

# TWO BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

THURSDAY  
March 20, 1997

50 cents

## Final day for filing in council, school board races busy one

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

The final day for filing to run for a seat on either the Big Spring City Council or the Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees proved to be the busiest day of the filing period, as four candidates entered races Wednesday to ensure that each position on the May 3 ballot is contested.

In the District 2 city council race, incumbent Pat DeAnda is being challenged by Oscar Garcia and Bob Taylor.

District 4 Councilman Tom Guess faces a challenge from Tommy Tune.

Randy Mason was only candidate seeking the District 6 council seat for much of the filing period, but Danny Horton, Ray Rinard and Greg Biddison entered the race Wednesday, making it the most contested council race.

Incumbent John Paul Anderson decided last week that he would not seek re-election to the District 6 seat.

Tuesday's entry of Mike Robinson of Robinson

Drilling into the school board race for the at-large position currently held by Steve Fraser means both candidates will be involved in their first campaign for public office.

Fraser was appointed to the at-large seat, which was left vacant by the resignation of Dan Wise last fall. Fraser and Robinson are running to fill the year remaining on the unexpired term.

District 2 incumbent Don Baker was unopposed at 5 p.m. Tuesday, but Frank A. Long entered the race Wednesday to give Baker a challenge.

District 4 incumbent Larry Hollar is being challenged by Steve Jeter.

Other than campaigning, all that remains for council candidates is Friday's drawing for position on the May 3 ballot. School board candidates drew for ballot positions earlier today.

Local voters will again use a central voting location in the elections and will cast ballots in the Big Spring High School cafeteria from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Early voting in city and school elections begins

Please see RACES, page 2A

### LINING UP TO RUN

After a slow start, a flurry of filings created contested races in five of the six elections scheduled for Saturday, May 3. All three city council seats are contested, as are two of the three school board seats. Candidates for each seat are listed in order of filing:

**City Council, Place 2**  
Pat DeAnda - incumbent  
Oscar Garcia  
Bob Taylor

**School District, Place 2**  
Don Baker - incumbent  
Frank A. Long

**City Council, Place 4**  
Tommy Tune  
Tom Guess - incumbent

**School District, Place 4**  
Larry Hollar - incumbent  
Steve Jeter

**City Council, Place 6**  
Randy Mason  
Danny Horton  
Ray Rinard  
Greg Biddison

**School District, At-Large**  
Steve Fraser - incumbent  
Mike Robinson

## Rattlesnake Roundup begins Friday

### Carnival opens tonight on Fairbarns grounds

By JOHN A. MOSELEY  
News Editor

The 35th annual Big Spring Rattlesnake Roundup officially gets under way Friday afternoon when snake hunters throughout West Texas begin arriving at the Howard County Fairbarns to weigh in and sell snakes they've captured.

Sponsored by the American Business Club of Big Spring (AMBUCS), Coors Lite and Miller Lite, the roundup provides funding for AMBUCS' national scholarship program for therapists in training, as well as support of the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center.

In addition, the local AMBUCS club supports the West Side Community Center and a number of other charities.

According to Wayne Pierce, a member of AMBUCS' board of directors, people will be bringing snakes they've captured within a 150-mile radius or more.

The first weigh-in of snakes is set for 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, which should make sure that there are plenty of the reptiles for the shows and demonstrations set to begin Saturday morning.

Snake handling demonstrations, snake races and demonstrations of milking the snakes' venom begin at 10 a.m. Saturday and continue through 7 p.m. They will resume at noon Sunday and continue through 6 p.m. The snake handling demonstrations will be provided by MIMOJO's Rattlers Plus group.

Snakes will also be weighed in from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

According to Pierce, the price of snakes fluctuates, but the snake hunters can sell their

catch for between \$5 and \$6 per pound, depending on the market price.

Monty Stallcop of Fort Worth, MIMOJO's owner, is also visiting a number of local schools this week, providing educational programs for students.

Stallcop noted that members of his snake handling team will be handling five different species of poisonous snakes, including two cobras they've never handled before.

"They (handlers) are really excited about this weekend," Stallcop said. "That's when they like it best, when they're working with a snake they've never worked with before ... there's more challenge."

Also scheduled in conjunction with the roundup is an arts and crafts show and an outdoor flea market, both scheduled for 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. The arts and crafts show will be staged in the Dora Roberts Building.

The Matt Armstrong Carnival will also be in operation, beginning this evening and continuing through Sunday. Tonight the carnival will be offering a special where purchasing a \$10 ticket gives the buyer unlimited rides from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday, a \$10 ticket provides unlimited rides from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. A Kids Day promotion on Saturday allows purchasers of \$9 tickets unlimited rides from noon to 5 p.m. or from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. And Sunday is Family Day with \$10 tickets providing unlimited rides from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The roundup will include several contests which provide cash prizes and trophies for those who bring in the most pounds of snakes, the heaviest



Snakehunter Dub Day reaches for a well-camouflaged rattlesnake while Bob Gibbs looks on. Day and Gibbs will be among those taking part in this weekend's 35th annual Big Spring Rattlesnake Roundup.

snake and the snake with the most rattles. All entries in those contests must be registered by 3 p.m. Sunday and awards will be made at 5 p.m.

## County's entities bucked trend during fiscal '95

By JOHN A. MOSELEY  
News Editor

While schools, cities, counties and other local governments across the state levied nearly \$16 billion in property taxes in 1995, a 3.4 percent increase over the previous year, Howard County's total levy was declining by a little less than 1 percent.

In Howard County, the nine local taxing entities levied property taxes of more than \$80 million in 1995, with 59.1 percent of that levy due the Big Spring, Fortson and Coahoma school districts.

Statewide, property tax bills totaled \$15.98 billion, with 58.5 percent of that going to local school districts, according to a report from Comptroller's John Sharp's office.

School taxes, which totaled \$9.34 billion, rose 3.5 percent over 1994, the report showed.

However, the total school levy in Howard County for 1995, \$13.6 million, was 3.29 percent less than the 1994 levy of a little

more than \$14 million.

The school levy is the target of Gov. George W. Bush's push for a property tax overhaul.

Bush proposes replacing about \$3 billion in local school taxes with a \$1 billion state budget surplus, a half-cent sales tax increase and a new business activity tax.

Legislative committees are looking at the school property tax and others to see if alternatives can be found.

"This underscores the fact that property taxes are too high and that they are continuing to increase," Karen Hughes, a spokeswoman for the governor, said.

"It certainly emphasizes the need for the Legislature to do precisely what it is doing — look at alternate ways to make the state bear more of the cost of funding public schools," she said.

Sharp's report covers taxes based on property values assessed Jan. 1, 1995 for government spending through the fall

Please see TAXES, page 2A

## Chamber directors join resolution for VA home

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Board members of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and other local officials are keeping a close watch on the legislative process in Austin. That's because the potential exists for more than 150 jobs and a \$4.5 million payroll to be added to the local economy.

During Wednesday's regular board meeting, directors unanimously passed a resolution authorizing the chamber to join with Moore Development For Big Spring, the City of Big Spring, Howard County, the Big Spring Independent School District and Howard College in seeking to acquire a Veterans Affairs (VA) Home.

VA homes would care for elderly veterans just as a nursing home cares for its

patients.

The Texas Veterans Land Board in conjunction with the Texas Veterans Commission has requested proposals from communities across the state for VA homes to be built in four locations at points in the north, south, east and western part of Texas.

Big Spring will be vying for the western site.

According to Chuck Williams, chamber vice president for governmental affairs, sites for the proposed homes are still being determined, but the home will be placed where there are existing VA hospitals.

Current proposed legislation would provide funding for two homes this biennium and one home in each of the next two bienniums.

"Veterans homes would save the state a considerable amount

Please see HOME, page 2A

## City manager to decide on Griffin's appeal soon

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

The future of Lt. Scott Griffin with the Big Spring Police Department (BSPD) lies in the decision Big Spring City

Manager Gary Fuqua will make in the next few days.

Fuqua can uphold the BSPD's decision to terminate Griffin or he may overturn it.

Griffin and his CLEAT (Combined Law Enforcement

Associations of Texas) attorney Colleen Harmon met with Fuqua for two hours Wednesday afternoon to appeal Griffin's March 4 firing on charges of falsifying government records.

According to Finley, the charges dealt with time sheets. Also present at Wednesday's hearing were BSPD Chief Jerry Edwards to present the depart

Please see APPEAL, page 2A

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### TODAY'S WEATHER

▲ Highs  
▼ Lows

Today: Sunny with a high in the 80s. Low in the mid 40s.

Friday: Sunny with a near record high around 90. Low in the 40s.

Extended outlook: Saturday, partly cloudy and cooler. High in the lower 70s. Low in the 40s.

Sunday, partly cloudy and windy. High in the mid 70s.

## Cable service adding two new channels to lineup

HERALD Staff Report

Big Spring Cable TV subscribers will begin receiving The History Channel and Home and Garden TV following system modifications, according to general manager Archie Kountz.

Kountz said he expects the changes to be made on May 1.

"If we can do it before then, we will," he said.

Kountz had said earlier that the system would be able to add one additional channel and asked viewers to select the new

channel through a participate in a survey published in the Herald.

"We're excited to be able to add these two channels," Kountz said. "There was good participation in the survey and the two channels we will be adding to the system were overwhelming favorites."

According to Kountz, a modification in the local system eliminated the duplication of The Nashville Network on channels 15 and 35 and also added channel 98 as a new reserve channel. Those changes

made it possible to add two channels instead of one.

With the additions, a number of networks will be moved around on the Big Spring system:

- TNN will no longer be duplicated on channel 15;

- HBO will move from channel 23 to channel 16;

- CNN will move from channel 32 (standard package) to channel 22 (basic package);

- The History Channel will be added on channel 33 (standard package);

- Home and Garden TV will be

added on channel 42 (standard package).

Herald Managing Editor John H. Walker said Big Spring Cable's finalization of the channel line-up will allow the newspaper to update the listings in its weekly television cable guide.

"The confusion over whether or not TV Land would be added and E! Entertainment Television dropped initially caused a delay in the changes being made," Walker said.

Please see CABLE, page 2A

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OBITUARIES

Roy G. McDaniel

Funeral service for Roy G. McDaniel, 70, Odessa, formerly of Big Spring, was 11 a.m. today in Greenfield Acres Baptist Church, Odessa, with Rev. Ted Short officiating. Graveside service will be 2:30 p.m. in Trinity Memorial Park, Big Spring.

Mr. McDaniel died Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at Medical Center Hospital, Odessa.

He was born on April 12, 1926, in Big Spring. He married Thelma Whitehead on Sept. 3, 1949. She preceded him in death in 1994. He was a truck driver for Rod Rick, Corp., retiring in 1989. He was also a member of Greenfield Acres Baptist Church where he served as deacon.

Survivors include: three sons, David James, Odessa, Steve McDaniel, Odessa, and Troy McDaniel, El Paso; three daughters, Pamela Epperson, Odessa, Carolyn "Tootsie" McDaniel, Odessa, and Audria Daly, Canton, Ga.; a brother, Willie McDaniel, Big Spring; a sister, Tressie Goolsby, Brownwood; 22 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors, Odessa.

Manuel C. Tarango

Service for Manuel C. Tarango, 68, Stanton, will be 10 a.m. Saturday, March 22, 1997, in St. Joseph Catholic Church. Burial will be in St. Joseph Cemetery, Stanton.

Mr. Tarango died Wednesday, March 19, in Stanton.

He was born on May 11, 1928, in Van Horn, and was married to Ester Olivas on June 6, 1953, in Pecos. They moved to Stanton 40 years ago from Pecos.

Survivors include: his wife, Ester O. Tarango, Stanton; four sons, Manuel Tarango, Jr., Ralph Tarango, both of Odessa, Felix Tarango, and Benny Tarango, both of Stanton; four daughters, Lupe Gonzales, Dallas, Elena Padron, Miliken, Colo., Elva Pantoja, and Yolanda Portillo, both of Stanton; two step-sons, Albert Brown, Alpine, and Ruben Brown, Fort Worth; a step-daughter, Mary Rodriguez, Big Spring; two sisters, Enedina Flores, Van Horn, and Sheila Ortega, Ridgecrest, Calif.; two brothers, Rudolph Tarango and Salvador Tarango, both of Van Horn; 50 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Glibreath Funeral Home, Stanton.

Races

Continued from page 1A at 8 a.m. April 14 and continues through 5 p.m. April 29.

Early ballots in the city council election may be cast in the finance office at City Hall and ballots in the school board election may be cast in Howard County Clerk Margaret Ray's office.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home

Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory 906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331

Della Hicks, 92, died Saturday, March 15, 1997. Graveside services will be 10:00 A.M., Saturday, March 22, 1997, at Trinity Memorial Park.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

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Taxes

Continued from page 1A of 1996, said Andy Welch, a spokesman for the comptroller's office.

According to the report, the statewide school levy isn't the only property tax going up.

Cities levied \$2.59 billion in property taxes in 1995, 16.2 percent of the statewide total and an increase of 4.1 percent over 1994. That was the largest percentage increase of the various taxing units.

The cities of Big Spring, Forsan and Coahoma accounted for just 10.27 percent of the county's total levy. However, the three cities' levy of almost \$2.37 million in 1995 was 5.8 percent more than 1994.

Counties levied \$2.39 billion statewide, up 3.5 percent, while Howard County's 1995 levy of \$4.98 million was 3.9 percent above the year before.

Special districts, such as those for hospitals and community colleges, levied \$1.65 billion statewide, a 1.8 percent increase.

The special districts in Howard County also taxed less in 1995. Howard College's 1995 levy of \$2.08 million was down from the 1994's \$2.15 million, while the Permian Basin Underground Water District levy for 1995 was \$9,587 as compared to \$9,428 the year before.

The comptroller also reported that major state, local and property taxes for 1995 government spending reached \$36.87 billion. Local property taxes were the single largest levy at 42 percent of the total.

State sales taxes for 1995 were the next largest source of government revenue, at \$10.2 billion, or 28 percent of the total.

Local city, county and metropolitan transit authority sales taxes remained about 7 percent of the total. Other state taxes — motor fuels, liquor, oil and gas, tobacco and others — accounted for 23 percent.

Home

Continued from page 1A of money," Williams told board members.

Williams also told board members that 42 other states already have VA homes, but not Texas which has the largest share of veterans among the 50 states.

According to Williams, a VA home in Howard County would mean a 150-bed facility on about 25 acres.

The proposed homes would 65 percent funded by the federal government, leaving state and local entities to fund the remaining 35 percent.

For Howard County this would mean a state and local contribution of \$3.5 million to \$4 million because the projected cost of each project is about \$11 million.

There is currently a rider on the current appropriations bill that could help fund the project, according to State Rep. David Counts (D-Knox City) office.

According to Counts spokesman James Beauchamp the project could be funded in part or not at all, so Counts has introduced another bill pertaining to the project — House Bill (HB) 2358.

According to the findings of the Needs Analysis/Feasibility Study on state Veterans Homes, Texas can achieve significant savings in the Texas Medicaid nursing facility program.

Although four facilities are being discussed, Beauchamp said three 150-bed facilities at 90 percent occupancy can save the state \$30 million during a 10-year period by providing nursing home care in a state veterans home compared to the state's cost to serve the same number of veterans in Texas nursing homes under the Medicaid program.

HB 2358 also involves the management of the assets of the Veterans Land, Housing and Financial Assistance Programs.

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Appeal

Continued from page 1A ment's side of the case and Finley, who was representing the department.

Assistant City Manager Emma Bogard was also present.

"Each side has the opportunity to present their side of things," Fuqua said. "Both sides presented information to me that I will read and review."

According to Fuqua, the meeting was also taped so that he may go back and review specific details of the meeting if necessary.

No time table has been set as to when Fuqua will announce a decision, but after Wednesday's hearing Fuqua did say he wanted to deal with the matter as quickly as possible.

"After I go through the process of reviewing everything, I will make a decision," Fuqua said. "I don't want to move too fast and miss something."

Fuqua can recommend any number of punishments other than firing, meaning Griffin could be reinstated and given a different type of punishment.

Should Fuqua reverse the BSPD's decision, that decision is final so the department cannot appeal it any further. If he upholds the decision, Griffin has the right to appeal that decision in a hearing before a retired district judge.

Because Fuqua's decision is still pending, Edwards could not comment on the hearing and referred all questions to Fuqua.

Harmon had to fly back to Fort Worth Wednesday and was unable to be reached for comment.

BRIEFS

A RECEPTION FOR RETIRING County Extension Agent Don Richardson is Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center, 100 Whipkey Drive, located in Comanche Trail Park.

THE BIG SPRING YMCA is having a YMCA lifeguard class on April 10-13. You must be at least 16 years old and be able to swim 500 yards.

For more information call the YMCA at 267-8234.

THE ANNUAL BIG SPRING community-wide Easter Sunrise Service is March 30 at 7 a.m. at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater. Everyone is invited. Gary Smith, pastor of First Church of the Nazarene, will deliver the Easter message. Coffee and juice are provided by the Salvation Army.

TEENAGE PONY LEAGUE SIGN-UPS are Saturday at the Big Spring Mall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

THE PERMIAN BASIN FOUNDATION is accepting applications for the Marie Hall Scholarships available for residents in several West Texas counties including Glasscock, Howard, Martin and Mitchell.

The awards range from \$500 to \$1,500 per semester for students who attend Angelo State University, Howard College, Midland College, Odessa College, Sul Ross University, Texas Tech University, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center or the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

You can request applications by contacting the financial aid office at one of the above schools. The applications are due by April 15. Call (915) 682-4704 for more information.

CIVIL WAR DAYS WEEK-END is Saturday, April 5 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Comanche Trail Park, Dora Roberts Community Center. Free admission.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center 1401 W. 11th Place 263-1211

Private individual has collection of recordings of Grand Operas on video & CD and is willing to lend to others. Please send Name, Address, Phone Number along with short personal history to: Box 750/1431, Big Spring, TX 79721.

A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

SPRINGBOARD

IF YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES IN A SPRINGBOARD ITEM OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT GINA GARZA, 263-7831 ext. 238, BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 3 P.M. All Springboard items must be submitted in writing. Mail to: Springboard, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79720; bring it by the office at 710 Scurry; or fax it to 264-7205.

TODAY - Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, has services 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

-Spring Tabernacle Church, 1209 Wright, has free food for area needy, 10 a.m. to noon.

-Big Spring Senior Citizens Center art classed, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., 55 and older.

-Support Group for Depression, 7 p.m., Dora Roberts Rehab Center, Third and Lancaster.

-Al-Anon, 8 to 9 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center small cafeteria.

RECORDS

Wednesday's high 71 Wednesday's low 40 Average high 70 Average low 40 Record high 90 in 1995 Record low 15 in 1965 Precip. Wednesday 0.00 Month to date 0.09 Month's normal 0.41 Year to date 3.64 Normal for the year 1.73 \*\*Statistics not available

MARKETS

May cotton 74.30 cents a pound, up 38 points; April crude oil 21.81 down 23 points; Cash hogs steady at 47; slaughter steers at 67; April lean hog futures 69.95, up 167 points; April live cattle futures 68.30, down 40 points. Courtesy: Delta Corporation. Noon quotes provided by Edward D. Jones & Co.

Table with market data including Index 6827.45, Volume 159,226,390, and various commodity prices like Amoco, Atlantic Richfield, Atmos Energy, Cabot, Chevron, etc.

Texas Lottery

PICK YOUR NUMBERS LOTTO 1 12 29 36 38 45

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents during a 24-hour period ending 8 a.m. Thursday: -SANTOS RODRIGUEZ, 24, of Lamesa, was arrested for assault/family violence.

-YOLANDA RODRIGUEZ, 22, of Lamesa, was arrested for assault/family violence.

-BRANDI CRAWFORD, 23, of 5203 Wasson, was arrested on outstanding local warrants.

-ROSS MARTIN ADAMS, 24, of 1815 Wilson, was arrested for driving with an invalid license and for not having a valid inspection sticker on his vehicle.

-TRACY AUSBIE, 25, of 1611 Bluebird, was arrested on outstanding local warrants.

-ROBERT FREEMAN JACKMAN, 33, of 2002 Johnson, was arrested on outstanding local warrants.

-CASEY D. IVIE, 18, of 605 W. 18th, was arrested on outstanding local warrants.

-BEZAIL J. SMALL, 35, of Omaha, Neb., was arrested for possession of marijuana under two ounces.

-LESLIE STEPHAN MUNSON, 19, of Omaha, Neb., was arrested for possession of marijuana under two ounces.

-ISIDORO TREJO GALAN, 45, of 808 N. Nolan, was arrested for public intoxication.

-RAMONA ALVAREZ, 21, of 708 Willia, was arrested for outstanding local warrants.

-EDDIE JOE ALVARADO, 23, of 1002 N. Main No. 50, was arrested on outstanding local warrants.

-DALTON WHITE, 20, of 108 Canyon, was arrested for not having a driver's license and no liability insurance.

-RICHARD RUIZ, 39, of Midland, was arrested on outstanding local warrants.

-JASON RAY PAYNE, 18, of 904 Nolan, was arrested for possession of marijuana under two ounces.

-MICHAEL OLIVA, 21, of 1103 Mesa, was arrested for not having a driver's license, motor vehicle inspection and liability insurance.

-RONNIE LEE CHAVARRIA, 18, of HC 61 Box 460B, was arrested on outstanding local warrants.

-ELIAS JOSEPH SANDERS, 20, of Route 3 Box 365, was arrested for minor in possession.

-CALEB ROBERTSON, 20, of 1109 Runnels, was arrested for possession of marijuana under two ounces and minor in possession.

-RICKY JAMES WHITE JR., 20, of Route 3 Box 341 M, was arrested for minor in possession.

-CRIMINAL MISCHIEF in the 2000 block of S. Gollad.

-ASSAULTS in the 1000 block of Birdwell, 700 block of E. 11th Place and 1300 block of Harding.

-THEFTS in the 900 block of Willia, 1600 block of Gregg, 1100 block of N. Lamesa, 2300 block of Wasson Rd. and 300 block of Gregg.

-INVESTIGATING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES in the

2900 block of W. Highway 86, Benton viaduct, 800 blocks of W. Marcy and W. Interstate 20, 300 block of E. 11th Place and 1000 block of Nolan.

-DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE/CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING ISSUED in the 1300 block of Lexington.

-LOUD PARTY in the 1100 block of W. Sixth.

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following incidents during a 24-hour period ending 8 a.m. Thursday:

-KRISTIE LEE HALE, 18, of 1214 Lloyd, was arrested on an outstanding warrant for issuance of a bad check. She was later released on a \$1,200 bond.

-JOHN PAUL FRANCO, 29, of 202 N.E. Seventh, was sentenced to two 30-day terms in the county jail on two counts of driving with a suspended license. The sentences will run concurrently.

-DOG BITE at one of the Coahoma schools. The dog was found later in the day and taken to the pound by an animal warden.

-MINOR ACCIDENT on FM 821 and no injuries were reported.

-SOMEONE HITTING MAILBOXES on Ratliff Road.

-POSSIBLE EXPLOSION at a residence in the county. It turned out that a car tire had exploded.

Continued from page 1A

"When we were advised Big Spring Cable would be adding another channel to the system, we made the decision to wait until that was finalized before we contacted our syndicate to implement the changes."

Walker said the newspaper would work with its supplier to coordinate the schedule listings change with Big Spring Cable's May 1 target date.

Kountz said weather information will continue on channels 4 and 23 at the present time, but that the Weather Channel will be shown on channel 4 when channel 10 is utilized for broadcast of local activities, such as Big Spring city council meetings and political forums.

Weather information and the broadcast of WRR radio will continue unchanged on channel 99, which is also designated as a system test channel for Big Spring Cable.

The changes mean a subscriber to basic service will receive a total of 18 channels while a subscriber to the system's standard package will receive 19.

Kountz also said a total of 134 Texas Rangers games will also be broadcast over the local system — 64 on Fox Sports Southwest (channel 29) and an additional 70 on channel 98.

TAKE THE ADVANTAGE...



WILL BE AT WAL-MART BIG SPRING, TEXAS FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1997 11 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

To qualify, bring proof of employment or business verification.

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Big Spring Herald Thursday, March 20, 1997. AUST would... tions th... no fam... two-yea... tatively... The p... approv... debate l... sidered... of the... increas... some n... grams t... The l... House v... TEXA... The AS... Seven... AUST... mer me... ing. Polio... shock... Office... hazing... ened w... There... a secre... per, pol... Court... the org... Invest... HOUS... resigne... ing sus... today. In a... was up... his nan... McVeig... "Step... far as... looks li... my live... Reyn... Oklaho... missio... CEO's... SAN... about... Cafeter... Priva... By las... took hi... After l... knife, i... "I thi... ally wr... predict... Curti... abrupt... left frie... old exe... Medell... AUST... row for... a Crimin... Jose l... the slay... The g... after th... membe... brating... four da... Feder... on Co... EL P... agents... records... Healthc... through... long-ter... won't re... The r... and IR... morning... warrant... spokesm... Cruz... details... only say... from an... been go... and "w... longer..." A... FU... Best P... 202 Scu... Ki... Den... Ma... 5:0... KIT... W... Mar... KIT... Gary... & W... Fe... Scu... 6200 C...

# House tentatively approves \$83.3 billion state budget

AUSTIN (AP) — The state Capitol would get a new chapel and organizations that perform abortions would get no family planning funds in the next two-year, \$83.3 billion state budget tentatively approved by the Texas House.

The proposed budget got first-round approval Wednesday after a daylong debate in which House members considered nearly 100 amendments. None of the amendments adopted would increase or decrease spending, but some moved money from some programs to others.

The budget, which faces a final House vote, would cover state spending

from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31, 1999. Under one amendment, organizations that perform abortions couldn't get state family planning funds.

"This is not a debate on abortion," said Rep. Charlie Howard, R-Sugar Land, sponsor of the amendment. "This draws a clear line between family planning and abortion services."

The amendment was adopted on a voice vote.

Rep. Sherri Greenberg, D-Austin, said the change would hurt women in rural areas, where doctors working alone provide various services.

The bill has about \$93 million in fam-

ily planning spending for each year of the budget. Nearly all of the money comes from federal sources and is given to private organizations.

Other amendments require: — The Texas Department of Criminal Justice to develop rules for a program in which state prisoners will pay a \$3 co-payment for medical services.

— The State Preservation Board to use part of its scheduled \$10 million budget to reconstruct a chapel in the Capitol.

Rick Crawford, head of the Preservation Board, said the Capitol had a chapel from 1963 until 1993,

when it was removed during a restoration project.

"The restoration sought to restore the Capitol to the time period of 1888 to 1915 and there was no chapel at that time, so it wasn't replaced," Crawford said.

In one of the few recorded votes, the House rejected an attempt to cancel \$1.8 million in funding for the State Jail Standards Commission.

Rep. Terry Keel, R-Austin, said the commission hasn't prevented the state from being sued as it was meant to do when created in 1975.

Opponents said the commission gives

county sheriffs a single place to find standards for housing inmates.

The total budget is about \$100 million more than the original legislative proposal of \$83.2 billion. Gov. George W. Bush proposed an \$84.7 billion budget.

"The appropriations bill is, if not the most important, one of the one or two most important each session," said Rep. Rob Junell, D-San Angelo, chairman of the budget-writing House Appropriations Committee. "It's one of the members have to buy into."

Junell said about \$1 billion was left out of the budget to fund a proposed property tax cut.

## TEXAS BRIEFS

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Seven former fraternity members named in arrest warrants

AUSTIN — Arrest warrants have been issued against seven former members of a University of Texas fraternity accused of hazing.

Police say the members of Pi Kappa Alpha used cattle prods to shock pledges and burned them with cigarettes.

Officers said that when one pledge came forward to report the hazing incidents, he was assaulted by one member and threatened with a baseball bat by another.

There are also reports of paddling, humiliation, a forced trip to a secret location and being given food laced with cayenne pepper, police said.

Court documents said another pledge suspected of betraying the organization by reporting hazing had his toes broken.

### Investigator quits McVeigh defense team

HOUSTON — Private investigator Richard Reyna has angrily resigned from the defense team of accused Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh, the Houston Chronicle reported today.

In a copyright story, the newspaper quoted Reyna as saying he was upset that lead defense attorney Stephen Jones failed to clear his name amid allegations that Reyna fabricated a confession by McVeigh.

"Stephen Jones said he was going to take care of this, and as far as I'm concerned, he didn't," Reyna said Wednesday. "It looks like I turned on Timothy McVeigh and that's damaging to my livelihood."

Reyna said he was in Europe earlier this month when Oklahoma free-lance writer J.D. Cash said he had Reyna's permission to say Reyna made up a confession linked to McVeigh.

### CEO's suicide leaves Luby's coping with tragedy again

SAN ANTONIO — Publicly, John E. Curtis Jr. had been upbeat about his new position as chief executive officer of Luby's Cafeterias Inc. and the company's impending growth.

Privately, Curtis was a worried man. By last Thursday, distress apparently overtook him, and Curtis took his own life in the plain confines of a room at a Motel 6. After leaving a note for his wife, he cut his own throat with a knife, investigators said.

"I think we are all still in a state of shock," said an emotionally wracked Ralph "Pete" Erben, a close colleague and Curtis' predecessor as CEO. "We loved him, and we will miss him."

Curtis' death left Luby's employees in mourning and led to an abrupt shuffling this week of upper management. Most of all, it left friends and relatives trying to understand why the 49-year-old executive would resort to such a drastic measure.

### Medellin death sentence upheld

AUSTIN — The last of five young gang members sent to death row for the rape-murders of two teen-age girls in Houston 3 1/2 years ago had his death sentence upheld by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Jose Medellin has been on death row since September 1994 for the slayings of Jennifer Ertman, 14, and Elizabeth Pena, 16.

The girls were raped, strangled, beaten and stomped to death after they came upon a railroad trestle in Houston where the members of a gang known as the "Black and Whites" were celebrating a new member's initiation. The girls' bodies were found four days later.

### Federal agents strike on Columbia facilities

EL PASO (AP) — Federal agents have seized files and records at Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corp. facilities throughout El Paso as part of a long-term investigation, but won't release any specifics.

The raids, involving the FBI and IRS, began Wednesday morning after several search warrants were issued, FBI spokesman Al Cruz said.

Cruz would not discuss details of the probe. He would only say the warrants resulted from an investigation that had been going on for a long while and "would go on for even longer."

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# Senate votes to open briefing meetings

AUSTIN (AP) — Many closed-door briefings of governmental bodies would be opened to the public under a bill overwhelmingly approved by the Texas Senate.

Voting 28-3 Wednesday, senators sent the bill to the House after its sponsor said the measure would close "a loophole Mack trucks could drive through."

The bill by Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, would expand the state Open Meetings Act to include sessions where quorums of city councils, county commissioners' courts, school boards and other public bodies are briefed by staff members or other individuals.

Private briefing sessions have

been one of the most controversial exceptions to the open meetings law, which requires governing bodies to hold public meetings in all but limited circumstances.

Critics say officials will discuss issues in private, then after disagreements have been hashed out behind closed doors emerge and vote in public meetings with little discussion or controversy.

Opponents say the bill will hinder discussion of issues not ready for public discussion or vote.

Wentworth, a former county commissioner and university regent, said private briefings can easily turn into decision-making sessions.

"In two seconds, you're sud-

denly in deliberations. They're not supposed to decide public policy in secret," he said.

"Typically, it's not a conscious, intentional decision to get around the Open Meetings Act. It just happens. I'm trying to make sure the public gets to see those sessions."

Under Wentworth's bill, a governmental body of four or more members would have to give notice of and open to the public meetings where a quorum is present and where information is received and questions asked.

As with other meetings, discussions of litigation, personnel, property acquisition, security devices and gifts and donations still could occur in private.

"Many times, public elected

officials meet (privately) where there is a quorum present and make decisions that ought to be made in public," said Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi.

Several senators said they had received letters from the Texas Municipal League questioning the bill.

An amendment was added that Wentworth said answered the cities' objections. It wouldn't extend the bill's requirements to incidental gatherings, such as several officials dining at the same restaurant.

"Obviously, the city council is not going to call a meeting for the Dairy Queen and post it," the senator said.

The bill is similar to legislation passed by the Senate in 1993 and 1995.

# Parental notification measure gets approval

AUSTIN (AP) — In a move hailed by abortion opponents, the Texas Senate has given preliminary approval to a bill that would require parental notification for a minor to get an abortion.

Another Senate vote is required before the bill can go to the House for consideration. But Wednesday's 22-9 vote for preliminary approval was significant.

It marked the first time since abortion was legalized 24 years ago by the U.S. Supreme Court

that a major abortion bill has mustered enough support to be brought up for consideration by the full Senate. For the first time since Reconstruction, the Senate has a Republican majority.

Only one of the senators voting against the bill is Republican, Sen. Jeff Wentworth of San Antonio.

"I'm fearful, yes, that this does crack the door" to further restrictions, said Sen. Mike Moncrief, D-Fort Worth, who tried unsuccessfully to derail on

a procedural motion the bill sponsored by Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano.

Abortion rights advocates predicted the measure would lead to more girls getting illegal abortions, while abortion opponents said it should result in fewer teen pregnancies.

Shapiro said her measure would strengthen parental rights.

"There is no other provision in Texas law where parents are denied the right to know what is going on in their minor

daughters' or sons' lives," she said.

"I believe that when there is a potential for a life-altering, life-threatening invasive procedure, that parents have a right to know what is happening in their minor daughters' lives."

There were 6,346 girls age 11-17 who obtained abortions in Texas in 1995, and a parent was informed of the matter by the minor in 75 percent of the cases, according to senators.

The House has voted once since 1973 on a similar measure.

# Legislator rips partisan posturing on medical bill

AUSTIN (AP) — A committee has forwarded to the Texas House legislation that would increase a physician's ability to prescribe pain-killing drugs, despite partisan attempts to label the move as legalizing marijuana.

Bill author Rep. John Hirschi, D-Wichita Falls, presented the House Public Health Committee with a substituted measure — refining the language — and a disclaimer of his intent.

"I'm here to tell this (bill) does not (legalize marijuana),"

Hirschi said. "In no way, shape or form does this change that federal regulation."

Marijuana is a federally controlled substance and state legislation would not override federal regulations.

The bill passed unopposed through the committee Wednesday.

The measure allows physicians to prescribe or administer "dangerous drugs or controlled substances" to a person only for legitimate medical purposes. Upon the House reading, Rep.

Dianne Delisi, R-Temple, said she will add a floor amendment to address concerns of Republicans.

Delisi's amendment will read: "This Act is not intended nor shall it be interpreted to legalize the use of any illegal substance for prescription to any patient or person at any time."

Both Delisi and Hirschi have personal interest in the bill since their spouses died after lengthy bouts with cancer. Hirschi initiated the legislation with the help of M.D. Anderson

Cancer Center, the Texas Medical Association, the Hospice Association and the Texas Academy of Family Physicians.

"My husband died of leukemia and I would have appreciated it if broader pain medicine was available to him," Delisi said.

Texas Republican Party chairman Tom Pauken issued a statement claiming the bill would allow the prescribing of marijuana for certain physical conditions.

**The Easter Bunny is hopping to the BIG SPRING MALL**

The Schedule is as follows:  
Saturday, March 22  
11 am-8 pm  
Sunday, March 23  
1 pm-5 pm  
Friday, March 28  
1 pm-8 pm  
Saturday, March 29  
11 am-8 pm  
Pictures Available for \$4

The Big Spring Mall will be closed Easter Sunday (except for Aladdin's Castle & Cinema 4)



# EDITORIAL

### Quote of the Day

"Every man shall bear his own burden."

-Galatians 6:5

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Charles C. Williams  
Publisher

John H. Walker  
Managing Editor

John A. Moseley  
News Editor

Kellie Jones  
Features Editor

## OUR VIEWS

It's been 18 months since a committee involved in implementing the city of Big Spring's Master Plan began researching the community's parks and recreation needs and began the process that resulted in construction of the Kids' Zone Playground.

One of the members of that committee was a recent transplant to the area and had been searching for a park and playground for her children to enjoy. And when she realized there was no such facility, she enlisted others in a project that ultimately became one of the community's shining successes.

Not only was the playground meant for children, in large part it was planned by the community's youngsters when the project's architects went to Howard County schools asking students what they wanted in a playground.

Kids' Zone represents the financial and labor donations of literally thousands of individuals and businesses. It is truly an example of the best in all of us, because it was the residents of this community that raised the money needed for the project and built the facility themselves.

Sadly, in recent weeks there have been times when it has been the focus for some of the worst our community has to offer.

Less than a year since Kids' Zone was officially opened, instances have been reported of teenagers literally running off smaller children for whom the playground was designed.

In addition, while vandalism has been less of a problem than first expected, some repair work has been required to erase the mindless acts of vandals.

Certainly, nobody in this day and age would expect for a public playground to be immune from a vandals' stain, but we can expect and demand that the community's teens leave the facility for their younger brothers, sisters and cousins.

Once Memorial Day arrives and the Big Spring Police Department resumes its bicycle patrols at Comanche Trail Park, we can assume such problems will be kept to a minimum.

Until that time arrives, however, thuggish teens and their actions around the playground should be something of concern for the entire community.

In fact, one local man who took his two grandchildren to Kids' Zone recently encountered a handful of teens who intimidated the smaller children and refused to leave the playground, basically telling the man there was nothing he could do to make them leave.

That grandfather used the cellular phone in his car to summon police, and when officers arrived, make it quite clear that there was, indeed, something he could and would do.

Perhaps that's an example we can all follow, and in the process, give us something else in which we can pride ourselves.

## YOUR VIEWS

### New windows in Settles are making a difference

TO THE EDITOR:

The Master Plan addressed two areas directly related to Downtown Big Spring. One was the redevelopment of downtown and another was to stop the deterioration of downtown Big Spring. The Settles Hotel Window Project is about stopping the deterioration of the largest landmark in our community. It's also about projecting a cleaner image for our town.

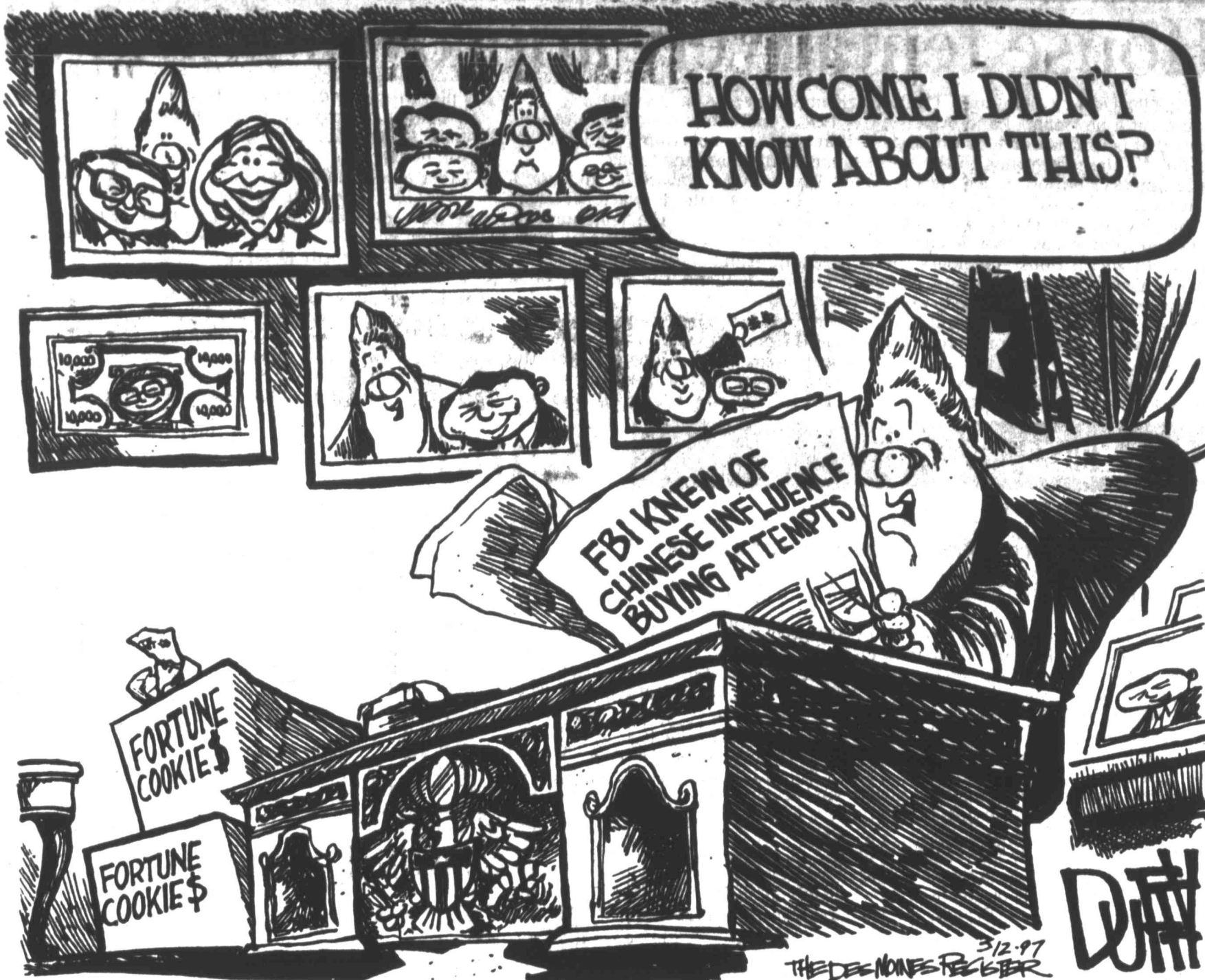
I encourage you to drive by the Settles Hotel and look closely at the building. I want you to imagine that you are a newcomer to Big Spring or that you are thinking about moving your business to Big Spring. Our landmark hotel projects an image, an image of total neglect, no pride, no motivation to improve our community. If you are one that doesn't think image is important and not worth spending money to create, I want you to answer this one question. Why do you wash your car? Will it operate better if it looks good or do you wash your car because it improves your image? You see, image is important to all of us. The Settles window project is simple, it's about making the outward appearance of the Settles more attractive.

Let me tell you of three options to improve our downtown image. We can tear down the Settles. Let's get out the city's check book and spend over a million dollars and in the end we will have another pocket park. Would we want to do that? Or, we could spend about \$45,000 and put storm windows on the exterior of the

building which would accomplish two goals of the master plan, one it would clean up the appearance of our town and second it would help to stop the deterioration until some other option or opportunity is worked out. Of course the third option is we could do nothing. We can make excuses like "they are just going to knock the new windows out" which by the way they haven't because we have sealed up the entrance. Or another one is "I can't see spending any money on that old building; it would be a waste of money." Can you think of any other place in town that you could spend \$45,000 and have as much impact of improving our appearance? It's about the same as you washing your car. And the last one I'll mention is "Who is going to benefit from this?" We always seem to think someone is on the take. The answer is everyone that lives in this community will benefit. The Settles Hotel will literally "Reflect a Proud Community" as the Big Spring Herald's sign says on Gregg Street.

To participate, simply go by Quality Glass at 505 E. Second Street and buy a window. They cost \$150 each. If that's too much for you to pay then I would encourage you to put your money together with a friend or two and buy one together. If you still think this is a bad idea, I will respectfully agree to disagree with you and would encourage you to think of some other way to help achieve the goals of the Master Plan and improve Big Spring.

Tommy Churchwell  
Big Spring



## Looking at crime and punishment in Texas

By JOHN KANELIS  
Amarillo Globe-News

AMARILLO — You hear the view expressed from time to time that Texas prisons are little more than austere country clubs. We coddle prisoners.

One recent letter writer to this newspaper complained that capital punishment is "virtually non-existent" and that the bad guys serve practically no hard time.

Really? Amarillo's William P. Clements Unit is a relatively new lockup in the state's giant correctional system. It was built in 1990 to house about 3,200 inmates. It has a staff of 911 corrections officers, office staff and administrators. It is no country club!

Does the state do an adequate job of executing bad guys? Since 1976, when the U.S. Supreme Court said that capital punishment, indeed, is a constitutional act, Texas has led the parade of states in executing criminals. We've put 109 convicts to death in the ensuing 23 years. The next busiest death chamber is in Florida, where 38

inmates have gone to their Great Reward.

Rick Hudson is the former assistant warden of the Clements Unit who's gone on to work for a private corrections firm.

He had some interesting things to say one day about life for the men behind bars at the Clements Unit.

Hudson pointed out that the men do not live in air-conditioned comfort. Indeed, none of the state's prisons are air conditioned. Instead, inmates are "coped" by compressors that blow ambient air through vents. During the heat of the day in July or August, when the average daily high temperature is in the low to mid-90s, that forced-air system provides little comfort.

I was living in Beaumont three years ago when the Mark W. Stiles Unit opened for business. A prison official reminded me then about the lack of air conditioning in the state prison system. If you've ever been to the Texas Gulf Coast during the steamy, sweltering dog days of August, then you know the real meaning of the term "hot as

Hades."

Hudson also pointed out that every one of the several thousand men who live behind the Clements walls would "rather be somewhere else." Of course, he noted, virtually all of them proclaim their innocence.

During the summer, he said, corrections officers have to contend almost daily with a disturbance of one kind or another. Tempers — along with the temperature — run hot behind those walls.

Recreation? Oh, the men can enjoy the great outdoors. Just one thing: Uniformed officers with guns are watching their every move.

During an impromptu tour of the Clements Unit, Hudson allowed a visitor — yours truly — to step inside an "administrative segregation" cell. This is what the prison system used to refer to as "solitary confinement." The bad guys receive their meals through a small opening in the door. They must stay in that cell, a roughly eight-foot-square cubicle, all the time.

Is prison life as tough as it could be? Of course not. Some

folks, such as our angry correspondent, want a return to the old days of frontier justice.

They're frustrated with a system that puts bad guys on the street to commit more crimes. Indeed, we read too many stories of crimes being committed by felons on parole.

Lawrence Singleton, for instance, received parole from a California prison after raping and mutilating a young woman; then he went to Florida, where the other day he stabbed and beat another woman to death. How can an animal like that ever breathe free?

The belief that a prison is a "country club" depends on one's perspective. It also depends on one's values and on whether you believe convicted felons should lose all their rights as citizens.

They lose plenty already. Starting with a free society's most basic right: liberty.

And in Texas, they lose the use of what most of us take for granted: an air conditioner.

John Kanelis is editorial page editor for the Amarillo Globe-News.

## Washington caught up in partisan spasm

"Washington has gone haywire."

So says Anthony Lake, who has withdrawn as President Clinton's nominee to become the nation's director of the CIA after facing a confirmation inquisition in the Senate. Lake is right. This town is caught up in one of the worst spasms of partisan politics that I have seen in almost half a century, and it is going to make sane, bipartisan governance almost impossible. This is bound to affect the quality of life of all Americans.

A churlish band of Republicans has decided that Bill Clinton may have beaten them at their best game of raising campaign money and buying votes, but that he will never get his preferred team for his second term.

So Richard C. Shelby, the Alabama Republican who heads the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, has driven off Lake with long delays of the confirmation hearings and then a pounding over a technical lapse in personal finances and over what Lake did not know about Democrats' fund-raising practices.



Carl Rowan  
Syndicated  
Columnist

"They wanted a scalp," Lake said of the right-wing Republicans who still seethe over Clinton's re-election and the punishment meted out to House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Lake's is not the only scalp the retaliators will try to get. The confirmation of Alexis Herman, a black woman nominated by Mr. Clinton to be secretary of Labor, has long been delayed, and it has taken a mighty campaign of women, laborers and minorities to win her a vote. What's worse, as I reported a few days ago, ideologically-crazed conservatives are maneuvering to employ every tactic imaginable to deny con-

firmation to dozens of Clinton appointees to the federal bench.

Washington is seized by the madness of power-hungry men who will make a political football of anything or everything. And, as Lake said, they keep moving the goal posts. This means that no nominee to any major job can be certain of what levels of intellect, character and integrity he or she must demonstrate to win Senate approval.

It is not surprising that so many people of skill, wisdom and probity are shunning public service, saying with fervor that they will never accept nomination to a federal job that requires confirmation by a Senate controlled by the party opposing the nominating president.

Some years ago we began the business of requiring those appointed to key posts — including Supreme Court nominees — to reveal enough about their private lives and personal finances to let us believe we were getting more honest, more accountable public ser-

vants. But we now wind up with a gaggle of mediocrities whom we trust even less than the bygone leaders we never dared ask with whom they had slept or what their salaries were in their last five jobs.

Do we pay a price for this new confirmation madness? Yes, and a big one.

The CIA needs a strong leader whom the president can trust. It is burdened by some devastating spying activities. It reels anew under revelations of human rights crimes and other abuses of power abroad (and perhaps at home). It wallows in search of new directives regarding its mission in a post-Cold War world. With Lake effectively rejected, partly because of the hostility of some elements within the CIA, the drift will continue until the president names someone who can get past Shelby et al.

The federal courts and the cause of justice will be hurt, too.

Sad to say, but there probably is nothing the American people can do about this new phase of gridlock.



Mallard Fillmore  
by  
BRUCE TINSLEY

## Cor eye cho

AUSTIN — give student public school funding pending Education Commissioner Bivins, the bill another schools students ly on the Academy ing or n straight Student make up cent of T school st Bivins' to use st funds to tuition down for public sc He has meant as the theo pose tha tially in and stud the other are made Oppon voucher objection wrong to money f schools. After both side leaving t he could ments in "All I v a framew is right," Bivins' based on education which al assigned ing cam other sch to take th Eighted school ch the curre 53 stude grants to The cu to stude which 50 students factory Assessm in any o years. Th to meet t years in school vo The pr would be money th school, o \$4,000 pe to private Private vouchers nate base race, and to the sar system as Other committe independe publicly are indepe tricts, fr evaluations dents r lines. The ch ject to ac including their stu The 19 allowed f State E already v charters with add Under limit on raised fr next two 40 more schools i years. A sepa Nelson, f remove ing as m could ma Board o process. "We h number applican receive a we've lin like to o qualified charters Nelson s The schools a pus cha granted

## Committee eyes school choice issue

AUSTIN (AP) — A proposal to give students in low-performing public schools access to taxpayer-funded private tuition is pending in the Senate Education Committee.

Committee Chairman Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, is author of the bill to provide students another way out of public schools where less than half the students performed satisfactorily on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills' reading, writing or math section for three straight years.

Students at such campuses make up an estimated 6.5 percent of Texas' 3.7 million public school students.

Bivins' bill would allow them to use state and local education funds to pay private school tuition if they were turned down for a transfer to another public school.

He has said the measure is meant as a pilot program to test the theories of those "who propose that this would substantially increase accountability and student learning, and all the other wonderful claims that are made about vouchers."

Opponents of the tuition voucher program, among other objections, say it's simply wrong to funnel badly needed money from public to private schools.

After hearing testimony on both sides, Bivins said he was leaving the measure pending so he could make some adjustments in the bill.

"All I've tried to do is provide a framework to see which side is right," he said.

Bivins' voucher measure is based on the existing public education grant program, which allows students who are assigned to attend low-performing campuses to transfer to other school districts that agree to take them.

Eighteen percent of Texas' school children are eligible for the current program, but only 53 students have used the grants to transfer.

The current program applies to students at campuses at which 50 percent or more of the students didn't perform satisfactorily on the statewide Texas Assessment of Academic Skills in any of the preceding three years. That's an easier standard to meet than the three straight years in Bivins' bill for private-school vouchers.

The private-school voucher would be about 80 percent of the money that would go to a public school, or an average of about \$4,000 per student transferring to private school.

Private schools that receive vouchers could not discriminate based on such factors as race, and they would be subject to the same state accountability system as public schools.

Other bills pending in the committee would allow more independent charter schools, publicly funded campuses that are independent of school districts, free from many state regulations and able to enroll students regardless of district lines.

The charter schools are subject to accountability standards, including a requirement for their students to take the TAAS.

The 1995 education overhaul allowed for 20 such schools. The State Board of Education already has awarded all those charters and has been flooded with additional requests.

Under a bill by Bivins, the limit on such schools would be raised from 20 to 100 over the next two years. It would allow 40 more free-standing charter schools in each of the next two years.

A separate bill by Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, would remove the cap entirely, allowing as many charter schools as could make it through the State Board of Education approval process.

"We have had a tremendous number of very well-qualified applicants that been unable to receive a charter grant because we've limited it to 20. ... I would like to see as many who are qualified be able to receive charters as possible," Mrs. Nelson said.

The independent charter schools are separate from campus charters, which may be granted by local school boards.

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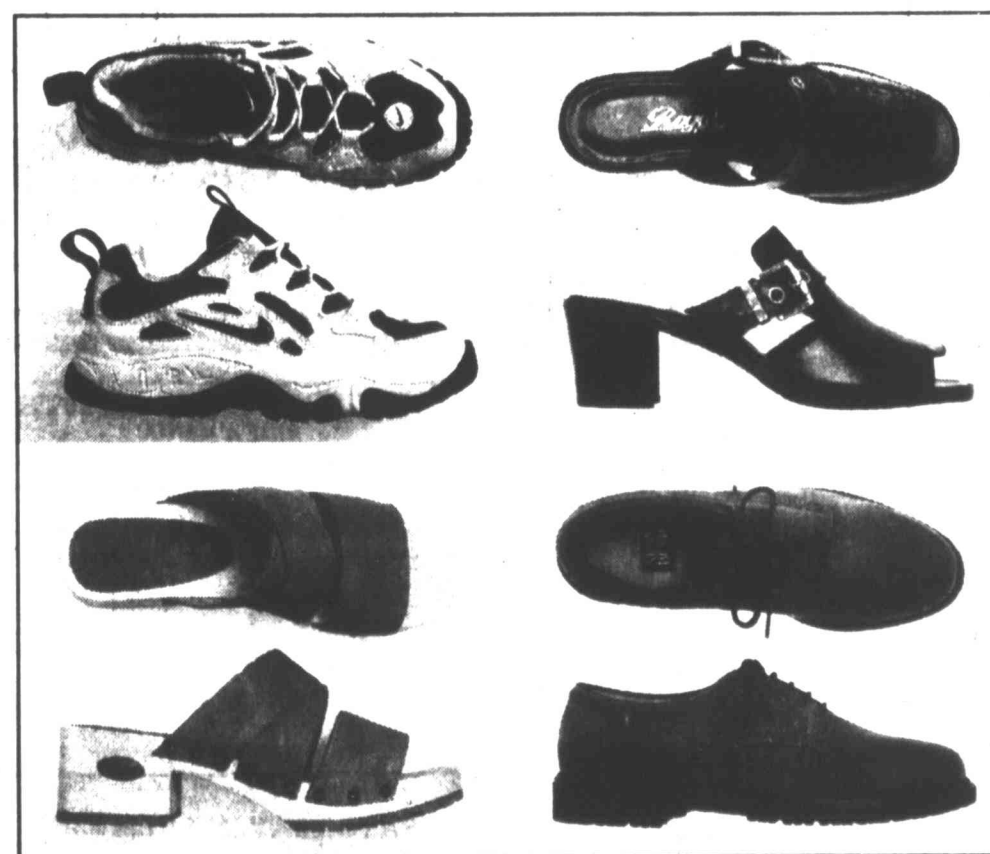
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# Tensions over NATO mount as Clinton, Yeltsin meet

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — President Clinton and Russian leader Boris Yeltsin came together today voicing a common commitment to peace in Europe but deeply divided on how to ensure it. A hobbled Clinton arrived via wheelchair, bearing arms control concessions for Yeltsin.

The main point of contention on their summit agenda: Clinton wants to expand NATO's security blanket eastward to cover former Warsaw Pact members; Yeltsin says that would isolate Russia and mark a return to Cold War divisiveness in Europe. Clinton made an unusual arrival in

the summit city, lowered to the airport tarmac from Air Force One in an airline catering truck because a leg injury Friday left him in a wheelchair and crutches for several weeks. He was wheeled out of the truck to a red-carpet welcome in a flag-snapping chill wind, looking a little sheepish about the whole thing. Yeltsin was due to arrive a little later.

Whatever the outcome of the two-day summit — and both sides played down expectations in advance — NATO enlargement appeared inevitable.

Clinton, before departing Washington on Wednesday night,

promised to pursue "a robust partnership between NATO and Russia, a relationship that makes Russia a true partner of the alliance."

Yeltsin, facing enormous opposition at home to any expansion of the 16-member alliance, appeared determined to talk tough to the end and extract as many concessions as possible.

Before the two leaders arrived today, Yeltsin's spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, said the Russians were "pessimistic about possible results as to the relationship between NATO and Russia, but it's not the goal of this summit to reach some concrete

agreement and definitive agreement." Meeting with Finnish Foreign Minister Tarja Halonen today, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said, "Rhetoric leading up to the summit is not what's important. What's important is discussions that will take."

Clinton and Yeltsin plan to take up a U.S.-proposed charter to give Russia a larger role in NATO deliberations, but no veto over alliance military actions, as NATO prepares to take in new members from Central and Eastern Europe in 1998. Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic are leading candidates.

A handful of Lithuanian students whistled and chanted outside Clinton's hotel, demanding NATO membership for Lithuania.

With tensions over NATO expansion spilling over into the arms control arena, Clinton hoped to prod the Russians to ratify the START II missile-reduction treaty. A U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity said the concessions Clinton was prepared to offer included a delay of several years in the deadline for Russia to blow up certain missile silos and for scrapping banned bombers and submarines.

## House GOP seeking \$3.8 million to probe Clinton fund-raising

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans are bent on approving \$3.8 million to investigate President Clinton's re-election fund raising — an inquiry Democrats say is designed to be "blatantly partisan."

House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., appealed to Republicans who want a broader look at campaign finance abuses to join Democrats in opposing the measure today.

"There may be Republicans who may be as upset about the process as we are," Gephardt told reporters, implicitly conceding he did not have the votes to block the measure.

Some Republicans favor broadening the investigation, much the way the Senate widened its own probe to include improper campaign practices in 1996 races.

But Republicans, who have a 228-205 majority, are expected to hold ranks and easily win passage of the resolution, which also would finance other House committees.

Democrats charged that a provision of the resolution that would provide \$7.9 million to help any committee meet unexpected expenses was really a slush fund for the investigation. With that money, the House has far more than the \$4.35 million the Senate approved to investigate a

wider range of election abuses, Democrats argued.

Republican leaders were allowing the head of the probe, Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., "to conduct a blatantly partisan investigation into campaign fund raising," Gephardt said.

Refusing to extend the scope to include congressional races was "clearly a coverup" of abuses by Republican candidates, said California Rep. Henry Waxman, the ranking Democrat on the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, which is chaired by Burton.

Burton, who found himself defending an allegation that he strong-armed a lobbyist to raise political money, argued that the "emerging pattern of potentially illegal behavior by the White House and executive branch officials" provided more than enough matters to investigate.

"The extraordinary range of matters already publicly disclosed raises the serious concern that ... this committee may not have the time or resources to conduct a thorough investigation," Burton wrote in a letter to Waxman.

Expanding the scope to include congressional candidates "would threaten our ability to accomplish any meaningful investigation at all in this session of Congress," Burton wrote.

## Palestinian unrest mounts on West Bank

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — Palestinians hurled homemade bombs and stoned Israeli troops guarding the grave of a biblical matriarch in this Palestinian-controlled city today. Soldiers in bulletproof vests responded with rubber bullets, tear gas and water cannons.

Two protesters hit by rubber bullets were taken away by ambulance, 20 other Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were treated for smoke inhalation, but no serious injuries were reported from the clashes around Rachel's Tomb.

The unrest, which lasted more than three hours, erupted during a Palestinian march protesting Israel's decision to start work on a Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem, which the

Palestinians claim as a future capital.

Both Palestinian and Israeli officials tried to contain the violence, which did not immediately spread beyond Bethlehem, but tourists were barred from entering the town after stones were reportedly thrown at a tourist bus.

Israelis have been barred from all Palestinian cities — Rachel's Tomb is an Israeli-controlled site on the northern outskirts of Bethlehem — since ground-breaking for the Har Homa neighborhood of east Jerusalem began Tuesday.

Five families of Jewish settlers moved secretly into a 10-room home in the Arab neighborhood of Silwan in east Jerusalem.

"We did it now because of all

the noise about Har Homa — so people wouldn't pay attention," said Yigal Keinan, a spokesman for the group that purchased the home.

The house was purchased eight months ago from its Palestinian owner, Mahmoud Siam, who lives in the United States, according to a relative who requested anonymity.

In recent years, Jewish settler groups have tried to buy homes in Arab neighborhoods of the city to establish bridgeheads there and cement Israeli control. A prime target has been Silwan, just outside the walled Old City.

Keinan said 18 Jewish families and 30 Jewish students now live in the area of Silwan known to Jews as the City of David and to Arabs as Wadi

Halwe. More than 100 Palestinian families also live in the area.

Palestinian police held back the demonstrators for several hours, and Israeli soldiers took the unusual step of bringing in water cannons before resorting to rubber bullets.

Homemade bombs also were thrown at soldiers at Rachel's Tomb but Israeli and Army radios reported no damage or casualties.

Palestinian leaders have called for peaceful protests, but Israeli security chiefs predicted widespread Palestinian riots.

Yasser Arafat, in an angry speech to Palestinian legislators, accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government of "trickery and conspiracy on the peace process."

## American Airlines, pilots reach tentative agreement

WASHINGTON (AP) — American Airlines and its pilots have reached a tentative agreement to end a longstanding contract dispute but important details remain to be worked out to assure there will no strike next month, officials said.

Negotiators were to meet at an undisclosed location in Washington today to continue talks in hopes of presenting a proposed contract to the pilots union board on Friday.

The tentative agreement calls for the pilots to receive raises totaling 9 percent over the life of the contract, through 2001. The New York Times reported

today. The newspaper said the pilots also would receive a large number of stock options and the company would end within four years a second-tier wage scale adopted in the early 1980s that American's pilots oppose.

Neither American Airlines spokesman Chris Chiamas nor Capt. Michael Cronin of the Allied Pilots Association would discuss details of the proposal.

Union sources cautioned that some sticking points must be resolved before the plan is submitted to the union's board for approval.

"The details are still being worked on as we speak and we

want our board of directors to hear it from negotiators and not from the press," said Cronin.

Word of the proposal came as an emergency board sent President Clinton a report about the issues separating the pilots and the nation's largest domestic airline. The board was appointed by the president minutes after the pilots voted to strike last month.

In addition to wages, the dispute revolved around who will fly small jets that American plans to use to replace the turboprops now used on commuter flights.

The union insisted that its

members fly the 70- to 100-seat jets. American's parent company, AMR Corp., wanted its lower-paid American Eagle pilots to move into the jet cockpits.

After the presidential board finished discussions with both the union and the airlines, Cronin said, the board's chairman, Robert R. Harris, offered his services as a mediator.

Both sides accepted, and the agreement in principle was developed during secluded meetings on Orcas Island, Wash., which ended Tuesday. Negotiators continued consultations by telephone, Cronin said.

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Ride For 5 Big Fun Filled Hours for Only \$10.00 (Per Person)

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**MOONLIGHT MADNESS**  
5:00 P.M. To 10:00 P.M.  
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Ticket Sales For This Special Stop at 9:30 P.M.  
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**SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND**  
**Kids Day for Kids of all Ages**  
Two big fun filled sessions Noon to 5:00 P.M. or 6 P.M. to 11 P.M.  
For \$9.00 (Per Person - Per Session)  
Ticket Sales For This Special Stop at 3:30 P.M. or at 9:30 P.M.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD**  
**Family Day**  
1:00 P.M. To 6:00 P.M.  
Unlimited Rides For \$10.00 (Per Person)  
Ticket Sales For This Special Stop At 4:30 P.M.

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**Bring The Whole Family**

By KELL Features

The 'Once d Spring concer Friday Saturd series church Corner organz month invited Virgil youth United l

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S LICE of life!

◆ Before 1896 there was no rural mail delivery system.

◆ By the time a person is six years old, the brain has reached its full weight of about three pounds.

Do you have a good story idea for the *life!* section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 235.

## This weekend rocks with 'once dust...' Christian concerts

By KELLIE JONES  
Features Editor

The Christian rock group "once dust..." is coming to Big Spring this weekend for two concerts. This is part of the Friday Night R.O.C.K. and Saturday Night Alive concert series sponsored by local churches. Members of Cornerstone Church helped organize the first series last month and "once dust..." was invited to perform in March by Virgil Feinsod, minister of youth and education at First United Methodist Church.

The group got its name because one of the members, Dave Mullins, is from Lubbock which is known as a dust bowl. The band was formed in July 1995 made of a vocalist/guitarist, bassist, drummer and backup vocalist. According to information provided from the band's Internet web page, they were brought together by a friend organizing a small outdoor music festival. The band performed at a Big Tent Revival near Lubbock. The band originally consisted of Dallas Stevens III, Russell Hall, Dave Mullins and Brad Roberts. A friend of theirs, Greg Luce, moved back to Lubbock to join the band so Roberts became the manager/agent in charge of lining up concerts and publicity.

Their ministry statement is, "While music is entertaining, it

is undoubtedly one of the best ways to reach a hungry, searching generation. once dust... does this in a five-fold manner. Our music aims to entertain and lift up people of all ages, race, color, or creed by provoking thoughts and stirring hearts, once dust... seeks to plant seeds that, through God's love and grace, will grow and prosper, ultimately, once dust... desires to praise God with the musical gifts He has given us."

Stevens, 22, is a songwriter who also plays keys and guitar. He's from Denver City. Luce, 26, has been playing the acoustic guitar for nine years and is from Amarillo. Mullins, 25, first played the cello then began playing the bass guitar in 1984. He plays bass for the First Baptist University Worship and is from Lubbock. Hall, 21, is the band's drummer and the only married member. He toured with a music band in college and grew up in McKinney.

The group performs Friday at Spanky's Coffeehouse, 1903 1/2 Gregg, at 8 p.m. There is a \$3 cover charge to help defray expenses. They have their second concert Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Howard College Auditorium, 1001 Bi-dwell. Admission is free. Some local artists will also perform at the Saturday night concert.

If you would like to learn more about the band, you can look them up on the Internet at [www.oncedust.com](http://www.oncedust.com).



The band "once dust..." is performing in Big Spring Friday and Saturday night. The Christian rock group was formed in 1995. Pictured left to right are: Greg Luce, Dave Mullins, Dallas Stevens III and Russell Hall. They perform at Spanky's Coffeehouse Friday at 8 p.m. and at the Howard College Auditorium Saturday at 7 p.m. Several local churches have joined together to bring different bands to Big Spring once a month in an effort to provide Christian music for people of all ages. The group's average age is 23 1/2 years old. The band members are musically influenced by Petra, Age of Faith, Whiteheart, Ken Tamplin and Phil Keaggy.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Moss Elementary

Many interesting events have been going on at Moss Elementary. The school had a University Day and the children wore their favorite university shirts. Everybody has been talking about University Day all week long. We took a tally of everyone's favorite university and this is how it turned

out: Texas Tech got 98, the Aggies got 16, and UT got 12. Many other universities were voted for, but these were the top three.

"I was shocked to see UT come in third. I really thought it would come in second. A bunch of people participated in wearing their university shirts. Some even wore hats, pins and necklaces. It turned out to be a good day, even though I had to hear the Aggie song this morning!" said Brandon Boling.

Keri Green said, "The reason why I like Tech is because they

really support their students and they have good teachers who give them good learning support."

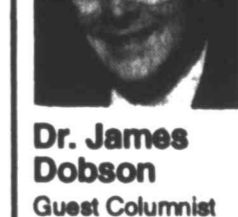
On Friday, Feb. 26, the second graders performed a play called "Everyone Smiles in the Same Language." They sang songs, had small speaking parts, and they danced. Some of the speaking parts, songs and dances were cute, and must have been hard to learn. Mrs. Shirey and Mrs. Churchwell organized the play and taught the children how to do the dances.

Sydney Robertson was asked what she thought of the play. First we asked if she enjoyed the play. Sydney said she thought it was fun. Next we asked her if she would have wanted a bigger part. Sydney said, "I really was happy with the part that I had." Last, we asked her if she was embarrassed. Sydney replied, "Yes, I was."

Written by Tyonne Brown, Brandon Boling, Amanda Appel, Keri Green and Katy Hunicutt.

## Children need to face the consequences of their actions

QUESTION: How can I acquaint my junior high schooler with the need for responsible behavior throughout his life? He is desperately in need of this understanding.



Dr. James Dobson  
Guest Columnist

D R. DOBSON: The overall objective during the preadolescent period is to teach the child his actions have inevitable consequences.

One of the most serious casualties in a permissive society is the failure to connect those two factors, behavior and consequences.

Too often, a three-year-old child screams insults at his mother, but mom stands, blinking her eyes in confusion. A first-grader launches an attack on his teacher, but the school makes allowances for his age and takes no action. A 10-year-old is caught stealing candy in a store, but is released to the recognition of his parents. A 15-year-old sneaks the keys to the family car, but the father pays the fine when he is arrested.

You see, all through childhood, loving parents seem determined to intervene between behavior and consequences, breaking the connection and preventing the valuable learning that could have occurred.

Thus, it is possible for a young man or woman to enter adulthood not really knowing that life bites—that every move

we make directly affects our future—that irresponsible behavior eventually produces sorrow and pain. Such a person applies for his first job and arrives late for work three times during the first week; then, when he is fired in a flurry of hot words, he becomes bitter and frustrated. It was the first time in his life that mom or dad couldn't come running to rescue him from the unpleasant consequences.

Unfortunately, many American parents still try to "ball out" the grown children even when they are in their 20s and live away from home. What is the result? This overprotection produces emotional cripples who often develop lasting characteristics of dependency and a kind of perpetual adolescence.

How does one connect behavior with consequences? By being willing to let the child experience a reasonable amount of pain or inconvenience when he behaves irresponsibly. When Jack misses the school bus through his own dawdling, let him walk a mile or two and enter school in mid-morning, unless safety factors prevent this. If Janie carelessly loses her lunch money, let her skip a meal.

The best approach is to expect boys and girls to carry the responsibility appropriate for their age, and occasionally to taste the bitter fruit that irresponsibility bears.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. James C. Dobson's "Focus on the Family" appears each Thursday as a cooperative effort of Scenic Mountain Medical Center and the Big Spring Herald. Letters to Dr. Dobson may be sent to P.O. Box 444, Colorado Springs, Colo.; 80903.

## Daily glass of grape juice may good for the heart

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Toasting the day with a glass of grape juice may be an especially good start for the heart.

A study found that 8 or 10 ounces a day of the purple variety has a potent effect on the blood cells called platelets, making them less likely to form clots that can lead to heart attacks.

In fact, purple grape juice might be even more potent than aspirin, which is widely recommended as a way of warding off heart attacks.

The researchers compared grape with orange and grapefruit juice and came to the conclusion grape juice is better, at least for the heart.

The study was led by Dr. John D. Folts of the University of Wisconsin Medical School. His research has been funded for several years by the Nutricia Research Foundation of the Netherlands and the Oscar Rennebohm Foundation of Madison, Wis., and more recently by Welch's, which makes grape juice.

Folts noted that 10 companies make purple grape juice in the United States, and all probably

work equally well. Purple juice appears to be more potent than white.

Heart attacks occur when blood clots stick to fatty deposits on the walls of the heart's arteries, choking off the supply of blood. Two decades ago, Folts was among the first to show — first in animals and later in people — that aspirin is good for the heart because it slows blood clotting.

Now, he is looking at the anti-clotting properties of a large group of natural substances called flavonoids that are found in many different kinds of foods.

Folts presented his latest findings Tuesday at a conference of the American College of Cardiology.

Experimenting on 17 volunteers — himself included — Folts found that both aspirin and red wine slow the activity of blood platelets by about 45 percent, while purple grape juice dampens them by about 75 percent.

"His data are very convincing," said Dr. Arthur L. Klatsky of Kaiser Permanent Medical Center in Oakland,

Calif., who studies the benefits of alcohol on the heart. However, he cautioned that anything that slows down platelets could also lead to unwanted bleeding.

Folts said his research is part of a larger effort to sort out the benefits of flavonoids. About 4,000 flavonoids are found in plants. While grapefruit and orange juice also contain plenty of flavonoids, they are different from the ones in purple grape juice.

Folts found that when people drink purple grape juice once a day, the benefits linger. In one experiment, people drank the juice for a week. Even after they had stopped for two days, their platelets were still sluggish.

"It appears to be around-the-clock protection," Folts said.

Folts recommended including grape juice in a healthy diet, which should include five to seven servings a day of vegetables, fruits and juices. However, he said people should not stop taking aspirin or other heart medications just because they are drinking grape juice.

## CAREER CORNER

Occupational title: Biomedical Equipment Technician

Duties: These people inspect, repair, and maintain various electronic equipment used in healthcare facilities. They service monitoring devices, imaging equipment, different types of surgical equipment, and defibrillators.

Working environment: They work mainly in hospitals.

Helpful high school classes: College Prep, biology, algebra, geometry, electronics, physiology, anatomy, trigonometry, physics, coop.

Continuing education/training: Junior college like Laredo Junior College or technical school. Salary: Experienced personnel receive \$35,000 to \$45,000 a year.

Job prospects: Until very recent, most hospitals employed one Biomedical Technician per 100 beds. The job opportunities are good because most hospitals are increasing the number of Biomedical Technicians they employ.

## SLICE of LIFE!

### TIPS 'N' TRIVIA

#### Health and beauty:

- (NAPS) - Tips to keep make-up looking its freshest:
- The fastest fix-it is to buy a foundation specially formulated to last longer.
  - Even the best long-wearing foundations can give in to perspiration. It may be wise, in this case, to apply two layers. Allow the first application to dry before applying a light second layer. To seal the second layer, first dust your face with loose powder using a clean velour puff. Next press the puff gently into your skin.
  - If your skin is oily, apply a nonalcoholic toner with a cotton ball first.
  - An oil-free moisturizer can help minimize a shiny face.
  - Use a cosmetic sponge to apply your foundation. Applying the base with your finger may add extra oil to the product.
  - Use a cosmetic organizer to keep things together. New colors such as plum, ice, teal, khaki, blueberry and watermelon with shimmering sparkles and glitter are now available. They come in various sizes to fit in your gym locker, glove compartment, bedroom or bathroom.



### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Softball sign-up continues**  
The Coahoma Girls United Softball Association sign-up continues through Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. in the ballpark at Coahoma. Try-outs are Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call Tina LaRue at 394-4928.

**Bake sale Saturday**  
St. Paul Lutheran Church is having a bake sale Saturday starting at 10 a.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

**Fish fry Saturday**  
American Legion Post 506 is having a fish fry Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 3203 W. Hwy. 80. Prices are \$5 per plate and carry-out is available. For more information, call 263-2084.

### THE LAST WORD

Health and intelligent are the two blessings in life.  
Menander

You can tell the character of every man when you see how he receives praise.  
Seneca

If people don't want to come out to the ball park, nobody's going to stop them.  
Yogi Berra

There is no good in arguing with the inevitable. The only argument available with an east wind is to put on your overcoat.  
James Lowell

**READ ALL ABOUT IT**

By The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Test your reading comprehension by reading the story then answering the questions that follow.

**Pioneer 10: 25 years in space**

LOS ANGELES — Already having blazed many trails in space, the Pioneer 10 space probe has reached another landmark: 25 years in space.

On Sunday, the Earth's farthest space traveler, showed its stuff by beaming back crystal-clear data to a NASA control room in northern California.

"I would consider it a good day," said Rick Eagle, a flight operations specialist for the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View.

"The deletion rate is zero. Which means we're not missing any of the data the spacecraft is sending out," he said in a telephone interview.

An official celebration was scheduled for today in Washington, D.C. for Pioneer 10's silver anniversary — which is also its last.

The spacecraft's pulse is growing too weak to perform any significant scientific work. It has enough energy to power only one of its 11 original programs.

NASA will stop funding the project on March 31. A few space companies and scientists will periodically monitor Pioneer 10, but NASA will pretty much let it float away.

Eagle, who has worked on the program for more than a decade, admitted that it was tough to think about those ominous three words: end of mission.

Launched March 2, 1972, Pioneer 10 was the first human-made object to blast out of the solar system and, at 6 billion miles away, is currently the farthest such object from Earth.

Not bad for a probe designed for a 21-month mission to Jupiter.

In December 1973, Pioneer 10 sent back the first close-up views of the cloud-covered planet.

The final test was to see if Pioneer 10 could blaze a space trail. Using Jupiter's gravitational pull as a slingshot, it shot out from behind the planet and was hurled into space at 86,000 mph.

It now travels at about 30,000 mph. The probe's radio signal takes nine hours and 15 minutes to reach Earth. The 8 watts of power in each signal could power a night light.

Since completing its original mission, Pioneer 10 has sent back a variety of data on magnetic fields, solar wind, cosmic particles and ultraviolet glow.

Pioneer 10's amazing record has earned it a place in the Smithsonian Institution's Air and Space Museum.

Mission ends for Pioneer 10

Using the newspaper story, find the vocabulary words listed below, and circle them in the article. Use the context of the story to help you figure out the meaning of each vocabulary word. Then, write the number of each word next to its correct meaning. Use a dictionary to check your answers.

- (1) hurled. (2) original. (3) blazed. (4) ominous. (5) beaming. (6) watts. (7) data. (8) monitor. (9) specialist. (10) decade.

- a) starting; beginning.
- b) factual information.
- c) electrical units.
- d) thrown with great force.
- e) person who is devoted to a particular occupation.
- f) period of 10 years.
- g) dreadful; unpleasant.
- h) check on.
- i) transmitting; sending.
- j) paved the way for.

Answer Key:  
(a)2. (b)7. (c)6. (d)1. (e)9. (f)10. (g)4. (h)8. (i)5. (j)3.

**PART TWO: SPACE TREK**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has undertaken many important U.S. planetary missions. Using an almanac or an encyclopedia, find out the name of a probe that NASA sent into space to explore one of the planets listed below. When was it launched? What data were sent back to earth? Was it manned?  
**MARS.**  
**VENUS.**  
**MERCURY.**  
**SATURN.**  
**URANUS.**

Especially for kids and their families  
**The Mini Page**  
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By BETTY DEBNAM

**First Woman Secretary of State**

**Madeleine Albright Talks to Kids**



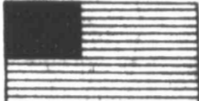
Madeleine Albright

**The Secretary of State**  
by Madeleine Albright

As secretary of state, my job is to give the president the best advice that I can. I will be advising him about:

- our relationships with other countries.
- how America should respond to global events. Although these events may happen on the other side of the globe, they can have a real impact on us at home.

I expect to spend a lot of time meeting and negotiating with the leaders of other countries as we try to make the world better and safer for all of us.



At the State Department in Washington, thousands of experts and advisers will help me keep track of all that is going on around the world

— to what issues we should pay the most attention and how we should respond.

Our ambassadors, the representatives that we send to almost every country, are already ensuring that I have the most up-to-date and firsthand information to make the best decisions.



An important part of my job is speaking with Americans about what we are doing and why. I am especially looking forward to discussing with people around the country the reasons behind our policies. I am looking forward to hearing their opinions and concerns.



Then-U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright meets with first lady Hillary Clinton and Czech President Vaclav Havel in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1996. Both her job as representative to the United Nations and her job as secretary of state require a lot of travel to other countries.

On Jan. 23, 1997, Madeleine Korbelt Albright became the highest-ranking woman in the history of the United States. She became the first female secretary of state.

Since 1993 she had been the U.S. representative to the United Nations.

She has held many jobs, including being a professor of international affairs at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She also has worked as a reporter.

She speaks English, French, Czech, Russian and Polish.

The Mini Page asked Secretary Albright to tell our readers about herself and her very special job.

**Rookie Cookie's Recipe**  
**Marvelous Meatloaf**

You'll need:

- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 pound ground beef
- 3/4 cup rolled oats
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup cheddar cheese, grated

What to do:

1. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Mix well.
2. Place in a greased loaf pan.
3. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 1 hour.

Serves 6.



**Message From the Secretary of State**

by Madeleine K. Albright

I was originally from Czechoslovakia, and my family escaped Hitler and spent World War II in London.

Later, in 1948, we were driven from our home in Czechoslovakia when communists loyal to Joseph Stalin seized control of the country.

My family came to America as refugees and were welcomed to this country with open arms.

As I assume my new duties as secretary of state, I never forget what this country gave me and my family.



A young Madeleine Albright, in traditional Czech clothes, is with her mother, her younger sister and her brother.

**Advice to kids**

Today, it is more important than ever to know what is happening around you so take the time to learn about our world. Begin by reading a daily newspaper, or one of the weekly news magazines.

You will find that we live in a time of vast change, and that because of developments in technology, communication and international trade, the world is shrinking. Our jobs, safety and prosperity depend more than ever on events that happen thousands of miles away.

You will also find that the solution to every problem begins with one person taking action. Wherever I went to school, I would start an International Relations Club. (Because I started it, I would become the president!)

It is sad but still true that there are not enough women holding jobs in foreign affairs. At the U.N., I was one of six female permanent representatives — the other 179 are men.

Correcting this is not simply about fairness. Today's world needs the unique set of skills and experience that women bring to diplomacy.

I am convinced, for example, that greater numbers of women both as ambassadors and as managers at the U.N. would lead to a greater emphasis on practical solutions.

There are also growing international business opportunities. Most important, set your sights as high as possible and pursue every opportunity.

**Growing up**

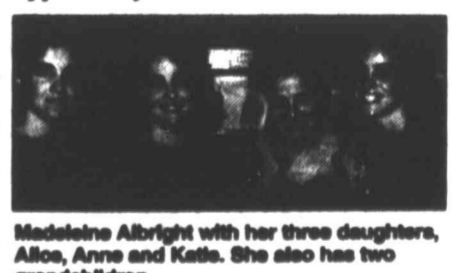
My interest in international affairs began at an early age. My father was a Czech diplomat. By the time I was 11, I had lived in five countries and knew four languages.

In my parents' home we talked about international relations all the time, the way some families talk about sports or other things around the dinner table.

As a child, living in so many foreign countries made it easier for me to adjust to different situations and to make friends — the essential skills of diplomacy. My mother always taught me to be open and friendly with new people. She said I could learn a lot from them, and she was right.

Look through your newspaper for stories about events in other parts of the world. Can you locate those areas on a map?

Next week The Mini Page celebrates Easter by learning about the science of spring.



Madeleine Albright with her three daughters, Alisa, Anne and Kella. She also has two grandchildren.

**SECRETARY TRY 'N FIND**  
**OF STATE**

Words about the State Department are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward. See if you can find: STATE, DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT, RELATIONS, SECRETARY, CABINET, ADVISE, FOREIGN, COUNTRIES, POLICY, DEAL, TREATIES, REPORT, VISA, PROTECT, APPOINT, CHIEF, ROLE.

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

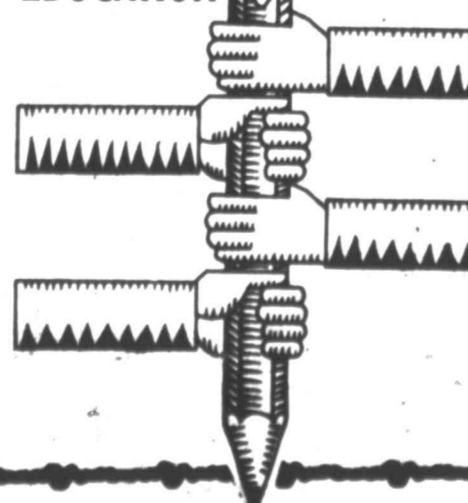
**Mini Spy ...**

Mini Spy and Alpha Mouse are visiting the State Department. See if you can find:



- kite
- bear's head
- bird
- ruler
- alligator
- frog
- acorn
- heart
- ladder
- hammer
- dog

**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**



**Tomorrow's workforce is in today's classrooms.**

**The Mini Page**  
Sponsored by:  
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# SPORTS

The Sports Herald  
Thursday, March 20, 1997

## SCOREBOARD

Today  
College baseball at Colorado Springs, TBA.

NCAA  
Regional tournaments, teams TBA, 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., ch. 7.

Got a story idea or  
a sports news tip?

Call Sports,  
263-7331  
Ext. 236  
or  
leave voice mail

# B

## What troubles? Minnesota out to reverse Big 10's misfortunes

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Minnesota's players know all about the Big Ten's struggles in the NCAA tournament the past few years, although not because of anything coach Clem Haskins told them.

"I don't look at negative things," Haskins said Wednesday. "The Big Ten we know is an outstanding conference. This conference has been there, we don't need to make any excuses to anyone."

"We had two years there where a lot of people beat the Big Ten. I like to think you should give the other teams that beat the Big Ten a lot of credit for winning those basketball games."

Regardless, Gopher guard

### NCAA MIDWEST

Bobby Jackson said he and his teammates wanted to end the conference's short visits to the NCAA tournament.

"We know the Big Ten hasn't been successful in the NCAA tournament so we just wanted to come in here and turn some heads and make a name for the University of Minnesota, and I think we pretty much did that."

**RUMOR MILL:** Clemson coach Rick Barnes is among those being mentioned as the next coach at Ohio State, something he dismissed Wednesday.

"This time of year there are all kinds of rumors," he said. "I

signed a seven-year contract with Clemson and I have four years left on my contract. I feel awful fortunate to have the job I have."

"I'm not going to get caught up in all that speculation and rumors."

**THESE GUYS ARE ATHLETES:** Iowa State's players say top-ranked Kansas has nothing on UCLA when it comes to athletic ability.

"They're far more athletic than Kansas is," guard Detric Willoughby said. "Kansas runs a set offense and you know exactly what they're going to do. These guys can go out and do anything at any time."

Center Kelvin Cato put it this

way: "Their athletic ability is better than ours. Some of us can jump, but ALL of them can jump."

**BIG FAN:** Clem Haskins, in his 17th year as a college coach, says he has never had a pair of defensive guards as good as Bobby Jackson and Eric Harris. "There's no guard in the country faster than Bobby," he said. "There's not a finer athlete in basketball, whatever level, than Bobby Jackson."

"Eric Harris is one of the finest guards in the country on the ball. He puts great pressure on the basketball. He's hard to beat, has quick feet and great hands."

**MAGIC TOUCH:** UCLA coach Steve Lavin is pulling out all stops including a pep talk from Magic Johnson to have his Bruins prepared for tonight's Midwest Regional against Iowa State.

"Magic talked to the team yesterday and gave them some tips," Lavin said Wednesday. "He told them to focus, win, and enjoy. He told the team to go into the Alamodome and be sure to take in the atmosphere, to smell the popcorn and hot dogs, and hear the tennis shoes squeak."

**BATTLE ROYAL:** Iowa State's Kelvin Cato and UCLA's Jelani McCoy are expected to

put on a classic big man duel. UCLA forward Charles O'Bannon expects it to be worth the trip to the Alamodome.

**NEARING 200:** Minnesota coach Clem Haskins picked up his 300th career victory last weekend when the Gophers beat Temple. A victory Thursday night against Clemson would be his 200th at Minnesota.

Haskins isn't much for milestones, at least not right now. "After the season's over I'll probably sit down and reflect back over the year," he said. "It means I've been around a long time and have had a lot of good players."

## Sidewinders aim for team title at USAG meet

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Each year, the goals get a little higher for the YMCA Sidewinders.

The Sidewinders, long a power in state YMCA gymnastics circles, look to do the same in USA Gymnastics when their Level 9 and 10 gymnasts compete at the state USAG meet this weekend in Richardson.

Although proud of their status as reigning state YMCA champions, team members know competing at the state USAG meet will be a definite step up in difficulty.

"At the state YMCA meet, we're the only ones with Levels 9s and 10s," Stephanie Stewart said. "The state USA Gymnastics meet will have all the really good gymnasts."

The Sidewinders will compete in the small-team division at the meet. Stewart, Casey McKim, Brooke Lawrence and Tami John will compete at Level 10, while Mikelle Farris and Jana Duncan will compete at Level 9.

Aside from team competition, gymnasts also will be out to qualify for the regional USAG meet next month in Houston.

The group finished second last year in the small-team division, and coach Russ McEwen wants his girls aiming higher this year.

"Last year, we were really surprised to come in second," McEwen said. "This year ... we're hoping to win state. This year, we expect everyone to make it to regionals."

McEwen said the reason for his confidence is that all his gymnasts are at the same ability level of their regional.

And there's no doubting the quality of the team. Stewart is the reigning YMCA junior division national champion, while Lawrence is fresh off setting a team record for all-around points, scoring 37.6 at the recent Lone Star Classic in Fort Worth.

"The kids are doing much more difficult skills, and they're doing them much better," he said. "They've all worked extremely hard this year. Brooke has really made a breakthrough this year ... Tami John also has done tremendously well. She's peaking at the right time. And Stephanie has been rock solid all year long."

Stewart enters the meet battling an ankle sprain and sore back, but doubts those injuries will limit her effectiveness.

"Yes, it'll hurt, but I'll just be gritting my teeth out there," she said.



Vicki Stewart, left, gives Emily Hicks a hand during gymnastics classes at the Big Spring YMCA Wednesday afternoon.

## Ex-Hawks sentenced on charges

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Two former Howard College basketball players received probation sentences after pleading guilty to forgery charges.

Marcus Reedy, of Indianapolis, and John Jenkins, of Lake Charles, La., pleaded guilty in 118th District Court Wednesday to felony forgery charges and were given two-year jail sentences which were probated for the next five years.

In addition, the two men were ordered to pay restitution to their victims.

Reedy was a reserve on this year's basketball team, while Jenkins was on the Hawks' roster last year. Both were booted off the team for violation of rules.

Jenkins was released last year, but returned to school on his own this term, school administrator Linda Conway said.

Reedy, a reserve forward on this year's squad, was released from his scholarship in December after he was put on probation for violating team rules, then was released from the team outright when a second violation allegedly occurred, Conway said.

The two men's current status at the school was unknown, Conway said.

Reedy and fellow reserves Sah Quann Singleton and Hosea Wingate were released from the team Feb. 8 for violation of team or school rules. Two others, Clifton Cook and Will Jones, were released later in the season for similar reasons, coach Tommy Collins said.

## Johnston re-ups with Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — For six weeks, Daryl Johnston fretted about whether he'd remain with the Dallas Cowboys. The fullback known as the "Moose" was so concerned, he even lost sleep over it.

Meanwhile, agent Leigh Steinberg handled inquiries and offers from several other teams. But knowing what Johnston really wanted, he kept holding out until Dallas was ready to deal.

Last Friday, Steinberg finally cornered Cowboys owner Jerry Jones at the NFL winter meetings in Florida. Steinberg said Jones "got focused and prioritized," and a deal was done by Tuesday.

On Wednesday, a relieved Johnston signed a five-year, \$7.575 million contract he expects will keep a star on the side of his helmet the rest of his career.

Jones was probably just as relieved. By signing one of the NFL's best blocking backs, he's pacified quarterback Troy Aikman and running back Emmitt Smith.

But just as important to Jones was keeping around one of the good guys in a locker room pocked by lawbreakers and troublemakers.

"He means too much to me to let him go," he said.

community," Jones said. "I know first-hand because of the literally hundreds and hundreds of letters I get saying what 'Moose' means."

The deal makes Johnston the league's second-highest paid fullback behind Arizona's Larry Centers, who last week signed a three-year, \$7.5 million deal.

Johnston took an incredibly low first-year salary of \$200,000, but augmented it with a \$2 million signing bonus. His salaries will then go up to \$500,000, \$1.25 million, \$1.625 million and \$2 million.

Johnston could make another \$300,000 with very reachable incentives in the second, fourth and fifth years.

Jokingly, Jones said both sides wanted to strike a deal so badly that it reminded him of the old joke where, after striking a deal, the guy writing the checks says, "Guess what? I would've paid more." Only to have the other guy reply, "Guess what? I would've taken less."

Smith spoke to Johnston a few weeks ago and sensed in his teammate's voice that negotiations weren't going well. He feared for the worst until hearing a rumor a few days ago that something was going to be worked out.

"I can't think of anyone in the league I'd want to have blocking for me other than Daryl Johnston," said Smith, who has won three Super Bowls and four NFL rushing titles running behind Johnston.

"To not have him in front of me would be uncomfortable. When he moved to tight end and I had someone else blocking for me last year, it was very uncomfortable. ... This is a great stepping stone for us."

Johnston said he's committed to the team because he considers the problems of the last year isolated incidents.

"I know it's not going to happen again," he said. "I've seen the look of the people involved. I really think everyone realizes the effect it had on us."

Although he just turned 31 and he plays a bruising position — coach Barry Switzer referred to him as a guard lined up eight yards deep — the eight-year veteran keeps himself in rock-solid shape.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

From staff and wire reports

### CGA tournament on tap

The Chicano Golf Association will host a four-man low ball tournament Sunday at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

Cost of the event is \$20 per person. For more information, call 264-2366 or 263-7741.

### Mize Field site of touney

The Snakefest Men's Softball Tournament will be held Friday through Sunday at Cotton Mize Field in Comanche Trail Park.

All teams will have a three-game guarantee. Awards include team trophies for teams finishing first-fourth, bat bags for winning team members, ball bags for members of the second-place team and T-shirts for third-place team members.

In addition, awards will be presented to the tournament MVP and Gold Glove.

Entry fee is \$130. For more information, contact Chuck Martin at 264-9236.

### Softball umpires needed

Anyone interested in umpiring for girls' fast-pitch softball is invited to attend a meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Days Inn.

United Girls Softball Association Umpire-In-Chief Earl Zachary will certify umpires and review new rules for the 1997 season.

For more information, call 263-7510 or 263-3623.

### McMahon calls it quits

CHICAGO — Jim McMahon, the free spirit quarterback who led the Chicago Bears to the 1986 Super Bowl title, is walking away from the NFL with no other plans than to spend time with his family and play golf.

"I'm retiring," McMahon, 37, told The Chicago Tribune on Wednesday. "I know this is sad news for all my critics, but my family comes first."

"I'm ready to move on and do nothing except play golf and hang out with our four kids. They've seen the world, following me around. We love it here. They deserve to settle down in one home, and so does my wife, Saint Nancy."

McMahon, who threw only four passes last season as a backup with Super Bowl champion Green Bay, said he informed Packers coach Mike Holmgren of the decision earlier this week.

### Myers signs three-year deal

LUBBOCK — Gerald Myers has signed a three-year contract to officially become Texas Tech's athletic director, school president Donald Haragan said.

The deal pays \$135,000 annually and includes a 4 percent bonus if 85 percent of the athletes at Tech, which has been riddled with academic problems in its athletic department lately, can maintain 2.0 averages.

The bonus jumps to 9 percent if 95 percent of Tech athletes reach the goal.

"The academic incentives were important to both of us," Haragan said.

The contract reportedly was signed last week. The school has failed to respond to two separate Associated Press requests for a copy of the pact, filed under the Texas Open Records Act.

Myers' successor, Bob Bockrath, broke a five-year, \$125,000-per-year deal last June to take the same position at Alabama. Bockrath's grade incentives were slightly less demanding.

"It's structured in there to show how important academics are to us," said Myers, whose department was nationally embarrassed last month when it was discovered that at least two football players.

TABC ALL-STATE BASKETBALL TEAMS

DALLAS (AP) - The Texas All-State boys' and girls' basketball teams, as selected by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches:
CLASS 6A
Girls
First Team
Tamika Catchings, Sr., Duncarville
Chaquita Dilworth, Sr., Temple
LeShinda Winters, Jr., Alish Elak
Shereka Wright, Jr., Copperton Cove
Meg Brown, Sr., Arlington
Melanie Harrison, Sr., San Antonio

Verlene Valdez, Sr., Canyon
Ebani Hammond, Jr., Waco Midway
Boys
First Team
Willie Davis, Sr., Dallas Lincoln
Derek Michaelis, Sr., Waco Midway
Doroseary Manuel, Sr., Burkburnett
Robert Bell, Sr., SA Fox Tech
Kolin Weaver, Sr., Graham
Immanuel Molroy, Jr., PA Lincoln
Lewis Artine, Jr., Silsbee
Clay Click, Jr., Alamo Heights
Second Team
Kevin Clayton, Sr., Canyon Randall
Sammy Gibbs, Sr., Dallas Lincoln
Ervyn Tolbert, Sr., Dallas Highland Park
Emile White, Sr., Houston Wheatley
Kenneth Mangum, Jr., Waco University
Derrick Franklin, Jr., Sweetwater
David Brown, Jr., SA West Campus
Jason Throop, Jr., LC Mauriceville
Damon Hancock, Jr., Lancaster
Jason Harding, Sr., Alamo Heights

Jill Sutton, Sr., Gunter
Amber Tarr, Jr., Ozona
Jerry Neal, Sr., Shallowater
Precious Jansky, Sr., Poth
Precious Thibodeaux, Sr., Van Vleet
Brooke Bauer, Sr., East Chambers
Lee Ann Howell, Sr., Edgewood
Julie Murphy, Sr., Hawley
Brenda Churman, Sr., Godley
Second Team
Betsey Pamberton, Jr., Hawkins
Shelly Sullivan, Sr., Ozona
Jaclyn Canales, Sr., Bloomington
Yolanda Grant, Sr., Flotonia
Seranda Cook, Sr., Woden
Jennifer Ragland, Sr., Krum
Micah Smith, Sr., Tahoka
Katie Holley, Sr., Van Alstyne
Jimmie Jo Conn, Sr., Poth
Jessica Douglas, Sr., Lone Oak
Boys
First Team
Jason Huddle, Sr., Woden
Travis Hill, Sr., Peaster
Ashley Jullifka, Sr., Industrial
Leo McCallister, Sr., Stanton
Jeff Savage, Sr., Rivercrest
Chris Anderson, Sr., Iola
Chris Arledge, Jr., Krum
Ryan Steadman, Sr., Eldhart
Jimmy Bruns, Sr., Comfort
Cole Roberts, Sr., Shallowater
Second Team
Greg Lee, Sr., Ganado
John Jones, Sr., Troup
Zack Brown, Sr., Jim Ned
Terrence O'Bryant, Sr., New Waverly
Casey Burgess, Sr., Haskell
Keith Davis, Sr., Italy
Jeremy Canafax, Sr., Peaster
Kyle Spanhel, Jr., Little River Academy
Kayce Fulton, Sr., Rosebud-Lott
Lee Rash, Sr., Tahoka

FISHING REPORT

LIVINGSTON: Water murky; normal level; 63 degrees; black bass to 8 pounds are good on spinners. Carolina-rigged worms and Rat-L-Traps; white bass are fair on live bait and slabs; catfish are good on rod and reels and trotlines baited with cut bait fished in the creeks in 5 to 6 feet of water.
RAYBURN: Water stained; 3 feet high; 64 degrees; black bass up to 12 pounds are good on whacky worms and spinners; catfish are good on cut bait fished in creeks.
TOLEDO BEND: Water off-colored; normal level; black bass to 7 pounds are fair on red shad worms and spinners; crappie are fair on minnows fished in shallow water; catfish are fair on cut and live bait fished on trotlines and on night crawlers fished around baited docks.
AMISTAD: Water clear; very low; 64 degrees; black bass are good on crawfish-colored crank baits, Sluggos and Rat-L-Traps; striped bass are fair on live bait and crank baits; catfish are good on rod and reels baited with shrimp, shad and cut perch fished in very deep water.
CHOKE: Water murky; low; 62 degrees; black bass up to 9 pounds are fair on crank baits, worms and spinners fished in 2 to 10 feet of water; white bass are fair on live

bait fished in the river and main lake; catfish are fair on rod and reels baited with shad, shiners and cheese bait.
ARROWHEAD: Water fairly clear; 61 degrees; black bass up to 5 pounds are fair on small spinners, worms and lizards; crappie are good on minnows fished over brush; catfish are good on cut bait, minnows and Berkeley Power Bait.
KEMP: Water stained; 3 feet low; black bass are good on Power Worms, Carolina-rigged lizards and spinners fished in shallow water; striped bass are good on live bait; catfish are fair to good on cheese bait and night crawlers.
O.H.VIE: Water clear on main lake, murky in upper end and tributaries; 59 degrees; black bass up to 9 pounds are good on willow leaf-bladed spinners, Rat-L-Traps and lizards fished in the shallows and on the secondary points; crappie are good on minnows and jigs fished over main lake brush; channel and blue catfish are good on stink bait and night crawlers; flathead catfish are good on trotlines baited with live bait.
POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 1 foot low; 62 degrees; black bass to 8 pounds are good on small spinners, whacky worms and Carolina-rigged worms; striped and white

bass are fair to good on live bait fished on the main lake; crappie are good on minnows; channel catfish are good on cheese and cut bait; yellow catfish are fair on jugs baited with live perch.
BASTROP: Water fairly clear; 62 degrees; black bass up to 8 pounds are good on Power Worms, Whacky worms, crank baits and spinners; crappie are good on shiners fished over brush; catfish are good on King's Punch Bait.
BELTON: Water clear; 14 feet high; 59 degrees; black bass up to 5 pounds are good on double willow leaf-bladed spinners, Whacky worms and Carolina-rigged lizards; crappie are fair on minnows fished around marinas; catfish are fair on cheese bait.
BROWNWOOD: Water stained; normal level; 62 degrees; black bass to 8 pounds are fair on red spinners, shiners and Texas-rigged red shad, worms; catfish are good on night crawlers and shrimp.
BUCHANAN: Water murky; normal level; 59 degrees; black bass to 7 pounds are good on spinners fished on shallow secondary points; striped bass to 12 pounds are good on live bait fished in 12 to 25 feet of water; white bass are good on points and ridges fished in shallow water; crappie are good on minnows.

Metroplex abuzz with upcoming opening of Texas Motor Speedway

FORT WORTH (AP) - Whoever wins next month's inaugural NASCAR Winston Cup race at the Texas Motor Speedway may have a nearby pond named after him. Or maybe his name will one day be chiseled into a wall.
Those are just some of the ideas general manager Eddie Gossage has come up with to honor his track's first winner.
Gossage hasn't had much time to nail down that detail.
Over the last 21 months, he's been busy guiding the track's growth from a telephone number and post-office box to a \$110 million superspeedway that is the second-largest sports facility in the country.
Track officials are scurrying to put on the finishing touches, most of them more important than how to enshrine the first winner, in time for the rapidly approaching debut.
Showtime comes April 5, with the Busch Series Coca-Cola 300, followed by the Interstate Batteries 500 Winston Cup event the next day. Qualifying for both starts April 3.
The weekend will mark NASCAR's first trip to Texas since 1981, and most racing insiders consider it long overdue.
"God almighty, Texas is worth about six North Carolinas," driver and recent owner Kyle Petty said. "When you look at the number of race fans here, it's an untapped market."
Track tycoon Bruton Smith and his Speedway Motorsports Inc. recognized the void a few years ago and decided to fill it with a first-class superspeedway.
The result is an impressive 150,061-seat grandstand topped by a double deck of 206 luxury suites. There also are 76 condominiums along one end of the

1.5-mile, dual-banked oval. Only Indianapolis Motor Speedway is bigger.
TMS immediately earned one of NASCAR's 32 precious dates and hopes to get a second race by next year. Indy-cars will stop here in the summer.
Local fans have embraced the raceway. The Winston Cup race is a sellout and the Busch event already has sold more than 77,000 tickets, ensuring a record crowd for that series.
TMS officials also have made this one of the circuit's most lucrative stops, with a \$3.8 million purse for the Interstate Batteries race and another \$780,000 on the line for the Coca-Cola race.
"Here's what that money does," Gossage said. "No. 1, it gives us prestige. No. 2, we've learned if you focus that spotlight just a little hotter on those guys, champions rise to the top and the pretenders screw up. Crazy things happen and it makes it an eventful day. It's not just another race."
Drivers got their first feel for the track last week with two days of testing.
Rusty Wallace had the fastest laps both days, at 184.3 mph on Thursday, then upping it to 185.75 mph on Friday. On both days, Wallace drove the car he used to win last year's Goody's 500 in Bristol, Tenn., another Smith-owned track.
Several drivers compared Texas Motor Speedway to a third Smith raceway, Charlotte.
"Everywhere else we go, our starting points are our notes we've kept over the years," said driver Michael Waltrip, who had Thursday's second-fastest lap at 182.74 mph. "Here, we'll bring our Charlotte notes, Charlotte car, the Charlotte line of thinking, then go out on the racetrack and find out how much we have to adjust from

there."
Wallace and Petty said the view of the grandstand from the infield is the same as Charlotte, but the track itself isn't necessarily the same.
"I told my crew chief entering Turn 3, the way you get in the corner, really reminds me of entering Turn 3 at Michigan," Wallace said.
Turn 4, though, drew the most attention.
Dale Earnhardt grumbled that the exit of the turn was too narrow and that it funneled cars into the front-stretch wall. Many drivers agreed that side-by-side racing would be limited.
Earnhardt also griped about the pavement between Turns 1 and 2, saying pit row is too narrow and the banking catered more to Indy-cars than to stock cars.
The harshest remark from the driver known as "The Intimidator" was that "with this configuration of a race track, I don't want to run here but once (a year)."
Gossage said some of the concerns are already being worked on, such as widening pit row by 12 feet. Otherwise, he'll consider any other changes NASCAR recommends.
As for the barb about banking, Gossage pointed out that Indy-car driver Al Unser Jr. said the track caters too much to stock car.
Earnhardt's criticism made big headlines locally and sent out a ripple nationally on a non-race weekend. Earnhardt knew it would, so don't be surprised if he stirred things up on purpose to give TMS a little extra attention.
Still not convinced? Well, consider this: Only two drivers are among the owners of the 76 track-side condos. One is Wallace.

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THURSDAY

MAR. 20

Table with 24 columns (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOBA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISH, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KILM, ABE, DISC, TNT, FSN, ESPN, AMC, BET) and 12 rows of program listings.

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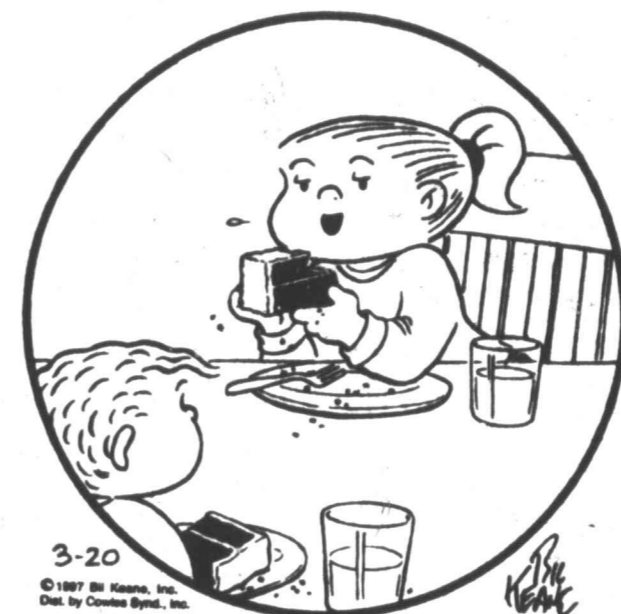
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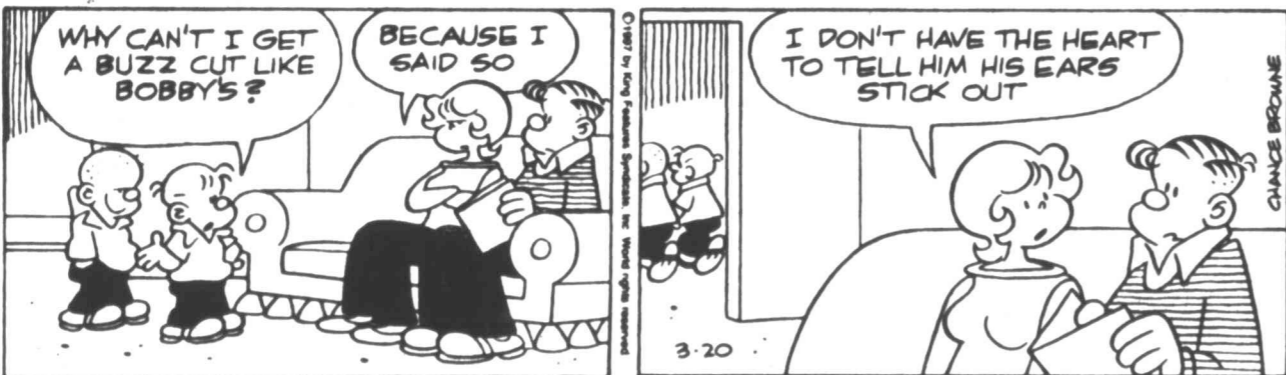
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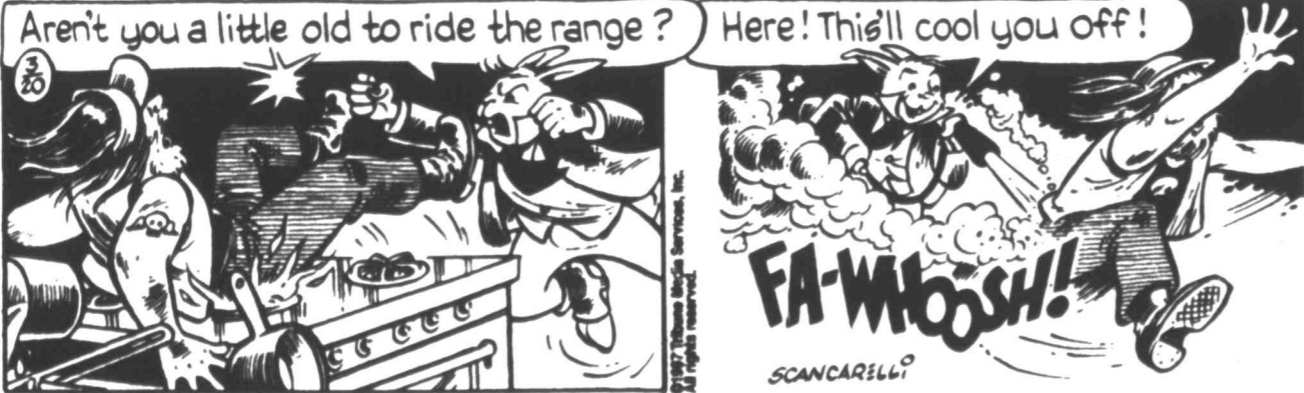
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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

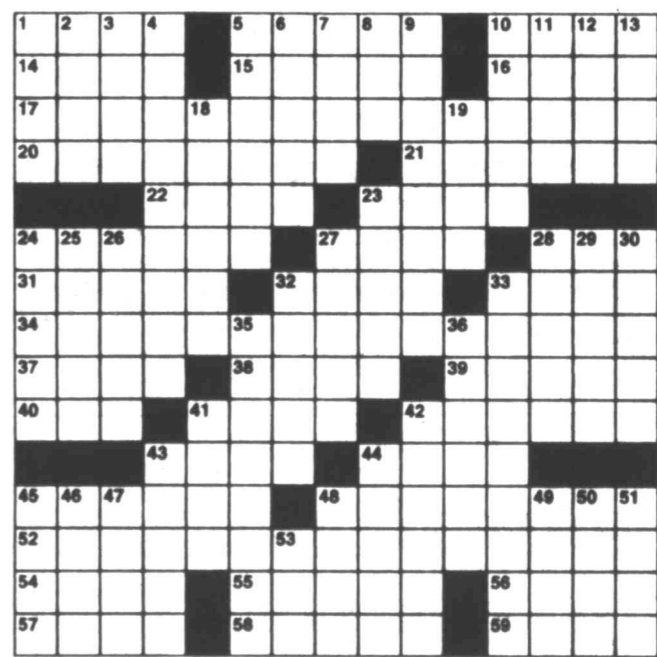
The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Thursday, March 20, the 79th day of 1997. There are 286 days left in the year. Spring arrives at 8:56 a.m. EST.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 20, 1727, physicist, mathematician and astronomer Sir Isaac Newton died in London. On this date: In 1413, England's King Henry IV died; he was succeeded by Henry V. In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte entered Paris, beginning his "Hundred Days" rule.

In 1816, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Martin vs. Hunter's Lessee, affirmed its right to review state court decisions. In 1833, the United States and Siam (now Thailand) concluded a commercial treaty in Bangkok. In 1896, U.S. Marines landed in Nicaragua to protect U.S. citizens in the wake of a revolution. In 1956, union workers ended a 156-day strike at Westinghouse Electric Corp. In 1969, John Lennon married Yoko Ono in Gibraltar. In 1976, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was convicted of armed robbery for her part in a San Francisco bank holdup. In 1977, voters in Paris chose former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to be the French capital's first mayor in more than a century. In 1995, in Tokyo, 12 people were killed, more than 5,500 others sickened when packages containing the poisonous gas sarin leaked on five separate subway trains. Ten years ago: The Food and Drug Administration approved the sale of AZT, a drug shown to prolong the lives of some AIDS patients. Five years ago: Congress passed, and President Bush immediately vetoed, a Democratic tax cut for the middle class that would have been funded by a tax hike on the rich. One year ago: A jury in Los Angeles convicted Erik and Lyle Menendez of first-degree murder in the shotgun slayings of their millionaire parents. The British government said that a rare brain disease that had killed 10 people was probably linked to so-called "mad cow disease."

THE Daily Crossword

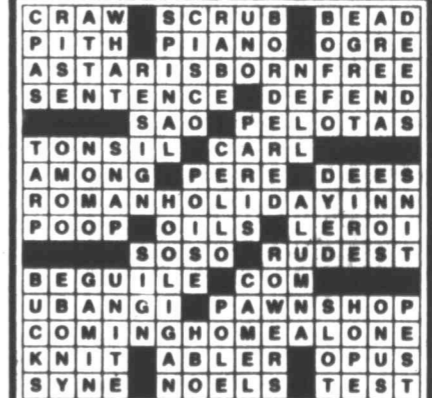
- ACROSS 1 Abrasion 5 Type of wave 10 Hops dryer 14 Saint Paul's architect 15 Port of northern Chile 16 Pinocchio's goldfish 17 Pizza compliments? 20 Suspenders 21 Vertices 22 Glacial ridges 23 Wound mark 24 Celebrates oneself 27 Mail addresses 28 Rep. 31 Wrangle 32 Small weight 33 Antitoxins 34 Pancake make-up? 37 Patella place 38 '60s pop singer 39 - and dined 40 Alarming letters? 41 Vesicle 42 Italian ice cream 43 Request encl. 44 Post 45 Emphasis 48 Pheasant 52 Holden 53 Caulfield's vision? 54 Encourage 55 Controlled by 56 Obstacle 57 Deliver a smacker 58 Jaunty 59 Children



by Frederick T. Buhler

03/20/97

Wednesday's Puzzle solved:



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- DOWN 1 Gulp 2 Toothed cetacean 3 Staggon 4 Pen 5 Hot condiments 6 Command 7 Pinches 8 Here: Fr. 9 Underground chamber 10 Mineral pigment 11 Haley 12 Desiccated 13 Head movement 18 Ejected 19 Bk. balancers 23 Hall of Fame hurler, Warren 24 Takes great pleasure 25 Maine campus site 26 Feverish attacks 27 Vernacular 28 Volcanic mount 29 Welcome 30 Slow, in music 32 Appearance 33 Quiet 35 Homer's traveler 36 Anchors - 41 Ready money 42 'Elmer - 43 Cults 44 Sources of iron 45 Non-union worker 46 Prohibited 47 Hwys. 48 Disencumbers 49 Cubic Rubik 50 Greenish hue 51 Barrels 53 Genetic letters

BIG SPRING HERALD Reflecting A Proud Texas Community 915-263-7331 (Fax) 915-264-7205 Publisher: Chuck Williams Ext. 250 Managing Editor: John H. Walker Ext. 230 Advertising Sales Manager: Jim White Ext. 225 Circulation Manager: Carlos Gonzales Ext. 240 Production Manager: Tony Hernandez Ext. 256 Business Office Manager: Debra Wilkins Ext. 255 Office Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday The Herald is a member of the Associated Press, Audit Bureau of Circulation, Texas Press Association, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association & West Texas Press. Published afternoons Monday through Friday and Sunday mornings, except Christmas day. All materials copyrighted. Postmaster: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas. USPS 1431-48.

Today's Birthdays: Producer-director-comedian Carl Reiner is 75. Actor Jack Kruschen is 75. Former Nixon White House aide John Ehrlichman is 72. Children's TV host Fred Rogers is 69. Actor Hal Linden is 66. Singer Jerry Reed is 60. Former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney is 58. Country singer Don Edwards is 58. Country singer-musician Ranger Doug (Riders in the Sky) is 51. Hall-of-Famer Bobby Orr is 49. Actor William Hurt is 47. Rock musician Jimmy Vaughan (The Fabulous Thunderbirds) is 46. Country musician Jimmy Seales (Shenandoah) is 43. Movie director Spike Lee is 40. Actress Theresa Russell is 40. Actress Vanessa Bell Calloway is 40. Actress Holly Hunter is 39. Rock musician Slim Jim Phantom (The Stray Cats) is 36. Thought for Today: "I am I plus my circumstances." - Jose Ortega y Gasset, Spanish philosopher (1883-1965).