

**TUESDAY**

October 17, 2000

Volume 76, Issue 36

Today:

High 74 Low 54

Tomorrow:

High 74  
Low 54

Partly  
**Cloudy**

**Stocks** Nasdaq S&P 500 Dow Jones  
price: 3290.28 1374.62 10,238.28  
change: -26.49 +0.45 +46.42  
Monday's closing figures

**STATE**

**Group ridicules state criminal procedures**

DALLAS (AP) — A group that assists death row inmates describes the Texas criminal defense process as riddled by prosecutorial misconduct, ineffective defense attorneys, racial discrimination in sentencing and a weak appellate process.

The Texas Defender Service, in an analysis of hundreds of death penalty cases, said that in many appeals, defense attorneys raised no new claims or failed to conduct investigations.

"We're drowning... in a sea of deficiencies in the death penalty process, and while we're drowning everyone's standing around going 'Everything's fine,'" said Maurie Levin, managing attorney for the service's Austin office.

Texas, the nation's busiest capital punishment state, has executed 232 people since 1982, when the state resumed carrying out death sentences. Over half the executions—145—have come under Gov. George W. Bush's more than 5 1/2 years in office.

The Republican presidential nominee, a strong death penalty advocate, has repeatedly rejected criticism of Texas' capital punishment, contending that no innocent person has been put to death in Texas since he took office.

**NATIONAL**

**College costs rising faster than inflation**

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of a college degree continues to rise faster than inflation, with tuition and fees at public four-year colleges up an average 4.4 percent and even more at private schools, the College Board reported Monday.

Its survey also found that loans provided a growing chunk of the extra money students need to pay for college degrees.

Average in-state tuition and fees at public four-year schools this fall is \$3,510 per year, \$148 more than last year, according to the survey. On-campus room and board now averages \$4,960, up 5.1 percent.

At private four-year colleges, tuition and fees average \$16,332, up 5.2 percent from last year. Room and board on campus is now \$6,209, a 4.2 percent increase.

Only public two-year schools, chiefly community colleges, stayed below the current inflation rate, but barely. Tuition rose this year to \$1,705, up 3.4 percent, the survey found.

Private two-year schools boosted tuition and fees to \$7,458, a 7 percent rise.

**WORLD**

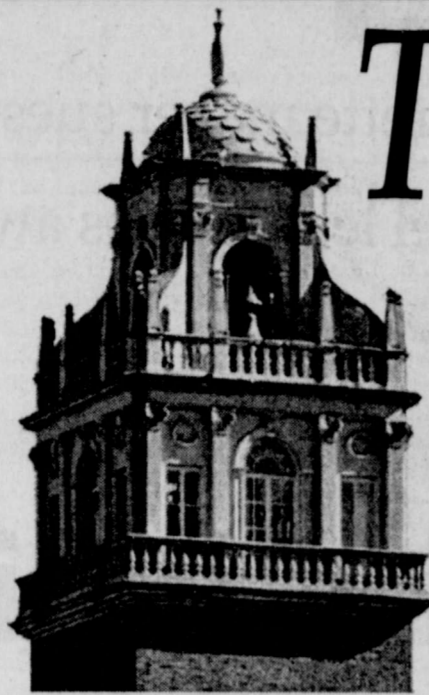
**Soldiers, militants die in separatist attack**

JAMMU, India (AP) — Separatists ambushed an army foot patrol in Kashmir, killing an officer and two soldiers, police said Monday.

Eight militants also were killed in two gun-battles in the disputed Himalayan region.

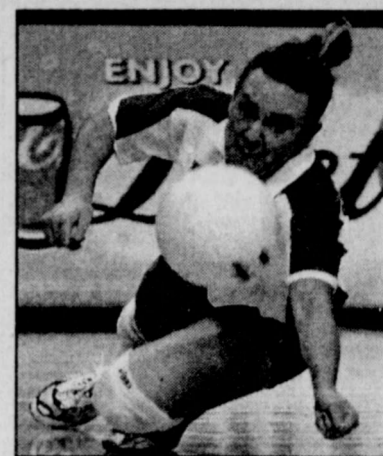
The Indian soldiers were on routine patrol duty in Dadwali in the Pir Panjal mountain range when they were attacked Sunday, police said. Dadwali is 145 miles north of Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital.

Elsewhere in Indian Kashmir, Indian troops killed five militants from the rebel group Jaish-e-Mohammad after raiding the huts where they were hiding, the army said. No soldiers were killed or injured, the army said.



# The University DAILY

INSIDE TODAY'S ISSUE



Volleyball players stick together...p.6

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## USS Cole disaster remains unsolved

ADEN, Yemen (AP) — Yemeni security forces on Monday interrogated dozens of port workers and others — including the head of the company that services U.S. warships — as divers struggled to retrieve more bodies from the mangled USS Cole wreckage where 17 Americans died last week.

The chief of the U.S. Central Command, Gen. Tommy Franks, toured the listing destroyer on Monday to offer support to the crew, exhausted after battling all weekend to keep their badly damaged ship from sinking. In the United States, 13 injured sailors were released from a Virginia hospital by Monday afternoon, and more were expected to follow.

But in Aden, the port city where apparent suicide bombers attacked the Cole on Thursday, the focus was on identifying those behind the blast.

Ahmed al-Mansoob, general manager of the Al-Mansoob Commercial Group that provides food, supplies and garbage

pickup to the U.S. warships, was released Monday after two days of questioning. The two crew members of the garbage barge assigned to the Cole were also brought in and later freed. Al-Mansoob would not speak to reporters.

But Abdullah Al-Khalaqi, marketing director for the Yemeni company, denied any connection to the attack last week that killed 17 American sailors. "No one here is an extremist," he said in an office filled with caps, mugs and notes of thanks from visiting U.S. ships.

"Most of our employees are relatives," said al-Khalaqi. "For others, we rely on word of mouth to see if someone is a good man."

Several people remained in a highly guarded camp on Aden's outskirts, but it was unclear whether they were considered suspects in the explosion that tore a 40-by-40-foot hole in the destroyer.

Yemen now considers the blast "a premeditated criminal act," according to SABA, the official Yemeni news agency, a reversal of an earlier position and a crucial boost to the investigation.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh's backing is vital for FBI agents and other U.S. terrorism experts to work closely with Yemeni authorities. Saleh met with Franks to review military cooperation and evidence gathered by Yemeni security forces, SABA said.

"The president expressed his deep regret and sorrow for this criminal act against our country and against the United States of America," the agency added.

There has been no credible claim of responsibility for the deadliest terrorist attack on the U.S. military since the 1996 bombing of an Air Force barracks in Saudi Arabia that killed 19.

## Tech head named in Junction

**Schmidly reveals Hickerson as new leader of other Raider campus.**

By Angel Wolfe  
Staff Writer

The Texas Tech Junction campus will soon come under new leadership, as President David Schmidly appointed Robert Hickerson as chief operating officer and campus dean.

Hickerson, a retired colonel in the U.S. Marine corps, will begin his duties Nov. 1, after resigning from his post as director of the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service.

A group of six committee members, including five Tech vice presidents, accepted and reviewed applications after Schmidly announced his plans for assigning the position in August.

"He was overwhelmingly the best candidate," Schmidly said. "We interviewed him, and he's accepted."

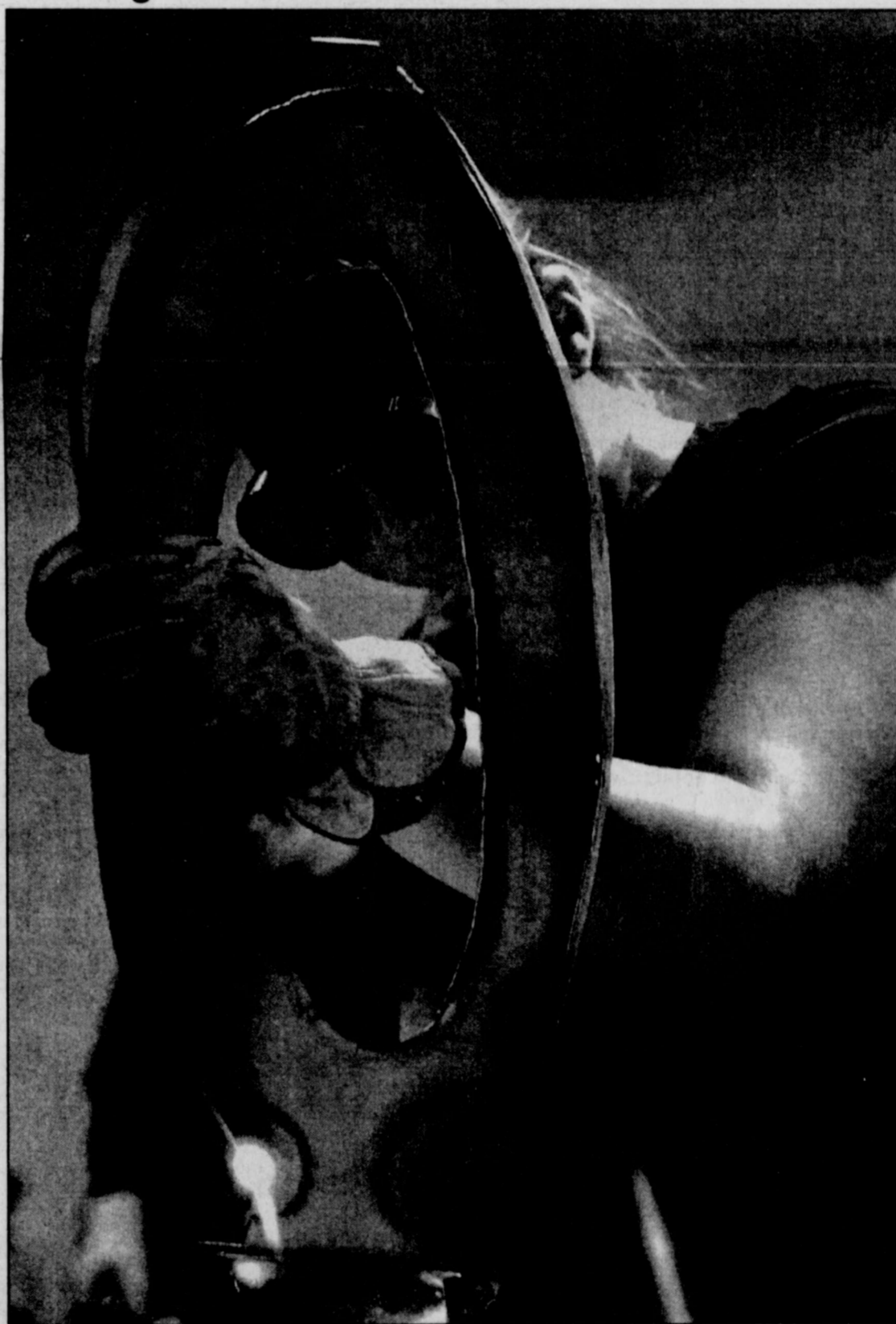
Schmidly said he has worked with Hickerson and knows what he can bring to the Tech community.

"We are completely overjoyed to have him," he said. "I've worked with him before and know how capable he is."

Hickerson became executive director of the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service in 1998. Before that, he was executive director of the Seaborne Conservation Corps at Texas A&M University at Galveston. He also served as interim director of development on the Galveston campus. While working as chief operating officer for the Marine Reserves, overseeing 13,000 employees across 44 states, he also served as commanding officer for a marine aircraft group of 3,500 Marines and

see **HICKERSON**, page 2

## Working woman's world



Dana Williams, a senior architecture major from Amarillo welds pieces of her sculpture together Monday afternoon in the Texas Tech Art building.

JOE MAVS/The University Daily

## Transfers yield SPC teachers

**A four-year plan could prove helpful for math and English professors.**

By Pam Smith  
Staff Writer

A new proposal issued by Texas Tech officials could bring more professors from South Plains College to the Tech campus.

Vice President of Enrollment Michael Heintze said in the next four years, the university would like to transfer the teaching of developmental education classes in the math and English departments to South Plains College professors, freeing up Tech professors and graduate students to concentrate on teaching upper level courses.

"The benefit of this proposal would be that it would allow us to redirect graduate teaching resources to other courses," Heintze said. "It will also free up some of the faculty to work with upper level courses."

Under the proposal, 25 percent of the developmental education classes will be converted to SPC classes each year until all the class transfers are complete. Each class will be labeled as a SPC course and students will be able to register for the courses using the TechSIS system. If the plan is approved by President David Schmidly and the Board of Regents, a pilot plan will be implemented this spring.

"We are trying to make this a seamless process," Heintze said. "These classes would be taught on campus, and they will be able to register for the classes on the Tech Web site."

Heintze said the professors will be paid by SPC, but the university had not worked out the details concerning the allocation of course fees.

see **SPC**, page 3

## Bush accused of misleading public on health care

AUSTIN (AP) — Three Texas Democratic legislators say Gov. George W. Bush misled the public by saying the state spends \$4.7 billion a year on health care for the uninsured when three-fourths of that money comes from other sources, including charities and local government.

The lawmakers sent a letter to Vice President Al Gore's campaign outlining what they say are exaggerations Bush made in last week's presidential debate.

The letter was released Monday

during a Gore campaign stop in St. Louis.

The Bush campaign said the governor did not mean to imply that the entire \$4.7 billion was state money. The figure represents an example of how public and private partnerships can work, said spokesman Dan Bartlett.

But the Texas Democrats disagreed, citing a 1999 report by Republican Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander to the state Legislature they said bolsters their point.

According to that report, \$3.5 billion of the \$4.7 billion the state spent

on health care for the uninsured was "funded by local governments, private providers, and charities; \$989 million funded by state agencies and \$198 million in aid received by the federal government."

Texas ranked next-to-last in the nation last year with 23.3 percent of its residents uninsured, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That was improvement from 1998 when it ranked 50th at 24.5 percent.

During the debate, when answering Gore's criticism about the high number of uninsured in Texas, Bush

said, "If he's trying to allege that I'm a hardhearted person and I don't care about children, he's absolutely wrong. We spend \$4.7 billion a year in the state of Texas for uninsured people, and they get health care."

State Rep. Elliott Naishtat, a Democrat from Austin and chairman of the House Human Services Committee, said Bush was incorrect. "His statements were carefully crafted so that the listeners would infer that the state is spending this amount on the uninsured and he did so in the context about how compassionate

he claims to be. The governor's statements, to be charitable, were grossly misleading," Naishtat said.

Naishtat, Reps. Garnet Coleman of Houston and Glen Maxey of Austin, a Democratic Party employee, signed the letter.

Bush campaign spokesman Ray Sullivan said the lawmakers "are the most activist liberals in the Texas Legislature."

Rylander and the Bush campaign used the opportunity to push Bush's call for less government and more public-private partnerships.



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**Breaking News**

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TechNotes! is a service provided to Texas Tech students by the Student Government Association. To have your student organization event listed, please call 742-3631.

**Corrections**

Call: (806) 742-3393  
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**Publishing information**

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## Area experiencing critical low in blood

Universal donor supply remains bleak at United Blood Services, South Plains' hospitals

By Mara McCoy  
Staff Writer

The Lubbock area is facing a severe shortage of type O-negative blood. Several traumas and open-heart surgeries during the weekend exhausted United Blood Services' supply and many hospitals have completely run out.

Type O-negative is commonly referred to as the universal donor blood type. It can be given to anyone, while the other seven types (O-positive, A-positive, A-negative, B-positive, B-negative, AB-positive and AB-negative) cannot.

Type O-negative is used in cases where there is not enough time to do a cross and match to find out the recipient's blood type, such as traumas, in neonatal cases and instances where the recipient is type O-negative.

University Medical Center has the largest supply of O-negative left in Lubbock County. UMC usually has at least 12 units of O-negative available. As of Monday afternoon, eight units remained.

Covenant has two units of O-negative left, and the rest of the area hospitals have none.

Dan Maynes, assistant supervisor

for the transfusion service department at UMC, attributed the shortage to a lack of knowledge about giving blood.

"The baby boomers grew up donating blood, but today's kids didn't grow up in that sort of environment, so they don't know to donate," Maynes said.

"Plus, with this piercing trend, it cuts down on the number of donors."

Maynes said UMC tries to keep eight units of O-negative for trauma and at least four available for neonatal department.

"We really hope we get some more," Maynes said.

Mazen Shehadeh, a medical technician for Highland Medical Center, said they do not have any units of O-negative left.

"We have been without O-negative

*"The baby boomers grew up donating blood, but today's kids didn't grow up in that sort of environment, so they don't know to donate. Plus, with this piercing trend, it cuts down on the number of donors."*

Dan Maynes

UMC ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR FOR TRANSFUSION SERVICE DEPARTMENT

for about five days," Shehadeh said. "But it isn't really a problem for us, since we don't use that many units of blood a month."

Glen Timmons, a blood bank technician for Covenant, said the hospital only has two or three units of O-negative left.

"We had a few left in reserve, but as for the regular blood supply, we are out," Timmons said.

"We usually try to keep anywhere from 10 to 12 units on hand, besides what we keep in reserve."

on reserve, we could get in a tight spot," he said, "like we are right now with O-negative."

United Blood Services received a small shipment late Monday night, said Adam Zuniga, hospital service representative for United Blood Services. The shipment contained seven units of O-negative blood.

"It was a really small shipment. Usually, we get more than that," he said.

Zuniga said the units were immediately given to local hospitals.

"We gave them to the Covenant Sys-

tem," he said. "We still have a backlog of orders, though."

United Blood Services is expecting another small shipment today.

"We can't find O-negative anywhere," he said. "We can only get small shipments of six or seven units."

"We really need people to donate blood."

To donate blood, a person must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health, not be on any medications and have valid identification.

If a person has received a tattoo, piercing or blood transfusion within the past year, they must wait one year before becoming eligible to donate again.

United Blood Services will conduct blood drives at their main office, located at 2523 48th St., and at City Hall from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. today. All blood types are welcome, although those with type O-negative are especially needed.

For more information on the blood drives, call 797-6804. For more information on donation, visit the United Blood Services' Web site at [www.unitedbloodservices.org](http://www.unitedbloodservices.org).

**HICKERSON**

from page 1

He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California at Berkeley. He has a master's degree in systems management from the University of Southern California and a second master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College.

He currently works as an adjunct professor of business at St. Edward's University in Austin.

Besides bringing new leadership and a fresh perspective to the Junction campus, Schmidly said,

Hickerson will be instrumental in opening a Tech campus in Fredricksburg in the near future.

"That is the fastest growing area in Texas not served by a higher education institution," Schmidly said. "He'll (Hickerson) be guiding our efforts not only on the Junction campus but also in expanding to Fredricksburg."

Planning for the Fredricksburg campus has already begun, Schmidly said. How fast the campus becomes a reality depends on if Tech receives appropriations from the Legislature during the upcoming session. The session convenes in January, and Tech will not know until May if it will receive the appropriations.

## Millions to be spent eradicating bovine TB in Michigan, Texas

**The funding will represent the first payment in a multi-year effort to terminate the illness.**

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — The federal government will spend \$44 million in emergency funds over the next year to fight bovine tuberculosis, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said Monday.

The funding is an initial payment in a multi-year effort to stamp out the illness, Glickman said.

Most will be spent in Michigan and Texas, the only states presently lacking Agriculture Department designation as free of bovine TB.

"The spread of the disease in this country could compromise international and domestic trade of U.S. animals and animal products," Glickman said. The result could be losses for farmers and higher prices for consumers, he said in a statement. He said the USDA would expand

its bovine TB eradication program by:

- Looking for cases of the disease in wildlife populations and zoos.

- Improving the government's capability of diagnosing the disease.

- Making indemnity payments to farmers when infected and high-risk herds must be destroyed.

- Establishing identification requirements for animals imported into the United States for feeding and slaughter.

Bob Bender, who directs Michigan's bovine TB program, said it would take a couple of weeks to sort out how much of the federal money would come to Michigan.

He estimated that \$7 million to \$8 million would go toward stationing about 40 USDA veterinarians, technicians and support personnel in the state.

They will help with the testing of all 1 million cows in Michigan for the presence of the chronic lung disease, Bender said. About 200,000 have been tested thus far.

"It's a massive job, so getting 40 new people to help... will be a godsend," he said. "It's significant that the Fed's are recognizing the problem and making

a commitment to the eradication program."

The biggest chunk of the federal money — about \$25 million — will buy out Texas dairy farmers in an area along the Mexican border where bovine TB is a recurring problem, Bender said.

Bovine TB primarily affects cattle, bison and horned animals such as deer and elk. It has been discovered on 10 Michigan farms since 1998, all in the northwestern Lower Peninsula.

Nearly 300 deer also have been confirmed TB-positive. State officials believe deer pass the deer to cattle, possibly when mingling with them at feed piles.

The state of Michigan has poured about \$83 million into the eradication campaign, Bender said. That includes \$45 million for a diagnostic lab at Michigan State University. The federal government chipped in \$6 million earlier this year.

Officials recently completed testing of dairy herds within the 11-county area of northeastern Michigan where all the infected cows have been found. They were facing an Oct. 20 deadline to complete the testing to avoid interruptions in milk shipments.

### TechNotes!

**The Pre-Optometry Professional Society** will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in 25 Chemistry building. For more information, contact Amanda LeMay at 748-6902.

**Gamma Phi Omega** members are selling tickets for a charity drawing. Tickets will be sold from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday in the University Center. The drawing will be Oct. 23.

**The Society of Physics Students** will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in 103 Science building. For more information, call 790-6531.

To have your event listed in TechNotes!, call the Student Government Association at 742-3631 or e-mail UD@ttu.edu.

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49 LA VENTANA

**TEACH**  
from page 1

"The details are still being worked out as to whether the course fees will be paid to Tech or SPC," he said. "But the cost of the class will not be any higher than what they are paying now."

Provost John Burns said this proposal will create a good support system for upper level undergraduate courses at Tech. He said the reason for the transition is to eventually enable Tech to stop teaching these classes.

"We don't want to be in the developmental education business," Burns said. "We want to let South Plains handle that."

By allowing SPC professors to teach the developmental classes, Heintze said this will free up Tech professors and teaching assistants to aid students in upper level courses. It would also create time for the faculty to promote and recruit more graduate students to campus.

"I think what it does will give some faculty time to become more

engaged in the recruitment and mentoring of the graduate students," he said. "It will also aid in promoting graduate programs."

Lawrence Schovanec, chairman of the math department, said the proposal would allow the math department to create new sections of Math 1320 and 1330, geared toward helping borderline students who usually would have to enroll in Math 0301, a class that students do not receive credit for. Students eligible for the classes will be determined by the Math Placement Exam.

Under this proposal, a Math 1420 and Math 1430 would be created, which would be a four-hour course incorporating curriculum from both Math 1320 and remedial mathematics.

Students enrolled in the class would be instructed by a Tech faculty member three days a week and by graduate students twice a week during "problem-solving" sessions, geared toward giving these students the extra assistance that they need. Schovanec said students would receive college credit for the course,

thus allowing those students enrolled in developmental courses to save a lot of time and money

"Instead of using the time and money taking 0302, students can enroll in one of these classes and get the same instruction in one semester."

Schovanec said the plan would not cause the graduate students who currently teach Math 0301 and Math 0302 to lose their positions. He said these graduate students would be used for several other purposes, including teaching "problem-solving" sessions for other math courses.

He said that by shifting the graduate students to other departmental areas, the quality of education in the math department could be improved.

"If we retain the graduate positions, the quality of undergraduate education will improve because the faculty members will have the help of the graduate students," he said.

Heintze said currently 1,285 students are enrolled in the developmental education program. He said if Schmidly approves the proposal, it will be submitted to the Board of Regents in November.

## Company sues state over new law banning Internet sale of cigarettes

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's third largest cigarette maker is suing the state of New York over a new law banning the sale of cigarettes over the Internet.

In a lawsuit filed last week in federal court, Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. alleges the law interferes with interstate commerce, and accuses the state of engaging in "impermissible economic protectionism at its most flagrant."

The law — which also prohibits mail-order and telephone sales of cigarettes — was passed earlier this

year and is scheduled to go into effect next month. Legislators argued that Internet sales would make it easier for children to get cigarettes and for smokers to dodge the sales tax.

"This law is an important public health measure that will help save lives by preventing young people from obtaining cigarettes illegally," Joseph Conway, a spokesman for Gov. George Pataki, said Monday. "We're confident that the law is constitutional and that the lawsuit will be unsuccessful."

Brown & Williamson attorney David Remes said the case is the first

of its kind in the country and has implications beyond tobacco.

"If all 50 states try to dictate their own rules for e-commerce, it will be difficult for e-commerce to flourish," Remes said.

Brown & Williamson, the maker of Kool and Lucky Strike cigarettes, is forming a subsidiary to sell less popular brands like Tareyton and Carlton over the Internet. The Louisville, Ky., company said it will use rigorous procedures to prevent sales to minors and will collect all taxes.

## Drug kingpin avoids capture

EL PASO (AP) — Mexican authorities followed alleged drug kingpin Vicente Carrillo Fuentes in 1998 but made no attempt to arrest him, according to a report from Mexico's federal attorney general.

The report said federal authorities in Mexico City received a tip in March 1998 that several people allegedly involved in drug trafficking were going to meet in a Ciudad Juarez parking lot.

Mexican federal authorities followed three cars to a home in an upscale Juarez subdivision and, according to the report, one of the

people observed at the home matched the description of Carrillo Fuentes.

"They should have arrested him. It was the perfect time to do it," El Paso County Chief Deputy Sheriff Jimmy Apodaca told the *El Paso Times* in Monday's editions. "If it had happened here, we can assure you we would have arrested him."

U.S. federal anti-drug agencies have reported that Carrillo Fuentes is known to have traveled unimpeded to the El Paso-Juarez area before. However, this was the first

time an official report from Mexico confirmed his activities in Juarez, across the border from El Paso.

"The report reflects a surveillance operation that was carried out based on the tip the agents received," said a spokesman for the Mexican government. "The tip did not indicate that Vicente Carrillo Fuentes would be there. Because the operation was a minor one, the agents could not try to arrest him without endangering their lives."

Last month, U.S. authorities indicted Carrillo Fuentes on drug-trafficking and murder charges.

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October 17, 2000

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# Opinions & Ideas

The University Daily

The University Daily

Serving Texas Tech since 1925

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## Your View

### What do you think should be the U.S. reaction to the bombing of the USS Cole naval ship?



**Tommy Elgowly**  
a junior business marketing major from Houston

"It's messed up that they bombed our ship, but they shouldn't do anything about it. It is just going to start another war. I do feel bad for the people who died."



**Rachel McCain**  
a senior fashion design major from Stockdale

"We need to send a message that the U.S. is not going to stand by and let our military forces be attacked, especially in such a cowardly manner. They really need to take actions against terrorists."



**Amy McGary**  
a sophomore psychology major from Austin

"We just need to be peaceful and calm right now. We can't stoop to their level. We need to investigate it and find who did it and then deal with that."



**Albert Serrano**  
a senior advertising major from Vernon

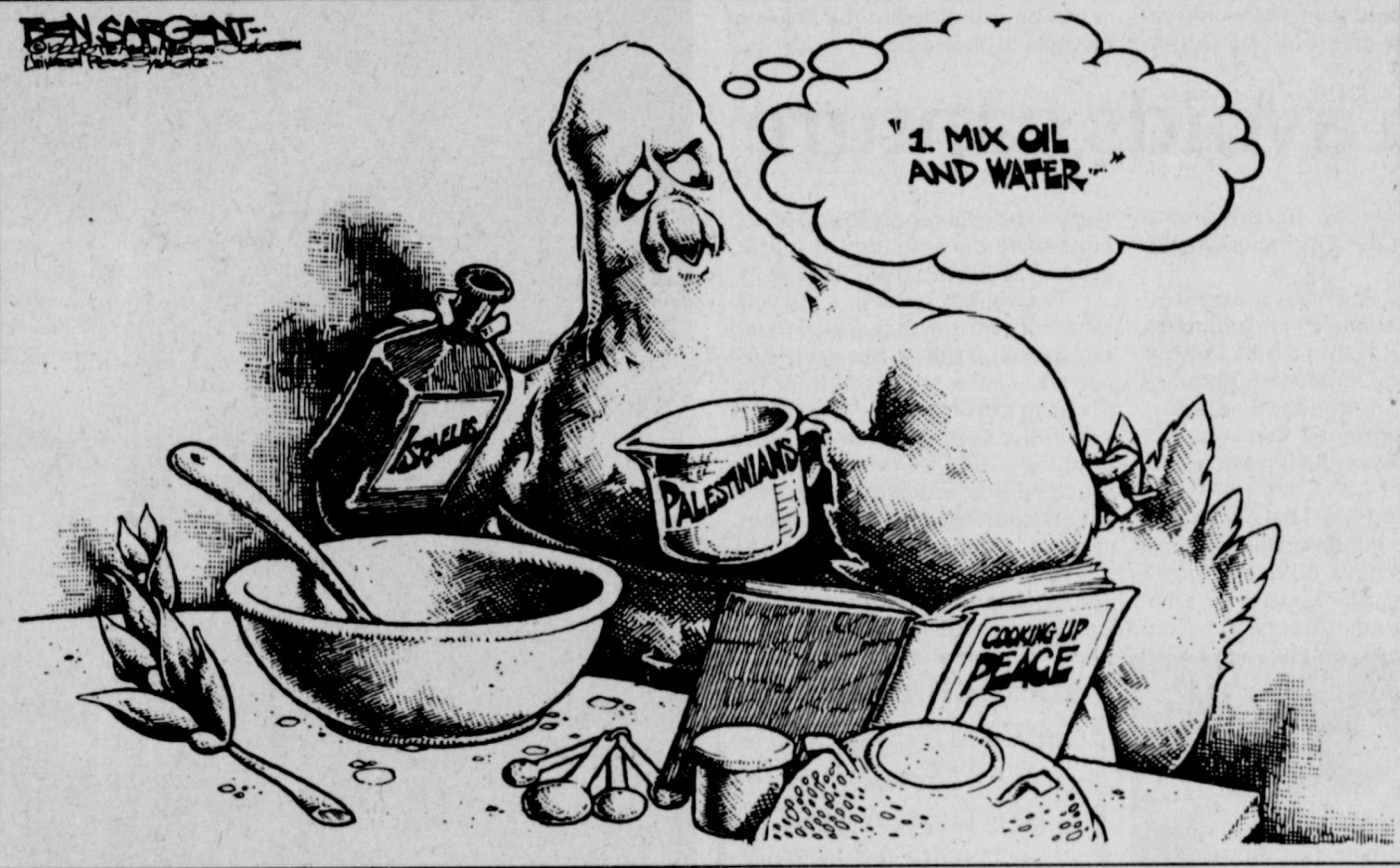
"It really seems like an attack on us. I don't think we should retaliate by force, but we should find out who did it and not assume and then figure out what to do from there."



**Duncan Woods**  
a sophomore undecided major from San Antonio

"We need to find out who did it. Right now we need to do a serious investigation, find who did it and then prosecute them with the maximum charges."

compiled by Kristina Thomas



## Column

# Tragedy evokes patriotism

I want to go ahead and apologize to those of you who pick up my column every Tuesday to read about my apparent carefree and immature perspective on the world around us. I've always lived by the philosophy that life is just way too serious to take it seriously, but every now and then there are just some things that need to be addressed. Now, I haven't written anything of any considerable literary value since I was in the eighth grade, but if you'll allow me to, this week I want to change things up a bit and address an issue I feel is truly worthy of your attention.



**Kenneth Strickland**

As many of you are aware, last Thursday, an attack on the USS Cole, a Navy destroyer refueling in the Yemen port town of Aden, left 17 U.S. sailors dead and another 39 injured. It's really a stretch to say that anything positive could come from such a horrific and cowardly assault on the lives of these brave men and women, but it's events such as this that allow us to place our freedom into perspective.

Now I swore to myself when I started writing for The University Daily last year, that I wouldn't use my small amount of space every Tuesday to complain to you about everything that gets under my skin. Though the opinions page of this publication often finds itself a gripe session between students with distinct ideological viewpoints, I've always tried to stay away from that. So true to my own form, I'm not going to ask each of you to pay homage to those brave young men and women who sacrifice their lives each and every day so you don't have to. No, I'm not asking you to remember them, or suggesting that you honor them in your own way, or that you ask God to look over

them. Nope, today I'm telling you. That's right, though this column has been printed on the opinions page of this newspaper, this has nothing to do with my opinion. You see, the funny thing about our past is that it's based on objective reality — the truth, and the truth is that last Thursday, 17 men and women sacrificed their most precious entity so you and I could go to class today.

Some of you may feel that I'm biased, that maybe I've had a friend or loved one who has passed away under similar circumstances. Well, you're wrong. Throughout the course of my life I've been fortunate enough to have never experienced what 17 families are currently going through. I've been lucky in that I've never been exposed to the mental anguish that 17 sets of friends are currently addressing within themselves. But to show respect to those who are following this path of mourning and sadness, I don't have to. All I have to do is think of four-year-old Isabella Owens and the eight other children who were orphaned last Thursday. Or, if I'd like, I can try, in vain, to contemplate what could possibly be going through the minds of Laurie Triplett and the five other women who were widowed Thursday.

It has been my experience in the few years I've studied politics that people generally don't like the government and people of authority. We trample over the graves of police officers who've fallen in the line of duty and then justify it by pointing out that one or two of their colleagues made erroneous decisions at some point in their careers. We burn the American flag, and along with it the honor of men and women who died in ways we couldn't possibly imagine defending the very object of that flag, and call ourselves righteous because we were at some point wronged by the institution they represented. Maybe now would be a good place in my column to point out the irony in all of this. It almost defies logic to think that we can somehow defile the names of those who gave us the right to do so. It's

the most blatant and malicious form of biting the hand that feeds you that I could possibly imagine.

I'm not saying that authority shouldn't be questioned. You see, these 17 men and women, along with the hundreds of thousands more who have also given their lives for the sake of preserving our system of government, did so to allow us the right to question our very own democracy. And the truth, since that is what we as humans continually strive to understand, is that without the sacrifice of human life, we wouldn't have a Texas Tech to attend, we wouldn't have a campus newspaper to exchange ideas and opinions, and we sure as hell wouldn't have the First Amendment that allows people, such as myself, to voice those opinions.

I'm not going to sit here and throw cliché after cliché at you. You may disagree with everything I say this year, and that's OK. But there is no disagreeing that last Thursday, 17 lives were cut short to prolong ours. You may have issues with the presence of U.S. forces being spread across the world and you may believe that they should have never been there in the first place, but that still doesn't take away from the fact that 17 sets of goals, hopes and aspirations will never be fulfilled. They will never be fulfilled because the owner's of those ideals swore an oath to defend with their very lives your right to those exact same ideals.

A great quote I once read by an anonymous author goes as follows: "True success in life comes from knowing that others breathe a little easier because you were here." So today, I suggest that you take a brief moment to think about the sacrifices that were made so you could breathe a little easier. And to those of you who, in whatever form, put your life on the line to defend mine, I say, thank you.

*Kenneth Strickland is a sophomore political science major from Mesquite.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Dunked

To the editor: Allow me to applaud The University Daily's decision to print LeRoy Duncan's letter to the editor concerning J.T. Leeson's recent article (UD, OCT. 16), for Duncan's words provide all of the evidence necessary to expose the egregious errors of his thinking.

I couldn't possibly discredit Duncan any more efficiently than he discredits himself by resorting to random, ridiculous invective and paranoid ramblings.

Granted, there are commonly held beliefs on this campus, and on many others, a fact that should be attributed to the higher thinking that normally accompanies enrollment in an institution of higher learning, rather than blamed on a vicious, covert scheme on the part of Marxist theorists to promote horrible ideals like tolerance and understanding.

Duncan obviously does not possess any of these "Marxist" ideals, preferring instead to label those who have suffered injustice and prejudice as "whining, sniveling, self-appointed victims" who should "go straight to hell."

I'm afraid that Duncan fails to recognize that calling attention to the

atrocities of the past is not "sniveling," it is merely the first step in the struggle to eliminate future injustices.

Perhaps such aspirations are "liberal" or "socialist" or "communist" in his mind, but, to the vast majority of the human population, aspiring to prevent cruelty and promote justice would be considered something beneficial.

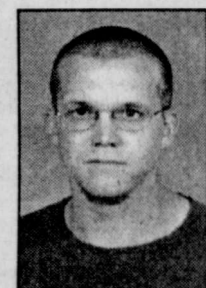
Being a nice person does not equate to being a Marxist, but if it did, I would prefer the world to be peopled with Marxists than with uninformed, accusatory letter-writers like Duncan.

*Melissa Rouse is a sophomore English*

# Gun laws need to be conservative

It is time to illuminate my Republican roots by bringing up my views on gun control. The issue has been moved to a secondary status by both Bush and Gore because of its hypersensitivity. Politicians cannot push for their true beliefs during campaign season because most Americans believe in moderate gun laws rather than extremes.

Gore, at one point, wanted to register all firearms that would eventually, as we all know, lead to government confiscation of all firearms. He has relaxed his belief because polls show that people like their guns.



**Joseph Colley**

Bush has also eased up on his pro-Second Amendment beliefs because it is not popular, especially at the federal level, to promote the conservative pro-gun extreme, concealed carry permits.

I could take several different approaches in arguing against the need for more gun laws. I could use

quotes by Thomas Jefferson, or I could argue from the standpoint of the Second Amendment. Instead, I'll argue on the practical themes of the gun control debate: gun registration, licensing of handgun buyers and concealed carry laws.

Registration and licensing seem harmless and even benevolent on the surface, but who is going to suffer the most when the laws are put into action? Yes, the law-abiding citizens will suffer, but the people who will get screwed the worst are the law-abiding indigent people. What do poorer people have to do with registration and licensing? Don't even begin to think that these services will be free, especially licensing for handgun purchases.

The Democrats want as much money flowing into the government as they can get — that's no secret. But the bigger problem here is that the anti-gunners know that the more it costs to purchase guns, the lower gun sales will be, and all politicians love to fondle their statistics. Of course, their statistics will not show that the middle and upper classes are still able to buy firearms when the lower class cannot. It is rather ironic that Democrats claim to stand up for the lower class, yet they would be discouraging people of indigent status from buying guns while still making them readily available to citizens with more money.

Democrats don't intentionally screw their own constituents; I just think they have tainted logic on this issue. There is more logic behind the idea that all guns should be banned.

I have more respect for this extreme view, and I would probably support it if I thought it was practical, but it's not, so I don't. If there is one right that we all have, it is the right to our own lives, and this is why I do support the more conservative stance on gun control.

Concealed carry permits are not issued so people can feel cool wearing shoulder holsters with loaded Colt .45s under their arms. The permits are issued to promote peace of mind and security, but, unfortunately, these permits are examples of laws that are already in effect that give people with more money more privileges.

Self-defense is a right, but Texas and other states that allowed concealed carry permits sell them to people as a privilege. I can understand why some of you are against concealed carry laws. I don't want to go back to the days of cowboy shootouts and duels, either, but the truth is that if it were to ever come down to your life or the life of an assailant, you would want to be able to protect yourself by whatever means necessary.

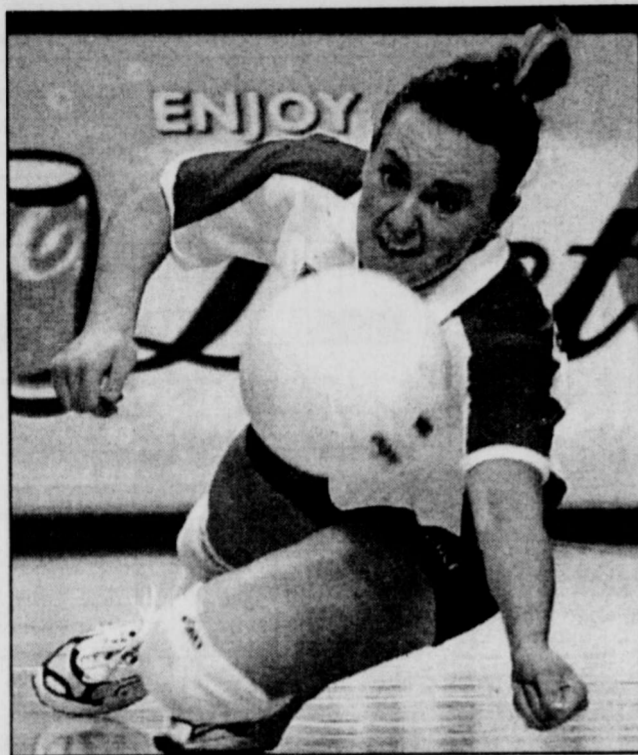
I am not implying that there is true justice behind using deadly force in self-defense; maybe there isn't, but it's better to be alive and immoral than dead and moral.

*Joseph Colley is a senior English and philosophy major from Mount Pleasant.*



# Orzen and Smith: teammates, roommates

Tech setter Skydra Orzen is the shortest player on the Tech volleyball squad, standing at 5-feet 5-inches tall. She has been roommates with teammate Colleen Smith since 1999.



By Matt Muench  
Staff Writer

They have been compared to the movie, "Twins." But, when you look at the bigger picture, Texas Tech junior volleyball player Skydra Orzen said she is definitely not Danny DeVito and senior Colleen Smith added she was nothing like an Arnold Swarzeneger.

Those actors can't play volleyball. Orzen and Smith can.

The reason the two are compared to the late 1980s film is because Orzen, the shortest player on the

team, stands at 5-feet 5-inches tall, while Smith, the tallest on the squad, stands at 6-feet 7-inches tall. Oh yeah, and they are roommates. When they walk side by side, people stare but mostly at the tall Smith.

"They compare us to that 'Twins' movie, but we don't take it personally," Smith said. "We just kind of laugh."

The two met in high school when they both played on the same club team over the summer. Orzen and Smith are both from Albuquerque, N.M., but played at different high schools. Both went their separate

ways after high school graduation.

Orzen opted for Tech while Smith traveled a little further to Washington State following her high school career. After a year at Washington State, Smith decided she would transfer to play for Tech coach Jeff Nelson's program. So in August 1999, Orzen and Smith were reunited and became roommates.

"I talked to her about Tech when she was considering transferring here," Orzen said. "Then we decided to be roommates."

The pair lives off campus in an apartment and both agree that having each other as roommates is perfect. The reason they think they get along so well is because they said they have the same personality traits and they always make each other laugh.

"We can be stuck in a 5-foot room and amuse each other for hours," Smith said. "And that's no joke. We are just goofy and crazy like that."

Most of the laughter is about inside jokes the two possess. Smith said Orzen will do nerdy things to make her laugh. On occasion, Smith said, Orzen says things like, "If I do this, would you still be my friend?"

At home, the two share cooking duties with Orzen cooking breakfast and Smith handling dinner.

"She makes good pancakes," Smith said.

Orzen quickly responded by saying, "She makes good rigatoni."

When asked who the messiest is, Smith quickly replied saying Sky is the messiest but Orzen replied by saying Smith is the loudest.

"She doesn't do dishes," Smith

said. "But I can deal with it."

Smith said they are both crazy and they usually stay up late and go to bed at the same time.

"We are crazy, but at different times," Smith said. "I usually study more, but we usually just cram and stay up late together."

The pair considers themselves best friends, and said their relationship off the court helps when they are on the court.

With Orzen the setter and Smith the outside hitter, the two are constantly working together on the court.

"We know each other really well and we are really comfortable with each other," Orzen said. "We can pretty much tell each other anything and not take it personally. That helps when we are playing volleyball."

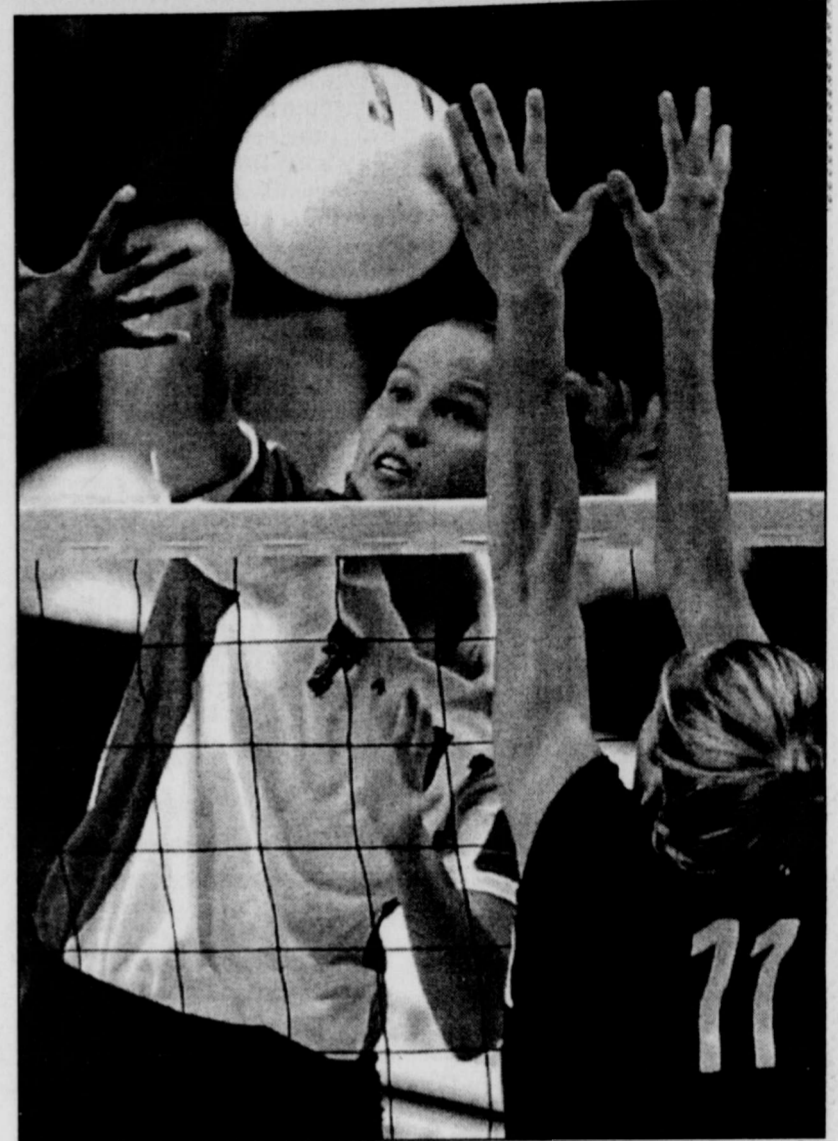
Overall, the two said they would never want to change roommates.

"She is just very entertaining and always makes me laugh," Orzen said. "She is just all around a good roommate, and there is nothing about her living habits that I can't deal with."

Smith said Orzen is too much fun.

"(Orzen) has a crazy, fun attitude and there is never a dull moment," Smith said. "Even if the electricity is out and TV doesn't work, it wouldn't matter because she is very entertaining."

The pair next will be on the court, Wednesday in Ames, Iowa against the Iowa State Cyclones. The two will go through their regular routine by playing their game and then go home together to make each other laugh next to a plate of rigatoni and pancakes.



Jaime Tomas Aguilar/The University Daily

Tech outside hitter Colleen Smith is the tallest player on the Red Raider volleyball squad, standing 6-feet 7-inches tall.

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