

TUESDAY

August 14, 2001

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT TOMORROW
72°-74° 94°-97°

Music revue set Saturday at auditorium

West Texas Musical Revue is set for Saturday at the Municipal Auditorium.

Local entertainers from around the area including Big Spring, Andrews and Odessa will be featuring their talent from singing to playing instruments.

J. Gordon Lunn, former meteorologist for Odessa Midland television new organizations, will be back to be the master of ceremonies.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. while the concert begins at 7 p.m. Admission to the concert is \$8 with the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life fund-raiser.

This is the second year the revue will be held in Big Spring

WHAT'S UP...

WEDNESDAY

Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in Howard College Cactus room.

Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics, 10 a.m., Scentic Mountain Medical Center cafeteria. People 50 and older are invited to participate.

Big Spring Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at Howard College Cactus Room. Call Terry Hansen.

Big Spring Duplicate Bridge Club, meets every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 1 p.m. at the Big Spring Country Club.

Line dancing, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center.

Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third.

THURSDAY

Gideons International, Big Spring Camp No. U42060 meets at Herman's Restaurant, 7 a.m.

The Senior Citizens Center will host an Arts and Crafts session each Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Call Bobbie Leonard at the Senior Citizens Center for more information.

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Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

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

Need for blood remains high, UBS officials note

Herald Staff Report

As children and parents return from those summer days of vacation and look to get ready to head back to school, United Blood Services hopes the public continues to remember to donate blood.

"August is a high demand month for



HANSLIK

the need of

blood," said Sherry Morton, UBS community relations representative.

According to Morton, Saturday's blood drive sponsored by Wal-Mart and Woodforest National Bank brought in 13 usable pints of blood.

"The blood drive went pretty well," Morton said. "We are always below the demand for blood."

The public will have a chance to give again from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 23, at the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

Those wishing to donate can contact acting community relations representative Iva Jo Hanslik at 264-

TO DONATE

The next opportunity to donate blood locally will be from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, at the VA Medical Center. Call 264-4824 to make an appointment.

4824 for an appointment or contact UBS at (915) 653-1307.

"Everyone is encouraged to make an appointment to help decrease the waiting time," Hanslik said.

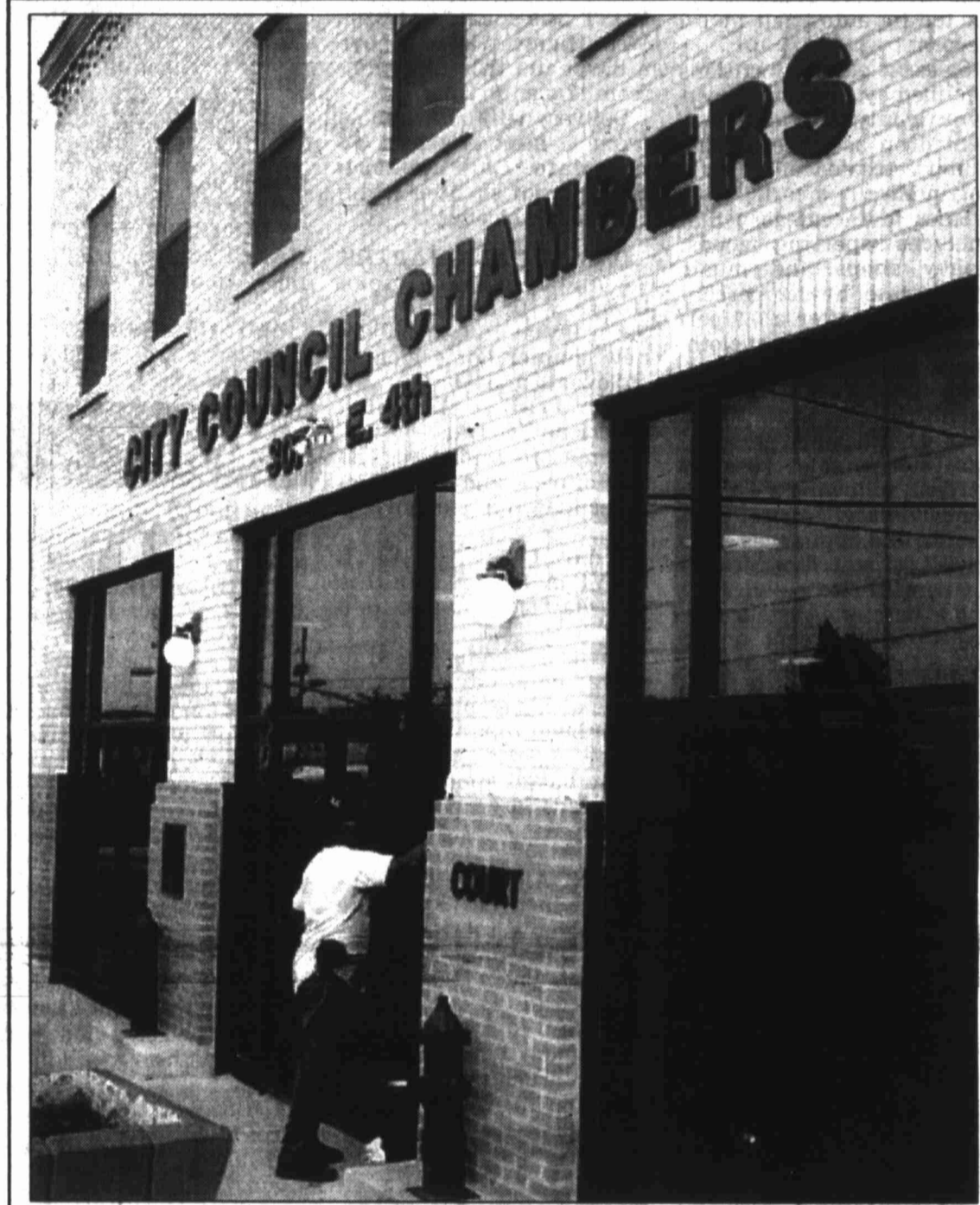
"Blood must be available at all

times in sufficient amounts to meet the needs of this community," said Morton. "Only when a significant number of people donate on a regular basis, can a community maintain adequate blood supplies. Please help by donating."

To keep up with the demand, the blood center needs about 50 people to donate each day. Currently, only about 40 people donate during an average day. Each donation goes to two or three recipients.

In order to supply the 12 area hospitals, United Blood Services must

See **BLOOD**, Page 2



Big Spring city employee Gussie Brown cleans the windows of the Big Spring City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth St., this morning in preparation for the council's meeting this evening. The council will discuss budgets, including those of the Howard County Appraisal District, the Howard County 9-1-1 system and Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.

HERALD photo/Roger Cline

College

Despite salary hikes, no tax boost slated, board of trustees says

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

A hearing Monday concerning the 2001-2002 budgets for Howard College and South West Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID) drew no public attendance.

Trustees passed the proposed budgets of \$21.8 million in unrestricted and restrictive monies for Howard College and \$4.37 million for SWCID. Included in the budgets are across the board raises for faculty and employees.

Faculty and administration personnel will receive a raise of approximately \$1,414, along with appropriate steps in the form of percentage increase.

The district is attempting to closely follow the state employees' raise by giving its non-administrative, non-faculty employees up to a \$1,200 raise for the year, also through a percentage

increase. Howard College is attempting to raise faculty salaries to the same ranking as the college has across the state in generating contact hours. Colleges around the state are also raising salaries, said Howard College President Dr. Cheri Sparks, which may keep Howard College from reaching its intended goal.

According to Sparks, the majority of the more than \$1 million increase from state funding will go toward raises and new positions throughout the district's campus.

Howard College has been attempting to raise faculty salaries for the past three years after a survey performed by the Texas Community College Teachers Association showed the college ranked at the bottom in faculty salaries compared across the state.

Both Howard College and SWCID will enter the 2001-2002 academic year with a balanced budget but the budgets may be amended because of some expendi-

See **COLLEGE**, Page 2

Stenholm sets legislative update for Wednesday

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Charles Stenholm will be in Big Spring Wednesday to update constituents on legislative work in Washington.

"This will be an answer and question type meeting to bring people up to date on what is happening in

Washington D.C.," said Annette Wilson, office manager for Stenholm's Stamford office.

The meeting will be held at 1:45 p.m. in the East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus.

Wilson said the congressman will probably touch on issues ranging from the farm bill to tax cut legisla-

tion and redistricting of the 17th Congressional District, the district Stenholm represents.

"The 17th district is expected to drastically change," Wilson said. "The 17th District has 32 counties and rural America is declining. We are expecting to add 10 to 15 additional counties."

According to Wilson,

Stenholm (D-Abilene) hopes to continue to serve Howard County.

Although Stenholm has seen some preliminary redistricting maps, Wilson said the congressman does not expect to know about his district until sometime in the fall.

Howard County is already looking at major redistricting changes on the state

level. On July 24, the state Legislative Redistricting Board approved redistricting plans that will take Howard County out of House District 70 represented by state Rep. David Counts (D-Knox City) and state Sen. Robert Duncan (R-Lubbock).

See **STENHOLM**, Page 2

Retail sales flat in July; big drop in gasoline sales masks strength elsewhere

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sales at the nation's retailers were flat in July for the second month in a row as consumers, worried about their jobs, shopped selectively.

The Commerce Department's report today showed that much of the lackluster performance came from a record drop in sales at gasoline stations, reflecting lower prices at the pump. Sales at automobile dealerships also fell.

That masked strength elsewhere, including sales of sporting goods, health and personal care products, and clothes, which all posted healthy gains. Consumers also ate out more last month.

On Wall Street, stocks rose modestly as investors mulled over the retail sales report. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 47

points and the Nasdaq was up 11 points in the first half-hour of trading.

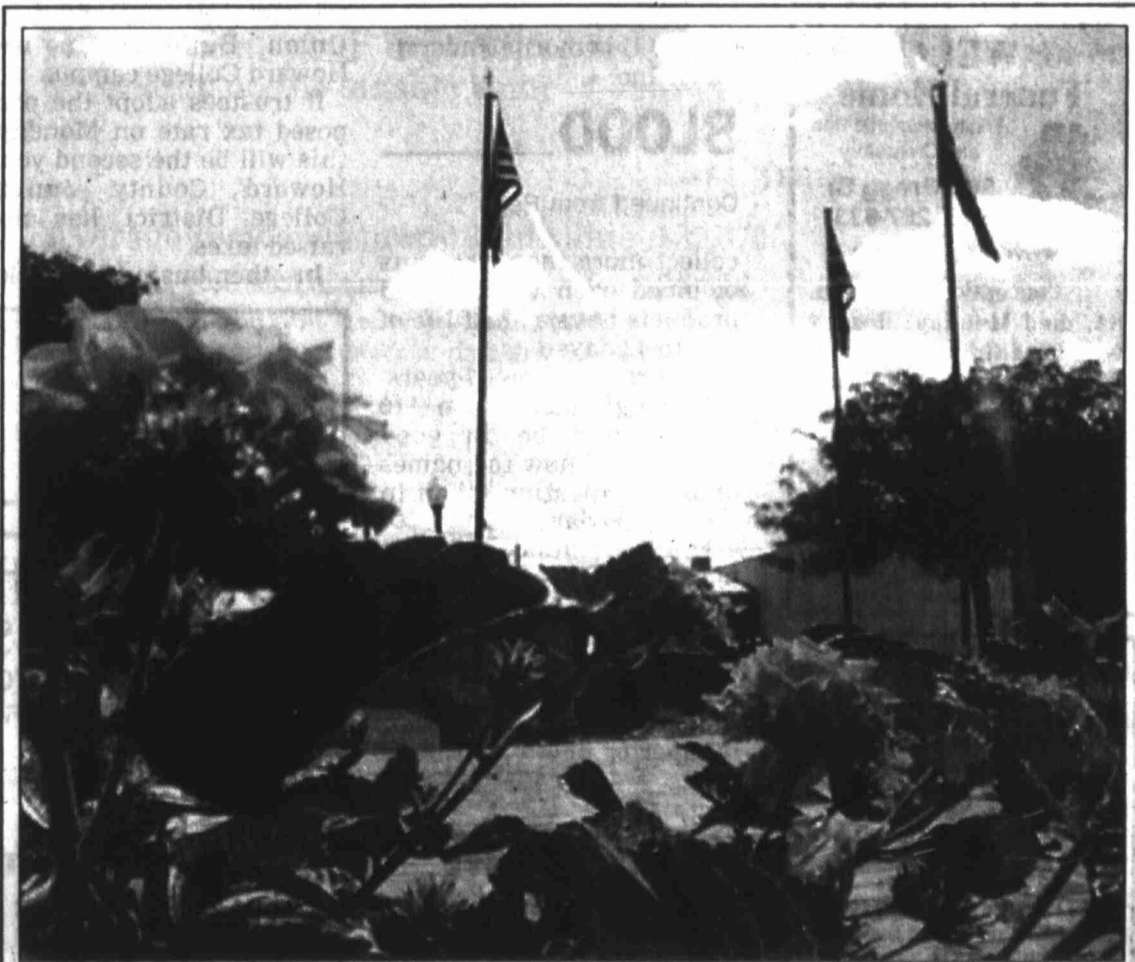
Tuesday's report was a bit better than many analysts were predicting. They had forecast total retail sales would drop by 0.2 percent in July.

Economists say that layoffs, eroding consumer confidence and stock market volatility contributed to shoppers being more choosy.

The flat reading on retail sales last month came as merchants heavily discounted items to lure shoppers and as the first wave of nearly \$40 billion in tax-rebate checks began arriving in mailboxes.

Consumer spending has been a main force keeping the struggling economy afloat. Some economists

See **ECONOMY**, Page 2



Flowers bloom and flags fly in Big Spring's Heart of the City Park at the intersection of Third and Scurry. The park is built on the foundation of the old Permian Building, which was demolished in 1999.

HERALD photo/Roger Cline

OBITUARIES

James Matthew Miller

A mass for James Matthew Miller, 8, of Dallas, will be held today, Aug. 14, 2001, at All Saints Catholic Church in Dallas. Burial will be at his grandfather's ranch in Fredericksburg at a later time.

Matthew died Friday, Aug. 10, following an accident at his grandfather's ranch.

He was born Oct. 5, 1992. Survivors include his parents, Carol Ann Meek Miller and James Russell Miller; one brother, Paul; two sisters, Natalie and Michelle all of Dallas; grandparents, Paul and Sue Meek of Fredericksburg and the late Betty Meek; grandmother, Barbara Fisher; granduncles, Walton and JoCarolyn Miller; and other aunts, uncles and cousins.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers contributions be made to the Matthew Miller Memorial Fund in care of Signature Bank, 6757 Arapaho Road, Suite 725, Dallas 75248, to benefit children's literacy. Arrangements are under the direction of Sparkman-Dickey Funeral Home in Dallas.

Conception Anderson

Conception Anderson, 84, of Big Spring, died on Monday, Aug. 13, 2001, at her residence. Rosary will be said at 7 p.m., today, Aug. 14, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 15, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with the Rev. Jeremiah McCarthy, associate pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born on Dec. 8, 1916, in El Paso, Texas, Mexico and married Robert L. Anderson on March 31, 1937, in El Paso. He preceded her in death on July 18, 1990.

Mrs. Anderson had lived in Big Spring since 1949 and was a homemaker.

She was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church and had been a member of the Altar Society and was a Secular Carmelite of Our Lady Mt. Carmel.

Survivors include her daughter, Wanda Anderson of Big Spring; one brother, Guillermo Cortez of El Paso; a niece, Rosa Acuna of El Paso; a nephew, Guillermo Cortez Jr. of El Paso; one other niece and several other nephews.

The family suggests memorials to Community

MYERS & SMITH
FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288

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

Conception Anderson, 84, died Monday. Rosary will be said at 7:00 PM tonight at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Services will be 10:00 AM Wednesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Big Spring Herald
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Box 1451, Big Spring, Texas,
79726.

Care Hospice, 1510 S. Gregg, Big Spring 79720 or to Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Altar Society, 1009 Hearn, Big Spring 79720.

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

Bobby Charles Leatherwood

Funeral service for Bobby Charles Leatherwood, 57, of Austin, formerly of Big Spring, was held at 3 p.m., today, Aug. 14, 2001, at Riverbend Church fellowship hall in Austin.

Mr. Leatherwood died Aug. 12, after a brief battle with cancer. He was born in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School. He received a BBA from North Texas State University where he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He began his career in Houston as a management trainee for Foley's Department Store. He spent most of his life in the auto industry as a very successful salesman in Houston and most recently with Mercedes Benz of Austin.

Survivors include his wife, Lucy and son Brett of Austin; sons Brian and Bradley of Houston; one daughter Terri Sobey; two granddaughters, Taylor and Taryn Sobey of Okinawa, Japan; and one sister, Kay Yater of Irving.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers contributions be made to YMCA of Austin-Partner of Youth program, Hospice Austin, Melanoma Research Foundation or the charity of your choice. Arrangements are under the direction of Weeden-Cole Funeral Home in Austin.

Doyle C. Turney
Memorial service for Doyle C. Turney, 88, of Kingsland, formerly of Big Spring, will be 11 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2001, with the Rev. Doug Lindley officiating.

Mr. Turney died Sunday, Aug. 12. He was born Feb. 14, 1913, in Brown County and married Alpha Rowland. He was employed by the U.S. Government Maintenance/Civil Service. He moved to Kingsland from Big Spring in 1973. He was a deacon at First Baptist Church in Kingsland, a member of AARP, VFW Kingsland, AFGE member and worked in young people's group (50's group) at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring.

Survivors include his wife Alpha Turney of Kingsland; one sister Eva M. Bynum of Grapeland; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Arrangements are under the direction of Waldrop-Hatfield-Hawthorne Funeral Homes Inc.

Mr. Turney died Sunday, Aug. 12.

He was born Feb. 14, 1913, in Brown County and married Alpha Rowland. He was employed by the U.S. Government Maintenance/Civil Service. He moved to Kingsland from Big Spring in 1973. He was a deacon at First Baptist Church in Kingsland, a member of AARP, VFW Kingsland, AFGE member and worked in young people's group (50's group) at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring.

Survivors include his wife Alpha Turney of Kingsland; one sister Eva M. Bynum of Grapeland; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Waldrop-Hatfield-Hawthorne Funeral Homes Inc.

BLOOD

Continued from Page 1

collect more than 300 units of blood each week. Blood products have a shelf life of five to 42 days.

Donors must be 17-years-old, weigh more than 110 pounds and be in good health and know the names of any medication taken in the past 30 days.

Those wishing to donate blood are asked to carry proof of identification containing a legal name and one of the following: date of birth, Social Security number, UBS assigned donor number or photo identification.

STENHOLM

Continued from Page 1

Howard County will be placed in House District 85, represented by House Speaker Pete Laney, (D-Hale Center), and in Senate District 31, represented by

Teel Bivins, (R-Amarillo), which also includes Midland and Odessa.

ECONOMY

Continued from Page 1

worry that consumers might curtail their spending, should the labor market seriously worsen, and throw the economy into recession.

Trying to avert a recession, the Federal Reserve has slashed interest rates six times this year, totaling 2.75 percentage points. Many economists predict another rate cut when the Fed meets next on Aug. 21.

In July, car sales fell by 0.5 percent, erasing the 0.5 percent increase the month before.

Retail sales excluding automobile sales rose by 0.2 percent in July, slightly better than the 0.1 percent gain many analysts were predicting. In June, retail sales, excluding autos, fell by 0.2 percent.

Sales at gasoline stations declined by a record 4.2 percent in July, after a 3.6 percent drop as prices at the pump retreated after peaking in May.

Sales for a category that includes sporting goods, hobby shops and music stores rose by 1.2 percent last month, after a 0.7 percent increase. Sales at clothing stores rose 0.9 percent, following a 0.5 percent decline.

At health and personal care stores, sales rose 1.7 percent, following a 0.4 percent increase. Sales of electronics and appliances grew by 0.7 percent, down from a 1.8 percent rise.

For bars and restaurants, sales rose 1 percent, on top of a 0.7 percent increase.

Last week, reports from major retailers showed that consumers flocked to discounters but stayed away from department stores, such as Saks, and apparel chains, including Gap and The Limited.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

tures through the year, said Sparks.

The proposed budgets were based on keeping the current tax rate of .25854 cents per \$100 valuation, she said.

"If a person's property value does not change then the tax cost will not change," Sparks said. "If the value goes up or down, then the tax cost will change."

Although Howard County taxpayers may not see a change in the junior college district's tax rate, the district will see an increase in revenue because of an increase in the tax base.

Depending on the collection rate, the college may see an increase of close to \$270,000 from tax revenue, Terry Hansen, Howard College executive vice president, told trustees.

Trustees voted to consider keeping the tax rate the same and may adopt the rate on Monday following a public hearing set at 12:15 p.m. in the board room located in the Student Union Building on the Howard College campus.

If trustees adopt the proposed tax rate on Monday, this will be the second year Howard County Junior College District has not raised taxes.

In other business, Sparks

Scenic Mountain Medical Center
1601 W. 11th Place
263-1211

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A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

reported to trustees that the new registration process was going well.

"Everything is going great," she told trustees. According to Sparks, registering students are reporting positively about the new process.

Registration began last week for returning students and will continue for all students through Aug. 22.

New and returning students can pick up an assigned time at the reception desk in the administration office. The office can be contacted at 264-5072.

BRIEFS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 506 located at 3203 West Highway 80 will have a barbecue this Saturday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Delivery will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$6 per plate. Call 263-2084. Carry out's available. Everyone welcome.

DAV LOCAL CHAPTER 47 and Auxiliary Open House will be held this Saturday at 10 a.m. at the new chapter home located at Seventh and Abrams. For all Disabled American Veterans.

Come out and meet the new officers and have complimentary refreshments.

WAL-MART WILL HAVE A BAKE sale this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Funds are being raised to defray medical costs for three of it's employees who have been diagnosed with cancer.

The baked goods will be donated by Wal-Mart employees.

HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM, located at the McMahon Wrinkle Airpark, will be open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 to 4 p.m. The museum will be closed on all city holidays.

MARKETS

Noon quotes provided by Edward Jones & Co.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Price Change. Includes AT&T, Archer-Daniels, Atmos Energy, BP PLC ADR, Chevron Corp, Citigroup, Compaq, Cornell, Dell, Du Pont, Exxon Mobil, Halliburton, IFCO Systems, IBM, Intel Corp, NUV, Patterson Ener, Pepsico Inc, Phillips Petro, SBC Comms, Sears Roebuck, Texaco Inc, Texas Instrument, TXU, Total Fina, Unocal Corp, Wal-Mart, Wal-Mart/Mexico, AMCAP, Europacific, Prime Rate, Gold, Silver.

G&M AUTO CARE
900 E. 3rd 263-1091
A/C Repair Service

TEXAS LOTTERY

PICK 3: 7,6,9
CASH 5: 4,9,13,16,28

POLICE

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

JONETTA TATE, 37, of 1417 Tucson was arrested for local warrants.

REFUGIO MARTINEZ, 40, of 2114 W. Seventh was arrested on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

JESSE MARTINEZ, 33, of 107 Becker was arrested for revocation of parole.

SONDRA WILLIAMS, 37, 1516 Sycamore was arrested to hold for the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

LOUD PARTY/NOISE was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80 and in the 300 block of Northwest 10th Street.

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 700 block of West Interstate 20.

MINOR ASSAULT was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

ISHELL WILLIAMS, 33, of 1206 Lancaster was taken to the Howard County Jail after being arrested by the Big Spring Police Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended.

ROBERTO SAIZ, 34, of 538 Westover was taken to the Howard County Jail after being arrested by the Big Spring Police Sunday for a Lubbock County Warrant.

MICHELLE ROBIN ALONZO, 35, of 408 Philadelphia in Amarillo was arrested on a charge of driving with an invalid license.

JESSE PAUL SILVA, 37, of 1211 Lindberg was taken to the Howard County Jail after being arrested by the Big Spring Police Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

CHAD ERIC BALES, 18, of 10610 Midway Road was taken to the Howard County Jail after being arrested by the Big Spring Police Monday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

PRISCILLA LOPEZ RODRIGUEZ, 45, of 1010 N.W. Second St. was taken to the Howard County Jail after being arrested by the Big Spring Police Friday on a charge of theft \$50-\$500.

JEAN LOUISE NOGGLER, 31, of 103 Collins was arrested Sunday on a

charge of assault/family violence.

DENNIS WAYNE NOGGLER, 30, of 103 Collins was arrested Sunday on a charge of assault/family violence.

ANTONIO FRANCO, 36, of 507 Young was taken to the Howard County Jail after being arrested by the Big Spring Police Saturday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

EDUVIJES JUAREZ, 48, of 1103 E. 13th St. was arrested Sunday on a charge of criminal trespass.

SALVADOR GARCIA, 31, of 509 Northwest, Eighth St. was arrested Friday for a motion to revoke parole for driving while intoxicated - second offense.

MIGUEL A. ARENIVAZ, 33, of 100 Lockhart Apt. A was arrested Friday on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

HAROLD RAY OTT, 22, of 104 N. Fourth was arrested Saturday on charges of driving while intoxicated and unlawful carrying of a weapon.

ERIK BRYAN SELLERS, 18, of 1703 Jennings was arrested Friday on a charge of theft \$50-\$500.

ANDREW JACKMAN, 18, of 404 W. Sixth St. was arrested Friday on a charge of theft \$50-\$500.

ROBERT FREEMAN JACKMAN, 38, of 1703 Jennings was arrested Friday on a charge of theft \$50 to \$500.

GASOLINE DRIVE OFF was reported at the Town and Country convenience store at 1101 N. Lamesa. A person reportedly left in a Penske moving truck without paying for gasoline. Sheriff's deputies later located the truck on Interstate 20.

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Four

DALLAS (AP) believe a man, his 18-year-old wife and their daughters before the gun on him, struggling to escape the divorce after year marriage.

Authorities found the woman early stages of and their daughter vehicle outside a elementary school.

Dead at the scene, were Hortencia Rodriguez her daughters, (Valerie Dehoyos 1) years old and old.

The woman's f

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HOUSTON (AP) ly mixture of cocaine appears to 15 drug-related over the weeks County authority

They say four Saturday and an Sunday in a strif far surpassing t

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Death r

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The Texas att now has 90 days the U.S. Supreme

Julie Parsley, attorney general for the state, wo

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Josh Gi We are alw for yo Love, You

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Happy Birthd
Josh Gi We are alw for yo Love, You

Four dead in apparent murder-suicide

DALLAS (AP) — Police believe a man who killed his 18-year-old pregnant ex-wife and their two small daughters before turning the gun on himself was still struggling to accept the couple's divorce after a three-year marriage.

Authorities found the bodies of the woman, still in the early stages of pregnancy, and their daughters in a vehicle outside an Oak Cliff elementary school.

Dead at the scene, police said, were 18-year-old Hortencia Rodriguez and her daughters, Celeste and Valerie Dehoyos, who were 11 years old and 7 months old.

The woman's former hus-

band was also in the minivan. Danny Dehoyos, 26, was taken to Methodist Medical Center where he later was pronounced dead, law officers said.

The woman's 13-year-old brother, who escaped through a back window of the vehicle and called for help, told police that the man said he was sorry for what he had to do.

"One of the children — an infant — was still in the car seat when she was shot," Sgt. Gary Kirkpatrick told The Associated Press late Monday night. "The other child was laying in the floor."

Kirkpatrick said the woman had taken the girls

and her brother to a nearby clinic, where she had arranged to meet her ex-husband despite an apparent restraining order against him.

Witnesses at the clinic said there were no signs of problems while the family was there.

The teen-ager told police they met the man and left together with his sister driving and her former husband in the front passenger seat. The man made attempts to reunite with his ex-wife, but the woman told him she wasn't interested, police said.

Kirkpatrick said the man then pulled out handcuffs and the woman pulled into

an empty parking lot. The teen-ager escaped through a back window and heard shots as he was running to a house to call for help.

Police believe the man had the handcuffs because he worked as a security guard.

The woman had lived in Dallas while the couple was married. She returned to her father's home in Mesquite after the couple divorced two or three months ago, Kirkpatrick said. They had been married for about three years.

Kirkpatrick said an early check of records indicated that the man had served some jail time for violating a restraining order.

Stem cell research

Polls: Majority of Americans approve of Bush's decision

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans approve of President Bush's decision to allow limited federal financing of embryonic stem cell research, new polls show. The majorities include Republicans, Democrats and independents.

Up to six in 10 people in polls released Monday by ABC News (56 percent) and CNN-USA Today-Gallup (60 percent) approved of the president's decision.

But the public was more fragmented when asked its preferences. A third would have preferred broader federal funding, a third favored Bush's limited funding, and about a fourth would have preferred no federal funding, according to the ABC News poll.

The president announced Thursday that he will limit federal funding for embryonic stem cell research to stem cell lines now in existence.

All of the cell lines came from embryos made at fertility clinics but not needed for reproduction.

On Monday, Bush he said he would veto any legislation that violates the spirit of his decision.

"The statement I laid out is what I think is right for America," he told reporters at his Texas ranch. "Any piece of legislation that undermines what I think is right will be vetoed."

Later, he twice cut off further questions on criticism of his decision. "I answered it Thursday night when I gave an address to the nation," he said. "I spent a lot of time on the subject, I laid out

the policy I think is right for America and I'm not going to change my mind."

Bush said his policy was thoroughly thought-out. "It's a moral issue, plus there's a chance that we can save people's lives, and I've laid out the path to do that," he said.

The polls on his stem-cell policy were conducted Friday through Sunday of just over 1,000 adults apiece and had error margins of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Some other findings: —Just over half in the Gallup poll thought Bush made his decision mostly for political reasons, while a third said the decision was based more on deeply held beliefs.

—Six in 10 Americans in the ABC poll said they have a good basic understanding of the stem cell issue, and they approved of Bush's decision by a 2-to-1 margin. Among those who didn't feel informed, fewer than half approved.

—Two thirds of Republicans and more than half of Democrats and independents said they approved of his decision, according to the ABC poll.

—Four of five of those who approved of the decision in the ABC poll say they would have preferred broader funding. Three-fourths of those who disapproved preferred no funding.

—Four in five in the Gallup poll said the stem cell issue is at least somewhat important to them.

—More than half in the Gallup poll, 57 percent, said they have been following the stem cell issue at least somewhat closely.

Heroin-cocaine mixture linked to deaths

HOUSTON (AP) — A deadly mixture of heroin and cocaine appears to be linked to 15 drug-related deaths over the weekend, Harris County authorities say.

They say four people died Saturday and another 11 on Sunday in a string of deaths far surpassing the county's typical two or three fatal overdoses for average weekend. Dr. Joye Carter, chief medical examiner, and other officials say the

deaths are the most numerous they can recall locally within a 48-hour period.

Test results by Monday night indicated the drug was a mixture of heroin and cocaine, said Dr. Ashraf Mozayani, laboratory director and chief toxicologist at the Medical Examiner's Office.

Victims, mostly Hispanic males, ranged from a 16-year-old girl to a 46-year-old man. Health officials aren't

yet sure whether the victims injected the drug or perhaps snorted it.

"It's all the same outcome," Carter told the Houston Chronicle in Tuesday's editions.

Mozayani said a syringe containing a brown substance found on one victim contained a mixture of heroin, cocaine and lidocaine, while small bags of a brown powder found on another person contained a mixture

of cocaine and heroin, commonly referred to as a "speedball."

Officials said some of the items might be sent to the DEA laboratory in Washington for further testing.

Seven of the deaths that preliminary investigations suggest were drug overdoses are under investigation by the Houston Police Department's homicide division.

Death row inmate whose lawyer slept may get new trial

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas death row inmate whose lawyer slept through his capital murder trial seven years ago could be going back to court.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled late Monday that Calvin Burdine deserves a new trial because his lawyer dozed off frequently enough and for long enough stretches to deprive the defendant of his right to legal representation.

The Texas attorney general's office now has 90 days to file a request that the U.S. Supreme Court retry Burdine.

Julie Parsley, an assistant Texas attorney general who argued the case for the state, would not comment on

the ruling Monday evening.

Robert McGlasson, Burdine's attorney said Monday's ruling was logical.

The full appeals court, in a 9-5 decision, reversed the highly criticized ruling by a three-judge federal panel in October.

Several witnesses testified that the attorney, Joe Cannon, who is now dead, slept at the 1984 trial, his head drooping and sometimes resting on the table.

"The Supreme Court has long recognized that a trial is unfair if the accused is denied counsel at a critical stage of his trial," Judge Fortunato Benavides wrote for a majority of the

14 appeals judges who heard arguments in January.

"When a state court finds on the basis of credible evidence that defense counsel repeatedly slept as evidence was being introduced against a defendant, that defendant has been denied counsel at a critical stage of his trial," he wrote.

Burdine was convicted of stabbing to death his gay lover, W.T. Wise, at a trailer they shared in the Houston area in 1983. Burdine confessed to police, but now denies killing Wise.

Burdine came within moments of execution in 1987 before receiving a court-ordered reprieve.

the ruling Monday evening.

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Government's Wen Ho Lee review: Energy Department misled the FBI

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former nuclear scientist Wen Ho Lee was singled out for an investigation into suspected Chinese espionage because the Energy Department misled the FBI, a government report said.

Two heavily censored chapters of the Justice Department report, declassified Monday, take to task both the DOE and the FBI for the botched probe that lasted years and landed Lee in prison for nine months.

"Had either the FBI or DOE done what it should have done, the FBI could have been investigating in the year 1996 what it is now investigating in the year 2000," said the report, completed in May 2000 by former federal prosecutor Randy Bellows.

The report criticizes the FBI for accepting the DOE assertion that Lee, a former nuclear scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, was "the only individual ... who had opportunity, motivation and legitimate access" to the nuclear weapons information believed to have been leaked to the Chinese.

The DOE targeted Lee because of meetings with Chinese nuclear scientists — both in China and acting as host to the scientists in the United States. Another FBI inquiry into Lee's conduct at the laboratory was also ongoing at the time.

But the DOE ignored locations other than Los Alamos where the nuclear secrets could have been compromised by numerous other potential suspects.

"The message communicated to the FBI was that the FBI need look no farther within DOE for a suspect. Wen Ho Lee was its man," the report said. "The FBI never should have accepted this message, as is."

The report also faults DOE for giving misleading information to the FBI about its early investigation.

A group of DOE investigators concluded that there was a high probability that U.S. intelligence had helped China "avoid blind alleys in their own research and development."

The FBI "actively pursued corrective action to improve and enhance its counterintelligence program" when it received the Bellows report, the bureau said in a statement.

The Energy Department said, "this administration

continues to strengthen our security procedures," adding that it will review the report in case other policy changes are necessary.

Lee's attorneys were traveling and could not be reached.

"The abysmal handling of the initial phases of this case caused serious harm and delay in resolving fundamental questions about a grave compromise of our nuclear secrets," said Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who has looked into several problems at the FBI, said the report "shows what can happen when investigators focus too narrowly."

Lee was held in solitary confinement for nine months and indicted on 59 felony counts alleging he transferred nuclear weapons information to portable computer tapes.

He was not charged with spying, and denied giving information to China.

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The HOWARD COLLEGE will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 9.858 percent. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held on August 13, 2001 at 12:15 PM at BOARD ROOM IN THE DORA ROBERTS STUDENT UNION BUILDING ON THE HOWARD COLLEGE CAMPUS, 1001 BIRDWELL LANE, BIG SPRING, TX. 79720.

- FOR the proposal: JOHN FREEMAN ADRIAN RANDLE
DR. CHARLES WARREN MARIE ETHRIDGE
MICHAEL FLORES HAROLD DAVIS
- AGAINST the proposal:
- PRESENT and not voting:
- ABSENT: DON MCKINNEY

The following table compares taxes on an average home in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average home this year. Again, your individual taxes may be higher or lower, depending on the taxable value of your property.

	Last Year	This Year
Average residence homestead value	\$32,070	\$32,474
General exemptions available (amount available on the average homestead, not including senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$6,414	\$6,494
Average taxable value	\$25,656	\$25,980
Tax rate (per \$100)	0.25854	0.25854
Tax	\$66.33	\$67.17

Under this proposal, taxes on the average homestead would increase by \$0.84 or 1.27 percent compared with last year's taxes. Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would increase by \$0.00 per \$100 of taxable value or 0.00 percent compared to last year's tax rate. These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

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AUGUST 14 2001

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 A. Moseley Managing Editor
Ken Dulaney Publisher
Bill McClellan News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Good to see trade route move forward

News of further Ports-to-Plains legislation slipped by quietly in late July, but its passage could eventually directly affect Howard County. We were pleased to learn that lawmakers finally reached an agreement on a route designed to handle traffic between Texas and Colorado — two routes, actually.

As most of our readers know, the Ports-to-Plains route through Texas was designated by a three-member commission of the Texas Department of Transportation earlier this year. That route runs from the Mexico border into the Texas Panhandle and includes U.S. Highway 87 through Big Spring.

Last month, lawmakers from Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas reached an agreement to take the route on up into Denver. The chosen route includes an alignment along U.S. Highway 287 which was preferred by Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas. However, it also adds a spur along U.S. 87 through northeastern New Mexico, from Dumas to Raton, N.M.

The fact that the groups were able to reach a compromise is a testament to the hard work of lawmakers and citizens involved in making the route a reality. It can be viewed in a similar way to the spur Ports-to-Plains takes from Sterling City west to Midland and up to Lamesa, bypassing Big Spring. Officials in Howard County feel strongly that truck traffic will take the shortest and most direct route — which is through Big Spring. Similarly, truck traffic will take the most expedient route from Texas to Denver, whichever that may be. We suspect that in the case of Raton and its well-known pass, the winter weather may have a major impact on truckers' decisions.

At any rate, designation of the routes into Colorado — both end up in Denver — help to complete the entire trade corridor from the Mexican border into the central United States. Eventually, the route will be connected with Canada.

As the day nears that Mexican truck traffic begins making its way deep into Texas and northward, Ports-to-Plains will have a major impact on trade. To be along that route puts Big Spring and Howard County in a much more lucrative position.

OTHER VIEWS

The Endangered Species Act kills. It killed four firefighters in the Methow Valley July 10. At least, that's the politically loaded conclusion we are being led to make, pushed by partisan politicians in Washington, D.C.

Rep. Scott McInnis, a Colorado Republican and chairman of the House subcommittee overseeing the Forest Service, unveiled the accusation. A water drop on the smoldering Thirtymile Fire near Winthrop was delayed for hours, he said, as officials pondered endangered species protections and the potential repercussions of dipping a giant bucket in the protected Chewuch River. That afternoon the fire exploded and

trapped the unlucky firefighters, who died in their emergency shelters as the flames swept over them.

There is some truth in the details. There was a delay in the water drop because of confusion over what is allowed by federal rules. But the delay was just a mistake, a misunderstanding. Nothing in the Endangered Species rules forbade the water drop. Whether this delay contributed in any way to the deaths of the firefighters is speculation. Implying their lives would have been spared in absence of Endangered Species rules is simply political exploitation of a great tragedy.

THE WENATCHEE (WASH.) WORLD

Distorting the truth is big business

If you keep voting for change, replacing one politician with another, and yet end up with same policies, is it not reasonable to infer that someone besides the voters is actually running the country?

It is now commonly understood that campaign speeches and party platforms are meaningless. Franklin Roosevelt, by the way, was the first to repudiate his own party's platform. This prompted one of the most famous speeches in American politics, a public denunciation of Roosevelt by an earlier Democratic nominee, Al Smith.

Smith was perfectly correct, too. The 1932 platform of the Democratic Party was more than conservative enough to suit Barry Goldwater. It promised, among other things, to reduce the federal government by 25 percent. We all know that FDR and his New Deal headed off in an

entirely different direction. I've noticed over the years while watching the Washington talk shows — a bad habit I've finally broken — that people openly talk about lies and deceptions not only as if that were normal, but as if it is absolutely abnormal for anyone to object to the practice.

It used to be wisecracked that the only thing that could disqualify a politician was to be caught in bed with a live boy or a dead girl. At least the first part of that has been disproved by Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, who openly acknowledged his affair with an adult male prostitute and was promptly and decisively re-elected. The extreme tolerance shown Bill Clinton makes one think that the other part might no longer be a factor as well.

It is a poor reflection on us, as a people, that we now tolerate any form of decadence, and that it has become impossible for any celebrity or public officeholder to disgrace himself. To be incapable of outrage is to be devoid of any moral convictions. Nothing Clinton did was deemed by a majority to negate his outwardly pleasant person-

ality and the appearance, at least, of a good economy. The so-called good economy appears now to have been about equal parts economic growth and economic hype, with several dashes of wishful thinking tossed in. A great many people are a great deal poorer, at least on paper, than they were when the stock touts were saying the economic business cycle was gone for good and there was nothing but continued growth in the future.

We now see, of course, our own economy slowing down, Japan still struggling with a recession, Argentina on the verge of total collapse and the European Union also winding down. Looks to me as if the wizards of Wall Street haven't figured out a way to repeal the natural laws of supply and demand after all.

There are, in fact, plenty of things wrong with our economy. It more and more resembles that of a Third World country, with a small rich elite, a shrinking middle class and a large proletariat barely getting by. The dollar has continued to lose value. So-called free trade has devastated our manufacturing sector while rack-

ing up the greatest pile of trade deficits in U.S. history.

We continue to hear the whores' chorus, of course, assuring us that things are not that bad and a resumption of growth is just around the corner. Well, unless someone can develop a "market" on Mars, I seriously doubt that. Because our corporations are geared toward snovning the stockholders, whenever sales and profits decline, they lay off employees, which, while cutting expenses, also reduces demand.

Most CEOs today do not seem realize that workers also fulfill the function of consumers. The more unemployment, the less consumption — at least as soon as the unemployed max out their credit cards.

The beauty of truth is that it relates exactly to reality, while lies are out of touch with reality. I think we'd better all add a respect for truth and for truth tellers to our portfolio, or we'll never see its value rise again. In a contest with reality, reality always defeats deceit and wishful thinking.

Charley Reese can be contacted at briarl@earthlink.net



CHARLIE REESE



Bush changes to allow research

Science is inexorable. History has proven time and again that what can be done, will be done, whether it was gunpowder, nuclear power, or various inoculations. All of these were opposed by people at one time, and some of them continue to be. But opposition, whether it is well founded or not, cannot prevent the march of science.

Two issues are current cases in point: human cloning and stem-cell research. Human cloning is banned in many countries, but it is going to happen. It is simply a matter of governmental action to influence the science for positive purposes.

Stem-cell research is less controversial. Whereas the majority of people oppose human cloning, a large majority favors stem cell research, including such conservatives as Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Sen. Connie Mack, R-Fla. However, opposition is vocal, and it includes the pope. President George W. Bush listened.

The result is that the

president announced his support for limited federal support of the research, but so restricted the circumstances that in attempting to satisfy everyone, he satisfied almost no one. Or did he?

As with other science, stem-cell research will happen, and mankind will be the beneficiary. So where is the president going with this?

Earlier this year, First Lady Laura Bush announced that she is pro-choice on the abortion issue, and she may well have asserted that opinion on the stem-cell issue. In other words, it appears that the president is moving in her direction, which is not the same as saying he will become pro-choice. What is actually occurring is that there is an increasing recognition of various levels of the pro-life view.

There are people such as Attorney General John Ashcroft who ardently believe that life begins at conception. People adhering to this view oppose stem-cell research in any form on religious grounds. Then there are those who believe that life begins when life is viable, which, according to the U.S. Supreme Court, is in the third trimester of pregnancy. This group is more often called pro-choice.

In between are gradations

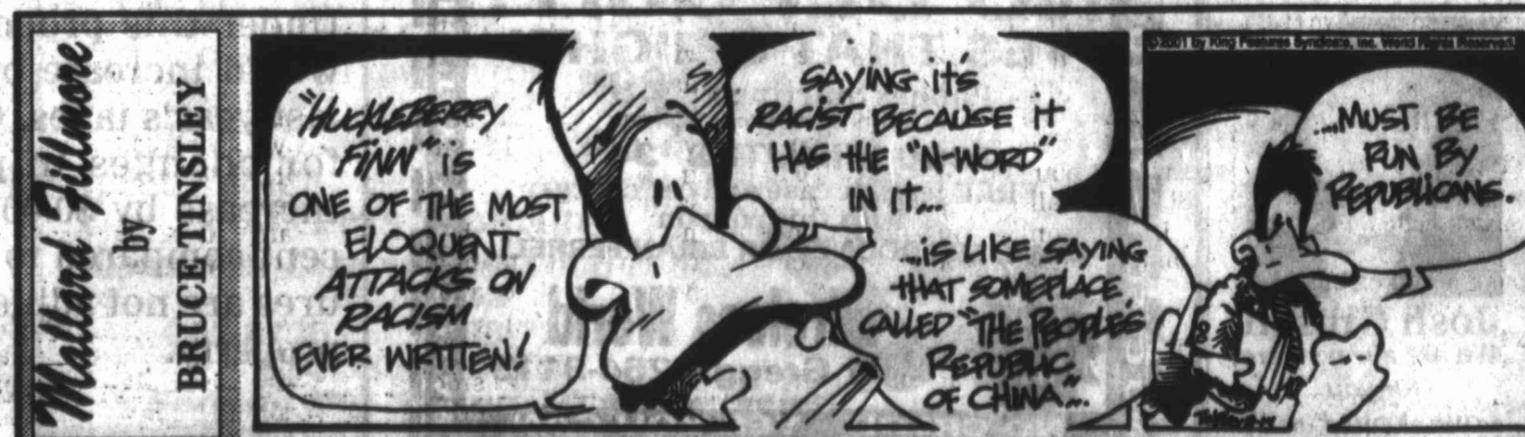
of views. The Hatch/Mack view is that cells not in a womb do not constitute life. This view has been gaining substantial support among pro-life advocates, which is why stem-cell research is on its way to success.

Where does this leave the president? He has generally been associated with the Ashcroft view, a view shared by Supreme Court Associate Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, whom the president has said are his favorite justices. Reality for the president would appear to be otherwise. His views may be motivated more by politics than religion or ethics, because his recent speech shows a movement from Ashcroft to Hatch/Mack.

This will put him in line with public opinion, a politically and scientifically viable stance. Quite simply, the president's speech was only the beginning. Like any good politician who watches a parade, he will seek to get out in front and lead it. We may, therefore, expect to hear more from the president on the subject, especially as beneficial results from the science begin to appear. We may expect him to embrace the science. After all, he realizes that the adherents of the Ashcroft view will have nowhere else to turn, politically.



JACK ANDERSON



Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

ADDRESSES

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 - EMMA BROWN — Home: 267-2649.
 - JERRY KILGORE — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.
 - BILL CROOKER — Home: 263-2566.
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 - OSCAR GARCIA — Home: 264-0026; Work (Cornell Corrections): 268-1227.
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 - TOMMY TUNE — Home: 267-4652; Work (Howard College): 264-5000.
 - JOANN BRADY — Home: 267-6965; Work (BSISD): 264-3600.

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IN BRIEF

Quarterback Club meeting tonight

The Big Spring Quarterback Club will hold a regular meeting at 7 tonight in the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center meeting room.

All parents of football players in the seventh through 12th grades are encouraged to attend.

Activities are planned for all levels of athletes and organizers are interested in new ideas.

For more information, call Jim Clements at 267-1069 after 6 p.m.

Soccer coaches meeting tonight

The Big Spring Youth Soccer Association is holding a meeting at 6 tonight at Howard College to develop new soccer coaches and referees in the area.

Any interested persons should attend the meeting which will be held on the second floor of the Administration Building.

Hawk Flight Boosters to meet on Aug. 24

The Hawk Flight Booster Club will have its gathering of the year on at 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 24, at the City Pool in Comanche Trail Park.

Homemade ice cream will be served. Membership dues are \$10 per person or \$20 per family. All members receive free admission to all home games and a subscription to the monthly Hawk Flyer newsletter, providing with updates on Howard College athletic programs.

For more information, call Stan Peaster at 264-5045.

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 and proceeds from the program benefit the Cancer Society's research, education programs and patient services efforts.

Both the Big Spring Country Club and Comanche Trail Golf Course are participating in the program and order forms are available at the two courses.

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

Stringers sought for football games

The Herald is accepting applications for football stringers to assist with high school coverage.

Both writers and photographers are needed. Experience is not required for writers, but knowledge of and interest in football is a requirement. Photographers need to have their own equipment and a basic knowledge of the sport.

To apply, call the Herald during normal business hours at 263-7331 and leave a message.

ON THE AIR

Radio

BASEBALL
6:40 p.m. — Texas Rangers at Chicago White Sox, KBST-AM 1490.

Television

BASEBALL
7 p.m. — Chicago Cubs at Houston Astros, FXS, Ch. 29.
8 p.m. — Atlanta Braves at Colorado Rockies, TBS, Ch. 11.
WNBA
7 p.m. — Los Angeles at Portland, ESPN, Ch. 30.

Dolphins beat Bucs on last-second 'Hail Mary' pass

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — There was plenty for Dave Wannstedt to like about the Miami Dolphins' preseason victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The first-team offense moved the ball well, the starting defense spoiled Brad Johnson's debut for the Bucs, and Mike Quinn's touchdown pass on the final play fit right into coach Wannstedt's theme for Monday night.

"I was thinking about what I was going to talk to the team about," Wannstedt said after Quinn's 43-yard desperation throw to Robert Baker gave Miami a 17-14 win.

"Just how one play can change the game — either by making a field goal or catching a third-down pass

or containing the quarterback. One play and we could have won the game. That was my mindset. Well, one play did win the game at the end. I think it was a great lesson to be learned."

Joe Hamilton gave Tampa Bay (0-1) a 14-10 lead with a 6-yard TD pass to Aaron Stecker with 1:09 remaining. Quinn marched the Dolphins (1-1) into position to take a shot at the end zone, then Baker came down with the tipped pass as time expired.

"When I let it go, I didn't know if the guys were going to get down there," Quinn said. "I didn't know it was a catch until the referee threw up his arms. I've never won a game on the last play with a Hail

Mary before."

Bucs safety Eric Vance got a hand on the ball. But he couldn't keep it from Baker, who made the catch in a crowd of players in the end zone.

"I guess the saying, 'That's the way the ball bounces,' is applicable right now. But that happens," Vance said. "More times than not, I'm coming down with that ball or someone on our team is coming down with that ball."

The game-winner capped a sloppy night for the Bucs, who were not sharp offensively in Johnson's much-anticipated preseason debut.

The Dolphins sacked Johnson three times during a brief appearance and looked like they would be able to make an early 10-0 lead

stand until Hamilton led his fourth-quarter TD drive for Tampa Bay.

"We dominated them and even in practice," Dolphins linebacker Zach Thomas said, alluding to three joint workouts the teams held in preparation for the game. "The final score didn't even matter because we outplayed their first unit."

The Bucs signed Johnson to a five-year, \$28 million contract during the offseason in hopes that he will give them the consistency needed to become a championship team.

But the prized free agent was only in for nine plays. A third of those plays ended with sacks, including Jason Taylor's hit that forced a fumble to set up Miami's first TD.

Lady Steers ready for opener

By JEFF MORRIS
Sports Editor

After a pair of preseason scrimmage sessions, Big Spring High volleyball coach Traci Pierce has a pretty good idea of what to expect from her young varsity squad when the Lady Steers start the 2001 season on the road tonight, traveling to Midland for a dual meet with Greenwood's Rangerettes and Brownfield's Lady Cubs.

"We did pretty well in our first two scrimmages," Pierce said of Friday's trip to Bronte and Saturday's visit to Colorado City for a dual meet with the Wolves and Lamesa's Tornadoes. "We communicated well for a young team. I think we're further ahead than I thought we'd be after this weekend. I guess we'll see just how young we are tonight when we start with Greenwood and Brownfield on the road."

Pierce went on to say she had high hopes and realistic expectations for her young squad of 10 girls that is already overcoming adversity with injured players to go with a long list of departures that have depleted the Lady Steers depth chart.

"We lost Melissa Forth to graduation," Pierce explained. "She was a big-time player for us who has gone on to a basketball scholarship at McMurray (University in Abilene), so we're going to miss her because she was a leader for us and a three-year first-team All-District player."

If Pierce were only missing the one player to graduation, perhaps she'd be breathing easy. But two others graduated, at least five other girls are gone and two more are injured, leaving the veteran volleyball coach with only eight players available for tonight's opener in Midland. Joining Forth on



Big Spring coach Traci Pierce (right foreground) worked with some of her younger players after practice Monday at Big Spring High. Pictured are (clockwise from left) are: sophomore Whitney Hufford, sophomore Sara Acevedo, freshman Brennan Bailey, freshman Kendall Adams and senior Casiti Marshall.

Lady Steers glance

Who: Lady Steers vs. Greenwood Rangerettes and Brownfield Lady Cubs.
Where: Greenwood High School gym.
When: Today at 4 p.m.

the graduation roster were Kristie Gumselman and Kaci Aciri.

But perhaps the most devastating blow to Pierce's squad was the loss of four players to transfer. Meghan Pudliner, Latricia Rollins and Paige King all moved from the Big Spring school district. Pudliner will be playing in Kansas, King in California and Rollins in Oklahoma this fall. All three were seniors Pierce was counting on for her starting rotation. Junior Ashley Tuttle also moved to Snyder, so she'll compete against Big Spring and at least one other potential starter left the team, decid-

ing not to play volleyball for her senior season.

Adding to the depletion are injuries to Krystle Long (right ankle) and Stormie Huff (right knee). Both are juniors who would certainly see playing time, but for now, their status is up in the air. Long, who tore some ligaments in practice last week and is in a cast, is one of the co-captains who hopes to return to action by Sept. 8 when the Lady Steers travel to Friendship for their second District 4-4A match.

Long explained how her injury happened during Friday morning's practice.

"I went up for a block and fell on Kristin Choate and twisted my ankle. I had to go to the hospital and I had a cast on before lunch, so I'm kind of cheerleading for a while, but I should get the cast off on Aug. 31 and start rehabbing then, so I hope to be back on the court soon. I'm shooting for the second

district, game against Friendship."

Despite the losses and injuries, Pierce plans to field a competitive team and has high hopes of doing better than last season's fourth-place district finish. With only one returning starter (LaKenya Wrightsil) and a pair of players who shared starting time last season (Jessica Woodward and Long), Pierce has plenty of holes to fill and said she needs more players to step-up to the challenge.

"We've got some good girls who are working hard and stepping up to the challenge," Pierce said after Monday's afternoon practice and weight-room workout session. "Finishing fourth is certainly a motivating factor for us. We don't have to look far to find some motivation to do better than fourth and losing so many players has also turned into a motivating factor for us too."

Astros clobber Cubs, take over first place in NL Central

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moving into first place wasn't much cause for celebration among the Houston Astros.

Houston finally caught and passed Chicago after a long chase, and moved into first place in the NL Central with a 9-5 victory over the Cubs on Monday night.

Yet it caused only a mild ripple of satisfaction.

"It's a great way to start the series," Daryle Ward said. "We put a stamp that we're ready to play. But we're not going to jump up and down like we'd won the World Series. We've just got to get some rest and come back and play our best again tomorrow."

The Astros have won 10 of their last 13 while the Cubs have dropped eight of their last 12 to fall one-half game behind the Astros, who had been in second place since June 30.

In other National League games, Arizona blanked Pittsburgh 3-0 and St. Louis rallied past Cincinnati 3-2. In the only American League game, Tampa Bay beat Minnesota 5-1.

The Astros hadn't been alone in first place since April 14, although they shared the lead for one day on May 19.

"I'm rejoicing that we won

tonight, but right now we've just got to think about winning the series," Jeff Bagwell said. "We don't have to sweep, but we do need to try to win this series. I don't know if you'd call it floundering, but we were playing .500 ball and that's not going to get it done."

"We finally started putting the pieces together and we've played a lot better baseball."

Craig Biggio hit the first pitch from Jason Bere (9-6) for his major league-leading seventh leadoff homer this season and his second in three games. Biggio has 28 career leadoff homers. Bobby Bonds holds the NL record with 30 leadoff homers. Ward and Vinny Castilla also homered for the Astros, who had 13 hits.

The Cubs think the Astros are wise to keep a low profile on their rise to first place.

"This is the first time this year we've been in this situation and we know we have to come out of it," Sammy Sosa said. "We've got a few more games with the Astros. We are a competitive team and we will do everything we can to win."

Shane Reynolds (11-10) improved to 7-0 with a 2.03 ERA in eight starts against the Cubs since Aug. 4, 1998. He pitched 71-3 innings, allowed six hits, walked three and struck out

three.

Sosa hit a two-run homer on the first, his 42nd of the season.

The Astros got four runs in the first starting with Biggio's 18th homer. Biggio also led off Saturday's game against Florida with a home run on the first pitch.

After Jose Vizcaino singled and Jeff Bagwell walked, Lance Berkman doubled off the right-field wall, scoring both runners. Ward's groundout scored Berkman for a 4-2 Astros lead.

Castilla hit his 17th homer in the fourth, and Vizcaino had a two-run triple and Ward a two-run homer in the four-run fifth.

Sosa's RBI single and a grounder by Michael Tucker gave the Cubs two more runs in the eighth, and Matt Stairs added a solo homer in the ninth.

The Astros have beaten the Cubs in six of their eight meetings this season with nine games remaining between the teams.

Diamondbacks 3, Pirates 0

At Phoenix, Randy Johnson pitched a five-hitter for his 30th career shutout and Luis Gonzalez and Matt Williams homered as the Diamondbacks won their fourth straight.

Johnson (16-5) became the second 16-game winner in the majors, behind only teammate Curt Schilling's 17. He struck out 10 in his first complete game since April 23 when he blanked Florida 9-0.

The victory stretched Arizona's NL West lead over San Francisco to one game.

Johnson didn't walk anyone, but he hit a batter and committed an error to account for two of the seven baserunners he had to contend with.

Jimmy Anderson (6-13) allowed only five hits in 6 2-3 innings, but gave up three runs on Gonzalez's solo shot in the first inning and Williams' two-run blast in the sixth.

Cardinals 3, Reds 2

At St. Louis, Edgar Renteria capped a three-run eighth inning with a two-out, two-run single as St. Louis gained its fifth straight victory.

The Cardinals, winning five in a row for the first time since June 15-19, had just five hits in the first seven innings against Elmer Dessens (8-9) before Fernando Vina and Placido Polanco started the eighth with singles to put runners at the corners.

Banks not set as Aikman's replacement

OXNARD, Calif. (AP) — Maybe Tony Banks won't be replacing Troy Aikman as the Dallas Cowboys' starting quarterback after all.

Banks was anointed the starter when he signed a \$500,000, one-year contract in March, a few weeks after Aikman was released. The team insisted Banks' status was safe even after making Quincy Carter their top draft pick and calling him their quarterback of the future.

But as training camp moved to California on Monday, the quarterback rotation seemed to be shifting, too.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and coach Dave Campo are no longer saying Banks is set at No. 1 while Carter and Anthony Wright are fighting to be the backup. That was their stance three weeks ago when training camp opened in Wichita Falls.

"There's no hedging," Jones said Monday. "We're simply evaluating our quarterbacks. At every position there's always competition and certainly we're doing that right now with Tony and our other quarterbacks. "Tony is not established by any stretch of the imagination. This was about his 20th practice with the Dallas Cowboys."

Banks first irked coaches by missing a few days of a minicamp while moving. He also didn't spend as much time around Valley Ranch between minicamps as the team would've liked.




His performance through two preseason games has been an unimpressive 6-of-14 for 54 yards.

But he also hasn't been surrounded by the four best skill-position players — Emmitt Smith, Joey Galloway, Raghbi Ismail and Jackie Harris — and he's played only a few series in each game.

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2202 Runnels 3 bdr, 1 bth. Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.

2BR, 1 bath mobile home, 102 N. 4th. Coahoma. Stove & Fridge furnished. Call 394-4996

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wednesday, Aug. 15:
Your instincts work for you and always land you in good stead. You are ending a cycle that began about 10 years ago. You might want to do some reflection this year about what you want for the next 11 years. You find an ear with a dear friend or adviser, with whom you can share nearly everything. This person opens doors and helps you gain insight. If you are single, you might fall into an important relationship that helps you see life from a different perspective. If attached, the two of you grow closer through more frequent weekends away. Act like lovers again. CANCER understands you too well.

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)
*** Someone whispers in your ear. You cannot afford to overlook this piece of information. While others could be bowled over by a sequence of events, you center. You know that all's well that ends well. Tonight: Call an older family member.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** Let a loved one flatter you and dote on you. Walk into your day feeling adored. You will handle unexpected bolts from a higher-up. Though the Bull

HOROSCOPE

is a fixed sign, your mind quickly adapts to change. Good news follows you. Tonight: Take a midweek break with a friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
*** You build strong foundations. Your ability to think through problems keeps you on the path to success. Unexpected news needs to be assimilated once you get past the immediate upset. Money plays a significant role. Tonight: Be generous emotionally if not financially.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
*** You might think someone has let you down. But you could look at this situation from a totally different perspective, if you so choose. When dealing with others, remember what you ultimately want, and don't veer from that objective. Buy a lottery ticket at lunchtime. Tonight: Remember that you are lucky.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
*** Scope out a situation by saying little and observing a lot. Use your intuition. What is shared in confidence might make you ill at ease. Still, you must remain silent. Avoid a power play. A friend or associate expresses nervousness through unanticipated behavior. Tonight: Do for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
*** You could be far more tired than you realize. Slow down and take frequent breaks. You don't want to

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
*** Take charge and you'll gain professionally. Your decisions guide others through the unexpected. Deal with a child's or loved one's upset as well. Others clearly need your attention and time. Willingly give your time, but don't allow anyone to take advantage of your good mood. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** Reach out for information. Pull out all the stops. Others might be extremely upset, and this might affect your own well-being. Focus and concentrate on your responsibilities. Good news comes from your pursuit of answers. Tonight: Escape your day-to-day worries.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
*** Surprising conversation could throw many into a tizzy, but not you. Seek out important news, and weigh facts. A partner or associate comes through for you, either financially or emotionally. Work with someone and success surrounds you. Tonight: Enjoy the riches of a relationship.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
*** You could be upset by a financial matter, but discussing it really doesn't help. You respond to another's companionship. A relationship becomes more and more special, if you let it. If single, you might have met the right person. Tonight: Out for dinner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
*** Your life takes on an even richer tone. An opportunity walks through the door, if not today, then soon. What might appear as bad news will, in fact, create a good opportunity. Let others worry. You need to act. Tonight: Make an unavoidable chore fun.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
*** Stop living and breathing emotional drama. You might enjoy life if you added more creativity to the here and now. Please note another's interest in you, if single. If attached, your focus is on children. Share more of your dreams. Tonight: Play the night away.

BORN TODAY

Chef Julia Child (1912), Emperor Napoleon I (1769), actor Ben Affleck (1972)

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Disrespectful children send step-mom to her wits end

Dear Ann Landers: "Nate" and I have been married for six years. He has two teenage children from a previous marriage. They never warmed up to me, although I did my best to get along with them. Nate shares custody with his ex-wife. The original court agreement said we would have the children every other weekend, but

Nate wanted to see them more often, so now we have the kids three days a week. He promised me if it didn't work out, we would go back to the original agreement. Well, Ann, it's been three years. I was NOT worked out, and I can't take it anymore. I am the primary caregiver for these kids when they are with us. Nate says it saves him money in child support and relieves his ex-wife of the burden of caring for them all the time. I am not fond of these kids. They are disrespectful and lazy. Nate always invites them along on our vacations. I

have to clean up after them while they sit and watch TV all day and half the night. When I threatened Nate with divorce, he begged me to stay. Meanwhile, he has invited the kids to come to Florida with us for a month without consulting me. These children are failing several subjects in school and are spoiled rotten. They don't deserve a month's vacation. They should stay home and get some tutoring. Is it time for me to pack my bags? - Had it in New Jersey

Dear N.J.: Give Nate an "either-or" proposition. Insist that the kids shape up and he put you first, or the marriage is over. And be firm about it, or you'll be sunk.

Dear Ann Landers: I realize summer is almost over, but temperatures are still high in many areas, and it's never too late to remind the public about pet safety.

Please do not take your dog with you to the market or anywhere else and leave your pet in the car. The temperatures rise much quicker than you think. If you aren't sure how hot it is, I suggest you sit in the car with your dog for 15 minutes and see how well you do. While you're at it, put on your winter coat. - Rose in Iowa

Dear Rose: On behalf of all dogs everywhere, I say, "Thank you." When the weather is sweltering, I vote for leaving your dog at home, in air-conditioned comfort. The dog will appreciate it.

Dear Ann Landers: I am a divorced mother of two wonderful boys. My ex-husband, "Larry," lives in another state and sees his children when he can. He has remarried a nice woman, and we have maintained a good friendship. One of our sons is spending his vacation with his grandparents. He will be celebrating his 11th birthday during this time, and Larry and I would both like to spend the weekend with him at my parents' home.

Here is the problem: My father hates Larry and does not want him to visit our son. He says Larry can see the boy another time. I do not understand his attitude. My parents have always respected my relationship with Larry, and my father's anger is upsetting my mother and causing all sorts of problems. Should I tell Larry not to come? This would be terribly disappointing to our son, but I am afraid my father might cause a scene if Larry were there. What do you say? I'm

going to abide by your decision. - Stressed in Los Angeles

Dear L.A.: Your father's attitude is shortsighted and mean-spirited. Do not withdraw the invitation to Larry. If your father "makes a scene," he will look like the skunk at the family picnic. Let him stew in his own juices. (P.S. Has your father always been this disagreeable? If not, you might suggest he see his doctor for a checkup.)

Dear Ann Landers: My husband and I have been married for four years. We both work night shifts and sleep during the day. This works great for our marriage, but it isn't working when it comes to our parents.

My folks and my in-laws like to stop by during the day. We have told them we sleep during the day and not to come over unless specifically invited. We suggested times where visits might be welcome. We even put "Do Not Disturb" signs on the door, but it doesn't matter. They pay no attention. They come over whenever they feel like it.

My mother refuses to respect my wishes and makes nasty comments. She has come right out and said, "I'm your mother, and I'm entitled to visit you without calling whenever I feel like it." My in-laws not only come by at all hours, they bring other family members with them!

I am getting close to the edge and need some help. Is there any way to get our parents to stop coming over when we are trying to sleep? - Invaded in Indiana

Dear Invaded: Probably not. Your parents and in-laws have "conditioned" you to accept their impromptu visits, and they feel perfectly comfortable dropping in at their convenience. Whoever said "nice guys finish last" had you in mind.

I assume the relatives do not have a key to your home. If they do, change the locks. If you and your husband are serious about reclaiming your lives, you must ignore the ringing doorbell and the banging on the front door. After a while, these brassy folks will get the message.

Being related does not give people the right to drop in uninvited. Put the ball in YOUR court, and they will have to play by your rules.

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