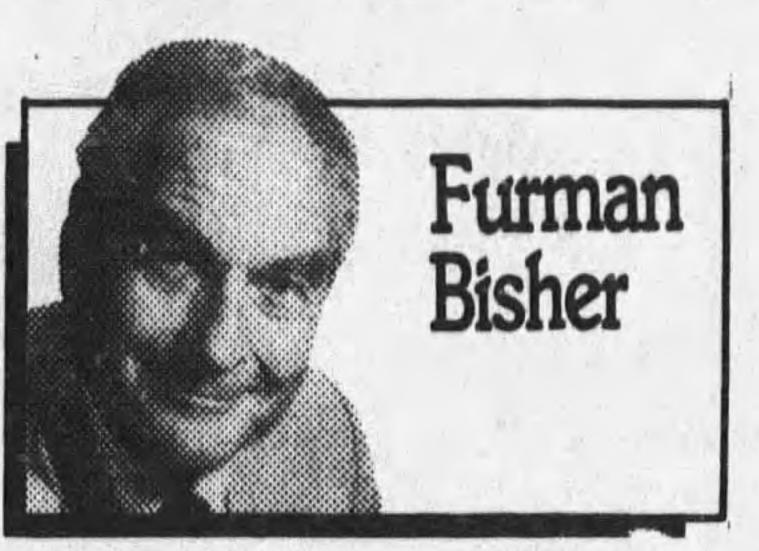
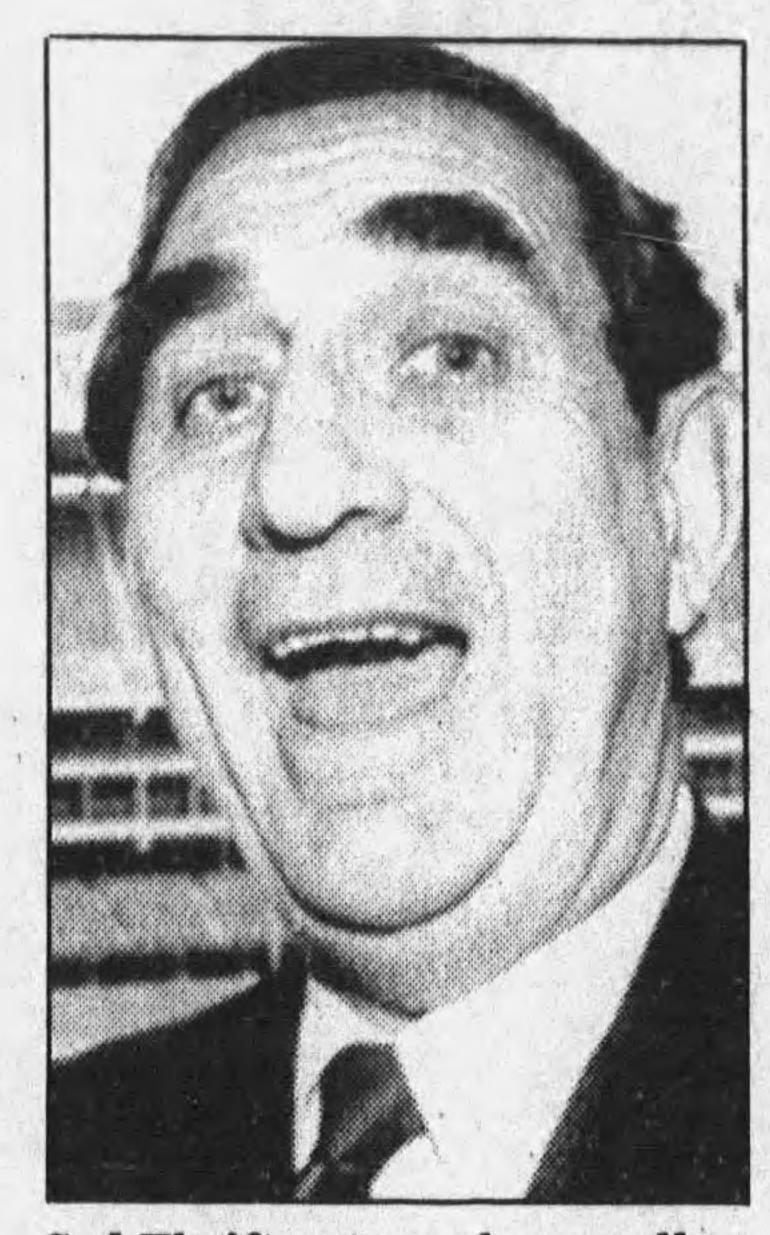
# NFL's European Plan Is a Good-Sense Idea

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH: A National Football League farm system in Europe, now that makes sense. They're hooked on American football over there, and the fans wouldn't know that it's minor league. Everything would be relative.... The Braves, meaning Ted **Turner** et al, sat on their hands and let a man who might have got their ox out of the ditch get away. They could have had Syd Thrift for a mere telephone call, and they never dialed his number. He was begging, pleading for a chance in Atlanta, and all he got was silence. ... And whatever became of Hadacol?

Strange, you'd have thought Eddie Sutton would have announced his resignation to Kentucky instead of the CBS network and a few million people he'd never met. ... Baltimore Orioles' youth movement has turned into something like a used-car lot. They began the spring with a handful of reclamation projects, Ken Dixon, Al Holland and Fred Breining, pitchers; Ken Landreaux, the old Dodgers outfielder; and the now retired **Bob Horner**... The Orioles retired Eddie Murray's number after he bailed out for Los Angeles, which sent columnist John Steadman of the Sun into a rage. Next thing you know, the Federal Penitentiary will be retiring **Denny McLain's** number. Took Bruce Crampton 18 years to win 15 tournaments on the PGA Tour. In less than four years on the PGA Senior Tour, he took his 16th the other day in Orlando ... Seve Ballesteros is off to a roaring start on his European campaign of '89. The Spaniard finished 54th in the Renault Open at Majorca, tied with the immortal Luis Carbonetti. ... "Drugs is not a disease. Polio and cancer are diseases. Drugs are a choice," says Charles Barkley, not always given to such clarity of thought.



in the water? ... Bruce Benedict has a Hall of Passe over his locker at West Palm Beach, a card collection of the catchers the veteran Brave has outlasted - Matt Sinatro, Rick Cerone, Joe Nolan, Vic Correll, Biff Pocoroba, Alex Trevino, Larry Owen and Ozzie Virgil. "All," he said, "who were going to get my job." ... Nobody asked me, but if I wanted to put the best Braves team on the field, and work the worthy Jeff Blauser into the lineup, I'd put him at short and move Andres Thomas to the outfield, probably center, and let Dale Murphy return to right. Hord Hardin is pretty much concerned about skyrocketing golf purses and the effect they may have on the Masters, he tells Golf magazine. "I don't know how much more than a million we can go ... I don't feel our membership would want to continue if we had to change the quality and caliber of the tournament," the chairman said.... What is this, the women's international tennis tour taking the name "Post Cereals-Cafe Hag" World Tour? Cafe Hag? Isn't that getting rather personal? ... Name of the Week: Rusty Cannon, not to be found on any courthouse square, but on the golf courses of Albany. Remarkable it was that **Jose** Alvarez should have made it last season as the oldest rookie pitcher in Atlanta history. But he was a mere child compared to the oldest of them all. **Diomedes Olivo** made it with the Pirates at age 42 in 1961. Died suddenly 16 years later. ... Fine as it would be to rename Texas Stadium for Tom Landry, Blackie (Dallas News) **Sherrod** recommends that it be named Murchison Stadium, for **Clint**, "who built the franchise." ... "For us to pay for our business with beer dollars is really ugly to me," says Bill Curry, speaking of suds commercials on television of



## Syd Thrift got no phone calls from the Braves.

college events. "I think we ought to drop all of it."

#### \*

**Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice** is the centerpiece of a new drug and alcohol rehabilitation hospital in Charlotte which bears his

# **Testimony Centers on Deception**

## Former Temple Star Paul Palmer Accused of Lying About Deal With Agents

The Atlanta Journal AND CONSTITUTION

### By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

\* FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1989

CHICAGO — The past two days of testimony at the federal trial of sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom have produced a picture of hypocrisy and deception surrounding the college career of former Temple running back Paul Palmer:

Palmer lied to school officials, the media and the FBI about his involvement with Walters and Bloom after he was named in an Atlanta Constitution story on March 12, 1987.

School officials "looked the other way," according to defense attorneys, when a Temple academic adviser told the athletics director in November 1985 that Palmer would be an "embarrassment" if he won the Heisman Trophy due to the player's poor academic record.

**Bloom** never told Palmer in 1987 that he spent \$120,000 of Pal-

warning from one of his former attorneys, Michael Feldberg of New York.

"He [Walters] felt it could be very harmful to the student-athletes, that it could destroy their careers," Feldberg testified Thursday.

Among the athletes who then still had eligibility was Alabama basketball star Derrick McKey, who eventually became ineligible for his senior season.

Most of the testimony Wednesday and Thursday focused on Palmer, the Heisman Trophy runnerup in 1986 before he joined the Kansas City Chiefs.

Temple athletics director Charles Theokas testified Thursday that the school mailed a copy to the NCAA of what proved to be an erroneous report in which Palmer was cleared of wrongdoing after the Atlanta Constitution report.

The government contends that action is part of the mail fraud conspiracy by Bloom and Walters, who

is that Palmer is to repay Temple approximately \$7,000 for his 1986 scholarship. Temple president Peter Liacouras told the jury Thursday he expects Palmer to pay, and outside the courtroom explained why he stripped Palmer of 26 school records and forfeited six wins from the 1986 season.

"The integrity of Temple and the athletic department was at stake and, let's face it, Paul had been the main reason for our success on the field that year," said Liacouras. "We had to treat his senior season null and void."

Defense attorney Dan Webb tried to convince the jury that Palmer never should have played his senior season due to his poor academic standing.

Palmer had flunked "remedial writing" four times when Rob Jenkins, an academic adviser, warned the athletic department in November 1985 in a letter presented as defense evidence.

"[The failing marks] must affect

#### \* \* \*

In case you hadn't made a geographical note of it, Wade Boggs, whose infidelity made Margo Adams a magazine star, and Steve Garvey, father-to-be-ofthe-year, are both natives of Tampa. Do you suppose it's something

name and is sponsored by an organization called Amethyst Foundation ... There's a change you'll enjoy in the CBS Masters lineup this time around. Jim Nantz, a fine player as well as an easy-totake personality, will be sitting in the lead chair in the Butler Cabin studio instead of Brent Musburger, who moves better with a dribbling ball or a flung pass ... Fifty years, at least, after he passed that way, Martinesville, Ind., named its high-school gym for one of its esteemed grads. They finally decided that **John** Wooden had made good.

**Dave Smith** of the Houston Astros pitched an inning or less to get 23 of his 27 saves last season, which gives you a clearer understanding of why the admirer of the old nine-inning workhorse views the save with such disdain.

... If you lived around New York, it might be a good idea to check the pockets of your race-track suit, or under the bed, or in the deep recesses of your wallet. The NYRA holds \$1,229,000 worth of money for uncashed tickets from races in 1988. One year a \$10,490 ticket was never redeemed, which is a pretty large oversight. ... "Next year," says **Rick Barry**, on the NBA slam-dunk contest, "they ought to have one for white guys that can't jump"... Selah. mer's money in four days on personal items, despite an alarm sounded by the agent's accountant, Joel Levy, who testified Thursday.

Also Thursday, testimony revealed that Walters failed to turn over to a federal grand jury six contracts of active college players when the investigation began in spring 1987. Walters complied after a

## also face charges of racketeering wire fraud and extortion.

Palmer testified Wednesday that he also lied to the FBI in April 1987, and that he was under threat of prosecution until June 1988 when the government consented to enter him in a pre-trial diversion program.

Part of the pre-trial agreement

his eligibility ... if Palmer wins the Heisman Trophy, he will be an embarrassment to the university because of his academic record," Jenkins wrote then-athletics director Gavin White.

Palmer nevertheless played his senior year in which he took eight academic courses, dropping seven of them and failing the other.

## NFL Keeps Instant Replay as 'Gift' to Rozelle

#### The Associated Press

PALM DESERT, Calif. — NFL owners gave commissioner Pete Rozelle a going-away present Thursday by re-approving instant replay for another season.

The television review of officiating was approved 24-4, drawing the most votes it has received in its four years. Twenty-one votes were required for passage. On Wednesday, prior to Rozelle's stunning retirement announcement, it got only 19 affairmations on a straw vote.

Among clubs changing their stance was Kansas City, a longtime opponent. Chiefs general manager Carl Peterson, called it "a farewell gift" to Rozelle, a chief proponent of the rule.

Other teams that reportedly backed off their opposition were

Buffalo, Minnesota, Pittsburgh and Chicago.

"We might have gotten it, but that helped," Rozelle said of the vote-switching. "It was very nice."

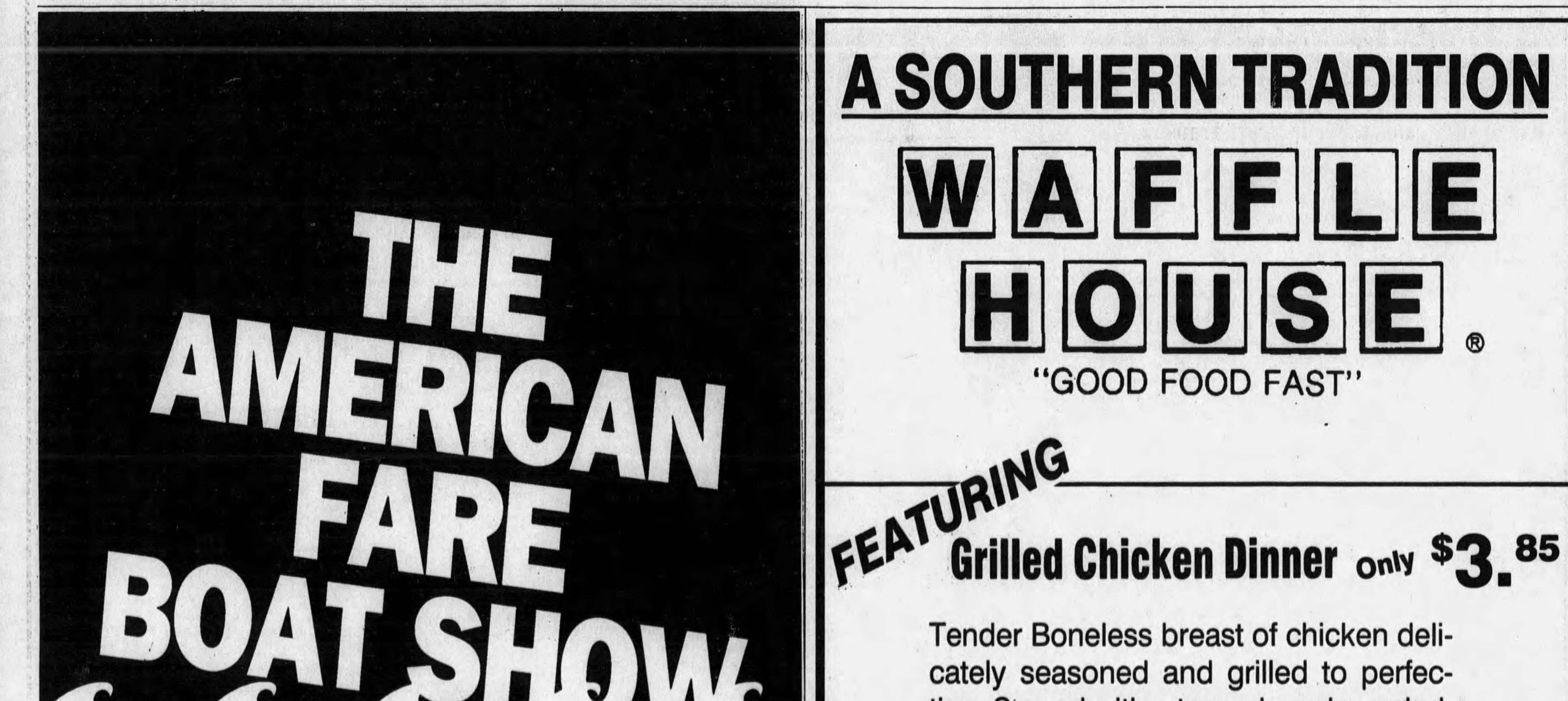
Although 21 votes will be needed for passage again next season, Dallas Cowboys president Tex Schramm, considered the father of instant replay, said, "I think it's in for good now."

What's not in, however, is an experimental electronic whistle which can place a dot on the screen at the exact time it blows, eliminating some delay and confusion. Many objected to the cost of installing the technology — \$600,000 for the first year.

The league also announced the formation of a six-man search committee charged with finding a re-

placement for Rozelle. Kansas City owner Lamar Hunt, the president of the AFC, and Giants owner Wellington Mara, the president of the NFC, selected Cleveland owner Art Modell, Pittsburgh president Dan Rooney, Buffalo owner Ralph Wilson and Green Bay president Judge Robert Parins to join them on the committee.

Rozelle's resignation was illtimed, according to Minnesota Vikings general manager Mike Lynn. "I mentioned to Pete that his timing is not exactly what I would have expected," Lynn said. "We have the unresolved collective bargaining agreement, expansion to consider, the new European league, a new television contract to be negotiated. This certainly is a critical period in our history."



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