

Secrecy in search for Austin homeless shelter raises questions

AUSTIN (AP) — A concerted effort to keep secret locations being considered as the site for a new homeless shelter is raising questions from Austin residents who say neighborhoods are being ignored.

"It's just so frustrating," said David Huan, president of the Dawson Neighborhood Association. "They won't tell us. The entire neighborhood process is being left out."

A city homeless task force announced last week that it would release a list of possible sites on Sept. 3. After two weeks of public comment, the list will be cut.

But that shorter list might not be made public, the Austin American-Statesman reports. And many residents question the motives for such secrecy.

Last month, task force chairman Richard Pena, an attorney and president-elect of the State Bar of Texas, ordered members

not to disclose site information. Last week, members decided to filter all calls about the facility through the chairman, the newspaper reported.

The task force has been meeting for more than a year to develop a homeless center modeled after a facility in Orlando, Fla. It would cost between \$2 million and \$3.5 million and be aimed at steering people toward self-sufficiency.

The homeless "campus" would include substance-abuse treatment, child care, a dining hall, job training and an outdoor sleeping area. The search committee is looking for several acres on which to build.

The center has been the topic

of heated debates on the airwaves and quiet discussions on porches and lawns. But little information is available to the public. That, critics say, is the wrong way to get public support.

"This is how we ended up with the Holly Power Plant in the middle of a residential neighborhood," said Cynthia Medlin. She is one of many residents who were upset to find out that the homeless campus could be built near their homes because they live in one of three areas reportedly under consideration.

Members of the task force said they are still looking at many locations and no area is being

targeted. "We've looked at literally thousands of sites," said Richard Troxell, chairman of the site selection committee.

Task force members last week said they need to provide information to the news media and the public. They discussed creating a World Wide Web site and writing a "script" that members could use to answer questions consistently. They have started making presentations to neighborhood and civic groups.

But site selection has been a carefully guarded secret.

In a June 12 memo to all task force members, chairman Pena urged confidentiality.

"As revealing sites is detri-

mental to our project, I am hereby issuing a Chairman's Restraining Order prohibiting any task force member from revealing to anyone specific site locations or general areas," he said in the memo obtained by the American-Statesman newspaper.

Some residents said they resent the lack of information.

Medlin said it's up to the task force to sell the idea to neigh-

borhoods and that many residents would listen.

"I'm willing to cut them some slack because I think their basic intent is good," she said.

But after years of supporting the Salvation Army and other social service programs, Medlin said she's never heard of anything that will cure homelessness. "If they've got some magic formula, I'm dying to know it."

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EDITORIAL

Quote of the Day

"The voice is a second signature."

-R.I. Fitzhenry

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 Sports Editor; Debbie Jensen Features Editor

OUR VIEWS

Work on schools reminds us that new year is at hand

Watching the progress on the new junior high school, it's hard to imagine that school will start in another month! Why, it seems like just yesterday that we were cautioning motorists to watch out for those school children freshly dismissed for the summer.

We realize that summer vacation is never long enough for a youngster intent on playing baseball or softball, or one interested in swimming or fishing or camping out — but it doesn't seem like summers went by this fast a few years ago ... when we adults were younger!

But now, take a walk through local stores and if supplies aren't already on the shelves, you'll more than likely find boxes of school supplies stacked in the aisles ... waiting to replace things like swimming pool air mattresses and floaties for the kiddos.

This is a landmark school year of sorts for the community in that virtually all of the students in the Big Spring ISD will go to school in air-conditioned classrooms.

And yes, we all know that none of us went to school in air-conditioned classrooms 30 or 40 years ago but then, very few of us had air-conditioned homes or vehicles then, either.

But times have changed and it's time our students have the opportunity to attend class in climatic conditions similar to those in which they live.

This is a landmark year for another reason, as well. After serving the community for nearly 70 years as a functioning school, this will be the last year for Runnels Junior High to house students.

The facility has served this community well ... and many, many students that have gone on to bigger and better things in this world have walked its halls.

Yes, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Classes will still come and go, but in a different facility at a different location as our teachers work to prepare our youngsters to be competitive in today's marketplace.

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America's drug war is an overblown fraud

Ezequiel Hernandez, 18, was by accounts of his family and friends a good boy. He was out herding his family's goats in southwest Texas near the border when he was shot to death by U.S. Marines on May 20.



Charley Reese Syndicated Columnist

A grand jury is currently investigating. Some people who knew the boy speculate that his death was the result of mistakes — an honest, understandable mistake on the part of the Marines and a more serious, less forgivable mistake by politicians. They say it is inconceivable that Hernandez would have knowingly fired at Marines.

The boy had a .22 rifle, and he did fire it. Family and friends believe he may have just been plinking at a target like a stone or a tin can, not aware that beyond the target Marines in heavy camouflage were concealed on a stakeout looking for

drug dealers. But the Marines thought he was firing at them, returned fire and killed him.

If that's the way it happened — and at the moment we don't know — it's a tragedy, but the Marines are not to blame. The people who are to blame are the politicians who insist on using the military in civilian police functions.

Lt. Gen. Carlton Fulford, the commander of these Marines from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, has said publicly that he wishes they weren't involved.

There are good reasons why the military should not be used in civilian police work. The training for the military and for the police is quite different because their jobs are quite different.

The military's job, to use the current slang, is to "break things and kill people." The police's job is to take into custody people they have probable cause to believe committed a crime but who are presumed to be innocent until proven guilty.

The well-trained police officer's instincts are to avoid violence if at all possible. The well-trained soldier's instincts are to inflict violence and to inflict it

aggressively. The military spends a lot of money training soldiers to be aggressive because in war, aggressiveness wins battles and ultimately saves lives (our side's) by killing the enemy soldiers first.

We should be careful that our civilian police are not militarized and that our military forces are not "civilianized." And one way to do that is keep the military out of civilian police work and to avoid military-style training and uniforms for civilian police.

Another way is to stop this political demagoguery about a drug war. It's not a war. It's plain, old-fashioned smuggling and sale of contraband. Even some of our Revolutionary forefathers were involved in smuggling.

Whenever a government designates some commodity as illegal, it automatically creates a black market for the commodity. It doesn't matter whether it's rum or marijuana or untaxed bolts of cloth. If a government says people can't have it and enough people want it, somebody will supply it.

So all we are doing is what governments have always done: trying to catch the smugglers

and their distributors. What's that got to do with war? Nothing. Illegal drugs may not be good for you, but they are not that much worse, if at all, than the stuff that is legal.

If you look at the deaths attributed to alcohol, take note that doctor-prescribed drugs kill 60,000 to 140,000 people per year, according to a November 1994 article in Hospital Practice. And if you believe the government's claim that tobacco kills 400,000 people a year (I think that's a phony number, but it's the official government line), then the ban on narcotics really doesn't make any sense. The last number I could find for deaths attributed to drug abuse was for the year 1991 — it was just under 7000.

That boy out in Texas was killed by political posturing by demagogic politicians. And his isn't the only government-caused tragedy in this stupid replay of Prohibition. But I think we'll find a Martian sooner than we'll find a politician with the courage to say that the drug war is an overblown fraud.

Charley Reese's e-mail address is OSOREESE@aol.com. © 1997 by King Features

Who would want to reward a surly slob?

I knew of a man who, on occasion, hit his wife. Otherwise he had impeccable manners.

He would stand up and bow whenever your wife came into the room, but he sometimes knocked down his own.

In other words, good manners do not necessarily make a true gentleman. But a true gentleman must have good manners. Manners don't assure a sterling character, but they wrap one up pretty, like a blue bow.

I've been in several discussions about manners lately, mostly because my young niece was visiting. You have to remind children about a dozen times a day to say the magic words, or inversely, to close

their mouths when full of Wonder Bread and peanut butter. Early drilling in this department will help them the rest of their lives.

A college professor I know tells me students with good manners make better grades. Teachers are human. Who wants to reward a surly slob, even an Einstein?

"You can get through life with bad manners, but it's easier with good manners," Lillian Gish once said.

Children aren't the only ones these days whose manners need work; they are just the only ones with an excuse.

I believe today's society has decided manners are extraneous, like summer hats. Every time I get hit in the nose with the door at the Piggly Wiggly I remember how things used to be, when people had time to worry about who was behind them.

But then, maybe I exaggerate, or doctor my memory. As Byron Dobell wrote, "Every generation is convinced there has been a deplorable breakdown of manners."

(There is, of course, the off chance that every generation is right. A mountain is whittled to a puny hill over many generations, not one. By the year 2000 maybe we'll be slapping one another in elevators and brawling over theater seats.)

There are still a precious few with great manners; most of them are over 60. I was reminded of that fact last week.

Thomas Murray, a kind man who is spending his retirement trying to make things better for Atlanta's urban youth, recently left several urgent messages on my machine. He had to apologize, he said. I could not imagine why.

Turns out Mr. Murray had drafted a letter a year ago to thank me for a column I'd written about his new organization, the Hope for Atlanta Youth Fund. A secretary had failed to mail it. He was devastated. I was touched.

My own mother was fanatical about thank-you notes. She was of the rigid Southern lady school on the subject, the idea being that when the postman delivered

a gift he should wait on the porch for your return thank-you note. Imagine her disappointment when her own child procrastinated after graduations and bridal showers.

It wasn't that I didn't see the need for written thank-yous; I found them difficult if not impossible to write well. They all sounded alike.

"Thank you for that lovely piece of china in the pattern that I myself chose. Soon I hope to have a two-piece setting. I will think of you each time I dine alone."

By the time I drafted a thank-you that sounded fresh, the giver had forgotten the gift.

I think one of many reasons America will miss Charles Kuralt is that he was a reporter with good manners. I've often wondered what journalists hoped to accomplish by being abrupt.

Or, as Arthur Schopenhauer once said, "Politeness is to human nature what warmth is to wax."

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Rheta Johnson Syndicated Columnist

Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY



Letters to the editor should be sent to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. Please limit letters to 300 words or less. All submissions must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number for verification. Receipt of letters is not acknowledged, nor are letters returned.

Be... The ASS... ANAHI has four opportun... 47 chan... argues... Wette... double to... the nia... Anaheim... Texas Ra... The be... six blow... "One o... er lost... manage... Wettel... B... Big... poi... 12... By JOHN... Sports E... Big... League... some... Monday... win ove... forcing... tonight... Junior I... The Ic... of the d... nament... at 7 to... will ad... play in... For a... night, I... three c... avengin... tournar... Danny... Villa, ju... each... lead... And... batters... with th... third, M... choice... through... game... Stovall... be a th... two tear... Altho... 10 hits... Franco... aged to... go the... team's... for-4 sh... was als... in three... Five... had m... two of... less... "We... Lal... The ASS... IRVIN... Cowboy... pick Da... trainin... says he... But w... camp o... Monday... State st... SPO... From st... Angel... Satur... Night... Drillers... Form... Tall" J... The A... nity to... event w... 10. Reg... In ad... offering... ages fo... The t... opportu... picnic... For n... (915) 68... Cross... With... sion tes... the eve...

TUESDAY

JULY 15

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6:30 PM	News Wh. Fortune	Simpsons Home Imp.	Science Guy Creatures	Waltons (261931)	News (7554) Ent. Tonight	News Wh. Fortune	News (4060) Seinfeld	Fam. Mat. Major League	Luz Clarita (36973)	The Chipmunk Adventure	Dukes of Hazzard	The Tie That Binds	Eugene (CC) (48900912)	Sheep (CC) (104008)	Christian Television	Law & Order	Wings of the Field Star	Kung Fu: Legend Cont.	Sports News USA	(119405) SportsNight	Movie: Desk Set (908467)	Hi List (540931)
7:30 PM	Roseanne Life's Work	Movie: The Three Musketeers (CC) (50950)	21st Century Jet	Hawaii Five-0 (880080)	Searchers (CC) (81028)	Roseanne Life's Work	Mad Abo: You Naked Truth	Baseball: Philadelphia	Te Sigo Amanda	LeAnn Rimes	Yesterday & Today	Birds	Full Body	Movie: A Time to Kill (CC) (386776)	(112931)	Biography (552900)	Wild Discovery (567592)	Movie: Cocoon's	Soccer: A League AF	Outside the Lines	Star Game World of Football	Movie: Tarzan the Fear-
8:30 PM	Home Imp. Spin City	Musketees (CC) (50950)	21st Century Jet	Hawaii Five-0 (880080)	Searchers (CC) (81028)	Home Imp. Spin City	Fraser Caroline	Phillies at Atlanta	Tu y Yo (56370)	In Concert Pee-wee's Big	Prime Time Country	Movie: Species (CC) (1977931)	Movie: The Quick and the	Christian Television	Prime Time	Silent Witness (549193)	Crime Inc. (563776)	(105) Movie: Fearless III	Drag Racing: NHRA Nationals	Golf (894370) Baseball	less (698198) Tarzan	
9:30 PM	NYPD Blue (CC) (4660)	Pal Factor: Chronicles	21st Century Jet	700 Club (800844)	Part III (CC) (94592)	NYPD Blue (CC) (47202)	Dateline (CC) (23028)	Braves (35) Movie: Parent Trap (4957216)	Parent Trap (4957216)	II P. Impacto Noticias Uni.	Castaways on Gilligan's Isle	The Granny	Dead (CC) (4791735)	Arise: Spicy City	(851318)	Law & Order	Wild Discovery (566963)	(9535026)	FOX Sports News	Baseball Cycling	the Feagles (1936405)	Rap City (496931)
10:30 PM	News Cheers	Mad Abo: You In the Heat of	News-Lehrer	Three Stooges	News Late Show	News Nightline	News Tonight Politically Inc.	Late Night (35) Movie: The Birds (6220134)	The Birds (6220134)	Movie: Sorcerer's Apprentice (11550)	Dukes of Hazzard	Movie: Plato's Run (CC) (1132573)	Christian	Silent Witness (304061)	Crime Inc. (217581)	Bluff (9245486)	MuscleSport USA	Surfing NBA Today	Tarzan and the Green			
11:30 PM	Nightline Politically Inc.	the Night Martin	P.O.V. (CC) (78912)	Carson Carson	Married... With Children	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	Late Night (35) Movie: The Birds (6220134)	The Birds (6220134)	Movie: Sorcerer's Apprentice (11550)	Dukes of Hazzard	Movie: Plato's Run (CC) (1132573)	Christian	Silent Witness (304061)	Crime Inc. (217581)	Bluff (9245486)	MuscleSport USA	Surfing NBA Today	Tarzan and the Green				
12:30 AM	Roseanne Bible Lesson	Universe H. Patrol	From Nuremberg to	Mad Program Pa-1 Program	Late Late Show	News Ent. Tonight	Cops															

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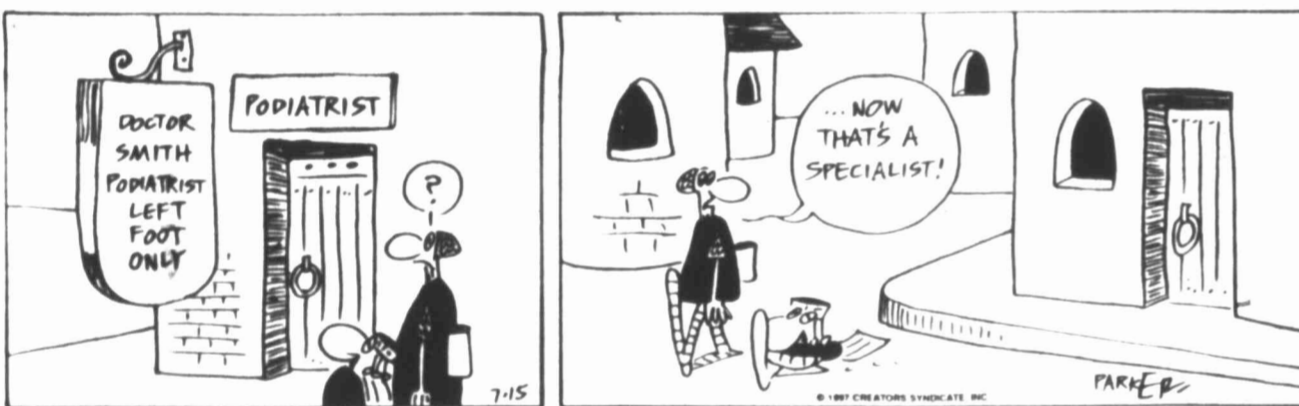
DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, July 15, the 196th day of 1997. There are 169 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 15, 1870, Georgia became the last of the Confederate states to be readmitted to the Union.

On this date: In 1606, the painter Rembrandt was born in Leiden, Netherlands.

In 1916, the Boeing Co., origi-

nally known as Pacific Aero Products, was founded in Seattle by William Boeing.

In 1918, the Second Battle of the Marne began during World War I.

In 1948, President Truman was nominated for another term of office by the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1964, Sen. Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona was nominated for president at the Republican National Convention in San Francisco.

In 1971, President Nixon announced he would visit the People's Republic of China to seek a "normalization of relations."

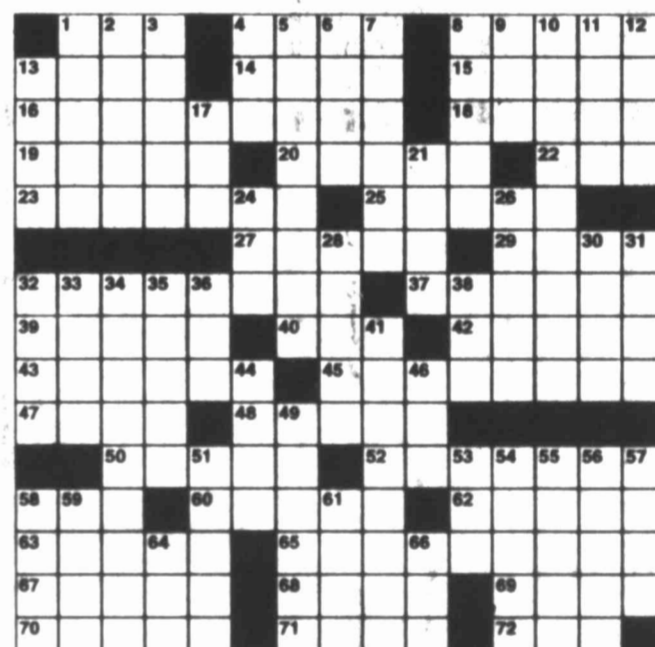
In 1975, three American astronauts blasted off aboard an Apollo spaceship hours after two Soviet cosmonauts were launched aboard a Soyuz spacecraft for a mission that included a linkup of the two ships in orbit.

In 1976, a 36-hour kidnap ordeal began for 26 schoolchildren and their bus driver as they were abducted near Chowchilla, Calif., by three gunmen and imprisoned in an underground cell. The captives escaped unharmed.

In 1979, President Carter delivered his "malaise" speech in which he lamented what he called a "crisis of confidence" in America.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 - , amas, amat
 - 4 Goddess of Olympus
 - 8 Box
 - 13 Grandparental maneuver
 - 14 Skating
 - 15 Helped
 - 16 Malignous destruction
 - 18 Spoke with enthusiasm
 - 19 Enroll
 - 20 Pore of a leaf
 - 22 Some
 - 23 Ogle
 - 25 - example (be a model)
 - 27 Beau
 - 29 At the peak
 - 32 Faithless one
 - 37 Harangue
 - 39 Enjoyed avidly
 - 40 Spigot
 - 42 Theater stalls
 - 43 Stephen King novel
 - 45 Most verdant
 - 47 Part of TAE
 - 48 Pure
 - 50 Solo
 - 52 Diabolical
 - 58 Heir
 - 60 Let
 - 62 "Don Giovanni," e.g.
 - 63 Name
 - 65 Canadian city
 - 67 New York city
 - 68 "Brute?"
 - 69 Mysterious poem
 - 70 Property
 - 71 Aerie
 - 72 Vane letters
- DOWN
- 1 - garde
 - 2 Horse blanket
 - 3 Senior
 - 4 Shakespearean prince
 - 5 Current
 - 6 What's left
 - 7 Not quite
 - 8 Gem weight
 - 9 Inlet
 - 11 Benefit
 - 12 Adolescent
 - 14 Whirlpool
 - 15 Birds: Lat.
 - 17 Roses - red
 - 21 Have a session
 - 24 Turkish chief
 - 26 Brother of Moses
 - 28 Platform
 - 30 Works by Pindar
 - 31 Annoying one
 - 32 Worthless, biblically
 - 33 And others: abbr.
 - 34 Don Quixote's creator
 - 35 Rustic
 - 36 Before cure and gram
 - 38 -de-France
 - 41 Introduces
 - 44 Slave of yore
 - 46 Epoch
 - 49 Everlasting bliss
 - 51 Fragrant, old style
 - 53 In addition
 - 54 River of Venezuela
 - 55 Birthmark
 - 56 Pappas
 - 57 Maintenance
 - 58 Portico
 - 59 Some paintings
 - 61 Glut
 - 64 New Guinea port
 - 66 Snip



by Florence C. Adler 07/15/97

Monday's Puzzle solved:



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Today's Birthdays:

Actor Philip Carey is 72. Actor Alex Karras is 62. Actor Ken Kercheval is 62. Ohio Gov. George V. Voinovich is 61. Actor Patrick Wayne is 58. Actor Jan-Michael Vincent is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Millie Jackson is 53. Singer Linda Ronstadt is 51. Actor Terry O'Quinn is 45. Rock musician Joe Satriani is 41. Actor Willie Aames is 37. Actor-director Forest Whitaker is 36. Actress Lolita Davidovich is 36. Actress Brigitte Nielsen is 34. Rock musician Phillip Fisher (Fishbone) is 30.