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THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY
March 20, 2003
Vol. 54 No. 277
10 Pages 50¢
Home of Thomas Hefner

Ground war underway, Saddam's days numbered

By the Associated Press

To the cheers of U.S. infantrymen, the first stage of the ground war opened today with American howitzers and multiple launch rocket systems firing at Iraqi troops.

The U.S. 3rd Infantry Division's artillery opened fire hours after an American airstrike started the hostilities. Maj. Gen. Bufourd Blount, the division commander, had said the artillery barrage would signal the first phase of the ground war against Iraq.

White light glowed in the sky as dozens of artillery shells were fired. Infantrymen who were between the howitzers and the Iraqi border cheered as the shells screamed overhead.

The ground war was launched about an hour after Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld promised: "the days of the Saddam Hussein regime are numbered."

Rumsfeld, in his first news conference since the war began, said the United States had hit a senior Iraqi leadership position in its initial strikes. He offered no details, saying a damage assessment was pending.

The assault "was the first," he said. "It likely will not be the last."

U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a massive assault on Iraq could begin later today. An American-led invasion force of 300,000 troops was poised to strike on orders from President Bush.

Iraq responded within hours to the U.S. air attack, firing missiles today toward American troops positioned just across its border with Kuwait. American and British soldiers in the region briefly donned gas masks or protective suits, but officers later said the missiles apparently were not armed with chemical or biological weapons.

None of the Iraqi missiles caused injuries or damage, and one was intercepted by a Patriot missile, according to U.S. officers.

Later today, air raid sirens wailed repeatedly in Kuwait as U.S. military officials donned flak vests amid warnings that another volley of Scuds was possible.

As Rumsfeld spoke in Washington, orange flames were visible in the direction of the southern Iraqi oil center of Basra. Associated Press reporter Ross Simpson, embedded with a Marine unit in Kuwait, was told by a battalion commander that "three oil wells have been torched" in Iraq.

Rumsfeld said he had heard similar reports of the Saddam regime setting fire to oil wells. "Needless to say, it is a crime for that regime to be destroying the riches of the Iraqi people," he said.

The U.S. operation gained a boost, meanwhile, when Turkey's parliament today approved U.S. military use of its airspace for the war on Iraq.

The government-backed proposal allows American warplanes based in Europe or the United States to cross Turkey to strike Iraq. The United States also could use Turkish airspace to transport troops into northern Iraq or to bring supplies to the region.

The U.S. launched its long-awaited war against Saddam on Wednesday night, targeting him personally with a barrage of cruise missiles and bombs as a prelude to invasion.

The opening salvo against Saddam was not the expected all-out aerial bombardment, but a surgical strike seeking to eliminate the Iraqi leader and his inner circle even before an invasion. Saddam, in a TV appearance that U.S. officials said appeared to be delivered after the attack, assailed it as a "shameful crime," while President Bush said the world's security is at stake.

Bush was awake early, meeting with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at 5 a.m. today before heading to the Oval Office less than an hour later.

Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf said the U.S. strikes killed one person and hit a customs office and some empty Iraqi TV buildings, among other targets.

Fourteen people were treated at local hospitals, but none appeared linked to Saddam, Iraqi doctors said. The wounded reportedly included six members of a suburban Baghdad family who were eating breakfast and were hit by shrapnel, and an Iraqi television journalist.

The International Red Cross today confirmed one death and 14 wounded in the initial attacks.

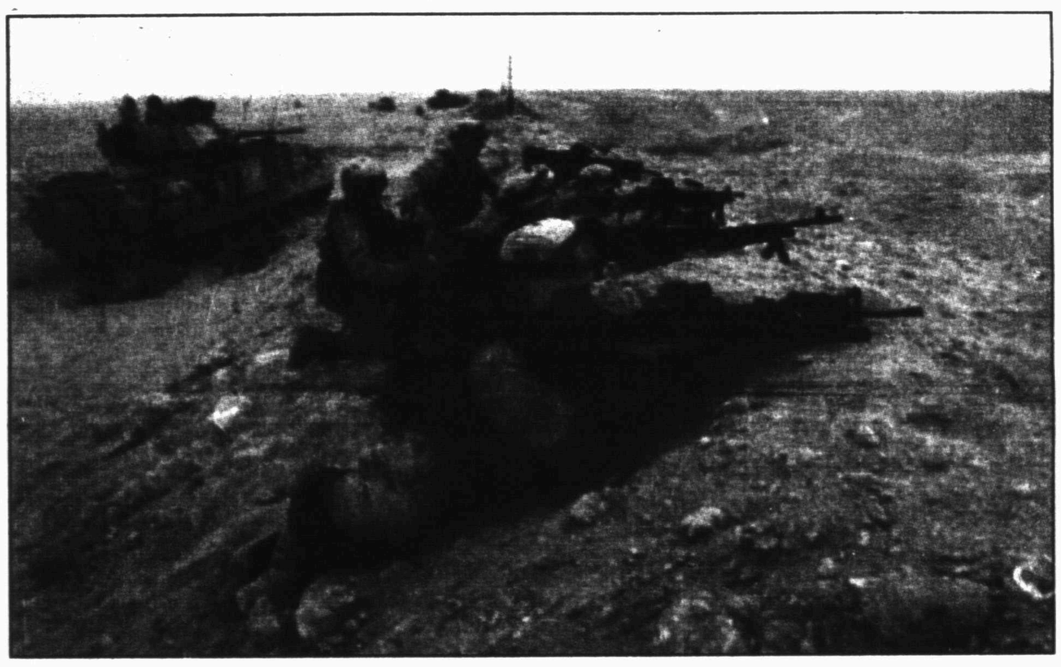
In Baghdad, in the aftermath of the initial attack, the city was quiet and a few children rode bicycles or kicked soccer balls on the streets.

As night fell, with the threat of another attack, the streets emptied as people rushed to find safe haven in shelters, their homes or the countryside.

About 1,000 U.S. troops launched a raid on villages in southeastern Afghanistan, hunting for members of the al-Qaida terrorist network. The U.S. operation appeared to signal to Osama bin Laden and his lieutenants that war with Iraq would not mean any respite for them.

The State Department warned U.S. citizens abroad that they face increased danger of retaliatory terrorist actions and anti-American violence. The U.S. Embassy in Pakistan was shut down because of security concerns.

The first missiles hit targets in Baghdad shortly before dawn today, less than two hours after Bush's deadline of 7 p.m. for Saddam to yield power.



AT WAR — Soldiers in the U.S. Army 3rd Battalion 15th Infantry aim towards Iraq today while atop the last Kuwaiti berm before the Iraqi border. After the long-awaited attack was launched against Saddam Hussein, Iraq responded by firing missiles toward U.S. and British troops in Kuwait. (AP Photo)

THE SDN COLUMN

MY TURN

by Brian Brisendine



It's the last day of winter and first day of spring. The change officially comes at 7 p.m.

Other than a few nippy days, it was a pretty mild winter with no measurable snowfall in our part of the world.

With temperatures on the rise and sunlight lasting longer, residents are preparing for more outdoor activities.

Our lawnmower is gassed and ready to go, our golf clubs are cleaned and sitting by the door and our bicycles are oiled and primed.

And to prepare for one of our favorite warm-weather pastimes, we started to clean our grill last weekend.

We're still using the grill we received as a gift for a college apartment. Needless to say, it's not very large — half a dozen hamburger patties fill its cooking area.

While cleaning its grates, we decided we've stood over its tiny cooking surface long enough.

We've seen the multi-burner stainless steel models and like their looks, so we went online to look for a replacement.

The options are endless it seems, and if the manufacturers' websites are to be believed, bigger is better.

No longer are backyard chefs relegated to standing over the old Weber grills trying to get the charcoal briquettes to ignite.

The newer models require more patio space and would make most restaurant chefs envious.

Only a few minutes into our online search for a new grill, we hit the mother load.

Cal Flame, a company that specializes in outdoor recreation, has designed what we think is the greatest backyard addition we've ever laid eyes on.

The Cal Flame Sports Bar and Grill boasts numerous features sure to make the neighborhood men jealous. The grill won't fit on your porch and professional installation is a must.

The chef in charge of Cal Flame's latest creation won't have to strategically place hamburger patties like we're forced to do on our tiny cooker. The cooking surface is larger than any grill we've found.

And the picnickers won't have to run into the house for a cold drink anymore either. The Sports Bar and Grill comes standard with a built-in refrigerator.

And you won't have to ask guests to bring coolers. The grill comes with a beverage tap, juice bar and cocktail center and even has waterproof electric outlets for blenders or other utensils.

Dragging a television outside to catch games isn't necessary with this barbecue island. One option is the addition of three well placed nine-inch flat panel televisions, a CD and DVD player and all weather stereo speakers. Springtime showers won't dampen the spirit and the fun can continue past dark. The Sports Bar and Grill includes automated awnings and track lighting.

We decided we have the perfect spot in our backyard for this masterpiece of design so we decided to order one.

But when the price was flashed before our eyes, we quickly unplugged our computer before an order could be made.

We'll have to wait for our lottery numbers to come through.

Until then, we'll get our small, but adequate grill ready for those awesome West Texas evenings we're sure will come — once this wind blows through.

North, South Korea on heightened alert

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea put its military on heightened alert today as the beginning of war in Iraq raised fears that North Korea might move to provoke its neighbor while the world is distracted.

"We expect North Korea to be cautious, but we have strengthened our alert status and our early warning status in response to possible North Korean attempts to increase tensions," presidential spokeswoman Song Kyoung-hee said.

The North announced it also is boosting its military readinesss, saying it feared a U.S. attack.

"We will strengthen our readiness in every possible way to meet whatever military options the U.S. imperialists will take against us," said Rodong Sinmun, the North's most prominent state newspaper.

Tensions on the Korean peninsula have been high since October, when U.S. officials said the North admitted having a program to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons.



IN PRAYER — A U.S. Seabee (construction soldier) prays while in his full biological and chemical protective suit in a bunker after a warning of a second scud attack fired from Iraq towards their base in Kuwait today. (AP Photo)

Prayer service set for tonight

In response to the beginning of the war in Iraq and President Bush's declaration of today as a day of prayer, an ecumenical service of prayer will be held at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church.

Worship leaders will include seven local ministers: Georgia King, First Presbyterian Church; Mike Henson, First Baptist Church; Tom Holcomb, East Side Church of Christ; Vernon Groce, Church of God; Tom Woodward, Trinity United Methodist Church; Tommy Culwell, Colonial Hill Baptist Church; and Miller Robinson, retired from Colonial Hill Baptist Church.

Everyone in the community is invited.

ASK US

Q—How much did city employees raise last week during their burrito sale for Relay for Life?

A—More than $200.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Victoria Lovell...

...is service coordinator for West Texas Center for Mental Health and Mental Retardation in the Snyder office. She has lived in the communiity for two years. She enjoys cooking, music, movies, watching NASCAR, drag races and spoiling her two cats.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it.

—Thomas Paine

MAR 20 2003

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Antique tractor, equipment club

Interested persons are invited to an organizational meeting for an antique tractor and equipment club at 7 tonight at Jack's Roadboring. For more information, call Lawton Taylor at 573-4414.

Bible study tapes

Bible videos air each week on Channel 2. To be shown at 7 p.m. Monday is "Three Ways Satan Tries to Destroy," followed by "Christianity is a Miracle."

Free income tax help

Free income tax help is available for persons earning low to moderate incomes. There is no age restriction. Assistance is available from 9 a.m.-noon, and 1-3 p.m. each Wednesday at the Senior Center, 2603 Ave. M.

Lenten worship services

The First Presbyterian Church will hold Lenten worship services at 6 p.m. every Wednesday through April 9. Anyone wishing to observe Lent is welcome to attend.

Eastern Star meeting

Snyder Chapter No. 450 of the Order of Eastern Star will have a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. next Thursday. All members are welcome.

CNA classes

CNA classes will begin March 29 at Snyder Oaks Nursing Center. Classes are 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Free tuition, books available at WTC book store. Orientation is noon March 27 in the dining room. For more information, call 863-2426.

VBS training clinic

The Mitchell-Scurry Baptist Association will host a Vacation Bible School training clinic from 9 a.m. until noon Saturday, March 29, at Colonial Hill Baptist Church. This year's theme is "The Great Kingdom Caper." For more information call the area office at 573-1803 or Patsy Day at 573-0971.

SHS senior activities

Senior parents need to send in their $20 as soon as possible. Also, the three pictures of your senior student are needed by April 4. Both the money and the pictures can be left at the SHS office.

Relay for Life cookbooks

The cookbooks of the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Relay for Life team are now available for a $10 donation. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Call Becky Craig at 573-2472, Jo Schooler at 573-7807 or 573-6374.

Relay for Life teams needed

Teams are now being recruited for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Scurry County to be held April 25-26 at Tiger Stadium. For more information, contact Margaret Presswood, recruitment chairperson, at 573-4873.

WTC adult basic education classes

Adult basic education classes at WTC will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. until noon, and from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes include E.S. L., GED and refresher courses. Certified teachers and Spanish speaking aides teach the classes. Call 573-8511, ext. 322.

Cancer treatment transportation

Transportation for cancer patients to Lubbock, Abilene or Midland is available free of charge. Call Sammie Jarrell at 573-5993 or Blakey Fargason at 574-8041. If not home, leave message on answering machine.

Couple accused of kidnapping Smart appears in court

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The drifters accused of abducting Elizabeth Smart received court-appointed counsel after saying in their first court appearance that they could not afford attorneys.

Brian David Mitchell, 49, and his wife, Wanda Barzee, 57, who lived by panhandling in Salt Lake City for at least a decade, are charged with aggravated kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault and aggravated burglary.

They are also facing charges of aggravated burglary, attempted aggravated kidnapping and conspiracy to commit aggravated kidnapping for allegedly trying to abduct Elizabeth's 18-year-old cousin. Elizabeth, now 15, was taken from her bedroom June 5.

Mitchell and Barzee appeared separately by video from the county jail during a hearing Wednesday that lasted only a few minutes. Each appeared on television screens and were visible to courtroom observers from the shoulders up. Both stood impassively as the charges were read against them, though Barzee blinked her eyes repeatedly.

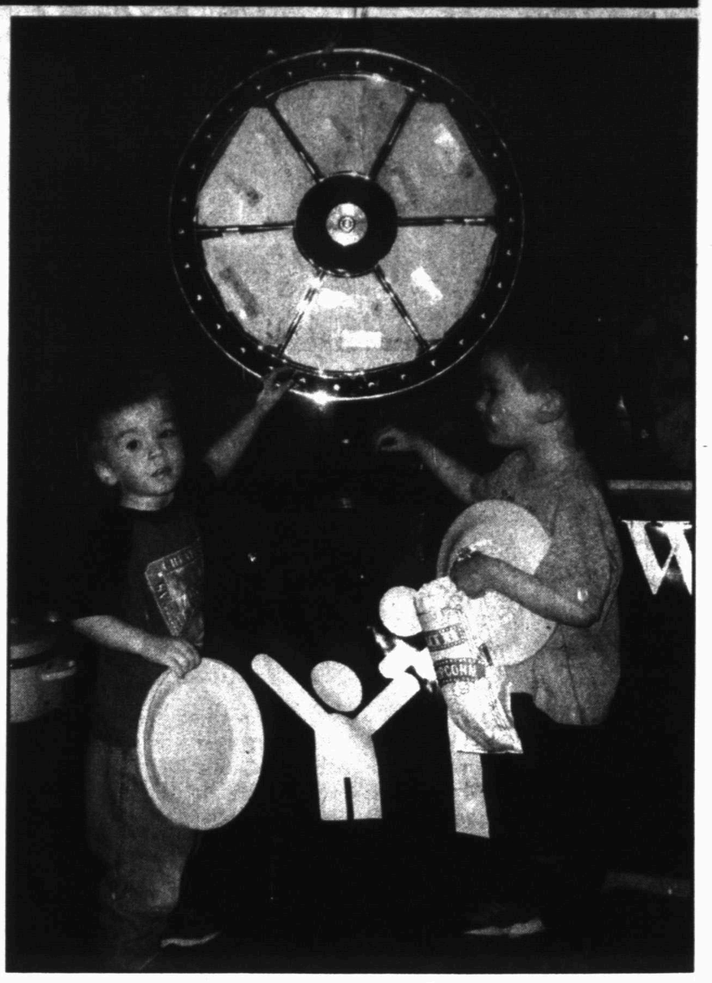
Mitchell, who has used the name Emmanuel, was asked if his name was Brian David Mitchell and responded, "That is the name that the world calls me by, yes." Barzee simply acknowledged her own name.

Judge Tyrone Medley ordered that neither be allowed jailhouse visits with any possible witnesses, including their own family members. Only their appointed attorneys and their legal staff may speak to them, the judge said.

David Finlayson and Scott Simpson, private attorneys on contract with the county Legal Defenders office, were appointed to represent Barzee, while David Biggs, assistant director of the Salt Lake Legal Defenders Association, was appointed to defend Mitchell.

The couple's next court date was scheduled for April 1, where they are expected to enter their pleas. Each was being held on $10 million bail.

Although members of Elizabeth's immediate family were not present at the hearing, 30 members of the group Bikers Against Child abuse filled four courtroom benches. Their spokesman, Paul DuBois, said they had helped in searches for Elizabeth and were there at the request of the Smart family.



GIVE IT A SPIN — Brothers Tommy Baldwin, 3, and Travis Baldwin, 4, pressed their luck at one of the exhibits at Tuesday's health fair at Scurry Community Services. The boys' mother is Amanda Baldwin. (SDN Staff Photo)

Today's chuckle

Man gets extra time after he moons judge



ATHENS (AP) — A man who pleaded guilty to aggravated assault had an additional six months tacked onto his eight-year sentence after he mooned the judge.

Judge Jim Parsons held 40-year-old Ray Mason in contempt of court Monday after he dropped his pants and showed Parsons and the rest of the court his backside.

"He said something like, 'Hey, judge, look at this," Assistant District Attorney Barry Spencer recalled. About 70 other people were in the courtroom at the time, Spencer said.

"I've been practicing criminal law for well over 20 years, and I've seen a lot of things," said Mason's defense attorney John Sickel. "This is the first time anything like that has happened."

300th execution may be convenience clerk killer

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A week after another convict averted a grim distinction with a last-minute court reprieve, a death row inmate said he was prepared to become the 300th Texas inmate executed since the state resumed the death penalty.

"Whatever God's will is for my life I'm going to accept," 35-year-old Keith Clay said from death row, where he was sent 51/2 years ago for fatally shooting a convenience store clerk during a 1994 robbery in Baytown, near Houston.

Clay would be the 11th Texas inmate executed this year and keep the state on a pace to surpass the record 40 lethal injections it carried out in 2000. Another execution is scheduled for next week.

Texas accounts for more than one-third of the 836 executions in the United States since 1976, when the death penalty resumed under a Supreme Court ruling. Virginia is second with 87.

It took nearly 13 years for Texas to reach 100 executions, four years get to No. 200 and now just over three to reach the 300th.

On March 12, condemned killer Delma Banks eluded the death chamber with a Supreme Court reprieve only moments before he would have been strapped to the execution gurney. Clay, who says he is innocent, was next in line.

But Clay's case has not attracted the kind of attention given to Banks, who said he was wrongly convicted of a 1980 Texarkana-area slaying. Banks' appeals were backed by three former federal judges, including former FBI director William Sessions.

Last week, the Supreme Court refused to review Clay's case. No more appeals were expected and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles refused to consider a clemency request because it was filed 15 days late.

Clay was convicted of killing store clerk Melathethil Tom Varughese, who came to the United States from India a year earlier, during a robbery.

"I'm not happy to see someone put to death, but I know that the trial was a fair trial, he was represented by good counsel and it was a horrible crime," said Marie Munier, the prosecutor in Clay's case. "I think it's justice. It's not that it makes me happy at all, but it's just the price he will pay."

Hundreds protest war with Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anti-war protesters blocked morning rush-hour traffic and chanted "no blood for oil" outside the White House today in reaction to U.S. military strikes against Iraq.

As many as 150 demonstrators temporarily shut down the inbound travel lanes of one of the Potomac River crossings, snarling rush-hour traffic. Some 50 demonstrators bicycled through downtown Washington carrying signs that said, "Bikes not Bombs." Three people were arrested.

"There are many, many people here and around the world that are opposed to this war," said Dana Hubbard, 54, of Washington.

Outside the White House, about 50 anti-war protester gathered in the chilly rain, shouting "no blood for oil!" Police blocked the approach to Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House to protesters and pedestrians.

The call for protests, walkouts and marches today followed a day of intense anti-war rallying by people in small towns, big cities and rural outposts decrying war just hours before the United States began its attack.

"I am very ashamed to be an American right now," Lydia Riley, 63, of Washington said Wednesday at a protest in Washington. "There's been nothing but lies and misrepresentations by the Bush administration."

Riley joined about 200 demonstrators, some wearing red dye on their faces and clothes to represent anticipated Iraqi civilian casualties, blocking rush hour traffic as they marched from a park near the White House to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's house in Northwest Washington.

John Parrish, 44, of Silver Spring, Md., called the president's stance on Iraq "absurd."

"Making a pre-emptive strike sets a bad example to the rest of the world," said Parrish. "What if Pakistan did a pre-emptive strike against India? They can say, 'the United States does it, why can't we?'"

Demonstrators were arrested after sitting down on the street in front of the White House and blocking entrances to government buildings in other cities.

Other protests were staged in New York, Boston, Utah, Chicago, Minneapolis, Ohio, Delaware, Maryland, Detroit, Wisconsin, Arkansas and Nevada .

Outside Rumsfeld's house, the crowd pleaded "Show your Face," and held bloodstained baby-size coffins in the air while chanting, "You have blood on your hands."

In Carson City, Nev., hundreds of flag-waving veterans and others gathered outside the state's legislative building to back U.S. military personnel poised to attack Iraq.

"We must not, we cannot, we will not allow the voice of dissent to tear our nation apart again," said Ray Alcorn, a retired U.S. Navy captain who spent seven years as a POW in North Vietnam. "The silent majority must become the vocal majority."

Also Wednesday, following a prayer vigil, 27 protesters were arrested after climbing over a temporary metal fence separating the park from Pennsylvania Avenue.



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ACQUISITION SALE
Friday, March 21st Only!!!
Take advantage of what someone else has paid and SAVE MONEY!!
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Come early for Best Selection!!!!
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Date Book

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Today is the 79th day of 2003 and the first day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was published.

On this day in 1976, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was convicted of armed robbery for her part in a San Francisco bank holdup.

On this day in 1995, a nerve gas attack in a Tokyo subway killed 12 people and injured more than 5,000.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906), playwright; B(urrhus) F(rederic) Skinner (1904-1990), pioneer in behaviorism; Fred Rogers (1928-2003), children's television pioneer; Spike Lee (1957-), director, is 46; Holly Hunter (1958-), actress, is 45; Sting (1959-), singer, is 44.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1971, basketball player Lew Alcindor won the first of his record six MVP awards.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "It is really important that young people find something that they want to do and pursue it with passion ... I'm very passionate about filmmaking. It's what I love to do." - Spike Lee

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (March 18) and last quarter (March 24).

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events

LOTTO TEXAS™ TEXAS LOTTERY

RESULTS

Wednesday's Lottery Numbers Lotto Texas

AUSTIN — (AP) One ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated $35 million.

The ticket was sold in Houston.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 54 were 10-20-30-31-41-42.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated $4 million.

Pick 3
(Day) 0-2-3
(Night) 6-4-1
Cash Five:
2-4-23-24-27

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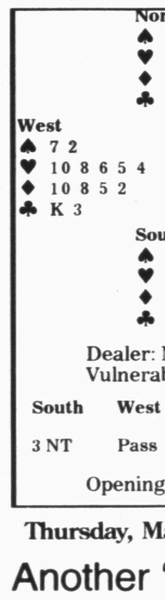
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SORORITY VISITS IRA BUSINESS — Beta Sigma Phi met Tuesday evening at the Dairy Queen for dinner prior to a tour of Farmer's Design Group in Ira. Owner Fran Farmer and office manager Brenda Hedges directed a tour through the various stages of designing and building product displays for major department stores. Following the tour the group was treated to dessert and coffee in Farmer's home. From left are Wanda Early, Janine Schoolcraft, Norma Cumbie, Ronda Robinson, Marie Boone, Farmer, Brenda Hedges and Mickey Baird. (SDN Staff Photo)

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 03-20-03
♠ A 4
♥ Q 7 2
♦ A 4 3
♣ Q J 9 8 7

West
♠ 7 2
♥ 10 8 6 5 4
♦ 10 8 5 2
♣ K 3

East
♠ K Q 9 8 5
♥ J 9
♦ J 9 6
♣ A 6 4

South
♠ J 10 6 3
♥ A K 3
♦ K Q 7
♣ 10 5 2

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
		1 ♣	1 ♠
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 7

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Another 'unstupid' play to make

By Phillip Alder

Recently, I mentioned that mistakes at the bridge table are rarely because of stupidity. They are much more likely to be due to thoughtlessness. This deal is difficult for those who play on autopilot. But if you would like to test yourself, cover the South and West hands. Against three no-trump, your partner (West) leads the spade seven. After declarer calls for dummy's low spade, how would you plan the defense?

If an opening suit bid is followed by a suit overcall, a response of two no-trump is game-invitational with 10-12 points, and a jump to three no-trump promises 13-15 points. Both bids guarantee at least one stopper in the opponent's suit.

Most players would win the first trick with the spade queen: third hand high. However, suddenly the contract is unbeatable. East may return a low spade to dummy's ace, but South plays on clubs.

If South has 13-15 points, your partner (West) has only 1-3 points. So, your only chance to beat the contract is if you can get three spade tricks to go with your club ace and partner's quick entry. (If West has nothing useful, your cause is hopeless.)

You must duck the first trick, playing an encouraging eight. South wins with his 10 or jack and plays a club. West shoots in with his king and returns his second spade, which both dislodges dummy's ace and establishes your suit while you still have the club ace as an entry.

If declarer has two stoppers in the suit you wish to establish, try to make him burn up one stopper as quickly as possible — and trick one is rarely too early.

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Community Calendar

THURSDAY

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; horseshoe courts located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information call 573-9762.

Snyder Chapter 450 Order of the Eastern Star; Masonic Hall, 1912 35th Street; 7:30 p.m.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; at the coliseum annex; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AA Big Book Study; closed meeting; contact numbers are 574-8015, 574-1292 or 573-1141; 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

Free blood pressure clinics; Senior Citizens Center; 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Blood pressures will be taken at Cogdell Hospital Home Health Services, 1800 Cogdell Blvd., Suite B; 1-2 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 1:30 p.m.

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-0538 or 573-0770.

Hermleigh Community Center Family Night; 6:30 p.m.

Scurry County AA closed meeting; Park Club at Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon open meeting; Park Club; 573-3733, 573-2101 or 573-1141; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

NA-Just For Today open meeting; Park Club; for information call 573-1438; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information call 574-1292 or 573-9458; 10 a.m.

Actresses to perform duet from movie

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Queen Latifah and the very pregnant Catherine Zeta-Jones have agreed to perform a duet from their musical "Chicago" at Sunday's Academy Awards ceremony.

The John Kander and Fred Ebb tune "I Move On" is nominated for best original song. Zeta-Jones, whose second child with husband Michael Douglas is due in April, performed the number in the film with co-star Renee Zellweger.

Zellweger declined to reprise her performance for the live Oscar ceremony, the academy announced Wednesday.

Latifah and Zeta-Jones are both nominated in the supporting-actress category for their roles in "Chicago," while Zellweger is up for the lead-actress prize. The film has 13 nominations, including a nomination for best picture.

Other scheduled performers in the best-song category include Paul Simon's "Father and Daughter" from the animated "The Wild Thornberrys Movie" and U2's "The Hands That Built America" from "Gangs of New York."

The song "Burn it Blue," written by Elliot Goldenthal and Julie Taymor for the biography film "Frida," is set to be performed by singers Lila Downs and Caetano Veloso.

Eminem's "Lose Yourself," from his film "8 Mile," is also nominated, but the rapper's record label has said he won't attend the show.

Magazine offers tips for growing roses

The best teacher is experience, especially when growing roses. The 2003 early spring *Gardener's Companion* offers a selection of rose lovers' favorite tips.

Feed Them Bananas — Banana peels are a good source of calcium, sulphur, magnesium, and phosphates-all things that roses like. There are three ways to serve them up: Lay a strip of peel at the base of each bush; bury one black, mushy banana next to each bush; or chop the peels, let them sit for two weeks in a sealed jar of water, and pour the whole business under each bush.

Grab a Potato — To root a rose cutting, stick it into a whole potato and plant the potato in rich soil, with the cutting above ground.

Brew Some Tea — The Texas Rose Rustlers recommend a special brew for cuttings: Cut small willow branches (with bark on them) about the size of a pencil, and snip them into one-inch lengths. In a large cooking pot, bring half a gallon of water to a boil and drop in two cups of willow pieces. Remove from the heat and let steep overnight. Strain. (Save any extra liquid; it will keep for several months.) Soak the rose cuttings overnight in the tea. Then plant each in its own pot of good soil, making a hole with a broom handle and holding the cutting in place in the hole with coarse sand. Set a canning jar or a cut-down two-liter plastic soda bottle over each pot, and put the cuttings outside where they will be out of direct sunlight. Water from the bottom.

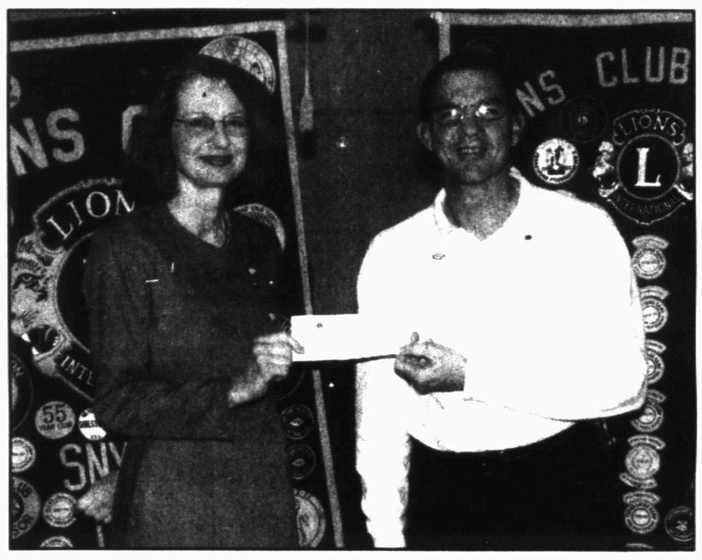
Get Out the Glue — Nasty little insects called stem borers sometimes find their way into newly pruned rose stems. To keep the bugs from entering, seal the stem cuts with nontoxic wood glue.

Mix and Spray — One of our readers sent in this recipe for an organic rose spray: Combine 1 tablespoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon Ivory liquid soap, 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, and 1 tablespoon Epsom salts in 1 gallon of water. Spray both sides of the plant's leaves every ten days.

(Experiment with a little spray on a few leaves before you douse the whole plant, and never apply it in hot sun. Sprays can do funny things sometimes.)

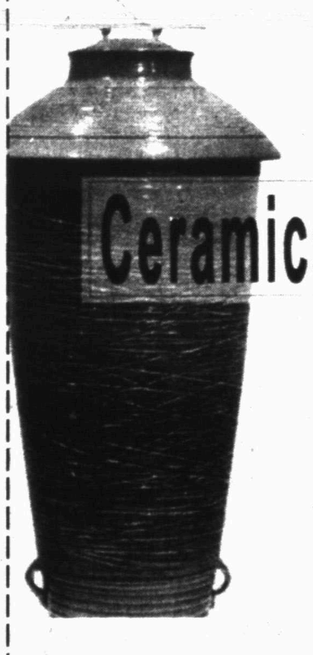
Start Vacuuming — Although Japanese beetles plague roses generally for just a short period of the growing season, in some parts of the country, plants come under serious attack. If you find that your roses are crawling with these pests, get out a small portable vacuum cleaner and gently clean your bushes.

Editor's Note: The preceding excerpt is from the early spring 2003 issue of *The Old Farmer's Almanac Gardener's Companion.* Full permission for reprinting is granted on the condition that credit is given to the *Gardener's Companion,* on sale wherever books and magazines are sold.





LIONS MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS — Snyder Lions Club president Cliff Shiller, right, presented monetary gifts at March meetings held at the Martha Ann Woman's Club. In the top photo, Charlene Akers, director of the Scurry County Museum, accepts a check and in the bottom photo, Tiffany Rule of Colorado City, sexual assault victim advocate for Gateway Family Services also accepts a donation. (SDN Staff Photos)



Jim Bob Salazar
Assistant Professor of Art / Ceramics
Sul Ross State University

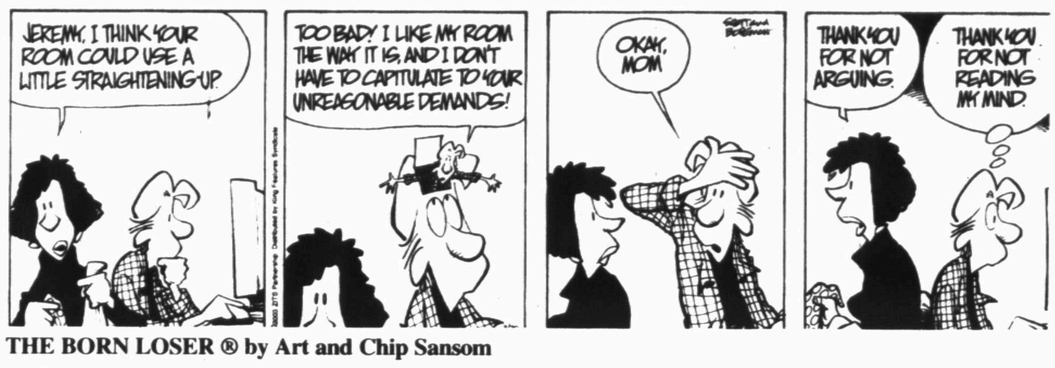
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Pot Luck Lunch 12-1pm
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no charge for admission
Fine Arts Gallery Western Texas College

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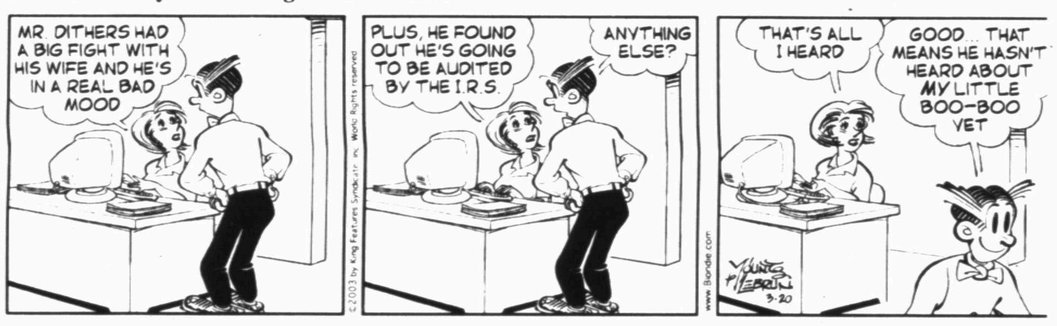
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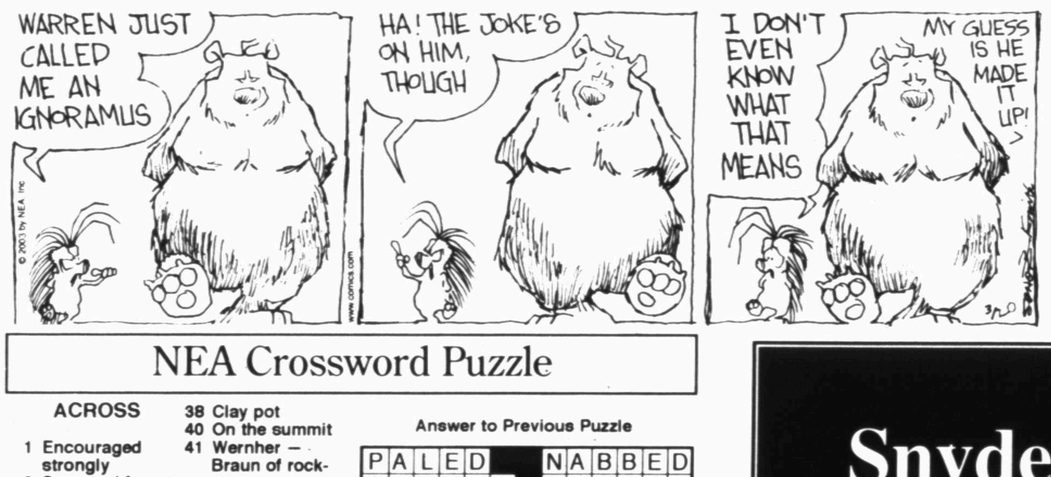
BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



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THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Encouraged strongly
6 Socrates' forum
11 Author – Binchy
12 Bounded along
13 Poise
15 Transcribed
16 Dislike intensely
18 Metro RRs
19 Dune buggy kin
21 Part of TNT
22 Automotive purchase
23 Robust
25 Dab on
28 Make laugh
30 Strive
31 Attorney's deg.
32 Mediocre grade
33 Two hundred fins
35 Running tracks
37 Not him
38 Clay pot
40 On the summit
41 Wernher – Braun of rockets
42 Repair a seam
43 Handy abbr.
46 Fanatics?
48 Rhymes
50 Shade of difference
54 Fuming
55 British P.M.
56 Margarita ingredients
57 Up and about

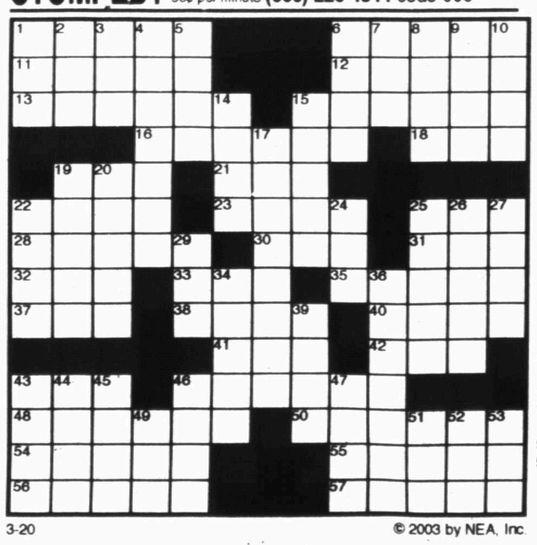
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1 Actress – Thurman
2 Hip-hop music
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Answer to Previous Puzzle

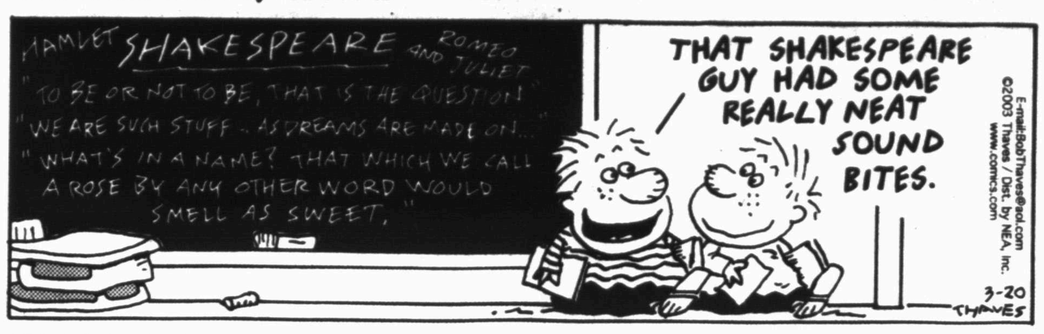
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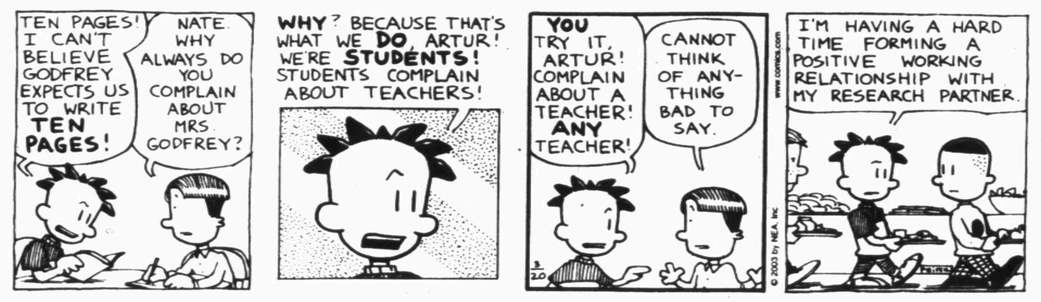
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ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson



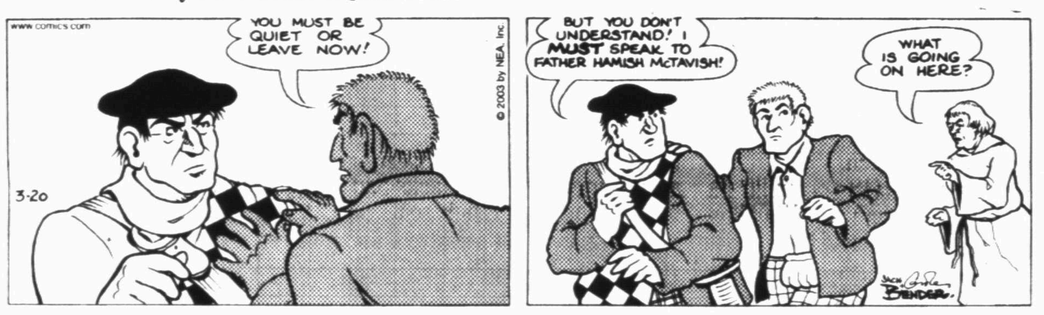
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"I said, 'Round up a POSSE!'"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright





DONATION — check to Johnn at the National

Tech

LUBBOCK Knight got a fi the NIT as Te Nevada 66-54 night. But his seemed to be els

"It's a tough ketball game wi on over in the M Knight, adding a letter Wednesd of a former play star general ser tary action. "I t seemed to feel a a feeling of trem rather than just ketball game."

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WTC ba game ca

Today's sche game between College and Ve lege was cancel cerns about po storms in the are

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No make-up scheduled.

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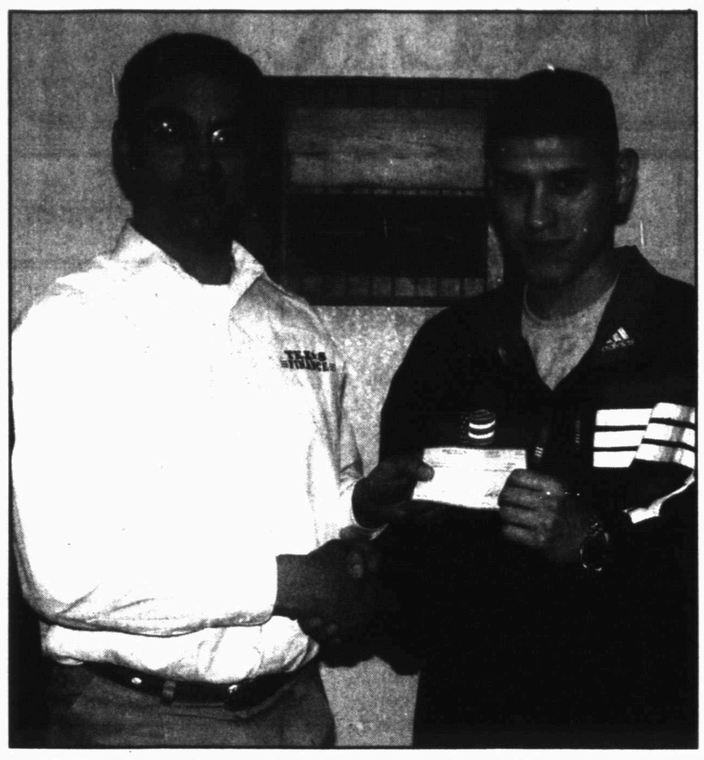
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Bulls 28, Knicks 26
Bulls: Anthony Taylor Jordan Rodriguez 2. Kn Brandon Davis 6, Ch Welsh 2.

SPORTS



DONATION — Texas Finance owner Albert DeLoera gives a check to Johnny Vasquez Jr. to help the fighter cover expenses at the National Championships next week. (SDN Staff Photo)

Community helps Vasquez travel to national tourney

By Bobby Allen
SDN Sports Editor

Snyder boxer and Olympic hopeful Johnny Vasquez Jr. will head to Colorado Springs Saturday for the National tournament, and he is getting some help from the community to offset the cost of participation.

Chad Welch, director of the Scurry County Boys and Girls Club, said he made it his "personal mission" to help Vasquez get some financial backing from the community.

"Johnny has been coming to the Boys and Girls Club since he was seven-years-old," Welch said. "He still comes down and helps with the kids. He is what the club represents, and I don't think the community knows about him."

Welch said the Boys and Girls Club put up $100 to aid Vasquez with food and lodging, and he began to call around to solicit more help.

"What got me excited was that there was a kid in Snyder with this much potential," said Albert DeLoera, owner of Texas Finance. "He could go on to the Olympics and represent Snyder. We help teams and give to others, so I figured why not help someone who is on his own?"

Texas Finance and an anonymous donor contributed an undisclosed amount that will pay for Vasquez' lodging and meals.

Vasquez, the number one ranked featherweight in the country, has been training since he was eight, and said the support of the community is important.

"To get the recognition now feels really good," he said.

Vasquez comes from a long line of boxers, as brother Gabriel is a professional 130-pounder, and younger brother Anthony, a senior at Snyder High School, is ranked seventh in the country as a light welterweight.

Vasquez has already faced and beaten several of the boxers he is scheduled to fight in Colorado Springs, and winning the national championships would assure him a spot on the 2004 Olympic team.

He trains three hours a day, doing road-work, gym work and sparring with his father and trainer, Johnny Vasquez, with help from assistant trainer Mike Martinez.

He also has been studying tapes of his bouts, looking for an edge over his opponents, as well as scouting for chinks in his own armor.

"All of the fighters will bring something different from when he fought them before," said Vasquez Sr. "But we will bring something different, too. It's going to be about who is in the best condition."

"Right now, I'm in excellent shape," Vasquez said. He said he will go to a lighter training workload once the tournament starts.

Vasquez is a serious young man, and he said that because of the grueling nature of his sport, he must maintain a serious focus.

"You can't let anything get to you," he said. "Some people will try to bring you down, but I just have to keep doing what I've been doing since I was eight. My training has been very intense and focused"

Vasquez said he plans to turn pro after the Athens games. He was on the cover of USA Boxing recently, and will participate in the Pan Am Games in the Dominican Republic in August as part of the USA boxing team.

He admits he gets nervous before big tournaments, especially those as important as the nationals.

"I get real anxious, but once the first bout is over, the butterflies disappear," he said.

Welch said all the kids at the Boys and Girls Club look up to Vasquez.

"Everybody knows about Johnny," he said. "He is one of the best role models we have."

Vasquez said working with children is important to him, and he tries to use his story as a model.

"A lot of kids in this town use drugs and alcohol, and I let them know that if you keep your mind straight, anything is possible."

Vasquez will begin fighting Monday, with the tournament scheduled to run through Friday. It will take place at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

Bouts will consist of four two-minute rounds.

Tech hammers Nevada

LUBBOCK (AP) — Bob Knight got a first-round win in the NIT as Texas Tech beat Nevada 66-54 on Wednesday night. But his emotions really seemed to be elsewhere.

"It's a tough night for a basketball game with what's going on over in the Middle East," said Knight, adding that he received a letter Wednesday from the wife of a former player who is a two-star general serving in the military action. "I think the crowd seemed to feel and almost exude a feeling of tremendous concern rather than just being at a basketball game."

Andre Emmett scored 18 points to lead Tech.

After Tech (19-12) built its largest of the game — 12 points — early in the second half, Nevada (18-14) used an 18-10 run to pull within four at 48-44 with 10:42 remaining. The run was fueled by four 3-pointers in nine possessions by the Wolfpack. Todd Okeson and Terrance Green each hit two from outside the arc.

But back-to-back baskets by Emmett and Kasib Powell pushed Tech's lead back to eight, 52-44, in the next minute. Nevada got no closer than three points at 52-49 with 7:39 remaining and commited turnovers on the next five possessions. Nevada didn't score again until the 3:20 mark when Sean Hall dunked one in for the Wolfpack to make it 63-51.

"Their offensive execution really hurt us at crucial points of the game," said Nevada coach Trent Johnson. "This is the best team we played all year, so the credit goes to them."

Powell scored 15 points, and Ronald Ross and Robert Tomaszek added 10 each.

The crowd was not large as many Tech students were away on spring break. Before the game started, Knight went to the scorer's table and apparently asked for a moment of silence for the troops fighting in Iraq in military strikes that began shortly before play started.

Bush's address to the nation came from an ESPN network feed displayed on all four screens on the overhead scoreboard at halftime. Fans cheered as he announced the attacks had begun. No one left their seats.

"We as a country have had a history of doing things that are basically scheduled to be done," Knight said after the game. "I think that's something we should continue to do. We're too strong, too tough to let anyone interfere with life here."

Tech led 31-22 at halftime.

Tech started off shooting poorly, failing to score a field goal in about five minutes to trail 13-10. The Red Raiders then turned the tables on the Wolfpack, holding them scoreless for five minutes while scoring 12 to lead 22-13 at the 4:46 mark. Nevada's drought ended 18 seconds later when Okeson hit a 3-pointer.

Okeson scored 13 points to lead the Wolfpack.

The last time Tech hosted an NIT game was 1979 when the Red Raiders lost 78-59 in the first round to Knight's Indiana team. The Hoosiers went on to win the tournament for Knight's sole NIT title.

WTC baseball game cancelled

Today's scheduled baseball game between Western Texas College and Vernon Junior College was cancelled due to concerns about potential thunderstorms in the area.

WTC assistant coach Billy Hefflinger said that Vernon would have had to leave at 8 a.m. today to be here in time for the game, and forecast rain forced Vernon to cancel.

No make-up date has been scheduled.

Ira golfers place in Loop tourney

GAINES COUNTY — Ira placed two medalists at the Loop Invitational golf tournament Wednesday.

Lacie Thompson placed fourth in the medal round with 116, and Jeff Fine tied for fifth, firing a 97.

The Ira golfers will next compete in the Coahoma Invitational Wednesday.

Hermleigh cager competes in Austin

Hermleigh freshman Brittainy Jones competed in the All-American Shootout in Austin last weekend.

Her team consisted of 10 players from all classifications in Texas (1-A through 5-A), with Hermleigh being the smallest school with a representative.

Jones scored 12 points over the weekend, and gathered numerous rebounds.

She was the leading rebounder for Lady Cardinals this season.

"Brittainy is working harder now than I've ever seen her work," said Lady Cardinals coach Rebecca Ponder. "I can't wait to see her next year."

Jones is the daughter of Bill and Candy Jones of Snyder.

Westerners lose two pitchers Wednesday

The Western Texas College baseball team can't get all facets of their game working at the same time.

On a day when the bats came alive, the pitching staff struggled, as Otero Junior College swept a midday doubleheader from the Westerners, 13-7 and 13-5.

"It's not like they were an overpowering team, we just didn't get anything going," assistant coach Billy Hefflinger said.

Otero was up 13-0 on WTC until Logan Parker belted a two-run shot in the fourth inning.

WTC starter Scott Harris went 2 1/3 innings before leaving with an aching arm, and Ross Nieman threw the final 4 2/3.

Chase Gilbert helped the Westerners try to get back into the game with a two-run homer in the fifth, and Trey Roberson slapped two hits from the leadoff spot.

"We really hit the ball better, but our pitching didn't bring it," Hefflinger said.

The second game began the same as the opener, with WTC starter Joe Martinez giving up three home runs and a single to the first four batters he faced.

Martinez lasted just 2/3 of an inning, allowing eight earned runs, before giving way to Travis Clark in a 13-5 defeat.

Tyrrell Henley was two-for-four with 2 RBI, and Landon Thompson had two base knocks in the loss.

Clark finished the inning, but left the game with a sore throwing arm, further depleting an already thin WTC staff.

Harris and Clark are day-to-day, joining three other WTC pitchers on the sidelines.

Shay Franks and John Bewley are each sidelined up to three weeks with various injuries.

Shawn Hanson, the staff's lone sophomore, was lost for the season last month with a torn labrum. Hanson was also the stopper in the Westerner rotation, carrying a 1.75 ERA before his injury.

Hefflinger said that while the rotation is banged up, the team's hurlers would have to start pitching with consistency.

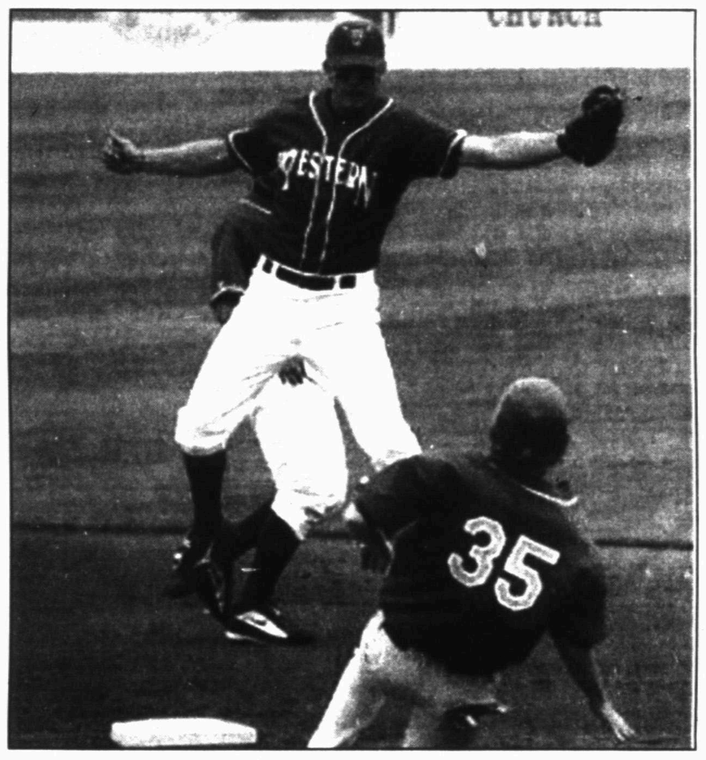
"They have to start bringing their best games to the table," he said. "The staff needs to learn how to carry success over from game to game."

He said the lack of sophomore leadership also hurts the team, as Hanson set the table for the rest of the staff with the way he approached each start.

Hefflinger said he understands the disappointment that comes with losing.

"It's got to be frustrating for the guys," he said. They are doing the best they can. We've got to come out with the mindset of sweeping Trinadad, and rattle off a few wins. We've got to keep our heads up and keep working hard and not let this slide we're in carry us away. We have to stay positive."

The team will host Trinidad Junior College in a noon doubleheader at Moffett Field Friday, then will travel to Lubbock Christian Tuesday for a 2 p.m. twinbill.



TURNING TWO — WTC second baseman Tanyon Reeves attempts a double play during a game against Otero Wednesday. WTC dropped both games. (Contributed Photo)

Little Dribblers

Minor

Kings 21, Grizzlies 15
Kings: Eric Morin 7, Jordan Tippens 6, Reid Pinson 4, Chase Price 2, Dillon Randolph 2. **Grizzlies:** Brennon Rhodes 8, Xavier Malone 7

Wolfpack 36, Bulls 31
Wolfpack: Kylor Fine 20, Alex Alcala 6, Justin Gonzales 6, Richard Deluna 2, Isaac Martin 2. **Bulls:** Anthony Taylor 15, Lance Morris 8, Jordan Rodriguez 6, Kyler Billingsly 2.

Pistons 44, Lakers 23
Pistons: Keenon Ward 14, Garrett Snyder 10, Will Toombs 9, Hunter Cox 6, Wesley Anderson 3, Matt Williams 2. **Lakers:** Kolton Cox 8, Robbie Rhinehart 8, Dillon Clifton 2, Troy Henderson 2, Dillon Clifton 2, Jordan Peoples 2, Justin Clifton 1.

Bulls 28, Knicks 26
Bulls: Anthony Taylor 23, Kyler Billingsly 3, Jordan Rodriguez 2. **Knicks:** Kelton Garcia 12, Brandon Davis 6, Chance Young 6, Gage Welsh 2.

Trailblazers 24, Grizzlies 18
Trailblazers: Dakota Carroll 10, Dillon West 6, Seth Cotton 4, Kellner Odam 4. **Grizzlies:** Brennon Rhodes 10, Xavier Malone 4, Noel Villa 4.

Knicks 26, Kings 24
Knicks: Kelton Garcia 16, Brandon Davis 5, Gage Welsh 2, Chance Young 2, Logan Tabor 1. **Kings:** Brandon Medrano 9, Reid Pinson 8, Jordan Tippens 3, Eric Morin 2, Adam Moncibais 2.

Wolfpack 36, Kings 28
Wolfpack: Kylor Fine 10, Justin Gonzales 9, Isaac Martin 8, Alex Alcala 4, Richard Deluna 2, Nicholas Clanton 1, Zach Gafford 1. **Kings:** Adam Moncibais 12, Eric Morin 6, Jordan Tippens 4, Reid Pinson 2, Dillon Randolph 2, Brandon Medrano 2.

Bulls 29, Lakers 20
Bulls: Anthony Taylor 27, Tyler Redman 2. **Lakers:** Robbie Rhinehart 9, Kolton Cox 6, Troy Henry 5.

Pistons 47, Bulls 46
Pistons: Keenon Ward 31, Garrett Snyder 11, Wesley Anderson 4, Will Toombs 1. **Bulls:** Anthony Taylor 34, Jordan Rodriguez 8, Kyler Billingsly 2, Tyler Redman 2.

Trailblazers 30, Lakers 14
Trailblazers: Seth Cotton 10, Dakota Carroll 9, Dillon West 5, Kellner Odam 4, Nick Morin2. **Lakers:** Robbie Rhinehart 10, Kolton Davis 4.

Nuggets 36, Grizzlies 19
Nuggets: Shade Roemisch 22, Steven Juarez 8, Jason Mendoza 4, Zachary Simpson 2. **Grizzlies:** Xavier Malone 11, Brennon Rhodes 4, Noel Villa 4.

Nuggets 40, Wolfpack 30
Nuggets: Shade Roemisch 31, Tyson Sullenger 5, Steven Juarez 4. **Wolfpack:** Justin Gonzales 11, Kylor Fine 10, Alex Alcala 8.

Nuggets 45, Knicks 35
Nuggets: Shade Roemisch 24, Steven Juarez 8, Jason Mendoza 8, Tyson Sullenger 3, Dylon Vera 2. **Knicks:** Kelton Garcia 23, Gage Welsh 6, Brandon Davis 6.

Wolfpack 31, Grizzlies 13
Wolfpack: Kylor Fine 13, Isaac Martin 7, Alex Alcala 4, Richard Deluna 4, Justin Gonzales 3. **Grizzlies:** Xavier Malone 4, Brennon Rhodes 4, Noel Villa 3, Johnny Mendoza 2.

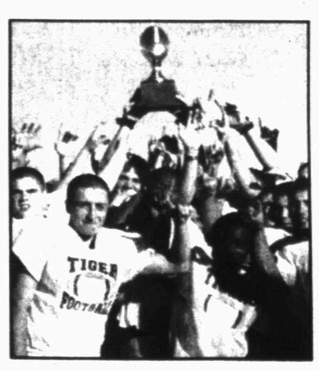
Pistons 39, Trailblazers 35
Pistons: Keenon Ward 29, Will Toombs 8, Wesley Anderson 2. **Trailblazers:** Dakota Carroll 24, Seth Cotton 6, Dillon West 5.

Wolfpack 42, Knicks 18
Wolfpack: Kylor Fine 14, Alex Alcala 10, Isaac Martin 8, Richard Deluna 6, Justin Gonzales 4. **Knicks:** Kelton Garcia 15, Chance Young 2, Brandon Davis 1.

Bulls 32, Trailblazers 28
Bulls: Anthony Taylor 28, Lance Morris 2, Jordan Rodriguez 2. **Trailblazers:** Dakota Carroll 18, Dillon West 6, Seth Cotton 4.

Trailblazers 31, Knicks 27
Trailblazers: Dakota Carroll 13, Seth Cotton 10, Dillon West 7, Kellner Odam 2. **Knicks:** Kelton Garcia 18, Gage Welsh 7, Chance Young 2.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
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COUNTY OF SCURRY §

To those indebted to, or holding claims against the Estate of BILLY RAY POLLARD, deceased, Probate Case Number 5,760:

The undersigned, having been duly appointed Independent Executor of the Estate of BILLY RAY POLLARD, deceased, late of Scurry County, Texas, by ROD WALLER, Judge of the County Court of said County, on the 17th day of March, 2003, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said Estate to present them to RAYMOND E. POLLARD, 3209 Heritage Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606, within the time prescribed by law.

EXECUTED this 17th day of March, 2003.

(s)RAYMOND E. POLLARD
Independent Executor
of the Estate of
BILLY RAY POLLARD,
deceased

Lost & Found

LOST! FAMILY DOG
Lost on CR 466
Chocolate Lab that answers to name "Harley".
If found please call
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THIS IS WHERE ALL THE ACTION IS! The Snyder Daily News
573-5486

Study: Some binge-eating may be genetic

BOSTON (AP) — A weak gene — not weak willpower — makes some binge-eaters stuff themselves, a study suggests. But it also points to possible help: a future pill that might cool their appetites.

The joint Swiss-German-American study makes the strongest case yet that genetic mistakes can cause an eating disorder, researchers say. Traditionally, eating behavior has been viewed as complex and cultural in its causes.

"Willpower is not always important to reduce weight. Some people can buy willpower. Some cannot, and I think these patients have a hard time," said Dr. Fritz Horber, the leader of the binge-eating study at the Hirslanden Clinic in Zurich, Switzerland.

Researchers have been trying to understand the reasons for an epidemic of obesity, which raises the risk for heart disease, diabetes and many other ailments. About 30 percent of American adults are obese, up from 14 percent 25 years ago, according to government data. The surge is widely blamed on abundant high-calorie foods and sedentary lifestyles.

However, some researchers have also begun to link several genes to obesity, implicating heredity as an important underlying factor. Increasingly, eating problems are thought to stem from a subtle interaction of lifestyle and multiple genes.

Probably the most common eating disorder, binge-eating strikes up to 4 million Americans, according to the National Institutes of Health. Binge-eaters, who are usually but not always overweight, overeat in frequent and compulsive binges — often secretly — and then feel ashamed.

In this study, which was published today in The New England Journal of Medicine, the researchers focused on a gene linked to obesity in earlier studies. Known as the melanocortin 4 receptor gene, it makes a protein that helps control appetite in the brain's hunger-regulating hypothalamus. If a mutated gene makes too little protein, the body feels too much hunger.

In an initial test, 5 percent of 469 severely obese white adults showed the mutated gene. In another study segment focusing on 20 mutation carriers matched with 120 people without the mutation, all carriers were binge eaters, compared with just 14 percent of those with a normal gene.

In another study in the same journal issue, a British team reported finding mutations of the same gene in more than 5 percent of 500 severely obese children. The genetic link was so strong that the researchers could examine the workings of the children's genes in test tubes and predict how much they would eat at a meal.

Horber, the Swiss researcher, said other eating disorders, including other types of bingeing, probably stem from a variety of genes and environmental factors. However, he said the still-unnamed binge-eating syndrome tied to this gene is especially important because it is perhaps the most stubbornly resistant to dieting and exercise.

Horber said the binge-eaters in his study felt a wave of relief from guilt when they learned of the genetic cause behind their compulsion. Dr. Stephen O'Rahilly, one of the British study's researchers at the University of Cambridge, said one family in that study was so ecstatic over evidence of a physical cause that they made themselves T-shirts saying, "We've got an MC4 mutation."

Eric Ravussin, a Louisiana State University researcher on obesity genetics, said, however, that without more biochemical proof, he remains "a little bit skeptical" that these mutations — and not others located nearby on the same chromosome — are the syndrome's precise cause.

But Dr. Joel Habener, a diabetes expert at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital who co-wrote an accompanying editorial, said the Swiss-led study demonstrates either the "genetic cause or a very strong association."

And he agreed with the researchers, who said future drugs acting like the melanocortin 4 receptor protein may compensate for the genetic defect. Habener said such chemicals are apt to be small molecules that can be delivered as pills.

More security planned in Texas

By The Associated Press

As precision military strikes began across Iraq, Texans were already redoubling security measures against possible terrorist reprisals for America's mission to drive dictator Saddam Hussein from power.

Residents were urged to be vigilant and law enforcement agencies and government emergency managers reviewed steps they have taken to as the nation's terror alert status rose to its second highest level at direction of the Department of Homeland Security.

The agency's national plan, "Operation Liberty Shield," boosts security at the nation's borders, at airports, seaports and railways, at nuclear and chemical plants and elements of the nation's food supply and distribution system. Governors were asked to deploy National Guard troops or extra state police to help in the security effort.

A Texas National Guard spokesman said troops were prepared to help with homeland security efforts in the state.

"We're ready," Sgt. Gregory Ripps in Austin said early today, adding that no deployment orders had been received in the last 24 hours.

Security was bolstered in Central Texas, with new metal detectors installed Wednesday at entrances to the Texas Capitol.

Along the 50-mile-long Houston Ship Channel, at the heart of one of the world's largest petroleum processing centers, security was the tightest it's been since World War II.

Additional constable patrols were placed at the Fred Hartman Bridge, the Ship Channel bridge at Loop 610, Washburn Tunnel and other locations, Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia said Wednesday.

The tunnel under the channel links the Houston suburb of Galveston with Galena Park. The 1,250-foot-long Hartman bridge spans the channel between the cities of La Porte and Baytown.

Houston City Council member Gabriel Vasquez said he expects a heightened level of anxiety across the nation's fourth largest city in the next few weeks.

"We'll do our best to pull through it together," he told the Houston Chronicle. "We need to keep everybody calm, living life as best we can, and moving forward."

Between Houston and the Gulf of Mexico, anti-terrorist measures were in place at the sprawling Texas City petroleum refinery complex.

Near the Bayport Industrial District, Taylor Lake Village Mayor Natalie O'Neill said she is concerned about a possible retaliatory or terrorist attack because of the major port, chemical and petroleum plants and because former President Bush maintains a home in the area.

"We need to be prepared and keep eyes wide open," said O'Neill. "It used to be if we would get involved in a war across (the) ocean, we thought we were safe, but that's not necessarily true. I don't think anyone realized that until 9/11."

In the Texas Panhandle, security at the Pantex plant near Amarillo has been stepped up. New measures at the nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly plant include a heightened level of security activity and an orderly shutdown of certain operations.

"In order to assure the highest level of protection for Pantex and its employees, it is not appropriate to discuss specific details about the plant's security measures or operations that have been curtailed," a plant official said in a prepared statement.

The National Park Service and Canadian River Municipal Water Authority officials on Tuesday closed Spring Canyon and the face of the Sanford Yake Dam at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area until further notice.

A Dallas FBI spokeswoman said new security screening procedures were put in place at offices Wednesday.

The security measures are in addition to safeguards earlier announced at airports in the state and along the Texas-Mexico border.

At San Antonio International Airport, vehicle inspections required at George Bush Intercontinental in Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth International haven't yet been instituted.

"It could change if the threat level goes up," said San Antonio airport spokeswoman Lisa Burkhardt-Worley.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry visited earlier this week with Texas National Guard troops at Camp Mabry in Austin. Staffing at the state's Emergency Operations Center was boosted Monday night as the terror alert level was raised.

Dixie Chicks should perform for troops

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina House members say the Dixie Chicks should apologize for lead singer Natalie Maines' criticism of President Bush by performing a free concert for troops.

Republican state Rep. Catherine Ceips introduced a resolution Wednesday calling for the country music trio to perform for South Carolina troops and their families.

Maines, speaking about President Bush's push for military action against Iraq, told a London audience last week, "Just so you know, we're ashamed the president of the United States is from Texas."

Radio stations nationwide are boycotting the Dixie Chicks even though Maines, a native of Lubbock has publicly apologized.

Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Niacin for high cholesterol

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am taking 500 milligrams of non-flushing niacin a day for high cholesterol. I understand that the vitamin can be taken up to 1,500 mg a day, but that increased dosage may lead to liver problems. Is the non-flushing type as effective as the regular product? Should I worry about liver damage? Is there any reason why I shouldn't take aspirin with the niacin?

DEAR READER: Niacin, in doses of 1,000 to 1,500 milligrams a day will, in most people, reduce cholesterol levels. However, in doses above 500 mg, the vitamin can cause flushing and liver inflammation. It is my understanding that sustained-release niacin, such as Niaspan, is less likely to be associated with flushing; it is just as beneficial as the regular form.

You need not worry about liver damage at the increased dosage. But your primary care physician should. Therefore, he ought to order appropriate liver blood tests (along with cholesterol studies) at periodic intervals. Most experts recommend blood-fat and liver-enzyme levels at one month and two months after beginning therapy. Thereafter, a test once or twice a year should provide appropriate monitoring intervals.

If you experience flushing at the increased dosage, taking one 81 milligram aspirin along with your niacin may prevent the uncomfortable sensation.

In summary, sustained-release ("non-flushing") niacin is an effective treatment for high cholesterol levels; any vascular consequences can ordinarily be lessened by concomitant use of aspirin.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Understanding Cholesterol." Other readers who would like a copy should send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and $2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Just thought I'd compliment you on your therapy for nail fungus, using Vicks VapoRub. I have used everything — from topicals to the very expensive, prescription pills. No improvement. After reading your column and using Vicks, I've been astounded by the success. My toenails are, for the first time in years, growing out normally. Thank you, thank you for this advice.

DEAR READER: The spectacular success of Vicks VapoRub in curing fingernail and toenail fungus is so astonishing that I cannot understand why 1) the Vicks Company has not contacted me to offer a huge bonus for promoting its product, or why 2) the company has yet to go nationwide in an advertising campaign to promote a sure-fire cure for nail fungus.

The product works.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am a member of a Burmese (read "Asian") community, where members swear that shaving their young children's hair will result in a thick and luxuriant hair growth later. Nothing I can say will deter this belief. I tell them that once hair emerges from the scalp, it is essentially dead. What is your opinion?

DEAR READER: You are correct. Once live hair grows out of the scalp (or other areas), it is "dead." Therefore, shaving the head will not guarantee that the new hair will be bushy and attractive.

Hair grows at a constant rate, several millimeters a week. Consequently, a shaved head may appear to be blessed by rapidly growing hair, because hair-growth is notoriously obvious in such circumstances, not in others. Your cultural phenomenon is just that. Scalp hair grows at a consistent rate, regardless of shaving.

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Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp	1.85	1.74	1.75	—.09
AOL TimeWrn	11.55	11.07	11.20	—.26
AT&T Corp rs	16.80	16.51	16.69	—.24
Albertsons	20.38	19.64	19.96	—.04
Alltel	45.10	44.00	44.60	—.68
AmEl Pw	22.73	22.39	22.61	+.08
AndarkPtr	44.81	43.78	44.77	+.47
ATMOS Egy	21.43	21.26	21.40	
Avaya	7.80	7.51	7.70	+.15
BP PLC	39.36	39.03	39.29	—.07
BakerHughes	30.78	29.86	30.69	+.56
Bank of Amer	69.50	67.95	68.82	—.68
BellSouth	22.57	22.25	22.40	—.25
BurlNoSFe	24.89	24.54	24.69	—.27
Caterpillar	49.79	49.00	49.57	—.22
CenterPoint	6.60	6.43	6.59	+.14
ChevronTex	66.16	65.34	65.86	+.03
Citigroup	35.41	34.40	35.20	—.26
CocaCola	41.85	40.95	41.37	—.44
ColgatePal	54.32	53.76	54.32	—.10
CmclMetals s	13.87	13.70	13.79	—.01
ConocoPhill	51.75	51.05	51.73	+.35
Cooper Inds	37.25	36.63	37.00	—.25
DaimlrChry	30.10	29.29	29.77	—.08
DeltaAirl	8.84	8.30	8.49	—.35
Dillards Inc	13.45	13.09	13.26	—.18
DowChem	28.50	27.97	28.28	—.22
DuPont	39.84	38.99	39.30	—.54
EastmanChem	30.92	30.26	30.60	—.32
EstKodak	30.79	30.24	30.52	—.27
EDS Corp	15.66	15.40	15.46	—.24
Entergy	48.46	48.08	48.25	+.03
ExxonMobil	35.67	34.34	35.55	—.04
FootLocker	10.29	10.19	10.24	—.14
GenDynam	58.66	56.95	57.48	—.94
GenlElec	26.94	26.43	26.60	—.38
GenMills	45.00	44.68	44.90	—.03
GenMotors	34.06	33.00	33.51	—.55
GaPacific	14.85	14.42	14.48	—.52
Goodrich	15.37	14.77	14.98	—.46
Goodyear	4.40	4.27	4.34	—.06
GtAtlPac	4.92	4.64	4.66	—.19
Halliburtn	21.33	20.42	21.23	+.73
Hanson ADS	25.40	24.90	25.18	—.03
HarteHanks s	18.52	18.19	18.40	—.23
HomeDepot	24.59	23.71	24.39	—.16
Honeywellintl	23.87	23.14	23.55	—.32
IBM	81.71	80.64	81.46	—.54
IntlPaper	37.11	36.34	36.80	—.31
JohnsonJn	57.34	56.50	57.05	—.26
KinderMorg	45.00	44.44	45.00	— 04
Kroger Co	14.16	13.92	14.11	— 05
LockheedM	49.00	47.82	48.32	+ 02
Lowes Cos	41.68	40.00	40.57	— 37
Lubys	1.17	1.07	1.09	— 06
LucentTech	1.64	1.59	1.62	
MarathonOil	23.40	23.05	23.39	+ 06
MayDeptStr	20.50	20.14	20.49	— 12
Medtronic	46.42	45.50	46.05	— 29
Motorola	8.29	8.15	8.27	+ 02
NCR Corp	19.20	18.80	19.09	— 25
Navistar	25.15	24.54	24.90	— 60
PNM Rescs	21.92	21.65	21.81	— 11
Penney JC	20.38	19.90	20.10	— 28
PepBoys	7.40	7.25	7.30	— 20
PepsiCo	40.43	39.69	39.89	— 57
Pharmacia	42.80	41.96	42.55	— 25
PhelpDodge	33.87	33.37	33.65	— 54
PilgrmPrd B	8.23	7.93	7.96	— 37
Praxair	57.09	56.30	56.73	— 36
ProctGamb	87.89	87.26	87.70	— 22
RadioShack	20.63	20.10	20.34	— 29
RoyalDut	40.44	39.91	40.17	— 47
SBC Comm	21.82	21.33	21.55	— 27
SaraLee	19.88	19.37	19.57	— 33
Scripps EW	77.92	77.18	77.70	— 30
SearsRoeb	20.60	19.86	20.20	— 40
SherwinW	27.21	26.81	26.93	— 18
SouthernCo	29.00	28.75	28.97	+ 17
SwstAirl	14.27	13.86	13.98	— 29
SprintFON	11.97	11.55	11.91	— 02
SprintPCS	4.10	4.00	4.07	— 07
Sunoco Inc	37.60	37.01	37.50	— 10
TXU Corp	17.53	17.09	17.40	— 14
TempleInland	42.14	41.25	41.77	— 37
TexInd	18.52	17.35	18.40	—.11
TexasInst	18.26	17.81	18.10	—.16
Textron	33.40	28.75	29.94	—3.46
TrinityInds	17.26	17.00	17.26	+.04
TylerTech	3.88	3.71	3.85	
UnionPacif	55.30	54.95	55.21	+.09
USSteel	10.53	10.25	10.40	—.22
UnitedTech	61.80	60.27	61.22	—.58
Unocal	25.98	25.56	25.98	+.08
VerizonComm	36.47	35.75	36.05	—.42
WalMart	52.78	52.20	52.57	—.48
WellsFargo	47.08	46.00	46.53	—.55
WstnGasRs	32.34	31.58	32.34	+.21
WinnDixie	13.40	13.12	13.30	—.10
Xerox Cp	9.04	8.89	8.99	—.01
YumBrands s	24.79	24.15	24.46	—.36

MAR 20 2003

AMERICA AT WAR

U.S. troops don protective gear for gas threat

CAMP NEW JERSEY, Kuwait (AP) — U.S. troops got their first real scare today when Iraqi missiles streaked across the border into Kuwait, forcing Americans in the desert to climb into protective suits and put on gas masks.

"Gas, gas, gas!" came a muffled cry, barely audible inside an armored vehicle of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit at one camp.

The Marines inside slapped on masks and waited, some sipping water through tubes connected to canteens through adapters. An "all clear" came, but a half-hour later another "gas, gas, gas" warning rang across the camp.

Later in the day, as the sun set, the Marines could hear the sustained sounds of bombs or artillery shells exploding across the border in southern Iraq. The detonations stopped after 30 minutes.

An Associated Press reporter heard several powerful explosions near Highway 8, the road that runs from Kuwait City to the Iraqi port of Basra.

The American military said it used Patriot missiles to shoot down at least one Iraqi missile. No injuries were reported from any of the missiles, and there was no immediate evidence they carried chemical or biological warheads.

The Iraqi attack came several hours after the United States launched precision-guided bombs and more than 40 Tomahawk missiles in strikes it said were aimed at Saddam Hussein and his top leadership.

U.S. Army troops at Camp New Jersey put on their chemical and biological protective gear in response to an alert caused by one of the missiles, but were given the all-clear a few minutes later.

Marines of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force near the Iraqi border were on the highest alert level and were ordered into bunkers three times during the morning.

The Marines dropped food trays and ran out of showers to hastily don gas masks and protective gear. Inside one bunker, Marines traded jokes. "Did anybody take out insurance?" cracked one, hidden by his mask.

The soldiers of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment were eating lunch when an Iraqi missile hit the desert. The locomotive-like roar of the missile flying through the air followed the sound of impact because of the distances involved.

Within a minute, a message came across the radio, reporting that a tactical ballistic missile had landed in the desert near U.S. troops. A few minutes later, all troops were ordered into protective clothing for chemical and biological warfare.

The men moved swiftly but calmly, systematically putting on their masks, then clothing. Once one soldier was done, he would make sure another soldier had his gear on properly.

The still desert heat raised anxieties, since gas or vapor from biological and chemical weapons lingers in little or no wind, causing more damage. In brisk wind, the gas or vapor disperses quickly.

The men were quiet, since shouting to be heard from inside a gas mask takes extra breath. They also were listening for more incoming missiles.

About 20 minutes later, the radio crackled, "All clear."

After removing his mask, the company commander, Capt. Chris Carter of Watkinsville, Ga., said: "Saddam is a fool."

"I think it's an obvious attempt by Saddam Hussein to demoralize the army and the American public," Carter said. "An attempt that has been a miserable failure. He's probably got the guys more ready to fight than ever."

The men of the unit returned to cleaning their weapons and reading books, waiting for their part of the war to begin with a new awareness of the hazards ahead.

"I know what I'll be using as a pillow tonight," Staff Sgt. Bryce Ivings of Sarasota, Fla., said of his protective suit.

After weeks on standby, U.S. troops appeared to welcome news that war was under way and were eager for orders to cross into Iraq.

"It's a relief we can finally go," said Spc. Robert McDougal, 21, of Paris, Tex., as the 101st Airborne Division broke camp. "Standing by is the hardest thing to do. It is time to put our training to the test."



Nation battens down under increased security for war

By the Associated Press

In the Arizona desert, National Guard troops clad in camouflage and toting M-16 rifles conducted round-the-clock patrols at the nation's largest nuclear power plant. On the waterways of Oregon, Coast Guard speedboats scanned riverbanks for any sign of something sinister.

And amid the skyscrapers of New York, where war came home one clear September day, helmeted tactical officers stood guard on Wall Street as a new war unfolded in the sand dunes and streets of Iraq.

The nation battened down under security not seen since the Sept. 11 attacks as U.S. forces attacked Wednesday night.

Authorities fanned out to power plants, bridges, state capitols and other facilities to shield them against possible retaliatory strikes.

In Arizona, Gov. Janet Napolitano dispatched National Guard troops to provide additional security at the Palo Verde nuclear power plant west of Phoenix, which officials said might have been a target of terrorists.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee today that he couldn't go into details about intelligence reports concerning the plant. He acknowledged there were indications that it might have become a target.

Though most protections had been in place since the terror alert status was raised from "elevated" to "high" Monday night, some states planned to further tighten security now that war has begun.

"The first 96 hours of the war is very important, and it deserves special consideration," said Missouri's homeland security adviser, Tim Daniel.

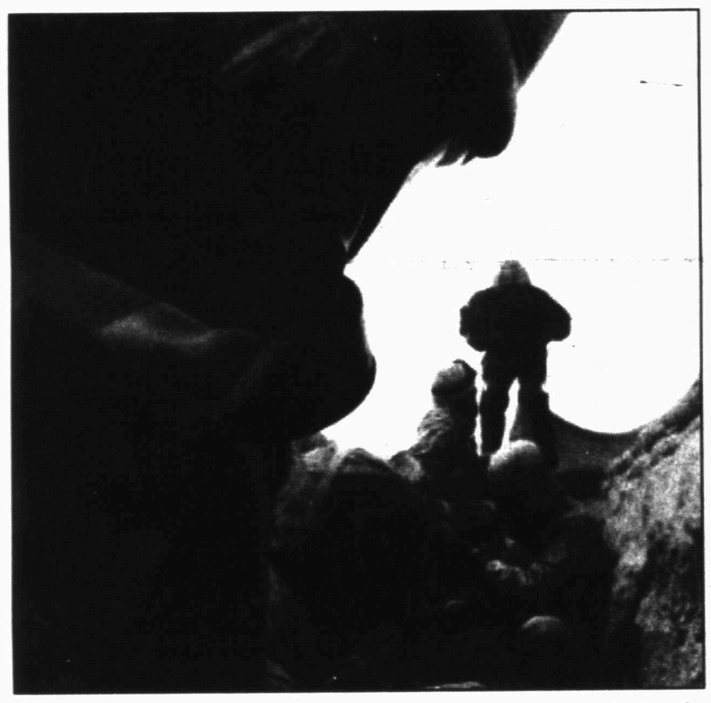
At the Statehouse in downtown Columbus, Highway Patrol officers searched the bags of people arriving for early morning appointments today.

"I'm glad they're here — I feel more secure now that they're checking people," said Barbara Flesher, 49, after chatting with a trooper who checked her bag at a basement entrance. Flesher works in the Ohio Senate clerk's office.

Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius ordered employees at the Capitol complex in Topeka to wear their identification cards and said visitors to the Statehouse and state office buildings would be required to sign in.

"We're taking this seriously," Sebelius said after a conference call Wednesday night in which White House staff and homeland security aides briefed governors on the airstrikes.

The countermeasures were most conspicuous in the two cities terrorists targeted on Sept. 11.



TENSE MOMENTS — U.S. and British troops take shelter in scud trenches during an uncomfirmed Iraqi missile attack in the Kuwaiti desert today. (AP Photo)

Americans react to second Gulf War

By the Associated Press

Two war veterans sat at a Rhode Island tavern, raising their shots of whiskey up high, offering a toast as Iraqis awoke to falling American bombs.

"Here's to very few fatalities and a very quick victory," Ken Sullivan and Harry Church said from Art's Tavern in Portsmouth.

Other Americans had a different focus: that the country was making a mistake.

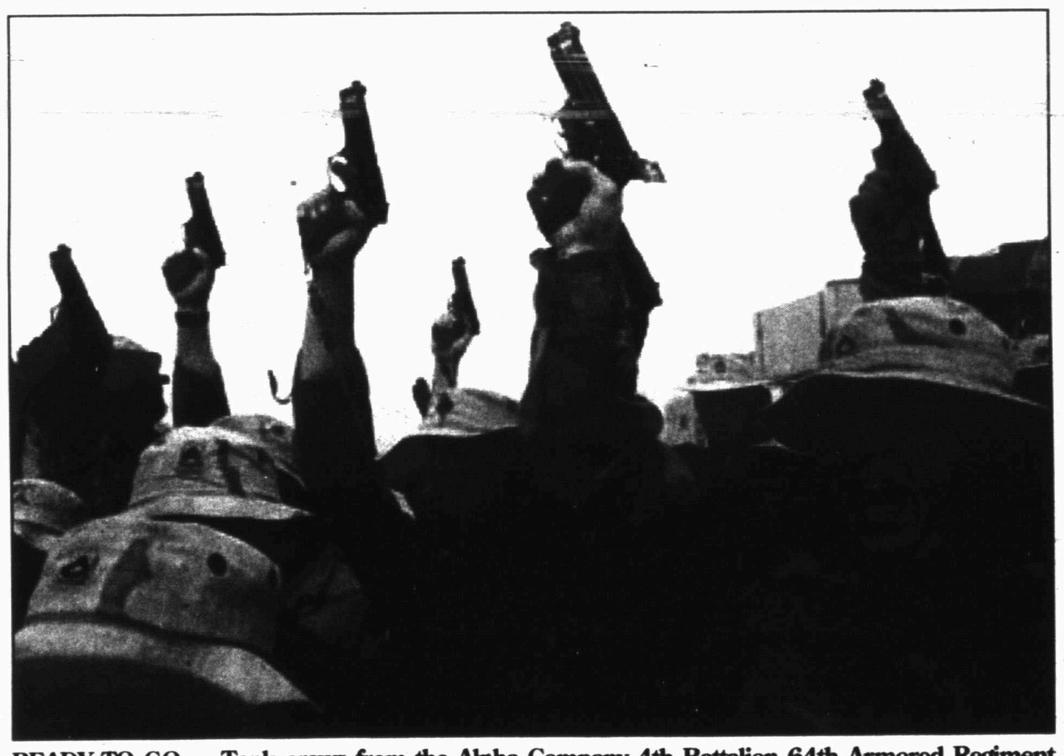
"We'll win this, it's no contest ... but the final outcome is not going to be a good one for us in the international community," said the Rev. Chet Guinn, a retired Methodist minister in Des Moines, Iowa.

Americans were glued to television sets showing the first moments of war Wednesday night. Some prayed, while others sobbed. There was a lot of anger directed at Saddam Hussein, and some at President Bush as well.

Ahmed Al-Mahana, a Shi'ite Muslim and Iraqi native living in Everett, Wash., said he considers getting rid of Saddam a worthy goal, though it led to American Tomahawk missiles raining down on his homeland Wednesday night.

"We have lived in a dark future ever since Saddam has come to power," said Al-Mahana, who deserted from the Iraqi Army in 1991. "Our morning is very near. We are waiting for this minute."

Gary Emtman of Spokane, Wash., was less poetic about Baghdad's fate.



READY TO GO — Tank crews from the Alpha Company 4th Battalion 64th Armored Regiment perform a war dance before convoying to a position near the Iraqi border Wednesday. (AP Photo)

BARGAINS OF THE MONTH

Great Low Prices!

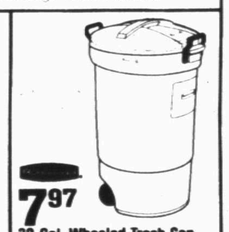
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Drawstring Trash Bag Choose 25-ct. /33-gal. trash bags or 55-ct. /13-gal. kitchen bags W 698 211 594 0/4 86



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2-Pair Men's Suede Gloves With poly cotton backs, safety cuffs, wing thumbs, bound hems and double shirred wrists W 406 253 B6



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32-Gal. Wheeled Trash Can Two handles lock down to keep lid secure. Heavy-duty wheels provide easy portability W 632 745 F6

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Continental Airlines will cut 1,200 jobs

HOUSTON (AP) — Continental Airlines will trim its work force by some 1,200 people by the end of the year, including 125 pilots, to save $500 million and warned Wednesday of additional cuts if war with Iraq is prolonged and air travel remains soft.

Besides the pilots, the Houston-based carrier said it hopes to eliminate 500 reservation agents, 350 airport agents and 225 other workers through voluntary exit programs, leaves of absence and attrition.

"We feel like a candle that is losing its oxygen supply and dimming slowly," Continental chairman and chief executive Gordon Bethune said, vowing his airline wouldn't join other carriers filing for bankruptcy protection. "We are not going to sit idly by and wait for others to save us. We can no longer wait."

Continental's flight attendant staff already has been reduced through company-offered leaves of absence and its maintenance work force is reduced by a previously announced hiring freeze, he said.

Earlier Wednesday, the airline announced executive retirements that allowed Continental to cut its executive staffing by 25 percent.

"Five of the top people in our company are leaving this week," Bethune said. "It shows we need to look in every nook and cranny to find every dollar."

The airline has parked more than 20 airplanes, eliminated 4,300 jobs and lost $900 million since Sept. 11.

"It is clear to me that other airlines will fail," he said. "We are not going to be next. There is not going to be a next for Continental."

Continental survived bankruptcy filings in 1983 and again in 1990.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, major airlines have laid off roughly 100,000 employees and industry-wide capacity is down about 14 percent from where it was two years ago. But passenger traffic and ticket prices have also fallen sharply, resulting in bankruptcy filings by US Airways and United Airlines.

Meanwhile, American Airlines is seeking $1.8 billion in annual concessions from employees, saying it needs to cut costs sharply to avoid following United and US Airways.

"American aviation is in real terrible trouble and there doesn't seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel," said University of Houston economist Barton Smith. "All airlines are very much worried about the impact of the war and what it is going to do with travel. You have an industry that is bleeding and is bleeding badly. Their business travel has not come back since 911."

Bethune said the cuts would be primarily at its Houston base but also would affect Continental's operations systemwide.

The airline's departing senior vice presidents are George Mason, Bonnie Reitz, Barry Simon and Kuniaki Tsuruta.

Its board of directors voted Wednesday to elect president, Larry Kellner, to take over as chief operating officer. He succeeds C.D. McLean, who announced his retirement Tuesday.

Continental was profitable prior to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, when other major carriers already were ailing.

"No part of our system will escape some change in the way we do business," Bethune said

Aside from the job cuts, the airline said it would also reduce cost by eliminating paper tickets systemwide, closing some city ticket offices and renegotiating contracts with suppliers.

The carrier said a protracted war with Iraq or continued soft demand could force reduced service to small and medium-sized communities and additional job eliminations.

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



Special day highlights effort to give abused children hope

DEAR ABBY: On Wednesday, April 2, people across the country will observe the National Day of Hope for abused children, part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Its goal is to raise public awareness so that each of us will have the power to help an abused child if we so choose.

On a typical day, three children in the United States will die as a result of child abuse in the home. A report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect will be made to the authorities every 10 seconds. However, most people who witness an actual incident of child abuse will not report it.

We urge everyone: If you see something or hear something — DO SOMETHING. Suspicion of neglect or abuse is sufficient to make a report.

For information or local reporting numbers, call the Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453), 24 hours a day. All calls are anonymous and confidential.

You can also help by keeping abused children in your thoughts and prayers. Learn the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect so you can recognize the red flags when you see them. For additional ways to participate, visit www.childhelpusa.org.

Please join us as we share the light of hope for abused children. — **SARA O'MEARA AND YVONNE FEDDERSON, CO-FOUNDERS, CHILDHELP USA**

DEAR SARA AND YVONNE: I hope your letter generates the attention it deserves. Children are some of our most vulnerable citizens. Here are some of the signs and symptoms of child abuse:

Physical abuse: unexplained burns, cuts, bruises or welts in the shape of an object; problems in school; fear of adults.

Emotional abuse: apathy; depression; lack of concentration.

Sexual abuse: inappropriate interest or knowledge of sexual acts; overcompliance or excessive aggression; fear of a particular person or family member.

Neglect: unsuitable clothing for weather; extreme hunger; apparent lack of supervision.

I caution readers to be aware that these are only indicators, and if people see them they should check into the situation more thoroughly. One should not immediately jump to conclusions based on one or two general symptoms.

[redacted]

**

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, "Kit," has been living with me for almost four years, and our love for each other is stronger than ever. Kit has asked me to marry her many times, but I always divert her attention or change the subject.

I truth is, I don't believe in marriage and would rather have Kit as my girlfriend for the rest of my life. What scares me is the fact that my last girlfriend dumped me when I leveled with her about how I never want to marry.

Please tell me what to do because I don't want to lose Kit. — **FOREVER SINGLE IN SAN FRANCISCO**

DEAR FOREVER SINGLE: First of all, level with Kit about how you feel and why. While it may seem romantic to have a girlfriend forever, mature people want to take care of those they love. There are legal protections and benefits for spouses that single people do not enjoy. Your lawyer can explain them to you. As things stand, if something were to happen to you, Kit would be left with nothing but memories. Is that what you want?

**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 610540447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Friday, March 21, 2003

The year ahead could be an exceptionally good one for you. The conditions that accompany it will be both potentially profitable and exciting.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — There are two situations you've been involved in that you've treated separately. Today you'll realize how nicely they'll blend together to work to your advantage.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Both your instincts and logic will be operating at full force today. They won't be working against each other, they'll be merging to enhance your successes, especially in financial areas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Talk things over today with someone whose thinking you respect. There are indications that in doing so, you could find yourself on the track to something you've been looking for.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You are likely to do far better today and tomorrow where your commercial interests are concerned than you will down the line, so don't sit on anything at this time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Time spent in social involvements today aren't apt to be counted as wasted hours. In fact, you could do far better for yourself in that venue than you can in either the office or at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Should you get involved in any type of negotiating that you find challenging today, instead of coming on in an aggressive manner, it would be wiser to be a bit laid back and use an indirect approach.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — In a situation today where there are other friends involved, you may have to be the one who gets things properly organized. Everybody will appreciate your leadership and game plan.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — The favorable conditions you'll experience today are only temporary, so don't procrastinate in going after an objective that is very important to you. Strike while the iron is hot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Talk things over today with a friend concerning something that has gotten off on the wrong foot. You'll have the opportunity to rectify what's wrong because both you and your pal want to make things right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — One can never get anything done dealing with an attendant who lacks the clout to make decisions. Go right to the guy or gal who can make things happen.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Take the necessary time today to think a major decision through very carefully. However, once you do come to a conclusion, act immediately in accordance with the way you've reasoned it out.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — The products of your imagination today will be geared toward profitable possibilities and be right on target. This could be an extremely favorable day for you financially.

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'99 Chevy Cavalier $5,995
2 Dr., Auto, A/C, Great School Car, 66K Miles

'02 Ford F350 Crew Cab XLT $29,995
Powerstroke, Auto, Power Windows/Locks, Only 24K Miles

'00 Hyundai Sonata $9,495
Auto, Sunroof, Spoiler, A/C, One Owner, 48K Miles

'01 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT $19,995
5.4 V-8, Auto, Power Windows/Locks, 34K Miles

'99 GMC Suburban SLT $15,995
V-8, Leather, CD, Fully Loaded, 58K Miles

'01 Ford Ranger Reg. Cab 4X4 ..... $13,995
V-6, Auto, CD, Cruise, A/C, 60K Miles

'00 Ford F350 Crew Cab XLT 4X4 ..... $28,995
Powerstroke, Auto, Long Bed, Power Windows/Locks, 64K Miles

'98 Ford F150 Supercab XLT $9,995
V-6, Auto, Power Windows/Locks 87K Miles

'00 Pontiac Grand Am GT $7,995
2 Door, V-6, Auto, Leather, CD

'99 Chevy Conversion Van $11,995
350 V-8, TV/VCR, Power Windows/Locks, One Owner

'92 Ford F150 Reg. Cab $4,995
6 Cylinder, Auto, Long Bed, Extra Clean

'96 Mercury Grand Marquis LS $6,995
Leather, Power Windows/Locks, One Owner

'98 Chevy C1500 Reg. Cab $9,995
V-6, Auto,Shortbed, Alum. Wheels, Only 35K

'99 Ford Escort ZX2 ..... $6,995
Auto, Power Windows/Locks, Sunroof, CD, 44K Miles

'00 Mercury Sable Wagon $10,995
V-8, Power Windows/Locks, Leather, 3rd Seat, 38K Miles

'96 Mercury Grand Marquis LS $8,995
V-8, Leather, Alum. Wheels, Like New, Only 65K

'01 Ford Excursion Limited $24,995
Powerstroke, Leather, One Owner, Fully Loaded

'99 Isuzu Rodeo LS $11,995
V-6, Auto, Power Windows/Locks, CD, 58K Miles

'00 Ford Focus SE $7,995
4 Door, Auto, A/C, 36K Miles, Like New

MAR 20 2003

2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

City gets second at-large candidate as David Harrell signs up before deadline

Former councilman David Harrell signed up Wednesday afternoon shortly before the deadline for one of the two at-large positions on the Snyder city council for the May 3 election.

Harrell served on the council from 2000-2002 as Place 2 representative.

On Tuesday, incumbent Terry Martin opted for another term.

Previously, Mayor Francene Noah had filed the necessary papers for re-election.

On the Snyder school board, incumbents Mike Levens and Richard Chambers have filed for re-election, and the same is true at Ira, as only the two incumbents have filed for another term.

Ira incumbents are Dennis Taylor and Shane Smith.

Pending the passage of the Monday deadline for write-ins to declare their candidacy, the only contested race in May will be for the Hermleigh school board.

Incumbents Tim Dacus, Joe Roemisch and Alan Culp have filed for another term, and they are being challenged by Jim Lionberger, Benny Sauceda and Jimmy Digby.

SHS students to compete in Academics UIL

Snyder High School students are gearing up for the Academic UIL District contest slated Friday and Saturday at Seminole High School.

SHS students entered:

Accounting: Josh Kemp, Jacinda Judah, Lilli Valdez, Tyler Kerr and Matthew Kerr, substitute.

Calculator applications: Kim Cooper, Josh Payne and Mandy Burns.

Computer applications: Katie Haggard, Meagan Langham, Kasey Wemken and Cindy Morin, substitute.

Computer science: Kim Cooper, Matthew Morris, Lilli Valdez and Austin Hatfield.

Current issues and events: Glenn Burns, Matthew Kerr, Seth Cooper and Tammi Walker.

Literary criticism: Amanda Whitson, Adrienne Garcia, Temeka Wells and Daniella Garcia.

Mathematics: Josh Kemp and Josh Payne.

Number sense: Josh Kemp, Josh Payne and Noe Ruiz.

Ready writing: Lilli Valdez, Cozy Jones and Kellie Dodson.

Science: John Birks, Amanda Blythe, Barrett Bowlin, Seth Cooper, Will Floyd, Aaron Winder and Bryan Clifton, substitute.

Informative speaking: Austin McCormack, Laura Arellano and Bonnie Cleveland.

Poetry interpretation: Kristel Fitts, Erin Cooley and Paige Anderson.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Will Davis, Bonnie Cleveland, Paula Fritz and Amanda Blythe, substitute.

News writing: Jeff Scott, Gretchen Hollis, Christy Essery and Ashley Edwards, substitute.

Feature writing: Jeff Scott, Ashley Edwards, Kasey Wemken and Christy Essery, substitute.

Spelling and vocabulary: Mandy Burns, Megan Crisp, Chris Smauley and Patrick Jones.

Persuasive speaking: Will Davis, Paula Fritz and Amanda Blythe.

Prose interpretation: Clark Reed, Blake Robertson and Jacinda Judah.

Editorial writing: Bonnie Cleveland, Catherine Whitworth, Gretchen Hollis and Amanda Blythe, substitute.

Headline writing: Sara Cantu and Gretchen Hollis.

Academic UIL sponsors are Diane Arnold, journalism; JoAnn Cotton, ready writing; Wynola Early, computer science; Ron Hester, speech; Lynda McCormack, speech; and Shad Nachlinger, current issues and events and literary criticism.

Others are Lynda Patterson, computer applications; Christy Smith, spelling and vocabulary; Phyllis Smith, accounting; Darlene Stokes, math, number sense and calculator applications; and Thomas Strayhorn, science.

Electric diesel pump stolen

•Thefts

Charles Henderson reported at 8 a.m. Wednesday that an electric diesel pump was stolen from his trailer. A deputy advised an offense report for Class B theft would be submitted.

Denise Hoyle spoke with officers at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday to report that $56 was stolen from her son's wallet at the Snyder High School field house during athletic practice. No report was filed.

•Disturbance

A woman on 20th Place reported that a female subject entered her residence and took her grandchild. Officers advised the woman what steps to take regarding custody issues and also submitted a report for Class A assault.

•Criminal trespass

Snyder officers served criminal trespass warnings to three subjects at 9 a.m. Wednesday ordering them to stay away from the College Park Apartments. The officers also were attempting to locate an additional three subjects to serve the same warning.

•Prowler

A woman in the 3100 block of 41st Street reported at 1 p.m. Wednesday that someone was trying to enter her home through the back door. No one was located in the area, but a close patrol was initiated.

Terrorism talks delayed

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A two-day border terrorism conference has been postponed because of the war against Iraq.

The Central Texas conference had been organized to coordinate law enforcement efforts among agencies in the United States, Texas and Mexico.

The event was scrapped Wednesday when many of the participants began to back out hours before the expiration of President Bush's deadline for dictator Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq.

"It's postponed," said Angela Hale, an Austin spokeswoman for Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, a co-sponsor of the conference. "Most of the participants are involved in war preparation."

The border conference, sponsored by Abbott and U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton of San Antonio, is expected to be rescheduled in May or June.

"These issues are too important to Texas and the entire border region not to address them regularly," said Don Stewart, a spokesman for U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Ira school board will meet tonight

Ira school trustees will meet at 6:30 this evening in the Ira Community Center for their regular board meeting.

Trustees will consider setting the school calendar for 2003-2004, and have an executive session on staff evaluations and follow with recommendations on contract extensions.

The board also will consider the designation and mode of transportation for this year's senior trip, and consider an amendment to the student handbook exempting students enrolled in dual credit courses from no pass – no play.

The sale of surplus property also will be considered and trustees will look a resolution opposing vouchers for public school education.

The monthly financial statements also will be reviewed.

C-SPAN bus will come to Snyder

Snyder students will get a close-up look at C-SPAN network and its 24-hour public affairs programming Friday when the C-SPAN school bus rolls into town.

The bus, a 45-foot motor coach designed as a traveling TV production studio and media demonstration center, is stopping in Snyder as part of its continuing tour across America.

While the bus is on the road, C-SPAN televises on-air updates, short programs from historical sites and selected public affairs events from local communities along the tour.

The visit is sponsored by Cox Communications and the bus will be parked at Snyder High School from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

C-SPAN airs locally on channel 16 and is available in 77 million households nationwide. C-SPAN2 airs locally on channel 17.

The network was created by America's cable television companies and is offered as a public service.

Obituaries

Tiofilo Alaniz

1907-2003

Tiofilo Alaniz, longtime Snyder resident, died Wednesday, March 19, in Cogdell Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Service for Mr. Alaniz, 95, is set for 10 a.m. Friday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with Fr. Leo Moras officiating. Burial will follow in Snyder Cemetery under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.



Mr. Alaniz

Born Nov. 9, 1907 in Cuardo, Tex., Mr. Alaniz moved to Snyder in 1949 where he has lived except for 10 years in Illinios. Retired, Mr. Alaniz had been a custodian for Snyder Oaks Care Center.

A great-grandchild, Kelsey Rae Alaniz, preceded him in death.

Survivors include three sons, Luis Alaniz of Snyder, Ray Llanes of Goodyear, Ariz., and Reynaldo Llanes of San Jose, Calif.; 14 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Fay Seay

1913-2003

LAMESA — Fay Seay, mother of Duane Seay of Snyder, died Wednesday, March 19, in Hospice House of Odessa.

Service for Mrs. Seay, 90, is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the First United Methodist Church in Lamesa with the Rev. Ronnie Newton officiating. Burial will follow in the Lamesa Memorial Park.

Born on Jan. 18, 1913 in Rockwall, she married F.M. Seay on Oct. 28, 1933 in Runnels County. He died on March 26, 1996. A member of the First United Methodist Church, she worked at Dotty Dan Garment Factory for many years and the Lamesa Junior High School cafeteria.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Mildred JoAnn Seay in 1936.

Survivors also include one daughter, Peggy Adcox of Odessa; two sisters, Gladys Seaborn of Abilene and Janie Gay Wearden of Winters; two brothers, William Clarence Simpson of San Antonio and Ilis Simpson of Winters; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Ralph Preston

1920-2003

WEATHERFORD — Ralph Preston, former Snyder resident and uncle of Ross Preston of Snyder, died Wednesday, March 19, at his residence.



Mr. Preston

Graveside service for Mr. Preston, 82, is set for 2 p.m. Saturday in the Har-persville Cemetery in Breckenridge. Galbreaith Pickard Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Born July 7, 1920 in Ranger, Mr. Preston was an oilfield engineer and worked for Texaco in Snyder in the 1950s. He was a member of Couts Memorial United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Doc and Eric Preston; three brothers, Joel Wayne Preston, Dan Preston and Max Preston; and a sister, Mildred Preston.

Survivors also include his wife, Tommie Preston of Weatherford; two daughters, Beverly Jacoby of Corpus Christi and Phyllis Slough of Weatherford; a sister-in-law, Barbara Preston of Snyder; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

Independently Owned & Operated

WCFH

WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

200 East 37th Street

Snyder, Texas

915-573-6200

Hermleigh one-act competes today

Hermleigh High School one-act play cast and crew will perform *The Diviners* in zone competition today at the Municipal Auditorium in Sweetwater.

Performances begin at 3 p.m. with Hermleigh performing the last of six plays, between 7-8 p.m.

Mary Spieker is the director. *The Diviners* has a cast of 13 and a four-student crew.

Actors include Brittainy Jones as Goldie; Alana Culp, Norma; Dustin Williamson, Ferris; Terrel Culp, Buddy; Justin Kelley, Dewey; Justin Williamson, C.C.; and Danni Webb, Luella.

Others include Valerie West, townsperson; Christy Garcia, Melvin; Cassie Harbin, townsperson; and Misty McClure, Jennie Mae.

Others are Johnathan McClure, Basil; and Samantha Berry, Darlene.

Members of the crew are Georganna Smith, Robbie Anderson, Keenon Garcia; and Shae Rinehart, crew chief.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

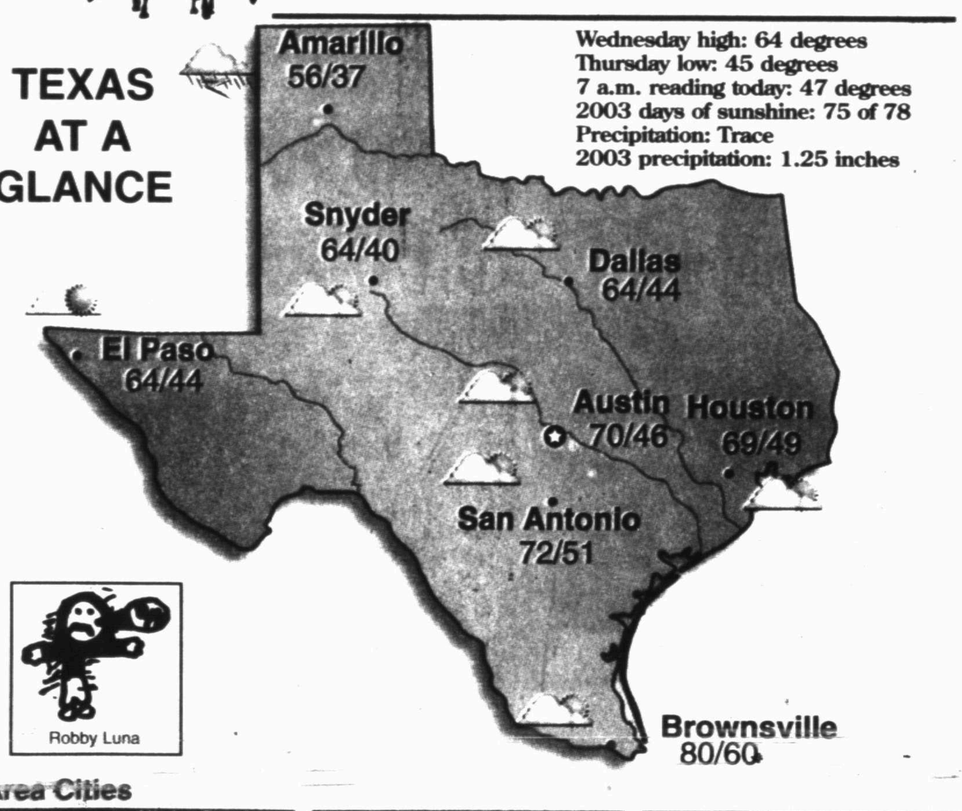
Fri 3/21	Sat 3/22	Sun 3/23
64/40	58/39	72/45
Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 64F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.	Chance of showers. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise 6:46 AM, Sunset 6:56 PM	Sunrise 6:45 AM, Sunset 6:56 PM	Sunrise 6:44 AM, Sunset 6:57 PM

WEST TEXAS STATE BANK

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FDIC

TEXAS AT A GLANCE



Wednesday high: 64 degrees
Thursday low: 45 degrees
7 a.m. reading today: 47 degrees
2003 days of sunshine: 75 of 78
Precipitation: Trace
2003 precipitation: 1.25 inches

Robby Luna

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	66	45	pt sunny	El Paso	64	44	cloudy	Midland	67	45	t-storm
Amarillo	56	37	t-storm	Fort Stockton	69	46	t-storm	Raymondville	81	57	pt sunny
Austin	70	46	pt sunny	Gainesville	61	38	pt sunny	Rosenberg	69	48	pt sunny
Beaumont	68	47	pt sunny	Greenville	61	39	pt sunny	San Antonio	72	51	pt sunny
Brownsville	80	60	pt sunny	Houston	69	49	pt sunny	San Marcos	70	47	pt sunny
Brownwood	69	44	mst sunny	Kingsville	80	55	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	61	39	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	72	56	pt sunny	Livingston	67	42	pt sunny	Sweetwater	67	43	mst sunny
Corsicana	63	42	pt sunny	Longview	63	40	pt sunny	Tyler	63	43	pt sunny
Dallas	64	44	pt sunny	Lubbock	62	40	t-storm	Weatherford	63	38	pt sunny
Del Rio	76	54	mst sunny	Lufkin	65	43	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	63	40	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	71	47	pt sunny	Houston	69	49	pt sunny	Phoenix	74	53	mst sunny
Boston	55	41	rain	Los Angeles	71	53	mst sunny	San Francisco	63	50	windy
Chicago	48	32	rain	Miami	88	73	pt sunny	Seattle	52	45	rain
Dallas	64	44	pt sunny	Minneapolis	39	30	sn shower	St. Louis	55	35	pt sunny
Denver	46	29	flurries	New York	64	47	pt sunny	Washington, DC	74	53	cloudy

Moon Phases

Full	Last	New	First
Mar 18	Mar 25	Apr 1	Apr 9

UV Index

Fri 3/21	Sat 3/22	Sun 3/23
8 High	7 High	7 High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection. 0 — 11

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