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**Memory course helps students boost grades**

By Anthony Rao

Former University of Houston football coach Jack Pardee said it best: "This was so helpful to several of my players, I am now making the whole football team take the course."

Pardee read about a memory seminar held by noted memory expert Alvin Jackson and sent three players who needed to pass some important tests in order to stay in school. Uncertain that anyone can be taught photographic memory, Pardee sent athletic department academic advisor Dr. James Berlow as an observer.

In one three hour session Mr. Jackson took three college freshman, whose college entrance exam grades were so poor they are not allowed to practice football, and transformed them into students who can study and recall tasks as well as the brightest students on campus.

Since Dr. Berlow took in the class, he admits his recall and memory increased sixfold. He wishes Jackson's course was available when he studied for his doctorate.

To test the athletes' increased memory, Jackson asked the trio to memorize this number 9185952963092112 well enough to recall it in 13 weeks. It took them an average of 2 minutes. This reporter attended the seminar and witnessed them master French, Portuguese, anatomy, names and faces.

What impressed this writer the most is how memory techniques are used in reading and listening. Jackson used a third year economic text book and I watched as freshmen read and recalled a whole chapter on "Macroeconomic Effects on a Fully Employed Economy", after reading it once.

"Contrary to popular belief people are not born with photographic memories, it can be taught, I have taught thousands. I have taught it to those wanting to use it to increase their G.P.A. to those with perfect G.P.A.s who wish to cut down on study time while maintaining high grades," Jackson said.

"Our present educational system gives high grades to those who can memorize. If you remember more of what you hear in lectures and remember all of what you read, you will get higher grades," Jackson added.

"I know many techniques and teach my students the one that fits them best. Right now all students use "Rota" memorization system taught in school. Under "Rota", you have to go over and over what you want to learn. As far as I am concerned, "Rota" is the worst. What student has that much time to repeat information enough times to get top grades?" says Jackson.

Jackson will be at College Station Community Center on George Bush Drive, Rm. #105 on February 8th one day only for two sessions. One at 1:00 p.m. and a second session at 6:00 p.m. The tuition for the 3-1/2 hour session is \$55.00.

Jackson guarantees results. "If I don't triple their memory capacity three fold in the session, I will refund all tuition," he said.

Jackson is only accepting 30 persons in each class on a first come first served basis. It is worthwhile read and recalled a whole chapter on "Macroeconomic Effects on a Fully

**Spade Phillips, P.I.** by Matt Kowalski

MOM, HAVE YOU EVER HAD THAT NOT-SO-FRESH FEELING?

SPADE: WHAT DOES DOUGIE MEAN?

WELL, NO MALE TRULY KNOWS ALL THE DETAILS. IT'S A SECRET FEMALE RITUAL THAT'S ONLY TALKED ABOUT WHEN A MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ARE ALONE NEAR A LARGE BODY OF WATER.

FROM WHAT I HEAR IT INVOLVES CONCENTRATED HYDROCHLORIC ACID AND SEVERAL PINTS OF MOP AND GLOW.

SO, I GUESS THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT CLEANING OUT THEIR REFRIGERATOR OR SOMETHING.

BARF MUNCH, THAT MAY BE EUPHEMISTIC AT BEST.

**Tubularman** by Boomer Cardinale

WHAT ARE YOU ALL DRESSED FOR?

I JUST TOLD YOU THIS MORNING THAT I WAS GOING TO A FORMAL TONITE! YOU NEVER PAY ATTENTION TO ANYTHING!!

YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT THERE'S A WAR IN THE GULF!

THERE'S A WAR GOING ON IN THE GULF OF MEXICO?

I NEED A GUN.

**Nerd House** by Tom A. Madison

NOTICE  
The price of U.S. Postage stamps will increase from 25¢ to 29¢ on 2/3/91.

OUTRAGED, HERBERT DECIDES TO BUY \$100 WORTH OF STAMPS BEFORE THEY GO UP TO 29¢.

**Post office raises stamp to 29 cents**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Official: Mailing a letter now costs 29 cents.

After nearly a year of hearing and study, higher postal rates took effect Sunday.

The new first-class rate is 29 cents for the first ounce and 21 cents for each additional ounce. Sending a post card now costs 15 cents.

And just about all other mail will cost more, too.

The new rates were imposed after nearly a year of study and hearings.

Special "F" stamps featuring a flower are available at post offices to cover the new rate until official 29-cent stamps are printed.

In addition, so-called make-up stamps worth 4-cents (although they don't show any amount on them) are available. Those stamps, combined with a 25-cent stamp, represent the new 29-cent rate.

**Budget, education top list of priorities for Richards**

AUSTIN (AP) — Schools, the budget deficit and ethics — thorny issues all — likely will be spotlighted by Gov. Ann Richards when she delivers her first State of the State address to the Legislature this week, aides say.

The speech, scheduled for noon Wednesday in the House chamber before a joint Senate-House session, will be Richards' first major address since her Jan. 15 inauguration.

Although her staff didn't expect the final draft to be completed until early this week, aides said the speech should contain specifics on Richards' plans for the next four years.

"It is going to be a very detailed outline of what she hopes to accomplish in the next several years," Bill Cryer, the governor's press secretary, said.

"It's going to be, I think, a powerful speech," he said. "I think there will be some surprises, too."

Cryer said he expects the address to detail proposals for education, the budget, governmental ethics reform, insurance reform, the state's regula-

tory agencies and health and human services.

A former teacher, Richards insists that education is one of government's most important jobs.

But Texas public education is in crisis. The state Supreme Court twice has ruled the school funding system unconstitutional for failing to provide equitable spending on poor school districts. The governor and Legislature face an April 1 deadline for reform or the courts threaten to take over.

The budget is a looming problem as well, with a \$4.5 billion deficit being projected for the 1992-93 biennium.

Talking about that last week, Richards herself gave a hint about the upcoming speech.

"There is a mood in state government among elected officials to serve, cut back. I'm going to be making a State of the State (address) in which we are going to propose some opportunities where we think there are economies," Richards said.

**Yellow ribbons serve as reminders**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The yellow sprouted early this year. But the bouquets were not signs of a spring come early, rather a somber reminder of a country at war.

In cities and towns across the nation, yellow ribbons flutter from lampposts, and bows of yellow adorn front doors like Christmas wreaths gone awry.

"Supporting our troops should always be uppermost in our minds," Mayor Daniel E. Bogan, of Fall River, Mass., said at a ribbon-tying ceremony last month. "Yellow ribbons will serve as a reminder."

The symbol has aroused controversy as well. A Pennsylvania hospital has barred employees from decorating with yellow ribbon. A Rhode Island columnist calls them "flowers of fascism." A Florida store manager fired an employee for wearing a ribbon in violation of company policy, but the decision was reversed by embarrassed company executives.

The yellow ribbon's current status as a token of support for U.S. soldiers overseas seems unassailable, but it is far from clear how the symbol originated.

"We've searched books on American lore and symbols and found nothing," explaining its origin, said Barbara Cook, a reference librarian at the Providence Public Library.

The Archive of Folk Song in the Library of Congress has been responding to inquiries with a six-page reprint of a 1981 newsletter that attempts to outline the beginnings of the tradition.

It cites a number of possibilities, from the 1973 song, "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree," popularized by the group Tony Orlando and Dawn, to the 1949 John Wayne movie, "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon."

Yellow ribbons last lined the nation's streets 10 years ago, when 52 American hostages returned after 444 days of captivity in Iran.

That phenomenon was likely triggered by Penne Laingen, wife of ex-hostage Bruce Laingen, who tied a large yellow ribbon around a tree in front of their Bethesda, Md., home, Parsons said. Laingen said at the time that the idea came to her spontaneously, "to give people something to do."

She was inspired by the song written by Irwin Levine and L. Russell Brown, which tells of a convict riding a bus home after three years in prison. He had written his sweetheart telling her to tie a yellow ribbon on a roadside oak tree if she wanted him back. Sure enough, the ribbon is there.

Levine said he and Brown based the song on a story Brown heard in the Army in the 1960s.

The movie "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" popularized another song, "Round Her Neck She Wore a Yellow Ribbon." Parsons said the song can be traced to a 1917 composition by George A. Norton, called "Round Her Neck She Wears a Yellow Ribbon (For Her Lover Who is Fur, Fur Away)."

Whatever the origins, the ribbons seem here to stay for the duration of the Persian Gulf War.

But their acceptance is not universal.

At Clearfield Hospital in Clearfield, Pa., employees have been told not to tie yellow ribbons to the doors. "Not everyone perceives the ribbons as meaning the same thing," said spokeswoman Parry Kummick. "Some people could understand them as support of the war itself."

Gerald M. Carbone, a writer with The Providence Journal-Bulletin, wrote that he finds yellow ribbons "troubling ... symbols of blind support" that cannot be detached from the war.

**1991 HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO**

**RODEO** FEBRUARY 14 THRU MARCH 3

1991 PERFORMANCE TIMES: Saturday Matinees - 11 a.m.; Sunday, Feb. 24 matinee - 1 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 17, and Sunday, March 3 - 4 p.m. performances only. All evening performances are at 7:45 p.m.

PRESENTED BY <b>Bud Light &amp; Channel Two</b> <b>George Strait</b> Sunday, Feb. 17, Twilight	<b>Charley Pride</b> Saturday, Feb. 23, Evening	<b>Frankie Beverly and Maze</b> <b>The Isley Brothers</b> with <b>Angela Winbush</b> Thursday, Feb. 28, Evening
<b>George Strait</b> Monday, Feb. 18, Evening	<b>Mazz</b> <b>Little Joe y La Familia</b> Sunday, Feb. 24, Matinee	<b>Ricky Van Shelton</b> Friday, March 1, Evening
<b>Alabama</b> Tuesday, Feb. 19, Evening	<b>Bill Cosby</b> Sunday, Feb. 24, Evening	<b>Stevie B</b> <b>C &amp; C Music Factory</b> Saturday, March 2, Matinee
<b>K.T. Oslin</b> <b>Travis Tritt</b> Wednesday, Feb. 20, Evening	PRESENTED BY <b>Miller Lite &amp; Channel 11</b> <b>Clint Black</b> Monday, Feb. 25, Evening	<b>The Oak Ridge Boys</b> <b>Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers</b> Saturday, March 2, Evening
PRESENTED BY <b>Chevy First Team</b> <b>Garth Brooks</b> Thursday, Feb. 21, Evening	Country's Rising Stars hosted by <b>Roger Miller</b> and featuring <b>Carlene Carter</b> <b>Mark Chesnutt</b> <b>Shenandoah</b> <b>Marty Stuart</b> <b>Doug Stone</b> Tuesday, Feb. 26, Evening	PRESENTED BY <b>SNICKERS® Brand &amp; The Houston Chronicle</b> <b>Reba McEntire</b> Sunday, March 3, Twilight
PRESENTED BY <b>Texas Gulf Coast GMC Truck Team</b> <b>The Judds</b> Friday, Feb. 22, Evening	<b>Kathy Mattea</b> <b>Vince Gill</b> Saturday, Feb. 23, Matinee	

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To order tickets by phone, call Ticketron at 1-800-275-1000 toll-free, statewide, or Rainbow Ticketmaster at 1-800-749-9494 toll-free, statewide.

For tickets by mail, write: Ticket Director, P.O. Box 25395, Houston, Texas 77265-5395.

Rodeo ticket prices range from \$5 to \$12 and include admission to the Livestock Show.

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