

# The Hereford Brand

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## Congress sends Farm Bill to President Clinton expected to sign measure phasing out subsidies

By JIM ABRAMS  
Associated Press Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) - Congress gave final approval today to a historic farm bill, which would end the ingrained link between farm prices and government subsidies that has prevailed since the Depression.

"Farmers will finally plant for the market and not for the government," said Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole as the Senate voted 74-26 for the bill Thursday.

The House passed it 318-89 early today in a post-midnight session. Speaker Newt Gingrich called it "the largest reform in the system in 60 years."

The bill went to the White House, and President Clinton has said he would sign it despite some reservations.

The massive legislation covers a broad range of nutrition, environmental, specific crop and rural development issues.

The bill ends federal subsidies based on prices, a legacy of the Depression, and instead offers guaranteed but gradually declining "market transition payments" over seven years.

It also terminates government controls over what farmers can plant or what fields must be left idle.

Rep. E. "Kika" de la Garza,

D-Texas, said the bill was not perfect, but it "addresses areas of concern to rural America and ... the poor. It addresses human needs."

But opponents tried to portray the legislation as a massive giveaway. Rep. Gene Taylor, D-Miss., complained it would "pay people seven years to do nothing." Added Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.: "This is the biggest welfare program we have got left."

The chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Dick Lugar, R-Ind., said, "The important thing about this bill is the unleashing of American agriculture to make more money. Net income for American

farmers will increase, generating dynamic economic renewal in rural America."

But opponents warned that the reforms could leave farmers unprotected during times of economic hardship and lead to excesses.

"Farmers will not even be required to plant a crop in order to get the government payment. I have a very hard time defending this as a wise expenditure of federal dollars," said Sen. Herbert Kohl, D-Wis.

Critics warned of an early windfall for farmers and increased government spending in the coming year as the guaranteed subsidies are calculated on the basis of recent high farm

prices.

Backers argued that the plan would save \$2 billion over the next seven years from projected farm spending of \$48.8 billion, and that with guaranteed payments farmers would be able to better budget for the future.

The compromise plan agreed on by House and Senate negotiators last week meets some administration demands by keeping the current food stamp program going for two years while Congress works to overhaul the welfare system.

It also sets aside \$200 million to protect the Everglades and retains the Conservation Reserve Program that pays landowners to keep environmen-

tally sensitive farmland out of production.

The bill creates a special rural development program sought by the administration and allows research programs to continue for two years.

The legislation also tackles the tough issue of dairy subsidies, ending a special tax on dairy producers while phasing out the government support price for butter, powdered milk and cheese over four years.

The Agriculture Department is to merge regional pricing arrangements known as Federal Milk Marketing orders over three years, dropping the number of regions from 33 to from 10 to 14.

## Combest pleased with seven-year legislation

By SHELLY SCHILLING  
Staff Writer  
This controversial Farm Bill actually had more support than the 1989 or 1990 Farm Bill, U.S. Rep. Larry Combest, R-Texas, told area newspaper editors this morning.

The much-debated measure passed the U.S. Senate 74-26 Thursday and passed the U.S. House by an overwhelming 318-89 shortly after midnight Eastern Time this morning.

The new farm legislation will end price-based subsidies and government planting controls that have been the basis of farm policy since 1949.

President Clinton is expected to sign the bill -- which will be in effect for seven years -- today.

"We feel very successful. We stuck to our guns and are pleased with the end result," Combest said. "Our farmers now know what to expect -- at least for the next seven years."

Combest said the flexibility of the new bill will open opportunities for expansion and diversity to the producer.

"The American farmer can compete with any other farmer in the world. We just cannot compete with other governments. We are trying to level the playing field and make sure we can play in the open market."

Farmers will not depend on the government to dictate what is to be

planted -- or not planted -- to receive their subsidy payments. A farmer will be guaranteed steadily declining payments over a seven-year period.

The entitlements will apply to any crop planted.

Combest said farmers are not tied to past operation practices. They may change and diversify. However, payments will be based on the past crop yields of the farm.

The bill gives producers more control to make the right decisions and not depend on Federal Government to dictate what steps to take in their operations, Combest said.

"It is very important to work closely with your FSA agency," he said.

What concerned many Deaf Smith County farmers was a change in the Conservation Reserve Program. But according to Combest, the program will continue.

"It will actually be more equitable to the farmer under the new bill," he said. "Payments will reflect the actual value of the land. It will have a fairer bid payment."

When asked if there is a safety net for farmers in times of adversity, Combest said there really is no current disaster program.

"The new bill does not require farmers to insure their crops with catastrophic coverage -- but they

waive the potential for any disaster payment if they decide not to insure. The requirement for insurance is a thing of the past."

This years crops, however, are under the old bill.

Another concern raised by the newspaper people is the tenant-landlord relationship.

"Again, farmers will have to check with their FSA office," Combest said. "There is nothing that locks the farmer-tenant relationship into a seven-year period. It is very technical and has to be reached by law. It will have to be contracted."

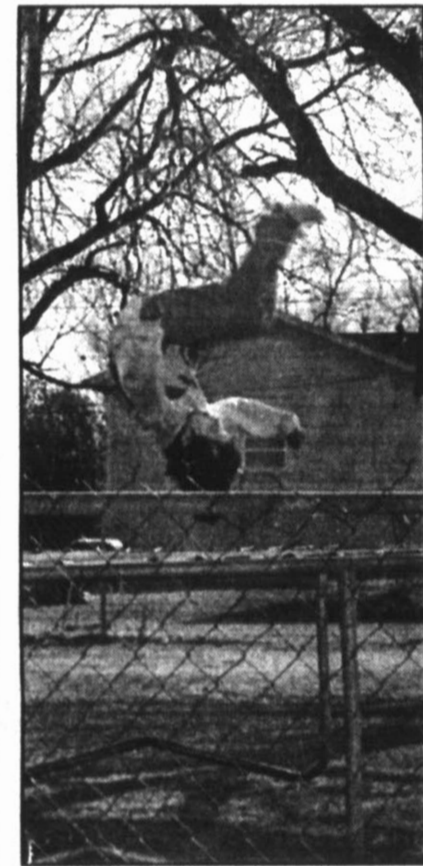
He pointed out that the new bill does not dictate tenant-landlord relationships.

"We wanted to leave as much flexibility as possible to the farmer," he said.

The sign-up period has been a big question in the minds of area producers who want to look at long-term planning.

Combest did not guarantee a sign-up date, but said after President Clinton signs the bill, it will be an administrative decision of the farm agencies.

"USDA tells us it will be in about two weeks, but we can't guarantee that," he said. "We will guarantee first payments on Sept. 30. We are just waiting on the final signature."



### Up ... over ... and ... down

Roxanna Florez, 10, practices her technique on the trampoline while taking advantage of the warm -- relatively windless -- afternoon Thursday. She was playing after school on a neighbor's trampoline at Grand and Avenue H.

## Spain reiterates prohibition on burning; notes high fire danger

By GARRY WESNER  
Managing Editor  
Even though parts of Texas have received enough rain to blunt immediate fire dangers, that is not the case in Deaf Smith County.

Fire Marshal Jay Spain reiterated this morning that a countywide no-burn policy is still in effect.

"We have a no-burn policy in effect and it will stay in effect until we have some moisture," Spain said. "Undoubtedly it's working because everyone around is running and we're not."

Spain said the department had a brief scare on Thursday, when a brush fire broke out in Eastern Curry County, N.M., but that light winds helped crews contain the blaze before it crossed into Deaf Smith County.

The fire marshal said county residents have been very cooperative about the no-burn policy, which was enacted on Feb. 26 by the Commissioners Court.

The policy declares a county disaster in accordance with the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 and declares that, until further action, it is illegal to burn trash in the county, except under certain circumstances.

Those are:

- Residential trash may be burned from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday and Sunday, provided the wind is less than 10 mph.
- Any open fires must be approved by the Fire Marshal prior to the burning.
- Any other burning may only be allowed with prior approval of the Fire Marshal.

Under the terms of the policy, violations will be investigated by Spain and the Sheriff's Department.

While a warning can be issued for policy violators, those individuals also could be given a citation that is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and up to six months in jail.

"People have been real good about coming and talking to me," Spain said. "They have really cooperated."

He said people who burn trash in an open pit also are taking much more caution when burning, including wetting down the area around the pit and watching it during the burn period.

"Everyone is taking it seriously and the Fire Department appreciates them taking it seriously," he said. "We're sitting on a time bomb."

Spain said, despite the precautions being taken and the no-burn policy, the county is still at high danger for fire.

"All it's going to take is just a spark to ignite it and it's gone," he said, especially on a day like Friday, when winds are expected to be strong and gusty.

## Rains bring fire danger down in parts of state

By The Associated Press  
For the first time all year, enough rain has fallen across Texas that all of the state isn't considered a high fire risk.

The Texas Forest Service said Thursday that after several days of scattered rains, the eastern two-thirds of the state finally has been drenched enough to lose its highly flammable status.

Most of the state is now classified as a moderate or low fire hazard. Areas around Tarrant and Dallas counties received the heaviest rain.

Since the year began, 4,080 fires have scorched 457,059 acres in Texas. The numbers are the largest in at least 30 years, according to records kept by the Division of Emergency Management.

"Any kind of moisture is welcome," Childress fire chief Steve Jones told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. This week, his department helped battle two fires totaling 67,000 acres in Childress, Ford and Cottle counties.

"I wouldn't care if it came in a hailstorm, as long as it melted into water," he said.

Dry conditions persist in some areas, particularly from Childress west, said Jo Schweikhard Moss, a spokeswoman for the Division of Emergency Management in Austin.

Fire crews battled 29 fires during the weekend, but rains Wednesday allowed officials to contain two peaky fires yesterday in rural Stephens County and a third in Hardeman County near Goodlet.

A lightning storm Saturday night ignited five fires in Hardeman County, testament to the dry conditions, Jones said.

The precipitation prompted Jack County officials to suspend a burning ban until Monday so residents could burn accumulated trash. Burning bans continue elsewhere, including Tarrant and Parker counties.

"I just sat and watched it rain for a long time. It was a major relief," Parker County fire marshal Jeff Edwards said. He cautioned that conditions are "a lot better than it was, but it's still not safe."

## Clinton to sign line-item veto

WASHINGTON (AP) - A bill allowing first-time authority for the chief executive to cut specific budget items is heading to the White House, where President Clinton has promised to sign it.

Congress gave final approval to the line-item veto Thursday, but it won't take effect until Jan. 1 because Clinton and his presidential opponent, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, decided the law should not become a campaign issue.

Fulfilling a GOP "Contract With America" promise, the House passed the legislation Thursday - a day after the Senate acted.

House Democrats later complained about the parliamentary tactics used by majority Republicans in sending the bill to the White House.

House approval came on an unusual procedural vote, 232-177, which also approved the rules of debate for a package of legislation,

including a bill raising the federal debt ceiling.

The vote had the effect of severing the line-item veto measure from the package and sending it to Clinton.

Some Democratic members who supported the line-item veto - but voted "no" on the rules question - complained afterward about the convoluted procedure. They said they did not realize the vote amounted to final passage of the line-item veto.

"Today's rule vote was not an up or down vote on line-item veto. In fact, there was no up or down vote on line-item veto in the House today," said Rep. Joseph Moakley of Massachusetts, the senior Democrat on the Rules Committee.

Since the nation's founding, the president has been forced to approve or reject legislation in its entirety.

"The Republican Congress has done something that no previous Congress has been able to accomplish

since the first line-item veto proposal was introduced in the 1870s," said House Government Reform and Oversight Committee Chairman William Clinger, R-Pa., who helped forge the House-Senate compromise plan.

Opponents characterized it as a dangerous ceding to the executive branch of Congress' power of the purse. "This is fundamentally unwise and it manifests a fundamental disrespect of our own duties," Rep. David Skaggs, D-Colo., said.

The bill also allows the president to cancel tax benefits targeted to groups of 100 or fewer beneficiaries and eliminate spending for new entitlement programs that Congress might establish or additions to the food stamp program.

## Nine indicted by grand jury

Indictments were returned against nine persons during a session Thursday of the Deaf Smith County Grand Jury. Names of three alleged offenders were withheld pending their arrest.

Charges include felony driving while intoxicated, burglary, possession of marijuana, sexual assault of a child and tampering with a government record.

An indictment alleging two counts of sexual assault of a child was handed down against Michael Edward Wells, 30, of Hereford. He is free after posting bond of \$10,000.

Felipe Jesus Acosta, 28, of 701 Avenue G, was indicted for felony driving while intoxicated. He has

posted bond of \$5,000.

A bond of \$5,000 also has been posted by Gregory Vaughn, 26, of Benton, Ark., who was indicted for burglary of a habitation.

Jorge Benegas, 32, also known as George Benegas, is in jail in lieu of bond. He was indicted for possession of marijuana, over four oz., but less than five lbs.

A Lubbock man, Robert Allen Clark, 21, was indicted for sexual assault of a child. He is being held in jail in Plainview.

Indicted for tampering with a government record, Ronnie Richardson, 47, of Canyon, is free after posting \$5,000 bond.

## Probated sentences issued by court here

Probated sentences were given defendants who entered guilty pleas in 222nd District Court Thursday.

Terms of probation were modified for another defendant.

Refugio Pena Gamez, 69, was assessed two five-year probated sentences after pleading guilty to charges of felony driving while intoxicated and bribery.

To a charge of burglary of a habitation, Victor Martinez, 24, entered a guilty plea and was given a 10-year probated sentence.

On the state's motion to revoke probation, terms of probation of Sylvester Yzaguirre Jr., were modified. He is on probation on a conviction for felony driving while intoxicated. He was placed on intensive supervision for six months.

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# Lifestyles

Ann Landers

## Reader urges women to perform self-exam, see doctor for testing

**DEAR ANN LANDERS:** I am a 32-year-old female and thought I was in excellent health. Last April, I felt a small lump in my breast while doing a self-exam. I wasn't too concerned since my doctor had just seen me and said I was fine.

The lump didn't go away, so I made another appointment for a breast exam. The doctor said there was nothing to be concerned about but offered to do a mammogram, even though they are not usually recommended for women under 40 who have no history of breast cancer.

The mammogram showed a small mass, so I went back for more tests. I was told I had a benign fibrocystic lump and not to worry, although the radiologist did suggest I see a surgeon about having the lump biopsied.

The surgeon reviewed my records in August and said the lump looked benign, but I scheduled a biopsy for the next day anyway. The results confirmed my worst fears -- the lump was malignant. The surgeon said a mastectomy was my only option.

I insisted on another opinion and went to the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. There, I was informed by an excellent oncologist that I was a good candidate for a lumpectomy -- and that the cure rate was the same whether I had a lumpectomy or mastectomy.

The lumpectomy was done in September, and fortunately, the cancer was confined to the lump. Please tell your readers to do a monthly breast self-exam and, if they find a lump that doesn't go away, to see a doctor. The good news is that eight out of 10 lumps are benign, but you can't be sure without a biopsy.

Thanks to family, friends and wonderful doctors, I'm doing great. - Lucky Me in Louisiana

**DEAR LUCKY:** Hundreds of women who read your letter today will make appointments for breast examinations. Several dozens of these examinations will reveal a tumor. Some of those tumors will be malignant. Unfortunately for some, the tumor will have spread. For many others, however, a lumpectomy will save the breast and the woman's life.

I urge every woman who finds a lump to get it checked out as soon as possible. Do not delay. Nothing on

your calendar is as important as this. It's no exaggeration to say it can be the difference between life and death.

**DEAR ANN LANDERS:** Tell your readers not to feel responsible if they arrange a blind date and it doesn't work out. All single people want is the chance to meet a member of the opposite sex.

Many married friends have refused to introduce me to a guy I wanted to meet and used the excuse, "We didn't think he was your type." Well, maybe he isn't, but I might have an evening of fun and make a good friend. Or I might have a cousin who IS his type. Let me decide.

Singles need to get out and circulate. We don't mind if the guy isn't the man of our dreams. It's depressing to stay home night after night looking at TV. If you don't want to hang around bars, which I

don't, it's hard to meet people. Please get the word out. Let's hear it for networking. -- One of Many in New Jersey

**DEAR ONE:** Here's your letter I hope it starts some phones ringing. Let me know if it does. Ever the optimist, I'm betting it will.

**Gem of the Day:** There will be prayer in schools as long as there are tests.

What can you give the person who has everything? Ann Landers' booklet, "Gems," is ideal for a nightstand or coffee table. "Gems" is a collection of Ann Landers' most requested poems and essays. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Gems, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562.



### Consumer decision senior team members

The Deaf Smith County 4-H senior consumer decision team placed first in the recent Panhandle District 4-H Consumer Decision Making Contest. They are, from left, Jodi Wilburn, Jantzen Louder, Amanda Sims and Karis Blain. The team will represent District I at the State Roundup on the Texas A&M campus in early June.



### Consumer decision participants

The Deaf Smith County 4-H junior consumer decision team placed first in the recent Panhandle District 4-H Consumer Decision Making Contest. Kylee Auckerman, back row center, participated in the Intermediate Division as an individual. Junior team members are, front row from left, Seth Hoelscher and Dawn Auckerman; back row left, Mindy Lange and back row right, Mandy Lange.

## 4-Hers win in District

The senior team representing Deaf Smith County won the Panhandle District 4-H Consumer Decision Making Contest March 23 at the Texas A&M Extension and Research Center.

The winning team members were Karis Blain, Jantzen Louder, Amanda Sims and Jodi Wilburn. Blain was awarded second high point individual of the contest.

The junior team representing Deaf Smith County also won the junior division of the contest. Dawn Auckerman, Seth Hoelscher, Mandy Lange and Mindy Lange comprised the winning team with Auckerman receiving second high point individual of the junior division.

Kylee Auckerman participated in the Intermediate Division as an individual.

Eighty-five youth from 21 Texas Panhandle counties competed, selecting the best consumer choice for a situation and set of four products.

The contest consisted of eight situation statements and products for the youth to rank in each situation. Individuals then gave an oral presentation (known as reasons) to a panel of judges indicating in concise terminology why they had placed the class of products as they had.

The senior team will continue to perfect their skills in the consumer decision project and will represent District I at the State Roundup on the Texas A&M campus in early June.

## Weaver presents 'Lincoln' to Veleda Club

Joe Weaver, dressed as Abraham Lincoln in a long black coat and stove pipe hat, presented the program for the Veleda Study Club's meeting March 25 in the home of Juanita Brown.

Weaver related stories about "Abe" who was known to be witty and

renowned as a storyteller.

Club president, Margaret Zinser called the meeting to order and led the members in the Club Collect.

Roll call was answered with "A Saying of Abe Lincoln."

The club voted to send a contribution to Hereford Beautification

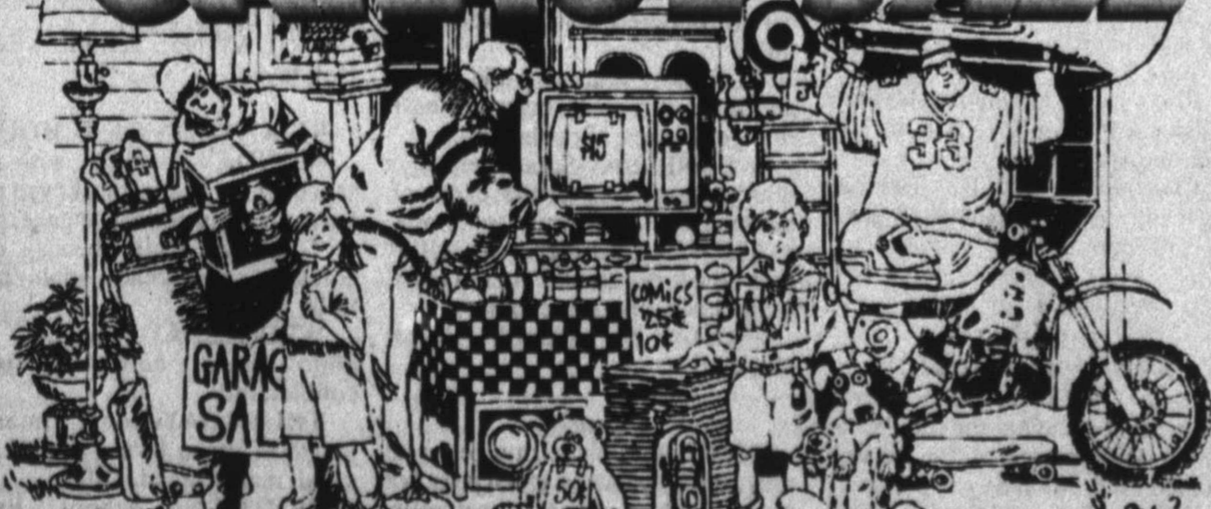
Alliance.

Guests were Weaver and his wife, Linda.

Members present were Frances Crume, Bettie Dickson, Mary Dziuk, Betty Gilbert, Della Hutto, Joyce Ritter, Clovis Seago, Norma Walden, Brown and Zinser.

## HEREFORD SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

# GARAGE SALE



March 29th 8:00 am to 5:00 pm &  
March 30th 8:00 am to 12:00 pm  
1306 East Park Ave.

Happy Sweet  
**16!**  
Love Mom, Dad, Kathleen & Richard

**The Little Blessings Day Care**  
First Presbyterian Church  
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## Easter Egg Hunt!

Monday, April 1st • 12:00 to 2:30 pm

We invite any child who will need day care services for that day to join us!

For More Information call...  
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Paprika comes from the capsicum pepper plant.

Join Us  
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Our Physicians  
On  
**DOCTOR'S DAY**  
March 30, 1996

On March 30, 1842, Georgia physician Dr. Crawford Long first used ether as an anesthetic agent, ushering in the age of modern medicine. Hereford Regional Medical Center is happy to honor our physicians on this special date.

<b>Family Practice:</b> Howard R. Johnson, M.D. Palani S. Mani, M.D. Duffy E. McBrayer, M.D. Gerald G. Payne, M.D. Kent Walker, M.D. Bruce Clarke, M.D.	<b>Internal Medicine:</b> Jesse I. Perales, M.D. R. Stephen Lawlis, M.D.	<b>Ophthalmology:</b> Dik Cheung, M.D.
<b>Radiology:</b> R.H. Cox, Jr., M.D.	<b>General Surgery:</b> Robert E. Clark, III, M.D. Nadir T. Khuri, M.D.	<b>Allied Health Professionals:</b> Carolyn Kubarak, CRNA
<b>Pediatrics:</b> Ranga S. Mani, M.D.	<b>Cardiology:</b> Joaquin Martinez-Arraras, M.D.	<b>Pulmonology:</b> Sergio E. Muniz, M.D. Jesus N. Sahad, M.D.
		<b>Pathology:</b> Mary Townsend, M.D. Ted Nugent, M.D.

**Hereford Regional Medical Center**  
"Neighbors Caring for Neighbors!"



# Sports

## Nobody notices unknowns Syracuse, Mississippi State

**By PAUL NEWBERRY**  
AP Sports Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) - They are the forgotten teams, playing the overlooked game. With top-ranked Massachusetts and No. 2 Kentucky attracting most of the attention at the Final Four, the other two teams slipped into the city under the cloak of obscurity. There's Syracuse, the fourth-best team in the Big East, and Mississippi State, which was eclipsed by Kentucky's large shadow in the Southeastern Conference. "It seems to me if you look back over each year, there's kind of a surprise team that sneaks in there most of the time," Syracuse coach Jim Boheim said. "And this year we kind of snuck in." So did Mississippi State, which was seeded fifth in the Southeast Regional but knocked off top-seeded Connecticut and No. 2 seed Cincinnati to earn its first Final Four berth. The Bulldogs (26-7) and Syracuse (28-8) will play the first semifinal Saturday, which is viewed as a preliminary bout to UMass vs. Kentucky in the main event. The championship game Monday is viewed almost as an afterthought. Sounds a lot like the 1983 Final Four, doesn't it? That year in Albuquerque, N.M., everyone thought Houston's 94-81

victory over Louisville in the semifinals was the "real" national championship - until North Carolina State, after beating Georgia in the semis, upset the powerful Phi Slamma Jamma Cougars in a memorable final, 54-52. Mississippi State showed it could play with the big boys in the championship game of the SEC tournament, shocking Kentucky 84-73. "I don't think you can say Mississippi State snuck in, because of the way they played against Kentucky and Georgia in the Southeastern Conference tournament," Boheim said. It was hard for the Bulldogs to get noticed, however, while Kentucky was becoming the first team in 40 years to go undefeated in league play during the regular season. "I think all of the coaches in our conference knew all along we are in a very strong league," State coach Richard Williams said. "And it's very difficult for the other schools in our conference to be compared to Kentucky, because Kentucky is so good." Syracuse dealt with the same syndrome in the Big East, where Connecticut, Georgetown and Villanova dominated the headlines. But look who made it to the Final Four.

"I feel bad because I've been in the place that Connecticut and Villanova are in," Boheim said. "But I'm glad for the league that we got back because, unfortunately, that's a big indication or evaluating point of how well your league is doing." How well the Bulldogs do against Syracuse depends on how they handle the zone defense. "I was looking back on our schedule and I can't think of anybody in our league that uses zone defense as their primary defense," Williams said. "To face a team that uses the zone as their base defense will be a little bit different for us, and we'll just have to spend some time working against it." The key player is senior guard Darryl Wilson, the hero of the Bulldogs' regional semifinal victory over top-seeded Connecticut when he made seven 3-pointers and finished with 27 points. It was his outside shooting that opened things up all season for center Erick Dampier. "Darryl Wilson has been steady in his play throughout his career. He's just a great, great outside shooter," Williams said. "He has improved as a defensive player, and that's been the thing he has improved the most this season."

## Haney can't talk about move to Amarillo High

Danny Haney might become an assistant coach at Amarillo High, but he doesn't want to talk about it until it's official - although everyone else seems to be talking about it. "I still can't talk about this officially," said Haney, who resigned as Hereford's head football coach March 8. "I've been offered the job - pending board approval," he said, confirming that the job is as an assistant football coach at AHS and that the board of trustees of the Amarillo Independent School District was to meet next week. Larry Dippel, the head football coach at AHS, was head coach in Hereford from 1971-74. Haney came to Hereford as an assistant in 1975. He was head coach from 1991 until last season, compiling a record of 27-23-1. When Haney announced his resignation, he said he had definite opportunities, but couldn't talk about what they were. He still feels he can't talk about it, he said, even though at least one Amarillo television station has reported that he's going to Amarillo High. In today's editions of the Amarillo Daily News, it was reported that Dippel said that Haney would replace defensive ends assistant Jim Nash, who is retiring. Craig Yenser was hired this week as Haney's replacement as head coach of the Herd. Yenser was an assistant in Hereford for 10 years; the last five years, he served as a coordinator under Haney: offensive for four years and defensive last year.

## Hereford claims 4 hoop all-stars

Hereford will be represented by four basketball players in the Texas Golden Spread High School All Star Games, to be played April 5-6 in Amarillo. Brittney Binder and Mindi Davis will play on the West girls' team, Michael High will play on the West boys' team and Brian Torres will join the North boys' team. The tournament consists of four teams of boys and four teams of girls. The players are all seniors from the Texas Panhandle and from counties in eastern New Mexico that border the Panhandle. Hereford's Benton Buckley participated last year. All the games will be played at Cal Farley Coliseum in Amarillo. There will also be three-point shooting and slam dunk competitions held. Any senior boy or girl, regardless of whether they are selected to the all-star teams, is eligible for these competitions. Contact Brent Sherrod at 352-7348 to sign up.

## Camby, Keady earn honors from AP

NEW YORK (AP) - Marcus Camby, the junior center who led Massachusetts to its first Final Four appearance, and Gene Keady, who guided Purdue to its third straight Big Ten title, today were named college basketball player and coach of the year by The Associated Press. The 6-foot-11 Camby, who was one vote shy of being a unanimous All-America selection, was presented the Adolph Rupp Trophy, an award sponsored by the Commonwealth Athletic Club of Kentucky in the name of college basketball's winningest coach. Camby averaged 20.3 points, 8.2 rebounds and 3.8 blocks this season for the Minutemen, who held the No. 1 ranking for 10 weeks, including the final poll of the regular season. They play No. 2 Kentucky on Saturday in the Final Four. He missed four games this season after mysteriously collapsing before the St. Bonaventure game on Jan. 14.

## Physical 'Huskers edge St. Joseph's for NIT title

**By JIM O'CONNELL**  
AP Basketball Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) - The Nebraska football team should be proud - especially the defense. "We played physical with them," Cornhusker guard Erick Strickland said. "We didn't let them come off picks without getting a body." The bumping and tight defense helped power the Nebraska basketball team to the National Invitation Tournament championship Thursday night, defeating St. Joseph's 60-56 at Madison Square Garden. Where the Huskers' football team has won the last two championships, this was the basketball team's first national title in the 100 years the school has been playing the sport. "I really thought about that when the game ended," said Strickland, who was named NIT MVP after finishing with 13 points and six rebounds. "We won a national title." "We know it's not nearly what the football team has done, but we are proud of it and I tell you what. I know the football players are proud of us." At least the defense. Nebraska (21-14) was physical. The bumping and tenacity forced the Hawks (19-13) into 32 percent shooting, including a combined 2-for-19 from the starting backcourt. That style was just what worried St. Joseph's coach Phil Martelli. "We were fearful of them manhandling us," he said. "They are big, strong and tough and well-coached on defense. We felt they would have the advantage there." It wasn't just the guards, either. Junior center Mikki Moore came up big on both ends of the court in the final 5-1/2 minutes. The 6-foot-11 Moore gave the Cornhuskers a 55-49 lead when he dunked and was fouled. He missed the free throw for the three-point play, but he grabbed the rebound, was fouled and made two free throws with 5:27 left. Nebraska wouldn't score again until there were 40 seconds left, but Moore was there on the defensive end, blocking shots by Reggie Townsend and Rashid Bey that could

have cut the margin to two points. "Moore has been unbelievable the last three weeks," Nebraska coach Danny Nee said. "We have to get some weight on him, but we think he will be a big player for us." The Cornhuskers led 41-28 with 16:36 to play, but the Hawks, playing in front of 30 busloads of students who made the 100-mile trip from Philadelphia, tied the game at 47. St. Joseph's, which has never won a national title in basketball, used a 14-2 run to draw even, with reserve Terrell Myers scoring half the points. The run included an intentional foul against Nebraska's Tyrone Lue that turned into a five-point play. "The run took a lot out of us, but we just didn't finish the game," said Townsend, who led the Hawks with 18 points. "We just didn't make the big shot we had to." Strickland made four straight free throws in the final minute and Moore added another with 15 seconds left to seal the win. Moore, Jaron Boone and Lue each added 11 points for the Cornhuskers, the first team from the Big Eight to win the NIT since Colorado in 1940. This is the last season for the Big Eight as it will merge with four schools from the Southwest Conference next season to form the Big 12. The last Big Eight season ended disastrously for the Cornhuskers, who closed the regular season by losing 10 of 11 games. The NIT run salvaged some pride and already started positive talk for next season. "This is big," Nee said. "It's something never done before in 100 years. Believe me, it's a significant step." "This was a year with three different seasons," he said, referring to the 15-4 start, the horrible close, followed by the NIT run. "I have to give these kids credit for hanging in. This couldn't be better." Especially because it came in New York, Nee's hometown. "Wait until you see the party I'm going to throw," he said. Tulane, which lost to Nebraska in the semifinals, beat Alabama 87-76 Thursday night for third place.

## Rizzotti is top women's player

**By CHUCK SCHOFFNER**  
AP Sports Writer  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - Jennifer Rizzotti and Angie Lee are similar in many ways. They're intense, they're bright, they're outgoing and they're winners. They shared more common ground Thursday when they were honored as the best in the nation in women's college basketball this season by The Associated Press. Rizzotti, whose hustle, drive and fire has kept Connecticut in the running for a second straight national championship, was named the player of the year in voting by AP newspaper members nationwide. Lee, who engineered a dramatic turnaround at Iowa in her first season, was voted coach of the year. As both received their awards, two

major forces in their lives looked on and smiled - coach Geno Auriemma of Connecticut and former Iowa coach Vivian Stringer, whose departure to Rutgers last summer left the opening that Lee filled. Of Rizzotti, Auriemma said, "She has the greatest impact on the game of any player in college basketball." A 5-foot-5 senior, Rizzotti averages a modest 10.8 points a game. But her value to the Huskies is measured more by results than numbers. Connecticut is 34-3 with 20 straight victories and plays Tennessee in the Final Four semifinals tonight. Rizzotti also averages 5.8 assists and three steals a game, and she has three times as many steals and assists as turnovers while handling the ball constantly in Connecticut's triangle offense.

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### 4-H trap shooting honorees

The Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Program honored 18 members of the Deaf Smith County 4-H Shooting Sports Trap Shooting team as all-district, six of which were also designated as all-state shooters. Those honored are: (front row, left to right) Daniel Carnahan, Craig Campbell, Harrison Hoffman, Tyler Keeling, Ben Sublett, Drew Denison, Eddie Trotter, (back) Andrew Carnahan, Jerry Baird, Christopher Diller, Cory Marsh, Bobby Sims, Cody Marsh, Bryan Vasek and Joshua Stubbs. Not pictured are Martin Carnahan, Zachary Vasek and Stephen Sims. The ones who were named all-state are Martin Carnahan, Cory Marsh, Baird, Denison, Diller and Trotter. The team is coached by Albert Sciumbato and Pat Betzen.

## Grizzlies tie losing streak mark

**By The Associated Press**  
Now that the Vancouver Grizzlies have tied the NBA record for consecutive losses in one season, why waste any time before breaking it? The expansion Grizzlies (11-57) dropped their 20th straight game Thursday night, falling 92-88 at home to Denver. Tonight, they get to grab for solo possession of the top spot in league futility at Utah.

"I think every time you lose it's going to hurt," said center Bryant Reeves, Vancouver's No. 1 draft choice. "After a loss like this, it's emotionally draining for us, but we have to bounce back with another game tomorrow."

The record of 20 losses in a row was shared by the Philadelphia 76ers (1973) and the Dallas Mavericks (1993). The NBA record for consecutive losses over two seasons is 24 by the Cleveland Cavaliers in 1982.

Vancouver also had a 19-game losing streak this season.

"These are the dog days right now," guard Greg Anthony said. "You have to be man enough to accept them and deal with them, and understand it's not going to be like this forever."

Actually, the Grizzlies have kept things close even while continuing to fall short. During a recent six-game road trip, the Grizzlies lost by five-point margins four times.

"We have shown improvement," Anthony insisted. "No one wants to look at moral victories, but this is a much better basketball team than it was a couple months ago."

Denver remained in the playoff hunt in the Western Conference and needed a victory almost as much as the desperate Grizzlies, who have not won since Feb. 14 against Sacramento.

With the score tied at 86, Jalen Rose hit a short jumper, followed by four foul shots by Dale Ellis. Rookie Antonio McDyess led the Nuggets with 18 points. Rose added 17.

"This was a big win for us," Rose said. "Some people might say Vancouver has lost 20 in a row, but it was big for us."

In other games, it was Chicago 111, Atlanta 80; Portland 94, Golden State 89, clinching a West playoff berth for the Los Angeles Lakers; and Cleveland 83, the Los Angeles Clippers 81.

**Bulls 111, Hawks 80**  
A healthy Scottie Pippen got back into All-Star form. Pippen, averaging 13.3 points on 35 percent shooting during an injury-filled five-week span, had 16 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists as the Bulls rebounded from Sunday's loss to the expansion Toronto Raptors.

Chicago improved to 61-8 overall and 35-0 at home despite the absence of injured center Luc Longley and suspended forward Dennis Rodman.

Toni Kukoc scored 24 points for the Bulls, who needed only 13 points from Michael Jordan - 18 below his average - to extend their NBA-record home winning streak to 42 regular-season games.

"It was nice to have Scottie Pippen playing like Scottie Pippen again," Jordan said. "With him playing his game ... it makes us that much more potent."

**Trail Blazers 94, Warriors 89**  
Arvydas Sabonis had 26 points and 14 rebounds as host Portland held on. The Warriors erased a 17-point Portland lead in the fourth quarter and tied the game 87-87 with 2:10 to go.

## Orioles will use Bonilla only at designated hitter

**By The Associated Press**  
The last week of spring training has brought some surprises for both Bobby Bonilla and Kirby Puckett. Bonilla learned Thursday that he won't be playing third base or right field for the Baltimore Orioles on opening day. Instead, manager Davey Johnson has decided to start him at designated hitter.

"Bobby is very valuable to us," manager Davey Johnson said. "He'll be our cleanup hitter all year long."

"He's a good outfielder and a good third baseman, but we'd like to give some of our younger players an opportunity to play the outfield on an everyday basis," Johnson said. "Bobby will eventually play the field, but early on we want him to play DH."

Newly acquired Tony Tarasco will start in right field Monday against Kansas City. B.J. Surhoff will be at third base.

"It's a little disappointing, but I'll do what it takes," Bonilla said. "I don't want to rock the boat."

Bonilla hit a two-run homer and an RBI single as the DH in the Orioles' 12-5 loss Thursday to Atlanta.

Puckett, meanwhile, was in Baltimore getting his vision checked at the Johns Hopkins eye clinic.

The Minnesota outfielder has been having trouble seeing in his right eye. Len Michienzi said it was too early to tell whether the problem was serious, but doubted it was related to Puckett's beaming by Cleveland's Dennis Martinez last Sept. 28.

Puckett's status for Minnesota's opener Monday against Detroit was uncertain.

"I never had any problems with

my eye before," Puckett said. "Everything was going great this spring. But right now I'm not worried about opening day. My health is the most important thing."

"The doctor said this could clear up in a day, a week or more. We don't know. If I can't see, I can't play. ... It's kind of a waiting game now."

**White Sox 4, Rangers 3**  
At Nashville, Tenn., Kirk McCaskill allowed one unearned run in two innings for his first win in the exhibition season. The Chicago starter had not pitched since March 20.

**Pirates 10, Yankees 6**  
At Bradenton, Fla., Orlando Merced and Mark Johnson each hit two home runs and Pittsburgh roughed up Dwight Gooden.

Johnson was 5-for-5 while driving in two runs, and Merced 4-for-5 with four RBIs. Gooden, coming off his 1-1/2-year drug suspension, gave up eight runs and 14 hits in five innings, and finished the spring 0-3 with an 8.88 ERA.

Denny Neagle gave up four runs in the first, but held New York scoreless in the next four innings. He was 5-1 with a 4.50 ERA in six spring starts.

**Athletics 4, Giants 2**  
At San Francisco, Carlos Valdez forced in two runs with bases-loaded walks in the sixth. Just 7,574 turned out on a cold, blustery night at Candlestick Park.

Dave Telgheder allowed six hits in six scoreless innings as the A's won their sixth straight over the Giants this spring.

But Rod Strickland scored with 1:53 left. After Andrew DeClercq missed two free throws, Harvey Grant's 20-foot basket made it 91-87 with 24.9 seconds remaining.

Kevin Willis made a tip-in five seconds later, but Strickland's free throw gave Portland a three-point lead with 17.3 seconds remaining. Binbo Coles and Latrell Sprewell missed 3-point attempts before the Blazers rebounded and Dontonio Wingfield scored at the buzzer.

**Cavaliers 83, Clippers 81**  
Terrell Brandon made a 16-foot jumper from the baseline with 2.3 seconds remaining. The Clippers had tied the game on a 3-point shot by Brent Barry with 11.1 seconds left.

Barry made a three-point play less than seven seconds earlier to trim Cleveland's lead to 79-78. Chris Mills gave the Cavaliers a three-point lead with two free throws before Barry's 3-pointer.

After Brandon's game-winning shot, all the Clippers could manage was a desperation shot by Barry from the backcourt that didn't come close.

The 81 points were a season low for the Clippers.

## Grand jury offers 'use immunity' in Irvin case

**By JAY JORDEN**  
**Associated Press Writer**  
DALLAS (AP) - A grand jury now has offered "use immunity" to all three of the people who were with Dallas Cowboys star Michael Irvin in a motel room where cocaine, marijuana and drug paraphernalia were found.

KXAS-TV of Fort Worth reported Thursday night that prosecutors promised Angela Beck, a 22-year-old topless dancer who is the only person charged in the case so far, that any testimony she gives won't be used against her.

Jasmine Nabwangu, 21, another topless dancer, and Alredo Roberts, a business partner and former teammate of Irvin's, were offered the same immunity last week, reportedly after citing 5th Amendment protection against self-incrimination.

Any of the three could now be held in contempt of court if they refuse to testify about events in an Irving motel room in the early morning hours of March 4.

Other evidence could be used against them, however, should they be charged and brought to trial.

The grand jury's three-month term was to expire on Sunday, which meant that since this panel has been meeting only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, yesterday would normally have been its final day. However, the grand jury requested and received a 30-day extension from State District Judge John Creuzot.

The grand jury was scheduled to reconvene its closed proceedings at 1:30 p.m. today.

The extension brought a protest from attorneys for both Irvin, 30, and Roberts, 31.

"This is selective prosecution," Irvin's attorney, Kevin Clancy, told the judge during a morning court appearance. "The Irving Police Department has not requested the grand jury to investigate any further."

"This has never been done that I know of. This is a misuse of the grand jury. ... I do feel my client is being selectively prosecuted because of who he is and his stature as a professional football player."

Creuzot called the grand jurors into his courtroom and asked them individually if they wanted their term extended. He granted the request after all replied that they did.

"All I know is they wanted 30 days and I gave them 30 days," said Creuzot, who has issued a gag order to all involved with the case. "I don't

know anything else."

After the morning session with the judge, grand jurors returned to their hearings and worked until shortly after 1 p.m.

Although all four people who were in the motel room at the time of the raid were in the courthouse, it was unclear whether any of them were again called before the grand jury.

Creuzot conducted a second hearing - this one closed to the public and reporters - Thursday afternoon. Irvin left the courtroom about 4:30 p.m.

Irving police said they found about 3 ounces of marijuana, 2 ounces of cocaine and drug paraphernalia in the motel room, where they went in response to a motel manager's complaint about a noisy party involving possible prostitution and drug use.

The drugs were in the immediate proximity of Ms. Beck, who claimed they belonged to her, officers said.

But KXAS-TV, quoting sources close to the investigation, reported Thursday night that Irvin's fingerprints were found on various items in the room, including all three dinner plates on which cocaine residue was found.

The station had reported last week that Irvin's fingerprints also were found on a glass container with cocaine residue that was found in Irvin's overnight bag.

Clancy visited Ms. Beck in jail about 4 a.m. shortly after her arrest and helped arrange her release on \$5,500 bond, jail records show.

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# One change from previous years made on IRS return

## Standard deduction may be simpler than figuring allowances on tax return

By DAVE SKIDMORE  
Associated Press Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) - Republicans in Congress spent a lot of time last year considering new and improved deductions, but only one proposal survived their budget stalemate with President Clinton.

That was an increase in the deduction for health insurance for the self-employed. On 1995 returns, the self-employed can deduct 30 percent of the cost of their health insurance, up from 25 percent the previous year.

They take the deduction, up to an amount equal to their net profits and other earned income, on line 26 of Form 1040.

The deduction had lapsed during 1994 but was restored retroactively. If you didn't claim it and were eligible, file an amended return using Form 1040X.

The rules for other deductions are generally the same as the previous year. Before itemizing them on Schedule A, figure out if it's better for you to take the standard deduction.

You probably should itemize if your itemized deductions total more than your standard deduction. But if itemized deductions are only slightly higher, you may want to stick with the standard deduction because in an audit the Internal Revenue Service could question each of your itemized deductions.

For married couples filing a joint return and qualifying widows and widowers, the standard deduction is \$6,550 this year. For single people, it's \$3,900; heads of household, \$5,750, and married people filing separate returns, \$3,275.

If either you or your spouse were age 65 or older on Jan. 1 or were blind at the end of 1995, check your instruction booklet, or see Publication

501. You're eligible for a bigger standard deduction.

Some deductions may be limited if your income was more than \$114,700 (\$57,350 married filing separately).

A few deductions, such as health insurance for the self-employed, moving expenses, Individual Retirement Account contributions and alimony paid are taken on the front of Form 1040. You get them whether or not you itemize. Most of the rest, you list on Schedule A. Here's an overview:

**- MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXPENSES:** You can deduct out-of-pocket medical and dental expenses and health insurance premiums for yourself, your spouse and your dependents. But you can deduct only the amount that exceeds 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income (line 32 of Form 1040). The threshold is high enough, generally, to exclude all except severely ill taxpayers.

You can't deduct health insurance premiums if they've already been shielded from tax through an employer-sponsored cafeteria plan. Premium payments listed in box 1 of your Form W-2 weren't shielded and can be deducted.

Deductible expenses include

hospital, doctor and dental fees; prescription drugs including insulin and birth control pills, and certain home renovations such as the addition of a wheelchair ramp or removal of lead-based paint. If you're self-employed, you can count the 70 percent of health insurance premiums that you weren't able to deduct on line 26 of Form 1040.

Non-deductible expenses include the cost of health club membership, smoking cessation and weight loss programs, non-prescription medicine and surgery for purely cosmetic purposes.

Publication 502 has the details.  
**- TAXES:** State income taxes and local real estate taxes are deductible. Annual personal property taxes, such as those charged on cars and boats, also are deductible if based on the value of the vehicle but not deductible if based on weight. Enter them on line 7 on Schedule A. Sales taxes on personal (as opposed to business) purchases aren't deductible, neither are trash pickup fees, water and sewer bills and fees and fines.

**- INTEREST:** You generally can deduct all of your home mortgage interest if the loan totaled \$1 million or less and was used to buy, build or improve your home. You also may be able to deduct interest on home equity

loans, for other purposes, of up to \$100,000. If any of your loans were taken out on or before Oct. 13, 1987, you might be able to deduct more.

Most lenders will send you a Form 1098 detailing how much you paid in 1995. See Publication 936 for more information.

You can deduct "points" - advance interest - you paid to buy a home, if charging points is the general practice of lenders in your area. You also can deduct points paid on your behalf by the seller of the home you purchased. However, points paid to refinance a mortgage must be deducted over the life of the loan, unless part of the proceeds were used to improve your main home.

Personal interest isn't deductible. But interest incurred for investment purposes, such as on a margin account at a stock broker, is deductible. Publication 550 explains.

**- CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS:** Contributions of money or property to qualified charities are deductible. These include churches and synagogues; non-profit schools and hospitals; groups like the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Goodwill Industries and scouting organizations. Expenses you incur when serving as a volunteer

may also be deductible.

You can't deduct the value of blood you donate or contributions to individuals, lobbying or political groups, or contributions made in exchange for raffle and lottery tickets.

You must obtain a written acknowledgment for all charitable contributions of \$250 or more. A canceled check isn't good enough.

If you get something in exchange for a contribution, such as dinner or a sweat shirt, the value must be subtracted from the amount of the contribution. If your contribution was more than \$75, the charitable organization must give you a statement stating the value of the goods or services you received.

You must attach a Form 8283 if you claim a non-cash contribution over \$500. See Publication 526.

**- CASUALTY AND THEFT LOSSES:** Losses that aren't covered by insurance from theft, disasters, storms, fires and accidents are

deductible. You need to fill out Form 4684. Publication 547 explains the rules. Publication 584 is a workbook to help you list your damaged goods and figure the loss.

**- MOVING EXPENSES:** Moving expenses are subtracted from income on the front of Form 1040, line 24. You'll need Form 4782, from your employer, and Form 3903. Your new workplace must be at least 50 miles farther from your old home than your old job was. See Publication 521.

**- JOB EXPENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS:** You can deduct a variety of expenses that, when combined, exceed 2 percent of your adjusted gross income. These include: unreimbursed employee expenses for travel, education, professional publications and tools; union dues; tax-preparation fees, and safe-deposit box rental.


For job expenses, you may need to fill out Form 2106 or the simpler, 12-line Form 2106-EZ. See Publication 529.



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*Facts About The* **BIBLE** BY JOHN LEHTI

## A LETTER TO PHILEMON

PHILEMON WAS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE CHURCH IN COLOSSAE WHEN ST. PAUL WROTE TO HIM FROM ROME, PROBABLY IN A.D. 62. ACTUALLY, THE CHURCH IN COLOSSAE WAS IN PHILEMON'S OWN HOUSE. THE CITY, AT THAT TIME, WAS LOSING SOME OF ITS IMPORTANCE IN ASIA MINOR DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE TRADE ROUTES, FROM WEST TO EAST, HAD CHANGED THEIR SYSTEM OF ROADS AND THE NEIGHBORING CITY OF LAODICEA WAS SURPASSING COLOSSAE IN POSITION AND WEALTH, ALTHOUGH COLOSSAE WAS STILL FAMOUS FOR ITS FINE WOOL. BE THAT AS IT MAY, A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY HAD GROWN UP IN COLOSSAE AND, OBVIOUSLY, FROM ST. PAUL'S WRITINGS, THE CHURCH HAD ITS MEETINGS IN PHILEMON'S HOUSE. THE LETTER IS A BRIEF ONE, NOTING THE FACT THAT ONE OF PHILEMON'S SLAVES, BY NAME OF ONESIMUS, HAD RUN AWAY, TAKING SOME OF PHILEMON'S MONEY AND MADE HIS WAY TO ROME WHERE ST. PAUL HAD CONVERTED HIM. PAUL SAYS HE WOULD HAVE GLADLY RETAINED HIM AS A FREE ATTENDANT BUT WOULDN'T TAKE THE LIBERTY WITHOUT PHILEMON'S CONSENT. SO HE SENT ONESIMUS BACK WITH THE LETTER SO PHILEMON MIGHT RECEIVE HIM AS A BROTHER CHRISTIAN AND FORGIVE HIM AS JESUS CHRIST TAUGHT US TO DO. PAUL, FURTHERMORE, PROMISED TO PAY ANY LOSS OF MONEY THAT THE NEW CONVERT HAD CAUSED PHILEMON (PHILE. VS. 18, 19). THE LETTER REVEALS THE EFFECT OF CHRISTIANITY ON SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS GENERALLY, THE SPIRIT OF LOVE AND JUSTICE WHICH WERE DESTINED TO REORGANIZE SOCIETY!



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# Attorney general files federal lawsuit for \$4 billion

## Morales targets tobacco companies for their advertising directed to children

**By PEGGY FIKAC**  
Associated Press Writer  
AUSTIN (AP) - Texas Attorney General Dan Morales has a message for tobacco companies: "Leave our children alone."  
He delivered it Thursday by filing a lawsuit in federal district court in Texarkana, seeking to recoup more than \$4 billion spent in Texas on tobacco-related illness and to halt advertising he says targets children.  
"The day of reckoning is at hand," Morales said in announcing the lawsuit against the nation's biggest tobacco companies.  
"We are confident that the jury will see through the tobacco industry's smokescreen and decide the time has finally come for these dealers in death to pay for the pain and suffering they have caused us all," Morales said, predicting the case would come to trial within a year

to 18 months.  
The lawsuit - which follows legal action by six other states but is the first filed in federal court - marks the first governmental allegation that the tobacco industry has violated federal mail and wire fraud statutes, federal racketeering laws and federal conspiracy laws, according to Morales.  
It also alleges violations of state and federal antitrust laws and public nuisance laws. It addressed not only cigarettes but other tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco.  
The \$4 billion sought is the amount estimated Texas taxpayers have paid in smoking-related Medicaid claims alone from 1980 through 1996. The figure includes state and federal money put into the health-care program for the poor.  
The next largest damage award

request likely would be from Florida, said Morales spokesman Ron Dusek. That state is seeking \$1.4 billion. Other states that have sued include Mississippi, Massachusetts, West Virginia, Louisiana and Minnesota.  
Tobacco companies that were sued called the lawsuit meritless.  
"Cigarettes are a legal product for sale in Texas, and the state of Texas has benefited from the sale of cigarettes for decades. Attorney General Morales is now trying to retroactively change the rules, and seek to impose upon tobacco companies a liability that the tobacco companies do not have to individual smokers or anyone else," said Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.  
R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. said Texas benefits through taxes on cigarette sales and added, "Mr. Morales' assertion that the industry has operated illegally is ridiculous."

Philip Morris U.S.A. said a federal judge in 1994 dismissed claims under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act in a California class-action lawsuit filed against the cigarette industry, on the grounds that Congress excluded actions under RICO seeking recovery for personal injury expenses.  
"We believe the state will lose - after spending millions of taxpayer dollars in time and costs. The state's taxpayers should be deeply disappointed by this waste of the state's money and employees' time," Philip Morris said in a statement.  
"Just as important, every industry in Texas is now on notice that it may be the target of a politically motivated lawsuit, no matter how frivolous the legal basis," the company said.  
Dusek said the argument doesn't make sense: "There is no other product on the market that, when used

as the industry wants you to use it, will kill you," he said.  
Also named in the lawsuit are The American Tobacco Co. Inc., B.A.T. Industries P.L.C., Liggett Group Inc., Lorillard Tobacco Co. Inc., United States Tobacco Co., the public relations firm Hill & Knowlton Inc., the Council For Tobacco Research - USA Inc. and the Tobacco Institute Inc.  
The Liggett Group agreed earlier to repay five states' Medicaid bills for treatment of sick smokers. All except Minnesota have agreed to settle with Liggett. Those states still are seeking damages from the other tobacco companies.  
Texas Gov. George W. Bush, a Republican, had no comment on the lawsuit filed by the Democratic attorney general, other than to say the decision was in Morales' purview, said Bush spokeswoman Karen Hughes.  
Allegations in the lawsuit include that the tobacco industry:  
- Concealed from the public the manipulation of nicotine impact levels in tobacco products, which the lawsuit says was done to create and sustain people's addictions.  
- Could have manufactured a safer cigarette but refused to do so.  
- Conducted a "public disinformation strategy" concerning the health effects of smoking.  
- Targeted advertising at children

in hopes of replacing customers who die from cigarette-related diseases.  
Tobacco companies - which last year went to state court in Austin in an attempt to block a Texas lawsuit against the industry - questioned why Morales chose to file in Texarkana. He said the court's docket would allow the lawsuit to proceed relatively quickly.  
Morales said noted Harvard law professors Laurence Tribe and Arthur Miller have agreed to play an active role in the case.  
Tribe argued the 1992 case in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that warning labels on cigarette packages don't bar personal-injury lawsuits against companies. Miller is a legal consultant to ABC's "Good Morning America."  
He also said five private law firms with extensive experience in complex litigation will help with the lawsuit on a contingency-fee basis.  
If Texas wins, the lawyers will get 15 percent of the overall jury award, with their payment coming from the federal share of recovered Medicaid dollars, Morales said.

# U.S. judge turns down request from soldier for honorable discharge after court martial

WASHINGTON (AP) - A federal judge has refused to give an honorable discharge to an Army medic court-martialed for refusing to wear United Nations insignia during a peacekeeping mission to the former Yugoslavia.  
Attorneys for Michael New, who has been handed a bad-conduct discharge, had sought to step outside the military judicial process by requesting an honorable discharge from U.S. District Judge Paul L. Friedman earlier this month.  
In his ruling Thursday, Friedman refused to intervene in the case of the 22-year-old from Conroe, Texas. But he didn't slam the door shut on further involvement once New's appeals through the military justice system are concluded.  
New is the first American serviceman court-martialed for refusing to accept foreign command on a U.N. operation.  
He refused to supplement his U.S.

battle dress uniform with a U.N. patch and headgear before the start of a peacekeeping mission to Macedonia last October. In refusing the order, New said he had sworn allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, not the U.N. charter. He argued that any order requiring him to serve a foreign master was unlawful.  
In their novel pleading before Friedman earlier this month, New's trio of lawyers argued that the soldier was involuntarily returned to civilian status when given an unlawful order by his commanders - thus he no longer falls under the military justice system's jurisdiction.  
Friedman labeled that argument a "tenuous stretch."  
"Even if ultimately there is merit to the argument that the orders given to Specialist New were unlawful because they changed his responsibilities and allegiances from the U.S. to (the) U.N., the court would find it difficult to conclude that such

changes transformed Specialist New's status from U.S. military to civilian," the judge wrote.  
The government contends New was never asked to shift his allegiance to the U.N. and remained at all times directly under the U.S. military chain of command.  
The judge's order "seems to track the arguments that we made in the case, so we are certainly satisfied," said federal prosecutor Robert Shapiro, who argued the government's case before Friedman two weeks ago.  
New's lead attorney, retired Col. Ronald Ray of Kentucky, expressed disappointment that Friedman refused to explore whether the order to wear a U.N. uniform - or in fact even to deploy to Macedonia - was lawful. Ray contends the deployment is unlawful because the administration didn't obtain prior congressional approval.  
"This Bill Clinton appointee did not want to reach the merits of the case," Ray said of the judge.  
"Michael New's question still stands: 'By what authority am I ordered to wear the uniform of another government?'" Ray said. "And there's no satisfactory answer to the question and everybody's dealing with procedure."  
New remains on duty in Germany as a file clerk pending final disposition of the court-martial.  
His case has become a flashpoint for conservatives troubled by the

Clinton administration's use of U.S. troops in U.N. peacekeeping operations.  
Supporters in Congress are circulating a resolution urging President Clinton to overturn New's discharge. Separately, more than 95 members of Congress, including Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, have endorsed legislation that would bar orders requiring American troops to wear U.N. insignia.  
"I'm really hopeful that in one military venue or in the federal venue or in the congressional venue that Michael New will get the honorable discharge he deserves for refusing to obey an unlawful order," said Ray.

# IRS agents conduct escort service sting

DALLAS (AP) - A two-year, coast-to-coast investigation of call-girl rings has culminated in search warrants being served on 100 businesses operating escort services in more than 20 cities, the U.S. Justice Department has announced.  
Special agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division and local police served the search warrants this week, said Douglas Gastorf, chief of the IRS Criminal Investigations Division in Dallas, in a prepared statement.  
According to court documents, IRS agents in the undercover sting set up and ran an undercover business known as Tejas Financial Services based in Dallas. The agents used the business to pose as money launderers willing to launder funds generated from illegal prostitution.  
When prostitutes' customers used credit cards to pay for illegal sex acts, the agents would conceal the illegal income and activity from law enforcement agencies and the credit card companies and "repaint" the income as coming from a legitimate source, the Justice Department said.  
Customers had to fill out Tejas' Financial Services' credit verification forms listing their name, social security number, address, telephone number and date of birth.  
Agents say they discovered a competitor while running Tejas. One of the businesses raided was EMS Inc. of Paramus, N.J., which the IRS said operated a similar money laundering business.  
Tejas and EMS formed a partnership when American Express, suspecting misdeeds at EMS, terminated the company's merchant account, agents said. Investigators used their access to EMS customers

to locate more suspected "pimps and madams," the statement said.  
"Even the oldest living profession must pay taxes," Gastorf said. "In particular, the IRS is after those money launderers who conspired to help hide this prostitution income."  
Customers who used major credit cards to buy sexual favors ended up with the innocuous Tejas name on their statements, court documents said. In exchange for the credit card service, Tejas charged a fee between 12 percent and 20 percent.  
The sting, dubbed "Operation Out Call," used 1,000 law enforcement officers over a 2-year-long probe in 42 states. Search and seizure warrants were executed this week simultaneously in more than two dozen cities.  
"This is the largest IRS undercover operation I can remember in my 22 years in federal law enforcement," Gastorf said.  
Authorities estimate EMS laundered an annual volume of \$6 million and had laundered more than \$16 million in credit card sales since 1993.  
"Now it is time for state and federal prosecutors across the country to reap the benefits of the years of hard work by the IRS agents and local police," U.S. Attorney Paul E. Coggins said.



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