

# BIG SPRING HERALD

COPYRIGHT 2002

"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

MONDAY

March 18, 2002

## WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 40°-45° TOMORROW 55°-56°

## Howard College students need dental patients

Howard College dental hygiene students are seeking patients in need of teeth cleaning or X-rays for the dental hygiene clinic.

The cost for teeth cleaning is \$6 for children and \$10 for adults. A full set of X-rays costs \$15. Second year dental hygiene students perform all services.

The dental hygiene clinic is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 264-5075.

## WHAT'S UP...

### TODAY

□ DAV chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams.

□ Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at First United Methodist Church youth hall. All singles in the community are welcome.

### TUESDAY

□ Intermediate Line Dance classes, 9 a.m., Senior Citizens Center.

□ Big Spring Evening Lion's Club meets at noon every Tuesday at the Senior Center in the Whipkey Room.

□ Big Spring Rotary meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

□ Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 6 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited.

□ Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner with meeting to follow at First and Goliad. All Masons are invited.

□ Big Spring Art Association will have a miniature auction at their regular meeting at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

□ Big Spring chapter 67 Order of the Eastern Star meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 219 Main.

## INSIDE TODAY...

Classified 6-7  
Comics 8  
General 3  
Horoscope 3  
Larders 7  
Obituaries 2  
Opinion 4  
Sports 5

Vol. 99, No. 111

Find us online at: [www.bigspringherald.com](http://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.

## BSHS one-act play 'Medea' to have public showing Tuesday

By LYNDEL MOODY  
Staff Writer

The Big Spring High School theater department will present its University Interscholastic League one-act contest play for the general public this week.



HARWELL

"This is a very talented cast and crew," Zane Harwell, high school theater teacher, said. "The actors on stage now make a good ensemble."

"People who come out will see a good show."

The performance of the Greek tragedy "Medea" by Euripides is 7 p.m. Tuesday at the high school auditorium. Admission is free.

The presentation will be a little different from the original Greek production. Early Greek plays had only

male actors wearing long robes and large, exaggerated masks with built in megaphones to reach the sometimes 3,000 people that would attend the play festival.

"We are presenting a more modern interpretation for the play," Harwell said. "The soldiers will be wearing military fatigues, the women will be dressed in contemporary dance dresses and Creon (the king) will be wearing a tuxedo."

One of the elements that

keeps in tradition with the old Greek performances is the chorus, an ensemble of unknown people who will voice the inner thoughts of the actors on stage.

Amanda Sheedy will perform the lead of Medea, the cast-off wife of Jason. Mark Sheedy will portray the Greek legend, Jason. Dan Weissman will play Creon, the king.

Holli Cobb is Medea's nurse, Justin Plaia will be the tutor, Logan Churchwell is a soldier, and Holly

Mayfield and Syna Calobreves are the servants to Medea.

Chorus members are Brittaney Barrow, woman one; Mollie Maberry, woman two; and Erica Rodriguez, woman three.

Stephanie Franco will provide the light and is the stage manager.

The cast and crew will perform Medea at UIL zone contest on Thursday at Lake View High School in San Angelo.

## Friends reach out to help Matthew

By LYNDEL MOODY  
Staff Writer

Rebecca Villanueva wanted to give blood for the son of the Anderson Kindergarten teacher who taught her two daughters, but she couldn't. Instead, she brought her husband to give a donation.



WYNN

"My wife couldn't give blood so she picked me up so I could," James Villanueva said.

"I thought he would compensate for me," Rebecca added.

James and Rebecca were two of the 44 people on Sunday who attempted to give a unit of blood for 9-year-old Matthew Jarrod Wynn, diagnosed with cancer of the brain.

The drive was held at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church and Culligan Water, Domino's Pizza and Wal-Mart donated food and drinks.

United Blood Services of Lubbock workers were able to take 36 units, giving Matthew's parents, Eloise



James Villanueva raises his arm after donating a unit of blood Sunday for 9-year-old Matthew Jarrod Wynn, the son of Eloise, an Anderson Kindergarten teacher, and Marvin Wynn. Janie Gonzales is also donating blood while UBS-Lubbock employee Jay McConnell checks on Villanueva.

and Marvin Wynn, nine credits for the youth's insurance. Every four units of blood gives one credit to

Matthew, Eloise said.

Sunday was a landmark day for Matthew. Two years ago on that day, Matthew

was diagnosed with a medulloblastoma in the

See MATTHEW, Page 2

## Don't put up those umbrellas; rain is in the forecast

By ROGER CLINE  
Staff Writer

The children's nursery rhyme goes, "Rain, rain, go away," but you won't find many West Texans echoing the sentiment.

Rain came to Howard County this morning, and it doesn't look like it's going away too soon.

This morning by 7, Howard County had only seen 0.01 inches of rain, but meteorologist Steve Cobb of the National Weather Service in Midland said more is on the way.

"We're looking for showers this morning to continue moving off to the northeast, towards you, and then into the Big Country," he said. "Then redevelop probably late this afternoon, or more likely this evening across much of the area, and then spread across the whole area by tonight."

Cobb said the moisture comes from the Pacific Ocean across Mexico.

"The showers this morning were largely due to this large area of tropical moisture that's been streaming

north across old Mexico and into West Texas the last couple of days," he said. "Disturbances in that moisture are helping to produce the rainfall."

Another system located this morning in California is also headed this way, Cobb added.

"We do have a very strong system over southern California this morning that will be moving across West Texas tomorrow which will give us pretty much entire coverage, rainfall over pretty much our entire area, for

tomorrow," he said.

The California system should bring cooler temperatures as well.

"Today we're looking at maybe a high around 70, and that may be generous, depending on how much showers redevelop and move toward you this afternoon," Cobb said. "Then tomorrow we'll be lucky probably to see much into the 50s, maybe 55 or so for a high and pretty showery and some thunderstorms during a good part of the day."

Cobb said March is typically the beginning of the springtime not-so-dry season in West Texas.

"March is typically when we start to see these patterns develop," he said. "The jet stream is still very active, transitioning from the winter into the spring season. We're just fortunate enough to see the system far enough to the south, and all these ingredients are coming together for a fairly good shot of rain."

See RAIN, Page 2



Lorraine Cason, left, and Jana Gibbs load up their plates with some more goodies at the North Birdwell United Methodist Church second annual chili supper. The congregation served chili, hot dogs, frito pie, many homemade desserts and other treats to the community at no charge Saturday.

## Two Americans killed Pakistan's security forces on alert after church attack

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan put its military and police on high alert Monday, tightening up security at Islamabad diplomatic missions and churches after a terrorist attack on a Protestant congregation killed five people, including two Americans.

In an assault clearly directed at foreigners, at least one man dressed in black hurled grenades into the Pakistan International Church on Sunday, sending shrapnel through the crowd and splattering the sanctuary's walls with blood and flesh.

The dead included a U.S. Embassy worker and her teen-age daughter. More than 45 people — most of them foreigners — were injured.

No group claimed responsibility, but suspicion fell on Islamic extremists.

President Bush condemned the attack in the guarded diplomatic quarter at the heart of Pakistan's

capital, about 400 yards from the U.S. Embassy compound.

Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca cut short a visit to India and flew to Pakistan to accompany the bodies of the dead Americans — Barbara Green and her 17-year-old daughter Kristen Wormsley — back to the United States.

Green and her husband, Milton Green, worked at the U.S. Embassy — she in administration and he in the computer division. A son, whose name was not released, was slightly injured.

The other dead included one Afghan, one Pakistani and one unidentified person who may have been the assailant, Pakistani officials said.

In a statement released in New Delhi, Rocca said the "cowardly murders" in Islamabad "are yet more evidence of the necessity to

See ATTACK, Page 2

M  
A  
R  
1  
8  
2  
0  
0  
2



# Yates family members criticize husband; jurors speak out

HOUSTON (AP) — Andrea Yates' family accused her husband Monday of not doing enough to address her mental illness in the days before she drowned their five children.

The comments came in a group interview with Houston television station KTRK that was also aired on ABC's "Good Morning, America," today.

Brian Kennedy, a brother of the 37-year-old Houston homemaker convicted of capital murder in the deaths of three of the children, called Yates' husband, Russell Yates, an "unemotional" husband inattentive to his sister's needs.

Andrea Yates' mother, Karin Kennedy, said her son-in-law told her after the birth of their fourth child that he had never changed a

diaper. "I think that any man and woman whose spouse was that severely down, confused, that sick, that I would do whatever it would take to make sure my other half would get the help that was necessary," Brian Kennedy said.

Asked about criticism of his role, Russell Yates told NBC's "Today" show that some people "don't understand the biochemical nature of Andrea's illness ... so they'll say there must have been something else going on in that household, or there must have been this or that and it's all false."

Several of the jurors who voted to convict Andrea Yates of capital murder last week said the way she drowned her children in the family bathtub seemed premeditated

and methodical. In television interviews, the jurors described their decision to find Yates guilty in the June 20 deaths of three of the five children and recommend that she be sentenced to life in prison.

The jury's recommended sentence was expected to be formalized today by State District Judge Belinda Hill.

Juror Leona Baker told CBS' "The Early Show" that a "couple" of jurors initially voted for death, then the jury discussed it and became unanimous on the life sentence.

"I believed that she was not going to be a threat to society being in prison for the next 40 years of her life," she said.

On the NBC "Today" show, juror

Melissa Ryan said, "I think she should be punished for what she did considering she did know right from wrong and I think prison's the way to go."

One of the jurors pointed to Yates' decision the night before to drown the children and the organized manner in which she went about holding each child beneath the water's surface before calling in the next.

When she finished, Yates called police.

"She was able to describe what she did ... I felt like she knew exactly what she was doing, and she knew it was wrong, or she would not have called the police," said a juror identified by "Dateline" as Roy, a math teacher. The jurors said they started by

considering what they found to be the most compelling evidence — the videotaped confession to police and photographs of the children, alive and dead.

Yates could have faced the death penalty based on the two capital murder convictions for the drowning deaths of Noah, 7, John, 5, and 6-month-old Mary. Evidence also was presented about the deaths of Paul, 3, and Luke, 2.

Yates, 37, will have to spend at least 40 years in prison before becoming eligible for parole.

Russell Yates told "The Early Show" that "I think I have to" sue those responsible for her medical care.

He contends that she was wrongly taken off antipsychotic medication before the killings.

# Drug-coated stents eliminate major shortcoming of angioplasty

ATLANTA (AP) — Doctors believe they have solved one of the most frustrating problems in heart care — the stubborn tendency of heart arteries to clog up after angioplasty.

New data released Sunday suggest the approach virtually eliminates this complication, which occurs in about one-quarter of angioplasties — now done on 1 million Americans annually.

The approach is the drug-coated stent, a wire coil

engineered to prop open the artery and keep it from refilling with scar tissue.

"This is a very hot topic, potentially revolutionary in the treatment of coronary artery disease," said Dr. Spencer King III of Emory University.

During angioplasty, doctors fish tiny balloons through clogged heart arteries, then inflate them briefly to open up blood flow.

The tendency of the freshly opened artery to close up again with scar tissue with-

in a few months has always been its major drawback.

Doctors have tried a variety of gadgets, such as lasers and whirring knives, to prevent this complication, called restenosis. The introduction of ordinary stents a few years ago was a big improvement, reducing the failure rate from around 40 percent to about 25 percent.

However, the latest advance has the potential of eliminating it almost completely.

The first hint of this was made public last September at a European heart conference, and more data were released Sunday at a meeting of the American College of Cardiology in Atlanta.

At least eight different varieties — coated with different growth-inhibiting medicines — are now in testing, and many more are under development.

The first was Cordis Corp.'s stent coated with the immune suppressing drug rapamycin, tested on

patients in Brazil and the Netherlands.

Dr. J. Eduardo Sousa of the Dante Pazzanese Institute of Cardiology in Sao Paulo presented two years of follow up with those 43 initial patients. While three of them have needed heart procedures for worsening disease in other parts of their hearts, all of the areas treated with the Cordis stents are flowing freely.

Sousa projected an X-ray of one of the patient's

hearts, showing a wide, obstruction-free artery. "No lesion. No problem," he said.

"The artery is completely open after two years follow up."

Dr. Jean Fajadet of Thoraxcenter in Rotterdam gave results with the same stent after seven months in 238 patients.

Again, not a single stent clogged up, compared with restenosis in 26 percent of those getting ordinary stents.

# Supreme Court refuses to consider new trial for Theodore Kaczynski

WASHINGTON (AP) — Theodore Kaczynski's attempt to undo his guilty plea in a nearly 20-year string of mail bombings ended with rejection at the Supreme Court on Monday.

The court did not comment in refusing to consider Kaczynski's appeal for a new trial in the Unabomber case. Kaczynski wanted the court to erase his 1998 guilty plea and let him take his case to a jury.

Kaczynski claimed a federal judge violated his rights by allowing his lawyers to use his mental condition as a defense, over his objections, and denying his request to represent himself.

"If Kaczynski can ever manage to get an evidentiary hearing on this issue ... he will offer testimony by well-qualified mental health experts to the effect that the diagnosis of schizophrenia in his case is ridiculous," Kaczynski wrote.

Kaczynski argued that he was forced to plead guilty because his lawyers insisted on presenting evidence

that would have painted him as mentally ill, and the court would not let him act as his own lawyer.

He represented himself in the Supreme Court appeal, which was neatly printed in ball point pen. He listed \$97.53 in a prison commissary account as his only asset.

The Harvard-trained mathematician who became a Montana forest recluse is serving a life sentence at a federal maximum-security prison in Florence, Colo., for the string of Unabomber attacks between 1978 and 1995.

Three people were killed and 23 injured.

The government labeled him the Unabomber because many of his attacks were directed at university scholars and airlines.

The Justice Department initially sought a death sentence but accepted the life term after a court-ordered psychiatric examination, conducted over Kaczynski's objections, concluded he was a paranoid schizophrenic.

# Rains in Tennessee, Kentucky flood roads, causing four deaths

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Heavy rains battered Tennessee and Kentucky, closing schools, forcing people in low-lying areas to evacuate their homes and turning roads deadly.

Tennessee authorities blamed at least four deaths on the storms, which dumped nearly 4 inches on the state Sunday. More rain was forecast for the region today.

"It's probably only going to get worse for some areas," said Sam Herron, a National Weather Service forecaster.

A 17-year-old boy drowned Sunday while trying to push a stalled pickup truck out of high water in Lewisburg. Three people died after their pickup hydroplaned off a roadway and struck trees in Robertson County, said Beth Tucker Womack, state Safety Department spokeswoman.

In Kentucky, at least 60 homes were severely damaged or destroyed in the southeast counties of Harlan and Knox, and seven other counties reported flooding, mud slides and power outages.

"We're getting as many people and resources into it as we can to try to get it under control," Ray Bowman, spokesman for the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management,

said Monday.

Four to five inches of rain fell during a 24-hour period ending Monday morning with a few isolated spots recording six inches of precipitation, according to meteorologist John Pelson at the weather service's Jackson office.

Emergency management spokesman Everett Jones said about 1,000 households were without power Sunday night and a shelter had been set up in an abandoned building in Harlan, in the southeast corner of the state.

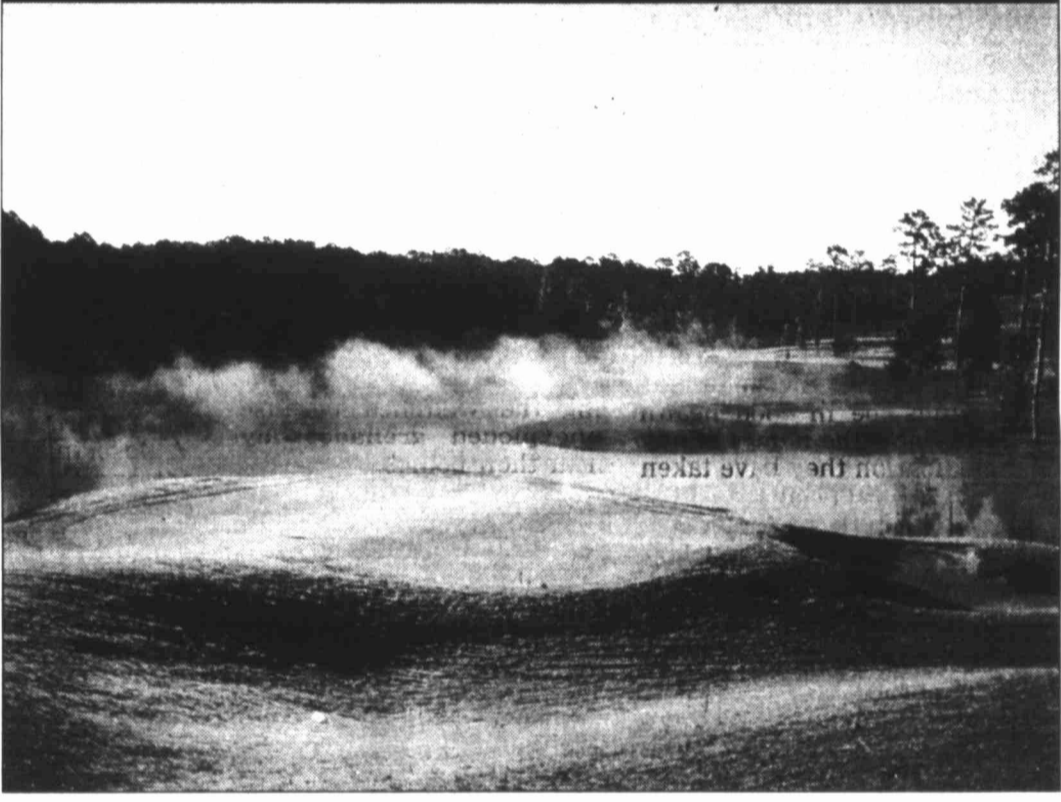
Some parts of Kentucky remained under a flash flood warning, as heavy rain flooded secondary roads, damaged businesses and caused some schools to close.

"Probably, you're looking at three out of every five schools with accessibility problems," Knox County Schools spokesman Russ Oaks said.

More than a dozen roads were deemed impassable because of high water, at least one bridge was heavily damaged and more than 100 people were evacuated in Tennessee's Sevier County, in the far eastern part of the state.

Rescue Squad Captain Jeff McCarter said there were at least 75 evacuations in the Pigeon Forge area alone.

## FORE THOUGHT.



**Here are some starting prices of air/golf and hotel packages from selected departure cities.**

- Chicago
- New York City
- Cleveland
- Toledo
- St. Louis
- Houston

**STARTING AT \$404**

- Indianapolis
- Memphis
- Baton Rouge
- Shreveport
- Oklahoma City

**STARTING AT \$434**

- Cincinnati
- Richmond
- Syracuse
- Buffalo
- Louisville
- Pittsburgh

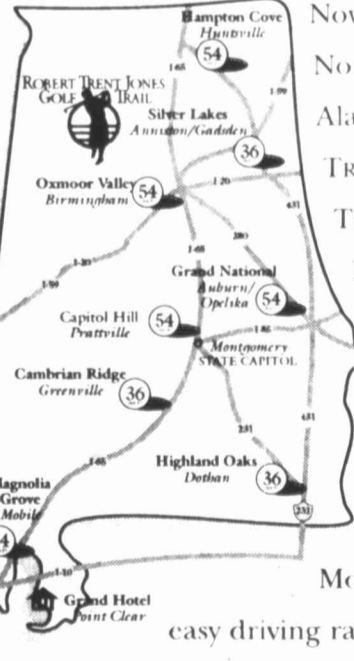
**STARTING AT \$474**

- Waterloo, IA
- Des Moines

**STARTING AT \$504**

---

### Northwest Airlines Takes You To World-Class Golf




Now you can fly Northwest Airlines to Alabama's ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL with golf and hotel packages.

Fly Northwest to Trail stops in Huntsville, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Mobile and you're in easy driving range of 21 courses on eight Trail sites. Experience 378 holes of some of the best and most affordable golf on earth. *Frequent Flyer* magazine listed the Trail among its top 10 trips in the world. Now you can easily put it at the top of yours.


Air, golf and hotel packages start at \$404 and include 3 rounds of golf, 2 nights hotel and roundtrip airfare. Cart and tax are not included.

Call 1.800.949.4444 for airline and golf packages. Visit the Trail web site at [www.rtgolf.com](http://www.rtgolf.com).



ALABAMA'S  
**ROBERT TRENT JONES  
GOLF TRAIL**

1.800.949.4444  
[www.rtgolf.com](http://www.rtgolf.com)



**NORTHWEST AIRLINES.**

Rates will vary depending on point of departure, season, and hotel. Price is per person, based on double occupancy at pre-selected hotels. Does not include taxes and surcharges. Some restrictions may apply. Subject to availability. May not be available in all areas. These advertised prices will increase after February 14, 2002.

Terms and conditions: Travel Period: Air travel tickets must be booked by September 30, 2002 and travel completed by November 13, 2002. Booking Requirements: Travel is permitted on Northwest Airlines and on Northwest Airlink flights operated by Mesa Air and Express Airlines Inc. Reservations and Ticketing: Tickets must be issued at least 14 days prior to departure. Same day standby permitted. Upgrades are not permitted except WorldPerks elite card upgrades. Saturday night stay required. Maximum stay 30 days. Stopovers are not permitted. One Way/Double Open Jaw are not permitted. Fares are not combinable with NW published fares. Not valid with any other discounts, coupons or travel awards. Changes and Cancellation: Tickets are non-refundable. Changes to return city and date permitted for a \$100 administrative fee, however any change must meet the conditions of the new fare purchased. Name changes not permitted once ticket has been issued. WorldPerks Mileage Passengers are eligible for WorldPerks mileage credit. Additional Taxes/Fees: Passenger facility charges of one cent per flight segment and \$2.75 federal excise tax per flight segment apply to airfares. A flight segment is defined as a takeoff and a landing.

M  
A  
R  
  
1  
8  
  
2  
0  
0  
2

# 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

# After Hours program is back on tap

Merchants and other members of the community have an opportunity to get together Thursday in an informal setting to share ideas and get to know a little more about local business.

Business After Hours will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at The Big Spring Mall, 1801 East FM 700. Everyone is invited. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.

Business After Hours, a function of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, encourages networking among local business leaders, as well as showcasing its sponsors.

The two-hour time allows for those attending to arrive and leave when they wish. There are no programs; it is simply a time to visit.

In this case, the mall will be featuring its Home and Garden Show. That should be a special treat. So, this Thursday, drop by the Big Spring Mall between 5 and 7 p.m. It's a good opportunity get to know other merchants and learn more about the businesses themselves. And the punch and treats are free.

## OTHER VIEWS

Ariel Sharon was elected Israel's prime minister in February last year because he promised security in the country and peace with the Palestinians. He has been in power for a year and both promises have fallen to pieces. Israeli civilians are completely unsafe in their own country and peace with the Palestinians is further away than ever.

Both parties are no longer able to end this gruesome deadlock without help or heavy pres-

sure from the outside. Europe is too divided and has insufficient power to put credible pressure on the parties. Unfortunately there is only one state powerful enough to do this, the United States. But its government doesn't want to, and executes a diverse policy concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

America has to throw its weight in, and force both parties to the negotiation table.

TROUW, AMSTERDAM

# Remember the story of the bumble bee

One day in this small community, a patrolman stopped a woman who was speeding. He asked to see her driver's license and said, "Lady, you were going 50 miles an hour in a 35 mile an hour zone." As she handed him her license, she said, "Before you begin writing that ticket, I think we should get our priorities straight. Are you supposed to advise me of my constitutional rights first, or am I supposed to tell you that my son is the head of the state highway patrol?"

As you read this humorous story, did you understand exactly what this lady had in mind? If you did, then you have some insights into the process of communication. While she did not say so, it's obvious

that she was trying to use her son's influence to avoid paying a speeding ticket. The ability to communicate is a wonderful gift and those in our society who develop and use it well, have a tremendous advantage over those who do not.

As we think about the importance of communication in your own life, I would like to tell you another story involving communication that could have a tremendous bearing on your future. It's the story of the bumble bee. According to the theory of aerodynamics, the bumble bee is not supposed to be able to fly, because the size, weight and shape of his body in relation to his wingspan, makes flying impossible. But you see, here's the problem: somebody forgot to tell the bumble bee about this theory and he goes ahead and flies and makes a little honey every day!

This story or example, has been around for a long time and while most people have heard it, I'm not sure they see the correlation between the bumble bee

and themselves. The reason this is true is because we have the ability to communicate, while the bumble bee does not, and if someone who is an authority tells us that it's impossible to do something, we just accept it at face value. Instead of going ahead and trying something new or difficult and giving it our best shot, we just pass it off by saying, "Well, you just can't do that." Let me make a quick distinction here. While some people attempt life threatening or potentially dangerous feats, I'm talking about normal, every day activities that could make us happier and more successful human beings.

About 25 years ago, when I first went into the sales profession, it didn't take me long to realize I had to steer clear of the older salesmen who had been around for years. Most of them were just plodding along and marking time. They were quick to tell me why a particular person or company would not buy from us. Of course, many new salesmen listen to this

kind of talk and they never go out and make the effort, or if they do, they take the first rejection as proof the older, more experienced salesmen were right.

All through life, we meet people who have tried things and failed, and they will be quick to tell us why we can't do it, either. Here's the principle the story about the bumble bee should teach us: if what you want to do has potential and merit and will help you achieve what you want to achieve, how are you going to know whether you can succeed or not, if you don't try it for yourself? When you make the effort, destiny comes into play. As William Jennings Bryan once said, "Destiny is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved." As you go forth today, remember: the bumble bee is not supposed to be able to fly, but he does!

Jim Davidson is a motivational speaker and syndicated columnist. You may contact him at 2 Bentley Drive, Conway, AR 72034.



JIM DAVIDSON



# Indictment of our culture

The Tonya Harding/Paula Jones match on "Celebrity Boxing" ... I have no idea how to finish that sentence. OK, it's a concept. Maybe it's camp. Or haute tacky.

Sure, we could shoot whoever thought of it, but don't you get the creepy feeling it says something awful about the culture? I just can't figure out what. It's a "What is the world coming to?" moment.

The New York Times critic says this "is not a post-modern joke about Warholian fame," she thinks it's a cruelty joke. I suppose people have always paid to see freak shows. But I suspect even P.T. Barnum would have been taken aback by this. Once you start thinking about it, though, it has a perverse fascination. How about "Fantasy Celebrity Boxing" with Medea versus Lizzie Borden?

The Broadway revival of "The Sweet Smell of Success" has touched off a round of cultural analysis about our obsession with fame. The trouble with cultural analysis is that it tends to end up with some depressing conclusion, like, "We are all terrible, terrible people." That, or some French intellectual announces Jerry Lewis is a genius.

Decrying the Decline and Fall of Absolutely Everything has been an easy way to make yourself sound smart at least since Jeremiah, but every now and then even I am tempted to join the pessimists.

A few months ago, I had what I thought was a weird conversation with an editor at People magazine. "Who is your publicist?" she asked, as though it were a reasonable question. "My publicist?" "Yes, your publicist." "I don't have a publicist." "You don't have a publicist?" "No, I don't have a publicist."

The comedy was that we were both equally confounded. Then I found out (always the last to know) that some journalists do have publicists.

Eric Alterman, one of our better media critics, recently wrote an unhappy-anniversary salute to "The McLaughlin Group." "Public affairs television programs were often dry and pompous ... but devoted to the proposition that reporters should appear on news programs only when they've learned something of value of which most people are unaware (hence the word reporter). The McLaughlin Group transformed the essential qualification from specialized knowledge to salable shtick. Not only television but journalism itself has never recovered."

A broader indictment of American culture is in the March issue of Harper's magazine by Curtis White, a splendidly cranky acad-

emic who takes on such icons of enlightenment as National Public Radio in general and Terry Gross in particular, Time magazine, self-hating boomers, inane Buddhists, Louise Erdrich, Jane Campion and The Antiques Road Show, just for starters.

White's bete noire is the flabby thinking of what he calls the Middle Mind. "Unlike Middlebrow, the Middle Mind does not locate itself between high and low culture. Rather, it asserts its right to speak for high culture, indifferent to both the traditionalist Right and the academic Left."

White believes the Culture Wars are over, and Middle Mind won. Middle Mind, for example, sees nothing odd about the premise, "Some of our best writers work for TV." Middle Mind does not distinguish between artists and poseurs. Of Gross, he writes, "From the perspective of a person really interested in art and culture, one can only, 'Well, I think she's on my side, but God, she's so stupidly on my side that I hardly recognize my side as my side.'"

Attacking NPR is like attacking Minnesota Nice — you could, but you could probably find better targets, too. We can always use a few shots at the trite and the simple, but the mean and the dangerous are more deserving. And then there is the ineffable.

The Tonya Harding/Paula Jones match on "Celebrity Boxing" ... So where's Jeremiah now that we really need him?



MOLLY IVINS

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Please:
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- 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.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
- Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.



# S

## IN BI

### Lady Hawks tournament

Howard Coll Hawks rebout an opening run the table the champions Murray Stat Softball Tournament the week Tishomingo, O After sufferin back to Community C their first ga tournament, Hawks took i over North (Texas) College on game, edge State's host sq the third g avenged their Kirkwood in round with a 3 In the chal game, the La rolled to a 6-0 Garden City Community Co Now 24-12 o son, the Lady F Ranger College p.m. in a doubl Foundation Fie

### Hawks sweep from Odessa

Howard Hawks sweep College's Wra and 14-3 in e Junior College Conference do Saturday at Ja Field.

The wins co four-game ru Wranglers, le Hawks with a overall and an in WJCAC play The Hawks v to travel to B today for one the Howard Pa

### Coahoma's Williams shines at So

Coahoma's Williams led tl the Bulldoge team Saturda Sonora Relays.

Williams wor 100 meters an meters, posting 12.66 seconds and 61.3 second 400.

She added a place leap in jump and was a in the long jum Courtney added a third cuss and a fifth put. Lauren N fourth in the Valorie Cortez the shot.

### Basketball b set for Thurs

The Big Spr Basketball Bar be 7 p.m. Thurs KC Steakhouse Tickets are \$12 per person. For more in call Myrna Rus 6891.

## ON THE

### Television COLLEGE BASKE

Women 5 p.m. — NCA Tournament, sec Old Dominion at ESPN. 6:30 p.m. — N nament, second Minnesota at N. ESPN2. 7:30 p.m. — I Tournament, sec Arizona State at ESPN2. 8 p.m. — NCA Tournament, sec Iowa at Connecti 9:30 p.m. — N Tournament, sec BYU at Iowa Stat 11 p.m. — NC Tournament, sec Tulane at Stanfor HOCKEY 7:30 p.m. — D at Chicago Blackl FXS.







MONDAY

MAR. 18

Table with 20 columns (stations) and 12 rows (times) listing various TV programs and their details.

DENNIS THE MENACE



'THE GOOD THING ABOUT HAVING A MEMORY IS THAT YOU CAN JUST REMEMBER WHAT YOU WANT.'

FAMILY CIRCUS



'Talk about bad luck! Our bus broke down COMIN' HOME from school!'

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



WIZARD OF ID



GEECH



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Monday, March 18, the 77th day of 2002. There are 288 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On March 18, 1959, President Eisenhower signed the Hawaii statehood bill. On this date: In 1766, Britain repealed the Stamp Act. In 1837, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, Grover Cleveland, was born in Caldwell, N.J. In 1922, Mohandas K. Gandhi was sentenced in India to six years' imprisonment for civil disobedience. (He was released after serving two years.) In 1931, Schick Inc. marketed the first electric razor. In 1937, more than 400 people, mostly children, were killed in a gas explosion at a school in New London,

Texas. In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met at the Brenner Pass, where the Italian dictator agreed to join Germany's war against France and Britain. In 1962, France and Algerian rebels agreed to a truce. In 1965, the first spacewalk took place as Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov left his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether. In 1974, most of the Arab oil-producing nations ended their embargo against the United States. In 1979, Iranian authorities detained American feminist Kate Millett, a day before deporting her and a companion for what were termed "provocations." Ten years ago: South African President F.W. de Klerk claimed victory for his reforms a day after a whites-only referendum on whether to end apartheid. National Football League owners voted to drop the use of videotape replays to settle disputed calls during

Answer to previous puzzle CRIMESCENE ARTE AUDITIONED LEHR STANDARDELIVER ASSITMAOINERS DECHNDELISCOPE RAWSAIVELOVEME IBARATIA AMERICANSTUDIES NPR TARE ENDURE TACH TAG REINAS CHIA BLOCS STANCH APO INST NORTHERNCLIMATE URGE AUDIOTAPES BSED DESTROYERS

Newsday Crossword

IN THE MAIL by Lee Weaver Edited by Stanley Newman

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.