

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

THURSDAY
December 11, 1997

50 cents

Dobbs, Metcalf throw their hats into the county political ring

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Famed rodeo clown to seek Precinct 2 JP spot; Metcalf to challenge for county post

The filing period does not end until 5 p.m. Jan. 2, but the list of candidates seeking to represent Howard County residents in public office continues to grow.

The most recent hopefuls to make their intentions official include Coahoma resident and nationally famous rodeo clown Quail Dobbs, who will seek the Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace position on the Republican bal-

lot, and John Wayne Metcalf, seeking to unseat Precinct 2 County Commissioner Jerry Kilgore.

Current Precinct 2 JP Jack Buchanan recently joined County Clerk Margaret Ray and Precinct 4 County Commissioner on the list of officials deciding to call it quits.

Buchanan, like Ray and Choate, will serve out the final year of his current term.

The following election lineup is tentative until the Jan. 2 filing deadline has passed:

Howard County Judge:

Ben Lockhart — Republican
County Commissioner,

Precinct 2:

Jerry Kilgore — Republican
John Wayne Metcalf — Republican
Donnie Reid — Democrat (has not officially filed with party chairman)

County Commissioner,

Precinct 4:

Gary Simer — Democrat
Fredi Frank — Republican (has not officially filed with party chairman)
Jody Nix — Republican (has not officially filed with party

chairman)

Treasurer:

Bonnie Franklin — Democrat
Justice of the Peace - Precinct 1, Place 2:

Marilyn Carson - Republican
Bennie Green - Republican (has not officially filed with party chairman)

Justice of the Peace - Precinct 2:

Quail Dobbs — Republican
District Clerk:

Glenda Brasel — Democrat
County Clerk:

Donna Wright — Democrat
The list of candidates seeking

to represent Howard County in the State Legislature (District 70) had not changed as of Wednesday afternoon and still includes a rematch of the 1996 campaign with incumbent Rep. David Counts, D-Knox City, facing off with businessman Scott McLaughlin, R-Big Spring.

The race to represent the 17th Congressional District also remains a rematch of the 1996 campaign with San Angelo dentist Rudy Izzard, Republican, trying to unseat 20-year Democratic Congressman Charles Stenholm.

Gaming machines target of probe

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

State officials are considering whether gambling games such as video poker or "cherry master" machines should be more closely regulated.

A state task force has been established to study those machines and other forms of gaming that may soon be declared as illegal gambling.

The chairman of the task force, state Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco, believes the proliferation of the machines may be connected to the state's decision to allow a lottery and other forms of legal gambling, such as horse racing.

"I think that the state acts as a tutor in the laws that we set up," Sibley said. "When you have state-sanctioned gambling, I think people look that as a signal that maybe we ought to have other sorts of gambling."

"If they want to have other sorts of gambling, they can go through the process of making it legal. Until then, we are going to enforce the laws in the state of Texas."

Machines such as the Cherry Master and video poker can be found in local establishments such as Rip Griffin's Truck Stop, JB's Amusement and several convenience stores.

The growing presence of those machines has local law enforcement officials concerned.

118th District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson said the state legislature needs to take a closer look at the machines.



Joe Earhart relaxes at JB's Amusement while playing a Cherry Master machine Wednesday afternoon. The Cherry Master and similar machines are targets of a probe by a state task force looking into the legality of such operations.

"I don't think the legislature made a concerted vote for that type of device. I think they kind of slipped under the loopholes," Wilkerson said. "But it will be hard to put the genie back in the bottle."

Wilkerson disapproves of the machines because he said they too closely resemble casino-type gambling devices like slot machines, which are currently illegal in the state.

"Our state may have been successful, without really trying to be, in allowing a form of slot-machine gambling," he said. "I don't like that type of device ... I don't care for the appearance of (slot machines)."

The 12-member state task force on Tuesday heard testimony on everything from the proliferation of bets being placed on the Internet to mini-casinos with slot-machine style games that reward players with gift certificates to local stores, or "mall bucks," instead of cash.

The panel has been charged

with submitting an advisory report on how to strengthen the state's gambling laws to Gov. George W. Bush by May 1, 1998.

Under current law, the state allows "amusement machines," in which the prize or payoff is no more than 10 times the money deposited to play the game or \$5, whichever is lower.

Similar machines in Big Spring pay out gift certificates to local merchants.

Eight-liners — machines that give payouts if the player fills out one of eight lines on a grid — have been a source of controversy for several years. Bush backed a bill to crack down on the machines, but it was killed during the 1997 legislative session by groups saying the machines were helping veterans and charities raise money in bingo halls.

On Tuesday, Dave Stegman, president of Amusement, Music Operators of Texas (AMOT), a group representing small business owners who operate the

machines, sent a letter to the task force.

"We join you in wanting to root out illegal gambling in Texas, and we support your efforts to clarify state laws regarding amusement machines and redemption policies," Stegman wrote.

The letter included proposed reforms, such as banning casino-style machines with graphic illustrations; stating in the strongest language possible that cash prizes are prohibited; prohibiting locations that use 8-liners as their sole or primary source of income; and eliminating loopholes that could lead to the conversion of gift certificates to cash.

Wilkerson believes that larger jurisdictions, such as Dallas or Harris counties, will eventually test the legality of the machines if the legislature doesn't soon do something about the situation.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Board to oversee housing program

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

One of the items Housing Assistance Program Director Mark Gentry sought when he was hired last spring became a reality Tuesday when Mayor Tim Blackshear appointed a five-member board of commissioners to oversee the program.

The five-member committee includes Assistant City Manager Emma Bogard, who will act as chairperson of the board; businessman Mark Sheedy; Danelle Castillo of the Salvation Army; Gail Earls, who works with the city's juvenile justice system and Rape Crisis Victim Services; and Housing Program participant Bernadette Valentine, also known as the resident board member.

Gentry will act as board secretary and a sixth non-voting member.

The resident board member will have voting authority unless a matter involves action directed at another program participant.

The board is expected to meet on a monthly basis and more frequently if special sessions are called for, Gentry said.

Once the board meets, a vice chairperson will be selected. Meetings of the board of commissioners must comply with the Texas Open Meeting Act.

Under Vernon's Texas Codes, two of the original commissioners will serve one-year terms and two will serve two-year terms. The term of the resident board member will be

Please see BOARD, page 2A

Proponents: Machines entertainment, not gambling

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Proponents of gaming machines such as video poker and Cherry Master believe that the machines are more entertainment than gambling.

Similar machines have appeared in many Big Spring establishments. For varying amounts of money — usually less than 50 cents — games can take a chance at winning gift certificates or tickets good for redemption at local retailers.

A state task force recently convened to look at these types of machines and other forms of gaming to see if they qualify as illegal gambling.

But Jimmy Bailey, owner of JB's Amusements in Big Spring is one of several who counter that the machines don't constitute a form of gambling.

"I'm looking at it more as a form of entertainment than gambling," Bailey said.

Bailey has several of the machines at his establishment on East Third Street, but player volume is never at a high level. "It's not as good as I expected ... but this is Big Spring," he said.

Payouts at Bailey's establishment comes in the form of \$1 gift certificates good for redemption at businesses such as Big John's Feed Lot, H-E-B Food Store, Wal-Mart and Bargain Mart.

Other local businesses, such as Rip Griffin's Truck Stop and several convenience stores, have the gaming machines.

While Bailey doesn't think the machines constitute illegal gambling, he wouldn't mind some restrictions being placed on their use.

"They don't have to be in (convenience stores) or other places around schools," he said. "The law says you have to be 18 to play. I say make the age 21. These machines can't be regulated in (a convenience store) like they can be in here."

Others in the amusement machine industry expressed a willingness to help the task force weed out illegal gambling.

FINAL TOUCHES



On Wednesday, Teresa Lee and Kyle Coker work on the light used to guide cars through the Drive Through Nativity at the First Church of the Nazarene. The event begins tonight, from 6:30 to 9:30, and continues through Sunday.

Police seek three suspects after Tuesday night sexual assault

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring police are looking for three males in connection with a sexual assault that occurred late Tuesday.

BSPD Sgt. Roger Sweatt said the sexual assault occurred between 9:30-10:30 p.m. Tuesday night somewhere on the east side of town. A young woman around 20 years old was in her

back yard by the alley when she was abducted by two men wearing masks and dark clothing.

The two men carried the woman off to a waiting car and drove her to another location, where she was assaulted, Sweatt said. After the assault, she was forced to walk home.

Police are looking for three men — two who assaulted the woman and a third who drove the vehicle — although no phys-

ical descriptions are available. All three wore masks and dark clothing during the assault.

Details are sketchy at this time because the victim is still in a high state of agitation, Sweatt said. "We hope she'll recall more details when she settles down," he said.

Sweatt urged anyone with information on this crime to contact the police department at 264-2550.



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WEATHER

Tonight:



Fri:



Sat:



Sun:



Tonight, cloudy. Low around 20. North wind 5-15 mph. Friday, partly cloudy. High around 40. North wind 10-20 mph and gusty. Saturday, mostly cloudy with a chance of snow. Lows 20-25. Highs in the 30s. Sunday, partly cloudy and warmer. Lows around 30. Highs 45-50.

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Vol. 94, No. 45

To reach all departments, please call 263-7331

D E C 1 1 1 9 9 7

OBITUARIES

Clarence Pollard, Jr.

Service for Clarence Pollard, Jr., 41, Big Spring, will be 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 1997, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Rev. Frank Nelson, pastor of the Powerhouse Church of God in Christ, officiating, assisted by Superintendent Kenneth Weatherspoon, pastor of Wayside Church of God in Christ. Burial will follow in Mount Olive Memorial Park.



POLLARD

Mr. Pollard died Thursday, Dec. 4, at his home following a long illness.

He was born on March 25, 1956, in Big Spring. He grew up in Big Spring. He lived in Houston for 21 years where he worked as a stockbroker; he retired eight years ago due to ill health and returned to Big Spring in 1993.

He is survived by his mother, Sarah Pollard, Big Spring; two sons, Julian St. John Pollard, Houston, and Brandon Pollard, California; one daughter, Brandi Pollard, California; three sisters, Barbara Parker, Philadelphia, Pa., Lanette Lister and Sarah Elizabeth Pollard, both of Houston; and several nieces and nephews.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel.

Jack Wayman Dorsett

Service for Jack Wayman Dorsett, 44, Merkel, formerly of Big Spring, will be 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 1997, at the Merkel High School Gymnasium with Mark Whitmire officiating. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery, Merkel.

Mr. Dorsett died Wednesday, Dec. 10, in Nolan County.

He was born on Jan. 21, 1953, in Childress. He married Trena Bays on Jan. 7, 1984, in Big Spring. Mr. Dorsett graduated from Childress High School and from Panhandle State College in Goodwill, Okla. He was a teacher and coach in Big Spring for six years. He was a member of the Merkel Church of Christ and the Texas High School Coaches Association. While in Big Spring, he was a member of the American Heart Association Board.

Survivors include: his wife, Trena Dorsett, Merkel; one son, Riki Dorsett, Merkel; one daughter, Krista Dorsett,

Merkel; his mother, Juanita Dorsett, Childress; his father, Don Dorsett, Amarillo; a brother, Eddie Griffin, Childress; a sister, Kimbra Adair, Gatesville.

Arrangements under the direction of Starbuck Funeral Home, Merkel.

Billie Jo Anderson

Service for Billie Jo Anderson, 69, Gardendale, was 11 a.m. today at Hubbard-Kelly Chapel, Odessa. Burial was 2 p.m. in Trinity Memorial Park, Big Spring.

Mrs. Anderson died Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1997, at her residence.

She was born on Sept. 30, 1928, in Big Spring. She married James C. "Jake" Anderson on Nov. 27, 1947, in Big Spring. Mrs. Anderson moved to the Odessa area in 1948. She retired from Bank One in 1983, after 37 years. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include: her husband, James C. "Jake" Anderson, Gardendale; a brother, Jack Riggs, Midland; and a sister, Dorothy Phillips, Big Spring.

Arrangements under the direction of Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home, Inc., Odessa.

Pat Wright

Service for Pat Wright, 65, Big Spring, is pending with Nalley Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

She died Thursday, Dec. 11, 1997, at Marcy House.

BOARD

Continued from page 1A

an annual position. "We have done the best we can to have a board that represents a broad range of the community," Gentry said.

From the time he accepted the position as housing director, Gentry has maintained that the program would be run by the letter of the law, which included the establishment of the board of commissioners and putting an administrative plan in place.

According to Gentry, the plan is in place and available for public inspection and once the newly appointed board is trained, it will enter into a formal cooperation agreement with the city and assume liability for the housing agency.

Also, one of the board's first tasks will be to go through the plan with a fine-toothed comb and determine how the program will be run, he said.

For fiscal year 1998, the program has a budget of \$1.3 million.

The program expends about \$100,000 monthly toward housing assistance, salaries and overhead, according to Gentry.

Gentry has spent the better part of his first eight months in office updating the program and correcting deficiencies discovered during auditing procedures last December.

Gentry said that Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspections have caused the removal or disallowed participation for more than 40 homes that were either a program participant or sought to participate in the program.

In the last seven months, more than 90 participant families have been removed from the program for cause, which has included: violation of the Federal One Strike Anti-Drug/Crime/Violence/Gang requirements; intentional fraud, such as unauthorized persons residing in the household with many drawing employment income; damage to a landlord's property; unsanitary housekeeping; skip-outs, such as moving without giving notice; exceeding income limits for the program; and/or a family deciding they no longer require the program's assistance.

Another goal of the housing department is to form a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program with one initial volunteer, with intentions of employing the position as part-time and later on applying for a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant-funded position for a FSS coordinator.

Gentry said program data is being accumulated and other community resources sought that will be collaborated with that data to assist mutual clients.

"It is expected that housing assistance may also be tied into welfare reforms and back to work programs," Gentry said. "In many cases, it may be necessary to have a FSS program before we are able to participate in several other Texas

Department of Housing and Community Affairs programs.

Some of the TDHCA programs Big Spring's housing program may be eligible for include community services; energy assistance; local government assistance; community development fund; disaster relief/urgent need fund; housing rehabilitation fund; housing infrastructure fund; planning and capacity building fund; colonia fund; Texas Small Towns environment fund and the Texas Capital Fund.

Other TDHCA programs available to housing departments include home investment partnership program; low income housing tax credit program; housing trust fund; neighborhood partnerships for Texas; statewide housing assistance payments program (Section 8); first-time homebuyer program; down payment assistance program; CASA Fronteriza Program; single family interim construction program; and multifamily programs.

BRIEFS

BIG SPRING BANDS WILL perform their Christmas concerts Saturday, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium.

Sixth grade begins playing at 6 p.m., followed at about 6:45 p.m. by the 7th grade band. Eighth graders perform at about 7:15, followed at 8 p.m. by the high school band.

The public is invited to attend the concert. Baked goods and refreshments will be offered. Call Rocky Harris at 264-3641 for more information.

THE COAHOMA LIONS CLUB invites all to celebrate Christmas in the Park, Saturday, Dec. 13. Bring a decoration to the park at 3 p.m. and help us decorate the community Christmas tree. Return at 6 p.m. to hear the band, chorus groups, see Santa Claus and have free refreshments. For more information, call Jim or Irene at 394-4424.

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BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

IT'S RECYCLE DAY IN Coahoma.

Coahoma, Clean and Proud will be accepting recyclable items in the empty lot West of Little Sooper grocery store Saturday, Dec. 13. Due to Christmas in the Park, we will be changing our hours this month to 9:30 a.m. to noon. We will be collecting newspaper, cardboard, feed sacks, aluminum and steel.

We will also be collecting Campbell Soup labels for the schools and used eyeglasses for the Lions Club. For more information, call Irene at 394-4424.

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THE HISTORIC SPRING will be decorated with thousands of lights in Comanche Trail Park nightly through Jan. 1. Special musical programs are planned through Sunday. For more information, or to volunteer to help with the program, call Pat Simmons, 263-4607.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH will offer flu shots to those 18 and over every Wednesday of the winter months (October through February). The injections are available from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. at 501 Birdwell Lane.

For those on Medicare, there is no co-payment, but the card must be presented at the time of the injection. For others, the fee is \$5.

Texas Lottery

PICK 3: 8, 9, 7

LOTTO: 1, 2, 20, 21, 26, 41

MARKETS

March cotton 68.35, up 30 points; Jan. crude 18.07, down 7 points; Cash hogs steady at 50 cents lower at 44; cash steers steady at \$1 higher at 67; Dec. lean hog futures 62.25, down 2 points; Dec. live cattle futures 66.87, down 25 points.

courtesy: Delta Corporation. Noon quotes provided by Edward D. Jones & Co.

Index 7889.27	
Volume 191,803,770	
ATT	57% -
Amoco	87% +
Atlantic Richfield	75% -
Atmos Energy	26% -
Calenergy Inc.	29% -
Chevron	78% -
Cifra	2.10 - 2.14
Cornell Correc.	16% -
De Beers	19% -
Diagnostic Health	11% -
DuPont	62% -
Excel Comm.	15% -
Exxon	63% +
Fina	64% +
Halliburton	54 - 1%
IBM	103 - 3%
Intel Corp	73% - 1%
Laser Indus LTD	22% -
Medical Alliance	4% +
Mobil	73% -
Norwest	36% -
NUV	9% +
Phillips Petroleum	49 -
Palex Inc.	11% nc
Pepsi Cola	35% -
Parallell Petroleum	6% nc
Rural/Metro	29% - 1%
Sears	44% -
Southwestern Bell	71% -
Sun	42% +
Texaco	54% -
Texas Instruments	43% - 1%
Texas Utils. Co	39% - 1%
Unocal Corp	37% -

Wal-Mart	39% -
Amcap	15.29-16.22
Euro Pacific	27.59-29.27
I.C.A.	30.81-32.69
New Economy	21.35-22.65
New Perspective	20.80-22.07
Prime Rate	8.50%
Gold	284.50-285.00
Silver	5.77-5.81

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday:

• **RUBEN GAMBOA JR., 22**, 505 N. Goliad, arrested on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

• **JULIAN MORENO DIAZ**, 21, 3208 W. Ninth, was arrested on charges of theft and violation of probation for burglary of a building.

• **DENNIS SHELTON SIMMONS**, 41, Coahoma, arrested on a charge of contempt of court.

• **MICHAEL ALLEN RICHTER**, 23, Sand Springs, was arrested on a bondman of bond warrant for burglary of a building.

• **ROBERT WENDELL GREEN**, 62, Colorado City, arrested on charge of DWI (fourth).

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday:

• **CHARLES MCKELLER**, 22, arrested on local warrants.

• **THOMAS DUNNAM**, 32, arrested on a charge of DWI.

• **THEFT** on the 1100 block of Lamesa, the 300 block of Johnson, the 1800 block of E. Marcy, and the 2300 block of Wasson.

• **ASSAULT** was reported to the police department.

• **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** on the 1000 block of Ridgeroad.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** on the 2000 block of E. 11th.

FIRE/EMS

Following is a summary of Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reports:

Wednesday

11:57 a.m. — 2300 Wasson, medical call, patient transferred to VA Medical Center.

2:02 p.m. — 1100 E. 13th, medical call, patient transferred to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

12:38 p.m. — 4200 Dixon, automobile fire, extinguished by responding units.



HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett
Children's author Herb Marlow spoke to students at Bauer Magnet School Wednesday, telling stories from his books and his memories of growing up on a farm. He will speak at St. Mary's Episcopal School Friday.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Clarence Pollard, Jr., 41, died Thursday at his home. Services are 2:00 PM, Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial in Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home

Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory

906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331

Dan Plowman, 52, died Tuesday. He will lie in state on Wednesday and Thursday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Services will be 2:00 PM Friday at View Baptist Church, View, Texas. Interment will follow at Drummonds Cemetery.

Pat Wright, 65, died Thursday. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Big Spring Herald
ISSN 0746-6811
USPS 0055-940
Daily except Saturday.
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY:
Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly;
\$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).
MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
\$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties, \$13.25 elsewhere.
The Herald is a member of the Associated Press, Audit Bureau of Circulation, American Newspaper Association and West Texas Press. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas, 79720-9999.
POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1491, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

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DECEMBER 11 1997

EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

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

Charles C. Williams, Publisher; Steve Reagan, Copy/Layout Editor; John H. Walker, Managing Editor; Debbie Jensen, Features Editor

OUR VIEWS

Lights, lights and more lights ...

Lights, lights and more lights... Our community is a bright spot on the prairie this holiday season.

From the many merchants who have lit their buildings, to the lighted "Merry Christmas" atop the Settles Building, efforts to create a cheery atmosphere have paid off.

The city looks terrific at night. Add to that the beautiful display volunteers have created at the historic spring, and we've got something to brag about.

There is still time to enter the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce annual decorating contest, which has divisions for homes and businesses, lights and other types of displays.

Judging is planned for Tuesday. By next Thursday, local residents and visitors can stop by the chamber for a map and listing of those who entered the contest.

Christmas means many things. This year, to our community, it means a time to show our pride by lighting our homes, businesses and even our own historic spring.

That's good for all of us.

OTHER VIEWS

The State, a newspaper in Columbia, S.C., once outraged a political boss to whom it was administering a daily Page One horsewhipping.

Neither is El Nuevo Dia, Puerto Rico's largest newspaper. But because the nature of the persecution is different — it is coming from the island's governor — so is the response.

The charge is that the eight are interfering with the daily's First Amendment freedoms. Certainly the reprisals emanating from Gov. Rossello's office do no credit to the democratic spirit.

After El Nuevo Dia exposed fraud in the government phone company and

mismanagemnt of water resources — and 24 hours after the paper jeered the first 100 days of Rossello's second term — payback started. On April 13, 17 commonwealth agencies canceled advertising, costing the paper \$500,000 a month.

In court, the paper asserted that Rossello, et al. are unconstitutionally attacking its editorial independence. Will the charge stick? Perhaps. A boycott by irate merchants is one thing; a raw attempt by government to control news by the power of the advertising purse is something else.

-SCRIPPS HOWARD

John F. Kennedy: Nothing but a human hog

By LEONARD LARSEN Scripps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — President John F. Kennedy, it's now clear and undeniable, was not a man who deserved the admiration, even adoration, we showered on him. He was a thief and a liar who stole the devotion of millions of Americans on the false pretense he was a worthy hero, a faithful and attentive husband and model president.

He was also so wanton and careless in his personal conduct it now seems something of a miracle he didn't throw away the nation's self-respect and well-being in his amazingly wild passion to bed any willing woman, paid prostitute or volunteer, wherever, whenever.

Perhaps worst of all, Kennedy — whose Camelot was constructed after his death by a widow who was obviously as occupied in myth-building as she was grieving — was a cruel and

unfeeling user of other people, always those he viewed as beneath him.

I count myself among millions of Americans who voted enthusiastically for Kennedy's election in 1960, gloried from afar at his seeming steadiness and his wisdom dealing with affairs of the presidency. He was, as I was back then, among a "new generation of Americans" who'd grown up in the Great Depression and America's war years, full of vigorous ambition and hope and ready and willing to take on the world.

All of us were fooled by the Kennedy apparatus and the ongoing act in front of friendly cameras. We were tricked and all our devotion, our private thoughts of him as a fine president and a friend, were used by that cynical man and cynical people around him who nourished the lie of an honorable man and smaller lies that grew from that.

For years now, I admit, I've had a growing understanding of the reprehensible, contemptible man Kennedy was behind the image manufactured by his family toadies and sycophants of all kinds, most especially media sycophants.

But like so many others, I swallowed a rising shame as my belief was destroyed, shame in my own gullibility and tardiness to admit it and shame in my own work, the news business, that even in the years of revelations of the real Kennedy seemed bound to the Camelot lie. Important people in the media branded evidence of the predator president as inventions and innuendo from his ancient political enemies. Some of them still do.

Perhaps the Hersh book contains some old hash warmed over, but the Kennedy ugliness is collected there. And, completely aside from official failures that Hersh sets forth in his indictment, the abysmal failure of John F. Kennedy as a civilized human being is, to me, overwhelming.

Just one example of Kennedy's ugly nature — his brutish treatment of people around him — sets out the character of the man. His crudity and lust for sex, it's now made clear, invariably involved men and women assigned to care for his safety and guard his life, involved them with all the dirty scum of Kennedy's demands.

Prostitutes and assorted camp

followers, even women who knew him and professed to love him, were summoned to the White house or whatever bed President Kennedy was using. And all of them had to be passed through the protective ring of Secret Service, police, military or White House aides, people who were belittled and shamed at disgusting presidential conduct they were made a part of.

A rich vein for study might be the souring impact Kennedy was to have on American politics. Were presidents who followed him — Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson, who in all likelihood knew the Kennedy character — made incautious, even furious, by a media and political establishment that attacked them after fawning over Kennedy?

And how much was the media's turn into "gotcha" coverage of public officials influenced by shame and realization that Kennedy's appalling personal behavior was largely ignored by an uncritical media that chose to write of the Kennedy charm and the Kennedy Camelot?

As for me, I'm shamed by all that admiration spent on a human hog.



Be somebody who loves a child

By CHARLEY REESE Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

In most communities there are programs that provide Christmas gifts for children. This year, I was stumped for a way to tell you what a difference in the life of a child a small gift can make.

Then I met a young girl, as lovely and fragile as a fawn, and she said it in five simple words more eloquently than I could ever hope to do.

I had arranged to visit one of the homes in the Boys Town facility in my community.

Despite the name, it also provides residential programs for girls. My plan was to ask the children to talk about their best Christmases. I hoped that from the conversations a story would emerge that would tug at your heartstrings. But it didn't work out that way.

Boys Town is, first of all, a place of paradoxes. The children there are both unlucky and lucky. If they had not been unlucky in their young lives, they wouldn't be there, but they are lucky to be in Boys Town. A lot of foster care in America is straight out of Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist." Boys Town is tops.

The children live in homes in what looks like just a nice subdivision. Each home has house parents who are carefully selected and well trained. The idea is to provide as close to a home and family atmosphere as possible.

The children I visited and shared a meal with (they cooked it) live with Gary and Odalys Kitchings.

So another paradox is, when

you see the girls, clean, neatly dressed, polite, living in a home anyone would be proud to live in, you have to remember that behind the pleasant present there is a past full of shadows — extreme poverty, sometimes abuse. Boys Town is protective of its children, as it ought to be, so I won't be telling you their sad life stories. Their pasts are only hinted at by their conversations. These six girls had collectively lived through 90 Christmases, but of all those, only three were called memorable.

One of the three memorable Christmases was marked by the stark fact that the girl's mother had not died. She said her mother was hospitalized and she had convinced herself that she would never see her again, but on Christmas, she came home, held up and helped by a friend. Another girl recalled a Christmas with her mother, and it was clear from the way she told it that it was being with her mother and not the Barbie doll that made it her one memorable Christmas.

Most of the girls, though, simply had no memorable Christmases.

"We never celebrated Christmas," one girl who hopes to make a career in the Army said. "We couldn't afford it. It was just a regular day, like any other. Birthdays, too. We never paid any attention to them."

Our whole lives, of course, can consist of nothing but regular days like any other unless we or someone else makes them special. That's something worth remembering given that our days, regular or special, are

finite in number.

The third Christmas story came from a bright, lovely child. The Kitchings said she loves to read so much they have found her in the bed under the covers reading by flashlight. Another girl recalled finding her in a closet, reading. She is so cheerful you would never imagine the sadness she has known.

Her memorable Christmas came in another group home years ago.

"I knew I was not going to get anything for Christmas," she said. "There was nobody to give me anything. So I didn't expect anything. But on Christmas morning, wrapped in one of those bed comforts, were some presents for me." The memory of that morning in an institution lit her face in a delightful way.

"So what did that mean to you?" I asked. She looked up with those dark, fawnlike eyes, and said without any hesitation. "It meant somebody loved me."

Well, there it is, straight from a child's heart. It didn't matter what those presents were. She never mentioned that. She didn't know who gave them to her. What mattered to her was that "it meant somebody loved me." It didn't even matter who that somebody was.

So the bottom-line, no-bull truth is that when you contribute to a Christmas charity you can let some child know somebody loves them. You can be that child's somebody. I don't know anything better than being somebody who loves a child.

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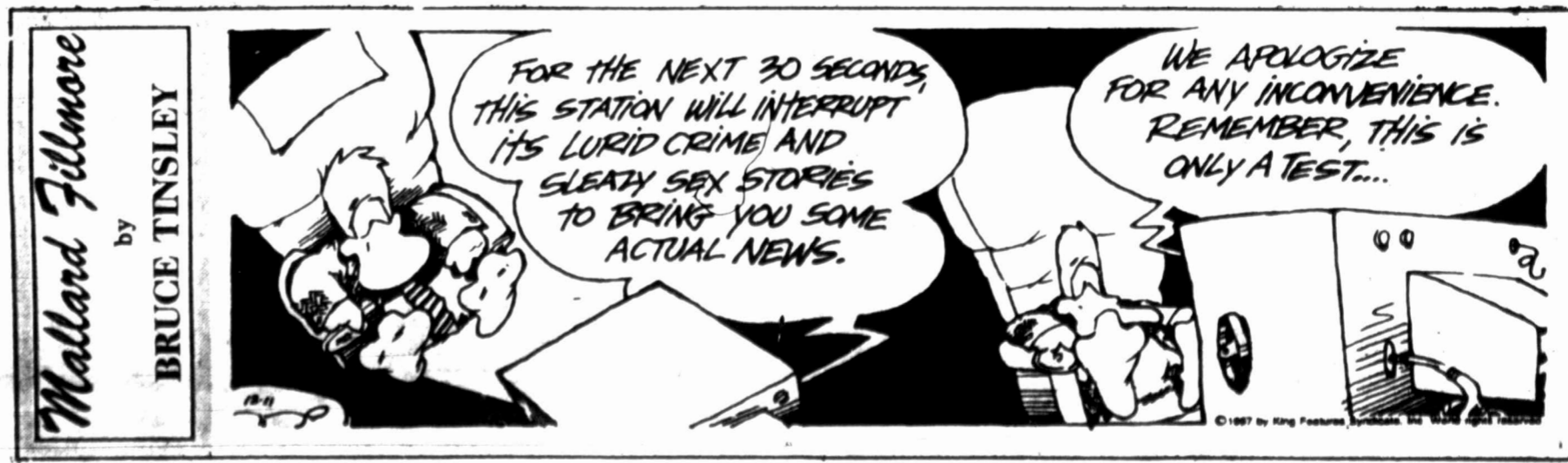
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The Big Spring Herald welcomes your letters to the editor. We ask that you adhere to our policies so that we might have the opportunity to share your opinion with others.

- Please: Limit your letters to no more than 300 words, or about two handwritten pages. Sign your letter. Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes. Faxed or computer-generated letters must be signed and also provide telephone number and address. We reserve the right to edit letters for style and clarity. We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author. Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered for publication. We do not acknowledge receipt of letters. Letters from our circulation area will be given preference. Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721, faxed to 264-7205 or e-mailed to jwalk@xroadstx.com.



Big Spring Herald Thursday, December 11, 1997. Sta HARLIN launched ing up T which are its to hum Some 14 that don't dards are ronmental "The go cleaner w streams," the Te Conservat Wednesda the banks The Arr from Miss Grande, i included i so polluted and swim

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State begins initiative to reduce pollution in lakes and streams

HARLINGEN (AP) — The state has launched an initiative aimed at cleaning up Texas waterways, some of which are so filthy that they're off-limits to humans.

Some 140 rivers, lakes and streams that don't meet water quality standards are being targeted by state environmental officials.

"The goal of this project is simple — cleaner water for Texas lakes and streams," Barry McBee, chairman of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, said Wednesday at a news conference on the banks of the Arroyo Colorado.

The Arroyo, a 90-mile river running from Mission to the mouth of the Rio Grande, is one of the watersheds included in the project. Its waters are so polluted in some areas that fishing and swimming has been restricted.

The project intends to help state and local officials implement pollution controls to return the watersheds to standards compatible with their recreational and municipal uses.

Of the 368 watersheds in Texas, the 140 included in the project are the only ones not in compliance with state surface water quality standards, McBee said.

Their pollution problems range from unsafe levels of bacteria originating from animal waste to high concentrations of toxic substances from pesticides and industrial chemicals.

Under the initiative, environmental officials will determine the amount of pollution the watersheds can receive and still meet water quality standards. This pollution limit, known as a "total maximum daily load," will be identified through on-location studies of the

140 watersheds.

"The first five studies, to be conducted over the next two years, target the Arroyo Colorado, Cypress Creek near Longview, Salado Creek in San Antonio, Spence Reservoir near San Angelo and the Trinity River in North Texas.

Studies of the first 40 watersheds are scheduled to be finished in five years, with all 140 to be completed in 10 years, McBee said.

Once pollution limits are determined for each watershed, the TNRCC, Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board and regional and local leaders will begin implementing methods to control those limits.

Such methods could include more stringent wastewater permits and increased regulation of the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

"It is not going to be a plan that's going to sit on the shelf," said John Barrett, a Corpus Christi cotton farmer and member of the Coastal Coordination Council. "When this plan is done, that body of water is going to meet the state surface water quality standards."

Although McBee could not put a price tag on the entire project, he said the study of the Arroyo Colorado would cost \$500,000 alone.

The initiative is in response to a mandate by the U.S. EPA directing states to begin enforcing portions of the federal Clean Water Act that deal with surface water quality.

In recent years, lawsuits have been filed in several states, including Oklahoma, New Mexico and Louisiana, to force the EPA to undertake efforts to improve water quality in lakes,

streams and rivers.

In 1986, the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club sued EPA over its approval of Texas surface water quality standards. One complaint was that Texas had not determined pollution limits for its watersheds, said Ken Kramer, director of the Sierra Club's state chapter.

While Kramer applauded the state's plan to determine such limits over the next 10 years, he said more must be done in the meantime to improve water quality.

"If it's going to take 10 years, it's going to take additional time to actually implement anything as a result of those findings, and that's way too long," Kramer said. "We need to get on the stick and actually do some cleanup in more areas around the state and country."

Insurance agent says murder defendant sought \$1 million policy

ANGLETON (AP) — Jurors were told that former Sweeney funeral home owner Jay Johnson tried to buy a \$1 million life insurance policy for himself and his common-law wife four months before she was found shot to death in her bed.

Insurance agent Cynthia Bohac testified Wednesday at Johnson's capital murder trial that Johnson walked into an insurance agency in May, 1991, to inquire about buying \$1 million life insurance policies for both of them.

"He wanted to purchase whole life insurance," Bohac said. "He wanted it to include accidental death."

Johnson, 65, admits he killed

his wife, but says it was an accident. He said the shotgun went off accidentally when he got cramps in his leg and hand.

Johnson is accused of killing Edwina Prosen, 57, in the couple's apartment above Sweeney Funeral Home in September, 1991. She died of a single shotgun blast to the abdomen while she was in bed.

Prosecutors are not seeking the death penalty. If convicted of capital murder, Johnson would receive an automatic sentence of life in prison.

Bohac testified she told Johnson she would call him with information about the policies, but never spoke to him again. She called

Special meeting of Tech regents promises to be lively

LUBBOCK (AP) — A proposal to strengthen Texas Tech's admissions policies promised to spice up today's special meeting of regents, who are accustomed to minimal public discussion and unanimous votes.

Chancellor John T. Montford acknowledges there could be some "pretty lively debate" when regents consider a set of ambitious goals designed to improve Tech's 42-percent graduation rate.

In an effort to boost that number to 60 percent, Tech has raised eyebrows by setting an average SAT score goal for incoming freshmen at "approximately 1,200," a full 120-point increase over the current figure.

Even though most admissions standards aren't changing, Montford and Regent James Sowell both said they've received piles of mail from parents frightened that their children won't be able to get into Tech.

"Even if we reach an average SAT score of 1,200, we will still have some students with an SAT score of 800," Sowell said.

Campus minority organizations and the Faculty Senate complained that earlier policy drafts focused too much on test scores. Regents altered the proposals to allow for subjective considerations, such as economic background, work history and extracurricular participation.

"Those are important considerations," Montford said, adding that he can't guarantee what it takes to be admitted. "But I'm not a soothsayer."

Tech regents, who have voted unanimously on every matter before them this year, are expected to approve a list of goals that's been discussed since a committee began studying the issue in May. Major policy points to be voted on include:

- Incoming freshman classes will average nearly 1,200 on their SATs by 2003. By then, at least 25 percent of the student body will receive some sort of athletic scholarship.
- Students automatically

will receive scholarship money based on their admissions test scores, up to \$5,000 for the cream of the crop.

- Tech's Honors Program will be split off into an Honors College, complete with its own dean.
- While heavy recruiting efforts in Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston will continue, Tech will focus resources on its own West Texas "backyard."
- Enhanced emphasis on retaining existing students.

While requirements for assured admission haven't changed, proposed changes make it tougher on students seeking transfer or provisional admission.

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Anti-war presence to be reduced in NJ Vietnam War museum

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — While she thought the country was wrong to fight in the Vietnam War, Barbara Hauke also believed those soldiers' efforts have been undervalued for years.

"I really felt that this country really didn't do anything for these men," said Hauke, chairwoman of the nation's only museum dedicated to Vietnam. "It had to be done. The story had to be told."

Some veterans believe the story isn't being told right. They say the Vietnam Era Educational Center focuses too heavily on the anti-war movement and gives offensive portrayals of U.S. soldiers as drug

users.

"They were putting like Abbie Hoffman in there and there had been some rumors of pictures of Jane Fonda," veteran Bob Maras said, referring to two war protesters. "We said, 'You put that in there, you can kiss this building goodbye.'"

So organizers opted to change the exhibits even before the museum officially opens next September in Holmdel, 40 miles south of Newark. All references to U.S. soldiers using drugs in Vietnam will be eliminated and some anti-war footage will be replaced with soldiers' stories.

In one video, for example, 20 seconds of an anti-war protest were replaced with 40 seconds

of footage in support of the war, Ms. Hauke said.

Creating a center that honors soldiers while documenting what was arguably the most-protested conflict in U.S. history is a tricky, sensitive undertaking, Hauke said Wednesday. "They want fair treatment. The Vietnam veterans feel they were never dealt with fairly," she said.

Not all the bad news is being removed. Hauke quoted a veteran who said of the protest footage, "You know, I don't love looking at this, but this is what happened. That has to be there too."

The museum sits a few hundred yards away from the 2-

year-old Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a black granite arena bearing the name of 1,553 New Jersey residents killed or missing in action in Vietnam.

It will include a timeline describing milestones in the conflict, as well as corresponding events in the United States; letters and photographs of soldiers and family members; computerized exhibits and a theater for video exhibits.

At a meeting Tuesday, museum officials made dozens of changes to the exhibits. Another meeting is scheduled next month for final revisions.

"Paragraph for paragraph, changes are being made to present a more positive image,"

said veteran Fred Urban, who is on an advisory committee reviewing the exhibits.

Urban said he had objected to the "tone and judgmentalness" in the text, which he described as being anti-war and anti-soldier.

"We want the visitors to be proud of their soldiers and family members who served," he said. "We don't want them thinking that somehow these people died in vain or were duped into a terrible ordeal that served no purpose."

Police hope for peaceful end to Florida standoff

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — When John Armstrong's young hostages were hungry, he had police send him pizza. When it got cold at night, the man suspected of murder made sure they were tucked into a warm bed.

Police were optimistic early today that Armstrong will eventually release Malcolm Phillips, 4, and his 2-year-old cousin Tedi Priest as a wrenching standoff stretched into a third day.

"Mr. Armstrong said he will come out and the children will come out," said Capt. Jerry Demings, a negotiator for the Orlando Police Department. "There are signs he is tiring," he said, without elaborating.

Armstrong, 39, a father of three, was treating the hostages well, feeding them and taking them to the bathroom, police said. The children spent much of Wednesday watching televi-

sion and playing with each other in the three-bedroom duplex where they were being held hostage.

Their grandmother Naomi Priest said they apparently consider Armstrong their friend and do not understand what has happened.

"He's been feeding them and cooking for them, watching television and playing and whatever," Priest said today.

She figures Armstrong is becoming emotionally attached to the children, and the longer he stays with them, the less likely he is to hurt them.

"I'm pretty satisfied with the waiting," she said. "I prefer a happy ending to it all."

Negotiators talked with Armstrong by telephone throughout the day, while SWAT team members kept vigil around the house. Residents within two blocks were ordered

out of their homes Tuesday and have not returned.

Demings said police also had been in direct contact with the children.

"Malcolm has been the most communicative, and he says things are OK," he said. "The children seem to be doing remarkably well."

On Tuesday, Armstrong's 12-year-old son, John Gilberry, talked with his father by telephone for five minutes and said afterward: "He's going to let the kids out."

Armstrong is suspected of shooting and killing Jerome Wilson, 46, and wounding Wilma Haynie in nearby Winter Park on Tuesday morning.

Police said Armstrong had gone to Wilson's house looking for his girlfriend, but she wasn't there. After the shooting, Armstrong led police on a highway chase that ended when his

car rammied another car and he fled into the duplex near downtown Orlando about 9:30 a.m.

He released the children's mothers but kept the children. He had demanded a car and threatened to kill the children if his demands weren't met.

The children's mothers twice made impassioned pleas for their release on national television. Demings and the mothers appeared Wednesday night on CBS television.

"You should know what I'm going through," Iris Vickson, Tedi's mother, told reporters afterward. "That's my baby. Please let Malcolm and Tedi come home."

Armstrong has previous convictions for robbery, burglary and attacking his wife. He was released from prison in March after a 12-year sentence for robbery was reduced to 11/2 years to ease prison crowding.

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Terrorist 'Carlos the Jackal' to stand trial for the first time

PARIS (AP) — On a hot summer night in 1975, a young revolutionary called Carlos shot two French intelligence agents in a cheap fifth-floor walk-up in the Latin Quarter.

It was not one of the most notorious cases tied to the man who became known as "Carlos the Jackal." By his own count, he killed 83 people before his capture in 1994, and was linked to some of the most sensational terrorist attacks of the Cold War, including the 1972 massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics, the 1975 seizure of OPEC ministers in Vienna and the 1976 hijacking of an Air France jet to Entebbe, Uganda.

But it is the Paris killings that could put Carlos, whose real

name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, behind bars for life when, for the first time, he stands trial in person Friday.

"Carlos was a very dangerous, ruthless individual who has shown no evidence of remorse," terrorist expert Paul Wilkinson said. Security at the trial, expected to last one week, is strict. Each of the nine jurors has been assigned two bodyguards and a chauffeured car.

Defense lawyer Isabelle Coutant-Peyre said the Venezuela-born Ramirez has been learning French and voraciously studying the French penal code in order to play a major role in his case.

"He is going to fight like a lion," Coutant-Peyre said.

None of Ramirez's family or his ex-wife Magdalena Kopp will travel from Venezuela for the trial, Coutant-Peyre said. And none of his colleagues from other terrorist groups, including Germany's Red Army Faction, has been called to testify.

It was Kopp's capture in 1982 by the French that unleashed what Wilkinson called Ramirez's "personal vendetta" — a series of bloody attacks against France, which finally freed her in 1985.

Ramirez's opponents expect him to use the trial as a forum, and he may well welcome the courtroom spotlight following the three years of solitary confinement that followed his capture by French authorities in

Sudan.

"I think he loves life," Sheik Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabia's oil minister at the time of the OPEC hostage crisis, told Associated Press Television. "He's a man who enjoys charming girls and drinking."

Known for his dancing skills and elegance, Ramirez, 48, stands little chance of enjoying the good life in the short term.

He faces two 30-year terms if convicted of gunning down Raymond Dous and Jean Donatini, the two intelligence agents investigating his role in attacks on Israel's El Al airlines at Paris' Orly Airport. In 1992, he was convicted in absentia for the slayings.

He could get another 30 years for shooting Michel

Moukharbal, a fellow militant of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine who Ramirez believed might have been co-opted by French intelligence.

Representatives of victims of other attacks masterminded by Ramirez in France say they are preparing more cases against him in the event he slips through French justice.

"This trial is exemplary," said Francoise Rudetzski, a former lawyer and head of SOS Attentats, a group that helps victims of terrorist attacks.

"What is important is that no matter when the acts were committed, a terrorist can be judged," she said. "It could serve as a warning to others." There are many — including

former colleagues, his onetime protectors and even the intelligence services who fought him — who would just as soon see Ramirez keep his secrets quiet forever.

Bernard Violet, author of "Carlos — The Secret Networks of International Terrorism," said Ramirez might use his secrets to work out a deal that could eventually get him out of jail.

Ramirez has the lowdown about other terrorist groups, including Algeria's Armed Islamic Group and Hamas that French intelligence covets, Violet said. Even if convicted, Violet said he thought Ramirez could eventually trade that information for an early release.

Mexico City's new judicial police chief steps down amid scandal

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A new chief was in charge of Mexico City's judicial police today, after renewed questions about old scandals forced out the incumbent after just four days on the job.

Mayor Cuauhtemoc Cardenas announced Wednesday that Jesus Carrola Gutierrez had asked for a leave of absence pending resolution of the allegations against him.

Carrola started work last week as part of a team of would-

be reformers but soon ran afoul of critics, who accused him of crimes ranging from the 1989 beating death of a prisoner to links to drug traffickers.

On Wednesday, he was replaced by Mauricio Tornero Salinas, a precinct judicial police chief. Carrola was assigned to a lesser job at the city attorney general's office. It wasn't clear if the switch was permanent.

The reshuffling is an early setback for Cardenas, who took

office last week as the city's first elected mayor in seven decades.

Cardenas' election to the post, previously filled by presidential appointment, prompted an unprecedented wave of optimism among residents of this city of 8.5 million, where an average of 628 violent crimes and six homicides are reported a day.

High hopes centered on the theory that replacing the exist-

ing corps of police bosses would help eradicate the official corruption that Cardenas says is responsible for much of the city's crime.

The mustachioed Carrola, who looks the part of the rough-and-tumble cop, has dismissed the accusations against him — including a report by the Mexico City daily *Reforma* that he was linked to drug traffickers while serving in Baja California — as "politically

motivated."

He also denied any role in the beating death of an accused drug smuggler by police under his command in the northern state of Baja California eight years ago.

Carrola served as a Federal Judicial Police commander for Baja California that year.

Prosecutors have decided not to follow up on the 8-year-old case, despite a recommendation by human rights officials,

according to Laura Elena Uribe of the National Human Rights Commission.

Carolla's replacement, Tornero, is a 31-year-old lawyer by profession who took courses with the FBI and the DEA. He also worked as an investigator and social worker for human rights groups.

Tornero will direct the 3,500 judicial police officers who make up the city's investigative police force.

Yeltsin experiences discomfort

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin, battling a viral infection, was experiencing some discomfort at a government sanitarium outside Moscow today and called off his weekly radio address on doctors' advice, officials said.

"The president is feeling uncomfortable," the Kremlin said in a statement.

The 66-year-old Yeltsin was hospitalized Wednesday with an acute viral respiratory infection and was told to rest for 10 to 12 days.

State television showed a tired-looking Yeltsin meeting today with his chief of staff, Valentin Yumashev. The brief footage showed the president in a cardigan sweater, signing documents, walking across the room normally and conversing

with Yumashev.

Yeltsin also talked by phone with Bulgarian President Petar Stoyanov and signed a long-awaited decree aimed at shoring up the government's shaky finances by cutting spending and tightening fiscal controls, the Kremlin said, emphasizing the president remained in charge.

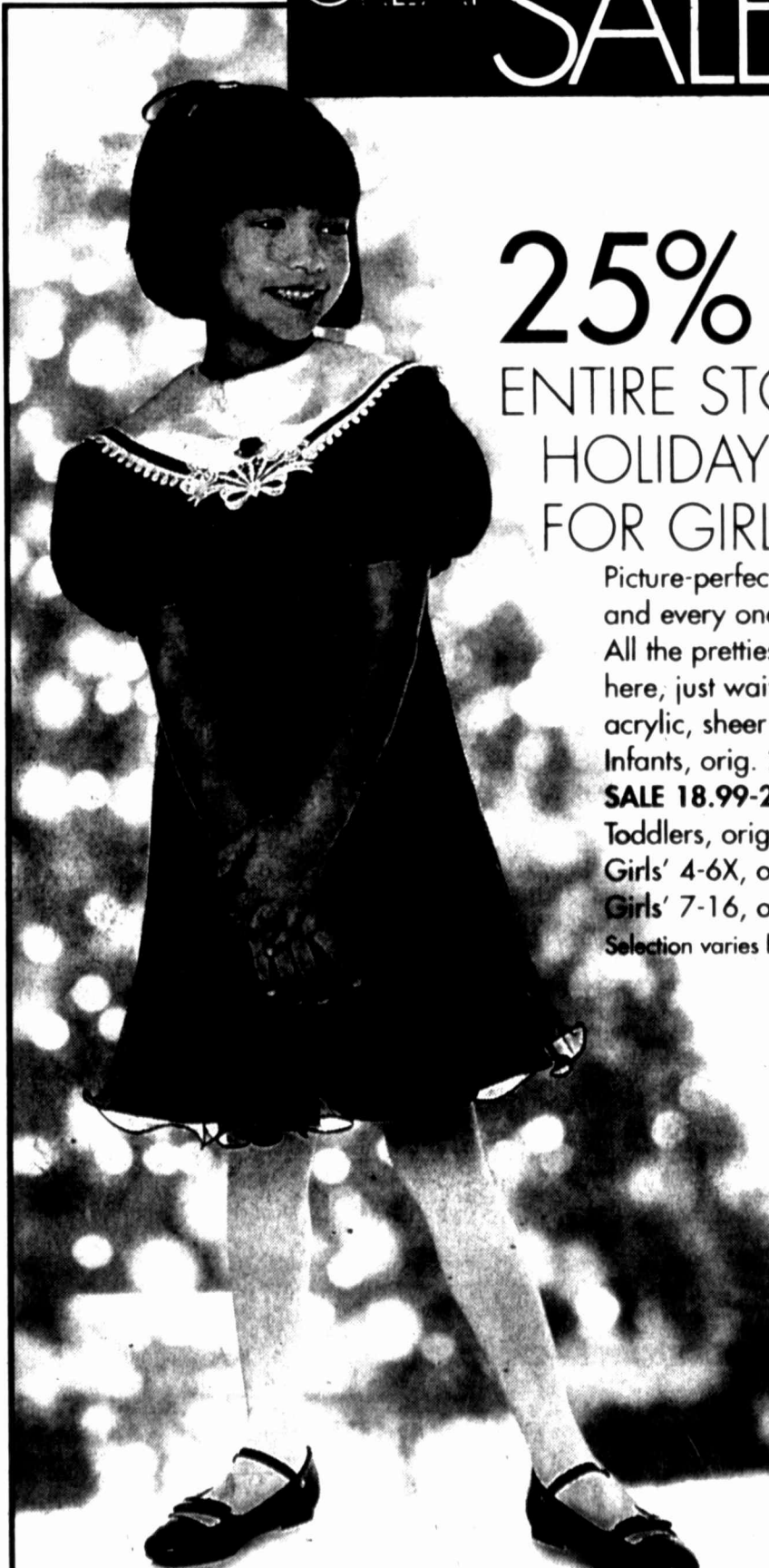
The president's heart surgeon, who in the past has been candid about the state of Yeltsin's health, insisted today that the president is not suffering from heart problems and his overall health is good.

Yeltsin's cold has "absolutely no connection" to the heart bypass he had 13 months ago, Dr. Renat Akchurin was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

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11 DEC 1997

Santa's bag is bursting with fine flicks on video this holiday season

By MIKE PEARSON
Scripps Howard News Service

So many videos, so little time. It must be the holidays again. Christmas may be seven weeks off, but that hasn't kept the video industry from launching a marketing blitz designed to snag a large portion of consumer holiday spending. It started in August and will likely run through January, as Hollywood tries to sell a plethora of high-profile titles and gift sets as must-have items.

Last year, consumers spent \$14 billion on home video, nearly three times what they spent at the box office. More than a quarter of that was generated by video purchases — not rentals.

Which explains why some of the summer's top fare is coming to a video store near you at under \$25. Two of the three titles expected to lead the parade have already debuted: The remastered "Star Wars Trilogy" (Fox, \$49.98), out

since August, has sold tens of thousands of copies. Nov. 4 saw the video release of Steven Spielberg's "The Lost World," which earned more than \$200 million in theaters, and will likely match that tally on video with a list price of \$22.98.

The third leg of that triumvirate was the summer's top grosser — "Men in Black" — which arrives in stores Nov. 25. Columbia Tristar has set a minimum price of \$15.95, more than \$5 below "Lost World."

In past years, most studios placed their emphasis on box sets — "The Godfather," "The Terminator," "Breakfast at Tiffany's," "Indiana Jones" — and they're still to be had, most priced from \$30-\$120, depending on the bells and whistles included. This year, single titles are in the spotlight, with "Jingle All The Way" and "Batman" already in stores, and yet another recent hit, "My Best Friend's Wedding," due Dec. 9.

With a market flooded by so many videos, it's hard to know which way to turn. Here are a few starter ideas:

— Three studios go head-to-head with popular dance tapes. Polygram has a "Lord of the Dance" gift set starring Michael Flatley. Fox Video is touting "Tap Dogs." And Columbia Tristar has "Riverdance — Live From New York City." You'll have to take a rain check on this one, though. It's not actually in stores until Jan. 20, 1998.

— Children's titles are the single largest group of videos released during the holidays, so many that your toddler will have grown up by the time he gets through reading the titles. Paramount has its "Rugrats" series. Warner has "Pippi Longstocking." MGM/UA has a new animated version of "Babes in Toyland." Fox has a new animated version of "A Christmas Carol," with voices by Whoopi Goldberg and Ed Asner. Hallmark has its "Crayola" titles. And Disney's cur-

rent offerings run the gamut from "Sleeping Beauty" and "Old Yeller" to the entire lineup of "Love Bug" movies.

— The rest. We're not actually going to list everything else available, just give you an idea of the range, all under \$25. Having scored big with its "X-Files" tapes, Fox is releasing "Millennium" episodes (two per tape) and long-awaited compilations of "The Simpsons" and "Touched By An Angel." Warner Bros. hopes consumers rediscover its latest "Batman" and "Free Willy 3" titles (now out), while National Geographic could be a big winner with its extensive line of animal documentaries (lions, tigers and bears — for starters).

New Line is repricing Oscar-winner "Shine" at \$19.98 for the holidays. Fox Lorber has a cheeky look at "The Unknown Marx Brothers." Paramount is offering the Elvis Presley films (\$14.98) both in sets and individually,

and sports fanatics can find specialty tapes from the NFL, NBA and NHL in abundance.

And that's not counting past favorites — UA's James Bond Series, Fox's "Aliens," MGM's classic musicals — as well as recent favorites now available at sell-through prices: "Jerry Maguire," "Braveheart," "The Rock," "Todd McFarlane's Spawn," et al.

Two final notes. Digital video disc players are expected to be hot sellers this Christmas, but with only 100,000 currently in homes, the number of titles available is slim. A host of older titles have been released (priced at \$24.98), but few recent theatrical hits have debuted at the same time as the video. ("My Best Friend's Wedding" will be an exception.)

And if you find yourself enduring the holidays without that perfect video, don't fret. The whole marketing hoopla gears up again on Feb. 10, when "Air Force One" hits stores at \$14.95.

Music options plentiful this Christmas season

By WAYNE BLEDSOE
Scripps Howard News Service

For music lovers Christmas is a time of boxed-set CDs and best-of collections.

Nothing impresses a music fan more than finding a fat set of CDs under the tree, and there's plenty to choose from this year.

For the jazz lover, there's the terrific five-CD set "Charles Mingus: The Complete Atlantic Recordings, 1956-1961" (Rhino/Atlantic). Mingus was one of jazz music's most remarkable bassists and composers. This set includes many of Mingus' greatest compositions, a sampling of Mingus on piano, one interview disc and an excellent hardcover booklet featuring essays, commentary and original album notes.

For the bluegrass fan, there's "Rebel Records: 35 Years of the Best in Bluegrass" (Rebel), a four-CD retrospective of the feisty little label. Included are classic tracks from Ralph Stanley, Del McCoury, Blue Highway, the Country Gentlemen, Eddie Adcock and stacks of lesser-known grass greats. It's loaded with fine surprises.

Possibly the most impressive-looking box is "Beg, Scream & Shout: The Big Ol' Box of '60s Soul" (Rhino). Six CDs of familiar and hard-to-find soul classics are housed in a mock circa-1960s 45-rpm-singles carrying case. Each disc is in its own 45-sized slipcase and, instead of a booklet, each song on the collection has its own informational trading card.

For more great soul and R&B, there's "Felix Hernandez Presents Rhythm Revue" (TVT). This fine three-CD collection, compiled by popular radio show host Felix Hernandez, features R&B rarities, including Cliff Nobles' "Love Is Alright" (the vocal version of Nobles' hit "The Horse"), the Spaniel's "You Give Me Peace of Mind" and Bessie Banks' "Go Now." And, there are plenty of well-known hits by Aretha Franklin, the

Isley Brothers, Wilson Pickett and others.

For pure class, you can't get any better than "Ray Charles: Genius & Soul — The 50th Anniversary Collection" (Rhino). This five-disc set is the first to collect tracks that span Charles' entire career — from his late '40s sides with the Maxin Trio to his 1993 version of "Still Crazy After All These Years." In between are all the hits — "Crying Time," "Georgia On My Mind," "What'd I Say?," "I Can't Stop Loving You" — the list seems endless.

Fans of folk music would love to have a copy of "Farewells & Fantasies" (Rhino/Elektra), a retrospective of the work of the late Phil Ochs. Ochs was a Dylan contemporary who wrote some of the catchiest protest tunes and some of the most underrated introspective songs of the era.

For world music buffs, Elipsis Arts has released the three-CD "Unblocked: Music of Eastern Europe." Included are songs from Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Ukraine, Slovenia, Slovakia and every other Eastern European country. It also includes a 72-page booklet with details about each artist, song and country.

Gospel fans might enjoy finding the four-disc "Wade in the Water: African-American Sacred Music Traditions" (Smithsonian Folkways) under the tree. It would be hard to find a more complete overview of African-American gospel choirs, quartets and soloists.

The 'smarter' the toy, the hotter it will be

By JESSICA WEHRMAN
Scripps Howard News Service

The rule of thumb for toy shoppers this holiday season is likely to be: The "smarter" the toy, the more popular it will be.

Perhaps the best new toy to illustrate that is Interactive Barney, which can talk, play games and, for an extra \$64.95, interact with children via computer keyboard. Add \$65 more and it will talk back to videocassettes. The doll costs \$109.95 without the extras.

Even the old standby, the View-Master, has been replaced by a Talking View-Master, complete with video chips which allow sound. Children can listen to and watch clips from "The Lost World Jurassic Park," "Hercules," "The Little Mermaid," and "Batman & Robin," among other shows. The View-Master costs \$19.99 as a gift set. Add \$7.99 for each cartridge.

Many parents are wondering if any of these high-tech wonders will rival last year's popular Tickle Me Elmo. Early this season, Sing and Snore Ernie is being touted as just that. The pajama-wearing "Sesame Street" character says, "I'm so sleepy," if you squeeze his hand. Lay him down and he sings "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." And as he drifts to dreamland, he snores, and his tummy rises and falls with each breath. Sit him up and he "wakes" up, saying, "I feel great!" The toy costs \$30.

Audrey Guskey, a marketing professor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, doubts Ernie will be the preschool hero Elmo was last year. "It's too close to Tickle Me Elmo," she says.

Instead, she thinks Mattel's Talk With Me Barbie is more likely to be the hit of the holiday. The \$90 fashion plate is equipped with a CD-ROM that

lets children customize their conversations with her, teaching the doll their names and favorite conversation topics.

"Keep an eye on that one," Guskey advises.

Other Elmo imitations are hitting the market en masse. Hug 'n Wiggle Pooh wiggles its nose, giggles, and says "Mmmm, honey" and "Hello, friend." This doll costs \$25.

Tickle Me Elmo is bringing in reinforcements, too: Tickle Me Ernie, Tickle Me Big Bird and Tickle Me Cookie Monster. Each costs \$15.

Elmo is also finding more talents than just giggling. Kids can jam to rock 'n' roll, hip-hop, disco and country with "Sesame Street's" Elmo Talking CD player. The fuzzy hero serves as the deejay in this incarnation of the Elmo phenomenon. This toy costs \$13.

Or youngsters can watch Elmo fly in the Sesame Street Elmo's Radio Control Stunt

plane or drive a train with Elmo's Radio Control Railroad. The plane costs \$20, the railroad \$50.

But Winnie the Pooh is quickly taking his place as a new icon to youngsters. Jere Long, Washington-Baltimore district manager of JCPenney's, says stores are quickly selling any item with Winnie the Pooh on it. Running a close second is Arthur, a bespectacled bunny and popular cartoon character.

Parents will ultimately decide what this year's hot toy will be, says Craig Conroy of the Conroy Research Group. Many well-meaning parents will hear the item is hot and work extra hard to get it, regardless of whether the child really wants the toy, he says. "The funniness of this phenomenon isn't that the kids want the toy, but that parents are willing to jump through hoops of fire to get it."

(Jessica Wehrman is a reporter for Scripps Howard News Service.)

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Toy beg Donati
By DEBBIE
Features Edit

Toys for Marine Corp. children, has G e o r g Herrera, member of the M a r i n Reserves, heading u the effort i Big Spring. Bins will be available at E-B, B Spring Ma and the th C o r n e l Corrections f Herrera is Cornell, and the staff ther drive.

Toys for To buy new, and place th bins. They through We tributed to

SCF NE

St. Mary's Episcopa
On Friday, a.m., Herb M for Ozark Pul St. Mary's E Herb will tel age the stude and illustra questions at publishing bo Drawing fro and his ima has been tel life, and now Inc. Is publish

Stud they
By LORI MELL
Jacksonville D

JACKSON' Klements look After three few hours of 1 year-old Ne High School s ning to und means to ha dark circles testified to ni of bed, time a comfort a cryi Her family They talked, responsibility Snowy neve being a paren "It was fun by that night said. "The w ing him to wo little irritate during my sh the three day to bring him b Luckily for was returnabl Named "Bab the eight-pou pter, and S three days of an assignment Parenting"

S L I C E
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QUICK TRIVIA

◆The word pallindrome, meaning a word, sentence or verse that's spelled the same from right to left as from left to right, comes from a Greek word meaning "running back again."

◆A San Francisco man is believed to hold the record for sending out the most holiday cards: sending 62,824 personal cards one year.

Do you have a good story idea for the *life!* section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 236.

Toys for Tots begins local drive

Donation bins set at local businesses

By **DEBBIE L. JENSEN**
Features Editor

Toys for Tots, the U.S. Marine Corps program to provide Christmas gifts for needy children, has kicked off locally.

George Herrera, a member of the Marine Reserves, is heading up the effort in Big Spring. Bins will be available at H-E-B, Big Spring Mall and the three Cornell Corrections facilities.



HERRERA

Herrera is an employee of Cornell, and plans to encourage the staff there to donate to the drive.

Toys for Tots requests donors to buy new, unwrapped toys and place them in collection bins. They will be collected through Wednesday, and distributed to needy children

locally by the Salvation Army. A special collection is planned Saturday at H-E-B from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., when Santa Claus will also make an appearance to pose for pictures with children.

At Big Spring Mall Friday through Wednesday from 4-8 p.m., shoppers can register for a \$700 prize package or trip to Las Vegas. One unwrapped toy donation will get you an additional chance to win.

At Cellular One through Dec. 22, a donation of \$10 to Toys for Tots, or a toy donation, will earn you free activation with credit approval.

The Toys for Tots program, celebrating 50 years in existence this year, has provided 222 million toys for needy children nationally. It was started by a U.S. Marine major in Los Angeles who collected 5,000 toys the first year.

The program was a big success, and the Marine Corps took it to the national level, gaining high-profile publicity and celebrity support.

Locally, the program is hoped



George Herrera, left, gets help from fellow Cornell Corrections employee Kelvin Meredith when placing a Toys for Tots bin at the airport unit earlier this week.

to provide a new toy for about 650 children through the Salvation Army.

"There are a lot of people out

there that aren't aware of how many need help," said Herrera. "Just some small toy could bring a big grin to a child's

face." Distribution to needy families is planned for Dec. 22.

Eagle project helps Scout help others

I started my Scouting days at age 6, in Lexington, Ky. After I became a Cub Scout we moved to Big Spring (my father was transferred to FCI Big Spring). I transferred to Pack 305, with the First Baptist Church. After finishing my Wolf, Bear, and Webeo Ranks, with Pack 305, I received the highest rank in the Cub Scout Program, the Arrow of Light.



Marcus J. Fernandez
Guest Columnist

February 27, 1993, I was transferred to Troop 5, and became a Boy Scout with the First Baptist Church. During my Boy Scout adven-

'What I enjoyed the most were the smiles on the faces of the people I helped.'

tures I was able to move through the ranks, Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and on August 19, 1997, I passed my Board of Review and received my Eagle Scout rank.

During the last four and a half years, I have worked on meeting all mandatory requirements for the Eagle Rank — I had to earn the minimum of 21 merit badges (I finished with 27), and meet all other rank requirements.

It is very important to understand that without my adult leaders and fellow Scouts I could never have accomplished any of the mandatory requirements.

I had to plan my Eagle Scout Project as one of my tasks, and after talking to several people in town I was approved to work at the Big Spring Humane Society. I had to plan the work, find the help and supervise the work. With the help of other Scouts I was able to paint the inside of the building. It took three complete Saturdays for us to finish the work.

I have worked on other Eagle Scout projects for some of the Scouts from Troop 5, but working on your own Eagle Scout project and having your friends help you accomplish your last requirement for the rank is one of the best experiences that I ever had. My friends helped me become an Eagle Scout.

I had the opportunity to work on many other projects around the community — Christmas in April, Canned Food Drive, animal shelter, Salvation Army can storage room, making a trail at the Big Spring State Park, learning about construction work by working at the new Scout Office Building in Big Spring and many other jobs.

Scouting has taught me a lot of things during the last nine years, but if you ask me what I learned the most, it was "my duty to myself and others." What I enjoyed the most were the smiles on the faces of the people I helped.

Marcus J. Fernandez officially received his Eagle Scout rank Sunday.

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Mary's Episcopal School

On Friday, beginning at 10:45 a.m., Herb Marlow, an author for Ozark Publishing, will be at St. Mary's Episcopal School. Herb will tell stories, encourage the students to read, write and illustrate, and answer questions about writing and publishing books.

Drawing from his experiences and his imagination, Marlow has been telling stories all his life, and now Ozark Publishing, Inc. is publishing Herb's stories

in a book form for the pleasure of his readers. The current books available are: "Twisters, Broncriders and Cherry Pie," and "Dillon's Revenge." These books will be available at the presentation for students, parents and faculty to purchase and have autographed.

"Twisters" is an illustrated (by Julie Caffee) juvenile novel developed from true and imagined adventures the author was involved in as a boy growing up on his grandparents' farm. The book is both adventure-some and funny. Children, young people and adults all enjoy this book.

"Dillon's Revenge" is a three-chapter children's illustrated (by Shelly Witschorske) book that also appeals to all ages.

Herb has lived in Graham, Texas for the past 7 years where he has maintained a private counseling practice-The family Counseling Center. He has also taught sociology at Ranger College, Graham Campus for several years. Dr. Marlow holds a Ph.D in Pastoral Counseling. Marlow spoke to students at Bauer Elementary on Wednesday.

Bauer Magnet School

Author Herb Marlow appeared Wednesday at Bauer Magnet School, telling stories from his books in the SIGNAL classroom. He also spoke about the fun and importance of reading, and signed copies of his books for the students.

Kids need to have responsibility and fun

QUESTION: Can you give us a guideline for how much work children should be given to do?

DR. DOBSON: There should be a healthy balance between work and play. Many farm children of the past had daily chores that made life pretty difficult. Early in the morning and again after school, they would feed the pigs, gather the eggs, milk the cows and bring in the wood. Little time was left for fun, and childhood became a pretty drab experience. That was an extreme position, and I certainly don't favor its return.



Dr. James Dobson
Columnist

Contrast that work-a-day responsibility with some families today who require nothing of children — not even asking them to take out the trash, water the lawn or feed the cat. Both extremes, as usual, are harmful to the child. The logical middle ground can be found by giving a boy or girl an exposure to responsibility and work, but preserving time for play and fun. The amount of time devoted to each activity should vary with the age of the child, gradually requiring more work as he or she grows older.

QUESTION: My 13-year-old daughter has become increasingly lazy in the past couple of years. She lies around the house and will sleep half a day on Saturday. She complains about being tired a lot. Is this typical of early adolescence? How should I deal with it?

DR. DOBSON: It is not uncommon for boys and girls to experience fatigue during the years of puberty. Their physical resources are being invested in a rapid growth process

during that time, leaving less energy for other activities. This period doesn't last very long and is usually followed by the most energetic time of life.

I would suggest, first, that you schedule your daughter for a routine physical examination to rule out the possibility of a more serious explanation for her fatigue. If it does turn out to be a phenomenon of puberty, as I suspect, you should "go with the flow."

See that she gets plenty of rest and sleep. This need is often not met because teenagers feel that they shouldn't have to go to bed as early as they did when they were children. Therefore, they stay up too late and then drag through the next day in a state of exhaustion. Surprisingly, a 13- or 14-year-old actually needs more rest than when he or she was 9 or 10, simply because of the acceleration in growth.

In sum, your daughter is turning overnight from a girl to a woman. Some of the physical characteristics you are observing are part of the transformation. Do everything you can to facilitate it.

QUESTION: How can parents prepare their younger children for the assault on self-esteem that is almost certain to come in adolescence? That was a tough time for me, and I want it to be easier for my kids.

DR. DOBSON: Well, one important approach is to teach boys and girls valuable skills with which they can compensate in years to come. They can benefit from learning something that will serve as the centerpiece of their self-concept during the difficult years. This would include learning about basketball, tennis, electronics, art, music, or even raising rabbits for fun and profit. It's not so much what you teach your child. The key is that he or she learn something with which to feel good when the whole world

Please see DOBSON, page 10A.

Students byte off more than they can chew with simulated kids

By **LORI MELLINGER**
Jacksonville Daily Progress

JACKSONVILLE — Snowy Klements looked haggard.

After three days with only a few hours of fitful sleep, the 17-year-old New Summerfield High School student was beginning to understand what it means to have a child. The dark circles around her eyes testified to nights of leaping out of bed, time and time again, to comfort a crying baby.

Her family had warned her. They talked to her about the responsibility involved, but Snowy never believed that being a parent was so difficult.

"It was fun the first day, but by that night I was tired," she said. "The worst part was taking him to work. My boss got a little irritated when he cried during my shift. By the end of the three days, I was relieved to bring him back."

Luckily for Snowy, her baby was returnable.

Named "Baby Think It Over," the eight-pound infant is a computer, and Snowy's grueling three days of parenthood was an assignment in her Advanced Parenting and Child

Development class, taught by Ann Cumbee.

The doll is called a computerized infant simulator and is designed to help students understand the realities of parenthood, including the unpredictability of a baby's demands and the promptness with which these demands must be met. The program is designed to focus the student's attention on the physical, emotional, social and financial consequences of parenthood.

"I want (students) to realize that babies are not just smiles and giggles. They cry at unpredictable times, and they require a lot of work," Ms. Cumbee said.

The infant simulator closely resembles a real baby boy. He cries unpredictably throughout the day. To make the baby stop crying, the students must insert a key attached to their wrist from five to 35 minutes, approximating the amount of time needed to care for an actual infant.

The baby will also cry if held in a position it does not like, or if he is roughly handled or abused. A care key is used rather than a bottle in his mouth to reinforce the fact that

a baby does not cry only when it's hungry.

Students keep the baby for three days. In the case of Snowy and three new Summerfield classmates — three days were more than enough.

"He woke 'em up five times in one night. I always wondered what it was like to have my own baby. I don't wonder anymore," said advanced parenting student Kim Johnson.

The baby is anatomically correct, and the students must go through training before they care for him. Before his return, he must have a bath, and his layette is washed.

Because of the expense and disruption to the household and other classes, students' parents must give written consent, and other teachers must be patient and cooperate. No one else cares for the baby, however. To ensure this, the student wears the baby's care key attached to her wrist. The bracelet is similar to a hospital bracelet and cannot be tampered with.

"They don't get to have babysitters. This is a complete 24-hour-a-day, three-day experience."

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Your kids can beat the winter blues

(NAPS) — Despite the pleasure of holidays, family get-togethers and cold-weather fun, winter can be a difficult time for children. Time-consuming homework, increased time indoors and gray, cloudy days can take their toll on a young person's creativity.

But learning new computer projects can turn that cycle around. With specialized software for making printing projects, kids can beat the blahs with projects like these:

- Make your own signs for your bedroom door or school locker.
- Print team ID cards for yourself and teammates.
- Create eye-catching reports with unique covers.
- Make your own stickers for school and fun projects.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Church plans outreach Saturday for needy families

Church of the Harvest will provide boxes of food, clothing and other items for the local needy Saturday, 1-5 p.m. at the LakeView Headstart Gym. Anyone in need is welcome to stop by the gym and will be given a box of the items as long as supplies last, church leaders said.

The church is affiliated with Total Life Ministries of Wylie, which works with Feed the Children to provide food for the needy. Church of the Harvest expects to have at least enough food for 200 families Saturday.

THE LAST WORD

Life does not cease to be funny when people die, any more than it ceases to be serious when people laugh.

George Bernard Shaw

I would rather men should ask why not statue has been erected in my honor, than why one has.

Marcus Porcius Cato

Hope is independent of the apparatus of logic.

Norman Cousins

DECEMBER 11 1997

Some parents teaching value of giving

By LOANA M. GONZALES
Waco Tribune-Herald

WACO — Gimme, Christmas. Christmas, gimme.

For some people — namely kids with long "gimme" lists for Santa — the two words are synonymous.

Darlene Cates, director of volunteers for Caritas, said materialism is part of Christmas because it is just part of our culture.

"I don't know if it's because of all the ads on TV or because there are two parents working and sometimes there's extra money," she said. "Maybe because the parents aren't at home a lot and they overcompensate by giving (their children) things."

Children, it seems, probably get worse cases of the "gimmies" than anyone else around the holidays.

And who can blame them? Between visits to Santa and doting grandparents, it's no wonder some children automatically associate Christmas with a time to rake in the goods.

Still, in a world where it seems like folks just can't get

enough, some people are working to change the way youngsters view the holidays.

Cates, who has four children ages 15 to 21, said her inspiration for reaching out to others came from her own parents. "I grew up watching my parents do things."

She has since tried to pass that lifestyle on to her own family.

As for parents who haven't pushed their children to think of others during the holidays, Cates said it's never too early or too late to start.

Opportunities for getting parents and their children involved in selfless activities for the holidays are in abundance.

Cates suggests working for food drives or helping out at local thrift stores for nonprofit organizations. She also said parents can encourage their youngsters to get involved with community events scheduled through their schools.

Another avenue for helping others is through a local church. Even the mall provides outreach programs to help the less fortunate during Christmas, Cates said.

Linda Meza of Waco said she has tried to teach her 6-year-old son, Cameron, the importance of sharing from Day One.

"Once he became old enough to understand the feelings of others, we tried to make him understand that not everyone is as fortunate as he is," she said.

Every year before Christmas, Linda and her husband, George, sit down with Cameron and go through his toy box to give away those things he doesn't play with much anymore. They've done this since he was 2.

"At first he didn't really understand," Linda Meza said. "The second year we did it, he had lots of questions, but now he expects it."

She said they never give away things that are special to him or gifts that came from special relatives. "We don't want to force him to give something away," Meza said. "That would kind of defeat the purpose."

Cameron can bet on getting lots of toys, clothes and other goodies from his two sets of grandparents and plenty of aunts and uncles, all who live in or near Waco.

"He's never had to do without," Meza said with a shrug. "Not for a birthday, a Christmas ... and his grandmas are known for getting him lots of little things here and there throughout the year."

Meza said that as long as she can influence her son, she wants him to grow up to be a giving person.

"He could get really selfish if we didn't teach him otherwise," Meza said. "But that's our job as parents — to try to raise them right."

Older children also can get in on the act of putting others first.

Cates said she is pleased to see so many of the local high schools getting teen-agers involved in helping the community.

Sandi Horton of Woodway said her 15-year-old daughter takes helping the less-fortunate during the holidays very seriously.

"She uses her own allowance to buy food for the food drives at her school," Horton said of her daughter, Laura Gray. "I just thought that was so sweet. She just did that on her own."

DOBSON

Continued from page 9A.

carefree kid to take lessons, practice, compete and learn something he or she will not fully appreciate for a few more years.

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

seems to be saying, "Who are you and what is your significance as a human being?"

The teen-ager who has no answer to those questions is left unprotected at a very vulnerable time of life. Developing and honing skills with which to compensate may be one of the most valuable contributions parents can make during the elementary school years. It may even be worth requiring your

Seal deaths blamed on El Nino effects

San Francisco Examiner

Scientists are seeing a massive die-off of northern fur seal pups along the California coast, the first sign of El Nino's devastating blow to marine mammals.

By March, wildlife biologists predict that thousands of sea lions, harbor seals and northern elephant seals also will die as their food supply shrinks.

On San Miguel Island in the Channel Islands, California's only fur seal rookery, about 1,500 pups died in September, victims of their mothers' poor nutrition, said Robert DeLong, a federal research biologist at the National Marine Mammal Laboratory in Seattle.

"We've seen it before in El Nino years," DeLong said. "Sure, it's hard to watch, but it's cyclical and part of nature."

"This is simply a manifestation of the changes that occur within the marine system because of the warming by El Nino."

The fur seals eat anchovies, squid, hake, octopus, sardines, lantern fish and other sea life. Because of El Nino, a weather phenomenon of warmer ocean currents emanating from the tropical Pacific, the sea creatures probably have moved to colder waters or aren't as plentiful, DeLong said.

"I assure you the female fur seals wanted to find food sufficient to maintain adequate lactation so their pups would

triple their weight by the time they were weaned," DeLong said.

The pups, weaned at one month, were grossly underweight and had no blubber to sustain them the same conditions seen in the last serious El Nino of 1982-83.

"They were emaciated," DeLong said. "They were starving to death."

"We actually counted, picked up and put in a stack the dead puppies," more than half of the 3,000 born in June, July and August, he said.

The Marine Mammal Center, a wildlife rescue center in the Marin Headlands north of San Francisco, has received 21 reports of stranded or dead northern fur seals, five times normal for this time of year.

The malnourished pups started washing up Sept. 29 from Marin to San Luis Obispo counties.

"We have eight on site that have survived," said center spokeswoman Susan Andres.

"They're all juveniles," Andres said. "The hard part now is keeping food in them. Some are eating pieces of fish. Others we have to (feed) through the mouth."

Northern fur seals, the most sensitive of the pinnipeds, are El Nino's canaries in a coal mine, scientists say.

Northern fur seals have two Pacific populations: San Miguel Island and the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea.

Scriptts Howard News Service.

Christmas card was mother's precious gift

By CHRISTI MAYS
Waco Tribune-Herald

WACO — One Waco mother recently received one of the most precious Christmas gifts ever — a Christmas card.

The card isn't like any other Christmas card, though, said DeeAnn Boatright.

The brightly colored picture — a shepherd gazing at the Christmas star with his lambs — was drawn by her son, David Moore, who died of leukemia in March 1995 at the age of 15.

As part of the Children's Art Project, his card was included in this year's holiday card collection from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where David was treated for leukemia.

"At first, I was surprised," Boatright said of the day the hospital called to tell her his drawing would be featured on a Christmas card.

"Then I wished he was here to see it. I think he would have liked to have known. He would have gotten a kick out of it."

Boatright received several boxes of the Christmas cards to keep as mementos and to send to friends and family.

The cards, which feature David's drawing as well as those from other young cancer patients, can be found in several Waco stores, including Albertson's, H-E-B and Winn-Dixie, and in Temple at Brookshire Grocery and

Brookshire Brothers.

A box of 15 cards and 16 white envelopes costs \$10, and proceeds help fund programs that benefit M.D. Anderson patients.

Seeing the cards was like getting a special Christmas present from her son, Boatright said.

"When your children make you something for your birthday or Christmas, it's more special because it was from their heart," she said.

Boatright had no idea when she first saw the drawing that it would one day be a Christmas card.

"I accused him of tracing it," she said with a laugh, remembering the day David and she sat together looking at his rough black and white sketch he had just drawn in an art class at the hospital.


Just months before, David had completed the ninth grade at a Waco school and was looking forward to a summer of fishing, water skiing and soccer.

"I took him to the doctor (shortly after school was out)," Boatright said.

"He'd been feeling real run-down and sick and he wasn't eating. We had no idea. I just figured it was because it was the end of the school year and, with soccer, that he was just running himself down."

"He had the type of leukemia that always made his white (blood cell) count low," Boatright said.

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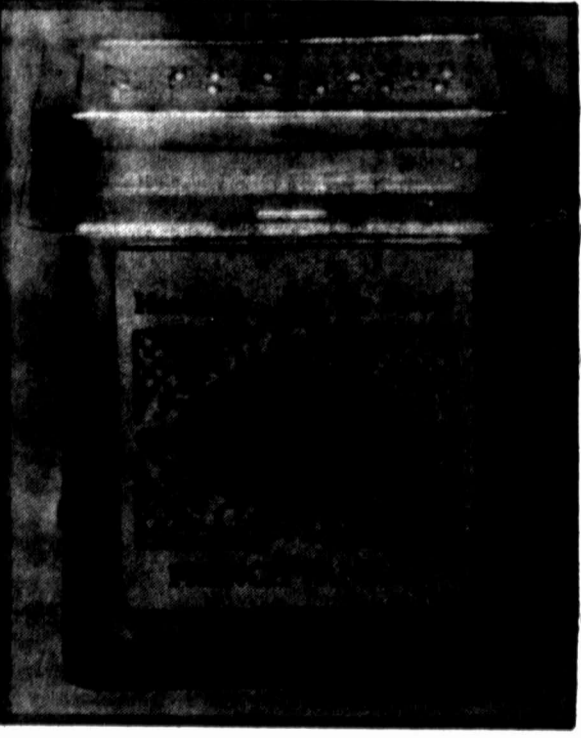
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DEC 11 1997

Light a candle, create holiday mood at your home

By LAURA CHRISTMAN
Scripps Howard News Service

Light a candle, set a mood. Flames that flicker and scents that linger have kindled interest in candles. Once merely functional objects used to light the way before illumination came at the flick of a switch, candles have become items of indulgence.

They are popping up in all parts of the home — elegant tapers on top of candlesticks in the dining room, clusters of pillars on the hearth, scented jar candles in the kitchen, votives in decorative holders in the bedroom and floating candles in glass bowls in the bathroom.

"Candles are not just to burn, they're part of the decor," said Phyllis Dahneke, owner of Hanselles Home Furnishings, Linens & Gifts in Redding, Calif. "With candles you are creating a whole atmosphere. An atmosphere that means relaxing, talking with people, fine foods, something special."

Candles have long been a symbol of Christmas, but Dahneke said their appeal goes beyond the holidays. People are using candles year-round.

Candles come in forms ranging from cowboy hats, floating moons and embracing couples

Handle with care: Candle safety tips

Scripps Howard News Service

The beauty of a flickering flame can turn ugly if candles aren't used with care.

Jerry Martin, owner of Candle Connection in Redding, Calif., offers the following safety tips:

- Never leave the house with a candle burning.
- Keep candles well out of reach of small children.
- Don't blow candles out (that can create a spark). Use a snuffer or use a knife to bend the wick into the melted wax.
- Candlesticks don't always offer a snug fit for tapers. Keep candles from toppling by using sealing wax or wax candle holders.
- Never use candles on or near a Christmas tree or near other decorative materials that could easily ignite.

to thin tapers and thick pillars. They can stand on their own or be dressed up.

Candlesticks remain popular. They range from sleek glass and quaint hand-painted ceramics to ornate brass. Lanterns, hurricane lamps and other styles of glass containers are other candle-holding options. Candle displays can be embellished by weaving greenery or other seasonal decorations around them.

Some candles are as flashy as the containers that hold them. Hanselles carries tapers that have been hand-dipped 32 times and feature streaks of color in combinations like fuchsia and

evergreen or black, brown and green. Dahneke noted that the candles can be matched with placemats and napkins in the same colors to create a striking table.

Pam Opdyke, owner of Cabin & Cottage in Redding, said grouping several different types and sizes of candles makes a nice display.

Her store carries candles in deep colors and thick slab shapes that have a contemporary look.

Beeswax tapers are popular and are often used for display rather than candlelight because they have a short burn time and can be pricey. But even if

you don't plan to burn candles, it's nice to light the wick and quickly extinguish it so the candles don't have that fresh-out-of-the-box look, Opdyke said.

It's not just good looks that have candles basking in the warm glow of popularity these days. Fragrance is a big attraction.

Scents like cinnamon cider and amaretto nog sound good enough to eat. When burned, the candles release fragrance that fills the room.

Some candles, like those made by Aromatic, are so fragrant they don't even have to be burned to leave a subtle scent, Opdyke noted.

A big enthusiast of scented candles is Opdyke's niece, Sandy Opdyke. Among the 30-some candles in her Redding home are a coffee-scented one above the fireplace, apple and cinnamon scents in the front room and cranberry and vanilla fragrances in the bathrooms. Her 10-year-old daughter, Sheree, has a berry-scented candle in her room.

"I light three or four on a daily basis ... It makes the house homey," she said.

Jerry Martin, owner of Candle Connection in Redding, said scent is the sensation that's driving candle sales.

There are about 90 scents featured in his store. And people have very strong feelings about which they prefer, he said.

That can make buying candles as a gift a bit tricky. If you're not sure what the person likes, French vanilla is a safe bet, Martin said.

Popular forms of scented candles include wafers burned in potpourri simmerers, small votives and sturdy jars filled with wax and wick.

It's a good idea to put a plate or something else underneath jar candles so that when the candle burns down to the bottom, the heated glass doesn't damage furniture, Martin said.

Cabin & Cottage's Opdyke said it's also wise to have a dish or something else under pillar candles — even if you don't light them — because the dyes that give them their rich colors may transfer to furniture or fabric.

Candles vary widely in price (less than a dollar for a taper to almost \$60 for a chunky pillar with five wicks).

It's not just size and style that sets the price. Spend more and you'll get more, Martin said. Inexpensive candles often smoke, aren't as fragrant and don't burn as long as quality candles, he said.

Plaza gets first female doorman

NEW YORK (AP) — Sheila Connors is breaking one of the last barriers to gender equality, whistling down taxis and muscling suitcases at the elegant Plaza Hotel.

The 31-year-old aspiring actress and former police officer was hired for the busy holiday season, unaware she was blazing a trail as the first female doorman in the hotel's 107-year-old history.

"I had no idea until once I went down to wardrobe to get fitted for a uniform," Ms. Connors said. "Patsy, our wardrobe woman, told me they'd never had anything but men."

Ms. Connors, who stands 5-foot-6 but looks taller in the black greatcoat and cap, had already proved her toughness in seven years working as a police officer in the Buffalo suburb of West Seneca. At the same time, she earned a degree in theater from Niagara University.

After graduating last May, she came to New York to try acting. Last month, she applied for the temporary job at the Plaza to make some money while she auditions.

Doormen at hotels, offices and apartment buildings are a familiar part of New York City life, but women doormen are rare.

Joseph Mancini, a spokesman for the local Service Employees International Union, which represents doormen, speculated that "there are security aspects to being a doorman, and men are traditionally thought of as more able in this field, because of brawn."

As Ms. Connors worked, it was clear that hauling big suitcases for male guests is a concept some of them will have to get used to.

"Some of them say, 'Here, let me help you — that is heavy,'" she said.

New Yorkers having blast (of fresh air) at oxygen bars

By JOANNA COLES
The Guardian

NEW YORK — Opposite Carnegie Hall, the second floor offices of 200 West 57th Street do not strike one as the most likely place for New York's hippest venue. Inside, they're similarly downbeat: New Age music drifts through the speakers, the walls are a whispering shade of green and the carpets a bashful pink.

But there, in the corner, is hostess Lisa Abrahams making up cocktails: one part orange, one part lemon and a large slice of lime. Then she inserts the flexible plastic straw, hands you the other end and turns the tap until the fruits start to bubble.

Welcome to the world of oxygen cocktails.

Kirstie Alley's addicted, Woody Harrelson is opening his own oxygen bar, 02, this month, and Radu, New York's personal trainer to the supermodels, is having an oxygen bar added to his gym.

It's the latest in social fadery, but it's healthy and you can't get a hangover. And before you scoff, consider this: according to Dr Howard Robbins, co-owner of the Oxygen Station on 57th Street, the pollution in Manhattan is now so bad that a 30-minute jog down the Lower East Side is the equivalent on the lungs of smoking three packets of

Marlboro Lights.

"We get 'em all in here," says Abrahams, with the knowing shrug of a bartender. "Screenwriters with writers' block, businessmen before a big meeting. I tell ya, it clears their heads. Writers can write again and we have a lot of businessmen who book a 20-minute session before an important meeting just to give them an edge. I have people call me and beg to open early just so they can be ahead of the game."

Post Perfect, a television production company, wanted to be so far ahead last month that it actually booked the Station for an entire evening. Instead of competing at the bar, executives stood around chatting

while wired up to a series of large pressurized tanks pushing out 99.9 percent pure oxygen.

"We have a judo expert who always comes before a match," says Abrahams as Robbins, her business partner, comes in and hooks himself up for a short blast before seeing a demanding patient.

"The plants look good, don't they?" he says, grinning wildly. "It's the fallout."

"I wish I had it at home," sighs Abrahams. "I'd give myself a little squizz every morning."

Instead, she has a 15-minute shot when she arrives at the office.

Can you get addicted? Oxygen

is, after all, classed as a drug and can only be bought by trained physicians.

Abrahams shakes her head. "No, and if you do, so what? A lot better than being addicted to Scotch or drugs, right?"

Right. Which is also part of its attraction.

New York is currently enjoying a boom, which means people have the money and the energy to do what New Yorkers do best, party.

But they also need to keep working at a furious pace.

"They're tired of waking up with hangovers," says Brandon Hollie, at New York Time Out, "so they're looking for fun without alcohol."

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Sports Editor

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Sports Editor

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NBA Basketball
Orlando Magic at Dallas Mavericks, 7:30 p.m., FOX, Ch. 29
College Basketball
St. Mary's at Pacific, 11 p.m., ESPN, Ch. 30

Other
Pro Bowl Selections Show, 6:30 p.m., ESPN, Ch. 30
College Football Awards Show, 7:30 p.m., ESPN, Ch. 30

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Call Sports,
263-7331
Ext. 233
or
leave voice mail

Lockney win a confidence builder for Buffs going into semifinal

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
Sports Editor

TICKETS ON SALE

Advance tickets for Saturday's Class 2A semifinal playoff game will be available through noon Friday at the Stanton ISD administration building on the high school campus.
If purchased early, tickets are \$5 each for adults and \$4 for students.
At the game, all tickets will be \$7.

A major question about Stanton's Buffaloes has been answered going into Saturday's state Class 2A semifinal playoff with Italy's Gladiators ... they can survive a serious challenge.

While the Buffs have not trailed a single second of any game they've played this season, they have faced adversity of a sort — having to stop a last-minute two-point conversion attempt by Lockney and advance with a 21-20 win over the Longhorns.

Stanton will find itself in another unfamiliar situation when Saturday's semifinal gets under way at 2:30 p.m. in Brownwood's Gordon Wood Stadium — they'll be slight underdogs.

Underdogs?
That's right. The Gladiators, ranked No. 3 and boasting a record identical

Cotton quickly admits he also wondered how his team would respond to a true test — an opponent that would force the Buffs to make sustained drives — prior to the heart-stopping win over Lockney.

"I'll admit I had the some questions that everyone else had," Cotton said, noting that Lockney presented several challenges the Buffs hadn't faced. "We hadn't faced anyone that had forced a turnover and begun to drive on us ... hadn't faced anyone that really forced us to grind it out ... or been in a position where somebody really threatened to beat us."

The Longhorns presented all three and the Buffs responded perfectly.

"We really couldn't have asked for a better experience to get ready to face Italy," Cotton added. "They drove the ball early on us after we'd fumbled the ball and I was standing there wonder-

ing what the change in momentum was going to do to us, but we stopped them, got the ball back and scored.

"We got to looking at it and we snapped the ball 45 times in our first four possessions, scored three touchdowns and should have scored a fourth," he added. "And in those 45 snaps, we'd put together a 150 yards or so. It was kind of a three yards and a cloud of dust situation, but those sustained drives give you a lot of confidence."

But the real confidence builder came in the closing minutes when the Longhorns came within an eyelash of overcoming a 21-6 Stanton lead.

As a result, it was the Buffaloes' defense — not its high-powered offense that stepped into the spotlight.

Of course, there were plenty of the same names. Kyle Herm, the Buffs' quarterback who's completed 95 of 150

passes this season for 1,594 yards and 33 touchdowns, as well as his favorite receiver, Tyrone Davis, played key defensive roles. As did running back Jody Louder, who doubles as a stand-out linebacker.

"It wasn't a situation where we made mistakes ... it was a bunch of great athletes making great plays," Cotton said. "But we made the great play that counted by stopping (Devon) Phillips on the two-point conversion run."

On that crucial play, a pitch-sweep to Phillips, cornerback Kory Williams stripped the Longhorn star of two blockers and forced him to cut back inside where Kyle Herm, Jody Louder, Josh Carson and several other Buff defenders smothered him.

"Kyle didn't make the tackle, but he was the first to get there and knocked

See STANTON, page 4B

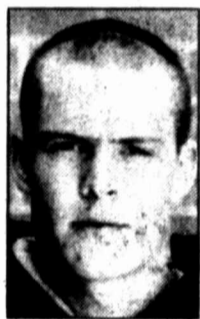
Sands, Grady dominate all-district team

Beall, Peugh all-star game representatives

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
Sports Editor



BEALL



PEUGH



CANTU



ZANT



PORRAS



LONG



GARZA



GIBSON

State quarterfinalist Sands Mustangs and District 7 six-man runner-up Grady's Wildcats dominated the balloting when the league's coaches selected their all-district football team.

Sands, which finished 12-2 on the year, placed earned nine first-team selections and six on the second team, while Grady had five first-team spots and six on the second team.

Both schools' top seniors — Mustang running back Jerrod Beall and Wildcat quarterback Brady Peugh — were not only double selections, earning spots on both the offensive and defensive teams, but were selected as the District 7 representatives to next summer's Six-Man All-Star Football Game.

Beall, a 1,000-yard rusher in a cadre of four Mustangs running backs, was both a first-team running back pick, but was also named to the first-team defensive safety.

Peugh, who guided the Wildcats to a second consecutive playoff berth — the first time in Grady school history, suffered an ankle injury late in the season that kept him from being able to play in the District 7 championship showdown against Sands.

In addition to being the first-team quarterback, Peugh was a second-team linebacker pick.

Two other Sands standouts earned first-team spots on both offense and defense — senior Anthony Cantu was picked as a running back and linebacker, while classmate Jesus Porras was honored as an offensive end and defensive lineman.

The Wildcats also had two players honored with first-team spots on both sides of the ball.

Grady sophomore running back Frankie Garza, who gained more than 2,000 yards during Wildcats' 8-3 season, teamed with Cantu, Beall and Wellman-Union's Jeremy Webb

in the first-team offensive backfield. He joined Cantu, Loop's Arturo Miranda and Wellman-Union's Louis Smith in the first-team linebacking corps.

In addition, junior Greg Gibson was a first-team pick as an offensive end and defensive end.

The Mustangs' other first-team selections included sophomore center Cal Zant and senior defensive lineman Josh Long, who was also a second-team pick.

Sands' second-team offensive unit honorees were Robin and Robert Cisneros, both senior running backs, while the second-team defensive selections were senior lineman Jacob Calvio and linebacker Robert Cisneros.

Joining Long on the second-team offensive unit were teammates Jed Hinojosa, a sophomore running back; senior center Juan DeLucas; and Trey

Harrell, a senior end.

Grady's second-team defensive honorees were linemen Harrell and Grady Thigpen, both seniors.

The district's alternates for all-star game selection were Sands' Porras, Wellman-Union's Louis Smith and Loop's Miranda.

DISTRICT 7 SIX-MAN All-District Selections

Offense
Quarterback: First team: Brady Peugh, senior, Grady. Second team: Bryan Christman, junior, Wellman-Union.
Runningback: First team: Jeremy Webb, junior, Wellman-Union; Jerrod Beall, senior, Sands; Frankie Garza, sophomore, Grady; Anthony Cantu, senior, Sands.
Senior: Shaun Adams, senior, Wellman-Union; Jed Hinojosa, sophomore, Grady; Robin Cisneros, senior, Sands; Robert Cisneros, senior, Sands.
Center: First team: Cal Zant, sophomore, Sands. Second team: Juan DeLucas, senior, Grady; Louis Smith, senior, Wellman-Union.
Ends: First team: Jesus Porras, senior, Sands; Brandon Vinson, senior, Wellman-Union; Greg Gibson, junior, Grady. Second team: Josh Long, senior, Sands; Ty

Defense
Kicker: First team: Brandon Vinson, senior, Wellman-Union. Second team: Arturo Miranda, senior, Loop; Jonathan Goode, senior, Dawson.
Linebacker: First team: Josh Long, senior, Sands; Greg Gibson, junior, Grady; Jesus Porras, senior, Sands; Jeremy Harlan, senior, Wellman-Union. Second team: Trey Harrell, senior, Grady; Gary Thigpen, senior, Grady; Brandon Langchenning, junior, Wellman-Union; Gabe Neill, senior, Wellman-Union; Jacob Calvio, senior, Sands.
Linebacker: First team: Arturo Miranda, senior, Loop; Louis Smith, senior, Wellman-Union; Frankie Garza, sophomore, Grady; Anthony Cantu, senior, Sands. Second team: Brady Peugh, senior, Grady; Kale King, senior, Klondike; Robert Cisneros, senior, Sands; Bryan Christman, junior, Wellman-Union.
Safety: First team: Jerrod Beall, senior, Sands; Jeremy Webb, junior, Wellman-Union. Second team: Ty Barton, junior, Klondike.
Punter: First team: Ty Barton, junior, Klondike. Second team: Jonathan Goode, senior, Dawson.
1997 All-star selections: Jerrod Beall, Sands; Brady Peugh, Grady; Alternates: Jesus Porras, Sands; Louis Smith, Wellman-Union; Arturo Miranda, Loop.

Wistrom receives Lombardi

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — First, Grant Wistrom got some bad news. Then came the good news.

The man Wistrom called a father figure, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne, announced his retirement Wednesday, just hours before the Cornhuskers' defensive end won the Lombardi Award as the nation's top collegiate lineman.

It was a bittersweet day for Wistrom, who was pleased with his trophy, but sad to see Osborne calling it a career after two national titles and 254 victories in 25 years.

"I was upset. I mean, the man meant the world to me the last four years," Wistrom said. "He praised me when I needed praise and he scolded me when I needed scolding. He's been a father to me away from my own father. Next to my father, I respect him the most."

Osborne's final game will be in the Orange Bowl when the No. 2 Cornhuskers meet the No. 3 Tennessee Volunteers in what could become a game the national championship, should No. 1 Michigan lose in the Rose Bowl.

It's something the Cornhuskers will be thinking about, winning one last game and possibly a national title for Osborne.

"He's going out on a currently undefeated season, and hopefully it will remain undefeated," Wistrom said. "It would be a shame if we slip up now in light of all this."

"I'm sure by the time the ball game rolls around, the shock will have worn off. I'm sure that we'll be especially emotionally ready to play."

Wistrom beat out Greg Ellis of North Carolina, Andy Katzenmoyer of Ohio State and Andre Wadsworth of Florida State for the 28th annual trophy, named in honor of former Green Bay and Washington coach Vince Lombardi.

"You look at every one of the players here tonight, and each one is on a great football team," Wistrom said. "The reason we are on a great football team is because of coach Osborne."

Osborne retiring, Orange Bowl will be his last game

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

LINCOLN, Neb. — One of college football's most successful coaches is calling it quits, and Washington State is in position to help give Tom Osborne the best retirement gift he could get.

Imagine the frenzy in Miami if the No. 8 Cougars upset top-ranked Michigan in the Rose Bowl, clearing the way for No. 2 Nebraska to send Osborne into retirement with his third national championship.

The scenario became possible Wednesday when Osborne announced his retirement after 25 seasons. Osborne's eyes welled with tears after he said the Orange Bowl against No. 3 Tennessee on Jan. 2 would be his last game.

Frank Solich, a Nebraska assistant for 19 years, was

named to succeed Osborne, who indicated he would stay on through February to help with recruiting and other transitional matters.

Citing health problems and saying he wants to spend more time with his family and at church, Osborne, 60, announced the end to one of the most successful coaching careers in the sport.

"I think it's wise to back off before you leave feet first or somebody tells you it's time to go," the coach said.

Michigan and Tennessee no doubt hope Osborne's career ends without the glory that has marked much of his tenure. For his part, Osborne was concerned that his big announcement might become a distraction to his players.

"That's the risk and the downside — that this might upset the chemistry, that it

might in some way lessen the resolve," Osborne said. "I don't think it will. I think everybody will want to win and play very hard."

Quarterback Scott Frost told his coach not to worry.

"He didn't just teach us football," Frost said. "By the example he sets, he teaches us how to be grownups, to be men. We're going down to the Orange Bowl to make sure he goes out a winner and a champion."

One could argue that Osborne, with a bowl appearance in every season, already has those credentials.

He won consecutive national titles in 1994 and 1995. His career record of 254-49-3 ranks him sixth in victories in NCAA Division I-A history, behind Bear Bryant, Pop Warner, Amos Alonzo Stagg, Joe Paterno and Bobby Bowden.

Osborne's winning percentage of .835 is first among active I-A coaches and fifth in history behind Knute Rockne, Frank Leahy, George Woodruff and Barry Switzer.

With a 69-7 win over Oklahoma on Nov. 1, Osborne reached the 250-victory mark in 302 games — faster than any other coach. Penn State's Paterno is second, reaching 250 wins in 320 games.

The Cornhuskers are 59-3 over the past five years, with five straight 11-win seasons, an NCAA record.

However, Osborne also weathered criticism in recent years for allowing players facing criminal charges to remain on the field. In 1995, he reinstated star tailback Lawrence Phillips to the team even after Phillips pleaded no contest to charges he assaulted an ex-girlfriend.

Osborne's health has also

been worrisome. He had heart bypass surgery 13 years ago and was hospitalized with an irregular heartbeat last month.

Osborne could have relaxed, but he rejected the option of turning his responsibilities over to top assistants. He said he didn't want to become a "figurehead coach."

Frost said a team meeting on Wednesday began like any other. Then Osborne broke the news.

"Everybody was totally quiet and you could hear a pin drop," Frost said. "Coach Osborne doesn't usually show any emotion ... but there was a tear in his eye."

The coach also got emotional at the news conference. Usually stoical and composed, his eyes welled up as four of his players took the podium to offer their

See OSBORNE, page 4B

Now question is: How hard will Cowboys try?

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING — Will the Dallas Cowboys mail in their last two games? No, says Barry Switzer. No, says Troy Aikman.

The Cowboys, 6-8 with only a remote chance of a wild-card spot, play at Cincinnati on Sunday and are home against the New York Giants on Dec. 21.

Dallas has a longshot chance to make the playoffs based on so many combinations of events the NFL office hasn't bothered to compute the possibilities.

Does Switzer turn to younger players to give them experience? Or does the coach stay with the older players in their season of discontent?

"We're going to play for a win," Switzer says. "We still have a chance for a .500 season. Jerry (Jones, the owner) and the fans deserve a full day's play for a full day's pay. This team has pride. It's not going to lay down."

Switzer said there will be a tendency to play some younger players only because some of the older ones are hurting.

Emmitt won't risk health to have 1,000-yard season

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING — Emmitt Smith says he doesn't want to risk his health to pick up the 34 yards he needs to become only the fourth back in NFL history to gain 1,000 yards in seven consecutive seasons.

If the Dallas Cowboys running back can pick up the 34 yards in Dallas' last two games, he would join Barry Sanders, Thurman Thomas and Eric Dickerson who had seven consecutive 1,000-yard seasons.

See SMITH, page 4B

"We'd like to play some of our young people if the older players are hurting," Switzer said. "We're going to play hard even if we are out of it."

Defensive tackle Tony Casillas, who played for Switzer at Oklahoma, said "it's going to be very difficult to take the field

knowing that we aren't going anywhere. And it will be difficult to sit at home in three weeks watching other teams in the playoffs. It's humiliating to know you should win. But we'll keep playing hard."

Aikman said he expects the team to come to play.

"It will be disappointing if we didn't go out and give great effort in the last two games," the quarterback said. "We still have to finish out the season and we should still give our best effort."

Running back Sherman Williams said, "nobody feels good. We're all feeling the pain. But we have to go out and work hard and try to better ourselves in the last two games."

The Cowboys have a long list of injuries. Tight end Eric Bjornson will be out the rest of the season with a fractured ankle and running back Emmitt Smith has a bad shoulder that could keep him from playing.

Offensive linemen Erik Williams and Nate Newton also are nursing injuries.

"We'll go with the healthy ones," Switzer said. "We have to go up there and face a hot quarterback (Bummer Edson) in a cold town. It won't be easy."

DEC 11 1997

Warriors, Raptors a little less terrible today

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA ROUNDUP

It was a double shocker: Golden State beat the Los Angeles Lakers and the Toronto Raptors beat anybody.

The Warriors and Raptors, after having to cope with this season's two most high-profile defections, found themselves in the unfamiliar role of explaining their successes Wednesday night.

The Warriors, playing their fourth game since the suspension of Latrell Sprewell, pulled off the upset of the night — and on national television, no less — by beating the Lakers 93-92.

And the Raptors, who hadn't won since the 1995-96 season Nov. 8, — back when Isaiah Thomas was an owner, GM, not an NBC commentator — snapped their 17-game losing streak with a 101-97 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Elsewhere in the NBA, Orlando defeated Chicago 106-98, Cleveland drubbed Denver 102-83, San Antonio downed the Los Angeles Clippers 102-87, Charlotte beat Washington 104-101, Portland defeated Indiana 93-85 and Boston overcame Milwaukee 96-91.

"This is a new start, these guys are focused," Muggsy Bogues said in a jubilant Golden State locker room after the Warriors won for just the third time this season and handed the Lakers their fifth loss.

Joe Smith scored the final four points of the game, giving the Warriors a 93-92 lead with 1:31 left. Neither team scored again. The Lakers got the ball with 10.7 seconds left, but Nick Van Exel missed a jumper and Golden State rebounded.

Warriors players huddled and danced on the floor after the victory.

"We know this is probably the worst team in the league. We just let them do whatever they wanted to do," said the Lakers' Eddie Jones, who was held to 10 points, nine below his average. "It's definitely making us feel bad. We feel horrible about this."

Raptors 104, 76ers 97
At Philadelphia, Walt Williams scored 39 points, one off his career-high, and Toronto came back from an 18-point deficit to end the longest losing streak in franchise history.

In a game of wild swings, Toronto trailed by 18 points in the second quarter, went ahead by 16 in the third and then watched as the 76ers closed to within three on a layup by Clarence Weatherspoon with 1:11 to play.

But Marcus Camby's baseline jumper made it 100-95 with 52 seconds to play, and Jim Jackson missed a 3-pointer for the Sixers. Tim Thomas could not put back the rebound, and Miller made a layup with 28 seconds left to secure the victory.

"We won, and that is the bottom line, but it feels even better because we got this one on the road," coach Darrell Walker said.

Magic 106, Bulls 98
At Orlando, Rony Serkaly scored 24 of his 26 points in the second half, and the Magic improved to 8-1 without Penny Hardaway — a situation they'll have to get used to.

Hardaway will be sidelined 8 to 10 weeks after undergoing arthroscopic surgery earlier in the day.

"You have to give them credit," Michael Jordan said. "They are a scrappy team and they are doing what they have to do to win."

The Magic, who hadn't beaten the Bulls since Nov. 14, 1995, made 21 of 23 free throws in the fourth quarter. Horace Grant scored 15 points and Bo Outlaw had 16 rebounds and five steals for Orlando.

Cavaliers 102, Nuggets 83
At Cleveland, Wesley Person scored 18 points, Shawn Kemp had 17 and Brevin Knight had 10 points, seven assists and three steals as the Cavs won their ninth straight.

"Sometimes we have to pinch ourselves to see if this is really happening," team owner Gordon Gund said. "Or is it just a dream?"

The Cavs will try to extend the streak tonight at Milwaukee against ex-Cavs

Terrell Brandon and Tyrone Hill, who were sent to the Bucks in the three-way trade with Seattle for Kemp.

Spurs 102, Clippers 87
At San Antonio, David Robinson scored 30 points and Avery Johnson had a career-high 20 assists — tying the NBA single-game high for the season.

Vinny Del Negro added 22 points, Tim Duncan had 14 points, 12 rebounds and six blocked shots and Robinson tied a franchise record by making 18 free throws.

Hornets 104, Wizards 101
Several hours after Washington's Tracy Murray and Rod Strickland exchanged blows at the team hotel, the Wizards' four-game winning streak ended.

Glen Rice had 29 points and a decisive steal to help Charlotte win for the eighth time in 10 home games.

Former BSHS coach dies of heart attack

From staff and wire reports

MERKEL — Jack Wayman Dorsett, head football coach at Merkel High School and a former assistant coach in Big Spring, has died of an apparent heart attack during a West Texas hunting trip. He was 44.

Dorsett was working on a deer blind and scattering deer corn at a ranch. His body was discovered early Wednesday near his truck after he failed to return home from the blind located on the Shelton Boyd Ranch.

Sheriff Donnie Rannefeld said Dorsett's relatives had telephoned the Boyd family in Nolan County on Tuesday night after becoming concerned.

Services for Dorsett were scheduled for 3 p.m. Friday in Merkel High School gymnasium, with burial at Rose Hill Cemetery in the city about 200 miles west of Dallas. Arrangements were with Starbuck Funeral Home.

The Childress native also coached at Snyder before taking over at Merkel. He received a stent implant in his heart last spring after experiencing difficulty breathing.

Dorsett's survivors include his wife, Trena; one son, Riki; a daughter, Krista; his parents, Don Dorsett of Amarillo and Juanita Dorsett of Childress; a brother and sister; and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

Table with columns for Round, Name, and Points. Includes details for 5th, 6th, and 7th rounds across various categories like Bareback, Saddle Bronc, and Steer.

WOOD'S BOOTS advertisement featuring a cowboy character, a boot image, and text: "WOOD'S BOOTS Open Mon-Sat 8:30-6:00 E-1 20 Colorado City 728-3722 WOLVERINE DURASHOCKS BOOTS & SHOES The Most Comfortable Workboot Ever! Durashocks Come In Lace-up Or Pull On With Or Without Steel Toe. Large Selection of Colors & Sizes To Choose From"

Laredo WESTERN BOOTS advertisement featuring boot images and text: "The Perfect Christmas Gift! PERFORMAIR™ AMERIC COM'OF WESTERN STYLING Men, Women, & Children's Steppers Men's \$99.95 Women's \$89.95 Kid's \$49.95 Ostrich Print Ropers Men's \$89.95 Women's \$69.95 Kid's \$39.95 WOOD'S WESTERN BOOTS Layaway Now For Christmas E-1 20 Colorado City Open Mon-Sat 8:30-6:00 1-800-29BOOTS 728-3722"

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POWER POINTS FOOTBALL CONTEST WINNER WEEK NUMBER 15 Robert Cunningham Kerrville ★ 124 Points Local High Score Justin Paul Wilson Big Spring ★ 109 Points

Big Spring Thursday Rec The ASSOC BATON defensive c season, res the defense LSU wot going, but department Press that new defens! "That's J Gerry DIN him in De where Re years. He said it good defens like LSU. "I lose a coach, I'll f said. Assistant few years, I "It's a rea SPORT From staff Sweetwa Tom Ritel II quarterf seasons at t Ritchey s earlier in tl the end of t The Must seasons un 1989 did the In his 10 s he closes hi The 53-ye coach thro continue se Hank Dov he is intere Dykes to Texas Te tured spea led for 6:30 Tickets f obtained by 7424 or 263-1 Since sea purchased Registrati The deadl formed by t No tryout RIP TRU W W OPI EVO ZIP Light Co P 1-20 26

Reese leaving LSU, reportedly for Texas

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

BATON ROUGE, La. — Carl Reese, defensive coordinator at LSU since the 1995 season, resigned Wednesday to take over the defense at Texas.

LSU would not say where Reese was going, but a source in the Texas athletic department confirmed to The Associated Press that Reese would be the Longhorns' new defensive coordinator.

"That's just football," said LSU coach Gerry DiNardo, who brought Reese with him in December 1994 from Vanderbilt, where Reese had assisted him for four years.

He said it won't be hard to find another good defensive coordinator for a program like LSU.

"I lose a friend, I lose a good football coach, I'll gain a good football coach," he said.

Assistant coaches usually move on every few years, DiNardo said.

"It's a real positive thing for him. It will

be positive for us in the end," he said.

New coach Mack Brown has promised an attacking defense at Texas, where this year's team gave up an average of 33.7 points per game. He has about \$750,000 to spend on his assistant coaches, but has not yet decided how many assistants he will have.

Reese's resignation was immediate, and apparently means he will not coach the Tigers for the Independence Bowl on Dec. 28 against Notre Dame.

That won't be a problem, DiNardo said. He said he will decide by Sunday whether he even needs an interim coordinator for the Independence Bowl.

"I could fill it right away if things fall right, but there's no sense of urgency," he said.

Reese probably could get permission from Brown to coach the bowl: the day after he resigned from North Carolina, Brown told Texas alumni and officials that he would coach the Tar Heels' bowl game if his players wanted him to.

Since Reese arrived at LSU in December 1994, LSU's defense has ranked among the leaders in the Southeastern Conference.

The Tigers allowed only 16.2 points a game this season, putting their defense first in the SEC and 11th in the nation in scoring defense. LSU also ranked second in the league in pass efficiency defense.

Texas' defense, meanwhile, was one of the nation's worst in every category. It allowed the worst home loss in the program's 105-year history and second-worst overall, a 66-3 drubbing by UCLA.

The Longhorns were 104th (out of 112) in the nation in rushing defense, giving up 241.5 yards per game on the ground. The Longhorns were 85th in the nation in total defense, giving up 399.2 yards per game.

Reese is the second assistant DiNardo has lost to Brown, who hired defensive backs coach Ron Case two years ago from LSU.

At Vanderbilt, Reese reduced opponents' average points per game from 41.5 in 1990 to 25.1 in 1994.

SPORTS BRIEFS

From staff and wire reports

Sweetwater's Ritchey retiring as Mustangs' coach

Tom Ritchey, who coached Sweetwater to the Class 4A, Division II quarterfinals this season, has announced his retirement after 10 seasons at the Mustang helm.

Ritchey said he had made his decision to retire from coaching earlier in the season, but held off announcing his intentions until the end of the season.

The Mustangs, under his guidance went through five regular seasons undefeated and lost only one four other times. Only in 1989 did the Mustangs fail to make the playoffs.

In his 10 seasons at Sweetwater, the Mustangs were 120-24-2, and he closes his coaching career with a 208-64-7 record in 25 seasons.

The 53-year-old Ritchey said he plans to continue serving as coach throughout the current school year and would be willing to continue serving as the Sweetwater ISD's athletic director.

Hank Dowell, Sweetwater's longtime defensive coordinator, said he is interested in the head coaching job.

Dykes to be Big Spring football banquet speaker

Texas Tech Head Football Coach Spike Dykes will be the featured speaker for the Big Spring Steers Football Banquet scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Dec. 16 in the Big Spring High School cafeteria.

Tickets for the banquet are priced at \$9 per person and can be obtained by calling Quarterback Club president Randy Gee at 267-7424 or 263-1889.

Since seating for the banquet will be limited, tickets should be purchased as early as possible.

Registration under way for youth basketball league

The deadline for registration for a youth basketball league being formed by the Big Spring YMCA is Dec. 6.

No tryouts will be held for the league, which organizers say will

have an emphasis on participation and fundamentals, not winning.

For more information, call 267-8234.

TP&WD officials offer deer harvest recommendations

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials are reminding local landowners and hunters that the white-tailed deer season continues through Jan. 4, 1998.

The bag limit is four deer with no more than two bucks. Deer population surveys in Howard County have resulted in TP&WD officials recommending that hunters not harvest antlerless deer north of I-20 and recommend that they take one doe per 800 acres and one buck per 1,300 acres south of I-20.

For more information, contact wildlife biologist Bill Del Monte at (915) 798-3152.

Local chapter needs softball umpires for next season

The Permian Basin chapter of the Southwest Softball Umpires Association needs umpires to work high school softball games throughout West Texas, including the Big Spring area, this spring.

For more information, contact Mack Gipson at (915) 520-5961 or Freddie Ezell at (915) 520-6502.

Junior hoops program slates registration at mall

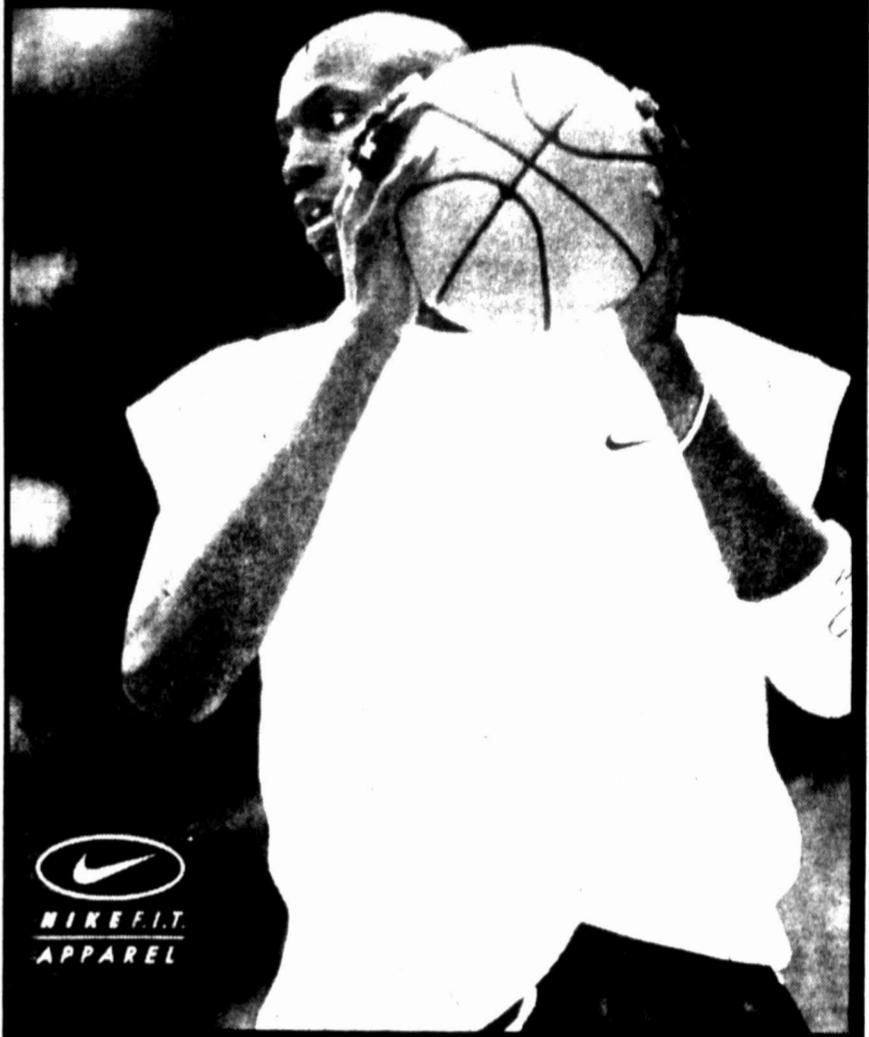
Registration for participation in the Big Spring Junior Basketball Association has been scheduled for 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 11-13 at Big Spring Mall.

The program, which will be conducted on Saturdays from Jan. 10 through Feb. 21, will give fifth- and sixth-grade boys and girls a head start on the basic fundamentals of basketball.

A free camp, games and a tournament are scheduled for participants.

For more information, contact Charlie Hall at 263-0159 or Billy Rollins at 267-4959.

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DEC 11 1997

SPORTS EXTRA

PLAYOFF GAMES

CLASS 5A FINALS Longview (14-0) vs. Katy (13-1), noon Saturday, Astrodome. DIVISION II SEMIFINALS Flower Mound Mustangs (12-2) vs. Tyler John Tyler (12-2), 4 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium, Irving. ALICE HASTINGS (13-1) vs. New Braunfels (13-1), 8 p.m. Saturday, Astrodome, Houston. CLASS 4A DIVISION I FINAL Corsicana (12-2) vs. Texas City (13-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Astrodome, Houston. DIVISION II SEMIFINALS Denison (14-0) vs. Mount Pleasant (9-5), 2 p.m. Saturday, Homer B. Johnson Stadium, Garland. La Marque (11-3) vs. CC Callahan (14-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Buccaneer Stadium, Corpus Christi. CLASS 3A SEMIFINALS Aledo (14-0) vs. Commerce (14), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Homer B. Johnson Stadium, Garland. La Grange (12-2) vs. Sealy (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Astrodome, Houston. CLASS 2A SEMIFINALS Stanton (14-0) vs. Italy (14-0), 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Gordon Wood Stadium, Brownwood. Alto (14-0) vs. Rogers (13-1), 8 p.m. Friday, Kyle Field, College Station. CLASS 1A FINALS Wheeler (11-3) vs. Granger (12-1), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Showell Stadium, Abilene. SIX-MAN FINALS Burden County (14-1) vs. Panther Creek (13-1), 2 p.m. Saturday, Wylie High School Stadium, Abilene.

BOWLS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 20 Las Vegas Bowl At Las Vegas Air Force (10-2) vs. Oregon (6-5), 5 p.m. (ESPN). Thursday, Dec. 25 Blue-Gray Classic At Montgomery, Ala. Blue vs. Gray, Noon (ABC). Aloha Bowl At Honolulu Michigan State (7-4) vs. Washington (7-4), 2:30 p.m. (ABC). Friday, Dec. 26 Motor City Bowl At Pontiac, Mich. Marshall (10-2) vs. Mississippi (7-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN). Saturday, Dec. 27 Heritage Bowl At Atlanta South Carolina State (9-2) vs. Southern University (10-1), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN). Inlight.com Bowl At Tucson, Ariz. Arizona (6-5) vs. New Mexico (9-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN). Sunday, Dec. 28 Independence Bowl At Shreveport, La. LSU (8-3) vs. Notre Dame (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN). Monday, Dec. 29 Humanitarian Bowl At Boise, Idaho Utah State (6-5) vs. Cincinnati (7-4), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN2). Carquest Bowl At Miami Georgia Tech (6-5) vs. West Virginia (7-4), 6:30 p.m. (TBS). Holiday Bowl At San Diego

NFL STANDINGS

Table with columns for Conference (American, National), Team, W, L, T, Pct., PF, PA. Includes teams like New England, Miami, Buffalo, Indianapolis, etc.

NBA

South vs. North, 3 p.m. (ESPN) Wednesday's Games Charlotte 104, Washington 101. Cleveland 102, Denver 83. Toronto 104, Philadelphia 97. Orlando 106, Chicago 98. Boston 96, Milwaukee 91. Golden State 93, L.A. Lakers 82. San Antonio 102, L.A. Clippers 87. Portland 93, Indiana 85. Today's Games Minnesota at New York, 6:30 p.m. New Jersey at Detroit, 6:30 p.m. Cleveland at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m. Orlando at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. Atlanta at Phoenix, 8 p.m. Friday's Games Washington at Boston, 6 p.m. Denver at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m. Chicago at Charlotte, 6:30 p.m. Miami at Indiana, 7 p.m. Dallas at Utah, 8 p.m. Phoenix at Chicago, 8 p.m. Golden State at Vancouver, 9 p.m. Atlanta at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m. Houston at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

NHL

Wednesday's Games Florida 5, Carolina 2. Montreal 6, St. Louis 3. OT. Calgary 4, N.Y. Rangers 1. New Jersey 4, Edmonton 2. Colorado 2, Toronto 2. Phoenix 3, Chicago 3. Dallas 3, Tampa Bay 0. Washington 3, San Jose 3. Pittsburgh 3, Anaheim 3. Today's Games Buffalo at Boston, 6:30 p.m. St. Louis at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m. Friday's Games Carolina at Buffalo, 6:30 p.m. Florida at N.Y. Rangers, 6:30 p.m. Montreal at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m. Edmonton at Detroit, 6:30 p.m. Philadelphia at Chicago, 7:30 p.m. San Jose at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. Pittsburgh at Phoenix, 8 p.m. Colorado at Calgary, 8 p.m. Washington at Anaheim, 9:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL CHICAGO WHITE SOX - Agreed to terms with C. O'Brien on a two-year contract. Despatched RHP. At Levine and LHP Larry Thomas for assignment. Named Wallace Johnson third base coach. NEW YORK YANKEES - Agreed to terms with DH Chai Davis on a two-year contract. TORONTO BLUE JAYS - Named Rance Mullins and George Bell hitting instructors. Bruce Walton roving pitching instructor. Eric Miller roving catching instructor. Hector Torres roving infield instructor and Garth Long roving defense instructor. Named Terry Benington manager and Lloyd Moseby hitting coach of Saragosa of the International League. Named Bill Montague pitching coach and J.J. Cameron coach of Keweenaw of the Southern League. Named Rickett Wheeler manager, Rick Langford pitching coach and Dennis Mulder coach of Danville of the Florida State League. Named Marty Pevey manager and Paul Elliott coach of Hagerstown of the South Atlantic League. Named Rolando Pina manager, Lester Spiner pitching coach and Randy Phillips coach of Medicine Hat of the Pioneer League. NATIONAL LEAGUE COLORADO ROCKIES - Acquired Of Curtis Godden from the Cincinnati Reds for RHP Mark Hutton. MONTREAL EXPOS - Traded RHP Dave Vorn and a player to be named to the Colorado Rockies for OF Terry Jones and a player to be named. PITTSBURGH PIRATES - Agreed to terms with LHP Jeff Tabaka on a one-year contract.

STANTON

Continued from page 1B him back. That allowed the rest of our kids to get there," Cotton noted. "But if Kory hadn't forced him inside, he'd have scored and they'd be playing Italy." Cotton expects no less a chal-

SMITH

Continued from page 1B "I don't want to feel like I'm hurting the team with my performance, but it would be great to have a thousand yards," said Smith, 28, who has a partially separated left shoulder. "I don't feel like my talent has diminished — and I'm not just saying that," Smith told The Dallas Morning News on Wednesday. "If I believed it, I'd be the first one to go to Jerry and tell him to get rid of me." Staying healthy is his top priority, said Smith.

He injured his shoulder Thanksgiving Day against Tennessee and aggravated the injury pass-blocking Monday night in the first quarter against Carolina. Smith was able to practice Wednesday and coach Barry Switzer said he expects him to play some Sunday against Cincinnati.

OSBORNE

Continued from page 1B thanks. "I care very much about those guys, so that's what's been most difficult," Osborne said. "I hope at some point they will realize that I'm trying to do what's the best thing for them." Osborne is the winningest coach in the history of The Associated Press football poll. Since taking over in 1973, his teams have been ranked in 396 of 399 polls. Of those rankings, 327 have been in the top 10,

including a current streak of 86 weeks. "He accomplished it all," said Switzer, who as coach of the rival Oklahoma Sooners battled Osborne for years in the old Big Eight Conference. "No one won as consistently as Tom did," Switzer said. "He won every year and a lot of times he was undefeated. What more could he do?" Osborne will always be remembered for his gutsy decision to go for two points and a win over Miami in the 1984 Orange Bowl.

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Big Spring Thursday Mar Red nea The ASSOCI Pedro Ma baseball's s he has agr million, sli the Boston The deal announced break bas largest Sheffield's deal with I average an million Gre age during tract with I "I'm a li how muc Martinez i Radio U Dominican Boston w option y increase t tract to \$9 News of t which bro spoke in S shadowed agent signi — Desig Davis agre two-year c York Yank — The C signed two to a \$1.4 m tract with a \$635,000, Chad Kruei — Left-h agreed t Pittsburgh make \$300 major lea he's in the In trade: Goodwin, after a sh manager general m on Aug. 7 Cincinnati Colorado Montreal Vercs to th hitting m Terry Jon Also, Relations will recon void St. Lo year contr While PR said the after Sun deadline, Cardinals provide a that we n decision." The play threaten would be l fessor Da agreed to independ replaces N was fired ers on Jun In a sig Tuesday r agreed to year co Francisco.

Martinez, Red Sox near deal

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pedro Martinez has shattered baseball's salary scale, saying he has agreed to a record \$75 million, six-year contract with the Boston Red Sox.

The deal, which might be announced this week, would break baseball records for largest contract, Gary Sheffield's \$61 million, six-year deal with Florida, and highest average annual salary, the \$11.5 million Greg Maddux will average during his five-year contract with Atlanta.

"I'm a little ashamed to say how much I signed for," Martinez said Wednesday to Radio Universal in the Dominican Republic.

Boston will have one or two option years that could increase the value of the contract to \$90 million or more. News of the dizzying deal, which broke when Martinez spoke in Santo Domingo, overshadowed Wednesday's free-agent signings:

— Designated hitter Chili Davis agreed to a \$9.8 million, two-year contract with the New York Yankees.

— The Chicago White Sox signed two catchers, agreeing to a \$1.4 million, two-year contract with Charlie O'Brien and a \$635,000, one-year deal with Chad Krueter.

— Left-hander Jeff Tabaka agreed to a deal with Pittsburgh that calls for him to make \$300,000 if he's in the major leagues and \$70,000 if he's in the minors.

In trades, outfielder Curtis Goodwin, sent to the minors after a shouting match with manager Jack McKeon and general manager Jim Bowden on Aug. 7, was dealt by the Cincinnati Reds to the Colorado Rockies, and Montreal sent reliever Dave Veres to the Rockies for switch-hitting minor league outfielder Terry Jones.

Also, **Managements Player Relations Committee** said it will reconsider its decision to void St. Louis' \$30 million, five-year contract with Andy Benes. While PRC head Randy Levine said the deal was agreed to after Sunday's midnight EST deadline, he is allowing the Cardinals "an opportunity to provide additional evidence so that we may reconsider our decision."

The players association has threatened a grievance, which would be heard by Cornell professor Dana Eischen, who has agreed to become baseball's independent arbitrator. He replaces Nicholas Zumas, who was fired by players and owners on June 30.

In a signing announced late Tuesday night, Orel Hershiser agreed to a \$4.35 million, one-year contract with San Francisco.

Especially for kids and their families The Mini Page

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By BETTY DEBNAM

Holiday Customs

Christmas Around the World

Netherlands



St. Nicholas and Black Peter

The Dutch call their Santa "St. Nicholas." He spends the year before Christmas writing in a big red book about the behavior of all the children.

St. Nicholas arrives on Dec. 5 on a big ship from Spain and parades through the streets of Amsterdam. He is dressed as a bishop and rides a white horse. He has a helper called "Black Peter."

On Dec. 5, the eve of St. Nicholas Day, children put out their shoes filled with hay and carrots for St. Nicholas' horse. Black Peter takes the horse's food and leaves behind candies and small gifts. On Dec. 6, kids wake up and find their presents.

The Dutch love to disguise their gifts, or to hide them in funny places. Each gift usually comes with a rhyme that hints at what is inside.

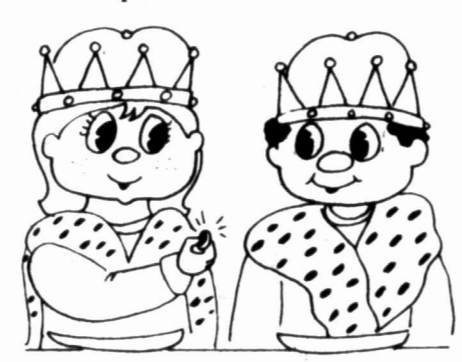
France

The French set up their Christmas trees on Christmas Eve. They also go to midnight Mass, after which they have a late supper. They usually serve a special log-shaped pastry.

Small children place their shoes by the fireplace for Père Noël, or Father Christmas, to fill with candies and gifts. The French also give each other some gifts on New Year's Day.

On Jan. 6, they celebrate the arrival of the Three Kings who visited the baby Jesus.

The French often serve a large, round, puffy pastry with a bean hidden inside. The person who finds the bean is named the queen or king. The king or queen chooses a partner.



Both the king and queen are given gold and silver paper crowns.

Sweden



The Santa Lucia delivers a special bun.

Santa Lucia Day, Dec. 13, marks the beginning of the holiday season. About 1,600 years ago, St. Lucia brought food to Christians

who were hiding in dark tunnels in Italy. She wore a crown of candles to light her way.

The morning of Santa Lucia Day, a daughter (or the mother if the children are too young) puts on a long white dress. She wears a leafy crown with candles.

The rest of the children follow her in a procession. Other daughters also dress in white and carry a candle. They wear halos of tinsel.

Sons, called "star boys," wear tall, cone-shaped hats decorated with stars. They carry a big star on a pole.

Their Santa, Kris Kringle, delivers the children's gifts on Christmas Eve.

The Rookie Cookie Cookbook is chock-full of recipes designed especially for kids. Rookie Cookie makes cooking fun, encourages reading, and takes kids step-by-step through the baking process. To order, send check or money order only for \$2.95 plus \$1.50 postage and handling per copy, to: Rookie Cookie Cookbook, P.O. Box #19949, Kansas City, Mo. 64141. Make checks payable to Andrews McMeel Publishing.

Go dot to dot and color.

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

WHAT DOES THE UNICORN USE TO DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREE?
ORNAMENTS!

(sent in by Joanne Kim)

Q: What type of snake works for the CIA?
A: A spython!

(sent in by Jamal Maylik)

Q: What does a bird need when it falls out of a tree?
A: Tweetment!

(sent in by Lunden Hall)

Rookie Cookie's Recipe

Jingle Bell Bars

You can make these for a holiday treat.

You'll need:

- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup butterscotch chips
- 1 1/4-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped

What to do:

- Pour butter or margarine in a 13-by-9-inch baking pan.
- Sprinkle graham cracker crumbs evenly on top.
- Sprinkle coconut, chocolate chips and butterscotch chips evenly on top.
- Pour sweetened condensed milk evenly on top.
- Sprinkle pecans evenly on top.
- Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 30 minutes. Cut into squares when cool. Makes about 24.

TRY 'N FIND CHRISTMAS

Words about Christmas around the world are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward. See if you can find: CHRISTMAS, WORLD, CHILDREN, SHIP, BOOK, PARADE, HORSE, SHOES, CANDIES, GIFTS, PRESENTS, TREES, MASS, PASTRY, HOLIDAY, FOOD, CROWN, HATS

LOVE CHRISTMAS!

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

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her friends are celebrating Christmas. See if you can find:

- muffin
- jackknife
- acorn
- number 3
- goose
- funny face
- butterfly
- sailboat
- letter L
- safety pin
- top hat
- question mark
- lips
- arrow

• candle • word MINI • heart

World Holiday Customs

England

- English children sometimes write lists of things they want. One custom is to throw the list into the back of a fireplace. If the paper goes up the chimney, the writer will get the gifts he or she asks for. If the paper burns, the children try again with another list.
- The custom of sending Christmas cards started in England about 150 years ago. In 1843 the artist John Horsley painted and printed some cards and sold them to people wanting to send Christmas greetings. By 1860, printed Christmas cards were a popular item.
- The first weekday after Christmas is called "Boxing Day." The English give boxes with gifts inside to people such as the police officer or mail carrier who have helped them during the year.

The children in England call their Santa "Father Christmas." He looks a lot like the American Santa Claus.

- Christmas caroling started with the British. Professional musicians used to wander from place to place singing at the homes of the rich. Later, ordinary people went singing from door to door at Christmas in return for warm food and drink.
- Today people go caroling throughout December.

Germany

- Santa Claus is called "St. Nicholas" in Germany. He comes on the night before St. Nicholas' Feast Day, Dec. 6. Kids put out shoes filled with hay for his pony.
- St. Nicholas takes the hay and leaves candy and other goodies. Kids also leave a list of presents they want to get on Christmas Eve. The gifts they get then are from "Christkind," or the Christ child.

Germany has many Christmas fairs and outdoor markets that open on St. Nicholas Day.

- The Christmas tree custom began in Germany more than 500 years ago.
- The story goes that the religious leader Martin Luther was walking through a forest one snowy night at Christmastime. The trees shining in the moon and starlight were so lovely that he chopped one down. He took it home and put small candles on it to imitate what he saw in nature.

Italy

Jan. 6 is the day children get most of their presents. Befana, an old fairy, brings gifts and fills the stockings. She carries a broom in one hand and a bell that she rings in the other. She comes down the chimney.

Families celebrate with a religious ceremony around the manger.

Most Italian families have a prize manger scene they bring out each Christmas Eve. They exchange some gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Look through your newspaper for Christmas stories and ads.

Next week The Mini Page celebrates a Victorian Christmas.

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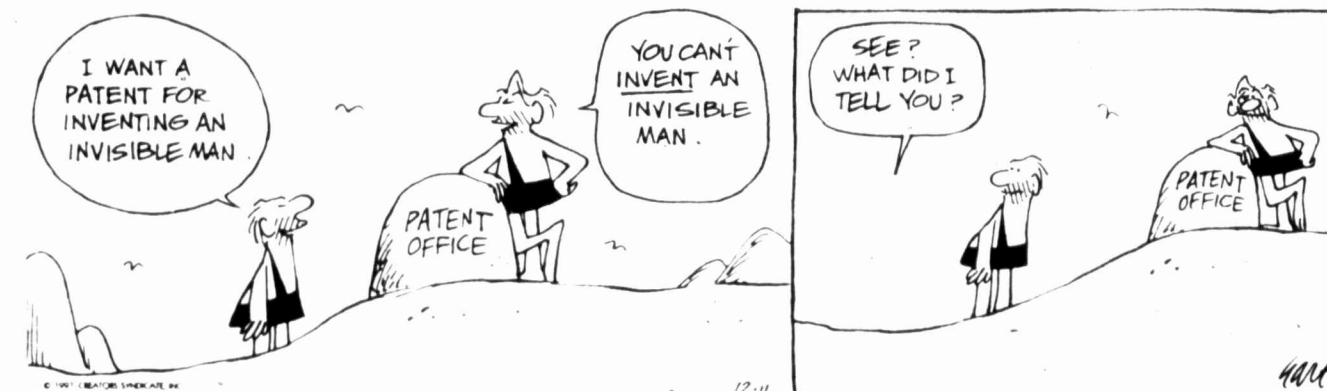
DECEMBER 11 1997

THURSDAY DEC. 11. TV schedule table with columns for station, time, and program name.

HAGAR



B.C.



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



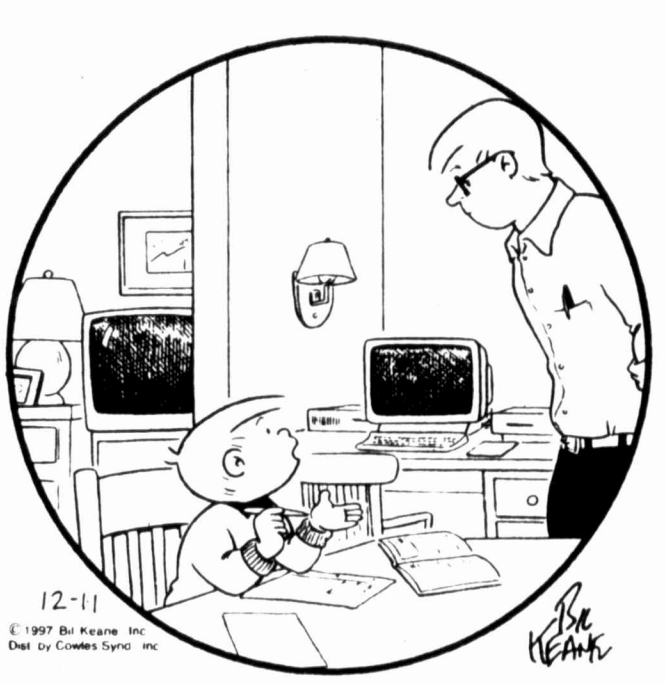
BEETLE BAILY



BLONDIE



FAMILY CIRCUS



It's my homework. Mom hid the remote AND the mouse.

DENNIS THE MENACE



Whenever I get a cold, I just give it to my dad.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

On Dec. 11, 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.

On Dec. 11, 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.

On Dec. 11, 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Word search puzzle with a grid and a list of words to find.

Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information and a logo.

19th state. In 1872, America's first black governor took office as Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback became acting governor of Louisiana.

