

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

THURSDAY
February 4, 1999

Tonight:



TONIGHT 45°-50°
FRIDAY 70°-75°

Registration begins for spring Citizens Police Academy

Big Spring Police Department is taking applications for the spring Citizens Police Academy class. The class will receive 3.6 continuing education units at Howard College, and learn about the department's operations in the community.

Applications are now available on the police department's web page at police.big-spring.tx.us. Select patrol division, then citizens police academy, and you can download the application to your computer.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old. Call Sgt. Lee Everett at the police department at 264-2564.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ Book Club, 7 p.m., Howard County Library Reading Room. The book "The Green Mile" by Stephen King will be discussed.

□ Genealogical Society of Big Spring, 7:15 p.m., Howard County Library. Call Bernice Cason at 267-8542 or 267-7236.

□ Masonic Lodge No. 1340, 7:30 p.m., 2101 Lancaster. Call Charles Bailey at 263-1067.

FRIDAY

□ Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. All seniors invited.

SATURDAY

□ Boy Scout food drive from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

□ Dance 8:30 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third.

□ Big Spring Squares call 267-7034 or 263-6305 for more information.

□ The Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A one-time admission fee of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizen is encouraged.

□ The Pottin House, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1-5 p.m. A one-time admission fee of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizen is encouraged.

MONDAY

□ Big Spring Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., 1607 E. Third.

□ Big Spring Comandery No. 31, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Temple, 211 1/2 Main. 6:30 p.m. dinner.

□ Big Spring Assembly No. 211, Social Order of the Beauceant, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Temple, 211 1/2 Main. 6:30 p.m. dinner.

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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

'Charlie Brown' and gang to come alive under HC production

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**
Staff Writer

A portrait of one's disgruntled, unappreciated, downtrodden human experience — and his dog — come to life with Howard College's production of "You're A Good Man, Charlie



GRIZZLE

Brown." "Charlie Brown is every man's man. We've all had our bad days and those days where we are taken advantage of, and he's one character not written larger than life," said Clay Grizzle, theater instructor at Howard College.

A six-person cast will bring the ever popular story to life Feb. 26-28 and March 5-7. Performances are set for 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and a 2 p.m. matinee is scheduled for Sundays. Tickets are \$3.

"This is a musical comedy,

and it's the perfect play for the cast I've got. It's a wonderful play, and it will have all of the things we expect from Charlie Brown," Grizzle said.

The famous kite, as well as a baseball team that never wins, Snoopy worried about eating, Lucy pushing every one around, Linus and his blanket and Schroeder with his piano are all there, Grizzle said.

"We have all those things, and more. Snoopy has one of the bigger singing roles, but only the audience is supposed to hear her. To her fellow cast mates,

Snoopy's lines sound like a bark," he said.

Snoopy will be played by Farrah Schooler. Tabatha McIntosh portrays Lucy, while Stacy Bloodworth is Peppermint Patty.

Dusty Osborn performs as Schroeder, Brandon Johnson is Linus, and Charlie Brown will be portrayed by Chris Weaver.

"This will be basically like seeing a Charlie Brown comedy strip on stage, with lots of little stories, some that overlap. This is a fun show with rapid stuff going on," he said.

Written by Charles Schultz, the original creator of Charlie Brown characters, Grizzle said this play is one of the most produced shows in theater.

"This is kids humor, but aimed at adults. Children will like this, but live theater is not really appropriate for children younger than 5," he said.

The performance, in two acts, should last nearly two hours, he said. Students have been rehearsing four times each week, and will increase to nightly rehearsals as opening day approaches, he said.



Designer Deun Shonowo demonstrates the correct way to tie a traditional African headwrap on Howard College student Teresa Johnson Wednesday. Shonowo presented fashion shows at Howard College and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf as part of Black History Month. Related story and photos, Page 5A.

Oil woes

Oil company owners not impressed with tax cut

LUBBOCK (AP) — Small oil company owner Ernest Angelo longs for the days when oil men were seen as rich barons with diamond rings and private jets — and they actually had clout with legislators outside of the state.

Now, in the midst of the worst oil crisis in decades, all they can wrangle is a state bill proposing an exemption from the 4.6 severance oil tax rate.

Angelo and other folks in the oilpatch say something is better than nothing.

"Anything helps," said Angelo, who owns Enerstar Resources and was mayor of Midland in the 1970s. "Right now you have a lot of wells that are not possible to operate. Anything that reduces their cost for oilmen is going to be beneficial, but the tax cut isn't going to work any miracles and that is what many people need."

The bill, sponsored by Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown, R-Lake

Jackson, would exempt small oil producers from the state's severance tax when the price for crude oil falls below \$15 per barrel. Gas producers would be exempt when prices fall to less than \$1.80 per thousand cubic feet.

While not condemning the efforts of state legislators who pushed for the tax exemption bill, Angelo said he wished the oil industry could get more help from the federal level.

"We used to have more influence when the industry was doing well," he said. "We've been the political whipping boys for years now. No one outside of Texas is paying much attention."

Tom Collins, president of Ware Inc., called the tax exemption measure "well-intentioned," but not a "cure-all."

"This won't convince anyone to go out and dig an extra well,"

See OIL, Page 2A

Local law officials back efforts to strengthen drunk driving laws

By **DEBBIE L. JENSEN**
Features Editor

Local and state law enforcement officials said today they applaud efforts to strengthen drunk-driving penalties in Texas.

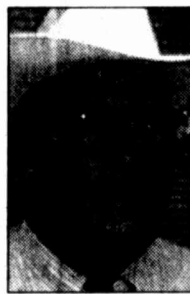
Proposed legislation in the Texas House of Representatives would lower the legal blood-alcohol limit from .10 to .08, an effort supported by Gov. George W. Bush. Lawmakers have also proposed a new open container law and tougher penalties for repeat offenders.

Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith said lowering the blood alcohol limit would be a wise move.

"Especially for the young people, but for everyone," he said. "It think this is a real good idea.



SMITH



JENNINGS

So many people are killed and hurt each year by drunk drivers."

Howard County Sheriff Bill Jennings agreed.

"We need to do everything we can," he said, "to help our kids grow up to be adults, not statistics."

Of all suspected drunk drivers brought in last year by police officers, Smith said he estimated only two or three were found

to be within legal limits after testing at the police station. On local streets and highways, officers and deputies must rely on a series of "field sobriety tests" that measure such factors as hand-eye coordination to determine if they believe a driver is drunk.

If the legal blood-alcohol limit is lowered, Smith said he would expect the number of arrests to rise, but perhaps not dramatically.

"Most of the people we see have been way above (the legal limit)," he said, citing blood-alcohol levels as high as .15 and over .20.

Jennings said he has noticed similar high numbers at the Sheriff's Office.

"This may not result in all that many more arrests,"

Jennings said. "But anything we can do to strengthen our present laws (is a good idea)."

"As with any law that cuts down on drinking and driving, we'd be pleased to enforce it if the legislature enacts it," said Tela Mange, spokesperson with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

"Anything that makes it safer for the people of Texas to drive is something we would support. "Too many folks are drinking and driving," she said.

DPS statistics indicate that 1,066 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic accidents in 1997. Statistics for 1998 are not yet available.

Additional proposed legislation would mean the suspension of a repeat offender's driver's license for a minimum of a

year, in addition to jail time and fines. Currently, repeat offenders have their licenses suspended for a minimum of six months.

Other legislation being filed would beef up the open container law.

"Right now, a law officer actually has to see someone drinking from an open container to enforce the law," said Mange. "This new legislation would make it easier for us to enforce the law."

The stiffer law would ban open containers of alcohol from the driver and passenger compartments of motor vehicles.

Jennings said he supports any effort that would keep Texans from drinking on the road.

"The only safe place to drink is at home," he said.

CISD trustees accept Hartman's resignation, set Monday meeting

By **MARSHA STURDIVANT**
Staff Writer

Coahoma Independent School District trustees accepted the resignation of Superintendent Michael Hartman during a special meeting Wednesday.

Hartman's resignation will be effective June 30. Trustees have scheduled a meeting for Monday at 7 p.m. to discuss appointing an interim superintendent, and to begin the search for Hartman's replacement.

"We will be able to say more then," said Gail Wells, board president.

Wells said this morning that Hartman asked to be released from his contract for personal reasons.

"He decided it was the best thing for himself that he go ahead and resign," she said. She added that she is not sure if Hartman plans to remain with the district until the effective date of his resignation, so trustees are considering that they might need to appoint an



HARTMAN



WELLS

interim.

"If he does want to leave (before June 30), we want to be prepared for that," Wells said. Trustees also want to get started immediately on the search for a new superintendent, which is expected to take at least three months, and probably more.

"We'll be talking to at least two search firms Monday night," Wells said.

This is Hartman's second year in the top post at Coahoma Schools. The district has been embroiled in a controversy recently surrounding the discipline of a high school student

who brought a gun on the campus.

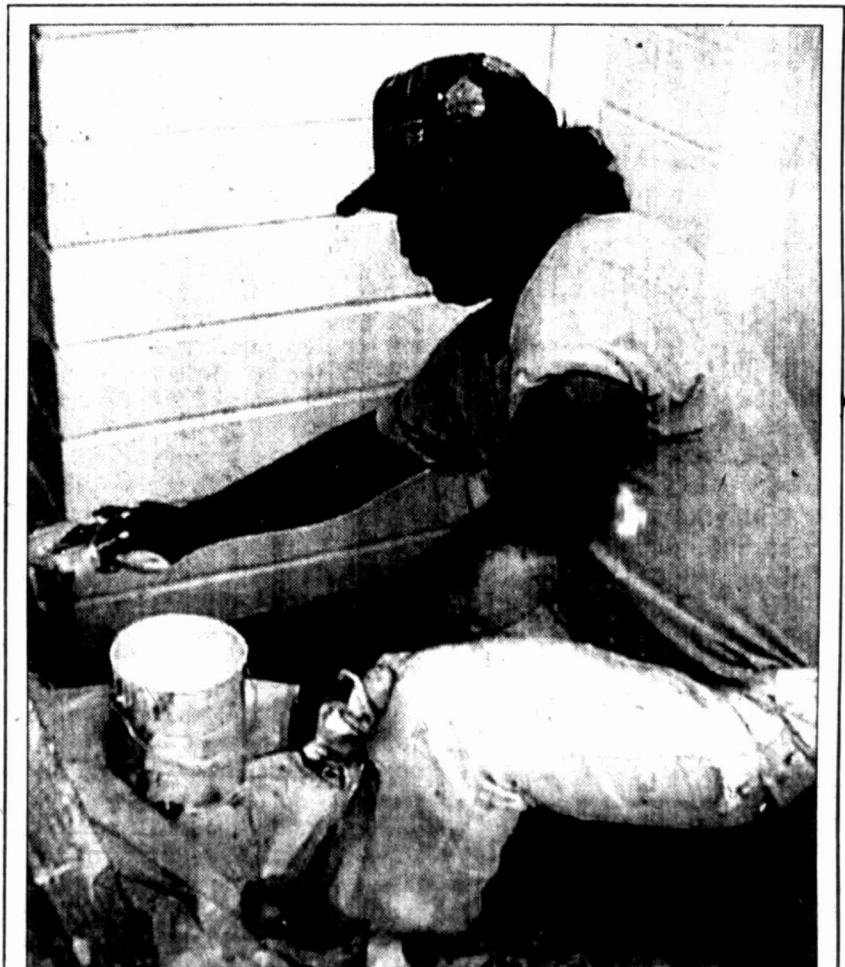
In related business, Wells and trustee Bill Gressett have agreed to meet with student council officers next week, following a request made by student council sponsor Mary Rowell, a senior English teacher.

Students requested the meeting, reports said. It is expected to deal with matters of student discipline, reportedly related to the discipline of the student who brought a gun on campus.

During Wednesday's special meeting, trustees entered into an executive session just after 8 p.m. and opened into regular session more than two hours later. Trustees would make no other comment about discussion during the executive session.

About 20 teachers and principals attended the meeting, and some parents of students were also present.

Staff writer Debbie L. Jensen contributed to this report



HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant
Tony Pena, an employee of Johnston Construction, paints the newly built wall at the YMCA, which will provide the west boundary to the new \$195,000 fitness center. The center should be open March 1.

Impeachment trial: Republicans struggle with fact-finding proposal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reluctant to have President Clinton's impeachment trial end with a simple acquittal, Republicans are struggling with proposals that would conclude he committed wrongdoing without removing him from office.

With the White House and Democrats insisting the concept is unconstitutional in an impeachment trial, Senate Republicans are meeting today in search of a consensus that has eluded them so far.

The Constitution requires a two-thirds vote to convict a president and remove him from office — a margin both parties agree is not within reach — but a so-called finding of fact would

only need a majority. Critics argue there is no constitutional alternative to conviction and removal in a trial that could be completed by Feb. 12.

But with the trial resuming today, the issue was not on the agenda.

Senators have had a week-long break during which House trial managers took depositions from Monica Lewinsky, presidential friend Vernon Jordan and White House aide Sidney Blumenthal.

The Senate today was considering whether to make public the videotaped depositions and whether any or all of the witnesses should appear in person on the Senate floor.

House prosecutors want to show portions of the videotapes as part of further evidence presentation, but only as a fallback position if they can't get live witnesses.

Democrats have been united in opposition to live testimony, and even Republicans who viewed the videotapes of Ms. Lewinsky and Jordan appeared unenthusiastic about calling them.

GOP Senate officials conceded it would be difficult to secure enough votes to prevail on a call for live testimony, particularly with public opinion in favor of a swift end to the proceedings.

The lead House prosecutor, Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said he

was "not particularly interested" in showing all the videotapes if live witnesses were rejected, but would instead show excerpts. The White House then could use portions of the video for its defense, he said.

Hyde said there were "no bombshells or anything like that" in the depositions, but added the managers who questioned the three witnesses believed their responses would be useful to the prosecution's case.

Some Republicans, however, were not convinced of the need for live witnesses.

"I am not going to support appearances of witnesses before

the U.S. Senate," said Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine.

Sen. John Chafee of Rhode Island added, "I'm against it" and Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., commented, "I am not persuaded."

On Wednesday, Republicans considered draft language of a statement that would find that Clinton "willfully provided false and misleading" grand jury testimony, and impeded efforts to uncover evidence in the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit.

The two articles of impeachment under consideration charge the president with grand jury perjury and obstruction of justice.

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle called the proposal an "extralegal" device that could turn the entire proceeding into a "Republican trial."

Clinton press secretary Joe Lockhart added, "I think it's understandable as people work toward trying to figure out a way to bring this process to an end ... but in the rush to do that ... they shouldn't try to trample on the Constitution in the process."

Republican senators also sent Clinton a letter, asking him to submit voluntarily to a sworn deposition to answer questions in the case.

The president already has said he would not do either.

Clinton courts AARP on Social Security, Medicare

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is trying to get the most powerful lobby for older Americans to line up behind his plans for using projected budget surpluses to help shore up Social Security and Medicare.

"Americans on Medicare — especially Americans with lower incomes — should be able to count on a defined set of benefits and protections without having to worry about excessive new costs they can't begin to afford," Clinton told a legislative council meeting of the American Association of Retired Persons on Wednesday.

Martin Corry, AARP's director of federal affairs, said the president's position "still leaves open a lot of room for

debate, but it does begin to anchor the debate, and that is very helpful."

Members of a bipartisan Medicare commission are exploring whether the government could still guarantee health benefits under a premium support system designed to foster competition among private companies that would offer health plans to Medicare beneficiaries.

Clinton reiterated on Wednesday his position that the long-term solvency of both Medicare and Social Security must be secured before any of the federal budget surplus is spent on broad-based tax cuts.

"It's hard to treat this as real serious or solemn," said Ari Fleischer, majority spokesman

for the House Ways and Means Committee. He pointed to a recent Congressional Budget Office report that found Clinton-supported spending last year shrank the projected surplus by \$51 billion.

"It's one thing for the president to say these words. It's another to judge his actions," Fleischer said. He added that Republicans don't see tax cuts and Social Security and Medicare reform as an either-or choice.

"We have got to work together across party lines to make these decisions. We have to work together across generational lines to make these decisions," Clinton told the seniors' group. "I ask you to join with me to make sure that our coun-

try meets that responsibility."

His condemnation of a GOP-proposed income tax cut echoed of the poll-tested rhetoric he used in the 1996 campaign to slam the tax plan of his Republican opponent, Bob Dole.

Also, Clinton said, the GOP plan would "benefit clearly the wealthiest Americans — who have, I might add, done quite well as the stock market has virtually tripled in the last six years."

The familiar, partisan-edged rhetoric was unfortunate, AARP's Corry said.

His group has been careful not to alienate the Republican majority in Congress by choosing sides in the debate that is unfolding just as the 2000 campaign grinds into gear.

Near daily airstrikes are more damaging than 4-day campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hit by hit, U.S. and British airstrikes against Iraqi targets in the past five weeks have done more damage to Saddam Hussein's defenses than December's four-day bombing campaign, Pentagon officials say.

In response, Saddam has pulled back anti-aircraft missile batteries from "no-fly" zones in southern and northern Iraq in recent days after a near daily onslaught by U.S. and British warplane patrols that launched missiles and bombs to defend themselves from attack.

The question remains whether it's a temporary retreat by Iraq, which has challenged no-fly zones more than 80 times since Dec. 28 by trying to shoot down allied warplanes or by targeting them with radar. An unknown number of anti-missile batteries remain in the no-fly zones.

"We have seen a pattern of him moving what he considers high-value assets around before," Air Force Major Joe LaMarca, spokesman for U.S. Central Command, said Wednesday. "We believe that we're having an impact. Now, to what degree, that assessment is an ongoing thing."

Meanwhile, the Clinton administration appears to be using the no-fly clashes to expand from self-defensive strikes against anti-aircraft sites to more offensive attacks like Tuesday's U.S. strike against three Iraqi anti-ship missile launchers near the Persian Gulf.

Last month, President Clinton authorized more robust rules of engagement, and recent targets have included defense-associated command and control sites.

One key U.S. ally already has complained. Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said the U.S. attacks "seem to have gone too far."

The U.S. military uses the Incirlik Air Base in Turkey as a base of operations for enforcing the northern no-fly zone. As a precaution against a possible retaliatory Iraqi missile attack, the United States — at Turkey's request — deployed a Patriot anti-missile battery at Incirlik last week.

U.S. and British fighter jets have destroyed or hit about 40 anti-missile batteries since Dec. 28, when the Iraqi military began to target Western warplanes in the no-fly zones, according to Pentagon estimates. That compares to Western warplanes taking out about two-thirds of the 34 Iraqi air defense sites targeted in the Dec. 16-19 airstrikes.

Overall, the Pentagon estimates it has reduced Iraq's air defense system by 20 percent since the beginning of the December airstrikes.

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Lawmaker pushes to block new bank reporting proposal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid an avalanche of public complaints that proposed federal rules could turn every bank teller into a spy for Big Brother, a Texas lawmaker is pushing legislation aimed at protecting Americans' financial privacy.

The far-reaching legislative package unveiled Wednesday by Republican Rep. Ron Paul would, among other things, block proposed anti-money laundering rules that would track the habits of bank customers.

At least two of the federal banking agencies that are proposing the "Know Your Customer" rules are reconsidering in response to the public outcry that started in December. The Federal Deposit

Insurance Corp., for example, had received more than 14,000 e-mail messages and letters opposing the proposal as the end of last week.

Privacy advocates, conservative groups, ordinary people and the nation's bankers themselves have complained that the rules would impinge on privacy rights.

"We proclaim that American citizens have the right to be free of the snooping, spying, prying eyes of government bureaucrats," Paul told reporters. He said his legislation would "give Americans the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their every financial step is not being filed away and viewed as potentially criminal."

Paul said about a dozen law-

makers, including House Republican Whip Tom DeLay of Texas, had agreed to join him as co-sponsors of the bill to stop the "Know Your Customer" rules.

But the other two measures in his package — to repeal the Bank Secrecy Act and to let people see the files on them created by the federal Financial Crimes Enforcement Network — hadn't attracted any co-sponsors yet and legislative prospects were clouded.

The Bank Secrecy Act of 1974 obligates banks to report customers' cash transactions of \$10,000 or more to law enforcement authorities. Paul said the law has failed to help catch drug dealers, who "are smarter than most bankers."

Paul, a physician who is on the House Banking Committee, once ran for president as the Libertarian Party's nominee. His strict constitutionalist beliefs often put him at odds with his fellow Republicans.

Paul maintains that the "Know Your Customer" rules violate the Fourth Amendment prohibition against unreasonable search and seizure.

The proposed regulations would require banks to verify their customers' identities, know where their money comes from and determine their normal pattern of transactions.

The current requirements for banks to report any "suspicious" transactions to law enforcement authorities would be expanded.

Parole board announces unprecedented rules overhaul

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' harshly criticized clemency process is about to get an unprecedented overhaul.

The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles announced Wednesday that it will study changes that could ultimately do away with secret clemency votes and institute face-to-face interviews between board members and condemned inmates.

"I would like for us to begin doing that on a routine basis in every clemency case," Board Chairman Victor Rodriguez told the Austin American-Statesman. "That's something I'm going to be advocating, probably having one board member do the interview face-to-face."

The 18-member board's six-person policy committee this Friday will open the first public review of clemency procedures in at least 10 years. The propos-

als will be led by an initiative to change the deadline for filing clemency petitions to 25 days before an execution. The current deadline is five days.

"This would give the board more time to review these cases," Rodriguez said. "There have been suggestions that five days is too short a time. I think everybody (on the board) wants to do more."

The board has been criticized in recent months over its policy of conducting secret votes on clemency. Rather than meeting in public session, members cast their votes via telephone or fax.

Rodriguez insisted Wednesday that the proposed changes have nothing to do with the controversy.

"We were thinking about this long before any of the issues came up," he said. "But every time we've started to move on any changes we got sued, so we

weren't able to move. Now that the court action is resolved, we can."

In coming months, Rodriguez said, plans call for Texas' clemency procedures — some which have been unchanged for years, from a time when the board had just six members — to be "completely reviewed and modernized."

"We're looking at the whole spectrum," Rodriguez said. "All options are open. We're going to take this as a slow and careful review that will take several months."

Face-to-face interviews have never before been required in the clemency process. Interviews have only rarely been conducted, the most recent instance occurring about a year ago when Rodriguez interviewed Houston pickup slayer Karla Faye Tucker.

The board later recommended

against clemency and she died by lethal injection a year ago Wednesday, the first woman executed for a crime in Texas since the Civil War.

Even if the board quickly agrees to change its rules, the effect on the 10 executions scheduled through April — four during February — could be minimal, the newspaper reported.

Friday's rare public meeting comes after Texas' clemency system was buffeted by a string of court challenges and national criticism in December and January that branded it as unfair and merciless.

Both Rodriguez and Gov. George W. Bush have repeatedly defended the current system as fair.


IRS clears group of tax misdoings

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service is said to have cleared an organization of charges that it violated its tax-exempt status when it helped finance a college course taught by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

The IRS ruled after a three-year investigation that The Progress and Freedom Foundation's donations to Gingrich were "consistent with its stated exempt purposes," and that Gingrich's course and course book "were educational in content," the foundation said.

The organization, which posted the IRS decision on its Web page, welcomed what it said was a "clean bill of health."


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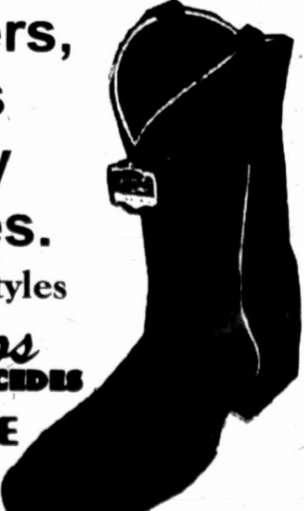
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EDITORIAL

"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.

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OUR VIEWS

Scouts food drive is chance for us to help less fortunate

In what has become an annual tradition in Big Spring and most areas of Howard County, members of the Boy Scouts of America will give residents the opportunity to help those less fortunate this Saturday when they hold their annual canned food drive.

Scouts will go door-to-door, looking for HEB bags full of food to help the needy. The bags, which were included in Sunday's Herald, will be collected for the Salvation Army, which will distribute the food.

Perhaps we're all a bit guilty in not thinking of those less fortunate all year long, for need certainly knows no season and despite the fact we dig deep throughout the holidays, we can always do more.

Take the time to check your cupboard and drop a can or two — or more — in the bag in time for the Saturday morning collection. In fact, there's nothing wrong with even making a special trip to the store and picking up a bag full for the Scouts.

As we've said before, Howard County's residents always hit a home run when it's time to help those less fortunate. Perhaps it's because we think "There but for the grace of God go I" or perhaps it's because we have a community of caring people, willing to share with others.

Whatever the case, we encourage you to take the time to get your bag of food ready and to then get it out by your front door so the Scouts can pick it up in a timely manner.

And, in advance, thanks for helping.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

With the expansion of the 2nd annual Comanche Trail Festival of Lights being declared a success, lights removed and most everything put away in storage wraps up this event, and preparing to make plans for our next one.

I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thanks" to all the volunteers who helped make it a success; without them it would have been impossible for this event to happen. Also, for those that gave financial donations during the Festival, this will help pay the electrical bills.

Our 2nd annual Comanche Trail Festival of Lights was opened with a tribute to the late Dorothy Garrett. A 10-foot angel silhouette depicted her place of honor with a ceremony of tributes. Her pastor, Ed Williamson, First United Methodist Church offered prayers, Jackie Henry, soloist, Jane Jones, Jerry Worthy & Joe Pickle paid tribute.

As stated before, there are two ingredients to make an event such as this a success — money and manpower. We have been blessed by the donations from the Dora Roberts Foundation, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Duncan Drilling, Wal-Mart, Morris Robertson, Ladd & Betty Smith, Lou Welch, Kimble & Sue Guthrie, Saunders Company, Leonards Pharmacies & Lita Kirby.

Without the help of the inmates from the Wilderness Camp, this expansion would not have been possible. We had

some problem moments, but they worked hard to make sure the lights went on. Then we had four faithful city employees assisting, Galen Templeton, Doyle White, Tracy Ausbie, David Medina. Our sincere thanks to all of these men that so willingly helped.

We also want to express our gratitude to those that provided entertainment of music and song during the Festival. Thanks to the Big Spring High School Band Ensemble, Rhapsody Singers, Claudette Forward, St. Thomas Catholic Church Choir & Mt. Bethel Baptist Church Singers.

We had approximately 18,000 to visit our light display this year, and 8,515 of those were counted with personal interviews on the nights we had greeters available. They came from all over Texas and 14 other states, including some from Anchorage, Alaska, plus British Columbia, and Canada.

The weather was unkind to us this year; however, one night it was absolutely gorgeous with the snow, and there were visitors, some even walking the trail.

If we continue to expand, which we hope to do, we need many, many volunteers! We need men, men with electrical knowledge, and anyone just willing to help will be greatly appreciated.

We will be making plans soon for this year's project, so anyone interested in volunteering in any area, please call me at 263-4607.

PAT SIMMONS
BIG SPRING

Workers' comp fraud committed by a few

"John," a Maryland man in his mid-40s, was injured doing heavy lifting in a telephone-company job.

He dramatized his condition by hobbling into his workers' compensation hearing with a cane. He could barely walk, he said, could never run and was unable to sit in a car more than 15 minutes at a time.

Then the phone company lawyer rolled a videotape, destroying the man's case as swiftly — and with as much surprise — as George Washington's Christmas-night crossing of the icy Delaware River and capture of Hessian mercenaries at Trenton.

The analogy is not an idle one: The employee's undoing was his obsessive love of the Revolutionary War.

This obsession was known to John's co-workers, and a private investigator for the company picked up on it. He deftly arranged to be on the mailing list announcing the participation of John's favorite Scottish Brigade in upcoming Revolutionary War reenactments.

The investigator followed John, who sometimes drove for hours to Revolutionary War spots like Valley Forge to take his place in reenactments. Videotapes show him putting up tents, leaping and running with a rifle in battle — all after filing his workers' comp claim.



JACK ANDERSON
JAN MOLLER

One witness told our associate Dale Van Atta: "He has a dying scene on the video where he gets shot. He dies real good."

And so did his claim. The nation's employers are being flooded with false workers' comp claims that unfairly escalate their rates and deny honest workers the bonuses and income they might otherwise earn.

In our own reporting on the problem, we found that fraud and abuse don't only take the form of criminal con games, in which workers exaggerate their injuries or don't come back to work when they are able. The abuse also includes:

- Doctors performing unnecessary surgery, lying about treatments and regularly overcharging for workers' comp cases;
- Trial attorneys sometimes encouraging falsified claims and often urging litigiousness in the supposed no-fault system,

as well as defense attorneys who've grown used to the high-priced billable hours insurance companies are willing to pay;

— Employers who misclassify workers (like labeling high-risk roofers as low-risk secretaries) and hide past safety violations to get a lower premium rate; — Insurance companies whose sometimes dishonest employees might embezzle, misrepresent premiums and overcharge employers, or drag out legitimate claims of workers in pain, forcing them to turn to a lawyer who then gets a cut of their settlement.

— And a host of others who are leeching off the system.

Unquestionably, the cost of this fraud and abuse is in the billions of dollars. The only argument is how many billions. There are no hard numbers because, unlike decades of statistics-building years of auto and personal injury insurance fraud, workers' comp experts have only recently focused on the problem.

The consensus of dozens of experts we interviewed is that fraud and abuse account for about 15 percent of all workers' comp costs. That means more than \$20 billion is lost each year.

But it does not mean 15 out of every 100 workers are dishonest. Cheaters are a much smaller minority than that.

A top insurance-company executive explained to us why

this is so. Some 80 percent of all claims, in sheer number terms, are for "medical only" benefits. The worker was injured, got treated and never lost any workdays. The other 20 percent is for disability, involving medical benefits and lost wages.

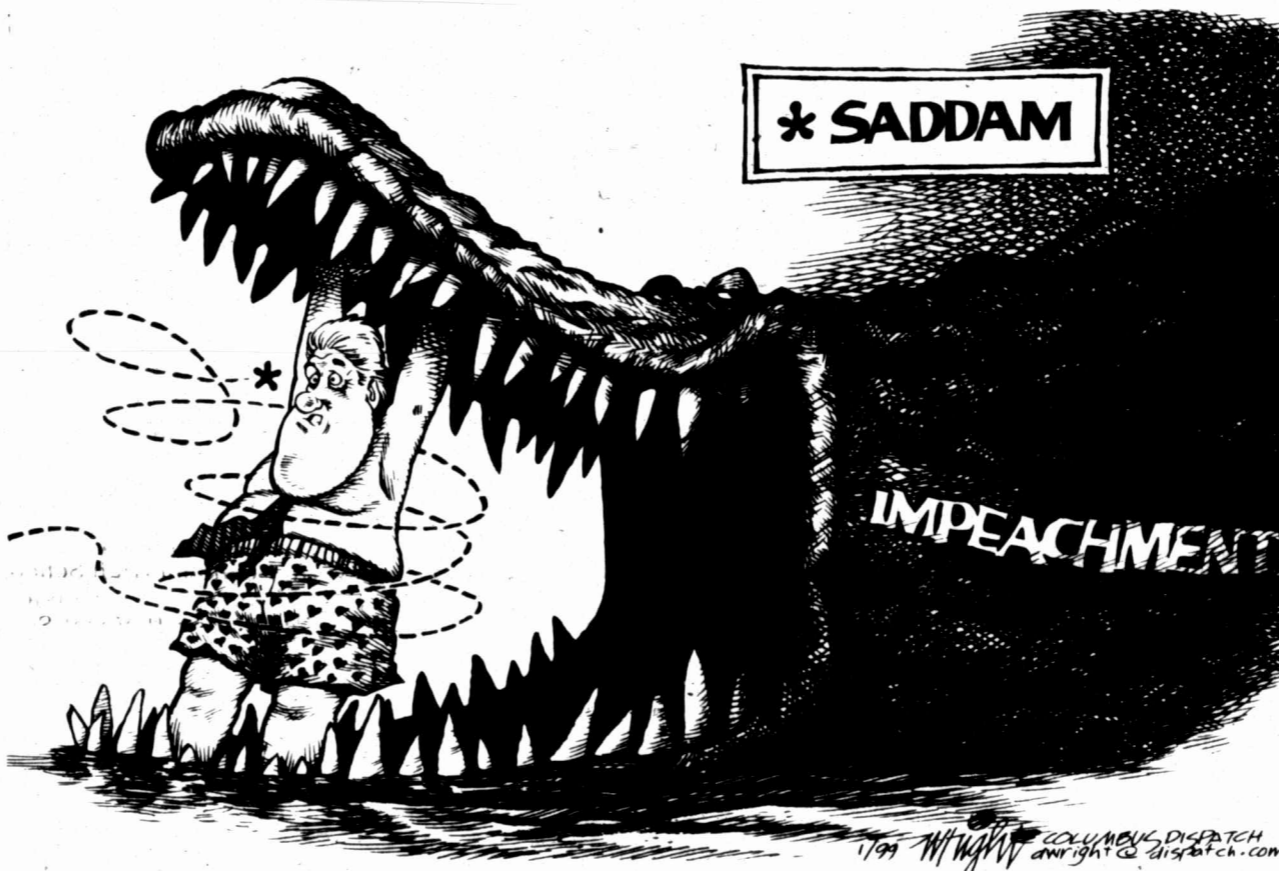
But the 80 percent of "medical only" claims account for a mere one-fifth of all costs. The whopping bill — four-fifths of the costs — come from that 20 percent of claims, which involve a much smaller number of workers.

Even in those cases, insurance-company officials are reluctant to charge many workers with knowingly participating in a hard-core case of fraud. Malingering, milking the system, was another story.

The president of the largest workers' comp insurance company once said this is where the real cost is borne. "It is the kind of thing where the injured worker, who has lower-back disability of one sort or another and stays out for two weeks, is feeling better, but decides, why not stay out another couple weeks?"

"The sort of eye-winking, it's O.K.-to-cheat-a-little-bit fraud is pretty pervasive in workers' compensation in this country now."

And it has to do with fundamental values like honesty, and probably is to some extent symptomatic of what's going on in our society.



Clinton budget surplus estimate won't hold up

By WALTER R. MEARS
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is forecasting decades of federal budget surpluses, \$4.854 trillion worth by 2014 — precise predictions that come with only one certainty. They will be off the mark.

By how much, and whether the projections are too high or too low, depends on the economy, the decisions of at least two future presidents, and what happens during the next seven Congresses.

Clinton's 15-year plan forecasts surpluses far exceeding those projected by the administration and Congress 15 months ago.

"The predictions are that for the next quarter century, whatever the ups and downs of the business cycle, the general trend is going to be for surpluses every year for the next 25 years," Clinton said.

There's no disagreement on the upward trend; the director of the Congressional Budget Office said that only a cataclysmic recession would undo surpluses.

But translating trends into numbers stretching 10 and 15 years ahead is educated speculation. The specialists say so.

"There is no way for anyone projecting the economy to be able to say their projections will come true, because chances are they won't," said June O'Neill, completing her term as director of the CBO.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said it is impossible to "confidently project large surpluses" over the next 15 years, given the uncertainties of budget forecasting.

He noted that two years ago, the Office of Management and Budget projected a \$121 billion deficit in the 1998 budget, which turned out to be "a \$191 billion error."

The Congressional Budget Office said that its five-year projections were off by an average of 13 percent annually. At that rate, the CBO could be \$250 billion off in 2004, which exceeds the \$234 billion surplus it forecasts for that budget year.

"Estimates for more than five years into the future are even more uncertain," the CBO report said.

The projections have been missing on the down side, first by forecasting deficits, then by minimizing surpluses. The administration forecasts a \$79 billion surplus when the current budget year ends on Oct.

1; that is \$25 billion more than expected a year ago. The CBO projects a \$107 billion surplus this year.

The congressional projection is that surpluses will add up to nearly \$2.6 trillion over the next decade. Clinton's budget projects the total at about \$2.4 billion.

"Our estimates, optimistic as they sound, are more conservative than those of Congress," the president said.

And longer, by five years, to reach the \$4.854 trillion Clinton's budget calls the total reserve by 2014. He wants 62 percent of it, \$2.764 trillion, used for Social Security funding, 15 percent for Medicaid needs, 12 percent for a new system of government-aided retirement savings accounts, and 11 percent for "military readiness and other critical national needs."

That would be all of it, colliding with Republican plans for tax cuts of up to \$800 billion over the next decade.

"The number of proposals to get rid of the surplus almost-rivals Mark McGwire's home run record," Greenspan said. Not really; that was 70. But it made his point about competing claims for the money. He told the Senate Budget

Committee caution should rule, given the uncertainty of long-range forecasts and the difficulty of undoing tax and spending commitments.

"It is not as easy to reduce outlays as it is to increase them, and the reverse is obviously the case in taxes," he said.

That would be as true of the new retirement accounts Clinton seeks as of the tax cuts Republicans want.

It's happened before. Ronald Reagan's 1981 income tax cuts didn't produce the economic surge and increased revenues his administration expected, and deficits increased. A post-Cold War peace dividend was supposed to ease budget pressures a decade ago, but didn't, in part because of economic downturns.

As for long-range forecasting, the last major overhaul of Social Security, in 1983, was supposed to keep the system solvent until 2057, but came up 25 years short.

Clinton and Republican leaders agree that gap should be closed using the surplus, although they are at odds how to use the funds.

Walter R. Mears is vice president and columnist for The Associated Press.

How To Contact Us

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 at either bsherald@roadstx.com or jwalker@roadstx.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721
- Our normal hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

THIS IS MALLARD FILLMORE WITH TONIGHT'S COMMENTARY: THE MOVE BY FOX, AND OTHER NETWORKS, TO MORE PRIME-TIME CARTOON SERIES SHOWS A POSITIVE COMMITMENT...

... TO DIVERSITY! FINALLY...

... YOUNG ANIMATED AMERICANS HAVE SOME ROLE MODELS...

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QUICK TRIVIA

◆The horse latitudes are regions noted for their lack of winds.

◆The Arctic is so-called because it is the place to which the North Star leads.

Got an Item?

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

Taste of Africa

Fashion show features familiar, unusual ethnic styles in bold texture and design

By **DEBBIE L. JENSEN**
Features Editor

In the 1980s and '90s, African fashion hit the mainstream, and designer Deun Shonowo can't imagine anything better.

"There was a time when people thought you had it on for a cultural event or political reasons," she told students at Howard College Wednesday. "African fashion finally found its place."

That place, she said, is in the pulpits of churches across America, and on runways and in boutiques from London, England to Nigeria, her native land. Shonowo, owner of DE African Elegance, Inc. a Little Rock, Ark., boutique, gave to fashion shows Wednesday at Howard College and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.

"She challenges us to be different," said Amy Burchett, dean of students for Howard College. Shonowo said she calls the fashion show "A taste of Africa."

"African fashion is all about elegance," she said. Designs she included in the show ranged from evening wear to loungewear to business attire. She used bold colors like gold and bright orange, a variety of textures in the fabric and traditional headwraps.

At one point, Shonowo demonstrated tying a traditional headwrap on Howard College softball player Teresa Johnson.

Describing her own designs as students modeled them, Shonowo spoke over the beat of African music. She gave pieces of historical information, describing outfits as those worn by certain groups of people, or those from a certain area of the continent.

The dashiki, she said, is an African piece that became popular for everyday wear in the 1960s and '70s. Shonowo showed the garment, usually worn by men, in various colors and styles, some with elaborate decoration.

The event was part of the Black History Month celebration for the two campuses.

Above, designer and business owner Deun Shonowo gave the narration for a fashion show featuring her designs Wednesday at Howard College. At far right, Sharenia Charles models one of the traditional headwraps. At right, Kiya Gardner shows off an outfit.



Children are owed apology when they've been wronged

QUESTION: I recently scolded my daughter for something I found out later she hadn't done. Would you go so far as to apologize to a child if you felt you had been in the wrong?

DR. DOBSON: I certainly would -- and indeed, I have. A number of years ago I was burdened with pressing responsibilities that fatigued me and made me irritable. One particular evening I was especially grouchy and short-tempered with my 10-year-old daughter. I knew I was not being fair, but was simply too tired to correct my manner. Through the course of the evening, I blamed Danae for things that were not her fault and upset her needlessly several times.



DR. JAMES DOBSON

After going to bed, I felt bad about the way I had behaved and I decided to apologize the next morning. After a good night of sleep and a tasty breakfast, I felt much more optimistic about life. I approached my daughter before she left for school and said, "Danae, I'm sure you know that daddies are not perfect human beings. We get tired and irritable just like other people, and there are times when we are not proud of the way we behave. I know I wasn't fair with you last night. I was terribly grouchy, and I want you to forgive me."

Danae put her arms around me and shocked me down to my toes. She said, "I knew you were going to have to apologize, Daddy, and it's OK; I forgive you."

Can there be any doubt that children are often more aware of the struggles between generations than are their busy, harassed parents?

QUESTION: I was watching on television the other night an old black-and-white movie that was made in the late 1930s. What jumped out at me was the respectful way the teenagers related to their parents. These kids, who appeared to be 17 or 18 years old, were downright deferential and looked to their father to make final decisions regarding their own behavior.

I know this was just fiction, but I got the impression that that's the way families functioned back then. Today, even "good kids" from strong families are often more independent and disrespectful to their parents. If I'm right about this change, why has it occurred and how do you see it?

DR. DOBSON: The movie you saw is characteristic of others made during that era because children in most nations of the world responded that way to their parents. There were exceptions, of course. Rebellion has occurred throughout history -- even in biblical times. Remember that King David's son Amnon raped his half-sister Tamar, and another son, Absalom, tried to overthrow the reign of his father. While

See **DOBSON**, Page 6A

SCHOOL NEWS

BSHS Choir

The B.S. High School Choirs attended the U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Contest Sat., Jan. 30, 1999, at Odessa College.

BSHS had 48 students participate in the contest. Of those, 38 made a first division rating on the solo, and/or their ensemble. This is the highest possible rating.

Many of these students are also eligible to attend the State Solo and Ensemble Competition in Austin the end of May.

Those who earned first-division ratings are:

Vanessa Adams, Jillery Armstrong, Shane Blackshear, Koissha Boyd, Andrew Campbell, Rusty Carson, Laura Davis, Pricilla Del Bosque, Alex Edgemon, Jennifer Evans, Emily Flores, Priscilla Flores, David Gunn, Tammie Hodge, Sherrean Jones, Kim Jumper, Lacey Lyons, Rachel Mathis, Sandra Munoz, Jacqueline Musgrove, Lochie Musgrove, Keely Patterson, Alicia Phifer, Jessica Pope, Sean Quenga, Annette Richardson, Anna Robles, Cindy Rudinger, Sarah Sanghavi, Nicole Smith, Kaci Stokes, Brittany Stone, Betsy Toman, Jessica Weir, Brandi Wilkerson, Lacey Wilkerson, Karissa Wilson, Brian Wingert.

Students from that group who advanced to state competition are: Vanessa Adams, Jillery Armstrong, Shane Blackshear, Koissha Boyd, Rusty Carson,



Above and below, Big Spring High School choir students who will be going to state solo and/or ensemble competition.



At left, Coahoma Junior High School students earned the top rating at their recent choir competitions. At right, Coahoma High School students Bobbi-Leigh Spiller and Amber Bennett will be among those going to state solo contest.

Laura Davis, Pricilla Del Bosque, Alex Edgemon, Priscilla Flores, David Gunn, Tammie Hodge, Lacey Lyons, Rachel Mathis, Lochie Musgrove, Keely Patterson, Alicia Phifer, Sean Quenga, Annette Richardson, Nicole Smith, Betsy Toman, Karissa Wilson, Brian Wingert.

Coahoma singers

Several Coahoma High School students earned first division ratings at Region II Vocal Solo and Ensemble Contest Saturday, Jan. 30 in San Angelo.

Class III-Jackie Molina
Class II- Kami, Bennett, Tiffany Hancock, Amber Johnson, Leslie Martin
Class I-Amber Bennett, Jemmer Pherigo, Bobbi-Leigh Spiller.

Bennett, Pherigo and Spiller will advance to the state solo contest (TSSEC) in Sam Marcos, May 31.

Coahoma Junior High

First division ratings were earned by Coahoma Junior High singers at a non-UIL Solo Contest also held in San Angelo.

Winners were Haley Butts, Tiffani Paige, Elisha Teeler, Anna Burgess, Michelle Walker and Ana McNutt.

This was the first experience at a solo audition for all these students.

Banned from AOL Kid's prank gets him booted, but company backs off

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — When a 10-year-old boy broke America OnLine's rules, the giant Internet provider came down hard. It banned him — and his family — for life.

Derrick Wolbert and his family were a bit surprised. "I emailed a kid," the fifth-grader told The Buffalo News on Sunday, smiling and shrugging his shoulders. "I said I was, like, an AOL agent."

'Someone impersonating an America Online employee is an absolute violation of our terms of service, whether it's someone 10 years old or 80 years old.'
AOL spokeswoman
Tricia Primrose

AOL refused to reconsider, said Derrick's father, Dennis. The more he thought about it, the angrier he got.

"How do I get banned for life, too?" Wolbert asked.

Finally, after Wolbert complained to the state attorney general's office and the News began pursuing the story, AOL relented and reinstated the account.

"Someone impersonating an America Online employee is an absolute violation of our terms of service, whether it's someone 10 years old or 80 years old," said AOL spokeswoman Tricia Primrose.

People posing as AOL employees frequently try to persuade others to tell them passwords or credit card numbers, she said. She said AOL didn't know what was in the email.



SLICE of life!

EDUCATOR OF THE WEEK

EDUCATOR NAME: Barbara Justiss
POSITION/SCHOOL: Vocational Home Economics teacher, Coahoma High School
YEARS TEACHING OR IN EDUCATION: 30
UNIQUE TALENTS/METHODS YOU BRING TO THE JOB: The desire to create new courses and try new methods.
WHY I BECAME A TEACHER/EDUCATOR: To help others.
FAMILY INFORMATION: Husband, Johnny; Children Shawn Justiss, Sam and Wendy Justiss, Pat and Tess Justiss.

PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THEY KNEW I: Feel that I've failed when students don't respond.
MOST GRATIFYING EXPERIENCE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE: Seeing teenagers excel when they think they can't.
IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT MY JOB, IT WOULD BE: Not so much paperwork and more time to prepare for the classes.



THE LAST WORD

Most men would rather be charged with malice than with making a blunder.

Josh Billings

Inflation is determined by money supply growth.

Roger Bootle

Religion is a way of walking, not a way of talking.

Dean William R. Inge

DOBSON

Continued from Page 5A

some of yesterday's families had to deal with upheavals of this nature, they have typically been the exception rather than the rule.

But today, as you indicated, children and young people are taught to be disrespectful and rebellious by our culture. One of the most effective teachers is the rock music industry and the excesses it embraces.

It is difficult to overestimate the negative impact contemporary music is having. Rock stars are the heroes, the idols, that young people want to emulate. And when they are depicted in violent and sexual roles, many teen-agers and preadolescents are pulled along in their wake.

What could possibly be wholesome about showing explicit sex scenes -- especially those involving perversion -- to 12- and 13-year-old kids? Yet videos come into the home via MTV and other channels that feature men and women in blatantly sexual situations, or even in depictions of sadism.

One study showed that more than half of all MTV videos featured violence or implied violence, and 35 percent revealed violence against women. A steady diet of this garbage will pollute the minds of even the healthiest of teen-agers. I believe that this perpetual and pernicious exposure to rock music is responsible, at least in part, for many of the social problems now occurring among the young, including the high suicide rate, the reported willingness of young men to rape women if given an opportunity, and the moral undermining of the next generation.

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

Barbie is fabulous turning 40

NEW YORK (AP) — Can it be that Barbie — with her perfect figure, big smile and long list of careers — is having a midlife crisis?

The world's most famous doll is turning 40 in March, and like many of her middle-aged peers, she's trying to reinvent herself: Barbie in 1999 will have a tattoo and hang out with friends who have nose rings.

"Barbie just isn't as cool as she used to be," said Marianne Szymanski, editor of Toy Tips magazine in Milwaukee. "But she's working hard to get back in with the cool crowd."

Barbie has been ageless since she hit store shelves in 1959, always fit and trim with the ideal body, hair and of course, bustline.

Mattel Inc. isn't even calling this a birthday, but rather an anniversary of the world's best-selling doll. About \$2 billion worth of Barbie dolls and accessories are sold each year.

Big sales in the past aren't guarantees for the future.

"Kids are changing their tastes. They just don't play with dolls as much anymore or they stop playing with dolls at a much earlier age," said Eric Johnson, a professor at Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management in Nashville, Tenn. "Of course, this is making Barbie nervous."

Look at Missy Schmidt, 8, of New York. Her playtime consists mostly of computer games and dressing up with makeup and hair accessories. Barbie comes out only when she's with a younger friend or cousin.

Barbie isn't retreating to her Dream House to soothe her woes. A veteran of more than 75 careers in the past 40 years, Barbie is once again re-creating herself.

Just last year, a few dolls in the Barbie line were transformed with bodies that better resembled the average woman, with smaller breasts and a more realistic shape.

Now, as Barbie turns 40, her look turns decidedly younger. Among the dolls Mattel is showcasing at next week's American International Toy Fair is a line of hip Generation Girls, which includes a doll with a horse ring, and Butterfly Art Barbie, with a butterfly tattoo on her stomach.

Especially for kids and their families
The Mini Page

By BETTY DEBNAM

The Year 1999 Is Big for ...
Honoring George Washington



The father of our country, and our first president, George Washington died at his home at Mount Vernon on Dec. 14, 1799.

Although that was a sad occasion, we will use the 200th anniversary of his death to call attention to the many contributions of this great man.

Mount Vernon is planning many special celebrations throughout the year, starting with Presidents' Day on Feb. 15.

His death



The scene at his death as doctors and family gathered by his bedside.

On a cold, windy Dec. 12, 1799, Washington rode out to visit his farms. He was out for about five hours in rain, sleet and snow. He went out again the next day. That night his sore throat got worse and he had trouble breathing. He died on Dec. 14.

He was buried at Mount Vernon. In his will, he asked that a new grave be built. This was done more than 30 years later.

A Web site to see: www.mountvernon.org



The whole country grieved when Washington died. Pictures such as this one show how much he was glorified and idolized. This picture appeared in a newspaper six days after his death. Washington is shown with angels, wearing the clothes of the heroes of Rome.

The general



This painting shows Washington as he took charge of the American Army in the Revolutionary War.

Washington was chosen to be commander of the American Army in 1775. For six years he led the fight against the British. He won the respect of the whole country.

His family



This painting was done 100 years after the Washingtons married. It is of the family members as the painter imagined them to be.

Martha Washington was a widow with two children when she married George on Jan. 6, 1759. Jacky was 4 years old. Patsy was only 2.

The Mini Page Dinosaurs From A to Z Book is bursting with dinosaur information from Apatosaurus to Zephyrosaurus, with illustrations, descriptions, and where and when they lived. To order, send check or money order only for \$3.95 plus \$1 postage and handling per copy, to: Dinosaurs From A to Z Book, P.O. Box 419242, Kansas City, Mo. 64141. Make checks payable to Andrews McMeel Publishing.

Go dot to dot and color.

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

HOW DO YOU FIND KING ARTHUR IN THE DARK?
WITH A KNIGHT LIGHT!

Q: What do you get when a cow is caught in an earthquake?
A: A milkshake!

Q: What does a computer do when it's hungry?
A: Eats its chips one byte at a time!

(all jokes sent in by Shante Leandra Crawley)

Rookie Cookies Recipe
Coddling Tart
This is a recipe from Mount Vernon.

You'll need:

- 2/3 cup water
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 apples, peeled, cored and cut in half
- 1 pie shell

What to do:

1. Bring water and 2/3 cup sugar to a boil in a medium pot over medium heat. Boil 5 minutes.
2. Add apples. Lower heat and cook 10 minutes. If syrup gets too thick, add a little water.
3. Place apples evenly in bottom of pie shell.
4. Pour syrup on top.
5. Sprinkle remaining sugar evenly on top.
6. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 30 minutes. Serve with sweet cream or ice cream. Serves 6.

THE NEWS HOUND'S GEORGE WASHINGTON TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of George Washington are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: GEORGE, WASHINGTON, MOUNT VERNON, DEATH, MARTHA, FARMER, COMMAND, HOME, PRESIDENT, PATRIOT, BICENTENNIAL, HISTORY, RIVER, PLANTATION, LEADER, CROPS.

MOUNT VERNON IS A GREAT PLACE TO VISIT!

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

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and Alpha Mouse are visiting Mount Vernon. See if you can find:

- broom
- dog's face
- acorn
- squirrel
- caterpillar
- safety pin
- snake
- frog
- word MINI
- key
- letter V
- tooth
- comb
- bird

• mushroom • lips • question mark

Discovering Washington

We have held George Washington in such awe that throughout our history, many of us have failed to get to know the real man. A new exhibit, "Treasures From Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed," is trying to help us discover more about him.

Mount Vernon
This drawing shows Mount Vernon in 1792. This is the view most visitors would see as they approached from the road.

Mount Vernon was a special place to Washington. He spent 45 years working to improve it. Even though he was away for 16 years, his weekly letters kept him up with what was going on.

Washington as a host
This painting shows Washington on Mount Vernon's front porch, overlooking the Potomac River.

The Washingtons entertained a lot. In one year, 667 guests spent the night. Some were friends and family. Others were strangers who went to see him much like we would visit a tourist attraction today.

Washington enjoyed the company of officers and friends. He was known for his charm. He also enjoyed dancing with the ladies for hours on end.

As a farmer
Wheat was the main money-making crop at Mount Vernon.

Washington's day began at 4 o'clock in the morning. After breakfast, he rode out to inspect his farms that covered more than 8,000 acres.

As was true with most Southern plantation owners, slaves worked his farms. In his will, Washington asked that his slaves be freed after Martha Washington's death.

As an architect
Washington chose the site for Washington, D.C. He also chose the architect and the site for the White House. He was the only president not to live there.

George Washington taught himself how to design buildings. He enlarged Mount Vernon several times. He added a second floor, the porch overlooking the river, and the roof with a cupola.

Treasures From Mount Vernon
For the first time ever, many priceless Washington objects will travel from Mount Vernon to museums around the country. Below are a few.

Washington's false teeth. By the age of 57, he wore a full set. They made his lips stick out so he did not appear as handsome as he once was. They were made of cow bone and hippopotamus teeth. They were not wooden. He said he lost his teeth by cracking walnuts with them in his youth.

Martha's brown satin gown. This was one of Mrs. Washington's favorites. She was one foot shorter than her husband. To talk with him, she often would hook her finger into his button hole and draw him down to her.

A mini Mount Vernon
A master builder peers through the central passage of Mount Vernon in Miniature. Kids will especially enjoy this historic dollhouse. It has hundreds of tiny objects, including oil paintings, china, books, tables and more than 100 chairs.

Exhibit schedule: New York Historical Society through Feb. 22; Huntington Library Art Collections in San Marino, Calif., March 18-June 6; Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, July 1-Sept. 19; Atlanta History Center, Oct. 14-Jan. 6, 2000; and the Chicago Historical Society, Jan. 28-April 23, 2000.

Next week The Mini Page celebrates the upcoming Valentine's Day with two toys kids love, yo-yos and jump ropes.

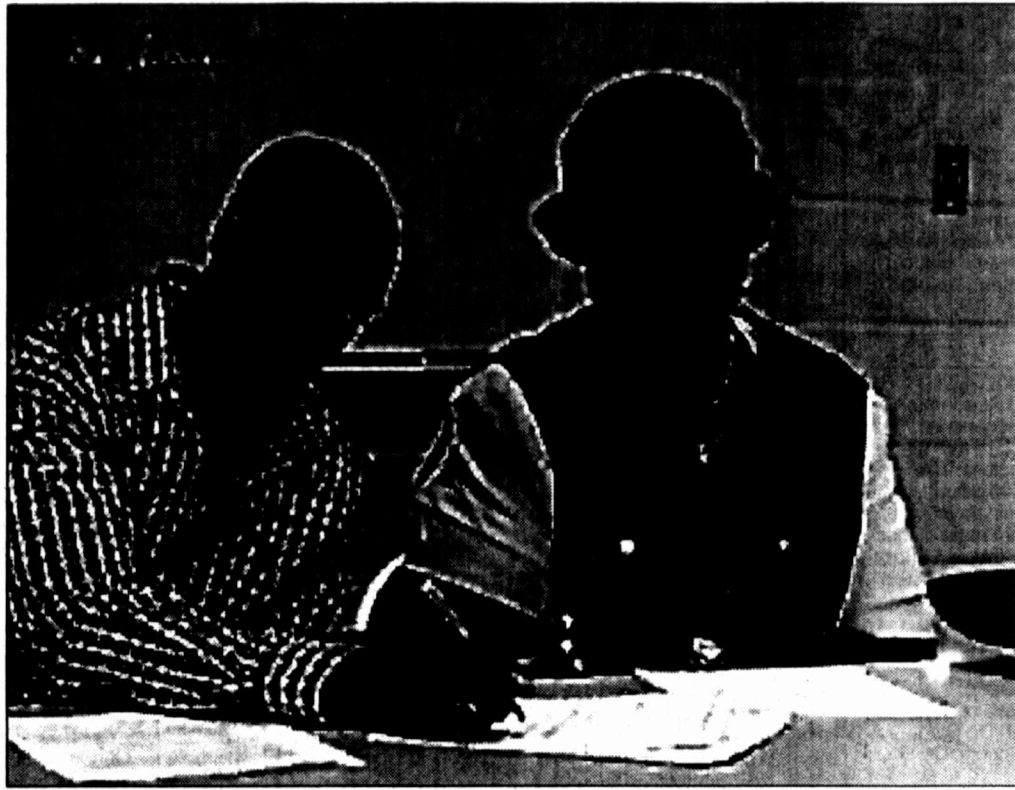
PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Tomorrow's workforce is in today's classrooms.

The Mini Page
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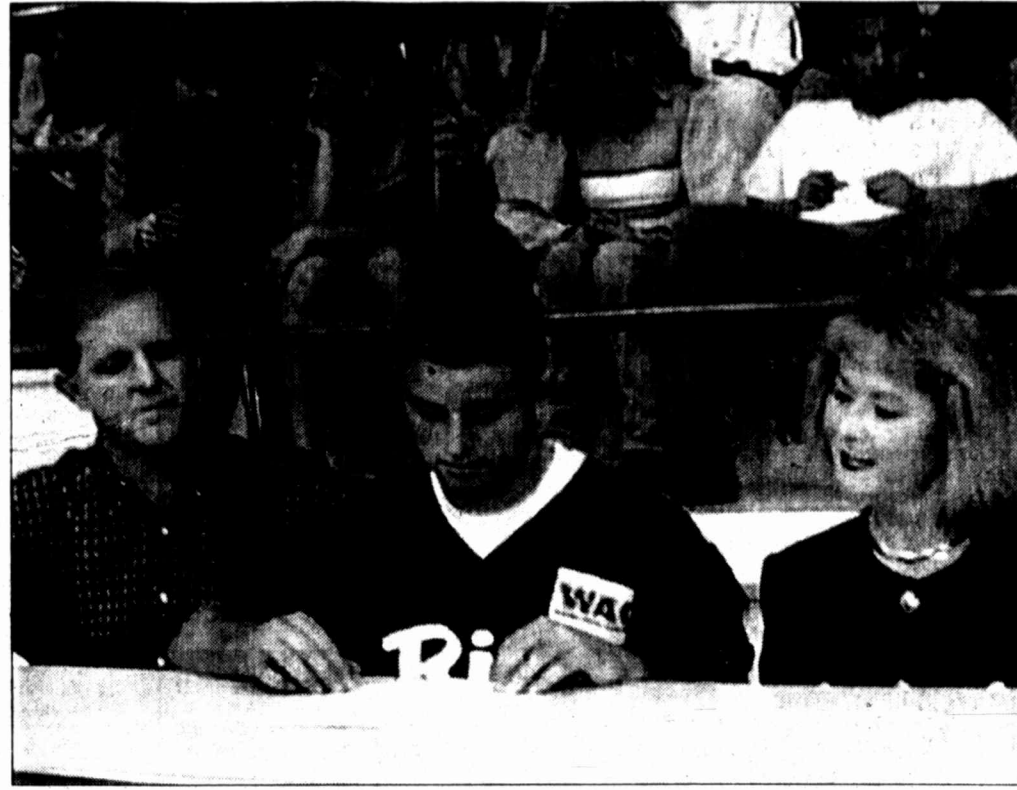
S
Mi
By JOHN H. Managing Ec
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Televisk AUTO RACI 1:30 p.m. Hyde Dayton ESPN2. GOLF 2 p.m. — National Pr BASKETBAI 6:30 p.m. Florida, ESP 8:30 p.m. Louisville, E 9:30 p.m. Washington Radlo BASKETBAI 5:55 p.m. Lady Hawk AM, KBYG. 7:55 p.m. Hawk at O AM, KBST.

Mitchell inks with Miami; Herm joins Rice



Big Spring's Tory Mitchell (left) signs a national letter-of-intent with Miami (Fla.) University while his grandmother, Alomina Mitchell, looks on. In the photo at right, Stanton's Kyle Herm (center) signs with Rice University while his parents, Steve and Teresa, look on.

HERALD photos/
John H. Walker & Bill McClellan



By JOHN H. WALKER
Managing Editor

Big Spring speedster Tory Mitchell was a member of the minority Wednesday when he opted to leave the state of Texas to attend the University of Miami, but that's just fine with the 6-foot, 1-inch, 170-pound speedster.

"I'm so excited," he said in a calm voice. "I just can't put it into words."

Mitchell, who expects to play cornerback, chose Miami over national champion Tennessee and Texas Christian University, saying he based his decision on three factors.

"It was a combination (of things)," Mitchell said. "The academics, (head) Coach (Butch) Davis is a good person and all the players I met made me feel at home when I was there."

Mitchell, who had received nearly 50 scholarship offers before the start of two-a-days last fall, made it clear to everyone that wherever he went, he intended to play football and run track.

And while that was important, it wasn't the only thing.

"The education," he said. "Coach Butler nailed in my head a million times that if you can't get it done academically, you can't play... you can't do anything (in life) without an education."

Mitchell joins a 25-member recruiting class that is rated as high as No. 9 in the nation by The National Recruiting Advisor publication and includes two of the nation's Top 25

players.

But Mitchell has some impressive credentials of his own — a USA Today Honorable Mention All-American... No. 7 wide receiver in the nation by The Sporting News... No. 10 athlete in the nation on PrepStar Dream Team Top 100 and the list goes on and on.

Timed at 4.23 seconds in the 40-yard dash, Mitchell is the reigning Texas Class 4A state meet champion in both the 100 and 200 meters as well as holding the Junior National titles in those events as well.

As a senior, he completed 4-of-8 passes for 156 yards and one touchdown, rushed for 206 yards on 31 carries with three touchdowns and returned 15 kicks for 410 yards and one score.

On the defensive side of the line, he recorded 52 tackles with five interceptions and 15 pass break-ups.

Mitchell said he was glad to have the recruiting process behind him.

"It was real hectic," he admitted. "There were a lot of phone calls."

Big Spring head coach Dwight Butler fielded hundreds of calls as well, as the recruiting process began months ago.

Butler said he didn't know how the kids stood the official three-month long recruiting process.

"I wish they'd change some of the rules. It's exciting at first, but at the end, you're just worn out."

Mitchell said he plans to run in California's Golden West Track Meet in June before heading to Miami, where his scholarship is valued at \$29,345 per year.

TOP RECRUITING CLASSES

How recruiting publications rank the nation's colleges by their Wednesday signings:

SuperPrep
1. Texas, 2. Ohio State, 3. Michigan, 4. Texas A&M, 5. UCLA, 6. Alabama, 7. Florida, 8. Notre Dame, 9. LSU, 10. Georgia.

The National Recruiting Advisor
1. Texas, 2. Ohio State, 3. Notre Dame, 4. UCLA, 5. Texas A&M, 6. Alabama, 7. LSU, 8. Tennessee, 9. Miami, 10. Michigan.

Prep Football Report
1. Texas, 2. Georgia, 3. Notre Dame, 4. Ohio State, 5. Alabama, 6. Texas A&M, 7. UCLA, 8. Michigan, 9. LSU, 10. Florida State.

DISTRICT 5-4A SIGNINGS

Andrews
Shaud Williams, RB, Texas Tech; Joe Young, OL, Eastern New Mexico; Kyle Leiby, LB, ENMU; Jose Gonzalez, OL, ENMU; Chris Timmons, K, Angelo State.

Lake View
Ernie Reynolds, DT, Angelo State.

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

STANTON — Stanton quarterback Kyle Herm signed with Rice University on Wednesday, fulfilling a dream he has had since he was barely old enough to grasp a football.

"I just feel blessed, mostly," the record-setting schoolboy quarterback said. "My parents won't have to pay for my education and I'll be able to compete for a Division I school."

Herm's signing took place in the high school gym as more than a hundred classmates, relatives and friends look on. Among them was his coach, Mark Cotton.

"Any time you have an athlete sign its a big deal for you," said coach Cotton. "When I became head coach was when Kyle was a freshman. I feel like we have kinda grown together."

That relationship helped produce a Class 2A state championship in 1997, and a trip down the playoff road again in 1998 to the state semifinals.

In three years as quarterback for the Buffs, Herm threw 81 touchdown passes — tops in Class 2A, and third among all Texas schoolboy classes. An all-around athlete, Herm, passed for more than 5,000 yards in his high school career, ran for more than 2,000 yards and 36 touchdowns and had nine scores as a return specialist.

Altogether, he threw, ran or returned 126 balls for TDs.

As a senior, he was Class 2A player

of the year in a sportswriters poll. He was first-team quarterback and kick returner in the Texas Sports Writers Association's year-end recognitions, as well as second-team defensive back.

Herm was also the District 3-2A most valuable player, earning first-team honors as a quarterback, return specialist and defensive back, and second team honors as a punter.

Herm was widely recruited, said his coach, but "it finally got down to the fact that Rice was the only Division I school that went after him from the first day until the last day. I think that impressed him. I think he made a great choice."

No one was more proud than Herm's parents, Steve and Teresa Herm.

"This is something Kyle has worked many years for. It's a very special day for him and for us," said his dad. "He set his goals and one of them was to play Division I football. And he has achieved that."

"I'm real pleased that he is getting to play under Ken Hatfield, a legend. I think that is one of the things that attracted him to Rice, and the fact that they committed to him in October. That meant a lot to Kyle," the older Herm said.

Kyle Herm agreed.

"That meant a lot to me. And I understand that the coaches there have Bible study and I think that's good. In an atmosphere like that, at college and away from home, I think you probably are in need of a little religion."

"It's going to be a big challenge."

IN BRIEF

GC's Kujawski is Fina/DMN finalist

Tiffany Kujawski, a senior at Garden City High School, has been selected as one of 44 finalists for the Fina/Dallas Morning News All-State Scholar-Athlete Team.

Kujawski is a captain of the cross country, basketball and tennis teams and is also an all-state track runner.

She ranks first in her class, is president of the student body and editor of the school news paper as well as a member of the National Honor Society.

She was chosen from more than 2,500 applicants.

The list of 44 will be trimmed to 12 winners in March and each will receive a \$4,000 scholarship. To be eligible, applicants had to be in the top 10 percent of their class and maintain a grade average of 90 or better.

ON THE AIR

Television
AUTO RACING
1:30 p.m. — ARCA Bando Mar-Hyde Daytona 200 practice, ESPN2.

GOLF
2 p.m. — Pebble Beach National Pro-Am first round, USA.

BASKETBALL
6:30 p.m. — Kentucky at Florida, ESPN.
8:30 p.m. — Memphis at Louisville, ESPN.
9:30 p.m. — Arizona at Washington, Fox Southwest.

Radio
BASKETBALL
5:55 p.m. — Howard College Lady Hawks at Odessa, 1400 AM, KBYG.
7:55 p.m. — Howard College Hawks at Odessa College, 1490 AM, KBST.

Big Spring's Brian Nutting hauls down a rebound against Snyder in a District 5-4A game played in Steer Gym earlier this year.

A nearly full slate of high school basketball is on tap this weekend as teams head toward post-season play.

On Friday, Junction is at Forsan, Coahoma is at Plains, Stanton is at Seagraves, Garden City is at Irion County and Sands is at Westbrook.

Big Springs plays San Angelo Lake View on Saturday at the San Angelo Central Gym.

Grady is open on Friday.

HERALD photo/Jim Fiero



UT hooks recruiting class touted as nation's best

By RICHARD ROSENBLATT
AP Football Writer

Texas has waited a long time to start bragging on its football team again, so pardon a few million Longhorns followers for celebrating in February.

"Hook 'em horns! Texas simply has the best group from top to bottom," Bobby Burton of the Austin, Texas-based The National Recruiting Advisor said Wednesday after he and two other national recruiting gurus declared the Longhorns winners of Recruiting Wars '99.

Texas coach Mack Brown brought in 28 players on national signing day, and the Longhorns' haul included USA Today's offensive and defensive players of the year, 11 players the newspaper ranked among the nation's best and four Parade All-Americans.

Atop the list are quarterback Chris Simms, son of New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms, and linebacker Cory Redding, USA Today's top two players.

"This class sends a message nationally that we're really serious about being a top program again," Brown said. "It's a class that can jumpstart us back to where we want to be — the elite of college football."

Tom Lemming of Schaumburg, Ill.-based Prep Football Report, said Texas had the top-rated class for the first time since he began his rankings 20 years ago.

The 6-foot-5, 218-pound Simms, from Franklin Lakes, N.J., made a verbal commitment to Tennessee, but changed his mind last week. Simms threw for 2,239 yards and 18 touchdowns in his senior season at Ramapo H.S., and is expected to challenge immediately for the backup spot behind Major Applewhite.

Redding, 6-5 and 240 pounds from North Shore H.S. near Houston, had 123 solo tackles, including 22 for losses, and 112 assists. He also caused six fumbles and recovered five.

In addition to Simms and Redding, the two other Parade All-Americans to go for Texas were Bo Sciafe, a 6-4, 225-pound wide receiver from Denver, and Alfio Randall, a 6-6, 270-pound lineman from Houston.

The biggest shocker came at the expense of Notre Dame. C.J. Leak, a highly touted quarterback from Charlotte, N.C., chose Wake Forest over the Irish, who for months expected the 6-4, 210-pounder in the mold of Randall Cunningham to sign on with coach Bob Davie.

The Irish, who did not sign a quarterback Wednesday, were still rated third by Burton and Lemming, but eighth by Allen Wallace of Laguna Beach, Calif.-based SuperPrep magazine.

The Irish, though, signed a few standouts, including three USA Today All-Americans in defensive back Gerome Sapp from Houston, defensive lineman Cedric Hilliard from Arlington, Texas, and offensive lineman Jeff Faine from Sanford, Fla.

Ohio State, with a haul that included USA Today All-American Bryce Bishop, defensive lineman Tim Anderson, defensive back Michael Doss and defensive back-wide receiver Kelton Lindsay, was ranked second by Burton and Wallace and fourth by Lemming.

National champion Tennessee was a three-time loser. First, they lost Simms; then Derek Watson, South Carolina's Mr. Football who also verbally committed to the Vols, changed and signed with the Gamecocks; and finally Santonio Beard, a top-rated running back from Nashville, went for Alabama.

THURSDAY

FEB. 4

Table with 33 columns representing different TV channels (KMID, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows listing various programs and their start times.

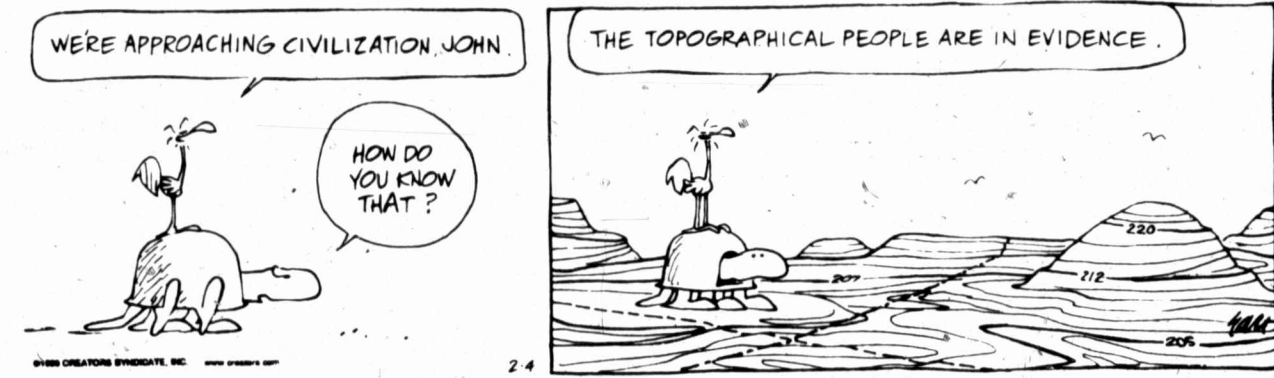
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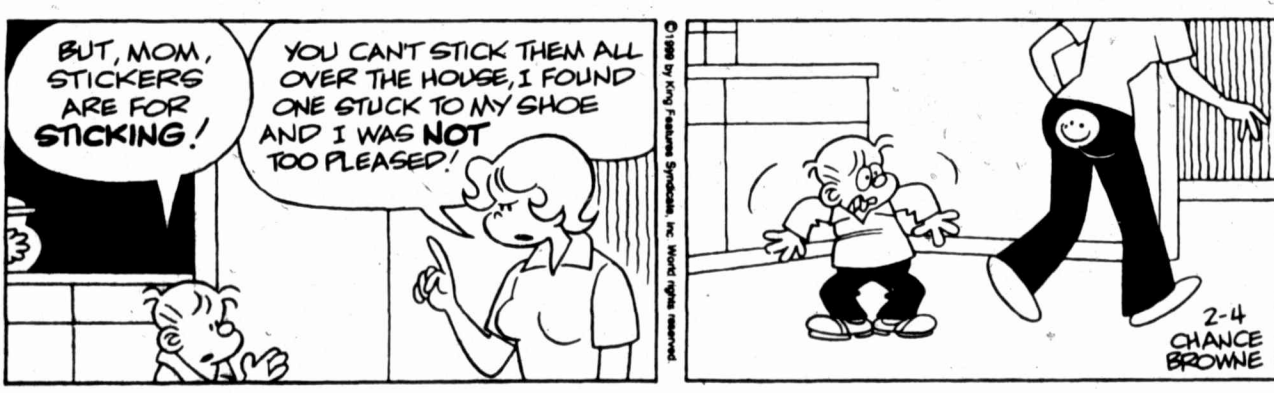
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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Thursday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 1999. There are 330 days left in the year.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved section showing the completed crossword puzzle and a list of words.

Big Spring Herald advertisement including contact information and office hours.

Independence. In 1809, the territory of Illinois was created. In 1865, President Lincoln and Confederate Vice President Alexander H. Stephens held a shipboard peace conference off the Virginia coast. The talks deadlocked over the issue of Southern autonomy. In 1916, Canada's original Parliament Buildings, in Ottawa, burned down. In 1917, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, which had announced a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare. In 1924, the 28th president of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, died in Washington at age 68. In 1930, the chief justice of the United States, William Howard Taft, resigned for health reasons. In 1987, the San Diego Yacht Club celebrated the victory of skipper Dennis Conner and the "Stars and Stripes" over Australia to sweep the America's Cup series. Ten years ago: Alfredo Stroessner, president of Paraguay for more than three decades, was overthrown in a military coup. Five years ago: President Clinton lifted the 19-year-old U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam. The space shuttle Discovery lifted off, carrying Sergei Krikalev, the first Russian cosmonaut to fly aboard a U.S. spacecraft. Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan dismissed his aide, Khalid Abdul Muhammad, for making anti-Semitic remarks. The Senate confirmed William Perry to be defense secretary. One year ago: The state of Texas executed Karla Faye Tucker for the pickax killings of two people in 1983; she was the first woman executed in the United States since 1984. A U.S. military plane sliced through the cable of a ski gondola in Italy, sending the car plunging hundreds of feet, killing all 20 people inside. Today's Birthdays: Comedian Joey Bishop is 81. Actor John Piedler is 74. Comedian Shelley Berman is 73. Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., is 66. Football Hall-of-Famer Fran Tarkenton is 59. Singer Dennis Edwards is 56. Football Hall-of-Famer Bob Griese is 54. Singer-guitarist Dave Davies (The Kinks) is 52. Singer Melanie is 52. Actress Morgan Fairchild is 49. Actor Nathan Lane is 43. Rock musician Lee Renaldo (Sonic Youth) is 43. Actor Thomas Calabro is 40. Actor-director Keith Gordon is 38. Actress Michele Greene is 37. Country singer Matraca Berg is 35. Actress Maura Tierney is 34. Rock musician