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# BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 125

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND



**INSIDE**  
Detroit Red Wings battle from behind to defeat Stars

Page 1B

## Indigent healthcare director voices concern over policy representation

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

At least five area residents have filed grievances against a Dallas-based insurance company they claim misled them into giving up their Medicare benefits in favor of a private policy.

According to Irene Dominguez, director of Howard County's Indigent Healthcare, she has already five local residents switch

back to their Medicare benefits and file complaints against the company, Secure Horizons Direct.

"I've filed five grievances so far, and I have two more expected to come in today," said Dominguez. "The insurance company that sold them the plan has been helpful in getting them switched back to their Medicare plans, but I feel like the salesman that is selling these plans isn't explaining everything to

them."

Dominguez said the representative of Secure Horizons Direct, Jesse Martinez, failed to explain to the unhappy customers — all of which are Hispanic, elderly people living in Sand Springs — they would be giving up their Medicare benefits for the plan being sold.

"The people that I have talked to

See **CONCERN**, Page 3A

## Howard College has convocation tonight

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Howard College's best will be recognized tonight when the college holds its annual awards convocation at 7 p.m. in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Students who succeeded in both academics and in club and organization



work will be recognized during tonight's event, said Javier Flores, dean of students.

The most prestigious award to be announced

See **COLLEGE**, Page 3A

## Portman named budget director

By TERENCE HUNT  
AP Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Bush today nominated Trade Representative Rob Portman as the White House budget director, turning to a Washington insider and longtime friend as part of an effort to re-energize the administration and boost the president's record approval ratings.

Bush also selected Susan Schwab, the deputy trade representative, to move up to the top job, replacing Portman.

Bush said more changes are in the works under his new chief of staff, Joshua Bolten.

"With a new man will come some changes," the president said. But he emphasized anew that



Rob Portman, trade representative, was nominated by President Bush today to serve as White House budget director.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's job is safe, despite calls for his resignation from a half dozen retired military commanders.

"I hear the voices and I read the front page and I know the speculation," the president told reporters in the Rose Garden. "But I'm the decider and I decide what's best. And what's best is for Don Rumsfeld to remain as the secre-

tary of defense." The president noted that Washington is buzzing with rumors about an administration shake-up.

Treasury Secretary John Snow is said to be on the verge of leaving, and Republicans outside the White House say they expect changes in the White House lobbying and communications shops.

"I understand this is a matter of high specu-

lation here in Washington," Buh said. "It's the game of musical chairs, I guess you would say, that people love to follow."

He said he had given Bolten broad authority to make changes to strengthen the White House.

"And of course he will bring different recommendations to me as to who should be here and who should not be here," the president said.

## 2 Duke lacrosse players face rape and kidnap charges

□ DA hopes to add a third suspect soon.

By TIM WHITMIRE  
Associated Press Writer

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Two Duke University lacrosse players were arrested early today on charges of raping and kidnapping a stripper hired to dance at an off-campus party, and the district attorney said he hopes to charge a third person soon.

The indictments, unsealed today, did not indicate what possible evidence or arguments led the grand jury Monday to indict Reade Seligmann and Collin Finnerty, both 20. District Attorney Mike Nifong would not discuss the evidence.

"It had been my hope to charge all three of the assailants at the same time, but the evidence available to me at this moment does not permit that," Nifong said. "Investigation into the identity of the third assailant will continue in

the hope that he can also be identified with certainty."

Seligmann posted a \$400,000 bond shortly after his arrest, and Finnerty was in the process of doing so for the same amount, said Col. George Naylor of the Durham County jail.

Earlier, Seligmann, a 6-foot-1 sophomore from Essex Fells, N.J., and Finnerty, a 6-foot-3 sophomore from Garden City, N.Y., were led out of a police cruiser in handcuffs, one wearing a tie and jacket, the other in a button-down shirt and jeans.

Seligmann is "absolutely innocent," said his attorney, Kirk Osborn. "He's doing great. That's all I have to say."

Asked what led to the indictments, Osborn said: "Apparently it was a photographic identification. And we all know how reliable that is."

A message left on the answering machine at the Finnerty home in Garden

See **CHARGES**, Page 3A

## PD investigates stabbing of man; one in custody

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Police Department is investigating an alleged stabbing that took place over the Easter weekend that landed a Big Spring man in the hospital.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, 18-year-old Gabriel Ortiz of 2507 Carleton was arrested Sunday after he allegedly stabbed another man in the 200 block of Northeast Ninth Street.

"Officers responded to the location in

See **STABBING**, Page 3A

## Johnson, ex-construction supervisor in dispute

### ISD trustees cancel May board election

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

FORSAN — The former supervisor of construction projects authorized by the Forsan school bond issue has filed a lien against District Superintendent Randy Johnson.

Richard Higgins was living on property owned by Johnson while Higgins oversaw the various construction projects authorized by district voters in late 2004. He was subsequently relieved of his duties after several projects fell behind schedule.

Soon after his dismissal, Higgins filed a lien on Johnson's property with the



Johnson

Howard County Clerk's Office.

During their regular meeting Monday night, Forsan trustees voted to give Johnson a helping hand in the dispute in the form of paying for some legal fees.

Johnson declined further discussion on the matter, citing the ongoing nature of the dispute.

Construction projects authorized by the \$4.9 million bond issue are, for the most part, completed, Johnson said. The final two major projects, a new practice gymnasium and renovation of the high school band hall, should be completed by mid-June.

In other business Monday, trustees: • Canceled the May 13 school board election. Incumbents Misty Rhoten and

Lewis Boeker face no opposition for re-election.

• Authorized an economic development policy that would allow FUSD to limit taxes on new business projects within the district.

School districts are not allowed to abate taxes on new businesses or construction projects, but the new policy will allow Forsan to place a cap on how much of the project would be taxed, Johnson said.

• Announced the hours and rates for public use of the swimming pool. Johnson said the pool, located on the secondary campus, will be open from May 29 until July 29.

Hours of operation will be 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. daily. Costs will be 75 cents a day for students and \$1 for adults. Season passes (\$20 for individuals and \$40 for families) also are available.

## Forsan wins District 10-1A academic contest

Herald Staff Report

The Forsan High School speech and academic team once again rules the roost as District 10-1A champions.

The team won its fourth straight title at the recent district meet, held at Winters High School, scoring 301 overall points.

Team sponsor Jim Rhodes said 17 students will now advance to the regional academics meet, to be held Saturday at Hardin Simmons

University in Abilene.

Advancing to regional competition are: Eric Ellis, Seth Johnson, Charlene Stanley, Tim Ballard, Bryce Lopez, Amanda Foster, Shawn Lawson, Taylor Barber, Clint Lockhart, Ryan Welch, Audrey Montgomery, Jonathan Purcell, Courtney Holdampf, Bobby Roy, Vince Penick, Crystal McNew, Stephanie Williams.

In addition to individual awards, Forsan won five team championships in

Calculator, Mathematics, Number Sense, Computer Science and over-all Speech Team champion.

Forsan results from the district meet include: Calculator Applications: First, Eric Ellis; second, Seth Johnson; and third, Charlene Stanley.

Computer Applications: Fourth, Taylor Barber  
Computer Science: First Bryce Lopez; fifth, Amanda Foster; and sixth, Shawn Lawson.

Editorial Writing: Fifth, Amber Ritz.

Headline Writing: First, Clint Lockhart.

Informative Speaking: Fourth, Clint Lockhart; and fifth, Matt Posey.

Lincoln Douglas Debate: Third, Ryan Welch.

Mathematics: First, Audrey Montgomery; and fifth, Jonathan Purcell.

Number Sense: First, Audrey Montgomery; second,

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CONCERN

Continued from Page 1A

say they thought they were buying supplemental insurance," said Dominguez. "What they weren't told was when they signed up for this

coverage. Secure Horizons Direct took over their benefits. A lot of these people were getting all of their care through Medicare, so they didn't need this plan.

"This insurance company is a legitimate company, and what they are selling is just another

health plan. However, it's not a supplemental policy, and if someone who's on Medicare signs up, Medicare will not administer their benefits any more."

Dominguez said area residents enrolled in Medicare should contact their insurance provider

before signing up for any new plans.

"They can contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE," said Dominguez. "Anyone who is approached by a door-to-door salesman or anyone else who wants them to sign up for coverage should call and get the

facts before they sign.

"I really don't know if Secure Horizons Direct is a good company or not. They have worked with me to get these people switched back to their Medicare, but I'm certainly not pleased with the way the policies were sold."

For more information, contact Dominguez at 264-2219.

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

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

tonight will be the Presidential Student of the Year, Flores said.

"This is presented to the college's outstanding student," he said. "The student has to be

very involved outside the classroom, in the community, as well as perform very well in the classroom."

Hand in hand with that award will be the naming of the Outstanding Educator of the Year. Students voted for the teacher they believe to be the best on campus, Flores said.

Flores said students who made the Dean's List and President's List will be honored, along with the outstanding students in each of the college's clubs and organizations.

Also recognized tonight will be students named to the Who's Who Among U.S. Community Colleges.

In addition, Flores said two students will receive scholarships as part of the USA Today Phi Beta Kappa All-American Academic Team.

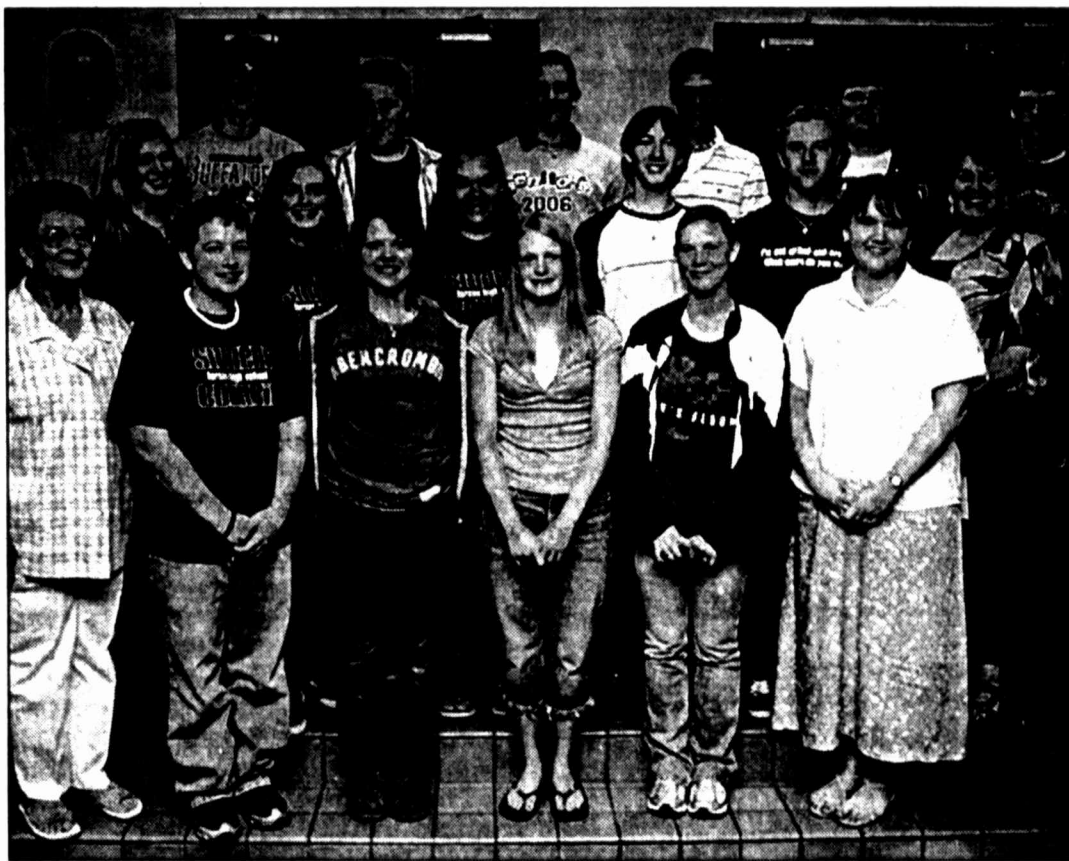
Also tonight, the American Legion Good Citizen Award will be presented to two Howard students.

"The American Legion recog-

nizes students who display characteristics of good citizenship," Flores said. "The students were nominated by their teachers, and the faculty and staff voted for the winners."

A reception will follow tonight's event.

Courtesy photo  
Members and coaches of the Forsan High School speech and academic team that won its fourth straight district title are, front row, left to right: Jan Sims, Clint Lockhart, Crystal McNew, Charlene Stanley, Amanda Foster and Suzanne Kirkland; second row, left to right: Audrey Montgomery, Courtney Holdampf, Stephanie Williams, Tim Ballard, Shawn Lawson and Susan Alexander; third row, left to right: Ryan Welch, Vince Penick, Bobby Roy, Bryce Lopez, Seth Johnson, Eric Ellis and Jonathan Purcell. Not pictured are Taylor Barber, Amber Ritz, Matt Posey, Caitlin Jones and Jim Rhodes.



FORSAN

Continued from Page 1A

Courtney Holdampf; and third, Jonathan Purcell.

Poetry: Second Crystal McNew; and third, Stephanie Williams

Science: Fifth, Jonathan

Purcell; and sixth, Caitlin Jones.

Social Studies: Fifth, Tim Ballard.

Team Champions Calculator Applications — Eric Ellis, Seth Johnson, Charlene Stanley, Tim Ballard.

Mathematics — Audrey Montgomery, Jonathan

Purcell, Courtney Holdampf, Bobby Roy. Number Sense — Audrey Montgomery, Courtney Holdampf, Jonathan Purcell, Vince Penick.

Computer Science — Bryce Lopez, Amanda Foster, Shawn Lawson, Taylor Barber.

Coaches for all the Forsan events are Susan Alexander, all math teams, Jan Sims, speech & academic teams, Suzanne Kirkland, all computer teams, and Jim Rhodes, speech & academic teams.

STABBING

Continued from Page 1A

reference to a fight," said Everett. "Once on the scene, officers found that two men had been involved in a fight. One subject was bleeding and told officers he was

stabbed."

Mike Hilario, 34, of Big Spring was then transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where Everett said he is currently listed in good condition.

"Ortiz was arrested at the scene," said Everett. "He was then transported to the city jail and booked on a charge of aggravated

assault with a deadly weapon. His bond was later set at \$25,000 by Municipal Judge Tim Green, after which, he was transferred to the county jail."

Everett said the investi-

gation is still under way, led by Det. Phil Whitten.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

J. D. Nelson, 77, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Private burial will be held at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Joe Smoot, 82, died Monday. Funeral Service will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at First Baptist Church with graveside services at 2 p.m. at Colorado City Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 7 until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Robert B. Evans, 74, died Friday. Graveside services were at 10 a.m. Tuesday at West Park Cemetery in Hereford.

Pizza Inn. Tuesday Senior Buffet \$4.49 Only With Tea. Call For Details 1702 Gregg 263-1381

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su | do | ku © Puzzles by Pappocom 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. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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CHARGES

Continued from Page 1A

City, N.Y., was not immediately returned. No one answered the door at the house, which sits in a cul-de-sac of million-dollar homes. A lacrosse net and equipment could be seen

on the yard, which abuts a golf course.

The alleged victim, a 27-year-old black woman and mother of two children, told police she was attacked March 13 by three white men in a bathroom at a party held by the lacrosse team.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker Grand-Slam Bidding North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A J 9 7 5, A K 6 4, A J 8 4. WEST: A K 9 6 3, 10 6 2, 10 8 3, 9 2. EAST: J 10 8 7 5 2, 8 4, Q 9 7, 7. SOUTH: Q 4, K Q, J 5 2, K Q 10 6 5 3. The bidding: North East South West 1♥ Pass 2♦ Pass 3♦ Pass 4♥ Pass 6♣. Opening lead — King of spades. The real test of a partnership is its skill in reaching sound slam contracts. The bonuses for slams more than adequately reward bidding accuracy in this area. The North-South cards in this hand from a team match certainly warrant a grand slam in clubs. Yet it is highly probable that only a small percentage of players would reach the grand slam, and some, perhaps, might not even reach a small slam. The bidding shown occurred at the first table. After North bid one heart and South two clubs, North's hand rose greatly in value. He therefore jump-shifted in diamonds to indicate a powerful hand, planning to support clubs next. South jumped to four hearts to show his heart fillers, but North had been wiser... North couldn't do more than jump to six clubs lacking the king and queen of both hearts and clubs. South passed, but he shouldn't have. He had a clear-cut seven bid. Looking at the K-Q of both key suits, he should have realized that North couldn't have a spade loser, or he wouldn't have been able to commit the partnership to a small slam. South should have shown more faith in his partner's bidding. At the second table, the grand slam was reached in this fashion: North East South West 1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass 3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass 3♣ Pass 6♣ Pass. North's three-spade bid showed first-round control of spades — hearts having tentatively been agreed upon as trumps. South didn't know his partner's plans, but he leaped to six clubs to encourage North to bid seven if he had been suppressing a club fit, and North happily accepted the invitation. Tomorrow: A case of self-delusion. ©2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Senior Circle Scenic Mountain Medical Center Chapter Invites you to join our... April 2006 Activities April 17 \* Monday • Stretch & Tone - 10:30 AM April 18 \* Tuesday • Mall Walking - 8:00 AM • Supper Club "Furr's" - 5:30 PM April 19 \* Wednesday • Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM • LUNCH-N-LEARN - 11:30 AM April 20 \* Thursday • Mall Walking - 8:00 AM • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM • "BUNKO" - 5:00 - 6:30 PM April 21 \* Friday • Midland Shopping - 9:00 AM - ??? April 24 \* Monday • Stretch & Tone - 10:30 AM • Games - 1:00 - 3:00 PM April 25 \* Tuesday • Mall Walking - 8:00 AM • Supper Club "Cowboys" - 5:30 PM April 26 \* Wednesday • Stretch & Tone - 10:30 AM • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM April 27 \* Thursday • Mall Walking - 8:00 AM • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM April 28 \* Friday • Senior Circle 7th Anniversary Party First Floor Classroom

National Volunteer Week April 24th - 28th For their caring, dedication and devotion to our patients and staff, we thank all of our Volunteers

For more information on how you can become a Scenic Mountain Medical Center Volunteer, please contact Anita Cline at 268-4721 Senior Circle Advisor / Volunteer Director Anita Cline 268-4721

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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

Volunteerism  
alive and well  
in Big Spring

It has been noted here before, but always bears revisiting. There may be no better community anywhere better qualified to celebrate this week as National Volunteer Week than Big Spring, Howard County and the surrounding area. Simply put, volunteerism is a staple of life in this area.

It's not hard to see the work of volunteers in our community. Nor is it difficult to discern the impact they have had on the lives of countless people.

As a matter of fact, the examples seem almost endless — the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council, CASA of West Texas, Victim Services, Howard County Volunteer Fire Department and the individuals and organizations that volunteer at the VA Medical Center and at Scenic Mountain Medical Center immediately come to mind when the subject is discussed.

There are countless others — those who serve on advisory boards for organizations like the Salvation Army, the Boys Club, YMCA and local units of the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association.

In fact, the list is almost endless and any attempt to name all those who volunteer in one form or another in this community would certainly leave someone out.

That's why the *Herald* wants to take this opportunity today to thank all those in our community who give of themselves, because they make this the place we want to live, work and raise our families.

## OTHER VIEWS

One of the most frustrating and helpless feelings people have these days is pulling up to the gas pump and seeing the ever-higher prices.

Is it oil companies out to cheat the consumer and make a buck any way they can? Is there a dearth of petroleum available, and is that shortfall natural or artificially created? Is it OPEC's fault, the president's fault, the war's fault?

Well, assigning blame is above the pay grade of the ordinary citizen/consumer, but somebody — Congress, perhaps? — ought to be checking out the rising prices and seeing if they're justified.

Meanwhile, do what you can to keep your own gasoline bill as reasonable as possible. One obvious tactic is to limit your driving to the essentials. Joyriding is fun, but it also drinks up the gas.

You can't get out of going to work or to school, but what about grocery shopping? Do a week's worth of shopping in one stop instead of nibbling at it a little bit every day.

Don't make a separate, fuel-consuming trip to the Post Office just to mail a letter or two. Another day isn't going to matter. Swing by the Post Office or mail drop when you're already in the area.

Keep your vehicle in good shape. An out-of-tune engine can use more gas than it should. Improperly inflated tires can cost you gas.

Consider becoming part of a car pool or use public transportation getting to work or other places. It's an immutable law of nature: When your car isn't running, it isn't using gasoline and costing you money.

Shop around. Gas prices can be significantly different in different parts of town.

This won't apply to most people, but if you're in the market for a new vehicle, look past the flash and dash to the future. The general trend of gasoline prices is going to be up, not down. You may see occasional decreases, but don't bank on them staying around.

If you're buying a new car or truck, make it as economical a vehicle as possible. Make "miles per gallon" a paramount consideration.

A little common sense can save you some money.

THE TIMES  
EL PASO

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Help us make You our favorite friend to communicate with, Lord.

Amen

## Lowball, all the way around

Last Tuesday, Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald had to take back a key sentence in a brief he had filed earlier with the court concerning charges against Scooter Libby, former top aide to Veep Dick Cheney, for perjury and obstruction of justice in the investigation into who leaked the name of CIA operative Valerie Plame. That sentence had spawned a spate of page-one Bush-bad stories.

Fitzgerald had written that President Bush had authorized Libby to tell former New York Times reporter Judith Miller about intelligence involving Saddam Hussein's attempts to procure enriched uranium in Niger, and that Libby understood he should tell Miller that an official "key judgment" affirmed the Niger story — even though the Niger item wasn't a "key judgment" and some administration officials disputed the Niger angle. "Iraq Findings Leaked by Aide Were Disputed" read the New York Times headline.

Fitzgerald then corrected the record to read that Libby understood he could tell Miller about "key judgments" in the October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate and that the NIE reported that Iraq was "vigorously trying to procure" uranium.

Bush-haters had pounced on the Fitzgerald brief to bolster the "Bush Lied" big lie. It starts with Ambassador Joseph Wilson's contention that the Bushies were out to punish his wife, Plame, because Wilson's New York Times op-ed piece debunked the Niger charge. The Niger story was patently false, those who accept the big lie theory

say — and the Bushies knew it.

It doesn't speak well that Fitzgerald bought into that Bush-hater spin when he wrote of the Bushies' attempts to "discredit, punish or seek revenge against" Wilson. No. The Bushies weren't looking to hurt the little woman, but were waging an honest challenge to the truth-impaired Wilson and his false denial that his wife had anything to do with the CIA sending him to Niger, as well as reports that Cheney sent Wilson to Niger.

Most importantly: The Niger story has not proven to be false. There is good reason to believe Iraq didn't get uranium from Niger, but had tried to. The United Kingdom's Butler Commission found the Niger story to be "well-founded." Ditto a Senate Intelligence Committee report. Or, as The Washington Post editorialized on Sunday, "The (NIE) material that Mr. Bush ordered declassified established, as have several subsequent investigations, that Mr. Wilson was the one guilty of twisting the truth. In fact, his report supported the conclusion that Iraq had sought uranium."

In short, Bush was right to say in his 2003 State of the Union Address, "The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Niger."

It's not even clear that the leak of Plame's name was a crime. As prominent GOP attorney Victoria Toensing noted, the government has to establish that Plame was covert and that the Bushies knew it. Fitzgerald positively runs from that issue. He wrote in last week's brief, "Defendant is not charged with knowingly disclosing classified information."

Toensing added that Fitzgerald's refusal to release the CIA criminal referral that started the investiga-

tion to Libby's attorneys should set off your bells and whistles.

The worst of it is, as Toensing lamented, this whole mess was "absolutely avoidable." If the Bushies had simply been up front and admitted they were assailing Wilson's credibility — or if they'd just kept their mouths shut — there probably would be no special prosecutor looking into the Plame leak, burning through unknown amounts of tax dollars and setting a dangerous precedent by jailing a journalist for not revealing her sources.

Dubya has fallen into the same trap that ensnared Bill Clinton. After Paula Jones sued Clinton for sexual harassment, Clinton should have refused to be deposed. Yes, some on the right would have slammed Bubba, but, in the end, Judge Susan Webber Wright would have thrown out the lawsuit — as she did in 1998 — because Jones failed to establish economic damages. Had Clinton kept mum, he would not have lied under oath, America would have been spared the dirty details on his sex life and the House would not have impeached him.

In this case, Libby is facing charges not for leaking, but for covering up the leak. I'm not saying the Bush administration was victimized by Bush-haters. This brouhaha was self-inflicted. This is what happens when the Bush administration chooses the lowball route — that is, to let anonymous surrogates make the attack and then play dumb — instead of challenging critics head-on.

Team Bush was so busy trying to pretend his administration doesn't fight back, that it did its political enemies' work for them.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at  
dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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## McDonald's shakes as book comes out

The sign at McDonald's says, "99 billion served." So why is it worried about a chatty new book with a cheesy-looking cover written for junior high kids?

Because the guy behind the book is Eric Schlosser, author of "Fast Food Nation." That surprise best seller breathed new life into a topic so stale no one could even stand to discuss it anymore: The fact that fast food is — big surprise — bad for you (and for the animals getting nugged, the farmers getting 2 cents for every \$1.50 order of fries, and the world getting ever more homogenized).

"Fast Food Nation" may have given some grown-ups pause before ordering their Big Macs, but old habits die hard, and McDonald's profits never took a hit. A kiddie book, though, that's another story.

"Chew On This: Everything You Don't Want To Know About Fast Food" aims to get 'em while they're young — the very same strategy McDonald's has employed so relentlessly. Advertising Age

reports that "Chew" has McDonald's running scared — a report McDonald's spokesman Walt Riker later denied. But, he vowed, "If there's misinformation out there, one of our jobs is to correct it."

Well, the book seemed accurate enough to me and its co-author, Charles Wilson, is a professional fact-checker. But can it really change the way kids eat?

Um... possibly. Learning that fast food chickens end their lives dangling upside down from leg-cuffs is just the kind of, well, nugget that snarky kids love to share. The book is filled with lunch-stoppers like that, including a description of the manure "lagoons" at a super-sized slaughterhouse, and a photo of teeth rotted to black nubs by too much soda. "I didn't want to do something that was too disgusting," said Schlosser in a phone interview. "But at the same time I didn't want to be in denial."

It is just this kind of lurid lore that could conceivably have some kid impact. But the book also aims to explain the bigger picture, especially how the fast food industry targets — and hurts — children.

Adults may be quite familiar with Schlosser's litany of laments (thanks, in part, to his own first book). But youngsters may or may

not care to learn that in the 1970s, the average American boy drank twice as much milk as soda. Today, that ratio has reversed. During that same time span, the rate of obesity among kids aged 6 to 11 tripled, and childhood diabetes started soaring.

Such health scares and social injustice may make some pre-teens' blood boil. Or simmer, anyway. Maybe. But should McDonald's really be worried?

Not yet. Right now, American kids see about three hours of fast food commercials a week. "That is literally the nutrition education that American children get," sighed Schlosser. "My book is a drop of water in the sea compared to what McDonald's markets every day."

His drop may make ever-widening circles. But until kids, parents and politicians demand a ban on advertising junk food to children, Happy Meals will have every reason to keep smiling. And kids with nubby black teeth will smile back.

Lenore Skenazy is a columnist at The New York Daily News (lskenazy@nydailynews.com).

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# Bird Poop

Like a swarm of bees, carpenters, electricians and plumbers descended upon the stately home. From the piles of supplies outside, it was obvious that a major renovation had begun.

Inside, the vintage house had been gutted. Although the original craftsmen had constructed a lasting testament to their skills, age had compromised wiring and plumbing.

While retaining and enhancing this architectural beauty of the late 1930s, the owner was adamant about modernizing the home of her parents.

As spring turned into summer, renovation continued with a constant stream of deliveries.

Workmen walked back and forth to grab yet another tool or some material from their trucks. The craftsmen had come to know each other even though their expertise differed.

As a carpenter headed home one afternoon, he stopped to talk with an electrician who was pulling heavy wire

through a hole in the overhang of the roof.

Since the recessed lighting for the outside of the house had been delayed, the wiring could be completed, with the fixture to be installed later.

Putting a loop in the wire to keep it from being pulled back into the attic, the electrician was finished for the day. He was glad to leave, because the west side of the house was the hottest.

A few weeks later, the owner was walking through the house to see how the renovation was progressing. Looking out a bathroom window, she noticed the looped wire.

Nestled inside was a cup-like woven structure. The outside appeared to be coated with a silky substance. Lichen from the bark of trees was evident.

Unsure of what she was seeing, the lady suddenly noticed a movement at the top of the little cup. A slender pointed bill emerged, followed by the small green-above, white-below body of a female hummingbird.

After the bird's mate had dominated this nesting area, he left her with the promise of offspring and available food for herself and their young. Only she would gather spider webs, plant down and lichen for her nest, and feed them.

Fascinated by the bird and the possibility of baby hummingbirds, the lady spent as much time as possible watching the nest. A little over two weeks later, the mother bird started flying back and forth to the nest throughout the day.

The eggs had hatched. Over the next three weeks, the hummingbird's swift flight brought food to her young. She used the lady's flowerbeds, as well as the neighbors' yards, to find nectar and insects.

Flies, gnats, mosquitoes, aphids and spiders were no match for her hunting abilities. As the nestlings grew, their nest expanded with them because of the elasticity of the spiders' silk.

When our friend first noticed the nest, she called us to come and enjoy such a close view of nature.

She instructed the workmen to stay away from that part of the house. We advised that as long as no people were allowed in the area, the black-chinned hummer should probably continue to raise her family.

Only if something unforeseen happened would we intervene in this wonderful experience.

Finally, the day came when the young made their first venture from



Courtesy photo  
Hummingbirds, including this black-chinned, are only two colors, reddish brown and black. Their iridescent colors — an optical illusion — are caused by the structure of their feathers.

the nest. Nearby shrubs and trees offered good cover while the fledglings depended upon their mother for food.

Fortunately, during the frenzied activity involved in renovating the home,

no one, except the thoughtful owner, noticed what this delicate creature had accomplished.

Relieved that no rescue or intervention was necessary, we were privileged to witness both the

bird's renewal of nature and the owner's restoration of a quiet elegance to her neighborhood.

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

## Christy's Quill

Even people who don't claim to be prayer warriors, pray when it comes to the terror — none other than the copy machine.

The copier. What a beast.

It has a mind of its own.

It either spits out too many of the wrong things, copies a whole other size than the user wanted or jams at the most inopportune moments.

Nothing can make an employee tremble quite like a control-freak copy machine.

The copier at my place of employment has quite an attitude. Apparently, it loves to see a long string of aides or teachers come in with scads of copies to make.

Just at the crucial moment... crisis strikes.

A few days ago, I'd put in all my papers and I pushed 30 each on the quantity, uncollated on the job description (no idea what that means) and sat back as the copier spit out about 150-something copies.

After 20 good minutes, it finished. I reached in the tray and pulled out over 100 blank pieces of paper. Didn't print a thing.

Why? Didn't want to be my only guess.

What really makes me sad are the mistakes that get trashed.

How many trees have had to give their perfectly good lives for an ungrateful, disobedient piece of machinery? I do try to recycle all the mistakes that I print out. My kids are artists.

But, it's not just trees. It's ink and the most precious commodity of all: time.

Attitude? In spades! Last week, our copier decided it was tired.

Newsletters had to go out, and in the midst, it took a breather.

Unbeknownst to little ole me, I bounced in the workroom to make some duplicates for another classroom.

I saw right away that the beast had gone on hiatus. Oblivious to other forces, I began un-jamming, un-loading and un-doing all damages.

No sooner had I fixed every detail than another aide breezed into the room with the message: "don't touch the copier."

The only thing I could

do was confess to the crime.

She asked me all the pertinent questions. "Did you take out any of the jammed paper?" Of course.

"Did you try to make other copies of something else?" Naturally.

I'd made the wrong choices. There was a repairman on his way. He'd apparently needed to see the problem in action. No thanks to me, that wasn't going to happen.

Okay. There wasn't a sign in sight. Not a note, not a sticky, not any-

thing.

But, in my head, I'd had a nagging sensation that I should let sleeping dogs lie.

Why did I decide to coax the bear out of hibernation?

I knew I'd get snarled at and maybe even clawed by the untamed animal.

I think it's because copiers are inherently evil. Necessary, but evil all the same.

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

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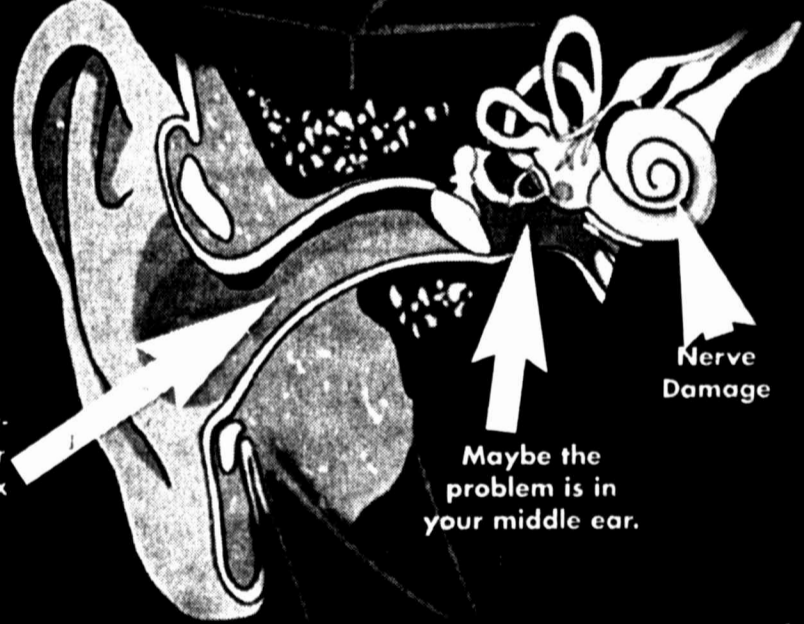
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## Your Brain Attempts to Understand What Your Ears Don't Hear!



Nerve Damage

Maybe the problem is in your middle ear.

Some misunderstandings occur because of wax build-up.

It's hard to believe that you could actually understand what you are reading. Though conversation is distorted by nerve damage your brain can still figure it out. However, once you lose more than twenty percent of your hearing in the high frequencies, your brain doesn't receive enough speech information to make sense of it.

© Audicare 2006

Speech sounds distorted so you....HEAR but cannot UNDERSTAND. Making all sounds louder doesn't seem to help.


**GOOD NEWS!** This week try a new Swiss-made product from Phonak, the Elevo with enhanced speech understanding! It offers optimal clarity and has earned the Good Housekeeping Seal. Try it for 30 days to see if it meets your approval. Call for an appointment for a free demonstration and hearing consultation.

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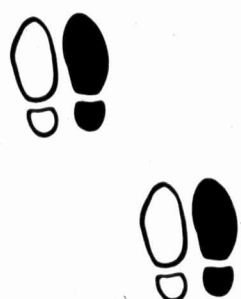
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**Kay Potter, Board Certified, Hearing Instrument Sciences, specializes in nerve type hearing losses.**

# Good Luck Danzation At The Starbound Competition In San Antonio



**Stevi**  
Good luck in San Antonio  
May all your hard work  
& dedication pay off.  
I'll be behind you  
all the way!  
Love Chance



**Patricia Morales**  
We Are So Proud  
Of You.  
Good Luck  
In San Antonio.  
Love Always,  
Aunt Teri, Uncle Tony  
& Lucas

Good Luck!  
We're So Proud Of You  
**KINSEY**  
Little Gran & Grandpa  
Nachogoches, TX

Good Luck To  
Our Big Sister  
**Kinsey**  
Katie & Bubba

Good Luck  
**Kinsey**  
"My Rising Star"  
Love Mimi

Good  
LUCK  
**KINSEY**  
"You're Our Rising Star"  
Mary, Chrissie,  
Jim & JB

Good Luck  
At The Starbound  
Competition In  
San Antonio!  
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**Wow...**  
You Girls ROCK. Show  
San Antonio wht DANZATION  
is all about.  
We are very proud of you!!!  
Stevi You Truly SHINE  
Dad & Mom

**Alyssa,**  
Good Luck In  
San Antonio  
We Love You,  
Dapa & Granny

Good Luck  
**Elle**  
Dance...Dance...Dance  
Your Way to The Top  
In San Antonio  
We Love You,  
Dad, Mom, Andrea &  
Casie

**Congratulations**  
**Patricia**  
on your 1st Place High Gold and  
4th Over-All on your solo-dance  
in Ft. Worth competition.  
Good Luck In San Antonio  
I'm Proud Of You!  
You're The Greatest.  
Love, Mom

**Reba**  
You are a beautiful  
young lady and you are  
a wonderful dancer.  
Good Luck,  
Dad & Mom

Good Luck  
In San Antonio  
**Mariah!**  
We Love You,  
Dad, Mom, AJ &  
Ashley

Good Luck Stevi  
Dance Your Heart Out  
We're Proud Of You  
Love, Aunt Anna  
Da & Great Granny

Good Luck to  
**DANZATION**  
and to the  
"Apple of Our Eye!"  
Mom and Dad

Good Luck  
**Mady**  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, Alex,  
Nonna, DanDaw  
& Chicka

Good Luck  
**Haley**  
"Dance Pretty"  
We're Proud Of You...  
Love,  
Mm, Dad, Ryan

**Alyssa,**  
Dance Your  
Heart Away  
We Love You,  
Larry, Mom, Colby  
& Ashley

Good Luck At  
Competition To Our  
Favorite Girl.  
Knock Their Socks Off.  
Love Ya,  
Granny & NaNa

**Congratulations**  
**Lauren, Elle & Ale**  
on being chosen one of the  
top 20 dancers at Dancer  
Competitions 2006 Tour  
in Ft. Worth.  
We Are Proud Of You!

**Stormi**  
You are a beautiful  
young lady and you are a  
wonderful dancer.  
Good Luck,  
Dad & Mom

Good Luck  
**Ale**  
Show San Antonio  
What You've Got.  
Love,  
Mom, Dad & Alfonso

# Sports

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

Page 1B  
Tuesday, April 18, 2006

## IN BRIEF

### HC rodeo team sets 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 Howard College Rodeo action takes place.

The price for a crawfish boil ticket 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.

### KBSB golf touney set for Saturday

Keep Big Spring Beautiful will be hosting a golf tournament Saturday at the Big Spring Country Club.

For more information, contact the country club at 267-5354.

### BSSH volleyball meeting announced

Big Spring head volleyball coach Jason McAden will be holding a parent-player meeting April 27 in the Athletic Training Center at 6:30 p.m.

Anyone who wants to play volleyball and is entering seventh through 12th grade should plan on attending.

For more information, contact McAden at (325) 207-4987.

### Forsan's athletic banquet date set for early May

The Forsan all-sports banquet will take place May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the high school cafeteria.

Tickets for the banquet are \$10 and can be purchased in the high school office, but must be purchased by Thursday, April 27.

### Ragball touney set to benefit Relay For Life

A Relay For Life ragball tournament will take place at the Big Spring ISD Softball Field Saturday and Sunday.

Registration for the tournament will take place Saturday at 10 a.m. and teams must consist of five men and five women.

The cost of the tournament will be \$10 per player.

For more information or to sign up a team, call Angel at the the Big Spring Bus Barn at 264-4108.

### Softball touney set at Cotton Mize

The first-ever Spring Classic softball tournament will take place at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park Saturday and Sunday.

The touney, which is under the direction of "Never Dead" softball has a \$120 entry fee per team.

For more info, call 816-4523 or 816-1885.

## Buffaloes advance five to regional track meet

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald  
ROBY — The Forsan boys track team ran in the area track meet in Roby last Thursday with three individuals and one relay team moving on to the regional meet later

this month.

Wesley Newcomb placed second in the long jump with a leap of 20-7.5, while Steven Chavez placed third in the discus with a throw of 140-0.

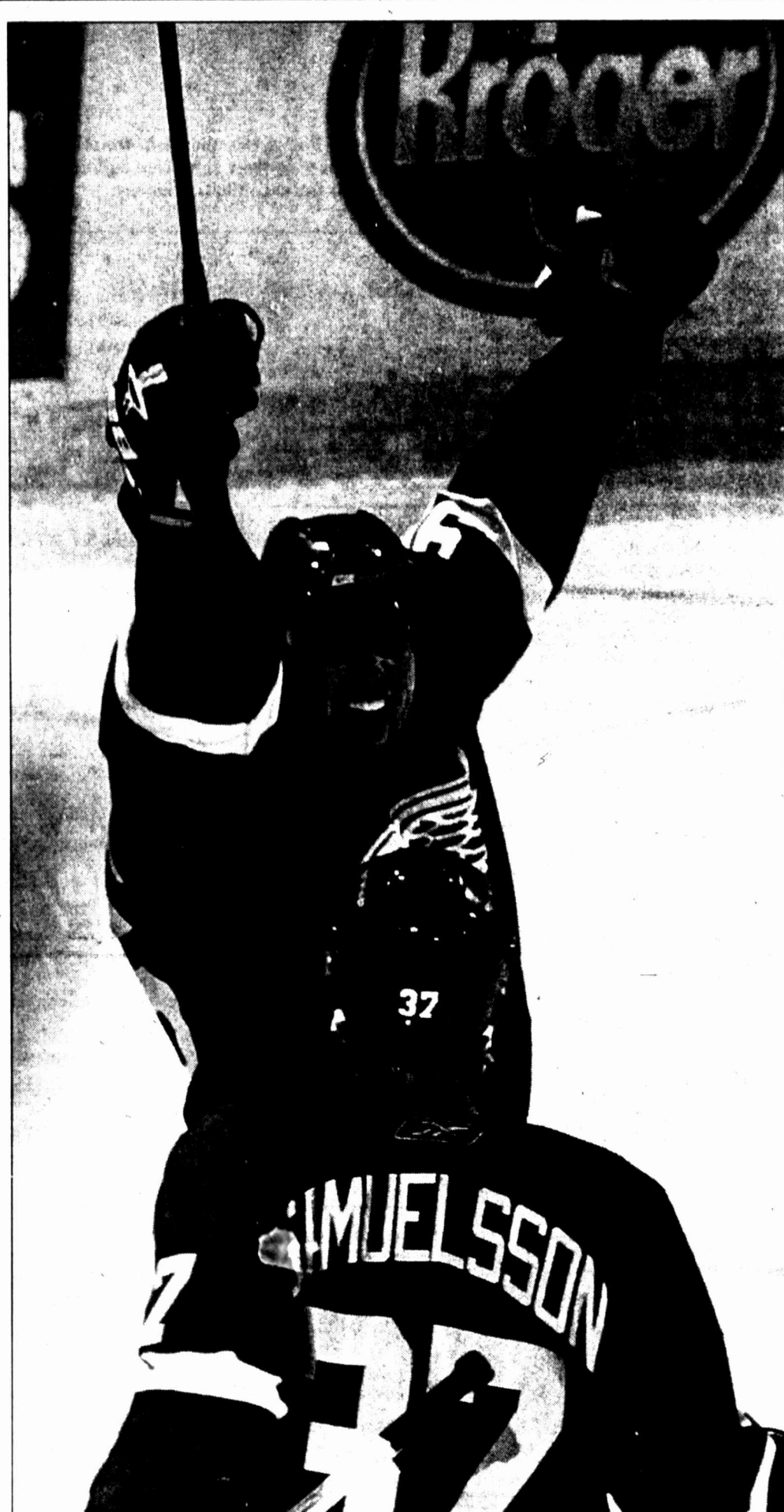
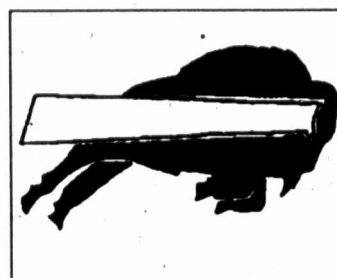
Justin Forshee finished in fourth place in the 400-

meter dash with a time of 53.15.

The 400-meter relay team of Skylier Sandridge, Jace Sandridge, Newcomb and Forshee placed second and advanced to regional competition with a time

of 44.18.

Overall the Buffaloes placed sixth as a team in the meet. Those advancing in the regional meet will travel to Abilene April 28-29 and compete at Christian University.



Detroit Red Wings' Tomas Holmstrom, left, celebrates his game-winning goal which got past Dallas Stars' goalie Marty Turco during the last minute of the third period. The Red Wings defeated the Stars, 3-2, in Detroit, Mich., Monday.

## Down two goals late, Detroit battles back to defeat Dallas

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Red Wings are simply unbeatable these days.

Tomas Holmstrom's power-play goal with 44.3 seconds remaining capped Detroit's three-goal third period, rallying the Red Wings to a 3-2 victory over the Dallas Stars Monday night.

Johan Franzen and Andreas Lilja also scored and Henrik

Zetterberg added two assists for Detroit, which trailed 2-0 before stretching its winning streak to eight games. The Red Wings also made it 20 consecutive games (17-0-3) with at least a point, since their last regulation loss March 7.

"The first two periods weren't pretty," Holmstrom said. "But we hung in there and

battled back against a good team."

Manny Legace stopped 28 shots in the win.

Jason Arnott had a goal and an assist and Jere Lehtinen also scored for Dallas.

"It's a couple of individual mistakes that cost us the game," Stars coach Dave Tippett said. "That's the bottom line."

See HOCKEY, Page 2B

## Spurs clinch homecourt after win

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Homecourt advantage and some rested players could mean a lot when the playoffs start.

The defending champion San Antonio Spurs got both Monday night.

Manu Ginobili scored 18 points and Tim Duncan added 16 to help the Spurs clinch the Southwest

Division title and the best record in the Western Conference with a 115-82 rout of the Utah Jazz.

The Spurs earned the No. 1 seed and homecourt advantage throughout the Western Conference playoffs.

"It's great to get (homecourt) wrapped up," Duncan said. "I'm feeling

good right now — feeling healthy. I think we all feel pretty good right now, and that's the main thing."

San Antonio (62-19) took a 19-point lead into the fourth quarter and led by as many as 36 points, allowing the Spurs to rest

See SPURS, Page 2B

## Two-hour road trip doesn't hurt 'Dogs

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

KERMIT — A two-hour road trip and a weekend without practice did not affect the Coahoma baseball team as they returned from Kermit with a 13-3 mercy-rule victory.

The Bulldogs scored four runs in their first at-bat and never looked back and are now 16-7 on the season.

"For going two hours to play and not practicing this weekend for the first time this season, I thought the kids did a good job of getting on them early," said Coahoma head coach Brad Harman.

Coahoma scored two more runs in the second and fourth innings, got one in the fifth and four in the sixth to end the game.

"We hit the ball hard and I was happy with the offensive production," said Harman.

Kermit scored two runs in the first and then added another run in the third inning.

Freshman Donnie Garcia got the win on the mound and led the Bulldogs at the plate. He pitched all six innings and gave up just one earned run on eight hits, while striking out five and walking two. He also went two-for-three with a three-run home run and



six RBIs at the plate. It was his fourth homer of the season.

"Donnie threw well for us and he was pitching ahead in the count all night long," said Harman.

Senior Cody Griffith had three hits, including two doubles, and had four RBIs and two runs. Junior Blaine Kerby went two-for-two with two walks and four runs. He also stole a base.

Senior Kacee Coberly had three hits, three runs and an RBI, while junior Collin McMillan went two-for-four with an RBI and a run. Senior Tad White had two hits, two runs and a stolen base.

The Bulldogs return to District 4-2A action Friday on the road against Hawley.

The Bearcats are currently tied with Colorado City for second place in the district with a 4-3 record. Both teams are two games back of Coahoma with two games to go.

A win Friday by the Bulldogs earns them the outright 4-2A title. The game against Hawley begins at 4:30 p.m.

## Astros win with 'O' against Milwaukee

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The suddenly heavy-hitting Houston Astros look nothing like they did at the beginning of last season when their offense was lackluster at the least and often downright dismal.

Jason Lane hit a three-run homer in Houston's five-run seventh inning to lift the Astros to an 8-7 come-from-behind win over the Milwaukee Brewers Monday night.

It was the eighth time this season Houston has scored more than five runs in a game. Through 13 games last season the Astros had achieved the feat just once.

"It's really strange," Astros third baseman Morgan Ensberg said. "We're scoring runs and I don't know what to make of it. We definitely didn't do this this time last year. It's just a lot of fun and it's nice to see."

Back-to-back RBI-singles by Lance Berkman and Ensberg got the Astros within one before Lane hit his third homer deep into the left-field bleachers off Matt Wise to put Houston up 8-6.

Prince Fielder's RBI double in the eighth cut the lead to 8-7, but Dan Wheeler pitched out of further trouble, and Brad Lidge worked the ninth

for his fourth save.

Ensberg also had a solo home run in the sixth inning, his third in as many days.

"What's happening is we're getting timely hits and we're doing it from all parts of the lineup," Astros manager Phil Garner said. "Ensberg and Lane and Craig Biggio are all getting big hits and Berkman is hitting better than at any stretch last year. Every time he goes to the plate you think he's going to do something."

Berkman is batting .380 with six home runs and 18 RBIs and Ensberg is .409 with four homers, five doubles and 10 RBIs.

Carlos Lee, Geoff Jenkins and Gabe Gross homered for Milwaukee. Gross' pinch-hit, three-run shot of Chad Qualls in the seventh gave Milwaukee a 6-3 lead. It was Gross' second pinch-hit homer of the season.

Ezequiel Astacio (1-0), who was recalled from the minors Friday, faced one batter to get the win.

Wise (1-1) allowed four hits and five runs in one inning.

"I feel like I let everyone down tonight," Wise said. "We put up a bunch of runs and I just didn't do my job. This one hurts

See ASTROS, Page 2B

**IN BRIEF**

**BSCC sets 'cancer' scramble tourney**

The Big Spring Country Club has announced a 'cancer' scramble for April 29-30.

All proceeds of the four-person scramble will be given to the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life.

The teams can be made up or be made for you and the field will be flighted by first-round score.

Prizes in the form of BSCC Golf Shop Gift Certificates will be given to the the top three teams in each flight.

The entry fee is \$75 per player plus a \$20 cart fee, but private carts are welcome.

For more information, contact the Big Spring Country Club at 267-5354.

**Kenyan sets record at Boston Marathon**

BOSTON (AP) — Robert Cheruiyot set a course record in the Boston Marathon as he and women's winner Rita Jeptoo pulled off a Kenyan sweep.

Cheruiyot, the 2003 champion, finished in 2 hours, 7 minutes, 14 seconds, one second better than the winning time fellow Kenyan Cosmas Ndeti had in 1994.

U.S. runners Meb Keflezighi, Brian Sell and Alan Culpepper came in third, fourth and fifth. Americans took five of the top 10 spots.

In the women's race, Jeptoo pulled away with about 2 miles left, becoming the sixth Kenyan woman to claim the title in seven years.

**HOCKEY**

Continued from Page 1B

Holmstrom tipped in a shot by Zetterberg for his 29th goal.

The win gave the Red Wings 124 points (58-15-8), the fifth best total in NHL history.

"Among the top five teams all time, that's special," Detroit coach Mike Babcock said.

With Detroit trailing 2-0, Franzen put the Red Wings on the scoreboard when Kronwall's shot from the point deflected off him with 6:59 left in the third period. It was Franzen's 12th goal.

Lilja tied the game with 4:47 left in regulation with his second goal when he converted a pass from Zetterberg from the inside edge of the left cir-

cle. "Our first two periods weren't really good," said Kronwall. "And Dallas sat back in the third period and we came on."

Arnott opened the scoring with 5:50 left in the first period with his 32nd goal. He dove and knocked the puck past Legace from the side of the net.

"The first two periods were better and then we kind of backed off a little bit," Arnott said.

Stu Barnes nearly scored for Dallas with 30 seconds remaining in the opening period, but it was ruled that the whistle had blown before he stuffed Brenden Morrow's rebound past Legace.

Lehtinen added his goal on the power play 3:22 into the third period when he tipped in a pass from Arnott.



NHL hockey officials get in the middle of Detroit Red Wings' Cory Cross, left, and Dallas Stars' Steve Ott after their fight at mid-ice during the second period. The Red Wings defeated the Stars, 3-2, in Detroit, Mich., Monday.

**SPURS**

Continued from Page 1B

their starters as the play-offs draw near.

Duncan hit 7-of-13 shots and had five rebounds in 22 minutes. He left the game and did not return with 3:54 remaining in the third quarter when the Spurs had a 14-point lead. Ginobili played 25 minutes.

The Spurs bench scored 65 points, including 16 by Brent Barry.

Andrei Kirilenko sat out because of lower back spasms for the Jazz, who have lost two straight games.

Deron Williams led Utah (40-41) with 18 points.

The Spurs showed play-off form. San Antonio shot 57 percent from the field compared to 43 percent for Utah.

The Spurs can't catch Detroit for the best record in the league, but San Antonio still can accomplish something by beating Houston in the final regular-season game Wednesday. The Spurs can break a franchise

record for single-season victories.

The 1994-95 team won 62 games. The Spurs had the homecourt advantage but lost to Houston in the Western Conference finals.

"Nobody is going to turn down homecourt," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "I've said that about 1,000 times over the years. Nobody is going to give it up, but it doesn't ensure anything. We've had it before and got knocked out. It's not a sure bet."

Utah, which will finish the season Wednesday night at home against Golden State, has finished with a .500 record or better 21 times in the past 22 seasons.

Utah had a 16-13 lead 9:39 into the game. But the Spurs went on a 13-1 run during the next 2:42.

San Antonio led 26-17 with 39 seconds left in the quarter when Ginobili sank a 3-pointer. It was the third straight 3-point basket for the Spurs in a span of 54 seconds.

Barry ended the game 7-of-10 from the floor. Robert Horry was 3-for-3 from 3-point territory.

**ASTROS**

Continued from Page 1B

everybody."

Milwaukee starter David Bush pitched six innings and allowed nine

hits and three runs.

Jenkins hit a two-run home run to right field to put the Brewers ahead 3-2 in the sixth.

Lee hit his sixth home run of the season to left field off rookie starter

Taylor Buchholz in the second inning to give the Brewers an early 1-0 lead.

Buchholz, making his first major league start, allowed two hits, two earned runs and struck out four in six innings.

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**Bedtime Stories**

**KYA, CONNIE, AND HEATHER: THREE BUTTERFLIES**

The flower garden was very quiet and still. There was no wind to gently sway the



flowers back and forth, as if they were rocking themselves to sleep. All was still this day! Not one animal was moving. Not one bird was flying. But, that was about to change!

All of a sudden, out of the flower beds came Kya. She was a butterfly, and a very pretty butterfly she was! But, butterflies don't make noise, or do they? Kya was zooming towards the flowers, stopping by each one, and slowly sipping the sweet nectar from them. Kya loved all the flowers! And she was very quiet. Have you ever heard a butterfly make any noise? I

haven't! But who was going to make all the noise? I said in the beginning of this story that all of the peace and quiet in this flower garden would be gone, soon! Then, out of nowhere came Heather. Heather was another butterfly. She flitted back and forth, from one flower to another, as if she couldn't make up her mind which flower she would like to gather the nectar from. But she was just as quiet as Kya! So, if neither Kya nor Heather were going to make all this noise, and disturb everyone in the flower garden, then who will it be?

I think our question may be answered soon. That leaves only one butterfly that could be the noise maker! What was her name? Did you say Connie? You are right! Connie Butterfly is the one. But, why would Connie be so loud, noisy, and cantankerous? Listen very closely

and I will tell you what happened to Connie Butterfly that day.

Connie was awake early that morning, just as all the other butterflies. She had just



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stepped out of her butterfly bed, put on her butterfly clothes and reached for her butterfly glasses. Glasses I didn't know that butterflies even wore glasses, did you? Well, Connie did! She was just a little older than the other butterflies, and she couldn't see very clearly without her glasses. As she reached for these glasses, she felt them fall to the floor. She jumped up out of the bed so quickly that she jumped right smack-dab onto her glasses, breaking them into



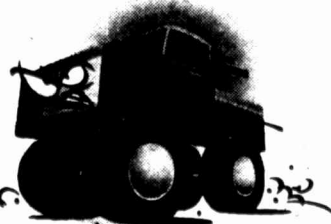
one million, seventy-six thousand, four hundred and thirty-two pieces! And now, she could not see very well. Connie Butterfly still had to search for flowers to sip the nectar for her breakfast. And she enjoyed breakfast most of all! She did remember where the flower garden was and even though she couldn't see it, she took off, flying towards the garden. She remembered where the flower garden was, but she forgot about the big light pole. Wham! She flew right into it! That made some noise! "What was that?" she screamed loudly, as she stood back up and dusted herself off, removing most of the dirt and grime.

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Then off again, towards the flower garden, or where she thought the flower garden might be! She heard a loud noise. This was a noise she had heard before and she knew that she was in the wrong place! It was the noise from a big truck

engine! The big truck driver in the big truck saw her and pushed on his brake pedal, and the tires made a loud screeching sound! The quiet little flower garden was quiet no more!

Kya and Heather heard all the noises too, and they went to see what was making all that racket. They were not there very long when they saw what was causing all the commotion. It was all caused by Connie! And they knew that Connie needed her glasses so she could see. And they saw that Connie had no glasses sitting on her nose. Kya said to Heather, "Connie has another pair of glasses in her parlor, and I will go get them for her." Off Kya flew. She flew fast! She flew very fast! She wanted to hurry before Connie tried to find the flower garden again! Kya found Connie's extra pair of glasses, tucked them under her wing, and headed for Connie faster than she had ever flown



before! Kya made it to Connie just as she was about to try flying again! "No! No, don't try again, Connie. Wait until I get these to you!" "Who are you?" Connie asked. She couldn't see that it was her friend, Kya! Kya slipped the glasses onto Connie's nose. Connie smiled! Connie could see again! "Thank you, Kya," Connie said. "I was having a little trouble finding the flower garden this morning." "A LITTLE trouble?" Kya thought.

As the sun settled in the West once more, Kya, Heather, and Connie started home. Each one thought about what had happened today, and each one chuckled because the more they thought about it, the funnier it became. On their way home, they stopped by my house and told me to tell you are going, even if you are a butterfly, and they also said to tell you it's time to go to sleep now, so "Good Night!"



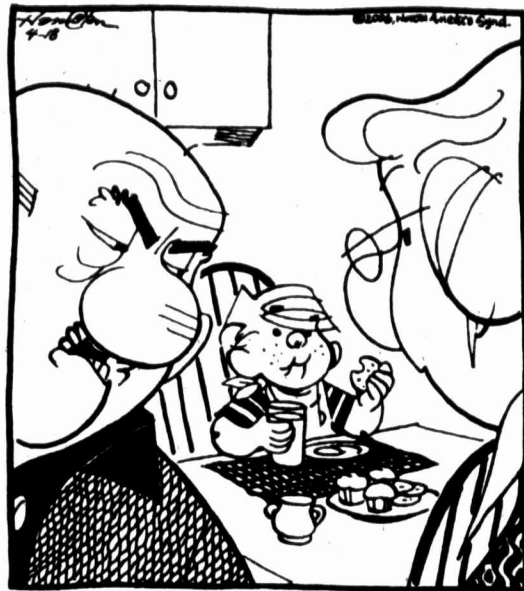




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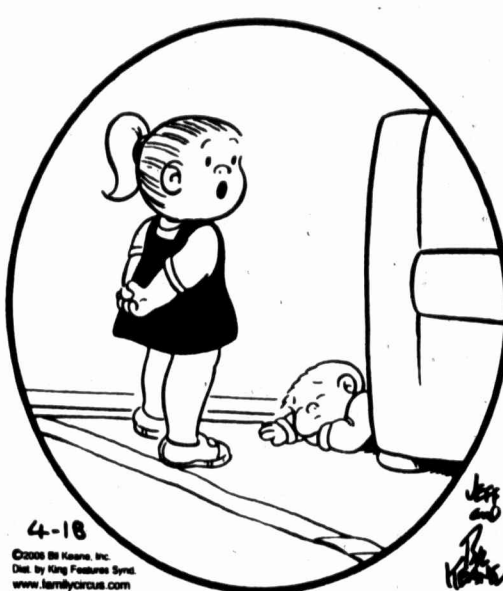
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6	News (CC) Ent. Tonight	News Wheel-Fortune	Peregrina	King of the Hill The Simpsons	Ent. Tonight	La Tormenta	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond John Hagee	Y. Salamanca John Hagee	News-Lahr	Discovery Deadliest Catch	Classics CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	Spike TV CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Just Mary	Phil of Future Ther's-Raven	ESPN2 NBA Coast-to-Coast (CC)	ESPN NFL Draft Special (CC)	SCIFI Kingdom Hospital
7	According-Jim Hope & Faith	According-Jim Hope & Faith	Barrera de Amor	American Idol (CC)	NCIS (CC)	Tierra de Pasiones	Celebrity Cook	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Jimmy Philips	Nova (CC) (DVS)	Discovery Deadliest Catch	Movie: Two Weeks Notice	CSI: Crime Scene Investig.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Juice (CC)	Movie: Horse Sense (CC)	ESPN2 SportsCenter	ESPN NFL Draft Special (CC)	SCIFI Kingdom Hospital
8	Hope & Faith Less-Perfect	Hope & Faith Less-Perfect	Alboreada	House (CC)	The Unit (CC)	Corazon Part Decisiones	Scrubs (CC) Teachers	Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	Journey to Planet Earth	Discovery Deadliest Catch	15 Movie: Stolen	AutoFox Ultimate Knockouts 2	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Just Mary	Phil of Future Ther's-Raven	ESPN2 SportsCenter	ESPN NFL Draft Special (CC)	SCIFI Kingdom Hospital
9	Boston Legal (CC)	Boston Legal (CC)	Ver Para Creer	Backer (CC) 70s Show	Criminal Minds (CC)	Decisiones	Law & Order: SVU	Seinfeld (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Independent Channels (CC)	Discovery Deadliest Catch	15 Movie: Stolen	AutoFox Ultimate Knockouts 2	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Just Mary	Phil of Future Ther's-Raven	ESPN2 SportsCenter	ESPN NFL Draft Special (CC)	SCIFI Kingdom Hospital
10	News (CC) Nightline	News (CC) Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	70s Show Raymond	NCIS (CC)	Decisiones	Law & Order: SVU	Seinfeld (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Independent Channels (CC)	Discovery Deadliest Catch	15 Movie: Stolen	AutoFox Ultimate Knockouts 2	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Just Mary	Phil of Future Ther's-Raven	ESPN2 SportsCenter	ESPN NFL Draft Special (CC)	SCIFI Kingdom Hospital
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12	News (CC)	News (CC)	Sonadoras	My Wife-Kids Divorce Court	The Insider	Decisiones	Law & Order: SVU	Seinfeld (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Independent Channels (CC)	Discovery Deadliest Catch	15 Movie: Stolen	AutoFox Ultimate Knockouts 2	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Just Mary	Phil of Future Ther's-Raven	ESPN2 SportsCenter	ESPN NFL Draft Special (CC)	SCIFI Kingdom Hospital

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I STILL THINK THE MITCHELLS SHOULD HAVE LET US CLAIM DENNIS AS A TAX DEDUCTION."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"PJ's playing hide-and-go-sleep."

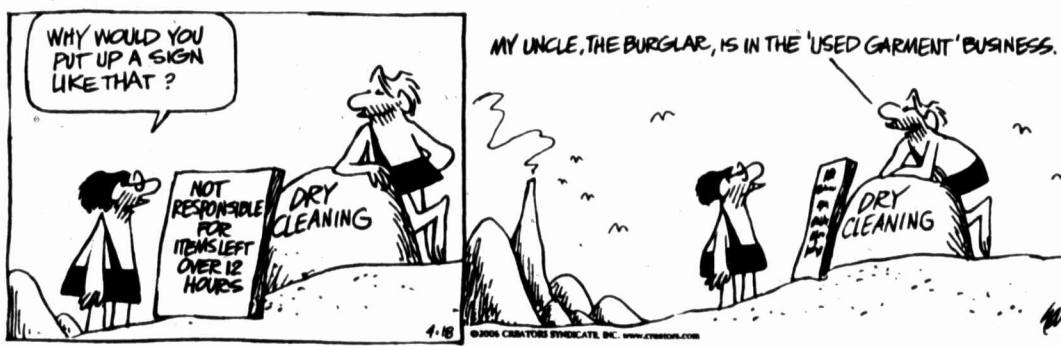
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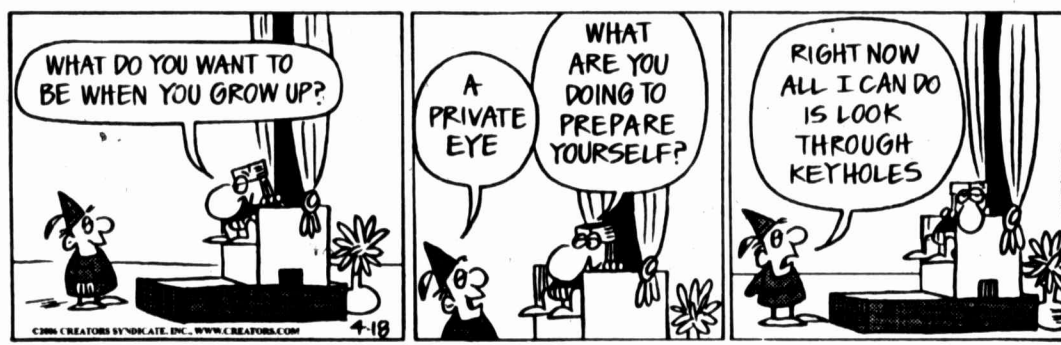
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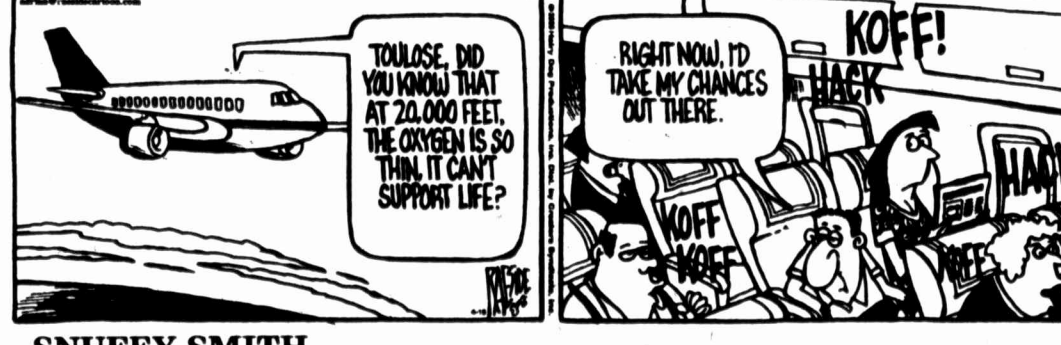
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, April 18, the 108th day of 2006. There are 257 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

One hundred years ago, on April 18, 1906, a devastating earthquake struck San Francisco, followed by raging fires. About 700 people died.

On this date:

In 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Mass., warning American colonists that the British were coming.

In 1942, an air squadron from the USS Hornet led by Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle raided Tokyo and other Japanese cities.

In 1944, the ballet "Fancy Free," with music by Leonard Bernstein, premiered.

In 1945, famed American war correspondent Ernie Pyle, 44, was killed by Japanese gunfire on the Pacific island of Ie Shima.

off Okinawa.

In 1946, the League of Nations went out of business.

In 1955, physicist Albert Einstein died in Princeton, N.J., at age 76.

In 1956, 50 years ago, actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier of Monaco in a civil ceremony. (A church wedding took place the next day.)

In 1980, Zimbabwe Rhodesia became the independent nation of Zimbabwe.

In 1983, 62 people, including 17 Americans, were killed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, by a suicide bomber.

One year ago: Lance Armstrong announced he was retiring after the upcoming Tour de France.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Barbara Hale is 85. Actor Clive Revill is 76. Actor James Drury is 72. Actor Robert Hooks is 69. Actress Hayley Mills is 60. Actor James Woods is 59. Actress-director Dorothy Lyman is 59. Actress Cindy Pickett is 59. Country musician Jim Schoiten (Sawyer Brown) is 54. Actor Rick Moranis is 53. Actress Melody Thomas

Scott is 50. Actor Eric Roberts is 50. Actor John James is 50. Rock musician Les Pattinson (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 48. Actress Jane Leeves is 45. Talk show host Conan O'Brien is 43. Actor Eric McCormack is 43. Actress Maria Bello is 39. Rock musician Greg Eklund (The Oolahs) is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Trina (Trina and Tamara) is 32. Actress Melissa Joan Hart is 30. Actor Sean Maguire is 30. Actress Alia Shawkat is 17.

Thought for Today: "Love has the quality of informing almost everything — even one's work." — Sylvia Ashton-Warner, New Zealander author and educator (1908-1984).

Answer to previous puzzle

REED	ALAS	PASTA
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Newsday Crossword SCATTERED SHOWERS by Sally R. Stein

Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanwords.com

ACROSS

1 Duck hunter's lure  
6 Olden days  
10 Rental dwellings: Abbr.  
14 Make amends  
15 Rams' mates  
16 Modest response to a compliment  
17 Tension  
20 Listen to  
21 Approximately  
22 Answer to "Who's there?"  
23 Hardens  
25 The Sun \_\_\_ Rises  
27 Signed, as a contract  
30 "Diana" singer Paul  
32 Sore spot  
36 Slip into  
37 *Othello* villain  
39 Carpenter, often  
41 Computer processor  
44 Free from care  
45 Top draft rating  
46 \_\_\_ Lanka  
47 Offer in a store  
48 Loch \_\_\_ monster  
50 Run out, as a subscription  
52 Very narrow shoe  
54 Misfortunes  
56 Not very reputable  
59 Display anger  
61 Carryall bag  
65 Harshly  
68 Cavalry outpost

DOWN

1 100-yard race  
2 Suffix for kitchen  
3 Apple center  
4 Feeling tense  
5 "Okay!"  
6 Way back when  
7 Possesses  
8 Hardwood tree  
9 Tee preceder  
10 Type of missile  
11 Public sch. auxiliaries  
12 Quick haircut

13 "Auld Lang \_\_\_"  
18 Our sun's name  
19 Scale notes after las  
24 Polishes a manuscript  
26 Jousting weapon  
27 Results of brainstorming  
28 Actor Nick  
29 Prepare to be knighted  
31 They're prohibited  
33 Hold tightly  
34 Legacy recipients  
35 Bert's *Sesame Street* pal  
38 Sports stadium  
40 Have \_\_\_ (enjoy yourself)

42 Disaster  
43 Thoughtful views  
49 Singer Kitt  
51 Of the stars  
53 Author Rand  
55 Civil War general  
56 Out of danger  
57 Swelled heads  
58 Org. for seniors  
60 On the summit of  
62 Honolulu's island  
63 Wedding-cake layer  
64 Wraps things up  
66 Former Air France flier: Abbr.  
67 Chitchat

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Wacky Facts

■ In the 1700s ballet dancers wore bulky costumes and shoes with high heels. Women danced in hoop skirts and so did men!  
■ The Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta has more than 1,000 puppets in its permanent collection.  
—World Almanac for Kids

# KID NEWS

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Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune

"Mostly R&B and hip hop. I need music to keep the adrenaline pumping. I have my golf cart all maxed out, with the radio console and six speakers. I crank the music up pretty loud."

—Golfer Tiger Woods, on what he listens to when he's playing, in People magazine.



The News

## Loud music may hurt your hearing

If you listen to a portable music player, hearing experts have a message for you: Turn it down! A recent poll found that 51 percent of high school students and 37 percent of adults have experienced at least one symptom of hearing loss.



What could be the cause? Kids and teens are listening to portable MP3 music players, such as Apple iPods, louder and longer.

These players have maximum sound levels as loud as a jet engine!

### A LOOK AT HEARING HEALTH

The poll was conducted for The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Results showed that 28 percent of high school students and 26 percent of adults have had to turn up the volume on their televisions.

Twenty-nine percent of students reported saying "what" or "huh" during conversations compared with 21 percent of adults. Seventeen percent of students and 12 percent of adults said they have heard ringing in their ears.

More than half of the adults polled said they listen to their music players between one and four hours at a time or even longer.

Most students said they listened for less than an hour at a time. Fifty-nine percent of students said they played



BONNIE WELLER/KRT

Turning down the music on your iPod and reducing the amount of listening time may help protect your hearing, experts say.

music at a high volume, compared with 34 percent of adults.

### CALLING FOR MORE RESEARCH

Experts say more research is needed to prove a definite link between portable music and DVD players and hearing loss. But they suspect these players are contributing to hearing problems.

"Many kids who are using this type of technology are plugging virtual rock concerts into their ears," said Pam Mason of the ASHA.

### PROTECT YOUR HEARING

How can you protect your hearing? Experts recommend turning down the volume and cutting down on music listening time.

They also suggest switching from earbuds to larger earphones, like the ones pictured at left. Earbud headphones, like the ones often used with iPods, carry sound directly into the ear canal. Traditional earmuff-style headphones allow the sound to spread out, according to the National Institutes of Health.



—Dina El Nabli

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# Shall we dance?

BY EMILIE LE BEAU  
Chicago Tribune

Dances are a fun way to get together with friends. Afterward, pictures are printed in the yearbook and plastered inside lockers. A total blast, right?

Well, yeah, unless you're shy or worried about potential problems. What if you wear the wrong thing? Or no one asks you to dance?

Crush your worries with a bit of prep from the experts.

### FEND OFF A FASHION DISASTER

Casual or semiformal, each dance has its own dress code loaded with fashion do's and disasters. Teenfashionista.com creator Casey L., 17, has been to about 15 dances and says going "overboard" is the most common fashion mistake.

For casual dances, girls should avoid extravagant heels or short skirts. Instead, dress up jeans with a sparkly sweater and cool accessories like a "noticeable necklace or rhinestone earrings," she says.

The dance might be in the gym, but a guy's look shouldn't scream P.E. "Stay away from your gym shoes, it will totally ruin your outfit," she says. And "stay away from crew necks, especially athletic T-shirts."

Polo shirts and button-downs are stylish options for guys. Casey says guys even can go with bright button-downs for semiformal dances.

Bright colors also are in for semiformal dresses, but pastels are "too



Earrings can dress up your dance outfit.

## Tips will help you get your toes tappin'

cutesy" and floral patterns won't make you look more mature, she says.

### MAKE IT A DATE — OR NOT

The days before the dance can create stress for kids who want to take a date. Before asking a classmate, check whether it's the norm.

"If it goes against the grain, you might want to consider that before asking," says Alex J. Packard, author of the "How Rude!" self-help series for kids (Free Spirit Publishing).

Once a kid knows it's cool, ask directly, not through friends. Being direct makes you look sincerely interested, he says.

Shot down? It's only one person's opinion, and "there's a billion people out there," Packard says.

### FIND THE BEAT AND MOVE TO IT

The music is blaring and the dance floor is packed. You want to dance, not dork out. What to do?

Get out there and move your body, says Eve J., 13. She studies dance and performs with the Evanston Dance Ensemble in Evanston, Ill. "I think anyone who wants to dance, can," she says. "Once you find the beat, just dance and move."

Practicing in front of a mirror can help kids get comfortable. But don't get too flashy. "Don't do the Worm; it's kind of showing off," she says.

### BE A SLOW-DANCE SURVIVOR

The music slows and everyone couples up for a dance. You ask a classmate to dance with you, and he or she refuses. Ouch!

Don't take it personally, says Daniella Levin, a social worker in Elmwood Park, Ill.

"They might be saying 'no' because they are embarrassed, they don't know how to dance or they're worried they have body odor," she says.

So go ahead and ask — it's not likely that you'll be cruelly rejected. "Everyone is nervous at school functions," Levin says. "They are worried about how they look and who they will dance with."

### DON'T FRET ABOUT SITTING IT OUT

Some kids' struggles with self-esteem mean not wanting to go to a dance. "Those are very valid and understandable feelings," Packard says.

Just don't let those feelings keep you home and away from a social function. "That kind of social discomfort you need to work on," he says.

Consider the reasons you want to ditch the dance. If it's just not your thing and you'd rather have friends over or work on hobbies, don't force yourself to go.



Don't wear your gym shoes to a dance.

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