

## TUESDAY MORNING DOMINOES

Wayne Crawford, Vernon Cotton, Jackie Thomason and Dewey Carey, get together at the Senior Citizens Center for a friendly game of dominoes.

HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett



## Two popular diet drugs pulled from worldwide marketplace

WASHINGTON (AP) — Obese Americans who just can't shed the pounds with diet and exercise alone have few options now that the nation's two most popular diet drugs are being pulled from the market. The FDA urged millions of dieters Monday to immediately stop taking Redux, also known as dexfenfluramine, and Pondimin, or fenfluramine, which is half of the popular fen-phen diet combination. The drugs' U.S. distributor,

Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, stopped sales of the medicines Monday and said dieters could return unused portions for a refund. The U.S. decision prompted the French manufacturer, Servier, to pull both drugs off the market worldwide. Obesity experts said the decision was right, because the diet pills have been linked to serious damage of patients' heart valves, damage that over time could dangerously weaken the heart.

## City budget

### Council will use tonight's meeting to consider preliminary approval of 1997-98 document

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

City administrators and the Big Spring City Council will use tonight's council meeting to consider preliminary approval of the 1997-98 fiscal budget.

The council will also look at formally adopting a tax rate for the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

Tonight's council meeting was postponed a week because of the death of Police Chief Jerry Edwards, meaning tentative plans are for the council to have its second reading of the proposed budget on Sept. 23.

State law requires two readings of a proposed budget before it becomes final.

Finance Director Tom Ferguson said the proposed budget is \$24,478,783 with expected revenues of \$25,834,908.

Projected 1996-97 final balances from various funds include the general fund, \$241,196; utilities fund, \$231,719; airport fund, \$100,572; Big Spring Correctional Center, \$2,676,777; cemetery fund, \$22,682; cemetery permanent care fund, \$301,174; motel tax fund, \$90,898; college fund (reimbursement fund for city employees), \$4,891; municipal court security fund, \$10,748; golf course improvement fund, \$12,424; service center fund, \$18,267; capital replacement fund, \$667,742; health insurance fund, \$115,079; worker's compensation insurance fund, \$13,279; Moore Development, \$1,266,187; and EMS services fund, \$233,348.

Not including debt service revenues and obligations as a result of recent bonds, the city

expects to have a final fund balance (as of Sept. 30, 1998) of \$5.45 million.

Projected total revenue and expenditures for each city fund includes the general fund: revenue \$10,052,716, expenditures, \$9,947,962; utility fund: revenue, \$7,547,499, expenditures, \$7,697,318; airport fund: revenue \$776,624, expenditures, \$696,535; Big Spring Correctional Center: revenue, \$288,882, expenditures, none; cemetery fund: revenue (including transfers in), \$63,880, expenditures, \$74,646; cemetery permanent care fund: revenue, \$24,500, expenditures, \$16,000; motel tax fund: revenue, \$203,820, expenditures, \$202,034; college fund: revenue, \$5,100, expenditures, \$9,000; municipal court security fund: revenue, \$11,260, expenditures, \$6,700; golf course improvement fund: revenue, \$25,400, expenditures, \$37,822; service center fund: revenue, \$912,245, expenditures, \$902,187; capital replacement fund: revenue, \$281,620, expenditures, \$611,000; health insurance fund: revenue, \$1,052,821, expenditures, \$949,100; worker's compensation insurance fund: revenue, \$126,100, expenditures, \$110,000; Moore Development: revenue, \$907,810, expenditures, \$594,615; and EMS services: revenue, \$626,651, expenditures, \$774,754.

As the budget nears approval, the one thing that has concerned City Manager Gary Fuqua has been the city's fund balance (reserve fund), which is why a majority of the council, in its unofficial poll Aug. 26, expressed a desire to raise the 1997-98 tax rate to 82 cents per \$100 valuation.

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HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett

Construction has begun on Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf's new dormitory. Stover Electric employees Ray Alvarez (from left), Gilbert Salinas and Lester Smith are working the measurements for the electric panels for the dorm.

## Preliminary work on SWCID dorm starts

### Facility will be first new construction in school history

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf is about to undergo a facelift.

Construction on a 96-student dormitory is set to begin later this month. It will be the first new construction since SWCID's founding in the early

1980s.

Groundbreaking for the new dormitory will be held at 1:30 p.m. next Tuesday, SWCID officials announced.

SWCID Provost Ron Brasel said construction on the dorm is the first of three major projects at the college, which has been using buildings leased to the school by the federal government.

About \$3 million in state aid has been earmarked for construction projects at the school. Aside from the new dorm, plans also call for construction of a combination gymnasium and recreation center and renovation of the school's student union building.

Brasel said other money will be earmarked for technology upgrades.

Construction of the new dorm should take about 10 months. SWCID officials hope to have the facility open in time for new student orientation in September 1998.

Aside from it being the school's first new building, Brasel the dorm would bring other advantages to SWCID — including safety features designed for deaf people like visual fire alarms.

"It's being designed with deaf

people in mind," Brasel said. "We also hope it will make the school more attractive from a recruiting standpoint."

Terry Hansen, business manager for the junior college district, said construction on the dorm will cost about \$1.6 million.

After the dorm is completed, SWCID officials will then turn their attention to the other two projects.

Hansen said officials are in the process of negotiating with architects over possible designs for those projects, but that no definite plans are in the works at this time.

## Council leans toward 1-cent tax hike despite Fuqua's recommendation otherwise

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

The process of setting the tax rate for the 1997-98 fiscal year begins at tonight's Big Spring City Council meeting and will require council approval from two separate readings before it becomes final.

The current tax rate is 61 cents per \$100 valuation, but the majority of the council is leaning toward a one-cent tax increase for the new fiscal year.

During their Aug. 26 meeting, a majority of council members

expressed a desire to raise the current tax rate to 62 cents per \$100 valuation.

The city's tax rolls declined slightly from last year, \$406,951,876 to \$405,531,032, but the city is in good financial shape, City Manager Gary Fuqua said.

A \$1.42 million equipment change at Western Container during the previous year was cited as one reason for the slight drop in the city's tax base.

Prior to council members expressing their opinions on the

new tax rate, Fuqua suggested to council members that the city's tax rate should remain constant at 61 cents per \$100 valuation for the 1997-98 fiscal year.

"A one-cent tax increase would generate about \$30,000 in additional revenue, but I'd like to hold the tax rate at 61 cents," Fuqua said.

Because of changes in state law, this year is the last year municipalities can set the tax rate 3 percent about the effective tax rate without a public notice. The maximum rate at

which the city could set without a public hearing is \$0.64056.

For the 1997-98 fiscal year the effective tax rate (the rate which would raise the same amount of revenue as the previous year) for the city is \$0.62191.

Mayor Tim Blackshear and council members Oscar Garcia, Stephanie Horton and Greg Biddison expressed favor in the idea raising the tax rate by a penny.

Jimmy Campbell was undecided, Tommy Tune is in favor of using the effective tax rate and Chuck Cawthon told coun-

cil members that he was in favor of following Fuqua's recommendation.

Fuqua said the new budget year will allow the city to use some of its revenue from the hotel/motel tax to refurbish the municipal auditorium.

If the council approves the one-cent tax increase, it will be the first time in five years the council and city administrators have not dropped the city's tax rate.

Last year, the council approved a four-cent tax decrease from 65 cents per \$100

valuation — the fourth consecutive tax reduction for Big Spring residents due largely to the city's assessed value during 1995 and 1996.

The budget to be considered by the council tonight is one that's very workable, Fuqua said.

"I think we have a good budget that will allow us to operate and still get some of our large projects completed," Fuqua said.

"The new budget sets the pace

See COUNCIL, Page 2

## Report says Texas will soon need more prison space

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's one-two punch of getting tougher on criminals and making it harder to win parole is filling up Texas prisons faster than expected, a new report says.

However, plans are in the works to accommodate the extra inmates, said the report issued Monday by the Criminal Justice Policy Council.

"Parole has practically been abolished in Texas for violent offenders, with these offenders expected to serve up to 90 percent of their sentences under

present release practices," said Tony Fabelo, the council's executive director.

"The toughening of parole practices means that offenders are staying longer in prison and more are being revoked from parole, consuming faster the available prison space," Fabelo added.

In the last year, the number of convicts released on parole dropped 13 percent. And from September 1996 to June 1997, the number of paroles that were revoked jumped by 261 percent.

Gov. George W. Bush's office said there is good news in the report, despite the need for additional space.

"First of all, criminals are serving longer sentences. And the parole rate is the lowest it has been in 20 years, which is very good news," said Karen Hughes, the governor's press secretary.

"It will require that we plan effectively and that we have adequate prison space available to continue those tough policies. Gov. Bush is talking with the Texas Department of

Criminal Justice and other state leaders about the most cost-effective way to provide the additional prison capacity we will need," she said.

According to Fabelo's report, without action there would be 3,714 convicted criminals in county jails awaiting transfer to state prisons by August 1998. That number would rise to 4,421 by August 2002.

However, the report says, plans are being considered to increase prison space so the state can accept convicts within 45 days of sentencing.

### WEATHER

Tonight:



Wed:



Thurs:



Fri:



Tonight, fair. Lows 65-70. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs around 95. Wednesday night, fair. Lows mid to upper 60s. Extended forecast. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs near 90 to the mid 90s. Friday, partly cloudy. A slight chance of thunderstorms. Lows mid 60s. Highs mid 80s.

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### Southwest could be pounded this winter because of El Nino

LOS ANGELES (AP) — El Nino is anything but little. Signs tracked by satellites show that the globally disruptive weather phenomenon could well live up to its stormy billing: Its mass of warm water in the Pacific Ocean has grown to 1 1/2 times the size of the continental United States and other data mean the southwestern states could well be pounded with winter storms.

In May, when scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena announced that satellite images showed a brewing El Nino, the warm mass was two-thirds its current size.

Worldwide weather experts said 1997-98 could bring the worst El Nino in 150 years. "As the satellite has mapped El Nino across the Pacific,

what we've seen continually throughout the summer and into September now is that early indications actually have persisted and intensified," said Bill Patzert, a research oceanographer with the TOPEX-Poseidon project.

The TOPEX-Poseidon satellite looks at sea height. Because water expands as it heats up, the higher the sea, the warmer the water. The satellite bounces radar signals off the ocean's surface to measure the precise distance from the satellite.

In another sign, water vapor measurements from another satellite are providing signs that southwestern states could get pounded this winter with "Pineapple Express" storms crossing the Pacific from Hawaii.

### Air Force keeps area closed after stealth crash

MIDDLE RIVER, Md. (AP) — The flyover of an F-117A stealth fighter was meant to be a treat for fans at the Chesapeake Air Show.

A piece of the Air Force jet broke off and the plane crashed into this Baltimore suburb, injuring six people after the pilot ejected safely. Citing security, the military is keeping nine families from their homes until the crash is investigated.

"I figured three or four hours and I would be able to get back in," said Cliff Morrell, 42, who lives on a houseboat near the crash site. "But, they haven't really given us an exact time or date."

It was one of several crashes involving American military planes in the past few days, some of them deadly.

After the \$45 million wedge-shaped "Nighthawk" crashed near the Glenn L. Martin State

Airport, the military took over immediately. On Monday, armed soldiers kept the families from returning home, seized photographers' film and cordoned off the crash site of an aircraft whose existence was once a state secret.

"There was military everywhere. This road was full, the sky was loaded, I tell you it was something," said Paul Canatella, standing in his driveway less than a 100 yards from where the canopy of the fighter landed in his neighbor's yard Sunday. "You name it they were here."

Roberto Borea of The AP, one of the media photographers to lose film to military police, had chartered a boat to get to the scene.

"As soon as we stepped on shore, the military was there and that was it," he said. "Had I chosen not to surrender my

equipment, I would have been taken into custody."

Late Monday, an apologetic spokesman for the Maryland National Guard, Capt. Drew Sullins, said Borea's film and equipment will be returned and that nothing should have been confiscated in the first place. Photographers were allowed on the scene for a few minutes under tight military supervision earlier in the day.

The black jet evades radar because of its strange shape, tight construction and surface paint. During the Gulf War, the F-117A led bombing attacks by knocking out radar and was the only aircraft to bomb strategic targets in downtown Baghdad. No F-117s were hit by enemy fire.

The other U.S. military crashes since Saturday: Late Monday, a two-seat Marine FA-18D Hornet fighter

jet crashed in North Carolina's Pamlico Sound during a practice bombing run. One body was found today and the search continued for a second crewman.

The Piney Island Bombing range sprawls over land and water about 25 miles northeast of Morehead City, and the water is relatively shallow.

Capt. Whitney Mason, a Marine Corps spokeswoman from Beaufort, S.C., where the plane was based, said the body was found shortly after 5 a.m. today by helicopter crews equipped with spotlights. Some debris was also found overnight, but not the fuselage.

A U.S. C-141 Starlifter and a German air force plane apparently collided and crashed Saturday off the coast of Africa. Nine Americans and 24 Germans were feared dead. One body from the German plane was recovered Monday.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COUNTRY CHARM ICE CREAM</b> 5 QT. BUCKET STRAWBERRY, NEAPOLITAN, FUDGE SUNDAE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>18-OZ. BOX</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>83-OZ. - 87-OZ. BOX</b> REG. OR W/BLEACH</p>	
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COCA-COLA SURGE, MR PIBB</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>\$1.99</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6 PK. 20 OZ. BOTTLES</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IGA TABLERITE BONELESS CHUCK ROAST</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>1.39</b> LB.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>"VALUE PACK"</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXTRA LARGE RED DELICIOUS OR GOLDEN DELICIOUS APPLES</b> "NEW CROP"</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>88¢</b> LB.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FRYER THIGHS OR FRYER DRUMSTICKS</b> "VALUE PACK"</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>59¢</b> LB.</p>

# EDITORIAL

### Quote of the Day

"There is nothing permanent except change."  
-Heracitus

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

Charles C. Williams  
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Managing Editor

John A. Moseley  
Sports Editor

Debbie Jensen  
Features Editor

### OTHER VIEWS

Millions of Americans have done battle with the 1040 form and come away muttering, "If only I ran the IRS." Well, a similar thought has occurred to members of Congress. This fall, as they consider the most sweeping IRS reform in four decades, lawmakers will take up legislation to detach the revenue agency from its home in the Treasury Department and place it under a board of private-sector executives.

This is a bad idea. The IRS has real problems — that justify some of the four dozen other reforms proposed by a congressional commission last summer. But turning IRS governance over to the private sector would compromise functions that belong in the public realm and compound the very distrust that plagues the agency now. ....

STAR TRIBUNE  
Minneapolis

Many services are better provided by businesses than by government — but running prisons is not one of them.

Missouri found this out recently when it sent 415 non-violent prisoners to a private correctional institution in Texas because of overcrowding in its own prisons.

A videotape has surfaced of guards beating prisoners at the Brazoria County Detention Center and letting guard dogs attack the inmates. The company that runs the private prison is Capital Correctional Resources Inc.

Imprisoning our citizens is not the job of a private business. Only the government is empowered to accuse and try people for crimes. Only the government should be in charge of their incarceration.

THE GAZETTE  
Chillicothe, Ohio

If there is any certainty in the Middle East, it is that 'more bombs are en route' as Netanyahu himself has said. Mrs. Albright will tell Arafat it is his responsibility to prevent those bombs, but if this is not balanced by a far tougher approach to the Netanyahu government, her intervention is likely to make things worse.

Such an approach cannot confine itself to settlements but ought to include what has never been before made explicit — a declaration that America considers that peace is not attainable without a Palestinian state. Then, and only then, might it be effective to go on to final negotiations.

Such an approach may not be likely, and even if it were, dragging a kicking and screaming Netanyahu along would be a hard thing to do. But the alternative, at best, is another round of insincere negotiations that will stumble along until they are abandoned after another bulldozer clears a new settlement site or, worse, after another bomb clears a Jerusalem street.

THE GUARDIAN  
London

Mobutu is dead. No one will shed any tears. Few leaders in history have been so overwhelmingly corrupt, so willfully uncaring of their people and so determinedly disregarding of international opinion as Zaire's exiled leader.

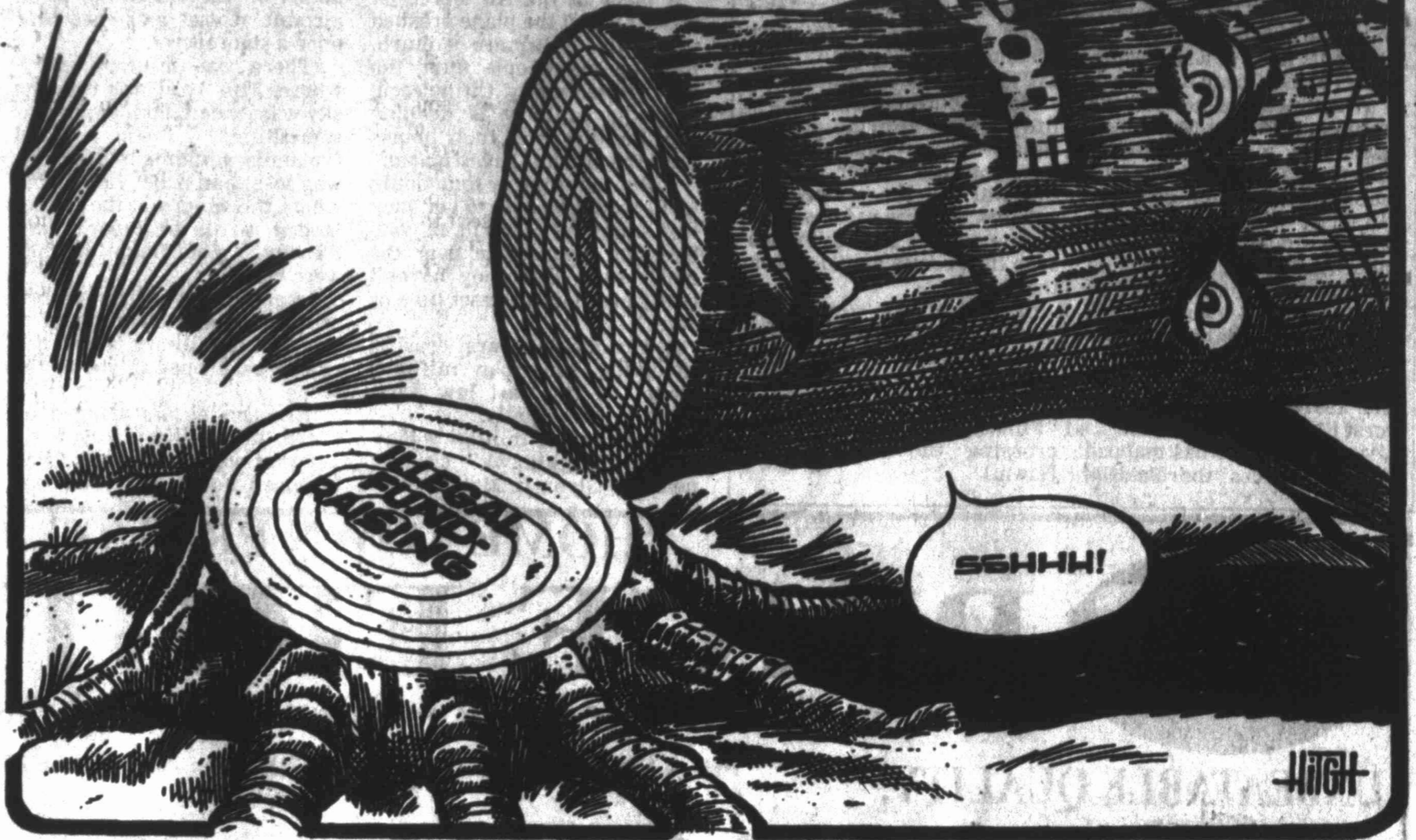
For three decades Western leaders courted him, fawned over him and turned an indulgent blind eye to his autocracy and greed. They backed Mobutu as an anti-communist bulwark during the Cold War in the contest with the Soviet Union for influence in Africa, and to control Zaire's uranium and cobalt. ....

Mobutu was a murderer who killed those whom he could not buy. ....

Perhaps his greatest achievement was simply to maintain for as long as he did, in post-colonial Africa, the fragile unity of a state made up of more than 200 ill matched tribal groupings living around the Congo River basin. But the achievement was made at huge cost to Zaire's coffers and by almost unmatched degradation of human dignity. None will mourn his passing.

THE AUSTRALIAN  
Sydney

IF A TREE FELL IN A FOREST,  
AND JANET RENO WASN'T AROUND,  
WOULD IT MAKE A SOUND?



## Using the IRS as a presidential weapon

Back in those memorable "Watergate" years, when I had the high honor of being on Richard Nixon's enemies list, I also had the distinction of being visited regularly by auditors of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).



Carl Rowan  
Syndicated  
Columnist

One of those auditors, none of whom ever found any violation of law, once said to me jokingly that people in the IRS see certain people on television that they think are damaging to their president, and those employees say, "Go audit that man."

Well, it turned out that

Richard Nixon himself often said "Go audit that foe" as he exhibited an incredible amount of paranoia and seemed willing to abuse any and every presidential power to "get" his "enemies."

Now we have news stories alleging that President Bill Clinton might have "sicked" the IRS on Paula Corbin Jones and her husband, Stephen, as a way of making them pay for Paula Jones' nation-jarring allegation that Mr. Clinton harassed Jones sexually in 1991 when he was governor of Arkansas and she was a lowly state employee.

Could Clinton be as stupid as we now know Nixon was in terms of using the IRS and other agencies as weapons against his critics? I doubt it.

Despite all the frightening revelations about Nixon's boozed-up efforts to unleash the IRS against his foes, and despite the fact that no tax vio-

lations were ever found in my case but the audits continued, I cannot say for a fact that even to this day "politics" or a personal vendetta lay behind my annual spasms of agony with some IRS auditor.

Experience has proven to me that the IRS is so bloated and out of control that thousands of its bureaucrats are capable of outrageous probes and abuses of power without any orders or nudges from a president or his top aides.

Typical of the day-to-day insanity is the case of a company mistakenly sending a 1099 form saying it paid, say

\$12,000, to Joe Blow. A simple telephone call would establish that Joe Blow never got any such payment, as a superseding 1099 indicated. But some IRS bureaucrat out to "nail" Joe Blow cranks up the computers and God knows what else, and finally sends Joe Blow a notice of taxes and

penalties on the \$12,000.

I mention this case not just as an example of incredible waste and unnecessary conflict, but also as a prelude to this question: "Could some insensitive IRS bureaucrat launch an audit of Paula Jones and her husband and his \$37,000-a-year income at a time when Clinton and the Joneses are locked in a nation-jarring legal contest over whether Clinton is guilty of harassing Ms. Jones, or she is guilty of a political plot to further besmirch the reputation of this president?"

Normally, I might say there is no one in the IRS who would on his own launch such an audit at this time. But I know that there are more than a few bureaucrats who are capable of this kind of stupidity.

Somebody ought to "audit" the IRS and tell us who did it.

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## I'd rather protect America than support NAFTA

President Clinton wants fast track authority to expand the North American Free Trade Agreement. Congress should refuse.



Charley Reese  
Syndicated  
Columnist

First, it's unconstitutional, not that anyone in Washington much cares about that. Nevertheless, the Constitution, which is the sole authority for all of the federal government, places primary responsibility for trade policy with Congress, not with the president.

What Clinton wants is authority to negotiate a complex agreement, hand Congress a document of several thousands of pages and say, "Quick, now, vote yes or no, without any opportunity to amend or change it."

If Congress agrees, it is abandoning its duty.

Second, the administration stung Congress once with the original NAFTA. Administration officials

claimed NAFTA wouldn't cost many jobs. It did. They claimed it would create many jobs. It didn't. They claimed there were provisions to prevent dumping and to handle environmental and labor concerns. Those provisions proved worthless. They claimed American trade would benefit. It didn't. The pre-NAFTA trade surplus with Mexico became, and remains, a trade deficit. The deficit with Canada got bigger.

Third, expanding NAFTA would be injurious to the American people.

NAFTA never was about trade and especially not about free trade. It was designed to make Mexico safe for multinational corporate investors by guaranteeing that they could set up a plant in Mexico, enjoying profitable exploitation of Mexican labor and avoiding any environmental costs, and still ship their stuff back to the United States for sale to those Americans who still had a job.

What Clinton wants to do is expand the number of countries in which the multinationals can safely exploit the cheap labor while defiling the environment. They will do this, of course, by shutting

down plants in the United States and building them in the foreign countries.

This is bad for our environment and bad for the environment of the foreign countries. This is bad for our working men and women, and it is bad for the working men and women in the foreign countries. They will work at shameful wages with few or no benefits for absentee owners who care nothing about them or their country. And why should they? They care nothing about American workers and America.

In fact, it is misleading to say that Clinton wants this or that. Clinton, like most recent presidents, is a mere front guy for the multinational corporations and bankers who actually run the federal government. You will be seeing their agents spreading their propaganda far and wide. They will tell you what great benefits this will bring and what dire consequences will result if Congress doesn't go along. They will count on you being so stupid as to have forgotten their past lies and the damage their previous policies have caused. They will hope you will not ask why Americans are now among the lowest paid work-

ers among the industrial nations.

This is the perfect issue for you to recognize which politician cares about America and which politician has sold you out to the money interests. You will find it has nothing to do with whether the politician is a Democrat or a Republican, a conservative or a liberal.

The great divide on this issue is simple: big money or the welfare of the American people.

I personally am kind of curious as to how long the American people will allow their own government to hurt them before they finally catch on and throw the bums out. I recognize that the people have to see through the enormous propaganda smoke screen put out by the bought-and-paid-for politicians and the corporate hirelings in the media and in academia.

The hirelings will call us protectionists because we oppose them. We should accept the label with pride, for what we wish to protect are the health and welfare of the American people, their jobs, their Constitution and their children's future.

Charley Reese's e-mail address is OSOREESE@aol.com.

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### YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Big Spring City Council**  
CITY HALL — 264-2401  
TIM BLANCHARD, mayor — Home: 263-7961; Work (Blanchard Rentals): 263-4095  
OSCAR GARCIA — Home: 264-0026; Work (Big Spring FCI): 263-8304  
STEPHANIE MORTON — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361

CHUCK CANNON — Home: 263-7490; Work (Chuck's Sup-plus): 263-1142  
TOMMY TUNE — Home: 267-4652; Work (Howard College): 264-5000  
JIMMY CAMPBELL, mayor pro tem — Home: 267-7895; Work (Big Spring FCI): 263-8304  
GREG BLOSSOM — Home: 267-6009; Work (Ponderosa Restaurant): 267-7121

Mallard Tinsley  
by  
BRUCE TINSLEY



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# UP engineer says fatigue a safety worry

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Union Pacific Railroad engineer David Corless is concerned about safety — not just his, but that of people living and working along the tracks he regularly runs between Little Rock and Poplar Bluff, Mo.

His worries, Corless said Monday, stem from what he sees as an unhealthy mix of toxic chemicals on the trains he drives, and the naps he must take as he's driving, because he's given too little time for rest.

Corless is pushing for longer breaks between shifts. A year ago, he said, he would get adequate breaks. Now, he said, he only gets a few hours between trips and often works weeks without a day off.

"You ask any engineer out there and they'll tell you that they nod off regularly on the job," Corless said Monday. "An engineer's job is safety-sensitive and, if you mess up, it can cause a derailment of the train. The public doesn't want that — especially when we're carrying extremely hazardous and toxic materials."

Last week, federal regulators met in Omaha, Neb., and said they would set up shop at Union

Pacific headquarters to monitor safety. Investigators made the move because of violations found after a string of crashes over the summer that killed seven people.

A 16-day Federal Railroad Administration inspection by about 90 investigators found fatigued Union Pacific crews working long hours, defective equipment and harassment and intimidation of employees reporting safety problems.

Corless said it used to take him about five hours to make it to Poplar Bluff. He would rest about 10 hours, then drive a train back. After that, he would rest 36 hours before pulling another shift.

Now, he says, it takes him about 12 hours to make it to Missouri because of railway congestion. He says that cuts into his off time.

"It is common for an engineer to put in 80 to 100 hours in a seven-day week and have no off days," Corless says.

Federal law does not permit companies to work employees more than 12 hours without compensation. After the 12-hour mark, Union Pacific gives employees a 12-hour break. Most engineers are paid by the

mile and are not paid overtime, Corless says.

"The company hasn't said they are going to hire any one locally and we're just tired," Corless says. "Some people have been working three months without having a full day off. This can't go on."

Mark Davis, spokesman for Union Pacific, said the company will hire nearly 1,100 people nationwide by the end of this year. More than 280 of those employees will be sent to Union Pacific's southern region, which includes Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana.

"We know it's going to take us a couple of months to get things calmed down," Davis said Monday. "Until we can get extra workers, we are trying to educate them on how to get proper rest and proper nutrition so that safety is not an issue and that they get enough sleep."

Davis said fatigue is no more a risk now than it was a year ago.

Davis said a task force will look at issues of fatigue — including diet, scheduling, napping between shifts and emergencies.

Corless said that without a change in federal law, task

force recommendations will have no teeth. He says it's a tough situation because workers can't strike legally.

"Because we have no contract, we can have no contract dispute," he said. "Our only other option would be a safety strike, but the courts would order us back to work within hours."

Union Pacific says working conditions changed because of rail congestion.

"There were washouts because of spring rains and train traffic started to back up because we didn't have enough personnel to run trains," Davis says. "Most of it was centered in Houston, and when you back up the lines in Texas, it also affects the lines in Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma."

Union Pacific became the nation's largest railroad last year when it merged with Southern Pacific Railroad. The railroad administration's report said the merger could have contributed to Union Pacific's safety problems.

As part of the merger, Union Pacific said it would eliminate 3,400 jobs, leaving the merged railroads with fewer than 50,000 employees.

# Former San Angelo meatpacker to serve 30 months in Big Spring FCI for wire fraud

SAN ANGELO (AP) — The former owner of a meatpacking company has been sentenced to 30 months in prison for wire fraud and filing false tax returns.

Mike Evans, former owner of Evans Meat Co., was accused of watering down beef carcasses that he sold to other meat companies. Adding the water had the effect of making the other companies pay the price of a pound of beef for a pound of water.

U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings sentenced Evans on Monday, ordering him to report to the Federal Correction Institute in Big Spring on Oct. 6.

Cummings ordered Evans to

serve three years' probation after his release from prison and to pay \$4.8 million in restitution and \$500,000 in fines.

Evans and his attorneys, Travis Shelton of Lubbock and Melvin Gray of San Angelo, declined comment after sentencing.

As part of an agreement worked out with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Evans pleaded guilty April 1 to the charges.

The plea followed a nine-month investigation by the U.S. Customs Service, the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Agriculture — in which the federal agencies seized records and equipment at the meat company last fall.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill

Mateja, who prosecuted the case, said that meatpackers are allowed to spray water on beef to make up for the evaporative weight loss while the carcasses are stored in coolers.

But federal agents realized that carcasses at the Evans Meat Co. were being "grossly over-watered," Mateja said.

At the time, Evans was one of the largest independent hamburger suppliers in the Southwest with gross sales between \$80 million and \$105 million in each of the last five years.

The judge ordered Evans to make restitution to 22 of the customers he defrauded. The largest restitution payments will go to American Food

Service Corp. of King of Prussia, Pa., \$813,000; Golden States Food Co. of Conyers, Ga., \$770,000; and Otto and Sons of West Jordan, Utah, \$530,000.

Authorities said Evans already has paid his \$500,000 fine and \$3.5 million in restitution. The final \$1.3 million in restitution will be paid in six-month installments over the next three years.

One stipulation in the plea agreement was that Evans will never again operate a meatpacking plant or set foot on any premises requiring meat inspection by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

## Grandmother may have killed 4-year-old

FORT WORTH (AP) — A 4-year-old girl who was killed Monday may have had her throat slashed by her grandmother, police said.

Police suspect Jessie May Ivy, 38, slashed granddaughter Shawn Ivy before Amy Ivy, her 18-year-old daughter, could stab her mother in Shawn's defense, Lt. Mark Krey said. "She (Amy) went to the

defense of her children and attempted to stop the assault," Krey said.

The stabbings took place before 6:30 a.m. Monday in a house on the city's east side. No motive was known.

Jessie Ivy was listed in critical condition at JPS Health Network and will not be charged until her condition improves, Krey said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

Texas Utilities Electric Company ("TU Electric"), in accordance with the Texas Utilities Code, hereby publishes NOTICE of its Statement of Intent filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") to implement the following optional time-of-use rates that would be applicable on a voluntary basis at the individual customer's option as follows: (1) Rate GTU - General Service Time-of-Use, which would be available to any retail customer and typically useful to commercial and industrial customers receiving firm electric service; (2) Rate RTU1 - Residential Time-of-Use Service, which would be available to residential customers; and (3) Rate GTUC - General Service Time-of-Use Voluntary Curtailable, which would be available to any retail customer and typically useful to commercial and industrial customers receiving interruptible electric service. TU Electric proposes to implement said optional rates on October 10, 1997, or as soon thereafter as permitted by law. The purpose of these optional time-of-use rates is to allow customers to manage their electric usage in a way to shift their loads from on-peak periods to off-peak periods and thereby save on their electric bills and allow TU Electric and all of its customers to benefit through a reduced need for additional resources to meet the peak load requirements of TU Electric's customers.

While these rates would be entirely voluntary at the individual customer's choice, all of TU Electric's customers and classes of customers in all territories over which the Commission exercises original jurisdiction would be affected by the proposed rates.

Since these proposed rate options are entirely voluntary, TU Electric is unable to estimate their effect on its revenues, although these optional time-of-use rates are designed to be revenue neutral to TU Electric.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission's Office of Consumer Affairs at (512) 936-7120. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the Commission. Since the Application was filed on September 5, 1997, the deadline for intervention is October 20, 1997.

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full story, you bond more deeply. Tonight: Get tickets to a concert or play. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Close encounters mark the day. How well you use this energy is up to you. Listen more carefully to what someone shares with you. Communications might be unconventional and somewhat erratic. Work is demanding yet fulfilling. Stay even and mellow. Tonight: Give yourself a special treat.

Peterson (1951), actor John Ritter (1948) For America's best extended horscopse, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 000-0000, 89 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. ©1997 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Career woman happily makes a home for live-in boyfriend

DEAR ABBY: I don't know how you feel about response letters to response letters. Nonetheless, the letter I read today from "Happy With a '90s Home Life," chastising your printing the letter from "Old-Fashioned and Proud of It," evoked a fiery response from me. I am a 29-year-old woman with a college education, a professional career and a boyfriend I live with. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than knowing when he walks through the door, he has a meal, a neat home, and does not need to worry if his clothes are clean.



Abigail Van Buren Columnist

Small business for sale, located on I-20 in Colorado City. Creativity needed, training provided. For information call 915-862-6121 day, 915-728-5363 night.

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DEAR HAPPY: I'm sorry you didn't allow me to use your name, but perhaps it's for the best. Ron might be killed in the stampede of contemporary feminists trying to do you in — and men climbing over HIM to get to YOU. DEAR ABBY: I am 70-plus and have just lost my wife. We had a very good marriage. I want to continue living an active life and begin dating when it is appropriate. How long should one wait to start dating, and how long should one wait to marry again? — WIDOWER IN FLORIDA DEAR WIDOWER: Grief is such a personal emotion that no one can presume to make rules that will apply to every one. A widow or widower may begin dating whenever he or she feels like it, the decision is yours. When you tie the knot again is up to you — and the lucky lady who will accompany you down the aisle. DEAR ABBY: My condolences to "Janis in Capistrano Beach, Calif." who bragged that she wore make-up and a tight T-shirt to "lure the salesclerk" so her husband could get help. She apparently is blissfully unaware that she has been insulted. It probably takes 100 well-groomed, hard-working professional women to offset the influence of each "Janis." Women will never have respect, equal opportunity and equal pay until they learn to value themselves for their abilities and their contributions to society rather than the size of their bra cups. You may print my letter if you wish, including my name and state. — LEOLA FARMER, TULSA, OKLA. DEAR MS. FARMER: I agree. And hasten the day when "... and blessed be they whose cup runneth over" refers only to good fortune. To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.) 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.) ©1997 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

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Public Notice: TO: Michael Anthony Minding, Respondent. NOTICE: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served with this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The Amended Petition of Patricia Minding, Petitioner, was filed in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District on the 5th day of September, 1997 against Michael Anthony Minding, Respondent, and is number 97-03-30036 on the docket of said court and is entitled: IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF PATRICIA MINDING AND MICHAEL ANTHONY MINDING AND IN THE INTEREST OF MONE' A TALICE MINDLING. A MINOR CHILD. The suit requests a divorce. The suit also requests orders concerning the following child: Name: Mone' A Talice Minding Sex: Female Birthdate: Big Spring, Tex Birthdate: No-number 2, 1991 Address: W/ Patricia Minding SSN: 634-26-7392 AUTHORITY OF THE COURT: The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child's interest which will be binding upon you, including termination of the parent-child relationship, the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption, and an order reducing to judgment all delinquent child support payments previously provided in an order in suit affecting the parent-child relationship in a case styled: In the Interest of Mone' A Talice Minding, a Minor Child, No. 35,875 in the 118th Judicial District Court of Howard County, Texas, entered on September 24, 1992. CITATION ISSUED, issued and given under my hand and seal of court at Big Spring, Texas on the 5th day of September, 1997. GLENDA BRASSEL, Clerk of the District Court of Howard County, Texas By: COLLEEN BARTON Deputy 1560 September 16, 25, 30 & October 7, 1997

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