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WT-Int. Crude - $27.93
WTIC Posted - $25.50

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
March 27, 2000
Vol. 51 No. 282
10 Pages 50¢

Home Of Bobby Jack Cumbie



REPAIRING DAMAGE — Employees of Southern Electric were re-lacing fiber optic lines to Snyder High School this morning. The lines were damaged by last week's winds. Rick Wemken is in the bucket and Jeff Wemken is on the ground. (SDN Staff Photo)

At Wagon Wheel Ranch...

Flight plan opponents schedule meeting today

Red Steagall will perform this evening for members of H.E.P.A. during the group's general membership meeting at the Wagon Wheel Ranch.

H.E.P.A. – the Heritage Environmental Preservation Association – is the group opposed to new Air Force training flights in this area.

Upwards of 1,200 people are expected for the meeting set to start at 6 p.m.

Buster Welch, president and founder of H.E.P.A., said the meeting is open to all members and prospective members.

"The purpose of the meeting is to update members on the latest developments in our fight against the Realistic Bomber Training Initiative (RBTI) and to tell the members how the Air Force is misrepresenting the facts," said Welch.

The Air Force has recommended an eight-county area be the site of a new Military Operations Area (MOA) for training flights for B-1 and B-52 bombers from Dyess Air Force Base and Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

These counties are Scurry, Kent, Fisher, Stonewall, Borden, Dawson, Lynn and Garza.

H.E.P.A. has vowed to fight the Air Force plan in court.

Earlier this month, the city of Lubbock expressed its opposition to the Air Force plan in fear it would hamper development of commercial air routes south of that city.

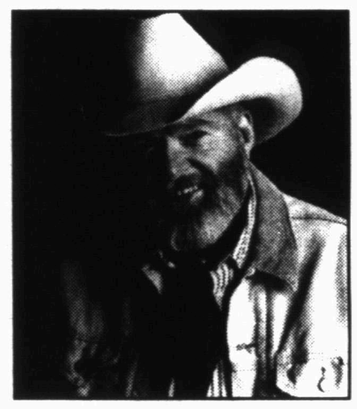
However, Lubbock city officials said Friday that they would not try to block the Air Force plan.

They said fighting the plan might block the Federal Aviation Administration's plan to locate a radar control tower in Lubbock to monitor flights in the MOA.

Welch said Steagall is donating his performance to show his support for the cause and his opposition to the Air Force's plan.

Also, H.E.P.A.'s attorney Frank Bond of Santa Fe will address the group's legal options, while ranch appraiser Sam Middleton will speak on how the RBTI might affect land values.

A donation of $20 per person will be charged to raise money for H.E.P.A. and to help cover the cost of the meeting, said Welch.



Red Steagall

Sheriff Jackson loses spot on Demo ballot

GOP vote may also jeopordize his chance as write-in candidate

Sheriff Darren Jackson, unopposed in his bid to gain a second term as Scurry County sheriff, this morning was disqualified as the Democratic party's nominee in the November general election.

His future as a candidate for the office remained cloudy today as more conflicting information was being received from state election officials in Austin.

An attorney with the election division of the Secretary of State's office said Friday afternoon that Jackson, who violated the election code by voting in the Republican primary, would be eligible to become a write-in candidate for sheriff in November.

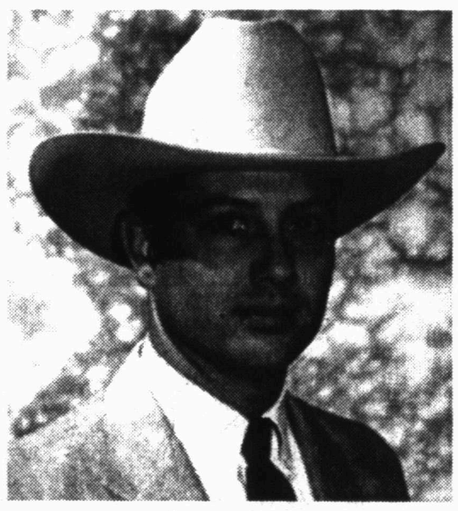
However, conflicting information received by County Attorney Mike Hartman today indicated that Jackson also is prohibited from becoming a write-in candidate.

Hartman said he had asked that the elections division respond in writing. Hartman said he hopes to receive the written ruling this week.

Sheriff Jackson said this morning that he is awaiting receipt of that information to determine what options are available.

Democratic County Chairman Billy Haynes said he reluctantly made the declaration of disqualification this morning. "We hate it. We think he's done a good job as sheriff."

Jackson, a Democratic candidate, violated the election code by voting in the Republican primary. Jackson said he was interested in voting in the justice of the peace and constable races because the two offices work closely with the sheriff's department.



Darren Jackson

A write-in candidate must declare his or her intentions during a period of between 60 and 30 days prior to the Nov. 7 election, according to County Clerk Joan Bunch.

Haynes said the Demo county executive committee would also await a ruling from the state to see if it needed to nominate a person to place on the November ballot. Haynes said if Jackson can run as a write-in, it would likely not nominate a candidate.

Republican County Chairman Drew Bullard said it is his understanding that the Republican party may not nominate a candidate because Jackson was disqualified. Had Jackson withdrawn, the GOP would have been able to place a nominee on the November ballot.

Another possibility, if there are no sheriff candidates in November, is to have the Scurry County Commissioners' Court appoint, when the office is vacant on Jan. 1, a sheriff to serve until the next general election.

Haynes said he was made aware of the voting error just over a week ago, but had spent the past week checking with state election officials concerning what was required of the party chairman and what the options are for the candidate.

"They were pretty slow getting back to us and some of the information initially was confusing and conflicting," the party chairman said.

Haynes said he first was told that it was up to the local Democratic executive committee, and based on the initial information, it had intended to take no action.

Jackson said he was unaware of the prohibition of his voting in the Republican primary, and said Friday that as soon as he was made aware, he reported it to the Secretary of State's office and to the party chairman.

Appraisal District members will receive oaths of office

The Scurry County Appraisal District board of directors will meet at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday for its first meeting of the new year.

The board will have several action items associated with the beginning of a new year, including the oath of office.

Board members Harold Lacik, Ross Carroll Jr., Walter Stirl, Fred Cross and Rona Sikes are beginning another term, while Joe Flowers begins his first.

The board will elect officers including chairman, vice chairman and secretary.

Board members also will consider approval of the agriculture advisory board as recommended by Chief Appraiser Larry Crooks. The advisory board assists the appraisal district with information to calculate agriculture values.

Joe Hefner, Donald Tate and Sid Wall serve on the board and Crooks is recommending all be re-appointed.

The new board also will review all existing contracts such as the agreements with contractors, auditors and programmers.

Lisa West, administrative assistant, said the action is routine and is necessary with the new board.

"This is a routine item. It only happens when there is a new board so they are aware of who we have contracts with," West said.

In a similar item, the board will review general and reappraisal policies. West said the policies have already been adopted and the action is to assure that the board is aware of the policies.

The board is legally required to look over the contracts and policies, even though there is actually only one new board member.

In other business, the board will amend the 1999 and 2000 appraisal and collection budgets, consider the bills payable and collection reports for November through February.

Rains change all lake levels

Area lakes continue to receive runoff from last week's rains and it appears Lake Colorado City and E.V. Spence Reservoir at Robert Lee will be the big gainers.

Lake Colorado City saw a vertical rise of some 11 feet, just short of its spillway.

Spence Reservoir had a vertical rise of 10 feet, while Lake Thomas is expected to see a vertical rise of just over two feet.

SHS places second in district UIL meet

Snyder High School earned a total of 332 points Saturday to place second in the district UIL academic meet held at Big Spring.

Andrews High School, with 352 points, claimed the first place trophy.

Students who received a first, second or third place, individually, or placed as a team member in any category, will advance to the UIL Academic Regional Meet at San Angelo State University on April 15.

The accounting team of Cara Best, Amber Haarmeyer and D'Ann Hager captured first place. Individually, Best was first; Haarmeyer, second; and Hager, third.

Tiffany Sutter also placed sixth in that event.

In literary criticism, Alesha Miller, Jenny Mayer and Laura Greenwood, placed first. Individually, Miller finished first; Mayer, third; and Greenwood, fourth.

In computer applications, Jennifer Bell earned first place; Kaycee Marricle, third; and Sandra Nussey, fifth.

Ryan McAnally garnered second in ready writing.

Trevor Kerr earned second in current issues and events.

In persuasive speaking, Lyndell Lee captured first place; Cole McLeod, second; and Rebecca West, sixth.

Trey Gorman was ranked as the first overall individual in science. He also earned first place in chemistry and first in physics.

Trevor Kerr was the overall individual runnerup. He garnered received first place in biology.

Gorman, Kerr and Wade Ashby also received first place as a team in science.

Trey Gorman also earned three others awards including fifth in mathematics, fourth in calculator applications and first in computer science.

The team of Michael Gibson, Angie Shoemake and Justin Guy earned first place in spelling and vocabulary. As individuals, Gibson finished second; Shoemake, fifth; and Guy, sixth.

Melinda Langham won second place in informative speaking. Liz Brown captured second in poetry interpretation and Lyndell Lee was fourth in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

PDU seeking talent for show

The Price Daniel Unit is continuing its support of the Special Olympics with a talent show scheduled for April 15.

Deadline for entry is Saturday and contestants may sign up on that same day at a car wash and crafts show at Wal-Mart.

A fee of $20 is charged to enter the talent show and entries are encouraged from throughout the area.

ASK US

Q—Will tonight's Lady Raiders game against Tennessee in Memphis be on TV?

A—Yes, the game will be televised on ESPN, starting at 8 p.m.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 78 degrees; low, 54; high Sunday, 86; low, 52; 7 a.m. Monday, 52; no precipitation; total for 2000, 7.31 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy; low, lower 50s; S wind 5-15 mph; Tuesday, partly cloudy, high upper 70s; S wind 10-20 mph



Ashley Hagins
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
7:01 p.m.
Sunrise:
6:38 a.m.
Of 86 days in 2000, the sun has shone 84 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Tomorrow is now.
—Eleanor Roosevelt

MAR 27 2000

'American Beauty' biggest winner at Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When "American Beauty" hit theaters last fall, many were surprised when it became a box-office hit and an Oscar front-runner.

By Sunday night, though, it came as no surprise that the sobering satire of suburbia dominated the Academy Awards. In an industry whose recent top honors have mostly gone to splashy epics, "American Beauty" had simply built up too much critical and popular esteem to be denied.

The film won five awards: best picture, best actor for Kevin Spacey, best director for Sam Mendes, best original screenplay for Alan Ball and best cinematography for Conrad L. Hall.

Might the success of the dark yet wildly absurd "American Beauty" herald Hollywood's return to such thoughtful, character-driven films as "Midnight Cowboy" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," both best-picture winners?

First-time director Mendes, steeped in such films growing up, hopes so.

"The more of these sorts of movies that get made and the more they get acknowledged by the mainstream, the better," said Mendes, an acclaimed theater director.

Spacey, whose character undergoes a transformation after almost consummating an affair with his daughter's high-school friend, said the movie hit home with audiences because "we got to see all of his worst qualities, and we still grew to love him."

"We get a chance to see characters have experiences that make us feel that we're not the only ones who have those feelings," said Spacey. "We sort of have a collective admission when we see characters do those things that we do."

The best-picture win was sweet revenge for "American Beauty" distributor DreamWorks, the studio co-founded by Steven Spielberg, whose "Saving Private Ryan" lost best-picture honors last year to Disney-owned Miramax's "Shakespeare in Love."

Spielberg, who won for best director last year for "Saving Private Ryan," presented the director's award to Mendes. It was the first best-picture win for DreamWorks, founded five years ago.

The evening was not a sweep for "American Beauty." Hilary Swank, a virtual unknown, won the best actress award for another dark film, "Boys Don't Cry," based on the true story of Brandon Teena, a woman who lived as a man and was killed when her true gender was uncovered.

"I consider myself someone who cares a huge amount about humanity and I think that this movie opens the door to letting people know what goes on in society and hopefully putting an end to intolerance in the future," Swank said.

Other top winners included Angelina Jolie for best supporting actress for her turn as a hospitalized sociopath in "Girl, Interrupted." Michael Caine won his second best supporting actor award for his role as an ether-sniffing abortionist who runs an orphanage in "The Cider House Rules."

John Irving won for best adapted screenplay for the script of his novel "The Cider House Rules."

Phil Collins took the Oscar for original song for "You'll Be in My Heart" from "Tarzan." Pedro Almodovar's "All About My Mother" won for foreign-language film.

The glitzy sci-fi thriller "The Matrix" won in all four categories for which it was nominated — visual effects, film editing, sound and sound-effects editing.

Caustic and kooky, "American Beauty" was a seriocomic tale of suburban lunacy that ran counter to big-picture epics such as "Titanic," "Schindler's List," "Braveheart" and "The English Patient" that have dominated the Oscars.

The Oscars have occasionally gone dark and disturbing in recent years. In 1991, the serial-killer flick "The Silence of the Lambs" was an atypical winner, while Clint Eastwood's anti-hero western "Unforgiven" took top honors the next year.

Shot for $15 million, "American Beauty" has gone on to top $108 million at the box office while playing in barely half as many theaters as many top Hollywood movies.

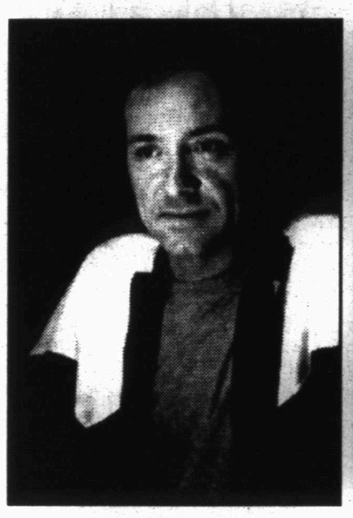
The movie, however, had all the quirks, tics and warts that should have relegated it to the list of critics' darlings and modest box-office successes.

Consider its characters: A middle-aged chump who lusts after his daughter's friend; a shrill wife empowered by her pistol and her farcical fling with the local real-estate king; a homophobic Marine colonel who tests his son's urine for drugs; and a teenage video voyeur who peddles pot and philosophizes about a plastic bag dancing in the wind.

Screenwriter Ball said "American Beauty's" triumph taught him to "write what moves you."

"The lesson I've learned out of this is really follow your heart and follow your passion, and follow your guts and just sit down and write it," Ball said.

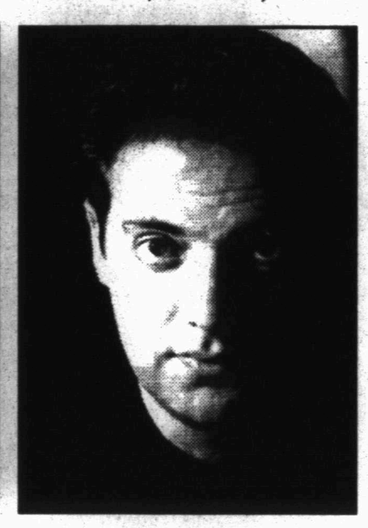
On the Net:
http://www.oscars.org



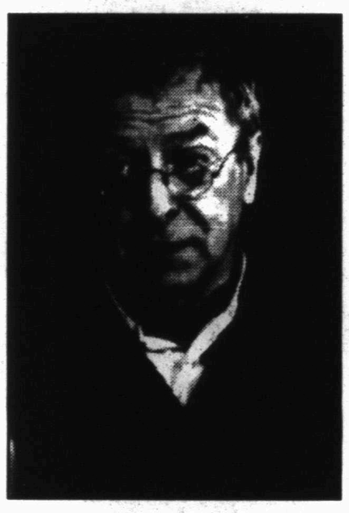
Kevin Spacey
Best Actor
"American Beauty"



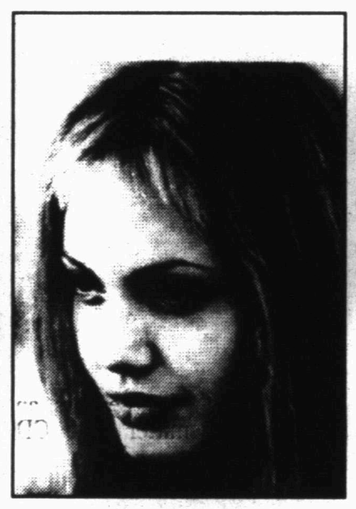
Hilary Swank
Best Actress
"Boys Don't Cry"



Sam Mendes
Best Director
"American Beauty"



Micahel Caine
Best Supporting Actor
"The Cider House Rules"



Angelina Jolie
Bst Supporting Actress
"Girl Interrupted"



"American Beauty"
Best Picture

Two injured in fiery crash of helicopter covering award show

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A pilot and cameraman were injured when their television news helicopter covering the Oscars crashed at a nearby airfield and was consumed by a ball of fire.

The helicopter left its Oscar hovering spot Sunday night and crashed while attempting an emergency landing. The crash occurred just after 10 p.m. in a helicopter landing area at Van Nuys Airport about 15 miles northwest of the Shrine Auditorium, where the Academy Awards had finished about 30 minutes before.

Steve Howell, aboard KTLA-TV's helicopter, said the KTTV helicopter pilot reported hydraulic problems as it arrived near the Shrine and the pilot decided to head toward the Van Nuys Airport under escort by KCAL-TV's helicopter.

The helicopter crashed shortly after it made its distress call.

The pilot, a 28-year-old woman, and the photographer, a 40-year-old man, were taken to Northridge Medical Center, said city fire spokesman Brian Humphrey.

The pilot was seriously hurt with a broken wrist, broken leg, possibly fractured pelvis and possible concussion. The photographer had a possible broken leg and cuts to his face, Humphrey said.

Both were listed early today in serious condition, said nursing supervisor Kim Khama.

The helicopter belonged to KTTV-TV in Los Angeles, a Fox affiliate. The names of the victims were not immediately released.

On the Net: For KTTV, via Fox: http://www.fox.com

Chain Reaction

When someone starts advertising,
Someone starts buying;
When someone starts buying,
Someone starts selling;
When someone starts selling,
Someone starts making;
When someone starts making,
Someone starts working;
When someone starts working,
Someone starts earning;
When someone starts earning,
Someone starts buying.
Start your own chain reaction
by advertising in...

Snyder
Daily News
3600 College Ave.
573-5486

Oil Patch News

Borden County

Sharp Image Energy will drill the No. 1-23 Gulliams, an 8,500-foot wildcat located 12 miles northeast of Gail. Location is in Section 23, Block 2, T&NO survey.

Sharp Image Energy will drill the No. 2-A Roach, an 8,500-foot wildcat located eight miles northeast of Gail. Drill site is in Section 2, Block 30, T5N, T&P survey.

Mitchell County

First Permian will drill the No. 1-33 Abrams in the Westbrook field, three miles northwest of Westbrook. Planned for a depth of 2,600 feet, location is in Section 33, Block 28, T1N, T&P survey.

Garza County

Wheeler Operating will drill the No. 1 Guthrie-Post Montgomery Co-op in the H&L field, eight miles northwest of Post. Planned depth is 4,000 feet, and location is in Section 19, Block 4, K. Aycock survey.

Wheeler Operating will drill the No. 5-20 Post Montgomery in the H&L field, eight miles northwest of Post. Also planned for 4,000 feet, drill site is in Section 20, Block 4, K. Aycock survey.

Kent County

George R. Brown Partnership will drill the No. 2 Swenson-Morrison, a 6,500-foot wildcat located 15 miles northwest of Clairemont. Drill site is in Section 4, Block B, J.P. Higgins survey.

Howard County

Santa Fe Snyder Corp will drill the No. 2-11N Allday in the south Hutto field, three miles south of Coahoma. Planned for a depth of 8,300 feet, drill site is in Section 11, Block 31, T1S, T&P survey.

Anadarko Petroleum will drill the No. 2715 Susie B. Snyder in the Snyder field, seven miles southeast of Coahoma. Planned for a depth of 3,500 feet, location is in Section27, Block 30, T1S, T&P survey.

Nolan County

Pioneer Exploration will drill the No. 11-A Billie Hanks in the Hylton field, eight miles south of Nolan. Planned for a depth of 6,500 feet, drill site is in Section 28, Block Z, T&P survey.

Sinclair will drill the No. 1 Brooks in the Doris North field, 17 miles south of Sweetwater. Planned depth is 7,300 feet, and drill site is in Section 163, Block 1-A, H&TC survey.

R.L. Akins Corp. has completed the No. 1 Morrow in the Mulberry Canyon field, four miles northeast of Nolan. The well was finaled to produce 192 barrels of oil and no water. Perforations were at 3,945 feet, and location is in Section 68, Block 5, T&P survey.

Chisholm Exploration has completed the No. 5 Texaco Fee in the Mulberry Canyon field, five miles northeast of Nolan. The well was completed to produce 55 barrels of oil and no water. Perforations were from 3,9656-958 feet, and location is in Section 69, Block 5, T&P survey.

Fisher County

ACT Operating has completed the No. 5602 Baker Canyon unit in the Rough Ride field, five miles

See Next column

From previous column

southeast of Longworth. The well was finaled to produce 212 barrels of oil and no water. Perforations were from 5,106-120 feet, and location is in Section 56, Block Y, T&P survey.

Oscarcast still said big, long

NEW YORK (AP) — Inflation continues to plague the Oscarcast.

"The 72nd Annual Academy Awards," which ABC aired live from Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium Sunday night, ran a record-long four hours, eight minutes, by unofficial count, beating the four hours, five minutes of last year's Oscarcast.

What happened to those pledges that the so-called "2000 Oscars" show would be shorter, not longer? And who among us believed them?

Sure, the program was sleek, classy and as carefully engineered as Julia Roberts' new cleavage. So, with everything apparently on automatic pilot, why can't the show come in on time?

Nothing in particular gummed up the works, although no viewer would have missed the Burt Bacharach-led medley of past Oscar-winning songs.

Billy Crystal did his usual smooth job as host (his seventh turn), and seemed to pop up more often than in past Oscarcasts. His jovial wisecracks were usefully interlaced through the evening, enlivening the clackety-clack efficiency of the business at hand.

Of course, he stole the first half-hour, which remained the show's high point.

For his signature prepared sequence, Crystal was digitally inserted into a series of classic films. At one point he sought counsel from Don Corleone in "The Godfather." At another, he sang the lead in a number from "West Side Story": "Tonight, tonight, there'll be no dance tonight, and yet this show will still run too long."

(Can't say we weren't warned.)

Then came musical tributes to Oscar nominees. Crystal filched the tune of "Mame" to serenade supporting actor contender Michael Caine: "How many movies can one actor make? Caine! He'll make one in the next station break! Caine!"

Later, when Caine was named winner for his performance in "The Cider House Rules," he offered perhaps the night's stand-out acceptance remarks.

The veteran actor not only humbly, graciously saluted his co-nominees, but, as the grand old man in this circle, he effectively blessed each of them. It was a moment striking in its purity.

One smart innovation from producers Richard Zanuck and Lili Fini Zanuck: The five nominated songs were polished off deftly, back to back. These culminated with Robin Williams delivering the saucy "Blame Canada" (from "South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut"), complete with a kickline of leggy female "Canadian Mounties."

Few outrageous outfits worn at 72nd Oscar show

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Most celebrities at this year's Academy Awards kept any outrageous fashion impulses locked in the closet.

The audience at the Shrine Auditorium on Sunday was awash in sophisticated gowns and sober tuxedos, reflecting old Hollywood more than bold daring.

Even Cher came down with a case of class, leaving her trademark beaded, see-through numbers and towering headdresses at home. The actress arrived on stage in a modest black gown to present an award.

"You probably noticed already that I am dressed like a grownup. No, no, I wish to apologize to the Academy, and I promise that I will never do it again," she joked.

The guys from "South Park" didn't disappoint, however.

Trey Parker, co-nominated with Marc Shaiman for the best song Oscar for "Blame Canada," wore a copy of the almost wide-open concoction Jennifer Lopez wore to the Grammys last month. Matt Stone donned a knockoff of the pink dress Gwyneth Paltrow wore last year. And Shaiman's white leisure suit was accented by a blue fedora and blue fur stole.

"Everyone just looks fabulous," said Stone, whose accessories included a cigarette behind one ear.

Oscar winner Angelina Jolie looked like Morticia Addams in a black, long-sleeved dress with a train and waist-length black hair.

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dear
By Abigail

Hospice
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DEAR ABBY:
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By Phillip A

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Tuna Noodle
Cheeseburger

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Hospice enhances remaining life for patients and families

DEAR ABBY: I am a former hospice nurse, now completing my graduate training as a nurse-practitioner in oncology. I am dismayed by the frequency with which physicians and the media ignore or misrepresent hospice as an option for terminally ill people and their families.

Hospice is NOT "giving up." It is changing the focus of care to enhance quality of life. The hospice team of nurses, social workers, chaplains and physicians accompanies patients on a difficult journey with an eye to relieving physical, emotional and spiritual pain and suffering. Hospice care alleviates the fear of dying. Indeed, it allows patients to die with dignity and in a way that enhances the beauty and meaning of life and death for them and their families. — **ROSIE TOWNLEY BAKEWELL**

DEAR ROSIE: I hope your letter generates the kind of response it deserves, because it's an important one as our population ages. I'm sad to say that even today, patients die protracted and painful deaths because some physicians and misguided but well-intentioned families seem unable or unwilling to admit that the person is terminal. Perhaps some of the fault lies with the medical schools, which have not given end-of-life issues enough attention in their curricula.

Since everyone has to die, a death with dignity seems like the way to make every minute of life one that's worth living.

**

DEAR ABBY: I am writing with a message of warning to newlywed wives.

When I first married "Jim," I used to spend hours after dinner every night on the phone with my mother talking about family news — what was happening with my father, my sister, my sister's husband, etc. When Jim complained, my mother and I both felt he was being selfish and ignored him.

Soon Jim took up jogging, and as soon as I picked up the phone in the evening, he would leave the house to run his miles. Then Jim started traveling to races on the weekends, and eventually met "Peggy," a pretty schoolteacher from a neighboring town who also liked to jog.

My inability to "let go" and build my primary family ties with my new husband cost me a great guy. How do I know he's so great? Because he still waves to my mother and me when we see him in the park jogging with Peggy and their two beautiful daughters. — **OUT OF THE RACE IN N.J.**

DEAR OUT: I'm printing your cautionary tale for all to see. How sad that your preoccupation with your family caused you to shut out the person with whom you vowed to build a life.

I find it interesting that when your ex-husband sees you in the park, you're still with your mother. Unless that's the way you want it to be for the rest of your life, I recommend some counseling.

**

CONFIDENTIAL TO "CALL ME LUCKY": You are right. As author J.G. Holland observed: "The most precious possession that ever comes to a man in this world is a woman's heart."

**

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Return to 'normal' life difficult for girl

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — With her daughter safely at home after being held captive for three days, Jennifer Graham sighed with relief.

"I just want our lives to go back to normal," said the mother of Jessica Rodriguez, answering reporters' questions the day after Jessica was released.

More than two weeks have passed, but "normal" is proving elusive. In her small hometown of Trenton, 10-year-old Jessica has become the crime survivor everyone wants to celebrate, even as she grapples with the horrors of her abduction.

"Jennifer doesn't even want to go outside," said Graham's sister-in-law, Pam Nobles. "At night they usually light a campfire and sit outside. She told me that every animal in the woods, every noise, she was jumping like someone was coming at her with a knife."

Although Graham often met with reporters in the three days following Jessica's disappearance March 6, she didn't return recent telephone calls.

Jessica's extended family has lived in a fenced-in compound of trailers an hour's drive west of Gainesville for five generations. Graham shares one worn-out trailer with her three daughters, infant son and fiance, Tom Keeley.

Graham works at McDonald's and Keeley is a mechanic. They also share a job delivering newspapers to make ends meet. Yet despite their financial struggles, the family considered their rural residence a safe haven for children.

"That place was the safest place, we never worried about our kids there," said Nobles, whose has a daughter close to Jessica's age.

That changed when Jessica was kidnapped as she got off the school bus with her two younger sisters.

"There's nothing that could have prepared the family for something like this," said Carla Coarsey, a victims advocate at the state attorney's office. "I don't know if there's a Class 101 on what to do if your child gets kidnapped."

The suspected kidnapper, James Paul Johnson, 38, was being held on $1 million bail. He has been on suicide watch since March 16, when he checked in to a Gainesville mental hospital as police closed in.

"He is a man with a sick mind, but not an evil heart," said Tom Kurrus, Johnson's attorney.

Since her return home after she was set free March 9 at a Gainesville Wal-Mart, Jessica has found herself showered with attention.

Her fourth-grade class has presented her with gifts, she's received a new puppy and the local authorities gave her a new television set and video game system.

Nobles said her niece was even offered a trip to New York to meet the boy band 'N Sync, but Graham turned down the offer because she couldn't leave her three other children and two jobs behind.

Patty Wetterling, a Minnesota mother who founded an advocacy group for kidnap victims and their families after her 11-year-old son was kidnapped in 1989, said children who survive such ordeals are often overwhelmed by such attention they get when they return home.

Wetterling, whose son Jacob has never been found, said most families are so grateful for the outpouring of support they feel bad about demanding privacy.

"I tell them you can pull back now and you don't have to subject her to that," Wetterling said.

Family members say Jessica has begun counseling and likes to stay in her room these days, but only because she's so engrossed with her new video games. Nobles said Jessica is doing surprisingly well, mostly because she's happy to be back home.

"She's such a lovey," Nobles said. "That picture you saw of her where she's waving and smiling, that's just Jessica. She just loves everybody."

On the Net: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: http://www.missingkids.com

Silicon Valley 'techies' taken with toys

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP) — Tom Stangl looks up from his narrow cubicle and admires the dozens of colorful plastic creations he built from his collection of about a quarter-million pieces of Lego building blocks.

"As a grown man, this is good stress relief and it keeps my imagination going," said Stangl, a 34-year-old technical support engineer for Sun-Netscape Alliance and one of thousands of techies taken with this children's toy.

The Silicon Valley's fascination with the famed Danish interlocking plastic blocks took off in the fall of 1998, when Lego launched Lego Mindstorms — a new generation of Legos that could be manipulated using microcomputers, light and touch sensors, an infrared transmitter and CD ROMs.

Computer programmers quickly hacked the Mindstorms' code and began devising evermore complex creations: a miniature photocopier, a coin sorter and a variety of robots that can bark like dogs, climb stairs or carry the morning paper.

Programmers have figured out how to control them with everything from their CD players to Palm handheld devices.

"A lot of kids get rid of their Legos when they're teen-agers. But a friend got me back into them and I'm really having a good time," said Stangl, a member of the Bay Area Lego Users Group, which corresponds online and meets monthly for building sessions.

Lego Mindstorms Vice President Linda Dalton, who works with master builders at the company's colorful Novato, Calif., headquarters, said adult buyers boosted sales 300 percent last year.

"We thought these were going to be for kids, but what we're seeing is a huge amount of interest from the high tech community," she said.

Engineering teachers around the country are introducing the toys to their students for projects.

"There is something very exciting about making physical objects come alive," said Mitchel Resnick, an assistant professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he uses Mindstorms to teach students in his media laboratory.

"In the past, you had to be a technical wizard, buying parts from Radio Shack, to build your own robot, or to add a sensor to the door of your room. Lego Mindstorms makes it possible for a much larger community of people to create their own computerized contraptions — and the sales figures demonstrate that many adults are interested."

Indeed, Lego officials in Copenhagen credit the Mindstorms line with the company's financial recovery.

Last month, Lego chief executive Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen — grandson of the company's founder — said 1999 "began in insecurity and nervousness but ended with progress and belief in the future."

The company said it lost money in 1998 for the first time since it was founded in the 1930s because of increasing competition from electronic toys and computer games.

But about 80,000 of the $200 Mindstorms kits sold in the first three months they were on the market, and their continued success has pulled the company back into the black. The company hasn't released Lego sales figures since.

"We still have a long way to go before our cultural transformation is complete, but the trend has been reversed and the clouds are lifting," Kirk Kristiansen said.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 03-27-00
♠ K 7 5
♥ J 9 2
♦ J 9 7 3 2
♣ Q 5

West
♠ A J 10 6 2
♥ 6 4
♦ 10
♣ K 8 6 3 2

East
♠ 8 4 3
♥ 8 7 3
♦ K Q 8
♣ J 10 9 4

South
♠ Q 9
♥ A K Q 10 5
♦ A 6 5 4
♣ A 7

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: West

South	West	North	East
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 10

Monday, March 27, 2000

The R at the table: Reading

By Phillip Alder

We all know about the three R's: reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. At the bridge table, writing during the bidding and play isn't allowed — more's the pity for most people. Arithmetic is important, counting points and suit distributions. Reading is vital too: working out where the critical missing cards lie. If you can decide who has what, it makes finding a winning line of play that much easier.

In today's deal from a tournament in Los Angeles, two declarers worked out that West had led a singleton diamond. But how did they put that correct read to good use?

At most tables, the diamond 10 was covered by the jack, queen and ace. Those declarers drew trumps, then led a diamond toward the dummy. However, East won the trick and switched to the club jack, establishing West's king as a trick before dummy's diamond suit was ready to run. The declarers lost one spade, two diamonds and one club: one down.

Edward Frischauer and Meyer Schleifer did better. Based on West's one-spade overcall, they realized that West held the club king. So, East had to be kept off the lead until dummy's diamond suit was set up. This meant playing low both from the dummy and from hand at trick one!

What could the Wests do now? Their only safe exit was a trump. The declarers drew trumps, cashed the diamond ace, and gave East his diamond trick. Back came the club jack, but Frischauer and Schleifer won with the ace, took the two remaining diamond tricks, discarding the club seven from hand, and conceded a trick to the spade ace: contract made.

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Aide resigns post

CHICAGO (AP) — A top aide to Mayor Richard Daley has resigned after admitting he arranged interest-free loans from a politically connected developer.

Terry Teele, who was the mayor's first deputy chief of staff, resigned Sunday, two days after admitting he arranged loans totaling $10,500 from developer Oscar D'Angelo for himself and his brother.

Study: Staying 'on message' is helpful

WASHINGTON (AP) — The primary season appeared to hurt George W. Bush and help Al Gore, but a new study suggests Bush's intense fight to win the Republican presidential nomination, consistent tax-cutting message and critical focus on his Democratic rival could pay dividends.

Extensive polling and campaign analysis by the Annenberg Public Policy Center pointed to the value of intensive primary campaigns to voters and the worth to a candidate of hammering home what he would do if elected.

"Although there's a widespread perception that the Republican primaries were more contested than the Democratic primaries, Bush managed to stay on message and he and John McCain held their focus on Al Gore as they argued that one of them was more qualified than the other," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a lead researcher on the project by the Annenberg Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

Texas Gov. Bush consistently told voters during the primary season that he wanted to cut taxes, and the issue appears to have been a bigger factor in his crucial victory in South Carolina than the support of Christian conservatives, the study said.

Polling in South Carolina suggested that support for Arizona Sen. McCain dropped steadily among those seriously interested in the tax issue.

The study analyzed the candidates' messages and found that Bush focused most heavily on taxes both in ads and in debates, Gore most on education. Neither McCain nor Democrat Bill Bradley focused as heavily on any one issue as either of the two winners, according to the study.

The general perception from recent polls has been that Gore was helped and Bush hurt by the primaries. The vice president is perceived as a stronger candidate, and Bush lost support among some key groups of swing voters, national polls found.

But Bush consistently painted himself as a tax-cutter during the primary campaign and just as consistently kept up criticism of Gore for questionable campaign fund-raising activities.

"The primaries provided a launching pad for the general election campaign for Bush that they did not provide for Gore," Jamieson said.

The study was based on analysis of debates and ads, as well as polling of 30,000 respondents between mid-November and the Super Tuesday primaries. Between 1,500 and 4,000 people were polled weekly, and the error margin was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Among the study's other findings:

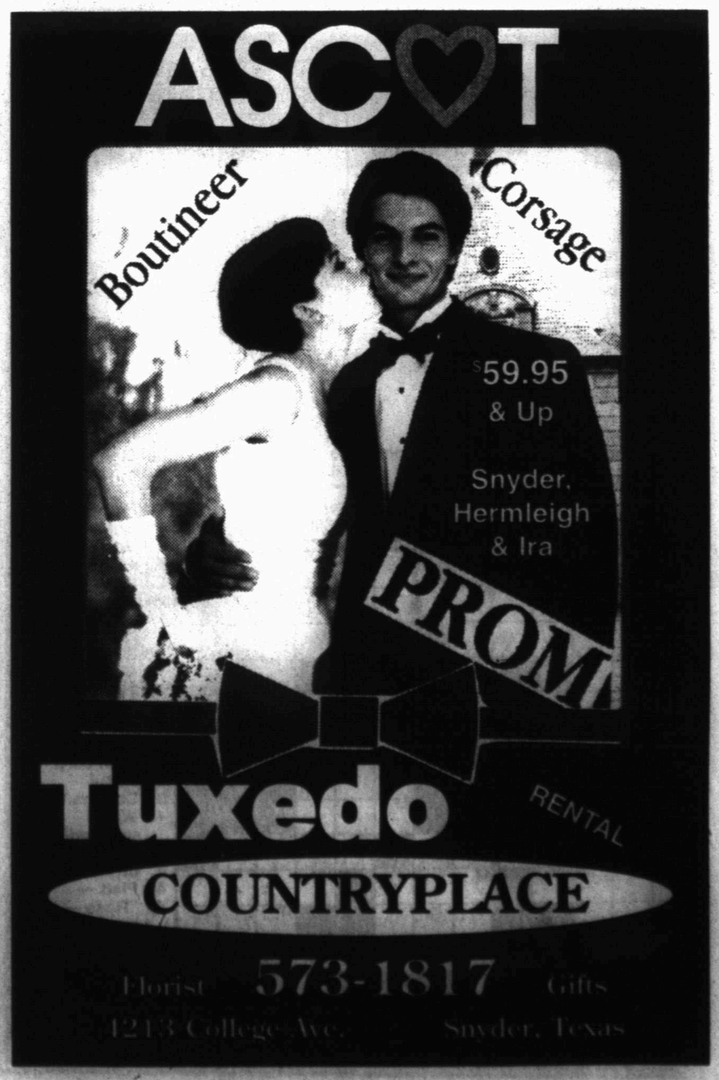
—Residents of states that had intensive primary competition such as New Hampshire, South Carolina and Michigan learned more about the candidates, their personal history and qualities and stands on the issues than people elsewhere. Jamieson said that is an argument for a primary season that is longer and allows more states to participate in the competitive process.

—Men were more likely than women to answer questions about political matters correctly. Gender differences in political knowledge persisted, despite the rising profile of women in the workplace and in seeking political office.

—The GOP candidates were more likely to focus on attacking Gore than either Gore or Bradley were to concentrate on attacking the Republicans or Bush.

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Cheeseburger Macaroni
Beef Pot Pie
Chicken Spaghetti
Lasagna

Prom Special!
Saturday, April 1 5 til 9
Chicken Fried Steak Dinner For Two
Includes two chicken fried steaks, choice of potato, salad bar, drink and dessert $15.99
~ ~ ~
Sirloin Dinner For Two
Includes two 8 oz. Sirloin Steaks, choice of potato, salad bar, drink and dessert $19.99
THE SHACK
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573-4921



MAR 27 2000

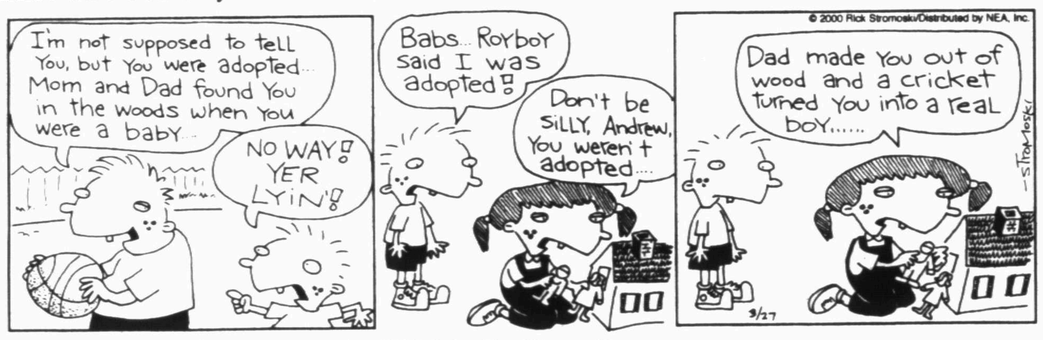
ZITS ® by Scott & Borgman



THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



BLONDIE © by Dean Young & Denis Lebrun



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Zebra or horse
7 Ancient Jewish ascetic
13 Type of burner
14 Chalkboard accessory
15 — baked beans
16 Baseball fan, e.g.
17 French season
18 Psychic Geller
20 Dutch city
21 Precious
23 Charged atom
24 Join metal
25 Printer's word
27 Developed into
29 Not in
31 Offense
32 Opposite of con
33 College entrance exam (abbr.)
34 Singer Lee
37 Hawaiian island
40 Destroy
41 Roman 650
43 Village
45 Shade tree
46 Actor DiCaprio, to friends
47 Baseball stat
48 Plaza Hotel imp
51 Subordinate bureaucrat
54 Landlord
55 "Seinfeld" gal
56 Robs
57 Less happy

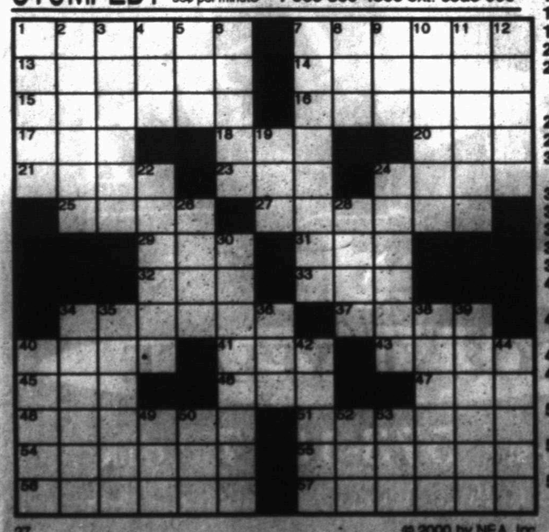
DOWN

1 Receded
2 Bartlett's entries
3 Dislodge from a chair
4 "Social" end
5 New (pref.)
6 Boredom
7 Strangeness
8 Sign at a full house (abbr.)
9 — Paulo
10 High regard
11 Tailor's need
12 Goofed
19 Actor Lowe
22 Unlock again
24 Newspaper notice (2 wds.)
26 Revolve
28 Hi or bye
30 Two-year-olds, e.g.
34 Pellet
35 Cracked
36 High card
38 Awful
39 Debonair
40 Walks unsteadily
42 Doesn't get any medals
44 Pled —
49 "Rose — — rose"
50 Spain's Costa del —
52 Neighbor of Ga.
53 Small amount

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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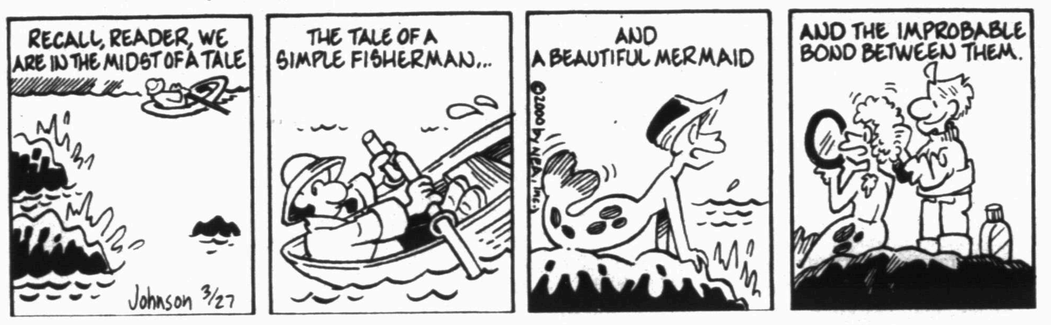


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FRANK & ERNEST ® by Bob Thaves



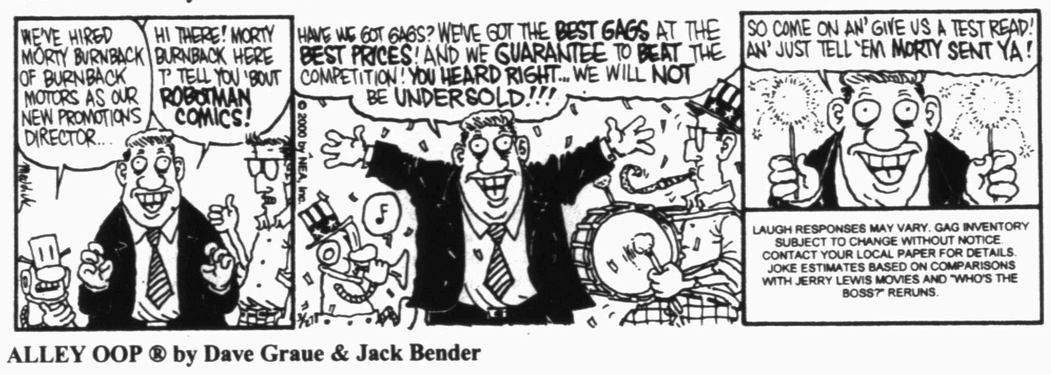
ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



ROBOTMAN ® by Jim Meddick



ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender



BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen



HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



"WHAT ARE YOU BLAMING ME FOR?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright

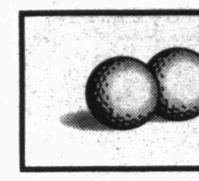


DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



"MY STOMACH'S LONESOME FOR SOME BREAKFAST."

Snyder Daily News Comics



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SPORTS

WTC women move into regional lead

ODESSA — The Lady Westerners didn't waste any time overtaking the top spot in the regional rodeo standings.

The Western Texas women jumped into the regional lead Saturday at the Odessa rodeo by grabbing their second consecutive title of the spring.

The Lady Westerners posted 270 points to win the event, eclipsing runner-up Vernon by 235 points. Odessa took third.



Childers

In the men's competition, WTC kept hold of its lead in the regional standings with a third-place finish over the weekend. Tarleton won the rodeo, with Odessa taking second.

The Lady Westerners were spurred by the effort of Jill Childers who claimed the all-around title. It was the second straight all-around title for a member of the WTC squad, after Brandee Brock won the honor at last week's event.

"Our women's team is doing the things that need to be done to win the region," said WTC coach Greg Rhodes. "They've really got off to a good start this spring. Now, it's going to come down to who has the best performances over the final four rodeos."

Childers posted a time of 8.4 seconds to grab second place in the finals of the goat tying, giving her the top spot in the average.

The WTC sophomore also fared well in the breakaway roping competition, securing fourth place overall, after finishing second in the short round.

Erin Kelly won the breakaway roping, registering the fastest time in the finals at 2.3 seconds. Brock was second in the average.

For the WTC men, it was Luke Richards leading the way. Richards' time of 3.9 in the steer wrestling finals propelled him into a three-way tie for first place.

Rawley McFarland turned in another consistent effort, taking third in the saddle bronc event with a score of 67 in the finals. Branden Mayberry was fourth.

McFarland also paired up with Dawson Burnes to finish fourth in the team roping competition.

Both Western Texas squads will look to hold on to their regional leads when they begin the Howard College rodeo Thursday in Big Spring.

Western Texas returns home April 6 to host the WTC rodeo at Scurry County Coliseum.

Texas Tech vs. Tennessee...

Lady Raiders like upset role

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The Texas Tech Lady Raiders considered themselves underdogs all season. That role is particularly appropriate tonight.

If the Lady Raiders are to reach the Final Four for the first time since their 1993 national championship, they will have to beat top-seeded Tennessee (31-3) in the Volunteer State. And no one has ever done that with a Final Four trip on the line.

The Lady Vols are 6-for-6 in regional championships played in Tennessee, and they will try to extend that tonight against Texas Tech (28-4) in the NCAA Mideast Regional championship at The Pyramid before essentially a home crowd.

That is just fine with the Lady Raiders.

"If everyone's cheering for us, it wouldn't be right," senior Keitha Dickerson said. "We always have to have someone against us, so I think it'll be a great atmosphere for us."

Coach Marsha Sharp said her Lady Raiders will feed off the orange crowd. They grew accustomed to being underdogs this season as they won the Big 12 Conference's regular-season title despite being picked to finish fifth.

"I'm not going to change anything in the way I've been motivating them," Sharp said. "They motivate themselves. ... That's the way they've approached things all year."

That mentality helped the third-seeded Lady Raiders dig their way out of early holes in each of their past two games, including a 17-0 start Saturday before they defeated Notre Dame.

Tennessee is shooting for its 12th Final Four berth in the 19 years of the NCAA tournament and its fifth in the past six years. But Lady Vols coach Pat Summitt said experience doesn't make regional finals any easier.

"While we know we're only one game away, I think this is always the most challenging game of the playoffs. In my estimation, it's probably the toughest to play, and the opponent makes it even tougher," she said.

Texas Tech features one of the nation's stingiest defenses, allowing just 55 points. The Lady Raiders play intense man-to-man, which Tennessee loves as well, but Summitt sees an advantage for Texas Tech.

"They're quick enough to really influence the interior game. While we may have an advantage with (6-foot-5 Michelle) Snow's size, I think they definitely have an advantage in terms of quickness in all of their positions," Summitt said.

The Lady Raiders successfully shut down Notre Dame's backcourt Saturday, holding Alicia Ratay and Niele Ivey to a combined 2-of-16 from the floor.

That defense will be tested by the Lady Vols, and not just All-American Tamika Catchings.

"You usually can concentrate on one player," Lady Raiders guard Melinda Schmucker-Pharies said. "That's not the case, even with Catchings. She's an awesome player, but I don't think we can concentrate on her."

Catchings does have Texas Tech's attention. She has scored more points than the game before in each round of the tournament and had 28 in Tennessee's semifinal victory over Virginia.

"You're not going to stop her," Dickerson said. "You just have to contain her. Hopefully, we can do our best and get the job done."

Final Four full of surprises

By HAL BOCK
AP Sports Writer

Maybe now, bubble teams will get more respect.

Usually a precarious place occupied by pretenders instead of contenders, this year's NCAA tournament bubble delivered two teams to the Final Four.

North Carolina and Wisconsin, who were both holding their breath on Selection Sunday, are on their way to the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, a couple of No. 8 seeds who turned out to be much better than that.

Both teams lost 13 games this season, but they've won four straight in the last two weekends, which means a ticket to the wrapup of March Madness.

Once again, they will be underdogs for the national semifinals, Wisconsin going against Michigan State, the last remaining No. 1 seed in the field, and North Carolina facing No. 5 Florida.

At No. 8, Wisconsin and North Carolina are the lowest seeds to reach the Final Four since No. 11 Lousiana State made it in 1986. The last No. 8 to get this far was Villanova, which won the national championship from that spot in 1985.

In district golf standings...

SHS girls lead by four

SWEETWATER — There were no surprises in the opening round of the District 5-4A girls' golf competition.

Snyder took the early district lead Saturday, firing a 328 to open up a four-stroke gap over second-place Fort Stockton. Andrews sits only six shots back of the Lady Tigers, after carding a 334.

"I knew it would be like this," said Snyder coach Matt Glenn. "It's been close all year when we've played with Andrews and Fort Stockton. I think there's been about a 6-8 stroke difference between us. It's going to be close all the way through, and anything can happen from here on out."

Senior Randi Reed paced the Lady Tigers with a round of 78, while sophomore Andra Lancaster fired an 81.

Lacey Kidd carded an 83, with Sally Barham posting an 86, and Kara Harrison turning in an 87.

Snyder II turned in a strong effort at Sweetwater Country Club, tallying a 381 to finish fifth.

Hailey Putnam led Snyder II with a 93, while Katie Kerley posted a 94. Lauren Day carded a 96, and Christen Curry tallied a 98. Kellie Dodson finished with a 109, and Catherine Whitworth came in with a 102.

The Lady Tigers will be back on the links Saturday at Big Spring.

SHS takes fourth at SA Relays

SAN ANGELO — Competing in one of the largest meets in West Texas, the Snyder High School track team held its own.

Snyder garnered 63 points to claim fourth place Saturday at the San Angelo Relays.

"This was a big meet, but I wasn't surprised that we finished as well as we did," said Snyder coach Chad Rogers. "We're starting to set our expectations higher, so the kids believe they should be one of the top teams at every meet."

Snyder followed its customary recipe for success, garnering important points in the field events, before moving onto the track.

Mark Medley captured second place in the shot put, bested only by Mineral Wells' Adel Duckett who set a meet record. Medley also garnered the runner-up spot in the discus.

Jared Thornhill grabbed the runner-up spot in the pole vault with an effort of 14 feet, 6 inches. Like Medley, the only height better than Thornhill's was 16-8 by Frenship's Sage Thames, which was a meet record.

Jesse Haines cleared 12-6 to finish sixth in the event.

Wade Pinson started his meet with a third-place effort in the high jump, before moving to the track where he found more success.

Pinson broke a 19-year-old meet record in the prelims of the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.10. In the finals, the SHS sophomore raced to a 14.59 to take second place behind Fredericksburg's Drew Woerner.

Pinson posted his final points of the meet in the 300 hurdles where he finished sixth.

Snyder continued its string of strong performances in the distance events, powered by sophomore Rudy Martinez.

Martinez won the mile and two-mile runs, with Charles Kerry finishing sixth in the 3,200.

Martinez and Kerry also teamed up with Anthony Vasquez and Danny Early to finish sixth in the 3,200-meter relay.

Snyder will be in competition again Saturday in Levelland.

JV Tigers rout Bulldogs, 6-0

SWEETWATER — Both squads registered four hits, but it was Snyder that posted a 6-0 victory over Abilene Wylie at the Sweetwater JV baseball tournament.

The Tigers jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first innings, before adding three more runs in the second. Snyder padded its advantage with a run in the third.

Pitcher Chris McLeod limited Wylie to only four hits and two walks, while striking out four Bulldogs.

McLeod led the Tigers at the plate with a double, while Josh Heaton, Shay Franks and Riki Dorsett slapped singles.

Snyder will be in action again this afternoon when it hosts Big Spring at 4:30.

Men's NCAA Tournament

All Times EST
EAST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Friday, March 24
Florida 87, Duke 78
Oklahoma State 68, Seton Hall 66
Regional Championship
Sunday, March 26
Florida 77, Oklahoma State 65

SOUTH REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Friday, March 24
Tulsa 80, Miami 71
North Carolina 74, Tennessee 69
Regional Championship
Sunday, March 26
North Carolina 59, Tulsa 55

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Thursday, March 23
Michigan State 75, Syracuse 58
Iowa State 80, UCLA 56
Regional Championship
Saturday, March 25
Michigan State 75, Iowa State 64

WEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Thursday, March 23
Purdue 75, Gonzaga 66
Wisconsin 61, LSU 48
Regional Championship
Saturday, March 25
Wisconsin 64, Purdue 60

THE FINAL FOUR
At The RCA Dome
Indianapolis
National Semifinals
Saturday, April 1
Wisconsin (22-13) vs. Michigan State (30-7), 5:42 p.m.
North Carolina (22-13) vs. Florida (28-7), 30 minutes after first game
National Championship
Monday, April 3
Semifinal winners, 9:18 p.m.

Women's NCAA Tournament

All Times EST
EAST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Saturday, March 25
LSU 79, Duke 66
Connecticut 102, Oklahoma 80
Regional Championship
Monday, March 27
LSU (25-6) vs. Connecticut (33-1), 7 p.m.

MIDEAST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Saturday, March 25
Tennessee 77, Virginia 56
Texas Tech 69, Notre Dame 65
Regional Championship
Monday, March 27
Tennessee (31-3) vs. Texas Tech (28-4), 9 p.m.

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Saturday, March 25
Louisiana Tech 86, Old Dominion 74
Penn State 66, Iowa State 65
Regional Championship
Monday, March 27
Louisiana Tech (31-2) vs. Penn State (29-4), 7:30 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Saturday, March 25
Georgia 83, North Carolina 57
Rutgers 60, Alabama-Birmingham 45
Regional Championship
Monday, March 27
Georgia (32-3) vs. Rutgers (25-7), Midnight

THE FINAL FOUR
At First Union Center
Philadelphia
National Semifinals
Friday, March 31
Mideast champion vs. West champion
East champion vs. Midwest champion
National Championship
Sunday, April 2
Semifinal winners

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Miami	43	26	.623	—
New York	43	26	.623	—
Philadelphia	41	28	.594	2
Orlando	35	36	.493	9
Boston	30	40	.429	13½
New Jersey	29	40	.420	14
Washington	25	46	.352	19
Central Division				
x-Indiana	47	23	.671	—
Toronto	39	30	.565	7½
Charlotte	38	31	.551	8½
Detroit	36	33	.522	10½
Milwaukee	33	37	.471	14
Cleveland	27	42	.391	19½
Atlanta	25	44	.362	21½
Chicago	14	55	.203	32½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
x-Utah	47	21	.691	—
x-San Antonio	44	25	.638	3½
x-Minnesota	43	26	.623	4½
Dallas	29	40	.420	18½
Denver	28	42	.400	20
Houston	26	44	.371	22
Vancouver	19	50	.275	28½
Pacific Division				
x-L.A. Lakers	59	12	.831	—
x-Portland	51	18	.739	7
x-Phoenix	45	24	.652	13
Sacramento	40	29	.580	18
Seattle	40	29	.580	18
Golden State	17	53	.243	41½
L.A. Clippers	14	57	.197	45

x-clinched playoff berth

Saturday's Games
Charlotte 86, Atlanta 70
Washington 93, Dallas 86
San Antonio 96, Cleveland 76
Utah 84, Vancouver 75
Detroit 126, L.A. Clippers 107

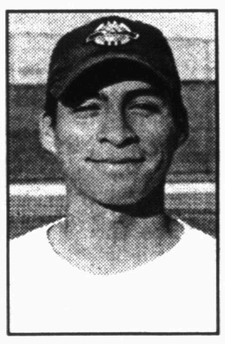
Sunday's Games
Philadelphia 111, Indiana 101
Orlando 94, Miami 69
Denver 112, New Jersey 110
Houston 123, Chicago 78
Milwaukee 99, Boston 84
L.A. Lakers 90, Sacramento 89
Minnesota 106, Toronto 101, OT
Phoenix 90, Golden State 82
New York 93, Portland 89

Monday's Games
San Antonio at Seattle, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 9 p.m.

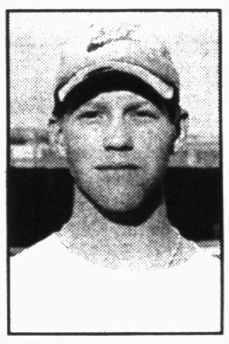
Tuesday's Games
Toronto at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix vs. Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
New York at Sacramento, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

SHS netters nab fourth

LUBBOCK — The Snyder High School boys' doubles duo of Adrian Gonzales and Ryan Gibson wasn't seeded in the top four at the Lubbock Invitational Tennis Tournament.



Gonzales



Gibson

But the Tiger tandem proved that seedings don't mean everything.

Competing against 31 other doubles teams, Gonzales and Gibson turned in stellar efforts to capture fourth place in Lubbock.

The tandem paced Snyder's effort, advancing all the way to the semifinals, before dropping its final two matches.

Allen Smith also finished strong, securing 12th place in boys' singles, while Horatio DePaz took the 25th spot.

In girls' singles action, Cozy Jones finished 24th and Natalie Alexander was 27th overall.

The Lady Tigers' two doubles teams had to square off against one another on Saturday. Whitney Graham and Patricia Vargas edged teammates Claire Cotton and Jordan Hardin, 6-3, 6-4 to finish in 26th place.

Sports Briefs

Senior league needs help

Snyder Senior Baseball League is in need of board members. Anyone interested in serving on the board, or helping in any capacity, should contact Joel Hook at 573-4872 or 573-5213.

Pitching clinics held weekly

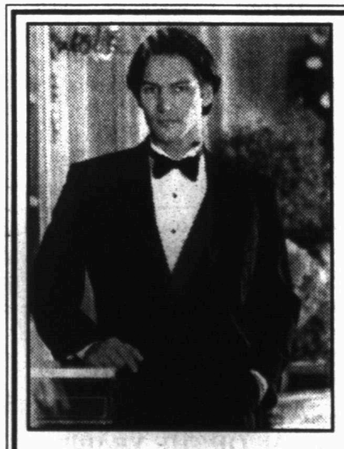
Fastpitch softball pitching clinics will be held every Wednesday. Class size is limited. For more information, contact Herman Martinez at 573-0390.

Softball tourney scheduled

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church will host a men's softball tournament April 14-16 at Winston Field.

Deadline to enter is April 12, and entry fee is $110 per team. Trophies will be awarded to the top four teams.

For more information, call Ricky Garcia at 573-5996, Henry Ramos at 573-2037, or Ygnacio Benitez at 573-6401.



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High court gets school prayer issue

SANTA FE (AP) — Amanda Bruce thinks she knows why so few classmates and neighbors have joined her in speaking out against public prayers at high school football games.

"They're scared they'll be shunned by the community or be labeled an atheist or devil worshipper like I was," said the 18-year-old senior, who wrote newspaper columns against the practice.

Nearly five years after two families filed a lawsuit against the Santa Fe school district over the prayers, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case on Wednesday. It will be the court's first major school prayer ruling since 1992, when it barred clergy-led invocations and benedictions at graduation ceremonies.

At issue is whether public school districts can allow students to initiate and lead prayers over the public-address system before the football games. A decision is expected by late June.

For some of the 10,000 residents of Santa Fe, a bedroom community 40 miles southeast of Houston with more churches than restaurants, the Supreme Court's decision has profound personal implications.

If prayer at sporting events is upheld, "it probably will destroy my faith in the Constitution and what this country stands for," said Debbie Mason, a Baptist who testified for the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

On the other side, school board President John Couch II foresees trouble if prayer is disallowed.

"It would be a huge disappointment not only for us but for the nation," he said. "Students and private citizens would have their rights taken away from them on public property. I think it would be the start of further downfalls."

Gov. George W. Bush, who is seeking the Republican presidential nomination, and state Attorney General John Cornyn filed briefs supporting student-led prayer.

The identities of the two families who filed the lawsuit — one Catholic and one Mormon — were sealed by the courts.

Their lawsuit alleged that the school district's policy of allowing students to lead prayers at home football games violated the First Amendment by creating a "pervasive religious atmosphere."

Mason, whose four children attended Santa Fe schools, said about 25 families, angered by numerous incidents including distribution of Gideon Bibles at Santa Fe High School, considered joining the suit but most dropped out as the conflict drew widespread attention.

A year ago, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a federal judge's ruling that "nonsectarian and non-proselytizing" prayer could be allowed at public school events such as graduation.

The judge had also allowed the same limited prayers at football games. But the 5th Circuit said those prayers are out of bounds, ruling that the games are "hardly the sober type of annual event that can be appropriately solemnized with prayer."

The Supreme Court is limiting its review to only the prayers-at-football games issue.

The school district responded to the 5th Circuit ruling by crafting strict guidelines banning pregame prayer, and warned senior Marian Ward, elected by fellow students to deliver brief messages solemnizing football games, that she would be disciplined if she prayed.

Ward's family filed suit in September, arguing that the guidelines violated her free speech rights. A U.S. District Court judge agreed that the guidelines the school had written were unconstitutional and ruled that the school could not censor Ward's speech.

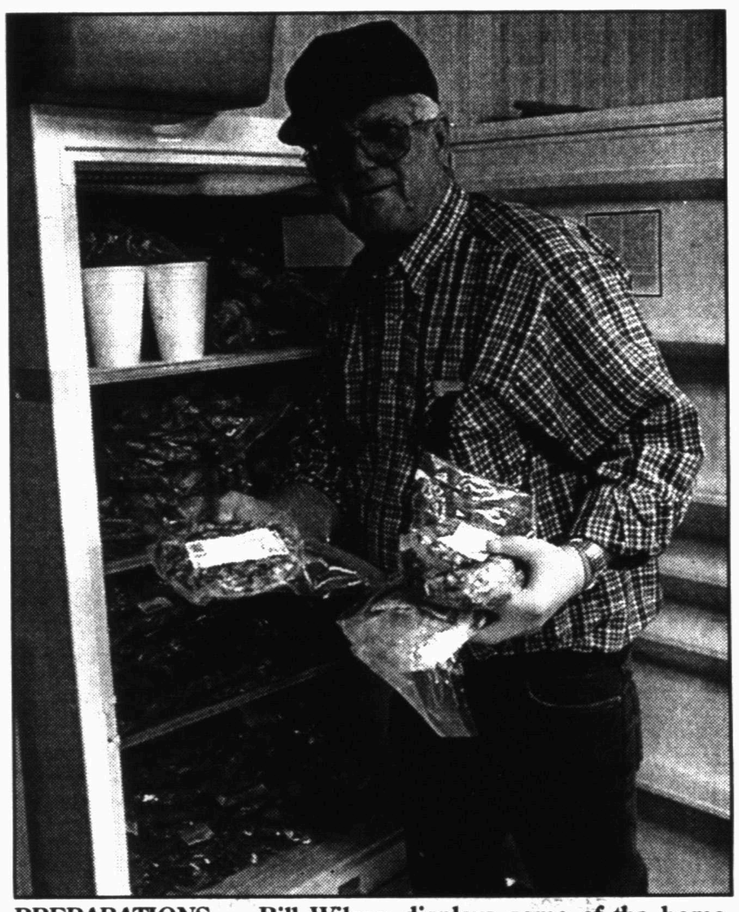
Ward was given a standing ovation when she delivered a prayer before the school's football home season opener.

Earlier this month in Texas' Republican primary, 94 percent of voters approved a nonbinding resolution backing student-initiated prayer at school sporting events.

Couch and Mayor Robert Cheek say the vast majority of Santa Fe residents favor prayer at football games. They downplay reports of friction between the sides, but admit that peer pressure might prevent some discussion.

"Anti-prayer is not a popular opinion," Cheek said. "I guess when you have an overwhelming majority supporting prayer, there are probably those who are scared to come forward."

Mason, Bruce and only a handful of other people held a demonstration at the homecoming game in October. They say they represent a large silent contingent that believes pre-game prayer wrongly entangles church and state.



PREPARATIONS — Bill Wilson displays some of the homemade sausage, which will be served at the St. Elizabeth Sausage Festival April 9. Tickets are $6 for adults and takeouts and $3 for children under 12. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

DaimlerChrysler, Mitsubishi become 3rd-largest automaker

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — DaimlerChrysler AG, seeking a foothold in Asia, said Monday it would buy 34 percent of Japan's Mitsubishi Motors Corp. — an alliance that would create the world's third-largest automaker.

In a statement issued before the stock market opened in Frankfurt, DaimlerChrysler said its chairman, Juergen Schrempp, and Mitsubishi president Katsuhiko Kawasoe had signed a letter of intent in Stuttgart to form an alliance regarding the design, development, production and distribution of passenger cars and light commercial vehicles.

DaimlerChrysler said it would pay $2 billion for the stake through a capital increase, giving the company regular seats on Mitsubishi's board "to be part of the decision making process at Mitsubishi." The final contracts will be signed within the next few months.

The move represents a major commitment by Daimler-Chrysler to the Asian market, where Schrempp has said his company wants to earn 25 percent of its revenue.

"Mitsubishi Motors is the ideal partner to increase Daimler-Chrysler's presence in all parts of Asia," Schrempp said in the statement.

The deal also would help Mitsubishi get out of its mounting financial difficulties. The company is carrying a crippling $16.4 billion debt, giving it the highest debt-to-equity ratio in the Japanese car industry.

"While Mitsubishi Motors will essentially remain an independently managed company, we will be able to combine our strengths in many areas and benefit from this alliance," Kawasoe said.

Japan's auto industry has been one of the hardest hit by the country's prolonged economic downturn, and several carmakers have sought foreign partners. In the biggest deal, Renault SA of France bought a 36.8 percent stake in Japan's debt-ridden Nissan Motor Co. in May 1999.

The deal would help the German-American automaker advance one of its main goals: increasing group sales in the fast-growing Asian market.

"It lays the groundwork for them to develop a much more competitive position," said Howard Smith, auto analyst with ING Barings Securities (Japan) Ltd. in Tokyo. "Asia is going to be the goose that lays the golden egg" at some point.

It also apparently gives DaimlerChrysler control over Japan's fourth-biggest automaker. The Detroit News reported Monday that the deal gives Daimler-Chrysler veto rights over management decisions and as many as three seats on Mitsubishi's board.

DaimlerChrysler itself is a creation of the trend in the global auto industry toward consolidation. The Stuttgart-based Daimler-Benz bought out American automaker Chrysler Corp. in 1998.

But the company has been relatively late in entering the race for the Asian market.

Ford bought a controlling stake in Japanese automaker Mazda in 1996. General Motors owns stakes in Isuzu Motors Ltd., Suzuki Motor Corp. and has plans to take a 20 percent chunk of Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., the maker of Subaru cars.

Despite its crumbling finances, Mitsubishi is an attractive catch for several reasons.

One is its strength in smaller cars. The Germany newsmagazine Der Spiegel reported over the weekend that Daimler-Chrysler planned to use Mitsubishi Motor Corp.'s Dutch plant to expand its struggling mini-car line.

That was expected not only to strengthen the company's position in Asia but also to help the Mercedes manufacturer meet fleet fuel-efficiency targets required by the European Union.

Mitsubishi also has become a pioneer in gasoline direct injection technology, but has failed to exploit its leadership. Daimler-Chrysler, with greater resources, could put that know-how to use, Smith said.

It was doubtful, however, that Mitsubishi alone would provide DaimlerChrysler with sufficient punch, at least immediately, to guarantee a strong presence in Asia.

"They're going to have to develop both a product and a brand to sell in Asia," said Smith. "And I'm not sure that Mitsubishi offers them that right now."

'Erin Brockovich' maintains hold on top box office movie

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With Hollywood's eyes on a guy named Oscar, a gal named "Erin Brockovich" quietly captured the top box office spot for the second week in a row.

The legal drama starring Julia Roberts grossed an estimated $19 million for the weekend, closely followed by the newly released action film "Romeo Must Die" with $18.6 million, according to studio estimates released Sunday.

Academy Award-winning films "American Beauty" and "The Cider House Rules" benefitted from an "Oscar bounce" as moviegoers rushed to see the films before Sunday's annual Academy Awards ceremony, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., which tracks movie attendance.

"American Beauty" pulled in $3.9 million in the No. 7 spot, bringing its cumulative earnings to $108.4 million. "Cider House" grossed an estimated $2.8 million in ninth for a cumulative gross of $49.7 million.

"American Beauty" dominated the Oscars, taking the best picture award. The film's star, Kevin Spacey, won for best actor and Sam Mendes won best director. "Beauty" also won for original screenplay and for cinematography.

Michael Caine, the kindly orphanage headmaster in "The Cider House Rules," won an Oscar for best supporting actor. The film also earned the best adapted screenplay Oscar for John Irving.

"Erin Brockovich" is based on the real-life story of a California woman who took a clerical job with a legal firm and uncovered a pollution scandal involving Pacific Gas & Electric Co. Brockovich led a crusade for 650 residents whose water was contaminated by the utility and won a $333 million settlement.

"It is a film that certainly is benefitting from great word of mouth," Dergarabedian said. "There's no question this is a crowd pleaser."

"Erin Brockovich" has grossed a cumulative $56.3 million in its two weeks of release and is the second all-time top-grossing film for March. "Liar, Liar" from 1997 holds the record for the month.

The second place "Romeo" is a tale of Asian and black gang families vying for control of an American waterfront.

The horror story "Final Destination," a tale of teen-agers stalked by death, was third for its second week in release with $7.1 million.

Two films that competed — along with "Final Destination" — for the teen market opened in the fifth and sixth box office slots. "Here on Earth" grossed an estimated $4.6 million, followed by "Whatever it Takes" with $4.3 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations. Final figures were to be released today.

1. "Erin Brockovich," $19 million.
2. "Romeo Must Die," $18.6 million.
3. "Final Destination," $7.1 million.
4. "Mission to Mars," $5.8 million.
5. "Here on Earth," $4.6 million.
6. "Whatever it Takes," $4.3 million.
7. "American Beauty," $3.9 million.
8. "My Dog Skip," $3.3 million.
9. "The Cider House Rules," $2.8 million.
10. "The Whole Nine Yards," $2.1 million.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	32⅜	30	15-16	31 9-16— ¼
AT&T Corp s	59 9-16	57⅛	58¾	+ 1½
Albertsons	29 7-16	28 9-16	28 11-16—	⅜
Alltel	69 13-16	67¾	68 5-16—	1 9-16
AmerOnline s	72 13-16	69½	71½	+ 1
AndarkPtr	35 3-16	33 15-16	34¼	+ 3-16
AtlRichfld	83½	79 7-16	79½—	3 5-16
ATMOS Egy	18⅛	17⅛	17 7-16—	11-16
Aviall	9 1-16	8⅜	8¾—	7-16
BP Amoco s	51⅞	50 3-16	50⅝—	⅞
BakerHughes	28 11-16	27 13-16	28	+ 9-16
Bank of Amer	55 3-16	53¼	54⅝	+ 7-16
BellAtl	60 7-16	59 1-16	59½—	⅛
BellSouth	45⅜	44	44 11-16	+ ⅜
Beth Steel	6 3-16	6 1-16	6 1-16	
BurlNoSFe	21⅞	21	21¾	+ ¾
CBS Corp	62¾	62 3-16	62⅝—	⅜
Caterpillar	40	39¼	39½—	1-16
CenSoWst	17⅝	17	17 9-16	+ ¼
Chevron	85 15-16	84¾	85⅝	+ 1
Citigroup s	62⅜	59⅝	60 9-16—	1⅛
Coastal	42⅞	41½	42⅝	+ ½
CocaCola	47 3-16	46⅜	47	
ColgatePal s	56	53 3-16	54⅜	+ 1¼
CmclMetals	27 15-16	27 9-16	27⅝	+ 1-16
CooperIn	35½	34 1-16	34½	+ 3-16
DaimlrChry	68¼	67	67½	+ 7-16
DallSemicn s	44⅜	41¾	41¾	+ ¼
DeltaAirl	54⅜	51⅛	52⅝—	7-16
Dillards Inc	16 7-16	15⅜	15 15-16—	⅜
DowChem	110⅛	105	108⅜	+ 2⅜
DuPont	55 11-16	54⅛	54 13-16—	3-16
EastmanChem	43⅞	42⅝	42⅞—	⅛
EstKodak	57½	55½	57⅛	+ ⅜
EDS Corp	74⅝	72	72 3-16	+ 9-16
Entergy	19⅞	19⅜	19⅞	+ 3-16
ExxonMobil	77 9-16	75⅝	77¼	+ 1¾
Flowers	13½	13⅛	13⅜—	1-16
FordMotor	45¼	44	44⅝	+ ⅛
GTE Cp	70½	68 9-16	69 3-16—	⅝
GenDynam	48 15-16	46	48¼	+ 1 13-16
GenElec	159¾	155 15-16	159 1-16—	15-16
GenMills s	35⅜		34¼	34¼—11-16
GenMotors	86 5-16	84⅜	85⅜—	1⅜
GaPacGP s	39 7-16	37 13-16	38 15-16—	11-16
GlobalMar	26	24 1-16	24⅜	+ ⅜
Goodrich	28 3-16	27 3-16	27 7-16—	9-16
Goodyear s	24¼	23 7-16	24⅛	+ 9-16
GtAtlPac	18⅝	17 11-16	18⅛—	11-16
Halliburtn	40⅛	38¼	39	+ 1⅛
Hanson ADS	35 15-16	35¼	35 5-16	+ 1¼
HarteHanks	22¼	21 9-16	21⅝—	¼
HomeDepot s	65 5-16	63½	64⅜	+ ¼
Honeywellint	49 11-16	46	49⅝	+ 3⅜
IBM s	122¼	115 1-16	120⅜	+ 5⅜
IntlPaper	40 1-16	38 11-16	39 7-16	+ 5-16
JohnsonJn	74	70 3-16	72¼—	7¾
K mart	9 15-16	9 9-16	9¾—	⅛
Kroger Co s	18¼	16⅝	17⅞	+ 1¼
Litton	39	35 3-16	37¾	+ 2 5-16
LockheedM	17¾	17 1-16	17½	+ 7-16
Lowes Cos	54½	52 1-16	53¾	+ 1 3-16
Lubys	9 11-16	9 9-16	9 11-16	+ 1-16
LucentTech	67⅛	64	64	— 1¼
MayDeptStr	29 5-16	28¾	28⅞—	¼
MediaOne	83½	81 3-16	82 15-16	+ 1 13-16
Medtronic s	56 9-16	54⅞	55	—1 1-16
Monsanto	49 11-16	46 1-16	47¼—	1 39-64
MorganJP	138	134¼	136 13-16	+ 11-16
Motorola	166 15-16	159¾	163 9-16	+ 2 1-16
NCR Corp	44¼	42 9-16	42⅞	+ 3-16
Navistar	39 15-16	38 9-16	39¾	+ ⅞
Penney JC	15 3-16	14 13-16	15	— 7-16
PepBoys	6⅝	6¼	6⅝—	⅛
PepsiCo	33½	32 9-16	32 15-16—	9-16
PhelpDodge	50 1-16	48⅛	49 7-16—	⅛
PhilipPet	44⅛	42 13-16	42 15-16	+ 5-16
PilgrmPrd B	6 9-16	6 5-16	6⅛	+ 1-16
Polaroid	26 11-16	25⅛	25 3-16—	⅛
Praxair	39⅛	37	38 13-16	+ 1 1-16
ProctGamb	56½	55⅛	56 7-16	+ ¼
PubS NwMx	15 11-16	15 5-16	15⅝	+ 5-16
ReliantEngy	22 13-16	21⅞	22 3-16—	¼
RoyalDut	57 13-16	56½	56 9-16—	9-16
SBC Comm	43 11-16	42 9-16	43	— 9-16
SaraLee	18⅝	18	18⅝	+ ⅝
Scripps EW	46 9-16	45 7-16	45¾	—1 1-16
SearsRoeb	30¾	30 1-16	30 5-16—	⅝
SherwinW	22⅞	21 15-16	22 5-16	+ ⅜
SmithkdBchm	69⅝	66⅝	67⅛—	7-16
SouthernCo	21⅞	21¼	21⅞	+ 7-16
SwstAirl s	20¼	19 9-16	20	— 5-16
SprintFON s	59½	56⅜	59¼	+ 3⅝
SprintPCS s	65 3-16	63⅜	64½	+ ¼
Sunoco Inc	27 9-16	27	27¼	
TNP Ent		43⅝	43 9-16	43 9-16— 1-16
Tandy s	52½	49⅞	51¼—	¼
TempleInland	49	47½	48⅜—	¼
Texaco	52 11-16	50⅞	51 1-16—	¾
TexInd	34 5-16	33 13-16	33⅞	+ ⅛
TexasInst s	184 15-16	172	176 9-16	+ 2 5-16
Tex Util	30¼	29 13-16	30	+ ⅛
Textron	61⅞	59 1-16	59 7-16	—2 3-16
TriconGlbR	30⅛	29 1-16	29 13-16	+ ⅝
TrinityInds	23 5-16	22⅝	22 15-16—	3-16
TritonEngy	36½	34 13-16	35 3-16	+ ½
TylerTech	5¾	5¼	5¾	+ ⅜
US West Inc	69¼	67¾	68	—1 5-16
USX-Marathn	23½	22½	22¾	
USX-USS	23½	22¾	23 1-16—	¼
UnCarbde	54 7-16	50 11-16	53 11-16	+ 1¾
UnionPacif	38⅞	37¾	38⅛—	9-16
UnitedTech s	59	56½	57 1-16—	1 5-16
Unocal	28 1-16	26¾	27 7-16—	1-16
Venator Grp	8 7-16	8	8 7-16	+ 3-16
WalMart	55 11-16	54	55½	+ 1½
WellsFargo	42⅝	40¾	41	— 7-16
WstnGasRs	16	15¾	16	+ ⅛
WinnDixie	17⅝	17⅛	17 5-16	+ 29-256
Xerox Cp	27 11-16	26 7-16	26 13-16—	1-16

Local Interest STOCKS

Patterson	28	-1 3/16
Dell	55 55/64	-37/64
Wal Mart	55 3/16	-5/16
Compac	29	+1/4
Dol. Gen.	24 7/16	+1/8
GTE	69 3/4	+9/16
SBC Comm.	42 3/4	-1/4
BJ Services	69 1/2	-1/2
LU	65 1/4	+1 1/4
Cisco Sys.	81	+1 5/8

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Al Gore proposes reforms in fund-raising

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Al Gore is proposing campaign finance changes — a "Democracy Endowment" and strict disclosure rules — in his effort to attract John McCain supporters and inoculate himself against George W. Bush's repeated attacks on Gore's past fund-raising abuses.

Gore, who said he was putting campaign overhaul front-and-center in his Democratic presidential race after proponents McCain and Bill Bradley dropped out, planned to announce his plan at a campaign appearance today in Milwaukee.

He was calling for creation of a $7.1 billion endowment to pay for House and Senate campaigns, new disclosure rules for lobbyists and outside groups that pay for political ads, and mandatory free "rebuttal" air time for candidates targeted by such third-party ads.

The measures amount to, in equal parts, a drive for reform-minded independents who had supported McCain in the Republican primaries and a pre-emptive strike against Texas Gov. Bush, the presumed GOP nominee who has already made Gore's fund-raising record a campaign issue.

In a statement, Bush dismissed Gore's proposals as "a taxpayer financed government takeover of campaigns." Bush has proposed a ban on unregulated soft money from corporations and unions and an increase in the limit on individual contributions to candidates.

Bush pressed his demand that Gore answer for his past tactics lest his promise to pursue reforms "ring hollow."

In an excerpt of Gore's speech text provided to The Washington Post and The New York Times, Gore acknowledged his potential credibility problem, given fund-raising tactics in 1996 that he has called "mistakes." They include participation in a fund-raiser at a Buddhist temple and the use of White House telephones in soliciting campaign cash.

"I understand the doubts about whether I personally am serious on campaign reform," Gore says in the draft speech. "And I understand all too well the irony of our current fund-raising system. Men and women of good intentions and high ideals want to protect the public interest but have to raise private money in order to do so."

Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., cosponsor with McCain of major campaign finance legislation pending before Congress, was expected to be at the vice president's side for the announcement at Marquette University.

Gore would pledge to make the long-stalled bill, which bans unlimited "soft money" donations that corporations and labor unions give to political parties, the first piece of domestic legislation he submits to Congress as president, a campaign aide said late Sunday.

Gore has long supported the bill, but many Republicans contend it would unfairly help Democrats because unions still could spend members' dues money on anti-GOP ads.

The Gore aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the so-called Democracy Endowment is designed to function like a university endowment. Businesses and individuals would receive a 100 percent tax deduction for contributions that would pay for House and Senate general election campaigns.

Candidates receiving funds from the endowment could not accept money from other sources.

The proposal is consistent with Gore's long support for taxpayer financing of federal campaigns. Aides projected that a $7.1 billion fund could be built over seven years, with interest on the principal generating the money for congressional candidates in the eighth year. Over that seven years, the endowment would cost the federal Treasury an estimated $2.1 billion in lost tax revenue.

Another proposal is specifically aimed at an issue that cropped up with great controversy during Bush's nasty primary fight with McCain. Two Texas brothers and prominent Bush supporters, Sam and Charles Wyly, spent some $2.5 million on ads in key states attacking the Arizona senator's environmental record.

Bush denied any connection with or prior knowledge of the ads.

Gore's proposed new rules would require public identification of those paying for any political ad that airs within 60 days of Election Day and, in the case of an organization-paid ad, the names of the group's financial backers.

Under the Gore proposal, lobbyists also would be required to make monthly disclosures of all their lobbying contacts.

Polls: N. York senate race tightening

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — With a new poll showing the Senate race between Hillary Rodham Clinton and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani tightening, the first lady on Sunday picked up the first political party endorsement of the campaign.

"I consider this the beginning of a partnership," Clinton told the convention of the Working Families Party, a small, labor union-backed third party.

She promised to be "a voice and a vote" in the Senate for working families.

The Working Families Party was created in New York two years ago to push the Democratic Party toward the left, and to help the Senate candidacy of Democrat Charles Schumer against Republican incumbent Alfonse D'Amato. Schumer won that race.

Minor party endorsements can be valuable in the race because unlike other states, New York allows major party candidates to add votes cast for them on third party ballot lines to their overall vote total. That can make the difference in close elections.

Meanwhile, a New York Post poll out Sunday and conducted by Zogby International showed Clinton favored by 45 percent of likely voters surveyed to 42 percent for the New York City mayor, a statistical tie. A Zogby poll conducted three weeks ago had Giuliani leading the first lady, 49 percent to 42 percent.

Pollster John Zogby attributed the shift, in part, to voter dissatisfaction with the mayor's handling of the shooting 10 days ago of an unarmed black man by New York City police.

The statewide telephone poll of 710 likely voters was conducted Friday and Saturday and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Two other statewide polls — by Marist College's Institute for Public Opinion and by the Quinnipiac College Polling Institute — taken before the shooting had shown Giuliani with slight leads over the first lady. A CBS News-New York Times poll had shown the race even.

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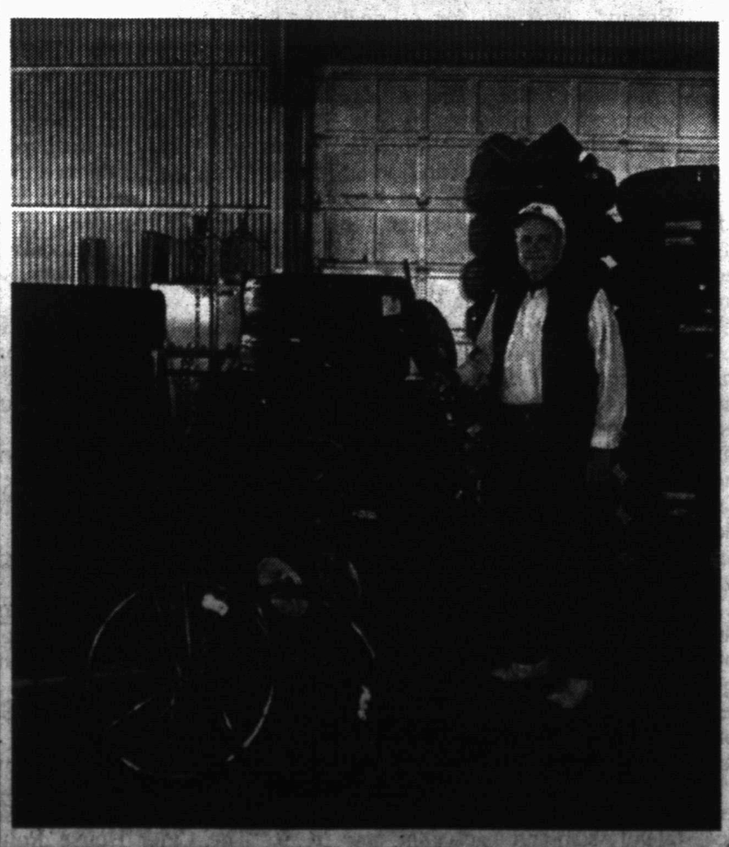
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Bush spends 10 days or less in office

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Since Republican frontrunner George W. Bush began his presidential campaign, he generally has spent 10 days or less per month in the Texas governor's office, according to a published report.

Bush's official calendar and records kept by his campaign show that the governor spent 103 days campaigning out-of-state and only 20 days in his state office during the 25-week period from Oct. 1 through March 23 on the job he tells voters qualifies him to be president, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

The newspaper said that Bush's calendar, which tracks his Monday-through-Friday workweek, shows he was in his office just one day each in January and February, three so far this month, three in December and six each in October and November.

But the governor has kept in close contact with his staff and makes good use of his time when he is in town, Bush spokeswoman Linda Edwards told the newspaper.

"It has been a relatively short period of time that he has been gone a large number of days," she said.

Aides also note that Bush's calendar provides less than a complete picture of the time Bush spends taking care of Texas business. They say it doesn't track weekends, days he shows up unscheduled in his office, meetings at the Governor's Mansion or time he has spent in contact by telephone from around the country.

"The public understands anyone who is running for president just about has to give up their day job," said political science professor Larry Berman, director of a Washington, D.C.-based center run by the University of California and author of "The New American Presidency."

"In this case, Bush's day job is governor," said Berman. "John McCain's was senator. When Bill Clinton ran in 1992, his was governor."

Ventura will push for China trade deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura says he is joining forces with the Clinton administration to push for permanent normal trade relations with China.

"If we turn our back on China, rest assured the other nations throughout the world are not going to turn their back on them," Ventura said on "Fox News Sunday."

Ventura, who was the Reform Party's highest elected official before quitting it last month, said he would help lobby for the trade bill now pending in Congress. The legislation would award China permanent normal trade status with the United States in return for China's agreement to drop trade barriers that American manufacturers and farmers complain cost them billions of dollars in lost export sales.

China made the market-opening offers to get U.S. support for its membership in the World Trade Organization.

Ventura is scheduled to tout his support of the measure Thursday when he testifies before the House Ways and Means Committee.

He plans to be active in other forums as well.

"I've been asked by the administration to take a very lead role on trade of which I'm honored, and I will take that lead," Ventura said. "I believe in doing what's best for our country, and if I can help, I'll dogone well do it.

When Ventura was in Washington for a recent National Governors' Association meeting, he told Clinton he was a strong supporter of China's entry into the WTO, White House spokesman Jake Siewert said Sunday. The president said he hoped Ventura would play a visible role.

"Obviously, we appreciate his support and hope he's visible on this because he speaks for an important and substantial portion of the American people," Siewert said from Geneva, where Clinton met with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Clinton and the nation's business community strongly support normal trade relations, while organized labor is just as steadfastly opposed.

Ventura said labor's position was wrong.

"They better modernize themselves and realize that opening up China to our trade is going to create more jobs here, because we're in a position where we're giving up nothing," he said. "Whatever China is sending here now they'll continue to send here. But what is happening here is tariffs are going to go down, markets in China are going to go open up."

Prosecutors prepare for trial

SAGINAW (AP) — Prosecutors have been spending the first anniversary of a North Texas girl's disappearance preparing reams of reports and other evidence for the trial of a convicted child molester.

But a conviction against Richard Lee "Ricky" Franks will be harder without an explanation of what happened to 6-year-old Opal Jo Jennings.

On Sunday, friends and neighbors wiped away tears during a ceremony remembering Opal, who disappeared from a vacant lot next to her grandparent's home one year ago.

Even though prosecutors will not try to prove that Franks, 30, killed the child, they will argue that he abducted Opal — perhaps to molest or hurt her. The aggravated kidnapping trial is scheduled to begin April 3.

Prosecutors Lisa Callaghan and Greg Miller are expected to rely heavily on Franks' statement to police. In it, he says he gave Opal a ride to a convenience store after she made a sexual advance toward him.

But defense attorneys Leon Haley and Ed Jones have contended that Franks lied, partly because he has a diminished mental capacity and was manipulated by police and also because he was fantasizing.

Franks has recanted his admission.

The afternoon anniversary included music and Opal's well-wishers decorating a newly planted 10-foot crape myrtle with small colored eggs.

"Sometimes it seems like it's been two lifetimes," said Audrey Sanderford, the girl's grandmother.

"I want to be sure that people remember what happened so they don't let down their guard on their own kids," said Sanderford, who with her husband became Opal's legal guardians a few months before she disappeared on March 26, 1999.

"No one has forgotten Opal," the retired nurse added. "She's out there somewhere and I want her back."

A man sporting a ponytail and driving a dark car snatched Opal while she and her playmates messed with an ant hill near the curb.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Treat prostate cancer aggressively

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband has been diagnosed with prostate cancer that has spread to his bones. His doctor has chosen to do nothing until my husband experiences pain. Is this appropriate? Am I in danger of getting cancer if I continue relations?

DEAR READER: Prostate cancer that has spread (metastasized) should be aggressively treated with either radiation, chemotherapy or both. In my opinion, the advice given your husband was incorrect.

Many urologists now recommend hormone therapy for patients with prostate cancer. Such therapy often shrinks the tumor in the prostate — as well as metastatic lesions — and is an appropriate first step. I'm afraid that if your husband delays therapy, the cancer could progress to the stage at which treatment is unfeasible or ineffective.

You are not in danger of developing cancer from intimate exposure to your husband. However, I should warn you that if he seeks a second opinion (as he should) from a cancer specialist or urologist, and the doctors prescribe anti-male-hormone medication, he will surely experience a marked decrease in his sexual interest and ability. This is simply an unavoidable trade-off for controlling the cancer. To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "The Prostate Gland." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: My husband has a shrunken testicle. Two urologists have told him it is caused by epididymitis. Antibiotics have not improved the situation. Also, I have frequent urinary tract infections. Could we have chlamydia?

DEAR READER: Epididymitis is inflammation of the tube that carries sperm from each testicle to the penis. If an infection is present, it is often difficult to cure with antibiotics and may cause some testicular shrinkage. However, this rarely causes problems with sexual interest, arousal or ability. Your husband's epididymitis and your urinary infections may be related. You should check with a gynecologist about this.

Chlamydia are microorganisms that cause infection of the cervix and urinary passage. This infection is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases and is a frequent cause of infertility; in women, it may produce few other symptoms. (In men, it can be completely hidden.) Thus, your gynecologist is your best resource for diagnosis and treament.

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NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.

George Kennedy adopts grandchild

NEW YORK (AP) — At age 75, actor George Kennedy has become a parent again by adopting one of his grandchildren.

In an interview in Sunday's Parade magazine, Kennedy said he and his wife Joan adopted their 5-year-old granddaughter Taylor because her mother, Shaunna, is battling drug addiction.

Taylor's mother — one of four adopted children raised by the Kennedys — has been incarcerated as a chronic offender in California, Kennedy said.

"Shaunna's been involved with drugs since she was 12. She's 35 now, and she has been totally unable to take care of this child," he said.

Despite his age, Kennedy — who has appeared in dozens of films including "[illegible]" and "Airport" — isn't concerned about being able to keep up with a young child.

"As grandparents, we have so much more time to spend with her," Kennedy said. "So, even though we aren't as nimble as young parents, we're around for Taylor and can give her the attention she needs."

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

An enterprise you might have had a difficult time launching could be regenerated or revitalized in the year ahead. Changes could bring about the type of success denied you previously.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Again today career or financial matters have good chances of going your way. In fact, this could be a day to ask for small concessions. They could turn out to be significant. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Stick to our guns and honor all your promises. You will garner greater respect from your peers as they watch you in action.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) A favor may be granted you today from someone you'd least expect, but what is really significant is that this small gesture could turn out to mean more than anyone thought.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Should you be asked to choose sides on an issue that impacts others as well as yourself, base your decision on what's best for all concerned and everything will work out well.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Continue to focus your efforts on objectives that are truly meaningful, no matter how difficult they appear to be. Things could go more smoothly today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A serious matter you've been eager to resolve could have a good chance of being discussed in a congenial manner if you select a friendly place to meet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Don't wait for changes to come about that you think would benefit your family. Make things happen yourself, even if you have to transform your lifestyle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Today you might have to deal with someone who is a tough nut to crack. Employ diplomacy, because it will go a long way toward overcoming demands.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) A bonus or promotion could be in the offing for you today because of some difficult service you performed on the job in the past few days or weeks. Enjoy. You deserve it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) If a group with whom you're involved appears to be leaderless today, don't be hesitant to step forward and take the reigns. You're the person who can get things back on track.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Give top priority today to a matter that has the potential to generate a steady flow of returns. Someone in the position to do so will help you along the way.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) A lesson you learned recently by observing others will get its chance to be put into practical application today. It should work out just as well for you.

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Date Book

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Today is the 88th day of 2000 and the ninth day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1834, the U.S. Senate voted to censure President Andrew Jackson for failing to provide it with documents concerning the Bank of the United States.

On this day in 1922, the first microfilm reading device was invented by Bradley Fiske of Washington, D.C.

On this day in 1979, radioactive vapors were released by accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant near Middletown, Pa.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), religious reformer; Maxim Gorki (1868-1936), writer; Nelson Algren (1909-1981), writer; Edmund S. Muskie (1914-1996), U.S. politician; Freddie Bartholomew (1924-1992), actor; Dianne Wiest (1948-), actress, is 52; Reba McEntire (1955-), singer, is 45.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1973, Wilt Chamberlain played his last pro basketball game.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Observation is a passive science, experimentation an active science." — Claude Bernard

TODAY'S MOON: Day after last quarter (March 27).

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Science-fiction writer trying the theatre

SHEFFIELD, Ala. (AP) — Science-fiction writer Ray Bradbury is trying out a new genre — the theater — in Alabama.

"The World of Ray Bradbury," a showcase of seven separate Bradbury works he adapted for the stage, was set to open May 19 and will run through May 21 at the Ritz Theater in Sheffield.

"I love the immediacy of the theater," Bradbury told the TimesDaily of Florence in Sunday's editions.

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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

OPEC ministers eye boosting output

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — OPEC oil ministers struggled today to reach a consensus about boosting their petroleum output in an effort to ease prices down from nine-year highs to a more sustainable level.

OPEC members Iran and Libya were withholding their support from a proposal to raise production by 1.5 million-1.7 million barrels a day.

Iran, OPEC's second-biggest producer of oil, objected to the size of the increase that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other group members have proposed ahead of the ministers' much-anticipated meeting later in the day, an OPEC delegate said.

The delegate spoke on condition of anonymity as Iran's oil minister, Bijan Namdar Zangeneh, and his Saudi counterpart, Ali Naimi, met for face-to-face talks prior to the meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The 11 OPEC ministers planned to meet later today to decide whether to extend production cuts made in 1998 and 1999 that have propelled oil prices to their highest levels since the Persian Gulf War. The latest round of cuts expires at the end of the week.

For consumers in oil-importing countries, much hinges on efforts by Saudi Arabia, OPEC's No. 1 producer, to win Iran over to its point of view.

Oil prices tripled to a March 8 peak of $34.37 per barrel, following OPEC's decision last March to slash production, and U.S. motorists are bitter about the sharply higher prices they have to pay for gasoline. Prices for U.S. West Texas intermediate crude have slipped somewhat in recent weeks to close Friday at $28.02.

OPEC pumps more than 26 million barrels of crude each day, or about 35 percent of the world's supply. Key non-OPEC producers, such as Mexico and Norway, are watching to see what OPEC will do before adjusting their own output.

The Saudis want to stabilize prices at a level that won't cause extreme economic pain.

Obituaries

Vera Jackson

1926-2000

Vera Mae Jackson, 73, died Sunday, March 26, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Graveside service for Mrs. Jackson is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Dunn Cemetery. The Rev. Dave Phillips, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Snyder, will officiate. Wright Colonial Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Born on April 2, 1926 in Elmer, Okla., she married O.E. Jackson on Oct. 21, 1942 in Altus, Okla. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and one sister.

Survivors include her husband, O.E. Jackson of Hermleigh; a daughter, Jan Buchanan of Snyder; two sons, Jerry Jackson and Barry Jackson, both of Hermleigh; a brother, Harold Crouch of Elmer, Okla.; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

David Henkell

1915-2000

BIG SPRING – David Henkell, a native of Scurry County, died Friday, March 24, in Mountain View Lodge following a lengthy illness.

Funeral service for Mr. Henkell, 84, was set for 11 a.m. today in the Myers and Smith Funeral Home Chapel. Dr. Doug Shelley, pastor of the Eastside Baptist Church, was to officiate.

Burial was to follow in the Pyron Cemetery in Scurry County.

Born Dec. 1, 1915 in Hermleigh, he married Billie Jean Raley on June 13, 1942 in Snyder. She died last Jan. 23.

A resident of Big Spring the past 35 years, Mr. Henkell retired in 1978 from the Big Spring Independent School District.

Survivors include two sons, Clarence Henkell of Big Spring and Carl Henkell of Sweetwater; four sisters, Dorothy Peterson of Hermleigh, Maggie Gilliam of Sanger, Calif., Mary Alice Cajanek of Rockwall and Bert Williams of Roscoe; and six grandchildren.

Clarence Mize

1908-2000

ROTAN – Clarence M. Mize, the father of Steve Mize of Hermleigh, died Saturday, March 25, in Fisher County Hospital.

Graveside service for Mr. Mize, 92, was set for 2 p.m. today in the Belvieu Cemetery. The Rev. Werth Mayes, pastor of the First Baptist Church, was to officiate and arrangements were under the direction of Weathersbee Funeral Home.

Born Jan. 3, 1908 in Liberty County, Mr. Mize had been a resident of Fisher County for 55 years and had worked for National Gypsum for 27 years. He was a Baptist.

He married Jessie Lois Mize in 1934 in Post, and she preceded him in death.

Survivors include two other sons, Elwood Mize of McCaulley and Kenard Mize of Abilene; three daughters, Dixie Jones of Sweetwater, Frances Smith of Rotan and Jo Messick of Bullhead City, Ariz.; a brother Hubert Mize of Conroe; 30 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren; and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Jo Patterson

1912-2000

ELGIN, Okla. – Jose Lenora "Jo" Patterson, a native of Scurry County, died Friday, March 24, in a Lawton nursing home.

Funeral service for Mrs. Patterson, 87, was held this morning in the Robbins Funeral Home Chapel in Fletcher, Okla., with the Rev. Johnny Wray, pastor of the Verden, Okla., First Baptist Church, officiating. Burial was to follow in the Elgin Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Robbins Funeral Home.

Born Dec. 17, 1912 in Scurry County, she married Willie R. "Pat" Patterson on Sept. 22, 1948 in Stanton. He died in 1977.

They moved from Stanton to Lawton in 1953 where she began selling Avon. She and her husband owned and operated Jo's Bait Shop in Porter Hill until 1969 when they moved to Elgin.

She also was preceded in death by her parents, A.J. and Zorn Mahoney; a son, Willie R. Patterson Jr.; and three sisters, Viola Dever, Edith Harris and Faye Murphy.

Survivors include a son, Everett Patterson of Lawton; two brothers, E.R. "Bud" Mahoney of Fort Worth and A.J. Mahoney of Albuquerque; three sisters, Helen Felty of Prescott, Ariz., Ann Rice of Sweetwater and Tessie Riggs of Buckeye, Ariz.; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Robert Wood

1962-2000

MERKEL – Robert Del Wood, a former resident of Snyder, died Sunday, March 26, in a Fort Stockton hospital.

Services for Wood, 37, are pending at Starbuck Funeral Home in Merkel.

Born Aug. 11, 1962, Mr. Wood had lived in Snyder from 1978-84 and was an oilfield worker.

A brother, Bobby Joe Wood, died in 1986.

Survivors include his parents, Bob and Georgie Wood of San Angelo and formerly of Snyder; a son, Woody Del Wood of West Virginia; and two special friends, Kenneth Blackwell and Kay Green, both of Snyder.

Ten arrested over weekend

Ten people were arrested over the weekend on various charges.

At 1:10 a.m. Sunday, officers arrested a 46-year-old female in the 2000 block of 37th Street for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Following a report of a fight in progress at 1:26 a.m. Sunday in the 2000 block of Avenue N, three subjects were taken into custody.

Two males, ages 19 and 18, were jailed for public intoxication while a 17-year-old was arrested for public intoxication and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Deputies took a 17-year-old male into custody at 1:44 a.m. in the 800 block of College for misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

Officers were called to the 1300 block of 22nd Street at 2:20 a.m. Sunday in reference to a disturbance. Two juveniles were issued citations for minors consuming alcohol and released to their parents.

At 2:38 a.m. Sunday, an 18-year-old male was arrested for public intoxication.

A charge of Class C assault/family violence sent a 39-year-old man to jail Sunday morning. Officers arrested the subject at 10:24 a.m. at the Snyder Post Office.

A warrant for theft of service resulted in the arrest of a 22-year-old male at 1:45 p.m. Sunday. Department of Public Safety troopers took the subject into custody in the 1100 block of 37th Street.

Deputies arrested a 17-year-old female at 3:18 p.m. Sunday in the 1900 block of North Avenue O for Class A assault/family violence.

A charge of public intoxication landed a 26-year-old man in jail Sunday. Officers arrested him at 7:26 p.m. in the 700 block of East 37th Street.

In other weekend activity, a bicycle was located at 12:51 p.m. Saturday at 30th Street and Avenue H. A found property report was filed.

At 2:31 p.m. Saturday, officers, the fire department and Snyder EMS were called to the 2500 block of Avenue C in reference to an eight-year-old child threatening to jump off the roof of a house. The child was taken off the roof and an MHMR employee was dispatched to talk with the family.

An offense report for family violence was taken at 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

Department of Public Safety troopers worked a two-vehicle accident at 1:23 p.m. Sunday at 37th Street and Avenue M. Involved were a 1986 Chevrolet Nova driven by a 16-year-old female and a 1988 Plymouth van driven by John Manuel Gonzales, 22, of Colorado City.

Troopers also worked a one-vehicle rollover at 8:18 a.m. this morning some five miles west on U.S. Hwy. 84. Gabriel Madrid was traveling eastbound in a 1990 Honda Accord when the mishap occurred.

Madrid, 20, of 2300 Avenue G was transported by Snyder EMS to Cogdell Memorial Hospital where he was treated and released.

Putin is elected in Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — Vladimir Putin's election as president was hailed today as the start of a new age in Russia even though he has yet to spell out how he will handle the daunting challenge of restoring political order and invigorating the ailing economy.

Putin managed to avoid being forced into a runoff vote against Communist candidate Gennady Zyuganov, but his victory in Sunday's election was less than the huge win he had sought. Putin and his supporters had hoped for a stronger mandate for tackling Russia's problems.

With 96 percent of the vote counted in Sunday's presidential election, Putin led with 53 percent. Zyuganov was second with 29 percent and liberal Grigory Yavlinsky was third with 6 percent. The other eight candidates lagged far behind.

For Putin one of the first tasks as Russia's second democratically elected president will be to choose a prime minister, come up with specific proposals to revive the economy, and clear corruption out of the government.

Acknowledging the scale of the problems facing him, Putin said early today that he would not make any promises of quick improvements.

"The level of expectations is very high — people are tired and struggling and they're hoping for things to get better, but miracles don't happen," he told a news conference.

Births

Richard and Melissa Stout of Snyder are parents of a six-pound, 14-ounce son born at 12:14 p.m. on March 24 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: March 24 — Melissa Stout, Hollis Ward, Karrington Biggers, Billy Schulze; March 25 — Elsie Zamora, Patsy Kelley; March 26 — Felicia Ibarra and Martha Johnson.

DISMISSALS: March 24 — Becky Guerrero, Ida Pinkerton, Myrthal Callaway, Doyle Hildebrand, Anita Hinojosa, Cassandra Medrano, Billy Schulze; March 25 — Shanda Bowlin, Brady Bynum, Beatriz Clarady and baby girl, Thomas Fogleman, Karrington Biggers, Martin Hernandez, Jamie Sharp; March 26 — Jane Kite and Raul Villanueva.

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Family night out

Northeast Elementary will have its family night out at the Pizza Inn from 5-9 this evening. Please bring your flyer from school.

Bible study tapes

Bible study tapes air weekly on TV channel 2. The videos to be shown at 7 tonight are "When God Forgives," followed by "Historical Christian Evidences, Lesson 6."

American Heart Association

The Scurry County American Heart Association will meet at noon Tuesday at Pizza Inn. All interested persons are invited. For more information, call 573-5041.

SHS reunion meeting

SHS classes of 1943-45 will have a class reunion planning meeting at 3 p.m. Tuesday at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. For more information, call 573-5149.

Senior Citizens swimnastics

Swimnastics for senior citizens is held from 2-3 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday at the WTC pool. For more information, call 573-4035.

Cancer board meeting

The board of directors of the Scurry County unit of the American Cancer Society will met at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Cogdell Hospital board room.

Genealogical society

The Scurry County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Scurry County Library. Sherry Merritt will present the second part of the program, "Computer Use in Genealogy."

Parent education class

East Elementary is hosting a series of parent education classes from 6-7 p.m. on Tuesdays in the school library. The topic this week is "Expanding Your Child's Reading Ability." Refreshments are served. For more information, call 573-1769.

Free tax help

There is free tax help for low income and elderly people each Wednesday at the Snyder Senior Center by an IRS-trained counselor. Times are from 9 a.m. until noon and 1-3 p.m. Call 573-4035 or 573-3822 for additional information.

Tee-ball sign ups

Sign up times are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for five and six-year-old tee-ball, and seven-year-old coach-pitch tee ball. Times are 4-7 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club. Fee is $30 per player.

Immunization clinic

Scurry County Health unit's next immunization clinic is Thursday. Dates in April are every Thursday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m.

Choir boosters

SHS choir boosters will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in the choir room to discuss plans for the choir banquet to be held April 18.

Masonic awards night

Scurry Masonic Lodge 706 will have a 25-year pin awards night at 7 p.m. Friday. All Masons and their families are invited. Refreshments will be served.

WIC recipients

WIC recipients who have failed to pick up March vouchers need to contact the WIC office at Outreach Health Services before Friday. For more information, call 573-0191.

King's Kids pre-registration

Pre-registration for King's Kids and Mother's Day Out for the 2000-01 school year begins next Monday. King's Kids is offered Mondays and Wednesday for ages 1-5, and Mother's Day Out is Friday for ages three months to five years. Call the First Baptist Church for more information at 573-7401.

Joy School registration

Pre-registration for the Eastside Church of Christ Joy School will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, in the East foyer of the church. For additional information, call 573-3554.

Annual sausage festival

St. Elizabeth Sausage Festival is set for Sunday, April 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Parish Center. Tickets are available at the door for $6 for adults and take-outs, and $3 for children under 12. The sausage dinner with all the trimmings is all-you-can eat. The festival will also have game booths, raffles and a country store. Sausage sold by the pound is $2.75 uncooked and $3.75 cooked.

Golden K fish fry

The Golden K Kiwanis will host a fish fry from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at the Senior Citizens Center. Plates, including carryouts, are $6.50 each. Children under six may eat free.

1990 SHS reunion

The 1990 senior class of SHS is planning a 10-year reunion in July. If you are a graduate, or have contact with a graduate, contact Anne Osborn @Echostar.com, or call Jennifer Pate at 915-223-9110 in San Angelo, or contact Shelley LaRoux at 574-1826, or mail information to 3209 40th St.

Snyder Neighbors Sharing

SNS is in need of workers and monetary donations for the April 29 work day. For more information, contact Thomas Fogleman at 573-3538, or Sam Robertson at 573-4053.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday day by the Texas Lottery, in order:

7-3-1

Lotto Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were: 2, 9, 16, 22, 40, 44.

A winning ticket would have been worth $4 million. Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $6 million.