

WEATHER

TODAY:
High - 87 / Low - 67
TOMORROW:
High - 93 / Low - 68

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Camp offers lessons in Tech traditions

■ **About 600 to attend second annual event**

By Keli Johnson
STAFF WRITER

Red Raider Camp began Sunday in Junction with about 100 participants scheduled to learn about

Texas Tech traditions during the three-day event.

More than 600 prospective Red Raiders are scheduled to attend the camp, which will run throughout the summer.

In the second year of operation, the camp for entering freshman was sold out for the first session, which began July 21, nearly doubling the amount of participants from last year.

The purpose of the camp is to help freshmen become more involved in the university by teaching Tech traditions.

Latrice Williams, a clerical specialist in the Center for Campus Life, said each camp is composed of 50 men and 50 women.

"My personal opinion is that they wanted to make it inclusive for both men and women, which is why they evened things out," she

said.

Activities range from group discussions, administrative guest speakers and social mixers.

Although the structure of the camp is very similar to last year, it has been revamped, with new activities and a swimming pool.

The Center for Campus Life is directly involved in Red Raider Camp and student activities, Williams said.

"I think it will help students adjust better to campus. Today's student will be more prepared than I was when I was a freshman," she said. "I would recommend students to go to camp."

Students come from throughout Texas and surrounding states to participate in Red Raider Camp.

Arturo Corrales, a senior psy-

see **CAMP**, page 5

Mastering a 'GENTLE ART'

By Kristen Gilbreth
STAFF WRITER

Ten years ago 27-year-old Klay Pittman was lost and looking for his mission in life.

A friend gave him a book that changed his life.

The author wrote, "Your mission is to go and practice the talent God has given you at any particular place that appeals to you most."

For Pittman, a 1998 Tech graduate, that talent is the martial art of Jiu-jitsu; the place is all over the world.

Jiu-jitsu is a high-contact sport established 70 years ago by the legendary Gracie family. Pittman has been trained by some of the world's best fighters, including world-renowned instructor Carlos Machado, cousin to the Gracie family.

Today he is owner and head instructor of the Pittman Academy of Martial Arts in Lubbock, which Brian Young, defensive lineman for the Saint Louis Rams, once visited for training.

During the fall and spring semesters, he teaches Jiu-jitsu classes at Tech, a program he created from scratch three years ago. The one-hour physical education requirement always fills to capacity and produces raving reviews from students, he said.



CRAIG SWANSON/The University Daily

Instructor Klay Pittman, a 1998 Tech graduate, maneuvers Brandon Guinn, a senior technical writing major from Lubbock, during a Jiu-jitsu training session at Pittman's Academy of Martial Arts last week.

see **JIU JITSU**, page 5

Stock, job market troubles may effect Texas Tech students

By Keli Johnson and
Kristen Gilbreth
STAFF WRITERS

Recent declines in the stock market have caused some to become more cautious with their investments. The Dow Jones industrials plummeted more than 390

points Friday, the lowest close in four years.

With gains not expected in the near future, the Texas Tech community has mixed emotions about the future of the stock and job market.

Finance professor William Dukes said consumers are losing confidence in the market, which is why there are so many trades.

"This is the wrong time to sell. Now is the time to buy, not sell. If you sell right now, you are throwing away your money," he said. "The people who keep their investments will get a good return when the market comes back."

Dukes said he does not know when or how the market will regain support, but he said he is confident

it will come back.

Steven Liu, an MBA graduate student from Taiwan, said Wall Street's slump did not affect him because he does not own stock.

"I'd still invest in the future, but I'll be more cautious about what I invest in," he said.

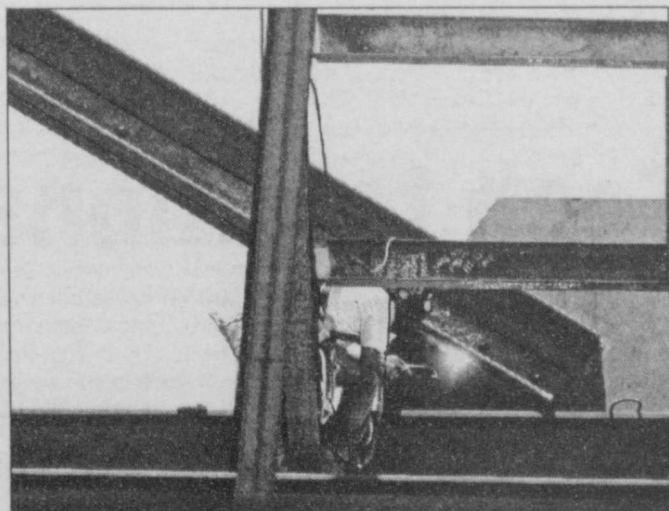
Many recent graduates are experiencing problems with the job

market as a result of the state of the economy, Liu said.

"From a business perspective, it affects the job market. Arthur Andersen was one of the Big 5 in accounting, but they have been washed out and now they're only the Big 4," he said. "Nothing is stable."

see **MARKET**, page 5

STEEL WORKING . . .



DAVID M. JOHNSON/The University Daily
A welder for Lee Louis Construction welds a new beam onto the recently added steel frame of the four-story club and suite boxes atop Jones SBC Stadium on Monday.

Shots fired at Planned Parenthood clinic

GRAND RAPIDS, Minn. (AP) — A shotgun was fired through the front door of a Planned Parenthood clinic early Monday, the second shooting at a clinic this month. No one was injured in either incident.

The glass door was shot out at about 3:30 a.m. and shots were fired into the ceiling and walls, Police Chief Philip Major said.

Police have no suspect or motive. Neither clinic provides abortions.

Authorities are investigating whether the shooting is linked to a similar July 4 incident at an empty Planned Parenthood clinic in Brainerd, about 70 miles away. No one was arrested in that shooting.

Cindy Swenson, the Planned Parenthood regional manager, said the Grand Rapids clinic would likely reopen Tuesday.

"The concern is that they're going to shoot us during the

Raider community reacts to possible corporate scandals within government

By Keli Johnson and
Kristen Gilbreth
Staff Writers

Possible government implications in corporate scandals have caused some Texas Tech students and faculty to mistrust the current administration.

Joshua Lasater, a freshman political science major from Tyler, said he thinks there is government involvement in corporate corruption cover-ups.

"I am losing trust in the government," he said. "They covered up the idea of how much profit WorldCom was making. Someone in the government had to know."

For some, mistrust of government officials is spreading doubt in other areas, such as domestic and foreign policy.

Colby Horner, a landscape architecture and golf management major from Abilene, said although he supports President George W. Bush, he is wary of recent implications.

"I don't really trust domestic and foreign policy. I do support the Bush administration though."

Ryan Frankenburger, an undeclared major from Tyler, said he trusts the terrorism policy.

"I think Bush is doing a good

job. I don't think (his administration) would let something bad happen," he said. "I voted for him, and I will vote for him again."

Ethan Nguyen, a pre-med student from Dallas said he has no choice but to trust the government, although he remains skeptical.

"I have to trust the government, but I don't trust them for myself," he said. "I don't trust the war on terrorism. They are making money on it."

Horner agreed government practices raise skepticism.

"The government has been involved in fundraisers that are basically write-offs to ignore illegal activity in companies. They're taking money from us and making a lot."

Assistant professor of political science Brian Gerber said he is not losing total trust in the govern-

ment.

"The essential issue is the capacity for the government to regulate. They'll be proactive in strengthening the security exchange commission," he said.

He said the current administration definitely has problems. The biggest challenge is to effectively investigate implicated members of the investigation, specifically Vice President Dick Cheney.

"I think that the biggest issue is whether or not the government will go too far in terms of infringement on civil liberties in the name of fighting the war on terrorism," Gerber said. "Anybody, whatever your ideological disposition, should be concerned about essentially compromising our system of civil liberties. In a sense it might be disproportional to the type of threat we face."

I am losing trust in the government. They covered up the idea of how much profit WorldCom was making.

Joshua Lasater
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TECH NOTES

The deadline for all organizations that received funding from The Student Government Association for 2001-2002 is almost here. All receipts for reimbursement must be turned in to the SGA by 5 p.m. on Aug. 1.

Please note this information is only for organizations that received SGA funds for 2001-2002. For more information please call Jimmie Bradley at 742-3631 or email jimmie.bradley@ttu.edu.

The Llano Estacado Audubon Society will be hosting a presentation by David J. Schmidly, president of Texas Tech, at 7 p.m. on Aug. 6 at the Lubbock Municipal Garden. Schmidly will discuss his most recent book, "Texas Natural History — A Century of Change," and will be available to answer general questions about Texas wildlife; particularly those questions pertaining to the mammals of Texas. The presentation is free, open to the public and refreshments are provided. For more details, call Anthony Floyd, 743-2714.

Three new displays are currently open for viewing that highlight a variety of items held by the Tech library. A new documents display, located in the Government Documents/Maps area, contains an assortment of items including resources such as reports on the House of Representatives hearing on Enron. Another display is "Maps in the News" that contains maps relevant to current events. The final new display is the 100 best fictional characters since 1900. This displays lists and images of various characters located in the popular reading section of the Reference area.

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Bush says economy, corporate health still strong

ARGONNE, Ill. (AP) — President George W. Bush had no advice for investors as the stock market gyrated wildly Monday — "I'm not a stock broker or a stock picker" — but he said the economy is strong and corporate profits are improving.

"You're talking to the wrong guy about what stocks to buy," the president said in a brief exchange with reporters at a national lab involved in homeland defense.

His remarks mixed optimism, skepticism and even bewilderment about Wall Street as stocks again fell sharply — reflecting the struggle by Bush and his economic team to respond to tumbling markets.

On a day that began with telecommunications giant WorldCom Inc. filing the largest bankruptcy in corporate history, the Dow opened with a slight increase, but declined more than 200 points as Bush spoke to reporters and was down 300 as he returned to Washington. By early afternoon, it moved briefly into positive territory before ultimately plunging nearly 235 points to close at 7,784.

The sagging markets threaten to become a potent political issue in the November midterm elections because a growing number of Americans are deeply invested in stocks; many have their entire sav-

"I'm not a stock broker or stock picker. But I do believe the fundamentals for economic growth are real."

GEORGE W. BUSH
UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

ings tied up in 401 (k) plans.

White House advisers fear Americans will blame Republicans, if not Bush, for corporate scandals because voters see the GOP as closely aligned with big business.

Surrounded by computers monitoring experiments at the Argonne National Laboratory, Bush dismissed calls for the resignation of Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill. He also urged Congress to pass legislation stiffening criminal penalties for corporate wrongdoers, the main ingredient of his economic improvement plan.

"One of the things we can do in Washington is get a corporate responsibility bill passed, and I'm confident we will, which will take some of the risk out of the markets," Bush said.

He said investors who bought bonds rather than stocks are doing well, but demurred when asked whether Americans should buy, sell or stand pat in stock markets.

"I'm not a stock broker or a stock picker. But I do believe that the fundamentals for economic growth are real," he said.

Bush has consistently expressed sympathy with hard-hit workers, even when the economy showed signs of recovery. And he was quick to demand reforms after the first corporate scandal, the collapse of energy giant Enron, a company with deep ties to Bush.

Associates say Bush learned from his father — the former president who lost re-election during the economic downturn of 1992 — that voters will punish politicians who seem out of touch with their

money problems.

Asked whether the bankruptcy of WorldCom Inc. would hurt the markets, Bush replied, "I worry that people will lose work. But the market has already, I suspect, has already anticipated the WorldCom decision."

Bush said corporate profits are up, a trend that will increase the value of stocks and drive investors back into the market.

"They're going to realize there's values in the market. In other words, if they buy stock, they're buying value, as opposed to buying into a bubble," Bush said.

The president said that as an oilman in Texas, he was "somewhat skeptical about what was taking place on the floors of these exchanges. But I know — I always knew — that you needed to buy on value."

"I believe the values are improving. I know the economics, the platform for growth, is in good shape. Inflation is low. Monetary policy is sound. Fiscal policy is sound. Productivity is up. Orders for durable goods are up," Bush said.

He said Treasury Secretary O'Neill is doing a good job.

"When the market goes up, I hope they will give him credit. If they're going to hold him accountable for a market going down, they ought to give him credit when the

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Wall Street's 'Net dream may be over

America Online's Chief Operating Officer resigned Friday, following a 60-percent drop in company stock. When AOL bought Time Warner, the stock was worth \$55. Friday it was trading for \$11.58.

Wall Street is still reeling from the shock, but this high-profile failure comes as no surprise to anyone who actually uses the Internet. I've been on the Net since 1995, and I knew from the beginning that Internet advertising wouldn't work.

Historically, banner ad revenue has been based on "click-throughs," the number of people who actually click on the advertisement and seek more information about the product. This percentage is incredibly low, and companies are getting desperate, as advertisements become bigger and louder.

Unsolicited e-mail advertisements, commonly known as "spam," are at record levels. I get at least 30 advertisements a day.

The success rate for Internet advertising is notoriously low, but the ads are cheap to make and cheap to deploy, and executives are not quite ready to give up on the dream of Internet profits.

Wall Street has been living that dream for five years, and investors just got a very rude wake-up call. The problem seems to be a lack of information — a huge disconnect between people who understand the Internet and the people who invest in it.

You have a group of hot young entrepreneurs pitching pie-in-the-sky promises to a bunch of venture capitalists in gray suits. These investors can barely program their VCRs, so with a little jargon and a whiz-bang Web site, you can take them for millions.

The Internet boom encouraged a lot of bad thinking.



Michael Duff

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Traditional measures of success were thrown out the window. Tired, old-fashioned concepts like revenue streams and P&E ratios were ignored in favor of sexy phrases like "digital revolution" and "bandwidth explosion."

Don't get me wrong. The Internet is a beautiful thing. It is a bold new medium, and I think in time it will revolutionize the way we do business.

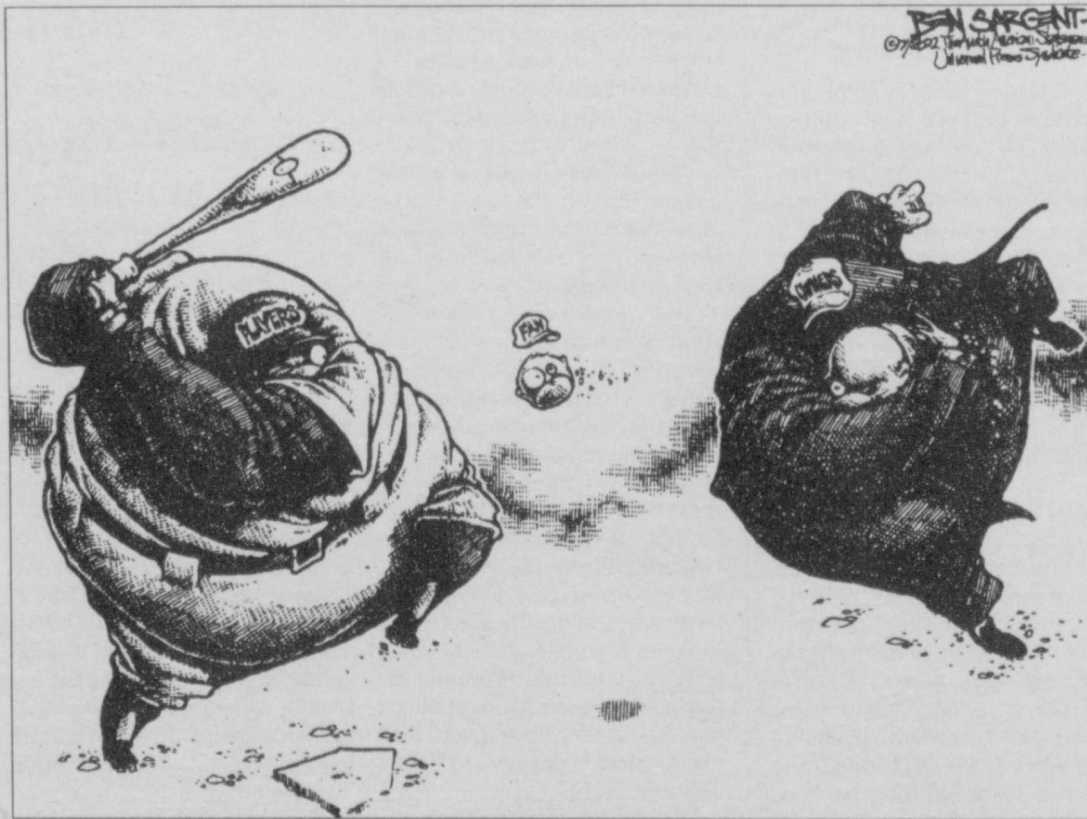
But right now, CEOs are like toddlers with a box full of LEGOs. They know they've got their hands on something cool, but what they've built doesn't look anything like the picture on the box.

Alan Greenspan tried to warn us with phrases like "irrational exuberance," but Greenspan is old and tired and the Internet seemed young and sexy by comparison.

Greenspan is alternately worshipped and demonized by Wall Street. When his predictions coincide with the conventional wisdom, he's a prophet, but when he threatens to rain on our fiscal parade, pundits use words like "doddering" and "out of touch."

Now the Internet hipsters are running for cover, and Crazy AI is still standing. The honeymoon's over and Time Warner is sending in a pair of old-fashioned businessmen to stop the hemorrhaging.

Watching Time Warner assert control over AOL is a bit like watching your parents come home after a wild weekend. You grumble about washing the dishes and cleaning the house, but you're secretly glad to see them.



Local music may live on after all

For the past few weeks, things have not been looking good for the local music scene. Einstein's, a local bar that featured the best and brightest of Lubbock talent, was suddenly and without warning, closed down. Bands who were scheduled to play the next day were shocked to find out the place that was once their home away from home was no longer a part of their lives. Many people in the local music scene were without a venue, and consequently without hope.

Sometimes the silver lining comes in strange places. This silver lining came in the form of a long since closed down Piggly Wiggly. Now called the Amaranth Cooperative, this once supermarket is a bastion of hope to revitalize the struggling Lubbock music scene.

The bill last Thursday night was pretty unassuming: Invitation to Failure, with opening band Hugsabunch Freeloader who are both very young bands and though worthy, not yet bringing large followings. Therefore, on the way to the show I wasn't expecting a packed



Rocky Ramirez

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house. It was only the Amaranth's second major show. What I found that night put a smile on my face that didn't come off for the rest of the night.

The place wasn't packed, but the crowd certainly wasn't sparse. The people there were the same people I always see at local shows, the people in Lubbock who would be most concerned with the health of local music. The look on their faces said it all.

People came in and saw the garage-like atmosphere, with walls covered in rugs and various other hippie-stylings. This was no smoke filled bar where people go to drink and just try to talk over the band.

This place was BYOB, and if you want to smoke, the rule is you have to go outside. Here you came to see the band first and foremost, and maybe have a drink or two while doing so. This place, I realized, was all about the music, local music.

Talking to the Amaranth's owner — a guy who goes by the very cool name of Cougar — I found that though music is the focus, it is not the only thing going on.

The philosophy of the Amaranth Coop is to focus on natural living and great local music. What it boils down to is, this place is not for everyone. The Amaranth runs on donations and volunteers and although it is undeniably hip, it's not a place to go to just get drunk.

The word Amaranth comes from a mythological flower that never loses its beauty. The ancient Greeks used the term to mean, "to live forever." I'm not going to get overly poetic and say that Lubbock music, though struggling is going to live on forever because of the opening of the Amaranth — but at least now there's hope.

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LETTERS: *The University Daily* welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, social security number and a description of university affiliation. Letters selected for publication have the right to be edited. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication.

GUEST COLUMNS: *The UD* accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 450 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.

■ JIU-JITSU

from page 1

But Pittman goes beyond instructor; he is a fighter with a black belt in the art he teaches — a fighter who will be competing in the Brazilian Jiu-jitsu World Championships July 26-30 in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

Although he has competed and advanced in several championships and trains every six months in Brazil, this will be his first time to compete in the black belt division of the Brazilian World Championships.

Pittman said his chances of advancing in the tournament are slim, however, because the caliber of the competition is too strong.

"I'm good, but this is the top of the peak," he said. "If I spent a long time in Brazil and fought in their town and worked my way through their tournaments then I would have a shot."

But Pittman said he is not concerned about failure.

"I have a very positive relationship with failure," he said. "I have been fighting a long time, and I

have been in the business a long time. I have had my butt kicked in every possible way, but I have persevered."

Jiu-jitsu literally means "gentle art".

Pittman the teaching make participants more gentle, generous, laid-back, confident and calm.

"I have never met an abusive fighter," he said. "Most good martial artists are some of the most extraordinary people I have ever met. They are courageous, power people and they try to avoid fighting in their everyday lives. I have seen people completely transformed."

He said he has never had a student become more aggressive from learning the art.

Erin Patterson, a third year MD-PhD student from Dallas, said she has trained with Pittman for more than three years.

"Klay is very motivational with a lot of integrity. His students are very important to him," she said. "As far as Jiu-jitsu, it is a very empowering hobby. You realize that you can achieve and accomplish in the physical realm and then it spills over into other areas like

your work or school and even relationships with family and friends."

Chris Shanklin, a second-year medical student from Lubbock, said he admires Pittman because of his successes.

"Klay is an unbelievable person at what he does," he said. "Compared to other coaches in the state and especially in Brazil, Klay is very exact and very methodological. But, at the same time he is very personable."

Shanklin said Pittman is a technical fighter so he has a chance to advance at least out of the first round in the World Championships.

Upon entering Pittman's academy near the bright blue fighting mat there is a dry-erase board featuring a Chinese proverb for personal power: "The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones."

Removing one small stone and taking one step at a time, Pittman said in the future he hopes not only make himself more competitive on a global level, but also to teach his students to reach their full potential on every individual level.

■ CAMP

from page 1

chology major from El Paso and student co-director of Red Raider Camp, said the camp is a good opportunity to learn about Tech's campus and college life.

"I learned more about the Tech systems and offices and services that I didn't know existed when I was first a counselor last year," he said.

Corrales said current Tech students learn along with incoming freshmen about various traditions.

There are four main components of the camp, he said. Academics, leadership, recreational activities, traditions and Tech history are emphasized. The camp gives everyone a sense of Tech pride and unity, Corrales said.

Studies conducted by Red Raider Camp officials showed campers were more likely to join a student organization at Tech after having attended. The aver-

age grade point average of campers was 2.9, while the average of all freshmen was 2.86.

Corrales said he is very enthusiastic about the camp, and he hopes more Tech students will apply next year to become counselors.

"If you're looking to get involved, this is where you should go. You meet a lot of people, including faculty and future Red Raiders," he said.

Alexandra Hewitt, a junior public relations major from Austin, who is a camp counselor, said she wanted to get involved in helping mold future Red Raiders.

"I'm there to help teach students about traditions and also to serve as counselors for alcohol and drugs and to help students deal with issues and answer any questions they may have," she said.

■ MARKET

from page 1

Peter Hanley, a May 2002 Tech graduate with a marketing degree has returned this summer for classes pursuing a second degree in finance.

He said uncertainty in the marketplace is having an adverse effect on the job market.

"It's terrible. The whole market sucks, and so does the job market," he said. "I'll continue to invest because the stock market always evens out. Today and probably in the next couple of months is probably the best day to invest."

Terry Ellis, a senior finance major from Gladewater, said he isn't concerned because he is confident his stock in AOL will eventually increase.

Senior finance majors Nick Hasty and Jeff Schumacher, both from Plano, said they advise everyone to diversify their portfolio.

"The job market and pension funds are affected," Hasty said. "The corporate

scandals are definitely affecting the companies that do expensive stock options."

Schumacher said he thinks the market has already crashed in many ways because more declines are ahead.

"I think we're approaching the bottom on the stock market issue," he said. "Once the government passes the corporate reform legislation, it should show that we're near the bottom,"

Randy Lasater, a Tech parent from Tyler, said she will not be retiring in five years like she had planned.

"I don't want to have to work the rest of my life and I've watched my 401K. In the last quarter it's dropped \$30,000. Instead of the hopeful retirement when you turn 63, it's going to buy retirement when you can survive."

She said she does not have much of a choice because her employer guides the employees in the direction of more high-risk investments. The employers are invested in the same market and have the same options as the employees, she said.

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'Road to Perdition' emerges as one of 2002's best

[MOVIE REVIEW]



James Eppler
jeppler@hotmail.com

Did you ever think you would see the day when Tom Hanks would put a gun to a man's temple and blow his head off? Me neither. But that day has arrived with "Road to Perdition," a stunning and stirring look at the dynamics between fathers and sons.

Hanks continues to prove that he doesn't make bad movies anymore.

He gives a first-rate performance as Michael Sullivan, a hit-man for the Chicago mob in 1931. He's a cold man whose heartlessness is likely the direct result of the profession he has chosen.

Sullivan works for John Rooney played by the excellent Paul Newman. We learn Rooney has acted as a father figure for Sullivan for the better part of

his life, and he treats Sullivan's two sons as if they were his grandchildren.

Rooney's biological son Connor (Daniel Craig) can only watch with jealous eyes as his father takes Sullivan into confidence and relies on him like a son; Connor's jealousy soon finds an excuse to rear its foul face.

When Sullivan's eldest son

Michael Jr. (newcomer Tyler Hoechlin is excellent) gets curious as to where his dad goes late at night with his gun, he stows

away in the back seat of a car as his father drives with Connor to an abandoned warehouse to meet with someone. When this meeting turns into a violent bloodbath, Michael Jr. is faced with a reality that may be too much for him. He cowers in the street as his father and Connor loom over him discussing whether he can keep a secret. Connor is not convinced.

Without giving away any of the shocking surprises, I will say that Sullivan is forced to flee with Michael Jr.

He begins to plan a way take vengeance on those who betrayed him.

John Rooney knows exactly what and who he is dealing with and allows the Chicago mob to hire an assassin named Maguire (Jude Law) to track the two Sullivans and kill them before they can retaliate. Law plays Maguire with a sick perverseness

as he relishes in taking photos of his dying victims.

But this is not merely a revenge tale. It's so much deeper than that. The relationship

that develops between Michael Sr. and Michael Jr. is the pivotal factor. The relationship developed between Sullivan and John Rooney is one of a son who finally comes to grip with his father's sins. Even when John Rooney recognizes Sullivan as being "like a son," he still remains loyal to Connor, even with the knowledge that Connor is robbing him. It's nearly too complicated for words, but there's just something there between a father and son. Even with this knowledge, the film

doesn't pull any cheap manipulative shots, or even try to explain this simple fact. "He was my father," or "He's my son," is all the explanation that is necessary.

Director Sam Mendes, who hit a grand slam with "American Beauty" a few years ago teams back up with cinematographer Conrad L. Hall whose gorgeous work is nearly enough reason to see the movie. After seeing the film, my girlfriend said she could easily watch the film again without any audio. It's just that beautiful.

"Road to Perdition" is beautifully dark, emotionally jarring, violently engaging and accented perfectly with meaning. It's one of the best things you'll see this year.

EPPLER'S RATING: ★★★★★

★★★★★ - Flawless
★★★★ - Excellent
★★★ - Good
★★ - Mediocre
★ - Awful

Hanks continues to prove that he doesn't make bad movies anymore.

'Stuart Little 2' edges 'Perdition' in box office race

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A talking mouse and a vengeful mob hitman fought to a virtual tie for the No. 1 film during an unusually slow weekend at theaters.

"Stuart Little 2," the sequel about the lovable rodent with Michael J. Fox's voice, debuted with \$15.6 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That was a whisker ahead of "Road to Perdition." The Depression-era gangster tale starring Tom Hanks grossed \$15.57 million in its second weekend.

Rankings could change when final numbers are released Monday.

"We'll settle it tomorrow, Stuart against Tom Hanks," said Jeff Blake, head of distribution for Sony, which released "Stuart Little 2."

"Men in Black II," the No. 1 movie for two straight weekends, fell to third place with \$15 million, lifting its 19-day total to \$158.6 million.

The top 12 films grossed \$104.4 million for Friday through Sunday. That was down 23 percent from the same weekend last year and broke a string of six straight weekends of rising revenues.

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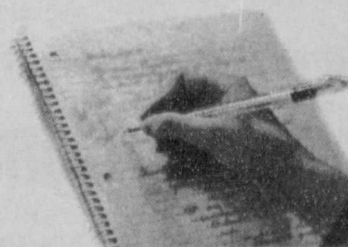
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Sharp, Perkins help lead Team USA to gold medal

■ America garners top prize after defeating Brazil 81-50 to finish 4-0.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Texas Tech coach Marsha Sharp and Lady Raider guard Jia Perkins are used to winning games sporting red and black uniforms in Lubbock. A change in colors and location did not stop the two from continuing their winning ways.

Wearing red, white and blue, Sharp and Perkins helped lead Team USA to the gold medal after defeating Brazil 81-50 in the inaugural Confederation of Pan American Basketball Associations (COPABA) World Championship For Young Women Qualifying Tournament on Sunday in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil.

Argentina won the bronze medal game with an 80-55 win against Puerto Rico.

Team USA, coached by Sharp, finished the tournament 4-0.

"The most important thing is that they won the gold medal. That was the goal from their first day together; they wanted to win it, and they wanted it to be a team effort," Sharp said in a written statement. "We got both of those things to happen on this trip. I've had a great time coaching them, and I hope they have had a great time playing. Maybe they can build on this experience, not only at their own universities, but in future opportunities to play for USA Basketball."

The team was comprised of college talent from throughout the country.

Perkins scored seven points, grabbed six rebounds, dished out three assists and added two steals in the gold medal victory.

Perkins was unavailable for comment.

Team USA opened the contest on an offensive slump and did not score a point until Perkins hit a jump shot with 9:23 left in the first half.

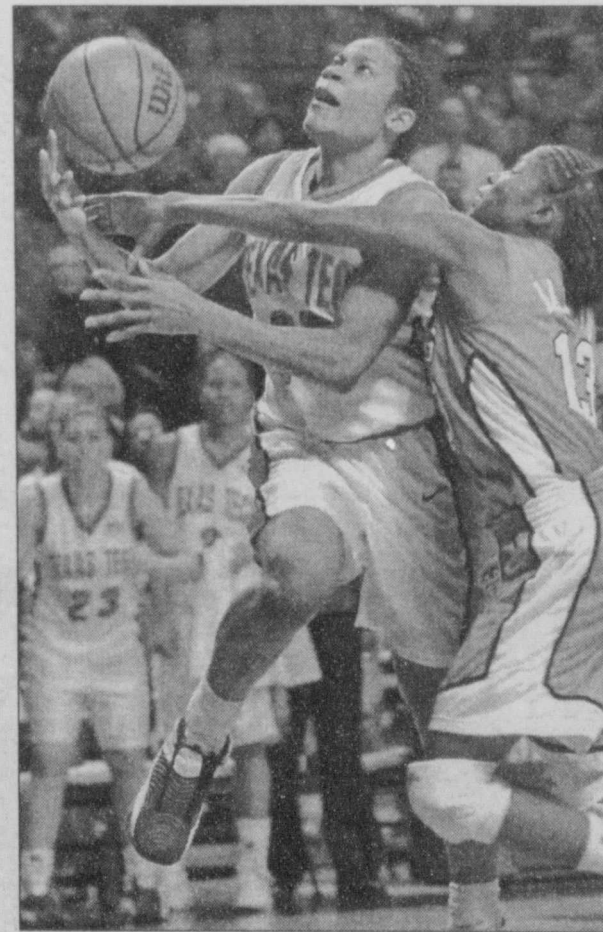
"I thought we started off a little bit tentative and maybe we were trying to be a little bit too careful," Sharp said in the statement. "But after they relaxed, cut loose and played, they played really well. It was a tough atmosphere."

USA would climb back into the game with the help of USC's Ebony Hoffman and Kansas State's Nocole Ohlde.

The two contributed a combined 29 points and 24 rebounds and helped fuel a late first half 12-2 run to keep USA up for good.

"I just made a few shots, got on a roll and we got a lead," Hoffman said in a written statement. "That helped to get everybody else on a roll. I was just trying to do as much as possible to help out."

As the top three nations in the COPABA tournament, USA, Brazil and Argentina qualified for the inaugural International Basketball Federation (FIBA) World Championship For Young Women, which is scheduled to be played in Dubrovnik, Croatia July 25 to Aug. 3, 2003.



Texas Tech guard Jia Perkins is fouled while going for a lay up during a game last season against Texas. Perkins and Lady Raider coach Marsha Sharp won gold medals on Sunday in Brazil. FILE PHOTO/The University Daily

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