

Obituaries

John Price

Local businessman "Big John" Price, 72, of Big Spring died at 12:45 p.m. Monday, July 04, 2005, at Midland Memorial Hospital after a short illness. Funeral services will be at 9 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Carroll Kohl officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born Jan. 31, 1933, in Sweetwater to Ruth and John Paul Price. He moved to Big Spring from Victoria in 1968. He owned and operated Big John's Feedlot for 35 years and loved gardening and yard work.

He is survived by his wife, Bea Price of Big Spring; three daughters, Debbie Hitt of San Antonio, Lisa Smith of Blanco, and Cindy Parker of Spring Branch; three sons, Russ Davis and Scott Davis, both of Baytown, and Frank Davis of Rosenberg; three sisters, Mary Frances Johnson of Gladewater, Margaret Hull of Fredericksburg, and Eleanor Roberts of Big Sandy; 13 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family suggests memorials to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 810 Scurry, Big Spring 79720, The Salvation Army, 811 W. 5th Street, Big Spring 79720, or another favorite charity.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Oliver Boyce

Oliver Boyce, 82, of Stanton passed away on Sunday, July 3, 2005, in a Big Spring hospital. Graveside military rites will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 7, 2005, at the Evergreen Cemetery Chapel in Stanton with the Rev. Robert Boyce, retired Lutheran minister, officiating.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, July 6, 2005, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

He was born April 24, 1923, in Lubbock, and married Mary Frances Anderson on Dec. 23, 1947, in Lamesa. She preceded him in death Jan. 19, 1991.

Mr. Boyce lived in Martin County since 1937. After leaving the military, he farmed and enjoyed trading and selling things.

He was a member of the Church of Christ.

He was a veteran of World War II, serving from 1942 to 1945. He received a Presidential Citation with cluster, six battle stars, a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and a Silver Star.

Survivors include his daughter, Becky Boyce of Stanton.

He was also preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and three sisters.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com.

Teresa Sundry

Teresa M. Sundry, 48, of Lubbock, died Monday, July 4, 2005, at her residence in Lubbock. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Weather

Tonight—Partly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s. East winds 10 to 15 mph. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Wednesday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s. Southeast winds around 10 mph shifting to the south in the afternoon.

Wednesday night—Partly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the lower 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Thursday—Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs around 100. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3-6-14-15-34

Number matching five of five: none.

Matching four of five: 72. Prize: \$617.

Matching three of five: 2,924. Prize: \$11.

Matching two of five: 30,208. Prize: \$2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

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Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-8-15-23. Bonus Ball: 14.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

Number matching four of four: 6. Prize: \$2,014.

Number matching three of four, plus Bonus Ball: 28. Prize: \$53.

Number matching three of four: 1,008. Prize: \$20.

Number matching two of four, plus Bonus Ball: 616. Prize: \$22.

Number matching one of four, plus Bonus Ball: 4,170. Prize: \$7.

Number matching Bonus Ball alone: 7,164. Prize: \$5.

Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$725,000.

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The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-8-2

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. today:

• **ANDY FRANCO JR.**, 23, of 503 Johnson, was arrested Monday on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon/family violence.

• **SCOTT VELL AUTRY**, 22, of 606 State, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft.

• **AARON HENSLEY**, 21, of San Angelo, was arrested Monday on a Howard County warrant and a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **KEVIN ERIC LAMB**, 33, of Colorado City, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 1200 block of 11th Place.

- in the 300 block of Gregg Street.

- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1100 block of Austin.

• **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 700 block of Third Street.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1300 block of Ridgeroad.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

• **ANNA CISNEROS**, 43, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.

• **RICHARD LEE BEATTY**, 20, was arrested Friday by DPS on a motion to revoke probation for assault with intent to cause bodily injury/family violence.

• **CARLOS HURTADO MORAN**, 26, was arrested Friday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **JAY BILLINGSLEY**, 39, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on capias warrants for violation of a promise to appear, possession of drug paraphernalia and fishing without a license and a charge of theft by check.

• **FELICIA L. ULRICH**, 30, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for theft by check.

• **SELESTINO HERNANDEZ III**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention and possession/delivery of drug paraphernalia.

• **LELDON TAYLOR JENKINS**, 21, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of burglary of a habitation and possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **JASON DEE OMANS**, 22, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and a motion to revoke probation for delivery of marijuana - more than a quarter ounce, less than five pounds.

• **JESUS CERVANTES**, 23, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated - open container, second offense and a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated - open container.

• **ELIJAH JAMES COLE**, 35, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and a parole violation.

• **RANDY DEAN ULRICH**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and a parole violation.

• **EMETERIO MILTON LOZANO III**, 28, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of issuance of a bad check and theft by check.

• **CLINT RANKIN ELLIOT**, 42, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **KODY CHANCE JACKSON**, 19, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of possession of alcohol by a minor - third offense enhanced.

• **DAVID SHAWN MENDEZ**, 19, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor - third offense enhanced.

• **JESSICA GRANADO MATTHEW**, 36, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated - open container.

• **EUSTAGUIO LOPEZ HERNANDEZ**, 20, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of no driver's license.

• **ARMANDO MENECEZ NAVA**, 20, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of tampering with a government record, license, seal, certificate or permit.

• **ADRIANE DENISE CREEKMOORE**, 41, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of filing a false report to police officer/law enforcement employee.

• **JORGE ANTONIO ESCAJEDA**, 29, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on judgment for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.

• **FIRES** were reported:

- near the intersection of Midway Road and Cameron.

- in the 200 block of Young.

- in the area of Parkway.

Bulletin board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY

• Texas Motorcycle Rights Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Spanish Inn. The public is invited. Call 268-6421 for more information.

• VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.

• Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.

• Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.

• Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. with special guest singers from Midland and Colorado City. Everyone is welcome.

• Concerned Citizens for Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 200 block of Birdwell Lane. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of N.W. First Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **AUTOMOBILE FIRE** was reported in the 800 block of Douglas.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 200 block of Johnson Street.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 7300 block of Parkway.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 100 block of County Road 25.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 800 block of W. Eighth Street.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 1600 block of E. 16th Street.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 800 block of S. Owens.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 900 block of Douglas.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the area of N. Highway 350.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 1500 block of W. Fifth Street.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 3300 block of E. 11th Place.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported on the N. Service Road of Interstate Highway 20 near mile marker 174.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported 15 miles north of Big Spring on U.S. Highway 87. At least four people were transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Harding. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported three miles north on Highway 178. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Dow. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2100 block of Maryland Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Gregg Street and Sgt. Paredes. Service refused.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of W. Second Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 10000 block of E. Moss Lake Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Hillside. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 900 block of Cardinal. One person was transported to SMMC.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

to scale the artificial climbing wall. "My son and I bought the wall and operate the business together. We've really had a lot of fun doing this and the kids really seem to enjoy it."

Pendleton echoed the concerns of many Funtastic Fourth vendors for the heat, which easily topped 100 degrees.

"Other than being hot, it's been fine," said Pendleton with a laugh. "It's just pretty hot today. I really think the heat is keeping a lot of people from coming out at this point, but the kids that have come out and climbed the wall have had a lot of fun."

While so many festival vendors concentrate on selling their wares, one Big Spring man was just as apt to buy from his customers.

Bill Welsh, a local high school teacher and collector of everything from coins to autographs, said he did the majority of his business during the morning hours, before the heat index jumped so high.

"It's been a great day," said Welsh. "I both buy and sell, so I can make it both ways. I can buy and still come out good, and I can sell. It's been a really good day today."

"I've had a lot of people come by the tables and I've seen a lot of my students — I'm a teacher at the high school — so I've seen a lot of them, especially the band."

"I have the kind of things that you don't normally see, even at these kinds

FUNTASTIC FOURTH FESTIVAL

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Tejano

1. Los Hermanos Luera (\$500)
2. X-Tremo (\$250)
3. Conjunto Hilario (\$100)

Country

1. Texas Pride (\$500)
2. Nikki Lee and The N3 Band (\$250)
3. Texas Outlaws (\$100)

Rock

1. 50/50 (\$500)
2. Fourstones (\$250)
3. A Tragic Theory (\$100)

People's Choice Award

Texas Pride (\$1,000)

HILARIOUS HAT CONTEST

1. Debra Moreno
2. Alex Byrd
3. Jonathan Byrd

of affairs," said Welsh. "So when I get set up, I usually do really well because people don't expect it. They will see a silver dollar or an Indian penny, something maybe they've never seen before."

Welsh was quick to point out the turn out was good despite the heat.

"I think you could say the heat is having an effect on the festival, but I had a really good morning," said Welsh.

"There are a lot of people here now, but they're more laid back because of the heat. So it's certainly had an effect on the festival, but it's still a really good turnout."

TRIP

Continued from Page 1A

among G-8 leaders, on the scientific threat posed by global warming and the urgent need for action.

The United States is the only G-8 country that has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. Bush declared last week on Danish television that meeting the Kyoto emission reduction targets would have "wrecked" the U.S. economy.

Environmentalists would like to see a strong statement on the issue coming out of the G-8 meeting, even without Bush's concurrence.

French President Jacques Chirac on Sunday called for a statement to include specific mention of Kyoto, which took effect in February and obliges participating industrialized nations to reduce their combined greenhouse gas emissions.

Bush, in an interview with Britain's ITV television Monday, renewed his insistence that Washington would not

sign Kyoto or any similar deals limiting gas emissions. Still, he described climate change as "a significant, long-term issue that we've got to deal with" and acknowledged that human activity is "to some extent" to blame.

"My hope is — and I think the hope of Tony Blair is — to move beyond the Kyoto debate and to collaborate on new technologies that will enable the United States and other countries to diversify away from fossil fuels so that the air will be cleaner and that we have the economic and national security that comes from less dependence on foreign sources of oil," Bush said.

Bush becomes only the second sitting U.S. president to visit Denmark, where he will express appreciation for the several hundred troops the Scandinavian nation has sent to Iraq and Afghanistan. Transatlantic relations and advancing freedom around the world also will be on Bush's agenda during talks Wednesday with Denmark's prime minister, Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

"I'm looking forward to a good night's sleep on the soil of a friend," Bush said in an interview leading up to his first stay in the country. He lamented that security considerations would prevent him visiting with ordinary Danes. "It would be unfair to the people of Denmark if I tried to move around too much because the security would be quite inconvenient to them," he said.

More than traffic jams, Europeans are irked at Bush about the war in Iraq. Public opinion about the war has been slipping recently in the United States, but has been the subject of much greater anti-war demonstrations in Europe.

"In defense of my policies, I did go to the United Nations, not only for Afghanistan, but for Iraq," Bush said in the interview with Danish Broadcasting Corp. "And we did work with allies and we did ask people's opinion. And we put a coalition together, of which your great country joined. And I'm thankful for your prime minister's tough decision."

FIRES

Continued from Page 1A

top, after a fire starts underneath it, only takes about 30 seconds to be just as dead and burning as the fuel below it. We're in a critical stage right now in Howard County."

Sullivan said it's frightening how little it takes to start a fire right now.

"Our fuel load is so high, every time there's even a little spark, it sets off a grass fire," said Sullivan. "Every time someone driving on the interstate flicks a cigarette butt out, it starts a grass fire."

"To give you perspective on how bad it is, the amount of moisture in our fuel (grass, timber, etc.) is 1 percent right now. At 6 percent, the fuel is hard to light. So now we're five points below that. That means you can take a Coke bottle or a piece of glass, reflect the light from the sun through it, and start a grass fire at this point in time."

Howard County Judge Ben Lockhart enacted a burn ban throughout the county Thursday, a move both Lockhart and Sullivan say stems from county residents who burn their trash.

"Most of the trouble we're seeing now is from people with burn barrels," said Sullivan. "Once the fee at the city landfill was enacted, we knew a lot of the people in the county were going to

start burning their trash again. And we need to educate them."

Sullivan said county residents who want to burn their trash can follow a few simple rules to prevent the fire from getting away from them.

"The trash cans have to have a screen over the top of them," said Sullivan.

"You need a fine wire mesh screen that will cover the trash can. You also need a water hose, but the most important part is they have to stay there, with the burn barrel, the entire time it's burning."

"People light it off and then think just because the flames are down they can walk off and leave it. But even with a fine wire mesh on top of it, one tiny ember is all it takes to light a fire."

While how people burn their trash is part of the problem, Sullivan said what they are burning is also an issue to consider.

"When they're burning their trash, they're also burning aerosol cans and other dangerous items," said Sullivan. "If they're going to burn their trash, they need to burn Class A combustibles only. That means that when it burns, it leaves an ash. No plastics in it, no aerosol cans and things of that nature."

"A lot of these aerosol cans contain butane or propane as a propellant. The propulsion that gets the liquid out of the can is a flammable liquid. Once it heats up, it explodes, blowing fire and every-

thing else out of the trash can, into the yard and everywhere else."

Even following all of the rules, Sullivan said Murphy's Law can still take over and create a dangerous situation. That's when it's more important than ever to call on the men and women that deal with firefighting on a daily basis.

"With the winds we're seeing right now — 10 and 20 mph — it's hard to catch these fires," said Sullivan. "You may think you have time to run back and get a water hose, but you don't. The fire is spreading so fast. If you

light a fire and then count to ten, it's already bigger than what you can put out in ten seconds."

"A lot of people are trying to fight the fire themselves and it's getting bigger and bigger. And then they decide to call 911 for help. At that point we're already behind the eight-ball. If it happens, make the call and get the fire department rolling. If you get it out before they get there, that's great. It's the difference between losing a little bit of grass and losing houses and property."

And while the consequences of letting a fire get out of hand can mean

serious property damage and injuries, Sullivan said the ramification within the law can be just as severe.

"What a lot of people don't understand is once that fire moves off their property, if it burns someone else's property it can be a felony," said Sullivan. "Especially now with the burn ban in effect. If it gets off your property and on to someone else's, it's automatically a felony. And we're talking big bucks here."

Contact Staff Writer
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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Jimmie Ray Estep, 59, died Friday. Funeral Services were at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Jane Rogers, 69, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside services will be at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at Sweetwater Cemetery in Sweetwater.

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Commissioners need to work together on jail

With Howard County commissioners "floundering" in a rift concerning the size and location of a new county jail, two words — cooperation and progressive — come to mind.

Everyone seems to be agreed a new jail is needed.

However, the commissioners court is deeply divided over what kind of jail facility to build. Commissioners Bill Crooker and Jerry Kilgore supporting construction of a 144-bed facility and a joint law enforcement center on the west side of Big Spring, while Commissioners Emma Brown and Gary Simer want a 96-bed, jail-only facility that would be built on the north side of town.

Neither side seems willing to compromise, and there may be little room, if any, for compromise. There is, however, always room for cooperation.

That seems especially important in light of the fact that architect Phil Furquerson, who has been the commissioners' consultant on the project from the outset, says a 96-bed jail will be "obsolete" the day it is opened.

Sadly, Sheriff Dale Walker is left in the position of simply wanting the court to make a decision one way or the other.

Indeed, it is certainly time to make a decision and cease the divisiveness.

But we also believe it is time to think progressively.

And to our way of thinking, building a facility that consultants have told you will be obsolete the day it is finished is anything but progressive.

In the long run, it would be a colossal waste of taxpayer money and that's simply not what we elect our commissioners to do.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we strike in anger, Lord, we miss Your mark.

Amen

Vietnam: The power to wow

Editor's note: Roger Simon is on vacation. The following column was first published in April 2000.

I went to the outdoor store for mosquito repellent and bought the most powerful kind they had, the kind with about 17 government warnings on the label.

"You don't need anything that strong for the mosquitoes around here," the young woman behind the counter said.

Not buying it for around here, I said, finding myself lapsing into some kind of weird John Wayne dialect. Going overseas.

"Oh?" she said, utterly bored.

"Where?"

Nam, I said.

She gave me a blank look.

Vietnam, I said.

"Oh!" she said, a tone of awe and wonder creeping into her voice.

"Wow."

Vietnam still has the power to wow Americans. Which is why I am heading there this week.

The government of the United States would have been glad to send me for free as soon as I got out of college, but I had a high lottery number, so I was never drafted.

I could have enlisted, but I wasn't that keen on fighting what I considered to be a civil war between a corrupt government without popular support in South Vietnam and a communist dictatorship in North Vietnam.

Successive U.S. administrations — you could go all the way back to Harry Truman's support of the failed effort of the French — decided to back successive corrupt unpopular administrations in the

South. They feared a "domino effect", as Dwight Eisenhower called it, whereby all of Southeast Asia and then Japan would fall to communism if we did not defend South Vietnam with our blood and treasure.

So we spent our blood and treasure for several decades there and in the end had nothing to show for it except a huge social rift at home and a communist victory abroad.

On April 30, 1975, Saigon fell to the communists, which was two years after the United States signed a peace treaty with the North and pulled out.

John McCain, who spent more than five years in captivity in the North, is going back, because NBC is giving him a free plane ticket to do so and building two TV shows around him.

And I am going with a few other reporters to report on that.

It will be an occasion of high drama, even though it will be McCain's seventh trip back to Vietnam.

Americans have a fascination with anniversaries, and both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (which is still called Saigon by just about everybody in Vietnam) is packed with tourists and returning U.S. veterans.

Twenty-five years after World War II, both Japan and West Germany were friends and allies of the United States even though their armed forces killed and wounded many more Americans than North Vietnam ever did.

Yet the United States maintained a trade embargo against Vietnam for decades after the war and did not establish full diplomatic relations until the Clinton administration. John McCain was a supporter of establishing those relations.

The key difference between how we looked at Vietnam and how we looked at our former World War II enemies is that neither Germany

nor Japan defeated us, and the United States is much friendlier towards losers than winners. The second, even more important difference, is that U.S. policy was to build up Germany and Japan as bulwarks against communism, which is why we poured so much into helping both countries rebuild their shattered economies.

Today, Vietnam remains largely shattered. There is foreign investment, but it is severely hobbled by the mistrust and bureaucracy of the Vietnamese government. The per capita income in Vietnam is \$370 per year. Thousands continue to lose life and limb every year to unexploded bombs left over from the war. Children continue to be born with hideous birth defects, a result, Vietnamese doctors say, of Agent Orange the United States sprayed there to defoliate the forests.

Still, there has been success, especially in agriculture and tourism, and the country has great potential. And people who visit Vietnam report how open, welcoming and friendly the Vietnamese are toward Americans.

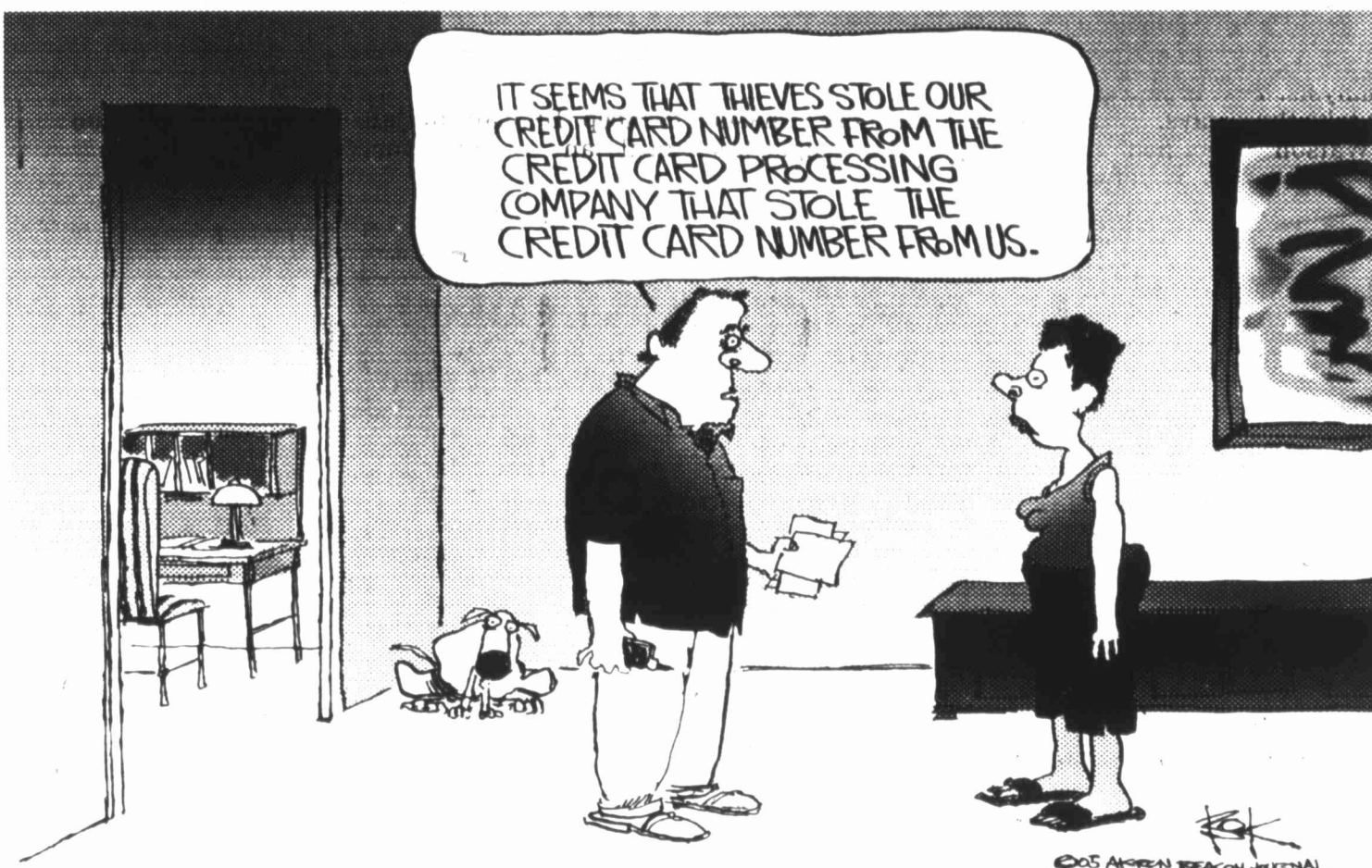
During the war, John McCain had but two Vietnam experiences: flying over the country dropping bombs and as a prisoner.

Today, however, even though he lost his race for the Republican nomination, he is a bigger, more important figure than ever. His personal story still fascinates us, and how he reacts to the 25th anniversary of the American defeat is what we want to know.

Or at least that is what NBC is counting on.

To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Setting up the straw man once again

The first thing I ever learned about politics was never to let anyone else define what you believe, or what you are for or against. I think for myself.

I am not "you liberals" or "you people on the left who always..." My name is Molly Ivins, and I can speak for myself, thank you. I don't need Rush Limbaugh or Karl Rove to tell me what I believe.

Setting up a straw man, calling it liberal and then knocking it down has become a favorite form of "argument" for those on the right. Make some ridiculous claim about what "liberals" think, and then demonstrate how silly it is. Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly and many other right-wing ravers never seem to get tired of this old game. If I had a nickel for every idiotic thing I've ever heard those on the right claim "liberals" believe, I'd be richer than Bill Gates.

The latest and most idiotic statement yet comes from Karl Rove, who is not, actually, an objective observer. He is George Bush's hatchet man. Last week, Rove, in an address to the Conservative Party of New York, made the following claim: "Conservatives saw the savagery of 9-11 in the attacks and prepared for war; liberals saw the savagery of the 9-11 attacks and wanted to prepare

indictments and offer therapy and understanding for our attackers."

This seemed to the editorial writers at the San Diego Union-Tribune such a reasonable summary of the liberal position they couldn't figure out why Democrats were "hyperventilating" and getting "bent out of shape."

"What is harder to understand is how Democrats can think they can have it both ways," they wrote. "Even as they beat their chests and profess support for military action, they can't help but criticize the military and do everything they can to undermine the war effort."

What a deep mystery. Let's see if we can help the San Diego thinkers solve it. On Sept. 14, 2001, Congress approved a resolution authorizing the president to take military action. The vote in the Senate was 98 to zero; the vote in the House was 420 to one. The lone dissenter was Democrat Barbara Lee of California, who expressed qualms about an open-ended war without a clear target.

Find me the offer for therapy and understanding in that vote. Anyone remember what actually happened after 9-11? Unprecedented unity, support across the board, joint statements by Democratic and Republican political leaders. The whole world was with us. The most important newspaper in France headlined, "We Are All Americans Now," and all our allies sent troops and money to help. That is what George Bush has pissed away

with his war in Iraq.

The vote on invading Iraq was 77 to 23 in the Senate and 296 to 133 in the House. By that time, some liberals did question the wisdom of invasion because: A) Iraq had nothing to do with 9-11 and B) it looked increasingly unlikely that Iraq actually had great stores of weapons of mass destruction, since the United Nations inspectors, who were on the ground, couldn't find any sign of them — even though Donald Rumsfeld claimed we knew exactly where they were.

Since my name is Molly Ivins and I speak for myself, I'll tell you exactly why I opposed invading Iraq: because I thought it would be bad for this country, our country, my country. I opposed the invasion out of patriotism, and that is the reason I continue to oppose it today — I think it is bad for us. I think it has done nothing but harm to the United States of America. I think we have created more terrorists than we faced to start with and that our good name has been sullied all over the world. I think we have alienated our allies and have killed more Iraqis than Saddam Hussein ever did.

I did not oppose the war because I like Saddam Hussein. I have been active in human rights work for 30 years, and I told you he was a miserable s.o.b. back in the '80s, when our government was sending him arms.

I did not oppose the war because I am soft on terrorists or didn't want to get

Osama bin Laden. To the contrary, I thought it would be much more useful to get bin Laden than to invade Iraq — which, once again, had nothing to do with 9-11. I believe the case now stands proved that this administration used 9-11 as a handy excuse to invade Iraq, which it already wanted to do for other reasons.

It is one thing for a political knife-fighter like Karl Rove to impugn the patriotism of people who disagree with him: We have seen this same crappy tactic before, just as we have seen administration officials use 9-11 for political purposes again and again. But how many times are the media going to let them get away with it?

The first furious assault on the patriotism of Democrats came right after the 9-11 commission learned President Bush had received a clear warning in August 2001 that Osama bin Laden was planning a hijacking.

Batten down the hatches: This is the beginning of an administration push to jack up public support for the war in Iraq by attacking anyone with enough sense to raise questions about how it's going.

To find out more about Molly Ivins and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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MOLLY
IVINS

Texas briefs

Fires threaten West

Texas grasslands

FORT DAVIS (AP) — Firefighters from Texas and Mexico spent the Fourth of July battling a lightning-sparked blaze on the Caldwell Ranch in Fort Davis County that was expected to grow to about 1,000 acres by early Tuesday.

Two Texas Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopters were being used to dump water on the Three Points fire, which stood at about 300 acres Monday evening.

"These aircraft are invaluable when it comes to fighting fires in the rough terrain of the Davis Mountains," said Les Rogers, Texas Forest Service incident commander. "The fire has not reached the Madera Canyon, which is good news. It is backing actively toward the ranch buildings, though, so we will have structure protection in place, and the helicopters will work that side of the fire."

The fire was about four to six miles away from the McDonald Observatory, said Ron Perry, a spokesman for the Texas Forest Service. It began Saturday night and smoke from the blaze caused the observatory and its visitor center to close Sunday. The visitor center was open Monday as winds kept smoke away.

Merck seeks delay in first Vioxx case to reach trial

SAGAPONACK, N.Y. (AP) — Merck & Co. is asking a judge to delay the first wrongful death trial over its pain reliever Vioxx, saying it cannot receive a fair trial if the Texas case begins next week as scheduled.

The company wants the trial postponed for at least 60 days, citing recent publicity about the drug. Merck withdrew the drug in September when research showed that patients who took it for 18 months or longer more than doubled their risk for heart attack and stroke. Since then, more than 2,400 Vioxx lawsuits have been filed nationwide.

A hearing on Merck's motion is slated for Tuesday in Wharton, Texas. Mark Lanier, a Houston attorney for a woman suing New Jersey-based Merck over her husband's 2001 death, said he will oppose a delay.

In the motion, which was filed Friday, Merck said a lawsuit brought Thursday by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott seeking \$250 million in damages for Vioxx purchases has "effectively eliminated any possibility Merck can receive a fair trial beginning July 11."

At least seven drown over holiday weekend in Texas

Two children in the Houston area were among at least seven drowning

deaths over the holiday weekend in Texas.

A boy discovered at the bottom of a pool at an apartment complex in Houston Saturday afternoon was identified Monday as Rickey Attaway, 10. Houston police said the boy and several friends had been swimming when he jumped into deep water to get a football.

Several minutes later, an HPD news release reports, "a 14-year-old noticed that the boy had not resurfaced. She pulled him to the surface." The child later died at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital.

On Friday, 9-year-old Yaritza Gonzalez drowned while swimming in the San Jacinto River, authorities said.

Second man dies from paint fumes

LUBBOCK (AP) — After passing out from paint fumes while working in a basement last week, the second member of a three-member paint crew has died.

J.D. "Tom" Sadler, 70, died Monday at Covenant Medical Center, a hospital spokesman said. His son, James D. Sadler, 42, was pronounced dead after arriving at Covenant after the crew passed out Wednesday in the basement of a home 10 miles south of Lamesa.

A third worker was in fair condition Monday at Covenant, the spokesman said.

The three men were on contract with Lubbock's Phillips Ready-Built Homes when the accident occurred. The com-

pany's owner, Ross Phillips, has said the high concentration of the particular product's fumes overwhelmed the crew. They were using a lacquer-based paint product.

Rescuer arrested by police

SAN MARCOS (AP) — A San Marcos man was arrested after rescuing a swimmer from the swirling waters near a restaurant on the San Marcos River over the weekend.

Police say Dave Newman, 48, disobeyed repeated orders by emergency personnel to leave the water. Newman responded, "Why do I? The guy is out of the water," the report said. The police report does not mention Newman's rescue of 35-year-old Abed Duamni of Houston on Sunday afternoon.

"I was amazed," Newman said after getting out of Hays County Law Enforcement Center on \$2,000 bail Monday morning. "I had a very uncomfortable night after saving that guy's life. He thanked me for it in front of the police, and then they took me to jail."

After being handcuffed and put in a Texas State University police squad car, Newman was taken to jail and charged with interfering with public duties.

Duamni, who said he did not see any signs warning swimmers of the dangerous currents, jumped into the water several times before the current caught him. He had just finished eating at the restaurant when he decided to go for a swim.

Authorities fear they may have found the body of missing Idaho boy

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP) — Seven weeks to the day after Shasta and Dylan Groene were reported missing, Shasta was seen cuddling in the arms of her father, while authorities said they had found human remains that might be her missing 9-year-old brother.

Kootenai County Sheriff Rocky Watson said Monday that "possible" human remains had been found at a site in western Montana, and would be sent to the FBI crime lab in Virginia for DNA analysis. That is expected to take three days.

Watson declined to answer questions, but the

fact that he called a press conference at the place where reporters were following the Groene story indicated officials believe the remains were related.

"Unfortunately we believe Dylan to be deceased," Sheriff's Capt. Ben Wolfinger said after Watson's announcement. But until the remains are identified, they could not be certain, he said.

Dylan and Shasta, 8, had been missing since May 16, when the bound and bludgeoned bodies of their mother, older brother and mother's boyfriend were found at their rural home near here. Shasta was spotted by employees and customers early

Saturday morning eating breakfast with a man at a Denny's restaurant in Coeur d'Alene.

Officers arrested the man, Joseph Edward Duncan III, 42, on suspicion of kidnapping and other charges. Duncan, from Fargo, N.D., is a violent sexual predator who has spent much of his adult life in prison.

Authorities planned to formally charge Duncan with kidnapping and being a fugitive from justice, and have said more charges were possible. A judge ruled Monday that there was probable cause to keep Duncan in jail until an initial court appearance today.

The sheriff's office released a photograph showing a smiling Shasta hugging her father Steve at Kootenai Medical Center. Another photo showed her holding a doll. The photos do not show any apparent injuries from her nearly six weeks of captivity.

"She's a much happier little girl right now," Wolfinger said, adding she was listed in good condition.

Officers have inter-

viewed the girl a couple of times, but details of what happened to the children are agonizingly slow in coming. Duncan has refused to cooperate, officials said.

Major questions include: Was Duncan involved in the three initial slayings? Have the children been with him the whole time? And, if so, where have they been hiding?

The children were declared missing when

authorities arrived at their home May 16 and found the bodies of their mother, Brenda Groene, 40, brother Slade Groene, 13, and their mother's boyfriend, Mark McKenzie, 37.

Officials have not said why they believe the Groene family was targeted. Steve Groene said he had never heard of Duncan before Saturday. Authorities searched Duncan's Fargo apartment.



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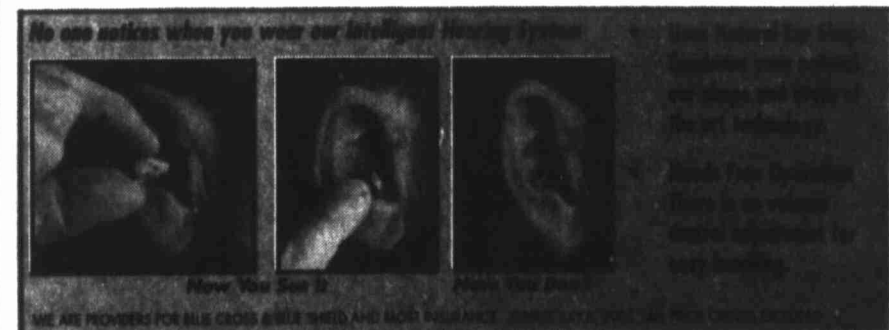
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Parades, fireworks and food highlight July 4 holiday



The Forsan High School band marches down Constitution Avenue in Washington D.C. Monday afternoon as part of the National Independence Day Parade. While in Washington, band members toured the White House and other traditional sights, and participated in a wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery.

Courtesy photo

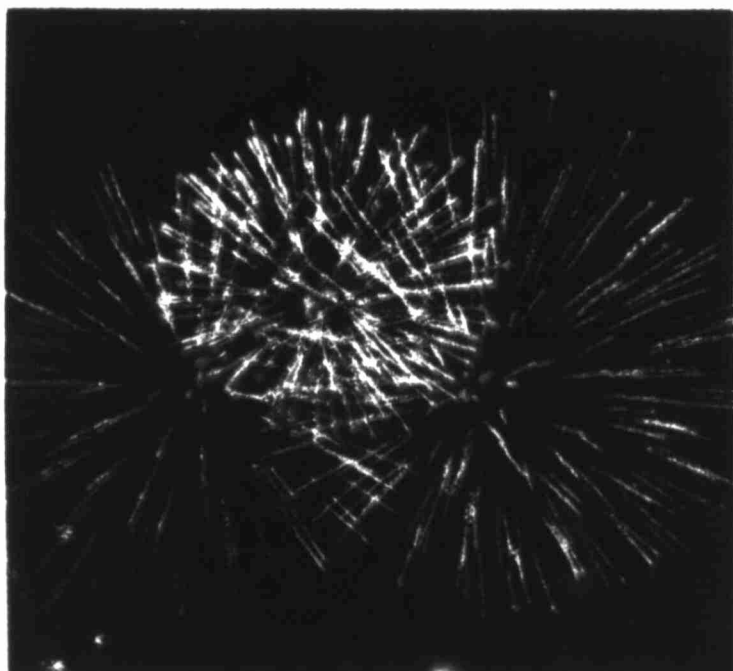


At right, Abel Gonzalez, owner of Abel's Fajitas, puts some steaks on the grill Monday afternoon during the annual Funtastic Fourth Festival in downtown Big Spring. Area residents braved temperatures hovering around 100 degrees to enjoy the festival, which featured food, games and a laser light show.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins



Above and below photos, the Eighth Annual Pops in the Park event at Comanche Trail Park was highlighted by a fireworks show.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Keely Parnell, 13, takes a stab at the dunking booth during the annual Pops in the Park July Fourth celebration Sunday afternoon.

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Scenic Mountain Medical Center invites you to join our... July 2005 Activities

July 4 • Monday

- Senior Circle Office Closed Holiday

July 5 • Tuesday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
- Coffee @ Parkplace Retirement Center - 10:00 am (Coffee With Members)
- Supper Club - Red Mesa - 5:30 pm

July 6 • Wednesday

- Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Senior Circle members eat in the hospital cafeteria for \$2.00)
- Games - 2:00 pm
- Childbirth Classes - 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Laurie Burks, RN Certified Birth Educator - 2nd Floor Hospital.

July 7 • Thursday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
- Coffee @ Gale - 10:00 am
- HARC Bingo - 6:30 pm

July 8 • Friday

- POTLUCK & BINGO - 11:30 am

July 11 • Monday

- Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise)
- Lunch Bunch & Birthdays
Gale's - 11:30 am

July 12 • Tuesday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 a.m. (Meet at the Mall and walk together)
- Supper Club - Casa Blanca
5:30 pm

July 13 • Wednesday

- Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Senior Circle members eat in the hospital cafeteria for \$2.00)

July 14 • Thursday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
- Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am

July 18 • Monday

- Games - 2:00 pm
- Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise)

July 19 • Tuesday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
- Supper Club - Cowboy's - 5:30 pm

July 20 • Wednesday

- Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Senior Circle members eat in the hospital cafeteria for \$2.00)

July 21 • Thursday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
- Coffee @ Gale' - 10:00 am

July 22 • Friday

- Summer Mommers - 5:00 pm
RSVP Early - Seating Limited

July 25 • Monday

- Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise)
- Supper Club - Hunan's - 5:30 pm

July 26 • Tuesday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
- New Mexico Casino Trip - 9:00 am

July 27 • Wednesday

- Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Senior Circle members eat in the hospital cafeteria for \$2.00)

July 28 • Thursday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
- Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am
- Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 am

July 29 • Friday

- MIDLAND SHOPPING - 9:00 AM

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Page 1B
Tuesday, July 5, 2005

IN BRIEF

C.G.A. sets golf tournament to benefit B.S. golf teams

The Chicano Golf Association has set up a golf tournament fund-raiser to benefit the Big Spring golf teams.

The tournament will take place July 17 at Comanche Trail Park and it will be a four-person pick your own team low-ball tournament.

The tournament starts at 10 a.m. and all teams must be registered by 9:45 a.m.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

Howard announces men's basketball camps in mid-July

The Howard College men's basketball staff will host two week-long camps in the month of July.

The first camp will take place July 11-14, while the second camp starts July 25 and ends July 28.

Both camps will cost \$250 per player who wants room and board and \$175 for a commuter. Both camps will take place at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Sign-ups for the first camp will take place July 10 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., while the second's camp sign-up will be July 24 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Both camps run each day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Hawk camp format consists of morning and afternoon sessions. All sessions include specialized clinics on both the offensive and defensive phases of the game.

For more info, contact Mark Adams at 816-6957 or Jason Sautter at 816-3200.

Howard women's basketball sets three camp dates

The Howard College women's basketball program will be hosting two more camps this summer.

The camps will both take place July 18-21.

The first camp is open for kindergarten through third grade boys and girls. Registration will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. July 18.

The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and costs \$50 per person.

The second camp is for fourth through sixth grade girls. Registration for this camp will take place from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. July 18. The camp runs from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and costs \$60 per person.

For more information, call Earl Diddle at 264-5043 or Eric Rodewald at 816-4327.

B.S. Country Club sets junior clinics

The Big Spring Country Club has set up a summer junior clinic and an advanced summer junior clinic.

The clinics run through August 4.

For more information, call the golf shop at 267-5354.

Rangers steal one from Boston, rough up Foulke

• Red Sox closer continues to struggle as Texas scores two in ninth to get victory

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer
ARLINGTON (AP) — Mark Teixeira showed why he's deserving of his first All-Star game selection.

The Texas first baseman had the tying RBI double and scored the winning run in the ninth inning.

and also made several impressive defensive plays in the Rangers' 6-5 comeback victory over the Boston Red Sox Monday night.

"I guess I don't want to disappoint the voters," said Teixeira, the 25-year-old player voted in by the fans as the AL first base starter in next week's All-Star game.

After Michael Young's one-out triple in the ninth off struggling closer Keith Foulke (5-5), Teixeira doubled into the right-field

corner for a 5-all tie. Teixeira, who finished 2-for-3 with two walks, scored on Kevin Mench's liner over the head of drawn-in left fielder Manny Ramirez.

The Red Sox lost for the fifth time in seven games, and Foulke had his fourth blown save — his second in a week. The right-hander gave up five runs in a loss to Cleveland last Tuesday.

"The fact that he was at the end of our bullpen is the fact that we won a

championship, he's that good," Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek said. "He's not able to get away with any mistakes at this point. He's going to get through one of those situations and that's going to be the end of it."

Foulke left without talking to reporters.

After Teixeira's hit in the ninth, Hank Blalock drew a walk and Alfonso Soriano was hit by an 0-2 pitch. Mench, who in left field in the sixth had mis-played a liner into an RBI

double by Nixon, hit the first pitch he saw.

"He didn't leave any room for sure," Teixeira said.

In the field, Teixeira made a diving snag by the first-base bag of Johnny Damon's short-hopper in the fifth then tagged the base and got up in one motion before making a perfect throw to get the sliding Mark Bellhorn at second to complete the double play. With run

See RANGERS, Page 2B

To play or not to play, now question for ace on MLB all-star game

• Rogers chosen by players, status for game still unknown

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer
ARLINGTON (AP) — Kenny Rogers gets to decide if he wants to go to the All-Star game, and he's still not talking.

Rogers was a players' choice for the American League team on ballots cast before the Texas Rangers left-hander shoved two cameramen last week in an angry outburst that earned him a 20-game suspension and \$50,000 fine.

As ugly as it was, it doesn't change what he's done on the mound. And with his penalty under appeal and not scheduled to be heard until after the All-Star break, Rogers (9-4, 2.45 ERA) can keep pitching.

"He's one of the best pitchers in baseball," Rangers All-Star Mark Teixeira said Monday. "So if he wants to go, he belongs there."

Rangers spokesman Gregg Elkin said Rogers, who again refused to talk to reporters, hadn't given any indication about whether he planned to go to Detroit next week for the All-Star game.

Manager Buck Showalter said he spoke to Rogers about making the AL All-Star team, but they hadn't discussed whether the pitcher would participate in the game.

"He got picked by the

players. He's having a good year," said Red Sox outfielder Johnny Damon, another AL starter. "Unfortunately, the incident is what he's being remembered for this far into the season and possibly his career now — one day, one thing that happened last week."

After missing one start because of a broken bone at the base of the pinkie of his non-throwing hand, Rogers allowed two runs over 7 2-3 innings Sunday in a 2-1 loss at Seattle. His next start will be Friday or Saturday against Toronto.

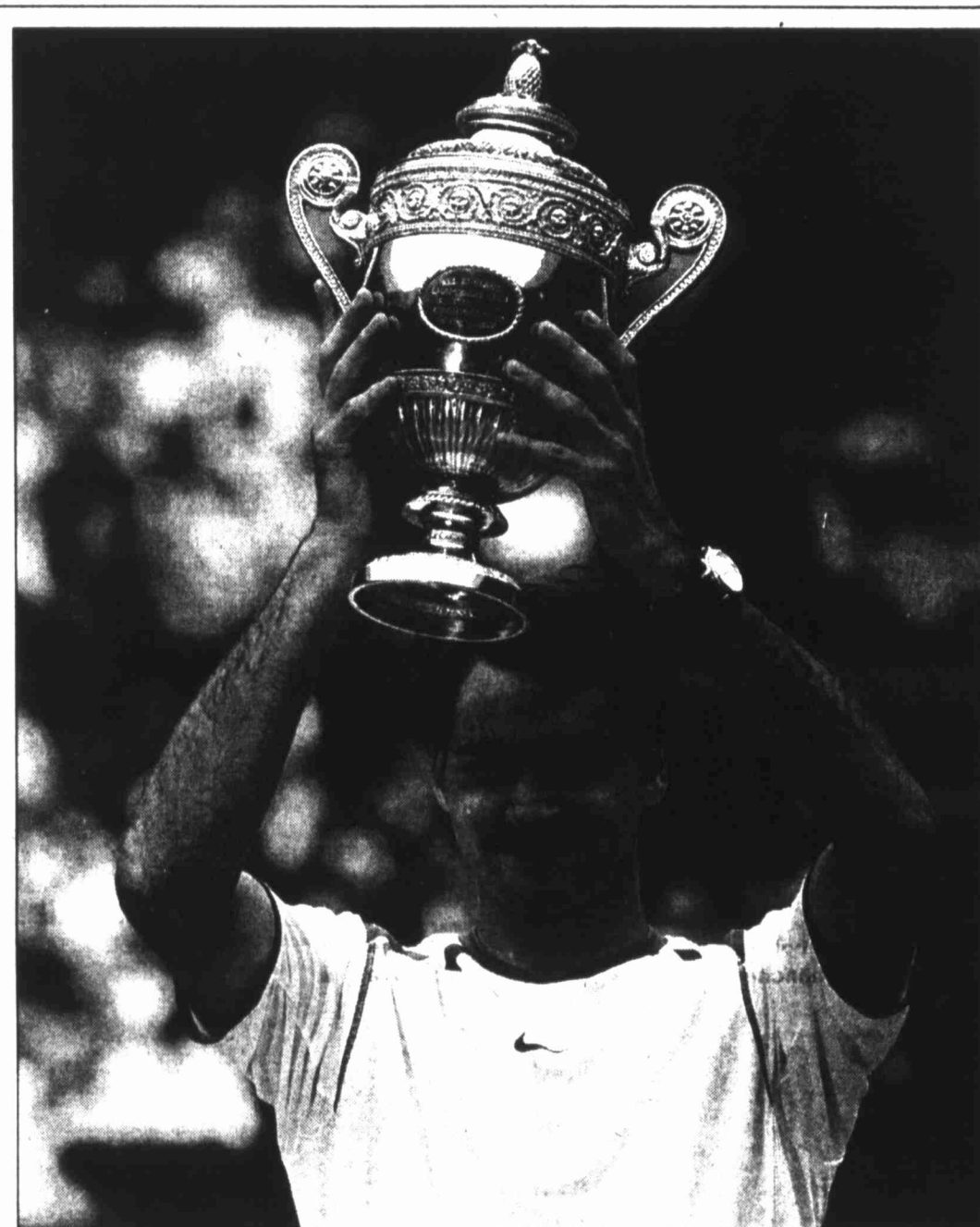
"His year has been great. I don't think last week was probably his highlight," said Boston's Terry Francona, who will manage the AL team next week. "This is probably not the week when people want to hear this, but when I was a coach here, I loved him. He's hard not to like, he was great to me."

Rogers' suspension and fine, handed down Friday by commissioner Bud Selig, have been appealed on Rogers' behalf by the players' union. Showalter said the appeal won't be heard until after the All-Star break.

"Hopefully, after the All-Star break, we can get a lot of things behind us," Showalter said. "You'd like to know what we're dealing with."

Rogers' contract includes a \$50,000 bonus for making the All-Star

See ROGERS, Page 2B



KRT photo/Stuart Robinson, Express Syndication
Switzerland's Roger Federer beats USA's Andy Roddick 6-2, 7-6 (2), 6-4, Sunday to win the mens finals of Wimbledon 2005 in London, England.

Armstrong holds down second in France, wants to wear jacket

By JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer
TOURS, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong wants to wear the yellow jersey again as soon as possible. The six-time Tour de France winner's wait might not be long.

Armstrong is just 2 seconds behind leader David Zabriskie of the United States and will be looking to gain more ground on his rivals during Tuesday's team time trial — and perhaps move in front again.

"We all know it's 2 seconds to take the yellow jersey," Armstrong said. "I'll be pedaling hard (Tuesday)."

Armstrong was content to ride safely in the main pack again Monday, finishing in 87th place in the third stage while Belgium's Tom Boonen sprinted to victory for the second straight day.

For the past two years, Armstrong's team won the team time trial for the U.S. Postal Service squad. Now he wants to win for new sponsor Discovery Channel in the nine-man discipline — a 41.9-mile ride from Tours to Blois.

"It's critical in that you can gain time and every second counts," Armstrong said. "It's good for the morale and good for the team to show they are strong. We've

been lucky enough to win the last two years and we'd like to try again."

Almost exactly a year ago, Armstrong's team rode the third-fastest time trial in Tour history, clocking an average speed of 33.3 mph despite lashing rain and slippery roads which cost other teams vital seconds. The Texan has already scouted out the route and knows what to expect.

Armstrong does not need to make up any time on his rivals — he leads Jan Ullrich by 66 seconds, Alexandre Vinokourov by 51 and Ivan Basso by 84. But the prospect of winning the time trial for a third straight year, and winning the jersey he's worn more than 60 times are inviting prospects.

"Regardless of how many I've had in my day, it's still a jersey I cherish," Armstrong said.

Armstrong is taking a different approach this year, dividing his emotions between a steely determination to bow out at the top and a sentimental need to enjoy himself on his last Tour.

"I'm trying to keep it light and have fun," he said. "I feel good and that's kind of a nice thing. I have to be patient and realize I have good legs and wait for the hard moments to come."

On Monday, Armstrong took it easy in the main pack as sprinters were engaged in a dangerous battle for positions ahead of him.

Boonen won in 4 hours, 36 minutes, 9 seconds and kept the green jersey as the best sprinter. Peter Wrolich of Austria was second and Stuart O'Grady of Australia was

See ARMSTRONG, Page 2B

Odessa Roughnecks Remaining Home Games

*Saturday vs. Beaumont Drillers
August 5-6: 1st-ever National Indoor Football
League (NIFL) All-Star game.

The game starts at 7:11 p.m.
*playoff game; more playoff games will take place at Ector County
Coliseum as the Roughnecks continue to win.

To purchase tickets to a Roughnecks game at Ector County
Coliseum, call 432-332-7277.

2005 MLB all-stars

American League

Starters
Catcher: Jason Varitek, Boston
1st Base: Mark Teixeira, Texas
2nd Base: Brian Roberts, Baltimore
3rd Base: Alex Rodriguez, Yankees
Shortstop: Miguel Tejada, Baltimore
OF: Johnny Damon, Boston
OF: Manny Ramirez, Boston
OF: Vladimir Guerrero, Anaheim
DH: David Ortiz, Boston

Reserves
Catcher: Ivan Rodriguez, Detroit
1st Base: Paul Konerko, Chi-Sox
2nd Base: Mike Sweeney, K.C.
3rd Base: Alfonso Soriano, Texas
Shortstop: Michael Young, Texas
OF: Garrett Anderson, Anaheim
OF: Gary Sheffield, Yankees
OF: Ichiro Suzuki, Seattle

Pitchers
Dwight Gooden, Tampa Bay
Mark Buehrle, Chi-Sox
Bartolo Colon, Anaheim
Justin Duchscherer, Oakland
Jon Garland, Chi-Sox
Roy Halladay, Toronto
Joe Nathan, Minnesota
Mariano Rivera, Yankees
Kenny Rogers, Texas
B.J. Ryan, Baltimore
Johan Santana, Minnesota
Bob Wickman, Cleveland

Final Vote
Carl Crawford, Tampa Bay
Torii Hunter, Minnesota
Derek Jeter, Yankees
Hideki Matsui, Yankees
Scott Podsednik, Chi-Sox

National League

Starters
Catcher: Mike Piazza, Mets
1st Base: Derrek Lee, Cubs
2nd Base: Jeff Kent, Dodgers
3rd Base: Scott Rolen, St. Louis
Shortstop: David Eckstein, St. Louis
OF: Bobby Abreu, Philadelphia
OF: Carlos Beltran, Mets
OF: Jim Edmonds, St. Louis

Reserves
Catcher: Paul Lo Duca, Florida
1st Base: Albert Pujols, St. Louis
2nd Base: Luis Castillo, Florida
3rd Base: Aramis Ramirez, Cubs
Shortstop: Cesar Izturis, Dodgers
Shortstop: Felipe Lopez, Reds
OF: Andruw Jones, Atlanta
OF: Moises Alou, San Francisco
OF: Jason Bay, Pittsburgh
OF: Carlos Lee, Milwaukee
OF: Miguel Cabrera, Florida
OF: Luis Gonzalez, Arizona

Pitchers
Chris Carpenter, St. Louis
Dwight Gooden, Tampa Bay
Roy Oswalt, Houston
Livan Hernandez, Washington
Chad Cordero, Washington
Pedro Martinez, Mets
Jake Peavy, San Diego
John Smoltz, Atlanta
Brian Fuentes, Colorado
Jason Isringhausen, St. Louis
Brad Lidge, Houston

Final Vote
Brett Myers, Philadelphia
Roy Oswalt, Houston
Trevor Hoffman, San Diego
Billy Wagner, Philadelphia
Brandon Webb, Arizona

IN BRIEF

Hall of Fame coach
Stram dead at 82

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Hall of Fame coach Hank Stram, who took the Kansas City Chiefs to two Super Bowls and was known for his inventive game plans and exuberance on the sideline, has died, his family said. He was 82.

Stram had been in declining health for several years and Dale Stram attributed his father's death to complications from diabetes. He died at St. Tammany Parish Hospital, near his home in Covington, across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans. He built a home there during his two-year stint as coach of the Saints and retired there.

Stram was the Chiefs' first and winningest coach. He took over the expansion Dallas Texans of the upstart AFL in 1960 and coached them through 1974, moving with them to Kansas City where they were renamed the Chiefs in 1963.

The gregarious, stocky, blazer-wearing Stram led the Chiefs to AFL titles in 1962, '66 and '69 and to appearances in the first Super Bowl, a 35-10 loss to Green Bay, and the fourth, a 23-7 victory over Minnesota in 1970.

Lehto, Werner win
LeMans series

LAKEVILLE, Conn. (AP) — The Champion Andretti Racing team of JJ Lehto and Marco Werner won the American LeMans Series New England Grand Prix at Lime Rock Park.

Lehto beat teammate Emanuele Pirro by 1.7 seconds.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

ners on second and third in the third, Teixeira snagged Trot Nixon's hard-hit sinking line drive for the third out.

"Mark's turned into as good a first baseman as any in baseball," manager Buck Showalter said.

Ramirez hit a 446-foot, two-run homer in the eighth to put the Red Sox up 5-3, and also drew a bases-loaded walk in the game. His 21st homer of the season landed high on the grassy hill beyond the center-field wall off Joaquin Benoit (1-0).

David Ortiz led off the eighth with a bloop single off Brian Shouse before Benoit, who had pitched 14 scoreless innings his last seven outings, took over and left a 2-0 fastball over the heart of the plate that Ramirez didn't miss.

Rod Barajas got the Rangers to 5-4 when he had an RBI double with two outs in the eighth.

That scored Soriano, who had led off the inning with a walk.

The Red Sox (46-35) lost four of six games at home last week, but still have two wins more than they did at the midway point of last season when they won the World Series. Boston has a 2 1/2-game lead over Baltimore in the AL East.

Texas (43-38) also hit its halfway point, and three games behind its 2004 pace.

Damon extended his career-best hitting streak, and the longest active in the major leagues, to 20 games when he led off the game with a single. Damon also had an 18-game hitting streak from April 21-May 13, that matching his previous career high.

Boston starter Wade Miller struck out seven of the last 10 batters he faced, and eight overall, but was done after six innings and 121 pitches (68 strikes). The right-hander gave up three runs, five hits and five

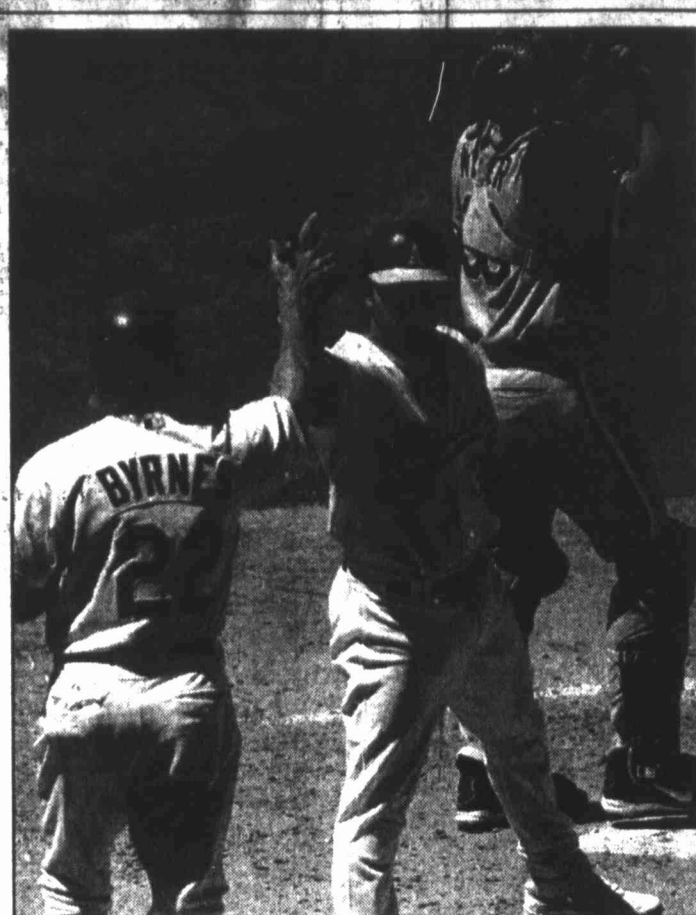
walks.

Boston, which trailed 3-0 after the first five Texas batters, got even in the sixth. Ortiz had a leadoff double against Ricardo Rodriguez, and scored when Trot Nixon greeted reliever Juan Dominguez with a deep liner that was misplayed by left fielder Mench for another double.

Rodriguez walked three straight batters in the third, including Ramirez with the bases loaded. The Red Sox got to 3-2 when another run scored on a wild pitch.

The first five Rangers reached base, the second on a throwing error by Miller on a potential double-play grounder. After the bases were loaded with no outs, Blalock had a two-run single and Soriano an RBI single.

Blalock, the only Texas infielder not selected for the All-Star game, twice left the bases loaded. He grounded out to first to end the second, and struck out swinging two innings later.



KRT photo/Bob Pepping, Contra Costa Times
A's baserunners Eric Byrnes and Nick Swisher congratulate each other after they both scored on a hit by Mark Ellis during the 7th inning of their game as they beat the White Sox 7-2, Sunday at McAfee Coliseum in Oakland, Calif. Chicago catcher Chris Wither is at top.

ROGERS

Continued from Page 1B

team, the same amount of his fine.

No charges have been filed.

Before Wednesday's home game against the

Los Angeles Angels, Rogers shoved two cameramen in a tirade that included throwing a camera to the ground, kicking it and threatening to break others.

Rangers shortstop Michael Young, also chosen by players as an All-Star, doesn't think it will

be a distraction if Rogers goes to Detroit.

"I know that if he does go, he'll have a great time. Kenny's certainly deserving," Young said. "He's been one of the best pitchers in the league all year, so hopefully he does go and represents our team."

Major League Baseball - current league-wide standings

American League - East		American League - West		National League - Central	
Boston	46-35 —	L.A. Angels	50-32 —	St. Louis	52-30 —
Baltimore	44-38 -2.5	Texas	43-38 -6.5	Chicago Cubs	40-41 -11.5
N.Y. Yankees	42-39 -4	Oakland	40-41 -9.5	Houston	39-42 -12.5
Toronto	42-40 -4.5	Seattle	35-46 -14.5	Milwaukee	39-43 -13
Tampa Bay	27-56 -20			Pittsburgh	35-46 -16.5
				Cincinnati	32-50 -20
American League - Central		National League - East		National League - West	
Chicago Sox	55-26 —	Washington	50-32 —	San Diego	45-38 —
Minnesota	46-34 -8.5	Atlanta	46-37 -4.5	Arizona	41-43 -4.5
Cleveland	46-36 -9.5	Florida	42-38 -7	L.A. Dodgers	39-43 -5.5
Detroit	37-43 -17.5	Philadelphia	42-41 -8.5	San Francisco	34-47 -10
Kansas City	26-55 -29	N.Y. Mets	41-41 -9	Colorado	28-53 -16

ARMSTRONG

Continued from Page 1B

third.

Armstrong, who hates such flat stages, was relieved simply to have avoided an accident. Two years ago, he was caught in a 35-rider crash on the Tour and was lucky to escape with cuts and bruises.

He shared some light-hearted banter with Zabriskie as the two former teammates met in the main group during the 133-mile leg, which started from La Chataigneraie in western France and snaked toward the medieval city of Tours.

They joked about who would wear the yellow jersey on Tuesday night.

For Zabriskie, just having it for the first time in his career is

more than he bargained for.

Time losses are limited during the team time trial after a rule change was put in place before the 2004 Tour. The last of the 21 teams competing will concede a maximum of 3 minutes, no matter how far behind it finishes.

The team placing second loses a maximum of 20 seconds while third and fourth place give away no more than 30 and 40 seconds, respectively.

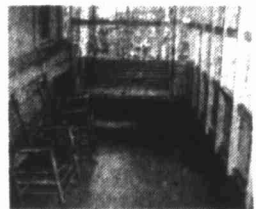
This softens the blow in case of a heavy loss, but also nullifies the impact of catching Armstrong on a bad day.

The main threats to Armstrong's team are Team CSC and Phonak — led by his former U.S. Postal teammate Floyd Landis and featuring former world time trial champion Santiago Botero.



MIRANDA VERANDA

I am a veranda. My name is Miranda. I am Miranda Veranda. Do you know what I am? You have seen me or my friends many times before. You probably have sat on me. You probably have



walked on me. You have probably run on me, even! But, I don't mind. I even like it, for your toes tickle my back sometimes! It makes me want to giggle. So run, walk, or even sit on me anytime you wish to and I will love it. After all, that is my job!

I love to listen to all the children talking when they are sitting on me. I love to hear the grown up people talk when they are sitting on me. I have been around for a long, long, time. Some of the grown up people that I love to listen to were small little children, just like you, when they first started walking on me. It even tickled me then, just like

it does now!

Do you know what I am yet? I must tell you so I can get on with my story. I am nothing more than a very large porch. I am nothing less than a very large porch, either! I want to tell you some of the things that I have seen and heard during my life.

An old man and an old woman are sitting on me right now. They are talking about all of the good things that have happened to them in their lifetime. They are also talking about some of the bad things that have happened to them in their lifetime! The old man and the old woman were little children, just like you when they first sat on me. They are talking about the time that they first saw each other. They are saying that they loved each other since the first time they saw each



other. They are holding hands, just like they did when they were very young! They are so sweet!! They are talking about the time when they dreamed of having their own home. They are saying that they are glad that this is their home now. They said that one day, this would

be their children's home, too! They talked of having to wake up early each morning, of working to make this a wonderful home. They even talked of the time that they painted me! I am a beautiful color now. I love being a veranda!

They talked of the time they put chairs on me because of all the people that were coming to visit. Oh, I remember

other bedtime story. Then, there was the time that the little child came up and sat on me, crying. I remember that day very well! The old man and the old woman were very young then, so we must call them the young man and the young woman. The young woman ran out of the house and ran all over me to get to that little child. But, that was okay. I didn't get tickled then. I saw that a little child was hurt and I became very sad. I remember the young woman picking up the

child, and telling her that everything was going to be all right. I remember the soft, warm hug that the young woman gave the little girl. I remember the little girl smiling again, all of the tears gone! I remember loving the young woman myself because she was so gentle. I remember all of this!

I remember the time that the young man came home from work and told the young woman that he would make enough money to buy her a new dress. I remember the little tear in her eye! I remember the time that the young woman walked out of the house and put her arm around the young man and gave him a great big hug. I remember the little tear in his eye! I love being a veranda! I get to see and hear everything! I remember the time the young man put a swing



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on me. I think about all of the children who sat in this swing and told each other of their dreams. I think about all of their laughter. I think about all of their crying! I think about each time that the young man or woman would make the little children feel better just by being nice to them, and giving them those hugs!

Now, all of those little children are all grown up. I see the old man and the old woman sitting on me now. They are still holding hands! Someday, their children will be old, too. I hope they sit on me and hold hands. I am sure they will! If you are ever in my neighborhood, will you come sit on me, or run on me, or just walk on me? Please do, because I love to be tickled! My name is Miranda. Please remember me! GOOD NIGHT!



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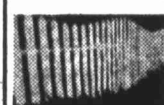
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Mercury and Jupiter start a planetary conference, the focus of which is how to burst through the

communication blockage between our minds and our hearts. Negative words and feelings act as a barricade, and some messages just aren't getting through. Identify what "noise" you might be listening to that's drowning out the sound of your heart.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Some of your wants are up in the stratosphere of what's realistic. Good! Realism is for pessimists! Don't worry that you don't have a plan yet either, but do spend an hour brainstorming.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's not always easy to please the important people in your life, but today it is! So don't knock yourself out — just execute a small gesture of kindness, and wait for the warm response.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Seek knowledge, and you find it in the darkest places. The hardest thing to give up is the need to be right about everything. When you let go of that, suddenly you have so much more energy!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Social obligations can be stressful, so be kind to yourself. Don't try to be perfect — just do what

you can. What you learn at work is wonderful for your love life and vice versa.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Distractions abound, and it feels impossible to get anything accomplished right now. Don't fight the flow. Instead, relax and wait for a few productive hours to open up in the evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The planets highlight your power to conjure. Hidden away in a jar or drawer somewhere in your house is a magic pen. Write your wishes for this week on paper, and watch them come true.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your head is in the clouds, perhaps because you're not sure you can handle the logistics of what you want to do. The times, dates and details will bog you down if you let them. Talk things through with an earth sign to get on track.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What is not well defined in your life will stick out under these scrutinizing stars. It's time to either be more specific or settle for what's vaguely close to what you desire.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're feeling a bit wild. Rope in a stabilizing influence to help you remain accountable to the promises you made, because keeping your word is a matter of character.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Generally you like to play out a game until the inevitable conclusion — your total victory. Changing direction in the middle of a journey just isn't like you. Nonetheless, it's what happens today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are starting to realize that there has been no progress in a certain area of your life because there is no true personal meaning behind the goal. Dig down deep, and discover what you really care about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Without measurements and timelines, some people are lost. But you seem to be existing in a different time zone altogether. You believe something will happen and that very well may be all that's needed to make it so.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Singer/songwriter Michelle Branch seems like a baby herself, but she's about to start her own family with a bundle of joy due in August! Cancer women are often surprised by the ways they change with motherhood, as the maternal instinct is all-encompassing for this nurturing sign. Moonchildren are likely to put career on the back burner for as long as possible in order to care for a precious newborn.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.

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Legals

SURPLUS PROPERTY AUCTION
The Howard College District has contracted with the Big Spring State Hospital Recycling Program to sell the district's surplus property. To verify if a sale is going to be held, please contact the Big Spring State Hospital Recycling Program at 432-263-0618. The auction is held on the first Wednesday of each month. The next auction will be held Wednesday, July 6th. The July 6th auction will have Day Care items, baby beds, toys, sinks, counter tops, washer, dryer, etc.

Big Spring Recycling Program
1405 North Hwy 87
Big Spring, TX 79720
#4612 July 3 & 5, 2005.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City Council has directed the City Manager to designate and maintain a Stop Sign on the Northwest Corner of Mt Vernon yielding to Washington Blvd. Big Spring City Code Sec 18-133. Stop Intersections. Authorizes the City Manager to designate and maintain stop intersections on streets as directed by the City Council.
#4621 July 3 & 5, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE

Big Spring City Code Sec 18-74. Speed Limits on Specified Streets. (1) Farm Market Road 700. (2) Increasing Speed Limit to 40 miles per hour. Beginning South Service Road FM 700 from a point 210 west of the right-of-way line of Coronado Avenue to a point 30' west of the right-of-way line of Hwy 87 shall be 40 miles per hour.
#4620 July 3 & 5, 2005

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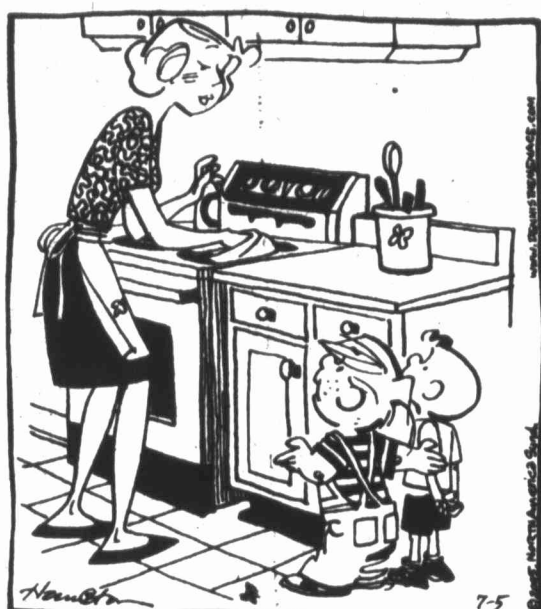
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	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KYLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (30)
6	News (CC)	News (CC)	Spanish	King of the Hill	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
7	My Wife and Kids	My Wife and Kids	Aguanta por un Amor	Trading Spouses	ET: Celebrity	La Mujer en el Espejo	Average Joe	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)
8	According to Jim	According to Jim	La Madrastra	House (CC)	Fire Me...	Los Plateados	I Want to Be a Star	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Sex and the City
9	Empire (CC)	Empire (CC)	Casos de la Vida Real	70s Show	48 Hours	Decisions	Law & Order	The Real G	The Real G	The Real G	The Real G	The Real G	The Real G	The Real G	The Real G	The Real G	The Real G	The Real G	The Real G
10	News (CC)	News (CC)	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
11	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	La Hora	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)
12	News (CC)	News (CC)	Amigos y Rival	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City	Spin City

DENNIS THE MENACE



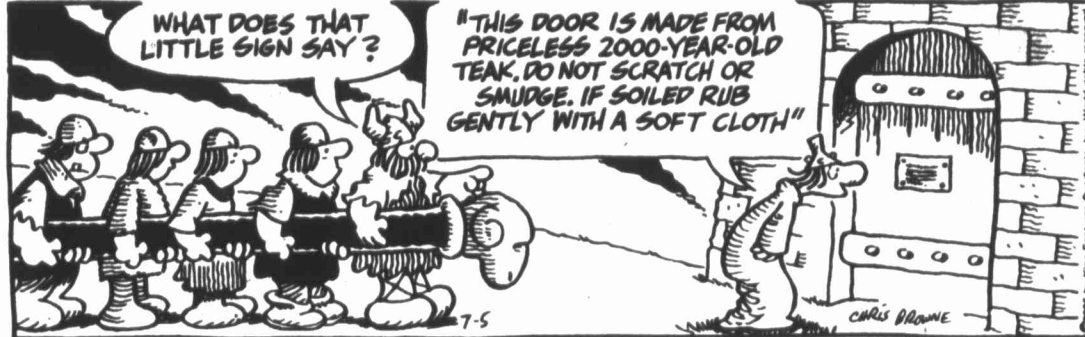
"ME AN' JOEY THINK IT'S A PERFECT DAY FOR YOU TO MAKE SOME COOKIES."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"You can't have any ice cream, Barfy, but you can lick my fingers."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 5, the 186th day of 2005. There are 179 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 5, 1865, William Booth founded the Salvation Army in London.

On this date:

In 1811, Venezuela became the first South American country to declare independence from Spain.

In 1935, President Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act, which provided for a National Labor Relations Board, and authorized labor to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining.

In 1940, during World War II, Britain and the Vichy government in France broke diplomatic relations.

In 1946, the bikini made its debut during an outdoor fashion show at the Molitor Pool in Paris.

In 1947, Larry Doby signed a contract with the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first black player in the American League.

In 1954, Elvis Presley's first commercial recording session took place at Sun Records in Memphis, Tenn.; the song he recorded was "That's All Right (Mama)."

In 1975, Arthur Ashe became the first black man to win a Wimbledon singles title as he defeated Jimmy Connors.

In 1975, the Cape Verde Islands officially became independent after 500 years of Portuguese rule.

In 1991, a worldwide financial scandal erupted as regulators in eight countries shut down the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Ten years ago: More than 100 Grateful Dead fans were injured when a deck on which they were gathered collapsed at a campground near Wentzville, Mo.

Five years ago: The U.N. Security Council imposed a diamond ban on Sierra Leone's rebels in a bid to strangle their ability to finance a civil war.

One year ago: In a stinging rebuke, Mexican President Vicente Fox's chief of staff, Alfonso Durazo, resigned.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Katherine Helmond is 71. Actress Shirley Knight is 69. Julie Nixon Eisenhower is 57. Rock star Huey Lewis is 55. Baseball pitcher Rich "Goose" Gossage is 54. Actress Edie Falco ("The Sopranos") is 42. Rapper RZA is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Joe is 32. Rapper Bizarre (D12) is 27. Rock singer Jason Wade (Lifehouse) is 25.

Thought for Today: "The real drawback to 'the simple life' is that it is not simple. If you are living it, you positively can do nothing else. There is not time." Katharine Fullerton Gerould, American writer (1879-1944).

Answer to previous puzzle

COALS	PAYS	LACK
SONIC	ETAL	BLUE
THEFOURTH	OFJULY	
ASTERS	NOVA	MTS
SEMI	OATH	
GAG	PARA	KEEPA
OSAKA	ALAI	COPE
FOUNDING	FATHERS	
ANNE	DIET	REMIT
RETELL	REDO	SLY
LIES	ROUT	
SKI	SNAG	INHIRE
INDEPENDENCE	DAY	
NOEL	STAN	ERNIE
SWAM	SAYS	DEAN

BC



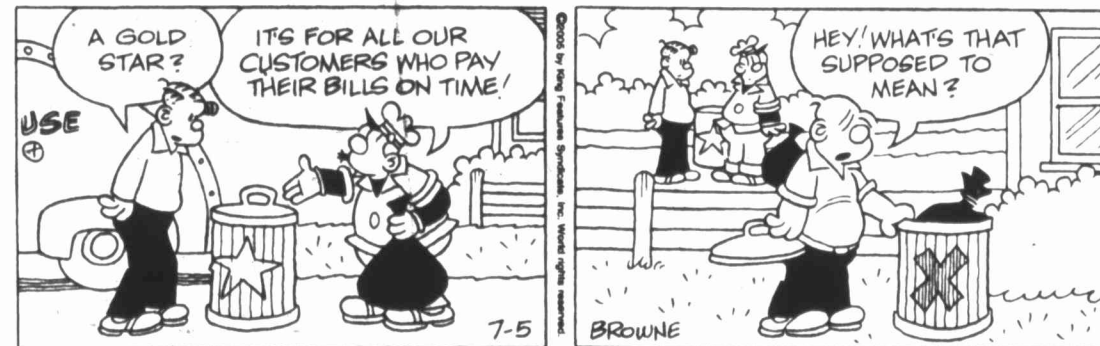
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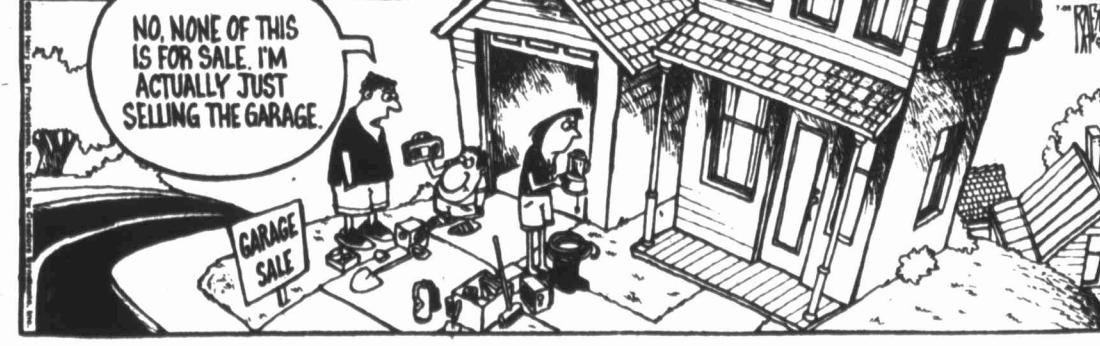
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



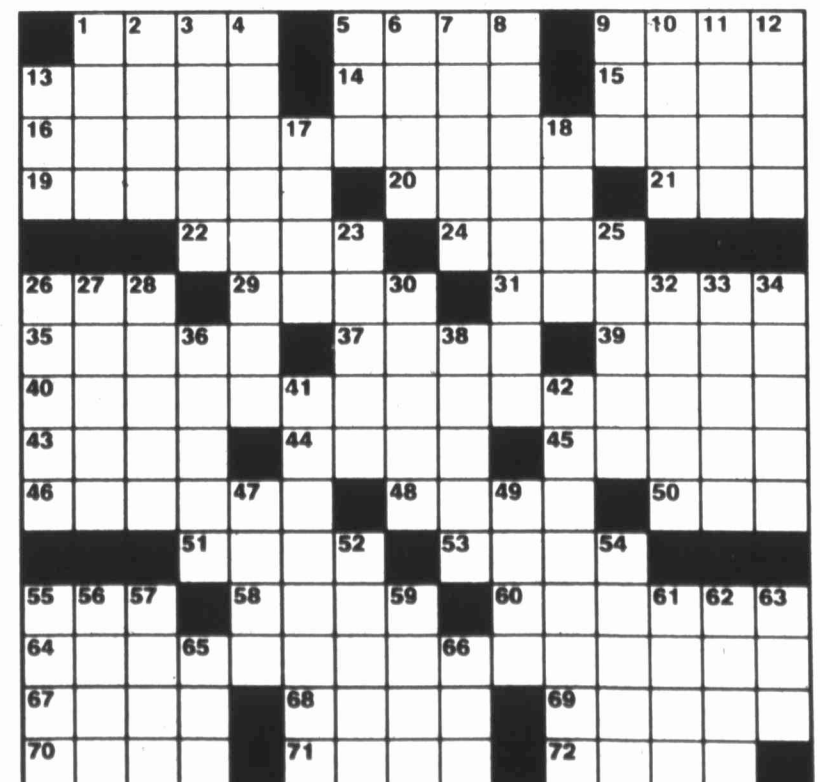
BEETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

HANCOCK AND CO. by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Clumsy ones
 - 5 Settles one's debts
 - 9 Don't have boom (SST sound)
 - 14 Footnote abbr.
 - 15 Sky color
 - 16 When Hancock signed the Declaration
 - 19 Fall flowers
 - 20 Scotia
 - 21 Rockies or Andes: Abbr.
 - 22 Prefix for precious
 - 24 Solemn promise
 - 26 One-liner
 - 29 Chute or trooper starter
 - 31 Persist with
 - 35 City in Japan
 - 37 Jai
 - 39 Manage somehow
 - 40 Hancock, Franklin and colleagues
 - 43 With 25 Down, Volcano actress
 - 44 Calorie cut-down
 - 45 Mail away a check
 - 46 Narrate again
 - 48 Make over
 - 50 Cunning
 - 51 Tells falsehoods
 - 53 Defeat handily
 - 55 Glide on snow
 - 58 Hidden obstacle
 - 60 "Psst, ___!"
 - 64 Yearly celebration of 16 Across
- DOWN
- 67 Christmas season
 - 68 Comic Laurel
 - 69 Comic Kovacs
 - 70 Did the backstroke
 - 71 Utters
 - 72 College official
 - 8 Czech Republic neighbor
 - 9 JFK successor
 - 10 Grad
 - 11 Religious group
 - 12 Door openers
 - 13 RR stop
 - 17 West Point sch.
 - 18 Karma
 - 23 Teheran native
 - 25 See 43 Across
 - 26 Succeed in business
 - 27 In unison
 - 28 Too thin
 - 30 Children's author Horatio
 - 32 Robert Frost works
 - 33 When baseball season starts
 - 34 In a crabby mood
 - 36 Prepare to propose
 - 38 "And Jill came tumbling ___"
 - 41 Lazy quality
 - 42 Defeated handily
 - 47 Talk like Daffy Duck
 - 49 Slay
 - 52 Thanksgiving parade star
 - 54 Out yonder
 - 55 Transgressions
 - 56 Be confident of
 - 57 Notion
 - 59 Aussie's greeting
 - 61 Writer Ferber
 - 62 Sahara rarity
 - 63 Needle hole
 - 65 Shade tree
 - 66 Nav. rank



Wacky Facts

- The "modern" bicycle, with two wheels the same size, pedals and a chain drive, appeared in the late 1800s. Before 1869, bicycles were known as "velocipedes."
- Bicycle clubs were formed and races were held, but because of the cost, cycling was mostly a sport for the rich. — *World Almanac for Kids*

KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"She was unbelievable. It was just a beautiful thing to watch."

— David Letterman speaking of Danica Patrick after her historic fourth place in the Indy 500 — the highest finish ever for a woman, in *People* magazine. Letterman is the car's owner.

In The News

Seeing double! TFK chats with Sprouse twins

How would you like to live in a hotel, with your own suite, room service and 4 o'clock poolside ice cream?

That's the life of 12-year-old identical twins Zack and Cody Martin in the Disney Channel sitcom, "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody." As their mother works as the Tipton Hotel's headline singer, Zack and Cody wreak havoc on the hotel and its guests and staff, especially the manager, Mr. Moseby.

I had the chance to meet the stars of the show, Cole and Dylan Sprouse, who play Zack and Cody, when I visited the actors on set.

TFK: Describe your characters in "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody."

DYLAN: Well, Zack is a very rambunctious little devil. He is the older twin and loves to do pranks. He is also very sly. Even though Cody is smarter, Zack can trick Cody into doing things.

COLE: Cody is a very smart, very nice twin. He also knows when to stop when involved in a prank. Basically, he has the ability to reason when things will get out of hand, but it doesn't do him very much good.

TFK: Can you relate to your characters?

COLE: Yes, we can. Actually, our characters were originally based off of us with a few slight differences.

TFK: What are your favorite and least favorite parts of acting as a career and lifestyle?

DYLAN: Really, there are not a lot of downsides to working on this show. We have a great cast. We all get along really well.

TFK: What is it like to work on the set of the Tipton Hotel? Do you wish you really did live there, like Zack and Cody?



COURTESY OF THE DISNEY CHANNEL
Cole, left, and Dylan in "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody."

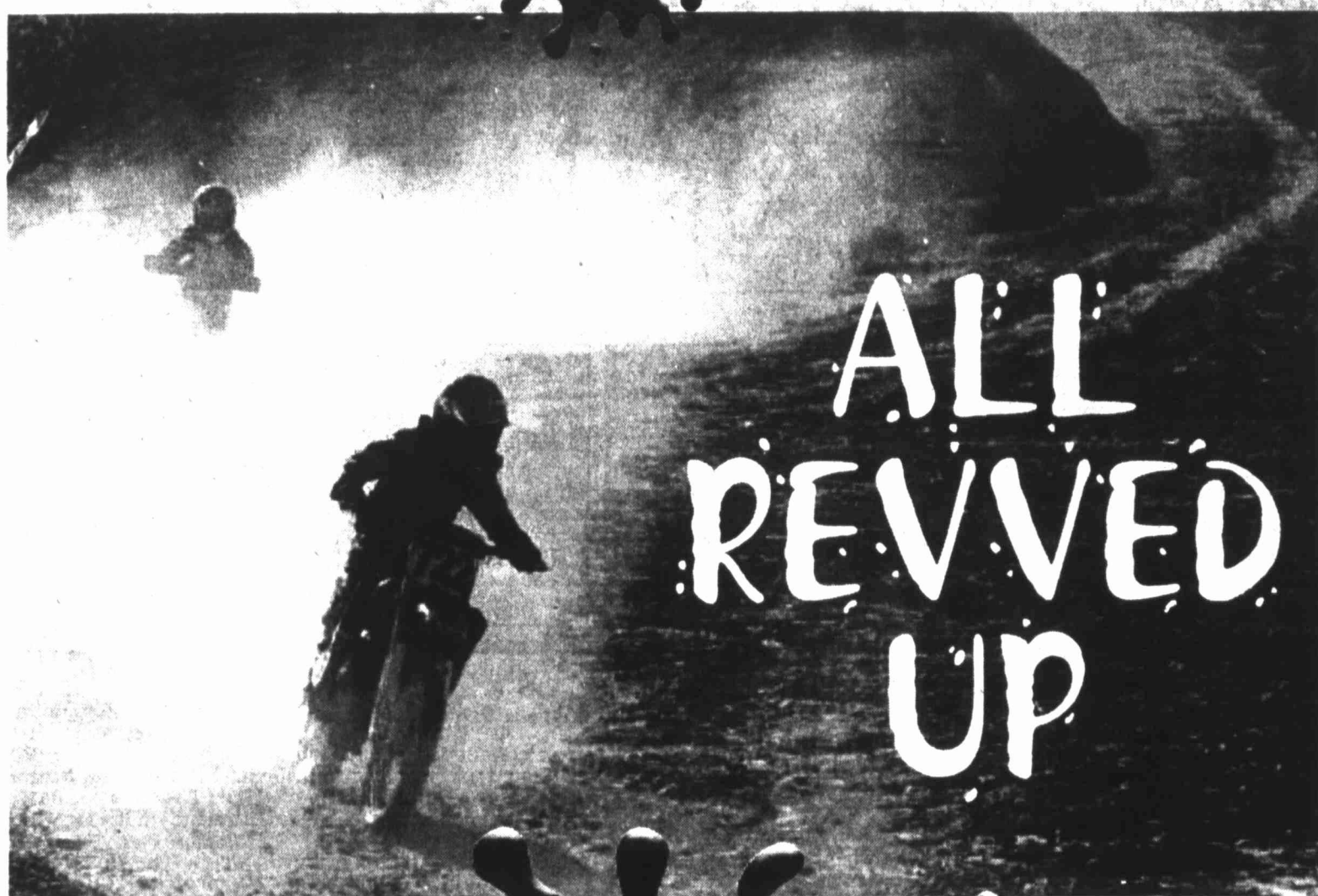
DYLAN: It's great. I mean, who doesn't want to live in a hotel?

COLE: I don't think I really would. I like having a house. I want to feel like I have my own property and space. ... Also, in your own home, you can stomp around and stuff. You don't have to worry about people next to you, below you or above you.

TFK: How has this show affected your life?

DYLAN: It's affected my life in a way that makes it great, but at the same time, there are things like not getting to see your friends every day.

COLE: It's also changed in the way that we were used to walking around everywhere, without having to really think about it. Now, when we go out, people always recognize us and say "Oh, my gosh! It's Zack and Cody!" — Jenna Leonardo, 11



PHOTOS BY MEL EVANS/KRT

Racing at the Motocross Track in Walden, N.Y.

BY JOHN A. GAVIN
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

The motorcycle looked huge for a 10-year-old, but Zachary Lang of Ridgeland Park, N.J., sat relaxed at the starting gate as he revved the engine of his Yamaha 85cc dirt bike.

Then — at the pop of a starter's gun — it was off to the races, as 15 young bikers dashed three laps around a milelong dirt track of hairpin turns and flying jumps over humps and through mud at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour.

Long considered a fringe sport of daredevil stunts, motocross is one of the country's fastest-growing action sports — much of it aimed at kids.

Sales of motocross and trail bikes jumped 279 percent to approximately 296,000 in 2002, up from 78,000 in 1994, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council of Irvine, Calif. However, no figures are available on how many children are actually involved in motocross, it said.

Scott Lang got his two sons — Zachary, now 11, and little brother Joshua, 8 — started in motocross because he also rides.

Zachary rode his first motor bike at 4, and has already won several trophies.

Walden Motocross Track in upstate New York is one of several tracks sanctioned by the AMA to hold youth competitions and qualifying events.

At meets, children as young as 4 years old zip along dirt tracks in events categorized by age, skill and bike size, officiated by referees and judges, and regulated by strict safety standards.

There are events for peewees, novices, schoolboy age, quads (four wheelers) — and even girls.

With corporate sponsorships and stars such as Travis Pastrana and Ricky Carmichael, the sport has taken on a new image. At events, it's not unusual to see families with expensive

Junior dirt-bike racing grows by leaps and bounds

motor homes and campers parked next to beat-up cars and pickup trucks.

The all-day event turns into a tailgate party as families cheer, coach, wash off bikes and work as on-the-spot mechanics as children queue up for competitions.

Peter Ruel of Ramsey, N.J., said he noticed his son, Tucker, was timid playing soccer and wanted him to develop self-assurance, something he couldn't do sitting on the bench.

Tucker returned to playing soccer and said his motorcycle experience has helped.

"It's a learning process," said Tucker, who rides a 125cc dirt bike and can do 30-foot jumps.

"When you get better and you know you're getting better, it helps your self-esteem."

But the sport is not without some drawbacks.

Participation in races can be grueling and expensive.

The season lasts from April to October, requiring parents to drive hundreds of miles to remote spots where kids log long hours at various tracks earning points to qualify for trophies and more prestigious competitions.

Membership dues, entry fees, bike repair, insurance and fuel costs to travel a 30-week circuit can run \$10,000 to \$12,000 annually, says Bob Bartolomeo, vice chairman of the Metropolitan Sports Committee, AMA

District 34, a local group governing amateur motocross competition.

Motocross bikes, which are sturdy but smaller than conventional motorcycles cost about \$3,000. Most serious riders have at least two. Outfits, which include a motocross helmet, goggles, padded vest, neck brace, gloves and knee-high boots, can cost in excess of \$1,200.

And because of the sport's apparent dangers, riders are encouraged to take lessons.

Parents must purchase medical insurance, and each child must have a notarized medical release form. Ambulances are on site at each event.

For Zachary's parents, motocross is a family commitment, with the two other children, Heather, 13, and Joshua, packing up the 30-foot camper, 12-foot trailer and four bikes for trips on weekends.

When they get there, Zachary's dad, acts as a one-man pit crew, fixing up his boys' bikes.

The schedule reads like a trucker's log: a race in Maryland one weekend, then

Monticello, N.Y.

Next it's off to Claverack, N.Y., and then Massachusetts.

Despite the potential for serious injury, Melissa Lang says the positives far outweigh any negatives.

"I don't ever remember him being scared. Actually, I got more nervous when he played football and would get run over by fourth-graders when he was in second grade," Lang said.

But Zachary never liked

football, skateboarding or baseball.

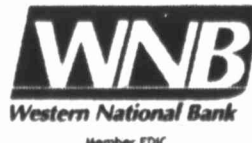
"I like the speed and how fast you go and all the people who are all around," Zachary said. "I sort of get ahead and pass everybody. You try to stay up and don't fall."



Zachary, shown here when he was 10, rode his first motor bike when he was 4.

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