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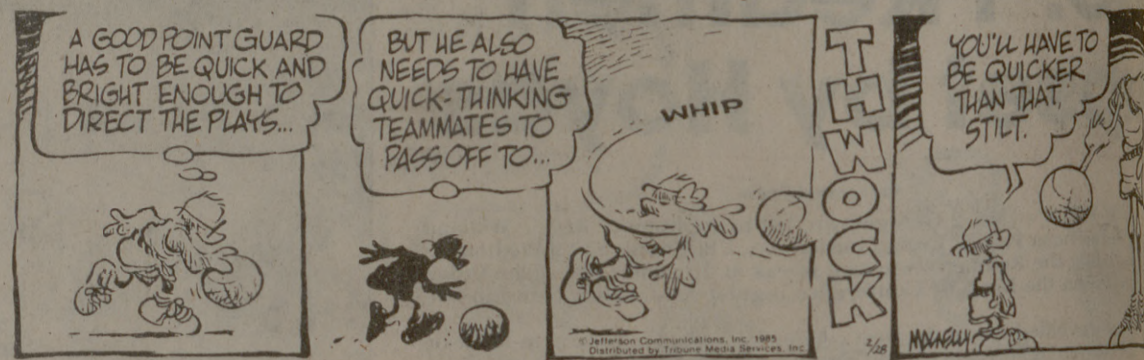
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by Jeff MacNelly



Island to host parties

Invasion to hit Padre

Associated Press
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND — In less than two weeks, this quiet 5-mile stretch of South Texas will be transformed into one gigantic party for college students seeking suds, sun and surf.
March usually signals the end of winter in South Texas. It also signals relaxation for the college students on spring break and revenue for the residents, as over 100,000 people are expected to flock to Port Isabel and South Padre Island to enjoy the weather. The big week this year is March 10-17, less than two weeks away.
"Spring break is hectic for everybody, but it's good," said Kathie Hawkins, executive director of the Port Isabel-South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce. "It's a busy time, but it's an economic plus for the community."
Capt. Tommy Atkinson, the acting South Padre Island police chief, said many use the holiday break to take advantage of what the island has to offer.

'You'd better believe it. It's suds, sun and surf.'
— **Capt. Tommy Atkinson, the acting South Padre Island police chief,**
"You'd better believe it," he said. "It's suds, sun and surf."
The 5,315 rooms at area condominiums and hotels, usually less than full during the winter months, are booked solid for March, Hawkins said.
Rates usually go up during March, but fun-seekers still converge on the area no matter what the price is, she said.
Especially merchants, who expect money pumped into the local economy to match or exceed last year's tally of nearly \$4 million during March.
Students are a blessing this month, Hawkins said, because "Winter Texans" — northern resi-

dents who spend their vacations at the Rio Grande Valley — usually start heading north at the beginning of March.
The most popular spot on the beach is Isla Blanca, where most of the activities are scheduled. Entertainment there on March 10 will feature Joe King Carrasco and the Crowns, and Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble. On March 11, Cheap Trick and Molly Hatchet will give a concert.
South Padre Island has been a gathering place for students the past 20 years, but the volume only began to increase about seven years ago when commercially sponsored entertainment began, Hawkins said.
Atkinson said officers will be working a minimum of 12 hours a day during the busy weeks. The one cell jail will expand to two cells and a drunk tank in order to accommodate the people brought in for public intoxication, disorderly conduct and driving while intoxicated.

Millionaire's offer to be investigated

Associated Press
SAN ANTONIO — The Maverick County district attorney said Wednesday he has launched an investigation of South Texas rancher and oilman Clinton Manges following the millionaire's offer of free land for the county.
The investigation, said District Attorney Amado Abascal, stems from Manges' promise last week to give Maverick County 135 acres of land if state District Judge Benjamin Martinez is not elected to another term.
Manges went on local television in Eagle Pass the day after he made the offer and said the county could have the land with no strings attached, his attorney Marynell Maloney said Wednesday in San Antonio.
Despite Manges' retraction, Abascal said he is going ahead with the investigation.
Abascal said if charges are filed, he will have to appoint a special prosecutor because he represents an oil company in a civil suit against

Manges. Abascal has a private law practice in addition to his duties as district attorney.
Maloney said Manges made the land offer, because he "wanted everyone to be aware that the judge is incompetent and very politically motivated."
The case was a counterclaim against Manges, who initially filed suit against attorney Raul Garcia seeking payment on a \$50,000 note. Garcia countersued, claiming mental anguish because of Manges' suit.
Martinez ruled against Manges, ordering him to pay \$1 million in damages.
Airport committee member Humberto Garza said the county currently has no money to buy the land, designated for an airport.
But he said the county is pushing Congress to appropriate the funds so Laughlin Air Force Base in nearby Del Rio can buy some Maverick County land. The land sale would provide the money to purchase Manges' property, he said.

11-year-old discovers live bomb

Associated Press
SAN ANTONIO — An 11-year-old boy carried a live bomb from an abandoned building to a store before police were called to disarm it, authorities say.
The youngster, Ruben Salazar, says he discovered the bomb sticking out underneath the wall of an abandoned two-story building.
Police blocked off the area until officers disarmed the bomb. The disarming took about 10 minutes.
Detective Bob Ellis says the bomb was made of four sticks of dynamite, a hand-grenade simulator, an electrical circuit and batteries.
Police found no other explosives outside the abandoned building.

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THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese-Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing-Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee YOU GET MORE FOR YOUR MONEY WHEN YOU DINE ON CAMPUS		
FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL Fried Catfish Filet w/ Tartar Sauce Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of One Vegetable Tea or Coffee	SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL Yankee Pot Roast Texas Style (Tossed Salad) Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee	SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING Roast Turkey Dinner Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Coffee or Tea Glibet Gravy And Your Choice of any One Vegetable

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