



Boy Scout representative Hays Stripling (left) accepts two checks totalling \$4,000 from Wal-Mart manager Tim Diehl.

**Two soldiers convicted in murder of Big Spring native**

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

A military court-martial in Fort Riley, Kan. returned guilty verdicts against two servicemen charged in the November 1996 slaying of Big Spring native Dustin Waters.

Waters, a former honor student and standout athlete at Big Spring High School, died from stab wounds he received following an argument late in the evening of Nov. 22, 1996.

Pvt. Rohan Wilson was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 30 years in military prison. He also was ordered to forfeit all his pay and allowance, reduced in rank to buck private and given a dishonorable discharge.

PFC Shawn Richards was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to

*Wilson and Richards began arguing with Waters following a basketball game near the barracks area. He was found dead at the scene*

eight years in military prison. Like Wilson, Richards was ordered to forfeit all pay and allowances, reduced in rank to buck private and given a dishonorable discharge.

Wilson and Richards were immediately transported to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where they will serve their sentences.

A third man charged in Waters' slaying, PFC Clinton Samuels, was acquitted on all charges.

According to court-martial testimony, Wilson and Richards began arguing with Waters, a private stationed at the fort, fol-

lowing a basketball game near the barracks area.

He was found dead at the scene shortly before midnight, said Deb Skidmore, media relations officer for Fort Riley.

Waters enlisted in the Army in September 1995 and had been stationed at Fort Sill, Okla. and Fort Ord, Calif. before being assigned to Fort Riley.

Waters was assigned to Battery B, 4th Battalion of the 1st Field Artillery at Fort Riley. He had been stationed at the fort less than a year at the time of his death.

While at BSSH, Waters was an honors student and star athlete, lettering in football, basketball and track and field. He was a member of the 1994 BSHS team that qualified for the state playoffs, and was a state track meet performer as a member of the sprint relay team.

**PADDLING COMANCHE'S WATERS**

Cynthia (left) and Jeremy Becerra spend Wednesday afternoon canoeing, with their family, on Comanche Trail Lake. The canoes, which are available for rent, are a new addition to the lake.

HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett



**Insurance woes**

**Commissioners keeping eye on GEM as budget sessions near**

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

A problem that plagued the Howard County Commissioners' Court since January is still there and doesn't seem to have improved since commissioners last talked to their insurance representative - payment of insurance claims filed by county employees.

Commissioners were updated on the status of Utah-based GEM Insurance Company, which carries the counties health insurance policy.

The company is in the middle of restructuring since it merged with another company, but in the meantime Howard County employees are having to wait on several thousand dollars in insurance claims to be processed - \$93,000 worth as of mid June.

It will be October or November when the county signs a new insurance contract and whether the county stays with GEM will be one of the major items of discussion when commissioners sit down to iron out a budget for the 1997-98 fiscal year, according to County Judge Ben Lockhart.

How GEM performs in the coming weeks will also play a major role in what decisions the court makes concerning who will handle county's insurance contract in the future.

"How GEM performs in the future will be one of the biggest considerations we have," Lockhart said.

**MUSEUM ADDITION**



Nancy Raney, an employee at the Heritage Museum, prepares a Texas and Pacific Railway conductors uniform, worn by Coney Bradley, to be put on exhibit at the museum. The uniform was donated by Richard Wright of Big Spring.

**Fuqua: Budget should be close to last year**

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

A year makes a lot of difference when it comes to a city budget - something city administrators and Big Spring City Council members are finding out as they work through their annual summer budget sessions to iron out a budget for the next fiscal year.

City Manager Gary Fuqua said the new fiscal budget should be pretty close to the one approved last year.

"We're trying to hold the line on things," Fuqua said.

Last September, the council approved a near \$22 million budget - but not without a few headaches along the way.

According to Fuqua, the city won't know what its tax situation is until it receives appraisals from the Howard County Tax Office later this month.

"It's hard to know anything until we get our appraisals, especially what the tax base looks like," Fuqua said.

The final piece of last year's budget puzzle was put in place last September when the council approved a 4-cent tax decrease from 65 cents per \$100 valuation to 61 cents per \$100 valuation.

The tax decrease for the 1996-



**"We're trying to hold the line on things."**  
Gary Fuqua  
City Manager

97 fiscal year was the fourth consecutive tax reduction for Big Spring residents due largely to the \$57 million increase in the city's assessed value during 1995 and 1996.

The water treatment plant will be a major factor in this year's budget because the city is trying to rebuild the final two of six filters at the plant - a project that will cost approximately \$600,000, according to Fuqua.

"With the filters that have already been rebuilt, rebuilding the final two and including the new sewer lift station at Bell Street, the city has invested about \$2 million in improvements to its water system in the last few years," Fuqua said.

Another concern for city officials during budget talks is the fact that water sales have been down during the last year - partly because of last year's drought and because of the spring and summer rains received this year.

"We're probably looking at our

water sales being down about \$370,000 this year," Fuqua said. "We're working very hard to get things in order."

Getting the final two filters rebuilt at the water treatment plant is important because of the water the city receives from Lake Thomas, which has more sediments than the other lakes that supply Big Spring.

Also, city administrators and the council are trying to keep the budget as tight as possible to try and work out a possible pay increase for city employees.

The 1996-97 budget passed its first reading before the council last September, but not by much as Mayor Tim Blackshear, Councilman Chuck Cawthon and former Councilman Tom Guess thought the budget presented by Fuqua was acceptable without several of the extra items included by the council during July and August budget sessions.

The budget also ran into a snag last fall because the city's ending balance in its general fund reserve was thought to be inadequate going into the 1996-97 fiscal year, but Fuqua told the council the city should have about \$328,000 in its general fund reserve at the end of the current fiscal year because of the city's move to make the

ambulance service an enterprise fund.

As an enterprise fund, the ambulances purchased when the fire department took over the service and the startup costs of the service are looked at as assets and balance out against liabilities, according to Fuqua, when this type of accounting procedure is used.

As a result of recent council discussions, the ambulance service may be on the receiving end of a subsidy when a final budget is worked out.

Despite the 1997-98 budget being two months away from final approval by the council, most city departments will look to receive at least similar funding as it did for the current fiscal year.

The 1996-97 budget, by fund or department, included \$9.2 million in the general fund; utility fund, \$7.8 million; airpark fund, \$658,000; ambulance fund, \$848,000; service center, \$865,000; cemetery fund, \$75,000; projected expenditures from the motel tax fund, \$186,000; medical/health insurance, \$735,000; worker's compensation, \$150,000; police fund, \$10,000; police reserve, \$10,000; college education reimbursement fund, \$2,700; golf course improvement, \$10,000; and several miscellaneous items.

**City's July sales tax receipts up 2.29 percent from '96**

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring recently received its July sales tax rebate from the State Comptroller's Office, showing a 2.29 percent increase over its July 1996 rebate, receiving a rebate of \$248,855.53.

June's sales tax rebate for the city was 8.67 percent over its June 1996 rebate.

Overall, Howard County, which includes the cities of Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan, received a total rebate of \$254,706.44, a 2.31 percent increase over last year.

The city of Coahoma's share of the rebate was 3,950.78 which is an increase of 43.08 percent compared to last year.

Forsan's \$1,900.13 rebate was a sizable decrease (34.79 percent) over last year's rebate.

Other local areas receiving

rebates included the cities of Andrews, \$53554.81; Colorado City, \$29,513.32; Lamesa, \$61,217.32; Loraine, \$202.95; Midland, \$916,837.09; Odessa, \$699,347.42; Stanton, \$7,091.69; and Westbrook, \$855.50.

Statewide, a total of \$153.7 million in monthly sales tax payments were made to 1,086 Texas cities and 117 counties.

To date, sales tax allocations are about 5.7 percent ahead of those for the first seven months

of 1996.

Of the July rebates, a total of \$140 million were paid to Texas cities, a 7.4 percent increase over last year and \$13.6 million in rebates were paid to Texas counties, a 7.6 percent over last year's \$12.6 million allocation.

Another \$4.1 million was paid to 26 special purpose districts.

The July sales tax rebates include local sales taxes collected on May sales by businesses filing monthly returns.

**Lamesa, Wichita Falls recommended as sites for high-security prisons**

HOUSTON (AP) - A Texas prison board committee today recommended Lamesa and Wichita Falls as sites for new 660-cell high security prisons.

The units, modeled after a high security prison that just opened near Huntsville, are adjacent to existing prisons in the two communities. Amarillo was named as an alternate site.

The prison board will formally entertain the recommendation at a meeting Friday.

The sites at Lamesa and Wichita Falls were selected

based on primarily site considerations, specifically cost preparation and other expenses such as utilities. In some cases, cities vying for the new units had offered incentives such as utility reductions to lure the prisons and their secure job base.

Prison officials are concerned, however, at the two-year construction schedule and hope to accelerate that in light of recent estimates that suggest Texas prisons will soon be at capacity despite a \$1 billion-plus program in recent years.

**WEATHER**

Today:	Fri:	Sat:	Sun:

Tonight, fair. Lows in the upper 60s to lower 70s. Friday, mostly sunny. Highs to near 102. Friday night, fair. Lows in the upper 60s to mid 70s. Extended forecast, Saturday through Monday, mostly sunny days and fair nights. Lows in the upper 60s to mid 70s. Highs in the 90s.

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Big Spring Herald  
Thursday, July 17, 1997

GENERAL NEWS

RED HOT SAVINGS!  
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1" x 25' Tape Rule  
Rounded back design to fit comfortably in the hand. Yellow or orange tape. (100)(11)(4) (100)(11)(4)

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16 Oz. Claw or Rip Hammer  
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14 Piece Drill Bit Set  
Industrial quality high-speed steel drill bits 1/16" to 3/8". Molded plastic storage case. (150)(11)(2)

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More versatility in drilling through a variety of materials. (150)(11)(2)

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**3.99**  
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Weatherproof corrugated plastic. Mounting bracket included. (200)(11)(5) (200)(11)(5)

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6-Pc. Tool Set, 7-Pc. Tool Set or 10 Pc. Screwdriver Set  
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**8.97**  
32 Gallon Plastic Trash Can  
Reinforced handles & sturdy hand grip bottom. Make handling easier. Snap-lock cover. (100)(11)(4)

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Plastic Cement  
(100)(11)(4)

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Bicycle, Ladder or Tool Storage  
Vinyl coated. Great for organizing your garage or basement. Card of tone. (100)(11)(4) (100)(11)(4)

### Oops! Space crew pulls wrong plug on Mir

MOSCOW (AP) — The embattled Mir lost all power today on most of the space station when the crew accidentally disconnected a cable. But the three-man team remained safe and quickly began repairing the damage, space officials said.

The error cut power to all key systems — electricity, orientation, communications, and the oxygen generation, said Russian Mission Control chief Vladimir Solovoyov.

"Today we had a very bad situation, serious trouble," Solovoyov said. "We have lost all energy."

He stressed that the crew is not in danger and able to move freely throughout the darkened space station, but must go into the Soyuz escape capsule if they need electricity or want to communicate with Mission Control. The Soyuz has systems independent from the rest of Mir.

Several hours after the accident, the spacecraft was stabilizing, its batteries were recharging and the crew planned to begin switching various systems back on, Russian space officials said.

The two Russians and one American on board were making routine preparations today to repair the Mir's already damaged power system when they accidentally disconnected a cable supplying power to the orientation system, which

directs the station's solar panels to the sun.

"It was a human error, but everyone can make a mistake and we should not judge the crew too harshly," Solovoyov said at a news conference.

With the orientation system down, the Mir twisted chaotically for several hours before it could be stabilized by firing thrusters on the Soyuz capsule.

The oxygen generating system shut off, though there is enough air to last for several days, in addition to backup oxygen canisters. The lights went off, though the spacecraft was receiving some sunlight through its windows.

Solovoyov said the crew quickly reconnected the cable after the accident, the latest in a series of breakdowns that have bedeviled the Mir in recent months.

Asked which crew member disconnected the cable, Viktor Blagov, deputy chief of mission control, said, "We have not asked them yet and it does not matter for us."

President Clinton said he was briefed on the latest Mir troubles today. "As far as we know right now, they have gotten control of things and there seems to be no immediate crisis," he said.

He demurred when asked about continued U.S. involvement with Mir, saying he didn't

have enough information. "I cannot say we would not continue cooperation. We just don't know enough."

Solovoyov said NASA is helping ensure communication continues with the station. That includes switching on its ground stations so the Mir can communicate with Russian or American space officials at all times.

Normally, the crew can only communicate for a few minutes out of every hour as the space station passes over Russian territory, 250 miles above the Earth.

Solovoyov predicted that by this evening, "we will be able to charge the batteries and start switching on the orientation system."

In Houston, NASA spokesman Don Sickorez said the Americans and the Russians viewed the problem similarly.

"We agree with (Solovoyov) that it's an unpleasant situation, that it's irritating, but it's recoverable," he said.

"We're pleased that the crew has initiated the recovery procedure," he said, adding that the solar batteries are expected to be recharged in one to two days.

The orientation system malfunctions periodically but space officials say it's a familiar problem they know how to fix.

The latest problem adds to the

Mir's long list of woes and comes at a time when the crew was already preparing for a difficult repair mission designed to restore the troubled spacecraft to close to full power.

The Mir has been working at slightly more than half-power since a June 25 collision with a cargo ship.

The repair mission, which already has been delayed twice, is scheduled for next Thursday and Friday. Solovoyov said that if power can be restored to the station, the repair will proceed as planned.

The current problems could delay preparations for the mission.

Mir commander Vasily Tsibliyev has been suffering from an irregular heartbeat and Russian flight controllers don't want him to take part in the mission, a two-man job.

U.S. astronaut Michael Foale has begun preliminary training to replace him, but NASA has not yet given approval for Foale to take part.

The repair job involves opening the hatch to the damaged Spektr module and reconnecting cables that carry electricity from Spektr's solar panels to the rest of Mir.

The cables had to be disconnected after the accident that punctured Spektr because they ran through the hatch, which was frantically shut and sealed.

RED HOT SAVINGS!  
Spring City Do-it center.  
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1 gallon prevents growth of algae in pools 802220

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5 Gallon Cooler  
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2-1/2 Gal. 580457 (1-4) 3.29  
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775496(1-39)

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Doit Bathroom Faucet  
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3 arm sprinkler 724381

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Doit 40 watt Night Light  
40, 60, 75 or 100W 4-Pack Light Bulbs  
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### After 117 years, Woolworth's closing last 400 stores

NEW YORK (AP) — Woolworth Corp. is closing its five-and-dime stores across the country, ending a 117-year-old business that was once a fixture of American life.

More than 400 F.W. Woolworth stores with 9,000 employees will be closed. Last year, the stores reported an operating loss of \$37 million as the chain struggled to compete against big discounters.

The company announced the closings today, confirming a report that appeared in The Wall Street Journal.

F.W. Woolworth stores accounted for \$1 billion of Woolworth Corp.'s annual sales of over \$8 billion, but have failed to turn a profit, the newspaper said. The remaining \$7 billion comes from the chain's more profitable chains, which include Foot Locker,

Champs sporting goods and Northern Reflections apparel shops.

The newspaper quoted sources as saying about a quarter of the F.W. Woolworth stores will be converted to Champs, Foot Locker and other shops. It was not clear whether those shops would hire employees of the Woolworth stores.

Frank Woolworth created the

store in 1879 when he added pricier 10-cent items to his "Great 5-Cent Store" in Lancaster, Pa. The stores boomed in prewar downtowns and became fixtures in suburban malls.

In recent years they lost customers to national discount stores like Wal-Mart and to the wide selections at huge specialty stores such as Bed, Bath & Beyond and Toys "R" Us Inc.

### TEXAS BRIEFS

**The ASSOCIATED PRESS**

WACO — A highway mowing crew and angry farmers engaged in a standoff in a corn field south over attempts to mow crops that a contractor claims extend onto state property along the highway.

"What we have is a man with a state agency forcing something on land owners," said Wendell Crunk, a farmer whose corn field faces Farm Road 3400 a few miles southeast of Waco. "You can't just come out here and mow a man's crops down."

J.L. Davis, a private contractor hired by the Texas Department of Transportation to mow along area highways, said Wednesday that his tractors were left idling about 9 a.m. Wednesday after angry farmers confronted his team of mowers.

McLennan County deputies kept watch as the standoff lasted for more than five hours as DOT officials considered the situation.

Sera allegedly having sexual intercourse with the woman while she is unconscious.

After listening to three hours of testimony, the judge denied bond, saying that Sera was a flight risk.

Sera was first arrested at his Irving, Texas, home two weeks ago after police showed a Colleyville, Texas, woman a videotape of her being sexually assaulted while unconscious.

ABILENE — A 13-year-old boy is recanting testimony he gave seven years ago that resulted in a 75-year prison term for his father on a molestation charge.

The boy's testimony in 1990 helped convict Billy Lynn Stevens, 40, of aggravated sexual assault of a child.

But the boy now insists it was his stepfather who molested him and forced him to lie on the witness stand.

A hearing was scheduled for Friday in Taylor County court to sort out the case. State District Judge Billy John Edwards will collect facts to be presented to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, which could overturn Stevens' conviction.

Attorney Richard Mabry, who has represented Stevens from the start, filed a sworn statement by the boy in which the child says he has "been trying to correct the effects of false statements I made in 1989 and 1990, when I was 5 and 6 years old."

business offices in six states, including Texas, is just the price of doing business in the health care industry these days, said the chairman and CEO of the nation's largest for-profit hospital company.

Federal agents hunting for health care fraud and armed with criminal search warrants swooped down simultaneously Wednesday on Columbia/HCA facilities and offices of an Atlanta-based company that manages home health care operations for the hospital giant.

"It was not a fun day," CEO head Richard Scott told CNN's Moneyline. "But as you know, government investigations are matter of fact today in health care."

ROCKPORT — Defense attorneys prepared to present their case today in the capital murder trial of ex-Ingleside Mayor Mark Crawford.

The prosecution rested Wednesday after testimony revealed that Crawford's fingerprints were at the warehouse where his business partner was killed and buried.

That proves nothing, the defense said, since Crawford frequented the warehouse and there's no way to tell when the prints were left.

Crawford's mother, Lelia Crawford, told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times Wednesday that her son is not a sadistic killer.

"Mark doesn't have a side of the story to tell because he wasn't even (at the crime scene)," Ms. Crawford said. "I didn't

raise any stupid children and (killing Brueggen) was a stupid act."

WASHINGTON — When the Immigration and Naturalization Service was trying to deport a Vietnamese national with a criminal background recently, it took him out of a detention cell in Los Angeles and put him unguarded on a Continental Airlines flight to Houston.

Immigration agents were supposed to meet Dung Tien Ngo at the gate in Texas last week and take him back into custody before his deportation hearing.

They failed to show up.

Ngo, who has burglary and weapons convictions, slipped away from airport security. INS agents caught up with him the next day at a barbecue at a relative's home in Houston.

The INS puts thousands of criminal aliens on commercial airline flights each year, most sitting without escort or restraint alongside regular passengers.

PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE — For the third straight year, the world's most endangered sea turtle species has laid eggs along the Texas coast, a sign that the population is rebounding, biologists say.

Nine Kemp's ridley turtle nests have been found along the Texas coast this summer, said Donna Shaver, a U.S. Geological Survey biologist who oversees the turtle recovery program at the national seashore.

The nests, each containing 60 to 140 eggs, were spotted on beaches from Corpus Christi to South Padre Island. They are the only Kemp's ridley nests found in the United States this year, Shaver said Wednesday.

"We feel it may indicate increased nesting of Kemp's ridleys on the Texas coast," she said. However, Shaver stressed that the Kemp's ridley remains the world's most endangered sea turtle, with a total adult population of 3,000 or fewer.

In the late 1940s, some 40,000 nesting females were detected at the turtle's main breeding ground in Rancho Nuevo, Mexico. Today, there are thought to be fewer than 1,500 nesting females.

WARREN, Ark. — A traveling businessman who authorities say drugged, raped and videotaped three women has been denied bond.

Bradley County Circuit Judge Joe Mazanti heard from an Arkansas woman who said Steven Sera, 39, drugged, raped and videotaped her. He is charged with rape, attempted rape, kidnapping and introducing a controlled substance into another person.

The court also viewed a videotape Wednesday that shows

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A surprise search of 35 Columbia/HCA hospitals and

**Open House**  
honoring  
**Our New Manager**  
**Cary Anderson**  
Friday, July 18, 1997  
2:00 - 4:00 in the afternoon  
Refreshments will be served  
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# EDITORIAL

### Quote of the Day

"Anxiety is the dizziness of freedom."  
-Soren Kierkegaard

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

<b>Charles C. Williams</b> Publisher	<b>John H. Walker</b> Managing Editor
<b>John A. Moseley</b> Sports Editor	<b>Debbie Jensen</b> Features Editor

### OUR VIEWS

## Blue All-Stars carry community's banner through tournament

As they take part in the longest playoff journey ever for a Big Spring Junior League All-Star team, the American League Blue just keeps finding a way to win.

First, they had to come back through the loser's bracket to win the District 3 Tournament held and completed in Big Spring Tuesday night.

And come back they did ... with a vengeance.

After losing to Midland Eastern by a 7-3 score, Blue came back to win a pair of games from the Midlanders — 12-4 and 12-9 — on consecutive nights to earn their trip to Snyder and the Sub-Sectional Tournament.

On Wednesday, Blue trailed a Lubbock entry early by a 2-0 score before coming back to take a 4-2 lead.

Before all was said and done, it took three extra innings before Blue won 9-6 in the 10th inning.

It has been said that baseball is a game of breaks and bounces, but after watching this bunch of kids play, we're convinced they make their breaks and don't miss many of the bounces.

Coaches Delvin Guinn, Pat Carter and Brandon Rogers have managed to get the most out of team members Dusty Floyd, Manuel Holguin, Clayton Kelso, Jerrod Simmons, Dereck Wilson, Chance Nichols, Steven Franco, Jason Thomas, Jon McKinnon, Brandon Greathouse, Daniel Mata, Willis Morrison, Ryan Guinn and Tye Butler — while the kids are winning and having fun.

We salute our American League Blue All-Stars ... and will be cheering them on as they seek to advance up the playoff ladder.

### OTHER VIEWS

Unsurprisingly, the sensible new agreement on television content ratings is being derided in certain industry quarters as censorship, an assault on free speech, government intrusion, a suppression of artistic expression.

But like so much of what the industry proffers, these protests hold far less substance than the promos might suggest.

Take the claim of censorship. Typically, this term describes an authoritarian prohibition on publishing or broadcasting materials that are deemed to violate certain rules. The new ratings system, by contrast, will permit programmers to keep sending out whatever they please, so long as they label it with indicators of its potential offensiveness.

Television's congressional critics have wisely agreed to hold their fire for a few years and give the new system a chance. The industry's naysayers would do a service to themselves and the public by taking the same approach.

STAR TRIBUNE  
Minneapolis

Barely two years ago, the U.S. Postal Service raised the price of a first-class stamp from 29 cents to 32 cents, and Postmaster General Marvin Runyon said he did not foresee the need for another rate hike until at least the year 2000.

Now the Postal Service is pleading poverty, claiming it needs a one-cent increase to continue operating in the black. This doesn't add up.

The USPS reaped a \$1.6 billion surplus in 1996 and is expected to enjoy another large surplus this year. So how in the name of Marvin Runyon can the service be strapped? ...

DAILY NEWS  
Alamogordo, N.M.

The slippery slope of good-for-you governing got greased Thursday when R.J. Reynolds folded Joe the Camel.

R.J. Reynolds has ended the Camel campaign before Congress has ratified the multi-

billion-dollar settlement between tobacco companies and 40 states, including Washington. This comes just one month after Reynolds filed a lawsuit against the Federal Trade Commission for alleged harassment and political opportunism in that agency's efforts to ban Joe.

Though Congress and President Clinton are still haggling over the fine print, one part of the tobacco settlement will remain intact: a ban on human figures and cartoons in advertisements.

The Camel is dead, but R.J. Reynolds already has a new ad campaign called "What You're Looking For." Joe the Camel will be resurrected in countless forms and products, always a little faster than he can be banned.

THE COLUMBIAN  
Vancouver, Wash.

R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. euthanized Joe Camel last week after the embattled cartoon pitchman became such a liability that he had to be whacked.

The anthropomorphic dromedary had become a high-profile focus of tobacco critics who argued that Joe Camel's cool appeal was aimed at peddling cigarettes to kids, and they had the statistics to prove it.

The move was widely interpreted as a conciliatory gesture aimed at winning approval of the giant settlement by Congress and President Clinton. Although smoking cigarettes is a filthy habit, dangerous to the lungs and heart and offensive to the nostrils, it would be an error not to employ Joe Camel's amazing powers of persuasion for good.

If Joe Camel is as irresistible a tobacco salesman as the Federal Trade Commission insists, why not bring him back to life and recast him as a spokesman for an anti-smoking campaign aimed at youth? There is no more zealous or convincing preacher than a reformed sinner. Give Joe another chance. It's the American Way.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE



## More than just the facts tells the complete story

I guess it would be wrong of me to say I miss my father's cigarette, that last one of the night he would smoke when the rest of us already were in bed. You could see the orange tip of it down the hallway, and you knew that he was kicked back in the recliner and the dark, thinking about things.



Rheta Johnson  
Syndicated Columnist

As a kid I imagined Daddy thought a lot about the war, though he has never talked much about his part in it. When he does, it is only to mention the utter shock for a boy from the farm in South Georgia suddenly thrust into travel, first across the country, then the world. He talks about the snow in South Dakota, the opium dens of Shanghai. Never about the rest.

Not too long ago, he gave me two photographs he snapped on Ie Shima, a small island northwest of Okinawa. They are pictures of Ernie Pyle's grave. I put them away, with special things.

Anyone who thinks Pyle was a wide-eyed optimist writing from a military script and a cornball period should read James Tobin's new biography, "Ernie Pyle's War: America's Eyewitness to World War II."

In fact, this man dead 52 years has a relevance that I hadn't realized. If every editor and reporter in the newspaper business would study this book, or, more to the point, study Pyle, we could fix what fancy industry consultants and surveys have failed to mend. Pyle knew the secret.

"The column breathed the air of democracy," Tobin wrote. "Other national columnists wrote down to readers from the cultural heights of New York, Washington and Hollywood, but Ernie wrote 'on the level,' among and about ordinary people. His trademark topics were drawn from the concrete stuff

of everyday life.... He suspected the mighty and embraced the low, and he held that the distance between those social extremes was much shorter than either believed...."

I got a chuckle reading The New York Times review of Tobin's book. The reviewer liked the book but missed the point. He concluded: "Pyle was not a reporter, as that word is usually understood. He made no effort to file timely news dispatches, and he rarely if ever achieved a journalistic scoop."

If Ernie was not a reporter, ink doesn't come in black. Newspaper readers don't want only scoops. They want interesting words. They want to recognize the people they are reading about. They don't want only facts, they want truths.

And even in Pyle's day, editors were the last to recognize it.

Pyle had a miserable personal life — a depressed wife, a number of affairs, an inherent melancholy he treated with alcohol. At times he grew gut-sick of the column, the constant deadlines, the drip-drip of

emotion through words spilled daily onto paper. Still, he wrote.

I always enjoyed the "home country" period of Pyle's columns the most, the seven years before he went to war, when he wandered ceaselessly, writing about anything that struck his fancy. Ernie also thought that his best work.

Though he aimed for clarity, Pyle was a determined stylist as well. He jumped on those who messed with his cadence: "...lots of times when I'm describing some scene or feeling, I try to make it sound almost like music, and I think sometimes it does, and I think it does to readers, even though they may not be specifically conscious of it. And often the dropping of a word or the cutting of one sentence into two shorter ones destroys the whole rhythm of it."

Ernie's music still sounds good.

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Distributed by King Features

## The new debate on family values is high stakes

By ANN McFEATTERS  
Scripps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — Whatever happened to the debate over family values?

Remember the Murphy Brown mania? For months the nation was riveted on the TV sit-com reporter who had a baby out of wedlock and ran into then-Vice President Dan Quayle's insistence she was fostering bad values.

No matter. Murphy Brown has been forgotten. Today's family-values debate has turned into a high-stakes, one-upmanship battle in Washington over TV ratings, tobacco and taxes.

So far, President Clinton is winning. At least his amazingly high 64 percent job approval rating would so indicate. It remains to be seen how well the average family will come out.

In a summer where "Men in Black" tromps Walt Disney's "Hercules" at the box office, high hotel and motel prices are putting a squeeze on family vacations — but people are traveling anyway — and the long-awaited hearings on campaign finance shenanigans are a snore, the country doesn't care what's going on in its capital city.

But the capital city is desper-

ately trying to get back in the center of attention. Sensing the average American's discomfort with cheeky kids, prime-time bedroom scenes, smutty song lyrics, and 12-year-olds lighting cigarettes and quaffing beer, the politicians are trying to engineer such problems away.

Thus, the Federal Communications Commission is searching for a way to keep liquor ads off the air without upsetting free-speech advocates. But its effort to study the situation was shot down by its own members.

Meanwhile, the Clinton administration is excitedly touting another, voluntarily negotiated system of TV ratings to debut in October on some networks. Shows would be labeled for violence, language and sex in order to flag parents. Of course, those parents have to be quick — the labels disappear after 15 seconds. If all else fails, Clinton says blithely, parents will be able to buy a new TV with a V-chip to prevent their electronics-savvy kids from watching shows deemed too racy.

Then there's tobacco. The industry, state attorneys general, the White House (trying to be involved while maintaining a kind of deniability if it goes wrong) and Congress are weighing a deal meant to keep tobacco away from children,

pay for the costs of smoking to society, and protect the tobacco industry from lawsuits.

Not surprisingly, the deal looks different to different people, depending on how they hold it up to the light.

Republicans and Democrats are squabbling over whose tax-cut plan is more fair to families. Republicans insist that people who create wealth should not have to bear a bigger burden and Democrats insist that those who don't have wealth should have a bigger break.

So, if you applaud the new TV ratings system, does that make you a more family-friendly politician? Yes, says Clinton. Wait, says NBC, which argues that the First Amendment is in trouble. No, say some politicians such as Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., who says the ratings won't improve TV content.

And if you think the tobacco deal has a lot of loopholes in it, are you failing to watch out for the interests of the healthy family? Clinton says he doesn't know yet. The politicians who negotiated the deal say it's the best America's families will get.

What if you're among the two-thirds of Americans who are skeptical that any of the tax-cut plans will bring adequate relief to overtaxed fami-

lies? Clinton says his plan is the only one that is family-friendly. Republicans scoff that he's not thinking long-term.

It's all so tricky, this family-values stuff. The politicians are right to sense their constituents are frightened about moral drift. They're on less solid ground when they try to engineer social solutions. The same solution that gets Clinton's heart racing with excitement gets Newt Gingrich's blood boiling in anger.

The Supreme Court this year looked at some areas of social engineering. Essentially, it turned back to the states a lot of these issues, saying the states are democracy's laboratories. For example, the court wagged its finger disapprovingly at Congress for ordering the states to do background checks on would-be gun buyers.

It was all so much simpler when we had to decide whether Murphy Brown was an immoral woman or a courageous one who kept her baby instead of having an abortion.

And whatever happened to that baby, anyway? Somehow, he was just written out of the script.

(Ann McFeatters covers the White House and politics for Scripps Howard News Service.)



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# Family finds pet roaches fascinating

CHICO, Calif. (AP) — "The best part is being able to gross people out with them," said Danielle Feulner, 8, as she planted a kiss on the head of her favorite cockroach.

"I wasn't scared when I first held them because they're cute!" exclaimed her sister, Erin, 10.

Last month the six giant hissing Madagascar cockroaches suddenly became more than a class project — they became part of the family.

"They were the class pets and then summer came. I had to ask my mom and dad if I could have them," said Danielle, a second grader at Hooker Oak Elementary School.

"My mom said 'Yes' and my dad said 'It would be all right if they didn't get out.'"

Teacher Charlotte Goldsmith is in France this summer, "and that's why we have them," explained the girl's mom. "Mrs. Goldsmith asked Danielle to take care of the roaches because she is such a known animal lover."

Dad David Feulner thought the creatures he described as "prehistoric" were pretty cool once they arrived.

"The girls have always loved to have animals around and they are really into insects," he said, but the cockroaches stay in their hands. "We don't let them just roam around."

The cockroaches like to hide, burrowing into cedar shavings or sleeping upside-down in toilet paper tubes.

During a recent visit to the Feulner's home on Pomona Avenue, there was no detectable movement in the shavings at the bottom of the roaches' aquarium.

Until, that is, the shavings were disturbed. Then about 50 baby roaches exploded into sight.

"We started with six female big ones. Now we have over 50 little ones, and we've only had one litter," said Carla.

Four of six big roaches have names. Charlie seems to be the family favorite. Darla is female, small and has a distinctive pattern on her shell. Mother is just

that, little guy is lighter, smaller and especially cherished by 5-year-old Loren.

"They each have their own personality," said David.

The four-inch roaches have a hard outer shell. Their thorn-covered legs feel prickly, like pine needles, and allow them to cling even when held upside down.

They weigh no more than a couple of ounces. Young Madagascar roaches have multicolored shells that fade from a brilliant rust to mustard yellow. They shimmer in sunlight.

The roaches eat puppy Milk Bones mashed up with water, and "they like strawberries for dessert," said Erin.

Actually, "they eat the strawberry tops and then move on to the red part," corrected Danielle. "They like TV too."

Since that late June interview, the future of the cockroaches has taken a turn.

To the dismay of the Feulner family, their cherished cockroach pets were abruptly confiscated on July 1 after complaints were received by the

Butte County agriculture commissioner.

The roaches and their tiny offspring were turned over to retired Chico State University biology Professor David Kistner.

Unbeknownst to the Feulner — and even Chico school officials who originally installed the cockroaches as classroom pets — such insects need a permit. Kistner has a permit to keep them in an entomology lab.

"I felt really, really sad," Erin said the next day.

School district officials elected to place the disputed beetles in the hands of Kistner until the confusion could be resolved.

According to CUSD Superintendent Rob Barbot, in the meantime, the Feulner girls have cockroach visitation privileges.

David Feulner consoled his teary-eyed girls, he said, telling them "Daddy is seeing what he can do about getting the roaches back."

## CAREER CORNER

Occupational title: Flight Attendant

Duties: Flight Attendants, also known as stewards or stewardesses, work aboard planes to provide passengers with a variety of services to ensure their trip is comfortable.

Working environment: They work aboard the planes provided by passenger airline companies. They must be on their feet most of the trip. They usually work 75 to 80 hours a month, and at times have to work holidays and weekends. They have 11 to 12 days off

each month, and they may be absent from their home base at least one third of the time.

Helpful high school classes: English, speech, first aid, foreign language, home economics and geography.

Continuing education: Technical school or junior college

Some sources of training or education: Continental Airlines, Houston, International Travel Institute, Houston.

Salary: Most start at \$20,000 a year, and the senior flight attendants earn \$40,000 a year or more.

Job prospects: Poor. There is strong competition for these jobs.

Career Corner appears courtesy of Roger Goertz, Big Spring High School Career Technology Department.

# Teenage writer living American dream at 14

Soccer reporter hopes to interview Chelsea Clinton

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Three years ago, Shasta Walker got hit on the head by a soccer ball. She realized then the place for her is on a soccer field — except when she's at her computer writing about soccer.

And now, at 14, Shasta is a contributor to the soccer magazine Women's Soccer World.

"Sports Illustrated sent me their professional courtesy subscription rate," Shasta says. "I have arrived."

Shasta, who lives in Bentonville, Ark., has interviewed University of Arkansas soccer coach Janet Rayfield for the Women's Soccer World. Later this summer, she heads to Stanford University for a soccer camp and plans to write a piece about its soccer program.

Shasta's also hoping to get an interview with Stanford-student-to-be Chelsea Clinton.

"No mind-bending questions, just about her interest in soccer and why she wanted to attend Stanford," Shasta says.

Shasta's soccer epiphany came when she was at a soccer camp at the University of Arkansas.

Mud soaked through her clothes, she said, and, "I listened to one of the Lady Razorbacks tell how she took her mom's credit card down to the beauty salon when she learned she would be playing with them and she had her number shaved on her head."

"From that moment on, I knew the only place for me in life was a soccer field," she says.

Shasta plays for three teams now, including an Olympic Development Program state team, which identifies top players in the United States and gives them access to high-level coaching.

She got the writing job at Women's Soccer World by e-mailing the magazine. Something about her letter stood out among the thousands of e-mails the publication gets each month, and she was asked to send in writing samples. Now she's paid \$100 per story.

"She is a very articulate and aggressively persistent kid who seemed to have a lot going for her," said Judith Rogers, an editor at the magazine. "I was interested in her suggestions and her level of writing was better than many of our adult contributors."

Shasta also was a member of the IronKids team last year, a group of 10 youngsters selected from across the country to go to Washington, D.C., to meet Olympic athletes and Bill Clinton.

"The highlight was meeting President Clinton in the Vermell Room at the White House and then going out on the White House grounds to watch the photo session with the U.S. Olympic team and the first family," Shasta says.

Shasta, the oldest of three children, is the daughter of

Robert and Cathy Walker. She says she can't explain her life without talking about her mother, whom she describes as "a champion of women's and civil rights hopelessly influenced by her individualistic parents."

Shasta's first name is drawn from her mother's home state of California, where a mountain, daisies and parks share the name.

"The part of me that is my mom cannot fathom Bentonville as my home despite being born and raised here," Shasta wrote in an essay that won a writing contest at radio station KUAF in Fayetteville.

"I will always be a visitor to Bentonville, choosing to walk along its fringes, keeping sacred the liberal heart of my family," she wrote.

Cathy Walker says she has encouraged her children to get involved in whatever they enjoy.

"I have encouraged my kids to be interested, but their interests ... are their own," Cathy Walker says. "I'm just along for the ride."

Shasta recently spent a day with Rayfield, the University of Arkansas soccer coach, as part of "Take Your Daughter to Work Day," and she says that's one career route she wants to pursue.

## Ask Betty

Dear Betty, We've been having a lot of cookouts this summer, and everyone asks for baked beans. Is there something I can do to canned beans for a change of pace?

Flagstaff, AZ

Mix all ingredients except cheese in 10-inch skillet. Heat to boiling, stirring occasionally; reduce heat to medium. Cover and simmer 5 minutes, stirring occasionally; remove from heat. Sprinkle with cheese. Cover and let stand about 5 minutes or until liquid is absorbed and cheese is melted. Makes 6 servings.

If you've got an authentic cast iron skillet, add a touch of campfire coziness to your cookout buffet by serving your beans right in the skillet. Tie a checkered napkin, bandanna or even a new dishtowel around the handle.

**Dried Bean Short-cut** — Dried beans offer more variety than their canned counterparts, and are a lot easier on the pocketbook. If you're one of those who thinks soaking dried beans is a bother, be bothered no more. Here's a quick alternative. Just boil beans for 2 minutes in enough water to cover, then remove from heat. Cover and let stand 1 hour before cooking. Drain water if desired. An 8 to 24-hour soak results in more uniform swelling, but the 1-hour version provides the same good nutrition, flavor and texture.

**Betty Crocker**  
Write Betty at "Ask Betty Crocker," One General Mills Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55426, or call toll free 1-888-ASK BETTY

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ROUNDUP

Continued from page 1B  
nine runs — seven earned — and nine hits in 4 2-3 innings as Pittsburgh's four-game winning streak was stopped.

Astros 8, Giants 1

Mike Hampton (6-7) pitched a four-hitter to win his third straight decision as Houston won for the fifth time in seven games since the All-Star break. The Giants have lost three of four and five of seven since the break.

Tim Bogar homered and Hampton added an RBI single at the Astrodome. Keith Foulke (1-4) gave up six runs and seven hits in 3 1-3 innings.

Padres 4, Cardinals 3

Ken Caminiti singled home the go-ahead run against T.J. Mathews (4-4) with two outs in the ninth as San Diego rallied from a 3-1 deficit at Busch Stadium.

Jim Bruske (2-0) pitched 1 2-3 hitless innings, and Trevor Hoffman got three outs for his 20th save.

Yankees 11, White Sox 5

At Chicago, Martinez hit his fourth career grand slam off Wilson Alvarez (8-7) on an 0-2 pitch in the seventh following Derek Jeter's single and walks to Luis Sojo and Paul O'Neill.

Martinez, who had 31 homers with Seattle in 1995, connected in the third to set a career high.

Andy Pettitte (11-5) had his scoreless inning streak snapped at 23 in the second. He gave up five runs and nine hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Mariners 8, Twins 7

At Seattle, the Mariners rallied to win for the 25th time this season when Russ Davis hit a two-run single with one out in the ninth off Rick Aguilera (1-1).

The victory kept the Mariners 10 games in front of second-place Anaheim in the AL West.

The Mariners, who scored five runs in the eighth to take a 6-3 lead, needed to come from behind again after the Twins scored four times in the top of the ninth.

Davis went 3-for-4 with a double and three RBIs.

Scott Sanders (3-6) got credit for the victory despite allowing Minnesota's go-ahead run in the ninth.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, Steve Avery won his first decision since April 22 and Mike Stanley hit a three-run homer off Jimmy Key (12-6).

Avery (3-2), making his third start since coming off a two-month stint on the disabled list, allowed one run and eight hits in seven-plus innings.

Heathcliff Slocumb worked the ninth for his 12th save.

Shane Mack had three hits and Nomar Garciaparra had a double and a triple for the Red Sox.

Key gave up four runs, eight hits and three walks in 6 2-3 innings.

OPEN

Continued from page 1B

becoming even harder to hold. "Believe me, I'm delighted," Norman said. "It was a long, hard day today, and we've got another three long, hard days to go."

One stroke back in the clubhouse was Argentina's Angel Cabrera, who shot a 1-under 70 after a back nine of even-par 35, a phenomenal score considering the brutal winds.

Tom Watson didn't hit a single green in regulation on the back nine, where he lost three shots and finished at even-par 71, tied with Ian Woosnam.

Norman, a two-time British Open champion who lost in a playoff the last time the Open was played at Royal Troon, holed an 8-foot birdie putt on the par-4 ninth hole to get to 4 under for the round.

He and the rest of the field found an entirely different course on the back nine, long par 4s playing into the teeth of the wind heading back to the clubhouse.

Despite a bogey at No. 13, a par 465-yard par 4 into a three-club wind, Norman made enough par-saving putts to keep his round going.

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

Summer Reading

Meet Arthur's Author

Marc Brown has created more than 100 books for children. His most famous character is Arthur, a young aardvark. He talked to The Mini Page about his life and work.

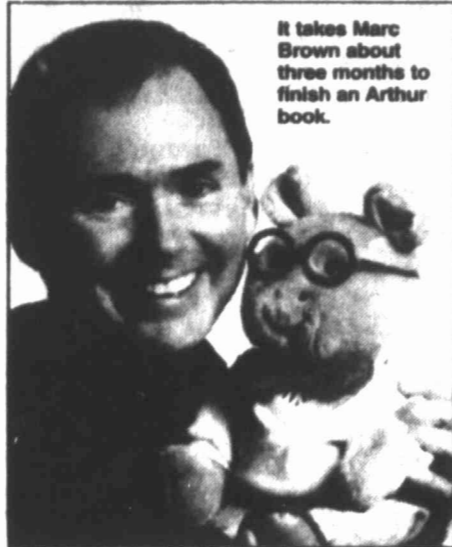
The beginning

Marc Brown's writing career began after he had been fired from all his other jobs.

"I was a truck driver for a short while, but they discovered I had a poor sense of direction." He lost his next job, as a television art director, after suggesting to his boss that the weather reporter dress up as a fairy and talk to a magical well.

His next job was teaching at a small college in Boston. "When I started working there, it closed after 103 years."

"That brings us up to the night Arthur was born."



It takes Marc Brown about three months to finish an Arthur book.

Arthur

After he had lost his last three jobs, Marc Brown was telling his 4-year-old son a bedtime story.

"I was kind of depressed. I didn't know what I was going to do to put food on the table."

"My son wanted a story about a weird animal. I don't know why, but an aardvark popped into my head."

"I thought, this is so much fun. I love telling stories and drawing pictures and working with kids. But how do I make a living doing this?"

His first Arthur book was published in 1976. Slowly over the years, they became more and more popular. In the meantime, he illustrated textbooks and gave talks at schools and libraries.

Advice to kids

"Reading is the best thing you can do to help with writing. Keep a notebook or a journal, to both draw in and write in."

Some favorites

- Food: pizza
- Colors: green and yellow, red
- Time and place to read: in hammocks — "but I don't get to do it very often."

Family

Marc Brown and his wife, Laurie Krasny Brown, live outside of Boston with their youngest daughter, Eliza, 11. There are also two grown-up sons, Tolan and Tucker.

Laurie Krasny Brown is a psychologist. She has written many nonfiction books for children, which Marc Brown has illustrated.



Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown have created many books where dinosaurs deal with real-life human subjects. The environment is the subject of "Dinosaurs to the Rescue!"

Reading adds up to fun

The more you practice your reading, the better you get, and the easier and more fun it is. This summer, enjoy the practice. Read for fun!

Use this chart to mark each time you read a type of book or a newspaper. Example:

Grid of 12 categories for tracking reading: Newspapers, Mysteries, Animals, History, Science in nature, Science fiction, Do-it-yourself, Fantasy, Humor, Adventure, Sports, Other.

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

Humorous Q&A section with cartoon illustrations. Example: Q: What is worse than finding a worm in your apple? A: Finding half a worm in your apple!

Mini Spy ...

Activity where children find hidden words in a cartoon illustration of a boy reading. Includes a list of words like 'letter D', 'number 7', 'paintbrush', etc.

THINGS TO READ TRY 'N FIND

Word search puzzle with a list of words to find hidden in the grid, such as 'BOOK', 'POEM', 'MAP', 'PRA', etc.

Rookie Cookie's Recipe

Recipe for Pizza Pizzazz. Includes ingredients like onion, butter, Worcestershire sauce, tomato sauce, applesauce, mushrooms, English muffin halves, mozzarella cheese.

Best Friends — Newspapers and Books

Activity where children match 13 numbered descriptions to illustrations of people and animals. Example: 1. This teacher fakes her students on very exciting trips. 2. This pig has a spider friend who is very good with words.

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**HOROSCOPE**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JULY 18:**

There will be much socializing and networking this year. You will defer to others, wanting all to flow smoothly. You could neglect your own needs if you aren't careful. Define what is going on with you, and what you want. Be clear about your expectations. A boss could be demanding; you might make a decision about continuing to work there. If you are single, there are many romantic possibilities. Being explicit about what you want is primary. If attached, reviewing the terms of your relationship helps you both. CAPRICORN can be challenging.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-

Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
Stay on top of changes. You are pushed to the limit at work, but you can handle it. Stay in touch with a friend, who could balk if you change plans. Be direct, and assume responsibilities. You can clear up a lot. Be more aware of others' expectations. Tonight: Stay in the limelight.\*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
Take off as soon as you can. Sort through work, and determine priorities. You don't want a last-minute snag to mar the weekend. Make a long-distance call that you have been putting off. Worry less about others' responses. Tonight: Be gone in a flash!\*\*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
You feel unusually close to another. Finally, you can understand his point of view. Use this opportunity to clear the air. Review a financial matter; there could be some confusion. Take as few risks as possible. Tonight: Have a party for two.\*\*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
Popularity soars, though that could cause a small problem at work. Many people demand your time; you could find it difficult to get out the door. Do only what you must. Your best bet is to invite the office to join you in celebrating tonight! Tonight: Strut your stuff.\*\*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
Get down to the nitty-gritty at work. You have been getting a mixed message. A discussion with co-workers lends insight, though you might not agree with what you hear. Clear up work-related obstacles. Tonight: Get related done.\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
Your sense of joviality emerges. You feel the weekend energy early. Tie up loose ends, in your classic Virgo fashion, before heading out the door. Creativity is high; you seem to have the answers nearby before there is a problem. Tonight: Have a good time.\*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
Much of what goes on involves security, domestic life and values. On some level, you feel challenged. Spend time going within, and make sure you aren't overreacting. Establish what you want first, then express your expectations to those involved. Tonight: Be a couch potato.\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
Make the first move. You have a strong impression of where another is coming from; confirm his point of view. Catch up on work that you have put off. Return calls. It will feel good to leave the office with everything under control. Tonight: The party begins now.\*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
Discussion revolves around financial gains. Thoroughly check out an investment. Decide whether or not you want to get involved. A friend might discourage you. Listen to your instincts, rather than be influenced by others' opinions. Tonight: It's your treat.\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
You feel better than you have in a long while. The moon shines on your sign, adding to your energy and emphasizing your natural proclivities. A

friend feels threatened by your prescience. Help him relax. You can beam in whatever you want. Tonight: As you like it.\*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
Take a back seat, and be a good listener. Much that is happening seems trivial to you. Use this time to follow through on your desires. Don't fight changing plans. It is apparent that you need a break. Tonight: Recharge your batteries.\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
Emphasize wish fulfillment, and make what you want happen. You are creative and full of energy. A meeting might be important to your long-term

hopes. A partner or associate might not agree with a money decision. Be more independent. Tonight: Find the best parties to crash.\*\*\*\*\*

**BORN TODAY**  
Sen. John Glenn (1921), musician Ricky Skaggs (1954), comedian Red Skelton (1913)  
For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 740-7444, 99 cents per minute. Also featured are The Spoken Tarot and The Runes, which answer your yes-or-no questions. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.  
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**'Mad Dads' are angry enough to take back their streets**

**DEAR ABBY:** The letter in your column from "First Class Parent" — the father who was raising his children as a single parent — struck a chord with me. I am president of the national MAD DADS (Men Against Destruction — Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder).

So many of our children today grow up in homes with only one parent — usually the mother. Children need the influence of a father or other positive role model.

Many of our male volunteers grew up in households without a father, or are single fathers themselves. They have seen firsthand the consequences of absent fathers, and they are doing something about it.

Our organization started in 1989, after one of the founders' sons was nearly beaten to death by gang members. Here in Omaha, we were tired of the downward spiral of delinquency, drugs, gang involvement and destruction.

grams to reach out to youth, serving as surrogate fathers, uncles and big brothers. MAD DADS chapters have been created in some of the poorest and most crime-ridden areas of the country. (South Central Los Angeles, for example, now has a chapter and two subdivisions.)

MAD DADS continues to reach out to recruit positive role models for inner-city youth. If your readers would like further information regarding MAD DADS, including how to become a volunteer or start a chapter in their area, they can contact us at 1-402-451-3500, or write to: MAD DADS National Headquarters, 3030 Sprague St., Omaha, Neb. 68111.

Thank you, Abby, for drawing attention to the important issues of fatherhood in our nation. — EDDIE STATION, PRESIDENT, OMAHA

**DEAR MR. STATION:** Thank you for letting my readers and me know about this worthwhile effort to reach and rehabilitate fatherless youth.

Mentoring is not a new idea, but it seems to be enjoying a resurgence in popularity. Mentoring takes time, training and dedication — but the payoff, turning young lives in productive new directions, is enormously rewarding. The committed men who step forward to donate their time and energy are to be commended. I wish you continued success in this noble effort.

**DEAR ABBY:** I receive lots of mail from organizations requesting donations for various causes. I'm sure that these requests are for good causes, but there's a limit to one's ability to make donations. I am especially irritated with organizations that send me address labels with my name on them. I'm sure it must be an enormous expense to print these labels for all the people on their mailing lists. Why don't they use this money for their cause? I have enough labels to last me if I wrote 10 letters a day for the rest of my life! I even receive labels with my husband's name — and he's been dead for two years.

I know everybody reads "Dear Abby," and I hope someone in these organizations sees this and acts to put an end to this foolish expenditure. — ENOUGH ALREADY IN FALL RIVER

**DEAR ENOUGH:** This method of raising money has been used for as long as I can remember. However, people are under no obligation to pay for ANYTHING they did not order — and that includes stickers with your name and address printed on them. And by the way, you are under no obligation to return them, either.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Abigail Van Buren  
Columnist

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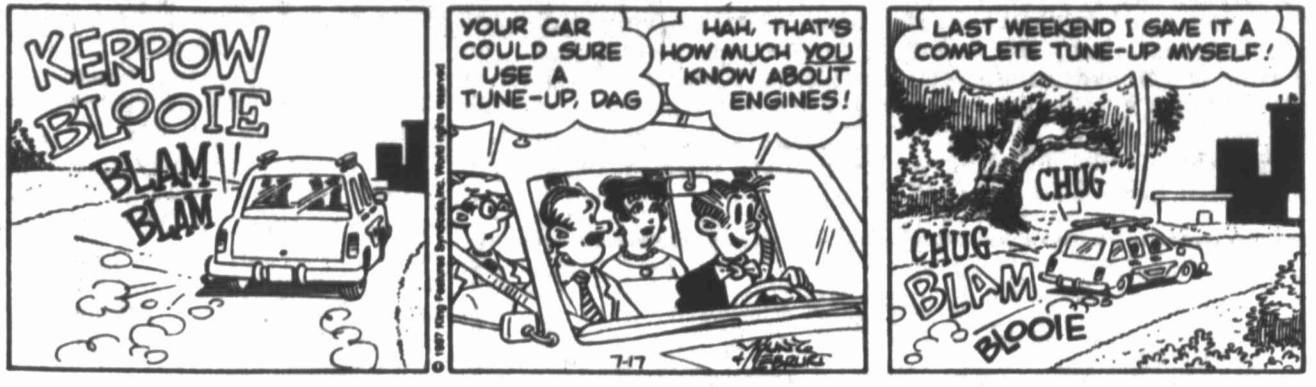
JULY 17

Table with 23 columns (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAX, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DSN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, ABE, DISC, TNT, FSN, ESPN, AMC, BET) and 12 rows of program listings.

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WIZARD OF ID



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Thursday, July 17, the 198th day of 1997. There are 167 days left in the year.

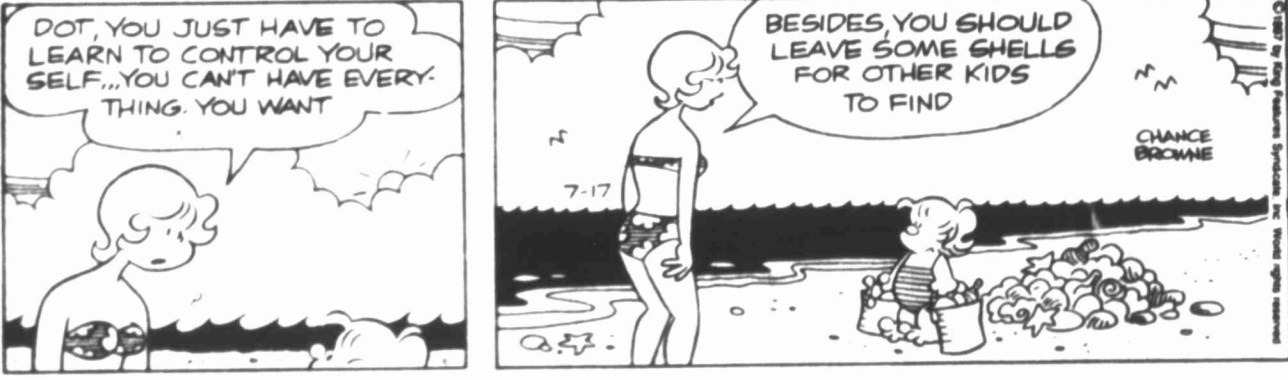
Today's Highlight in History: One year ago, on July 17, 1996, TWA Flight 800, a Paris-bound Boeing 747, exploded and crashed off Long Island, N.Y., shortly after leaving John F. Kennedy International Airport. All 230 people aboard were killed.

On this date: In 1821, Spain ceded Florida to the United States. In 1841, the British humor magazine Punch was first published. In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, Spain surrendered to the United States at Santiago, Cuba. In 1917, the British royal family adopted the Windsor name. In 1935, the entertainment trade publication Variety ran its famous headline, 'Sticks Nix Hick Pix,' which might be translated as 'rural America dislikes rural-themed movies.' In 1938, aviator Douglas Corrigan took off from New York, saying he was headed for California. He ended up in Ireland, earning the nickname 'Wrong Way Corrigan.' In 1944, 322 people were killed when a pair of ammunition ships exploded in Port Chicago, Calif. In 1945, President Truman, Soviet leader Josef Stalin and British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill began meeting at Potsdam in the final Allied summit of World War II. In 1948, southern Democrats opposed to the nomination of President Truman met in Birmingham, Ala., to endorse South Carolina Gov. Strom Thurmond. In 1955, Disneyland debuted in Anaheim, Calif. In 1975, an Apollo spaceship docked with a Soyuz spacecraft in orbit in the first superpower linkup of its kind. In 1979, Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza resigned and fled to Miami in exile. In 1981, 114 people were killed when a pair of walkways above the lobby of the Kansas City Hyatt Regency Hotel collapsed during a tea dance. Ten years ago: 10 teen-agers were killed when raging floodwaters from the Guadalupe River near Comfort, Texas, swept away a church bus and van holding 43 people. Five years ago: A historic accord for deep cuts in tanks and other non-nuclear arms in Europe went into effect, nearly two years after it was signed by NATO and the now-defunct Warsaw Pact.

THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

HI AND LOIS



Wednesdays Puzzle solved: A word search puzzle with solutions listed.

GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information and staff list.



