

**First-graders** sign contracts to graduate

**The Battalion** 

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CORPUS CHRISTI, (AP) -First-graders learning the value of an education signed contracts pledging to finish high school in exchange for \$100 they will receive upon graduation in the year 2000.

The 71 students from the Cross-ley Special Emphasis School donned caps and gowns Wednesday and pledged in writing to earn the right to wear similar garb when they finish high school. Community and business leaders agreed to donate the S100 each will receive upon graduation.

Lawyers Tony Bonilla and Mary Helen Berlanga, a member of the State Board of Education, came up with the idea for contractual agreements, in an effort to stem a high dropout rate. "While these 6-year-old young-

sters may not fully comprehend today's events, their parents do," said Bonilla, chairman-elect of the city's chamber of commerce. "We are hopeful that their parents ... will be inspired to work with their young-sters, knowing the community cares about their children.

First-grader Jessica Rice said she didn't understand the significance of Wednesday's ceremony, but said she likes school and expects to graduate from high school.

Nicolas Wade, 7, agreed, and said he enjoys going to school at Crossley, especially during lunch.

Fen children were sponsored by the law firm of Allison and Huerta because the firm wanted to get involved in community affairs, attorney Albert Huerta said.

Huerta said it is time people "quit waiting for Big Brother in Washington to help us.

Crossley principal Raul Prezas said Thursday the predominantly minority, low-income school is excited about the interest from the community, and he hopes the idea spreads to other schools.

The electricity and the sharing and just being there was incredible for, me," Prezas said. "The difference between dreams and reality is effort

### Warped

Waldo

STUDYING FOR

FINALS MAKES ME HUNGRY!

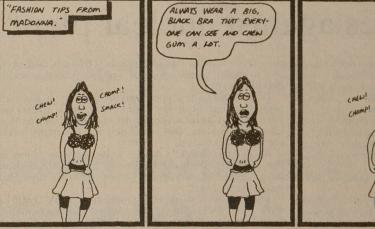
Friday, May 5, 1989



29 호 MINUTES LATER. OBOY! KNOCK! KNOCK!

### Adventures in Cartooning

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GREAT! WE EACH

CAN HAVE A WHOLE PIZZA!

by Don Atkinson Jr.

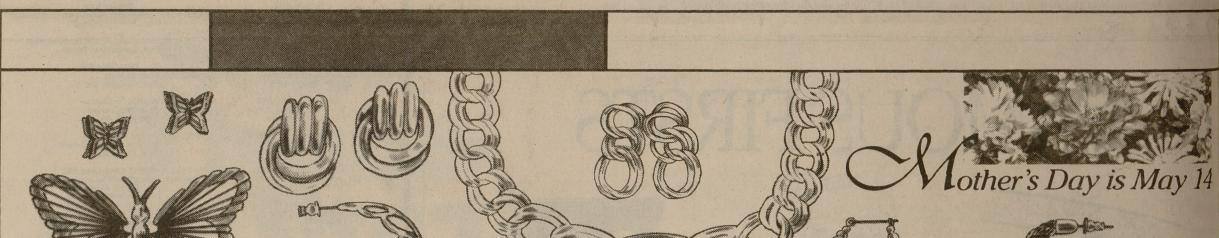


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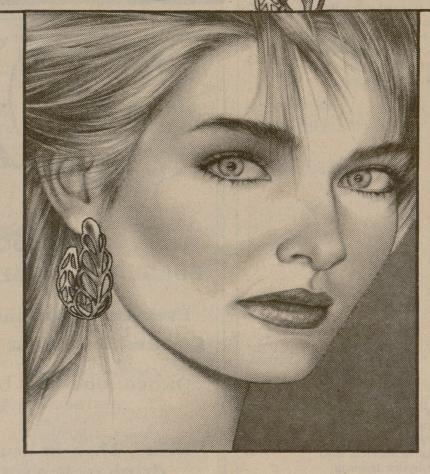
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