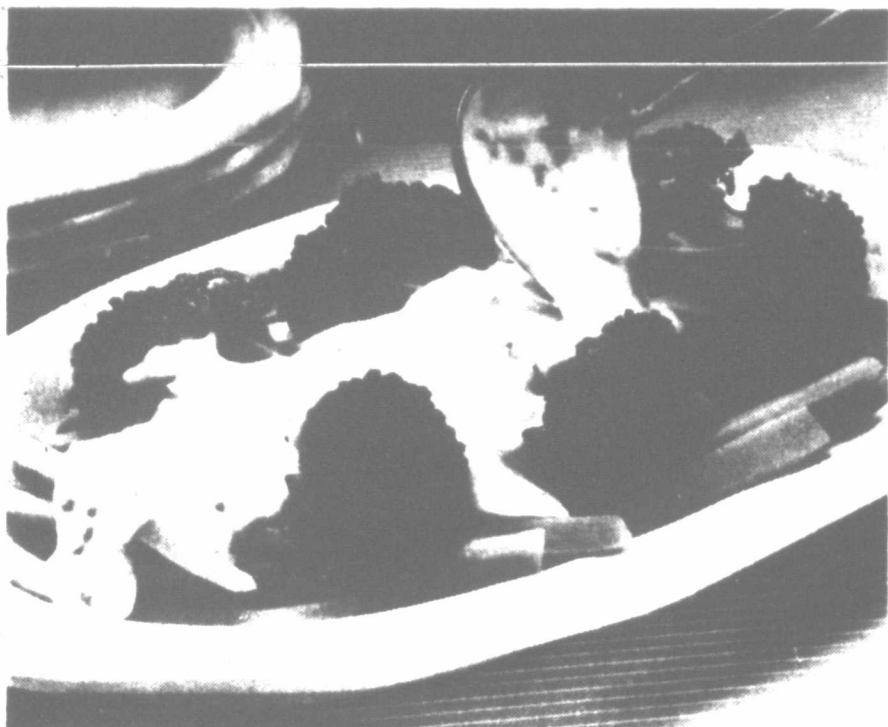


Food



You can vary this basic cheese sauce, depending on the cheese you choose. Serve over hot cooked vegetables.

Pick your own cheese for this versatile sauce

By NANCY BYAL
Better Homes and Gardens
Magazine Food Editor

Some people think it takes magic to produce a satiny cheese sauce. But it just calls for a few common-sense tricks:

— Measure accurately. Two ounces natural or process cheese equals ½ cup shredded.

— Avoid lumps. Stir flour and margarine together completely. Then add milk all at once and stir well.

— Get rid of the starchy taste of uncooked flour. Before adding cheese, cook sauce an extra minute after it thickens and bubbles.

— Go for low heat and short cooking for cheese sauce. Add cheese toward the end of cooking and cook only until cheese starts to melt. If you cook natural cheese longer, it separates, becoming tough.

CHOOSE-A-CHEESE SAUCE

- 1 green onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon margarine or butter
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- Dash ground white pepper
- ½ cup milk

- ½ cup shredded Gruyere, Jarlsberg, Swiss, Bel Paese or Cheddar cheese (2 ounces)

- 1 tablespoon diced pimiento
- 1 tablespoon dry white wine or 1 teaspoon lemon juice

In a 1-quart saucepan cook onion in hot margarine about 2 minutes or until tender. Stir in flour and pepper. Add milk. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir 1 minute more. Reduce heat to low. Stir in cheese just until melted. Remove from heat at once; stir in pimiento and wine or lemon juice. If mixture is thick, stir in 1 to 2 tablespoons additional milk. Serve over hot cooked vegetables. Makes 1 cup.

Nutrition information per tablespoon: 28 cal., 1 g pro., 1 g carb., 2 g fat, 6 mg chol., 22 mg sodium.

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Cook mozzarella meatloaf in microwave

By NANCY BYAL
Better Homes and Gardens
Magazine Food Editor

Who would believe a meat loaf this good could be ready in just 30 minutes? Buy pizza sauce for easy seasoning and pre-shredded cheese for a fast filling. But the biggest time-saver is your microwave; it cooks the meat loaf in 21 minutes.

MOZZARELLA-STUFFED MEAT LOAF

- 1 beaten egg
- One 8-ounce can pizza sauce
- ¼ cup fine dry bread crumbs
- ¼ cup toasted wheat germ
- 1½ pounds ground beef
- ½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese (2 ounces)
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons dried parsley flakes
- ¼ cup shredded mozzarella cheese (1 ounce)

In a large bowl combine egg, ½ cup of the pizza sauce, bread crumbs and wheat germ. Mix in beef. On foil, pat beef mixture into a 9- by 8-inch rectangle.

In a small bowl combine the ¼ cup mozzarella cheese, Parme-

san and parsley. Spoon cheese mixture down center third of beef mixture parallel to 8-inch side and to within ¼ inch of edges. Use foil to bring short ends of beef together; seal edges and ends of roll. Roll from foil seam-side down onto a microwave-safe meat rack in a 12- by 7½- by 2-inch microwave-safe baking dish. Cook immediately, or cover and chill overnight.

To cook, cover loaf with waxed paper. Cook in the microwave on 100 percent power (high) 5 minutes. Give dish a half-turn. Cook, uncovered, on 70 percent power (medium-high) 12 to 16 minutes or until no pink remains, shielding ends with foil as necessary to prevent overcooking and giving dish a half-turn every 5 minutes. Tent with foil. Let stand 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, cook remaining pizza sauce on 100 percent power (high) 1 minute or until heated through. Spoon over meat loaf. Sprinkle top with ¼ cup mozzarella. Return to microwave. Cook, uncovered, on high 1 minute or until cheese melts. Makes 6 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 358 cal., 28 g pro., 9 g carb., 22



No time to make meat loaf? Cooking time can take less than 30 minutes when you use your microwave. Top with cheese and serve with your favorite vegetable.

g fat, 133 mg chol., 454 mg sodium. U.S. RDA: 10 percent vit. A, 13 percent thiamine, 19 percent riboflavin, 26 percent niacin, 19 percent calcium, 21 percent iron.

Snack combines Mexica , Italian traditions

By NANCY BYAL
Better Homes and Gardens
Magazine Food Editor

When my son and his buddies gather at our house to watch a ball game or movie, this is the snack they ask for. I make up the meat mixture and shred the cheese, then let them cook the nachos in the microwave oven a plateful at a time.

PIZZA NACHOS

- ½ pound bulk Italian

- sausage
- 1 medium onion, chopped (½ cup)
- ¼ cup chopped green pepper
- One 3-ounce can sliced mushrooms, drained
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- Few dashes bottled hot pepper sauce
- 5 cups tortilla chips
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella, Cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese (8 ounces)

In a microwave-safe 1½-quart casserole combine sausage, onion and green pepper. Cook, covered, on 100 percent power (high) 4 to 6 minutes or until meat is brown and vegetables are tender, stirring once. Drain. Stir in mushrooms, pepper and pepper sauce. Cook, covered, 1 minute.

Arrange half the tortilla chips in a layer on a 12-inch-round platter. Spoon half the topping evenly over chips. Top with half the cheese. Cook, uncovered, on high 1½ to 2½ minutes or until cheese is melted, giving dish a half-turn once. Serve warm. Repeat. Makes 12 to 16 servings.

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Store batter, streusel for these muffins

By NANCY BYAL
Better Homes and Gardens
Magazine Food Editor

Keep the batter and streusel topping in the refrigerator for up to seven days for freshly baked muffins any day of the week.

COFFEE-CAKE MUFFINS

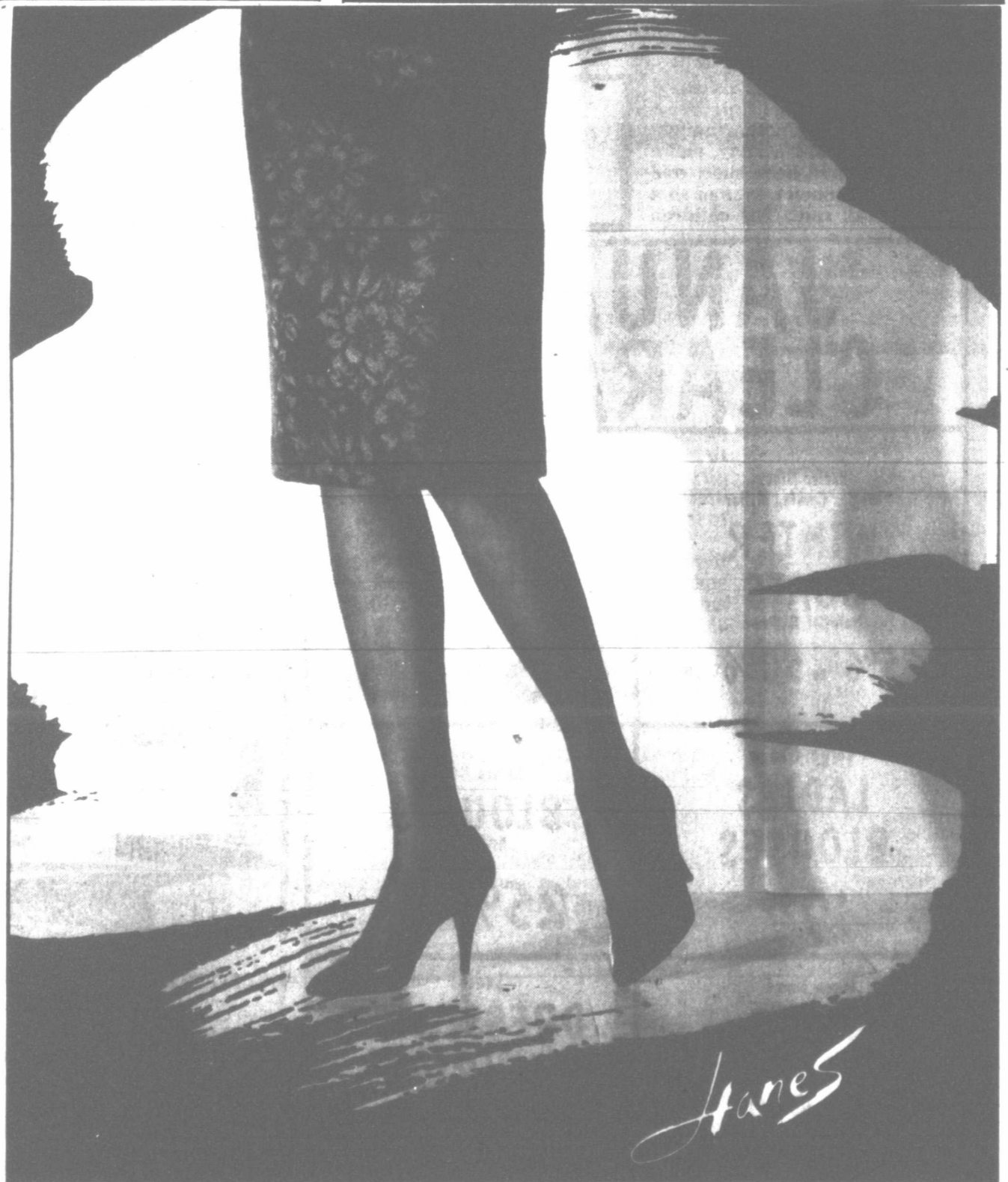
- 1¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup quick-cooking rolled oats
- ¼ cup packed brown sugar
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 slightly beaten egg
- ¾ cup milk
- ½ cup cooking oil
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- Streusel Topping (recipe follows)

Non-stick spray coating
In a medium mixing bowl stir together flour, rolled oats, brown sugar, baking powder, pie spice and salt. Make a well in the center. Combine egg, milk and oil. Add all at once to flour mixture. Stir just until moistened (batter should be lumpy). Fold in ½ cup chopped walnuts. Transfer to an airtight container. Cover and store in refrigerator for up to 7 days.

Streusel Topping: Mix 2 tablespoons chopped walnuts, 2 tablespoons flour and 1 tablespoon brown sugar. Cut in 1 tablespoon margarine. Place in airtight container and store in refrigerator.

To bake: Spray muffin cups with non-stick coating. Without stirring batter, fill muffin cups two-thirds full. Sprinkle 1 teaspoon nut mixture over each muffin. Bake in a 400-degree F oven 20 to 25 minutes or until brown. Remove from muffin pan. Serve warm. Makes 12.

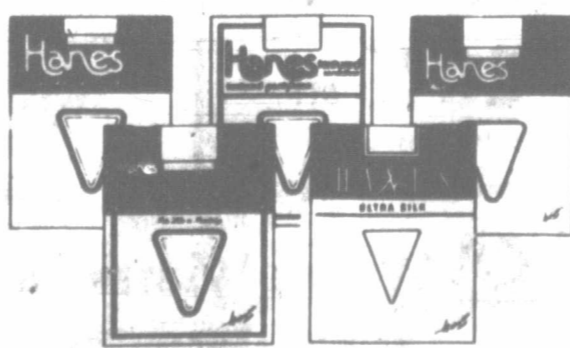
Nutrition information per muffin: 182 cal., 4 g pro., 21 g carb., 10 g fat, 26 mg chol., 113 mg sodium.



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Lifestyles

First-graders write stories before learning how to read

PHOENIX (AP) — "One day i went to the porck weth mi dady and we sow a brd and we went to the zoo weth mi momy and mi dady and sow a moncke and a zebra and a rabbit and a snak and a turtl the end."

Thus wrote a first-grader in her second month of Beverly Kerner's class at Lowell Elementary School in inner-city Phoenix, Ariz. The composition was good enough to be displayed on a bulletin board, illustrated with the author's crayon drawings, and used as an example by the teacher.

Although technically imperfect, even the most discriminating reader gets the gist of the story: The author went to the park with her dad and later to the zoo with her parents, and wrote about the animals she saw.

That a 6-year-old who has barely learned to read could type her story on a computer keyboard, using a range of words not found in traditional first-grade spelling books, is an accomplishment that has educators singing praises for a writing program adopted by the district.

The "Writing to Read" program is being used in several school districts statewide. It focuses on kindergarten children and first-graders and encourages them to begin writing even before they read.

The premise is that young children come to school with broad vocabularies and abundant ideas, and they should be encouraged to write those ideas even though they don't know grammar, syntax and spelling.

The program, created by International Business Machines Corp., combines computers with pencil-and-paper writing lessons, listening programs and play exercises to teach children how to write any idea they want to express.

"The way they're being taught to write is to get out a whole idea," says Debra Gomez, principal of Lowell Elementary. "The first focus is on the complete thought."

The mechanics of writing — spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization — also are taught, because children must have a solid grounding in basic skills, Gomez says. But those skills are secondary in the writing lab, reinforced instead in the regular classroom.

"What we're finding is minority students, when they get to college, can't write," Gomez says. "It's

not so much the mechanics, but how you put the idea together."

So teachers like Beverly Kerner and Mary Griffin coax ideas out of their pupils during sessions at the "writing table" and have them develop the ideas in their own words. They then follow up with lessons that tackle troublesome words like "said" and "night" that defy grammar rules.

Words that can be sounded out evolve into pupils' writing in a distinct pattern, says Griffin, who teaches a group of children who lack some essential kindergarten skills and need special help to catch up with their peers.

"When the glimmerings begin, they write the first sound," Griffin says. "And when they understand a little more, they put down the final letter."

The vowels, those multiple-sound letters often found in the middle of a word, are the last letters to materialize, she adds.

Dee Diehl, a media resource specialist for the Phoenix Elementary district, says the approach encourages pupils to tap vocabulary words that they understand but might not know how to spell. Most children go to school with vocabularies of almost 4,000 words, while traditional reading-and-spelling programs have limited children to fewer than 500 words a year, she says.

"It's the most wonderful thing when they use the 'wicked king' instead of the 'bad king,'" she says. Backers of the Writing to Read program contend that children can read anything they write, and such an approach accelerates the rate at which pupils learn to read.

Griffin agrees. In October, she says, her pupils couldn't read. By early December, they were able not only to read back their own works but to pick up on their classmates' stories and plow into the "easy to read" classification of books.

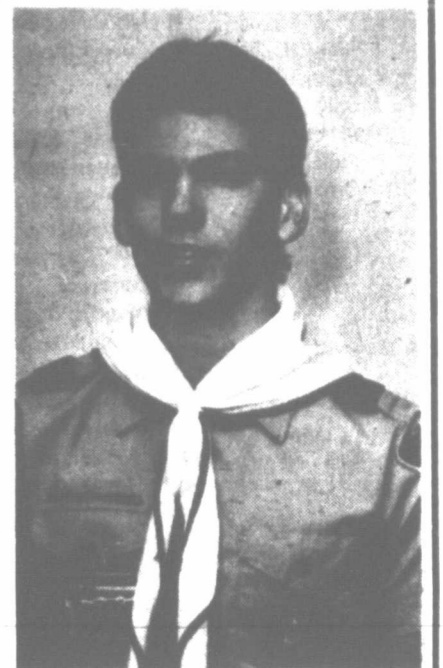
"I have one girl who is reading at a beginning first-grade level," Griffin says.

The writing has given the pupils confidence that they can sound out words, and it reinforces the correlation between letters and certain sounds, she says.

"My goal is to see my students think of themselves as writers, as authors," she says.

"Many of them do. They'll come to the table and say, 'When I was in bed last night, I decided to write about this.' And you know they've been thinking about it beforehand."

Successful scouting



(Staff Photo by Duane A. Laverty)

(Special photo) PAUL BROWN

Bags of canned goods attest to the success of Senior Scout Paul Brown's Eagle Scout project to collect canned goods for Good Samaritan Christian Services. Brown, 17, assisted by Troop 413, brought in 972 cans of food to be distributed to the needy, the largest single

donation ever presented to Good Samaritan, according to Executive Director Bill Ragsdale. Brown, a Pampa High School junior, and members of Troop 413 conducted the canned food drive in northwest Pampa on Dec. 17.

Dads balk more than moms in talking sex with children

MANSFIELD, Ohio (AP) — Terri Fisher endures the verbal darts and leers of fellow academics for the love of her work on frank talk about sex.

Some who take a close look at what she does find it boring. She works with numbers, but it's a labor of love.

Fisher, associate professor of psychology at the Ohio State University branch here, gets serious about the extent to which parents teach sex education to their children.

Though it's been 40 years since Alfred C. Kinsey published his first book on what goes on behind bedroom doors, Fisher still gets smirks from fellow professors as they pass on campus.

Much of her work is on a computer where she tallies and analyzes countless questionnaires answered by young people and their parents. They attest to the progress and problems of parent-child communications about sex and attitudes on the subject that develop among teen-agers and young adults.

She jokes about her laboratory work, and when fellow professors want to dwell on the subject she invites them to see where she works.

"People invariably are disappointed when all they see inside are stacks of questionnaires and a microcomputer," she says.

Fisher, 35, has a doctorate in psychology from the University of Georgia and has found that even in enlightened times, many people, particularly fathers, are not comfortable talking about sex with her, even in a family setting.

Fisher didn't aim early at sex research. She started out to study the memory and the aging process.

Her work in graduate school at Georgia showed that discussing sex, even in the realm of academia, was shocking to many people. So shocking she

says, that she became "a little ashamed of being a sex researcher."

She emphasized her work on the aging process when she applied for a job here in 1982, and after joining the faculty did some studies on aging.

"The research was not as exciting or important to me," she says, "but I thought it would make me more of a real scientist."

"I became aware of statistics on unplanned pregnancies, and my graduate adviser suggested I look at something in the area of sexuality."

She quickly found that "in our society, sexual behavior is viewed very differently than other behavior."

"Even among those of us who recognize it as just a part of life, it is hard (for parents) to suddenly start talking with a 10- or 12-year-old child about the subject."

She has completed several studies in the area of parent-child communication on sex. They involve different social, economic and age groups and she is now seeking federal funding to carry her research into a three-year program.

Her questionnaires to students and parents are direct and specific in many instances, such as whether mother or father conveyed the idea that sex is dirty or fun, whether nice girls enjoy it, and whether women view sex in marriage as a duty. Parents are asked to measure their comfort level when talking sex with a child.

Among her findings: — Children who readily discuss sex with parents have values more similar to the parents than do those who have little family communication on the subject.

— Many parents and children can talk about everything under the sun except sex.

Penmanship still counts in computer age

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Calling Jenny Lynne Pile's handwriting neat is like calling the Mona Lisa a pretty picture. In fact, her p's and q's are so beautiful, her sixth-grade teacher recently recognized her handiwork on an envelope even though she hadn't seen her for 35 years.

In a fast-paced world where computers can mass-produce "personal" letters, Pile is trying to parlay her perfect penmanship into a business — penning letters, addressing envelopes and completing thank-you notes for a fee.

"People have always complimented me on my (hand)writing," says Pile, of Dunbar. "Mostly I'd just address envelopes to other businesses and do things for my friends."

Pile worked for four years at the Charleston National Bank, then quit to care for an infant grandson. But she still needed an

income, so her friends and her four children suggested she turn her talent into cash.

A classified ad in the Charleston newspapers says: "Tired of writing? Don't have time? Let me do it for you. Weddings, Graduations, Business, Anniversaries & thank-yous; all beautifully written." She also does Christmas cards.

Pile says she thinks she can be successful, primarily because of the appalling state of most people's handwriting.

"You know, when your children bring their diplomas home from school and you can't read them, that's disgusting," she says. "I used to wonder to myself, 'Who did this?'"

Pile credits her sixth-grade teacher, Sylvia Jones, with having encouraged her to write neatly. Teachers today, she says, don't place the same emphasis on

clear, uniform handwriting.

"Generally, men's writing is worse than women's, although my main competitor at school was a boy," she says. "At my school reunion, he said he's a doctor, so he's probably the only doctor who can write."

Pile's penmanship, more graceful and stylish 35 years later and always done with a fountain pen and ink, caught her former teacher's eye when she spotted it on an envelope.

"We sent her an invitation I addressed to an event at the bank, and she recognized my writing," Pile says. "She contacted me and said how proud she was, how much she enjoyed seeing my improvement."

Pile says she has little patience with sloppy, illegible writing.

"If you write something," she says, "people should be able to read it."

Surgical consent form has female patient fit to be tied

DEAR ABBY: In response to the letter from "Wondering in Waco," the woman who had planned to have her tubes tied and was told she needed her husband's consent, I would like to add my own experience along the same line:

As a widow, planning to marry, I wanted to have my tubes tied. As I sat in the hospital, wrapped in a sheet awaiting my turn for the surgery, a nurse came in and asked if my husband was available to sign the "consent form."

I informed the nurse that I had no husband, and if I did have one, I'd be aghast at the idea that I would need his consent to have my tubes tied.

This requirement may not be "on the books," but it is a widespread practice.

ALSO APPALLED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR APPALLED: As I previously pointed out: "It's possible that the physician asked the woman to obtain her husband's consent in a way that gave the impression that it was required by law."

The moral to this story: If you are asked to do something that "feels" unfair, unjust or inappropriate, don't assume that it's a law — ask for proof.

...

DEAR ABBY: I hate writing letters, but I couldn't resist a comment to "Wondering in Waco," who was upset when her doctor told her she needed her husband's consent to have her tubes tied.

I'm the mother of six lovely children and was on the pill for 10 years when some negative reports started coming out about it. This worried my husband, so he decided to have a vasectomy. We



Dear Abby
Abigail Van Buren

made an appointment with the surgeon, and I took my husband to the doctor's office. I sat in the waiting room. The nurse came to get me, saying the doctor wanted to see me, too. When I went into his office, he handed me a form to read and sign.

It said: "I agree to allow my husband to have this surgery, and I will not sue the doctor for tampering with my personal property."

Of course I signed it, and my honey and I had many laughs over

this for a long time afterward. So you see, it all depends on the doctor's rules.

R.K. IN BILOXI, MISS.

...

DEAR ABBY: I am a 15-year-old boy and a sophomore in high school. I have many friends and I recently heard a rumor about one I care for. Someone told me that he is homosexual. I really don't want to be swayed by rumors, but I don't know how to ask him if it's true.

I have nothing against gay men, but I don't want to make the mistake of giving him the idea that I am interested. What should I do?

TROUBLED IN TUCSON

DEAR TROUBLED: In answer to your question, I will tell you what not to do: Don't ask him any questions concerning his sexuality, don't believe rumors — and never repeat them.

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Today's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Sine — non
- 4 Status —
- 7 Soap ingredient
- 10 American Indian
- 11 Ornamental flower holder
- 12 Hawkeye State
- 14 Prior
- 16 Makes fabric
- 18 Facilitate
- 19 Exploit
- 21 — degree
- 22 Small spots
- 24 Landing boat
- 25 Malarial fever
- 26 Slender pinnacle
- 27 La — (opera)
- 29 Shoe
- 31 Angry
- 35 Church body
- 36 Poured
- 37 Antenna
- 40 As far — know
- 41 Twofold
- 44 Part of corn plant
- 45 Clenched hand
- 46 College deg.
- 47 Astronaut's ferry
- 48 Permit
- 49 Senseless
- 51 Gusting
- 55 Awry
- 56 J. Roman
- 57 Fiber cluster
- 58 Eternally (abbr.)
- 59 TV network
- 60 Sticky stuff

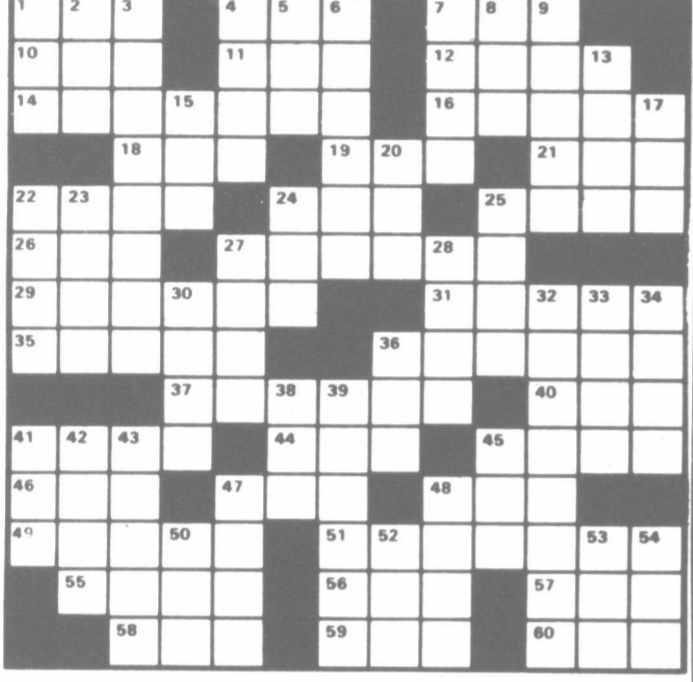
DOWN

- 1 Can prov.
- 2 Type of lizard
- 3 Exposure to air

Answer to Previous Puzzle



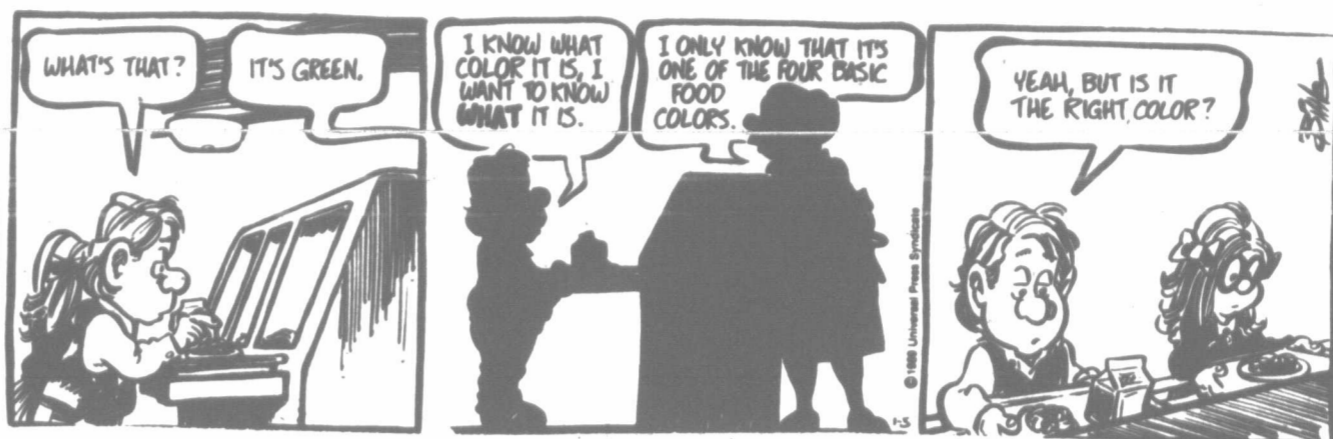
- 38 Dakota Indian
- 39 Poetic foot
- 41 551. Roman
- 42 Forearm bone
- 43 Old saying
- 45 Not many
- 47 Look flirtatiously
- 48 Superman's girl
- 50 By birth
- 52 Ad —
- 53 New (pref.)
- 54 Mail center abbr.



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GEECH

By Jerry Bittle



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



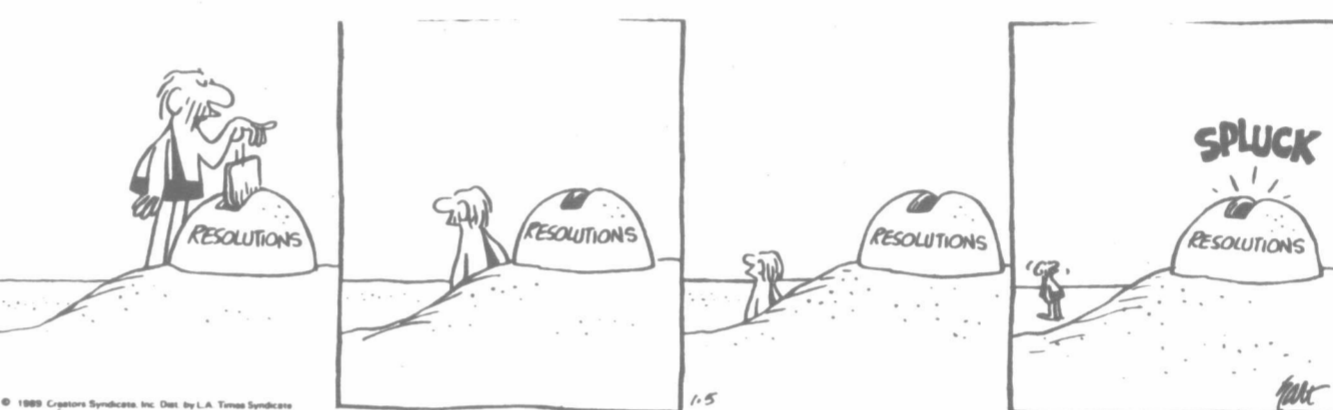
EEK & MEEK

By Howie Schneider



B.C.

By Johnny Hart

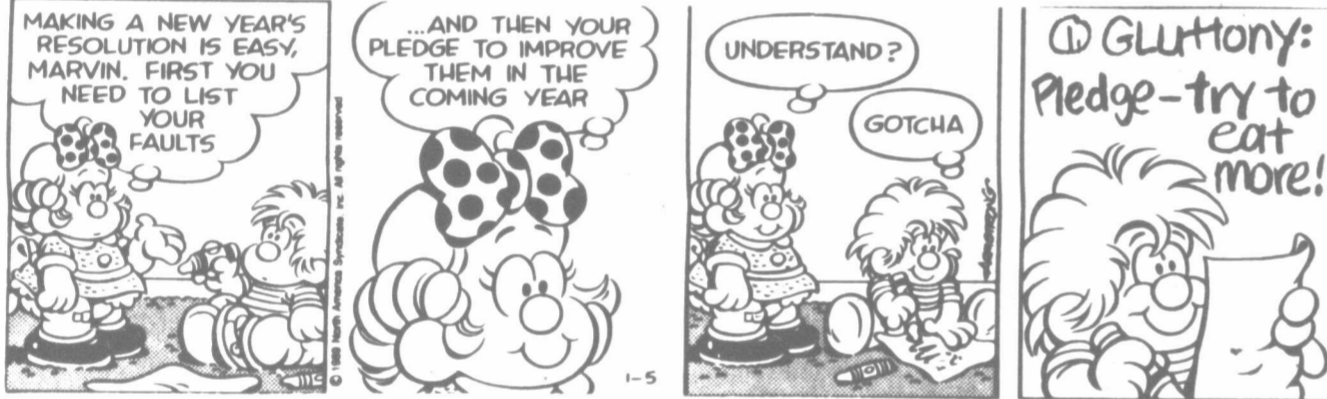


Astro-Graph

by bernice huda osol
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) There's a possibility you may be confronted by some unexpected challenges today. If you are, stiffen your back and dig in, because with some extra effort, you can break through to success. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences which are governing you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today by mailing \$1 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Even though you won't have total control over a situation that has been causing you some concern, measures can be taken today to correct it if you'll work in harmony with the others involved.
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) An old project you've been nursing along should not be allowed to suffer today because of your enthusiasm for something new. For best results, give equal attention to both.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) Conditions that have a direct influence on your reputation are in rather delicate balance today. If you're considerate and sincere toward others, the results should be favorable.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Be open-minded and tolerant regarding the views and opinions of others today, but by the same token, don't discount knowledge you've acquired from your own personal experiences.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Speak up today if you want to recoup what is owed you by another. The person with whom you'll be dealing isn't apt to feel inclined to make the initial move.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) Someone with whom you share a common objective might not be as speedy as you are today. Let this individual move at her own speed because she'll know what she can handle.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Several important, practical objectives can be achieved today, but it will take dedicated effort to attain them. If you're not prepared to work for what you want, don't expect a free ride.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) If you feel inclined to gamble today, gamble on your own expertise and talents. Things might not work out too well if the risk rests upon the abilities of another.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You'll need a featherlike touch in handling abrasive, domestic situations today. If you're too stern or heavy-handed, it could create additional problems.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Try not to take yourself or events too seriously today. Appraise developments realistically, but don't treat a molehill as if it were a mountain.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) It behooves you to play a little hard to get in your commercial or financial dealings today. Don't deliberately take advantage of the other guy, but by the same token, protect your interests.

MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong

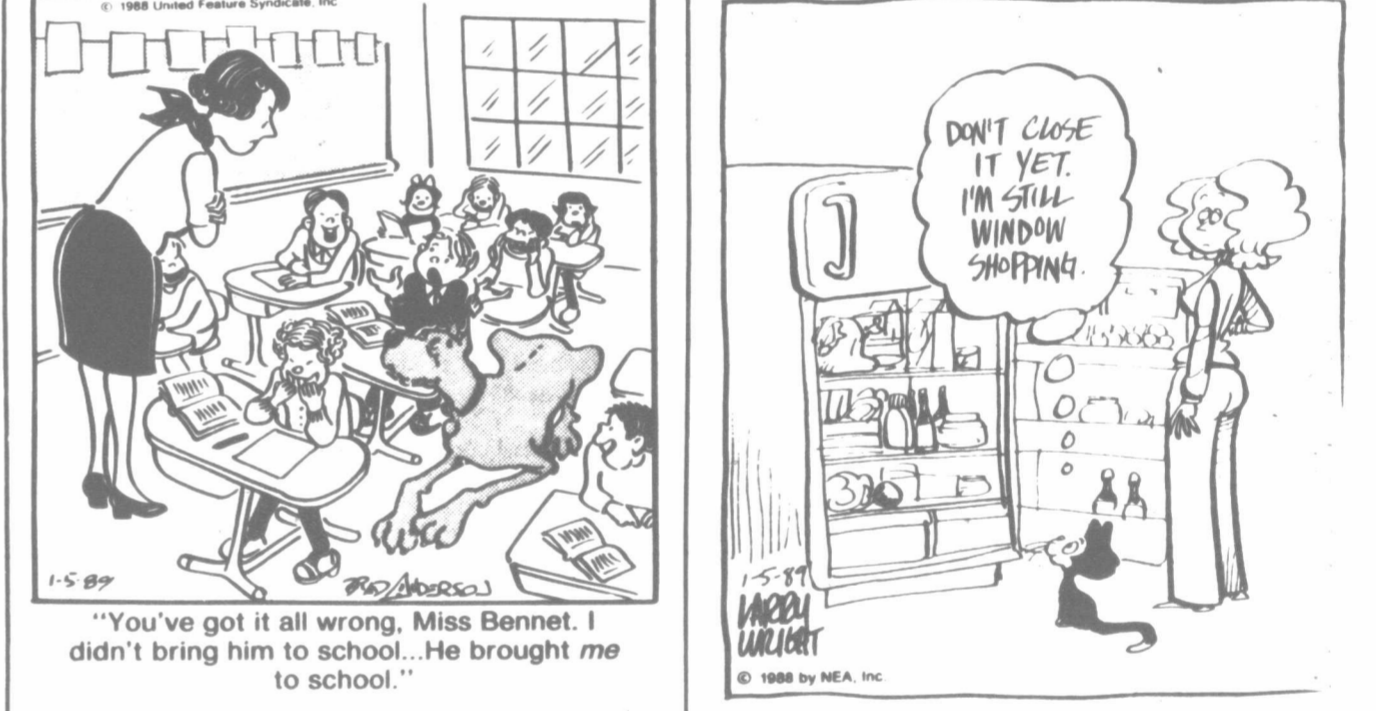


MARMADUKE

By Brad Anderson

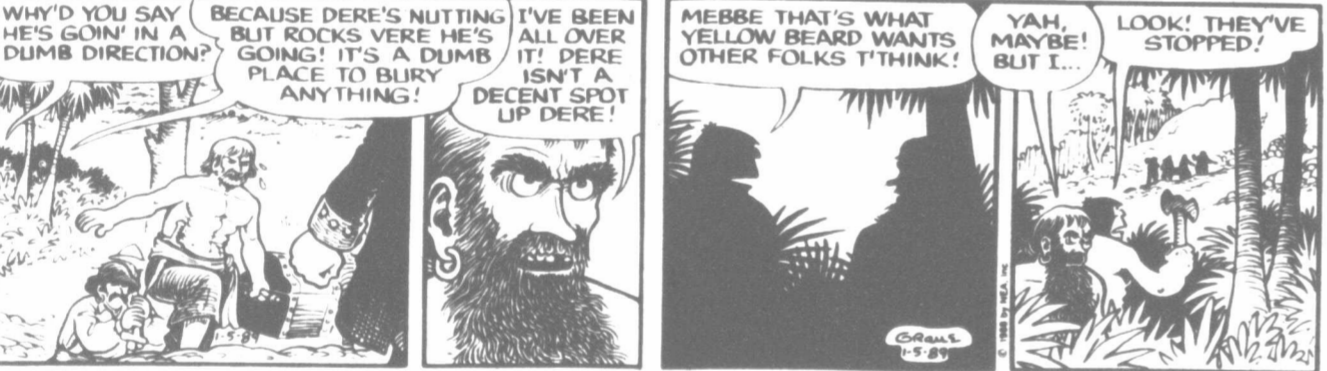
KIT N' CARLYLE

By Larry Wright



ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue

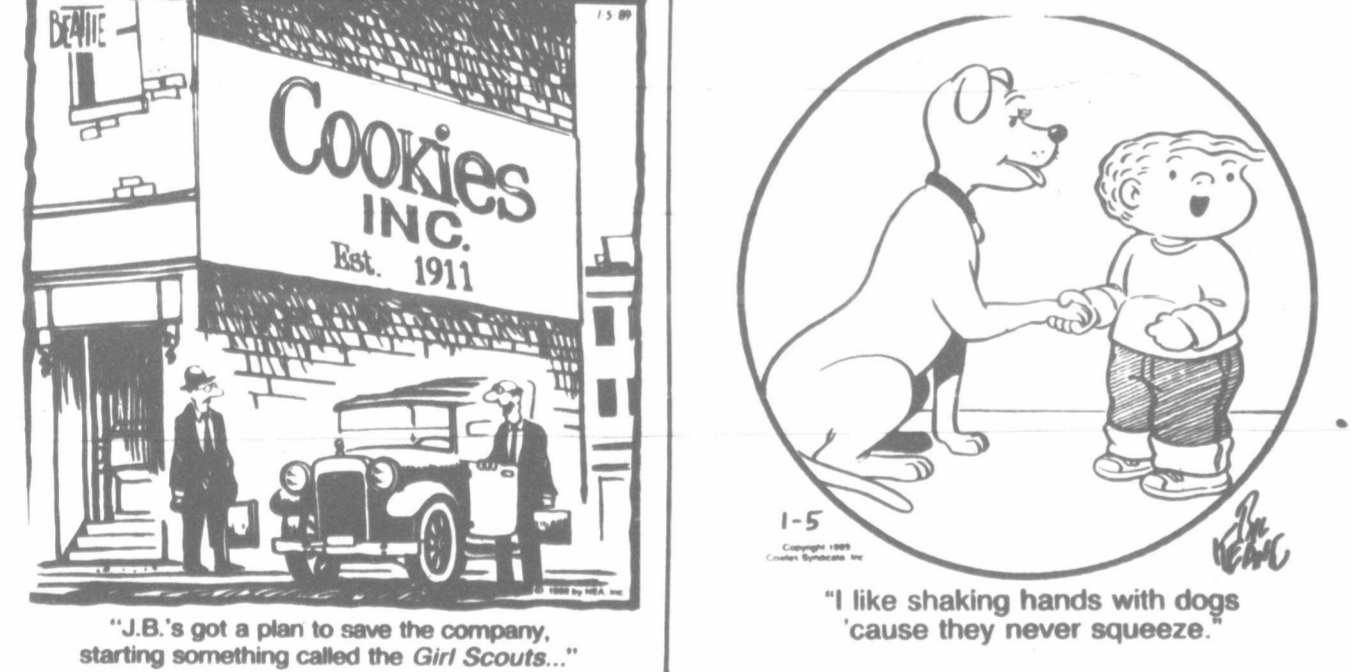


SNAFU

By Bruce Beattie

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



WINTHROP

By Dick Cavalli



CALVIN AND HOBBS

By Bill Watterson



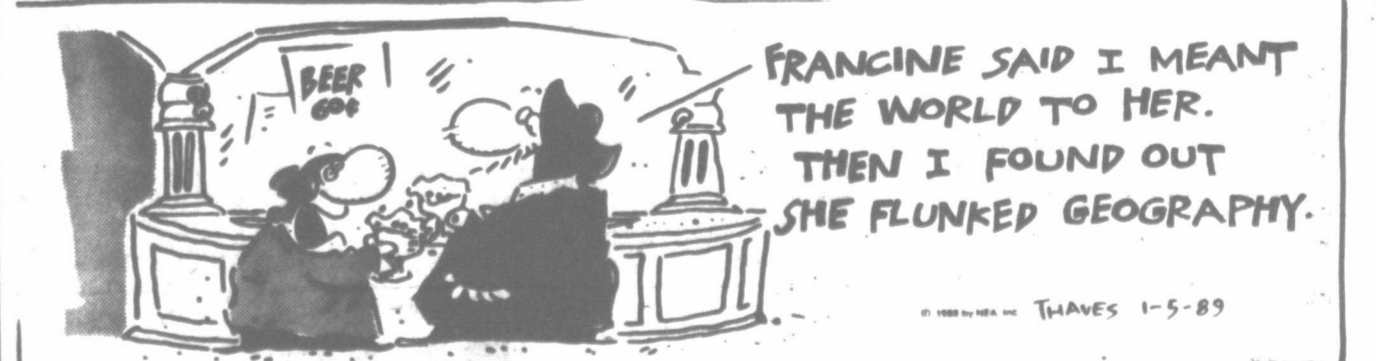
THE BORN LOSER

By Art Sansom



FRANK AND ERNEST

By Bob Thaves



PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schultz



GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



World



Memorial service held for crash victims

LOCKERBIE, Scotland (AP)—Packed into a church, clustered among tombstones or seated in overflow halls, relatives and townspeople wept and prayed Wednesday for the dead of bombed Flight 103 as a minister urged them to turn their thoughts away from vengeance.

Lockerbie, the town where most of the Pan Am Boeing 747 crashed after being blown apart by a bomb, came to a standstill for the 40-minute service for the 259 people killed aboard the plane and the 11 residents who died on the ground.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in black coat and hat, and her husband Denis joined the other mourners, who packed into Dryfesdale Parish Church, clustered among nearby tombstones or sat in crowded hallways.

The local people, dignitaries, relatives and Pan Am staff members flown in by the airline for the service sang hymns and prayed.

Afterward, the 63-year-old prime minister, who visited the crash site the morning after the disaster, met privately with the relatives in a school.

Investigators have concluded a bomb blew up the plane, and suspicions have focused on Middle Eastern terrorists, prompting Mrs. Thatcher to advise the United States publicly against "eye for an eye" retaliation.

The Right Rev. James Whyte, moderator of the Church of Scotland, echoed that advice.

"Justice, yes. Retaliation, no," he told the congregation from the church's marble pulpit.

"We may be tempted, indeed urged by some, to flex our muscles in response, to show that we are men," Whyte said.

"To show that we are what? To show that we are prepared to let more young and more innocent die, to let more rescue workers labor in more wreckage to find the grisly proof, not of our virility, but of our inhumanity.

"That is what retaliation means. I, for one, will have none of it, and I hope you will not either."

The simple, dignified service was televised live to the nation, and to mourners gathered in a local cinema, community hall and church.

Many preferred to stand in the chilly rain among the old granite tombstones outside the church, huddled under umbrellas, dressed in windbreakers and cloth caps.

The lights of the austere, Presbyterian church shone brightly into the gathering afternoon gloom, and sheep grazed in a field nearby. The Union Jack flew at half-staff.

Inside the 91-year-old sandstone church, a man cradled his wife's head as they sang a hymn, and a baby slept on its father's shoulder.

For the first time in two weeks, the skies of Lockerbie were silent, empty of the helicopters that have led an intensive search for wreckage and bodies over 150

square miles of countryside.

Outside the town hall which has become a makeshift mortuary, wreaths lined the sidewalk, and more bouquets were laid outside the church.

Pan Am said it flew several hundred employees and relatives of victims to Lockerbie, including Pan Am Chairman Thomas Plaskett. Many employees wore the airline uniform at the service.

Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition Labor Party, also attended, and U.S. Ambassador Charles H. Price II read one of the lessons, from the Gospel according to St. John.

Lockerbie's three churches, each of which lost parishioners in Britain's worst air disaster, joined together for the memorial.

Wreckage remains piled in meadow.

(AP Laserphoto)

Mexico, Venezuela to combat falling oil prices

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez says he and President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico have agreed to combat falling oil prices and the massive foreign debts severely affecting their nation's economies.

"Our countries have suffered the buffeting of the fall in (oil) prices," Perez told a news conference after he met with Salinas during a one-day visit to Mexico Wednesday.

But he said that he shared with the new Mexican president "optimism about the possibilities of a stabilization of the petroleum market soon."

Perez, who will be inaugurated Feb. 2, said tentative steps toward strengthening the oil market could be made during a meeting of representatives from non-OPEC governments scheduled for late January in London.

Venezuela is a founding member of the Organization of Pet-

roleum Exporting Countries, the 13-nation price-fixing cartel that in the past was unable to limit its members' oil exports to bolster prices.

Perez said he was optimistic OPEC would be able to keep prices from falling further.

Mexico, the world's sixth largest oil producer, is not a member of OPEC but closely follows the cartel's pricing and production guidelines. About half the oil that Pemex, the Mexican state petroleum monopoly, sells abroad goes to the United States.

He also said he and Salinas discussed the foreign debt, which he said acted like "a vise on the economy" of Venezuela. He said the two leaders agreed to continue discussions on the debt with other Latin American heads of state and announced he planned to visit President Jose Sarney of Brazil later this week.

"We seek agreement among Latin American countries to find

reasonable solutions with our creditors," Perez declared earlier Wednesday.

He said he believed the United States, under President-elect George Bush, could help Latin America overcome its foreign

debt burden.

"We will have the opportunity for great (American) cooperation with our countries in Latin America, great opportunities for development," said Perez, who met recently with Bush.



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