

B Street

by Jon Caldara



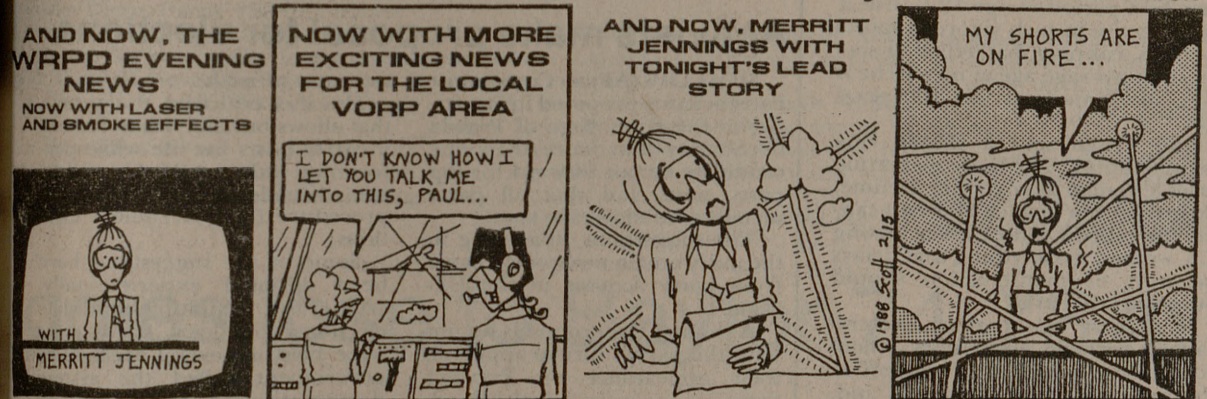
Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Warped

by Scott McCullar



Minority

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professor of education, lamented the lack of minority teachers, saying that the absence of these role models is detrimental to the future success of minority students.

"The impact of the disappearance of minorities . . . will mean little gains in academic achievement for minority students, and will cause the subtle assumption for minority and non-minority students that a career in education for minorities is neither feasible nor worth it," Larke said.

Minority teachers now comprise 11.3 percent of teachers, and by the year 2000 this percentage will de-

crease to 10 percent, she said. But regional demographics indicate that minorities represent between 30 percent and 40 percent of the student population.

Kevin Carreathers, director of the Multicultural Services Center at A&M, said the role models are one key to keeping minority students enrolled at the University.

"I'm not going to debate back and forth whether that person should be a minority or someone from the majority culture, but a strong support person has to be in place," Carreathers said. "There has to be someone they can feel comfortable with, who they can go to with their concerns when they need the words to en-

courage them to continue on through the struggle."

The center helps minority students with academic problems, encourages them to become involved in organizations that are not minority-oriented and helps them adjust to college life, he said.

Carreathers outlined another problem the Multicultural Services Center helps minority students cope with — racism.

"People think that racism is over, that it doesn't exist any more," he said. "But those of us who are in the system realize that it is still there, whether it be overt or hidden or institutionalized."

Future

(Continued from page 1)

the first real positive evidence Gorbachev is really indeed playing . . . the game by new rules that are more to our liking and to our benefit."

The Associated Press reported that Gorbachev said Monday the Kremlin will begin withdrawing troops from Afghanistan May 15 if the United Nations reaches a settlement about the Afghan civil war. The Soviets will complete the withdrawal of troops within 10 months, he said.

Gorbachev said the Soviet Union will not attempt to control the Afghan government by other means, and that the country's future "is none of our business," the Associated Press reported.

Talbot said Soviet troops have occupied Afghanistan since 1979, and 115,000 soldiers are stationed in the country. Withdrawing the troops would be a major change from previous Soviet policy, he said.

"In the past it has been taken almost as a given that the quagmire of war was stuck there and wasn't coming out," Talbot said.

But even if Gorbachev's intentions pass the Afghanistan test, the United States must be careful to guard its image in case his reforms fail, he said.

"If it turns out that he does represent not just something new but something better, let's be there to meet him halfway," he said. "If he

does not represent a salutary measure then let's make sure that he is seen as the one who failed, and not we ourselves."

Arms control is one area in which the United States must meet the Soviets halfway, and Caspar Weinberger's resignation as Secretary of Defense may make compromise more feasible, Talbot said.

"The United States and the Soviet Union are now within hailing distance of what is sometimes called the 'grand compromise,'" he said, "which would be eliminating some offensive weapons on the Soviet side, particularly those that are most threatening to the United States, in exchange for restrictions on the star wars program."

President Reagan's most influential advisers — Secretary of State George Schultz, White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker and the First Lady — have been urging the president toward a final arms control deal that would end his presidency on a high note and assure his place in history, Talbot said.

"But until recently there was a very powerful countervailing influence in the person of Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, who was a little bit like Jiminy Cricket in the old Pinnocchio story," he said. "Caspar Weinberger was sitting up on the president's shoulder chirping in his ear, 'no, no, no,' whenever Gorbachev came to the president with a concession or whenever Mr. Schultz or Mr. Baker pressured the

president to accept."

Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, who replaced Weinberger after his resignation, will be more receptive to Soviet concessions, he said.

"Carlucci has a view and an inclination much closer to those of Mr. Baker, Mr. Schultz and Mr. Reagan — all who are interested in finding a way to use the leverage of SDI (strategic defense initiative) and Soviet concern about the program to achieve progress in arms control," he said.

If the Soviet Union does not improve its relations with other countries, Gorbachev's plan for domestic reform cannot succeed, Talbot said.

"Gorbachev says he needs a lessening of international tensions to avoid war in an era when war means nuclear war, which would mean no winner," he said. "But he also says that he needs a lessening of international tensions . . . in order to concentrate on his daunting domestic agenda in reforming the Soviet Union itself.

"The Soviet Union is now a muscle-bound giant with a pea brain," he said. "If it weren't for the 25,000 bombs and the tanks, the Soviet Union would be a huge Third World country. He wants it to be a First World country. He wants to compete with the United States, Western Europe and Japan in a natural and peaceful way, principally economically."

Mobile home industry faces depression

WACO (AP) — Row after row of repossessed mobile homes along a farmer's field provided a clear indication of how the state's manufactured housing business has weathered Texas' soured economy, industry officials said.

"We are in the midst of a devastating depression," said Will Ehrle, president of the Texas Manufactured Housing Association. "The Permian Basin was the first to start down. It just collapsed in '86.

"Then the Houston area started down and the Rio Grande Valley was next because of all the economic

problems that it had with the devaluation of the peso and agriculture. Then it just spread everywhere."

The industry that once supplied about 35 percent of all homes sold in Texas has changed drastically since a peak year in 1984, officials said Saturday.

Since then, figures show, annual production of mobile homes has declined to a projected 10,500 this year from 42,300 units. Sales of new units has also dropped to a projected 9,000 this year from 42,290 in 1984.

The number of manufacturers is down sharply to fewer than 500

from about 1,200.

One official's "extremely conservative" estimate for the number of repossessed units during the past four years is 30,000.

John Ledger, vice president for repossessions and foreclosures for First Financial Corp. of Waco, a leading provider of dealer financing, says the lenders, dealers and manufacturers have all taken their lumps.

Repossessed units account for 75 to 80 percent of manufactured housing sales in Texas today. The total was 15 percent in 1984.

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