### Warped

SAY, PAUL, HOW ABOUT DINNER AND A MOVIE? HOW ABOUT "BULL DURHAM" OR ...









### by Kevin Thomas

# owes \$327,000 after state audit

AUSTIN (AP) — Navarro College in Corsicana will repay the state \$327,000 under a settlement negotiated with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board after the state auditor reported courses taught in several nursing homes did not meet board standards

The settlement, announced Monday, involved courses taught by the college from 1980 through 1985. The auditor's report, based on randum samplings, found the board could disallow courses at the college for up to \$1.3 million.

Oliver Albritton, chairman of the college board of trustees, said college officials were convinced the auditor reported more courses not meeting standards than could be supported by facts. But he said it was very time-consuming and costly to try to document the adequacy of each course taught in nursing homes vears ago.

Navarro College needs to put this behind us and get on with our business," Albritton said.

Navarro College already has repaid \$127,000 of the settlement agreement to the state, officials said.

## by Scott McCullar Texas college

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# Candidates viewed as diverse

## Poll results say both considered strong leaders

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans ee Michael Dukakis as more compassionate, George Bush as more ompetent, but aren't convinced that either candidate can accomplish most of his goals as president, a Media General-Associated Press poll as found.

About half the 1,125 adults in the national survey saw both men as strong leaders. But considerably nore said Bush, the vice president and Republican nominee, understands the problems a president faces and is competent to manage the government.

Only 36 percent of those surveyed aid Bush could accomplish most of his goals as president, and just 31 percent said Dukakis, the Demoof his goals. Nearly half said either would be stymied. The rest were not

Seven in 10 respondents to the poll, conducted the week after the Labor Day campaign kickoff, said the outcome of the election would have a major impact on the nation's future. But they split, 45-45, on whether it would affect them per-

Bush led solidly among respondents who said they planned to vote and had made a definite choice, partly because a greater share of Republicans said they had decided.

The poll's findings underscored Bush's success since the Republican National Convention in mid-August at portraying himself as more competent, an issue Dukakis had sought

The two were close on other scores, and more Americans saw Dukakis as someone who cares about

Bush's control of the agenda also was apparent. Fifty-two percent said he had clear positions on the issues, while 37 percent said that of Duka-

Bush had somewhat less success in his effort to paint Dukakis as more likely to raise taxes. A plurality, 45 percent, said there wasn't likely to be any difference between the two when it comes to raising taxes.

But in a measure that bodes well for an incumbent party, six in 10 said they were better off now than they were either four or eight years ago, and 55 percent expected their family finances to improve in the next few years.

Bush won overwhelming endorsement as better able to maintain a strong defense, outscoring Dukakis percent to 15 percent. The vice president was narrowly seen asmore likely to reduce the federal budget deficit, by a 38 to 30 percent margin over Dukakis.

Moreover, 77 percent said Bush understands the complex problems faced by a president, while only 44 percent said the same for Dukakis. Fifty percent said Bush could manage the government better, compared with 34 percent for Dukakis.

But Dukakis was rated higher than Bush on some personal issues. Sixty-two percent said Dukakis cares about people like them, while 50 percent said that of Bush. Forty-two percent said Bush sometimes talks carelessly, without considering the consequences, while 30 percent said that of Dukakis.

In some other ratings the two were about equal. Six in 10 said both offer a vision of where they want to lead the country and five in 10 said both were strong leaders. Six in 10 said Bush would have good judgment under pressure; five in 10 said that of Dukakis.

# Indian tribe helps to create dictionary

DENTON (AP) — Writing a dicionary for a language which had no ooks, no grammar and no records s not an easy task, but a group of linguists is working to save the lan-guage of the Alabama Indian tribe.

An associate professor of English the University of North Texas, Heather Hardy, is leading the effort oncerning the East Texas tribe.

"I knew not much had been done on the Alabama," she said to the *Dallas Times Herald*. "When you've got languages in your own back yard that have hardly been described at all and are dying out, that takes

After receiving a newspaper clip-ing in 1980 about an Alabama tribe member who was using note cards to create a dictionary of her native language, Hardy decided to contact the

The Alabama live with the Couhatta tribe on a joint reservation 70 miles northeast of Houston in the Big Thicket National Preserve.

"I knew not much had been done on the Alabama (tribe), when you've got languages in your own back yard that have hardly been described at all and are dying out, that takes priority.

— Heather Hardy

After driving to the reservation, Hardy found former teacher Cora Sylestine. The two women decided Sylestine would guide Hardy through the thickets of her native language if Hardy would help her create the dictionary.

Hardy first had to make a system of writing to document the spoken language. And the Alabama grammar had to be deciphered before its words could be broken down for a

The process has been laborious, done on weekends and school breaks. Hardy said it is financed mostly with small grants and personal funds.

But a team working on the pro-ject, which includes UNT linguist Timothy Montler, will be financed for two years by a \$161,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the university,

beginning Sept. 1. Hardy said Montler, a computer expert, modified a program the team will use to create the diction-ary, which will define Alabama

words in English and vice versa.

Transcribing Alabama to written form and translating it to English hasn't been as tough as working with some other American Indian languages, which use many sounds that don't exist in English, she said.

Only one Alabama sound breathy, slurred "I" — isn't found in

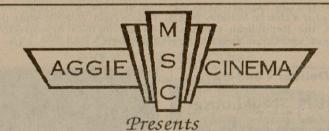
English, Hardy said. The dictionary will represent it with an I crossed by a hyphen, creating a "barred l." But the language has its own special quirks, which have at times proved daunting.

plural forms usually add something, be it an "s" in English or some prefix or suffix, Hardy said.

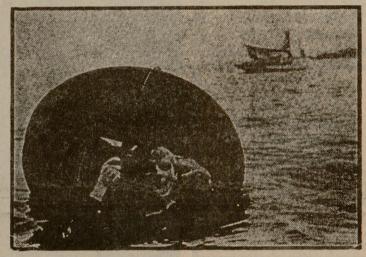
But in Alabama, root words are shortened to create plurals. For example, the Alabama word "batatli" means to hit one time, but the word "batli" means to hit repeatedly.

"We've never found anything like" this," Hardy said. "It led to the joke that, in Alabama, less is more.'

Hardy said she hopes the group's work will allow the tribe to start a language reclamation program and create collections of Alabama folk stories. Projects like those could be the truly important result of all the



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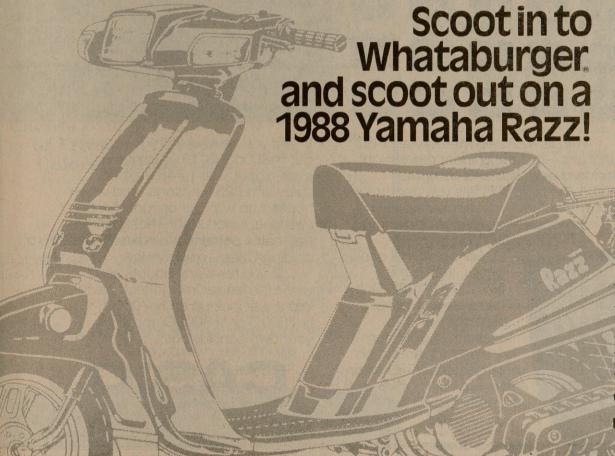
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