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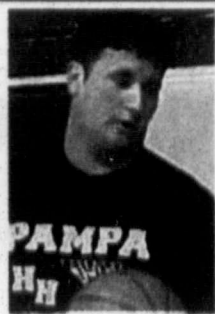
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THE PAMPA NEWS

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

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Former DA faces perjury charges

By DAVID BOWSER
& MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writers

Former District Attorney Rick Roach could return to the Gray County Court House as soon as Friday for arraignment on perjury charges.

A Gray County grand jury indicted Roach Tuesday afternoon on charges of aggravated perjury. Judge Steven Emmert of the 31st District Court set bond for Roach at \$25,000.

Roach is currently on his way to a federal prison after pleading guilty to a weapons charge earlier this year.

He was removed from Randall County Jail Tuesday for transport to an undisclosed federal facility, according to Vicky Roberts of the U.S. Marshals' office in Amarillo.

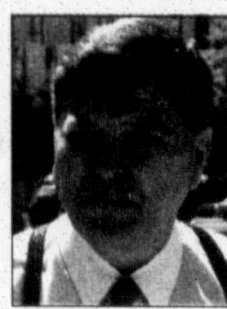
In a plea bargain agreement, federal drug charges against Roach were dropped.

Tuesday's indictment closely tracks an objection to a Roach affidavit by District Attorney Pro Tem David Scott of Perryton as reported in Monday's Pampa News.

Scott was named District Attorney Pro Tem and has investigated charges against Roach at the state level after Roach was arrested and

charged with federal drug crimes. Judge Bill Smith of the 84th District Court in Borger was appointed to hear the state charges after Judge Emmert recused himself from the case.

Lynn Switzer, the 31st District Attorney who replaced Roach, said Judge Smith had ruled that the actions taken by Roach that resulted in the perjury indictment happened outside the scope of his and Scott's jurisdiction, leaving the perjury accusations and grand jury up to Switzer.

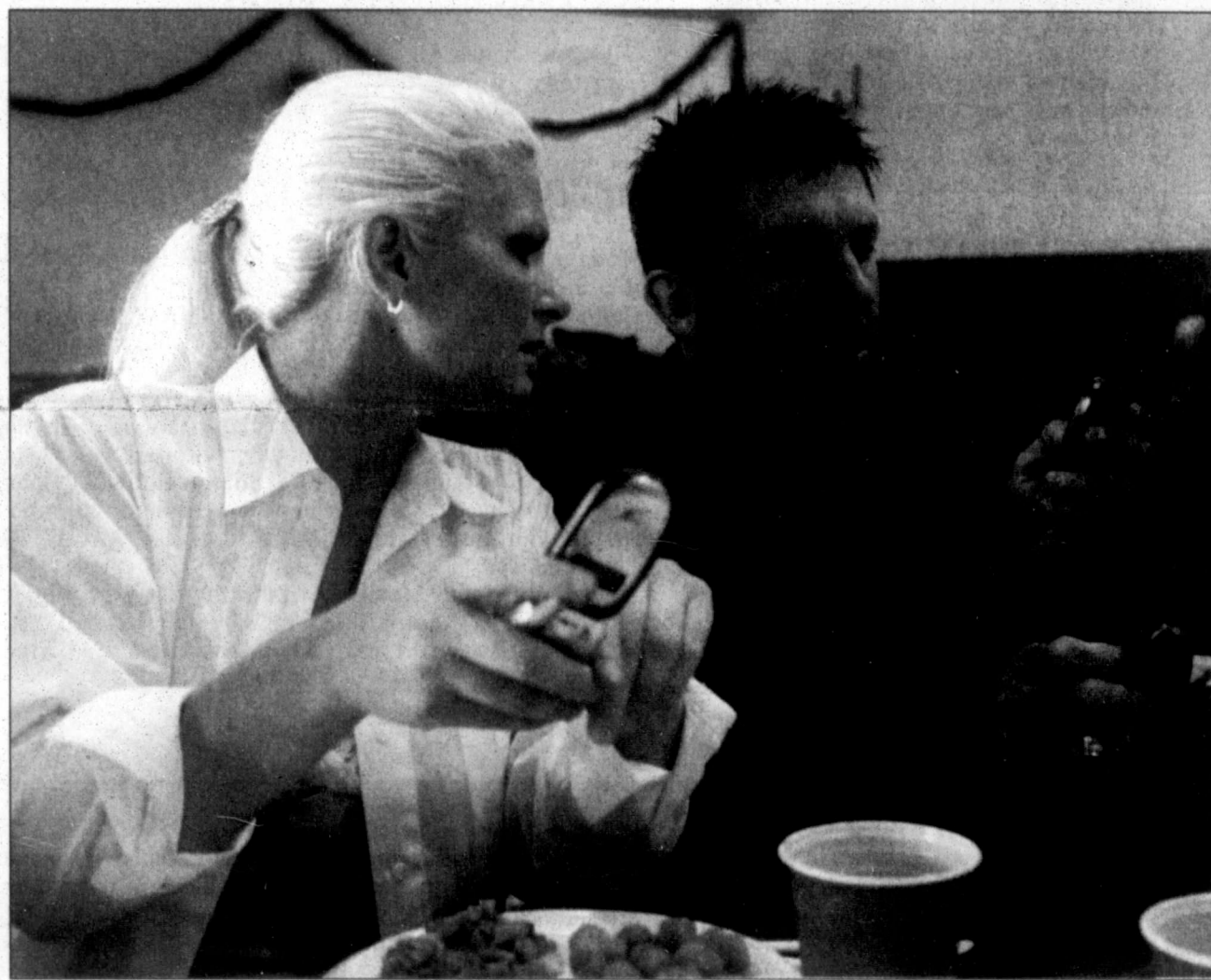


Roach

Since she had served under Roach and was involved in prosecuting a drug trial this week, Switzer asked Gray County Attorney Josh Seabourn to present the case to the grand jury Tuesday.

After the grand jury returned the indictment, Judge Emmert set 1 p.m., Friday, as an arraignment date for Roach in the Gray County Court House. A writ of habeas corpus to

See PERJURY, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Testimony begins in drug trial

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Brian Waite of Baytown said he was in the bedroom and was trying to pick out a game to play on his Sony PlayStation when police officers burst in, handcuffed him and took him to jail.

But Waite is not on trial. He was the first witness in the case against Cobbie Harris, 33, who now lists Amarillo as his home.

Harris is charged with possession of a controlled substance, cocaine, with intent to deliver.

The charges against Harris stem from a Nov. 11, 2002, raid by law enforcement officers on a house in the 1100 block of Varnon. Harris was arrested on the possession charge on Jan. 25, 2003.

Waite said the drugs that officers found in the bedroom where he was were not his, but he admitted that he pled guilty to drug charges and is on probation.

In her opening statement, Lynn Switzer, 31st District Attorney, told the six-man, six-woman jury in Judge Steven Emmert's 31st District Court in the Gray County Court House to listen carefully to the witnesses. She said some of them cooperated

See TRIAL, Page 3

Technology exchange

Pampa Commissioner Lana Miller, left, explains to technologically-challenged fellow commissioner Ray Boring why he needs to upgrade his cell phone as the two joined city employees at the Southside Senior Citizen's Center for Tuesday lunch. As Miller explained how her wireless earphone works with her Bluetooth-enabled cell phone, Boring explained that he's dropped his in the water and the LCD screen no longer works.

Facilities report on agenda for school board meeting

By BEN BRISCOE
News Intern

Pampa Independent School District Board of Education will discuss last week's report on the condition of PISD facilities at tomorrow night's regular monthly meeting.

The report, which was given by Paul Trautman of the Texas Association of School Administrators at a special meeting Thursday, stated that Pampa Junior

High School "should be abandoned immediately," Pampa High School has "significant needs," and the elementary school buildings will need to be replaced or redeveloped in five to 15 years.

The board will also discuss the district's support for Special Olympics and local policies regarding board meetings and public participation.

Thursday's agenda shows three action items relating to

the Texas Association of School Boards. The board will first consider the approval of TASB Update 75, which serves to clarify and correct errors in the Localized Policy Manual. The board will also discuss and possibly nominate a member to the TASB Board of Directors and appoint a delegate and alternate delegate to the TASB Convention that will be held

See FACILITIES, Page 3

MEETING NOTICE

Parks board to consider skate park competition

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A skate park competition is in the planning stages and will be discussed at Thursday's meeting of the city's Parks, Recreation and Auditorium Advisory Board.

The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. in city commission chambers at City Hall.

"We are planning a skateboarding competition with

prizes and live music. Anyone who wants to enter can do so. The competition will be divided into age groups," said Shane Stokes, community services coordinator, in an interview this morning.

The competition is planned for June 15. Stokes said that anyone seeking more information may call Rick Hall at Hall Auto

See PARKS, Page 3

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Perjury

Continued from Page 1

bring Roach to Pampa was expected to be issued. Seabourm said this morning that the prosecuting attorney in the perjury case will have to request a bench warrant from the presiding judge in order to bring

Roach to an arraignment. Local law enforcement officers must then travel to Roach's location, bring him back for the court appearance, house him during the procedure, and then return him to the federal prison in which he is incarcerated.

A representative of the 31st District Clerk's office said this morning that no bench warrant or writ of

habeas corpus had been filed concerning Roach's perjury charge.

Switzer was in court this morning and was unavailable for comment.

Emmert indicated that he will recuse himself from the perjury case, which could necessitate a rescheduling of the arraignment.

On Monday, Scott filed an objection to an affidavit

made by Roach on June 10, concerning Roach's financial status.

Roach had filed the financial report in a request for a court-appointed attorney.

In the financial report, Roach indicated he has no land, car, property or money.

Scott, in his objection, said Roach owns a lot in Miami, a pickup, a retire-

ment account, a coin collection valued at \$30,000 and other property.

In his objection, Scott said that Roach could not make himself indigent and then demand a public defender.

"Defendant is clearly not indigent and is not entitled to appointed counsel," Scott said.

Roach was indicted May

17 by a Gray County grand jury on two charges of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. One count specifies methamphetamine, while the other specifies cocaine.

The former district attorney was sentenced to five years in prison and three years supervised probation June 1 in federal court in Amarillo.

Facilities

Continued from Page 1

in Houston on September 23 through the 25.

In addition to the TASB-related items, the board will

give consideration and possible approval of compensation for Superintendent Barry Haenisch.

The board will also consider personnel matters, approval for the 2005-2006 Salary Schedules and approval of the quarterly

financial and investment reports.

On the consent agenda, the board will consider bids on custodial work, band instruments, copy paper and catalog discounts as well as the sale of delinquent property and the 2005-2006

Region XVI Contracts.

Also listed on the agenda is a report from the district's head nurse, Chris Kirkpatrick, concerning the accidents that happened to students on school campuses over the past year.



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Hot dog! Coneys

Brenda Donaldson, who has Coney Island Cafe and Sisters Donuts, took the show on the road Saturday to feed hungry customers at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo and Job Fair at M.K. Brown Auditorium.

Trial

Continued from Page 1

with police officers. Others did not. She said in some instances their stories have changed.

Switzer said those police officers, Gray County deputies and officers with the then Panhandle Regional Narcotics Trafficking Task Force, were serving a search warrant that night of Nov. 11, 2002.

Pampa Police Officer Bo Lake testified that he was the department's narcotics officer attached to the task force and had learned through a confidential informant that there were drugs in the house on Varnon.

Lake described getting a search warrant and organizing the raiding party.

Waite testified that he was visiting Pampa that night and had arrived at the house only moments before the police.

He testified that there were two or three people in the living room of the house when he arrived, but he went into one of the bedrooms alone to play a video game. Waite said that when officers handcuffed him, they took him back into the living room where he saw no one other than the officers, but he did hear the voice of a woman coming from the kitchen.

Switzer told the jury that officers found only Waite and Anita Graham in the house when they burst

through the door.

She said in her opening statement that as the officers came in the front door, there were people in the house that went out the back door and disappeared into the darkness.

While he was on the stand, Waite testified that he was born in Pampa, but moved to Baytown 20 years ago. He said he knew Harris from the times he had returned to Pampa during summers to visit family, but he said he did not see Harris at the house on Varnon the night police raided the place.

Testimony was to resume this morning.

Court officials said they expect the case to last through Thursday.

Employment law workshop set

AMARILLO — Legal Aid of Northwest Texas' Equal Justice Volunteer Program will host a workshop on employment law on from Saturday, June 25.

The free workshop for employees and employers will be from 9 a.m. to noon at the Amarillo College Business and Industry Center, 314 S. Polk, in Amarillo.

The event is co-sponsored by Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Continuing education credit will be available for attorneys and paralegals.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide information on employment law. Issues to be addressed include wage and hour, unemployment,

anti-discrimination, and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issues.

Legal problems arising from employment issues only will be discussed.

For more information, contact Luisa Vigil at Legal Aid, 806-373-6808 or toll free by calling 1-800-955-6808.

School funding overhaul continues

AUSTIN (AP) — The fourth attempt since 2003 to overhaul the way Texas pays for public schools got under way this week at the state Capitol.

A special session called by Gov. Rick Perry convened on Tuesday, just three weeks after the regular session ended in a stalemate between House and Senate negotiators.

This time, Perry has vetoed \$35.3 billion in public education spending, leaving schools with the possibility they won't have the funds they need to operate in the fall unless lawmakers can fix the problems.

Perry offered his own plan — one that would give homeowners \$7 billion in school property tax relief, teachers a \$1,500 raise each year, and money for textbooks and new technology.

But, that plan had not been filed in either chamber, and House and Senate leaders were slow to offer their support.

"My plan represents a middle ground between the House and Senate, utilizes good ideas from members of both parties, and most importantly it sides with property taxpayers, teachers and schoolchildren," Perry said.

In what may be an indication of the session's future, House members on Tuesday filed an education reform bill and a tax bill that mirrored the proposals they delivered to the Senate during the final days of the regular session. Senate leaders called those proposals take-it-or-leave-it ultimatums that ended the negotiating process.

Cop Corner

PAMPA: June 8, 1995.

An F4 tornado struck the city of Pampa causing millions of dollars of damage. There were no deaths and only a handful of injuries. These statements were the after-action reports. As I watched the tornado lift up, from Sumner and Somerville, I would never have believed the above statements. Then- Officer John Worthington and I entered the affected area and began to encounter people. When we asked if they needed help, we were told they were OK. We drove into the hardest-hit residential area and were told the same thing. I could not believe it. There was a tremendous outpouring of compassion and cooperation on the part of the residents in the tornado's path. We finally met up with Lt. Steve Chance and Officer Tommy Pickering around Perry Street. We were told of some elderly people that had not come out of their damaged houses and now the doors were jammed shut. Fortunately, we discovered that all those persons were not at home when the tornado struck. As for what happened in the area closed after the tornado, we got a lot of help from area law enforcement agencies. We did not have any looting or thefts. The community worked together, recovered, and became stronger for the experience.



Lt. Courtney

Provided by the Pampa Police Department.

Parks

Continued from Page 1

Sound, 665-4241.

The possibility of showing movies at M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium is also on Thursday's agenda.

"We are about to get new lighting, sound and video equipment at the auditorium. We will discuss the option of perhaps showing movies at the auditorium," Stokes said.

Other items on the agenda are a water bill donation report and an update on the auditorium renovations.

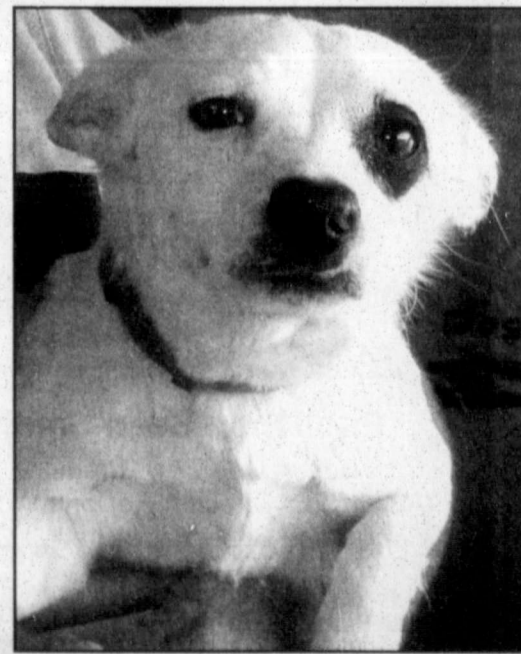
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Viewpoints

In speech as in life, it's all about the timing

During my time on the speech and debate team over the past four years, I have had to give speeches in some odd locations. I have spoken about the nation's political and economic issues in everything from janitor's closets to principal's offices; however, last week at the National Forensic League's tournament in Philadelphia I experienced a new strange location, a men's locker room.

It was not just the location that made the speech competition odd. It was what happened while I was giving my analysis of Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice's recent

visit to China to discuss the global implications of rising oil prices.

It happened as I was transitioning between my first and second point and saying my all time favorite late night TV political joke, "Dr. Rice was in Beijing yesterday on her last stop in the global diplomacy tour. The people there went so crazy for her that you would have guessed the Chinese have never seen rice before."

Just about the time I got out the words, "The people there went," one of the athletes from the school where the competition was being held walked into the locker room and over to his metal

storage bin, directly between me and my two female judges.

I went on speaking, ignoring the invasion. Then as I reached the end of my second point, the athlete started to strip. By the beginning of my third point, he was completely naked.

There I was, trying to seriously discuss the diplomatic benefits of Rice's trip while my judges are staring at the nude high schooler just two feet away from

them and directly in their line of sight to me.

It was one of the most awkward situations of my high school experience, to say the least.



Ben Briscoe
News Intern

It was not until I reached my conclusion that he dressed and walked back out of the room.

Even then, I am not quite sure if I ever regained my judge's interest, but as soon as my speech was over the three of us shared a spontaneous burst of laughter.

Since then, I have found

out that I was ranked as the top speaker in that particular round of competition. I do not think it was my speech itself that earned me that honor, because I forgot my third point entirely, due to the distraction, and I had to make up something on the spot about the trip's effects on the growing relationship between China and the EU. I think I was given the first place ranking because I simply kept on going.

Even though a man was nude, I wanted to yell at his inconsiderate actions and utter lack of tact and my judges probably did not comprehend a single thing I

said during that point of my speech, I put all of that aside and kept going.

While speaking in janitor's closets and principal's offices seemed odd to me in the past, they are nothing now.

What is truly unusual was the lesson I learned while speaking in the men's locker room.

The real way to succeed in life is to simply ignore the distractions, until the proper time arises to laugh about them.

Ben Briscoe is a 2005 Pampa High School graduate and a journalism intern at The Pampa News.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 22, the 173rd day of 2005. There are 192 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 22, 1945, the World War II battle for Okinawa officially ended; 12,520 Americans and 110,000 Japanese were killed in the 81-day campaign.

On this date:

In 1611, English explorer Henry Hudson, his son and several other people were set adrift in present-day Hudson Bay by mutineers.

In 1870, Congress created the Department of Justice.

In 1911, Britain's King George V was crowned at Westminster Abbey.

In 1938, heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis knocked out Max Schmeling in the first round of their rematch at Yankee Stadium.

In 1940, during World War II, Adolf Hitler gained a stunning victory as France was forced to sign an armistice eight days after German forces overran Paris.

In 1944, President Roosevelt signed the Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the "GI Bill of Rights."

In 1969, singer-actress Judy Garland died in London at age 47.

In 1970, President Nixon signed a measure lowering the voting age to 18.

In 1987, actor-dancer Fred Astaire died in Los Angeles at age 88.

In 1993, former first lady

Pat Nixon died in Park Ridge, N.J., at age 81.

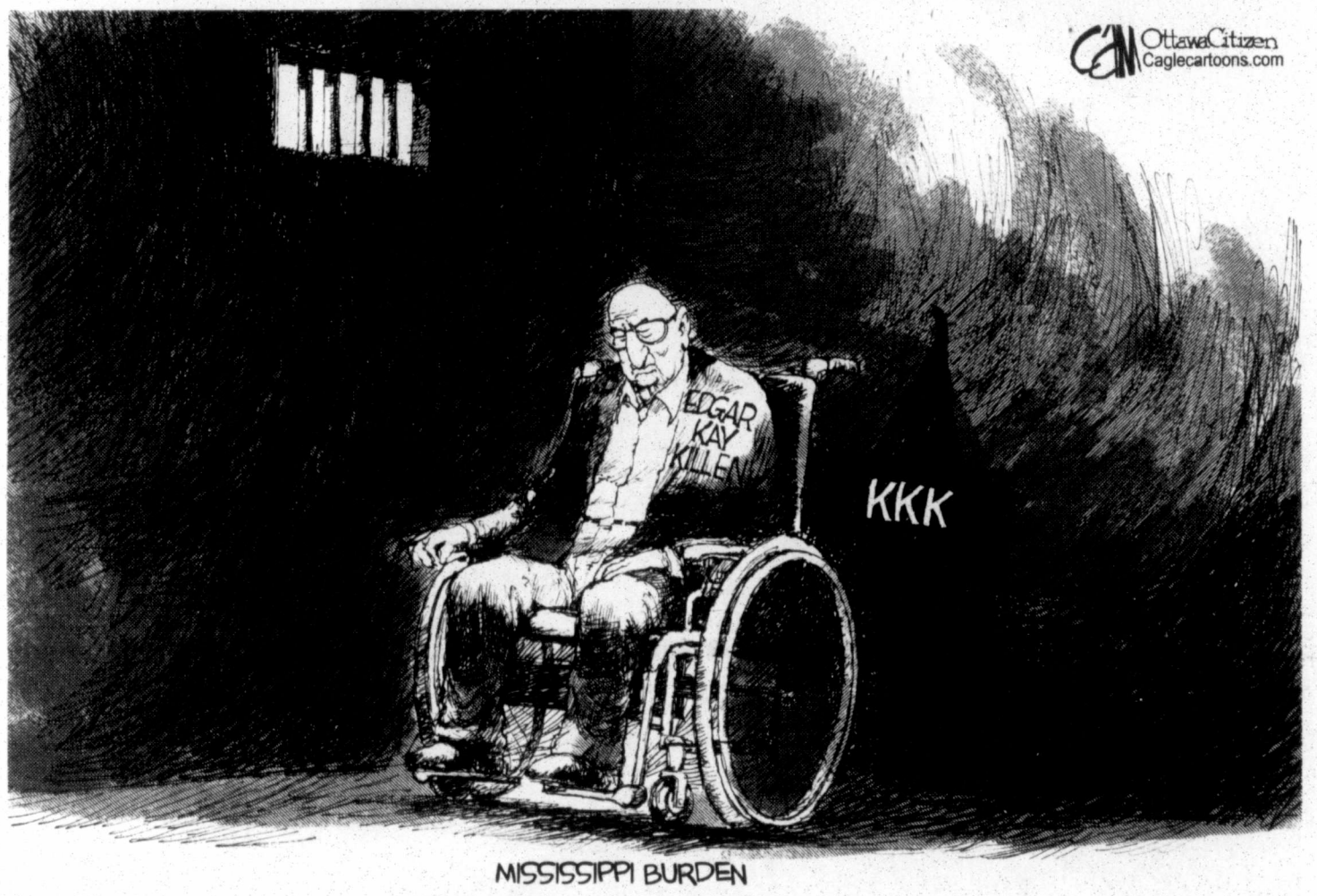
Ten years ago: House and Senate Republicans announced agreement on a compromise seven-year budget-balancing plan that would cut taxes by \$245 billion and slow spending for Medicare, Medicaid and dozens of other programs. Riot police stormed a hijacked jumbo jet in Hakodate, Japan, freeing all 364 people on board and capturing a lone hijacker.

Five years ago: The state of Texas executed Gary Graham for the 1981 killing of a man in a holdup outside a Houston supermarket; Graham insisted to the end that he was innocent. Independent Counsel Robert Ray ended his investigation of the 1993 firings in the White House travel office, issuing no indictments but saying he'd found "substantial evidence" that First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton played a role in the dismissals.

One year ago: Islamic militants beheaded Kim Sun-il, a South Korean hostage who'd pleaded for his life in a heart-wrenching videotape; he was the third foreign hostage decapitated in the Middle East in little over a month.

'To understand is hard. Once one understands, action is easy.'

— Sun Yat-sen
Chinese statesman



MISSISSIPPI BURDEN

Take long look at Canada first

America's socialists advocate that we adopt a universal healthcare system like our northern neighbor Canada.

Before we buy into complete socialization of our healthcare system, we might check out the Canadian Supreme Court's June 9th ruling in *Chaoulli v. Quebec* (Attorney General).

It turns out that in order to prop up government-delivered medical care, Quebec and other Canadian provinces have outlawed private health insurance. By a 4 to 3 decision, Canada's high court struck down Quebec's law that prohibits private medical insurance.

With all of the leftist hype extolling the "virtues" of Canada's universal healthcare system, you might wonder why any sane Canadian would want to purchase private insurance.

Plaintiffs Jacques Chaoulli, a physician, and his patient, George Zeliotis, launched their legal challenge to the government's monopolized healthcare system after having had to wait a year for hip-replacement surgery.

In finding for the plaintiffs, Canada's high court

said, "The evidence in this case shows that delays in the public healthcare system are widespread, and that, in some serious cases, patients die as a result of waiting lists for public healthcare."

The Vancouver, British Columbia-based Fraser Institute keeps track of Canadian waiting times for various medical procedures. According to the Fraser Institute's 14th annual edition of "Waiting Your Turn: Hospital Waiting Lists in Canada (2004)," total wait-

ing for the majority, Justice Marie Deschamps said, "Many patients on non-urgent waiting lists are in pain and cannot fully enjoy any real quality of life. The right to life and to personal inviolability is therefore affected by the waiting times."

The Vancouver, British Columbia-based Fraser Institute keeps track of Canadian waiting times for various medical procedures. According to the Fraser Institute's 14th annual edition of "Waiting Your Turn: Hospital Waiting Lists in Canada (2004)," total wait-

See CANADA, Page 5

Walter Williams
Columnist



also demonstrates that the prohibition against private health insurance and its consequence of denying people vital healthcare result in physical and psychological suffering that meets a threshold test of seriousness."

Withholding papers fuels suspicion

The Houston Chronicle filed a freedom of information request with the Texas Department of Transportation seeking secret provisions of a state contract with a Spanish consortium to build and operate the Trans-Texas Corridor, a web of tolled transitways across the state.

In response, officials from TxDOT and the consortium, Cintra-Zachry, appealed to Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott to allow them to withhold the documents from the Chronicle and other newspapers that filed requests. Even after a sweeping rejection of the

claims in an opinion from Abbott on May 31, TxDOT officials are considering going to court to prevent the release of the information.

The public has a right to know on what terms a consortium is being given a contract to build and operate toll roads in the state for the next 50 years. Abbott's opinion left no doubt that TxDOT and Cintra-Zachry's arguments lack a valid basis.

The opinion said TxDOT failed to demonstrate how

disclosing the contract terms harmed it. Although state officials claimed the pact with Cintra-Zachry was not completed, the opinion found that for legal purposes

it was a final contract. Cintra-Zachry argued that trade secrets would be revealed by release of the contract provisions, but the Attorney General found that the company had failed to provide any evidence to back up its allegations.

In order to challenge the opinion, TxDOT officials have until the end of the month to file suit in a Travis County court. The agency has already missed a state-mandated 10-day deadline in which to file a lawsuit and get the full benefit of such an appeal.

A spokeswoman for TxDOT says its officials are still trying to decide on a course of action. If they continue to withhold the information but file no suit, newspapers that filed freedom of information requests can take legal action to force

See FOI, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Fifteen years ago I had a years-long affair with a woman 23 years my junior. "Alex" was 17 when we first had sex. I never led her on. I told her on many occasions that I would not leave my wife and family for another woman -- even her. I told her I'd meet her secretly for as long as she wanted, but I would commit to nothing more. Alex accepted this state of affairs for several years, and we had what I considered to be the perfect affair. I loved the passionate, uninhibited sex. Because I could offer no more than the status quo, I wasn't surprised when one night, after a particularly exhausting love-making session, Alex announced she was ending our affair and moving to Los Angeles to be closer to friends. I begged her to reconsider, promised to spend more time with her, and insisted that I loved her. She went anyway. We had no contact other than Christmas and birthday cards.

My kids are now grown and gone. On a recent business trip to LA, I decided to give Alex a call for old times' sake. She was delighted to hear from me and invited me over for a drink. It was just like old times. I wasn't there five minutes when she literally tore my clothes off.

So what's my problem? Alex just told me she might move back here and take up where we left off. Abby, an affair like ours was fine 15 years ago, but I'm no longer comfortable sneaking around. My wife and I have been married 30 years and I don't want to hurt her or give her up. I'm afraid if Alex moves back, we'll get caught. I still love her, and I certainly enjoy making love to her -- but how do I tell her that it's fine for us to sleep together in LA where she lives, but not here in my hometown? -- IN A QUANDARY IN THE SOUTH

DEAR IN A QUANDARY: You are not "in a quandary"; you are in a mess of your own making that could spell the end of your marriage and your reputation. Tell Alex in plain English exactly what you

have told me. If that doesn't sober her up and cool her ardor, nothing will. Under no circumstances must you rekindle this affair. Boys who play with matches usually get burned, and I do mean you. So grow up. Your wife deserves better.

DEAR ABBY: Forty-five years ago, my sister adopted a lovely 3-week-old baby girl, "Rita." The adoption went smoothly and all is well. Rita now has a daughter of her own who is in her 20s.

At the time Rita was given to my sister, she wore a beautiful gold cross that had been placed around her neck by her birth mother. My sister didn't know what to do with it, so she gave it to me and asked me to take it to a church and leave it in a pew. My conscience wouldn't let me carry out her instructions, and I still have the cross. What do you suggest I do with it? Should I do as my sister asked? Should I give the cross anonymously to Rita? Or should I give Rita the cross and tell her where it came from?

Please resolve this for me. It has been bothering me far too long. -- CARING AUNT IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR CARING AUNT: I'm sure your niece would be deeply moved to know that when she was placed in your sister's arms, it was done with prayer for her happiness and well-being. Give her the cross and tell her where it came from. I'm sure the keepsake will be precious to her.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For Better Or Worse



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Beetle Bailey



Marvin



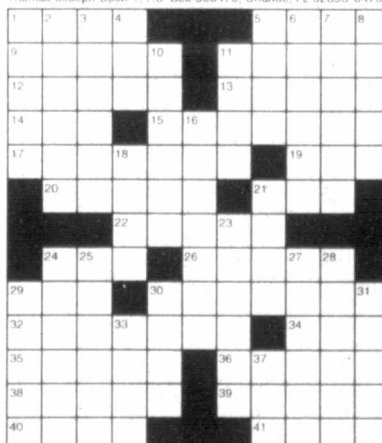
Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Aspirin target
 - 5 Countenance
 - 9 Took the wheel
 - 11 Panel member
 - 12 Actors Chad and Rob
 - 13 Film trophy
 - 14 Drink cooler
 - 15 Medieval weapon
 - 17 Steve McQueen movie
 - 19 Wine choice
 - 20 Winter weather
 - 21 Turf
 - 22 Home of the Southwest
 - 24 Opening
 - 26 Start of a Hitchcock title
 - 29 Rep.'s counterpart
 - 30 Novel makeup
 - 32 Digging tool
 - 34 "Evil Woman" group, for short
 - 35 Theater worker
- DOWN**
- 2 Spring flower
 - 3 "Gilligan's Island" millionaire
 - 4 First woman
 - 5 Electrical protector
 - 6 Five-time Derby winner
 - 7 Sweet-talked
 - 8 Blundered
 - 10 Spotted
 - 11 Sudden shock
 - 16 German painter
 - 18 Bound
 - 21 Pants part
 - 23 Arm
 - 24 Japanese entertainer
 - 25 Popular tattoo
 - 27 Deceives
 - 28 Like lava
 - 29 Unexpected
 - 30 Cab cost
 - 31 Gallows
 - 33 Lane's sight
 - 37 Stop co-worker

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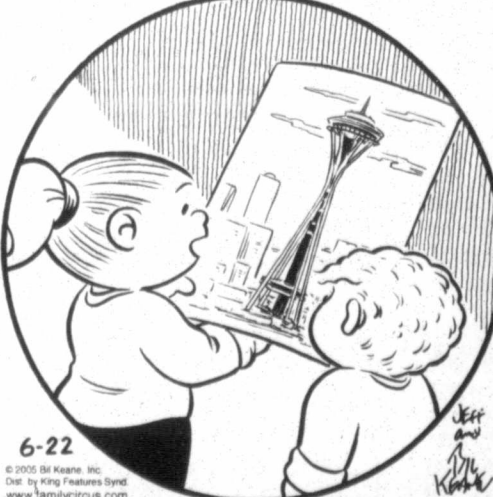


Marmaduke

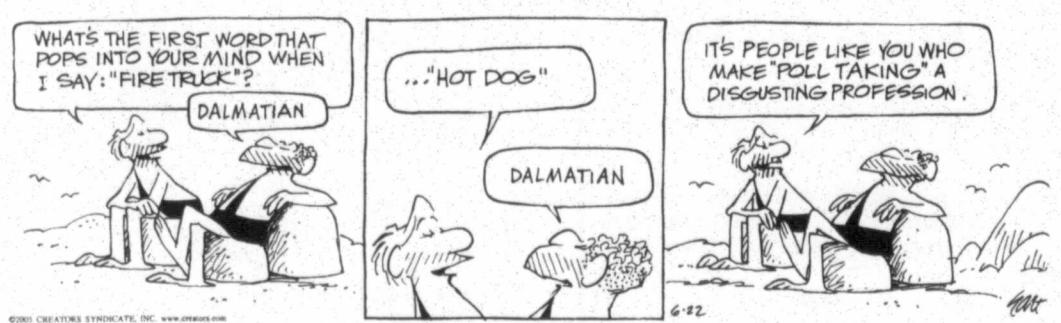


The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



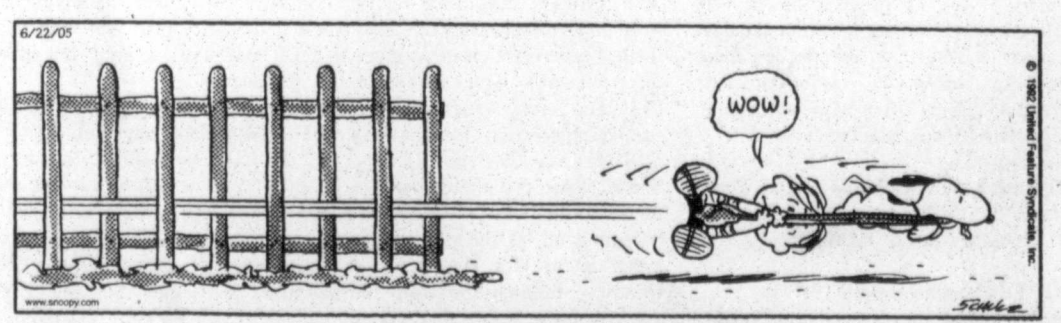
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie

