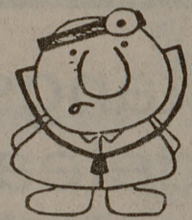


### Premedical/Pre dental Society Meeting

Tues., April 12 8 p.m. 203 Hecc



David H. Rosen, M.D. speaking on "Medicine as a Human Experience"

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*D.O.A. R	7:30
THE FOX AND THE HOUND α	7:30
18 Again	7:30
STAND & DELIVER PG	7:30

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FATAL ATTRACTION R	7:15
SHE'S HAVING A BABY R	7:15
MASQUERADE R	7:15



### Society of Manufacturing Engineers Meeting

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. John Mayer  
 International President of SME  
 Program Director for Manufacturing Processes at The National Science Foundation

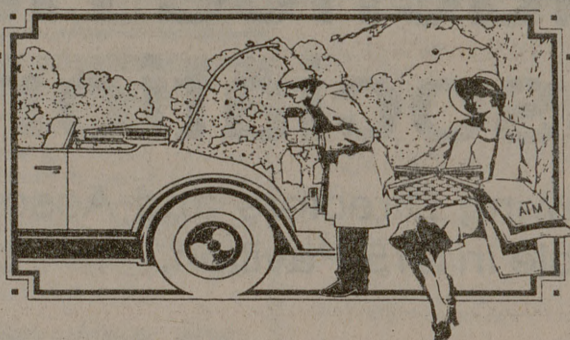
**Topic:** Competitiveness Through Advanced Technology

**Date:** Monday April 11, 1988  
 MSC Room 201

**Dinner:** 6:30 P.M.

**Program:** 7:30 P.M. (No Charge)

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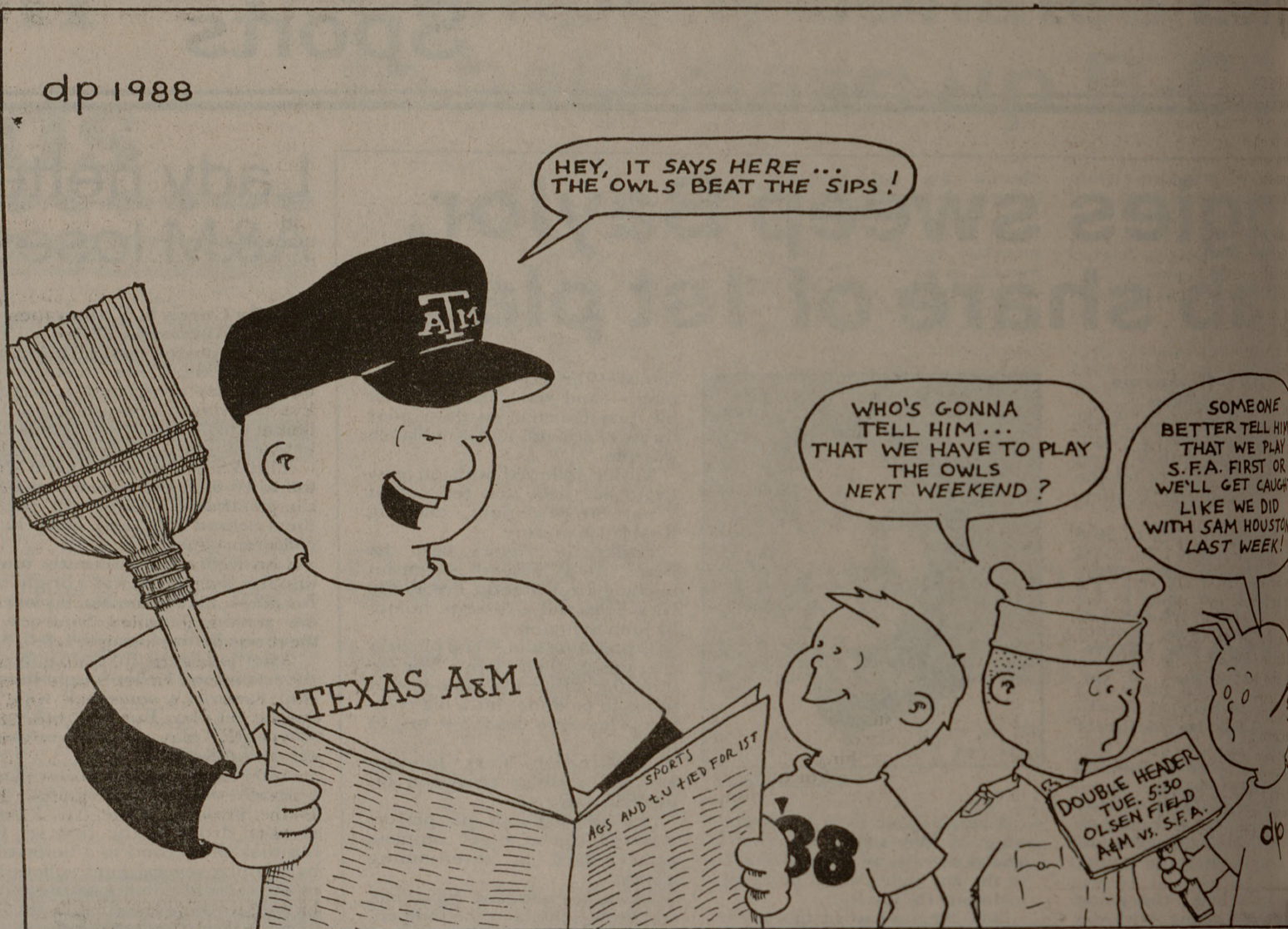
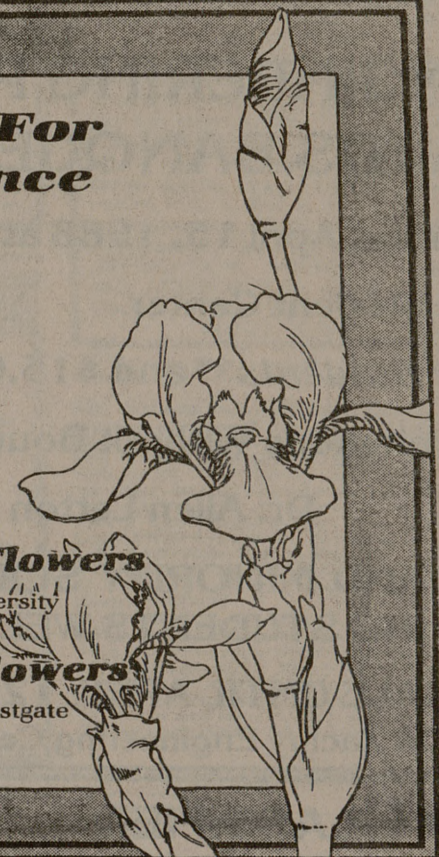
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## 'Little' guys find limelight in NBA

As the NBA playoffs approach, it is becoming more and more obvious how much the game has changed over the past 10 or 20 years. From the dominance of guards like Oscar Robertson and Jerry West to the days of super-centers Wilt Chamberlain and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the burden of the offense has drifted from position to position on a relatively constant basis.



Hal L. Hammons

But because of the slow, unnoticeable nature of such changes, it takes a while to realize that one of the most significant ones is in progress right now. The most important offensive player on the court is now — surprise, surprise — the small forward. It is difficult to accept, but the fact seems to be that centers are vastly overrated in terms of importance. How many dominant centers can you name — honestly? The only one I know of who can dominate a game

offensively is Akeem Olajuwon. In contrast, the two accepted front-runners — the Lakers and Celtics — have perhaps their weakest link at the pivot. Abdul-Jabbar is on his last legs and is consistently outscored and, arguably, outplayed by his opponent. Robert Parrish is hobbled by age and injuries. Neither is in the "NBA Offensive Top 40." Nor are Tree Rollins or Bill Laimbeer, the big men for Atlanta and Detroit, respectively. Dallas is winning the Midwest Division with James Donaldson — under 10 points per game — at center.

Who is at the top? Small forwards. Of the top 10 scorers in the NBA, only Kevin McHale — No. 10 — is a true power forward. Dominique Wilkins, Larry Bird, Mark Aguirre and Alex English give the plurality to the small forward. And everyone else in the top 10 — Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley, Karl Malone, Clyde Drexler and Dale Ellis — could easily convert under different systems. No centers. Olajuwon is the highest-ranked one at 11th. The next-highest, Moses Malone, is 18th. Only three others are in the top 40. But the high-scoring guys on the perimeter abound. Look at

each of the top teams, and you will find a money player on the flank.

Boston has Bird. The Lakers have James Worthy. Denver has English. Dallas has Aguirre. Detroit has Adrian Dantley.

Houston is a notable exception with no reliable point production from anyone in the front court aside from Olajuwon. Perhaps that's one reason the team is having a mysterious lack of success this year.

If I were to pick the best players in the NBA — the *creme de la creme* — I would choose Bird, Barkley, Jordan, Magic Johnson and Olajuwon. The next level would include players like Drexler, Karl Malone, Alvin Robertson, Paul Pressey and Isiah Thomas.

Note the dominance of forwards under 6-10. These are the players who, in a clutch situation, can take the ball down low and either score or get fouled. Money players. And seven of the 10 are either small forwards or transition forward guards.

And this is not an isolated year that will see the problem solved quickly.

The only high-scoring big man to come out of college since Olajuwon has been Brad Daugherty. The list of the other

centers is dominated by, shall we say "elder statesmen" like Malone, Parrish and Abdul-Jabbar, none of whom are going to play any longer than two or three more years.

In contrast, look at the collegiate ranks. The best four players in the country, by most standards, are Danny Manning, Kansas, J.R. Reid of North Carolina, Hersey Hawkins of Bradley, and Sean Elliot of Arizona.

All, with the possible exception of Reid, probably will play small forward in the NBA.

Kids are growing up watching to be Larry or Magic today instead of Wilt or Kareem. As a result, the schoolyards are yielding players like Manning who, despite 6-11 height, have developed ball-handling skills and outside-shooting touches they will be able to play on the perimeter.

Who knows what the next phase will be? Perhaps a new crop of centers over 7-5 will emerge block any shot in sight.

But for now, it would seem the game of basketball has been turned over to the (relatively) little guy.

## Rockets, Mavs, Spurs long shots for NBA title

DALLAS (AP) — We'll just have to live another June without a Texas team playing for an NBA title.

You can handicap the Texas troika thusly in the upcoming playoffs:

- The San Antonio Spurs: 1,000 to 1. Lots of heart and hustle, but not a lot of inside muscle.

- The Houston Rockets: 50 to 1. A team with perhaps the most talented athlete in the NBA in Akeem Olajuwon, but operating on a strange chemical imbalance involving Coach Bill Fitch and ball-hogging players.

- The Dallas Mavericks: 45 to 1. A scoring machine in Mark Aguirre who breaks down on defense like an Edsel.

Now, the particulars: **THE SAN ANTONIO SPURS** Alvin Robertson, Johnny Dawkins

### Analysis

and Mike Mitchell give the Spurs an exciting scoring pace, but they seem to flat give up on the road. The rumors don't help. Will Coach Bob Weiss be sacked? Will the team be sold?

The Spurs need another Davy to save them the way Crockett did the Alamo for a couple of weeks. Only this time, Navy officer David Robinson could be saving a franchise in deep need of a boost.

### THE HOUSTON ROCKETS

The Rockets' Olajuwon has been openly critical of Fitch and even needled some of his ball-greedy teammates like Sleepy Floyd. Houston does the other team a favor every

time they don't get the ball into Akeem's hands.

The Rockets lost to Denver at home this past week, and you could see the difference between a team like the Nuggets and an assembly of hoop-hungry hogs like Houston.

Maybe Olajuwon is right. Perhaps Fitch can't unlock the storehouse of team play with the Rockets.

Houston has a dynamite club with a wet fuse. Pound for pound it's probably the most talented team in the NBA. It can stand up physically with the Lakers or anybody, but there's something wrong in the cardiovascular area.

### THE DALLAS MAVERICKS

Aguirre was too tired to play in the second half of a game recently. He told Coach John MacLeod he was weary, so Aguirre only participated for seven minutes. General

Manager Norm Sonju almost fuse, probably thinking,

It triggered a round of finger-pointing. The players made they called a team meeting postponed it because nobody find it convenient to come.

They later held the meeting went out and got blown away by Sonja as Larry Bird made two pointers while Aguirre watched.

The Mavs are one solid player and an attitude away from being on a level with the Lakers, but that's like two missing on a six-cylinder car.

The Lone Star state's NBA have too many fatal flaws in championship ring. That's an 82-game regular season with

## Mythical concept of 'peaking' is a basketball enigma

DALLAS (AP) — Rick Sund is hoping his Dallas Mavericks turn around a recent slide and win their final 10 games, but from first-hand experience, he knows that winning isn't everything.

At least not in the final weeks of the NBA's regular season.

"Look at us last year," said Sund, the Mavericks' vice president of basketball operations. "We finished up one of the strongest teams in the league and it looked like we'd breeze through the playoffs until the Western Conference finals. Heck, we folded like a tent in the first round against Seattle."

"From a selfish standpoint, I want to end on a strong note. But I'll also be the first to tell you I don't care if we're playing Seattle or whoever. Records don't mean squat. Everybody is 0-0 when the playoffs start."

If there's one thing clear about the last 30 days of the season, it's that

no one knows for sure if it's a month-long April Fool's joke, or an accurate barometer of a team's chances in the playoffs.

Some coaches shrug their shoulders when asked about the importance of peaking.

"I don't know if there's such a thing," the Detroit Pistons' Chuck Daly told the *Dallas Morning News*. "It's a word used by the media and coaches talk about it. But it's so abstract, who can define it?"

There are several schools of thought: The first goes along the same lines as the famous quote attributed to former Green Bay Packers' coach Vince Lombardi. Another is that it's not whether you win or lose in April, but how you're playing once May starts.

John MacLeod is a graduate of

the Lombardi school, where winning isn't everything — it's the only thing.

"It's better to go in with a head of steam in the playoffs," said the Mavericks' coach, whose team lost four of five games, before defeating the Utah Jazz 118-95 Friday night at Reunion Arena.

"You can't go in sideways, and it's not very good to go in losing a lot of games. I've always believed that you want to go in on an upbeat note."

Everyone sets out to end strongly, but to use the word "peak" implies a premeditated, controllable action. It doesn't work that way.

Some coaches just hope that their teams begin showing an improvement in play, and let the wins and losses fall where they may.

"If there was such a real thing as

peaking for the playoffs, that team in this league would be it," said Denver Coach Dave Keyes whose team plays in Reunion Arena Friday night.

The Nuggets have won two consecutive games and appear to be peaking as the Midwest Division has narrowed to Dallas and Denver.

But "it's like when the Tournament starts and you hear, 'Geez, now comes the time. Watch these guys because they may peak for the playoffs. Then they get knocked out in the first round,'" Moe said.

"It's a bunch of bull. Basketball is a game of ups and downs. It happens somewhere along the way, it happens with a rhyme or reason. The more you do the best you can, the better whatever happens, happens."