



Pope's funeral will be Friday; burial in St. Peter's Basilica

By VICTOR L. SIMPSON

Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II's funeral will be held Friday morning, and his remains will be interred in the grotto of St. Peter's Basilica where pontiffs throughout the ages have been laid to rest, the Vatican said Monday.

Chief spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls made the announcement after the College of Cardinals held two meetings over the course of 2 1/2 hours in its first gathering since the pope's death and ahead of a secret vote later this month to elect a successor to John Paul.

Vatican employees filed silently past the body Monday morning to pay their last respects. Members of the public lined up by the tens of thousands in the glaring sun hours before the start of a public viewing and a prayer service at St. Peter's Basilica.

Navarro-Valls said John Paul would "almost surely" be buried in the tomb where Pope John XXIII lay before he was brought up onto the main floor of the basilica.

That pope, who died in 1963, was

moved after his 2000 beatification because so many pilgrims wanted to visit his tomb, and the grotto is in a cramped underground space.

Under Vatican tradition, Friday is the latest the funeral could have been held. Up to 2 million pilgrims are expected to converge on Rome for the 10 a.m. (3 a.m. CDT) service.

"It will be a moment without precedent," Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni said in an interview with Repubblica Radio.

"Rome will grind to a halt to guarantee the full development of the demonstration of love for the pontificate, guaranteeing the maximum security for all the heads of state who will arrive to pay homage to the pope," he said.

The funeral will include pageantry reserved for the highest prince of the church and in the presence of many of the world's secular and religious leaders. President Bush and his wife will be among the dignitaries attending, the White House said.

In the first meeting, the cardinals took an oath of secrecy. In the second one,

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Mourners have created memorials to the late Pope John Paul II in Vatican Square. Here one of the faithful adds a candle to one of the memorials Sunday night.

KRT photo/Romain Blanquart/Detroit Free Press



A member of the citizen's police academy hands cups of water to participants in the Master the Mountain Fun Run/Walk. The event this year is scheduled for April 16 in the Big Spring State Park off FM 700.

HERALD file photo

Master the Mountain

State Park gearing up for annual fund-raiser atop Scenic Mountain

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Some say you can never truly master a mountain — a statement runners from all over the state simply aren't listening to.

Running and walking enthusiasts of every age are expected to "take to the mountain" April 16, as the Big Spring State Park prepares to hold its annual "Master the Mountain" Fun Run/Walk.

While the 10K and 5K races seem to draw the serious competitors, Park Manager Ron Alton said the beauty of the mountain draws just as many people for the walking division.



Alton

"We get a lot of people who participate in the walk just because of the beauty of the park and the view from the 200 foot bluff is just unbelievable."

"You don't have to run to be a part of the fun," said Alton. "We get a lot of people who participate in the walk just because of the beauty of the park, and the view from the 200 foot bluff is just unbelievable. Whether you're running hard or just walking along, it's hard to ignore the beauty from there."

Alton said the annual event poses a challenge to serious runners that

many can't find anywhere else.

"You really can't find the kind of hills that we offer with this run anywhere else. I've heard runners refer to one of the hills on the run as Terminator Hill," laughed Alton. "The steep grades really offer a challenge to runners."

"I've gotten entry forms

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'Hollywood for Heart' gala set for Saturday night

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The wait is almost over, so shine up your spurs and boots and get ready for a night in Hollywood.

Not literally, of course.

The American Heart Association "Hollywood for Heart" western-style gala is right around the corner, slated for Saturday evening from 8 p.m. until midnight.

The gala, which will be held at the Big Spring Country Club, will feature dinner, dancing and both silent and live auctions.

Items up for auction include three nights at the Fairfield Las Vegas Desert Resort; three days

"The gala brings attention to the threat heart disease and stroke pose to both men and women. It also creates a call-to-action for people to commit to living a heart-healthy lifestyle. People in the Big Spring area that have battled heart disease, had heart surgery or have suffered the effects of a stroke are encouraged to attend."

Bobby Roever
Event coordinator

and two nights at a condo in Ruidoso, including golf; a guitar autographed by country music star Pat Green; a football autographed by the Green Bay Packers; four tickets to a Texas Rangers baseball game; and a ladies 14k gold diamond pendant.

This year's event will

also feature a special presentation entitled "Paddles Up," which gives everyone in attendance an opportunity to share a name of someone they know who has been affected by cardiovascular disease or stroke.

The annual event brings the community together

in order to raise funds in the fight against heart disease and stroke and is open to the public. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple.

The event, which was originally slated for Feb. 26, was moved to April 9 due to scheduling conflicts, according to gala

coordinator Bobby Roever.

"The Feb. 26 date conflicted with a performance by the Big Spring Symphony," said Roever. "So we started looking for a date after that. Eventually we came up with a date in March, but then we realized that conflicted with Spring Break and we were going to lose several sponsors because of that. So it was back to the drawing board."

Roever said the group decided on the next feasible date after the Spring Break holiday, which was April 9.

According to information released by the AHA, coronary heart disease is

the No. 1 killer of all Americans.

"The gala brings attention to the threat heart disease and stroke pose to both men and women," said Roever. "It also creates a call-to-action for people to commit to living a heart-healthy lifestyle. People in the Big Spring area that have battled heart disease, had heart surgery or have suffered the effects of a stroke are encouraged to attend."

The 2004 gala raised approximately \$15,000. The fund-raising goal for the upcoming event has been set at \$18,000.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Roever at 270-1-381.

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FLEA MARKET

Keep Big Spring Beautiful will be holding a community-wide flea market April 23. Area residents are encouraged to bring their gifts, crafts and recycled items to the Big Spring Mall parking lot from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Booth prices range from \$25 for a 10-foot by 10-foot space, \$45 for a 12-foot by 12-foot space and \$65 for a 24-foot by 12-foot space.

For an application, mail a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Keep Big Spring Beautiful, P.O. Box 1350, Big Spring 79721. Applications can also be picked up at the Chamber office.

Elbow pre-K, kindergarten sign-up set

Herald Staff Report

Forsan's Elbow Elementary will begin registering students for next year's pre-K and kindergarten classes.

Registration will take place today through Friday, in the elementary office.

Elbow Elementary is located south of Big Spring on the corner of

Nichols Road and Farm Road 818. The school office will be open for registration between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Today only, the office will stay open until 6:30.

Parents should bring the child's birth certificate, Social Security card, shot records and proof of residence (utility bill with name and address). In addition, parents of Pre-K students should bring

proof of income to see if they qualify under state requirements. The pre-K program is new to the Elbow campus and anyone interested is encouraged to come for the pre-registration.

In order to be eligible for Pre-K, a student must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2005.

Students in kindergarten must be 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2005.

Bush presenting Medal of Honor for Iraq war valor

By JOHN J. LUMPKIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Outnumbered and exposed, Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith stayed at his gun, beating back an advancing Iraqi force until a bullet took his life.

The El Paso native is credited with protecting the lives of scores of lightly armed American soldiers who were beyond his position in the battle, on April 4, 2003, near the gates of Baghdad International Airport.

On Monday, exactly two years after Smith's death, President Bush is awarding Smith the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor. His widow, Birgit, decided that the couple's 11-year-old son, David, will accept the medal on his father's behalf.

"It was a very easy decision for me because, after all, he's the man of the house now," she said Monday. She said she often hears from the men her husband saved, as well as their families. "They're so grateful for what Paul did that day," she said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

It is only the third Medal of Honor given for actions since the Vietnam War, and the first from the Iraq war.

Smith, 33, was the senior sergeant in a platoon of engineers during the 3rd Infantry Division's northward sprint toward Baghdad.

By the morning of April 4, elements of the division had reached Baghdad and captured Baghdad International Airport, a key objective. Encircled Iraqi militiamen and Special Republican Guard forces inside launched counterattacks.

Near the eastern edge of the airport, Smith, a veteran of the first Gulf War, had been put in charge of his unit — 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 11th Engineer Battalion — while his lieutenant went on a scouting mission.

Smith's mission was mundane enough — turn a courtyard into a holding pen for Iraqi prisoners of war. The courtyard, just north of the main road between Baghdad and the airport, was near an Iraqi military compound.

Soon after Smith began work, records show, one trooper spotted dozens of armed Iraqis approaching from beyond the gated walls of the courtyard. Another group of Iraqis occupied a nearby tower.

Smith summoned a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and he and his troops gathered near the courtyard gate to fight the



U.S. Army photo
Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith, pictured in Iraq prior to being killed in action. The El Paso native was honored today as the first soldier to win the Medal of Honor for valor exhibited in the Iraq war.

counterattack. An M113 armored personnel carrier joined the fray.

The Iraqis, perhaps as many as 100, attacked with rifles, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, or RPGs. Smith threw a grenade over a wall to drive back some of the Iraqis, then fired a rocket.

Incoming RPGs battered the Bradley, which retreated. Then a mortar struck the M113, wounding the three soldiers inside and leaving its heavy machine gun

unmanned. After directing another soldier to pull the wounded M113 crewmen to safety, Smith climbed into the machine gun position and began firing at the tower and at the Iraqis trying to rush the compound.

His upper torso and head were exposed as he manned the gun.

"This wasn't a John Wayne move," said Command Sgt. Maj. Gary J. Coker, the top enlisted man in the 11th Battalion, who was near the battle. "He was very methodical.

He knew he had the gate and he wasn't going to leave it and nobody was going to make him leave it."

Still, Coker said, "it was absolutely amazing to stand up in that volume of fire."

During a stretch of 15 minutes or longer, Smith fired more than 300 rounds as Pvt. Michael Seaman, protected inside the M113, passed him ammunition.

Then he was struck by enemy fire and mortally wounded. At almost the same time, 1st Sgt. Timothy Campbell ended the threat from the tower with a grenade, and the surviving Iraqis withdrew. Medics tried to save Smith, and he died about 30 minutes later.

He and his comrades are credited with killing between 20 and 50 Iraqi soldiers.

Beyond his position were American medics, scouts, a mortar unit and a command post — all lightly armed and vulnerable.

"Sgt. 1st Class Smith's actions saved the lives of at least 100 soldiers," according to an Army narrative.

Born in El Paso, Smith moved to Tampa, Fla., when he was 9. He enlisted in the Army in 1989.

He was known for being tough on the men under

his command, Coker, who has returned to Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division, said in a weekend telephone interview.

But Smith held himself to the same standard; Coker said, and he took care of his young soldiers when they needed it. Back in the United States, when one private's wife fell seriously ill, Smith drove four hours to bring toys to their children.

The other two post-Vietnam Medals of Honor went to Army Master Sgt. Gary I. Gordon and Army Sgt. 1st Class Randall D. Shughart, two Delta Force troopers who died defending the crew of a helicopter that was shot down in Mogadishu, Somalia, in events depicted in the book and movie "Black Hawk Down."

More than 3,400 Medals of Honor have been awarded since the decoration was created in 1861, of which more than 600 have been given posthumously.

Military officials rigorously review any nomination for the medal in a process that can last 18 months or more. Only about 840 have been given since World War II, when the requirements were made more stringent.

Army Web site on Smith: <http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/>

FUNERAL

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they made their decisions on the funeral rites, Navarro-Valls said. There were 65 cardinals attending.

Archbishop Josef Clemens, secretary of the Vatican office for lay people and a former aide to top Vatican Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, said not all the cardinal electors had arrived in Rome in time to attend Monday's first session.

Asked about the atmosphere among the cardinals, he said: "Sad, but hopeful."

There had been speculation that the pope might have left orders to be buried in his native Poland, but Navarro-Valls said John Paul "did not show any such wish."

Poles have hoped that the pope's heart may be placed in Wavel Cathedral in Krakow, where Polish saints and royalty are buried. Asked if this was ruled out by burial in St. Peter's, Navarro-Valls did not directly reply, saying he

was merely transmitting information on decisions made by the cardinals Monday morning.

Navarro-Valls made no mention of a date for the papal election, or conclave, implying that no such decision had been made. By church law, the conclave must take place within two weeks of the burial.

The spokesman said John Paul's body will be carried briefly through St. Peter's Square later Monday en route to the basilica, where a prayer service will be celebrated by Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo, the camerlengo, or chamberlain who is the most important official running the church following the pope's death. After the service, the public will be allowed to view the body.

Navarro-Valls said that to accommodate the thousands of faithful expected, the basilica would remain open every night this week except for three hours — from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. — for cleaning.

The meeting at the Bologna Hall of the Vatican's Apostolic

Palace was the first gathering of the world's Roman Catholic cardinals since the pontiff's death. After taking an oath of secrecy, they were to open any final documents John Paul may have prepared for them.

There was no word on whether the cardinals had set a date for the papal election conclave to begin; by church law, it must take place within two weeks of the burial.

John Paul himself set an imposing agenda for the cardinals in instructions he drafted in 1996, including the reading of any final documents he may have left for them.

The cardinals were expected to arrange for the destruction of John Paul's Fisherman's Ring and the dies used to make lead seals for apostolic letters.

The body was displayed Sunday for prelates, ambassadors and other dignitaries.

John Paul lay in state in the Vatican's frescoed Apostolic Palace, dressed in crimson vestments and a white bishop's miter, his head resting on a

stack of gold pillows. A rosary was wound around his hands and a staff was tucked under his left forearm. A Swiss Guard stood on either side as diplomats, politicians and clergy paid their respects at his feet.

"Our Holy Father looks very much at peace. It was very satisfying for all of us to see him so serene," Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles said after paying his respects. "His life is finished and he gave up his spirit."

The former chief rabbi of Rome, Elio Toaff, who had hosted John Paul during his historic visit to Rome's central synagogue in 1986, viewed the body Monday. He raised his arm before the body in a gesture of tribute. The current chief rabbi, Riccardo Di Segni, viewed the body Sunday.

John Paul's body appeared to have been touched up. There was no

official word on whether it was embalmed.

Rome is bracing for a crush of mourners expected to pay tribute to the Polish-born prelate who reigned firmly over his flock for 26 years with unbending loyalty to its ancient precepts, resisting calls from modernizers for the church to adapt.

In St. Peter's Square, lamp posts were covered with impromptu memorials to John Paul, including flowers, icons, and handwritten messages and children's drawings pinned up with multicolored candle wax.

"Even if we fear we've lost a point of reference, I feel like everybody in this square is united with him in a hug," said Luca Ghizzardi, a 38-year-old nurse among the throng in St. Peter's Square, with a sleeping bag and a handmade peace flag.

The Vatican's Swiss Guards, who normally

wear gaily colored uniforms, were clad in black cloaks.

The pope died Saturday of septic shock and cardio-circulatory collapse, but had been struggling with declining health for many years. He was 84.

Around the world, bells tolled and worshippers prayed in remembrance of the man who reigned for longer than all but two of his predecessors and was credited with helping bring down communism in Europe and spreading a message of peace during his frequent travels around the world.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
Helen Stein, 91 died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
Dorothy Dillon 88, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

PARK

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from three runners in Houston and the Permian Basin Running Club usually sends a team over. We get runners from Midland, Merckel and San Angelo, just to name a few. They really look forward to the challenge the terrain here offers."

Alton said the Fun Run doubles as a fund-raiser for the park, and helps show the state just how important the park's role is in the community.

"The money we raise from the Master the Mountain Fun Run/Walk will be used to put the same event on again next year," he said. "There's a \$10 entry fee to walk or run in the event, and that will include a T-shirt with Sue Bagwell's famous prairie dog design. The colors may be a little different this year, but for the most part it's going to be the same design as last year."

"The state really looks at events like these when

it comes to the state parks and the funds each one is allocated. So this run is really important — not just to the health of the runners and walkers in and around the community, but to the longevity of the park itself."

Set to start at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 16, Alton said he hopes people take a very special reminder about exercises away from the annual event.

"I started running about seven years ago, and it's had a tremendous impact on my health," said Alton. "You can't believe the amount of energy that it creates. It sounds funny, but exercise breeds energy. At the end of the run you're so tired

you can barely stand up, but the next day you have even more energy."

Alton said medical personnel will be on duty throughout the walks and runs, which are being held in conjunction with the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair.

Participants can register the day of the event, beginning at 8 a.m.

For more information on the "Master the Mountain" Fun Run/Walk, contact Alton at (432) 263-4931.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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OTHER VIEWS

Republicans need to think carefully on rules changes

In June 2003, Robert A. Caro wrote to U.S. Sens. Trent Lott, R-Miss., and Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Rules Committee. Several senators had asked Caro, author of the acclaimed and scholarly three-volume biography of Lyndon B. Johnson, for his thoughts on the Senate's role with respect to President Bush's judicial nominations.

Caro reminded the senators that extended debate, the filibuster, had been used to prolong some of the nation's most ignoble causes, such as racial segregation. But he cautioned the senators against changing the rules.

The Founders, he said, meant the Senate to be a deliberative body, one strong enough to resist a popular president when any of its members thought it their duty to do so. The Senate's constitutional role of resisting presidential authority and impetuous tides of popular passion would be ended if a simple majority could end debate even before it had begun.

Frustrated that Democratic senators have used extended debate to reject seven of Bush's judicial nominees, some Republican senators want to implement what has come to be known as the nuclear option: allowing 51 senators (or 50 senators and the vice president) to end debate on judicial nominees. They wish to forget that Republicans held up or rejected confirmation of an even greater number of President Clinton's judicial nominees. Triumphant after the last election and controlling the White House, Senate and House of Representatives, some members of the ruling party cannot imagine the day when they will return to the minority.

At crucial times in the past, senators of the ruling party have joined the minority to protect the Senate's independence from the White House and to defend the rights of the minority against the tyranny of the majority. It is hard to imagine that happening with any frequency today. Partisan power has become paramount, and the president can easily find 51 partisans eager to confirm any judicial nominee, no matter how far from the mainstream or how unqualified for lifetime appointment to the federal bench.

One such nomination Democrats thwarted last term was that of Texas Supreme Court Justice Patricia Owen. Albert Gonzales, the U.S. attorney general and for years President Bush's lawyer, once served with Owen on the Texas high court. While on the court, Gonzales wrote an opinion criticizing Owen's minority dissent as "an unconscionable act of judicial activism" the very thing President Bush says he abhors in a judge. Typical of the imperatives of party loyalty, Gonzales supports Owen's nomination to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Bush says he wants his nominees to just follow the law, but one nominee has been reversed by the conservative Fourth Circuit more than 150 times. Either the nominee doesn't know the law, or he chooses to ignore it.

Conservative lawyers and jurists who could easily win confirmation are plentiful. Republicans should resist making the Senate a rubber stamp in order to carry favor with ideological segments of the party's base.

The Chronicle
Houston

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We score a life goal when we know You, Lord, through prayer.
Amen

L.A. mayoral race: The end of politics

The Los Angeles mayor's race has a haggard, been there-done that feel — as if the City of Angels were approaching the end of politics.

The March 8 primary pitted Mayor Jimmy Hahn against two former Assembly speakers — Antonio Villaraigosa and Bob Hertzberg — as well as the police chief Hahn fired, Bernie Parks, a prominent African American who was replaced by the popular Bill Bratton.

The top candidates were all Democrats, with some lesser-known hopefuls added in. All that talent and yet the turnout was a measly 26 percent of registered voters.

The end of politics? It's what you get when only the candidates' entourages show up at rallies, few regular citizens care who wins, and issues don't matter anymore.

Villaraigosa compares the L.A. mayoral election with the election in Iraq, where the turnout was almost 59 percent — and laments. Hahn told me that the mayoral primary didn't even generate the turnout of the 2001 election when he won the mayor's office.

Then, it was 30 percent — and 30 percent is, as they say in Hollywood, bad box office. Now, the May 17 runoff election pits not the top candidates of each party but the top two vote-getters.

Hahn squeaked into the runoff with just 24 percent of the vote. The oh-so charming Villaraigosa, however, fared better, capturing 33 percent of the vote. But that lead may prove elusive. Four years ago, Villaraigosa beat Hahn in the primary election only to lose to him in the runoff.

It will be the end of politics when all the interest groups have endorsed every candidate — at different times. And that just could happen one of these days.

Wednesday morning, Villaraigosa held a press conference to tout endorsements from several San Fernando Valley neighborhood groups. Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association head Richard Close — a political heavyweight in the voter rich 'burbs of L.A. — was not the only San Fernando Valley biggie to have endorsed first Hahn four years ago, then Hertzberg in the primary last month and now Villaraigosa in the runoff.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Wednesday afternoon, Hahn held a press conference with County Supervisor Mike Antonovich. Antonovich, a Republican, backed Parks in February, but on Wednesday announced his endorsement of Hahn, who had canned Parks.

Antonovich explained that Hahn would be better on "public safety." Antonovich also referred to Hahn's father, the late Kenny Hahn, an icon in L.A. politics with legendary ties (for a white guy) to the city's black community.

No doubt Hahn appreciated the reference, because Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters' endorsement of Villaraigosa signaled a retreat of black voters, who were a key factor in Hahn's 2001 win. Waters explained that she switched from Hahn to Villaraigosa because "Jimmy Hahn is no Kenny Hahn." Ouch.

And it didn't help that the L.A. County Democratic Central Committee made the unusual move of snubbing a sitting Democrat, instead endorsing Villaraigosa. In the end of politics, there will be no lasting alliances.

The end of politics will come when every candidate agrees on every issue. At Monday night's debate, Hahn and Villaraigosa held the same view on virtually every angle of every issue. Driver's licenses for illegal immigrants? "Yes," said Villaraigosa. "It's a public safety issue." I agree, chimed in Hahn, who added, "You can't get (auto) insurance if you can't get a license."

Both said, however, that the federal government is remiss in its poor enforcement of immigration law, but it would be wrong for the city to enforce immigration law.

So where is the politically defining disagreement? Over traffic.

Hahn said he would reduce congestion by improving the worst 25 intersections, while Villaraigosa said he would work to improve all 40,000 of the city's intersections. "If you aim high, you can accomplish more," explained former Villaraigosa aide Elena Stern. With Villaraigosa's can-do attitude and lobbying skills in Sacramento and Washington, he can charm more state and federal funds for traffic improvements, she said.

At the end of politics, victory goes to the side that smashes all faith in the other guy.

Team Hahn parries back with this: Villaraigosa has gone back on his word. He said he wouldn't run for mayor when he ran for city council. In 2001, he told one group he was for Parks, but told

another group he was against him.

Camp Antonio says: Hahn is a part-time mayor; he goes home at 4 p.m. He made his top fund-raiser a deputy mayor, and the deputy mayor was too cozy with big donors. Now the Hahn administration is the target of corruption probes. And, he isn't a visionary. He doesn't keep his promises; traffic is still miserable.

"I've made some decisions that haven't made me the most popular guy," Hahn told me Wednesday. Or, as Villaraigosa likes to remind voters: Three quarters of them rejected Hahn last month.

The odd part is, Hahn is in hot water for making two decisions that are highly popular with L.A. voters — replacing Parks with Bratton and defeating the 2002 campaign for secession of the San Fernando Valley from the city. How does a man's rep plummet by doing things voters want?

L.A. political consultant Darryl Sragow, who is neutral in this race, likens Hahn to recalled Gov. Gray Davis. He has been "invisible" to voters, said Sragow Thursday. He is surrounded by "the taint of scandal." Yes, he took two stands that the voters like, but he did it in the wrong way, which "cut off his own lifelines" by alienating two important voting blocs, African Americans and San Fernando Valley residents. Hahn wasn't "respectful" in how he dealt with those communities, Sragow said, so they're bailing.

But — as Los Angeles Daily News reporter Rick Orlov frequently points out — Hahn has won six citywide races. Only a fool would count him out, even now.

And, I'll add, Villaraigosa played into Hahn's hands Monday night, when he promised too much, and hence came off as less credible.

Villaraigosa admitted to me that the best turnout to be expected on May 17 is 30 percent. If so, Angelinos will be turning out in higher numbers for the nastiest part of a nasty race.

At the end of politics, all politics is personal. Very personal.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfcronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Bush winning ugly on major issues

A senior Republican senator who avoids the headlines and tries to help President Bush as much as possible two weeks ago was discussing with me the problems of seeking Social Security reform.

Then he said something that surprised me: "I have been around a while, and this is the worst administration at congressional relations that I have ever been associated with."

I checked with several Republicans in both the House and Senate, and all agreed more or less with that assessment. Last week, I asked an administration official who is willing to speak his mind so long as his name won't be used. "I don't know that much about Congress," he said, "but I do believe this is a dysfunctional administration."

The worst? Dysfunctional? What about the praise of the strategic mastery that carried George W. Bush to a second term? Besides, is Bush not widely popular in Republican ranks? Does he not lead a party pretty well united on issues and ideology? All that is true. The dirty little secret, however, is that this administration succeeds despite chronic malfunctioning, and this more often than not is a matter of bungled personnel decisions.

I asked the senator who complained about congressional relations for the name of the official in charge of this White House function. Embarrassed, he said he did not really know. Intrigued, I asked another four prominent

Republican lawmakers until I finally found one who knew the answer. This is a post held in the past by such major figures as Bryce Harlow, Lawrence O'Brien, William Timmons and Kenneth Duberstein. President Lyndon Johnson even gave O'Brien Cabinet status, naming him postmaster general while retaining his congressional liaison duties.

The answer to my question is Candida Wolf, an able and experienced lobbyist but hardly at the level of her illustrious predecessors. As is the case often in the Bush administration, the post was open for weeks until her appointment was announced Jan. 10. That announcement received little notice in the press, but it would seem reasonable for her to make herself known to major legislators during a two-month tenure.

Unfilled jobs have been a chronic problem in this administration — especially at the Treasury, where several posts always seem empty. Recently, the vacant offices have included deputy secretary and under secretary for international affairs. The latest of multiple vacancies in the deputy's post occurred when Samuel Bodman was named secretary of energy without anyone ready to replace him at Treasury.

The number of unfilled Pentagon positions now rivals those at Treasury. Since Paul Wolfowitz had been earmarked as World Bank president for some time, it might be supposed that his successor as deputy secretary of defense would be standing beside him when he was named. But that is not the way the Bush White House works.

Indeed, it sometimes seems more interested in who is kept out of

office than who is ushered in. The most celebrated recent incident, talked about in wonder throughout Washington's Republican circles, concerns the new secretary of commerce, former Kellogg Co. CEO Carlos Gutierrez. As first reported by Washington Post columnist Al Kamen, Gutierrez's desire to bring his longtime Kellogg associate George Franklin to the capital as his only personally selected aide was rejected. Franklin had rented a townhouse, but he was sent home because of his associations in the John McCain wing of the Michigan GOP.

Franklin was a man of prominence back in Michigan, but the Bush White House's icy hand does not discriminate between the mighty and the meek. One presidential appointee ran into trouble because he retained a young clerical employee who was a holdover from the Clinton administration. Every two weeks the official would get a call from the White House asking when this worker would be removed.

Even though these stories are commonplace in Washington today, the argument can be made that this president has passed major tax and education bills, pacified Afghanistan and removed Saddam Hussein from power, all while defeating recession. So what if his administration looks dysfunctional? In basketball, it is called winning ugly. The trouble is that a team that wins ugly sometimes starts losing.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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power

"He who laughs
— Mary Petti
Poole

It has been a question in the community for What effect do have on health researchers for strictly scientific of the debate, that there is no direct evidence indicating that humor heals illness. Yet other medical experts have demonstrated how laughter can bring specific health benefits instance:

— Laughter immune system ing natural dis ing cells.
— Laughter blood pressure
— Laughter tolerance to p reported in the Journal of the Medical Assoc
— Laughter heart rate and rate.

And probably importantly, it helps to reduce wealth of rese shown that dis emotions, such depression, an anxiety, are al to heart disea; directly chang tressing emoti fore, humor r reduce the ris disease.

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— Bill Cosby

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To your health

Lurking in yogurt: Live cultures that may boost your immunity

By JANET HELM

Chicago Tribune
Bacteria in your food are a bad thing, usually: Think of E. coli or other harmful bugs. But a whole other world of "friendly" bacteria lurks out there. Called "probiotics" and found in such products as yogurt, they provide health benefits beyond the regular live cultures found in those foods.

Probiotics are among the fastest-growing category of functional foods, according to the market research firm Mintel, which cites a 140 percent increase last year in the launch of new probiotic-fortified products.

So far, the strongest evidence on probiotics has focused on digestive-tract problems such as lactose intolerance and diarrhea — including infectious diarrhea among children and the type that develops after a person has taken antibiotics (which wipe out both good and bad bacteria in their path, altering the digestive tract's natural balance).

Additional studies suggest probiotics may help decrease the risk of colon cancer and ease symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome and the more serious inflammatory bowel disease, which includes Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Researchers also are beginning to see signs that probiotics may help lower blood pressure and blood cholesterol levels.

Europeans have long embraced the concept of probiotics (which is derived from the Greek word meaning "for life"), but Americans haven't fully warmed up to the idea of downing a drink swimming with billions of live microorganisms.

"We've done a good job in this country of scaring people to death of microbes," said Mary Ellen Sanders, president of the International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics, a non-profit scientific organization. "People don't understand the important role microbes can play in our health."

Unlike antibiotics, which kill harmful microbes in the body, probiotics simply take up temporary residence and neutralize the negative effects of the "bad" bacteria living there. Some of the benefits of probiotics



KRT photo/Bob Fila, Chicago Tribune

Products with probiotics in them won't necessarily list that word on the label. Look for live cultures with any of these names: Lactobacillus acidophilus, bifidobacteria (or bifidus), L.casei or L. reuter.

appear to be their feisty aggression toward these nasty bugs in our bodies, Sanders said.

Emerging Health Benefits

Some of the most exciting research on probiotics involves its potential to boost immunity, according to Allan Walker, a professor of nutrition and pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, who is studying how exposure to good bacteria could help children decrease their susceptibility to infections and allergies.

Probiotics appear to communicate with the cells in our intestines to turn on antibodies to fight infections, Walker said. This "cross-talk" helps rev up our immune response so we're better prepared to deal with invading bacteria and viruses that could make us sick, he said.

Though research is preliminary, scientists are revealing some promising immune function benefits, particularly among children:

— Finnish researchers cut in half a baby's risk of developing allergies early in life by giving probiotics to expectant mothers and their newborns who were predisposed to asthma, hay fever and eczema.

— A recent study published in Pediatrics found that infants fed formula containing probiotics had less diarrhea and fever, and fewer clinic visits and absences from child

care centers, compared to those who consumed a formula without probiotics.

— A study of more than 570 children in day care centers found that intake of a probiotic milk reduced the number and severity of respiratory infections and the need for antibiotics.

Tracking Down 'Good Bugs'

Some foods may be made with microbes — everything from sour-

dough bread to pickles, sauerkraut, kim chi, miso and fermented meats like salami. But it doesn't mean all the "good bugs" survived the processing or that the strains used provide actual health benefits, which is required before it would qualify as a probiotic, Sanders said.

You also can't assume that all yogurts contain probiotics (although not all experts agree on where you draw the line). Though many of the national brands contain "live active cultures," the typical strains used to make yogurt don't make it the full ride through our digestive tract.

These starter bacteria produce lactic acid and are used to give yogurt its tart flavor, but they don't seem to have the same types of health benefits as probiotics, which do survive the digestive tract, Sanders said (although they still might help folks with lactose intolerance).

If you want a yogurt with the gut-healthy, friendly bugs, you need to scour the label to see if the manufacturer supplemented the standard strains with probiotic bacteria. The two most common are Lactobacillus acidophilus and bifidobacteria (or bifidus). You won't necessarily see the word "probiotics" on the label.

These bacteria (and their probiotic cousins L. casei, L. reuteri and others) also are being added

to fermented milks like acidophilus milk, kefir and soy beverages.

New to the market is Dannon's DanActive, a probiotic dairy drink that contains 10 billion live cultures per serving — or 10 times more cultures than yogurt, according to the label. DanActive also appears to be the first product to use the immunity claim to try and sell Americans on the benefits of live microorganisms. The label touts its ability to "naturally strengthen your body's defense system."

Companies are exploring adding the cultures to a wide range of non-dairy products, including breakfast cereal, energy bars, juices and other beverages, and even candy. Capsules of probiotics also are available in health food stores, but experts believe there may be additional benefits of getting your bacteria in a food form, especially through dairy products.

To take care of the "good" bacteria you buy, don't let your probiotic products linger at room temperature, and don't heat them or you'll kill the live cultures. Also, it's best to consume probiotics before the use-by date on the label (or within the week following the sell-by date). Otherwise, the live cultures begin to die off.

To reap the full benefits, you need to consume probiotics on a regular basis. The friendly bacteria only persist in your gut as long as there's a steady supply. So if you don't eat any foods or supplements containing probiotics, after about a month they will be gone.

Don't Forget Probiotics

Now that you've gotten to know the term "probiotics," there's something else you should add to your lexicon: prebiotics.

These are types of dietary fiber, such as inulin and oligosaccharides, that help nourish the growth of good bacteria. Companies are beginning to introduce new products that contain a combination of probiotics and prebiotics.

Consuming foods that naturally contain prebiotics — garlic, onions, artichokes, bananas and whole grains — also can help stimulate the good bugs that naturally reside in your digestive tract.

Ahh, the healing power of laughter

"He who laughs, lasts."
—Mary Pettibone Poole

It has been an ongoing question in the medical community for years: What effect does humor have on healing? Some researchers focus on the strictly scientific aspects of the debate, noting that there is no direct evidence indicating that humor heals illness. Yet other medical experts have demonstrated how laughter can bring specific health benefits. For instance:



DR. PATTI J. PATTERSON

— Laughter boosts the immune system, increasing natural disease-fighting cells.

— Laughter lowers blood pressure.

— Laughter increases tolerance to pain, as reported in the 1989 Journal of the American Medical Association.

— Laughter increases heart rate and pulse rate.

And probably most importantly, laughter helps to reduce stress. A wealth of research has shown that distressing emotions, such as depression, anger and anxiety, are all related to heart disease. Humor directly changes distressing emotions; therefore, humor may help reduce the risk of heart disease.

"If you can laugh at it, you can survive it."
—Bill Cosby

Illness can be very stressful to patients and their caregivers. Hospitalization, separation from family, invasive procedures, complex technology or an

unfamiliar environment can all create feelings of anxiety, loneliness, anger or fear. These emotions are known to produce physiological changes that are harmful to the body.

Laughter can be therapeutic to both patient and caregiver when dealing with illness. Laughter is pleasurable; it momentarily banishes feelings of anger or fear and gives a feeling of power and control. And shared laughter is a uniquely human bond that helps us connect with one another.

April is National Humor Month. What better time to focus on taking a lighter look at life? Some ways to add humor include:

— Being surrounded by funny and playful people. Find a humor buddy.

— Keeping an emergency humor tape in the car.

— Observing children and animals.

— Clipping cartoons and posting them in a visible location.

Humor and laughter can foster a positive and hopeful attitude. Laughter provides an opportunity to release those uncomfortable emotions which, if held inside, may create biochemical changes that are harmful to the body.

Researchers say that children laugh about 400 times a day, while adults laugh about 15 times a day. Increasing our daily dose of laughter may help us recapture our youthful spirit — and perhaps become healthier in the process.

Dr. Patti J. Patterson is vice president of rural and community health at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

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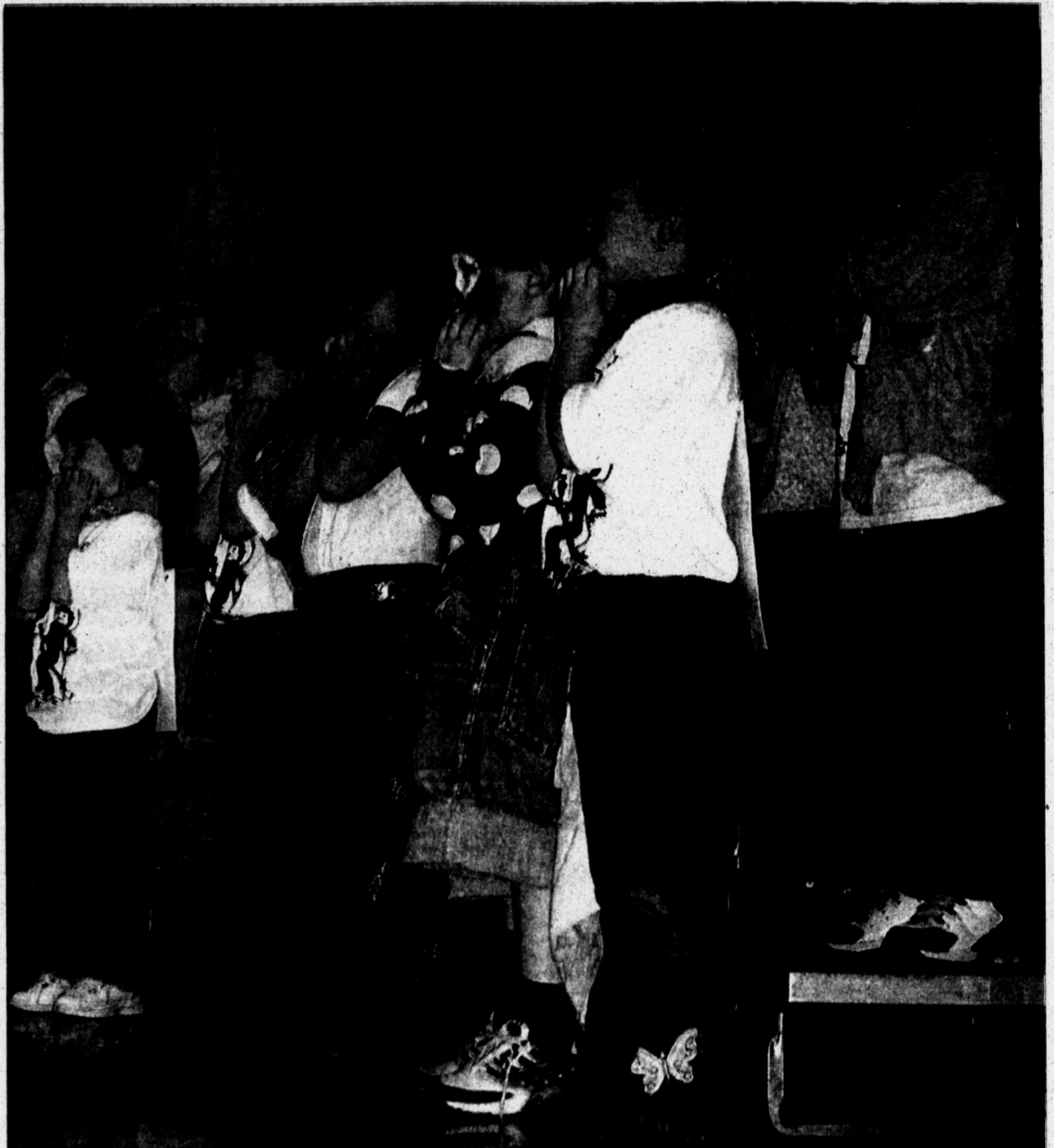
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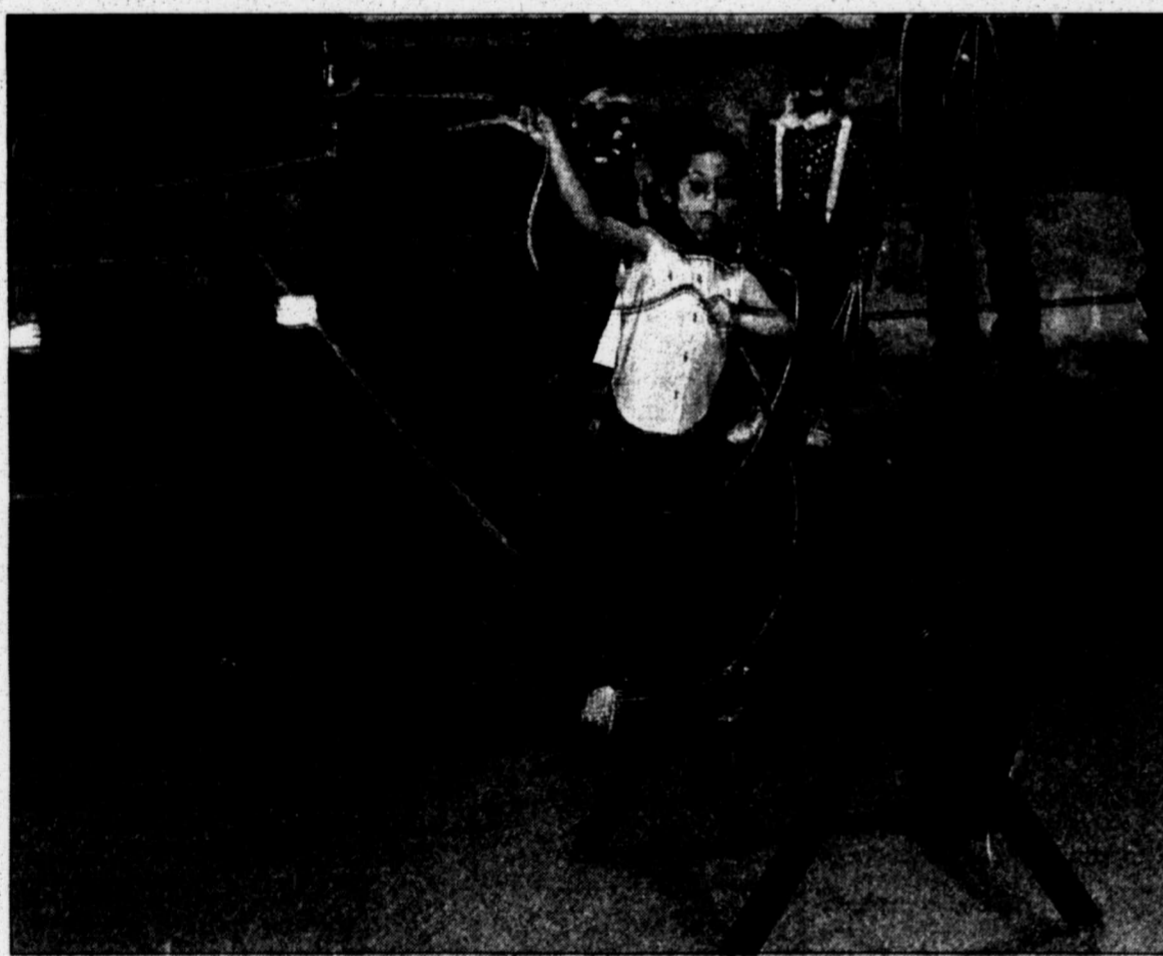
Good news!



Brice Chapman displays some of his trick roping skills during the Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo, held at the elementary school gymnasium.



Participants in the stickhorse rodeo sing for the audience during intermission.



Above, Annie Chandler displays her roping talents as she zeroes in on a sawhorse steer during the 27th Annual Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo Thursday morning.

At right, Miss Rodeo Texas, Tanya Harvey, talks to some of the participants at the rodeo.



Herald photos by Steve Reagan

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Sports

BIG
SPRING HERALD

Page 1B
Monday, April 4, 2005

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Troy Hyde at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

IN BRIEF

Cornell Corrections announces softball tournament at Mize

Cornell Corrections is sponsoring a co-ed softball tournament benefiting Relay For Life.

The tournament will take place April 22 and 23 at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park.

The cost is \$10 per player and the deadline to register is Friday, April 15.

Concessions will also be available.

For more information, call 267-1911 ext. 214 during the day and 267-2004 at night.

Howard rodeo team sets crawfish boil

The Howard College rodeo team will hold its annual crawfish boil April 16 at 2 p.m. at the H.C. Rodeo Bowl during Howard College's annual rodeo.

The cost is \$15, which includes ticket into rodeo.

For more information, contact Howard rodeo coach Greg Kernick at 816-9477.

Dodgeball toumey set for April 9

Cornell Corrections has set up a co-ed dodgeball tournament for Saturday at the YMCA and the tournament will benefit Relay For Life.

The tournament costs \$10 per person and the deadline to register is April 5.

For more information, call 267-7911 ext. 214 during the day or 267-2004 at night.

Couples scramble set up at Comanche

A summer long couples scramble tournament has been set at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The tournament will start Thursday and will take place every Thursday throughout the summer, ending sometime in October.

The tournament consists of nine holes and the tee time each day is 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Sue Russell at 398-5452.

Softball Association to hold umpire clinic

The Big Spring Girl's Softball Association will be holding an ASA umpire clinic tonight at 6 p.m.

The clinic will be held at the Roy Anderson Complex at Hollis Field.

For more information or if anyone is interested in attending, call Francisco Ramirez at 466-3670 or 264-1530.

First MLB player falls victim to policy

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Tampa Bay outfielder Alex Sanchez was suspended 10 days for violating major league baseball's new drug policy, the first player publicly identified under baseball's tougher rules.

Major League Baseball announced the suspension Sunday. It begins Monday.

Howard claims three strong finishes in Snyder

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
SNYDER — Four members of the Howard College rodeo team advanced to the final round Saturday at the Western Texas College rodeo in Snyder and three came away with strong finishes.

Juan Alcazar put together a 4.8 second final

round run in the steer wrestling event, which made him third in the round and third in the average.

Sierra Stoney scored her second straight 7.7 second time in the goat tying and was able to finish tied for third in the final round and grabbed third overall in the average.

Dustin Specht's time of



9.4 in calf roping Saturday night gave him the best finish in the final round, which then pushed him into second overall among the average.

Jed Headley also com-

peted in the final round of the steer wrestling competition, but a broken barrier allowed him to not claim a spot in the top-five.

"Things are starting to come together for us," said Howard coach Greg Kernick. "We still need to get some points, but luckily its not over. We still have 30 percent of our

rodeos still to go and hopefully we'll be able to get some kids into the (College National Finals Rodeo)."

The Hawks travel to Canyon next Thursday to begin a three-day rodeo at West Texas A&M before hosting the Howard College rodeo April 14-16 at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl.



Howard sophomore Kelli Stolle fouls off a pitch Saturday during Game 2 of Howard's win over El Paso Community College. The Hawks won both games against the Tejanas at Foundation Field Saturday.

Howard gets sweep over rival at home

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
After splitting two games at home against El Paso Community College Friday, the Howard College softball team brought the brooms out Saturday and swept their conference rivals off Foundation Field and improved their Western Junior College Athletic Conference record to 11-7.

"The wins were big because El Paso was fighting us for the third place spot in the conference," said Howard coach Cheryl Dickens.

The Hawks won the first game, 12-7, before taking the second game, 8-4.

GAME ONE

The opening game went back-and-forth early, but the Hawks were able to take control in the fifth with five runs.

Howard (14-16, 11-7) scored four runs in the first inning, but El Paso countered with three runs in the next two innings to cut the Hawks' lead to 5-4 after three

innings. El Paso grabbed the lead in the top of the fourth inning before the Hawks scored twice to go back in front.

The five-run fifth inning put Howard up 12-6 and the Hawks did not allow for another El Paso comeback. Howard gave up one run in the sixth, but the rally by El Paso was cut short.

"It was a tight game until we got five in the fifth inning," said Dickens. "We started the game well and our hitting came back around, too."

Sophomore Andrea Renteria got the win in game one, despite giving up seven runs on 12 hits and walking six.

Becka Renfro went three-for-five at the plate with two runs to lead Howard. Michelle Teller added three runs and a double, while Amanda Kuramata and Amy Hitzfeld each scored twice and doubled. Crystal Walsh and Whitney each added two RBIs, as well.

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

Howard wins again in final at-bat

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
The Howard College baseball team pulled out an impressive come from behind win in game No. 1 against El Paso Community College before falling 11-3 in game two at Jack Barber Field in Big Spring Saturday.

The Hawks trailed 9-2 after four innings in the first game, but battled back to win in their final at-bat, 12-11. It was the second straight day the Hawks won the opening game in their last at-bat.

The split of El Paso pushes Howard's overall record to 22-9. The Hawks' Western Junior College Athletic Conference's record now sits at 5-7.

GAME ONE

El Paso's quick start was countered by Howard's strong finish in the first game. El Paso scored three runs to start the game in the first inning and then sent four runners across the plate in the fourth to take a commanding eight-run lead before the Hawks mounted a comeback.

A six-run fifth inning pushed the Hawk deficit 9-8, but El Paso grabbed two more runs in the top of the sixth to go back up by three before Howard tied the game in its half of the sixth. After shutting

down El Paso in the seventh, the Hawks took advantage of their final at-bat and managed to get the job done and claim the victory.

Sophomore Tanner Mattson reached base on a double to start the inning and eventually wound up on third when El Paso walked two straight Hawk hitters — Darby Brown and Jason Anderson — and loaded the bases to pitch to pitcher Eric Ashbrook, who was in the game playing first base for Will Basom.

Ashbrook hit a soft ground ball to the third baseman, who tagged his base and then attempted to gun down Ashbrook at first to end the inning, but the throw was off-line and the first baseman had to leave the bag. Ashbrook wound up being safe on the play and Mattson crossed home plate, which secured the win in game No. 1.

Jason Anderson went four-for-four at the plate with a walk, double and two runs, while Brown went two-for-three with a home run and one RBI.

Freshman Jeff Ward also had two hits as he hit his sixth homer of the year. He also double and knocked in one run, while walking once. Basom had two hits — including a double — and three RBIs, while Jeff Storms went

two-for-four.

Michael Robbins started the game, but was taken out after the first inning. He allowed three earned runs on three hits. Matthew Shephard threw the next four innings, gave up seven earned runs on six hits and five walks. Michael Martin pitched the sixth inning and gave up one run before Darren Lawless entered the game in the seventh and recorded the win.

Sean Stroud took the loss for El Paso after giving up two earned runs late in the game.

GAME TWO

Like Friday at Jack Barber Field, the second game of the doubleheader was cut short due to the eight-run mercy rule. This time, however, Howard fell victim to the rule.

El Paso scored four runs in the first stanza and scored two more in the fourth and four more in the fifth before scoring one in the seventh and final inning as the Hawks lost, 11-3 in seven innings.

Howard got only seven hits from the plate and did not score until the fifth inning. They scored two runs in the fifth and then got one in the sixth, as well.

No Hawk hitter had multiple hits, but Daman



Howard College freshman Jeff Ward, left, congratulates Eric Ashbrook Saturday during Howard's game one win over El Paso Community College. Ashbrook delivered a one-out bases loaded walk-off RBI fielder's choice in the bottom of the seventh inning and helped send Howard to the 12-11 win at Jack Barber Field. The Hawks lost game No. 2, 11-3.

Aaron hit his seventh home run of the season. Ryan Femath and Ashbrook both doubled, as well.

Parker Sisk and Zach Sewell pitched in the game for the Hawks, but neither player was very effective. Sisk took the loss after giving up six

runs. Sewell entered the game in the fourth inning and gave up five runs in just more than three innings of relief work.

Howard takes on ACU tonight before returning to conference play next weekend on the road against rival Clarendon.

Becerra, Paredez lead Forsan tracksters at Roby Invitational

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
ROBY — Both Forsan track teams struggled to find points Saturday at the Roby Invitational as

the Buffaloes claimed seventh overall with 52.5 points and the Lady Buffaloes finished ninth as they got 24 points. Hamlin won both the boy's and girl's team

titles. The Forsan boy's were led by senior Trey Paredez, who finished second in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:06.30. Justin Forshee grabbed

fifth in the 400 meter dash after claiming a :59.66.

Senior Cynthia Becerra claimed most of the Forsan girl's points.

Becerra also grabbed first in the 1,600 meter

run with a 6:03.28 and then grabbed second in the 800 meter run after finishing in 2:38.42.

Forsan will run in the district track meet Thursday at Roscoe.

Illinois reaches championship game cruising past Louisville

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP Sports Writer
ST. LOUIS (AP) — Staring into the sea of orange in the stands, the Illinois players raised their forefingers high above their heads. The No. 1 team in the country needs just one more win, and 100 years of waiting for a championship will be over.

Roger Powell Jr. and Luther Head scored 20 points apiece and sparked the Illini to a 72-57 win over Louisville on Saturday, a semifinal success that made the best season in a century of Illini basketball that much better.

"We put April 4th on the board six weeks ago and we are playing April 4th in the national championship," coach Bruce Weber said.

With the win, the Illini (37-1) tied the single-season NCAA record for victories, and kept the coach's magical bus ride going straight through the title game Monday against either North Carolina or Michigan State.

The Illini, ranked first in the country since December, got the tough test they expected from the Cardinals (33-5) and Rick Pitino, who made history by taking his third different program to the Final Four.

But Pitino and the Cardinals are going home, thanks to the scoring of Powell and Head and a defensive effort from everyone that helped the Illini shut

down Francisco Garcia and pull away in the second half.

After Louisville took its only lead of the game, 33-31, early in the second, Powell scored nine straight points for Illinois to grab back the lead and establish the Illini's dominance inside.

A little later, with a 50-49 lead, Powell sandwiched a layup and a jumper around two 3-pointers by Head as part of an 11-0 run that made the deficit too big to overcome.

Head made his first four 3-point attempts during the second-half streak. Powell wound up just four points short of his career high despite playing only five minutes in the first half because of foul trouble.

Head's backcourt mates, Deron Williams and Dee Brown, each struggled from the field, shooting a combined 5-for-17, and just 3-for-14 from 3-point range.

But, as usual, they did the little things. Williams, who scored Illinois' first and last bucket of the game, finished with nine assists and five rebounds to go with his five points. Brown ran the point and took care of the ball, adding four assists.

The guards also put some major 'D' on Louisville.

Williams guarded Garcia, the Cardinals' best player most of the season, and Garcia finished with four points to close the season with two

subpar games. This one came on top of the come-from-behind win over West Virginia in which he fouled out and watched the last nine minutes from the bench.

Taquan Dean and Larry O'Bannon picked Garcia up last time, but couldn't do it again. Dean never found his touch, going 4-for-15 and only making two 3-pointers as part of a 12-point night. O'Bannon went 4-for-10 for 12 points.

Forward Ellis Myles led the Cardinals with 17 points.

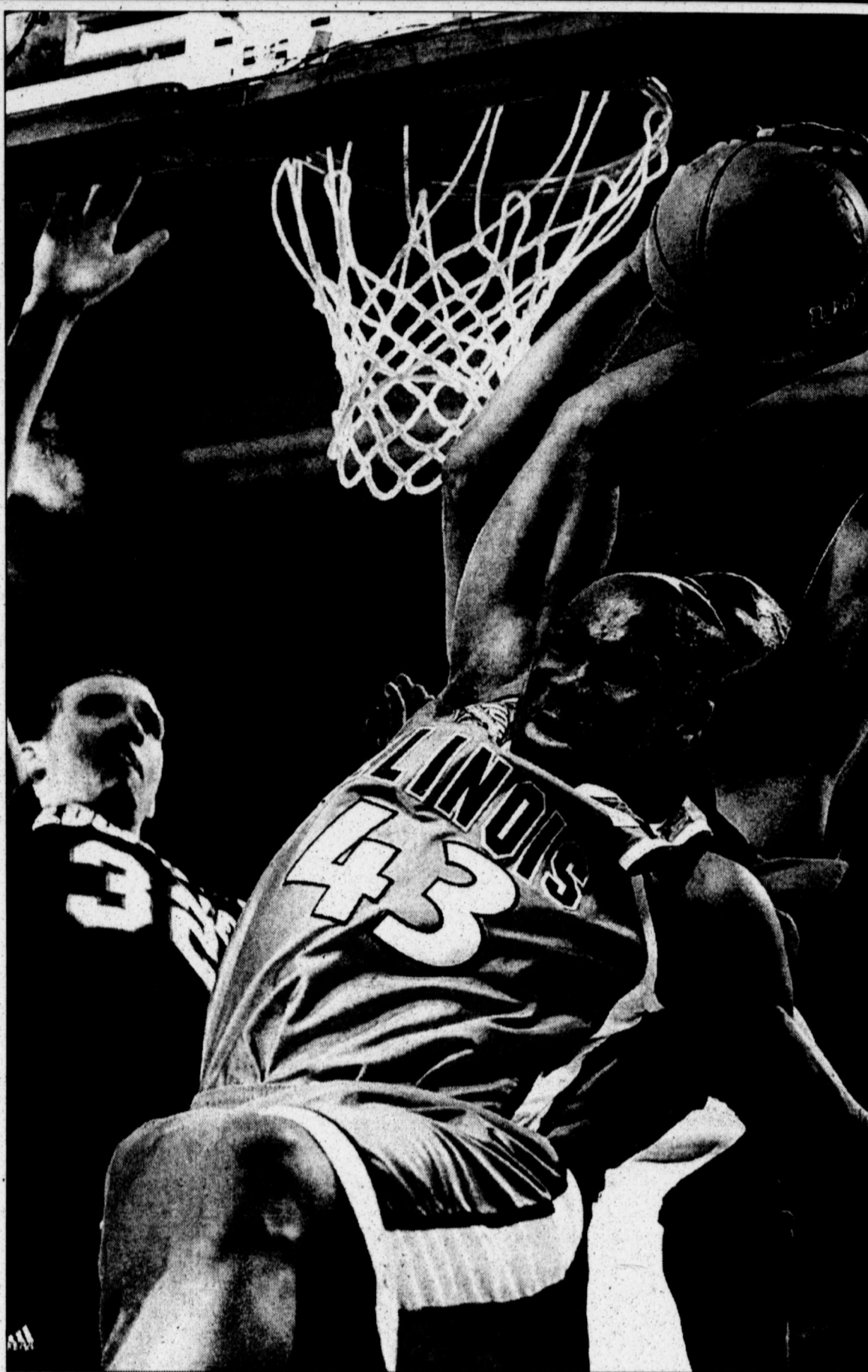
"It was difficult," Pitino said. "We didn't pitch a perfect game, but we hung in there as long as we could. We faulted to a better basketball team."

Pitino put on his usual show — stomping, screaming, trying to coax more out of a team that has largely been regarded as an overmatched underdog on many of its stops this year.

But unlike last week, when the Cardinals rallied from 20 points down for a win over West Virginia and the eighth trip to the Final Four in program history, there was no adjustment Pitino could make.

His team was getting beaten on the boards and in the end, Illinois had too many good players in too many spots for the Cardinals to overcome.

"I was excited when ... it got under a minute," Weber said. "I was excited because I knew we were in the championship game, and that's been our goal."



KRT photo/Jim Prisching, Chicago Tribune
Louisville's Francisco Garcia, left, and Ellis Myles block the shot of Illinois' Roger Powell as he drives to the basket in the second half as the Illinois Fighting Illini beat the Louisville Cardinals 72-57 in the semifinal game of the Men's NCAA Final Four basketball tournament in St. Louis, Mo., Saturday.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

GAME TWO

A combination of a fast start offensively and a strong pitching performance by Jody Clark allowed Howard to claim the sweep Saturday as the Hawks won game No. 2, 8-4.

Howard scored all eight runs in the first four innings and got three runs in each of the first and third innings. Clark went the distance on the mound, giving up four runs on 10 hits, while walking seven.

"We had been starting our game No. 2's slow in the past, but it was different (Saturday)," said Dickens. "Jody pitched a great game. It was her best game of the year."

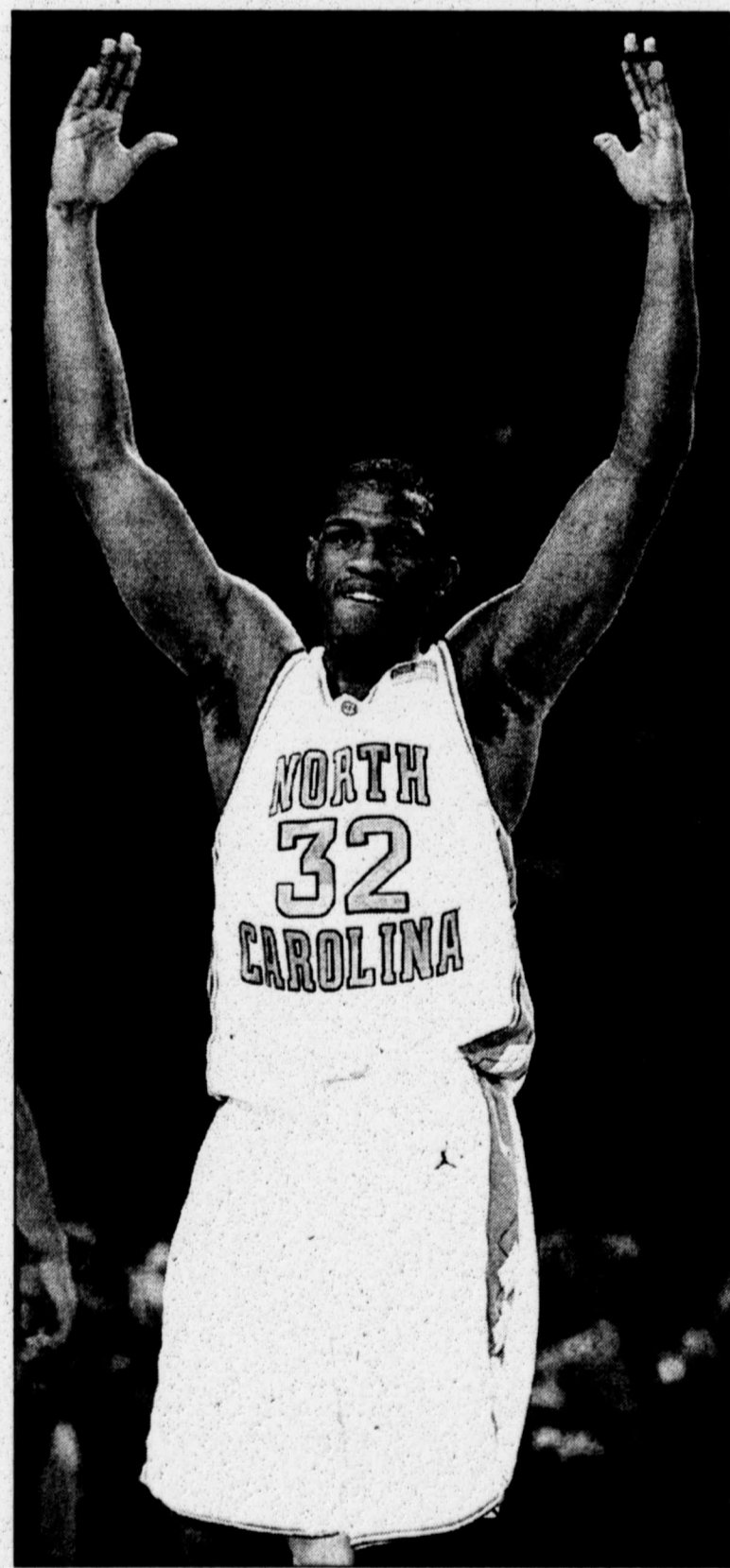
Hitzfeld led the Hawks at the plate as she went three-for-four and belted her fourth home run of the season. She added three RBIs and two runs, as well.

Krista Rams and Renfro each went two-for-four.

"I liked the way we hit the ball in our two games (Saturday)," said Dickens. "We had been struggling, but I think the offense is starting to come around."

Howard got three wins over El Paso in the weekend's four-game series and are now sitting third in the WJCAC Conference.

They travel to Odessa College for two games Friday and two games Saturday.



KRT photo/Patrick Schneider, Charlotte Observer
North Carolina's Rashad McCants celebrates as the North Carolina Tar Heels beat the Michigan State Spartans 87-71 in the semifinal game of the Men's NCAA Final Four basketball tournament in St. Louis, Mo., Saturday.

Williams returns to title game as UNC rolls

By PAUL NEWBERRY

AP Sports Writer
ST. LOUIS (AP) — For a while there, Roy Williams must have had flashbacks of Final Fours past.

Not to worry. North Carolina is not Kansas, and the Tar Heels have Williams just one victory away from that cherished national championship.

Spurred on by a passionate halftime speech from Williams, North Carolina showed off a dizzying display of weapons in the second half and cruised to an 87-71 victory over Michigan State Saturday night. The Tar Heels moved on to the title game against top-ranked Illinois.

Sean May scored 22 points — all but four after halftime. Jawad Williams added 20, keeping the Tar Heels in the game when just about everyone else was struggling in the first half. Rashad McCants chipped in with 17 points. And Raymond Felton contributed 16 while running the point.

This is a deep, talented bunch — and perhaps the best chance yet for coach Williams to finally win the last game of the season. He made it to four Final Fours during 15 years at Kansas, losing twice in the championship game and two more times in the semifinals.

The Tar Heels (32-4) certainly have their work cut out for them Monday night, taking on an

Illinois team that has lost only once and was ranked No. 1 much of the season.

"Illinois is a great club," Williams said. "I think they've done the most of anybody all year long, but we get to play the game."

But North Carolina ended the regular season ranked second, setting up the first 1-2 matchup in the final since UCLA defeated Kentucky in 1975.

Michigan State (26-7), which already had knocked off Duke and Kentucky in the regional, seemed poised to knock off another member of college basketball's royalty. The feisty Spartans shut down May, crashed the boards relentlessly and led 38-33 at halftime.

"The first half, I didn't think it was North Carolina out there," Williams said.

He thought his team was taking too many shots from beyond the 3-point arc. He didn't see them diving for loose balls. He didn't think they were helping each other on defense.

So he gave his players an earful.

"He got his point across, let me put it like that," Felton said, trying to suppress a telling smile.

North Carolina scored the first six points of the second half to reclaim the lead, made 11 of its first 15 shots to take control and spent the final minutes putting on an emphatic dunkfest.

Led by May, North

Carolina dominated on the inside, finishing with a commanding 46-28 edge for points in the lane.

"In the first half, we executed the game plan about as well as we have all year," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "We really dug in on May. (Jawad) Williams went off a little bit, but we got every loose ball."

And the second half? "We fell apart a little bit, to be honest with you," Izzo conceded.

The first half was tight most of the way. Michigan State finally got a little breathing room when Shannon Brown hit back-to-back 3-pointers from each side of the court, scoring eight straight points in all to push the Spartans to a 35-27 lead with 2 1/2 minutes remaining.

It didn't last. The son of former Indiana star Scott May came alive after halftime. Sometimes, he kicked the ball out to an open teammate. Sometimes, he simply muscled his way toward the basket, making the shot or drawing a foul.

"Yeah! Let's go!" he screamed after one especially dominating move in the paint.

"I've been told the least important score is the halftime score, so I wasn't worried that we were down," May said. "I didn't play well in the first half, but Coach told me, 'We're not going to stop coming to you.' They had faith in me."

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
Advertisement for Bids
The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting bids for the following:
RFB#05-002 Dormitory Washers and Dryers
RFB#05-003 Cosmetology Supplies
Specifications may be obtained from Mr. Dennis Churchwell, Director of Purchasing, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167, e-mail: dchurchwell@howardcollege.edu. Sealed bids will be accepted through 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2005 in the Howard College, Administration Building, A2, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. The bids will then be tabulated and final determination of bid award will be made at a future board meeting.
All bidding questions are directed to Mr. Dennis Churchwell, Director of Purchasing, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167, e-mail: dchurchwell@howardcollege.edu. Howard County College Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
#4506 April 3 & 4, 2005.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Mercury is still in retrograde, and we are still vulnerable to its antics. It's the latest and greatest technology that gets the most interference from Mercury now. So if you're thinking about adding one more software program to your computer, syncing up your database, or launching your website, prepare for this to take longer and be more challenging than anticipated.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). Customize your actions to the very unique



HOLIDAY MATHIS

situations you'll meet today. One way of being doesn't work universally! Treat everyone you meet as an individual, not as part of a large group.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Exciting career and financial developments are in store. You have strengths that are not being currently utilized on the job. Find ways to incorporate more of your skills. Surprised colleagues warm up to you.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your imagination is activated by originality and sense of fun -- so surround yourself with other air signs (Libra and Aquarius). Volunteer for something you believe in, and life begins anew.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). No use trying to con-

vince someone who can't be convinced. Instead, target people who are already open to your unique ideas. You can pick and choose your company, so do it!
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You get attention -- so much attention, in fact, that it could make you feel self-conscious. Resist the urge to deflect the attention or put yourself down in jest. Practice being comfortable with admiration.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The eyes are on you this morning. Tell yourself you're not nervous, just excited! Someone's tardiness points to passive aggressive tendencies. Read the signs now, and set expectations accordingly.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're attracting new friends. Before you decide to make someone your bosom buddy, check out their other pals for more character information. A moneymaking project involves Taurus.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be making a presentation of some kind, trying to influence at least two other people to join your effort or take your side. If you have a date tonight, keep it brief. Leave 'em wanting more.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Address efficiency issues. What would happen if you simply threw away that endless to-do list that absorbs your time and decided to start fresh? Take only the most important actions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Exercise helps you operate from your highest and best thinking. You stand to make a great deal of cash. Focus your thinking and creative energy on designing a self-perpetuating money-making system.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've cleared the first hurdle to healing a relationship. Now keep it light, establish trust, and make the relationship fun. Add to a collection. You'll find incredible deals on the Internet.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The temptation to spend more than you've got is strong. But you'll never regret living below your means. Only then will you have something left over to take advantage of investment opportunities!
ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I am on my second marriage to an Aquarius. I am a Pisces. My husband and I get along well most of the time, but I am finding that he is just sucking the life out of me. I have found myself in another relationship with a Cancer. I feel that we are more alike in our priorities, and I find that I love him very much. Am I just doomed to commit myself to relationships that fizzle out and don't meet my needs?"
Yes, you are. That is until you figure out how to love and accept yourself. When you truly love and accept yourself, you'll stop using relationships

as a means to feel OK. Right now, you're complicating your life by putting yourself in a position to tiptoe around people, lie and hide. You can rest assured that the Cancer relationship is no different from the Aquarius one in terms of your ultimate satisfaction. Pursue a creative and/or spiritual interest to get more in touch with what's really going on in your psyche. You're an attractive person and will always find the people who are meant to help you on your path.
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Jamie Lynn Spears may be a teenager, but she knows exactly what she wants to do with her life -- make us laugh! As an Aries she's born under the sign of beginner's luck. I predict this little sis will be a big star in her own right -- the Sandra Bullock of her generation! Aries is not seriously driven. Rather this sign is joyfully, lightly, buoyantly driven. If it's not fun, Aries either makes it fun, or doesn't do it at all.
If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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- Big Brother found an awesome set of free weights...
- Cousin Bill found a great apartment ...
- Big Sister found a great new job...
- Aunt Sue found a dining room table...

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Dear Annie: I am the mother of a child conceived through artificial insemination. My husband had a vasectomy after our second child was born, because we both had decided that was enough, but we later changed our minds and decided we wanted another child. My husband agreed to the insemination on the condition that the child never be told about it. That child is now in his early 20s, a talented, intelligent and mature young man. I fear that someday a medical or genetic test will uncover the fact that his dad is not his biological father, and he will be devastated by the news. I wish we had told him when he was young. Now, I'm afraid to spill the beans, not only because it will be shocking news, but also because my husband still



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

doesn't want our son to know. What happens down the road if it should be uncovered? If it occurs after my husband and I are dead, I wouldn't want my son to think he was the result of some affair I'd had. What is the right thing to do? -- Worried Mom
Dear Mom: Your son is an adult now and deserves to have, at the

very least, his correct medical history. These family secrets tend to come out sooner or later, and it is best if your son hears this information from you. While there may be some emotional upheaval and more than a few questions, your son eventually will come to grips with the situation. If he has a loving relationship with his father now, that will not change. Please discuss this with your husband and urge him to present a united front when you talk to your son. Hiding from the truth will not make the unpleasantness disappear. The sooner you face it, the better.
Dear Annie: This is in response to "Heartbroken," whose husband died tragically in an automobile accident and left behind pornographic garbage. She felt she had been betrayed not only by his death, but also by his sexual addiction. I am a sex addict. It is an extremely difficult addiction to overcome, and I am involved with therapy and regularly attend meetings of Sex Addicts Anonymous. I recommend that "Heartbroken" attend local meetings for co-dependents of sex addicts. This should help her come to terms with her deceased husband's addiction. It also should help her realize that he did indeed love her, despite his imperfections. -- Recovering through SAA
Dear Recovering: Thank you for your helpful suggestions. For those who need it, Sex Addicts Anonymous is reachable through 1-800-477-8191 or saa-recovery.org. For those who are co-dependents of sex addicts, try COSA (cosa-recovery.org), P.O. Box 14537, Minneapolis, MN 55437.

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The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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MONDAY

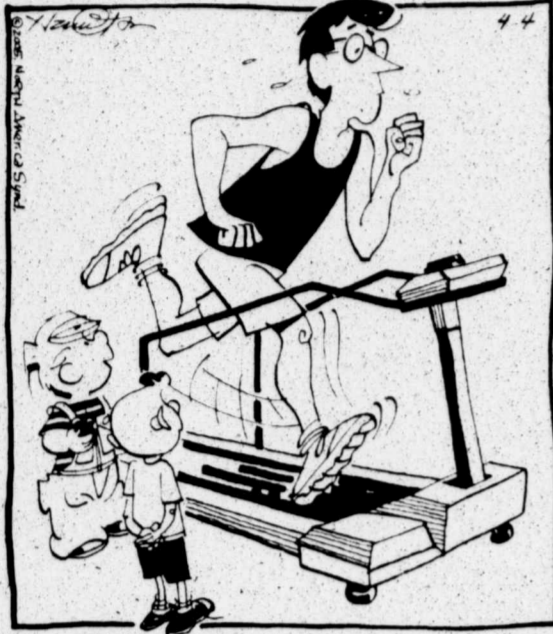
APR. 4

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6:PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Inocente de Ti	Malcolm-Mid Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Anta No Te Rajes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond	Jesse Lee Pe. John Hagee	News-Lehrer	American Chopper		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET com	That's-Raven That's-Raven	(CC)	College	Spencer (CC)
7:PM	How'd They Do That?	How'd They Do That?	Apuesta por un Amor	Nanny 911 (CC)	Two-Half Men	La Mujer en el Espejo	Fear Factor (CC)	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Bbbical Israel	Antiques Roadshow	American Chopper	Movie: Crocodile	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: 3 Strikes	Movie: Toothless	PBA Bowling: U.S. Open	GameDay (CC)	Movie: The Italian Job (CC)
8:PM	The Bachelor (CC)	The Bachelor (CC)	La Madrastra	24 (CC)	College Basketball	Los Plateados	Behind the Camera	Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	American Chopper	Dundee II	WWE Raw (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)			PBA Bowling: World Championship	Figure Skating World	(CC)
9:PM	Supernanny (CC)	Supernanny (CC)	Cristina	Malcolm-Mid 70s Show	NCAA Tourn Final - Teams	La Ley del Silencio	Unauthorized Story	Family Guy	The Hour of Healing	(CC) (DVS) Second Hand	American Chopper	Movie:	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Club Comic View	Sister, Sister Even Stevens	World Championship	Championships	Movie: Twilight (CC)	
10:PM	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ	70s Show	TBA News	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Movie: Money Train (CC) (DVS)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	American Chopper	(CC)	The Ultimate Fighter	Without a Trace (CC)	Nightly News Grown Folks	That's-Raven That's-Raven	Billiards: UPA Pro Tour	Dance (CC) SportsCenter	Kicking and Screaming
11:PM	Ent. Tonight	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora Debeiz	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	Late Show-Letterman	Al Rolo Vivo	Late Night	(DVS)	Booker Scrivner	Sign Off	American Chopper	45 Movie: MXC NCAA Champ	NYPD Blue (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family Click It-Pick It	Billiards: UPA Pro Tour	Billiards: UPA Pro Tour	Outside-Lines	(CC)
12:AM	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Paid Program	Alma Rebeido	Son City Dharma-Greg	Late Late Show	Maria Celeste Programa	Conan O'Brien Fraser (CC)	Movie: Highwaymen	Update/Israel How Can I		American Chopper	Crocodile Dundee II	Blind Date Shipmates	NYPD Blue (CC)	Club Comic View	Boy World Lizzie McGuire	Poker: 2004	SportsCenter (CC)	Sexual Temptations

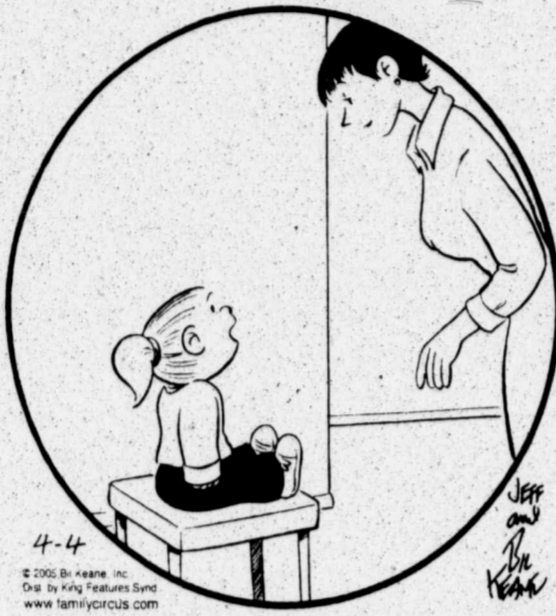
DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

HAGAR



"MY DAD SURE IS WORKIN' HARD TO GET NOWHERE FAST!"



"Mrs. Clarke wants us to sit up straight - like an 'L.' How's this?"



BLONDIE



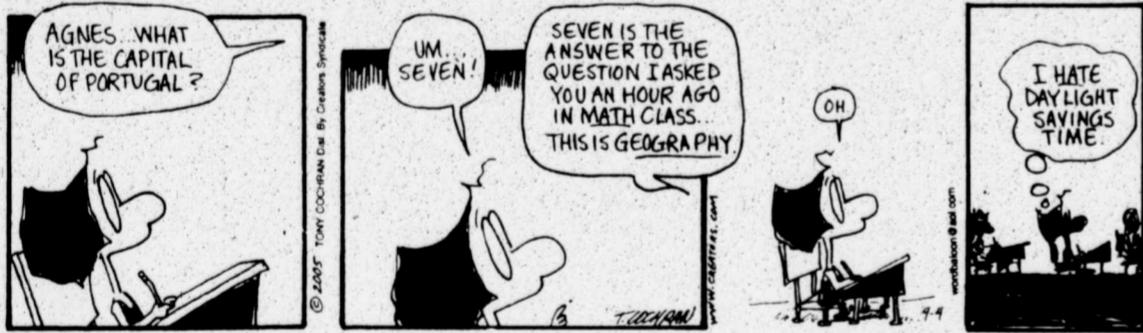
BC



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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 4, the 94th day of 2005. There are 271 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 4, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., 39, was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.

On this date:

In 1818, Congress decided the flag of the United States would consist of 13 red and white stripes and 20 stars, with a new star to be added for every new state of the Union.

In 1841, President William Henry Harrison succumbed to pneumonia one month after his inaugural, becoming the first U.S. chief executive to die in office.

In 1850, the city of Los Angeles was incorporated.

In 1902, British financier

Cecil Rhodes left \$10 million in his will to provide scholarships for Americans at Oxford University.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. troops on Okinawa encountered the first significant resistance from Japanese forces.

In 1945, U.S. forces liberated the Nazi prison camp Ohrdruf in Germany.

In 1949, 12 nations, including the United States, signed the North Atlantic Treaty.

In 1975, more than 130 people, most of them children, were killed when a U.S. Air Force transport plane evacuating Vietnamese orphans crashed shortly after take-off from Saigon.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger roared into orbit on its maiden voyage.

In 1985, Gary Dotson, who served six years of a prison sentence for rape, was freed on bail from the Joliet Correctional Center in Illinois after his accuser, Cathleen Crowell Webb, testified that the attack had never occurred.

Birthdays:

Singer-actress Frances Langford is 91. Author-poet Maya Angelou is 77. Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar, R-Ind., is 73. Recording executive Clive Davis is 73. Actor Michael Parks is 67. Bandleader Hugh Masekela is 66. Author Kitty Kelley is 63. Actor Craig T. Nelson is 61. Actor Walter Charles is 60. Actress Caroline McWilliams is 60. Actress Christine Lahti is 55. Country singer Steve Gatlin (The Gatlin Brothers) is 54. Writer-producer David E. Kelley is 49. Actor Phil Morris is 46. Actress Lorraine Toussaint is 45.

Answer to previous puzzle

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GARAGESALE	LILLO
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ITS TRESS	FAME
SHIVS	ESTES
MALICE	MATA ONE
CONCOMITANCE	
HAZARDANOPINION	
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DRLOA	OREOS
ASOU	ELATE GAM
JETT	ROMATOMATO
OTRO	TNEBRIATES
BOYS	NESSELRODE

Newsday Crossword

GOING BUGGY by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Go for a dip
5 Army posts
10 Injection
14 Like King Solomon
15 Cyberspace message
16 Brazil neighbor
17 Misfortunes
18 Food from heaven
19 Teheran's country
20 Bargain venue
22 Ration (out)
23 Grad's cap attachment
24 Day before Christmas
26 Sunset direction
29 Mistake
33 Chew like a beaver
37 Kingly address
39 Photographer's request
40 Tiny amounts
42 Hair goo
43 Video-store rentals
44 Winter dew
45 Will beneficiary
47 Eagle's home
48 Florida city
49 Soothsayer
51 Cheyenne's state: Abbr.
53 Greek garments
58 Paul who sang "Puppy Love"
61 Not at all trustworthy
65 WKRP actress Anderson
66 Traffic jam
67 "Not guilty,"

DOWN

1 Speedy
2 Author Cather
3 Maui and Kauai
4 Flat-topped hills
5 Women
6 Sharif of film
7 Private or captain
8 Fork part
9 Political ticket
10 Web-spinning comics character
11 Medal recipient
12 Unwritten exam
13 Adjust, as a motor
21 Kitten's sound
25 Sleeveless garment
27 Sound of relief
28 Birches and beeches
30 Ready to pick
31 Bullring cheers
32 Part of R&R
33 Birthday present
34 Director Ephron
35 Molecule part
36 Slender midsection
38 Writer Wiesel
41 Remain
46 Does a second draft
50 Go jogging
52 All the time
54 Chilly, as weather
55 Eskimo house
56 Place for rouge
57 Condition
58 One with a diploma
59 Facial feature
60 Leg joint
62 Not prerecorded
63 January to December
64 Billy (Melville novel)

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