



Moore scrutiny tabled

• Absent 3 members, city council elects to wait before acting on economic development entity

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Discussion concerning city oversight of Moore Development will have to wait two weeks, as the Big Spring City Council tabled the issue during Tuesday night's meet-

ing. Council members Manuel Ramirez Jr., Stephanie Horton and Joann Knox were not present for the meeting, basically cutting the number of council members in half.

The topic, which was

approached by the council during its Feb. 27 meeting, stems from the corporation's involvement in the renovation of the historic Settles Hotel, according to city officials.

According to Mayor Russ McEwen, the prospect of mov-

ing forward with the matter with 50 percent of the council absent simply didn't make sense.

"Noting the fact that three council members are not here tonight, I feel like we should put this off until everyone is

here," said McEwen.

Council member Greg Biddison didn't share McEwen's opinion of the situation.

"I don't see why we should

See **CITY**, Page 3A



Highway department workers examine a twisted section of guardrail at the 178 mile marker of Interstate 20 Tuesday morning. The guardrail was damaged when it was struck by a Ford pickup. No other details of the accident were available at press time.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Sex offender death sentence gains support

By **JIM VERTUNO**

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Death penalty proposals for repeat violent child sex offenders in Texas have a better chance of being upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court than a precedent-setting case of 30 years ago, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott told lawmakers Tuesday.

Abbott, joining Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst to urge the Senate Criminal Justice Committee to approve the death penalty in such cases, said he would go to the Supreme Court himself to defend the issue.

Abbott, a Republican, See **DEATH**, Page 3A

also dismissed as "ludicrous" fears by victims' groups that the death penalty would lead some offenders to kill their victims, who might be the only witness to the crime.

"Frankly I think such claims are ludicrous. I cannot recall a time when a sex offender, after having committed a crime, pulls out the code of criminal procedure or penal code to figure out what's going to happen," Abbott said.

Critics of the death penalty proposals being considered in the House and Senate have questioned whether the death

Bound for state

BSHS seniors Newton and Lopez in elite competition

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

A pair of Big Spring High School art students will get to exhibit their work at the state level.

BSHS seniors Andrew Lopez and Alyssa Newton will compete for state honors when their artwork is displayed at the Visual Arts Scholastic Exhibition at the University of

Houston-Clearlake in April.

VASE is the University Interscholastic League's "state tournament" for art students. This will mark Newton's second time to qualify for state-level competition, while Lopez is making his first trip to Houston.

"I've always been confident that I'd get my artwork noticed," Newton said. "But being a state qualifier (as a

freshman) really motivated me that much more."

Lopez admitted he was caught off-guard by his success this year.

"I was surprised," he said, "because I saw a lot of artwork (at the most recent competition) and it was all pretty good."

To qualify for the state exhibit

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Big Spring High School art students Alyssa Newton and Andrew Lopez recently qualified work to be judged at the state Visual Arts Scholastic Exhibition, scheduled for April in Houston.

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'LAST OF THE BREED'



Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson and Ray Price have a new double-CD, "Last of the Breed" which will be out March 20. See **Page 3A**

WHO CANCELS CONCERT

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Fans of the Who left a Tampa amphitheater disappointed after lead singer Roger Daltrey walked off the stage during the first song.

Several minutes after Daltrey's departure, guitarist Pete Townshend announced that Tuesday night's show had been canceled. He told the crowd that Daltrey had bronchitis.

"I just talked to Roger and he can barely speak," Townshend said. "I tried to get him to come out here, but he's really, really sick."

Townshend told fans the concert would be made up March 25.

POWOW SLATED HERE



The third annual Big Spring Powwow is set this weekend at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The Powwow will feature a number of vendors and exhibits, as well as dance competitions.

The event gets under way at 10 a.m. Saturday with gourd dancing, followed by the grand entry. Admission to the event is \$2 and children under 12 are free. Activities continue at 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

For more information about the powwow, contact Lesser at 264-8203.

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Merle Haggard, Ray Price and Willie Nelson get together

By JOHN GEROME

Associated Press Writer
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Merle Haggard sometimes misses the old way of making records, when fixing an off-key note wasn't so simple and all the little mistakes were captured on vinyl.

He believes it gave the music a human touch that's missing today.

"It's unacceptable now to be slightly out of tune," Haggard said recently. "A lot of the records I made and Ray made and Willie made — a lot of those were out of tune."

Haggard is speaking of his buddies Willie Nelson and Ray Price, whom he joined for a new double-CD set, "Last of the Breed," out March 20.

The collection — though perfectly in tune — harkens back to the days Haggard is talking about.

Most of the 22 tracks are country standards, such as Floyd Tillman's "I Love You So Much It Hurts" and Lefty Frizzell's "Mom and Dad's Waltz," but there's also the new Nelson song "Back to Earth" and one from Haggard called

"Sweet Jesus" that feel as vintage as anything on the CD. It's a record that reflects the honky-tonk and swing music that shaped their careers.

"I'll be surprised if we don't all get locked up somewhere."

—Ray Price

"It was a big party working with Ray and Merle and everybody on that record," Nelson said. "We were all open-minded about it. No one said no to anything."

The trio, each of them Country Music Hall of Famers, are performing with the Texas swing band Asleep at the Wheel on a brief tour that began Friday in Prescott, Ariz., and ends March 25 in Rosemont, Ill.

"I'll be surprised if we don't all get locked up somewhere," Price joked.

Price, 81, hopes the record and tour will rekindle interest in traditional country music, something he thinks is missing from today's country radio.

"We want to let the kids hear what good songs sound like," he said. "It's really a different kind of music than they've been fed the last 20 years."

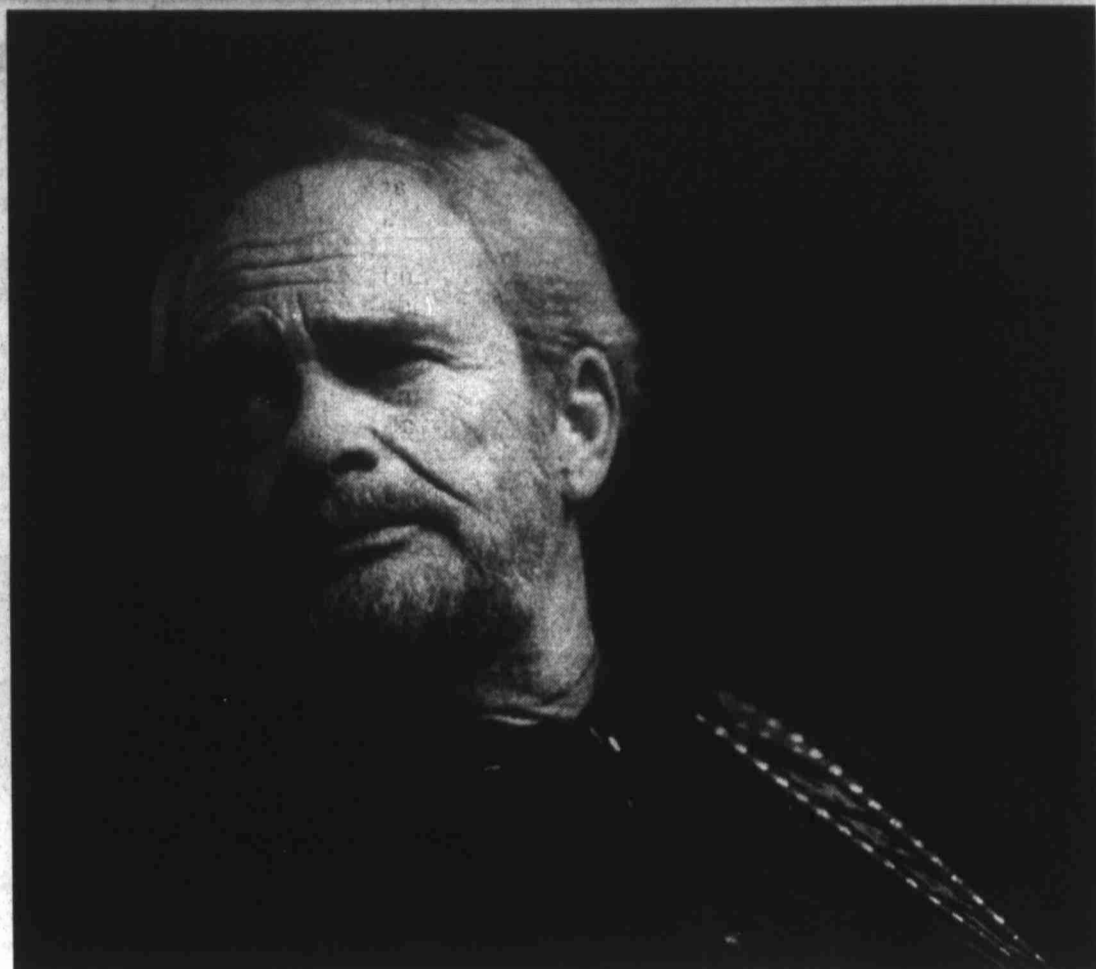
Haggard, who in 1969 sang the anthem "Okie From Muskogee," which mocked hippie protesters and proclaimed, "We don't smoke marijuana in Muskogee," has been opening shows for Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones. He said both play a purer form of country music than many contemporary country acts.

"Bob Dylan is as country as corn," the 69-year-old singer said. "Who would you compare him to other than Jimmie Rodgers?"

This is Haggard's first record with Price, though he and Nelson cut a successful album together in 1983, "Pancho and Lefty."

Price and Nelson have teamed up before, most recently for 2003's "Run That By Me One More Time." Back in the '60s, Nelson played bass in Price's band, the Cherokee Cowboys.

"This was a natural," Nelson said of "Last of the



KRT photo/Bonnie Weller

Country music legend Merle Haggard has teamed with Ray Price and Willie Nelson for a double-CD set which will be released March 20.

Breed." "Everyone who is my age or a little younger have heard these songs, and the ones who haven't heard them will get a chance. They're all really little gems."

At 73, Nelson continues to be more prolific than most artists half his age.

Last year alone he released two albums, "You Don't Know Me: The Songs of Cindy Walker" and the Ryan Adams-produced "Songbird," which had him covering songs by the Grateful Dead, Leonard Cohen and Fleetwood Mac.

He already has another album in the can that was produced by Kenny Chesney, and he's got a bunch of material from a concert with jazz saxophonist Branford Marsalis.

"I'm open to anything," Nelson said.

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

put this off," said Biddison. "They (the absent council members) should have been here."

Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. directors voted unanimously Dec. 8 to provide up to \$3 million to help Brint Ryan — manager of the Dallas company and the founder and CEO of Ryan & Company — renovate the Settles Hotel, which he agreed to purchase for \$75,000 from the city of Big Spring.

According to city officials, Ryan has not yet fulfilled the contract by paying the \$75,000 agreed upon, despite initial reports the tab would be paid by the end of December.

McEwen's proposal to wait until the next council meeting drew support from council members Gloria McDonald and Jo Ann Staulcup.

However, Staulcup said the agenda item should also include an action item, as well.

"I feel like we should word the item so we'll be able to take action during the next meeting," Staulcup told City Attorney Linda Sjogren. "We

certainly can't wait all year on this."

What action will be taken by the council appears to be up in the air at this time, including possible limitations on spending by the Moore Board and making council approval of each project a requirement.

SHDC announced plans for a \$12 million renovation project which includes plans for commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors.

Discussions during the February meeting were limited, however, as the city attorney

asked for more time to get her information on what the council can and cannot do in relation to the economic development firm.

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the council approved:

- Final reading of a resolution authorizing continued participation with the steering committee of cities served by TXU and authorizing payment of membership assessment fee.

- Final reading of a resolution approving the investment policy for the city.

- Final reading of a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor to execute an agree-

ment with Parkhill, Smith and Cooper for professional engineering services.

- First reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a lease agreement with Abusaab Companies.

- First reading of an ordinance annexing a 4.82 acre tract of land out of the S/2 of Section 26, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey, into the city limits.

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

DEATH

Continued from Page 1A

penalty is constitutional for a crime in which the victim did not die.

In 1977, a U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturned the death sentence of a Georgia man who raped a woman but didn't kill her.

Abbott told the Senate panel he believes that bills tailoring the death penalty to violent repeat offenders who harm children would pass constitu-

tional muster. "I would probably and proudly go to the Supreme Court" to argue such a case, Abbott said.

Five other states already have similar death penalty laws for child sex offenders. Only Louisiana has sent an inmate to death row and that case is working its way through state and federal appeals courts.

Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, asked Abbott if he also thought a few years ago that executing mentally

retarded inmates would be constitutional.

The Supreme has ruled the death penalty in such cases unconstitutional.

"What was your batting average on that?" Ellis asked.

"I didn't take a swing at that pitch," Abbott said, adding he didn't guarantee the Supreme Court would side with him on the sex offender issue.

Critics have questioned whether the death penalty for repeat violent child sex offenders would lead to more children being

killed. Abbott said no one has produced a case that proves a sexual predator killed the victim to avoid prosecution.

Torie Camp, deputy director for the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, called Abbott's "ludicrous" comment "a pretty strong statement. There's some people with an awful lot of knowledge who have raised this concern."

Sen. John Whitmire, the chairman of the committee, asked Abbott: "What

if you're wrong?" "A person who is so callous they would go ahead and take the life of that child, they're going to be

taking the life of that child anyway," Abbott said.

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ART

Continued from Page 1A

bition, Newton and Lopez had to medal at both the district and area level, said BSHS Art Teacher Judy Tereletsky.

BSHS sent 18 students and 30 works to the district meet in Odessa. Of those entries, 16 were judged as "superior," (the top rating awarded) while 14 received ratings of "excellent" from judges, Tereletsky said.

This is the fourth year in a row BSHS will send a student to the state exhibition. In 2006, Eric Barton qualified for and medaled in VASE competition.

Lopez's qualifying work was a "printmaking sculpture" — basically an art print draped on a sculpture — while Newton qualified with a ceramic sculpture.

"They like to use a lot of imagination," Tereletsky said of her state-bound

students. "They like to use new materials and ideas."

Newton said she liked her entry, but declined to speculate on her chances at the state exhibition.

"I thought it looked pretty good. I thought professional artists would

like it," she said. "I didn't get all cocky about it, but I thought it was a good idea."

Lopez expressed similar thoughts about his work.

"It took me about three weeks to complete," he said.

"I had an idea it would

win an award, but I was still surprised."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.



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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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OUR VIEWS

Museum exhibit of Moates' work worthy of a visit

The Heritage Museum is showcasing a local talent this month with the works of Sheree Moates — both her paintings and a number of photographs — on display.

The exhibit not only has Moates' work on display, but prints and original artwork are for sale.

Moates' paintings range in styles and subjects from local skylines and sunsets to religious and inspirational themes. And while the mediums used — paint, canvas and other materials — may be similar from one subject to the next, the local artist said how she develops the ideas is very different.

"In painting inspirational themes, it's strictly God inspired," said Moates. "And what I mean by that is I never know when it's going to happen. All of a sudden there's just a picture in my head... When it first started happening I called my mother and asked her what was wrong with me. She told me it sounded like a vision, but I don't think that's what it was. I think God was giving me something, and I still feel like he's doing something with my paintings."

Moates, recently accepted to the Oil Painters of America, says many of her other pieces are a result of personal experience.

Having studied with Dalhart Windberg for about 20 years now, she's traveled extensively and had an opportunity of paint and photograph scenes in California, Colorado, Arkansas and Texas.

The exhibit's examples of photography are a by-product of the artist's constant need to paint what she sees.

"It was someone else's idea for me to put the photography in the exhibit," Moates noted. "When we're on vacation, I'm not just doing the tourist thing with my camera. I'm also looking for paintings. And I can't very well take my easel, my paints and everything else on the plane for a vacation, so I take photos."

And while selling one of her works is certainly rewarding, Moates said it's not the part of painting that keeps her with brush in hand. Instead, it's the growth she sees in herself, coupled with the letters and thank you cards she's received from those who've viewed her work that provide that encouragement.

Such are the rewards on tap for those who take the time to visit the museum and view Moates' exhibit which is scheduled to be on display until April 7.

We here at the *Herald* join with Museum Director Nancy Rainey in being pleased that a local artist's talent is on display.

There is no question in our collective mind that among the advantages of having the Heritage Museum here is its ability to provide a showcase for the work of Big Spring's talented art community. And we're enthusiastic the museum is committed to providing a place for local artists to display their work.

LETTER POLICIES

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- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we surrender our willpower to our higher power, Lord, You.

Amen

Bush rediscovers the New World

Just when we thought Hugo Chavez had been given free rein to take over Latin America, President Bush suddenly remembered that there are 19 countries just south of the Mexican border.

After neglecting Latin America for the past six years, and devoting U.S. foreign policy to his obsession with Iraq, Bush set out to rediscovers the New World last week.

There is only one problem: His five-nation tour is too little and way too late.

During the time Bush has been wearing blinders, his Venezuelan nemesis has been turning the entire continent against us. With Venezuela's oil wealth, Chavez has been buying the loyalty of many Latin American leaders who were once our friends, and funding the anti-American crusades of many others.

His success was evident as Bush faced some of the most massive and vicious protests against an American president in recent history.

Yet Chavez would not have been able to stimulate so much anti-American sentiment if Bush had heeded the pleas from many Latinos who have been crying out for attention.

Reporters traveling with the president have spent the last few days blaming the war in Iraq for Bush's unpopularity in Latin America. They have been so conditioned by the administration to think only about Iraq that even when they are in Latin America, they look for an Iraq angle.

Most Latin Americans could care less about the war in Iraq. They care about their standard of living, putting food on the table and raising their kids — just like most

Americans.

Sure, there were some anti-war protesters in the countries the president visited. But that was just an excuse for hardcore leftists to mount their anti-American offensive.

What has made Bush extremely unpopular in Latin America is his administration's indifference to the needs of our hemispheric neighbors. They are disgusted by U.S. immigration policy, and particularly Bush's lack of backbone in dealing with the conservative extremists in his own party, who constantly display mean-spirited attitudes toward Latinos.

Latin Americans are troubled by a U.S. government that says one thing and does exactly the opposite, especially when promising funding to help the hemisphere's poor.

"Although the administration claims to have doubled its assistance to countries in the Western Hemisphere, the reality is that under President Bush's watch America has actually cut core development funding since 2001, going from a total of \$324 million to \$304 million, a 6.2-percent decrease," Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., said last week.

He said Bush's most recent budget proposal recommends cutting another 26 percent from those accounts, which are used for combating infectious diseases, promoting child and maternal health and supporting sustainable economic growth.

Menendez also noted that Bush's budget "actually proposed a 9-percent cut in total aid for Latin America and the Caribbean."

He said these cuts send the wrong message to Latin America. "We must ensure that we don't allow a vacuum to form in the hemisphere — a vacuum that could be filled by the Chavezes of the world," Menendez said.

The senator noted that while the president likes to highlight U.S.

support for one particular program that benefits the poor, it only applies to El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras. "That means, at most, only 4 percent of Latin America's poor will see an increase in aid," Menendez added. "That leaves 96 percent — or 213 million — of Latin America's poor facing serious cuts in development funding."

By creating economic growth in Latin America, the United States has a lot to gain, Menendez argued, because "people won't have to leave their homes to find jobs" and because by increasing stability in our hemisphere, "we are thwarting opportunities for terrorists and criminals who thrive on chaos and insecurity."

Yet we have a president who has been so preoccupied with building democracies where they never existed in the Middle East that he has allowed Chavez to gain strength, leaving fragile Latin American democracies to disintegrate into leftist dictatorships.

Even when Bush was in South America, Chavez was constantly hurling insults at the United States.

Yet, instead of returning the insults so that Latin America will see we are not intimidated by a two-bit dictator, Bush refused to even mention Chavez by name.

"He doesn't dare to say my name," Chavez said as he traveled on a rival tour of the South America, mocking Bush along the way. "Several journalists have asked him this week 'what do you think of what President Chavez says?' and he doesn't answer... His heart starts racing, he gets tongue-tied."

In this country, Bush's decision to ignore Chavez may be seen as a sign of civility. But in Latin American, it is a sign of weakness.

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MIGUEL PEREZ



An artist in work and life

Jackie Zweiger of Monahans has traveled the world, made friends wherever she went and painted scenes of places far and near. Her watercolor works have won big prizes but she works in other media as well: pencil, oil, acrylic, wood, clay and bronze. She has illustrated two children's books.

So it's not surprising that she has an upbeat attitude. "I don't know how people get bored," she said. "There's too much to learn to do and to do."

After a 29-year teaching career, Zweiger is enjoying doing art fulltime. Her Spanish-style home in Monahans is filled with art pieces she has created and books she has read. Some of her art could not fit in her house. She has hand-carved giant crosses for church sanctuaries in Monahans, Midland and Pecos. Each of the crosses is different and each one took a year to com-

plete.

"A church in Pecos asked me to design a cross," she explained. "They had someone who would carve it, but they needed a design. I carved an 18-inch model and when they saw it, they wanted me to do it."

She got interested in making pottery when she saw a man throw a bunch of clay on a potter's wheel and make a pot. She knew she had to learn how to do that.

Some of her pots are small, about the size of an orange or grapefruit.

"I carve on them and draw pictures or designs on them and fix them up really good," she said. "I put turquoise on them and feathers and beads — just whatever I want to put on there. I'll maybe sculpt a little turtle and stick it on the pot."

Jackie started whittling after her dad gave her a pocketknife when she was a child. She carves fish from mahogany and redwood. They are extremely smooth and realistic.

"I make them life-size," she said of the fish carvings. "You could

put them on a hook and they'd look like something you just caught."

Jackie grew up in Port Arthur and maintains longtime friendships.

"I was a campfire girl and I still am," she said. "We have 10 of us that grew up together and we still have meetings once a year. We go somewhere and spend a week together. We all finished high school and went our separate ways to colleges. Most of us married and raised children, but in about 1977 we started having our reunions. It has gone on every year since then."

The group came to Monahans a few years ago.

"We went out to the Sandhills State Park just before dark," she remembers. "The moon was coming up on the east and the sun was setting in the west. We saw them both happen. They loved sitting on top of a dune at sunset."

Jackie has helped make Monahans a place where art is appreciated.

She was active in converting an old church into an art center.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Check this out, at the county library

Margaret Truman has another book out —

"Murder at the Opera." It features the crime-fighting team of Mac Smith and his wife, Annabel Reed-Smith. As you can guess from the title, opera comes into the equation. A scarcely noticed aspiring soprano named Charise Lee is stabbed backstage during rehearsals. Nothing is ever as it seems in Washington D.C. and solving this puzzle will involve a cast of hundreds — nay, thousands, and don'tcha know — Iraq is involved too.

A new Alex Cross book is out from James Patterson, "Cross." It goes back to the time when Cross' wife was killed; John Sampson is involved, too. An Elizabeth George book with Inspector Thomas Lynley and Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers has come in; check out "What Came Before He

Shot Her." Two more favorite authors: William G. Tapply with lawyer Brady Coyne, "Out Cold" and Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch in "Echo Park"

Here is some fiction to tempt you to stay up late and show up late at the office. Carla Neggers in "The Widow," tells the story of Abigail Browning's wedding and the death of her husband by a sniper four days later. Now a homicide detective, she is determined to find his murderer.

Another Ludlum book is "The Bancroft Strategy." Todd Belknap, a field agent for the Consular Operations, has been cut loose after an operation goes wrong. Of course, he is called back to fix a problem. It's a fast-moving, hard-hitting action novel.

P.T. Deutermann has just published "Spider Mountain" and that name is very true. If you have the heebie jeebies about spiders, you won't want to read it. However, if you like quick-moving, hard-hitting action, you can find this book on the

new book display. Scott Turow has a new book out, "Limitation." This time, Judge George Mason questions the very bedrock of the law: what is the limi-

CIA, five agents live a shattered life. They are framed for the death of their psychiatrist. So what do they do? They escape and find who did the killing. More thrillers: David Baldacci's "The Collectors;" "Hannibal Rising," by Thomas Harris; Joe Gores' "Glass Tiger;" and John Katzenbach's "The Wrong Man." Katzenbach wrote "Hart's War," which was made into a movie starring Bruce Willis. New diet books are in to get you in shape for summer sports, changing your lifestyle or just sitting on the beach. They include "Mariel Hemmingway's Healthy Living from the Inside Out" (646.704 HEM M), "The South Beach Heart Program" (616.123 AGA A) from Dr. Agatston and Bob Greene's newest, "The Best Life Diet" (613.25 GRE B).

How many of you remember when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Did you know that American soldiers, held in concentration camps, saw the mushroom cloud?

tation of prosecution on sexual assault? Does it end at three, four, five years? Or is it like murder, having no term limitation? This is a paperback, is not real long, so it should read quickly.

James Grady's "Mad Dogs" comes from the files of the Central Intelligence Agency. In an asylum run by the

This is the story of what happened in Japan when the bomb fell and afterwards. "First into Nagasaki: The Censored Eyewitness Dispatches on Post-Atomic Japan and Its Prisoners of War," (940.542 WEL G) is written by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist George Weller. The story of another war, the Civil War, is told by Tom Wheeler. It is an interesting idea. The forerunner of e-mail was t-mail or telegraph mail. "Mr. Lincoln's War: The Untold Story of How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War" (973.709 WHE T).

The telegraph, as used then, provided almost instant (within minutes, not seconds) communication between the commander in chief and his generals in the field. I have not read it all, but Civil War buffs will find it interesting. "State of Denial: Bush At War, Part III" (973.931 WOO B) by Bob Woodward is in. "Rabble Rouser For Peace" (B TUTD) by John Allen is an authorized biography of one of the great men in history, Desmond Tutu.

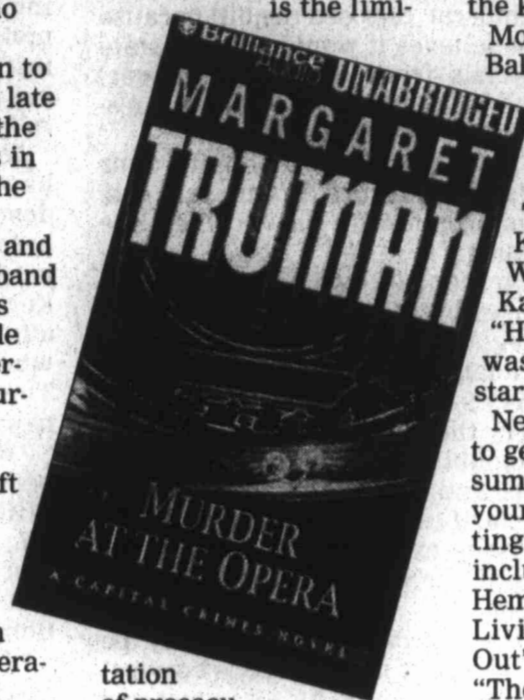
He was very instrumental in South Africa's struggle against apartheid and is a passionate advocate of human rights. "All American: Why I Believe in Football, God and the War in Iraq" (B MCG R) is by Robert P. McGovern. McGovern lived and grew up in New Jersey, played football for the Chiefs, Steelers and the Patriots. After retiring, he attended law school and worked in NYC as a prosecutor. After 9-11, he asked to be called up from his Army Reserve for active duty. He has seen combat in Afghanistan and Iraq and is now back in the States. This is what he believes in.

Howard County Library hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us

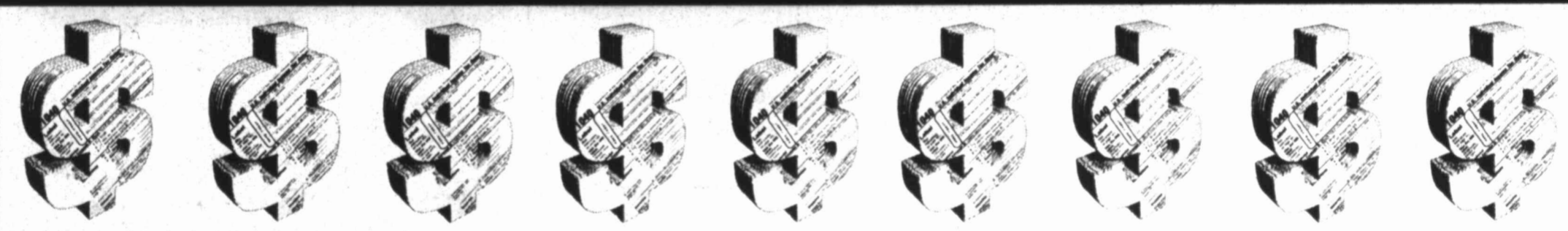


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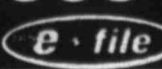
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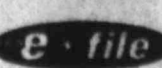
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House votes to override HPV order

By APRIL CASTRO
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — The Texas House approved a bill Tuesday that would keep the human papillomavirus vaccine off the list of required shots for school attendance, tentatively circumventing Gov. Rick Perry's executive order.

The vaccine protects girls against strains of HPV, a sexually transmitted virus that causes most cases of cervical cancer.

The measure, approved 119-21, still needs final approval in the House and approval in the Senate. It's also possible that Perry will veto the legislation, but the 119 voters that approved the bill Tuesday are more than enough to override a veto.

Perry's order asked Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Albert Hawkins to adopt rules to vaccinate all girls entering the sixth-grade as of September 2008. Parents could have refused the shots for their daughters.

A spokeswoman for Perry estimated only 25 percent of young women in Texas would get the vaccine if it is not required.

"Governor Perry's executive order on HPV would help to protect 95 percent of young women in Texas against the strains of HPV that cause cervical cancer," said spokeswoman Krista Moody. "The governor believes we should protect as many young women as possible — rich and poor, insured and uninsured — while maintaining parents' rights to opt their daughter out of receiving the vaccine."

Perry's order angered lawmakers who said the governor circumvented the legislative process.

"Governor Perry's executive order on HPV would help to protect 95 percent of young women in Texas against the strains of HPV that cause cervical cancer. The governor believes we should protect as many young women as possible — rich and poor, insured and uninsured — while maintaining parents' rights to opt their daughter out of receiving the vaccine."

Krista Moody
Perry spokeswoman

The bill adopted Tuesday "will not take away the option for a single girl or a single family in this state to choose to vaccinate a child," said Republican Rep. Dennis Bonnen of Angleton, the lead author of the bill. "It simply says a family must make that choice, not a state government."

Perry acknowledged weeks ago that the Legislature has the authority to supersede his mandate. But he has also insisted a requirement is good public policy that will save young women's lives.

Critics argued that the vaccine, called Gardasil, was too new and its effects needed to be further studied before mandating it for

Texas schoolgirls. The Food and Drug Administration approved Gardasil last year.

Still, Bonnen called it a vaccine "that we don't know all the facts about."

Rep. Jessica Farrar, a Houston Democrat, opposed the bill because she believes it would prevent state officials from requiring the vaccine in the future once safety questions are resolved.

"Let's not tie his hands to offer this in the future as our state gets comfortable with the vaccine," she argued.

On Monday, two prominent lawmakers said Attorney General Greg Abbott told them state health officials are not required to follow Perry's order because it does not carry the weight of law.

Republican Sen. Jane Nelson and Rep. Jim Keffer had asked Abbott to clarify the governor's authority to issue executive orders and the Legislature's ability to overrule them.

Cervical cancer can usually be prevented if precancerous cervical lesions are found by a Pap test and removed. Doctors recommend women get Pap tests once a year, but about half of the women in the U.S. who develop cervical cancer have never had a Pap test, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Farrar argued that even top gynecological experts acknowledge Pap tests can be subject to human error.

"Pap smears are not enough. We know that there's a segment of the population that are never going to get them in the first place," Farrar said.

Bonnen suggested the state do a better job of funding Pap tests.

Accused kidnapper recently miscarried

By BETSY BLANEY
Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK (AP) — The woman accused of abducting a newborn from the mother's hospital room last week recently had her second miscarriage, a relative said Tuesday.

As Rayshaun Parson has become increasingly depressed, family members don't recognize the person they've always known, said the great aunt of the 21-year-old, who was arraigned Tuesday on a federal kidnapping charge.

"We do not know this person," said D. Taara Williams of Lafayette, La., a bishop with the Maryland-based African-American Catholic Congregation.

"This is not the Rayshaun we know and love and have nurtured," Williams added.

Parson will be held in the Dickens County Correctional Center in Dickens pending a detention hearing Friday. Federal authorities charged her Monday in the abduction of Mychael Darthard-Dawodu, who was 3 days old when taken.

A woman posing as a medical worker walked out of Covenant Lakeside Hospital on Saturday with the baby hidden in her purse, police said.

Surveillance footage showed her wearing blue and flower-print hospital scrubs and a gray, puffy jacket with a hood over her head walking out of the hospital.

The newborn was found a day later in Clovis, N.M., about 100 miles to the northwest.

At no time, Williams said, was the newborn "in harm's way."

In addition to being in court Tuesday to support Parson, family members came to Lubbock to extend an "olive branch" to Mychael's family.

"When someone's offended, you go to them, look them in the eye and ask for forgiveness," Williams said.

Williams said she believes a medical exam will confirm Parson's recent miscarriage. The family will also request a psychiatric evaluation, she said.

Before her arrest, Parson had "isolated" herself from her grandmother and others, and family members found baby items inside Parson's Clovis apartment.

"We're very concerned with her mental condition as presented by her physical state," Williams said.

Her great niece's attire is typically "very pristine," Williams said.

Parents tout special ed package

AUSTIN (AP) — Parents of disabled students were at the Capitol on Tuesday to endorse a package of legislation intended to strengthen the public education for special needs students.


Texas lawmakers have filed a package of 12 bills that would require that health insurance companies provide coverage for therapies needed by 3- to 5-year-old children with autism. The measures also would strengthen teacher training for educating disabled students and give parents more control and information.

"This critical legislation would put Texas on the side of all children with disabilities who attend our public schools," said Laura Butler, mother of a son with multiple disabilities. "It's a real solution that helps ensure public schools will be able to provide the critical services all of our families need."

Also, 11 senators have signed a letter urging the Texas Education Agency to apply for a federal grant that would provide professional development for educators who work with students with disabilities.

Sen. Florence Shapiro has filed legislation that would give Texas students with autism the option of using state education dollars at the specialized facility of their choice, a move critics called a voucher scheme that would take money out of public schools. The package of legislation announced Tuesday would apply to an estimated 500,000 Texas students with disabilities that require special schooling needs.

"Texas is the only state in the country that has not applied for that federal grant money," said Sen. Leticia Van de Putte.



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The City of Coahoma HOME Program provides help to eligible homeowners within the city limits for home reconstruction (replacement) with a five year deferred forgivable loan. A program information sheet is available from Coahoma City Hall. Applications will be taken March 22, 2007, at 8:30 A.M. at Coahoma City Hall, 122 North First Street. Applications will only be taken this one-day unless there is further notice. If you cannot attend the intake, please call Marge or Maeva at (888) 424-7270 or (512) 420-0303 to make other arrangements. Please bring the following:

- 1) Proof of 6 months income or SS letter.

INCOME LIMITS BY FAMILY SIZE							
1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
\$15,450	\$17,700	\$19,900	\$22,100	\$23,850	\$25,650	\$27,400	\$29,150

- 2) Homeownership: Warranty deed or other proof. NO CONTRACT FOR DEED. 3) Tax receipts verifying ALL property taxes paid 4) Proof of Occupancy: driver's license or photo I.D.
- 5) Verification of disability if applicable. 6) Social Security Card for all household members.

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Contract Bridge

The Slam-Doubling Convention

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦AK10632
♥AQ875
♦A
♠3

WEST
♠J975
♥2
♦10964
♣K982

EAST
♦—
♥4
♦KJ87532
♠AJ1076

SOUTH
♦Q84
♥KJ10963
♦Q
♠Q54

The bidding:
North East South West
1♠ 2♦ 2♥ Pass
4NT Pass 5♣ Pass
6♥ Dble

Opening lead — five of spades.

The biggest swings ordinarily arise in hands where a slam is bid. For example, if South makes exactly six hearts (undoubled) in this deal, he scores 1,430 points, while if he goes down one, he loses 100 points.

A 1,530-point swing is not to be sneezed at, so anything the defenders can do to stop a slam is well worth the effort.

For this reason, a special convention designed specifically for such critical situations was devised many years ago. According to this convention, the double of a slam by the

defender not on lead instructs partner to make an unusual or abnormal opening lead — most often dummy's first-bid suit.

It is true that one effect of the convention is that a player sometimes can't double a slam that would go down with normal defense. This is because the double might cause partner to make an abnormal lead and so hand declarer the contract.

However, this restriction on doubling usually costs only 50 or 100 points, which is a minor loss, whereas reserving the double for hands that require a particular opening lead might save the defenders as much as 1,000 or 1,500 points. One can therefore hope to profit considerably by employing this convention, while at the same time risking very little.

In the present case, for example, if East does not double six hearts and West makes the normal diamond lead, South makes an overtrick and scores 1,460 points. But if East doubles, instructing West not to lead a diamond but to choose an unusual lead, the defenders can defeat the slam.

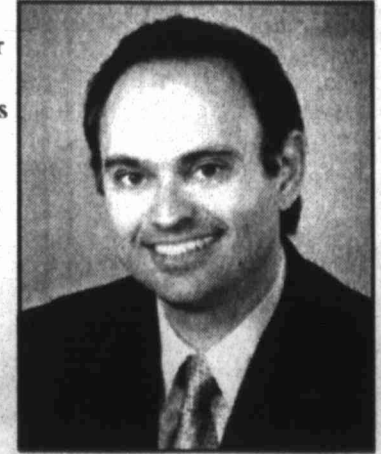
It should not be difficult for West to figure out that the unusual lead in this case is a spade — the suit dummy opened the bidding with. So West leads a spade, East ruffs and cashes a club, and the slam goes down the drain.

Tomorrow: A false sense of security.
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MSRP...
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2006 F...
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Leath...
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News in brief

Asian stocks plunge after Wall Street sell-off as global jitters mount

TOKYO (AP) — Asian stocks plunged Wednesday after Wall Street chalked its second-biggest point drop in four years and rattled already nervous markets worldwide.

The tumble extended a couple weeks of international trading turmoil rooted in concerns about overheated global markets and slower growth in the American economy, a major export market for Asian companies.

Concern about U.S. sub-prime lenders and lackluster retail sales pushed the Dow Jones industrials down nearly 2 percent overnight, sparking selloffs across Asia.

Stocks in Japan, Hong Kong and Australia all fell more than 2 percent, while shares in Singapore, India, Malaysia and the Philippines tumbled at least 3 percent.

At the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the region's biggest bourse, the benchmark Nikkei 225 index sank 501.95 points, or 2.92 percent, to finish at 16,676.89 points. Foreign investors who bought up stocks during the market's recent recovery led the selling, traders said.

Joint Chiefs chairman says he should not have said homosexuality is immoral

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon's top general said Tuesday he should not have voiced his personal view that homosexuality is immoral and should have just stated his support for the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy in an interview that has drawn criticism from lawmakers and gay-rights groups.

The written statement by Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, did not apologize for his stance on homosexuality. In a newspaper interview Monday, Pace likened homosexual acts to adultery and said the military should not condone it by allowing gays to serve openly in the armed forces.

After a flurry of condemnation Tuesday, Pace issued a statement acknowledging that the Defense Department's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays is a sensitive subject and said: "I should have focused more on my support of the policy and less on my personal moral views."

The military lets gay men and lesbians serve if they keep their sexual orientation private. Commanders may not ask, and service members may not tell. More than 10,000 troops, including more than 50 specialists in Arabic, have been discharged since President Clinton signed it into law in 1994.

In an interview with the Pentagon Channel, the military's in-house television station, Defense Secretary Robert Gates declined to answer a question on his opinion of the policy but made what seemed to be a mild rebuke of Pace.

Bush to Congress: Immigration reform is key to better relations with Latin America

MERIDA, Mexico (AP) — President Bush sent a long-distance message to Congress from the southeast tip of Mexico: The future of U.S. relations south of the border hinges on immigration reform.

"I'm going to keep repeating it while I'm here in Mexico — that I know our country must have comprehensive immigration reform," said Bush, who returns to Washington on Wednesday after a second day of meetings with Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

Bush is to speak on the Yucatan Peninsula to the Mexican people and the newly elected Calderon before leaving, but he hopes his words will be heard 1,400 miles away on Capitol Hill where his immigration proposal has been blocked.

The president also had other problems back in Washington, where Attorney General Alberto Gonzales bore the brunt of Democratic criticism over how the Justice Department and White House handled the firing of eight federal prosecutors. Gonzalez acknowledged that mistakes had been made but stood by the firings and rejected calls for his own resignation.

The president could not promise Mexico that Congress will pass his guest worker program. He could only promise to work hard to make it law.

U.N. chief nuclear inspector unable to meet top North Korea nuclear negotiator

BEIJING (AP) — The chief U.N. nuclear inspector, in Pyongyang for talks on how North Korea will close its main atomic reactor, was unable to meet with the country's top nuclear negotiator Wednesday, the agency's spokeswoman said.

The announcement came a day before officials from the U.S. and the North were set to meet with their counterparts from South Korea, China, Russia and Japan in Beijing to discuss economic and energy cooperation as part of five working group sessions established under the Feb. 13 accord.

North Korea pledged during six-nation disarmament talks in Beijing last month to shut down its only operating nuclear reactor by April 14, in return for energy aid and political concessions.

ElBaradei, head of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, had been slated to meet with North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said in a telephone interview from Pyongyang.

They said "he was busy preparing for the six-party talks," Fleming said. She would not release any other details but said ElBaradei met with another vice foreign minister of the same rank, Kim Hyong Jun, instead.

Police arrest 2 suspects in India-Pakistan train bombing that killed 68 people

NEW DELHI (AP) — Two people who allegedly sold the suitcases used to make bombs that ignited deadly fires on a train linking India and Pakistan have been arrested, police said Wednesday, announcing the first arrests in the attack that killed 68 people.

The pair were picked up Tuesday in the central Indian city of Indore, where authorities believe the bombers bought suitcases that were stuffed with explosives and petrol, said R.C. Mishra, a senior police official.

The bombs were set off on Feb. 18 aboard the train, which runs from New Delhi to Lahore, Pakistan, officials said.

Asked if they sold the suitcases knowing they would be used for makeshift bombs, Mishra said he could not provide any additional information.

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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

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	6	1				5	3	
3			6	5				7

MARCH MADNESS Inventory Reduction Sale

<p>★★★ CARS ★★★</p> <p>2007 Ford Taurus SEL - Windveil Blue w/Pebble Leather, 3.0 V-6, All Power, Loaded w/10,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$24,205. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995</p> <p>2007 Ford Taurus SEL - Arizona Beige w/Pebble Premium Leather, 3.0 V-6, Power, Moonroof, Fully Loaded, Only 13,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$25,100. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995</p> <p>2006 Lincoln Town Car Signature Limited - Lt. French Silk, Leather, Loaded, 6 CD in Dash, Moonroof, 18,000 Miles, MSRP When New \$47,120. Was \$30,995 NOW \$29,995</p> <p>2006 Mercury Milan Premier - Vivid Red w/Camel Leather, 2.3-4 Cyl., All Power w/21,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Fusion S - Oxford White, Stone Cloth, All Power, 2.3-4 Cyl., 12,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Taurus SEL - Dark Red, Gray Leather, 3.0 V-6, Moonroof, All Power, 12,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$24,870. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Taurus SE - White w/Flint Cloth, 3.0 V-6, All Power, 14,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$21,450. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Mustang V-6 - Satin Silver w/Graphite Cloth, All Power, Spoiler, Sport Pkg., 21,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2006 Mercury Grand Marquis Premium LS - Tungsten Clearcoat w/Light Stone Leather, 14,000 Miles, MSRP WHEN NEW \$31,060. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Taurus SEL - Arizona Beige w/Pebble Cloth, All Power w/17,000 Miles. MSRP WHEN NEW \$23,030. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Taurus SE - Tungsten Metallic w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned w/32,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2005 Nissan Sentra 1.8S - Maroon w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/22,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2004 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - Silver Frost, Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/27,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$22,995</p> <p>2004 Chrysler Sebring Coupe - Light Blue Metallic, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles. Was \$12,995 NOW \$11,995</p> <p>2004 Ford Mustang - Black w/Cloth, 6 Cyl., 5 Speed, All Power, Local One Owner w/23,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995</p> <p>2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Black w/Leather, All Power, Skylight, Local One Owner w/65,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$21,995</p> <p>2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Silver Metallic w/Leather, All Power, Skylight w/41,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$21,995</p>	<p>★★★ CARS ★★★</p> <p>2004 Ford Focus ZTS 4-DR - Black, Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$11,995</p> <p>2003 Lincoln Town Car Executive - Black w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned w/53,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2003 Mazda MX-5 Miata Convertible LS - Silver, Fully Loaded, Leather, Local One Owner w/40,200 Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2003 Toyota Celica GT - Red, All Power, Extra Clean, One Owner w/37,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995</p> <p>2002 Ford Taurus SES - Arizona Beige, Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned w/68,000 Miles. Was \$10,995 NOW \$9,995</p> <p>2002 Honda Accord Special Edition Coupe - White, All Power, Local One Owner w/64,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2002 Lincoln Town Car Cartier Edition - Pearl White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995</p> <p>1999 Pontiac Grand Prix SE - Green w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned. Was \$6,995 NOW \$5,995</p>	<p>★★★ TRUCKS ★★★</p> <p>2002 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT V-6 - Black, All Power, Automatic, All Power, One Owner w/59,000 Miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$10,995</p> <p>2001 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - White, 4.6, V-8, All Power, 79,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2001 Dodge Dakota - White, Automatic, Locally Owned w/56,000 Miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995</p>
<p>★★★ TRUCKS ★★★</p> <p>2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Silver Clearcoat w/Flint Cloth Captain Chairs, Sport Bedliner, 5.4 V-8, All Power w/13,000 Miles. Was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995</p> <p>2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - White/Beige, Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/29,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995</p> <p>2006 Ford F150 Supercab XL 4X4 - White, V-8, Air, Automatic, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2004 Ford Ranger Supercab Edge - Red, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/58,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2004 Nissan King Cab XE - Silver, 4-Cyl., Automatic, Local One Owner w/45,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995</p> <p>2004 Ford F150 STX - 6-Cyl., Automatic, Air, Extra Clean, One Owner w/17,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2004 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT 4-DR - Beige, 6-Cyl., Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/55,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 - White, 4.7 V-8, Automatic, Locally Owned w/49,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2003 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Silver, All Power, Local One Owner w/47,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995</p>	<p>★★★ SUV's & Vans ★★★</p> <p>2007 Ford Freestar SEL Van - Dune Pearl w/Pebble Leather, Quad Captain Chairs And 3rd Row Leather Seat, Dual Air/Heat, Totally Loaded w/16,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/35,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$17,995</p> <p>2004 Ford Explorer XLT - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/34,000 Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2003 GMC Envoy XL SLT - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/67,000 Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995</p> <p>2002 Ford Escape XLT - Yellow w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned, 48,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2002 Ford Expedition 4X4 XLT - Red/Tan, Tan Leather, Fiberglass Boards, One Owner w/88,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2002 Cadillac Escalade AWD - Sandstone w/Leather, Fully Loaded, Local One Owner w/41,000 Miles. Was \$29,995 NOW \$25,995</p> <p>2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/64,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS - White/Cloth, All Power, 56,000 Miles. Was \$12,995 NOW \$9,995</p> <p>2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995</p> <p>1999 GMC Suburban LT - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned, Over 100K Miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$9,995</p>	<p>★★★ MOTORCYCLE ★★★</p> <p>2004 Honda VTX1300 - Red, Chrome, Saddle Bags, Cobra Drag Exhaust, One Owner w/3000 Miles. Was \$8,995 NOW \$7,995</p>

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Gonzales sidesteps calls for resignation

By MERRILL HARTSON

Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — Embattled Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said Wednesday it's up to President Bush whether he remains in the administration and said he wants to stay and explain to Congress the circumstances surrounding the firings of eight U.S. attorneys.

Amid an escalating political row and calls from some Democrats for his resignation, Gonzales said, "I work for the American people and serve at the pleasure of the president."

"I think you can look at the record of the department in terms of what we've done ... going after child predators, public corruption cases," he said on NBC's "Today" show. "I think our record is outstanding."

Critics charge that the prosecutors were ousted because of political considerations.

Gonzales acknowledged, as he had on Tuesday,



U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales gives a press conference at the Department of Justice Tuesday in Washington, D.C.

that mistakes were made in the handling of the U.S. attorney firings and said he wanted to remain in the job to make things right with Congress.

"I think we've done a good job in managing the

department. ... Things are going to happen," he said. "We are going to work with Congress to make sure they know what happened. ... We want to ensure that they have a complete and accurate

picture of what happened here."

"I didn't become attorney general by quitting," Gonzales said on CBS's "The Early Show."

Several Democrats have called for Gonzales' resig-

nation, among them presidential candidates Hillary Rodham Clinton and John Edwards.

"The buck should stop somewhere," Clinton said in an interview with ABC's "Good Morning America" which was broadcast Wednesday morning. She added that Bush "needs to be very forthcoming - what did he say, what did he know, what did he do?" and that high-level White House adviser Karl Rove also "owes the Congress and the country an explanation" for his role in the affair.

The firestorm of criticism has erupted in the wake of the disclosure of e-mails within the administration which showed that Gonzales' chief of staff, Kyle Sampson, had discussed the possible firings of U.S. attorneys in early 2005 with then-White House Counsel Harriet Miers.

Gonzales accepted Sampson's resignation this week; Miers had left the administration earlier

this year.

It was the second time in as many weeks that Gonzales came under withering criticism on Capitol Hill. Last week, the attorney general and FBI Director Robert S. Mueller admitted that the FBI had improperly, and at times illegally, used the USA Patriot Act to secretly pry out personal information about Americans in terrorism investigations.

Gonzales, himself a former White House counsel, has been friends with Bush for years, going back to when he served as Bush's secretary of state in Texas. Bush retains full confidence in the attorney general, spokesman Dan Bartlett, traveling with Bush in Mexico, said Wednesday.

As for the firings, Bartlett said White House officials had heard complaints from members of Congress regarding prosecutors and Bush had raised the subject during an October 2006 meeting with Gonzales.

Demos push open-government agenda

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pushing back at what they say has been one of the most secretive administrations in decades, congressional Democrats are marking "Sunshine Week" with bills to increase public access to government activities and protect whistle-blowers who expose wrongdoing.

The House on Wednesday was to vote on four open government bills, including one aimed at government foot-dragging in answering the millions of Freedom of Information Act requests it receives every year.

Another, sparking a veto threat from the White House, would reverse a Bush administration decision making it easier for presidents to withhold their own records from public scrutiny.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, meanwhile was holding a hearing on a parallel FOIA bill promoted by Sens. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and John Cornyn, R-Texas.

In prepared statements, media representatives stressed the importance of public access to timely information on government decisions that affect their lives.

Tom Curley, president and CEO of The Associated Press and a member of the Sunshine in Government Initiative, a media coalition, related how it took a year for an AP reporter to get lab reports on lead levels in lunch boxes

that the Consumer Product Safety Commission had deemed safe. The tests revealed that one lunch box in five contained lead levels that some medical experts considered unsafe.

"Why did it take a year for the commission to respond to a relatively simple request that FOIA says it was supposed to answer in 20 working days?" Curley said.

Meredith Fuchs, general counsel to the National Security Archives, a private research institute, offered data showing that seven agencies have unanswered FOIA requests dating back more than 10 years.

The House and Senate bills would impose penalties and incentives to ensure that agencies abide by the 20-business-day deadline for responses and give requesters a means to track the status of their requests.

The House bill goes a step further in restoring a "presumption of disclosure" standard that obliges agencies to release requested information unless there is a finding that such a disclosure could do harm.

That would overturn a memo issued by former Attorney General John Ashcroft after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks advising against the release of information when there was uncertainty over security or law enforcement exemptions.

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IN BRIEF

Tim Siegel slates Tennis Camps

Tim Siegel, the Big 12 Tennis Coach of the Year in 2005, will be conducting overnight tennis camps on June 2-6 and June 17-21.

The camp is for children ages 8 to 17 and is open to players with all ability levels. Siegel has been Director of the TTU Tennis Camps since 1993. For additional information, contact Mr. Siegel at (806) 742-3355 ext. 277.

Big Spring HS baseball schedule

The Big Spring varsity baseball team is scheduled to play Odessa Permian in a doubleheader Thursday.

The first pitch is scheduled for noon.

The junior varsity baseball team is scheduled to play a doubleheader at Odessa Permian, Thursday at noon.



NCAA tournament for Texas men

Thursday, March 15
At Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Boston College (20-11) vs. Texas Tech (21-12), 12:25 p.m.

Thursday, March 16
At Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky.

Louisville (23-9) vs. Stanford (18-12), 12:40 p.m.

Texas A&M (25-6) vs. Pennsylvania (22-8), 30 minutes after previous game.

Friday, March 16
At New Orleans Arena in New Orleans, La.

Memphis (30-3) vs. North Texas (23-10), 12:30 p.m.

Friday, March 16
At Spokane Memorial Arena in Spokane, Wash.

Texas (24-9) vs. New Mexico State (25-8), 7:25 p.m.

Friday, March 16
At The United Center in Chicago.

UNLV (28-6) vs. Georgia Tech (20-11), 12:25 p.m.

Wisconsin (29-5) vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (26-6), 30 minutes after previous game.

Spurs' streak to 13 straight wins

By ELIZABETH WHITE

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — If the San Antonio Spurs were the forgotten team in the Western Conference race earlier this season, there is no overlooking them now.

The Spurs won their 13th straight Tuesday night, beating the Los Angeles Clippers 93-84. They haven't lost since Feb. 11.

"Thirteen games ago, we didn't say we needed to win 13 in a row to get back into this thing," said Tim Duncan. "We're just trying to get better as a basketball team, so when the playoffs start, we feel we can win games night in and night out."

With the Dallas Mavericks' 17-game winning streak ending with a 117-100 loss Monday to the Golden State Warriors, San Antonio now owns the league's longest winning streak and its longest of the season.

"It would mean more if we won 14," Duncan said. "And if we win 14, then 15. You just want to win the next one. That's what it's about."

Tony Parker led the Spurs with 25 points. Duncan added 19, Manu Ginobili had 16 and Michael Finley contributed 13 as the Spurs completed a sweep of their four meetings with the Clippers this season.

Corey Maggette led the Clippers with 17 points, while Elton Brand had 16 points and 10 rebounds. Tim Thomas had 15 points, Chris Kaman added 13 and Jason Hart contributed 10.

The Spurs' 46-18 record puts them 3 1/2 games behind the Phoenix Suns, who have won five in a row, for second place in the Western Conference.



MCT photo/Vernon Bryant/Dallas Morning News
Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki (41) drives around San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan in the Western Conference Finals in 2006. After the Mavs' won 17 straight this season, the Spurs are on a 13 game winning streak. The two Texas teams appear to be the best in the NBA.

"We're not looking at the standings yet," Duncan said. "It will figure itself out. We're just worried about ourselves right now. Just trying to play our best basketball."

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said his team made little progress Tuesday and wasted a chance to improve.

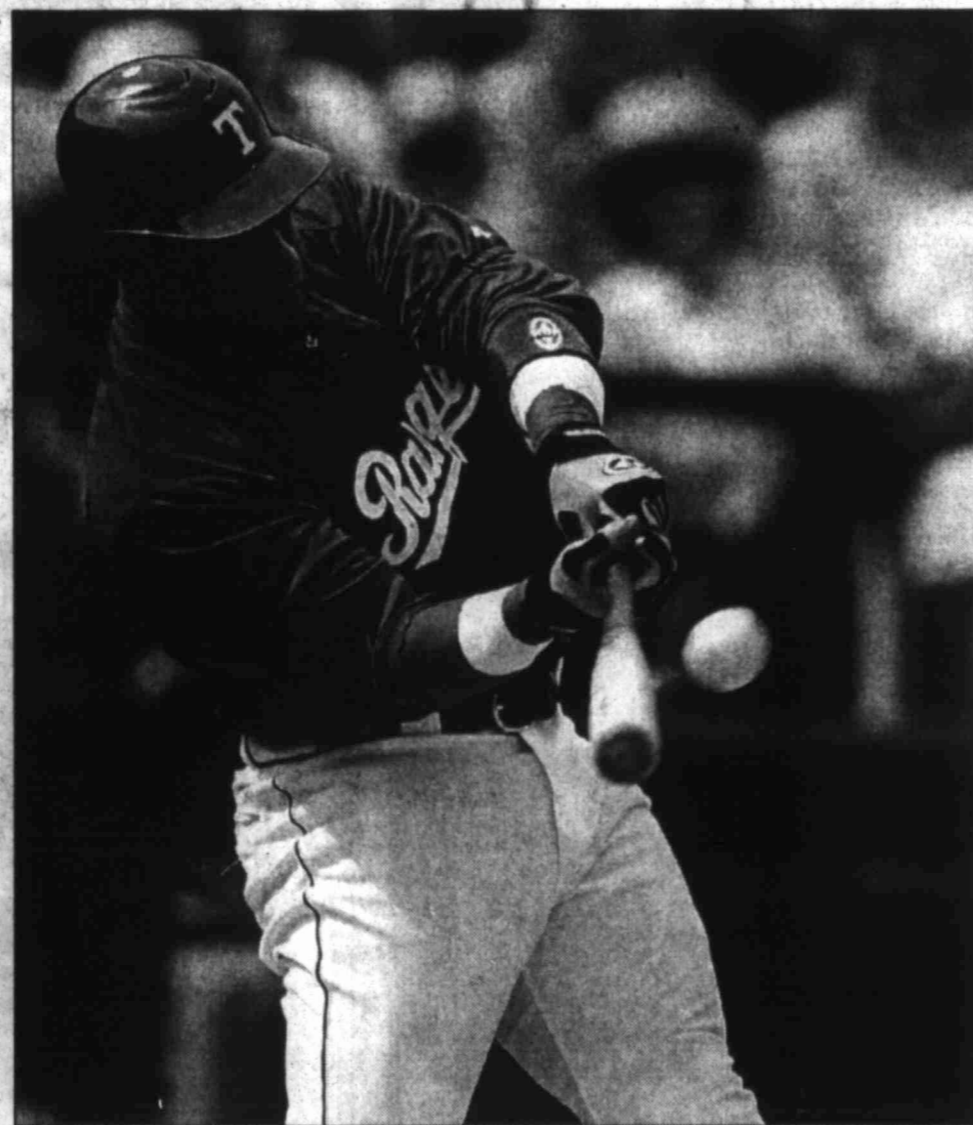
"It wasn't the greatest game but we came out with the win," he

said. "Winning is always more fun than losing."

The Clippers have lost four straight, including an 88-74 loss

See SPURS, Page 2B

Comeback kid: Sosa gets 2 more hits for Texas



MCT photo/Khampha Bousaphanh/Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Texas Rangers' Sammy Sosa continues to swing a hot bat. The seven time All-Star continues to look impressive and should make the opening day roster for the Rangers.

(AP) — Sammy Sosa is off to a better start than anyone would have imagined — except the slugger himself.

The seven-time All-Star got two more hits Tuesday, and his comeback with the Texas Rangers is going exceedingly well. He even sounds a little annoyed that anyone ever doubted him.

"I'm a good player. I may surprise other people, but I never surprise myself. I know I was out for a year, but give me some credit. You're talking to me like I've never hit before," Sosa said. "I'm a positive thinker. I never think negative. If I show up for spring training it's for a reason — because I know I can make it. I'm not here for the money. I've got money. I'm not here because I'm struggling. I'm a gamer."

The 38-year-old Sosa went 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI during a 12-8 loss to the Chicago White Sox in Surprise, Ariz. In nine games this spring, he's hitting .464 (13-for-28) with two homers, two doubles, a triple and six RBIs.

Sosa sat out last season after batting only .221 with 14 homers in 102 games for Baltimore in 2005.

"Don't tell me this is spring training," he said. "I came

here to play and I've been playing good. Spring training or not, it doesn't matter to me. I could be playing in Mexico and it would be the same thing."

The 1998 NL MVP is 12 homers shy of becoming the fifth player in major league history to hit 600.

"I haven't taken a year off in 17 years since I started playing," Sosa said. "I feel hungry again."

Rangers manager Ron Washington said he had little doubt about Sosa's ability to hit — even after a year out of the game.

"When you find a guy like him with the work ethic he has, you trust him until he proves you wrong. And he hasn't proven me wrong yet," Washington said.

Astros 11, Braves 3

At Kissimmee, Fla., Atlanta starter Tim Hudson threw four comfortable innings, allowing two runs and five hits. Houston ace Roy Oswalt went four innings, his longest stint of the spring. He gave up two runs and seven hits while striking out three.

Padres 5, Rockies 5, 10 innings

At Tucson, Ariz., Rockies manager Clint Hurdle walked

See SOSA, page 2B

Tech AD plans for stadium expansion

LUBBOCK (AP) — A master plan for improving Texas Tech's football stadium includes the addition of 30,000 seats over the next 20 years and a five-story building for club, retail and suite space.

Athletic director Gerald Myers presented the plan Tuesday to the facilities committee of the Texas Tech University system board of regents. Improvements to Jones AT&T Stadium would cost an estimated \$40 million.

Myers also presented plans for \$14 million to

\$21 million in upgrades for baseball and softball facilities on campus.

The plan presented to the committee had few details on funding.

"The funding for all of this is not complete at this point, but we are working diligently to do all of these things," Myers said in a story for Wednesday's Lubbock Avalanche-Journal.

Planners want to start adding 10,000 seats straddling the north end zone by next spring. The athletic offices, suites and retail facilities would be built on the east side of

the stadium.

Proposals for softball improvements include a new fieldhouse, stands and practice facilities. For baseball, improvements would include upgrades to artificial turf, concession additions, and a new press box and eight luxury suites.

"I'm glad to see they're doing a master plan," committee chairman Bob Black said.

"I think it's been long in coming, but very, very encouraging to see it coming out of the athletics department."



MCT photo/KRT
TCU and Texas Tech play at SBC Jones Stadium in Lubbock. The stadium will begin expansion as early as next spring.

Burke not hitting, but not worried

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — An .059 spring batting average has Chris Burke "frustrated, but not worried."

Well, at least not yet. "Now if you ask me in a week and I still haven't had any hits, then I'd probably be worried," the Houston Astros center fielder said with a nervous laugh.

While Burke has adjusted nicely to his new gig as Houston's regular center fielder, his batting this spring hasn't gone nearly as well and he is 2-for-34.

Despite the struggles, manager Phil Garner downplays the importance of results in spring training.

"Every year there's probably five or six kids that have rotten springs and start the season off good," Garner said. "So we make way too much out of some things at spring training and that's one of the things we make too much of."

Burke, who has started 37 games in center field in two seasons and spent most of his time as a backup in the infield, was penciled in at center field as soon as the possibility of trading Willy Taveras came up.

"I can remember distinctly sitting in the room in Orlando during the winter meetings when this idea came up about trading Willy," said Astros general manager Tim Lincecum. "I asked Garner, 'are you comfortable with Chris Burke in center field and he said absolutely.' So that's been the plan since that point

and it's going to stay that way. Chris has earned the right to play every day."

Taveras was sent to Colorado in the Jason Jennings trade.

Burke hit .276 with 23 doubles, nine home runs and 40 RBIs last season. That performance is yet another reason why his job isn't in jeopardy and the Astros aren't concerned with the slump.

"If Chris Burke had never hit in his career, if we were looking at him now to try to step up and say 'we've got a big league job for you, but you've got to show us something,' Yeah, then there would have to be more there than what's happening now," Garner said. "But we know he can hit. He has hit. I think he will hit."

The 27-year-old had surgery on his left shoulder in October, but insists he is healthy and the problem isn't physical.

"My body feels great. Obviously I had shoulder surgery in the offseason, but I really feel fine. I really do," he said. "I couldn't ask any more of my body than I've felt all spring."

Burke's woes continued Tuesday night when he went 0-for-3 in Houston's 11-3 win over Atlanta.

"People ask a you lot, 'it's just spring training, are you frustrated?' Well sure," he said.

"That's just the nature of the game, you want to go out there and get a hit. If you feel comfortable with the process, you feel like the hits will come. I feel comfortable with the process. I just haven't had any results up to this point."

NCAA Women's basketball tournament 2007

DALLAS

FIRST ROUND March 18
1 N. Carolina
16 Prairie View
8 UCLA
9 Notre Dame

SECOND ROUND March 20
5 Geo. Wash.
12 Boise State
4 Texas A&M
13 Texas Ar.

REGIONALS March 24-27
March 17
4 Iowa State
11 Washington
3 Georgia
14 Belmont

SEMIFINALS April 1
March 19
7 Ga. Tech
2 Purdue
15 Oral Roberts

FRESNO

FIRST ROUND March 18
Connecticut
UMBC
New Mexico
Green Bay

SECOND ROUND March 20
March 18
Baylor
Chattanooga
N. Carolina St.
Rob. Morris

REGIONALS March 24-27
March 19
Xavier
W. Virginia
LSU
UNC Ash.

SEMIFINALS April 1
March 19
Old Dominion
Florida St.
Stanford
Idaho St.

DAYTON

FIRST ROUND March 18
1 Tennessee
16 Drake
9 Pittsburgh
9 JMU

SECOND ROUND March 20
March 17
8 Mid. Tenn. St.
12 Gonzaga
4 Ohio St.
13 Marist

REGIONALS March 24-27
March 19
6 Marquette
11 La. Lafayette
9 Oklahoma
14 SE Mo. St.

SEMIFINALS April 1
March 20
7 Mississippi
10 TCU
2 Maryland
15 Harvard


GREENSBORO

FIRST ROUND March 18
Duke
Holy Cross
Temple
Nebraska

SECOND ROUND March 20
March 18
Mich. St.
Delaware
Rutgers
E. Carolina

REGIONALS March 24-27
March 19
Louisville
BYU
Arizona St.
UC Riverside

SEMIFINALS April 1
March 20
Bowling Green
Okla. St.
Vanderbilt
Dela. St.



CLEVELAND
April 3

SPURS

Continued from 1B

to San Antonio in Los Angeles on March 5.

"I thought we missed a lot of good shots," Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy said. "We had a lot of great shots that we just didn't finish. We had a lot of in-and-outs around the basket."

The Clippers went just 3-of-7 from the foul line and gave up 22 points off of 13 turnovers.

"You make any type of mistake, even the smallest kind of mistake, they

capitalize on them," Maggette said.

Los Angeles had a one-point lead after one quarter thanks to Hart, who was 4-of-4 from the field in the period. Duncan scored 10 of his 14 first-half points in the second, and Parker added six points in the last 1:11, including a running layup with 6.8 seconds left that gave the Spurs a 50-40 halftime lead.

"What gives us hope is the fact that if we play like we did tonight we will win games," Dunleavy said.

Maggette scored six

straight Los Angeles points early in the third and had 10 in the quarter. Finley had eight for San Antonio, which extended its lead to 11 after three.

The Clippers got within five early in the fourth

before Parker helped the Spurs pull away. Brent Barry's steal led to Parker's layup with 5:33 left to make it 84-75. Parker added two more buckets to push the lead to 88-78.

SOSA

Continued from 1B

toward the mound and shouted at San Diego's Doug Brocail after the reliever hit a Colorado batter with a pitch for the second time in four days.

Brocail plunked All-Star Matt Holliday on the hand with a fourth-inning pitch. Hurdle was later ejected along with Rockies pitcher Jeff Francis after the left-hander threw behind Kevin Kouzmanoff in a testy game.

Todd Helton hit a three-run homer off Padres starter David Wells.

Mariners 4, Brewers 2
At Peoria, Ariz., Jarrod Washburn overcame early struggles to pitch four solid innings for Seattle. Milwaukee ace Ben Sheets posted his best outing of the spring, throwing five shutout innings.

Diamondbacks 6, Cubs 5
At Tucson, Ariz., Micah Owings, one of several candidates looking to earn a slot in Arizona's rotation, tossed three scoreless innings. Eric Byrnes homered off Chicago starter Wade Miller, who allowed two runs and five hits in four innings, striking out five. Carlos Quentin also connected for the Diamondbacks.

Reds 6, Yankees 3
At Tampa, Fla., Mike

Mussina had another tough outing for New York, allowing three runs and five hits in three innings. Josh Hamilton added to his remarkable spring for the Reds, going 2-for-2 with a walk and a sacrifice fly.

Dodgers 4, Tigers 3
At Vero Beach, Fla., Rafael Furcal grounded out his first two times up, then doubled off Jason Grilli in the first action for the Los Angeles lead-off hitter since March 1. He had been sidelined by a sore right shoulder.

Twins 5, Cardinals 2
At Fort Myers, Fla.,

Albert Pujols grounded out and walked against two-time AL Cy Young Award winner Johan Santana. Cardinals shortstop David Eckstein started for the first time since the spring training opener Feb. 28, when he strained his left oblique muscle. He went 1-for-3 with a double and an RBI groundout.

Marlins 4, Orioles 1
At Jupiter, Fla., Miguel Cabrera said his first home run of spring training wasn't personal, even though it bounced on the balcony outside general manager Larry Beinfest's

office beyond the left-field wall at Roger Dean Stadium.

Cabrera won a \$7.4 million salary in arbitration last month after Beinfest and the Marlins offered \$6.7 million. Before that, Beinfest criticized Cabrera for missing a team promotional event. Cabrera blamed the absence on his father's illness in Venezuela.


Blue Jays 1, Red Sox 0
At Dunedin, Fla., A.J. Burnett allowed one hit, struck out five and walked two. Boston starter Kyle Snyder allowed two hits.

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American Profile

MARCH 31, 2007 7:11 PM

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WEDNESDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (32)						
6	News (CC)	News	Duho de Pasiones	King of the Hill	The Simpsons	Entertainment	Dama Chocolate	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Curt Landry	John Hagee	News-Laher	MythBusters (CC)	Without a Trace (CC)	Live (CC) Access	Phil of Future	College Basketball: Zack & Cody	College Basketball: NIT First Round	College Basketball: NIT First Round	Movie: House of the Dead 2					
7	George Lopez	George Lopez	La Fari Mas Bela	Bones (CC)	Jericho (CC)	Marina	Friday Night Lights (CC)	Raymond	Update/Israel	Dr. Swallow	Evening-Dahann	Mega Builders (CC)	Movie: Magnum Force	ER (CC)	Movie: The Players Club	Movie: 102 Dalmatians	NIT First Round	NBA Basketball: Phoenix Suns at Dallas	Movie: Memento						
8	Accordian Jim	Accordian Jim	In Case-Emer	American Idol	TI Death	Criminal Minds (CC)	Zoro - La Espada y la	Raymond	Light of the Southwest	King	Music Farmers	MythBusters (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	ER (CC)	Movie: Rip the Runway (CC)	Like Danc	Open - Easty Round (CC)	Phoenix Suns at Dallas	Movie: Memento						
9	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Don Francisco	70s Show	News	CSI: NY (CC)	Rosa	Decisiones	Medium (CC)	King	Independent	MythBusters (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	ER (CC)	Movie: Rip the Runway (CC)	Like Danc	Open - Easty Round (CC)	Phoenix Suns at Dallas	Movie: Memento						
10	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.	70s Show	News	CSI: NY (CC)	Decisiones	Medium (CC)	King	Independent	MythBusters (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	ER (CC)	Movie: Rip the Runway (CC)	Like Danc	Open - Easty Round (CC)	Phoenix Suns at Dallas	Movie: Memento						
11	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora de la	King of the Hill	Letterman	Late Late	W! Rojo Vival	Late Night	Movie: The	Whole Nine	Yards (CC)	CBM Ministers	Charles Scott	45 Movie:	From Alcatraz	Las Vegas	In Living Color	Kim Possible	College Basketball: NIT First Round					
12	Live (CC)	News (CC)	Mercury Media	El Privilegio de	Amor	Malcolm-Mid.	My Wife-Kids	Show	The Insider	Pagado	Coran O'Brien	Apex	Movie: The	Whole Ten	Update/Israel	John Hagee	Star Trek: Voyager	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	ComicView (CC)	Proud Family	Sister, Sister	NIT First Round	Gamenight	NFL Live	Twilight Zone

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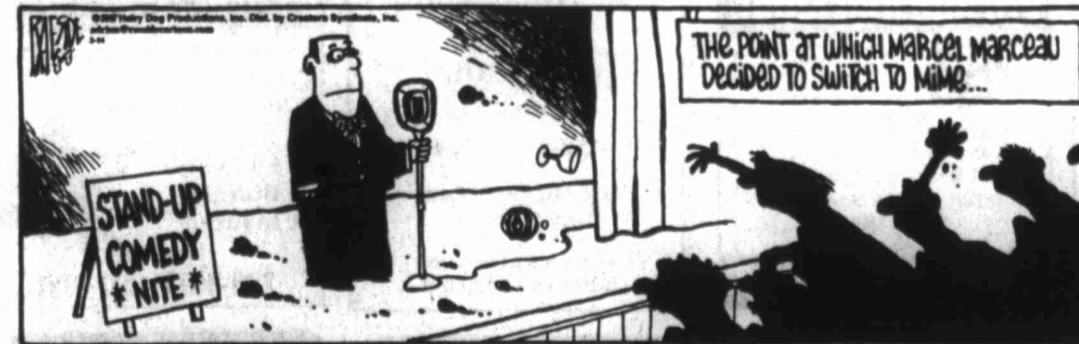
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, March 14, the 73rd day of 2007. There are 292 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 14, 1794, Eli Whitney received a patent for his cotton gin, an invention that revolutionized America's cotton industry.

On this date:

In 1900, Congress ratified the Gold Standard Act.

In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an executive order designed to prevent Japanese laborers from immigrating to the United States as part of a "gentlemen's agreement" with Japan.

In 1923, President Harding became the first chief executive to file an income tax report.

In 1939, the republic of Czechoslovakia was dissolved, opening the way for Nazi occupation of Czech

areas and the separation of Slovakia.

In 1951, during the Korean War, United Nations forces recaptured Seoul.

In 1964, a jury in Dallas found Jack Ruby guilty of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy.

In 1965, Israel's cabinet formally approved establishment of diplomatic relations with West Germany.

In 1967, the body of President Kennedy was moved from a temporary grave to a permanent memorial site at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1980, a Polish airliner crashed while making an emergency landing near Warsaw, killing all 87 people aboard, including 22 members of a U.S. amateur boxing team.

In 1991, a British court reversed the convictions of the Birmingham 6, who had spent 16 years in prison for an Irish Republican Army bombing, and ordered them released.

Today's Birthdays: Former astronaut Frank Borman is 79. Singer Phil Phillips is 76.

Actor Michael Caine is 74. Composer-conductor Quincy Jones is 74. Former astronaut Eugene Cernan is 73. Movie director Wolfgang Petersen is 66. Country singer Michael Martin Murphey is 62. Rock musician Walt Parazailer (Chicago) is 62. Actor Steve Kanaly is 61. Comedian Billy Crystal is 59. Country singer Jann Browne is 53. Actor Adrian Zmed is 53. Prince Albert of Monaco is 49. Actress Tamara Tunie is 48. Actress Penny Johnson Jerald is 46. Producer-director-writer Kevin Williamson is 42. Actress Megan Follows is 39. Rock musician Michael Bland is 38.

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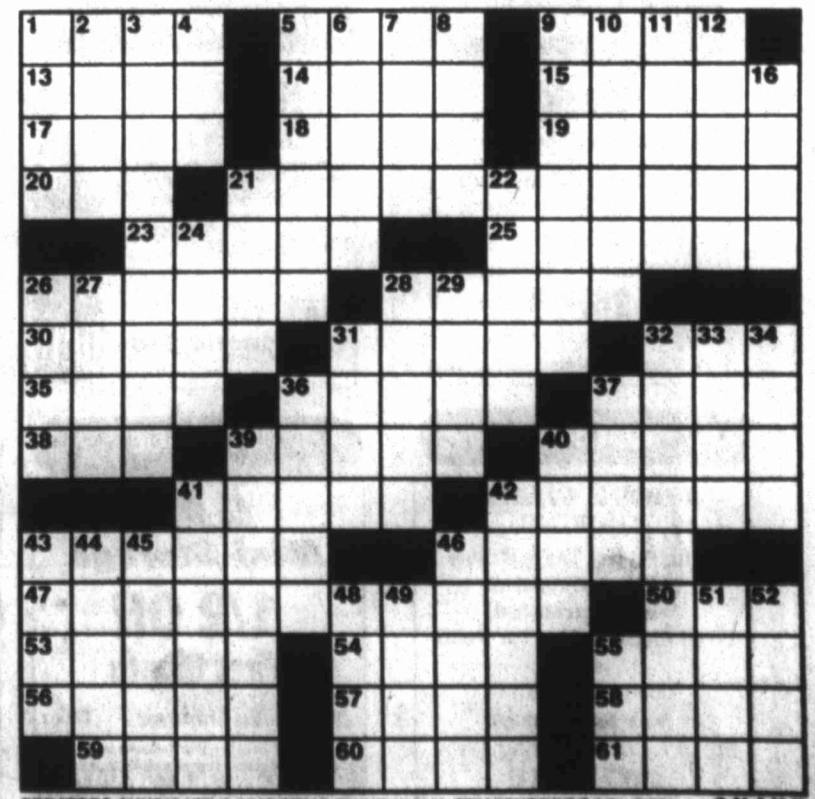
Answer to previous puzzle

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

Newsday Crossword

MATERIAL WORLD by Daniel R. Stark
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Galileo's hometown
 - 5 Tentacles
 - 9 Hindu melody
 - 13 Picks, with "for"
 - 14 Farewell in 1 Across
 - 15 French spa
 - 17 Accepts an invitation
 - 18 Shout
 - 19 Roman hunt goddess
 - 20 Poetic piece
 - 21 Carnival treat
 - 23 Dalai Lama's city
 - 25 Strong points
 - 26 Least number
 - 28 Postpone
 - 30 Atmospheric layer
 - 31 Metalworker's pin
 - 32 That guy
 - 35 Play-for-pay athletes
 - 36 ___ and onions
 - 37 Arizona city
 - 38 Actor Mineo
 - 39 Up and about
 - 40 Ambitions
 - 41 Icy surfaces
 - 42 Castle feature
 - 43 Split along the grain
 - 46 Haystacks painter
 - 47 Wild ducks
 - 50 Pilots' supervisory org.
 - 53 Watchful attention
 - 54 Story opener
 - 55 Tennis match parts
 - 56 Cara of Fame
- DOWN**
- 1 ___ stick (type of toy)
 - 2 Walkman descendant
 - 3 Kitchen-sink item
 - 4 Mule's father
 - 5 Confront boldly
 - 6 Gaucho's rope
 - 7 Brewer's grain
 - 8 Recital piece
 - 9 1776 soldier
 - 10 Large birdcage
 - 11 Titanic
 - 12 Bravo alternative
 - 16 Opposing votes
 - 21 Check out, as a joint
 - 22 Packer or Patriot
 - 24 Scarce as ___ teeth
 - 26 Fussy dressers
 - 27 Old Testament book
 - 28 Olympic events
 - 29 Unbumpy
 - 31 Take a chance with
 - 32 Sincere
 - 33 Archipelago dot
 - 34 Upright pole
 - 36 Legal-pad features
 - 37 Oliver Twist's request
 - 39 Was equal to
 - 40 Oater props
 - 41 Canyon
 - 42 Game pieces
 - 43 206, in old Rome
 - 44 Pirates' bases
 - 45 Actress Georgia
 - 46 Hatfield adversary
 - 48 Tusked animal
 - 49 Paquin of *The Piano*
 - 51 Positron's place
 - 52 Egyptian snakes
 - 55 Dieter's resort



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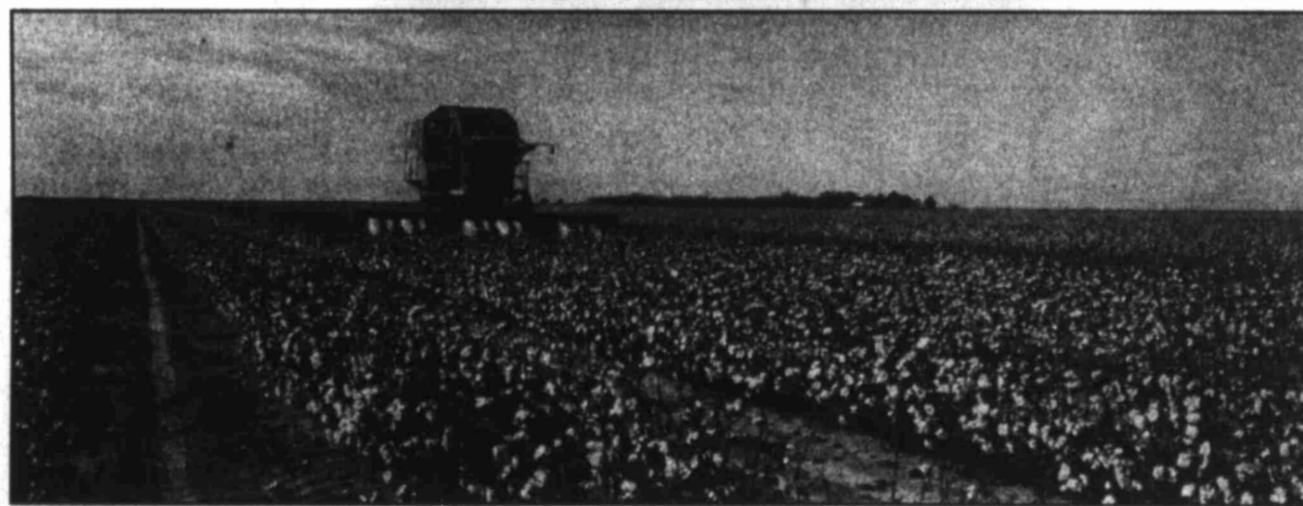
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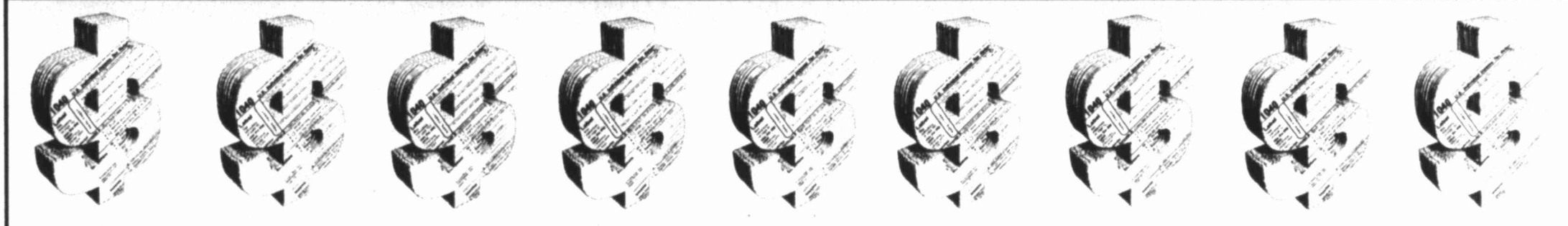
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