

leader. Top candidates are the foreign minister and the Liberal Democratic Party secretary-general. 14A.

'Global culture' under attack

Threatened protests at World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings are examples of a trend among some of USA's young people: voicing their displeasure with corporations' effect on the world. "A backlash is coming," says author Naomi Klein. 6D.

■ Today's debate: Microsoft's behavior

In USA TODAY's opinion, "Putting the brakes on Microsoft's errant ways won't undo damage done to Net-scape. It is, however, the best option available." 18A.
 ▶ "It was impossible to settle this case at this time because the Department of Justice and 19 states that are party to the lawsuit were not working together," says Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer. 18A.

■ Money: Trucks have carmakers on a roll

Gas prices be darned: Fuel-guzzling trucks carry automakers to a record in first-quarter sales, a 10.1% increase over last year. 1B.
 ▶ Contributing too much to a 401(k) can come back to haunt you at tax time. Your Money. 12B.

■ Sports: NBA's Bryant, Childs suspended

Lakers' Kobe Bryant and Knicks' Chris Childs are fined and suspended for fighting Sunday night. 1C.
 ▶ Washington tops N.Y. Rangers 4-1. NHL. 15C.

■ Life: In case you haven't heard

Cyber-elite meet in Toronto today for the annual and little-known Computers, Freedom and Privacy talks. They're tackling subjects so cutting-edge, we won't even notice them for years. 3D.

New stock charts debut in Money

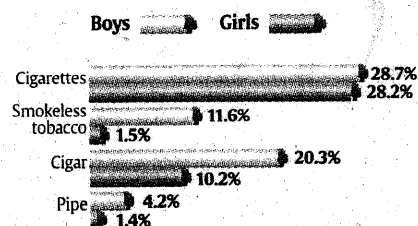
Introducing USA TODAY's expanded stock listings, another feature in the newspaper's new, easier-to-read design. Explanation, 1B. To comment, call 1-800-872-2215 or e-mail editor@usatoday.com.

Written by John O. Buckley

USA TODAY Snapshots®

Teen tobacco use

Percentage of high school students who have used these tobacco products within the 30 days before the National Youth Tobacco Survey:



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

By Hilary Wasson and Sam Ward, USA TODAY



Crossword 11D
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 State-by-state 17A
 Stocks 4,8-12B

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at 7.6% was its fifth consecutive drop. Although bad enough by itself, the drop followed a series of sharp sell-offs that in little more than three weeks has dropped the Nasdaq more than 16% from its peak of 5049.

Cover story

► How the top Net stocks have fared, 3B

Even more startling, the drop happened on the same day the Dow Jones industrial average gained 300, or 2.8%, to 11,222 as investors poured money back into the old-economy stocks that have lagged for so long.
 But as painful as Monday and the slide from Nasdaq 5000 have been for investors, analysts say it shouldn't come as a surprise. Coming off an 86% rise in 1999 and having blown through three 1000-point levels in less than four months, the Nasdaq and its skyrocketing tech stocks were ripe for a fall.

"We were watching this thing go up and up and up," says Richard Cripps, chief market strategist at Legg Mason. "What's been driving this is speculative excess. But why sell if it's still going up?"
 Tech investors are probably wishing they had been a little less hungry for more profits and paid more attention to danger signs during the past few weeks. Though none by itself was necessarily enough to break the back of tech stocks and the Nasdaq, the weight of it all together proved too much to bear.

Monday, the final blow came from news that Microsoft's talks with the government had broken down in the software giant's antitrust case. Microsoft shares skidded \$15.38, or 14%, to \$90.88, wiping out \$84 billion in market value. The selling quickly spread to other tech stocks. Beyond the Nasdaq's drop, the USA TODAY Internet 100 index fell nearly 8%.

Microsoft's news ripped through a market already softened by a series of events that had quickly and surely eroded investors' confidence. But the biggest problem may have been that many investors in technology stocks were confident only that the stocks were rising — not that they were good long-term values. These are the same investors who sell quickly at the first sign of trouble.

"People got caught up in the excitement of buying stock symbols with no understanding of the companies' business plans or prospects," says Dick Hoey, chief investment strategist at Dreyfus Corp.

The Nasdaq's boom in the 1990s was built on the theory that investing in fast-growing, quality tech companies for the long term would enable investors to reap big rewards. But the Nasdaq's 86% spike in 1999

Please see COVER STORY next page ►

Top five percentage drops	
Oct. 19, 1997	-11.35%
Oct. 20, 1997	-9.00%
Oct. 26, 1997	-9.00%
Aug. 31, 1998	-8.56%
April 3, 2000	-7.63%



By Suzanne Plunkett, AP

Monumental drop: John Degelmann of Prudential Investments makes business calls Monday in front of the Fox News ticker in New York.

U.S. expected to lift ban on travel

By Barbara Slavin
 USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The United States is poised to lift a 13-year-old ban on travel to Libya as the North African nation tries to shed its pariah reputation.

U.S. officials say a State Department delegation that visited Libya last month for the first time in 20 years came back satisfied that U.S. citizens face no "imminent danger" there. Their recommendation will be sent to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for a final decision as early as this week.

A decision to lift the ban would enable Americans to travel to Libya without special permission. It also would facilitate a visit by a congressional delegation expected this month.

"We do expect the team to prepare a recommendation," State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

The likely end to the ban comes amid reports that Libya has invited the leader of the Israeli Labor Party, Raanan Cohen, to visit. Libya has been among the most virulent opponents of Israel and a supporter of anti-Israel terrorist groups.

Officials in the Libyan capital denied the invitation, but European Commission President Romano Prodi confirmed it after meeting with Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi in Cairo, Egypt. It was unclear whether Cohen would go.

"Obviously, this is part of Gadhafi's strategy to burnish Libya's image in advance of the trial" of two Libyans in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, said Kenneth Katzman, a senior analyst for

the Congressional Research Service. European businessmen have been itching to lift the U.N. ban on air travel was lifted after receiving waivers.

U.S. officials say Albright's travel to a country unless face "imminent danger" there. Libya and Iraq are in that category. Economic sanctions will remain in place until Libya cooperates with a trial, which is scheduled to start in the Netherlands, and compensate the victims' relatives, who are suing the travel ban.

"I'm disappointed but I'm not surprised," says Kathy Tedesco Meade, N.J., whose husband was killed in the 1988 bombing.

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