



SPORTS

Season opener

Concern, hesitation and questions run through the minds of Greenwood and Stanton coaches on eve of season's first game./1C



LOCAL

Expo Center

Proposed West Texas Expo Center may be in partnership with the county and city and could boost area's economy./1B

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2000

Vol. 73, No. 175

From the office of the governor ...

Couple, Bush exchange letters about his former Tall City home

Joe and Kristen Stubbs refurbish home where Bush lived in 1970s.

By Judy Serbantez
MRT Correspondent

Back in the early 1970s, a young man by the name of George W. Bush was breaking into the oil industry. Following closely in his father's footsteps, the man who would later become Texas governor and the Republican presidential nominee decided to build a life in Midland.

He moved into a small house on 2008 Bedford Ave., surrounded by modern homes. The small house was recently restored by Joe and Kristen Stubbs. The home, which is covered in cedar and resembles the style of a country home, is located right behind the Stubbs' house.

"We used it as a guest house, we didn't learn about the history of the house until Dr. Charlie Younger and his wife paid us a visit," Mrs. Stubbs said. "One hot summer day in 1999, Dr. Younger and his wife Francis rang my doorbell. They had been showing a reporter around town; the reporter was doing a story for the Washington Post."

The story centered around the Stubbs' guest house — the former residence of George W. Bush.

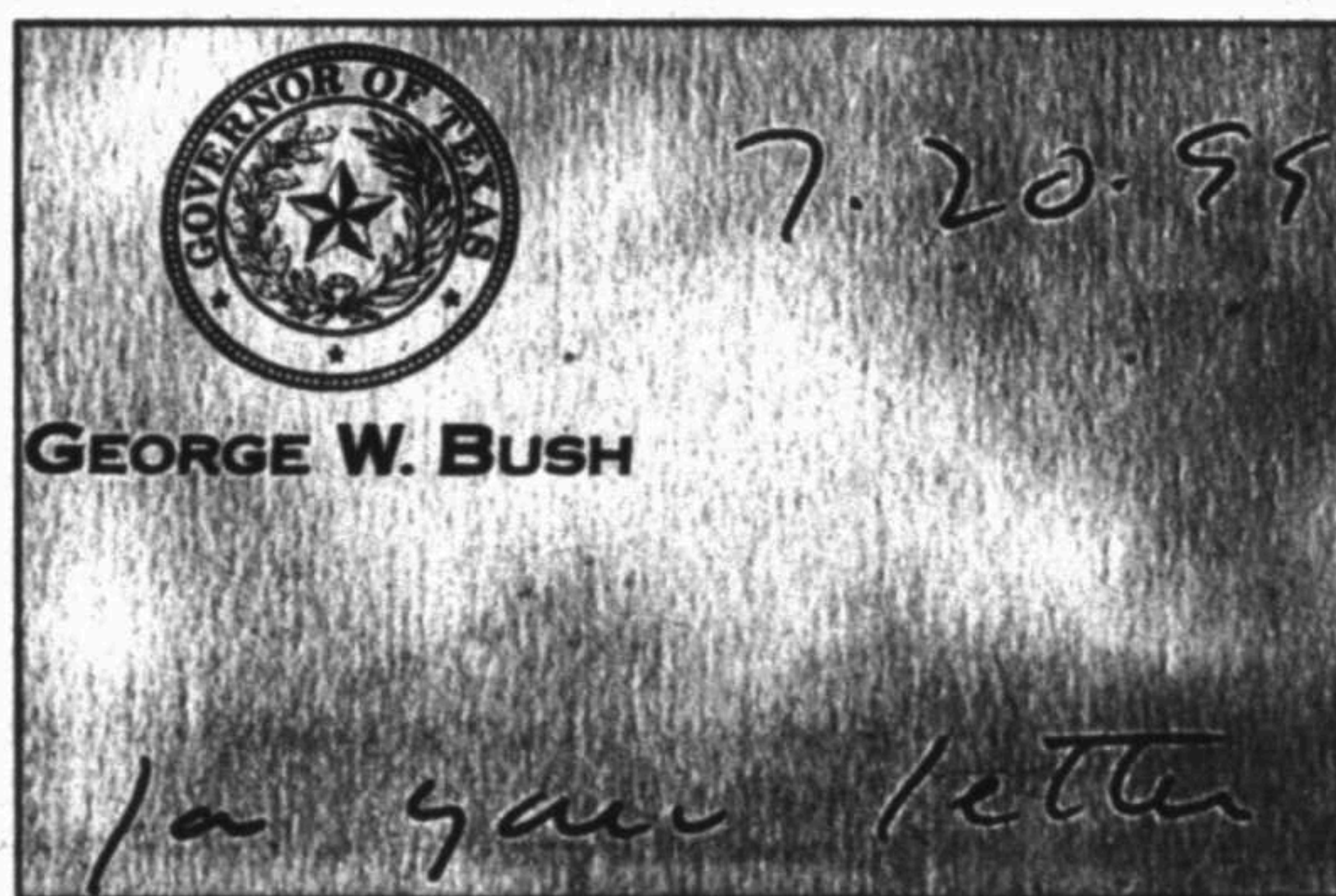
The Stubbs moved to Midland from Houston four years ago.

"When we lived in Houston, I used to work out at the Houstonian Club, and every once in a while I would see George W. Bush finishing up his workout," Stubbs said. "Over at the Memorial Park, George W. Bush would take his early morning jogs."

On July 15, 1999, Mrs. Stubbs wrote a letter to Bush, who had just launched his campaign bid for the White House.

"I just wrote him a short letter informing him of the restoration done on it, and how different it looked. Texas Monthly had compared it to a toxic waste dump. I also

Please see HOUSE/4A



Kristen Stubbs reads a letter that she received from Gov. George W. Bush. When Bush lived in Midland in the 1970s, he stayed in the house — seen in the background — which is in Mrs. Stubbs' backyard.

U. Frank Williams Jr.
Reporter-Telegram

'Sky's the Limit' prepares for possible Bush presidency

From Staff Reports

Midland's newly activated Sky's the Limit Committee is moving forward in trying to lay the groundwork for preparations the city might make in connection with a possible George W. Bush presidency.

Since the Texas governor first began exploring a possible White House bid, the national media has been visiting Midland trying to unearth information about Bush's past and his early days here. Film

crews from CNN, PBS and the major networks have visited Midland. Reporters from the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and other newspapers have been poking around Midland and prepared profiles on Bush.

"We want to do everything we can to cast our city in a positive light. That's why I decided to activate the Sky's the Limit Committee," Mayor Bobby Burns said. Jimmy Carter's hometown of Plains, Ga., and

Please see COMMITTEE/4A

Bush's twin daughters head for college

Jenna began classes at UT on Wednesday; Barbara is to begin classes at Yale next Wednesday.

Associated Press

AUSTIN — One of Gov. George W. Bush's twin daughters started classes at the University of Texas on Wednesday, nearly 1,600 miles from Yale University, the elite Ivy League school where her sister begins her studies next week.

Jenna Bush was one of about 7,500 freshmen at Texas, one of the nation's largest state universities.

Her sister, Barbara, will be part of a smaller class of 1,352 entering Yale in New Haven, Conn., where classes start Wednesday. Freshmen

begin moving into their dormitories on Friday. Barbara will be the fourth generation of Bushes to attend Yale, following her father, the Republican presidential nominee; her grandfather, former President George Bush; and great-grandfather, Sen. Prescott Bush.

Citing the Bush family's request to keep their children out of the public spotlight, Kim Black, a spokeswoman for Texas first lady Laura Bush, would say only that both girls had left home.

In an interview Wednesday morning, Mrs. Bush would not discuss her daughters' departure for college.

Officials at both schools declined to discuss the Bush sisters, saying they respect every student's right to privacy. Neither university would say if security had been beefed up to accommodate the

Please see TWINS/4A



Laura Bush, stands with her mother, Jenna Welch, and her daughters, Jenna, right, and Barbara, left.

Marathon president meets with employees

By John Paul Pitts
Oil Editor

Speculation about the future of Marathon Oil Co. in the Permian Basin has been rampant for months, but the answer should be known soon.

Company president Clarence Cazalot met with local Marathon employees Wednesday at the Midland Center. He told employees an official announcement should be forthcoming within seven to 10 days.

One often-repeated theory has been that the company would soon experience massive local layoffs, while another has been that most of the Marathon employees would be moved to Houston, leaving only the Yates Operation Team in place. There has also been speculation that the Midland office would be completely closed, while another story has been that the impact in Midland "would be minimal." There was even the rumor that another oil company had tendered an offer for Marathon, and the company might be sold.

It was hoped that Cazalot's visit to Midland would put the lid on some of the rumors.

Whether it did, is unknown. But one thing is certain — Midland will be affected, and a reduction in the work force is expected. The company has already sent out a number of voluntary retirement packages, which employees in the Basin are expected to act upon this week.

Cazalot also outlined a radical new reorganization plan for the company. Reacting to its disappointing perfor-

Please see OIL/4A

Hospital board approves 2.7 percent tax increase

By Brian Rogers
Staff Writer

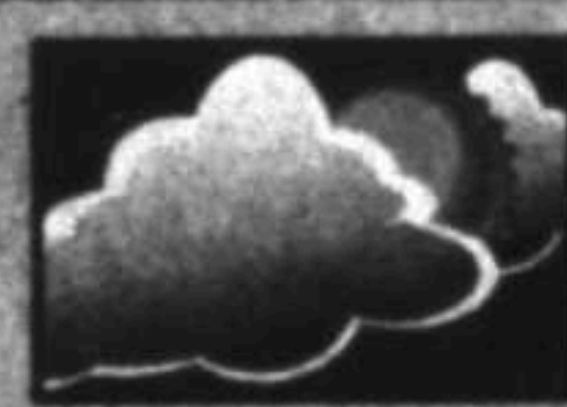
The board of directors of the Midland County Hospital District voted 3-2, with one abstention, to approve a tax rate increase to cover the costs of indigent health care. The new rate of 15.71 cents per \$100 valuation is effective Oct. 1, when the district's 2001 fiscal year begins. The new tax rate represents an increase of 1.7 percent over the old tax rate of 15.44 cents.

The increase would bring the annual tax on a \$100,000 home to about \$157, about \$2 more than last year.

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TODAY
Partly cloudy with
high in low 90s.
Weather on 4A.

Teen Beat

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opponents
should tour
Midland
High
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Off the wire

■ 19 people charged in
scam in which they allegedly
swindled \$12.5 million/3A
■ Cost of fighting wildfires is
expected to top \$1 billion/6A

Asleep at the Wheel is on the road to Basin

By Georgia Temple
Staff Writer

After more than three decades as the leader of the Texas-based Asleep at the Wheel, Ray Benson knows the life of a traveling musician is "just as tough as everybody said it was."

"It takes incredible determination as well as talent," Benson said in a telephone interview before the band's Saturday gig at Dos Amigos in Odessa. "And lots of good luck. That's the intangible. One man once said, 'Luck is the residue of design.' So I don't really think it's dumb luck by any means. You have to be there to make it happen."

Through six Grammy Awards and for countless stage performances and numerous records, Benson has been there awakening fans with an eclectic mix of Texas swing, blues, boogie, rock and pop.

"I like performing," Benson said. "I like being in front of people singing and communicating, playing music. That's what I do."

And that's what he's done with Asleep at the Wheel since the band formed in Paw Paw, W.Va., in 1970. The group's first big gig was opening for Alice Cooper and Hot Tuna in Washington, D.C., that same year. In 20 years, the band put more than 3 million miles on its old bus.

Today, guest artists that have appeared on AATW albums include, among others: Willie Nelson, Huey Lewis, Bonnie Raitt, Garth Brooks, Vince Gill, Dolly Parton, Merle Haggard, The McGuire Sisters, Tracy Byrd, Marty Stuart, Dwight Yoakam, George Strait, Suzy Boggus and Tish Hinajosa.

Asleep at the Wheel's latest

Please see BAND/4A



Asleep at the Wheel will awaken fans at Dos Amigos in Odessa on Saturday. Players include, from left, Michael Francis, an 18-year member; Cindy Cashdollar, who played on Bob Dylan's Grammy-winning "Time After Time" album; leader Ray Benson, standing; Chris Booher, seated at piano; David Sanger, also seated; David Miller; and Jason Roberts.

AUGUST 31 2000

CAMPAIGN 2000 IN BRIEF

■ Texas gets court order on health care

A federal judge, saying Texas has not lived up to a 1996 agreement to make major changes in its Medicaid system, has ordered the state to improve access for children and fix other problems in medical coverage for low-income Texans. The ruling, by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice, comes as Texas Gov. George W. Bush has been drawing criticism on the subject from Al Gore. The order could trigger sweeping changes in the state's program, prompting officials to back off a plan to transfer most poor people into managed care and to raise reimbursements to dentists who treat Medicaid patients. Bush campaign officials noted that the case grew out of a lawsuit filed in 1993, predating Bush's election as governor in 1994.

■ Gore wants health care confrontation

Keeping the focus on health care, Al Gore is demanding that George W. Bush say what he is willing to do to save Medicare, all the while promoting his own \$400 billion boost for the program. Gore was holding a town hall meeting with running mate Joe Lieberman in Portland, Ore., to discuss his plan to preserve Medicare and offer a new prescription drug benefit for senior citizens. Bush, who plans to issue details of his Medicare plan next week, responded today on a live on-air and online CNN interview. He said the Clinton-Gore administration squandered opportunities during the past seven years to shore up Medicare.

■ Bush remains focused on education

George W. Bush kept his focus today on education, which he sees as a winning voter issue. "When you raise standards, students will follow," Bush told students at a high school in Portsmouth, N.H. Bush's plan: increase the maximum Pell grant for first-year students from \$3,300 to \$5,100; a tax

exemption for participating in tuition savings plans; a \$1.5 billion grant to help states pay for aid for advanced-placement high school students; and education savings accounts that would allow contribution up to \$5,000 annually per child, with tax-free withdrawals.

■ Candidates debate over debates

George W. Bush is dispatching aides to meet with major TV network execs and the special debate commission to decide on times, places and formats for the debates that Al Gore accuses him of trying to duck. Bush denies trying to avoid prime-time face-offs, and says he'd welcome them. Top advisers Joe Allbaugh, Andrew Card and Don Evans are in Washington now to discuss debate scenarios with officials at CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, PBS and the Commission on Presidential Debates. The Bush aides also plan to meet this week and next with potential debate sponsors. After those sessions, Bush will present his debate schedule, a counteroffer to Gore's.

■ Cheney speaks about military, taxes

Dick Cheney made stops today in North Carolina and Georgia to talk about defense spending and his concerns that the military is overstretched. In North Carolina, he pushed for the Republican ticket's tax-cut proposal and said a Bush administration would let citizens decide how to spend the federal budget surplus. In Georgia, Cheney blasted the Clinton-Gore administration for what he says is a poor record of support for the military. Georgia Democrats slapped back, saying Cheney is resorting to a tired Republican line of attacking Democrats on the military to avoid getting into the real issues: health insurance for children and prescription drug coverage for the elderly.

■ Gore makes gains in three states

Al Gore has reclaimed a double-digit lead in Maryland, has an edge in Illinois, and has closed to a dead heat with George W. Bush in New Hampshire, according to new state polls of the presidential race. In Maryland, with 10 electoral votes, Gore led Bush 51-36 percent in a Gonzales-Arscott poll. In Illinois, with 22 electoral votes, Gore had a 46-41 percent edge over Bush in a Mason-Dixon poll. In New Hampshire, with 4 electoral votes, Bush had a 48-44 percent lead. The error margin in all three surveys was 4 percentage points. In polls taken before the party conventions, Bush had been about even in Maryland and Illinois and ahead by 10 points in New Hampshire.

■ Bush reaches out to voters via mail

George W. Bush spent more than \$40 million trying to reach voters through advertising and by mail and telephone, nearly as much as Al Gore doled out for his campaign during the primaries. An analysis of campaign spending records shows that through July 31 shows that Bush spent \$43 million on efforts to reach voters, including \$25 million on TV and radio ads. Gore spent just \$14 million on similar voter-targeted activity. Campaign strategists say the spending spree should give Bush an edge with voters for the fall campaign, when each candidate will be limited to spending \$67.6 million in federal funds.

■ Secret Service calls for traffic control

The Secret Service is asking local county commissioners to do more to control traffic and parking around George W. Bush's new ranch near Waco, Texas. R.L. Smith, in charge of the Austin Secret Service office, said his agency requested changes "to get clarification" about local laws,

especially since there is no posted speed limit on the roads. Most of the problems have been caused by the media, including trucks parked with satellite dishes along the 22-foot wide road outside Bush's front gate. McLennan County Commissioner Ray Meadows said officials had hoped they could wait to see how Bush fared in the November election.

■ Labor Union goes online in support

The AFL-CIO has created a Web site for Al Gore to hold a live Web-cast on Labor Day for union members. The Web site will allow union members to send e-mail messages to political candidates, including Gore, George W. Bush and members of Congress. The Web site also will feature a speech by John Sweeney, the union president, and video messages from the "Texas Truth Squad," a group of workers who are traveling the country to accuse Bush of doing little on issues that unions care about. Web site users also will be able to register to vote, and can examine the voting record of candidates for federal office. The site will be up through Sept. 6.

Compiled from New York Times News Service reports.

Candidates speak out

'The other side has placed its top priority on taking virtually all of this projected surplus and giving it all in the form of a giant tax cut, mainly to the wealthy. And their theory is that's going to be good for the country, and they say it's your money. Well, it is your money. But it's your Medicare, it's your Social Security, it's your environment, it's your school system, it's your country.'

— Al Gore

'A commander in chief leads the military built by those who came before him. That is why we were able to win the Gulf War — because we were commanding a military rebuilt in the 1980s. Our military today is overused and under-resourced. This has brought on serious problems of readiness, recruiting, retention, and morale.'

— Dick Cheney

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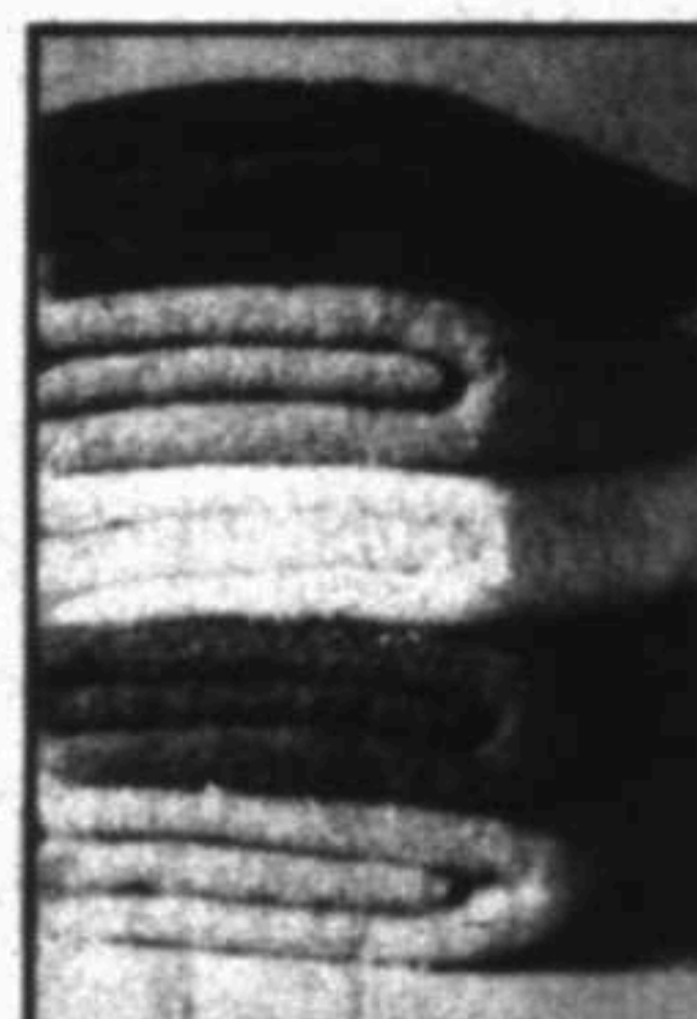
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Something funny going on: Small Illinois town shocked by alleged scam

By John Kelly
Associated Press

MATTOON, Ill. — Something funny was going on in the small town of Mattoon.

Bankers started getting millions of dollars in deposits from local folks who held modest jobs. A retired electrician began driving a Lincoln, vacationing overseas and leaving \$5 tips for \$2 coffees. A contractor bought fancy offices and a fleet of 41 new trucks practically overnight.

"We all know each other here," Mayor Wanda Ferguson said. "You have someone who doesn't have much money and then all the sudden they have lots of it, you're going to notice."

According to prosecutors, those suspicions were well-founded.

A federal indictment unsealed this week charged 11 Mattoon residents and eight others in a crude but wildly profitable scam that bilked at least 10,000 people around the globe out of at least \$12.5 million.

The key players in Omega Trust and Trading, authorities said, are longtime Mattoon residents known by almost everyone in this farming and industrial community of 19,000. Among the 19 are business owners, a minister, a former city policeman and a former sheriff's officer.

Defense attorneys said those

charged are innocent victims of a big misunderstanding.

"I think we're all going to find that each and every one of these people are successful business persons who enjoyed good reputations in the community," said Bill Tapella, a lawyer for four of the 19. "They'll just have to let the system work."

In taverns, restaurants and shops all over Mattoon, people chatted about the bizarre — but not totally unexpected — news.

"I just didn't think that our hometown people would succumb to temptations to this extent. It broke my heart," said Joyce Haddock-Kolbus, 68, a farmer who has lived here all her life.

The temptation of Omega, for the alleged swindlers and the swindled, was big money fast.

The indictment alleges Omega sellers, starting in 1994, persuaded customers to lend them money to invest in offshore banks. Investors could get in for as little as \$100 and, for that amount, were promised \$5,100 in just nine months. Put in \$5,000, and they were promised a \$225,000 payout.

Investors never got paid.

Clyde Hood, the 66-year old retired electrician who authorities say orchestrated the scam with his wife, kept customers at bay with elaborate excuses about delays caused by bankers and pesky

government officials.

Mattoon police started getting tips from residents, and various government agencies received a wave of consumer complaints. Investigators also got tips from people who worked for Omega or invested in it, but they won't say exactly what it was that set off the investigation, which eventually grew to include the FBI, the IRS and the Postal Service.

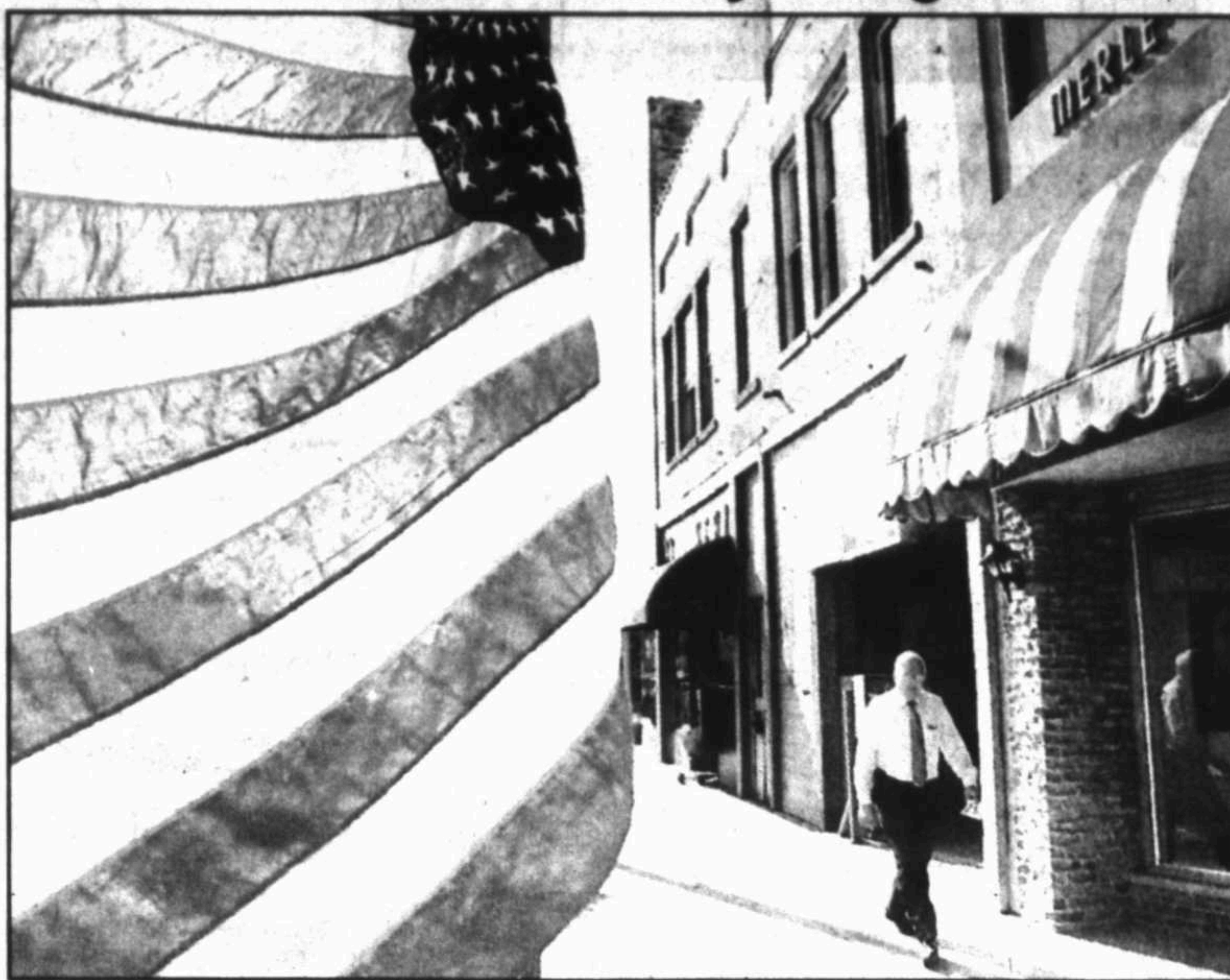
"There were some obvious telltale signs, things that just didn't fit," said Mattoon Police Chief David O'Dell.

Chris Engel's construction company grew into a behemoth with a shiny fleet of late-model trucks and new brick offices. Former Mattoon police officer Bryan Boes opened a chain of sandwich shops. Corrections officer James Turner allegedly delivered \$120,920 in \$20 bills to Florida as final payment for a prefab building that became the Blue Bird Diner in Mattoon.

Investigators said they traced \$12.5 million to Omega participants in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma and California.

Authorities promise more arrests, but the mayor said she has been told the main players are shut down.

"You don't like to see things happen like this in your community," Ferguson said. "But you're glad to see all the rotten little apples caught."



AP Photo
An unidentified man walks in downtown Mattoon, Ill. Tuesday. The small town in downstate Illinois was shaken this week when 11 residents were charged along with eight others in a federal indictment that alleges a crude but wildly profitable scam that bilked at least 10,000 people around the globe out of at least \$12.5 million.

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AUG 31 2000

Cost of fighting wildfires expected to top \$1 billion

By H. Josef Hebert
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal cost of fighting wildfires across the West soon will exceed \$1 billion with Congress likely to dip into the treasury again this year to pay the final tab, federal officials said Wednesday.

So far, the federal government has tallied at least \$626 million in costs to battle scores of fires from Montana to New Mexico, spending as much as \$18 million a day, according to the National Interagency Fire Center, which is coordinating the fire-fighting effort.

But several senior administration officials — after an internal review of the worst outbreak of wildfires in half a century — said it has become clear the fire-fighting costs will exceed \$1 billion before long.

"Actual costs will be right at about a billion dollars," predicted Hank Kashdan, budget director for the U.S. Forest Service.

Officials at the fire control center said their running tally of \$626 million is conservative and may understate overall costs because it focuses only on direct firefighting and does not include tens of millions of dollars spent this year on preparedness and training and other fire activities.

"A lot of the bills won't come in until after the fire season is over," said Lorraine Buck, a spokeswoman for the interagency group that has set up headquarters in Boise, Idaho.

The U.S. Forest Service and the Interior Department already have spent just over \$1 billion this year on all of their fire programs — direct firefighting and preparedness — with another month of the fire season remaining.

"We're depleting all available reserves. ... We're going to be looking at fire suppression costs far in excess of what we have available," said Kashdan.

Just before leaving for its summer recess, Congress came up with an additional \$350 million for fighting the wildfires, bringing the total amount budgeted for direct firefighting to \$836 million this year.

While that is expected to fall short of what will be needed, officials emphasized the money will be found.

"Money is not an issue. The money is there to do what is necessary," said Linda Ricci, a spokeswoman for the administration's Office of Management and Budget. She said the Forest Service and Interior Department have discretion to temporarily shift funds from other areas of their budget and that the admin-

istration is prepared to ask Congress for additional funds if needed when lawmakers return in September.

Most of the money so far has been spent on salaries and support for more than 27,000 firefighters battling the western blazes, including several thousand soldiers.

The Forest Service has 16,000 people involved in firefighting activities, half of its work force, according to an agency spokeswoman. More than 1,200 fire engines, 240 helicopters and 42 tanker aircraft have been deployed.

This year's fire season is believed by Interior Department and Forest Service officials to be the worst in 50 years. So far nearly 73,000 fires have burned nearly 6.3 million acres, about a third in Idaho and Montana. Two million acres have been

scorched in the two states alone.

The Clinton administration estimates that the value of lost forest, rangeland and wildlife habitat — as well as economic losses to businesses — could exceed \$10 billion. In Montana alone, the fires were estimated to be costing businesses \$3 million a day as vast areas of forest were closed to the public.

This year's fires also have unleashed a political firestorm, as Republicans have contended the Clinton administration's policy of limiting logging contributed to the fire risk, and that the administration was unprepared.

"The (federal) agencies knew with certainty that fire seasons such as the one we are currently experiencing were going to occur," claimed Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, chairman of the House Resources Committee. He cited a General Accounting

See related story/7A

Office report last year that concluded 40 million acres of federal forest in the interior West were at high risk of catastrophic wildfires.

Young said the administration "should have geared up" their fire activities.

However, Congress was not giving fire activities top priority either. Last fall, it approved \$957 million for all fire programs for this fiscal year, \$15 million less than the White House had sought, according to the Office of Management and Budget.

"This is the worst fire season we've had in a long time," said Jon Wright, an Interior Department spokesman. "Nobody could have predicted that we would have this many fires going on at the same time."

Lawsuit seeks information on accident that killed Princess Diana

WASHINGTON (AP) — The father of Dodi Fayed said Wednesday he will file suit in federal court to gain access to U.S. intelligence information about the deaths of Princess Diana and his son in a Paris automobile accident.

"Since that tragic day three years ago, I have not rested in my search for the truth," Mohamed Al Fayed said in a written statement read at a news conference.

Al Fayed, who owns Harrods department store in London, repeated his claim that the Aug. 31, 1997, deaths were a murder conspiracy plotted by people who disapproved of Diana's relationship with his son.

He said he was seeking documents from the CIA, the Justice Department and the National Security Agency, which he said monitored Diana's telephone conversations.

"The United States' intelligence gathering network, which through the most sophisticated satellite systems, allowed the NSA to spy

on Diana," Al Fayed said. He charged that the agency gave files on the monitored conversations to British intelligence and still has over a thousand pages of documents concerning the crash.

"I believe they are withholding some of the documents at the request of the British secret services," Al Fayed said.

Neither Justice Department spokesman Charles Miller nor NSA spokeswoman Judi Emmel would comment, citing the pending litigation.

NSA officials acknowledged in 1998 that the agency had picked up mentions of Diana in its international electronic monitoring, but said those references were casual and incidental and that she was never a target of U.S. intelligence efforts.

In April, an appeals court rejected Al Fayed's request for the information, upholding the decision of a lower court judge who said Al Fayed had tried "to make an end run around" the Freedom of Infor-

'Since that tragic day three years ago, I have not rested in my search for the truth.'

— Mohamed Al Fayed, father of Dodi Fayed

mation Act.

Al Fayed's lawyer, Mark Zaid, said the new Freedom of Information Act lawsuit would be filed in U.S. District Court in Washington today, the third anniversary of the crash. The lawsuit seeks information about more than 20 individuals and events related to the deaths, he said.

"No one suspects the U.S. government was involved" in the accident, Zaid said. But he said that government might be withholding information.

The lawsuit also seeks CIA and Justice Department documents concerning Oswald LeWinter, who attempted to sell Al Fayed phony information about a murder plot against Diana and his son. LeWin-

ter was convicted of attempted criminal fraud and sentenced to four years in an Austrian prison in 1998.

CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield also declined to comment on the specifics of the lawsuit because it hasn't yet been filed or reviewed.

"We understand Mr. Al Fayed's grief and tremendous sense of loss but any suggestion that the CIA spied on Dodi Fayed or Princess Diana, has knowledge of any plot to murder them, or had anything to do with this tragic accident is totally unfounded," Mansfield said.

Doubts already have been cast on a number of Al Fayed's allegations concerning Diana's death, including that a mysterious nurse heard last words from the princess

and that Diana and Dodi Fayed planned to marry.

At the news conference, Zaid and John Macnamara, director of security for Harrods, showed security camera footage of Diana, Dodi Fayed and their driver Henri Paul before the accident, to dispute allegations that Paul was drunk. Paul also died in the crash and was found to have high levels of alcohol in his blood.

"We have a lot of unanswered questions, but without the cooperation of the United States government, I don't believe we ever will get" the answers, Macnamara said.

Diana and Dodi Fayed died after

they left the Ritz Hotel and set off at high speed in their chauffeured car, trying to elude photographers. Mohamed Al Fayed owns the Ritz and was Paul's employer.

Last September, Paris judge Herve Stephan dismissed charges against nine photographers and a press motorcyclist implicated in the accident. The judge's terse conclusion came in a one-page statement: Alcohol, drugs and excessive speed caused the crash that ended the life of the "people's princess."

A French court is expected to rule September 15 on an appeal by Al Fayed and Paul's family to reopen the crash investigation.

Laser knocks down two rockets

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. (AP) — An experimental laser that someday may protect Israel's northern border blew up two rockets in simultaneous flight during a test in the New Mexico desert, the U.S. Army said.

The Tactical High Energy Laser, or THEL, blew up a single artillery rocket in June. Monday's test was closer to conditions the THEL could face on the battlefield: multiple rockets coming from different directions.

The laser beam, which has a range of a few miles, heats the rockets until they explode. The biggest technical challenge for

THEL lies in tracking the incoming rockets.

THEL's targets are Katyushas, Russian-made short-range artillery rockets. Hezbollah guerrillas launch volleys of the 10-foot rockets from southern Lebanon into northern Israel.

If deployed, THEL could become the first destructive laser system in the world to see action.

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Scatter

RED LODGE — A sprinkling of some of Montana's Wednesdays hope change in the weather.

Thirty major to burn on acres in the state.

A steady drizzle late morning where a 2,500 miles outside some 50 fam homes.

"A couple of we'd just about rounded," said fire information.

Light drizzle firefighters at north of Helena families out of Wolf Creek

evacuation of Wednesday managers said have the 450- later Wednesday

Rain also fell Wyoming's 14,750 acre western part

The National Fire Center in 30 large fires

Lobster helps

NARRAGANSETT (AP) — Four barge spilled its Block Island off marine life is restocking 1.25 million

The new lobster shaped notches to mark them lobstermen — yield 9 million number believe killed in the ac

"It feels good we're doing even to ensure the industry after a blow," said A

operations m North Cape Lo Project.

The company the spill, Eklon will pay for the ject as part of S

tlements with eral government individuals.

The oil spill ever, happened broke out on a barge in a fi

barge ran ag 828,000 gallon ing oil off Mo

More than other birds, a crabs, shrimp, mals were kill

Sound was shu fishing for five Under the

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Scattered showers raise hopes

RED LODGE, Mont. (AP) — A sprinkling of rain fell on some of Montana's vast wild-fire Wednesday, and firefighters hoped it signaled a change in the region's hot, dry weather.

Thirty major fires continued to burn on more than 650,000 acres in the state.

A steady drizzle developed in late morning at Red Lodge, where a 2,500-acre fire four miles outside the town kept some 50 families out of their homes.

"A couple of days of this and we'd just about have her surrounded," said Jeff Gildehaus, fire information officer.

Light drizzle also helped firefighters attack a new fire north of Helena that forced five families out of their homes near Wolf Creek overnight. The evacuation order was lifted Wednesday afternoon, and managers said they expected to have the 450-acre fire contained later Wednesday.

Rain also fell Wednesday on Wyoming's largest fire, a 14,750-acre fire in the southwestern part of the state.

The National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, said 30 large fires were burning in

See related story/6A

an area of 656,991 acres in Montana, while 85 major fires were burning on 1.64 million acres nationally. Wildfires have charred 6.3 million nationally this year, mostly in the hot, dry West.

In Idaho, Gov. Dirk Kempthorne asked President Clinton to declare Idaho a federal disaster area. The fire center said Idaho had 25 large fires burning on 717,360 acres.

Montana Gov. Marc Racicot made a similar request for his state Tuesday, and Clinton signed it Wednesday.

Rick Weiland, regional director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said the agency will have an official in Helena by Wednesday night to begin coordinating the process of accepting and processing claims.

Weiland said the financial losses in the state warranted the disaster declaration. "The economic injury is just so substantial," he said. "This is such an enormous problem here. I don't think many of us have seen anything like this."

Lobster restocking program helps oil spill recovery

NARRAGANSETT, R.I. (AP) — Four years after a barge spilled its load of oil into Block Island Sound and killed off marine life, the government is restocking the waters with 1.25 million female lobsters.

The new lobsters — with V-shaped notches cut in their tails to mark them as off-limits to lobstermen — are expected to yield 9 million offspring, the number believed to have been killed in the accident.

"It feels good knowing that we're doing everything we can to ensure the viability of this industry after such a devastating blow," said Angela Caporelli, operations manager for the North Cape Lobster Restoration Project.

The company responsible for the spill, Eklof Marine Corp., will pay for the \$8 million project as part of \$75 million in settlements with the state, the federal government and affected individuals.

The oil spill, the state's worst ever, happened in 1996. A fire broke out on a tug as it towed a barge in a fierce storm. The barge ran aground, spilling 828,000 gallons of home heating oil off Moonstone Beach.

More than 400 loons, 1,600 other birds, and thousands of crabs, shrimp, fish and other animals were killed. Block Island Sound was shut down to lobster fishing for five months.

Under the federal-state

restoration project, workers have been buying lobsters from fisheries in small amounts to avoid competing with restaurants and running up the price. Then the lobsters are sent to sea with workers like Joe Dealeris, who uses a device that works like a paper punch to notch their tails and hands them off to a co-worker to toss into the sound at a rate of about 20 per minute.

"We passed 100,000 lobsters about a week and a half ago," said Dealeris, a University of Rhode Island professor.

With breaks for winter, the dropping of all 1.25 million lobsters could take up to five years.

The lobsters are expected to migrate through Block Island Sound and Rhode Island Sound and eventually produce about 23 billion eggs.

Lobstermen can harvest the restocked lobsters only after their notches grow out, in about two years.

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Utility inspecting 200,000 Chicago-area homes for mercury

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (AP) — A gas company announced Wednesday it will test 200,000 homes across Chicago's far northern and western suburbs for possible contamination by mercury, a toxic metal that can damage the kidneys and brain.

The first homes inspected will be those where old-fashioned gas regulators have been removed within the past five years, Nicor Gas said Wednesday.

"Our primary goal is to give our customers the peace of mind that they deserve," said Nicor CEO Tom Fisher. "We believe that we have been careful over the decades but we want to make sure."

The Naperville-based company had inspected 255 homes by Monday and found higher than normal mercury levels in about one-sixth of them.

Nicor began looking into possible mercury spills on July 20 when the company discovered traces from a liquid mercury spill after a contractor replaced an old gas regulator, which controls the flow of natural gas.

Company inspectors went

through homes in 11 suburbs this month, and on Friday it detected mercury in a home where one of its own technicians had removed an outdated regulator.

So far, 322 homes have been inspected, Nicor spokesman Lee Haines said Wednesday. He said there had been some evacuations and cleanups, but he did not know how many.

Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan said Nicor told his office Tuesday that it could take up to six months to complete the inspections.

Nicor is paying for blood and urine tests, and the Illinois Department of Public Health said Monday that results which had come back so far show only one person out of 10 with an elevated level of mercury.

Mercury, a silver, odorless liquid, has been used in everything from thermometers and blood pressure gauges to older gas meters. Most health experts agree that short exposures to small amounts are relatively harmless — for example, when a thermometer breaks. The trouble comes, they say, when the liquid vaporizes.

Ten families filed a lawsuit Tuesday against Nicor and contractor Henkels & McCoy seeking damages of more than \$50,000 for each person exposed to spilled mercury. A similar lawsuit was filed last week.

April Panfil and her family have been living in hotels for five weeks, ever since Nicor inspectors found mercury in their house believed to have been tracked in by her children from a neighbor's home.

"As they soon as they conducted the tests and discovered mercury, 'we were (evacuated) right then and there with the clothes we were wearing,'" Pan-

'Our primary goal is to give our customers the peace of mind that they deserve.'

— Tom Fisher,
CEO of Nicor Gas

fil, 28, said.

The furniture, their clothing, toys and anything lying on the floor was taken from the home, she said, and the family was sent to a physician who found traces of mercury contamination. "But they haven't told us what that means," she said.

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Hispanics should be eager to join in electoral process

The most fundamental, cherished freedom in the United States is our right to vote.

The concept of one man, one vote is the cornerstone of our democratic society. Americans need to look upon voting not only as a right, but also a responsibility. That's why it's troubling to see news from the U.S. Census Bureau indicating that voting among Hispanics has dropped off in Texas in the past few years. Voting among Hispanics across the nation is up, according to Census officials. Midland County officials report that voting among Hispanics here has appeared to have remained flat over the past few years.

It's no secret that the sheer number of Hispanics is on the upswing in our city, state and nation. In our part of the country, we have seen a surge in the number of Mexicans crossing the border in search of greater economic opportunity.

While we see these new arrivals eager to find work, build a life and join the American society, not enough of these new arrivals are becoming a part of the electoral process.

It is fair to acknowledge that voter apathy across the board in this country is an embarrassment. It isn't fair to single out Hispanics as we admonish the citizenry for non-participation in elections.

On the other hand, we can't deny that we wish we saw more Hispanics embracing the electoral process.

In the recent Midland County Precinct 3 Democratic commissioner's primary, we saw Josie Ramirez claim victory over her opponent by a single vote. It was an amazing story. But the sad reality was that between Ramirez and her opponent, former Midland City Council member Julius Brooks, the candidates only collected about 700 votes in total. We wish the participation in that important race would have been greater.

While Hispanics make up more and more of Midland's population, the Hispanic population no longer has representation on the City Council by a Hispanic member of the community.

In order to be a part of the process, the first step is in registering to vote.

Important elections are coming up in October and November.

The deadline to register to vote is Sept. 7 if one is to participate in the Oct. 7 school bond referendum.

And, of course, in November we will be selecting the nation's next president.

Voting is an important fundamental freedom in our nation. It's a shame to see anyone let the opportunity go to waste.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Aug. 31, the 244th day of 2000. There are 122 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 31, 1980, Poland's Solidarity labor movement was born with an agreement signed in Gdansk that ended a 17-day-old strike.

On this date:

In 1886, an earthquake rocked Charleston, S.C., killing up to 110 people.

In 1887, Thomas A. Edison received a patent for his Kinetoscope, a device which produced moving pictures.

In 1888, Mary Ann Nicholls was found murdered in London's East End in what is generally regarded as the first slaying committed by Jack the Ripper.

In 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt signed an act prohibiting the export of U.S. arms to belligerents.

In 1954, Hurricane Carol hit the northeastern United States, resulting in nearly 70 deaths.

In 1969, boxer Rocky Marciano died in a light airplane crash in Iowa, a day before his 46th birthday.

In 1985, Richard Ramirez, later convicted of California's "Night Stalker" killings, was captured by residents of an East Los Angeles neighborhood.

In 1986, 82 people were killed when an Aeromexico jetliner and a small private plane collided over Cerritos, Calif.

In 1988, 14 people were killed when a Delta Boeing 727 crashed during takeoff from Dallas-Fort Worth Airport.

Ten years ago: UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met twice with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Amman, Jordan, to negotiate a solution to the Persian Gulf crisis.

Five years ago: At the O.J. Simpson trial in Los Angeles, Judge Lance Ito ruled the defense could play only two examples of police detective Mark Fuhrman's racist comments from taped conversations with a screenwriter.

One year ago: Detroit's teachers went on strike, wiping out the first day of class for 172,000 students in one of the largest teachers' strikes in years. An LAPA Boeing 737-200 crashed on takeoff from Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 72 people, including five on the ground.

JACK ANDERSON

Does Quebec still want to be separate?

WASHINGTON — The movement for Quebec sovereignty rests on two main ideas: the preservation of the French language and of French-Canadian culture. Many French Canadians already look upon their province as a separate nation within English-speaking Canada.

Quebec has 7.4 million inhabitants, comparable to Switzerland and Sweden. Some 6 million of these people speak French. In the sense of the Helsinki Accord, the inhabitants of Quebec are a "people," which has instilled a belief among separatists that the province is large enough and strong enough to survive on its own. Quebec already enjoys significant control in such areas as education, natural resources and immigration.

The uniqueness of Quebecers is accentuated by the isolation of its French-speakers from France. Because they existed as a cultural island, surrounded by English-speaking Canadians and Americans, their language is more similar to 18th-century French than to modern French. Even so, President Charles de Gaulle viewed Quebecers as French enough when he openly called for separation in his famous 1967 Montreal speech, shouting, "Vive le Quebec libre" ("Long live free Quebec").



Anderson

That speech was delivered only 23 years after many Canadians lost their lives during the D-Day landings as the Allies began the liberation of France. It was a liberation in which then General de Gaulle led the Free French forces, and so his ingratitude was all the more unsettling to Canadians. De Gaulle's speech set off a firestorm between Canada and France, and it gave Quebec's separatists renewed determination to secede from Canada.

Since the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763, when Great Britain incorporated the French colony into its empire, French Canadians have demanded their sovereignty. In the 20th century, the nationalist movement swung into full force with Jean Lesage's "quiet revolution." In 1963 the movement became more violent as the Quebec Liberation Front employed the use of bombs. A few years later a more peaceful approach was sought with the formation of the Quebecois Party, which fought to establish its voice within Quebec's government. In 1980, the first referendum on Quebec independence failed, with only 40 percent voting for independence. In 1995 another referendum was held, and the move for independence was defeated again, with federalists winning 51 percent of the vote.

Quebec is one of the 10 provinces of the Canadian federal state, a system that involves two levels of government: the central (federal) government and the provincial governments. Quebec's

National Assembly, made up of 125 representatives, can enact legislation; then the lieutenant governor, acting as a representative of the Crown, must approve the legislation. The prime minister and his cabinet are responsible for the administration of the legislation.

In recent polls, however, the separatist movement in Quebec seems to have lost some steam. Supporters of an independent Quebec made up only 39 percent of those polled, the lowest level since the 1995 referendum on secession. Moreover, young people, once the core of the movement, no longer seem to be interested in carving out their own nation. One editorial published in La Presse states that the "sense of anger that allowed Quebecers to contemplate a break with Canada just isn't there anymore."

Recent Canadian statistics indicate that the average Canadian family is now better off than it was before the recession of the early 1990s. While this economic prosperity has reached most of the provinces, a few remain behind — Quebec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Many think that Quebec's slower economy is the result of the separatist movement, which drove potential investors and businesses out of the province. So economics, rather than politics, may finally bring an end to the separatist movement.

Jack Anderson's and Douglas Cohn's column is distributed by United Feature Syndicate.



LETTERS

It's time for citizens to take back control of our schools

I feel the school board is elected to see that our tax money is spent wisely and efficiently by the personnel they hire.

This was not done in the recent settlement with the Midland High principal and the giving of an undeserved raise to the superintendent.

I do not feel it is necessary to hire a consultant to tell the school board to hire someone from outside Midland who does not know our school system. Let's hire a local man who will bring some common sense to the operation of an overblown bureaucratic mess.

I am in favor of a raise for teachers who are deserving of one. I will not vote for a bond issue until the school board does a complete house cleaning and drastically reduces the number of overpaid bureaucrats like the director of compliance. I don't think any employee of the school system should tell the board they can't be fired.

It is time for citizens to take back control of our schools.

Clarence Murray

Midlanders will pay now for our high schools or pay more later

A viable public education system is imperative, and that includes adequate facilities for academic and extra-curricular pursuits. Both Midland High and Lee High School facilities are plainly inadequate. Continuing to allow the deterioration and overcrowding of these aging facilities that help prepare our children for their lives as adults is indication we need to review our priorities.

As a taxpayer in the "sandwich years" (having school-age children and aging parents), the arguments for and against this bond to fund the proposed new Midland High and nearly new Lee High are clear. Making ends meet is difficult and tax increases do not help. Regardless, our future best interest lies in supporting improvement and progress of our schools. The decision to vote for the bond is essential. We are going to pay now to rebuild our high schools or we are going to pay more later.

Plumbers and electricians cannot be expected to do their jobs if they don't have the right tools. The

same can be said of teachers, and their tools include the school building. Our teachers are increasingly burdened with extraneous duties that detract their focus from the classroom. The time spent teaching need not be interrupted by the physical conditions of the building.

The education of our children is an investment in their future as well as our own. Please think twice before you vote in October, and consider voting for the Oct. 7 high school bond election.

Beth Bird

Children deserve best public school education available

As a perennial Bulldog, I will be joining thousands of others in voting "yes" for the bond issue. Although my ties are to the old building, I want my children to have the best available public school education to equip them, as I was, for professional and technical careers.

My wife, Iris, joins me in the desire to see Midland provide the finest education for our young people. We chose Midland for our permanent home, but for those who are only living here for a short time, she reminds them of the Girl Scout adage: Leave a place better than you found it.

John W. Foster Jr.

MISD officials keep finding ways to waste taxpayer money

I note that our tax and spend boards and administrators are maintaining their disregard of economy and saving taxpayers money. The latest way of wasting funds is the school administration's and board's decision to hold a separate election for the school bond issue. Thirty days waiting would have enabled the election to occur simultaneously with the national election, and the entire cost to the schools could have been saved.

I can almost hear the dialog in the board meeting. "It's only money — and tax money at that. Who cares?"

Here is one taxpayer who does care about unnecessary expenditure of public funds.

Alan D. Holmes

Doonesbury



CAL THOMAS

Bush gaining confidence in himself, issues

PORTLAND, Me. — Gov. George W. Bush exudes a quiet confidence these days that contrasts sharply with recent media portrayals of him as off-message and stumbling. In a lengthy interview, Bush told me he will soon ratchet up the debate with Vice President Al Gore on several major issues. Bush said he's going to press his point that the military is in serious need of repair. In a scheduled return visit to the American Legion, he plans to invite retired military people to talk about the problems. Bush said, "The fact is, the military can't meet its recruiting goals, parts for machinery are lacking, training of Air Force pilots is behind, morale is low in some instances. Yes, we still have the greatest fighting force in the world, but at this rate it won't be in two, maybe four years."



Thomas

Bush said Gore can deny there's a problem, "but the facts are the Army is short of people, we've had Navy maneuvers that have to turn around for lack of fuel, and we're overextended around the world." Bush would consult with European nations to see if they will pick up more of the troop burden in the Balkans. He hinted he would like to bring many American forces home.

Bush stated that his position on helping needy seniors with their prescription-drug costs, which he promised to detail shortly, is mostly about choice, not top-down, one-size-fits-all government mandates. The Gore plan is a step closer to enacting Hillary Rodham Clinton's failed government takeover of health care. It would cost an estimated \$310 billion for starters and impose a new entitlement program on top of Medicare, which is losing the struggle to stay solvent.

Saying that Gore sounded "less than presidential" when he challenged Bush to "put up or shut up" on prescription drugs, Bush fired back, "Clinton-Gore haven't done anything about prescription drugs. Their rhetoric today sounds just like 1992. (Gore) is talking about middle-class tax cuts, just as Clinton did in 1992, but Clinton gave everyone a retroactive tax increase. They've been in charge these last eight years. Why didn't they do then what Gore proposes to do now?"

Bush should endorse the prescription-drug bill sponsored in the Senate by Bob Smith of New Hampshire and Wayne Allard of Colorado, both Republicans. It would combine parts A and B deductibles into one lower deductible of \$675, which would apply to hospital costs, doctor visits and prescription drugs. Medicare would cover 50 percent of prescription drugs once the deductible is reached, up to \$5,000. Seniors would also save \$550 a year on their current Medicaid policy premium. Allard and Smith say it wouldn't cost the taxpayers anything extra.

On debates, Bush said his negotiators have just begun to bargain with Gore's representatives. He prefers three different formats "and not those where the participants are walking around." People who think he's afraid to take on Gore may be in for a surprise. Bush's confidence in himself and his issues is growing.

In Portland, Bush led a brief discussion on education with Maine and Texas school officials in which he talked up his education plan for required testing, state performance standards and vouchers so parents can choose where to send kids if they're trapped in consistently failing public schools.

Cal Thomas' column is distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Germany punishes 'pitiless' neo-Nazis for racist attack

By Tony Czuczka
Associated Press

HALLE, Germany — A German court convicted three neo-Nazis of beating an African immigrant to death and handed down tough prison sentences Wednesday in an attempt to signal that a "long chain of attacks" on foreigners here must stop.

The state court sentenced Enrico Hilprecht, 24, to the maximum of life in prison. His two 16-year-old co-defendants, Christian Richter and Frank Miethbauer, were each given sentences of nine years — one year less than the maximum allowed for juveniles.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder called the decision "a suitable verdict for a heinous crime."

The case offered a glimpse into Germany's violent skinhead scene: Fueled by beer and illegal racist rock music, it directs rage at foreigners and often revolves around the decaying communist-era housing developments that dot the country's east.

It was in a park in the eastern city of Dessau that the three men brutally beat and kicked 39-year-old Alberto Adriano in the head on June 11. Adriano died three days later, leaving behind a wife and three children.

Reading the verdict Wednesday, Judge Albrecht Hennig said the

court concluded that the three defendants killed Adriano solely because of his skin color. He said none of the three cared whether Adriano would survive the beating.

"It was the latest in the long chain of attacks to which we must put an end," Hennig said.

"Animals show mercy to opponents lying on the ground, but rightist extremists apparently do not," he said. "They are pitiless, without mercy."

The defendants looked stone-faced as the verdict and sentences were read. Richter, who had grinned at one point during the reading of the indictment last week, briefly blinked away tears. Defense lawyers said they were considering whether to appeal.

Schröder, conceding Germans hadn't paid enough attention to the growing problem of right-wing violence, planned a visit today to a makeshift memorial marking the spot where the Mozambican man was attacked.

The previously unscheduled stop on Schröder's two-week tour of eastern Germany is an attempt to demonstrate a renewed government commitment to fighting resurgent neo-Nazi attacks that have left at least three dead this year — triggering a broad political debate.

In a ZDF television interview Wednesday, Schröder said Germany had "too often simply

ignored problems in this area, or dealt with them only sporadically."

He reiterated his call for toughness by police and the courts, better job and training prospects for "young hangers-on" to pull them out of the neo-Nazi scene and courage by citizens to stand up against extremism.

Adriano's widow, Angelika, was not in court Wednesday for the verdict. She decided to stay away after receiving death threats, said Razak Minhel, a liaison with the foreigner community in Dessau, where she lives with the couple's three children.

Albino Lemos, a diplomat from the Mozambican Embassy in Berlin who attended the sentencing, said the German government had woken up slowly to the racism problem. He welcomed the verdict.

"This will put a bit of fear into those young people," he said.

But Hennig noted that around the country, neo-Nazi attacks were being reported nearly daily over the last few weeks.

In the northern town of Luebeck, two neo-Nazis suspected of kicking and beating a 33-year-old African man appeared in court Wednesday — and offered to pay the man \$1,400. They face charges of causing bodily harm, racial incitement and slurs, but prosecutors said a judge released them without bail after they expressed remorse and offered damages.

Prosecutors were reviewing the decision to see if they would accept it.

And in another western city, police arrested two suspects Wednesday in an arson attack on a home for asylum-seekers in Stuttgart.

A veteran Nazi hunter said Germany can do more to fight the

revival of Adolf Hitler's master-race ideals among youths, a phenomenon not limited to the formerly communist east.

Willi Dressen, who retires today as head of a special German prosecutor's office that has tracked Nazi war criminals since 1958, said the German legal system has been too lenient with Nazi war crimes

suspects — just as it has been with neo-Nazis. He urged courts to consistently impose harsh sentences on right-wing extremists.

"They must be taken from the streets, that's most important," Dressen told The Associated Press by telephone from Ludwigsburg, the southwestern city where his office is based.



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Sierra Leone rebels release some British captives

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — A Sierra Leone rebel faction on Wednesday released five British soldiers held captive in the country's jungle interior since last week, officials said.

The troops were "in British hands and on their way towards Freetown," said Lt. Cmdr. Tony Cramp, the British forces spokesman.

Six others were still believed held by the small rebel faction, known as the West Side Boys, and their status was not immediately clear.

"We are delighted with this development but obviously our thoughts and concerns still remain with those being held," Cramp said. "Talks are continuing and we hope for early release of the remainder."

Cramp declined to reveal details of where and how the five were released or whether a deal had been struck with the captors. He said only that British personnel were keeping open a "line of communication" with representatives of the West Side Boys.

"We still have others in detention," Cramp said.

Officials from the British mili-

tary force and the U.N. peace-keeping mission to this West African country have been in radio contact with the captive soldiers as well as with leaders of the West Side Boys. There have also been face-to-face talks, the British Ministry of Defense has said.

The soldiers were stationed at Benguema, about 25 miles east of Freetown, where British instructors are training Sierra Leonean army recruits under a bilateral agreement.

They disappeared Friday in an area occupied by the West Side Boys, who have fought with both the government and the rebels in this war-ravaged country. In recent weeks, the West Side Boys — known for their brutality and ill-discipline — have broken away again from the Sierra Leone army and appear to be acting on their own.

Rebels from the Revolutionary United Front reignited Sierra Leone's nine-year civil war in May by seizing about 500 U.N. peacekeepers and keeping 233 others surrounded for 2 1/2 months. The move embarrassed the United Nations and prompted a reassessment of the U.N. mission here.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called for strengthen-

ing the United Nation's 13,000-member force to 20,500 to help government troops regain control of the country from the rebels.

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AUG 31 2000

Online cancer diary draws Chinese Web surfers

By Joe McDonald
Associated Press

SHANGHAI, China — After painful surgery and doses of radiation failed to stop the tumor growing in his neck, Lu Youqing decided he'd suffered enough.

The 37-year-old real-estate developer halted his treatment and prepared to die. But instead of retreating into privacy to await death, Lu made his story public by creating a diary on a Shanghai Web site chronicling his final weeks.

His "Diary of Death" has become a minor literary sensation. Lu's candid account of his failing health, bouts of depression and sense of loss have attracted thousands of Web surfers a day and touched off a

debate about death.

"I would like to awaken the concern and love of society toward cancer patients," Lu said in an interview. "I think I have the responsibility to speak out."

Lu posted his first entry Aug. 3 and said he expected to live no more than 100 days.

An operation and six radiation treatments had failed to stop the spread of a malignant tumor on a salivary gland in front of his right ear. He said he halted treatment in February against his doctor's advice.

Coming six years after Lu lost 80 percent of his stomach when surgeons removed a separate cancer, the new treatment left him weak and emaciated.

"I felt the routine treatment method wasn't helping my illness, but I still had to suffer terrible physical and spiritual pain, as well as paying a lot for it," Lu said. "I have the right to choose the way I want to die."

Lu begins his day at 6:30 a.m., settling into a sofa in his bedroom to write on a laptop computer. A 2,000- to 3,000-word entry takes four to five hours, and he sometimes nods off from fatigue. He posts a new entry every two to three days.

Lu no longer has the energy to work at the real-estate company where he is assistant general manager. His wife has quit her teaching job to care for him. The couple have a 10-year-old daughter.

Lu said he already has lived

longer than his doctors predicted. He gives some of the credit to a new sense of purpose the diary has given him.

"A lot of people are surprised at how he managed to live so long," said his wife, Shi Muyan. "Supported by his strength of will, we have managed to travel this far. I think every day he lives is a bonus."

Lu's way of dying has drawn mixed public reaction in letters to newspapers and comments on Web sites. Some praise Lu's composure, while others appeal to him to fight death.

"A really brave person ... should battle unfair fate and take responsibility for his family. He should receive 36, even 60, radiation treat-

ments," a reader wrote to the Shanghai Youth Daily newspaper.

In his diary, Lu reminisces about childhood and talks about his family and love of singing. Though he says the diary is meant to lift readers' spirits, he also writes frankly about his sorrow at seeing his life cut short.

"God gave me less than 40 years of life, probably only half the time he gives to others. Even if he has shown me the most beautiful paintings of living, I still have the right to complain that I don't get enough time to appreciate them," says one entry.

In one of his occasional flashes of dark humor, Lu writes that he wished he died in the Concorde jetliner crash July 25 outside Paris.

Death would be quick, he says, and Air France would pay his family compensation.

The "Diary of Death" appears on the Shanghai-based literary Web site www.Rongshu.com. It shares the site with more traditional artistic fare such as poetry, Chinese painting and a series of photographs by American artist Cindy Sherman.

The diary, which is in Chinese, gets 2,000 to 3,000 readers a day, said Jin Jun, Lu's editor at Rongshu.com. He said that number was limited by the site's slow Web access, and could be much higher without such technical constraints.

Rongshu.com is considering publishing the completed diary as a book, Jin said.

"This is a terrific story," he said.

Putin puts troubled Bolshoi under tighter government control

MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin has shaken up the leadership of the troubled Bolshoi Theater, dismissing its director and asserting tighter government control over one of Russia's most renowned cultural institutions.

Putin's order, published Wednesday, puts the 224-year-old ballet and opera theater under direct control of the Ministry of Culture as it struggles to finish a long-delayed renovation of its landmark building in central Moscow.

Though it is a state institution, the Bolshoi had a substantial degree of autonomy after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It was not under the control of any ministry and reported directly to the Russian president.

But the theater fell on hard times. Government funding dried up, an autocratic director was dismissed in 1995 after the ballet company's dancers rebelled and foreign tours brought poor or mixed reviews. Critics flayed Bolshoi head Vladimir Vasiliev for his produc-

tion of the classic ballet "Swan Lake," in which he changed the story by eliminating the part of Odile, the Black Swan.

The Bolshoi recently appeared to be recovering from its troubles, receiving good reviews from a U.S. tour this summer and winning several prizes in Russia.

Vasiliev's job of artistic and general director was eliminated by the order, which was signed Monday. It didn't specifically say he was fired, but news reports said Vasiliev was out and Shvdykoi was quoted

as saying he had chosen Anatoly Iksanov, former head of St. Petersburg's Bolshoi Drama Theater, as the new executive director.

In addition, the Moskovsky Komsomolets newspaper quoted Gennady Rozhdestvensky, a world-famous orchestral conductor who formerly worked at the Bolshoi, as saying he was in negotiations for the job of artistic director.

Shvdykoi said the changes were made to streamline the stalled effort to renovate the Bolshoi building.

The work can't proceed until the government comes up with the money to finish a second structure next door, which is to provide a place for performances while the original building is closed for renovation.

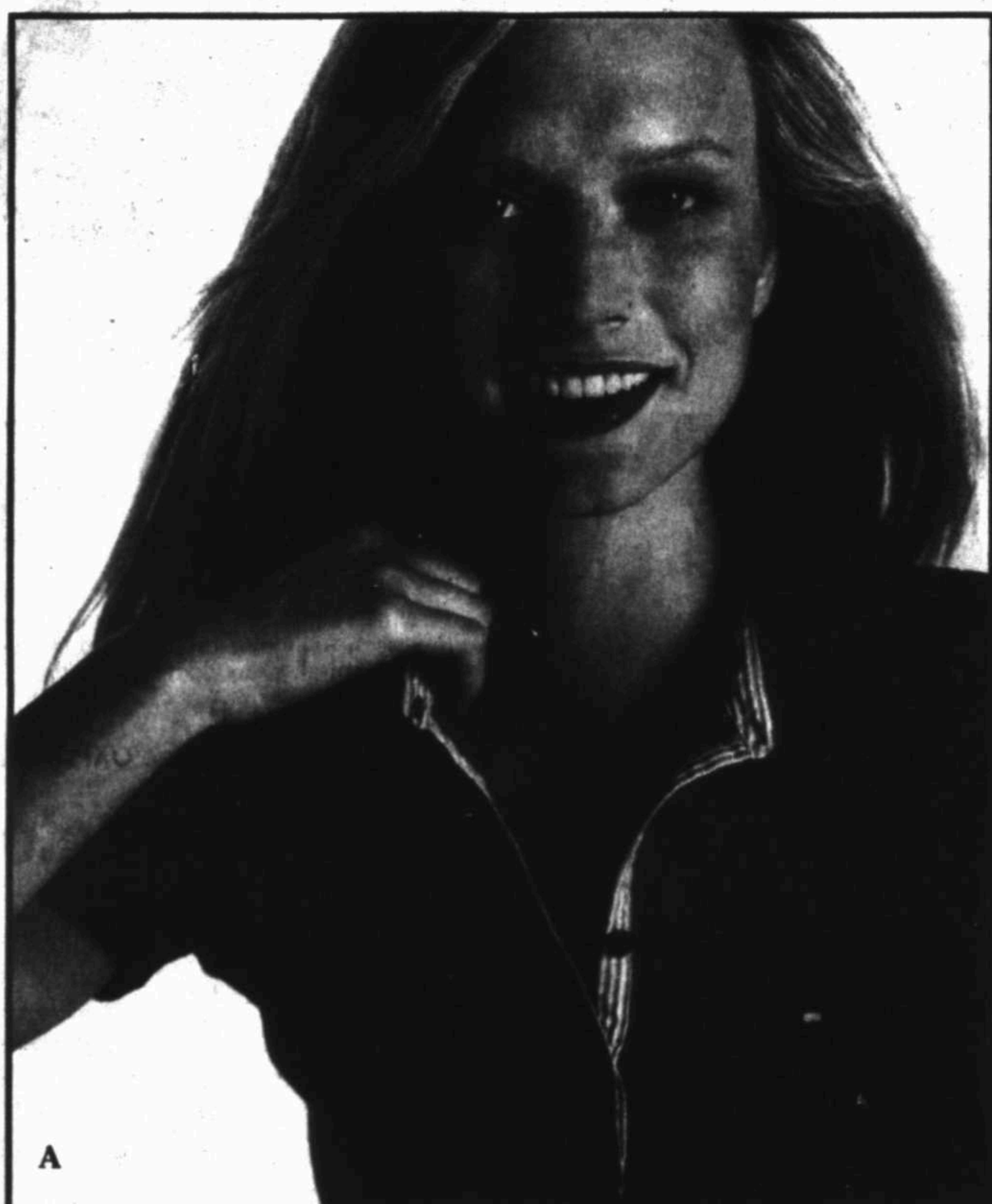
The theater, built in 1825, had its interior reconstructed after an 1856 fire. Backstage areas are cramped and dark. The electrical wiring, some of which hangs in bundles tacked on the walls, has not been replaced since the 1940s — an invitation to another disaster like

the fire that shut down Moscow's television tower Sunday.

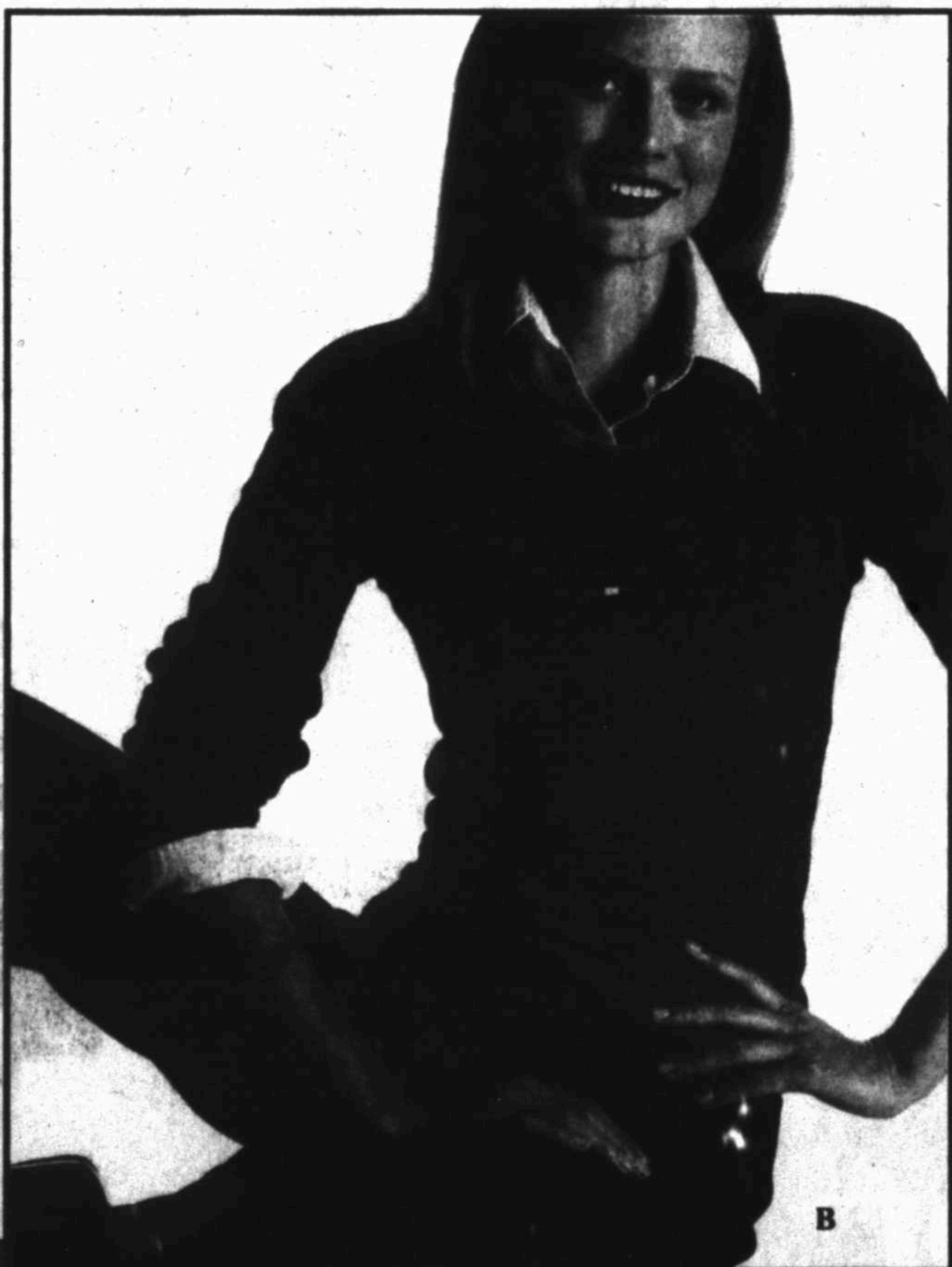
Many saw the shakeup as a move by Shvdykoi to expand his ministry's authority. It also was seen as a general tightening of control by Putin's government over institutions that went their own way under former president Boris Yeltsin.

Since taking office, Putin has won legal curbs on the powers of Russia's regions and established stronger Kremlin control over the parliament, which is dominated by a pro-Putin party.

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By Ed Todd
Staff Writer

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By Mary Mac

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Constable may be investigated by Malm

By Ed Todd
Staff Writer

Midland County Commissioner Louisa Valencia has asked District Attorney Al Schorre to investigate an alleged conflict of interest involving Constable Charles "Choc" Harris and county business with a company owned by Harris' mother.

"I don't want the public out there to say that we (in county government) do not follow the law," Mrs. Valencia said on Wednesday. "My duty as county commissioner is to oversee the taxpayers' money. I felt it was my duty to ask for an investigation."

Mrs. Valencia earlier this week had questioned the validity of the county's paying \$546 in bills from C.H. Trading Company, which is owned by Harris' 72-year-old mother, retired schoolteacher Carlynn Cox Harris, who lives near the Midkiff



Harris

Schorre said later Wednesday that he had agreed to take on the investigation and is asking Mrs. Valencia to "send me the paperwork," which includes documents from the Auditor's Office on the requisition from the constables, the purchase order, and Mrs. Harris' invoice.

"The best thing I can say is 'no comment' because it is a criminal investiga-

community in Glasscock County.

The company had provided law-enforcement equipment requested by three of the four constables, including Harris. All four constables had approved the requisition order to the county's Purchasing Department.

tion," said Harris, who is unopposed on the Republican Party ticket for the Nov. 7 election to his \$24,000-salaried post.

Harris said that Midland County Attorney Russell Malm had advised the constables on Wednesday to "not do any more dealings with it (C.H. Trading Company)," since the company is owned by Harris' mother.

"I strongly believe that an elected official should not do business with his own relatives," Mrs. Valencia had asserted. "That's his mother's company. I think there is a conflict there."

In that regard, Mrs. Valencia cited a Texas law that states "A local public official is considered to have a substantial interest ... if a person related to the official in the first degree by consanguinity (as parent or child) or affinity ... has a substantial interest ..."

Malm said that the county is "obligat-

"I don't want the public out there to say that we (in county government) do not follow the law. My duty as county commissioner is to oversee the taxpayers' money."

— Louisa Valencia,
Midland County Commissioner

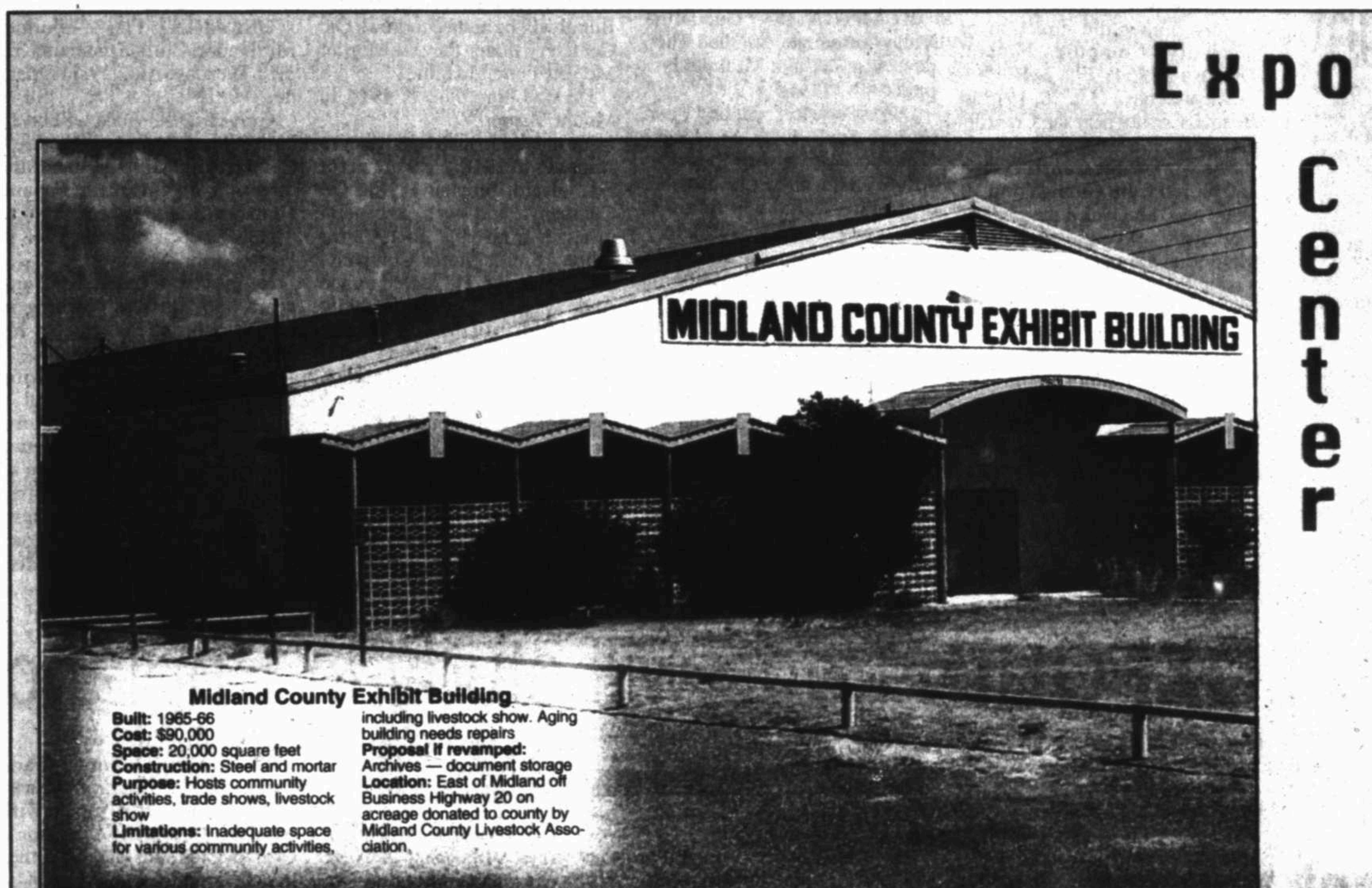
ed to make the payment" to Mrs. Harris' company even though "the transaction violated the statute. It was done incorrectly. Choc should not have been involved in it whatsoever."

Malm said that in "all likelihood, we still would have made the purchase" from C.H. Trading Company even without Harris' apparent recommendation.

Mrs. Harris' company has done other business with county offices, including, for

example, the Sheriff's Office, which has ordered five Colt AR-15 rifles for \$2,900 from the company.

Malm said that "the clear way to get around" any conflict of interest involving Harris and his mother's business is "for no purchases to be made for the constables from that (C.H. Trading) company. Short of that, Constable Harris should never be involved in any discussion about purchases being made from that company."



Midland County Exhibit Building
Built: 1965-66
Cost: \$90,000
Space: 20,000 square feet
Construction: Steel and mortar
Purpose: Hosts community activities, trade shows, livestock show
Limitations: Inadequate space for various community activities, including livestock show. Aging building needs repairs.
Proposal if revamped: Archives — document storage
Location: East of Midland off Business Highway 20 on acreage donated to county by Midland County Livestock Association.

Proposed Expo Center takes on infusion of Midland County, city support

The envisioned West Texas Exposition Center, now more than five years in planning and still short of funding, may have gained renewed vitality.

That would be the infusion of cooperative boosts from the city of Midland and Midland County.

"There's a possibility that the city and the county and the Expo Center may have a partnership-type deal," said Dr. Bobby Cobb, a Midland veterinarian who is a principal mover in the proposed project. "We can't say it's a done deal or anything like that."

"But there's a possibility that the city, the county and the Expo Center at the same (proposed) location will have a partnership."

That proposed site, a 127-acre tract acquired by the city of Midland for \$100,000 in 1996 from the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission, is just west of the Texas Department of Public Safety regional office off South Loop 250 West and between Interstate Highway 20 and Business Interstate 20.

The Expo Center concept, publicly announced in late 1994 and early 1995, was to be privately fund-

Please see EXPO/2B

Story by Ed Todd

Photos by Tim Fischer



The Midland County Exhibit Building (top) could possibly serve the county by storing archives and documents if a group of West Texans have it their way. The proposed site off south Loop 250 (above) could see the construction of the Midland County Expo Center.

Lindsay Page: Odyssey to Oxford à personal triumph

By Brian Rogers
Staff Writer

Lindsay Page, a 21-year-old senior at Texas A&M University, will soon be leaving for Oxford University in England to work at one of the top genetic engineering labs in the world.

But there is more to the story than that. Much more.

Although she has raised more than \$11,000 to study in England, Ms. Page said the true miracle in her life is that she is alive after running head-on into a concrete pylon at 45 mph.

Ms. Page was returning to A&M from Midland after spring break this past March. After buying gas in Big Spring, she was driving on the access road next to the interstate, went over a small hill and unexpectedly came upon a stop sign.

Ms. Page slammed on her brakes and skidded into a concrete pillar head-on. Her body bruised and the car destroyed, Ms. Page felt a warm liquid running down her face. It wasn't blood — it was clear.

An older couple stopped and helped Ms. Page out of the smoking car. The ambulance arrived and took Ms. Page to the hospital where doctors said the clear liquid flowing out of her nose was spinal fluid.

Please see OXFORD/2B



Page

Man killed in tractor accident on I-20

By Brian Rogers
Staff Writer

Manuel Vizcaino, 59, of Odessa, was pronounced dead at Midland Memorial Hospital on Wednesday after a tractor accident on Interstate 20.

Vizcaino was working on a tractor equipped with a mower in a drainage ditch east of the picnic area four miles east of Midland on the westbound side of the I-20.

According to a Department of Public Safety trooper, the tractor jumped into gear and plodded onto the westbound interstate and Vizcaino ran alongside it trying to turn it off.

After the tractor reached the median, it began to turn back toward the westbound lanes of I-20.

Vizcaino was pulled under the tractor while it was still on the median. The tractor then went back over the median onto westbound I-20 and into the picnic area, where it jumped a curb, bogged down in a pile of sand and was stopped by a fence.

DPS responded to several 911 calls and found Vizcaino huddled in the fetal position on the median and was taken by ambulance to Midland Memorial Hospital.

According to DPS Trooper Jason Bobo, the tractor was registered in Mexico, and was owned by the Vizcaino family.

TEEN BEAT

You're invited to experience the crowdedness that is MHS

By Mary Maddox

I have heard countless citizens dismiss the school bond issue, one which would fund the construction of a new high school, as expensive, unproductive and even unnecessary. Therefore, I am issuing an open invitation to anyone planning to vote against the bond to accompany me to Midland High as I, a student, live through a typical school day.

I'm serious. I'll pick you up around 8:30 a.m. and drive you to the school. You'll notice, if you look out the window, that the residential streets surrounding the place are choked with cars of unlucky sophomores who didn't get parking spaces in the west lot. Of course, I'll have to mention that there will be twice as many cars on the road as more sophomores acquire drivers' licenses and vehicles.

After we park in my assigned space, we'll progress to first period. You can sit through the class and follow along if you'd like, but it will have to be on the floor because there isn't a desk for you. There isn't even a desk for me, unless someone is absent.

Actually, you'll find that a lot of my classes are like that — 35 to 40 students

jammed into a room built to hold half as many. My third-period class meets in what used to be a copy room. There are about 20 of us in there, so if you're claustrophobic you might feel the insatiable urge to jump out a window, but there aren't any.

Come to think of it, if you're claustrophobic, you might want to RSVP my little invitation in the negative. The halls of my school between classes are a veritable cattle drive of hurried, chattering teen-agers, packed from wall to wall, all trying to get to their next class within five minutes. Sometimes, traffic stops altogether, trapping you in a massive human sandwich, forcing you to stand close enough to the people around you to smell what kind of shampoo they used that morning.

If you make it through the morning, you can accompany me to lunch. We'll race out to my car in an attempt to beat the



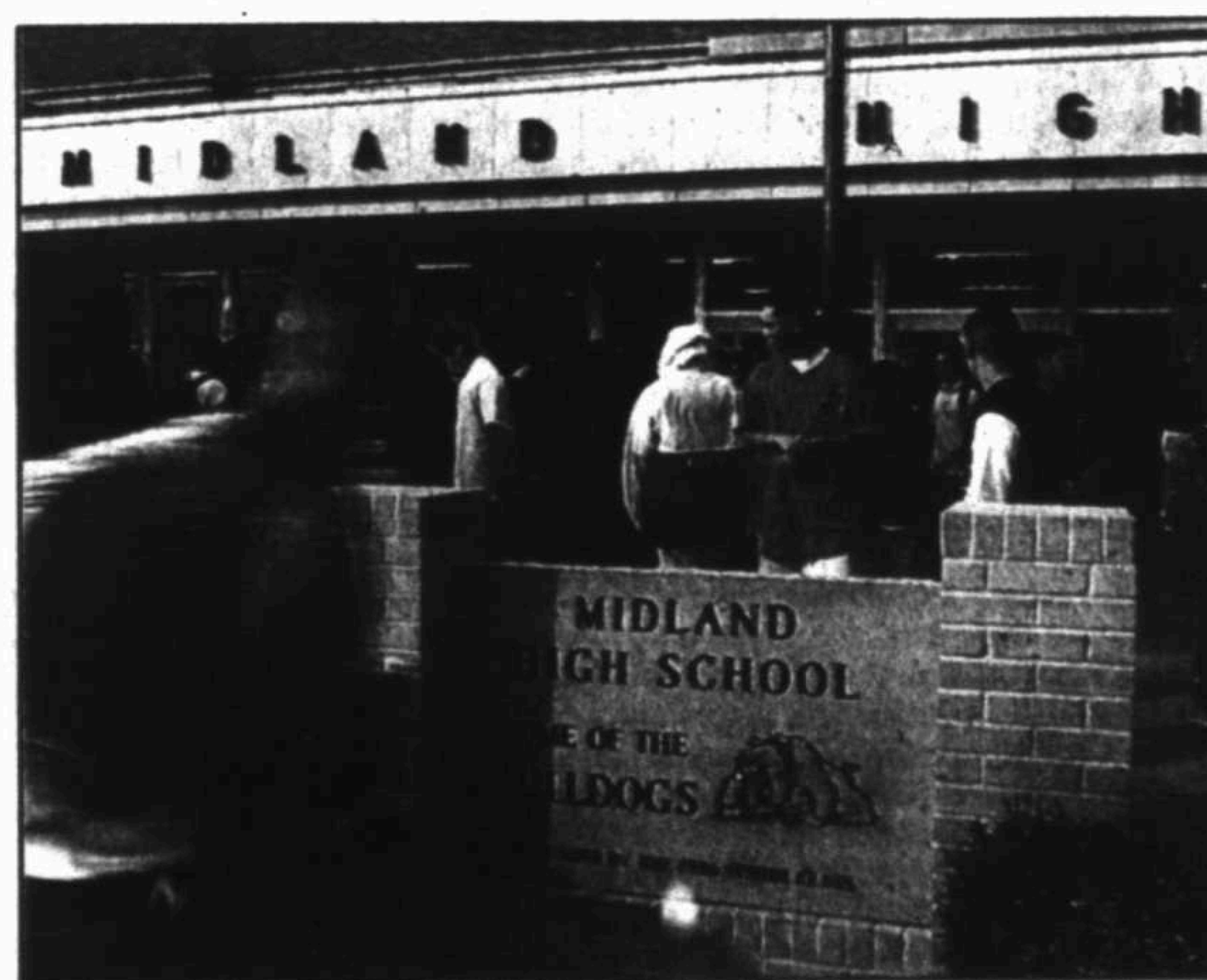
Maddox

crushing traffic. If we don't, you'll get to watch me navigate what has been deemed "the parking lot of death" by all those who must inhabit it. Traffic is brutal and wrecks are commonplace. Wear your seat belt.

My purpose in issuing this invitation is this: If you plan to vote against the school bond issue, I would like you to see firsthand what you are voting for. You are voting for conditions in schools which impede the process of learning, thereby defeating the purpose of the school. It is very difficult, if not downright impossible, to concentrate on learning when you are packed like so many sardines into a building constructed about 70 years ago.

Now that I think about it, I might have to withdraw my invitation. If any more people attempt to cram themselves into that ancient building, it may burst at its seams, showering the streets with about two thousand students, teachers, and administrators. Just take my word for it. A new high school is not only necessary, it's long overdue.

Mary Maddox is a senior at Midland High School.



MRT file photo

Students at Midland High School whiz past one another trying to get to classes on time. Some students believe that a new school would provide more space and would prevent overcrowding.

Area briefs

Speaker luncheon

The Permian Basin Geophysical Society monthly luncheon will be Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at the Midland Center. The speaker will be Charles M. Keefer of Chevron, U.S.A. The subject of the luncheon will be "Correlating Carbonate Porosity with Seismic Attributes: Methodology and Examples." The cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call Sheila at 684-3000.

Organist meeting

The West Texas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists' first meeting of the 2000-2001 season will be Sept. 7, at 7 p.m. The dinner meeting will be at LaBodega Mexican restaurant. Programs for the

year will be discussed including the Patron Recital with organist David Higgs at First Presbyterian Church of Midland on Sept. 24. The meeting is open to all with interest in the organ and its music. For more information, call Jack Martin (915) 345-2686.

Library speaker

U. S. Representative Helen Chenoweth-Hage (R-Idaho), will speak at the Haley Library and History Center today, from 5:30 to 9 p.m., regarding the increased threat to private property rights in light of state and federal property acquisition. Ms. Chenoweth-Hage will take questions following her presentation. For more information call: 687-0223.

United Way to unveil campaign goal tonight

By Mary Maddox
MRT Correspondent

The annual United Way Campaign Kickoff 2000 celebration will be held today at Centennial Plaza in downtown Midland from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at which time chairman Jose Cuevas will reveal the foundation's long-awaited 2000 campaign goal.

The kickoff features live music from Checkpoint, The Shades and a performance by the Midland Lee Marching Band. Fireworks and a fly-over by the CAF Ghost Squadron will also be part of the show.

According to Cuevas, this year's celebration will be a unique one. For the first time, United Way has issued an invitation urging the entire community to take part in the official kickoff.

"We're actually inviting the community to come out and

celebrate with us when we unveil our goal," Cuevas said. "Let them find out what the United Way really does in their community."

The Fasken and Abell-Hanger foundations will underwrite 100 percent of United Way's overhead costs for the year. Cindy Benson, United Way president, says this is only the third time in the foundation's history that costs have been underwritten in full.

With the help of Fasken and Abell-Hanger, Cuevas says this year's goal will likely surpass goals set in years past. While only one goal of those set in the past five years has been met, Cuevas is optimistic about the 2000 campaign.

"We've got a lot of energy with this new group," Cuevas said. "We've got a lot of volunteers working to make sure this year we are successful."

OBITUARIES

Nathan Heidelberg

Nathan L. Heidelberg was born July 15, 1956 in Odessa, Texas, and passed away Monday, August 28, 2000, in Cedar Park, Texas. He was a former longtime resident of Midland.

Graveside services are being presided by Girdner-Brown Funeral Home of Abilene at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 31, 2000, in the Fountain Garden.

Nathan is survived by his mother, Stella Heidelberg Dixon of Midland; three sisters, Doris Grisham

and husband, Lester of Elgin, Texas; Jane Lange and husband, Gary of Garland, Texas; and Stella Theo Martin and husband, Dewey of Von Ormy, Texas; and four brothers, J.W. Heidelberg Jr. of Stanton, Texas, Tommy Heidelberg and Sam Heidelberg, both of Breckenridge, Texas, and Haley Heidelberg and wife, Sue of Midland. He is also survived by many much-loved nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Gary Don Heidelberg.

If desired, memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association in honor of Nathan's mother.

Obituary & Death Notice policy

There is no charge for death notices of residents or former residents of Midland or for those who have Midland relatives. We also publish death notices for residents of the surrounding West Texas area.

Free death notices include date and place of death, service and burial information, funeral home handling arrangements, date and place of birth, brief biography, survivors and memorials. A longer, more detailed obituary is available for a charge. It may include tributes, expanded biography, organizational affiliations, notes of appreciation, pallbearers, honorary pallbearers and a photo.

Deadline for both free death notices and paid obituaries is 3:30 p.m. and information must be either received from or verified by a funeral home.

DEATH NOTICES

Madeline Mabry

WACO — Mother of Midlander, Madeline Anderson Mabry, 82, died Monday, Aug. 28, at a local hospital.

Graveside services will be 10 a.m. today, at Waco Memorial Park with Rev. Allen Grant officiating, under the direction of Connally Compton Funeral Directors, (254) 772-7440.

She was born Oct. 20, 1917 in Bosque County near the Cranfills Gap area.

She worked for Comal Cotton and retired from Cloth World 10 years ago. She was a member of Herring Avenue United Methodist Church and the Low Vision Support Group. She contributed to the American Heart Association.

Survivors include her husband, Frank L. Mabry of Waco; two daughters, Frances Collins and Gayle Carpenter; one brother, Sherman Anderson; four grandchildren, one great-grandson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Ima Joy Anderson and Odelle Peterman; and a

brother, Grady Anderson.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

Guadalupe Zamarron

STANTON — Guadalupe Valles Zamarron, 50, died Tuesday, Aug. 29, at a Midland hospital.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 1, at St. Joseph Catholic Church with the Revs. Arturo Pestin and Ernie Sanchez officiating. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. Rosary will be said at 7 p.m. today in the Stanton Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

She was a homemaker.

Survivors include two sons, Freddy Diaz of Big Spring and David Torres of Irving; her mother, Jesusita Sanchez of Stanton; two sisters, Josie Garza and Elena Valles, both of Dallas; three brothers, Chavel Valles of Midland, and Mateo Valles and Augustine Valles, both of Stanton; seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Charlie Alcorn

ANDREWS — Charlie Alcorn, 75, died Wednesday, Aug. 30, at a local hospital.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 1, at the First Baptist Church in Andrews with the Rev. Dr. H.A. Hanks officiating. Burial will be at the Andrews Old Cemetery under the direction of McNett Funeral Home.

He was born Jan. 6, 1925 in Mount Vernon.

He moved from Sweetwater to Andrews in 1948. He worked for E.L. Heard, Sinclair Prairie Oil Company, and was a general manager from 1955 to 1972 for Johnny Smith Motor Company, all in Andrews. He served on the Andrews City Council in 1959, was chairman of the City Charter, and first chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors. He was a member of the Andrews Chamber of Commerce, Andrews Downtown Lions Club and First Baptist Church in Andrews.

Survivors include his wife, Gwen Boyles Alcorn of Andrews; two daughters, Sandra Percy of Gunnison, Colo. and Dorenda Ayres of Cranbury,

N.J.; two sisters, Effie Mae McCullough of Brandon, Fla. and Reva Earle of Garland; and three grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association.

Chris Dishman

ORLANDO, Fla. — Former Midlander Chris Dishman, 32, died Tuesday, Aug. 29, in Orlando.

Graveside services will be 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 1, at Fairview Cemetery in Midland under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

He was born June 20, 1968 in Fort Worth.

He moved to Orlando several years ago. He was working in construction at the time of his death. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Tracy Paris Dishman; and a stepdaughter, Heather Paris, both of Jacksonville, Fla.; two brothers, James D. Dishman of Fort Worth and James A. Dishman of Orlando; and two sisters, Cindy White of Santa Cruz, Calif. and Lena Roman of Midland.

OXFORD: Page will study in England

(From 1B)

Although no bones were broken, according to Ms. Page, "My left arm was swollen to the size of a watermelon, every part of my body was bruised, and the ligaments in my knees were torn up."

It took two weeks for her to walk again, but she said, "It's literally a miracle that I'm even alive."

The accident renewed her faith and made her concentrate on making a difference in the world.

Ms. Page feels that she can make that difference in the field of genetic engineering. After her semester at Oxford, she plans on going into the MD-PhD program for gene therapy, specifically for treatment of diseases.

David Smith, executive director of the Abell-Hanger Foundation, said that the foundation was happy they could help further Ms. Page's education.

"Ms. Page is an intelligent young lady with an extraordi-

nary opportunity. It is terribly expensive for her to go to Oxford, but we're happy to help a Midland girl who is graduating from A&M."

The Abell-Hanger Foundation also funds scholarships for high school graduates in Midland to go to Midland College.

Before the accident, Ms. Page spent her freshman year at A&M working in a graduate student lab with the head of the genetic department. She had her work on bioremediation and biodegradation of the explosive, TNT, published in a scholarly journal.

During her junior year, she was chosen by a professor at Oxford to study there, but because no one from A&M had ever tried to spend a semester at the Oxford genetic lab, and it was so late in the semester, there was no scholarship money available for her to go.

Ms. Page began writing letters. She wrote to individuals, corporations and foundations and the Abell-Hanger foundation agreed to sponsor some of

her expense. She was also put in touch with the King Foundation, which also agreed to sponsor her.

Then she was involved with the wreck this past spring. While she was recuperating, an A&M official called the Page household and told Lindsay's mother not to worry about the classes being incomplete. The classes could be made up later and it was more important that Lindsay concentrate on getting better.

After the trials and tribulations she's been through, Ms. Page has very definite opinions regarding issues facing the science community like cloning and genetically engineered food.

Ms. Page believes that most people have the wrong impression about cloning. "First of all, there's cloning and there is human cloning. Scientists clone insects, like fruit flies, everyday. It's important for research. When it comes to human cloning, scientists aren't just trying to clone people, they're try-

ing to clone parts."

The benefit to cloning parts would be to replace hearts, kidneys and other organs with replicas of the afflicted person's own organs, instead of other people's organs.

Limbs and skin may also be replaceable when cloning is perfected.

Indeed, Ms. Page's vision for the future is very bright. She believes there will be a cure for cancer within the next 10 years.

Ms. Page is also interested in the benefits of genetically engineered food. She believes that genetically engineered food is suffering from bad publicity.

"Regular corn has strands of DNA and genetically engineered corn has the same strands, just slightly changed. If there's nothing wrong with regular corn, how could there be anything wrong with genetically engineered corn?"

Ms. Page went on to say, "The only scary thing about cloning is that legislators who don't know anything about it are passing laws."

No injuries reported after fire at paint plant

COCHRAN (AP) — A fire at a chemical paint plant Wednesday morning burned down the facility and started a series of grass fires in the area. No injuries were reported, but residents in a two-mile radius were evacuated.

The fire broke out at the Jack Coddard Finishing Supply Corporation plant near Cochran about 9 a.m., said a dispatcher with the Austin County Sherif-

f's Department. Firefighters brought it under control before noon.

Authorities set up an evacuation shelter at the Austin County Courthouse in Bellville as a precaution, but officials did not think it would have to be used. Authorities did not immediately know the cause of the blaze.

Cochran is about 60 miles northwest of Houston.

Air Force won't speculate on cause of F-16 crash

LUBBOCK (AP) — Air Force officials said Wednesday a flight control computer on board an F-16 that crashed earlier this week may help investigators determine why the jet plummeted into a Tulia field, killing the pilot.

The computer "records all the inputs that the pilot makes to the aircraft," said Capt. David Kurl, a spokesman at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. However, "it is only helpful if it survives the crash."

Kurl said instruments such as the flight control computer and flight data recorders are installed in F-16s as maintenance tools.

Such a device might help investigators pinpoint the cause of a crash, such as Monday's, in which Air Force Reservist and Delta Air Lines pilot Steve Simons died during a cross-country training mission from Hill Air Force Base, near Ogden, Utah, back to Naval Air Station Fort Worth.

It is unknown whether the F-16 Simons was flying was equipped with a flight data recorder. All F-16s however, are equipped with flight control computers, Kurl said.

Witnesses said Simons, 41, was doing a fly-by in his single-seat F-16 over his in-laws' Tulia home when the plane turned and started to climb, then suddenly seemed to lose power.

The fighter jet plummeted to the ground and burst into flames, scattering debris and leaving a damaged hog shed behind. No one on the ground was injured. Simons' family and friends watched as the plane hit the ground.

Air Force officials refused to speculate on the cause of the accident Wednesday. Kurl said an initial military investigation will take about 30 days. The public investigation into the cause of the crash could take several months.

Maj. Clay Church, a spokesman with the 301st Fighter Wing in Fort Worth, said pilots are required to submit a flight plan and arrange any sort of fly-by with the military.

Church said he is unaware if Simons requested to do a fly-by as part of his flight plan, which has now become part of the military's ongoing investigation.

"To come through this part of West Texas back to Fort Worth from Utah, certainly would not be unreasonable," Church said of Simons' crash on his in-laws property near Tulia.

Investigators also are trying to determine Simons' altitude just prior to the crash.

"We won't know that until the investigation is complete," Kurl said. "All maintenance factors, all weather factors, every factor you could imagine will be investigated and followed up on."

Air Force rules for low-level flying require pilots to fly 1,000 feet above populated areas. Rules for unpopulated areas, such as some parts of West Texas, require pilots to fly 500 feet above any manmade buildings such as barns. However, pilots are allowed to fly as low as 300 feet on certain training routes.

"West Texas is a good example," Kurl said. "We have routes all over there and you can go down as low as 300 feet on those routes. If you come across a man-made structure you must either go around it or pop up to 500 feet."

EXPO: County and city officials may combine efforts

(From 1B)

ed and was hailed as a regional center for family entertainment and recreation primarily keyed to a variety of equine-related events. The estimated cost was originally at \$2.5 million but, Cobb noted, the estimate later reached \$5 million.

Funding has been short. And now the proposed scope for the center has been expanded far beyond horses and is to include livestock shows, trade shows and other exhibitions, and some sporting events.

"It's a vehicle that could be a very positive boom for the economy for the area," Midland County Commissioner Mike Bradford said. "We are talking about a concept and how it might work without a tax burden on the community. This requires creative thinking and creative managing."

Midland County Judge Bill Morrow is the county's "leader and he will set the tone" for the county participation in the project, Bradford said.

Midland County "will try to do a joint venture with the city to get the thing built — to cooperate," Morrow said.

The county's in-house architect, Richard Schwope, who is the county's facilities manager and planning director, would consider "what they (early Expo Center leaders) have done and try to work something out if it is feasible," Morrow said.

"I don't have a lot of money to build that kind of facility," Morrow said. Fund-raising

would focus on grants and donations in addition to city and county support.

"It's too good a project to just let it wither on the vine," Morrow said. "We wouldn't do it if it was just for horses. It has to be for the community."

Part of the county's interest in the project would be a center that would incorporate expanded activities, including the Midland County Livestock Association's annual stock show for children and youths. The stock show since the latter 1960s, has been held in the 20,000-square-foot Midland County Exhibit Building that was constructed in 1965 and 1966 for about \$90,000.

Schwope, the county architect, noted that the Commissioners' Court has considered converting the county's Exhibit Building to an archives facility for county documents.

Of the proposed Expo Center, "We would generally welcome another multi-use facility," said Charlie W. Green, president of the livestock association and a retired Texas Agricultural Extension Service (TAEX) agent for Midland County. "I know there are financial limitations all the way around."

The livestock association in the 1960s donated acreage to the county for site of the Exhibit Building and later donated additional land for the county's Extension Service headquarters.

Rusty Jones, the association's vice president, said that the "Midland County Livestock

Association supports the proposed (Expo Center) actions in regard to the new facility, whatever its name will be, for the benefit of all citizens of Midland County."

The scope of the project would be broad.

"We can't just go out there and build a facility like everybody else's," Cobb said. "You have got to build a better one, one that will draw ... people from all over the Southwest and the nation." The scope would be "way beyond" horse shows. "It will go beyond agriculture" and into "trade shows," he said. "It will have everything. These things go year-round."

The project "would be a big economic boost once this thing got started," Cobb said. "We may have a partnership brewing that might work out for the benefit of the whole community."

Midland Mayor Bobby Burns noted that the city is "exploring the options, looking at possibilities," offered by the center. "We will be receptive and try to help the judge (Morrow) and Bobby Cobb and the Expo group as much as we can. We are going to study it and do what we really think is appropriate."

The city, which already owns land for the proposed site, has "already spent money on the land," Burns noted. "That was the city's way to play a role and to assist."

"Any future money, I think the county will look at it. We want to work with them and look at the options. But we do not have plans at this time. We

want to look at every potential that we can."

"Expo centers have been very successful around the state," Burns said. "And it's a natural, I think, for Midland. To me, it's a great project to have the city and the county and the private sector working together ... to make it a reality."

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Wendy Logan
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Firefighters work to put out a grass-fire in an open lot near Singleton and Westmorland in West Dallas, Wednesday. With North Texas hitting a record 61 days without rain, much of the region is tinder dry.

AP Photo



Wildfire burns 3,000 acres across North Texas

STRAWN (AP) — Stiff southerly winds pushed a 3,000-acre wildfire close to several towns north of Interstate 20 in North Texas, the Texas Forest Service said Wednesday.

No injuries were reported, but several elderly residents complaining of breathing problems were evacuated from the town of Strawn, forest service spokesman John Gumert said.

Strawn is located just north of Interstate 20, about 80 miles west of Fort Worth.

Gumert said the blaze was sparked Tuesday by a traffic accident on Interstate 20 and charred about 250 acres before it was brought under control.

But Wednesday, gusty winds and an ample supply of parched grassland and cedar trees helped the fire swell to 3,000 acres. "It took off with the winds this after-

noon," Gumert said.

Gumert said crews stopped the blaze about two miles east of Strawn. He said two other Palo Pinto County towns, Mingus and Gordon, appeared safe for now.

"Strawn we feel is fairly well safe. We don't feel the fire will advance in that direction," he said.

Six bulldozers, six water dropping helicopters and fire departments from the area will continue fighting the blaze Thursday morning, Gumert said.

"We're gonna concentrate all of our forces on the east side of fire beginning at sunset," he said. "We're really gonna hit it hard first thing in the morning."

Approximately 21,000 fires have burned in Texas so far this year, according to the Texas Emergency Management department.

Parolee executed for killing parents and sister

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A paroled burglar who killed his parents and sister by beating them with a hammer and stabbing them with a butcher knife was executed in the Texas death chamber Wednesday evening.

In a lengthy statement, Jeffery Henry Caldwell expressed love for his family, love to his daughter, thanks to his attorneys and urged fellow death row inmates to "keep your heads up."

To his brothers, who testified against him at his trial, he said he loved them with all his heart. "You will have to face the justice of God," he said. "I can forgive you all but you must ask for forgiveness from God. I leave now to join my parents and my only sister."

As the drugs began taking effect, he coughed, gasped and then made a snoring sound. He was pronounced dead eight minutes later at 6:25 p.m. CDT.

Caldwell, 37, was the sixth Texas prisoner to receive lethal injection this month and the 32nd this year.

He maintained his innocence in a statement he wrote shortly before he was given the lethal injection.

"I still to this day scream out

that I did not kill them," he said. "I accept the blame for what happened to my parents and only sister but did not kill them or beat them or shoot them."

The three victims were found stuffed in a motor home parked in the driveway of their Dallas home.

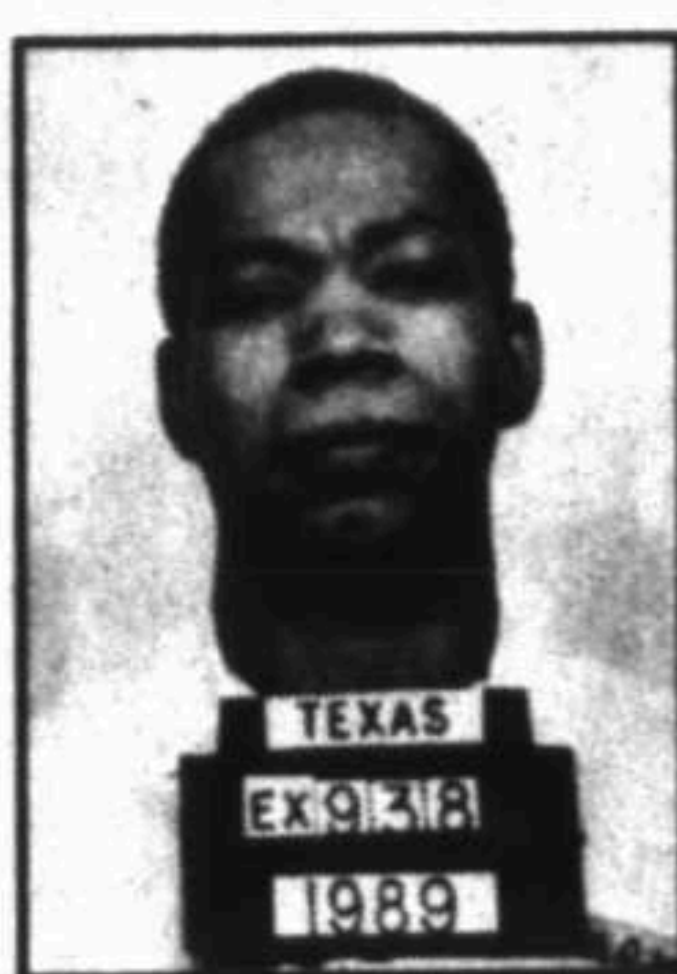
Caldwell told police his parents, Henry and Gwendolyn Caldwell, and his 19-year-old sister, Kimberly, had run into his knife during an argument.

It was remembered as "the magic knife" confession, by former Dallas County assistant prosecutor Andy Beach this week.

"But he forgot to say he had hit each of them a couple of times with a claw hammer," Beach said.

Caldwell, who moved with his family to Texas in 1980 from their native Chicago, already was known to authorities. He had been convicted of burglary and robbery and had been on parole for about four months when he murdered his family members.

He repeated Wednesday claims that his criminal past prompted a jury to convict and condemn



Caldwell

him and that the murders were committed by drug dealers he had ripped off.

In late appeals to the courts, Caldwell's lawyers contended he was incompetent and should not be put to death.

Caldwell's execution attracted none of the attention given earlier this summer to condemned killer

Gary Graham, whose claims of innocence and an unfair trial put the focus on Texas as the nation's most active capital punishment state and on support of the death penalty by Gov. George W. Bush, now the Republican presidential nominee.

Caldwell was arrested in a telephone booth while calling one of his brothers, who were helping police try to find him. Beach said Caldwell's two brothers also convinced prosecutors to seek capital murder charges, which would make Caldwell eligible for a death sentence.

His brothers testified at the punishment phase of the trial and told jurors they believed he would be a continuing threat to society, one

of the elements a jury must consider before deciding on a death sentence.

"They looked the jurors in the eyes and said 'yes,'" Beach said. "It was a very emotional case. They've lost three family members and now they're going to lose a fourth. But this was all about justice for them."

This week, one of the brothers talked to reporters about the execution.

"I don't want my brother to die," Henry Caldwell III told The Dallas Morning News. "But nevertheless, he committed a wrong. He has to face judgment for this. We knew this day was going to come."

In his statement to police, Jeffery Caldwell said the fatal killings began with an argument with his father over money. Caldwell said he was upset because his father would give money to his sister but not to him.

Years later, in an interview on death row, Caldwell blamed the fatal attacks on a Jamaican mob angry because he had stolen some of their drugs.

"I had affiliated with drug individuals and I had ripped them off," he said. "They came to my house and I wasn't there."

Marriage license to be issued to two women

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Two Houston women will receive a marriage license from Bexar County, where a clerk says one of the two was actually born male.

The marriage between Jessica Wicks and Robin Manhart Wicks may be valid as early as Wednesday after the pair's attorney pressed for their license using a state appeals court decision.

Jessica Wicks, a male-to-female transsexual, met Robin Manhart in 1997 and the couple began dating more than a year ago. Manhart legally changed her name to Wicks this year and the two are now living together.

Before a case decided by the Texas 4th Court of Appeals last year, attorney Phyllis Frye said the union would be considered

a same-sex marriage.

"There are going to be more and more couples like Jessica and Robin getting married," Frye told the San Antonio Express-News in Wednesday's editions.

The marriage is legal because one of the women was born male, said Bexar County Clerk Gerry Rickhoff.

Frye said that the Harris County clerk's office should have issued Jessica Wicks a marriage license when she applied for it in July.

Judges in the October appellate ruling decided that chromosomes are the determining factor in deciding a person's sex. The opinion squelched a lawsuit by Christie Lee Littleton, a 48-year-old widow who formerly was a man.



AP Photo
Robin Manhart Wicks, left, and Jessica Wicks of Houston, pose in front of a rainbow flag at a Houston Lesbian and Gay community center Tuesday.

Judge dismisses gunfire issue in Davidian lawsuit

WACO (AP) — Whether federal agents shot at Branch Davidians as the 1993 standoff came to a fiery end is no longer part of the sect's wrongful-death lawsuit against the government, a judge ruled.

U.S. District Judge Walter S. Smith was to discuss the matter at a Sept. 18 hearing. But he canceled it Tuesday, saying plaintiffs did not agree to pay travel costs of David Oxlee, an expert from England.

Oxlee worked with British firm Vector Data Systems Ltd., which examined infrared images taken by an aerial FBI surveillance camera on the final day of a 51-day standoff between federal agents and the Davidians.

The plaintiffs had alleged that flashes on government FLIR, or forward-looking infrared, equipment, were gunshots from FBI agents.

Oxlee concluded that the flash-

es seen on the tapes were sunlight reflecting off debris, not government gunfire.

Since an advisory jury in July ruled that the government was not responsible for the deaths of the 80 sect members, lead plaintiffs' attorney Michael Caddell said he no longer wanted to pursue the gunfire issue.

But co-counsel Ramsey Clark had wanted to question Oxlee about his findings. Last week, James Brannon, another plaintiffs' attorney, said he expected to attend the hearing.

The plaintiffs had alleged that FBI agents fired into the compound on the final day of the standoff and pinned sect members, including leader David Koresh, inside as it burned.

Smith, who has not yet issued a final ruling in the \$675 million lawsuit, said Tuesday his decision will be based on evidence already in the record.

September Special



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2000 Property Tax Rates in Midland County

This notice concerns 2000 property tax rates for Midland County. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:	
Last year's operating taxes	\$10,514,851
Last year's debt taxes	\$1,244,987
Last year's total taxes	\$11,759,838
Last year's tax base	\$4,575,812,451
Last year's total tax rate	0.257000 / \$100
This year's effective tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$11,736,473
This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$4,621,728,911
This year's effective tax rate	0.253941 / \$100
This year's rollback tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and including taxes for state criminal justice mandate)	\$17,128,223
This year's adjusted tax base	\$4,621,728,911
This year's effective operating rate	0.370602 / \$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	0.400250 / \$100
+ This year's debt rate	0.022159 / \$100
This year's rollback rate	0.422409 / \$100
- Sales tax adjustment rate	0.139426 / \$100
- Rollback tax rate	0.282983 / \$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease
If Midland County adopts a 2000 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.253941 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 1999 taxes by \$129,509.

Schedule A
Unencumbered Fund Balances
The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
General Fund	\$10,642,858
Debt Service Fund	\$200,000

Schedule B
2000 Debt Service
The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Certificate of Obligation Series 1993	\$0	\$137,200	\$1,600	\$138,200
Certificate of Obligation Series 1996	\$0	\$183,098	\$1,003	\$184,100
Refunding Bond Series 1994	\$845,000	\$69,215	\$1,000	\$915,215
Total required for 2000 debt service				\$1,237,515
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A				\$200,000
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$0
- Excess collections last year				\$0
Total to be paid from taxes in 2000				\$1,037,515
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100.00% of its taxes in 2000				\$0
Total debt levy				\$1,037,515

Schedule C: Expected Revenue from Additional Sales Tax
In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive \$7,200,000 in additional sales and use tax revenues. The county has excluded any amount that is or will be distributed for economic development grants from this amount of expected sales tax revenue.

Schedule D: State Criminal Justice Mandate
The Midland County Auditor certifies that Midland County has spent \$421,049 in the previous 12 months beginning August 1, 1999, for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Midland County Sheriff has provided information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for reimbursement of such costs.

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 707 W. Washington Midland, Texas 79701.

Name of person preparing this notice: Kathy Reeves

Title: Midland County Tax Assessor-Collector

Date prepared: August 4, 2000

AUG 31 2000

Bad milk scandal touches off wave of food contamination fears

By Mari Tamaguchi
Associated Press

TOKYO — The initial shock was bad enough. Not only had Japan's biggest dairy company sickened nearly 15,000 people with contaminated milk, it had routinely — though secretly — recycled old milk to make other products.

But what has followed is enough to ruin anyone's appetite: dead lizards in potato chips, worms in pastries, flies in canned juice. Barraged for week with such daily horror stories, many Japanese are wondering if it's safe to eat or drink anything anymore.

"Every day we hear about some new problem, and it's shocking," said Tokyo housewife Toshie Ojima. "But these things were prob-

ably happening all along and we just didn't know about it."

Concerns over food safety have grown so strong they are now being debated on the parliament floor.

"Many of the incidents are the result of sloppiness and complacency," Deputy Health Minister Yutaka Fukushima said at a recent parliamentary meeting. "Manufacturers should return to the very basic and think again about food safety."

Food makers aren't the only problem. The media has been dominated recently by reports that another big brand name — Mitsubishi Motors — hid consumer complaints for years instead of examining whether their vehicles had potential dangers.

"It is enough to really make one

wonder," said a front-page editorial in the Asahi, one of Japan's largest newspapers. "Consumer trust in corporate sincerity is growing shakier."

The food scare began in late June, when some 14,800 people were sickened by staph bacteria in lowfat milk produced by Snow Brand Milk Products Co.

An investigation revealed the company routinely recycled milk returned from stores, including some with expired freshness dates, for use in cheese and other products.

Since then, the discovery of any foreign object in food or drink has been enough to prompt huge recalls.

So far this month, at least 18 cases of food contamination led to recalls, according to the state-fund-

ed Japan Food Hygiene Association. These included by Kikkoman Corp.'s recall of 25,300 cans of Del Monte-brand tomato sauce and 36,000 jars of pasta sauce after broken glass was found in one. Yakult Honsha Co. had to recall 446,800 cans of fruit juice after one was found to contain a shard of plastic.

Such stories are taking their psychological toll.

A recent survey published by the nation's largest newspaper, the Yomiuri, showed more than half of 1,983 respondents are afraid they or their family members may suffer food poisoning before the summer is out.

Some 45 percent indicated they don't trust manufacturers' hygiene standards and nearly 54 percent said they believe even drinking tap

water is unsafe.

Still, Kazuya Fujiwara, spokesman for Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union, one of Japan's largest food distributors, said food contamination is not on the rise. It is merely getting more attention.

"The Snow Brand case only triggered the existing problem of food contamination to become a social issue," he said. "It is a reminder to consumers of the abundant dangers of what they eat."

Just four years ago, for example, food contaminated with E. coli bacteria claimed 12 lives and sickened more than 10,000 people in Japan. Most of the victims were children and the elderly, who have less resistance to bacterial infections.

Fujiwara said the problem cannot be solved unless the government adopts stricter legal protections for consumers.

And many analysts familiar with Japan's corporate system see the recent food contamination cases — and the Mitsubishi Motors scandal — as the inevitable result of lax concern for consumers.

"Very basic principles of manufacturing are falling apart at many companies in various industries," Keio University business professor Keinosuke Ono wrote in the recent issue of the Weekly Toyo Keizai magazine, a respected economic journal.

"These cases remind us of the considerable lack of responsibility and commitment among corporations," he wrote.

Mideast negotiators consider divine sovereignty

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israelis and Palestinians who have spent months wrangling over which side should control Jerusalem's holy sites are turning their attention to an idea first floated at Camp David: put God in charge.

The proposal to declare God the sovereign over Jerusalem shrines that are holy to both Muslims and Jews is still tentative, but it has the potential to help defuse the most emotional dispute in the Mideast peace talks. It has won the guarded endorsement of Jerusalem's hawkish Israeli mayor and a top Palestinian official — marking the first time the two sides have found any common ground on how to share the city.

The idea was first proposed when July's Mideast summit at Camp David broke down because both Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat insisted they could never give up control over holy shrines, political scientist Menachem Klein said.

"This is a very promising solution," said Klein, a member of an Israeli think tank that has been advising Barak in negotiations with the Palestinians.

The proposal comes as Israel and the Palestinians are working on a final peace treaty resolving all the remaining issues between them. Those issues include the future of Palestinian refugees who want to return to land in Israel and the fate of Jewish settlements in heavily Palestinian territories like the West Bank.

But the toughest issue is the future of Jerusalem, and the stickiest of the sticking points is the dis-

pute over Temple Mount, known to Muslims as Haram al-Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary.

The 36-acre walled, raised platform in the heart of Jerusalem's Old City is Islam's third holiest shrine and home to two major mosques, al-Aqsa and Dome of the Rock. The mosques are built on the site of the ancient Jewish Temples. One of the remnants of the Second Temple, the Western Wall, runs alongside the mosque compound and is the most revered site of Judaism today.

Arafat demands full Palestinian sovereignty over all of traditionally Arab east Jerusalem, including the Old City and its holy places. He has said the mosques are sacred to millions of Muslims around the world and that he does not have a mandate to surrender them to the Israelis.

Barak has made the same argument, saying no Israeli prime minister could ever give up the Temple Mount, the object of Jewish longing through the ages.

If God is declared sovereign, both leaders might be able to save face and no longer have to fear being branded a traitor to their religion. Klein said negotiators could then start working out the details of how sovereignty is expressed, such as who would be in charge of security and who would issue permits for renovations.

Even today, the division of powers between the Arafat-appointed Muslim clerics and the Israeli government is complex. For example, Muslim leaders have carried out extensive renovations in the mosque compound despite Israel's strenuous objections. On

the other hand, mosque guards partner with Israeli police in escorting devout Jewish visitors to make sure they don't violate a ban on Jewish prayer.

Palestinian negotiator Ahmed Qureia on Monday dismissed the idea of transferring sovereignty to God and said it was never formally raised in the negotiations.

However, Klein said divine sovereignty was one of several creative solutions, and perhaps even the main one, considered by Egyptian and U.S. mediators who also brought it up with the Palestinians.

And on Wednesday, the idea won unexpected — if guarded — backing from Jerusalem's hawkish mayor, Ehud Olmert, who has opposed giving the Palestinians a role in running the city and is a leading figure in the main opposition party, Likud.

"Divine sovereignty is something that can be pursued," Olmert told a news conference. His caveat: Future arrangements must be based on the current situation, in which Israel has overall control over security and Muslim clerics run the day-to-day affairs inside the mosque compound.

Ziad Abu Zayyad, the Palestinian Cabinet minister in charge of Jerusalem issues, also said the idea had merit on two conditions: that Palestinians be put in charge of security in the compound and that the Islamic Trust, which administers the two mosques, become part of a future Palestinian government.

"If de facto we will be the landlord there, why argue about the issue of sovereignty?" Abu Zayyad said.

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Clinton

By Robert Burr
Associated Press

CARTAGENA — In a country beset by violence, President Clinton's visit to Colombia was a \$1.3 billion Wednesday which helped Colombia defuse tensions without getting States into a quagmire.

"We will not get into a war" with Colombia, he said, stating that Colombian President Andres Bono, both in his sweltering heat and port city.

Pastrana stressed that Colombia has no intention of the United States conflict.

"As long as Andres Bono is president, we will not get into a war," he said.

There were reports Clinton's half-day visit, of the fear of a bloodless Andean said they discovered a 4.4-pound five blocks from Clinton planned.

Officials said intended to spread pamphlets and would unlikely to cause Secret Service Samway, insisted on trials for explosives not a bomb.

In an unusual display of support, Clinton was accompanied by House Speaker Hastert, R-Ill., and members of Congress instrumental in passing the package through.

Thousands

NAIROBI, Kenya — Thousands of Kenyan protesters gathered in support of a slain American pilot, whom they viewed as a martyr.

Speakers at a funeral service called for a beacon for the oppressed. Kaiser, a 36-year-old Kenyan human rights activist, was found dead on a highway near Nairobi northwest of Nairobi. He had been shot in the back of the head.

Kenyan human rights activists and opposition parties

Clinton vows U.S. will not be drawn into Colombian war

By Robert Burns
Associated Press

CARTAGENA, Colombia — In a country beset by decades of violence, President Clinton delivered a \$1.3 billion U.S. package Wednesday which he said would help Colombia defeat its drug traffickers without getting the United States into a Vietnam-like quagmire.

"We will not get into a shooting war" with Colombian guerrillas, he said, standing alongside Colombian President Andres Pastrana, both in short sleeves in the sweltering heat of this Caribbean port city.

Pastrana stressed that Colombia has no intention of drawing the United States into its military conflict.

"As long as Andres Pastrana is president, we will not have a foreign military intervention in Colombia," he said.

There were reminders, during Clinton's half-day visit to Cartagena, of the fear and violence that bleeds this Andean nation. Police said they discovered and deactivated a 4.4-pound bomb found five blocks from a neighborhood Clinton planned to tour.

Officials said the bomb was intended to spread rebel pamphlets and would have been unlikely to cause harm. A U.S. Secret Service official, Terry Samway, insisted that only materials for explosives were found, not a bomb.

In an unusual display of bipartisan support, Clinton was accompanied by House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and 10 other members of Congress. Hastert was instrumental in pushing the aid package through Congress,



A protester dressed like Uncle Sam with a skull mask burns an American flag in front of the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia, to protest the visit of President Clinton. Clinton visited Cartagena Wednesday with a Congressional delegation to support the country's government in its fight against leftist rebels who are aligned with and profit from the illicit drug trade.

despite misgivings by some who feared the United States would get drawn into the guerrilla conflict and help an army long criticized for human rights abuses.

Clinton was also accompanied by Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Barry McCaffrey, Clinton's chief drug policy adviser — part of a delegation of 35. Daughter Chelsea also came along.

"Why are we here today?" Hastert said. "Not only do we share a great heritage of democ-

racy, but we also share a great burden" — the threat drugs pose both to countries that produce drugs and those that consume them.

"In our nation, over 14,000 young people, children, lose their life every year to either drug use or drug violence, and it happens in our wealthiest communities and the street corners of our most devastated inner cities," Hastert said.

The U.S. assistance is part of Pastrana's \$7.5 billion "Plan Colombia," designed to end decades of civil war, fight drug

trafficking, strengthen the judicial system and revive an economy in the doldrums.

Pastrana called the U.S. assistance "a recognition that the menace of illegal drugs is truly international and therefore requires a concerted global response."

Clinton praised the Colombian leader, who is foundering in opinion polls, and urged the Colombian public to "be patient with him" as he struggles to find a lasting solution to a guerrilla war that feeds off the drug trade.

Security was heavy for Clinton's entourage wherever it traveled in this Caribbean port city. Snipers stood atop buildings at the airport, and armed security guards stood watch in patrol boats along the shoreline.

Pastrana said Clinton's one-day visit — the first by a U.S. president since George Bush came on a similar anti-drug mission in 1990 — "leads us to know that we are no longer isolated in our struggle."

Clinton said there must be an end to human rights abuses by the warring factions in Colombia, and that includes security forces as well as the rebels.

The largest part of the \$1.3 billion U.S. contribution to Plan Colombia is for military assistance, including 60 helicopters to be used mostly by the Colombian army in eradicating the lucrative drug crop. The United States already has about 100 soldiers — mostly members of the Army's 7th Special Forces Group from Fort Bragg, N.C. — in Colombia to train counternarcotics battalions of the Colombian army.

Clinton dismissed predictions by some in the United States that he is starting down the path of an open-ended military commitment in a nation that has been mired in a guerrilla war for more than three decades.

"A condition of this aid is that we will not get into a shooting war," Clinton said. "This is not Vietnam, neither is it Yankee imperialism. Those are two of the false charges that have been hurled at Plan Colombia," he said.

"There won't be American involvement in a shooting war because they don't want it and because we don't want it," Clinton said.

Clinton made a plea to Colombia's South American neighbors to support Pastrana and set aside their concerns that an intensified drug war will have a spillover effect with refugees and guerrilla battles on their borders.

"Let's be candid," Clinton said. "If it's successful, some of that will happen." But he stressed that part of the \$1.3 billion in U.S. aid to Colombia is intended to deal with these spillover effects.

"I understand the reluctance of the leaders of other countries to embrace this," Clinton added. "It's a frightening prospect to take on this." On the other hand, he said, it would be unfair to corral all of the region's drug problem in Colombia and expect the Colombian people to bear the full burden.

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GOZILLA 2000 PG	1:30 4:30
ANYONE IN NEW YORK PG-13	7:30 10:30
THE CREW PG-13	1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30
BOMB IT ON PG-13 (PGV)	1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30
THE CELL R (PGV)	1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30
WHAT LIES BENEATH R	1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30
COYOTE ONLY PG-13	1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30
DIRTY PROFESSOR 2 PG-13	1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30
BULLY BOY R	1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30
THE CHILD R	1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30

NORTH PARK 5915 W. LOOP 250
527-1231

CINE 4 5915 W. LOOP 250
527-1231

FRIDAY PG-13 4:30 7:30

SHANGHAI HOUSE PG-13 4:30

ONE, TWO, THREE PG-13 4:30 7:30

THE MENTALIST PG-13 7:30

CLIMAX R 4:30

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SHOWTIMES FOR TODAY ONLY

Thousands attend funeral Mass for slain American priest

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Thousands of Kenyans from legislators to human rights activists paid their respects Wednesday to a slain American priest, mourning him as a martyr.

Speakers at a funeral Mass in the capital called the Rev. John Kaiser a beacon for the oppressed and suffering. Kaiser, a native of Minnesota, had worked in Kenya for 36 years.

Kaiser, 67, a vocal critic of Kenya's human rights record, was found dead Aug. 24 along a highway near Naivasha, 50 miles northwest of Nairobi. He had been shot in the back of the head.

Kenyan human rights activists and opposition politicians have

called his death a political assassination.

Before and after the nearly three-hour service, members of the Kenya Human Rights Network and students demonstrated outside the Holy Family Basilica Cathedral chanting and singing freedom songs.

They carried banners saying, "Killers of Father Kaiser are assassins of truth and liberty."

"This was a political assassination. It was not just a simple murder. There are well known facts leading to this which we cannot reveal at the moment but we have overwhelming evidence," said Eusebio Wanyama, one of the demonstration's coordinators.

Inside the cathedral, about 2,000 people were seated and another 1,000 were crammed into the aisles, as letters of condolence were read out from Pope John Paul II and U.S. Ambassador Johnnie Carson.

Carson, who was unable to attend the service, promised in his letter that the U.S. government and embassy would do everything to ensure that those who "perpetrated this terrible crime" would be caught and prosecuted.

Archbishop Giovanni Tonucci, the pope's representative in Kenya, said Kaiser was the third missionary to be killed in the East African nation in the last four years.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Aug. 31, 2000:
You are unusually gifted with finances. Others often seek out your impressions. You build on strong foundations. Others see the process but don't know exactly how to do it. You turn a gift or asset around and use it to make money. As a result, your career booms. Go for what you want professionally. If you are single, you need to decide what kind of relationship you want. Then you can nurture that type of bond. If you are attached, the two of you work as a team. A new home or addition makes both of you happy. **LIBRA** could become possessive.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Stay goal-oriented, but don't worry if your focus isn't your work. Another hears you loud and clear. You could be on information overload as the result of a fact-finding expedition. Your efforts to get in touch with another's feelings manage to move this person. Tonight: The only answer is yes.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Stay level at work, even though you might be sorely distracted. Others want feedback. Focus on a moneymaking idea. Evaluate just how much time and money you need in order to do it. A boss admires your ideas. Invite more discussions and willingly share more. A co-worker expresses good will. Tonight: Stop at the gym on the way home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You beam and another smiles. You know how to draw someone in. Share some ideas that you have been mulling over. Creativity flourishes when you open up. You're lucky. Another seems to accept whatever you do. Be sensitive to others, even if you are on a roll. Another likes you a lot! Tonight: Start the weekend early.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You build stronger foundations with caring than with ultimatums. Let family members share more of what they want. An addition to your domestic life brings a great deal of happiness. Work demands your attention. Consider bringing more work home. Tonight: Make a favorite meal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Reach out to those around you. Your sunny ways open others up. It is your call whether to heat up a relationship or not. Another certainly cares a lot about you. A meeting proves to be far more important than you had anticipated. You might want to use it as an occasion for networking. Tonight: Make the first move.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Make an offer, and mean your words. How you feel about another comes through loud and clear. You might need to make important changes to accommodate this person in your life. Decisions reflect a big change in your perspective and long-term needs. You might want to go back to school. Tonight: Indulge an older relative.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Others come toward you. Count on your animal magnetism. Your perspective transforms with discussions. As a result, what you believed was the right course of action changes considerably. Good news greets you. Don't hesitate to make that phone call. Tonight: Whatever makes you smile.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
What was previously OK might no longer be. Discussions with a partner herald a period of new understandings. Don't hesitate to walk through that door, even though it implies change. Use your keen insight with a money decision. You could be tossing stability to the wind. Talk to someone in the know. Tonight: Talk to your best friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Your abilities to adjust and to perceive situations allow you to transform. You often surprise others. Accept another's good will and offer. Mobilizing positive energy helps you succeed. A meeting brings the results you want. Remember to stay on the high road and not get caught up in trivia. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Others look to you whenever there is an important decision. You might appreciate the admiration but sometimes feel drowned by the responsibilities. Work through personal issues here. You might want to make an image change in the near future. Acknowledge your need for control. Tonight: The spotlight is on you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Good news surrounds you. You get it, and you disseminate it. Others smile when you come toward them. Evaluate a friendship carefully. As you change, so do your needs. Often, this transformation is reflected through your circle of friends. Tonight: A loved one adores your style.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
A boss makes demands, but it could be worth it, ultimately. Deal with partners, co-workers and associates on a one-on-one level. Your attention means a lot to others. Do not undermine yourself or a decision. Family supports you, no matter what you choose. Check out financing on a key purchase. Tonight: Keep it low-key.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH			
♠ 10 8 7	♥ Q J 5	♦ 8 5 3	♣ Q 9 7
WEST			
♠ K Q	♥ A 10 8 6	♦ 9 7 4 2	♣ 10 6 2
EAST			
♠ J 9 6 5 4 3 2	♥ Void	♦ 10 6	♣ 8 5 4 3
SOUTH			
♠ A	♥ K 9 7 4 3 2	♦ K Q J	♣ A K J

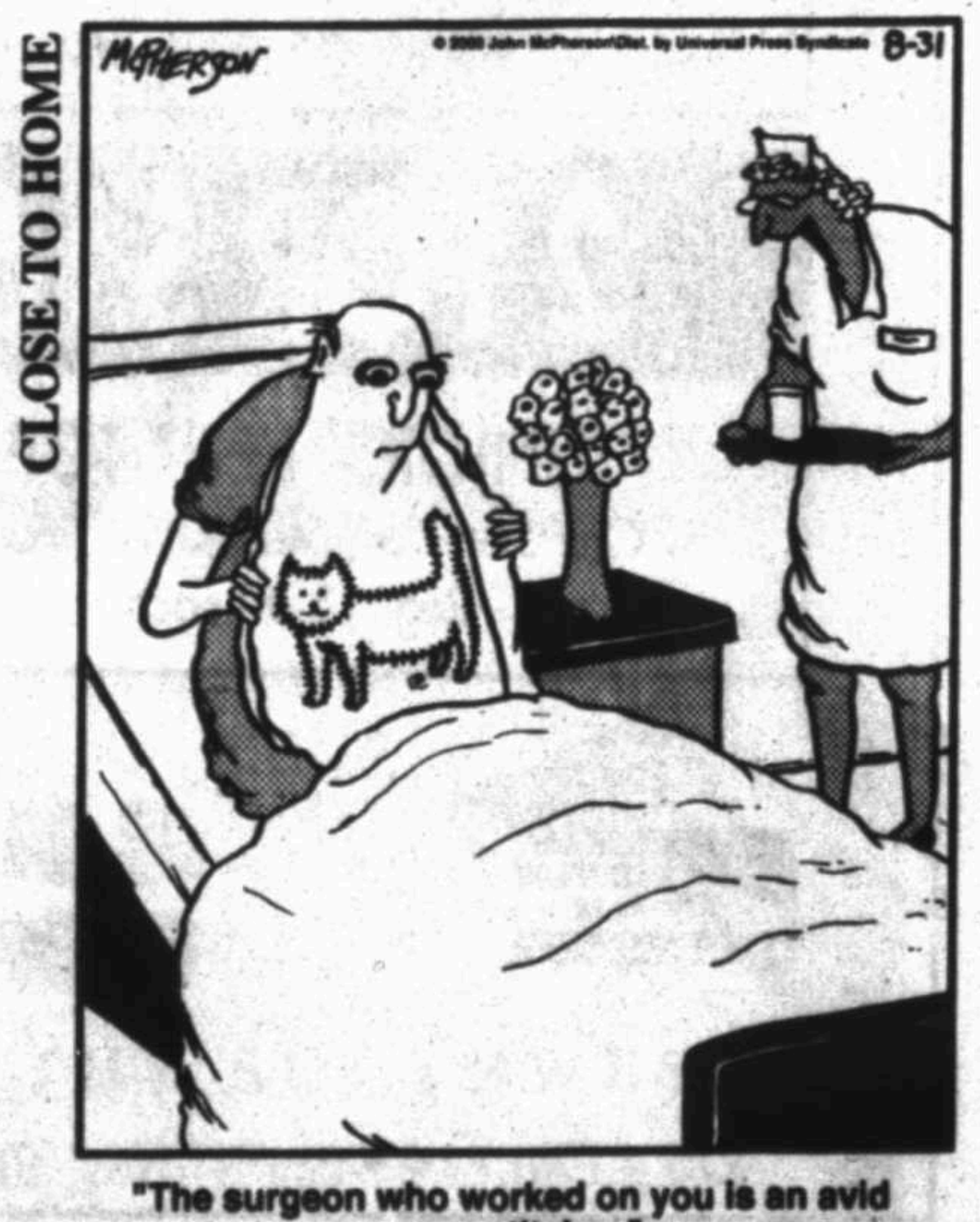
The bidding:	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
When we last saw Trump Coup Tommy, he was basking in the glow of his latest triumph. As our readers know, Tommy is a rare creature — an average player who is transformed into a technical wizard as soon as he realizes he is facing a bad trump break. This is the deal that had the whole club buzzing.
The South hand is not easy to bid — a powerhouse where the key suit is weak. However, since it was only a four-loser hand, we have a great deal of sympathy for the approach adopted by Tommy — an artificial two-club game force followed by a cue-bidding sequence. North jumped to slam on the strength of the trump honors.

Another tommy triumph

West, delighted with the trump holding and possible spade trick to boot, knew better than to double Tommy. The king of spades was led, falling to the ace. A low heart to the jack brought a spade discard from East and a gleam to Tommy's eye. A spade was ruffed, followed by three rounds of diamonds, ending in dummy as East parted with another spade. Since West was known to have another diamond, declarer ruffed a diamond and three rounds of clubs, ending in dummy, completing the groundwork.

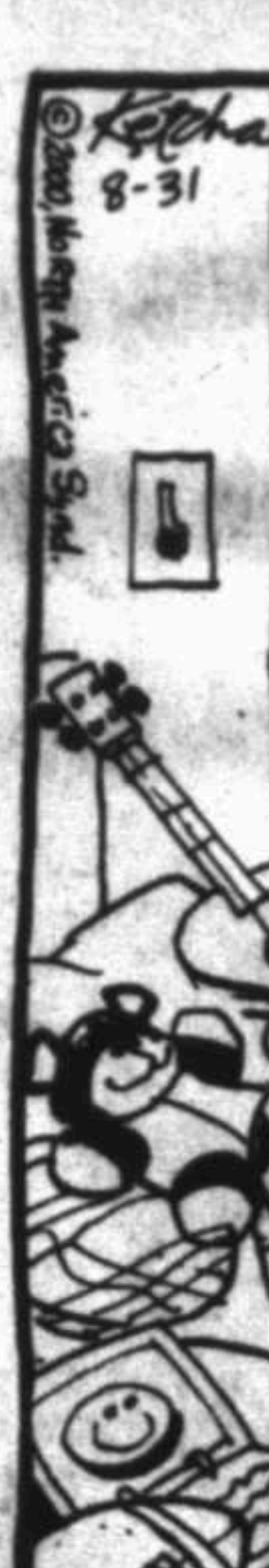
Not faltering for a moment, Tommy led the remaining spade from the table and ruffed with the king of trumps! West was a gone goose. With nothing left but trumps, the defender could do no better than over-ruff with the ace, but then was forced to lead away from the 10-8 into Tommy's combined Q-9 tenace. All Tommy lost was one heart trick.



ZITS



DENNIS



FAMILY

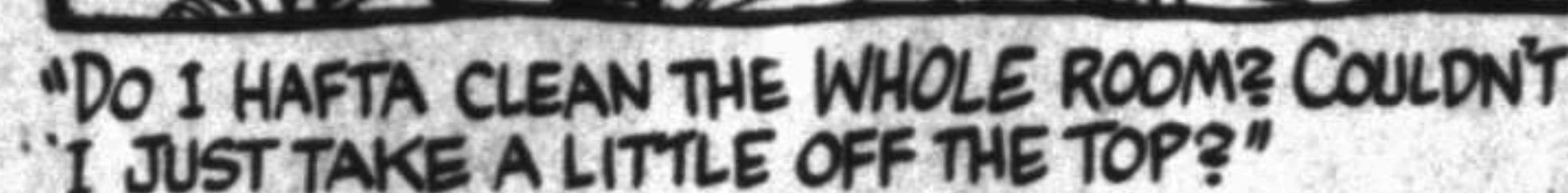


PEO Mel

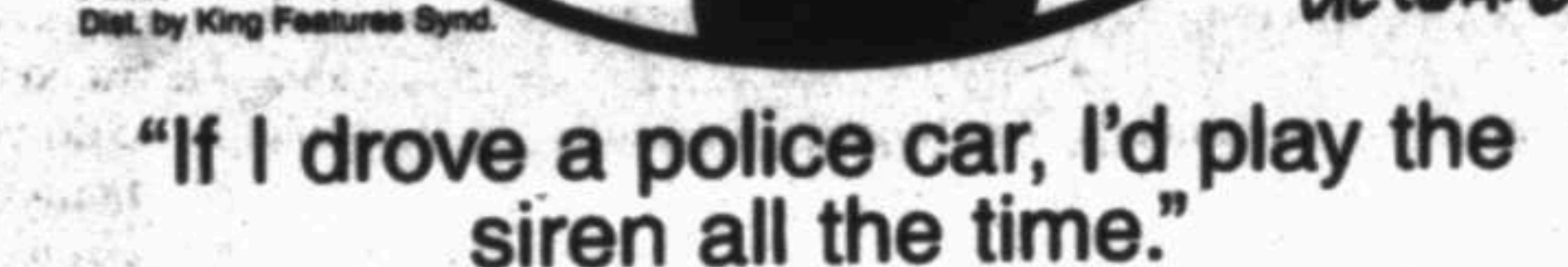


rocker has go, Philad Ms. Ekl a raucous, sensation Despite bouncer c singer Ma "He wa and look Suzanne tive side." Ms Ekl Sellers, d The aw VENIC heels set d of Venice Ms. Sto

BABY BLUES



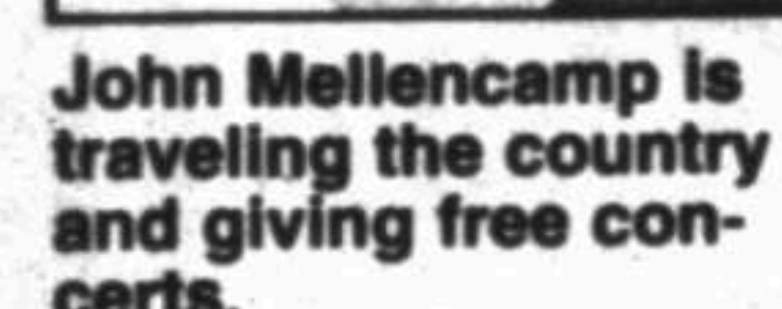
FAMILY CIRCUS

**THURSDAY EVENING**

AUGUST 31, 2000

				6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
(3) KMD	2	3	2	News II 250	Wheel of Fortune 70	Whose Line? 7832	Whose Line? 7934	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire 870	Hopkins 247 (N) Part 2 of 3	News II 6413073	Hopkins (N) 6943431	PolitiCon 1751073	News II 1215073		
(3) KPBJ	24	5	3	Home Invention 532	Judge Judy 308	Big Brother 100	Big Brother 100	Big Brother 100	Mad About You 53073	Nanny 171	Jerry Springer (N) 74	News II 174	News II 174		
(7) KOSB	7	7	7	News 508	Sci. Tonight 238	Sci. Tonight 238	Sci. Tonight 238	Sci. Tonight 238	Sci. Tonight 238	Sci. Tonight 238	Sci. Tonight 238	Sci. Tonight 238	Sci. Tonight 238		
(4) KWES	9	9	9	News 568	Seinfeld (N) 580	Friends (N) 3870	Friends (N) 3870	Friends (N) 3870	ER "Loose Ends" (N) PG 9035	News 6406783	News 6406783	News 6406783	News 6406783		
(12) KMLM	42	12	19	News 1677	John Hagee Today 557	Light of the Southwest (L) 7561	Light of the Southwest (L) 7561	Light of the Southwest (L) 7561	Something Good Tonight-News 3702	News 61528	News 61528	News 61528	News 61528		
(13) KOVC	38	13		NewsHour With Jim Lehrer II 96702	West Jet Intl 6257	Small Business 2783	Mystery! "Cadillac" A Morbid Tale for Bones (N) PG (DVS) 75528	Mystery! "Cadillac" A Morbid Tale for Bones (N) PG (DVS) 75528	Inside the Box 75219	Teleshop 36702	Teleshop 36702	Teleshop 36702	Teleshop 36702		
(8) CHBC	8	27		5:30p Business Center II 565036	Full House II 7615	King Solomon's Mines (PG-13, 85) *** Richard Chamberlain, Sharon Stone, 70829	King Solomon's Mines (PG-13, 85) *** Richard Chamberlain, Sharon Stone, 70829	King Solomon's Mines (PG-13, 85) *** Richard Chamberlain, Sharon Stone, 70829	News II 20783	Hardball 32528	Hardball 32528	Hardball 32528	Hardball 32528		
(10) WGN	10			From Fr. (240) Major League Baseball Cincinnati Reds at Atlanta Braves. From Turner Field in Atlanta. (L) 1748716	Early Edition II 61764	Earthquake in New York (30) (N) (TVPG) 24219	Earthquake in New York (30) (N) (TVPG) 24219	Earthquake in New York (30) (N) (TVPG) 24219	Early Edition II 65505	News II 22870	News II 22870	News II 22870	News II 22870		
(11) WTBS	11	11		Wild Discovery "Wild Jewels" G 58290	On the Inside "Casino" G 57851	Science Mysteries 3889	Science Mysteries 3889	Science Mysteries 3889	Into the Unknown II 53035	On the Inside "Casino" G 56122	On the Inside "Casino" G 56122	On the Inside "Casino" G 56122	On the Inside "Casino" G 56122		
(14) FAM	14			Wild Discovery "Wild Jewels" G 58290	On the Inside "Casino" G 57851	Science Mysteries 3889	Science Mysteries 3889	Science Mysteries 3889	Into the Unknown II 53035	On the Inside "Casino" G 56122	On the Inside "Casino" G 56122	On the Inside "Casino" G 56122	On the Inside "Casino" G 56122		
(29) DISC	29	29		Three Stooges 56832	Wallace (N) II 68108	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108		
(21) AMC	21	21		Three Stooges 56832	Wallace (N) II 68108	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108		
(22) THN	22	22		Three Stooges 56832	Wallace (N) II 68108	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108		
(23) TNT	23	23		Three Stooges 56832	Wallace (N) II 68108	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108		
(24) BET	24	24		Three Stooges 56832	Wallace (N) II 68108	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108		
(25) DIAV	25	25		Three Stooges 56832	Wallace (N) II 68108	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108		
(22) DISH	22	22		Three Stooges 56832	Wallace (N) II 68108	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108		
(28) CNN	28	28		Three Stooges 56832	Wallace (N) II 68108	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108		
(29) ESPN	29	29		Three Stooges 56832	Wallace (N) II 68108	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Decade of the Wolfies (N) II 50141	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108	Wallace (N) II 68108		
(30) USA	30	30		Strip Poker G 74603	U.S. Open Tennis Men's and Women's Second Round. From theUSTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, N.Y. (Live) 536899	From theUSTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, N.Y. (Live) 536899	From theUSTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, N.Y. (Live) 536899	From theUSTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, N.Y. (Live) 536899	Strip Poker G 95899	Walker, Texas 187948	Ranger (N) II 58170	X-Files II 67615	X-Files II 67615		
(31) FX	31	FX		M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	NYPD Blue II 68899	X-Files II 65219	Married... Married... Married... Married...	Married... Married... Married... Married...	American Justice 59412	American Justice 59412	American Justice 59412	American Justice 59412	American Justice 59412		
(32) AX	32	32		Law & Order "Back to the 41500	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857		
(33) TLC	33	33		How & Why Do That? 45306	How & Why Do That? 45306	How & Why Do That? 45306	How & Why Do That? 45306	How & Why Do That? 45306	How & Why Do That? 45306	How & Why Do That? 45306	How & Why Do That? 45306	How & Why Do That? 45306	How & Why Do That? 45306		
(34) HICK	34	34		Hey Arnold! "Rugrats Y II 48219	Hey Arnold! "Rugrats Y II 48219	Hey Arnold! "Rugrats Y II 48219	Hey Arnold! "Rugrats Y II 48219	Hey Arnold! "Rugrats Y II 48219	Hey Arnold! "Rugrats Y II 48219	Hey Arnold! "Rugrats Y II 48219	Hey Arnold! "Rugrats Y II 48219	Hey Arnold! "Rugrats Y II 48219	Hey Arnold! "Rugrats Y II 48219		
(35) LIFE	35	35		Intimate Portrait "Tammy Wynette" G II 90554	Intimate Portrait "Tammy Wynette" G II 90554	Intimate Portrait "Tammy Wynette" G II 90554	Intimate Portrait "Tammy Wynette" G II 90554	Intimate Portrait "Tammy Wynette" G II 90554	Intimate Portrait "Tammy Wynette" G II 90554	Intimate Portrait "Tammy Wynette" G II 90554	Intimate Portrait "Tammy Wynette" G II 90554	Intimate Portrait "Tammy Wynette" G II 90554	Intimate Portrait "Tammy Wynette" G II 90554		
(36) OUTDR	36	36		Outdr "Outdr" 99957	Outdr "Outdr" 99957	Outdr "Outdr" 99957	Outdr "Outdr" 99957	Outdr "Outdr" 99957	Outdr "Outdr" 99957	Outdr "Outdr" 99957	Outdr "Outdr" 99957	Outdr "Outdr" 99957	Outdr "Outdr" 99957		
(37) UN	37	37		For No Arno 81122	For No Arno 81122	For No Arno 81122	For No Arno 81122	For No Arno 81122	For No Arno 81122	For No Arno 81122	For No Arno 81122	For No Arno 81122	For No Arno 81122		
(38) FSN	43	39		Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895		
(39) COM	44	39		Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895	Baseball "Last Word (N) 38895		
(40) ANIM	46	40		Yip-Do Animals	Yip-Do Animals	Yip-Do Animals	Yip-Do Animals	Yip-Do Animals	Yip-Do Animals	Yip-Do Animals	Yip-Do Animals	Yip-Do Animals	Yip-Do Animals		
(41) E!	47	41		Fashion Homes	Fashion Homes	Fashion Homes	Fashion Homes	Fashion Homes	Fashion Homes	Fashion Homes	Fashion Homes	Fashion Homes	Fashion Homes		
(42) OY	48	42		Andy Griffith Animals	Andy Griffith Animals	Andy Griffith Animals	Andy Griffith Animals	Andy Griffith Animals	Andy Griffith Animals	Andy Griffith Animals	Andy Griffith Animals	Andy Griffith Animals	Andy Griffith Animals		
(43) TVL	49	43		Avonlea (N) 20128	Avonlea (N) 20128	Avonlea (N) 20128	Avonlea (N) 20128	Avonlea (N) 20128	Avonlea (N) 20128	Avonlea (N) 20128	Avonlea (N) 20128	Avonlea (N) 20128	Avonlea (N) 20128		
(44) HGTV	50	44		Old House Homes	Old House Homes	Old House Homes	Old House Homes	Old House Homes	Old House Homes	Old House Homes	Old House Homes	Old House Homes	Old House Homes		
(45) TBS	51	45		Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857		
(46) TBS	52	46		Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857	Unsub Mystreries II 25857		
(47) TCM	53	47		Scoby Bravo	Scoby Bravo	Scoby Bravo	Scoby Bravo	Scoby Bravo	Scoby Bravo	Scoby Bravo	Scoby Bravo	Scoby Bravo	Scoby Bravo		
(48) TOON	61	48		The Last Word 44615	The Last Word 44615	The Last Word 44615	The Last Word 44615	The Last Word 44615	The Last Word 44615	The Last Word 44615	The Last Word 44615	The Last Word 44615	The Last Word 44615		
(49) HIST	62	49		20th Night 83122	20th Night 83122	20th Night 83122	20th Night 83122	20th Night 83122	20th Night 83122	20th Night 83122	20th Night 83122	20th Night 83122	20th Night 83122		
(50) ESPN2	63	50		RPM 21ght NFL 259615	RPM 21ght NFL 259615	RPM 21ght NFL 259615	RPM 21ght NFL 259615	RPM 21ght NFL 259615	RPM 21ght NFL 259615	RPM 21ght NFL 259615	RPM 21ght NFL 259615	RPM 21ght NFL 259615	RPM 21ght NFL 259615		
(51) SCIFI	64	51		Pumpkinhead (R) 85	Pumpkinhead (R) 85	Pumpkinhead (R) 85	Pumpkinhead (R) 85	Pumpkinhead (R) 85	Pumpkinhead (R) 85	Pumpkinhead (R) 85	Pumpkinhead (R) 85	Pumpkinhead (R) 85	Pumpkinhead (R) 85		
(52) PLEX				Pallober 2: The Movie (NR, 33) Voices of Mine Tommaga, Toshio Funakura, (Dubbed) II 691702	Pallober 2: The Movie (NR, 33) Voices of Mine Tommaga, Toshio Funakura, (Dubbed) II 691702	Pallober 2: The Movie (NR, 33) Voices of Mine Tommaga, Toshio Funakura, (Dubbed) II 691702	Pallober 2: The Movie (NR, 33) Voices of Mine Tommaga, Toshio Funakura, (Dubbed) II 691702	Pallober 2: The Movie (NR, 33) Voices of Mine Tommaga, Toshio Funakura, (Dubbed) II 691702	Pallober 2: The Movie (NR, 33) Voices of Mine Tommaga, Toshio Funakura, (Dubbed) II 691702	Pallober 2: The Movie (NR, 33) Voices of Mine Tommaga, Toshio Funakura, (Dubbed) II 691702	Pallober 2: The Movie (NR, 33) Voices of Mine Tommaga, Toshio Funakura, (Dubbed) II 691702	Pallober 2: The Movie (NR, 33) Voices of Mine Tommaga, Toshio Funakura, (Dubbed) II 691702	Pallober 2: The Movie (NR, 33) Voices of Mine Tommaga, Toshio Funakura, (Dubbed) II 691702		
(53) FLIX	65			The Return of Scoby Thing 8240	The Return of Scoby Thing 8240	The Return of Scoby Thing 8240	The Return of Scoby Thing 8240	The Return of Scoby Thing 8240	The Return of Scoby Thing 8240	The Return of Scoby Thing 8240	The Return of Scoby Thing 8240	The Return of Scoby Thing 8240	The Return of Scoby Thing 8240		
(54) SHOW	66	20		Deep Impact (R) 88	Deep Impact (R) 88	Deep Impact (R) 88	Deep Impact (R) 88	Deep Impact (R) 88	Deep Impact (R) 88	Deep Impact (R) 88	Deep Impact (R) 88	Deep Impact (R) 88	Deep Impact (R) 88		
(55) TMC	67	17		My Holly (10) (R) 96	My Holly (10) (R) 96	My Holly (10) (R) 96	My Holly (10) (R) 96	My Holly (10) (R) 96	My Holly (10) (R) 96	My Holly (10) (R) 96	My Holly (10) (R) 96	My Holly (10) (R) 96	My Holly (10) (R) 96		
(56) HBO	68	18		The Nightingale (10) (R) 96	The Nightingale (10) (R) 96	The Nightingale (10) (R) 96	The Nightingale (10) (R) 96	The Nightingale (10) (R) 96	The Nightingale (10) (R) 96	The Nightingale (10) (R) 96	The Nightingale (10) (R) 96	The Nightingale (10) (R) 96	The Nightingale (10) (R) 96		
(57) HBO	69			Analyze This (15) (R) 96	Analyze This (15) (R) 96	Analyze This (15) (R) 96	Analyze This (15) (R) 96	Analyze This (15) (R) 96	Analyze This (15) (R) 96	Analyze This (15) (R) 96	Analyze This (15) (R) 96	Analyze This (15) (R) 96	Analyze This (15) (R) 96		
(58) HBOS	70			Protocol (15) (R) 96	Protocol (15) (R) 96	Protocol (15) (R) 96	Protocol (15) (R) 96	Protocol (15) (R) 96	Protocol (15) (R) 96	Protocol (15) (R) 96	Protocol (15) (R) 96	Protocol (15) (R) 96	Protocol (15) (R) 96		
(59) MAX	71			Enlightenment (10) (R) 96	Enlightenment (10) (R) 96	Enlightenment (10) (R) 96	Enlightenment (10) (R) 96	Enlightenment (10) (R) 96	Enlightenment (10) (R) 96	Enlightenment (10) (R) 96	Enlightenment (10) (R) 96	Enlightenment (10) (R) 96	Enlightenment (10) (R) 96		
(60) MAX2	72			Lake Placid (25) (R) 96	Lake Placid (25) (R) 96	Lake Placid (25) (R) 96	Lake Placid (25) (R) 96	Lake Placid (25) (R) 96	Lake Placid (25) (R) 96	Lake Placid (25) (R) 96	Lake Placid (25) (R) 96	Lake Placid (25) (R) 96	Lake Placid (25) (R) 96		

Mellencamp gives series of free concerts



His next free acoustic performance was scheduled for lunchtime today in Bloomington, Ind.

LONDON — A food fight at the Oscars of heavy metal music left actress **Britt Ekland** hospitalized with a broken wrist and ankle.

Ms. Ekland slipped on a piece of melon left over from a raucous celebration as she went on stage to make a presentation Tuesday night.

Despite being in severe pain, Ms. Ekland, 57, let a bouncer carry her to the stage and presented an award to singer **Marilyn Manson**.

"He was very, very kind to her and he did talk to her and look after her afterwards," Ms. Ekland's agent, Suzanne Martin, said of Manson. "He had a nice sensi-

Ms Eklund, who was once married to comedian **Peter Sellers**, dated rock star **Rod Stewart**.

The awards were sponsored by Kerrang! magazine.

VENICE, Italy — Sharon Stone and her red stiletto heels set off a chain-reaction boat collision in the canals of Venice.

Ms. Stone took off her shoes on arrival for the Venice

Film Festival Tuesday to board a water taxi, setting off a chase by paparazzi.

The boat carrying the "Basic Instinct" star's bodyguards accelerated, setting off waves that smacked one of the photographers' boats into a pole and another water taxi. A photographer needed stitches to close a head wound.

Ms. Stone, 42, was headed to a party for Clint Eastwood and his "Space Cowboys" co-stars Tommy Lee Jones, James Garner and Donald Sutherland.

LOS ANGELES — **Rich Little** is doing his own hail to the chief

The impersonator will tackle eight presidents in a two-act theatrical journey through 40 years of Oval Office history.

"The Presidents," opening Sept. 23 in Nyack, N.Y., was written by Ron Nessen, press secretary to **President Ford**, and Loren Paul Caplin.

"Gerald Ford was kind of tough. He's kind of bland and not very distinctive," said Little, 61. "I would say Gerald and **George Bush** are the hardest. **Clinton** is great. He's got that continual frog in his throat."

But President Reagan will always be his favorite: "I just love the man."

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Latin music producer **Emilio Estefan Jr.** is Numero Uno.

The Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences selected Estefan as person of the year and will honor him on Sept. 11.

The tribute will feature Estefan's wife, **Gloria Estefan**, along with **Jon Secada**, **Carlos Ponce**, **Shakira**, **Thalia**, **Cachao**, **Celia Cruz** and **Charlie Zaa**.

Estefan received six nominations for the inaugural Latin Grammys, which will be held Sept. 13.

The Latin academy was formed as a companion to the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, which hands out the Grammy Awards.

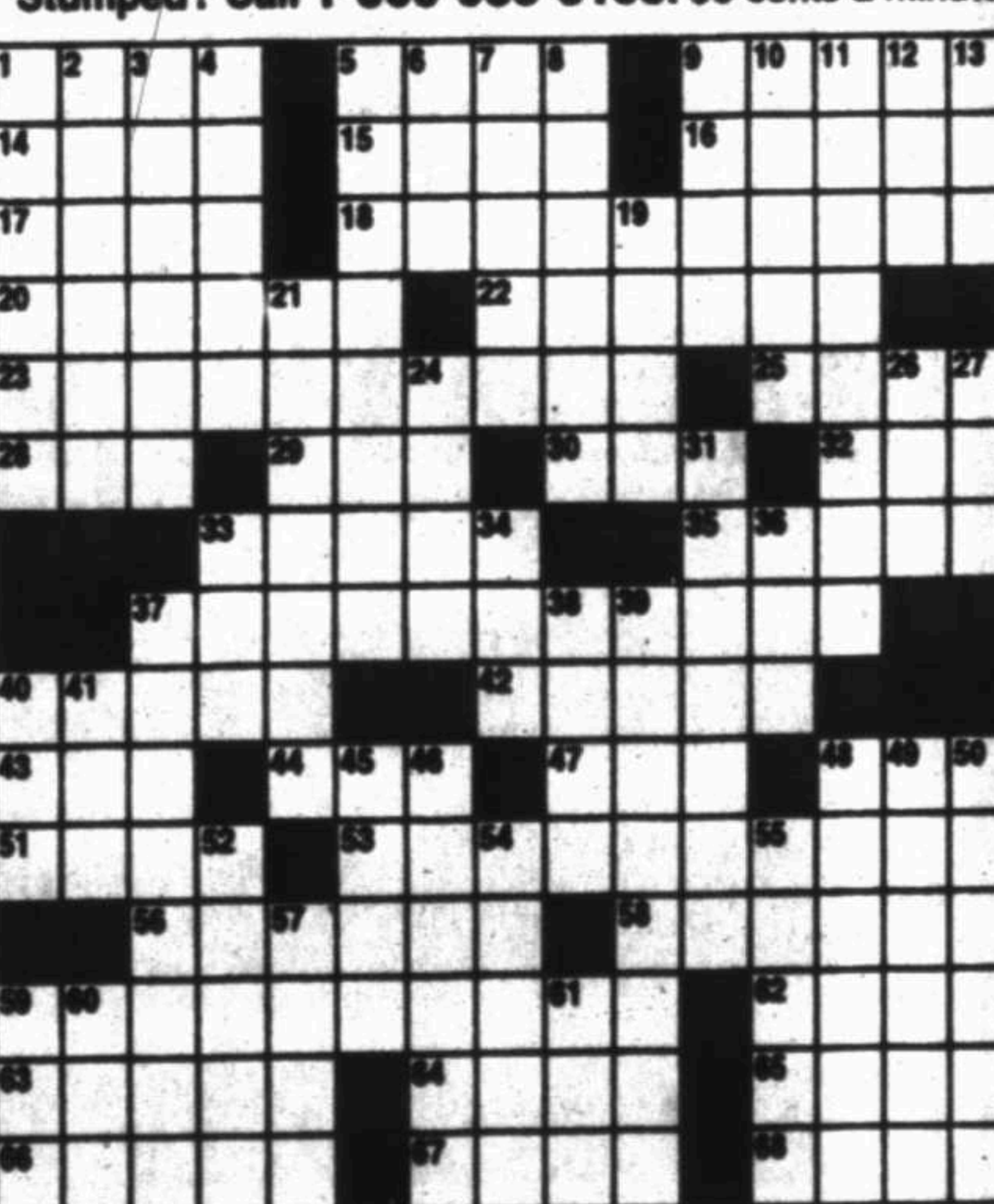
Compiled from Reporter Telegram wire services

Edited by Fran & Lou Sabin

ACROSS

- 1 Dr. visit
- 5 Indian garment
- 9 Infamous James
- 14 Early late-night name
- 15 Hassle
- 16 Sign up for
- 17 Cast member with Goldie, Joanne, et al.
- 18 Wom-again item
- 20 Give rise to
- 22 Get ready 'as for a challenge
- 23 TV family that adopted Bigfoot
- 25 Walt Kelly comic strip
- 28 N.J. summer hrs.
- 29 Japanese drama
- 30 Ring decision, briefly
- 32 Promise
- 33 Water nymph
- 35 Carlton or Canyon
- 37 Butcher's order
- 40 Huge
- 42 Met production
- 2 Avoided bogey, in golf
- 3 Obvious
- 4 Tire part
- 5 Egg, for instance
- 6 Traveler's org.
- 7 Fab Four name
- 8 Start a paragraph, maybe
- 9 Razz
- 10 Ultimately become
- 11 Break in a trip
- 12 Use the Singer
- 13 Directional ending
- 19 Cover up
- 21 Building group, maybe
- 24 Lakers star, familiarly
- 26 "Statehouse VIP
- 27 Part of IOU
- 31 Largest living bird
- 33 Noted diarist
- 34 Small team
- 36 It's in the bag
- 37 Mexican courtship rite
- 38 Copied
- 39 Backslid
- 40 Accelerator
- 41 George's brother
- 45 "Alas!"
- 46 Connected tightly
- 48 Ancient Aryan kingdom
- 49 Error
- 50 A lot
- 52 Tribal leader, often
- 54 Big bang cause, briefly
- 55 Donegal denizens
- 57 "Armageddon" novelist
- 59 Monopolize
- 60 Kids' card game
- 61 Went underground

Stumped? Call 1-900-934-5155. 99 cents a minute.



By Alan Arbesfeld
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8/31/00

AUG 31 2000

The Fight Is Over!

& CBS 7 Won!!

CBS 7 Scores With Viewers In July

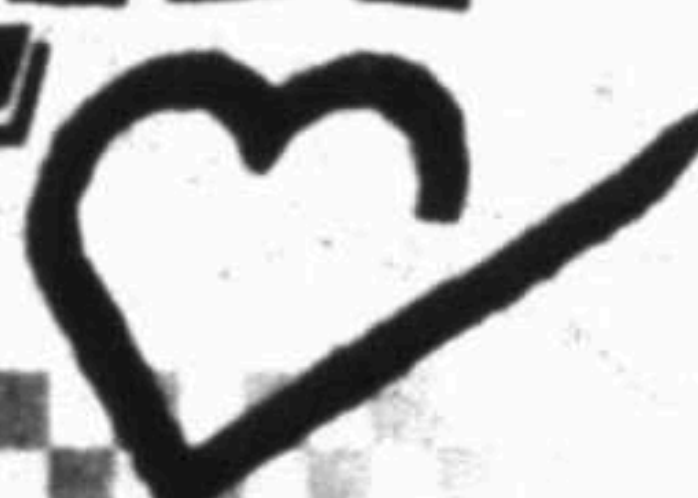
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3.69

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Any 6 Inch Sandwich,
Bowl Of Soup & Medium Drink

3.99

Any Small Salad, Bowl Of Soup &
A Medium Drink

3.99

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Applewhite or Simms?: Longhorns' quarterback controversy continues

By Jimmy Burch
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

AUSTIN — In the ongoing and oft-analyzed competition to land the starting-quarterback job at Texas, this much is a given: Chris Simms is No. 1 on the Longhorns' roster.

That became a fact during the off-season, when coaches granted Simms' request to switch numerals on his game jersey; he wore No. 8 last season. Whether the new digit coincides with the sophomore's status on the Texas depth chart at the conclusion of fall drills remains to be determined.

Simms is locked in a battle for playing time with Major Applewhite, the 1999 Big 12 Offensive Play-



er of the Year, who underwent reconstructive knee surgery in January. Texas coaches have pointed to a series of fall scrimmages as the primary platform for quarterbacks to stake their claim to the starting job for the Longhorns' Sept. 9 opener against Louisiana-Lafayette.

Heading into Wednesday's final preseason scrimmage at Royal Memorial Stadium, neither quarterback has made significant headway. Simms, in the first two scrimmages, has completed 12 of 26 passes for 206 yards and three touchdowns. He has thrown one interception. Applewhite is 13-of-30 for 216 yards and one touchdown. He has thrown one interception.

Their near-identical statistics do not surprise Texas offensive coordinator Greg Davis, who stressed that both quarterbacks will play, at least during the early stages of the season.

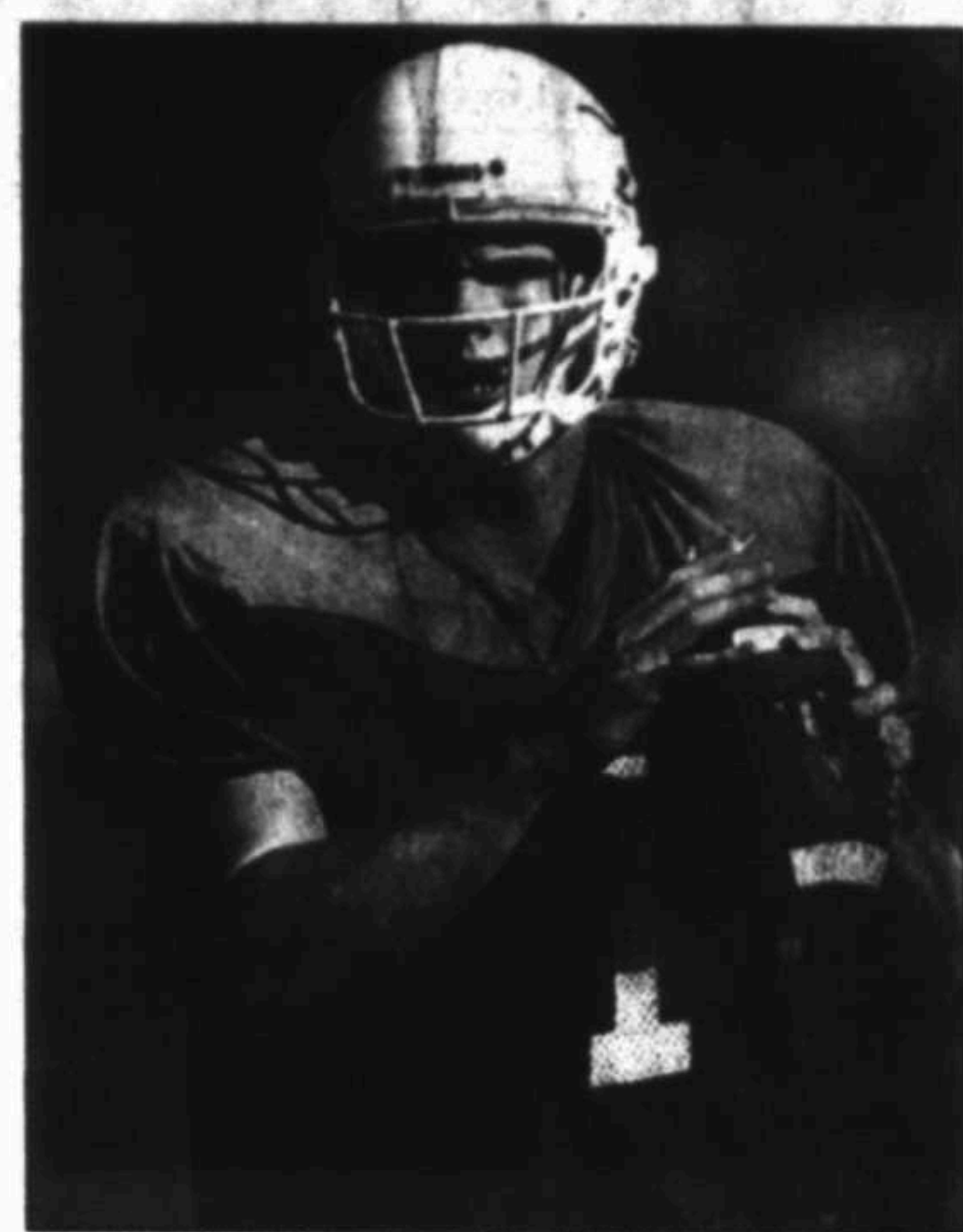
"We don't expect much separation," Davis said. "They're both extremely talented and very accurate passers. One of them is not likely to come out here and go 0-for-14 to help make things real clear-cut."

Thus far, the most clear-cut message has come from coach Mack Brown. Although Applewhite has not experienced swelling in his knee during fall drills, Brown said he will have reservations about Applewhite's health until he plays in a game with full contact.

"Major's not competing for a job or with Chris," Brown said. "He's competing with his knee. The important thing for him is just being healthy."

Because the Longhorns' quarterbacks will not be exposed to contact until the season opener, Applewhite can't convince coaches he is fully recovered until the Louisiana-Lafayette game. Davis said both

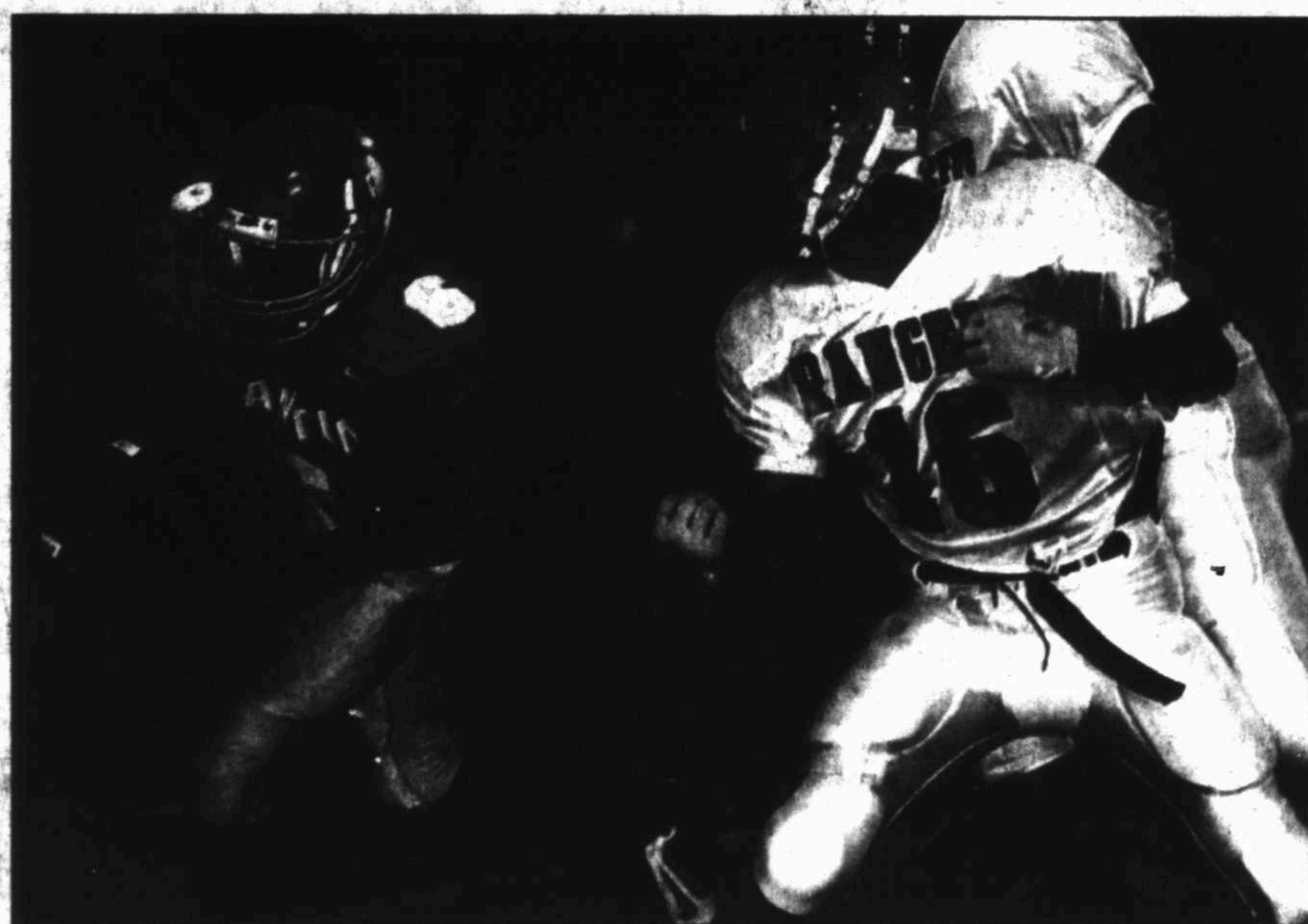
Please see TEXAS/5C



Texas' Chris Simms, a sophomore, is in the middle of a fight for the Longhorns' starting quarterback position with Major Applewhite.

FRIDAY NIGHTS HEAT UP

Very Familiar Foes



Stanton's Courtney Scurlark (6) brings in what turned out to be the winning touchdown during Stanton's 7-6 victory Greenwood last year. The Rangers and Buffaloes will again hook up Friday night in Stanton.

Stanton, Greenwood knock heads

By Oscar LeRoy
Sports Writer

STANTON — If you ask Stanton coach Mark Cotton and Greenwood coach Bob Purser about Friday's season opener for both teams, there's hesitation and concern.

Neither coach feels their team is ready to start the 2000 season when they both take the field at 8 p.m. Friday in Buffalo Stadium. But hey, this is, after all, a renewed rivalry and don't think that either of these coaches are going to start bragging about how good each team is since neither has played a regular season game.

"I don't see how anybody can be ready to play football," Purser said. "It's a week early and my biggest concern is having all the phases of the game in place. Of course, Stanton is also a concern. That is a good football team."

"I rather have another opponent," said Cotton keeping with the theme of this story. "They (Rangers) are so explosive offensively, Greenwood scares me to death. In the first scrimmage against Ozona, they scored four touchdowns with its first team, and they were all plays of 50 yards or more. Every time I looked up Justin Outlaw was scoring

Please see AREA/4C

Steers open season vs. Sweetwater

By Lee Passmore
Sports Writer

Be it by fate or design, the Big Spring football team might pick up exactly where it left off last season.

The Steers open regular season play at home Friday at 7:30 p.m. against a nondistrict opponent, only it's a team with whom the Steers are hardly unfamiliar. That's because the opponent is Sweetwater, with whom the Steers have shared a district the last several seasons.

Don't think that Sweetwater needs to be reminded of that. Each of the last two regular seasons have ended with Big Spring extending its season into the playoffs while preventing the Mustangs from doing the same.

In 1998, the Steers won a defensive struggle over Sweetwater, 10-0, giving them the outright claim to the third playoff spot in District 5-4A. Last year in Big Spring, it wasn't nearly as tense, as the Steers crushed the Mustangs 48-14 and

Snyder defeated San Angelo Lakeview to put Big Spring in the postseason.

This season, not only is Sweetwater not in the same district as Big Spring, the Mustangs aren't even in the same classification. Sweetwater was placed in Class 3A after February's UIL realignment.

"It's a two-fold deal for them," said Big Spring coach Dwight Butler of Sweetwater's motivation entering the

Please see STEER/4C

Midland puts three on Texas-El Paso's first-team defense

By Stewart Doreen
Assistant Sports Editor

The football program at the University of Texas-El Paso is riding a wave of enthusiasm not seen in the Sun City in quite a while.

Crowds are larger than ever, there are plans to build a \$9 million training room/weight room complex, and the program had its most successful season in more than a decade in 1999.

Things are changing in El Paso, and three Midland products — Camar Jackson, Weldon Cooks and Derek Walker — are a part of it.

Jackson, Cooks and Walker are not only expected to play, but start on the defensive side of the ball.

"We have a couple friends on the team we kid around with about people being on the team from the same hometown," Walker said. "They say we have this many people on the team. We say we have three from Midland starting on defense. That quiets them."

The situation at UTEP is not that much different than Texas Tech and North Texas as Midland High and Midland Lee are making their marks at Division I pro-

grams around the state.

A West Texas impact on a college football program is nothing new to UTEP defensive coordinator Larry Hoefler, a graduate of Abilene Cooper in the late 1960s and former coach at Abilene High.

"The young men from West Texas, you know they have been well-coached and know how to work during the off-season," Hoefler said. "We would like to get more. We won seven and 10 games in the late '80s (in 1987 and 1988 respectively) and the nucleus of the team was from West Texas."

Hoefler feels the three from Midland fit the mold.

Jackson, who MHS fans will remember as a talented option quarterback, is working on the other side of the ball these days as an inside linebacker.

Last year, Jackson played in all 11 games, starting eight for the Miners. Along the way, he recorded 59 tackles, six for a loss.

"We like to recruit quarterbacks or running backs out of high school, because a lot of the times, that is one of the better players on the team," Hoefler said. "He

Please see UTEP/6C

Pair of giant linemen should bring attention to Odessa High team

By Stewart Doreen
Assistant Sports Editor

With all the attention that has been given to the coaching situation on the other side of Odessa, the Odessa High football team has gone about its business in relative obscurity.

That, however, could change by the time district rolls around. There are two reasons, two very big reasons, Randy Gouard and Ben Dominguez.

Gouard tips the scales at 6-foot-3, and 350 pounds. Comparatively, Dominguez is a bit on the puny side at 6-2, 300.

"The rest of us are average (compared to Gouard and Dominguez)," Odessa High head football coach Jim Carson said.

Gouard and Dominguez will be Odessa High's starting guards, and big reasons there should be plenty of holes to run through this season.

"They are tall enough and good enough athletes that if they live up to what they should be doing, they will be Divi-

■ District 4-5A Preview

sion I prospects," Carson said. "They are big and physical, and have a year under their belt. They have to be improved if we are going to be successful."

Running behind these snowplows are Jose Porras at fullback and the tandem of Jeff Casas and Gabriel Slack at running back.

Danny Vasquez returns to quarterback the team. He is a threat to run and pass. The latter could be a good thing. Carson says the Bronchos are deeper at receiver than one year ago, but still...

"We will do some of that (throwing the ball), but we don't want to take the offensive linemen out of the game," Carson said.

Expect another solid defensive unit, which returns five starters and will be led by 1999 all-district performer Joe Muniz, a defensive tackle. Casas, James Fazenbaker and George Armendariz will be the

Please see OHS/4C

OSCAR LEROY

Chargers make John Wilkins' return a successful one

After 15 years away from the sidelines, Midland Trinity head football coach John Wilkins said it was just like riding a bike during Friday's 47-7 win over Amarillo San Jacinto. No rust, no nerves, just the feeling of excitement of getting the 2000 season underway.

"I was really calm," said Wilkins about coaching in his first regular season game since 1985. "It's something I've done many times before."

What do you expect from a man who was considered by some as "Almost God" when he led Odessa Permian to two state championships and an astonishing record of 148-16-6 in 13 seasons with Mojo? Wilkins was the man with the plan while he was wearing the black and white and now he's man with the plan wearing the blue and white.

So far so good.

Look at Friday's convincing win over an opponent which the Chargers didn't know what to expect from a team that played flag football the season before. Wilkins didn't have much of a game plan going in but his troops were ready for battle. Wilkins would-



LeRoy

n't have it any other way.

"Any win is a good win, especially not knowing what to expect from them," said Wilkins about San Jacinto, a team which the Chargers face Oct. 20 in a TAPPS District 1-3A contest. "We scored 20 points on them before they could get their suits on, if you know what I mean."

"We just kind of took their word on what they were going to do, and at least, they were honest. We responded really well and played well in almost every phase of the game. We still need to work on cutting down on penalties (nine for 95 yards)."

The penalties the Chargers had in the game didn't come from linemen running down field thinking they're receivers — a problem Wilkins had at times during spring practice and two-a-days. The penalties were called for stuff like blocking in the back and other typical mistakes that will be corrected in time. Wilkins will make sure of that.

The season opener was a good showing for a team making their first appearance in 11-man football. Last season, the Chargers were a very good six-man team in which they went on to post a 9-4 record and win the Texas Christian Athletic League championship. The Chargers didn't lose much from that state championship squad. They had players back like Nathan Pirtle, Jeessoung

Yi, Dustin Truitt, Matt Midkiff, Corey Mays and Daniel Valles returning. Surely they could put together a pretty good team from just that bunch coming back.

Still, it was hard to predict what they were going to do in 11-man. And just like their mentor, the Chargers didn't show much rust or nervousness either on Friday.

"I think that all subsided," said Wilkins about the excitement of going to 11-man football. "We've been preparing to go to 11-man since January."

Sounds like an old pro.

And it will be that old pro who will lead the Chargers into battle at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Trinity's home opener against Fort Davis.

"It's exciting to get back home," Wilkins said. "Hopefully, we'll have a good crowd. I think we're the only game in town so maybe a lot of people will come out and see us."

If the Chargers continue to pound on opponents like they did last Friday and Wilkins continues to work his Wilkins magic, I don't think there will be a problem filling seats at Coombes Field.

The Chargers in 11-man football and Wilkins under the Friday night lights, what more can you ask for?

Oscar LeRoy is a sports writer for the Reporter-Telegram.

DE Ellis picks up where he left off

By Stephen Hawkins
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Defensive end Greg Ellis gets to pick up where he left off for the Dallas Cowboys: chasing Philadelphia quarterback Donovan McNabb.



Ellis had his 1999 season ended when he broke his left leg at the end of a play after pursuing McNabb in the opening minutes of a December home game against the Eagles.

He returns to the starting lineup Sunday in the Cowboys' 2000 season opener, another home game against Philadelphia.

"I guess it's a big coincidence that the game I left in is the game I'm coming back to," Ellis said Wednesday. "To pick up where I left off, that would be good."

Before the injury, Ellis had 59 tackles and led the Cowboys with 7 1/2 quarterback sacks (which stood as the team best even after he missed the last four games) and 39 quarterback pressures. He had also scored two touchdowns, on an 87-yard interception return and a 98-yard fumble return.

His play quieted some of the critics who still lament Dallas not taking receiver Randy Moss with

the No. 8 overall pick in the 1998 draft, and instead selecting Ellis from North Carolina.

Just hours after he broke the tibia and fibula bones last Dec. 12, Ellis underwent surgery to have a titanium rod inserted into left leg. The rehabilitation, initially expected to take up to a year, took much less.

Ellis was out of the hospital in just two days and took part in training camp, though he was brought along slowly before playing the last two preseason games with no problems.

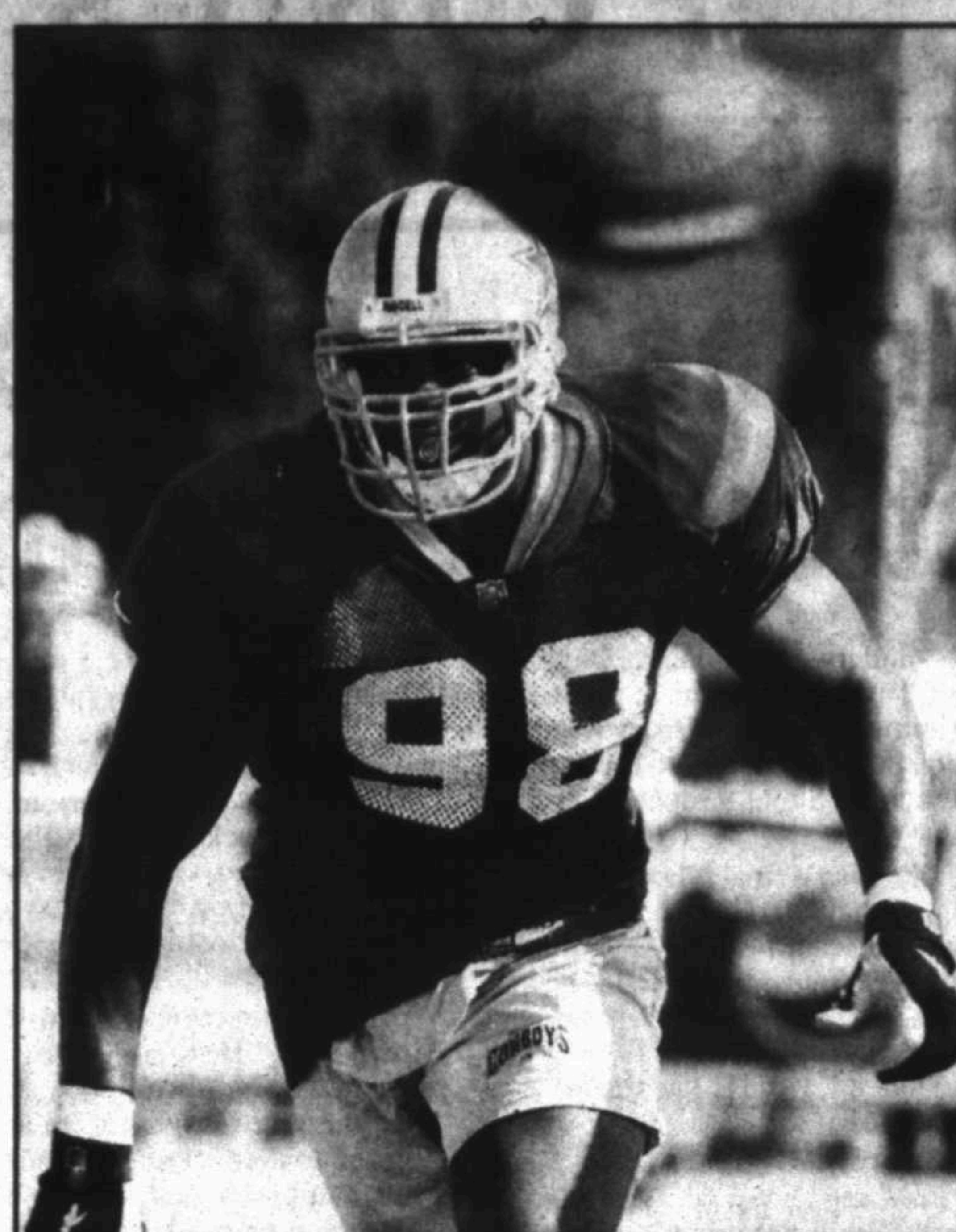
"I feel like it's just sore after I run and stuff with some sharp pains," Ellis said. "Other than that it feels good, but I think that's just me. My body has to get used to me being back on the field gain."

"After having a short preseason, I just need to get a lot of reps. That is what I have to do."

The hardest part, he admits, could be the mental recovery.

Now the regular season is beginning, things will be full speed: the action faster and the hits harder than in the preseason games. And the shift McNabb will be there again on the other side.

"One of the biggest obstacles he has to overcome is the mental aspect of just letting go. The hardest thing to get over is telling yourself in your mind that it's okay, it's fine," said Ebenezer



Dallas' Greg Ellis gets to pick up where he left off for the Dallas Cowboys: chasing Philadelphia quarterback Donovan McNabb. Ellis had his 1999 season end when he broke his left leg at the end of a play after pursuing McNabb in the opening minutes of a December home game against the Eagles.

Ekuban. "Physically it looks well, but the mind can be stronger than the body."

Ekuban knows Ellis well, having also been a defensive end from North Carolina that the Cowboys drafted in the first round in 1999. He will start at left defensive end for the Cowboys

Miller will cut back on MNF comments

Associated Press

Dennis Miller is taking it down a notch.

With ratings down and critics snapping, the comedian said Wednesday he will cut back on the number of comments he makes from the broadcast booth during "Monday Night Football" games, having realized his approach during three preseason outings was too enthusiastic.

"I think less is more," Miller said. "I watched these first three games (on tape), and noticed I might be more prone ... to go for the score (laugh) more frequently than I need to."

Miller's first regular-season telecast comes next week, when the Denver Broncos play the Super Bowl champion St. Louis Rams.

"Now that we have a real football game, and the game is afoot, and I've learned, I'm going to dial it back in 15 to 20 percent," he said. "I'll probably knock out every fifth comment, let it breathe more."

When Miller was tabbed in June by producer Don Ohlmeyer to join holdover play-by-play announcer Al Michaels and new analyst Dan Fouts in the "Monday Night Football" booth, the thinking was Miller would bring

a fresh approach.

He certainly has produced esoteric wit and random references — Mesopotamia, Linda Blair and Johnnie Cochran have all found their way into football commentary for probably the first time — but hasn't always been fluid with Fouts and Michaels.

Miller's performance has been scrutinized everywhere from NFL team offices to the Internet's "Drudge Report."

And the Nielsen ratings haven't been stellar so far.

The preseason games averaged a 7.2 rating, down 24 percent from the 9.5 last year's exhibition games drew.

In his show's defense, Ohlmeyer points out that preseason NFL ratings are down on other networks, too. He also knocked the network for putting two of this year's broadcasts on an hour early because of the political conventions.

The show's ratings decreased each of the past five seasons, from an average of 17.8 with a booth of Michaels, Dan Dierdorf and Frank Gifford in 1994, to last season's record-low for the program of 13.7 with Michaels and Boomer Esiason.

Captains take series finale from 'Hounds

Staff Report

SHREVEPORT, La. — The Shreveport Captains jumped out to an 8-0 lead after three innings, and the Midland RockHounds never recovered in an 8-2 loss on Wednesday at Fair Grounds Field.

Shreveport got two runs in the first inning off a Sean McGowan single, added two more runs in the second on a Raul Marval home run, and then put it away in the third with four runs as Cody Ransom highlighted the inning with a two-run triple.

The only offensive production from Midland came in the top of the fourth inning. Mike Lockwood extended his hit streak to 10 games with a leadoff double. After strikeouts by Jason Hart and Justin Bowles, Oscar Salazar walked and then Todd Mensik and Jacques Landry followed with back-to-back RBI singles.

Kevin Gregg (5-14) took the loss for the 'Hounds, while Luis Estrella (1-4) got the win for the Captains.

The RockHounds (68-67 for the season, 36-30 for the second half) split the series with the Cap-

tains and now head to El Paso for the final four games of the season.

NOTES: Mensik went 2-for-3 on Wednesday to continue his late season hot streak as he has gone 9-for-12 with seven RBIs in the last three games... Providing the best entertainment of the evening was Ransom, who got ejected in the bottom of the seventh after slamming his bat down in frustration of a called strike three. Oh, by the way, the game was pretty much in hand by then.

was pretty much in hand by then.

Shreveport 2, Midland 2										
Midland	AB	R	H	E	BP	IP	ER	BB	SO	
Marlinoz	4	0	1	0	0	Magder	5	2	3	1
Hart	4	1	2	0	0	Marval	2	5	1	1
Hart	1	0	1	0	0	Clark	5	1	1	0
Bowles	4	0	0	0	0	McGowan	1	1	2	2
Salazar	3	1	1	0	0	Glinndring	1	4	1	2
Mensik	3	0	2	1	0	Zuniga	3	4	1	2
Landry	3	0	1	1	0	Messner	4	0	1	0
Luderer	3	0	0	0	0	Ransom	3	4	1	2
Reed	3	0	0	0	0	Price	4	0	0	0
Totals	31	2	8	2	0	Totals	30	15	8	5
Shreveport										
AB	R	H	E	BP	IP	ER	BB	SO		
Lockwood	4	1	2	0	0	Marval	2	5	1	1
Hart	4	0	1	0	0	Clark	5	1	1	0
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Reed	3	0	0	0	0	Price	4	0	0	0
Totals	31	2	8	2	0	Totals	30	15	8	5

Sampras pounds out message

By Steve Wilstein
AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK — Pete Sampras loves to deliver a message on the first point of a match, and the one he sent to Justin Gimelstob — a 133 mph service winner up the middle — was emphatic.

It was a serve that left no doubt that Sampras was on, that there would be no upset on Wednesday night in the U.S. Open as there had been the night before when two-time champion Patrick Rafter tumbled out.

Sampras kept pounding out that message, game after game, never losing a service game, and when he served four aces in a row in the final game to his total to 13, Gimelstob was gone, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3.

"It was one of those matches where everything kind of clicked," Sampras said. "I was keyed up. You hope it carries over for the rest of the tournament, but it's pretty tough to keep that level up. But it can be done."

If he can, Gimelstob thought, nobody will beat him.

"I couldn't hang with him," Gimelstob said. "He just played much too good for me. Even when I felt like I was on the ball, it was just a little bit out of my reach. He was moving the ball around well and placing it well and obviously hitting it hard. It was pretty impressive."

Since he turned pro four years ago, the 6-foot-5 Gimelstob has carried the promise, or the hope, that he would be the next great American men's player, that he would inherit Sampras' place in the game. Now, at 23,

with nothing better than a third-round finish in major tournaments, and with no year-end ranking higher than No. 80, there is no reason to believe he will ever come close to that goal.

At 29, Sampras, four times the U.S. Open champ, is still capable of making Gimelstob look like an awkward amateur. Even with a bum leg at Wimbledon, he beat Gimelstob in four sets. The way he beat him this time only emphasized the gap between them.

Away from the antics of an abrasive tennis dad and the muttering of fans unhappy about a new statue at the National Tennis Center, Magnus Norman labored during the afternoon like a forgotten man in pursuit of the No. 1 ranking.

For all the attention Norman commanded, he could have been a qualifier searching for his first victory and a shoe contract.

Certainly, the drama lay elsewhere. There was Jelena Dokic's father, Damir, getting tossed by police from yet another tournament, this time for berating a players lounge cafeteria worker over the price and size of the salmon she served him. Bobbies kicked him out of Wimbledon in June after he went into a drunken rage, but they let him back the next day. U.S. Open officials won't be so lenient, banning him for the rest of this tournament.

There were the fans who were offended or confused by the statue in the new Arthur Ashe Commemorative Garden, a 14-foot bronze that doesn't look like Ashe, doesn't have a racket and isn't wearing any clothes.

There was the parade of popular players moving ahead smartly — Martina Hingis,

Venus Williams, Jennifer Capriati, Monica Seles among the women, Mark Philippoussis among the men.

Then there was Norman. Norman projects none of the charisma of Andre Agassi, none of the power of Sampras, and has none of the Grand Slam titles that they possess.

Yet, in the quirky way the ATP Tour rankings work, Norman could take over the top spot in the year-end race without even winning a major tournament. In fact, only Norman and Sampras are in position to pass No. 1 Gustavo Kuerten, a first-round loser, when the U.S. Open ends. Agassi could win his second major of the year and still not be No. 1.

Norman, No. 2 in the race at the moment, took his first step back toward the top spot he briefly held last spring, beating Paul Goldstein 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.

It was a sweet performance, filled with fine touch shots, long rallies, quick sprints, and a nice blend of groundstrokes and volleys. Aficionados of the sport could appreciate the way Norman and Goldstein set up points, challenged each other, and played in a way weekenders would love to emulate. It was a match that fans could relate to far more than the thunderous serving of Sampras.

For those few thousand fans who bothered to watch in mostly empty Arthur Ashe Stadium, Norman gave them a show, hustling to chase down shots and eliciting the kind of oohs and aahs that are regularly heard when a player like Agassi or Sampras or Rafter play.

For all the top players in action, it was a day of routine second-round victories.

Lofton's bat leads Indians past Rangers

Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Kenny Lofton made up for a two-base error with three hits and three RBIs as the Cleveland Indians strengthened their position in the AL wild card race with a 5-3 victory over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday night.

Dave Burba pitched six strong innings in 99-degree heat and Roberto Alomar drove in the tiebreaking run with a seventh-inning double for the Indians, who won their third straight and improved to 18-8 since Aug. 2.

Cleveland moved 1 1/2 games ahead of Boston in the wild card

AL Roundup

race. The Red Sox lost 3-1 to Tampa Bay.

Burba (12-6) allowed one run and six hits, struck out three and walked three.

Cleveland has received effective starting pitching in the first three games of the four-game series. Bartolo Colon, Steve Woodward and Burba each went at least six innings and came away with victories.

Bob Wickman pitched a perfect ninth for his eighth save.

Texas has lost five straight and 14 of 18. The Rangers took

advantage of a sixth-inning fielding lapse when Lofton misjudged Ricky Ledee's one-out line drive to center field, missing the ball for a two-base error. Rookie Pedro Valdes drove in Ledee with a single.

White Sox 8, A's 3

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Mike Sirotka pitched seven strong innings, Jose Valentin put Chicago in front with a two-run single in the seventh, as the White Sox beat the Oakland Athletics 8-3 Wednesday.

Sirotka (13-10) limited Oakland to two runs and six hits, including a solo homer by Eric Chavez in the fourth inning.

Royals 8, Twins 7

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mike Sweeney hit a three-run double off Mark Redman (12-7) to give him 121 RBIs, second most in Royals history, and Kansas City held on in 100-degree heat.

Devil Rays 3, Red Sox 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Albio Lopez allowed only four hits in eight innings as Tampa Bay beat Boston.

Orioles 5, Tigers 1

BALTIMORE — Jose Mercedes pitched a two-hitter for his first complete game since 1997 as Baltimore sent Detroit back under .500.

Mets' pitching staff shuts down Astros

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rick Reed and two relievers combined on a three-hitter to make an early run stand up, and the New York Mets beat the Houston Astros 1-0 Wednesday night to hold on to their share of the NL East lead.

New York, a major league-best 31-16 since the All-Star game, remained tied with Atlanta at 79-54. The Braves beat the Cincinnati Reds 5-2.

Chris Holt (6-13) didn't allow much. But his wildness led to a first-inning run, and it was too much for the Astros to overcome as he dropped to 0-3 in four career appearances against the Mets.

The Astros lost a 1-0 game for the first time since Aug. 23, 1996, to St. Louis.

Braves 5, Reds 2
ATLANTA — Tom Glavine pitched a three-hitter to become the NL's first 18-game winner. Andres Galarraga hit a two-run homer and Atlanta ended a four-game losing streak.

NL Roundup

Diamondbacks 7, Expos 0
MONTREAL — Randy Johnson pitched a five-hitter to win his 17th game and Steve Finley homered twice to lead Arizona.

Johnson (17-5), coming off his first no-strikeout game in 11 years, struck out 10 in his third shutout of the season.

Giants 2, Pirates 0
PITTSBURGH — Russ Ortiz won his sixth consecutive start and Barry Bonds hit his 484th career home run as San Francisco beat Pittsburgh.

Cardinals 4, Marlins 2
MIAMI — Will Clark homered in the second inning and added an RBI double in the ninth, giving St. Louis the win.

Cubs 5, Padres 1
CHICAGO — Sammy Sosa homered twice to raise his major league-leading total to 45, leading Chicago past San Diego.
Rockies 5, Phillies 4, 11
Innings

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CLEVELAND
ab r h
Lofton 5 1 3
Vazquez 4 0 1
Piazza 2 0 0
MRF 4 0 2
Segui 1 0 0
Frym 4 1 1
Thorne 3 0 1
Ward 4 1 2
JLo 4 0 0
EJ 4 0 0

Totals 38
Cleveland
Texa
E-Lofton 4
Cleveland 1, Tex
10, Texas 8: 25-2
2 (30), Frym 4
Greer (3), S-E

Cleveland
Burba 12-6
Shuey
Ransom
Kansay
Wickman 5-8
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C-Devil 5-5
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Vazquez
JRM 4-0

WHITE SOX
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MOR 4 1 0
Baines 3 0 1
CN 4 1 1
Perry 3 0 1
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ML 4 2 3

Totals 35
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Oakland
E-Vazquez
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7, 2B-Thomas
JG 4-0 (25)
Randez 2 (15)
SB-Durham (2)
JAV-Durham (2)

Chicago
Siroka W, 13-10
Wunsch
Hovry 5-6
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19,456 (43,012)

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DOR 4 0 1
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Pryme 3 0 0
Moore 4 1 1
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LOB-Minn
2B-Coomer
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Damon (35), M
(27), 3B-Rand
Cunin (19), SB

MINNESOTA
Redman 12-7
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ROYALS
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Hocking



Greenwood defenders converge on Stanton ballcarrier Will Harris last year during their non-district game. Friday, the two teams meet again. It will be the season opener for both.

AREA: Trinity has home opener

(From 1C)

a touchdown."

Greenwood's skill positions are the strength of Purser's team. Not only do the Rangers have Outlaw at receiver, but a backfield which includes tailback Brandon Audas and fullback Kevin Thornton, both of whom return from season ending injuries in 1999. At quarterback, Brandon Smith will get the start after Jeff Adams hurt his wrist in the first scrimmage of the year against Coahoma and will be held out. The biggest concern for Purser going into the first game is having the young offensive line come together.

"We just have to grow up and make some plays," Purser said. "We need to try and not beat ourselves. This is kind of like a scrimmage as we're still looking for players and looking to see who can perform under the lights."

Cotton said his team needs to perform much better than it has during scrimmages against Eldorado and Post. Although the defense has been solid, the offense has been rather average.

"We've struggled offensively and we knew we were going to take a little time to get offensively," Cotton said. "We're going to have to step it up a tremendous notch against Greenwood."

"On defense, we have to contain the big play, and offensively, we have to cut our mistakes." Sure there's concern, hesitation and many questions running through the minds of both of these football coaches. But either way you look at it, Greenwood vs. Stanton is the perfect way to start the 2000 season.

Midland Christian heads to Wall

It only gets tougher for the Midland Christian Mustangs from here on out.

The Mustangs (1-0) are coming off a convincing 52-0 win over Garland Christian last week and starting at 8 p.m. Friday in Wall, the opponents are only getting tougher. After this week, the Mustangs embark in a murderer's row, so to speak, with games against Seagraves, Kermit, Austin Hyde Park, Stanton and Reagan County before getting into the tough TAPPS District 1-4A portion of their schedule.

OHS: Big boys lead Broncs

(From 1C)

linebackers, while three starters return in the secondary.

"Our defense could be improved from last year," Carson said. If they make it through the non-district schedule with their health, they can't be too bad.

To say that Carson upgraded his non-district schedule this season would not be giving him enough credit. With one exception, gone are the El Paso fill-in-the-blanks, replaced by Dallas Skyline and Copperas Cove. Lubbock Coronado remains as a non-district foe.

"We needed to be where we were playing (at a high level) every week," said Carson, a former coach at El Paso Socorro. The thought is that the schedule will prepare OHS for the battles of 4-5A better than last year, when the Bronchos went 4-1 in non-district and 1-4 in district.

"We have to quit shooting ourselves in the foot with giveaways and penalties that are not smart and shouldn't happen," Carson said. If they can do what Carson says,

Against Garland Christian, Midland Christian dominated in every phase of a game that wasn't much of a fight.

"I thought our team played well for the first game of the season," said Midland Christian coach Greg McClendon, who added that much of the success on Friday

was due to the work of the offensive line which has come together very quickly. "The offensive line has gone from being the biggest question mark of our football team to a strength."

MCS travels to face a Wall team which was 3-6 last year but has plenty of size returning up front.

"They run the wishbone and they're a big team," said McClendon about the Hawks. "They have one guy (lineman Kevin Schniers) that's 6-4, 240 and several other guys who are about 5-10, 235. They're a power offense and they also run the option well."

McClendon said that the Hawks defeated Reagan County, 3-1, in a scrimmage and takes that as a sign that Wall should be a challenge. What may give the Mustangs the edge should be their offensive versatility. Against Garland Christian, the Mustangs rushed for 322 yards and passed for 201 more.

The Mustangs were also solid on defense as they held Garland Christian to just nine yards of total offense which included a minus-6 in rushing yards.

Against the Hawks, the Mustangs would like a repeat performance on both sides of the ball.

Chargers have home opener

After a convincing 47-7 trouncing of Amarillo San Jacinto in last week's season opener, the Midland Trinity Chargers (1-0) come home to host Fort Davis in what may be their first big test of the season.

"Their numbers are about the same as ours," said Trinity coach John Wilkins about the Indians, who will visit Coombes Field at 7:30 p.m. Friday. "I know their quarterback (Erik Hernandez) has been hurt but from what we've heard, he'll be ready to play this week. He was a starter last year and second-team all-district."

Carson's Crew

Odessa High

Coach: Jim Carson.
1999 Record: 5-5
1999 district finish: tied for fifth.

Returning Starters: Seven on offense, six on defense.

Key Returners: OG Randy Gouard, OG Ben Dominguez, QB Danny Vasquez, LB Jeff Casas, DL Joe Muniz, DB Ivan Hernandez.

Non-district Schedule: Sept. 1, vs. Dallas Skyline; Sept. 8, at San Angelo Central; Sept. 15, vs. Lubbock Coronado; Sept. 22, at Copperas Cove; Sept. 29, vs. El Paso Coronado.

Biggest Game: Versus Odessa Permian on Nov. 10. Odessa High will make the playoffs if... "If we play every Friday night, we have a chance," Carson said.

don't be surprised if OHS is in the mix for playoff spots. Last year, OHS did put a beating on Cooper, one of 4-5A's three playoff teams. "If we play every Friday night in 4-5A, we have chance," Carson said.

The Indians base their offense out of the Wing-T, similar to the one the Chargers run so there won't be many surprises. Wilkins said the Indians' defense is way ahead of their offense and that should be Fort Davis' strongpoint.

A key for the Chargers will be taking control of the game early just like they did against San Jacinto when they scored the first 20 points of the contest. The Chargers were called for 95 yards in penalties but racked up 435 total yards (348 rushing, 87 passing) of offense.

"There are some things we need to improve, but overall, with most phases of the game," Wilkins said.

Friday will also mark the home coaching debut of Wilkins, who returned to coaching after 15 years away from the sidelines. The man who led Permian to two state championships said he isn't nervous just excited to play at home. "I'm looking forward to it, much like our fans are," he said.

STEER: Andrews hosts Monterey

(From 1C)

season opener. "They're trying to avenge the loss from last year and they also want to prove to us that they're not a bunch of 3A punks. They're still a 4A ball club to us."

Yet, Sweetwater will look significantly different this season. The Mustangs lost top runner Willie Amos to graduation, and he's now at Nebraska. Furthermore, Sweetwater returns only two starters on offense and three on defense.

Big Spring, meanwhile, returns at least a little experience on practically every unit on both sides of the ball. After a pair of scrimmages, including a very controlled outing against two-time defending state 5A champion Midland Lee, the Steers will finally get a chance to see what they can do in a real live game.

"I think we're pretty well prepared," said Butler. "We've had good workouts. The only thing that's beaten us so far is the heat."

Fortunately for everyone involved, most high school games are played at night so the West Texas heat won't be that much of a factor. That should be a relief for several Big Spring players who might be counted on to play both ways.

Senior Jason Woodruff, an all-

district pick at defensive end last season, will carry the load this year as a tailback, and his spot on defense will be taken by Jesse Marquez. Senior Jason Choate, on the other hand, not only will reassume duties at free safety, but will be the team's starting quarterback, the only two-way starter on the squad.

"At quarterback you might be handing the ball off a lot and at free safety you play away from the ball, so you aren't going to be involved in as many plays where there's punishing contact," said Butler of starting Choate both ways.

Butler wants to avoid playing linemen both ways due to the punishment they take from play to play. He's got enough concerns about the offensive line, which returns only one starter from last season.

"We feel like the offensive line is starting to come around, they just need more time together," said Butler. "It's still nowhere close to perfect, but we're getting closer."

Andrews faces tough opener

Andrews will be joining Big Spring in the move into a tough District 4-4A, which, thanks to realignment, will feature five playoff teams from last season. In anticipation of that, the Mustangs are taking a step up in class to open their season, hosting Lubbock Monterey, a 5A playoff team last season, Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Coach Mike Lebby doesn't plan on having his team coast into district play, and figures facing a team with Monterey's credentials is just the tonic for his Mustangs. "We've got to play good people so we're ready to go in dis-

trict play," said Lebby. "They've got a great football team and it'll be quite a test for us."

The Plainsmen will provide quite a challenge for the Andrews defense with its triple option attack. They return quarterback Nathan Nash, running back Dwayne Davis, wide receiver Heston King and three linemen.

If nothing else, Lebby thinks this will be a good learning experience for his defense.

"We've got to play good assignment football as far as covering the dive, the option and the pitch," said Lebby.

On their side of the ball, the Mustangs will be starting an untested quarterback in sophomore Ryan Newbrough, who won the job competing against junior Brady Haygood. This is merely the first of three tests for Newbrough and the rest of the team before the Mustangs host Big Spring Sept. 29.

"He's got to get as much experience as he can to be ready for district," said Lebby of Newbrough. "We need to see where we're at as far as making mistakes. In the next three weeks, if we get it down to where we don't worry about that many mistakes, we'll be in good shape."



Woodruff



Newbrough

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Nebraska readies for another shot at No. 1

By Doug Alden
AP Sports Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska is once again aiming for the top — and starting out there as well. The rebuilding from a disappointing 1998 season was completed last fall with a 12-1 record, leaving the Cornhuskers with little room for improvement.

"Going 12-1 was a great season, but we didn't finish it off the way we'd like to finish it off," senior linebacker Carlos Polk said.

The Huskers feel they have the chance to do it this season, which they open as No. 1 in the AP Top 25.

Nebraska hasn't won a national title since sharing the unofficial honor with Michigan in 1997.

Hopes for another championship resurfaced quickly last fall when the Huskers once again dominated. A 24-20 loss at Texas in late October was the lone blemish on the season, costing Nebraska a shot at the title. The Huskers ended up finishing No. 3 in the final AP Top 25 and second in the USA Today/ESPN coaches poll.

Only last season's Florida State team started the season No. 1 and ended in the same position. The Huskers want to be the second team to go wire-to-wire.

Coach Frank Solich, in his third season since taking over for Tom Osborne, is a little reluctant to accept the preseason No. 1 ranking. He says his vote goes to Florida State, which like Nebraska has 14 players back from last fall. Solich said the Seminoles deserved the chance at going wire-to-wire again.

"But I can understand why also people can look at Nebraska and feel like it can be and should be an outstanding football team," Solich said.

A big reason for Solich's optimism and that of Husker fans is the return of Crouch, who says he is completely recovered from offseason surgery on his throwing shoulder.

Crouch is one of nine starters back on offense, which was already deep. Crouch lost a preseason battle with Bobby Newcombe for the starting job last August, but Newcombe moved to wingback after the offense sputtered through the first two games.

The Huskers' option offense clicked when Crouch took over and he ended up leading the team

Nebraska Notes

Some facts about the 2000 Nebraska Cornhuskers:
SCHOOL COLORS: Scarlet and cream
FOUNDED: 1889
ENROLLMENT: 25,000
LOCATED: Lincoln, Neb.
COACH: Frank Solich, third year (21-5 overall and at Nebraska)

1999 RECORD: 12-1 (8-1 in Big 12; first in North Div.)
LAST BOWL APPEARANCE: Fiesta Bowl after 1999 season, beat Tennessee 31-21
STADIUM: Memorial Stadium (74,056)

RETURNING STARTERS: 9 offensive, 5 defensive, kicker, punter

KEY PLAYERS: QB Eric Crouch, Jr.; RB Bobby Newcomb, Jr.; RB Dan Alexander, Jr.; RB Correll Buckhalter, Jr.; TE Tracey Wetstrom, Jr.; C Dominic Raiola, Jr.; LB Carlos Polk, Jr.; DE Kyle Vanden Bosch, Jr.; DB Keyuo Cravens, Jr.; DB Dion Booker, Jr.; DB Clint Finley, Jr.

KEY RECRUITS: RB Thunder Collins, East Los Angeles College, Los Angeles; FB Steve Kriewald, North Lough HS, Scotia, N.Y.; LB T.J. Hollowell, Copperas Cove (TX) HS; LB Jason Richenberger, Liberty (MO) HS; DB Willie Amos, Sweetwater (TX) HS

KEY DEPARTURES: DB Mike Brown, DB Ralph Brown, DL Steve Warren, LB Eric Johnson, LB Julius Jackson, OL Adam Julich

COACHESPEAK: "We appreciate the fact that enough people think so highly of our program to put us at No. 1. We finished very strongly at the end of last year and felt we could play with anyone in the country. How it all plays out this year, we'll see."

2000 SCHEDULE:
Sep. 2 San Jose St.
Sep. 9 at Notre Dame
Sep. 23 Iowa
Sep. 30 Missouri
Oct. 7 at Iowa St.
Oct. 14 at Texas Tech
Oct. 21 Baylor
Oct. 28 at Oklahoma
Nov. 4 Kansas
Nov. 11 at Kansas St.
Nov. 24 Colorado

with 889 rushing yards and 16 touchdowns. Crouch also passed for 1,269 yards and was named the co-offensive player of the year in the Big 12.

Three starters are back from last season's offensive line, which helped Nebraska lead the Big 12 and rank fourth national-

ly with 266 rushing yards a game. And the Husker linemen have a very deep backfield behind them.

Even though he didn't play last season, junior college transfer Thunder Collins is expected to challenge Dan Alexander, Correll Buckhalter and Darrann Diedrick for playing time. And Solich has a stockpile of young talent behind them.

Whoever can hang on to the ball may be getting the most carries. Nebraska fumbled a school record 49 times and gave up 25 of them, tying the school mark.

"As a former running back I think we've examined it from about all angles," said Solich, a fullback for the Huskers in the 1960s. "Maddening might be the right word. It was about as frustrating as it could get because everybody was doing their best to take care of the ball."

Defensively, the Huskers have some rebuilding to do. Longtime defensive coordinator Charlie McBride retired after Nebraska's 31-21 win over Tennessee in the Fiesta Bowl. He was replaced by linebackers coach Craig Bohl.

The Huskers will also miss Mike and Ralph Brown, the unrelated defensive backs who anchored the secondary for the past four seasons.

The secondary will shuffle safety Clint Finley or Joe Walker to replace Mike Brown, a first-team All-American, at rover. Junior Erwin Swiney, who missed last season as a medical redshirt, takes over at right cornerback for Ralph Brown, who started every game during his four years in Lincoln.

Linebacker is the biggest hole going into the season. The top four outside backers last fall are all gone and middle linebacker Polk is the only returning starter.

The defensive line is solid with starting end Kyle Vanden Bosch and tackle Loran Kaiser back for their senior season.

The Huskers are also strong on special teams. Punter Dan Hadenfeldt was granted an extra year of eligibility because he missed much of the 1996 season with a back injury. When he finally got a chance to start last fall, Hadenfeldt set a school record last fall by averaging 44.9 yards per punt.

Sophomore place kicker Josh Brown returns after hitting 14-of-20 field goals and 46-of-47 extra point attempts.



Nebraska's national championship hopes are resting on a surgically repaired shoulder and quick pair of legs. And quarterback Eric Crouch knows it. The preseason No. 1 ranking, early Heisman Trophy hype and being one of the most popular figures in his home state haven't changed the junior from Omaha, so far.

Take the Spartans and 50 versus No. 1 Cornhuskers

By Richard Rosenblatt
AP Football Writer

It's rout week.

The college football season swings into high gear this week-end, and it looks like there are plenty of creampuffs to go around for the Top 25 teams.

Seven of the 19 games involving teams in the AP poll have point spreads of 30 points or higher, topped by No. 1 Nebraska giving 50 points to San Jose State.

Three games don't even have point spreads because the Vegas bookies ignore I-A teams going against lower-division I-AA teams. No. 5 Miami plays McNeese State, No. 10 Georgia plays Georgia Southern and No. 17 Clemson plays The Citadel.

But if you're looking for a winner, we'll let the dogs out: History says you can't miss with the Spartans plus 50.

Four times in the 1990s, the powerful Cornhuskers were favored by 50 or more at home, and four times they failed to cover. On one occasion, they were favored by 49 1/2 — and didn't cover.

The rundown:
— 1994: Nebraska 70, Pacific 21 (Huskers favored by 50 1/2)
— 1995: Nebraska 49, Pacific 7 (Huskers favored by 53)
— 1996: Nebraska 51, Missouri 7 (Huskers favored by 50)
— 1997: Nebraska 59, Akron 14 (Huskers favored by 58)

And, Nebraska 31, Oregon 7 in 1990 (Huskers favored by 49 1/2).
"It's the 10-star play of the year," joked Ron Sataloff, president/editor of World Features Syndicate, which sets pointspreads on sporting events.

As Frank Solich starts his third season as Nebraska's coach, the Huskers are hoping to duplicate Florida State's wire-to-wire run to the national title in '99.

Eric Crouch returns from a 12-1 season in which he threw for 1,269 yards and seven TDs, and ran for 889 yards and 16 TDs. In

College Picks

all, nine starters are back on offense, and the defense is led by linebacker Carlos Polk.

San Jose State, meanwhile, went 3-7 — the SMU game was canceled because of a power failure at the stadium — in '99 under coach Dave Baldwin. The Spartans' claim to fame was a 44-39 win over Stanford, the Pac-10 champions.

The Spartans' best player is running back/return man Deonce Whitaker, who is just 5-foot-6 and 185 pounds. He averaged 9.2 yards every time he touched the ball last season.

The Cornhuskers are looking for a blowout.

"I don't think we look at it as they turn into blowouts," Huskers guard Russ Hochstein said. "We look at it as we want to blow them out. If it turns into a blowout, that's fine with me."

The picks: **San Jose State (plus 50) at No. 1 Nebraska** 5-6 RB Deonce Whitaker vs. Blackshirts? Ouch. ... NEBRASKA, 52-7.

No. 3 Alabama (minus 6) at UCLA Bruins lying in wait for 'Bama's first visit to Rose Bowl since '46. ... UCLA, 28-24.

Western Michigan (plus 32 1/2) at No. 4 Wisconsin (Thursday) Badgers open post-Dayne era with a runaway. ... WISCONSIN, 41-7.

McNeese State (no line) at No. 5 Miami (Thursday) Canes QB Ken Dorsey gets his season off to a flying start. ... MIAMI, 49-0.

Bowling Green (plus 31) at No. 6 Michigan Wolverines can live without injured QB Drew Henson for now. ... MICHIGAN, 38-10.

Louisiana Tech (plus 27 1/2) at No. 8 Kansas State Wildcats can live without injured RB David Allen for now. ... KANSAS STATE, 42-13.

Ball State (plus 45) at No. 9 Florida Gators chomp on first of two 0-11 teams on their schedule. ... FLORIDA, 55-6.

Georgia Southern (no line) at No. 10 Georgia I-AA champs step up in class ... and get hammered. ... GEORGIA, 41-13.

Akron (plus 31) at No. 11 Virginia Tech Michael Vick's Heisman run begins — on a dry field. ... VIRGINIA TECH, 45-7.

No. 22 Southern Mississippi (plus 11 1/2) at No. 13 Tennessee May not be best of times for Vols. ... SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI, 28-27.

Idaho (plus 22 1/2) at No. 14 Washington Huskies have 28-game unbeaten streak vs. Vandals. ... WASHINGTON, 41-14.

Central Michigan (plus 38) at No. 15 Purdue With so much Vick hype, let's not forget about Drew Brees. ... PURDUE, 42-14.

Fresno State (plus 18 1/2) at No. 16 Ohio State Buckeyes begin healing process of last year's 6-6 season. ... OHIO STATE, 45-20.

The Citadel (no line) at No. 17 Clemson Tigers are 35-0 at home vs. Southern Conference teams. ... CLEMSON, 41-6.

Tulane (plus 20) at No. 18 Mississippi Can't wait to watch RB Deuce McAllister. ... MISSISSIPPI, 33-10.

UTEP (plus 26) at No. 19 Oklahoma Sooners have a defense to go with their offense. ... OKLAHOMA, 42-14.

Middle Tennessee (plus 34) at No. 21 Illinois Illini favored by five TDs? Amazing. ... ILLINOIS, 41-13.

No. 23 Colorado (minus 4 1/2) vs. Colorado State (at Denver) Buffs remember 27-point loss to Rams in '99. ... COLORADO, 31-17.

No. 25 Texas A&M (plus 2 1/2) at Notre Dame Do or die season for Irish coach Bob Davie? ... NOTRE DAME, 31-27.

Last week: 3-0 (straight); 2-1 (vs. points).

SMU hopes new home, Ford Stadium, becomes perfect fit

By Jaime Aron
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — When the Southern Methodist football program came off the death penalty in 1989, the Mustangs played their home games at O'wby Stadium. They left six years later because the on-campus facility was just too small.

They went to the Cotton Bowl, SMU's home in the days of Doak Walker and Don Meredith. Problem was, the Mustangs no longer had those kind of drawing cards. For their current fan base, the 68,252-seat stadium was just too big.

So, this season, SMU is on the move again, this time to a place that should be just right.

On Saturday, SMU will unveil Gerald J. Ford Stadium, a \$56.8 million facility built on the site of O'wby. It holds 32,000 fans, plus however many can squeeze onto a grass slope beyond the south end zone. That area eventually could be turned into 13,000 permanent seats.

"We needed a home, and now we have one," coach Mike Cavan said. "It is a great facility that our fans will love, but we need to win to keep bringing them back."

Thanks to the stadium — which is named not after the former president but after an alum who donated \$20 million to the project — SMU is close to selling out its opener against Kansas.

The school's last sellout was Nov. 3, 1990, when 23,783 fans filled O'wby for a game against Texas A&M. The Mustangs drew 51,019 to the Cotton Bowl for last season's opener against Arkansas, then a total of just 47,108 over their other four home games.

There won't be that kind of dropoff this season. Season-ticket sales are up several fold, surpassing 10,000 for only the second time in school history. All 539 club-level seats and 24 suites are sold out.

"We have been pleasantly overwhelmed by the level of anticipation generated by Ford Stadium,"

athletic director Jim Copeland said.

The stadium, which has a state-of-the-art grass field, was designed by Ellerbe Becket, a firm that has done 12 NBA and/or NHL arenas, refurbished Notre Dame Stadium and is creating the new home for the Seattle Seahawks.

Designers did a great job of blending Ford with the surrounding campus. It has the look of a building that's been around several decades, not one that went under construction 22 months ago.

Another nice touch was keeping the stadium's height around 40 feet. That keeps it about as tall as other nearby buildings and it prevents the stadium from towering over the homes across Mockingbird Lane.

"Our primary objective was to make sure we're a good neighbor," said Douglas Beichley, the senior project architect. "It fits the campus character and the neighborhood nearby."

To do so, the field was sunk 25 feet below ground. Fans will enter at the middle of the stadium and see half the seating bowl below them and half above. This is Ford's distinguishing characteristic.

"It really helps keep the sound in the stadium," Beichley said. "And it creates an intimate feel. The home-field advantage can be huge."

Another interesting aspect is the seats: 24 rows of red bleachers below the entry level and 24 rows of blue bleachers above. All rows have backs. Why not individual chairs? Southern Bleacher Company was a major donor.

Advertising, though, is minimal. A neighborhood restriction prevents any signs from being visible from the street. The only exception is on the scoreboard. The scoreboard itself is rather plain, lacking any bells and whistles.

SMU also was conservative with its suites, the cash cow behind most stadium plans. The design allows for 12 more suites to be added during any offseason, Beichley said.

TEXAS: Simms switches jersey number

(From 1C)

quarterbacks will play in that contest. When and how much is yet to be determined.

The only certainty, said Davis, is there will be no preordained appearance schedule. If a quarterback leads scoring drives on consecutive possessions to open a game, said Davis, that player is staying in as long as he has the hot hand.

"We are telling them we plan on playing both, but we're not going to script anything that we can't follow through on," Davis

said. "How that works itself out will be determined."

Both quarterbacks expressed satisfaction with a shared-duty situation for the short term. But both players predicted coaches would settle on an established starter by mid-September.

"I see two guys starting off the season. But, eventually, I think there will probably be one person," Applewhite said.

Asked if he expected coaches to settle on a single starter before Big 12 play begins Sept. 30 against Oklahoma State, Simms said: "I would think so. Coach

Brown has got a great sense for the aura of the team and the right timing for everything. I trust him with that."

Thus far, Brown said the timing hasn't been right to settle the No. 1 issue on the minds of Longhorns' fans. But there is a new No. 1 on the Texas roster, a switch Simms made because he thought the digit looked better on his 6-foot-5, 222-pound frame than the No. 8 he wore last season.

Soon, Texas fans will learn if Simms emerges as No. 1 on the depth chart as well.

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UNT still faces difficult period

By Stephen Hawkins
AP Sports Writer

DENTON — When Darrell Dickey changed the way things were being done at North Texas, he knew there would be some difficult times.

Going into his third season, the coach also knows the difficulties aren't yet behind the Mean Green.

There is a depth chart loaded with freshmen and sophomores, no definite No. 1 at quarterback and a pre-Big West Conference schedule that includes Texas Tech and eighth-ranked Kansas State.

"We are not looking past this year, but for us to have a winning season, things have to go just right for us," Dickey said. "We have to win close games, have an upset or two and stay injury-free."

Things haven't been easy for North Texas since moving up to Division I-A in 1996. The Mean Green has since won just 14 games, only two last year.

The growing pains were expanded when Dickey took over before the 1998 season with a plan to rebuild the foundation with high school players, bucking the previous trend of relying heavily on junior college recruits.

"With as many high school players as there are in the state of Texas, we want to try to build a program based on Texas kids," Dickey said. "That means it will take four or five years."

That also means some few upperclassmen during this part of the transition. There are only 12 scholarship seniors at North Texas this year, and even fewer juniors.

One of the seniors, however, is Ja'Quay Wilburn, who is already the school's career rushing leader with 2,364 yards. Last year, Wilburn ran for 1,016 yards and accounted for 39 percent of the Mean Green's total offense.

For Wilburn to have similar success this season, North Texas has to find a consistent quarterback.

Junior Richard Bridges is listed at No. 1 after starting the last six games in 1999. Sophomore Spencer Stack and redshirt fresh-

Mean Green Mentionables

Some facts about the 2000 North Texas Eagles:

SCHOOL COLORS: Green and White
FOUNDED: 1890
ENROLLMENT: 26,493
LOCATED: Denton
COACH: Darrell Dickey, third year (5-17 overall and at North Texas)

1999 RECORD: 2-9 (1-5 in Big West, 7th)

LAST POSTSEASON APPEARANCE: 1994 Div I-AA playoffs, lost 24-20 to Boise State

LAST BOWL GAME: Sun Bowl after 1959 season, lost 28-6 to New Mexico St.

STADIUM: Fouts Field (30,500)

RETURNING STARTERS: 7 offensive, 5 defensive, kicker

KEY PLAYERS: RB Ja'Quay Wilburn, sr.; WR LaDarrin McLane, sr.; TE Jeff Muenchow, so.; OG Andy Lott, sr.; Josh Kay, sr.; CB Lawrence Ellis, sr.; LB Brad Kassell, jr.; S Heath Moody, sr.; LB Fred Pertile, sr.; LB Jeff Rodgers, sr.; K Jason Ball, so.

KEY RECRUITS: DL Brandon Kennedy, Terrell (TX) HS; TE/DL Randy Gardner, Midland (TX) HS; QB/DB Scott Hall, Clemens HS; Schertz, TX; DE Chris Ridgeway, Clear Brook HS, Houston.

KEY DEPARTURES: WR Broderick McGrew, S Ramone Archie, CB Kendrick Sapp, CB Detrick Woodson

COACHSPEAK: "We have good players here now, just not enough of them. ... For us realistically to have a winning season, things have to go right for us. ... The misconception about us is that we only run the ball."

2000 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	Baylor
Sep. 9	at Texas Tech
Sep. 16	at UNLV
Sep. 23	at Kansas St.
Oct. 5	Samford
Oct. 14	Utah St.
Oct. 21	at Boise St.
Oct. 28	at La-Lafayette
Nov. 4	Idaho
Nov. 11	at Arkansas St.
Nov. 18	New Mexico St.

man Jeremy Pearl also will have to compete for the job.

In his first start, Bridges led the Mean Green to a 17-10 victory over Boise State, the Big West champ that didn't lose another



Brian Adamcik/Reporter-Telegram
Luke Conder, a former Midland High standout, is one of the younger players North Texas needs to have an impact this season. Conder, a red-shirt freshman, will play defensive end.

conference game. Then came five straight losses.

Stack got some playing time in the last three games, completing 19-of-35 passes for 294 yards and two touchdowns.

A solid passing game is necessary for Wilburn to remain effective.

"We don't need to throw more, but when we do throw we have to throw better," Dickey said. "We have to do something to take the pressure off of our running game."

There is a lack of depth at receiver, where converted quarterback LaDarrin McLane is the top returner. He was second on the team last season with 21 catches for just 197 yards.

Gone is Broderick McGrew, who had 32 catches for 601 yards and five TDs.

Senior guard Josh Kay didn't miss an offensive snap last season, playing all 11 games after transferring from Oklahoma State. He is one of three returning starters up front.

On the defensive line, North Texas has to replace all four

starters. But the linebacker corps is solid.

Junior linebacker Brad Kassell led the Mean Green with 112 tackles last year, including 47 in a four-game stretch. Kassell and a trio of seniors — Fred Pertile, Jeff Rodgers and Cory Pertile — have combined to start 65 games and make 619 tackles the last three years.

Senior Heath Moody, who was second to Kassell with 91 tackles last season, returns at safety.

While there may be a lack of experience and high expectations, the Mean Green has made some progress, such as beating Texas Tech and Boise State last season.

"Those two games showed we are capable on any given day of winning against a good football team," Dickey said.

"With the exception of about three games, we've gone in the fourth quarter within striking distance. Other people with more numbers have worn us down. Our next step is finishing games."

And surviving another tough season.

More Sports/2D

Rice pins hopes on freshman QB

By Michael A. Lutz
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Some coaches might panic at the thought of going into a season with a freshman quarterback and games in the first month against Top 25 teams Michigan and Oklahoma.

Rice coach Ken Hatfield insists he isn't one of them, even though he plans to have talented redshirt freshman Jeremy Hurd pulling the trigger on the Owls' run-oriented spread option offense that starts with the quarterback's snap decisions.

"Scary?" Hatfield said. "Not really."

"In our case the good thing is we have most of the supporting cast back. That enables you to do that (start a freshman) a lot better."

"Most of all, our backs work so well together so I think adding the minimum amount of new stuff gives Jeremy a chance."

Fullback Jamie Tyler and halfback LeRoy Bradley are returning starters in the backfield, but Hatfield must replace six offensive starters.

Even though he lacks for college experience, Hurd is no stranger to the option offense. He led Duncanville to the 1998 Texas Class 5-A Division 1 championship with the wishbone offense.

"Everybody is bigger and faster in college and the game is a lot faster," Hurd said. "It will be difficult but a lot of the plays we ran in high school were exactly the same. So I've got that working in my favor."

Hurd also got most of the snaps in spring drills, even serving as quarterback for both teams in the final spring game because reserve quarterbacks Corey Evans and

Kyle Herm were sidelined with injuries.

"We told him 'we're going to until you wear out and then we're going to stop.' He took water breaks but he played the whole game," Hatfield said.

Evans, who has recovered from knee surgery, and Herm will provide quarterback backup.

"I think all three are going to be excellent quarterbacks," Hatfield said.

"You need to do it in games and see where they are at, but I have all the confidence in the world in them."

Rod Beavan, Aaron Sandoval and Heath Fowler return on the offensive front.

"There's a definite urgency to this year," Beavan said. "Working out this summer I realized it's my last go-round. I'm doing all I can and I hope the team is too."

A 5-6 record last season wasn't what the Owls had expected. They once again fell short of their goal for a Western Athletic Conference championship.

"I don't think we want to erase last year. We want to keep it in our minds and hope to keep it from happening again," Beavan said.

The Owls have eight defensive starters back, and three lettermen step into the gaps — tackle Larry Brown, linebacker Rashard Pittman and cornerback Kenny Smith.

Free safety Jason Hebert, a returning starter, expects the Owls defense to get the season started on a positive note.

"I've been with these guys so long, we all know what the other one is going to do," Hebert said. "Defense was our strong point last year and I know we're going to be strong again this year and the offense is coming along too."

Rice Review

Some facts about the 2000 Rice Owls

SCHOOL COLORS: Blue and Gray

FOUNDED: 1912

ENROLLMENT: 2,743

LOCATED: Houston

COACH: Ken Hatfield, 7th season, 22nd year overall (31-34-1 at Rice, 142-96-4 overall)

1999 RECORD: 5-6 (4-3, fourth in WAC)

LAST BOWL APPEARANCE: Bluebonnet Bowl after 1961 season, lost to Kansas 33-7

STADIUM: Rice Stadium (70,000)

RETURNING STARTERS: 5 offensive, 8 defensive, punter, kicker

KEY PLAYERS: QB Jeremy Hurd, fr.; FB Jamie Tyler, jr.; OT Rod Beavan, sr.; SS Travis Ortega, sr.; LB Dan Dawson, jr.

KEY DEPARTURES: QB had Richardson, RB Mike Gingrich, DT Judd Smith, OG Neal Gray, G Matt Baldwin

COACHSPEAK: "I think all three (Rice quarterbacks) will have an opportunity to make plays and contribute. We run more risk of injury than other teams. Our quarterbacks run more and get hit more so they tend to get hurt more. We've been lucky the last two years, not getting a quarterback hurt."

2000 SCHEDULE

Sep. 2	Houston
Sep. 9	at Michigan
Sep. 16	Tulsa
Sep. 23	at Oklahoma
Sep. 30	at San Jose St.
Oct. 5	Fresno State
Oct. 12	Hawaii
Oct. 19	at TCU
Oct. 26	SMU
Nov. 3	at UTEP
Nov. 10	at Nevada

Cougars' new coach has more than passing interest in offense

By Michael A. Lutz
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — New coach Dana Dimel has more than a passing interest in the University of Houston's offense. He expects the Cougars to be productive running the ball as well.

Even though Dimel plans more passing and the Cougars have lost 2,000 yards of offensive production with the departure of running backs Ketric Sanford and Mike Green, Dimel has no plans to abandon the running game.

"Passing is a marketing thing, because really you have to run to win and play great defense," Dimel said. "Those are the things that count when all the glitz and glamor wears off and we get down to trying to win football games."

Getting more balance between pass and run is good news for senior quarterback Jason McKinley, whose role as a passer diminished last season as he spent most of the time handing off the gifted running duo.

"I'm really excited, I love the new offense," McKinley said. "Everyone is excited. We had the best offseason and the best summer workouts since I've been here. I expect us to spread out the offense. The first time I talked to coach Dimel he told me to get ready to throw the ball."

The Cougars rode Sanford and Green to a 7-4 record last season but it wasn't enough to get a bowl invitation or save coach Kim Helton's job. Dimel left Wyoming after three successful seasons with the Cowboys.

Joffrey Reynolds and Leif Penn have the task of trying to replace the running duo of Sanford and Green.

McKinley has back Orlando Iglesias, whose streak of 31 consecutive games with a receptions is third-longest in NCAA I-A,

Cougar Notes

Some facts about the 2000 Houston Cougars:

SCHOOL COLORS: Scarlet and white with navy trim

FOUNDED: 1927

ENROLLMENT: 30,757

LOCATED: Houston

COACH: Dana Dimel, first year at Houston, fourth overall (23-12 overall)

1999 RECORD: 7-4 (3-3, sixth in Conference USA)

LAST BOWL APPEARANCE: Liberty Bowl after 1996 season, lost to Syracuse 30-17

STADIUM: Robertson Stadium (32,000)

RETURNING STARTERS: 6 offensive, 4 defensive, punter/kicker Mike Clark

KEY PLAYERS: QB Jason McKinley, sr.; WR Orlando Iglesias, sr.; RB Joffrey Reynolds, so.; OG Josh Lovelady, sr.; DT Nikia Adderson, sr.; LB Wayne Rogers, sr.; CB Jason Parker, jr.

KEY DEPARTURES: RB Ketric Sanford, RB Mike Green

COACHSPEAK: "Passing is a marketing thing, because really you have to run to win and play great defense. Those are the things that count when all the glitz and glamor wears off and we get down to trying to win football games."

2000 SCHEDULE

Sep. 2	at Rice
Sep. 9	at LSU
Sep. 16	Army
Sep. 23	at Texas
Oct. 30	SMU
Oct. 7	at Cincinnati
Oct. 14	at Memphis
Oct. 21	Southern Miss
Oct. 28	at Tulane
Nov. 4	at East Carolina
Nov. 11	Louisville

to lead a good crop of wide receivers.

"Joffrey Reynolds is as good a running back as I've ever been around," Dimel said. "He's fast and strong. He's chiseled from stone. Lief

averaged six yards per carry when he got a chance to play and Joffrey has passed him up, which is positive."

"Everybody thought Lief would be a Ketric Sanford ability guy so that's a good sign for Joffrey."

McKinley will be a major part of the Cougar offense with no experienced backup help. Senior Brian Thiebaud of Corsiana played in one game last season but would replace McKinley should he get hurt.

"Yeah, if Jason goes down, we've got a big problem and we're playing a lot of great football teams with the ability to get to the quarterback," Dimel said. "If Jason went down, we'd have to rely more on the run. That's another reason we can't rely on just the pass."

Left guard Josh Lovelady and right tackle Jabari Beauford are the only returning starters in the offensive line.

There are only three returning starters on the 4-2-5 defense installed by Dick Bumpas last season. Bumpas now is sharing the defensive coordinator duties with Mark Stoops, who followed Dimel from Wyoming.

Tackle Nikia Adderson, linebacker Wayne Rogers and cornerback Jason Parker are the only returning defensive starters. A fourth returning starter, cornerback Will Pettis, was dismissed from the team for violating team rules.

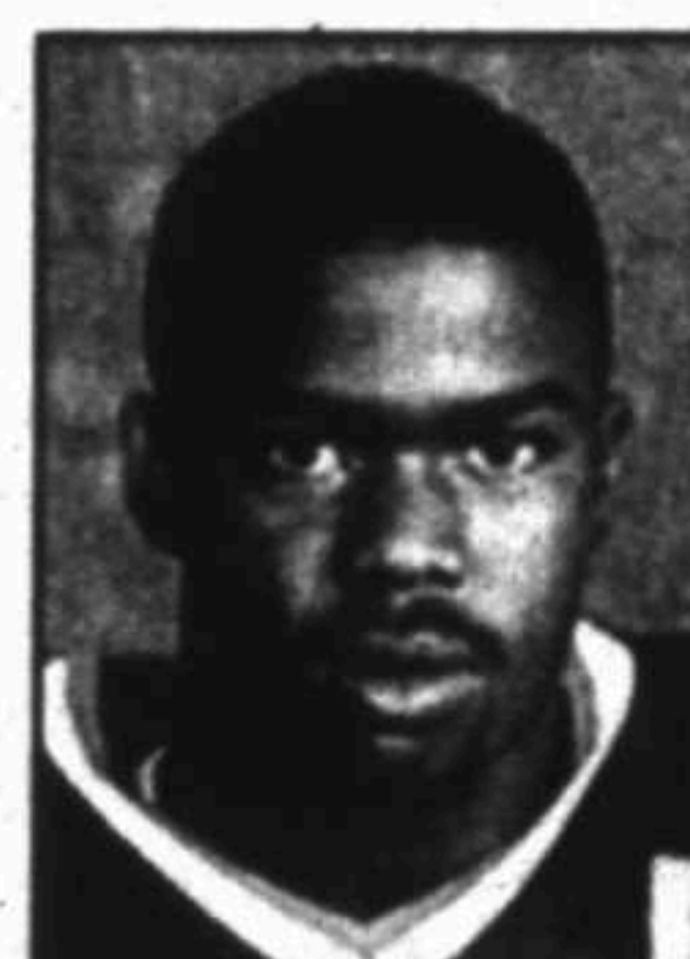
"Our defense is pretty much the same, we'll run the same scheme," Rogers said. "We're going to have more size and speed than we'd had in the secondary. Even with the seniors leaving we should be able to pressure offenses."

The Cougars defense ranked 11th nationally last season in turnover ratio and 25th in total defense.

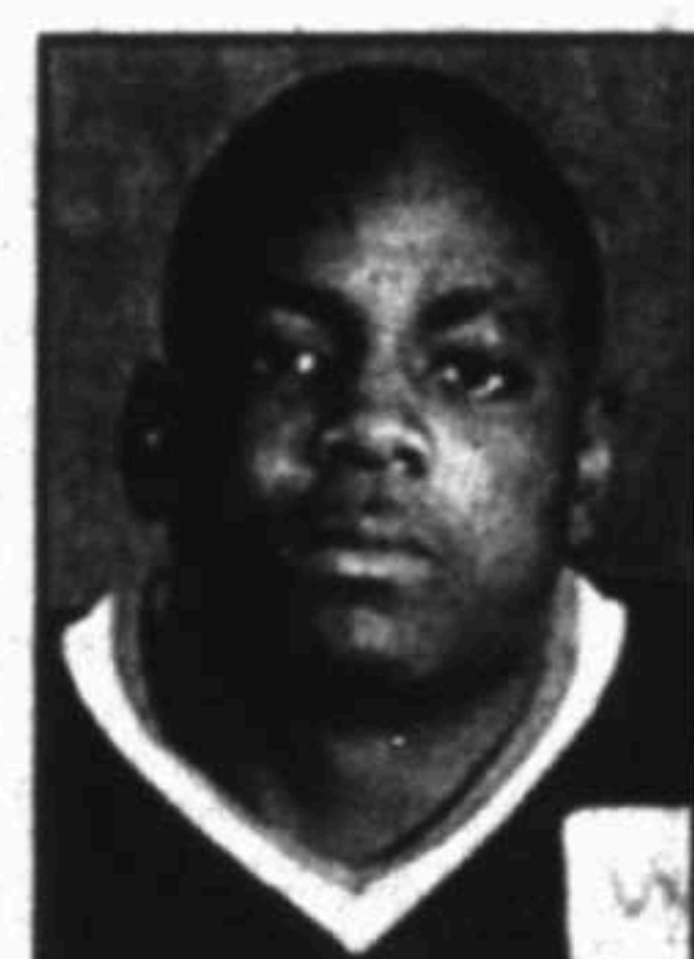
"You are going to see a lot of young guys making plays that haven't had a chance to play before," Dimel said.



Jackson



Cooks



Walker

UTEP: Three Midland products make impact

(From 1C)

(Jackson) is like a quarterback on the defense. It is important for the linebacker to make calls, and he is what we are looking for. He has good speed, is a good blitz and can play man-to-man on any running back. When we go recruiting, he fits the bill."

Cooks and Walker, both true sophomores, will be half of the four-player secondary. Cooks, another former Bulldog, brings a new dimension to his cover corner position — size (6-foot-3, 175 pounds), to go along with 4.38 second, 40-yard-dash speed.

"We play more man than most other teams, so he fits in real well at corner," Hoefer said of Cooks. "He has good speed and is six-inches taller than most corners. It is hard to find corners who have that size and run that well with the agility and footwork that he does."

"He reminds me a lot of Marcus Coleman, who went on to play with the (New York) Jets," added Hoefer, who returned to UTEP this season from Tech where he was an outside linebackers coach from 1994-99. "Weldon at this stage reminds me of where Marcus was. It is hard to find guys like Weldon."

Walker, a member of Lee's

1998 state championship team, saw time as a freshman, and made an impact, picking off three passes from his safety position.

"He is really smart, the quarterback of the secondary," Hoefer said of Walker, an engineering major. "He has a lot of ability and is getting better."

Again, the Midland three are in the midst of an exciting time at UTEP. Last year, the Miners recorded victories over SMU and Rice and were within a game of posting the program's first 500 season in more than a decade.

"A lot of people are expecting big things out of us," Cooks said.

Those people are coming to the Sun Bowl in record numbers. UTEP had one of the largest attendance increases in the nation (more than 16,000 than the year before). That included the school's first sellout. The Miners responded, posting a 4-1 record at home.

Overall the defense, which returns six starters and for the most part, is pretty young. There are only four senior starters.

They will be thrown into the fire with Saturday's opener at Oklahoma University and the team's third game at Texas A&M.

"We will get better as the season goes on," Hoefer said.

Losing streaks come into play for Baylor, UNT

By Stephen Hawkins
AP Sports Writer

DENTON — Several losing streaks will come into play when Baylor and North Texas play in a season opener Thursday night.

Baylor, 1-10 a year ago, lost its final six games in coach Kevin Steele's debut season. The Bears also have a 16-game road losing streak. The last time they won away from Waco was a 37-35 victory at Fresno State three years ago.

North Texas ended 1999 with a five-game losing streak as part of its 2-9 record, and the Mean Green has lost all 10 games in its series against the Bears.

Both coaches know the importance of a positive start — something neither had last year — as they continue rebuilding programs.

"I don't think you can overstate the importance of early success. The biggest two games of the season are the first game and the first conference game," Steele said. "It's major that, with what our players have invested in the off-season, they see success."

Steele certainly hopes his second season begins better than the first, when the only victory was 23-10 over North Texas.

Baylor started 1999 with a 30-29 loss at Boston College after a

missed extra point. The next week, the Bears could have run out the clock for a victory over Nevada-Las Vegas. Instead, Baylor fumbled at the goal line while trying to score, and a UNLV player grabbed the ball and ran 100 yards for a 27-24 victory after time expired. The tone was set for the season.

North Texas began its 1999 season being outscored 78-3 in losses to UNLV and Nevada, then upset Texas Tech. Then, after handing Big West Conference champ Boise State its only league loss, the Mean Green had its season-ending losing streak.

Both teams are anxious to see how the quarterback position

works out.

For Baylor, junior transfer quarterback Greg Cicero gets his first NCAA Division I-A start. He initially went to Texas, but left after Major Applewhite established himself as the Longhorns' starter while Cicero was out with a serious injury.

Cicero broke his left leg and tore knee ligaments in the same leg during the final scrimmage before the 1998 season. He played at a California junior college last year, throwing for 2,800 yards and 33 touchdowns.

North Texas, meanwhile, has decided to stick with junior Richard Bridges as the starter.

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BUSINESS BRIEFING

OIL PRICES	
Wednesday	\$33.32
Previous	\$32.74
POSTED	
Wednesday	\$30.50
Previous	\$29.75

NATURAL GAS

Wednesday	\$4.801
Previous	\$4.643

Oil rises

Crude oil futures rose to their highest levels in five months on Wednesday, despite word from Saudi Arabian officials that they plan to work with other OPEC nations to raise output.

Analysts said traders largely ignored the announcement from Saudi Arabia's Supreme Petroleum Council because they saw it as an empty promise.

"The Saudi announcement's not really credible," said Bill O'Grady, an energy analyst with AG Edwards & Sons Inc. in St. Louis. "If they really want to boost the amount of oil available, then just produce it."

Instead, O'Grady said oil is simply in a bull market, meaning that news that might drive futures prices down has little effect.

"What it means is that people want to own oil ... and when the price goes down, they view it as an opportunity to buy some," he said.

There was some speculation that a rupture in an oil pipeline between Colombia and Ecuador helped boost Wednesday's prices. But at least one analyst said such news would have little effect on the crude market.

"I think the only reason it's catching any press today is because the big tall Arkansas kid is there today," O'Grady said, referring to President Clinton's visit to Colombia.

In trading Wednesday, light sweet crude oil for October delivery settled 58 cents higher at \$33.32 a barrel. October heating oil rose 1.09 cents to 99.32 cents a barrel. September unleaded gasoline was up 2.67 cents to 99.99 cents a gallon; and October natural gas rose 1.58 cents to \$4.801 per 1,000 cubic feet.

On London's International Petroleum Exchange, October Brent crude from the North Sea rose 62 cents to \$31.98 on the International Petroleum Exchange.

Dollar higher

LONDON (AP)—The U.S. dollar rose against most other major currencies in European trading Wednesday.

The euro was quoted at 89.25 in late European trading, down from 89.64 Tuesday. Later, in midday trading in New York, the euro traded at 89.25 cents.

Other dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Tuesday, included 106.40 Japanese yen, up from 106.16; 1.7345 Swiss francs, up from 1.7229; 1.4788 Canadian dollars, down from 1.4868.

The British pound was quoted at \$1.4568, down from \$1.4614.

In midday trading in New York, the dollar bought 106.33 yen, and the pound was worth \$1.4568.

Based on euro rates, the dollar is worth 2.1897 German marks, up from 2.1797; 7.3439 French francs, up from 7.3103; 2.4672 Dutch guilders, up from 2.4559; 2.167.79 Italian lire, up from 2.157.88.

Gold falls

Gold closed in London at \$272.80 bid per troy ounce, unchanged. In Zurich the bid price was \$272.75, down from \$272.85. Gold fell \$1.80 in Hong Kong to close at \$272.75.

Silver closed in London at \$4.87 bid per troy ounce, down from \$4.88.

Economy shows signs of slowing

By Lisa Singhanila
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A key measure of U.S. economic activity fell slightly in July for the third time in as many months, the latest sign the economy's growth is slowing.

The Index of Leading Economic Indicators declined by 0.1 percent in July to 105.8, suggesting a break from rapid economic growth for the rest of 2000, the New York-based Conference Board said Wednesday. Analysts had predicted the index would remain unchanged.

The index, which attempts to forecast economic trends for the next three to six months, stood at 100 in 1996, its base year. Except for a 0.1 percent increase in March, the index has been flat or declining throughout this year.

"It would be difficult to achieve another 5-percent-plus rate of gross

domestic product growth with the manufacturing, housing, consumer, labor and financial markets all indicating a more modest pace of activity," Conference Board economist Ken Goldstein said. "With employment and income still rising, there will be growth, but not at the pace set earlier in the year."

The markets were down following the release of the report. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 69 points to 11,145 while the Nasdaq Stock Market was down 11 points to 4,070.

The numbers came barely a week after the Federal Reserve passed on a chance to raise interest rates. The hike would have been the seventh since last summer — all part of an effort to cool down the economy and curb inflationary pressures by putting the brakes on unsustainable growth.

"I think these numbers are very comforting and would suggest the central

bank has been very successful and will not have to do much more in the form of tightening," said Anthony Chan, chief economist at Banc One in Columbus, Ohio. "The Fed has done what it had to do."

Conflicting data exist on how much the economy has cooled down, however.

Two separate reports released Tuesday offered signs consumers are confident about the economy and continue to spend money.

The Commerce Department reported that sales of new single-family homes in July jumped 14.7 percent — the largest increase since April 1993. Many analysts were expecting a much smaller increase of around 1 percent. Meanwhile, consumer confidence levels dipped slightly in this month's Conference Board survey, but a larger percentage of consumers surveyed said they planned to purchase big-ticket items, like

cars.

The Leading Indicators report released Wednesday also showed that the board's Index of Coincident Indicators, which gauges current economic activity, was flat in July at 115.6, after rising 0.2 percent in June and 0.3 percent in May. Although industrial production and personal income increased, employees on nonagricultural payrolls decreased in July.

The Index of Lagging Indicators, which reflects changes that have already happened, decreased by 0.1 percent to 105.2. The board said the largest contributor to July's decline was outstanding commercial and industrial loans, prime rates and changes in labor costs. The index rose 0.6 percent in June and 0.3 percent in May, according to revised data.

The three indexes are used together as a barometer of overall economic trends.

Cowboys owner revives interest in oil investments

DALLAS (AP) — Jerry Jones made his fortune in the oil business before putting it on a back burner to buy and run the Dallas Cowboys.

Lately, Jones has gotten excited about oil and gas again.

In a desert-like patch of South Texas land near the Mexican border, workers from Jones's oil and gas development company, Blue Star Operating Co., are preparing to drill two natural-gas wells in a wildcat venture Jones himself calls "extremely risky."

"If we establish hydrocarbon production here, it would be the equivalent of NFL touchdowns that win many Super Bowls," says Jones, 57.

When he bought the Cowboys in 1989, Jones says, he pared back his oil activities, as well as his other businesses such as real estate.

He turned his focus to football, and eventually assumed the role of general manager, hiring and firing players and coaches. After compiling a dismal 1-15 record in Jones's first year, his team went on to win three Super Bowls by 1996.

Now, Jones is back in oil — and he's going deep.

Last year, Jones made a deal on 50,000 acres, about 150 miles west of San Antonio, in the Maverick Basin, one of six "Jurassic" inland basins that stretch along the Gulf of Mexico from Mexico to Florida.

Three major oil companies that drilled in the same area came up empty before. Jones already has sunk \$25 million into the so-called Maverick Basin, and not a single well has been drilled yet.

Jones expects to spend a total of about \$30 million on the project, the Texas Journal of the Wall Street Journal reported in Wednesday's editions.

The Maverick Basin represents the biggest project in a ramping up of his exploration business after a decade focused on football.

Jones says he expects to spend \$100 million of his own cash this year alone on exploration projects in the U.S. — four times what he was spending annually before 1998.

Jones started his comeback in the oil business at a time when low prices were wreaking havoc on small producers.

Now, with natural-gas prices soaring to record levels, he is hoping for big strikes with new projects in Texas and Oklahoma. He is even looking for oil on the Sinai peninsula in Egypt.

But more than \$50 million of his cash is committed to projects in Texas. Even after he turned his attention to football 11 years ago, Jones never completely gave up his wildcatting ways. He continued to buy up production in the U.S. and Canada and maintain his existing wells in Texas, California and elsewhere.

"I think the oil and gas holdings are more valuable than the football team," he said.

Digital Darwinism



Jordan Pollack, left, professor of computer science at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., holds a "tetra" robot as he talks with fellow research scientist Hod Lipson, seen holding the "arrow" robot, Tuesday at the Dynamical and Evolutionary Machine Organization lab at Brandeis. The "tetra" and "arrow" robots are two successful designs that evolved in computer simulations, in which the objective was to travel the farthest on a flat surface. The two researchers say they have created a system in which computers evolve, design and manufacture simple yet functioning robots with very little human intervention.

Computer automatically designs, manufactures robots

By Matthew Fordahl
Associated Press

A computer programmed to follow the rules of evolution has for the first time designed and manufactured simple robots with minimal help from people.

The 8-inch automatons did not take over the world or even vacuum the lab. Instead, they crawled across a tabletop, exactly as they were digitally bred to do, said Jordan Pollack, a Brandeis University computer scientist.

By having a computer create designs using natural selection, researchers edged closer to solving two of robotics' biggest obstacles: robots' lack of versatility and their high cost of development.

Robots engineered by people typically function only under specific conditions with limited ability to adapt to changing situations.

A simple robot that vacuums a home, for instance, could cost millions to develop and sell for \$5,000 after engineers figured out a way to make sure it doesn't crash into furniture or fall down stairs, Pollack said.

Ultimately, the Darwinian approach could revolutionize everything from manufacturing to space exploration. "Down the road, if we could have a thing like this in space, you could send the building blocks and let them evolve themselves," said Yoseph Bar-Cohen, director of a robotics lab at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "That would be fascinating."

Pollack and colleague Hod Lipson merged automatic manufacturing techniques with evolutionary computing. Their results appear Thursday in the journal Nature.

The computer that evolved the designs was told only what parts it would be working with, the physics of the environment in which its offspring would be moving, and the goal of locomotion.

Over several days, the computer thought up different designs and methods of movement, creating traits that worked and failed. Like dinosaurs, woolly mammoths and dodo birds, the failures were cast into the dustbin of history.

The most promising designs survived and passed their success to future generations. Hundreds of generations later, three robots were manufactured by a prototyping machine.

"It evolved various kinds of locomotive mechanisms — all surprising, given there was no human coming up with how to do it," Pollack said. "We got ratcheting motions. We got rolling motions. We got swimming motions."

The little white robots were made of bars, actuators, ball joints, motors and circuits. People intervened only to insert the motors into the plastic parts spit out by the prototyping machine.

The next step will be to incorporate sensors into the robots so that success or failure in the physical world can be built into future generations.

It could be a difficult project, said Maja J. Mataric, a professor at the University of Southern California and director of the USC Robotics Research Labs.

"The authors very cleverly figured out a way to design a body and then actually manufacture it, which is an amazing feat," she said. "What is not at all clear is how to come up with a sensor design and manufacture it."

INVESTORS' GUIDE

Taxes may make converting to a Roth IRA unprofitable

By Eric Tyson

Q: Does it make economic sense to roll over my Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account into a Roth IRA when I retire? The TSP is a special, tax-deferred savings and investment program for federal employees that is similar to the 401(k) plans available in private industry. I plan on retiring from federal service in January 2001. If I did roll it over into a Roth, I would pay the federal and state taxes from other savings. I am considering using mutual funds for my new Roth account. I'm 56 years old, single with grown children and do not foresee needing my current TSP monies within the next five years.

A: In order to take your money from your employer's current retirement plan and ultimately place it into a Roth IRA, as you said, you will need to pay current federal and state income tax on the amount withdrawn. In addition to paying those substantial taxes, you will also lose out on the future growth of the tax dollars paid out.

The benefit of converting to a Roth IRA is that under current tax law, the future investment earnings on that money would not be taxed upon withdrawal subject to meeting certain requirements, such as the account being in place for at least five years.

So, your question boils down to figuring when the tax savings upon tax-free withdrawal of earnings from a Roth IRA would make up for the tax you would owe now, plus the lost earnings on those paid taxes. This IRA conversion analysis involves a lot of number crunching, and fortunately for you, the folks at T. Rowe Price have an IRA Interactive Worksheet on their Web site (www.troweprice.com) that helps you with the math and changing assumptions

for your situation. This worksheet can also help investors determine whether they may be better off contributing to a Roth or a regular IRA should they still be able to take the tax deduction for a regular IRA contribution.

Qualitatively, I can tell you that in cases like yours, a conversion is generally not a good move. It takes quite a number of years for the tax-deferred compounding of investment earnings to make up for the chunk of taxes you'll pay upon conversion.

Q: Has the Janus Worldwide Fund expanded to the point where its future performance can be hurt by having too many investors in the fund? Would it be best to stay focused on the fact that the fund continues to perform well regardless of its size?

A: Janus Worldwide closed to new investors earlier this year due to concerns over its mushrooming base of assets, which now exceed \$42 billion. This fund has been a star within its peer

group and continues to be managed by the manager who created its stellar record — Helen Young Hayes, who has managed the fund for the past eight years. Beginning in the fourth quarter last year, Hayes took on an assistant portfolio manager — Laurence Chang.

Thus far, the large base of assets does not appear to have harmed the fund's performance. Two good reasons for this are that the fund can invest in stocks in the United States and overseas, and it focuses upon larger company stocks. It's also a good sign that Janus has closed the fund to new investors (although this fund's many existing investors can continue to add new dollars into the pot).

On the other hand, many other funds (Fidelity Magellan being a prime example) have stumbled when they've grown so large. Keep an eye on the fund, but I see no reason to sell this top fund now.

Eric Tyson's column is distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

YTD Name

YTD Name

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

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MUTUAL FUNDS

[illegible]

DEAR ABBY

Helping hands must loosen their grip

By Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I am 50 and have been divorced for two years after a 29-year marriage that was, at times, physically and emotionally abusive. I work full-time and attend college full-time.

Two loving and caring friends have helped me through the bad times with encouragement and advice. I often heed their advice, since most of the time it has been good and held true. However, I recently made a decision that has caused a rift between us and this disturbs me.

My son (age 30) and my daughter-in-law (24) have invited me to live with them until I complete my schooling, and I have accepted their invitation. This eases my financial burden (tuition, books, bills, life) greatly. They both have good jobs, no children yet, and are solid and easygoing.

My girlfriends are appalled that I could live with my children who have been married only two years! They feel I would be invading their privacy and giving up mine, along with my independence. I assured them that this is only a temporary arrangement, since I have only a year and a half to finish school. I told them the most important factor is that it is OK with my children and OK with me.

My kids and I have discussed privacy issues and personal issues, and we all feel very comfortable with this. One of my friends said she wouldn't visit me at their home because she would "feel uncomfortable." My other friend told me she just doesn't feel that this is right.

I love my friends dearly, but I am getting that eerie feeling of "control" from them that I had in my marriage.

Am I right, or just paranoid? I'm afraid of making the wrong decision.

My children and I really do feel comfortable with the whole thing. Should I tell my friends

it's time to "let me go" and lead my own life now?

My friends also disagree with the friendship my ex-husband, his wife and I have. My ex and I both sought counseling during and after our divorce which uncovered a lot of hurt and allowed a lot of healing for both of us.

Help! These two are driving me crazy! — JANE IN YAKIMA, WASH.

DEAR JANE: You appear to have your life on track after many unhappy years. Your friends may be well-meaning, but threatening not to visit as long as you live with your son and his wife is blackmail. Don't submit to it. Your relationships with your son, his wife and your former husband are admirable. Unless your friends are willing to stop dictating how you should live your life, now may be the time to start broadening your circle of friends.

DEAR ABBY: I dated "Howard" for eight months. He gave me a beautiful diamond tennis bracelet for my birthday. I broke up with him a month later. Now he's asking for the bracelet back! I don't want to return it. Do you think I have to? — DIAMONDS ARE NOT FOREVER?

DEAR DIAMONDS: A diamond bracelet is a very expensive gift. Since you had it only a month before breaking up with Howard, the honorable thing would be to return it. Perhaps he'll be lucky enough to find another young woman who'll realize that as precious as the bracelet may be, he's the real "jewel."

Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 per booklet (\$4.50 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Booklets, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Abigail Van Buren's column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.



Van Buren

Jailed 'she wolf' was one of Mexico's classic ruling party

By Susan Ferriss
Cox News Service

CHIMALHUACAN, Mexico — Just talking about "La Loba," the She Wolf, makes Teresa Gonzalez's palms break out in a sweat.

Shortly before Mexico's July 2 election, Gonzalez dared to argue with La Loba over who she was going to vote for. Days later somebody pumped a barrage of bullets through the front door of Gonzalez's cinderblock home.

There's no doubt in Gonzalez's mind that the assault was ordered by La Loba, who's real name is Guadalupe Buendia, a woman who used nepotism, high-level connections — and fear and favors — to run this vast slum of 1.2 million people like a fiefdom.

"She was the law here. She had the power to make things better here and she never did it," said Gonzalez, a seamstress who lives on a tiny plot that La Loba sold her in this urban stew of trash, mud, sewage and snarling street dogs.

Plump and middle-aged, Buendia's looks belie her intimidating nickname. But she is an infamous figure in Mexico these days, a symbol of the abusive local party bosses that this country's Institutional Revolutionary Party, or the PRI, nourished during its 71-year monopoly on most government offices power.

After a week on the lam, La Loba is now in jail, charged with gathering a mob armed with wooden boards, pistols and homemade bombs to attack a rival during his inauguration on Aug. 18 as the city's new mayor.

Ten people died in the melee, which pit one faction of PRI loyalists against another.

"What happened there is part of Mexican politics that continues to be savage," said political analyst Edna Jaime. On July 2, the PRI lost the presidency for the first time in seven decades, a phenomenon that represents "the civilized Mexico," she said.

But as the PRI's power slips,

more violence could erupt as local party bosses fight to keep the wealth and control they amassed, Jaime said. "The PRI knew how to handle these predators before."

For years, Buendia was a behind-the-scenes power in this city and a PRI operative in a vote-rich area. In exchange for virtual impunity for abuses and looting — a traditional arrangement — she mustered votes for the party from slum dwellers.

She let poor migrants from provinces squat on land and shepherded them into PRI-affiliated neighborhood groups that promised they would one day obtain better services for residents.

"When my mother died, she bought the casket," said Elsa Arrieta, who sells chickens on a street — one of the few that's paved — where La Loba had one of her many homes.

Buendia served jail time for extortion in connection with a land swindle, but she was released in early 1999 and was still going strong up through April, when her empire began to crumble.

The PRI declined to put La Loba's son up for mayor in the July 2 election. And La Loba had a lot at stake. Her cot son was mayor, husband the treasurer, son the municipal secretary and sister the director of family services. La Loba was in charge of water, and if one person failed to pay a bill or did something to displease her she would halt service to an entire block.

She was also director of retrieving garbage — at which she was an obvious failure — using donkey-drawn carts whose owners were also affiliated with the PRI.

"When I talked about mechanizing the garbage collection, she felt threatened," said the new mayor, Jesus Tolentino, also of the PRI.

He said everyone complained about getting charged for non-existent garbage collection. And they griped about the police, who they said extorted with La Loba's blessing.

La Loba's questionable land

sales began to make her enemies, too. Gonzalez, for example, doesn't have the title to her property nine years after paying La Loba. She paid to have a water pipe put in four years ago and only got her hook-up in June. Like so many others here, Gonzalez's only toilet is an out-house. She steals electricity from power lines.

Gonzalez said La Loba was furious with the PRI for turning down her son, so she lobbied to have a nephew named mayoral candidate for Mexico's leftist Democratic Revolution Party, which had tried to make inroads in Chimalhuacan.

She tried to force Gonzalez, who is also considered a local leader, to gather votes for her nephew. When Gonzalez refused, her house was sprayed with gunfire.

La Loba did manage to stick with the PRI's candidates for president and Congress. On Mother's Day, she threw a huge fiesta, featuring male strippers who peeled off boxers that spelled: "Vote PRI."

That event embarrassed the party. But the PRI was mortified when followers of La Loba launched an attack during Tolentino's inauguration at Chimalhuacan's city hall.

La Loba claims she is innocent, and accused followers of Tolentino that belong to another PRI slum dwellers' group, Peasant Torch, with inciting the violence.

In an interview at the city hall, Tolentino brushed off unsavory stories about Peasant Torch, which has also been accused of shock-troop tactics against enemies.

He said his job now is to restore order and help improve the party's image here. Tolentino and the new treasurer, for example, said they didn't find one official document on file here and the strong box was completely empty. Because of unpaid bills, the city is about \$8 million in debt.

"It's also clear," Tolentino said, "that authorities in the state of Mexico and within our party — the PRI — always knew what was going on here."



Falling in love with Gisselle

Juggling interviews, phone calls and the other demands of a promotional tour—in the very midst of what may be the most important period of her professional life—Gisselle does not forget what matters most: her son, "Viadelito," as she affectionately calls him. In fact, just a few days ago, she flew home to Puerto Rico to celebrate his birthday, "with clowns and everything."

"Sometimes I'm cross-eyed because I don't finish an engagement until 2 or 3 in the morning, but I still have to get up and take him to school," she says, pointing out that her "role as a mother is more important than anything else."

Serious, self-assured, unaffected and, above all, clear about her priorities, this merengue—and now also pop—singer sees her growing popularity as the natural result of years of hard work.

"God... is making all the sacrifices worthwhile," she says, referring to her most recent release, "Voy a Enamorarte" ("I'm Going to Make You Love Me"), which has sold over 100,000 copies in just two months, reached the top spot on Billboard's Hot Latin Tracks and proved the public's acceptance of her new interpretative style.

While Gisselle's artistic horizons have expanded considerably, she knows that there's more to life than work. "I confess that I'm the kind of woman who needs a partner," she says, adding "It's not that I can't live without a man... but I do picture myself as part of a whole family."

She admits that the failure of her three-year relationship with model Julian Gil left her brokenhearted. But she has the perfect formula to avoid that kind of suffering in the future: "You have to love them less than they love you; that way, if something goes wrong, it's not so bad."

Old message, new package

Ten years in the making and involving the participation of 30 Latin American and Caribbean women's health groups, "Nuestros Cuerpos, Nuestras Vidas"—the culturally sensitive Spanish-language adaptation of "Our Bodies, Ourselves"—was no small undertaking.

In charge of coordinating the project was University of Massachusetts at Boston psychologist, Ester Rebeca Shapiro Rok, a 47-year-old Cuban-American of Eastern European Jewish descent who "live[s] between languages and cultures," and thus was well-suited for the job.

The ambitious endeavor entailed "locating the values that have always characterized 'Our Bodies, Ourselves' in our Latin American and Latina experience," says Shapiro Rok, in effect establishing a "dialogue" among North American feminists, U.S. Latinas and Latin American women.

The result? A 604-page book published by Seven Stories Press in May, which is based on the 1998 edition of the now classic women's health reference, but which contains two major "shifts in

perspective": the acknowledgment of religion and spirituality and an emphasis on "mutual help." Elaborating on the latter, Shapiro Rok points out that "self-help is a myth" and that "Latinas do not take to the idea that we should take care of ourselves because we deserve it."

What they do take to is an approach that focuses on how "women use their strengths and shared experiences... to solve problems." Thus, the chapter on abortion, which takes a section on the status of Latin American campaigns to legalize the procedure—currently legal only in Cuba and Puerto Rico—which, again, goes back to the idea of "a dialogue between... communities."

This dialogue, says Shapiro Rok, will have an impact on the English-language original: "The book in English will never be the same," she says, because "the international women's health movement... gives us another way of reaffirming what justice for women is about, which is the health of families and communities."

Nosotros honors
Ricardo Montalban

Hollywood's venerable Doolittle Theater will soon become the Ricardo Montalban Performing Arts Academy, in honor of veteran actor-activist Ricardo Montalban.

Nosotros—the organization the Mexican-born thespian co-founded in 1970 to improve the image of Hispanics in the entertainment industry—purchased the Vine Street venue for nearly \$2.5 million it received from donations.

Patricia Manterola
to sing in English

If she can act in a Japanese-language film (Takashi Miike's "The City of Strangers"), then she can sing in English. That's what Mexican actress and former Garibaldi member Patricia Manterola plans to do. Her sixth solo CD, due out early next year, will include some English-language tracks. Manterola is also starring in an indie film, "Heart of a Champion," currently shooting in Los Angeles.

Paul Rodriguez
goes down under

Actor-composer-director Paul Rodriguez has joined the cast of Paramount's "Crocodile Dundee in L.A." He'll be appearing alongside the wrangler from down under (portrayed once again by Paul Hogan). Currently being filmed on Australia's Gold Coast, this third "Crocodile Dundee" movie is set to be released next spring in the United States.

Singing the praises
of higher education

Explosion Musical—a concert series that includes performances by such artists as Christian Castro, Elvis Crespo, MDO and Son by Four—began Aug. 19 in New York City. After visiting Miami (Aug. 26), it will move on to San Juan (Puerto Rico) on Sept. 2, Chicago (the 9th), San Antonio

(22nd), Houston (23rd-24th) and Los Angeles (30th).

Sponsored primarily by Procter & Gamble, Explosion Musical is meant to encourage higher education among Latinos. The campaign "captures the attention of Hispanic youth," says Graciela Salcedo, Procter & Gamble assistant brand manager, and "reinforces its message through public service announcements, school programs and the concert series."

Living life in the fast lane

If speeding is a pleasure for some, for racing ace Juan Pablo Montoya, it's serious business. "I love to win," says this 24-year-old native of Colombia, who swept seven competitions last year and became only the second rookie in history to win a CART championship. Known for his risk-taking on the track, Montoya made a name for himself after he won the 1998 Formula 3000 championship, which is held in Europe by the International Automobile Federation (FIA). Now a member of the Target/Chip Ganassi Racing team, Montoya doesn't plan to slow down. "You take risks because you want to be better than the rest," he says.

Book review

In "Mi cuerpo, la mayor maravilla del mundo" (Plaza & Janés; 146 pages; \$12.95), University of Geneva professor Andre Giordan combines scientific exactitude with an entertaining style to take us on a journey through the human body, revealing it to be a "magnificent... symbol of life's hypertechnology." After discussing the odds of our being born at all (one in a thousand trillion, at best), Dr. Giordan goes on to explain—among other things—how muscles work (it takes 17 of them just to make a smile), why identical twins don't actually exist, what's involved in such seemingly simple functions as breathing (10,000 liters of air pass through our lungs daily) and waking (this is such a "shock" to our system that the body begins releasing anti-stress hormones 45 minutes before we wake up), how we spend our time on the planet (on average, four years are devoted to dreaming) and why all human beings are ultimately related to one another.

Tell me

We asked TV show host Neida Sandoval, singer Christian Castro and actress Jacqueline Andere:

What's the one thing you couldn't live without?

Neida ("Despierta America")

"The telephone. It's the only way I can communicate with my folks in Honduras. Talking to my mother is indispensable. But my phone bills are super high."

Christian

"The CD player, because I can't live without music, and the microphone, because it's the conduit, the sentinel, of my voice."

Jacqueline ("Angela")

"My daughter, Chantal. I would die if anything happened to her. We are very close."

Section
Midland
Thursda

Dep

By Chris Hec
N.Y. Times New

NEW YORK — Bontia had a whose mother was age daughter relationship. She Bontia found a contact with years' probation designer who is never had another. The youthful da mind, chalked lence.

But the Immigration Service has Under the Immigration and

1996, Bontia, was a wanted official stopping national Airport family came by Philippines. More than six of \$25,000.

Even though a letter in his relationship was coming to avoid being pines, where he was 7.

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¿Qué Pasa?

Read it,
everyone
also does!

For more information about this section, call Richard Acosta at 687-8856.

Deportation law descends sternly, often by surprise

By Chris Hedges
N.Y. Times News Service

NEW YORK — At 21, Alejandro Bontia had a 16-year-old girlfriend whose mother was angered that her teenage daughter was involved in a relationship. She informed the police, and Bontia found himself charged with sexual contact with a minor and given four years' probation. Bontia, now 34, a Web designer who is now married with a son, never had another brush with the law. The youthful dalliance was, at least in his mind, chalked up to the foibles of adolescence.

But the Immigration and Naturalization Service has a long memory.

Under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, Bontia, because he had a record, was a wanted man. Immigration service officials stopped him at Newark International Airport on Jan. 30 as he and his family came back from a wedding in the Philippines. He was imprisoned for more than six months before raising bail of \$25,000.

Even though his old girlfriend wrote a letter in his defense saying that the relationship was consensual, he is now fighting to avoid being sent back to the Philippines, where he was born and lived until he was 7.

"I was sitting with other detained immigrants in the Hudson County Corrections Facility on July 4, watching the special on NBC with Katie Couric," Bontia said. "She talked about how this was the land of opportunity, freedom and justice. We howled with laughter. The motto of the Statue of Liberty in today's America is: give me your poor, your tired and your hungry, because we still have empty jail cells."

Although there have been many complaints from immigration lawyers and even INS officials about the harshness of the 1996 immigration act, the United States is continuing to deport immigrants who once committed crimes.

Like phantoms barreling down from a

hazy, distant past, ancient crimes and misdemeanors, sometimes decades old, have been dredged up by investigators at the immigration service to condemn tens of thousands of immigrants to swift and usually irrevocable removal proceedings.

The magnitude of the crime is irrelevant. If it is considered an aggravated felony — shoplifting can be an aggravated felony — the immigrant must go. Judges have little or no discretion to ward off the blunt results of the 1996 legislation, part of the Republicans' push to rewrite laws considered too liberal.

The arrests, with immigration and police officers at times descending on the homes of people on their list, have been widespread in recent months. And county jails and detention centers are being packed in many cases with men and women who were never sentenced to serve jail time for their original crimes.

Even INS officials concede that treating all immigrants with equal harshness is unfair. "The law is sweeping, even overreaching," said Bill Strassberger, an INS spokesman in Washington. "We have told Congress that changes need to be made and some discretion needs to be returned to our immigration judges. But as the law stands now, the ability of the immigration judges to look at all aspects of the individual's life, including the crime committed, whether they are members of the PTA, what their jobs are or if they have a family is no longer possible."

"If they are picked up, most are deported. And we are deporting people who at the time of their conviction did not commit a deportable offense, but under the new law can be removed."

There is a bill in the House to soften some effects of the law, including a provision to remove the section that allows the immigration service to deport people for crimes that were not deportable offenses and were committed before 1996.

Many congressmen, including some Republicans who voted for the 1996 leg-

islation, have formally asked the immigration service to ease up. But for now, the steamroller effect of the law is wreaking havoc with lives across the United States.

"The sponsors of the 1996 bill that told the INS it had no discretion tried to get off the hook by then telling the INS to use the discretion they had purported to take away from the INS," said Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass. "That helped some, but the INS commissioner cannot order law enforcement officers not to enforce the law."

Despite the complaints, the number of immigrants being deported for past crimes has been rising every year since the bill was passed.

The original bill still has its supporters. Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, who is chairman of the subcommittee on immigration and who sponsored the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act in the House, said in a statement that before the bill was passed, Border Patrol agents were "powerless against illegal aliens" who "knew how to exploit weak federal laws to avoid deportation."

"The law provides the Immigration and Naturalization Service with unprecedented resources and confronts illegal aliens with tough new laws," his statement continued.

The benefits are evident. Crime has dropped in border communities. Drug cartels have been hampered. Illegal immigration has slowed.

Immigration lawyers blame the bill for an increasing number of lawyers' quitting immigration law. They also say the imposition of mandatory detention for those who are picked up has crippled the ability of those lawyers who are left to communicate and plan cases with their clients.

"The INS moves people, often in the middle of the night, to remote detention facilities, such as the one in Oakdale, La.," said Regis Fernandez, an immigration lawyer in Newark, N.J. "It is impossible to effectively represent some-

one when they are 1,000 miles away and have limited or no access to a phone. It is much harder for people detained to retain and pay for a lawyer. There are fewer and fewer attorneys left willing to stomach the absurdity of this legislation."

Many families are rudely finding out that fathers or husbands had minor problems with the law and are coping for the first time with prolonged absences.

Garibaldi Mejia, 54, a grandfather and livery-cab driver who founded a radio dispatch company, has been a pillar of the Dominican community in upper Manhattan's Washington Heights.

But on May 4, on his way back from finalizing the papers after his father's death in the Dominican Republic, immigration agents at Kennedy International Airport stopped him.

His green card and Dominican passport were confiscated.

He was placed in a detention center, because 15 years ago he was arrested with a small amount of cocaine and charged with a misdemeanor.

He pleaded guilty to possession, paid a \$100 fine and received two years' probation.

Mejia is now being detained in Oakdale, La. Nearly all drug offenses, no matter what the magnitude, are grounds for deportation under the law. And because he was picked up coming into the United States, said his lawyer, Kerry Bretz, he is not eligible for bail.

"We have not seen him since July 24," said his daughter, Teresa Mejia, 21. "It was 15 days before we heard from him after they took him at the airport. He made one phone call from Maryland. Then he called when he reached Louisiana. We are devastated. My parents have been married for 30 years. I have two older brothers, but I am the only one who can have a conversation about this without crying."

For those who committed more serious crimes, served their time and have turned their lives around, the government's refusal to consider their long pilgrimage back to becoming productive

members of society is viewed as disheartening. For many, it is as if the effort to become a better person has been branded by the state as futile and irrelevant.

Luis Freire, 43, said he fell in with gangs as a young man and was involved in a fatal stabbing in 1975. He served 15 years in prison. Since 1990, shortly after his release, he has worked for ZZZ Carpentry, starting out as a day laborer but slowly mastering the craft of wood-working.

He started a family, never informing his wife of his past. He does not drink or use drugs and in the words of his employer, Derek U. Huntington, is a model employee.

But on April 30, scores of police and armed immigration service agents arrived at Freire's two-bedroom apartment on West 174th Street at 5:30 in the morning and took him away in handcuffs. His wife, Evelyn, 41, his son, Luis, 9 and his daughter, Jennifer, 5, watched a man they said was either at his home or his job for the last decade punished a second time for his crime.

Freire is free on \$10,000 bail and is waiting for his hearing with the Board of Immigration Appeals in September. But Bretz, his lawyer, says that the appeal will probably not be successful and that deportation, unless the law is changed, is most likely inevitable.

"When I went to prison, my brother and sister were young," Freire said, drinking coffee after finishing a day's work at a Soho loft. "I missed watching them grow up. I vowed not to miss this with my own children."

"I am not the man I was 25 years ago," he continued.

But how can I take my wife, who is from Puerto Rico, and my children with me to Ecuador, a country I do not know and have no connection with? This is my home. I am American. This is my life. I have worked hard to create something good with my life, and now — because of what I was, not who I am now — it may all be taken away."

DIEZ Y SEIS DE SEPTIEMBRE



Permian Basin LULAC and the Hispanic Cultural Center of Midland (whose dancers can be seen above) are accepting applications for the Diez y Seis de Septiembre parade. Anyone who would like to participate in the parade can contact Norma Chavez at 686-7763, Diana Cano at 552-1068 or the Midland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Office at 570-9824. Vendors are still being accepted for the fiesta celebrations with will take place along with the parade at the Fiesta Grounds on Terrell and I-20. For booth information contact Rachel L. Stone at 570-9824.

FACE

Elections are just around the corner: Vote up or shut up

All right. The gloves are off, people, and we need to talk.

There are some elections coming up, and quite frankly I'm sick and tired of hearing about the Hispanic Community not showing up at the polls.

What's the problem?

Do you think your vote won't make a difference?

Ask Josie Ramirez and Julius Brooks how important one vote is. That's what decided their election for county commissioner.

Think it'll sign you up for jury duty? It won't, that's done when you renew your drivers license.

What... are you too cool to vote? Too manly to vote?

Let me tell you something, people. The poll you're standing on is saturated with the blood of people who wanted their children

and their children's children to have the rights and freedoms they didn't have.

A good friend of mine once told me that we are a people who come from an ancient culture.

Historians say that while man was still living in caves in Europe, the Aztecs were building pyramids to rival those in Egypt. The Mayans invented the concept of zero ... the absence of value.

In the movie, "Amistad," before going in front of the Supreme Court, the Djimon Hounsou character says that he will call upon his ancestors to help him. Because he is the only reason they ever existed.

How shamed our ancestors must feel to know that the root of their knowledge, which was rich with technology and intelligences, produced a seed of shame and lack of self-worth.

When you don't vote, you are allowing other people to decide things for you. Like in the commercial on Telemundo.

How would you like to go to a restaurant and have the waiter tell you what you are going to have?

Or what if you went to the Gap and they told you what you are going to buy.

There are enough numbers in the Hispanic Community to have an effect on the election that will take place in Midland.

But numbers don't do any good.

Complaining to your wife, husband, boyfriend or girlfriend doesn't do any good. Come October and November, no one will count headlines, angry people or statements made under your breath.

They will be counting votes.

Is yours going to be the one that decides the bond issue or who will be president? Maybe ... maybe not.

However, if you leave it at home, it won't count for anything.

Don't be a negative number in a news story or the idiot who goes on camera and tells the world he or she doesn't care.

Be a voice for your community.

Vote.

For information on how and where to vote, call Midland Southwest Voter Registration at 687-2846.

Richard Acosta is a staff writer for the Midland Reporter-Telegram. Contact him at 915-687-8856 or rich@mrt.com.

Dr Pepper/Seven Up hosts 14th Hispanic Heritage Awards on NBC

PLANO (PRNEWS WIRE) — Dr Pepper/Seven Up, Inc. will be one of the leading sponsors of the 14th Hispanic Heritage Awards, which will air during prime time for the first time ever, on NBC at 10 p.m. (ET) on Sept. 9. The program will be taped at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 7.

Dr Pepper/Seven Up has sponsored the awards since their debut in 1987.

This year the awards will honor actor Anthony Quinn for arts, baseball superstar Sammy Sosa, 1989 Pulitzer prize winner Oscar Hijuelos, labor activist Dolores Huerta and former California state supreme court justice and law school professor Cruz Reynoso.

The Hispanic Heritage Awards were established in 1987 to recognize the best and the brightest in the Latino community. The awards program, co-produced with the Kennedy Center, provides an important service to the community and youth by celebrating Hispanic American role models.

"Dr Pepper/Seven Up has played a major role in the development, evolution and growth of the Hispanic Heritage Awards since their inception," said Doug Tough, Dr Pepper/Seven Up, Inc. president and chief executive officer. "These awards focus the spotlight on Latinos who have attained a high level of achievement and have made significant contributions in their respective fields. It is a pleasure and an honor to be a part of a ceremony that continues to gain prominence," he added.

"Once again, we pause to acknowledge and celebrate extraordinary individuals in the Latino community who have made this world better because of their efforts," said Raul R. Tapia, chairman of the Hispanic Heritage Awards Foundation. "This year's honorees are well-known and respected Americans who inspire us to strive for higher levels of achievement."

Dr Pepper is the leading brand in Plano, Texas-based Dr Pepper/Seven Up, Inc.'s extensive soft drink portfolio. Dr Pepper/Seven Up is the leading non-cola soft drink enterprise in North America, with about 15 percent of the U.S. market. It is the largest subsidiary of London-based Cadbury Schweppes plc (NYSE: CSG). In addition to Dr Pepper, other leading Dr Pepper/Seven Up brands include 7 UP, A&W Root Beer, Sunkist, Canada Dry, Schweppes, Squirt, Welch's and Hawaiian Punch.

The Hispanic Heritage Awards Foundation is a non-profit organization that was established in 1987 to recognize and reward Hispanic leaders who display excellence in their professions and serve as positive role models in their communities.

Tejano

1. Esperando Su Llamada — Emilio	11. Ingrata Suerte — Masizzo
2. El Tao Tao — Control	12. No Puedo Odiarla — Intenso
3. Vuelvo A Creer En El Amor — Intocable	13. Quiero Ser — Los Palominos
4. Pideme — Pesado	14. No Me D'as Que Ya Te Vas — Pesado
5. Si Tu Te Vas — Jennifer Y Los Jetz	15. La Gringa — Los Tigritillos
6. De Vida O Muerte — Los Invasores	16. El Tonto Que Te Amo — Ramon Ayala
7. Ven — Los Traileros	17. Hasta La Sima De Cielo — Solido
8. Te Quiero A Ti — Kumbi King	18. Fuerte No Soy — Intocable
9. Ya Estoy Cansado — Intocable	19. A Pesar De Todo — Jimmy Gonzales
10. Ya Estoy Cansado — Intocable	20. Regalame Tu Corazon — Los Desperados

From KMRK Tejano 96.1 for the past week

AUG 31 2000

WEST TEXAS SPORTS

Booster Clubs...

The Midland High Girls Softball Booster Club will meet the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in Conference Room A at Midland High School. For further information please contact David Askew at 686-7025 or 664-0212.

The Midland High Football Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in the Koinonia Room on Tuesday evenings...

The Lee High Softball Booster Club is meeting the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Lee cafeteria. For more information, call Tommy Thompson at 694-5432 or Tommy Kuykendall at 694-6215...

Texas Tech football luncheons will be held weekly at the Outback Steakhouse on Loop 250. Luncheons will be on Fridays preceding a Tech home game and on Wednesdays preceding a road game...

The MHS Lady Dawg Basketball Booster Club will hold a meeting on Sept. 11 in MHS Conference Room A at 6 p.m....

Football...

Registration for YMCA Youth Flag Football is underway. League is for boys and girls in grades K-6. Season begins Oct. 7. Registration deadline is Sept. 17. Program fee is \$25 for YMCA members and \$38 for non-members. Call 682-2551 for more information...

The Permian Basin Football Officials Association is currently seeking individuals to officiate varsity and sub varsity games in the area. For more information, contact Paul Hart at 563-2674 or 570-9136 or Tim Wright at 686-0002 or 699-7230...

The Midland Flag Football League runs Oct. through Nov. with end of the season tournament. League will accept corporations, church and individual teams. \$200 per team with \$12 player fee. Call Wayne Brandt at 631-3977 (day) and 697-2072 (night)...

Referees are needed for the Midland Flag Football League. Training will be provided. Referees are paid. Call Wayne Brandt at 631-3977 (day) and 697-2072 (night)...

Golf...

Gaines County Golf Club is hosting the following tournaments: Oct. 21-22, Over 80. For more information call (915) 758-3808...

The W.F. "Nick" Nobles Fourth Annual Invitational four-man golf tournament will be held Sept. 9-10 at McCamey Country Club. For more information, call McCamey Country Club at (915) 652-8904...

Young Life Open Disc Golf Tournament is Labor Day, Sept. 4 at the Midland College Course. Doubles tee off at 10:30 a.m., while the singles are at 1 p.m. Prizes are awarded to top three in advanced amateur, novice and junior 16 and under. Entry fee is \$5 and proceeds benefit Midland YL...

The Texas Lions Camp Benefit Golf Tournament for 2-person teams is 9 a.m., Sept. 22 at Nueva Vista Golf Course. Call Garion Brunson at 335-5982 or 580-6608, or Manuel Gonzalez at 332-6676 for details...

Tennis...

Tournaments offered by the Midland Tennis Club are Mixed Doubles, Sept. 9-10; Men's Singles/Women's Singles, Sept. 30-Oct. 1; Special Event, Oct. 14-15; Club Championship Singles, Oct. 28-29; Club Championship Doubles, Nov. 4-5; Club Championship Mixed Doubles, Nov. 11-12...

The Midland Women's Tennis Association will begin its fall tennis league on Sept. 12 and will run for 10 weeks with play on Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 a.m. at Midland College. The night league will be Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Green Tree Country Club. Send dues of \$30 for the

year or \$15 for the fall only to Jennifer Wilson, 3609 Springmont Drive, 79707. A welcome back tournament will be held on Sept. 5 from 9 a.m.-noon at Midland College. For more information call Birdie Fioretti at 699-5631 or Diane Mehl at 699-1610...

A Welcome Back Tennis Tournament sponsored by Midland's Women's Tennis Association will be held Sept. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon at Midland College. No sign-up is required and all ladies are cordially invited...

The USTA-BMW Combo Doubles Tournament will take place Sept. 16-17. Rosters are due Sept. 10. Call Juanell Fort at 686-0277 for more information...

USA Team Tennis sign-up continues through Sept. 10. Teams consist of 3 boys and 3 girls, ages 8-18. Players may form own team or sign up and be assigned to a team. Cost is \$10 for USTA members and \$23 for non-members. Season will consist of two fall tournaments. Entry forms are available at Odessa College Tennis Center and Kimber-Lea Tennis Center in Midland. Call 580-8929...

Running...

The Permian Basin Road Runners Club is a non-profit organization for runners living in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico. The club, which promotes distance running as a helpful exercise and a competitive sport, is a member of the Road Runners Club of America and the Athletics Congress. Membership is open to all runners regardless of experience. For information, call Greg Hubbard at 520-0953 or Penny Wasem at 697-6391. Web site is www.pbr-rc.com...

Miscellaneous...

The Midland branch of the American Escrima Wing Tsun Organization is holding adult self defense combat classes in association with the Midland Wrestling Club. Classes will be held three times a week. For more information, call David Lesser at 687-6973 or 685-0531...

Baseball...

Lone Star Baseball will conduct the following tournaments in Brenham this fall: Labor Day Classic, Sept. 3-4, high school teams; USSSA State Qualifier, Sept. 16-17, 13-U and 14-U; Columbus Day Classic, Oct. 7-8, High School teams; USSSA State Qualifier, Oct. 21-22; 9-U, 11-U and 13-U; AAU Showcase Tournament, Oct. 28-29, High School teams; Winter Classic, Nov. 4-5, High School teams; Lone Star Youth Classic, Nov. 18-19. For more information, call Frank Dorner at (281) 469-6721...

Softball...

The Xtreme 2000 ASA tournament is scheduled for Sept. 8-10 at Hogan Park. Entry fee is \$110 and due by Sept. 7 at 6 p.m. and each team must provide its own ball. There is a \$5 entry fee for the home run derby and for the pitching contest. For more information, call Roy or Janie Brown at 689-4315...

Midland Mirage, a 12-under competitive fast pitch team, will hold tryouts after Labor Day. Girls born in 1989 are needed. For information, call Jim Britton at 686-0726 or 694-5632...

Swimming...

Pre-competitive swimming is being offered at the Mabec Aquatic Center. The program will teach elementary age swimmers techniques of competitive swimming while improving their strokes. It is open to swimmers who can swim at least 25 yards of freestyle and backstroke. The cost is \$40 per month on a year-round basis. For more information, call 684-7755...

COM Aquatics is holding water aerobics classes Monday through Saturday at Mabec

Aquatic Center. Classes are at 6:15 a.m., 7:15 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. All classes are open to the public and swimming skills are not necessary. Cost is \$45 per month, \$65 for a couple. For information, call Rita Simmons at 684-7755...

COM Aquatics - Learn to Swim year round lessons for both children (3 years of age or older) and adults wishing to learn to swim or improve technique. Private or group lessons (limit four students per instructor) are available. Children are grouped by age and ability. A session normally consists of eight 30-minute lessons. Please call 684-7755 for more details...

The COM Masters Swimming is Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5-6 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is \$40 per month and includes stroke instruction and cardiovascular training. Call 684-7755 for more information...

COM Diving offers a full range of diving instruction from beginning lessons to elite team training and competition. All ages and ability levels are invited to participate. Lessons are offered at various times. For information, call 684-7755...

The Midland YMCA offers year-round 30-minute swim lessons for parents and children and 45-minute lessons for youth. For more information, call Leaf Faller at 682-2551...

Midland YMCA is offering water aerobics classes, including Hydro-fit and Deep Water aerobics. Classes are available both morning and evening. Call Leaf Faller or Deborah Posson at 682-2551 for more information...

Bowling...

The Wednesday Evening Mixed League meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Midland Park Lanes. There will be a meeting Aug. 30 and league play will begin Sept. 6. Call Shirley Parker at 697-1649 or contact Midland Park Lanes for more information...

Bowling leagues looking for new members are Ex-Boom-time Mixed, Tuesdays, 6 p.m.; 4-of-a-Kind (go to Las Vegas or on a Cruise), Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m.; and No-Tap Color Pins, every Saturday, 7 p.m.

Volleyball...

West Texas Juniors (formerly Midland Volleyball Program) will be having an organizational meeting for the 2000-2001 season on Sept. 24 from 3:00-4:00 at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital located near the intersection of Loop 250 and Highway 181 in Midland. Information concerning tryouts for girls ages 10-18, coaches, practices, tournaments and cost will be provided. The purpose of the non-profit organization affiliated with the USA Volleyball Junior Olympics Division is to improve skills, provide tournament opportunities and to access college scholarships. For more information contact Renee Rogers 699-5857 or Leslie Smith 689-7407...

Hockey...

Power Play Inline Hockey League signups are going on now and will end Sept. 4. Age groups are 8-under, 12-under, 15-under, 18-intermediat, girls 14-up, novice (adult) and elite (17-up). Family discounts and payment plans available. Call 522-1773 for more information or register at Xtreme Sports, 4310 W. Illinois...

Eight Ball...

Eight-Ball League is on Wednesdays at Fast Freddy's, 4310 W. Illinois. This is a handicap scored league for men and women of all skill levels. Form 5-player teams or join a team. Signups are at 7 p.m. on Sept. 6, Sept. 13 and Sept. 20. League play starts Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. Call Mark Wendler or Jeff Base at Basin Billiards, 685-5043...

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200 Autos Domestic EAGLE 1995 Talon, red/gray, CD, excellent condition, power locks, windows, 57K, new brakes. \$8,500. 522-1530.	205 Classic Cars FORD 1965 MUSTANG, Red, automatic, Excellent condition! 95K original miles. \$6,100. 687-8298 or 683-3180 evenings.	210 Autos Imports ACURA 1992 Legend Coupe, red, fully loaded, Excellent condition. 102K miles. Must see to appreciate. \$12,950. 557-1900 or 683-6391, Gary.	210 Autos Imports MITSUBISHI 1995 Diamante, 80K highway miles, loaded, leather, CD changer, power windows/locks, excellent condition. \$10,200. Call 620-8066.
200 Autos Domestic EAGLE 1995 Talon, white with black accents, good condition, automatic, front wheel drive, great gas mileage. \$8,500. Call 689-4430.	205 Classic Cars FORD 1965 MUSTANG, 289 V8, \$4,000. Good condition. Please call Troy 688-9029.	210 Autos Imports HONDA 1994 CIVIC EX, Power windows, doors, sun roof, air, am fm cassette. 76K original miles. Good condition. \$8,500. 563-0720.	210 Autos Imports VOLVO 1996 960, 64,000+ miles. All maintenance performed by manufacturer. Financing & extended warranty available. \$15,900. Call 349-1155.
200 Autos Domestic MERCURY 1991 Sable LS 4 Door, power windows/power locks, air, blue aluminum wheels. 63,000 miles, new motor. \$3,450. 686-7949.	210 Autos Imports HONDA 1991 Accord EX, automatic, CD, sun roof, mint condition. \$6,100. 915-264-0035.	210 Autos Imports TOYOTA 1998 AVALON, Loaded, excellent condition. 35K miles. Call 687-0148 days, 686-7237 evenings/weekends.	215 Sport/Utility Vehicles FORD 1993 EXPLORER XLT, 4x4, dark green, new brakes, 12 disc CD changer. Clean, 134K miles. \$8,000. 685-3067.
205 Classic Cars FORD 1964 GALAXIE 500, White, 74K + miles. One owner, 4 door. \$3,100. Call (915)694-4767 after 5pm and weekends.	210 Autos Imports HONDA 1991 Accord EX, automatic, CD, sun roof, mint condition. \$6,100. 915-264-0035.	210 Autos Imports TOYOTA 1998 AVALON, Loaded, excellent condition. 35K miles. Call 687-0148 days, 686-7237 evenings/weekends.	215 Sport/Utility Vehicles FORD 1993 EXPLORER XLT, 4x4, dark green, new brakes, 12 disc CD changer. Clean, 134K miles. \$8,000. 685-3067.

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Order of Eastern Star
1600 W. Wall

9/9/00 Friendship Dinner, 6:30 pm
Guest: PGP Henry Martin.

Acacia Masonic Lodge #1414
1000 Upland
Stated Communication, 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7:30 P.M.
Keith Hughes, W.M.
Al Talbot, Sec.

Midland Shrine Club
2019 Trade Dr. 689-7003
Reg. Meeting, 3rd Thurs.
Hosp. 8:30 pm, dine 7 pm.
Copper Daugherty, Pres.
Gary Anderson, Secty.

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NEW TODAY
PRAYER to the Blessed Virgin (never known to fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you form the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity (Make requests). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3X). Holy Mother, I place this all in your hands (3X). Say this prayer 3 consecutive days, and then publish it and it will be granted to you. E.M.H.

150 Lost & Found
FOUND: 5 month old female Manx kitten. Approachable and is being cared for. 687-3684.

150 Lost & Found
FOUND: Red Lab female with rope on collar. Call to identify 683-2972.

LOST BOXER male puppy, 5 months old, vicinity of WCR 130. Call 694-4032 or 634-3878.

FOUND: Small approachable Collie dog, black and white, black on tail. Vicinity of South County Road 1160 & Fairgrounds. Call 620-8751.

REWARD LOST: Heeler mix, 8 month old male, white with black spots, solid black ear, black on tail. Vicinity of South County Road 1160 & Fairgrounds. Call 620-8751.

LOST MALE Boston terrier, vicinity of Douglas & Whitney. Special child's pet. Call 694-6369.

\$500 REWARD: LOST West Odessa area, six year old bright red, smooth haired, neutered male Chow. Black mouth flesh colored spot on lower lip. Friendly, answers to Beau. Call 24 hours (314)494-4425.

162 Mortgages Wanted
PDH Financial Services pays cash for residential and commercial real estate notes, business notes and structured settlements. Prompt service since 1984. Call 550-2025 or 1-800-283-2025.

CASH FOR your notes nationwide, residential, commercial, business and various types of cash flows. In Midland, call MoneyTree Funding at 620-8470 or toll free 877-519-8465.

163 Money To Loan
FRESH START to your credit! Debt consolidation. Call 1-877-267-1426. Monday-Friday 9 am-9 pm, Saturday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm.

LOANS AVAILABLE: No application fees, low insurance rates, high approval, good or bad credit, bankruptcy welcome. Toll Free 1-888-372-2284.

Attention Readers
Occasionally, ads found in this section come from distant points & the Midland Reporter-Telegram cannot always know the merits of the offers. We suggest when you are in doubt that you call the Better Business Bureau before signing any contract or giving out your credit card or bank information.

NEW TODAY
CONSOLIDATE Your Bill! No Credit Check! Credit Cards/Unsecured loans/Welcomes. Serving West TX Since 1991. 620-0620.

OLD MOBILE 1989 Delta 88 Royale Brougham, 4 door, fully equipped. \$4,500. 553-3841.

170 School Instruction
New Horizons Computer Learning Centers-World's Leading Computer Education Company 1016-A Andrews Hwy Near Westlake 522-2258

PIANO LESSONS: 25 Years of experience. Master's Degree in piano. Call 520-2864.

PIANO LESSONS: Fall enrollment now. Call 684-8193.

170 School Instruction
PONTIAC 1989 Bonneville V6, 3.0 liter, 3000, 24 months. Call 684-6646.

PONTIAC 1997 Grand AM, automatic, white, four door. Very nice. \$8,500. Call 694-8714.

PONTIAC 1998 Grand Prix GTP, 2 door coupe, loaded, low mileage. \$17,500. 563-1189.

ROGERS FORD Sales & Service 4200 W. Wall 694-8801.

170 School Instruction
DYSLEXIA THERAPIST-Now accepting students that have difficulties in reading due to dyslexia. Call 684-5996.

PIANO LESSONS: Fall enrollment now. Call 684-8193.

200 Autos Domestic
CHRYSLER 2000 Sebring Convertible. Silver with black top. Leather. Like new. Call 349-8900.

DODGE 1996 Intrepid, Beautiful red, new tires, gray interior, priced to sell. Call 559-0744.

PONTIAC 2000 Trans AM, Leather, 1-top, CD and all the bells. Please call 661-5912.

200 Autos Domestic
CHRYSLER 1988 Fifth Avenue-Silver, good condition. 77K miles. \$3,200. 684-0844 after 5 pm.

DODGE 1995 NEON, Automatic transmission, a/c, excellent shape, 4 door, red. \$4,195. 682-1328.

DODGE 1998 STRATUS, white with dark gray, 39K miles. Clean, \$12,500. Call 694-5221.

200 Autos Domestic
LINCOLN 1992 Towncar Signature, silver Extra clean, security system. \$4,950. Call 561-5010.

PONTIAC 1992 Sunbird Convertible. Red with gray interior and white rag top. Reconditioned. 128,000 miles. Uses no oil, engine and transmission good. All electric. \$3,500. See at 4325 Greenbriar or call 238-3734.

200 Autos Domestic
PONTIAC 1994 Bonneville SSEi, Immaculate. Leather, loaded. 83K. \$8,450. Call 689-3730.

PONTIAC 1996 Trans Am. Black with gray interior. 49,000 miles. All electric with tape player, new front tires, chrome 5 star factory rims. Exhaust dump with collector & cover. \$15,200. 334-3749 or 238-3734.

200 Autos Domestic
BERG MOTOR CO. OLDS, CADILLAC, PONTIAC, BUICK, GMC Sales & Service. 3205 W. Wall 694-7741

200 Autos Domestic
FORD 1996 Taurus GL. Cobalt blue, 4 door, all electric, tinted. Excellent condition. \$8,700. obo. 520-8850.

LINCOLN 1988 Town Car Signature Series. 37,000 original miles. Very clean. \$4,900. 682-6784.

200 Autos Domestic
MERCURY 1997 Cougar, fully loaded, burgundy/gray, low mileage, 50,800 miles. 571-5252. 520-0152/559-8296.

OLD MOBILE 1989 Delta 88 Royale Brougham, 4 door, fully equipped. \$4,500. 553-3841.

200 Autos Domestic
PONTIAC 1999 Bonneville V6, 3.0 liter, 3000, 24 months. Call 684-6646.

PONTIAC 1997 Grand AM, automatic, white, four door. Very nice. \$8,500. Call 694-8714.

PONTIAC 1998 Grand Prix GTP, 2 door coupe, loaded, low mileage. \$17,500. 563-1189.

200 Autos Domestic
EAGLE 1995 Talon, red/gray, CD, excellent condition, power locks, windows, 57K, new brakes. \$8,500. 522-1530.

EAGLE 1995 Talon, white with black accents, good condition, automatic, front wheel drive, great gas mileage. \$8,500. Call 689-4430.

MERCURY 1991 Sable LS 4 Door, power windows/power locks, air, blue aluminum wheels. 63,000 miles, new motor. \$3,450. 686-7949.

205 Classic Cars
FORD 1965 MUSTANG, Red, automatic, Excellent condition! 95K original miles. \$6,100. 687-8298 or 683-3180 evenings.

FORD 1965 MUSTANG, 289 V8, \$4,000. Good condition. Please call Troy 688-9029.

LINCOLN 1995 Continental Classic. Runs good, body in good shape. Shown by appointment only. \$3,000. negotiable. 694-6614.

210 Autos Imports
HONDA 1991 Accord EX, automatic, CD, sun roof, mint condition. \$6,100. 915-264-0035.

TOYOTA 1998 AVALON, Loaded, excellent condition. 35K miles. Call 687-0148 days, 686-7237 evenings/weekends.

MITSUBISHI 2000 Eclipse, 12K, white with tan leather interior, sunroof, CD player, power windows/locks. Serious inquiries only. \$21,500. 694-7204.

205 Classic Cars
MERCURY 1986 Cougar, Loaded, including new tires. \$3,000. obo. 563-3215.

BUICK 1987 GRAND NATIONAL T Type, Excellent condition. One owner, low miles. \$9,250. obo. 684-7515.

DODGE 1973 Charger SE 400 Big Block Garage kept, excellent condition, one owner. Runs & drives great. \$2,500. obo. 238-7020.

200 Autos Domestic
FORD 1967 Mustang Fastback 302 Automatic, Shelby Scoop and Deck lid, beautiful blue with white stripes. Lots of new parts. \$12,000. obo. 685-4078 or 685-3746.

FORD 1997 Cobra, Showroom condition. Only 9,000 miles - over \$7,000 in performance additions. Over 400 rear wheel HP. This Auto is mint \$22,949. Tom 520-2080 day, 694-3710 night.

200 Autos Domestic
PONTIAC 1992 Grand Prix SE Blue, two door, air, CD player, power windows/locks, 113K miles. Great condition. \$4,500. 689-2312.

CHRYSLER 1996 LH5, Roomy, clean, loaded Sunroof, CD, extended warranty, keyless, security kit. 63K. White, tan leather. \$12,500. 559-0829.

200 Autos Domestic
FORD 1996 Taurus GL. Cobalt blue, 4 door, all electric, tinted. Excellent condition. \$8,700. obo. 520-8850.

LINCOLN 1988 Town Car Signature Series. 37,000 original miles. Very clean. \$4,900. 682-6784.

200 Autos Domestic
MERCURY 1997 Cougar, fully loaded, burgundy/gray, low mileage, 50,800 miles. 571-5252. 520-0152/559-8296.

OLD MOBILE 1989 Delta 88 Royale Brougham, 4 door, fully equipped. \$4,500. 553-3841.

200 Autos Domestic
PONTIAC 1999 Bonneville V6, 3.0 liter, 3000, 24 months. Call 684-6646.

PONTIAC 1997 Grand AM, automatic, white, four door. Very nice. \$8,500. Call 694-8714.

PONTIAC 1998 Grand Prix GTP, 2 door coupe, loaded, low mileage. \$17,500. 563-1189.

210 Autos Imports
ACURA 1992 Legend Coupe, red, fully loaded, Excellent condition. 102K miles. Must see to appreciate. \$12,950. 557-1900 or 683-6391, Gary.

HONDA 1994 CIVIC EX, Power windows, doors, sun roof, air, am fm cassette. 76K original miles. Good condition. \$8,500. 563-0720.

HYUNDAI 1999 ELANTRA Wagon. Fully loaded. Mileage 25K. Full warranty to 60K. Asking \$13,250. Call 520-5899 or 349-3686.

210 Autos Imports
HONDA 1991 Accord EX, automatic, CD, sun roof, mint condition. \$6,100. 915-264-0035.

TOYOTA 1998 AVALON, Loaded, excellent condition. 35K miles. Call 687-0148 days, 686-7237 evenings/weekends.

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OLD MOBILE 1989 Delta 88 Royale Brougham, 4 door, fully equipped. \$4,500. 553-3841.

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PONTIAC 1999 Bonneville V6, 3.0 liter, 3000, 24 months. Call 684-6646.

PONTIAC 1997 Grand AM, automatic, white, four door. Very nice. \$8,500. Call 694-8714.

PONTIAC 1998 Grand Prix GTP, 2 door coupe, loaded, low mileage. \$17,500. 563-1189.

200 Autos Domestic
FORD 1996 Taurus GL. Cobalt blue, 4 door, all electric, tinted. Excellent condition. \$8,700. obo. 520-8850.

LINCOLN 1988 Town Car Signature Series. 37,000 original miles. Very clean. \$4,900. 682-6784.

JEEP 1995 GRAND WAGONER Clean, wood grain brown, leather, power windows, a/c, great handling vehicle. \$11K. \$4,100. 697-5299/695-3180

↓SOLD↓
JEEP 1996 GRAND Cherokee Laredo Like new, 29K, tow ready. \$13,900 or best offer. XXX-XXXX.

JEEP 1997 Grand Cherokee Laredo Black, runs and drives like new. Power windows and locks. Gray interior. Call 559-0744.

↓SOLD↓
FORD 1993 EXPLORER XLT, V6, automatic, 93K miles, very clean. \$6,500. XXX-XXXX.

MERCEDES 1999 ML320 Metallic silver, leather, fully loaded, sun roof, 10K miles. \$37,000 or best offer. 697-1110.

JEEP 1995 GRAND Wagoner Good condition, 360 V8, leather, electric windows/locks, new tires, air conditioning. Runs great. \$3,200. 683-4570.

FORD 1999 Expedition XLT, third seat, privacy glass, all power, 6 disc CD changer, 24K, like new. \$24,450. 915-363-8781. 915-520-0204.

FORD 1998 Explorer Sport 2 door, white/gray trim, tan cloth interior, 22K, excellent condition. Asking \$17,400. 522-5258 or 620-9309.

FORD 1996 EXPLORER Sport, Hunter green, 72K miles, loaded, excellent condition, new belts and tune-up. \$9,900. Must see 522-2439.

FORD 1993 EXPLORER XLT, Navy Blue, 83,000 miles, CD player, great condition. \$8,000 OBO. Call 683-7560.

FORD 1994 EXPLORER XLT, Power Everything, Leather, AM/FM, Cassette, 10 CD, New Tires and Shocks, Service Records. \$8,500. 697-3039. 634-2676.

CHEVROLET 1996 TANCE. Excellent condition new tires, low miles. Retail \$17,025. Sale \$15,900. Please call 689-8875 please leave message.

FORD 1996 EXPLORER XLT, 4X4, 66.5K, 6 disc CD, recent full service. Excellent condition. 23K warranty. \$13,650. 664-6722. Individual.

FORD 1998 Explorer Sport, Loaded, Black/gray, 34,000 miles, 6 disc CD changer, sun roof, automatic. Excellent condition. \$17,500. 550-0555.

FORD 1994 Explorer LTD Dark Green/gray leather, power everything, CD player, 130K miles, new brakes. \$8,900. Great condition. 689-0404.

CHEVROLET 1997 Blazer LT Package White/lt leather interior, 62K miles, well maintained, warranty. CD, new tires. \$16,000. 682-6894.

220 Trucks
CHEVROLET 1985 Silverado 1/2 Ton, LWB 350 engine, new interior & paint. \$3,000 OBO. 683-5836.

CHEVROLET 1996 2500, 350, auto, cassette, CD, tilt, cruise, towing package. 67K, \$17,000. Jerry: 682-6353/560-7678 please call.

CHEVROLET 1998 C1500, 133,000 highway miles. Good condition. Taking bids until 8/31/00 or 1st \$10,000. Call Ken 915-631-2280.

FORD 1995 F-150 XLT Excellent condition, blue, 70K miles \$6,000 or best offer. Call 553-9103.

FORD 1999 Ranger extended cab, automatic, 9,000 miles. \$13,000. consider trade. 694-8714.

DODGE 1996 Pickup Full size, Red sport, V6, power windows/locks. Call 681-5912.

DODGE 1999 Quad Cab SLT Laramie 22K, red, 75K or 7 year extended warranty. Excellent condition. \$18,500 (loan value). 689-8690.

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FORD 2000 F-150

Supercab Flareside 4x4, Oxford white with graphite cloth, loaded, 2,700 miles, factory warranty. \$29,850. Call 915-522-9653

CHEVROLET 1999 C1500 EXTENDED Cab, long bed, A/C, V8, automatic. 230K miles, good shape, one owner. \$3,950 obo. 683-5683.

CHEVROLET 1989 Silverado Pickup, Short wheel base. Standard. Fully loaded. \$6,000 negotiable. 915/943-4435.

CHEVROLET 1993 S-10 Tahoe package, 38K miles, A/C, A/C, CD, good condition. \$5,600. 683-1429.

CHEVROLET 1999 Z71 LS Extended cab, three door, four wheel drive, fully loaded, 29K miles. Excellent condition. \$23,900. Call 697-9745.

↓SOLD↓
FORD 1981 F-250 4WD Club Cab. Holley carburetor, new steering column, MSD ignition system, chrome wheels. Call XXX-XXXX.

FORD 1990 Ranger Extended Cab, Automatic 4.0 Ltr. V6. New windshield. Runs good. New tires. \$3,800. 520-2232.

FORD 1994 RANGER Extended cab XLT, 3.0 V6 alloy wheels, 5 speed, 35K miles, good condition. Asking \$7,995. Call 683-5781.

FORD 1998 Pickup Low mileage. Excellent condition, lots of extras. \$18,500. 687-4209.

FORD 1999 F250 CREW Cab, Lariat, 30K, factory warranty, leather, CD, cassette, digital overhead console, white. 5.4 V8, \$24,000. 756-3060.

FORD 2000 RANGER Trailhead, Black, 2,200 miles, CD, cruise, tilt, automatic, fog lamps, tow hooks. \$13,500. Call 522-1998 or 687-7648.

GMC 1973 PICKUP 454, Holley 650, A/C, AM/FM, cassette, stereo, competition cam, high pressure oil pump. \$2,800. 689-8093.

CHEVROLET 1986 3/4 ton longbed pickup, automatic. Great work truck, good tires. \$1,700. 682-4412, 689-4883. See-2000 N. Big Spring.

CHEVROLET 1988 3/4 Ton. New engine/tires alloy wheels, runs on propane/gas, toolbox, slide rear window, excellent condition. \$6,500. 694-0066/634-2444.

FORD 1993 F150 Flare side, extended cab, white/gray, garaged, non-smoker. 82K miles. Excellent condition. \$9,800. 682-6782 or 694-6540.

FORD 1998 F-150 XLT 24K miles, light blue denim with dark navy stripe. Excellent condition. \$17,700. Call 682-2809.

CHEVROLET 1998 Silverado, extended cab, fully loaded, 12 CD sprayed in bed liner, less than 52K miles. \$18,500. Owner. 570-1099.

FORD 1994 Ranger Extended Cab, Automatic 4.0 Ltr. V6. New windshield. Runs good. New tires. \$3,800. 520-2232.

FORD 1998 Lariat F-150 Brand new (R134) air, sliding back window, bedliner and extras. Nice truck! \$6,500. Call 682-9804.

FORD 1997 F350 CREW Cab Power Stroke Diesel. White with maroon, bucket seats, alloy wheels, excellent condition. \$23,000. 522-7814.

GMC 1992 Sonoma Pickup, Red, 104K miles, 4 cyl, power steering/brakes, V6 engine, bedliner, AM/FM cassette. \$4,800. Phone 689-3866.

CHEVROLET 1980 pickup, 350, 4 X 4, custom paint, CD player, Flo Masters, 6' body lift, 35' tires. \$5,500. 522-2175.

CHEVROLET 1997 SILVERADO Extended cab, short bed, half ton, V8, vortex, chrome toolbox/headache rack, loaded. 92K. \$16,300. 689-2821.

CHEVROLET 1999 Silverado, long bed, 4.3 liter, V8, automatic, 35K miles, new body style. Superb condition. \$13,500. Call 684-5829.

GMC 1999 SONOMA Extended cab, V6, automatic, camper shell, 15K miles, airbags, blocks, springs, stereo, wheels. \$18,500. \$15,900. Call 684-3027.

GMC 1994 SUBURBAN SLE, Blue, loaded, rear A/C, looks and runs great. 150K miles. \$12,900. Call 694-3027.

GMC 1994 SUBURBAN SLE, 4WD, dual A/C, white, gray cloth interior. Lots of new, excellent condition. \$13,900. 687-8210 or 694-3277.

GMC 1997 REGENCY Cargo Van, Loaded, low miles, book \$18,500, asking \$16,900. Will consider trade for equal value suburban. Jon 620-0083.

PLYMOUTH 1992 Grand Voyager SE, New engine, transmission 2 years old, body 150K miles. \$4,000. 683-8844.

CHEVROLET 1988 Suburban, Silverado, fully loaded, 120K, white/grey interior, Amsoil used. \$10,300. 685-3312 (8:00-5:00), 689-4869.

CHEVROLET 1999 Suburban, 4x4, leather, 30K, warranty, brush guard, power exterior, tan, 100 many extras. \$22,000. 520-4008.

TOYOTA 1992 Single Cab, 4x4, 5 speed, 4 cyl, 64K miles. Excellent condition. \$8,950. 689-5552 or 557-0406.

TOYOTA 1994 4x4, 51K CD player, KC lights, oversized tires, black/y, excellent condition. \$5,500. Call 686-9633 for information.

CHEVROLET 1990 Suburban, Excellent condition, always garaged. 111K, 1500 Windfield. \$4,750. 682-2028.

CHEVROLET 1993 Suburban, New Michelin tires/brakes, good condition. \$10,500. 686-7404.

GMC 1994 Suburban SLE, Fully loaded, new tires, battery. 83K, \$13,200. Call 756-2831/756-2405.

GMC 1999 SUBURBAN Fully loaded, gray/silver, low mileage. Call 270-3900.

DODGE 1997 Grand Caravan SE, one owner, great condition, 35K, 3.9L, new tires. \$15,900. 694-6308.

CHEVROLET 1989 Suburban, Silverado, 350, red, superior condition, rebuilt trans, new brakes, 3rd seat, rear a/c, cruise, tilt, power. 155K, \$4,275. 683-6226 work, 689-7505.

OLDSMOBILE 1991 Silhouette, leather, air conditioning, runs good. \$3,800. Call 522-2874.

CHEVROLET 1987 S10 BLAZER. Excellent condition! Thoroughly rebuilt. Call for many more details. \$5,500. 699-1100 leave message.

NEW TODAY
CHEVROLET 1988 SUBURBAN Silverado-3/4 ton, 454, \$4,000 obo. Call 684-9684.

FORD 1979 CUSTOMIZED 3/4 van. Good condition! 86K, dual A/C, new tires, mini blinds, captains chairs, couchy bed, lexbox table. \$2,500. 694-8410.

GMC 1994 SUBURBAN SLE, Blue, loaded, rear A/C, looks and runs great. 150K miles. \$12,900. Call 694-3027.

GMC 1994 SUBURBAN SLE, 4WD, dual A/C, white, gray cloth interior. Lots of new, excellent condition. \$13,900. 687-8210 or 694-3277.

GMC 1997 REGENCY Cargo Van, Loaded, low miles, book \$18,500, asking \$16,900. Will consider trade for equal value suburban. Jon 620-0083.

PLYMOUTH 1992 Grand Voyager SE, New engine, transmission 2 years old, body 150K miles. \$4,000. 683-8844.

CHEVROLET 1988 Suburban, Silverado, fully loaded, 120K, white/grey interior, Amsoil used. \$10,300. 685-3312 (8:00-5:00), 689-4869.

CHEVROLET 1999 Suburban, 4x4, leather, 30K, warranty, brush guard, power exterior, tan, 100 many extras. \$22,000. 520-4008.

TOYOTA 1992 Single Cab, 4x4, 5 speed, 4 cyl, 64K miles. Excellent condition. \$8,950. 689-5552 or 557-0406.

TOYOTA 1994 4x4, 51K CD player, KC lights, oversized tires, black/y, excellent condition. \$5,500. Call 686-9633 for information.

CHEVROLET 1990 Suburban, Excellent condition, always garaged. 111K, 1500 Windfield. \$4,750. 682-2028.

CHEVROLET 1993 Suburban, New Michelin tires/brakes, good condition. \$10,500. 686-7404.

GMC 1994 Suburban SLE, Fully loaded, new tires, battery. 83K, \$13,200. Call 756-2831/756-2405.

GMC 1999 SUBURBAN Fully loaded, gray/silver, low mileage. Call 270-3900.

DODGE 1997 Grand Caravan SE, one owner, great condition, 35K, 3.9L, new tires. \$15,900. 694-6308.

CHEVROLET 1989 Suburban, Silverado, 350, red, superior condition, rebuilt trans, new brakes, 3rd seat, rear a/c, cruise, tilt, power. 155K, \$4,275. 683-6226 work, 689-7505.

OLDSMOBILE 1991 Silhouette, leather, air conditioning, runs good. \$3,800. Call 522-2874.

CHEVROLET 1985 SUBURBAN Silverado 4WD, towing package, engine 30K miles, dual air, captains chairs. One owner 14 years. \$4,500. 699-7565.

FORD 1978 Van: new tires, runs good. \$1,200. Please call 688-8157 for more information.

NEW TODAY
MERCUY 1983 Grand Marquis, one owner, low mileage, runs good. \$500. 694-6207.

NISSAN 1989 Stanza EXE, highway miles, great school car. \$2,199. Call 697-5338.

CHEVROLET 1995 Conversion van, 66K miles, all leather, white with gold, \$15,000. Call 685-0838 after 5 pm.

CHEVROLET 1995 Suburban SLT, Leather, all power, rear air, cruise, cd, running boards, sharp. 5.7 liter, blue/gray. 66K, \$16,000. 683-2321.

PLYMOUTH 1993 GRAND Voyager SE, V6, white, excellent condition! One owner. All power. Dual A/C. 67K miles. \$8,000. Call 694-0365.

DODGE 1989 GRAND Caravan, All power! Loaded! Extra Clean! \$2,950. 699-4766 or 528-9851.

NISSAN 1988 STANZA wagon, 150K, new tires, sliding doors, great condition. \$2,700. 687-4520.

PLYMOUTH 1989 Sundance 70K, automatic, power windows/locks. Very clean. \$2,250. 570-7292.

PONTIAC 1991 Grand Am, four door. Great condition. Good school car. \$2,950. Call 683-7176.

GMC 1987 JIMMY, runs good, body blemishes, asking \$1,350. Please call 689-4265.

GMC 1989 Safari Van, Rear air, cool air, AM/FM Cassette, auto. Call 682-7000. 685-1924.

VOLKSWAGEN 1978 Van, new engine, \$2,250. Call 563-0452. For more information.

BUICK 1984 Le Sabre, High mileage, runs, current inspection and tags. \$600 sold as is. 689-2676.

BUICK 1987 Somerset, One owner. 500 miles on new motor. Like new. \$2,800. 520-4408/694-9601 ext 118.

CAVALIER Everything working perfectly. Excellent condition. Must sell \$3,000. Call 682-0598.

DODGE 1984 DIPLOMAT, Older owner, garaged, lots of new. Safe, dependable at only \$1,800. Call 570-4949 or 697-4204 evenings. Steve.

FORD 1985 F150 EX cab, bucket seats, loaded. 807 Brook Drive. 528-9070 \$3,000 obo.

FORD 1988 TAURUS, Good condition! \$2,000 obo. Call 570-1380 or leave message.

FORD 1989 Probe LX, 5 Speed, runs great. AM/FM Cassette. \$900 obo. 697-4628.

CHEVROLET 1985 SUBURBAN Silverado 4WD, towing package, engine 30K miles, dual air, captains chairs. One owner 14 years. \$4,500. 699-7565.

FORD 1978 Van: new tires, runs good. \$1,200. Please call 688-8157 for more information.

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7100 W. HWY 80, MIDLAND OR
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PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG TESTING REQUIRED

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CONVENIENCE STORES
FULL AND PART-TIME POSITIONS
WITH ADVANCEMENT POTENTIAL

Starting Pay \$6.25/Hr.

401K w/Company Match

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Apply at

the Kent Oil Office

Loop 250 & Midkiff

(next to Kent Kwik)

Between 8:00am and 5:00pm

Drug Screen Required

EOE

Wescon Management Group

EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Family owned Plugging Company seeking
Experienced Equipment Operators who are
interested in being home most nights and most
weekends. Great benefits include: Uniforms,
Insurance, 401K, Paid Holidays and one week
Paid Vacation with overtime earned every six
months. Class "A" CDL required. Must pass
drug test and have clean driving record.
Offshore experience preferred. Salary DOE.

Apply @ Triple N Services

@ 1110 W. CR #114

In Midland

570-0029.

CLASSIFIED FAX #1

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Faxed ads are subject to normal deadlines. We
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SALESPERSONS NEEDED

Do you have what it takes to sell? The Midland Reporter-Telegram is seeking neat & dependable persons to join our salesforce. Sales experience is helpful, but is not necessary. Unlimited potential.

Matt Brown
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CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER

A national home warranty company is expanding to open a major Customer Service Center in Odessa. We seek an experienced manager to train, mentor, and develop a growing staff of customer service representatives. The ideal candidate will possess excellent communication skills and is a motivator, goal setter, and change management leader. Prior personnel management experience required.

Company offers excellent compensation, paid training, vacations, and holidays and has a superior benefits package. Interviews will be scheduled in Odessa with qualified candidates after review of resume.

Send resume to:
First American Home Buyers Protection
Attention: Larry Aaron
P.O. Box 16180
Van Nuys, CA 91410-0180
or FAX to: 800-772-1151

HIRSCHFELD STEEL CO., INC.

Hiring:

Welders and Fitters: Welders - prefer a minimum of 1 year experience with flux core wire welding or stick and ability to work with basic welding tools and equipment. Fitters - 2 years welding experience & ability to read a measuring tape & interpret structural steel blueprints.

Apply in Person
Hirschfeld Steel Co., Inc.
Monday - Friday 8-12 AM & 1-5 PM
#8 East Industrial Loop
Midland, Texas 79701
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Odessa/Midland
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Now accepting applications for the following:

1st & 2nd Class Linemen
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Call 915-638-5921 (mobile)
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♦ Trying to Find An Apartment?
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CALL 1-877-216-7271
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ANGELA has the scoop on over 900 apartments in the Midland/Odessa area!

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TEAM UP With The World's Leader In Computer Training

Horizons Computer Learning Centers is looking for experienced full-time applications instructors. Send resumes to: P.O. Box 4786, Midland, TX 79704 or email: jayme@abchorizons.com

Concrete Finisher/ Form Setter

Reese Albert, Inc., a 60 year old highway and heavy construction company, has an opening for an experienced Concrete Finisher/ Form Setter in our Midland/Odessa Operations.

Please send resume to:
Reese Albert, Inc.
Human Resources Department
3001 Foster
San Angelo, TX 76903
Fax to: (915)653-6086
Or Call: (915)653-1241

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

LAWN CARE Technician.
\$25 to \$35.000. Experience a plus. References. Clean driving record. Signing bonus. McKinney, Texas: (972) 562-8873. Fax: (972) 562-6265. Email: abechtold@longhorn.wa.

314 Clerical Help Wanted

LEGAL SECRETARY. Heavy volume typing for three oil and gas attorneys. Experience in WordPerfect 8 or later preferred. Excellent benefits and working environment. Send resume to: Attn: Peggy Byrom, P.O. Box 7796, Midland, TX 79702

NEEDED SECRETARY

For independent oil company. Must have Computer, experience in WordPerfect 8, Windows 98, Excel, shorthand or speedwriting. Call V.P. Employment at 915-686-9722.

CONCRETE FINISHER

needed. Must be able to set forms. 620-8190.

WANTED SENIOR PRODUCTION ENGINEER

Odessa Exploration, Inc. a Division of Key Energy Services (NYSE:KES) is looking for a qualified applicant to immediately begin work. Must have engineering degree and multiple years of oil and gas experience. Responsibilities would be daily pumpjack calls, pulling unit coordination, railroad commission reporting and field visits as needed. A full medical benefits, company car, 401K. Please send resume only to Odessa Exploration, Inc. 6010 Highway 191, Suite 210, Odessa, Texas 79762, or Fax to 915-550-0544 or email: edwards@nwl.net

316 Sales Help Wanted

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

New Horizons Computer Learning Centers, Inc. a worldwide leader in the computer training industry seeks aggressive career minded professionals to sell computer training business accounts. If you are a self described "Type A" personality motivated by money, a commission and a challenge, please send your resume to: P.O. Box 3627, Odessa, TX 79760

MECHANIC NEEDED

Heavy Equipment and/or truck experience is desired. Competitive pay with lots of hours & benefits. Apply at 1900 E. Interstate 20, 684-6738.

314 Clerical Help Wanted

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN OFFICE PLACEMENTS

TEMPORARY RESOURCES

• The Power Personnel • 684-6527

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

10 Salespersons are now needed to sell insurance policies to the Midland Reporter-Telegram. Sales Season is us. Unlimited earning potential.

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Top Pay & Benefits

1-800-523-2279

S&K OILFIELD SERVICE, Inc.

is seeking the following personnel for a casing crew in Perryton, Texas; Experienced Stabbers, Tongue Operators, Lay Down Machine Operators. Call 806-435-2335, ask for Kenny or Craig or Cheesy.

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65,000 PER MONTH

potential for management trainees for the world's largest home corporation. Must be highly motivated, self-starter with a strong desire to succeed. Apply in person Monday thru Friday only at A-1 Homes, 7206 W. Hwy. 80, Midland, TX. Drug test required.

APARTMENT MANAGER

Immediate opening for a 1 year old 112 unit Tax credit property in San Angelo. The ideal candidate will have previous AMSI and or LIHTC experience. Must be strong in marketing, leasing and collections. Salary between \$2,300 to \$2,800 plus benefits plus commission based on experience.

Send resume to: 512-365-2520.

336 Adult Care Providers

PERSONAL CARE HOME

accepting clients. Affordable, 24 hour care. References. State approved. Linda, 699-6388-7055.

314 Clerical Help Wanted

BILINGUAL RECEPTIONIST

Needed. Great opportunity for improvement in office skills. Must be able to do light typing and have some knowledge in operating a computer. Call 570-1013 for an appointment.

318 Management Help Wanted

FARMERS INSURANCE

Group is looking for successful Life or Security agents with at least three years experience. Prefer agents with Series 6 and 63 license, but not required. Great opportunity. Please call Ben Wester at 915/699-1878 or send resume to P.O. Box 4908, Midland, TX 79704.

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ACCOUNTING CLERK

Oil and gas experience required. Texas tax reporting. University of Texas reports, reconciliation of accounts, COEX, Data Entry and master file maintenance Word and Excel required. You may fax or mail your resume to: The Revenue Dept. 110 N. Main Street, #2200 Midland, TX 79701. Fax: 687-2521.

318 Management Help Wanted

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Attention Readers

Occasionally, ads found in this section come from distant points & the Midland Reporter-Telegram cannot always know the merits of the offers. We suggest when you are in doubt that you call the Better Business Bureau before signing any contract or giving out your credit card or bank information.

Sinclair Place

Exclusive Apartments & Townhomes

Looking for something Quiet and Distinctive. We would like you to focus your attention to Quality and Prestigious Living accommodations at Sinclair Place. We have one & two bedroom floor plans available, garages on select units.

Visit Us Today To SEE What We're All About
4534 Sinclair Avenue
or Call 689-8115

NEW TODAY

MECHANIC

needed for local company. Experience preferred. Applications are available at 2052 Commerce Rd., Midland, TX 79703.

Supper Hot Special

\$600 TOTAL MOVE-IN

with approved credit

Don't Miss Out! See us Today!

HUNTERS GLEN
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NATURAL GAS COMPRESSOR MECHANIC

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Supper Hot Special

\$600 TOTAL MOVE-IN

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Don't Miss Out! See us Today!

HUNTERS GLEN
1802 N. Midland Dr.
915-699-5168

NEW TODAY

NATURAL GAS COMPRESSOR MECHANIC

needed for local company. Experience preferred. Applications are available at 2052 Commerce Rd., Midland, TX 79703.

Supper Hot Special

\$600 TOTAL MOVE-IN

with approved credit

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Garage Sales

Hidden treasures? Junk? Recycle your unwanted items! Call 682-6222. A friendly Classified Consultant will help you create an ad that gets results!

79703

4306 MONTY DRIVE: Estate Sale.

Friday- 8:30 until 2:00, Saturday- 9:00 until 12:00. No early sales! Furniture, household items, toys, bicycles, dorm refrigerator, electric typewriter, vacuum, linens, LP's, miscellaneous.

79707

4008. NORWOOD- Friday- Saturday 8:00-1:00. Little Tykes- (Castle, Big Climber, Desk) NordicTrack, Saddle, miscellaneous.

3520 W. MICHIGAN. Friday 8 am- 2 pm.

Student and computer desk, TV cabinet, furniture, household and decorator items, clothes and miscellaneous. No Early Birds!!

4401 SPENCE DRIVE- Saturday 7:00-1:00.

Little bit of everything!!

913 A BENTWOOD- ESTATE Sale!

Household furnishings from 8am-1:30 August 30, 2000 and August 31, 2000.

4905 OAKWOOD CT: Friday 9:00am.

Little Tykes playhouse, table, toys, video tapes, games, TV, Christmas yard cutouts, jewelry, clothing, much more! Biggest yet! Don't miss.

4514 PASADENA- MOVING sale!

Friday 8am- 1pm. Infant/ toddler clothes, exercise bike, dutch oven, dishes, Levis, books, luggage, easel, rice steamer, pressure cooker, frames, crock pot, blood machine, bike, childrens videos, comfortor sets, throws and more.

3215 GIST/ Max Storage- Moving. Saturday 9:00am- 1:00pm.

Appliances, furniture, tools, antiques, drum set.

79705

DR. MARTENS, Tommy Hilfiger, Polo, and much more at a fraction of the cost. Daisy's Children's Store, San Miguel Sq. Midkiff and Wadley.

The Deadline to place an Ad in our Saturday Garage Sale Section is Noon Friday. Call 682-6222 to place your ad today.

MUST SEE to Believe- Beautiful children and maternity clothes! Daisy's Children's Store at San Miguel Sq. Midkiff & Wadley.

DEE JAYS Shoes Famous 3 for 1 Sale! Buy one get 2 free on selected styles Imperial at Midkiff & Wadley.

GARAGE SALE SERVICES

DON'T MISS OUT!

The deadline for a Saturday Garage Sale ad is Friday at Noon.

Please be sure to call 682-6222, before noon, to ensure your ad will be in Saturday's paper.

\$20.50 \$20.50 \$20.50 \$20.50

GARAGE SALE AD PACKAGE \$20.50

★ 7 Lines (approx. 28-35 words)
★ 2 Days
★ ★★ Stand Out Emblem
★ Garage Sale Kit (includes Signs, Stakes, Marker, Balloons, Helpful Hints. \$6 Value)
★ Package of Flavored Drink Mix (for the Kids to Open a Drink Stand!)

★ \$3 Off Classified Coupon (Place an ad to sell those left-over garage sale items & get \$3 off)

Or Get 3 Days for Only \$24.50!

Call 682-6222 Today!

\$20.50 \$20.50 \$20.50 \$20.50

SLICKLINE-WIRELINE

Personnel positions open for experienced field operators. Excellent salary and benefits based on your experience. All inquiries are confidential. Send your info or resume to: Box J-5090, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702. Or call 634-6704.

Jumburrito

Now hiring Management Positions. Aggressive pay, bonus opportunities, competitive benefits. Mail resume and salary requirement to P.O. Box 50607, Midland, TX 79710.

Jumburrito, Inc.

Seeking qualified Corporate Mexican Food Chef. Strong knowledge in food preparation. Good people skills. Mail resumes with references: P.O. Box 50607, Midland, TX 79710.

MOTEL MANAGERS

Motel chain has immediate opening for resident management team at very nice 37 unit franchise in north Texas. Must have strong customer service and maintenance skills. Mail resume and salary requirement to P.O. Box 942, Lebanon, Oregon, 97355 or Fax to 541-259-3835. e-mail: sammy@proaxis.com

316 Oil Industry Help Wanted

NEW TODAY

FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIAN

Taking applications for Field Service Technicians. Previous oil field experience required. Will train. Apply at Plunger Lift Systems, Inc., #14 East Industrial Loop. 699-1200

336 Adult Care Providers

PERSONAL CARE HOME

accepting clients. Affordable, 24 hour care. References. State approved. Linda, 699-6388-7055.

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RENTALS 600

600 Rooms for Rent
601 Hotel Rooms
602 Furnished
603 Want to Rent
604 Apts. Furnished
605 Apts. Unfurnished
606 Houses Unfurnished
607 Houses Furnished
608 Condo/Townhome Unfurnished
609 Condo/Townhome Unfurnished
610 Mobile Home Space for Rent
611 Business Office Property for Rent
612 Comm'l Prop
613 Warehouse/Storage
614 Rec./Resort
615 Out of Town
616 Hunting Leases
617 Oil/Gas Leases
618 Oilfield Misc.

\$99 MOVE-IN OR 1 MONTH FREE

We'll pay your moving cost by Vision Transfer, Inc.

FURNISHED APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

TRELLIS APARTMENTS

PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED BY PRINGLE MGMT. CO.

3212 W. Wadley 687-0177

RENTALS 600

600 Rooms for Rent

MARTY'S MARKETPLACE

Leading you to the best bargains in Midland and the area!

Do you need to get rid of some of your extra goodies around the house?

Don't want to spend a lot of cash?

***Marty's Weekday Special**

3 Line Ad
1 Item Priced \$300 or Less
Monday through Thursday ONLY
\$4.00

Call or Fax Classifieds today to schedule your special Marketplace ad!

682-6222
Fax 682-6999

***Private Party merchandise ads only. 1 item per ad. Price must be in ad to qualify. Other restrictions may apply, ask consultant for details.**

410 Miscellaneous Sales

DIRECT TV System four receivers, 18" dish, universal remotes to each. User's manual. \$200. 694-3142.

BIBLE TALK "What Should I Make for Christ?" 915-520-0361. Free recorded message.

ABOVE GROUND POOL 3 months old, 15' diameter, 1 1/2" deep, all accessories, \$125. 520-2237.

FLEX PLUS Cross Trainer, bench, stair stepper, butterfly and leg attachment with band weights. \$90. 55 gallon aquarium and stand with accessories. \$90. Wagner Power Roller (self feeding paint roller) \$20. Call 520-8076.

DAMAGED 16x32 garage/workshop. Must sell. Will deliver. 915-563-3108.

SEVEN NIGHTS Accommodations, Motel Vegas, \$799. Call (915) 268-1148.

BINGO American Legion, 501 Airport Road, Friday nights, games start at 8. Food, refreshments. 682-5511.

NEW TODAY 1/2 OFF! Display above ground pools 18' round and 24' round, 50% discount. Installation/financing available. 915-563-3108.

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430 Household Goods

NEW TODAY **MOVING SALE** Combining households. Cheap prices on furniture, beds, TVs, appliances and more! 694-8763.

QUEEN SIZE bed, \$250. Bent wood rocker, \$40. Protom Crosswalk treadmill, \$500. Call 570-6317.

432 Household Furniture

ETHAN ALLEN Dining/Colonial 8 chairs- \$375. Floral chair/ ottoman- \$175. Oak table \$30. 520-3182.

VERY NICE King size bed with designer headboard and matching chair. Priced to sell. Comes with bedding. 570-8889.

NEW TODAY **OAK FOUR** piece desk set. Desk, hutch, printer stand & chair. \$250 obo. Call 685-1115.

434 Household Furniture

SECTIONAL SOFA Pastel colors. Good condition. Asking \$100. Call 520-7964.

DINING SET, white washed, seats 6-8, six padded chairs, \$850. Playbed comes with trundle (complete), white. \$350. Call 570-8797.

NEW TODAY **SOFA AND** Love seat, Drexel Heritage, hunter green and burgundy. Excellent condition! \$1,200. 689-7712.

DOWN SIZING to one bedroom apartment. Elegant pieces for sale quick! Call 689-7590.

7 SOFA WITH Oak trim, matching oak coffee and end tables, like new. \$950. 683-1429.

435 Household Appliances

FREE REMOVAL Of unwanted Appliances/ Evaporative Coolers. Will pick-up 45 minutes or less. 631-3920 anytime.

STOVE one year old \$250. Washer- one year old \$200. Please call 520-7452.

NEW TODAY **6 PIECE** QUEEN Bedroom set. \$400. Paid \$1,200. New! Call 684-7875.

PERMANENT BASIN FARMERS MARKET Open Saturday at 5025 Princeton and Tuesday at 1505 East Front Street. Most produce in good supply. Shop early for best selections.

Call Classified to add NEW TODAY on your Classified Specials for only \$3.00 Extra 682-6222

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438 Household Appliances

RECONDITIONED APPLIANCES- Washers, dryers and refrigerators. Mobile 556-3520 ask about payments. Removal of old appliances.

FREE REMOVAL Of unwanted Appliances/ Evaporative Coolers. Will pick-up 45 minutes or less. 631-3920 anytime.

1999 KENMORE Refrigerator, white, 1c2 maker, \$600. Call 570-4468, ask for Stacey.

440 Firewood

DICK'S FIREWOOD Oaks, Mesquite, Pecan & Cedar. We deliver. 1-(915) 453-2151. Fax 1-(915) 453-4322.

450 Sporting Goods

GREENTREE SHARE Of stock for sale. 661-6743, 699-9989, 687-1551.

NEW TODAY **BRUNSWICK** REGULATION pool table- 46X92, Model HL-1, 3 piece over sized slate. \$1,495. 694-3004, 556-2261.

FOR SALE Browning 10 gauge shot gun. Very good condition. Asking \$950. Call between 8-6 683-5639, after 5 689-9518.

NORDIC TRACK PRO Model with electronic monitor, excellent condition. \$200. Call 684-9077 or 425-8377.

CABEL- NELSON Baby Grand Piano \$2,000. Call 915-550-3808, leave message.

KORG CONCERT Piano XC-2000. Please call 520-7760, \$2,000.

FULL SIZE VIOLIN, case, and all accessories, great condition. \$300. Please call 689-7176 for information.

BEGINNING BAND- Ludwig Snare drum & CB 700 bell kit. Good condition, asking \$400. Call 520-2449.

450 Antiques & Arts

1830 MAPLE SPOOL Headboard/ frame. \$200. Duncan File table, \$175. Small desk, \$150. Buffet with inlay, \$85. 683-1429.

BEAUTIFUL UPRIGHT Piano, over 100 years old. Perfect condition. Please call 685-0558, leave message.

ESTATE Sales by JOSEPH, an experienced team liquidator your estate. 687-3040, 687-2868, 694-5034.

455 Antiques & Arts

THE CATS MEOW 4000 sq. ft. of fine merchandise. We buy & sell antiques. 408 Andrews Highway. (915) 687-2004.

JUDY JACKSON'S Estate Sales. An experienced professional working for you! 689-3536, 682-6147.

ANTIQUE OAK storage chest, 18X60X30. Twenty drawers- pull all the way out, drop down but remain attached. Non-attached white coriana top added for function. Non-attached stand on bottom. Clean, excellent condition- ready to use \$500 or best offer. Call 682-9190.

INDIVIDUAL will pay fair prices for your antiques and collectibles. No furniture please. 571-3222/ 694-7508.

NEW TODAY **19th CENTURY** tufted Victorian sofa: dark olive, ornately carved. Asking \$700. Please call 687-618.

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