

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

MONDAY

April 17, 2000

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT
55°-60°

TUESDAY
88°-92°

Tax returns placed in boxes will be postmarked today

Despite tonight's deadline to mail income tax returns, Big Spring Post Office will keep normal hours today, closing at 5 p.m.

"The few customers we've had after 5 o'clock just haven't warranted us staying open late," a post office spokesman said. "It's turned out better this way."

However, residents can still get their returns postmarked today by dropping them in the mailboxes behind the post office, or in the lobby.

As long as they are put in one of those boxes before midnight, they will receive today's date.

Barbecue slated Tuesday to help CJHS cheerleaders

Coahoma Junior High School cheerleaders are sponsoring a barbecue on Tuesday, the day of the annual Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo.

The meal, will be held in the Coahoma Elementary School faculty lounge and will be cooked by Big John's Feedlot. It will consist of a barbecue sandwich, chips, pickle, onion, a peppermint and a drink for \$5 each. Serving will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For tickets, contact any Coahoma junior high cheerleader or call Teresa Kilpatrick at 394-4615 or 394-4070.

Elbow Elementary preregistration set for kindergarten

Forsan-Elbow Elementary will have preregistration for kindergarten students for the 2000-2001 school year on Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

A birth certificate, Social Security card and immunization records are required.

WHAT'S UP...

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

□ Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 47, 6:30 p.m., Veterans' Administration

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

Crossroads Area residents get ready to go back to the polls

By BILL McCLELLAN
News Editor

Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan residents will begin going to the polls Wednesday for early voting in city council races.

That's not the case to the west, where Stanton City Council waived elections this year for a lack of contested races.

There's just one contested race on the Big Spring City Council. Last week, the council declared District 2 incumbent Oscar Garcia and District 4 incumbent Tommy Tune elected to another term. They were unopposed.

That leaves, the crowded District 6 race, which features four candidates. Seeking re-election is Greg Biddison. He's getting a challenge from Brenda Weatherby Davis, Tom Guess and Judy Robertson.

Early voting takes place at Big Spring City Hall. Only those Big Spring residents who live in District 6 may cast a vote.

At Forsan, Mayor Jim Buske is getting some opposition from Shane Sayles. Alderman candidate Buddy Gambrell is also up for re-election. Gambrell is unopposed, but his name will appear on the ballot anyway.

Early voting will be held at Forsan ISD.

Coahoma has five candidates

School, college board elections slated as well

By GINA GARZA
Staff Writer

Area school districts are gearing up for early voting on Wednesday.

In Big Spring, only one district race is being contested — District 2. Those running are insurance agency owner Tommy Churchwell and auto parts dealership owner Terry

Wegman. Incumbent Larry Hollar decided not to run.

In the Coahoma Independent School District, five individuals are seeking three at-large positions. Candidates are Eddie Corse, Larry Cordes, Ronnie Dodson, Jody Reid and James L. White.

In Forsan, those running for two at-large positions are Barney Hise, Robert Wash, Paul Spence and Lewis Boeker,

incumbent.

Glasscock ISD has three at-large positions to fill. Those running are Doug Schaefer, Paul Schwartz, Cecilia Schwartz, Kenneth Branham, Randy Schmitz, Ernestina Flores, incumbent, and Brad Avery.

Stanton Independent School District has two districts to fill

See TRUSTEES, Page 2

seeking three at-large places on the city council. Only one, Eleanor Garrett, is an incumbent. The others are Paulette

Lindsey, Dan Shelborne, Randy Overton and write-in candidate Craig Ferguson.

Early voting will be at

Coahoma City Hall.

Stanton residents, after head-

See COUNCIL, Page 2

For 15 years, Hill has given his time to others

Editor's Note: This is the first in a weekly series of articles on volunteers of the Crossroads.

By Lyndel Moody
Staff Writer

For many of us, our only connection with the poor, the homeless or the dying comes from the stories we read or the television we watch. But volunteer Bobby Hill donates his time to try and make a difference in those lives.

After retiring from a career in the railroad in 1985, Hill spent only a few months living the leisurely life before he was invited to become involved with the Salvation Army.

"The Salvation Army lets people in Big Spring have a vehicle to get some help," Hill said. "We have fantastic citizens in the community who share their time or money to help benefit someone or another."

Hill has spent the past 15 years volunteering at the Salvation Army and is currently serving on the board as the property chairman.

During those years, Hill has taken various responsibilities, including serving as the Christmas chairman. He particularly enjoys the Christmas program.

"It's emotional to see the little kids receive presents that if it wasn't for the Salvation Army they would not be getting anything and to see many of the mothers — sometimes the fathers — break down," he said.

"Also, when you take food to a family and the little boys and girls are hanging on your leg, thanking you for the food it's pretty emotional stuff," Hill continued.

The Salvation Army offers a variety of services to the community including a food pantry, clothing, emergency aid and a shelter where transients and the homeless can get a meal and a place to sleep.

Working for the railroad,



Bobby Hill, Salvation Army board member, confers with Maj. Ronald L. Alexander of the Salvation Army over some paperwork. Hill, a 15-year volunteer for the Salvation Army, currently serves as the property chairman.

Hill has experience dealing with transients.

"It's sad that a group of people in our world lives that way," he said.

Hill admires the citizens who have been involved with the Salvation Army over the years, many of them who are not able to volunteer as much time as they have in the past.

"You don't really appreciate what hard work volunteers do until you get involved yourself," Hill said.

According to Hill, contributions from the Dora Roberts Foundation plus from the many people in Big Spring help to keep the Salvation Army going through the good years and the bad.

He encourages anyone interested in volunteering for the Salvation Army to visit the facility for a day to personally hear the stories and request

for help from many people who live in this community.

He warns that every day is different and no one can predict what new stories or situations a volunteer may encounter.

Hill is an active volunteer for not only the Salvation Army, but several other organizations.

He is active in his church, representing it at the Methodist convention and is a member of the Kiwanis Club.

He also volunteers for the American Cancer Society by donating his time to drive cancer patients to and from Midland for treatment.

"A lot of people have no means to get over to there and the staff prefers someone to take them because they are afraid they might get a reaction," he said.

Hill has had one or two cancer patients become sick after

they received treatment.

"I just put a pillow in the back and let them sleep," he said.

"They are a lovely bunch of people who work over at the Allison Cancer Center," Hill said. "We are fortunate to have the facilities within an hour's drive."

Hill has grown to know the patients he transports and some of the patients he knew before they were diagnosed with cancer.

"I drove a man from Stanton for his treatment and the next day he died," he said. "I went to one funeral of a man I carried over there, but I had known him earlier."

As to Hill's philosophy about volunteering, he simply says, "This is my town."

"It takes all of us to get

See VOLUNTEER, Page 2

Rodeo!

Kindergarten kids are set for excitement in Coahoma

By GINA GARZA
Staff Writer

The 22nd annual Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo will be held Tuesday beginning at 9 a.m. in the Coahoma Elementary school gym.

Quail Dobbs, rodeo clown who retired from the professional circuit to serve Howard County as justice of the peace, is a fixture. Dobbs had been part of the kindergarten rodeo since it was founded.

Through the years, dozens of children have performed square dances, line dances, roping, riding and racing. Decorated sticks substitute for the livestock, but professional performers often stop by to entertain.

Along with Dobbs, bull fighter/clown Jim Bob Feller and Jody Nix will be part of the show.

Kindergarten students practice for weeks, creating costumes, learning clown makeup and making their own stick-horses.

The Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo is the world's oldest and largest kindergarten rodeo.

To honor the occasion, the U.S. Postal Service will have a special pictorial cancellation of Dobbs available.

"Also, we will be having special cachet envelopes. A three dollar charge will include a quail stamp with the special cancellation and special envelope," said Gloria Jimenez, Coahoma postmaster.

A table will be set up outside the gym during the rodeo and at the post office for 30 days after.

The post office is located at 102 S. First.



DOBBS

It's a dog's world — at least for April 29-30 show in Big Spring

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Big Spring Kennel Club members are preparing for what could be a hairy undertaking — their annual dog show.

The event is planned for Saturday and Sunday, April 29-30 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. It is expected to bring show dogs and their owners from all over West Texas and several other states.

"This is a chance for good communication with other people involved in showing and raising dogs," said Hazel Baker, a Chihuahua breeder from Coahoma. "This is an expensive hobby, but a very enjoyable hobby, and the dog show gives people a chance to find out about it."

It also allows would-be dog owners the chance to investigate their favorite

breeds. Visitors to the show can talk with breeders and owners to find out more about potential pets.

"If you want to find out about a particular breed, the best place to go is to someone who works with that one or raises them," explained Trellis Lucas, who teaches dog obedience locally.

During the show weekend, Lucas urged the public to visit the coliseum and talk to dog owners, observe the grooming procedures as well as the competition.

"Just be sure you ask someone before you pet a dog," she said. "Some of those hairdos are pretty difficult to get just right. But the public can get out there and actually talk to the exhibitors and get close to the dogs and the owners."

The show also gives dog lovers a rare opportunity to see the "best of the best," as well-trained animals com-

pete in skills and breeding.

The Big Spring Kennel Club, which sponsors obedience classes and activities for local dog owners, also wants the show to promote what they love — everything about dogs.

"The value of animal companionship is so great," said Treasa Wells, owner of a 170-pound mastiff named Mo. She cited a project that pairs troubled teenage boys with dogs to build their self-esteem.

"We are learning about how animal companions can do so much for people," she said.

Competition should start around 8 a.m. Saturday and continue all day, ending in the evening with a "fun match" that is a practice-type event. Sign-up for the fun match will be available Saturday afternoon.

Sunday, competition

See DOG SHOW, Page 2



Hazel Baker, a Chihuahua breeder from Coahoma, brushes one of her prized pets. She and other Big Spring Kennel Club members are preparing for their annual dog show April 29-30.

HERALD photo/
Debbie L. Jensen

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Traffic pressures may tip balance on an uneasy truce in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Demonstrators set out to snarl workaday Washington today with protests aimed at world finance conferences that went on despite them over the weekend.

After two raucous days of marches, street theater and confrontations with police, the federal government closed its agencies in the potential protest zone, an 11 by 8 block swath east and west of the White House. Both the federal and local governments encouraged all but essential workers to stay home on leave.

Police warned the protests on a busy weekday could create fierce traffic jams.

"I think people can just bank on having traffic congestion like they have not seen around here," Police Chief Charles

Ramsey said after Sunday's protests, looking toward a nightmare morning rush hour.

He advised people not to drive near the World Bank and International Monetary Fund buildings in the center of town, both on streets partially or fully shut down in the weekend demonstrations. "If they don't avoid it and choose to drive, they need to be prepared for long delays," Ramsey said. "In other words, bring a sandwich."

Thousands of marchers failed to stop world finance leaders from meeting Sunday. But they paraded through the capital in a show of celebration and anger, punctuated by occasional confrontations.

Festive street theater with giant puppets coexisted with confrontations between police trying to keep the streets open

and the finance meetings safe and protesters agitating about the plight of the poor and "decadence" of the rich.

At one point, police in riot gear and on motorcycles charged into a crowd that had surged toward the police line. Police used pepper spray and what they said were smoke bombs to drive back the protesters, who were convinced they'd been tear gassed.

But unlike the protests that overwhelmed police and smashed windows in rainy Seattle to disrupt and block trade meetings late last year, the weekend demonstrations were largely nonviolent on a hot, sunny Sunday.

"I've seen a whole lot less property damage than after a Bulls game in Chicago," said Han Shan, a protest organizer

from the San Francisco-based group Ruckus.

Police sent buses under the early morning darkness Sunday to pick up world finance ministers at their hotels, then used circuitous routes and U-turns to get them to work.

But some VIPs were stranded: The finance ministers of France, Brazil, Portugal and Thailand were thwarted by the crowds and sat at the Watergate Hotel six hours after the meetings started, wondering what to do. They eventually made it to the spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund.

Police, who estimated as many as 10,000 protesters were on the streets, blocked off a downtown area as large as 90 square blocks and let demonstrators largely have their way outside the security zone.

Protest leaders estimated their crowds at more than 30,000.

President Clinton was out of town.

Shan credited police with being relatively restrained, if suffocating in the size of their force. "Overall, they maintained their composure quite a bit," he said. "They have brutalized a few people without provocation."

The streets scenes were not so tense as on Saturday, when police raided and closed the protest headquarters during the day and arrested more than 600 people in the evening.

About 20 people were arrested Sunday, police said. One police officer was hospitalized for back pain and another for heat exhaustion.

Protesters accused the World Bank and IMF of burdening

poor countries with crushing debt payments, unsafe food, environmental destruction and sweatshops.

Responded Michael Moore, director general of the World Trade Organization: "Blaming the World Bank for poverty is a bit like blaming the Red Cross for starting World Wars I and II."

A teacher arrested Saturday during a march protesting the "prison industrial complex" showed off her booking number scribbled with a magic marker on her wrist.

"They are violating our constitutional liberties at every step," she said. "They arrested people preemptively when they had done nothing wrong. I am furious about it. You can hardly call this a democracy at this point."

All eyes now on 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cuban boy custody fight

MIAMI (AP) — After a weekend of bitter accusations lobbed by both sides of the Elian Gonzalez custody battle, attention returned today to the federal judges deciding a key point in the international case.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta has been asked by the U.S. government to suspend a ruling by one of its judges that prevents the removal of Elian from the country.

Such a decision would allow the U.S. government to push for the 6-year-old boy's swift reunion in Washington with his waiting father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, who wants to return

to Cuba. He has said he will wait out appeals by the Miami relatives seeking an asylum hearing for Elian before the same court — but only if he has custody of his son.

There was growing apprehension outside the Little Havana home where the boy has lived with his great-uncle for nearly five months.

"The feeling is the Clinton administration might send federal agents to pull him out of here," said Sergio Navarro, a 39-year-old Miami businessman who spent part of Sunday night with chanting protesters.

Elian's relatives have cared for him since November, when

he was found clinging to an inner tube in the Florida Straits. His mother and 10 other people fleeing Cuba drowned when their boat sank.

The Clinton administration has pushed for the boy's return to his father, ruling only he can speak for his son on immigration matters. The boy's Miami relatives say he will have a better life here and have attempted to portray Juan Miguel Gonzalez as a pawn of Fidel Castro.

The Justice Department wants the appeals court to suspend the temporary injunction issued Thursday and also order Elian's great-uncle, Lazaro

Gonzalez, to release the boy. The relatives want the court to let them meet with Elian's father without being required to surrender the boy.

The court watch comes after one of the most bitter charges yet in the custody battle.

Juan Miguel Gonzalez lashed out at his Miami relatives Sunday night, accusing them of "child abuse" for turning his son against him. He said they have manipulated his son to believe that his mother still may show up someday — in this country.

"This is child abuse and mistreatment, what they're doing to this boy," Gonzalez said on

CBS's "60 Minutes." "The way they're abusing him, turning him against his father ... he's suffering more here amongst them than he suffered in the sea."

Gonzalez said he didn't believe a much-publicized video taped at the relatives' home in which his son said he didn't want to go. He has spoken with Elian at least three times since he arrived in the United States on April 6, and he insisted his son wants to return to Cuba.

"He's told me so," Gonzalez said. The Miami relatives are "putting a bunch of toys in front of a 6-year-old. He cannot decide for himself. The one that

decides for him is me, his father."

Elian's Miami relatives have filed affidavits alleging Gonzalez abused his former wife and his 6-year-old son, a charge Gonzalez denied. During the time of the broadcast on Sunday, family members and Elian were outside the home of Lazaro Gonzalez and did not publicly comment after the show.

Protesters, however, dismissed Juan Miguel's comments as either selfish or the words of Fidel Castro.

"Fidel Castro is claiming the son, not him," said Olga Coto, 56, of Miami.

Michigan police struggle to track down possible victims of accused serial killer

DETROIT (AP) — Relatives of John Eric Armstrong wonder how a quiet child who earned decent grades, played Nintendo and enjoyed fishing and baseball could emerge as a suspected serial killer.

"The Eric we raised could not have done these things," his mother, Linda Pringle, said in Sunday's Detroit News. "This is just not the person we know. ... We just did the best we could."

Armstrong, 26, was charged last week with five murders in the Detroit area and authorities worldwide are trying to match his account of at least 11 other slayings while he was serving on the Navy aircraft carrier USS Nimitz.

"It's a long, tedious process," Detroit police Assistant Chief Marvin Winkler told the News in today's editions. "Some of

these cases go back 10 years so it's a matter of going to each location and looking through records."

Even though authorities suspected Armstrong in one slaying, at least one woman was killed and three people were attacked before Wayne County prosecutors authorized an arrest warrant, the Detroit Free Press reported today.

In mid-February, Dearborn Heights police had found clothing fibers on Armstrong's car that were similar to those of a slaying victim, and said they believed his alibi was suspicious.

Prosecutors told police it was impossible to prove the fibers were an exact match, and couldn't issue a warrant, said Robert Agacinski, deputy chief of the prosecutor's office repeat-

offenders bureau.

On March 28, preliminary lab results confirmed that Armstrong's DNA matched evidence from one slaying scene. The prosecutor's office still denied a warrant.

But Agacinski said a final written DNA report would have been essential to persuading a judge to bind Armstrong over for trial. He said that if prose-

cutors had not waited, Armstrong's attorney may have successfully argued to release Armstrong until it was available.

Agacinski also defended the prosecutor's office by saying: "There was no reason to suspect this guy was involved in multiple murders. He had no prior record. No one knew how goofy he was."

Prosecutors waited until April 12 — two days after investigators found the bodies of three strangled prostitutes in a railroad yard in southwest Detroit — to issue the warrant, the day that the state lab issued the written DNA report.

Armstrong has since been charged in the Dearborn Heights killing and the deaths of the women found in Detroit.

In total, he is charged with five counts of premeditated first-degree murder and three counts of assault with intent to murder.

"We're not saying we did anything wrong," Agacinski said. "We're not second-guessing what we did, and we're not blaming anyone."

"But ... we don't want this to happen again."

Chevron and Phillips decide on new name with coin toss

BAYTOWN (AP) — It happens at the Super Bowl every year: a coin toss to see who gets the ball first. But what about a corporate boardroom coin toss to decide a new joint venture's name?

Two companies — Chevron Corp. and Phillips Petroleum Co., which agreed to a 50/50 joint venture of their chemical businesses in early February — tried other methods but in the end decided that an old-fashioned coin toss was the best way to arrive at the new name: Chevron-Phillips.

"Lots of names were suggested," Chevron spokesman Mickey Driver told the Baytown Sun in Sunday's editions. "Our employees suggested names. We even thought about hiring a consultant to help select a name."

According to Driver, the California-based oil giant preferred Chevron-Phillips while Phillips wanted the name to be Phillips-Chevron.

To solve the dilemma, a gold coin was struck with each version of the name imprinted, officials said.

Meeting at Phillips' offices in Clear Lake, Texas, the coin was tossed and landed face up with the Chevron-Phillips side showing.

Chevron employs 31,000 people worldwide and has about \$40 billion in assets.

Phillips, based in Bartlesville, Okla., had 15,900 employees and \$15 billion of assets at the end of 1999.

Chevron-Phillips is expected to be one of the world's top five producers of the olefins and polyolefins used to manufacture basic chemicals and plastics.

"Currently, both companies have been working to finalize the paperwork to meet all legal requirements, including approval by the Federal Trade Commission," Driver told the Sun.

"That is all on track. We are projecting the approval and merger to be completed in the next couple of months," Driver added.

The new company, which will have assets of more than \$6 billion, will be based in Houston. The joint venture will employ up to 6,000 people.

Prattville, Alabama CAPITOL HILL GOLF COURSE

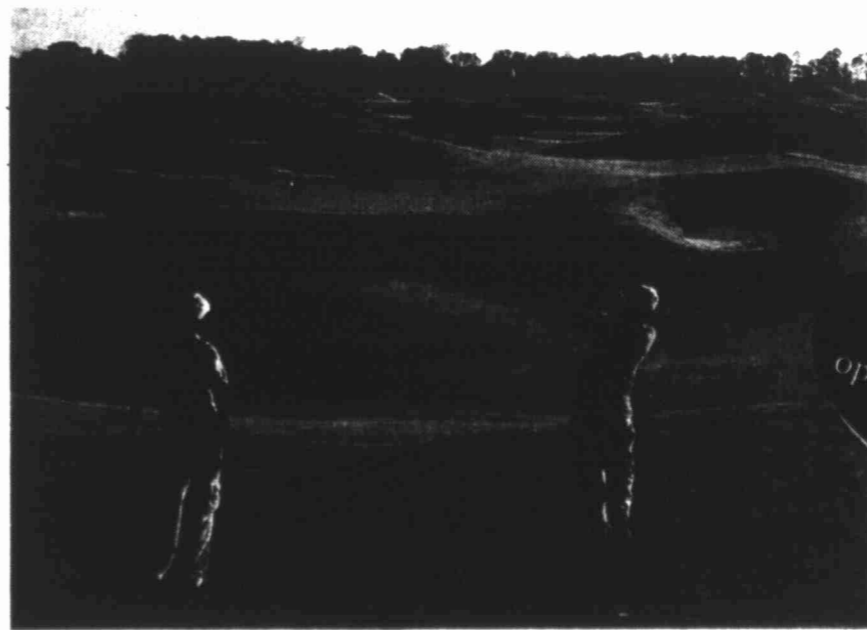
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EDITORIAL

"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

Take the time to vote in city, school elections

It's back to the ballot box again. The voting-conscious have been making their way to the polls pretty regularly this year. First, there was the special mayoral election for Big Spring residents. Then came the Democratic and Republican Party primaries. That was followed by primary runoffs.

Wednesday, Big Spring residents will go to the polls for a fourth time. On this occasion, there are three locally-contested races — all for different entities. Big Spring Independent School District is having a trustee election to determine its District 2 board member. Candidates are Tommy Churchwell and Terry Wegman. Incumbent Larry Hollar is not seeking reelection.

That's the case, too, at Howard College, where incumbent Sue Partee has decided not to run for an at-large position on the board. Seeking to fill that spot are John Freeman and Michael R. Niklasch.

The third contested seat is District 6 on the Big Spring City Council. Incumbent Greg Biddison is seeking re-election, and he's being challenged by Brenda Weatherby Davis, Tom Guess and Judy Robertson.

Those are the races that impact Big Spring residents directly, though it should be pointed out that only those residents who reside in the city's District 6 and the BSISD's District 2 can vote in those respective elections. The election for Howard College trustees is open to any voter residing in the community college district.

Elsewhere in the county, Coahoma and Forsan residents will be voting in the Howard College election and will also have contested races themselves. Coahoma voters will choose between five candidates who are vying for three places on the school board. They are Larry Cordes, Eddie Corse, Ronnie Dodson, Jody Reid and James L. White. Running for two at-large positions on the Forsan ISD board are incumbent Lewis Boeker, Barney Hise, Paul Spence and Robert Wash.

Coahoma also has five candidates seeking three at-large places on the city council. They are incumbent Eleanor Garrett, write-in candidate Craig Ferguson, Randy Overton, Paulette Lindsey and Dan Shelborne. At Forsan, the only contested race for city government is that of mayor, where incumbent Jim Buske is getting a challenge from Shane Sayles.

We encourage Howard County citizens to take the time to vote in these elections, which will help to shape our city governments, community college and public schools. At Forsan, voting for both the trustee positions and mayor will be held at the school business office. Elsewhere, early voting is held at the business office of each entity conducting the election. Early voting continues through May 2. Election day is May 6.

YOUR VIEWS

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.

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.

In this year's budget fight, some hype is true

By ALAN FRAM
Associated Press Writer

In the annual fight over Congress' budget, lofty promises by the authors and apocalyptic warnings by the opposition party are as integral as numbers with lots of zeroes. Sometimes, some of the predictions even come true.

The battle over the \$1.83 trillion budget for fiscal 2001 that Republicans pushed through Congress last week is no exception. With lawmakers ready to start focusing on spending and tax bills that should prompt confrontations with President Clinton, here is a guide to some of each sides' claims.

—Likely to happen: A big, significant reduction in the \$3.6 trillion publicly held national debt. Fearful of being labeled hostile to Social Security, neither party wants to spend the program's huge surpluses. Add two more ingredients: Debt reduction is popular with the public, and lawmakers have found non-Social Security surpluses adequate to pay for the tax cuts or extra spending they want. The result: The \$1 trillion in Social Security surpluses projected for the next five years, starting

with \$161 billion in 2001, could well end up going to debt reduction.

—Unlikely to happen: Social Security and Medicare will be "saved." Neither party has proposed cutting either programs' benefits or raising taxes so they can afford the retirement of the baby boom generation. Using Social Security surpluses for debt reduction can help indirectly by lowering interest rates, strengthening the economy and making it easier for the government to raise revenue. But worried about voter retaliation, lawmakers will duck tough choices to rein either program this year. They might even do the opposite and create prescription drug benefits under Medicare, making that program even costlier.

—Likely: Plenty of political posturing with an eye to the November elections. To draw contrasts, Republicans will doubtless send Clinton tax-cutting bills he is certain to veto. Democrats will probably accuse Republicans of hurting education, even though the GOP proposes spending more than this year. In a sampling of Thursday's rhetoric, House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., said the GOP budget would "threaten our

record prosperity and undermine the values of middle-class families." Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said Democrats "want to spend all your money" and have "more spending programs than you ever heard of."

—Not likely: Any dramatic changes in federal tax or spending policy, despite the doomsday characterizations each side uses for the other's budget plans. With divided government, neither party's fiscal vision can completely trump the other's. That means that of the tax cuts Republicans want and the spending increases Democrats prefer, only portions are likely to become law.

—Likely: More spending this election-year for defense, schools, farmers and medical research, some of the priorities both parties agree on and are sure to shower on their constituents.

—Unlikely: Lawmakers will deliver on their promise to hold spending on many domestic programs to \$289 billion. Republicans say that would be \$7 billion more — 2.5 percent — than this year. But in recent years, Congress has usually boosted spending by twice that amount. And Democrats say

Republicans are using accounting gimmicks and are actually cutting spending by \$6.5 billion from this year. Either way, Republicans will be hard-pressed to meet their spending goal.

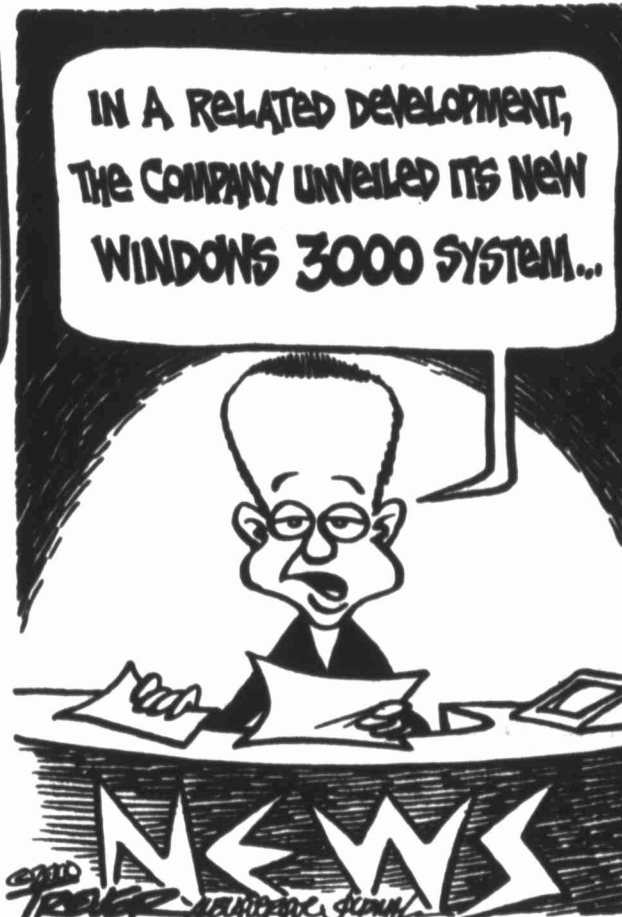
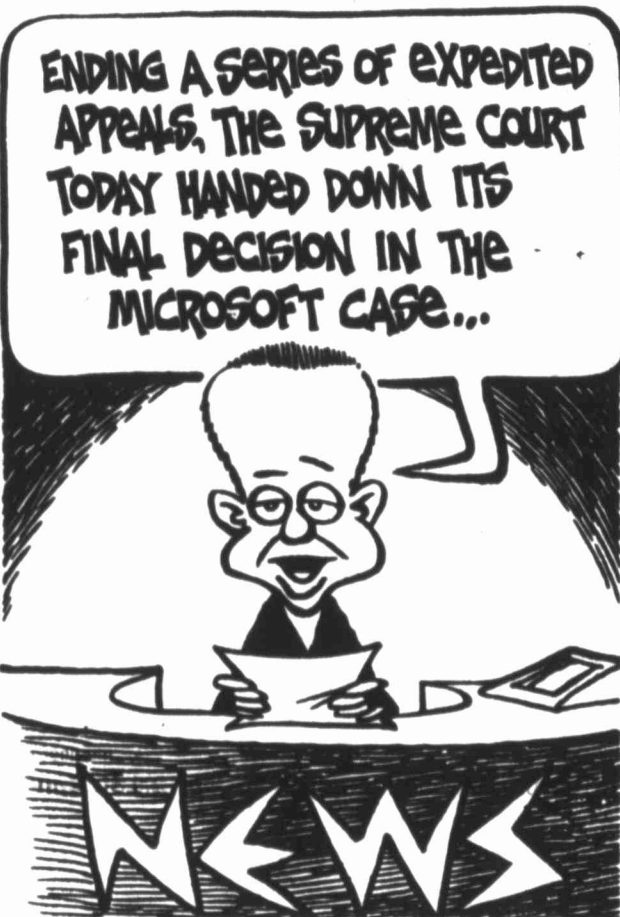
—Likely: The budget will be balanced in fiscal 2001 for what would be the fourth consecutive year, the first time that has happened since 1927 to 1930, when Babe Ruth was playing for the Yankees.

Right now, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects that if lawmakers do nothing, there will be a \$181 billion surplus next year, with all but \$15 billion coming from Social Security.

Even with the tax and spending changes legislators want, most of that black ink is likely to remain.

—Unlikely: Budget peace. Though incremental changes in tax and spending policy are likely by year's end, that will not be a signal of political consensus.

Rather, it will underline a tacit agreement between the two parties that their disputes over taxes and spending should be taken to the voters, who will decide who will control the White House and Congress next year.



April is Confederate History Month

April, as you probably do not know, is Confederate History Month. In less politically correct days, Southern governors had no more problems proclaiming it than they did in proclaiming National Pickle Week.



CHARLEY REESE

Nowadays, most governors are too yellow. It's unfortunate that a few demagogues and hatemongers insist on associating the Confederate battle flag with racism, but, hey, you don't exactly expect knowledge or reasoned debate from racist bigots.

The battle flag — the red one with the cross of St. Andrews — was carried by one of the noblest armies ever to take the field. They were the last of the chivalrous knights. Sir Winston Churchill said that the Confederate Army's fight against overwhelming odds is one of the most glorious moments in Anglo-Saxon history. H.L. Mencken, the sage of Baltimore, said that the only thing wrong with President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was that it was the South, not the North, that was fighting for a government of the people, by the people and for the people. The Confederate Army fought

for a good cause — independence and the right of self-government and the rule of law. Those are such good things so worth fighting for that it's no wonder Yankee propaganda keeps repeating the lie that they were fighting to preserve slavery.

In 1860, out of 7 million non-slaves in the South, only 384,000 owned any slaves at all. That means that 6.6 million Southerners were non-slave owners, and if you think that they would leave their homes and farms to fight for the planters' right to own slaves, you don't know much about Southern culture.

Another false image of the South is that people were either rich slave owners or slaves. There were, in fact, several thousands of free blacks living in the South, and some of them owned slaves. The South was quite diverse and multicultural, with French, Spanish and German languages, not to mention Indian languages, often heard. The 10th Louisiana Regiment was known as Robert E. Lee's "foreign legion." Its volunteers hailed from more than 50 countries.

Over in South Carolina where the flag still flies over the Capitol, four college football coaches joined a march with about 30 people on that day protesting the flag. There is an easy explanation for that. Despite the fact that football is a sacred subject in the South, the Southeastern Conference

football teams are now virtually all-black. Southern coaches certainly don't want anything as trivial as history to interfere with their recruiting efforts. They all screamed like scalded dogs when somebody said their athletes had to score at least 700 out of a possible 1600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test to qualify for a scholarship. Most of the coaches are willing to sacrifice a lot more than history, honor and tradition to field a winning team so that they can get paid to hawk Ford's and lumber on television.

Postmodern folks who would sacrifice any principle for the sake of making a buck or avoiding a controversy do not impress those of us who would preserve the good name of the Confederate soldier who sacrificed his life for the sake of liberty and independence.

The proper name for such pitiful folks, if they are Southerners, is scalawags.

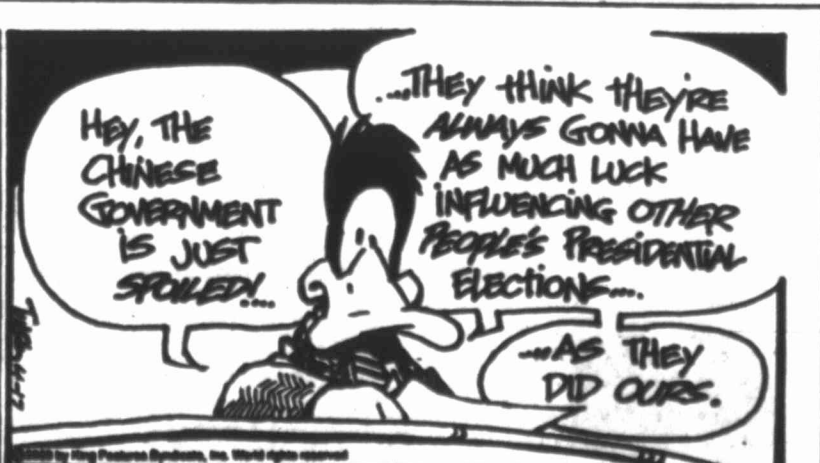
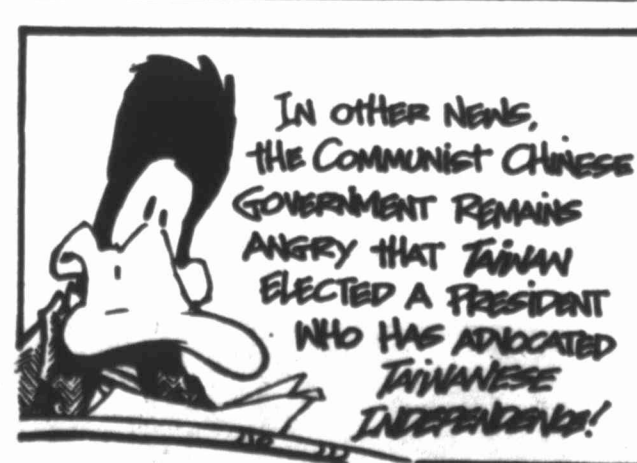
All of us true Southerners have nothing against folks who aren't Southern. We have long since been willing to be reconciled, but there are some people who just won't leave us alone. They insist on insulting our ancestors, distorting our history and, in short, attempting to commit cultural genocide. They want to tear down our monuments and rename our streets and schools until they have blotted out every sign of our past.

We have no choice but to resist.

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.
(512) 463-0128.
- **DAVID COUNTS**
Representative
Texas 70th District
P.O. Box 338
Knox City, 79529
Phone: (940) 658-5012.
- **JOHN CORNYN**
Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, 78711-2548
Phone: 1-800-252-8011.
- **HOWARD CO. COMMISSIONERS**
Office — 264-2200.
• **BEN LOCHMART**, county judge —
Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.
• **EMMA BROWN** — Home: 267-2649.
• **JERRY KALGORE** — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.
• **BILL CROOKER** — Home: 263-2566.
• **GARY SIMER** — Home: 263-0269; Work (Ponderosa Nursery): 263-4441.
- **BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL**
• **RUSS MCEWEN**, mayor — Home: 263-0907; Work (Parks Agency): 267-1413.
• **GREG BIDDISON** — Home: 267-6009; Work (Ponderosa Restaurant): 267-7121.
• **OSCAR GARCIA**, mayor pro tem — Home: 264-0026; Work (Cornell Corrections): 268-1227.
• **STEPHANIE HORTON** — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361.
• **CHUCK CANTON** — Home: 263-7490; Work (Chuck's Surplus): 263-1142.
• **TOMMY TUNE** — Home: 267-4652; Work (Howard College): 264-5000.
• **JOAM SMOOT** — Home: 267-6965; Work (BSISD): 264-3600.

Mallard Fillmore
by
BRUCE TINSLEY



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IN BRIEF

Howard's Loesch wins calf roping at Canyon

Howard College's Todd Loesch led the way for the Hawks during Saturday's short go-round of the West Texas A&M University Rodeo in Canyon, finishing first in both rounds of the calf roping. Loesch opened the rodeo with a first run of 9.8 seconds and followed that with a 9.4 in the second round to finish with a 19.2-second total, winning the average. Teammate Matt Burrows put together back-to-back 65-point rides in the bareback riding to finish fourth in the average with 130 points. Jeremy Hughes, who'd entered the short round with a 73 on his first effort in the bull riding, failed to stay aboard for a full eight seconds on his second. While just two of the Hawks turned in placing finishes and only three reached the final round, Howard still finished fourth in the men's team standings — it's best showing as a team this season.

Howard College to hold athletic banquet April 24

Howard College will hold its annual athletic banquet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 24, in the East Room at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Tickets are \$7 per person and reservations should be made no later than 3 p.m. Thursday, April 20, by calling 264-5040.

Men's slowpitch softball league now being formed

Plans are currently under way to create a 12-team men's slowpitch softball league in Big Spring this summer. Anyone interested in entering a team in the Spring City Men's Softball League should call Becky Crane at 264-2376 or Andi Andrews-York at 263-7641.

Little League umpires needed for new season

Officials of the Big Spring Little League Umpires Association say new umpires are needed for the upcoming season. Prior experience is not necessary, because new umpires will be trained. For more information, call Kevin Pirkle at 267-5053 or 264-0241.

Red Raiders get another win over Longhorns, 6-4

LUBBOCK (AP) — Chaz Eiguren's triple to left center scored two runs to give Texas Tech an early lead in a 6-4 victory over Texas Sunday. The Longhorns came back with a run in the second as third baseman Chris Houser scored on a ground out by catcher Sam Anderson. Texas continued to close the gap, scoring two in the sixth and one in the seventh off Texas Tech starter Kevin Tracey (5-5). But the Longhorns were unable to catch up to the six runs scored by the Red Raiders earlier in the game.

Tyson's fight in Italy likely to be postponed

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson wants some more time before he fights again, and his May 20 fight in Italy is on hold. Tyson's manager, Shelly Finkel, said the fight against Lou Savarese in Milan will be postponed until at least June. Finkel also said the fight might not be held in the Italian city at all, depending on when it is rescheduled.

ON THE AIR

Television
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
7 p.m. — New York Yankees at Texas Rangers, Cox Cable Channel. 97.
NBA
7 p.m. — Indiana Pacers at Philadelphia 76ers, TBS, Ch. 11.
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
6 p.m. — Playoffs, conference quarterfinals, Washington Capitals at Pittsburgh Penguins, ESPN, Ch. 30.

Back-to-back homers in ninth give Indians win over Rangers

CLEVELAND (AP) — Chuck Finley couldn't remember one, and neither could Jim Thome. John Wetteland was stumped, and Paul Shuey nearly got into an argument with Sandy Alomar trying to recall a similar game. It's not often when the home team hits back-to-back homers in the ninth to win, but that's exactly what the Cleveland Indians did to beat the Texas Rangers 2-1 on Sunday. Couple the late drama with Texas scoring it's only run when four Rangers struck out in one inning, and well... "That's the game of the year so far," said Rangers first baseman Rafael Palmeiro. Jim Thome's one-out homer into Cleveland's bullpen followed Manny Ramirez's homer to deep center in the ninth off Wetteland to rally the Indians, who were held to two hits through the first eight innings. The two drives — the 201st career homers for both players — helped Finley (1-0) win his home debut for the Indians, who were two outs away from being swept by the Rangers. "That was worth the price of admission," said Finley, who struck out 13 and gave up his only run in an inning where he struck out four. "Even if I wasn't pitching, that would have been an exciting game to see." Finley (1-0) looked like he was going to be a hard-luck loser when he walked off the mound to a standing ovation in the ninth after allowing just five hits. But Ramirez and Thome took care of

their new teammate, giving Finley his first win with Cleveland and giving Indians rookie manager Charlie Manuel his first home win. "If you would have told me we would go out there and hit back-to-back homers off Wetteland to win it," Thome said shaking his head. "I would have said you were crazy." Then Finley must be. Before Ramirez walked to the plate, Finley said he was hoping for the kind of Jacobs Field magic he saw the Indians pull off while sitting in the visitors' dugout. "I said, 'Wouldn't it be nice if we got back-to-back homers and walked out of here?'" Finley said. Ramirez had struck out in his first three at-bats and was just 2-for-15 with

nine strikeouts against Wetteland. But after taking a close pitch for ball three, he drove a full-count pitch 432 feet for his third homer. Up came Thome, looking to win it with one swing and did, lining a 2-2 pitch that with some urging from Cleveland's relievers just cleared the wall. Wetteland had converted his previous 18 save opportunities. "We've had some big days here, but I can't remember us hitting back-to-back homers like that to win it," said Manuel. When Thome's low liner finally went out, the Indians poured out of the dugout to greet Thome, who had to fight his way through the pack at home plate. "I wanted to get out of there quick because I knew they were going to beat me up," Thome said.



Cal Ripken Jr. and his wife, Kelly, shown here after he broke Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games on Sept. 6, 1995, celebrated another milestone Sunday when the Baltimore Orioles star collected his 3,000th career base hit.

Latest of Ripken's milestones comes in 'friendly' Metrodome

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Cal Ripken really wanted to reach 3,000 hits at Camden Yards. At least he felt right at home at the Metrodome. "I felt that I was one of the hometown players last night and I want to stay thank you very, very much for that," Ripken told the crowd during pregame ceremonies Sunday. The Baltimore Orioles star received a two-minute ovation after he singled off Minnesota Twins reliever Hector Carrasco in the seventh inning Saturday night, becoming the 24th member of the 3,000-hit club. Ripken got to share the special moment with family and friends. "I don't know the secrets of life," Ripken said. "But it sure means a lot more when you have a family to share it with." Ripken celebrated the milestone with his wife, Kelly, and their two children, Rachel, 10, and Ryan, 6, who traveled to Minnesota for the weekend. "It was a nice, private moment with my small family," Ripken said. "We went out to eat. One of my kids fell asleep at the restaurant. I guess they were drained, too." Ripken was still weary

Sunday, so manager Mike Hargrove gave him the day off. "I felt exhausted this morning, mentally," Ripken said after signing autographs for more than an hour. "I felt good, I felt relieved, all those things. I haven't really reflected on the 3,000 hits. I never played the game for the big round numbers. They've seemed to accumulate by showing up every day." Ripken, already renowned for playing a record 2,632 consecutive games, singled three times in Baltimore's 6-4 victory over the Twins on Saturday night. While his hometown fans would rather have seen him make history at home, Ripken said he wasn't about to take a seat still shy of 3,000. "I always feel an obligation not to mess with the game of baseball and how it's supposed to be played," he said. When Ripken rounded the bag following the historic hit, the first one to greet him was Orioles first-base coach, former teammate and longtime friend Eddie Murray, who got his 3,000th hit at the same stadium in 1995. "To meet Eddie at first base, that was a special moment,"

Ripken said. "He said, 'Way to go. Welcome to the club.' But it goes beyond words." Ripken, 39, said his father, Cal Sr., who died last year, and Murray were the most influential men in his career, which has included 17 All-Star games, two MVP awards and a World Series title. "My dad told me the words," Ripken said. "Eddie showed me the way." Another member of the 3,000-hit club, Twins coach Paul Molitor, congratulated him after a postgame news conference where Ripken's son playfully tussled his father's graying crew cut. Molitor said he was secretly rooting for Ripken. "Certain players, because of the way they handle themselves, seem to transcend whatever uniform they happen to be wearing," Molitor said. Before the game Sunday, Molitor presented Ripken with a \$3,000 check from the Twins for Ripken's charity. Ripken started the season in a 6-for-35 slump, and it was beginning to look as though he wouldn't reach the milestone until the Orioles returned to Camden Yards today.

Braves win, now prepare for Rocker

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

The real adventure is about to begin for the Atlanta Braves. Now pitching, John Rocker. Playing their last game before Rocker returns from his two-week suspension, the Braves did not need their relief ace Sunday. Mike Remlinger came out of the bullpen and preserved a 2-1 win at Milwaukee. The Braves are off today, then play Tuesday night at home against Philadelphia. That's when Rocker comes back — he was penalized for criticizing minorities, foreigners and gays in a magazine interview. "I don't think it will be a problem when we're in Atlanta," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "John still has many fans in Atlanta. I'm not worried about it." Rocker was with the Braves at County Stadium for workouts. He had nothing to say about his return. "He's already been welcomed back by our team," third baseman Chipper Jones said. "Now it's just a question of the fans welcoming him back. Then we go on the road." In other National League games, San Diego beat Houston 13-3, Florida edged Chicago 6-5 in 10 innings, Cincinnati defeated Los Angeles 5-3, Philadelphia downed Montreal 5-4, and New York topped Pittsburgh 12-9. St. Louis split with Colorado in a doubleheader, winning the opener 9-3 and dropping the nightcap 14-13. Arizona was rained out at San Francisco. In American League games, Seattle pounded Toronto 19-7, New York beat Kansas City 8-4, Cleveland edged Texas 2-1, Tampa Bay defeated Detroit 7-6, Boston beat Oakland 6-5, Baltimore blanked Minnesota 5-0 and Anaheim beat Chicago 3-1.

old Brewers rookie settled down, and allowed only three hits and two unearned runs in six innings. "I had a feeling he would match up well against the Braves, and he did," Milwaukee manager Davey Lopes said. "He pitched exceptionally well. That was a great performance."

Marlins 6, Cubs 5
Cliff Floyd hit a disputed home run around the right-field foul pole in the 10th inning and Florida won at Wrigley Field. The Marlins, who trailed 5-0 after three innings, won it on Floyd's one-out homer. Chicago baseman Mark Grace and manager Don Baylor argued that the ball was foul. First base umpire Mark Hirschbeck ruled it fair. As he was being interviewed after the game, a replay was shown on the television in the umpire's room and it supported Hirschbeck's call.

Phillies 5, Expos 4
Bobby Abreu came through with another clutch hit, an RBI single in the bottom of the ninth inning that lifted Philadelphia over Montreal. Abreu led the majors last year by batting .427 with runners in scoring position. He's 4-for-7 this season in those situations. Abreu, hitting .343 overall, singled over right fielder Vladimir Guerrero's head with one out to score Rob Ducey from second base. Montreal starter Hideki Irabu, uneasy with the mound at Veterans Stadium, worked from the stretch at all times. He struck out eight in six innings.

Reds 5, Dodgers 3
Michael Tucker and Ed Taubensee homered as Cincinnati won at Dodger Stadium. Shawn Green homered and doubled twice for the Dodgers. Gary Sheffield homered in all three games of the series for Los Angeles, but twice left the bases loaded Sunday.

Padres 13, Astros 3
Al Martin scored a team-record five runs and San Diego routed visiting Houston. Martin homered and tied a career high with four hits. The Padres' previous record of four runs had been done 35 times.

Cowboys address needs at cornerback with picks in NFL draft

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys got cornered and came out drafting. With one starter on the way out and two others who have been prone to injuries, Dallas needed cornerbacks. The Cowboys filled that requirement this weekend at the NFL Draft, using three of their five picks on corners. "We grabbed the need by the throat," said team owner Jerry Jones. Dallas entered the draft with needs at cornerback, linebacker, wide receiver and offensive line. The Cowboys picked up no offensive linemen, a wide receiver who had played running back and an undersized linebacker. With its first pick, the 49th overall, Dallas took Tennessee's Dwayne Goodrich. A projected first-rounder after his junior season, Goodrich's stock dropped last year after a preseason back

injury slowed him down. Dallas went with a cornerback on its next pick as well, taking West Texas A&M's Kareem Larrimore in the fourth round with the 109th overall pick. The 5-11, 191-pound Larrimore comes from a small college and has not faced a high level of competition, but his speed and athletic ability have impressed Jones and coach Dave Campo. After taking Ohio State running back Michael Wiley in the fifth round, Dallas cornered another corner, this time taking Florida State's Mario Edwards. Edwards (6-0, 191) is a bump-and-run specialist who should fit right into the Cowboys' occasional man-to-man scheme. "We kind of focused on the secondary," Campo said. "That's an area where we felt we did a good job of home-

work and of studying players. We feel very good about this group right here." The imminent departure of Deion Sanders and the injury woes of Kevin Mathis and Kevin Smith made cornerback Dallas' top off-season priority. The flamboyant Sanders, who was the league's best cover man in his five seasons with Dallas, is expected to be released in June to create room in the salary cap. The two Kevins will be back, but they have missed a combined 21 games the past two seasons. The Cowboys addressed part of their needs at corner with the addition of free agent Ryan McNeil last month, but wanted more. The addition of Goodrich, Larrimore and Edwards — three big cornerbacks with speed — have turned a weakness into a potential strength. "If where we spent a lot of time evalu-

ating was an indication of whether or not we wanted to take multiple corners, then we needed to take multiple corners," Jones said. "We spent a lot of time evaluating corners." Wiley played tailback at Ohio State, but the Cowboys plan on converting him to a slot receiver. An athletic 5-11, 189 pounds, Wiley proved versatile with the Buckeyes, gaining more than 4,000 multipurpose yards in two seasons. Dallas used its final pick, the 219th overall, to take Georgia linebacker Orantes Grant. Undersized at 6-0, 225, Grant fits the mold of previous Cowboys' linebacker picks — small and fast. "With the situation being what it is on offense, we felt we needed speed (on defense) as well," Campo said. "When you look at this group of guys ... all of these guys can run."

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HELP WANTED

NOTICE Application deadline for County Supervisor Office position which was advertised during week of April 3rd, 2000 has been extended through Thursday April 20, 2000. 118th District CSCD, 315 Main, Suite B, P. O. Box 1951, Big Spring, TX/ 79721-1951.

Oil Well Service Company is seeking operator/derrick hand and floor hand. EOE. Call 915-267-5291.

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MONDAY

APR. 17

Table with 24 columns (stations) and 12 rows (timeslots) listing various TV programs and their details.

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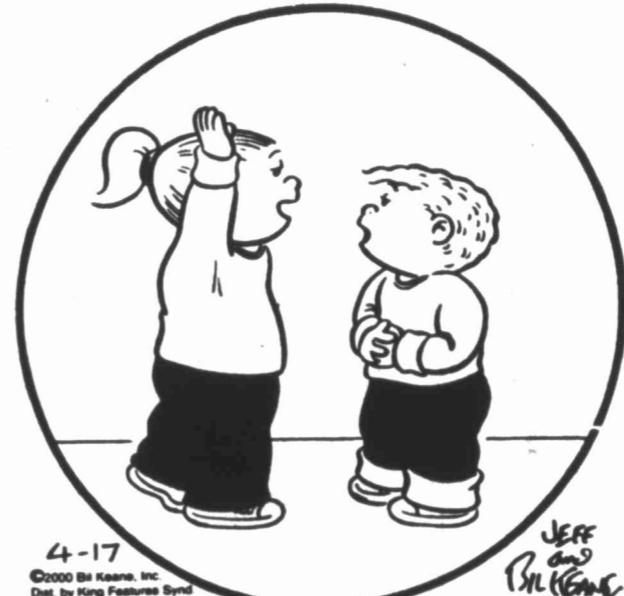
BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, April 17, the 108th day of 2000. There are 258 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 17, 1961, about 1,500 CIA-trained Cuban exiles launched the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in a failed attempt to overthrow the government of Fidel Castro.

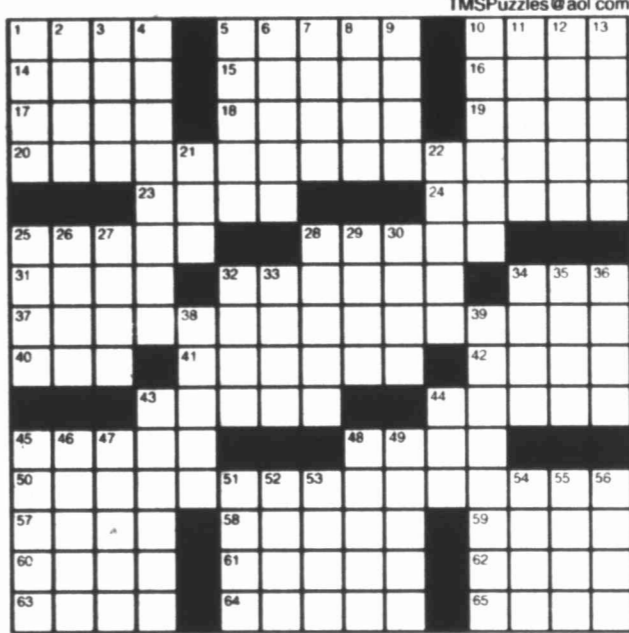
On this date: In 1492, Christopher Columbus signed a contract with a representative of Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, giving Columbus a commission to seek a westward ocean passage to Asia.

WIZARD OF ID



THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Casual conversation 5 Stood up to 10 Bugle call 14 Top-rated 15 Domesticated guanaco 16 Runaway GI 17 Buddy, down under 18 Island near the Statue of Liberty 19 "Doctor Zhivago" heroine 20 1981 Sidney Lumet film 23 Bohemian 24 Cars 25 Carmichael of "Stardust" fame 28 Warning signal 31 Shaft between wheels 32 Like news 34 Bathroom fixture 37 Monarch-to-be 40 T or F, e.g. 41 Deed holders 42 Remnants 43 Sandwich holder 44 Spanish goodbye 45 Walks to and fro 48 Legendary Giant 50 Tom Petty hit 57 Scruff 58 Juan of Argentina 59 Thought 60 Part of Q.E.D. 61 Beethoven's "Fur..." 62 "Cheers" barfly 63 Moral errors 64 Outcast 65 Blackthorn



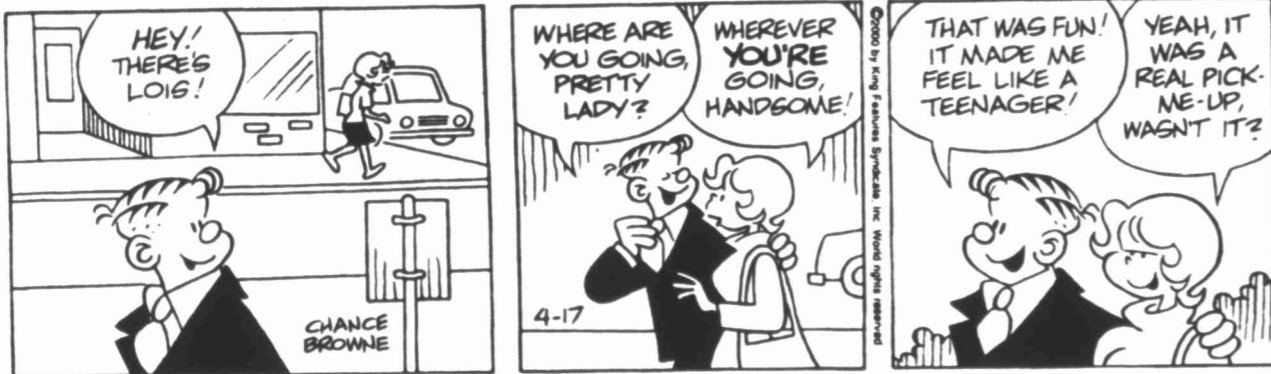
By Gerald R. Ferguson Portland, OR

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



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HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



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In 1790, American statesman Benjamin Franklin died in Philadelphia at age 84. In 1861, the Virginia State Convention voted to secede from the Union. In 1941, Yugoslavia surrendered to Germany in World War II. In 1964, Ford Motor Co. unveiled its new "Mustang" model. In 1969, a jury in Los Angeles convicted Sirhan Sirhan of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. In 1969, Czechoslovak Communist Party chairman Alexander Dubcek was deposed. In 1970, the astronauts of Apollo 13 splashed down safely in the Pacific, four days after a ruptured oxygen tank crippled their spacecraft. In 1975, Phnom Penh fell to Communist insurgents, ending Cambodia's five-year war. In 1998, photographer Linda McCartney, wife of Paul McCartney, died in Tucson, Ariz., at age 56. Ten years ago: President Bush warned the Soviet Union against carrying out an economic blockade of Lithuania, hinting at "appropriate responses." The Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, the civil rights activist and top aide to Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., died in Atlanta at age 64. Five years ago: An Air Force jet exploded and crashed in a wooded area in eastern Alabama, killing eight people, including an assistant Air Force secretary and a two-star general. President Clinton signed an executive order stripping the classified label from most national security documents that were at least 25 years old. One year ago: Gen. Wesley Clark, NATO's commander, warned Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to change his policies in Kosovo or see his military machine destroyed. The first of three bombs to explode in London within a two-week period went off in Brixton, a racially mixed neighborhood, injuring 39 people. Today's Birthdays: Actor Lon McCallister is 77. Rock promoter Don Kirshner is 66. Composer-musician Jan Hammer is 52. Actress Olivia Hussey is 49. Rock singer-musician Pete Shelley (Buzzcocks) is 45. Actress Teri Austin is 41. Actress Lela Rochon is 36.