BIG SPRING HERALD

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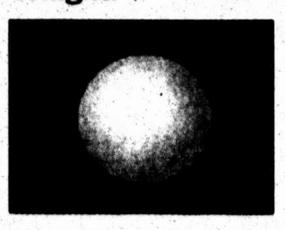
50 CENTS DAILY/$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

January 13, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 24°-26° TOMORROW 47°-50°

INSIDE

Howard County Volunteer firefighters managed to keep a structure fire east of Coahoma from turning into a wind-driven nightmare Wednesday.
See Page 3A

BRIEFLY

Jury call canceled

Jury selection slated for 9 a.m. Friday in Howard County Court has been canceled.

Legion sets fish fry for Saturday

American Legion Post 506, located at 3204 W. Highway 80, will hold a fish fry Saturday from noon until 3 p.m. Delivery will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Carry-outs are available. For orders, call 263-2084.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



Cover Story: The top-rated PBS series "Antiques Road Show" has become a national phenomenon as people flock to the show's appraisers to determine if their keepsake is trash or treasure. The excitement builds in Reno, Nevada, where a day-long evaluation takes place of America's hidden treasures.

INDEX

Classified	3-4B
Comics	6B
Features	5-6A
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	1-2B

Vol. 101, No. 40

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Bragging rights on the line at Boss Hogg Chili Cook-off

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Bragging rights and hundreds of dollars of prize money will be on the line Saturday, as the Big Spring Harley-Davidson Shop presents the 16th annual Boss Hogg Chili Cook-off.

Shop owner and event coordinator Howard Walker said this year's cook-off should be no different than the past — filled with plenty of rivalry between the cooks and more than 200 pounds of delicious chili.

When: Saturday. Cooking begins at 8 a.m., Judging at noon.

Where: Harley-Davidson Shop, 908 W. Third St.

Cost: $20 to enter, $5 to eat.

"Vickie (Walker) and I are going to be cooking this year," said Walker. "And I've got a little competition going with one of the other cooks. He's good — probably one of the best — but I'm gonna' beat him."

The competition is expected to begin at 8 a.m. when more than 40 chili teams expected to fire-up their implements and begin

See **COOK-OFF**, Page 3A

VAMC will honor King legacy Friday

Special to the Herald

The West Texas VA Health Care System will hold a public program Friday in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Born Jan. 15, 1929, and assassinated April 4, 1968, the Civil Rights activist encouraged all people to come together in dignity, respect and service.

The program will begin at 11 a.m. in Medical Center Conference Room 219.

Ian Damone Nickerson Sr., minister at the West Highway 80 Church of Christ in

See **VAMC**, Page 3A



KRT photo/Ron T. Ennis, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, left, visits with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Conner. Hutchison will be at the Master's Touch in Big Spring Friday to autograph her book, "American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country."

Sen. Hutchison to tour VA hospital, autograph her book

❑ She will autograph copies of her book, "American Heroines: the Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country," beginning at 9:15 a.m. Friday at the Master's Touch, 996 E. FM 700.

Herald Staff Report

Business of both a personal and public matter will bring U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison to Big Spring Friday.

On the public side, Hutchison will tour the local VA Medical Center at about 8:30 a.m. Later that morning, she will conduct a signing of her book, "American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country," at The Master's Touch, located at 996 E. FM 700.

Hutchison has been a staunch supporter of keeping the VA facility in Big Spring. Federal officials will soon begin a study that will consider the feasibility of keeping the VA center in Big Spring, or possibly transferring its services elsewhere.

The feasibility study, to be conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, is expected to begin in March and last about 13 months.

The Big Spring VAMC serves a population of approximately 62,300 veterans and provides health care services to 17,000 annually. Big Spring's market area encompasses roughly 74,000 square miles, an area larger than 35 of the 50 states.

The Big Spring VAMC employs 500-plus full- and part-time workers with an annual payroll of $32.5 million.

In a recent visit with Jim Nicholson, appointed to head the Dept. of Veteran Affairs, Hutchison reiterated her support for keeping the VA facility in Big Spring.

"As I told Ambassador Nicholson ... the Big Spring hospital is ideally located near other important military facilities. The upcoming study should make that as clear to VA officials as it is to Texans. Veterans should not be forced to travel long distances to receive health care," Hutchison said earlier this month.

Hutchison's book chronicles the lives of women considered among the firsts in their fields, including flyer Amelia Earhardt and famed Olympic medalist and women's golfing

See **HUTCHISON**, Page 3A

Family values

Learning life's lessons important part of stock shows for GCHS student

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Eight years — that's how long Penni Kothman has watched her daughter, Meagan, compete in livestock shows.

But, as with all good things, Meagan's days of competing in the annual Howard County Junior Livestock Show are coming to a close as she prepares to graduate from Garden City High School this year.

> *"I have an eight-year-old son who is going to start showing animals next year. So this is far from over for us."*
>
> —Penni Kothman

"We've been doing this for eight years," said Penni with a laugh. "We've only been showing sheep for the last four years, but we've shown goats for the entire eight years.

"It's changed in a lot of different ways. The goat industries have really gone more toward the sheep industry in the look of the animals. The goats are looking a lot more like the sheep than when we started."



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Meagan Kothman, right, and her mother Penni prepare a goat for show during the Howard County Junior Livestock Show, which continues through Saturday at the Howard County Fairbarns.

Meagan, who is competing in this year's show in the goat division, said she's learned a lot over the last eight years — about herself, her family and what it takes to raise a small animal from newborn to adult.

See **VALUES**, Page 3A

JAN 13 2005

Obituaries

Dorothy Helen Burke



Dorothy Helen Burke, 72, of Bangs, formerly of Odessa passed away Jan. 10, 2005. She was born July 12, 1932, to her parents Haden C. Roberts and Elizabeth Coolbaugh Roberts in Stanton. She was educated in Big Spring and became a nurse where she worked for the Big Spring State Hospital for 15 years, St. Michael's Girl School for four years in Dallas and Shannon Hospital for one year in San Angelo. She was also a member of Westwood Baptist Church in Odessa.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, her son, Ronnie Ray Steen, her sister Ethel Mae Roberts and two infant children.

Dorothy is survived by her son, Ricky Steen and wife, Melanie of Alton, Ill.; daughter-in-law Linda Kay Steen-Miller of Odessa; brothers Claude Roberts of Bangs, Raymond and David Roberts of St. Lawrence and Johnny Roberts of Garden City; sisters Della Kinard of Fort Worth and Marie Wilder of Dallas; granddaughters Shannon and Jami Jo; grandsons Ronnie Steen and wife, Melissa, David, Justin, Christopher, Patrick and Raymond. She has four great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services for Dorothy Burke are scheduled today, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2005, at 3 p.m. at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Services are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Funeral Home in Odessa.

Paid obituary

Sybil Lee Wise Craig



Sybil Lee Craig, 65, of Albuquerque, N.M., formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, Jan. 3, 2005. Services were held Jan. 7, 2005, at The Holy Family Church in Albuquerque.

She was born Sept. 24, 1939, in Big Spring.

She is survived by a daughter, Kimberly Anne Tenorio of Albuquerque; three sons, Curtis Richard Lawdermilk, Keavin Lee Lawdermilk and Bobby Dan Wise, all of Albuquerque, N.M.; a sister, Laverne Wise Myers of Big Spring; three brothers, Marvin Wise of Big Spring, Wiley Wise of Abilene and Dan Wise of Midland; and six grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband and parents.

Arrangements were under direction of Direct Funeral Services.

Dennis Paul Dorton

Dennis Paul Dorton, 58, died Monday, Jan. 10, 2005, in Hamilton. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, 2005, in the Riley Funeral Home Chapel with burial following in Oakwood Cemetery.

Dennis was born Jan. 2, 1946, in Big Spring to Joseph "Joe" Patton Dorton and Marcella May Green Patton.

He is survived by one sister, Martha Sue Spence of Hamilton.

Arrangements are under the direction of Riley Funeral Home.

James D. 'Jim' Felts

James D. "Jim" Felts, 55, of Amarillo, formerly of Big Spring, died Jan. 7, 2005. Graveside services were at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2005, in Mount Olive Cemetery with Lorin McDowell officiating.

He was born and raised in Big Spring. He served in the United States Air Force and was a home painter for many years.

He was preceded in death by one son, Chad Felts in 1995.

He is survived by two sons, Chris Felts of San Diego and Jeremy Felts of San Antonio; his father, Jim Felts of Amarillo; his mother, Marion Slavens of Big Spring; one sister, Connie Fletcher of Austin; and one granddaughter.

Arrangements were under the direction of Cox Funeral Home in Amarillo.

James L. Storie

James L. Storie, 79, of Antlers, Okla., died Thursday, Jan. 6, 2005, in Eufaula, Okla., after a long battle with heart problems.

He was born Feb. 6, 1925, in Terrell Okla., to Robert Benjamin Storie and Lillian Irene Williams Storie. He married Christine Davett Morris May 6, 1950.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Alice Vaughn and Wilda Backus, one brother, R.L. Storie and one grandson, Abel Storie.

He is survived by his five children, Rodney Storie of Shawnee, Okla., Grady Storie of Big Spring, Hoyt Storie of Mount Pleasant and Nora Lambert and Mike Storie, both of Oklahoma City; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were under the direction of Adams Funeral Home in Tulsa, Okla.

Robert Eoff

Robert Eoff, 95, of Big Spring died at 9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2005, at the V.A. Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Kathaleen Elliott

Kathaleen Elliott, 31, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 13, 2005, at her mother's residence in Lubbock. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

All announcements to the Sunday Life! section are free of charge. Call the Herald office for more details, 263-7331

BIG SPRING HERALD

Police blotter

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

• **JOHNNY SANCHEZ,** 22, of 1002 N. Main Street Apt. 32, was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant.

• **JAIME RAY SMITH,** 28, of 1905 Wasson, was arrested Wednesday on local warrants and a charge of failure to identify.

• **STEPHEN HECTOR,** 40, of 2107 Williams Road, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **ERIC CRAWFORD,** 24, of Terrell, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **DERECK MOFFETT,** 25, of Loraine, was arrested Thursday on charges of driving while license invalid and no insurance.

• **BOBBY DAVIS,** 30, of 1302 Wood, was arrested Thursday on local warrants.

• **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 900 block of Willia.
- in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
- in the 1700 block of FM 700.

• **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY AS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE** was reported in the 400 block of 10th Street.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported:
- in the 900 block of Sixth Street.
- in the 100 block of 13th Street.

• **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT** was reported in the 1000 block of Second Street.

Sheriff's report

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

• **BEN TORRES GONZALES,** 34, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **THOMAS JASPER EVANS,** 46, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of taking fish without land owner's consent.

• **STEPHEN BUSTAMANTE,** 33, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of contempt of court - disobedience of a court order.

• **JOSE LUJAN ALVAREZ,** 41, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **TONY MONROE GAMBLE,** 37, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off of bond for theft, aggravated robbery and a second count of theft.

• **LORENZO FABIAN ONTIVEROS,** 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of contempt of court - disobedience of a court order.

• **WILLIE RAY MYLES JR.,** 44, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a parole violation.

• **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 1000 block of S. Macgregor Road.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 6700 block of E. Midway Road.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 900 block of Culp.

• **ANIMAL/DOG PROBLEM** was reported in the 9600 block of Jay Road.

Take note

❑ **THE VA MEDICAL CENTER WILL HAVE A PUBLIC PROGRAM IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.** at 11 a.m. Friday. The program begins in the Medical Center Conference Room 219 and the public is invited.

❑ **SEN. KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**, author of "American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country," will be at the Master's Touch, 996 E. FM 700 at 9:15 a.m. Friday for a book signing. The senator will also tour the Big Spring VA Medical Center while in Big Spring.

❑ **THE 16TH ANNUAL BOSS HOGG CHILI COOK-OFF** all at the Harley-Davidson Shop, 908 W. Third Street is set for Saturday. Sampling by the public begins at noon and cooking begins at 8 a.m.

❑ **THE ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MARCH BEGINS** at 6 p.m. at the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard. The public is invited.

❑ **THE HARLEM AMBASSADORS BASKETBALL TEAM** has an exhibition game set for 7 p.m. Jan. 21 in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum as a Rotary Club of Big Spring fund-raiser. Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for students and $1 for children with an adult. Children younger than 5 are free. To purchase a ticket contact the YMCA, 267-8234 or the coliseum at 264-5040.

❑ **A ONE-DAY SEMINAR, "CREATION: FROM THE BEGINNING — A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE ORIGINS OF A DEFIANT CULTURE,"** is set for 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Jan. 22 in the St. Paul Lutheran Church parish hall. The event is free and open to the public and lunch and child care will be provided at no charge.

❑ **THE FAR WEST BOYS HOME** is in need of donations of household, office and recreational items to benefit boys 5-17 who are unable to live with their families due to abuse or neglect. Items needed include dressers, bunk beds, mattresses, cookware, recreational and exercise equipment, and a maintenance pickup, can or car. Cash donations to purchase these items are also appreciated. Far West is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. To arrange pick up of items or for more information, call 432-353-4464.

❑ **A BENEFIT FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED** at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Jeremiah Best, to help with the cost of his cancer treatment. Contributions and prayers are appreciated.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

• Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.

• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

• Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

• Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main St.

• Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

• Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson, author of "American Heroines: the Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country," will be at the Master's Touch, 996 E. FM 700 at 9:15 a.m. for a book signing. The senator will also tour the Big Spring VA Medical Center while in Big Spring.

• The VA Medical Center will hold a public program in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at 11 a.m. in the Medical Center Conference Room 219.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY

• Howard County Scottish Rite Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge located at 21st and Lancaster streets. Breakfast is served.

• Free eye glasses are available from 9 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. in the Event Center, 1607 E. Third.

• The 16th annual Boss Hogg Chili Cook-Off at the Harley-Davidson Shop, 908 W. Third Street is set to begin at noon for sampling by the public. The cooking begins at 8 a.m.

• American Legion Post 506 fish fry is set for noon until 3 p.m. Carryout is available from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. $7 per plate. The legion is located at 3203 W. Highway 80, or call 263-2084.

• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

Lottery

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 4-13-28-35-36

...

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 10-23-29-30-37 Bonus Ball: 36

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-1-6

Weather

Tonight – Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. East winds near 10 mph, shifting to the south after midnight.
Friday – Increasing clouds. Highs near 50. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
Friday night – Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Southeast winds near 10 mph.
Saturday – Partly cloudy. Highs near 40. East winds near 10 mph.
Saturday night – Mostly cloudy. Lows near 20.
Sunday – Mostly cloudy. Highs near 40.
Sunday night – Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.
Martin Luther King Jr Day – Mostly cloudy. Highs near 40.
Monday night – Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.
Tuesday – Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s.
Tuesday night – Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.
Wednesday – Partly cloudy. Highs near 50.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Man accused of stealing $68,000 by claiming his partner was killed on 9-11 pleads guilty

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A man who collected $68,000 from a charity by falsely claiming his boyfriend died in the World Trade Center attacks has pleaded guilty to grand theft.

Patric Henn, 29, entered his plea Wednesday and admitted making up the story to steal from the American Red Cross. Henn could face up to 15 years in prison at sentencing scheduled for Jan. 19.

He told Circuit Judge Marc Gold that that he thought pleading guilty to the charge was the right thing to do. The plea was not part of a deal with prosecutors.

Henn is accused of telling the Red Cross, the media and others that his domestic partner, Jeff John Anderson, was on his way to visit a brokerage firm in the World Trade Center about 45 minutes before the 2001 attacks.

Anderson's name does not appear on any official victims lists and authorities do not believe such a person exists. Henn was arrested in June 2003 in Dallas and transferred to Florida.

Henn's attorney, Dorothy Ferraro, said she will ask for the first-time felony offender to receive probation. She declined to discuss Henn's plea.

Foreign aid workers need military escorts in some areas of tsunami-stricken Aceh

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP) — Relief organizations said a new demand made by Indonesia Thursday that foreign aid workers have army escorts in tsunami-stricken Aceh province will hamper aid delivery and blur the lines between the military and humanitarian efforts.

Rich creditor nations, meanwhile, offered a moratorium on payments on billions of dollars owed by tsunami-hit nations. Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Seychelles expressed initial interest in the Paris Club's proposal, but Indonesia's foreign minister later said accepting the offer could hurt the country's credit rating.

The chief of UNICEF in Sri Lanka said Tamil Tiger rebels had recruited three children living in tsunami refugee camps to be soldiers. It wasn't immediately clear how old the children were or if their parents survived the tsunami. Ted Chaiban said UNICEF was working for their release.

Relief groups reported having no security problems in Aceh, where rebels have fought a low-level separatist war against government troops for three decades, and some worried that the new restrictions could harm their reputation for independence.

"We discourage such actions because it blurs the distinction between humanitarian and military efforts here," said Eileen Burke of Save the Children.

Rebel leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a cease-fire they declared hours after the Dec. 26 earthquake that sent killer waves fanning out across the Indian Ocean, killing more than 150,000 people in 11 nations.

Indonesia's vice president on Thursday welcomed the cease-fire offer..

U.S. Supreme Court leaves federal sentencing system in limbo

WASHINGTON (AP) — Disposing of a constitutional challenge to the federal sentencing system, the Supreme Court has set up an anticipated fight in Congress over how judges punish convicted criminals.

The court on Wednesday struck down part of the nearly two-decade-old sentencing system, then imposed new requirements that were contested even among the justices.

Justice Antonin Scalia predicted that changes would "wreak havoc on federal district and appellate courts." Justice John Paul Stevens said that his colleagues "erased the heart" of reforms intended to ensure that sentences do not vary widely from courtroom to another.

The Supreme Court had spent the past four months trying to reconcile a defendants' constitutional right to a jury trial with a system that requires judges to make factual decisions that affect prison time.

Juries consider a person's guilt or innocence. Judges decide matters such as the amount of drugs involved in a crime or the number of victims in a fraud. Those factors are used, under the federal guidelines, to add years to someone's sentence.

More than 60,000 defendants are sentenced each year in federal courts.

In a compromise, the court decided that judges should consult the guidelines in determining sentences — but only on an advisory basis. Appeals courts must ensure that sentences are reasonable.

FDA considers over-the-counter sales for cholesterol drug

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is considering whether a drug for a serious chronic condition — high cholesterol — should sit on drugstore shelves alongside medicines for headaches, allergies and athlete's foot.

Supporters say making a low-dose cholesterol medicine available without a doctor's prescription would help get needed treatment to millions of Americans who are at risk of heart disease.

"There's a huge treatment gap," said Jerry Hansen, vice president of marketing at Johnson & Johnson-Merck Consumer Pharmaceuticals Co., a joint venture that is asking the Food and Drug Administration for permission to sell a low-dose version of Mevacor over the counter.

The drug, he notes, has been on the market for a long time and has proven quite safe.

But opponents say selling directly to the consumer allows patients to skip doctor visits, where they might be told to change their diet and exercise — both crucial in the effort to lower cholesterol.

"This is going to encourage people to take medication rather than alter other parts of their lifestyle," said Dr. Michael Schloss, clinical co-director of the Cholesterol Treatment and Research Center at New York University.

Volunteers battle structure fire near Coahoma

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County Volunteer firefighters managed to keep a structure fire east of Coahoma from turning into a wind-driven nightmare Wednesday.

According to VFD Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan, the call came in at approximately 5:30 p.m. that a structure located at 1005 McGregor Road, roughly two miles east of Coahoma, was on fire.

"The firefighters and I were already at the fire station," said Sullivan. "We go on high alert anytime the winds pick up like they did Wednesday, so we were able to respond very quickly.

"When I heard the structure was already engulfed in flames I figured we were going to end up chasing this fire all the way to Westbrook because of the winds. We managed to maintain the fire within 100 yards of the structure however, so we were very pleased with how it turned out."

Sullivan said the structure was an old house that was in the process of being torn down.

"The owner was tearing down the house, and on Tuesday had burned some of the debris," said Sullivan. "That fire wasn't properly extinguished and because of the high winds it spread to the structure. It went up pretty quickly."

Sullivan said no injuries or equipment damage was reported as a result of the fire.

"We have a saying that is a rule around here," said Sullivan. "Risk a lot to save a lot, risk a little to save a little and risk nothing to save nothing. In this case the building was being torn down anyway, so it wouldn't make much sense to risk the firefighter's safety or possibly damaging equipment."

COOK-OFF

Continued from Page 1A

putting the spicy stew together. Each team is expected to prepare at least five pounds of chili, from which they will turn in a sample to the judges at noon.

"Once we've got the chili for the judges to sample ready, each team will be able to start serving to the public," said Walker. "The entry fee per team is $20, and for those that would rather eat instead of cook, tickets will be $5. They can sample as much as they would like."

Walker said first prize for the cook-off is $150, with second place garnering $75 and third place bringing in $50. Of course, the money isn't the real prize when it comes to the Boss Hogg Chili Cook-off.

"It's all about bragging rights, plain and simple," said Walker.

Trophies will be awarded to the top 10 cooks, with trophies also awarded for best of show.

"A lot of these guys like to decorate their spot and things like that," said Walker. "They cut up and have a good time."

While Walker refers to the cooks most of the time as guys, he may have to make some exceptions this year.

"The Buffalo Girls from Amarillo are going to be competing in this year's cook-off," said Walker. "This will be their first time competing in the Boss Hogg Cook-Off. The team is made up of all women and they use buffalo meat in their chili, so it should be interesting."

Interesting in particular for the cook-off judges, a panel made up of brave men and women willing to take the hot with the mild and the good with the bad.

"We have a few judges lined up, but we can always use more," said Vickie Walker. "Sheriff Dale Walker has agreed to judge, along with Police Chief Lonnie Smith and several other people in the community. We're always looking for more judges, however, so if anyone is interested they should contact us so we can get them signed up, or just show up to the cook-off."

Walker said live music will be provided by Amarillo-based Lonesome Goat.

"They have quite a following in the Amarillo area and from what I hear they're pretty good," said Howard. "They play a lot of different types of music, from country to rock."

He said the 2005 Harley-Davidson motorcycles will also be on display during the cook-off, which will take place at 908 W. Third Street.

"We also have a Screaming Eagle V-Rod coming in," said Walker. "It's a new model that came out a few years ago. It has a more powerful engine based on Harley-Davidson's racing motorcycles and comes from the factory with all of the accessories."

For more information on the cook-off, contact the Walkers at 263-2322.

VALUES

Continued from Page 1A

"How to get along with my mom," said Meagan smiling toward her mother. "I've learned a lot about dedication and hard work and how to get out there and get the job done.

"It's a long process. If you don't work with them at home and get these things done at home you can't expect to get to the show. If you don't do the things you really have no chance. It's an every day thing.

"He was a newborn when I got him," said Meagan, pointing to a goat she was preparing to show. "He was just a baby. You see them from a little tiny thing to full grown."

Penni said it's been great to watch her daughter grow within the program each year, and is convinced many of the lessons Meagan has learned will serve her well when it comes time to leave home.

"It's great. It's really a wonderful program," said Penni. "The kids she meets throughout the state of Texas while she's showing her animals are wonderful. She's made several longtime friends and acquaintances through the program.

"It's taught her responsibility. You have to have feeding and exercise programs and you have to have a good routine. You really have to watch the animals. If the goat's tail is tucked between his legs that means he's not feeling good and something's wrong. You have to learn things like that."

Meagan said her favorite part of the annual program is the places she's had the opportunity to go to and the people.

"It's been an experience," said Meagan with a laugh. "Going from not knowing anything about these animals to learning so much about these animals has been really fun.

"The best part has been meeting so many people through 4H and getting to go to all of the different shows. I've made a lot of new friends, which is a big thrill. These are friends you'll have forever."

While the competition centers around the students, a great deal of the responsibility often falls to the parents.

Penni said that role has changed over the past eight years, and while Meagan is finishing her last year, the battle is anything but over for the Kothmans.

"When they are young you stay really tied up and nervous," said Penni with a laugh. "Meagan's a senior this year and it's really different. You have to tell yourself that this is the best I can do to make this animal look good and it's your job from here to the show ring. It changes a lot over eight years.

"I have an eight-year-old son who is going to start showing animals next year," said an obviously exhausted Penni. "So this is far from over for us."

VAMC

Continued from Page 1A

Big Spring, will serve as keynote speaker. Rev. Nickerson attended Hardin Simmons University and Abilene Christian University, where he majored in Biblical Studies.

Claudette Forward and Sandra and Floyd Green will provide the music.

In a separate activity, the public is also invited to participate in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. March Monday in Big Spring. The march will begin at 6 p.m. at the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard.

HUTCHISON

Continued from Page 1A

pioneer Babe Didrickson Zaharias. Alongside those pioneers, Hutchison inserts articles on contemporary women she considers as role models in their respective fields of expertise.

Among the contemporaries in Hutchison's book is Big Spring's Marj Carpenter, longtime journalist and former moderator of the Presbyterian Church USA.

Carpenter is scheduled to attend the book signing, set for 9:15 a.m. Friday.

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Judith Dee (Mitchell) Horner, 60, died Monday. Graveside Services will be at 2:30 PM Thursday at Fairmont Cemetery in San Angelo.

Carl Titsworth, 82, died Monday. Funeral Services were at 10:00 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park

Elautiro Valencia Jr., 96, died Tuesday. Vigil Services will be at 7:30 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:30 AM Friday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Emmit Charles Moore, Sr., 66, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Bethlehem Baptist Church at Beeville, Texas. Burial will be at St. Rose Cemetery.

Robert Eoff, 95, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

"...When we allow freedom to ring –

when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last, free at last. Thank God almighty, we are free at last.' "

From Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Aug. 28, 1963



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an outstanding leader whose movements and marches influenced some of the most dramatic changes in our nation's recent history. On the anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth we celebrate his life and his leadership by reflecting on his powerful words.

For Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the schedule for the following banking institutions on Monday, January 17, 2005 will be as follows:

Big Spring Government Employees Federal Credit Union
Closed

State National Bank
Open

Wells Fargo
Closed

Citizen's Federal Credit Union
Open

Big Spring State Hospital Federal Credit Union
Closed

Big Spring Banking Center
Closed

Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union
Closed

JAN 13 2005

EDITORIAL

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

-First Amendment

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Be sure you don't miss chili cookoff

Whether you enjoy some friendly competition or just have an appetite for spicy food, don't forget about the 16th annual Boss Hogg Chili Cookoff this Saturday, sponsored by the Harley-Davidson Shop.

The local business puts it on, but the money goes for a great cause — funding the charitable work of the Harley Owners Group for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

There are no rules for the cookoff, though it's our understanding that organizers have authorized judges to shoot anyone who puts beans in their chili.

The competition will begin around 8 a.m. Judging will begin about 1 p.m. and after that, chili lovers can sample the bowls of red for $5 each.

The chili cookoff will feature live music by local bands in an area set up adjacent to the Harley-Davidson shop, which is located at 908 W. Third.

Whether you would like to enter your secret homemade chili — the fee is $20 — or just enjoy some good music, good chili and a good time, make plans on Saturday to make your way over to the Harley Shop.

YOUR VIEWS

To the Editor:

It never ceases to amaze me what our so called professional athletes or what some might refer as "role models" for our youth will do on national television.

After watching the Green Bay-Minnesota playoff game on Sunday, I was amazed, shocked and, to be honest, embarassed to have witnessed the actions of Randy Moss after scoring a touchdown. If you witnessed the game, you know very well what I am referring to, running over to the goal post and pantomined pulling down his pants and mooning the Green Bay fans.

No wonder they pay him the big bucks.!

And do you think a measly fine of $5,000 will phase him? Not as he is quoted as saying, "Just having a little fun with the boys. I hope I don't get into trouble by it, but if I do, I'll take the heat." You can tell he is really concerned about his actions.

Furthermore, is disappointing to hear the quote by the head coach of Indaianapolis. Tony Dungy's response was, "I thought it was kind of funny."

Yeah Mr. Dungy, it was kind of funny until you explain it to your young child watching the television. Maybe you need to be fined as well but a little more than what I would guess would be a "few minutes" of your pay.

Moss, should be so very proud of himself. I really think the only correct portion of his quote is the word "boy."

Just stop for a moment and think of the many innocent boys and girls who were watching and then turning to mom and dad asking to have those actions explained to them.

If only we had more Andy Pettittes in the sports world — men who are not ashamed of the Gospel and their faith and love for God.

The sad part of this is watching our young people today who play sports trying do the foolish things they see on TV. I thank God that the athletic programs in Howard County have Godly men leading our young people.

Dale Pittman
Big Spring

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You love with each person individually, Lord, may we take time out of our individual lives to come to You.

Amen

Who wants to be Cruz Bustamante?

B.C. (Before Conan), there was no "spin tent" on the steps of the Capitol when the governor delivered his State of the State address.

A.T.3. (After Terminator 3), a big tent was needed to handle the overflow of out-of-town news hounds. In January 2004, reporters from around the world groused about what a circus the recall election was that elected Arnold Schwarzenegger and then compared notes on their interviews with stripper/candidate Mary Carey.



Debra Saunders

Wednesday, the "spin tent" was the domain of the usual insiders. Sacramento was once again Sacramento. In his second State of the State address, Schwarzenegger delivered his least theatrical political speech to date. His new tone seems to signal his readiness to morph from governator to governor.

Schwarzenegger's 2004 charm offensive changed the tone in a city famous for partisan rancor. Now, he has to change how the state spends. And that is work. This year, the muscle man has to straddle an $8.1 billion shortfall.

Monday, Schwarzenegger will release his budget for the next fiscal year. Then, the howls from the Democrats — the very folks who got California into this mess — will pierce the air. Will Schwarzenegger cave or hold his ground? Californians will find out when, and if, Schwarzenegger finally proposes something unpopular and sees it through.

Here's a partial list of the unpopular measures he proposed the Legislature address in an unpopular special session:

— Pension reform. Schwarzenegger embraced a proposal by Assemblyman Keith Richman, R-Northridge, to create a two-tiered pension system — current state employees could stick with the Cadillac of pensions plans, CalPERS, but those hired after July 2007 would be limited to less lucrative 401k accounts.

This radical proposal would save cities and counties from their own inability to draw the line when it comes to employee pensions. And it is poison to the state and local employees' unions, which are the reason state pensions are so fat.

I have little doubt that voters would approve such a measure if it appeared on the ballot. Consider that state pension benefits are so generous that some police and firefighters can retire at age 50 and receive 90 percent of their pay.

The big question is whether Schwarzenegger is using the threat of putting this measure on the ballot to squeeze more money from the unions.

— Schools. Last year, Schwarzenegger promised to give schools any extra money the state raised in exchange for the education community's agreement to bypass a requirement to spend a certain portion of the state's budget on schools. Schwarzenegger is about to break that promise. Then, again, the non-partisan legislative analyst suggested he do so because the state needed the money elsewhere.

To distract voters from this about-face, Schwarzenegger is trying to turn up the heat on schools by proposing merit pay and an end to tenure. Voters like the idea, but the Democrats in Sacramento will never go for it, and I doubt many Republicans will, either.

It's all sizzle, no beefsteak.

— Big spending. Schwarzenegger proposed a constitutional amendment to make the state controller implement across-the-board cuts if the money guys find that spending is exceeding revenue. Finance Director Tom Campbell explained that if spending outstrips revenues by, say, 2 percent, the controller would reduce the checks he cuts — even payroll checks — by that amount.

Campbell argued the measure is necessary because it provides "the enforcement mechanism that was lacking" in the last spending-cap gimmick. (OK, I said gimmick, he didn't.) I sympathize, but I can't believe such a measure could survive a court challenge.

Hello?! It's time to dispense with gimmicks and just cut spending. If you can't, raise taxes.

— Redistricting. As the governor put it, there were 153 congressional and legislative seats up in the last election, "and not one — I repeat — not one changed parties." Hence, Schwarzenegger's proposal to have a panel of retired judges draw districts that aren't rigged to re-elect the Democrat or Republican.

Sacramento will never go for this, but if he gets this on the ballot, I think voters will. It's not good when even the most bumbling state politician is a cinch for re-election.

Speaking of bumbling pols — Schwarzenegger's biggest laugh came not from a resurrected movie line, but thanks to Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante. When Schwarzenegger thanked him "for the nice introduction and for the wonderful speech," the tent was atwitter. The intro wasn't nice; the speech wasn't wonderful. It was vintage Bustamante: bad bloviating. Schwarzenegger's big grin failed to conceal a gloat.

Caveat legislator. State pols may be tired of Schwarzenegger's antics, but they're no better. And if they don't shape up, California's governor might make them look like Bustamante.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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The difference between bad judgement and bias

It looked like the yin and yang of media bias stories this week. First, USA Today revealed that conservative commentator Armstrong Williams had accepted money from the U.S. Department of Education to promote the administration's No Child Left Behind law, without revealing that relationship when he discussed the bill on air or in print. Then CBS ousted four employees for their role in preparing and airing a false story about President Bush's 1970s-era National Guard service. The CBS piece, with Dan Rather reporting, aired on "60 Minutes Wednesday" during the presidential election last fall and involved suspect documents that later turned out to have been probable forgeries.



Linda Chavez

So does this prove that both the right and the left engage in media manipulation — a sort of everybody-does-it defense? Not really. In fact, the two stories not only illustrate different problems, but the parties involved should be held to different standards because of the dissimilar roles they play.

I'm not going to make excuses for Armstrong Williams. Indeed, he isn't making them himself. In his most recent column, Williams wrote, "In 2003, I agreed to run a paid ad on my syndicated television show, promoting the Department of Education's No Child Left Behind Act. I subsequently used my column space to support that legislation. This represents an obvious conflict of interests." A pretty good general rule of thumb is, if you're being paid by someone to advocate a particular point of view — even if it's one you happen to hold independently — you owe it to your audience to let them know.

But as embarrassing as Williams' lapse in judgment might be, his sins were minor compared to those of CBS News. We expect pundits to be biased — opinion is their stock in trade. Columnists are paid to state their opinions; reporters are paid not to reveal them. Reporters deal in facts; and the collection and reporting of those facts are supposed to be apolitical, impartial and unbiased. A CBS-appointed panel investigating the controversial "60 Minutes Wednesday" segment concluded that everyone involved with the piece failed to uphold journalistic standards. As a result, CBS asked three high-level executives to resign and fired the producer of the segment. But CBS didn't go far enough.

The two-member, independent panel — former U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh and former Associated Press President Louis Boccardi, both appointed by CBS — said they could not find evidence to prove political bias. But even the panel acknowledged "that on such a politically charged story, coming in the midst of a presidential campaign in which military service records had become an issue, there was a need for meticulous care to avoid any suggestion of an agenda at work." The panel went on to note that those involved with the story failed to exercise "the appropriate level of care to avoid the appearance of political motivation," attributing their actions to "zeal" to be first with an important story.

Nonsense. Can you imagine Dan Rather going on the air just weeks before the election with documents supplied by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth alleging John Kerry disobeyed a direct order by his military commander, no matter who else was ready to run with the story? The zeal to get the anti-Bush story on the air had little to do with network competition and everything to do with politics.

It's good that CBS fired Mary Mapes, the woman who produced the segment, and forced the resignation of three executives who should have questioned her more closely about her sources. But leaving Dan Rather in place at "60 Minutes" and delaying his exit as network news anchor until March is a travesty.

Armstrong Williams' bad judgment cost him his syndicated column. Rather's disgraceful role in the phony Bush National Guard story should have cost him his job immediately. Now that would go some way to restoring balance in the media universe, a little yang of just deserts to balance the yin of media bias.

Linda Chavez is the author of the new book, "Betrayal: How Union Bosses Shake Down Their Members and Corrupt American Politics." To find out more about Linda Chavez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Act

Honda to its

By STEVEN COLL

The Orlando Sent

ORLANDO, Since the Ac debuted as a 19 the company's sedan has suffer moderate inferio plex. Though Ac by four years, premium brand Japanese auton always has bee ered slightly dow when compar Lexus and Infini

Much of that i their flagships, LS and Infiniti since their debu — been big, exp 8-powered, n mise cars that BMW and Merc sedans.

Acura's bigge never has bee with a V-8 engin dom has been r as direct compe the top Lexus ar models. But a years ago, the r suggested tha change when generation A debuted. Migh finally build a V Maybe, we hear

Well, it didn' The 2005 Acu here, and as it 1996, power com 3.5-liter V-6. Bu sion pumps impressive 300 er — 10 more th

▶ Odd

By The Associat

Dog catching house painter

FLORENCE, — Gary Gallien painter. But ea week he becam catcher — litera

Working with an apartment c Florence, Galli a small dog as i a fifth-floor bal

Gallien said stepped outside ing Tuesday heard a woma and saw a wh object falling to

"Somebody ho I looked up and out my arms a it," he said. "I like a football. ing to run fo down with it."

Gallien said know where th from, but he to to the fifth turned it loose

"That's li 'Funniest Hon on TV," Gallie wish we had be it, so I could h in. It would first place."

Bear in straig gets cold res

MONTPELIE — A company cuddly Tedd through the angered men advocates with item for Valent

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"This bear w in the s Valentine's D with all of ou was designed t hearted depict sentiment of company said ment.

Mental healt

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Acura RL

Honda marches to its own drummer

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Since the Acura RL debuted as a 1996 model, the company's flagship sedan has suffered from a moderate inferiority complex. Though Acura was, by four years, the first premium brand from a Japanese automaker, it always has been considered slightly downmarket when compared with Lexus and Infiniti.

Much of that is because their flagships, the Lexus LS and Infiniti Q, have — since their debut in 1990 — been big, expensive, V-8-powered, no-compromise cars that targeted BMW and Mercedes-Benz sedans.

Acura's biggest sedan never has been offered with a V-8 engine, and seldom has been mentioned as direct competition for the top Lexus and Infiniti models. But a couple of years ago, the rumor mill suggested that might change when the next-generation Acura RL debuted. Might Honda finally build a V-8 engine? Maybe, we heard.

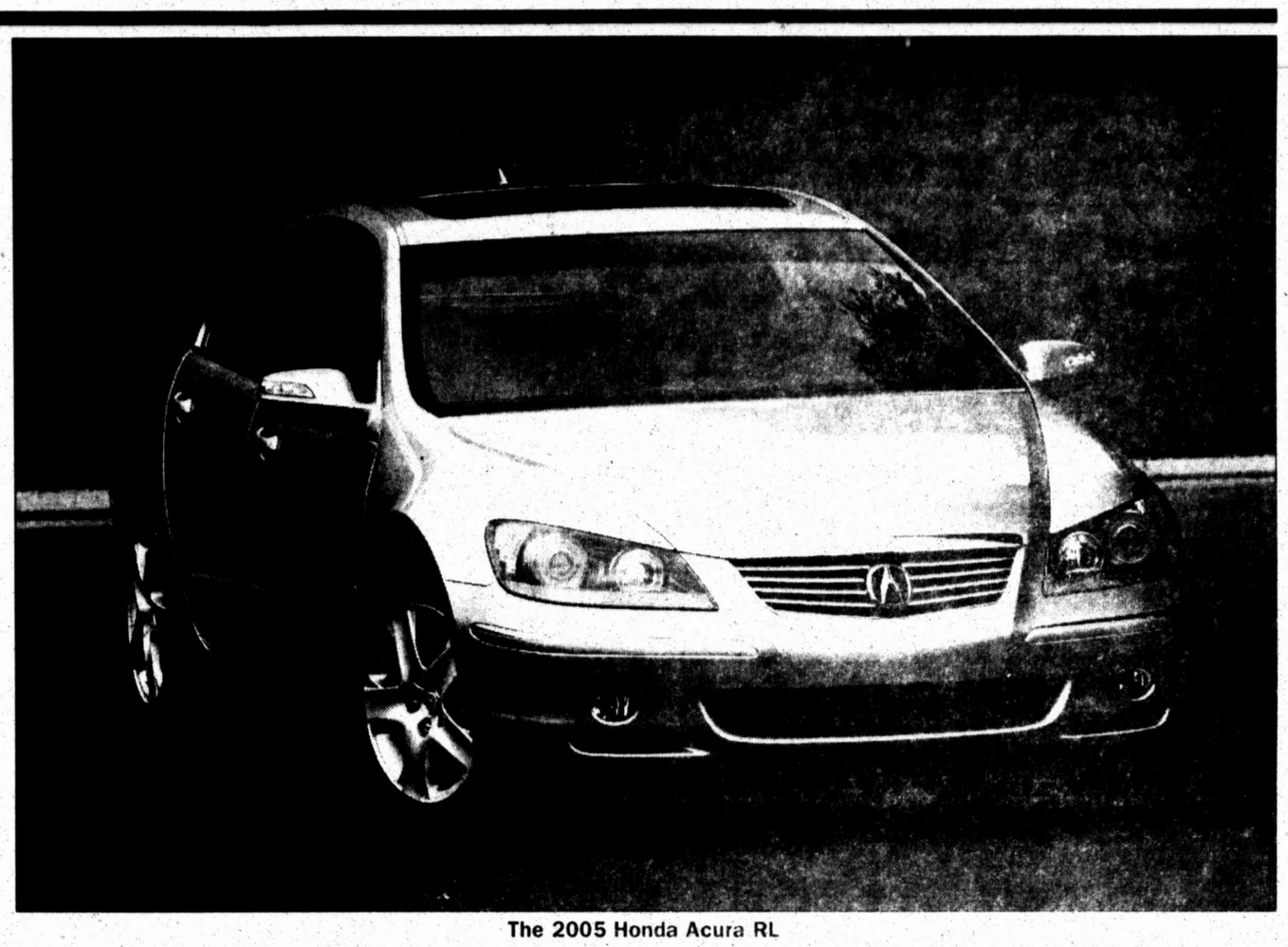
Well, it didn't happen. The 2005 Acura RL is here, and as it has since 1996, power comes from a 3.5-liter V-6. But this version pumps out an impressive 300 horsepower — 10 more than the 4.3-liter V-8 in the Lexus LS430. And the RL comes standard with a very sophisticated all-wheel-drive system. And priced at just under $50,000, the Acura RL costs almost $6,000 less than the Lexus or the Infiniti Q45.

So, finally, does Acura have a big sedan to compete with those two?

No. Once again — as usual — Honda is marching to its own drummer, aiming the Acura RL more at the BMW 5-Series and Audi A6 than the semi-staid Lexus and Infiniti flagships. The RL is actually a little closer to the Lexus GS430 and Infiniti M45 than the two larger Lexus and Infiniti models. No one denies that if it wanted to, Honda/Acura could build a big luxury sedan, but obviously that isn't the goal.

The 2005 RL is sportier than the 2004 model, which is not necessarily saying much. Styling is unlike anything the company has built before; it looks entirely different from the smaller TL, and still smaller TSX sedans. The RL has a pleasing ovalness, without looking like a melted jellybean.

Inside, Acura stylists are obviously trying to make a statement, but I'm not certain what they're saying. The plethora of buttons and switches is at first confusing, then simply a bit inconvenient. The wood, leather and aluminumlike trim make for a handsome cockpit.



The 2005 Honda Acura RL

The RL subscribes to the "keyless access" craze, which means you need to have the key fob with you, but you can leave it in your pocket. General Motors, with the Cadillac STS, for instance, has a lighted start button to the right of the steering wheel. But almost as if Acura chickened out at the last minute, the RL has what looks like a regular key sticking out of the steering column, and that's how you start it. Except it isn't a key — it stays there. I've never felt it inconvenient to have to insert a key and turn it in order to start a car.

That said, the RL is loaded with interior features, all of them standard. There's a great Bose 10-speaker stereo with six-disc CD player, a savvy navigation system with voice command, OnStar plus Acura Link's real-time traffic advisories, a wireless telephone interface, a power sunroof and a power rear sunshade.

For safety, there are antilock disc brakes, side and side-curtain airbags, and electronic stability control with integrated traction control.

On the road, many of the 3.5-liter V-6's 300 horses don't seem to awaken until you're rolling. Though the Lexus LS430 may have 10 fewer horsepower, it has 320 pound-feet of torque, compared with the RL's 260 pound-feet. Torque is the measure of pulling power, and that's why the Lexus seems quicker from a standing start than the Acura does. At 3,984 pounds, the RL isn't exactly a lightweight, but given the all-wheel drive and its size, that isn't bad.

That all-wheel drive, incidentally, is completely transparent, which is as it should be. It's controlled by sensors and computers, which constantly reallocate the division of power among the four wheels, sending it where it's needed. Though the steering feel is a little light for my taste, the RL is exceptionally surefooted on winding roads, but still gives a superb, and very quiet, ride on the highway.

With an out-the-door price of $49,470, the 2005 RL is a lot of car for the money, especially when you recall that the 1996 RL, with comparable equipment, cost $44,000. It still isn't a Lexus LS or Infiniti Q, but it clearly doesn't want to be.

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▶ Odds & Ends

By The Associated Press

Dog catching house painter

FLORENCE, Ala. (AP) — Gary Gallien is a house painter. But earlier this week he became a dog catcher — literally.

Working with a crew at an apartment complex in Florence, Gallien caught a small dog as it fell from a fifth-floor balcony.

Gallien said he had stepped outside the building Tuesday when he heard a woman scream and saw a white, furry object falling toward him.

"Somebody hollered and I looked up and just stuck out my arms and caught it," he said. "I caught it like a football. I was fixing to run for a touchdown with it."

Gallien said he did not know where the dog came from, but he took it back to the fifth floor and turned it loose in the hall.

"That's like the 'Funniest Home Videos' on TV," Gallien said. "I wish we had been filming it, so I could have sent it in. It would have won first place."

Bear in straight jacket gets cold response

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — A company that sells cuddly Teddy bears through the mail has angered mental health advocates with a special item for Valentine's Day.

The Vermont Teddy Bear Co. is featuring a 15-inch bear in a straitjacket. The $69.95 stuffed animal is called the "Crazy for You Bear" and comes with its own commitment papers.

"This bear was created in the spirit of Valentine's Day and as with all of our bears it was designed to be a lighthearted depiction of the sentiment of love," the company said in a statement.

Mental health advocates believe the bear is "a tasteless use of marketing that stigmatizes persons with mental illness," said Jerry Goessel, executive director of the Vermont chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

The company said it would discontinue the bear, but not before Feb. 14.

"We recognize that this is a sensitive, human issue and sincerely apologize if we have offended anyone," the firm said. "This bear was developed just for Valentine's Day and is not a permanent addition to our product line."

Cafe workers cook more than food

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. (AP) — What the owners of The West Main Cafe were apparently cooking up at night has landed them in jail.

Police said they believe the operators of the restaurant were making methamphetamine in the kitchen on the same equipment they were using to cook food for customers.

Agents found meth in a room next to the kitchen, coffee filters with drug residue and other ingredients associated with the manufacturing of the drug, said Larry Johnson, director of the Fifth Judicial District Drug Task Force.

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Troy Hyde at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B
Thursday, January 13, 2005

IN BRIEF

Lady Steer Booster Club meeting set

The Lady Steers Booster Club will be meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, in the ATC, which is a change from its original date.

All parents of girls involved in volleyball, basketball, cheerleading and track are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Janet Abner at 264-0023 or Kerry Rodriguez at 263-6100.

Ambassadors to play at Dorothy Garrett

The Harlem Ambassadors basketball team will play an exhibition game in Big Spring at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at Howard College Friday, Jan. 21, beginning at 7 p.m.

The cost will be $5 for adults, $3 for students and $1 for youth accompanied by an adult and youth under the age of five are free when accompanied by an adult. Tickets can be purchased at the Big Spring YMCA, KBST, the B.S. Herald and at the coliseum during the night of the game.

The game is a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Big Spring.

Kansas finally solves Hilton Coliseum jinx

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Keith Langford scored 18 points and Wayne Simien returned from a four-game absence to make some big plays for Kansas, which beat conference rival Iowa State, 71-66, Wednesday.

Simien, a preseason All-America, hadn't played since undergoing surgery on his left thumb. He scored 13 points in 37 minutes, grabbed nine rebounds and sparked an 8-0 run that put Kansas (12-0, 2-0 Big 12) ahead to stay after Iowa State had rallied from eight down to take a 54-52 lead.

Langford had been questionable for the game after sustaining a concussion in Sunday's 65-59 victory at No. 9 Kentucky. But he started and played 36 minutes.

Curtis Stinson had 18 points for Iowa State (8-5, 0-2), which lost for just the second time in 27 home games under coach Wayne Morgan.

UNC dominates rival, proves national worth

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Jawad Williams led a balanced attack with 18 points and No. 3 North Carolina rolled to a 14th consecutive victory, defeating No. 8 Georgia Tech, 91-69.

Marvin Williams had 14 points and Rashad McCants and Sean May each added 12 for North Carolina.

Jarrett Jack had 24 points for the Yellow Jackets (11-3, 2-1), who played without injured guard B.J. Elder for the third straight game.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule

Today

Sunset, Texas ..... Station
Texas vs. Missouri, 6:30 p.m. 1450

Tomorrow

Sunset, Texas ..... Station
New York Jets @ Pittsburgh, 3:00 p.m. 1450
St. Louis @ Atlanta, 5:45 p.m. 1450

Longhorns fight the Law and lose

• Texas A&M hands No. 10 Texas first conference defeat in College Station

By JOEL ANDERSON
AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — When Billy Gillispie took over as head coach at Texas A&M in March, he found a team lacking size, experience and depth.

He soon found out, however, that the Aggies did have some talent despite their woeful record from the previous season.

Acie Law, one of those talented leftovers, had 24 points and six assists, freshman Joseph Jones added 13 points and 10 rebounds and A&M ended an 18-game Big 12 losing streak with a 74-63 upset of No. 10 Texas on Wednesday night.

"It's about having the right guys," Gillispie said, smiling. "It's no magic formula. The story is not about me ... it's about those guys in the white jerseys. The sky's the limit on what you can achieve."

Gillispie has the Aggies achieving way beyond what many thought was possible at a school that has always treated basketball as a distraction after football season. A&M has finished last in the Big 12 three of the past four seasons.

The Aggies (12-1, 1-1) are off to their best start since 1959-60, and Gillispie has made the best debut in school history.

Before a school-record crowd of 12,811, A&M ended the Longhorns' 10-game winning streak in College Station and improve its record at Reed Arena to 12-0 this season.

The Aggies also knocked off their first Top Ten foe, and fourth overall, since beating Texas in 1982.

"It feels real good to get the first Big 12 victory," said Law, a sophomore point guard who suffered through last season's 7-21 record. "A Top Ten team comes in ... that's a perfect opportunity to show everyone what we can do."

P.J. Tucker led the Longhorns (12-3, 1-1) with 18 points and eight rebounds and freshman LaMarcus Aldridge added 12 points and eight rebounds.

Despite getting off to such an impressive start, A&M had generated little attention mostly because of a nonconference schedule that included games against Prairie View A&M, Texas-Permian Basin and Trinity, a Division III school.

Coming off a tough 65-60 loss at No. 2 Kansas last week, A&M surprisingly seized control of this game early and never let the Longhorns back into it.

The Aggies' lead reached 21 points early in the second half, but Texas (12-3, 1-1) fought back behind a full court press and scoring spurts by Tucker and Aldridge.

It wasn't enough.

Law effortlessly sliced his way through defenders and repeatedly found open shooters, completely outclassing Texas freshman Daniel Gibson.

Gibson, who suffered a cut over his right eye and had it bandaged up at halftime, was 1-of-11 from the field and had three points and two assists.

The Longhorns struggled offensively despite the return of center Jason Klotz, who served a one-game suspension for throwing a punch in last week's win over Memphis, and guard Sydmill Harris, who missed the previous three games with a groin injury.

A&M's aggressive pressure defense — ranked No. 1 nationally in field goal percentage — forced the Longhorns into dozens of off-balance jumpers and 3s from way behind the arc.

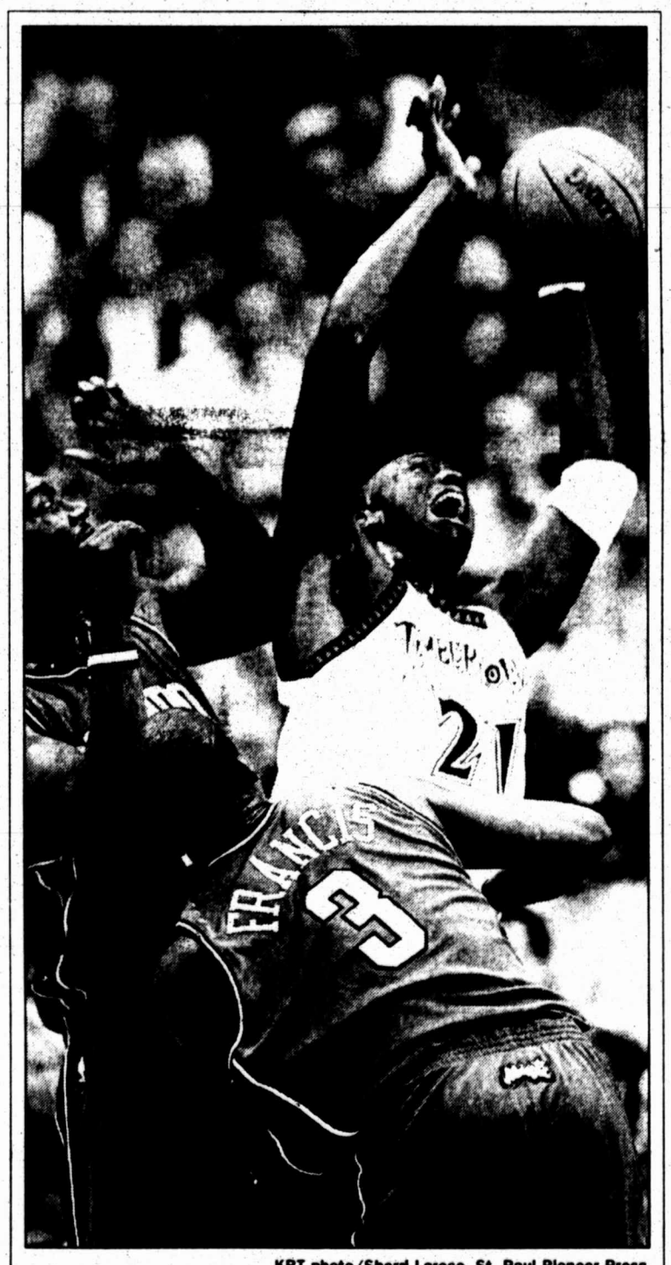
Texas made one of its first 12 shots, a putback slam by Aldridge, and went 7-of-33 from the field, including 2-of-9 on 3s, in the first half.

"They put some pressure on us and were digging back in there," Texas coach Rick Barnes said, "and when that happens you have to make some shots. We didn't do a particularly great job of that."

Law's final 3-pointer of the night, a rainbow over Tucker as the shot clock expired, gave A&M a 63-50 lead with 3:39 to go. That shot sent the crowd into a frenzy and all but ended any comeback attempt.

"Law missed like three shots all game," said Tucker, making a surprisingly accurate guess at Law's 10-for-13 shooting. "That's just how it goes sometimes."

Klotz added, "Acie Law is probably one of the best point guards we've played this year."



KRT photo/Sherri Larose, St. Paul Pioneer Press

Minnesota's Kevin Garnett, right, falls in the direction of Orlando's Kelvin Cato, left, and Steve Francis during the first half of their game at the Target Center in Minneapolis Wednesday. The Magic beat the Wolves despite 19 points, 25 rebounds and eight assists from Garnett.

McGrady's second half effort sends Rockets past Mavericks

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Tracy McGrady hurt a toe early, so he stayed outside and scored most of his 30 points on 3-pointers and matched his season high with 11 assists, helping the Houston Rockets end the Dallas Mavericks' six-game winning streak with a 124-114 victory Wednesday night.

McGrady, who scored 48 in his last game in Dallas, left for several minutes in the second quarter to have his left big toe bandaged.

It didn't hurt his aim any as he finished 6-of-8 on 3s and the Rockets scored their most points of the season for the second straight game.

Dallas finished 5-1 on its homestand and heads into a 15-day stretch of nine games against mostly quality foes that starts Friday night in San Antonio.

The Mavs had won their last six games by at least 14 points, so this was the first time since before Christmas that they had to work hard in the second half. But they couldn't keep up with Houston's offense, which was stunning considering Dallas averaged 114.3 points in its previous seven games.

While the Mavericks still got there, it came too late. The Rockets were up by nine after three quarters and stretched the lead to 15 midway through the fourth.

Houston is suddenly starting to put up the numbers expected from a McGrady team. The Rockets scored 116 in a win over Denver on Sunday night and are averaging 104.9 over the last 13 after putting up just 86.9 in their first 22 games. They are 8-5 since the scoring outburst began.

Dallas' top defender, Josh Howard, was out with an upper respiratory infection, and McGrady took advantage in every way. In addition to making 12 of 19 shots, the attention he commanded freed Juwan Howard to go 14-of-19 for a season-high 29 points.

David Wesley scored 21 and Yao Ming 20, half from the foul line.

Dirk Nowitzki led the Mavericks with 28 points, but 11 came in the first quarter. He had an 18-minute scoreless drought over the middle two periods.

Michael Finley, coming off a season-best 33 points, missed nine of his first 10 shots. He finished with 14, but only because of three baskets long after the outcome was settled. Shawn Bradley had a season-high 12, all but two in the first half.

The Mavs were in control early in the second half, then Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy called timeout to stir his lethargic club.

Houston responded with an 11-2 run that featured McGrady's 3-pointer, a steal and breakaway layup by Wesley, a dunk by Yao off a sweet drive and dish by McGrady and a thunderous slam by McGrady off a lob pass from Wesley over three flat-footed Mavs.

Dallas came back with a 3-pointer by Jason Terry to tie it at 72, but it didn't last.

Houston was up only 82-78 when the Mavericks gambled on defense, sending two 7-footers at McGrady behind the 3-point line to force him to give up the ball.

No problem; he had assists on the next five Rockets baskets, then closed the quarter with a 3-pointer that sent Wesley away with a huge smile and Jon Barry skipping back across midcourt. Barry and Wesley weren't with the Rockets last month, when the Mavs beat them by 24.

Spurs add to best home record with dominating victory

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The best home record in the NBA belongs to the San Antonio Spurs, whose 18th victory in 19 home games wasn't all that difficult.

Tim Duncan scored 21 points, and the San Antonio Spurs' bench contributed 31 points as San Antonio completed a season sweep of the Milwaukee Bucks with a 94-79 victory Wednesday night.

"It was a good win for us," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "We played good defense and a lot of people participated. It's important for us to involve everybody. It's a very unselfish group."

San Antonio, which won for the fourth time in its last five games, placed four players in double figures as Tony Parker added 20 points, Manu Ginobili 15, and Brent Barry 11.

"We are pretty happy with tonight's effort," said Parker, who also dished out eight assists. "It was a good team effort. We just tried to close the game out tonight. We didn't do a very good job against Utah, and we wanted to be better tonight."

Milwaukee, which lost its second straight, was led by Michael Redd with 24 points, while Marcus Fizer added 12.

"The biggest difference in this Spurs team than perhaps in the past is they have gotten so much more athletic on the perimeter," Milwaukee coach Terry Porter said. "They have guys like Ginobili and Bruce Bowen who can put it on the floor. That's a huge difference. It allows them to get more open opportunities in the open court, more points in transition."

Leading 49-40 at halftime, San Antonio opened the third quarter with a 14-6 run and led 63-46 after Ginobili's layup with 6:13 to play in the quarter.

Behind Redd, who scored the final five points, Milwaukee closed the third quarter with an 8-0 run and trailed 74-64 going to the final period.

The Bucks cut the Spurs' lead to 76-70 after a jump shot by Mike James with 9:04 to play.

"I could really feel a change in the way we played tonight versus last night against Atlanta," Redd said. "We were more aggressive and we were more intense. We had a good team effort tonight.

"You always want to win of course, but at least out of this one we can take in the fact that we competed well against a great team."

After San Antonio answered with a 7-4 run, Milwaukee closed to 83-75 on Redd's jump shot with 5:08 remaining.

Parker then ignited a 7-0 run with a 3-point field goal and driving layup as the Spurs stretched the lead to 90-75 with 3:26 to play.

Milwaukee got no closer than 11 points the rest of the way.

The NBA's top defensive team, San Antonio held the Bucks to 41.3 percent shooting from the floor.

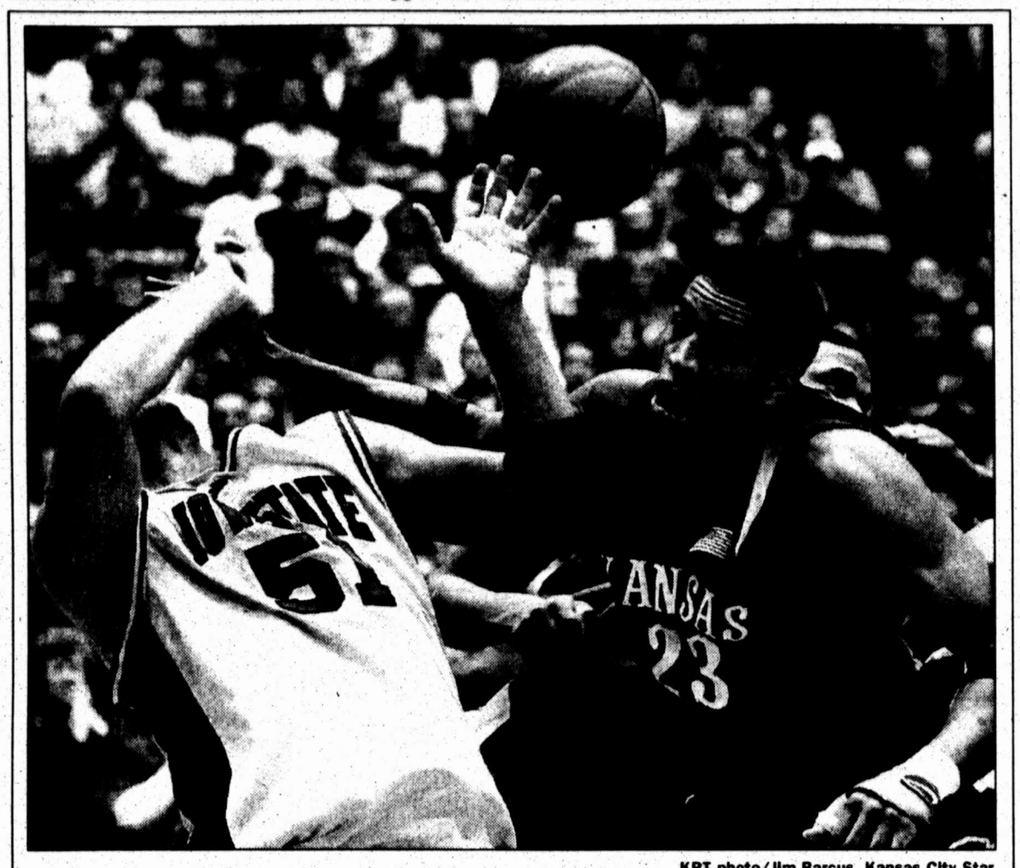
"First and foremost we are a defensive team," Bowen said. "In preparation for our next few games, we need to get back to business.

"We allowed teams to shoot over 48 percent in a lot of our losses and that's not us, we understand that."

With Duncan shooting 9-for-19 from the floor, San Antonio outscored Milwaukee 44-34 in the paint.

"Tony Massenburg had a lot of energy in the first half," said Popovich of his little-used center who added six points in the second quarter. "He played good defense for us and scored a little. That helped us get the lead at the half."

JAN 13 2005



KRT photo/Jim Barcus, Kansas City Star

KU's Wayne Simien gives Iowa State's Jared Homan an armful during the second half of their game in Ames, Iowa, Wednesday night. No. 2 Kansas won the game at Hilton Coliseum and remained undefeated this year.

To stay or not to stay: That is the question for Leinart

• USC all-American to decide football future sometime today

By KEN PETERS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Take a job and become an instant multimillionaire or stay in school and collect $895 a month for another year.

To Matt Leinart, that's a dilemma.

"It's tough when you have so many people telling you, 'The money's there, take it.' Then your friends and other people say, 'But the money could be there in a year, what's another 10 months?'" USC's Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback said Tuesday.

The NFL deadline for college underclassmen to declare for the draft is Saturday, but Leinart said he expects to announce today whether he'll return for his senior season.

He said Tuesday that he's still on the fence, and may not decide until the last minute _ or beyond.

Asked what he'll be doing leading up to his announcement, Leinart shook his head and said, "A lot of praying. I'm going to go with what my gut tells me and what I feel at the time. Who knows, I might be one way when I'm going in to announce, and when I'm up there, I'll change."

After leading the Trojans to consecutive national titles, Leinart is fully aware of the risks of playing another year for them.

An injury or a less successful season could drop him in the NFL draft and cost him millions of dollars.

Two outstanding junior quarterbacks, Aaron Rodgers of California and Alex Smith of Utah, already have declared for this year's draft.

Leinart doesn't seem eager to end his college days.

"It is a business and I don't know if I'm ready for that," he said of the NFL.

"College, it's fun. We get stipend checks, that's our money, live with our friends, just hang out and have fun. College is the best time of your life, and I think the situation I'm in, it really couldn't get any better being here."

The $895 monthly stipend for athletes is supposed to cover everything but their training table meals.

Although Leinart believes he's accomplished about everything he can as college quarterback, there's one team goal remaining that may factor in his decision. The Trojans could become the first team to win three consecutive national titles.

"Sometimes my heart's like, come back. This is just so great here, and a chance to do something no team has ever done before," he said. "I look at it as a win-win situation for me. If I leave, I'm fulfilling my dream to play in the NFL, to get a shot and try to do that.

"Or I stay in school and be here with something that's real special that's going on, the start of a dynasty. I know that's kind of a bold statement, but it's just obvious what we're doing here and what coach (Pete) Carroll is doing. I'm pretty sure coach Carroll plans on staying around to be a part of this."

Although there has been speculation that an NFL team might try to lure Carroll back to the league, he said recently that he's not interested in leaving USC.

Even if Leinart and those two do turn pro, USC still should be loaded next season since most of the starters return. Waiting in the wings is quarterback John David Booty, a third-year sophomore from Louisiana who is considered a better prospect than Leinart was when he took over for 2002 Heisman winner Carson Palmer.

And the Trojans already have a verbal commitment from one of the top high school quarterbacks, Mark Sanchez from Mission Viejo, Calif.

Leinart has received advice from, among many others, Palmer and Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

After winning the Heisman in his senior season, Palmer was taken by the Cincinnati Bengals with the No. 1 pick in the 2003 draft. Roethlisberger, the 2004 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year, left Miami (Ohio) after his junior year and was taken by the Steelers with the 11th pick last spring.

"It almost seems like an easy decision to people outside of USC, 'Why stay when you can be a top pick?' But it's really a lot harder than it seems to make the decision. There are so many pros and cons to both decisions," said Leinart, who began classes on Monday.

"Whatever I do, I'm going to be happy with my decision and move on from there."

Philly's McNabb relishes pressure

• Eagles answer questions about life after T.O.

By ROB MAADDI
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb peeked into the interview room as Brian Westbrook approached the podium, and shouted three questions.

"What are you going to do without T.O.? Are you going to get the ball more? What's the mood of the team?" McNabb said in a squeaky, high-pitched tone, drawing laughter from the crowd.

Tired of hearing those questions himself, the Philadelphia Eagles' five-time Pro Bowl quarterback interjected some humor into a mundane Wednesday news conference. McNabb brings the same lighthearted spirit into the locker room and the huddle.

Pressure? What pressure?

McNabb certainly isn't feeling any as the heavily favored Eagles (13-3) prepare to play the Minnesota Vikings (9-8) in an NFC divisional playoff game on Sunday.

With star receiver Terrell Owens sidelined by an ankle injury, McNabb realizes the burden of carrying the offense falls on him.

He welcomes the challenge.

"You guys said T.O. took the pressure off of me. Now I guess I have all the pressure again," McNabb said. "I love pressure. I love to step out there and everybody is standing on their feet with their mouth wide open to find out what I'm going to do next. ... Buckle your seat belts and enjoy the ride."

McNabb is coming off the best season of his six-year career. He set a team record with 3,875 yards passing, became the first NFL player to throw for more than 30 touchdowns (31) and less than 10 interceptions (eight), and his passer rating of 104.7 was second in the NFC.

Often criticized for being inaccurate, McNabb drastically improved his completion percentage — his 64.0 percent was almost six points higher than his career average — and broke an NFL record by completing 24 consecutive passes over two games.

None of the personal glory matters if the Eagles don't win the Super Bowl. After losing the last three NFC championship games, nothing else is considered a success in a city that hasn't celebrated a winner since the 76ers won the NBA title in 1983.

"In this world that we live in, you're not great unless you win a Super Bowl," McNabb said. "It's sad that you have to be judged by that, but we just have to play our game and know what we're seeing and go out and execute."

With Owens joining McNabb and Westbrook this season, the offense nearly was unstoppable in the first 12 games. The Eagles won nine of the first dozen games by double-digit margins, including five wins by at least 21 points.

Owens' injury was a devastating blow for Philadelphia, which lost both of its games without the Pro Bowl wideout, mainly because many of the starters were rested with nothing on the line.

But the Eagles didn't have Owens, who has an outside chance of playing in the Super Bowl if Philly gets there, when they went to the last three conference title games. McNabb and Westbrook are playing their best, and the defense has been outstanding this season.

"We have more weapons than just T.O," McNabb said, referring to wideouts Todd Pinkston and Freddie Mitchell and tight ends Chad Lewis and L.J. Smith.

"I know you guys have questions about the receiving corps since T.O. is hurt. Our receiving corps is fine, we'll make plays and we'll win the game."

Westbrook, so valuable that coach Andy Reid sat him out the last two games, figures to draw most of the attention from Minnesota's defense.

"They still have to respect the other guys on this team," Westbrook said.

Throughout his career, McNabb has earned respect for his leadership skills and the way he has handled adversity, beginning with being booed loudly by Eagles fans when his name was announced as the No. 2 pick of the 1999 NFL draft.

In 2002, McNabb threw four TD passes on a broken ankle against Arizona, then sat out the last six regular-season games.

He overcame the worst start of his career last season, playing with a sprained right thumb that affected his grip, and an ankle injury limiting his mobility.



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Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

There's the opportunity to embody the very quality you want to possess. Grace, maturity and even majesty can be accomplished simply, naturally and without resistance. As the sun and Saturn engage in an enlightening conversation, you can powerfully assimilate recent lessons. Model a desired character trait, and you'll become it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The lessons of the day are of the Zen variety — deliberately irrational occurrences that will jar you into realizing the limits of your thinking. What an experience. You drift off to sleep tonight to the sound of one hand clapping.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your grandiose mission will be reduced to something menial — like standing in line at the post office or delivering coffee. It's all an important part of the plan, so don't worry that you might be wasting your time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You do know how to bring the goods. Still, don't go all smarty-pants on your coworkers or boss. They're likely to get annoyed by your overachieving tendencies. Play it humble. Anyone with half a brain knows you're great.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The stars provide a kind of security check list. You'll be asking yourself hard questions, especially regarding your finances. It's simple, really. The more you do for others, the better you are compensated.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Be the total individual today, not at all influenced by the usual onslaught of advertising and corporate brainwashing you encounter. You don't need a media spectacle to show you what you want out of life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you think about your social life, there are definite rungs of friendship people must go through to get close to you. You don't answer the phone to just anybody. Somebody jumps from a lower rung to a higher one today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The art of deception is featured, and you're alarmingly good at it. Your intention is not to harm the other person, but you sure wouldn't mind if they thought something different about you than was actually true!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An idea you once cynically dismissed is now on your hot track. You have the ability to see controversial issues from all sides, but others have a hard time abandoning their strong points of view.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Being regimented is overrated. Besides, your curiosity takes you in a fascinating direction. Like Alice down the rabbit hole, you're not sure where you're headed, but you find a wonderland if you just keep going.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're the center of attention, even though you don't feel as fabulous as others see you. If only you could see yourself as others do, you'd give yourself a big hug and a few words of encouragement.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Mistakes happen, and you're adept at blowing past them in favor of focusing on the good. But there's a persistent error that deserves your attention. Rectifying it will bring an influx of good fortune to your world.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The stars grant you abundant charisma. All you have to do is wave your hand, and people come running. Please remember to use your powers for good and not evil, though it's tempting to toy with others.

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

Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: When I married "Martha," a single mother, I joked about finally getting the son and daughter I've always wanted. About three years into our marriage, my "son" appeared in the form of a 30-year-old smoker who stinks from his cigarettes and whatever cologne he uses as a substitute for bathing.

Martha asked me to let "Mitchell" stay until he got back on his feet, and I assumed she meant a few months. We now are running a filthy flophouse so Mitchell can save on rent, buy gadgets for his motorcycle and feed his expensive nicotine addiction. He sleeps most of the day and parties at night, often bringing home some woman or other to share his bed. He is rude to everyone.

We subsidize Mitchell's never-ending cell phone calls, cigarettes, women and hobbies by giving him room and board. He does buy most of his own food, but I resent being his scullery maid and garbage man.

Now Martha wants to sell the house and move closer to her daughter. Meanwhile, I finally have a job I love and don't want to move. I know I owe Martha plenty, but lately, our marriage consists of eating in front of the television. To make things worse, Martha neglects her health, is badly overweight, has terrible halitosis from poor oral hygiene, and I have only a vague memory of sex.

Martha says Mitchell is moving in with his latest lover, but the move better come with a "no return" policy. Thanks for letting me vent. — At Wits' End in North Carolina

Dear At Wits' End: Glad to lend an ear, but it doesn't seem enough. Please consider marriage counseling. You have mentioned several problems that need extensive and ongoing work. If Martha won't go with you for counseling, go without her. Your situation sounds depressing.

Dear Annie: I have never been one to deny anyone the right to smoke, as long as it doesn't interfere with my right to breathe. However, upon my return from a recent vacation at the beautiful beaches of Georgia, I'm prompted to ask smokers a question: What makes you think the world is your ashtray?

Why do so many smokers throw their lit cigarettes out of car windows or flick them onto the ground? Do they think someone walks behind them to clean up these little treasures? Do they think cigarette butts are biodegradable? (They are NOT.)

It's a crime to be in a beautiful spot like those beaches on Jekyll Island and come across cigarette butts in the sand. I would love to hear from your readers why they think it's acceptable to toss their butts away in this manner. — Louisville, Ky.

Dear Louisville: Most smokers try very hard to be considerate of others and respectful toward the environment, but there are always a few who don't care or don't think. If we hear from any of them, we'll let you know.

Dear Annie: You have printed several letters from people complaining about the cost of gifts. One need not spend a lot of money to give a meaningful present.

One of the most precious wedding gifts I received was a jar with mementos from our wedding — a piece of the monogrammed napkin, my husband's boutonniere, a flower from the bouquet, the cork from the champagne bottle. Another friend matted and framed our invitation. It still hangs on our wall.

My sister's favorite graduation gift was a handmade cookbook with recipes gathered from family and friends. Inexpensive photo frames become valued heirlooms when filled with a meaningful picture, and heartfelt letters are always appreciated. Have we forgotten it's the thought that counts? Anyone who complains that a gift was "cheap" lacks manners. — Thankful in Texas

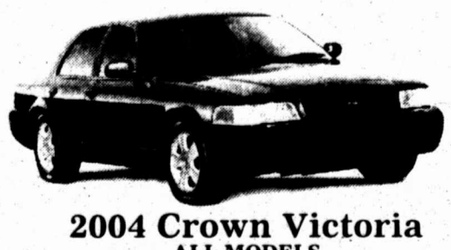
Dear Texas: Absolutely. And thank you for making some wonderful and thoughtful suggestions for those who want to give something truly special.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net.

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THURSDAY JAN. 13

		WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KOCV (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	TMC (250) Premium
6	:PM	News (CC)	News	La Mujer de	Malcolm-Mid.	News	Anita No Te	News	Raymond	Joe McGee	News-Lehrer	American	"	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Live	Sister, Sister	College	Sony Open --	(CC)
	:30	Wheel-Fortune	Wheel-Fortune	Madera	Raymond	Ent. Tonight	Rajes	Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond	John Hagee	"	Chopper	"	Scene Invstgtn.	(CC) (DVS)	BET Style	That's-Raven	Basketball:	First Round	"
7	:PM	life as we	life as we	Rubi	The O.C.	Wickedly	La Mujer en el	Joey (CC)	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel	West Tex Jrnl	Monster Nation	Movie: Missing	CSI: Crime	NBA	The Parkers	Movie: Stuck	Duke at North	(CC)	Movie:
	:30	know it (CC)	know it (CC)	"	(CC)	Perfect (CC)	Espejo	Committed	Friends (CC)	Liberty	TX Mnthly Talk	"	in Action 2:	Scene Invstgtn.	Basketball:	Girlfriends	in the Suburbs	Carolina State	"	Personal
8	:PM	Extreme	Extreme	Amor Real	North Shore	CSI: Crime	Gitanas	Will & Grace	Movie: Fools	Light of the	Antiques	Mega-	The Beginning	MXC	Nets at	Soul Food	(CC)	College	Tilt (CC)	Velocity (CC)
	:30	Makeover	Makeover	"	(CC)	Scene Invstgtn.	"	Will & Grace	Rush In (CC)	Southwest	Roadshow	Excavators	"	MXC	Rockets	(CC)	That's-Raven	Basketball:	"	Till Human
9	:PM	PrimeTime	PrimeTime	Aqui y Ahora	Malcolm-Mid.	Without a	Te Voy a En-	ER (CC)	"	"	One Man's	American	Movie:	Spring of Trivia	"	Club Comic	Lizzie McGuire	Marquette at	Tilt (CC)	Voices Wake
	:30	Live	Live	"	'70s Show	Trace (CC)	senar a Querer	"	"	"	Journey (CC)	Casino (CC)	Hamburger Hill	MXC	NBA	View	Sister, Sister	Memphis	"	Us
10	:PM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	'70s Show	News	Noticias	News	:10 Movie:	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	Monster Nation	"	MXC	Basketball:	Nightly News	Even Stevens	Figure Skating:	SportsCenter	:15 Movie:
	:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero Univ.	Raymond	Late Show	Laura	The Tonight	EDtv (CC)	Healing	(CC)	"	"	MXC	Cavaliers at	BET Style	Boy World	State Farm	(CC)	The Hunted
11	:PM	Ent. Tonight	Extra (CC)	Los Metiches	Becker (CC)	(CC)	"	Show (CC)	(DVS)	Sam Peak	Sign Off	Mega-	Movie:	Wildest Police	Lakers	Midnight Love	Proud Family	U.S.	Tilt (CC)	(CC)
	:30	Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel	"	Becker (CC)	Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo-	Late Night	"	Jesse Lee Pe.	"	Excavators	Apocalypse	Videos	"	"	That's-Raven	Championships	"	"
12	:AM	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Alma Rebelde	Spin City	Show	Maria Celeste	(CC)	"	Michial Ratliff	"	American	Now (CC)	Blind Date	Inside the NBA	Club Comic	Kim Possible	NFL Live	SportsCenter	Movie: The
	:30	News (CC)	Paid Program	"	Dharma-Greg	The Insider	Corte-Familia	Frasier (CC)	:40 Movie:	Update/Israel	"	Casino (CC)	"	Shipmates	(CC)	View	Lizzie McGuire	Tilt (CC)	(CC)	Job (CC)

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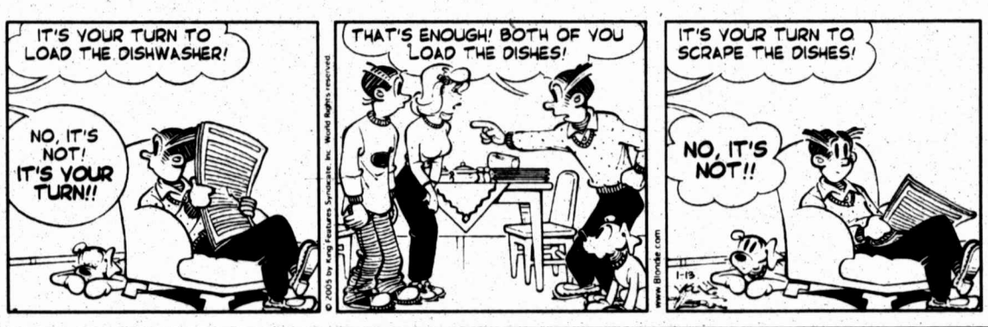


"Harmony is when you find two notes that love one another."

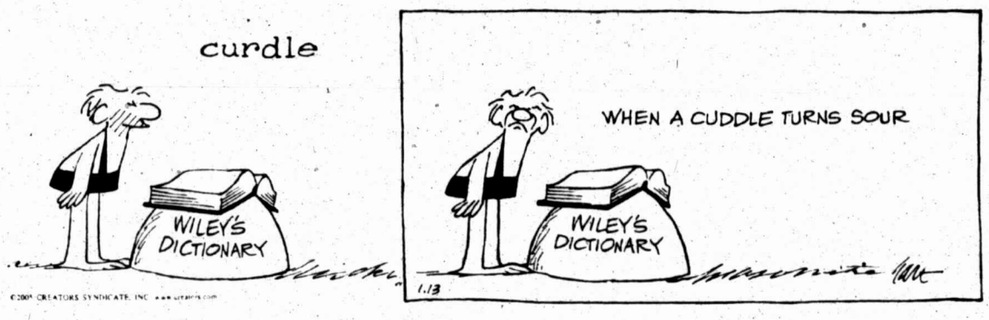
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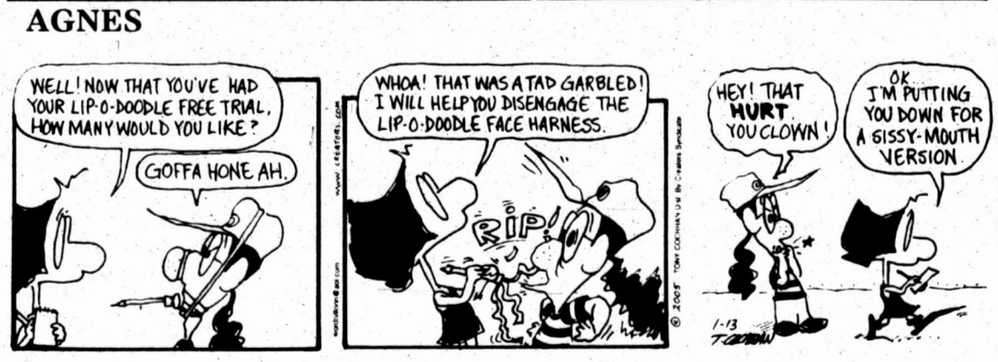
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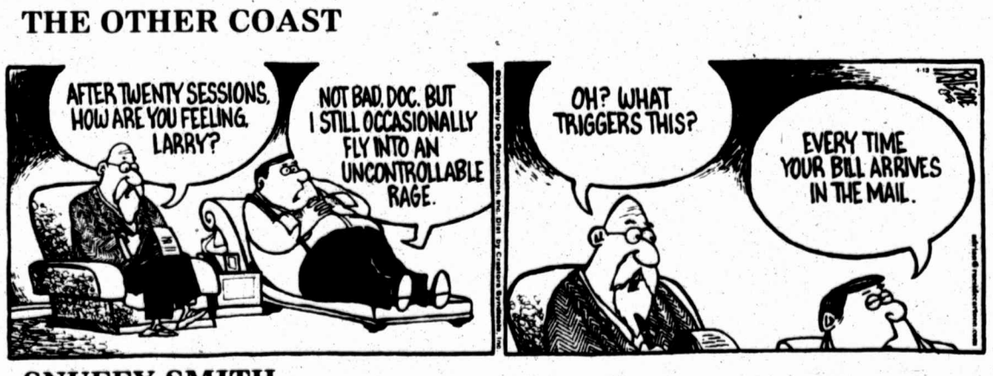
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THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 13, the 13th day of 2005. There are 352 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 13, 1794, President Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)

On this date:

In 1864, composer Stephen Foster died in New York.

In 1893, Britain's Independent Labor Party (a precursor to the current Labor Party) held its first meeting.

In 1898, Emile Zola's famous defense of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," was published in Paris.

In 1941, novelist James Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland.

In 1962, comedian Ernie Kovacs died in a car crash in west Los Angeles.

In 1966, Robert C. Weaver became the first black Cabinet member as he was appointed Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by President Johnson.

In 1978, former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey died in Waverly, Minn., at age 66.

In 1982, an Air Florida 737 crashed into Washington, D.C.'s 14th Street Bridge after takeoff and fell into the Potomac River, killing 78 people.

In 1990, L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the nation's first elected black governor as he took the oath of office in Richmond.

In 2002, the off-Broadway musical "The Fantasticks" was performed for the last time, ending a run of nearly 42 years and 17,162 shows.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Liz Anderson is 75. Actress Frances Sternhagen is 75. Actor-director Charles Nelson Reilly is 74. Comedian Rip Taylor is 71. Actor Billy Gray is 67. Actor Richard Moll is 62. Rock musician Trevor Rabin is 51. R&B musician Fred White is 50. Actor Kevin Anderson is 45. Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus is 44. Rock singer Graham "Suggs" McPherson (Madness) is 44. Country singer Trace Adkins is 43. Actress Penelope Ann Miller is 41. Actor Patrick Dempsey is 39. Actor Keith Coogan is 35. Actress Nicole Eggert is 33. Actor

Answer to previous puzzle

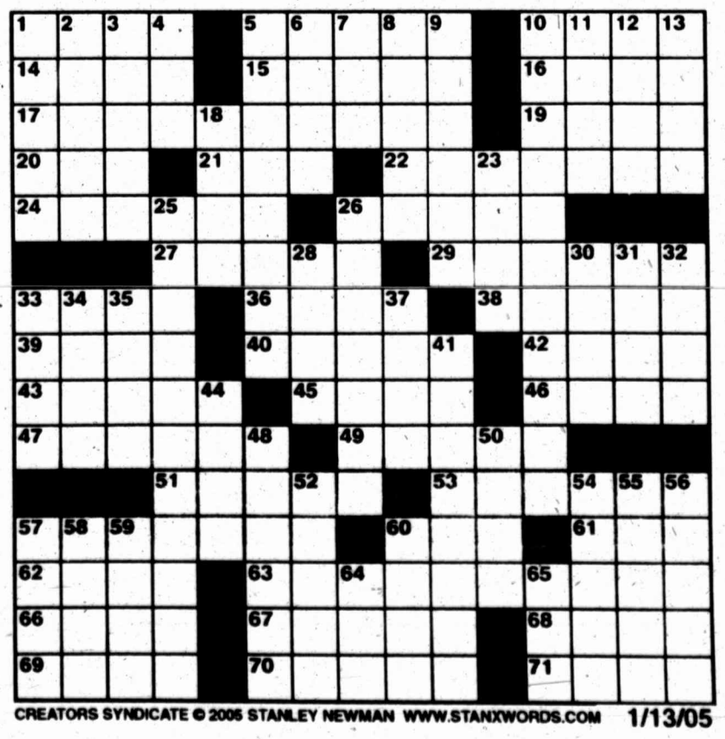
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D	A	W	N		T	E	S	T	S		K	E	E	N

Newsday Crossword

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN by Patrick Jordan
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Croquet court
5 Necklace closer
10 Aircraft velocity unit
14 Mayberry redhead
15 1945 "Big Three" city
16 Jacob's twin
17 It's seeded and weeded
19 Lose steam
20 Pack or pick preceder
21 Freed (of)
22 Cherry "factory"
24 Comedian __ the Entertainer
26 Playback speed, briefly
27 Bank job
29 Causing a blockage
33 On one's guard
36 Layered haircut
38 Too trusting
39 Prof's preparation
40 Turbulent struggle
42 Sheet-music squiggle
43 *Men in Black* being
45 Refuse, as a request
46 Like a Granny Smith apple
47 It has a part in Exodus
49 Make sure of
51 Henry __ Lodge
53 Hook-billed bird
57 Sneaker style
60 Mincemeat treat
61 Toothpaste form
62 Sit at a stoplight
63 Inventor's setback
66 Swarm (with)
67 Conductor Leinsdorf
68 Off-white
69 Sensible
70 Camp David Accords signer
71 Markers

DOWN
1 Mr. Spock's specialty
2 Swiftly
3 Having cable TV
4 Actor Beatty
5 Trait of Dorothy Parker's writing
6 Sgt. Friday's employer
7 Without exception
8 Milkmaid's perch
9 Police routine
10 Marlon Brando, for one
11 Where India is
12 Singer Vikki
13 Colored
18 __-Lackawanna Railroad
23 "Let's go!"
25 AABBA, for one
26 Most musty
28 Storage structure
30 Arizona river
31 At any point
32 Good with one's hands
33 Have on
34 Roadster rod
35 Commando's assignment
37 Chromosome component
41 Ophthalmologist's concern
44 Nifty
48 Habitations
50 "Following that . . ."
52 Phantom's milieu
54 Chilly Willy's home
55 Reeves of *Speed*
56 Cary of *The Princess Bride*
57 Web-page visits
58 Brainstorm
59 Secluded valley
60 12 points, to a printer
64 Imogene's comic cohort
65 Org. with a fingerprint file



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JAN 13 2005

That's Racin'

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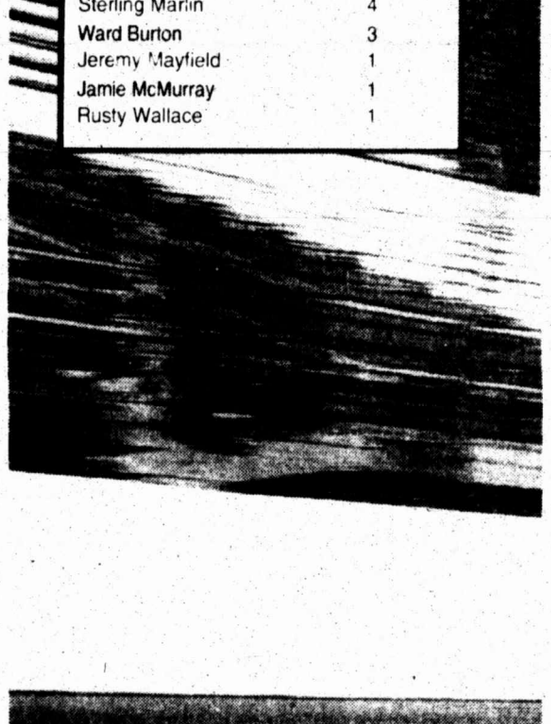
RECHARGED

A new car model and rising drivers have some Dodge teams feeling good about 2005

THE DODGE BOYS

Seven drivers have won a total of 24 Cup races in Dodges since the manufacturer returned to NASCAR's top series for the 2001 season:

Driver	Dodge Victories
Ryan Newman	10
Bill Elliott	4
Sterling Marlin	4
Ward Burton	3
Jeremy Mayfield	1
Jamie McMurray	1
Rusty Wallace	1



BY DAVID POOLE
Knight Ridder Newspapers

How is Dodge doing?

Entering the fifth season since its return to NASCAR's top series, the answer to that depends on your perspective.

The 2004 season was clearly a step back for the teams representing DaimlerChrysler in Nextel Cup. Dodges won only four races, compared to 10 by Fords and 22 by Chevrolets. In the weeks leading up to the 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup, it appeared possible Dodge might find itself shut out from the 10-driver battle for the championship.

Ryan Newman, who had two of Dodge's four victories in 2004 and 10 of its 13 over the past two seasons, did make the Chase. Jeremy Mayfield did too, dramatically earning his spot by winning the last race before the Chase field was determined at Richmond.

But it may be too narrow of a view to judge Dodge's 2004 performance based on race wins and the fact that Newman was seventh and Mayfield 10th in the final standings.

Kasey Kahne, Mayfield's teammate at Evernham Motorsports, walked away with the rookie of the year race and finished second five times without getting his first Cup win. He also had 13 top-five finishes, the fourth best total on the circuit.

None of the three drivers at Chip Ganassi Racing won, but Jamie McMurray had 23 top-10 finishes to tie Jimmie Johnson for the second-highest total in that category. McMurray barely missed making the Chase and finished in the top 10 in 14 of the final 18 races, including eight of the 10 Chase races.

Rusty Wallace, Newman's Penske South teammate who also had a victory last season, is 48 and plans to retire after 2005. Sterling Marlin, McMurray's Ganassi teammate, is 47. But McMurray will be 28 when the 2005 season begins at Daytona on Feb. 20, and teammate Casey Mears is 26. Newman is just 27 and

Kahne is just 24. Even Mayfield is still just 35. So there's certainly room for optimism going forward.

Fleet-wide, the immediate challenge for Dodge in 2005 will be adapting to the new Charger model that teams will use after racing Intrepids for the past four seasons.

Newman won nine poles in 2004, including a late-season run of four straight, but didn't win any of those races. After winning eight times the previous year, he won only at Michigan and Dover and never really got championship momentum going after being wrecked and finishing 33rd in the Chase opener.

"I don't think there's a specific weakness or weaknesses," Newman said. "We just had some bad luck. Some variables, you can't eliminate. Hopefully we don't run into those things in 2005."

Travis Kvapil, the 2003 Truck Series champion, joins Newman and Wallace under the Penske tent this season, replacing Brendan Gaughan in the No. 77 Ride.



Newman



Kahne



McMurray

There are new faces, too, at Evernham Motorsports — just not behind the wheel. Richard "Slugger" Labbe is the new crew chief for Mayfield, while Chris Andrews is the team director for Bill Elliott, who will once again run a part-time schedule.

Kahne will be a story to watch. It surprised some that he ran as well as he did after replacing Elliott in the No. 9 ride, but it would surprise more if he doesn't get his first Cup victory — and more — in 2005.

"I'm a little disappointed we haven't won yet," Kahne said. "A lot of things happened that we had no control over. It's pretty disappointing at times when you think about that. You've just got to keep working hard."

If Kahne isn't a breakout success in '05, perhaps McMurray will be.

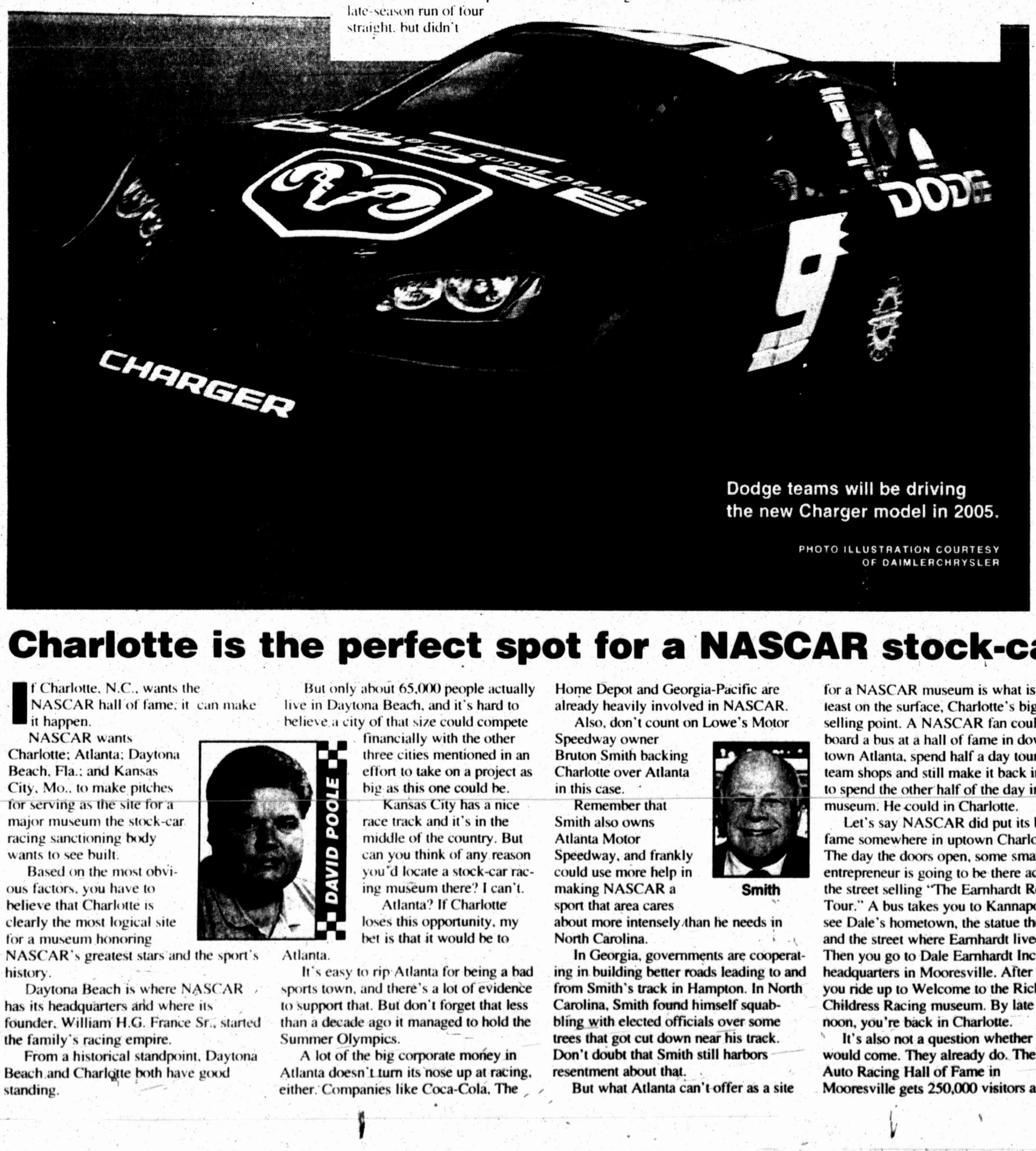
"We're strong enough to win races," McMurray said. "I really believe we'll be a threat to win the championship. Even though we didn't have the season we wanted (last year), we really weren't that far off."

The same can't be said for the other Ganassi teams, however. Marlin had only seven top-10 finishes in going winless for a second straight year, while Casey Mears better than 20th only twice in the season's final 14 races.

The 2004 season was a struggle, too, for Bill Davis Racing, Petty Enterprises and BAM Racing.

Rookie Scott Wimmer was third in his debut in the Daytona 500, but had only one top 10 after that. Jeff Green had the only top for Petty Enterprises, a seventh at Martinsville, and Kyle Petty's tough year ended with him not making the field for the finale at Homestead. Ken Schrader's best run for BAM was a sixth at Bristol.

Though unexpected, any significant improvement in 2005 among those teams would certainly be welcomed.



Dodge teams will be driving the new Charger model in 2005.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF DAIMLERCHRYSLER

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Which Dodge driver will finish highest in the Nextel Cup standings this season?

Cast your vote at:
www.thatsracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Which of the new driver-crew chief combinations will find the most success in the 2005 Nextel Cup season?

Number of votes: 12,079

Driver/Crew Chief	Percent
Dale Earnhardt Jr./Pete Rondeau	32%
Michael Waltrip/Tony Eury Jr.	28%
Jeremy Mayfield/Richard Labbe	26%
Bobby Labonte/Steve Addington	10%
Sterling Marlin/Steve Boyer	4%

RACIN' NOTES

Edwards, No. 99 team get new Cup sponsor



Edwards

Carl Edwards has landed a sponsor.

Edwards' first full-time season of NASCAR Nextel Cup racing will be sponsored by Office Depot. Beginning with the Daytona 500 in February, Office Depot will be Edwards' primary sponsor of the Roush Racing No. 99 Ford for a minimum of eight races and an associate sponsor for the remaining races.

Edwards finished fourth in the NASCAR Trucks series, including a win at Kansas Speedway last season.

He made his Nextel Cup debut last August, when he replaced Jeff Burton in an unsponsored car.

In his 13 Nextel Cup starts, Edwards posted one top-five and six top-10 finishes, including a best finish of third at Atlanta.

"This No. 99 team has worked extremely hard over the last year, and I think we have a team that is capable of winning," Edwards said.

Terry Labonte sets 2005 racing schedule



Labonte

NASCAR veteran Terry Labonte, running an abbreviated schedule the next two seasons in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series, will not enter any superspeedway races in 2005, Hendrick Motorsports officials confirmed Tuesday.

Labonte, a two-time Cup series champion, announced in October the 2004 season would be his last as a full-time participant in the series.

Labonte, who will drive the No. 44 Chevrolets for Hendrick, has finalized his schedule this year, which will begin with the Feb. 27 race at California Speedway.

The remainder of his "Shifting Gears — Lone Star Style" schedule includes: April 3, Bristol, Tenn.; April 17, Texas; May 21, Nextel All-Star Challenge; May 29, Coca-Cola 600; June 12, Pocono; July 10, Chicagoland; Aug. 7, Indianapolis; Oct. 9, Kansas City, Kan.; and Nov. 6, Texas.

"One of the things that excited me about moving to a part-time deal was being able to pick my favorite race tracks," Labonte said.

"Now, having everything finalized and being able to look at the schedule on paper, I'm even more energized and ready to go."

Darrell Waltrip adds Truck series team

Robert Huffman will drive a No. 12 Toyota in the 2005 NASCAR Truck Series for Darrell Waltrip Motorsports, bringing that to a two-team operation.

Huffman will be a teammate to David Reutimann's No. 17 truck. Huffman and Reutimann were both rookies in the Truck Series in 2004.

— *ThatsRacin.com*

Charlotte is the perfect spot for a NASCAR stock-car hall of fame

If Charlotte, N.C., wants the NASCAR hall of fame, it can make it happen.

NASCAR wants Charlotte; Atlanta; Daytona Beach, Fla.; and Kansas City, Mo., to make pitches for serving as the site for a major museum the stock-car racing sanctioning body wants to see built.

Based on the most obvious factors, you have to believe that Charlotte is clearly the most logical site for a museum honoring NASCAR's greatest stars and the sport's history.

Daytona Beach is where NASCAR has its headquarters and where its founder, William H.G. France Sr., started the family's racing empire.

From a historical standpoint, Daytona Beach and Charlotte both have good standing.

But only about 65,000 people actually live in Daytona Beach, and it's hard to believe a city of that size could compete financially with the other three cities mentioned in an effort to take on a project as big as this one could be.

Kansas City has a nice race track and it's in the middle of the country. But can you think of any reason you'd locate a stock-car racing museum there? I can't.

Atlanta? If Charlotte loses this opportunity, my bet is that it would be to Atlanta.

It's easy to rip Atlanta for being a bad sports town, and there's a lot of evidence to support that. But don't forget that less than a decade ago it managed to hold the Summer Olympics.

A lot of the big corporate money in Atlanta doesn't turn its nose up at racing, either. Companies like Coca-Cola, The Home Depot and Georgia-Pacific are already heavily involved in NASCAR.

Also, don't count on Lowe's Motor Speedway owner Bruton Smith backing Charlotte over Atlanta in this case.

Smith

Remember that Smith also owns Atlanta Motor Speedway, and frankly could use more help in making NASCAR a sport that area cares about more intensely than he needs in North Carolina.

In Georgia, governments are cooperating in building better roads leading to and from Smith's track in Hampton. In North Carolina, Smith found himself squabbling with elected officials over some trees that got cut down near his track. Don't doubt that Smith still harbors resentment about that.

But what Atlanta can't offer as a site for a NASCAR museum is what is, at least on the surface, Charlotte's biggest selling point. A NASCAR fan could not board a bus at a hall of fame in downtown Atlanta, spend half a day touring team shops and still make it back in time to spend the other half of the day in the museum. He could in Charlotte.

Let's say NASCAR did put its hall of fame somewhere in uptown Charlotte. The day the doors open, some smart entrepreneur is going to be there across the street selling "The Earnhardt Reality Tour." A bus takes you to Kannapolis to see Dale's hometown, the statue there and the street where Earnhardt lived. Then you go to Dale Earnhardt Inc.'s headquarters in Mooresville. After lunch, you ride up to Welcome to the Richard Childress Racing museum. By late afternoon, you're back in Charlotte.

It's also not a question whether people would come. They already do. The N.C. Auto Racing Hall of Fame in Mooresville gets 250,000 visitors a year.

About 150,000 people tour the Hendrick Motorsports complex in Harrisburg each year.

Give NASCAR fans around the country a version of what baseball has in Cooperstown, N.Y., and you'd be crazy not to believe even more people would come here, not only when there's racing at Lowe's Motor Speedway, but all year round.

It will cost money to get this deal done. If Charlotte's going to get into this fight, some private money is going to have to be found to help pay for it. At the same time, a NASCAR museum ought to top any list of priorities for whatever public funding might be available for projects of such a nature.

The question is not if there's going to be a NASCAR hall of fame built somewhere. Neither is it whether it can be built in Charlotte. The only question is will that happen, and will is exactly what it's going to take.