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Cowboy Country News

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Terry, Yoakum County IPM gets new head man

The Terry and Yoakum County Integrated Pest Management Service, a program of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, is now under the management of Scott A. Russell. He transferred to the Brownfield office recently from Dallas and Tarrant Counties, where he served as an IPM Extension Agent in the Fire Ant control program.

Russell earned a BS degree in elementary education at Lubbock Christian University in 1988. His first teaching assignments was at New Deal Elementary. While at New Deal, he worked part-time as a field scout for an independent crop consultant. He discovered an interest in entomology, and in 1994, returned to college full time at Texas Tech, where he worked as a teaching assistant in the biology department, and then as a research assistant in plant and soil sciences (entomology), and received his Master of Science degree in 1998, and went to work for the Extension Service.

Russell will continue to publish T-Y IPM News, a publication describing current conditions of area agriculture, with updates on insect pest assessments. Phillip Kidd, former Extension Agent for the two county IPM program, has transferred to the same position in Crosby and Floyd Counties.

Criminal Cases In County Court

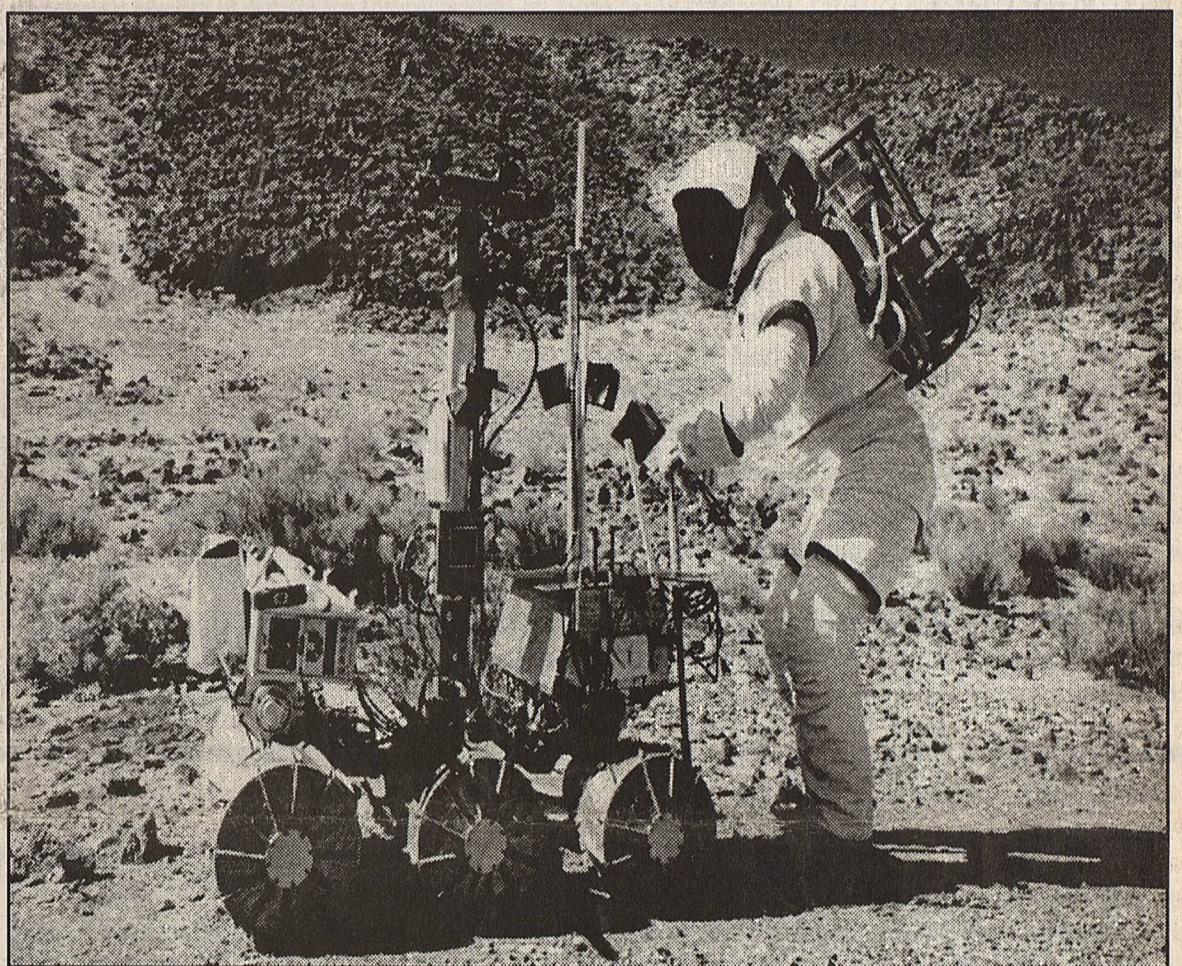
Five criminal cases were heard in County Court June 14, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding.

Martha Villa Velasco pled true to the state's motion to modify conditions of her community supervision from a prior theft by check cause. Community supervision was extended six months beginning June 30. She will have to pay a \$40 supervision fee each month. She must pay delinquencies including \$200 fine, \$480 supervision fee.

Turn To Page 2, 'Crime Cases'

NASA program provides dream trip for Plains student

Aaron Cain one of Texas Aerospace Scholars planning Mars trip



What the well dressed Mars explorer will wear and work with one day

Aaron Cain, a senior at Plains High School, was one of 25 Texas high school students who spent a week at the Johnson Space Center in Houston using their math and science skills to design a human mission to Mars.

Aaron was nominated by State Representative Gary Walker to be a part of a unique educational experience, called the Texas Aerospace Scholars Program. The program is the result of a partnership between NASA - JSC and the State of Texas to encourage students to pursue engineering options in school.

After being nominated, he began the program with distance and web-based learning experience that culminated in the week long NASA program. He and his teammates used their imagination, coupled with math and science skills, to develop a plan for getting humans to Mars and then learn to live and work on the Red Planet's surface.

Their expertise came from a series of classroom sessions, field trips, hands-on projects, and assistance from JSC employee-mentors, provided them with insight into the challenges of living and working in a hostile environment.

Cain told CCN, "It was a great trip and experience. I feel very fortunate and grateful to Mr. Walker and NASA for providing me with this opportunity." Prior to the week long program, he spent considerable time on the Internet, working on computer generated design drawings of equipment and tools to be used on the Mars trip, and studying technologies used in the simulated program.

He said the 25 students were divided into three teams, and assigned tasks in three stages of the Mars program; Getting people to the planet, living in the tough environment, and working there. He said his group's proposal involved using nuclear energy to power the space craft for the 7 month long voyage. His group opted for nuclear energy because it afforded more vehicle payload, would require less flight time, and highly efficient compared to other propulsion modes. The projected flight time to Mars was 70 days.

He said the people on the flight and experiment would have to spend 500 days on Mars, the time necessary for proper alignment of the planetary system for the return trip to earth.

.....Please Turn To Page 3, 'Mars Flight'

Area Rains Bring Smiles To County Ag Producers Faces

Recent rains over most of the South Plains area have performed miracles on the outlook of most farms and ranchers. While not necessarily indicating an end to the devastating drought across the state, June rains have restored optimism for most producers.

According to records of precipitation from official National Weather Service gauges at City Hall, 4.52 inches were recorded in the month of June

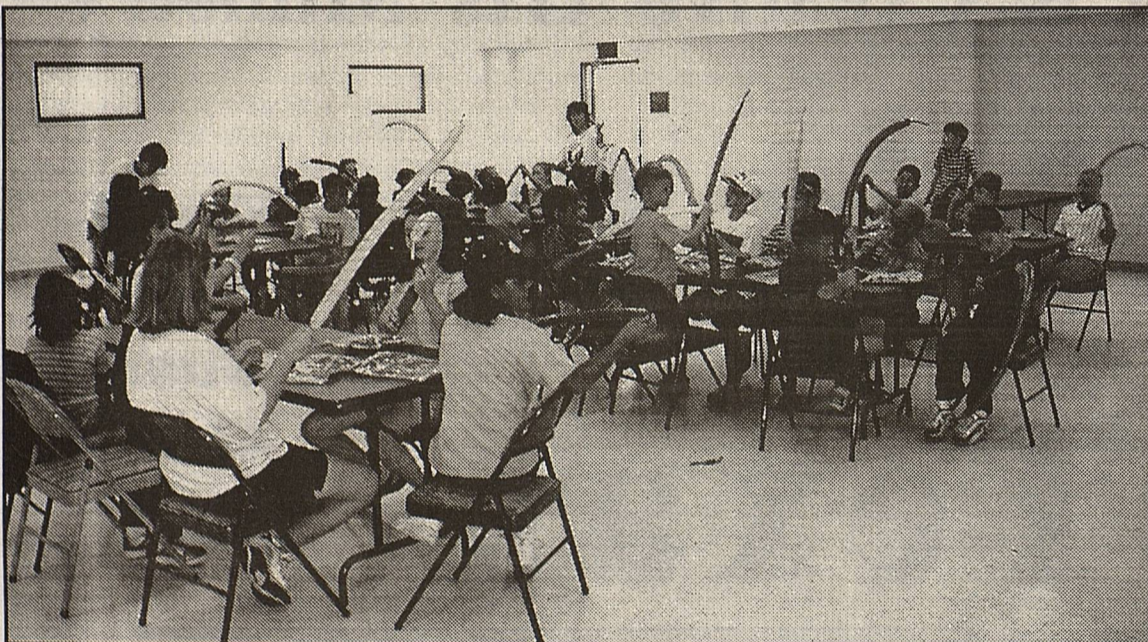
as of 8 a.m. Monday. In the most recent showers, .69 inches fell June 17, and another .90 inches on June 18.

Many Plains residents have reported considerably more rainfall measurements in private gauges, and parts of the county apparently received considerable more rain than recorded at City Hall.

Sandy Land Underground Water District Consultant Gary Walker told CCN, "These

very beneficial rains are certainly welcome, but they have had very little impact in recharging the Ogallala Aquifer, the source of our ground water. The greatest benefit for our producers is the precipitation allows them to turn off their irrigation wells for awhile." He said a number of producers had not run their irrigation systems for a couple of weeks, and the most recent showers would allow additional down time for the wells.

No summer doldrums for many county youngsters



The young people in the two photos here offer examples of what many young people in both Denver City and Plains are during this school vacation period. A series of instructional and entertaining programs for youths of all ages will be offered in both county towns throughout the summer months.

The summer programs are sponsored and funded by the Texas Rural Counties Assn., Texas Commission on the

Arts, Yoakum County Connection, Texas Agricultural Extension Service and many local supporters.

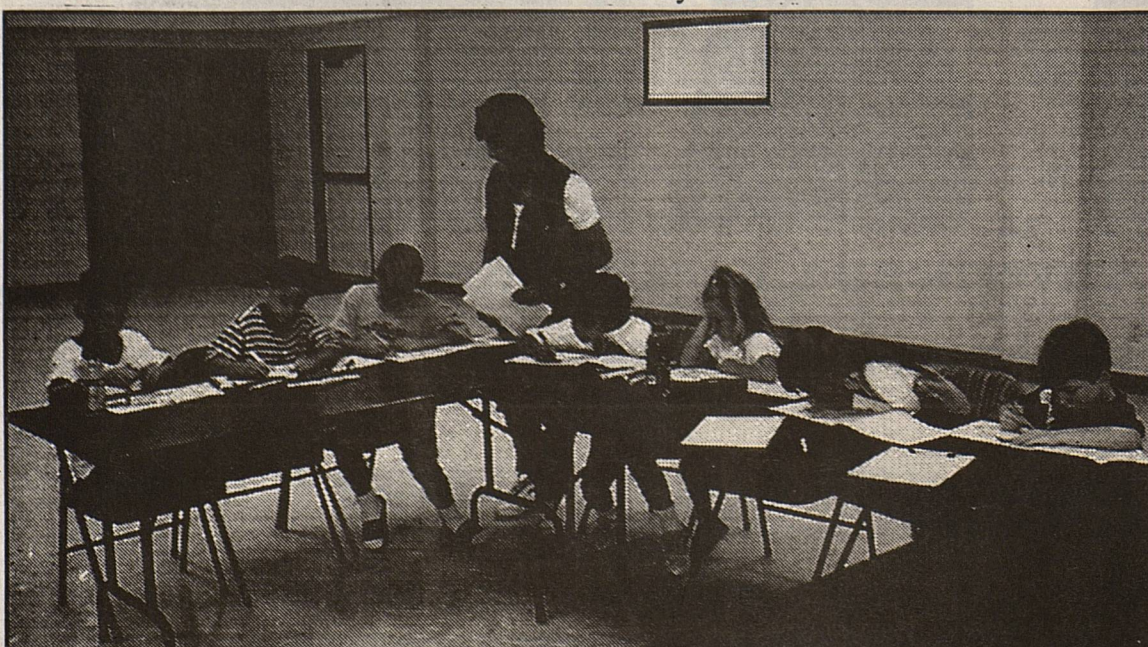
Classes offered this year include water coloring, creative painting, photography, pizzazz, Project Pride, balloon art, microwave munchies, cartoon art, creative crafting, and others.

In the top photo, almost three dozen Plains youngsters are getting the low down on balloon art, instructed by Tara

Price with help from Tanya Vasquez and Darla Welch.

Shown below are younger kids working in coloring books featured in Project Pride, with instructions from Idalia Garza, Lubbock Regional Council as part of the 'Helping Kids Make Healthy Choices' program.

Calendar schedules of all the summer activities are available at the Library.



'Beetles' enroute to UFO Mecca



Dozens of Plains citizens did startled double takes last Friday afternoon when a veritable caravan of the new style Volkswagen Beetles took a brief rest stop in front of the Courthouse. The shiny little autos were filled with couples, even families on their way to Roswell to attend the annual UFO celebration, heralding the notorious 1947 event when a UFO supposedly crashed near that city, and the government hushed up the reporting of space creatures bodies being found at the crash site. The cars were from all over Texas and a number of other states, and one driver told CCN, "We don't care whether the event was a hoax or real, we're just out here having a good time!"

From Page 1, 'Crime Cases'

sion fees, and \$1055 restitution at the rate of \$347 per month beginning June 30 until paid. Benjamin Rodriguez pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury to a family member. A 60 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay court costs of \$199 and a \$250 fine with time payments. He must complete a batterer's treatment program, and serve 80 hours community service. Crystol Tenneil Bishop agreed on the state's motion to modify conditions of supervision from

a prior DWI cause. She must attend AA meeting twice weekly, and serve an additional 46 hours community service under direction of the CSCD where the defendant lives.

Margarito Longoria Jr. pled guilty to unlawfully carrying a weapon. A 45 day jail sentence had been met with 55 days served. He must pay \$210 court costs. April 12 causes of criminal mischief and failure to identify were adjudicated. His attorney was Paul Mansur.

Eduardo Dominguez Nino pled guilty to false application for drivers license. His 15 day jail sentence had been met with

24 days served. He must pay \$210 court costs and was fined \$200. The defendant was released to the U.S. Border Patrol. He was represented by Attorney Bill Helwig.

Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state in all cases.

June in Texas History:

- 1836: Texas Rangers captured three ships of supplies for Mexican army, earning the title of 'Horse Marines'.
- 1838: First theater built in Houston
- 1865: State Treasury robbed of \$17,000 before outraged citizens drive off bandits.

Court updated on South Plains Community Action

Bill Powell, CEO of South Plains Community Action Association, gave an update on services of the organization at Monday's session of Commissioners Court.

The eight county association, organized in 1970, serves Bailey, Cochran, Garza, Hockley, Lamb, Lynn, Terry and Yoakum Counties. Powell said the services provided by the "People Helping People" association include family planning, home health services, housing assistance, rehabilitation services, the South Plains

Health Association, the Head Start program, summer youth work force programs, assistance to Women With Infant Children (WIC), assists with utility bills of elderly and low income families, child care management and other community services.

One of the most utilized services is SPCA's Spartan Transportation services. Yoakum County now has two Spartan buses serving residents of Denver City and Plains. Powell stressed bus transportation is offered to any citizen, but the buses do

not serve as taxis, always on call. They try to maintain regular schedules and routes, but are often needed at unusual times, including transporting kidney dialysis patients for treatments. Bus fares are considered bargains.

Yoakum County joined SPCA in 1970. Judge Dallas Brewer is a member of the Board of Directors, and Gary Walker is an ex-officio member.

SPCA operates its many service's on state and federal funds. Last year, almost 23,000 residents of the three county organization took advantage of programs and assistance from SPCA. Money spent on the programs totaled almost \$7.5 million.



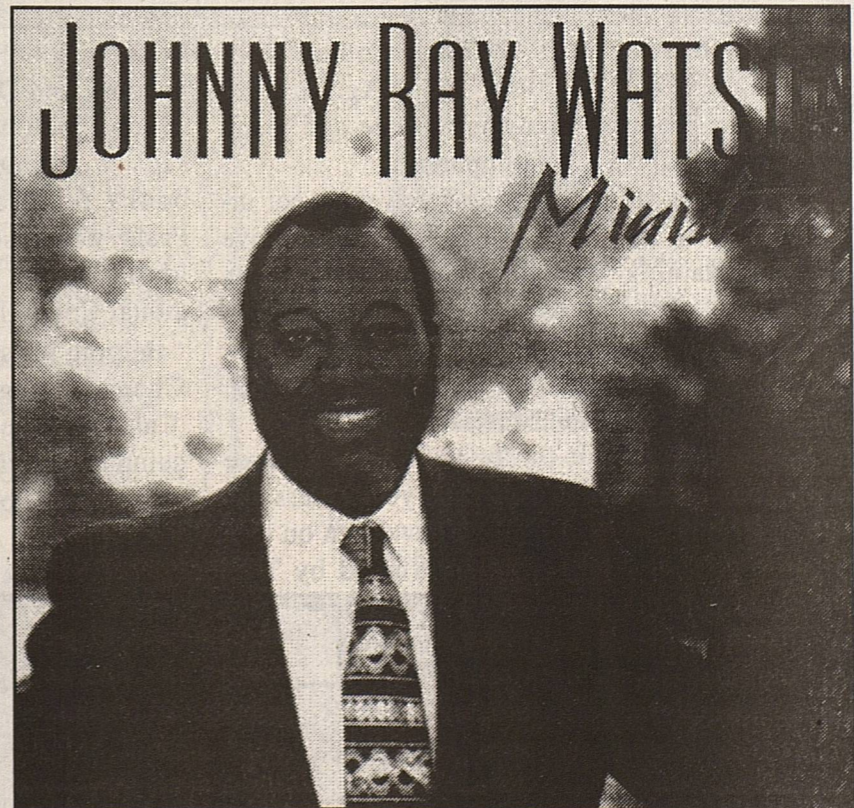
Turner Family and Community Education Club contributes to a number of community projects, among which are donations of learning aids to the Yoakum County Library, books to the kindergarten classes, and 4-H and other scholarships. Turner FCE Club recently presented the probation office with a bead maze and several children's books for use in their lobby. Turner FCE's main fund raisers which make these contributions possible are an arts and crafts festival in the fall, which also includes raffling off a handmade quilt, and the year round sale of Rada Cutlery. Shown are - Bea Pippin, Jerri Lollar, Velma Dearing, Serena Elmore (Director of CSCD), Bitsy Martin, Emie Salas, Anna Gonzalez.

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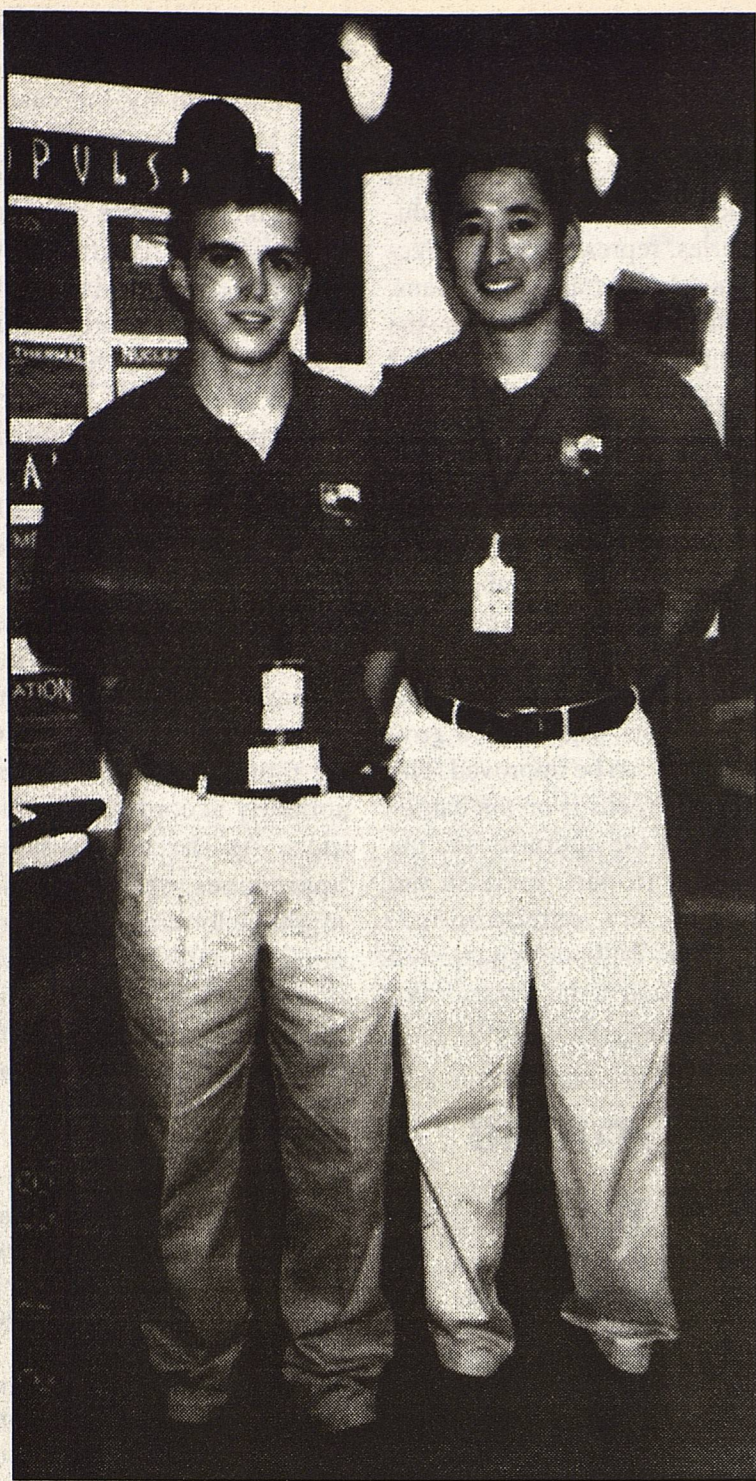


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Aaron Cain and NASA Mentor Ted Ro

**From Page One,
"MARS TRIP"**

The theoretical trip planned by the young scholars would require an elaborate water filtering system... the cost of transporting water to Mars would be about \$100,000 per pound.

The crew on the space flight would include an MD, microbiologist, trauma surgeon, agriculturist, chemist, chemical engineer, geochemist, mechanic, mechanical engineer, geologist, paleontologist, psychologist, oral surgeon, pilot and back-up pilot.

The space trip plans called for the mission crew to supplement their special food with vegetables they would grow indoors while on the planet. One of the three teams spent considerable time planning how to cope with the hazardous dust on the surface of Mars, and the use of ultrasound.

Aaron has completed the first two levels of the Cisco Systems computer networking classes at PHS. His plans for college work after he graduates next spring are indefinite now. He told CCN he was interested in either an aerospace, computer or mechanical engineering degree, but hadn't decided on the college or university yet.



These monstrous John Deere 9650 grain combines were busy cutting wheat near the stateline recently. The custom cutting operator had better keep the two machines busy... officials at Texas Equipment said the machines retail around \$160,000 each.



DROUGHT AND TAXES

By U.S. SEN. PHIL GRAMM



Every farmer I've talked to this year says you can explain the problems of agriculture today in two words: Drought and taxes. Nature inflicts one; government, the other.

Droughts used to be a sporadic and unpleasant fact of life, but the sheer persistence of the current one has, for the first time in most people's memories, made it impossible for agricultural producers to recover in the off-seasons. In fact, Texas is in the grip of a killer drought that hasn't let up in four years. And at a time when our national economy is booming, these year-round arid conditions are robbing farmers and ranchers of their share in America's growth and opportunity.

The numbers are as dry as the land, and they tell an equally depressing story. The Texas Agriculture Statistics Service reports that precipitation in 1999 was 26 percent below normal in the Low Rolling Plains region and 54 percent below normal in the Trans-Pecos area and 40 percent below normal in the South Texas region.

I contacted Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman recently and urged that every Texas application requesting a secretarial disaster declaration be processed immediately so that our agricultural producers could quickly take advantage of the help available through the Farm Service Agency. Since that time, I am told, USDA has reviewed and approved 147 counties for disaster declarations. Producers in these counties can now apply for low-interest emergency loans through the Farm Service Agency, and take part in USDA's Emergency Conservation Program.

Another matter of particular concern right now is the lack of available forage for hay production and livestock grazing. The Texas Department of Agriculture says that 95 percent of the state's ranges and pastures are in fair to poor condition. Since last summer, Texas ranchers have spent almost \$200 million in supplemental feed and water hauling expenses. During previous droughts, in 1996 and 1998, USDA used discretionary authority to provide Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract holders with an option to harvest hay or graze livestock on CRP lands. In early February, I again asked USDA to allow livestock producers and CRP contract holders to employ this practice and use every available resource to provide forage for Texas livestock. Now, 49 counties have been approved for emergency grazing on 1.83 million acres of CRP land.

More funding for livestock producers is on the way thanks to last year's agriculture appropriations legislation. The USDA is releasing payments for grazing losses under the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP). Texas will receive \$40.4 million, 20 percent of the national total of LAP funding, for 42,000 Texas producers.

An additional \$40 million has been set aside to help producers reestablish pasture land that was lost to drought.

In addition, in an effort to address the immediate concerns of producers, Congress is working to make managing risk more workable. I have heard from many Texas producers that the current crop insurance program simply doesn't work well as a risk management tool. For that reason, crop insurance reform has received a tremendous amount of attention over the past year. Both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees have worked to develop a plan for an improved crop insurance program that will provide producers with a better means of handling these recurring natural disasters.

We do not, however, have to wait on nature to cure a government-induced problem that can put a farmer out of business even faster than a drought. I'm talking about the death tax, and my top tax priority this year is to repeal it.

According to Robert Howden, executive director of National Federation of Independent Businesses in Texas, nearly 80 percent of failed family businesses go bankrupt following the unexpected death of the founder. Just as the family is mourning, Uncle Sam steps in with his hand out, looking for death-tax rates of 37 percent to 55 percent of the value of the business. Those higher rates force many heirs to sell their businesses — even if they are family farms — in order to break them up or liquidate their assets. Agricultural businesses are built by families, and farmers and ranchers should be able to pass the business along to those who have helped build it — their sons and daughters.

When my great-uncle Bill died, he left me a cardboard suitcase full of yellowed sports clippings. During my life that is the only thing anyone has ever left me. Yet I recognize that it cannot be right that Texans work a lifetime to build up a family farm, they pay taxes on every dollar they earn, and yet when they die, their children often have to sell their farm to pay the government. That is wrong, and I am determined to eliminate the death tax.

I am optimistic that Texas agricultural producers will overcome these twin plagues of drought and taxes once they have the risk-assessment tools they need, all the help they deserve, and, God willing, a little rain.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Sen. Gramm wants to hear from you on this and other issues facing Texans. To send him your views, please write him at 370 Russell, Washington, D.C., 20510. To learn more about what's happening in Washington, you may also wish to visit Sen. Gramm's Web site at www.senate.gov/~gramm)

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION
PERMIT NO. 10114-001**

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. City of Plains, P.O. Box 550, Plains, Texas 79355, has applied to the Texas Natural Resource Commission (TNRCC) for a major amendment to Permit No. 10114-001 to authorize the reduction of monitoring frequency for Biochemical Oxygen Demand and pH from once per week to once per month. The current permit authorizes the disposal of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 160,000 gallons per day via surface irrigation of 77 acres of non public access agricultural land. This permit will not authorize a discharge of pollutants into waters of the State. This application was submitted to TNRCC on June 9, 2000.

The wastewater treatment facilities and disposal area are located approximately one mile east of State Highway 215 and 1.5 miles north of U.S. Highway 380 in Yoakum County, Texas. The plant site and disposal area are located in the drainage basin of Colorado River below Lake J.B. Thomas in Segment No. 1412 of the Colorado River Basin.

The TNRCC executive director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The executive director recommends issuance of this draft permit. The permit application, executive director's preliminary decision, as contained in the technical summary and/or fact sheet, and draft permit are available for viewing at the Plains City Hall, 601 11th Street, Plains, Texas 79355.

MAILING LISTS. You may ask to be placed on a mailing list to obtain additional information regarding this application. You may also ask to be on a county-wide mailing list to receive public notices for TNRCC permits in the county. To get on a mailing list, send a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk, at the address listed below.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit written or oral comment or to ask questions about the application. The TNRCC will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

Written public comments and requests for a public meeting should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TNRCC, P.O. Box 13087, Austin TX 78711-3087 within 30 days of newspaper publication of the notice.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant material, or significant public comments. **The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted comments or who requested to be on a mailing list for this application. The mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of an executive director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court. A contested case hearing will only be granted based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn. Issues that are not raised in public comments may not be considered during a hearing.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The executive director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or a timely request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the executive director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and requests to the TNRCC Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

INFORMATION. If you need more information about the permit application or the permitting process (such as being added to the mailing list), please call the TNRCC Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or write to them at MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas, 78711-3087. General information about the TNRCC can be found at our web site at www.tnrcc.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Plains at the address stated above or by calling Mr. David Brunson, City Administrator at 806-456-2288.

Issued June 8, 2000

LaDonna Castanuela,

LaDonna Castanuela, Chief Clerk

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

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A Memorable Commencement Address At Villanova

It's a great honor for me to be the third member of my family to receive an honorary doctorate from this great university. It's an honor to follow my great Uncle Jim, who was a gifted physician, and my Uncle Jack, who is a remarkable businessman. Both of them could have told you something important about their professions, about medicine or commerce. I have no specialized field of interest or expertise, which puts me at a disadvantage talking to you today.

I'm a novelist. My work is human nature. Real life is all I know. Don't ever confuse the two, your life and your work. The second is only part of the first. Don't ever forget what a friend once wrote Senator Paul Tsongas when the senator decided not to run for reelection because he'd been diagnosed with cancer: "No man ever said on his deathbed I wish I had spent more time in the office." Don't ever forget the words my father sent me on a postcard last year: "If you win the rat race, you're still a rat." Or what John Lennon wrote before he was gunned down in the driveway of the Dakota: "Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans." You walk out of here this afternoon with only one thing that no one else has. There will be hundreds of people out there with your same degree; there will be thousands of people doing what you want to do for a living. But you will be the only person alive who has sole custody of your life. Your particular life. Your entire life. Not just your life at a desk, or your life on a bus, or in a car, or at the computer. Not just the life of your mind, but the life of your heart. Not just your bank account, but your soul. People don't talk about the soul very much anymore. It's so much easier to write a resume than to craft a spirit. But a resume is a cold comfort on a winter night, or when you're sad, or broke, or lonely, or when you've gotten back the test results and they're not so good.

Here is my resume: I am a good mother to three children. I have tried never to let my profession stand in the way of being a good parent. I no longer consider myself the center of the universe. I show up. I listen. I try to laugh. I am a good friend to my husband. I have tried to make marriage vows mean what they say. I show up. I listen. I try to laugh. I am a good friend to my friends, and they to me. Without them, there would be nothing to say to you today, because I would be a cardboard cutout. But I call them on the phone, and I meet them for lunch. I show up. I listen. I try to laugh. I would be rotten, or at best mediocre at my job, if those other things were not true. You cannot be really first rate at your work if your work is all you are. So here's what I wanted to tell you today; get a life. A real life, not a manic pursuit of the next promotion, the bigger paycheck, the larger house. Do you think you'd care so very much about those things if you blew an aneurysm one afternoon, or found a lump in your breast? Get a life in which you notice the smell of salt water pushing itself on a breeze over Seaside Heights, a life in which you stop and watch how a red tailed hawk circles over the water or the way a baby scowls with concentration when she tries to pick up a Cheerio with her thumb and first finger. Get a life in which you are not alone. Find people you love, and who love you. And remember that love is not leisure, it is work. Pick up the phone. Send an e-mail. Write a letter. Get a life in which you are generous. And realize that life is the best thing ever, and that you have no business taking it for granted. Care so deeply about its goodness that you want to spread to around. Take money you would have spent on beers and give it to charity. Work in a soup kitchen. Be a big brother or sister. All of you want to do well. But if you do not do good, too, then doing well will never be enough. It is easy to waste our lives; our days, our hours, our minutes. It is so easy to take for granted the color of our kids eyes, the way the melody in a symphony rises and falls and disappears and rises again. It is so easy to exist instead of to live. I learned to live many years ago. Something really, really bad happened to me, something that changed my life in ways that, if I had my druthers, it would never have been changed at all. And what I learned from it is what, today, seems to be the hardest lesson of all. I learned to love the journey, not the destination. I learned that it is not a dress rehearsal, and that today is the only guarantee you get. I learned to look at all the good in the world and to try to give some of it back because I believed in it completely and utterly. An I tried to do that, in part, by telling others what I had learned. By telling them this: Consider the lilies of the field. Look at the fuzz on a baby's ear. Read in the backyard with the sun on your face. Learn to be happy. And think of life as a terminal illness because if you do you will live it with joy and passion as it ought to be lived.

Well, you can learn all those things, out there, if you get a real life, a full life, a professional life, yes, but another life, too, a life of love and laughs and a connection to other human beings. Just keep your eyes and ears, and heart, open. The classroom is everywhere. The exam comes at the very end.

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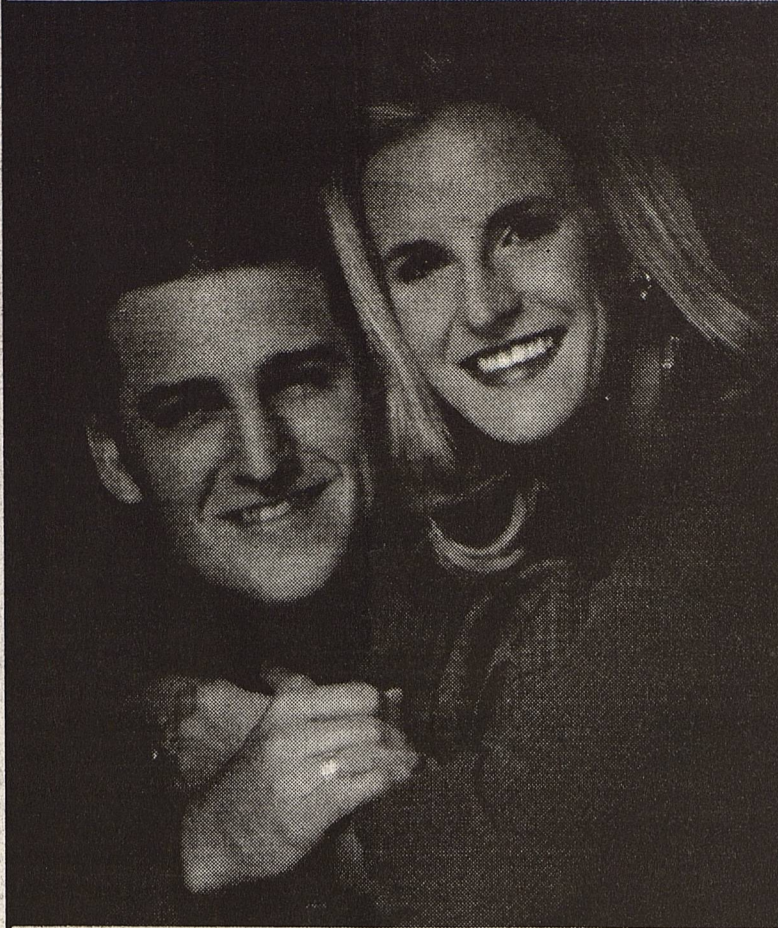
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Winn-Jordan Engagement Announced



Tony and Lynne Winn of Plains announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their son Ladd to April Jordan, daughter of Loyd and Leslie Jordan of Meadow. The couple will marry on August 5, 2000, in the Meadow First Baptist Church. The bride elect is a senior Management and Information Systems major at Wayland Baptist University. The groom elect is a graduate of Lubbock Christian University, with a degree in Business Administration. He is employed by Golf Headquarters of Lubbock.

Guest Editorial

From the Legislative Desk

by Carey "Buck" Boethel
TAC Legislative Affairs Director

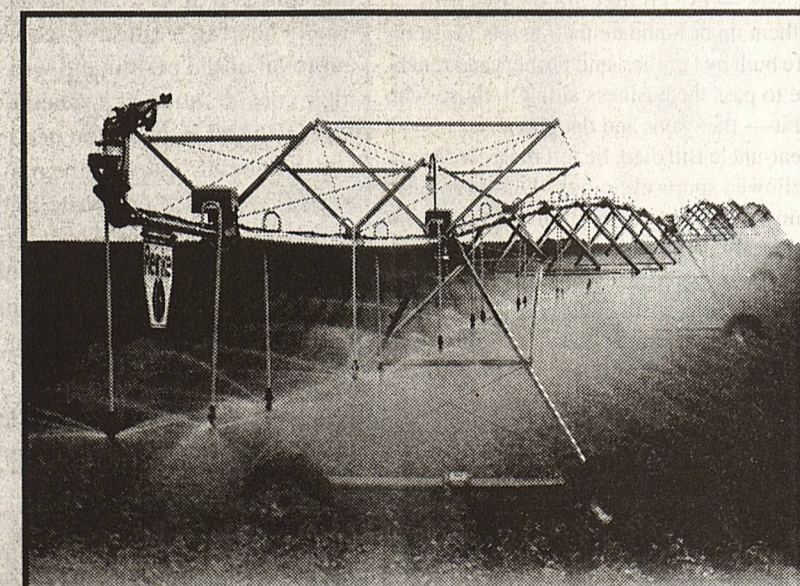
It's the economy, stupid!

This slogan arose out of the 1992 presidential election. James Carville, political advisor to Bill Clinton, posted the sign in the campaign headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas. The idea was simple--the essence of the campaign is the economy. "Indeed, the world is ruled by little else," said John Keynes, father of the Keynesian theory of economics. It was Keynes who asserted that government intervention, through taxation and spending, would restore full employment and a robust economy. His enormous influence spanned a period of more than 35 years during which governments everywhere ac-

knowledgeed the responsibility for full employment.

Because of the huge deficit and the inflationary peaks of the early 1970's, economist Milton Friedman's free market capitalism ideas began to supplant government programs and gave rise to policies such as devotion and deregulation. Political leaders promoted free enterprise as they began to incrementally dismantle government entitlements. Friedman argues that government ownership of property and production is inefficient.

What supports Friedman's conclusion? The reason is simple, says, Friedman: "Nobody spends somebody else's money as carefully as he spends his own." (Source: The Yomiuri Shimbun-World Re-



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porter, Jan. 4, 2000). So, apparently there's a lot of larceny in everyone! Accordingly, should we avoid entrustment relationships with human beings like agents, brokers, trustees, fiduciaries, representatives, directors, administrators, guardians, financiers and caretakers--the entire institutional structure? This can't be our final answer.

"When it comes to thinking about government, the world divides into three groups: the optimists who refer to government workers as public servants, the cynics who hate government and they call government workers bureaucrats; and the realists who believe government can be improved. The media's focus is on the battles between the optimists and the cynics, in part, because the battles are entertaining." (Source: William Eggers, et al Revolution at the Roots, Freedom Press, 1995, p.150).

Ground water districts have options

In much of the state, drought does not look like it is going away anytime soon. The Texas Drought Preparedness Council reports La Nina (the abnormal cooling of the surface waters in the central Pacific responsible for the current drought conditions in much of the state) has reached its mature stage, but experts are unsure whether the phenomena will quickly exit the stage or persist into the next several months. Regardless, La Nina induced drought rarely disappears abruptly and dry conditions may well persist throughout the summer.

Even when the rains do

come, the state's water resources will continue to be overburdened by increasing population pressures. Groundwater in aquifers throughout the state accounts for more than half the water used in Texas, but in the absence of a groundwater conservation district, there is no law to prevent the pumping and exportation of groundwater. Last session, the Legislature passed SB 1911, a bill that created a number of groundwater districts, but not before several counties asked to be removed from the final bill rather than exist in a form that could exercise none of the more significant powers normally accorded such districts. As the next session approaches, some counties might be looking toward creating groundwater conservation sufficiently clothed with the appropriate authority. Some of the more important powers and responsibilities of such districts;

- * develop a comprehensive groundwater management plan;
 - * Require permits for drilling, equipping or completing wells producing more than 25,000 gallons per day;
 - * Adopt rules to conserve, preserve, protect, recharge and prevent waste of water and control land subsidence;
 - * Provide for spacing of water wells and regulate production of wells;
 - * Enforce rules by injunction, mandatory injunction or other remedy in a court of competent jurisdiction;
 - * Issue and sell bonds in the name of the district;
 - * Levy annual taxes to pay bonds, operation and maintenance expenses;
 - * Promulgate rules to require permits for transferring groundwater out of the district.
- (Sandy Land Water District has all these capabilities and authorities)

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The Journey Toward Freedom

Thoughts of fear and desperation clouded her mind as her husband drove her down a dark and deserted road. "Oh No, this is it!" she thought. Her heart was pounding. "We are out in the middle of nowhere; not a house, car, or person anywhere around. There is no one to hear my screams. If he kills me like he is threatening to do, who will care for my children?"

Fortunately, Margaret Scott is alive today to share her story. Her journey toward self sufficiency and freedom from violence is an inspiration to other battered women. However, it was a long road to where she is today. Margaret was married in October on 1970. It wasn't long before her husband became abusive.

"It started out with verbal abuse. If I didn't do things the way he thought I should do then he called me 'stupid' or a 'slob'. He also harped on my weight. He told me I was fat and ugly and that nobody else would ever want me." "He controlled my actions, I had to have permission to do anything. I lost contact with my family and friends."

Margaret's husband soon became physically abusive. It began with pushing and shoving and escalated to being slapped, kicked, and choked during arguments. Margaret's husband threw objects, pushed her down the stairs, and beat her up leaving her with black eyes.

During the last few years of their marriage, Margaret's husband would pace the floor all night threatening to kill everyone in the house. She and

her children lived in constant fear of what would happen next.

As the wife of a minister, Margaret feared disclosing information about the violence to others.

"He was a minister who had a Dr. Jeckell and Mr. Hyde personality. To the outside world he was a very caring, kind, and loving person. Behind closed doors, he was an abusive, crazed madman. I had not been able to tell anyone about the abuse because no one would have believed me."

After visiting with a counselor, Margaret was referred to Women's Protective Services. Margaret received shelter and WPS advocates encouraged her and supported her.

"I am most thankful to WPS for giving me a safe place to go and time to think about what I was going to do next."

It was at WPS that she first explored the possibility of gaining a vocational skill so that she could provide for her family without her husband's assistance. WPS helped her apply to Nursing School. Margaret is now a nurse with University Medical Center in Lubbock.

Women's Protective Services has been helping women like Margaret for over 20 years. WPS provides a 24 hour crisis hotline, shelter, transportation, food, clothing, counseling, legal advocacy, parenting classes, children's programs, housing and job referrals, and community education throughout their 12 county service area.

Emily Blair OUTSTANDING PERFORMER



Emily Blair recently returned from the 2000 Texas State UIL Solo-Ensemble Vocal Solo Contest with a first division gold medal. Since returning home from that event she has been notified by Richard Floyd, State Director of Music for UIL that she was selected as an *OUTSTANDING PERFORMER* at that contest. Of the 21,000 musicians who performed at TSSEC, only 198 students earned the distinguished honor of being recognized as *OUTSTANDING PERFORMER*. This achievement is truly a mark of musical excellence! In recognition of this honor Emily has received a draped medal identical to those awarded to state champions in all UIL events. Emily is an upcoming senior at Plains High School and is the daughter of Royce and Cynthia Blair.

Yoakum County Connection's Summer Youth Art Program

Here are a few of the classes coming up: Snack Attack-Friday, June 23rd, 9:30am-11:30am, Plains Community Building, Age 5yrs-10yrs, Instructor - Tracy Lowery, JoBeth Cromer, Tonya Patton, Students will learn to make quick afternoon snacks that are as good for you as they are to eat! Cooking methods and nutrition will be discussed. Kids will have fun snacks to eat! Microwave Munchies-Friday, June 23rd, 1:30pm-3:00pm, Plains Community Building-11yrs-15yrs. of age, Instructor-JoBeth Cromer, Tracy Lowery, & Tonya Patton, Students will learn to make quick nutritional snacks for after school, on the go, and for get togethers, by using the microwave safely.

Plains Summer Youth Center Events

Outdoor Pool Party

Saturday, June 24th, Grades-7-12, Time: 8:00 pm. -11:00 pm.

Pool Tournament

Friday, June 30th, Grades-7-12-Students & Adults, Trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place, Time: 8:30 pm. till tournament is over

Pool Tournament

Saturday, July 1st, Grades-7-12, Time: 8:30 pm. Singles, Doubles following Singles till the tournament is over, Trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place

Water Balloon Volleyball

Friday, July 14th, Grades-7-12, Time: 8:30 pm.-12:00 am. unless they finish early

Outdoor Pool Party

Saturday, July 15th, Grades-7-12, Time: 8:00 pm.-11:00 pm.

Outdoor Pool Party

Saturday, July 29th, All Youth Center Grades, Time: 8:00-11:00 pm.

Senior Citizens Corner

This is another week half gone/ How time does fly.

Winners in Monday night pool were Inez Turner and Elmer Hanneman.

Winners in '42' Tuesday were Ireta Davis and Gladys Thomason.

Wednesday, June 21st, is pool tournament all day. Will let you know how they come out in next weeks column.

We have some more new things in the garage sale. There is some talk of having another on some

Saturday, so be watching for dates.

There are several of our people in hospitals here and Lubbock.

Our condolences to the Walcher family on the loss of Patsy.

Maggie, Darlene and I are doing our thing when we are not doing something different.

Wanda Sweitzer is holding a class on playing bridge, if you are interested come on down.

May you all stay well and happy and don't get in any trouble. HA

See you next week,

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From The Hack

Killing time in the library recently, I found a medical questionnaire in the current issue of Popular Science magazine. Looked like pretty serious stuff, so I decided to fill it out and see how my answers fared with the majority of answers at the end of the thing. Here's what it looked like;

Q. If a medical test existed to predict precisely when and how you will die, would you take it?
A. Are you kidding? I am far too big a coward to learn such sad stuff. I barely have the courage to have my finger pricked for a blood sample. I prefer thinking I will die completely painless in my sleep. Bride says that won't happen. She claims I grind my teeth and groan so much now while asleep she knows it can't be painless.

Q. When will we cure cancer? 5 years? 15 years? 30 years?
A. None of the above. I am quite positive it will be exactly four days after I expire. Probably to cancer.

Q. Today the average American lives 75 years. How long will our life span be in 2050?
A. Who gives a whit? I won't make it that long, and that's my positive, final answer.

Q. If a pill existed to prevent aging, would you take it?
A. What a dumb question, especially at my present age. Now, if the question was about REVERSING aging, you bet your sweet bippy I would!

Q. If you thought something was physically wrong with you, would you be more likely to call your doctor or do research on the internet?
A. Forget the internet. I would first of all whine and moan around the house about a week or ten days, until the bride shrieks, "You COWARD, since you won't call him, I WILL!"

Q. If plastic surgery were inexpensive and 100% safe, which surgical procedure would you choose?
A. I'd choose the 100% procedure, starting at the crown of my head and ending at both big toes. But it had better be plenty cheap.

Q. Would you choose the gender of your baby if you could?
A. Which baby, one of the much earlier ones, or future baby? Earlier ones, I don't guess so. Future baby, it would have to be adopted, so maybe I could specify which gender I preferred. In total honesty, however, this is a moot question... I don't want no more kids!

Q. Will a robot doctor someday replace the human doctor?
A. Another dumb question. I know of several cases where they already have. I know one doc I am sure is a robot. He's capable of full movement, but is not fully capable of a normal conversation, and fully incapable of explaining what the hell's wrong with me.

When I finished answering all the questions, I checked my answers with the results at the end of the article. There must be something drastically wrong with all those other people who answered the quiz.

A few days before Father's Day, the Bride casually asked, "What would you like for Father's Day?"

I replied, "I'd like to have a golf swing like Tiger Woods"
"No, I mean really and truly, what would you really like?"
"I told you. I still want that swing and distance."

"Come on, honey be serious. I mean, what can I get for you? K-Mart and WalMart don't

have that on sale."
"OK, how about a 22 foot Triton bass boat? And a shopping spree throughout Bass Pro Shop?"

"OK, that's enough fantasy answers, what would you REALLY like on your special day?"

"Well, the Tiger Woods is still number one on the list, but I guess I'd settle for a trip to Vegas with about 20 Big Ones in our pockets."

I could see I was not impressing her favorably when she snarled, "Ok, you D.B., quit being Mr. Imagination. How about I buy you a George Foreman quick cooker, stops all grease, cholesterol fighting, guaranteed healthy cookin machine?"

"Are you gonna use it, or me?" I queried.

"That's a very dumb question. Who uses all the other stuff I cook with? I will, Dolt!"

"Then how come it's rated as a Father's Day gift," I innocently queried.

Her response is unprintable. I did get some nice cards and phone calls from several kids, and only two of the eight asked to borrow money.

.....
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