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FEBRUARY 9, 1989

THURSDAY

Two teens charged in murder at Kingsmill

By BEAR MILLS
Staff Writer

Two eighth-grade students from White Deer Junior High School have been charged with premeditated murder in the shooting death of one of the youth's stepfather around noon Wednesday.

The teen-agers' names are being withheld because of their age. One youth is 13 and the other is 14.

Gray County Sheriff Jimmy Free said the boys allegedly shot Dickie Lee Bennett, 51, stepfather of one of the youths, at point blank range several times with a .22 pistol at his home in Kingsmill.

Bennett was declared dead at the scene by Justice of the Peace Wayne Roberts.

The shooting, which officials estimate occurred sometime around noon, was reportedly the climax of a long feud between the

youth and his stepfather. Several sources in White Deer, where both boys attend school, said the boys told classmates they were going to kill both parents of one boy and the father of the other to "pay them back" for being too strict.

Free discovered the body of Bennett near the rear of his home in a utility room hall after he pursued a tip from White Deer City Marshall Tam Terry.

He said Terry called him fol-

lowing a conversation with school officials about the boys.

"I got a report from White Deer (schools) that these boys left school. There were rumors that there might be a weapon. I called Sheriff Free and asked him to check the house," Terry said.

David Sharp, superintendent of the White Deer Independent School District, said the boys had not been at school Wednesday and that Terry was notified because of repeated truancy by one of the teen-agers.

"It's not normal that we would call the police unless it is a consistent absence or an unusual situation. There had been truancy before. We became concerned there might be a problem. We notified the parents also," Sharp said.

He said when the boys did not come to school, several students told teachers the youths had been planning to kill their parents. Sharp said the boys had allegedly been planning the murder for several days, but that discussions about the plans were discounted by the other students as wild boasts.

"When they didn't come to school, we called the parents also. Mr. Bennett was here at 10 o'clock and was here for 10 or 15 minutes. No (faculty members) had heard about (the alleged plans to kill Bennett or any other person) beforehand. The first time we heard anything, we called the parents," Sharp said.

Crisis counselors from Borger were at White Deer Middle School this morning to aid teachers with the grief and guilt many of the teen-agers' classmates may be feeling over this incident, Sharp said.

"We need to let our students



(Staff photo by Duane A. Laverty)

Sheriff's deputies Terry Cox, upper left, and Lynn Brown watch house as J.P. Wayne Roberts, lower left, helps emergency personnel remove victim's body from house.

know that things happen, including tragedies. This is not a reflection on our kids or our community. We need to reaffirm our kids

and be supportive," Sharp said. After the slaying, authorities issued an all-points bulletin for a

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(Staff photo by Duane A. Laverty)

Discussing situation outside victim's Kingsmill home early Wednesday afternoon are, from left, Deputy Lynn Brown, Sheriff Free and Deputy Ken Keith.

U.S. charter jetliner crashes in Azores; 114 feared dead

By TONY SMITH
Associated Press Writer

VILA DO PORTO, Azores Islands (AP) — "Everything seemed perfectly normal" as a Caribbean-bound Boeing 707 turned and flew straight into a fog-shrouded island mountain, a witness said. All 144 people aboard were believed killed.

The U.S. charter, carrying Italian vacationers and a seven-member American crew, was approaching Santa Maria island's airport for refueling Wednesday when it hit 1,794-foot Pico Alto mountain and burst into flames.

Its pilot had not reported any trouble in a radio conversation with the airport three minutes earlier, the Portuguese news agency LUSA reported.

Witnesses said the jet hit a lower slope, bounced over a road, lost an engine and crashed into the

mountain. Bodies were spread over a wide and rugged wooded area about 24 miles northeast of the airport.

"The plane was very low, everything seemed perfectly normal, then it turned and flew straight into the mountain," said Manuel Vairoso Figueredo, mayor of the fishing village of Santa Barbara near the airport.

"There was a tremendous explosion. The plane burst into flames and trees around it caught fire. Nobody could possibly have survived," Vairoso Figueredo, who saw the crash, said in a telephone interview.

Portuguese civil aviation officials searched for the flight recorder of the 20-year-old jet, which had a history of service problems. It had been bound from Italy to the Dominican Republic, with a refueling stop in Santa Maria.

Rescue workers recovered more than 50 bodies Wednesday, officials said, their efforts hampered by heavy fog and difficult access to the crash site.

The Portuguese Civil Protection Service, which provides rescue services and aid in civilian emergencies, said it appeared no one aboard survived.

They said the weather had been fine for a landing.

Vairoso Figueredo said villagers rushed to the crash site to help.

"It was a horrible scene, the bodies and remains of the victims were terribly burned," he said. "The village and the whole island are in a state of shock."

Santa Maria is the easternmost of the Azores, a nine-island Portuguese archipelago 750 miles west of mainland Portugal. The crash site is about 8 1/2

miles from Vila do Porto, capital of the 39-square-mile island.

The jet belonged to Independent Air Corp., a Smyrna, Tenn.-based company. Independent Air said the plane was flying from Bergamo, Italy, to the Dominican Republic and planned to continue empty to Jamaica to pick up a new load of passengers. It had been chartered by the Dominican firm Dominair by six Italian travel agencies.

The passengers were "middle-income Italians," said A.L. Pittman, president of Independent Air.

Portuguese Television said an anonymous caller to the newsroom claimed responsibility for the crash on behalf of an organization called the International Terrorist Brigade. Police said they knew of no such group and suspected a hoax.

The pilot radioed the airport's control tower three minutes before the crash.

Pampa schools mark National Vocational Education Week

By BEAR MILLS
Staff Writer

Students from Pampa High School are joining with vocational education students all over the nation to recognize this as National Vocation Education Week and National Distributive Education Week.

The two events are designed to draw attention to the contributions vocational education make to society and the learning process.

Educators in Pampa believe the week is especially important in light of several statewide efforts to trim back or eliminate vocational education as a non-essential part of the public school process.

In Pampa there are 12 courses that fall under the vocational education title. They are agriculture, developmental home economics production and management services, auto mechanics, production and construction systems (woodshop), industrial coop-

erative training, metal trades, marketing, home economics, office education, cooperative vocational academic education, marketing and general mechanical repair.

Donna Crow, marketing education teacher, said vocational education provides a direct correlation between classroom studies and real-world experiences.

"All of the programs train kids in a skill. Communication and leadership are in our essential elements. Self-esteem is built

into the course. I even have seniors who are in intra-level management positions," Crow said.

She emphasized that while vocational education courses are expensive to maintain, they provide the inspiration many students need to stay in school or to achieve greater levels of excellence.

While most of the students in vocational education said the offer of some courses to provide a job and a paycheck is a lure, it is not the only benefit.

"I've had schools like West Texas State call me because I'm in marketing," said 18-year-old Jennifer Jones, an employee at Wal-Mart. "This class has taught me how to handle tough situations. With DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) you get to feel like you're part of a group. We have a book called *Your Attitude Is Showing* that shows that how you act is going to determine how people react to you. I know that I'll eventually be in management."

Suzette Snider, 18, a senior and an employee at Charlie's Furniture, said DECA provides her with an edge students not in cooperative education don't have.

"We know how to dress, how to handle a job and go into an interview. Also, Mrs. Crow is here to help you if you have problems," Snider said.

She and Jones are competing on the state level in DECA-related competitions at an upcoming state meeting in Houston next month.

Travis Parker, 18, president of DECA, said the Houston trip is only one of the benefits of vocational education.

"We have fun, but we also are building for when we go to work for ourselves or a corporation.

We get to see what the real world is all about," Parker said.

Heather Campbell, 15, said the prospect of holding a job through vocational education is one of her

main inspirations as a student in DPMS, a beginning homemaking course.

"Since I've taken this class for

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(Staff photo by Duane A. Laverty)

Making punch for a teachers banquet are Production, Management and Services class members, from left, Heather Campbell, Manda Dunalap and Diane Lang.



(Staff photo by Duane A. Laverty)

Crow discusses vocational education.

Texas/Regional

Hispanic called to UT regents amid disputes

By JACK KEEVER
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — An Hispanic physician, Dr. Mario Ramirez of Rio Grande City, got the call to become a University of Texas regent after nominee Chester Upham Jr., fed up with Senate clamor for minority representatives on the board, withdrew his name.

"They rejected me because of my race," Upham, an Anglo, said Wednesday.

Upham, of Mineral Wells, noted that Gov. Bill Clements had appointed him to replace Mario Yzaguirre of Brownsville, and that senators had advised him the seat was an Hispanic seat — not open to Anglos.

"I was paired with Mario Yzaguirre. I was definitely not going to be confirmed," Upham said in a telephone interview.

Sen. Chet Edwards, chairman of the Senate committee that considered the regent nominees, denied that Upham was a victim of racism. "But if he feels that he was, then perhaps he can better understand more than anyone why minority senators had such a heartfelt concern that minorities should be represented on the board," Edwards said.

"One short telephone call did everything that was necessary," Clements said after substituting Ramirez for Upham, a former state Republican Party chairman, for a six-year term.

By bowing out, Upham, 63, averted a possible showdown over Clements' three appointees, including former U.S. Rep. Tom Loeffler of Mason and Robert Cruikshank of Houston, who had the public endorsement of Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby.

"He (Upham) did not like the tone and tenor of what was taking place in the Senate, and he just decided he had other things to do than to get caught in that controversy," Clements told a Wednesday news conference.

Several senators complained that the three appointments sent a signal to minorities and women that they were not worthy to serve on what would have been an all male, Anglo board.

Sen. Craig Washington, D-Houston, had predicted that all three nominees would be rejected by the Senate if brought to a vote with no changes in the lineup. Clements said if the nominees, including Upham, had "wanted to have a floor fight, well that would suit me just fine."

Clements also said Ramirez, 62 and a former member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, had been on his "short, short, short" list all along. "He was next in line, and he already knew that."

Ramirez's senator, Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, said Ramirez would be an "excellent role model for present and future collegians."

Asked if the appointment of Ramirez should assure approval of the three regents, Clements said, "I would say yes."



(Staff photo by Duane A. Laverty)

Winning honors at area DECA competition in Lubbock last weekend were, from left, Sheila Whitaker, second, General Marketing; Chris Hazle, first, Finance and Credit; Suzette Snider, first, Finance and Credit; Brett Watson, third, General Merchandise Retailing; Jennifer Jones, named as candidate for state DECA secretary; Travis Parker, second, Advertising and Display; and Mary Ramirez, Apparel and Accessories Marketing competitor.

DECA students going to state

Marketing Education students from Pampa will be participating in the 43rd Annual Career Development Conference for Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) Texas Association next month.

The conference is scheduled to be at the Astro Village Hotel in Houston on March 9-11.

In addition to business meetings, career workshops and educational tours, students will be participating in curriculum-related competitive events that allow them to compare their knowledge and skills about various concepts in marketing, merchandising and management with those of students from over

500 high schools across the state.

Approximately 2,000 DECA members and their advisors are expected to take part in the conference.

Students recognized as state finalists at the Grand Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 11, will earn the right to compete at the National DECA Career Development Conference in Orlando, Fla., on April 26-29, with their expenses paid by the Texas Association of DECA.

According to local chapter advisor Donna Crow, students representing Pampa at the Houston conference will be Suzette Snider, Collegiate Division Dis-

play and Finance and Credit; Chris Hazle, Finance and Credit; and Travis Parker, Collegiate Division Display.

Jennifer Jones will be running for state secretary and Travis Parker will be running for state reporter. Deidra Thomas, newly elected Area VI secretary, will also be attending the conference.

DECA is a 43-year-old youth organization with over 15,000 members statewide and 200,000 members nationwide.

Crow said DECA's unique role is to provide leadership experience and recognition for its members as they prepare for dynamic careers in the field of marketing.

'Lonesome Dove' helps all three TV networks

By KATHRYN BAKER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It didn't look like happy trails for CBS, but *Lonesome Dove* has ridden to the rescue.

The success of CBS' four-night Western has not only boosted morale at the third-place network, but sent audience shares of CBS, ABC and NBC soaring into the 80s in a season that has been averaging percentages in the 60s.

On his CBS talk show Tuesday, Pat Sajak told his audience they might find it a little warmer than previously.

"With the success of *Lonesome Dove*," he said, "CBS has turned the heat back on in the studio."

Lonesome Dove has more than met CBS' guarantee to advertisers. Televisions in an estimated 25.7 million homes were tuned to CBS for the series' first installment.

Instead of the less-than-30 share the network expected, the miniseries is headed for an average share closer to 40. The share is a percentage of televisions in use.

"It's performing significantly better than we anticipated, though obviously we had great hopes for it because of the quality," said David Poltrack, CBS' vice president for marketing. "The recent patterns of television viewing would create a healthy skepticism in terms of response, and we're very pleased."

The audience reception shows that networks can still put on good programs and people will watch.

Lonesome Dove, Tom Shales of *The Washington Post* enthused, "is enough to give one new respect for the miniseries, new respect for Texas, new respect for CBS, and even new respect for television. There is almost never anything this good on network TV."

"It is the best Western ever on the small screen," wrote Art Chapman of the *Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram*. "It is the best miniseries we have seen in 10 years. And it is the best overall show of the last few seasons."

The four-part series that concluded Wednesday night is based on Larry McMurtry's 1985, Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name.

The tale of life, death and love on a Texas-to-Montana cattle drive had an all-star cast, including Oscar winners Robert Duvall (*Tender Mercies*) and Anjelica Huston (*Prizzi's Honor*); Emmy winner Tommy Lee Jones (*Executioner's Song*), Diane Lane, Robert Urich, Ricky Schroder, Danny Glover, D.B. Sweeney, Chris Cooper and Glenn Headly.

"What it tells you is basically

that quality will bring out audiences," said Poltrack. "Now on the other hand, you don't run out and make 10 miniseries based on this, because you have to realize you're dealing with Pulitzer Prize-winning book, an extraordinary production, extraordinary acting. I think the Robert Duvall performance will go down in history as one of the great television performances of all time. When you have that kind of combination you're going to be successful."

Alan Wurtzel, ABC's vice president for research, said: "I would say it's a little dangerous to draw any conclusions about the future of either Westerns on television or the future of the long miniseries on television, based on one case. ... I think if there's nothing else you learn in television it's that there's always the exception to the rule."

Last season, the networks began fretting about the loss of viewers to cable options and videocassettes. The slide stopped, at least for this week.

Sunday night's premiere of *Lonesome Dove* had a 28.5 rating and a 42 share and was the highest-rated show of the week, according to the A.C. Nielsen Co., whose weekly ratings compilations run Mondays through Sundays. Each rating point represents 904,000 U.S. homes with televisions. Monday and Tuesday's installments drew a 37 share each.

"It's always been my contention, as far as the network business is concerned, three healthy networks are really preferable. I would just like to be the healthiest of the three, but it's really to no one's advantage to have one or two networks not performing well," said Wurtzel.

Poor programming on any network chases viewers to cable and video alternatives, he said.

Workers' compensation bill filed

AUSTIN (AP) — The workers' compensation issue is "moving forward very well," said Gov. Bill Clements, who predicted passage of legislation concerning the system of paying employees injured in work-related accidents.

"It's an important part of our economic development today in Texas, and I expect us to pass a significant workmen's compensation bill. It would be much, much better to pass it in the spring instead of the summer," Clements said Wednesday.

The workers' compensation system would be reformed — including an increase in benefits for injured workers and an overhaul of the system's governing body — under a bill introduced Wednesday in the House.

"If Texas is to keep its economic momentum, significant revisions to our current workers' compensation process are essential," House Speaker Gib Lewis told a news conference on the bill. "Without such changes, our economic competitiveness will be impaired and our ability to create jobs for Texans will be endangered."

House Bill 1 — whose primary sponsors are Reps. Richard Smith, R-Bryan, and Rick Perry, D-Haskell — was referred to the House Business and Commerce Committee, which promptly scheduled a Monday hearing.

It comes after a 1½ year study of the workers' compensation system. Premiums for workers' compensation — paid to employees injured on the

job — have increased more than 100 percent since 1985, and another 19 percent increase took effect Jan. 1.

The bill, Smith said, addresses increasing safety in the workplace; reorganizing and strengthening the Industrial Accident Board, which would be renamed the Texas Workers' Compensation Board; changing the benefit structure; and changing the adjudication process for disputed cases.

Instead of a workers' compensation case getting a completely new trial at the district court level, the district court action would be treated as an appeal of the agency action.

The maximum weekly benefit for an injured worker would be raised from the current \$238 to the statewide average weekly wage, currently \$416.

"Today, the people that should be most happy in Texas with what we're doing are the rank and file workers of this state," Perry said.

The system would remain a voluntary one. "They're trying to clean up Boston Harbor, but I wouldn't ask anybody to swim in it until they get through with the job," Smith said. "The system we've got today is such a mess that I just simply in good conscience couldn't ask anybody to force them to participate in this system."

Among other provisions in House Bill 1: ■ The prohibition of recovery by an intoxicated worker would be expanded to include drug-related intoxication.

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Viewpoints

The Pampa News

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Let Peace Begin With Me

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We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

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Louise Fletcher
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

If not forbidden, is it mandatory?

A wag's definition of a totalitarian society might be one in which everything not forbidden is mandatory. But it's hard to snicker at such a definition if you look at the kind of things some governments and activists want to make mandatory these days.

The latest bright idea is being considered in (where else?) Berkeley, Calif. There the city's Community Health Advisory Committee is about to consider a proposal to require hotels and motels to put a safe-sex kit — consisting of AIDS propaganda and a few condoms — in every room. "Certainly if hotels can have a Gideon Bible in every room, they can include a safe-sex kit," said nurse practitioner Leland Traiman, a clinical AIDS researcher who proposed the idea.

The distinction Traiman really seems to have missed, however, is that nobody forces hotels and motels to put Gideon Bibles in their rooms, and taxpayers aren't forced to pay for them. The Gideon Society is a privately funded, voluntary effort that furnishes Bibles free of charge to hotels and motels that wish to accept them.

Certainly if some AIDS advocacy organization wanted to raise money to assemble safe-sex kits and offer them to hotels and motels, it would be difficult to offer a valid criticism of the effort. For that matter, if some entrepreneur started selling such kits to motel managers, he might just find a ready market.

But to pass a law forcing motels and hotels to provide such kits, no matter who was forced to pay for them, is another question entirely. While some motels are probably used for sexual liaisons, most customers don't use them for that purpose, and many might be offended by the presence of such paraphernalia.

It is unfortunately typical of our times that activists so often try to use the force of law to impose their grand ideas on everybody as a first resort. In a free society in which most people respect the idea of freedom of choice, a person with an idea he thinks is constructive would confine himself to persuasion and voluntary means of convincing others. A proposal to force people to accept an idea would be widely viewed as an admission that the idea is too weak to gain acceptance through persuasion.

Alas, these days activists seem to think they won't be taken seriously unless they're willing to impose their ideas on others by force. This way lies that nightmare-come-true society in which everything that isn't forbidden is mandatory.

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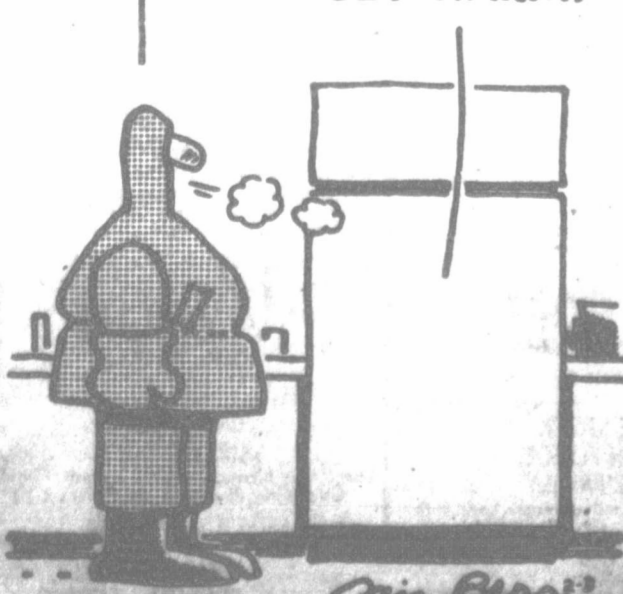
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WINTER IN ALASKA — 1989

Pipe dream goes beyond silly

The latest economic fad in Washington is focusing on the long term. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady says American business is too concerned with quick profits.

Budget director Richard Darman warns, "We are under-attending to the future." Critics of Reaganomics say we've had an economic party that our children will have to pay for. Washington needs to come up with responsible new policies, we are told, that will foster long-term economic health.

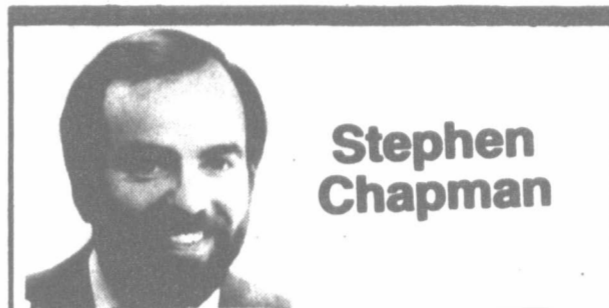
Come again? The federal government, which can't even meet its yearly spending targets, is going to show the private sector how to "lengthen its horizon"? Members of Congress, whose chief concern is surviving the next election, are going to direct the economy to meet the needs of generations yet unborn? This pipe dream goes beyond silly to preposterous.

What is going on here is not the dramatic change in thinking that is claimed. It's just the latest excuse for the government to meddle in matters beyond its competence or proper concern.

Despite the chastening failures of the 1960s and '70s, official Washington clings to the superstition that politicians are wiser and more far-sighted than business executives, workers and consumers.

The "long term" offensive has two major parts. The first deals with corporate America, which is supposedly so pressured by daily stock market fluctuations and quarterly earnings reports that managers can hardly look to next July, much less the next decade.

The second deals with the federal budget deficit and its impact on savings and investment, which together are alleged to be saddling future generations with debts that will enrich foreigners and depress American living standards.



Stephen Chapman

The truth is that private corporations are perfectly capable of planning for the long term as well as the short term.

To hear the popular myths, you'd think Wall Street would pluck out the eyes of any manager who lifts his gaze from the monthly bottom line. In fact, studies show that companies announcing risky investments with a distant payoff usually see their stock prices climb.

Fortune magazine reports that when Walt Disney announced it would sink a staggering \$2 billion into EuroDisneyland, which won't pay for itself until the next century, investors clamored to buy. If short-term profits were the key, biotechnology companies would go begging for investors. Instead, many of them have been Wall Street's darlings.

By contrast, short-term setbacks that generate embarrassing headlines are often digested calmly by people whose money is on the line. In 1987, Citicorp unexpectedly boosted its reserves against foreign loan losses by \$3 billion — causing it to record a loss for the year and a huge loss for the quarter. Its stock rose, because investors had already accounted for the bad loans and respected the bank's realism.

Then there's the budget deficit, which is supposedly mortgaging our children's future to fi-

nance our own reckless consumption. The truth is different. There is nothing wrong with a family, a corporation or a government borrowing to invest. I haven't "burdened" my kids by taking out a big mortgage; I've invested in an asset that enhances their well-being both now and later.

Much of Washington's spending goes for long-term investments that should make our descendants better off — highways and airports, tanks and aircraft carriers, research on AIDS. The net investment share of the federal budget is about \$70 billion, or roughly half the deficit.

The consumption spree financed by foreigners is another insidious myth, whose purpose is not to boost investment but to boost taxes. Real private savings, adjusted for inflation, have risen by 24 percent since 1980. Real private domestic investment has soared by 43 percent.

Some of the investment has come from foreigners, true. That shows their confidence in our economic prospects. They will be repaid not from reductions in our standard of living but from the returns generated by real assets.

The critics of Reaganomics also ignore the enormous increase in the value of our existing assets — as dramatized by the stock market's vast gains since Jimmy Carter evacuated the White House. That too comes from basic improvements in our economic policies, including the conquest of inflation, widespread deregulation and restrained taxes.

The key to the prosperity of the last six years is the steady decline in the federal government's interference in the economy. The hazard to our economic health is the alluring delusion that this time, Washington knows how to interfere in just the right way. If it tries, the damage will go beyond the short term.



Let's feel sorry for Grizzard

I would really appreciate it if everybody would feel sorry for me today. I feel sorry for myself, and that's not something you want to do alone.

Here's the thing: I had to go to the dentist last week, and I've always hated going to the dentist. I don't like the way dentists take that thing with the pick on the end of it and go probing around in my mouth.

I don't like getting shots in my gums. And I don't like to have anybody drilling around in my mouth without Novocain, either.

I don't like having to hold my mouth open so long. It hurts my jaw, and I don't like it when the dentist looks around at my gums and mumbles numbers to his assistant.

My dentist looks at my gums and says to his assistant, "Four. Three. Two. Five. Six. Two. Three. Four, etc."

What's he talking about? How many more years each of my teeth have before they fall out? How many root canals am I going to need on each tooth?

I don't even like the term "root canal." It sounds like something you'd build to get ships from one place to another. Lots more drilling. They should change the term root canal to something less dreadful-sounding. "Rooty-



Lewis Grizzard

tooty," comes to mind. Wouldn't you be less frightened if your dentist said, "Looks like we'll have to do a rooty-tooty on this one?"

You might even look forward to having a rooty-tooty.

So, I already hated going to the dentist, but now there is an added problem.

I have an artificial aortic valve in my heart. Because the valve is subject to infections, when I go to the dentist I must first go to a hospital and take loads of antibiotics in my veins.

The dentist cuts my gums and they bleed and germs can get in there and infect my valve. You can die from such a thing.

Now, for the kicker. I have small veins and they are deep under my skin. When I go in for the antibiotics, it takes 14 nurses, four or five tries

each, before they can get the IV needle to stick in a vein.

It's not the stick I feel whenever the needle goes in. It's the probing, trying to hit pay dirt. It's the idea there's a needle in me and a perfect stranger is on the other end of it as it runs around loose under my skin.

It's the dialogue between the nurses.

"This looks like a good one."

"No. Too small."

"What about this one?"

"I'll try. Oops. Missed that one. Let's try another."

This can go on for 45 minutes to an hour. I'm already a basket case from that ordeal when I arrive — a walking pincushion — at the dentist office for further terror.

There's really no moral to this story. Just be thankful if you have large veins and they are easy to locate to stick needles into.

Be thankful if your heart valves are the ones you were born with, and then take a moment today to think, "I really feel sorry for Lewis Grizzard and his small veins."

It won't hurt you and it will do me a lot of good. Jim Bakker's probably had a lot of rooty-tooties, incidentally. I simply couldn't resist saying that.

Public opinion is changing on abortions

By WILLIAM A. RUSHER

When one side in a public controversy starts resorting to outright falsehoods, you can just about figure it's slipping. That's what the pro-abortion activists and their pals in our liberal media have been doing lately, and why I take a certain encouragement from their behavior.

One can certainly see why they sense that the abortion cause is losing ground. For one thing, the pro-life forces have recently begun "putting their bodies on the line": engaging in non-violent forms of civil disobedience, such as blocking the entrances to abortion clinics and compelling the police to drag them away.

In the 1960s, when civil rights advocates and Vietnam war protesters did that sort of thing, the media covered their activities with lousy-throated reverence. In the case of the pro-life demonstrators, the media's tone is libelous to be one of open contempt. But don't be deceived: The moral position of the protesters is getting across

to the public, and having a very definite impact.

As a result, it's becoming harder for pro-abortion activists to find polls that support their contention that a majority of the American public favors abortion on demand. At the moment they are hanging on to a New York Times/CBS News poll conducted in mid-January which asked, "If a woman wants to have an abortion and her doctor agrees to it, should she be allowed to have an abortion or not?" Sixty-one percent of those questioned said yes, and only 25 percent said no. (Eleven percent said it depended on the circumstances.)

But what is that weaselly little clause about the doctor's consent doing there? It seems to imply a medical necessity of some sort. Why not just ask, "If a woman wants to have an abortion, should she automatically be allowed to?"

Because, naturally, the answer would inconvenience the pro-abortion lobby. As the Times itself pointed out,

not once since 1975 has the National Opinion Research Center found a majority of those questioned in favor of abortion if a pregnant woman simply "is not married and does not want to marry the man." In recent years, not even 40 percent have favored it.

And Gallup, in the past five years, has consistently found nearly 60 percent of those questioned declaring that abortion should be "legal only under certain circumstances."

Add to these statistics President Bush's recent outspoken attack on abortion-on-demand, the Supreme Court's apparent decision to reconsider Roe vs. Wade, and Attorney General Richard Thornburgh's frank hope that that case will be overturned, and one can see why abortion activists are plunged into gloom these days.

But that doesn't justify flat misrepresentation of the facts, which is what they are now resorting to. Again and again, TV news reporters and commentators have described abortion on demand as having majority support in this country, when the facts (as de-

scribed above) show no such thing.

And on the day after the annual pro-life march in Washington last month, I personally heard the number of marchers described, by reporters with differing views on the issue, as "10,000," "tens of thousands," "60,000," and "70,000."

The media are also good at slanted labeling. The lively monitoring organization called MediaWatch reviewed all stories that discussed abortion on the evening news programs of ABC, NBC, CBS and CNN during the last four months of 1988. Only one story out of 49 described the liberals' pet as "pro-abortion." Nineteen applied the lobby's own favorite label, "pro-choice," and the rest used some harmless euphemism such as "family planning advocates." But their opponents, who call themselves "pro-life," were given that label in only 21 percent of the stories. In the rest, they were just "anti-abortion."

And still the pro-abortionists are losing ground!

Nation

Justice Department delays North trial with security requests

By PETE YOST
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The judge in the Iran-Contra coverup case of Oliver North says constant interruptions by government intelligence agencies threaten to turn the proceedings into a "cuckoo clock trial."

The latest delay came Wednesday when the Justice Department interrupted jury selection to demand that it be allowed to censor the defense's evidence.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell rejected the demand, but the department filed a notice of appeal Wednesday night with the Circuit Court of Appeals.

At issue is whether national security will be threatened by disclosure of classified information during North's trial on charges of shredding evidence and lying to Congress in an attempt to cover up the Iran-Contra affair.

The Justice Department, prodded by the National Security Agency and CIA, is seeking authority to screen and block disclosure of classified material.

"There is some information that cannot be put back in a bottle," said Deputy Assistant Attorney General Stephen Saltzberg.

But Gesell said prior rulings in the case already have addressed the issue and instal-

led security safeguards — without damaging North's right to a fair trial.

"This is not a trial of national security; it's a trial of Oliver North," the judge said.

Gesell said he wasn't going to tolerate a "cuckoo clock trial" which would be constantly interrupted by reviews of classified material before it is introduced in the courtroom.

The Justice Department quickly entered an appeal notice with the circuit court, and spokesman David Runkel said the department's filing could be made there sometime today.

The department wants a court order saying that North cannot disclose any classified information unless it is explicitly approved by the court and if the government has no objection to the disclosure.

In arguments before Gesell on Wednesday, the Justice Department said North has failed to meet standards required by the Classified Information Procedures Act.

It said notices from North, which are supposed to spell out what classified material he plans to use at trial, have been "either totally useless or at best minimally informative."

Further, it said, "the court has not ruled on what particular classified information is relevant to the issues that will be tried, and

whether it is admissible on some or all issues."

Gesell was angry over the delay as jury selection neared completion.

"You can't ride this horse in both directions," the judge said. "You can either move to protect national security or you can move to a fair trial. Congress says that if push comes to shove, a trial judge has one option, to move toward a fair trial."

Gesell ruled on Jan. 19 that North could introduce classified information if it tends to show that his purpose was not to break the law, or if it tends to show that statements made by government witnesses are false or misleading.

He also authorized North to divulge information about coverup attempts by other officials, and about the Reagan administration's attempts to have other countries provide military assistance to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels after Congress banned U.S. aid.

Independent counsel Lawrence Walsh, whose office is prosecuting North, opposed the Justice Department motion. Walsh said he does not believe that North attorney Brendan Sullivan intends to "trick or trap this court at the expense of national security."



North, right, leaves court Wednesday.

(AP Laserphoto)

Bush budget defers decisions on deficit

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush tonight unveils a budget plan keyed to his campaign promises of "kinder and gentler" programs without new taxes, but it leaves difficult decisions on reducing the federal deficit for later.

The president, in an 8 p.m. CST speech before a joint meeting of Congress, will call for a nation more competitive abroad and more compassionate at home.

To those ends, he will propose more federal spending in fiscal 1990 for clean air and clean coal technology, for science and space, for AIDS research and aid to the homeless, education and child care, according to administration and congressional sources.

Bush claims that those costs will be offset by about \$4 billion in new revenue from a controversial cut in the capital gains tax — another campaign promise — and \$2 billion by holding the expansion of the military budget to the rate of inflation.

"You will have a very detailed and precise descriptions of the priorities of the Bush administration," said Marlin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary.

Left deliberately unclear, however, will be how much Bush embraces the many budget cuts he left unchanged from the first-draft spending plan former President Reagan submitted last month.

Bush will distance himself

from any of the individual, unpopular cuts by inviting Congress to help set each program level in accordance with his "flexible freeze" plan to limit overall spending in general categories.

Reagan suggested terminating dozens of domestic programs and cutting back many others in order to reduce the deficit below the \$100 billion maximum allowed by the Gramm-Rudman law. Bush's calculations include the total savings from those Reagan cuts in contending that he, too, is meeting the deficit target.

GOP lawmakers briefed Wednesday by Bush's budget director, Richard Darman, said the Bush plan proposes lumping programs together in "boxes," within which some would have to be cut in order to expand others.

Democrats didn't wait for Bush's speech to begin criticizing his plan to cut the capital gains tax, saying it is a tax break for the rich and will increase the deficit, not reduce it as the president claims.

"At a time when virtually every segment of our country is being asked to sustain a sacrifice of one form or another ... it is simply unacceptable to be considering tax breaks for the very wealthiest segment," said Sen. Jim Sasser, D-Tenn., chairman of the Senate Budget Committee.

Many private economists dispute Bush's claim that the rate cut will increase government re-

venues by spurring business investment and activity.

Nonetheless, the Bush budget will claim about \$4 billion in new revenue from the plan, which would be implemented gradually and eventually cut the rate to 15 percent for productive assets held for two years or more. Capital gains now are taxed at either 28 percent or 33 percent, depending on income.

Bush, a former Texas oil man, also will propose new tax breaks for the oil and gas industry.

Other Bush proposals aimed at business and trade growth will include:

- Restoring a research and development tax credit for business.
- Urban enterprise zones, using special tax breaks to lure companies to depressed areas.
- Expanded support of research and science, including the space station and the proposed superconducting supercollider physics laboratory.

A few selected domestic programs in his budget would be increased as part of his "kinder, gentler nation" promise. Sources said they include:

- Increasing the Head Start preschool education program by \$250 million.
- A merit award program for schools, and increased subsidies for black colleges.
- A renewed and expanded tax credit for adoption, two years after the 1986 tax bill eliminated a deduction to offset those costs.
- Rejection of Reagan's proposed \$1.7 billion cut in the Medicaid health program for the poor.
- A child care tax credit of \$1,000 for low-income families.
- Full funding of the McKinney homeless assistance act.
- \$25 million to start a national program for youth in public service.
- Increased spending for the battle against drug abuse, although not the full amount authorized by Congress.



Let's talk.

Information about your changing telephone service from Fred Epperly, Manager

"Texas First."

It's more than a catchy name. It's a new concept. "Texas First" is Southwestern Bell Telephone's new economic development proposal to help bring about more jobs and create a stronger economy in the 1990's to Texas and all communities we serve.

So let's talk about "Texas First" and how it impacts you, your friends, your community, your state — and your telephone company.

Texas has a lot going for it. Good roads, good people, plenty of space, and a quality of life that is the envy of most other states.

These are the assets that also attract new industry and create new jobs. But there is another ingredient — a new "must" for economic development — and it's state-of-the-art telecommunications. It's the ribcage in our infrastructure that often separates the "have's" from the "have-nots."

In years past, the difference between old and new telecommunications technology weren't all that significant. Calls went through either way. Expectations were a lot simpler.

Today's needs are more high tech. We depend much more on getting and sending information, at faster and faster speeds. In fact, almost half of all the "traffic" that flows over our telephone network is data and computer talk. And it's not just happening in our metro cities. It's going on everywhere — well, almost everywhere.

Southwestern Bell Telephone in Texas has plowed millions of investment dollars into new telecommunications technology over the last decade. The new technology is focused in our major metropolitan areas — and for Texas, that's not good enough. We won't be satisfied — and our customers and regulators won't be satisfied — until all Texas communities, large and small, metro or remote, have access to advanced telecommunications technology. Other states are moving full steam ahead to modernize their networks, like California and Florida — Texas' two toughest rivals for economic growth.

Thus, "Texas First" was born.

From the start, we knew we had to come up with a proposal that made sense for the communities we serve in competing for new jobs, made sense for our customers, and made sense — economically — for us.

Under our "Texas First" proposal, Southwestern Bell has proposed the following five elements:

- Replace over a five-year period older switching facilities in some 190 Texas communities with the most modern digital technology available.
- Phase out four-party service over the same five-year period, and eliminate mileage charges outside base rate areas.
- Provide some 21 "fringe" communities adjacent to the state's four largest metro cities with an optional "expanded metro service" that would eliminate toll charges to their neighboring metro city.
- Reduce charges paid by long distance companies to access our local networks, so that they can, in turn, reduce long distance rates to their customers.
- Freeze for five years all business and residence basic local rates — rates that haven't changed in five years, rates that are well below the national average.

So, what's the catch?

Why is Southwestern Bell willing to do all this modernization and rural service upgrade, reduce rates to the long distance carriers, and still freeze local rates for five years? What's in it for the telephone company?

We have presented our "Texas First" proposal to the Public Utility Commission as something we can do for the economic good of Texas and Texans. In return, we must have a more flexible "range" of permissible earnings — 11 to 13% on investment — that will allow us to take the risks described above — and be rewarded for those risks if they pay off.


Currently, the PUC places a ceiling on earnings. This means if you're getting close to that ceiling level, the incentive isn't there to further invest in technology that could trim costs or provide new revenue sources for the company for fear of bumping over the "allowed" level. In that scenario, there is little reason to take investment risks that could bring "information age" services to the "have-nots" of the world.

We have proposed a "share-the-success" formula that would return half of our earnings above the 13% level directly to our customers in the form of credits, with the remaining earnings retained by Southwestern Bell that could be plowed back into the business to provide new products and new services. "Texas First" does not contain any "share of the loss" — the risk is ours.

In future "Let's Talk" commentaries, we will further examine the need for regulatory change and its relationship on our ability to carry out our "Texas First" plan, and to provide high-quality, multi-optional telecommunications services you and all Texans want and deserve.

In short, with "Texas First," Southwestern Bell Telephone is willing to incur great financial risks, if given the chance to reap some rewards. We're betting that we can improve the Texas economy, improve the quality of telephone service statewide, freeze basic rates, lower toll rates, and still improve our earnings by marketing new products and services. We're betting that the economy in Texas will grow — thanks in some part to "Texas First" — and that we will grow with it.

We think "Texas First" is a good investment for us and for Texas. We'd be interested in knowing your thoughts. If you have any comments or questions, please drop me a line.


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Moscow-backed regime arms 30,000 supporters in Kabul

By SHARON HERBAUGH
Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Moscow-backed regime says it has armed 30,000 supporters in Kabul and thousands more in outlying towns so they can defend themselves against a guerrilla onslaught when the Soviet pullout is complete.

In Moscow, a Foreign Ministry official said that about 15,000 Soviet soldiers had been killed in Afghanistan, nearly 2,000 more than the Kremlin reported in May, when the Soviets last gave a figure.

This indicated heavy losses during the withdrawal, but the official, Yuri K. Alexeyev, said: "It doesn't mean that during the

last months we had the bloodiest period of the war in Afghanistan."

In the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, crewmen refused to fly a jet transport packed with 32 tons of food and medicine to begin the U.N. airlift to Kabul, a U.N. official said Wednesday. The crew decided that security in the besieged Afghan capital was uncertain, said the official, Rene Albeck.

With the deadline for a Soviet pullout only six days away, members of the ruling party "have been armed to defend their homes," neighborhoods and towns, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nabi Armani said.

"Party members look on their weapons as their pride," he said.

Amani said 45,000 additional party members who had finished compulsory military service volunteered for reserve duty or for self-defense and border units. They include 5,000 women assigned to non-combat units, he said.

President Najib told commanders of tribal and militia units that once the withdrawal of Soviet forces is complete, "you are now on your own feet defending your free-born and beloved motherland," the British Broadcasting Corp. reported.

The BBC quoted Najib as saying "extremist" foes were not ready to give up the "selfish interest of themselves and their foreign supporters."

Afghanistan has been torn by

civil war since a 1978 communist coup prompted a Moslem insurgency. Soviet troops intervened a year later, replacing one pro-Moscow regime with another.

The Soviet withdrawal began May 15 and is to be complete by Feb. 15 under a U.N.-mediated agreement. However, Kremlin officials have said all Soviet forces would be gone by the end of this week.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news briefing Tuesday that food supplies had improved in Kabul, but the fuel shortage was critical. Soviet aircraft began an emergency airlift of flour and fuel last month.

The guerrillas and many West-

ern analysts predict Najib's government will collapse soon after the Red Army leaves. The president says his conscript army is strong enough to defeat the insurgents.

Only about 1,000 Soviet soldiers remain in Kabul, guarding the airport, and Soviet officials said the last Red Army convoys would be out of the country this week.

In Islamabad, Rene Albeck,

spokesman for the \$1.1 billion U.N. reconstruction program for Afghanistan, said Wednesday that the first plane scheduled in the U.N. airlift would remain on the tarmac until at least Thursday.

"For some reason" the crew of the chartered Egypt Air Boeing 707 "called off the flight ... for security reasons," he said.

Texas congressman helps mobilize relief

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Soviet troops retreat from Afghanistan and leave the country in rubble, a Texas congressman credited with supplying the ragged resistance with Stinger anti-aircraft missiles is now helping mobilize Western relief efforts.

The mountainous and rugged country is littered with as many as 6 million mines; schools, hospitals and irrigation systems are in tatters, and millions of refugees scattered outside its borders are waiting to return home, says Rep. Charlie Wilson, an East Texas Democrat.

"It's a very exciting time," says the Lufkin congressman. "There is not a situation really parallel to this in history."

Wilson has been wheeling and dealing in the cloakrooms of Congress on behalf of the Afghan resistance — the mujaheddin — since 1982. The Stinger missiles he asked Congress to fund helped bring down the Russian invasion that began Dec. 27, 1979, when the resistance had only a pitiful supply of old British Enfield rifles.

The last of the Russian troops are due to leave next Wednesday, but guerrillas surround Kabul and attack supply convoys, creating severe food and fuel shortages.

Coal miners halt strike at power plant

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Coal miners at Poland's largest power plant suspended a three-day strike early today after authorities warned the dispute threatened historic talks on reinstating the banned Solidarity trade union movement.

A decision to suspend the strike until Feb. 28 followed a visit to the mine early today by an envoy for Solidarity chairman Lech Walesa and management's agreement to provide most of the pay raise sought by strikers, state radio reported.

The strike had reduced coal supplies at the Belchatow power plant 90 miles southwest of Warsaw to about two days' reserves. The strip mine at the complex fuels the plant's generators, which produce one-fifth of Poland's electricity.

State radio said management raised pay by \$41 a month, compared to the \$59 monthly raise sought by the 4,000 strikers. On average, workers at the plant earn \$145 monthly.

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban had on Wednesday accused Walesa's envoy, Aloyzy Pietrzyk, of encouraging the strike at a rally attended by thousands of workers rather than trying to ease it.

"I must express decisive anxiety for the sense of the round table talks and chances for agreement. Agreement is not possible under strike pressure," Urban said.

State television and the Solidarity free trade union movement said their long-awaited "round-table" talks, which began Monday, would continue today.

The two sides had met for five hours Wednesday without apparent result.

Solidarity hopes the negotiations will culminate in the restoration of its legal status after a seven-year ban. The government seeks to persuade its leaders to join parliament as a minority party.

The Polish economy, beset by a \$39 billion foreign debt, is in ruins.

There are chronic shortages of basic goods and supplies, inflation was at 60 percent last year, and the declining value of real wages has produced increased worker unrest, including 39 strikes last month.

Interior Minister Gen. Czeslaw Kiszczak first proposed the negotiations in August during the country's worst labor unrest since the authorities crushed Solidarity in a December 1981 military crackdown. The only independent labor movement ever allowed in the Soviet bloc was outlawed the following year.

tages.

Wilson has visited the primitive country many times, and may go back when U.S. technicians are dispatched to uncover the millions of buried mines.

All major relief efforts, however, hinge on the ouster of Afghan President Najibullah and the installation of a friendly government, says Wilson, who is working with the heads of state in several Western countries on lining up the massive humanitarian relief that will be needed.

"Najibullah needs to leave. As long as he's there, these problems are not going to be worked on," Wilson said. "People programs can't start until we have a government in place we can deal with."

Wilson predicts the Najibul-

lah's hostile communist government will last no more than three to six weeks.

"He'll disappear but he may have to leave first," Wilson said. "I wish the Russians would have taken him, it would have saved a lot of bloodshed."

Wilson said Western countries will also not participate in the rebuilding efforts until the mujaheddin stop fighting among themselves.

"It will take an enormous organizational effort on the part of

Western countries. But it will only go forward if Najibullah leaves and the mujaheddin are not shooting each other," Wilson said.

An estimated 350,000 people living in Kabul shantytowns are short of food and heating fuel in one of the harshest winters of recent years.

Long lines form daily for bread. The city needs 650 tons of flour a day and officials estimate the reserve is enough for only one to three months.

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Lifestyles

ABWA chapter names Jan Allen Woman of Year

Jan Allen has been named 1989 Woman of the Year for Pampa Charter Chapter of American Business Women's Association.

She was born and raised in Pampa, attended Pampa schools and graduated from Pampa High School in 1965. She graduated from West Texas State University in 1971 with a bachelor of arts degree in speech and English.

Allen and her husband Guen are co-owners of Allen Hose & Supply. They have one son, Aaron, a third-grader at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School.

Her ABWA activities include president of her chapter for 1988-89 and vice president for 1987-88. She has also served as bulletin chairman and hospitality chairman. She joined Pampa Charter Chapter in September 1985.

Allen is a member of First Baptist Church and vice president of Woodrow Wilson Booster Club.



JAN ALLEN

Plant therapy helps patients develop courage to face life

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (AP) — Carefully the woman cuts off a section of a Dieffenbachia "dumb cane" plant. She hands it to another woman who places it in a planter filled with dirt by someone else.

A fourth person waters the cutting.

The team effort has done more than create a new plant. For these patients at Red River Hospital, the activity can be the key to coping with life outside the hospital.

Once a week, adolescent and adult patients at Red River Hospital visit the hospital's greenhouse, where they learn how to care for a variety of plants while acquiring living skills.

The hospital opened the greenhouse and an outdoor patio in September. The dumb cane plant begun by the patients joined a number of tulips, geraniums,

ivys, marigolds, aloe vera, begonia and spider plants that line the walls of the greenhouse. With the opening came the introduction of horticulture therapy.

Horticulture therapy is a fairly new program, developed within the last decade, said Elizabeth Burke, director of adjunctive therapy.

A common practice among the patients at the hospital, no matter what they are admitted for, is to withdraw from people and quit pursuing interests and activities, she said. It's difficult to convince them to resume these activities, she said.

"Plants are non-threatening," Burke said. "They don't talk

back. They don't have a frown on their face or get mad. Being around plants is an automatic success."

Seeing a plant grow or one sprout from a seed can return that lost self-esteem and self-confidence, she said.

Other than its use as a treatment, horticulture therapy also educates the patients and introduces them to a leisure activity. The patients learn the names of different plants and how to care for them.

If the person begins to feel bad again after discharge, caring for plants can be uplifting and distract the person from his problems, she said.

Rudeness is not limited to certain age group

DEAR ABBY: There have been numerous letters in your column from grandparents, parents, etc., who are angry and hurt because their gifts have not been acknowledged. Most of these letters were directed to teen-agers or young adults, but, Abby, the younger people are not the worst offenders when it comes to common courtesies and social amenities.

My husband and I were married last June in a semi-formal outdoor wedding. Several months prior to the wedding date, we placed an order for printed wedding invitations, reception cards and response cards. The response-card envelopes had my return address printed on them and a postage stamp, too. We mailed our invitations four weeks before our wedding. Out of the 100 mailed to "adults," exactly three were returned!

Most of those invited showed up — for the reception, but not the wedding.

When I asked a few of them why they didn't mail the response card back to me, they each said, "Oh, you knew we'd be there." Abby, there is absolutely no excuse for this kind of behavior. I am still fuming and



Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

hope that you will print this so that all of them will recognize themselves for the selfish, ill-bred clods they are. Don't use my name or it will start another war with my mother. She thinks I should not have been angry — just forgiving.

DISGUSTED
DEAR DISGUSTED: You are not alone. Every bride and hostess report the same frustration when their R.S.V.P.s are ignored. The only solution is to telephone those who have failed to respond and ask, "Are you planning to attend?"

Perhaps instead of "R.S.V.P.," which is French for "Respond, if you please," one should use plain, direct English: "Please let us know if you are able to attend — and also if you are not."

DEAR ABBY: My mother started

shoving your column under my nose when I was about 12. I'm 43 now and have been an avid reader over the years.

I've often thought about responding to some of the letters in your column, but procrastination always won out. The letters you received in response to "Bereaving, Too" resolved a huge personal problem for me — and that is why I am writing.

My mother died three years ago. Since that time, on her birthday and wedding anniversary, I never knew whether to call my dad, send a card, or what. I would think about him days before and days after those special dates, but I always ended up doing nothing for fear of upsetting him — or "reminding" him.

I know now that I would not be "reminding" him of anything — Dad is the type who even remem-

bered the anniversary date of when he and Mom met. (They were married just short of 40 years.) I've felt so guilty and uneasy about ignoring those dates, but no more!

Love to you, Abby, and to your readers who helped me change my mind. A DECISION WELL MADE, GRANTS PASS, ORE.

DEAR ABBY: Maybe you (or one of your readers) can give me the answer to a question that has been puzzling me for a long time.

When citizens are asked to vote on a proposition or initiative concerning their local townships or counties, why is the language so confusing and ambiguous?

For example, "If you are opposed to additional funding for public education, vote yes." But, "If you are in favor of additional funding for public education, vote no."

Or, "If you are opposed to drilling for oil in a specific locality, vote yes, but if you are in favor of drilling, vote no."

It seems to me that these issues are deliberately presented in language that will confuse the voters. Or am I mistaken? YES OR NO DEAR YES: No! I, too, would appreciate an answer to that disturbing question. Readers?

February Sale

LAST WEEK OF BABY YOUR BABY SALE

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30% OFF
All Gentry*, Stafford* shirts
Sale 12.60 Reg. \$18. Stafford* or Gentry* oxford button-down dress shirt of polyester/cotton. Men's sizes.
Sale excludes Smart Values.

25% OFF
All infants' playwear
Sale \$9 Reg. \$12. Suspender sets with polyester/cotton tops and cotton pants. Infants' and toddlers' sizes.
Sale excludes Smart Values.

SALE 9.99
Juniors' campshirt
Reg. 12.99 The go-with-everything oversized campshirt of cotton. In brights, pastels, plaids and stripes.

25% OFF
All napwear, sleepwear
Primary colors come alive in dots and stripes on these adorable sleep sets for little boys and girls.
Sale excludes JCPenney Smart Values.

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SALE 5.99 bath
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Today's Crossword Puzzle

GEECH

By Jerry Rittle

Astro-Graph

by bernice bede cool

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) If you're hoping to conduct business under a social cover today, don't press your interests too assertively. Lay the foundation now and go for the close next week. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences which are governing you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today by mailing \$1 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You could be rather lucky today where your material interests are concerned. There is a strong possibility you might derive personal benefits from something you least expect.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Don't be discouraged today if associates fail to see the merits of your position immediately. They'll eventually come around to your way of thinking.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Conditions look favorable for achieving career objectives today, provided you're consistent and stay on top of things, including minor details.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If something propitious develops for you today, try to include people in it who have been helpful to you recently. Your gesture will assure you of their continued support in the future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Don't be deterred from going after goals you establish for yourself today. You might have to deal with some small frustrations, but they will be manageable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Solutions to resolve a complicated development can be found today if you solicit advice from a friend who experienced something similar.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) In a business arrangement your position may be stronger than you realize. Stop focusing on negative aspects and look for ways to utilize the opportunities at hand.

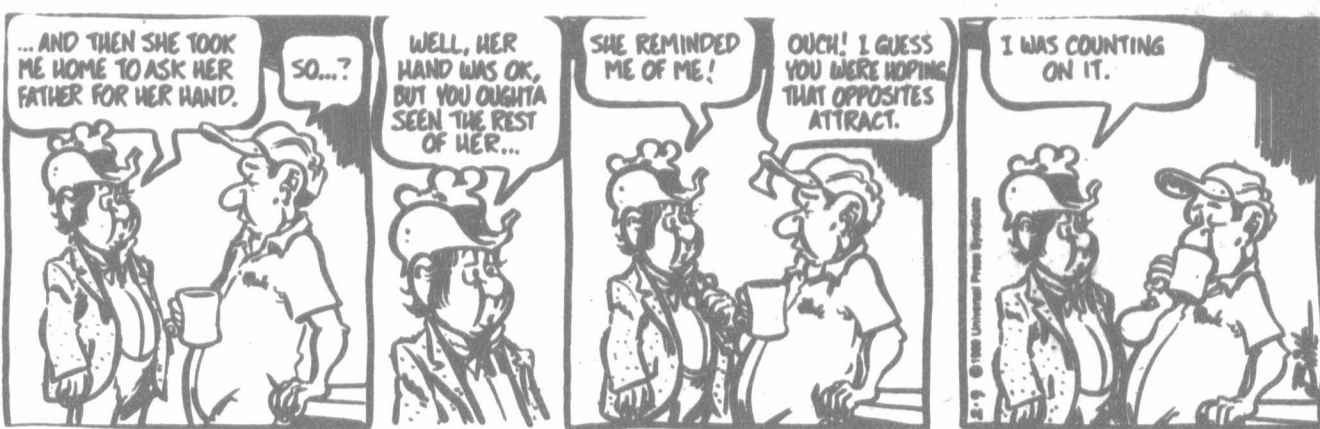
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) In a situation that affects you and another, take some positive measures on your own today that you believe will be mutually beneficial instead of waiting for your partner to supply the initiative.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22) This can be an extremely productive day for you if you are able to operate free from the interference of others. Don't make yourself available to people who merely waste your time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Someone who is always hard to please might try to put a damper on one of your social involvements today. However, it's not likely to be enough to keep you from having a good time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your potential for personal gains looks more promising today than it has all week. If you have something profitable on the stove, turn up the burners.

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THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



ECK & MECK

By Howie Schneider



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Answer to Previous Puzzle

O	A	S	T	O	A	H	I	I	W
O	P	E	N	O	P	A	L	C	E
P	A	C	T	N	O	S	Y	E	B
S	R	O	F	A	R	S	E	R	B
N	E	O	T	E	S	S			
O	R	D	E	R	S	B	E	T	T
P	I	A	L	O	R	E	S	I	L
T	O	R	S	L	U	R	O	T	I
S	T	Y	M	I	E	T	Y	P	I
E	M	M	E	R	B	E	A	L	E
I	Q	U	R	O	O	T	O	A	T
R	A	G	A	L	A	N	E	T	T
E	N	S	E	T	A	R	E	E	K

ACROSS

- 1 South American country
- 6 Wind instruments
- 12 Wretched hut
- 13 Mexican party item
- 14 Old-fashioned people
- 15 Having a good chance (2 wds.)
- 16 Not figurative
- 18 Small spot
- 19 Etching fluid
- 20 Demure
- 22 de France
- 25 Golf peg
- 26 Aware of (2 wds.)
- 28 Close falcon eyes
- 29 Vacation spot
- 30 More than one
- 32 Makes pass
- 35 Long time
- 36 Mrs. Charles Chaplin
- 37 Type of carpet
- 39 Theater sign (abbr.)
- 42 Octane numbers (abbr.)
- 43 Artful
- 44 Spread out
- 45 Frequently (poet.)
- 47 Childbirth aide
- 50 Of a son
- 53 Fuel-carrying ship
- 54 Glacial epoch (2 wds.)
- 55 Bovine animal
- 56 Moistened
- 57 Lawns

33 Chaney

34 Shoe parts

38 Athletic center

39 Nailed

40 Alludes

41 Unique person

43 Degree

44 Proprietor

46 Authoritative command

48 -bitsy

49 Information

50 Falsehood

51 Amazon tributary

52 Guided

DOWN

- 1 Option
- 2 Bind
- 3 Vine-covered

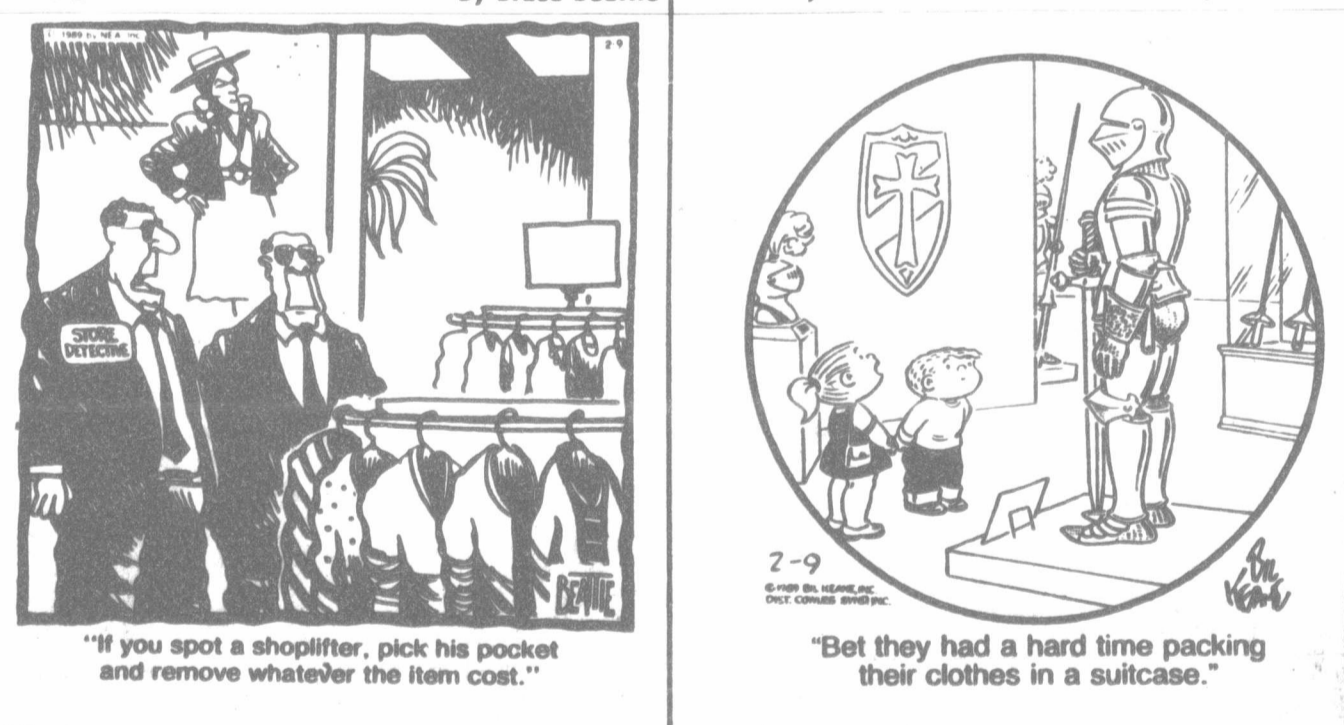
MARVIN



ALLEY OOP



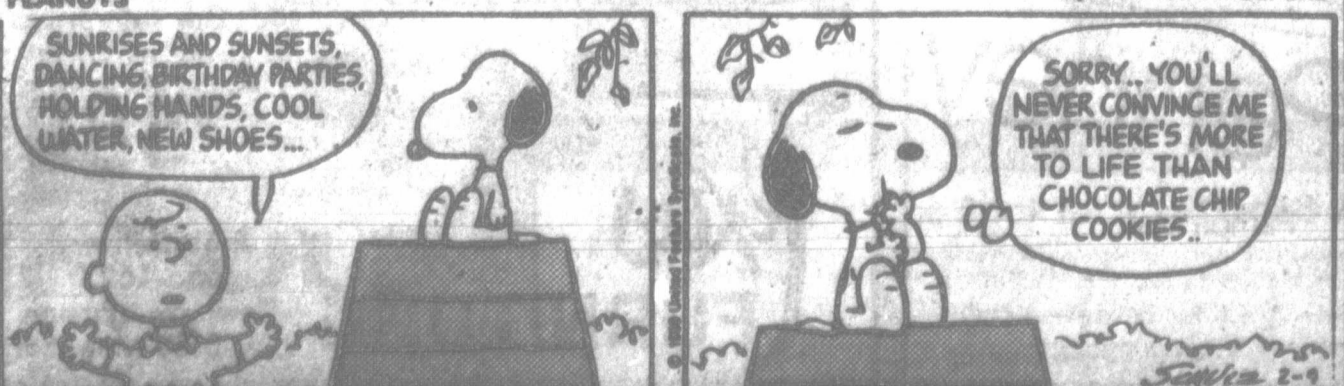
SNAFU



THE BORN LOSER



PEANUTS



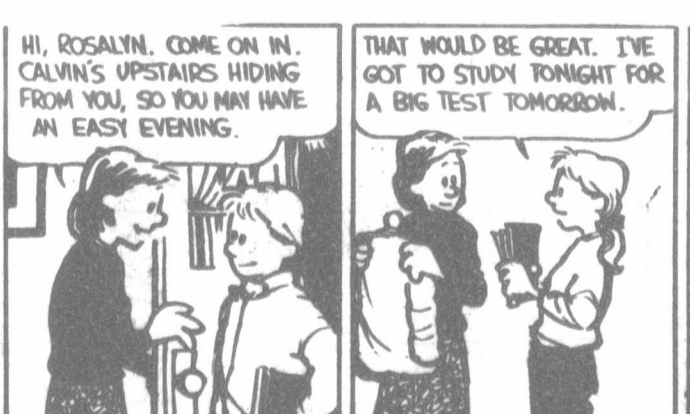
MARMADUKE



WINTHROP



CALVIN AND HOBBS



FRANK AND ERNEST



GARFIELD



Sports

Harvester signs



(Staff Photo by Duane A. Laverty)

Pampa defensive back Michael Bradshaw signs a football letter of intent to attend Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. Looking on are his grandmother, Mrs. Robert Bradshaw, his uncle, Charles Bradshaw, and Harvester coach Dennis Cavalier. Bradshaw was a two-year starter for the Harvesters.

Longhorns make big haul

By MICHAEL A. LUTZ
AP Sports Writer

Texas coach David McWilliams has made the university's campus a land of opportunity for this year's crop of schoolboy recruits.

The Longhorns won the unofficial Southwest Conference recruiting derby Wednesday with a harvest of blue chippers and McWilliams says some of them will get a chance to play next season.

"I told all the players and I have always told recruits to come in ready to play," McWilliams said. "I am very proud of this class. We signed the type of players that will help us in several positions."

Newcomers most likely to see quick action include Sugar Land Willowridge cornerback Grady Cavness and Copperas Cove wide receiver Mike Davis.

The Longhorns signed seven players who were first team selections on the Associated Press Texas Super Team.

They are: Cavness; wide receiver Darrick Duke, Houston Reagan; lineman Todd Yeaman, Fort Worth Western Hills; tight end Alan Webb, Aledo; lineman David Condon, Arlington Martin; lineman James Lane, Dallas Spruce and linebacker Chris Rapp, Dallas White.

Baylor and Arkansas challenged Texas for the state's talent and Miami took two of the state's top prospects.

Dallas Carter linebacker Jessie Armstead and Dallas Roosevelt wide receiver Kevin Williams signed scholarship agreements with the Hurricane.

Armstead, rated among the top linebacker prospects in the nation, said bickering among SWC schools helped send him to

Florida.

"It's going to take time for the SWC because as you have seen, in the SWC everybody wants to downgrade each other," Armstead said. "They say they want to come together as a unit but they need to shape it up."

Armstead made 117 tackles last season and led Dallas Carter to the state Class 5A title.

Baylor signed the state's top running back prospect in Cuero's Robert Strait and also added premier lineman John Karkoska of Aldine.

Defending champion Arkansas gathered in eight members of the Associated Press Arkansas Super Team including linebacker Shannon Wright of Fort Smith, Ark.

The Razorbacks also signed running back Ron Dickerson of State College, Pa., son of Penn State assistant coach Ron Dickerson.

The Hogs also hoped to shore up their defense with linebacker transfers Ken Benson from Butler County Junior College and Michael Cover of Golden West Junior College.

McWilliams said the Longhorns crewed more skill position players this year and he especially likes Cavness and Davis.

"Grady is someone who could play right away," McWilliams said.

Cavness made 103 tackles and picked off four passes last season.

Fellow coaches hear from Hale

Harvester mentor chosen to speak at THSCA function

By L.D. STRATE
Sports Editor

With the Pampa Harvesters on the brink of winning a district championship, it seemed only appropriate for head coach Robert Hale to be one of the keynote speakers at a recent regional meeting of the Texas High School Coaches Association in Plainview.

Hale, along with Vega coach Wayne Potter, were selected to talk about basketball at the day-long meeting.

Hale's topic centered around motivation and how to rebuild a program, something the Lubbock native is very familiar with.

"I guess my strongest point is rebuilding. Every coaching job that I've inherited always seemed to be down and it was up to me to get it going again. That's what's been happening here," Hale said.

Hale's three-year tenure at Pampa is a proven case.



Robert Hale

His first season here in 1986-87 the Harvesters finished a dismal seventh in district. Last season the Harvesters climbed to fourth and now Hale has his squad holding down first place.

Hale teaches his players a three-pronged program: 1. Be in better shape than your opponent. 2. Do everything the coach asks

you to do to the best of your ability. 3. Be unselfish. Teams win championships, individuals lose championships.

"I don't emphasize winning or making the players more talented. I want the players to have a good, positive attitude," Hale said. "I want them to be good students, good citizens and competitive players. If it shows up in a positive way on the scoreboard, that's something extra, but I want them to have more than just a trophy or a letter jacket when they walk across that stage as seniors."

Hale stresses the 'why' not the 'how' in shaping a basketball program.

"There's a hundred different ways to do something, whether it comes to working on a car, skinning a cat, or coaching a basketball team. Why? is the question, not how? Ten people can sit in the stands and second-guess and there will be ten different opinions. The coach should call time out now or, no, he should wait until his team gets the ball to mid-court, or, no, let them take another shot and then call time. Second-guessing can go on and

on, but do the parents believe in what the coach is teaching their kids? I want to teach the players responsibility and to be committed to each other and the program."

The Harvesters' jerseys point out Hale's firm belief in the team concept.

"All the numbers either have a five in them or the numbers add up to five, which depicts a team-oriented program," Hale said. "Just before we break from a huddle, we clasp hands and say, 'one, two three, team.'"

Molding individuals into a team is nothing new, says Hale.

"This nation was founded on teamwork. The family is a team. To have a successful nation or a successful family, it takes a team effort and a strong belief in what you're doing," Hale stated.

Football coaches Windy Williams of state champion White Deer and Duane Huey of Tascosa also spoke at the meeting.

"It was a tremendous thrill when they asked me to speak. I've only been in the region about two and a half years, so it was quite an honor," Hale said.

Hurricanes land Texas' top defensive player

By EVAN RAMSTAD
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP)— Dallas Carter linebacker Jessie Armstead says his decision to go to Miami wasn't influenced by the quality of the Hurricanes' other recruits.

"I don't worry about that because I'm the top player in the country," Armstead said. "So I don't worry about things like

that."

Wearing an orange and green jersey emblazoned with the number 1, Armstead signed his letter of intent to join coach Jimmy Johnson's team before family, friends and dozens of reporters in a posh Dallas hotel.

Armstead and legions of other high school football players made commitments to colleges Wednesday, the first day they

could sign letters of intent.

The 6-2, 205-pound wavered on his decision until Wednesday afternoon, he said, considering Baylor and Miami at the end.

Armstead praised Miami's commitment to academics, noting that all of the Hurricanes' football seniors graduated last year.

Armstead, who wants to be a

lawyer, dismissed questions about Miami's reputation as party school.

"People can judge how they want to," he said.

Armstead praised Baylor, but said the penalty-plagued SWC turned him off.

"The SWC is not together," Armstead said. "People are trying to destroy them."

White Deer's Thomas remains unsigned

Although national signing day has come and gone, White Deer quarterback Bart Thomas remains the top college football prospect in the Pampa News coverage area.

The 6-1, 180-pound senior has expressed interest in both the University of Texas at Austin and West Point, according to White Deer coach Windy Williams. Thomas, who plans to pursue a degree in engineering, has received offers from several NAIA Division I schools, Williams said, but was waiting to hear from UT late Wednesday.

Thomas was recently selected first team All-State quarterback for his role in leading the Bucks to the 1988 Class A state football championship in December. He was unavailable for comment on Wednesday.

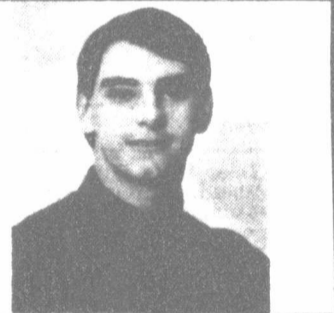
The Kelton Lions suffered their first setback of the season on Tuesday night, an 85-84 loss to the Sudan Hornets in a practice game prior to the playoffs.

Kelton owned an 84-81 lead before committing two fouls in the closing moments, which set up a four-point play for the Hornets and propelled them to a one-point victory. Chad Caddel scored a career-high 50 points, surpassing his previous best by seven points.

The loss left the Lions with a 24-1 overall record. Kelton has

In Stride

By
Sonny Bohanan



tentatively scheduled another practice game against Groom next Tuesday at Miami.

To date, nine area basketball teams have qualified for trips to the bi-district playoffs, and, as predicted in this space a week ago, that number could increase to twelve within the next few days.

In the boys' division, teams from Groom, Kelton and McLean have already clinched the No. 1 playoff seeds in their respective districts, while Wheeler secured its postseason berth by virtue of a second-place finish behind Kelton.

Lefors and Wheeler are the only two girls' teams that have won their districts outright at this point. The Kelton Lionettes also guaranteed themselves a playoff berth by capturing the runner-up spot behind Wheeler.

Two other girls' teams will see

some bi-district action as well, although they will first have to play tie-breakers this week. McLean and Samnorwood finished the regular season tied for first place in District 6-1A and will battle for the No. 1 seed tonight at Shamrock beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The girls of Groom and White Deer, tied for second place in District 3-1A following Tuesday's regular-season finales, will vie for the No. 2 seed in a Friday night doubleheader at Miami, scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

The White Deer Bucks and the Claude Mustangs will fill the second half of that twinbill at 8 p.m. when they play a tie-breaker for the runner-up spot in District 3-1A. The winner will advance to bi-district as the No. 2 seed behind the Groom Tigers.

If all that seems extremely confusing, wait until we add two more. Both the girls and boys of

Mets' Gooden becomes baseball's highest-paid player

NEW YORK (AP)— At the age of 24, just five years into his major-league career, Dwight Gooden is the highest-paid player in baseball.

Gooden agreed Wednesday to a three-year contract worth \$4.7 million, with bonus clauses that could make the contract worth as much as \$7.87 million.

Including a prorated share of his signing bonus, Gooden will be

paid \$2,416,667 in 1989, topping the \$2.4 million that will be earned by Minnesota Twins third baseman Gary Gaetti.

"I'm happy with the confidence that they have in me," Gooden said. "And it's just up to me to show them that they made the right choice. And I really appreciate the way they've been helping me on and off the field."

By off the field, Gooden means

the Mets' assistance in his rehabilitation from cocaine use. He missed the first two months of the 1987 season after he tested positive for cocaine on April 1.

"We fully realize this is a large amount of money," Mets senior vice president Al Harazin said, "but given Dwight's track record on the mound, we believe it's a sound investment and are sure Dwight will prove that over the

next three years."

Four other players in arbitration also agreed to new contracts Wednesday, reducing the players remaining to 27.

Gooden, the youngest baseball player ever to make \$2 million a year, will get a \$600,000 signing bonus, \$2.25 million this year, \$1.7 million in 1990 and \$2.25 million in 1991.

Harvesters battle Panthers in key District 1-4A game

How important is the Pampa-Lubbock Dunbar District 1-4A basketball clash Friday night? Just ask Pampa coach Robert Hale. He has the answer right on the tip of his tongue.

"We're playing for the district championship," Hale says. "It's the big one."

A victory over Dunbar would clinch a first-place tie for the Harvesters, who still have Borger and Levelland on their schedule.

"In this district you just can't let up against anybody," Hale said. "Every team is competitive."

Even against last-place Dumas Tuesday night, the Harvesters had trouble putting the Demons away. Dumas cut Pampa's 14-point lead to three in the fourth quarter before the Harvesters spurred to a 69-60 win.

"Both teams played awfully hard," added Hale. "It was a good team victory for us because every kid got to play. We've had a couple of close ones where we couldn't get everybody in, so we needed a game where everybody got to play."

Pampa and Dunbar switched positions in the district standings after the Panthers lost to Levelland 71-66 Tuesday. Dunbar could have se-

cured a playoff berth with a win over Levelland, but the Panthers weren't even supposed to get this far according to pre-season polls.

"We were picked sixth at the beginning of the season, and I knew we weren't that bad," said Panther head coach Joe McWilliams. "I thought that potentially our kids could play as well as they've played to this point. I don't think we're playing our best ball, but we are doing some things right."

In the first meeting between the two teams on Jan. 6, the Harvesters pulled out a 77-68 victory over Dunbar.

Pampa trailed most of the first half before a late second-quarter surge put the Harvesters on top, 42-39, at intermission. Pampa trailed only once in the second half.

District 1-4A standings

Boys
Pampa, 11-2; Lubbock Dunbar, 11-3; Borger, 9-4; Randall, 7-6; Levelland, 7-5; Lubbock Estacado, 6-7; Frenship, 5-8; Hereford, 2-12; Dumas, 1-12.

Girls
Levelland, 14-0; Dumas, 12-3; Borger, 9-6; Randall, 8-7; Pampa, 7-8; Frenship, 6-9; Hereford, 6-10; Lubbock Estacado, 5-9; Lubbock Dunbar, 0-15.

Pampa sophs down Dumas, PD

The Pampa Sophomores defeated Dumas Sophomores, 66-59, in basketball action on Tuesday night.

Wayne Cavanaugh topped Pampa in scoring with 15 points, while Jeff Young had 13, Larry Reed and Jory Farina, 12 apiece.

Last Saturday, Pampa defeated Palo Duro, 87-60, in a sophomore game.

Jayson Williams was Pampa's top scorer with 21 points, followed by Quincy Williams with 17.

In both games, Clay Lyle, Marcus Shephard and Matt Hawkins played well, said coach Clay Richerson.

The Pampa Sophomores are now 8-9 overall and 4-1 in district. They play Caprock at 2 p.m. Saturday.

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Texas congressional delegation at average in foreign travel

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just two weeks after returning from a 10-day fact-finding trip to Korea, Thailand, Burma, Singapore and Indonesia, U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz headed for Britain, Germany and France.

The second trip was a week-long mission to study military education facilities.

A month later, the Corpus Christi Democrat took off with six colleagues from the House Armed Services Committee on a two-day mission to Honduras.

In three months, Ortiz visited nine nations on three continents, with taxpayers footing the \$24,781.03 bill.

"I usually don't like to travel," he told the *Dallas Times Herald*. "I hate to live out of a suitcase. But many times it needs to be done."

Foreign trips by members of Congress cost American taxpayers \$6.7 million in 1987. And with the recent controversy over a proposed congressional pay raise, the foreign trips also are a sizzling subject of conversation in the nation's capital.

Although federal laws have been enacted in recent years aimed at curbing government

spending, congressional travel has climbed steadily, rising from \$3,646,364 in 1982 to \$6,712,847 in 1987, an 84 percent increase.

Like his colleagues on Capitol Hill, Ortiz said the international trips are important to their congressional work. But critics claim the international travel, which they refer to as "junkets," are overused and unnecessary.

Some opponents of the 50 percent congressional pay raise, which was Congress voted down Tuesday, cited the trip-taking as one reason members of Congress did not need a pay hike.

"They are spending so much time on these junkets, they don't have enough time to spend on the real business of the nation," said Michael McCauley, campaign coordinator for Ralph Nader's Stop the Pay Grab Committee. "The American people suffer as a result."

The *Times Herald* reviewed travel records on file at the House Office of Records and Registration and the Office of the Secretary of the Senate for the period between Jan. 1, 1987, and Sept. 30, 1988. Travel records for the final three months of 1988 were not available, the newspaper re-

ported. Texas' 27 congressmen and two senators took 57 trips. The bill to taxpayers totaled more than \$315,000.

Ortiz, Rep. Mickey Leland of Houston and Rep. Kika de la Garza of Mission, all Texas Democrats, each took six taxpayer-financed trips during the past two years, according to the *Times Herald*.

Of the three, Ortiz traveled to the most countries, having been to 16 at taxpayers' expense. Leland's trips cost the most — \$45,072. And de la Garza, whose district abuts Mexico, paid the most visits to a single nation, having made four separate stops in Mexico.

Ranking fourth among the Texas lawmakers was Sen. Phil Gramm, a College Station Republican, who took four foreign trips.

Texas lawmakers rank exactly at the national average at 1.2 trips per Congress member per year.

Some members cut costs by flying aboard commercial flights, but most travel on one of eight military aircraft reserved for congressional travel. Air fare

makes up the majority of all travel expenditures.

Members of Congress are billed by the Pentagon for their flights.

The Texas delegation apparently is split over the travel issue. Seven members of the delegation — six Republicans and a Democrat — took no trips in the past two years, and some said they were philosophically opposed to spending taxpayers' money on the ventures.

Meanwhile, others said they took trips infrequently and only when requested by the White House or the House leadership.

"I probably get invited to take six to 10 trips per year and (I) just have felt that none of them would make me a better representative for the 21st District," said Rep. Lamar Smith, R-San Antonio. He has not taken a taxpayer-funded trip during his two years in Congress.

Denton Republican Rep. Dick Arme said he consciously

avoids international trips.

"I dare say that 50 percent of more of the (foreign) trips that are taken are not necessary," Arme said. "By and large, I think we tend to overdo the foreign travel, and I think we stretch the logic by which we justify it."

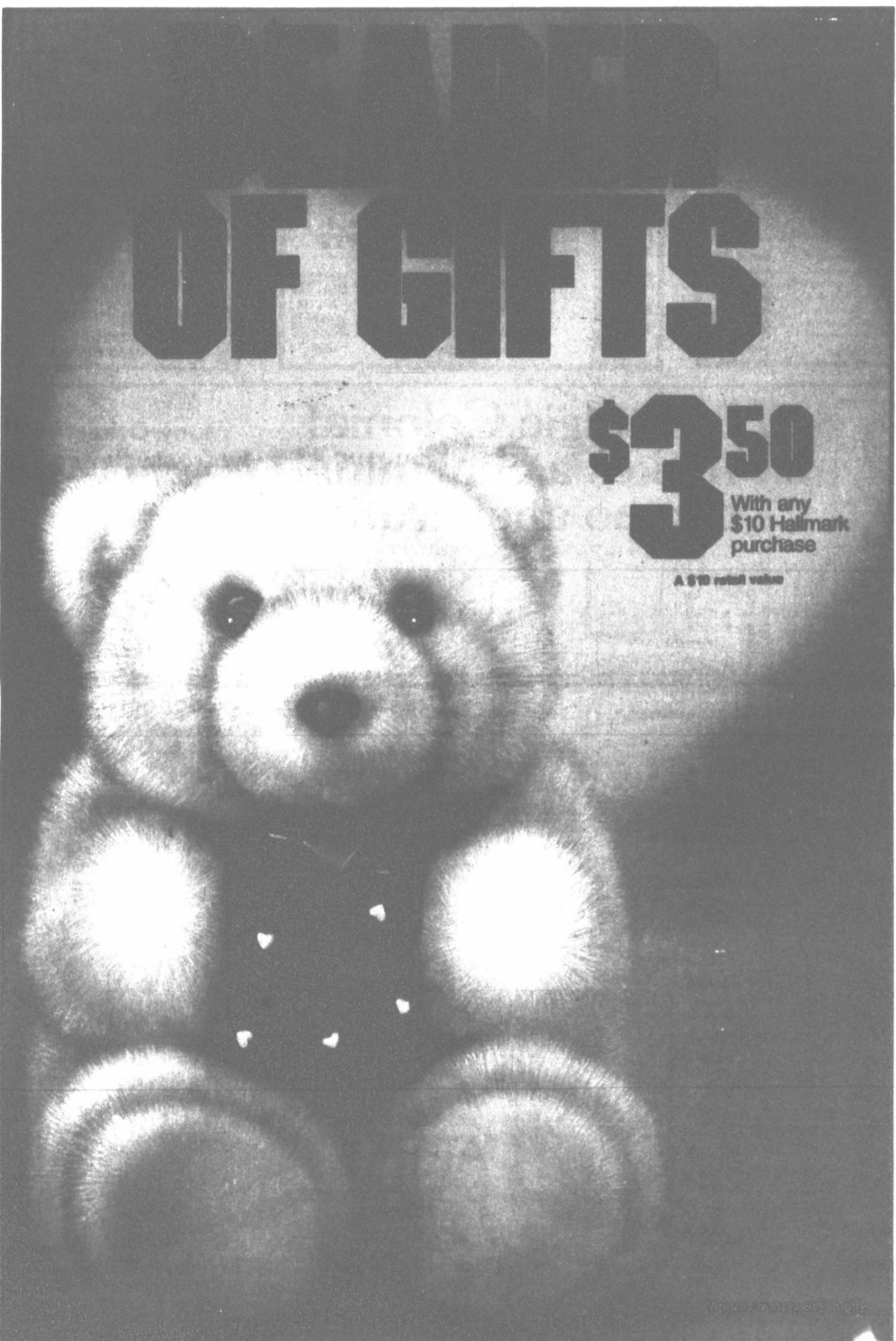
Fueled by embarrassing reports of thinly veiled vacations to the Riviera or the Paris Air Show financed by tax dollars, the nature of congressional travel has changed dramatically in recent years, according to congression-

al insiders.

One of the more embarrassing trips was when Rep. Bill Alexander, D-Ark., flew with his daughter and six staff members on a 42-passenger Air Force jet to inspect Brazilian alcohol fuel plants — at a price tag of \$56,000.

"Some members do travel to exotic opportunities," Leland said. "(But) I think those are rare. For the most part, members are very responsible as to where they go."

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