

# Jail issue: Lots of talk, no action

Fire marshal says he's frustrated over lack of communication between his office and county court

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

While debate concerning the county's need for a new jail facility seems to be in endless supply, solutions have become increasingly hard to come by as the Howard County Commissioner's Court took no action on the matter during its Monday meeting.

The court — minus County Judge Ben Lockhart, who was

ill — listened to suggestions and concerns from several county taxpayers, including long-time resident Bill Chrane, who urged the court to take some "positive" steps in the matter.

"I didn't come down here to chastise anyone. I came here on a positive motion to see if we can't do some things that are positive for Howard County and this jail," said Chrane. "I know we've been talking about this

**"I've sent five letters in the last year — the last one sent Feb. 22 — and have not received any response from the commissioner's court yet. This is very frustrating because these are serious matters concerning the safety of the jail's inmates and staff. They are at great risk."**



Chrane

jail a long time, but we haven't done anything. We've been talking about it for 20 years, and now we have some proposals up

before us that need to have action taken on them.

"I know the people in the county have a difference of

opinions, people in the city and those among the commissioners court. I'm not here to tell you what to do because you are the bosses. What I want to do is give you my ideas."

Chrane went on to say he doesn't feel the northeast corner of Scurry and Third Street is a suitable site for the proposed facility, and suggested several vacant lots or lots that

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Runners in last year's Big Spring State Park Master the Mountain Fun Run begin their trek near the park's office, located atop the mountain. The Fun Run will once again take place at the park Saturday, April 9.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

## Master the Mountain: Uphill run amidst West Texas scenic beauty

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

What does it take to conquer a mountain?

According to Big Spring State Park Manager Ron Alton, all it takes is fun.

Running and walking enthusiasts of every age are expected to "take to the mountain" soon, 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, Alton said the beauty of the mountain draws just as many people for the walking division.



Alton

"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."

Set to start at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 8, Alton said he hopes people come away from the event with a special reminder about exercising. "I started running about seven years ago, and it's had a tremen-

dous 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 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," Alton said with a laugh. "The steep grades

See RUN, Page 5A

## County, college grant abatement for Alon project

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Howard County and Howard College both gave Alon USA a thumbs up on upcoming improvements to its Big Spring facility, granting the company several years of tax abatements for upcoming ultra-low sulfur diesel operations.

The Howard County Commissioners Court and trustees both heard presentations from Kent Sharp, executive director of Moore Development, concerning the proposed abatement, which both groups approved unanimously.

During a pair of Monday meetings, Sharp explained the abatements are part of a long list of capital improvements Alon USA plans to make in the coming years.

"They may very well be back here with a different project and a different abatement next year,"



Sharp

Sharp told college trustees. "They have a pretty long list of expenditures they plan to make at the Big Spring Refinery."

Sharp said the improvements to the facility's low-sulfur diesel operations won't effect the company's bottom line, but it does offer a great deal to the community when you look at the big picture.

"Some of the projects Alon USA presented us with won't generate any more profits for them, it will just keep them in compliance with regulations," Sharp told trustees. "This is one of those projects, which I feel is one of the reasons the abatement committee supports it."

"These types of capital

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## Card, White House chief of staff, resigns

Joshua Bolten named to replace him

By TERENCE HUNT  
AP Correspondent

WASHINGTON — White House chief of staff Andy Card has resigned and will be replaced by budget director Joshua Bolten, President Bush announced Tuesday.

Bush announced the changes in a nationally broadcast appearance in the Oval Office.

"I have relied on Andy's wise counsel, his calm in crisis, his absolute integrity and his tireless

commitment to public service," Bush said. "The next three years will demand much of those who serve our country. We have a global war to fight and win."

Card stood stoically with his hands by his sides as Bush lauded his years of service through the Sept. 11 attacks, war and legislative and economic challenges. Gripping the podium, Card said in his farewell:

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### PECAN WORKSHOP SET

The Permian Basin Pecan Committee and Texas Cooperative Extension are sponsoring a pecan management workshop Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Midland County Extension Meeting Room, located at 2445 E. Highway 80, near the Midland County Exhibit Building.

Featured speakers will discuss variety selection, tree establishment, fertilizing trees, water management and pecan insect pest management. The workshop will be concluded by noon.

A registration fee of \$5 will be charged to cover the cost of refreshments and materials. Two CEUs will be given to participant who have TSA applicator licenses.

### JUST A TECHNICALITY

EMERYVILLE, Calif. (AP) — John Claassen is suing the popular online matchmaker eHarmony for refusing to help him find a date. The company says there's one good reason: he's married.

Claassen, a 36-year-old lawyer, filed a lawsuit in Alameda County Superior Court, alleging eHarmony abridged his civil rights by refusing to match him up.

He said the company, which has an "unmarried only" policy, broke state law by discriminating against him based on his marital status. He considers himself separated. Claassen, who is seeking \$12,000, said Monday he expects his divorce to be official in about two months.

### DON'T FORGET!



The Coahoma Stick Horse Rodeo is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday in the Coahoma Elementary School Gym. Everyone is invited





Coahoma High School students fared well at the district University Interscholastic League contest, with many individuals and two teams advancing to regional competition.

## Coahoma exits district competition with awards, tickets to regional UIL contest

Special to the Herald

Thirteen Coahoma High School students will be packing their bags for regional University Interscholastic League academic competition, following the school's strong showing at the district contest.

Amy Hiler took first place in accounting and helped lead the CHS accounting team to a blue-ribbon performance. Also on the accounting team were Terrell Bibb, who placed second individually; Joe Holguin, third; and Sarah Dunn, ninth.

Coahoma's Simon Stolarczyk walked off with the top individual award in science, helping his school's science team to a first place finish as well. Also on the team were Logan Stone, who took second; and Colter Morgan, sixth.

Stolarczyk — the meet's top scorer in chemistry and physics — also placed fourth in math and sixth in number sense.

First place teams and first through third place individuals automatically qualified for the regional contest, which will be

held April 22 in Abilene. Second place teams and fourth place individuals are alternates to region.

Stone also qualified for region by placing third in editorial writing. He placed sixth in both headline and feature writing.

Morgan placed fifth in social studies.

Others qualifying for region included LaTisha McCartney, first in prose interpretation; Chris Weihert, first in news writing; Ryan Green, second in informative speaking; Kelsey Butts, third in feature writing; and Trey Thornton, third in current events.

Coahoma had three second-place teams. They included current events — William Reilly, fifth individually and Ryan Green, sixth individually; spelling — Geno Jacquez, fourth; Stephen Ewing, eighth; and Chelsea Watts, 13th; and social studies — Ewing, 12th and Taylor Haile, 16th.

Here's a list of Coahoma results:

Sarah Bartlett: ready writing, fifth.

Terrell Bibb: accounting, second; first place team.

Kelsey Butts: feature

writing, third.

Kim Calvert: news writing, fourth.

Megan Conely: prose interpretation, fifth.

Liz Conley: poetry interpretation, fifth.

Patrick Croft: poetry interpretation.

Sarah Dunn: accounting, ninth; first place team; ready writing; editorial writing.

Stephen Ewing: spelling, eighth, second place team; social studies, 12th, second place team.

Randi Gerstenberger: persuasive speaking.

Ryan Green: current events, sixth, second place team; informative speaking, second.

Taylor Haile: social studies, 16th, second place team; number sense, third; science.

Brandon Hildebrand: spelling, fifth, second place team.

Amy Hiler: accounting, first, first place team.

Joe Holguin: accounting, third, first place team; informative speaking.

Geno Jacquez: spelling, fourth, second place team.

Ashley Martin: computer applications, eighth; number sense, 10th.

LaTisha McCartney:

prose interpretation, first.

Rebecca McEndree: persuasive speaking, fourth.

Tabitha Medina: news writing, sixth; feature writing, fourth; headline writing.

Colter Morgan: social studies, fifth; science, sixth, first place team.

Regan New: science, eighth; number sense.

Callie Paige: ready writing, sixth; editorial writing, sixth; math.

William Reilly: current events, fifth, second place team; math; informative speaking.

Simon Stolarczyk: science, first, first place team; number sense, sixth; math, fourth; biology alternative; top scorer, chemistry; top scorer, physics.

Logan Stone: editorial writing, third; headline writing, sixth; feature writing, sixth; science, second, first place team.

Trey Thornton: current events, third; social studies, seventh; science, seventh; math, ninth.

Chelsea Watts: headline writing; spelling, 13th, second place team.

Chris Weihert: current events, ninth; news writing, first; persuasive speaking, fifth.

## JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

have abandoned buildings on them instead.

"We need the jail as close to downtown as we can get it so we can keep our business downtown," Chrane told the court. "We need to keep the traffic downtown... We don't need to build a jail where we're already cramped before we start and we don't have any parking or side streets. Jails have a lot of traffic."

Local architect Phil Furqueron, who the county is currently contracting with for design of the facility, also made a short presentation concerning a preliminary study on adding a story to the Howard County Courthouse to house the jail.

"I've talked to some contractors to get an idea of what it would cost to add a story to the courthouse and put a 96-bed facility up there, and it looks like about \$8.75 million," said Furqueron. "After looking at it, I have no doubt that it can be done. However, I do have some concerns about the concrete columns on the third and fourth floors, but all of that would be determined by a detailed structural analysis."

A 144-bed facility, which has been recommended by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards on several occasions, will not fit without the addition of two floors, according to Furqueron, who said he has serious doubts the structure can handle the weight load.

Furqueron said the project would take more than two years to complete, effectively shutting down the county's ability to house prisoners for the duration, a fact made even more ominous by a report from Sheriff Dale Walker concerning out-of-county housing.

"Dickens County Jail, which we contract with, is full right now," Walker told the court. "We also have a contract with Upton County, but they aren't accepting any prisoners right now, either. So, as of right now, we don't have anywhere to put prisoners when our jail is full."

Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray also spoke during the meeting, telling commissioners he

is frustrated with the lack of communication between his office and the court.

"I've sent five letters in the last year — the last one sent Feb. 22 — and have not received any response from the commissioner's court yet," Condray told the court. "This is very frustrating because these are serious matters concerning the safety of the jail's inmates and staff. They are at great risk."

When asked if any of the four commissioners present at the meeting had seen or been told about the letters, which Condray claimed were delivered to Lockhart, all four members of the court shook their heads to the negative.

"This is very alarming, at best," said Condray. "In the future, I will make sure a copy of the letters are delivered to each of you individually. I was under the impression they were being taken to you."

Commissioners took no action on the jail matter during the meeting.

The county jail has been a major point of discussion and division at the county level for the past several years. The existing jail fails to meet state standards in several areas, but the state has granted waivers — or "variances," as the state commission describes them — on many of these areas, allowing the jail to remain in operation.

Jail problems that have been granted waivers include not having at least two obstructed exits from the jail; inadequate fire suppression equipment; no reliable means of remotely unlocking and locking of cells; exit doors that swing against traffic; and corridors that are too narrow.

The source of the division among commissioners seems to center around location and size, as the court has considered putting the facility on the northeast corner of Scurry and Third Street, as well as a location West of town on FM 700.

And while commissioners seem no closer to settling on a location for the much-needed facility, the size of the facility has also met with a great deal of controversy, pitting a 96-bed facility against a 144-bed jail.

## ALON

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expenditure projects are vital because they keep the facility up-to-date, and when a situation similar to when the refinery was sold to Alon USA from Fina, it's makes it a lot more attractive. So these types of mandated projects not only keep the facility going, it also helps to ensure the future of the refinery."

Sharp explained to both

taxing entities the abatement would follow a six-year schedule, granting Alon USA 100 percent abatement for the improvements for five years, dropping to 50 percent in the sixth year, and no abatement beginning in the seventh year, projected to be 2013.

"This project represents a \$16.5 million investment by Alon USA," said Sharp.

And while the county and community college are hoping to help with the abatements, Sharp

said new verbiage in the abatement contract protects both entities from a double-whammy should a lawsuit be filed.

"We're always looking at these types of contracts and ways to keep them up to date," said Sharp. "In this case, we discovered that a number of other cities and tax entities are using a new clause to protect themselves should the company feel its appraised value is too high, and the resulting conflict turns into a lawsuit.

"In that case, both sides are going to incur legal fees. However, in theory, the company would be able to pay for its legal fees with the money saved through the abatement. So a clause was developed to allow the entity to terminate the abatement if a lawsuit is filed."

Sharp said he even went a step further, expanding the clause to include the taxes abated during the entire period, but wasn't able to get Alon USA officials to agree with the

clause.

"They weren't comfortable with the ideas of having to open up the books from the previous years, so there was a real knee-jerk reaction to that part of the clause, which we dropped," said Sharp. "What we have now is the compromise between us."

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## CARD

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"You're a good man, Mr. President." Card's eyes were watery. Card said he looks forward to just being Bush's friend. Bush then gave him five quick slaps on the back and the two walked out of the Oval Office together.

The president called Bolten a man with broad experience, both on Wall Street and in Washington, including the last three years as director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"Josh is a creative policy thinker," Bush said. "He is an expert on the

budget and our economy. He is a man of candor and humor and directness. No person is better prepared for this important position."

"I'm deeply honored now by the opportunity to succeed Andy Card as White House chief of staff," Bolten responded. "I said, 'Succeed Andy Card, not replace him,' because he cannot be replaced."

The move comes as Bush is buffeted by increasing criticism of the drawn-out war in Iraq and as fellow Republicans have suggested pointedly that the president bring in new aides with fresh ideas and new energy.

Card came to Bush

recently and suggested that he should step down from the job that he has held from the first day of Bush's presidency, said an administration official earlier.

Bush decided during a weekend stay at Camp David Md., to accept Card's resignation and to name Bolten as his replacement, said the source who spoke on condition of anonymity because he did not want to pre-empt the president.

Bolten is widely experienced in Washington, both on Capitol Hill as well as at the White House, where he was deputy chief of staff before becoming director of the Office of

Management and Budget.

At a White House news conference last week, Bush was asked about rumors that a shake up in the White House staff was in the works. Bush said he was "satisfied with the people I've surrounded myself with."

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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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Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

# Don't forget Trash-Off is Saturday

Spring has arrived and it's time for that traditional "spring cleaning" of our community known as the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off which will be observed Saturday.

Organizers hope 300 local volunteers or more will join the more than 180,000 across the state who will pick up an estimated two million pounds of litter from Texas roadsides and city parks.

Pat Simmons, the local coordinator for the event, is seeking anyone interested to come out and take part in the Trash-Off, whether they volunteer as individuals, groups or organizations.

Simmons is encouraging all property owners to take part in the event by not only cleaning up their property, but to volunteer by helping clean up vacant lots and other areas throughout the city.

Plastic bags are available for participants and they can be picked up Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Volunteers may also call Simmons at 263-4607, not only to register individually or as a group, but to arrange for picking up bags early.

Trash dumpsters will be placed at Heart of the City Park downtown, making it convenient for participants to dispose of the trash they've collected. As in other years, volunteers are asked to separate cans, which will be collected as a Keep Big Spring Beautiful fund-raiser.

There will be hot dogs and a drawing for prizes and gifts for children at the park for who participate.

We encourage anyone who can to take part in this weekend's Trash-Off. You'll not only get a sense of achievement, but you'll help make sure Big Spring continues to be what we consider the prettiest city in West Texas.

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, when we invite You into our life you lead us step by step. Amen

## How To Contact Us

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- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

# Why Bush is doing a good job

Allow me to explain why I remain among the dwindling numbers of Americans — about 37 percent, according to the American Research Group — who approve of the job President Bush is doing.

The death toll of American troops and Iraqis killed by terrorist attacks keeps growing. Voters are fatigued, and Bush is sinking in the opinion polls. Of course it is disheartening to read the casualty numbers every morning, as U.S. troops battle an often invisible enemy that also attacks Iraqis struggling to restore order to their nation.

Antiwar types began calling the situation in Iraq a "quagmire" in the first month of the war. After three years, that term is resonating with the public. It's a fact: This is not a quick, easy war. It has far exceeded the 43-day Persian Gulf War of 1991.

For the record, I do not mean to be critical of war coverage from journalists in Iraq. They are doing the best they can, and their reportage, no doubt, helped reshape military and political strategy for the better. I do, however, object to a Beltway mentality, seen in how Washington journalists report on the politics of the war, which reflects the apparent belief that wars are supposed to go by the book. When television news anchors announce bad news, they usually frame it as a reflection on Bush, not the insurgents.

Or as British Prime Minister Tony Blair put it in a speech this week, insurgency forces "play our own media with a shrewdness that

would be the envy of many a political party. Every act of carnage adds to the death toll. But somehow, it serves to indicate our responsibility for disorder, rather than the act of wickedness that causes it. For us, so much of our opinion believes that what was done in Iraq in 2003 was so wrong that it is reluctant to accept what is plainly right now."

Bush does not have the luxury of allowing the bad news to defeat him. Yes, Bush could declare victory and pull out. After all, Saddam Hussein no longer rules. But Bush understands that there can be no victory if Islamic extremists see the United States engage its powerful military, only to bolt when the public gets antsy.

You hear people lamenting about how there is no political leadership anymore. Yet, here it is. Asked at a White House press conference Tuesday if he thought he had the "political capital" he claimed when he won the 2004 election, Bush answered, "I'd say I'm spending that capital on the war." Indeed, Bush is willing to run his poll numbers into the ground in order to do what he believes he has to do.

Contrast Bush with California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who changes his agenda with the wind, not because he is willing to tackle difficult work, but because he needs to score some political points as he prepares to run for re-election. It makes me appreciate the fact that Bush is constant.

Yes, at times Bush drives me crazy, too. His refusal to veto any spending bills fueled a growing deficit. The Bushies were dangerously overconfident about what it would take to win the war in Iraq. They may well have underestimated how many troops were needed in 2003.

This summer, he dropped the ball. He allowed public support for

the war to soften. While I think state and local officials carry the blame for infrastructure failures — a la Katrina — Bush was flat-footed in responding to the disaster.

Not only will Bush never be as articulate as Blair, he'll never learn how to pronounce "nuclear." Perhaps Bush's biggest political failing has been his inability to get Americans to dislike his critics more than they dislike him — although I got the feeling Bush was learning the game Tuesday, when he referred to the National Security Agency wiretap controversy thusly: "I did notice that nobody from the Democratic Party has actually stood up and called for the getting rid of the terrorist surveillance program. You know, if that's what they believe, if people in the party believe that, then they ought to stand up and say it."

Bush nailed it. Since his election, partisan Democrats repeatedly have voted in favor of his proposals — Iraq, the Patriot Act — only to snipe at them when they see an opportunity to wound the Republican president. They have every right to criticize policies with which they disagree, but they were not elected to approve a war — if they weren't willing to do their utmost to win it.

For his part, and with all his faults, the president is trying to do something great. If he succeeds, the world will be a better place. That's what matters.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@sfchronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@sfchronicle.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](http://www.creators.com).

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# We're getting no respect

How dumb do they think we are? By they, I mean President Bush and his White House team. By we, I mean the American people. With his poll numbers literally in the toilet, the president and his team have launched a public relations campaign to build support for the war in Iraq. Countering criticism that the president lives inside a bubble, he's even taking questions, both from the press and from real people.

So the president last week went to the City Club in Cleveland and to Wheeling, W.V., and even held a televised press conference, albeit in the morning, not in prime-time.

But what Bush has not done is admit that he or his team made any mistakes.

The only actual news he's made in three days of carefully staged public appearances is to make clear that the war will go on even longer than many of us thought — that it will be the next president, and not Bush, who ends it.

Is that supposed to build support?

Asked by his longtime press nemesis, Helen Thomas, for the real reason for the war, given that all the stated reasons proved false, the president could do no better than to invoke 9-11. But by now, most Americans have figured out that Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden weren't working together, and that al-Qaida didn't come to Iraq until we did.

So what's going on? Pure P.R. This isn't about a change in strategy. It isn't about a new message. The president hasn't decided to be frank with the American people, to tell people anything new, to address honestly the concerns people feel. The reasons for his low approval ratings aren't, ultimately, that he hasn't talked enough, but that people don't agree with what they've heard.



SUSAN ESTRICH

Even if you accept the basic premise of this war, whatever it was, there is no question that serious mistakes were made in its execution. In "Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq," a new book by Michael R. Gordon and Gen. Bernard E. Trainor, the authors detail a painfully long series of errors and miscommunications, in which military experts were ignored, field commanders overruled and requests for a larger ground force denied. The insurgency we see today was by no means inevitable, the authors argue convincingly, but was the product of our mistakes. While some resistance was inevitable, it would have been far smaller had these mistakes not been made.

So what does the president have to say about these charges? Nothing. What does he have to say about the man most responsible

for the mistakes, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld? He's doing an excellent job. What would it take in this administration to not be doing an excellent job? How many would have to die for the president to conclude that mistakes had been made and some sort of apology, much less a replacement, was in order? Who knows?

This is a president who never sees mistakes, never acknowledges errors and never apologizes. In his last round of speeches and questions and answers, he has stuck to exactly the same script he has been spewing not for months, but for years — even as the war continues to drag on.

The expectation in the White House is that merely seeing and hearing the president saying the same things over and over again will cause people to change their minds. In other words, they think people are stupid.

Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. The one thing a president should do is respect his audience. This president and his team have forgotten that lesson, and it shows.

To find out more about Susan Estrich, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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# Immigr

By SUZANNE GAM

Associated Press V

WASHINGTON — supporters claim major victory since terrorist attacks at a san group of senate legislation that would allow illegal in chance at citizenship.

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Continued from Page

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# Immigrant advocates claim victory with Senate committee bill

By SUZANNE GAMBOA  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Immigrant supporters claimed their first major victory since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks after a bipartisan group of senators approved legislation that would give millions of illegal immigrants a chance at citizenship.

"It's a big day for us. We may not have a lot of big days, but this is a big day," Frank Sharry, executive director of the National Immigration Forum, a pro-immigrant group, said after the Senate Judiciary Committee approved a package of immigration and border security measures Monday.

Restaurant owners, agricultural groups, Democrats and others who had been pushing for a way for immigrants to earn legal permanent residency — the first step to citizenship — also claimed victory.

There was no immediate reaction from the White House, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. said he hoped President Bush, who advocates a so-called guest

worker program, would participate in efforts to fashion consensus legislation.

For his part, Bush said he was determined to see some provision made on behalf of illegal immigrants who have been working in this country.

"Don't underestimate me," Bush told Mexican and Canadian reporters in an interview Monday. He said that no one should discount his ability to get a new immigration bill from Congress despite his struggles with lawmakers in the past year.

The next step is the full Senate, where Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., is negotiating with other senators on how to handle the committee's bill and his own proposal, which focuses more on punishing employers who hire undocumented workers.

"The situation along our Southern borders now ranks as a national security challenge, second only to the war on terror," Frist said Monday. "Every day thousands of people violate

our frontiers."

Frist said the Senate will begin a debate on immigration later this week with the aim of passing a bill by April 7. The debate will give Americans a glimpse of two candidates for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008: Frist and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., an architect of the bill approved by the Judiciary Committee.

McCain said the turnouts in the hundreds of thousands — particularly among Hispanics — at recent rallies in Los Angeles, Chicago and Washington helped galvanize support for the bill.

"I'd like to point out that a lot of these young people are children and grandchildren of people who came here illegally who are citizens themselves who don't want their grandmother sent back to Guadalajara," McCain said.

McCain acknowledged that there were "sharp divisions" within the Republican Party over the approach to illegal immigration. Despite Bush's

support for letting illegal immigrants with jobs avoid deportation, many Republicans vow to prevent what they say amounts to amnesty from becoming law.

Any bill produced by the Senate would also have to be reconciled with the get-tough House bill, which would make illegal immigrant felons.

In general, the Judiciary Committee's bill is designed to strengthen enforcement of U.S. borders, regulate the flow into the country of guest workers and determine the legal future of the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the United States illegally.

The bill would double the Border Patrol and authorize a "virtual wall" of unmanned vehicles, cameras and sensors to monitor the U.S.-Mexico border. It also would allow more visas for nurses and agriculture workers, and shelter humanitarian organizations from prosecution if they provide non-emergency assistance to illegal residents.

The most contentious provi-

sion would permit illegal aliens currently in the country to apply for citizenship without first having to return home, a process that would take at least six years. They would have to pay a fine, learn English, study American civics, demonstrate they had paid their taxes and take their place behind other applicants for citizenship, according to aides to Kennedy, D-Mass., who was instrumental in drafting the legislation.

Kennedy credited the "faith community" for building support for a guest worker program.

The Judiciary Committee also approved a five-year plan to provide visas for about 1.5 million agriculture workers and allow them to eventually seek legal residency.

Recent polls show that about six in 10 Americans oppose letting illegal immigrants remain in the country and apply for citizenship and three of every four don't believe the government is doing enough to stem the continuing tide of new arrivals.

## N.H. flight attendant dies in Texas crash

FREMONT, N.H. (AP) — A New Hampshire woman whose life was spared from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks by a chance scheduling of a family medical appointment has died from injuries suffered in a Texas car crash.

Relatives said flight attendant Marilyn Gates, 52, was in Texas to attend a weekend wedding when a sport utility vehicle hit the car in which she was riding Saturday at a suburban intersection north of Dallas.

Texas Department of Safety officials identified the SUV driver as Stephen Mole, of Keller. Spokeswoman Lisa Block said speed was a factor in the crash. She said Keller ran a traffic light and struck the other car.

Gates' husband, Fremont Selectman Don Gates, a retired state trooper, was hurt in the crash and was released after hospital treatment.

Fremont Selectman Eugene Cordes was driving. He and two other passengers, Beverly Brooks, a real estate agent, and Griffin Cordes, 17, both of Fremont, also were injured.

On Sept. 11 Marilyn Gates was supposed to be working aboard American Airlines Flight 11, which was crashed into the World Trade Center. She missed the flight to be with her father that day for a doctor's appointment.

"She knew them all, because that was her regular crew," her brother-in-law, Paul Porter, told the New Hampshire Union Leader.

## Colleyville man sentenced for defrauding government

FORT WORTH (AP) — The former president of a tool company that supplied the Department of Defense and Lockheed Martin Aeronautics was sentenced Monday to more than seven years in prison for defrauding the government of \$20 million.

Todd Brian Loftis, former president and chief operating officer of Tools and

Metals Inc., pleaded guilty in December to conspiring to defraud the government with false and fraudulent claims.

As president of the company, Loftis inflated the price of tools used by Lockheed to manufacture airplanes, including the Department of Defense's F-16 and F-22. The tool company would then buy the tools at a lower price and keep the profits.

To cover the inflated costs, Loftis and others under his direction used a computer scanner to create false invoices when the aeronautics company performed audits.

Loftis was sentenced by District Judge Terry R. Means to 87 months in prison and was ordered to pay \$20 million in restitution. He must report for his prison term on April 24.

The 38-year-old Colleyville man was employed by the tool company for more than 12 years and was in charge for most of that time. The company filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection in September 2005 after the scheme was revealed.

## Former professor sentenced for arranging to meet for sex

FORT WORTH (AP) — A former college professor who drove hundreds of miles to meet a minor girl for sex was sentenced to 46 months in prison Monday.

Andrew Paul Spicer, a former associate professor at Texas A&M Health Science Center in Houston, admitted in October to driving from San Antonio to Weatherford after arranging to meet a 13-year-old named Amanda for sex. The girl was actually an undercover Weatherford police detective who encountered Spicer in an Internet chat room.

Spicer, 37, pleaded guilty to traveling with the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct and transporting obscene matters to a minor.

During the initial Internet communication, Spicer e-mailed a picture of himself as well as a movie file depicting sexual acts between two adults.

## GM lays off several hundred workers

By DEE-ANN DURBIN  
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT — General Motors Corp., pummeled by falling U.S. sales and billions in losses, said Tuesday that it is laying off several hundred U.S. salaried workers as part of a plan to bring its North American operations back to profitability.

GM spokesman Robert Herta said he couldn't give an exact figure, but the world's biggest automaker plans to cut fewer than 500 workers at 30 locations across the United States, including factories and engineering centers.

The cuts represent around 1.3 percent of GM's U.S. salaried work force of 36,000. The company has said it plans to cut 7 percent of its salaried work force this year, so more cuts are on the way.

GM shares rose 2 cents to \$22.95 in premarket trading.

Detroit-based GM

announced a restructuring plan last fall in the face of mounting losses. Under the plan, GM wants to cut 30,000 U.S. hourly workers and close 12 facilities by 2008. GM lost \$10.6 billion in 2005, largely because of declining sales and rising costs in North America.

The layoffs are GM's second major jobs-related announcement in a week. GM on Wednesday said it would offer buyouts to its U.S. hourly workers of between \$35,000 and \$140,000 as part of the plan to cut its hourly work force. GM currently has 113,000 hourly workers. Salaried workers aren't eligible for those buyouts.

GM's severance packages vary by position and level of experience, but employees generally receive one month of severance pay for each year of service at the automaker up to a maximum of 15 months. They also will continue to receive health benefits and will be eligi-

ble for outplacement assistance during that time, Herta said. Salaried workers with company vehicles will be able to keep those vehicles for a period of time.

"We're trying our best to treat these impacted individuals with dignity and respect," Herta said.

GM has been steadily shrinking over the last few years as U.S. demand for its vehicles has fallen. The company had 44,000 salaried workers in 2000. GM reduced its salaried payroll by around 2,000 workers last year.

This is the second round of cuts to GM's white-collar work force this year. The automaker laid off 500 contract employees in January, many of them engineers and designers at its technical center in Warren. Contract employees do work for GM but are employed by another company. Tuesday's layoffs only included GM salaried workers.

## ODDS AND ENDS

OSLO, Norway (AP) — This is not a fisherman's tall tale. Norwegian Jan Petter Johansen did indeed win the prizes for both the largest fish and the second largest fish in a contest this weekend.

His total catch? About 0.12 ounces, winning over \$900 in prize money.

Johansen was among 66 fishermen in the first-ever ice-fishing contest on Vaagvannet, a small lake near the Arctic Norway town of Skjerveoy, on Sunday.

When time ran out for the eager anglers, only one of them, Johansen, had any fish at all. And even that was by accident.

"I almost threw the

whole catch away," he was quoted as telling the local newspaper Nordlys. "The stickleback (fish) were tangled in some seaweed I pulled up. Luckily, I noticed the big haul."

He won the first prize of \$770 for a trophy catch that weighed in at 0.07 ounces.

His second place fish was 0.05 ounces, winning \$154.

## RUN

Continued from Page 1A

really offer a challenge to runners.

"The Permian Basin Running Club usually sends a team over, and we get runners from Midland, Merkel 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 state 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."

"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 communi-

ty, but to the longevity of the park itself."

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.

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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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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MARCH 2006

FILMED BY THE PROFESSIONALS AT HERITAGE MICROFILM, INC.

# Christy's Quill

I read an awesome short book. It was written by two wives about men.

They stated very candidly that they were sick of the male-bashing craze. I'm with those sisters.

I'm fed up with it, too! One of my very articulate friends put it this way: "My husband keeps me grounded."

Another said, "My husband completes me." I've often thought about what my friend said

about being grounded. She didn't mean she was constantly in trouble and didn't get to go shopping, by the way.

She meant that when she was about to fly off the handle or "lose it," there he was to keep her steady and set her back on course.

There are so many times I can look back and say, "Thank you Lord for my husband!"

It hadn't been for his caring advice, I would have been on someone's front lawn, telling them how I felt about their trash.

Complete. I love that word. It means whole and perfect. Wherever I lack, he

picks up the slack, and vice versa. It's kind of cool how that works.

I'm not into the whole men-are-stupid nonsense. The book I read said so well that men and women are totally different.

I buy that philosophy. Not in every case is this true, but from my own experience, these are differences I've found.

1. Men have a different definition for emergencies than women do.

In my dictionary, bad hair, static, mismatched shoes and clothing, lost purses, no checkbook and being out of diet soda constitute a genuine need for panic.

Flat tires and low batteries always occur when husbands are out of town.

2. Men pack different kinds of gear than women.

I see no need for tire irons, maps or multiple coats. In my opinion, there isn't a big sense of urgency for flashlights, checkbook registers or tie downs.

3. Men won't ask for directions.

I don't mind admitting I don't know where I'm at. Pulling over to ask for directions provides a great excuse to buy a diet drink and take a restroom break.

Snacks and gum can also be purchased while discreetly letting a

stranger know one is lost.

4. Men clean differently than women.

Words like 'all, everything, and total' do not necessarily mean the whole kit and kaboodle.

In other words, women shouldn't get excited when a guy says they've cleaned the entire kitchen.

5. Men have a different sense of time.

The phrase, "I'm on my way," could mean they'll be there within minutes or days. "I'm right by the house," could mean they are still 60 miles away.

6. Men feel differently about vehicles than women do.

Running over a curb is good defensive driving

practice. Driving with a fuel light on gives one the sense of living on the edge.

These are just a few of the differences I've found. They aren't all encompassing and they aren't relevant to every male and female. But, bashing isn't necessary.

Men aren't any less smart than women. They are different by design.

And that's just fine by me.

Christy Alton is married to her park ranger, Ron and they have two children, Autumn and Aaron. She is a full-time student and works as a tutor for a local elementary school.



CHRISTY ALTON

## Bird Poop

As the storm traveled from southwest to northeast, it promised high winds, hail and a deluge of rain.

Monitoring the radar screen, the forecaster saw dark greens and yellows change to vivid red. The areas in the storm's path would be subjected to nature's extremes.

When the rain and violent winds had finally passed, a man in Coahoma opened his back door, looked at the wreckage and stopped.

In the debris scattered about his yard was the most unusual bird he had ever seen.

Curious, he stood on his back porch and continued to keep the bird in sight. Slowly, he inched forward.

The bird did not move. Suddenly, cold drops of water hit the back of his neck and shirt. So intent on watching the bird, he had not realized he was under the drip line of his roof.

Standing with its beak pointed up, the bird was motionless. The man reasoned that it must have been transported and stunned by the storm.

Not knowing if the bird were injured, he decided to get a towel in order to capture it. As he approached this strange being from behind, he was able to place

the towel over it. With excitement in her voice, the man's mother called us.

Since she loved to watch birds, she was determined to seek help.

"It's a great blue heron," she said. We encouraged her to bring it to us. Upon opening the box, we discovered she certainly knew the bird belonged in the heron family.

In her hurry to bring the bird, however, she had not taken the time to discover that her son had rescued an American bittern.

For several days, the bittern occupied a large enclosure. It was afforded privacy, water and most of the minnows in Howard County.

Each time we approached the bird, it froze, with its beak pointed up, eyes looking forward.

Knowing how secretive these birds are, we enjoyed seeing the bittern react defensively, as if it were in its native habitat.

With its streaked upper parts of brown and buff and its erect posture among tall growth, the bittern's natural camouflage would have helped it blend into its surroundings.

As a bird that searches for food in marshes, ponds and wetlands, the bittern would slowly walk among cattails, sedges and tall marsh grasses.

With its beak level and its eyes looking downward, the bittern would easily capture and swallow small fish, frogs,



BEBE MCCASLAND



Courtesy photo

The American bittern's loud, guttural sounds travel more than half a mile.

crayfish, mice and dragonflies. For a bird that would spend most of its life trying to conceal itself, it must have been quite a shock to be placed in someone's back yard.

Convinced that the bittern was ready for release, we contacted a friend who has large ponds for water birds some distance from town.

The bird adapted readily to the teeming minnow life and various ducks, geese and swans.

Later that day, the bittern started call-

ing. A short time later, five bitterns flew into the area.

The visitors stayed with our bittern for several days and enjoyed the hospitality and cuisine of the ponds.

As if on cue, all the bitterns lifted into the sky late one evening. The Coahoma man's discovery had given a rattled bird new friends for its future.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

# Bedtime Stories

## THE ROAD TO EVERYWHERE

Have you ever seen a road and wondered where it might lead to? Did you ever want very much to walk down that road and see for yourself?



Tonight, let's you and I walk down that road!

First of all, to make this seem to come true, you must close your eyes. Do you have your eyes closed? Will you keep them closed until we finish this story? Promise?

While we have our eyes closed tightly, let's pretend we see our road. Use your imagination now! Do you know what imagination means? It means when we cannot see something that is real, our mind will let us make it up, shape it for us, even give it colors, and it will seem real. Are you ready to use your imagination? Good!

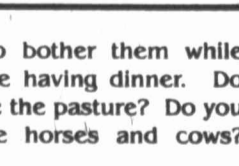
I am too! Imagine your road taking you to a place

where you have never been. My imagination is taking me down a pretty road. I see flowers blooming. I see horses and cows in pastures beside this road.



They are slowly eating grass and they do not seem to see me. I am glad because I do not

want to bother them while they are having dinner. Do you see the pasture? Do you see the horses and cows? My horses and cows are brown and white.



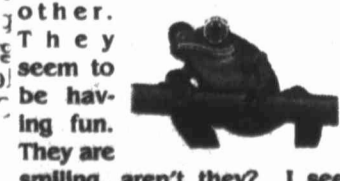
What color are your horses and cows? I walk down the road some more, and I see big oak trees, with little pine trees

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growing beneath them. The little pine trees seem to be looking up to the big oak trees, and asking them how they became so tall. The big oak trees seem to be telling the little pine trees that one day,

they will be just as tall. Do you see them, in your imagination?

Walk with me even further down my road. I see a pond, with blue green colored water. It is a very pretty pond. I see frogs jumping from one lily pad to the other.



They seem to be having fun. They are smiling, aren't they? I see one frog jump for a lily pad. I see the frog miles and land him? Did you hear the

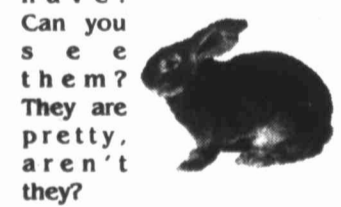
plash? I like this pond. Even the fishes love this pond!

Let's go even further down my road. Are your eyes still closed? Are you still using your imagination? Now I see a mountain! Can you see it? Mine has snow all over. Does yours? Can you see the green trees at the bottom of my mountain. Does the snow look cool to you? Would you like to play in the snow? You can, if you use your imagination!

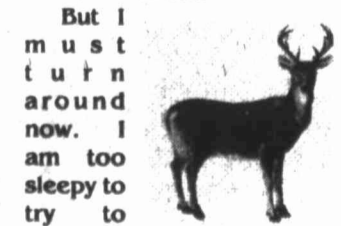
I am now at the top of my mountain. Are you at the top with me? I can see things very far away now. I can see my home from way up here. Can you see your home too? It looks nice from here, doesn't it? I can see the eagles soaring. I can see the treetops way down below. It feels so good to be



I walk some more. Are you still walking with me? I see birds and animals. They don't see me! I see the deer and the rabbits. I see all the different trees we have. I see all the different flowers we have.



Can you see them? They are pretty, aren't they? I walk some more with you. I see an ocean now. It is a big, beautiful ocean. I love the sandy beaches. I love the sound of the waves as they try to come ashore and visit me. I love the seashells. There are so many, and they are all different!



But I must turn around now. I am too sleepy to try to swim all the way across this ocean. Let's go back home now. I love this road. Will you walk down it again with me one day? You don't need me to

because I go by myself down these roads all the time. I



never go down a real road by myself. I always ask a grownup to go with me. The roads we walk down in our imaginations are safe. The real roads are not safe!

I am going to stop using my imagination now. Will you stop using yours now, too? There is something that is real right in front of you. It is the person who is reading this story to you. Will you give this real person a big hug for me, and say, "Thank you" and "Good Night!"



# Sp

## IN BRIEF

**KBSB golf tourney announced for month of April**

Keep Big Spring Beautiful will be hosting a golf tournament April 22 at the Big Spring Country Club. The tournament will start at 9 a.m. and cost \$60 per person. The tourney is a four-person scramble. For more information, contact the country club at 267-5354.

**Benefit scramble set at Comanche**

A four-man scramble golf tournament to help defray medical expenses for Willie Mendoza is set for April 2 at Comanche Trail Golf Course. Entry fee is \$20 per person, which will include a meal. The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Charlie Mendoza at 267-775 or Billy Pineda at 267-7115.

**HC rodeo team set annual crawfish boil**

The Howard College rodeo team has announced its annual H-E-B crawfish boil will take place Saturday, April 29, at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl at 2 p.m. before the Howard College Rodeo activities takes place. The price for crawfish boil tickets is \$15. Tickets can be purchased the day of the event or ahead of time by calling Howard head rodeo coach Greg Kernick at 432-816-9477. The Howard College rodeo will take place April 27-29.

**Coahoma PTA to host dodgeball tournament in April**

The Coahoma P.T.A. will be hosting a dodgeball tournament as an elementary playground fund-raiser April 14-15. The sign-up date for the event will take place April 14 at 4 p.m. in the junior high gym. There are several age groups, but each team must consist of only eight to 10 players. The groups are broken into five different categories: second and third, fourth and fifth, sixth through eighth, ninth through 12th and adults, 18 and older who are not in school. The cost for second through fifth grade is \$5 per person and each team is guaranteed five games. The other groups will pay \$10 per person and are guaranteed 10 games. For more information, contact Laura at 267-8660 or Neasa at 264-1662.

**B.S. Country Club sets golf scramble**

The Big Spring Country Club has set up a three-person scramble golf tournament for Saturday and Sunday. For more information, contact the pro shop at 432-267-5354.

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#### Coahoma PTA to host dodgeball tournament in April

The Coahoma P.T.A. will be hosting a dodgeball tournament as an elementary playground fund-raiser April 14-15.

The sign-up date for the event will take place April 14 at 6 p.m. in the junior high gym.

There are several age groups, but each team must consist of only eight to 10 players. The groups are broken into five different categories: second and third, fourth and fifth, sixth through eighth, ninth through 12th and adults, 18 and older who are not in school.

The cost for second through fifth grade is \$5 per person and each team is guaranteed five games. The other groups will pay \$10 per person and be guaranteed 10 games.

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## Newcomb leads Forsan at Water Valley meet

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald  
Last Friday saw the running of the Water Valley Relays with the Forsan varsity and JV boys track teams there to compete.

While they did not earn enough points to gain a high finish overall, there were some noteworthy performances.

In varsity competition, Wesley Newcomb took first place in the 100-meter dash with a time of

11.2. He also placed first in the long jump with a distance of 21-0.5.

Newcomb also competed along with Shawn Lawson, Skylier Sandridge and Jace Sandridge in the 800 relay which set a school record for the Buffs with a time of 1:35. That time

was good enough for a third place finish.

Also competing for the varsity was Steven Chavez, who picked up a third place finish in the discus.

The JV team ran well in the relays, taking home two second-place finishes. The Buffs 400-meter relay team included Blaine Matthews, Justin Carriger, Kody Willis and Jeremy Frietag. Running with a time of



CHAVEZ

1:41 in the 800-meter relay were Cameron Parker, Carriger, Matthews and Frietag. Parker also participated in the high jump, leaping 5-4 and placing second. Carriger also ran the 100-meter dash and finished third.

In the 400-meter dash, Michael Vega took home third, finishing in :60.

The teams will compete in the district meet this week.

**COAHOMA RELAYS**  
COAHOMA — The Forsan varsity and JV track teams competed in the Bulldog Relays Thursday, March 16, in Coahoma.

See FORSAN, Page 2B

## No surprise: Redick, Morrison unanimous choices to AP squad

By JIM O'CONNELL

AP Basketball Writer

J.J. Redick of Duke and Adam Morrison of Gonzaga spent all season locked in a bicoastal scoring race. Fittingly, they ended it as the only unanimous selections for The Associated Press' All-America men's basketball team.

Redick, the most prolific 3-point scorer in college history, was a repeat choice. He and Morrison were joined on the first team Monday by Redick's teammate Shelden Williams, Randy Foye of Villanova and Brandon Roy, Washington's first All-America in 53 years.

Redick and Morrison gave fans a "Can you top this?" scoring competition that ended with both receiving all 72 first-team

votes from members of the national media panel that selects the weekly Top 25. The voting took place before the NCAA tournament.

Morrison, the only junior on an otherwise all-senior first team, won the scoring title with a 28.4 average, just ahead of Redick's 27.4. Morrison shot 43.7 percent from 3-point range, while Redick hit 42.1 percent from beyond the arc.

"It is a testament to the type of season each of us has had," Redick said. "Adam is certainly a great player and it is an honor to be unanimous pick along with him."

Morrison said being an All-America isn't "something you think about receiving when you start your collegiate career, but to be associated with some of the great names of college basketball is an honor. I guess to be a unanimous pick with J.J. seems only fitting since the two of us have been

followed so closely this year. He's a great player."

Morrison is Gonzaga's second All-America, joining Dan Dickau in 2002.

This is the second time in three years there were two unanimous selections. In 2004, Jameer Nelson of Saint Joseph's and Emeka Okafor of Connecticut were unanimous.

Redick is the first repeat first-teamer since Jason Williams, another Duke guard, in 2001 and 2002.

Redick and Williams, a senior center who averaged 18.4 points and 10.3 rebounds while shooting 58 percent from the field, are the ninth set of teammates to be selected to the first team and the first since Jason Williams and Shane Battier of Duke in 2001.

"Both J.J. and Shelden are deserving of this honor. They have produced on the court at a high level all season, and throughout their entire careers at Duke," coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "They both understand that individual awards like this come about as a result of throwing themselves into what is important for our team. It is quite an accomplishment for teammates to be named first team All-America by The Associated Press."

Duke, the overall No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament, was the only team besides Connecticut to be ranked No. 1 in the AP poll this season. The Blue Devils won both the regular season and tournament championships in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Foye, who averaged 20.1 points, 5.6 rebounds and 3.2 assists as the key in

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KRT photo/Rich Sugg, Kansas City Star  
After his team took down No. 1 seed Connecticut, George Mason's head coach Jim Larranaga claimed his piece of the net at the Verizon Center in Washington D.C., during the NCAA regional finals Sunday.

## Larranaga, Patriots relish final four spotlight after big victory

By JOSEPH WHITE

AP Sports Writer

FAIRFAX, Va. — The coach of perhaps the most improbable Final Four team in NCAA history was running on pure adrenaline. George Mason's Jim Larranaga had slept for only two hours, and his extremely hoarse voice didn't deter him from what essentially became a day of nonstop talking.

His idea of lunch was to take four reporters out for hamburgers at a fast-food restaurant, where well-wishers kept stopping at the table to offer congratulations. And, of course, his cell phone wasn't quiet, either.

"Hey, Stick, how are you?" Larranaga's voice boomed as he took a call.

"Stick" is Ralph Sampson, who played at Virginia when Larranaga was an assistant coach there. Sampson and Larranaga were on the wrong side of the greatest upset in college basketball history, when NAIA Chamaine upset the No. 1 Cavaliers in 1982.

Now the tables have been turned. Larranaga's Patriots have put together the greatest run of upsets the NCAA tournament has ever seen. The 11th seed has defeated half of last year's Final Four and the two previous national champions, culminating with Sunday's 86-84 overtime stunner over Connecticut.

"Thank you, Ralph," Larranaga said. "You know how hard it is to get there. To have this team do it, beating Michigan State,

Carolina, Wichita State and Connecticut is just unreal."

Unreal, yes, but it would have never happened if the NCAA tournament selection committee had not ventured into a brave new world three weeks ago.

Chairman Craig Littlepage and the panel decided to invite an at-large team from the Colonial Athletic Association.

It had only happened once before, and that was when David Robinson was at Navy in 1986.

At least that's how the outside world saw it. Littlepage said Monday that the significance of picking a second CAA team "didn't come up at all" when the Patriots were being discussed.

Instead, there was more of a sense of whether the committee should take George Mason or Hofstra, another CAA team that had beaten the Patriots twice in 11 days.

"Certainly Hofstra had a very good year and has an excellent team," Littlepage said. "But I did feel as though if there were a tipping point, it was that this was the team that was tied for the league championship with North Carolina-Wilmington."

Littlepage also cited George Mason's upgraded nonconference schedule. The Patriots had put themselves in such good position that athletic director Tom O'Conner, who is also on the selection committee, professed no feeling of suspense when he made the mandatory exit from the room while his team was

being discussed.

"As I was walking out of the room, I grabbed the bottle of water, I got the newspaper and I went into the lounge," O'Conner said. "I felt relaxed and very comfortable."

O'Conner said he didn't lobby fellow committee members for Mason.

"If I had to lobby for our team," he said, "then what I would have been saying was that our team wasn't good enough."

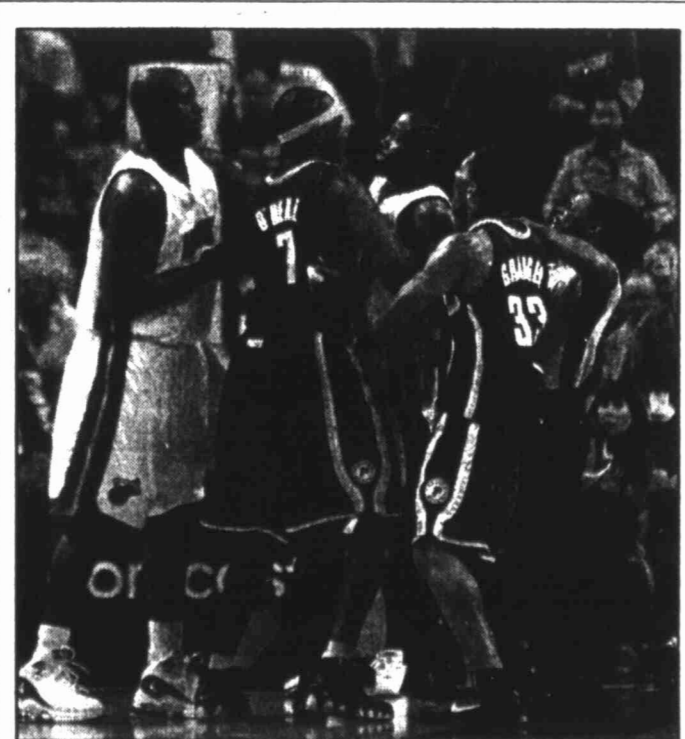
George Mason's selection was criticized by many, but no one did so in a more public forum than CBS commentators Billy Packer and Jim Nantz. Packer and Nantz have since recanted, but that didn't stop Patriots fans from derisively chanting "Bill-y Packer-er" after the win over UConn.

Guard Tony Skinn kept it up on Monday. He's a communications major, but when told he might get the chance to meet big-time broadcaster Nantz this weekend, Skinn said with a smile: "I don't want to sit next to that guy."

Committee members aren't about to say they voted for a team for sentimental reasons, but it would have been hard to fault them for giving Larranaga a break. He toiled for 11 seasons at Bowling Green and has been at George Mason for nine. He's the winningest coach in CAA history, which some might compare to leading the minor leagues in home runs.

At age 56, he goes to Indianapolis this weekend representing all the

See PATRIOTS, Page 2B



KRT photo/Patrick Farrell, Miami Herald  
A scuffle breaks out between the Miami Heat's Udonis Haslem and the Indiana Pacers' Jermaine O'Neal under the Pacers' basket. The Heat defeated the Pacers 96-91 at the AmericanAirlines Center in Miami, Fla., Monday.

**PATRIOTS**

Continued from Page 1B

good low-major and mid-major coaches who never got a chance to experience basketball's biggest stage.

"Three weeks ago, I was one of those coaches," Larranaga said. "I worked at this craft for 35 years. I've been to two Final Fours, but not as a head coach. Twenty years I sat there, 'The Final Four,' hoping one day I might be able to bring a team there. Actually I think I changed my goals — just give me an at-large berth, I would settle for that. You've got to understand how difficult it is, when you're not one of the top six or seven leagues, to get an at-large."

Throughout the day, the long-winded Larranaga told story after story in interview after interview, some coming from the 400 or so e-mails he started reading at 5 a.m. There was the 15-year-old boy whose mother had recently died: "Our team brought some joy into his life that he hadn't felt since his mom passed away," Larranaga said.

At various times he quoted Confucius and William Jennings Bryan, but Larranaga also makes good use of his own material. This is the coach who motivated his players by calling them "Kryptonite" in their green jerseys before the



KRT photo/Steve Dealich  
George Mason's Lamar Butler celebrates after the Patriots defeated Connecticut 86-84 during the NCAA regional finals at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C. Sunday.

North Carolina game and said their conference's acronym stood for the "Connecticut Assassin Association" before the game against the Huskies.

Larranaga said he's no longer trying to "climb

the coaching ladder." He's at Mason to stay, he says, but that begs the question: Is Mason in the big-time to stay? "This exposure is tremendous," he said. "And we'll feel the effects in the future."

**FORSAN**

Continued from Page 1B

Newcomb led the team in total points with 27 and placed well in several events.

Newcomb also took first in the long jump with a leap of 20-11.75, second in the 100-meter dash with a time of :11.68, third in the high jump with a leap of 5-6 and he also ran in the 400- and 800-meter relay.

The 400-meter relay team of Mitchell Murray, Newcomb, Justin Forshee and Jace Sandridge placed second with a time of :45.4.

The 800-meter relay team of Murray, Cody Freitag, Jace Sandridge, and Newcomb placed third with a time of 1:38. Parker placed third in

the high jump with a jump of 5-2. Carriger placed second in the 400-meter dash with a time of :58.3. He also placed third in the 200-meter dash.

The JV sprint relay team of Parker, Matthews, Jace Purser, and Willis placed third with a time of :51.9.

The JV 800-meter relay team of Michael Vega, Purser, Willis, and Matthews placed fourth with a time of 1:47.

Chavez placed fourth in the discus with a throw of 129-0 and also placed fifth in the shot put with a throw of 32-0. Jonathon Ochoa placed

fifth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:21.

Adam Bailey placed fourth in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of :46.14. He also ran in the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of :17.7.

Forshee placed third in the triple jump with a leap of 38-11 and also ran the 400-meter dash and recorded a time of :56 and ran the 200-meter dash with a time of :24.8.

Lawson ran the 400-meter dash in :59.08 and the 200-meter dash in :25.7.

Josh Paredez ran the 400-meter dash in :59.09 and the 200-meter dash in :27.7.

Murray ran the 100-meter dash with a time of :11.9.

The varsity team placed third overall in the meet.

**UNANIMOUS**

Continued from Page 1B

Villanova's four-guard offense, was the third-leading vote-getter, named on 55 first-team ballots. He is the Wildcats' first All-America since Kerry Kittles in 1996.

"It's an honor to be selected as an AP All-America with such great players," Foye said. "It's an honor for my family, my school and our fans, and I'm very grateful to everyone involved, especially my teammates and coaches."

Roy is Washington's first All-America since Bob Houbregs in 1953.

"It's awesome that top players from the state of Washington with a year difference in age are considered top players in the country," Roy said. "That says a lot for the state and how we've come along as basketball players. When I was a kid, I dreamed about this."

Roy, a 6-6 swingman, averaged 19.9 points, 5.7 rebounds and 4.1 assists while shooting 51 percent from the field and 81 percent from the free throw line.

Dee Brown of Illinois was the leading vote-get-

ter on the second team and was joined by fellow senior Rodney Carney of Memphis, junior P.J. Tucker of Texas and sophomores Rudy Gay of Connecticut and Leon Powe of California.

The third team includes seniors Craig Smith of Boston College and Allan Ray of Villanova, junior Nick Fazekas of Nevada, sophomore Glen Davis of LSU and freshman Tyler Hansbrough of North Carolina.

The preseason All-America team this season was Redick, Morrison, Williams, Brown and Smith.

**NFL may cut down on end zone celebrations**

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer  
ORLANDO, Fla. — Bad news might be on the horizon for Terrell Owens, Chad Johnson and the other purveyors of outrageous touchdown celebrations.

The NFL's competition committee is proposing a crackdown on rocking the baby, teeing off like Tiger and anything else that might be considered taunting.

This isn't particularly new. The league has smacked down celebrators who went over the top before.

Remember T.O.'s dancing on the Dallas star in Texas Stadium?

Or Johnson revealing a small sign asking not to be fined by commissioner Paul Tagliabue?

Or, of course, Joe Horn's hidden cell phone trick in New Orleans?

But committee chairmen Jeff Fisher, coach of the Tennessee Titans, and

Rich McKay, general manger of the Atlanta Falcons, believe enforcement hasn't been strict enough recently.

"Individual celebration was getting out of hand," Fisher said Monday at the NFL meetings. "The players' association was unanimous in wanting to get this under control."

So spiking the ball in the end zone will be OK. And spinning it on the ground, or dunking it over the goalpost. Dancing in the end zone is fine, too, as long as it's not prolonged or a group effort.

Almost all other celebrations will be out if the committee's recommendation to clamp down further on the frivolities is passed by the owners.

The new emphasis on unsportsmanlike conduct penalties will call for a 15-yard mark-off on the ensuing kickoff against the offending team, and possible fines.

Players can't use props for any celebrations, and they can't be on the ground when they do their thing.

The committee also will suggest:

— Down by contact calls be subject to instant replay review, a proposal that was voted down last year. Currently, a play is dead once the whistle blows and the ballcarrier is ruled down by the officials.

— Modifying illegal procedure to allow receivers to flinch if they get back into position before the play and the defense doesn't react to the move.

— Toughening enforcement on pass rushers who hit quarterbacks below the knees, as long as the defensive players could have avoided making the hit.

One play that didn't prompt such a point of emphasis, McKay said, was in last year's playoffs on Cincinnati's Carson

Palmer by Kimo von Oelhoffen, then with Pittsburgh, that severely injured Palmer's knee. McKay said it was clear von Oelhoffen didn't make any intentional move to hit Palmer, but simply rolled into the quarterback.

Just like quarterbacks, one defensive player might be allowed direct communication with the coaches next season.

The committee will recommend that a defense has the same option as an offense in that area. As of now, quarterbacks get instructions through a small speaker in the helmet until there are 15 seconds remaining on the play clock.

Also this week, Tagliabue plans to begin the process of selecting his successor, although he wasn't certain Monday when a committee will be established to begin the search.

**Upcoming Area Lineup**

**Today**  
Big Spring baseball vs. Andrews, 4:30 p.m.  
Forsan softball vs. S.A. Central JV, 5 p.m.  
Big Spring softball @ Plainview, 6 p.m.  
Coahoma baseball vs. Midland Trinity, 7 p.m.  
Coahoma softball @ Midland Christian, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Coahoma golf invitational @ Comanche Trail Golf Course, 9 a.m.

**Thursday**  
Big Spring girls' golf @ Plainview, 9 a.m.  
Howard rodeo @ Snyder (Western Texas), 7 p.m.

**Friday**  
Howard softball DH @ El Paso CC, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.  
Howard baseball DH @ El Paso CC, 1 p.m.  
Big Spring softball/baseball @ Estacado, 4:30 p.m./7 p.m.  
Coahoma softball/baseball vs. Hawley, 7 p.m.  
Howard rodeo @ Snyder (Western Texas), 7 p.m.

**Maryland, LSU reach final four**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Kristi Toliver made just about everything she put up and Crystal Langhorne was as reliable as ever, sending Maryland back to the Final Four after a 17-year absence.

Toliver set career highs with 28 points and six 3-pointers and Langhorne added 16 points and 10 rebounds, leading second-seeded Maryland to a 75-65 overtime victory over No. 5 Utah in the Albuquerque Regional Monday night.

Laura Harper scored six points in overtime for the Terrapins (32-7), who are returning to the Final Four for the first time since 1989.

It was hardly easy for Maryland, though, not with the Utes (27-7) putting up a heck of a fight.

Kim Smith had 17 points and 18 rebounds to lead the Mountain West champions, and Shona Thorburn finished with

10 points after missing the last 5 minutes of the first half to get treatment for an ankle injury.

LSU 62, Stanford 59  
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Seimone Augustus scored 17 of her 26 points in the second half and drew a game-saving charge with 4.8 seconds left to help LSU advance to the Final Four.

The Lady Tigers (31-3) reached the national semifinals for the third straight year.

Augustus, a middle-school AAU teammate of Glen Davis and longtime friends with other men's stars like Tyrus Thomas, carried LSU's offense with the determination of someone not wanting to end her career.

Then, with the Lady Tigers up 60-59, she planted her body in the way and drew a charge that prevented the Cardinal from getting off a potential go-ahead shot.

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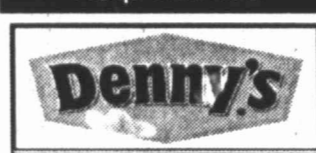
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2006



TUESDAY

MAR. 28

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (30)
6:30	News (CC)	News Wheel-Forune	Peregina	My Wife-Kids Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	La Tormenta	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Y. Salamanca John Hages	News-Lehrer	Deafest Catch: Best	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene Investg.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET com	Phil of Future That's-Raven	College Basketball	Women's College	Dark Kingdom: The Dragon
7:30	Accordng-Jim Hope & Faith	Accordng-Jim Hope & Faith	Barrera de Amor	American Idol (CC)	NCIS (CC)	Tierra de Pasiones	Outragous Scrubs (CC)	Friends (CC)	Updates/Israel Jimmy Philips	Nova (CC) (DVS)	Deafest Catch: Best	Miguel: The Man in the Iron Mask	CSI: Crime Scene Investg.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Hustle and Heat	An Extremely Goofy Movie	NIT Semifinal -- Teams TBA	Basketball	King (CC)
8:30	Daughters	Daughters	Alborada	House (CC)	The Unit (CC)	Corson Part Decisions	Scrubs (CC)	Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	Frontline/ World	Deafest Catch	Mask	Movie: Young Guns	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	American Drgn	College Basketball	Women's College	Dark Kingdom: The Dragon	
9:30	Boston Legal (CC)	Boston Legal (CC)	Ver Para Creer	My Wife-Kids 70s Show	The Amazing Race 9 (CC)	Decisions	Law & Order: SVU	Sainfield (CC)	Independent Lens (CC)	Oil, Sweet and Rigs	Deafest Catch: Best	45 Movie: Charlie Foose (CC)	Movie: Just for Kicks	The Closer (CC)	Rip the Runway	American Drgn Sister, Sister	NIT Semifinal -- Teams TBA	Basketball	King (CC)
10:30	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	10 Movie: Space	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Foose (CC)	Deafest Catch: Best	Insomnia (CC)	Movie: Just for Kicks	Cold Case (CC)	In Living Color In Living Color	Zack & Cody That's-Raven	NCAA Special	SportsCenter: The Dragon	Dark Kingdom: The Dragon
11:30	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo- Maria Celeste Pagado	Late Night: Conan O'Brien Apex	Cowboys (CC)	Joe McGee Biblical Israel	Sign Off	Deafest Catch: Best	CSI: Crime Scene Investg.	Blind Date	The X-Files (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Phil of Future Km Possible	Tennis: NASDAQ-100	College Gmday	King (CC)
12:30	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Amigas y Rivales (SB)	Becker (CC)	Show The Insider			40 Movie: Update/Israel Booker			Deafest Catch	12-15 Movie: The Man in the	Scene Investg.	The X-Files (CC)	Lizzie McGuire That's-Raven	Open -- Early Rounds (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Dark Kingdom: The Dragon	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I LOVE MY PARENTS, BUT THEY SURE ARE A BIG RESPONSIBILITY."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Can you see who I'm marrying?"

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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 28, the 87th day of 2006. There are 278 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 28, 1979, America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred inside the Unit 2 reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pa.

On this date: In 1834, the U.S. Senate voted to censure President Jackson for the removal of federal deposits from the Bank of the United States.

In 1854, during the Crimean War, Britain and France declared war on Russia.

In 1898, the Supreme Court ruled that a child born in the United States to Chinese immigrants was a U.S. citizen.

In 1930, the names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora were changed to Istanbul and Ankara.

In 1939, the Spanish Civil War ended as Madrid fell to the forces of Francisco Franco.

In 1941, novelist and critic Virginia Woolf died in Lewes, England.

In 1942, during World War II, British naval forces raided the Nazi-occupied French port of St. Nazaire.

Ten years ago: The space shuttle Atlantis' astronauts said goodbye to the crew of Russia's space station Mir and then flew off, leaving Shannon Lucid behind for a five-month stay in orbit.

Five years ago: The authors of a book on the Oklahoma City bombing revealed that during prison interviews, Timothy McVeigh had shown no remorse for what happened, and called the 19 children who died "collateral damage."

One year ago: The Colorado Supreme Court threw out the death penalty in a rape-and-murder case because five of the jurors had consulted the Bible and quoted Scripture during deliberations. A major earthquake off the west coast of Indonesia killed up to 1,000 people.

Today's Birthdays: Former White House national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski is 78. Alaska Gov. Frank Murkowski is 73. Country musician Charlie McCoy is 65. Movie director Mike Newell is 64. Actress Conchata Ferrell is 63. Actress Dianne Wiest is 58. Rhythm-and-blues musician Milan Williams is 58. Country singer Reba McEntire is 51. Actress Tracey Needham is 39. Country singer Rodney Atkins is 37. Rapper Salt (Salt-N-Pepa) is 37. Actor Vince Vaughn is 36. Rapper Mr. Cheeks (Lost Boyz) is 35. Actress Julia Stiles is 25.

Thought for Today: "Guess, if you can, and choose, if you dare." — Pierre Corneille, French dramatist and poet (1606-1684).

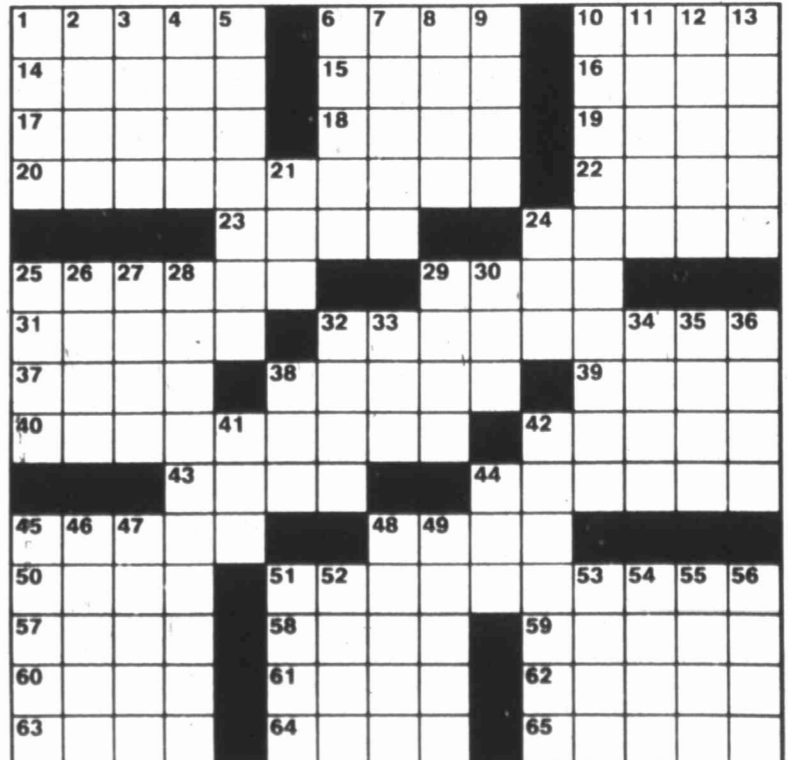
Answer to previous puzzle

SASS	ADAM	RAVEN
HUMP	DELI	ELITE
ARTA	AMEN	SPENT
WATCH	POCKET	WAS
SHEET	SLURP	
SAITED	SPION	
ALL	VOWEL	BIOS
LOOSE	EPA	DENSE
STOP	ROVER	TEA
SKATE	TAXES	
AMASS	PANES	
PAL	SPOT	REMOVER
OBITS	LOAN	RARE
PEKOE	INNS	EDGE
STEEL	DIKE	SEED

Newsday Crossword

HERE, KITTY by Sally R. Stein  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 One-celled creature
- 6 Humorous poet Ogden
- 10 Web auction center
- 14 Sahara beast
- 15 Notion
- 16 \_ of the above
- 17 Songbird sound
- 18 Fish's breathing organ
- 19 Smitten
- 20 Type of instant lottery ticket
- 22 Part of the eye
- 23 Inning enders
- 24 First stage
- 25 Talk nonsense
- 29 Small dog, familiarly
- 31 Andrew \_ Webber
- 32 Sudden declines
- 37 Gone With the Wind mansion
- 38 Chicken throwaways
- 39 "Yikes!"
- 40 They winter in Florida
- 42 Ordinary language
- 43 Visibility problem
- 44 Reiterated, with "on"
- 45 Batman's sidekick
- 48 Top-billed performer
- 50 Former spouses
- 51 Carpentry tool
- 57 Swindle
- 58 Tube-shaped pasta
- 59 Distributed
- 60 Doing nothing
- 61 Hertz competitor
- 62 Author Zola
- 63 Bambi, for one
- 64 Monthly payment
- 65 Shoe bottoms
- 12 Actress Dickinson
- 13 Bread baker's ingredient
- 21 Billiards stick
- 24 Approves
- 25 Diner sandwiches: Abbr.
- 26 Alda of The Aviator
- 27 Brooklyn or Manhattan, for short
- 28 Barely
- 29 Fruit-filled desserts
- 30 Golfer Ernie
- 32 Ripped up
- 33 Also
- 34 Flapjack franchise
- 35 Tip of an airplane
- 36 Lose fur
- 38 "That's show \_!"
- 41 Make illegal
- 42 Veterans Day events
- 44 "That's what you think!"
- 45 Make a second offer
- 46 Rust, for example
- 47 Charming woman
- 48 Fine sheet fabric
- 49 Novel-plot surprise
- 51 Business bigwig
- 52 Not on tape
- 53 Office note
- 54 Send, as a postcard
- 55 Vogue rival
- 56 Hwys.



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Wacky Facts

■ Rembrandt was born July 15, 1606, the same year William Shakespeare wrote "King Lear" and "Hamlet."  
■ Rembrandt made his first etching in 1626.  
— Art Institute of Chicago, HistoricalTimeline.com

# KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"My first kiss was in the fifth grade. It was good and lasted several Mississippiis."

— Justin Timberlake, in J-14 magazine.



In The News

## Fans flock to 'High School Musical'

If you invited friends over to watch the Disney Channel's "High School Musical," you weren't alone. Thousands of other kids were doing exactly the same thing.

The movie, about two high school students who pursue their love for singing and acting despite pressure from friends and family to "Stick to the Status Quo," as one of the movie's songs puts it, has been a huge success.

Time For Kids kid reporter Emily Doveala interviewed Zac Efron, who plays Troy Bolton, and "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody's" Ashley Tisdale, who plays Sharpay Evans.

TFK: How long did it take to make the movie?  
**EFRON:** It took a total of six weeks. We had two weeks of rehearsal and then we had four weeks of principal photography. So, all together six weeks to make the movie.

**TISDALE:** They had to get me in and out because I had to get back to "Suite Life" for the second season. We did a week in Los Angeles of recording, and two weeks of dance rehearsal, and two weeks of principal photography.

TFK: How many hours a day did you rehearse dancing or singing?

**EFRON:** The first two weeks we would show up to rehearsal at 9 o'clock, and I think we'd get off at about 5 o'clock. That was for the rehearsal for the dancing and basketball and acting and everything. And then during the rest of the shoot when we weren't on camera we were rehearsing.

TFK: What was your favorite part about filming this movie?

**EFRON:** My favorite part of filming this movie was just the interaction with the cast, and making a whole bunch of new friends and singing and dancing while we were filming.



Ashley Tisdale, left, and Zac Efron, right, in "High School Musical."

**TISDALE:** I have to say the musical numbers were awesome. To have a movie with music videos within the movie is really cool. Just having fun, and I think it showed up on screen that we all were having a blast. It looked like a huge party.

TFK: What advice would you give to kids who want to have a career in acting?

**EFRON:** My advice would be to go and sign up for the first play you can find, audition and see how you like it. If you enjoy being on stage, then I can almost guarantee that you are going to like being in front of the camera.

**TISDALE:** I think, follow your dreams. If you really, really want to do it, you should definitely go for it. But you have to know that it's not all glamorous like people expect it to be. They think "Wow, that looks like so much fun. It's so glamorous." It is fun, but you have to make it fun and you have to work really hard because it is a job. It is hard work and there is a lot of rejection. You have to take acting practice and really work hard at it. — Emily Doveala, 10

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"The Virgin and Child with the Cat and Snake" (1654)

# ETCH ARTIST

Not just a painter, Rembrandt also was a master printmaker

By MARCIA BORUCKI  
Chicago Tribune

Almost everyone knows Rembrandt was a famous painter who lived a few hundred years ago. But did you know that in addition to being acclaimed for his dramatic oil paintings, he was hailed in his time for his detailed etchings — some not much bigger than a Yu-Gi-Oh card, others nearly as small as a postage stamp?

Rembrandt van Rijn — who along with Michelangelo and Raphael is one of only a handful of artists known by their first names — is considered one of the most imaginative printmakers of all times. He used a sharp tool to draw on copper plates, then made prints of the drawings.

"Prints are a way for more than one person to own an original piece of an artist's work," explains Alan Artner, the Chicago Tribune's art critic.

Rembrandt's etchings are incredibly detailed, created of many thin lines,

To make his prints, Rembrandt used three techniques: engraving, etching and drypoint. He used them alone or in combination. With each, he incised or scratched his drawings into copper plates. After the drawing was complete, ink was applied to the plate and wiped away. The plate was sandwiched between paper and a protective felt covering, fed through a hand-cranked printing press, and the image was printed. To make an engraving, Rembrandt carved his drawing into the copper plate with a tool called a "burin," which has a sharp, diamond-shaped tip.



"The Blindness of Tobit" (1651)

almost scratches. With these slashes and strokes he conveys a startling array of moods and emotions, and amazing tones of light and dark.

"People describe (the prints) using words like color, and here they are,

## How did he do that?



"Christ Returning from the Temple with his Parents" (1654)

Etching and drypoint.

black and white," says Mike Venezia, author and illustrator of "Rembrandt," one of 40 books and videos he has done in the "Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists" series (Childrens Press, \$6.95).

Printmaking is one of the oldest art forms; it commonly was used to illustrate books. But Rembrandt wasn't afraid to try different things, and his techniques added excitement to a previously dull and dry art enterprise.

He also wasn't afraid to be different: In his time, prints were a way for artists to get exposure for their paintings. Some artists who wished to publicize their work, such as Peter Paul Rubens, had prints made of their paintings. Rembrandt made fast "sketches" with oil paint, then turned them into etchings. It was a primary art form for him.

You've probably done a basic form of printmaking if you've ever carved a design into Styrofoam or into an apple or potato, dipped it in tempera paint, and "printed" the design onto paper.

Etching involved coating the copper plate with acid-resistant wax or resin, called "ground." Rembrandt made his drawing in the ground with a needle-like tool. The plate then was dipped in acid, where the exposed metal was eaten away, causing the lines of his drawing to become deeper grooves.

Drypoint is a cross between etching and engraving. He used a needle to carve lines into the copper plate. This left raised, somewhat rough edges in the copper called "burr." When printed, the burr created soft edges on the paper.

SOURCE: "REMBRANDT'S JOURNEY: PAINTER, DRAFTSMAN, ETCHER," BY CLIFFORD S. ACKLEY

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By THOMAS JENKIN

Staff Writer  
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