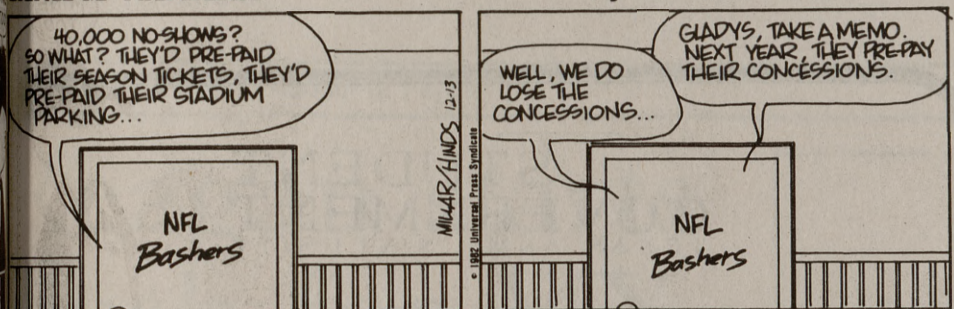


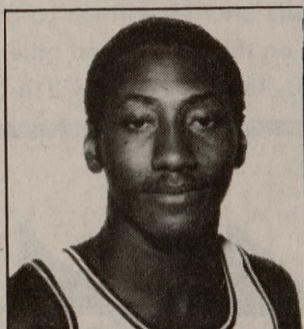
TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Gilbert a 'quiet' addition to Aggie basketball team

by Simon C. Gonzalez
Battalion Reporter



Freshman Jimmie Gilbert finding college ball tough

Jimmie Gilbert, Texas A&M's 6-foot-9-inch freshman center, gives new meaning to the saying "quiet as a church mouse." However, Gilbert's quiet demeanor belies his inner drive. Gilbert is a soft-spoken young man who doesn't say much, but when he does talk he speaks with a quiet confidence that gives the listener a feeling that Aggie fans can expect great things under the basket during the next four years. Gilbert is less than enthusiastic about how he's played so far this year. "I'm not at all happy with my rebounding, defense or scoring," Gilbert said. "Right now I'm just trying to get all phases of my game together. My goal is to get into double figures in scoring and rebounding regularly. I don't push myself, no one else either. I just play the game." Gilbert thinks that part of the problem so far has been making the adjustment from high school to college. He says that the pace of the game is a lot quicker. "In high school, you had maybe two guys who were our good," he said. "In college,

everyone is a good player." Playing on the same team as all-Southwest Conference forward Claude Riley has helped Gilbert. "Claude's real good," Gilbert said. "I feel like he takes a lot of pressure off me because I know he's going to get his share of points and rebounds." Although the team hasn't been winning regularly, Gilbert says he sees improvement with every game. "If we keep progressing the way we have been, we should be good when we start to play con-

ference games," Gilbert said. "We should beat them (SWC teams) all at least once." Gilbert was a first-team all-state selection following his senior year at Huntsville High School, when he averaged 17 points and 15 rebounds a game. He was recruited by more than 100 schools, including national powerhouse Georgetown and conference foes Houston, Texas Tech and Baylor. "I came to A&M because I like Coach (Shelby) Metcalf and the other players," Gilbert said, "and the diploma from here means a lot." Gilbert is majoring in Physical Education, and he wants to be a coach after his playing days. "I think I'd be good at it," he said. "I'd like to coach on the college level eventually." Gilbert turned in his best performance of the year against Marshall in Saturday's Marshall Memorial Tournament championship game, which the Thundering Herd won 60-58. The Aggie freshman had 11 points, four rebounds and five blocked shots, finishing as Texas A&M's No. 2 scorer behind Claude Riley, who had 12 points.

West Brook in final with Bell

United Press International
Hurst Bell notched a close but convincing semifinal win and Beaumont West Brook continued its Cinderella journey through the playoffs as both teams won over the weekend to clinch a spot in the Texas state 5A football final game.

A talented and durable quartet of running backs behind quarterback Craig Presnall helped Bell grind out a 21-13 win over Dallas Carter Friday, setting up the Class 5A final between Bell and Beaumont West Brook, 27-12 winners over Converse Judson Saturday.

Running back Tom Ward, Reggie Collins, Darren Darden and Tom Jenkins alternated behind Presnall and rushed for a combined 186 yards to key the Bell running attack which wore down Carter.

"We did the same things we have been doing all season," Bell coach Tim Edwards said. "We ran inside and outside and then set up the pass."

Presnall threw for 91 yards and added a touchdown on a 7-yard bootleg to go with two short touchdown runs by Ward.

"We controlled the ball at the start of the game, and then Carter made some mistakes and that was the key," Edwards said. West Brook used its speed to run past Judson.

"We're ready for the finals," West Brook running back Jerry Ball said. "This team has never given up. We've just got to keep on improving and win it all."

West Brook is in its first year after being formed last year by the merger of Beaumont Hebert and Forest Park. The Bruins, who lost their first four games, have not lost since and now are at 10-4-1.

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SWC

(continued from page 11)
 Saturday. Baylor was nipped by three points in Nebraska and Texas A&M fell by two points in overtime to Marshall in the Marshall Invitation finals.

With Houston and Baylor losing for the first time this year, Arkansas remains the only unbeaten team in the SWC. And the Razorbacks are expected to stay that way this week since their games are at home against Alabama State Wednesday night and Northeast Louisiana Saturday night.

The holiday tournament action picks up at the end of the week. Besides Houston's journey to the Far East, SMU will stay at home and host the Dallas Morning News Classic and Texas A&M will travel to the Montana Classic.

And while Houston deserts its home city, the Rice Owls will stay there and try to improve on its three-game winning streak. The Owls will be at home Thursday night against St. Mary's and Saturday night against Southwestern.

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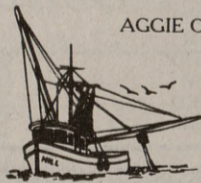
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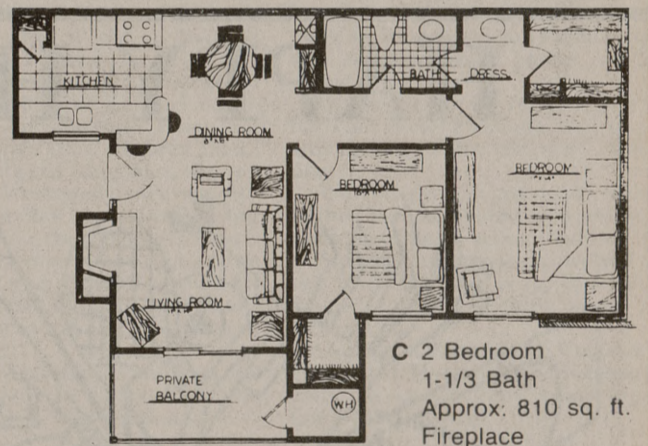
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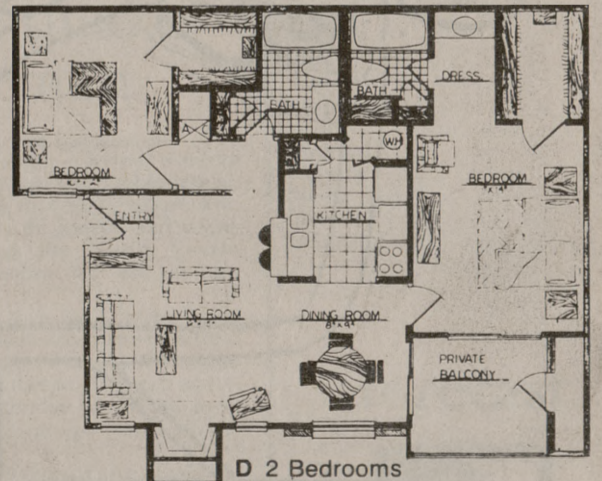
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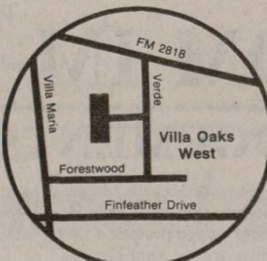
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