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TUESDAY

THE PAMPA NEWS

PAMPA, TEXAS

March 21, 1995

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Good Evening!

LOCAL

PAMPA - The city of Pampa's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is scheduled to meet at 5 p.m. Thursday in the city commission chambers of City Hall, 200 W. Foster.

Items for consideration include review of the long-range plan, discussions about tennis courts at Central Park, a possible needs assessment questionnaire and formation of a sculpture committee. Staff reports will be given by Shane Stokes and Reed Kirkpatrick.

PAMPA - The Men's Power Lunch, sponsored by the Pampa Area Jay Strack Crusade, is set for noon Friday in the Heritage Room of M.K. Brown Memorial Auditorium, 1000 N. Sumner.

The Rev. John Avant is to speak about revival in Texas.

Tickets are available at the crusade office, 203 N. West St., or from Randy Watson at First National Bank. Ticket deadline is Wednesday.

PAMPA - A planning session to begin preparations for the senior prom will be held Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m. in the Pampa High School Library.

All senior parents interested in helping with the prom are encouraged to attend. Committees will be formed to begin making plans for the prom.

NATIONAL

WASHINGTON (AP) - Phil Gramm has become the first presidential candidate to be approved for taxpayer assistance for his bid for the 1996 Republican nomination.

The Federal Election Commission said Monday the Texas senator was declared eligible for federal matching funds after submitting at least \$5,000 in small donations from each of 20 different states.

The government matches each private donation up to \$250. In return, candidates agree to abide by both overall and state-by-state spending limits during the primaries.

Gramm submitted his application just days after he held a huge fundraiser in Texas that netted \$4.1 million.

DETROIT (AP) - Honda, Nissan and Toyota outranked Ford, General Motors and Chrysler on Consumer Reports' list of the most reliable used vehicles.

Japanese automakers, led by Honda, claimed all 10 spots on the list, contained in the magazine's April issue, due at newsstands next week.

The Honda Accord was the most reliable vehicle from 1987 to 1993, based on reports from owners of 580,000 cars and light trucks.

Four of the 10 most reliable 1987-93 vehicles were built by Honda, three by Nissan and three by Toyota. Nine were cars; one was Nissan's Pathfinder.

The Big Three and Korea's Hyundai accounted for the 10 least reliable cars and trucks, with the Ford Bronco at the bottom.

Of the bottom 10, four were made by Ford, three by General Motors and two by Chrysler. The Hyundai Excel also made the list.

NEW YORK (AP) - Flavor Flav has been convicted of possessing a weapon after firing a gun at a neighbor in 1993.

The 36-year-old rapper, whose real name is William Drayton, originally was charged with attempted murder, but the charges were reduced.

Drayton, of the group Public Enemy, was convicted of fourth-degree weapon possession, a misdemeanor. He faces up to one year in jail when he is sentenced May 18.

Skinner punishment testimony continues

By CHERYL BERZANSKIS
News Editor

FORT WORTH - Tarrant County jurors today continued to hear prosecution testimony in the punishment phase of a capital murder trial to determine whether a Pampa man will serve a life sentence or be assessed death by lethal injection following his Saturday conviction.

Henry Watkins Skinner was convicted Saturday of killing Twila Busby and her sons, Elwin Caler and Randolph Busby Jr., on New Year's Eve, 1993, in their Campbell Street home. Fourteen jurors, including the two alternates, listened to two weeks of prosecution and defense testimony before taking three hours to decide Skinner's guilt.

Testifying today before 10:15 a.m. were Skinner's ex-wife Connie Neighbors and John Goss, a former Gun Barrel police officer, said 31st Judicial District Bailiff Wayne Carter.

The jury continues to be sequestered following the Wednesday arrest of one of Skinner's court-appointed attorneys, Ken Fields, on a misdemeanor weapons charge.

Judge Kent Sims of Wheeler, presiding over the trial, ordered the 14 be kept away from any opportunity to hear about Field's arrest, Carter explained. They spend nights in a Fort Worth hotel, shielded from telephones, televisions (except pay TV and videos), radios and uncensored newspapers, he said.

Fields was arrested Wednesday after an X-ray machine at the entrance of the Tarrant County Justice Center spotted a handgun in the

attorney's briefcase. Fields was allowed to proceed to court, but was booked on a misdemeanor charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon during the lunch hour. He posted a \$500 personal bond and returned for trial in the afternoon.

Fields said he took the .45 caliber automatic pistol with him Tuesday when he traveled to Arlington to interview a defense witness and forgot to remove it when he returned to his Fort Worth hotel room.

Fields has been an advocate for improved court house security. He addressed Gray County commissioners in September 1993 asking them to authorize collection of a \$5 fee on civil court filings which would be deposited in a fund dedicated to the purchase of security equipment or wages for security personnel

in the courthouse. He further asked the court to commission a security study for the building.

The Legislature in 1993 mandated a \$5 fee be added to court costs in felony convictions and a \$3 fee added to misdemeanor convictions. Adding a fee to civil cases is optional with each county.

Metal detectors were installed in the Tarrant County courthouse after three courthouse shootings from 1986 to July 1, 1992, the day George Lott wounded three people and killed two others, including Assistant District Attorney Chris Marshall.

Tarrant County prosecutor Alan Levy said defense attorney Fields might not get prosecuted on a weapons possession charge because he did not intend to bring the weapon to the court house.

Tree planting



(Pampa News photo by Melinda Martinez)

Robert Ward, right, Coronado Healthcare Center resident, watches as Buster Grayson, left, a center volunteer; Tim Lofton, center maintenance man, and Sue Anderson, recreation director, plant a flowering cherry tree which was donated to the center by Pete's Garden Center. The tree, planted in back of the center next to the patio, was donated in observance of Earth Day which was Monday. Yesterday also marked the first day of spring. The Soil Conservation Service office in Pampa donated plastic root wrap for the tree to help it better retain moisture for growing.

U.S. sees big threat from Iran

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) - Iran's new Russian-made submarines and Chinese attack patrol boats pose a "growing threat" to shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, U.S. Navy officials said today.

"We're watching them very closely," Defense Secretary William Perry told reporters today during a visit to the aircraft carrier USS Constellation.

Perry was brief on the new Iranian capabilities in the Persian Gulf during meetings here with the top Navy commander in the region, Vice Adm. Scott Redd.

The three star admiral told Perry and reporters traveling with him that the Iranians now have two Kilo-class diesel submarines and soon may be getting a third.

The Iranian navy has also just received five Chinese-made Hou-dong patrol boats, which could be armed with cruise missiles, the admiral said.

"It's a growing threat to naval forces in particular," Redd said of the Iranian weaponry.

He told Perry the concentration of weapons in the Strait of Hormuz could create serious problems in the strategic waterway, where 50 percent of the world's oil is transported.

Redd said the Iranian submarines were seen firing torpedoes last fall and have been executing maneuvers with Iranian warplanes and other surface ships.

"The sophistication level is rising," Redd said of the Iranian submarine capabilities.

Redd said U.S. naval forces are able to "handle all those threats individually" but that collectively they pose an ever-increasing problem for nations in the region.

He said the Iranians have accumulated such weapon systems in the Hormuz region as surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles, as well as older U.S.-made F-14 fighter aircraft.

And the submarines, which he described as "very silent," can lay mines in the shallow waters of the entrance to the strategic gulf.

Perry met with Redd after spending the afternoon with sailors on the carrier, which has spent nearly 12 weeks in the gulf flying missions over southern Iraq in support of the post-Gulf War United Nations sanctions.

Perry then went to Redd's headquarters for the security briefing. There are 18 U.S. Navy ships in the region under Redd's command.

The Pentagon chief was making his third stop on a six-day tour of the gulf region to coordinate plans for bolstering the security of gulf states.

Shortly after arriving from Kuwait City, Perry held talks with the Emir Sheikh Isa bin Fulman Al Khalifa and the commander in chief of the Bahrain defense forces, Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The tiny county of Bahrain, which has a population of about 500,000, played an important role in the Persian Gulf War and proved to be a vital base for U.S. naval and air forces during the conflict.

GOP members ask for vote on reduced tax cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) - In a break with their party's leadership on the "Contract With America," more than 100 House Republicans asked GOP leaders to limit a \$500-a-child tax cut to families earning \$95,000 or less.

The full tax credit, as approved last week by the House Ways and Means Committee, would go to families earning up to \$200,000 and a partial credit to households with up to \$250,000 income.

But, battered by Democratic criticism that the tax plan inflates the budget deficit and is a giveaway to the rich, 102 GOP House lawmakers delivered a letter to House leaders Monday night asking for a chance to trim the tax cut when it comes before

the full House in the next few weeks. The credit is the centerpiece of the GOP's tax-cut proposal, accounting for \$105 billion of the plan's \$189 billion, five-year cost.

In a letter to Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., chairman of the House Rules Committee, the lawmakers argued that capping the tax cut for households earning \$95,000 would save \$12 billion to \$14 billion.

The letter was circulated by Rep. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., chairman of the Agriculture Committee, and Rep. Greg Ganske, R-Iowa, a freshman. Its signers include 35 freshmen, 10 committee chairmen and 38 subcommittee chairmen.

"Many members of the Republican

Conference are concerned that we provide families with tax relief and that we also address the national budget deficit," Ganske and Roberts said in a statement issued today.

They said in addition to the \$95,000 cutoff, several GOP lawmakers had suggested partial credit be given to families earning between \$95,000 and \$120,000. If that were done, savings would total \$7 billion and 93 percent of families would get the tax break.

The two had scheduled a news conference for television reporters to announce the delivery of the letter but canceled it at the request of House leaders and instead made their statement available to reporters, said Lisa Gagnon, a spokeswoman for Roberts.

She also declined to release a list of the signers, saying it was up to individual lawmakers to say whether they had signed.

The House tax cuts already were in trouble with conservative Democrats, many of whom have supported other provisions of the "Contract With America."

Release of the House letter came a day after Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Packwood, R-Ore., indicated the tax cuts were facing severe opposition in the Senate.

Packwood said Monday that Democrats and Republicans on his panel "without exception" favored cutting the deficit as a priority over tax reduction.

Committee considering legislation on telecommunications

AUSTIN (AP) - Southwestern Bell Co. has reached agreement with Texas' biggest newspapers over what the state's new phone company laws will say, according to reports published today.

The House State Affairs Committee on Monday began considering legislation aimed at opening up local telephone business to competition in Texas for the first time.

The committee heard testimony

from various groups involved in one of the Legislature's biggest fights. Committee Chairman Curtis Seidlits, D-Sherman, who is sponsoring the bill, left the measure pending.

What lawmakers are considering is giving up much state control over telephone rates and phone company profits in return for the ultimate arrival of high-tech services such as banking and shopping from home computers. Companies like Southwestern Bell

Co. and GTE would be forced to forfeit their historical monopolies on local phone service in return for new regulatory freedom. Seidlits' bill would freeze local phone rates, allow competition and free phone companies from most rate regulation.

Newspapers and Southwestern Bell, which both want to use phone lines to offer news services over computers, have reached agreement on several issues that are being writ-

ten into the bill, according to Burl Osborne, publisher and editor of *The Dallas Morning News*.

Osborne said the papers and Bell agreed on whether new competitors will have to build new telephone networks before they can compete with local phone companies and how to provide flexibility for companies that would rather buy phone service from Bell and other companies than sell it to their own customers.

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Viewpoints

THE PAMPA NEWS

EVER STRIVING FOR THE TOP O' TEXAS TO BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Let Peace Begin With Me

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

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

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

Wayland Thomas, Publisher

Larry D. Hollis, Managing Editor

Opinion

Modest efforts to reduce budget

The best evidence yet that genuine change has occurred in the culture of Congress came when various subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee approved more than \$17.5 billion in spending reductions - real cuts, in this year's budget, not phony promises - in more than 100 federal spending programs. The revolution is far from complete - indeed, those spending reductions might not get past the Senate and some might face a presidential veto. But the attitude in the House Appropriations Committee has changed.

The rest of the nation's capital is in shock. As we have noted repeatedly, most of the time, when politicians in Washington, D.C., talk about "spending cuts," what they mean is a slight reduction, two or three years from now, in projected spending increases. The federal budget always comes with spending projections for the next five years, with almost all spending projected to be higher each year. So a cut in projected spending has traditionally been called a "spending cut" even when it means that spending next year will still be higher than it is this year.

What House Appropriations subcommittees approved however, were rescissions - cuts and, in some cases, outright elimination - in spending programs already approved for the Fiscal Year 1995 budget. Those accustomed to the old way of doing things are shocked, but unable to do much more than sputter. "I think it's just unconscionable, it's reprehensible," said Democratic Rep. Louis Stokes of Ohio. "What they want to do is make war on the kids of this country to pay for the capital gains tax cut," said President Clinton.

(If the president were as smart as he's reputed to be, of course, he'd welcome a capital gains tax cut. Every capital gains tax cut in recent history has led to increased federal revenue, not less. But we digress.) The fascinating thing is that the negative comments don't seem to cow this new majority. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bob Livingston of Louisiana calmly responded to rhetoric about "kamikazes" and "extremists." "These programs have simply not worked. The American people want us to try something new."

For all the shock, what the House Republicans have done is modest in scope and should be followed by more serious cuts. In terms of a federal budget of about \$1.6 trillion, they have cut just a tad more than 1 percent. The watchdog group Citizens Against Government Waste identified some 1,400 spending projects totaling \$10 billion in-out right pork programs put in to trade favors among legislators - in the 1995 budget. While the cutting so far has chopped some of that waste, it has barely scratched the surface.

While much remains to be cut before a true revolution can be said to have occurred, what the House Appropriations subcommittees did last week is almost unheard-of in modern times. House members will be in for plenty of heat from special interests and the Washington establishment. It wouldn't hurt if constituents let them know they approve and informed their senators that if they torpedoed these cuts they won't be returning to their cozy little debating society.

Your representatives

- State Rep. Warren Chisum**
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Austin Phone: (512) 463-0736
- State Sen. Teel Bivins**
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- U.S. Rep. William M. "Mac" Thornberry**
Washington Address: 1535 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515
Washington Phone: (202) 225-3706
- U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison**
Washington Address: 283 Senate Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
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- U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm**
Washington Address: 370 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

Berry's World

WE OF THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR OUR LATEST SNAFU REGARDING



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Reducing unreasonable litigation

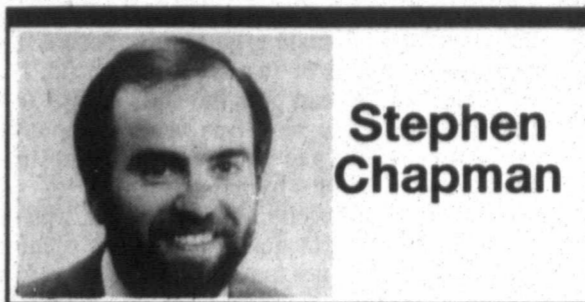
If I dump an unwanted load of garbage, sand, toxic waste, manure or anything else that constitutes a nuisance on your doorstep, you have a right to sue and force me to pay for all the trouble and expense I've put you to. Unless, that is, I dump a legal summons, in which case the trouble and expense all come out of your hide, not mine. You can win the lawsuit I filed and go bankrupt; I can lose and be out only a minimal amount.

Plaintiffs' lawyers, who make a living suing people, think corporations should be held strictly accountable for the injuries caused by their goods and services. If a pill harms someone, the manufacturer ought to compensate the injured person, even if the pill helped millions of others. There is considerable merit in this approach, at least within reason, because it forces companies to take great pains not to hurt anyone.

But by the same logic, suggests legal author Peter Huber, lawyers ought to be liable when they injure someone by filing an unjustified lawsuit. If a suit wins, they should be entitled to collect not only damages from the wrongdoer but the cost of suing him; if a suit loses, they should have to repair the damage wreaked on an innocent party.

If it makes sense to discourage bad products by making manufacturers pay, doesn't it make sense to establish similar incentives against bad lawsuits? "Why shouldn't lawyers be held to the same account as doctors, product manufacturers and all the other people they want to sue?" asks Huber.

That's the question underlying one large piece of the House Republicans' civil litigation reform plan - known as "loser pays." In its original form, it established a simple rule, followed to one extent or another in most of the world: If you lose, you pay the other side's attorneys' fees, up to the level of your own. The American Trial Lawyers Association



Stephen Chapman

(ATLA) objected on the grounds that this would "close the courthouse door" to sound and flimsy cases alike, since most people can't risk having to pay a large award if they lose.

Now it is refreshing to hear personal injury lawyers admit that expansive liability can deter not only wicked but virtuous conduct - just as it deters both good and bad contraceptives and good and bad football helmets. But they have a point. Most of us would hesitate to sue, even over a substantial injury, if we had to bet our home and life savings on the outcome. Many injustices might go uncorrected.

So the House scaled this provision back. Under the measure passed Tuesday, a plaintiff would have to pay only if he rejected a settlement larger than the eventual award given by a jury. Suppose X sues Y for \$50,000, Y offers to pay \$40,000, X insists on going to trial and a jury awards X \$30,000 - or rules against him entirely. X would have to pay Y's legal fees, but only from the time the offer was refused. Likewise, if a plaintiff offered a settlement and the defendant declined, the defendant would end up on the hook if he lost in court.

This approach removes most of the plausible worries about "loser pays," since it exposes the person suing to no financial risk unless he gets and refuses a settlement offer. People who have been

injured wouldn't be deterred from seeking compensation. They would only be discouraged from wasting a court's time - and society's resources - once they have received a reasonable offer.

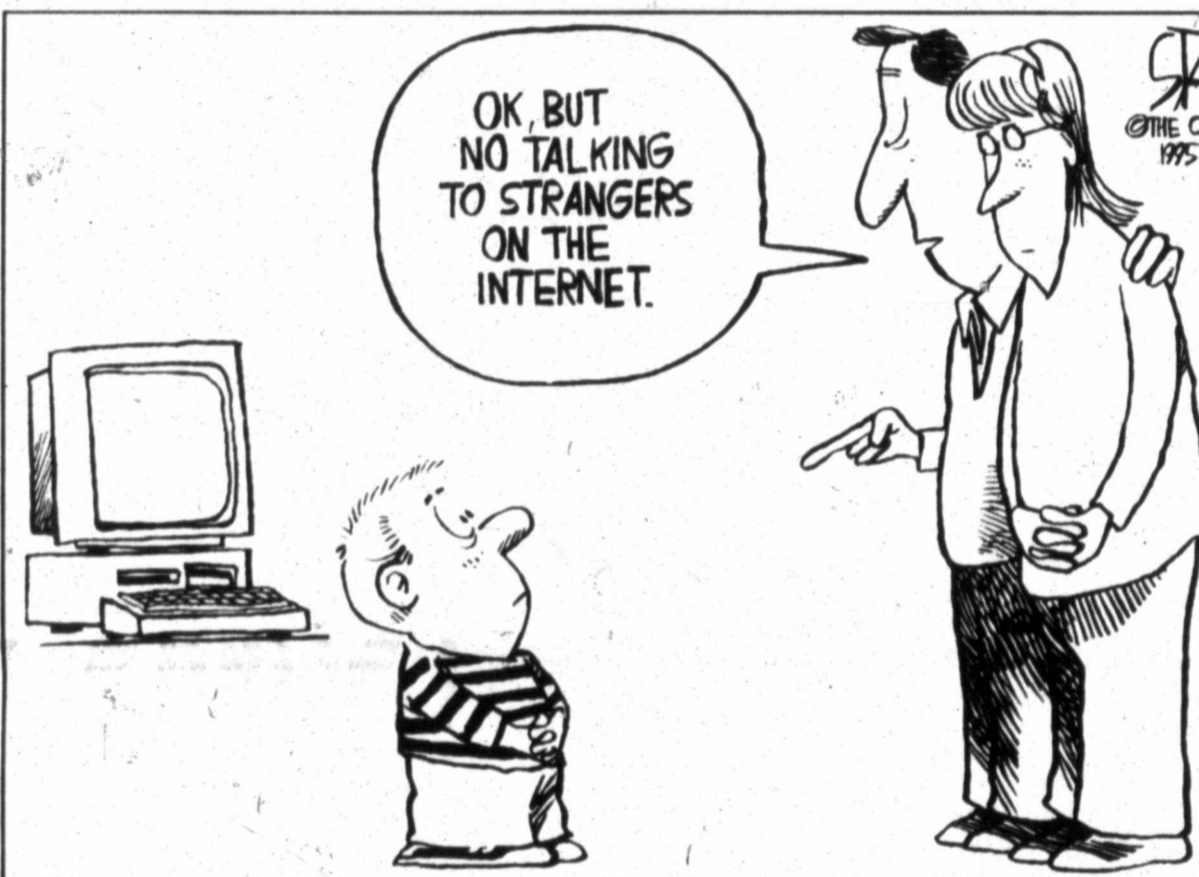
The real beauty of this approach is that it gives both defendants and plaintiffs strong new incentives to make and accept reasonable offers early in the process, instead of fighting over every issue to the bitter end. If a claim has a serious chance of winning a \$50,000 jury award, a defendant would be foolish to offer \$5,000 - and could expect to pay handsomely for his obstinacy.

The pressure on both sides would be to converge at a sane middle ground, not to stake out extreme positions far apart. Frivolous suits would be discouraged - as well as frivolous defenses.

The trial lawyers' group portrays any change in the status quo as a heartless attack on the rights of ordinary citizens. But this one would improve the lot of many innocent victims. Currently, many comparatively minor injuries go uncompensated because lawyers, who generally are paid a share of the jury award, can't make enough to justify their time. If the injured person could collect for his attorneys' fees as well as damages, more lawyers would be willing to handle modest claims.

The bill approved by the House is the sort of reform that would reduce litigation without promoting hazardous products. Reducing litigation would be a boon not only to defendants but to legitimate plaintiffs, who would be better off getting quick compensation than enduring the ordeal of a lengthy court battle.

The only people who would be worse off are those with dubious claims - and their lawyers. This version of "loser pays" would reward sensible behavior, something our legal system could use more of.



Today in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, March 21, the 80th day of 1995. There are 285 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
Fifty years ago, on March 21, 1945, during World War II, Allied bombers began four days of raids over Germany.

On this date:
In 1685, composer Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany.

In 1790, Thomas Jefferson reported to President Washington in New York as the new secretary of state.

In 1804, the French civil code, the Code Napoleon, was adopted.

In 1806, Mexican statesman Benito Juarez, who was Mexico's first president of Indian ancestry, was born in Oaxaca.

In 1871, journalist Henry M. Stanley began his famous expedition to Africa to locate the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone.

Keep an eye out for government meddling

A lot of folks seem to know what they are against but then seemed to be confused about what they should be for.

Let an old news hound offer a few suggestions. Let's start with the assumption that your goal is to maintain your liberty and to live in a society which would allow you to pursue your own brand of happiness with minimum interference from others, including government. If that's your dream, what should you be for?

You should be for private property rights. Economic independence is not possible unless people's right to acquire, own and use property is protected. And without economic independence, political liberty is a mirage.

Property rights are being eroded in the United States in the name of land-planning-sometimes referred to, euphemistically, as growth management - and in the name of environmental preservation. All you have to do is look at the mess created by land planners to know it doesn't work. All you have to do is look at the environment in the Soviet Union to know that government controls are not the way to preserve an environment.

So stay on the issue of property rights. Next, insist on a sound currency. Much of today's economic problems are caused by inflation, which in turn is made easy by the central bank. The money

Charley Reese

in your wallet is not a U.S. Treasury certificate. It is a Federal Reserve bank note backed by nothing. If the central banks pump more and more bank notes into the economy, each buys less and less. Consequently savings and investments become difficult for everyone except speculators wired into bank loan departments.

Support limited government. The more government does, the more taxes it will levy. There's no escape because government has no way to get money except to take it from the private sector. The natural tendency of government is to grow, rather than shrink. The natural tendency of many people is to beg favors from government. The natural tendency of today's politicians is to tax the productive in order to buy votes from the unproductive.

Today, government (federal, state and local) eats up about 40 percent of national income. That's 40 cents out of every dollar you earn, and that's way too much. At the turn of the century, American government at all levels cost only about 10 percent of national income. We should work toward pushing it back to that level.

Never give up an elective office. There is a persistent effort to make elective offices appointive. This is anti-democratic and anti-self-government in the most profound sense. The only power people have is the ability to vote officeholders out of office. Give it up, and you will really suffer some hard consequences.

Don't buy the heifer dust that some politician is better qualified to choose an official than the people are. Look at the buffoons, tyrants and incompetents sitting on the federal bench. If that doesn't debunk the notion that appointments do better than elections, then you might as well move to Cuba and listen to Fidel Castro tell you what a wonderful life you have.

Support free speech. We can't govern ourselves unless we are free to try all ideas and policies before the bench of reason in public debate. There is a growing tendency, under the guise of political correctness, to dictate what Americans must think and to control what can or cannot be studied or taught.

Under no circumstances should government be allowed to punish people for what they think or believe. That truly would be the end of American freedom.

Notice that few of these ideas are even talked about by politicians. That's the point. You must force them to address these issues, and you must not passively accept their agenda - if you want to stay free.

Which side is more likely to say 'yes' to term limits?

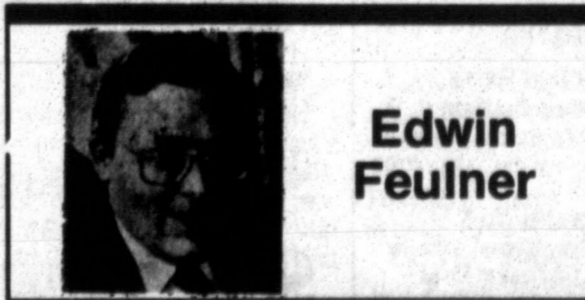
President Clinton is singularly fond of blaming his policy failures on "partisanship" in Congress. He wants Americans to think congressional conservatives are more interested in advancing their own political fortunes than they are in what's good for the country.

I would never be so naive as to say that politicians aren't interested in what's good for their careers - who isn't? But the president and most of his liberal friends have missed a couple of issues - term limits and the line-item veto - that reveal who the apostles of partisan Washington politics really are.

Why, the liberals have neglected to ask themselves, would conservative politicians favor placing limits on their own terms of office? And why would they advocate giving President Clinton himself the power to veto specific items in appropriations bills?

After all, if term limits are passed, conservatives as well as liberals will have to step down and get real jobs after a set number of terms in office. And the line-item veto will undoubtedly make Bill Clinton a more powerful president. Why would conservatives favor such things when it would decrease their power? Why wouldn't they do everything they could to increase that power? Isn't that what politics is all about?

Before I answer all these questions, I would like to draw these same liberals' attention, and



Edwin Feulner

America's, to the question stated another way: Can anyone imagine the last Congress - or any Congress controlled by the liberal majorities that have controlled Congress for the past four decades - pushing for these same measures?

I would defy any liberal commentator to look me in the eye, answer yes to that question, and keep a straight face.

We all know the answer. It is not possible to imagine a Tom Foley, the last Speaker of the House, or a Jim Wright or a Tip O'Neill, the two speakers before him, fighting to give Presidents Bush or Reagan the right to "x-out" their favorite pork-barrel schemes! Even less can we imagine liberal congressional "lifers" like Ted Kennedy or Robert Byrd favoring a measure that would force them to relin-

quish their places of power and prestige.

It just ain't gonna happen. Yet, the new conservative majority in Congress is pushing for both these measures. Why?

The answer is pretty simple, although it's a little difficult for the Washington establishment to comprehend: Conservatives are pushing for term limits because - as most Americans already know - careerism in Congress has gotten out of hand. And they're pushing for the line-item veto because if America's budget ever is going to be balanced, the president - from whatever party - is going to have to be able to "x-out" pork from appropriations bills.

Huh? You mean, they're doing it because it's what the country needs?

Yes. The reason conservatives are supporting these measures - even though they affect conservative as much as liberal power - is because, unlike most of their counterparts on the other side of the aisle, conservatives are willing to put partisan politics aside for the good of the country.

I'm not saying this is true in every instance. But on the two major issues where they are given the clearest choice between political self-interest and the good of the nation, the new conservative majority is picking the latter.

If you ask me, that's one heck of a good sign.

Tired of fights over Pogs, schools banning popular children's game

By MARTIN FINUCANE
Associated Press Writer

Schools around the nation are finding it's easier to ban Pogs — the marbles of today's schoolyards — than spend hours straightening out fights over who won the cap-flipping game and if students were playing for "keepsies."

"I got four pogs took away from me," explained Laura Arter, 10, of Wormleysburg, Pa.

Now the raucous recess game is over at her school: "We have to put them away or we get sent to the principal's office," she said.

The game is often played for keeps, with the winners taking home the spoils — a situation ripe for conflicts among children who don't understand that concept, said Mary Larcome, a fourth-grade teacher in Haverhill, Mass.

"It takes away from your teaching time when you're trying to settle the problems," Larcome said.

The rules are simple: each player has some pogs — small thin discs usually made of paper — or caps and a heavier disc, usually made of plastic, called a slammer. The pogs are stacked up and a player throws the slammer on it, and the pogs that flip over are "won."

Bottle cap flipping games date back at least to the Depression, but the latest version started taking off in Hawaii in 1992. Children there called the game pog from the abbreviation P-O-G on the caps of a popular Hawaiian drink containing passion fruit, orange and guava.

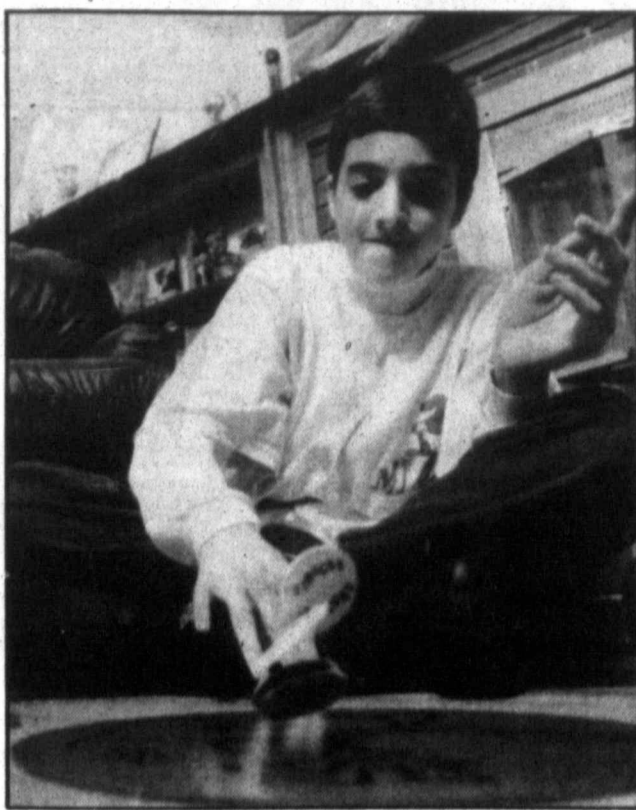
Soon after, kids on the mainland started flipping for the game. They eagerly collected caps and slammers, turning a sidewalk distraction into a multimillion-dollar industry.

The caps are now fancier, sporting designs from cartoon and movie characters to peace symbols and costing anywhere from a few pennies to about \$7. Slammers are clear, opaque, with or without design, plastic or metal.

"It's fun to collect and see the pictures and have a play and see who can play better or worse," Laura said as she perused the pog selection at A.C. Moore, a crafts store in Harrisburg, Pa.

But at Thompson Middle School in St. Charles, Ill., "they became a pretty hot item to steal" as well as sparked arguments, said principal Kurt Anderson. "We just ask the kids not to bring them."

While most spats have broken out in the schoolyard, adults aren't above some squabbling over the game, either. After months of fighting about it, The World Pog Federation announced in November it had exclusive use of the word "pog" on its products after reaching an



(AP photo/Peter Casolino, New Haven Register)

Mark Wenzel, 11, plays Pog in Hamden, Conn. The simple bottle cap flipping game has caught the fancy of schoolchildren.

agreement with the Universal Pogs Association, which changed its name to Universal Slammers Inc.

Anderson said school officials were surprised to find that some pogs were collector's items.

"We didn't realize the value of them and we thought, 'This is crazy,'" he said.

In Fawn Grove, Pa., school officials sent home a letter telling parents that pogs were causing fights. Plus, the slammers could be used as a weapon, said South Eastern Middle School Principal Benjamin Emenheiser.

The game also has been discouraged or banned in schools in Windham, N.H., Plano, Texas, and Spokane, Wash.

Anderson says he sees more pog frenzy ahead at his Chicago-area school.

"I can only imagine, with Michael Jordan back on the Bulls, his face will be all over a set of pogs. That'll keep Chicago kids going for a while," he said.

Jurors see injured finger, but don't hear O.J.'s taped voice in interview with police

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prosecutors, who have tried to downplay the celebrity side of O.J. Simpson, kept the jury from hearing his voice by choosing not to play his taped interview with police.

Simpson's attorneys countered Monday by giving jurors an up-close look at the famous defendant.

Escorted by bailiffs and lawyers, Simpson — appearing embarrassed — extended a trembling left hand and displayed the middle left finger that the prosecution contends was wounded during the knife attack that killed his ex-wife and her friend. The defense suggested Simpson's knuckle always appears swollen.

Jurors leaned out of their chairs to get a good view. Only one juror looked Simpson in the face; the rest peered only at his hand. None touched him.

The display came early in the defense's cross-examination of Detective Philip Vannatter, who returns to the witness stand today for more questioning by attorney Robert Shapiro.

With Vannatter's direct testimony finished, prosecutors have now wrapped up the initial questioning of the two lead investigators — without playing a tape recording of Simpson's half-hour interview with

Vannatter and Detective Tom Lange.

The interview took place at police headquarters the day after the June 12 murders of Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Legal analysts called the prosecution's move a "calculated decision" possibly founded on the belief the recording could make Simpson look sympathetic and remove any incentive for Simpson to testify in the case.

"Maybe they feel they've got a lot of momentum with this police testimony and they want to move right into the forensic evidence," said Eleanor Swift, a law professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

"Maybe they didn't want to personalize Simpson," she said.

From early in the case, prosecutors and the defense have been locked in a subtle battle over the humanization of Simpson. Defense attorneys generally refer to him as "Mr. Simpson," while prosecutors usually call him "the defendant."

The prosecution won a bid early in the trial to prevent Simpson from briefly addressing the jury during opening statements. However, Simpson was allowed to show jurors his scarred knee as the defense tried to show he was not physically

capable of mounting the attack.

Shapiro began its attack on Vannatter by raising questions about his recall of the condition of Simpson's left middle finger on the afternoon of June 13.

Vannatter, describing the finger as cut in two places and swollen at the knuckle, theorized that Simpson injured the finger during the murders, then dripped blood from it alongside bloody shoe prints leading from the bodies.

DNA tests have indicated that blood drops next to the footprints matched Simpson's blood, prosecutors have said.

In the interview with police, Simpson said he didn't know how he suffered two cuts on his finger. His lawyers have since said he cut himself at home and later broke a glass in his Chicago hotel room.

Shapiro suggested yet another explanation on Monday, asking Vannatter if the detective ever considered whether the knuckle was always "swollen due to a medical condition and not any laceration."

With that, Shapiro asked if Simpson would be allowed to show his finger to the jury. The judge agreed. Simpson glanced toward the ceiling, rolled his eyes, shook his head and grinned.

Gang member freed, afforded a lesser conviction

HOUSTON (AP) — A gang member accused of opening fire on a crowd outside of Astroworld last year, killing one and injuring four others, is free today after being convicted of criminally negligent homicide, rather than murder, and completing his sentence.

Jose Angel Zuniga, 16, received the maximum sentence Monday after jurors convicted him of a misdemeanor in the fatal shooting of Jose Luis Calzada, who was buried on his 15th birthday.

A Harris County sheriff's deputy, who declined to identify himself, said today that Zuniga was no longer in custody and had served his time.

Zuniga was initially charged with several counts of attempted capital murder. However, when it came time to certify him for trial as an adult, the judge decided Zuniga would only face one charge of murder.

Last week, jurors decided against murder and returned the lesser conviction of misdemeanor criminally negligent homicide.

During the trial's punishment phase, both the prosecutor and victim's father expressed their dismay.

"Personally, I don't know how in the world you came up with the verdict you did... For the likes of me, I don't want to understand it," prosecutor Roberto Gutierrez told jurors.

"I doubt if there is anything you can do to keep him from going home... If you want to help this defendant some more, don't give him the maximum."

But the panel did — sentencing Zuniga to one year and a \$3,000 fine.

Jose F. Calzada told jurors they were "giving an example to the teenagers."

"He's going to walk out!," Calzada said.

Turning to Zuniga, he said, "You

think you are safe from the law, but you will not be safe from the law of God."

The younger Calzada and Zuniga spent April 9, 1994, at Astroworld with friends but didn't know each other.

The paths crossed about 5 p.m., when Zuniga, waiting for a ride with friends, watched a large group of teens walk by. Some in the group were gang members, although Calzada and his friends were not.

As the group passed, Zuniga put on a cap with his gang markings and flashed a gun, provoking an exchange in which another person displayed a gun.

After shots rang out, a witness identified the gunman as Zuniga, who was caught nearby with the weapon used in the slaying. Calzada died of a head wound, and four others were injured.

Poison gas hoax detains plane for more than eight hours

NEW YORK (AP) — An airplane coming from Greece with 211 passengers was held for more than eight hours while federal agents checked a report that poison gas was aboard. The report proved to be a hoax.

The passengers and 21 crew members from the Olympic Airways 747 were released starting about 1:30 a.m. today after federal agents ques-

tioned them and investigators wearing protective gear checked the plane.

No suspicious material was found. The FBI, the Federal Aviation Administration and the airline all said the incident apparently was a hoax.

"I don't know if we're sure who did it," said FBI spokesman Joseph Valliquette. "Either way, we're

not going to say any more."

The incident occurred a day after an attack on Tokyo's subway system with nerve gas killed eight people and sickened thousands of others.

Flight 421's captain, Chris Konstantopoulos, said takeoff from Athens also was delayed, by about an hour, because of a report of a toxic liquid on board.

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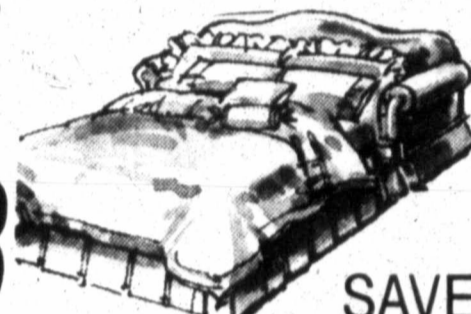
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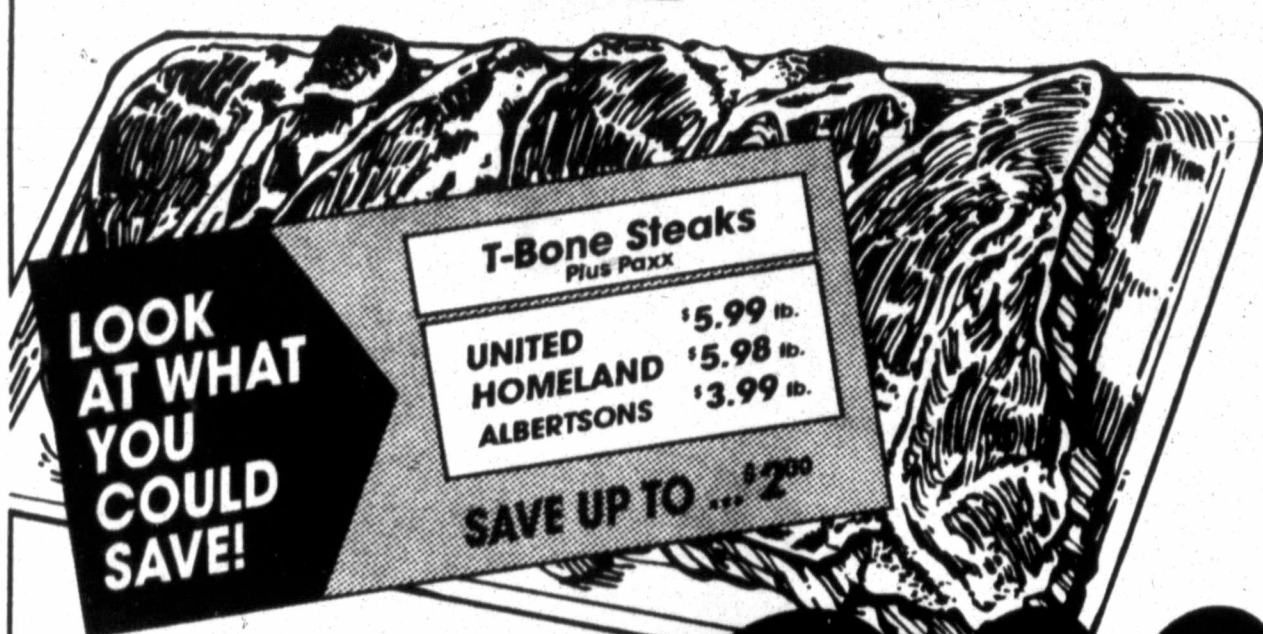
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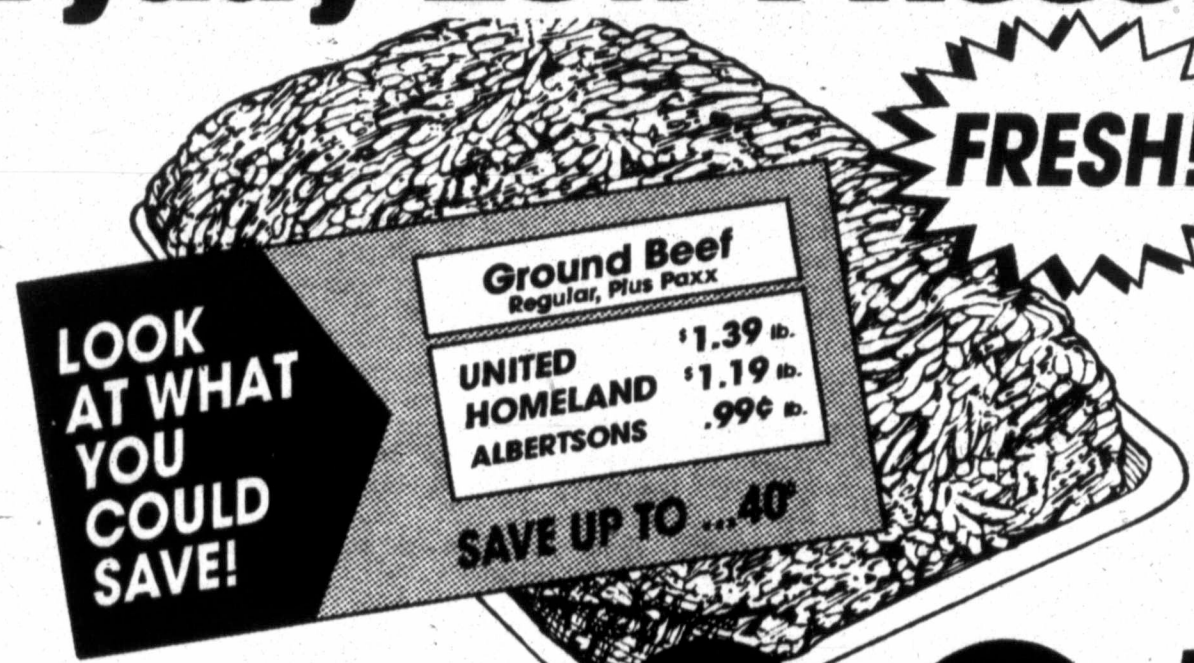


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Boneless Round Steak Plus Paxx, lb.	1.89	2.89	3.19
Beef Stew Meat Boneless, Plus Paxx, lb.	1.69	2.79	2.39
Cube Steaks Plus Paxx, lb.	2.58	2.98	3.49
Pork Butt Roast lb.	1.19	1.69	1.39
Whole Fryers lb.	.59	.89	.99
Orange Roughy Fillets lb.	5.99	6.79	6.49
Bay Scallops lb.	4.29	4.99	4.99
Oscar Mayer Bacon 16 oz.	1.79	2.89	1.89
Eckrich Smoked Sausage lb.	1.99	2.19	2.39
Jimmy Dean Roll Sausage 16 oz.	1.99	2.25	2.99
Dr. Pepper 12 pk., 12 oz. cans	3.44	4.49	2.99
Shedd's Country Crock 3 lbs.	1.87	1.98	1.99

Item Description	Albertsons	United	Homeland
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Ore-Ida Golden Crinkles 2 lbs.	1.65	2.08	2.26
Ragu Spaghetti Sauce With Meat 30 oz.	1.59	1.88	2.29
Kraft Mayonnaise 32 oz.	1.79	3.19	2.59
Heinz Squeeze Ketchup 28 oz.	1.37	1.99	1.59
Tide Detergent 110 oz.	7.79	7.99	8.49
Folgers Coffee 13 oz.	3.09	3.18	3.45
Aqua Net Hair Spray 7 oz.	.77	.96	1.59
Hershey's Kisses 14 oz.	2.47	2.88	2.79
Scoop Away Cat Litter 7 lb.	3.59	3.64	3.99
Country Potato Salad From Our Deli lb.	.97	1.19	2.49
Thick Sliced Bacon From Our Deli lb.	1.49	1.59	1.99
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Lifestyles

Caring for thin skin

NEW YORK (AP) — Thin skin is more than a euphemism for touchy feelings. In reality, the thinnest skin is around the eyes, on the neck and on the hands. Thus all three areas require special care.

Eye protection should be a daily routine for both men and women. Creams with vitamins A and E and natural oils work best, according to Sylvie Hennessy, developer of Pevonia Skin and Body Care products.

The neck, area of second-thinnest skin, should be included in the daily moisturizing and protecting routine for the face. Hand protection should also be daily and year-round even when hands don't feel dry. Hands also should be protected from the effects of the sun year-round.

Roast beef sandwich ranks among top choices

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sandwich eaters, beware! Some of those lunchtime favorites are loaded with fat, calories and salt, a consumer group says.

"People tend to think of a sandwich as just a bite to eat," said Jayne Hurley, senior nutritionist at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, which released results of its sandwich survey today.

"But often, sandwich shops are giving you an entire dinner's worth of fat and calories between those two slices of bread," said Hurley, whose group previously has exposed the fat lurking in Chinese, Italian, Mexican and seafood restaurant food, as well as movie theater popcorn.

The three main sandwich culprits: meat, mayonnaise and cheese, she said.

But a roast beef sandwich with mustard was one of the best choices, at 12 grams total fat, 4 grams saturated fat. Only turkey with mustard tested better; it had 6 grams of fat, 2 grams saturated fat.

A ham sandwich with mustard tested twice as fatty as roast beef and had four times more fat than a turkey sandwich, according to the survey.

An avocado and cheese "veggie" sandwich was among the worst offenders, with 40 grams total fat — as much as in two McDonald's Quarter Pounders, Hurley said.

Tuna salad and chicken salad — two selections long favored by dieters — are both loaded with fat and calories. "It's not the chicken or the tuna that's at fault," Hurley said. "They're being drowned in mayonnaise."

A tablespoon of mayonnaise has 100 calories and 11 grams of fat. The recommended daily allotment for fat is 65 grams.

Other sandwiches tested were the Reuben (50 grams of fat), BLT (37 grams), turkey club (34 grams), grilled cheese (33 grams), egg salad (31 grams) and corned beef (20 grams).

The 12 sandwiches tested also had high levels of sodium, ranging from 850 milligrams in a roast beef with mayonnaise to 3,200 milligrams in the Reuben. Health authorities recommend a daily sodium limit of 2,400 milligrams.

Overall, the sandwiches had much more meat than those typically made at home and the cuts were fattier than supermarket meats, Hurley said. "A slice of cheese also adds as much artery-clogging saturated fat as six bacon strips."

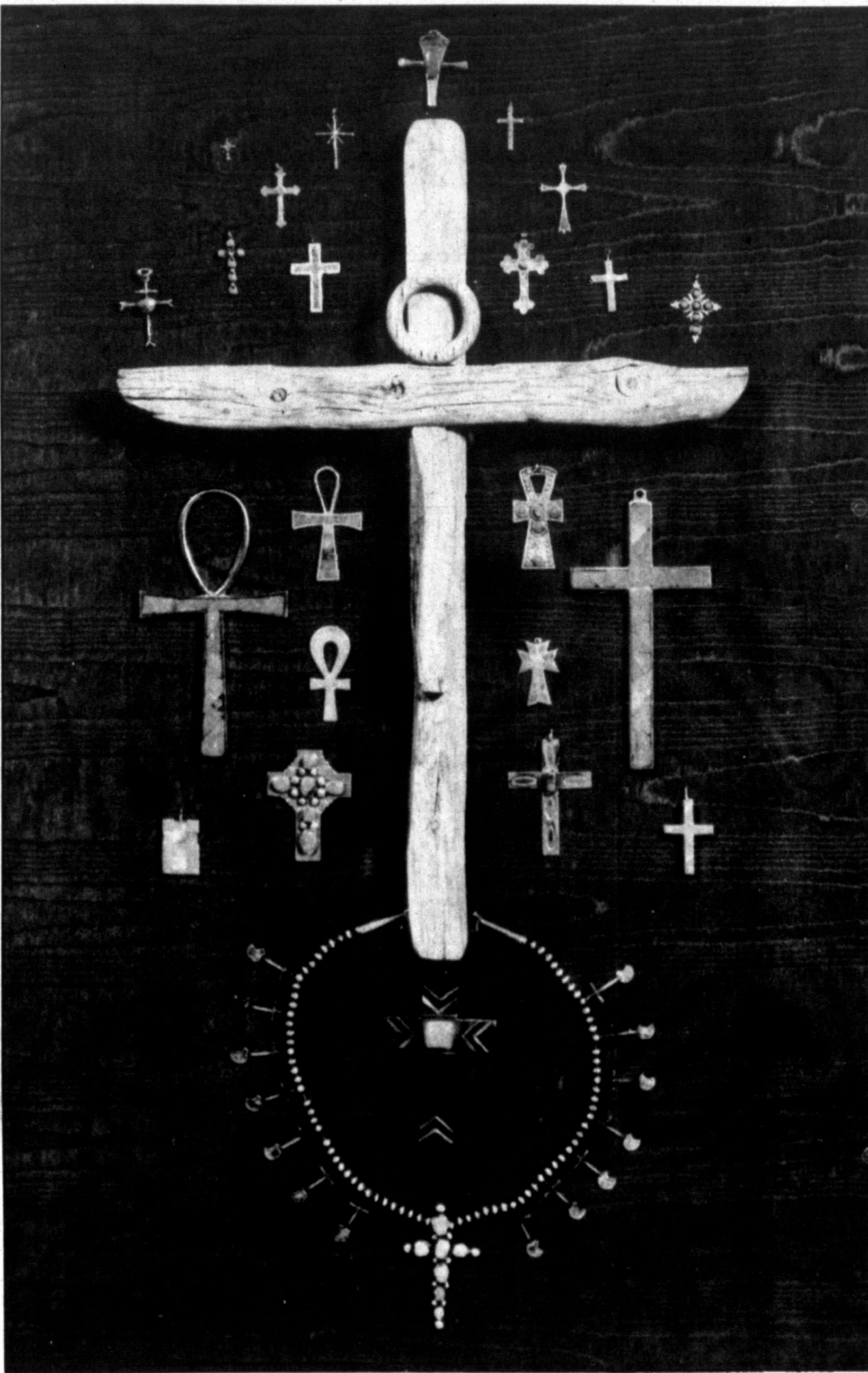
Hurley said consumers should ask sandwich shops and restaurants to use light cheeses, low-fat mayonnaise and dressings and lean meats, or make special requests when ordering a sandwich.

Failing that, they should bring lunch from home.

"It's easy to build a healthy sandwich at home," Hurley said.

The center bought 171 sandwiches and subs at 35 delicatessens, sandwich shops and restaurants in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C., including familiar chains like Subway, Au Bon Pain and Wall Street Deli.

Crosses, crosses and more crosses come to the Square House Museum



(Photo courtesy of the Square House Museum)

These pieces are among "The Cross: The Bill Bomar Collection" exhibition which will be featured at the Square House Museum in Panhandle through April 30.

PANHANDLE — The Square House Museum in Panhandle displaying "The Cross: The Bill Bomar Collection," an exhibition of some 280 crosses from around the world, with special emphasis on northern New Mexican pieces. The collection is on loan from The Old Jail Art Center in Albany, Texas.

Revealing the infinite creativity of expression by artists — both named and anonymous — the crosses range in size from minuscule (one-half inch) to impressive dimensions (over five feet high) and are made from such varied materials as wood, stone, iron, straw, thread, cloth, silver, brass, ivory, crystal, clay, turquoise, coral, and lapis lazuli. Even paintings and quilts that incorporate crosses as subject matter are part of this collection.

These crosses were collected over five decades by the late Bill Bomar, an artist reared in Fort Worth, whose family had strong ties to Albany. He lived for many years in New York, and in the 1970's moved to the northern New Mexican artistic community of Rancho de Taos where he spent the remainder of his life. A founding trustee and major benefactor of The Old Jail Art Center in Albany, Bomar bequeathed his

Cross Collection to the Old Jail at his death in 1991.

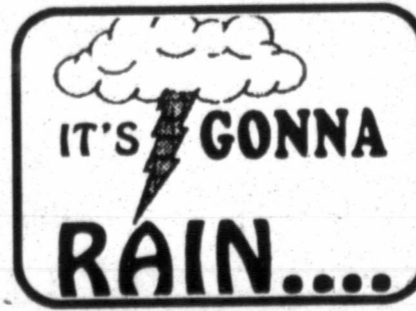
The crosses in the exhibition are universal, representing different countries, religions, and forms: the Latin cross, the Greek cross, the St. Andrew cross or "Saltire," and such pre-Christian forms as the primitive cruciform sign of the Swastika and the ancient Egyptian Tau cross shaped like the letter T.

The names of the artists creating the paintings, quilts, and sculptures are known. However, most of the pieces in the collection were made by folk artists who worked anonymously in rural isolation, preferring to subordinate themselves to their sacred art. They selected whatever materials were at hand, and the results are often surprising in their inspirational simplicity. These is one piece made from spoon handles and another from the gears of watches.

It is a collection of contrasts: a weathered pine cross common in rural Hispanic cemeteries holds its own with a five-foot tall construction faced with mirrored glass. Wooden crosses carved and painted in the 19th century share the gallery wall with a plain wooden cross displaying a barcode. It is an

exhibit to enjoy with the eyes and experience with the emotions.

"The Cross" exhibition can be viewed in the Hazlewood Arts and Education Building Auditorium from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Monday-Friday and from 1-5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. It will remain on exhibit through Sunday, April 30 and will be open on Easter Sunday, April 16. For more information, please call the Square House Museum at (806) 537-3524.



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NEW YORK (AP) — Leather may be water resistant, but it's not indestructible in heavy rain or snow.

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Schott Bros. of Perth Amboy, N.J., a manufacturer of leather outerwear, recommends that leather coats be treated with a stain repellent and water repellent before they are worn. If the garment is pre-treated at the factory, follow manufacturer's instructions.

"La Traviata" set for April 1 at the Amarillo Civic Center

La Traviata takes center stage at the Amarillo Civic Center April 1 when the Amarillo Opera Company brings its first Verdi opera to the city, according to founder and director Mila Gibson. Internationally acclaimed operatic conductor David Stockton is the music director and conductor. International opera star, tenor Joseph Evans is featured as Alfredo, and soprano Diane Syrcle takes the role of Violetta. Timothy Tucker, baritone, appears as Germont. *La Traviata* will be sung in English, Gibson said. Catherine Winsett, Amarillo Opera, Inc., board president noted that this is the Amarillo Opera's first full production on the Amarillo Civic Center stage.

"Seating capacity, stage space, and other facility differences will make this our most expensive and grandest opera production to date," she said. All previous Amarillo Opera performances have been at Amarillo College, since the productions are a cooperative effort between Amarillo Opera, Inc., and Amarillo College. Tickets are \$10, \$15, and \$20, and are available at the Civic Center Box Office 378-3096.

The opera, written by Giuseppe Verdi in 1852, is loosely based on the famous story of Camille, a young courtesan who died of consumption in Paris. The story was first told in a novel by Alexandre Dumas the Younger, and then captured theater goers in a play based on the story. In Verdi's opera, the consumptive Camille became Violetta, one of the most challenging roles in opera. "The opera hinges on a strong acting and singing performance by the singer who plays the part of Violetta," Gibson said. "We're delighted to have Diane Syrcle, who was recently named semi-finalist in the Pavarotti contest, to sing this important role."

Syrcle, a native of Clovis, N. M., was last seen in Amarillo as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*. She has a bachelor of music degree from West Texas A&M University in Canyon and a master of music from the University of North Texas at Denton. Her stage credits include the dialogue coach in the Dallas Opera's *The Dream of Valentino*. Aunt Tetda in Janacek's *Jenufa* with the Dallas Opera, Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana* with the Shreveport Opera, Fiordiligi in *Così Fan Tutte* at the University of North Texas, the Queen of Transylvania in *My Fair Lady* with the Houston Grand Opera and Mrs. Anna in *The King and I*. During the 1995-96 season, she will join the Portland Opera's roster.

Guest conductor David Stockton is originally from Plainview. He received a bachelor of science degree in Piano from WTAMU and continued his studies at Boston University in choral conducting and piano and the New England Conservatory of Music where he earned a master of music degree in orchestral conducting. He has an extensive operative repertoire. He served as the general music director and conductor with the Boston Concert Opera for 14 years. Other conducting credits include conductor for the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, assistant conductor for the Opera Company of Boston, music director and conductor for Boston University Savoyards, and guest conductor for Staatstheaters Wiesbaden and Erfurt, Eastman School of Music, San Paolo, Washington, D.C. Castle Hill Festival and West Texas A&M University.

Joseph Evans has appeared throughout the United States and Europe in opera and orchestral engagements, including leading roles during eight seasons at the New York City Opera, over thirty productions with Opera Company of Boston, and as a soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra and New York Philharmonic. He made his La Scala debut as Prince Guidon in *Tsar Saltan* by Rimsky-Korsakov, and his debut for the Wexford Festival in Ireland in Dvorak's *The Devil and Kat* which was filmed for telecast throughout Europe. He has also sung with the Welsh National Opera, Opera de Nantes in France, English National Opera, Operal Royal de Wallonie in Liege and Hong Kong Opera.

Timothy Tucker, Amarillo's artist in residence, received his bachelor of music degree from the University of North Texas, and is completing his master's degree at the same school. He served as stage director and set designer for *My Fair Lady* and was last seen by Amarillo area audiences in the Amarillo Opera's *Terry Cook and Co.*, concert. He appeared with the Santa Fe Opera in *La Fanciulla del West* which starred Mary Jane Johnson. He has toured with the Western Opera Theatre, the touring company of the San Francisco Opera. He has been a MET Regional Finalist, and has recently performed with the Shreveport Opera and Austin Lyric Opera. Local principals Sara Burke, Lee Kendle, Lanny Allen, Gregory Shapley, Joe Bolin and Erma Rush will join 50 local singing artists and orchestra members from the Amarillo Symphony in the production.

BRAVO!, the opera's support group, is sponsoring a free lecture and preview on *Verdi* and *La Traviata* in the Amarillo College Fine Arts Common Lobby at noon Friday, March 31. Don's Hi-Fidelity is the business sponsor for the lecture. Corporate sponsors for *La Traviata* are Blackburns and FirstBank Southwest. Partial funding has been provided by the Texas Commission on the Arts, the Arts Committee of the Amarillo chamber of Commerce, the National Endowment on the Arts, and American Airlines.

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Priest's weekly night out is neighbor's weekly night up

DEAR READERS: I continue to receive letters about clergy who imbibe. These two were too good to keep to myself.

DEAR ABBY: A word or two about clergy who drink — and also play cards.

I grew up in a small town in Germany where it was no big deal for the village priest to meet with a group of men every week at a restaurant, where the innkeeper had a large table permanently reserved for those "regulars." They would play cards, drink beer and enjoy each other's company. No one ever made a federal case out of it.

A fairly young priest, about 40, was part of this group. Since there will always be nosy neighbors, I can assure you this fairly young priest had one, too.

This neighbor felt it was her duty to watch the priest and observe what time he got home on such evenings.

On one occasion when it was close to midnight, the priest got up and said, "Well, I'd better go home now so my neighbor can go to bed."

This is a true story. My brother knows this man, and when he told me, we both laughed until tears rolled down our cheeks.

MRS. D., QUITMAN, TEXAS



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

years, I drifted from church to church, trying to find one that suited me. One Sunday, I visited a new church, hoping it was for me. I'd never seen such a mixed congregation. They had a wonderful common denominator — their joy at being in a house of worship on Sunday, and welcoming smiles for me.

A few weeks later, I was invited to attend their church picnic in a nearby park. When I saw the minister (a woman) having a beef, I said to myself, "My God... she's human!" I was greatly impressed that she had the courage to be herself in

front of her congregation. Everyone had a good time, and no one was judging anyone else.

I am delighted to have found a church where I can worship and be myself, without fear of condemnation.

HAPPY IN DENVER

DEAR ABBY: I am a 24-year-old male. Recently one of my friends, whom I have known since high school (I'll call him Phil), sent me an invitation to his wedding.

Phil is aware that in the last year my girlfriend (I'll call her Elaine) and I had been having difficulties in our four-year relationship, so he addressed the invitation to me "and guest" — with no specific mention of Elaine.

When Elaine saw my invitation, she took it as an insulting jab, because she wasn't specifically invited by name, and now she refuses to go to Phil's wedding.

Abby, I feel that Elaine has no reason to be offended — that she would be more than welcome, but Phil didn't want me to feel awkward if Elaine and I were not going together at the time of his wedding.

Is Elaine justified in thinking it was an "insulting jab" that my invitation read "and guest" — instead of mentioning her by name?

PHIL'S FRIEND

DEAR FRIEND: In view of your off-again-on-again relationship, Phil was justified in addressing your invitation to you "and guest" instead of specifying Elaine. She appears to be somewhat petulant and unreasonable.

priority over yours. This person could be a real test case.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Do not delegate responsibilities to individuals today if you know they cannot be relied upon. Their irresponsibility could rob you of something you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) This is not the day to be shy and retiring. A competitor might be eagerly awaiting the chance to knock you out of something that is rightfully yours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might not be at your best today when trying to keep secrets. Unfortunately, those you confide in could be very bad choices.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Do not expect friends to give more of themselves today than you're prepared to give. You may not know it, but you'll be the person to set the standard.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You might be surprised at how far you can stretch your assets and resources today. Success is indicated when you make the most of what's at your disposal.

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DEAR ABBY: I am an independent, fun-loving woman. For several

Horoscope



Your Birthday

Wednesday, March 22, 1995.

You might not choose the easiest path in the year ahead, but you'll enjoy and benefit from the challenges you set for yourself. The self-discipline you'll learn will be an asset to your character.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Uncharacteristically, you might not have the courage of your convictions today. Thoughts that usually stir you strongly may fail to motivate you. Aries, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictors for the year ahead by mailing \$2 and a SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 4465, New York, NY 10163. Be sure to state your zodiac

sign.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Avoid doing anything today that goes against your better judgments just to even up an old score. It would only further complicate an abusive issue.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Try not to be maternalistic with friends today. The unpleasantness that may result could leave a bad impression that lingers.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Co-workers might keep their hands clean today by placing the blame for mishaps on you. This is especially likely if you assume authority you don't possess.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Others might find you difficult to tolerate today if you resist the will of the majority. Don't be surprised if they vent their anger in no uncertain terms.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Handle abusive family issues diplomatically today. If you don't, you will make a bad situation even worse.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Strive to be tolerant and understanding today if a co-worker feels his/her interests should take



3-21

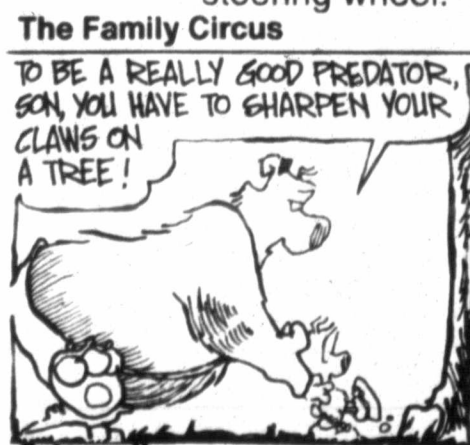
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"Sleepin' Beauty fell asleep after pricking her finger on a steering wheel."



3-21

"Marmaduke, when I said the trash needed to be put out, you may have misunderstood."



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Marmaduke



Peanuts



3-21



Calvin & Hobbes



Ario & Janis



Garfield



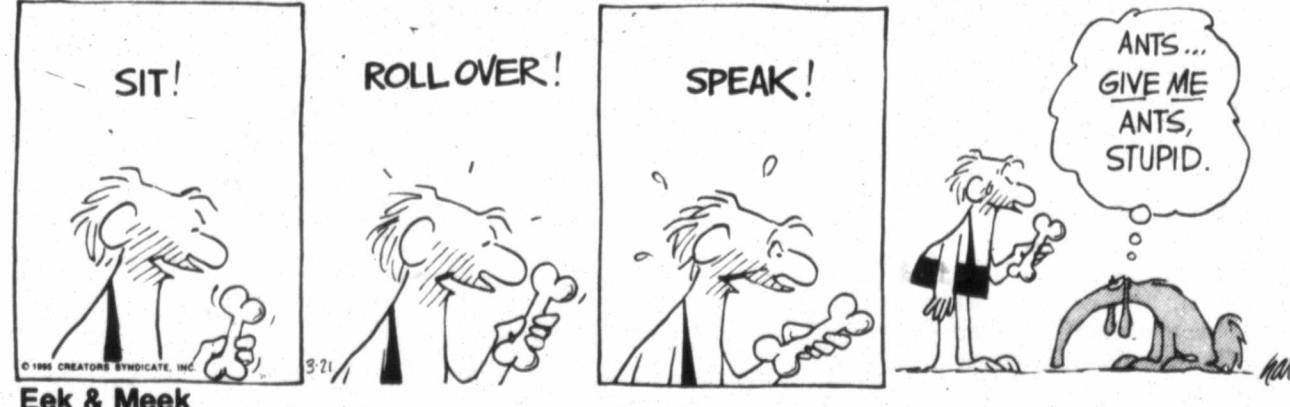
Walnut Cove



Marvin



B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

Tralee Crisis Center is a non-profit (501(c)3) Texas corporation located in Pampa, Texas serving Gray County and seven surrounding counties. Tralee offers counseling, education, shelter, and other services to victims of sexual assault or family violence.

TRALEE MISSION:

- 1) To provide shelter and provide and coordinate supportive services to abused women and their families.
- 2) To educate the community about the causes and implications of family violence as well as the needs of and resources available to violent families.
- 3) To provide and coordinate services to sexual assault victims and victims of other crimes.
- 4) To educate the community about the causes and implications of sexual assault as well as the needs of and resources available to sexual assault victims.
- 5) To provide consultation and educational services to other community service providers.
- 6) The organization's services shall be offered primarily to persons residing in the counties of Carson, Gray, Wheeler, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Donley, Roberts, and Collingsworth, but need not be limited to such residents. Services shall be provided without regard to racial, cultural, or ethnic background.

TRALEE HISTORY:

Tralee Crisis Center for Women, Inc. has completed 10 years of service delivery in an eight county area of the Texas Panhandle. The main shelter is located in Pampa; an outreach office has been maintained in Borger since 1987. Bi-monthly outreach visits by staff are regularly scheduled in the remaining six counties.

The center is named after TRAVIS PlumLEE, a former social worker at Coronado Hospital. Mr. Plumlee recognized the need for a shelter for battered women from his work with victims at the hospital.

With the help of the Altrusa Club, Tralee was incorporated in 1984. Tralee has evolved from the use of motel rooms as shelter to a full service shelter with the capacity to house 30 women and children.

Tralee currently has a comprehensive program to serve victims of family violence, sexual assault and other crimes. Hospitals and law enforcement in our eight county service area are informed about the availability of services for victims and ongoing communication is maintained through the bi-monthly visits to these counties by the Victim Services Coordinator. A 24 hour hotline is answered by volunteers and staff. An 800 number is advertised in local and area newspapers and phone books.

The Pampa shelter was renovated using a grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. A transitional duplex was also established with this grant.

TRALEE SERVICE STATISTICS:

From 1985 to Present: Victims of Family Violence 2,925; Victims of Sexual Assault 248; Victims of Other Crimes 198; Other Counseling 480; Crisis Hot Line Calls 10,998

TRALEE ANNUAL BUDGET:

Administrative Salaries	\$ 52,700
Program Salaries	113,717
Other Expenses	58,421
Total Budget	\$224,838

Employees-18, Volunteers-54, Board Members-18

TRALEE FUNDING SOURCES:

Texas Department of Health, Texas Department of Human Services, Texas Victims of Crime Act, Emergency Shelter Grants Program, County Governments, United Way, Foundations, Corporations, Businesses, Churches, Clubs, and Individuals

Without effective early intervention, domestic violence can escalate in severity and lead to death. When domestic violence results in homicide, it is often a reflection of the community's failure to recognize the severity and potential lethality of the problem, and to address its critical role in early intervention.

Your participation in Tralee's virtual marathon will assist Tralee in its marathon task of providing help to victims of sexual assault and family violence.

PRIZES FOR
OUR FIRST
ANNUAL
VIRTUAL
MARATHON
HAVE BEEN
DONATED BY
THE
FOLLOWING
LOCAL
BUSINESSES.

AAA DETAIL

BLOCKBUSTER
VIDEO

DANNY'S
MARKET

DUST-RITE
DUST
CONTROL

DYER'S
BAR-B-QUE

EASY'S POP
SHOP

HAMBURGER
STATION

HARDEES

HOAGIES DELI

JAY'S DRIVE
INN

LA FIESTA

SCOTTY'S

WE ARE ALSO
HAVING A
COLORING
CONTEST FOR 3rd
AND 4th GRADERS.
THEY HAVE BEEN
CHALLENGED TO
DRAW A PICTURE
OF A WORLD
WITHOUT
VIOLENCE. THE
ARTWORK WILL
BE DISPLAYED IN
OUR OFFICES AND
THROUGHOUT
THE COMMUNITY.
PRIZES FOR THE
CONTEST WERE
DONATED BY:

PUTT-A-ROUND

MCDONALD'S

HASTINGS

OFFICIAL RULES FIRST ANNUAL VIRTUAL MARATHON TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

- 1) The race will begin promptly at sunrise at the participants own residence on **APRIL 1, 1995**.
- 2) Each participant is "required" to "cover" 26 miles 385 yards (42.2 kilometers) prior to the end of the race at sunset.
- 3) The race will end at or before sunset at the participants own residence on **APRIL 1, 1995**.
- 4) All participants must be a citizen of any nation recognized by the United Nations with a valid birth certificate. Participants should have experienced the desire or dream of "winning" a marathon race. **No prior marathon experience or conditioning is required.** Prior fleeting thoughts of conditioning are recommended.
- 5) All participants will be awarded a certificate of completion with their finishing position noted. Additionally each participant will receive a commemorative T-shirt and entry number tag. These items may be picked up following successful completion of the marathon or mailed on request.
- 6) Each entrant is required to submit an entry application along with a \$20 entry fee. **Any donations in excess of the entry fee will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.**
- 7) Entry application and fees must be received prior to **APRIL 1, 1995**. Late entries will be accepted and processed in the order received.
- 8) All proceeds from this marathon will first be used to defray the costs associated with the marathon. Excess funds will be deposited in the general fund of Tralee Crisis Center and used to finance general operations.

SEE ACCOMPANYING DESCRIPTION OF TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

ENTRY APPLICATION FIRST ANNUAL VIRTUAL MARATHON TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

APPLICANTS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

AGE BRACKET: 0-5 YRS _____
 6-10 YRS _____
 11-18 YRS _____
 19-30 YRS _____
 31-40 YRS _____
 41-60 YRS _____
 60-up YRS _____

PREFERRED T-SHIRT COLOR/SIZE: WHITE _____
 BLUE _____
 RED _____
 PINK _____
 YELLOW _____
 GREEN _____
 GRAY _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR \$20.00 ENTRY FEE.

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY APPRECIATED.

MAIL TO: TRALEE CRISIS CENTER
 P.O. BOX 2880
 119 N. FROST
 PAMPA, TX 79066-2880

