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25°

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FRIDAY

Texas fares well in military base closings

By JENNIFER DIXON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Recommendations to close homeports in Galveston and Lake Charles, La., and move their fleets to the Navy's homeport at Ingleside are a sign the military considers Corpus Christi a critical naval center, officials say.

"I have always believed the homeport at Corpus was destined to grow and become a major center of naval operations in the world. Clearly this base closure action will hasten that process," Sen. Phil Gramm said after a Pentagon panel proposed shutting 86 military installations nationwide, including the Galveston and Lake Charles homeports.

The base-closing commission also recommended another five bases be partially closed and 54 others be realigned. Officials estimated savings nationwide of \$5.6 billion over 20 years, including an annual 2.5 million savings from abandoning the Galveston homeport.

Rep. Solomon Ortiz, a Corpus Christi Democrat, says the commission "decided that Ingleside and Corpus Christi play a very strategic role" in the nation's defense, in part because of proximity to South and Central America.

Also, Ortiz noted that the area is home to the Kingsville Naval Air Station, the Chase Field Naval Air Station in Beeville, the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station and the Corpus Christi Army Depot. "Ingleside is clearly a big gainer," said U.S.

Rep. Dick Arme, a Denton Republican who sponsored the base-closing legislation. "Texas is a net gainer on the homeport issue."

Rep. Jack Brooks, whose district includes the Galveston homeport, complained that not completing work on the reserve homeport would be "shortsighted and mistaken."

"The decision to locate the homeport facility at Galveston was made by the Department of the Navy and the Congress in the interest of our national security," Brooks said. "It should not now be undone by a small group of non-elected appointees who are accountable to no one."

Under the plan, Texas would still gain approximately 2,158 military and civilian jobs through a transfer of positions from bases recommended for

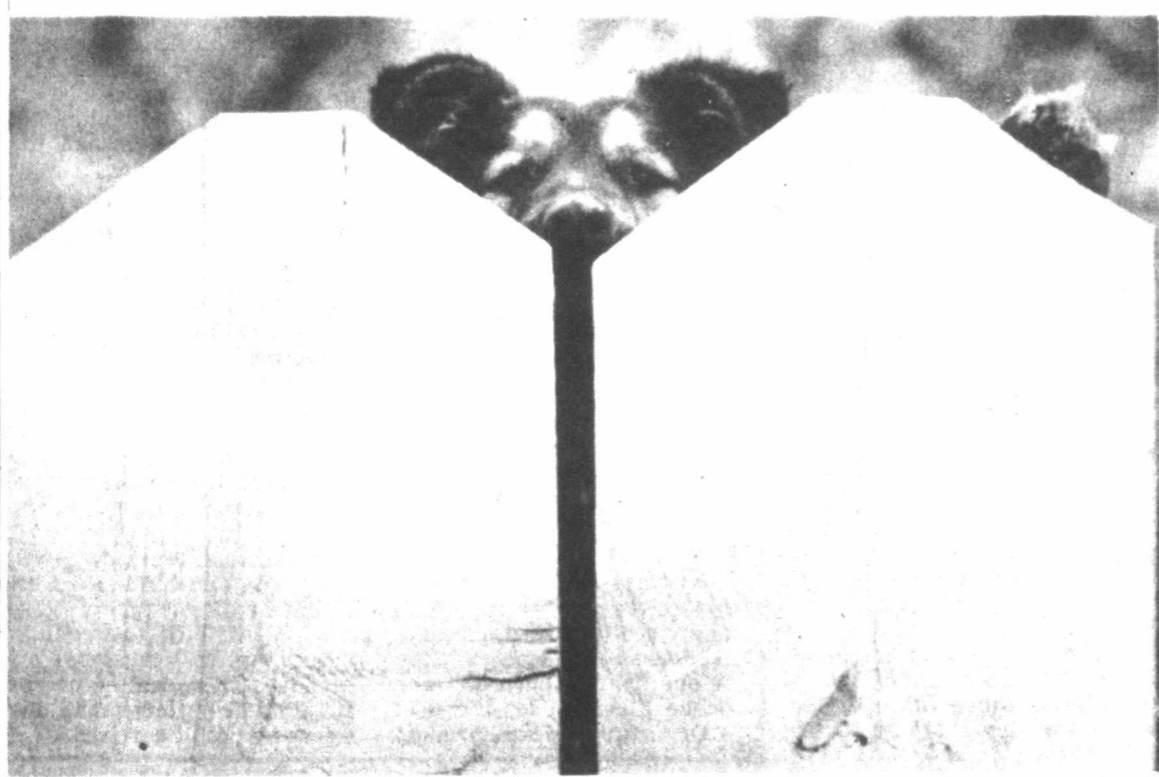
closure or realignment elsewhere in the country. Arme said Texas would gain more jobs than any other state.

Under the proposal, positions would be added at the Ingleside homeport, Bergstrom Air Force Base in Travis County, Carswell Air Force Base in Tarrant County, Goodfellow Air Force Base in Tom Green County, Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, and at the Red River Army Depot in Texarkana.

Fort Bliss in El Paso would see its basic training courses transferred to Fort Jackson, S.C., resulting in the loss of 238 military personnel and 83 civilian employees.

Overall, the state would lose 730 military personnel. See CLOSINGS, Page 2

Peeking pup



A curious dog takes a look over its fence recently in the 500 block of North Faulkner. Although the fence was taller than the dog, it

had no trouble finding a way to peek over and through the cracks in the boards.

(Staff photo by Duane A. Laverty)

Air travelers being searched

LONDON (AP) — Authorities questioned U.S. airline passengers and X-rayed their luggage today in stepped-up, government-mandated security measures that resulted from the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

As a worldwide hunt continued for the identity of those whose bomb killed all 259 on board Dec. 21, travelers on U.S. airlines at four British airports underwent questioning and some of their baggage was searched by hand.

In the Frankfurt, West Germany, airport where Flight 103 originated, the security chief said today that ground personnel were being checked in connection with the bombing.

The official, Horst Hanstein, did not elaborate other than to say, "Certainly we are checking all security procedures on how luggage was handled, as they are also doing in London."

In Washington, the Federal Aviation Administration ordered visual or X-ray inspection of all checked bags going on U.S. airlines at 103 airports in the Middle East and Western Europe. (See related story, Page 5.)

FAA Administrator Allan McArtor said the change "far exceeds international standards"

and is based on practices adopted by the Israeli airline El Al, which has never had a hijacking or bombing.

Officials said the FAA is rushing delivery of devices that are capable of detecting all known explosives, including plastic explosives.

Hank Auerbach, Pan American World Airways' chief in northern Europe, said the airline had met "all the requirements set" by Britain's Department of Transport. He refused to elaborate.

Check-ins proceeded smoothly at London's Heathrow Airport, but passengers were quizzed about who packed their bags, when they were packed, whether the bags had been out of their sight and whether strangers had given them parcels to carry.

Their checked-in baggage was fed through X-ray machines and then bound with a tough plastic strip to prevent them from being opened en route to the planes. Some luggage was also hand-searched.

Police patrolled with sub-machine guns, as they have done at the airport for two years.

Sam Fleischacker of Philadelphia, who was catching a

TWA flight to New York, said he flew to Britain the day after the New York-bound Pan Am jet crashed into the Scottish village of Lockerbie.

"What worries me a lot is the fact that they didn't have all this then," he said, gesturing to the X-ray machine.

The security directive, aimed at airports serving U.S. airlines, was made only hours after Wednesday's disclosure that a bomb brought down the Boeing 747.

Chief investigator Michael Charles said Wednesday that "conclusive evidence" was found of a high-explosives blast.

Police officers working on the case flew Thursday to West Germany and would be sent to "other parts of the world," John Orr, the detective chief superintendent of the Glasgow area police, said in Lockerbie.

Brian Jenkins, a U.S. terrorism consultant, said investigators must check the background of each Flight 103 passenger and look for false identities; discover whether any had connections that could make them "witting or unwitting confederates;" and trace cargo items to their origins.

Police say domestic violence

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last in a three-part series of articles concerning domestic violence and the danger it presents to family members and to those who try to help.

By BEAR MILLS
Staff Writer

Over the past five years 68 police officers around the United States have been killed responding to domestic disturbances. Statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington indicate more police officers die as a result of domestic violence than any other single type of call.

In Pampa, several officers have said they do not like responding to domestic violence because of the danger.

Sgt. Ken Hopson said he does not allow his patrol officers to answer a domestic call without back-up.

"It is very dangerous. You don't know if they are fighting over kids or money or sex or what. Most of the time they're screaming and sometimes they

WHERE TO CALL

For those seeking help with an abusive situation, here is a list of helpful numbers:

Tralee Crisis Center.....	669-1788
Pampa Police.....	911
Alcoholics Anonymous.....	665-9104
Al-Anon.....	665-1209
Gray County Sheriff.....	665-5769
Child Welfare.....	665-1863
Suicide Prevention.....	1-376-4251
Rape Crisis.....	1-373-8022
District Attorney.....	669-8035
City Prosecutor.....	665-8481
Coronado Hospital.....	665-3721
Attorney General.....	1-512-475-1698
Salvation Army.....	665-7233
Samaritan Counseling.....	1-353-1668
Psychiatric Center.....	1-358-9031

are beating on each other. It's definitely a two-man call," Hopson said.

On Monday a Pampa police officer was hospitalized after he was allegedly attacked intervening in a domestic brawl.

Hopson said most of the time when police answer a domestic call, it is their own lives they must worry about saving.

"I can think of a lot of officers who have gotten hurt here in domestics. Sometimes when the woman realizes her husband is going to jail, she will turn on you and jump right on your back," he said.

Lt. Jess Wallace, head of the Criminal Investigation Division, said his department often finds that domestic violence just means time spent pursuing charges that will later be dropped.

"Most domestic cases, once everybody cools down, they won't prosecute. Eighty percent of the time they just drop the complaint and it just turns out to be time-consuming for us. We ask them why they stay with him and they will say, 'Because I love him,'" Wallace said.

All domestic cases involving reports of violence against a minor are funneled through Det. Gary Boydston. He said such crimes as sexual abuse of a child can go undetected for years.

"A lot of people don't want to believe their kids when they tell them things. A three or four-year-old, or even an eight or nine-year-old that says somebody has been touching them should be believed until we can disprove it. At that age they don't know to make such a thing up," Boydston said.

He commended the Department of Human Services and local schools for the degree of cooperation they give in pursuing alleged abuse cases.

"If I can show the D.A. a photograph of bruises and get the guy or gal into my office and confront them with it, the parents will usually admit they did it. Very seldom will they lie when confronted," he said.

Hopson said patrol officers count on Tralee Cri-

calls are dangerous situation

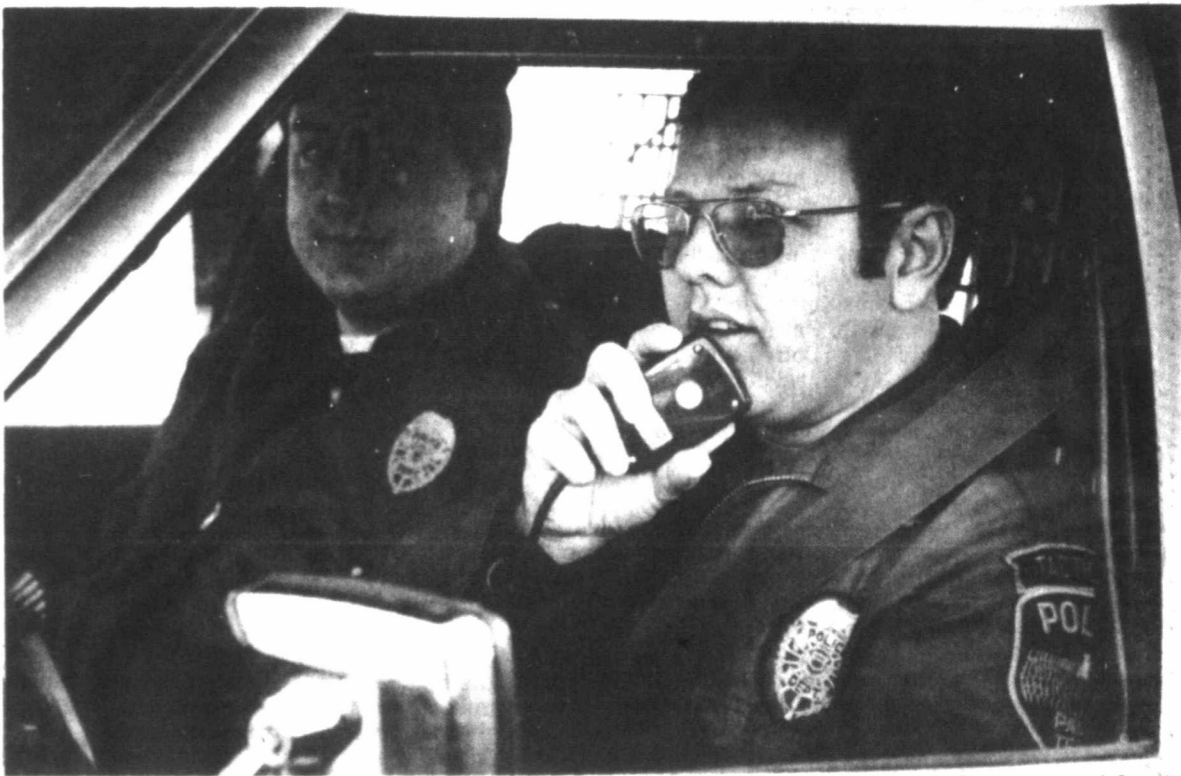
sis Center for help when they encounter trouble.

"Legally we can't run a man out of his own house. If there is a kid involved, we will ask the man to leave and go to a motel or something to cool down," Hopson said. "If he says 'No,' we ask her. Tralee is a great out. We just call them and let them know. We will even take the woman and her kids over there."

Hopson said he once investigated a call with Det. Charlie Love in which a woman had been severely beaten by her boyfriend.

"We got a warrant and went down there (to his house). He had this big ol' dog, so we had to get him to come outside his fence. We knew he had removed the distributor cap on the car, so we had the

See VIOLENCE, Page 2



Sgt. Hopson, right, responds to a call while partner Kirk Roberts listens for information on the situation.

(Staff photo by Duane A. Laverty)

Federal regulators nearing year's goal on bailouts for S&Ls

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — With two business days left in the year, federal regulators are within a whisker of their 1988 goal of settling the cases of 200 insolvent savings and loan institutions.

The last-minute rush, however, is raising new questions about the government's handling of the S&L crisis.

Officials of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board insist they are cleaning up some of the industry's biggest problems, attracting badly needed new capital and saving the government money.

But various members of Congress charge that the bank board, in its rush to complete S&L bailouts, has failed to drive a hard enough bargain with prospective purchasers.

The bank board for the first time has drawn foreign investors into its effort to bail out sick S&Ls in the Southwest. It announced a subsidiary of a Taiwanese company had agreed to buy eight insol-

vent Texas savings institutions. (See related story, Page 3.)

Bank board chairman M. Danny Wall defended the sale of the Texas thrifts to Taiwanese investors, saying, "We welcome our first non-U.S. owned investor ... Their interest in investing in the future of Texas is a further indication of the attractiveness of the state's thrift industry as well as its business climate."

Working against a midnight Saturday deadline, the bank board announced the sale of 13 more insolvent S&Ls in Texas and Illinois late Thursday.

All of the institutions will be open for business as usual today, sporting new names and with their depositors' funds fully protected.

The latest closings bring to 197 the number of insolvent S&Ls which have been dealt with this year, a post-Depression record, far surpassing the 48 S&Ls closed in 1987.

Officials predicted that with two more days in which to reach further settlements, the final num-

ber of resolved cases will surpass the 200-institution target set by Wall.

Almost half of the failed institutions have been in Texas, a state where depressed economic conditions in the oil industry and real estate led to default on many of the loans held by S&Ls.

Even with the year-end rush of closings, there are still more than 400 insolvent S&Ls operating and estimates of cleaning up the total mess range as high as \$112 billion.

The amount of money needed presents an immediate problem for the incoming Bush administration.

President-elect Bush is faced with the task of coming up with a solution to the S&L crisis that will not make it impossible for him to meet his campaign pledge of narrowing the federal budget deficit without resorting to higher taxes.

Many congressional critics believe that the bank board's efforts are going in the wrong direction and will worsen not narrow the ultimate cost to the government.

Wall has insisted that the cost of simply closing the institutions and paying off depositors would far exceed the sales which are being arranged through the use of tax breaks and direct federal assistance as a lure to buyers.

The tax benefits to S&L buyers will be effectively cut in half after midnight Saturday. The provisions that will expire allow firms purchasing failed S&Ls to deduct the previous losses of those associations from profits the firms earned on other operations.

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Texas, the new chairman of the House Banking Committee, said he plans to hold a series of hearings starting in January on the deals, looking specifically at the two largest bailouts announced this week.

Those complex transactions will cost the government \$6.8 billion in assistance to the purchasers of American Savings of Stockton, Calif., by Texas billionaire Robert Bass and the acquisition of five deeply troubled Texas S&Ls by Revlon cosmetics chairman Ronald Perelman.

Texas/Regional

12 more insolvent Texas thrifts taken over in latest round

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twelve insolvent Texas savings and loans reopen today as branches of two other institutions after the latest round of Texas thrift purchases that involved the first foreign investor to acquire institutions under federal regulators' Southwest Plan.

The savings and loans institutions reopen as branches of Pacific Southwest Savings Bank, FSB, Corpus Christi, with \$850 million in assets, and of Texas Trust Savings Bank, FSB, Dallas.

Pacific USA Holdings Corp., a Texas subsidiary of Pacific Electric Wire and Cable Co. Ltd. of Taipei, Taiwan, is acquiring eight thrifts with a \$37.5 million investment and federal assistance, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board said Thursday in Washington.

The agency said Centex Corp. of Dallas is investing \$26.5 million to take over four other thrifts.

"We welcome our first non-U.S. owned investor to the Southwest Plan," M. Danny Wall, Bank Board chairman, said.

"Their interest in investing in the future of Texas is a further indication of the attractiveness of the state's thrift industry as well as its business climate, which is what we've been saying all along."

The 12 insolvent S&Ls are in 11 South Texas cities, the bank board said.

Pacific USA Holdings acquired Charter Savings and Loan and Bayview Federal Savings Association, both of Corpus Christi; Keystone Savings and Loan, Lampasas; First Federal Savings and Loan, Luling; Independence Savings and Loan, Gonzales; Yoakum Federal Savings and Loan, Yoakum; Union Savings Association, San Antonio; and Seguin Savings Association, Seguin.

"Pacific Wire was seeking to use some of its dollars for quality investments in the U.S.," said Paul M. Homan, who will serve as chairman of Pacific Southwest.

The FHLB board said Centex Corp. acquired Burnet Savings and Loan Association, Burnet; Lee Savings and Loan Association, Giddings; Ranchers Savings Association, Johnson City; and Peoples Savings and Loan Association, Llano.

The Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp., with the latest transactions, has helped 169 thrifts through assisted mergers or acquisitions—including 86 under the Southwest Plan—one by recapitalization and 27 by insurance settlement for a total of 197.

The FSLIC will continue to insure all deposits to the legal limit of \$100,000 per account, and business at the institutions will not be interrupted.

The agency, in the Pacific Southwest Savings Bank package, will provide an assistance package with an estimated present value cost of \$566.2 million, compared with an estimated liquidation cost of \$662.2 million, officials said.

Included in its assistance is a 10-year, \$161.7 million FSLIC note, bringing the combined eight institutions' regulatory capital level to zero.

Some criticism was leveled at the government for the sales to a foreign buyer, since some of the thrifts involved had formulated their own recapitalization plans.

"Why go with a foreign concern when money is available in Texas to do these deals?" said Sam Pierce, president of The BancPro Group, a Houston-based consulting firm.

A Dallas-based home-building firm doing business locally as Fox & Jacobs, Centex Corp. is acquiring four Central Texas thrifts with assets of \$675 million.

A publicly held stock company, Centex reported

assets of \$1 billion and net worth of \$365 billion for 1987. This year, Centex built and sold approximately 5,300 homes in 26 metropolitan areas.

The FSLIC, in the Texas Trust Savings Bank package, will provide a 10-year, \$216 million note to restore regulatory net worth. The federal agency and Centex will share in any gains of covered assets.

Estimated present value cost of the transaction to the FSLIC is \$429 million, compared with an estimated present value liquidation cost of \$464 million.

Centex plans to use its new acquisitions to bolster its mortgage lending activities, said president and chief executive officer Laurence E. Hirsch.

The FSLIC, in both cases, will receive a warrant to acquire 20 percent of the acquiring companies' common stock. Officials said no taxpayer dollars were involved in either transaction.

The agency said management responsible for the failure of the 12 thrifts will not benefit in any way from Thursday's transaction, and their stockholders will not hold ownership interest in the new thrifts.



(AP Laserphoto)

Canning, center, is escorted to federal court Wednesday.

University lecturer is cleared in jetliner bomb threat scare

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A University of California lecturer has been cleared of making a bomb threat aboard an American Airlines jet after an 11-year-old San Francisco boy admitted scrawling the note.

But Peter M. Canning, whom a colleague compared to the fictional schoolmaster "Mr. Chips," was driving home to Berkeley, Calif., in a rental car and could not immediately be notified that charges were dropped Thursday by U.S. Magistrate Sumner G. Buell in Albuquerque.

Canning, 40, insisted all along the note fell into his lap from his seat tray while lunch was being served on Flight 240 from San Francisco to Dallas on Tuesday. He handed the note over to a flight attendant, who notified the pilot.

The plane was diverted to Albuquerque and was searched for about four hours with bomb-sniffing dogs. Canning was arrested by the FBI.

But on Thursday, the FBI backed down and expressed regret to Canning for the inconvenience.

"In San Francisco this afternoon, an 11-year-old boy came forward with his parents and admitted writing the threatening note," said FBI spokesman Douglas Beldon, reading from a prepared statement. "The FBI determined that the note was

written while the boy was watching a movie during a flight from Philadelphia to San Francisco via Chicago. After writing the note, the boy placed the note on his pullout tray which was folded into the receptacle beside the seat following the service of the in-flight meal."

The note said: "Read this. There are guns pointed at you. If you want to live, read the letter underneath and do what it says. This is a bomb scare. Read this. PS If you do what the letter says, and have everyone else do it, you will live. PS If you don't, you are history!! There are bombs planted all over this airplane and there is a gun pointed at your head. Take your wallet and throw it in the aisle now."

The boy had been on the same plane during an earlier flight Tuesday, and agents determined he sat in the seat later occupied by Canning, Beldon said.

"In view of information developed during the course of today's investigation, the charges against Canning have been dropped," Beldon said.

The U.S. attorney's office in San Francisco declined to prosecute the boy, he said.

Jim Nelson, special agent in charge of the FBI's New Mexico office, said he "regrets any inconvenience and embarrassment suffered by Mr. Canning. Howev-

er, the investigation fully warranted the arrest of Canning, which occurred after consulting with the U.S. attorney's office in Albuquerque."

Canning's attorney, Ray Twohig, had said the arrest resulted from FBI confusion. He repeated that Thursday and added: "I'm glad they've cleared up their confusion."

Canning has said he almost withheld the note, but then decided that wasn't his decision to make and gave the note to flight attendant Eileen Johnson.

"I told her not to worry; I had found it," Canning told his girlfriend, Rhonda Lieberman, in a tape-recorded telephone conversation which Lieberman released to the media Wednesday.

American Airlines spokesman Jim Brown in Fort Worth did not return calls Thursday seeking comment on how the note eluded airline personnel before Canning boarded.

Canning, a Harvard doctoral candidate, was released on his own recognizance Wednesday by Buell in Albuquerque after an initial appearance.

Canning told Lieberman he hadn't expected to be arrested.

"When the FBI said, 'You are under arrest,' I was shocked because I had been cooperating with them after two hours (of interrogation)," he said.

Teachers call for insurance program

AUSTIN (AP) — A proposed state-funded health insurance program for public school employees will cost the state \$300 million per year, but will save money in the long run and provide better coverage for workers, a teachers union said.

The Texas Federation of Teachers on Thursday said public school employees are finding it more difficult to pay skyrocketing medical insurance premiums that provide less coverage.

Many school districts are financially unable to provide group health coverage, while others provide only minimal coverage, said John Cole, president of the 15,000-member union.

He and several local union presidents from across the state said during a news conference that only a small number of districts provide comprehensive coverage at school district expense.

The situation has forced some public school employees — usually the lowest paid, such as secretaries, custodians and cafeteria workers — to drop their insurance coverage, according to union officials.

"Access to health care is a basic human right," said Cole.

Maureen Peters, president of Dallas Federation of Teachers, said, "We're setting up a new group of employees who are going to take up indigent health care."

Gayle Fallon, president of the Houston Federation of Teachers, said a recent pay raise for public school employees has been eaten up by rising insurance costs.

Currently, under one plan, the Houston school district pays the full amount of a program that covers 55 percent of medical costs, she said.

"That will get you into the hospital, but it will also keep you in

debt for the next 10 years of your life," she said.

Under the TFT proposal, the state would establish, fund and administer a statewide health insurance plan similar to a plan available to other state employees. The health insurance would also be available to employees of two-year colleges, under the proposal.

State Rep. Lloyd Criss, D-Galveston, plans to introduce such legislation during the regular session of the Legislature that begins Jan. 10.

Cole said the union has not proposed a method to fund a statewide medical insurance program, but will offer a recommendation soon.

A plan available to the 250,000 public school employees would enable the state to provide major medical coverage at a lower per employee cost than school districts can offer.

Officials in Galveston plan to fight for Navy homeport

GALVESTON (AP) — City officials vowed to fight for a \$41 million Navy homeport with an expected \$25 million annual payroll after it was recommended for closure by a Pentagon commission.

The commission Thursday recommended scrapping the project and stationing its fleet and personnel at the Ingleside homeport near Corpus Christi. The news came 10 months after a groundbreaking celebration and three months after construction began on the facility on the island city of 195,000.

"I really believe that Galveston was being used as a pawn in this because I don't believe we ever would have put tax money into a project that we thought would be thrown overboard halfway into construction," Mayor Jan Coggeshall said, citing her "outrage, frustration and disappointment."

"The state of Texas is not going to sit by and see the federal government renege on a contract which was signed between local government agencies and the federal government," she said. "We taxpayers kept our share of the bargain and I expect the federal government to keep theirs."

The city contributed \$8 million toward the project, and the state already has contracted for a \$3.5 million highway extension to

serve the port.

Congress appropriated \$8.1 million for the current fiscal year for the second phase of construction of the homeport, which would be home to two frigates, two mine hunters and one patrol craft. The Navy had estimated that those living in Galveston would earn \$16.5 million a year from the base.

It was scheduled for completion in 1991.

Mrs. Coggeshall said she will work to assure that the project continues.

The other main military cut in Texas was 790 miles away at Fort Bliss in El Paso, where spokesman Brad Rose said post officials don't yet know which 238 military jobs and 83 civilian jobs will be eliminated when the fort's basic training is transferred to Fort Jackson, S.C.

Glenn-Wade Construction Inc. of Navasota contracted with the state to build the road into the Galveston base and subcontracted for dirt preparation at the site. For many of those hired, the lengthy project offered one of the few steady construction jobs in an area beset by a slump in the energy industry.

"We're just going to keep doing our work and hope things work out somehow, because right now we don't have any idea what it means for us," said Marvin Weaks of Glenn-Wade Construc-

tion. "We'll probably be the last ones to know."

Added Sol Kotin, who built a \$2 million hotel near the port site 3½ years ago and hoped the Navy might purchase the property, "I can't understand it. It's a complete disgrace."

"Our entire economy has been devastated in this region and we have people everywhere without hopes and without jobs," he said. "How can they say out of one side of the mouth how important this is and then turn around and decide we don't need it after it's already started?"

City Manager Doug Matthews said that even if the Navy homeport falls through, other options will be explored.

"We're disappointed, but we haven't given up and we're going to reassess it," Matthews said. "The likelihood (for closing) is there, but I just think we're going to move to develop that land in some form or fashion, if not for a military base."

Meanwhile at Fort Bliss, Rose said military employees affected by the cuts will be transferred to other jobs and that efforts will be made to find other jobs for displaced civilian employees.

The cuts constitute a little more than 1 percent of the base's employment of 20,000 full-time soldiers and about 9,000 civilians, he said.

Fresh water helping geese

HOUSTON (AP) — Fresh water pumped into area reservoirs seems to have abated an outbreak of avian chlorea that killed about 7,500 geese, but wildlife officials are leery of another outbreak because of the colder weather.

Avian chlorea is a bacterial in-

fection that usually is present in wildfowl populations, but experts say they seldom see large outbreaks of disease unless the birds are stressed.

Fowl this year already were stressed before the migratory season began because of drought in their Northern habitat.

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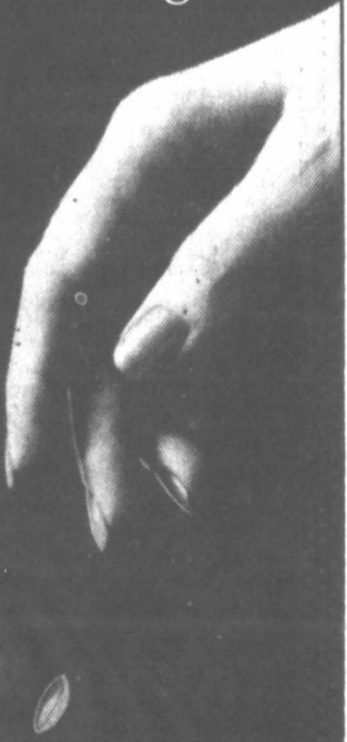
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Viewpoints

The Pampa News

EVER STRIVING FOR THE TOP O' TEXAS
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Let Peace Begin With Me

This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

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.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the coveting commandment.

Louise Fletcher
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

Congress should cease and desist

Our servants have created, in Washington, a pleasure palace that would make Kublai Khan envious. It is also recession proof. When times are good, the government, no unlike a protection racket, skims off its take; when times are bad, the government expands to meet the crisis — a crisis it has caused. Heads, the government wins; tails, we lose.

It is therefore a farce that the heads of this political mafia may soon get a huge pay raise. The Commission on Executive, Legislative and Judicial Salaries has unanimously recommended hefty pay boosts for Congress, federal judges and 2,000 other honchos in the federal government. Congressmen will get a pay boost from \$89,500 to \$135,000; the president, from \$200,000 to \$350,000; and Cabinet officers, from \$99,500 to \$155,000.

The way the pay raise may be imposed violates the very precepts of self-government on which this country was founded. Our Constitution stipulates that Congress, and Congress alone, can appropriate and spend the public's money. But Congress set up the presidential commission to circumvent the Constitution, thereby removing its own pay raises from the scrutiny and just wrath of the public whose tax dollars will be plundered to support the raise. The commission's recommendations will become law if approved by President Reagan, now destined for the immunity of his ranch, and if just one house of Congress refrains from voting against them.

So Congress need do nothing at all. This way our servants can tell us: "Of course I opposed this new assault on your pocketbook, but my hands were tied. Vote me back into office."

Congressional sympathizers will say our servants are hard up living on only \$89,000 a year plus about \$50,000 in fringe benefits, even as they seize the earnings of families just scraping by on \$15,000 a year. But this is absurd. Besides, the way to test the fairness of somebody's pay is to use the market test: Are too few people applying for the job? Then the pay may be too low. Are people applying for the job in droves? The pay may be too high.

The last thing the strangled U.S. taxpayer needs is to have to pay another \$50 million to \$100 million a year to our stranglers in Washington — the same ones who claim they're trying to reduce the federal deficit. Cease and desist!

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Berry's World



Why keep Electoral College?

WASHINGTON — Well, it's over. The presidential election, that is. The final official count, with all votes tallied, was 426 for George Bush, 111 for Micheal Dukakis and one for Lloyd Bentsen. That is how the electors voted, and in the end, theirs are the votes that matter.

By voting for Bentsen instead of Dukakis, Margarette Leach of Huntingdon, W.Va., made the only real news in the election of Dec. 19. She joined Preston Parks of Tennessee, W.F. Turner of Alabama, Henry D. Irwin of Oklahoma, Lloyd W. Bailey of North Carolina, Roger L. Macbride of Virginia and Mike Fadden of Washington in the nation's most exclusive political club.

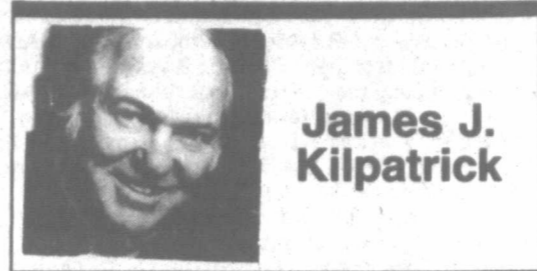
Who are these worthies? Presidential electors, all of them. Parks was pledged to Truman in 1948; he voted for Strom Thurmond. Turner was a Stevenson elector in 1956; he cast his vote for a local judge. Irwin was a Nixon elector in 1960; he voted for Harry Byrd.

Bailey voted in 1968 for George Wallace instead of Nixon. Macbride, a Nixon elector in 1972, cast his vote for fellow Libertarian John Hospers. Fadden, who was pledged to Ford in 1976, voted instead for Ronald Reagan.

Call them mavericks, renegades, defectors, turncoats or traitors to their parties; it does not matter. All seven acted legally. The Constitution says only that "the electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for president and vice president."

In theory, and in fact, the 538 electors who met on Monday could have voted for any native-born citizen over the age of 35. Their surrogate votes would have been decisive, and the 90 million votes that were cast on Nov. 8 could have been nullified.

It's a bad system. It was denounced as a bad



James J. Kilpatrick

system in the constitutional convention of 1787, but the "Connecticut Compromise" prevailed as small states ganged up on the large ones.

Following the tempestuous election of 1824, when Andrew Jackson lost to John Quincy Adams in the House of Representatives, efforts at reform began. A Senate report in 1826 condemned the presidential elector as "useless if he is faithful, and dangerous if he is not."

Since 1826, scarcely a session of Congress has passed without an attempt to abolish the Electoral College. In 1969 the House voted 339-70 for a constitutional amendment to provide for direct popular election. Only a desperate filibuster prevented the Senate from following suit in 1970. In 1977 the Senate Judiciary Committee held major hearings on reform resolutions. The topic will not go away.

The trouble with most proposals for reform is that they tear down too much. The familiar complaint is that the electoral system is "undemocratic." Reformers demand a national plebiscite, in which a vote in Rhode Island carries exactly the weight of a vote in California.

If there were three or four serious presidential candidates, and none received at least 40

percent of the total vote, a runoff election would be held between the top two. In this fashion, the majority finally would rule.

Such a change would be radical change. This nation never has been governed by a principle of absolute majority rule. The Constitution repeatedly makes this clear in its requirement of super-majorities on major issues. The Bill of Rights forbids a popular majority from working its will on a minority. Our republic is not a pure democracy; it never has been.

We tend to forget that whenever Americans act politically, they act through the medium of their states. This is an aspect of federalism, one of the great foundation stones on which our system was erected. Direct national elections would crack the stone. The next demand would strike at the constitutional provision that gives each state, large or small, two senators. That, too, is patently "undemocratic."

Prudent reform of the electoral system would be limited to two ends. We ought to preserve the system of electoral votes, state by state, but we ought to abolish the individual electors as such. That would prevent the exclusive club from ever expanding.

Second, we ought to rewrite the provision under which an indecisive electoral vote goes to the House, where "the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote." If Hubert Humphrey had carried California in 1968, Nixon would have been denied a majority in the Electoral College; the choice would have gone to the House, and history would have been altered.

With those modest but important revisions, the most serious potential problems would be remedied and the principle of federalism would be preserved. That's quite enough to ask.



Something to smile about now

In heaven we are promised physical perfection; you and I can't even imagine it!

Each of us earthlings compensates for something. Our imperfections range from hairlessness to sightlessness and assorted infirmities in between.

But each of us can name something — however trivial — which we would like corrected.

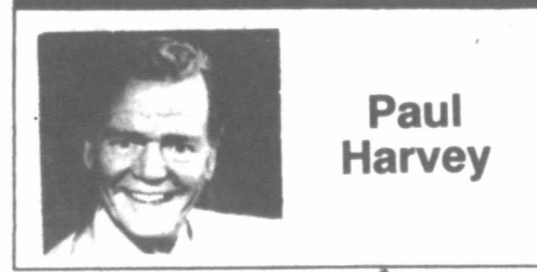
Everybody is either too tall or too short, too lean or too fat; the pug nose wants a big one and vice versa — but not one of us is completely satisfied with the cards he's been dealt.

And yet there is always somebody worse off to make us feel comparatively fortunate — by God's purposeful design.

Little Ashley Messer of Margate, Fla., was born with a genetic defect called ectodermal dysplasia. No hearing and partially blind — and no teeth.

She compensated. But with no teeth she was sentenced to a lifetime of liquid foods.

Ashley was sent with dentures when she was 2 — but they cannot fit her malformed face adequately for her to eat or speak nor even smile



Paul Harvey

normally.

Whatever little Ashley ate had first to be run through a blender.

But increasingly worrisome to her parents as the little girl approached school age was the eventual effect on her psychological development.

They sought anywhere for encouragement but received none.

Then last summer the anxious, loving parents brought the little girl to Dr. John Stone, a Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., prosthodontist. He recog-

nized that traditional dentures would never function satisfactorily. The relatively new Branmark System of dental implants might.

He conferred with a colleague, Dr. Kurt Friedman of Plantation, Fla. — Dr. Friedman concurred and offered to help.

Yes, they assured the mother, it does have the approval of the American Dental Association.

Yes, it does allow for the implantation of titanium inserts into the jawbone, to which there can be attached entirely natural appearing and functioning teeth. But — for the Messer family — it was prohibitively costly.

The two doctors volunteered their services. Their surgical team donated time and talents. Hospitals and corporations cooperated. And last August the tedious series of operations began.

Ashley Messer is now 8. I cannot promise that she will be eating caramel apples right away.

But some solid food. And the little deaf and mostly blind girl has something to smile about and for the first time ever she can.

Liberals turning to cronies in the media

By WILLIAM A. RUSHER

As the 1988 presidential campaign recedes into the mists of history, all sorts of efforts are being made to twist the story to serve some particular purpose.

No doubt the most energetic effort has been the attempt to paint the 1988 campaign as somehow exceptionally dirty. The myth-makers in this case are the Democrats and their liberal cronies in the media, who badly need some relatively painless explanation of why they lost.

They insist that Bush's emphasis on Dukakis' furloughs for murderers, his membership in the ACLU, and his attitude toward the death penalty and the Pledge of Allegiance had no business in the campaign. To liberal Democrats, these are genuinely trivial issues, especially when compared to the subjects they wanted to discuss: the deficit, the Iran/Contra affair, etc.

It is understandably difficult for them to see that it was their own strenuous effort to conceal Dukakis'

liberalism that made these "trivial" issues so relevant — and so deadly.

But the alleged dirtiness of the campaign isn't the only myth being floated. The liberal media, of whose bias the public is becoming increasingly conscious, have seized on Bush's thumping victory as proof that they were neutral, if not positively pro-Bush, during the campaign.

That contention is pure poppycock. With exceptions so few as to be negligible, the media elite — by which I mean the chief journalists at all levels at The New York Times, The Washington Post, Time, Newsweek and the three major commercial TV networks — disgraced their profession by repeated attempts to slant in favor of Dukakis and the Democrats everything they dared to slant.

The fact that they failed to elect him doesn't even begin to prove the contrary. It merely demonstrates anew what has been obvious ever since the media elite got into the slanting business in a big way two decades ago: namely, that presidential

elections are a subject that Americans take a personal interest in and make up their own minds about, preferably after sizing up the rival candidates on TV. Being well aware of the media's slant, they couldn't care less if the media disagree with them.

Where the media do manage to slant the public's perceptions (and therefore often the results) in a liberal direction is in lesser but still highly important matters: campaigns for congressional and state offices, battles over complex issues, etc. It is not too much to say that the arrogant owners and manipulators of the media listed above constitute a good 90 percent of all the energy and clout left in American liberalism.

But just because they didn't beat George Bush, don't think they didn't try! Most Americans, even if they are attentive, lack the technical expertise to detect many examples of bias being pulled off right under their noses.

How many viewers, for example, watching one of the networks describe the two candidates' activities

on a given day, would notice that the report on Bush came first and consisted almost entirely of the "reporter's" assertions as to what Bush said and how it was received, while the report on Dukakis followed it (last impressions count most) and consisted almost exclusively of hard-hitting sentences being delivered by Dukakis personally?

Luckily, criticism of the media's liberal bias has spawned in recent years some devastating analyses of their performance. Time was when a really skilled liberal hack could spend his professional life serving his private political inclinations, then retire and accept awards from all sorts of journalism schools and assorted institutions that had the good taste to agree with him.

Nowadays, though, they run a substantial risk that somebody may be videotaping their curv balls and subjecting them to statistical analysis. I can hardly wait for the 1988 crop of such studies.

Nation

Plan to close military facilities appears headed for success

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A plan to close 84 of the nation's major military facilities won the endorsement of key congressional leaders and appears headed for success.

In fact, Sen. Sam Nunn and Rep. Les Aspin, chairmen of the Senate and House armed services committees, say they would like to see even more obsolete bases closed.

Nunn, D-Ga., and Aspin, D-Wis., pledged to work hard to ensure that the plan is not blocked by lawmakers concerned over jobs lost in their districts.

Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci has until Jan. 15, five days before he leaves office, to approve or reject the entire package of recommendations, which were presented to the Pentagon on Thursday by the Commission on Base Realignment and Closure. There appeared little doubt that Carlucci would back the proposal enthusiastically.

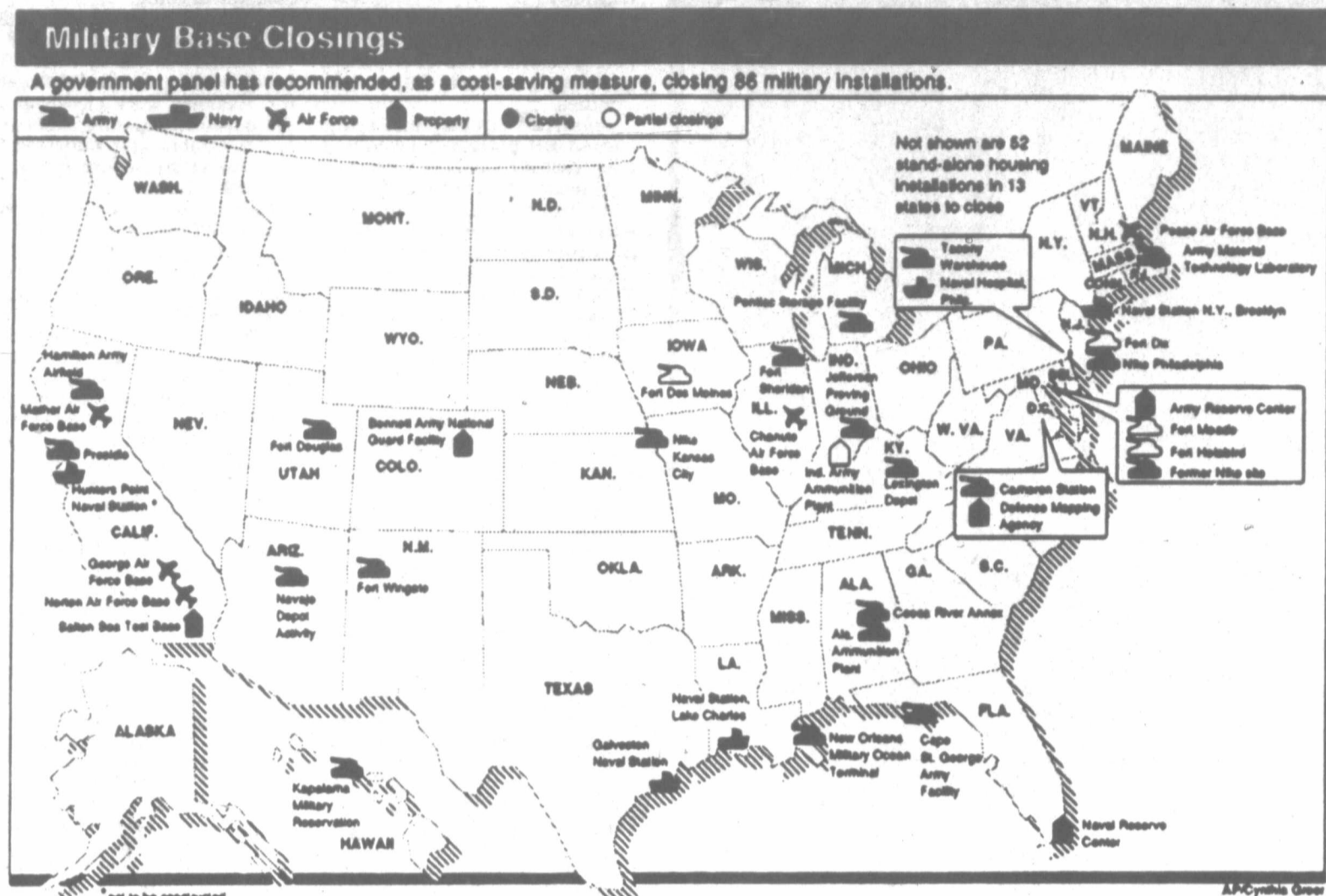
Congress then has to buy or reject the whole package, and initial comments suggested it would accept the commission's proposals despite hometown appeals from areas which would lose bases.

In all, the panel, led by former Republican congressman Jack Edwards of Alabama and Abraham Ribicoff, a former Democratic senator from Connecticut, called for closing 86 facilities, partially closing five, and changing the role and manpower levels at 54 others.

The cuts would save an estimated \$693 million annually and \$5.6 billion over the next two decades. That's a small fraction of the total Pentagon budget of about \$300 billion a year, but the closings could set a precedent.

"I think this ought to be a continuous source of study by the new (defense) secretary," said Nunn.

If Carlucci endorses the package, it will go to the White House for the president's signature unless both houses of Congress pass resolutions specifically rejecting it. Congress drafted the law creating the complex procedure,



Graphic shows U.S. bases to be affected by the proposal to close or partially close military facilities.

which was designed to reduce political pressure to keep the bases open. Carlucci was vacationing over the holidays and had no immediate reaction to the recommendations, but spokesmen for the Army, Air Force and Navy endorsed them.

An Army spokesman, Maj. Dick Bridges, said he saw "no unwarranted closures on the list" of bases. "If we don't need them, we should get rid of them." Nunn and Aspin said their only objection was that the list was too short.

"I would have liked to have

seen more," said Nunn. Aspin called the list "too modest" and said it could have been up to about 30 percent longer. Neither specified which other bases could have been included.

The two states hardest hit by the closures would be California and Illinois. California would lose George, Mather and Norton Air Force bases, a future Navy base at Hunters Point in San Francisco, and the Presidio, headquarters for the 6th Army, also in San Francisco. Illinois would lose Chanute Air Force Base and Fort Sheridan, an Army base.

"How can we justify closing

military bases in our own backyard when we don't even consider a single one of the 1,500 overseas U.S. military facilities for the same treatment?" said Sen. Alan Dixon, D-Ill., chairman of the Armed Services subcommittee on readiness.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, a San Francisco Democrat, said closing the Presidio "will have a significant effect on the economy." The base is the third-largest employer in the city and has an annual payroll of \$600 million, she said.

Although most objections to the report came from politicians representing affected localities,

there were hints of internal wrangling in the Pentagon.

One member of the commission said the Navy had "stonewalled" to avoid the heavier cuts experienced by the Army and Air Force.

Thomas Eagleton, a former Democratic senator from Missouri who joined the 12-member commission part way through its seven-month review, said "the Navy stonewalled, and got away with it."

Navy spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Craig Quigley rejected Eagleton's criticism.

Navy officers argued that un-

like the Air Force and the Army, they eliminated many facilities employing thousands of people during the 1970s.

The proposal that 34 major U.S. military bases be closed brought warnings of economic woe from disheartened local officials and merchants, but there were signs of relief around installations spared the axe or slated for expansion.

"I think it will be devastating — 50 percent of our employment at least has to do with Chanute," Mayor Katy Podagrosi said in rural Rantoul, Ill., home of Chanute Air Force Base.

The training center, with 2,133 military and 1,035 civilian jobs, was one of the military bases recommended for closure in the report issued Thursday.

But church bells pealed in Enid, Okla., when officials learned Vance Air Force Base was unaffected by the plan, and officers cheered at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base when they learned it would stay open.

"Without question, we are very pleased," Enid Mayor Bruce Harvey said.

"For 112 years, the Presidio has been an integral part of San Francisco. It was here before San Francisco was a city. It's been a very good neighbor ... an important part of our economy," said San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos.

Under the 1972 federal law that established the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, all but 36 of the Presidio's 1,490 acres would become part of the popular park, which includes coastal land both in San Francisco and Marin County north of the Golden Gate.

"(Closure) would be bad. We get a lot of business from the base. We would really feel it," said Linda Jacobsen, manager of a Travelodge motel only a few yards from the Presidio's main gate.

"Nobody likes to see business go down the drain, and that's what's happening," said Mike Rudolph, owner of Il Forno Pizzeria, across the street from the main gate of Fort Sheridan in suburban Chicago.

Airlines told to check all bags

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. airlines soon will be required to look inside every checked bag, by eyeball or X-ray, at airports in the Middle East and Western Europe, and their passengers are going to face longer check-ins under a directive from the Federal Aviation Administration.

The carriers also will have to make random visual inspections of a percentage of hand baggage, with the bag being emptied and the empty bag X-rayed, FAA Administrator Allan McArtor told a news conference Thursday.

McArtor said he was "not at liberty" to say what percentage of hand luggage would be inspected or how it would be selected.

McArtor told reporters the stricter security measures "are based on the practices of El Al — the best in the world," and "far exceed existing international standards."

El Al, the Israeli airline, has never had a hijacking or bombing. McArtor did not mention some El Al practices, such as the testing of baggage in a decompression chamber and the close questioning of passengers about their personal lives.

In 1986, an El Al guard questioning a passenger, the unsuspecting girlfriend of a terrorist, found a bomb in hand luggage at London's Heathrow Airport.

McArtor said the new rules would take effect in 48 hours. Much of the new routine already is in place but isn't required to be followed all the time, he said.

"The balance between security precautions and passenger processing has been basically upset," McArtor said.

Asked why similar new measures weren't being required in the United States, he replied, "The threat appears to be more international in scope. We are encouraging our carriers to be more vigilant domestically."

At the 103 airports affected in the Middle East and Western Europe, the new precautions "may well result in passenger delays and inconvenience," such as "check-in earlier, perhaps as much as an hour."

Here are the other principal

provisions of the new FAA requirement:

- Parcels shipped through passenger ticket counters also must be X-rayed or physically examined.

- Passengers may not have access to checked baggage, and additional measures will be required to keep other people from unauthorized access. McArtor did not say what they would be.

- Airlines must make a "positive match" of checked baggage to actual passengers, keeping unaccompanied bags off the plane. If a passenger leaves at an intermediate stop, said Ray Salazar, director of the FAA's office

of civil aviation, the passenger's baggage would have to be taken off in accordance with the already required "reconciliation at the transfer gate" of the passenger and baggage manifests.

- The FAA is accelerating by six months the delivery of thermal neutron analysis devices which are capable of detecting all known explosives, even those that are transparent to X-rays such as the plastic explosives favored by terrorists. Under the accelerated program, the first unit will be in operation next summer and the last of five, perhaps six, will be operational by the beginning of 1990.

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U.S. elections, Armenian earthquake voted top 1988 stories

By JULES LOH
AP Special Correspondent

The U.S. presidential election and the earthquake that devastated Soviet Armenia, killing tens of thousands of people, were the top two news stories of 1988 in a year-end poll of Associated Press member newspaper editors and broadcasters.

The election story accumulated 1,412 points in the annual survey; the earthquake, 1,404.

It was a year in which U.S.-Soviet relations showed a warming trend, capped by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's announcement of a substantial, unilateral cut in Soviet troop strength.

The start of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Moscow and the Soviet leader's continuing overhaul of the Soviet system, amid nationalist unrest in some Soviet republics, also made big news.

Ballots were returned by 106 Associated Press newspaper editors and 126 broadcasters who ranked the year's headline events, from No. 1 through No. 10. A first-place vote counted 10 points, a 10th-place vote one point.

The total of 232 was about 200 votes fewer than usual. Late-breaking events had required a revised ballot and second vote, making earlier ballots outdated.

Even so, the Dec. 21 crash of a Pan American Airways jumbo jet on a flight from London to New York, which killed all 259 aboard and an estimated dozen on the ground, occurred too late to be included in the top-10 ranking.

As it has so often in recent decades, the Mideast again grabbed major attention, especially with the United States' policy reversal in opening talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Domestically, stories on the environment ranked high. News included the Midwestern drought (which placed third), as well as forest fires, dirty beaches and even a pair of forlorn whales.

The annual rankings are not conducted as a scientific poll but an informal survey, the collective view of people who deal with the news daily in a nation of diverse regional concerns.

The national election, leading the editors' ballots, was a race characterized by what analysts called "negative" campaigning, in which prepared TV ads often spoke for the candidates — Vice President George Bush and his running mate, Sen. Dan Quayle of Indiana, and the Democratic governor of Massachusetts, Michael Dukakis, and his running mate, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas.

Bush won 40 states and 426 electoral votes. Dukakis won 10 states and the District of Columbia, and 111 electoral votes. The popular vote was 54 percent to 46 percent in favor of Bush. The turnout was estimated at slightly more than 50 percent of the voting-age population, the lowest since 1924.

It was not a total rout for the Democrats. They gained a seat in the Senate, for a 55-45 majority, and picked up three seats in the House, to maintain control by 260-175. The Democrats also managed a gain of one governor and now hold 28 of the nation's 50 governorships.

The Armenian earthquake — ranked second among 1988's news stories — occurred at 11:41 a.m. on Dec. 7 and, by seismic standards, was not an especially large shock. It registered 6.9 on the Richter scale as compared, for example, with Mexico City's 8.1 quake of 1985 and Alaska's 1964 quake of 8.5.

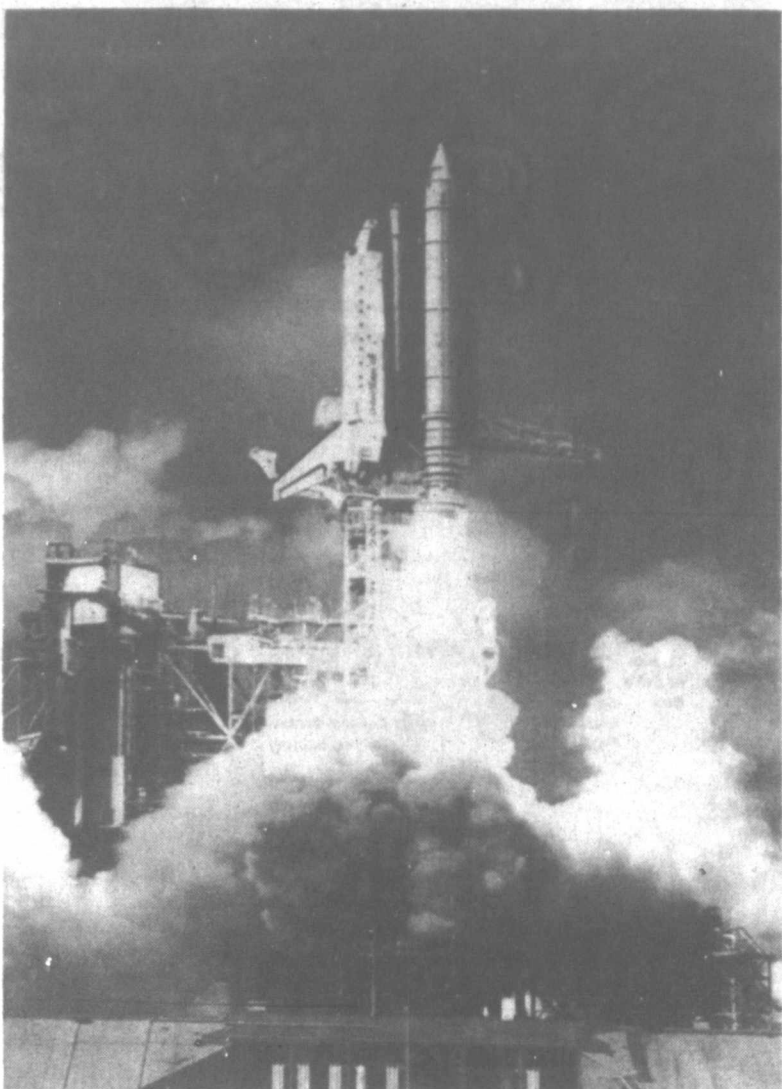
But the devastation wrought by the Armenian quake was staggering. At least 50,000 perished and 500,000 were left homeless. At year's end the ultimate number was still unknown, even as Mexico City's 10,000 deaths remains only a guess three years later. (The Alaska quake killed only 114.)

The Armenian quake leveled entire cities and towns. Leninakan, a city of 290,000, was 80 percent destroyed. Two other mid-size cities, Kirovakan and Stepanavan, suffered similarly. Spitak, a city of 16,000, was effectively wiped out.

Nations east and west, including the United States, responded immediately with offers of help. For the first time since the lend-lease days of World War II, the Soviets accepted the U.S. offer.

Soviet authorities blamed the extent of the destruction partly on shoddy construction work during the pre-Gorbachev "Brezhnev era." There were allegations that contractors, to meet tight schedules in an ailing economy, had larded their mortar with sand, weakening the buildings.

Nationalist zeal persisted amid the devastation. Some militant Armenians claimed that in resettling orphans outside Armenia the Soviets were trying to snatch them from their culture. Gorbachev, who cut short a U.S. visit to fly to the stricken area, was chagrined by the ethnic politics



(AP Laserphoto)

Shuttle Discovery returned U.S. to space, ranking fifth in top stories of 1988.

amid such misery and by the Soviet press criticism of relief efforts as chaotic.

The U.S. drought, the No. 3 story, accumulated 1,099 points.

At a time when America's farmers were just beginning to recover from the economic crisis of the early 1980s, along came the worst drought in a half-century, the worst since the dark dry days of the Dust Bowl.

production. By fall, the Farmers Home Administration had declared 1,489 counties eligible for emergency disaster loans, including 13 entire states, more than one-fifth of the nation.

A tragedy in the Persian Gulf was judged the No. 4 news event, with 901 points.

At 10:54 a.m. on July 3, the U.S. warship Vincennes, under assault by Iranian gunboats in

the Persian Gulf, mistook a civilian airliner on a routine flight for an attacking Iranian fighter plane and shot it down. All 290 people aboard the Iran Air plane perished.

Capt. Will Rogers III of the Vincennes called his \$1.2 billion vessel "the most sophisticated ship in the world, bar none," and a senior naval officer called Rogers "the best of the best of the best."

A Navy board of inquiry found that Rogers' action was understandable in light of the information available. It said the "fog of war" and stress of combat may

have contributed to the tragedy. But an international investigatory panel found the Navy culpable, saying its ships should have been monitoring such civilian air traffic.

"This is a burden I will carry for the rest of my life," said Rogers. The United States elected to pay compensation to the victims' families.

America's re-entry into space earned fifth place in the year-end poll, with 872 points.

Space shuttle launches had become routine until the Challenger explosion killed seven crew members in 1986. Consequently, when five astronauts boarded the shuttle Discovery in September, it was no ordinary mission. The future of the U.S. space program rested on its success.

Two months later a second shuttle, Atlantis, took off on a secret Defense Department mission, another success, setting the stage for a planned seven-flight schedule in 1989.

Developments in the Mideast ranked in sixth place in 1988, with 641 points.

After years of maneuverings and hesitations, Yasser Arafat finally made it clear enough to satisfy a skeptical United States: The Palestine Liberation Organization, which he heads, accepts the existence of Israel and renounces all forms of terrorism.

And so on Dec. 14, in a startling reversal of policy, President Reagan announced that the United States would open a "substantive dialogue" with the PLO.

Israeli leaders expressed dismay and disappointment, even though U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz added that "the U.S. commitment to the security of Israel remains unflinching."

The big U.S. turn in the Mideast peace process came as Israel's dominant parties, the right-of-center Likud and left-of-center Labor, agreed to form a new coalition government, with Likud's Yitzhak Shamir as prime minister. Labor Party leader Simon Peres will serve as finance minister.

The end of the Iran-Iraq War scored seventh in the voting, with 544 points. After eight years of slaughter in which well over a million people, and perhaps 2 million, were killed or wounded, in which 13-year-old boys died as volunteer sacrificial minesweepers, in which clouds of poison gas wiped out entire villages, in which hundreds of billions of dollars were squandered for revenge and martyrdom, the war between Iran and Iraq ended in August. That grim event ranked seventh among the news stories in the AP year-end poll.

The nation's environment, in its broadest sense, ranked eighth in the voting, with 506 points.

The health of the planet, its winds, oceans, the land itself, did not fare well in 1988.

The "greenhouse effect" — the development of a blanket of carbon dioxide allowing heat to accumulate in the atmosphere — was at least partly blamed for the drought and other climatic changes. The use of aerosol containers was pouring a gas into the

air that was blamed for a hole over the Antarctic in the atmospheric shield against cancer-causing ultraviolet rays — a warning, some scientists said, of disaster to come.

Meanwhile, syringes and other refuse washed ashore on some of the nation's beaches, where the barefoot once waded with impunity. Beaches were closed along the northern Atlantic seaboard, and the public was outraged by the violation of summertime oceanside serenity.

Gorbachev's Dec. 7 visit to the United Nations ranked ninth in the voting, with 504 points.

The Soviet leader startled the world body, along with U.S. planners and diplomats, by announcing that the Soviet Union would, unilaterally, reduce its armed forces by 500,000 troops, along with tanks and other equipment. News of the Armenian earthquake required Gorbachev to cut short his visit to New York, which had welcomed the Soviet leader warmly and enthusiastically.

In voting the Gorbachev announcement No. 9, many editors also took note of the May 29 Reagan-Gorbachev meeting in Moscow, and of Gorbachev's June 28 announcement of reforms within the Soviet Union — "glasnost," more openness, and "perestroika," economic re-vamping.

One of the nation's worst sieges of forest fires ranked as the No. 10 news story, with 492 points.

The Boise Interagency Fire Center, which keeps track of the nation's wildfires, said that through the exceptionally dry year more than 30,000 firefighters battled 72,000 blazes that

charred more than 5 million acres in the United States, including 2.2 million acres in Alaska.

By mid-July, a dozen fires raged in the venerable Yellowstone National Park. Other fires blazed in six surrounding national forests.

When November snows finally smothered the Yellowstone flames, 706,278 acres, nearly half of the 2.2-million-acre "mother park," were black and dead.

The blazes called into dispute an established wildfire management policy that decreed that forest fires caused by people should be fought, but those touched off by nature should be allowed to burn if there were no threat to life or property or historic sites.

At year's end that argument still smoldered. But, fire or no fire, Old Faithful remained faithful to its ageless schedule, erupting every 75 minutes.

The second 10 stories were:

11. The Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Moscow.

12. The TV evangelists: Jimmy Swaggart touched by scandal; Jim Bakker indicted on fraud charges.

13. AIDS keeps spreading; no breakthroughs.

14. Hurricane Gilbert ravages the Caribbean.

15. Nuclear armaments plants shut down.

16. Mega-buyouts and mergers on Wall Street.

17. Olympic Games, drug scandal in Seoul.

18. U.S. economy remains sturdy, unemployment low.

19. Changes in Soviet system, unrest in republics.

20. Rescue of ice-bound whales.

Top 10 stories of 1988

By The Associated Press

Here are the top 10 stories of 1988 as selected by Associated Press member editors and broadcasters in the United States. (Note: The voting ended before the Pan Am airliner crash in Scotland.)

1. Bush defeats Dukakis in presidential election.
2. Earthquake levels Armenian cities.
3. Drought parches

4. U.S. warship downs Iranian airliner.
5. America re-enters space.
6. Reagan will open PLO talks.
7. Iran and Iraq end eight-year war.
8. Nation's environment threatened.
9. Gorbachev announces Soviet troop reductions.
10. Forest fires scorch national parks.

So little rain fell on the Great Plains and elsewhere in the Midwest that even the mighty Mississippi River, in June, shrank to the point where more than a thousand barges were left stranded.

Across the arid countryside the corn harvest fell by 34 percent from the previous year's bumper crop, soybeans by 21 percent, spring wheat by 54 percent.

Relief did not come until August — not from rain, which was too late in most areas, but from a \$3.9 billion drought aid bill that helped farmers who harvested less than 65 percent of normal

production. By fall, the Farmers Home Administration had declared 1,489 counties eligible for emergency disaster loans, including 13 entire states, more than one-fifth of the nation.

A tragedy in the Persian Gulf was judged the No. 4 news event, with 901 points. At 10:54 a.m. on July 3, the U.S. warship Vincennes, under assault by Iranian gunboats in

the Persian Gulf, mistook a civilian airliner on a routine flight for an attacking Iranian fighter plane and shot it down. All 290 people aboard the Iran Air plane perished.

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Legally blind can take to the road now with their telescopic glasses

By KEN KUSMER
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — "I'm going to get a motor car. I'm going to learn how to drive," says Bruce Quinn, 32 years old and legally blind.

Quinn, who expects by summer to run two radio stations 50 miles apart in northern Indiana, may be licensed to drive for the first time, using glasses equipped with small telescopes to spot details like signs and lights.

"I'm excited about it. I got a moped a few years ago, and I've had a lot of fun with it and never any trouble, so I should be all right," said Quinn, of Delphi.

California and Texas have been licensing bioptic drivers for more than 10 years and about 25 states have such programs for as many as 2,000 nationwide, said Warren Brown, Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles director of licensing.

Brown developed Indiana's bioptic registration program at the urging of a vocational rehabilitation counselor and with help from low-vision optometrists.

Optometrist Paul Bither, who helped write Indiana's licensing guidelines, says not everyone is suited for the program. Getting a license is "a major step toward independence," but "it's not something that I push," he said. "Driving is a great privilege, but it's also a great responsibility."

In Indiana, bioptic drivers must have vision correctable to 20-200 in glasses, 20-40 through the telescopes with up to 4X magnification, a horizontal visual field of 130 degrees and no major blind spots, color defects or other visual problems. They must be evaluated and fit for the telescope, get a six-month learner's permit and training — available only in South Bend, Indianapolis and Evansville — and pass a road test.

The telescopes cost \$500 to more than \$2,000. They vary in size and weight, but the most common are about an inch in diameter and about 6 ounces. They may extend a few inches at a slight angle upward from the top of the glasses over the user's strongest eye, or in some cases both. When the user

needs to see some detail, he tilts his head forward to look through the scope.

Supporters of the program say bioptic drivers must be able to glance through the telescopes and spot something in less than a second, about the time drivers with normal vision might spend looking in a rear-view mirror.

Opponents say that's impossible. Dr. Gerald Fonda, a Livingston, N.J., ophthalmologist who's been prescribing bioptic glasses since 1947, said bioptic drivers need at least three seconds to adjust to looking through the telescope, spot the detail, and then readjust to looking through normal glasses. He said the telescope creates a blind spot that is twice as wide as the field of vision through the scope.

"The purpose of the telescope is to pass the driver's test. There's no evidence this device is safe, and there is overwhelming evidence it is a hazard," Fonda said.

Dr. Arthur H. Keeney, professor of ophthalmology at the University of Louisville Medical School, says the telescopes create an illusion of nearness to objects and that an "awning effect" obscures overhead signs. He and Fonda support letting low-vision sufferers drive under restricted privileges, such as under 35 mph only and not on freeways.

A 1983 study of bioptic drivers in California showed they were nearly twice as likely as the general driving population to have an accident, said Bill Gengler, spokesman for that state's Department of Motor Vehicles.

"Despite the accident rate, advocates claim bioptic drivers are among the most careful on the road. Biopics say they know their limitations and won't exceed them or else risk losing part of their independence."

"We stress the safe-driving aspect as part of the privileges we get as drivers," said Marc Sessions, president of the 1,000-member American Biopic Certified Drivers based in Laguna Niguel, Calif.

Flexible superconducting wire produced

NEW YORK (AP) — A researcher has developed a flexible wire that carries electrical current without resistance, a step toward practical use of recently developed high-temperature superconducting materials.

Scientists had previously produced only rigid superconducting wire.

Flexible wire may be useful in coils to store electricity, magnets and magnetic resonance imaging systems, which create images of the body's interior without X-rays, said Shyam Samanta of the University of Michigan.

Superconductivity is the ability

to carry current without resistance. Scientists hope superconductors will lead to such products as more powerful computers and floating, high-speed trains.

As in other superconductor developments, the term "high" is relative. The new wire must be chilled to work. Tests on a half-inch-long piece found it lost electrical resistance at 321 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, Samanta said.

The wire, one-eighth-inch in diameter, is based on a standard superconducting compound of yttrium, barium, copper and oxygen. The compound is normally

brittle, but a flexible wire was produced by adding silver and silver oxide, Samanta said.

Researchers do not yet know how much electrical current the wire can carry, he said in a recent telephone interview.

Until that is known the usefulness of the wire cannot be assessed, said Roger Poeppel of the Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne, Ill., where rigid wire has been developed.

Other researchers have produced wire-like silver tubes with a core of superconducting powder, Poeppel said, but he did not know how flexible the tubes were.

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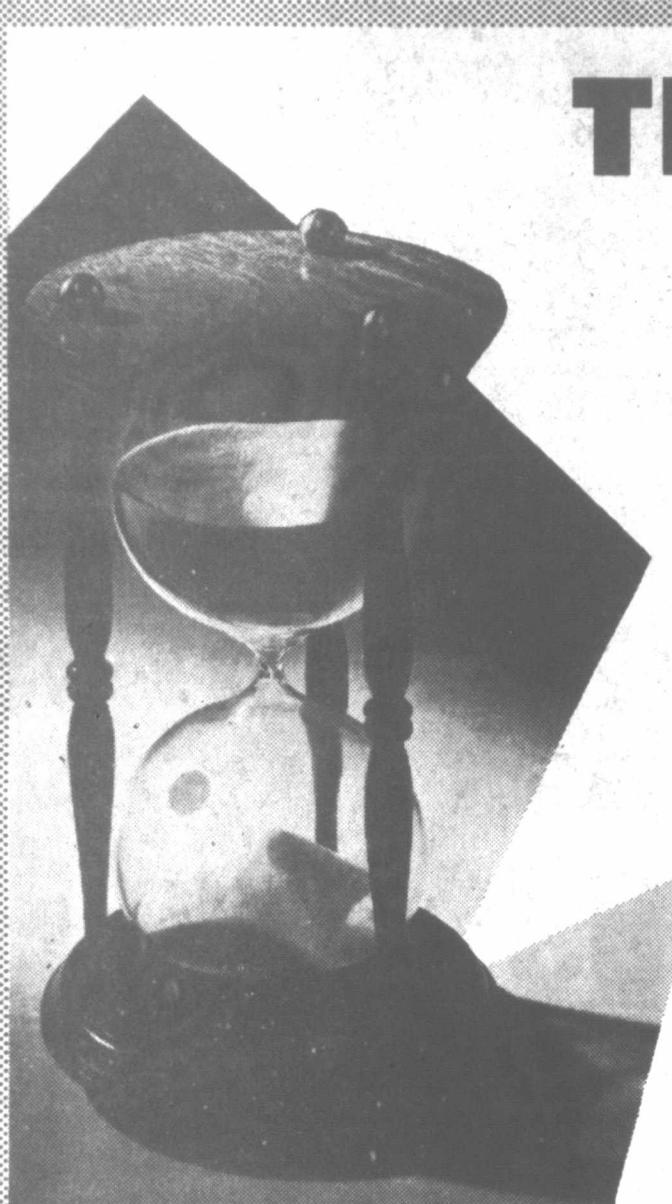
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The Church is God's appointed agency in this world for spreading the knowledge of His love for man and of His demand for man to respond to that love by loving his neighbor. Without this grounding in the love of God, no government or society or way of life will long persevere and the freedoms which we hold so dear will inevitably perish. Therefore, even from a selfish point of view, one should support the Church for the sake of the welfare of himself and his family. Beyond that, however, every person should uphold and participate in the Church because it tells the truth about man's life, death and destiny; the truth which alone will set him free to live as a child of God.

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Catholics slate lecture topic on fundamentalism

AMARILLO — Father Eugene LaVerdiere, former editor of *Emmanuel* magazine and a foremost Catholic Bible scholar who has done extensive research on the phenomenon of fundamentalism, will be in Amarillo Jan. 29-31 to lecture on the topic, "Understanding Fundamentalism."

Public lectures will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Jan. 29 and 30, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Amarillo.

There will be no formal admission charge, but a free-will offering will be accepted. A reception with refreshments will follow.

Father LaVerdiere will address priests, deacons, sisters and Catholic lay persons during a workshop from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30, and again from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Jan. 31, at Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center (BDRC), Amarillo.

The two sessions Monday at BDRC will be followed by liturgy and supper at the BDRC. The \$15 charge for the two-day workshop does not include cost of lodging and meals.

Individual charges include \$15 per night lodging at BDRC, \$3.25 for breakfasts, \$4.50 for lunches and \$6.25 for supper Monday evening. No meal will be prepared Sunday night at BDRC.

A Blessed Sacrament priest, Father LaVerdiere is associate professor of New Testament theology at the Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago.

A well-known author and lecturer in the United States and several foreign countries, his books include *Acts of the Apostles, Invitation to the New Testament Letters* and *Luke*.

A new book he is writing on the subject of fundamentalism is scheduled to be released soon.

His Touch

By Charlotte Barbaree

Scripture: *I am sending you to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.* (Acts 26:18 NIV)

Although not a garage sale enthusiast, I have had a few of my own and have helped with several others.

Every time I've been involved in a garage sale, I've been agog at the frenzied competition that takes place as shoppers vie for first shot at the merchandise. I've had people show up two days early and be downright belligerent because I wasn't ready to let them into my garage. I've had people lined up and waiting when I finally did open up. They swoop in and lay claim on treasures I could have sworn were trash.

I am invariably left wagging my head in wonder that people would pay good money for my junk.

We gladly share our discards and congratulate ourselves for making a little money out of the deal.

Why then are we Christians so reluctant to share our greatest possession, Jesus Christ? His redemption costs us nothing, and, as we share Him, His grace surges and we accrue heavenly treasures unlimited.

People are searching for and in need of what we already have. In fact, they are dying to have Him!

© 1988 Charlotte Barbaree

Living Water to be at New Life Center

New Life Worship Center, 318 N. Cuyler, will feature the musical ministry of Living Water on Sunday at 6 p.m.

Living Water is a local gospel singing group. Members of the group are Mike and Marylon Russell and Richard and Wanetta Hill. The group has sung together over three years in various churches and other gatherings.

Pastor John Farina and congregation wish to extend a special invitation to the public for this special musical service of worship and ministry.



A message from this newspaper and the Troopers of the Texas Department of Public Safety

Religion

Buddhist worshipers plan new temple complex in Houston

By CECILE HOLMES WHITE
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON (AP)— At the front, the Rev. Hung-I Shih chants a Sanskrit prayer, facing a golden Buddha statue.

Almost bowing in their seats, the worshipers respond in Chinese, echoing the monk's low, resonant tones.

The pace of the chant escalates.

At the rear, an aging Chinese woman squeezes her eyes shut. She keeps chanting.

Nearby a little girl in pigtails watches in wide-eyed wonder. She has not yet been schooled in the intricacies of formal worship for the Texas Buddhist Association.

Some Sundays, the association gathers at Bodhi Center, its educational wing located in a Belaire shopping center. Other Sun-

days, services are at Buddha Light Temple on Land Road in southeast Houston.

Either place, it's often standing-room only. To reduce crowding and better meet congregational needs, the association broke ground last month for a new Buddhist complex in southwest Houston.

That 2.5-acre site someday will be home to Jade Buddha Temple of America, a regional Buddhist center built with pagodas in Oriental style. A 7-foot jade Buddha from Burma will be the focal point of the worship area.

The \$1 million facility will include an education section, a meditation hall, research facilities, a retreat center and quarters for overnight guests.

"All who yearn to understand Buddhism will find a haven," in the new complex, the association says in a description. "The devout shall find a sacred place to worship and express spirituality. In our hectic and demanding lives, we will find a quiet sanctum for divine contemplation."

For the Chinese-Americans who dominate the association's membership, building the temple means coming of age as an American religious community. The association connects them to Chinese culture and helps newcomers adjust to American ways.

Founded in 1979, the association's early members were graduate students and scholars from the University of Houston. Gradually that nucleus expanded. Today, members range from plumbers to physicians.

While most are of Chinese descent, other Asians also belong. And association leaders estimate white Americans comprise about 10 percent of the membership.

"Everyone has a different purpose in being here," said May C. Lu, a congregational leader.

"Outside we may all look the same. But some are handymen. Some are professors. Probably the worship brings us all together from different (social) classes because the spirit of Buddhism is equality."

That spirit began with Siddhartha Gautama, the fifth century B.C. Indian philosopher known as Buddha. Also known as "Sakaymuni," which stands for the Sakyan sage, he was born among the Sakya people in what is now Nepal.

A prince reared in sheltered luxury in a Hindu society, Buddha married and had a son. Later, concerned about old age, disease and death, he retreated to the forest to become an ascetic. But he found no insight even in that path.

Returning to regular life, Buddha ate normal food once again and realized what is known as the "truth of the middle way," a path between extreme worldliness and asceticism. It emphasized self-discipline, self-restraint, cultivation of morality and spiritual development.

From Buddha's original teachings has come the diverse, vast body of experience, practice and philosophy known as Buddhism. It has been shaped and



Rev. Hung-I Shih leads members in worship at Bodhi Center in Houston recently.

altered by various cultures, including China, where Buddhism filtered in during the first and second centuries.

Well-known Buddhist strands today include Theravadan, Mahayanan and Zen. All are represented in the United States, where Buddhism seems as pluralistic as Protestantism.

Some Buddhists are working for greater dialogue and unity. But with so many different ethnic groups, immigrants and Western converts, individuality and decentralization are hallmarks of the estimated 5 million Buddhists in the United States.

One international Buddhist fellowship lists 58 separate Buddhist organizations in America,

while some Americans count several hundred Buddhist fellowships.

The Texas Association is of Mahayanan roots. Defined as "traditional" Buddhism by its followers, the "Mahayana" (or wide path) emphasizes that the way to enlightenment is open to all. It developed in India shortly before the Christian era and now dominates in nations north and east of India.

Grasping the subtleties of even that single Buddhist strand can be difficult for Westerners schooled in Judeo-Christian tenets.

"I think there are things which they would find radically different," said John R B Whittlesey,

a local Buddhist who has studied the religion for three decades. "And they could find an obstacle in the 'annata' principle, which is the concept that the existence of a permanent self, soul or central entity is a fiction. Also stressed is impermanence and the ubiquity of suffering."

"Perhaps one of the biggest differences — this appeals to some Westerners — is there is no theology in terms of statements about the existence of God, the existence of an afterlife or an explanation of creation. These are foreign questions to Buddhism."

For Buddhists, the "way to salvation is open to all and depends for its attainment neither on faith nor on divine grace but

only on understanding 'the way things really are,'" said Richard Gombrich in the introduction to the book *The World of Buddhism*.

"Such understanding, it says, can be achieved only after careful moral and psychological preparation. Salvation consists in a state of blissful calm so long as this life lasts and no rebirth when it comes to an end. This goal is something for individuals to aim at and reach ..."

In true Mahayanan Buddhist spirit, the Texas Buddhist Association willingly opens its doors to outsiders. Americans often are the majority at Thursday night lectures. Weekend seminars and general meditation classes are open to the public.

'In our hectic and demanding lives, we will find a quiet sanctum for divine contemplation.'

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Church unity taking new turn

By GEORGE W. CORNELL
AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK (AP)— That long, zigzag road of trying to achieve greater unity among a big swath of American Protestantism has passed another milestone, taking a new route toward the goal.

It no longer intends structural merger — as was originally contemplated and which has proved the typical bottleneck to unifying churches — but nevertheless aims at functional cohesion.

This time, "I think it's going to fly," says the Rev. David W. A. Taylor of Princeton, N.J., general secretary of the Consultation on Church Union. "After 26 years of work, we've now got a plan before the churches."

Taylor, a Presbyterian, said in a telephone interview that the plan is "workable and realistic" and he predicted the involved denominations will approve it. "No question about it, I fully believe they will."

The plan was recommended unanimously at a meeting early this month in New Orleans of the consultation, involving about 200 representatives of nine denominations totalling more than 22 million members.

"This is the time we have been working and praying for," said the Rev. Gerald F. Moede, a United Methodist pastor in Adell, Wis. As the consultation's former general secretary, he was a chief architect of the plan.

It is termed "covenanting" and envisages mutual recognition by the denominations of one another's baptism, membership and clergy, allowing intercommunion and joint ministry, mission and service.

Moede called the plan a "biblical format to bring Christians together sociologically and theologically to meet today's needs and those of the future."

It doesn't necessitate overhauling and meshing organizational structures — usually blocked by power rivalries — but continues the present structures, providing for working partnership and mutual interflow of personnel.

"What we have been seeking since the beginning is not uniformity but unity in things that really matter, like membership and ministry and mission," said the Rev. George H. Pike of Louisville, Ky., a Presbyterian. "We are not, and never have been, seeking a monolithic institution."

However, the consultation previously had recommended a plan

of structural union, but that 1970 plan soon was dropped after it ran into widespread denominational opposition.

That setback followed eight years of work by the consultation, which was launched in 1962 after the late Presbyterian leader Eugene Carson Blake urged a unified church that was catholic, reformed and evangelical.

Seconded by the late Episcopal Bishop James Pike, Blake's proposal at an assembly of the National Council of Churches unleashed an ensuing tide of support — and sparked formation of the consultation.

The nine denominations participating in it are the United Methodist, Episcopal and Presbyterian churches, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), United Church of Christ, International Council of Community Churches and three predominantly black Methodist denominations: the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

After the plan for structural merger collapsed, the consultation took a new tack, working on a theological consensus, with an agreement reached on it in 1984.

Six of the nine denominations have accepted the theological agreement as a basis for the next step toward an operational covenant, and two denominations — the U.C.C. and Christian Churches — still are to act on the agreement in 1989.

The ninth denomination, the Episcopal Church, at its 1988 convention commended parts of the agreement, but said some points needed clarified to make it the basis for covenanting acts.

That reworking, done by a drafting committee headed by the Rev. Paul A. Crow Jr. of Indianapolis, the Christian Church's ecumenical officer, was the document unanimously approved by the New Orleans meeting.

Pike, the consultation's outgoing president, called the approval a "historic moment."

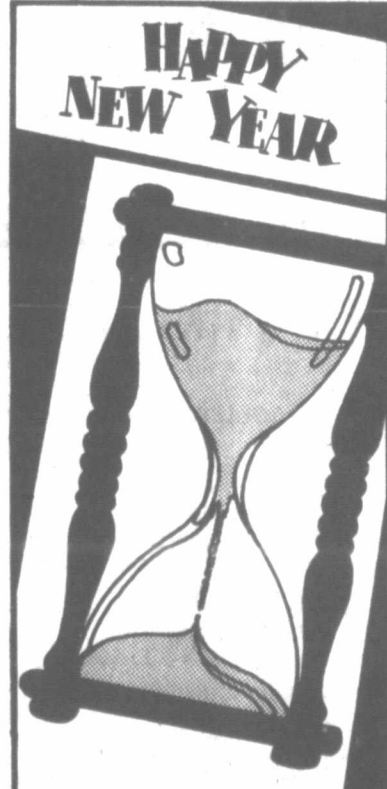
United Methodist Bishop William Boyd Grove of Charleston, W.Va., commented, "We are on the threshold of a new Pentecostal experience of the unity of the church."

were included in the revised and unanimously endorsed plan.

Denominational legislative assemblies were asked to approve it as "the definitive agreement for joining with other participating churches in covenant communion."

Action by the nine churches is not expected to be completed before the mid-1990s, since conventions of the denominations are held at varying intervals.

African Methodist Episcopal Bishop Vinton R. Anderson of St. Louis was elected president of the consultation, succeeding Pike.



A Happy New Year greetings to everyone. We hope that you will enjoy the Holiday Season in the spirit of peace and freindship. Best wishes from all of us.



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World

French sisters, freed by terrorists, return home with father

By ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — Two French girls held hostage in Lebanon for 13 months by a Palestinian terrorist group rejoined their father and went into seclusion today in France.

The long journey home took Marie-Laure Betille, 7, and her sister Virginie, 6, by boat from Lebanon to Libya, where they were turned over to French officials and flown to France late Thursday.

Left behind in the hands of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council, a Palestinian guerrilla organization, was their mother, Jacqueline Valente; a baby sister born in captivity; and five Belgians also seized aboard the yacht Silco off Israel's occupied Gaza Strip.

Their captors, who have been blamed for numerous terrorist attacks, said the girls' freedom

was a gift to France from the children of the year-long Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Marie-Laure, Virginie and their father, Pascal Betille, arrived in a French government plane at a secluded military base near Marseille, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said. They were then taken to a hospital for checkups and then to a secret location for sleep.

The girls, dressed in dark robes, their shoulders draped with plaid Arab scarves, had been reunited with their father hours earlier in the Libyan capital of Tripoli.

Betille's lawyer, Yves Massiani, said Thursday night that the children had said nothing of their detention, "talking only of their boat trip."

Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi called for the girls' release on Christmas Eve, and on two occasions they were reported

freed and en route home. The Palestinian group has ties to Libya.

"France ... welcomes this humanitarian gesture in appropriate measure," the Foreign Ministry said. "It thanks foreign authorities who contributed," it added without elaboration.

A statement in Beirut by Fatah-Revolutionary Council spokesman Walid Khaled said the girls' release was "a gift to the French authorities ... in the name of the children of Palestine, the children of the Revolution of the Stones on the occasion of Christmas and New Year."

There was no immediate comment from the children's relatives about their arrival.

A later dispatch by the official Libyan news agency reported a call from Gadhafi to "liberation movements" to free all hostages. "Once again, I ask the Fatah-Revolutionary Council and the rest of the liberation movements

in the Middle East to respond to my appeal for the release of the remaining hostages on this holy occasion," JANA quoted him as saying. "Holy occasion" was apparently a reference to Christmas.

"Hope disappointed after hope have upset us," said Jacqueline Valente's sister, Anne-Marie, before the girls' return home. "Now we know that they are free, we want to see them and above all to continue the fight for the other hostages."

Fatah-Revolutionary Council announced the capture of the hostages in a yacht off the Gaza Strip on Nov. 8, 1987. It accused the captives of spying for Israel.

Ms. Valente, who is separated from the father of Marie-Laure and Virginie, gave birth to a third child in captivity and said in a recent videotape that she is pregnant again.



Pascal Betille and his daughters Marie-Laure and Virginie sit in backseat of car taking them from Marseille Airport on Thursday.

Japan's justice minister resigns in scandal

By TERRIL JONES
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO (AP) — In a major blow to Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, the man appointed to investigate a widening scandal resigned today after saying he had accepted political donations from the company at the center of the controversy.

Takeshita today named a political outsider, former Supreme Court Judge Masami Takatsuji, 78, to replace Justice Minister Takashi Hasegawa.

Hasegawa announced he was stepping down just three days after Takeshita appointed him to a new Cabinet supposedly untainted by a stock-dealing scandal that had already forced the resignation of 17 politicians and business leaders.

Opposition parties and analysts say Takeshita should follow the lead of those leaders and resign.

Hasegawa's resignation, which occurred the day after Takeshita publicly reaffirmed his support for him, was the second Cabinet casualty. Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa stepped down on Dec. 9.

Takeshita made no comment on the resignation of Hasegawa, 76.

Takatsuji, a constitutional expert and former bureaucrat, served as a Supreme Court justice from 1973 to 1980. He is an unusual

choice as a Cabinet member because he is not a career politician, the background of nearly all Cabinet ministers.

Takeshita apparently decided it was necessary to go outside politics to find someone without links to the Recruit Co., the information conglomerate at the heart of the scandal over charges it sold unlisted stocks in a subsidiary to scores of politicians and business leaders at bargain prices.

Within a day after Hasegawa was given a mandate to reform political ethics and head the legal probe of the Recruit scandal, it was disclosed Recruit had given money for 12 years to a group that financed his campaign and political activities.

"There is nothing wrong with politicians accepting donations made from the good will of their supporters," Hasegawa told reporters.

"However, as minister in charge of clearing up the Recruit problem in the Takeshita administration, which is trying to heighten trust in government, it is regrettable that I received donations from Recruit," he said.

"I apologize deeply and resign from my post as justice minister."

The scandal has engulfed the Liberal Democrats, as several senior party lawmakers or their aides purchased shares in the subsidiary before the shares were offered publicly and later sold them at large tax-free

profits. The transactions were legal but have generated a storm of controversy over business and political ethics.

Leaders of the opposition Clean Government Party and the Democratic Socialist Party said Hasegawa's resignation was only natural, while the Communist Party called for the entire Cabinet to resign and new parliamentary elections.

"Takeshita should step down because he is connected to the Recruit affair himself and as long as he is appointing Cabinet ministers, government won't be clean," said Masayuki Fukuoka, a professor of political science at Komazawa University in Tokyo.

"There is no way for the Takeshita administration to regain its public support as more people will probably be arrested as the Recruit investigation advances next year," he said.

It is widely perceived that the premier should consider resigning when public support dips below 20 percent, Fukuoka said.

A newspaper poll this month found Takeshita's public support was 18 percent, down from 30 percent when he took office 13 months ago.

An aide to Takeshita and one of his relatives also profited in the stock transactions, but the prime minister has denied any personal involvement.

Yugoslav government resigns

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — The government of Premier Branko Mikulic resigned today, the state Tanjug news agency said. It was the first resignation by a federal government since the Communist Party came to power after World War II.

Mikulic's government was faced with widespread public calls for its resignation because of its apparent inability to resolve the country's economic crisis, which includes a 250 percent annual inflation rate, a \$21 billion foreign debt and a 15 percent unemployment rate.

Yugoslavia has registered a record number of strikes this year, with workers protesting low wages and declining living standards that now are comparable to the level of mid-1960s.

Inflation has soared since Mikulic took as premier in 1986. He survived a potential vote of confidence last May, when deputies from the liberal northern republic of Slovenia and from Croatia failed to gather support from other four Yugoslav repub-

lics to vote out the government. Tanjug said Mikulic's government will remain in power until a new government is formed and that he will address the federal parliament in Belgrade later today.

Mikulic's reputation has been further dented by a corruption scandal involving hundreds of party and government officials in his native republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The present government became seriously unsettled Wednesday when parliamentary deputies voted against a government austerity law that would limit wages in hard-pressed public services like health and education.

The vote defied warnings from Mikulic of "Yugoslavia's obligations" to the International Monetary Fund.

Mikulic told the parliament session the IMF insisted on the austerity measures limiting public spending before agreeing last June to grant Yugoslavia a 1-year stand-by credit of \$416 million.

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Lifestyles

Tralee Crisis Center seeks more volunteers

By MARILYN POWERS
Lifestyles Editor

The new director of Tralee Crisis Center is seeking volunteers to help with all aspects of the center's service.

Dauna Wilkinson, who was named by the center's directors to the position vacated by Judy Warner and began her duties there Dec. 1, said the center's "main problem right now is volunteers. We need a good staff of volunteers."

The center provides help for women and children who are victims of domestic violence or rape. An 85-percent increase in domestic violence reported to Pampa Police Department in 1988 has increased the center's workload.

"It looks like we'll have a 15 percent increase in clients this year from last year. I think that figure (85 percent) reflects that a lot of people are reporting it more and realizing that there is an alternative to staying at home and taking it. Wife abuse is historically built into our society, unfortunately," Wilkinson said.

During 1988, 270 women and children took advantage of the crisis center's shelter, about the same number as 1987. However, there was an increase in the number of hotline calls for the year, Wilkinson said.

Volunteers work in several capacities, including manning the hotline 24 hours through use of pagers, working at the shelter to develop programs for children and help carry out programs for

women, providing community education through talks to local organizations and other groups, and other services such as picking up a crisis center client at the police station or other location and transporting them to the shelter.

"We need people at the shelter to develop programs for the kids and people who can carry out programs for women, primarily on raising their self-esteem and how to do things like a menu — making meals stretch. We need volunteers in outreach areas, and we also try to have board members representative of the outreach area," Wilkinson said.

For example, the Thursday before Christmas, Wilkinson and others baked and decorated cut-out Christmas cookies for the children at the shelter, which housed 14 children and six adults for the holiday. Food and toys for the clients' Christmas were provided by donation — toys were received from Hoechst-Celanese and Toys for Tots, and food was provided by Pampa Chapter #65, Order of the Eastern Star, and the Hannah Sunday School Class at First Baptist Church.

A domestic violence victim may stay at the shelter up to 30 days, but that time may be extended under special circumstances, Wilkinson said.

Volunteers may attend training sessions; the next training begins Jan. 23 at Clarendon College-Pampa Center and continues through four evenings. Those who successfully complete the course may receive one credit

hour of college work if they wish.

Each person attending the training sessions receives a notebook with a wealth of information to help them in their volunteer work. The in-depth training sessions typically include presentations by persons such as police officers.

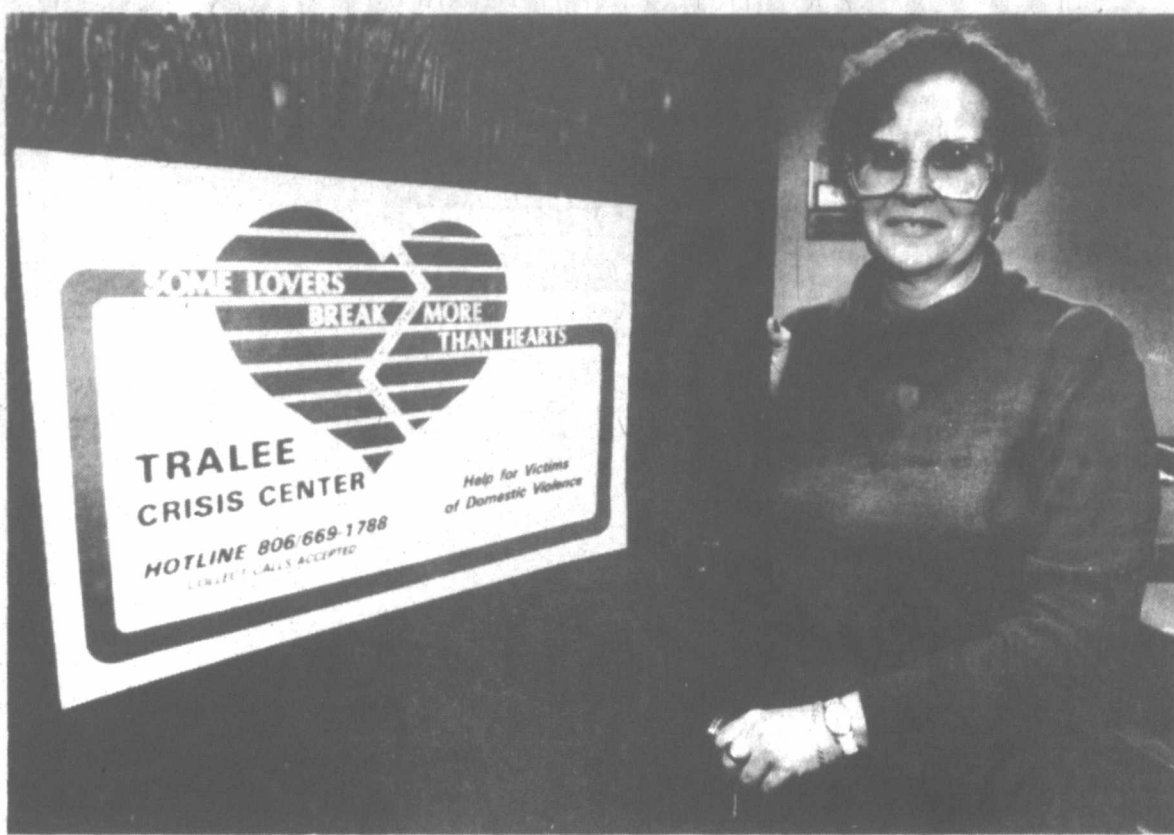
There are currently 17 Pampa volunteers working for the crisis center, and approximately eight in other counties. Tralee Crisis Center serves eight counties — Gray, Hutchinson, Hemphill, Carson, Roberts, Donley Wheeler and Collingsworth. An outreach office in Borger is staffed by two part-time workers.

"Sheriffs in these areas have names of volunteers, and if someone is needed to bring a victim to the shelter, they will be called," Wilkinson said.

Wilkinson said the crisis center should not be confused with any activist groups.

"The city should realize that even though the shelter concept for abused women came from the '60s and '70s, each area dictates what a shelter will be like. We are not feminists down here. We are Pampa people wanting to give women an alternative. We are a bridge from helplessness to hopefulness. We give them time out to think and make decisions. We give information and present all the alternatives to them, but they make their own decisions," she said.

"There are many, many things that volunteers can do for us. Senior citizens would be ideal. There are many talents they have



(Staff Photo by Duane A. Laverty)

Dauna Wilkinson, the new director of Tralee Crisis Center, is hoping to add to her group of volunteers to help handle the center's increased client load.

that our women don't know how to do," Wilkinson said.

The crisis center director is a Pampa native, the daughter of Lois Wilkinson and the late A.C. Wilkinson. She is the sister of Pampa resident Ernest Wilkinson.

She received her bachelor of

science degree in psychology from Houston Baptist University. She taught psychology and biology for seven years at Lamar High School in Houston, and worked 13 years in a psychologist's office, including three years at Okmulgee, Okla.

Anyone interested in becoming

a volunteer for the crisis center may call 669-1131, or attend the next regular meeting of crisis center volunteers, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 5 in Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard. Any questions potential volunteers may have will be answered at the meeting, Wilkinson said.

Use PVC pipe to construct sofa, easy chair

By BETH COTTEN

When there's redecorating to do, you might as well give up worrying about trivial things like the national debt and the possibility of nuclear holocaust.

I'm really anxious to get my redecorating finished — the only major holdup is getting started!

Actually, I began by making a new sofa and easy chair from PVC pipe. These easy PVC projects are a real knockout.

The sofa and chair are identical except for length. Each one features a stuffed fabric cushion supported by a fabric sling.

For more details than provided below, you may order our plans. They include a section on buying and working with PVC pipe, a complete materials list, and illustrated step-by-step instructions for making the pipe frames and

Crafts

the fabric cushions and slings.

If you're a real fan of PVC projects, like me, you might also like to order our special discount package of PVC plans. Included are complete instructions for 12 items: the sofa and chair, etagere, glider, coffee table, serving cart, sling chair, chaise lounge, end table, patio canopy table, patio chairs and hammock.

To order plans for the sofa and chair only, specify Project No. 1922 and send \$4.95; for the complete packet, specify No. 3035, a \$40 retail value for only \$19.95.

Mail to: Makin' Things, Dept. 79065, P.O. Box 1000, Bixby, Okla. 74008-1000. For a catalog with discount coupons, include \$2.95.

To build the chair, you'll need 18 feet of 4-inch PVC pipe, eight

T-joints and eight 90-degree elbow joints. The joints can be secured with PVC cement or screws.

Cut the following lengths of pipe: A — (4) 24½ inches, B — (2) 23 inches, C — (4) 8¼ inches, and D — (10) 3½ inches.

The chair frame consists of two rectangular end sections, which are joined by a top span section and three connecting pipes.

To assemble one end section, start with the front vertical leg. It consists of an elbow, D pipe, T-joint, D pipe and elbow.

For the top vertical, insert a B pipe into the top elbow of the assembled front leg. For the bottom vertical, insert a C pipe into each end of a T-joint. Insert the bottom vertical into the bottom elbow of the assembled front leg.

The back leg consists of a T-joint at the top, D pipe, T-joint, D

pipe and elbow at the bottom. Fit the back leg onto the free ends of the verticals.

This completes one end section. Turn the T-joints in the center of the front and back legs, and the one in the bottom vertical, so that their open ends all face the same side.

Assemble a second, identical end section. Turn the T-joints so that the openings face the opposite side. For the top span section, install an elbow at each end of an A pipe.

Use the three A pipes to join the T-joints that face center. Use a D pipe at each end to connect the top span section.

To make the sling, cut two 21x103-inch pieces of fabric. Stitch them right sides together along the long edges only. Turn right side out and press flat. Top-stitch close to each side seam.

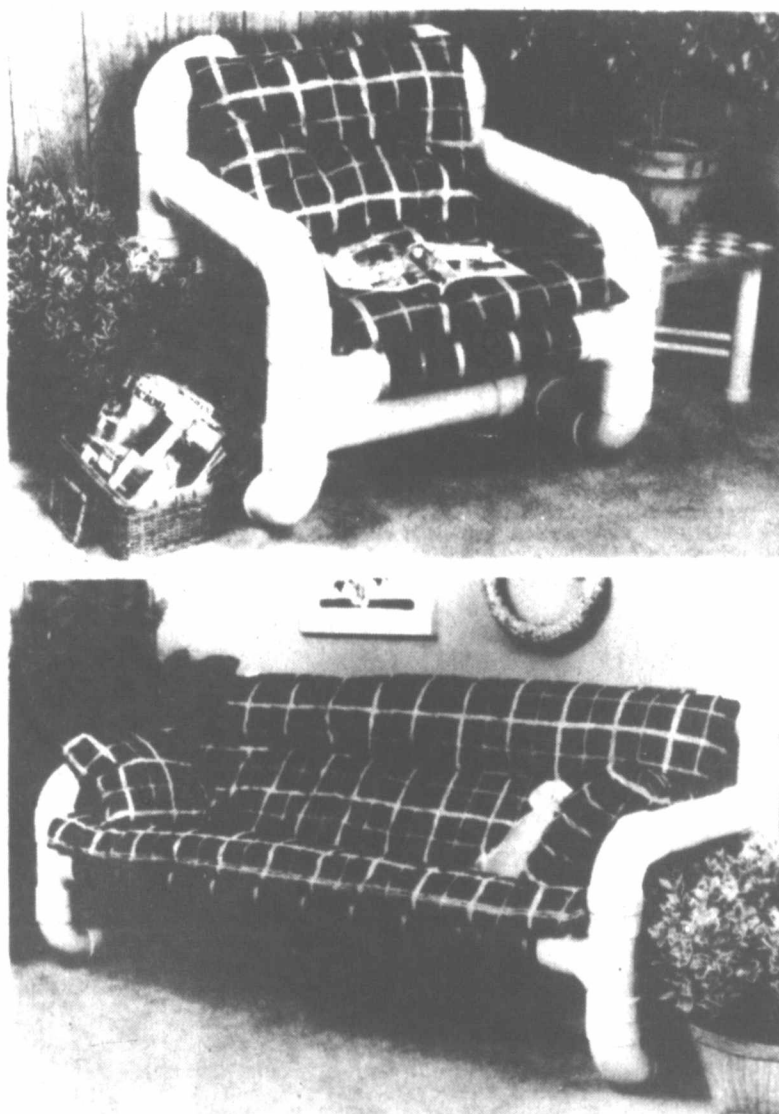
For strength, I sewed two lengths of nylon webbing inside the sling. The sling is attached to the frame with wooden slats and screws. You'll need two 20-inch lengths of ¾x1-inch slat trim.

Use small tacks to attach a slat to each end of the sling, on opposite sides. At one end, roll the slat over one complete turn. Place it against the underside of the top span section of the pipe frame, so that the sling extends from the bottom, behind the frame.

Secure by inserting eight screws up through the sling and slat, into the pipe. (Pre-drill pilot holes to make the job easier.)

Now wrap the sling up and over the back of the top span section, and then around the outside of the front connecting pipe from top to bottom.

Pull it back toward the back of the frame, passing over the lower connecting pipes. Roll the end slat over one complete turn, and



PVC pipe sofa and easy chair are attractive do-it-yourself projects.

wrap it around the back connecting pipe. Align it along the bottom of the pipe and secure with screws. The simple cushion is made like a pillow from two 30x45-inch fabric pieces, with four layers of quilt batting inside. Use self-covering upholstery buttons to attach the cushion to the sling.

Road to a happy new year begins one step at a time

DEAR ABBY: Every year you publish some New Year's resolutions. I cut that column out and taped it on my bathroom mirror where I could read it every morning. I want you to know that it has helped me to become a better person. I am not saying that I kept every one of those resolutions every day, but I kept most of them, and they have now become habits that have made a remarkable improvement in my personality and character.

I hope you will run it every year. I'm sure it will benefit many others as it has me.

NEVER TOO OLD

DEAR NEVER: My "resolutions" column has become an established annual tradition:

DEAR READERS: These New Year's resolutions are based on the original credo of Alcoholics Anonymous. I have taken the liberty of using that theme with some variations of my own:

Just for today I will live through this day only, and not set far-reaching goals to try to overcome all my problems at once. I know I can do something for 12 hours that would appall me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

Just for today I will be happy. Abraham Lincoln said, "Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." He was right. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. I will chase them out of my mind and replace them with happy thoughts.

Just for today I will adjust myself to what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things that I can correct and accept those things I cannot correct.

Just for today I will improve my mind. I will not be a mental loafer. I will force myself to read something that requires



Dear Abby
Abigail Van Buren

effort, thought and concentration.

Just for today I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll make an honest effort to quit. If I'm overweight, I'll eat nothing I know to be fattening. And I will force myself to exercise — even if it's only walking around the block or using the stairs instead of the elevator.

Just for today I'll do something I've been putting off for a long time. I'll finally write that letter, make that phone call, clean that closet or straighten out those dresser drawers.

Just for today, before I speak I will ask myself, "Is it true? Is it kind?" And if the answer to either of those questions is negative, I won't say it.

Just for today I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will look as good as I can, dress becomingly, talk softly, act courteously and not interrupt when someone else is talking. Just for today I'll not improve anybody except myself.

Just for today I will have a program. I may not follow it exactly, but I will have it, thereby saving myself from two pests: hurry and indecision.

Just for today I will have a quiet half-hour to relax alone. During this time I will reflect on my behavior and get a better perspective on my life.

Just for today I will be un-

afraid. I will gather the courage to do what is right and take the responsibility for my own actions. I will expect nothing from the world, but I will realize that as I give to the world, the world will give to me.

Have a happy, healthy New Year. And pray for peace!

LOVE, ABBY

DEAR ABBY: My husband (I'll call him John) is getting on in years, but he refuses to talk about funeral arrangements. He says he wants to donate all his organs to medical science. I think he has the idea that he will save on funeral expenses if he follows this procedure. But, Abby, when "science" is through with him, doesn't his family get what's left? I would like to get all these arrangements taken care of right now while we both have our heads on straight.

I have my plot bought and paid for because this is my second marriage and I am going to be buried next to my first husband in his family plot. But my present husband's burial troubles me.

Is it true that a person who donates his whole body to medical science gets a free burial? If you print this, please keep me anonymous. This is a small town, and I'd rather not have this known. Thank you.

PENNY-PINCHER'S WIFE

DEAR WIFE: When organs are donated, "what's left" is returned to the family. However, if John wishes to donate his entire body to medical science, he must preregister with the medical school nearest him.

For a list of medical schools, send a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope to: The Living Bank, P.O. Box 6725, Houston, Texas 77265.

SATURDAY ONLY
6 Hour Sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. December 31, 1988

Buy 1 Pair of Shoe's At Regular Price, Get One Pair Of Equal Value Or Less

FREE Applies to Shoes On Racks ONLY

STORE CLOSED MONDAY JANUARY 2, 1989 BE LOOKING FOR OUR SUNDAY AD!

Brown's
Shoe Fit Co.

216 N. Cuyler Downtown Pampa 665-5691

Today's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Othello villain
- 5 Pelvic bones
- 9 Psychic
- 12 Gellar lifter
- 13 Loch monster
- 14 Seed covering
- 15 Poetic foot
- 16 Split into thin layers
- 18 Actor Rod
- 20 Existence
- 21 Make an edging
- 22 Sine non
- 24 Of the nose
- 27 Small fish
- 31 False god
- 32 night before Christmas
- 33 Soap ingredient
- 34 Map abbreviation
- 35 Having pedal digits
- 36 Holly
- 37 Feeling
- 39 Covered with velvety growth
- 40 ton soup
- 41 Is able to
- 42 Tennis player
- 45 Inhabitants
- 49 Cut at an angle
- 52 Actress Pitts
- 53 Actress Gardner
- 54 Actor Novello
- 55 Grafted, in heraldry
- 56 Tin Tin (movie dog)
- 57 Eat formally
- 58 Contract of ownership

DOWN

- 1 How sweet
- 2 Blind as

Answer to Previous Puzzle

LUG	UVULA	RHO
YMA	GENES	EAR
ILL	LEONE	PSI
NAOMI	REESE	
GURU	LEE	MALL
TEEMING	UTE	
NOSTRIL		
SAPIENS		
LATERSKINE		
NICE	DES	OARS
ULTRA		ENURE
CIO	NOUNS	SAC
HER	NUDES	ENT
ASS	ERODE	ADS

- 38 Bird call
- 39 Small rug
- 41 Army group
- 42 Construction beam (2 wds.)
- 43 Jacob's son
- 44 Tennis player
- 45 Gas for signs
- 46 Wind indicator
- 47 Ancient Italian family
- 48 Gone to court
- 50 Movable cover
- 51 56. Roman

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19				20		
			21			22	23			
24	25	26				27		28	29	30
31						32		33		
34						35		36		
37						38		39		
			40					41		
42	43	44				45		46	47	48
49						50	51			52
53						54		55		
56						57		58		

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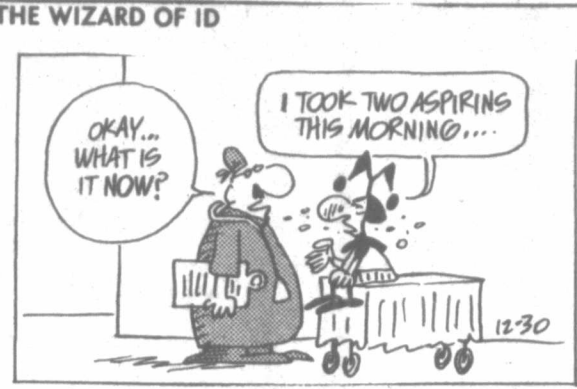
GEECH



By Jerry Bittle



By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



EEK & MEEK

By Howie Schneicr



ARLO & JANIS by Jimmy Johnson



Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Although you're not apt to appreciate it at the time, something might occur today that will be for your ultimate benefit. At first it may even upset you a bit. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail \$2 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) If you take yourself too seriously today, it could make your companions feel rather uneasy. On the other hand, if you treat life in a jovial manner, it will inspire them to do likewise.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Be careful today that you do not reward someone who is undeserving while ignoring or overlooking a person to whom you should be grateful. Your oversight could leave a lasting scar.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A loved one will be disappointed in you today if the relationship is out of balance to a point where this person is the only one doing the giving.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) There are indications you may be involved with two diverse types of people today. One will be extremely grateful for your kind gestures, while the other may think you aren't doing enough.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Even though you are a rather restless person, you are likely to feel uncomfortable today around friends who are too hyper. Seek companions with calmer spirits.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might have to contend with something today that you'll know is difficult going. If you attempt to do it when angry, it will only make matters worse.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Someone may treat you in a rather hostile fashion today. If you turn the other cheek, instead of reacting in kind, it will win you the respect of your peers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Taking foolhardy risks could land you in red ink today, but if you use your common sense and keen judgment, things should turn out profitably.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Some good news you're hoping for might not arrive today at the time you expect it. But don't despair, because, although delayed, you should be receiving it soon.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You could have tendencies today to fly off the handle at the slightest provocation. If you let your guard down and do so, you'll feel silly later for being so easily irritated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Someone with whom you weren't too friendly at a social gathering recently might have an opportunity to even the score today. Unfortunately, what goes around somehow seems to come around.

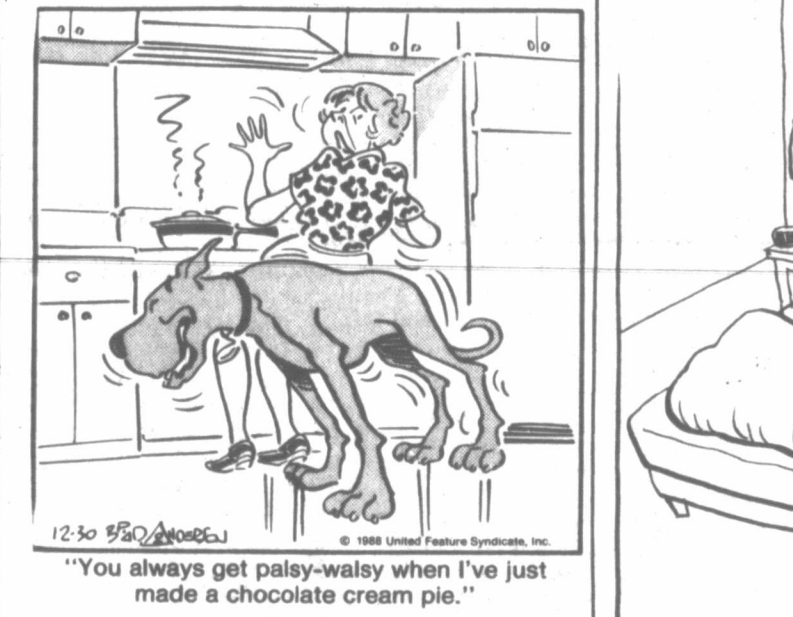
MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong



MARMADUKE

By Brad Anderson



KIT N' CARLYLE

By Larry Wright



ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue



SNAFU

By Bruce Beattie



The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



WINTHROP

By Dick Cavalli



CALVIN AND HOBBS

By Bill Watterson



THE BORN LOSER

By Art Sanson



FRANK AND ERNEST

By Bob Thaves



PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schultz



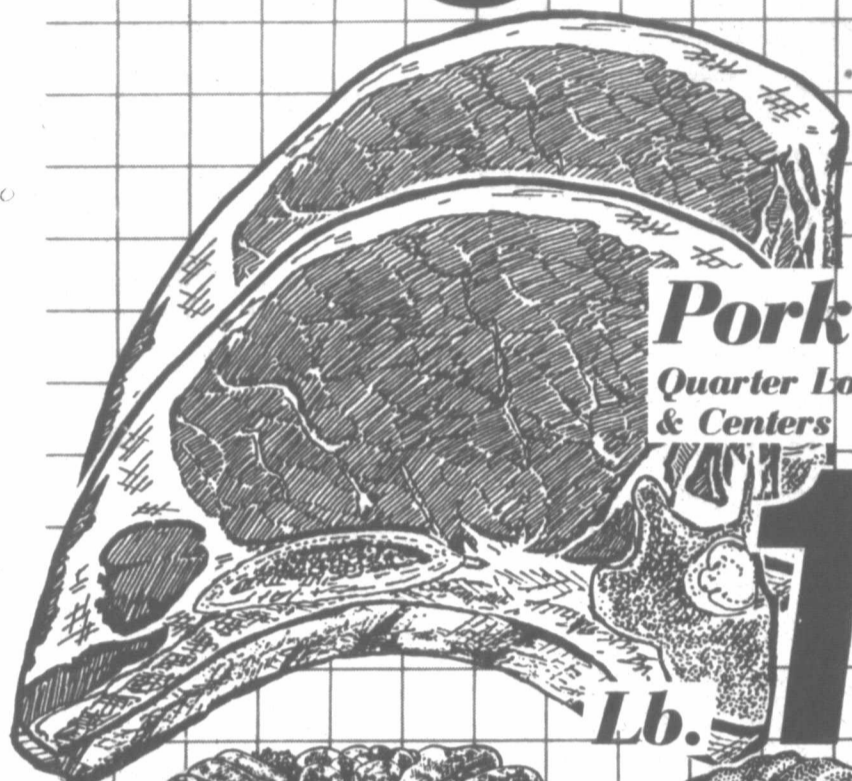
GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



THE FOOD EMPORIUM

Ring in the New Year With a Party!



Pork Chops
Quarter Loin, Assorted Ends & Centers

Lb.

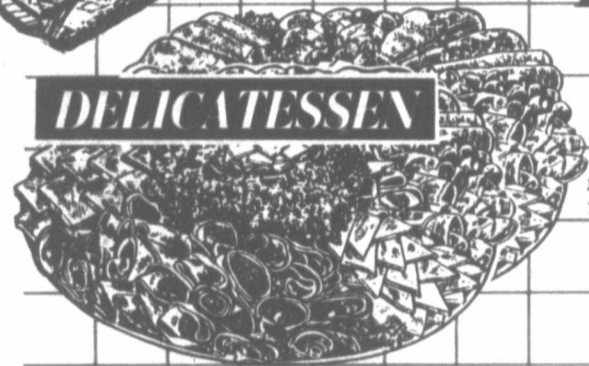
1.18



Coke, All Types or 7-Up

2 Ltr.

.89



Ham Heaven Party Tray

Serves 12 - 14 People

19.99

Each



Small Shrimp
Raw, Shell-On

Lb.

2.99



Fresh Petite Rye Bread

8 Oz.

.69



Tofino's Party Pizza
Assorted

10.6 Oz.

.99



Cotto Salami
Fresh Sliced or Shaved

Lb.

2.39



Perrier Mineral Water
Assorted, 23 Oz.

.89



Ranch Style Blackeye Peas
15 Oz. Can

3 \$1 FOR



Tropicana Orange Juice
Fresh Chilled, 64 Oz.

1.69



Ruffles Potato Chips
Prito Lay, Assort., 7 - 7.5 Oz.

.89



Keebler Butter Pretzels
Knots, Braids or Mini Knots, 8.5 Oz.

.69



Nabisco Snack Crackers
Assort., 7-10 Oz. Box

1.39



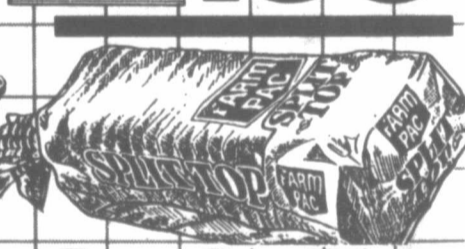
Borden Dips
Assort.

2 1.00 FOR
8 Oz.



Sour Cream
Farm Pac

2 1.00 FOR
8 Oz.



Farm Pac Wheat Bread
Split Top

.49
24 Oz.

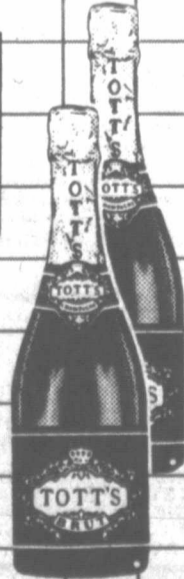


Say Hello to 1989!



Schaefer Beer
Regular or Light
12 Pack, 12 Oz. Cans

2.75



Totts Champagne
Extra Dry or Brut, 750 ml.

4.99



Budweiser Beer
Regular or Light,
12 Pack, 12 Oz. Cans

4.99



Ballatore Spumante
750 ml.

3.75

OPEN:
Regular Hours
New Year's Eve,
New Year's Day!



PAMPA:
1233 N. Hobart

Prices are effective Friday, December 30, 1988 through Tuesday, January 3, 1989.

