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With balanced-budget effort dead, both sides seek election advantage

Republicans and Democrats are trying to avoid blame for the collapse of the yearlong budget effort.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bartering a miracle, the quest for a grand balanced-budget deal is dead. But each side's election-year drive to portray the other as the villain is just beginning. In professed attempts to revive the budget-balancing effort, President Clinton and Republicans are staging separate long-shot campaigns to woo congressional moderates from the other party to their warring visions of spending and tax cuts. At the same time, Republicans may force House votes this week on the two camps' final offers at the budget talks, in hopes of showing that few Democrats support Clinton's plan while there is bipartisan backing for the GOP proposal.

But for now, both parties — aware that voters want federal deficits eliminated — are trying to avoid blame for the collapse of the yearlong budget effort. Even each side's attempt to gain support from House and Senate moderates is all but certain to fall short of producing a compromise that can become law, participants concede. "We just decided we're going to keep working, even if it's a very slight chance," said Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn., a leader of the so-called Blue Dogs, conservative House Democrats who have been meeting with leaders of both sides. Even so, the chairmen of the Senate and House budget committees, Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., and Rep. John Kasich, R-Ohio, plan to meet Thursday with leaders of the Blue Dogs and Senate moderates of both parties, led by Sens. John Breaux, D-La., and John Chafee, R-R.I. Last Thursday, White House chief of staff Leon Panetta and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin met with the Senate group. Both the Blue Dogs and Senate moderates have produced budget plans with proposed savings in Medicare, welfare and

other programs that fall mostly between Clinton and the GOP. The biggest gulf is over tax cuts: The Blue Dogs have proposed none and the Senate moderates want \$130 billion over seven years, well below the near \$200 billion the GOP has sought. The problem with crafting a package that satisfies the moderates is that conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats are likely to be alienated in sufficient number to prevent a congressional package. Many House Republicans, for instance, are adamant that any final plan include sizable tax cuts. "We can't spend all our time worrying about the House of Representatives," said the moderate Chafee in an interview. "So far what they've done is come up with programs that don't have a chance in" the Senate. Nonetheless, each side hopes it can drum up enough moderate votes to pressure its opponents to return to the bargaining table

and make major concessions. Even that is unlikely. But in the meantime, the effort helps each camp depict itself as dedicated to eliminating the deficit — which could become especially valuable if continued deadlock causes the financial markets to dive. As they do virtually every day, both sides focused on that theme Tuesday. "The president believes there remains a centrist, bipartisan majority in favor of a historic balanced budget agreement and we're going to see if we can assemble that coalition," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry, adding that Republicans eventually would "want to get on something other than the caboose." Campaigning in Iowa for the GOP presidential nomination, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said that if Republicans can't reach a budget deal with the president, "we're going to send him bill after bill after bill that sends power to the people ... and find out where the president stands." Meanwhile, GOP leaders considered whether to schedule House votes on the final offers by Clinton and Republicans at the defunct budget talks.



Dole

AIDS discovered for first time in chimpanzee

Although over 100 chimps have been infected with the virus, none until now had actually developed the disease.

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time, scientists have managed to give AIDS to a chimpanzee, a possible substitute for people in testing ways to control the disease. Since the AIDS epidemic began, about 100 chimps have been intentionally given the AIDS virus in an effort to learn more about the disease. But while these animals get infected, none until now had actually developed AIDS. In fact, many scientists doubted whether the disease was even pos-

sible in a chimp. Researchers from the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center at Emory University in Atlanta described the first chimp AIDS case at a medical conference Tuesday. One of the things that has made AIDS so difficult to control has been the lack of a so-called animal model — a lab animal that can stand in for people in studies of the disease. While monkeys get sick with a simian version of HIV, the AIDS virus, researchers fear that insights from studying these animals may not apply to people. The discovery of true AIDS in a chimpanzee could give scientists their first animal model for the disease. Whether this will be practical is still unclear. Another drawback is controversy about

using chimps for medical studies. These animals are humans' closest relative, and they are endangered in the wild. "We believe this to be the first development of AIDS in a chimpanzee infected with HIV," Dr. Francis J. Novembre, a virologist, said at the annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. The animal, code-named C499, was inoculated with HIV in 1985 and quickly became infected. It remained outwardly well until last August, when it developed chronic diarrhea. In November, it came down with pneumonia. Both of these illnesses are typical signs of AIDS in HIV-infected people. They occur because the body's immune defenses are too weak to fight off common microbes.

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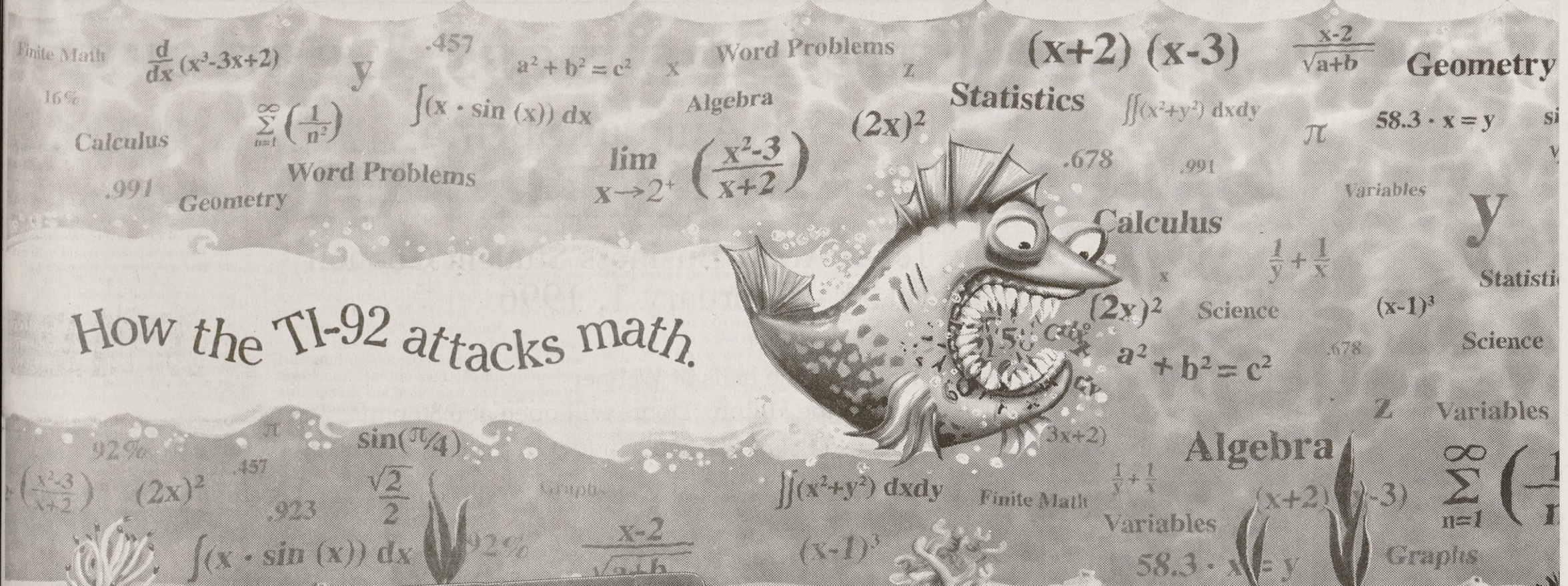
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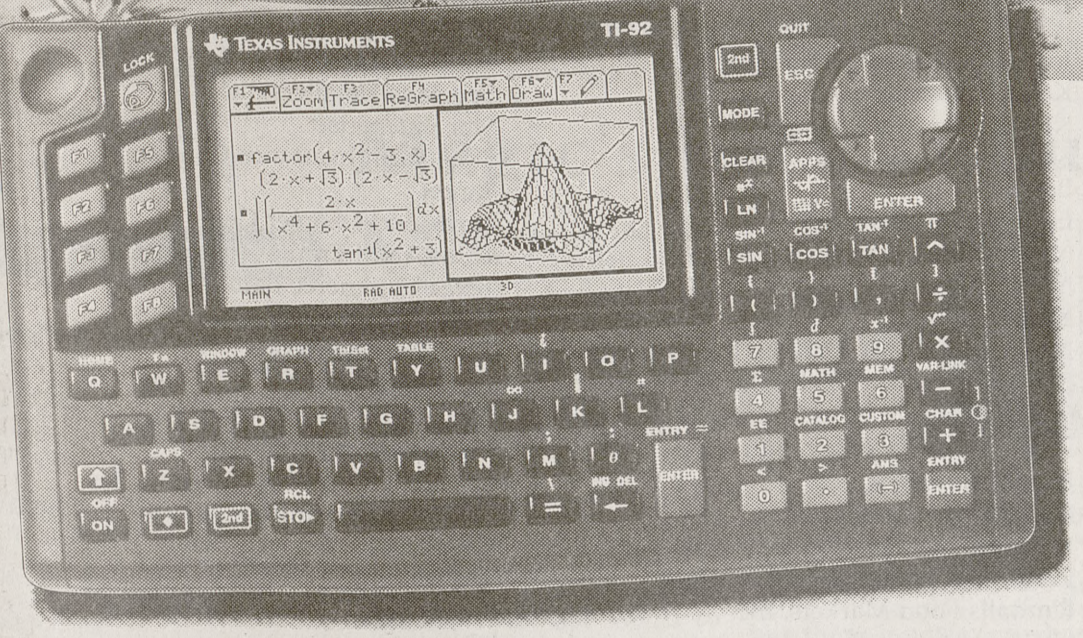
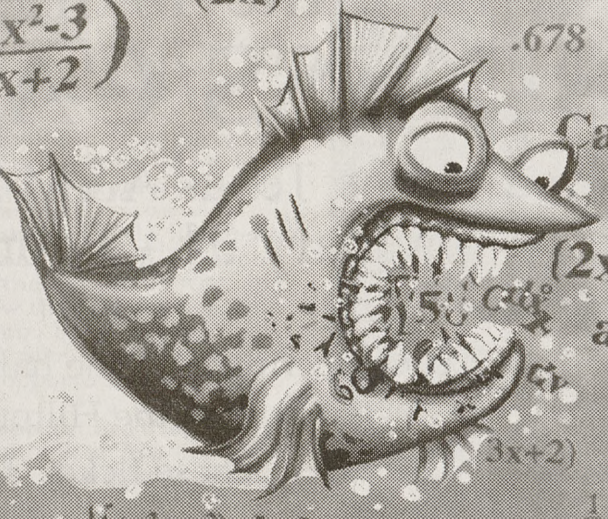
MSC Spring Calendar January/February

- 31 MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society "Artfair" 10-3 PM MSC Hallway and Main Lounge
- 1 MSC Film Society II Postino 7 & 9:30 PM Rudder
- 2-3 MSC Film Society Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls 7 & 9:30 PM Rudder
- 2-4 MSC Nova "Warcon" MSC
- 2-29 MSC Visual Arts "Minimalism by Marco Antonio Trovomala" MSC Visual Arts Gallery
- 6 MSC Opera and Performing Arts "A Grand Night for Singing" 8PM Rudder Auditorium
- 8-11 MSC Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture "Southwest Student Conference on Latino Affairs" MSC and Rudder
- 8 MSC Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture "Carlos Mencia" 8PM Rudder Theater
- 9 MSC Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture "Rio Bravo Ballet" 7 PM Rudder Auditorium MSC Film Society Get Shorty 7 & 9:30 PM Rudder
- 10 MSC Film Society Brothers McMullen 7 & 9:30 p.m. Rudder
- 15 MSC Film Society Jeffery 7 & 9:30 PM Rudder
- 15-17 MSC Student Conference on National Affairs Committee "Governance in the 21st Century" MSC and Rudder

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