

Shalikashvili says he didn't know of dad's link to Nazis

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's choice for chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff denied Wednesday he had withheld knowledge that in World War II his father had served the Nazi cause with the notorious Waffen SS.

In an emotional moment during an otherwise routine confirmation hearing, Gen. John M. Shalikashvili told the Senate Armed Services Committee he had been deeply disturbed by speculation that he had hidden knowledge of the SS connection, which came to light shortly after Clinton nominated him last month.

"I did not withhold this information, for I never had the slightest hint that my father was associated with the Waffen SS," the four-star Army general said.

"I'm deeply saddened that my father had this tragic association," he said.

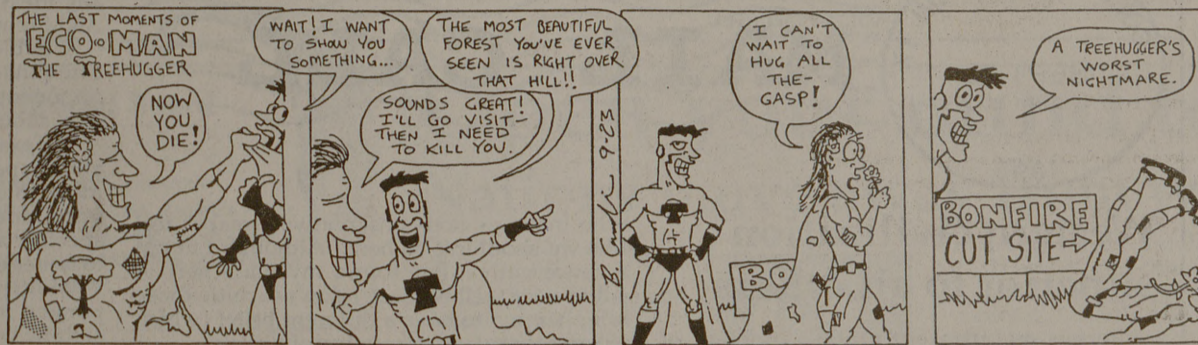
The SS connection seemed unlikely to pose a roadblock to Shalikashvili's confirmation. Some committee members warmly praised the general for his handling of the issue; most, including the chairman, Sen. Sam Nunn, didn't even mention it.

"I see clear sailing" for the nomination, Nunn said at the hearing's conclusion. The Georgia Democrat cautioned, though, that the committee might not act on the nomination until the White House proposed a replacement for Shalikashvili as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe and commander of U.S. forces in Europe.

Nunn cited the political turmoil

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By Boomer Cardinale

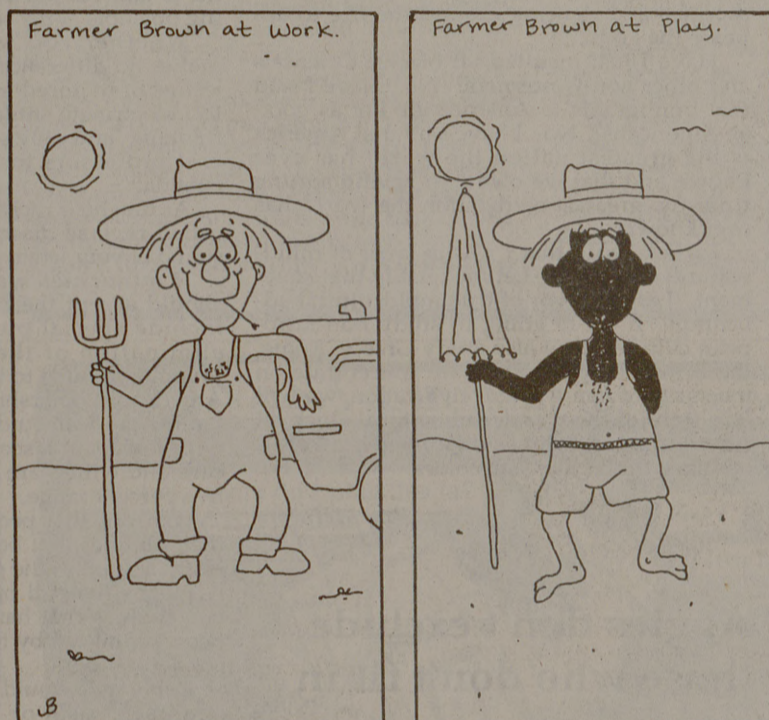


Fritch

By Critch



JUST THE BEGINNING



By Jason Brown

in Moscow and continuing uncertainty in Bosnia as reasons to ensure a smooth handover of command authority within NATO.

Shalikashvili is to replace Gen. Colin Powell as chairman of the Joint Chiefs on Oct. 1. Nunn raised the possibility that Powell's top deputy, Adm. David Jeremiah, might be asked to take over the chairmanship "for a few days" if a replacement for Shalikashvili has not been nominated by month's end.

"Can we afford to lose you" on the European scene with no replacement in sight? Nunn asked.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the senior military adviser to the president, the National Security Council and the defense secretary.

sonnel took too much time to attend to their 'wounds.' Emily Gerst, a teacher in charge of the Health Occupations classes at Bryan High School, said, "They (the students) don't understand why it's taking so long, but in a real emergency it would take longer than this. I purposefully did not prepare them for everything. I wanted them to experience it first."

The student victims said they enjoyed the afternoon despite the effects of the make-up and heat.

Michael Collins, a junior from Bryan High School, said, "I love this, but as soon as it is over, I'm going to have to get home and take a bath."

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Crash

Continued from Page 1

Harry Raisor, director of aviation for Easterwood Airport, said the exercise went as planned, and gave emergency units in the area the chance to work together on a major incident.

"It gives each entity of the community in the emergency plan the opportunity to exercise their units," Raisor said. "It's a great community effort."

The students from Bryan High School who were the 'victims' of the crash felt the emergency per-

Youth

Continued from Page 1

Rohack explained his concern that the young educated people in the country will not only pay for the health care of the elderly, but also the medical expenses of the high school dropouts who don't have jobs.

"If you put the cost of care on the youth, but still have a large portion of young people who are dropouts and not educated and who don't have jobs, then it is those who get in the work force who will pick up the tab," Rohack said.

Clinton's new system will be employment based — that is, employees will pay 80 percent of the costs and workers will pay 20 percent.

The poor and unemployed will be covered by government subsidies.

U.S. Rep. Jack Fields, R-Humble, said Wednesday night that he fears the financial burden that could be placed on small businesses if the president's plan passes Congress.

"We need to start with the ability of small businesses to pool so that they can drive

down the costs of health insurance," he said.

Clinton addressed the concerns of small business in his speech. He said one-third of small businesses covering employees will have to drop their insurance if costs continue to skyrocket.

He suggested groups of small businesses and consumers be given the same insurance advantages as large corporations.

"Unless everybody is covered, we will never be able to fully put the breaks on health care inflation," Clinton said.

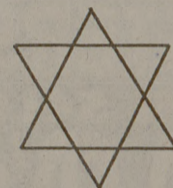
Local concerns about the president's \$700 billion plan came from Rohack, who said he is unclear how to fund the \$40,000 medical education at A&M and other schools around the country. Although Clinton is considering a one percent premium surcharge on businesses to help support medical research and teaching hospitals, Rohack said there is no incentive for research. He said people may be forced into specialty choices they do not want.

"When you look at the changes the plan proposes, there are a lot of great things plus some not so great things, but there are gray areas that I am still concerned about," he said.

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