

Nation

Jury awards Rock Hudson's lover \$14½ million settlement

By LINDA DEUTSCH
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A jury awarded Rock Hudson's lover \$14.5 million — \$3.5 million more than he sought — in a case that appears to increase the legal responsibility of AIDS sufferers to tell sexual companions of their plight.

In what one expert called a landmark decision, the jury declared Wednesday that Hudson engaged in "outrageous conduct" before his death by withholding his AIDS diagnosis from Marc Christian so he could continue their sexual affair.

The settlement could go still higher. Jurors were scheduled to return today to hear evidence and consider punitive damages against Mark Miller, Hudson's secretary, who was found to have conspired to keep the late actor's AIDS diagnosis a secret.

Hudson's estate and Miller were co-defendants in the seven-week trial in Los Angeles Superior

Court, where jurors listened to often-lurid testimony about the late star's sex life before deciding in favor of Christian, 35.

Aside from Hudson's fame, the case was unusual because Christian apparently was not infected by the AIDS virus in spite of his exposure. It is believed to be the first case of its type in which damages were awarded to a plaintiff who had not developed physical symptoms of AIDS.

Christian claimed he was entitled to compensation for the emotional distress of fearing he would get AIDS, a fatal illness that attacks the body's immune system.

Margaret Davis, an attorney and author of *Lovers, Doctors & the Law*, said the Hudson case is "absolutely a landmark" that will likely encourage other lawsuits by people who are "deceived by promises in the dark."

"The jury is telling America that you have to make full and complete disclosure if you are aware that you have the disease," she said. "You're going

to think twice about it if you know you can face big dollar damages or time in jail."

A spokesman for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation expressed ambivalence about the verdict.

"We find it a troubling case because it places the entire burden of safe sex on one individual and not the two," said the spokesman, Steven Petrow. "It underscores for us again the need for everyone who engages in sexual activity to take responsibility for themselves as well as for their partners."

Attorneys in the Hudson case, who are under a gag order, would not comment on any aspect of the verdict, including how the judgment will be apportioned or if the defendants will appeal as expected. Appeals courts have often reduced huge awards in civil cases.

Attorneys for the estate attempted to portray Christian as a gigolo whose relationship with Hudson had ended when the actor learned he had the disease. They said repeated medical tests showed that Christian had not been infected by the AIDS

virus.

Christian's attorney pointed to sentimental love letters from Hudson to buttress the claim that theirs was a serious affair of the heart.

"I love you, my baby," said one of the missives.

Although he shared Hudson's bed for two years, the aspiring musician said he didn't learn the actor had AIDS until it was announced to the world shortly before Hudson died in October 1985 at age 58.

"I thought I was a dead man," Christian testified of his reaction to the news.

Hudson, the handsome Hollywood leading man paired on screen and television with Doris Day, Elizabeth Taylor and Linda Evans, kept his homosexuality a closely guarded secret until his battle with AIDS became public knowledge.

Christian smiled happily as the verdict was read. Miller, Hudson's secretary and best friend, didn't react visibly to the verdict. He alone is subject to possible punitive damages for his actions in helping Hudson keep his secret.

More terminally ill dying in nursing homes

By DANIEL Q. HANEY
AP Science Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Americans are increasingly going to nursing homes to die as hospitals discharge terminally ill patients to keep them from running up big bills, thus helping reduce the nation's Medicare costs, according to two reports today.

One study, based on nationwide death statistics, suggests that the trend results largely from new Medicare rules that pay hospitals flat fees for taking care of the elderly. This approach gives them a financial incentive to keep patients' hospital stays as short as possible.

"What has to be said is that hospitals are in a bind because they are being pressured by cost cutting," said Dr. Mark A. Sager, who directed the study. "Nursing homes are in a bind because nobody wants to pay for nursing

home care. Patients are in a bind because they are in a system that does not want to provide continuity of care and health care financing is fragmented."

His research showed that the number of elderly Americans dying in nursing homes rose sharply during the 1980s, while fewer died in hospitals.

Sager, a physician at Deap Medical Center in Madison, Wis., said that sending dying people to nursing homes rather than keeping them in hospitals "may be very appropriate and less costly."

"The issue is whether nursing homes can adequately take care of a sicker population today than they were seeing a few years ago," he said.

Medicare's new system began in October 1983, paying hospitals flat fees in advance. Hospitals get the same amount for each person with a specific disease, regard-

less of whether a patient stays in the hospital for a day or a month.

Another report provides evidence that the strategy is saving money.

That study, directed by Dr. Louise B. Russell of Rutgers University, estimated the savings to Medicare from the new payment system and compared Medicare's projections of rising costs with what actually happened.

In 1980, the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, the federal government's branch that pays Medicare hospital bills, predicted that it would be spending about \$55 billion by 1990. Instead, it appears the actual expense by then will be \$43 billion in 1980 dollars.

The savings will amount to \$12 billion in 1980 dollars or \$18 billion in 1990 dollars. The researchers said this means the new payment program will be responsible for a 3 percent reduction in the nation's total health care bill, which

is expected to be \$650 billion in 1990.

Both studies were published in today's *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Sager's study found that in 1981, 65 percent of all deaths among people older than 65 occurred in hospitals. By 1985, this had fallen to 61 percent. At the same time, the percentage of deaths in nursing homes rose from 19 percent to 21.5 percent.

Sager said that although he is concerned about whether nursing homes can adequately care for their increased burden of dying patients, there is no sign that quicker hospital discharges have shortened people's lives.

His study, which used mortality data from all 50 states compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics, found that the changes were most pronounced in the Midwest, South and West.

Stanford accused of exploiting migrant workers

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — Impoverished migrant workers crammed into wooden shacks on one of America's most beautiful college campuses are at the center of a dispute over who's legally responsible for their misery.

On one side of the wrangle is prestigious Stanford University. On the other is Webb Ranch, which leases 300 acres from the school and pays the migrants wages below the poverty line to pick berries and vegetables.

Webb charges 75 cents out of every hour worked for rent, so the more hours worked the higher the rent, said Reuben Serna, a spokesman for United Stanford Workers, the union representing 1,200 maintenance workers at the school.

The shacks are a half-mile from the center of campus and have no heat, toilets or running

water. During harvest time, they are crowded with up to eight people who pay up to \$1,600 a month for the space, Serna said.

The migrants have asked the United Stanford Workers to represent them. Earlier this week the union sent university President Donald Kennedy and the ranch, a letter demanding recognition as sole bargaining agent for the farm workers.

Union attorney Jim Eggleston claims that Stanford, as the land's owner, is the workers' true employer under state law and is legally responsible "for the shameful activity that's going on here."

"There are more illegalities, more exploitation of workers, more breaches of workers' rights in this one plot of ground right here than we've seen in a long, long time," he said Wednesday.

Kennedy declined to comment on the issue, but Stanford attorney Priscilla Wheeler said the university isn't responsible for the employment policies of its lessees or contractors.

"We would, of course, be con-

cerned if any lessee violated the law," Wheeler said in a statement. "So far as we know, Webb Ranch has not done so. If there are issues of mistreatment, we hope they are brought up with the state."

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World

Ortega denies his promise to hold free elections is insincere

By DORALISA PILARTE
Associated Press Writer

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)— President Daniel Ortega dismissed claims that his promise to hold free elections is insincere, telling the nation he can now promote democracy because the Sandinistas are strong and backed by the people.

In a televised speech Wednesday night, Ortega also hinted that he might run for re-election.

At the end of a regional summit Tuesday in El Salvador, he promised to hold presidential, legislative and municipal elections by next February and to allow the opposition help organize them.

The summit agreement signed by five Central American presidents also calls for disbanding of the Contra guerrillas, most of whom are encamped in neighboring Honduras.

"We'll see who is strong, who the people will vote for," Ortega said. "Whoever is afraid of this (early elections) is not interested in peace or in the strengthening of democracy in Nicaragua."

The balloting had been scheduled for November 1990.

In Washington on Wednesday, the State Department signaled its skepticism about free elections in Nicaragua by saying it had no plans to lift a four-year ban on diplomatic contacts with the leftist Sandinista government.

Rebel leaders said they felt abandoned by the United States, which had supported their seven-year fight to oust the Sandinistas.

The accords left the Contras isolated diplomatically, with about 11,000 fighters and several thousand relatives in neighboring Honduras.

Despite vows to fight on, they ran out of ammunition and



Ortega

moved into the border camps after Congress suspended military aid a year ago. On March 23, they signed a preliminary cease-fire accord with the Sandinistas.

Asked by reporters what would happen if the Contras refused to lay down their arms and relocate, Ortega said:

"The Contras are creating a problem for Honduras. ... You can't force them to return to Nicaragua. But they will have to choose between coming here, staying—some of them—in Honduras, or leaving for the United States or whatever other countries are willing to take them in."

One opposition leader said the Sandinistas must be watched carefully in the elections or they'll try to cheat.

"President Ortega only talked with the Central American presidents, but he still needs to talk with the Nicaraguan people," said Gilberto Cuadra, president of the opposition Superior Council of Private Enterprise.

The Sandinistas' popularity has been hurt by the state of the

economy. Inflation is at a 20,000 percent annual rate, food and consumer goods are in short supply and at least 30,000 public employees have just been laid off.

The government says the war is mostly to blame for the state of the economy, not their management of it.

Opposition leaders said Wednesday that elections as early as next February do not allow enough time for political parties to organize a campaign.

In his nationwide address, Ortega went over the points con-

tained in a communique he issued jointly with the presidents of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica at their summit.

He stressed his willingness to promote greater democracy and submit elections to international observers, saying this "shows our political strength, which is rooted in the Nicaraguan people, the working people, the peasants ... and every patriotic Nicaraguan."

Speaking to journalists afterward, he was asked if he would be the Sandinista presidential candidate.

Death squads head to Britain to kill author

By MICHAEL WEST
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP)— Death squads from Islamic countries were reported en route to Britain today after Iran offered a million-dollar bounty for the murder of Salman Rushdie, author of the allegedly blasphemous *The Satanic Verses*.

Rushdie on Wednesday canceled a planned U.S. tour to promote the novel that was to have begun Friday. British news media said he was hiding with his second wife, American novelist Marianne Wiggins, under police guard.

An Iranian cleric had followed up a call by Ayatollah Khomeini for Rushdie's death by offering the blood money, and hundreds of protesters attacked the British Embassy in Tehran with rocks to protest the novel.

The *Times* of London today quoted a former Pakistan government minister as saying death squads from Pakistan and other Moslem states were on their way to Britain to kill Rushdie.

The *Guardian* newspaper said police were believed to have stepped up surveillance of Khomeini supporters in Britain in a bid to foil any attempt to kill Rushdie, a Cambridge-educated British citizen.

Ian Gelder, a researcher at the Institute for the Study of Terrorism, said about 1,000 radical Khomeini supporters are believed to be in Britain, either as students or on short-

term visas.

Gelder said the 41-year-old Rushdie might need protection for the rest of his life. "No way will the Ayatollah rescind the sentence. There will always be those wishing to carry out hit orders," he said.

In a report from Pakistan, *The Times* quoted Moulana Kausar Niazi, a former minister of information and religious affair, as saying Rushdie would be killed within a few months.

The *Times* said Moulana, an ex-senior member of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party, was one of the leaders in Pakistan of the movement that got the novel banned there. It said Bhutto has accused him of using opposition to the novel to try to destabilize her recently elected government.

The paper said Moulana led the demonstration against the book in Islamabad on Sunday during which six people were killed after police opened fire. Another person also was killed Monday in a protest against the book in northern India.

The *Satanic Verses* has sold more than 100,000 copies since it was published in Britain in September to critical acclaim. At least five countries have formally banned the novel: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt and South Africa.

The *Times* report quoted Moulana as saying Khomeini expressed the sentiments of all Moslems by urging them Tuesday to kill the Indian-born Rushdie and his London pub-

lishers.

Another London paper, *The Daily Telegraph*, today quoted Hesham El Hessawy, chairman of the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance, as saying an American Moslem was in London last week trying to find Rushdie and saying he planned to kill him.

The paper described Hessawy as a respected figure in Britain's 1.5-million Moslem community and quoted him as saying: "He (the American Moslem) wanted Mr. Rushdie's telephone number and address. He said he was going to kill him."

The paper did not name the American Moslem and gave no other details.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Wednesday that a senior Moslem clergyman in Iran, Hojatolislam Hassan Saneie, had offered cash for Rushdie's death.

It quoted him as saying: "If the executioner is a foreigner, he will receive a million dollars." But he said that if the killer were an Iranian, the reward would be 200 million rials, or \$2.6 million dollars, IRNA reported.

Tehran Radio denounced the book as "a shameful onslaught on the sacred character of Islam's prophet" on Wednesday and a crowd of 2,000 protesters shattered windows at the British Embassy in Tehran.

A major character in the novel is named Mahound, a medieval corruption of the name of the prophet Mohammed.

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Lifestyles

Amarillo group to stage 'Equus'

AMARILLO—Amarillo Little Theatre will present *Equus*, written by Peter Shaffer, at 8 p.m. Feb. 23-25 and March 3-4 at the Amarillo Theatre Center, located at 2019 Civic Circle.

Equus is ALT's third production of its 1988-89 season of Tony Award winners.

The adult drama depicts a confrontation between psychiatrist Martin Dysart, portrayed by Randy Smiddy, and Alan Strang, a young man who has blinded six horses, played by Kelly Davis.

As the play unfolds to reveal the motives behind this startling crime, Dysart comes to an inescapable view of man's need to worship and the distortions forced on that need by "civilized" society.

Due to adult material and explicit situations, *Equus* is not recommended for anyone under 18 years of age.

Other cast members include Rita Edwards as Dora Strang, Kelvin Loyd as Frank Strang, Candy Boxwell as Hesther Solomon, Marj Eckleberry as Jill Mason and Duncan Parish as Harry Dalton.

Gregg Bliss portrays the horseman and Linda Joyce Barr, the nurse. Actors portraying the

horses include Don Timmerman, Gregg Dunlap, Stephen Hall, Jeremy Parkhurst, Bliss and Kyle McFarren.

"It is ALT's policy to offer a wide variety of theater productions in an attempt to meet the needs and tastes of the entire community," said Shelly Marmaduke, theater representative. "*Equus*, which opened in New York in 1975, has never before been performed on an Amarillo stage."

Director Allen Shankles feels that "As an artist, I am very excited about the challenge, dramatically, that *Equus* poses for me as well as the actors who will be involved. Rarely do we get a chance to work on a piece that is as intensely dramatic as this one."

"Our audience will be challenged to grow as well," Shankles said. "This is not a 'feel good' show. It is one that will make you examine yourself, your values and the world in which you live."

For ticket information, contact Amarillo Little Theatre at 355-9991.

Gambling on marriage



Tim and Becky Smotherman were among hundreds of couples getting married in Las Vegas on Valentine's Day; they had their ceremony in a motorhome on the Las Vegas Strip. Wedding chapels reported big busi-

ness and couples waited in line for licenses on the popular wedding day. Marrying the Smothermans was Charlotte Richard of the Little White Chapel. (AP Laserphoto)

Talking about deceased son helps soothe parent's grief

DEAR ABBY: Some time ago, I wrote to tell you that Keith, our eldest son, was killed when he fell from a roof, and I was heartbroken because nobody — neither my friends nor his — remembered his birthday or the date of his death.

With my permission, you published my letter and my name. Abby, since my letter appeared, I've received so many wonderful cards and telephone calls from people who read it! It was especially gratifying to hear from so many of Keith's friends who came forward to tell me how his life and death affected their lives. Parents appreciate knowing that their dead child had an impact on other people besides his immediate family.

The pain of losing a child — or any loved one — never "goes away"; it must be dealt with. And discussing the child's life and death is one way parents work through their grief. The immense pain does ease a little, day by day, and you gradually learn to live with your loss, but your life will never be the same.

Thank you for printing my letter, Abby. I hope that many more people will know how to react, and help friends and relatives who have lost a child.

CAROLE EDWARDS, FLORIDA



Dear Abby
Abigail Van Buren

DEAR CAROLE: Hundreds of people wrote to say they never realized that talking to grieving parents about the deceased is therapeutic. All feared it would "stir up" emotions, so they talked about everything else, assuming that the distraction would be preferable.

Thank you for giving me yet another opportunity to assure my readers that it's a kindness to remember the birthday and death date of the deceased.

DEAR ABBY: You've often said that the best (but hardest) way to quit smoking is "cold turkey."

Well, chocolate is to me what cigarettes are to smokers. I'm a grown woman, married and the mother of two sons, and I couldn't

wait for my husband and boys to leave the kitchen so I could have something chocolate. I used to love to go marketing so I could buy two packages of chocolate cookies. I'd eat one package in the store, and one in the car on the way home. I even hid chocolate candy in my dresser drawers so no one else would see them.

Every other day I'd mix a batch of brownies — only they rarely made it to the oven. I'd eat the raw batter in one sitting!

After my aerobics class three times a week, I'd stop at the store for a chocolate treat. Of course I knew I had a problem, so I once tried to make myself sick — eating 10 chocolate cupcakes at one sitting. It didn't work. I was too addicted.

I finally realized I would have to quit — cold turkey. So that's what I did.

It can be done if you set your mind to it. I also prayed a lot, and have been a reformed chocoholic for five months now!

SUE WELCH
IN MARYLAND

DEAR SUE: Being a minor-league chocoholic myself, I know where you're coming from. Congratulations, Sue. I applaud your efforts and wish you well.

Amarillo show/sale to raise college funds

AMARILLO—American Business Women's Association's High Plains Chapter in Amarillo is sponsoring an arts and crafts show and sale from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 12 at Amarillo Garden Center, 1400 Streit Drive, next to the Discovery Center.

All individuals who wish to show and sell their art and/or craft items are welcome to participate. Tables and chairs will be provided, and some easels are available. Cost per booth is \$15 to help pay for the building rental.

The event is being held to raise funds toward giving scholarships to women who wish to begin or continue their college work toward a degree in their chosen field. Participants are asked to contribute 15 percent of their sales to the chapter for this purpose. Contributions will be on a volunteer basis and will not be

monitored during the show hours. Registration deadline is Feb. 26. For more information, contact the chapter secretary, Bonnie Anne Scherer, at 383-5865 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or 383-1406 evenings.

Call free for college data

Call free for college data

AUSTIN — If you need information about scholarships, loans, grants, part-time jobs or other options to assist you in paying for college, you may call 1-800-253-8989 on Feb. 18 and 19 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., toll-free.

The Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators is sponsoring its third annual Paying for College Information Line. Financial aid administrators from Texas colleges will be available to answer the questions

of many college-bound students and their parents.

"Paying for college is a shared responsibility, and the Information Line helps us reach those families who need help and advice," said Albert Barreda, director of financial aid at Texas Southmost College and chairman of the TASFAA public relations committee.

"Financial assistance is available, and we can assist families in exploring these opportunities," Barreda said.

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<p>YOUR CHOICE 9.99</p> <p>Men's Par 4® Knit Shirt Reg. \$18. Men's short sleeve Par 4 knit shirts. Select stripes available.</p>	<p>25% off</p> <p>Winter and Moon Boots Sale 11.25 to 22.50. Reg. \$15 to \$30. All winter and moon boots now on sale at 25% off for women, men and children.</p>	<p>50% off</p> <p>14K gold chains, charms, and earrings. Gold jewelry is the perfect gift for her.</p>	<p>50% to 70% off</p> <p>Clearance-Clearance-Clearance Womens - 5 Racks Reg. 9.99 to \$36. Mens - 3 Racks Reg. 11.99 to \$29 Children - 3 Racks Reg. 3.99 to \$27</p>
<p>30% to 50% off</p> <p>All Men's Flannel Shirts Reg. 8.99 to \$24. Wide assortment of plaids in 100% cotton. Assorted sizes in reg. and tall. Not all sizes available in all styles.</p>	<p>25% off</p> <p>All men's casual shoes, western and work boots All aboard from St. John's Bay®. The boat shoe for all your leisure activities. Leather uppers. Western and work boots also available at big savings. Smart Value items not included</p>	<p>YOUR CHOICE 13.99</p> <p>Picket and Post® separates Reg. 13.99-19.99. Misses' tops and skirts coordinate beautifully. Pullover tops of linen/cotton; elastic waist pants of polyester/cotton</p>	<p>30% off</p> <p>Select men's and women's Nike®, Avia®, Reebok®, and USA Olympics® Sale 21.99-45.99. Reg. 29.99-64.99. For action comfort or casual wear, select athletic shoes from these great names. Men's and women's sizes.</p>
<p>50% off</p> <p>Your second fabric handbag or tote when you buy one at regular price. Reg. 9.99 and \$14. Wide assortment of colors and styles. Multi-compartment, double handles and shoulder bags to match your lifestyle and your budget.</p>	<p>25% off</p> <p>All junior jeans and shorts Sale 19.50. Reg. \$26. Hunt Club® cotton denim walking short. Waist sizes 3-13. Sale \$24. Reg. \$32. Lee® Relaxed Rider jeans. Does not include Smart Value items.</p>	<p>25% off</p> <p>All children's Reebok® Sale 26.24 and 32.21. Reg. 34.99 and 42.99. For the best in fancy footwear choose Reebok® aerobic and high-top basketball shoes. All-leather uppers. Children's sizes. Smart Value items not included</p>	<p>50% off</p> <p>All Austin Manor® underwear when you buy one at regular price Reg. 7.50 and 9.50. Pkg. of 3. Crew neck T-shirt and matching brief of combed cotton and polyester. Men's sizes Smart Value items not included.</p>
<p>25% off</p> <p>All junior sleepwear Sale 10.50. Reg. \$14. Our baseball nightshirt scores with comfort and fun. Polyester/cotton nightshirt with matching briefs. One size fits all. Smart Value items not included. Sale price effective through Saturday, February 18th</p>	<p>25% off</p> <p>All women's leather casuals Sale 21.99 and 24.99. Reg. \$28 and \$34. Easy-to-afford essentials for every woman's wardrobe. Gitano® moccasins and Pinwheels® oxfords. Women's sizes. Smart Value items not included</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em;">You're looking smarter than ever at JCPenney</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Pampa Mall</p>	

Today's Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sudden breeze
 - 5 Wooded hill
 - 9 Modest
 - 12 Bacchanals' cry
 - 13 Take _____
 - 14 _____ of the land
 - 15 Study of nerves
 - 17 Collection of sayings
 - 18 Latin dance music
 - 19 West Indies, e.g.
 - 21 Is human
 - 23 River island
 - 24 Female word
 - 27 Type of fish
 - 29 Barter
 - 32 Poetic foot
 - 34 Cat
 - 36 Show ostentatiously
 - 37 California city
 - 38 Gaffer Lema
 - 39 Done with
 - 41 Even (poet.)
 - 42 Roman bronze
 - 44 Oil exporter
 - 46 Garment hanger
 - 49 Color slightly
 - 53 As far _____ know
 - 54 Deceit
 - 56 Constellation
 - 57 Cattle
 - 58 Silkworm
 - 59 Sea bird
 - 60 Herb
 - 61 Plants grass
- DOWN**
- 1 Clan
 - 2 Layer of eye

Answer to Previous Puzzle

NBA	GNUS	GUFF
EAT	ETNA	ITEA
ESE	SHIF	TLESS
RESET	TEE	SST
NAG	RAM	
USUALLY	RILLE	
NOR	TOUR	GUAM
DANE	BROS	CMI
ORSON	TAUTEST	
NAP	NNE	
NBC	RHO	BLESS
IRRADIATE	NOM	
GEAR	ARIL	TWO
HAMS	LSAT	ENG

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GEECH By Jerry Bittle

Panel 1: ANYTHING FOR ME? YOU CAN HAVE THESE.

Panel 2: THESE ARE BILLS. SO ARE THESE.

Panel 3: THIS IS AS CLOSE AS WE GET TO PROFIT SHARING.

THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

Panel 1: BUNG LOOKS LIKE HE'S FROZEN STIFF, SIFE!

Panel 2: IS HE STANDING UP? YES.

Panel 3: THEN HE'S FROZEN.

EEK & MEEK By Howie Schneider

Panel 1: HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PLANS FOR THE SUMMER YET? YEAH...

Panel 2: I THINK ABOUT THREE BOTTLES OF VODKA, TWENTY-FIVE QUARTS OF GRAPE-FRUIT JUICE AND A FEW CASES OF BEER SHOULD DO IT.

B.C. By Johnny Hart

Panel 1: AN F ON YOUR MATH EXAM?

Panel 2: DAD HELPED ME WITH MY HOMEWORK.

Panel 3: HE TOLD ME 'PRIME NUMBERS' ARE NUMBERS FOUND ON PHONE BOOTH WALLS.

MARVIN By Tom Armstrong

Panel 1: WAAAAH!

Panel 2: WAAAAH!

Panel 3: NOW I CAN REALLY THROW MY TANTRUMS!

MARMADUKE By Brad Anderson

Panel 1: "I don't know if he's psychic or has good timing, but he always manages to arrive here at dessert time."

Astro-Graph by bernice bede osol

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Try not to behave in ways today that could alienate partners or close associates. They're more important to your immediate success than you may realize. 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. 20-March 20) If you tackle a task that requires intense concentration today, don't let your attention waver. Should your mind be on too many other things, it might be wise to temporarily shelve this endeavor.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Material developments should work out to your satisfaction today, but you might have some minor annoyances where your social life is concerned. Don't be petty or respond to petty behavior.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) In competitive situations today, don't make the mistake of underestimating your opposition. Evaluate those who can test you realistically and deal with them accordingly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You might have inclinations today to be hypercritical of the suggestions of others without really giving them a fair hearing. Listen carefully before drawing conclusions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Be on guard today in your financial and commercial involvements, because there is a possibility someone may try to make a profit by trading on the assets you possess.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Try not to push yourself to the detriment of others today. You may easily achieve what you seek, but the wine could turn to vinegar before your eyes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) There's a chance today you may become so absorbed with details that they will obscure the larger premise. This could cause you to waste time doing things in an ineffective, piecemeal fashion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Don't build your hopes today on casual promises of people whose help you think you need. In actuality, what requires doing can be competently performed by you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Others aren't apt to applaud your achievements today, even though they may be very noteworthy, so take satisfaction in knowing you did your very best.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You might not be quite as adroit at mental gymnastics today as you think you are. Your enthusiasm could push you ahead, but you may lack breadth and vision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Details are extremely critical today, especially in important business arrangements. Be sure you take the time to dot all the "i's" and cross all the "t's."

ALLEY OOP By Dave Graue

Panel 1: LEAVE RED BEARD ALONE!

Panel 2: SO! YOU HAVE FIRE IN YOUR BELLY, ALLEY OOP!

Panel 3: I LIKE MEN WITH FIRE IN THEIR BELLIES! YEAH? SO WHAT?

KIT N' CARLYLE By Larry Wright

Panel 1: WE HAVE YER KITTY! IF YOU WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN, LEAVE A BONES OF STONE CEREMONY AT THE BACK OF YER CUPBOARD - THE FRENCHES.

SNAFU By Bruce Beattie

Panel 1: Welcome Home!

Panel 2: Being on Death Row had made Leroy skittish about sitting in chairs.

WINTHROP By Dick Cavalli

Panel 1: I'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF THINKING ABOUT REINCARNATION.

Panel 2: I'VE DECIDED I'D LIKE TO COME BACK AS A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.

Panel 3: I ALWAYS SAY, "IF YOU CAN'T LICK 'EM, JOIN 'EM."

THE BORN LOSER By Art Sansom

Panel 1: HIC.

Panel 2: I THINK SOMEONE SPKED TH' PUNCH, MR. RESTLEVEEBER...

Panel 3: YOU NITWIT!

CALVIN AND HOBBS By Bill Watterson

Panel 1: I DON'T HEAR HER OUT THERE ANYMORE.

Panel 2: ROSALYN?? ARE YOU LISTENING? WE HAVE MORE DEMANDS!

Panel 3: WHY WOULD SHE? WE'VE STILL GOT HER SCIENCE NOTES.

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schultz

Panel 1: WHY COULDN'T I HAVE GIVEN HER THE BOX OF CANDY, AND SAID "HERE, THIS IS FOR YOU... I LOVE YOU"?

Panel 2: WHY COULDN'T I HAVE DONE THAT? BECAUSE YOU'RE YOU, CHARLIE BROWN.

Panel 3: NOW, I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION... WHY DID I ASK YOU?

FRANK AND ERNEST By Bob Thaves

Panel 1: CHEZ PITZO

Panel 2: YES, I WOULD LIKE AN AFTER DINNER MINT. I'D NEED ONE TO PAY THIS CHECK.

GARFIELD By Jim Davis

Panel 1: GARFIELD! DINNER!

Panel 2: SPOOT!

Panel 3: BOY, I GOTTA PRACTICE MY AIMS!

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'Rain Man' tops Oscar movie race with eight nominations

By JOHN HORN
Associated Press Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — *Rain Man*, a road movie featuring a scheming car salesman learning to love his autistic brother, topped nominations for the 61st Academy Awards Wednesday with eight nods, including best picture.

The movie also received nominations for Dustin Hoffman as best actor and best director for Barry Levinson.

Earning seven nominations each were *Dangerous Liaisons*, a drama hinging on the bed-hopping seductions of the wealthy in pre-revolutionary France, and *Mississippi Burning*, the controversial depiction of the FBI's investigation of the slaying of three civil rights workers in 1964.

Both were nominated for best picture, as were *The Accidental Tourist*, an adaptation of Anne Tyler's acclaimed novel, and *Working Girl*, Mike Nichols' comedy of women in big city careers.

Sigourney Weaver earned a best actress nomination for *Gorillas in the Mist*, based on a true-life tale of a woman who studied gorillas obsessively in Africa.

Joining Weaver in the best actress competition were Glenn Close for *Dangerous Liaisons*,



Best actor nominee Hoffman, right, and Tom Cruise in 'Rain Man.'

Jodie Foster for *The Accused*, Meryl Streep for *A Cry in the Dark*, and, in her first Oscar nomination, Melanie Griffith for

Working Girl.

Their male counterparts, joining *Rain Man*'s Hoffman, included Gene Hackman, for *Mississippi Burning*. He was joined by Oscar nominee newcomers Tom Hanks for *Big*, Edward James Olmos for *Stand and De-*

cluded *Gorillas in the Mist*, with five, and *The Accidental Tourist* and *Die Hard*, with four nominations.

liver, and veteran actor Max Von Sydow for Denmark's *Pelle the Conqueror*.

In addition to Levinson's nomination for *Rain Man*, best director nominees included Charles Crichton for *A Fish Called Wanda*, Martin Scorsese for the controversial *The Last Temptation of Christ*, Alan Parker for *Mississippi Burning*, and Mike Nichols for *Working Girl*.

Nominated for best supporting actress were Joan Cusack from *Working Girl*, Geena Davis for *The Accidental Tourist*, Frances McDormand for *Mississippi Burning*, Michelle Pfeiffer for *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Working Girl*'s Weaver.

Veteran actor Alec Guinness, co-star of *Little Dorrit*, received a nomination for best supporting actor, as did Kevin Kline for *A Fish Called Wanda*, Martin Landau for *Tucker: The Man and His Dream*, River Phoenix for *Running on Empty* and Dean Stockwell for *Married to the Mob*.

Who Framed Roger Rabbit, the inventive comic blend of animation and live action, drew six nominations, but all of them for technical achievements. *Working Girl* also collected six nods, including best original song for Carly Simon's "Let the River Run."

Other multiple nominees in-

cluded *Gorillas in the Mist*, with five, and *The Accidental Tourist* and *Die Hard*, with four nominations.

The nominations were announced in a pre-dawn news conference at the headquarters of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Oscar trophies will be presented March 29 beginning at 8 p.m. CST on a nationally broadcast ceremony on ABC-TV.

Among the films and performers attracting little or no attention from the Academy were *A Cry in the Dark* and *Bull Durham*, each collecting only one nomination.

The Accidental Tourist's William Hurt, nominated the last three years, was overlooked this year, as was Shirley MacLaine for *Madame Sousatzka*.

Also, there was no apparent backlash against *Mississippi Burning*, widely criticized for rewriting the history of the civil rights movement.

Actress Weaver becomes the fifth performer named in two acting categories in the same year. Jessica Lange last performed the feat in 1982 with *Frances* and *Tootsie*. The others were Fay Bainter in 1938, Teresa Wright in 1942, and Barry Fitzgerald in 1944.

Geologists hindered in efforts to stop natural disaster deaths

"Civilization exists by geological consent—subject to change without notice." — Will Durant, historian.

By LEE SIEGEL
AP Science Writer

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP) — Weeks before Colombia's Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted, melting glaciers and unleashing torrents of mud that buried 25,000 people, geologists drafted a map showing exactly where the muck would flow.

The 17,700-foot volcano started spewing ash Sept. 11, 1985. Scientists gave the map to officials Oct. 7 and urged them to start emergency preparations. A newspaper published the map a couple days later. But survivors of the deadly Nov. 13 eruption complained they weren't warned.

"There were no evacuations ordered as a result of the map," which also may not have been understood by residents who saw it, said U.S. Geological Survey volcanologist Robert Tilling. "That shouldn't have happened. The whole emergency response network failed and, as a result, thousands died."

Time and again geologists have warned of impending disasters or urged that steps be taken to

reduce the death toll in future catastrophes. Many of these efforts have been ignored because of politics, economic concerns, uncertainty in their predictions, communications failures and the very human tendency to avoid unpleasant realities.

"Geophysicists more than once warned builders of the high seismic activity in northwest Armenia," the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* said after the Dec. 7 earthquake that rocked a part of Soviet Armenia known for centuries for deadly quakes. At least 24,000 people died, entombed in collapsed adobe huts, stone homes and inadequately reinforced concrete-slab buildings.

"Who closed their eyes to the warnings of the seismologists, here and in other regions?" *Pravda* asked.

The earthquake that killed 10,000 people in Mexico City in 1985 collapsed about 1,000 buildings although scientists and engineers knew damaging seismic waves would be amplified by the lake bed upon which the city was built, said Geological Survey engineering seismology chief Thomas Hanks.

"It's not enough to assess hazards. Something has to be done with this information," Geological Survey scientist C. Dan Miller told 200 officials in November when the agency held a "Geohazards

'88" symposium in Menlo Park on how science can save lives from quakes, volcanoes and landslides.

Earthquakes, landslides, tidal waves, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, volcanic eruptions and wildfires killed more than 2.8 million people worldwide in the past 20 years, and caused up to \$100 billion in property damage, said a 1987 National Research Council report.

"The impacts of natural hazards are increasing and will continue to do so unless the world community takes concerted action," the report said, urging a worldwide scientific effort in the 1990s to reduce the natural disaster toll.

"We have enough knowledge already, if properly applied, to reduce both human and property losses substantially," it said.

Yet many nations lack the money or the political and social institutions capable of acting, said Julia Taft, director of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance. "The greatest human burden from natural catastrophes falls on the poor, powerless and helpless victims in the Third World."

Even in Los Angeles, costs and political complexity have made a multi-year process out of the effort to strengthen or bulldoze thousands of unreinforced brick buildings that otherwise would

become death traps in a major quake.

Current technology could reduce the risks for 350 million people living on or near potentially dangerous volcanoes, according to Tilling. "The challenge lies in marshaling the political will and resources, currently lacking, to study and adequately monitor the world's high-risk volcanoes."

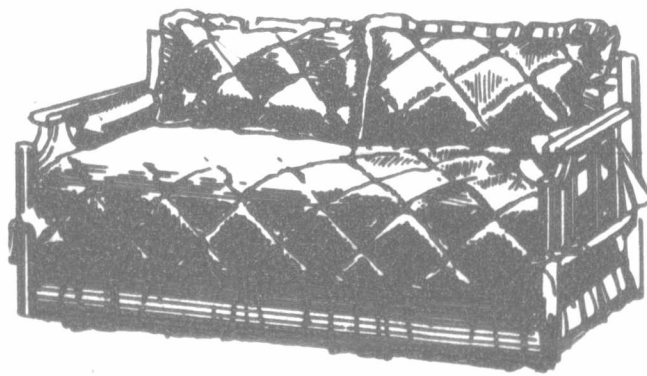
In the United States, volcanoes are monitored more closely, yet the public is reluctant to prepare for disasters that can't be predicted with certainty.

When Mount St. Helens' north flank started to swell after eruptions in March 1980, scientists warned of possible catastrophe. Washington Gov. Dixy Lee Ray restricted access, drawing criticism from tourism-dependent businesses. But after the volcano blew up May 18, 1980, the families of some of the 57 victims unsuccessfully sued the state, alleging restricted zones were kept too small because of pressure from a logging operation.

Some business people in the Sierra ski resort of Mammoth Lakes, Calif., were outraged when the USGS declared a "notice of potential volcanic hazard" for the Long Valley caldera on May 26, 1982, prompted by thousands of quakes in two years, new steam vents, uplift of the crater floor and signs of magma.

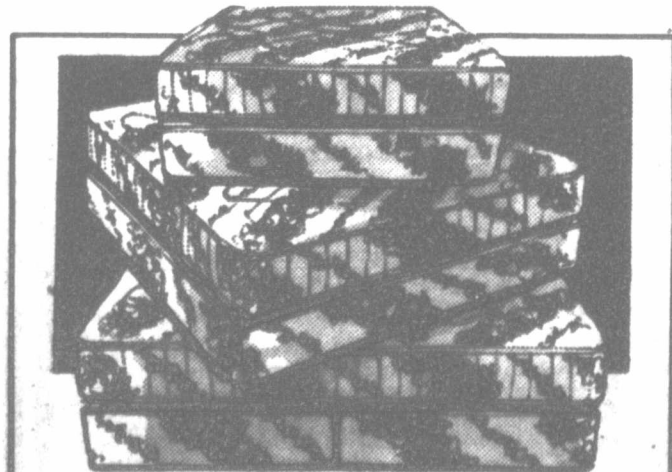
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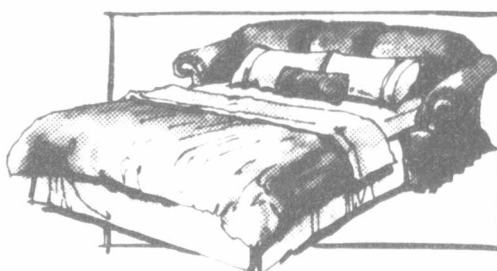
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