

DIRTY APES



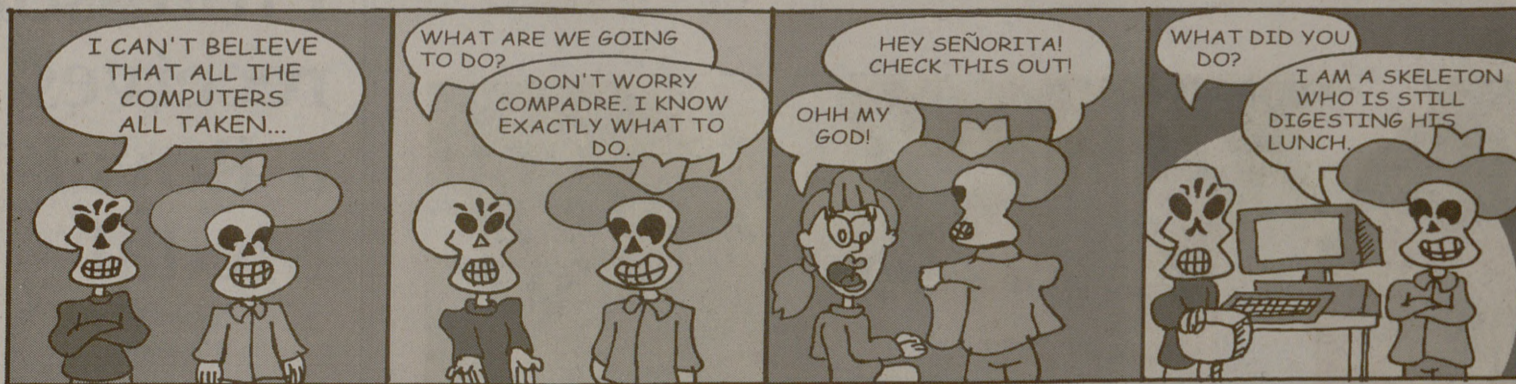
BY R. DELUNA

The Fantastic Chronicles



BY J. GOLDFLUTE

HECTOR Y PEDRO



BY Adrian

Enrollment in summer school rises with increasing standards

BALTIMORE (AP) — As fourth-graders citywide splashed in municipal swimming pools last week, Tiffany Cantey sat in a rock-hard chair, her slender legs crossed under the desk as she flipped through a paperback book, trying to remember what she had just learned about rivers. People fish in them. Animals drink from them. Sometimes they change course. Cheerful nonetheless as she filled in the columns on a worksheet, the 10-year-old said that if she did not have to sit here — her mother teaching the class! — she would be at home, relaxing. "I would either be home in my room, reading a book or watching TV," she said, a smile creeping in as she thought about her favorite books, "The Babysitters Club" series. Tiffany is one of 32,000

Baltimore school children — about one-third of all students — required to be in school on the first week of summer because they failed to meet the city's new, tougher academic requirements. For many students these days, both in Baltimore and nationwide, such rules have ushered in what amounts to year-round school. "Some kids need more than 10 months to get to the place where they need to be," said Maureen Harris, who runs Boston's summer school program. Officials there expect about 8,000 students. About 7,000 attended last year, compared with 4,000 in 1999, the program's first year. Led by big cities, districts across the country are spending millions of dollars on summer programs, offering smaller classes and more individual attention even as they get tough on those whose math and reading skills lag behind. "The programs are growing, and they're spreading from one urban community to the next," said Harris Cooper, chairman of the University of Missouri's department of psychological sciences and author of a book

about the effectiveness of summer school programs. Researchers last year found that 80 of the largest 100 school districts held back students who did not successfully complete summer school. An informal survey by the Associated Press of 10 big-city districts found that higher state and local standards have prompted all to offer or require summer school for increasing numbers of students. In Chicago, 70,000 of the city's 435,000 public school students must attend summer school. In New Orleans, more than 10,000 of the city's 75,000 students are taking required classes after doing poorly on the state's skills test. Similar programs are under way in New York, Los Angeles, Washington, Philadelphia, Denver, Cleveland and Miami.

ment should destroy records one business day after they are generated instead of the 180 days now allowed by federal regulation. Democrats and gun control groups criticized the proposal, saying it plays into the hands of the National Rifle Association, which opposes holding time, and will be virtually impossible to regulate gun-purchase transactions, fraud and abuse. Ashcroft said auditing done in "real time" using technology, but did not specify the quicker checks would be done.

PROFESSOR
Continued from Page 1
connection to Scotland. The Royal Medal will not be the first award that Scott has received. He has also been given the Davy Medal and Bakerian Lectureship by the Royal Society of London, the Tetrahedron Prize for Creativity in organic chemistry and the Robert A. Welch Award in chemistry. He has also been granted honorary degrees from the University of Pierre Curie, located in Paris and from the University of Coimbra in Portugal. Along with Scott, people will be honored by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, a Scottish historian, also receiving the Royal Medal. The awards will be presented by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at the Palace of Holyrood in Edinburgh.

GUNS
Continued from Page 1
(25.8 percent) and California (24.8 percent). Almost 58 percent of applicants rejected by state and local authorities had felony convictions or indictments, compared with 73 percent in 1999. The second most common reason for rejection was a domestic violence misdemeanor conviction or a restraining order. Those accounted for about 11,000 applications, or 12 percent of rejections. Background checks to see if prospective gun buyers have criminal records have been required since February 1994 under the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act. Through 2000, the FBI or state and local police had rejected 689,000 of nearly 30 million applications, or 2.3 percent, compared with the 2 percent rate of rejection last year, the report said. The checks are done electronically. The report showed that in 2000, the FBI processed 4.3 million applications and state and local agencies processed 3.5 million. State and local agencies did not approve 86,000, or 2.5 percent of applicants; the FBI rejected 67,000, or 1.6 percent of those who applied in 2000. Greenfeld attributed the difference to state agencies' access to more detailed criminal history records than the FBI's. "They may have other databases they check that the FBI couldn't check," Greenfeld said. Attorney General John Ashcroft said the report shows that the Brady law is working, but more needs to be done to prosecute people who try to purchase guns illegally. "While the Brady law has helped us stop convicted felons and other dangerous individuals from buying guns easily, violations of the law are not being prosecuted adequately," Ashcroft said. Ashcroft recently announced several initiatives to

improve the National Background Check System, called NICS, and increase prosecutions. He cited FBI statistics showing that 217,000 attempted legal gun purchases were referred for investigation, but only 294 people were convicted. Ashcroft said more prosecutors would be encouraged to pursue people who give information when they purchase guns or apply for a gun that they give to someone else. He also moved to speed up the government's background check process by requiring people who try to buy guns to be temporarily so that law enforcement agencies can look for fraudulent transactions or mistaken approvals. Ashcroft said the

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— John Ashcroft, U.S. Attorney General

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