

Nutcracker to feature 'bit player' that's a star

By LANE BOND

Special to the Herald

When is a bit player a star?

A bit player will be a star when Alyssa Adair rides a sleigh across the stage of the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium during the presentation of The Nutcracker ballet Saturday.

Alyssa will be a bit player on the stage, but she is a star in her dramatic fight for life. She is supposed to be dead, or a vegetable, or a paraplegic. But instead, she is a dancer.

At age 10, Alyssa was the *Midland Reporter-Telegram's* "Newsmaker of the Year, 2003." The voting public decides who is worthy of the annual honor. She received more than twice the votes of her nearest competitor.

A tree branch fell on Alyssa's head July 1, 2003, while she and other kids were at the Ceta Canyon Methodist Camp near Happy, south of Amarillo, crushing her skull and damaging both lobes of her brain. All of the signs said she would die. She was in a coma for a month.

"Then, in what many call a miracle, Alyssa woke up. She was smiling. Her mother says that smile has yet to leave her daughter's face," the *Midland newspaper's* story about her noted.

A large block of the votes came from the staff of the Permian Basin Rehabilitation Hospital. Those who worked the closest with her in her recovery (aside from her family) wished to celebrate her courage and determination to create a life for herself in spite of the injury.

Alyssa was a dancer with Midland Festival Ballet before the accident. Amazingly, she is again a dancer with ballet, which will present The Nutcracker with the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra at 8 p.m. Saturday.

The stage fright that causes all of us to be nervous can sometimes cause Alyssa's muscles to tighten up and twist her body out of shape.

Her recovery, while remarkable, is still only partial. She dances more in



Alyssa Adair, the Midland teen who has recovered from a near fatal injury to return to the Midland Festival Ballet, displays the costume she'll wear in Saturday's performance of The Nutcracker set for 8 p.m. Saturday at the Municipal Auditorium.

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Brittany Camden, left, recently donated one of her kidneys to her father, Terry Camden, who lost both of his because of high blood pressure. The surgery was performed in Lubbock in November.

Life-saving gift for Dad

Daughter's donation for transplant means new life for Camden

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Brittany Camden's early Christmas gift to her father was more than just merely welcome — it was literally a lifesaver.

That Terry Camden is looking forward to a better year in 2007 — or is able to look forward to a new year at all — was made possible when his daughter donated one of her kidneys to the Big Spring resident.

His outlook is in sharp contrast to that of October 2005.

"I just got sick," he said. "I went to the emergency room, they did some tests and found out I was in renal failure."

A killer combination of high blood pressure and being overweight (Camden weighed more than 330 pounds) had caused both his kidneys to fail. It was a bleak situation, and it was about to get even bleaker.

"They told me in the ICU that I probably had about three months to live, and for me to get in to see a doctor," he said. "I called every doctor in town and none of them would see me, because I didn't have any insurance."

Finally, a Lubbock doctor, Todd Rose, agreed to help, and Camden started dialysis on Dec. 5, 2005.

"You're basically hooked to a chair," Camden said, recalling the experience. "All you can do is maybe stand up, but you can't move around for about four hours. You're limited to what an eat or drink. Basically, you're a prisoner. And, by the way, it hurts."

The only viable long-term solution was a kidney transplant, but doctors wouldn't even put Camden on the waiting list until he did something about his weight. Specifically, they told him he needed to lose 100 pounds. And he needed to do it quickly.

"I took him 10 months. 'I didn't eat between meals,' he said, discussing his weight-loss secret. "I just ate what I was allowed to eat ... I didn't exercise ... I didn't have the energy to exercise."

Once he had his weight under control, Camden was placed on the waiting list for kidney donation. His wife was tested, but rejected. Brittany was

See GIFT, Page 3A

Burn ban on commissioners' agenda

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners were expected to institute a county-wide burn ban during their regular meeting today at the county courthouse.

Dry conditions, high winds and lots of grass and weeds have officials worried that a devastating fire is only a spark away.

"With the winds so high as they are this month, and with us not getting any precipitation, it's getting into a critical stage," said Tommy Sullivan, chief of the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department,

who officially requested the burn ban this morning.

"Grass and weeds are six feet tall in some parts of the county," he said. "All it would take is one spark, and that fire would be running so fast and hard, it would be tough to catch up to."

The ban, which would apply to the whole of the county, is expected to remain in effect for between 45 and 90 days. At that time, officials would look at conditions and decide whether to extend the prohibition.

"Of course, if we get some rain, they can lift the ban, also," Sullivan said.

The ban covers both the burning

of trash and the use of certain types of aerial fireworks, such as bottle rockets, Sullivan said.

Also on the commissioners' agenda this morning was further discussion of the ongoing county jail issue. The jail was recently closed by order of the state jail standards commission, with prisoners being housed out of county as a result.

Discussion was likely centered on efforts to bring the jail back into compliance with state standards. Estimates for those efforts run as high as \$300,000, officials said.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

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BSHS CONCERT TONIGHT

The Big Spring High School Band will hold its annual Christmas concert at 6 tonight in the high school auditorium.

In lieu of an admission fee, people are asked to bring canned food to help the local Salvation Army in its annual food drive. BSHS Band Director Rocky Harris said.

The program begins with the Jazz Band at 6 p.m., with the BSHS Concert Band following at 7 p.m.

That will be followed by an encore performance of the band's marching show music, Harris said.

For more information, contact the high school at 264-3641.

HC PERFORMANCE SET

The Howard College Theater Department will present the holiday comedy, "A Christmas Carol — More or Less," this weekend at the Hall Center for the Performing Arts.

There are four performances — Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

The play involves a divorcing couple who currently do not like each other. They are forced to produce a two person version of 'A Christmas Carol.' In the end the story of reconciliation even effects them.

For more information concerning the show, call 264-5068.

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Obituaries

Doralene Flanagan Robnett

Doralene Flanagan Robnett was born in Courtney in rural Martin County May 1, 1923, to Webb and Lila Flanagan. She passed away Dec. 9, 2006. She attended Courtney public schools, graduating as valedictorian from Courtney High School in 1940 and from Texas Technological College in 1944 with a degree in business administration. She married William Edward Robnett Sr. in Lubbock Feb. 5, 1943. She moved with her husband to California during the 1947 San Francisco 49er football season. Doralene was a stay at home mom and was a housewife until 1966 during the time her children were at home. In the summer of 1963, she re-enrolled at Texas Technological College and received her teaching certification in secondary English. She coached and was a PE instructor in Stanton prior to moving to Midland in 1967. She taught secondary English at Midland ISD from 1967. In 1983 she and her husband returned to Stanton where she taught 2nd grade until her retirement in 1991. Doralene entered Manor Park Mabee Health Care in Midland in 2001 where she resided until her passing. She maintained her permanent residence in Stanton.

Doralene was a Christian and member of First Baptist Church of Stanton and later in Midland. She loved unconditionally and was loved by her family and all who knew her. She was frequently visited by her former students. She was a member of the Greatest Generation and passed on to her family, friends and students the lessons learned during that time. Some of her fondest memories were the Glutton Club dinners on 5th Street in Stanton with Doc and Mary Catherine Bristow, Stanley and June Reid and Glen and Jerry Gates. She was an avid Midland MidCity Little League and Midland High School Bulldog fan.

Doralene was preceded in death by her husband, mother and father and sister, Mary Francis Flanagan Rogers. Survivors include a daughter, Nancy Elizabeth Bizzell and husband, Gary of Hale Center; three sons, William Edward Robnett Jr. of Monterey, Calif., Stephen Webb Robnett and wife, Amy of Midland and Jeffrey Todd Robnett and wife, Dila of Midland. Also surviving are her grandchildren, Dr. Sky Bizzell of Dimmit, Pipar Mason of Slaton, Courtney Robnett of College Station, Spencer Robnett of College Station, Claire Robnett of Midland, Brenna Robnett of Midland and Oliver Robnett of Midland. Also surviving are five great-grandchildren. Also a sister, Mat Jones and husband, Ralph of Ft. Worth; a niece, Connie Langston of Ft. Worth and a nephew Webb Jones of Ft. Collins, Colo.

The Robnett family would like to thank Home Hospice and Manor Park Mabee Health Care Center for their unyielding care.

Services have been scheduled for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006, at First Baptist Church in Stanton. Interment will follow at Stanton Evergreen Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton.

Memorials may be directed to Home Hospice, 901 W. Missouri Ave., Midland 79701, Manor Park Mabee Health Care Center, 2208 N. Loop 250 W., Midland 79707, or Midland Association for Retarded Citizens, 2701 N. A St. Midland 79705.

Paid obituary

Willry Scott

Willry "Pat" Scott, 86, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2006, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Walter McCall, chaplain with Odyssey Hospice, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

She was born Feb. 6, 1920, in Louisiana and married Ivan "Scotty" Scott. He preceded her in death Sept. 29, 2006.

She had lived in Big Spring for 57 years and was always willing to lend a helping hand. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews. She was also preceded in death by eight brothers and one sister. Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 7-8-9-12-37-50.
Number matching six of six: None.
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$12 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 5-7-10-15-30.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$30,138.

Doris Mae Roberts

Doris Mae "Mazie" Roberts, 82, of Big Spring, died Friday, Dec. 8, 2006, in a Lubbock hospital. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Graveside services will be at a later date in Douglas, Ga.

She was born March 17, 1924, in Atkinson County, Ga.

She came to Big Spring in 1953 and had worked at the VA Medical Center for 34 years, the last 10 as a nurse practitioner, retiring in 1986. She was a member of First Assembly of God Church.

Survivors include one sister, Evelyn Courson of Douglas, Ga.; one niece and two nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Coleen Almeda Graham.

The family suggests memorials to the donor's favorite charity.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Robert L. "Twiggy" Gilbert

Robert L. "Twiggy" Gilbert, 64, of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006, at his home following a long and courageous battle against cancer. A Rosary will be 10 a.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel led by Teresa Rocha. Funeral Mass will follow at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with the Rev. James Plagens of Sacred Heart Catholic Church officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Bob was born Aug. 30, 1942, in Big Spring to Averil and Lloyd Gilbert. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring, and was known for his generous spirit and wonderful sense of humor. Bob will always be remembered, as he put it, as being "one tough ol' man." He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1961 and attended Howard County Junior College. Bob married Billie Henderson Jan. 10, 1964, in Big Spring. He began work at the Cosden Refinery in 1966, continuing through the Fina years, retiring from Alon in 2001 due to ill health. Bob enjoyed playing golf, fishing, and was an avid football fan. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church passing his deep faith in God on to his family. Bob took great pride and joy in his family and friends, especially his grandchildren. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and uncle.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Billie Gilbert of Big Spring; one daughter, Kelli Rosales and her husband, Joel of Mansfield; one son, Robert D. Gilbert of Big Spring; two grandchildren, Jace Brosig of San Angelo and Leah Brosig of Mansfield; two brothers, Bill Gilbert of Big Spring and Mike Gilbert and his wife, Jackie of Royce City; one sister, Raellen Thompson of Big Spring; and sister-in-law, Alene Gilbert of Big Spring; a number of nieces and nephews; and a number of great-nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by one brother, Jack Gilbert.

Pallbearers will be Bobby Tolle, David Brosig, Jim Parkhill, Ray Dabney, Roger Huitt, and George Wilson.

The family suggests memorials to Relay for Life, c/o Dianne Wood, 3200 Greenbrier, Big Spring 79720, or Home Hospice, 111 E. 7th Street, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Weather

Today — Mostly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the upper 60s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Tonight — Clear. Lows in the mid 30s. West winds around 10 mph.

Tuesday — Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. Light and variable winds.

Tuesday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s. Light and variable winds.

Wednesday — Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday night — Mostly clear. Lows around 30.

Thursday — Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s.

Thursday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Friday — Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s.

Friday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.

Saturday — Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s.

Saturday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.

Sunday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s.

Police blotter

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

- SCHEMICKIA CROSBY, 24, 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON was reported in the 1000 block of Fifth.
- ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported on Wasson Road.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1700 block of Johnson and the 1900 block of Winston.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was reported in the 1500 block of Scurry.
- DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED was reported in the 800 block of Interstate 20.
- TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 1100 block of Austin.
- THEFT was reported in the 1100 block of Austin and the 1500 block of Wood.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Monday:

- KEVIN DUANE RUTLEDGE, 30, was transferred from BSPD after his arrest on charges of possession of marijuana and failure to appear.
- RUBIN GUTTIEREZ, 29, was transferred from BSPD after his arrest on a charge of sex offender violation.
- ENRIQUE ROMO, 46, was arrested on a Tarrant County warrant for driving while intoxicated.
- ANTONIO JOE FLORES, 26, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- DAVID SHAWN MENDEZ, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- EUGENE SCOTT AUSBIE, 18, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of violation of a protective order and a motion to revoke probation for assault.
- ADAM VICTOR FAZ, 25, was arrested on a revocation of probation warrant for carrying a prohibited weapon.
- EMILY LUZ FLORES, 22, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- JENNIFER ANN EVANS, 22, was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- SCHEMICKIA MARIE CROSBY, 24, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of DWLS.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Monday:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at the entrance to the Airpark. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3100 block of Mount Shadow. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GAS LEAK was reported in the 2500 block of March.
- GAS LEAK was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 350.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 2500 block of Hunter.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 5200 block of Sterling. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 500 block of N.W. Third.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2500 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Timothy. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of W. Fourth. One person was transported to SMMC.

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From left, Darrell Ryan, Traci Ryan, Michael Ryan and Brianna Brown recreate the manger scene from the birth of Jesus during the First Church of the Nazarene Drive-Thru Nativity Sunday evening.

With heat shield OK, space shuttle races toward space station

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — After receiving a clean bill of health, space shuttle Discovery early Monday raced toward a rendezvous with the international space station, ready to deliver a new crew member and a 2-ton addition to the space lab.

U.S. astronaut Sunita "Suni" Williams was to get a first look at her home for the next six months after Discovery docks at the space station, which is slated for Monday afternoon. She will replace German astronaut Thomas Reiter of the European Space Agency.

"I think we're off to a really good start," Discovery commander Mark Polansky told Mission Control Sunday night as his crew wrapped up a meticulous inspection of the shuttle, looking for any possible damage from liftoff. "Really looking forward to some real exciting days ahead."

Discovery will get

another inspection about an hour before docking, when Polansky manually steers the shuttle's nose up and slowly flips the spacecraft over so the space station's crew can photograph its belly for damage. The safety procedure was implemented after the Columbia accident in 2003.

The space shuttle's heat shield looks to be in good health so far, NASA managers said Sunday night, although it will be at least two days before engineers can rule out any possible damage from the program's first night launch in four years.

As expected, small pieces of foam debris and ice fell off Discovery's external fuel tank during Saturday night's launch, but they didn't appear to strike the shuttle — or if they did it was too late in ascent to cause serious damage, said deputy shuttle program manager John Shannon, chairman of the mission management team.

"The team sees nothing of concern at this time," Shannon said.

GIFT

Continued from Page 1A

tested and was found to be an acceptable donor, but her parents resisted.

"I didn't know what effect this would have on her life," Terry said.

Brittany, was attending classes at Lamar University in Beaumont at the time, the news of her father's illness was a shock.

"I was surprised, because my dad never used to get sick," she said. "I came back home

for Christmas (2005), and when I saw how bad it was, I decided to transfer to Howard College, so I could be closer to the family."

Despite her father's resistance, it soon became clear that Brittany was his last, best chance for a new kidney.

"There wasn't anything to consider," she said. "I was excited to do it."

"She was the last choice," he said. "As in, really the last choice."

Finally, after a battery of tests, examinations and lectures, the transplant surgery was scheduled for

Nov. 9 in Lubbock's University Medical Center.

Brittany was wheeled into the operating room at 7 a.m., at which time her left kidney was removed. Then Terry's turn on the table came at about 8:30 a.m.

The surgery was a success, as both Terry and his daughter recovered from the procedure much more quickly than doctors anticipated.

"I had to stay in Lubbock ... going back and forth between the hospital every day for about two weeks, but I

came home the day before Thanksgiving," Terry said.

The family's biggest concern right now is financial. Terry has been on disability for more than a year and Brittany lost her job because of her father's illness, and expenses from the transplant are considerable (for example, anti-rejection drugs cost the family about \$5,000 a month).

But StarTek, the employer of Terry's wife, Marie, has helped with two fundraisers, and their church, the First Church of God, has helped, as

well.

Terry now needs to get his strength back, which is complicated by the fact he's been basically immobile for more than a year, and doctors are still fine-tuning the anti-rejection dosage, which causes him some problems, but that's just the details, he figures.

The big picture, he quickly notes, is much rosier.

"It's a miracle," Terry said. "God has been great to us."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331.

ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Robert L. "Twiggy" Gilbert, 64, died Saturday. A Rosary will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will follow at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

ALYSSA

Continued from Page 1A

rehearsals than she will be doing on the stage. Her upper body movements will match the dance of the other players, but she will be sitting. She will be dressed as an angel consort.

Alyssa is very special to the other dancers in the company. She is also very special to other friends in her life. Fifteen of these other friends are a group of Methodist young people who would be in Lubbock this night except for Alyssa.

These kids are a select group from the United Methodist Church who were to have their annual Christmas party on the night of The Nutcracker. The group is from the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, Northwest Conference.

When they learned that Alyssa would be involved in the ballet and could not attend the party, they moved the event to Big Spring so they could attend the ballet and Alyssa could attend the party.

They "brought the mountain to Mohammed," one might say.

Big Spring Symphony officials learned about the group's plans when they e-mailed asking if 15 tickets would be available, and how much would they cost.

The answer was, "Yes, you can reserve the tick-

ets, but the cost is free, as you will be our guests." The group will sit as a group during the concert.

More evidence of Alyssa's recovery is that she spoke to a Methodist conference of over 1,000 people last summer in

Midland and wowed the audience.

That sleigh crossing the stage will carry a recovering body, a powerful precious spirit and a tremendous emotional load of support, enthusiasm and celebration.

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EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Let's all get into the giving spirit during season

Tis the season. Christmas is rapidly approaching, and that means it's time to begin remembering the various charitable drives that take place every year here in Big Spring.

While there's still two weeks worth of shopping days until Christmas, there's less time to help out charities.

Now is really the time to take a few minutes and remember those less fortunate than ourselves. And to remember the spirit of giving far outweighs that of getting. It's a message we preach to our children at an early age during the Christmas season.

And this Christmas, as is always the case, there are a number of agencies that need our help.

We would also ask our readers to remember that for children, Christmas just isn't Christmas without a new toy.

The Herald and the Salvation Army want to make sure no child in Big Spring has to experience that feeling this Christmas season, and that's why we'll again be partnering a joint toy drive.

Again this year and we're concerned that not all the children will receive a gift. So, if you can, please heed the call. We'll have the doors open here at the Herald every Monday through Friday morning at 8 a.m. and will be here until 5 p.m. on those days for those wishing to donate to the drive.

The toys will be taken to the Salvation Army and distributed on Dec. 23. Help us make sure they can give every child in need at least one new toy this Christmas.

And don't forget, the Salvation Army's Angel Trees have the Christmas wishes of many needy children and elderly citizens on them as well this season.

The Angel Trees are within easy reach, located at the Big Spring Mall, Maurice's, Gale's Sweet Shoppe, Travelcenters of America truck stop and Wal-Mart. Still another is at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. In addition, the tree for seniors located here at the Herald.

There's also still time to help out the Giving Trees project in Big Spring.

Child Protective Services annually sponsors a Giving Tree in the lobby of Wells Fargo Bank. The tree is trimmed with paper ornaments, each bearing the name of a child who has three wishes for the holidays. People purchase the gifts indicated on those ornaments and return them, unwrapped to the tree. Each ornament is marked with the child's shoe and clothing size.

So, if you can, take a few minutes to drop by Wells Fargo Bank and pick an ornament off the Giving Tree and make this a special Christmas for a special child.

Adult Protective Services is hoping area gift-givers will look to a slightly different demographic.

Part of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Adult Protective Services is conducting its "Be a Star" program, collecting Christmas gifts for the area's elderly and disabled.

The program, which is being sponsored by First Bank of West Texas, will run until Dec. 22 — the week before Christmas — according to Barton.

All you have to do is go to any First Bank of West Texas location and pick out a star. The stars will have the client's first name and requested gift. Each gift that is purchased for the elderly or disabled clients need to be returned to the bank.

First Bank of West Texas has locations at 607 S. Scurry, 1810 E. FM 700 and 500 W. Broadway in Coahoma. Lobby hours are 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Let's all be able to say we did our best to make it a joyous holiday season throughout Big Spring and Howard County.

Remember, the feeling you will receive from helping others is truly what is meant by the Christmas spirit.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we work with You Lord, we work with as great team.

Amen

A study in bipartisan consensus

Even if the Iraq Study Group represents a collection of the usual self-congratulatory swells who are positively breathless in their admiration of each other's ability to come to — all bow — a "bipartisan consensus," the 10 members are right about this much: If the American public isn't on board, U.S. policy in Iraq is, as co-chairs James Baker and Lee Hamilton wrote, "doomed to failure."

Perhaps that is why the group produced a report with pronouncements that both sides of the Iraq war debate can embrace. For Republicans, the ISG report rejects calls for "immediate withdrawal" of U.S. troops from Iraq. It also quotes an Iraqi official who told the group, "Al-Qaida is now a franchise in Iraq, like McDonald's" — and notes that al-Qaida will portray any U.S. failure in Iraq as "a significant victory that will be featured prominently as they recruit for their cause in the region and around the world."

For Democrats, the report rejects "an open-ended commitment to keep large numbers of American troops deployed in Iraq." (Note: It helps if you don't think of 70,000 soldiers needed to train and equip Iraqi forces after U.S. combat troops are redeployed as a large number.) Add the ISG's criticism of President Bush for failing to negotiate with Iran and Syria.

Both Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and NBC reporter

David Gregory were able to brand the report "a rejection" of Bush's handling of Iraq. The ISG report lays out the treacherous ground in Iraq, where the interests of Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds collide, and those who work for the elected Iraqi government tend to serve the interests of their own ethnic or sectarian groups, not the Iraqi nation.

In such an environment, every reform potentially can trigger an adverse reaction. And that includes the ISG's 79 recommendations, which easily could lead to more woes in Iraq.

On their face, many proposals seem benign — such as calling for Bush to negotiate with Syria and Iran. Readers have e-mailed me with the simple question: What's the matter with talking to Iran? Of course, the answer is that there is nothing wrong with talking to Iran, but there is something wrong with what Iran wants to get out of talks, and the result could be a nuclear war — and that might be problematic.

Ditto the report's take on Israel, which it writes "should return the Golan Heights, with a U.S. security guarantee for Israel that could include an international force on the border, including U.S. troops" if both sides want them. Great. U.S. troops in Israel to get U.S. troops out of Iraq, because Iraq is a quagmire. Throwing Israel into the Iraq mix seems to me a good way to guarantee failure.

Then, there is this controversial proposal: "If the Iraqi government does not make substantial progress toward the achievement of milestones on national reconciliation, security and governance,

the United States should reduce its political, military or economic support."

Maybe that approach would work. Or maybe the promise to withdraw money and U.S. troops sends a dangerous signal to Iraqi terrorists. To wit: If they kill enough Iraqi civilians and U.S. troops, America will withdraw U.S. troops sooner. Besides, the 2008 elections present a timetable of sorts. If the Iraqi government fails to improve, the 2006 elections suggest, Americans will elect a president who promises complete and immediate withdrawal.

Some of the more modest recommendations make more sense. Recommendation 73, for example, notes that the U.S. embassy in Iraq employs 1,000 people, but only 33 Arabic speakers, six of them fluent. President Bush should find that situation unacceptable. The ISG also calls for increasing U.S. economic assistance to Iraq to \$5 billion per year, and noted that Americans can't expect the Iraqi army to perform on an annual \$3 billion appropriation — or less than what the U.S. spends in Iraq every two weeks. The best summation of the situation in Iraq came from an unnamed U.S. official who told the study group: "Our leaving would make it worse. ... The current approach without modification will not make it better."

Bush and his new secretary of defense, Robert Gates, now must find a way to make it better.

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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I am sending this letter to let the kids that did damage to my neighbor's Christmas decorations last night know they are nothing but cowards.

How cruel of them to damage such pretty displays that my neighbor had put in his yard for all to see. Those snowmen are very expensive — too expensive for

some crazy kids to come along and try to damage them

If it had not been for my dog barking, I would not have seen them. I yelled at them or they might have done more damage. They took off and I am sure that got a big laugh from it.

It is kids like that who give the good kids a bad name and that is a shame.

You kids know who you are and you should apologize to Willis for your act of vandalism. Shame on you!

Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of our Lord. People put out pretty decorations and then kids come along and damage them.

MARILLYN MIEARS
BIG SPRING

John McCain's plan for war

It would make "a big mistake even bigger," Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack said last week, in announcing his own candidacy for the presidency and criticizing John McCain's plan to put more troops on the ground in Iraq.

At a time when most Americans have turned against the war, when the blue ribbon Iraq Study Commission is expected to recommend some version of a phased or gradual withdrawal, what is the Republican frontrunner doing proposing MORE troops for Iraq?

Does this man really want to be president? Does he have the respect for the American people that a would-be president and commander in chief must have? Imagine, if you are old enough, running for president in 1968 or 1972 on a plan to INCREASE American troop presence in Vietnam. Even Richard Nixon used to promise that he had a "secret plan" for peace in Vietnam that would bring home the troops, not require more of them.

Now we have a candidate with a public plan for more combat.

If there is any merit at all to McCain's approach — and I'm surely not the one to accord it — it is in its recognition that we did not have the troop strength in the first instance to accomplish our mission, not so much winning the

war, but winning the peace. But if that is and was the case, then why did McCain go along with an effort that was doomed by its inadequacy, dare we say timidity, in the first instance?

If Bush was wrong, then so was McCain.

If Bush mishandled the war — and is there any doubt that he did? — then the blame must be shared between the commander in chief and his chief cheerleaders, McCain number one among them.

In his efforts to prove his loyalty to Bush and to the conservative base of the Republican Party, John McCain picked the Iraq war. In a word, he picked the wrong issue. It is not simply a matter of mistaken politics, but of seriously mistaken judgment.

If national security is supposed to be his strongest suit, what is his second strongest suit?

Across the country, Republicans who stood with Bush on the war may soon find themselves, or their staff members, standing in the unemployment lines.

The lesson of the Vietnam War, at least the one most of us thought we learned, is that you cannot maintain a war abroad without support at home. It is not an act of courage to ignore popular sentiment, but an exercise of the worst sort of arrogance.

One campaign adviser to McCain has told reporters (not for attribution, of course) that they hope to sell McCain's support for increased troops as "a long-term stand based on principle." But just

what principle is that? That wars don't require democratic support? That it's time we re-fought Vietnam once and for all?

There are, to be sure, occasions where leadership requires that one NOT bend to popular will; situations where a president must be willing to stand up, even to the majority, especially to the majority, to do what he or she believes is right.

That is often the case, by definition, where the rights of minorities are at stake, or where civil liberties questions are posed; when the nation is moving forward in terms of nondiscrimination, for instance, or even on such broader policy issues as foreign aid, where doing the right thing may not be the popular thing.

But war is a different matter. The job of a president in deciding to go to war is to lead, not to ignore, the country, to educate, yes, but not to insult the intelligence of the electorate.

If Mr. Bush is guilty of crossing that line, Mr. McCain, if he had his way, appears determined to trample it altogether.

Were it not so obviously inappropriate, one might ask: Didn't he learn the lessons of Vietnam? Where was he?

The answer, of course, is that John McCain was serving his country, but he did so in isolation. You cannot run a country that way.

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SUSAN ESTRICH

Spend holidays with family this year; not in the hospital's emergency room

Special to the Herald

It seems the holidays keep coming earlier and earlier every year, thanks in large part to retailers. Stores are stocked with merchandise and decorations to tempt buyers to do their holiday shopping immediately. And with all the pressures of buying the hottest toy or gadget, it's easy to get swept away.

But before you head to the mall or go online, remember to make sure that the gift you purchase will be a safe one. Unfortunately, thousands of children are injured every year by toys.

In 2005, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated that 202,300 children were treated in the emergency room for toy-related

injuries.

Some 7,820 of those injuries were to the eyes. Eye injuries consisted of lacerations, abrasions and foreign bodies.

Air, BB and spring guns accounted for a large portion of the documented injuries to children's eyes.

Any toys that shoot projectiles can always be dangerous. Even common products such as pens, pencils, crayons and other art supplies were involved in many accidents. In fact, most injuries are not caused by defective toys or products.

Prevent Blindness America, the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization, has declared December as Safe Toys and Gifts Month and is

urging all toy buyers to read the labels and pay attention to what their children are playing with.

The group suggests the following tips to help make this holiday season a safe one for children:

- Avoid toys that shoot or include parts that fly off. Slingshots and even water guns are dangerous because they invite children to target other kids. BB guns should not even be considered toys.

- Inspect toys for sturdiness. Your child's toys should be durable with no sharp edges or points. The toys should also withstand impact.

- Look for the letters "ASTM." This means the product meets the national safety standards set by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

- Don't give toys with small parts to young children. Young kids tend to put things in their mouths, increasing the risk of choking.

- Read directions carefully and follow suggested age levels. Ask yourself if the toy is right for your child's ability and age.

- Repair or throw away damaged toys.

- Keep toys meant for older children away from younger ones.

- Make a list of safety rules and share them with your child. If your child is playing with friends, tell everyone your safety rules.

- Remain aware of recalled products. For further information on toy and product recalls, visit the U.S. Product Safety Commission Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

Fairness or fitness? Making a plan of attack

You know they're coming. It's almost time. No, not the relatives; the resolutions! As you're making your way through the holiday season, toasting everyone's health and well-being and thinking ahead to next year, you'll probably give a moment's thought to what your own health resolutions for the New Year might be.

Maybe you want a diet and exercise plan. Maybe you want to eat better; perhaps you're planning to actually exercise more often, rather than just thinking about it more often.

Maybe you don't want to take on too much; you don't want to tackle the whole kit and kaboodle at once with your diet and exercise plan. So you're considering which of these is best to start with. Shall I diet? Shall I exercise? Where to begin? It's a perennial debate, even in scientific circles.

Consider a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association. In one article, new research showed that a person's body mass index is more closely associated with his diabetes risk than is his activity level.

Another article in the same issue showed that a woman's risk of heart disease is more closely associated with her activity level than it is with her body mass index.

So where do you start in your diet and exercise plan?

The data aren't exactly contradictory, but they do suggest a greater causal significance for weight, in the first case, and for physical inactivity, in the second. And this sort of disparity is what leads to the old "fatness versus fitness" debate. Can you be fat and still be healthy?

The truth is that if you're overweight, you're at high risk for both heart disease AND diabetes, and other factors may put you at higher risk for one or the other, or something else entirely.

And yes, there are indeed a few people who carry excess body weight and yet all their blood work comes up healthy and they're active and physically fit. But the fact is, people who are fat and fit are the exception that makes the rule. And they're few and far between. Most Americans are sedentary and overweight. In my clinical experience, it may start with one or the other, but almost always ends up being both.

So if you're trying to decide how to tackle a weight problem, there's no obvious answer suggested by the research

here. If you change your diet without exercising, you may drop weight without other significant health improvements you want to achieve. Will it stay off? Statistically, if you don't start exercising eventually, the chances aren't very good.

But if you exercise without dietary change, you can improve fitness and strength without ever losing any weight. Many people do. And then in spite of increased strength and energy, these folks often end up giving up the activity because when we're working that hard at it, we want that effort to help us feel better about how we look, too.

So is there an actual answer to what's more significant, the weight or the inactivity? The answer is: it depends!

But perhaps a better answer is: Who cares? In the same issue of JAMA, there's a very good, common-sense editorial that says, in part, "the relative contribution of fitness and obesity to overall health and risk actually may be a trivial matter, because a common treatment is already available for both."

That's right. And you didn't hear it here first. It's the same old conventional wisdom we've always had. "Physical activity is the common denominator for the clinical treatment of low fitness and excess weight," says the JAMA editorial. Consider: Exercise

alone won't take off 50 pounds of excess weight. That would demand a phenomenal caloric output. Most people aren't aware that the majority of the energy we burn is used up simply metabolizing and supporting essential systems. For instance, you'll burn about 100 calories in an hour of good walking. But you'll burn about 60 calories in an hour of good sitting around.

If you're trying to take weight off, you've got to adjust the diet, and fortunately, that's often an easier place to start. I often have patients start with a dietary approach alone. Once they've easily taken off a few pounds without exercise, increasing the activity level doesn't seem so daunting.

And that's good, because all the data show that while diet is initially more important in

See PLAN, Page 6A

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

6		9	4					2
5		3		1	8			
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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Three dead in Sunday plane crash near Waco

WACO (AP) — Three people died Sunday night when a small airplane crashed near the Waco Regional Airport, the Department of Public Safety said.

Frank McKinney, a public communications operator with the DPS in Waco, said the twin-engine Cessna 310 crashed in a field a half mile north of the airport. He said the plane had filed a flight plan from Natchez, Miss., to Waco.

The crash was reported shortly after 7 p.m.

Assistant Chief R.G. Wilson of the Waco Fire Department said rescue workers arrived to find the wreckage on fire in a plowed field.

"There were three souls on board and we have three victims," Wilson said.

Authorities had not released the victims names early Monday.

Escaped inmate caught after a week on the run

LUBBOCK (AP) — An Idaho inmate who escaped a private West Texas prison was captured after a week on the run when authorities caught up to him at a ranch.

Authorities arrested Scot Noble Payne, 43, on Sunday at a ranch near the small town of Paducah, said Daniel Hawthorne, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety in Childress.

Payne escaped Dec. 3 from the Dickens County Correctional Center. The facility, which is run by Florida-based Geo Group Inc., is located in Spur, about 60 miles east of Lubbock.

Prison officials said Payne, who was serving time for aggravated battery and lewd and lascivious conduct, scaled the facility's fence. He fled when temperatures were in the mid-20s, apparently without any extra clothing.

For a week, the fugitive eluded searches by the Texas Rangers, helicopters from the Department of Public Safety, local law enforcement agents and private prison workers.

Clinton visits San Antonio to campaign for Rodriguez

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Former President Clinton told hundreds of screaming Ciro Rodriguez supporters on Sunday that they have to want a victory in Tuesday's runoff election more than those who want an eighth term for Republican Rep. Henry Bonilla.

"The winner Tuesday will be the person whose supporters want it the most," Clinton said during a brief visit to Palo Alto College in San Antonio.

Rodriguez's campaign hoped Clinton's visit would energize voters to head to the polls Tuesday. Rodriguez faces the incumbent Bonilla in a runoff because neither man got more than 50 percent of the vote in a crowded Nov. 7 special election.

"We can make this happen, but it's going to require each and every one of us," said Rodriguez.

Clinton said voters will determine whether Congressional District 23 is among the seats picked up by Democrats in the U.S. House or one of 10 or so spots where Democrats fell a "tad short" in this year's elections.

Health teacher offers cash prize for teens' weight loss

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston-area health teacher is showing how the chance for some extra cash can motivate teenagers, even when it comes to losing

weight.

The MacArthur Ninth Grade School's Biggest Loser challenge wraps up this week with financial rewards going to the students who lost the most weight or body fat over the past 18 weeks.

At last week's final tally, the 215 students at the Aldine school district campus had lost a total of 852 pounds. The boys' and girls' champions will be awarded \$250, while the 10 runners-up of each gender will get \$100.

The Biggest Loser contest, which is being supported by corporate sponsorships, is based on the reality TV show of the same name.

Teacher Cathy Roach said the contest gave her a chance to pass on health tips to her students.

Fourth person dies following house fire in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Four people have died following a house fire in San Antonio.

While officials have not determined the cause of Friday's fire, they know it started in the kitchen, possibly sparked by a space heater.

The Bexar County Medical Examiner's office identified two of the victims: 47-year-old Rosa Bustos and her 5-year-old granddaughter, Samantha Medina, who both died Friday.

Two others died on Friday as well, but their names have not been release by the medical examiner.

Julio Bustos said that he, his wife and their granddaughter were asleep in their bedroom when Samantha awoke to dogs barking. Julio Bustos is deaf, as was his wife. Waking her grandparents, the three tried to escape. But when Julio Bustos reached the front door, the other two had collapsed inside.

"I have nothing," his stepson, 21-year-old Fernando Ramirez interpreted as the man looked at the charred remains of his home on Saturday. "It's hard for me to breathe."

"He thought she was behind him," Ramirez said. "But they got stuck."

Ramirez, who also lives at the home, was working an overnight shift loading equipment. His girlfriend, 20-year-old Concepcion Garza, managed to flee the house.

4-year-old gets suspension after hugging teacher's aide

WACO (AP) — School administrators gave a 4-year-old student an in-school suspension for inappropriately touching a teacher's aide after the pre-kindergarten hugged the woman.

A letter from La Vega school district administrators to the student's parents said that the boy was involved in "inappropriate physical behavior interpreted as sexual contact and/or sexual harassment" after he hugged the woman and he "rubbed his face in the chest of (the female employee)" on Nov. 10.

DaMarcus Blackwell, the father of the boy who attends La Vega Primary School, said he filed a complaint with the district. He said that his son doesn't understand why he was punished.

"When I got that letter, my world flipped," Blackwell said in a story in Sunday's editions of the Waco Tribune-Herald.

La Vega school district officials said student privacy laws prevented them from commenting.

After Blackwell filed a complaint, a subsequent letter from the district said the offense had been changed to "inappropriate physical contact" and removed references of sexual contact or sexual harassment from the boy's file.

Administrators said the district's student handbook contains no specific

guidelines referring to contact between teachers and students but does state that inappropriate physical contact will result in a discipline referral.

The La Vega school district, which has five schools, covers about 30 miles around Waco.

Newspaper finds truckers often carry rap sheets

DALLAS (AP) — A quarter of big-rig truck drivers faulted in fatal crashes in Texas from 2000 through 2005 had rap sheets, according to a newspaper analysis.

The Dallas Morning News' analysis discovered that of 953 truckers faulted in fatal crashes during that time frame, at least one in four had been convicted of a criminal offense or received deferred adjudication — in which a defendant's record doesn't reflect a conviction as long as probation is completed — before the crash.

More than 14 percent had committed drug or alcohol offenses prior to their accidents. More than one in 10 were felons.

"I'm all for people rehabilitating themselves and getting jobs," said Tom Smith, who heads the Texas office of Public Citizen, a consumer advocacy group. But when it comes to putting felons in 18-wheelers, "clearly there should be limits," he said.

With a shortage of inexperienced

truck drivers, some trucking companies are hiring ex-convicts as low-cost labor — and the state of Texas is helping train the drivers.

A Texas Department of Criminal Justice program has trained more than 1,200 inmates to drive big trucks over the past 10 years. More than 900 received their commercial driver's licenses while in prison, state records show.

But how these drivers have performed on Texas highways is unclear since the state-run school district that trains inmates to be truckers said it doesn't track them once they leave prison. It also refused to release inmate names so the newspaper could cross-check them with Texas accident and driver's license records.

However, The News figured out that a number of truckers who got their commercial driver's licenses while in prison were later faulted in accidents. The newspaper analyzed public records databases and matched names and dates of birth against the Texas Department of Public Safety truck accident database.

The newspaper identified 80 truckers faulted in accidents from 2000 through 2005 who received their commercial driver's licenses at the two prisons where the training program is offered.

The Texas Workforce Commission also is spending tax dollars to send former prison inmates, parolees and probationers to truck-driving school.

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PLAN

Continued from Page 5A

terms of losing weight, regular activity is essential for maintaining weight loss, for improving cardiovascular health and ramping up the metabolic rate so that your body is naturally burning more, even when you are just sitting around.

While I would encourage everyone to become more physically active eventually, it's actually an unwise way to start for some patients, those whose bodies are extremely stressed by their excess weight. And people very often have no idea how bad off they are, so a careful, gradual approach may not only be emotionally appealing,

it could be the difference between life and death.

That's where good medical supervision is important. Weight loss has been trivialized by generations of fad diets and wacky gadgets, but with two-thirds of Americans now overweight, this health crisis is becoming increasingly relevant and increasingly complex to treat.

But no two people are the same, so anyone trying to get healthy should have individualized care. Whether you're most concerned about your fatness or your fitness, you eventually do want to get the whole kit and caboo-

dle in a gentle and comprehensive approach that will incorporate both dietary changes and increased activity, at a level appropriate to your own health and interests.

And that's a resolution every body deserves.

Through Thick & Thin: Diet and Exercise Plan

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Sports

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Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Sports Editor Mike Grimes at 263-7331, ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Monday, December 11, 2006

IN BRIEF

Troy Smith of Ohio State wins Heisman

Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith was a runaway winner Saturday night, taking home the Heisman Trophy as the best player in college football. He received 801 first-place votes, the second most ever, and 1,662 points more than second-place finisher Darren McFadden of Arkansas, making it the second-most lopsided Heisman vote. Only O.J. Simpson's 1,750-point victory in 1968 was more one-sided. The 22-year-old Smith is the sixth player from Ohio State to win the Heisman and first since tailback Eddie George in 1995. And it's the school's seventh Heisman — Archie Griffin won two in 1974-75 — tying Notre Dame and Southern California for the most.

NBA update, Lakers top Spurs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant had 32 points and eight rebounds, Lamar Odom just missed a triple-double, and the Lakers beat the San Antonio Spurs 106-99 on Sunday night for their fifth win in six games. Odom had 18 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, and Luke Walton added 17 points for the Lakers (14-6), who snapped San Antonio's four-game winning streak and handed the Spurs just their third loss in 11 road games this season. Bryant showed no ill effects of a sprained right ankle that caused him to sit out the Lakers' 106-95 victory over Atlanta on Friday night.

MLB update, Texas Rangers dealing

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Outfielder Kenny Lofton and the Texas Rangers are closing in on a contract agreement. While a deal hasn't yet been reached, a person familiar with the negotiations said Sunday the sides are getting close. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because talks are ongoing. Lofton, who turns 40 on May 31, hit .301 with 32 steals and 41 RBIs for the Los Angeles Dodgers last season but was just 1-for-13 (.077) as the Dodgers were swept by the New York Mets in the first round of the playoffs. The six-time All-Star has a .299 career average over 16 major league seasons with Houston, Cleveland, Atlanta, the Chicago White Sox, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, the Chicago Cubs, the New York Yankees, Philadelphia and the Dodgers.

NFL update, San Diego Chargers win.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — LaDainian Tomlinson has set the NFL single-season touchdown record.

NFL scores on

Howard Hawks win two games in Classic

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

As the Whitten Inn Classic came to an end Saturday night the Howard Hawks women's basketball team improved to 8-4 on the season.

The Hawks spent much of the first half trying to pull away from a Ranger team that was determined to salvage a win out of the road trip. The Lady Rangers kept the score to within 10-points until the Hawks opened a 42-30 lead three minutes into the second half, when Candace Lambert nailed a 3-pointer.

After pushing the lead to 12, the Hawks had little trouble as they pulled away for a 97-69 win. Howard's leading scorer, Kandace Griffin, was being plagued by a 'box-and-one' defense and the Hawks offense struggled for the first time in the classic.

"That was good for me to see this defense tonight," Griffin said after the game. "I'm going to see more of that when conference play begins. I've got to find a way to get open and find a way to get my shot off. I'm expected to score and do what it takes to help our team win."



Herald photo/Mike Grimes
Hawk's Candace Lambert goes around Jameelah Mccollum of Ranger College in Saturday night action at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. That Hawks defeated the Lady Rangers 69-49 and went 2-0 in the classic.

The defense used against the Hawks is designed to stop one player and make another player touch you. For most of the game

the Lady Rangers played Griffin with man-to-man coverage, while the other four players ran a zone and attacked her when she

touched the ball. Griffin still managed to score a

See HAWKS, page 2B



MCT photo/Tom Pennington/Fort Worth Star-Telegram
New Orleans Saints fullback Mike Karney scores his third touchdown of the game, defended by Dallas safety Roy Williams, at Texas Stadium. The Saints won, 42-17.

Cowboys pummeled by New Orleans Saints

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas — No matter how much Sean Payton insisted he wasn't trying to prove anything to Bill Parcells, Drew Brees knew his coach was lying.

The facts support Brees' side of the story.

Facing his former boss for the first time, Payton called for a reverse on a fourth-and-1 and made featured players out of guys who had never scored. Everything he drew up worked so well that the first-year head coach was brazen enough

to call for an inside kick while his New Orleans Saints already were well on their way to a 42-17 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday night.

The inside kick worked too, by the way, making the Saints (9-4) big winners in a showdown for sole possession of the second-best record in the NFC.

"I have a ton of respect for Bill and all he's accomplished in Dallas," Payton said of the man he was an assistant to for

See DALLAS, Page 2B

Howard College All-Classic team

MIKE GRIMES

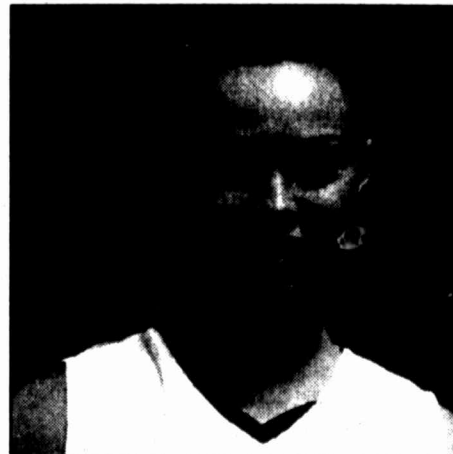
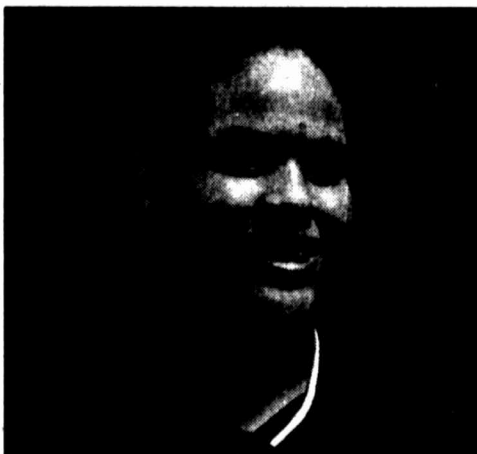
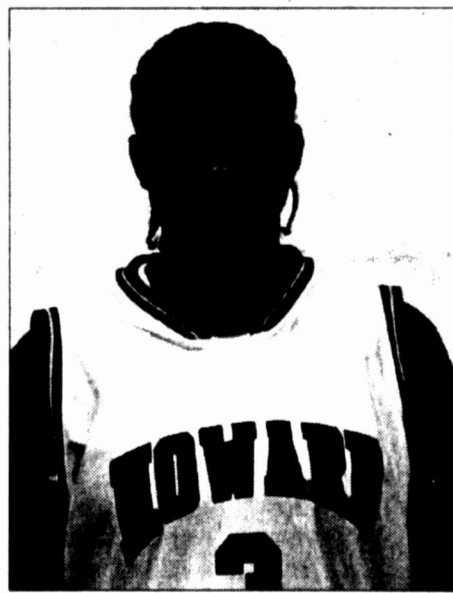
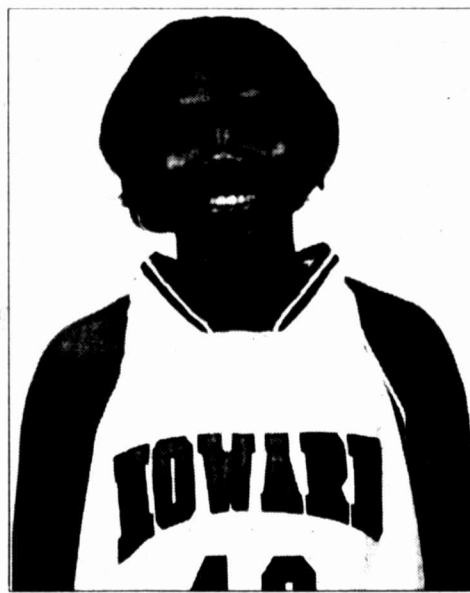
Sports Editor

The Howard College Women's Basketball Classic came to an end Saturday evening and after four games it was time to choose the starting five for the all-classic team.

Three of the five were unanimous decisions, with two of those three coming from the Howard Hawks. The Hawks went 2-0 in the classic and were lead by the Whitten Inn Classic MVP, Kandace Griffin.

Griffin averaged 16.5 points in the classic and despite being hounded by defenses, she led her team in scoring in both wins.

Point Guard: Candace Lambert, 5'9" freshman for the Howard Hawks. Lambert was a unanimous selection, averaging 15 points per game and running the offense for the most consistent team in the field. The Hawks defeated Hamilton and Ranger



Herald photos/Mike Grimes
From left to right, Kandace Griffin, Joy Ikechukwu, Candace Lambert, Areyal LeDeatte, Danielle Purcell and Dora Pandell make up the Howard Classic women's basketball team for 2006.

See TEAM, Page 2B

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NFL football weekend round up, week 14

Colts and Manning struggle against Jags

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — There was nothing Peyton Manning could do to prevent this outcome — unless he decided to play defense or special teams.

Rookie Maurice Drew ran for a career-high 167 yards and two touchdowns, had a 93-yard kickoff return for a score, and the Jaguars literally ran the Colts out of town and maybe out of contention for home-field advantage in the AFC.

Fred Taylor was equally effective against the league's worst run defense, gaining 131 yards on nine carries before leaving with a sore right hamstring.

By then, the Jaguars (8-5) were ahead 34-10 and coasting to their first win

against Indianapolis since 2004.

The Colts (10-3), who were looking to clinch their fourth consecutive AFC East title. Now, they will try to regroup from a third loss in four games and wonder whether they've gone from the leading candidate to secure the conference's No. 1 seed to a possible wild-card team.

The Colts allowed a franchise record 375 yards rushing. Indy's Marvin Harrison became the fourth player in NFL history with 1,000 receptions Sunday, joining Jerry Rice, Tim Brown and Cris Carter. Harrison had six catches for 101 yards.

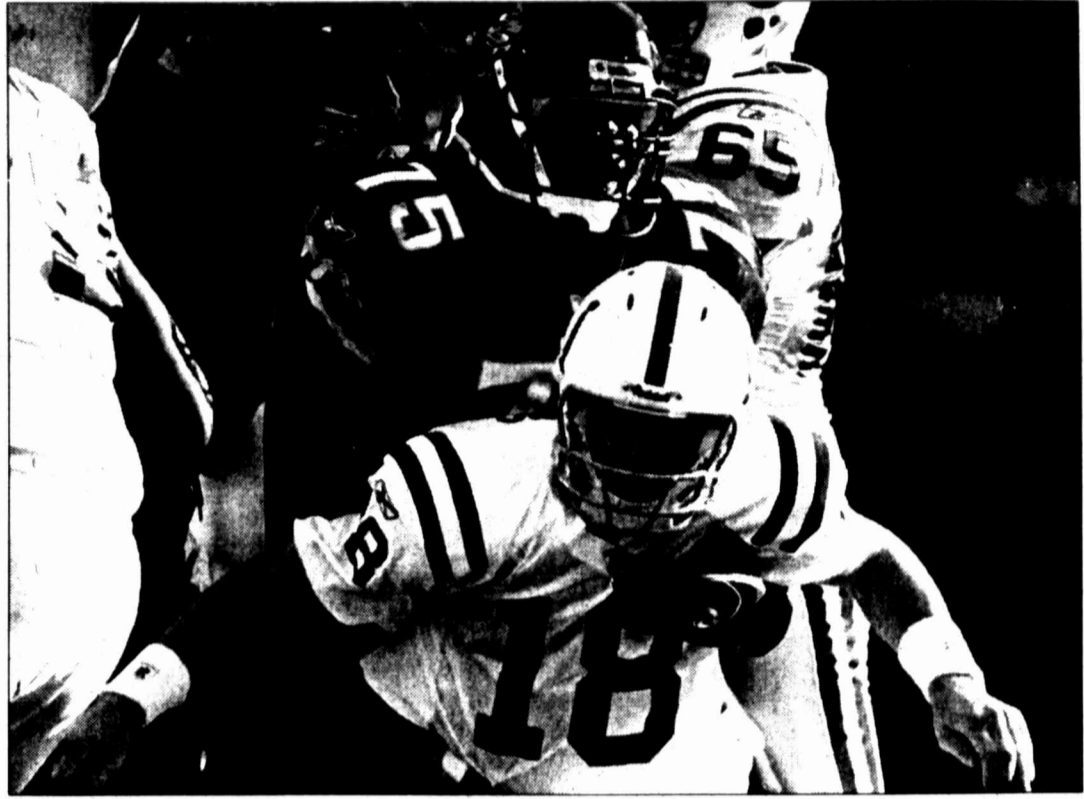
Manning finished 25-of-50 for 313 yards.

Thursday's Games
Pittsburgh 27, Cleveland Browns 7.

Sunday's Games

Minnesota 30, Lions 20.
Ten. Titans 26, Houston Texans 20, OT.
Miami 21, New England Patriots 0.
Bengals 27, Oakland Raiders 10.
Eagles 21, Washington Redskins 19.
Baltimore 20, Kansas City Chiefs 10.
Atlanta 17, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 6.
N.Y. Giants 27, Carolina Panthers 13.
Green Bay 30, San Francisco 49ers 19.
Arizona 27, Seattle Seahawks 21.
Buffalo 31, N.Y. Jets 13.
San Diego 48, Denver Broncos 20.
New Orleans 42, Dallas Cowboys 17.
Jacksonville 44, Indianapolis 17.

Monday's Game
Chicago at St. Louis, 8:30 p.m.



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning lands in the grasp of Jacksonville Jaguars defensive end Marcellus Wiley during game action. The Jaguars defeated the Colts, 44-17.

DALLAS

Continued from 1B

the last three seasons. "This was two good 8-4 teams playing a big game. It wasn't me competing against Bill. It was about the teams, not the head coaches."

Yeah, right, said Brees, who took advantage of Payton's nifty play-calling to match his career high with five touchdown passes, all before the third quarter ended. The only excitement in the fourth was Payton getting doused by a bucket of Gatorade.

"I could tell it was very special for him," said Brees, who was 26-of-38 for 384 yards. "He didn't put a lot of added pressure on us this week. He just went on with his business. But I could see in the gleam in his eye at the end of the game. ... I could tell it meant a lot."

Parcells absorbed most of this one with his lips pinched and his arms

crossed. Not even Tony Romo could save the Tuna from the embarrassment.

Romo had the worst game of his budding career: 16-of-33 for 249 yards, with two interceptions and a fluke touchdown to Terrell Owens on what would have been another pickoff if cornerback Fred Thomas wasn't wearing a cast.

"That was a pretty good licking," said Parcells, who shared a quick handshake with Payton at game's end. "I can't think of anything we did very well."

The Cowboys (8-5) had won four straight games and five of six. They were playing so well that on Monday he spoke to them about what it takes to win a championship.

Dallas still has a one-game lead over the New York and Philadelphia in the NFC East.

"We just made some mistakes on things that we shouldn't have," Romo said. "We'll see what

we're made of now."

With Seattle losing earlier Sunday, Dallas went out knowing the No. 2 seed was there for the taking. Maybe it was too easy at first, with a four-play stand by the defense followed by a 77-yard touchdown run by Julius Jones on the Cowboys' second snap.

Hardly anything else went right for Dallas.

A defense that hadn't allowed more than 22 points in any of the last six games gave up 21 in the second quarter, then another 21 in the third. The offense's only other touchdown came on the fluke grab by T.O.

"For whatever reason, we weren't ready," Dallas nose tackle Jason Ferguson said.

Cowboys fans headed for the exits when the third quarter ended — it was already 10 p.m., after all — leaving the seats mostly to the gold-and-black clad Saints fans. And there were plenty of them, as heard every time

"Dooooo-ce" McAllister got the ball, or when "Reg-gie!" Bush did something exciting. Chants of "Who Dat?!" rang out throughout the fourth quarter.

New Orleans has a two-game lead in the NFC South with three games left. The Saints also are in position to grab a first-round playoff bye for the first time in franchise history.

They certainly looked worthy to a national prime-time audience Sunday night.

"We let a lot of people know what we are all about," Brees said.

Picking up where he left off in his last game at Texas Stadium, a championship victory for Austin high school in 1996, Brees led New Orleans to six touchdowns in a span of seven drives over the middle two quarters. Along the way, he took them 88 and 95 yards for scores, plus cashed in on an interception and the onside kick.

HAWKS

Continued from 1B

game high 17-points, as she shot 7-for-11 from the floor and 2-of-4 from beyond the arc.

"That was the first time we had seen that defense this season," Coach Earl Diddle said, when asked about the defense employed against the Hawks. "We just stayed with our motion offense, but we have a long ways to go with our screening and with what it takes to take them out of that. I still think that Kandace managed to get open a little bit and we're going to have others step up and help us in scoring."

According to Coach Diddle, the Hawks have got to get the post game more involved in the offense.

"If you live by the outside shot, you're going to die by the outside

jump shot," Diddle added.

On Saturday the Hawks turned to Lambert to take the pressure off Griffin. Lambert finished the game with 16-points, but she was 4-for-8 from the floor in the first half and kept the Hawks in the lead by having 14-points at intermission.

"The key tonight was playing defense," Lambert explained. "The first time we played Ranger we gave up 27-points off of fast breaks, so we knew we had to get back on defense. Coach told us early in the game that somebody else was going to have to step up and score and I knew he meant me. When they focus on shutting down Kandace, that leaves some open shots for everyone else and we have to knock them down."

With 9:30 to play in the game, Howard extended its lead to 15-points after Joy Ikechukwu grabbed her second offensive rebound of the game and put it

back in for two points. Ikechukwu finished the game with six rebounds, five of which came in the second half.

"I was really disappointed with our energy today," Diddle offered. "I thought we had a lot of missed assignments — of course we won by 20-points, but I was just disappointed with the way we came out and played. This was not the way I wanted to go into the Christmas break. We're happy to win the game, but there was way too many mistakes and we have got to get better. If we're going to do anything in the league, we have got to get our post players to play harder and become more offensive minded. Kandace is not going to come out every game and just bingo them in the basket. We have to find a mixture of our inside and outside play if we're going to be successful."

The women's team will return to the court on Jan. 4, in Phoenix.

TEAM

Continued from 1B

College by an average of 27 points.

Shooting Guard: Classic MVP Kandace Griffin, 5'7" freshman for the Howard Hawks. Griffin was the leading scorer over the weekend and a unanimous selection for the team, averaging 16.5

points per game. Her shooting touch destroyed zone defenses and her quickness to the basket gave opposing coaches headaches.

Forward: Danielle Purcell, 5'8" freshman for Hamilton College. Purcell was the second leading scorer in the classic despite going 0-2 over the weekend. Purcell was a unanimous selection and averaged 15.5 points and 6

rebounds a game.

Power Forward: Dora Pandeli, 6'1" freshman for Jacksonville College. Pandeli led the Jaguars (2-0) in rebounding in both games and just missed averaging a double-double with 9 points and 9.5 rebounds a game.

Center: Joy Ikechukwu, 6'2" sophomore for Howard. Ikechukwu averaged 7 rebounds a game and was a defensive force

under the basket in both Hawk wins.

Reserve: Areyal LeDeatte, 6'1" freshman for Jacksonville College. LeDeatte averaged 7 blocked shots, 4 rebounds and 6 points in the two Jaguars wins. The Jaguars were also the highest scoring team in the tournament, averaging over 78-points in the two wins.

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♠ J 3 2

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♦ K 10 7 5 3 2
♥ K
♦ J 8 3
♠ Q 7 6

SOUTH
♦ A 4
♥ A 9 7 6 2
♦ A 9 5
♠ K 10 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ 1♠ 2♣ 4♠
6♥

Opening lead — queen of spades.

This remarkable hand, played many years ago by Claggett Bowie of Baltimore, features an extraordinary endplay.

Bowie had bid six hearts fully aware that his partner was void of spades and that his ace was therefore of doubtful value. However, he also thought that his six-heart bid might induce the opponents to bid six spades.

The slam seems impossible to make, even if you see all four hands. Declarer has a certain trump loser and also has a loser in both diamonds and clubs. But Bowie made the contract and, furthermore, could not be defeated!

He ruffed the spade queen in dummy and led a heart to the ace. Then, to set the stage for the throw-in play he visualized, he played the ace of spades and trumped it in dummy!

Bowie next led a trump, and after winning with the queen, West was in the soup. If he returned a spade, declarer would ruff in dummy, discard the club five and then establish an extra club trick in dummy by ruffing the third round. If West instead returned a club or a diamond, South would score four tricks in that suit and simultaneously avoid a loser in the other suit.

If, say, West led a low club and East played the queen, West's jack could then be trapped. Or if West led the club jack instead, East's queen could be trapped by going up with dummy's ace. The same was true if West shifted to a diamond. All roads thus led to 12 tricks.

Observe that if Bowie had discarded a club or a diamond from dummy instead of ruffing the ace of spades at trick three, the slam would have failed. After being thrown on lead with the trump, West would have returned whichever suit Bowie had discarded from dummy. The setting trick would then have come from the other suit.

Tomorrow: A tactical defensive maneuver.
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Virgo moon wants more order, less clutter, more study, less distraction. It's work now so you can play later and stick that money in the bank before it burns a hole in your pocket. Does all of this sound boring to you? Well, you can count on the Mars and Jupiter conjunction to throw at least one dazzling pyrotechnic into the action!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In the days of burlesque there was a popular routine involving three comedians in which the comedian who got the punch line also got a banana. You're top banana today, getting all the laughs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The planets favor going where the crowd is, both to feel the collective energy and to form your

own opinion. You're so adept at being in the group, but not OF the group.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Big spenders are a much more common personality type than big savers. You're both, depending on the day of the year. Right now your saving techniques will help you when you hit your spending spree later this month.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People like dealing with you because you know how to make the deal worth it. When loved ones compromise in order to make you happy, you're sweet, affectionate and grateful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You admire simplicity, and yet this aesthetic would be hard to strike given your numerous talents, eclectic tastes and wide variety of friends. For your life to be happy, it must be full. And for your life to be full, it must be happy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You know the right

people. Name-dropping is, therefore, hard to avoid. You can't be blamed -- you must first impress people in order to influence them and get them to follow you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Think about your entrance. When you arrive with immense panache, those who are already there feel privileged -- you brought your "A" game. All sorts of doors are opened that otherwise would have remained closed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your stars put a big challenge on the agenda. This gives your valiance a chance to emerge. So when you see the obstacle, as you will almost as soon as you get to work, don't back down.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). All you need to do is be yourself. Relax and maintain your sense of humor through this afternoon's mishaps. Later, these so-called "mistakes" will make you richer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). Negotiate. It's fun, and it prevents you from having to eat pizza when you really want to mein. Your playful spirit this afternoon will help you be persuasive when you might otherwise have given up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your beliefs about being deserving have the power to not only alter your schedule, but to alter your chemical balance, as well. Knowing this, a feeling of worthiness will improve your life on many levels.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone who doesn't belong in your territory is, nonetheless, having a good ol' time there. Jung said "everything that irritates us about others can lead us to understanding ourselves."

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I've been having trouble focusing at work lately, and I've worked here for almost 30 years now. I tend to be spacey, but this is the worst. I work with directories at a publishing company and

must be accurate. Will this last? Of course, I'm worried about my friend who has MS, whom I take care of after work, but I don't think that's it. Any advice would be appreciated! I was born Feb. 17, 1952."

I see a combination of reasons for your current "spacey" state, the first being that as an Aquarius with Mercury also in that mentally acute sign, it's important that your projects come with enough intellectual stimulation to keep you tuned in. A job that requires you to wonder, hypothesize and problem solve is usually more easily accomplished than anything tedious and repetitive. That said, you're able to do tedious and repetitive work just fine as long as your body is grounded and the rest of your schedule is filled with the stimulation you need. Since your job is not likely to change right now, I suggest "grounding" your body (perhaps best accomplished by walking

in nature) and planning a fun event in the near future -- like travel or a big party.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Exquisite actress Jennifer Connelly is a Sagittarius with a golden statuette and a handsome hubby (fellow actor Paul Bettany). Though her natal sun is in Sagittarius, her Venus, Mars and Jupiter are all in the seductive sign of Scorpio, suggesting a smoldering presence and an impressive ability to be elusive. I predict another baby for her and Bettany is, on the way in 2008.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Sleeping Arrangements

Dear Margo: I am a divorced 34-year-old woman now happily involved with a divorced 36-year-old man. We are in a serious relationship, talking of marriage and children.

Although I am American, I have lived in England for the past six years, so my lovely boyfriend has not been able to meet my family -- though I have met his.

We are planning to spend three weeks at Christmas with my family in Atlanta. We will be staying with my parents, who live in a large house with a small "apartment" in the basement.

I assumed that my boyfriend and I would be staying in this apartment over Christmas. However, my mother has informed me that she and my dad do not approve of an unmarried couple sleeping together in their house, and if I want to visit, I will be sleeping in a separate bedroom.

It seems a bit ridiculous, seeing as how Steven and I are mature (divorced!) adults. I do not wish to offend my parents but do not understand their sudden moralistic stance. Understandably, my

boyfriend is now having second thoughts about visiting my family for such a long time. This is a major chunk of time off work for both of us, and we want to be together.

Do you have any suggestions? At this point, I have not tried to argue with them. Kind regards -- Diana

Dear DI: I do not mean to play "Can you top this?" but when I took my future husband home to meet my mother, she said the same thing -- and I was 57 at the time and divorced more than once. She said, "You will have a better time staying in a hotel."

At least you will be in your parents' house, albeit in separate rooms. I hope you can respect your parents' feelings on the subject, odd as they may seem. Even when Mom and Dad know the "kids" are shackled up at school or in their own apartment in another city, sometimes they just need to feel comfortable and stick to their principles.

I would suggest not even arguing about it, and I definitely would go. Unless they hire a guard to police the halls at night, you and your Brit can be together. And do ask him about the lovely old tradition of English house parties ... -- Margo, cozily

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Dear Margo: I am in the sixth grade, and I need help NOW. All my friends

have boyfriends, but I don't.

Don't get me wrong. Plenty of guys have asked me to go with them. The problem is I'm not sure I'm ready to have a boyfriend. I mean, I am only in sixth grade, for God's sake, but my friends always try to set me up and get annoyed when guys ask me to go with them and I say no.

I mean, all their boyfriends are always saying they love them, and stuff like that. My problem is I am so not ready to have a guy tell me he loves me. And I think we are entirely too young to pledge our hearts, or even love. I mean, love at 11? I think not. But my friends think yes!

The peer pressure is getting to me! I need help now! What should I do? -- Boyfriendless

Dear Boy: You sound really smart and hip, and quite a bit more thoughtful than your years. Do your best to ignore the peer pressure because you are right: That whole scene for kids your age is ridiculous and your pals are just playing at being teenagers.

It is hard, I know, to follow one's own principles -- especially in the sixth grade -- but stick to your guns. Getting into the habit of thinking for yourself will serve you well as you grow older. -- Margo, admiringly

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I've gotten myself in a real pickle. I've been married for 30 years to "Shirley." Our marriage has been OK, but far from great. Several months ago, I gave in to temptation and had a weekend fling with "Luisa." I deceived her into thinking I was single and available.

In the six weeks before our weekend together, Luisa and I exchanged over 200 e-mails. We really shared our hearts and got to know each other. I never intended for it to get as far as it did. Somewhere along the way, we fell in love.

After our weekend together, I was overcome with such guilt that I told Luisa the truth about being married. Then I told Shirley about the affair and asked her to forgive my lies and my betrayal. She has. She loves me beyond comprehension.

In most cases, this is where the man is supposed to put the fling behind him and make things right with his wife. It would be easier if he found his wife attractive. Shirley's not ugly, but I long for more. Luisa is gorgeous. The day I held her in my arms, I fell in love for the first time in my life. I knew when I proposed to Shirley that I wasn't in



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

never right. We also suspect you are more "in lust" than in love with Luisa, although that doesn't make your feelings less powerful, just less permanent. Do you have children? Even grown, they may not forgive you for hurting their mother. Continue counseling, and should you decide to leave Shirley, be sure to provide for her financial security. She deserves no less.

Dear Annie: Yesterday, my wife and I were invited to an informal get-together. After the entrees, the host started serving wine. My wife was in the bathroom and, considering that she is on medication and shouldn't drink alcohol, I turned the glass over to indicate that the host shouldn't waste the wine.

The host became upset and told me in a very loud tone that I was being rude. He continued talking about my lack of manners, saying I didn't know how to behave "in society."

So, Annie, how does someone indicate he doesn't want wine? Other than saying it, of course. Thank you. -- Mystified in Montreal

Dear Annie: The proper way to indicate that you don't want wine is to lay your hand above the top of the glass and say, "No, thank you." Regardless, your host was incredibly rude to berate you at the table. You may have been misinformed, but he is the one who doesn't know how to behave "in society." Shame on him.

Dear Annie: Thanks for printing the letter from "Stressed-Out Parents," who have an addicted adult child. I can relate from my own similar situation and have found support and strength through Families Anonymous. To have someone to call who understands and will not judge you or your child is very special. I hope all families and friends of users will find such groups and support. -- Grateful in Vermont

Dear Grateful: We have recommended Families Anonymous in the past, and we appreciate the opportunity to do so again. Call 1-800-736-9805 or check the website at familiesanonymous.org for more information. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

The Spider
During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper. One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck. Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."

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MONDAY

Table with 28 columns representing different TV channels and their respective programming for Monday, Dec 11, 2006.

DENNIS THE MENACE



IT'S DAYS LIKE THIS THAT MAKE ME WANNA STAY FIVE-ANA-HALF FOREVER!

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That's just a guy dressed up like a pizza. He's not REAL like the characters at Disneyland.

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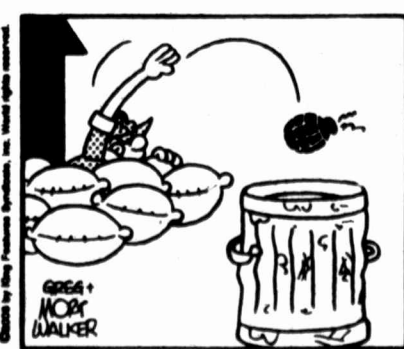
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 11, the 345th day of 2006. There are 20 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 11, 1936, Britain's King Edward VIII abdicated the throne in order to marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson. On this date: In 1792, France's King Louis XVI went before the Convention to face charges of treason. (Louis was convicted, and executed the following month.) In 1816, Indiana became the 19th state. In 1882, Boston's Bijou Theatre, the first American playhouse to be lighted exclusively by electricity,

gave its first performance, of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe." In 1928, police in Buenos Aires, Argentina, announced they had thwarted an attempt on the life of President-elect Herbert Hoover. In 1937, Italy withdrew from the League of Nations. In 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States; the U.S. responded in kind. In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established. In 1980, President Carter signed into a law legislation creating a \$1.6 billion environmental "superfund" to pay for cleaning up chemical spills and toxic waste dumps. In 1981, the U.N. Security Council chose Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru to be the fifth secretary-general of the

world body. In 1991, a jury in West Palm Beach, Fla., acquitted William Kennedy Smith of sexual assault and battery, rejecting the allegations of Patricia Bowman.

Today's Birthdays: Nobel Prize-winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn is 88. Actor Jean-Louis Trintignant is 76. Actress Rita Moreno is 75. Actor Ron Carey is 71. Former California state lawmaker Tom Hayden is 67.

Answer to previous puzzle: ROOFTOP YODELED ENROUTE AGITATE DEDUCTS WREATHS FLANK TENET TAT LAID SELES MINI ANN WORLD RECOM GESTURES PURELY BRED RANI MORASS TELETYPE AVERT COALS EOM LEGS BLOBS VAST IRA URALS FORTE GELATIN ONATEAR NAILING REVENGE STAPLES BEARDED

Newsday Crossword

AT THE MALL by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 British bloke 5 Shaped like an ellipse 9 Like some newspapers 14 Corridor 15 Stereo system 16 Nostalgic tune 17 Alternatively 18 Nest-egg accts. 19 Gather slowly 20 Place to nosh at the mall 22 Rips, as paper 23 Possesses 24 Internet auction locale 26 Window attachment 30 Cozy 31 Army cops: Abbr. 34 Sky blue 35 Rotate 36 Not a (no one) 37 Place to shop at the mall 40 High cards 41 Used a doorbell 42 Adjusted, as a piano 43 Definite article 44 Frying medium 45 Sight and touch 46 Cried 47 Had a bite 48 Cajun vegetables 51 Alternative to 45 Down at the mall 57 Curriculum sections

- 58 Phrase of denial 59 Papa's partner 60 Cowboy competition 61 Consumer 62 Bovine beasts of burden 63 Hard-nosed 64 Pea holders 65 Neck stiffness

- DOWN 1 Gourmet-meal preparer 2 Angel's topper 3 Additionally 4 Said "not guilty," perhaps 5 One from Cleveland 6 Flu bug 7 Worship from 8 Paying attention 9 Soldier's ID 10 Place to bowl 11 Notion 12 Untruthful one 13 Hankerings 21 Make happy 25 Batter's ploy 26 Former Egyptian leader 27 From Prague 28 Coin of India 29 Historical periods 30 Pay out 31 Natural satellites 32 Blender setting 33 Snow vehicles 35 Become wise

36 Surprise big-time 38 Ensnare 39 "Stainless" alloy 44 Teaching session 45 Paths between floors 46 Irrigate 47 Played a role 48 Yours and mine 49 Moose feature 50 Hitchhiker's goal 52 Just okay 53 Run (go wild) 54 Car for hire 55 Sign of the future 56 Colonel or captain