

# BIG SPRING HERALD

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**TUESDAY**  
May 25, 1999



## Positively... Big Spring Grand jury will convene on Wednesday

Howard County grand jury will convene Wednesday to her 25 to 30 cases presented by district attorney Hardy Wilkerson.

The jurors may choose to indict the individuals accused, based on the evidence presented by Wilkerson.

Or, they may select to return a no bill, which indicates based on the evidence and testimony they hear, an indictment is not indicated.

Once an individual has been indicted, an arrest warrant is issued. In most instances, a person has the option of posting bail after the arrest.

Then an individual is set for a court date, or may plead guilty and accept a plea bargain as presented by the district attorney.

### WHAT'S UP...

#### WEDNESDAY

□ Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus Room.  
□ Big Spring Downtown Lions Club, noon, Cactus Room.

□ Line dancing, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, Industrial Park.  
□ Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third.

#### THURSDAY

□ Gideons International Big Spring Camp No. 4206, 7 a.m., Hermans.

□ Big Spring Senior Citizens Center art classes, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
□ Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.

□ Masonic Lodge No. 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main.

#### FRIDAY

□ Signal Mountain Quilting Guild, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Bring a lunch.

□ AMBUCS, noon, Brandin' Iron Restaurant.  
□ Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. All seniors invited.

### WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 57°-59° WEDNESDAY 80°-85°

### INSIDE TODAY...

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## Vendor Expo will give local businesses chance to network together

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Staff Writer

Learning the ropes of the big business bidding process and vendor lists will bring about 40 to 50 people to Dora Roberts Community Center Wednesday.

Big Spring Vendor Expo 1999, sponsored by Moore Development for Big Spring, Inc., will bring about 12 local, major employers, along with small business owners and manufacturers, together for networking, said Moore Development assistant director Pam Welch.

"We want to give our local companies an opportunity to get on the vendor lists

for our major employers," Welch said.

"This will also be an opportunity for our major employers to explain to companies how their bidding process works, and if there are any special requirements, such as specific bonding," Welch said.

During the luncheon, which begins at 11:30 a.m., representatives from the Northwest Texas Small Business Development Center's Procurement Assistance Center will speak, she said.

"They will give an explanation of the services they offer companies in securing federal and state government bids," Welch said.

The Procurement Assistance Center,

based in Lubbock, offers free services to companies who wish to pursue state and federal government jobs and bids, she said.

"Then, after the luncheon, the major employers will have tables set up where company representatives may go and ask questions and find out specifics about their vendor lists," she said.

Competitive pricing may also be discussed, as will new regulations that allow bids to be more flexible, she said.

"I'm hoping we have a question and answer period. We hear all the time major employers are looking for the most competitive price, but local, smaller companies may have trouble beating a

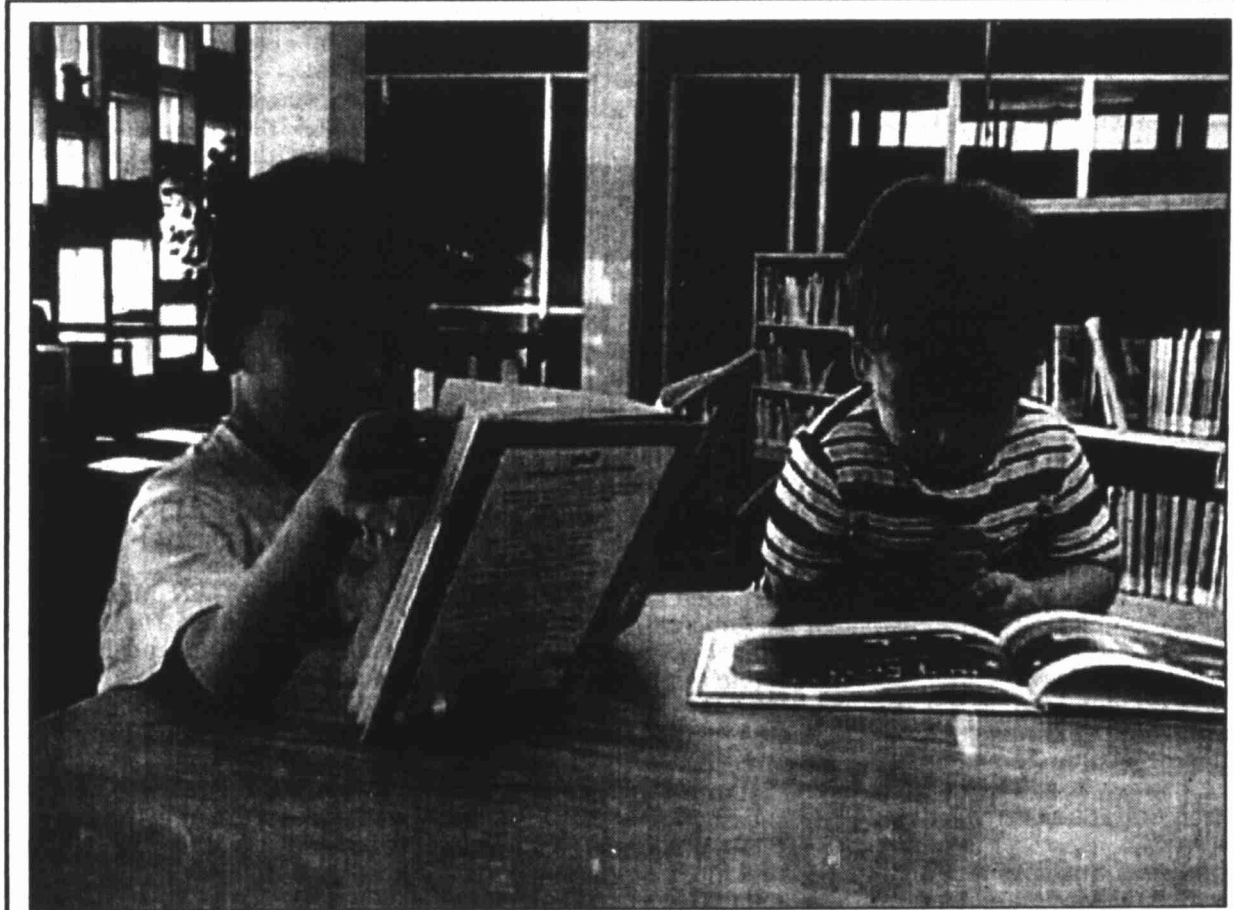
low bid from a larger company," she said.

Local companies may be allowed to include more service contracts or local access to technicians, she said.

"We've had good response with RSVP, and we're expecting between 40 and 50 people. I hope we see some of the smaller companies attend. The bidding process and vendor lists take a little more time, and that might be kind of scary, but the smaller companies just need to get out there and go for it.

"Also, this will allow the major employers to meet the smaller companies, to

See VENDORS, Page 2



Zech Akin, 7, reads a book while his brother Michael, 3, looks at the pictures this morning. The two joined dozens of other local children for the Summer Reading Program kickoff at Howard County Library. The program, which continues through early July, offers special activities, dress up days and movies aimed at encouraging youngsters to read.

## Plenty of pageantry planned Monday for Hangar 25 Air Museum dedication

By BILL MCCLELLAN  
News Editor

Lots of pageantry is planned at Hangar 25 on Memorial Day as the newly completed facility receives its formal dedication.

The ceremony itself is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., though those who plan to attend can make their way to the hangar as early as noon. Refreshments will be available.

Hangar 25 Air Museum Committee members are hoping that citizens will attend the dedication of the Gold Star Chapel at the Vietnam Memorial at 11 a.m. first, and then make their way to the hangar.

"We really would like people to participate in both events," said Kim Howell, secretary of the Hangar 25 Air Museum

Committee. "We both want our activities to be of benefit to Big Spring. We did this specifically instead of doing it on separate days so that tourists coming in could attend both, and see all of the other neat things Big Spring has to offer."

Howell said the committee plans to put up signs marking the way from the Vietnam Memorial to Hangar 25, and vice-versa.

At Hangar 25, the ceremony will get under way with a ribbon-cutting type event and opening of the huge doors. Stan Hanes, music minister at First Baptist Church, will sing the national anthem and a fly-over by a B-1 bomber from Dyess Air Force Base is planned.

See HANGAR, Page 2



HERALD photo/Bill McClellan  
Jim Little, vice president of the Hangar 25 Air Museum Committee, discusses plans for the facility after arrival of the T-33 and T-37 planes.

## Fire Academy students receive demonstration of CPR techniques

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Staff Writer

Brian Jensen, Big Spring Emergency Medical Service director, completed his instruction for the Citizens Fire Academy class by demonstrating cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"We call this the chain of survival for a cardiac problem. First, call 911 as soon as possible. Second, early CPR will improve the circulating blood and get oxygen to the patient.

"Then, early defibrillation, and four, early advanced care," Jensen said.

Jensen presented a film, "Basic Life Support," to the class from the American Heart Association. The film said the first two steps of the chain of survival are the responsibility of any person who witnesses the initial problem.

"A lot of people have silent heart attacks. 40 percent have no symptoms at all," Jensen said.

By calling 911 and initiating EMS workers to begin their travel to the scene, a witness forms the first link in the chain, he said.

Early CPR may provide enough oxygen to the victim to sustain life and prevent brain damage before EMS personnel arrive. Once the paramedics are on the scene, the focus shifts to the trained professionals and to the equipment available on an ambulance, such as pure oxygen and early defibrillation, or electric shocks to the heart.

Then early advanced care, administered to the patient by doctor, paramedics, nurses and other trained rescuers, works toward continuing the life saving measures, he said.

CPR is divided into steps referred to as the ABCs, he said.

A is for airway. The first thing a person should check when discovering a choking or unconscious person is if air can be felt from the nostrils or

mouth, he said.

If a person is found on the ground, a technique called the "head tilt, chin lift maneuver" is used to open the air passages.

A palm is placed on the victim's forehead, and fingers are placed under the chin which pull the chin up, while pushing back on the forehead with the other hand.

Once this is properly accomplished, listen for breathing, look for the victim's chest rising, and feel for breath.

In the absence of breath, a rescuer should perform CPR by sealing the nostrils closed with the fingers of one hand, then cover the mouth and breathe into the victim, watching for chest rising.

After five CPR breaths, check for pulse, or the C of the ABCs. Check the carotid artery in the neck for the heart beat. If no beat is found, begin chest compressions along the the breathing.

A person should continue CPR until help arrives, he said. For every one breath, five chest

See ACADEMY, Page 2

## Rain

### More moisture forecast, more needed for area farmers to make a crop

By JOHN H. WALKER  
Managing Editor

Rainfall totals ranging from one-half inch to 3 inches were reported across the Crossroads Area and National Weather Service officials say more rain may be on the way.

"We're kind of in a repetitive pattern right now," a spokesman for the Midland NWS office said this morning. "We have a stationary low and abundant moisture, so we've got a good chance for sporadic rains."

The forecast is for a 30 percent chance of thundershowers and thunderstorms today, increasing to 40 percent tonight and 50 percent on Wednesday.

"Obviously, we had the rain last night, but we're kind of in between waves right now. I don't think we'll see a heck of a lot until late afternoon at the earliest, but most likely, tonight," the spokesman continued.

That's good news for area farmers, who need more moisture if there's hope for a cotton crop this year.

"The rain was pretty widespread," said Howard County Extension Agent-Agriculture David Kight. "I think most people got some."

And while the rain that began about noon Monday was good news, more is needed.

"There's a good bit of cotton planted and up in the northern part of the county, where they got some moisture we didn't, and this will be very beneficial

for it," Kight said.

But for the majority of Crossroads Area farmers, more rain is needed.

"A lot of our producers are in a situation where they need additional rainfall to make it work," he said. "And if we don't (get more rain), we're in trouble."

Kight said most producers generally have enough moisture to get their crop up but not enough to make a crop.

"Typically, our rainy season runs through mid-June, so if we don't get some rain in the next couple of weeks, we could be in trouble."

Kight said what the region needed was a slow, soaking rain.

"If we could get a slow, 2-inch rain over most of the area, it would get us where we need to be," he said.

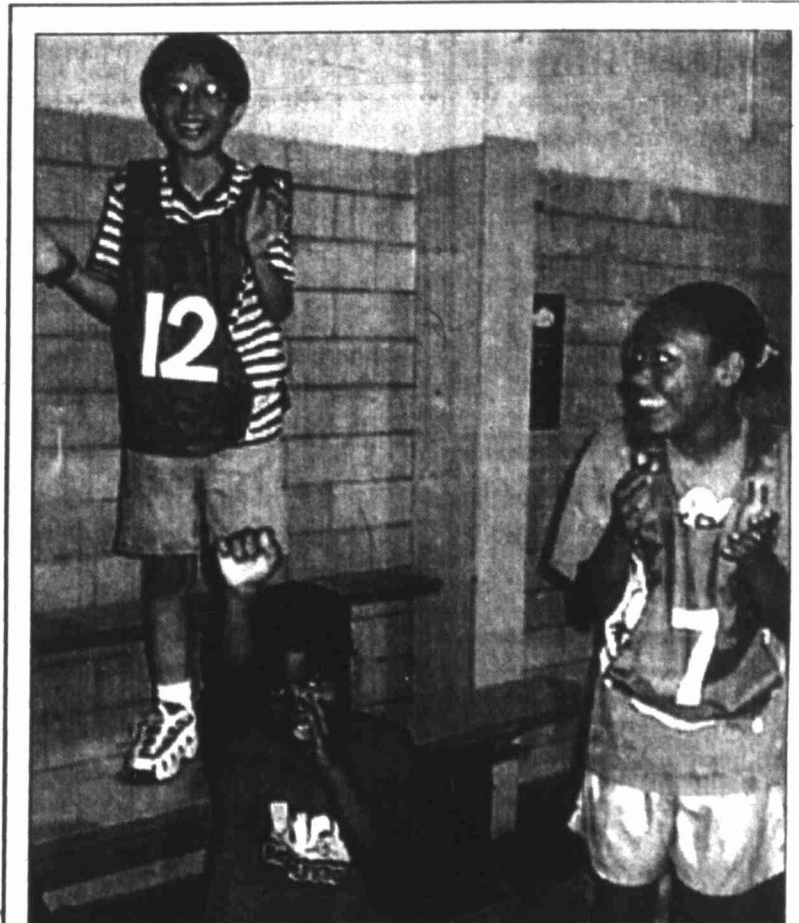
Rainfall totals ranged from a trace at the St. Lawrence Gin to 3 inches around Elbow. To the north, totals ranging from four-to-eight tenths were reported in the Ackerly area while Betty Wilcox reported eight-tenths at her home in the Sourdough Community at Lake Thomas.

Big Spring rainfall totals ranged from seven-tenths in Edwards Heights and on Wasson Road to an inch in the downtown area.

While parts of Glasscock County received rain, most did not, according to Warren Multer, IPM (integrated pest management) for the county.

"A bunch of the county got nothing," he said. "The most we received was about 1 1/2 inches right down (Highway) 158 in Garden City about 4 or 4:30."

There were no reports of any runoff in any of the lakes owned by the Colorado River Municipal Water District.



HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen  
Big Spring YMCA day-campers, from left, Corey Ramey, Bo Shorts and Myeshia Shorts cheer on a soccer game this morning. The day camp will continue throughout summer vacation, offering supervised activities, sports, swimming and lunch from 6:45 a.m.-6 p.m.

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# Serb armor dwindles, troop strength grows

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Yugoslav military force in Kosovo is growing in numbers but losing mobility and gradually seeing its costly hardware lost to NATO bombs, U.S. and allied officials say.

Serb military strength in the embattled province has increased by 10,000 to 15,000 soldiers on top of the 40,000 fighting there when the NATO strikes began in March, according to military intelligence estimates.

But the strengthened force has become less mobile as Yugoslav troops dig in against a possible NATO invasion and hide tanks and other heavy weapons from NATO gunights

in anything from burned-out homes to haystacks.

The tactics have made the Serb military harder to locate but, once found, easier to destroy.

The increasingly stationary posture of the Serbs has prompted NATO to use spy satellite imagery and high-tech heat detection along with information from Kosovar refugees to plan recent attacks that U.S. officials say have inflicted extensive casualties.

"Clearly, they're hunkering down," State Department spokesman James Rubin said Monday.

"We know that they're taking serious incoming in the last

day, even in poor weather."

Officials said the damage has increased as NATO has made more bombing runs with U.S. A-10 ground attack planes and AC-130 gunships — lower flying aircraft better able to attack individual entrenchments and armored vehicles.

Those attacks coupled with massive strikes on entrenchments by B-52 and B-1 bombers are being credited with the destruction of 556 pieces of artillery, tanks, armored cars and other heavy weapons held by the Serbs inside the Kosovo province.

When the NATO attacks began in mid-March, U.S. military intelligence estimated the

Yugoslav fighting force inside Kosovo at about 40,000.

U.S. and allied officials say the Serbs have since deployed at least 10,000 more troops to the province in what NATO believes was an effort to prepare for a possible ground attack and to better combat strengthening Kosovar rebel forces.

But the added Serb troops are being depleted by casualties inflicted by the incessant bombing campaign, officials said.

"You might call them reinforcements, but you could also say they try to help (replenish) the losses which they encountered," said Maj. Gen. Walter Jertz, a NATO spokesman.

# Drug enforcement chief Constantine resigns

WASHINGTON (AP) — The administration's most outspoken critic of Mexican drug corruption, Thomas Constantine, is resigning as Drug Enforcement Administration chief after five years in which he increased agent force by more than a third.

Constantine, 60, who once said there was no civilian law enforcement agency in Mexico he would trust with confidential information, informed Attorney General Janet Reno on Monday that he intends to leave July 1.

"I've got 39 years in law enforcement, including eight years as superintendent of the New York State Police and five years here," Constantine told The Associated Press in an interview. "It's time to start thinking about other things I

want to do in life."

Constantine, who moved up the ranks from state trooper in New York, said he would "probably end up teaching at one of the universities in New York and consulting in law enforcement."

Five years is as long as any of the agency's previous administrators have served.

His most controversial statements came two years ago in a congressional hearing on drug-financed corruption in Mexico.

Just after Mexico's drug czar, Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, was himself charged with protecting a drug cartel, Constantine said, "At this time, there is no civilian law enforcement agency in Mexico with which we can share confidential information."

On Monday, he said that since then, DEA and the Justice Department have been trying to develop such units. "Some are beginning to work," Constantine said, "but the traffickers have become infinitely more powerful in the last five years and they are a major threat to citizens of the United States and the institutions of Mexico."

"I say what I think, and the policy-makers can take my advice or leave it," Constantine said. "I would like to be proved wrong and see all leading organized crime figures in Mexico arrested this year, but that looks to be a very, very difficult objective to reach."

Since Constantine took over DEA in March 1994, the agency has added 1,200 agents for a total now of 4,550. He also

revamped and computerized its intelligence operations.

Several weeks ago, Constantine achieved a longstanding agency goal when he opened a \$29 million training academy for its agents and the foreign, state and local police they also train.

The new facility, which can house 250 trainees, is adjacent to the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., where DEA trainees used to have to share space with the FBI.

He also revised the drug agency's standards for hiring, training and internal integrity.

"I'll miss the excitement of law enforcement, but I'm proud to have been part of a great profession of people who are underestimated in this country," Constantine said.

# Policeman to plead guilty in explosive brutality trial

NEW YORK (AP) — After watching officer after officer testify against him, a New York policeman has decided to end his trial by pleading guilty to brutally torturing a Haitian immigrant in a stationhouse bathroom.

Officer Justin Volpe's decision in a case that shocked New York and led to tension between police and the city's minority community was revealed Monday after a private discussion between attorneys and U.S. District Judge Eugene Nickerson.

Prosecutors and Volpe's attorney, Marvyn Kornberg, refused to comment. But according to a court transcript, Kornberg told the judge, "... if your honor can see fit to give us some time tomorrow we would like to enter a plea."

The move is not part of a plea bargain, meaning Volpe is hoping for leniency from the judge. The 27-year-old officer could face a maximum sentence of life in prison without parole.

Volpe is the central figure in a racially charged case that included the indictments of five white officers on charges of violating the civil rights of Abner Louima, who is black, by attacking him.

The prosecution against the four other officers was expected to proceed.

Volpe, the son of a retired police detective, is accused of ramming a stick into Louima's rectum and mouth in a fit of rage.

# House report says China can build better weapons because of U.S. thefts

WASHINGTON (AP) — China's two-decade effort to steal U.S. weapons technology continued well into the Clinton administration, positioning Beijing to develop modern mobile nuclear warheads as good as America's, says a bipartisan congressional report.

An "insatiable appetite" for U.S. technology leaves China ready to leap from a 1950s nuclear weapons program to sophisticated designs "on par with our own," concludes the report.

The 700-page report, being released today by a special House committee chaired by Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., said that while Chinese espionage can be traced back at least to the 1970s, "thefts almost certainly continue to the present."

It singled out as particularly damaging the loss of design material from one of America's

most sophisticated warheads in the 1980s.

"China has never stolen any other countries' secrets, including from the United States," an official at Defense Ministry's office in Beijing said today. The official refused to give her name.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao, also in Beijing, said the allegations were cooked up by people who want to slander China and declared that "their despicable attempt is doomed to failure."

The report describes a breadth of Chinese espionage that is so threatening to U.S. interests that some members of Congress have compared it to the theft of atomic bomb secrets by Russia in the 1940s.

The fallout could have a profound impact on the operation of U.S. weapons labs and on U.S.-China relations.

The House and Senate have

called for in-depth hearings on Chinese espionage and U.S. nuclear security.

And Energy Secretary Bill Richardson within days is expected to announce disciplinary action against a number of Energy Department and lab employees in connection with anti-espionage lapses.

"These thefts of nuclear secrets from our national weapons laboratories enabled (China) to design, develop and successfully test modern strategic weapons sooner than would otherwise have been possible," the report says.

With the help of stolen secrets and other technology gains, China "has leaped, in a handful of years, from 1950s-era strategic nuclear capabilities to the more modern thermonuclear weapons designs" that took the United States decades to achieve, according to the report.

# Four dead, one injured after being struck by train

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (AP) — An Amtrak train struck and killed a woman and three children early today as they walked along the railroad track.

A fourth child was critically injured in the accident, which left books and backpacks strewn on the tracks.

A westbound train struck the woman and children about 2:20 a.m., said Tom Kelly, a spokesman for the Metropolitan Transit Authority.

One child, a boy about 9 years old, was in critical condition at Bridgeport Hospital.

He had his left leg severed and suffered from multiple fractures

and head trauma, hospital spokesman John Cappiello said.

Kelly said it was unknown why the victims were on the tracks or even who they were. The children appeared to be between 3 and 12 years old.

The train was bound from Boston to Newport News, Va., according to Kevin Regan, an Amtrak official at the scene. The train had been running late because of the weather.

Regan said investigators do not know how fast the train was going, but normal speed on that stretch of track is 70 mph.

A device on the train records how fast the train was going.

when the engineer hit the brakes, when he hit the horn and how long it took the train to stop, according to Regan.

The train engineer was emotionally shaken up by the by the accident and was taken to a hospital for treatment.

"We want to know what those kids were doing out there at two o'clock in the morning," Kelly said.

# Texas House tentatively OKs telecommunications bill

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House has endorsed a bill that freezes local phone rates until 2005 and gradually reduces the cost of in-state long distance calls.

Southwestern Bell, the state's largest local phone company, would also eventually gain more flexibility in setting — and possibly raising — prices for caller identification and call waiting.

The legislation was given preliminary House approval Monday.

Final approval could come as soon as today, sending the bill back to the Senate, which has passed its own version of the bill.

Under the measure, the nearly 12 cents-a-minute access fee that Southwestern Bell charges long-distance companies to connect in-state long distance calls would be cut by about 5.5 cents per minute.

The Public Utility Commission plans to move about half of that cut — 3 cents a minute — to another fee that callers pay.

Consumers would see the rest of the cut gradually with the final portions being implemented after the Federal Communications Commission allows Bell to compete for long-distance, which could come within the next year, said Bell spokesman Bill Maddox.

The bill requires the long-distance companies to pass on the savings to customers, but consumer advocates have complained that the bill doesn't go far enough.

If Bell raises the cost for other services to make up for their loss in access fees the bill at "best will be a wash but it could be an increase on customers bills," said Janee Briesemesiter, senior policy analyst for Consumers Union.

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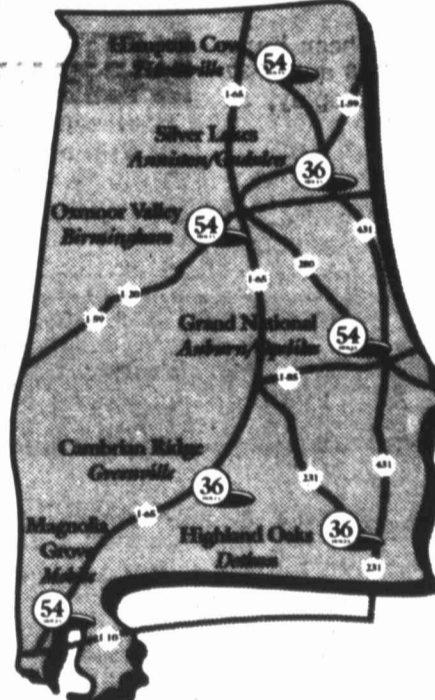

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MAY 25 1999

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

Make plans now for Big Spring's Reunion, Rodeo

It's not too early to make plans for one of Howard County's most exciting and colorful events — the 66th Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo.

From kids' events to barrel racing and bull riding, the grand entry and parade, there's something for folks of all ages. It's a jeans and boots occasion that is as informal as it gets — unless you are participating in one of those eight-second rides, of course.

It's an opportunity for some of the best cowboys and cowgirls in the nation to show off their talents for cash prizes. The strength and skill of the bareback rider, the grace of the horse around the barrel, the timing of a team roping duo, the jokes and bravery of the clown — those are what rodeo is all about, whether you are a participant or a spectator.

It's also a time of pageantry and entertainment — colorful flags, bright western shirts and blouses, floats, kids on bicycles, banter between announcer and clown, and some hot-off-the-grill burgers or hot dogs. There's always the opportunity to scoot a boot to some fine country and western music, too.

Make plans now to attend the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo, June 16-19 at the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl. Performances will be held nightly. Don't forget either, the annual parade, which has been moved to 5:30 p.m. on the 19th.

It all promises to be a great whoopin' and hollarin' time. See you at the rodeo!

OTHER VIEWS

Diplomacy and leadership have the greatest value when they're most difficult to provide.

Both are needed to avoid conflict between the United States and China, so this is no time for diplomatic retrenchment or demagoguery.

China is entitled to be outraged by the bombing of its embassy in Belgrade. The Chinese and Americans deserve complete answers and accountability following this inexcusable failure. ... (But) China's reaction threatens to trigger another Cold War and could prevent an acceptable settlement to the war in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province. ...

The government's role in the civilian protests over the weekend is a troubling

sign of China's attempts to use the embassy bombing for political gain, and the suspension of high-level military talks with the United States closes communications when they should be open. Communication is essential to preventing deadly mistakes when tensions are elevated.

Worse are the signals that China might use its position on the U.N. Security Council to delay a peace agreement affecting Yugoslavia. ...

The U.S. has an obligation to make amends for its deadly error but, if China truly wants to join the developed world ... this is no time for Cold War-style antagonism.

SARASOTA (FLA.)  
HERALD-TRIBUNE

LETTER POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit letters for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

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- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at either bsherald@xroadstx.com or jwalk-er@xroadstx.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.

Our offices are closed on weekends and holidays.

'Social promotion' in college bad idea, too

Call it a case of multiple personality disorder, but the U.S. Department of Education appears to be of two minds when it comes to promoting sound education standards.

On the one hand, Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley has loudly championed more accountability and tougher standards to improve K-12 education, including an end to the practice of 'social promotion,' in which teachers promote students to the next grade even if they haven't mastered the work at their current level. Now, however, Riley seems to be having second thoughts about 'social promotion,' at least when it comes to access to higher education.

Last week, Riley weighed in on a controversial set of guidelines being promoted by the Office for Civil Rights in his

department that would severely restrict colleges and universities from using standardized test scores to select students for admission or financial aid. At issue are the SAT and ACT tests used by most colleges to help rank applicants. While no school relies entirely on test scores to determine whom to admit, the most competitive schools give considerable weight to high scores, especially during an era of grade inflation when so many students graduate with a perfect 4.0 or 'A' record.

But the problem is, minority students — on average — perform less well than whites on standardized tests. The mean score for black students who take the SAT is about 200 points lower (out of a possible 1600) than for whites. OCR's new guidelines — still in the drafting stage — presume that any test that produces lower average scores among minorities than whites is suspect. "The use of any educational test that has a significant disparate impact on members of any particular race, national origin or sex is discriminatory," says OCR. Schools that run afoul of OCR's rules could face a cut-off of all federal

funds. Riley's solution is to develop "new and creative ways to enlarge the pool of eligible minority applicants," by going beyond what he called "the traditional factors" of test scores and grades. This sounds an awfully lot like 'social promotion,' only this time it's not from, say, fifth to sixth grade but from high school to college.

Blacks and Hispanics, on average, perform less well than whites or Asians on the SAT or ACT because they've mastered fewer of the skills tested in these exams. In order to do reasonably well on the math section of either test, a student must know basic arithmetic, plus algebra and geometry. He must also be able to decipher a word problem, set up an equation and remember simple mathematical formulas.

To perform well on the verbal section of the tests, a student must be able to comprehend what he reads, define words, and have a good grasp of syntax and grammar. Sadly, too few blacks and Hispanics can meet these requirements. Should they be admitted to colleges and universities anyway? OCR thinks so, but if universities cave in to these demands it

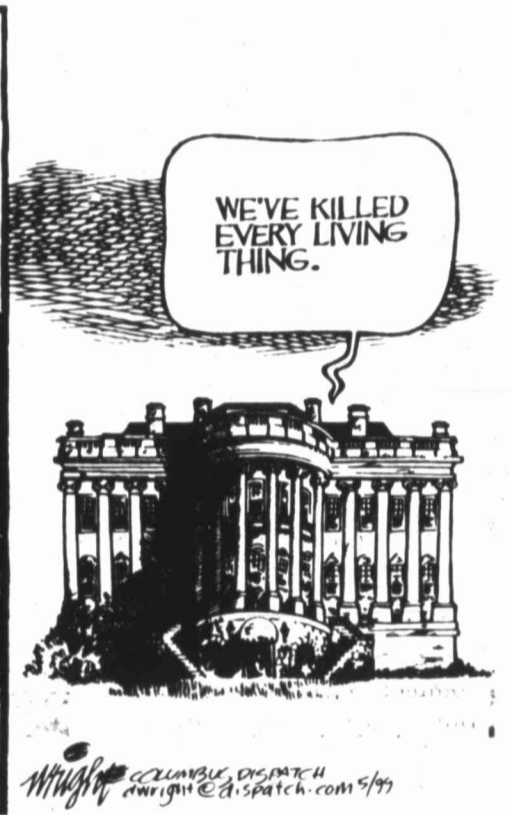
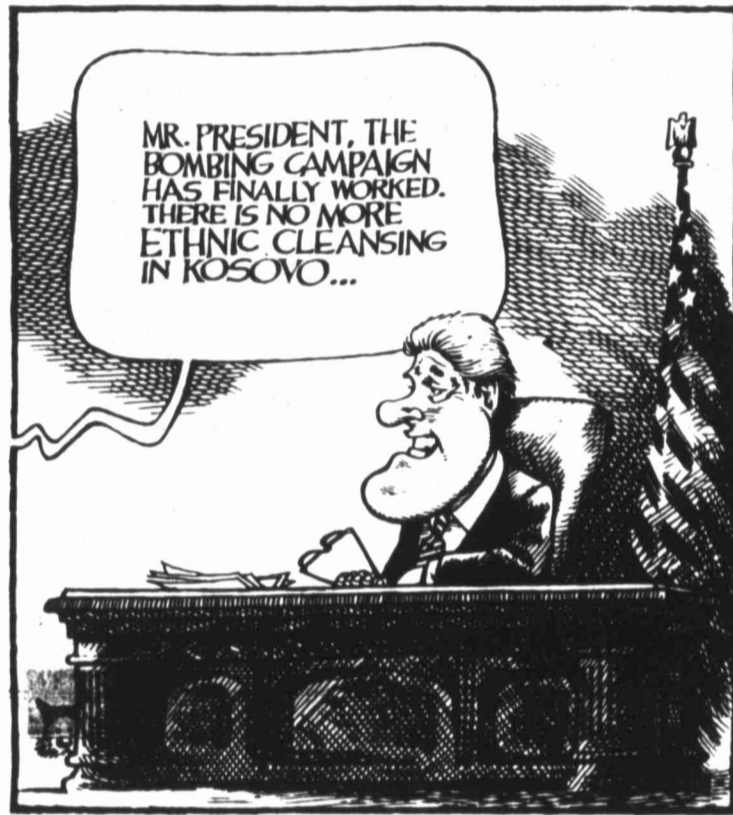
will further weaken American higher education and won't serve the interests of the minority students, either.

It makes little sense to promote a child from third to fourth grade if he cannot read or hasn't mastered simple addition and subtraction, and learned how to multiply single digits. Riley seems to understand this and, commendably, has urged schools to retain elementary and secondary students in grade with extra tutorial or summer schoolwork until they learn the necessary skills to earn promotion. But the same principle applies to higher education. If black and Hispanic students can't satisfy the requirement of college placement tests, the answer isn't to admit them anyway, but rather to give them the remediation they need.

If Riley really wanted to improve the performance of minority college applicants, he'd direct his Office for Civil Rights to cease and desist from its destructive efforts to ban standardized testing. After all, eliminating the test may destroy the evidence that minorities are getting a second-rate education, but it won't change the facts.



LINDA CHAVEZ



At what price do we pay for intelligence?

How much does it cost the United States to buy or steal a secret from a foreign country?

That's one of the best-kept secrets in Washington, for unlike most other entities of the federal bureaucracy, the hydra-headed intelligence community can keep most of its budget confidential.

And few in Congress seem to worry whether the spy agencies are cost-effective in what they do.

In fact, far too much fraud, waste and abuse in military and intelligence programs are swept under the national security carpet.

"It's classified" is the favorite "no comment" comment from the Pentagon when asked about failed American weapons, other waste or even more general budgetary information.

Nearly every expenditure of intelligence agencies, from buildings to bug sprays, is classified.

In fact, the very existence of some intelligence units or agencies — like the Air Force's spy-satellite-operating National Reconnaissance Office — has been classified at some point.

So it may seem a hopeless quest, but our associate Dale Van Atta, through intelligence sources and some deductive reasoning, thinks we can produce a very rough accounting of U.S. intelligence-gathering.

Except for the Central Intelligence Agency and a couple of obscure military units, which devote some money and manpower to covert action, the dozen-plus federal intelligence bodies exist primarily to collect and analyze information.

So their entire budgets should be counted on the cost side of the ledger when it comes to calculating the average price of a secret.

The U.S. taxpayers unknowingly ante up more than \$30 billion annually to the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency and the plethora of sister intelligence outfits.

While this is already an enormous number, it is impossible to calculate the man-hours spent by ambassadors, Foreign Service personnel and other government officials who pass along secrets gathered to the intelligence services.

But how do we figure out how many secrets \$30 billion buys?

No one can say for sure, but there is an obscure agency that provides the material necessary for a reasonable guess.

That agency is an odd duck called the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), which is administratively part of the National Archives.

But it is really an executive

agency that reports directly to the president (through his executive orders) on the management and oversight of America's classification and declassification processes.

ISOO provides an annual count of all government agencies' classification decisions — how many documents they stamp confidential, secret and top secret.

Its latest report says there were 158,788 "original classification decisions" last year.

This is how it works: Say the NSA obtains a banking intercept from a Swiss bank that shows Saddam Hussein has just written a multi-million-dollar check through a secret account to pay an arms merchant known to be shopping nuclear triggers around.

That information is placed in a document by an NSA official who holds "classifying authority" and who then determines that it is, say, "top secret umbrella" — meaning only the president and those with clearance for this classification level can see or learn this information.

Every document that contains this piece of information over the ensuing months and years, no matter how innocuous the rest of the document, must carry this highest classification.

That's why using "original classification decisions" — which only apply to the original secret — is a rough but reasonable way to try to count up important new secrets the government gets in a year.

Except... that the great bulk of this figure refers to American-made secrets that agencies want to protect, not secrets our spies have picked up abroad.

However, most of the domestic secrets, those things we don't want other countries to know, are stamped either "confidential" or "secret" — categories applied to 95 percent of classification decisions.

The remaining 5 percent — or 7,246 last year — are classified "top secret."

Even making the unlikely assumption that all 158,788 decisions involved foreign secrets, the cost would factor out to more than \$188,931 a secret.

But if we rate intelligence-gathering agencies only by the hottest stuff they get — the top secrets — the cost works out to more than \$4.14 million a secret.

That's a hefty price, considering the CIA, NSA and others consistently miss the biggest scoops — from something as simple but important as the location of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade to the terrorist plot to bomb our embassies in Africa last year or Pakistan's intention to test a nuclear bomb.

It's high time folks with a green eyeshade, the taxpayer's interest at heart, knowledge of the intelligence community and access to the secrets did more than the congressional intelligence committees to curtail the waste taking place under classified cover.

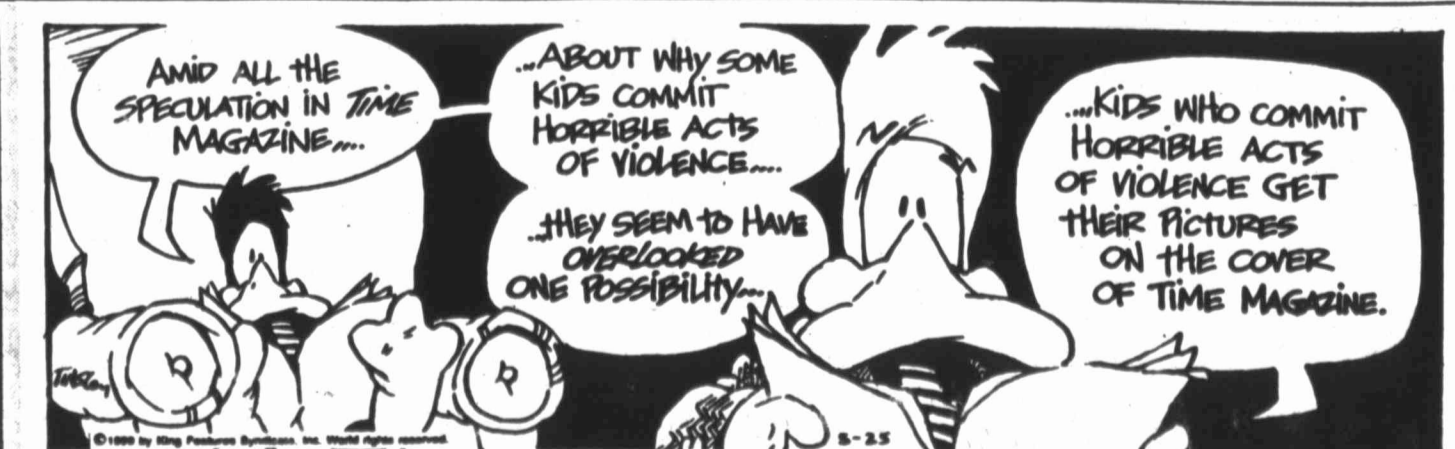
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JACK ANDERSON

Mallard Fillmore  
by  
BRUCE TINSLEY



SPORTS

IN BRIEF

Forsan Stars over Big Spring

Forsan's Star ASA girls' softball wins over Dream Team Reckless squad end.

Pitcher Kaci up the pitching games. Teri Denton, Megan Earhart offensively in over the Snyder three collecti Pacca Talley a provided offensi In the Stars' 8- Dream Team, A triple to Jessic double to Daniel singles to Tish Jackie Brown.

But the Sta plenty of offensi Big Spring sq Stokes.

Amber Vierra with a double an while Ashley Re added a pair of h other Stars play Acri, Megan I Krysha Bearden hit apiece.

UGSA ragball postponed indefinitely

A co-ed ragball originally slate Memorial Day v been postponed. Sponsored by th UGSA, the tourna rescheduled.

Trinity Baptist first ever softball

The Trinity Ba has scheduled its softball tourname and Saturday.

Entry fees will team and awards sent to the top 1 For more infor 267-6344.

Deadline extension for Steers hoop

Jimmy Avery Spring High Sc coaching staff ha their first e Basketball Camp in Steer Gym.

The camp, ope sters in the sec eighth grades wil ed with session: a.m. and noon ea A fee of \$45 per cover instruction shirt and certific

The deadline fo submissions has l ed to the opening

For more infor Avery at 264-3641

Camp of Champions starts June 1

The West Tex. Champs weight begin June 1 at Training Center a High School.

The camp is ope pants in grade 5 a For more info, Long at 264-3662

Lady Steers hoops scheduled for June

Registrations ar taken for the 1999 Summer Basketba

The camp is fo will be in the sec eighth grade next Registration i includes a T-shirt certificate.

For more in Coach Kathy Lote

ON THE AIR

Television

- MAJOR LEAGUE BA 6 p.m. — Texas R Tampa Bay Devil Ra Ch. 97.
- 7 p.m. — Atlanta Milwaukee Brewers, 7 p.m. — Colorad Houston Astros, FXS
- NBA PLAYOFFS 7 p.m. — Westerr semifinal, game 5, f Blazers at Utah Jazz 28.
- NHL PLAYOFFS 6:30 p.m. — East Conference finals, g Buffalo Sabres at T Leafs, ESPN, Ch. 30







TUESDAY														MAY 25																																																			
Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program																																										
KMID	6:30	News (CC)	KPEJ	6:30	Simpsons Home Imp.	KERA	6:30	Science Guy	FAM	6:30	Show-Funny	KOSA	6:30	News Ent. Tonight	WFAA	6:30	News (CC)	KWES	6:30	News (CC)	WTBS	6:30	Roseanne	UNI	6:30	Preciosa	DISN	6:30	Movie: Heidi	NASH	6:30	Walters (CC)	TMC	6:30	Movie: Beverly Hills	SHOW	6:30	Movie: The Jerky Boys	HBO	6:30	Movie: A Lesson	KMLN	6:30	Crystal Lynn	AME	6:30	Law & Order	DNSC	6:30	Wild Discovery	TNT	6:30	NBA Basketball	FSN	6:30	Sports News	ESPN	6:30	Major League	AMC	6:30	Movie: Casini	BET	6:30	Planet Groove
KMID	7:30	Home Improvement	KPEJ	7:30	Train Wreck	KERA	7:30	Novel (CC)	FAM	7:30	Life, Camera	KOSA	7:30	Movie: A Murder	WFAA	7:30	Home Improvement	KWES	7:30	3rd Rock	WTBS	7:30	Major League	UNI	7:30	La Usuradora	DISN	7:30	Movie: Heidi	NASH	7:30	Life and Times	TMC	7:30	Movie: Beverly Hills	SHOW	7:30	Movie: The Jerky Boys	HBO	7:30	Movie: A Lesson	KMLN	7:30	Crystal Lynn	AME	7:30	Law & Order	DNSC	7:30	Wild Discovery	TNT	7:30	NBA Basketball	FSN	7:30	Sports News	ESPN	7:30	Major League	AMC	7:30	Movie: Casini	BET	7:30	Planet Groove
KMID	8:30	World's Most Shocking	KPEJ	8:30	Frontline	KERA	8:30	Return to Lonesome	FAM	8:30	Movie: A Murder	KOSA	8:30	Movie: A Murder	WFAA	8:30	Movie: A Murder	KWES	8:30	Movie: A Murder	WTBS	8:30	Movie: A Murder	UNI	8:30	Movie: A Murder	DISN	8:30	Movie: A Murder	NASH	8:30	Movie: A Murder	TMC	8:30	Movie: A Murder	SHOW	8:30	Movie: A Murder	HBO	8:30	Movie: A Murder	KMLN	8:30	Movie: A Murder	AME	8:30	Movie: A Murder	DNSC	8:30	Movie: A Murder	TNT	8:30	Movie: A Murder	FSN	8:30	Movie: A Murder	ESPN	8:30	Movie: A Murder	AMC	8:30	Movie: A Murder	BET	8:30	Movie: A Murder

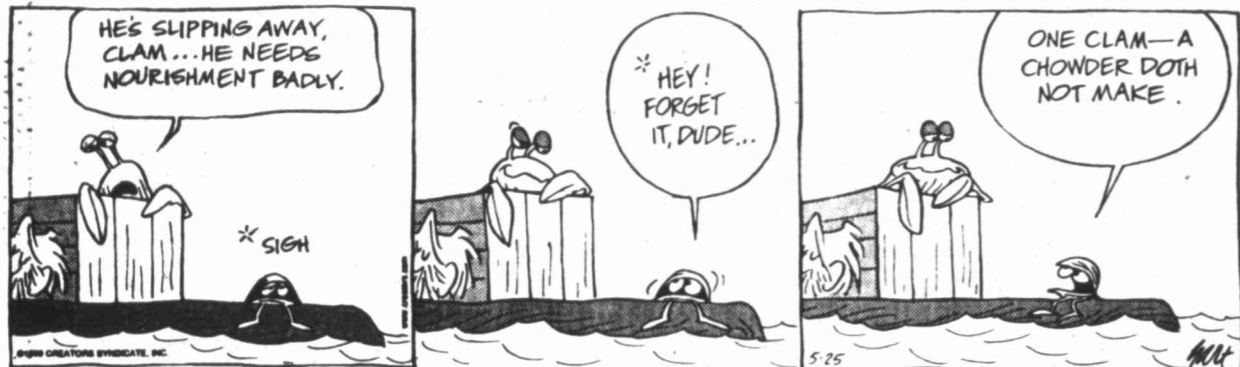
HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



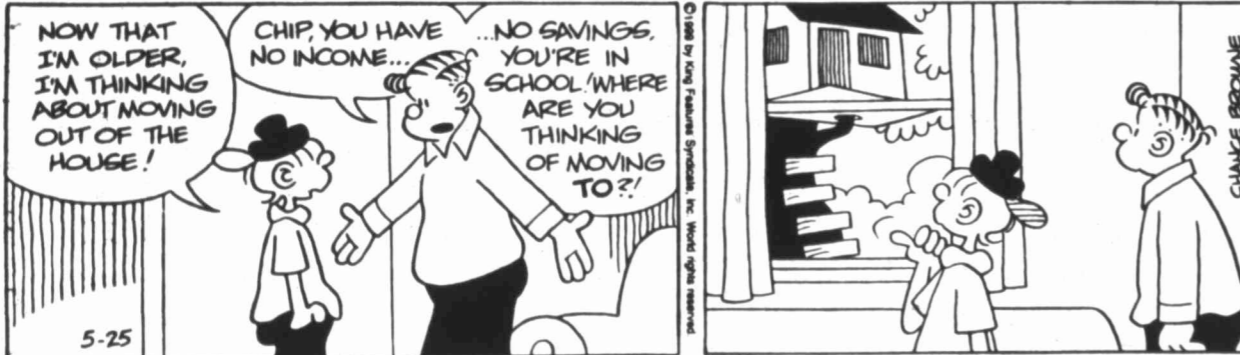
GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

**The ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
Today is Tuesday, May 25, the 145th day of 1999. There are 220 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:  
On May 25, 1979, 275 people died in America's worst domestic air disaster when an American Airlines DC-10 crashed during takeoff at Chicago's O'Hare airport.

In 1787, the Constitutional Convention was convened in Philadelphia after enough delegates had shown up for a quorum.

In 1810, Argentina began its revolt against Spain.

In 1844, the first telegraphed news dispatch, sent from Washington to Baltimore, appeared in the Baltimore Patriot.

In 1895, playwright Oscar Wilde was convicted of a morals charge in London and sentenced to prison.

In 1935, Babe Ruth hit the 714th and final home run of his career, for the Boston Braves, in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

In 1946, Transjordan (now Jordan) became a kingdom as it proclaimed its new monarch, King Abdullah Ibn Ul-Hussein.

In 1961, President Kennedy asked the nation to work toward putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

In 1963, the Organization of African Unity was founded, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In 1968, the Gateway Arch, part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, was dedicated.

In 1992, Jay Leno made his debut as full-time host of NBC's "Tonight Show," succeeding Johnny Carson.

Ten years ago: The Calgary Flames won their first Stanley Cup by defeating the Montreal Canadiens in game six of their championship series.

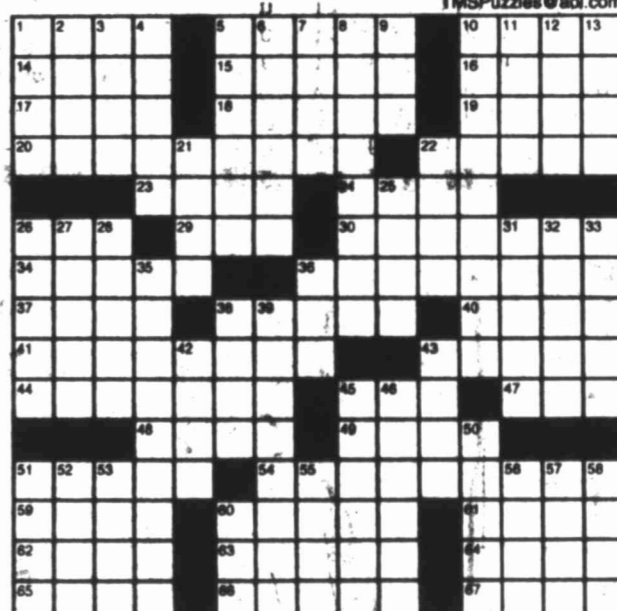
Five years ago: The UN Security Council lifted a 10-year-old ban on weapons exports from South Africa, scrapping the last of its apartheid-era embargoes.

One year ago: Indonesia's new president, B.J. Habibie, promised to hold elections. Leaders in the former Soviet republic of Georgia and its breakaway province of Abkhazia agreed to a cease-fire after a week of fighting.

Today's Birthdays: Lyricist Hal David is 78. Actress Jeanne Crain is 74. Author Robert Ludlum is 72. Former opera singer Beverly Sills is 70. Former White House news secretary Ron Nessen is 65. Country singer-songwriter Tom T. Hall is 63. Actor Sir Ian McKellen is 60. Actress Dixie Carter is 60. Country singer Jessi Colter is 56. Actress-singer Leslie Uggams is 56. Movie director and Muppeteer Frank Oz is 55. Actress Karen Valentine is 52. Rock singer Klaus Meine (The Scorpions) is 51. Actress Patti D'Arbanville is 48. Actress Connie Sellecca is 44. Rock singer-musician Paul Weller is 41. Actor-comedian Mike Myers is 36. Actress Apne Heche is 30. Actor Jamie Kennedy is 29.

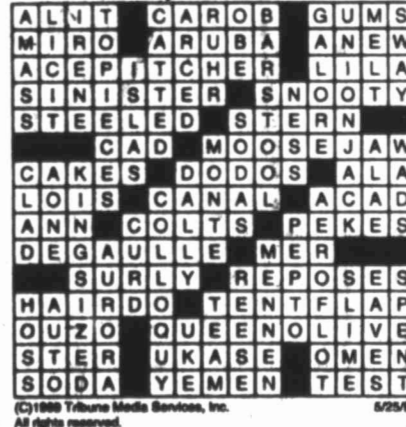
THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayrie Robert Williams

- ACROSS
- Ice float
  - Fright
  - Aromatic annual plant
  - In \_\_\_ of
  - Shadings
  - Author Uris
  - Opera highlight
  - Piece of a pound
  - Singing voice
  - The Great Compromiser
  - Merchant Bloomingdale
  - North Carolina school
  - Hooftbeat
  - Rummy
  - Potash
  - Hispanics
  - Jiffy
  - Connecticut town
  - Teheran currency
  - 38 Lots
  - 40 Chemical compound
  - 41 Aquarium bubbles
  - 43 Unanimously
  - 44 Post-season game
  - 45 Knight's title
  - 47 "Barney Miller" co-star
  - 48 Cheerio
  - 49 Jerk preceder
  - 51 Endured
  - 54 Porcelain ingredient
  - 59 Mass. neighbor
  - 60 Make amends
  - 61 "Mona \_\_\_"
  - 62 Jamaican citrus fruit
  - 63 Foot woes
  - 64 Related (to)
  - 65 Yucatan Indians
  - 66 Serving devices
  - 67 Yellowish-brown wood



By Vivian O. Collins  
Albany, GA

Monday's Puzzle Solved



- 38 Process flour
- 39 Enzyme stimulant
- 42 Frog's cousin
- 43 District
- 45 Underweight
- 46 "Rainbow after a Storm" artist
- 51 Pond coating
- 52 Cato's garment
- 53 Exclusively
- 55 Folk dance
- 56 Similar to
- 57 Largest landmass
- 58 Tug violently
- 60 Dissemblance

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