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Parents object to drug policy at high school

MIDLAND (AP) — Angry parents charged that a drug enforcement policy of the Midland Independent School District violates their constitutional rights and those of their children.

The parents said they will repeat on Tuesday a request to the seven school board members to limit the district's 24-hour drug monitoring program.

"They are taking my parental guidance away from me," Ray Marshall, spokesman for Parents In Control, told the *Midland Reporter Telegram*. "What's next? That's what worries me."

The school board in October took no action on the parents' request to reduce the drug enforcement policy.

The board's policy passed on Sept. 9. It imposes penalties ranging from mandatory work details to two-week suspensions to obligatory family counseling for those students who participate in extracurricular activities who are caught using, under the influence of, or in the possession of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Parents claim the policy should apply only on school grounds and during times when students are participating in extracurricular activities.

Joe Baressi, superintendent of schools, said he doesn't believe the policy abuses constitutional rights.

Baressi said students caught abusing the policy off school grounds will be suspended only from extracurricular activities, not school.

Parents who object to the 24-hour policy said they are not condoning drug and alcohol abuse. But they said the school district has taken away their control over their children.

"They're trying to tell me I'm not concerned about my kids," Marshall said. "They're telling me, 'You're not doing your job and we're taking it away.'"

He said the parents' organization also has set up a non-profit fund to pay for legal expenses.

Six Midland High School students were suspended for two weeks last month for alcohol and drug abuse, following an investigation after a weekend party.

Three of those students' parents have joined Parents In Control, Marshall said.

Rod Schoen, president of the Texas Civil Liberties Union in Lubbock, said the parents have a good claim.

"They have very legitimate legal concerns," Schoen said. "It appears the school district has overreached its legal jurisdiction."

But school district attorney Charles Tighe disagreed.

"So far as extracurricular activities are concerned, the school district does have certain rights to determine the access to those extracurricular activities," Tighe said.

In Advance

Symphony to offer Christmas

By Karl Pallmeyer
Music Critic

The Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra will present "Music for the Merry," a concert of Christmas music featuring the works of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Claude Debussy, Leroy Anderson and George Fredric Handel, Sunday night at 8 in Rudder Auditorium.

The orchestra, under the direction of conductor Franz Anton Krager, will perform Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" and Anderson's "Sleigh Ride." Krager said the first half of the program will be devoted to more serious music, while the second half will

be filled with light-hearted entertainment in which the audience will be asked to participate in a medley of Christmas carols.

The Women of Rice Chapter of the Shepard School of Music with featured soloists Vera Babikain and Francis Biliba will be joining the BVSO for the concert's "La Damselle Elve."

A "Meet the Orchestra" session will be held after the concert.

Tickets for "Music for the Merry" are \$12 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens, \$5 for children under 13. Tickets are available at the Rudder office and at any other ticket outlet.

Aggie souvenirs help merchants cash in on Cotton Bowl

By Robert Morris
Staff Writer

A winning football team sells. That message rings loud and clear from local retailers who are profiting from the Aggie football team's success over the last two years.

The Cotton Bowl-bound Aggies are apparently "hot property."

A vast array of T-shirts, sweat-shirts and other apparel claiming Aggie preeminence in the Southwest Conference — along with numerous Cotton Bowl-related souvenirs — can be found at local bookstores.

However, retailers are experiencing varied success. It seems for some merchants the second time around is not as sweet, or as profitable.

Betsy Elmore, manager of Rother's Book Store on Jersey Street, said that because last year's game with the University of Texas was at Kyle Field, it caused an instant boom in business, something that didn't happen this year.

"It's just not as big a deal this year," she said.

Still, Elmore said, she expects to have no problem selling the shirts already printed, and since Rother's does its own printing, they can replenish the supply when needed.

Employees at Loupots Book Store on Northgate expected their sales to be the same as last year.

They said that the store is selling a wide range of Cotton Bowl-related products, as well as other Aggie paraphernalia, but didn't attribute the success directly to this year's team.

A better football season always adds up to stronger sales, said one

employee who asked not to be identified.

Dean Baxter, manager of Memorial Student Center Book Store, said sales have been strong all year's success.

And while the sale of Bowl-related items has been beneficial, Baxter said a great deal of MSC's souvenir sales come from other orders.

Most of the shirt designs around the Aggies' return, chubbily around the Cotton Bowl. Phrases such as "One local" and "Kyle Field North" with a picture of the Cotton Bowl next to it are the themes on the clothing, aimed to increase sales.

But one item stands out as a novelty. It is Dr. Rodney Hill's design capitalizing on the Aggie defensive back who painted a yuletide aging picture of all Aggie members.

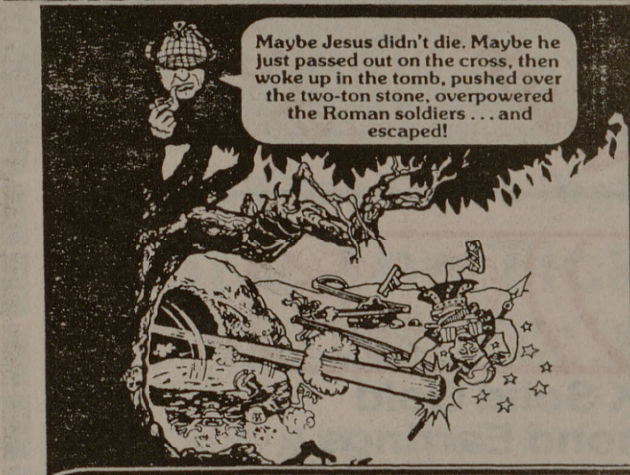
In an interview during the Thanksgiving season, Hill referred to the Aggie as "cockroaches."

The shirt pictures a bold Aggie with a cockroach crawling on his back. The words "Aggie Bowl" are printed around the design.

Hill, a professor in the Business Department, said the shirt is now sold at the campus bookstore.

The shirt also is being sold at an architecture building where it is going to a scholarship fund named after the name of Jim Deininger, an A&M professor and who died last year in an automobile accident.

Hill said there are two designs coming out this year: one on the "cockroach" theme and one on the "Aggie Bowl" theme.



Maybe Jesus didn't die. Maybe he just passed out on the cross, then woke up in the tomb, pushed over the two-ton stone, overpowered the Roman soldiers... and escaped!



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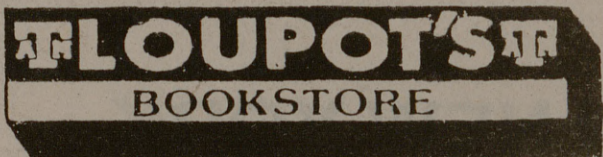
The Great Resurrection Hoax

MAXIMUM SEX



THANKS AGGIES!

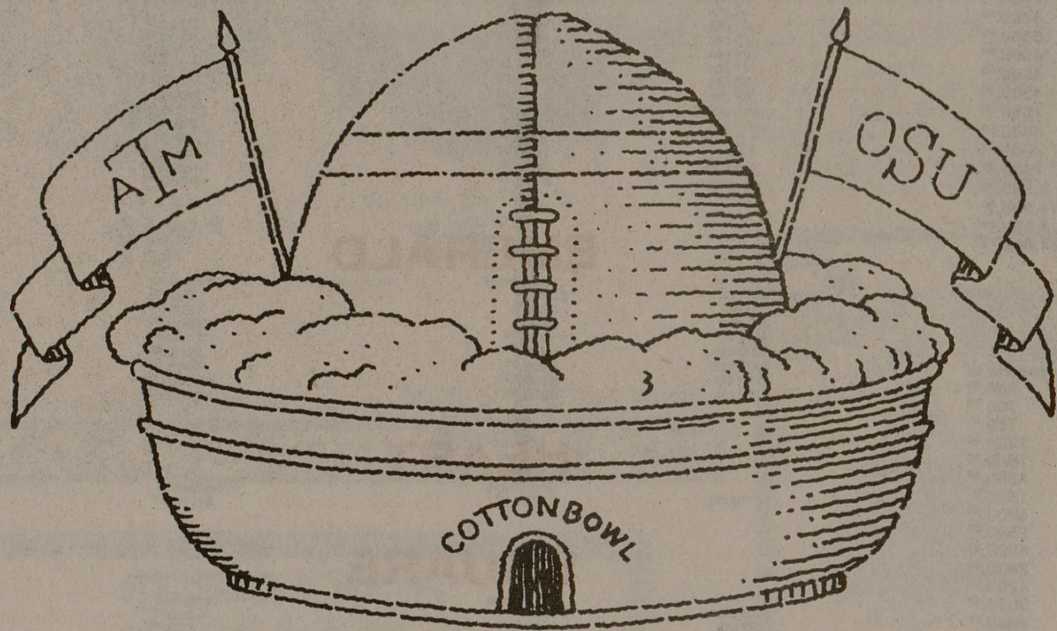
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\$750,000 stolen in Cartier robbery

DALLAS (AP) — Two employees and the owner of a Cartier jewelry store sat dazed for several minutes before they activated a silent alarm after being robbed of \$750,000 in merchandise, officials said.

"There were no heroes among us," assistant store manager Sheila Barnes said after the Wednesday robbery.

Police searched Thursday for a well-dressed man who walked out of the store with two suitcases full of merchandise, including a 120-carat Burmese ruby necklace valued at \$240,000.

Store owner Nirmal Vaswani said, "They took everything — everything." He said he and the two other employees in the store were robbed as they arrived to open the store Wednesday morning.

The robber took about 80 percent of the store's inventory that had been locked overnight in a safe. Only a few items were left in the store's display windows.

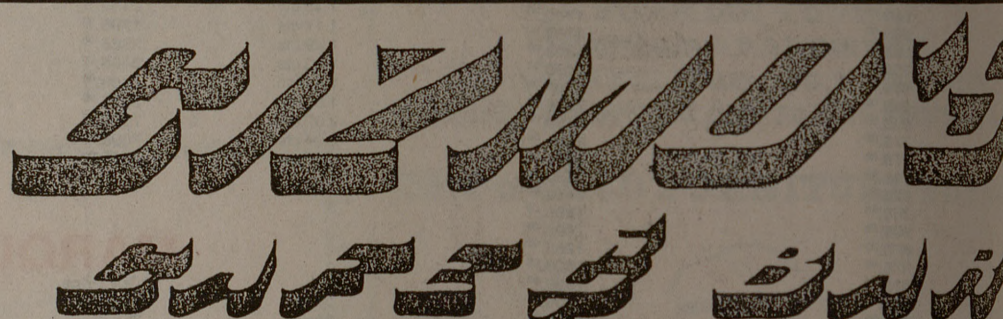
"It was a nasty loss," Vaswani said.

He declined to estimate the value of the stolen jewelry, which included diamond rings, watches and necklaces.

Police Sgt. J.W. Andrew said the exact amount of the loss is not known because store officials did not know the wholesale or retail value of the merchandise.

Barnes said the robber was watching for Vaswani to leave. "The guy came up behind me, stuck what (Vaswani) thought was a pistol to his back and said, 'Follow me to the store and go to the safe and open it up and get everything,'" Barnes said.

The store is a franchise of a New York-based Cartier firm.



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