



Absence rule eased for extracurricular activities

But Big Spring ISD students must continue to maintain acceptable academic standards

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

As long as Big Spring Independent School District students maintain their grades, trustees are willing to make it easier for them to pursue extracurricular activities.

During their regular meeting Thursday evening, BSISD trustees voted to extend the

number of excused absences for students involved in extracurricular activities, provided those students maintain acceptable academic standards.

Students involved in activities ranging from athletics to band to University Interscholastic League academics may now accumulate up to 20 excused absences a year, plus an extra five days if they

maintain at least an 80 average in all their classes.

Until now, students could amass up to 12 excused absences a year because of extra-curricular activities, with more allowed for post-district or state-level events.

"Many of those students have now exceeded their limit and are now taking (non-excused) absences," BSISD

Superintendent Michael Downes told trustees.

Downes, High School Principal Mike Ritchey and Athletic Director Tim Holt studied the issue before recommending an extension on the number of excused absences.

"The athletic department has mandated tutorial sessions for anyone who has less than an 80 average ... and state 'No Pass,

No Play' rules state you can't participate in extra-curricular activities if you don't maintain at least a 70 average," Downes said. "Personally, I have no problem with unlimited excused absences, because if the students' grades drop, they can't participate anyway."

Trustee Mike Dawson offered

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Hangar project might take off

Moore Development hires local architect to begin design

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Moore Development for Big Spring board of directors voted in favor of retaining local architect Phil Furqueron to begin preliminary designs for a proposed hangar at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark during its Wednesday meeting.

Directors met in executive session to discuss the matter, which was first brought before the board last month by Kent Sharp, executive director for the economic development corporation.

Sharp said he and the board will be looking closely at the prospective project.

"We have to look at the size of the hangar we want to build, see what kind of concrete it has under it, and look at the master plan and the cost of the east side versus the west side," said Sharp. "Not just the cost of the

existing concrete. The board is studying all of the cost variables and utilization variables."

According to Sharp, the demand for hangar space at the airpark is definitely there, making it an attractive option for the economic development entity.

"The viability of getting a site location chosen and building the building is certainly there. We've got the money and we have the resources," said Sharp. "We have everything in place to put the building up. The real question of viability is can we get a prospect in there once the thing is built?"

"If we just had one or two prospects, I wouldn't do it. I wouldn't be pushing this hard for it. The fact of the matter is we've not only had six and lost one, but we continue to have inquiries each month about hangar space."

According to Sharp, a number of recent inquiries from aircraft and related companies looking for hangar space to locate their operations has his and the board of

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'THE BOYS NEXT DOOR'



HERALD photo/Susanne Reed
Becky Garcia gives Clayton Vickers a kiss on the cheek in a scene from "The Boys Next Door," a production of the Howard College theater department. The Tom Griffin play continues at 8 p.m. today, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday at the Practical Arts building on campus, with a 2:30 p.m. matinee set for Sunday. Garcia, from Weslaco, and Clayton, a Forsan High School graduate, were among several theater students earning awards at the Texas Community College Theatre Festival recently, where the play won the Award of Excellence.

UW wraps up year on solid note

Overcomes 'donor fatigue'

By LYNDEL MOODY

Special to the Herald

\$254,340 — That's the total brought in from the 2006 United Way campaign.

Franklin Weber, acting president, announced the number during the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County's annual meeting Thursday, calling the effort "the most successful campaign ever."

Acknowledging the campaign fell short of its \$300,000 goal, Weber said the final amount is a statement of the giving nature of the community considering the "donor fatigue" arising from the charity efforts for the victims of the Indonesian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina.

"There was more outpouring of charity in the world than ever," Weber said.

The announcement came late this year because of lagging donations, executive director Cynthia Scott said.

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Scott

Scouts set for Pinewood Derby races Saturday

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Get ready, get set... Go!

That's exactly what area Boy Scouts will be doing Saturday, as the organization's Lone Star District prepares to hold its annual Pinewood Derby Races from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall.

According to David O'Neill, district executive for the West

"The three essential purposes of the Boy Scouts is to create better citizens, build physical and mental fitness and build ethical decision making in the young men who are part of the program. Through all of the activities that we do, the boys are learning those values."

Texas service area, the day of racing the handmade model cars isn't just about winning or losing, but about instilling the right ideas and values in the children that participate.

"Parents want a lot out of

scouting and the boys just want one thing — fun," said O'Neill. "The boys want to have a good time, and of course the parents want them to have fun. But while the boys are going out and learning about the arts and

crafts, earning their science badges and going to meetings, we're instilling values in them that will be with them throughout their lives.

"The three essential purposes of the Boy Scouts are to create

better citizens, build physical and mental fitness and build ethical decision making in the young men who are part of the program. Through all of the activities that we do, the boys are learning those values."

The competition will feature awards for the fastest car from each scout Den, as well as awards for best looking cars, most unique cars and class

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HAWKS TO LEAVE SUNDAY

Howard College's Hawks, returning to the National Junior College Athletic Association National Basketball Tournament for the first time since 1969, will leave Big Spring at 8:30 a.m. Sunday from the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum parking lot.

The public is invited to "cheer on" the Hawks as they begin their trip to Hutchinson, Kan.

The Region V Tournament champion and Western Junior College Athletic Conference champion Hawks are No. 1 in the NJCAA and sport a 32-1 record. The Hawks open tourney play at 1 p.m. Wednesday against Sheridan College.

A&M SCHOLARSHIPS

The Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications from students who are currently enrolled at Texas A&M University or graduating high school seniors who have been accepted at the university for the fall 2006 semester.

Students must be Howard County residents and enroll for at least 12 hours. More information and an application may be found on the club Web site at clubs.aggienetwork.com/howard-countyamc/.

Deadline for applications is April 1. For further information, contact Jerry Foresyth, scholarship chairman, at 263-3532 or 270-5051.

TECH LOSES LIBRARY

LUBBOCK (AP) — Potential sites for the George W. Bush presidential library were narrowed to three Thursday when the selection committee eliminated a bid led by Texas Tech University.

The decision pares the finalists down to Southern Methodist University, Baylor University and the University of Dallas.

In a statement, the selection committee did not provide a reason for taking Texas Tech's bid from the running.

The school had partnered with Midland College, forming what it called the West Texas Coalition, in hopes of building the library that's expected to cost at least \$200 million.

UW

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Sizable donations were still rolling in by the time of the wrap-up party held in December, Scott said, with several large corporate campaigns unaccounted for.

Thursday's announcement is good news for the 15 area agencies which receive funding from the United Way.

The United Way allocations committee met with the agencies at the end of 2005 for the two-day process of doling out \$165,000.

That number came from adding an estimate of the unaccounted corporate donations and subtracting campaign expenses and salaries, projected shrinkage of pledges not paid and monies donated in federal campaigns which are earmarked for agencies outside the local United Way campaign, Scott added.

Since some of corporate campaigns came in slightly higher than projected for that process, Scott said the agencies will receive a little more than the percentage originally allotted toward them.

With allocations dropping from \$178,481 in 2005, agencies will see less funding than last year.

"Our agencies knew



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Bob Scott, past president of United Way of Big Spring, installs new board members Lori Martinez and Eve Nieto during the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County annual meeting Thursday. The 2006 campaign brought in a little more than \$254,000.

coming into the allocation process that they would see less money than last year," Scott said. "Our agencies are really good about asking for only what they need."

With the United Way campaign falling short its goals in recent years, the board will take some steps toward trying to remedy that problem.

The agencies themselves may have to play a stronger role in helping

secure some of the annual revenue from the campaign, Weber said.

Scott said the United Way plans to spend more time during the year in educating the community about the services and community impact of the agencies.

In other business, officers installed during the meeting were: Weber, president; Clay Grizzle, first vice president; Kevin Armstrong, second vice

president; Phil Furqueron, secretary; and Tim Yeats, treasurer.

New board members are George Parsley, Lori Martinez and Eve Nieto.

They join current members Irene Bustamante, Michael Downes, Leslie Elrod, Kim Howell, Brett Kinnman, Jesse Mendoza, Sara Myers, Cheryl Truskowski, Pam Welch, Roy Worthy and Gladys Thompson.

H-E-B recalls baby food; investigating incidents

Herald Staff Report

H-E-B announced today that it has issued a recall of its entire H-E-B Baby Food and Mom's Organic Choice product lines.

As of today, all H-E-B baby food and Mom's Organic Choice product lines was removed from shelves due to a few customer reports of pieces of glass being found inside the baby food jars of H-E-B peas, carrots and applesauce.

Locally, a spokesperson at the H-E-B grocery store on Gregg Street confirmed that these products have been removed from the shelves as of this morning.

Winell Herron, H-E-B Group Vice President of Public Affairs, said there have been no reports of injuries associated with the incidents, but the company is taking the issue very seriously and

taking all necessary precautions.

"Though these reports have been isolated to just a few products in the H-E-B baby food and Mom's Organic Choice line, as a company, we are committed to absolute and complete food safety," Herron said.

Herron added that H-E-B will launch a full investigation into the incidents and work closely with its baby food suppliers to ensure all safety measures are being taken when manufacturing the product.

H-E-B is encouraging anyone who has any H-E-B baby food or Mom's Organic Choice product in their pantries to be sure to remove it and take it to their nearest H-E-B store for a full refund.

Customers with any questions or concerns can H-E-B customer service at 1-800-432-3113.

Officials: Marijuana images not illegal

WINSTED, Conn. (AP) — Having marijuana in your house is illegal, but having marijuana images on your house is not, according to town officials.

Five months after Christopher Seekins was arrested and charged with cultivating marijuana in his home, neighbors have complained about the giant marijuana leaves he has spray-painted on the outside of his home on High Street.

"There's no reason anybody should have a problem with it," Seekins said Wednesday.

Town officials said the marijuana paintings apparently do not conflict with local laws.

"There's nothing in the property maintenance code that deals with writing on your house," Joe Beadle, chief code enforcement officer, said.

Seekins says the large leaves are in support of the cause of the legalization of marijuana. He believes firmly in the usefulness of hemp, the coarse fiber of the cannabis plant, from tex-

tiles to paper products. "People have the wrong impression about it," Seekins said.

In October, police said they found 100 plants inside Seekins' house, along with grow lights, fertilizers and portable heaters.

Police charged Seekins, 26, with cultivating marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

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Joyce Bruton, 76, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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HANGAR

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directors' attention.

"In the last 18 months — more specifically in the last 12 months — we've had at least six aircraft or airliner related prospects," said Sharp. "Two of them were very,

very solid. They would have located here and brought with them the business they had already secured. One of them was with Southwest Jets and the regional jets like American Airlines and Continental are starting to fly. One was for painting and the other was for repair and maintenance.

"In the end, this is still a speculative investment. What's the risk involved? The risk involved is that you put about \$2 million into a project and a building that sits out there and does nothing. I think the chances of that happening are very slim, however. It's going to be utilized somehow. It's just the

best utilization of that building would be to have an aircraft-related industry in there employing about 100 people in jobs that pay \$18 an hour."

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

SCOUTS

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cars and adult race cars.

The first Cub Scouts to participate in a pinewood derby were from Cub Scout Pack 280c of Manhattan Beach, Calif. The event was originated by Cubmaster Donald Murphy, and was run in the Manhattan Beach Clubhouse May 15, 1953.

The event was later publicized in the October 1954 issue of Boys' Life, with the magazine offering plans for the track and car, which featured four wheels, four nails, and three blocks of wood. Since that time, an estimated 40 million fathers and sons have participated in races.

"It's a lot of fun," said O'Neill. "At the end it is a Pack of Cub Scouts racing

little wooden cars of various shapes and colors on little plastic wheels down a 32-foot plywood track.

"But that is only a small part of it. Each Cub Scout gets a kit with a block of wood, four nails for axles, and four plastic wheels. Then, based on the rules, he shapes and paints his block or wood into a form to race down the track."

A concession stand will be available for refresh-

ments, with funds raised going to the scouting program. The competition is open to the public, and O'Neill encourages anyone interested in scouting to attend.

For more information, call 432-413-5194.
Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

In Irishtown, firetrucks are green

CHIPPEWA FALLS, Wis. (AP) — Most fire trucks are red and some are yellow, but there's only one color for the truck built for the fire department of Irishtown, Pa. — green.

"Don't go to Irishtown and tell them you want to paint their trucks red," Fire Chief Greg Kessel said.

The Darley Corp. of Chippewa Falls also picked an appropriate time — St. Patrick's Day

— for delivery of the truck.

Plans called for the truck called "Leprechaun No. 2" to roll into the Pennsylvania village northeast of Gettysburg Friday to become part of the all-volunteer fire department that also serves Oxford Township.

But it's not the first such holiday delivery. A Darley fire truck also was delivered to Irishtown on St. Patrick's Day in 1993.

BSISD

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the "20 plus 5" proposal as an alternative to unlimited absences, an ideal the rest of the board found acceptable.

"I think that will be enough for the students," Downes said.

In other business, trustees:

- Voted a one-year renewal to all teacher contracts brought for their consideration

Thursday.
• Approved the calendar for the 2006-07 school year.
• Approved bids for athletic supplies and equipment.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@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.

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments. We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- Big Spring native Ralph Mahoney for his vision and determination to improve the downtown area with the proposed Heritage Square, and with it, the quality of life in our city.

- The Howard College Hawks, conference and regional tournament champions. Your success brings pride to everyone in Big Spring, Hawks! We wish you continued success at the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

- Mayor Russ McEwen on an inspiring "State of the City Address" Tuesday and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce for organizing and putting on the community luncheon.

- The Howard College theater department for bringing its award-winning production of "The Boys Next Door" home to Big Spring. If you didn't see it Thursday, you can still go **tonight at 8 p.m.** through Tuesday with a **2:30 p.m. matinee Sunday** — in the Practical Art building on campus.

LETTERS

To the Editor:
As a Big Spring resident, I am, of course, delighted by the new developments and opportunities which are coming to Big Spring and Howard County.
Still, I could not help but be troubled by the story I saw in last Thursday's *Herald* regarding the possibility that the county might decide to use the property of a fellow Big Spring citizen as a location for a new jail.

While I am sure that the new jail is necessary, I am mainly troubled by the fact that, because the property owner did not want to sell his property, the chilling specter of eminent domain was immediately invoked as a potential method of overriding his wishes.

I cannot, of course, speak for Mr. Knight, the property owner in question. By this time he might have decided to sell the barber shop he has owned for so many years. If so, I only hope he made the decision on his own, and not against his will.

Whatever his, or the county's eventual decision, I am still troubled, because I have been hearing stories recently of an upsurge throughout the nation in the use of eminent domain, which is the excuse some government agencies use to seize the property of their citizens, simply because it is legal to do so.

Some stories, horror stories I call them, even involve the seizing of small homes in order to allow for the building of larger ones, so that the taxing entity can reap

larger tax payments! Larger tax payments! This has actually been determined, in some places, to be a sufficient and valid excuse for the use of eminent domain.

Let's not let Big Spring or Howard County become one of those places ... places where a property owner can never be certain from one day to another that he truly is secure in the home or business into which he has poured his heart and soul ... places where the owner of a small home or business has to fear that someone might want to build a larger home or business where the original owner's home or business is located.

Instead, let's do something wonderful! Let's rise above the imperious tactic of eminent domain and become an example to the rest of the nation as to what it is like to live in a place where all the citizens, including the government officials, know, respect, and genuinely like each other.

If the owner of the barber shop currently in question or the owner of any property in a future situation does not want to sell, I hope that our government officials will not force that sale through eminent domain.

I hope that, instead, they will look around for abandoned properties, or for properties that owners actually want to sell, and seek another, more compassionate solution.

Let us, as a community, never resort to eminent domain.

Lucy Arcand
Big Spring

We can do better; don't ask how

Yes, Republicans are experiencing great difficulties right now, but the good news — politically speaking — is that Democrats are in even worse shape. While they can feast on their anti-Bush cuisine between elections, they're eventually going to have to come up with a menu of their own.

Today, they not only have no menu; they don't even have recipes for basic dishes. Their problem is not that they have too many cooks in the kitchen, but none. All of their chefs are in the Republicans' kitchen, and they don't know how to return to their own.

Their negativity alone is not going to get them back into the White House or majority status in Congress. Eventually — by all rights, it already ought to be too late — they're going to have to come up with an agenda.

But so far they can't be bothered. They're busy — doing the people's work in slandering President Bush and nobly ferreting out the "culture of corruption." Their self-appointed function is to undo, rather than do.

Democrats promised to produce their legislative agenda by November 2005, to give voters a full year before the 2006 elections to absorb their proposals. One wonders what they were doing the rest of 2005, or since 2001, for that matter.

But one need not wonder. The answer is that they excused themselves from developing an agenda because Bush-bashing was a far safer, easier and more satisfying pastime. One can only imagine the irresistible temptations they face to delay the unveiling of their

sure-to-be earth-shattering blueprint. Once they do, they won't be able to focus the nation's attention as sharply on the evils and incompetence of President Bush. The release of their plan, in fact, will be an annoying distraction. But worse, it will require them to stand behind and defend something of their own.

As it turned out, November 2005 came and went. Dem honchos decided it was too early to release the plan. Too early? Too early for what? Surely not too early for a nation they have been telling us is in dire trouble. No, too early to allow them to best capitalize on the plan's publication.

Not to worry. They said they would have the plan ready by January. Once again, the party with all the answers failed again to give us any of them. They have since scheduled and missed two more "deadlines," but House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi assures us the document will be ready in "a matter of weeks."

Just so there is no confusion here, the "plan" concerns their proposed legislative agenda. They can't even get their act together on domestic issues. But they're in even more chaos when it comes to ideas about the War on Terror, especially Iraq.

What do they suggest we do? Withdraw outright? No, that's just the Murtha/Clooney brigade. The Biden faction wants us to withdraw soon, but only if the political conditions in the country don't improve. That's bold of you, Joe.

What does John Kerry want? Who could ever know? The poor man didn't even tell us during the entirety of his laborious presidential campaign. Not long ago, he and his fellow geniuses were demanding more troops, then quickly reverting back to their withdrawal demands.

What about Iran or North Korea?

Democrats sure have relentlessly slammed Bush over not discovering a magical solution to neuter these two "Axis of Evil" charter members. On one side of their mouths, they say Bush is not being tough enough and is doing nothing. On the other, they issue dire warnings that he might actually do something.

Meanwhile, they tell us we aren't doing enough to capture Osama, "the tallest man in Afghanistan." Forgetting their childishly myopic view of the War on Terror, this mantra is wearing thin. Do they really believe President Bush isn't doing everything he can to find Osama and al-Zarqawi? If so, perhaps they can tell us where they are, or explain why the military they so love has not yet produced them.

The sad truth is that the Democrats have articulated no plan for the WOT or Iraq because they don't have one. Their worldview tells them — facts and reality be damned — that this war is largely a matter of our failure of diplomacy, international relations, and shortcomings in winning the hearts and minds of the murderers who want to kill us.

Their platitude, "We can do better," is not likely to fool enough voters when they can't even do "better enough" to produce a plan. The only thing they're better at these days is naysaying. But if such empty slogans end up working, this country is headed for worse trouble than even these professional critics can imagine.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com. And to read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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DAVID LIMBAUGH

ADDRESSES

• GEORGE W. BUSH
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• JOHN CORNYN
U.S. Senator
Washington, DC 20510-4305

Phone: 202-224-2934
• RANDY NEUGEBAUER
U.S. Representative (19th Cong. District)
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

• RICK PERRY
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1

P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• PETE LANEY
State Representative

Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0604

• KEL SELIGER
State Senator
401 Austin, suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
(432) 268-9909

Reality blowing up in our faces

It's hard to keep up with George W. Bush's shuttles between internationalism and isolationism. You may recall he first ran for office declaring he was against nation-building and other such effete, peacekeeping efforts. None of that do-gooder, building-a-better-world stuff for him — he couldn't even be bothered to learn the names of the Grecians and Kosovians.

Until Sept. 11, except for staring deep into Vlad Putin's ice-blue eyes and concluding the old KGB shark had soul, Bush evinced little interest in foreign affairs.

Then he literally became an internationalist with a vengeance. Absolutely everybody signed up to help go after al-Qaida in Afghanistan — offers of help gushed in. Next came the campaign to bring down Saddam Hussein because he had weapons of mass destruction, including a nuclear weapons program. Unfortunately, most of the rest of the world didn't think Iraq had much in the way of WMD, or at least felt the United Nations inspectors should be given more time to see if they were there.

The unseemly haste with which Bush pushed toward an unnecessary war alienated many of our closest allies, and the Bush team could not have made their contempt for those allies and the United Nations more clear.

So for a while we were the new imperialists and disdained the rest of the world. We didn't need anyone — we would go our own way, and good riddance to the United Nations, what a bunch of wusses they were. It was the season of hubris, arrogance and rudeness.

In the ultimate "up yours," Bush named John Bolton ambassador to the United Nations. Bolton is a man so undiplomatic, not to mention so anti-U.N., that half the administration was appalled by the idea. These were the days when mental pygmies outside the administration were dismissed as the "reality-based community."

The senior Bush adviser famously quoted by Ron Suskind explained, "We are an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality." Gosh, that was an exciting time.

Unfortunately, reality uncharitably refused to conform to the Bush administration's demands — in fact, reality kept blowing up in our faces. In Afghanistan and particularly in Iraq, reality turned out to be downright ugly about not obliging our blithe president.

Several months after our invasion of Iraq, it turned out we had actually invaded in order to bring democracy to that lucky little country. In the odd, dreamlike way that Bush policy morphs, all the conservatives began to pretend we had always gone in to create democracy and anyone who suggested otherwise was misremembering that pesky reality.

Indeed, so dedicated were we to the promotion of democracy around the world that it was the very first principle of our foreign policy. And if we still aren't too keen on nation-building — well, we'll just outsource it to Halliburton and let them worry about it. And what a fine job they're doing.

So here we are, internationalists again, and Bush sets off for India, where he promptly reversed decades of American foreign policy to exempt India from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. It had been our policy since Nixon was president to refuse to share nuclear energy technology with nations unwilling to agree to the nonproliferation regime. Both India and its mortal enemy, Pakistan, became nuclear-armed powers in 1998, leading to the truly horrific possibility of a nuclear arms race on the subcontinent.

Having made this lamentable

deal, Bush then proceeded to Pakistan, which naturally feels insulted and slighted at not getting the same deal. This is particularly unfortunate, as President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan is critical to the control and capture of al-Qaida.

Bush, who dropped the entire subject of Osama bin Laden like a hot rock in 2003, is now back to saying we want to capture him. Having offended Pakistan, our critical ally, Bush then returned triumphantly to — ta-da! — send exactly the wrong message to Iran. Just in time, showing the Iranians that if they persist in developing nuclear weapons, they, too, will eventually be rewarded like India. Naturally, this in turn strengthens the hard-liners in Tehran and undercuts the pro-Western reformers. What were they thinking? Does anybody here know how to play this game?

So far, it looks as though Bush does better on foreign policy when he's being an isolationist. Maybe he should just stay home and cut taxes for the rich some more, or go expose some CIA agent for political payback against her husband, or just spy on a lot of American pacifists.

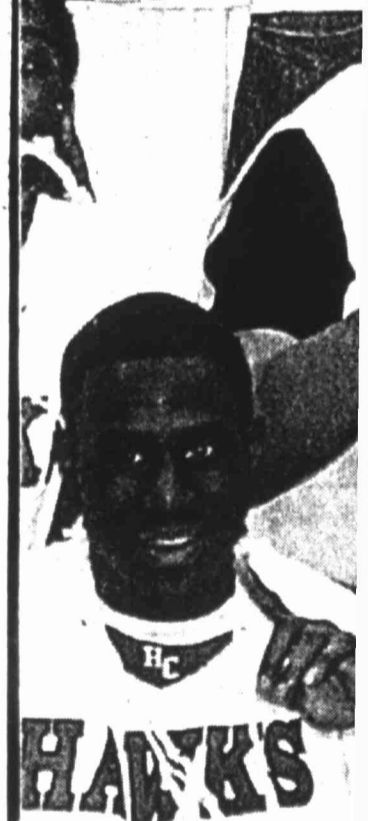
When I heard him deploring xenophobia (that's fear of foreigners) on the Dubai Ports deal, I did a double-take. Michael Chertoff of Homeland Security again has said the trouble with homeland security is that it threatens trade — all important, all sacred trade, profits above all. For the umpteenth time, it is not only possible, but smart to insist on adjusting free trade for labor standards, for environmental standards and even so your ports don't get blown up.

To find out more about Molly Ivins and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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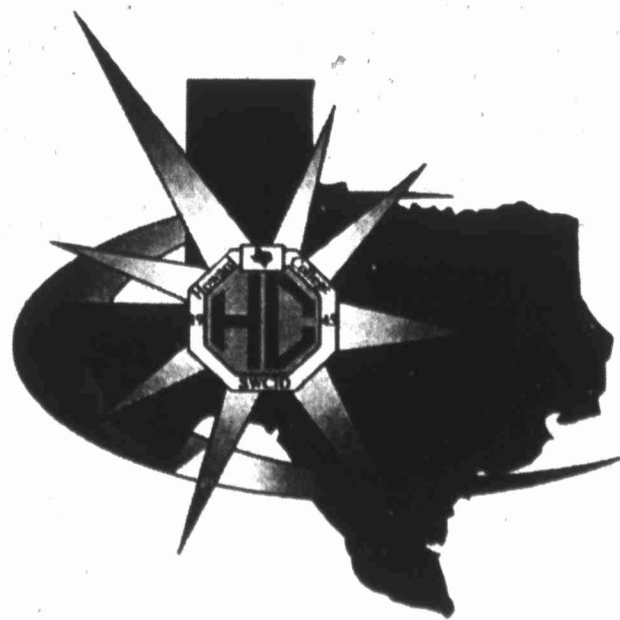
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Dissect

Millions read "The Da Vinci Code," and Dan Brown, and are expected to see a movie version, planned to be released soon in May 2006.

Clarity needs to be brought about this because it affects the most beliefs of some and a half people, by attacking the vision and mission of Christ, by rejecting divinity.

For those who think the book is just a story, they simply do not understand that deception is the book's power.

Although a work of fiction, this book claims to be meticulously researched and it goes to great lengths to give the impression of being based on fact.

In "The Da Vinci Code," Brown has many factual errors, outright untruths, and small, about subjects, including history and theology.

The book begins with the premise that the famous artist, Leonardo da Vinci, used his knowledge about the Holy Grail.

It then claims that Christians did not know Jesus as divine until the Catholic Church, claiming a secret thousands of years that details the humanity.

A major premise of the book is that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and that at least one child of theirs, a descendant of the French royal dynasty of the Middle Ages, continues through the present day.

Supposedly, this child has been kept hidden for the ages by a cult called the Priory of Sion.

Brown's book is full of contradiction.

Brown blames the Vatican for his conspiracies, yet he alleges that hundreds of years ago there was any truth.

Victim Service

Victim Service is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Volunteers are needed, including robbery victims, law enforcement, and police response.

To schedule a presentation, please call 409-765-1111 to receive an application for Victim Service.

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Dissecting 'The Da Vinci Code'

Millions have read "The Da Vinci Code," by Dan Brown, and millions are expected to see the movie version, projected to be released some time in May 2006.

Clarity needs to be brought about this book, because it adversely affects the most sacred beliefs of some billion and a half people, largely by attacking the very person and mission of Jesus Christ, by rejecting his divinity.

For those who say the book is just a story, they simply do not understand that deception is part of the book's power.

Although a work of fiction, this book claims to be meticulously researched and it goes to great lengths to convey the impression that is based on fact.

In "The Da Vinci Code," Brown has made many factual errors and outright untruths, large and small, about many subjects, including art, history and theology.

The book begins with the premise that the famous artist, Leonardo Da Vinci, used his art to communicate secret knowledge about the Holy Grail.

It then claims that early Christians did not see Jesus as divine and it also criticizes the Church, claiming it kept secret thousands of texts that details Christ's humanity.

A major premise of the book is that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and they had at least one child, whose descendants formed a French royal dynasty in the Middle Ages that continues through the present day.

Supposedly, that secret has been kept throughout the ages by a shadowy cult called the Priory of Sion.

Brown's book is a mess of contradictions.

Brown blames 'the Vatican' for his plots and conspiracies that are alleged to have taken place centuries before there was any Vatican to

plot them.

He claims Leonardo Di Vinci doesn't give Jesus a chalice in his famous painting of "The Last Supper," because Mary Magdalene is that 'chalice.'

Brown better check again to see how many cups are there.

Brown calls Mary Magdalene the victim of a Catholic smear campaign without pausing to wonder why she has been proclaimed a Catholic Saint for her real, courageous, true-life story as given to us in the Gospels.

The book teems with historical misinformation. The claim that the emperor Constantine shifted the Christian day of worship to Sunday is simply false.

We know from St. Paul and other New Testament writers that soon after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Christians replaced Saturday with Sunday as their day of worship.

What Constantine did in March 321 was to decree Sunday to be a day of rest from work. He did not make Sunday the day of worship for Christians; it already was that from the first century.

Brown also tells us that under pressure from Constantine, the bishops of the Council of Nicea in 325 were forced to declare Christ divine.

However, at that council, the bishops confirmed in theological language what had already been held for centuries about the divinity of Christ, as given in the Gospels.

Would Brown please read St. John's Gospel, which has St. Thomas calling Jesus "My Lord and My God?"

Decades before John's Gospel was finished, St. Paul's letters repeatedly reaffirmed it once again in the famous Creed, which is still professed by most Christians every Sunday.

When putting forth his case for goddess worship, Brown belittles the

Jewish roots of Christianity.

He assures us that virtually all the elements of Catholic ritual — the altar, communion and so on — were taken directly from earlier pagan mystery religions.

However, Brown should go back and read the Old Testament about the most important feast for all the Jewish people, which was the Passover.

Jesus was a Jew and it was in the context of the Passover the night before he died that Christ gave us the new Paschal Mystery that we today call the Mass, or the Eucharist.

As regards to the Priory of Sion, this is a modern fabrication based on a series of forgeries committed by a French con-man.

There is no historical evidence for a Priory until the 1950s.

The facts, or the lack of them, are important and should be addressed, but the greatest danger of "The Da Vinci Code" is that it reinforces relativistic, irrational attitudes by pretending to satisfy the mind while manipulating the emotions.

Christians enamored with this book, or those who think it is harmless entertainment, should reconsider the impact of the novel and re-examine its claim that Christianity has been a long, bloody lie and that Jesus is a mere mortal.

The Rev. Bishop Michael Pfeifer of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo.

Big Spring Symphony presents 'A Celebration of 20th Century Music'

Special to the Herald

The Big Spring Symphony and Chorus presents "A Celebration of 20th Century Music" at 8 p.m. April 8 in the Municipal Auditorium.

This is the fourth and final subscription concert of the season and will be conducted by Dr. Keith Graumann, music director.

The evening's concert begins with "Overture to Candide," by Leonard Bernstein, followed by "Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo," by Aaron Copland.

Also on the program are favorite works by classical pops composer, Leroy Anderson.

"Buglers Holiday," also by Anderson, will feature trumpets Michael Santorelli of Midland and Jose Luis Gonzales and John Oliveros, both of Big Spring.

Members of the Big Spring Symphony Chorus join the orchestra in the second half of the program in a performance of the "Porgy and Bess Suite," by George Gershwin.

This is only the second public performance of this particular arrangement by principal guest conductor John Giordano.

Featured soprano soloists are Joyce Bradley, singing "Summertime" and Claudette Forward, performing "My Man's Gone" and "Leaving Today."

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students and are available at the door.

Future events by the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra & Chorus include the annual "Symphony Pops in the park" patriotic concert and fireworks display July 3.

For more information, call the symphony office at 264-7223.

Big Spring Symphony and Chorus April 8 8 p.m. Municipal Auditorium Tickets \$15; \$10; \$5 Available at the door

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Victim Services training scheduled
Victim Services volunteer training has been rescheduled for the week of March 27-31 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and concludes April 1 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.
Volunteers assist victims of all violent crimes including robbery, sexual assault and homicide.
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Church News

East Fourth Street Baptist Church

The church is located downtown at 401 E. Fourth Street. Bible study and fellowship in the Sunday school program begins at 9:45 a.m. It is for all age groups - babies through adults. Morning worship service begins at 11 a.m. Acteens, Challengers, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action and Mission Friends are offered for children and youth Sunday nights at 5.

The evening worship service begins at 6 p.m. Sunday. Wednesdays at 7 p.m., there is prayer and Bible study for youth and adults. A new ministry, "Backdoor Bible Clinic," is for ages 4-12 year olds. Exciting music, puppets, stories and crafts are part of this new work.

The church offers a family atmosphere of worship. The Rev. Rex Clayton is pastor. For more information, call the church office at 267-2291.

Salem Baptist Church

There is a special speaker this Sunday at 6 p.m. Stormie Barrett, a student at the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, will tell about her upcoming mission trip to the Amazon. A fellowship meal will follow her presentation. Sunday school begins at 10 a.m. with the morning service following at 11 a.m. The Wednesday evening service is at Parkplace at 6 p.m. Salem Baptist is located at the corner of Salem Road and the Old Colorado City Highway and pastored by the Rev. Monroe Teeters. Contact the church at 394-4655.

First United Methodist Church

Worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Sunday. The Rev. Dave Ring's message is "Getting Through Tough Times;" the gospel Scripture text is Matthew 16:21-25. Sunday school meets at 9:45 a.m.

The Big Spring District United Methodist Women meet Sunday from 2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. The Centered in Praise Ensemble meet at 3 p.m. Rehearsal for the children's musical is from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday. Junior High Youth meet at 5:30 p.m. and Senior High Youth meet at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Partee Building.

Tuesdays Kid's Club is from 3:30 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. The Symphony Chorus meets at 7 p.m.

Wednesdays begin with Children's Day Out at 9 a.m.; Lunch/Bible study is at noon. The Hispanic Ministry has Bible study at 6 p.m. in the Men's Bible Class. Also, handbell practice is at 6 p.m., Combined Youth Bible Study is at 6:30 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsal is at 7 p.m.

Thursday features Women's Bible Study at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Special prayer times are observed in the chapel Thursday at and Friday at 7 a.m. Friday at 9 a.m. is Children's Day Out. First United Methodist Church is located at 400 Scurry. For more information on any of these programs, call the church office at 267-6394.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

Sunday worship is at 10:55 a.m. and at 5 p.m. Midweek services is at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

April 3-4, the church will host the Big Country Baptist Preachers fellowship. There will be good preaching, special music and great fellowship.

The ladies are meeting Saturday to discuss a Mother-Daughter banquet they are planning for May.

The church is located at 1512 Birdwell Lane. For further information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Church services are 9 a.m. Sunday. Sunday school and adult Bible classes are at 10:15 a.m.

Small group Bible studies are throughout the week. Call the church for times and locations. The Rev. Wayne Frost is the minister.

St. Paul Lutheran Church is located at 810 Scurry St. Call 432-267-7163 for more information.

Mt. Bethel Baptist Church

Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m., followed by morning worship at 11 a.m. Evening Bible study and Youth Church are both at 5 p.m. Sunday. Wednesday, Youth Church is at 6 p.m. The church is located at 630 Sgt. Paredez (NW Fourth St.)

College Baptist Church

The church, located at 1105 Birdwell Lane, offers Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and Sunday worship services at 11 a.m. Evening worship is at 6 p.m. Sunday and a Bible study meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday. For more information, call 267-7429.

Cornerstone Church

Worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday and the sermon is "Four ships that will keep you from sinking," at 11 a.m., part of the Back to the Basics series. Children in kindergarten through fourth grade are invited to Sunday children's activities. Childcare is available for newborns through preschool during regular services. A Biblical Foundations class begins at 9 a.m. Sunday.

The church is located at 12th and Owens streets. Call 263-3072 with any questions.

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See CHURCH NEWS Page 12A

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Holt earns second straight state appearance

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

For the second straight year, Cortnee Holt, a sophomore from Big Spring High School, will participate in the Class 4A state powerlifting meet in Killeen.

Holt qualified first this past weekend at the regional tournament in Abilene. And she has dominated the region all year long, winning every meet she has participated in and earning the meet's best lifter in the first four meets of the season.

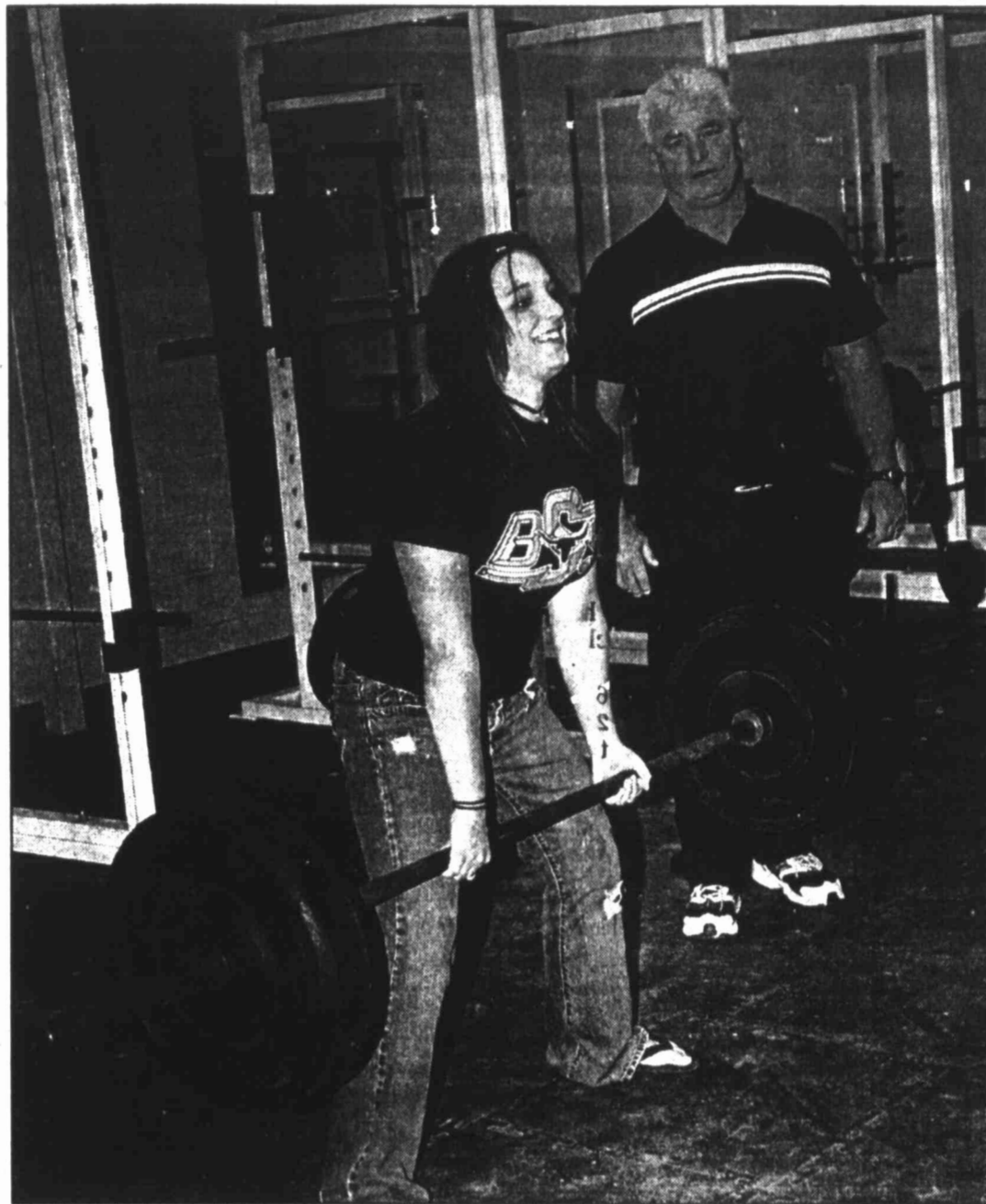
"My dad started me out when I was 12 and he takes me and the other athletes through "boot camp" and a lot of other weight training stuff," said Cortnee Holt, whose father is Big Spring Athletic Director and head football coach Tim Holt. "It has helped me build as an athlete."

Adding powerlifting was one of the new things Coach Holt did to the athletic program at Big Spring. And according to him, doing so was more about the other sports than just powerlifting.

"Powerlifting is a great motivator for all the other sports," said Coach Holt. "It is great for the off-season workouts. We don't lift weights just to lift weights."

Cortnee Holt, who finished 10th at the state meet last year, is ranked in the top five entering this year's meet, but is just 30 pounds off second place.

Courtney Gathright of New Caney has a total of 940 pounds (the total weight is squat+bench+dead lift) and is 110 pounds ahead of second place Leeza Garcia's 830. Tiffany Ferguson totals 810, while Cortnee Holt and Greenville's Joanne



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring sophomore Cortnee Holt demonstrates the dead lift with father and Big Spring Athletic Director Tim Holt Thursday morning before leaving for Killeen to take part in the girl's state powerlifting competition. The meet takes place today and Holt will participate in the 181-pound class. She enters the meet with the fourth best score in her class.

Rodriguez are both at 800. Cortnee Holt set that mark at the regional tournament this weekend.

"Realistically, I think getting in the top three is something that can happen," said Cortnee Holt. "One girl is way ahead of the rest and two others are just a few pounds better."

Big Spring powerlifting coach Keith Barnes adds, "If she can up her total

just a few pounds she has a strong chance to walk away with at least second and then if something goes wrong with the top lifter she could win it. There's always a chance for good and bad days."

Cortnee Holt currently squats 330, benches 130 and dead lifts 340. To get into the top two at the state meet, she knows it will most likely take more.

"I am going to have to just go out there and throw weight on that I am not used to lifting and see what happens," said Cortnee. "I need to take a risk and just go after it."

The most important lifts at any meet, according to Barnes and Coach Holt is the dead lift and the squat.

"Most lifters don't win or lose meets with their bench press," said

Barnes, who will be taking his first girl participant to the state meet. "The squat and dead lift are the winning lifts."

The state powerlifting meet, which takes place in Killeen starting today, features 12 girls from each classification.

"Just getting into the top 12 is impressive to me," said Barnes. "Hopefully the success she has had will filter into the other female athletes around the school. We are starting to get more interest from others."

Cortnee has been busy since powerlifting started this season. She spends the athletic period lifting weights and then attends track practice after school before going back to weight room to finish the night. She is somewhere around the ATC every night until about 7:30 p.m.

"She's been lifting since she was in the sixth grade and the best thing is she is young and has two more years to go," said Barnes. "I want her to compete hard and push the limit at state. We can't worry about what someone else did, but if she's close to anyone I think she'll put the weight on and get it. We'd like to get in the top two. A lot of this is mental and she just needs to believe she can do it."

Cortnee Holt won the Odessa Permian meet with a total of 680 pounds, which was 70 pounds more than second place. She then followed that up with a first-place finish in Coahoma as she was the only participant at 181 and scored a 725.

She then traveled to Midland Lee and grabbed another first as she defeated the second best lifter by 230 pounds. She totaled 785 at that meet.

Aggies pull off upset, shock red-hot 'Cuse

By MARK LONG

AP Sports Writer
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Maybe the Big East was overrated.

It would be hard to argue against that after the opening day of the NCAA tournament.

Acie Law scored 23 points, including a dozen in the final 2:25, and helped 12th-seeded Texas A&M upset fifth-seeded Syracuse 66-58 Thursday night in the Atlanta Regional.

It was the third loss in as many games for the new expanded Big East, which sent a record eight teams into the field of 65. Wichita State pounded Seton Hall 86-66 in Greensboro, N.C., and Marquette was knocked off by Alabama, 90-85 in San Diego earlier in the day.

It also ended an improbable run for the Orange and senior Gerry McNamara. The star guard carried Syracuse through the Big East tournament last weekend and helped the team secure an automatic berth in the NCAA field. Before the conference tournament, the Orange seemed destined to be left out of the NCAAs.

But the Aggies (22-8) had better fortune in this one — thanks to Law. The left-hander scored 14 points in the final eight minutes, almost single-handedly delivering Texas A&M into the second round. He finished 7-of-17 from the field, had seven rebounds and five assists and gave the Aggies their first NCAA tournament victory since 1980.

"I don't think a whole lot of people around the country think we're a powerhouse program, so if we win a couple of games, it's going to surprise some people," guard Chris Walker. "We enjoy that. We enjoy opening people's eyes doing things that they didn't expect us to do. I think that's what it's all about."

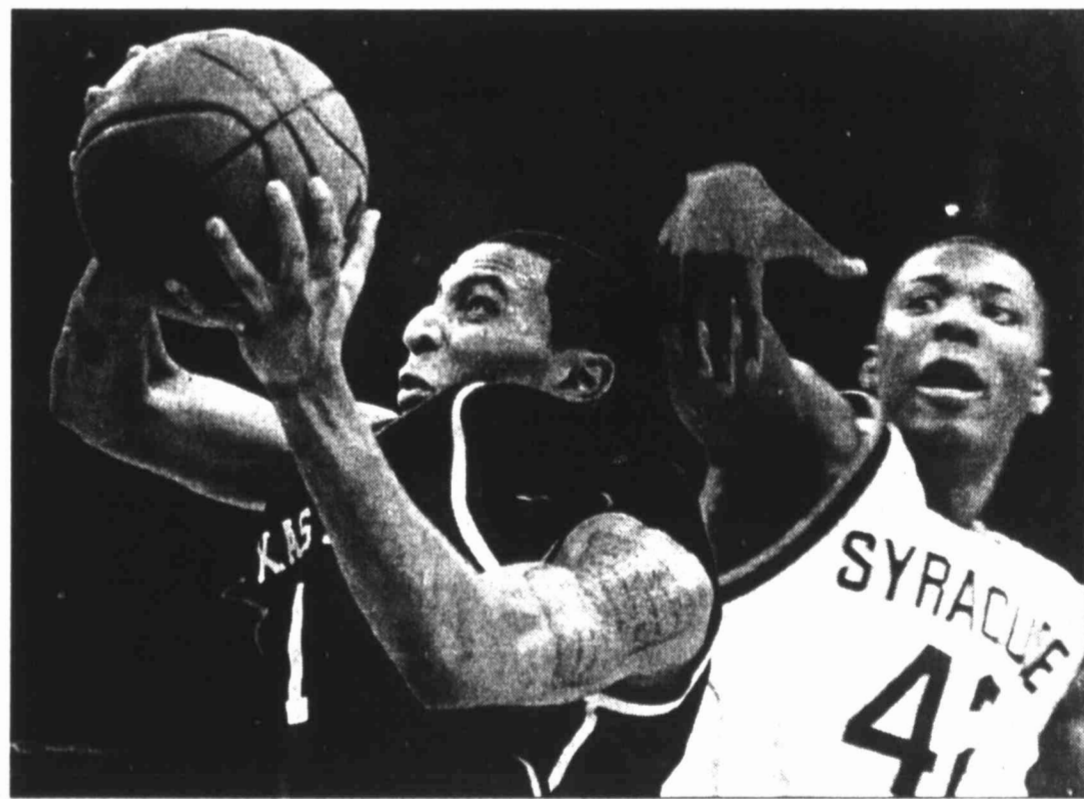
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NCAA Tournament	
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	No. 4 LSU 86, No. 13 Iowa 67
	No. 3 GW 76, No. 14C Washington 66, CT 61
	No. 11 Texas A&M 66, No. 5 Syracuse 58
Oakland Region	No. 2 Stanford 78, No. 14 Xavier 72
	No. 10 Michigan 67, No. 11 Memphis 61
	No. 13 Georgetown 80, No. 7 Marquette 69
	No. 15 UC 78, No. 12 Belmont 64
Washington D.C. Region	No. 1 Boston 78, No. 15V Penn 67
	No. 4 LSU 86, No. 13 Iowa 67
	No. 3 GW 76, No. 14C Washington 66, CT 61
	No. 11 Texas A&M 66, No. 5 Syracuse 58
Mississippi Region	No. 1 Duke 79, No. 16 Southern 54
	No. 4 LSU 86, No. 13 Iowa 67
	No. 3 GW 76, No. 14C Washington 66, CT 61
	No. 11 Texas A&M 66, No. 5 Syracuse 58



KRT photo/Tom Fox, Dallas Morning News
Texas A&M guard Acie Law, left, lays up a shot past Syracuse's Louie McCorskey in the first round of the NCAA basketball tournament Thursday at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena, in Jacksonville, Fla.

In the tourney for the first time since 1987, A&M advanced to face fourth-seeded LSU on Saturday and became yet another No. 12 seed to take out a fifth seed in the first round. It's happened at least once every year since 1989, and twice Thursday. No. 12 Montana upset Nevada earlier in the day.

McNamara was held to two points — tying his career low — and the Texas A&M section was chanting "overrated, overrated" at him on several occasions.

He was 0-for-6 from the field and missed all five shot from behind the 3-point line.

Boeheim went into a

tirade last week defending McNamara, who was picked as the conference's "most overrated" player by unidentified Big East assistants in a Syracuse area newspaper, and also was called overrated by a columnist from the school newspaper.

He responded by hitting big shot after big shot in an MVP performance, leading the Orange to a Big East tournament title.

But he left that magic in Madison Square Garden. McNamara was scoreless most of first half against A&M, until he sank two free throws with 36 seconds remaining. But he didn't score again.

Terrence Roberts led the Orange (21-12) with 16

points. Syracuse trailed by 11 early in the second half, but whittled the lead down to 45-41 with 8:13 remaining. Then Law took over.

He had a putback and two free throws to push the lead back to eight, then later scored 10 consecutive points for the Aggies. He had two driving layups, a transition basket and sank four free throws. He added two more free throws — finishing 8-for-8 from the charity stripe — with 15 seconds to play.

Joseph Jones was the only other A&M player in double figures. He had 12 points and seven rebounds.

BSNS sets date for the Steers night. The Big Spring baseball team will meet the Steers night next weekend at the high school baseball field from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Besides the high school baseball team being introduced, the area little league teams will also be recognized. There will be a hamburger supper including chips and drink for \$5.

Lady Steer Booster meeting announced
The Lady Steer Booster Club will meet Monday in the Athletic Training Center (ATC) at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Carol Policky at 432-466-3800.

Coahoma sets date for alumni contest
The Coahoma Bulldogs will be hosting their first-ever alumni baseball game Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at the Coahoma baseball field.

The softball team's alumni game will also be that day beginning at 3 p.m.

For more information or to play in the baseball game, contact Donna Mansfield at 432-394-453.

Contact Coahoma softball coach Robby Dickenson to play softball at 517-0604.

Coahoma sets dates for softball signups

The Coahoma United Girls Softball Association will begin registration for all divisions in softball and T-ball tonight at the Coahoma Community Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The signups will also take place Tuesday and Thursday.

For more info, contact Pat Robinson at 393-5622.

Mickey Owen camp dates announced

The Mickey Owen Baseball School has announced this year's camp dates.

The camp will take place at the National Little League Field Saturday, March 25.

The clinic features two different sessions. The first session will run from 9:30 a.m. to noon, while the second session takes place from 12:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

The first session will concentrate on the general instruction of hitting, fielding and throwing, while the late session will discuss position instruction.

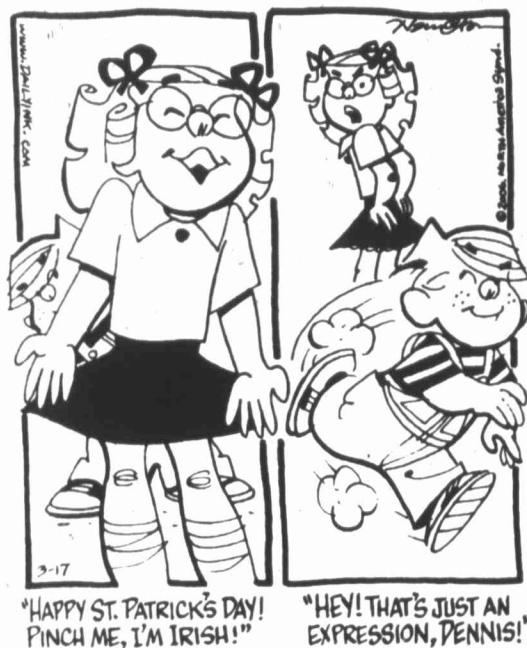
The camp is for players age 8 to 12 and enrollment is limited. It will be run by Bobby Dee and Mickey Owen. The cost for one session is \$35, but participants can get both sessions for \$55.

For more information or to register, contact the Mickey Owen Baseball School at 1-800-929-3333.

FRIDAY

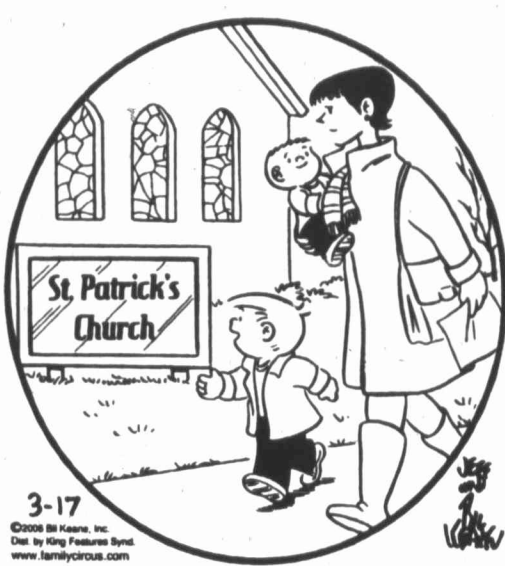
	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (29)
6	News (CC)	News	Persepolis	My Wife-Kids	College	La Tomerita	News	Raymond	N. McBride	News-Lahrer	The FBI Files		CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Live	That's Raven	Mike Tyson's		John Doe
7	Ent. Tonight	Wheat-Fortuna	Contra Viento	Nanny 911	NCAA	Tierra de	Deal or No	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel	Wash. Week	The FBI Files	Mc... An	CSI: Crime	Movie: What	Movie: South	Movie: The	Boxing: Friday	Series of Poker	Stargate SG-1
8	In Justice	In Justice	Alborada	Trading	First Round	Cons... Fant	Las Vegas	Movie: Rush	Light of the	I Shouldn't Be	I Shouldn't Be	Worwell in	The Shield	Movie: Lie	Movie: South	Movie: The	St. Clair	Series of Poker	Doctor Who
9	2020 (CC)	2020 (CC)	Casos de la	My Wife-Kids	Basketball:	Decisiones	Conviction			Morly Python	A Hunting	Movie: A	The Shield	45 Movie:	Comicview	Phil of Future	Tennis: Pacific	Poker	Doctor Who
10	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	Tournament	No!-Telemundo	News	10 Movie:	The Hour of	Charlie Rosa	The FBI Files	Elm Street	The Shield	What Lies	In Living Color	Zack & Cody	Quarterfinal	Champions	Doctor Who
11	Ent. Tonight	Jimmy Kimmel	Inoculatio	Becker (CC)	News	Laura	Late Night		CCM Ministries	Sign Off	The FBI Files	An American	CSI: Crime	Movie: What	Jamie Foxx	Phil of Future	Quite Frankly	SportsCenter	Doctor Who
12	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Amigas y	Becker (CC)	Latterman	María Celeste	Conan O'Brien		Update/Israel	I Shouldn't Be	I Shouldn't Be	London (CC)	Real TV (CC)	Movie: Sir of	BET Alter Dark	Lizzie McGuire	Strongest Man	College Gmday	Stargate

DENNIS THE MENACE



"HEY! THAT'S JUST AN EXPRESSION, DENNIS!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



3-17

"That church should have GREEN windows!"

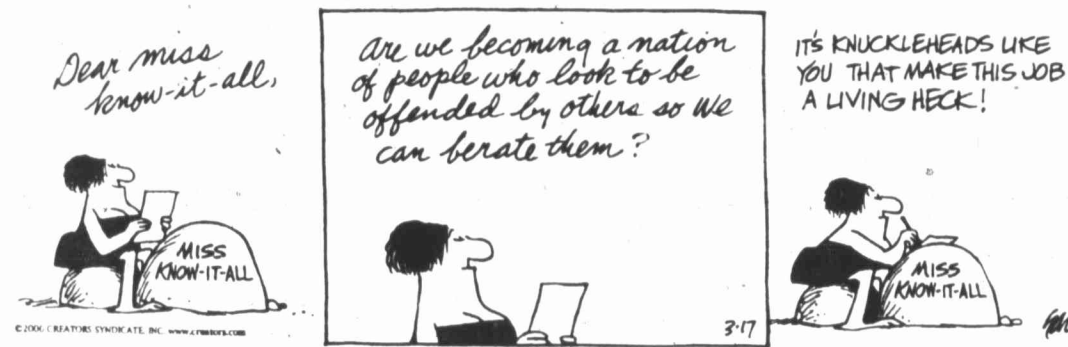
HAGAR



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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, March 17, the 76th day of 2006. There are 289 days left in the year. This is St. Patrick's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

One hundred years ago, on March 17, 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt first used the term "muck-rake" as he criticized what he saw as the excesses of investigative journalism in a speech to the Gridiron Club in Washington.

On this date:

In A.D. 461, according to tradition, St. Patrick — the patron saint of Ireland — died in Saul.

In 1776, British forces evacuated Boston during the Revolutionary War.

In 1910, the Camp Fire Girls organization was formed. (It was formally presented to the public on this date two years later.)

In 1941, the National Gallery of Art opened in Washington D.C.

In 1950, scientists at the University of California at

Berkeley announced they had created a new radioactive element, "californium."

In 1958, the U.S. Navy launched the Vanguard I satellite.

In 1966, a U.S. midget submarine located a missing hydrogen bomb which had fallen from an American bomber into the Mediterranean off Spain.

In 1969, Golda Meir became prime minister of Israel.

In 1992, 28 people were killed in the truck bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Today's Birthdays: The former national chairwoman of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams, is 73. Rock musician Paul Kantner is 65. Singer-songwriter Jim Weatherly is 63. Singer-songwriter John Sebastian (The Lovin' Spoonful) is 62. Rock musician Harold Brown (War) is 60. Actor Patrick Duffy is 57. Actor Kurt Russell is 55. Country singer Susie Allanson is 54. Actress Lesley-Anne Down is 52. Country singer Paul Overstreet is 51. Actor Gary Sinise is 51. Actress Vicki Lewis is 46. Actor Casey

Siemaszko is 45. Writer-director Rob Sitch is 44. Actor Rob Lowe is 42. Rock singer Billy Corgan is 39. Rock musician Van Conner (Screaming Trees) is 39. Actor Mathew St. Patrick ("Six Feet Under") is 38. Actor Yanic Truesdale is 37. Rock musician Melissa Auf der Maur is 34. Rock musician Caroline Corr (The Corrs) is 33. Actress Marisa Coughlan is 32. Singer Stephen Gately is 30. Rapper Swifty (D12) is 29.

Thought for Today: "Television is a device that permits people who haven't anything to do to watch people who can't do anything."

— Fred Allen, American comedian (1894-1956).

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Answer to previous puzzle

A	D	A	G	E	P	A	R	T	W	H	A	T
N	O	M	A	D	I	N	O	H	I	V	E	
D	O	P	L	I	C	A	T	E	B	R	I	D
Y	R	S	T	U	N	E	O	Z	E	S		
S	I	L	O	A	G	E						
D	O	O	W	O	P	S	O	N	G	R	A	S
A	L	L	E	N								
T	I	L	L									
E	V	I	L									
S	E	E	S									
O	I	L										
Y	O	U	N	G	I	T	S	A	L	L	I	E
D	O	T	H	E	R	I	G	H	T	H	I	N
I	D	I	O									
M	A	S	H									

Newsday Crossword

TERSE COMMENT by Ann W. Masten
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Game quests

8 Wimbledon winner in '55

15 About 2.5 centimeters

16 Toast recipient

17 Start of an observation

19 Not included: Abbr.

20 Phillips of CNN

21 Lowdown

22 Ringmaster, e.g.

25 Biblical pronoun

27 Bit of encouragement

30 Daughter of Hyperion

31 Pay no attention to

35 Kind of camera

36 Catch

38 Wainwright product

39 Middle of observation

42 Chutzpah

43 Auto debut of '57

44 Favorite

45 Nag's activity

47 CDLXXV doubled

48 QB stat

49 Polished off

50 Cannes cup

52 Persian poet

55 Discontinuities

57 Leave the ground

61 End of observation

65 Alliance

66 Came into

67 Summer pest

68 Scotch cocktails

DOWN

1 Tofu source

2 "And giving up ..."

3 Squabble

4 Narrow path

5 "Messenger" compound

6 Cool

7 Hops to

8 B.C. character

9 Make alternations

10 Far East airline

11 2000 Best Song Oscar winner

12 Suffix for smash

13 Take a second tour

14 Nantes noggin

18 Bleaching agent

23 GI accessory

24 Volcanic shape

26 Coiner of "atomic bomb"

27 Intimidate, with "out"

28 Parting word

29 Comparatively correct

31 Anchor, for one

32 Where Memphis is

33 Murmured

34 Bolt fasteners

37 Erstwhile post-office abbr.

40 Banter

41 Doesn't commit

46 Undo

50 Toll rd.

51 Howdy

52 Doody's original name

52 Metrical tributes

53 Bebop pioneer

54 Latin preposition

56 Angel or Oriole

58 Franc replacer

59 --deuce

60 Many profs.

62 NASCAR race airer

63 Lennon's middle name

64 Wagering locale

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