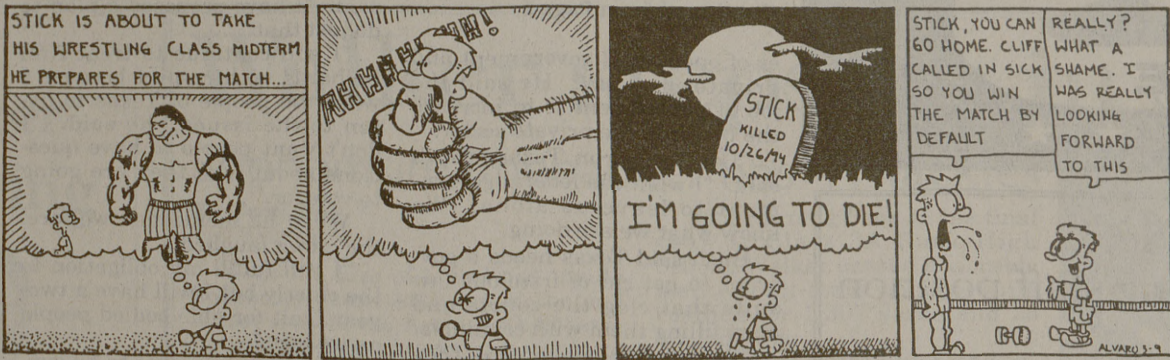


Scientists to dig up history' to study deaths

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP) — High-tech tests are inspiring new investigations of the deaths of famous people, including Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth, to answer the question "Who dunnit?" and see if the story books are right. Descendants of Booth, along with two historians, have filed a petition in Baltimore Circuit Court asking to exhume remains from a city cemetery to see if it really is Booth who is buried there. Similar investigations already have looked into the deaths of President Zachary Taylor, Louisiana political legend Huey Long, the ax-murdered parents of Lizzie Borden, and the victims of Colorado cannibal Alferd Packer. There has been a surge of increased recognition at what forensic sciences can do. "It's possible to do things that we couldn't do 15 years ago," said Douglas Ubelaker, curator of physical anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History. A cautionary note is sounded by Clyde Snow, a forensic anthropologist in Norman, Okla., who analyzed bones found in 1985 at the Little Bighorn battlefield in Montana. "Fetched stories often surround the lives of famous historical figures," he said, and examinations should only be done if reputable historians believe they should shed light on a certain historical issue. "I don't know that just because somebody out there has some doubts about what happened that we should jump in and dig people up," Snow said. Ubelaker and colleague Douglas W. Hensley were approached by Booth's relatives and historians who think another man is buried in Booth's grave. They think Booth escaped capture and lived another 38 years before dying in Oklahoma in 1903. Advances in DNA testing of soft tissue and preserved bone can help provide genetic fingerprints to aid in identification, Ubelaker said. Also, scientists' knowledge of trauma and post-mortem changes in the body has increased in recent years. Scientists also have sophisticated means of comparing skulls with photographs of the deceased, he said. And chemical analysis of bones can determine what a person ate before death, or if they ingested a poison or other chemical.

Stick



By Alvaro

THE INKWELL



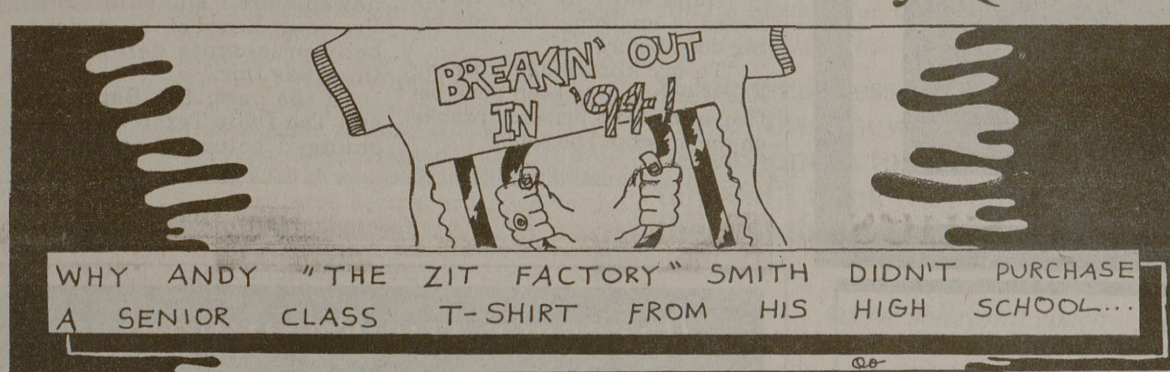
By Brad

ADVENTURES IN AGGIELAND



By Greg

Generation Y



By Quatro

WEATHER

Today
Cloudy skies becoming partly cloudy by afternoon. High near 70.

Thursday
Partly cloudy and pleasant. High near 72. Light and variable winds.

Friday
Partly cloudy and mild. High near 74.

Tonight
Partly cloudy and cold. Low near 48. East winds 5-10 mph.

Thursday Night
Partly cloudy and cold. Low near 51.

Source - A&M Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

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College Station Community Center
1300 George Bush Drive
Room 106

For additional information call Karen Hall, 589-2920 (evenings)

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When: Wednesday, October 26, 1994

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OR
Oct. 18 (Tues.) at 5:15 p.m.
OR
Oct. 26 (Wed.) at 4:30 p.m.

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Study Abroad Programs, 161 W. Bizzell Hall, 845-0544

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