

A basketball option is every \$100 donated per seat for a season ticket holder.

"It's all based on what the customer has done," Gleason said of the point system in the Raiders section.

"Everybody had a fair shot at it." People who do not score enough points can sit in another section or get their money refunded.

In the Techsans section, which



Brian White/The University Daily

Building Up: Workers at the United Spirit Arena construction site continue work on the building Monday. Tech basketball fans can currently purchase 10-year Personal Seat Licenses for the arena in the best 25 percent of the building. Prices for the PSLs range from \$1,250 to \$4,000. Along with the PSL that a person must buy, fans must also purchase season tickets to the basketball games.

is for women's basketball only, 243 of 748 seats have been sold. Of the 683 Matadors seats, 549 seats have been sold. In the Masked Riders section, with 864 seats, 93 seats have been sold, Warren said.

Customers can buy women's or men's games seats, or they can buy a seat for both at a \$1,000 discount, Gleason said.

There is a lull in seat sales right

now, Warren said.

"Obviously there was a lot more interest in it during the basketball season," Warren said of the PSL program.

"We're in a football season right now. It's just not the volumes of numbers we had early on."

When the ticket office knows exactly how many seats will be in a section of the arena, regular ticket sales for the arena will be-

gin, Warren said.

"It will be this time next year when we are actually into ticket sales outside the PSL area," he said.

The student section for women's games is the south side of the arena, about 2,852 seats.

The men's student section will be the Techsan section, 748 seats, in addition to the south side of the arena.

Tech cotton research center gets funding boost

GRETCHEN VERRY
UD Staff Writer

The International Cotton Research Center at Texas Tech received a boost in its quest for full funding last week when the U.S. Senate approved \$300,000 in federal funding.

The center will research genetic enhancement of cotton, the optimized cotton production systems, improved fiber and textile production and cotton economics and marketing.

It will also study strategies for increasing U.S. cotton exports.

John Abernathy, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, said the center's research affects both Tech and the Lubbock community.

"In Texas, agriculture accounts for a \$75 billion industry, and cotton is a very significant part of that industry," Abernathy said.

"Nearly 25 percent of the total U.S. cotton crop surrounds Lubbock, therefore, anything we can do to help improve cotton production and marketing will impact the Lubbock community."

The funding has been approved by both the Senate and the House,

and now must pass through a conference committee and budget approvals before the money is appropriated.

The center was established in Nov. 1997, and is supported by federal funding. The proposed \$300,000 appropriation would show a 33 percent increase in funding from last year.

Abernathy said that Tech was selected for the program for a number of reasons.

"Lubbock sits in the middle of three million acres of cotton, in essence, the largest cotton patch in the world," Abernathy said of

the region.

"Location alone is an important advantage of Tech."

Other factors, including research already being conducted,

expertise of professionals on campus and links that Tech represents to various agencies associated with farming led officials to select Tech as a home for the center.

"Lubbock sits in the middle of...in essence, the largest cotton patch in the world."
-John Abernathy
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources dean

Arena symbolic of rebuilding Tech athletics



Jeff Wood
Guest Columnist

The next time you pass by the construction site of the new United Spirit Arena look at it as a symbol. Notice its progression, realize the efforts of many, look at its support system and take notice of how it went from a huge hole in the ground to a massive structure in the sky. It's a symbol of the Texas Tech Athletic Department.

Within the next few weeks Texas Tech will receive notification of penalties and sanctions the NCAA sees necessary for the athletic departments wrongdoing. The hole the arena began as is indicative of the hole Tech athletics will be in.

At times it is necessary to criticize and open the eyes of students who are unaware of things around them. I just want you to think. The Athletic Department messed up, and the messed up bad...let's move on.

There are those within our own Spanish-tiled buildings who be-

lieve Tech athletics should be totally abolished, with the mission of the school to be only academics. Those that believe this need to understand that the teams, the games and the rivalries amount to a spirit, a sense of pride and affiliation for those of us who attend classes, those who have graduated and those who work for our school. The strong affiliation students have for Texas Tech will be one of a few in our lifetime. There are also those students and Tech "fans" who think that because the teams will endure catastrophic sanctions, that their support is not necessary because they won't be rewarded with post-season honors or championships.

It can be written in stone, "we, as Tech students and student-athletes will be the subject of criticism and the butt of jokes" from other colleges in our state and in our country. We cannot be the subject of our own criticism or the butt of our own jokes. That will not benefit anyone. Just recall one of the lessons your parents may have instilled in you - if you don't have anything nice to say, don't say it at all.

We have been in a time of limbo since the investigation began. We have had enough time to place our judgment, offer our opinions and predict what might happen. Now it's time to be the leaders we are supposed to be. Of course students of other universities will take their jobs at us and our school, but imagine if our support for our ath-

letes and teams was greater than ever. Think about their reaction to a massive congregation of Tech fans in their own stadiums and arenas. Picture a sea of red and black in the stands at Kyle Field in College Station. That will represent an attitude that is unexpected to these other schools. As a sports director I have the opportunity to speak with other directors and sports editors around the Big 12, they think our athletic program is a joke. They feel that we don't deserve to be in the conference and that we are the problem child.

If we don't support our school

and our athletes, we are failures and we are the problem child. Texas Tech can, for once, be different from the others. Unlike the schools who have seen these types of problems, we can actually go to the games, travel with the team and keep the criticism to a minimum. For once in its history, Texas Tech can be different from the others.

I will be the first to admit that our Athletic Department was negligent, unorganized and not truthful. But that was then and this is now. Whether you agree with what they have done, Texas Tech

has done everything it can and in the best interest of the school since the investigation to remedy the problem.

Just think about that hole by the Rec Center six months ago. The workers could have quit and filled in the hole with all that west Texas dirt. Now think about Tech athletics, they are at the bottom of that hole. Do we just bury them with dirt or lay a foundation to build upwards?

Jeff Wood is the KTXT-FM Sports Director. He is a senior advertising major from San Diego.

BEN SARGENT
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Dated Feature - Satire



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State *Briefly*

State's death toll from heat at 81

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas County sheriff's deputies are taking to the streets in hopes of stopping the deaths from a heat wave that has killed dozens of people in Texas since May.

The statewide toll rose to 81 Monday when the Dallas County medical examiner's office ruled that Freddie Johnson, 67, and Constance Granfors, 83, both found in their homes on Sunday, had died of heat-related causes.

About a dozen deputies armed with bottled water and electric fans set out Monday to canvass homes in the unincorporated areas of Dallas County in search of heat victims. The officers also will check up on residents' pets and livestock.

"It's time for someone to literally go door to door to check on the safety and welfare of the citizens we serve," said Dallas County Sheriff Jim Bowles.

The temperature at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport hit 100 by early afternoon, making Monday the 15th straight day of triple-digit heat in North Texas.

The torrid weather has been blamed for killing 38 Texans and 43 undocumented immigrants found along or near the U.S.-Mexico border as they tried to cross open desert and range land.

Twenty-two of the deaths have been in Dallas County, and that number might go up. County officials said Monday three cases are still under investigation.

Dr. Richard Beauchamp, a medical and toxicological consultant for the Texas Department of Health, said the last time Dallas County saw such a high heat-related death toll was 1980, when the heat contributed to 22 deaths.

Storms fuel Texas wildfire woes

LUBBOCK (AP) — Thunderstorms continue to be more a curse than a blessing to firefighters battling wildfires that have already turned 283,856 acres of farms, ranches and forest into fields of charred stumps and blackened dirt.

Lightning has been the No. 1 cause of the more than 6,230 fires that have burned since May 1. But the storms that brought the lightning have brought firefighters little helpful rain, said Texas Forest Service spokesman Lou Sloat.

"The problem with the storms is that only 20 percent of them bring rain," Sloat said. "They end up being dry storms or producing heavy concentrations of rain in a small area."

The storms, which forecasters predict will continue in some parts of the state, also contribute to fires by producing wind gusts and lower humidity levels.

David Roth, a National Weather Service meteorologist who is investigating how weather conditions are affecting fires throughout Texas, said firefighters in drought-stricken West and North Texas have been unlucky.

"Any thunderstorms in the dry atmosphere could easily start fires across that part of the state," Roth said.

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Too many voting in rural county

Small Georgia town has more registered voters than residents

CRAWFORDVILLE, Ga. (AP) — Who says Americans are apathetic about politics? Little, rural Taliaferro County has an astonishing 1.1 registered voters for every adult resident.

The county, the least populated of Georgia's 159, has 1,387 registered voters and an adult population of 1,305, according to the Census Bureau. About 300 absentee ballots have already been filed for Tuesday's primary.

In the rest of Georgia, about 70 percent of the voting-age population is registered to vote.

"It's gotten to be ridiculous," said Lois Richards, a retired probate judge who complains that people who haven't lived here in decades can vote.

Some have charged that Taliaferro (pronounced like Tolliver), or any place else with more than 100 percent registration, must be rife with fraud.

Defenders of the voting list say there's nothing wrong with former residents continuing to vote here long after they've moved away. Georgia law on absentee balloting leaves open such a possibility.

Residents say there's a history of voting chicanery in this town nearly 100 miles east of Atlanta that was the birthplace of Alexander Stephens, vice president of the Confederacy.

"It's been going on like this since I've been in diapers," said Cheryl Wolfe, 43, who runs a store featuring horse-riding equipment

in the downtown dotted with long-closed businesses. "Back when I was growing up, they bought people's votes with liquor."

At the 97-year-old courthouse in the center of town, Chief Registrar Edwin Sigman said he knows some people are suspicious. After state elections officials suggested a review last year, he said, about 300 people were struck from the rolls.

Elections officials try to encourage people to vote, not turn voters away, he said. So those who say they plan to return here eventually, aren't registered in another

county, don't have a felony record and are still breathing are left on the rolls.

"We're trying to keep it as fair and as clean as possible," Sigman said. "I feel that we're doing a good job."

Such elections rules aren't unique to Georgia. They are designed for people who are in the military or leave their home area for jobs or education but plan to return and prefer to exercise their right to vote in their home county.

Richards said people continue to vote even though they have no intention of ever coming back to this sleepy town. She also believes some people have been registered

under false pretenses, such as a man she said recently registered while in town for a relative's funeral.

Efforts to contact absentee voters were unsuccessful. A woman answering the phone at an Atlanta-area home of a man Sigman identified as an absentee voter refused to answer questions. There was no answer at an absentee voter's

home in Conyers, more than 60 miles from Crawfordville.

Richards said she knows of absentee voters as far away as Columbus, some 170 miles from here, but

she wouldn't give names, not wanting to make more enemies.

One of her foes is County Commission Chairman Charles Ware, who said Richards raised her challenge because the candidates she backs haven't done well lately.

Secretary of State Lewis Massey, Georgia's chief elections official, has been under fire in his bid for the Democratic nomination for governor. Opponents have criticized Massey because he continued voting in his home county, Hall, six years after he moved to Atlanta.

Massey replied that he was within the law since he planned to return to Hall County.

"It's gotten to be ridiculous."
-Lois Richards
resident,
Crawfordville,
Ga.

GM strike could last until fall

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — The strikes against General Motors Corp., already the auto industry's most costly labor dispute in decades, could last into September, a United Auto Workers leader warned Monday.

"The longer this goes, Labor Day looks more and more like a possibility," UAW Vice President Richard Shoemaker said in an interview before a summit of about 300 union officials from across the country.

On Wednesday, an arbitrator in Detroit is scheduled to hear arguments from both sides on GM's request to have the strikes ruled illegal.

Monday's closed-door union meeting came one day after UAW members in Spring Hill, Tenn., voted to authorize their leaders to call what could be the first strike against GM's Saturn Corp. subsidiary.

The plant is GM's only U.S. installation still turning out cars.

Negotiations in Spring Hill resume Tuesday.

One UAW official from Spring Hill, shop chairman Mike Bennett, said outside the meeting with Shoemaker that he doubts a strike will be called there unless talks fail to reach a deal within the next month.

Saturn workers say GM has re-

duced their say in product decisions, and this is contrary to the principles of the unique Saturn contract.

The strikes already under way by 9,200 workers against two GM parts plants in Flint have idled an additional 185,000 workers at 25 GM assembly plants and more than 100 GM parts plants throughout North America.

GM has lost more than \$1.2 billion so far.

The first of the strikes began on June 5.

The Saturn small-car plant at Spring Hill has about 7,200 union workers. It is running at normal production, using stockpiled parts.

Fights appear to be back on 'Jerry Springer Show'

CHICAGO (AP) — Hey, Jerry Springer, you sleazemonger. We thought you agreed to quit the (bleep) fistfights on your (bleep) talk show.

Despite a no-fighting pledge from the producers in April, the brawling that made "The Jerry Springer Show" the top daytime

talk show appears to be back.

The Rev. Michael Pfleger, the Roman Catholic priest who led an April boycott that got several advertisers to abandon the show, said that while monitoring it last week, he noticed the fights had resumed.

Although many of the brawls

were edited out — guests were shown approaching each other, the screen went black, then they were shown being pulled apart by security guards — other episodes showed punches landing.

Broadcasting & Cable, a weekly industry magazine, reported Monday that unidentified sources said the fights on the show have been "turned up a notch" for the July sweeps period.

For the week ending July 3, Springer's ratings slipped from No. 1 and tied with Oprah Winfrey, a Nielsen Media Re-

"They're slowly but surely bringing (the violence) back in."
-Chris Ryan
media analyst

search spokeswoman said.

Some critics have denounced the fights as staged, a claim Springer denies.

But without them, the show "wasn't exactly compelling television," and editing them out

"was very awkward to watch," said media analyst Chris Ryan.

"They're slowly but surely bringing (the violence) back in," Ryan added. "It's sheer dollars. They're seeing the writing on the wall."



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We've already begun making plans for the 1999 yearbook, and we're excited that you will be a part of it. When you purchase a La Ventana yearbook, you're not just buying a record of memories, but a piece of history steeped in tradition.

La Ventana, translated means "The Window" in Spanish. The name was chosen in 1925 to go along with the Spanish motif of the school. Around 400 pages long, the All-American yearbook is staffed by approximately 30 students — students just like you.

The ¡Amigos! New Student and Freshman Directory also is a publication new students can't live without. Geared, of course, toward the incoming students, ¡Amigos! is a photographic directory of all new students on campus and contains features and tips on how to survive in this place we so affectionately call Raiderland.

The 1999 La Ventana and ¡Amigos! New Student and Freshman Directory can be purchased as a package during orientation at the Student Publications table in the University Center Ballroom for \$48. That's two records documenting your life at Texas Tech in one package. What better way to show your Tech pride than by purchasing a tradition in itself.

So freshmen and new students, welcome to new experiences, to 25,000 other Red Raiders, to living on your own and on your own terms, to all-nighters, to many acquaintances and a few good friends, to organizations for every Dick and Jane, to a town that screams Red and Black.

Welcome to your life ... welcome to Texas Tech.

Wayne Hodgin, editor
¡Amigos! New Student and Freshman Directory

Three-band set gave Lubbock concert goers wild ride

APU NAIK

UD Staff Writer

"Rock 'n' Roll is my religion," said David Garza Sunday after performing at the 19th Street Warehouse in Lubbock.

Garza, whose band is currently on an international tour, stopped in Lubbock to perform one of their five dates opening for 7 Mary 3.

A sold out audience poured into the 19th Street Warehouse to listen to the sounds of Spilling Poetry, 7 Mary 3, and David Garza.

Born in Irving but brought up in



Austin, Garza said playing in Texas again was excellent.

"We've been on the road constantly, but performing in Texas is always a pleasure," Garza said.

And pleasure is the only way to describe Garza's set, which included hits such as "Disco Ball World," "Kinder," and "Slave."

Concert goers enthusiastically

supported Garza through his 10-track set, and the excitement was returned with a show whose energy went over and above the expected level of ordinary Hub City rock.

Garza's unique blend of pure guitar, key board riffs, and pop-rock lyrics accounted for a night full of dancing and beer consumption.

And by the end of the night, Garza himself had played almost every instrument on stage, and his leg-kicking leaps into the air seemed almost like a resurgence

of Pete Townsend and The Who. "We've been doing this for eleven years now and it's cool that people are really getting into it," said Garza about the enthusiasm of the Lubbock crowd. "With a crowd like that, its hard not to get too excited about performing."

And exciting performances continued throughout the night as 7 Mary 3 and Lubbock natives Spilling Poetry also took the warehouse stage.

Orange Avenue, the latest release from the Virginia-based band, 7 Mary 3, hit record stores

July 14, marking its third major release since the enormous popularity of 1995s American Standard.

Lead vocalist Jason Ross said the band always looks forward to any show in a college town.

"There is such a great atmosphere here," said Ross. "I guess a combination of booze and sweat."

All three bands were excellent, but more importantly, concert goers seemed excited about seeing good bands come to West Texas.

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'Ulysses' tops English novel list

NEW YORK (AP) — James Joyce's "Ulysses," the epic story about one man's journey during a single day in Dublin, Ireland, has been unanimously selected by a panel of scholars and writers as the best English-language novel of the century.

F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" was second, and Joyce's "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young

Man" was third.

The selections announced Monday by the Modern Library's editorial board were generally older, recognized classics.

They immediately touched off debate about the books who made the list, who didn't and who ranked where.

"We tried to pick books that were of great merit and proven

over time," said board chairman Christopher Cerf. The Modern Library is a division of Random House that has published classic literature since 1917, but Cerf said novels were chosen regardless of publisher.

"Ulysses" takes place on June 16, 1904, when a Jewish cuckold named Leopold Bloom went wandering around his native city.

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Life begins at 41 for British Open champ O'Meara

SOUTHPORT, England (AP) — How easy it would have been for Mark O'Meara to take his green jacket home from the Masters and spend the rest of the season celebrating the defining moment of his career.

O'Meara was only the fourth player in his 40s to win a major championship in the 1990s. The

others didn't win again the rest of the year, and Ben Crenshaw hasn't won since his emotional Masters victory in 1995.

Even O'Meara conceded that winning at Augusta National was a "big relief, knowing I had crossed that hurdle."

As he proved over four grueling rounds at Royal Birkdale,

where conditions presented a different challenge every day, O'Meara has plenty of fight left in him at 41.

By winning the British Open on Sunday in a playoff over Brian Watts, he became the oldest player to win two majors in the same year.

Jack Nicklaus was 40 when he

won two majors in 1980 for the fifth time in his career. Ben Hogan was 40 when he won the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open in 1953, and Craig Wood was 40 when he won the Masters and U.S. Open in 1941.

Hogan and Wood never won another major. Nicklaus, perhaps the game's greatest competitor,

won the Masters in 1986 at age 46.

"When I tee it up, I play the game for pride," O'Meara said of his game.

"I know everybody talks about this and that. I play to win. I realize that winning doesn't happen that frequently in this game because the talent is so good out here. But, you know, your pride is such a huge thing."

No matter the age, it's rare for anyone who wins a major to cope with the attention and contend the rest of the year.

Nick Price was an exception, the last player to win back-to-back majors in 1994 at Turnberry and in the PGA Championship at Southern Hills.


Justin Leonard won at Royal Troon last year and then took Davis Love III down to the wire at the PGA.

And Nick Faldo, after winning at Augusta in 1996, had a chance to catch Tom Lehman at the British Open until he couldn't make a birdie putt inside 10 feet.

O'Meara was on the practice green before the final round on Sunday when Parnevik asked him if winning the Masters made it any easier.

"I'm probably just as nervous now as I was on the putting green before my final round at Augusta," O'Meara said he told Parnevik.

"Any time you try to win a golf tournament, especially one of this magnitude, you're going to be a little bit nervous."




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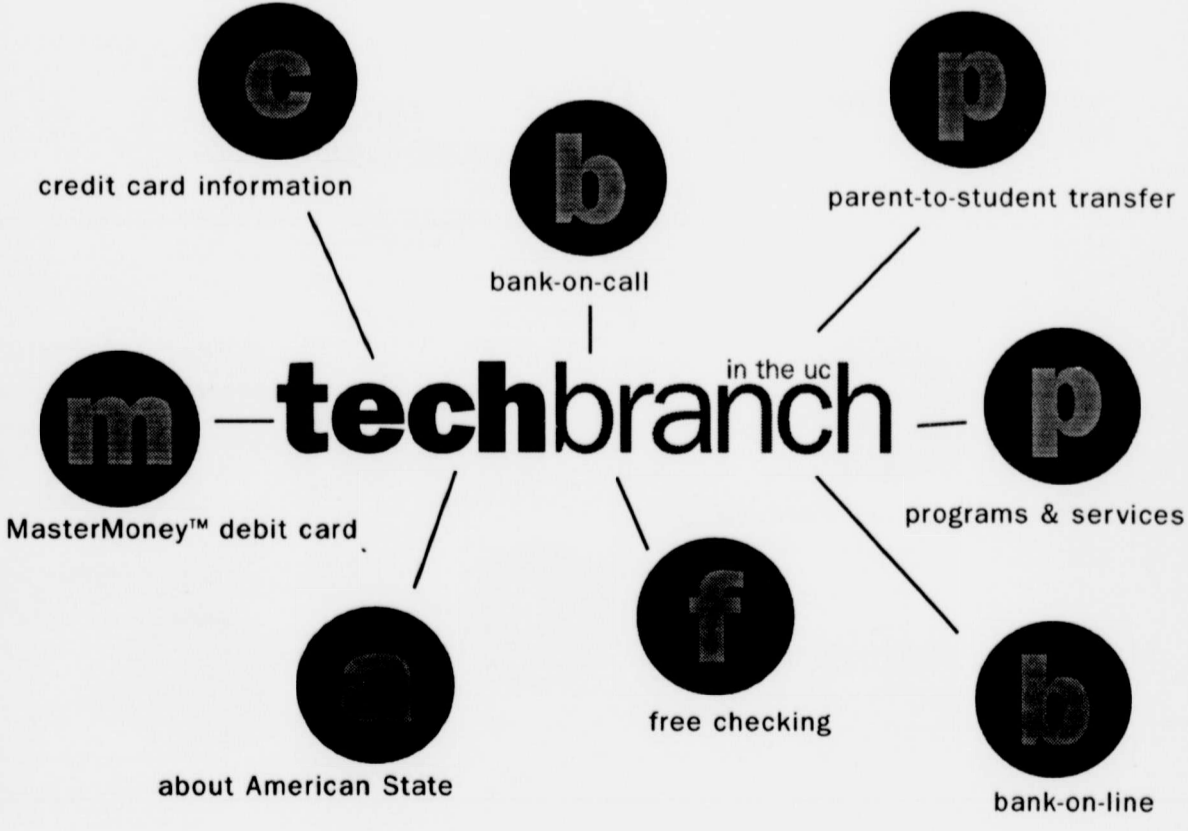
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