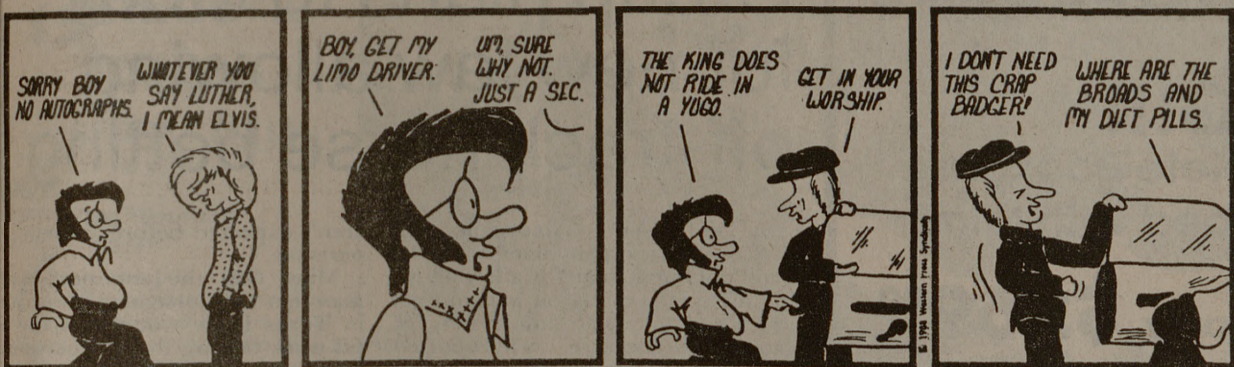


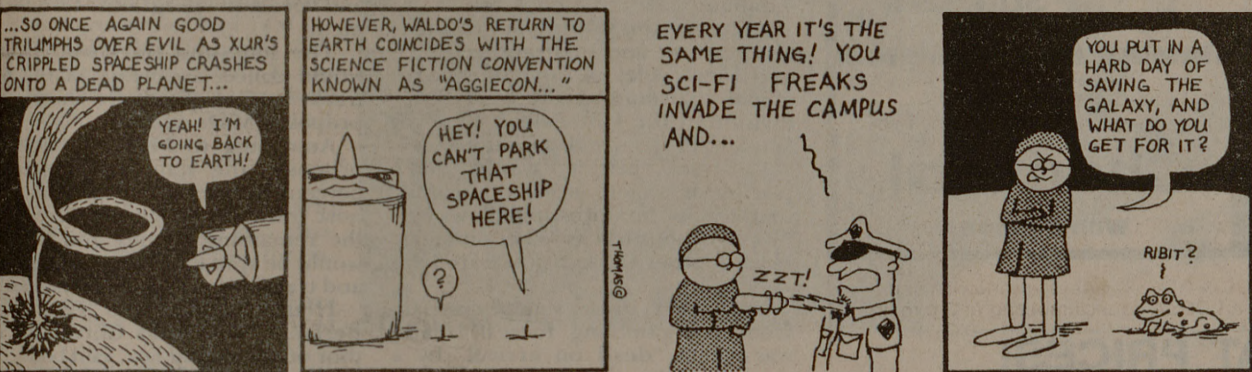
B Street

by Jon Caldara



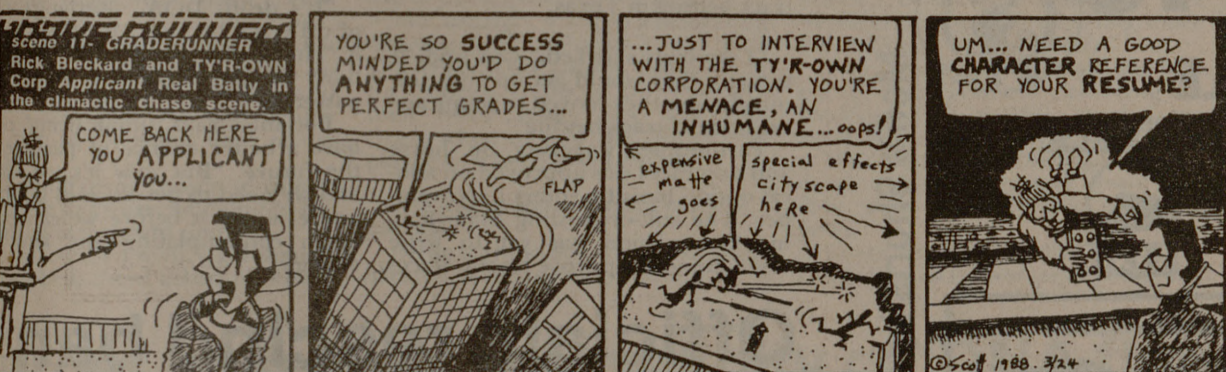
Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Warped

by Scott McCullar



City manager gives up post amid troubles

BIG SPRING (AP) — City Manager Mack Wofford announced his resignation Wednesday amid controversy surrounding his personal financial difficulties.

Wofford's announcement followed a City Council executive meeting Tuesday night, during which he was questioned about his status as defendant in a lawsuit seeking payment on a delinquent loan and other personal financial troubles.

Councilman Gary Don Carey said Wednesday that Wofford offered to resign from his position "because we kept questioning and the answers weren't satisfactory."

"He couldn't give us verification on things we heard and things that had been brought down," Carey said.

Wofford was named in a lawsuit filed March 1 in the 118th District Court by State National Bank, seeking \$10,225.70 and related costs.

The suit contends Wofford made a single \$166.87 payment on the principal. The suit seeks \$10,058.83, interest, attorney's fees and legal costs.

Questions also arose concerning the existence of collateral for the loan.

Court records indicate that money "related to contract fulfillment" with the city of Wheeler was pledged by Wofford as collateral. But Wheeler officials denied any such contract with Wofford.

Texas judge urges joint financial plan for state's schools

AUSTIN (AP) — An Austin judge who ruled that Texas' public school finance system is unconstitutional suggested Wednesday that poor and wealthy school districts prepare a joint plan that would make education better for all.

"I sense that this is the right time and you are the right people to fashion a system that will give to all a real opportunity for excellence," State District Judge Harley Clark told the state PTA.

Clark on April 29, 1987, held the school finance system unconstitutional, and later issued an injunction to stop state officials from distributing money to school districts under the current system.

To allow time for a court appeal and possible legislative action, Clark stayed the injunction until at least Sept. 1, 1989. The Legislature convenes in January.

The 3rd Court of Appeals has scheduled an April 6 hearing on an appeal of Clark's ruling. Clark said if the case goes to the Texas Supreme Court, a decision may not be made until after the Legislature meets.

As parents and teachers, Clark told the PTA, they should know "it's time for education to be better than just adequate."

Clark recalled that the plaintiffs in the school finance lawsuit had alleged the system violated the Equal

Protection Clause of the Texas Constitution.

Clark said 1985-86 school data showed, in the extreme, that the wealthiest school district had over \$14 million of taxable property per student, the poorest \$20,000. He said 200 wealthier school districts spent over twice as much per student as the 200 poorer districts.

Tax rates ranged from 9 cents per \$100 to \$1.55, Clark said. The average rate in the 50 poorest districts was 71 cents, and those districts spent \$2,900 per student per year. The average rate in the 50 richest districts was 37 cents, and those districts spent \$8,700 per student.

"It is clear that public education is the cornerstone of the Texas Constitution . . . providing public education is one of the central reasons for the very existence of the State of Texas," Clark said.

"Equality of access to funds is the key," he said.

"I resolved, but I assure you not without consternation beforehand . . . that the question of discrimination and educational quality must be deemed an objective one that looks to what the state actually provides or makes available to its children and its school districts — not what the students or their districts are able to do with whatever they may happen to receive," Clark said.

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