



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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sports

• Texas A&M's men's and women's track and field teams run to forefront in weekend events.

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With the ides of April approaching, listen in for tax tips to avoid the wrath of Uncle Sam.

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aggielife

• The bard brushes aside the competition as Shakespeare in Love sweeps up seven Oscars.

Dow Jones Average breaks 10,000 mark

BY BETH MILLER
The Battalion

Wall Street endured a roller-coaster ride last week when the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) danced around the record-breaking 10,000 mark.

The DJIA made history at 9:51 a.m. Eastern time last Tuesday as it broke 10,000. The average has not yet closed with five digits.

The DJIA is the oldest U.S. market index, and it is called an average because original calculations, the first of which was in 1889, were computed by averaging stocks.

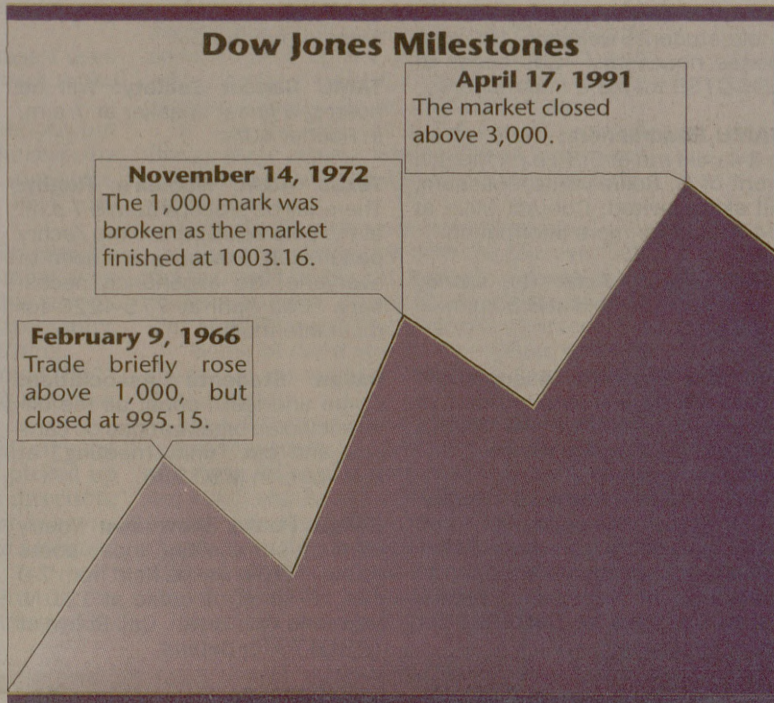
The average increased from 9,000 to 9,000 in 9 months and from 9,000 to 10,000 in 11 months.

National and local experts' opinions concerning the future of the DJIA vary. National investing experts debated Tuesday whether the 10,000 mark would serve as a milestone for the average or whether it would continue to increase, perhaps doubling in the next decade.

John Anderson, vice president and resident manager of the Bryan-College Station Merrill Lynch office, said predicting the DJIA in terms of specific-date time frames is not always reliable. "To predict when the market will do anything, I think, is a fool's game," he said.

Anderson said it is better to examine past market trends and make long-term predictions about what it will do over time, rather than within a limited period of time.

He said DJIA predictions are



often based on market timing, which includes investment fluctuation and changes.

Rose Van Arsdel, vice president of investments and certified financial planner for A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc. in Bryan, said she is confident the DJIA will close above 10,000 soon, but she is not sure if it will be this week.

Van Arsdel said the DJIA is a low indicator of the market because it contains only 30 major stocks, while the Standard & Poors 500 (S&P 500) contains 500 stocks. She said stocks and investments have been in an unusual situation the past few years

because DJIA and S&P 500 figures have been influenced by a small number of stocks.

"Twenty percent of the stocks have accounted for the gain," she said.

Anderson said temporary increases and decreases often influence investors. He suggests Americans confused about investing seek advice from consultants and experts so they are not swayed by temporary trends.

"If [investors] allow greed and fear to determine what they will do next, they may make the wrong decision," he said.

Dog paddle



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION

David Nobles, (left) a senior construction science major, and John Lunn, (right) a senior management information systems major, enjoy the last few moments of spring break as they play with their dogs Abby (left) and Hunter (right) at Research Park Sunday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former student accused of spying

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

A U.S. scientist and former Texas A&M graduate student Wen Ho Lee has been accused of leaking nuclear secrets to China, which has conducted investigations of Lee and other U.S. labs.

Lee, who has been neither charged nor arrested, received his masters in engineering from A&M in 1966 and his doctorate in 1970. He was fired March 8 from his job at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico after refusing to answer questions from the FBI.

The investigation centers around an unauthorized transfer to China in the 1980s of secret information on how to make small nuclear weapons and has prompted charges from leading Republicans that the Clinton administration has been lax on security with China.

The Clinton administration said the Chinese benefited from the technology stolen from the nuclear weapons lab, but the U.S. government acted decisively once alerted the security breach. Officials said investigations could conclude without charges being pressed, and many allegations have been dismissed.

Spring Break crime down on campus

The Spring Break crime rate on the Texas A&M campus was low according to crime reports received thus far, Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department said.

Wiatt said officers patrolled parking lots and other areas on campus last week and encountered two driving-while-intoxicated incidents and two automobile burglaries.

He said they issued a large number of criminal trespass warnings to non-students on campus.

"It's always quiet when [students] are gone, but this year it was tranquil," he said. "We were very pleased."

Wiatt said criminal activity during spring breaks in past years has varied.

He said statistics are not conclusive yet because reports will continue to be made as students return to campus.

Internet-fee hike: fact or fiction?

Federal Communications Commission ruling subject of confusion

BY SALLIE TURNER
The Battalion

A rumor surrounding a Federal Communications Commission action declaring Internet use as interstate rather than local has created confusion.

Dr. John Fike, director of the Center for Telecommunications Technology Management, said the ruling means the Internet could be subject to additional fees similar to those imposed on telephone companies, and the additions could include a per-minute charge for use of the Internet.

"Up until now, Internet access has had no

access charges," he said. "The ruling could change the future of dial-up networks by making calls that are now local calls a long-distance phone call."

Charlie Stenholm, a member of the U.S. Congress, said the rumor is false, and the issue is not a cause for concern.

FCC officials said the manner in which consumers obtain and pay for internet access will not change.

Fike said the FCC ruling will not affect existing contracts with Internet service providers, and Internet consumers using a seven-digit number will not incur long distance charges. He said he is concerned about con-

tract renewals including additional per-minute charges.

Stenholm said members of Congress receive letters from constituents daily concerning the possibility of long-distance charges for Internet usage. He said that the FCC has no intention of assessing a per-minute charge.

Stenholm said the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which was signed into law October 21, 1998, contains a provision for Internet related taxes — the Internet Tax Freedom Act established a policy against state and local government interference with Internet commerce for the next three years.

NATO troops poised to attack after failed talks

BY AMANDA STIRPE
The Battalion

Following failed peace talks with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in Paris last week, international monitors in Kosovo have begun evacuation of the area, signaling a possible attack by NATO troops.

President Clinton addressed the nation Friday saying air strikes in Kosovo could become a reality. The United States has positioned 200 American warplanes in the area and will send three more electronic warfare planes and four refueling aircraft including B-52 bombers and F-117 stealth bombers. Warships and submarines are settled and ready for an attack against the 40,000 Serbian troops and police at the border.

Embassies of the United States, Canada, Britain, Germany, Austria and France in Belgrade have begun evacuating.

The failed peace deal would have allowed

self-rule for Kosovo during a three-year period; would have allowed 28,000 NATO troops, including 4,000 Americans, to patrol the area; and would have kept Kosovo in Serbia.

"A lot ... of the motivation is public relations and putting up a good image of NATO."

— Dr. Stjepan Mestrovic
A&M professor

Dr. Stjepan Mestrovic, a sociology professor at Texas A&M, said he is skeptical of underlying reasons for the attack. He said it could have spurred out of the fact that NATO's 50th anniversary is in April, and that elimi-

nating genocide in Europe would benefit NATO's image. He said Serbs have been attacking since 1991, so a NATO attack at this moment is not necessary.

"A lot, not all, of the motivation is public relations and putting up a good image of NATO," Mestrovic said. "It is about the credibility of NATO."

Mestrovic said another motivation could be criticism of the Clinton administration that has surfaced throughout the past year.

"It's a huge public relations issue," Mestrovic said.

Mestrovic said that Milosevic, who utilizes strong technology, will prefer air strikes because if the country is bombed, he can keep power and create a positive image for himself. Mestrovic said even if Milosevic is beaten, he will be viewed positively by his people because of his efforts.

"This is going to be messy because the Serbs will try to keep the part of Kosovo that

they have now, like Bosnia, but the real concern should be them taking another country," Mestrovic said.

Dr. Alexander Pacek, an associate professor of political science and an expert in Eastern Europe, said the attack is risky because the Serbian air-defense system is strong. He said the risk of the military strategy, which is to fight a defensive war on its own turf, is a concern.

"Clinton is trying to prepare people, but not for the worst," Pacek said. "Watch for the extent to which he gets on the air more and talks about the risks."

Pacek said there are several possible attack motivations, but White House credibility is a major factor. He said a concern should be the possible spread of the conflict into Greece and Turkey.

"The idea is not to defeat Serbia," Pacek said. "The purpose is to force settlement after an attempted negotiation failure."