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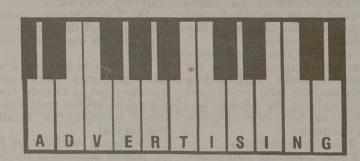
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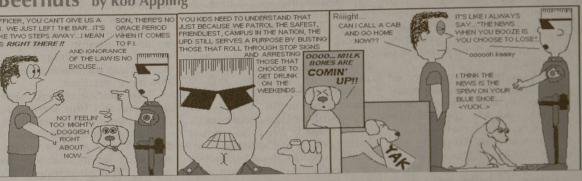
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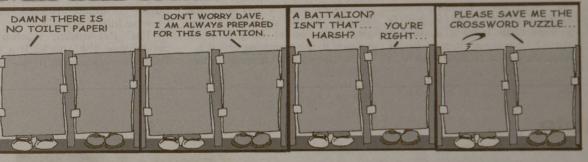


**Beernuts** by Rob Appling



the Wuss Cookie

Madrian



#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### Couple accused in 22-year-old kidnapping strike plea deal

NEW YORK (AP) - A couple charged with kidnapping a baby 22 years ago and raising him as their son struck a plea deal Tuesday that spares them lengthy prison terms.

Barry and Judith Smiley said they hoped the deal would give the parents of Matthew Propp "closure and time to heal."

"We broke the law, and we're willing to take responsibility for that," Barry Smiley said after a judge approved the arrangement. "We're truly sorry for any pain we caused."

Propp, now 23, held back tears and buried his face in his hands several times during the hearing. Later, he said he was relieved the "chaotic" ordeal was over.

"It's jail time, and that's upsetting," he said. "They're my parents. My feelings for them haven't changed at all. I still love them very much."

The baby's maternal grandfather had arranged for the Smileys to adopt the baby at birth. But in 1980, when the child was 15 months old, a judge ruled the adoption illegal because the boy's mother, Deborah Gardner, had not given her consent; Gardner has not involved herself in the current case.

The couple fled to Albuquerque, N.M., with the baby and lived under the aliases Bennett and Mary Propp. The couple surrendered last year, but argued that they had acted out of love for the child.

# by R. DeLuna Input

Continued from page

in the MSC on Feb. explained the reasons behind decisions against it. Then for the decision allowed for long-term plans with input, Hammond said.

During the past year, st have voiced their opinio Bonfire in numerous voting online about its design earlier this year. ing the committee Keep' Burning, submitting Memorial plans and other ing an off-campus bonfi November.

Any student interes finding out more about th ence of the student bo Bonfire or any issue shoul university rules at rules.tamu.edu.

Within the guidelines dent government, student submit revisions to the rule tion representatives for o organize peaceful protests. ute pamphlets with the an ate permit or participate of versity committee upon a ment by the student body dent and approval by them ty president.

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Coventry said the Univ committees discuss every topic that impacts life, from parking and in meal plans. One or two students:

each committee with appointments every year. The student perspect considered when facul

staff members make deci he said. "It's not just students whi involved in student gover appointed to these comm

Coventry said. "Students all walks of life participate Coventry also said the ipation of students with dent government is unit

A&M. "In the majority of de made within the Univ there is an opportunity student's voices to be A&M has a history of to the students.

Among other within the A&M syste sets the standard of involvement and Coventry said.

## Teachers

Continued from page 1

However, they will need to meet rigorous requirements prior to acceptance," Glessner said.

The first 14 participants of PACT completed the initial course requirements in Spring 2002. The participants are preparing for year long teaching internships. 10 to 12 students are already on file to participate in the program this fall, Glessner said.

Parrott said the senior students have not found it difficult to co plete PACT courses in their last semester.

"Most students have already fulfilled the requirements for their majors and can fill in their electives with the PACT coursework," Parrott said A major incentive to participate in PACT is that there is a two-

semester paid teaching internship. "How much (interns are paid) depends on the school district, and

some (schools) give bonuses and extra perks to draw in prospective teachers," Glessner said.

School districts offer competitive salaries dependent on their need. Salaries can range from \$25,000 to more than \$35,000, she said.

Parrot said interns are not just put in a room of 20 students for a year to learn about teaching alone. Interns are required to meet weekly with a mentor, and faculty is also available for assistance.

"Mentors supervise and assist the intern to make sure they are meeting the standards of the internship," Parrott said.

In addition to being paid for interning, grants are awarded to help

students pay for the study program. Some students receive \$4,800, which covers the 15 hours of coursework, workship mentoring. There are a limited amount of grants awarded, of the students have received some kind of grant, Glessners

To receive certification, PACT participants must pass two exams. The content exam, the first of the two exams, passed before interning.

"Students have to know the content of their subject matter

they can enter the public school system (and teach it)," Glessia Responsibilities, tests on what students learned from their

work and skills accumulated from the classroom setting. The accelerated program puts students into classroom mentors to learn real world skills that compliment the trad certification process.

The newest certification program, Accelerated Certification Program (ACP), is scheduled to be available to students in The ACP has the same essential requirements as the PACT pr but it is different in that it is an online certification progra concentrated on secondary life sciences. It is geared to fit schedules and create flexible options for getting teachers cer

The ACP appeals to more people at different levels in the regardless of whether they are midcareer-changers or R Glessner said.

Interested science or math students should contact an a in their college for more information on how to participate PACT or ACP.

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