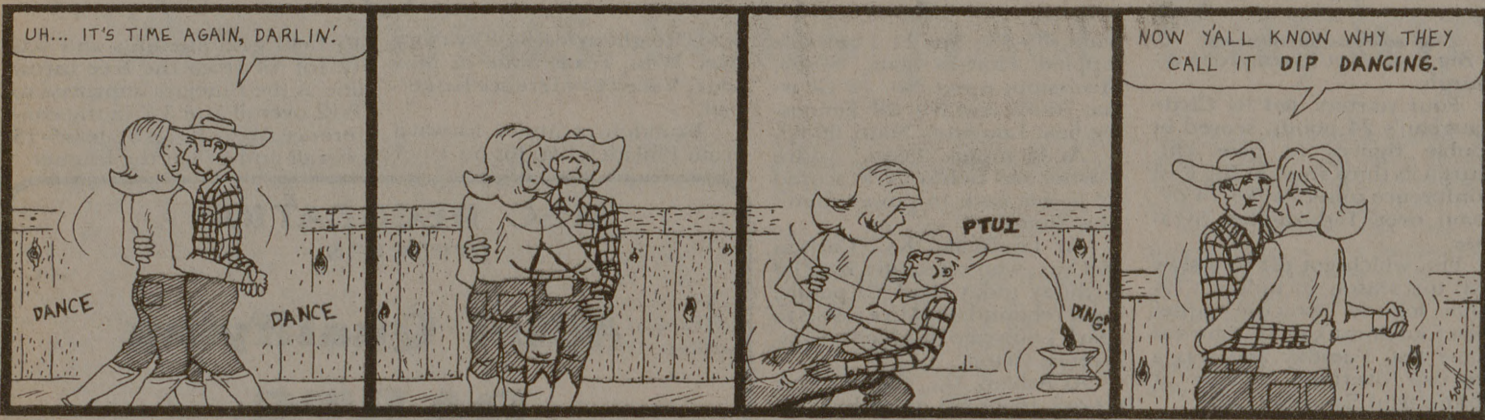


Warped

by Scott McCullar



Freshman 'players' help

Congress in name game

United Press International WASHINGTON — One way to get a foretaste of what a new Congress will be like is to examine the rosters of freshmen members of the House and Senate. But maybe it would be more interesting to clue in the public by matching the legislation with the names of its originators.

In the agriculture area, for example, a Missouri first term lawyer, Rep. Alan Wheat, cannot be written off despite his lack of seniority. Perhaps he can collaborate with a Texas colleague to give the nation a Wheat-Fields bill.

In the light of the administration's plans to set up a payment-in-kind program to help stabilize agriculture prices, it can be seen that such legislation will be big in the 98th Congress.

Or maybe that bill could better serve as a vehicle for yet another MX missile basing mode proposal.

Is Congress not concerned about upgrading the ability of automobiles to absorb the impact of low speed collisions? And

does not a new representative from Michigan have a name ideal for that purpose? Particularly if he joins with an Arkansas senator?

Yes, motorists, there is a bright future ahead for the Carr-Bumpers bill. And if freshman Rep. Ron Packard, R-Calif., wants to co-sponsor the measure, so much the better.

Problems encountered by the U.S. Mint in providing coins for the realm also traditionally command a lot of attention in Congress.

This year, providentially, there is a freshman House member from Minnesota who can join an Oklahoma senator in sponsoring the Penny-Nickles bill to bolster production.

In the 1982 elections, the 6th District of California chose a new representative named Barbara Boxer. It seems preordained that she should take an interest in federal regulations to curb excess violence in prize-fights.

Nomenclature logic further dictates that she be joined in this effort by a second term congressman from Illinois and the senior senator from Wyoming.

The result would be the Savage-Boxer-Wallop bill to outlaw certain types of punches.

Another female newcomer is Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio. What better arena could she occupy that the humane treatment of hostages? She can team up with an Ohio Republican to produce the Kindness-Kaptur bill.

And what might the future hold for a North Carolina freshman? A distinct possibility is a close association with a certain Colorado senator. There obviously are many causes a Valentine-Hart bill would well serve.

Other first-termers include Reps. Jim Moody, D-Wis., Richard Ray, D-Ga., Harley Staggers, D-W.Va., Thomas Ridge, R-Pa., Ed Towns, D-N.Y., and Bob Wise, D-W.Va. Big things are expected from all of them.

All "Stennis anyone?" players are especially gratified to have a second-generation Staggers on Capitol Hill. His father, the retired chairman of the House Commerce Committee, provided inspiration for many figmentary pieces of legislation in his time.

The junior Staggers makes his debut coincident with a nationwide campaign to curtail drunk driving. That timing is impeccable.

These newcomers can't carry the entire legislative load, however.

It likewise is good to welcome back veteran lawgivers bearing such promising names as Boner, Bonker, Gore, Leach, Lent, Long, Obey, Pepper, Pickle, Price, Rangle, Hall, Rose, Sharp, Stump, Swift, Winn, Wright, Walker, Weaver, Wyden, Bore, Baken, Hyde, Byrd, Dole, East, Hatch, Lugar, Nunn, Specter and Tower.

Convict files suit over haircut issue

United Press International HUNTSVILLE — Although he now resides on Death Row, Jimmy Paul Vanderbilt once worked as a policeman in the Texas panhandle and aspired to become a police chief and someday maybe a U.S. Senator.

His cause now is trying to convert people to Christianity and sway public opinion against state executions.

The isolation has made Vanderbilt, convicted of killing an Amarillo girl in 1975, a deeply religious man. He refuses to cut his hair as part of a self-proclaimed Nazirite vow affirming his Christianity.

"Y'all (the media) seem to think my life ended when I got here. My life began here because in here I found Christ," said Vanderbilt.

Vanderbilt prays for many people, he said, including the family of the Katina Moyer, 16, the Amarillo High School student who Vanderbilt abducted in her car and shot. Miss Moyer was the daughter of former state Rep. Hudson Moyer.

He is appealing his conviction from a capital murder retrial in Beaumont in 1979. His first conviction in an Austin trial was overturned on appeal because police had interrogated him against his will.

He is a graduate of Wayland Baptist in criminology and married student Susan Tebeck. He graduated from the Amarillo Police Academy but was on the force less than six months.

Vanderbilt said he had his life mapped out at that time.

"I wanted to make things right in the world. Through high school and college, I had my sights set on a career in law enforcement," he said.

"I wanted to be a police officer in Amarillo for a few years. Make sergeant and move up with experience. Then I was going to be a police chief in a medium-sized town and enter politics.

After that?

"A U.S. senator from Texas," he said after a hesitation. "I'm old enough for the Senate."

The Nazirite vow, which found in the biblical book Numbers about 18 months forbids eating or drinking anything derived from grapes, cutting hair on the head.

When the prison cut his hair and shaved him, he filed court suit with the help of American Civil Liberties lawyer. A hearing was held Tuesday.

"I'm not asking the prison to do away with their policy. I'm saying that the Constitution requires them to provide a exception for religious reasons," Vanderbilt said.

William Tell cheap, loaded

United Press International DALLAS — The new micro-computer has gobs of memory, plenty of options, a cheap price and the right name.

The computer, soon to be marketed worldwide by Timetronics of Dallas, is dubbed the William Tell.

"We're shooting for Apple and other leaders in the micro-computer field," said Dave Wooldridge, marketing principal at Timetronics. "An Apple II computer with the same features would cost twice as much and would be souped-up. We think we can carve out a niche."

That niche would consist of 75,000 units the first year if company production plans go as scheduled. Timetronics already has taken orders for several thousand units from independent U.S. distributors, he said.

The device, manufactured in Taiwan, has a dual-processor unit capable of handling software from Apple and standard formats. It will sell for about \$1,000, compared to an Apple or Tandy variety in the \$1,500 range.

"We're hoping to keep it in the range of homeowners for educational purposes or for businessmen who, among other things, like to have their own electronic spread sheets," he said.

Before sales are launched in the spring, Wooldridge said he wants experts to tear down the computer and make certain there are no copyright law infringements.

"There is no conception of copyright law in Taiwan, everything is wide open," he said. "We don't want any lawsuits. So we're going to tear this thing down and go over it in detail."

If the William Tell scores, the company hopes to market a portable model, named the Sidekick.

"Same processor, same power supply, the price about \$1,495," said Wooldridge.

Wooldridge said he knows his latest marketing venture is a bit of a gamble, but he's confident he has the savvy to make it.

"This business is like every other business," he said. "It periodically purges itself, weeds out those who do not keep up with the technology. This company is not going to be one of those."

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