

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

Water district contribution monumental

A significant milestone in our community's history will be observed Wednesday when the Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) observes 50 years of service to West Texas with an open house and program at its offices in Big Spring.

That observance will come one day prior to the 50th anniversary of the day voters in Big Spring and Odessa overwhelmingly approved bond issues that allowed the CRMWD to finance construction of Lake J.B. Thomas, its well field and pipelines.

While those community leaders and those that first proposed creation of the water district were clearly visionaries, as were members of the CRMWD's first board, there's little question they could in no way see the monumental effect their efforts would have on this area.

Although we live in one of the driest areas of Texas, experiencing recurring drought cycles that are measured in years, the CRMWD has never rationed water to its municipal customers.

That fact is made even more significant when one remembers that cities in other areas of the state — many in the eastern sections where rainfall is much more plentiful — seem to annually call on residents of their communities to voluntarily ration their use of water, and in some cases have enacted mandatory rationing measures.

Joe Pickle, a former editor of the Herald, chronicled the CRMWD's creation and growth for both this newspaper and the district for almost its entire existence, and authored a 300-page book "Water In A Dry and Thirsty Land" that has been published to coincide with this week's celebration.

Wednesday's open house is set for 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the CRMWD's headquarters located at 400 E. 24th.

Current and past directors will be on hand for the event and we encourage local residents to take a few minutes of their time that day to stop by and express their thanks.

After all, if it weren't for past directors' vision and the ongoing work of today's directors, our community and all of West Texas, for that matter, would vastly differ.

OTHER VIEWS

Shame on Al Gore's presidential campaign for threatening an all-out legal attack on Florida's election process if Gore does not win the state's 25 electoral votes in its ongoing recount. Such "rule or ruin" tactics could trigger a constitutional crisis that would undermine the legitimacy of the U.S. government at home and abroad.

In short, when Florida's legal process has run its course on

Nov. 17, this election should be over as well.

Unfortunately, no matter who is elected as the 43rd president of the United States, he will take office under what many regard as questionable circumstances.

Prolonging that decision by taking the matter to the courts would only lengthen this nation's ordeal and add to the ultimate burden facing the next leader of this great republic.

DENVER POST

We need a modified electoral system

Clearly, America needs a modified national electoral system, and we recently proposed such a modification. First, what is the problem? Is it the Electoral College? Is it the absence of a standard national ballot and a standard national voting machine? Is it the absence of federal scrutiny at the polling places? Is it the absence of sufficient security for the ballot boxes? Or is it the election process itself?

The answer is: all of the above. But most of all, it is the last item, the election process.

The election that continues to fall below the radar screen is the election of 1860. In that election the Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln of Illinois, ran against Democrat Stephen A.

Douglas of Illinois, National Democrat John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky (the sitting vice president), and Constitutional Union candidate John Bell of Tennessee.

In the final tally, Northern Democrat Douglas received 29 percent of the popular vote and 12 electoral votes. Southern Democrat Breckinridge received 18 percent of the popular vote and 72 electoral votes. Bell received 14 percent of the popular vote and 39 electoral votes.

However, Lincoln won it with 180 electoral votes, but only 39 percent of the popular vote. He was not even on the ballot in the South.

The result was civil war. We should digress here for a moment. The arguments about causes of the war being slavery, states rights, high tariffs or all of these would not have been relevant if a nationally accepted candidate had won the presidency. True, slavery would have been prolonged, but 623,000 young American soldiers and uncounted civilians would have remained alive. And we should note how easily

subsequent generations blithely discount the importance of lives in past generations.

So we must ask what issue would be worth a civil war in our generation. The answer is that no issue needs to rise to that level if the election process is designed to unify rather than divide. Certainly, the current election is not about to provoke such a conflict, but the system's flaws reveal the latent potential for future disunity.

And this brings us back to 1860. If the two candidates receiving the largest number of popular votes had been allowed to take part in a runoff election, who would have won? Almost certainly the winner would have been Douglas. And his running mate was Herschel V. Johnson of Georgia, which was in line with the geographical balance of tickets and/or cabinets that had been the practice of all preceding administrations. But Douglas was no proponent of slavery and his election would have hastened that institution's demise, almost

certainly without resorting to war.

But what of the Electoral College? The answer is apportionment.

Electors should be apportioned by the percent of the popular vote, as, in fact, they are in several states today. A candidate receiving 25 percent of New York's popular vote would receive 25 percent of that state's electoral vote using a rounding-off method. In other words, a candidate entitled to 14.4 electoral votes would receive 14 electoral votes. In this manner the best of the electoral vote system and the best of the popular vote system would be in place.

Spoiler candidates such as Patrick Buchanan and Ralph Nader could have their day and test their strength without affecting the final outcome anymore than Breckinridge or Bell would have under a runoff system in 1860. So, if such a system were in place today, would America be worrying about one candidate or the other taking office against the will of the majority? We think not.



JACK ANDERSON



So... Hillary Clinton for president?

By BETH J. HARP AZ, Guest Columnist

When Hillary Clinton was growing up, she wrote to NASA about becoming an astronaut. The letter back said girls need not apply.

Clinton made it into the history books anyway, not as the first female astronaut, but as the only first lady to ever win elective office.

Now the question is: Might she someday become the first female presidential candidate for a major party?

"No," she declared at her first post-election news conference. "I'm going to serve my six years as junior senator from New York."

Of course, the first lady and her husband are famous for choosing their words carefully. That "six years" clause does not rule out the possibility of a presidential run in 2008, or even 2012, when she will be 65.

But many experts think the "Hillary haters" who fueled Senate opponent Rick Lazio's campaign with \$33 million would make it impossible for her to do nationally what she did here.

"I think it's unlikely she could get elected president," said Nelson Warfield, a Republican consultant and Bob Dole's former

press secretary. "She's just such a polarizing candidate. I think her future is she becomes Ted Kennedy in a pantsuit. She becomes a very useful devil figure for the hard right. And her celebrity starts to wane as soon as she becomes one of 100."

Glenna Matthews, co-author of "Running As a Woman," a book about female politicians, agreed that Clinton "probably is hated too much" to become president. "But who knows? I don't want to rule out the possibility. She's too hardworking and has too impressive a work ethic."

And even if Clinton never runs for president, Matthews added, "she's paving the way for the first woman president."

Clinton has already started to make her presence felt. On Friday, she proposed abolishing the Electoral College. Considering that she has not even been sworn in yet, a proposal to amend the Constitution seemed like a relatively bold way to launch her tenure.

On the other hand, with Vice President Al Gore's future in doubt, "clearly her national role is carved out," said Lee Miringoff, who heads the Marist Institute for Public Opinion in Poughkeepsie.

"With the Senate and House remaining in Republican hands, she immediately emerges as the most prominent Democrat in the nation. If she is not, it's unclear who pushes her aside."

Kristi Andersen, who chairs the political science department at Syracuse University's Maxwell School, says it's too soon to predict Clinton's future.

"So much depends on how she is as a senator, and what happens to this intense dislike of her," Andersen said. "Lazio raised lots of money by going outside New York, and it wasn't about him — it was about disliking Hillary."

Clinton beat Lazio by 12 points, but in a national race, she'd lose the advantage she had in New York, where Democrats outnumber Republicans 5-3. Yet Clinton also did well in traditionally conservative upstate New York.

By making its lagging economy a theme of her campaign and repeatedly visiting regions where Democrats usually fare poorly, she captured 47 percent of the upstate vote.

Clinton also won 60 percent of female voters and two-thirds of working women.

A similar female following nationwide could neu-

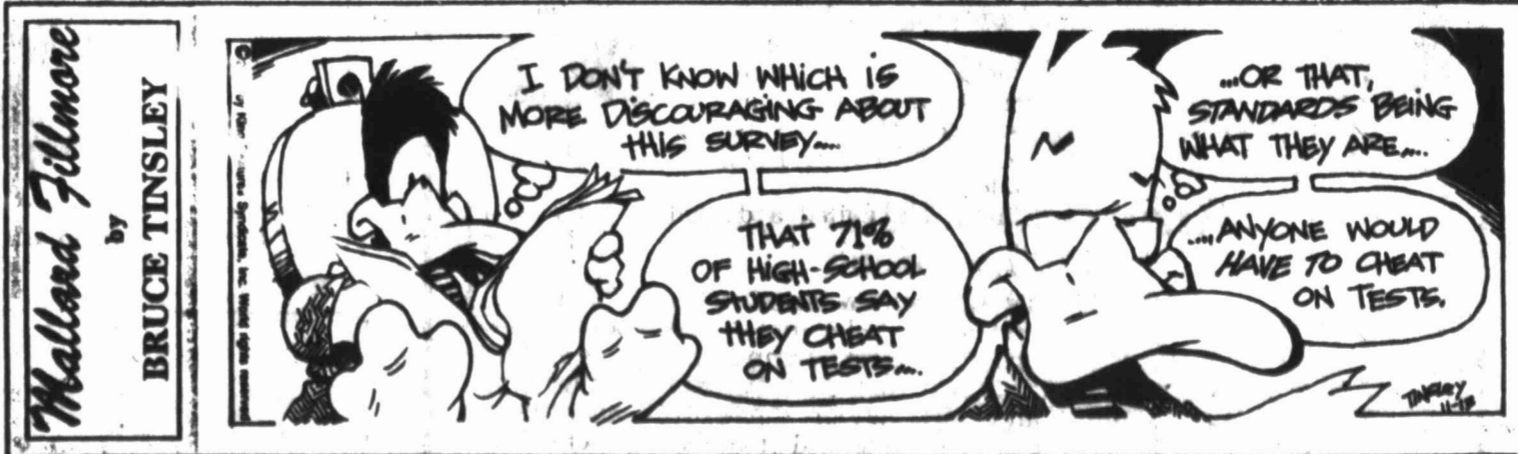
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IN B

Lady Hawk for win at 5
Howard Co. Hawks rebounded from a 1-0 loss in their Western League game at JUCO Shootout in Okla., with over Garden Community College's Lady Hawks to win at 5-1. The Lady Hawks scored 16 more runs than the Lady Hawks in their record 1-0 home to take Christian junior varsity.

Quarterback to meet to
The Big Spring Quarterback meet at 7 to Big Spring Athletic Center's meet. Film from game with be reviewed. Steers' bi-d game with Saturday w cussed.

Anyone in supporting th ball program attend.

YMCA swim shines at M
Daniel Ashley Slate the Big Sp swim team impressive at a meet in Budke finishing the 100 freestyle and 10 stroke and place in the 500 freestyle race in the 50 breaststroke seventh freestyle.

Steers Ho to meet T
The newly Spring High Basketball will meet at night in Ste Head of Ellington singing is open to fans of Stee teams from through var

International ragball to
Big International League will ragball to Friday and To partic must be at old. Entry f player.

Sign-up b on Friday game set to For more call Denise 263-1945, Ra 3811 or Dell

Soccer te fourth at
The Big 16-under so part in a Soccer Ass nament in the weeken Despite lo their game score a si Steers fini the tourna

ON T

Radio PRO FOOT
8 p.m. Raiders at KBST-AM 1

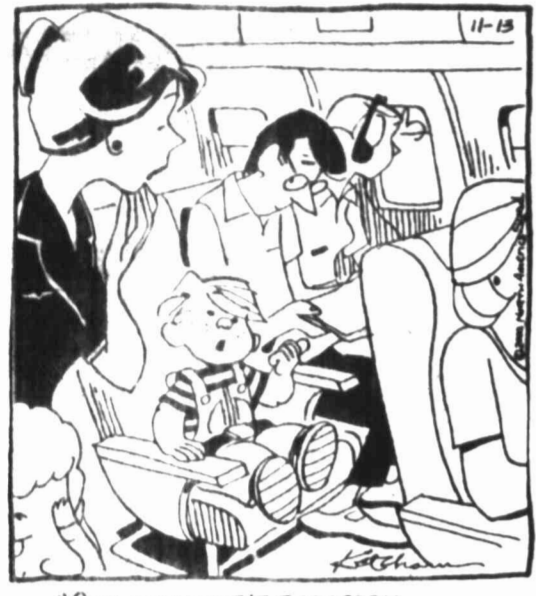
Televi PRO FOOT
8 p.m. Raiders at ABC, Ch. 2

TENNIS
7 p.m. Champions coverage.

MONDAY NOV. 13

Table with 21 columns representing different TV channels (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows listing various programs and their air times.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"CAN WE USE THE RESTROOM WHEN WE FLY OVER CITIES?"

FAMILY CIRCUS



"Mirror, mirror, in the car, who's the fairest one by far?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



KL AND LOIS



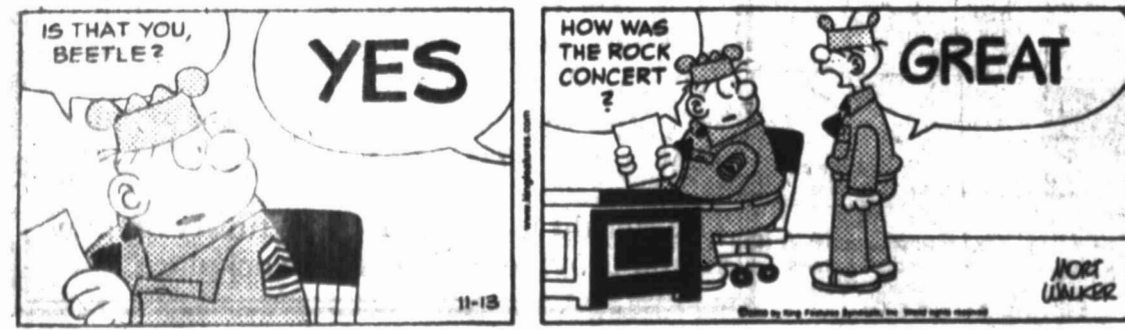
GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, Nov. 13, the 318th day of 2000. There are 48 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 13, 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote a letter to a friend in which he said, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." On this date: In 1775, during the American Revolution, U.S. forces captured Montreal. In 1927, the Holland Tunnel opened to the public, providing access between New York City and New Jersey beneath the Hudson River. In 1940, the Walt Disney animated movie "Fantasia" had its world premiere in New York.

In 1985, some 23,000 residents of Armero, Colombia, died when a gigantic mudslide buried the city. Ten years ago: Secretary of State James A. Baker III told reporters in Hamilton, Bermuda, the Persian Gulf crisis threatened world recession and the loss of American jobs. Members of Congress demanded a larger role in U.S. Gulf policy following President Bush's decision to send more U.S. troops to the region. Five years ago: Seven people, including five Americans, were killed when a bomb exploded at a military training facility in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The government braced for imminent partial shutdown as President Clinton vetoed one budget bill and prepared to reject another in a fiscal standoff with Republicans. In 1956, the Supreme Court struck down laws calling for racial segregation on public buses. In 1969, speaking in Des Moines, Iowa, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew accused network television news departments of bias and distortion, and urged viewers to lodge complaints. In 1974, Karen Silkwood, a technician and union activist at the Kerr-McGee Cimmarron plutonium plant near Crescent, Okla., died in a car crash. In 1977, the comic strip "Li'l Abner" by Al Capp appeared in newspapers for the last time. In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Sunday's Puzzle Solved section showing the completed crossword grid and the words used.