

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

MONDAY

April 2, 2001

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT TUESDAY
60°-65° 85°-90°

'What I Did' goes on stage today at high school

The Big Spring High School one-act play student will perform "What I Did Last Summer," for the public tonight.

The performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the high school auditorium. Tickets will be available at the door for \$2.

The ensemble cast will be performing the play at the University Interscholastic League area contest in Snyder on April 6 against six other schools

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

- Texas Tech Exes meeting at 6 p.m.
- Big Spring Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., 1607 E. Thurd.
- Gospel Singing, 7 p.m., Kentwood Center, 2805 Lynn. Guest singers from Stanton, Midland and Colorado City.
- Big Spring Chapter and Council RAM meets at 7:30 at the Masonic building, 221 1/2 Main.

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line Dance class, 9 a.m., Senior Citizens Center.
- Coahoma Senior Citizens luncheon, 11 a.m., Coahoma Community Center.
- Big Spring Rotary Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.
- VFW Post No. 2013, VFW Hall, 7 p.m., 500 Driver Road.
- American Red Cross will meet at Canterbury South 1600 Lancaster at 7 p.m.
- Sheriff's Posse, meets at 7 p.m. at the clubhouse on Andrews Highway.
- Big Spring Chapter 67, Order of the Eastern Star, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 219 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus room.
- Line dancing, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center.
- Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics, 10 a.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center cafeteria.

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Organizers hope for 300 to help with Trash-Off on Saturday

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

You couldn't prove it by the roller coaster weather we have been having lately but spring is upon us and it's time to clean your



SIMMONS

property, the vacant lot next door, the curbs and corners and of course your community in the 16th annual Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off on Saturday.

More than 180,000 volunteers from across the state will pick up an estimated two million pounds of litter from Texas roadsides and city parks on that day.

Pat Simmons, local coordinator for the event, said around 120 individuals have

already signed up to take part, but she has a goal set of at least 300 participating to make it another successful run.

"We had more than 300 signed up last year but the weather turned out pretty dreary and it hurt us somewhat," said Simmons. "We hope the weather will be better this year and we can reach or surpass our goal. We need enough people to cover the whole town of Big

Spring from one end to the other."

Simmons said that she is seeking any volunteers to help out whether it be individuals, groups or organizations.

"If you want to get a group or organization together where we can assign you to a particular area, we can do that," she explained. "If you just want to help and are not a part of a larger group, we can put you in one if you

wish."

Simmons said that plastic bags are available for participants and they can be picked up by calling her or by picking them up Saturday morning at the rear of the State National Bank parking lot, 911 Main.

"Dumpsters will be placed at strategic locations for your convenience to dispose of your collection," said

See VOLUNTEERS, Page 2

Bauer plans changes to program

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Bauer Magnet Elementary School will be making some changes to its extended day program for next year, adding more variety.

In the extended day program, students stay an extra hour following the regular school day and attend classes ranging from academics to physical education and music.

"These classes are basically for socialization and enrichment," said principal Andre Clark said.

Approximately 50 percent of students enrolled at Bauer stay the extra hour each school day and every class has a waiting list, said Clark.

Currently, the classes last nine weeks but the school plans to shorten the class schedule to six weeks next year to add more variety for the students.

"We want it to be more interesting to the children," said Clark. "We will have more diversity on a six-week basis than on a nine-week basis."

"We are anticipating two more class and two more paid staff members for next year," she said. The additional classes should add more students to the pro-



CLARK



Bauer Magnet Elementary School students Jay Rodriguez, left, a fourth-grader, and Ryan Rodriguez, a second-grader, dance during the school's extended day program Thursday. The school is making changes in the program for next year.

gram. According to Clark, the extended day program is a great asset to parents because it gives them creative things to do while being in a secure environment.

And the school is asking community volunteers to give some of their time to help with the education of the students.

"The key component of the program is the need for parents and community

volunteers," she said. Next year the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will help the school with a junior leadership program and is planning field trips to visit the community.

Joann Smoot, Big Spring Independent School District food service director, has volunteered her time to help with a health and nutrition class.

Other classes will focus on publishing a newsletter,

photography, researching current events and correct manners. A theater class is being considered.

"Next year we plan to have the children do the Web page for the school," Clark said. "They will be on the Internet with supervision, researching and creating the Bauer Web page."

Those who would like to volunteer or learn more about the program may contact Clark by calling 264-4121.

Local leaders brainstorming nursing shortage

By VALERIE AVERY
Herald Correspondent

More than 300 health care workers with a potential \$10 million payroll are needed to fill a void in the Big Spring medical community, business leaders say.

This shortage puts Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. executive director Kent Sharp in an unusual position.

"Usually, we're recruiting businesses, but now we're looking for people to fill these specific positions," Sharp said.

At the request of several health care professionals, including Big Spring State Hospital CEO Ed Moughon and West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO Shelley Smith,

LMSW, more than 20 business leaders have been brainstorming every Wednesday morning since the beginning of the year on how to solve the employee shortage.

"We've brought so many entities to the table, and we've been able to have really good discussions about what is needed to make this work," Moughon said. "We've really done a lot in such a short amount of time. But so much more needs to be done."

At Big Spring State Hospital, more than 50 health care workers are needed to fill empty slots, especially in the nursing field. At West Texas Centers for MHMR, about 20 empty slots exist.

"We have advertised for

many, many months to fill these positions," Smith said. "We have often experienced shortage but not to the degree we are currently experiencing."

Scenic Mountain Medical Center also needs nurses badly. More than 20 nurses and clinicians are needed to fill the void, said Amber Rich, Scenic Mountain Medical Center director of human resources.

The nursing shortage follows a national trend where RNs and LVNs are given thousands of dollars in signing bonuses.

"Nurses now can pretty much write a ticket to go wherever they want," Moughon said.

And now certified nursing assistants are being paid to sign on the dotted line,

Sharp said.

Nursing enrollment has decreased at many of the area nursing schools during the past few years taking a back seat to careers in technology, Sharp said.

"The reason we are here is because technology is sexy. It's easier to get an associates degree in a technology program, then not have to do shift work and the type of work that goes along with nursing."

But few professions start off with as high of a salary as they do in nursing, Sharp said.

"For a 22-year-old person, an LVN can start at \$12, \$13 an hour, or an RN, can make over \$30,000 (a year) starting out. That's good

See NURSES, Page 2

Rolling Skate park at YMCA is in offing

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

Everything seems to be a "go" for a skateboard and roller blade park in Big Spring.

The final hurdle was cleared when the Big Spring City Council agreed to lease property to the YMCA for the purpose of building the facility. The property is located next to the YMCA in the lot south of the swimming pool.

"This will be a first-class operation," said Pete Thiry, YMCA executive director. "The skate park is in line with the mission and goals of the YMCA in that it helps build strong kids, strong families and a strong community."

The YMCA's board of directors had earlier designated \$25,000 of its reserves for the project's construction. Of that amount, \$15,000 will go toward actual building of the skate park, including a concrete slab and a chainlink security fence.

Another \$10,000 will go toward the purchase of equipment for the facility. The purchase of this equipment represents only a portion of what is planned in the future, Thiry said.

The long-term term goal is to invest \$75,000 for the skate park. A wide variety of sources will help fund the project, he added.

Initially, a 50 x100-foot concrete slab will be poured for ramps and rails. That area will be for skateboarders and roller blades. Another 50 x 100-foot area will be left unfinished and designated for dirt bike enthusiasts. Plans are to have the park completed by June.

The YMCA plans to include use of the skate park in its full-service membership package for all categories. No additional fee will be charged to YMCA members. Those who choose not to join the YMCA may purchase a daily pass for \$3 a day. Formal instruction will be available for an additional

But few professions start off with as high of a salary as they do in nursing, Sharp said.

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See YMCA, Page 2

Man in guarded condition following Friday accident

Herald Staff Report

A 44-year-old Big Spring man is listed in guarded but stable condition at the VA Medical Center after being injured in an auto-pedestrian accident Friday evening.

The victim, Raul Martinez, was hit by a 1997 Ford pickup in the 900 block of Gregg Street at 8:04 p.m. Friday, according to Sgt. Roger Sweatt, information officer for the Big Spring Police Department.

Martinez was taken by ambulance to the VA Medical Center.

The driver of the automobile was 38-year-old Shannon Morgette of Andrews.

Reports indicate Morgette was driving northbound on Gregg Street when she began to switch lanes. Sweatt said, while Martinez was crossing the street but not at an intersection or crosswalk.

Morgette reportedly saw Martinez and applied her breaks, but the truck skidded and hit Martinez, Sweatt said.

Morgette was not injured in the incident.

According to Iva Jo Hanslik, acting community relation coordinator for the VA Medical Center, Martinez is currently in the hospital's intensive care unit.

No tickets were issued.



Mike Jennings and Donny Tilley cook chicken and beef fajitas Saturday in the Wal-Mart parking lot. The pair, who are employees of Sid Richardson Carbon Company, were raising money for Relay For Life.

HERALD photo/Carl Graham

A P R 0 2 2 0 0 1

OBITUARIES

Ruth Edmonson

A love of reading enabled Ruth Edmonson, who died March 31, 2001, at the age of 85, to overcome, endure, and enjoy many phases of her life.

As a child, reading sustained her while recovering from tuberculosis; she went on to graduate as valedictorian of her high school class.

During World War II, the demanding work of a defense plant used her reading skills to certify and clear all planes leaving for the war effort. Afterwards, Ruth Edmonson had a work history in insurance, banking, medicine and law.

Later in life, and still an avid reader, she discovered the joy of encouraging children to read by being a volunteer librarian for 15 years.

In her memory, her daughter and son-in-law, Bebe and Ardis McCasland, suggest memorials be given to either the Learn to Read program or the children's section of the Howard County Library.

A private service for Mrs. Edmonson will be held at a later date.

Paid obituary

**Marvin
Winston Fuqua**

Graveside service for Marvin Winston Fuqua, 94, of Big Spring, will be 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 3, 2001, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park in Big Spring.



Mr. Fuqua died Sunday, April 1, after a long illness at a local hospital.

He was born Aug. 12, 1907, in Eastland County and married Ollie Gatliff on June 7, 1930, in Carlsbad, N.M. They had lived most of their lives in Big Spring and had owned and operated The Hamburger Shop. He had been employed by Cosden Refinery and The Ice Plant.

Survivors include: his wife, Ollie Fuqua of Big Spring; two daughters, Wanda Bradshaw of Springtown and Wilma Jean Hendrix of Cleburne; one brother, R.V. Fuqua of Big Spring; one sister, Bonnie Fuqua of Big Spring; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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

**William J.
Peterson**

Funeral service for William J. Peterson, 83, of Big Spring is pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Mr. Peterson died Saturday, March 31, in a local hospital.

Nalley-Pickle & Welch
Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St.
(915) 267-6331
www.npwelch.com

MYERS & SMITH
FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Marvin Winston Fuqua, 93, died Sunday. Graveside services are 4:00 PM Tuesday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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VOLUNTEERS

Continued from Page 1

Simmons. "We will then report to Keep Texas Beautiful the weight of the litter removed from our community."

Simmons said that everybody participating in the cleanup effort would be fed as they have in the past. She also has complementary trial size containers of Gain liquid detergent for everyone who participates.

For more information or to volunteer your group or organization, call Simmons at 263-4607.

YMCA

Continued from Page 1

fees.

They said safety will be emphasized by requiring all participants to wear protective gear such as helmets, elbow and knee pads. The area will be surrounded by a fence and a gate will be locked when the park is closed. Supervisory staff will be on hand during operating hours. Parents will be required to sign a waiver giving youth under the age of 18 permission to use the facility. Operating hours are yet to be determined.

The YMCA staff and board of directors have been assisted in getting the skate park project started by a committee of volunteers that include Cheryl Sparks, Sam Stephens, Jeremy Robertson, Darryl Newberry and Edward Mendez. This group is planning to secure additional funds for the skate park by selling sponsorship signs that will be displayed on the fence. All proceeds will go toward the development of the skate park.

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NURSES

Continued from Page 1

money at such a young age."

Big Spring and other communities in the country must start reviving an interest in health care and informing young people of its importance, Sharp said. "There are some things a robot cannot do."

The informal health care committee has planned a Health Care Provider's Career Day on Thursday in the Big Spring High School physical education gym for Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan high schoolers.

More than 15 health care providers will set up booths, and key personnel with each institution will visit one-on-one with the students to tell them what they can expect from career in health care.

Big Spring is fortunate in that it has a nursing school in its backyard, Sharp said. The Howard College School of Nursing will graduate five RNs in May and couple more in December, according to MaryAnn Burks, Howard College administrative secretary to the Allied Health Division. Eleven LVNs are scheduled to complete their schooling in May, she said.

"Over the past year, the census has dropped in the nursing program," Burks said. "There's such a shortage statewide, but we have noticed that we're getting requests for a lot more applications for next year."

Publicity concerning signing bonuses and good pay may be the cause of the renewed interest in the program, which typically produced 25 LVNs and 20 RNs each year.

Burks said many of the graduates stay in the region, but others pursue careers throughout the state. Sharp said Big Spring must take advantage of the fertile ground available through the School of Nursing.

Committee members developed a two-fold approach to the problem:
• Grow your own health care workers by encourag-

ing high school students to pursue a career in health care.

• Fund a student loan pay-back program.

Big Spring State Hospital administers a nursing stipend program, which pays employees to attend nursing school in exchange for service to the hospital upon graduation, Moughon said.

"We've found that this is a good program for some of our direct care workers who enjoy working at the state hospital and want to get into psychiatric nursing," he said. "They are already familiar with the hospital and have a love of working with our patients."

About 50 percent of the student who graduate from Howard County schools will attend four-year universities, Sharp said. The other half will attend Howard College or enter the workforce.

"If we can get them to think about getting training in the health care field early on and working at places which desperately need service providers, we'll be helping them and the health of our community," Smith said.

The consequences of not filling these positions is something Sharp doesn't want to consider.

"I'm afraid that if they don't get filled, we'll start losing some of the services," he said. "These businesses will move to where they can find the people. Thankfully, it's a national and state wide problem."

Health care providers look for ways to attract and retain nurses

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — While the economy experiences chills, dot-com companies are downright sick and high-tech jobs are flatlining, there is a healthy bright spot in a more traditional profession.

A shortage of registered nurses is forcing hospitals in some parts of the country to offer potential employees cash signing bonuses, child care and maid service.

At a recent career fair in Spokane, representatives of health care companies used plates of chocolate chip cookies and a bedpan filled with candy to entice graduating nurses to sign on the dotted line.

The Intercollegiate College of Nursing sponsors the twice-annual career fairs that are well attended by representatives of hospitals, long-term care centers and other health-related businesses.

For good reason. In each of the past five years, an average of 3,000 fewer nurses graduated from baccalaureate programs, according to studies by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that by the year 2020, the nation will have 20 percent fewer registered nurses than it needs.

The shortage will be felt most acutely when baby boomers begin to retire around 2010, increasing the need for registered nurses, who will also start retiring.

"Market demand combined with workplace issues such as workload, staffing, career prospects and pay are the primary reasons for nursing turnover," said Mary Foley, president of the American Nurses Association, which represents 200,000 of the nation's registered nurses.

"Unless these issues are addressed, strategies to increase the overall supply of nurses will not be successful."

Nursing school enrollments have declined for years for a number of complex reasons, said

**BIG SPRING
AROUND THE TOWN**

Bronwynne Evans, an Intercollegiate College of Nursing professor who organized this year's career fair.

Many potential students are finding less stressful jobs elsewhere that have better hours and better pay, she said. The numbers of postgraduate nursing students also are declining, meaning there are fewer candidates for nursing school teaching positions.

Deans of many nursing colleges complain that many students are dissuaded from nursing careers because of outdated reports of cost-cutting and layoffs that occurred when many hospitals and nursing homes reacted to the influx of managed health care, said Anne Hirsch, ICN associate dean for academic affairs.

That has changed, and many health care facilities now have trouble meeting their needs for registered nurses, she said.

Some hospitals offer as much as \$5,000 signing bonuses, tuition and loan reimbursement programs, child care subsidies, flexible hours and other enticements.

Desperate for experienced nurses for its expanding cardiovascular unit, Community Hospitals of Indianapolis last year offered maid or lawn service for signing.

Evans said the career fair started four years ago in response to a critical shortage of nurses in long-term care facilities, but has since expanded to include hospitals and home-care agencies.

Among those recently prowling the fair's booths was Jason Montgomery, who will graduate in May. The 39-year-old spent 12 years in the Marine Corps before deciding to become a nurse.

Montgomery, among a small but growing number of men in the profession, said the shortage of registered nurses means he can choose the job he wants.

"They're not only saying 'come aboard,' but also 'we'll teach you a skill and give you experience,'" Montgomery said. "You feel like you're wanted."

BRIEFS

COAHOMA'S 23RD ANNUAL KINDERGARTEN GARDEN stick horse rodeo will be 9 a.m., April 5, in the Coahoma Elementary School gym. Everyone is welcome!

ELBOW ELEMENTARY WILL HAVE a pre-registration Kindergarten Easter Egg Hunt. This will be for those children who plan to attend Kindergarten at Elbow Elementary for the school semester of 2001-2002. To qualify for Kindergarten the child must be 5 years old before Sept. 1, 2001. The parent attending this Easter Egg Hunt will need to bring the child's shot records, birth certificate and social security card. The parent will also be asked to fill out registration papers and a home language survey.

FORSAN ISD WILL BEGIN accepting applications for new transfers on April 2 at 9:30 a.m. in the Superintendent's office.

A RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM Captain meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 5 at First Baptist Church. Enter through the southeast doors.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) volunteers have been

trained by the Internal Revenue Service and will be preparing 2000 Income Tax Returns for individuals beginning Monday, Feb. 5, and each Monday until April 9, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Senior Citizens Center, 1901 Simler Drive.

This is for all citizens, and there is no charge. Please bring your tax booklet received from the IRS, all W-2s, 1099s and other documents received showing 2000 income as well as your 1999 Income Tax Return. If you cannot come at that time or need further assistance, please call Dorothy Kennemur at 398-5522, or the senior center at 267-1628.

BIG SPRING DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB, meets Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 1 p.m. at the Big Spring Country Club. New members are welcome. \$4 fee. Contact Janell Davis at 267-2656 for more information.

SUPPORT GROUPS

TODAY

• **TOPS Club** (take off pounds sensibly), weigh-in 5 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m., College Heights Christian Church, 21st and Goliad.

• **Project Freedom**, Christian support group for survivors of physical/emotional/sexual and/or spiritual abuse. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241 for dates/times of upcoming groups.

• **Bereavement Support Group** meets from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Community Care Hospice.

CORRECTION

In Sunday's edition of the Big Spring Herald, Big Spring High School student Christopher Wigington who placed third in literary criticism and qualified for state competition on Friday was left out of the University Interscholastic League results.

MARKETS

Noon quotes provided by Edward Jones & Co.

AT&T	21.85 +.55
Archer-Daniels	13.21 +.06
Atmos Energy	23.9 +.1
BP AMOCO	49.07 -.55
Chevron Corp	87.64 -.16
Compaq	18.33 +.13
Cornell	7.85 -.05
Dell	24 3/4
Du Pont	42.2 +1.5
Exxon Mobil	80.74 -.26
Halliburton	35.22 -1.53
IFCO Systems	2 1/2
IBM	96.91 +.73
Intel Corp	26 3/4 + 1/4
NUV	9.24 -.01
Patterson Ener	30 1/2 -1 1/2
Pepsico Inc	44.6 +.65
Phillips Petro	55.07 +.02
SBC Comms	44.8 +.17
Sears Roebuck	35.15 -.12
Texaco Inc	65.95 -.45
Texas Instrument	30.17 -.81
TXU	42 +.68
Total Fina	68.36 +.41
Unocal Corp	34.05 -.52
Wal-Mart	49.95 -.55
Wal-Mart/Mexico	23 1/8 -2 3/8
AMCAP	16.29 -.01
Europacific	28.72 -.5
Prime Rate	8 %
Gold	253.60-256.45
Silver	4.24-4.29

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Scenic Mountain Medical Center
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263-1211

**Law
serv
legis**

SAN ANTONIO — When the sec arrive at the trash bag h front of his or a freshm gets an off from a lobb of the Bexar gation to the look aroun leader.

Especially Fool's Day, want to keep Robert Puc Antonio, who tion for the break up the islavative days.

"Thankfull: felt the wr Puente," fre Trey Marti said. "I will constantly lo shoulder."

Bexar Cou House membe responsible the b

**Reade
honor**

Dear Ann L reading you Reconciliation was time to old fences. At ago, I had a s out with one friends, a man for almost 20 y him, and we finally recon- nected. In fact, we con- nected so well that we were mar- ried last year.

I can honestl say there were no romantic feelings between us before this, a decided to ta step, I might out on one things that ev to me. Thank pushing me direction. I h print that colu those who may it and could us agement. — Kel Rosa, Calif.

Dear Kelly: have suggeste be set Reconciliatio idea was insp from a read her mother an spoken in ye missed her d had friends w close at one ti now estranged ting older and of how quick passing, and these friends could be lost fo

I agreed that be designed one would vo letter or make to mend a str ken relations also be the d we would all a by a former f too short to To be able to enormously life-enhancing example of bread upon t getting back wiches.

Here's one r the subject. relationships ed, it's always

Dear Ann L we were you band and I us close friends in town. We h heated argum our separate children are and I have b about "Myrtle great deal.

Last year, column Reconciliatio readers to m flicts. At th just under surgery, an realize how can be. Y inspired m Myrtle and things out.

Lawmaker's pranks serving to liven up legislative session

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — When the secretary of state arrive at the Capitol with a trash bag hooked to the front of his Land Cruiser or a freshman legislator gets an off-the-wall note from a lobbyist, members of the Bexar County delegation to the Texas House look around for their leader.

Especially on April Fool's Day, lawmakers want to keep track of Rep. Robert Puente, D-San Antonio, who has a reputation for using pranks to break up the often-long legislative days.

"Thankfully, I have not felt the wrath of dean Puente," freshman Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer said. "I will tell you I am constantly looking over my shoulder."

Bexar County's senior House member, Puente has responsible positions on the budget-writing

Appropriations Committee and the Natural Resources Committee.

But Puente finds time to clown around as lawmakers wait for bills to come up for vote.

Juan Solis, a former San Antonio legislator, said he was the target of one of Puente's most mentioned practical jokes: a 1999 "interview" with a purported journalist who wanted Solis' reaction to being named freshman of the year.

"What didn't he do to me?" said Solis.

Puente "let everyone throughout the whole chamber know what he had done" while the supposed interview occurred, said Solis' successor, Rep. Jose Menendez, D-San Antonio.

"During the dull moments, during the breaks, is when I act like a child," said Puente, 42.

Campaign finance debate moves to House

WASHINGTON (AP) — With passage of campaign finance reform all but assured in the Senate, opponents are looking for ways to defeat the bill in the House or in negotiations between the two chambers.

If the Senate passes the legislation today, as expected, the House then could reject it, go along with the Senate version word-for-word or pass its own measure. The last option was seen as mostly likely, lawmakers said Sunday.

In that case, a small number of senators and House members would be appointed to a conference committee that would work to resolve differences in the two versions and send a compromise back to both chambers for passage.

Those negotiations may offer an opening for the legislation's foes.

"Clearly the conference ... is a time to negotiate with the (Bush) administration and see if we can come up with a bill that actually improves the system," Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., a leading Senate opponent of

the legislation, said on "Fox News Sunday."

President Bush has been circumspect about whether he would sign the bill into law. He said last week that he would sign any legislation that "improves the system" now in place.

McConnell already has said that if the bill passes Congress, he plans a lawsuit to challenge it as an unconstitutional infringement on the right to free speech.

The Senate bill sponsored by Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Russ Feingold, D-Wis., would ban "soft money" — the unlimited, loosely regulated donations from unions, corporations and individuals that now flow to the political parties. They amounted to \$480 million in the past two years.

The bill would restrict late campaign broadcast advertising by outside groups and political parties that support or attack candidates but escape regulation because they stop short of explicitly advocating any one's defeat or election.

The third main provision would ease 27-year-old

restrictions on donations to candidates and parties for use in direct campaign activities, including raising the individual contribution limit to a candidate from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Although the House has twice previously passed campaign finance legislation, McCain acknowledged Sunday that the bill could face significant challenges there this time.

"It's not a perfect bill, but certainly by banning soft money, we're going to take hundreds of millions of dollars out of the American political campaigns, and we think that's very beneficial," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Meanwhile, the timing of the House debate remains unclear. Some opponents may want to push the debate back to the fall.

Rep. Thomas M. Davis, R-Va., the chief fund-raiser for GOP House members, for example, said he and other Republicans have other priorities that should come first, including tax cuts, President's Bush's budget and education.

Davis also said he would "never underestimate" the power of Rep. Tom DeLay of Texas, the House's third-ranking Republican, who has pledged to defeat the McCain-Feingold bill.

Others, including Rep. Martin T. Meehan, D-Mass., said they believe House Speaker Dennis Hastert "will do the right thing" by scheduling debate on the issue as soon as possible.

Another question on Capitol Hill is whether McCain would be appointed to a conference committee by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss.

Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., who introduced a competing campaign finance bill that failed, told CNN's "Late Edition" that McCain does not represent "the interests of the Republican conference."

The Senate's top Democrat, Tom Daschle of South Dakota, said he would use one of his party's slots to appoint McCain.

"John McCain deserves to be in the room when the final details are decided," Daschle said.

Readers encouraged to honor Reconciliation Day

Dear Ann Landers: After reading your column about Reconciliation Day, I knew it was time to mend some old fences. About six years ago, I had a serious falling out with one of my best friends, a man I had known for almost 20 years. I called him, and we finally reconciled. In fact, we connected so well that we were married last year.



ANN LANDERS

I can honestly say there were no romantic feelings between us before this, and had I not decided to take that first step, I might have missed out on one of the best things that ever happened to me. Thanks, Ann, for pushing me in the right direction. I hope you will print that column again, for those who may have missed it and could use the encouragement. — Kelly in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Dear Kelly: Since 1989, I have suggested that April 2 be set aside as Reconciliation Day. The idea was inspired by a letter from a reader who said her mother and aunt hadn't spoken in years and she missed her cousins. She had friends who had been close at one time, but were now estranged. She was getting older and more aware of how quickly time was passing, and she realized these friends and relatives could be lost for all time. I agreed that a day should be designated where everyone would vow to write a letter or make a phone call to mend a strained or broken relationship. It could also be the day on which we would all agree to accept the olive branch extended by a former friend. Life is too short to hold grudges. To be able to forgive can be enormously healing and life-enhancing. It's the best example of casting your bread upon the waters and getting back caviar sandwiches.

Here's one more letter on the subject. While not all relationships can be mended, it's always worth a try:

Dear Ann Landers: When we were younger, my husband and I used to be very close friends with a couple in town. We had a few overheated arguments and went our separate ways. Now our children are almost grown, and I have been thinking about "Myrtle" and "Louis" a great deal.

Last year, you printed a column about Reconciliation Day, urging readers to mend past conflicts. At that time, I had just undergone major surgery, and it made me realize how uncertain life can be. Your column inspired me to contact Myrtle and try to work things out. I found her e-

mail address and sent her a note. Well, that turned out to be a big mistake.

When Myrtle received my e-mail, she called a mutual friend to get my unlisted phone number. She then called my house and screamed at me for 15 minutes. I tried to get a word in, but it was useless. I was exhausted when she finally hung up.

Ann, I am grateful to be alive after my surgery and have learned to appreciate the small things in life — a sunrise, a warm cup of coffee on a cold day, and the friends and family who were by my side. I am glad I made the effort to reconnect with Myrtle because I will have no regrets about what might have been. If she had been receptive, our friendship could have been a comfort to both of us. I am sorry she was not interested, but I hope my story won't stop you from encouraging others to reach out to those with whom they have lost touch. — Connie in California

Dear Connie: I'm sorry your reconciliation effort didn't work out, but you did the right thing by trying. Please, folks, if there is someone with whom you have lost touch because of a past hurt, now would be a good time to forgive and be forgiven. Pick up the phone, write a letter or send an e-mail. Do it today. Tomorrow may be too late.

"A Collection of My Favorite Gems of the Day" is the perfect little gift for that special someone who is impossible to buy for. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Collection, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562 (in Canada, \$6.25). To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, April 3, 2001:

You naturally do the right thing at the right time, enhancing your security and your sense of self. Don't ever question yourself, as far as your ability. Friends might disappoint you, or sometimes your expectations could be too high. Your unusual creativity directs you in new areas and leads you where you want to go. If you are single, a dream could be on the verge of becoming a reality. Be more aware of another's feelings. If you are attached, you add that extra zip and spark to your sweetie's life. Remember to have fun together. LEO adores you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ***** What lurks in your mind as a fear needs to be discarded before it ruins your day. Dig into a project that you find exciting. Brainstorm with buddies for new ideas. Take time out with a loved one. Tonight: Ever playful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) *** You might be uncomfortable with another's ideas. You might not be sure why, but listen to yourself. Work with an associate. Together you revise an agreement to make it workable. Tonight: Head on home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** Reach out for others. You might want to get more than one opinion about something you came up with overnight. Listen to someone who plays devil's advocate. Not every idea you come up with is great! Laughter helps another process a problem. Tonight: Visit with a friend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) *** Be careful with spending, especially if you're not exactly sure when you will receive extra money. Stick to your budget, and ultimately you will be a lot happier. Reorganize your work. You could accept more overtime or take a class to enhance your status. Tonight: Listen to a new CD.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Another strikes you as confused at best. The problem lies in how he is vested in confusion. Let go and reach out for someone you can really talk to. Your dynamic personality draws others. Let your sense of humor light up another's day. Tonight: It is your call.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** Take your time making a decision. Listen carefully to another. Your sixth sense directs you with a close associate or partner. Forget the word "no." Think in terms of reorganizing and gaining time. You might opt to work at home. You'll like the easier pace. Tonight: Curl up with a good book.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** You might not have the whole story straight. It is possible that someone would like feedback about a friendship. Consider where you are coming from in not revealing more. Are you being considerate? Give up controlling ways. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Deal with family as clearly as you can. Take charge at work. Others count on your abilities. Focus on getting the job done. Think in terms of giving another the benefit of the doubt. Use kid gloves with finances. Remember, your money is your responsibility. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** Many different feelings hit you quickly. Sort through what you need to deal with. Listen to your instincts with someone at a distance. Grab a special opportunity to travel or to grow mentally. Be willing to transform your outlook. Tonight: Refresh your mind and perspective.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** Deal with others one-on-one. You might not be sure about the best way to deal with a loved one. You could change your mind quite a bit. Listen to your inner voice about a personal or domestic matter. Others work with you. Tonight: Go with the flow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** Where there is clarity,

you might substantially confuse the issue. Think about what another is saying, and trust this person's judgment. Popularity soars as others seek you out. You feel good, no matter where you are or what you are doing. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) **** Use your lively personality to infuse more happiness into your immediate surroundings. A more positive attitude does wonders for others. You work well with a testy boss or associate. Discussions illuminate both of you. Grow from your differences and gain. Tonight: Work as late as you need to.

BORN TODAY Actress Doris Day (1924), actor David Hyde Pierce (1959), actor Eddie Murphy (1961)

For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 740-7444. 99 cents per minute. Also featured is The Spoken Tarot. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

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Official registration for new students at Bauer Magnet School, Grades 1-5, will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2001 from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon in the principal's office.

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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.

John H. Walker
Publisher
John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Debbie Jensen
Features Editor
Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Library plans week's worth of activities

It's National Library Week and a week full of activities that should offer something for virtually everyone have been scheduled at the Howard County Library to mark the observance.

The list of activities began with an Internet computer class that was conducted this morning, but there's still plenty of time to get involved in other projects planned for the week.

At 10 a.m. Tuesday, a group of fifth-grade Signal students will be at the library doing research on historic landmarks in Big Spring and special guests are scheduled to appear.

That afternoon, new library director Hollis McCright will be formally introduced to the community during a reception from 2 to 4 hosted by RSVP members and county employees.

Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., a "Shake Out Our Sillies" program is scheduled when library employees will read stories and hand out surprises for those in attendance.

A puppet show will be staged at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, and the week's observance will close with an "Amnesty Day" on Friday when all late books can be returned without playing charges between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

It looks like McCright and her staff have, indeed, scheduled something for virtually everyone and we encourage the public to take a few minutes sometime this week to get involved.

And if you have been holding onto an overdue book for some reason, by all means take advantage of Friday's opportunity for amnesty. Somebody just might be waiting you to do so.

YOUR VIEWS

To the Editor:

Even the leprechauns are green with envy over Big Spring's response to the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Shamrocks Against Dystrophy campaign. Many thanks to the thousands of people who donated to MDA and signed paper shamrocks in businesses in February and March. Their generous participation in Shamrocks will help MDA continue to provide families affected by neuromuscular diseases in our community with valuable services.

As one of many who has a loved one affected by a neuromuscular disease, I'm genuinely grateful for the caring support of customers and

employees at convenience stores, supermarkets, restaurants and other retailers in Big Spring.

The 18th annual Shamrocks Against Dystrophy campaign raised more than \$10 million nationally. These donations will help fund MDA-sponsored research.

On behalf of the millions of Americans affected in some way by the more than 40 diseases covered by MDA, thank you, and may St. Patrick bless you all year long!

Maureen McGovern
National Chairperson
MDA Shamrocks
Against Dystrophy

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

- 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 during an election.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721.

And many said it couldn't be done

Wow! Wow! Whee! Holy cow! We won, we won, what a battle, what a war, what a triumph!

OK, everybody, sober up, straighten out. The first thing we have to do is prevent rising expectations. McCain-Feingold is not The Answer. We have not fixed the problem. Long way to go, many more battles to fight.

But we are entitled to point out to everybody who said it couldn't be done: We won, we won, we won! Cynics lose; people win; democracy works. What a deal.

As Tom Oliphant said, "With this bill, every day is 'The Perils of Pauline.'" Every day for two weeks they tied the McCain-Feingold bill to the railroad tracks again. The bill teetered along its tightrope (to mix our metaphors), with Republicans firing at it steadily and the occasional Democrat trying to load on more than the rope could take.

Watching its shaky progress was excruciating, but in the end it carried, thanks to the people of this country.

When Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, leader of the opposition, intoned, "This issue ranks right up there with static cling as far as the people are concerned," they all knew he lied. They knew because you called,

faxed, wrote and e-mailed without cease. Way to go, people.

I grant you, the bill took one bad hit: the increase in hard money. Doubling the limit that can be contributed to an individual candidate from \$1,000 to \$2,000 in one year after 25 years may be justified on the grounds of inflation. But the fact is, only one-seventh of 1 percent of all Americans gave \$1,000 to a candidate in the last election cycle. According to the AFL-CIO, less than one half of 1 percent contributed \$200 or more.

In a truly democratic society, the cap would be lowered, not raised. While the cap-per-candidate is arguable, what they did to the overall cap on contributions is grotesque. An individual can now give \$75,000 total to federal candidates and/or parties over an election cycle.

That's \$150,000 per couple, and with the practice of bundling — for example, getting all the lawyers in a large firm to give the max to a certain candidate on behalf of a client with a problem — you can still buy a disgusting amount of "access." "Access" is the Republicanally (if Bush can say "Hispanically," I can say "Republicanally") correct way to say, "I bought your vote."

In the Texas Legislature, this is known as an OPO, or Obvious Pay-Off. So you don't have to turn in your cynic's card yet.

In fact, if you want to get brownie points from Cynic Central, you can put your money on the proposition that the next time we get a president who won the money but lost the popular vote, instead of a tax cut

proposal that gives 44 percent of the money to the richest 1 percent of the people, we'll get a plan that gives 44 percent of the tax relief to those in the 90-to-98th-richest percentage of the people. Practically upper-middle-class.

Some righteous people dropped their support for McCain-Feingold after the hard money cap got gooseed so badly, including Public Campaign, the nonprofit, nonpartisan campaign finance reform group. Public Campaign has been instrumental in passing public campaign financing, the only real solution to the money mess, at the state level. States are opting for publicly financed campaigns at a great clip.

Maybe I've been around the Texas Lege too long, but I believe in compromise. As dismal as the results are, I suspect that Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California actually won the compromise battle with Sen. Fred Thompson of Tennessee.

As Bob Bullock used to say, "Always take half a loaf." The key to political success is sustaining your energy and your passion long enough to go back and get the other half.

It seems to me that the correct context for judging the McCain-Feingold bill is the Marc Rich pardon. As Democrats have been feebly pointing out ever since this boil burst, Big George (Daddy Bush) did the same thing. He granted a pardon to a major contributor to his party (Armand Hammer, \$200,000 contribution, for an earlier conviction for illegal contributions), not to mention Bush's pardon of Caspar Weinberger for Iran-Contra.

As The Nation points out, that was "the equivalent of Clinton's pardoning Jim McDougal on the eve of a Whitewater trial." The principle is the same in both cases, so why did everybody come down on Clinton's neck for doing what other people have done without touching off this kind of hellacious reaction?

It's a difference in degree, not in kind. Not only is Rich's offense much greater than Hammer's, but the amount of money he contributed is so much greater that it finally just becomes gross. It's like the difference between being a few pounds overweight and 300 pounds overweight. The money in politics is now so bloated that no one can miss it.

It was amusing to longtime Washington reporters that the Senate was sort of enchanted with itself for having an actual debate. The last time that it had one was at the beginning of the Persian Gulf War. But this one was a dandy.

Good arguments on both sides. McConnell, the arch-enemy, is phenomenally knowledgeable about the political and legal consequences of messing around with campaign finance.

McCain, Feingold. How did we get that lucky?

Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut — what a cool hand, what a champion. On the R side, I suspect that we owe most to Thompson, but Jim Jeffords of Vermont and the smart, persuasive double female senators from Maine — Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins — also worked like Trojans. A great team effort.

Congratulations to all.



MOLLY IVINS



Eisenhower's warnings still hold true

In his farewell address, President Dwight Eisenhower addressed the changes wrought by the invention of nuclear explosives and the intercontinental ballistic missile.

Someone kindly sent me the text of that famous speech, as reprinted by Air Force Magazine in 1983. In view of the looming debate about the missile defense system, it would be useful to reconsider Eisenhower's words and warnings. Here they are, exactly as he spoke them:

"This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence — economic, political, even spiritual — is felt in every city, every statehouse, every office of the federal government. We

recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society.

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

"We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together."

Eisenhower then discussed a related change: how military and industrial needs have affected research and universities.

There, too, he issued a warning:

"The prospect of domination of the nation's scholars by federal employment, project allocations and the power of money is ever present — and is gravely to be regarded."

"Yet in holding scientific research and discovery in respect, as we should, we must also be alert to the equal and opposite danger that public policy could itself become the captive of a scientific-technological elite."

So, there you have it. Bewary of undue influence from the military-industrial complex and equally wary of allowing public policy to be the captive of a scientific-technological elite.

We need to look at the proposed anti-ballistic missile system from more than a technological point of view. Even if it can be built and even if it can be proven to work, there are larger questions: Should we build and deploy it, and what will be the consequences if we do?

Iran and Iraq, cited by proponents as rogue states,

will never choose to commit national suicide by launching an ICBM at the United States. They might be a threat to Israel, but they are not a threat to us.

It does not comfort me to hear Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon tell the American Israel Public Affairs Committee that an anti-missile defense system is Israel's "absolute imperative." That probably means the Israeli lobby will lend its weight to push for an ABM system.

That Israel fears Iraq and Iran is not a sufficient reason for the United States to put relations with China and Russia on a dangerous course toward a new nuclear-arms race that could threaten the planet.

I would just add the words of an earlier president, George Washington, in his farewell address:

"Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake; since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government."

ADDRESSES

- **GEORGE W. BUSH**
The White House
Washington, D.C.
- **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000
- **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



Willard Fillmore
by BRUCE TINSLEY

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IN B

Swim lesson offered at the... Parents can their children lessons at the to begin today Classes will p.m. and will nights each we Beginner and ate level classes for children a five and six an For more in call the YMCA

Women's so seeking play The Big Spr Girls Softball is seeking wor older to play softball Registration teams are now For more in call Alicia Buz 0216

Industrial league softball sign- Anyone want ticipate in the league, the sign entry fees d Friday, April 6 The entry fee there is a 20 ros limit For more ir call Sally Gra 5237 or 268-4728

Little league umpires need Umpires are girls fast-pitch girls ages 4 and For more ir contact Pat at 2

ACS still offer Texas Golf P The America Society is agai the Texas Golf entitles holder than 680 round 289 courses t the state. The passes ar Both the B Country Cl Comanche T Course are pa in the program For more ir call 1-800-AC check the so site at www.ac

Little league umpires need The Little Umpires Ass looking for an ested in ump ball games this For more in call Don Hogar or 394-4938 after

Jarrett's late wins Harrah FORT WOR There is one to Steve Park's with the rea Jarrett's car. That means the front of th Jarrett, the Winston C leader, won th 500 on Sunday ond victory weeks. Park fo across the th again, just 1 March 18 in S.C. Jarrett beca cuit's first tw ner this season vailing for th in his care seven times fo Texas Motor finishing with speed of 14 about 10 c ahead of Park

ON TH

Television COLLEGE BASH Men 8 p.m. — ment, champ Arizona vs. Duk BASEBALL 3 p.m. Cardinals a Rockies, ESPN

IN BRIEF

Swim lessons being offered at the YMCA

Parents can register their children for swim lessons at the YMCA set to begin today.

Classes will be held at 6 p.m. and will meet two nights each week.

Beginner and intermediate level classes are open for children age three to five and six and older.

For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

Women's softball seeking players

The Big Spring United Girls Softball Association is seeking woman 20 and older to play fast pitch softball.

Registration is \$30 and teams are now forming.

For more information, call Alicia Buzbee at 264-0216

Industrial league softball sign-ups

Anyone wanting to participate in the softball league, the sign-ups and entry fees deadline is Friday, April 6.

The entry fee is \$385 and there is a 20 roster sign-up limit.

For more information, call Sally Grant at 393-5237 or 268-4728.

Little league softball umpires needed

Umpires are needed for girls fast-pitch softball for girls ages 4 and up.

For more information contact Pat at 264-0634.

ACS still offering Texas Golf Pass

The American Cancer Society is again offering the Texas Golf Pass that entitles holders to more than 680 rounds of golf at 289 courses throughout the state.

The passes are \$35 each. Both the Big Spring Country Club and Comanche Trail Golf Course are participating in the program.

For more information, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or check the society's web site at www.acs-tx.org

Little league baseball umpires needed

The Little League Umpires Association is looking for anyone interested in umpiring baseball games this season.

For more information, call Don Hogan at 267-7421 or 394-4938 after 6 p.m.

Jarrett's late sprint wins Harrah's 500

FORT WORTH (AP) — There is one consolation to Steve Park's familiarity with the rear of Dale Jarrett's car.

That means Park is near the front of the pack.

Jarrett, the NASCAR Winston Cup points leader, won the Harrah's 500 on Sunday for his second victory in three weeks. Park followed him across the finish line again, just like he did March 18 in Darlington, S.C.

Jarrett became the circuit's first two-time winner this season while prevailing for the 26th time in his career. He led seven times for 122 laps at Texas Motor Speedway, finishing with an average speed of 141.804 mph, about 10 car lengths ahead of Park.

ON THE AIR

Television COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men
8 p.m. — NCAA tournament, championship game, Arizona vs. Duke, CBS, Ch. 7.

BASEBALL
3 p.m. — St. Louis Cardinals at Colorado Rockies, ESPN, Ch. 30.

Lady Steers bats pound Plainview, Frenship into submission

HERALD Staff Report

Still perfect. That's where Big Spring's Lady Steers stand in the District 5-4A softball standings, having improved to 8-0 in league play with a 12-0 win over Plainview's Lady Bulldogs on Thursday and a 16-0 rout of Frenship's Lady Tigers on Friday.

After a scoreless first inning in Thursday's outing, the Lady Steers scored all the runs they'd need in the second inning, taking a 3-0 lead. They added four more in the third inning and then added five more in

the fifth to bring the game to an abrupt halt on the 10-run rule.

Senior Amy Jackson paced the Lady Steers' 13-hit attack, going 3-for-4 at the plate and driving in three runs.

Christina Gwyn and Bridget Cain both managed a single and a double, while Trista Casey, Candice Cerda, Laura Olague, Nicole Chesworth and Tracy Padilla provided RBIs.

Gwyn and Whitney Hufford combined for the shutout. Gwyn chalked up the win, striking out 12 batters, while Hufford finished things off with a pair of strikeouts.

"Our hitting has really come around and I hope it continues," Lady Steers head coach Dan Arista said following the win over Frenship on Friday. "The girls have been really adjusting to the change of speed they've had to endure in the district.

"They've overcome many obstacles to get where we're at in district," he added. "We take each game one at a time and, in some cases, inning by inning. I hope we can continue working this hard as a team."

The Lady Steers were even more

dominant Friday, pounding out 16 hits that included a pair of Gwyn home runs that left her with RBIs.

Hufford also had a big night at the plate, going 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles and an RBI to her credit. Cain, Erica Stewart, Lema Braxton and Casey had two hits apiece.

Hufford and Gwyn combined for another stellar pitching performance, combining for a no-hitter. Gwyn opened the game by striking out the side before surrendering the pitching circle to Hufford, who struck out seven in finishing the game and chalking up the win.



Howard College's Brian Frederick gets off to a good start in the bull riding event during Thursday's opening performance of the Howard College Rodeo, but he quickly got into trouble and was unable to stay aboard for the eight seconds required to receive a score.

HERALD photo/Jim Fiero

Ericsson leads the way for Howard rodeo team

HERALD Staff Report

Ross Ericsson, a freshman from Byars, Okla., turned in the Howard College Hawks' best showing Saturday during the short go-round of the Howard College Rodeo.

Ericsson took first place in the bareback bronc riding, his second in as many weeks, to pace the Hawks' performance at the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl.

Teammate Jordan Ward, a freshman from Santa Rosa, N.M., entered the second round of the calf roping competition hoping to add to the Hawks' first-place finishes, but was forced to settle for fourth place

following a disappointing run during the short go.

Another Hawks freshman, Colby Scheemann of Big Lake, added a second-place for Howard when he teamed with former Howard rodeo performer Kyle Conway to finish second in the team roping competition.

Sophomore Stuart Duck, a product of Norwood, La., rounded out Howard's placing finishes with a third-place finish in the bull riding.

The Hawks, who currently lead the Southwest Region men's team standings, will travel to Snyder this weekend for the Western Texas College Rodeo.

Preseason favorites decide title tonight

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Somebody asked Lute Olson what Arizona's biggest challenge would be against a Duke team few opponents have stopped this season.

Five minutes later, Olson wrapped up his reply.

Duke's Mike Krzyzewski has a similar laundry list about Arizona's strong points.

Such is life when the two teams considered the best in the country in the preseason actually make it to the NCAA title game.

Sure, there have been

good matchups in the past, but the Duke-Arizona final tonight has been almost universally regarded as one of the most exquisitely balanced championship games anyone can remember.

"I'm sure it's going to be a very interesting 40 minutes for everyone," Olson said.

Arizona was ranked first and Duke second in the preseason poll. The Wildcats had some well-documented problems along the way, while Duke made it through with only four defeats despite the temporary loss

of starting center Carlos Boozer to a foot injury.

In the end, however, college basketball will get a true champion — not just a good team on a hot streak — a group good enough to cope with its opponents and great expectations.

"It's fitting that the two best teams are meeting to play for the national championship," Duke All-American Shane Battier said. "That's the way it should be. The true champions should have to beat the best teams."

Riley leads Notre Dame to women's championship

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The all-Indiana final came down to a real-life "Hoosiers" moment.

Ruth Riley, Notre Dame's only Indiana native, was standing at the free-throw line with the score tied and 5.8 seconds left. The national championship was hanging in the balance.

Just like in the movie, she came through.

Riley made both free throws. Purdue missed a final shot and Notre Dame had a 68-66 victory Sunday night for its first national championship.

"It's kind of funny," Riley said. "What more fitting way to win the game with all of the hype about the state of Indiana and the movie 'Hoosiers'?"

"Somebody asked me what my favorite part of that movie was, and I said when Ollie hit those two free throws, and I just got put in the same situation. At least I didn't have to shoot underhand."

It was the crowning moment of a

brilliant performance by the 6-foot-5 senior from the tiny town of Macy, Ind.

There was no more imposing figure in the game, no one who did more to carry her team, no one who played a bigger role in denying Purdue a second national championship in three years.

Riley, named the outstanding player in the Final Four, was 9-of-13 from the field and scored 28 points. She grabbed 13 rebounds and blocked seven shots. She dominated and intimidated. Riley was the national player of the year, a unanimous All-American, and she looked every bit the part.

"She played a great game," Purdue All-American Katie Douglas said. "If she was not blocking a shot, she was altering a shot. She was getting a lot of rebounds. It was just her night."

And so it was. The school of Montane and Leahy, of Lujack and Montana, now can add some new names to its athletic lore. Riley and

McGraw belong there. So do Ivey and Haney and Siemon.

"It's definitely euphoria," coach Muffet McGraw said. "It's the greatest moment in our basketball history at Notre Dame. I don't know when I've been this excited."

She had to fret through some tense moments first.

Purdue, the 1999 national champion, had plenty of time to get a shot, and the Boilermakers' best player took it. Douglas got a good look at the basket from just inside the top of the key and let it fly. The ball hit the front of the rim, bounced off the backboard and fell away as the buzzer sounded.

"That's a high percentage shot for her," Purdue coach Kristy Curry said. "Believe me, she's hit a lot of shots for us, and we're not going to focus on the last possession. We would have liked to have made the shot, but it didn't go down."

Notre Dame was stung on a last-second shot in the Big East championship game, with Connecticut's

A-Rod, Rangers get off to rocky start in 8-1 loss

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Alex Rodriguez's got off to a perfect start for the Texas Rangers.

The \$252 million man had the first major league hit of 2001. Moments later, he scored the first run.

Then came trouble.

He made a throwing error. He fell while turning a double play, which prompted him to change from plastic spikes to metal ones. That didn't help any when he stepped on his loose left shoelace and went down on the turf again.

"I've never had that happen once," Rodriguez said, "and it happened twice in a matter of a few innings."

Rodriguez wasn't the only Rangers player who struggled Sunday in an 8-1 loss to the Toronto Blue Jays. But he is the highest paid, and that makes him the most scrutinized.

"You have to start somewhere," said Rodriguez, who went 2-for-4. "There was a little bit of everything: an error, a slip, hits. But it's only one game. There's 161 more. You just move on."

"We have to write this one off," Rangers manager Johnny Oates said.

Toronto will surely savor the first game marking the 100th anniversary of the American League.

Esteban Loaiza (1-0) rewarded rookie manager Buck Martinez for making him the opening-day starter by throwing six shutout innings after giving up Rafael Palmeiro's RBI double in the first.

Loaiza, who has a 49-52 career record and lost rotation spots in Pittsburgh and Texas, allowed eight hits in seven innings. He struck out nine, the most ever by a Blue Jays pitcher on opening day.

"I was throwing all my pitches for strikes," he said. "I had a couple of strikeouts in big situations."

After the last out, Loaiza and Billy Koch presented Martinez with the game ball, which he in turn gave to his wife, along with the lineup card.

"I feel like I'm back where I belong, on a baseball field," said Martinez, a broadcaster since retiring

from the Blue Jays in 1999.

Shannon Stewart went 2-for-5 with a solo homer and an RBI double and scored twice, and Tony Batista hit a two-run homer on a fly that took advantage of the short dimensions at Hiram Bithorn Stadium. It's 313 down the line in right and 315 in left, where Batista's ball went.

Other than A-Rod's odyssey, the game lacked the salsa many of the local fans hoped for, especially those who began waiting in line at 5 a.m. to buy tickets before the first pitch.

The crowd of 19,891 was treated to nearly an hour-long pregame show that included music, dancing, costumed figures, three national anthems and the unveiling of signs honoring Roberto Clemente and Orlando Cepeda, the only Puerto Ricans in the Hall of Fame.

Yet the lack of early seating seemed to lull them to sleep. They might've been expecting more action after seeing eight homers in the first four innings of a 11-9 exhibition game Saturday night.

Drum beats and the chant "Ole! Ole! Ole!" finally erupted in the bottom of the sixth, as the bleachers popped when Puerto Rico natives Ivan Rodriguez and Carlos Delgado batted in the late innings, after nightfall.

Rodriguez and Delgado were the stars of the pregame player introductions, but weren't heard from much during the game. After combining for three homers in the exhibition, Rodriguez went 0-for-4 and Delgado 1 for 4 with an RBI. The pair shared a hug at home plate a few minutes after the game ended, drawing the last big cheer of the night.

Although Rodriguez, known as Ivan, not "Pudge" to the locals, was drained from a weekend's worth of activities surrounding the game, he said it was all worth it.

"I had a great time," said Rodriguez, whose lone highlight in the game was throwing out a runner stealing second. "I'm the happiest I've ever been because the fans did OK."

Sue Bird driving the length of the floor and hitting a fadeaway at the buzzer to give the Huskies a 78-76 victory.

"We went over this in practice at least a trillion times since that moment," Notre Dame's Nicole Ivey said. "So we knew we just wanted to keep the ball in front of us so we could contain whoever they were going to get the ball to."

Ivey, playing in her hometown, had 12 points, six steals and four assists. She sprained her left ankle in Friday night's semifinal win over Connecticut, but played all 40 minutes against Purdue.

Kelley Siemon also went the distance and finished with 10 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Erika Haney added 13 points.

In the final game of a sterling career at Purdue, Douglas had 18 points, seven rebounds, five assists and five steals. Shabana Harris and Shereka Wright, a pair of athletic freshmen with bright futures, scored 17 apiece.

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the kitchen. \$6.91 to
\$7.08 per hour irregular
and rotating shifts. High
school diploma
preferred. Great
benefits, on site
daycare. Mother friendly
workplace. For
information please call
915-268-7256. Equal
Opportunity Employer

Full-time hygienist to
become our interceptive
periodontal therapist in a
progressive east
Odessa office. Voice
activated periodontal
charting, intra-oral
camera, and hygiene
assistant. Excellent
Benefits. Fax your
confidential resume to
915-367-0636

DRIVER NEEDED for
large distributing
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Good driving record &
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resume to: 3001 N. Big
Spring, Ste 200,
Midland, TX 79705.

EASY PHONE WORK
No selling. No
experience required.
FT/PT. \$7-\$12/hr. Call
1-800-831-6717.

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\$48,500/yr. Now Hiring.
No Experience. Paid
Training/Great Benefits.
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TRUCKSTAFF. We
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Class B CDL - 15
openings. Class A
Hazmat - 10 openings.
Class A oversize - 3
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Great Benefits.
1-877-712-9100

Nursing
Stanton Care and
Rehabilitation is seeking:
Registered Nurse for our
clinical case manager.
Individuals with MDs and
Texas Medicare tile experi
ence needed. Beginning pay
\$21.00 pr/hr with benefits.
Benefits include health/life
ins., dental, vision, 401(k)
plan and paid holiday/vaca
tion time. Will train as
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Contact Elizabeth Fritzer
DNS at 915-756-2841 or come
by 1100 W. Broadway,
Stanton, TX.
BOE

Nursing
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Wages begin at \$7.00 pr hr.
for 0-3 years experience and
\$7.25 pr hr for 3+ years
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plans to choose from, life
insurance, dental, vision,
401(k), and paid
holidays/vacation time.
Customer service and team
work is a necessity to care
for our residents. To apply,
contact Elizabeth Fritzer,
DNS or Denise Yandrich
SDS at 1100 W. Broadway,
Stanton, TX, or call 915-756-
2841.
BOE

HELP WANTED

Experienced
Maintenance Man
Needed for
Mountain View Lodge.
* Excellent Benefits
* 10 Days Vacation
* Great Starting Pay
* Insurance &
Retirement
* Paid Holidays
Apply in person
at 2009 Virginia

Full-time position,
requires bookkeeping
experience, accounts
payable, accounts
receivable, familiar with
accounting software.
Salary DOE submit
resume at 1611 S.
Gregg or fax to
915-263-2440.

HOWARD COLLEGE
seeks applicants for
Plumbing Instructor at
Federal
Correctional Institute.
Some college/technical
training required.
Excellent benefits.
AAEOE. Please send
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for clerk/cashier/cook.
Apply at 3315 E. FM
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OPPORTUNITIES
The Texas Workforce
Center is seeking
applications for
participation in
Workforce Investment
Act job training
programs. Immediate
enrollment is available
for economically
disadvantaged and
dislocated workers.
Short-term training in
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are highly
recommended. For
more information or to
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for application, call
Susan Lyons at
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at 310 Owens, Big
Spring EEO. Auxiliary
aids available to those
with disabilities.

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\$500 - \$1,500 Mo. Part
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NEW HIGHER
WAGES!!!!
Truckdrivers needed for
oil field work. Must be
able to travel. No need
to relocate. Class A
CDL, good driving
record, Oil field
experience helpful, truck
driving experience a
must. Call
1-800-588-2669
Mon-Fri, 8am - 5pm.
No calls after 5pm.

Oil Well Service
Company is seeking
Experienced operators,
derrick hands and floor
hands. EOE. Call
915-267-5291.

Position for exp.
executive secretary with
advanced word
processing skills.
Non-Smoker. Send
resume with references
to P O Box 1431/2525,
Big Spring, TX 79721.

SALES ENGINEER
\$47,57K base salary +
commission, company
car, expenses, and a
great benefit package!
Local territory. Position
requires 2+ yrs. of
industrial sales
experience and a
technical or science
degree. Fax resume to
Pete: 972-934-3639

SPORTS MINDED
individual needed for
local territory to call on
coaches, schools, and
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\$45,500/yr.
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Preferred CDL but not
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Apply directly to Texas
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Commission. Ads paid
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from home.
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information or
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Backhoe operator
needed. Apply at
Rusty's Oilfield Service,
Stanton, TX.

Big Spring
Care Center
*RN/Director of
Nursing
*LVN for 2-10 shift
*PT Social Worker
*Laundry Aide
*Cook
Apply at 901 Goliad

Big Spring oil company
needs drillers &
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Mowing, tree trimming,
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painting. Call 267-5460
lv message.

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Loans from \$50-\$450
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Back in 2 to 3 days
Come visit Jeannie,
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\$500 - \$1,500 Mo. Part
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New. Must Sell.
30x40x12 was \$10,200
now \$6,990. 40x60x12
was \$16,400 now \$10,971.
50x100x16 was \$27,590
now \$19,990. 60x200x16
was \$58,760 now \$42,990
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Call us Today!
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Small building for sale
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Located at West 4th.
Call for more info.
Westex Auto
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Steel buildings, new, must
sell
30x40x12 was \$10,200
now \$6,990
40x60x12 was \$16,400
now \$10,971
50x100x16 was \$27,590
now \$19,990
60x200x16 was \$58,760
now \$42,990
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CERTIFIED Industrial
Park. 22,000 sq. ft.
building. FOR
SALE/LEASE. Contact
Shelly Bergstrom
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Oklahoma Tax
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Warehouse owner will
sell business including 2
warehouses, building
recently used as a
church, 2 trucks, 2
forklifts, office
equipment. Call Home
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SALE
3/2/2 Pvt 16 yr
home. Sun room,
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fp, lg deck, acreage.
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3BR, 2 bath.
Remodeled. Tile
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fireplace, corner lot
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Repos/Foreclosures,
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609 Linda Lane
\$300 dr., \$295/Mo.
3 Bedrooms, Brck,
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Central Heat and Air,
Newly decorated.
Must have good credit.
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Open House. Sat &
Sun. 1-6 pm. or any
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2508, & 2308 St.
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\$75,000. 267-7098

Country Feel - In town
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Cactus. 3-2-2 brick, hot
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MONDAY

APR. 2

Table with 21 columns (KMID, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, TLC) and 12 rows of program listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"BEIN' OLDER IS NICE, BUT I KINDA MISS BEIN' A KID."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"I finished my book. Where can I keep my bookmark?"

HAGAR

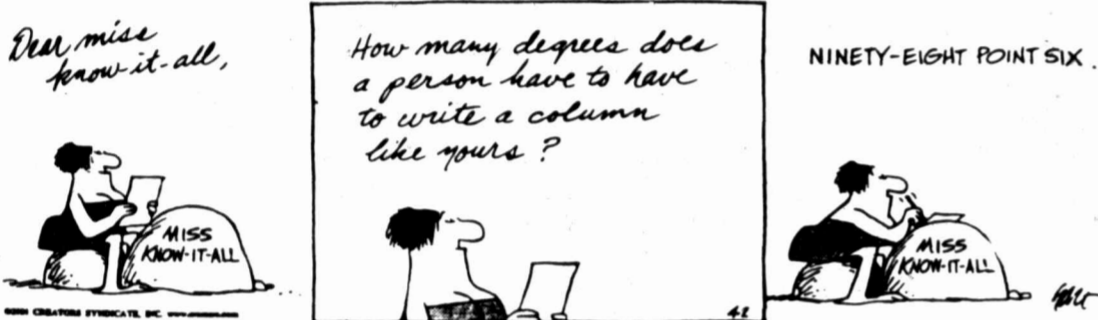


"HE'S 100 FEET ABOVE THE WATER! WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S DOING?!"

BLONDIE



B.C.



GEECH



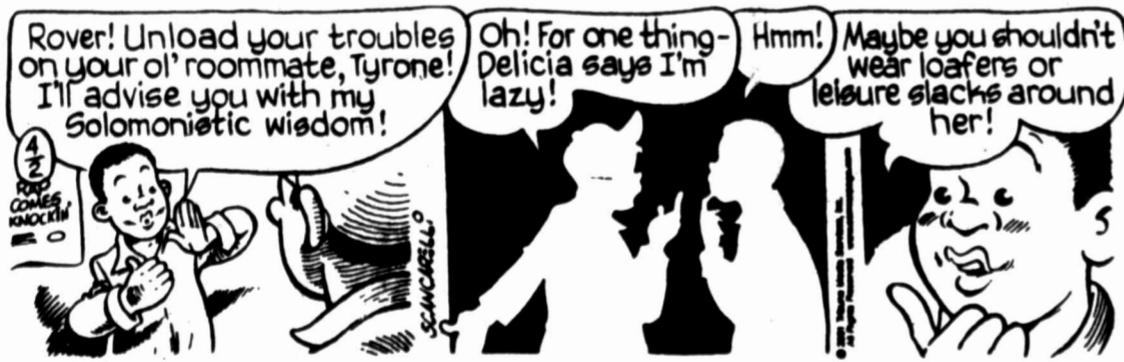
WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, April 2, the 92nd day of 2001. There are 273 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On April 2, 1917, President Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany...

Confederate capital of Richmond, Va. In 1872, Samuel F.B. Morse, developer of the electric telegraph, died in New York. In 1956, the soap operas 'As the World Turns' and 'The Edge of Night' premiered on CBS television.

Newsday Crossword

AS TIME GOES BY by Lee Weaver Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS 1 Clear the blackboard 6 Camcorder abbr. 9 Track event 13 Arguments 15 MDs' org. 16 James Carter, Jr. 17 Nigh onto forever 20 Intention 21 Director Spike 22 Regularly 30 Wicked 31 Bring up 32 Sea eagle 33 Hoofbeats 34 Rock producer Brian 35 Cry of discovery 36 Clare Boothe

- 14 Ankle-knee connector 18 Poet Khayyam 19 Teacher's org. 22 One who misleads 23 Guacamole ingredient 24 'Omigoshi!' 25 In an impoverished fashion 26 Copenhagen native 27 Public speech 28 Knock down in a joust 29 Orioles and Dodgers 33 Rock's steep face 37 Severe scoldings 38 Nautical adverb 39 Arsenal stock 42 Pendant jewelry 44 Like some meats 46 Greek cheese 49 Third day of the wk. 50 Seniors' grp. 53 'Golly!' 54 Conceit 55 Eternally, to a poet 56 Poor grade 57 Drenched 58 Call day 59 Frequently, in verse 60 Wagon-wheel path 61 Like a fox

