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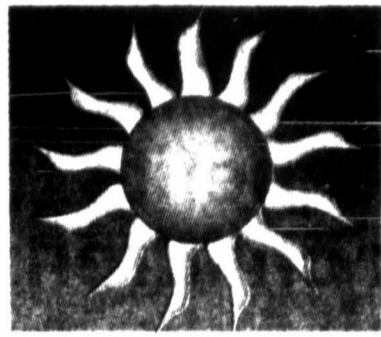
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PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 90 NO: 24

Pampa, Texas

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details

PAMPA - The Board of Education of Pampa Independent School District has called a special meeting to be held on Monday, May 5 at 7:30 a.m. in the board conference room at Carver Center.

Items on the agenda include oath of office, organization of board and election of officers and the establishment of dates for future board meetings.

This is an open meeting, but the board reserves the right to go into executive session if necessary.

AUSTIN (AP) - Texans would pay an extra \$2 when they apply for or renew a driver's license, with the money going to finance emergency medical services and trauma care around the state, under a bill approved by senators.

An average of 30 Texans die every day from injuries, according to a bill analysis. The state trauma system has been financed primarily through grants, donations and local money.

Ms. Zaffirini's bill would raise \$8 million next fiscal year and \$8.7 million the year after that.

The money would go toward local EMS needs, operations of 22 regional support areas on trauma, state trauma facilities and a special fund for extraordinary emergencies.

WASHINGTON (AP) - After two years of combat and a stab at compromise, President Clinton and congressional Republicans are reaching for final agreement on a plan to balance the budget while bestowing tax breaks on families, investors and students.

A provision to extend health care coverage to an estimated five million uninsured children — a key part of Clinton's second term agenda — also is part of the agreement the two sides hoped to announce formally today.

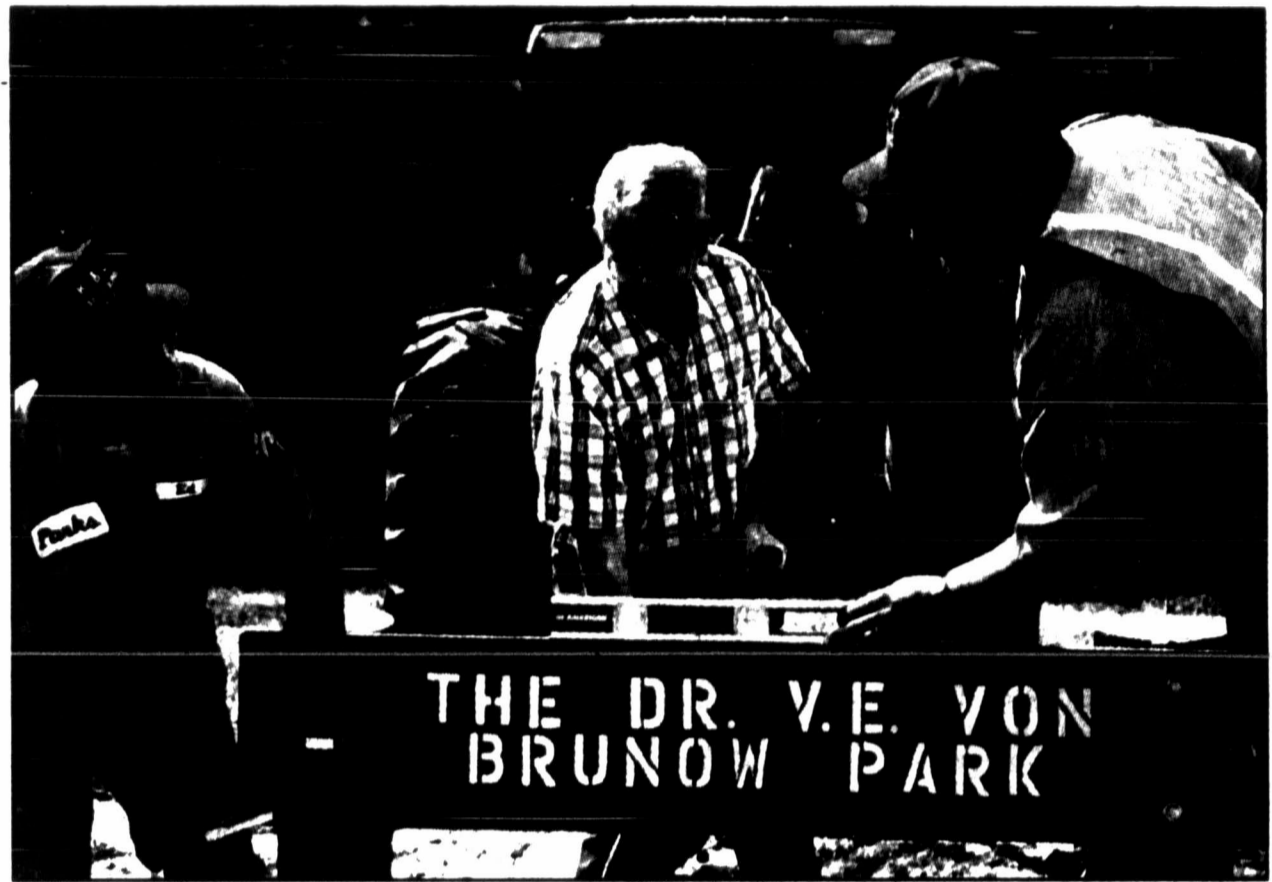
ROCKWELL, N.C. (AP) - Sydney, the chimp, recaptured after a week on the lam, didn't go back to his cage quietly.

After the 150-pound chimpanzee cried open his bars and escaped, the owners of the Charlotte Metro Zoo tried to lure him back using everything from candy to romance — wheeling out his caged mate. He finally was captured Thursday in the back yard of a school teacher who threw apples at him.

To help Sydney calm down, zookeepers gave him a can of Pepsi spiked with a sedative — and a cigarette.

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|------------|----|
| Classified | 10 |
| Comics | 8 |
| Editorial | 4 |
| Religion | 7 |
| Sports | 9 |

Dr. V. E. Von Brunow Park



(Pampa News photo by Dianna F. Dandridge)

Pampa City Parks Director Reed Kirkpatrick and park workers Ed Turner and Dustin Larkin add the finishing touches to the 36th city park Wednesday. The park, located at the intersection of Cuyler and Foster streets downtown, is dedicated to Dr. D. E. Von Brunow, the town's first physician. The park area is on the original site of Dr. Brunow's office.

Groups vying over park land

By LAURA HALEY
Staff Writer

Both the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1657 and the Gray County Historical Foundation were vying for members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to adopt their theme for the new Dr. V. E. Von Brunow Park.

Jack Tripplehorn, representing the VFW, addressed members of the parks advisory board about the land, asking for the area to be based on a military theme. The reason, he said, is because the park would be directly adjacent to the VFW post downtown.

In addition, Tripplehorn also suggested the city tear down the wall currently between the new park land and the VFW building.

The current wall, he said, may be unstable and could be very expensive to restore. In addition, Tripplehorn indicated that members of the VFW may allow a mural painting on their building's wall if the current wall is torn down.

Of course, he added, the VFW would recommend (not demand) that the mural have a Veterans theme. In addition to a memorial mural, Tripplehorn also indicated members of the

VFW would like a flagpole, park benches and bronze sentries placed in the new park area. The VFW, he said, could help fund the expense.

However, Darlene Burkes, representing the Gray County Historical Foundation and the Pampa Area Foundation for Outdoor Art suggested a historical theme for the park.

Some ideas for the mural included pictures of the Von Brunow home, streets of Pampa, local residents and Mr. Von Brunow himself driving the very first car in Pampa. This, said Burkes, would tie into the fact that the land once was the site of the Von Brunow home.

In addition to the mural, Burkes also suggested park benches and an iron sculpture of some kind, and she gave an example of an iron wagon.

Members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board were receptive to both ideas but refused to take any action at the meeting Thursday night.

Instead, they suggested Burkes and a representative from the VFW and other downtown businesses meet to come up with a theme suitable to all in the downtown area.

Separatists given ultimatum

FORT DAVIS, Texas (AP) — The next move belonged to a group of Texas secessionists after their lawyer delivered what he called the state's final offer: Come out or police are coming in.

"Know that there are people out there who love you and don't want you to die," lawyer Terry O'Rourke said late Thursday in a public plea to his client, Republic of Texas factional leader Richard McLaren.

"The government has made its last, final written offer. They are people of their word. They are willing to do what you ask in substance. Rick, the time to come out is now," O'Rourke said.

There was no word about the group's response by early today.

O'Rourke delivered a similar warning in person to McLaren, whose standoff with police began Sunday with the kidnapping of a couple near McLaren's mountain home, 175 miles southeast of El Paso.

The couple, since released, were seized in retaliation for the arrest of two people McLaren said were part of his group, known as the Republic of Texas. The group, which has split into factions, wants Texas to secede from the United States.

O'Rourke said police, who have kept their distance so far, were prepared to end the standoff and arrest the 13 occupants of the ramshackle trailer McLaren calls his embassy. Its power was cut

Thursday night and McLaren's group found themselves surrounded by helicopters, armored vehicles, dogs, horses and state troopers.

"I closed the letter to my client by saying, 'It is essential you pick up the phone and say you are coming out because they've made it clear that they're going to execute the warrants,'" O'Rourke said.

State Department of Public Safety spokesman Mike Cox refused to discuss the timetable.

"He's got it (the offer) and is able to study it," Cox said. "We have said all along that we want a peaceful outcome and not a Wild West outcome."

O'Rourke did not detail the state's offer, but said it would guarantee that McLaren and his wife, Evelyn, would be kept at the Presidio County Jail and prepare for court together.

McLaren has two warrants for his arrest, one accusing him of contempt of court for filing bogus liens, the other charging him with burglarizing a neighbor's house. He and six others in the trailer are now wanted on organized crime charges stemming from the kidnappings.

O'Rourke said authorities were anxious to end the standoff, which entered its sixth day, after police on Wednesday detained seven heavily armed men at a truck stop in Pecos, 70 miles from the standoff. Three of them carried Republic of Texas membership cards and at least some said they were going to Fort Davis.

Commissioners support amendment increasing salary of county attorney

By SHERRY CROMARTIE
Staff Writer

Gray County Commissioners and County Judge Richard Peet adopted a resolution supporting the County Attorney Compensation Bill during their regular session Thursday.

The resolution backs a proposed amendment before the legislation that will allow county attorneys to be compensated for their increasing caseloads and added responsibilities. The pending bill, which is an amendment to HB 1658 concerning salaries and fees of county attorneys, was proposed by State Representative Pete Gallego of Alpine.

The amendment to the bill, if adopted, will add approximately \$12,200 to the current salary and benefits drawn by Gray County Attorney Todd Alvey. The supplemental salary and benefits are to be paid through state funding.

Among other actions taken at the meeting, commissioners tabled a request from K-N Energy, Inc. concerning installation of a cathodic protection ground bed and connecting cable in a ditch located in Precinct 2. Commissioner Jim

Greene suggested the court determine further information about the property owner's rights before taking any action.

Other items approved by county commissioners included:

- a contract between the county and the U.S. Forestry Service to provide law enforcement at Lake McClellan during the summer months;
- contractual fees between the county and the McLean Independent School District were lowered from \$5,900 to \$4,400, giving the school district a reimbursement on their 1997 payment;
- a \$500 contribution on behalf of the county towards the purchase of additional warning sirens placed in the city of Pampa, allowing the county access to the older sirens that would be replaced;
- a used radio tower was donated to Gray County by Gray-Roberts County Farm Bureau, to be placed on land near Lefors, aiding the road and bridge personnel with better communication contact in the precinct;
- a resolution allowing the county judge's office to advertise for bids for food service for the county jail system; bids must be

submitted to Judge Peet's office by June 15;

- a mid-year budget amendment for the county sheriff's department, recommended by Auditor Elaine Morris, transferring a year-end balance amount into the general budget account;
- payment of bills, salaries, and transfers recommended by county auditor and county treasurer; and
- a request by Phillips Pipe Line Co. to install 2-inch line under existing county road crossing in Section 36, Block 3, I&GN Railway Survey, recommended by Pct. 2 Commissioner Jim Greene.

In addition, Sammie Morris was recognized for her completion of a management course for tax assessor/collectors in Texas. Morris will be taking a final state exam later this summer.

Safety concerns centering around road maintenance to areas with abandoned oil and gas pipelines were evident were also discussed by Commissioner Gerald Wright. Road crews working on repairs may not be aware of the depth of the pipelines or what company owns them, causing a potential hazard.

Civil War comes alive

The efforts of Pampa sixth and seventh graders may not cause publishers and historians to rewrite the Civil War, but Thursday the students had the opportunity to get first hand knowledge of the war.

The students have been studying the causes of the greatest conflict to ever occur on U.S. soil, and, as part of the lesson, history teacher Dana Ketchersid planned a day at the park for students to learn of the inequities faced by the North and the South.

Students reenacted the famous battles of Shiloh, Shenandoah, Bull Run and others to get a hands-on feel for the problems and hardships on both sides of the battlefield.

"This is a way to let them know how badly the South was outnumbered, out-manned and out-gunned," said Ketchersid. "I wanted them to get a feel for the imbalance during the battles."

The students said this was a much better way of learning about the war, allowing them to learn about other issues besides slavery and the hard, dry facts of battles, generals and lost territory.

The students drew lots to determine rebel or yank standing, general or foot soldier and even hospital staff or spy. They wore blue or gray depending on their loyalties, decorated with stripes and braid to determine rank.

Wounded were taken to the surgical tents, where the severity of their wounds were determined by the tickets they drew. Some bled to death when a mini ball severed an artery while others sustained minor head wounds and lived to fight another battle. Mimicking the actual Civil War, some students were lucky, others were not.

See CIVIL WAR on Page 2



(Pampa News photo by Dianna F. Dandridge)

Randa Morris and Misti Northcutt take on the role of medics while Daniel Passini plays surgeon. Ryan Nash is the lucky dead soldier during the reenactment of the Civil War by Pampa Middle School students on Thursday at the Alameda Park.

Clinton, Congress near budget agreement

By DAVID ESPO
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — After two years of combat and a stab at compromise, President Clinton and congressional Republicans are reaching for final agreement on a plan to balance the budget while bestowing tax breaks on families, investors and students.

A provision to extend health care coverage to an estimated five million uninsured children — a key part of Clinton's second term agenda — also is part of the agreement the two sides hoped to announce formally today.

Even before the deal was unveiled, House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott labored to maximize support among the GOP rank and file while the White House worked to confine Democratic disaffection to the liberal wing of the party.

"We can't govern in an environment in which the Democrats, who are a minority in the Congress, can get everything they want," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

Gingrich said a deal providing for the GOP's twin goals of a balanced budget with tax cuts was close at hand. Several of his colleagues said he had spoken with disdain of a "signing fee" the GOP was being forced to pay in the form of billions of dollars in additional domestic spending to gain Clinton's agreement.

The two sides arranged for separate announcement ceremonies, Clinton in the White House and the GOP leadership in the Rotunda, the soaring chamber beneath the Capitol dome that is midway between the House and Senate.

At the same time, negotiations continued late Thursday night, in part to address concerns raised by the administration that the tax cuts not cause deficits beyond the five-year life of the budget accord.

According to a variety of officials inside the administration and Congress, the broad outlines provided for a balanced budget in five years, with tax cuts totaling roughly \$135 billion.

Among the elements: —Five-year Medicare savings would total \$115 billion, including slight increases in monthly premiums for many recipients necessitated at least in part by a change in the home health care program.

—Tax cuts would include a \$500-per-child reduction as well as cuts in capital gains and estate taxes that Republicans favor and possibly additional breaks in Individual Retirement Accounts. Clinton would gain the tax relief he seeks for higher education students.

—The \$135 billion in tax cuts would be partly offset by roughly \$50 billion in increases, including extension of the existing airline ticket tax.

—Spending on domestic programs ranging from the environment to transportation to veterans would be cut \$20 billion below Clinton's five year request, but rise by about \$70 billion above Republican proposals.

—An estimated \$18 billion to \$20 billion would be allotted to extend health insurance coverage to children of the working poor. Other Clinton initiatives to be funded include school repair and a welfare-to-work program. —Welfare benefits would be partly restored

for certain legal immigrants whose benefits were cut off under the welfare overhaul passed last summer.

—A change is assumed in the government's cost-of-living index that is used to figure annual benefit increases in Social Security and other programs. The precise change would depend on calculations by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, although bargainers assumed the reduction would be roughly 0.3 percentage point.

The agreement would mark the end of one process and the start of another, as lawmakers begin drafting the legislation to carry out its provisions.

Still, the prospect of a balanced budget agreement marked a startling turnaround from the past two years, when Clinton and the Republican majorities of the House and Senate battled constantly over taxes and spending priorities, and two government shutdowns were a byproduct of their struggle.

In the end, both Clinton and the Republicans renewed their hold on power in last November's split-ticket election, and returned to Washington intent on trying to negotiate their differences.

Among majority Republicans, there was relatively little complaining about the emerging agreement, at least in public. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, was the most notable critic. "This thing will be like a dead fish," he said. "You set it on the table for three or four days and it will begin to stink."

In the House, GOP officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they expected some defections, but relatively few.

Birds at home in wreath



(Pampa News photo by Sherry Cromartie)

Evidence of new homesteaders enjoying the safety and beauty surrounding them is fixed in the decorative wreath hanging on the front door of the home of Jim and Karen Jean, who live on Evergreen Street. Jim, pictured above, said he walked to their front porch to get the mail last Thursday afternoon, and noticed that there was a lot of "chirping" activities going on. In the meantime, he and Karen left town for the remainder of the weekend. "When returning home earlier this week, we discovered another family at our residence ...," he said. The family includes mother bird, father bird and tiny little eggs inside the nest woven into the wire wreath beneath the ribbon bow and the fruit and floral decorations.

Revised deregulation bill viewed with skepticism

AUSTIN (AP) — A proposal to deregulate the electric market drafted by the Public Utility Commission and governor's office was met with skepticism as officials try to craft a workable plan to force industry competition.

The 59-page proposal being floated Thursday would completely deregulate electric utilities by 2001 and would cut and/or freeze rates to varying degrees for residential and business customers.

"We have major concerns, but this is a vehicle we'll continue to look at, dissect and make suggestions," said Curtis Seidlits, president of the Association of Electric Companies of Texas representing investor-owned utilities.

Several deregulation bills have languished, and Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock has declared the issue dead for this session, which ends June 2.

Gov. George W. Bush said

progress in the debate could only be defined as all sides agreeing.

"The ideal world is we stand up and say 'This is best solution, no amendments to this bill, let's move it through the bodies.' And that's exactly where we're trying to get to," he said.

Bush didn't receive that response Thursday, only another pause in the process as all sides reviewed the document.

"We're still working on this with the governor's office," said Mark Zion, executive director of the Texas Public Power Association, which represents municipally-owned utilities.

Criticism was swift from consumer advocates.

"This is a good faith attempt that gives far too much to the utilities," said Tom "Smitty" Smith, state director of the government watchdog group Public Citizen.

"Not since the Cowboys-Vikings' Hershel Walker trade has there been a more lopsided deal," said Karl Rabago, manager of the Environmental Defense Fund National Energy Program. "Except this time ... the electric utilities and some of their big customers win the financial Super Bowl and the rest of us are stuck with enormous economic and environmental costs."

The proposal would cut residential electricity rates by ten percent in the next three years and open the state's electric markets to competition by Sept. 1, 2001. The rate would be frozen through 2004.

Electric rates for small businesses would be slashed about four percent over two years and large industrial companies would have their rates frozen until competition began.

The rates would be frozen to January 1997 rates — before the Public Utility Commission cut

the rates of Central Power & Light Co. The action sent utility stocks plunging more than ten percent in the last two months.

In the proposal, companies could still impose a surcharge if a "major event" such as new or expanded state or federal regulatory requirements occurred during the freeze period.

The freeze period allows electric companies to recover the full amount of investments made in power plants. Those investments would be "stranded" because customers expected to help pay for them would be divided among more companies.

During the four-year transition, an investor-owned utility would have a rate freeze for residential and commercial customers through 2004. Residential rates will be cut ten percent, with a four percent drop beginning September 1997 and with three percent additional cuts in 1998 and 1999.

Appellate court strikes down Bunton's aquifer ruling

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Edwards Aquifer water pumping limits ordered by a federal judge have been struck down by a higher court, a move San Antonio city leaders are cheering.

"It's not completely finished yet, but this is a major victory for our city," said San Antonio Mayor Bill Thornton. "This was a fundamental fight over who would control our water and, in many ways, our destiny."

The Sierra Club, the environmental group that filed the lawsuit

seeking pumping limits, says it may appeal the Wednesday decision by a three judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

"We are, of course, disappointed with the ruling. We are going to entertain whether or not to appeal that ruling," said Ken Kramer, state director of the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club may ask for a hearing before the full 5th U.S. Circuit Court, Kramer said.

The appellate court panel ruled 2-1 that federal Judge Lucius

Bunton III should not have imposed emergency pumping limits so soon while the state's new Edwards Aquifer Authority was beginning to manage the water source.

The 175-mile-long underground aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for the city of San Antonio and is relied on by other towns and counties in the region.

The Sierra Club filed the lawsuit last summer under the Endangered Species Act as drought conditions and increased water pumping were draining the aquifer. The Sierra Club said it wanted to protect endangered species living in aquifer-fed springs in New Braunfels and San Marcos.

Bunton's ruling Aug. 23 declared an Edwards Aquifer emergency and ordered limits on water usage by San Antonio and other aquifer pumpers by Oct. 1.

Bunton's order generally limited the city of San Antonio and other major aquifer users to no more than 1.2 times their average winter water usage.

San Antonio appealed, and the higher court issued a stay of Bunton's order in September, meaning it didn't go into effect while the appeal was under consideration.

"I and many others in this community said last summer in the middle of the drought this federal judge is jacking us around. We said we wanted him out of our business," Thornton said at a news conference Thursday.

CINEMA theatre

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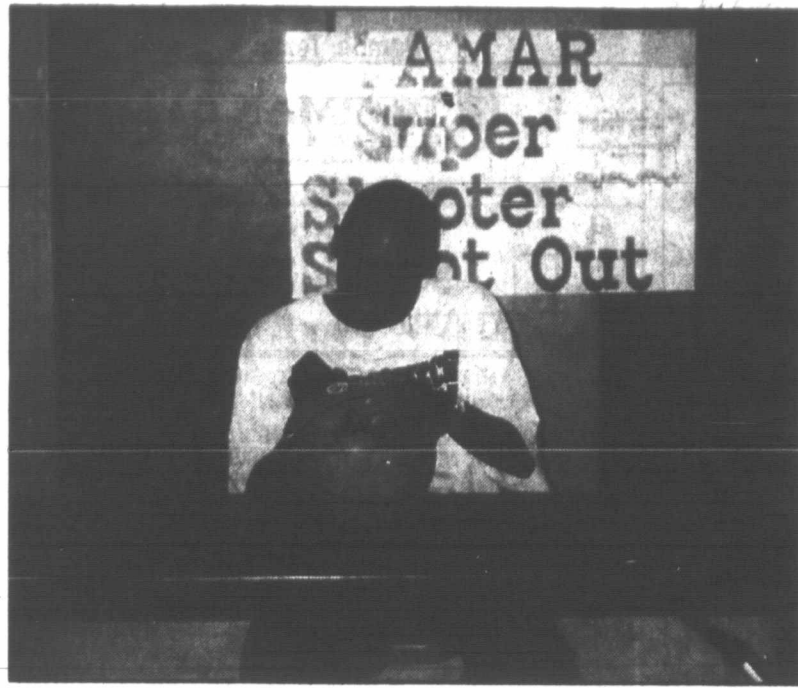
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Lamar Shooter Shoot Out



(Special photo)

Rayford Young was in town recently to sign basketballs for the Lamar Super Shooter Shoot Out. The shoot out will be held Saturday, May 3, at the Pampa Middle School Boys' Gym. The action begins at 8 a.m. The contest, which is sponsored by Pizza Hut, is open to any child in second through fifth grade. Each shooter will receive a coupon for a free buffet from Pizza Hut. Contestants can enter the contest by contacting his/her school or at the door Saturday morning.

Ramseys deny killing JonBenet

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — JonBenet Ramsey's parents proclaimed their innocence, defended her involvement in beauty pageants and issued a warning to her killer: "God knows who you are and we will find you."

A teary-eyed Patricia Ramsey sat close to her husband, John, clasp his hand as they broke a four-month silence to talk to a small group of invited reporters.

"I loved that child with my whole of my heart and soul," Mrs. Ramsey said at a hotel Thursday. "I did not kill JonBenet. I did not have anything to do with it."

"I'm appalled that anyone would think that John or I would be involved in such a hideous, heinous crime," she said, visibly shaken.

Ramsey, who maintained his composure during the half-hour briefing and appeared at times to be supporting Mrs. Ramsey, said: "I did not kill my daughter JonBenet."

JonBenet, who won several

WTA&M sets graduation for early this month

CANYON — The big day is approaching for some 614 West Texas A&M University students who have applied for May graduation. Commencement ceremonies will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10 at the Amarillo Civic Center Cal Farley Coliseum.

The number of students applying for graduation is slightly up, according to Barbara Becknell, assistant to the provost/vice president for Academic Affairs.

Last year 580 students applied for May graduation.

Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, president of Wayne County Community College in Detroit, Mich., and a WTAMU graduate, will deliver the commencement address. Ivery holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from Texas A&M University, a master's degree in psychology from WTAMU and a doctoral degree in education from the University of Arkansas.

Ivery became president of Wayne County Community College in 1995 and was named the 1996 Community College President of the Year by the Life Extension Foundation.

Guests, graduates, family and friends are invited to attend a reception hosted by the WTAMU Alumni Association in the Grand Plaza immediately following commencement.

WTAMU graduation ceremonies are held each May, August and December.

AC to offer mini-term

AMARILLO — Amarillo College will offer 18 classes during a mini-term to be held May 12-29. Registration ends May 9.

The following classes will be offered: Freshman Composition I, Basic Algebra I and II, College Algebra, Golf I and II, General Psychology, Government of the United States I, History of the United States I, Interpersonal Communications, Public Speaking, Business and Professional Speaking, Reading Techniques II, Computer Concepts, Computer Concepts Lab, Brakes and Cooling Systems, General Biology II and Real Estate Math.

For more information, call the Registrar's Office at (806) 371-5030.

Elaborate new memorial pays tribute to FDR

WASHINGTON (AP) — A nation that bears his indelible stamp is paying tribute to Franklin Delano Roosevelt today with a granite and bronze memorial that evokes the man and the times that demanded his leadership.

Roosevelt's grandchildren and great-grandchildren were joining public officials, historians and other invited guests to witness President Clinton's acceptance of the nation's newest presidential memorial.

Saluting Roosevelt as a man of "bold, persistent experimentation," Clinton marveled to a Democratic fund-raising dinner Thursday night how the former president "managed to always look happy and strong and confident no matter what personal pain he might have endured."

"He was marvelously successful because he liked people and he liked politics."

The campaign to build a memorial to the only president elected to four terms began days after his death on April 12, 1945. Not for 50 years did construction begin. In the meantime, the capital's only official remembrance to FDR was a 39-inch-high marble block, flanked

by greenery, in front of the National Archives. That's how Roosevelt wanted it.

"We should let sleeping heroes lie," he once said.

Whether or not he wanted such an elaborate memorial, the nation is honoring Roosevelt with a 7 1/2-acre memorial within walking distance of monuments to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln.

Untold numbers at the dedication and watching it on television will recall the Great Depression and Roosevelt's declaration: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

And they will remember his World War II leadership and his call to arms: "We must be the arsenal of democracy."

For millions too young to remember either upheaval, Roosevelt remains the president who for better or worse gave the nation the New Deal and expanded for generations to come the role of the federal government.

Unlike the other presidential monuments, the Roosevelt memorial on the Tidal Basin is designed to tell a story. His words are carved

in the granite walls of four open-air rooms, each commemorating one of the four terms to which Roosevelt was elected. Bronze images depict the alphabet soup of programs and agencies created to deal with the Depression, as well as scenes from FDR's life and the lives he touched.

One statue is of a man seated by his radio, a reminder that in the era before television, Roosevelt spoke directly to the people through radio with a voice vibrant and inspiring.

Roosevelt himself is depicted in the third room with a larger-than-life bronze statue. He is seated, his body wrapped in a cape, his lined face betraying the weariness of his final year of life. At his feet is a statue of Fala, the Scottish terrier who was FDR's constant companion.

In the fourth room is a statue of Eleanor Roosevelt, the first presidential wife so honored.

One of the nation's most popular presidents, Roosevelt also was one of its most reviled. Opponents of his activist approach to governing condemned him for driving the nation into debt.

Texas House gives first-round approval to Wolen's ethics bill

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House gave first-round approval to a bill tightening the state's ethics law after rejecting an attempt to allow lawmakers to take money during the legislative session for "fact-finding" trips.

Rep. John Shields, R-San Antonio, on Thursday attempted to amend a bill by Rep. Steve Wolens, D-Dallas, to allow lawmakers to accept campaign contributions while the Legislature is meeting for expenses related to trips taken for research on bills.

"We need to be informed," Shields said. For example, he said, lawmakers recently were offered a bus trip by supporters of a cogeneration plant several hours' drive

outside of Austin. He said viewing the plant would have been helpful to lawmakers considering utility legislation.

The amendment was criticized as a thinly veiled attempt to allow lawmakers to go on junkets at the expense of lobbyists. Lawmakers currently cannot accept campaign contributions, including lobbyist-paid trips, 30 days before and during the legislative session.

"If it's a fact-finding trip to Orlando, what's to keep someone from seeing what they need to see and then spending several days at Disney World?" asked Rep. Tom Uher, D-Bay City.

The House voted 130-2 to reject the amendment. Shields and Rep. Tommy Merritt, R-Longview, were the lone dissenting votes.

Wolens' bill, approved on a voice vote, still faces a final House vote.

The measure would require lobbyists to list with the Ethics Commission the subject matter of bills they discuss with lawmakers. A 1995 measure inadvertently deleted this requirement.

Under the bill, challengers for public office would be punished if they imply in campaign advertising that they already hold the office they are seeking.

The bill would require that chal-

lengers put the word "for" in front of the office being sought in campaign ads. A violation would be punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$4,000 fine.

Supporters of the bill say the provision is needed to prevent deception by non-incumbent candidates.

Judges would be exempted from restrictions on accepting campaign contributions during the regular legislative session, under the bill.

An amendment was adopted that would require county commissioners in a county with a population of 50,000 or more to file a personal disclosure statement.

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RELIGION

Velvet Revolution hero finds new post as Catholic bishop

By **TERRENCE PETTY**
Associated Press Writer

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP) — The boyish-looking dissident who was a leading voice of the 1989 Velvet Revolution is now the newest bishop of the Czech Roman Catholic church.

But that doesn't mean Vaclav Maly has become any more conventional.

As a bishop, he keeps in touch with ordinary folk. Maly, 46, wears street clothes instead of clerical garb, prefers public transport to his church-provided car and occasionally visits pubs.

"I'm in a position now where I really have to think whether I should go to a pub," he said, referring to his consecration last January. "But I go from time to time with friends and have a glass of wine."

From his office in a seminary that used to house a communist propaganda magazine and stands opposite a building once used for secret police interrogation, the tousle-haired, straight-forward bishop hopes to persuade more Czechs to address problems of their society, and its Catholic church.

Democracy has come and capitalism is blossoming. Post-communist maladies include corruption, xenophobia and general apathy. Maly complains that Czech businessmen are greedy, intellectuals indifferent, politicians timid and even the Roman Catholic church too meek.

"I think the church should deal with issues such as ethics in business, housing and treating foreigners well. I'm looking for ways for the church to address such questions," Maly said.

Maly was an unusual figure in the Charter 77 dissident movement that eventually overthrew communist rule in 1989. In a crowd of largely agnostic intellectuals who enjoyed a raucous

evening, he was a priest. While others stoked boilers to survive, Maly — formally banned from practicing religious office — spent nearly 11 years covertly preaching and performing religious rites in people's homes.

When the revolution began, Maly ran the massive anti-communist rallies, introducing Vaclav Havel and other speakers. He was hugely popular.

Then, at the biggest rally of all, he made a fleeting, but direct reference to God. Others saw it as an attempt to make a pitch for Roman Catholicism, and Maly was pushed from the limelight.

He eschewed the high office gained by fellow dissidents. For Maly, the end of communism meant once again being a priest out in the open, at St. Anthony's Church in Prague.

Maly likes to share and hone his views on what should be done — hence the pub visits and rides on public trolleys.

"It's good to show that a bishop is a normal person," he said.

Some Czechs wonder why Maly doesn't just go into politics, where he might be more broadly heard. Of the 10 million Czechs, fewer than half are Catholics and many no longer go to church.

"Vaclav Maly is a totally atypical priest. He continues to be a dissident who, for reasons unknown to me, became a church official," said Jefim Fistejn, editor in chief of *Lidove Noviny*, a respected Prague daily.

Maly insists: "I am above all a priest. And I wouldn't be a good priest if I had political passions."

Czech Roman Catholics are grateful for him.

"Because of who he is, Vaclav Maly can persuade people that a believer is not necessarily a raving enthusiast but can be an intelligent person who knows what's going on in the world," said Zdenek Kosina, a parishioner at St. Anthony's.

Palmetto State Quartet to be in Borger



(Photo by Rivergate Talent Inc.)

The Palmetto State Quartet, Southern gospel music group, will be performing at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 3, in the Borger High School Auditorium. Admission to the show, which also will feature Tim Hill and the McLaughlin Brothers, is free. The Palmetto Quartet, with various personnel changes over the years, has been performing gospel music for nearly 50 years, with such radio hits as "Faith Unlocks the Door," "Jubilee's Comin'," "Beyond the Sunset," "I Found a Hiding Place" and "Angels Will Stand." Current members are Jack Pittmann, manager, who has performed for over 50 years; Jack Bagwell, lead singer, with the quartet for over 42 years; Brion Carter, tenor; Harold Gilley, bass; and Woody Beatty, pianist and master of ceremonies.

Religion briefs

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which was once expelled from the state of Missouri under threat of death, is back in a big way.

The Mormon church has opened its new \$20 million temple in suburban St. Louis. Once it's dedicated in early June, only church members in good standing will be allowed inside the massive white granite and cast stone structure.

The 60,000-square-foot edifice sits on a hilltop on 14 acres of ground along Interstate 64. Its 150-foot spire is topped by a gold-leaf statue of the Angel Moroni.

"We're coming back to Missouri," said Boyd K. Packer, acting president of the church's Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "This is a very historic event."

COLLEGEDALE, Tenn. (AP) — Gordon Bietz, president of the Georgia Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, has been chosen as the new president of Southern Adventist University.

Bietz will replace resigning President Donald Sahly at the school in Collegedale, near Chattanooga.

Bietz was pastor at the college church from 1971 to 1984. As president of the Cumberland Conference, he currently oversees 130 churches, 60 elementary schools and three high schools in Tennessee and Georgia.

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Education Is The Difference In Love As Well As In Life

DEAR ABBY: When I saw the letter in your column from the woman who wrote to say that after 13 years of abuse, she had finally decided she was going to leave her husband, I had to write. The woman's decision prompted her to pen a poem she titled "Love Isn't..." After reading it, I was compelled to write my own "poem." I call it, "Stupid Is..."

STUPID IS...

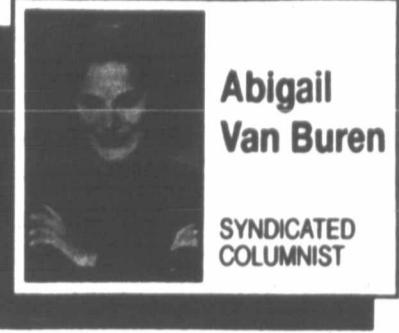
— Staying married to a man who is physically and verbally abusive for 13 years! For heaven's sake, get a clue!

— Having a child with an abusive mate. It's hard to believe there were no incidents of this nature prior to having a baby.

— Raising a child in this hostile environment. Statistics show that most abusers were either abused themselves or witnessed abuse during their own childhood. So, congratulations! You are now raising tomorrow's crop of tormentors.

— Any woman who doesn't get the best possible education she can before she gets married or has children. A good education is your ticket to freedom! I've rarely heard a well-educated woman say, "I had to stay with this abusive man because I don't have anywhere to go."

— Any woman who would plan to have a baby with someone who hasn't proven himself to be



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

as committed to raising the child as she is. Choosing to bring a child into the world simply because you "want a baby" is the height of selfishness. Forget what you want. Think of what is best for the child.

— Anyone who would have a baby they cannot afford to care for. To people who complain that it's impossible to raise a "family" on a minimum wage, I say, "If you are making only minimum wage, why are you starting a family?" Work your way up the ladder. Go back to school nights and weekends. Many of us have done just that, and that is how we have gotten ahead. Besides, job experience gives you something to fall back on if "Mr. Wonderful" turns out to be less than you'd hoped for. You'll know you are capable of taking care of yourself.

Abby, I'm sure I'll be criticized for my opinion, but I am...

SICK AND TIRED OF VOLUNTARY VICTIMS IN OREGON

DEAR SICK AND TIRED: You may be criticized for stating your opinion, and I may be criticized for printing it. You didn't sugar-coat the message, but perhaps it needs to be said. However, it may interest you that not everyone saw "Goodbye Wife's" poem in the same light as you. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: You recently printed a letter from "The Goodbye Wife in Calif." in which she outlined what "Love Isn't."

Abby, that letter hit home. I am married and the father of four. My wife and children have put up with that kind of behavior far too long.

Your advice was that we all have choices. Well, this husband and father just made one, before I, too, receive a letter like that.

I carry a copy of the column in my wallet, next to the picture of my family. At least once each day, I make it a point to look at both. Abby, I'd much rather have my family than get a goodbye letter.

Thanks to you and "Goodbye Wife" for opening my eyes.

CHANGING IN CINCINNATI

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Be sure to state your zodiac sign. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Today you might hear through the grapevine that an old friend feels you've been neglecting him or her lately. Take time to set this matter right.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You should do better in competitive departments today, even though you might see yourself as the underdog. Chin up!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Developments today might challenge your basic philosophical beliefs. However, all will work out in a positive manner if you are unwavering.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Usually it's more effective to use the soft sell, but today, assert your points and positions with authority and bravado.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Working in close conjunction with a partner today might sound like a good suggestion, but strive to be self-sufficient and independent instead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Even though you might get off to a late start today, you'll still be capable of substantial

productivity regarding things that are musts. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) It is not a good idea for you to burn the candle at both ends today. Your luck, energies and initiative may all have their limitations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Tasks that are too difficult for others might be dumped in your lap today, especially those of a domestic nature that involves your family.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) When conversing with a friend today, be careful that your comments aren't too caustic and critical about someone she or he likes, but you don't.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) This could be a very rewarding day for you, provided you utilize your practicality, experience and smarts in your business endeavors.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Just because an objective achieved on the first try, do not diminish your efforts. Your resolve can be enhanced by your second or third surge.

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For Better or For Worse



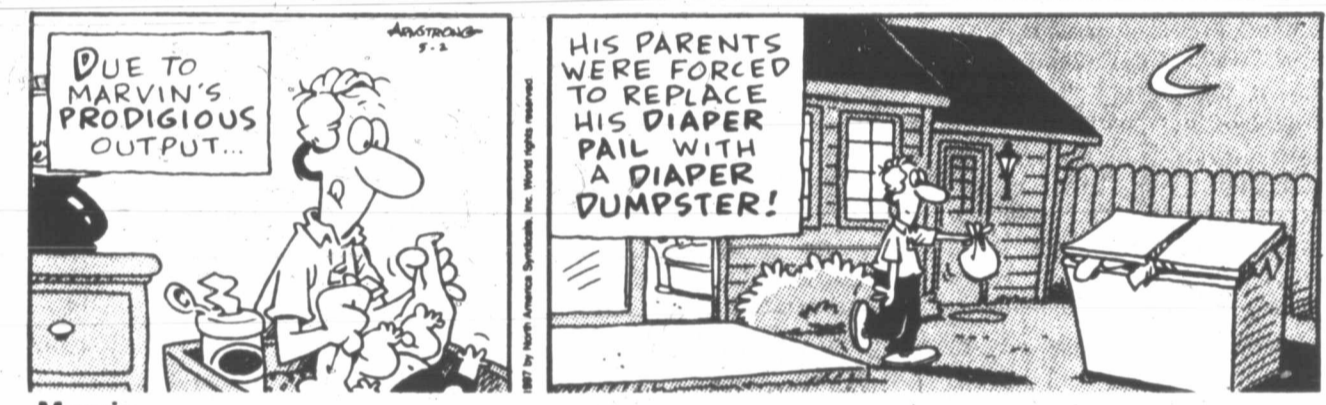
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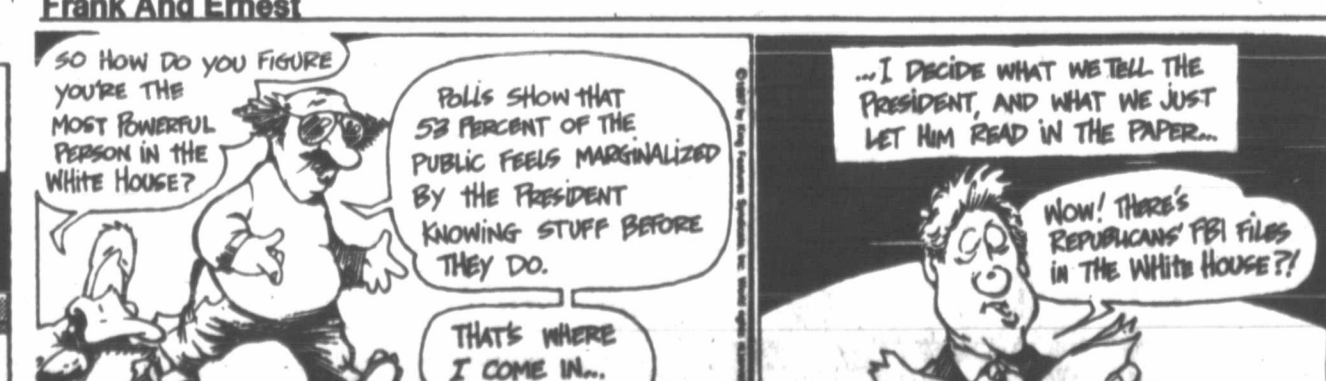
Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank & Ernest



Mallard Filmore

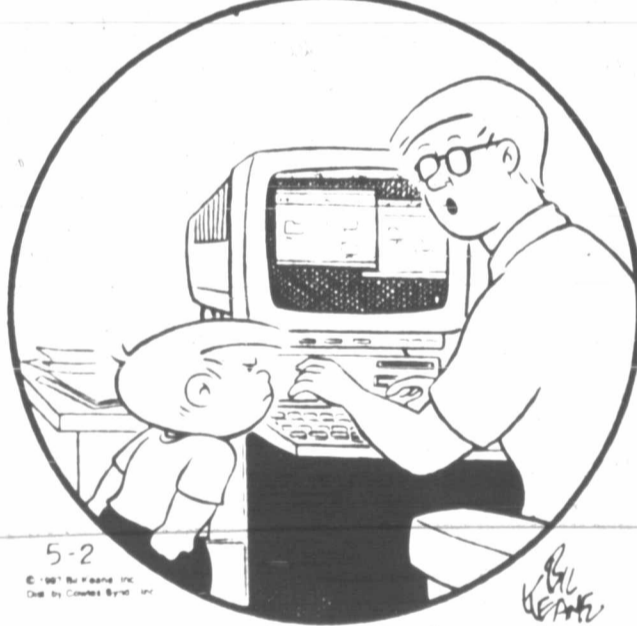
Horoscope



Sunday, May 4, 1997

Factors and elements that could contribute to your success may be stronger than usual in the year ahead. Use the gifts with which you're endowed to the fullest.

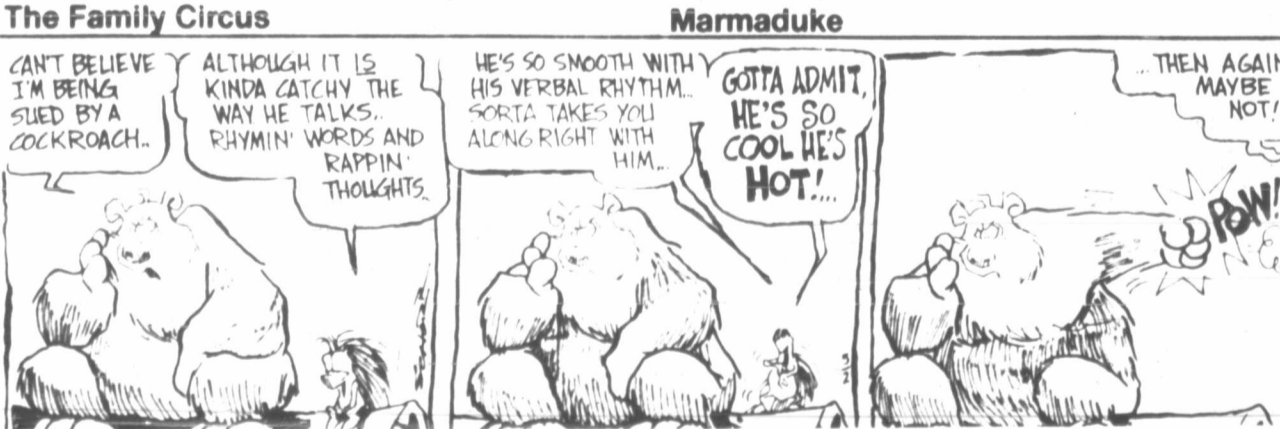
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your mode of behavior will win you the respect of your peers today. By doing what you said you were going to do, you'll show everyone that you're truly reliable. Taurus, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year by mailing \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.



"I very much doubt that we're the only family on the block without a Web page."



"Phil, look at Marmaduke! He's mesmerized. They're excavating dinosaur bones."



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts

Labor Party treats Conservatives to a crushing defeat

LONDON (AP) — Tony Blair became Britain's youngest prime minister in 185 years today after his Labor Party crushed John Major's Conservatives, who had been in power for 18 years.

Major went to Buckingham Palace to tender his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II after announcing that he would also step down as leader of the Conservative Party, which suffered its worst defeat since 1832.

After Major left the palace, Blair, 43, arrived in the official prime ministerial car to be confirmed.

"For 18 years, 18 long years, our party has been in opposition," Blair declared outside 10 Downing Street, standing in the sparkling sunshine to give his first speech as prime minister.

"It could only say, it could not do," he said. "Today we are charged with the deep responsibility of government. Today enough of talking, it is time now to do."

Blair paid tribute to Major, praising his "dignity and his courage over these last few

days and ... the manner of his leaving, the essential decency of which is the manner of the man."

As the cheering died down, Blair hugged his wife, Cherie Booth, then posed for a photograph with their three children, Euan, 13, Nicholas, 12, and Kathryn, 9, before shepherding them inside.

With tearful staff members leaning out of the windows, Major left the same Downing Street residence for the last time today and stood on the doorstep, also surrounded by his wife, Norma, and their two children.

He told reporters that it had been "an immense privilege" to serve as prime minister for the last 6 1/2 years.

"The country is in far better shape than when I entered Downing Street," Major said.

"When the curtain falls, it's time to get off the stage, and that is what I propose to do," he said.

With the brutal efficiency of British politics, the powerful lost their offices, their cars

and chauffeurs within twelve hours of the first returns. As Major spoke, moving men were taking cartons out of the back door and loading them on a truck.

"A new dawn has broken, has it not, and it's wonderful," Blair told delirious, champagne-slurping Labor supporters earlier today at London's Royal Festival Hall. "We always said if we had the courage to change we could do it and we did it."

For the Conservatives, the scale of the defeat was breathtaking, their worst since the Duke of Wellington was thrashed by the Whigs in 1832.

With final results in 628 races for 659 seats in the House of Commons, Labor had 44.8 percent of the vote and 417 seats. The party born in the mines, mills and docks of industrial Britain has become the darling of the middle class.

Blair will have a five-year term and an impregnable majority in the Commons to implement what he calls a "radical center" program.

Governor declares Home School Week May 4-10

AUSTIN — Gov. George W. Bush has proclaimed May 4-10 as Home Education Week in Texas to recognize the growing success of the home school movement throughout the state.

In his proclamation, Gov. Bush said, "Education is our number one priority in Texas, and many dedicated families who are committed to providing a quality education for their children teach them at home. These parents take full responsibility for their children's education by providing individual attention and family participation in the learning process."

"Parents who teach their children at home are personally involved in their children's education and are able to develop it according to the family's own values and beliefs. Home schooling also enables parents to tailor the educational program that best fits their children's needs. This parental involvement and individual attention provides an effective education alternative to traditional schooling."

"Texas leads the nation in the number of home school students who learn by the tutorial method of education. I encourage Texans to appreciate the importance of home

schooling of Texas' children — our most precious resource. Therefore, I, George W. Bush, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 4-10, 1997 as Home Education Week," Bush concluded.

Tim Lambert, president of Texas Home School Coalition, a statewide organization with almost 20,000 home schooling families on its mailing list, flouts the results of the latest study. The average score of 5,000 students tracked over a two year period was between the 80th and the 87th percentile in every subject area, which is 30 to 37 points above national average.

Lambert said the education level of the parents had virtually no impact on the scores of students. "It seems that this study proves what most home school parents have known for a long time," Lambert explained. "The most important ingredients in the successful education of a child are hard work and parental involvement."

Lambert said that home schoolers are planning to rally on the south steps of the Capitol May 6 to hear from the governor and legislators as they celebrate their successes and visit with lawmakers.

State briefs

DSC Communications sues fired employee

PLANO (AP) — First, DSC Communications fired Evan Brown because he had a valuable software concept he wouldn't share. Now, they're suing to keep him from giving his secret to anyone else.

DSC is suing Brown for what's in his head, as opposed to claiming a tangible invention or application written on paper.

Brown, 45, of Plano said he thinks he's figured out how to convert old computer language into an easier-to-use computer code, a process that could be worth many millions of dollars.

DSC Communications agrees and fired him on April 21 because he wouldn't give the company his idea. It then took him to court because he refused to concede ownership to the company.

The company had a court date today. It wants to extend a temporary restraining order preventing Brown from sharing, selling or giving the "invaluable trade secret" to anyone other than DSC.

Police developing suspects in death of 12-year-old girl

FRIENDSWOOD (AP) — Police are building a list of suspects in the murder of 12-year-old Laura Kate Smither, but a Florida inmate is not one of them, authorities said.

Laura was last seen the morning of April 3 when she went for a jog near her rural Friendswood home. Her body

was discovered April 20 in a Pasadena retention pond. A cause of death has not been released.

Hopes were raised briefly when Ricky Rhodes, a 24-year-old transient, was arrested in Orlando, Fla., and started bragging to cellmates.

Waco television station KWTX reported Thursday that cellmates said Rhodes bragged of killing several people in Texas, including a 12-year-old girl. The station said Rhodes was working at a traveling carnival in Galveston when the Friendswood slaying occurred.

"There is no reason to believe that what ... this indi-

vidual bragging in the cell-block had mentioned anything about a 12-year-old girl in Texas. He did in fact commit a burglary and steal a car on the 12th of April and left the state," said Police Chief Jared Stout.

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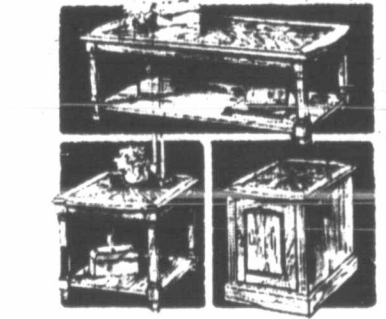
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