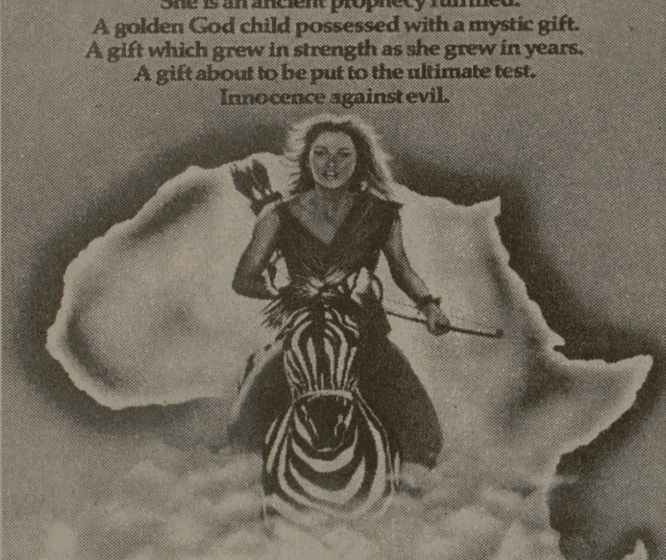


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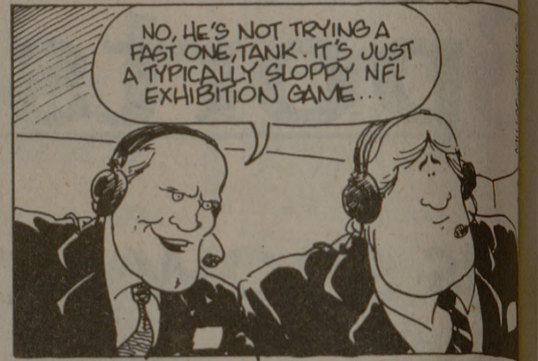
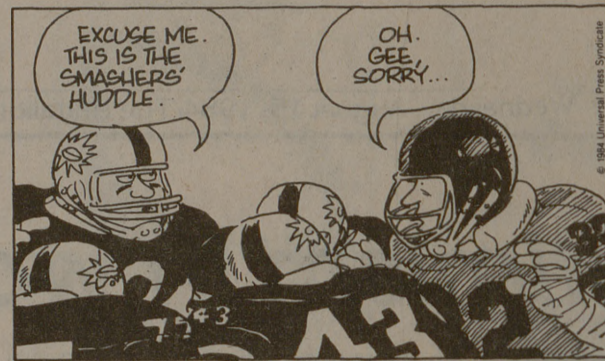
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3 teams join new Gulf Star conference

United Press International
 Like children outgrowing old friends, three charter members of the Lone Star Conference have left the fold and, with three Louisiana schools, have formed a league of their own.
 The Lone Star has been a major force in small college football, winning 10 of the 11 NAIA national titles prior to 1979 before stepping up to NCAA Division II level.
 The success rate there was also impressive with Southwest Texas posting back-to-back national championships in 1981 and '82.
 It was perhaps that success that helped Stephen F. Austin, Southwest Texas and Sam Houston to leave the conference to try their hand at the NCAA Division I level.
 The three ex-Lone Star Conference teams along with Louisiana schools — Northwestern State, Southeastern Louisiana and Nicholls State form the new Gulf Star Conference.
 The conference will compete in the Division I level in all sports except football, where its members are in Division I-AA.
 The move from Division II to Division I is more than a change of letterhead. The increase in football scholarships alone is from 45 to 75 — and those are necessary to compete.
 The athletic department budget at Southwest Texas had to be increased by about \$500,000. The other schools making the move have similar adjustments, but will be spreading them out over several seasons.
 Southwest Texas Coach John O'Hara pointed to the support the move has received in the community. Donations to the Bobcat athletic department, he said, have gone from about \$25,000 a few years ago to more than \$200,000 in San Marcos alone.
 "That gives you an idea of the kind of support we've received," O'Hara said.
 The ties to the Lone Star were tough to break — all three departing members had been with the conference since its inception in 1931. There was even the suggestion that the entire conference head for Division I, but the cost caused some of the smaller schools to balk.

TANK McNAMARA®



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hines

Rice's new head coach cannot 'outsmart' SWC

United Press International
 HOUSTON — Watson Brown was in grade school when Bill Yeoman took charge of Houston and was still quarterbacking at Vanderbilt when Grant Teaff began coaching at Baylor, so he is quick to make one concession in coming to the Southwest Conference.
 "I'm not going to outcoach anybody in this conference," Rice's 34-year-old head football coach said. "There are great coaches in this conference, so the only way we're going to be able to beat them is to build as good of a team as they have."
 "It won't be because I outsmarted them," he said.
 Brown has one year's experience as a head coach, a 4-6-1 season at Cincinnati. He recognizes the leap he's made.
 "I'm very fortunate to have the opportunity to come into a conference like the Southwest Conference. It is the finest football conference in the country," he said.
 Youth may be Brown's strongest asset in taking charge of the Owls' football program because it will require a lot of energy to bring a winning season to a school that hasn't had one in 20 years.
 But Brown says at least with Rice, 1-21 over the past two seasons, you know what you have.
 "You know where you are coming from in building a team and that is from the ground up," he said.
 To his surprise, though, the attitude of his players has not required a major overhaul.
 "You'd expect these kids to be pretty down and figure they couldn't win. But they were enthusiastic dur-

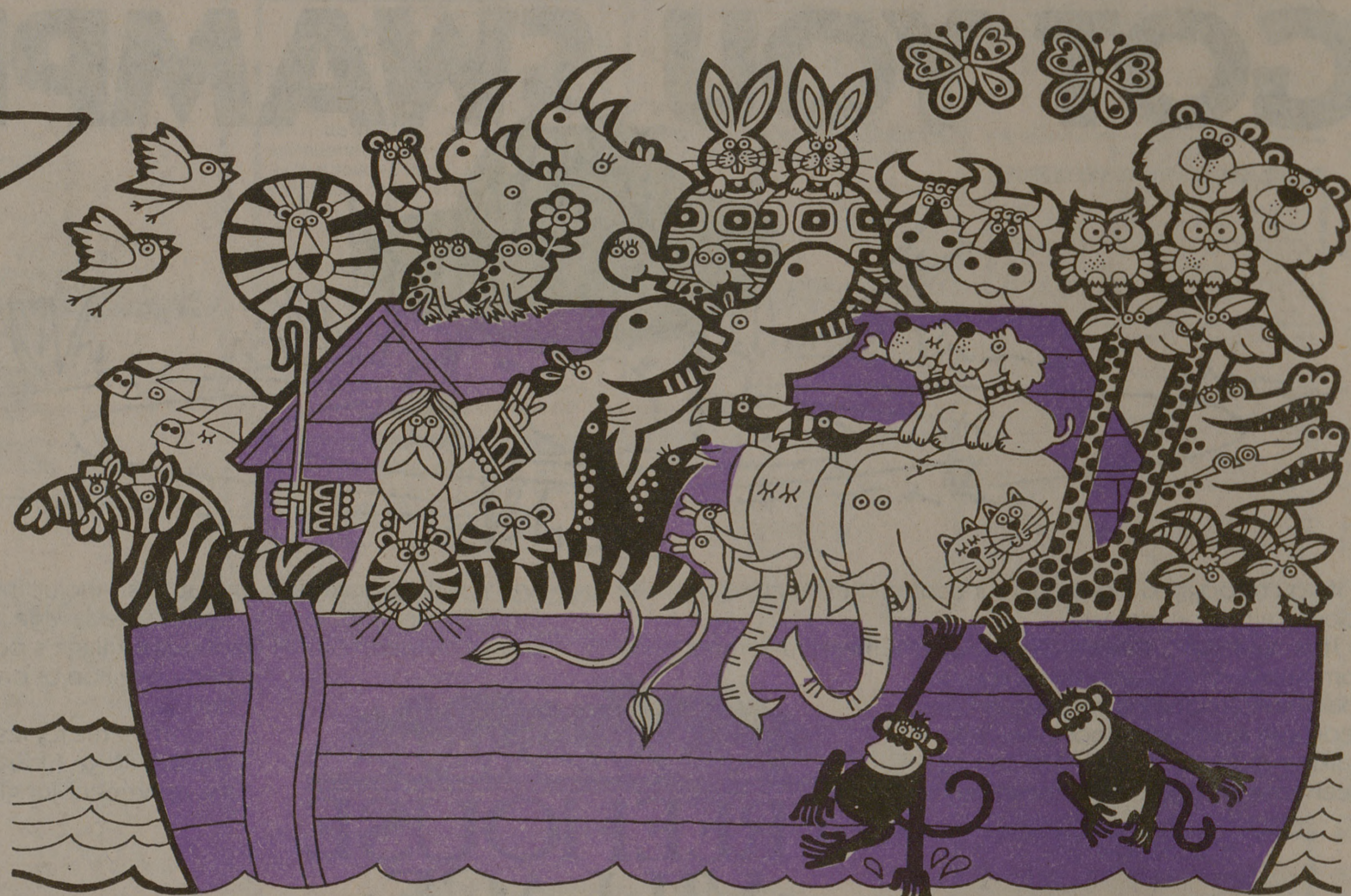
"I'm better off here than I was at Vanderbilt, where we were the only private school in the Southeast Conference," Brown said. "Here there's Baylor, SMU and TCU. You figure you got have a chance to compete if there are that many other privates in the conference."

ing spring training. They believe they can go out and play with anybody. They want to go out and play with anybody," he said.
 A positive attitude is a necessity in the SWC, where teams must play annual powers such as Texas, Arkansas and Texas A&M every schedule.
 "I'm better off here than I was at Vanderbilt, where we were the only private school in the Southeast Conference," Brown said. "Here there's Baylor, SMU and TCU. You figure you got have a chance to compete if there are that many other privates in the conference."
 But competing with other private SWC schools is not Brown's objective. He's out after the five public schools also. He just doesn't know when he'll get them.
 "We've got a young team, so you can't be sure who's going to do what or how they're going to develop. We got here late for the recruiting sea-

son, so that hurt us. You're trying to offer a kid a scholarship and tell who you are at the same time."
 "It's not something I can put on a time schedule on and say we have a winner in two or three years. I have six years (on a contract) and I hope it doesn't take that long," said.
 But he knows a turnaround can be accomplished. He saw it at Vanderbilt as a player.
 "I went to Vanderbilt and played for a team that had lost 34 straight. But we beat Maryland in the season opener on a few lucky bounces of the ball. That's all it took, though, got things rolling and we knew we could win."
 "I've seen it work and I know it will work," he said.
 Brown is getting one thing out of Rice many of his predecessors did not have — financial backing. School officials announced with the hiring of Brown a new commitment of building a strong athletic program.
 "I've been pleased with everything I've seen so far. We've got more alumni involvement. We're about to hire a fundraiser. I'm we're headed in the right direction," he said. "It's expensive building a program. Dollars count very much. Some changes have already taken place. A new weight room and dining room were added to Rice stadium this summer."
 "When the guys come back in August, they aren't going to recognize the place," Brown said. "They're going to see a place that wants to win."

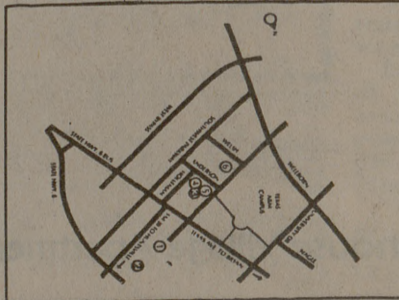
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