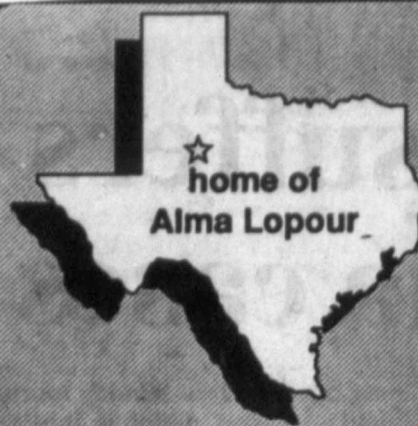


Oct. 28,
1991

Vol. 42 No. 154
Snyder, Texas 79549
10 Pages, 50¢

West Texas
Intermediate Crude
\$23.55



MONDAY

Snyder Daily News

Ask Us

Q—Are you still required to get a blood test before you get married?

A—No. Texas state law no longer requires a blood test, although the law varies from state to state.

Local

Booster club

Snyder All-Sports Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. today in the high school student center.

Theatre

An organizational meeting of citizens interested in forming a community theatre will be held at 7 p.m. today at the chamber of commerce.

Lodge 706

Scurry Lodge 706 AF & AM will have an open house today at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

Hermleigh

Hermleigh Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. today in the high school library. All boosters are urged to attend.

Genealogy

Harley Bynum will serve as a guest speaker at a genealogy meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday in the TU Electric Reddy Room. Visitors are welcome.

Scout-A-Boot

The fourth annual Scout-A-Boot dance, to benefit the American Cancer Society, will be held Saturday, Nov. 2, from 8 p.m. until midnight at the National Guard Armory in Towle Park.

A minimum donation of \$5 per person will be required for admittance.

Yearbooks

Yearbook staff will be pre-selling The 1991 Tiger Times, the Snyder Junior High yearbook, through Nov. 1 at zero period.

Copies may be reserved for \$12, or by making a \$5 deposit and paying the balance when the books arrive in the spring. Yearbooks must be ordered in advance. No extra copies will be ordered.

Weather

Snyder Temperatures: High Saturday, 64 degrees; low, 54 degrees; 1.48 of an inch precipitation; high Sunday, 68 degrees; low, 53 degrees; reading at 7 a.m. Monday, 53 degrees; .39 of an inch precipitation; total precipitation for 1991 to date, 23.07 inches.

Snyder Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy and a little cooler. Low near 50. South wind 5 to 15 mph. Re-coming northwest toward morning. Tuesday, partly cloudy. High in the lower 70s. West to northwest wind 10 to 20 mph.

Almanac: Sunset today, 5:58 p.m. Sunrise Tuesday, 6:57 a.m. Of 300 days in 1991, the sun has shown 292 days in Snyder.

Rain, hail pelt area; crops hit

From local, wire reports
Strong thunderstorms accompanied by hail caused damage to crops and trees and flooded low-lying streets in and around Snyder over the weekend.

The water pump and filter plant recorded 1.87 inches of precipitation Saturday and Sunday. Most of the rain came early Saturday evening, in which the downpour fell so hard and fast that many local streets were covered with water.

Road crews closed several streets in the city, and there were reports of at least three vehicles stalled in low water crossing areas.

No major damage was reported by winds but trees were uprooted and branches broken at several residences in the city. Three fires Saturday evening in Snyder and a tank battery fire in northern Mitchell County were blamed on lightning.

Outlying areas also reported extensive rain and hail. Fluvanna resident Opal Beaver recorded 1.8 inches and damage to several trees. Numerous limbs were broken in the storm and two cotton trailers were overturned at the residence, some two miles south of the community.

A well house blew over at the Patrick Toombs residence at Fluvanna Sunday evening, where 2 inches of rain was reported.

Crop damage from golf-ball size hail was reported north of (see RAIN, page 8)



MAJOR WRECK — A three-car accident this morning near Wal-Mart fortunately resulted in only minor injuries as two drivers were sent to Cogdell Memorial Hospital emergency room where

they were treated and released. See article, page 8. (SDN Staff Photo)

Right-of-way, voting boxes discussed during commissioners court meeting

Brief updates on current county projects were given during this morning's meeting of Scurry County commissioners in which the only item of action was approval of the bills.

The court adjourned at noon but was to resume in an informal work session this afternoon.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Gannaway said today that the county will soon begin negotiating with 12 rural landowners for right-of-way along a farm-to-market

road. "We're going to try to have the right-of-way purchased by the first of the year," said Gannaway, of the two-mile stretch of FM 1673 which connects U.S. Hwys. 180 and 84.

The county will obtain the right-of-way, approximately 25 feet on each side of the existing gravel road, and the state will build the new road, explained Gannaway. When the project is complete, the Price Daniel Unit

will be accessible from U.S. Hwy. 84.

Combining of election precinct

You decide: Prop 9

PROPOSITION 9: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the commissioner of the General Land Office to issue patents for certain public free school fund land held in good faith under color of title for at least 50 years."

Background: This amendment deals with the lands that are technically owned by the state of Texas. In some cases, people have purchased or acquired this land from someone other than the state. While the state still technically owns the land, some people who purchased or acquired the land did not know that the land was owned by the state. If passed, the amendment will allow the Land Commissioner to give legal title for this land (called public free school fund land) to certain people. A person would be entitled to receive a legal title if: 1. the land is surveyed public free school land; 2. the person could not gain the (see PROP 9, page 8)

voting boxes was noted by the court. County Judge Bob Doolittle said pending approval from the U.S. Justice Department, one voting box in each precinct will be eliminated, saving the county some \$4,000. The changes are a result of county redistricting.

If approved, boxes 15 and 16 in Precinct 1 will be combined and voting will take place on the north side of the county coliseum. Precinct 2 will see boxes 17 and 18 combined with voting at the National Guard Armory; Precinct 3, boxes 7 and 9 with voting at Ira Community Center and Precinct 4, boxes 11 and 12 with voting on the south side of the coliseum.

County officials noted that the boxes have not yet been combined and the pending changes will not affect the Nov. 5 election.

In other business, commissioners noted nine pieces of equipment were sold at a recent auction, netting \$17,500. The auctioning of the equipment is part of the county's efforts to consolidate heavy equipment to one location.

Commissioners also noted that 911 addressing is still under way with addressing in Precinct 2 to begin today. Precincts 3 and 4 have been completed.

County Judge Bob Doolittle presided. Present were commissioners Gannaway, Roy Idom, Jerry Morgan and C.D. Gray.

United Way effort is continuing here

Scurry County United Way entered the seventh week of its annual fundraising drive today.

The effort has a goal of \$80,000 and a list of nine benefactors.

—Scurry County Boy's Club: provides supervised, organized activities; guidance counseling and drug awareness programs for boys ages 7 through 18. This year's allocation is \$29,000.

—Snyder Child Day Care Center: provides child care on a sliding scale to low income, working parents; a Head Start program for special needs children. This year's allocation is \$16,000.

—Noah Project: provides temporary shelter for victims of family violence; individual and group counseling; and assistance with day care, employment and job training. The allocation this year is \$14,000.

—Oil Patch Foster Parents: provides safe and healthy environment for abused or neglected children; funds supplement state aid for clothing, foster parent training and personal items for children. The allocation is \$6,000.

—Girl Scouts: through activities that stimulate self-discovery, to inspire girls ages 5 to 17 the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism and service. The allocation is \$5,500.

—Boy Scouts: to help instill in first through 12th grade boys values to prepare them to make ethical choices in achieving their full potential. The allocation is \$5,500.

—Snyder Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse: provides information and referrals for prevention, intervention and continuing care related to alcohol and drug abuse. This allocation is \$3,000.

—Red Cross: provides disaster relief; service to military families; and conducts fire, health and safety programs. The allocation is \$500.

—Salvation Army: provides shoes and clothing for children; temporary assistance to families; disaster relief; and meals and lodging for transients. The allocation is \$500.

President of Scurry County United Way is Julie Sentell. Other officers include Jeff Fowler, first vice president; Nancy Wilson, second vice president; Jeffrey Martin, secretary-treasurer; Nancy LaRoux, drive coordinator; and Hubert Cargile, honorary drive chairman.

For more information about Scurry County United Way, write P.O. Box 1411 in Snyder or call 573-5390.



TDCJ DAY FUN — These four Price Daniel employees were among those acting out a skit during Saturday's TDCJ Appreciation Day at the county coliseum. Pictured, left to right, are

Shawn Donham, Mary Rose Bowen, Bob Martin and Mike Searcy. Approximately 750 people attended the event. (SDN Staff Photo)

'Artists of American West' exhibit to open at museum

An impressive demonstration of the role of the graphic artist in establishing an image of the American West will be seen in a traveling exhibit scheduled Nov. 3 through Nov. 25 at Scurry County Museum.

Titled Artists of the American West, the exhibit includes 48 hand-colored lithographs and wood engravings by such world class artists as Karl Bodmer, George Catlin, Albert Bierstadt, Fredric Remington, John J. Audubon and John Mix Stanley. It presents the works of many of the first artists to work west of the Missis-

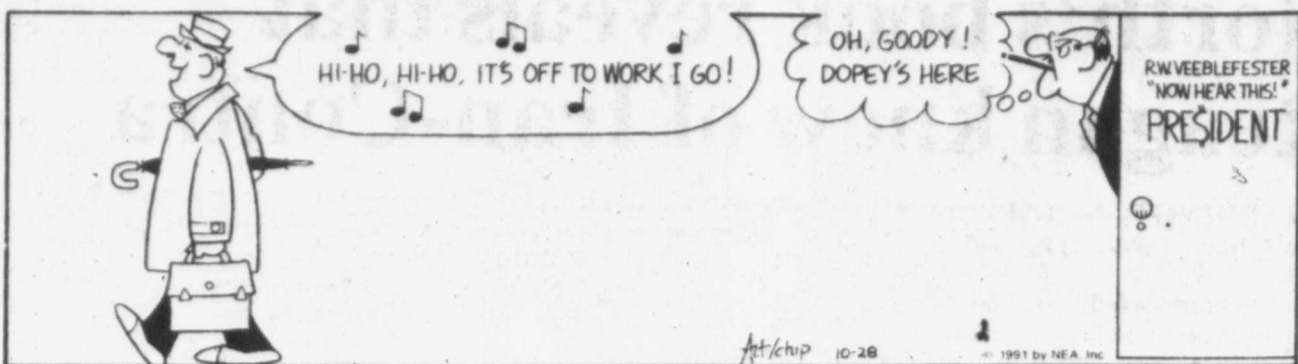
sippi and provides a vivid picture of the American West at a time when the native cultures were beginning to feel the impact of the advance of white settlers.

A reception scheduled for the opening from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 3 will also mark the start of the Museum Association's annual membership drive. There is no charge for admission to the museum and the public is invited to attend.

Artists of the American West is toured under the auspices of ExhibitsUSA. ExhibitsUSA is a national division of Mid-America

Arts Alliance, a non-profit regional arts organization, whose partners include the state arts agencies of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas, the National Endowment for the Arts, and private contributors.

Information about the exhibit and special tours can be obtained by calling the museum at 573-6107. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The museum is open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. most Sundays but visitors are advised to call ahead for definite information.



FEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



FLASH GORDON By Dan Barry



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith By Fred Lasswell



BLONDIE by Dean Young and Stan Drake



GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



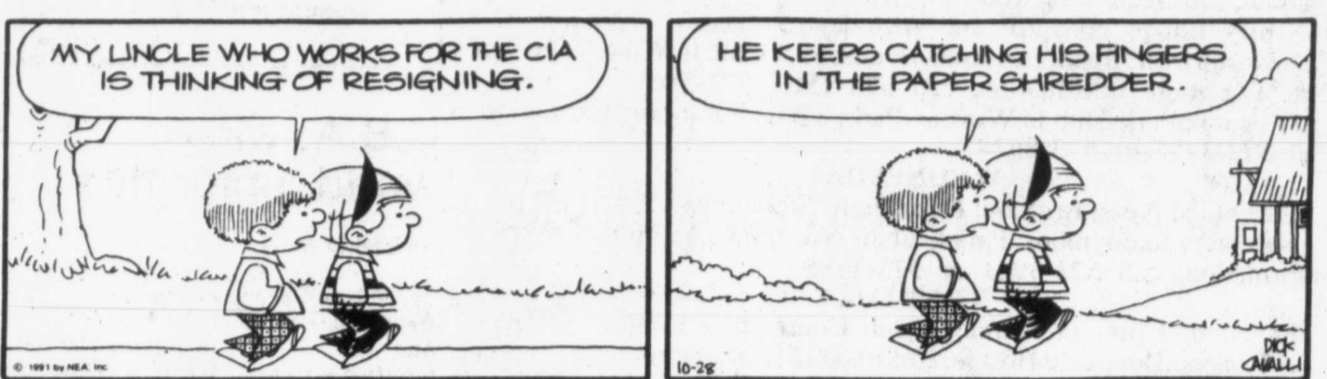
FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



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WINTHROP by Dick Cavalli



ROBOTMAN by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP by Dave Graue



PHIPPS by Joseph Farris



SNAFU by Bruce Beattie



DENNIS THE MENACE



KIT 'N' CARLYLE by Larry Wright



LAFF-A-DAY



NEA PUZZLES

ACROSS

- 1 Actress — Zetterling
- 4 Playing marble
- 7 Thousand
- 10 — well that ends well
- 12 Diva's specialty
- 14 Gums
- 15 Seaweed
- 16 Abel's brother
- 17 Filch
- 18 Literary works
- 20 Spooky
- 22 Mournful cry (3 wds.)
- 24 — a sale: use the cash register
- 26 Persian elf
- 30 Halfway
- 31 On a cruise
- 33 Excessively
- 34 Mother of

Misc.

- 35 Natural color
- 37 Shipping unit
- 38 Two words of understanding
- 40 Sparkling
- 42 Waiters
- 45 Penned
- 47 Inherent character
- 51 Mai — (cocktail)
- 52 District
- 54 Buckeye State
- 55 Bus. abbr.
- 56 Ballerina's skirt
- 57 Mountain lion
- 58 — degree
- 59 Word of negation
- 60 Female bird

DOWN

- 1 Fabricate
- 2 Beverages

Answer to Previous Puzzle

K	H	A	N	K	R	I	S	I	O	U
A	O	N	E	A	Y	A	H	S	I	P
H	A	T	E	P	A	N	A	T	E	L
N	R	A	I	O	N	H	E	S	S	
R	O	C	K	D	I	I				
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I	N	T	O	K	O	N	G	I	R	K
M	I	I	K	A	N	S	K	N	E	E
E	T	C	H	I	N	G	D	O	T	E
I	T	E	C	R	A	M				
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I	R	A	K	A	L	E	I	T	S	A
R	O	N	O	R	L	Y	P	S	S	T

- 3 Infirmities
- 4 Rubdown artist
- 5 Wrath
- 6 Nibbles
- 7 40s film star
- Paul —
- 8 Tennis player

- Nastase
- 9 Escape (sl.)
- 11 Fish eggs
- 13 Sound of hesitation
- 19 Exercise system
- 21 Ribbed fabric
- 23 Medicinal root
- 24 Edges
- 25 — fix (obsession)
- 27 Miss Kett of the comics
- 28 Space
- 29 Chemical particle
- 30 2001, Roman
- 32 Jason, for one
- 36 Skeleton part
- 39 Self
- 41 Prevent
- 43 Rat —
- 44 Old movie
- 45 Desire
- 46 Wealthy
- 48 No
- 49 Frost
- 50 Pertaining to dawn
- 51 A metal
- 53 WWII area

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60		61		62		63		64

CPS has poor track record...

State fails to help all needy children

HOUSTON (AP) — Child Protective Services was unable to help nearly 65 percent of the Texas children in confirmed abuse and neglect situations last year and state caseworkers say they're not expecting better results this year, a Houston newspaper reported.

"It's hard to look these people in the face and know that you don't have anything to offer them," one longtime Brazoria County caseworker told the Houston Chronicle in its Sunday editions.

In a five-month study of the state's CPS system, the newspaper found Texas children not only are

at risk of being abused in their homes, but also neglected by an overburdened system with roughly 2,000 caseworkers statewide.

Of some 85,000 children in confirmed abuse or neglect environments in 1990, about 55,000 fell through the cracks, getting no help from the state agency charged with protecting them.

In many cases, the newspaper said, there is insufficient psychological counseling for children who have been beaten and raped, drug and alcohol treatment for parents with lifelong addictions, or

foster homes for children who have been abandoned.

Thirty-five percent of the 112 Texas children who died last year as a result of abuse or neglect had case files with the CPS, state records show. Yet they remained in their family's care for lack of foster homes or social workers to handle their cases, the newspaper reported.

Caseworkers reported that even for children whose cases are investigated further, workers only visit the home and work with the family about once a month. Because caseloads are usually twice the recommended 12 to 15 per worker, caseworkers' visits do little more than ensure the children are still alive, workers told the Chronicle.

One former worker said she quit because she was increasingly "being put in a position I did not want to be in. I'd go to bed at night worrying about the one (child) that I just didn't have time to check on."

Older children, handicapped children, large sibling groups and children abused by a parent's live-in lover are among those least likely to be removed from an abusive home or to receive services aimed at helping them cope with their trauma or repairing the family unit, the paper said.

In a Chronicle survey of 289 caseworkers, and in interviews with caseworkers, law enforcement officials, teachers, school nurses, physicians, child advocates and foster parents around the state and the nation, the newspaper found that:

— CPS moves children to and from an average of more than six shelters to circumvent a TDHS regulation preventing emergency shelters from keeping children older than 5 for more than 30 days without a waiver.

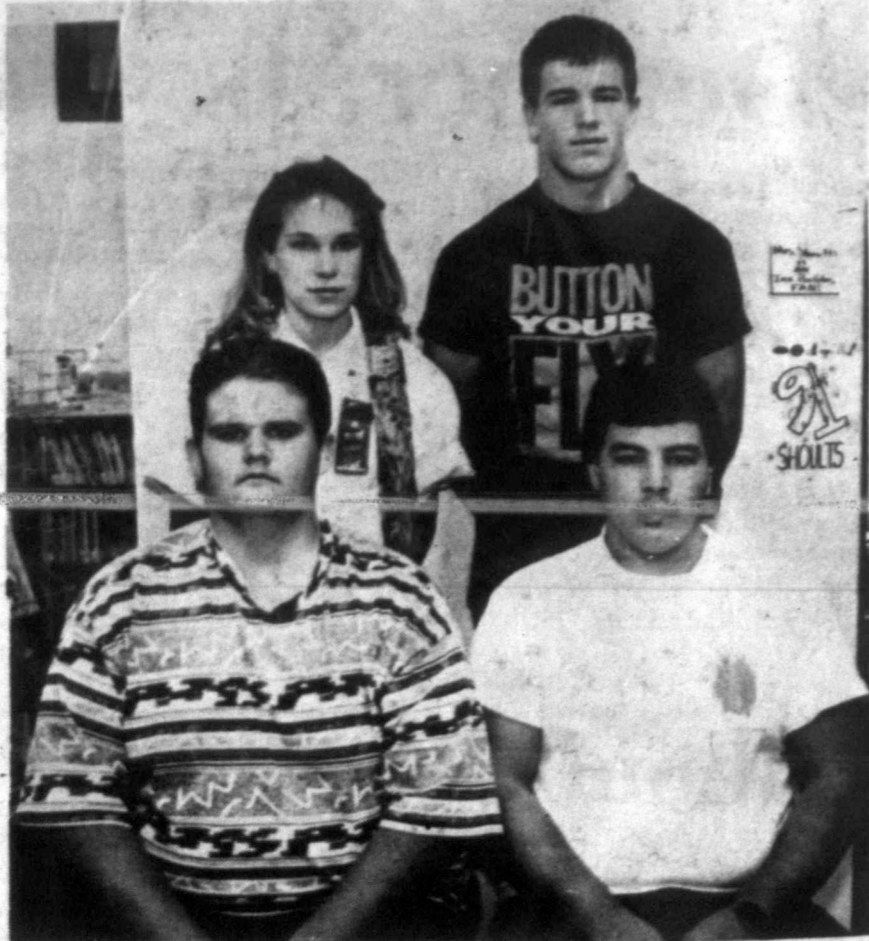
— Turnover at the agency is high, and caseworkers report serious problems because of inexperience and inadequate training.

— The agency has no suicide prevention plan for high-risk adolescents.

— Caseworkers said the agency discourages AIDS testing for adolescents, many of whom spend time living on the streets in an effort to escape abuse at home.

— Caseloads of CPS workers are high, contributing to burnout and creating a dangerous situation for children. In the Chronicle survey, 76 percent of caseworkers said they know of instances in which caseloads have been so high that children were jeopardized.

— CPS rarely intervenes in neglect cases.



SENIOR OFFICERS — Ira senior class officers for the 1991-92 school year are from left, standing, Amanda Sorrells, secretary; Travis Goswick, treasurer; seated, from left, Michael Lathem, president; and Joe Luna, vice-president. (SDN Staff Photo)



JUNIOR OFFICERS — Officers for the junior class at Ira for 1991-92 are back row, from left, Justin Box, president; Toby Haynes, vice-president; front, Mauricia Rosas, secretary; and Jim Gorman, treasurer. (SDN Staff Photo)



SOPHOMORE OFFICERS — Sophomore class officers at Ira for the current school year include from left, back row, Tom Sanchez, president; Vernon Groce, vice president; front, Angie Robinson, secretary, and Jamie Bray, treasurer. (SDN Staff Photo)



FRESHMEN OFFICERS — These four students have been elected officers of the freshman class at Ira for 1991-92. Kristi Sorrells, front left, is the president; Justin Donelson, front, right, is vice-president. In back are, from left, Susan Shoultz, secretary; and Xandy Hudson, treasurer. (SDN Staff Photo)

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a trip to Spain this week, George Bush joins the ranks of American presidents who risked power and influence in the quest for a Middle East peace agreement.

The previous efforts failed, and the betting is that the peace conference that opens Wednesday in Madrid will end without a dramatic breakthrough.

The most optimistic scenarios forecast a lengthy and frustrating process in which progress will take years and could require a new generation of regional leaders.

AP news analysis

Despite the long odds, Bush will open the conference along with his junior partner in the enterprise, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

One analyst looked at what is happening around the world and asked, "Why is an Arab-Israeli peace conference the principal American diplomatic initiative?"

In the flush of the first Middle East peace conference in 18 years and the first to promise face-to-face negotiations between Israel and its longtime adversaries, it was a provocative question.

After all, suggested Michael Mandelbaum, director of East-West studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, there are more important things going on in the world.

Yet, Bush and Secretary of State James A. Baker III have spent more time in recent months pressuring and cajoling all parties in the Middle East to participate in a peace conference.

When Richard M. Nixon and Jimmy Carter pursued peace in the Middle East, the region seemed a far more dangerous place.

The Soviet Union was threatening military action on behalf of its Arab clients and the Arab oil-producing nations were putting enormous economic pressure on the West by cutting production of petroleum and escalating the price.

So, Nixon tried and failed. Carter had better luck. He was able to build on the dramatic move of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who went to Jerusalem in 1977 to demonstrate his willingness to talk peace. Under Carter's sponsor-

Hundreds pay tribute to Capra

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Actor Jimmy Stewart was among hundreds of people who paid tribute to the populist vision of Frank Capra, the Oscar-winning director whose films often championed the common man.

More than 500 colleagues, family and friends attended the memorial service for Capra on Saturday at the Directors Guild of America. Capra was the guild's founder and three-time president. He died Sept. 3 at age 94.

"I can't tell you the exhilaration of what he gave to all of us in the cast of 'It's a Wonderful Life,'" Stewart said. "And, it was based on his wonderful humor and feeling of living and being alive."

Stewart also starred in Capra's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

Capra won Academy Awards for directing "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town," "It Happened One Night" and "You Can't Take It With You." The last two films also won Oscars for best picture.

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Debt, squabbling plaguing Iowa Democrats

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — At first, Iowa Democrats blamed their loneliness on a shortage of presidential contenders.

But there are plenty of candidates now and still precious little action on the Iowa campaign trail.

The closest thing to a campaign stop recently was one scheduled by former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas. And he begged off pleading illness.

Squabbling and deeply in debt, Iowa Democrats are facing political tough times as the presidential campaign parade passes them by.

One reason may be the late-starting campaign, which has forced the Democratic candidates to spend much of their time raising money.

But a bigger factor is the presence of one of Iowa's own in the race. Rivals are reluctant to challenge Sen. Tom Harkin on his home turf.

And with little more than three months before the state kicks off the Democrats' candidate-selection process, party leaders are still fighting over just how they'll run the Feb. 10 precinct caucuses.

The candidates are letting them wage that battle in private while they stump elsewhere.

"I'm looking for volunteers and people who will help," Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey declared as he first stumped the state. He quickly changed his mind, and a spate of activity faded.

Aides to Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton met with party leaders last week but kept their profile decidedly low.

The state party is struggling with a \$155,000 campaign debt and has had to reschedule its biggest fund-raising event in hopes of luring big names who can help refill the coffers.

All of this is a switch for activists used to heavy campaigning and attention as party heavyweights jockey for position at the presidential campaign's starting gate.

"In the past, we've always had so many campaigns and staff in the state, but this is a different year," said party spokesman Joe Shannahan. "We are living with that."

"The stage is different this time," said veteran activist Bruce Koeppel, who has worked for a

string of presidential candidates in years past. "Since they are not around we can't rely on them to get folks out."

The candidates point to Iowa's arcane caucus and convention process as a good reason to avoid the state. Unlike a primary, the voting is conducted in the open and run by party officials — most of whom are Harkin backers.

That has prompted other candidates to focus their attention on the Feb. 18 primary in New Hampshire, where they can compete on

neutral ground.

Some Iowa activists hope to attract more campaign activity to their state by switching to a secret ballot or taking an initial sample before the complicated delegate-selection process begins.

Democratic activists are divided on the issue. Some want to preserve the current system to give Harkin a boost and others want to enhance the caucuses' national status by making it easier for other candidates to compete.

The party's woes are illustrated

by recent jostling over the state's annual Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner, which in presidential election cycles normally attracts 7,000 to 8,000 activists who pay \$50 each to watch a parade of candidates.

This year's event was scheduled for Nov. 2, the same day as a candidate forum at New Hampshire's state party convention. The candidates opted for New Hampshire, so Iowa wound up switching its dinner to Nov. 23.

Washington today:

What do people think about Congress?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Polls of the American people place Congress' popularity a bare halftop above the caterpillar. Yet tourists last week lined up to see their national legislature, and not just in hopes of hearing dirty words.

They were there because Americans are a little more thoughtful, and have a little more perspective, than the politicians and pundits seem to believe.

And while they don't think much of the senators who took part in the rancorous Clarence Thomas hearings, or of the House members who bounced checks, no one interviewed seemed much shocked by their behavior.

"That sort of confirmed the low level to which things have gotten," said Sterling Kelly of Greensboro, N.C., who thought it important to visit the Capitol with his wife and two boys even though "it can't compete with the Air and Space Museum."

"I want to see how these guys work — if they're working," quipped Roland Weaver of Arvada, Colo. "They probably have done exactly the same things in the past. It's just more obvious now" because of television, he said.

But why, given all that's happened, would someone want to see these people?

"When we were stationed in

Las Vegas they took us to the whorehouses. It's the same kind of thing," joked the friend showing Weaver around, who asked his name not be used.

The real answer seems to be that the American people accept that their elected officials are, well, imperfect.

"I've always known that this malarkey went on," said Jane Komarow of Kingston, N.Y. "I think if I knew it, everybody did," she said. What made the Thomas hearings different was that "people gobble sex up like that," she said, snapping her fingers.

The news media work hard to get leaks like the Anita Hill sexual harassment story. John Fowler of Denver said he thought the country might approve of a little more discretion, even if it meant trusting Congress a little more.

"We elect these people to do things we don't always need to know about," and should be handled in private, he said, citing defense matters and the Hill case. "It was a shame it was leaked. There are some things the press doesn't need to know about."

"It really was a circus," agreed his wife, Rae. "I have less respect for the Senate by a long shot."

On the Capitol steps as probably everywhere else, people were sympathetic to President Bush's

call for Congress to end the exemptions it enjoys from many federal labor and anti-discrimination laws.

"What Bush said about the Senate I was certainly glad to hear," said Sid Gervais of Austin, Texas. "And they gave it back to him," he added, referring to Democrats calling for Bush to end White

House exemptions from the same laws.

Michael Komarow, Jane's husband, shrugged it off.

"It's easy to beat up on Congress. Everybody always does," he said. "Everybody always complains," he said, but when it comes to their local congressman, "Nobody ever votes him out"

Bush asked to restore ranks

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — President Bush has been asked in a letter from 36 retired admirals to reinstate the wartime ranks of two men blamed for U.S. forces being caught off guard in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman William Crowe Jr. and others, asked in the letter dated Oct. 22, that the Bush administration posthumously restore the reputations of Rear Adm. Husband E. Kimmel and Maj. Gen. Walter C. Short.

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation in Fredericksburg is among the groups that already have adopted resolutions supporting the move.

Kimmel was commander of the Pacific Fleet and Short headed the Army at Hawaii when Japanese

planes attacked Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

The Roberts Commission, a panel appointed to investigate the attack, issued a report in 1942 blaming Kimmel and Short for U.S. forces being caught off-guard.

The two officers retired soon afterward.

At that time, when officers retired, they did so at their permanent ranks. Kimmel, an admiral, retired as a rear admiral, while Short, a lieutenant general, retired as a major general.

In 1946, Congress passed a law allowing the Army and Navy to retire officers at their wartime ranks. But when those branches submitted names to be so honored, Kimmel and Short were the only World War II officers left off the list.

Dr. Gott Peter Gott, M.D.

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: On a recent visit to her doctor, my wife watched people in the office spraying bug spray all over the place, including the lab, while tests were being done. The fumes made her, as well as other people, sick. We've decided to change doctors and now can't get her medical records released.

If there isn't a law against patients having their own records, what's the big deal? Are they falsifying information, or afraid we might see something they've written? I'm a pre-med student and wouldn't have to question phrases they might use.

DEAR READER: Many doctors will not release medical records to patients; this is both ethical and legal. Doctors will, however, release records to other physicians.

To be honest, there's a little trade-guild mentality here: Only doctors can understand doctors. (Once upon a time, this was probably true.) Medical records contained personal information for the doctor's own use; it was technical and difficult to understand out of context.

Today, physicians are much less reluctant to release medical records to

patients. There is, in general, more openness; doctors are more willing to share and explain. Still, it remains a doctor's right to refuse to release records to a patient.

Since your wife has changed (or is changing) doctors, I suggest you obtain her records through a new physician. This has an added advantage in that the new doctor can review, interpret and explain the records to you and your wife.

I can't comment on the bug spray episode, except to say that the timing of the office staff was abominable. Not only is an aerosol insecticide dangerous for humans to breathe, it may also have affected the tests being performed in the lab. I think you were probably prudent to make a change. Write the former doctor requesting he or she send your wife's records to the new doctor.

To give you further information, I am sending you a free copy of my Health Report "Choosing A Physician." Other readers who would like a copy should send \$1.25 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 91369, Cleveland, OH 44101-3369. Be sure to mention the title.

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PAT GRAY BODY WORKS
 700 N. OWENS BIG SPRING, TEXAS 283-0522

Pat Gray also has mobile glass service

Pat Gray Body Works has added a new division: Pat Gray Mobile Glass Service.

When a customer's car needs glass replacement (windshield, rear window or side windows) the company's van with trained installer and special equipment will go to his home or place of business and perform the job quickly and conveniently. The service is, of course, available in the company's shop as well.

The damaged glass may be the result of a collision, hail, rocks or vandalism. Quick replacement is an important consideration in the hot days of summer or during rainstorms or blustery winter weather.

"We can get the correct glass for your car the next morning," says Pat Gray. The Lubbock supplier makes deliveries daily.

It's important to know your supplier and your installer, warns Gray. In the newer cars, the glass plays a part in the structural integrity of the design. The glass must be installed to the manufacturers' specifications, with special strength adhesive.

"Improper installation could pose a safety problem," says Gray.

Gray says the firm can provide obsolete or hard-to-find glass quickly; for example, for a customer who is restoring a vintage car.



PAT GRAY BODY WORKS, located at 700 N. Benton in Big Spring, now offers a mobile glass replacement service.

Written warranties are provided for all collision repairs at Pay Gray Body Works (lifetime warranty on workmanship and five years on paint jobs), a real plus if you've ever experienced paint jobs that fade after a few months.

Computerized estimates, while you wait, are one of the shop's newest features. These estimates are so accurate your insurance company will act on them, moving your job forward quickly.

Pat Gray Body Works, located at 700 N. Benton in Big Spring, offers free wrecker service on major collision repair jobs in the

Teen idol doesn't want to act like one

NEW YORK (AP) — Luke Perry may be a teen idol now, thanks to his role on "Beverly Hills 90210," but that doesn't mean he acts like one.

Dealing with unauthorized biographies and screaming mobs of teen-age girls "makes you crazy

once in a while. But all of that is fantasy...I'm a simple guy," he says in the latest issue of People magazine.

Perry, 25, is determined to keep himself grounded by remembering his small-town roots and protecting his privacy.

Perry, who grew up in Fredericktown, Ohio, refuses to buy a fancy car or expensive clothes. He rents a two-bedroom house.

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