







# 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

# United Way drive moves full throttle

Another campaign kickoff luncheon has signaled the start of the annual drive for United Way of Big Spring and Howard County. This is an effort everyone can get behind, because it benefits us all.

The few dollars each of us gives to United Way goes a long, long way. Through scouting, YMCA, after-school programs and the like, kids learn teamwork, responsibility, and the value of participation. It helps keep our youth focused on positive things and off the streets.

Programs such as Rape Crisis/Victim Services gives those who have victimized a place to turn to, new hope, and the ability to carry on with productive lives. Red Cross helps us in times of disaster, whether it be a tornado, or a house fire. Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center helps us recover from physical setbacks and get back on our feet again. Salvation Army provides school supplies, coats and shoes for those who don't have them; food those who are hungry; Christmas for those who would not otherwise share the joy and the peace in a time of the season that means so much to most of us. In short, it helps those who are having a tougher time of it, and need a warm, caring hand to help them back up again.

Combined, they ensure that someone in our county who needs help can get it, with dignity and pride.

Because of this, those few dollars each of us contributes keep our neighborhoods safer. They ensure our children get an education. They provide the means that allow single parents a step up to self-sufficiency.

This is not charity; it is ensuring the well being of an entire community. We all have a stake in it. Many of these people who need our help today, will be among our leaders tomorrow. That is the goal - to provide the means for everyone in our county to have an equal chance, to become a productive part of society. It takes all of us.

We were pleased at the turnout for today's luncheon. Not astounded, even though it was standing room only. We expect that kind of turnout in Howard County. If you attended — and we hope you did — you noticed that United Way in Big Spring is not limited to businessmen and businesswomen. It's not limited to teachers, health care professionals, oil field workers, secretaries, farmers or ranchers. It is not limited to truckers or city workers, law enforcement, firefighters, social workers, pastors or clerks. It is all of us, working together.

As is usual, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the Big Spring Rotary Club — among others, we're sure — relinquished their meetings to join something they felt more important. That's because they understand how necessary, how much a part of the overall plan, United Way agencies play in our community, in our county.

The scene is set. The drive is on. Let's don't stop until we have all done our part. The United Way.

## 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.  
• Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

## 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@xroadstx.com or jwalker@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.

# Schools may find SAT scores really do matter

The folks at the Educational Testing Service, the group that administers the Scholastic Aptitude Test to more than 1.2 million college-bound students each year, have created quite a controversy these last couple of weeks, and now, they're trying to figure their way out of a mess of their own making.



LINDA CHAVEZ

It all began on Aug. 31, when the Wall Street Journal reported that ETS was considering a new program to award extra points on the SAT for students who perform above their expected level, based on a variety of factors, including family income, parents' education, the quality of the high school they attended, and race.

The idea was to give extra points to those students ETS dubbed "strivers": poor and minority students who score 200 points higher than their peers or between 1000 and 1199 out of a possible 1600. Within 24 hours of the story breaking, ETS was deflating its own trial

balloon, blaming the news media for "misleading" coverage.

Why this tempest in a teapot? Ever since voters in California passed a statewide referendum outlawing racial preferences in college admissions in 1996, those who favor affirmative action have been on the defensive. For years, most colleges and universities — especially academically competitive ones — have admitted minority students whose grades and test scores, on average, were lower than those of white students.

Since black students, on average, score almost 200 points below whites on the SAT, college administrators argued that minority enrollment would drop dramatically if they applied the same criteria to blacks and whites. But this double standard has come under increasing attack, not just in California, but also in Washington state, which passed an initiative similar to California's last year, and in Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana, which must abide by a 5th Circuit court ruling that outlawed racial preferences in college admissions.

So, what's the solution? Most supporters of affirmative action would like colleges to place less emphasis on SAT scores — or drop the test altogether,

which has ETS worried. After all, if schools stopped requiring the SAT, or its competitor, the ACT (produced by the American College Testing Program), because blacks and Hispanics perform poorly on it, the testing people would lose the major portion of their higher-education business. No wonder ETS hoped to find a way to make their test more minority-friendly.

Actually, this is only the latest in several such attempts dating back more than 25 years.

Although critics have accused the SAT of being racially biased for years, ETS has weathered those charges by continuously adapting its test questions to be more racially and ethnically sensitive.

Every service and product ETS offers undergoes a "fairness review" to ensure that the material meets the latest standard for political correctness and racial sensitivity. Most importantly, however, the SAT itself pretty accurately predicts first-year grades for both whites and blacks, which is what the test is designed to do. (If anything, the test somewhat over-predicts the grade performance of black students, who do even less well, on average, than their lower test

scores predict.) But the political pressure remains to find a way to boost the scores of blacks and Hispanics and close the racial gap with whites and Asians, which widened this year.

But giving some black and Hispanic test-takers extra points because they attended bad schools or their parents didn't finish college won't solve the problem. While some students may indeed perform above their "expected" level, based on their economic status, these strivers include whites and Asians as well as blacks and Hispanics.

Should poor whites or Asians be given less credit for exceeding expectations than similarly situated blacks or Hispanics?

If colleges and universities want to give extra consideration to students who have overcome social and economic adversity, why not do it on a color-blind basis?

And no matter what extra credit colleges give such strivers in the admissions process, the schools may find that SAT scores really do matter when it comes to college grades.

There's simply no easy way to compensate for the missing information a student lacks if he scores 1000 on the test rather than 1200 or 1400.

## ADDRESSES

- **BILL CLINTON**  
President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.
- **PHIL GRAMM**  
U.S. Senator  
370 Russell Office Building  
Washington, 20510  
Phone: 202-224-2934.
- **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**  
U.S. Senator  
703 Hart Office Building  
Washington, 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5922
- **CHARLES STENHOLM**  
U.S. Representative  
17th District  
1211 Longworth Office Bldg.  
Washington, 20515.  
Phone: 202-225-6605.
- **HON. GEORGE W. BUSH**  
State Capitol  
Austin, 78701  
Phone: Toll free 1-800-252-9600.  
512-463-2000; fax 512-463-1849.
- **RICK PERRY**  
Lt. Governor  
State Capitol  
Austin, 78701: Phone: 512-463-0001; Fax: 512-463-0326.
- **JAMES E. "PETE" LANEY**  
Speaker of the House  
State Capitol  
Austin, 78701  
Phone: 806-839-2478, 512-463-3000.
- **ROBERT DUNCAN**  
Senator  
Texas 28th District  
Citizens FCU Building  
Big Spring, 79720.  
Phone: 268-9909; (800) 322-9538.  
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# Age is catching up with the U.S. military

The American military is in a death spiral. Since the present administration caused it to go into a death spiral, it will be up to the next one to pull it out. If the next is headed by Al Gore, it's probably all over for the armed forces.



CHARLEY REESE

There are many problems. Here are a few random thoughts by a Marine colonel who just retired:

"The modern service member is well-read and informed. He knows more about strategy, diplomacy and current events than captains knew when I first joined the Marines ... he is well-aware of the moral cowardice of his seniors and their habit of taking the easy way out that result in more pain and work for their subordinates. The senior leadership

must have the moral courage to stop the misuse and abuse of the current force. The force is too small, stretched too thin and too poorly funded. These deficiencies are made up on the backs of the Marines, sailors, airmen and soldiers. ... Our equipment and infrastructure are shot. ...

"Quality of life is paid lip service, and everyone below the rank of colonel knows it. We need tough, realistic and challenging training. But we don't need low pay, no medical benefits and ghetto housing. ... This nation has been in an economic boom for damn near 20 years now, yet we expect folks in the military to live like lower middle-class folks lived in the mid-'50s."

The erosion of benefits is a dishonorable breaking of promises by Congress. That's one reason why all the services are having problems recruiting and retaining. Another is that monumental failure of senior leadership — the politicians in uniform — the colonel spoke about. It is demoralizing when they go on television and tell lies. The troops know they are

lying.

Here's the deal: The Reagan administration built up a military nearly destroyed by the Carter administration. It was in top shape, as the Gulf War demonstrated. The Soviet Union collapsed. During the Bush administration, the forces were cut and a "procurement holiday" was instituted. The idea was that the post-Cold War threats would become clear, and then procurement would be resumed to meet them.

Enter the Clinton administration, probably the most anti-military administration in history. There was no resumption of procurement, and, instead of clearly defining future threats, Bill Clinton embarked on a globalist policy of using American forces as step-and-fetchits for the United Nations. More missions, not fewer, for a smaller force led to strains on both men and equipment.

Here are a few facts gleaned from a report by the Association of the United States Army ([www.ausa.org](http://www.ausa.org)):

The average age of fighters and ground attack aircraft is

exceeding 20 years. The average age of aircraft assigned to reserve and guard forces is even older.

The CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters are more than 30 years old. The larger CH-53 is now so old it requires 38 hours of maintenance downtime for one hour of flight time. The Army's OH-58 Kiowas are older than the pilots who fly them, and the replacements are still seven years away.

The B-52, the backbone of both the bomber fleet and the airborne nuclear deterrent, will be 75 years old when it is scheduled for retirement.

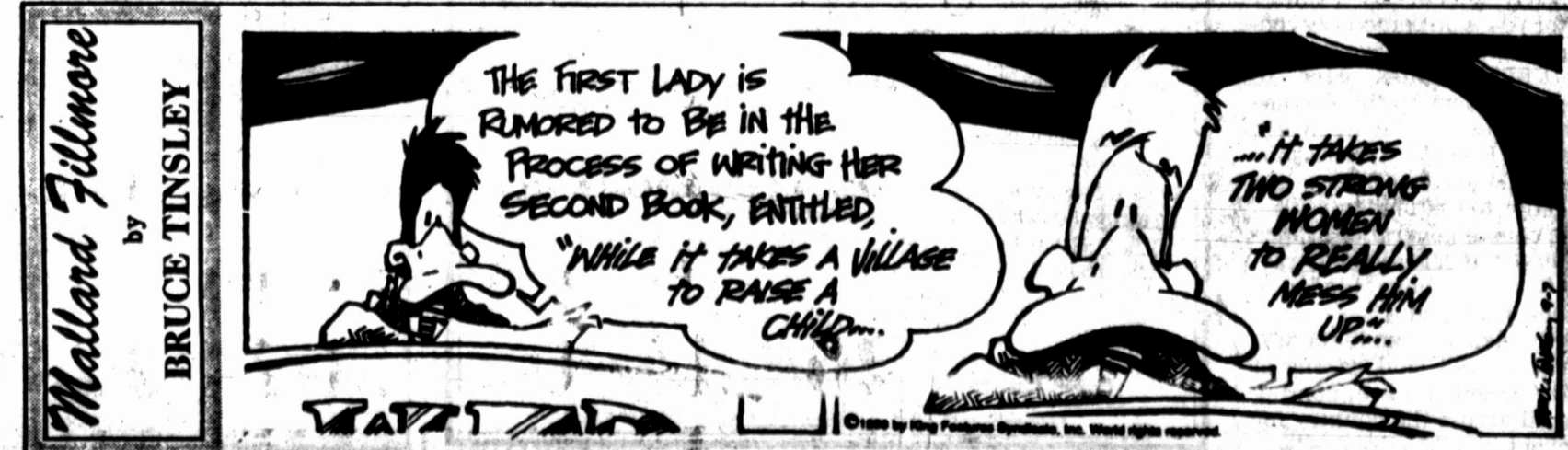
The death spiral is the result of the increasing age of the equipment.

It will result in a crash in 2010 unless procurement funds are increased dramatically starting right now.

At that point, in 2010, America's armed forces will have worn out obsolete equipment, and the replacements will still be years away.

You can bet America's enemies know this, too.

Charley Reese's e-mail address is [OSCreese@aol.com](mailto:OSCreese@aol.com).



Mallard Fillmore  
by  
BRUCE TINSLEY

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# Viacom to buy CBS Corp. in biggest media deal ever

NEW YORK (AP) — Viacom Inc., the media company that owns Paramount Pictures and MTV, is buying CBS Corp. for \$34.45 billion in stock in the biggest media deal ever.

The union announced today will create a major media and entertainment company with a top TV network, movie studio and several cable channels.

Viacom chairman Sumner Redstone will be chairman and chief executive of the new company, which will keep the Viacom name.

CBS president Mel Karmazin will be president and chief operating officer.

CBS shareholders will receive 1.085 shares of Viacom's class B stock, which based on Friday's close of \$45.06 values CBS at \$48.89 per share.

That's slightly below the closing CBS

price Friday of \$48.93.

The new Viacom will be a media powerhouse owning the CBS network, several major cable networks — including MTV, VH1 and Nickelodeon — along with film studio Paramount.

The deal marks a new chapter in the long career of Redstone, 76, who took control of Viacom in 1987 and seven years later greatly enlarged it by buying Paramount Communications Inc. and Blockbuster Entertainment Group.

The pact with CBS comes just a month after the Federal Communications Commission relaxed television station ownership rules and triggered a round of discussions between media companies over possible mergers.

Viacom owns a TV station group and a 50 percent stake in the UPN network. The

future status of UPN was unclear because government rules prevent one company owning more than one network.

Viacom has been selling off assets to pay down debt, positioning it well for a merger. It recently floated shares in its Blockbuster subsidiary and said it plans to spin off the rest.

The merger reunites two companies — CBS and Viacom — split apart in the 1970s ago by government rules aimed at preventing networks owning their own programming. Those rules were eliminated a few years ago.

In recent years, deregulation has sparked a move toward vertical integration in the television industry, highlighted by Walt Disney Co.'s purchase of Capital Cities/ABC for \$19 billion in 1996, the previous record media combination.

# Black leaders criticize Bush's stance on Confederate flag

SIMPSONVILLE, S.C. (AP) — Black leaders criticized Texas Gov. George W. Bush for trying to woo white South Carolina voters by dismissing an NAACP national tourism boycott of the state to force down the Confederate flag from the Statehouse.

Bush, while campaigning in the state Monday, declared that outsiders should "butt out" out of the issue.

His stance shows he "is wooing the white voters of South Carolina to support his candidacy," said the Rev. H.H. Singleton, president of the Conway branch of the NAACP.

Bush said the group's boycott plans were initiated by "some people who don't live in South Carolina, evidently."

When asked if the civil rights group should back off, Bush said, "That's up to the NAACP."

In a separate appearance later in the day, Bush said "my advice is for people who don't live in South Carolina to butt out of the issue. The people of South Carolina can make that decision." That prompted cheers from holiday festival-goers in Simpsonville.

"I didn't particularly like it when people came in to tell me what to do in Texas," Bush said.

Bush and other candidates are courting South Carolinians for the Feb. 19 Republican primary, which is considered an important early barometer for how

candidates will do in the conservative South.

The flag controversy has embroiled South Carolina for several years. The state is the only one to fly the Confederate flag over its Statehouse, although Georgia and Mississippi incorporate it into their state flags.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People says the flag is a symbol of racism. But supporters say the flag represents Southern heritage and honors South Carolinians who died in the Civil War.

Democratic candidate Bill Bradley said in April that "I wouldn't fly it. I think that it sometimes offends a large part of the population."

Walking in a Labor Day parade and attending another Labor Day festival in Simpsonville, Bush also said "it's up to the people of South Carolina to figure out how best to fund their schools."

South Carolina residents will vote next year about whether they want a lottery to fund education improvements. South Carolina's schools lag behind others in Scholastic Assessment Test scores.

Bush also countered criticism that he is anti-union.

"I'm for job creation, and a person who's got a plan to make sure that our economy continues to produce high-paying, high-quality jobs is a friend of the working man," he said.

# School psychologists begin 'student profiling' to combat violence

WALLINGFORD, Conn. (AP) — Much like the FBI developing psychological profiles to track terrorists and serial killers, school psychologists are putting together checklists of characteristics common among students prone to violence.

With the pain of the deadly shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., still fresh, Wallingford Superintendent of Schools Joseph Cirusuolo said he would be remiss not to adopt "student profiling" in his district of 7,000 pupils.

"Our purpose in doing that is to intervene well before they ever decide to go out and buy a gun and do some damage," he said.

The profile of a potentially violent student will be given to

staff throughout the district's 12 schools. If someone fits the description, the student's parents will be notified, Cirusuolo said.

"We intervene early if we think a youngster has reading problems. We intervene early if we think a youngster has adjustment problems and matters of that type," he said. "So why shouldn't we intervene early if we think a youngster may be prone to violence?"

There are similar efforts across the country. In Granite City, Ill., school administrators are measuring students against a behavior checklist that includes abusive language, cruelty to animals and writings reflecting an interest in "the dark side of life." Students who fit the profile can undergo counseling, be transferred to an alternative education program or even be expelled.

Critics call "student profiling" an overreaction to the rash of school shootings, including the Columbine attack in which 15 people died. They fear that children who do not reflect an image of the perfect student could be unfairly labeled.

"Different doesn't mean dangerous," said American Civil Liberties Union spokeswoman Emily Whitfield. "Not only are students being unfairly targeted but, in some cases, there's not a whole lot of thought going into it."

Nevertheless, there is increasing demand from school districts for training on warning signs.

FBI agents led conferences on

school violence recently in Hamden, Conn., and Lansing, Mich., instructing teachers on behavioral science and psychological profiling.

Peter Blauvelt, president of the National Alliance for Safe Schools in Slanesville, W.Va., said he has spent the summer crisscrossing the country, giving workshops in schools from Georgia to Washington state.

"I wouldn't call it panic, but people are saying, 'Look we realize that we are not prepared to deal with a major crisis and we need to be prepared,'" he said.

There are plenty of character checklists for teachers to draw from. The National School Safety Center in Westlake Village, Calif., has created a list of 20 warning signs.

# Seven party-goers are killed, six injured in Iowa house explosion

RICHLAND, Iowa (AP) — A powerful explosion destroyed a ranch-style house in this farming community, killing seven people and injuring six others who had gathered for a party.

The blast hurled the owner of the home, his 8-year-old daughter and two 10-year-old boys as far as 30 feet away. Two women managed to crawl from the rubble in the rear of the house, witnesses said.

"The three adults were dazed. The children really were in

pretty good shape," said Renee Pfeifer, who was working at a convenience store when the house exploded Monday about 200 yards away.

The seven bodies were found in the basement of the home. Sheriff Ron George said the remains were taken to Des Moines for identification. Their identities were not released.

"It felt like an earthquake," said Thomas Hoekstra, a convenience store employee. "I looked around the corner and

# Waco revelations reopen bombing controversy

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Survivors of the Oklahoma City bombing and victims' family members are divided over whether new information about the government's role at the Branch Davidian standoff has any bearing on its investigation of the bombing.

Jannie Coverdale said the disclosures about the FBI's use of potentially flammable tear gas canisters at the standoff in Waco, Texas, six years ago—accusations denied by the government since the incident—have raised even more questions.

"I don't trust the information we've gotten so far about Waco or the information we've gotten on the bombing. I can't believe what we've been told," said Ms. Coverdale, whose grandsons, Aaron and Elijah, were among 168 people killed in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

"After what I've heard about Waco, I'm beginning to blame the federal government for my grandchildren dying," said a woman whose name was not disclosed.

Government prosecutors have said convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh chose the Oklahoma City federal building because he believed people responsible for the Waco siege worked there and because the building was an easy target.

The April 19, 1993, fire at the Branch Davidian compound killed leader David Koresh and more than 80 of his followers.

"I'm not mad at my government over that," said Dan McKinney, whose wife, Linda, a Secret Service agent, was killed. "It's just something else that people are looking to blame the government about."

"Some of these people like to blame the government for everything. That is such a shallow interpretation of the real evidence," said Paul Heath, a

psychologist for the Social Security Administration who survived the bombing.

"What can you say about conspiracy theorists? They have their theories and that's what they are — theories," said Bud Welch, whose daughter, Julie, died in the blast.

But Ms. Coverdale's distrust is shared by others who also lost family members.

"I'm thrilled to see the truth surfacing. It's sure cleaning the slate for the people who have been deemed the right-wing nuts," said Kathy Wilburn, who also lost two grandsons, Chase and Colton Smith, in the bombing.

Conspiracy theorists have alleged all along that the government started the fire that ended a 51-day siege by federal agents who were trying to serve a warrant for Koresh's arrest on firearms and explosives charges.

# Fresh-faced frosh: 10-year-old begins college

ASHLAND, Va. (AP) — The weight of the textbooks almost knocked 10-year-old Greg Smith to the floor as he packed his bag. Otherwise, the first day of college went off without a hitch.

Three years after his parents' divorce, Greg arrived at Randolph-Macon College on Monday for a 17-credit honors course load.

"This is my dream. This is what I want to be happy," said Greg, who breezed through 10 grades of school in three years and graduated third in his high school class of 650 in June.

On the surface, Greg appears to be a typical kid. He plays soccer, likes Bugs Bunny and plays with friends his own age.

But talk to him further and you learn that he develops non-violent conflict resolution programs. After college, he wants to cure cancer and AIDS, colonize space and become president of the United States.

Marlena Usovsky were still being evaluated.

Maria Reif, a neighbor and friend who lived two blocks away from the Usovsky family, said she had driven by the house about 15 minutes before it exploded.

"We've known them forever," she said. "They're wonderful people. He built that house himself and it was a beautiful home."

Reif said she was one of the first people on the scene and

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all, what could be more important than a child's education?"

Greg will live with his parents and commute to classes at the 1,100-student liberal arts college, about 20 miles north of Richmond.

After blasting through high school, Greg plans to go through Randolph-Macon at more or less a normal pace, finishing in about four years. He and his parents looked at other, better known schools but chose Randolph-Macon because they liked its small class sizes and feared he would be overwhelmed at a larger university.

"What I'm really looking for is a small class environment where you can really get to know the professors," Greg said.

After graduation, Greg said he might end up at a larger college for one of the three doctorates he wants — in political science, biomedical engineering and aerospace engineering.

## Guido R. Toscano, M.D.

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TUESDAY

SEP. 7

Table with 33 columns representing different TV channels (KMID, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows for different times of the day (6:30 PM, 7:00 PM, etc.), listing various programs and their genres.

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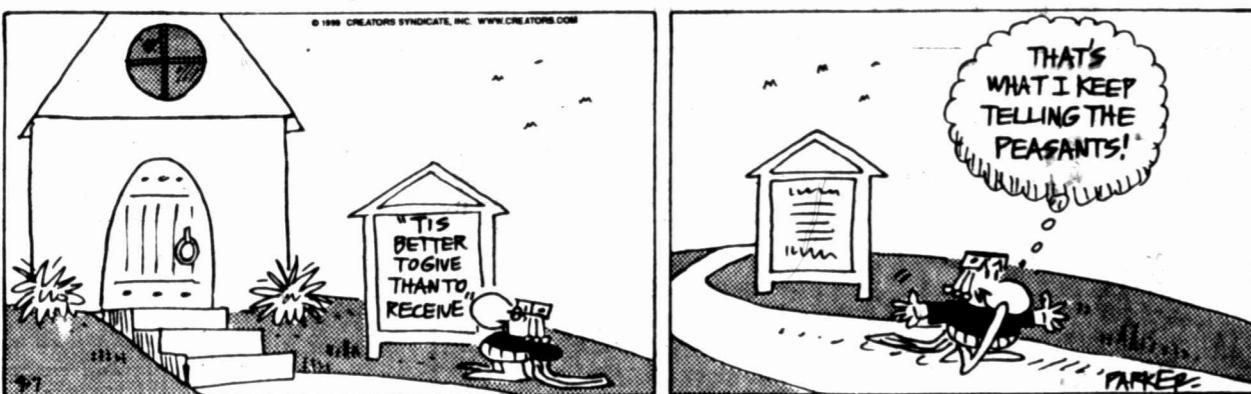
GEECH



'We're being scammed. Summer doesn't end until September 23rd.'

'LOOK AT THIS, MITCHELL! YOU CAN GET TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR HOUSE RIGHT NOW. BETTER NOT WAIT!'

WIZARD OF ID



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Tuesday, Sept. 7, the 250th day of 1999. There are 115

days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 7, 1936, rock legend Buddy Holly was born Charles Hardin Holley in Lubbock, Texas.

Lafayette, the French hero of the American Revolution, bade farewell to President John Quincy Adams at the White House.

In 1892, the first major title fight under the Marquis of Queensberry rules was won by heavyweight James J. Corbett, who knocked out John L. Sullivan in New Orleans.

In 1901, the Peace of Beijing ended the Boxer Rebellion in China.

In 1940, Nazi Germany began its blitz on London during World War II.

In 1963, the NFL Hall of Fame was dedicated in Canton, Ohio.

In 1969, Senate Republican leader Everett M. Dirksen died in Washington, D.C.

In 1977, the Panama Canal treaties, calling for the U.S. to relinquish control of the waterway to Panama by the end of 1999, were signed in Washington.

In 1977, convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy was released from prison after more than four years.

In 1979, the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) made its cable TV debut.

In 1986, Desmond Tutu was installed as the first black to lead the Anglican Church in southern Africa.

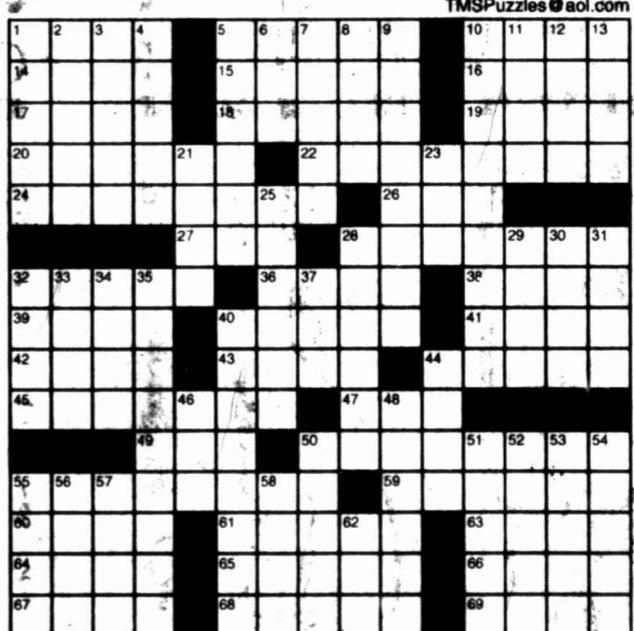
Ten years ago: By a vote of 76-8, the Senate approved the Americans with Disabilities Act, forbidding discrimination in employment, public accommodations, transportation and communication.

Five years ago: After a brief meeting, the United States and Cuba temporarily suspended talks on stemming the Cuban refugee exodus. U.S. Marines began training on a Puerto Rican island amid talk in Washington of a U.S.-led intervention in Haiti.

One year ago: St. Louis Cardinal Mark McGwire equaled Roger Maris' single-season home run record as he hit No. 61 in a game against the Chicago Cubs. Russian lawmakers rejected Boris Yeltsin's candidate for prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, for a second time, throwing the country deeper into political turmoil.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Sign of healing 5 Talks lightly 10 Chicken out 14 Lofly 15 tender 16 Caspian feeder 17 Baltic capital 18 Ekberg or Loos 19 Chromosome unit 20 Rich and Worth 22 Junior, to senior 24 Petunia's portly pal 26 Band of hoods 27 NYC hours 28 Teachers' statuses 32 Pumps and flats 36 Hebrew lyre 38 Aswan's river 39 Survey 40 Large thick piece 41 Pry (into) 42 Attention-getting sound 43 Pocket bread 44 Computer memory units 45 Reddish rash 47 Needle-nosed fish 49 Genetic letters 50 Boo Boo's buddy 55 Alternative to ticker tape 59 Become obvious 60 Baseball family name 61 Gimme putt 63 Persia, now 64 Exploit 65 Bring to bear 66 Zero 67 Auctioneer's last word 68 Upslopes 69 Mardi



By Frances Burton Summerville, GA 9/7/99

Monday's Puzzle Solved

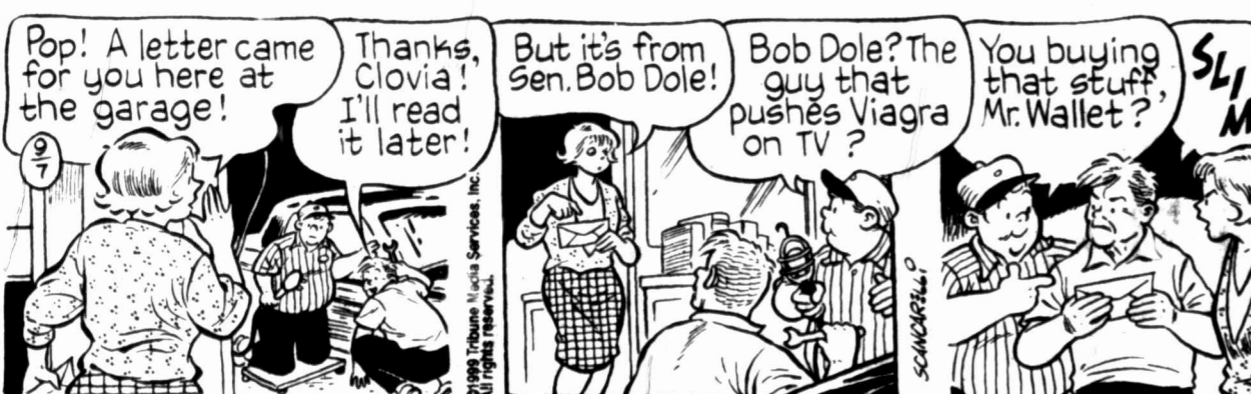


- DOWN 1 Landing area 2 Capital of Egypt 3 Infamous Hiss 33 Ironic laugh 34 Cheers for the matador 35 Daffy hunter 37 Took seats 40 Splash of liquid 44 Fedora feature 46 Individual 48 Intermittent 50 Eggs! 51 Entity 52 Mistake 53 Capital of Guam 54 Lacoste and Russo 55 Scoundrels 56 Bread spread, briefly 57 Christmas song 58 Judd Hirsch sitcom 62 Wrath

HI AND LOIS



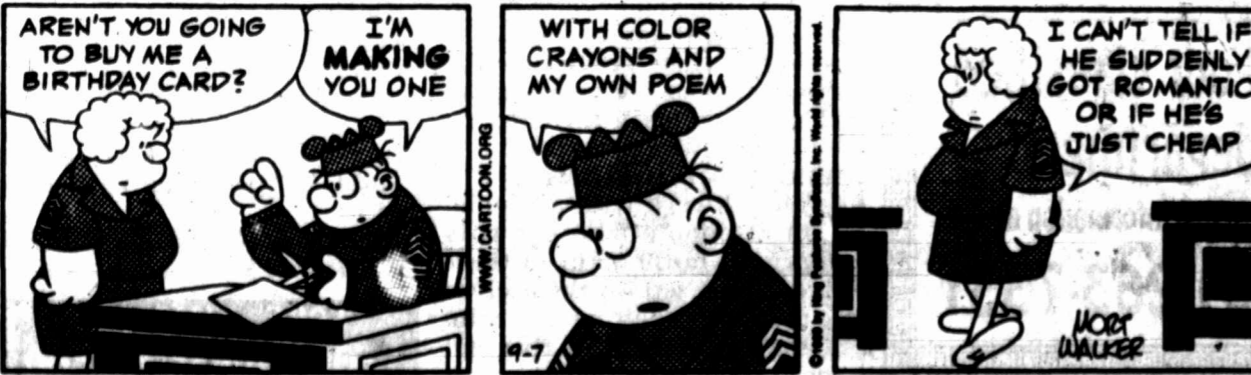
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