



Moore Development to hear Howard College request

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Although consideration of financial backing for the Dallas-based Settles Hotel Development Co. is on Wednesday's agenda for the Moore Development Board of Directors, officials say they don't expect any new developments with the renovation



McLellan

effort. According to Board President Larry McLellan, the item is only on the meeting agenda as an "in-case" matter. "I don't really expect the board to take any sort of action on the item. We mainly put it on the agenda just in case

something comes up between now and then," said McLellan. "The ball is really in their court right now. I understand they want to secure some of the surrounding lots for parking and other needs before they move forward on the project." Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. directors voted unanimously Dec. 8 to provide up to \$3 million to help a for-

mer resident Brint Ryan — manager of the Dallas company and the founder and CEO of Ryan & Company — renovate the Big Spring landmark, which he purchased for \$75,000 from the city of Big Spring. Also on Wednesday's agenda, directors are expected to consider a request from Howard College to help fund a new program.

"The college is asking us to provide funding to buy equipment for a new welding program," said McLellan. "Apparently, there is a real shortage of welders in this area. The program the college is working on would be approximately 10 months long and would extend beyond what Big

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Bond election on the horizon for Sands CISD

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

ACKERLY — Sands Consolidated Independent School District trustees are nearing a decision to call a bond election for this year.

The bond, which may be for as much as \$3 million, would be called to finance construction of a building that would house a new gymnasium and auditorium at the Sands School campus.

The new building would be located either across the street or adjacent to the existing campus, Superintendent Wayne Blount said.

Trustees will meet Thursday to decide on a monetary amount for the bond, Blount said. Rough architectural estimates place the cost of the building at between \$2.4 million and \$2.5 million, but trustees may add other renovation projects to the bond, pushing the total price tag up around \$3 million.

The school district has no existing bond debt and

it has been more than 20 years since trustees last called for a bond election.



Blount

Blount said having only one gymnasium to handle all the district's students severely restricts access to the facility, which in turn hampers student scheduling options.

As for the current auditorium, it was built with the existing campus structure around 90 years ago and is woefully inadequate to handle theater productions and other student activities, Blount said.

"It's very old, and definitely needs to be upgraded," he said. "There's really not a way to fix it. We've had architects look at ways to renovate it, but there's just no feasible way to do it."

There are only two months in which bond elections can be held —

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
This driver avoids one of many "pitfalls" created throughout the city by breaks in main water lines. This section of W. 18th Street, between Gregg and Lancaster, was blocked off Monday afternoon as city crews work to correct more than 40 main breaks throughout Big Spring.

Crews scramble to repair main breaks throughout city

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Crews with the city of Big Spring Water Department have their hands full this week, as they struggle to repair more than 40 breaks in main municipal water lines caused by the sudden cold snap last week.

According to Water D&C

Manager Rick Boiles, 44 main line breaks have been reported since temperatures dipped into the teens Jan. 12, and thanks to wet and icy weather have city crews with their hands more than full.

"We were worried about the change in temperature having this effect, but the addition of wet



Boiles

weather has just made it worse," said Boiles. "When the temperature changes suddenly, it causes the ground to expand and contract, causing many of the

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Bush expected to offer new ideas on domestic issues

By **JENNIFER LOVEN**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Delivering his first State of the Union address to a Democratic-controlled Congress, President Bush hopes to balance a rebuke of his Iraq policy already promised by lawmakers with a

high-profile invitation to cooperate on vexing domestic problems.

In tonight's speech before a joint session of Congress, Bush plans to dangle ideas — some new, some recycled — on reducing America's oil dependence and making health care more available, among others. Aware

that 2008 presidential contenders and new Democratic leaders present fierce competition for headlines, the president has a much-abbreviated topic list in an attempt to capture the public's attention.

In the days ahead of the 8 p.m. CST speech, the White House took great pains to detail its

health care portions. The cold reception they received on Capitol Hill offered a striking reminder of the difficulty the president faces in the new political climate.

Bush is proposing to change to how the tax code treats health insurance, by counting employer contributions toward

health insurance as taxable income while establishing a standard deduction for anyone with insurance. The White House says it would introduce increased market forces to the health care industry and make coverage more affordable for

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STUDENTS BUSTED AGAIN

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — A 75-year-old woman and three students at a Scottsdale high school were arrested for simulating a shooting and kidnapping. The incident marks the second time police responded to what they believed was an actual crime involving Desert Mountain High students but turned out to be a video project for a criminology class. Last January, police were called to a simulated carjacking near the high school. Sunday, three 15-year-old girls were arrested on suspicion of disorderly conduct after a neighbor called 911. Police said 75-year-old Marilyn Miller, who was videotaping, also was arrested.

MURDER MINDED CYCLIST

FREEMONT, N.Y. (AP) — A gun-toting bicyclist tried to rob a man early Monday and then shot him before pedaling away, police said. The victim was out walking just before 2 a.m. when a man on a bike stopped in front of him, pointed a handgun at him and told him to hand over his cash, Nassau County police said. The victim turned and ran away but was shot in his left foot. He hobbled to a phone and called police. The cyclist rode off. The wounded man was taken to a hospital for treatment and was expected to survive, said police, who were looking for the cyclist.

HANGAR RECEPTION

Hangar 25 Air Museum will hold its annual meeting and Veteran of the Month reception Thursday. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. for museum members and previous Veteran of the Month honorees. Non-members wishing to attend the Veteran of the Month reception for Col. Harry A. Spannaus and for the unveiling of the new permanent display, the "Spannaus Office," are encouraged to arrive at 7 p.m. Col. Spannaus served 28 years in the military, flying 17 combat missions during the Korean War and 222 combat missions in the Vietnam War.

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Obituaries

Minnie Pearl Rawls Parum



Minnie Pearl Rawls Parum, 83, of Big Spring, died Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Herb McPherson, minister of Calvary Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends today from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

She was born Oct. 15, 1923, in San Saba County and married Kenneth Parum on April 3, 1999, in Big Spring.

Minnie enjoyed embroidery, quilting, fishing and playing bingo. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother and will be missed by everyone who knew her. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Kenneth Parum of Big Spring; one daughter and son-in-law, Melba and Ronnie Passmore of Big Spring; two sons, Johnnie Rawls of Big Spring and Owen Rawls and wife, Brenda of Forsan; three stepdaughters, Brenda Tucker and husband, Mike, Glenda Rushing and husband, Ray, all of Odessa and Karen Jo Gray and husband, Everett, of Greenwood; two stepsons, Mike Parum and wife, Deborah and Stephen Parum and wife, Belinda, all of Odessa; ten grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; two sisters; and four brothers.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers; and three sisters.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Heart Association, 3205 W. Cuthbert, Suite A-5, Midland, 79701.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Arthur "Art" Madewell

Arthur "Art" Madewell, 79, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Kenneth Patrick officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends Thursday from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

He was born Feb. 1, 1927, in Denton and married Rosalene Balch Jan. 7, 1951, in Big Spring. She preceded him in death Sept. 1, 2001.

Art had lived in Big Spring most of his life and owned the City Body Shop for 62 years before retiring. He was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include one sister, Alameda Lee of Denton; one niece; and three great-nephews.

He was also preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Victor Lewis Jackson



Victor Lewis Jackson, 86, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Jan. 21, 2007, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Mike Couch of First Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends today from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Mr. Jackson was born Jan. 3, 1921, to Homer and Mabel Jackson in Dickens County and married Melba Starrett Sept. 26, 1941, in Mt. Blanco.

He worked for the Texas State Department of Agriculture in Spur from February 1952 to September 1958. He worked as an automotive mechanic for the USDA in Big Spring from 1958 to 1981, retiring in December 1981. He was a member of First Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon for 49 years. He was a veteran of the United States Army having served in World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Melba Jackson of Big Spring; a son, Rickey Jackson and wife, Sue of Big Spring; a daughter, Louise Driver and husband, Charles of Big Spring; two granddaughters, Erica Jackson of Ft. Worth and Dana Jackson of Normandy, France; a grandson, Shannon Driver and wife, Brandy of College Station; three great-grandchildren, Emily Brooke Driver, Austin Cade Driver and Hunter Jackson Warren Driver, all of College Station; one sister, Alene Brendle of Dickens; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Homer and Mabel Jackson.

The family suggests memorials be made to the First Baptist Church, 705 W. FM 700, Big Spring 79720 or a favorite charity.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Jean Hanke

Jean Hanke, 71, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2007, in a Midland Hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home

David Green

David Green, 45, of Big Spring, died Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, at a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today:

- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of Marcy.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1700 block of Young.
- ASSAULT/CLASS C was reported in the 1500 block of FM 700.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 38 inmates at the time of this report.

- ANTHONY STAN HEATH, 49, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- SONNY NATHANIEL RILEY, 26, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- FERNANDO K. ARRIAGA, 30, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for violation of a promise to appear, bondsman off bond for no valid driver's license and bondsman off bond for driving while license invalid.
- JIMMIE TODD FOSTER, 43, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.
- ISRAEL LUCIO, 41, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.
- MICHELLE DAWN URANGA, 39, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a warrant for theft by check.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3700 block of Dixon. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 78. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of Pettus Road. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Ash in Coahoma. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of West Third Street. One person was transported to the VAMC.

Take Note

• DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO LEARN ENGLISH? Amparo Snipes will be offering free lessons at Baptist Temple Church, 11th and Goliad. For more information, contact her at (432) 267-6885.

• WEST TEXAS OPPORTUNITIES INC. INVITES THE PUBLIC TO A MEETING at 10 a.m. Jan. 24 in the Howard County Library. During the meeting, those attending will learn about the types of services WTO has to offer.

• THE POWWOW COMMITTEE OF BIG SPRING is planning its 2007 Powwow and is in need of new members and volunteers. Anyone interested in Native American dancing or just interested in helping to bring an exciting weekend event to Big Spring is encouraged to contact Robert Downing at 263-3255 or Randy McKinney at 267-4843.

• THE PET PATROL helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY
• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY
• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
• West Texas Opportunities will hold a public meeting at 10 a.m. in the Howard County Library to explain the types of services WTO provides.
• Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY
• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
• Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
• Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Meal served. Meeting at 7 p.m.

Support Groups

TUESDAY
• The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group meets from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Anyone who has a mental illness or has a friend or family with mental illness is invited to participate. Call Felicia Talley at 268-3835 for more information.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of showers in the Evening. Then a slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows near 30. Light and variable winds. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.
Wednesday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. North winds around 10 mph.
Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. North winds around 10 mph.
Thursday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the Lower 50s. Light and variable winds.
Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Lows in the mid 30s.
Friday...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the upper 40s.
Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Highs in the upper 50s.
Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.
Sunday...Mostly sunny. Colder. Highs in the upper 40s.
Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.
Monday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 7-12-17-31-33.
Number matching five of five: none.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-11-17-20. Bonus Ball: 11.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.
Winning ticket sold in: Brenham.
Prize: \$450,000.
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$200,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-7-0

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Pig farmer accused of killing 26 women in Canada goes to trial SANDS

NEW WESTMINSTER, British Columbia (AP) — A Canadian pig farmer confessed to killing 49 women and was caught before he could reach his goal of making it an even 50, prosecutors told jurors at the start of his murder trial Monday.

Robert William Pickton, 56, has been charged with killing 26 women, mostly prostitutes and drug addicts who vanished from Vancouver's impoverished Downtown Eastside neighborhood in the 1990s.

Prosecutor Derrick Prevett stunned the courtroom by saying that Pickton told investigators, including an undercover officer planted in his jail cell, that he had slain 49 women.

"I was going to do one more and make it an even 50," Prevett quoted Pickton as telling investigators. "I made my own grave by being sloppy."

Pickton told one officer that he

would be "nailed to the cross" and described himself as a mass murderer who deserved to be on death row, Prevett claimed.

Pickton has pleaded not guilty to six counts of first degree murder in what is expected to be the most macabre and lengthy murder trial in Canadian history. The other 20 counts are expected to be heard at a later trial. If convicted, he faces life in prison. Canada abolished the death penalty in 1976.

Defense lawyer Peter Ritchie told jurors that Pickton did not kill or participate in the murders of the six women covered in the first trial.

Ritchie asked the jury to pay close attention to Pickton's demeanor in the videotapes with his interrogators, in particular his level of sophistication. He asked the jury to listen closely to details regarding Pickton's relationship with his brother, David.

The brothers reared pigs on the family's 17-acre farm outside Vancouver, where investigators say the Picktons threw drunken raves with prostitutes and drugs. After Robert Pickton's arrest in February 2002, health officials issued a tainted meat advisory to neighbors who may have bought pork from his farm, concerned that it may have contained human remains.

David Pickton, who has not been accused in the murders, told The Associated Press in December that he intended to raise cattle on the property, now surrounded by townhouses.

Ritchie did not address Pickton's alleged murder confessions in his opening statement.

"This case will unfold slowly; this case is complicated," he said.

The first trial covers the murders of Sereena Abotsway, Mona Wilson, Andrea Joesbury,

Brenda Wolfe, Georgina Papin and Marnie Frey.

Before the opening statements, British Columbia Supreme Court Justice James Williams warned the seven male and five female jurors that some of the evidence and witness testimony would be horrific.

"Some of the evidence to which you will be exposed to during the trial will be shocking and is likely to be upsetting. I must ask each of you to deal with that the best you can," he said.

Some of those shocking details came immediately.

Prevett said the government would prove that Pickton murdered six women, butchered their remains and then disposed of them.

He told the jury that as a successful pig farmer, Pickton had the expertise, equipment and means to dispose of the victims' remains.

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May and November. To get a bond election on the May ballot, trustees will have to formally call for the vote by early March, Blount said.

With the property tax rate expected to be around \$1.00 per \$100 valuation for the coming school year, Blount said trustees might not have a better time to call for the election.

"We believe this wouldn't be pressing the taxpayers too much," Blount said. "Tax-wise, if we're going to (call for a bond election), this is the time to do so."

Thursday's trustee meeting is set for 8:30 p.m. in the district board room.

MOORE

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Spring High School is currently doing. This equipment would allow them to get the program going."

The board is also expected to

meet in an executive session to discuss ongoing efforts to hire a new executive director for the economic development agency.

"We just haven't found anyone we're really comfortable with yet," said McLellan. "We have a candidate we want to interview, either at the meeting

or beforehand. That's what we're planning to discuss in executive session.

"Right now one of our main concerns is to try to hire someone with a strong background in the economic development area. We have several applicants I'm fairly sure can do the

job, but we're very eager to find someone with plenty of experience in the position."

The position was vacated near the end of September when longtime executive director Kent Sharp left to take a similar position in Gainesville. The meeting is to begin at 5:15

p.m. Wednesday in the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce board room, located at 215 W. Third Street.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

BREAKS

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main breaks. Add to that the fact that we're currently four employees short in this department, and it's easy to see how things can quickly get out of hand."

Boiles said the problems have been limited to areas where the city's ongoing water line replacement program hasn't yet

reached. "The areas where we've replaced the lines haven't had any problems," said Boiles. "The breaks have been limited to the areas where the older lines, which are much more susceptible to the change in temperature, are located. We're very fortunate we've replaced as much line as we have over the past several years. If we had to contend with breaks throughout the entire city it would be much, much worse."

While there is little area residents can do to prepare for or avoid a break in the city's main water lines, Boiles said there's plenty they can do to avoid the same type of situation on their property.

"We're really hoping people will take proper precautions as the temperature drops," said Boiles. "That means leaving your hot and cold water dripping just enough to keep the pipes from freezing, as well as insulating any exterior pipes or

fixtures.

"We also suggest people take old newspaper or towels and stuff them in their meter boxes to help keep them from freezing. The boxes are underground, but they still sit in a void, so they are susceptible to the freezing temperatures and could burst."

Boiles said area residents should also remember to insulate any sewer lines that are above ground or not buried at a safe depth, which would be 12

inches to 18 inches. And if it seems like the worst is over, Boiles said he and his crews aren't counting on it.

"As the weather begins to warm up this week, we could see another surge in main breaks," said Boiles grimly. "We're certainly not out of the woods yet."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

BUSH

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the uninsured. Aides estimated the plan would represent a tax increase for only about 20 percent of employer-covered workers.

Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif., chairman of a key health subcommittee in the House, said he would not even consider holding hearings on the proposal. He dismissed it as a dead-on-arrival attempt to encourage employers to stop offering health insurance.

"You can assume a lot of people are going to do the old 'it's dead on arrival,'" White House press secretary Tony Snow said on CBS' "The Early Show." "It's not," he said. "This is a proposal that's going to make health care cheaper for 100 million Americans or more."

With his job approval rating hovering in the mid-30 percent range, Bush's overall agenda for the speech was twofold: present himself to the public as a leader with a sincere desire to work across party lines on practical solutions, and place pressure onto Democratic leaders to either go along or offer alternatives.

"The presidential season is already upon us. I am personally very skeptical that they will make major progress," said Peter Robinson, a former White House speechwriter for Ronald Reagan who now is a research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. "But they must make the attempt; they must make a good-faith effort."

A new AP-AOL News poll found that six in 10 Americans are not convinced the Bush administration and Democrats in Congress can work together to solve the nation's problems. Americans rated health care, the economy and the situation in Iraq as the issues they care about most.

Bush was not expected to rehash the speech he gave less than two weeks ago laying out his revamped plan for Iraq, the centerpiece of which is a 21,500-troop increase in the U.S. military presence. Instead, he was to broadly defend his stand that Iraq is part of a war on terror that will make Americans safer.

On Capitol Hill, the pushback from congressional Republicans to the troop increase grew even on the eve of the president's speech.

Three GOP senators and one moderate Democrat unveiled nonbinding legislation on Monday expressing disagreement with Bush's plan and urging him to consider "all options and alternatives."

"We've had four other surges since we first went into Iraq," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, one of the sponsors. "None of them produced a long-lasting change in the situation on the ground."

In the House, members

of the GOP leadership drafted a series of what they called "strategic benchmarks" and said the White House should submit monthly reports to Congress measuring the Iraq government's progress in meeting them.

Meanwhile, majority Democrats intend to hold votes within days in the House and Senate on tougher bills declaring that the troop increase is "not in the national interest."

Bush returned to the White House on Monday from a long weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat, flashing a thumbs-up and a big grin to reporters before going inside for more practice sessions.

The White House has promised the president will be bold. But the broad themes — energy, education, health care, immigration — were familiar and there were no hints of dramatic new initiatives, particularly as war costs and huge feder-

al deficits preclude anything too costly.

The president is expected to address:

— Health care. Bush will propose a tax deduction of \$7,500 for individuals and \$15,000 for families regardless of whether they buy their own health insurance or receive medical coverage at work. He also would subject employer-sponsored health care benefits to taxation, meaning those with more policies worth more than the deduction would see a tax hike. But those who get policies at work worth less than the deduction, the preponderance of workers with employer-provided insurance, would get a tax break.

Another proposal would give some federal money

now going to hospitals and other facilities to states for programs to reduce the number of uninsured.

— Energy. Bush is expected to call for a sharp escalation in the federal mandate on use of ethanol as a renewable fuel alternative, a goal that may prove difficult to meet. He also may seek the power to raise fuel economy standards for passenger cars, authority he also asked for last


year. Some Democrats worried the plan would give transportation officials overly broad authority to change the system.

— Education. Bush will push for Congress to renew his education accountability law, No Child Left Behind, which expires this year. Democrats will expect him to go along with increases in spending to help schools make the required progress under the law.



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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."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ronnie Cupstid
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Excellent choices for chamber Man, Woman of the Year

We were very pleased last Thursday when it was announced that Col. Jim Little and Jo Beth Corwin were named Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Man and Woman of the Year.

Corwin, who was aptly described as "the perfect example of volunteerism" by 2005 recipient Diane Wood, has blessed our community and many organizations with a willingness to help. She has volunteered for the Heritage Museum, Big Spring State Hospital and the Howard County Fair. Her volunteer work with the state hospital has led to her helping out at The Chalet, a resale shop which raises funds for patients. Further, she participates in the state hospital's annual Valentines Day fundraiser by delivering singing "candygrams" and the like.

She's a regular at First United Methodist Church and lends her voice and other talents for the Living Christmas Tree, and sings with the Big Spring Symphony Choir.

Add Denim and Diamonds to her list and it's a wonder she has time to help children as a substitute teacher, but she does.

Jim Little is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, but he's actually only "retired" in name. He may no longer be serving his country, but he definitely serves his community, both as director of the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark and as a volunteer.

Over the years, he has been one of the building blocks around the success of the Hangar 25 Air Museum, the Silver Wings Ball and, of course, the Webb Air Force Base Reunion — an event which has brought hundreds of military and civilian staff back to Big Spring.

He coordinated the development of Big Spring's air terminal and is a guiding force in bringing renovations to the airpark through the Texas Department of Highways and other means.

Little is also credited with being a major influence in local planning and coordinating of the hang gliding championships.

But that is only part of the work he does. He also delivers meals to homebound residents, serves on the Big Spring Area Foundation, is a member of the citizens advisory panel for Alon USA's Big Spring Refinery and assists in many, many other activities.

Truly, Corwin and Little are community minded individuals who go out of their way to make Big Spring a better place for the people who reside here and who visit. We congratulate them and offer a proud but humble "Thank You."

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

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 - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
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 - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
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The most fun \$100 can buy

Here you go, sir. Twenty bucks. Really. Take it! Ma'am, you'll never guess what I'm giving away today. Yes, it's a \$20. Enjoy!

So that's how it feels. Handing out free money in the drizzle a few days back, I could finally see why Larry Stewart, a.k.a. the Secret Santa, spent the past 26 years giving away \$1.3 million to strangers on the street. It's an absolutely perfect way to spend an afternoon — and, if you've got it — a fortune.

Stewart can't give his away anymore — at least, not physically. He died Jan. 12 from complications of esophageal cancer, at age 58.

On his Web site, the Kansas City cable TV and long-distance phone service entrepreneur recalled how he had been so poor and hungry as a young man that in 1971 he went into a diner and ate a huge breakfast he had no way to pay for. The diner owner leaned down and said, "Son, you must have dropped this." It was a \$20.

Only later did Stewart realize: No one had dropped that money. It was a gift. And later still, he decided to start gifting in his own right. By the time he made his first million, in 1982, he was handing out \$100 bills to astonished strangers.

Stewart's example inspired a lot of people to try his particular random act of kindness — including me, a gal normally so cheap I buy the off-brand Rice Krispies, which are so hard they hurt my kids' teeth.

But inspiration is inspiration. "I'm excited!" exclaimed Emilio Vuchev, my recipient No. 1. He'd

been handing out flyers for a pizza parlor when suddenly, here he was, in possession of a \$20 bill! And what would he spend it on?

"A present for my mother." They still make guys like this? "Flowers," he said. "And something sweet, like chocolate." "Hey!" I floated away, thinking. "I just, albeit indirectly, surprised someone's mom!" But the lady I approached next brought me back down, fast.

"What is this for?" she frowned. "For you. For anything you like. Really." (Did this happen to Larry Stewart, too?)

"Well I'll put it in the collection plate," she sighed.

You have a nice day, too. Walking around with money you're going to give away is a strange, secret feeling. Only you know you are about to change someone's day. That must have been what Stewart found so fun. That also probably explains why he remained doggedly anonymous until last fall, outing himself only because he thought a tabloid was about to do it.

With the tingling, however, comes the tug of responsibility: Whose day aren't you going to change? I was just about to cheer up a chilly looking hat vendor when a man limped by. His belt was a sock.

"Here's a 20."

"Oh God, really? Thanks!" He ran off as fast as his limp could take him and I — even though you're not really supposed to worry about where the money is going — ran off right behind him.

Where would he go? A bar? A betting parlor? A drug dealer? He looked so desperate.

But no. He ducked into a little luncheonette. I asked the cashier what he'd bought.

"Coffee and Tylenol," she replied.



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Washington, DC 20510-4305

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• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative (19th Cong. District)
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

• **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1

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Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOE HEFLIN**
State Representative

Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0604

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
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Big Spring, 79720
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Back to Clinton Standard Time?

Shortly after breakfast Saturday, the country reverted to a familiar rhythm — Clinton Standard Time.

Hillary Rodham Clinton's bold splash into the presidential waters ensures that for the foreseeable future the race for her fellow Democrats and for Republicans will be about the Clintons — what she does, what he does — bringing with it all the brilliance, triumph, power, passion, drama and love-hate, place-called-Hope, didn't-inhale, flirt-with-disaster madness that defined the eight years of Bill Clinton's presidency.

But make no mistake: In this race, at this point, Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York is the sun. Everyone else, including Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, revolves around her.

She will have the money, the organization and the most attention focused on her. It will be her blessing and may be her curse. She repels at least as much as she attracts. At least for now.

Saturday morning, on her Web site, she gave an "It takes a village" approach to her campaign, saying she wanted to engage voters in a "conversation" about the state of the country. It was a low-key pitch with high production values and bespoke a drive and confidence. This moment has been a long time in the planning.

She gave an early indication of her style last week when Obama announced his own White House intentions, refusing to even acknowledge his fitness to be commander in chief. Instead, she gave an icily perfunctory "let the voters decide" back of the hand.

Obama did not follow suit. In a statement, he said, "Senator

Clinton is a good friend and colleague whom I greatly respect. I welcome her and all the candidates, not as competitors but as allies in the work of getting our country back on track."

Grace notes are the more common approach in the early rounds of a presidential campaign.

Clinton is known for her upright bearing, and her bare knuckles.

She enters the competition as the candidate who is at once most potent and most polarizing. The good news for her is that it is hard to see how her negatives could go much higher. In New York, she started her Senate campaign in 2000 in a similar position and, through a focused campaign to deliver for the folks back home, she won over a huge part of the state, including traditionally Republican upstate, home of her greatest skeptics.

She has been a star in the Senate, but won points for not seeking the spotlight. She has tacked to the center on some issues, even moderating her position on abortion. That approach is just another measure of the tactical brilliance the Clintons bring to any political race in which they choose to play.

The former president and potential "first man," Bill Clinton, has been talking up his wife's chances as he has rebuilt his own popularity among a wide swath of the American people.

Without question one of the most gifted politicians of the last 50 years, the former president could be an extraordinary asset to his wife, in effect doubling the capacity of her campaign. He also carries some obvious risks and his life will again be put under a spotlight.

A substantial segment of the public seems to have a near-fixed view of the former first lady, and it is not positive, representing perhaps the singular challenge of her candidacy: reversing a perception

At a tiny candy stand where Spanish music blared from a not-so-tiny boom box, I gave the proprietor my second-to-last \$20. "I look at this as a recompensation," he said happily.

For? "This year I spent over \$400 on Christmas presents for kids I don't even know. We had them delivered to my mom's house and she hands them out to a lot of kids: 'Here, honey, here's a toy!' Do it every year."

And I was congratulating myself for handing out \$100?

"You should give a \$20 to my friend Lance in there," said the candyman, Frankie G., pointing to an ancient shoeshine man in the shop next door, sound asleep on his stool. "He hasn't had any business all day."

Lance was going to use the cash to get something to eat. He looked delighted at the prospect. But first, he had a serious job to do.

"Get up here."

I climbed onto the shoeshine throne, a place I'd never been.

"He's the best," said Frankie. "He shined a pair of boots for me one time so well that when I went home I walked like this" — he pantomimed a tip-toe — "not to get them dirty. I haven't worn them since because I just like looking at them."

I like looking at mine now, too. Because if you look real close, you can see Larry Stewart smiling back up.

Lenore Skenazy is a contributing editor at the *New York Sun*. To find out more about Lenore Skenazy (lenore@lenoretown.com), and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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about someone who is so well known.

Even within the Democratic Party, she will have obstacles, and none likely to be more important than her early support for the war in Iraq and her reluctance to join those who are asking for an immediate drawdown of troops. It is a doubly difficult walk for Clinton who, as a woman, faces scrutiny that men do not on issues of national security. Bill Clinton, it seems, would find a way to recalibrate.

And that is another hurdle — having her political skills constantly compared to those of her husband.

The spur-of-the-moment polls — taken about a year before the first votes cast in the Iowa caucuses — look very good for the junior senator from New York. But they also are just this side of meaningless, given that they reflect her name recognition more than real support at this stage.

That in no way diminishes her position as this race begins, the position at the top. When the Clintons first became known nationally during the New Hampshire primary in 1992, Bill Clinton famously offered the couple as the ultimate two-for-the-price-of-one bargain.

That notion faded dramatically when Hillary Clinton was put in charge of the president's health care reform package and her popularity plummeted.

Interestingly, it was when she was seen as somewhat of a victim during the Clinton impeachment that America saw her in different light, and even started to embrace her.

Now, Hillary Clinton is testing whether the nation wants a sequel of the Clinton Era, and Clinton Standard Time.

—Michael Tackett is the Washington bureau chief for the *Chicago Times*.

State briefs

Farmers Branch revises rental law proposal

FARMERS BRANCH (AP) — City officials are pressing on with a controversial ordinance requiring apartment landlords to check the immigration status of their tenants after making revisions they hope will strengthen the Dallas suburb's legal argument in court.

City Council members approved Monday night a revised ordinance that would exempt minors and people 62 and older from having to prove their immigration status or citizenship.

Also, families made up of citizens and undocumented members would be allowed to renew an apartment lease if they meet three conditions: they're already tenants, the head of household or spouse is living legally in the United States, and the family includes only the spouse, their minor children or parents.

After hearing from dozens of speakers and each other, council members unanimously approved the revised rule, which will go to a citywide vote May 12.

Texas plans \$3 billion investment in cancer research

AUSTIN (AP) — Aiming to become a global leader in cancer research, Texas plans to invest \$3 billion over the next decade in a bid to eradicate the disease that kills more than half a million

Americans every year.

Gov. Rick Perry joined cancer fighter Lance Armstrong and about a dozen representatives from cancer research institutes across the state at a luncheon Monday to discuss the effort spawned by the September death of former Gov. Ann Richards.

Texas is already home to the Lance Armstrong Foundation and the Susan G. Komen breast cancer foundation, two of the nation's premier cancer-fighting organizations. The project will combine their efforts with research conducted by private companies, state universities, medical schools and the elite University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

In addition to giving Texans easy access to the most cutting-edge cancer treatments, the fund will draw high-tech companies and well-paying jobs to the state, Perry said.

Perry announces Operation Wrangler

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry announced Monday a statewide expansion of its border security operation that will use a surge of law enforcement to disrupt crime.

Operation Wrangler will involve more than 6,800 people from federal, state and local agencies and will use vehicles, helicopters, aircraft and watercraft against drug and human trafficking.

Perry's announcement came

almost a year after the launch of Operation Rio Grande, an effort he says reduced crime by an average of 60 percent along parts of the border during five surge operations.

The latest effort will be coordinated by the Border Security Operations Center within the State Operations Center.

Perry has activated 604 troops to deploy in platoons along parts of the Rio Grande for the operation, his office said.

A Border Patrol agent and local police officer will accompany each platoon.

Man sentenced to 15 years for smuggling deaths

HOUSTON (AP) — A South Texas smuggling ring member who helped recruit a truck driver who transported a group of illegal immigrants in what became the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt was sentenced to 15 years in prison Monday.

Fredy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar, 27, had been convicted in December 2004 on 39 counts of conspiracy and transporting illegal immigrants for his role in a May 2003 smuggling attempt in which 19 people died.

He was acquitted by a jury on 19 counts of harboring illegal immigrants.

Garcia-Tobar, who was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore, could have been given up to life in prison.

Appeals court reverses sentences for 4

MIDLAND (AP) — A federal appeals court has reversed the sentences for four Aryan Circle members convicted in a methamphetamine trafficking ring.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found in its ruling Monday there was insufficient evidence that the four were leaders of a "continual criminal enterprise."

The court reversed the convictions of Michael Curtis "Bones" Lewis, 39, and Malachi David Wren, 36, and reversed the enhanced sentences given to Leonard Duane "Radar" Griffith, 45, and Michael Norris Martin, 43.

The cases for all four were remanded to the lower court for resentencing on conspiracy to manufacture and distribute more than 500 grams of a substance or mixture containing methamphetamine. Lewis and Wren were not initially sentenced on those charges because of the life sentence they received for continuing criminal enterprise. Griffith and Martin were given enhanced sentences on the conspiracy charge for leadership roles, but the court said there was insufficient evidence they were leaders in the drug trafficking.

Aryan Circle has been described as a white supremacist prison gang. The men were convicted in 2004.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Klassen said he expects the men to remain in prison for a long time.

"Not a single one of these defendants got their sentences reversed in that they would be released from jail; the most significant thing about it is there were two defendants who had their continuing criminal enterprises reversed," Klassen said. "They're going to be sent back to resentencing and I would suspect they're still going to get very, very long sentences, so the bottom line is these folks are still going to be in jail for a very long period of time."

Frank McCallum and Kirk Meade, who represented Lewis and Wren, said their clients were happy with the decision.

"If anything, Mike Lewis was a user of methamphetamine and not a leader of any sort of meth trade," McCallum said. "The court did not accept the governments' notion that the Aryan Circle was in and of itself responsible for the meth trade in the Odessa area."

Meade said Lewis and Wren probably would be re-sentenced for the conspiracy charge.

"I had no huge problem with Malachi's being convicted of conspiracy," Meade said. "I never felt we had a good chance of avoiding that, but I felt the evidence was insufficient to support a conviction for supervising more than five people and operating a continuing criminal enterprise."

Other best-picture nominees were the bloody crime saga "The Departed," the World War II spectacle "Letters From Iwo Jima," the road-trip comedy "Little Miss Sunshine" and the monarchy-in-crisis chronicle "The Queen."

Going into nominations day, the best-picture competition looks unusually wide open, with no consensus on a favorite. With "Dreamgirls," a Golden Globe winner out of the race, the best picture competition was even more up for grabs.

But front-runners in all four acting categories nabbed nominations and seem poised to come home with Oscars on Feb. 25: Helen Mirren for best actress as British monarch Elizabeth II in "The Queen"; Forest Whitaker for best actor as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland"; and Eddie Murphy and former "American Idol" finalist Jennifer Hudson

'Dreamgirls' gets 8 Oscar nominations, but shut out of best-picture category

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The peppy "Dreamgirls" led Academy Awards contenders Tuesday with eight nominations, but surprisingly was shut out in the best picture category after being considered a potential front-runner.

The sweeping ensemble drama "Babel" was close behind with seven, including best picture and acting honors for two newcomers to U.S. audiences, Adriana Barraza and Rinko Kikuchi.

Other best-picture nominees were the bloody crime saga "The Departed," the World War II spectacle "Letters From Iwo Jima," the road-trip comedy "Little Miss Sunshine" and the monarchy-in-crisis chronicle "The Queen."

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as soulful singers in "Dreamgirls." All four preceded the Oscar nominations with wins at the Golden Globes.

Oscar attention is a new experience for Murphy, whose fast-talking persona has brought him devoted audiences but little awards acclaim in his 25-year career. For Hudson, the nomination caps a speedy rise to stardom with her first film role, just two years after making her name on "American Idol."

The best-actress category featured a 14th nomination for two-time Oscar winner Meryl Streep, padding her record as the most-nominated actor ever, this time as a demonically demanding boss in "The Devil Wears Prada."

Joining Mirren and Streep as best-actress nominees were Penelope Cruz as a woman dealing with bizarre domestic crises in "Volver"; Judi Dench as a scheming teacher in "Notes on a Scandal"; and Kate Winslet as a woman in an affair with a neighbor in "Little Children."

Other best-actor nominees were Leonardo DiCaprio as a mercenary hunting a rare gem in "Blood Diamond"; Ryan Gosling as a teacher with a drug addiction in "Half Nelson"; Peter O'Toole as a lecherous old actor in "Venus"; and Will Smith as a homeless dad in "The Pursuit of Happyness."



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CLEAN ROY RACCOON

Clean Roy Raccoon was not always called by that name. He was almost named Dirty Roy. This is how he came to be known as Clean Roy. It is a story about Roy and tells of him from the time he was a little bitty raccoon, how he got that name, and why he will always keep it.

When Roy was a very little raccoon, he was very messy. His raccoon room was always cluttered. His raccoon home was in need of repair and he needed help learning how to be clean, too. Oh, he always took a bath every day just as you and I do, but he was just sloppy with everything else.

Roy was just a little raccoon when his parents let him go to live all by himself. Many birds and animals leave their little ones to learn to care for themselves when they are very young. This makes them strong and wise.

They soon learn how to protect themselves and take care of themselves, too. Roy learned how to protect himself, but it was a very long time before he learned how to clean up his

room and his house, and food, too.

Have you ever seen a raccoon? They are very cute, aren't they? But, we must remember they are wild animals and they want to

be left alone to live their lives in the woods. Have you ever seen them when they seem to be washing

their food before they eat it? Some people think they are just softening up their food when they dip it in the water, but they sure do look like they are washing it, don't they? Well, Roy didn't learn to dip his food in the water until the day he became sick. And, all of the other raccoons don't care what people say about softening up their food, they want their food clean so they wash it. Roy didn't see the other raccoons washing their food so he didn't know how, until it was almost too late!

Roy had spent the whole day looking for food, just like all of the other raccoons. He found some of the foods he loved and

some he didn't like too much, but he ate it anyway because he was hungry and had to eat whatever he could find. You and I are very lucky that we have enough food to eat and most of the time, it will be something we love to eat. What is your favorite food? I love beans. All kinds of beans.

Roy had found some vegetables to eat that day. They were good vegetables most of the time, but not this time. They had been left in the woods near Roy's cluttered home. Someone had thrown them away because they had some bad stuff on them. Perhaps they were thrown away because someone had spilled things on them. We may never know what was on those vegetables.

Roy did know that the farmers in his neighborhood would never put anything bad in their fields when they were growing their vegetables. The farmers were always very sure that they had the very best, healthiest vegetables that could ever be grown.

The vegetables looked so good. Especially those carrots. Roy took all of them home with him. He did not wash them. He ate them. It was not very long before Roy was not feeling well. He became sicker and sicker.

Poor little Roy was very sick.

When Mailman Mole came to deliver Roy's mail that day, he knew that something was wrong. Roy always greeted Mailman Mole with a warm smile, and a very nice, "Good Morning." Roy was not there to greet him!

He knocked on Roy's door. No one answered. He knocked again. No one answered. He opened Roy's door and found poor little Roy, lying in bed, unable to speak. Roy was so sick.

Very quickly, Mailman Mole called the raccoon doctor. The raccoon doctor came just as fast as his legs would carry him. He looked at Roy. "You have eaten some bad food, haven't you?" He said. I have just the thing to make you feel better. He gave Roy the medicine. In a very little while, Roy was feeling much better.

"What did you eat, Roy?" the raccoon doctor asked. "I ate some of those carrots," said Roy, as he pointed to the leftover carrots still sitting on his kitchen table. The raccoon doctor looked at the carrots. Then put one close to his nose and sniffed. "These carrots have something bad on them."

Did you wash them before you ate them?" "No," said Roy, "Am I supposed to wash them before I eat them? I never have washed my food." "You have been very lucky, Roy. Have you ever seen a raccoon eat anything before they

washed it? We always wash our food. If you had washed your carrots, you would not be sick now." Poor little Roy had left home before he was taught how to wash his food. But, he would always wash everything before he ate it from now on.

Roy had learned his lesson. He learned that he must keep everything clean. Not only his food, but his bedroom and his whole house. He started cleaning that very day. Now his house is the cleanest one in Raccoonville. And that's how he came to be known as Clean Roy Raccoon.

He has his home completely clean right now. He is lying in his raccoon bed, thinking of how he will wash his next meal and he wants me to tell you, "Good Night!"

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Bird Poop: A proud raptor fights for life

Partially folding its wings, the bird dove toward the meadowlark on the side of the road. At the last moment, the field bird took flight. As it chased and gained on the escaping prey, the larger bird suddenly pulled away. Ahead was heavy brush that offered a haven to its intended meal.



BEBE McCASLAND

Gliding up into a tree, the hunter, after a while, noticed movement on top of a post located near a farm house. With a powerful, rapid beat of its wings, the raptor closed in on the animal atop the post. As its talons closed upon the bait, a searing pain grabbed one of its feet and part of another.

With wings flapping to maintain balance, the bird fought to free itself from the metal clamped on its toes. Never had it experienced such excruciating, stabbing pulses in its body. Try as it could, the raptor was now aware that the thing would not let go. Tiring, and in

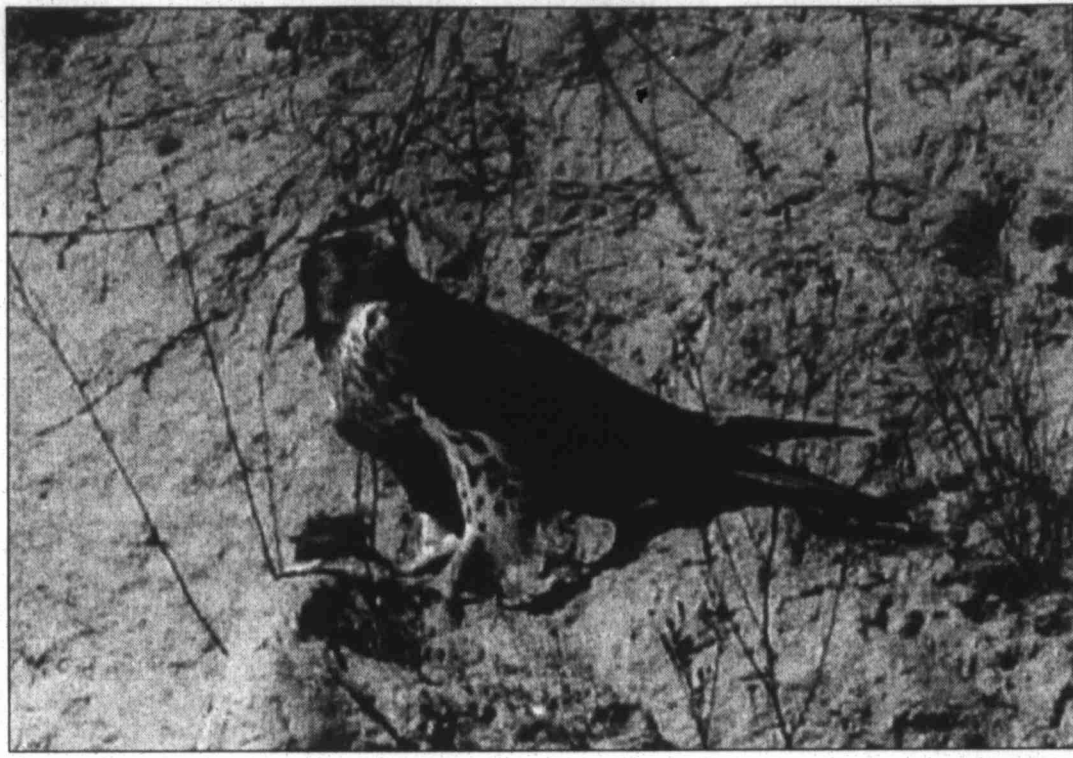
agony, it fell toward the side of the post.

Twisted and strained, the hunter's legs began to ache. Struggling to right itself with its wings, the large bird kept striking the coyote fencing. About to make one more desperate effort to escape, the raptor felt its wings being pushed to its sides. Then its feet were freed from whatever was biting them. Unable to resist the strong hands of the person who had freed it, the bird was placed in a cardboard box. Darkness was a welcome reprieve.

As we pulled into our driveway, we noticed a large container had been placed on our porch. "Can't seem to even get in the front door without a bird," we thought. Our euphoria from a vacation was interrupted by the reality of a possibly injured bird.

Opening the folded top, we were greeted by the penetrating eyes of a prairie falcon. The light brown, barred feathers of its upper part were a sharp contrast to the creamy-white underside streaked with brown spots. With a dark mark below its eyes, and a white line over each eye, the bird had the telltale notched beak of a falcon.

Our vacation to



Even though the prairie falcon is similar to a peregrine falcon in length, wingspan, and speed, the "prairie" is able to fly to greater altitudes because of its lighter build.

Colorado the year before had included a drive over Engineer's Pass in September. When we had reached a little over 11,000 feet, we were entertained by a kettle of prairie falcons. Catching a thermal, the birds ascended in a widening circle in preparation for their fall migration. As golden eagles approached, they were harassed by these aggressive birds. To hold falco mexicanus the following

year was "deja vu."

Laying the falcon on its back, we extended the wings. The typical black arm-pits we had noticed before were prominent. From the ground, it was a reliable identifying mark that a peregrine falcon would not have. Where the bird had flapped against something with one of its wings was a hairline fracture. With time and confinement, the bone would heal itself.

The feet were more troublesome.

Deep impressions in three toes of one foot, and one toe of the other, indicated the prairie falcon had been a victim of a pole trap. Discoloration was evident, and the outcome questionable. Unable to hold its food for tearing, the falcon would require minced bites of food. Accustomed to ground squirrels, rabbits, young prairie dogs, small

birds, and insects, the bird was easily convinced to eat mice, crickets and beef heart. Road kill from friends in the country completed the menu.

When I spoke with a director of a wildlife sanctuary, she commented that she doubted we would ever know who put the falcon on our porch. The cause for such a crippling and possibly lethal device might have been the raising of fighting cocks.

Although the falcon's broken bone knitted, and it would some day fly again, its feet had been compromised. The damage caused by the trap resulted in the four toes falling off the bird. While it could stand and balance, it would never be able to catch and hold the food it sought.

Since there was a need for this specie in an educational setting, the prairie falcon was allowed another chance. With its winter diet dependent upon animals indigenous to open country, the falcon could be used to inform the public of the importance of prairie environments.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

Nothing changes your perspective like babies

Isn't it strange how we change our perceptions? I was flipping through some articles the other day and ran across some very interesting things that show the variation and humor of mother's ideas on birth order. If you have children you will surely identify with these. The older the mother, the more understanding and funny this is.



DARRELL RYAN

A mother's clothes: First baby: You begin wearing maternity clothes as soon as your OB/GYN confirms your pregnancy. Second baby: You wear your regular clothes for as long as possible. Third baby: Your maternity clothes ARE your regular clothes.

A mother preparing for the Birth: First baby: You practice your breathing religiously. Second baby: You don't bother because you remember that last time, breathing didn't do a thing. Third baby: You ask for an epidural in your eighth month.

A mother preparing the baby's clothes: First baby: You pre-wash newborn's clothes, color-coordinate them, and fold them neatly in the baby's little bureau. Second baby: You check to make sure that the clothes are clean and discard only the ones with the darkest stains. Third baby: Boys can wear pink, can't they?

A mother's worries: First baby: At the first sign of distress — a whimper, a frown — you pick up the baby. Second baby: You pick the baby up when her walls threaten to wake your firstborn. Third baby: You teach

your 3-year-old how to rewind the mechanical swing.

About a Pacifier: First baby: If the pacifier falls on the floor, you put it away until you can go home and wash and boil it. Second baby: When the pacifier falls on the floor, you squirt it off with some juice from the baby's bottle. Third baby: You wipe it off and pop it back in.

About Diapering: First baby: You change your baby's diapers every hour, whether they need it or not. Second baby: You change their diaper every two to three hours, if needed. Third baby: You try to change their diaper before others start to complain about the smell or you see it sagging to their knees.

About Activities: First baby: You take your infant to Baby Gymnastics, Baby Swing and Baby Story Hour. Second baby: You take your infant to Baby Gymnastics. Third baby: You take your infant to the supermarket and the dry cleaner.

Parent's Corner

About Going Out: First baby: The first time you leave your baby with a sitter, you call home five times. Second baby: Just before you walk out the door, you remember to leave a number where you can be reached. Third baby: You leave instructions for the sitter to call only if she sees blood.

While at Home: First baby: You spend a good bit of every day just gazing at the baby. Second

baby: You spend a bit of everyday watching to be sure your older child isn't squeezing, poking, or hitting the baby. Third baby: You spend a little bit of every day hiding from the children.

About Swallowing Coins (a favorite): First child: When first child swallows a coin, you rush the child to the hospital and demand x-rays. Second child: When second child swallows a coin,

you carefully watch for the coin to pass. Third child: When third child swallows a coin you deduct it from his allowance!

About GRANDCHILDREN: God's reward for allowing your children to live!

Darrell Ryan is the Big Spring Independent School District director of federal programs.

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If you think you're too young for a heart attack, here's some important news. You're not.

SYMPTOMS OF A HEART ATTACK:
Chest pain or pressure
Pain in the back, neck or jaw
Pain in one or both arms
Nausea, vomiting or fatigue
Lightheadedness or cold sweat
Shortness of breath

er4 When experiencing the symptoms of a heart attack, time is critical. Get to the Emergency Room for diagnosis and treatment. Because knowing the symptoms of a heart attack is important and knowing what to do about them could save your life.

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News in brief

Group says Al-Qaida No. 2 mocks new U.S. surge strategy for Iraq in new videotape

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Al-Qaida's deputy leader mocked President Bush's plan to send more troops to Iraq, challenging him to send "the entire army," according to a new al-Qaida videotape released by a U.S. group that tracks terror messages.

Excerpts from the video were distributed Monday by the Washington-based SITE Institute, which said it had intercepted the footage of Ayman al-Zawahri. The tape had not yet been posted on Islamic militant Web sites, where his messages are usually placed.

Al-Zawahri said the U.S. strategy for Iraq, outlined by Bush in a Jan. 9 speech, was doomed to fail.

"I ask him, why send 20,000 (troops) only — why not send 50 or 100 thousand? Aren't you aware that the dogs of Iraq are pining for your troops' dead bodies?" said al-Zawahri in the footage released by SITE, an independent group that researches and analyzes terror-related intelligence.

"So send your entire army to be annihilated at the hands of the mujahideen (holy warriors) to free the world from your evil," he said, "because Iraq, land of the Caliphate and Jihad, is able to bury 10 armies like yours, with Allah's help and power."

Suicide bomber kills 10 people, wounds 14 outside U.S. base in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A bomber blew himself up amid a crowd of workers outside a U.S. military base in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing 10 and wounding at least 14 others in the deadliest suicide attack in four months, officials said.

The attacker triggered explosives strapped to his chest among the workers as they lined up outside the base in the city of Khost, said Jamal Arsalah, the governor of Khost province.

Maj. Matt Hackathorn, a U.S. military spokesman, said there was no immediate word of any U.S. military casualties.

The governor, who visited the scene shortly after the explosion, said the Afghan casualties were among hundreds of workers waiting to enter the base, known as Camp Salerno, through its main gate.

An Associated Press Television News cameraman saw the bodies of five men, drenched in blood, in the city's military hospital. Relatives of the dead and injured mobbed the hospital seeking news of their loved ones.

Hezbollah-led protesters enforce strike aimed at toppling the government in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Hezbollah-led protesters paralyzed Lebanon Tuesday by burning tires and cars on major thoroughfares in and around the capital to enforce a general strike that aims to topple the government.

Clustering in small groups to man the blazing roadblocks, opposition supporters escalated their nearly two-month protest. Commuters were stranded and silence hung over many commercial districts amid reports of scattered violence.

Police said seven people suffered gunshot wounds in disturbances between supporters of the guerrilla group and pro-government activists in central and northern Lebanon. Michel Aoun, a senior opposition leader, told Al-Arabiya television that the wounded were all members of the opposition.

Police and troops deployed in the thousands across the country worked to open roads, sometimes negotiating with protesters, but refraining from using force. In some instances, the military separated the opposition and government supporters, who scuffled and hurled rocks and insults.

Petraeus faces questioning as GOP opposition to troop increase grows

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's decision to send more troops to Iraq evoked increasing Republican opposition as a Democratic-led Senate panel prepared tough questioning for the man who would carry out the plan as the new war commander.

Lt. Gen. David Petraeus was to testify Tuesday in a bid for his fourth star and command of the Iraq war. Petraeus would replace Gen. George Casey, who has been tapped to become the next Army chief of staff, officials said.

Petraeus, a former division commander and once the head of the Iraqi training mission, is considered a shoo-in for the position.

Devoted early in the war to trying to win the hearts and minds of Iraqis, Petraeus later wrote the Pentagon manual on how to tackle insurgencies. He also previously supported expanding U.S. forces in the region.

But Petraeus will have a tough sell before the Senate Armed Services Committee, which must approve his nomination, if he is going to back the president in sending 21,500 troops in addition to the estimated 130,000 already there.

New passport rules to go into effect for air travelers

ATLANTA (AP) — Americans flying to Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean made sure to bring their passports because of a new rule going into effect Tuesday that requires them to show one to get back into the country.

Only about a quarter of U.S. citizens hold valid passports, and most Americans are accustomed to traveling to neighboring countries with just a driver's license or birth certificate, which have long been sufficient to get through airport customs on the trip home.

The new regulations requiring passports were adopted by Congress in 2004 to secure the borders against terrorists.



Morgan Palace and Abba, her black Labrador retriever, take a ride on a sled in Wichita, Kan. Saturday. Marc Benavidez/Wichita Eagle-Record

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

6	3				2	9
			8	4	6	
4	9		2			1
1	2		7			4
	6				9	
8	1		9			7
5	4		3			2
			5	2	8	
7	4				5	3

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Contract Bridge

Let's Not Rock the Boat

North dealer, vulnerable, East-West vulnerable.

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♦ 193
♥ AQ 10 9 8
♠ AQ
♣ J 10 9

WEST
♦ 5 4 2
♥ K J 6
♠ 10 9 8 5 4
♣ AQ

EAST
♦ Q 10 8 7
♥ 7 4 2
♠ 7 6 3 2
♣ 6 3

SOUTH
♦ A K 6
♥ 5 3
♠ K J
♣ K 8 7 5 4 2

The bidding:
North: 1♥ Pass
East: Pass
South: 2♦ Pass
West: 3NT Pass

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

When you are a defender and see declarer pursuing a line of play that will lead to defeat, you should do everything possible to keep him on that course.

Consider this deal where West made an excellent play that led to South's downfall. Declarer won the diamond lead in dummy with the queen, East showing interest in the suit by signaling with the six.

West noted that declarer had

played the jack on the queen and inferred that South had started with the doubleton K-J. At the same time, West also noted that South could make five heart tricks by taking a double finesse in that suit.

So when declarer led the jack of clubs from dummy at trick two and let it ride, West won the trick with the ace! This naturally created the impression in South's mind that East had the queen of clubs.

West then returned a diamond, the A-K falling together on the trick. Declarer now led the ten of clubs from dummy and repeated the finesse against East's presumed queen. To his dismay, West won and cashed three diamond tricks, and South went down one.

Now let's suppose West had won the first club lead with the queen and returned a diamond. South would no doubt have recognized the futility of continuing with clubs and shifted his attention to hearts, where he would have reaped a rich harvest with the aid of the double finesse.

West realized at the outset that South was headed up the wrong road by attempting to establish clubs, and he encouraged declarer to continue on that course with his clever false-card at trick two.

Tomorrow: A comprehensive diagnosis.
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A Gold Mine in Bedroom Drawers

Newswire: People are selling their old scrap gold that is gathering dust for its cash value because gold prices are so high. With the price of gold at a 25 year high, it makes sense to recycle unwanted items for cash. ScrapGold.com, a large gold recycler, offers free insured recycle kits so people may cash in their scrap with 24 hour service and guarantee satisfaction.

They accept broken and outdated items like chains, charms, rings and more. "Everyone has bits of gold just lying around which can be turned into cash," says Richard Zakroff, Founder. "Even old dental gold has value." ScrapGold.com has been in business for over 16 years and has served over 800,000 clients. Request a FREE GoldKit at 800-283-4700 or ScrapGold.com.

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Laugh Lines

How do you keep bagels from being stolen?
Put lox on them!

— 'BEST RIDDLE BOOK EVER'

What do you call a frozen policeman?
A copscicle!

KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"I don't know why people think child actresses in particular are screwed up. I see kids everywhere who are totally bored. I've never been bored a day in my life."

— Jodie Foster, in 1980 in *People* magazine. Foster, once a child actor, has developed a successful career as an adult.

NO CHILDREN HERE

Network TV shows used to be loaded with young actors. Where did they all go?

By EMILIE LE BEAU
Chicago Tribune

Plop down for a night of network television, and it's all the same. Grown-ups on detective shows. Grown-ups on sitcoms. Grown-ups on reality shows. So where are all the kid actors?

Network television used to be filled with young stars, such as the "Cosby Show" and "Brady Bunch" kids. But child actors no longer are household names. Lots of kids know every child actor on the Disney Channel and Nickelodeon, but everyone used to know the young network stars. What happened?

"Popularity is a lot harder" today, says Walter J. Podrazik of the Museum of Broadcast Communications in Chicago. That is especially true for TV stars because Americans have more home-entertainment options.

"It's such a different television universe," Podrazik says.

Kids now can choose among hundreds of cable channels and DVDs for home entertainment. But in the past, most families didn't have home videos or cable television.

Blockbuster Video, for example, didn't open until 1986. Cable also was still developing, and the Disney Channel wasn't created until 1983.

For kids growing up in the 1950s through the 1980s, network television was the only option. That meant kid stars were more recognizable and memorable.

But those days are gone. Now a kid can enjoy a show such as the CW's "7th Heaven," but with so many other options, he or she may be the only one in his or her peer group to like a show, Podrazik says.

TV tastes are another reason for the on-screen kid shortage. Podrazik says kids often star on family sitcoms, but story lines began changing in the mid-1990s. Instead of shows about families, such as "Full House" and "Family Matters," Podrazik says audiences wanted shows about singles, such as "Seinfeld" and "Friends."

Shows about unmarried urban adults don't usually star kids. Crime dramas also don't have kid actors as recurring characters. Shows such as "Law & Order" and "CSI" became popular around 2000 and have spawned several spinoffs, Podrazik says.

Sure, some shows such as "Desperate Housewives" have kid actors, but these shows are aimed at adults. Other shows, such as "Veronica Mars," are aimed at young viewers, but feature actors in their 20s, Podrazik says.

Cable channels such as Disney and Nickelodeon are stations where kids can watch kid actors. Greta A., 12, says she likes watching other kids on television. "You can relate to the things happening to them," she says.

But Greta doesn't watch a lot of network television and says the shows on Disney and Nick feel too young. So she usually watches non-kid shows. "I watch Food Network a lot," Greta says. "I like the shows 'Unwrapped' and 'Iron Chef.'"

And network television isn't likely to star young actors to whom kids can relate anytime soon. Ongoing story lines such as those in "Lost" and "24" are very popular. Podrazik says similar shows are expected to air in the next few seasons.

These shows are aimed at older viewers, but sometimes include kid actors. NBC's new show "Heroes," for example, stars Noah Gray-Cabey, 10.

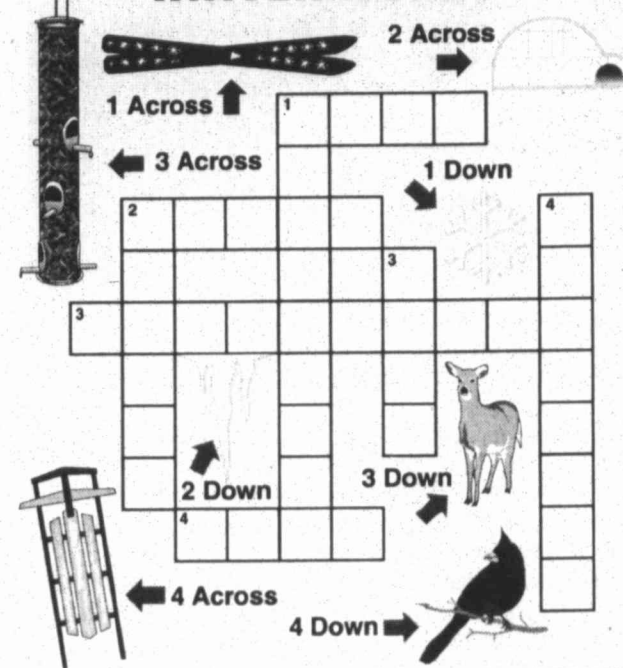
Without a lot of kid-friendly network shows, Greta watches child stars on DVDs of classic shows. She likes the 1970s show "Little House on the Prairie," because she also reads the books. She also likes the 1960s series "Petticoat Junction" and "Here Come the Brides." "I think a lot of the older shows are way funnier than anything on TV now," Greta says.



The crime dramas "Law & Order," above, and "CSI" became so popular that spinoffs were created.



WINTER WORDS



In The News

Iraqis react to the death of Saddam Hussein

Sunni Muslims in Iraq are protesting the death of the country's former dictator, Saddam Hussein. Hussein, a Sunni Muslim, was put to death on Dec. 30. While Sunni Muslims demonstrated in anger, Shiite Muslims celebrated news of Hussein's death.



HUSSEIN ON TRIAL

Hussein's trial began in October 2005, almost two years after U.S. forces captured him. It ended last July, when he was found guilty of committing crimes against humanity. Hussein was sentenced to death by hanging on Nov. 5. He was convicted for his role in killing 148 people in an Iraqi Shiite Muslim village.

Saddam's death sentence and the way it was carried out has angered Sunni Muslims. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has ordered an investigation into Hussein's execution. Sunni mourners have demonstrated in and around Baghdad and in Tikrit, Hussein's hometown. Shiites who suffered under Hussein's rule continue celebrating his death.

Hussein ruled Iraq from 1979 to 2003. He is believed to be responsible for as many as 30,000 deaths. Many Iraqis say that Hussein tortured, jailed or killed those who stood up to him.



Children join in the celebration of the death of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, Iraq, on Dec. 30.

VIOLENCE SPREADS THROUGH IRAQ

As Iraqis reacted strongly to Hussein's death, violence continued throughout Iraq. On Jan. 2, police in Baghdad said 45 people had been killed in and around the city. And more people have been killed since then.

In the last year alone, Iraqi officials reported that 16,273 Iraqis were killed in fighting across the country. That number includes 14,298 civilians, 1,348 police officers and 627 soldiers. More than 3,000 Americans have died in Iraq since the war began more than three years ago.

— Dina El Nabli

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Try This

Blueberry bubble soda

Looking for an unusual snack? Sip a yummy drink with pop-proof bubbles. Invented in Asia and now popping up all around the world, bubble tea gets its name from the chewy tapioca pearls it contains. Our version adds real bubbles (by trading soda for tea) and a scoop of ice cream for good, sweet measure.

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup large-pearl tapioca
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons blueberry syrup
- 6 teaspoons heavy cream (optional)
- 1 1/2 cups fresh blueberries
- 3 to 6 cups ginger ale
- 6 scoops vanilla ice cream

DIRECTIONS

To prepare the tapioca, pour it into a bowl or

jar, cover it with several inches of water, and soak it for 8 hours or overnight.

Bring 4 cups of water to a boil in a medium saucepan. Drain the tapioca and stir it into the boiling water. Bring it to a slow boil. Reduce the heat to low, cover, and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 45 minutes or until the pearls are clear. Using a colander, drain and rinse the tapioca with warm water to remove excess starch.

Stir together the tapioca and the syrup in a small bowl. For each soda, pour 1/2 cup of the syrup mixture into a tall glass and stir in 1 teaspoon of cream, if you're using it. Add 1/4 cup of blueberries and 1/2 to 1 cup of ginger ale, leaving some room at the top, then add a scoop of ice cream. Serve with a straw and a spoon.

Makes 6 bubble sodas.

— FamilyFun magazine

Wacky Facts

KIDS WHO MADE HISTORY

How much do you know about kids in history who made their mark on the world?

Shirley Temple, one of the most famous child movie stars of all time, acted in how many movies before she turned 12?

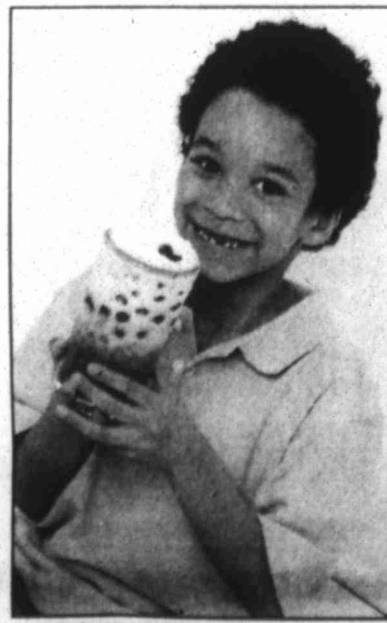
- A. 6 B. 18 C. 27 D. 44

Answer: Temple, who became famous in the 1930s, performed in 57 movies during her career — 44 by the time she was 12 years old. She eventually quit acting and became a government official serving under four presidents.



Fun fact: Temple is probably the only kid to have a cocktail named after her. A "Shirley Temple" is made with lemon-lime soda, grenadine syrup and a cherry on top. It's non-alcoholic, of course!

— "World Almanac for Kids: Yo! I Know Brain-Building Quizzes"



IN BRIEF

Big Spring High returns to the court

The Big Spring Steers tennis team will hit the courts this afternoon as they host Snyder at 3:30 p.m.

The Lady Steers basketball team will tip-off against Plainview at 4:30 p.m. in the Steer Gym.

The Steers basketball team will return to action when they host Plainview following the Lady Steers in the Steer Gym.

San Antonio Spurs knock off Celtics



Tim Duncan thought his latest victory over Boston should have been easier.

Duncan remained unbeaten against the Celtics, finishing with 21 points and nine rebounds to help the San Antonio Spurs hold on for a 93-89 victory Monday night.

See Page 2 B

Little League needs board members

Coahoma Boy's Little League Baseball is in need of 2007 Board Members.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Tish Hill at 213-3189 or be e-mail at coahomapss@yahoo.com

Jerry Jones makes statement on Coach

"I'd first like to say that my respect and appreciation for Bill Parcells has only grown since the first day he joined the Dallas Cowboys. "It is a relationship that was structured around the fundamental element of applying all of our joint resources, energy and efforts into winning and being successful in every aspect of the organization.

"We are now prepared to move forward as an organization and pursue our goals of achieving at the highest level with the same dedication and enthusiasm.

"From an ownership and general manager's perspective, Bill's coaching the Cowboys represented a willingness to embrace a different philosophy and approach toward winning. This experience will reinforce that willingness to be flexible."

Howard women seek answers in loss

MIKE GRIMES
Sports Editor

In search of a point guard to run the show, the Howard Hawks women's basketball team struggled offensively Monday and went more than 10 minutes without scoring a basket in the 48-35 home loss to Western Texas (13-6, 1-2).

The Hawks are now 10-9 on the season and have lost four straight conference games in the absence of Zantel Watson, the one-time starting guard who, for personal reasons, chose to not return to school this semester.

Candace Lambert scored 9 points and Kandace Griffin and Monica Jones added 7 each to lead the Hawks in scoring. Sara Rondeau had 6 points at the half, but was unable to get to the basket in the final 20 minutes of play.

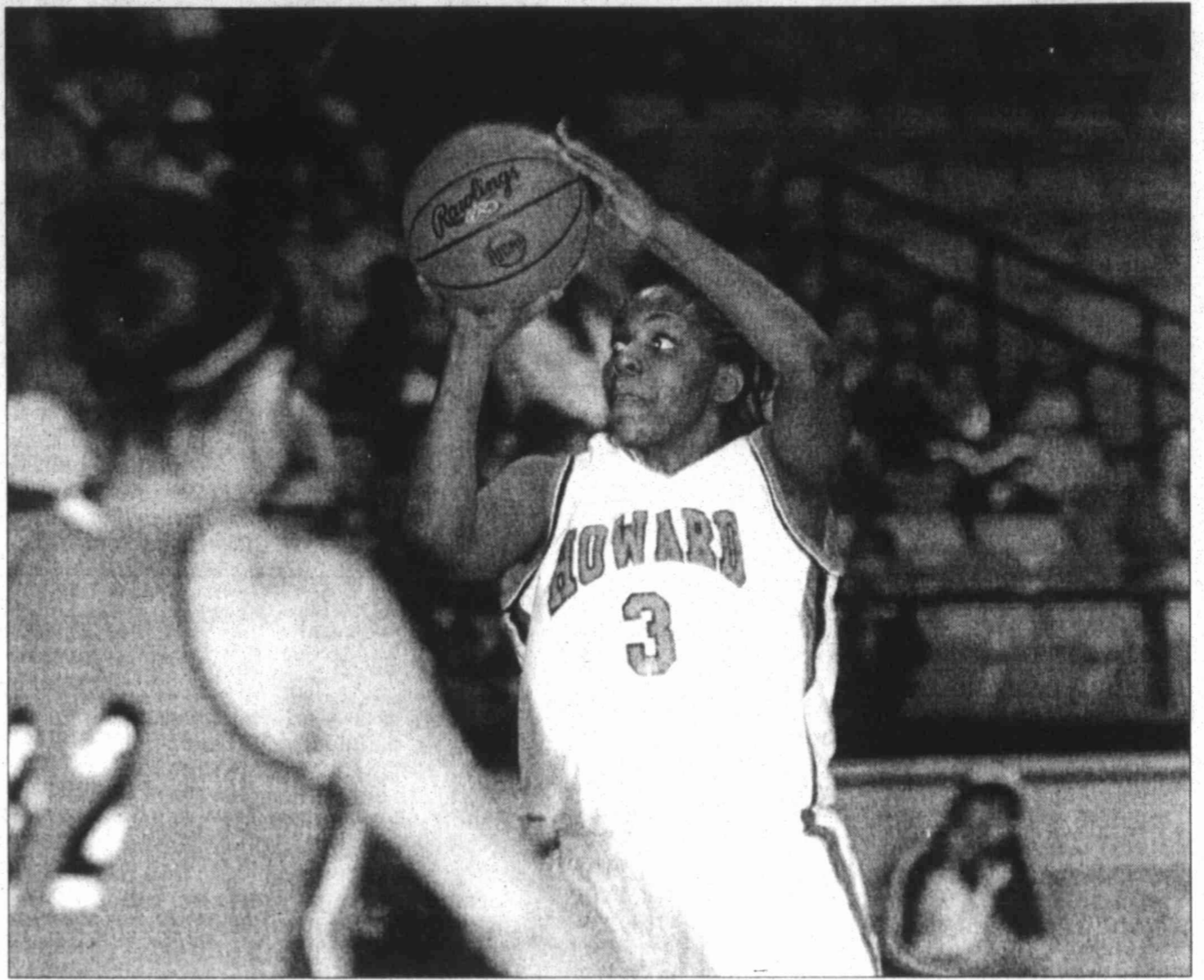
"This is something we have seen before," Earl Diddle, the Hawks head coach said after the loss. "It was the same thing when we went up to South Plains last week — their big players are obviously just better than ours and their team played a lot more aggressive than ours did."

After opening the game with a 14-4 advantage, the Hawks went cold from the field.

Ice cold.

Howard's women shot a dismal 29 percent in the half and they were outrebounded 21-15, as the visiting Lady Westerners went on a 21-2 run to take a 25-16 lead at the half. During this stretch the Hawks were unable to score a basket for the final 10:32.

"Defense, that was the key to



HERALD photo/Mike Grimes
Hawk's guard Candace Lambert pulls up for two of her game high 9 points in the loss to Western Texas Monday night. The Howard women are now 0-4 in conference play.

victory tonight," explained Western Texas' coach Tammy Davis. "Our kids got down early and we had to take a timeout to get everything under control. We had to pull everything together,

do a little adjusting and buckle down defensively. That was the difference.

"Howard's a good basketball team and we knew that coming in here tonight. This was just a

great defensive performance by our team."

For the game, the Lady Westerners shot 35 percent and

See HOWARD, Page 2B

Howard men route Western Texas for first conference win

MIKE GRIMES
Sports Editor

The wait is over, the Howard Hawks men's basketball team now has a conference win.

It took much longer than head coach Mark Adams anticipated, but the Hawks' (13-4, 1-3 in conference) 84-46 blowout victory over Western Texas (9-7, 1-2) was the kind of game that makes a statement.

After being down 3 points to start the game and then 6-2 after the second 3-point basket by Brawley Chisholm, the Hawks went to work as a team.

Taking charges, diving for loose balls, dominating the boards and putting the pedal to the floor on offense were not things that the Howard team had been doing much of for the past month.

"Personally, I knew that I had to come out and set the tone early," said Hawks Terrence Hill, who led all scorers with 14 points in the first half. "I knew my teammates would be right behind me — we're tired of losing."

Less than 10 minutes into the game, the Hawks enjoyed a 5 point lead. Unlike the previous three conference games, this lead would not be surrendered.

Starting guards Hill and Catrell Currie came out blazing to hit 7-of-11 from the field and nailed all 5 free throw attempts between them. Western Texas had no answer for the athletic Hill and sharp shooting Currie. The duo, starting together for the first time, looked in sync and as if they had been playing together for years.

"This may have been a coming out party for Catrell," Adams said after the win. "He was a great high school player

and we just told him that tonight he was going to get his chance."

Currie made the most of his chance, scoring 18 points and shooting 70 percent from the field.

With 5:00 to play, Howard flashed a zone defense, a rarity for the Hawks, and then jumped back into man-to-man as they caused back-to-back turnovers and dunked their way to a 41-25 halftime lead.

At the break the Hawks were shooting over 55 percent from the field and over 75 percent from the free throw line — something they failed to accomplish during the losing streak.

"Over the past few days we stressed the importance of getting back to the fundamentals of the game," Adams added. "We talked about playing team defense and giving effort ... I thought this was a great team win and I think we showed quite a bit of character to come back and play this well after all our losses."

During the losing streak the Hawks gave up double-digit second half leads, but any thoughts the Westerners might have had about making a second half comeback were answered in the early minutes of the second half.

Coming out of the locker room, Howard extended its lead to more than 20 points in the first five minutes and then forward Dan Sencanski got hot.

Sencanski lit up the second half by scoring 17 points — hitting jumpers from all over the court as he nailed 8-of-9 second half shots.

With guards Hill and Currie dishing the ball, both had a team high 4 assists,

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HERALD photo/Mike Grimes
Howard Hawk's Brandon Sampay shoots over a Western Texas player in Monday night action at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Hawks won 84-46.

Retirement or 'retirement' for Parcells?

By DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

— In the late 1970s, Bill Parcells accepted a job to become linebackers coach of the New York Giants. He then backed out, persuaded by his wife and daughters to stay in Colorado, where he had been head coach at Air Force.

In 1980, he got the same job with the New England Patriots. A year after that, he became the Giants' defensive coordinator, joining a rookie linebacker named Lawrence Taylor.

A quarter-century later, he has left football — or so he says.

"Bill can always tell you his game plan for the next three games. But he rarely can tell you what he'll do the next day, let alone the next month or the next year," the late George Young, Parcells' boss during eight seasons in which he won his only two Super Bowls, often said.

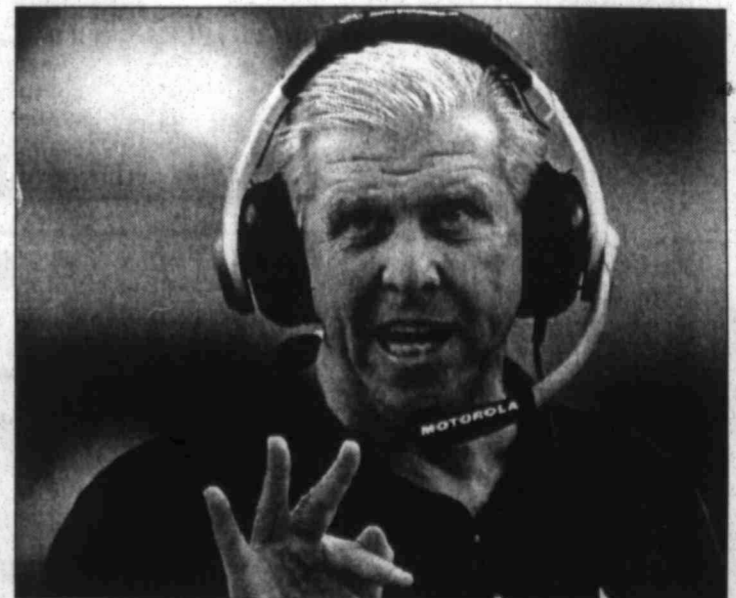
Which raises a question: Is Parcells' retirement as the Cowboys' coach really more a "retirement."

He's said to have put out feelers about coming back to New Jersey to take the Giants' general manager job that was filled from within by Jerry Reese. And there are expected to be a number of coaching vacancies after next season — New York's Tom Coughlin, a Parcells disciple, could be one and so could Joe Gibbs, his longtime rival in Washington.

Young knew Parcells as well as anyone.

As the Giants' general

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MCT Photo/Ben Nooy Jr./Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Cowboys' head coach Bill Parcells announced his retirement on Monday. His record in Dallas was 34-32.

Spurs continue to run through the Eastern Conference

BOSTON (AP) — Tim Duncan thought his latest victory over Boston should have been easier.

Duncan remained unbeaten against the Celtics, finishing with 21 points and nine rebounds to help the San Antonio Spurs hold on for a 93-89 victory Monday night.

Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker each scored 15 points and Michael Finley had 12 for the Spurs, who have won 18 straight against the Celtics and nine in a row in Boston. The Celtics last beat the Spurs on Jan. 8, 1997, the season before Duncan entered the NBA.

Still, Duncan was frustrated with his team's performance.

"Wins are wins, but it's frustrating not to close people out," Duncan said. "It shouldn't have been that close. We allowed them to get back in the game."

The Spurs led by as many as 23 in the third quarter and 77-63 after the period ended. But after the teams traded baskets for much of the fourth, Boston used a late 13-0 run to make it closer than the Spurs would have liked.

Delonte West's jumper from just inside

the 3-point line pulled Boston to 91-89 with 8.7 seconds left, but Finley made two free throws with 3.2 seconds left to ice it.

"When you get it down to five points with two minutes to go, it becomes a game within a game," West said. "At that point, we made too many mistakes that cost us. That's what a good team does — they made you pay."

West led Boston with a season-high 27 points, while Al Jefferson added 26 points and 14 rebounds and Ryan Gomes scored 20 points. The Celtics have lost eight straight and are 2-14 without star guard Paul Pierce, who has been out since Dec. 22 with a stress reaction in his left foot.

It was the second straight night San Antonio blew a big lead. In Sunday's 99-85 victory in Philadelphia, the Spurs led by as many as 22, but allowed the 76ers to climb within five in the fourth before pulling away late.

"For stretches we're playing well," Duncan said. "We're defending well, we're moving the ball really well. But for stretches there, we're turning the

ball over and not playing well defensively. It's just about getting a little more consistent and turning those stretches into quarters and those quarters into games."

Duncan said the next few weeks will gauge just how good a team the Spurs really are.

Before next month's All-Star weekend, San Antonio has road games against the Los Angeles Lakers, Utah Jazz, Phoenix Suns, Washington Wizards, Orlando Magic, Miami Heat, New Jersey Nets and Detroit Pistons.

Not exactly the schedule an NBA team prefers.

"We should be playing better at this point," Ginobili said. "I'm looking forward to that trip. Usually that's when we make that step."

Duncan shot 7-of-17 from the field and 7-of-7 from the free throw line as the Spurs won their third straight and eighth in 10 games. His 10 second-quarter points helped San Antonio outscore Boston 30-14 after falling behind 24-20 through one.

The Spurs allowed early Boston runs

of 7-0 and 6-0 and trailed 20-12 late in the first quarter. But after Spurs coach Gregg Popovich took out San Antonio's entire starting lineup, the Spurs went on a 15-4 run spanning the first and second quarters to go up for good. Brent Barry and Francisco Elson combined for 13 points during that span.

A pair of free throws by Elson gave the Spurs a 25-24 lead with 9:49 left in the second, and Finley added a fast-break layup the next time down the floor to cap the stretch.

Gerald Green's jumper pulled Boston back within 27-26, but the Spurs responded with another 11-2 spurt. Duncan scored six during the stretch, and Parker's two free throws put the Spurs up 38-28 with 5:43 left in the half.

San Antonio extended its lead to 50-38 by halftime.

"That's a team you can't make any mistakes against," Jefferson said. "Every mistake you make, they're going to make you pay for it. They are a smart championship team, with an MVP player — you can't make no mistakes against them."

HOWARD

Continued from 1B

were held to only 1-of-10 from beyond the 3-point arc.

"We played good defensively, but our motion offense was not very good," said Lambert, who also led the Hawks with 4 rebounds.

With 13:03 on the clock, Western Texas took its first double-digit lead of the game, 33-21, and never looked back. For a span of over three minutes, the Hawks were able to stay within 11 points, but with 2:19 to play, back-to-back baskets by leading scorer Tracee Ashley-Holden (18 points) put the game away for good.

"It's no secret that our

No. 1 job is to rebound them and to keep their second-chance shots down," Diddle stated. "That was our first priority and we failed to do it."

"And there's no way that a team can win a game — any game — by going over 10 minutes without scoring a single point. We're doing everything we can to get this right and we're going to keep working on it. Right now we obviously have a lot of hard work in front of us."

The women of Howard will return to action at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Feb. 1, when they host South Plains College at 6 p.m. This will be the second meeting between the two schools this season.

HAWKS

Continued from 1B

Sencanski and Sean Watson combined to make 12-of-17 and the Hawks team was blowing the Westerners out of the coliseum.

The Hawks led quickly swelled to 30 points with more than 7 minutes to play.

Brandon Sampay cleaned the glass by grabbing a team high 9 rebounds, including 5 offensive boards on the rare occasion that the Hawks hit something other than the bottom-of-the net.

"This is the first time in over two weeks that Brandon has been healthy," Adams said in regards to his 6-foot-8 sophomore out of California. "He's still not 100 percent, but he played a great game tonight. I was very pleased with his effort on the defensive end and the team effort we displayed."

The leading scorer was Hill with 20 points. He added 5 rebounds, 1 blocked shot and perhaps more importantly — zero turnovers. Currie, his sidekick handling the point guard position, ended the game with 18 points and 3 rebounds, while committing only 2 turnovers. Both of those came late in the second half when the game was well in hand.

Leading scorer for the visiting Westerners was Chisholm, the freshman from New York had 8 points on 3-of-5 shooting, but it was far too little for a Howard team that was looking for its first win in four games.

The leading rebounder for the visiting team was Wayne Burton with 4.

The last home win for the Hawks came over a month ago, back on Dec. 8, when they beat Trinidad State College.

"We don't really have a true point

guard on this team," Currie explained from inside the Hawks' film room, "but we have plenty of guards who can shoot and score on this team. Before the game Coach Adams told me that tonight was the time for me to step up and be a leader on this team and that's what I tried to do. We needed to come out and put all this individual stuff behind us and we needed to start playing as a team. That's what happened tonight and because of that — with the way we were moving the ball — the open shots came around just like Coach said."

"When we play as a team, we're tough to beat."

The Howard Hawks will return to the hardwood Thursday night at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum as they look to start a winning streak against New Mexico Military Institute. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

COACH

Continued from 1B

manager from 1979-97, he hired Parcels as an assistant twice — the second time breaking his own rule of "never hiring a guy who quits on me." Then, when Ray Perkins quit as coach to succeed Bear Bryant at Alabama, Young gave Parcels his first NFL head coaching job, forging a sometimes turbulent relationship that brought the Giants their titles after the 1986 and 1990 seasons.

The Tuna (a sobriquet given him in 1980 by his New England linebacking corps) went on to coach the Patriots, Jets and Cowboys, moving a step backward at each stop. He got New England to the Super Bowl after the 1996 season and the Jets to the AFC title game two years later. But he was only 34-32 in four seasons in Dallas, losing the only two postseason games he was in.

Great coach or just good one?

Probably somewhere between.

His success with the Giants, for example, was partly luck.

How many Super Bowls would the Giants have won if Bum Phillips, then the coach in New Orleans, hadn't used the first pick in the draft on running back George Rogers? The other 27 would have taken Taylor and the Giants, who had the second pick, got a future Hall of Famer without whom they may not have won a thing, Parcels or no Parcels.

He left the Giants after their Super Bowl win over Buffalo in January 1991. His health was poor and he was worn out by internal battles — some with Young but more with Tom Boisture, the director of player personnel.

That was because Parcels always thought he knew personnel better than he did. In 1990, when

running back Rodney Hampton fell to the Giants with the 25th pick of the draft, Young and Boisture outvoted Parcels and took him over the Tuna's choice, linebacker Darion Conner.

Hampton went on to become the Giants' leading rusher until Tiki Barber broke his records. Conner, one of many linebackers coveted by the Tuna in his quest for "the next L.T.," was never more than a journeyman linebacker.

But he could sure pick assistants.

The staff of that 1990 Super Bowl team included Coughlin, Bill Belichick, Romeo Crennel, Al Groh, Charlie Weis and Ray Handley, all future NFL, major college coaches or both (Groh and Coughlin). Plus offensive coordinator Ron Ehrhardt, who had been head coach of the Patriots when Parcels was there.

He also was one of the game's best teachers — a must for a successful NFL coach. But even his teaching was calculated.

He would often show up 10-15 minutes late for his daily media sessions,

answer a few simplistic questions from TV reporters, then hold football class for 45 minutes or so for those who chose to stay. The quid-pro-quo: those sessions came at the same time the locker room was open, forcing participants to choose between talking to the Tuna or tracking down players who Parcels preferred to remain silent.

The dozens who sat through those sessions over the years, always came away with the same impression — they had learned more about Xs and Os from Parcels than from any NFL coach. And if he could do that with folks who rarely had played football beyond high school, he clearly could impart it to NFL players.

His approach to them — and to others who worked for him — was carrot and stick. One day he'd be their buddy, the next day he'd be all over them. He once got into a shouting match with Phil Simms after Simms had led the Giants to scores on their first four possessions but threw an incomplete pass on the fifth.

"We just like to chat

sometimes," Simms explained afterward.

One team official who worked with Parcels recalled recently that he'd pick a team employee to harass each day just to let him know who was boss.

It was random. One day it would be the equipment man, the next day the video guy, another day the trainer. Then he'd leave them alone — or even praise them — until it was "their day" again a couple of months later.

He also used senior players to impart his message to younger ones.

With the Giants of the mid-'80s, it was linebacker Harry Carson and defensive end George Martin, two veterans who had survived dreadful teams of the late '70s. As Parcels moved around the league, it was often guys he brought in from his old teams — Pepper Johnson, a former Giants linebacker in New England; Richie Anderson, a former Jet, in Dallas.

No coincidence that both are now coaches: Johnson with Belichick

in New England and Anderson with the Jets.

Why did he step down in good health?

Those close to him lately suggest Parcels was convinced that if he couldn't turn around a team in three or four years, the players would tune him out and the results would be as they

were in Dallas this season. A few good wins, some puzzling losses and nothing much better than mediocrity.

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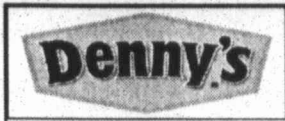
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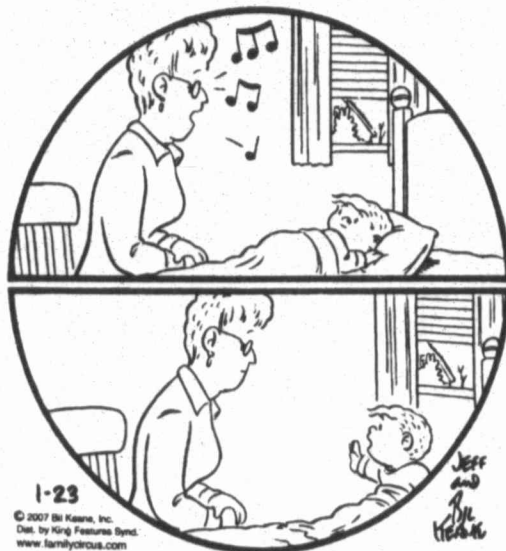
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPiKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6	PM 3:30 News (CC) Entertainment	News Wheel-Fortune	Quele de Pasiones	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	Vida de Blanco	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Dr. Young John Hagee	News-Letters	How It's Made How It's Made		CSI: Crime Scene Invest.	Without a Trace (CC)	Live (CC) Hotwired	Phil of Future Zack & Cody	2005 World Series of Poker	College Basketball:	Dead Like Me (CC)
7	PM 3:30 Funniest Home Videos	Funniest Home Videos	La Fea Mas Bella	American Idol (CC)	NCIS (CC)	Merina	Dataline NBC (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Update/Israel Booker	Nova (CC) (DWB)	Really Big Things	Movie: Dances With Wolves	CSI: Crime Scene Invest.	Without a Trace (CC)	Movie: Getting Played (CC)	Movie: The Country Bears (CC)	NBA Coast-to- Coast (CC)	Indiana at Illinois (CC)	Dead Like Me (CC)
8	PM 3:30 State of the Union (CC)	State of the Union (CC)	Mundo de Fieras	State of the Union (CC)	State of the Union (CC)	Amor Mio Amor Mio	State of the Union (CC)	Sex and-City Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (CC)	Dirty Jobs (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invest.	Without a Trace (CC)			College Basketball:	Eureka (CC)	
9	PM 3:30		Ver Para Creer	Becker (CC)	Friends (CC) 70s Show	Noticias 12 Corazones	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City Sex and-City	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Dirty Jobs (CC)		CSI: NY (CC)	Cold Case (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Phil of Future Zack & Cody That's-Raven	Open - Men's and Women's	SportsCenter (CC)	The Dresden Files (CC)
10	PM 3:30 The Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Friends (CC) 70s Show	News Late Show-	Noticias 12 Corazones	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City Sex and-City	Joe McGee Biblical Israel	Sign Off	Really Big Things	Movie: Dances With Wolves	CSI: Crime Scene Invest.	NYPD Blue (CC)	In Living Color In Living Color	Phil of Future Zack & Cody That's-Raven	Quaterfinals (CC)	NFL Live NBA Fastbreak (CC)	The X-Files (CC)
11	AM 3:30 Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Mercury Media	El Privilegio de Amar	Malcolm-Mid. My Wife-Kids	Show The Insider	Pagado	Conan O'Brien Paid Program	About You (CC)	Update/Israel John Hagee		Dirty Jobs (CC)		Star Trek: Voyager	NYPD Blue (CC)	Comickview (CC)	Proud Family Sister, Sister		SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



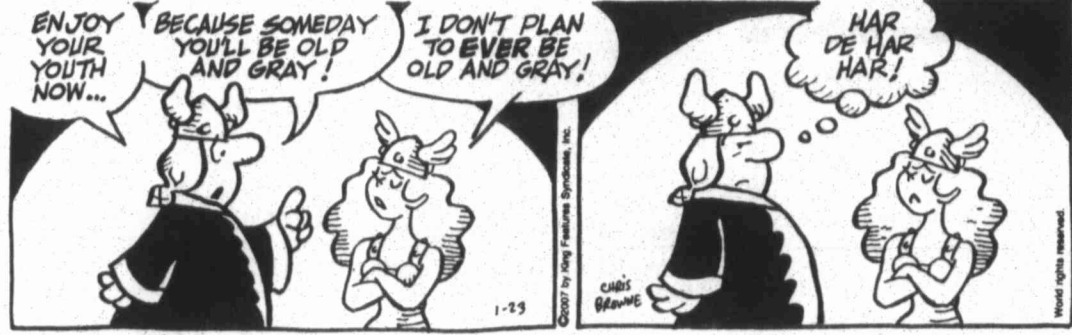
"...AN' MAYBE YOU COULD FORGET SOME OF THE BAD STUFF I DID TODAY...LIKE I HAVE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I only get lullabies at night, Grandma. This is just naptime."

HAGAR



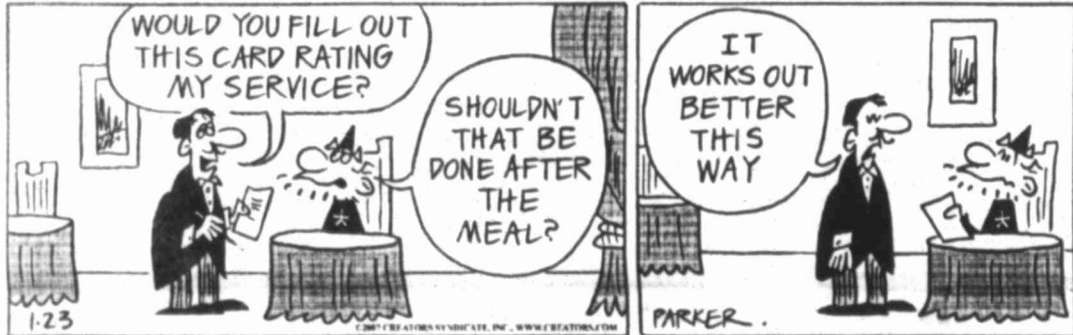
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WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 23, the 23rd day of 2007. There are 342 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 23, 1968, North Korea seized the U.S. Navy ship Pueblo, charging its crew with being on a spying mission. (The crew was released 11 months later.)

On this date:
In 1789, Georgetown University was established in present-day Washington, D.C.

In 1845, Congress decided all national elections would be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1950, the Israeli Knesset approved a resolution proclaiming Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

In 1964, the 24th amend-

ment to the Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified.

In 1973, President Nixon announced an accord had been reached to end the Vietnam War.

Five years ago: Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl was abducted in Karachi, Pakistan, by a group demanding the return of prisoners from the Afghan campaign; he was later murdered.

One year ago: Ford Motor Co. said it would cut up to 30,000 jobs and idle 14 facilities in North America by 2012.

Today's Birthdays: Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg, D-N.J., is 83. Actress Jeanne Moreau is 79. Actress Chita Rivera is 74. Actor-director Lou Antonio is 73. Actor Gil Gerard is 64. Actor Rutger Hauer is 63. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jerry Lawson (The Persuasions) is 63. Sen. Thomas R. Carper, D-Del., is 60. Singer Anita Pointer is 59. Actor Richard Dean Anderson is 57. Rock musician Bill Cunningham is 57. Rock singer-musician

Patrick Simmons (The Doobie Brothers) is 57. Rock musician Danny Federici (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 57. Rock singer Robin Zander (Cheap Trick) is 54. Princess Caroline of Monaco is 50. Singer Anita Baker is 49. Reggae musician Earl Falconer (UB40) is 48. Actress Gail O'Grady is 44. Actress Mariska Hargitay is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Nelson is 36. Actress Tiffani Thiessen is 33.

Thought for Today: "The trouble is that hardly anybody in America goes to bed angry at night." — George J. Stigler, American economist (1911-1991).

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Answer to previous puzzle

D	I	G	I	T	E	L	M	S	L	A	P
A	R	I	S	E	R	E	A	L	M	I	L
R	I	F	L	E	R	A	N	G	E	A	F
E	S	T	A	T	E	T	I	D	B	I	T
M	E	G	A	G	E	N	T				
T	A	P	R	A	T	T	L	E	R	I	S
A	L	I	T	L	E	I	A	E	M	C	E
M	I	N	E	D	A	R	C	T	O	K	E
P	A	C	E	R	S	E	E	P	P	E	T
A	S	H	A	P	E	S	E	S	I	T	T
P	I	P	E								
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E	O	N	S								
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R	E	E	D	S							

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- Reheats, as in a microwave
- Machine parts
- Fender dings
- Fashion magazine
- Very much
- Computer correspondence
- Source of suds
- Something prohibited
- A little chilly
- Early spring day
- Choose, with "for"
- One-celled creatures
- Spoiled rotten
- Skillers, for example
- Pub serving
- Spooky
- Opera solo
- Competent
- Just-in-time moment
- Sardine cans
- Over 50% of
- Love, in Rome
- Historical period
- Charged atoms
- Made level
- Don't go quietly
- Expert
- Shakespearean play
- Cowboy's mount
- Mexican coin
- Hawaiian island

DOWN

- Gusto
- Succulent houseplant
- Strategy
- Back-to-school mo.
- Awning
- In flight
- Lisa
- Halt
- Jean fabrics
- Author Zola
- Short snooze
- Redcap's reward
- Cunning
- Bellhop's workplace
- Worked toward
- Type of monkey
- Enticing quality
- Be angry
- Higher-quality
- Bring back to the staff
- Sports stadiums
- Secures, as a shoelace
- Push down
- "Misbehavin'"
- Stratford's river
- Sighed words
- Overact
- Place of refuge
- "No fooling!"
- Reverberations
- Response to "Who's there?"
- On a cruise
- Women's golf org.
- Lost one's footing
- Little troublemakers
- Manner of walking
- Oahu dance
- Pinball infraction
- ___ and cheese sandwich
- Metallic rock
- Deteriorate

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43

44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67

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EXTRA INNINGS by Sally R. Stein

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