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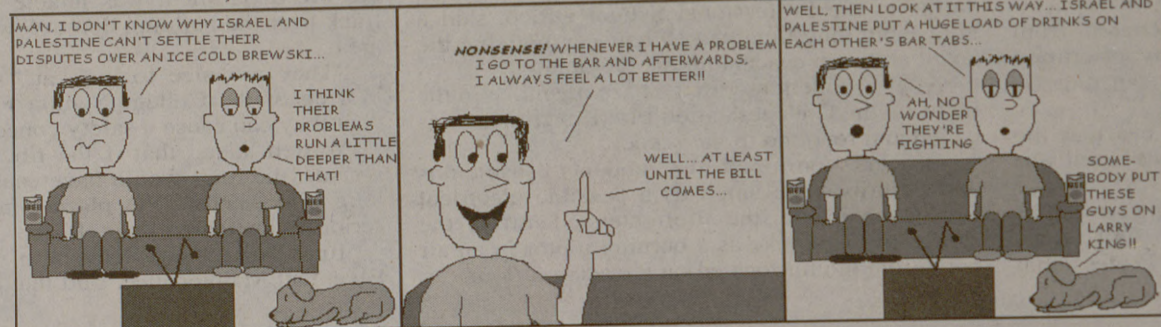
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the Wuss Cookie



Campus

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parking. Parking Area 100, located next to Reed Arena, will have more than 600 parking spaces available by September, and Parking Area 33, located by the Albritton Bell Tower, will have spaces for over 400 vehicles. These lots will accommodate students and faculty.

Unfortunately, Williams said the frustration from the entanglements and parking will continue.

"(A year will pass) before the bulk of the construction is completed," Williams said. The long anticipated West Campus Parking Garage is now recognizable as a soon-to-be parking garage and not a huge

hole in the ground.

Williams said that its completion is expected by Fall 2003, and when completed, "will make a big impact on the campus by creating more space."

While that is still a year away, additional parking space will be needed in August when football season begins.

Williams believes the amount of road construction and parking problems will be similar to those encountered last season, such as heavy traffic and lack of parking spaces, but they should not be any worse, he said.

Despite his assurances, not all students are convinced.

"It will be interesting to see how all the alumni react to the terrible road conditions and lack of parking," said senior political science major Corinn Arthur.

Massachusetts parents challenge voluntary desegregation law

BOSTON (AP) — Parents went to federal court Monday to challenge a town's voluntary desegregation plan as an unconstitutional use of race to keep families from sending children to schools of their choice.

Under the plan in Lynn, transfers of students outside their own neighborhoods can be denied if they disturb a racial balance.

Lynn's policy was written 14 years ago to comply with the state's voluntary racial imbalance law, which asks public school districts to desegregate schools with a minority population of more than 50 percent. The state rewards school districts who voluntarily desegregate with additional

money for educational services or building projects.

The trial is being closely watched by 21 other cities and towns in Massachusetts and others across the country who have also voluntarily desegregated their school systems.

"This is the first time in this country's history that the validity of a voluntary school assignment plan is on trial," said assistant attorney general Richard Cole.

Meta Stinson was the only witness to testify Monday for seven parents challenging the desegregation plan. The parents then rested their case.

Stinson said she asked school administrators to transfer her 13-year-old daughter, Angelica,

from her neighborhood school to Pickering Middle School because she was concerned about discipline problems at the neighborhood school.

"They said no. That wasn't her district," Stinson said.

When asked by her attorney whether the administrators gave her any other reason why her daughter could not transfer, Stinson said she was told, "Because she's white."

Chester Darling, whose Citizens for the Preservation of Constitutional Rights represents the families, said Lynn's policy arbitrarily prohibits families from sending their children to schools of their choice.

"They have a variety of reasons for wanting to transfer, but

they can't because of the kid's color," he said. "We're beyond that in our society."

Assistant Attorney General Richard Cole asked Stinson if her daughter had benefited from attending racially integrated schools in Lynn. Stinson acknowledged that Angelica had developed friendships with students of various races and had good racial attitudes.

She also acknowledged that helping children overcome racial stereotypes is an important part of the school system's mission.

But when asked by her own attorney what the most important thing public schools can do for her daughter, Stinson replied, "Teaching."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former nurse charged with deaths at veterans hospital

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A former nurse at a Veterans' Affairs hospital was arrested Monday and charged with murder in the deaths

of 10 patients in 1992.

More than 40 patients on Ward 4 East at Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in Columbia died that year while under the care of Richard Williams, authorities said.

Williams, 36, has denied wrongdoing. He was arrested without incident in suburban St.

Louis and taken to the Boone County jail, where he was held without bond. His arraignment was scheduled for Tuesday.

Names of Williams' alleged victims were not immediately released. The hospital did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

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THE BATTALION

Douglas Fuentes, Editor in Chief

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