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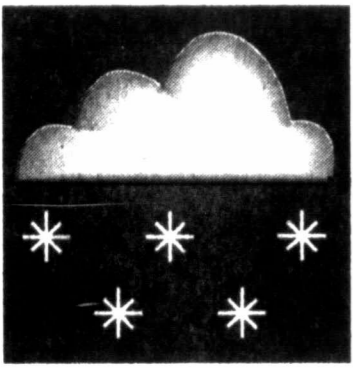
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PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 277

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



Low tonight in mid 20s.
High tomorrow near 30.
See Page for weather
details.

LEFORS — City council members selected Parkhill, Smith and Cooper engineering firm Monday evening to plan the replacement of seven water lines and construct a backup water well in the city.

The project, with help from a grant from the Panhandle Regional Planning Committee, will help replace old, worn water lines with new PVC lines. The PVC lines should help avoid contamination from old metal pipes and increase water pressure in the city.

This is not the first time the city of Lefors has had to replace water lines. Many have already been replaced with PVC lines, and the seven lines that will be replaced this year is part of a project to gradually convert and update all the water lines within the city.

Mayor Velda Chadwick is hoping construction on the water lines will begin by the end of the year. The water lines that are scheduled to be replaced are:

- On Fourth Street from Clardy to Gray;
- On Fifth Street from Shaw to Park and from McLean to Magnolia;
- On Sixth Street from Park to Main;
- On Seventh Street from Shaw to Court;
- On Ninth Street from Park to Court; and
- On Magnolia from Fifth to Sixth streets.

PAMPA — A general meeting for all parents of Pampa High School seniors will meet on Thursday, Feb. 27, in the high school library at 7 p.m. to discuss plans for the 1997 Senior Class all night party.

All parents are encouraged to attend. Organizers say they need everyone's help to make the party a success.

For more information, contact Debbie Cagle at 665-7334.

NEW YORK (AP) — Eight in 10 Americans believe it would be wrong to clone human beings, but a majority accepts the cloning of animals for medical research, a poll found.

The poll taken Monday night by telephone for ABC News' *Nightline* said Americans disapprove by 50 percent to 39 percent of the research in which Scottish scientists used the genetic material of an adult sheep to clone a lamb.

While 53 percent said such research should be allowed on animals, 87 percent said cloning of humans should not be allowed. Asked if cloning of animals is morally wrong, 44 percent said yes, 49 percent said no and the rest were unsure.

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Ippel resigns from director post at PEDCO

By LAURA HALEY
Staff Writer

Jack Ippel resigned his position as the executive director of the Pampa economic development corporation Monday.

Ippel turned in a letter of resignation yesterday just prior to the regular meeting of the economic development corporation's board of directors.

Lewis Meers, president of the board, said he thought Ippel may have been considering resigning his position but was not prepared to receive the resignation Monday. The resignation was an unexpected shock for the all members of the economic district's board, who spent a large portion of their regular meeting in an executive session to discuss the situation.

In the letter delivered to Meers, Ippel stated his intent to resign his position effective immediately without reason. Board members would not speculate on the cause of the resignation and Ippel could not be reached for comment. They did, however, accept the resignation while praising the work Ippel had done for the economic growth of Pampa.

"Jack has been good for the economic development of the community," said Meers.

He also praised some of the projects Ippel has helped the economic district attain, such as recruiting U.S. Bus, which is expected to open its doors in March.

Despite the untimely resignation of Ippel, the board of directors said this twist will not affect the corporation's plans for economic growth.

"The continuity of ongoing programs will not be affected," said Meers.

The future of the economic development corporation is also sound, Meers added.

'Jack has been good for the economic development of the community.'
— Lewis Meers,
Board president

There will be an effect on the corporation anytime a prominent employee is replaced, Meers said; however, this transition may generate some different ideas of economic growth for the corporation.

Mayor Bob Neslage also voiced his support of the future of the economic district despite the untimely resignation of Ippel.

"You (the economic district) have been proactive and positive in Pampa and it's definitely shown," he said. "I look for more positive things in the future."

At the regular meeting last night, the board of directors decided to allow Susan Triplehorn, project coordinator for the economic development district, to fill in for Ippel until a replacement can be found. Triplehorn is familiar with the current contracts and day-to-day activities of the economic district, allowing a smooth transition despite Ippel's resignation, Meers said.

In addition, Ippel will continue to work with the economic corporation as a consultant for the next three months. The agreement, which is part of a severance package offered by the board to Ippel, requires Ippel to be present at any time he is needed. He will receive the equivalent of three months salary for the consulting work.

Cool cat



(Pampa News photo by Dianna F. Dandridge)

A Siamese cat takes shelter from the light snow and gusty wind where she could find it this morning, as she curls up for a long winter's nap under the porch overhang of the house at 1128 S. Dwight.



(Pampa News photo by Dianna F. Dandridge)

The joke may be on the boss this time. With more snow expected tonight, Kenneth Rheams, owner of Rheams Jewelry, busy clearing the sidewalk in front of his business on Cuyler Street this morning, may be shoveling more of the cold white stuff tomorrow.

Snow causes slick road conditions

From Staff and AP Reports

Falling snow and slick streets slowed Pampa residents on the way to work and school today.

Pampa reported snow and 24 degrees at 8 a.m. today. Monday's high was 26 degrees. A quarter-inch of snow left 0.05 inch of moisture by 6 a.m. today.

U.S. 60 was ice-coated between Amarillo and Pampa. Motorists reported freezing drizzle between Panhandle and White Deer at 8 a.m. today.

Carson County officials cold temperatures and slick conditions this morning. Wheeler reported a light snow beginning about 9 a.m.

Shamrock authorities said they received sleet early this morning. It was 27 degrees at 9 a.m. today in Shamrock. Slick road conditions along Interstate 40 led to a wreck near the Oklahoma-Texas stateline this morning. Officers reported no injuries.

Miami reported 26 degrees at 9 a.m. and a few snow flurries. Canadian reported 20 degrees and dry conditions shortly after 8 a.m. Hemphill County officials said they received a dusting of snow over night.

At 6 a.m. today it was snowing in Dalhart, Dumas and Amarillo. Dalhart reported 23 degrees. Dumas reported 22, and Amarillo reported 23.

Icy roads blamed in death of three at Texline

Icy roads across the Texas Panhandle were being blamed for a series of wrecks today, including a crash Monday that claimed three lives.

Two men and a woman were killed in a pickup-sport utility vehicle crash Monday morning on U.S. 287 about three and a half miles south of Texline.

Department of Public Safety officers said Karen Hickman, 37, of Houston, and John Spencer, 50, of Pawlett, Va., were killed in the crash about 10:20 a.m. Monday. Ronald Hickman, 69, of

Childress reported cloudy conditions and 32 degrees at 6 a.m.

Amarillo weather service reported 0.2 of an inch of snow as of midnight Monday for 0.02 inches of moisture.

Weather service officials said they expected from one to two inches of snow accumulation over the next two days with light snow and rain forecast through Thursday.

A winter weather advisory was issued for a vast area of West Texas as light snow fell across the area and more was on the way.

Forecasts called for the possibility of snow over the Panhandle and South Plains and for a wintry mix of precipitation over the southern areas of the South Plains, much of the Permian Basin, the northern trans Pecos and mountains with rain expected across the rest of West Texas.

Most of the state will have some kind of precipitation tonight and Wednesday. Weather officials said Pampa could expect mostly cloudy skies and cold temperatures today with snow and rain possible through this afternoon with southeast winds at 15 mph and a high temperature near 30. The forecast is for cloudy conditions tonight with a low of 25 degrees and snow and freezing rain possible.

Officers reported the pickup struck the Jeep on the passenger side.

Department of Public Safety troopers reported that the highway was slick and icy. A light snow was falling at the time of the crash.

Highway Patrol authorities reported a string of accidents on area highways early this morning in connection with the weather. No details were available by mid-morning as wrecks on icy roadways continued to be reported.

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Landrieu to support balanced budget amendment

WASHINGTON (AP) — A previously uncommitted Democrat tentatively decided to support a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, apparently bringing supporters within one vote of victory, sources said today.

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., who campaigned in support of the amendment but has since expressed reservations, has decided to vote for it, said a congressional source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

That would leave Sen. Robert Torricelli of New Jersey as a lone undecided Democrat, increasing

pressure on him from both sides.

Landrieu was expected to announce her position at a news conference this afternoon. She would announce her support for the amendment "unless she changes her mind between now and then," the source said.

Her expected support would bring supporters within one vote of the 67 needed for Senate passage of the amendment.

The amendment is supported by all 55 Republicans and 10 other Democrats.

Although Landrieu had expressed some public reserva-

tions about the amendment she was swayed by constituents who urged her to vote for the measure, sources said.

Before Landrieu's expected support was disclosed, opponents of the amendment said momentum appeared to be going their way because of growing concern the proposal could undermine Social Security.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and chief sponsor of the amendment, said the Social Security issue was a "risky gimmick" being used to kill the measure.

FEEB 25 1997

Federal judge rules on side of Norplant

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP) — A federal judge has thrown out five federal lawsuits brought by women who say they were injured by the surgically implanted contraceptive Norplant.

The women were to be among the first of some 4,000 plaintiffs to have their lawsuits go to trial against Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, the Philadelphia company that makes Norplant.

But U.S. District Judge Richard Schell found in favor of Wyeth-Ayerst during a pretrial hearing Monday.

Schell said the women failed to prove that a different warning from the company would have changed the decision of their doctors to prescribe Norplant.

The judge has barred parties on both sides of the cases from public comment.

The contraceptive is designed to prevent pregnancy for five years through six matchstick-sized capsules surgically implanted into the upper arm.

Plaintiffs complain of problems including excessive bleeding, ovarian cysts and wild mood swings. They also complain that removal of the capsules was more painful and difficult than they were warned.

Doctors who treated the women testified that they were fully informed by Wyeth, medical literature and seminars of all the side effects their patients said they suffered, Schell said.

He also ruled that Texas law provides that drug makers have a duty to warn only the doctor — not the patient — of a drug's potential side effects.

A panel chose Schell in 1994 to preside over all Norplant cases filed in federal court nationwide. Schell decided last year not to try the cases as a class-action.

Employee of the Month



(Pampa News photo by Dianna F. Dandridge)

Shiela Eccles of Pampa was chosen as the February Jordan Unit Employee of the Month honors. She works in the administrative offices as a court room clerk. Personnel are working with Special Olympics to raise funds for the coming events.

Clintons stay in contact with Hubbell

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Clinton used an intermediary to quietly stay in touch with former administration official and longtime friend Webster L. Hubbell while he was in prison, the Los Angeles Times reported today.

During the 16 months that Hubbell was in prison after pleading guilty to fraud and tax-evasion charges, the president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton checked on Hubbell through Marsha Scott, a trusted White House aide, the newspaper said.

Hubbell, a central figure in the Whitewater probe and former associate attorney general, resigned from the Justice Department three years ago. Last week, he invoked his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination and refused to produce documents for a House committee.

Ms. Scott would visit Hubbell while he was in prison and reassured him of the first family's concern for him, the newspaper said. Ms. Scott, 49, is a longtime

friend of the Clintons, Hubbell and his wife, Suzanne. Ms. Scott and Hubbell graduated in the same class at Little Rock's Hall High School. Ms. Scott and the president have known each other for 30 years.

Hubbell and Mrs. Clinton were partners at the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock.

Ms. Scott referred questions to the White House.

White House special counsel Lanny J. Davis said Ms. Scott stayed in contact with Hubbell "purely on a personal level, as an old friend, not in an official capacity."

She certainly did not carry messages to and from anyone."

A friend who spoke to the Times on condition of anonymity described how Ms. Scott served as a pipeline between the Clintons and Hubbell.

"She was taking messages from the first lady to Webb ... And she was bringing back messages from Webb to the first lady," the friend said.

"She was going back and forth (with Mrs. Clinton) on how he and his family were being taken care of, how they were doing financially," the friend added.

WATSON'S
FEED & GARDEN
Hwy. 60 East, Pampa
665-4189

Small towns targeted for home loans

AUSTIN (AP) — With an interest in not only putting a roof over Texans' heads but improving the quality of those roofs, a state agency has introduced a home-improvement loan program for poor families.

"What we're talking about here is basic quality of life issues," Larry Paul Manley, executive director of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, said Monday.

"Just getting people into homes isn't enough," added

Linda Nessie, president of the Federal Housing Administration Homeowners Center in Denver.

The federal government is participating in the state program, as is with HOME, Inc., a private home improvement lender that would originate and service the loans.

Manley introduced the Texas Home Improvement Loan Program combining private and public money to provide \$13.3 million for low-income families in small towns, defined as areas with less than 50,000 residents.



PAMPA FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS
Andy Wilkinson

in "SNEAK PREVIEWS" ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27th

AT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS:

- 11:00 A.M. FIRST AMERICAN BANK, PERRYTON PKWY., PAMPA
 - 12:00 NOON FIRST BANK SOUTHWEST, PAMPA
 - 1:00 P.M. BOATMEN'S BANK, PAMPA
 - 2:00 P.M. NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE, PAMPA
 - 3:00 P.M. FIRST AMERICAN BANK, DOWNTOWN PAMPA
- AND ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28th
- 8:00 A.M. KGRO-KOMX Radio, PAMPA
 - 12:30 P.M. BANK OF COMMERCE, McLEAN

ANDY WILKINSON AND FRIENDS WILL BE PRESENTED IN CONCERT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 1, AT 8:00 P.M. AT M.K. BROWN AUDITORIUM, WITH THEIR TRIBUTE TO THE TEXAS PLAINS.

TICKETS FOR THIS CONCERT ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL PAMPA BANKS, AS WELL AS: STATE NATIONAL BANK-GROOM; TAYLORMART - LEFORS; BANK OF COMMERCE - McLEAN; SUNBANK - PANHANDLE; CITY HALL - WHITE DEER; FIRST BANK & TRUST - WHITE DEER; AND THE SPONSORS: PAMPA FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION, 200 N. BALLARD - PAMPA (665-0343); WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM, 116 S. CUYLER - PAMPA (669-8041) AND AT THE DOOR ON SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 1.

COST OF TICKETS: \$7.00 Adults \$5.00 Students, 12 YRS. & UNDER

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Narcotics Anonymous Helps Those Overcome By Despair

DEAR ABBY: I just read the letter about the heroin addict who killed herself after writing "King Heroin Is My Shepherd." Her note mentioned "the doctor who told my family it would have been better, and indeed kinder, if the person who got me hooked on dope had taken a gun and blown my brains out."

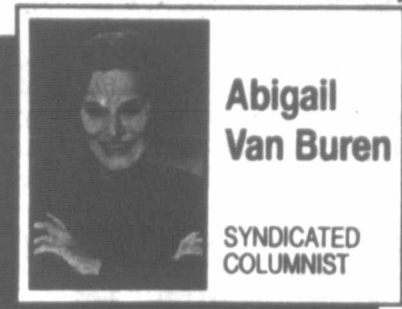
Abby, I think the doctor who said that was partially responsible for the death of this young woman. She did not need a message of hopelessness and despair, especially from a person of authority and respect.

If only the doctor had encouraged her to hurry to Narcotics Anonymous, she might be alive today. Please print this so that other addicts may find new "courage, strength and hope." Narcotics Anonymous can be reached at 1-800-896-8896.

CLOSE CALL
IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR CLOSE CALL: That letter generated a flood of mail from readers whose lives have been touched by drugs, filled with important messages like your own. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing in response to "A Saddened Mom" who believes "it takes a village." It really does. I'm glad someone seems to understand that children involved with drugs need to be helped by the whole community. I'm 17 years old,



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

and I've already had a close friend (who was on drugs) commit suicide. I wish people would understand that people don't take drugs because they are stupid or naive, as convenient as that would be to believe. People take drugs because they are depressed and believe they have nothing better to do with their lives.

I know a lot of kids who are on drugs and none of them really feel they are truly valuable people. If a parent, relative or close adult had really given them a reason to believe they were worthwhile, special and needed, they wouldn't have needed drugs.

"Straight" kids are taught to stay away from "bad" kids, which is too bad — because peer pressure works just as well in reverse. Peer groups are oftentimes enough to save a child. Fortunately, most of my friends have been saved from drugs by peer pressure. I shudder to think how rare that is.

YOUNG ENOUGH TO KNOW

BETTER IN NEW ORLEANS

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for the reworded 23rd Psalm, "King Heroin Is My Shepherd." It is powerful testimony against drug abuse. It's a shame that an educated, talented 23-year-old young lady had to give her life to produce it. What a difference she could have made in the lives of others if she had been allowed to reach her potential. The loss is incalculable.

Neither my wife nor I have ever used illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco. We have raised six children who, to our knowledge, have never used any of those substances either. For this success I give a great amount of credit to the reading of articles like this one to our children as they were growing up. They always knew where their parents stood and we tried to be totally up-front, honest and fair with them.

I am a volunteer high school teacher. I have already used this column as a teaching tool. Rarely do I have every student's undivided attention, but when I read your column to them, no one even blinked. There was dead silence afterward. I know it helped to reinforce the commitment of some to stay off drugs and help their peers to stay off drugs, too.

Thank you, Abby, and thanks to the 23-year-old's family for sharing that sad suicide note with the world. I hope some good may come of it.

DENNIS J. DAVIS,
GLENORA, CALIF.

Horoscope



Your Birthday

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1997

Joint endeavors look promising for you in the year ahead, especially if you team up with a person with whom you have strong emotional bonds. Both of you will then look out for each other's interests.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) It is best today to limit your business dealings to individuals you either dealt with previously or know by reputation to be ethical. Pisces, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It could make matters worse if you agree to do something today that is self-defeating just to try to appease a sensitive friend's feelings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might be a trifle slow getting started today. In fact, your productivity could wane if you're not utilizing your creative talents.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Gauge your audience carefully today and don't come on too strong about something good that happened to you recently, especially if a listener appears to be envious.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Take time to put your house in order today, so that later when you're looking for something you urgently need, it won't have mysteriously disappeared.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Before passing on information you're told today, be certain your informant has all the facts straight, or else you may look a little foolish.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Do some comparison shopping today before making costly purchases. If you don't, you

might be talked into paying more for some things than they're worth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) When dealing with associates today, flattery isn't apt to serve a purpose. If you feel the need to compliment someone, be certain he or she is deserving.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Listen with your reason and not your emotions today. If your feelings dominate, there is a chance you'll be hurt by something where no ill will was intended.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) If there is something expensive you're anxious to buy but can't afford, wait until you have the funds available instead of running up additional debt.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Needless anxiety could impede your progress today. Do not accidentally leave the phone off the hook and then panic because you aren't receiving calls.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Your initial impressions might not be reliable today. Before making major decisions, be sure you have thoroughly sifted all the facts.



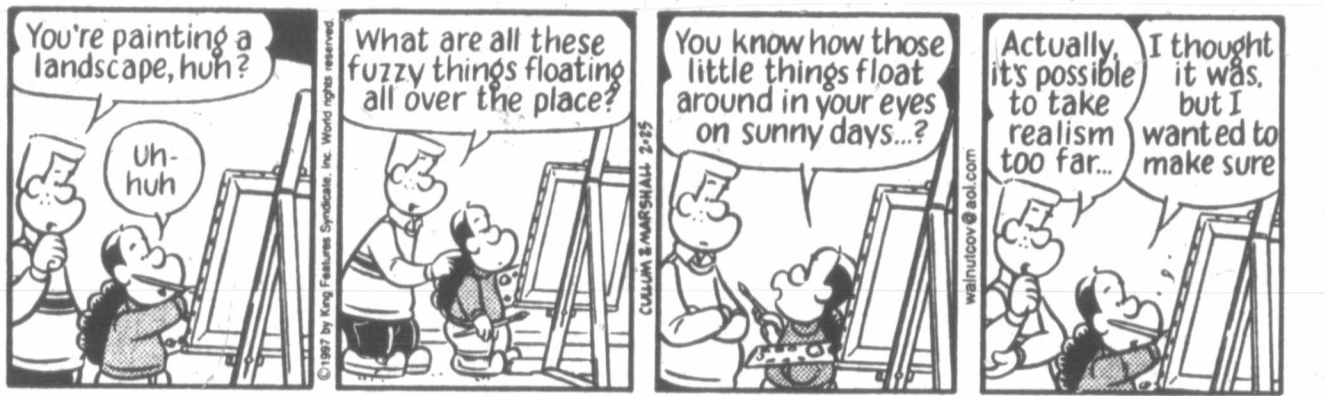
For Better or For Worse



Ario & Janis



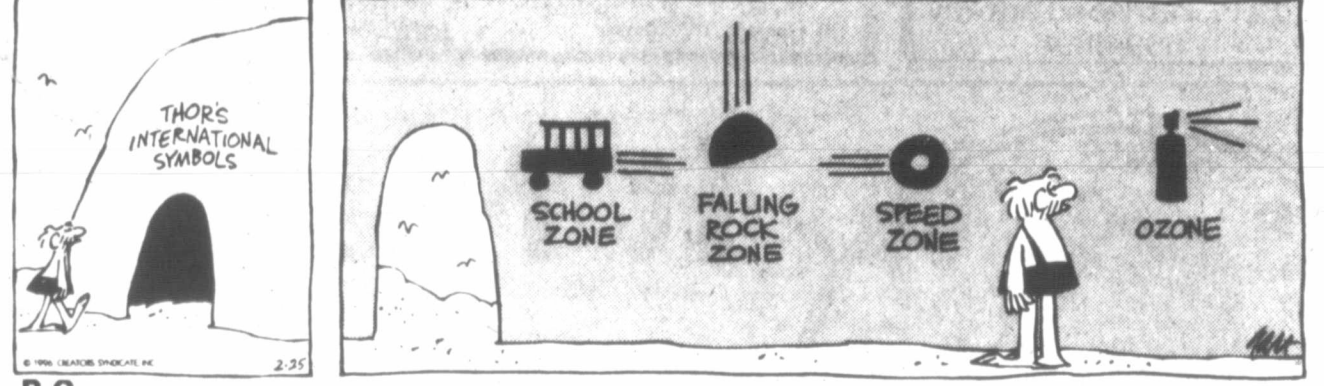
Garfield



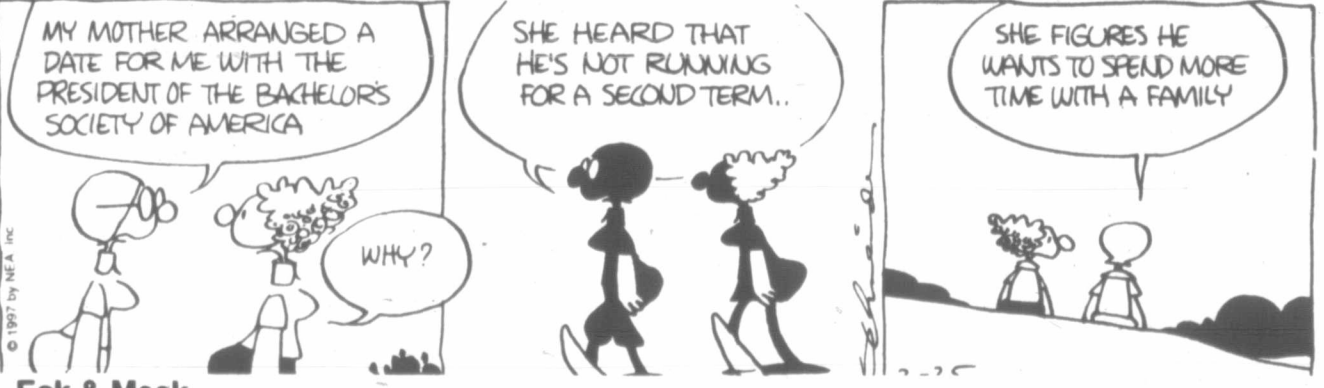
Walnut Cove



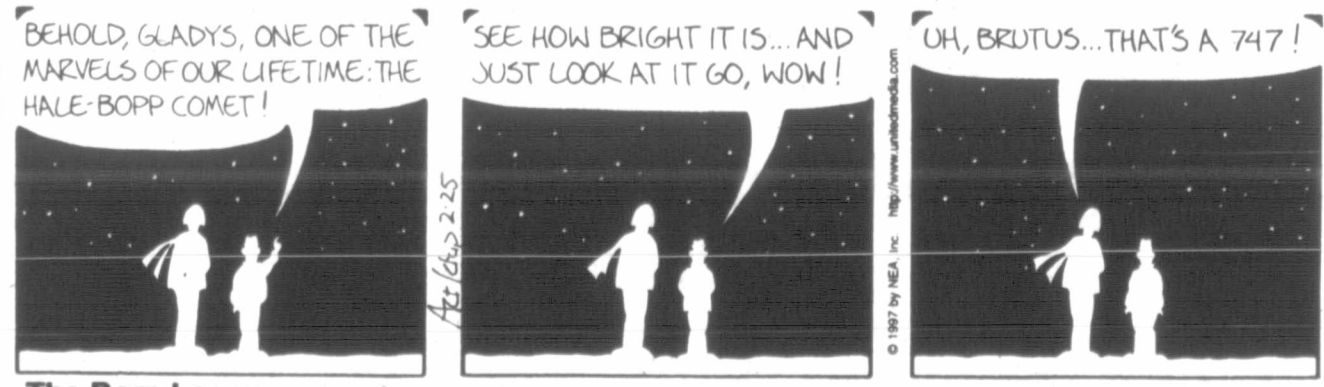
Marvin



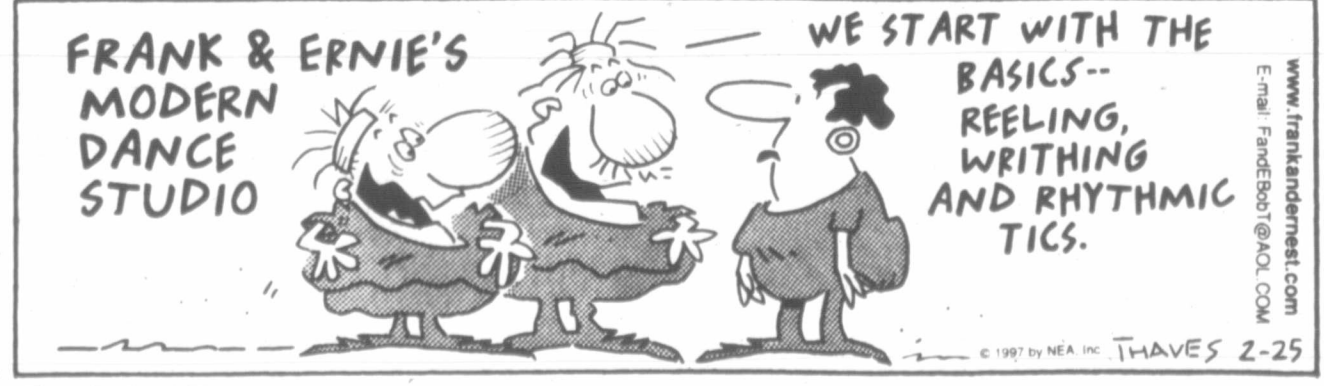
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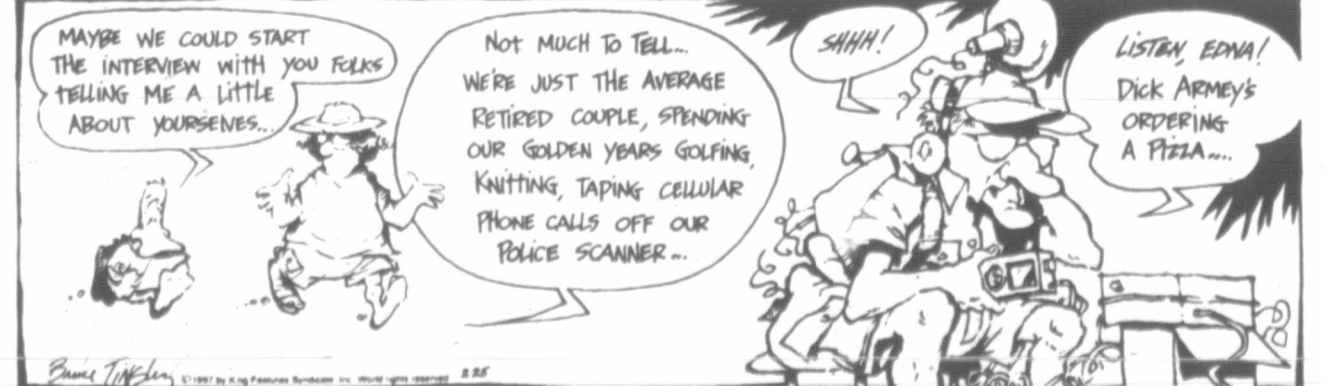
Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank & Ernest



Mallard Filmore



"PJ's playin' hockey with his Cheerios."



"Marmaduke, EAT! Stop holding out for my leftover meat loaf."



The Family Circus



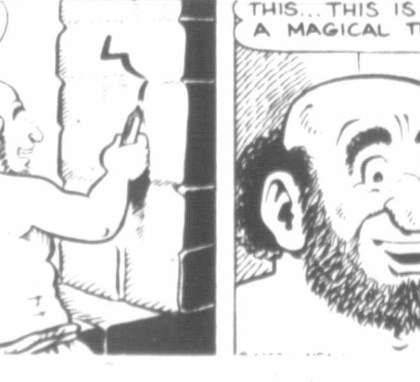
Marmaduke



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts



Peanuts

Sports

Notebook

TRACK

PAMPA — Volunteers are needed to help with the Top O' Texas boys' and girls' track meet Saturday at Pampa's Randy Matson Field. Interested persons can contact Mike Lopez at 665-7063 (home) or 669-4830 (school). The meet starts at 9:15 a.m. with the boys' 3200 event.

GOLF

PAMPA — The Pampa High School teams are entered in tournaments at Midland (girls) and Andrews (boys) this coming weekend. The Pampa boys competed in the Tall City Invitational last weekend at Midland and finished in 16th place. Mike Smith led the Harvesters with a two-round total of 168 (89-79). Other Pampa scores were Grady Locknane 171 (91-80), Brian Brauchi 175 (86-89), Nathan Banner 181 (90-91) and T.J. Davis 186 (93-93). The tournament was held at Midland and Green Trees Country Clubs.

SOFTBALL

PAMPA — The Lady Harvester softball clinic scheduled Feb. 22 was canceled due to poor field conditions. The next scheduled clinic will be Sunday, March 2, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Hobart Street Park. All Lady Harvester softball players and coaches are urged to attend. This will be an opportunity for high school and middle school athletes participating in other spring sports to attend the clinic. Note: A public meeting to discuss the creation of a girls' fastpitch softball program in the four Amarillo High Schools is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Tascosa High School Auditorium. The outcome of this meeting could open the door for girls' softball programs throughout the Texas Panhandle.

SOCCER

PAMPA — Pampa hosts Borger in District 5 soccer matches, beginning at 4:15 Friday. Both Pampa teams will try and snap back after losses to Amarillo Caprock on Saturday. The Harvesters have a 4-2 record and hold down second place in the district standings. Pampa boys fell to Caprock, 3-1, in a battle of first-place teams. Pampa girls lost, 1-0. Pampa girls are 2-4 in district play.

BASEBALL

CANYON — West Texas A&M University head baseball coach Todd Howey announced Monday the rescheduling of four lost games from this past weekend due to snow at New Mexico Highlands University. The Buffs were scheduled to play doubleheaders on Saturday and Sunday against NMHU, but the Las Vegas, N.M. region received a half-foot of snow last Thursday night. WTAMU will open its home schedule as planned on Friday, but with a little alteration. The Buffs will play a doubleheader of seven innings each against Cameron University at Canyon, instead of the original one nine-inning contest. The doubleheader starts at 1 p.m. The Buffs will then host Cameron in a single contest at noon on Saturday, which was originally scheduled as a doubleheader.

'Nee saw something special in No. 2 Gophers

By DOUG TUCKER AP Sports Writer

BIG 12 ROUNDUP

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Maybe there's a reason Danny Nee is the head basketball coach at Nebraska and his assistants are still assistants. After the Huskers played Minnesota last December, long before the Gophers rated much mention in the national polls, Nee was sure he'd seen a special team. "I walked off the court and I felt they were a strong and dominating team," Nee said. "I said to my staff, 'This team is one of the top 10 teams in the country.'" Even though Minnesota beat the Huskers that day 70-56, Nee said his staff did not necessarily agree. Now, of course, they are ranked No. 2 in the country, right behind Big 12 champion Kansas. "The thing that impressed me about Minnesota was their overall depth and strength," Nee said.

"Their overall strength." The Huskers are the only team in the country that have played both No. 1 Kansas and No. 2 Minnesota. "If you throw Kansas and Minnesota along with a few other teams into a hat, any one of them could win the national championship," he said. "You need breaks, get on a run and play your best. Both those teams are capable of doing it." In the meantime, Big 12 coaches are hoping to get at least six teams into the NCAA tournament next month. Kansas, No. 13 Iowa State and No. 19 Colorado are all a cinch to get bids. Texas and Texas Tech, which were both ranked earlier in the season, also could be in good shape. "I hope that we have a number that would exceed what we had in the Big Eight," said Missouri coach

Norm Stewart. "We picked up four teams (Texas, Texas Tech, Baylor, Texas A&M). Two or three of those teams are playing very well and have got a number of wins." Completing his 30th season at Missouri, Stewart was the dean of Big Eight coaches and is now the dean of Big 12 coaches. He's never been one to hide his opinion of how the conference was being marketed. "This league has always, I think, done the best job of downgrading itself, if you will, of any league in the country. That's one thing we've done a great job of. We've got outstanding teams ... we've got some of the best players in the country. I hope the number selected for the NCAA exceeds the number we were getting with just eight teams." If guard play were the selection committee's only interest, the Big 12 would place nine or 10 teams in the tournament. Athletes like Chauncey Billups,

Jacque Vaughn, Tyronn Lue and Reggie Freeman — to name a few — make the Big 12 the most guard-rich league in the country, many coaches believe. "Some are literally carrying their teams," said Texas' Tom Penders, who has Freeman averaging better than 21 points a game. "That little kid at Nebraska (Lue) is a great point guard," Penders said. "He's one of the elite point guards in the country, yet you don't ever hear about him. Freeman is a great all-around player. Without him, we'd probably be 4-20." The main reason Colorado is ranked among the nation's elite teams and headed for its first NCAA tournament bid in almost two decades is Billups. The 6-foot-3 point guard is averaging almost 22 points and five assists and ranks third in the Big 12 in steals. "Chauncey Billups is probably an NBA pick because of his ability to score and play defense," said

Texas A&M coach Tony Barone. "They are not simply specialists. I think this league has the old-time guards. They're not just point guards or off-guards. They can play both positions. I'd have to really look to see if any other league in this country comes even close to the guards in this league." Naturally, in a league that's loaded at one position, some of the best hardly get noticed. "Jacq Holloway is one of most underrated players in the country," Nee said of Iowa State's 6-0 senior point guard, who leads the Big 12 with 87 assists. "He's magnificent at what he does." Of course, Nee is partial toward his own super-quick Lue. "He's been the focal point of everybody's defense," Nee said. "I think he is an all-conference player. He can score. He can defend. He can pass. His speed can break down defenses, buckle their ankles and get penetration."

Three Lady Harvesters make all-district squad

Three Pampa Lady Harvesters have been named to the 1996-97 All-District 1-4A Basketball Squad. Senior guard Jennifer Jones was named to the first team while junior guard Chandra Nachtigall was a second-team selection. Senior pivot Kristi Carpenter made the honorable mention list. Jones, the daughter of PHS head coach Mike Jones, led the team in scoring, averaging 15.3 points per game. She also led in rebounds (7.0 per game), steals (6.0), and assists (81).

Nachtigall averaged 8.3 points per game and led the Lady Harvesters in three-point goals with 50. Carpenter averaged 6.6 points and 3.9 rebounds per game and averaged 53 percent to lead the team in field goal percentage.

1996-97 All-District 1-4A Girls Basketball Squad First Team
Jennifer Jones, Pampa, senior;

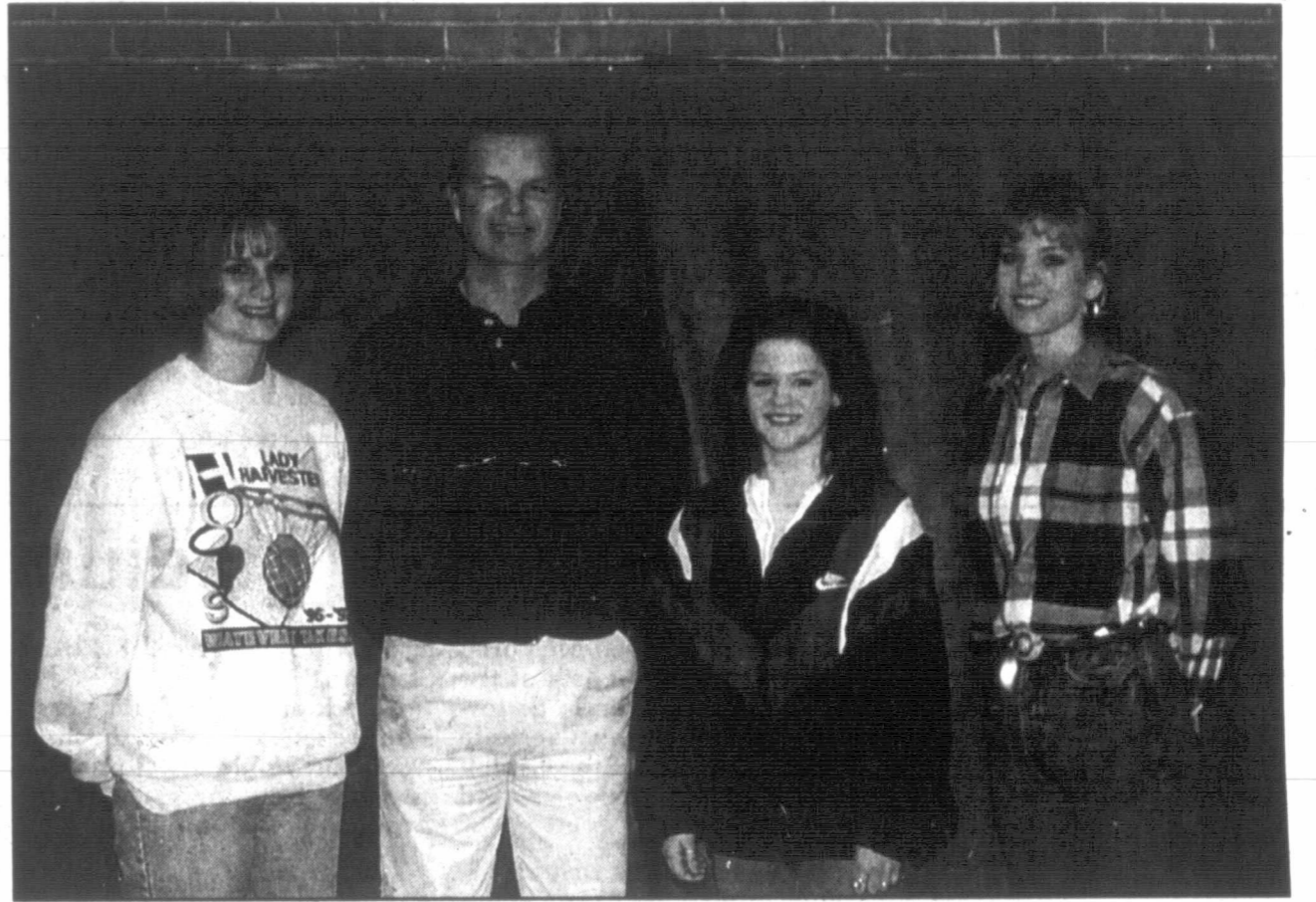
Courtney Sims, Canyon, senior; Valerie Valdez, Canyon, senior; Julie Rampley, Hereford, junior; Candi White, Canyon, junior; Lindy Lombard, Canyon, junior; Courtney Gilmore, Randall, junior.

Second Team

Chandra Nachtigall, Pampa, junior; Misty Davis, Hereford, junior; Catie Betzen, Hereford, junior; Mindy Norman, Randall, junior; Andrea Burrows, Randall, junior; Brooke Moore, Canyon, junior; Susan Spann, Caprock, senior.

Honorable mention: Kristi Carpenter, Pampa, senior; Abbie Huffman, Dumas, senior; Kelli Mitchell, Borger, freshman; Yanira Maruffo, Caprock, sophomore; Rachael Artho, Dumas, senior.

Coach of the year: Joe Lombard, Canyon.
Player of the year: Courtney Sims, Canyon, senior.
Newcomer of the year: Bethany Ratliff, Dumas, freshman.



Three Pampa Lady Harvesters were named to the All-District 1-4A girls' basketball squad this season. Pampa all-district players pictured with PHS head coach Mike Jones are (from left), Jennifer Jones, Chandra Nachtigall and Kristi Carpenter.

Wall, Holt top ticket to be Astros' final starter

By CARLTON THOMPSON The Houston Chronicle
KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Donne Wall spent seven seasons trying to make it to the major leagues. During that epic journey, which included more than three years at the Class AAA level, Wall became all too familiar with the long bus rides, the relatively small paychecks and the often sub-par playing conditions that are a way of life in the minor leagues. If anyone appreciates what it takes to make it to The Show, it's Wall. But making it is one thing; staying there is another, and Wall will have his hands full trying to hold off rookie Chris Holt for the No. 5 slot in the Astros' starting rotation. Rule V draftee Ramon Garcia and lefthanders C.J. Nitkowski and Trever Miller, both acquired in the nine-player deal with Detroit, also could figure into the mix. But for the most part, it's a two-player battle between Holt and the incumbent, Wall. And new manager Larry Dierker has said the job is Wall's to lose. "It's nice to know the manager believes in you, but you don't want

to get too overconfident," Wall said. "I feel like I have to go out there and prove myself again. You can't go out there with a lackadaisical attitude and act like your job already has been given to you." That's a typical response from Wall, who guided his career from the sandlots of Festos, Mo., to the glory of the major leagues. The only thing out of character about Wall's remark is that it consisted of more than four or five words. The soft-spoken righthander isn't one to waste words unless he's joking around with Billy Wagner, his best friend on the team. "You guys (the media) just don't know how much Donne really talks," Wagner said. "You should let me have that tape recorder so I can show you how he never shuts up." Holt, a baby-faced righthander from Dallas, has the gift of gab and isn't shy about sharing his opinions on the possibility of a sixth year in the minors. "I really do feel like I've done everything I can do in the minors," said Holt, 25. "I'm ready for the major leagues. It's just a matter of getting an opportunity and being in the right spot at the right time. If I

throw my game, I'll be there. It would be tough to go back to Triple-A whenever you feel like you're ready. I'm tired of the minor leagues, and I don't want to be there." "I feel I've pitched myself into a position to have a chance to make this team. After getting a taste of it last season (he pitched 4 1/2 innings after the September call-ups), I know I want to be here. But if I have to, I'd go down there and pitch my butt off." If the decision came down to which pitcher had the best arm, Wall would be the odd man out. The 29-year-old doesn't throw hard and has to rely on his mound savvy to maneuver through opposing lineups. Fortunately for Wall, Dierker is a believer in intangibles and past results. The manager, a pitcher of note during his playing days, is impressed by the fact Wall has won at every level, and he points to Wall's 75-44 minor-league record as a testament to the pitcher's ability to win. Wall is the first to admit he doesn't have a cannon for an arm or a dominant pitch to rely on when he gets in a jam. "I make some adjustments

toward the hitters," he said. "I have confidence that when I go out there I'm going to do well. I don't throw very hard, but I have confidence that I can make a good pitch when I have to. You have to outthink some of these hitters." And he did just that when the Astros promoted him from Class AAA Tucson last season. Wall went 6-0 with a 3.51 earned run average in his first 10 starts, all of which resulted in victories for the Astros. But he fell on hard times — as did most of his teammates — in September, losing all four of his starts and posting a sky-high 8.74 ERA. The dropoff created doubts going into the off-season and opened the door to Holt, who bolstered his bid for a spot in the rotation with a solid winter season in Puerto Rico. "I'm going to go in and think of it as my spot," Holt said. "I've got just as good a shot as anyone. I'm going to pitch to the best of my ability every time and try to force their hand and make them put me into the rotation." Holt has an advantage over Wall in that if Wall wins the spot in the rotation, the Astros still believe Holt can be effective as a long reliever. However, Wall is viewed only as a

starting pitcher despite a brief stint in the bullpen late last season. "My preference is to start," Holt said. "But I want to be on the big-league club, and I'll do whatever they want me to do if it's going to get me a spot on the team." Because Rule V draftees must be returned to their former club if they do not stay on their new team's roster for the entire season, Garcia has an added advantage in his attempt to make the team. Garcia has been a big-league starter before and could step into the Astros' rotation if needed, but the current plan is to use him in long-to-middle relief, an area where the Astros were often pathetic last season. "I think this year we have guys who could fill a lot of different roles," closer Billy Wagner said. "Last year, we had a bunch of closer-type guys trying to fit in wherever they could. We should be a much better overall staff with some of the people we brought in." It would take a miracle — OK, a great spring — for Miller and Nitkowski to crack the rotation. Both have the advantage of being a lefthander, but the disadvantage of being longshots in what ultimately will become a two-horse race.

University of Arkansas officials deny losing control of basketball program

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — University of Arkansas officials, while denying a loss of control of the school's men's basketball program, have frozen the salaries of basketball coach Nolan Richardson and the athletic director. The university released Monday its response to a letter of inquiry from the National Collegiate

Athletic Association accusing the school of several violations of NCAA rules. The school's response admitted four violations, but denied Richardson's program is out of control. The school also said it would forfeit a basketball scholarship this year and next, and would deny scholarships to junior-college transfers for

two years. In the 100-page-plus document sent to the NCAA, the university said it froze salaries for Richardson, athletic director Frank Broyles and four other athletic department employees for a year. The university, which won the NCAA men's basketball championship in 1994, did not elaborate on

the reason for the salary freeze for the 1996-97 fiscal year, beyond saying they were disciplinary actions. The admitted violations include improper typing assistance by Kim Wood, daughter of Arkansas chancellor Dan Ferritor, and a separate allegation that she lied to NCAA investigators. Ms. Wood resigned Aug. 26 as academic adviser for

men's basketball. The school also admitted "the inadvertent and technical administrative miscertification" of junior college transfer players Jesse Pate and Sunday Adebayo. The school voluntarily declared Pate and Adebayo ineligible last February, shortly after the NCAA investigation began.

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FBI agents locate truck, nix terrorist advisory

FORT WORTH (AP) — The FBI has located a U-Haul truck that had been believed to be loaded with bomb components and cancelled a terrorist threat advisory, police say.

Fort Worth police said early today they had been notified that agents located the truck in Atlanta, Ga., determined it was not carrying bomb making components and cancelled the advisory.

The FBI office in Dallas could not confirm the report, but said agents will hold a news conference later today.

There had been indications earlier today that the episode resulted from a misunderstanding.

By Monday night, FBI agents had identified the two men driving the truck and determined that their cargo was legitimate, but the truck had not been located and agents wanted to interview the men to be sure, according to reports in *The Dallas Morning News* and several other media outlets.

"It looks as though they were going about legitimate business," a federal law enforcement official told the *Morning News* on condition of anonymity. "But we won't know for sure until we talk to the two men and examine the truck."

FBI spokeswoman Marjorie Poche refused to confirm the reports, sticking to an agency statement urging the men to call the FBI or local police "at once because of the possibility that the materials in the truck were meant only for innocent use."

The statement said a witness told police that the men were loading diesel fuel into containers in the back of the truck with out-of-state license plates at a Texaco station Saturday. Local police, however, said at a news conference that the witness saw three men at the station in Haltom City, a suburb north of Fort Worth.

Someone else at the station observed that the truck held three blue plastic containers that appeared to be filled with ammonium nitrate fertilizer, the FBI said.

The materials spotted in the truck could produce an explosion big enough to destroy a large building, the FBI noted in an advisory. The same materials were used to destroy the Oklahoma City federal building.

But the bureau urged the men to call the FBI or local police "at once because of the possibility that the materials in the truck were meant only for innocent use."

"This is very soft, very speculative information," said a federal law enforcement official in Washington, requesting anonymity. "These guys may be farmers for all we know."

The FBI released a sketch of one of the men, of average build and in his mid-50s. He was described as having slicked-back, salt-and-pepper hair, being about 5-feet-10 and clean shaven.

The other man, in his mid-30s, was described as clean shaven with short brown hair, about 5-feet-9.

Mexico fires 36 employees in wake of drug czar's indictment

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Seeking to salvage the reputation of its anti-drug effort, Mexico fired 36 workers in its national narcotics agency who had contact with the ousted drug czar accused of taking bribes from a top cocaine trafficker.

Attorney General Jorge Madrazo Cuellar said he would continue employee reviews and warned Monday that more firings may follow.

"The National Drug Control Institute has fired all personnel who were in contact with (Gen. Jesus) Gutierrez Rebollo," he said.

Last week, prosecutors indicted Gutierrez Rebollo, the former top anti-narcotics official, on charges he cooperated with drug cartels.

After being appointed head of the drug

agency in December, Gutierrez Rebollo moved into a luxury Mexico City apartment allegedly loaned to him by one of Mexico's leading drug lords, Amado Carrillo Fuentes.

To complicate matters, U.S. officials have said that Gutierrez Rebollo was privy to highly sensitive intelligence information, including the names of US drug agents in Mexico.

Carrillo Fuentes has evaded police attempts to capture him, even slipping out of his sister's wedding just before police raided the event.

The institute firings come during rising criticism in the United States of Mexico's efforts against drug trafficking, currently

the key issue in U.S.-Mexico relations. The United States is expected to announce on March 1 whether it will certify Mexico's anti-drug program. Certification is needed to maintain U.S. financial aid.

U.S. officials discussed a proposal Monday to recertify Mexico's drug programs at a downgraded status, which would keep aid flowing but would be a diplomatic embarrassment for Mexico, *The New York Times* reported today.

Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, the head of the White House's anti-drug agency, said the United States might give Mexico qualified recertification on the grounds of "national interest," *the Times* said.

Meanwhile, Mexico denied an earlier *New York Times* report alleging that two state governors were aiding drug traffickers.

Attorney General Madrazo said government investigations had revealed nothing of substance to implicate the two — Sonora Gov. Manlio Fabio Beltrones and Morelos Gov. Jorge Carrillo Olea.

The Times said Sunday that accusations linking Beltrones to drug smugglers are based on interviews with U.S. officials, reams of intelligence data and "highly reliable" informers.

Both governors challenged the report, and Beltrones took out a full-page ad in Mexico City newspapers to defend himself against the accusations.

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