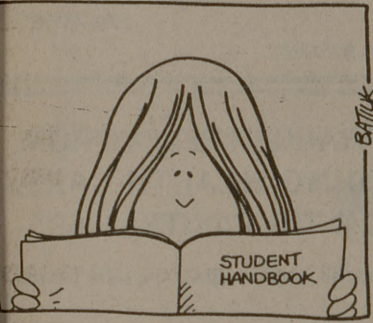


ET CETERA

Funky Winkerbean

by Tom Batiuk



SPEECH I -  
THIS COURSE IS OFFERED FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO PLAN PROFESSIONS REQUIRING GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS SUCH AS RADIO, TELEVISION, TEACHING, AND WORKING AT A FAST FOOD DRIVE-THRU WINDOW!

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# Archaeologist explores Susquehanna Indians

Associated Press

LANCASTER, Pa. — When Barry Kent was growing up in the York area, he was interested in the Indians who lived there, and he collected Indian artifacts along the Susquehanna River.

Today, he holds a doctorate and is an archaeologist working out of the William Penn Memorial Museum in Harrisburg.

And he has seen another of his boyhood dreams come true: the dream of studying Indians who lived along the shores of the Susquehanna in York and Lancaster counties.

That boyhood dream came true in a big way. Kent was part of an archaeological excavation in Washington Boro, which turned out to be the largest Indian settlement uncovered in the eastern United States.

His participation has helped archaeologists and historians to understand the Susquehannocks. From the findings, they have seen how the Susquehannocks moved several times and then relocated across the river in York County, where it appears they became extinct.

Kent's excavation took place from 1968 to 1975, followed by a long period of analysis and report writing. The final volume, titled "Susquehanna's Indians," describes what was found and how it was dated. The book is available at the museum.

State archaeologists had been studying the Susquehannocks for more than 60 years, Kent noted, but saw back in the late 60s an opportu-

*"There are no known demonstrable direct descendants from the Susquehannocks today. Some claim to be, but there is no way they could trace their relationship because the last identifiable Susquehannocks were killed in 1763." — Barry Kent, archaeologist*

nity to take one more look at them and do massive exposures of their village sites.

At Washington Boro, it appeared they would have to jump in then because there was an indication that many of the sites would be destroyed.

The Indians knew that the area of Washington Boro was a special place. It has a longer growing season than the adjoining areas because of the special geology there. It's a real fertile area, and that's why they concentrated many of their settlements there.

What Kent found in that dig, as well as in other parts of the Susquehannock Project, was that the Indians stayed in one village for only 25 years and then moved on.

"The demise of the Susquehan-

nocks was due to the Iroquois Indians (from the north and New York), either from several battles or through just political negotiations," he said. "There was a lot of dispute among the Indian groups over the fur trade.

"There are no known demonstrable direct descendants from the Susquehannocks today. Some people claim to be, but there is no way they could trace their relationship because the last identifiable Susquehannocks were killed in 1763 — and we're not sure even at that point if they were still Susquehannocks. Some were Iroquois and Seneca living here."

Kent and his team found the Indians settled in three towns around Washington Boro, each occupied for about 25 years.

The first town was occupied about 1575 until 1600. The next, about a mile and a half south, was occupied from 1600 to about 1625. The third was from 1625 until about 1665, after which they moved to two sites around Long Level in York County and were apparently defeated by Iroquois.

The average 25-year lifespan for a village was brought about basically because the Indians exhausted the wood supply and the fertility of the soils for food. The villages pretty well became decayed, too, after 25 years. All three reasons made it necessary for the Indians to move on and rebuild, even if only a short distance by today's standards.

# Disease resistant wheat developed

Associated Press

OVERTON — The scientists and researchers at the Overton station of Texas A&M University's agricultural experiment program have produced a special strain of wheat for use in East Texas, and decided to name the line "Bradford Wheat."

Bradford Wheat is resistant to a common disease in East Texas — Septoria, or "leaf blotch disease."

The Daisy Mae Bradford name signifies a pioneering spirit to many Rusk County residents. The county's first producing oil well was known as the Daisy Mae Bradford, and now the name has lent itself to another East Texas innovation.

"We were looking for a suitable name," said Dr. Lloyd Nelson, a plant breeder at Overton, "and the well is located about three or four miles from here, so we came up with what we think is an appropriate name."

Scientists in Overton began working on the wheat in 1972, Nelson said. Bradford Wheat was finally made available in 1984 after several generations of the wheat produced the desired results.

The soft red winter wheat is a "good forage wheat," Nelson said, and its flour can also be used for crackers, cookies and biscuits.

Nelson said Bradford Wheat is currently in use in about 800 acres in

the state. He also said the wheat can compete with the best types available in the state. The most popular wheat now in use is being attacked by leaf-rust, Nelson said, adding he hopes Bradford's leaf-rust resistance will "hold up for a few years."

Plant breeders develop each line of wheat, Nelson said, with an idea of which types of resistance, as well as other characteristics, would be desired.

The process of providing wheat with desired properties, such as disease and insect resistance, is a "never-ending circle," Nelson said.

"Any disease is very adaptable," Nelson said. "There are a lot of diseases, and it takes a lot of time to develop wheat with good disease resistance."

"East Texas is very humid, and a humid climate can mean a lot of diseases."

"You never reach perfection. You can develop wheat with resistance to three or four diseases, a couple of insects, make it a short plant, with high yield, or whatever you want."

"But there's a saying that 'you can't get all the raccoons up the same tree.' If you give wheat nine protections, the tenth may be the one that knocks it out."

# Curtain lowered on play

Associated Press

RICHARDSON — Parents' fears that a play by Lillian Hellman would encourage more teen-age suicides has prompted the Berkner High School principal to ban a production of the drama.

Principal Ron Parks believes Hellman's 1934 play, "The Children's Hour," which deals with a teacher's suicide, could be misinterpreted by students.

"The play deals with human relationships," he says, "but obviously there are always people who will not see that association. Personally, I feel a tremendous responsibility for the welfare of the students, and one cannot take a risk that would jeopardize that welfare."

In the last two years, four Richardson students and eight students from nearby Plano have taken their own lives, school officials said. Last month, an Arlington student killed himself in his high school drama class, and in November, a 33-year-old English teacher at Berkner committed suicide.

"In view of what has happened this (school) year, this smacks of psycho-drama," says Sharon Parry, whose daughter Stacy is in the drama class.

As a compromise, the 15 students will be allowed to perform the play at University Interscholastic League drama competition.

Shelley Davies, 17, the play's student director, says the play, best known as a 1962 movie starring Audrey Hepburn, Shirley MacLaine and James Garner, was chosen because it would help the cast in the competition. She says the controversy over the suicide scene has been blown out of proportion.

She says she has received several anonymous phone calls asking her not to do the play, one accusing her of exploiting suicide.

"It's so silly," says understudy Rita Trujillo, 18. "When are they going to accept this? A lot of us have dealt with suicide or even thought about it."

# Ford's 1984 earnings set company record

Associated Press

DETROIT — Ford Motor Co. on Wednesday reported a fourth-quarter profit of \$721 million, pushing 1984 earnings to a company record \$2.9 billion.

That will help put the 1984 profits of Detroit's Big Three carmakers to nearly \$10 billion for last year.

General Motors Corp. last week reported a record year-end profit of \$4.5 billion. Chrysler Corp. is expected to report a record profit of

about \$2.4 billion when it releases its figures Thursday.

Ford's fourth-quarter profit was down 8 percent from last year's \$781 million. The No. 2 automaker attributed that to a bigger tax bill, reflecting the general expiration of tax credits earned by the industry during the four-year sales slump that ended in 1983.

The previous record year for Ford was 1983, when it turned a \$1.87 billion profit. The records being broken by GM and Chrysler also were set that year.

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