

Eagles prepare for Bangs  
 after loss to Christoval

...see Page 4



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VOLUME 100, ISSUE 36

"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"

SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

## City council eyes water rate increase

### New engineer brought in to fix sewer plant

by Pat Ragsdale

The Eldorado City Council last Thursday evening adopted a \$1.87 million budget, but not until they had pruned more than 7 percent from the utility department and just over 19 percent from the general fund. Still, the budget won't balance without an increase in water rates. City Administrator Randy Mankin explained to council members that increases in the cost of electricity was partially to blame for the deficit. Mankin noted that electric costs have doubled in four years without a corresponding increase in water rates.

The council meeting began at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor John Nikolauk and council members Dora Bosman, Richard Mendez, Tommy Minor, Toni Sudduth and Robert Bybee. The council heard information on how the city's water rates compare to other towns. Currently the city charges \$7 for the first 3,000 gallons of

water and \$1 per 1,000 gallons, thereafter. Mankin pointed to an annual rate comparison conducted by the Texas Municipal League (see chart below). The study showed that Eldorado's water rates are well below the statewide average. Texas cities, population 2,000 or less, charged on average \$20.75 for 5,000 gallons of water and \$32.88 for 10,000 gallons. The City of Eldorado currently charges its customers \$9 and \$14, respectively, for those quantities of water.

The council reviewed the numbers before tabling discussion of a proposed \$1 increase in the minimum charge. Instead, at the meeting planned for Monday night, they will consider a \$2 increase, along with a 50¢ hike in the amount charged for each subsequent 1,000 gallons. Mankin noted that the larger increase will provide sufficient revenue to balance the budget for fiscal year 2002 and will still leave Eldorado's water rates well below

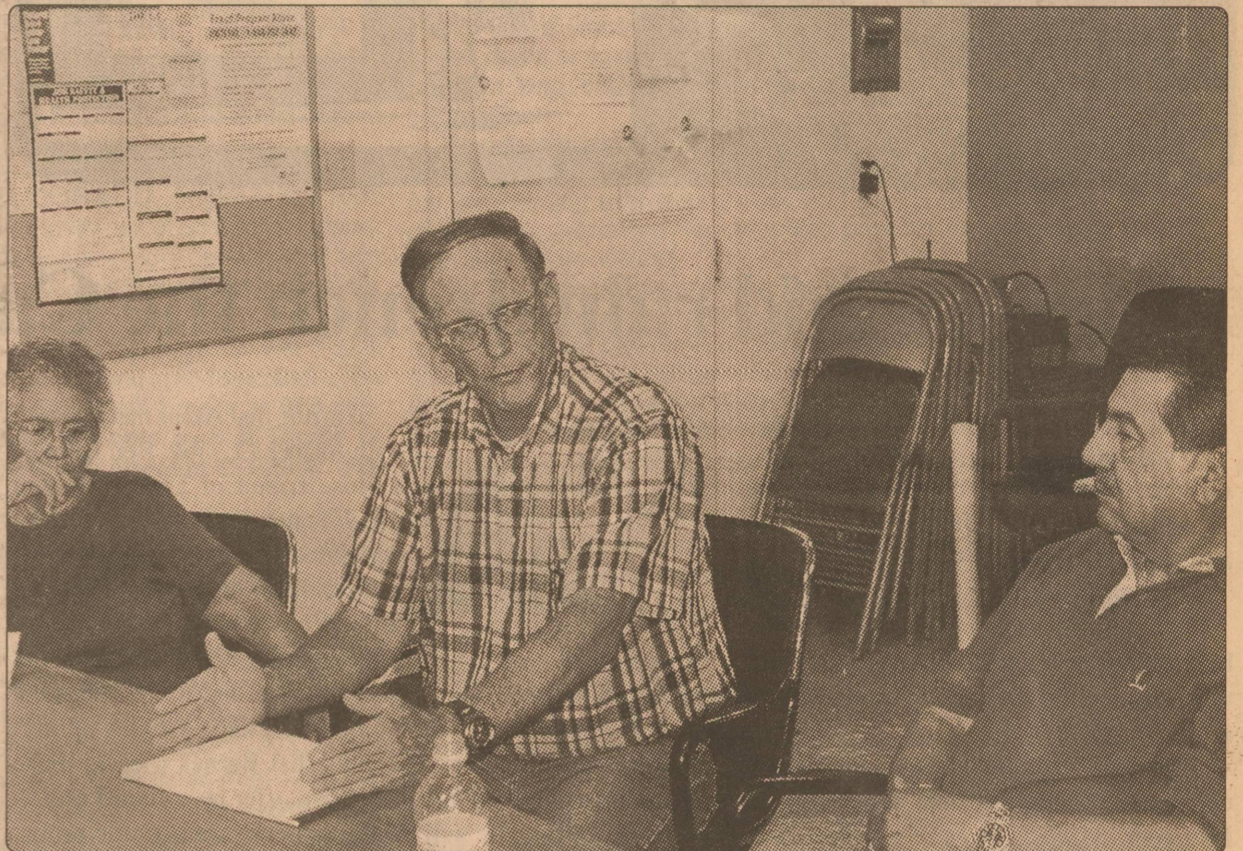
the state average.

"It's never pleasant to consider rate increases," commented Mayor John Nikolauk during the meeting. "Unfortunately, when energy costs go up, so does everything else."

Duncan Disposal, the company that hauls garbage from Sonora, Ozona, Menard and Junction to the Eldorado landfill will also be seeing a rate increase. The council okayed a 3.5 percent increase in the fee Duncan pays to dump at the landfill. Currently the Duncan pays the city \$26.50 for every ton of garbage they dump. On October 1 that fee will increase to \$27.43 per ton.

The city will not be increasing property taxes, however. The council adopted a rate of 89.63¢ per \$100 valuation. The rate will produce the same amount of tax revenue the city received last year. Interestingly, tax revenues account for only about 10 percent of the city budget. The remainder is funded by utility rate payers, franchise fees from utility, cable and telephone companies, sales taxes and other assorted fees.

In other business the council met with engineer Steve Dennis representing the firm of Gutierrez, Smouse, Wilmot & Associates in Midland. Dennis was on hand to offer advice concerning problems



**Getting a handle on the problem** — Eldorado City Council members Dora Bosman (L) and Richard Mendez (R) looked on Thursday night as Steve Dennis, P.E. (Center) explained repairs that he believes are needed in order to bring the city's wastewater treatment plant into compliance with TNRCC guidelines. Moments later the council voted to hire Dennis to supervise the work.

at the city wastewater treatment plant. High levels of algae in the sewer plant have caused the city to come under an enforcement order by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

Dennis began by explaining that his firm is currently working with the City of Menard to solve a similar problem. He noted that Eldorado's wastewater plant was designed to handle 385,000 gallons of wastewater per day but is only operating at 47 percent capacity. Dennis recommended installing a curtain between the deep and shallow

ends of the "facultative lagoon," the first pond in the plant. He also recommended installing an aerator pump in the shallow end of the lagoon.

Oxygen, introduced into the shallow end of the pond by the aerator would be kept out of the deep end by the curtain, Dennis explained. He noted that bacteria in the deep end of the lagoon operate in an "anaerobic environment" without free oxygen. Meanwhile, bacteria in the shallow end of the lagoon, as well as in the remainder of the plant, function in an "aero-

bic environment" requiring the presence of oxygen.

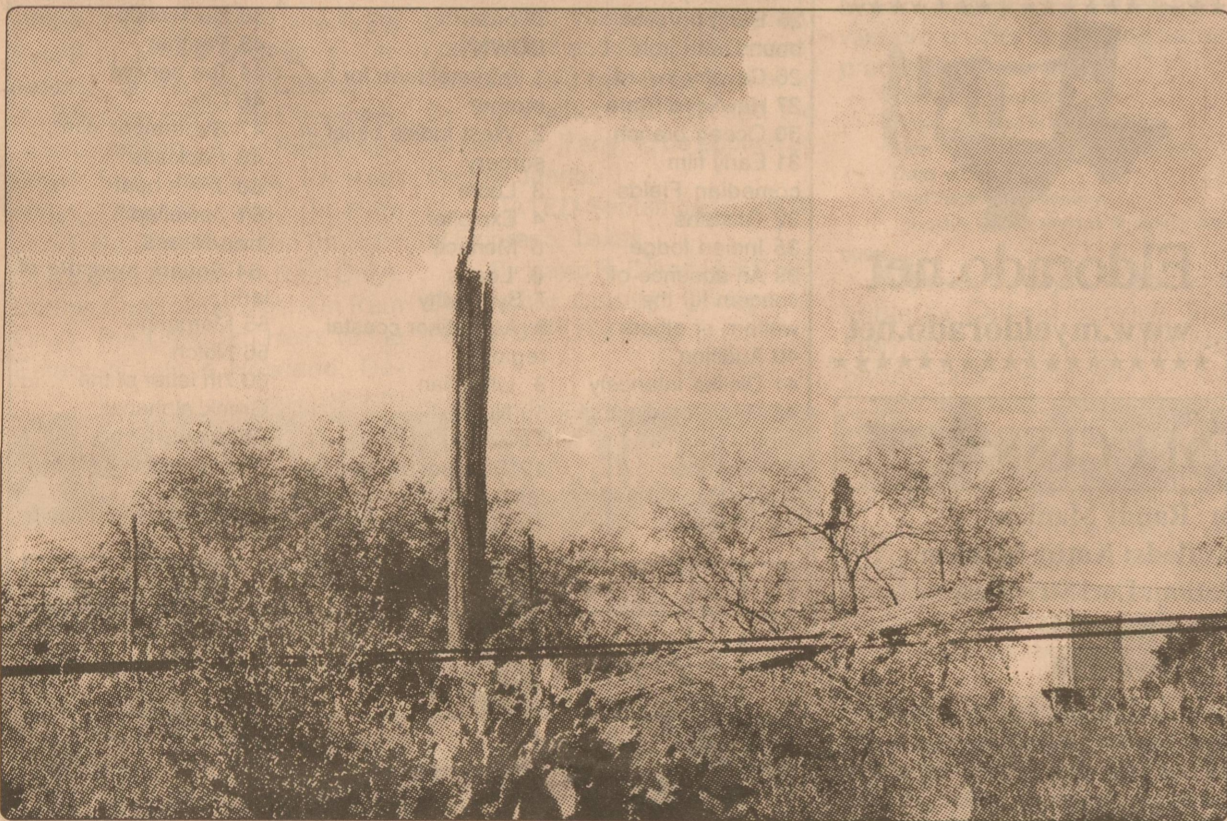
Dennis also recommended changing out baffle plates on the plant's six weir boxes and installing gates that can be operated by hand wheels. Currently city workers must put on wet suits and climb into the weir boxes in order to unbolt and move the gates. Dennis explained that by installing gates with hand wheels will allow city workers to easily maintain the optimum water level in the plant.

Dennis was hesitant to offer a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Texas Residential Water Rate Comparison				
		Average Fee For		
Population	No of Cities	5,000 Gal.	10,000 Gal.	
2,000 OR LESS	262	\$20.75	\$32.88	
2,001-5,000	155	\$17.91	\$28.78	
5,001 - 10,000	90	\$17.71	\$28.80	
10,001 - 15,000	50	\$16.93	\$27.22	
City of Eldorado.....		\$9.00	\$14.00	

Source: Texas Municipal League



**One after another** — Shortly after high winds from one thunderstorm snapped these utility poles north of Eldorado Monday afternoon, another storm approached from the northwest. The straight-line wind snapped several poles approximately 16 miles north of town along U.S. Highway 277.

## School trustees adopt \$5.86 million budget

All school trustees were present for a budget hearing on Wednesday, August 29, 2001. However, no members of the present were on hand to discuss the budget. The trustees include Phil McCormick, Jo Helen Kotsch, Eddie Albin, Bertta Nicholson, Sam Whitten, Kurtis Homer and Steve Sessom.

Before taking up the new budget, the trustees heard a request from school finance director Loretta Edmiston, concerning two amendments, totaling \$92,000, to the 2000-2001 budget. Included in the request was \$22,000 to cover the cost of busing several students to San Angelo each school day to

attend special classes. In the past, the cost for bussing had been \$1,000, however, that price jumped to more than \$10,000 per year. SCISD owed for two years service at the higher rate.

Also included in the budget amendment was \$70,000 to cover the increased cost of natural gas and electricity. After reviewing the amendment request, the board passed the measure.

The board then went on to adopt the General Fund and Cafeteria Fund budgets in the amount

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Dr. Taylor opens clinic practice at SCMC

Dr. Patrick Taylor opened a clinic practice this week, at Schleicher County Family Clinic. He comes to Eldorado from Tyler, where he was in private practice for a number of years.

Dr. Taylor was born in Houston but grew up in the rural community of Kline. A graduate of Kline High School, he attended Texas A&M University where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1976. He then attended medical school at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston where he graduated in 1980. Dr. Taylor took his residency and internship at Scott & White Hospital in Temple. He is board certified in Internal Medicine.

Dr. Taylor opened a private practice in Tyler in 1983 and remained there until 1999 when he sold the practice to an HMO. Since that time he has been working as a contract physician, mostly covering emergency rooms.

In fact, that is how Dr. Taylor came to Eldorado. A service that provides contract physicians, arranged for him to staff the emergency room at Schleicher County Medical Center.

"Eldorado appealed to me for all the obvious reasons," Dr. Taylor said when asked about his decision to move to a rural.

Taylor says he likes private medical practice and doesn't think he would do well working in a group practice. "Unfortunately, in the larger towns, even in San Angelo, ev-

erything is going toward groups," Dr. Taylor said. "I think I'm geared toward small town medicine."

Dr. Taylor says he hopes to provide Schleicher County citizens with the love and care of a personal physician while also offering the most advanced medical services possible.

"I love the practice of medicine," Taylor says. "It's more than just a job with me."

Taylor says that the quality of medical services offered in Eldorado had a lot to do with his decision to move here. "This is a very good hospital with a modern clinic

and a forward looking administration," Taylor said. "Most medical needs can be met right here."

When asked about his goals Dr. Taylor replied, "My goal is to get moved in and settle down."

"I don't like to move," he said. "I hope to practice medicine here until I die...a long, long time from now."

Dr. Taylor has two sons, Patrick, 16, and Graham, age 9. His parents, Bob and Jane Taylor, married for 66 years, make their home in Tyler. His brother, Mike Taylor, is also a physician, practicing emergency medicine.



**A doctor in the house** — Dr. Patrick Taylor opened his clinic practice this week at Schleicher County Medical Center.

### NOTICE

Friday night's football game in Bangs will begin at 7:30 p.m. instead of the usual time of 8:00 p.m. Eagles fans are encouraged to not the time change and allow enough time to make the trip before kickoff.



# OBITUARIES

## Dolores "Lolo" Perez

Dolores "Lolo" Perez, 83, of San Angelo went to be with the Lord on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2001, at his residence.

Rosary was Tuesday, Sept. 4, in Robert Massie Funeral Home Chapel. Mass of Christian Burial was Wednesday, Sept. 5, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with Father Terry Brenon officiating. Burial followed in Sherwood Cemetery at Sherwood, Texas.

Dolores was born Feb. 11, 1918, in Sonora. He worked on pipeline installations and later served on several West Texas area ranches as ranch foreman. He married Emilia Gamez on July 30, 1944, in Sonora.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Emilia G. Perez; his father, Jose Maria Perez; his mother, Concepcion Perez; and a sister, Delfina Esquivel.

Survivors include sons, Celestino Perez, Thomas Perez and Ramon Perez, all of Mertzon; and daughters, Emma Luna of San Angelo and Rosa Suarez of Mert-

zon; two sisters, Emilia Morales of San Angelo and Maria Esquivel of Fort Worth; grandchildren, Manuel Perez, Celestino Perez Jr., Emily Luna, Andy Perez and Sammy Perez, all of San Angelo, Amy Perez, Ramiro Perez, Alex Suarez, Cassandra Perez and Brenda Montez, all of Mertzon; Nancy Sandoval of Sonora, Elsa O' Neal of Midland, Jessica Fuentes of Eldorado, Tammy Perez of Hobbs, N.M., and Albert Perez of Big Lake; stepgrandchildren, Julie and Jennifer Galvan of Mertzon; and 25 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Albert Perez, David Rodriguez, Alex Suarez, Andy Perez, Manuel Perez, Tino Perez Jr., Sammy Perez and Paul Montez.

The family would like to thank all that kept him in their hearts and in their prayers. A special thanks to the doctors and nurses of VistaCare Family Hospice and special thank you to Father Brenon and the members of St. Mary's parish.

## Lynnae Sullivan Grandey

FORT WORTH — Lynnae Sullivan Grandey, 37, died Thursday, Aug. 23, 2001, in a local hospital. A memorial service was held Saturday in the Rural Community Building in Fort Stockton.

Survivors include her husband, Trent Grandey of Fort Worth; chil-

dren, Mallory Grandey and Gates Grandey; parents, Shirl and Mary Sullivan of Fort Stockton; brothers, Jim Sullivan of Eldorado, Chip Sullivan of San Angelo and Matthew Sullivan of Abilene; and sister, Sentheia Sullivan Clinton of Anson.

## Schleicher County Child Welfare Board elects officers

On Tuesday August 21, 2001, the Child Welfare Board of Schleicher County met in the Eldorado Elementary School kitchen for a regular meeting. One item on the agenda was the installation of new officers as well as new members.

Dora Arispe, Connie Wells, and Billie Jean Mendoza have been accepted as new members.

Martha Adame was elected vice-president/secretary and Katrina Gonzales was elected president.

## Gramm announces he won't run for reelection



FILE PHOTO Senator Phil Gramm

Senator Phil Gramm said Tuesday he will not seek reelection and will leave the U.S. Senate at the end of his third term next year.

"I have always been happy with the tax cuts I've supported," Gramm commented at an emotional news conference Tuesday.

"I still believe that government is too big, too powerful and too expensive and too intrusive," Gramm said. He then pushed for a capital gains tax cut this fall.

Gramm, 59, said he has made no plans for life after politics, and ducked questions about taking over the vacant presidency at Texas A&M University where he once taught as an economics professor.

Following Gramm's announcement, President Bush, a fellow Texan and Republican said Gramm has been a consistent and committed advocate of tax relief for working Americans, beginning with his work on President Reagan's tax cut in 1981 ... and continuing with his tireless efforts to pass this year's monumental tax relief package."

Gramm was elected to the U.S. House in 1978 as a Democrat. However, when he supported then-President Reagan's budget, with tax and spending cuts and a big increase in the Pentagon's budget, Gramm was stripped of his committee assignment by the Democratic leadership. He promptly resigned his seat, switched parties and won the seat back as a Republican in a special election in 1983. He used his new found fame as a springboard for his election to the Senate in 1984.

Gramm's intended departure from the Senate after 18 years has left candidates scrambling for places on the upcoming primary ballots. Meanwhile, Gramm said he was confident his successor would be a Republican, but Democrats quickly disputed that.

Several names have surfaced as potential candidates.

Among Republicans, are Rep. Henry Bonilla and Texas Attorney General John Cornyn. Potential Democratic contenders included former Attorney General Dan Morales and Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk.

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**7th** Buddy Greer, Estella Guzman, Connie Wells  
**8th** Dan Jenkins, Melissa Lloyd, April K. Ramos, Katelyn Tidwell, Lori Stricklan  
**9th** Scott Cawley, Lee Dacy, Kelli Hubble, Joey Jones  
**10th** Tom Dean, Sylvia Sanchez, Claudia Stephens  
**11th** Darla Jenkins, Debby Griffin, Pauline Gamez, Richard Jacobs  
**12th** Adriane Jo Lozano, Climente Aguilar, Sam A. Whitten, Jr.

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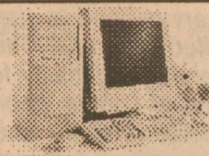
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# Secretary of State encourages citizens to review constitutional amendments' explanatory statements

AUSTIN – In a move to educate Texas voters on the upcoming constitutional amendments election, the Secretary of State has once again contracted with the Texas Press Association to publish in Texas daily and weekly newspapers explanatory state-

ments on each of the nineteen constitutional amendments that will appear on the ballot on November 6, 2001.

Article 17, Section 1, of the Texas Constitution, requires the Secretary of State to print the explanatory statements in English in

daily and weekly newspapers that meet certain requirements (Government Code, Sec.2051.044).

The explanatory statements on each amendment will be published twice in each daily and weekly paper between September 7 and September 21. For daily papers,

these days are September 13 and September 20. Spanish translated explanatory statements are printed in certain Spanish-only newspapers. In addition, the Secretary of State's Office will mail the explanatory statements in Spanish to each Hispanic registered voter household in the state. Approximately 1.78 million households will receive the translated statements.

Because each constitutional amendment will affect every Texan directly or indirectly, Secretary Cuellar said it is imperative that every voter becomes acquainted with the issues that will be presented to him or her during the November 2001 elections.

"I encourage citizens to take a look at the explanatory statements and to become familiar with each constitutional amendment," said Secretary Henry Cuellar. "We must take part in our electoral process. The amendments you will vote on will have a long-lasting effect on your lives."

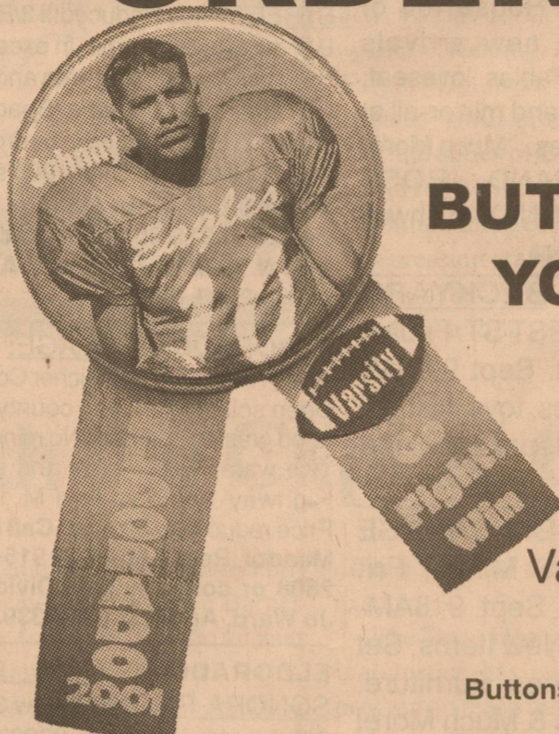
Explanatory statements are available on the Secretary of State's web site at:

www.sos.state.tx.us.

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# Focus on the Family

by Dr. James Dobson



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## Hyperactive Boy Could Benefit From Repeating First Grade

**QUESTION:** My 6-year-old son has always been an energetic child with some of the symptoms of hyperactivity. He has a short attention span and flits from one activity to another. I took him to his pediatrician, who said he did not have attention deficit disorder. However, he's beginning to have learning problems in school because he can't stay in his seat and concentrate on his lessons. What should I do?

**DR. DOBSON:** It sounds like your son is immature in comparison with his age mates and could profit from being retained in the first grade next year. If his birthday is between Dec. 1 and July 1, I would ask the school psychologist to evaluate his readiness to learn. Retaining an immature boy during his early school career (kindergarten or first grade) can give him a social and academic advantage throughout the remaining years of elementary school.

However, it is very important to help him "save face" with his peers. If possible, he should change schools for at least a year to avoid embarrassing questions and ridicule from his former classmates.

You have very little to lose by holding back an immature boy, since males tend to be about six months behind females in development at that time. The age of a child is the worst criterion on which to base a decision regarding when to begin a school career. That determination should be made according to specific neurologic, psychosocial and pediatric variables.

Let me add one other suggestion that you might consider. Your

son appears to be a good candidate for home schooling. You might want to keep him in the safety of your care until he matures a bit, and then if you choose, place him in school one year behind where he would have been otherwise. He will not suffer academically and will be more secure for the experience.

Home schooling is especially helpful for the immature child — usually a boy — who is just not ready for the social competition and rejection often experienced within large groups. It is also beneficial to children who do not have this problem, if the parent is committed to it. That's why home schooling is the fastest growing educational movement in the United States today.

**QUESTION:** When it comes to education, you have said that the right factual information can and should lead to conceptual learning. But aren't you putting too much emphasis on the memorization process, which is a low academic goal?

**DR. DOBSON:** The human brain is capable of storing some 2 billion bits of information in the course of a lifetime. There are many avenues through which that programming can occur, and memorization is one of them.

Let me put it this way: If you ever have to go under a surgeon's knife, you'd better hope that the physician has memorized every muscle, every bone, every blood vessel and every Boy Scout knot in the book. Your life will depend on his accessibility to factual information during the operation.

Obviously, I strongly oppose the perspective held in some ac-

ademic circles that says, "There's nothing we know for certain, so why learn anything?" Those who feel that way have no business teaching. They are salesman with nothing to sell!

**QUESTION:** Is it inevitable that sexual desire must diminish in the fifth, sixth and seventh decades of life?

**DR. DOBSON:** There is no organic basis for healthy women or men to experience less desire as they age. The sexual appetite depends more on a state of mind and emotional attitudes than on one's chronological age. If a husband and wife see themselves as old and unattractive, they might lose interest in sex for reasons only secondary to their age. But from a physical point of view, it is a myth that men and women must be sexually apathetic unless there are disease processes or physical malfunctions to be considered.

*Dr. Dobson is president of the nonprofit organization Focus on the Family, P.O. Box 444, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903; or www.family.org. Questions and answers are excerpted from "Solid Answers," published by Tyndale House.*

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