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Manhunt

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The Pampa News



25¢

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September 23, 1986

Tuesday

Iwo Jima



(Staff Photo by Cathy Spaulding)

Lefors High School students seem to be reenacting a famous World War II flag raising in the South Pacific. Reality is something less dramatic, however. The students (from left) Wade Morris, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee, Marshal Keys, 18, who lives with Mr. and Mrs. John Wariner, and Kirk Kerbo, 17, son of Mr.

and Mrs. Cecil Kerbo, were setting up the frame for the school's Homecoming Bonfire scheduled for Thursday. The night's festivities include a "snake dance" from the school building to the bonfire. Lefors plays West Texas Christian Academy Friday.

White oilers win in federal court

From Staff and Wire Reports

MIDLAND—Oilmen who produce "white oil" in the Texas Panhandle won a round in court when a federal jury ruled in their favor.

Jurors in U.S. District Judge Lucius Bunton's Midland court decided Monday that the 42 independent oilmen who were defendants in the case did not convert gas belonging to two larger oil companies into white oil.

An Amarillo consultant who has supported the independents in their rights to oil and gas production against the majors hailed the case as a significant victory for the independents.

The suit stemmed from a dispute between the independents and Pan Eastern Exploration Co. and Anadarko Petroleum Corp. over gas rights in Moore County, said Eugene Labay of San Antonio,

attorney for Anadarko and Pan Eastern.

"We were disappointed with the jury verdict, and in all likelihood an appeal will be filed," Labay said.

George Kolb, the lead attorney representing the independents, could not be reached for comment.

Testimony in the trial took 12 days, and jurors deliberated for a day and a half before deciding in favor of the independents.

The complicated suit involved 56 separate questions jurors were instructed to answer.

No set amount of damages was requested in the initial suit. Labay said the matter of damages would have been determined in a second lawsuit had the jury found in favor of the plaintiffs.

In addition to damages, the plaintiffs also

See OILERS, Page 2

Soviet minister fishing for superpower summit

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The Soviet foreign minister said today that despite U.S.-Soviet differences over arms control, a superpower summit is a "realistic possibility" if the Reagan administration really wants one.

Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze criticized President Reagan's U.N. address of Monday as "regrettable" but said the Soviet government was "far from regarding our relations with the United States as holding no promise."

Before his speech to the 41st session of the U.N. General Assembly, Shevardnadze met for 45 minutes with Secretary of State George P. Shultz, presumably to discuss the confinement of American reporter Nicholas S. Daniloff in Moscow on spy charges, U.N. sources said.

Shevardnadze's speech was being closely followed for some indication of how the Soviets plan to resolve Daniloff's case.

"Lately, encouraging outlines of meaningful agreements have been emerging," Shevardnadze said in his address. "A summit meeting is also a realistic possibility. We could move forward

rather smoothly, if that is what the U.S. side wants."

In Reagan's 37-minute speech at Monday's opening session of the world body, the president confirmed he had offered Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev a plan for sharing but not abandoning research on "Star Wars," the U.S. space-based missile defense project.

Reagan's speech criticized the treatment of civilians in Afghanistan, where the Soviets have an estimated 115,000 troops, and what he called the Kremlin's insistence on supporting Marxist-Leninist insurrections around the world.

A Soviet spokesman, Gennady Gerasimov, told ABC's "Good Morning America" today that if both sides are willing the case of Daniloff "can be resolved tomorrow." He said all that would be required would be for diplomats on both sides to "put their heads together and think up some kind of diplomatic accommodation."

At a Monday news conference at the Soviet U.N. mission, Petrovsky said Daniloff, a Moscow correspondent for U.S. News and World & Report, could be freed "very rapidly" if the U.S. administration takes the right course.

Storms smack West Texas

From Staff and Wire Reports

The calendar says it's fall, but Texas residents needed a calendar, not a check of weather conditions to be certain of the season.

Fall arrived shortly before 3 a.m. today, but the National Weather Service says it's going to remain summer-like around Texas for at least the next several days. And these summer-like conditions triggered severe thunderstorms over portions of West Texas late Monday.

Pampa and towns in the eastern Panhandle stayed relatively dry compared to the deluge to the west. The National Weather Service reported 0.22 inch of rain in Pampa Monday, while a Miami resident said "there was not enough rain here to

talk about."

Carson County got a drenching however.

Skellytown Mayor Wesley Russell measured 2 inches of rain, causing some flooding in the north part of town.

"Some of the culverts filled and got stopped up, and the water flowed onto the streets," Russell said, adding that these inconveniences caused no damage.

A spokesman for Groom Wheat Growers Inc., measured 1½ inches in Groom.

A spokesman at Wheeler Evans Grain Elevator reported 0.9 inch in White Deer.

"It was just a good, steady rain," he said.

See STORMS, Page 2

House preparing tax hike

From Staff and Wire Reports

AUSTIN—The chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, who Monday introduced a tax increase bill, says it will be a struggle just to get that measure through his panel and before the full House.

"The committee was set up last session to kill tax bills. When you have a committee that's set up to kill tax bills, it's a pretty good mountain to cross to let a bill out in any form," Rep. Stan Schlueter, D-Killeen, said Monday.

Schlueter said that while he looks for a way to get the tax bill to the floor, House Speaker Gib Lewis will look for votes for final passage.

"The speaker's lobbying the members to help them make up their minds," Schlueter said. "I'm just trying to get the bill out of committee."

Many lawmakers voiced anger with the Senate for refusing to make deeper budget cuts to head off the need for a tax increase this year.

Rep. Foster Whaley, D-Pampa, said the state budget has plenty of room for more cuts. He reiterated that he has no intention of voting for any type of tax increase.

"There's still a half a billion worth of stuff that can be cut," Whaley said. "I think it's a sad thing that we've gone from \$20 billion in five years to \$37 billion and we can't find \$3.5 billion to cut out."

Deeper cuts should be made in state allotments to the highway department, Texas Commission for the Arts, career ladder for teachers and tuition equalization grants for students attending private schools, Whaley said. The highway department

See TAX, Page 2

Republican preacher looking to beat Hobby

By PAUL PINKHAM
Staff Writer

Claiming he can be "the guy that proves everybody wrong," David Davidson, the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, proclaimed during a campaign stop Monday in Pampa that his Democratic opponent "can be beat."

Davidson, 48, a retired Gonzales minister now living in Austin, emerged from a field of four Republican primary candidates to challenge Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, a Democrat who has been in office since 1972.

Davidson campaigned for about two hours in Pampa during a Panhandle campaign swing that



Davidson

included stops in Plainview and Hereford.

"I think that I'm going to be the guy that proves everybody wrong," Davidson said. "Bill Hobby can be beat."

Davidson said a new spirit of "Republicanism" is sweeping the state, giving GOP candidates opportunities to win more state and local offices than ever before.

"We Republicans wanted a two-party state for a long time," he said. "I now see that we are going to have a one-party state again — only this time, it's going to be our party and not theirs."

Davidson accused Hobby and other Democratic leaders of trying to convince Texans that the state is going broke as an excuse for raising taxes, when, in fact, state revenues have increased 6 percent in the previous fiscal year. The real problem, he said, is "we don't have as much to

spend as we want to spend.

"Texas is not going broke," he said. "What we need is courage in the state government, and we're not going to get it because the leadership is all Democratic."

Without cutting spending, Davidson said, Texans will have to pay 20 to 30 percent more in taxes next year, destroying the state's business environment and rendering it unable to attract new businesses.

"And that is exactly what we need to boost the tax base of this state," he added.

The candidate said budgets can be cut without drastically affecting local services because "there's fat at the top."

"The thing that needs to be cut

is the higher echelons of these state agencies," he said.

But Davidson said the biggest issue in his campaign is that Hobby has lost touch with Texans. He called the lieutenant governor the most dominant position in state politics because he presides over the Senate, but added that state senators have come to represent Hobby better than their constituents.

Hobby has always found it to his advantage to maintain a low profile and "keep things secret rather than out in the open," Davidson said, adding that Hobby's current position on the state budget will hurt the incumbent in November.

"Bill Hobby thinks that we are

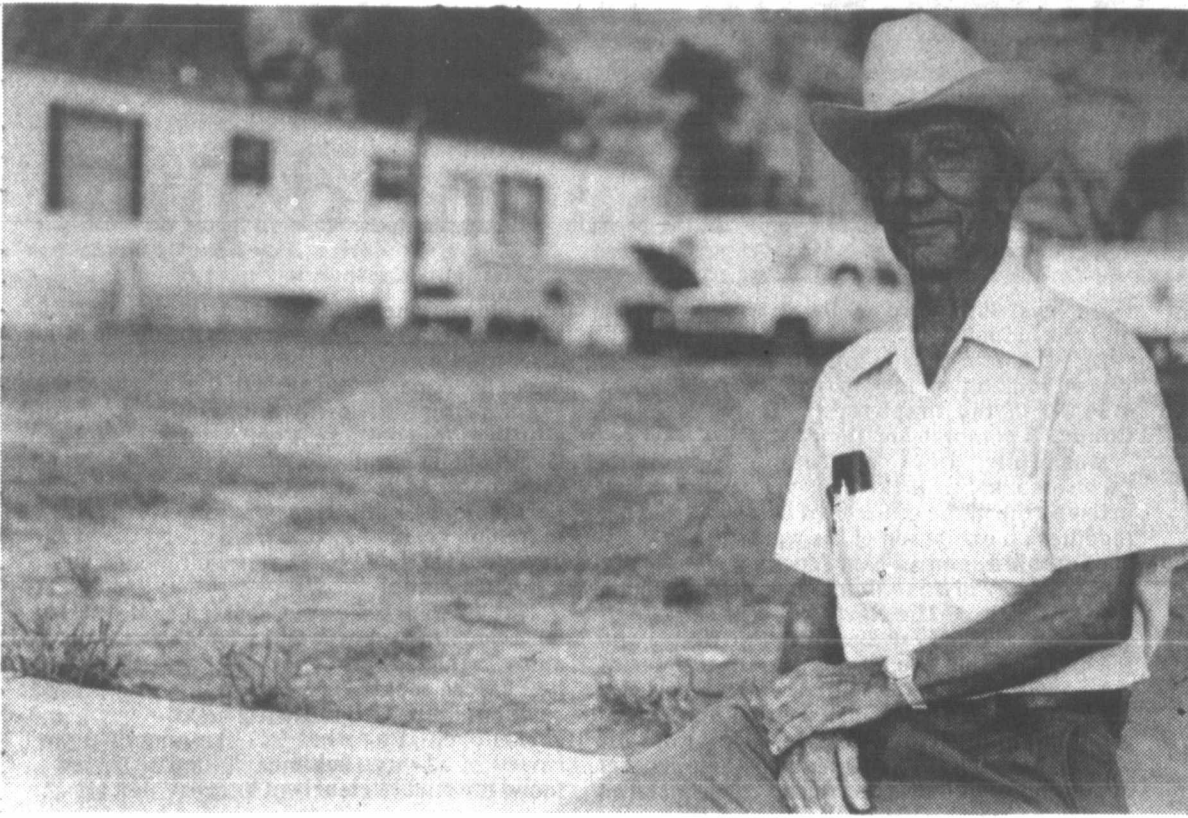
a government that has a people,"

Davidson said. "I think we are a people that has a government."

The challenger said he would solve the state's prison overcrowding problem by letting private business build prisons and lease them back to the state as has been done in other states. Except in the case of maximum security prisons, he said he would be willing to try letting private industry run prisons as well.

Davidson also said he would like to see education reform provide more local participation, enhance the image of teachers rather than destroy it and place more emphasis on vocational education. It needs more input from local communities, he said.

TEXAS/REGIONAL



Arleigh Hoobler with his controversial mobile home lot. (Staff Photo by Cathy Spaulding)

Canadian city council OKs controversial code change

By CATHY SPAULDING
Staff Writer

CANADIAN — Despite a protest and a delay by Mayor Therese Abraham a controversial city code amendment extending the period allowing code variances is now in effect.

The Canadian city council, in its fourth vote on the matter, agreed Monday to confirm a Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation to extend the period allowing "non-conforming use of land" from 45 days to one year. The change is retroactive to Jan. 1.

The council passed the amendment by a vote of four to one earlier this year. But Abraham invoked a legal, but rarely used option to file a written protest to the amendment and refused to sign it. Her decision was backed by 23 Canadian residents who packed city hall at last week's regular meeting to protest the amendment. Eight people at the meeting supported the extension. The council was not able to make a decision last week due to lack of a quorum.

This time around, with the same split vote, Abraham de-

cidated she'd no longer fight it; she would just still disagree.

"I can understand a person's problem (with the 45 day limit). The economy is getting so bad," she said. "But the time the city now has to keep the variance, one year, is just too long. It waters down our zoning ordinances."

Arleigh and Mary Lee Hoobler, mobile home lessors who seemed most affected by the 45 day limit, are pleased with the council's final confirmation. They own property on Purcell Street, two blocks southeast of city hall, where they rent trailer spaces. Hoobler said they were renting the trailer space before the city adopted its zoning ordinances. The mobile home lot is now zoned commercial.

The Hooblers had little problem with the zoning ordinance in better economic times; they had renters. But with fewer people renting, the Hoobler trailers have often been left vacant. Earlier this year, the city got them for "non-conforming status."

"It was real good that they finally made the decision," Mrs. Hoobler said. "Arleigh has had to

go through all sorts of trouble."

"The land use to be an old hotel ... But I bought it way before zoning went into effect," Hoobler said.

Hoobler said the 50-Plus Club, a local senior citizens group which also rented trailer space, also had problems with the zoning.

"We were told we couldn't put a trailer up after it was vacant for 30 days," Hoobler said, adding that the city later extended it to 45 days.

"We can live with that," he said before the council's decision. "But if they extend it to a year, it would be less of a nuisance for me."

The crowd at Monday's rescheduled meeting was smaller than last week's. But still audience members had things to say.

"The zoning ordinance will never work if it can't be for everybody," resident Ray Byard told the council. "We can't go around making changes just to suit so and so."

When Abraham asked other audience members for comment, a frail old woman said in a tiny voice "it doesn't do any good to speak out for it."

Senate seats new member

AUSTIN (AP) — Democrats in the Texas Senate have maintained their 25-6 majority by seating former Harrison County Judge Richard Anderson on a straight-party vote.

One Democrat, however, voted "present" Monday and another said he did not think Anderson was eligible but the courts had decided he was, and that's what counted.

A motion by Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown, R-Lake Jackson, to declare the seat vacant failed 6-23, with all six Senate Republicans voting for the motion. Sen. Grant Jones, D-Temple, voted "present."

Brown said his motion was "not a partisan issue," touching off loud laughter among several Democratic senators.

Sen. Ted Lyon, D-Mesquite, said a state constitutional prohibition against judges running for the Legislature during their term as judge did not apply to special elections.

A voter in Anderson's northeast Texas district, Cecil Duvall of Marshall, had sued to prevent Anderson from becoming sena-

tor. But the Texas Supreme Court on Monday said it had no jurisdiction in the case.

Lyon cited as precedent for seating Anderson a 1935 Senate vote in which a senator-elect who was district attorney was seated.

A Thursday canvass of the votes in a special Sept. 13 Senate runoff election showed that Anderson, a Democrat, was the winner over Republican Edd Hargett of Linden 41,955 votes to 30,174.

The election was held to select a successor to Ed Howard, D-Texas, who resigned in April to join a law firm as an Austin lobbyist.

Anderson, 37, was sworn in Thursday after the votes were canvassed. The Senate didn't meet Friday, so Monday was the first day he could be seated.

Anderson resigned as judge shortly before he was sworn in.

His election was challenged in state district court in Harrison County, and Anderson was declared eligible. An appeal to the 6th Court of Appeals at Texarkana was dismissed.

Sen. Bob Glasgow, D-

Stephenville, said Monday he did not believe Anderson was eligible to be a senator but added, "I'm not the judge of that, and I don't think we should insert ourselves in the judicial system."

"The courts of this state have told us he (Anderson) has a right to be a part of this body," Glasgow said, and voted against Brown's motion.

After Brown's motion failed, Brown and others clustered around Anderson to shake hands. Brown was named by Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby as a member of the committee to escort Anderson to the front of the Senate, where he received a standing ovation.

"I will simply say that the half million residents of the 1st senatorial district, my family and I appreciate the action you've taken here today," Anderson said. "I look forward to serving with each of you members of this august body, and I appreciate the arguments that were made here today."

Hobby appointed Anderson to the economic development, jurisprudence and natural resources committees and to the Subcommittee on Water.

Judge accuses state of interfering in case over the mentally retarded

DALLAS (AP) — A federal judge accused the state of habitually interfering with an orderly conclusion of the 12-year-old class action lawsuit over state care of the mentally retarded.

U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders of Dallas issued an order Monday denying the state's appeal of the appointment of a special master in the case against the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. The case has forced the state to move retarded people out of institutions and into homes in the community.

In July, Sanders named Florida sociologist Linda O'Neill as special master. She serves as Sanders' expert consultant in the court case. He said a special master was needed to bring the complex and time-consuming case to an end.

As special master, Ms. O'Neill has power to hold evidentiary hearings, subpoena witnesses, direct the mental health agency to turn over documents, and monitor the agency's budget. She also will write an "implementation plan" to resolve all remaining issues in the controversial case.

The state has indicated it may appeal Ms. O'Neill's appointment. "It's certainly a possibility," said Toni Hunter, assistant attorney general.

Sanders' order on the matter said, "Once again — it is becoming habitual — the court is confronted with a request from defendants (Texas) to change an order entered after all parties had been afforded the opportunity to present their respective positions.

"The unsolicited reargument of matters already presented and decided is not conducive to the orderly resolution of this litigation," he said. "Some day there must be an end to this litigation."

The state had submitted a 31-page motion asking Sanders to vacate Ms. O'Neill's appointment, arguing that she is not a lawyer and is biased because she has criticized state actions in the past. The state also took issue with her dual role as special master and expert consultant.

"She's serving both roles," Ms. Hunter said. "We don't understand how she's supposed to do both. We don't understand how she can be a neutral fact-finder (special master) when she's already produced her own implementation plan" as part of her expert consultant duties.

White signs classroom paperwork reduction bill

AUSTIN (AP) — As he signed a bill to reduce classroom paperwork, Gov. Mark White said the new law should permit teachers to do the job for which they were hired — teach.

"Teaching must never be reduced to an exercise in paper-pushing. It's the paperwork that needs to be reduced. That's the victory we will achieve," White said Monday.

The bill, which takes effect immediately, directs the State Board of Education to reduce its paperwork requirements and instructs school districts to reduce the amount of paperwork required of teachers.

Under the legislation, teachers would be required only to fill out paperwork relating to students' grades, textbooks, lesson plans and attendance, lawmakers said.

White recalled that his mother, a long-time Houston teacher, found paperwork the most frustrating part of her job.

"My mother ... used to come home from school weary not so much from teaching, which she loved to do, but more often from having to fill out the endless stream of reports and forms and documentation required by the system," he said.

The governor said teachers have continued to labor with useless paper chores.

"I can't tell you how many teachers I have heard from — up in the thousands — who have said that

the paperwork burden is one of the greatest daily frustrations in the profession," he said.

Lawmakers and officials of teacher organizations hailed the bill's signing.

Senate Education Committee Chairman Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, said one advantage of the new law is that it prohibits unnecessary paperwork from being imposed.

"The state does not require any more paperwork than is absolutely necessary to account for students and deliver their grades and report their progress. Teachers now have a state law they can look to and point to saying that is not only not required, it's prohibited that you impose that on my teaching," Parker said.

John Cole, president of the Texas Federation of Teachers, said the new law will give teachers "the tools to stem this flow of paper."

"We know the passage of this bill will not, by itself, put an end to the problem of paperwork for teachers. However, this will arm teachers with the weapon they need to fight back," Cole said.

"The business of the schools is teaching. I think this paperwork bill will go a long way to having teachers teach and get on about the business of public schools," added Rep. Ernestine Glossbrenner, D-Alice.

Crickets search for romance

AUSTIN (AP) — They're back.

By the hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, the crickets crawled out of hiding about the first of September to begin their annual mating frenzy.

Cousins of the lowly cockroach, crickets will reproduce as many as three times before the first frost, and a female will lay 150 to 400 eggs, experts say.

While crickets are harmless to humans, their numbers make them a nuisance. And when they die, there's another problem.

"It's a very putrid smell that comes from dead crickets," said Bob Jenkins, who directs maintenance for the Capitol complex, which annually is overwhelmed with the insects.

"We sweep up thousands of them every morning. The problem we're having this year is it's humid and wet, and they smell. They get in the window wells," Jenkins said.

Crickets, like many other insects, swarm to artificial light sources after dark. The reason isn't fully understood, but University of Texas zoologist Larry Gilbert explained one theory.

Gilbert said researchers believe insects flying at night use distant light sources for orientation.

"They set an angle to the

moon," he said. "However, if you mistake a street light for the moon, you would circle it and end up at it," Gilbert said.

And the crickets' chirp?

"It's the mating call of the male. He's calling to all his girlfriends to come see him," said

Tom Kezar, Travis County Extension Service agent.

Field crickets prefer the outdoors and feed on plants, Kezar said. Occasionally, they invade buildings in search of warm, dry hiding places, but they will not set up permanent homes indoors.

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VIEWPOINTS



The Pampa News
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Let Peace Begin With Me

This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the covefing commandment.

Louise Fletcher
Publisher

Jeff Langley
Managing Editor

Opinion

Lukewarm Coors, ice-cold ignorance

The Utah Legislature proposed that the state's supermarkets, convenience stores and liquor stores be forbidden to sell cold beer.

Proponents of the measure reason — if that's the proper word — that the law would force drinkers to take their beer home and refrigerate it before drinking it, reducing the likelihood that purchasers would open and quaff a bottle or two in the car before reaching home. And that, *voilà!*, would reduce the problem of drunken driving in Utah.

One practical problem with this idea lies in the assumption that everyone has to have his beer ice-cold. Virtually everyone the world over drank tepid beer in the days before universal electrification made ice available year round. To this day the British are in the habit of drinking their suds unchilled — well, slightly cooler than room temperature. An acquired taste, that, but one likely to be acquired by any resident of Utah determined to drink beer behind the wheel. If that's the only way he can get his beer, that's how he'll learn to drink it.

And if he just can't bring himself to drink unchilled beer, he can always pick up a tenth of red wine, normally consumed at room temperature, or a half pint of bourbon, which also requires no refrigeration, and drink that on the way home to stash the beer in the fridge. In other words, this anti-drunken driving law could actually create an incentive for people to drink even more powerful alcoholic beverages while driving, and thereby exacerbate the very problem it was meant to solve.

Drunken driving, after all, is not caused by the easy availability of cold beer — or the easy availability of any other alcoholic beverage. It is caused by personal irresponsibility. And the irresponsible cannot be made responsible by legislation. Even when the manufacture and sale of all alcoholic beverages was outlawed throughout the country some years back, people still found ways to get smashed. Alas, the lessons of Prohibition are still among those our public officials are most unwilling to learn.

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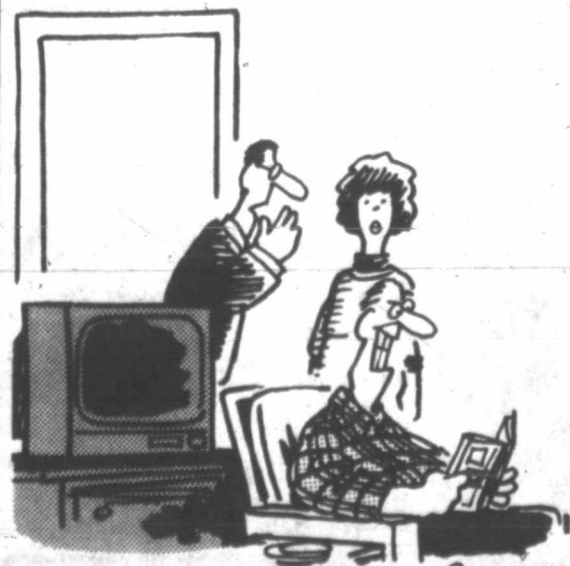
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James J. Kilpatrick

Taxes paying for mud pies

WASHINGTON — The word around Capitol Hill is that the road to a balanced federal budget is steadily washing away. Pete Domenici of New Mexico, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, has begun to despair of ever seeing an end to deficit spending. The gentleman has reason to despair. I will give you two such reasons: naked women and mud pie art.

A few weeks ago a researcher by the name of Judith Reisman completed an exhaustive study of three magazines, Penthouse, Playboy and Hustler. Dr. Reisman was not directly concerned with textual matter; her concern was with cartoons and other visual images, and her particular concern had to do with the impact upon society of images depicting children.

Toward that end, if you will believe it, the doctor made a detailed analysis of 372 issues of Playboy, 184 issues of Penthouse and 125 issues of Hustler. She dutifully catalogued every illustration of every sort. She found 2,016 cartoons that included children apparently under the age of 17 and 3,988 other pictures, photographs and drawings that depicted infants or youths.

The analysis was nothing if not definitive. She determined that 85 percent of the children thus depicted were white, 3 percent black, 1 percent Jewish, 1 percent Asian, 1 percent Hispanic and 8 percent unidentifiable. (The numbers do not add up to 100 because of rounding.) She tabulated and classified 23 physical settings in which the children appeared. She noted that in about one-sixth of the depictions, the children's eyes

were "cast downward or closed, with the sclera and iris hidden."

Dr. Reisman thus compiled a three-volume report running to 1,600 pages. And she spent \$734,371 of the taxpayers' money, funneled through a complainant Department of Justice.

Meanwhile, while the doctor was pursuing this remarkable task, a 41-year-old English artist by the name of Richard Long was putting together an exhibition of his works at the Guggenheim Museum in New York. My authority for the nature of this exhibition is Michael Brenson, art critic of The New York Times.

It appears that Long is a romantic figure who journeys around the world, making circles of mud and lines of stone. This is all he does. He insists upon repetition. "He retains something of the amazement of the child." Says Brenson: "If his lines suggest an eternal beginning, his circles suggest eternal return." The artist is ritualistic, minimalist and reductive. He brings to his works a new dimension of meaning.

The show at the Guggenheim contains 50 works, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, "wordpieces" and maps. The exhibition begins with a slate path that winds down one of the Guggenheim's ramps. It ends with two beds of stone. One bed is black and white. The other bed is composed of white stones only. "Long installed every stone himself."

His paintings of circles are fashioned of mud. He applies the mud with his hands, "throwing it, drawing with his fingers, or using the imprint of his palms." The artist allows people to watch

him place stones, but he paints in private. The mud circles are "impermanent." They will be discarded when the exhibition ends in November. The Times critic says that a question will remain after the show: What would happen with a little more conflict? A better question for the Guggenheim might be: What will we do with all these damned rocks?

The Long exhibition was supported by a matching grant of \$50,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts. That is your money, off to a landfill dump.

The Washington Post reported that "no one has rushed to embrace Reisman's controversial study." Indeed, several of the gentlewoman's peers were cool to cold toward the project. One reviewer confessed difficulty in "discerning the kernel even after what felt like an exhaustive review of all three volumes." Another reviewer found the study "clearly of interest" but felt the possible adverse effects could not be inferred.

The Guggenheim's mud pie exhibition is as useless. This is not art; this is an intellectual con game played by critics and gallery directors. It is sham art, the work of industrious tailors who stily weave an emperor's robes.

Do I make my point? So long as Congress and the Reagan administration countenance the squandering of tax funds on idiotic studies and mud pie art, but one conclusion can be reached: The government is not serious about balancing the budget. These outlays are not exceptional. The budget is riddled with them. No wonder Pete Domenici despairs. I do too.



Lewis Grizzard

Enough time for screams?

LOS ANGELES — Days after the collision of the small aircraft and the Aeromexico DC-9 over nearby Cerritos, Calif., much of the ghastly mess that resulted was still visible.

Think words like "charred" and "devastated." What had been a quiet neighborhood had been turned into a holocaust. When the jet smashed to the ground, it exploded in a great orange ball — a firestorm that consumed all that was near it.

Sixty-three on the jet died. Three on the small plane were killed. The death toll among those on the ground added to the tragedy.

But what remained the most wretched thought for me was, What did those poor souls on the jet go through in the final, terrifying seconds of their lives?

The photograph of the plane showed it had flipped over as it hurtled toward the ground.

In the shuttle explosion, the "Uh-oh" tape said perhaps the seven astronauts who died lived a few seconds after the initial explosion and knew

there would be no escape from death.

So what would it have been like on Aeromexico? You can only imagine and shudder.

The plane is descending smoothly toward its landing. Flight attendants are passing through the aisles taking up cups and glasses and returning jackets to passengers.

Then a sudden jolt. An unfamiliar sound. In a heartbeat, passengers bring their eyes up from their books and magazines.

The plane halts its smooth descent and begins to turn wickedly. It flips and begins to drop like a rock.

Was there time for screams? For tears? For prayers? Then, the impact, and all life's sounds are snuffed into oblivion.

I went to the crash scene for a couple of reasons. This column was one. What happened to me the day the shuttle exploded was another.

I was on a Delta DC-9 landing in Melbourne, Fla., from Atlanta. The plane was packed with reporters on their way to cover the disaster at

the Cape.

Moments before landing, I looked out my window. A small plane seemed to be flying directly toward me. Then, the jet swerved violently to its right to avoid a collision.

We landed safely. A student pilot had been at fault.

The FAA later said the two planes had passed within 100 feet of each other.

And now I look at this scene. Those of us on the Delta flight were lucky. The people on Aeromexico and the Piper and on the ground were not.

So you try to explain it and you can't help but do it with clichés: people at the wrong place at the wrong time. People whose time had come.

And there is that new bumpersticker you see occasionally. It is somewhat lewd, so I can't quote it exactly but the message is: "Stuff happens."

And when it does, the living can only say, "There but the grace of God...." I think you know the rest.

More women are buying the family car

By Rusty Brown

There's a story about this couple who went car shopping. The salesman spent all his time talking to the husband, totally ignoring the wife. She got so annoyed, she stomped out and the salesman didn't even notice. He just continued sweet-talking the husband, who finally said: "No deal. The checkbook just went out the door."

The anecdote is told by Lynn St. James, professional race-car driver and consumer adviser for Ford Motor Co., to illustrate what car salesmen should not do.

She knows women are in the driver's seat as much as men these days. A recent Conde Nast Publications survey showed that 45 percent of the cars sold last year were bought by women. Beyond that, another survey reported that women cast the deciding vote in

81 percent of all car purchases.

No wonder auto companies are generating marketing programs and ad campaigns aimed at women customers. Likewise, car dealers are retraining their sales forces to be more attuned to women buyers. A Chevrolet dealer in Denver went so far as to redecorate his showroom: mauve carpeting, color-coordinated sofas, soft lighting and, on Saturdays, free coffee and fruit-and-cheese platters.

Others are warning salespeople that women don't buy high-pressure sales pitches or being talked down to. Chrysler is holding consumer seminars at auto shows where women can ask questions and share their views on cars. Chevrolet has initiated a women's marketing committee to work with its advertising agency.

All this makes me think I'd like to get in my two-cents' worth about

some pet peeves. At the risk of sounding like a squeaky wheel, I'd like to complain about:

— One-heel drive: Why can't auto makers realize that women often wear high heels while driving? At present, we seem to have only two options: let the right heel wear a hole in the carpeting just below the gas pedal; or, engage in a constant tug of war with a protective floor mat that continually inches forward under heel pressure. My floor mat often gets bunched up under the accelerator pedal and shoots me into high gear, until I can reach down to pull the mat back in place. Very dangerous.

— Tiny hands glove compartment: I hate midget-sized dashboard drawers. I want something that will carry the necessary car papers and maintenance receipts, and also hold a normal-sized flashlight, extra glasses

and cosmetics, maps, gloves, notebook and a means by which pens will not roll to the back and become unfindable.

— Wheel spinning: Why do tires have to be designated by ridiculously meaningless long numbers, such as 175/10R-13 or P255/7GR-15, and even worse, 33 250R-16.5D. What jibberish!

Certainly car manufacturers can come up with sizes we can relate to. How 'bout AA, 36D or 42 long?

— Drop seat: How many times have you reached for the seat adjuster under the driver's seat and had to grope through greasy rags, old candy wrappers or somebody's wet Kleenex? I vote for an easy-to-see seat adjuster knob that glows day and night — or, at least will be in the same spot on all makes of cars.

Shamir says Israel committed to South Lebanon militia

EDITOR'S NOTE—The following copy was submitted to the Israeli military censor, who made significant deletions.

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)— Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir today said Israel's armed forces buildup along its northern border does not indicate the government has decided to increase its military presence in south Lebanon.

However, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned in remarks broadcast today that Israel would hit back hard at Shiite Moslem guerrilla groups if they continue attacking its Lebanese militia ally.

Israel will do its utmost "to bring about a total failure and a painful failure to those who attack" positions manned by the Israeli-trained and financed South Lebanon Army, Rabin said on Israel Radio.

Israeli troops by the hundreds massed along the border Monday, and an official said they were ready to push into southern Lebanon to crush a guerrilla offensive.

The predominantly Christian South Lebanon Army is a 1,000-strong force of Lebanese militiamen who patrol an Israeli-designated buffer zone in south Lebanon stretching six to 10 miles north of the frontier.

Shamir said the buildup of troops was an effort to "support the activity of the SLA against the terrorist attacks of the fanatic Hezbollah," a radical Shiite Moslem guerrilla group.

He spoke to reporters at Ben Gurion Airport before his departure for the U.N. General Assembly session in New York.

"We are committed to support the SLA because they are fulfilling a very important function for maintaining security and stability in this area, and

it is essential for the security of the northern part of our country. But I don't think it will be necessary to increase our forces there," Shamir said.

In Maarakeh, Lebanon today, four rockets crashed into the headquarters of the French contingent of the U.N. peacekeeping force in south Lebanon. Lt. Col. Patrick Dureau, a spokesman for the French forces, said the attack occurred as the troops were having breakfast. No casualties were reported.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Four French soldiers in the U.N. force have been killed and 33 wounded in attacks since Aug. 11.

The South Lebanon Army, commanded by Lebanese Gen. Antoine Lahd, has lost 16 men in recent weeks during clashes with the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and extremists of the Shiite Amal militia who seek to dislodge the remaining Israeli sol-

diers from Lebanon. Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual leader of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, of Party of God, said at a mass rally in Beirut on Sunday that the guerrilla offensive was meant to "destroy the theory behind the establishment of Israel's security zone."

At the United Nations Monday, Israeli Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu told the Security Council his country would not dismantle the zone as demanded by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar because abandonment would cause "the entire area along Israel's border (to) fill up" with Moslem and Palestinian extremists.

Rabin, in his comments broadcast today, also said Israel remained committed to the zone.

Israel closed all the gates to the buffer zone Monday, halting access to the area from both Israel and Lebanon.

Air Force to use new AIDS drug at hospital

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP)— Steps are being taken to bring the promising new drug AZT to the Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Center here to treat as many as 40 patients suffering from AIDS, officials said.

"I still haven't seen the data (on the drug) yet. But if it is as good as it appears to be, then it would be very exciting. It would be the first treatment that shows promise in treating this disease," said Lt. Col. Richard Winn, infectious-disease specialist at Wilford Hall.

Wilford Hall is the worldwide referral hospital for any form of AIDS virus infection among Air Force personnel.

Doctors and scientists from Wilford Hall, the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research and the University of Texas Health Science Center who are participating in a multimillion-dollar federal AIDS research project are expected to meet Thursday to map out a plan to bring AZT here for further testing and research.

Officials Monday said it could be several weeks to three months before the drug would be available at Wilford Hall.

Once AZT, or azidothymidine, is available, the specific medical criteria required for the drug may limit the initial number of patients to as few as four, officials said. Similar efforts to get AZT are being made at other local hospitals as well.

The Wilford Hall pharmacy separately sought certification to stock and dispense the drug, which appears to protect patients from new attacks by the AIDS virus on more blood or nerve cells in their bodies.

A 26-year-old medically retired Air Force sergeant who asked that his name not be used said Monday, "I've been told I'm a candidate for it when it comes through."

"I think it's wonderful. If I can take a pill to make my life go on longer, I'll do it."

After a three-year tour of duty in England, he came down in March with pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, an unusual type of lung disease that signals the development of a full case of acquired immune deficiency syndrome in about half of its victims.

Chernobyl emitted more radiation than all tests and bombs

NEW YORK (AP)— The Chernobyl nuclear disaster may have emitted up to 50 percent more radioactive cesium than all the atomic tests and bombs ever exploded, according to a U.S. study cited in The New York Times today.

The substance, which takes more than 100 years to decay and is the primary long-term component in fallout, has been associated with cancer and genetic disease.

"It is another way of telling us that this was a very serious accident," said Dr. Lynn R. Anspaugh, a biophysicist who participated in the study by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for the Department of Energy.

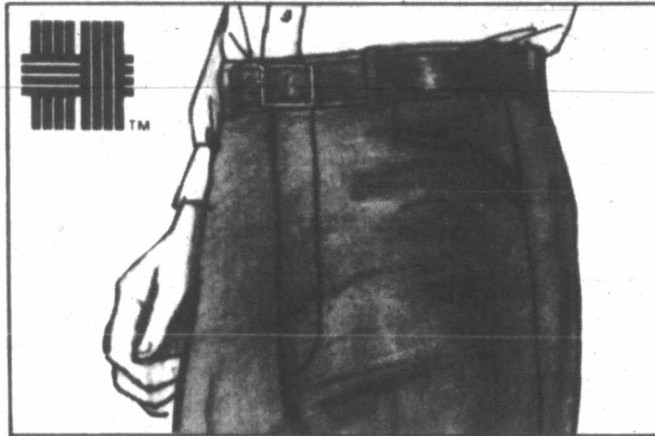
The study is one of several new Western examinations of the April 26 disaster since Soviet scientists formally presented their findings to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, a month ago.

Another report by the International Nuclear Advisory Group, warns that the Soviet plan to entomb the reactor may not resolve the health questions because the concrete enclosure may have a design life of only 50 years.

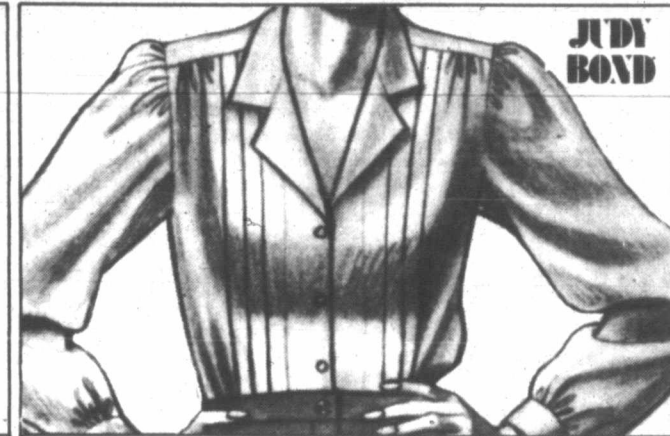
This report, which was to be presented to the international agency today, says that more than eight tons of highly radioactive material was emitted from the accident, some of it deposited hundreds of miles away, the Times said.

The Livermore study came as the governors of the international agency met in Vienna on Monday to complete plans for an early warning system and international relief network in case of nuclear power accidents.

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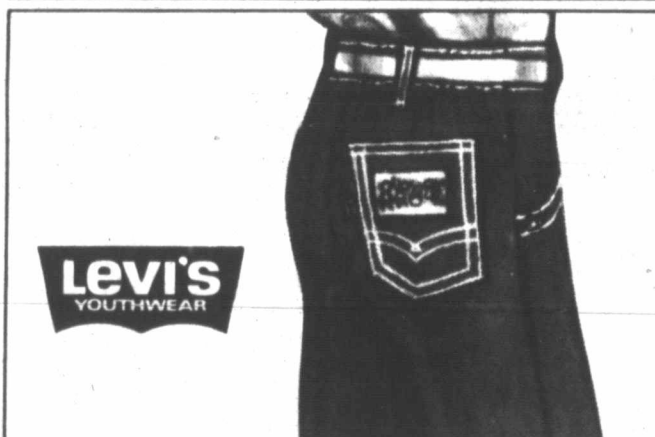
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South Texas farmer avoids harvest of red ink

By GAIL FIELDS
Corpus Christi Caller-Times

EDROY, Texas (AP) — Down on Bobby Nedbalek's farm, the grain sorghum crop is in. Cotton harvesting comes next. But the one crop that Nedbalek hopes never to harvest is red ink.

To keep that from happening, this 45-year-old San Patricio farmer has his own approach to agriculture. You could call it the Nedbalek Farm Policy.

The centerpiece of the Nedbalek Farm Policy involves spending. He doesn't. Not if he doesn't have the money. Not if he has to borrow from the bank.

In this era of bigger farms barely making it on wafer-thin profits, Nedbalek is a small farmer who manages to get by. He is a survivor of 19 years of Coastal Bend farming — 19 years of the inevitable boom-bust cycles that have plagued farmers since farming began.

Unlike many farm families that have gone under in recent years, including some of Nedbalek's neighbors, he has survived, he believes, because he is frugal and cautious.

"I have never made a payment on an appliance

or a car," Nedbalek said last week. If he buys, he pays cash. But in many cases, he doesn't buy at all. When he needed an eight-row planter, for example, he welded two old four-row planters together. It worked. And just as importantly for him, there was no lien at the bank attached to it.

If there is one word to describe Nedbalek, it is careful. His buzzwords are "preventive maintenance," and he always wears a hat and long sleeves in the South Texas sun.

He waxes his farm machinery twice a year. He bought his first tractor the same year he had his first son — 19 years ago. Both still work on the farm.

Nedbalek's caution does not reveal itself as success by some standards. There is no Cadillac in his driveway. The family home is an abandoned house that was renovated. There are no signs of extravagance on their 90-acre homestead.

His natural disinclination against spending money, Nedbalek believes, has given his family a good life in farming.

"We've gotten where we are by being as careful as we knew how. I don't see us doing anything different," Nedbalek said, even though he expects

his farm income to drop by at least 20 percent next year.

"The secret is going to be playing the best game you can on the short term — be careful with what you plan in the next year, and don't overextend yourself."

Farm economists are predicting that a new government farm program promises an upheaval for the family farm in the next few years that may leave casualties even in South Texas, one of the last areas to feel the nationwide farm crisis.

Commodity prices are the lowest they have been in 10 years, according to Darwin Anderson, San Patricio County agriculture extension agent.

"We're going to lose some people," Anderson said. The 1985 farm bill is supposed to put U.S. crops on the world market by forcing American prices to a level competitive with foreign commodities. This in turn should reduce the amount of surplus crops in the United States.

In the meantime, Anderson said, there will be a "shake-up" in the farm industry — a "realigning of producers and how they operate."

Anderson predicts farmers will be plowing less often and cutting back on the amount of fertilizers and herbicides they use.

"Most people are not buying new equipment — the little things — they drive a worn-out pickup for another year," he said. Nedbalek is the kind of farmer that Anderson points to as an example of small farmers who are making it, or at least surviving.

Bobby Nedbalek measures his words, like his dollars, before he spends them.

"I'm trying to comply with the farm bill," Nedbalek said. Referring to the nation's agriculture, he added, "I look at it as a giant renewable resource, and it has to be managed. Farmers are not in the position to manage a resource of the country, and the government is doing the best it can."

Nedbalek and his son, John David, dressed identically in jeans, long-sleeved shirts and green "gimme" caps, are doing what they do when they aren't in the fields — applying preventive maintenance to their equipment.

Nedbalek holds that he doesn't much hold opinions, except that the best way to keep machinery is to take care of it.

Inside one of two barns on the place are the accumulated odds and ends of half a lifetime of farming.

Man hunts treasure for fun, profit

HOUSTON (AP) — Alfred Van Fossen's office is filled with bits and pieces of a buried past.

From the musket balls that line glass cases to the cannon balls on the floor, each piece represents a "find" for Van Fossen — a treasure.

"Anything that has historical value is a treasure," he said. "Other people's trash and junk is my treasure."

Van Fossen hunts treasure for fun and profit. He also considers himself a historian and is meticulous about documenting any information he can round up on each piece.

Treasure-hunting is not only Van Fossen's livelihood, but his hobby and stress-reliever. His hunting days began as a youth in Alabama, and his first discovery was an old cigar box full of coins found tucked inside a cave.

His fascination with history and legends eventually grew into a full-time passion, and he now operates a treasure-hunting supply business in a converted gas station perched on a street corner near downtown Houston.

"Everybody's a treasure hunter, but you've got to find something before you're a treasure finder," he said. "The secret is having good common sense so you can think."

The burly 51-year-old Van Fossen has ventured to Greece, Mexico, Canada and Central America in search of treasure, but he always returns to his home and business in Houston where he offers advice on hunting.

Signs advertising treasure-hunting gear are posted outside the office. Inside, the rooms are filled with coins, masks, books, statues, old bullets and squawking parrots.

Although he's searched foreign lands and waters, Van Fossen says there is plenty of treasure hidden in Texas.

"There's more treasure buried in this state than any other, bar none," he said. "Texas has more mysteries than anybody."

Treasures sometimes are found buried in dirt, or in wrecked ships beneath silt and sand.

Findin; it can be as simple as using a metal detector, or may require a lot of manpower and equipment. But Van Fossen said a potential treasure finder must first research the project or risk wasting time and money looking in the wrong place.

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Special rules apply when children travel alone

By BECKY KNAPP
Austin American Statesman

AUSTIN (AP) — It's 3:15 p.m. Saturday, and as a little truck buzzes across the runway at Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, a pre-teen lad, skateboard slung over his shoulder, waits for his flight with the nonchalance of a seasoned flier.

A dark-haired little girl, clutching her mother's hand, wriggles from one foot to the other as the harried ticket taker repeats his announcement that all children flying alone should come forward.

At Gate 2, Lindsay Elton, 10, and her brother, Johnathan, 7, are first in line at the boarding gate, waiting to be escorted onto a Southwest Airlines flight to El Paso.

A few feet away, Estella Molina, 9, is also waiting to board the El Paso flight. For the past three weeks, she has been in Austin visiting her brother and sister-in-law.

Pinned to the children's shirts are tags that identify them as UM's, the term that airline companies use when referring to unaccompanied and going.

Just a few years ago, a child traveling alone was an oddity that adult passengers usually treated like a darling orphan. Flight attendants didn't mind, and, in fact, got a kick out of the passenger who needed to have his beef patty cut up for him.

Airline deregulation has changed all that. Air fares are so low that, for Texas parents, it might be cheaper to send a kid to his grandmother in Buffalo than to send him off to summer camp.

Generally, the kids enjoy traveling alone.

"It's a lot funner to fly alone because you get to be by yourself," said Joey Linquist, 8, who flew from Midland to visit his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Finkey of Austin. Joey said "being by yourself" makes a kid feel more grown up.

Even though an unaccompanied minor is charged the adult fare, overall ticket costs are so affordable that the airlines are seeing more children than ever traveling alone, said Lisa Self, travel agent and owner of Travel Travel.

"Fares are now so low that everybody's flying more, not just the children," Ms. Self said, "but there are a lot more children flying this year than in previous years. It used to be too expensive to send the kids to the grandparents or Dad, but with the lower fares, people can do it."

Lower air fares, combined with the high rate of divorce among American families, contribute to the large number of children boarding planes without adults, Ms. Self said.

"The majority of unaccompanied minors we see traveling are from divorced families, and the parent is sending the child back to the father, or the mother, for the summer," Ms. Self said. "We see a few that are going to visit grandparents or other relatives, but the majority are from divorced families, I think."

As a result, many kids have become old hands at air travel before they've reached their 12th birthdays.

Matt Vaughan, 10, is such a kid. The son of Karen Walker of Austin, Matt flies four or five times a year, said his stepfather, Mitchell Walker. On a recent weekday afternoon, Walker was at the airport to meet Matt, who was returning from a visit with his father in Houston.

Because most of the major airlines have incorporated strict security precautions to help prevent kidnappings and abductions of children, he had to present identification to retrieve Matt from the airline.

Matt showed identification to Martha Burdell, the Southwest Airlines attendant who escorted Matt off the airplane. Ms. Burdell checked Walker's ID, name, address and phone number, and the stepfather had to sign for the boy before Ms. Burdell could turn Matt over to him.

"It kind of slows you down a little, checking him in, because you have to fill out all those little pieces of paper," Walker said. "But I like it better."

The security may make parents feel better as their child trots off toward the plane, but for some flight attendants, it has added more pressure to a job that is already demanding.

"I don't mind having kids on the flight, but I really don't like being responsible for them," said one attendant. "Taking someone else's child on and off the plane is a lot of responsibility."

Laurie Paschal, a Southwest Airlines attendant based in Dallas, said she doesn't see unaccompanied minors as added work.

"Most kids flying alone really behave and really enjoy it," she said. "I don't think it's hard on the flight attendants at all, and it's easier on the family financial-

ly because the kid can go even though they might not be able to afford for the whole family to go."

American Airlines attendant Sharon Fifer, based in Washington, D.C. said that in addition to

identification information the child wears on a tag, she finds it helpful to know any other information that will make the child's flight enjoyable.

"If a child gets ear pain or is scared or has allergies, that's

helpful to know," Ms. Fifer said.

American, like many airlines, will not take unaccompanied children younger than 5 years old, and children 5 through 7 are allowed to travel unaccompanied on direct non-stop flights only if

no changes are required.

Although some airlines routinely provide assistance for children, more and more (including Continental, American and United) are charging a \$20 fee for

assistance when a child has to change flights, said Travel Travel's Lisa Self.

"It's primarily this year that the airlines have started charging for assistance," she said.

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No. 2 300 E. Brown Open 7 a.m. till 10 p.m.

Prices Effective Thru Saturday, Sept. 27, 1986

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Excludes Free & Tobacco

Double Coupons—Every Day Limit \$1.00

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COBBLERS 32 Oz. Pkg. **\$1.99**

Apple, Blackberry, Cherry, Peach

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8 Oz. Box Beef, Turkey, Chicken

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SIRLOIN TIP STEAK Lb. **\$1.99**

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TURKEY FRANKS 12 Oz. Pkg. **68¢**

Swift

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CORN DOGS Random Weight Lb. **\$1.59**

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BOLOGNA Meat or Beef 16 Oz. Pkg. **\$1.59**

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Hunt's Whole Tomatoes 14.5 Oz. Cans Regular No Salt **2/\$1**

Folgers Flake Coffee 11.5 Oz. Para-Regular Auto-Drip **\$2.69**

Kleenex Facial Tissues 175 Ct. White Assorted **89¢**

Houston juries giving tougher sentences to drug offenders

HOUSTON (AP) — As public opinion swings back to a general alarm about drugs, juries in Houston are handing out tougher sentences to convicted drug offenders, prosecutors and defense attorneys say.

"It's not hysteria," Harris County District Attorney John B. Holmes said. "It's a normal reaction to a social problem."

But defense attorney Mike De-

Geurin says he worries about juries looking more at the alleged offense rather than the individual involved.

The Houston Post reported Sunday that the average prison term for Harris County felony drug convictions has increased from about five years in 1983 and 1984 to about six years in 1985.

"It's really escalated, say, in the last several months," pro-

secutor Bob Loper said. "I've tried a few large cases recently and the juries really hammered those people."

Last week, a jury gave a 40-year prison term and a \$5,000 fine to a 22-year-old Houston man for possessing one gram of crack. He had had one previous aggravated robbery conviction.

"I was shocked," prosecutor Gladys Aguero said. "I never

thought they were going to give 40 years."

But prosecutors and defense attorneys agree many Houstonians increasingly are reacting in alarm to drug use and the social ills it may cause just as people did in the mid-1960s.

Recent sports scandals and President Reagan's anti-drug campaign have contributed to the public's awareness, Loper said.

Fall of Savings

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Pepsodent Toothpaste 6.5 Oz. 89¢	Johnson & Johnson Baby Wash Cloths 36 Ct. \$1.29

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Today's Crossword Puzzle

Release in Papers of Tuesday, Sept. 23, 1986

ACROSS

- Hangs up
- Sound, as a bell
- Pippen
- Mata
- Harness part
- What suitors do
- Latin poet
- Bitterness
- Golfing aid
- Tree
- Polynesian god
- Wind indicator
- Make stitches
- Accurate
- Explosive
- Entrapped
- Mats
- But (Lat.)
- Business abbreviation
- Odd (Scott.)
- Warsaw citizen
- Forced
- Swallowed
- Adenosine triphosphate (abbr.)
- Young salmon
- Pinnacle
- Old French coin
- Medical suffix
- Psychologist
- Ellis
- Egyptian sacred bull
- Honshu bay
- Scottish hillside
- Color
- The (Fr.)
- Seashore feature
- New Testament book

DOWN

- Unit of illumination
- Housetop feature
- Complaint

Answer to Previous Puzzle

K	A	R	T	L	Y	E	K	A	R	L
O	P	U	S	E	A	R	A	N	O	A
K	I	T	E	S	U	N	D	I	B	S
O	A	S	T	S	P	I	N	D	L	E
S	O	E	R	I						
Y	U	L	E	L	O	G	A	S	K	A
S	S	E	E	N	I	D	H	U	G	E
E	D	I	E	O	N	C	E	R	E	D
R	A	S	P	S	C	A	T	T	E	D
S	I	S	I	S	T	Y				
M	U	T	I	N	E	E	R	R	E	L
O	V	A	L	L	O	O	D	E	A	
A	E	R	O	N	A	N	I	E	L	
B	A	N	N	A	L	E	T	R	E	

32 Study (sl.)
35 Eight (pref.)
36 Norm
38 Garden implement
39 — de cologne
41 Pricked
42 Singer Harris

43 Facilitate
44 Bird class
45 Look over
47 Coin factory
48 Interrogates
50 Pounds (abbr.)
51 Openings
52 Wallaba tree

0312 (c)1986 by NEA, Inc. 23

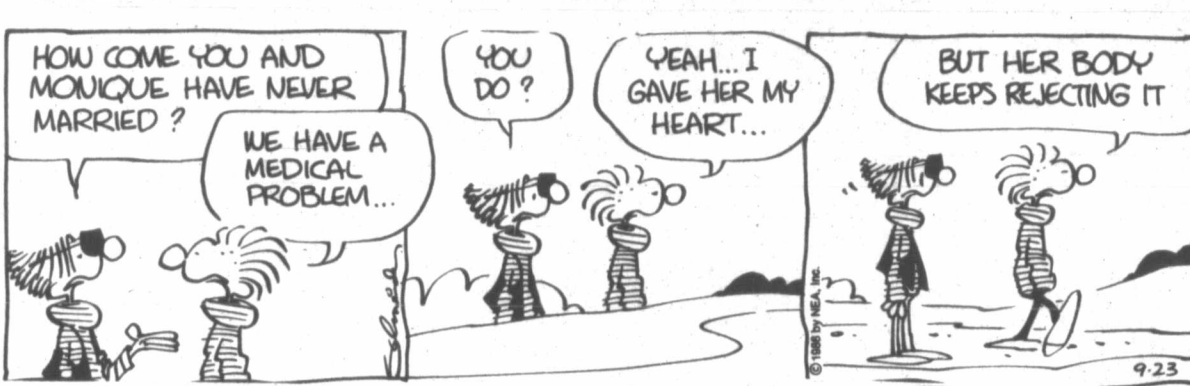
STEVE CANYON



THE WIZARD OF ID



EEK & MEEK



B.C.



Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol
Sept. 24, 1986

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) This may not be the time to implement complicated concepts that are unproven. Stick with tactics that have worked successfully before. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker set instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail \$2 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Be on guard today if you are associating with someone you know from experience is a taker rather than a giver. This person may think of your resources as his or hers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Your present course of action has hopeful possibilities, yet you might be influenced by a companion to make an unwise change in direction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) If you need work or service performed for you today, be sure to check out in advance any unfamiliar company you're thinking of hiring.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Today, you might not be as lucky as you lead yourself to believe you are, especially in ventures that have strong elements of chance. If you win, it may only be temporary.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) If the outside world doesn't treat you as kindly as you think it should today, leave your experiences on the doorstep instead of taking your ire out on innocent family members.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your productivity will suffer today if your logistics are poorly planned. Conceive ways to save time and steps, and then follow them to the letter.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It isn't wise today to count on finances that aren't currently in your hands. They could be delayed, so work with what you have.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Indecisiveness, as well as impulsiveness, could lead to your undoing today. Study situations carefully, have faith in your judgments and act accordingly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Guard against tendencies today to sweep your responsibilities under the rug, hoping they will take care of themselves. Wishful thinking won't get the jobs done.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Unnecessary dissension within your group can be avoided today if you don't go against the will of the majority. Subdue your individualism and join in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) In an important competitive involvement today, there's a chance you'll be tripped up by your own erratic behavior, rather than being bested by the opposition.

MARVIN



By Tom Armstrong

MARMADUKE



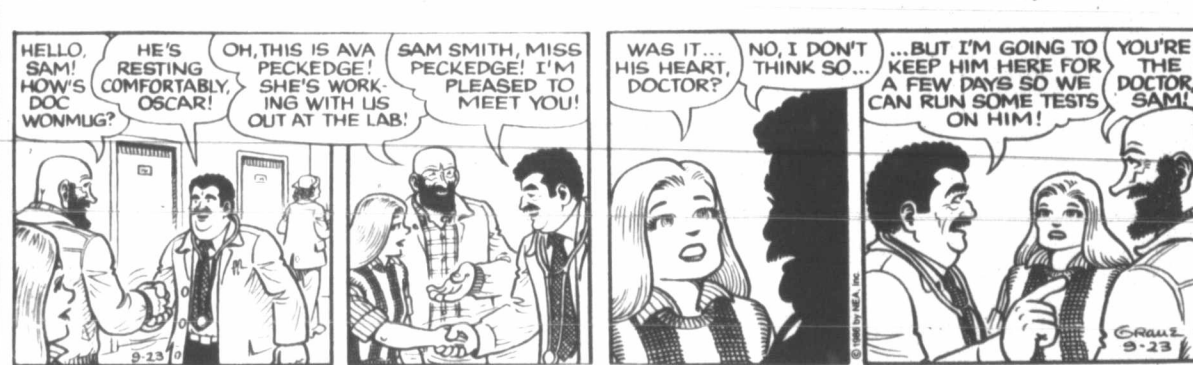
By Brad Anderson

KIT N' CARLYLE



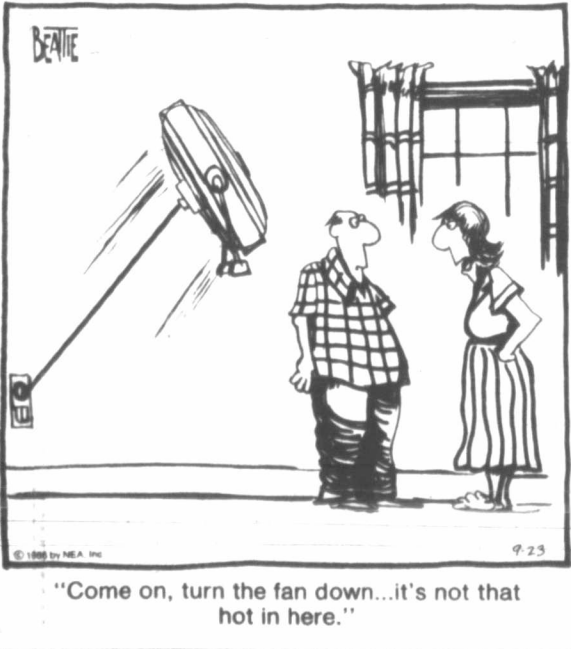
By Larry Wright

ALLEY OOP

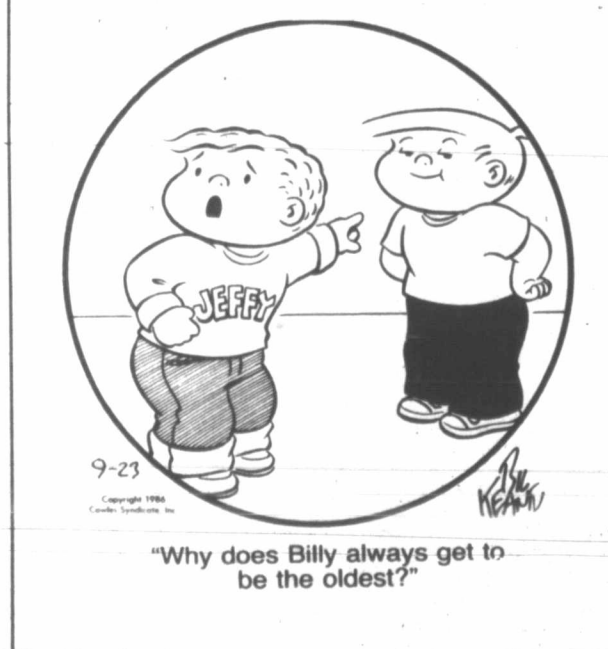


By Dave Graue

SNAFU™ by Bruce Beattie



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



By Bill Keane

WINTHROP



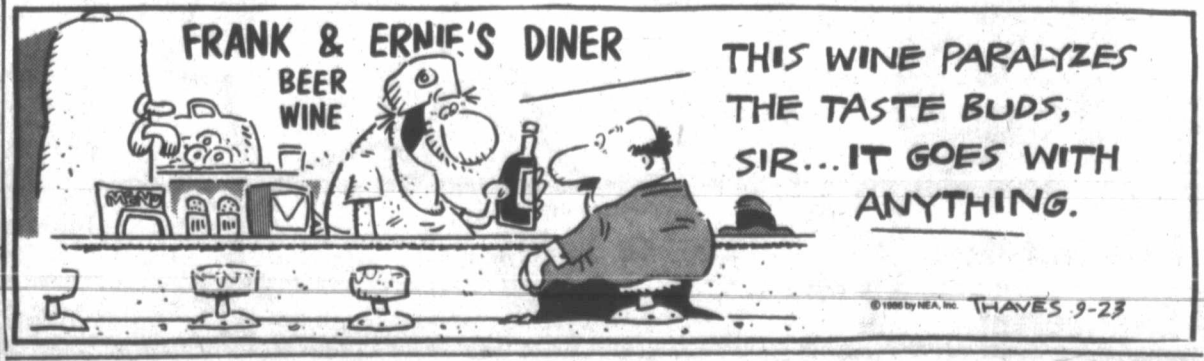
By Dick Cavalli

THE BORN LOSER



By Art Sansom

FRANK AND ERNEST



By Bob Thaves

PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schultz

GARFIELD



By Jim Davis



(AP Laserphoto)

PROFITABLE ROOTS — Ed Danko shows off a ginseng plant near his home in Uniontown, Pa., recently. Danko collects them in the woods throughout southwestern Pennsylvania and sells it for as much as \$125 a pound.

Coveted root fetches pretty penny from an eager Orient

UNIONTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Fur trapper Ed Danko scours the backwoods of southwestern Pennsylvania in search of ginseng, a wild root that fetches \$125 a pound and is valued as a cure-all in some parts of the world.

But to get one pound, the 66-year-old Danko must dig up 350 plants and walk five to 10 miles over rugged, snake-infested terrain.

"It isn't a lazy man's job. You'd better have a good set of legs. You've got to get back in the remote areas. You don't find it along the road," said Danko, a ginseng user for 20 years.

"If you don't know what you're looking for, you can tramp right over it. There are tricks to it," said Danko. "At most, it's side money. I don't know if anybody can make a living off it."

This is harvest time for the plant, which grows wild in the eastern United States and is cultivated in Wisconsin. Most of the crop winds up half the world away in the bustling markets of

Hong Kong and other Oriental cities.

The U.S. ginseng harvest was worth \$50 million last year, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plant is not an endangered species but its export is bound by a 1975 treaty signed by 92 countries.

In Asia, ginseng is revered as a panacea and aphrodisiac.

"Half the world thinks it's the greatest thing that ever existed. The other half thinks it's a joke," said Walter Lewis, a botanist at Washington University in Missouri. "I can't say it's useful at all. We just don't know enough about it. It's an enigma."

Although ginseng is cultivated in Asia, demand there has far outstripped supply, and North America is considered the last natural bastion of the root, the Fish and Wildlife Service said.

One million pounds is cultivated each year in this country, about 95 percent of it in Wisconsin.

Rockets hit French headquarters

MAARAKEH, Lebanon (AP) — Four rockets crashed into the headquarters of the French contingent serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force in south Lebanon Tuesday as troops were having breakfast, officials said. No casualties were reported.

Lt. Col. Patrick Dureau, operations officer at the French headquarters in this tiny village east of the port city of Tyre, said one of the 107mm rockets slammed into the wire fence of the officers'

mess at 6:40 a.m.

"Several troops and officers having breakfast were blown off their seats by the impact of the blast, but none suffered any injury," Dureau said.

Two projectiles hit at 6:30 a.m. and the other two 10 minutes later. All exploded at the Maarakeh command headquarters of the 1,050-man battalion serving with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, he said.

Peres, Shevardnadze discuss resuming relations

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres today said he and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze agreed during a 70-minute meeting to continue contacts and work toward a normalization in relations.

Their meeting Monday at United Nations headquarters in New York was the two countries' highest-level contact since the Kremlin severed ties with the Jewish state 19 years ago. Israeli and Soviet delegates

met for 90 minutes in Helsinki, Finland on Aug. 18. Peres, speaking to reporters at the Ben-Gurion International Airport after a nine-day trip to the United States and Canada, said his meeting with Shevardnadze "surprised me

favorably in its seriousness and the willingness to hear and be heard."

He declined to be specific, saying he and Shevardnadze "agreed not to publish the content of the talks."

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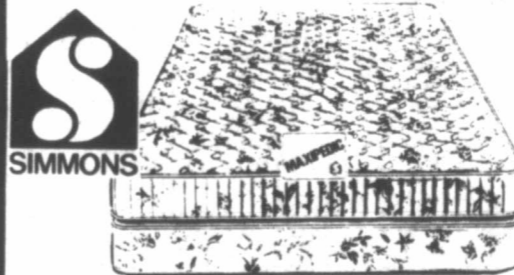


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