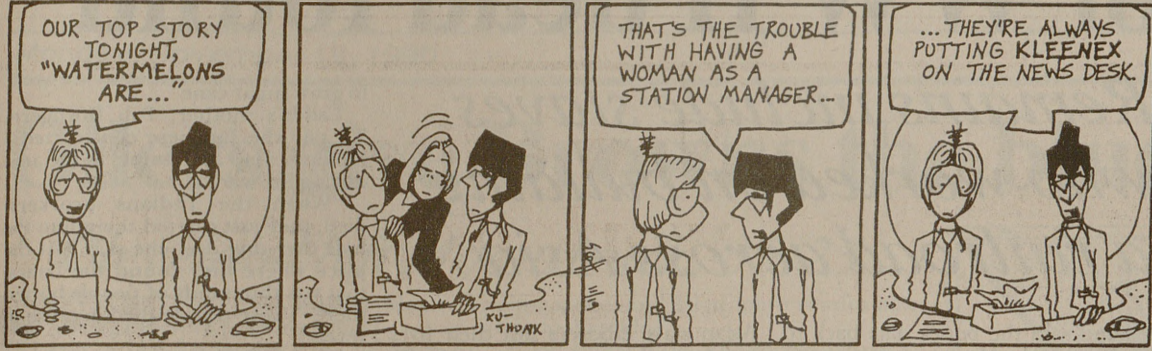


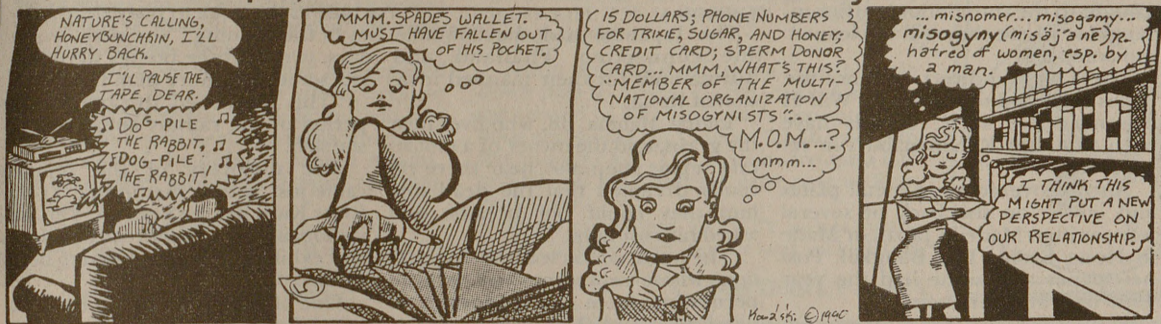
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Rapper's colorful past questioned

DALLAS (AP) — The glare of sudden success has started to melt the mysterious facade of Dallas-based rapper Vanilla Ice, whose rap single "Ice Ice Baby" hit No. 1 on the pop chart.

In a copyright story Sunday, the Dallas Morning News described numerous contradictions in Vanilla Ice's record-company biography and interviews.

The 22-year-old has described a colorful teen-age existence full of gangs, motorcycles and rough-and-tumble street life in lower-class Miami neighborhoods, culminating with his success in a musical genre dominated by young African-American men. Vanilla Ice is white.

But numerous sources told the newspaper the rapper known as Vanilla Ice was their classmate at R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton — a suburb in affluent North Dallas — between 1984 and 1986.

The student is identified in yearbooks as Robert Van Winkle. Vanilla Ice has refused to give his real name, saying that to do so would "endanger his life." He has

been quoted as saying he was seriously wounded in a fight in Florida five years ago, and still fears retaliation from the incident.

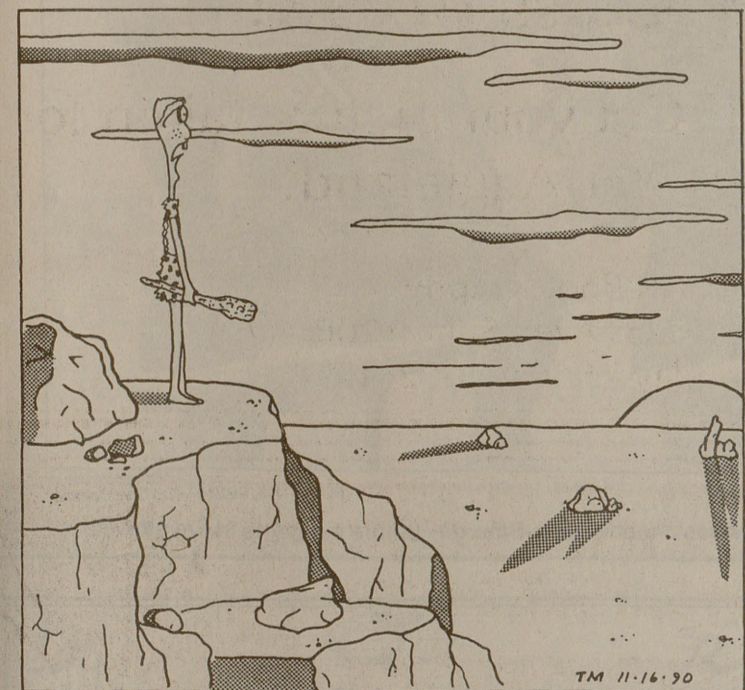
Asked about inconsistencies in interviews, school records and record company press releases, Vanilla Ice told the Morning News, "Everything there (in the press releases)... is true. It all happened, man."

But Tommy Quon, the singer's Plano-based manager, said, "Hey, some things he's said could be embellished. He's a young guy doing this for the first time."

Vanilla Ice would not comment on whether his given name is Robert Van Winkle. "I went to Turner my junior and senior years, in '86 and '87," he said. When told that he was pictured in a 1984 Turner yearbook, he replied, "I get messed up on years."

The rapper also has said repeatedly that he won three national motocross championships for Team Honda while in Florida. A Team Honda representative said there is no record of a team competitor named Robert Van Winkle or Vanilla Ice.

Nerd House by Tom A. Madison



STARING INTO THE PREHISTORIC SUNSET, HERBERT'S ANCESTORS PONDERED SUCH CONCEPTS AS FOOD, SHELTER, AND DOES EVERYONE PICK ON HIM BECAUSE HE'S COOL.

Federal report examines Texas' handling of fraud

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors in Houston have failed to give major savings and loan fraud cases in Southern Texas the high priority they deserve, according to a congressional report released Sunday.

The report by the House Government Operations subcommittee on commerce, consumer and monetary affairs also sharply criticized the frequent travel by Washington-based Justice Department attorneys to Dallas, where they are involved in a large investigative and prosecutorial task force.

"This constant travel (occurring

since 1987) has wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars and thousands of hours of attorneys' staff time," the report said.

The report also said U.S. attorney's offices in Southern Texas, the Middle District of Florida and in New Hampshire have failed to give major fraud and embezzlement cases a higher priority.

The U.S. attorney's office in Houston, the report said, has brought only a few major prosecutions against insiders of collapsed institutions, although Houston is second only to Dallas in terms of major financial institution failures.

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