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To THE EDITOR & YOU

'Our apologies...'

Before the end of the summer, the Rice High School Band sent a letter to all its members listing rules and the consequences for breaking of each.

One of the consequences (for talking back) was listed as having duct tape applied to the offender's mouth for the remainder of the period during which the infraction took place.

That is not correct and should have been removed from the letter before mailing, but, due to extenuating cir-

cumstances, it was not deleted.

The person who was responsible for mailing the letters was unable to make contact with anyone having the authority to change the letter's contents.

If anyone was offended by this, we sincerely apologize and assure everyone that this type of punishment has never been and will never be used by the Raider Band.

The Mighty Raider Band

Yes, it would be nice...

By Jeannine Fearing, Publisher

I agree with one of our subscribers in Rock Island who sent a note along with their renewal, it would be nice to know what, if anything, is going on with the closed IGA food store.

Unfortunately, the only contact I

know to call gave no comment and you can't force someone to tell you what they don't want to say.

Besides, we never claimed to be investigative reporters around here. Digging up hidden facts is extremely

Texas moving into future with welfare programs

Last week, Texas took another step closer toward private control over public assistance programs.

State welfare administrators announced that Electronic Data Systems tentatively has been hired as the primary consultant for the future of Texas' welfare system.

Officials said they hope to sign a \$3.7 million contract with EDS by the middle of Aug.

EDS will advise welfare officials on the development and purchase of an updated, automated system for the delivery of food stamps, cash and medical benefits to more than 2 million Texans.

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

"The consultant will assist us with redesigning the way we currently do the work associated with enrolling clients," said Texas Health and Human Services Commissioner Mike McKinney.

According to state officials, if the contract is signed as anticipated, EDS will be precluded from bidding on the actual redesign of the present welfare system.

"We made a decision, and it wasn't made without debating the pros and cons. At this time, this is a very important project for us," said Bob Stauffer, vice president for human services at EDS, told the *Dallas Morning News*.

The design of the state welfare network is expected to include an overhaul of the computer systems, the possible elimination of some state jobs and maybe the creation of so-called "one-stop" welfare offices.

Clinton Picks Robert Gee

President Clinton picks as assistant secretary for policy and international affairs of the Department of Energy.

Gee serves on the Texas Public Utility Commission and was its chairman from 1991 until 1995.

With more than 20 years experience in the regulation of energy, Gee would be one of eight assistant secretaries at the Energy Department. The appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

Appointed to the Texas PUC by former Gov. Ann Richards in Oct. 1991, Gee is a lawyer who once worked at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

At the PUC, Gee was the state's highest-ranking Asian-American. His grandparents immigrated to the United States from China.

Two-Thirds Fail Algebra I

Final results on the Algebra I test released by the Texas Education Agency showed that 35% of the 236,852 students who took the exam in the spring passed.

The figure represented an improvement over last year - the first year of the test - when 28% passed the Algebra I test.

Students performed much better on Biology I, the other major end-of-course exam as 78% passed. That was up 2% points from last year.

"Student performance is improving. That is a positive sign," said State Education Commissioner Steve Moses.

But he acknowledged that Algebra I is a concern for teachers across the state. "That is unsatisfactory," Dr. Moses said. "We must do a better job working with our teachers and in staff development."

Sen. Gramm Opposes Nominee
Texas Democrats are Urging Sen.

Phil Gramm to drop his opposition to the judicial appointment of a Fort Worth lawyer, saying the Republican senator is ruining the delegation's bipartisan spirit.

In a strongly worded letter, all 17 of the state's Democratic members of Congress said Gramm's opposition on political grounds to former Tarrant County Judge Michael Schattman was "unacceptable." Republican Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison also opposes the nomination of Schattman, a Democrat.

Gramm's spokesman, Larry Neal said the senator is opposed to the nomination in part because Schattman has long been active in party politics. Schattman, who attended Georgetown University with President Clinton, was first nominated for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas in 1995.

After the nomination failed to receive a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing last year, President Clinton renominated Schattman earlier this year.

Other Capital Highlights

•State Sen. John Whitmire said last week he will not be a candidate for Houston mayor this year. "I don't have to be mayor to continue making a difference," the Democratic lawmaker said. In a written statement, Whitmire said he prefers to use his seniority in the state Senate and his work with a new lieutenant governor to help Houston and Harris county.

•A federal judge has ordered that (See Highlights, Page 3)

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Let's Look Back... 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Oct. 12, 1972
Citizens were stunned and saddened by the news of the tragic death of

Richard L. Clipson Sr., a prominent business man and rice farmer in this community for many years...

The engagement and approaching marriage of Jane Elizabeth Reeves, daughter of Mrs. Jacob Wendell

Reeves of Freeport and the late Mr. Reeves, to William Mark Wied, son of Eldin L. Wied of Garwood and the late Mrs. Wied, was announced. The wedding will be solemnized at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at the First Baptist Church in Freeport...

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Marx and Mr. & Mrs. Hans German of Eagle Lake went to Yorktown Sunday, Oct. 8, to visit Mr. & Mrs. Charlie German and to assist him in observing his 60th birthday...

Master Brian Blair celebrated his fourth birthday with a party given by his mother, Mrs. Bill Blair, at their home on FM 102 Saturday, Sept. 30...

Mrs. Melvin Carl Rees of Garwood announced the engagement and approaching marriage of her daughter, Miss Carolyn Ann Rees, to James Edward Berger, son of Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Paul Berger of Nada. The wedding will be Dec. 16...

Mr. & Mrs. Lorell Dye announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Linda Nell, to Robert Harlowe Brient II of Austin. The couple plan a Dec. 22 wedding at 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake...

Miss Diane Stallman, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Stallman of Garwood, has been nominated for the

all-campus beauty title at SW Texas State University in San Marcos...

Phillip A. Kana of Eagle Lake marched on the bugle rank of the Texas Aggies Band, a highly coveted honor among seniors in the renowned Texas A&M University military organization. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. V.J. Kana of Eagle Lake.

July 1, 1949

B.D. Russell, who says his won't be the first rice this year, is consoling himself with a couple of ribbons won last Saturday at the Brazoria County Gulf Show at West Columbia...

Grace Dell Sinclair entertained in honor of her guest, Sandra Smith of Carrollton, Mo., with a weiner roast Tuesday night at the Sinclair home...

Misses Sue Guthman and Bernice Gertson, John Walker and Glen Duve were visitors on Galveston beach Sunday...

Dr. & Mrs. J.R. Laughlin entertained Saturday evening with a barbecue at the Lower Lake Club honoring Mr. & Mrs. Travis Smith...

Mr. & Mrs. Allen Glueck and son, Darrell, of Premont visited last weekend with their parents, Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Glueck and Mr. & Mrs. Lee Glueck...

Melvin Campbell attended a three-day poultry breeding school at Texas A&M College last week...

Danny Nicewander celebrated his eighth birthday last week with ice cream and cake served to Mr. & Mrs. M.I. Nicewander, Mr. & Mrs. A. Koss and Sandra and Mr. & Mrs. Bigham Bell and Randy, all of Rock Island...

Mrs. W.F. Meitzen Jr. had a neighborhood coffee Wednesday for Mrs. H.L. Parker who is leaving today to make her home in Humble...

Mr. & Mrs. Elmo Sens, Jo Ann and Carol spent the weekend visiting relatives in Victoria and Goliad...

Mrs. Kennie Bauer, Kay and Fay returned Sunday from a visit with the family of her daughter, Mrs. R.R. Ramsey in San Antonio...

A family picnic was enjoyed Sunday by the Boothe, Reed and Smith families...

Five squares of Circle 8 Square Dance Club were on the Club Montezuma floor Tuesday night for the first in a series of five advanced square dance and singing quadrille lessons.

Club members signing up for the course were Messrs. and Mesdames Harland Bell, John Clinson, Richard Clipson, David Wintermann, Simon White, Hargrove Smith, Tommy Pilkington, W.M. Thomas Sr., Lawrence Tate, Jim Clipson, Albert Pustejovsky, Charles Causey, Sam Davidson, O.L. Mill, George Cason Sr., F.C. Durbin of Yoakum, J.R. Red, Harold Thomas, Percy Middlebrook, G.D. Reading, Simon Sinclair, S.J. Williams and Gus Seaholm.

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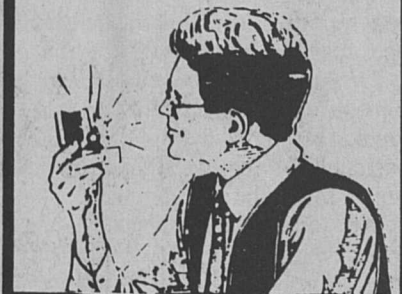
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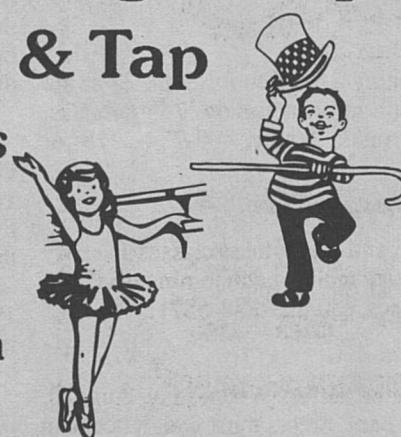
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