

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

TUESDAY
March 7, 2000

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 40°-44° **WEDNESDAY** 68°-72°

NJHS induction ceremony tonight

The National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony is planned tonight at Big Spring Junior High School. It will begin at 8 p.m. in the west gymnasium and parents are invited to attend.

The school plans to induct 109 students into the NJHS.

Those students, screened by a faculty committee, must meet standards that include leadership, service, citizenship and character. The society's members, who must have a grade point average of at least 90, come from both the seventh and eighth grade classes.

Republican Party to host candidate

The Howard County Republican Party will meet with U.S. 17th Congressional District GOP candidate Shane Hunt at noon Wednesday at Cowboy's. Lunch is dutch treat.

Call (817) 573-2531 on the Howard County Republican Headquarters for more information.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ VFW Post No. 2013, 7 p.m., VFW Hall.
□ Big Spring Chapter No. 67, Orders of the Eastern Star, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 219 Main.

WEDNESDAY

□ Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus Room.
□ Senior Circle Big Spring Mall walkers meet 9:15 a.m. in front of movie theater box office.
□ Big Spring Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College 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. U42060, Hermans, 7 a.m.
□ Big Spring Senior Citizens Center Art Classes, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for 55 and older.
□ Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.
□ Christmas in April Board of Directors, noon, Lions Bingo Bldg. 1607 East

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Vol. 97, No. 113

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.

New assistant DA making switch from defense attorney to prosecutor

By **CARL GRAHAM**
Staff Writer

After the first week on the job, new Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr is quickly getting acclimated to his new environment. Orr comes to Big Spring from Bay City where he has been in private practice.

After 24 years there, Orr felt the timing was right to a change when the opportunity came.

"I believe this will be a welcome change for me and I am looking forward

to the challenges the job will bring," said Orr. "I have been in private practice doing the defense so now I will get the chance to be on the other side as the prosecuting attorney."

Orr doesn't think it will take long to get used to the change.

"I really think it will be easier to make the transition from defense to prosecuting than the other way around," said Orr.

The 47-year-old Orr is married and his wife Kaye is a counseling director at Bay City ISD and will be joining him after school is out and their home in Bay City

has been sold.

Orr said that Matagorda County, where he is coming from, is about the same size as Howard County but the makeup of the offenses would probably be a little different than they were at Bay City.

"Because Bay City was close to Houston we will probably see a little difference but not that much," said Orr.

Orr's first week on the job was mostly dealing with plea bargains, something he was quite used to in Bay City.

See **ORR**, Page 2



HERALD photo/Carl Graham
New Assistant DA Robin Orr is excited about being in Big Spring.

No relief in sight for high prices at the pump

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

Relief from high gasoline prices may not be coming in the near future, and consumers may decide to make some changes in the consumer patterns to compensate for the expense.

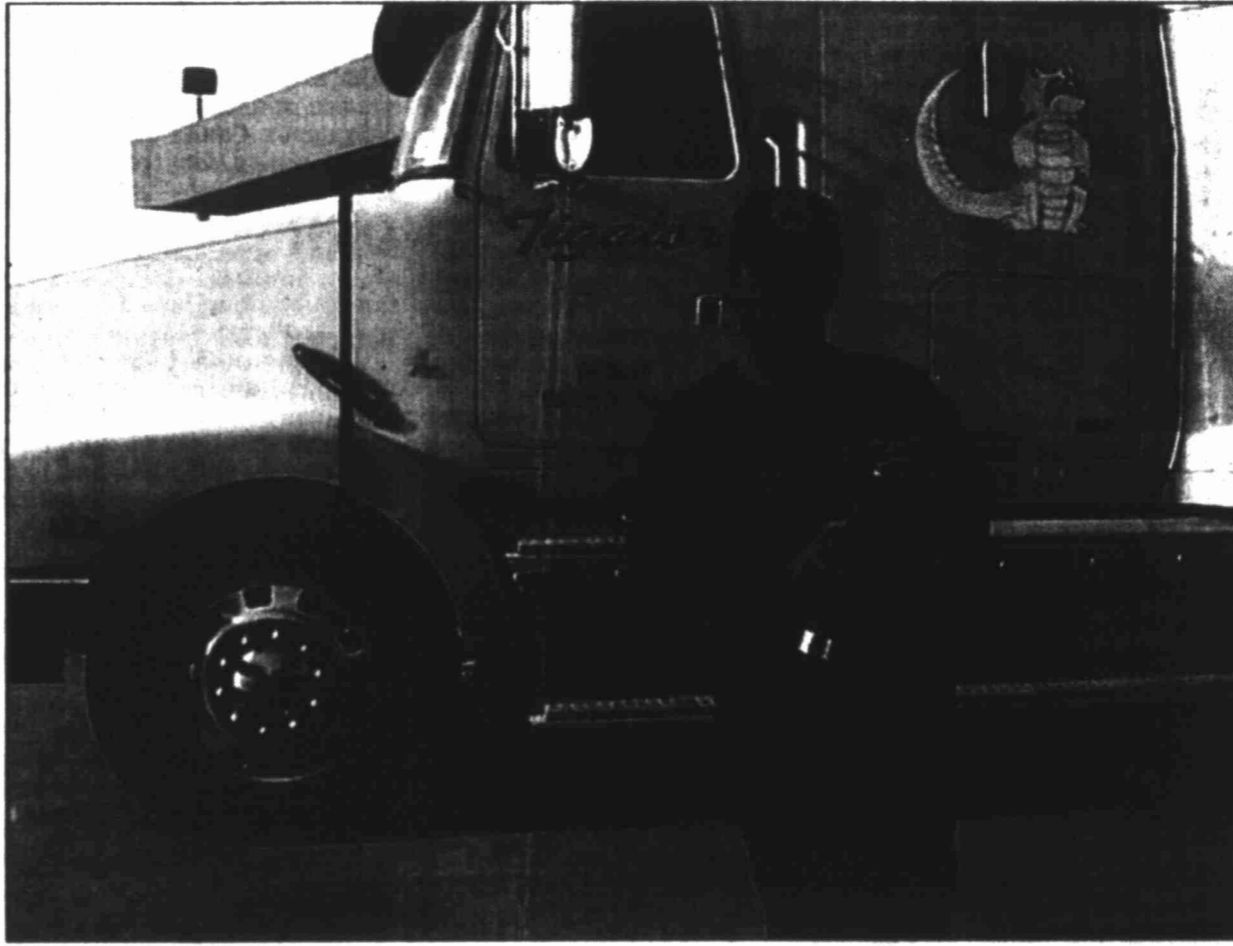
"The gas inventory is at a 20-year low," said Steve Weber, Big Spring Refinery manager. "The whole system usually keeps about 210 million to 220 million barrels a day on average. It has dropped to 195 million barrels."

Weber attributes the increase in gasoline prices to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries cutting oil production last March to try to boost low oil prices, refinery production problems, and the cold spell in the East that caused many refiners to switch emphasis from making gasoline to heating oil.

"There are stories in the press that OPEC will raise production to help relieve the situation," Weber said. "I don't see any relief in the next few months even if OPEC raises production because it will take time to ship the oil overseas."

Unleaded gasoline prices range from \$1.40 to \$1.49 a gallon at local gasoline stations. According to some truck drivers, the high price of gasoline threatens their livelihood. "The high prices are affecting the company hard because the product I am carrying is cheaper than the fuel prices," said Jimmy Mills, truck driver for Tigator.

Mills worries that most small trucking companies will be



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Jimmy Mills, a truck driver for Tigator, is worried about the impact high gasoline prices will be on his future and on the consumer market as a whole. Oil industry officials say no relief is in sight, at least for the next few months.

forced out of business because they cannot compete with the larger companies due to the rising cost of gasoline.

He also feels that will have a negative impact on the consumer market as a whole.

"Prices will rise to match fuel costs," he said. "The consumer might think it will only effects trucking companies, but raw products to finished products prices will go up. The consumer will end up paying more."

Mills believes that the government should become involved by releasing some excess fuel to help relieve the situation.

The government keeps in reserve close to 600 million barrels of oil aside in case of another oil crisis, Weber said.

According to Weber, people are lobbying President Clinton to release some of the reserve

oil to relieve the situation although Weber does not think it will reduce prices to last summer's levels.

"The is the worst I have seen in my eight-and-a-half years as a truck driver," said Dale Wutzke, a Canadian truck driver for Unique Freight Systems.

Wutzke hauls chemical products or general freight from the Midwest to Canada. He averages about 2,200 miles when he is on a Texas run.

"The high prices are hurting us," Wutzke said.

"If it doesn't go down shortly, we probably will have to quit," he added.

According to Wutzke, some truck drivers are handing back their trucks because they can not compete with the high gas prices.

Wutzke foresees truckers forced to strike if something is

not done about the situation.

Rita Davis of El Paso is fed up with the step price of gasoline. She has two daughters in college, one in Waco and one in San Antonio, and feels she soon will not be able to afford to see them.

"Soon it will be cheaper to fly them home than to buy gas to see them," Davis said.

Jody Mills, a Big Spring resident, travels two to three times a week to see her family in Odessa. She estimates she spends around a \$100 a week in gas.

Mark Gentry, Big Spring Housing director, does not see any relief from the high prices in the near future.

"The country let this happen to itself," Gentry said. "OPEC overproduced oil and flooded our market. Our producers had to close refineries and lay off employees."

CoC

After Hours event set at Carriage Inn on Thursday

By **CARL GRAHAM**
Staff Writer

The first Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours of the new year will be hosted by the Carriage Inn on Thursday from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

The purpose of Business After Hours is to give exposure to the various businesses that are members of the chamber and to the community. The last Business After Hours was hosted by the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center on Dec. 15 and was attended by more than 50 people.

"We have had as many as 200 and as few as 30 since we first began having these events a couple of years ago," said Terri Newton, executive vice president of the chamber. "It's hard to tell how many to expect because it depends on what other events are going on and what the weather is like and other circumstances."

Host businesses are selected on a first-come, first-served basis and there is a waiting list for future hosts. "With a waiting list that we have we are assured enough hosts for the next couple of years," said Newton. "We shouldn't have a problem with having a business to repeat as hosts for some time to come."

There are more than 400 business members of the Big Spring

See **AFTER HOURS**, Page 2



NEWTON

Howard College's 'Dance Real Slow' coming to Settles this week

By **GINA GARZA**
Staff Writer

Howard College Theater Department presents a critically acclaimed performance of "And They Dance Real Slow In Jackson" Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the historic Settles Building.

All performances begin at 8 p.m. and admission is \$3.

"We just returned from Texas Junior College Theater Festival in Weatherford, and three of our students received awards for their performances in this production," said Howard College theater instructor Clay Grizzle.

Honored with an Award for Excellence in Acting at the junior college theater festival were Rau Stech, Heather Nichols and J'Layne Niehues, he said.

"This is a play where the actors are telling a story," Grizzle said.

"The play is about dreams and broken dreams and how bittersweet life becomes if we

lose our dreams or if they remain unfulfilled," Grizzle said.

The story centers on a girl, played by J'Layne Niehues, who suffers from a physical disability. The focus of the story is on her family, and where she lives.

"Elizabeth Willow suffers from polio, and in her small town she just doesn't fit in. This is a drama with a study of characters, with an emphasis on Elizabeth's family," Grizzle said.

While at the junior college festival, Grizzle said the critic remarked how he enjoyed the production presented by Howard College students.

"The critic said he had seen this play three times, and this was the first time he understood it. This show is very good, from beginning to end. My students offer an extraordinary performance," Grizzle said.

Grizzle and the cast of "And They Dance Real Slow In Jackson" built the set of the production in the lobby of the Settles Building for performances.

"We limited our use of the set, to place the attention of each scene on the characters



Courtesy photo
Cast members of the play "And They Dance Real Slow In Jackson" are, from left, back row, David Risner, J'Layne Niehues, Annette Wennerborn, and front row, Josh Hadley, Jonathan Hull, Farrah Schooler, Rau Stech and Heather Nichols.

and the dilemmas they are experiencing. This is a classically structured play, with a chorus of characters that supply relief from the drama as

does not have public restroom facilities, Grizzle noted.

"And this play contains mild

See **PLAY**, Page 2

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OBITUARIES

Dewey Kerr

Funeral Service for Dewey Kerr, 81, Big Spring, will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 8, 2000, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Lance Baker, Pastor of College Park Church of God, officiating. Military burial will be at 1:45 p.m. Thursday, March 9, at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.



Mr. Kerr died Friday, March 3, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center following a long illness.

He was born June 12, 1918, in Abilene. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and a veteran of World War II serving in the Army. He was awarded two bronze stars for heroism. He was a member of the College Park Church of God and had been employed by the Big Spring Independent School District.

He is survived by: his wife, Eunice Kerr of Big Spring, one son, Kenneth Kerr of Big Spring; one step-daughter, Wanda Knowlton of Fort Myers, Fla.; two sisters, Mable Wilson of Big Spring, and Viola Smith of Malakoff; one brother, Lawrence Kerr of Big Spring; and six grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Mr. Parker was born on Aug. 29, 1927, in Arkansas City, Kan., and was the son of Lloyd and Lillian Parker.

Mr. Parker married Virginia Parrish on Sept. 12, 1948, in Arkansas City, Kan. He moved to Big Spring in 1963, from Fort. Worth. Mr. Parker was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during World War II in the Pacific Underwater Demolition.

Mr. Parker played baseball in college and later semi pro baseball. He coached in the National Little League for a number of years.

Mr. Parker worked for General Electric for 15 years and later in Civil Service with Webb Air Force Base; and on Easter Sunday in 1964, he opened the Bradin Iron Inn.

He is survived by: his wife, Virginia Parker of Big Spring, one son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Brenda Parker of Big Spring; one daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Ricky White of Big Spring; and four grandchildren, Kyrstin Bryce Parker, Robert Micheal Cameron Parker, Payton Gunner Parker, and Daniel Parker White.

Palbearers are Carl Condray, Michael Johnson, James Hughes, James Carson, Patrick Becker, and Cody Hughes.

The family suggest memorials to the National Little League; P.O. Box 1925; Big Spring, 79721-1925.

Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

on Dec. 24, 1979. She came to Big Spring in 1958, from Amarillo and taught school for 26 years, retiring in 1984. She was a Home Economics teacher at Runnels Junior High for over 20 years. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She was a talented watercolor artist.

Mrs. Conley was a devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church, a member of the Retired Teachers Association, the Big Spring Art Association and Delta Kappa Gamma.

Survivors included: two sons and one daughter-in-law, Dr. Michael Conley of Bozeman, Mont., and Dick and Janie Conley of Big Spring; one daughter, Judy Conley of El Paso; one son-in-law, Stanley Wilson of Abilene; five grandchildren, JoAnna Conley of Abilene, Emily Conley of El Paso, Will Conley and Kyle Conley both of Big Spring and Leif Foges of El Paso; one brother, Joe Willis of Carlsbad, N.M.; and two nieces, Jo Pat Wellman of Alamogordo, N.M., and Jill Hadley of Keller.

She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Kathleen Conley Wilson on Feb. 27, 2000.

The family suggests memorials be made to the First Presbyterian Church; 701 Runnels; Big Spring.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Dortheil Garner

Dortheil Garner, 75, of Big Spring, died on Tuesday, March 7, 2000, at her residence. Graveside funeral service will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 8, 2000, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

She was born on Feb. 21, 1925, in Paris, Texas, and married Thomas M. Garner on Dec. 4, 1941, in Pecos. He preceded her in death on Dec. 1, 1987.

Mrs. Garner came to Big Spring in 1967. She was a homemaker, an artist, a fantastic cook, a seamstress and loved flowers and plants.

She was a member of the Baptist Church.

Survivors include: three daughters and one son-in-law, Brenda Nell and Chuck Tate of Azle, Virginia Garner of Mingus, and Carol Sue Myers of Thorofare, N.J.; four grandchildren, Lanetta Varner and her husband, Roy, of Ranger, Tresa Pearce and her husband, Ken, of Fort Worth, Thomas Charles Tate of Denton, and Sharon Damon and her husband, Gil, of Thorofare, N.J.; and three great-grandchildren, Reagan and Riley Crooks and Steven Pearce, all of Fort Worth.

She was also preceded in death by one daughter, Mary Tom Zegers and by one great-grandchild, Seth Simmons.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

WHAT'S UP

Continued from Page 1

- Third.
- Friend of the Library, noon, Howard County Library.
- American Legion Auxiliary, 7 p.m.
- Masonic Lodge No. 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main.
- Big Spring Newcomers Club, contact Pat Mireles for time and location 267-8741.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Michael's Episcopal Church. Bring a lunch.
- The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.
- AMBUCS, noon, Brandin' Iron Restaurant.
- Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. All seniors invited.

SATURDAY

- Howard County Scottish Rite Club, 7:30 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 21st and Lancaster. Breakfast served.
- Dance, 8:30 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third. Members and guests welcome.

AFTER HOURS

Continued from Page 1

Chamber of Commerce and the chamber sends out invitations to all their members.

"I would like to stress though that Business After Hours is open to the public and you do not need to be a member to attend the event," said Newton. "This program is specifically designed to encourage networking and to showcase sponsors and there is no charge to attend."

Betty Irene Conley

Betty Irene Conley, 75, of Big Spring, died on Monday, March 6, 2000, in a local hospital. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, 2000, at the First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Daine Brown, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born on May 10, 1924, in Lockney, N.M., and married Jerley "J.D." Conley on Nov. 22, 1946, in Clovis, N.M. He preceded her in death

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NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St.
(915) 267-6331

Dortheil Garner, 75, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be 11:00 AM, Wednesday, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.
Betty Irene Conley, 75, died Monday. Services will be 2:00 PM Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
George M. Beard, 80, died Sunday. Graveside services were at 10:30 AM, Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park. Directed by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
Bob Parker, 72, died Monday. Funeral services will be at 1:00 PM, Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at Myers & Smith from 6:00 until 8:00 PM, Tuesday.
Dewey Kerr, 81, died Friday. Funeral services will be at 10:00 AM, Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio. The family will receive friends at Myers & Smith from 5:00 until 7:00 PM, Tuesday.

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BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

TEXAS LOTTERY

Pick 3: 5,2,1
Cash 5: 16,22,24,28,37
Lottery numbers are unofficial until confirmed by the state lottery commission.

"I believe anyone who sees this play will leave with a different perspective of life and dreams and being kind to those who are different than we are," Grizzle said.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activities from 8 a.m. Monday through 8 a.m. today:

-FERNANDO ALVAREZ, 27, was arrested on a charge of Class C assault.
-JUAN JUAREZ, 65, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
-THEFT was reported in the 1600 block of Owens, in the 3300 block of E. Marcy, in the 400 block of E. 4th, and in the 2000 block of Gregg.
-ASSAULT was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main.
-CLASS C THEFT was reported in the 800 block of E. 12th.
-CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1700 block of Morrison.
-BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1100 block of Gregg.
-GRAFFITI was reported in the 600 block of Gregg and in the 2400 block of Gunter.
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ORR

Continued from Page 1

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PLAY

Continued from Page 1

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BIG SPRING MOVIE HOTLINE
For showtimes call 263-2479

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DUNIAPS Home Fashion Headquarters
111 E. Marcy 267-8283

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Despite

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Disputes among have slowed Co work, despite pro leaders that law complete the ta election year s return home f campaigns.
House and Sena want legislators April 15 a budget which begins Oc month after Pres introduced his o lion proposal for ther chamber's b tee has produce plan - increas for yet another C ing battle with Cl just weeks before "It's time for th

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AUSTIN (AP) Attorney General announced Monda sent part of the o before the U.S. Su in a case involv prayers at a Texas The court is sche arguments in Independent Schoe Doe on March 29. decide whether p districts can allow prayers at footb Texas tradition Santa Fe lawsuit c The case resulte

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Duane began his banking career here in Big Spring 18 years ago. He has returned as president of American State Bank-Big Spring and is eager to re-establish banking relationships with former customers and new friends.
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Please join us in saying goodbye to Robert and welcome to Duane.
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Despite promises of speed, Congress' budget work lags

WASHINGTON (AP) — Disputes among Republicans have slowed Congress' budget work, despite promises by GOP leaders that lawmakers would complete the task early this election year so they could return home for re-election campaigns.

House and Senate leaders still want legislators to complete by April 15 a budget for fiscal 2001, which begins Oct. 1. But a full month after President Clinton introduced his own \$1.84 trillion proposal for next year, neither chamber's budget committee has produced a spending plan — increasing the chance for yet another October spending battle with Clinton, this one just weeks before Election Day. "It's time for them to ante up,

kick in," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said Monday. The slow pace on the budget tracks Congress' leisurely start this year, in which recesses have been frequent and lawmakers have seemed distracted by the two parties' presidential primaries.

The two budget committees might write initial spending plans as early as this week. The budget is a tax and spending blueprint for future, binding bills and does not require Clinton's signature.

But first, House and Senate leaders will have to resolve disputes between conservatives, who want to hold overall spending for many programs to this year's level, and other

Republicans, who say more is needed to bolster defense, education and other areas. The fight over spending has symbolic importance for conservatives eager to signal that the GOP remains fiscally austere in this era of budget surpluses. But it has other implications as well.

The more money Congress spends now the smaller projected federal surpluses will be, and smaller surpluses would leave less room for the tax cuts many Republicans want — including Texas Gov. George W. Bush, a leading GOP presidential hopeful.

When it is finally written, the House's budget is likely to propose a five-year tax cut of about \$200 billion, about double

Clinton's proposal and half what Bush wants. It also will seek about what the president proposed for education, defense and biomedical research, say Republican aides speaking on condition of anonymity. The Senate's budget will be similar but is likely to offer a slightly smaller tax cut than the House's.

The focus of the internal GOP fight is discretionary spending, the one-third of the budget that Congress and the president apportion every year. It covers all federal spending, from troops' uniforms to cancer research, with the exception of Social Security, interest on the national debt and other payments the government makes automatically.

Antihistamine may impair driving more than alcohol

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A drug common to over-the-counter allergy medicines used by millions might affect drivers more than liquor, suggests a study published today.

University of Iowa researchers who tested 40 allergy sufferers in a driving simulator found the standard dose of antihistamine contained in Benadryl and similar medicines had a greater effect than a few drinks on driving "coherence," or the ability to match the speed of the vehicle ahead.

The antihistamine, diphenhydramine, also had an effect similar to alcohol on steering stability and the likelihood of crossing into the oncoming lane, according to the study in today's *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

"We were quite surprised to find that diphenhydramine may have an even greater impact on the complex task of operating an automobile than does alcohol," said Dr. John Weiler, a University of Iowa medical professor. "That sends a chilling message. You would not want to be on the road when someone is driving at you who is taking these."

The study also looked at a newer antihistamine, fexofenadine, used in the prescription drug Allegra. The researchers said that when it came to dri-

ving ability, fexofenadine was indistinguishable from a placebo.

The maker of Benadryl, Warner-Lambert Co., attacked the new study as "seriously flawed" because it was partially funded by Aventis, the maker of Allegra.

"We are in no way recommending that these medications be taken off the market. Benadryl is an extremely effective antihistamine, it is the side-effect profile that is disturbing," Weiler said.

The researchers said more than 39 million Americans suffer from hay fever and allergies and 4.8 million take prescription drugs. Most go without treatment or take over-the-counter medications.

These medicines often come with warnings that they can cause drowsiness and should not be used while operating heavy machinery.

National Highway Traffic Safety researcher Richard Compton said that there had been little research on the effects and people often ignore warnings about mixing them with alcohol.

However, Compton said a study of blood tests on victims of fatal crashes in the early 1990s suggested that antihistamine impairment was far less prevalent than alcohol impairment.

New gigahertz chip hits the speeded-up marketplace

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — The whiz-bang computer age just got even faster.

The first gigahertz processor hits the market today, crunching information at 1,000 megahertz, or 1 billion bits of information per second — a speed many engineers thought impossible just a decade ago.

Advanced Micro Devices Inc. says its new Athlon chip will make computers 10 times faster than just six years ago, paving the way for speedier software and games.

"Just as the achievement of

Chuck Yeager signaled the beginning of a new era in aviation, the one gigahertz processor ushers in a new era of information technology," AMD chief executive Jerry Sanders said Monday.

AMD's Athlon chip comes a day before the six-year anniversary of rival Intel Corp.'s breaking the 100 megahertz barrier with its Pentium chip, and ahead of that company's expected announcement that it, too, will ship its own gigahertz chip.

Intel's processors provide the brainpower for nearly 90 per-

cent of the world's computers, but it has been locked in a race with Sunnyvale-based AMD to market a chip with more computing power than any other.

Analysts say consumers in coming years will feel the need for speed as the computer shifts from its current role as a device used mainly for word processing, surfing the Internet and playing games into a central hub that connects various devices in the home to each other.

But some analysts questioned whether speedy chips will catch

on quickly with consumers, particularly since the Athlon chip pushes a computer's pricetag up by \$1,300. The new chip will be sold initially in Compaq and Gateway computers.

Most consumers have computers that run at less than 500 megahertz, according to U.S. shipment data for 1998-1999 from research firm Dataquest, a unit of Gartner Group.

"We definitely believe that consumers will need (faster processing speeds), but the question is a matter of when," said analyst Charles Galvin.

AG to argue in Supreme Court prayer case

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Attorney General John Cornyn announced Monday he will present part of the oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court in a case involving student-led prayers at a Texas school.

The court is scheduled to hear arguments in *Sante Fe Independent School District vs. Doe* on March 29. Justices will decide whether public school districts can allow student-led prayers at football games, a Texas tradition that a 1995 *Sante Fe* lawsuit challenged. The case resulted in a federal

circuit court ruling banning the practice in three states and brought national attention to *Sante Fe*, a rural Galveston County town of about 10,000 people 50 miles south of Houston.

"I believe allowing the State of Texas to present arguments will strengthen and add to those presented by the *Sante Fe* ISD. Asking the government to supervise religious speech is clearly unconstitutional, and I will protect Texas' position in this case," Cornyn said. In response to the case, a non-binding Texas Religious

Freedom Referendum appears on the Republican ballot for the March 14 primary.

The referendum asks, "Shall student initiated prayer be allowed at school sporting events?"

GOP presidential hopeful Gov. George W. Bush has joined Cornyn, also a Republican, and others in filing briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting student-led prayer.

Democrats have criticized the referendum as an advertising ploy to rally right-wing supporters.

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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

Would be great for 'all aboard!' to be heard again

Big Spring was in large part founded by the railroad more than 100 years ago. The big locomotives chugged across the land, bringing goods and passengers to a growing community. Our town has always been a hub of rail activity, but eventually other modes of transportation replaced those passenger trains. In the 1960s, the last Texas Eagle quit making stops in Big Spring. We're intrigued that decades later, the shout of "all aboard!" might be heard again.

Last week's announcement that Amtrak will reroute its Sunset Limited through Big Spring is one that prompts cautious optimism. While few details have been forthcoming, it seems only a matter of time before we learn how this might impact Big Spring, and indeed this portion of West Texas.

In its only statement so far on the subject, Amtrak eluded that the possibility of the train stopping in Big Spring would largely be up to the city itself. That depends, of course, on cost and need factors, as well as whether the city could get state or federal help in the construction of a station.

Clearly, community leaders are intrigued with the idea, and well they should be. Regular train service to our city would enhance mobility not only for local residents, but for potential visitors as well. As Kent Sharp, Moore Development for Big Spring executive director said, "We'd like for them to stop here because it further enhances our transportation connectivity to the rest of the world."

That's no understatement, especially considering the route runs from Jacksonville, Fla., to Los Angeles — or coast to coast.

We're looking forward to learning more in the coming months about when the rerouting of the Sunset Limited will take place, as well as how it will impact our community.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:
Good neighbors and public officials are rated No. 1 in my estimation.

Sunday afternoon, Feb. 27, a CRP grass field caught fire and the west to southwest wind was bringing it toward my house.

Richard Yarbar, my neighbor, came to tell me it was on fire, asked for a garden hose and started watering down the grass next to my yard.

Mrs. Lupe Martinez and her grandson Chris saw the smoke and came to investigate. They also manded a garden hose.

The volunteer fire department arrived soon after I called 911.

Sheriff's deputies were here also, arriving even before the firefighters.

I suppose there was no real danger from the time the fire department arrived, but it's frightening with 88 acres of grass on fire and a brisk wind blowing right toward your home and everything you have.

The fire department remained on the scene until the fire was completely out. Words are inadequate to express my thankfulness for all who helped.

MRS. HUBERT GILBERT
BIG SPRING

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 jwalk@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.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

- 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.
- Letters of a political nature will not be published.
- 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 that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered for publication.
- We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
- Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

Bush, Bob Jones were victims of newspeak

Let me make sure I understand the new Bob Jones University rule of politics.

As I understand the criticism directed at George W. Bush, any politician who speaks at a university is obligated to determine the views of its faculty and administrators and then publicly disassociate himself from those views with which he does not agree.

Well, that's interesting. In Israel, religious Jews are putting up posters calling Pope John Paul II "the evil one." So I assume that, henceforth, all American politicians who visit Israel or speak to the Israeli lobby in the United States will make it a point to disassociate themselves from this viewpoint. Otherwise, we might take a page from John

McCain's campaign book and call them all anti-Catholic. Let's get the syllogism right now: Some Israelis don't like the pope. Therefore, any American who speaks in Israel or at a pro-Israel function must denounce the anti-Catholic sentiments of these Israeli Jews or be himself branded an anti-Catholic bigot.

Because the American university system is the last outpost of Marxism, I will be interested to see how many politicians, when speaking at universities, will publicly disassociate themselves from the Marxists on the faculties.

As I hope you can see, this flap over Bush's appearance at Bob Jones University in South Carolina is pure political agit-prop. Had Bush gone to speak about religion, then it would have been proper for him to spell out his differences in religious beliefs. However, he went there to make a secular political speech, and it would have been rude for him to insult his hosts by condemning their religious beliefs.

Even though Bob Jones University is the favorite whip-

pling boy of the postmodern nihilists, its views are not that out of line with Bible-believing Protestants. After all, the Protestant religion was born in the rebellion against the Roman Catholic Church by a German priest, Martin Luther. Incidentally, Luther also called the pope the anti-Christ.

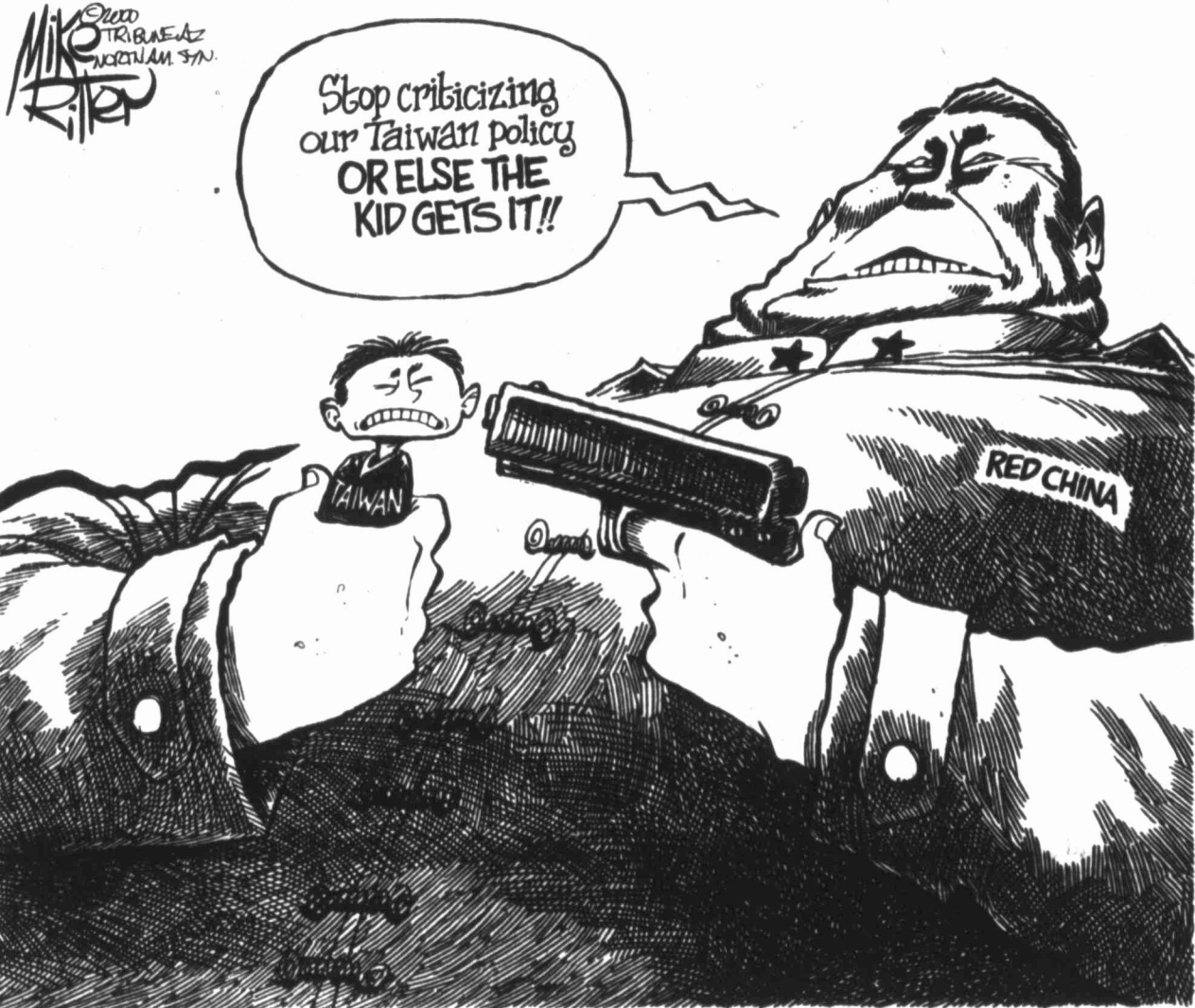
Bob Jones University is also criticized for its rule — applicable only to its own students who voluntarily attend this private university — against interracial dating. Whether we approve or disapprove is irrelevant. That's how it interprets the Scriptures, and in our free society, people are entitled to their own beliefs. After all, as one Orthodox writer wryly commented, the Protestant rebellion against the pope has had the effect of creating 22,000 popes. By the by, Bob Jones has accepted minority students for years.

This belief, too, is not so out of the park as the liberal establishment would have you believe. Some Jewish writers have referred to the intermarriage of American Jews and Gentiles as "a second

Holocaust." To affix such a horrific name to assimilation certainly reveals the intensity of feeling on the writers' part on the need to preserve group identity. Some American blacks strenuously opposed the adoption of black children by white parents. Postmodernists greatly desire that we all be one amorphous, bland colony of identical ants, but in fact humans cling to their separate identities, including their group identity.

Finally, theological differences do not equate to bigotry. Protestants and Catholics necessarily disagree on certain theological issues. That does not mean either is bigoted toward the other. It is the nature of revealed religions that they have mutually exclusive core beliefs.

The beauty of America's religious-freedom tradition is that everyone can believe as they like. This wonderful tradition, however, is threatened by the totalitarian technique of condemning selected beliefs in the name of tolerance. Both the school and Bush were victims of this example of newspeak.



The campus view of spring break

Those who say they'd rather be 40 and wise than 20 and foolish again are lying.

Or at least they haven't strolled a college campus lately. Not during Atlanta's spring preview weather, with the tulips pink and plump, the daffodils ripe, lithe youngsters stretched like lizards in sunshine and white stone buildings borrowed from the set of "Lost Horizon."

I was at Emory on other business when it struck me. If I were a good person, I'd shake every kid I could catch and tell them: "Don't dare squander this! You'll only be young and on parental dole once!"

I decided to conduct a strictly scientific poll of students about their plans for spring break. Make sure they were allowing themselves a little fun.

I rummaged through my purse and found a pencil and reporter's pad, bopped over to the first convenient covey and smiled like a cheerleader.

One thing I sort of admire about today's youth: the studied nonchalance. You can't really tell if they're ecstatic or

bored silly, full of mirth or hate. The look is the same. Enigmatic. Cool. Detached as spare parts.

In my youth, coeds especially all had what writer Florence King has aptly dubbed "the pert plague." We were so chipper and perpetually excited it was sickening. Even the models in our Seventeen magazine didn't pout.

It's different now. There's a code or something. Sullen is in; same as thin.

But I smiled at the serious group anyhow, since my generation simply can't help it. We tap dance, then curtsy. So I kept smiling and asked my question of three impassive faces.

"Miami," Will Shelpier said. He was going there with his roommate, to hang out, hit the beach and the clubs, maybe catch some of the Red Sox spring training games.

"Skiing in Colorado," Laine Ballard said in a deadpan.

I thought about that destination a minute. In my day, if you didn't have a job or a ride to the Florida Panhandle, spring break was a faded beach towel spread out in the back yard at your folks' house. We filled old Windex bottles with water and periodic ally sprayed ourselves to stay cool.

If a college friend had mentioned she was going skiing in Colorado, I imagine dormitory mayhem would have ensued. "Skiing in Colorado! No!!!" we would have squealed. We

squealed at all news, good or bad.

But that was then. The last of my random subjects was a striking girl with crimped, dark hair. I pointed my pad at her. She raised her sleepy eyes.

"Where is it I'm going?" Dana Rose asked her friend Laine.

"The Bahamas," Laine said. "Yeah," Dana said, "the Bahamas."

I left them, satisfied that the potential for spring break fun was there, even if the idea wasn't registering. My next victims were somewhat livelier.

"Chicago," Erin Goss said. Then she shrugged. "I'm meeting friends."

Erin's friend Lara Madani suggested I was barking up the wrong tree interviewing dedicated graduate students like the two of them.

"You should talk to undergraduates if you want to get some good spring break plans. I'm just going home, to Gulfport (Miss.); I'll probably take my laptop to the beach and work on my paper."

I asked a few others about their plans, but I soon quit worrying about my obligation to counsel the young to be young.

They will figure that out on their own and accomplish it in a generationally unique fashion.

I quit taking notes. Is indifference infectious? I sat on a warm bench and stared at a Windex-blue sky, smiling.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON



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