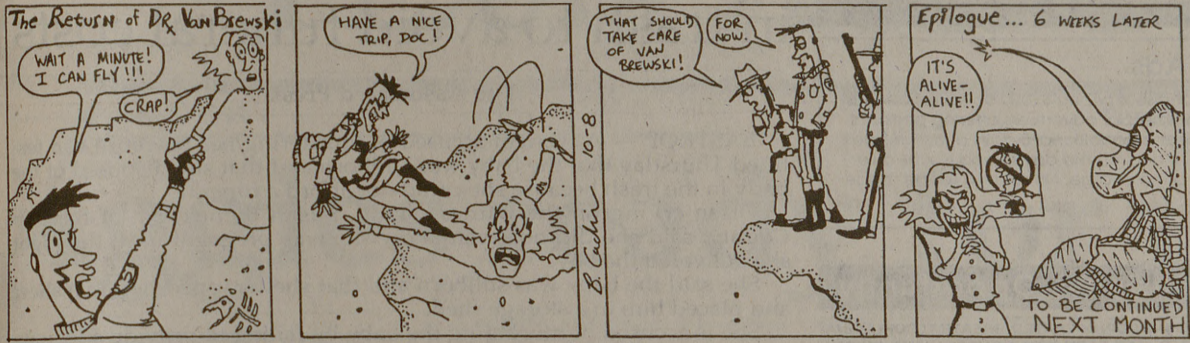


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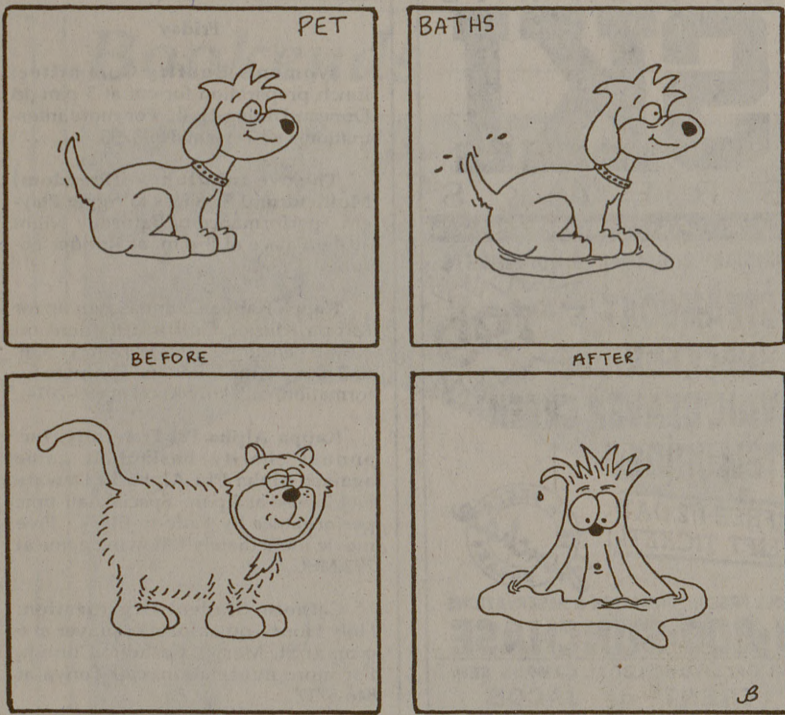


Cable program tries to embarrass deadbeat parents

The Associated Press

MARTINEZ, Calif. — Stiff your kids, star on TV. That's the message of "Deadbeat Parents," a new local cable program that zooms in on child support scofflaws. Proponents are hoping the 15-minute show will do what the courts have not: embarrass delinquent parents into paying up. "The generation of parents we're talking about are so television oriented. What they see on TV, they believe," said Nona McGaa, whose two stepchildren are owed more than \$31,000 by their mother. "It's not so much that it's intimidation or fear... it's pointing out to them that it's not OK." The show, which debuts in Contra Costa County on Oct. 25, features 10 alleged deadbeats, including a stockbroker, a physician and a tattoo artist. It will be broadcast weekly, with the cast of delinquents changing every month. After a brief introduction, viewers in the county east of San Francisco will be shown pictures and vital statistics of the parents and a telephone number to call with tips. Parents featured must be at least six months delinquent and owe more than \$10,000. "Deadbeat Parents" is the latest weapon states are aiming at nonpayers. In central California, brief spots have been broadcast on cable TV in Kern County. A new law says the state can yank professional licenses for nonpayment. "Taxpayers are picking up the tab for the delinquent parent," said Contra Costa County Supervisor Sunne McPeak, who proposed the public access program on cable TV. Several states circulate "most wanted" posters of alleged deadbeats. Child support scofflaws in Maine were warned in August they risk losing a variety of state licenses.

JUST THE BEGINNING



By Jason Brown

Representative not charged with showing boy fake penis

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The inability of a teen-age legislative page to identify the lawmaker who showed him a fake penis makes it impossible to bring charges, the state attorney general said Wednesday. State Rep. Jimmy Benefield acknowledged taking the toy to the House floor on March 23, but said he never knowingly showed it to Jason Bunkley, who was then 13. The toy popped up when an apron covering it was raised. Attorney General Michael Bowers said a Georgia Bureau of Investigation report showed that "in all likelihood" Benefield displayed the toy to the child, but the boy wasn't sure. Bowers said he has no explanation for the boy's inability to identify the individual. "What to do with Rep. Jimmy Benefield now is clearly up to the House," Bowers said. Jason's mother reported the incident to House leaders, but there was no action until she took it to state prosecutors. The House Ethics Committee scheduled an Oct. 14 meeting to decide if it would take additional steps.

Mayor hopes D.C. can cash in on gambling

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly is betting that the nation's capital can cash in on roulette and blackjack, but opponents of casino gambling worry that the mob will muscle in on a city already suffering from rampant street crime. Officials with experience trying to pry legal gambling from the grip of organized crime in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, N.J., say a massive commitment in regulations and policing is needed to keep casinos clean — and even then, the mob often finds a way in. "You can't avoid criminal incidents and organized crime, but by carefully structuring the way the

(casino) industry operates, you can control or reduce the magnitude of the problem," said Ronald Goldstock, director of the New York State Organized Crime Task Force. "But the issue is not elimination, it's control."

Kelly has said casino gambling could pay for a half-billion dollar convention center. She said she favors allowing just a casino or two, modeled along the lines of Monte Carlo, or London's private clubs, which she said would be tasteful and unobtrusive.

Deborah Daniels, spokeswoman for the mayor's economic development office, said Kelly has assigned a committee to study gambling as a "possible option," and should have a report by mid-November.



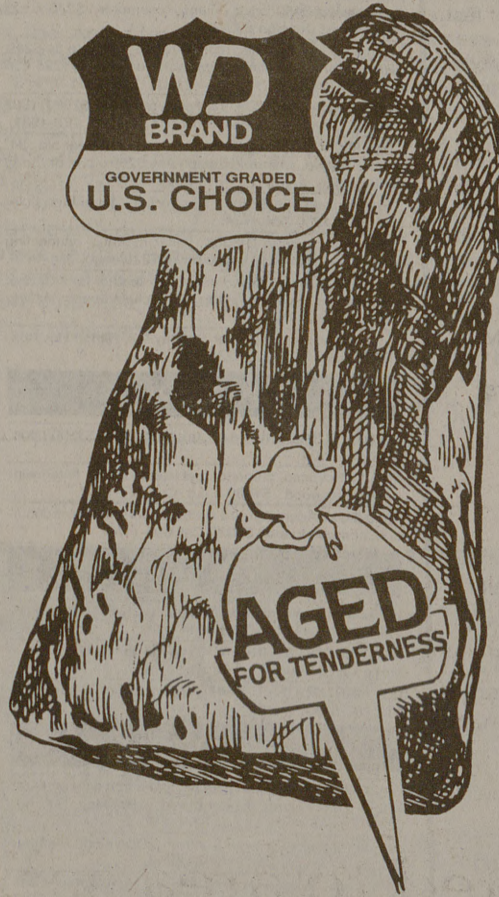
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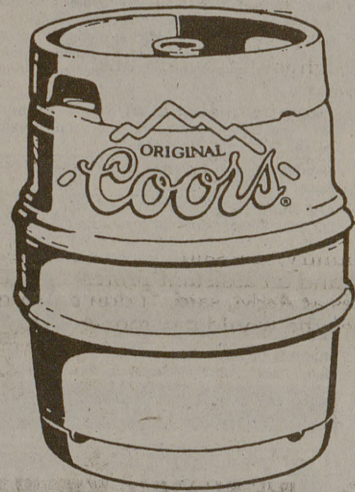
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