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THURSDAY

Colombia extradites first cartel member

By CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — A reputed money-launderer for the Medellin cocaine cartel arrived in the United States under heavy guard today at a small suburban airport, becoming the first person extradited from Colombia in the recent drug crackdown.

Eduardo Martinez Romero, who is accused of helping the drug cartel launder \$1.2 billion, left Bogota aboard a Drug Enforcement Administration plane on Wednesday night, federal officials said.

U.S. Attorney Robert Barr of Atlanta said the plane landed under tight security at Charlie Brown Airport, a small, county-run airport used by private planes. It is just outside Atlanta. Martinez was whisked away in a helicopter.

Martinez was being held at the federal courthouse for a hearing later in the day, Barr said.

He was arrested during the first weekend after Colombia President Virgilio Barco launched a crackdown on drug traffickers in his country triggered by the Aug. 18 assassination of leading presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan, an outspoken foe of the drug trade.

The Bogota newspaper *El Tiempo* quoted Martinez after his arrest as saying he was innocent.

"At no time have I had links to the Medellin cartel and I don't know any of its members," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

In the emergency measures imposed by Barco was a re-institution of the extradition agreement with the United States that had been thrown out by the Colombian Supreme Court in 1987.

Attorney General Dick Thornburgh said in a statement issued late Wednesday, "I applaud the extraordinary courage and resolve of President Virgilio Barco and the government of Colombia in their efforts to restore the rule of law to Colombia."

Martinez, 35, was indicted in March in Atlanta as a result of an investigation code-named "Operation Polar Cap" that federal officials said revealed an operation that laundered billions of dollars in cocaine profits through U.S. and foreign banks. Charges were brought against 127 people and two Latin American as a result of that investigation.

Drug traffickers in Colombia, who supply an estimated 80 percent of the cocaine consumed in the United States, are said to fear extradition to the United States because they believe they will not be able to escape conviction and prison sentences.

In response to Barco's crackdown, the traffickers declared "total war" on the government and have carried out bombings and shootings in Medellin, home of the world's largest drug cartel and the second largest city in the country, and in Bogota, the largest and the capital.

The last trafficker to be extradited was Carlos

Lehder, a leader of the Medellin cartel who was sent to the United States in early 1987 and is serving a life sentence in the federal prison in Marion, Ill.

The U.S. government responded to the outbreak of violence in Colombia by sending \$65 million equipment and other aid — airplanes, helicopters and vehicles — as well as military advisers to the South American country.

In addition, plans were accelerated to send some \$2.5 million worth of help to protect Colombia judges, dozens of whom have been killed by drug gangs.

In his national drug control strategy announced Tuesday night, Bush said military and law enforcement aid to Colombia, Peru and Bolivia would increase from an estimated \$53 million this year to \$261 million next year. The administration also promised an additional \$2 billion over the next five years to the three countries if they demonstrated their commitment to cracking down on drugs.

Pampans scared by drug scourge

By BEAR MILLS
Staff Writer

The story assignment was pretty simple: after two days of intensive coverage in *The Pampa News* of state and national angles on the war on drugs, find out what the common citizen in Pampa thinks needs to be done to effectively combat the scourge of narcotics.

However, after several hours of asking local citizens — none of them elected leaders or outspoken members of any group — to go on the record with their opinion, a trend became clear.

People are scared to death of those who deal and use drugs. So scared in fact that one man grabbed the tape recorder in a reporter's hand to confirm it was not recording the conversation.

"Let me tell you what will happen if you put my name and picture in the paper," the man said. "They (drug users) will come to my house and I'll be the next one they burglarize to get their money to buy those drugs. No sir."

"That's what those police of ours get paid to do. And they are about half afraid to get serious with this drug thing. If they weren't, they'd put some of them old boys behind bars."

The man, age about 50, was not alone in his belief. Person after person asked to comment on what needed to be done to combat drugs said they feared retribution if they were outspoken on the issue.

"Look at what's happening in Colombia," said a woman of about 30 with two children at a local laundromat. "It won't be very long before the same thing starts happening in America. I don't want it to start at my house."

Among the issues that Pampans said most intimidated them

was information in local news accounts that Panhandle-area drug dealers regularly keep and carry weapons and explosives. Three people cited stories in *The Pampa News* of an alleged local drug dealer who was arrested for keeping plastic explosives in his home, along with drugs.

Twice in the last year Pampa police have recovered explosives during local drug raids, a fact that is not lost on the citizenry.

"Why do you think they keep that stuff? You think they are going to go out and dig themselves an oil well?" a man jogging in Central Park asked. "Those guys mean business. It's a wonder you or some policeman haven't been killed already."

He went on to say, "Of course I'm afraid. You want to be a hero and come out in the paper against those guys, you go ahead. I'll read about it. That's my job where the paper is concerned."

Most of those questioned said they knew their opinions, if printed, might only egg on local drug dealers. "That's probably true," said a woman working in a downtown office building. "So don't print it."

When asked who was responsible for standing up to drug users and dealers, most of those who would respond said it was the job of police and not the average citizen. Several admitted "the common person" needed to take a stronger anti-drug stand but said they had reasons that prevented them from doing so.

Most of them went on to admit, when asked, that their lack of willingness to stand up publicly against drugs, might, in a roundabout way, contribute to the problem.

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Veterans parade to honor memorial

By BEAR MILLS
Staff Writer

Over 50 area businesses and organizations have made commitments to be involved in the upcoming Gray County Veterans Memorial Dedication Parade.

Scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23, the parade will begin at the Cuyler Street underpass and conclude at the Veterans Memorial at the intersection of Hobart and Ward.

John Triplehorn, Gray County veterans service officer, said the response of area merchants and clubs has been rewarding. Wednesday morning Triplehorn was one of several local Veterans of Foreign Wars members at the monument site to view the new flag pole donated by Phillips Petroleum.

"This is just wonderful," Triplehorn said. "I think that (American) flag is one of the most beautiful sights in the world."

In addition to making donations for the flag pole and monument, area businesses are agreeing to participate in the parade.

"The parade looks good. There are over 50 businesses and between 200 and 300 different people participating so far. We would love to have more though."

Among those who have signed up to be in the parade are:

Caprock High Marine Corp Drill Team, Budweiser, American Red Cross, Cranker Car Club, Top O' Texas Republican Women's Club, First Church of the Nazarene, United Way, Girl Scout Troop 109, Fritch Girl Scout Troop 44 and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 104.

Others include Disabled American Veterans, Smokey City Post 671-American Legion and Auxiliary, VFW Post #1657-Pampa and Auxiliary, Omega Energy, Rep. Warren Chidum, Pampa Office Supply, Panhandle Meter Service, Pizza Hut, Pizza Inn, Sam White Insurance, T's Carpet, Wal-Mart, Your



(Staff photo by Bear Mills)

Members of the local VFW post join officials from Phillips Petroleum in raising the American flag on a new flag pole at Memorial Park donated by the petrochemical company.

Laundry, Radio Shack and Southwestern Bell.

Also signed up are Adobe Walls VFW Auxiliary, VFW Post #1789-Borge and Sunnett, Gray County 4-H, Altrusa Club, Salvation Army, Daughters of the American Revolution, Larry Baker Plumbing, Coronado Nursing Center, Danny's Market, Fashion Floors, First Christian Church, Freeman Flowers, Eubanks Rental, Hall Auto Sounds and

Industrial Radiator.

Triplehorn said he had also received commitments from Skelly Fuel, KGRO, Laramore Locksmithing, KPND, Las Pampas, Lester's Fina, Malcolm Hinkle, McDonald's, Top O' Texas Rodeo Association and the Khiva Shrine Stage Band.

"The city has already said they will have their big fire truck and the county is talking about putting

together a float with all the commissioners working together on one," Triplehorn said. "We would also like to get some of the city fathers out for this thing as well."

Stressing that after 14 years of America not being involved in a shooting war many people have begun to take their freedom for granted, Triplehorn said paying tribute to both living veterans and

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Crossing the road



(Staff photo by Larry Hollis)

A pair of wild turkeys seem to casually stroll across the road in the 2100 block of Dogwood on Wednesday evening. The tom and hen had wandered into the Evergreen Park area from outside the city, perhaps looking for food, or may just out joining many Pampa couples out for an early evening stroll on a late summer day.

U.S. willing to negotiate end to Lebanon's civil war

By BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration plans to keep consulting with other countries to try to end the 15-year civil war in Lebanon despite the unprecedented evacuation of all American diplomats from the Middle Eastern country.

The situation in Lebanon is being added to the agenda for a U.S.-Soviet meeting already scheduled for next week, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Wednesday.

She gave no indication, however, whether Dennis Ross, head of the State Department's policy planning staff, had a new initiative to present to Gennadi Tarasov, a senior Soviet diplomat, when they meet at an undisclosed location to review Mideast developments.

The administration basically has deferred to the Arab League to arrange a cease-fire, and that strategy is apt to be maintained now that all American diplomats have been evacuated from Lebanon.

After their departure, which marked the first time the United

States pulled its ambassador from Beirut, the State Department angrily accused Gen. Michel Aoun, the commander of Christian forces, of imperiling the Americans' safety.

Ms. Tutwiler, reading from a prepared statement, said the evacuation was temporary.

"We have a responsibility to ensure the safety of our personnel," she said. "We plan to go back to Beirut as soon as conditions permit."

She said Aoun had threatened to subject the Americans to a "good dose of Christian terrorism" and even implied there might be hostage-taking.

The decision to evacuate was made Tuesday by President Bush with the unanimous concurrence of Secretary of State James A. Baker III and other high-level officials, Ms. Tutwiler said.

Some 1,000 demonstrators had blockaded the embassy, demanding that Ambassador John McCarthy recognize Aoun as the "sole legitimate authority" in Lebanon, she said.

After Bush made the decision to evacuate, McCarthy and his staff of about 29 were airlifted to Cyprus,

from which they later were flown to Frankfurt, West Germany.

The embassy was left in the charge of Lebanese guards. After it was abandoned by the Americans, the protesters disbanded.

In an AP interview, Abdallah Bouhabib, the Lebanese ambassador to Washington, disputed the U.S. account.

"We think that there was no danger whatsoever for the American diplomats there," he said. "There have been no real threats. The demonstration was democratic, like any demonstration."

In an extraordinary condemnation of Aoun, Ms. Tutwiler read from a prepared statement that accused him of lodging threats against the U.S. diplomats.

"We were told by reliable journalists on the ground that Gen. Aoun said that Lebanon needed a good dose of 'Christian terrorism,'" she said.

Last Friday, Tutwiler said, Aoun told the French newspaper *Figaro* that "perhaps he should take 20 American hostages."

According to her description, "Gen. Aoun's threats and implications about the U.S. grew nastier."

Astronauts: No qualms about flying with nuke reactors

By LAURA TOLLEY
Associated Press Writer

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — The astronaut who will command Atlantis next month on a mission to deploy a probe to Jupiter says he has no qualms about flying with two nuclear generators on board the shuttle.

The two radioisotope thermoelectric generators, or RTGs, will power the Galileo probe on its trip across the solar system. Some anti-nuclear groups claim the nuclear material could pose a health hazard if it were released during a shuttle accident, but Atlantis commander Don Williams said Wednesday the risk is minimal.

"The chances are so remote it's not worth worrying about," he said.

Williams and Atlantis' four other astronauts discussed the upcoming mission during individual interviews and at a final pre-flight press conference Wednesday at the Johnson Space Center. The crew will spend the next month training for the mission, scheduled to launch Oct. 12.

"There's a certain amount of risk involved in anything you do these days," Williams said. "(But) I'm satisfied in my mind ... that we've done the best possible job we can to make these things as safe as we possibly can."

Atlantis' other astronauts agreed.

"I don't see how it can hurt anyone unless it hits him on the head, and that's pretty remote. I think it is a complete non-issue except as a philosophical issue to some people," said pilot Mike McCulley.

The other crew members are Franklin Chang-Diaz, Ellen Baker and Shannon Lucid — all mission specialists. Mrs. Baker and McCulley are space rookies.

Each of the 122-pound RTGs contain about 24 pounds of highly toxic plutonium-238 dioxide. The heat released by the plutonium's decay is converted into electricity by instruments called thermocouples.

'I don't see how it can hurt anyone unless it hits him on the head, and that's pretty remote. I think it is a complete non-issue.'

The astronauts noted that the nuclear generators are the only known devices that can power a spacecraft going deep into the solar system far from the sun.

Voyager 2, which last month relayed stunning photos from the planet Neptune, is powered by similar RTGs.

"If we want to explore the outer parts of the solar system, we don't have a choice right now," Mrs. Baker

said. "Voyager wouldn't be where it is today and we wouldn't have gotten those beautiful pictures of Neptune back had it not been for the three RTGs that have powered Voyager so well for the last 12 years."

The United States has launched 22 nuclear-powered spacecraft since 1961, with all the plutonium packages encased in super hardened material designed to survive the worst possible fire or explosive conditions.

None resulted in the release of radioactive release, even though one package was aboard a rocket that exploded and two survived flaming re-entries through Earth's atmosphere after mishaps.

"Testing shows that they are built to last and withstand about anything you can imagine," Mrs. Baker said. She added that even some environmental groups "knowledgeable about the RTGs have given their seal of approval on this."

But some anti-nuclear and environmental groups have protested the use of plutonium aboard Atlantis, citing the 1986 Challenger explosion as an example of how things can go wrong. They contend a similar explosion could result in radioactive contamination of the Cape Canaveral, Fla., area.

The White House has to approve the mission because of the nuclear material aboard, and an announcement on the matter is expected within a few

days. If the mission is approved, opposition groups said they would seek a court order to block the liftoff.

NASA said an exhaustive post-Challenger safety review indicates that the chances of a launch accident in which substantial quantities of plutonium, pulverized to breathable form, could be released is about 1-in-2,700. And even then, NASA said, any contamination would be minor.

"They're completely safe in my opinion," Chang-Diaz said. "I'm planning to have my family there, and so I have tremendous confidence (in the RTGs)."

Once deployed, Galileo will embark on a six-year journey to Jupiter where it will fire a scientific probe into the Jovian atmosphere and orbit the planet for 22 months of extensive exploration.

"It's just very exciting," Lucid said of the mission. "It's important for us to learn. It's important for us to know about our solar system. It's important to learn about the universe we're in."

Williams said finding out more about another planet and its moons should help scientists learn more about how the Earth and its inhabitants evolved.

"Discoveries are awaiting the arrival of Galileo," he said.



(AP Laserphoto)

Fort Worth homicide detectives collect evidence found at house of 12-year-old suspect.

Youth main suspect in teacher's death

FORT WORTH (AP) — Police say they will continue searching for a knife that killed a Fort Worth elementary school teacher after a 12-year-old boy was taken into custody in connection with the case.

The youth, whose name was withheld because he was a juvenile, told investigators that he had disposed of the murder weapon near the school, but authorities had no luck finding it Wednesday.

"We're using a metal detector and we plan on mowing the lot," said Fort Worth police Sgt. Paul Kratz. "It's overgrown with heavy weeds, we're trying to do as thorough a search as possible."

Kratz said the youth is to be charged with delinquent conduct—murder in the slaying of Jana Simpson, 24, who died of numerous stab wounds outside a temporary classroom at Glen Park Elementary School in southeast Fort Worth.

The juvenile was being held Wednesday night at the Tarrant County Juvenile Detention Center, authorities said.

Authorities said the slaying on Aug. 28 came a day before the youth's 12th birthday.

"As far as I know he was not retarded intellectually but he was emotionally disturbed," said Wyvonia Ruffin, who last year was principal at Glencrest Middle School, where the boy was in a special education program. "As far as I was concerned, I never experienced him being violent. He was defiant, not violent."

Under Texas law, a youth under age 15 cannot be certified to stand trial as an adult.

A detention hearing for the youth has been set for Thursday. A judge will determine if he will be allowed to go home or if he will remain at the juvenile detention center.

Police said the youth gave them a statement indicating that Miss Simpson caught him trying to break into her portable classroom.

"Apparently, Miss Simpson caught this young man as he was prowling around the school," Kratz said. "Exactly what he was doing, we do not know."

"We know he was in other buildings at the school," Kratz said. "Some were actually broken in, some were opened, and he went in and wandered around."

A court-appointed attorney for the youth, Allan K. Butcher, said the boy is "clean-cut, small in stature — a slight boy."

"He gives the appearance of a boy younger than 12," Butcher said. Butcher said the boy's parents are "obviously upset and confused."

The boy's 14-year-old brother said he doesn't believe the youth could have committed the crime.

"I can't believe they're doing this," the brother told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "There's no way my brother would kill a teacher. He's scared to fight me."

The brother said that on the day Simpson was killed, he and the suspect were at home cleaning the house as punishment for wrecking a friend's car while out on a joyride several weeks earlier.

"The only trouble my brother ever got in was when we took the car," the brother said. "I don't understand."

Neighbors said yesterday that the boy's family is very religious and that the parents work a lot.

"They are real good people," said one neighbor, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "They take a lot of care in raising those boys."

Miss Simpson's brother, Chris Simpson, said he and his family learned there had been an arrest in the case Wednesday as they were gathering Ms. Simpson's belongings at her Fort Worth residence.

"We feel a lot better that it wasn't someone who knew Jana," said Simpson, who is stationed in Germany with the U.S. Army.

Janice Miller, principal of Effie Morris Elementary School in Lake Worth, Texas, where Ms. Simpson taught last year, said she was shocked when she learned the suspect's age.

"You know, working with children, I just can't believe anyone could be that violent," she said. "I just can't believe a 12-year-old could."

Restraining order issued in comics wars

By SUE FAHLGREN
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A state district judge issued a temporary restraining order Wednesday compelling Universal Press Syndicate to supply the Dallas Times Herald with 26 comics and other features the syndicate is trying to move to The Dallas Morning News.

Judge David West of 229th District Court ordered Universal Press to supply the Times Herald with the features before he hears testimony on a full injunction Sept. 14.

If the injunction is ordered, Universal Press would have to continue supplying the comics and columns while West decides on an antitrust suit brought by the Times Herald against Universal Press, The Morning News and its parent company, A.H. Belo Corp.

On Tuesday, U.S. Judge D. Brook Bartlett in Kansas City, Mo., denied a preliminary injunction based on copyright infringement issues sought by Universal Press, which is attempting to cancel the features published by the Times

Herald.

Because an agreement between the syndicate and the Times Herald permitting publication of the features expired Tuesday, the newspaper was forced to pull the features from Wednesday's editions. Instead, it printed boxed notes of apologies and thanks to its readers where the features normally appear.

But Times Herald Editor Roy Bode said the features will be published Thursday.

"When we appeared in federal court in Kansas City yesterday, we told the court we would not publish these features unless we received authorization from a state court or Universal," Bode said late Wednesday. "We received that authorization today through the temporary restraining order."

Universal Press officials contend their contract with the Times Herald continues with a 30-day notice clause allowing either party to cancel the feature each month. Universal Press told the Times Herald Aug. 2 it would cancel the features after Sept. 3. They filed the copyright

infringement case to ensure that the features were not published after that date.

After Wednesday's ruling, Universal Press representatives said they realized the Times Herald probably would resume using the comics and comics, but that the syndicate will continue to fight the action.

"Essentially, we're being forced to supply them to the Dallas Times Herald; we don't want to supply them," said David Oliver, an attorney with Smith, Gill, Fisher & Butts of Kansas City, Mo., which represents Universal Press.

"We've signed up agreements with The Dallas Morning News to supply them with our features and we can't supply them until this is settled," Oliver said.

Last month, Universal Press signed an agreement with The News and Belo to provide exclusive rights to their features in the Dallas market area and in exchange, Belo would use their features and related material on its television station, WFAA-TV, and other entities.

"We did enter into an agreement with The Dallas Morning News and Belo Corp., basically to supply them with all the UPS features and additionally, there were agreements to take these syndications into television," Oliver said. "Because UPS has an agreement with creators to exploit them in as many different markets as possible ... this is hurting our creators' chances for full exposure."

But Bode said he believed the syndicate is taking unusual action to cut off the Times Herald.

"I think that they went to The Morning News because they were offered a deal there and we were given no opportunity to respond to that" or make a counter-offer, Bode said.

"This is an extraordinary situation for any syndicate to cancel anyone," Bode said. "Now, if it were for non-payment or that the features were not succeeding in the market, that's one thing. But it's not a practice in the industry to take a whole package from one newspaper and to give it to another."

Farmers Insurance target of foreign purchase

By JOHN A. BOLT
AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — The French insurance company already is seeking regulatory approval to purchase Farmers Group Inc., even though its agreement to buy the U.S. company is contingent on Sir James Goldsmith's uncertain takeover bid for BAT Industries PLC.

Axa Midi Assurances said Wednesday it had filed for clearance to purchase Farmers in Texas and eight other states the California-based insurance company operates.

Axa Midi has agreed to pay Goldsmith \$4.5 billion to buy Farmers, if his \$21.6 billion offer for Farmers' parent company is successful.

Farmers has presented a stumbling block for Goldsmith's bid because regulators in the nine states where the insurer operates say they must approve a change in control of insurance companies.

Goldsmith's Hoylake Investments Ltd. claims his purchase of BAT does not constitute a change in control, and that U.S. regulators have no right to hold up a deal between two foreign companies. Hoylake is a Bermuda company; BAT is a British conglomerate.

Goldsmith has filed lawsuits against the nine state regulatory bodies, but none have reached a conclusion, although a Texas federal judge has refused to dismiss the suit at the same time he declined to stop the State Board of Insurance from proceeding with reviewing the deal.

Goldsmith's attorneys have said they will appeal the decision. Meanwhile, a hearing is scheduled to resume in Austin Friday on Goldsmith's contention.

The delay has angered Goldsmith, who claims BAT is using the regulatory process to undermine the deal because of a British law that requires takeovers to be completed

within a short time period. Currently, Goldsmith has until Oct. 7 to acquire BAT, although he has asked for an extension.

Axa Midi, which filed the required form in Texas Friday, said Wednesday Chairman Claude Bebear will visit the United States soon "to meet personally with the insurance and regulatory leadership."

"I believe that the best way to encourage an expeditious approval process is to personally assure those concerned of Axa's experience in the insurance industry, its first class financial strength and resources, and its long-standing interest in entering the U.S. market."

Axa's filing in Texas says it does

not "have any present plans to liquidate, or sell the assets of Farmers ... to merge or consolidate Farmers ... with any other persons, or to make any other material changes in the business, operational plans or corporate structure of Farmers" or its Texas subsidiaries.

Axa says its officials "presently intend to continue to operate Farmers (and its Texas subsidiaries) substantially as currently operated and to retain their present management," except those who are officers or employees of BAT or non-Farmers affiliates.

Besides Texas, Farmers also operates in Washington, Oregon, Illinois, Ohio, Kansas, Idaho, Arizona and California.

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Viewpoints

The Pampa News

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

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

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.

Frank Fletcher
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

Politicians should end their addiction

It remains a mystery why so few people question our now international "war" against drugs. True, political inertia is hard to change. But some questions should be raised and investigated.

The clue to unraveling the mystery might be that the "war" on drugs really consists of a variation on pork-barrel and special politics as usual in America. Seen in this light, the "war" is another social engineering program like the "war" on poverty of the past 25 years. And just as the "war" on poverty actually worsened the problem, so the "war" on drugs is making things worse.

In Colombia, drug lords supplying illegal dope to the United States have declared war on that country's democratic government. Back up north, crack wars have brought murder and mayhem to our neighborhoods. Some estimates indicate that 75 percent of violent crime in America stems from drug smuggling and related activities. If drugs were legalized or decriminalized, the profits of the Colombian smugglers and American drug gangs would dry up, rendering them virtually powerless.

Alas, this isn't likely to happen, even though small shifts are being made in this direction. After a long, agonizing reappraisal, conservative columnist Joseph Sobran recently came out for relaxing anti-drug laws. He quoted a political maxim of James Burnham, the late conservative philosopher: "Where there's no solution, there's no problem." In other words, since no amount of new drug laws and increased police forces can eliminate illegal drugs from our society, "no solution" exists; therefore, this really is not a political problem at all, though it remains a moral and spiritual one for each individual person or family debilitated by drug abuse.

Unfortunately, politicians cannot resist finding fake "solutions" to insoluble problems. This gives them an excuse to raise taxes, thereby increasing their own power while decreasing everyone else's. We saw this tactic in action recently on the drug issue.

House Speaker Tom Foley said that if President Bush wants his proposals, including a vast expansion of anti-drug efforts, to go forward, the president must repudiate his pledge not to raise taxes and must open, public and eager support for a tax boost.

Congressional politicians, along with scores of their brethren across the nation, know that the latest demagogic code phrase is "drug war." It opens up pocket books and increases their political power. And like people addicted to narcotics, those addicted to political power need a bigger and bigger fix each time to get high, no matter what harm it does to the body politic.

The solution remains the same for narcotic or political junkies: withdrawal of the drug; in the politicians' case, the drug of bad drug law, enforced by ever-increasing tax seizures.

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Why do we put up with it?

A government monopoly in mail delivery is one of those ideas, like artificial turf or sushi bars, whose defects should be so obvious as to ensure their swift demise. Yet somehow it, like those other malignancies, has not just survived but flourished.

Last year's 14 percent increase in the cost of mailing a letter, from 22 to 25 cents, drew some attention to proposals for allowing private companies to compete in the delivery of first-class mail. And now the Postal Service has indicated it may have to be raising its postal rates again, perhaps up to as much as 32 cents within three years.

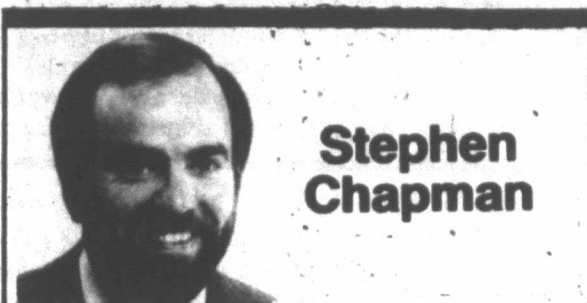
The most notable recommendation came in a report of the President's Commission on Privatization — President Reagan, not Bush — which argued that ending the Postal Service monopoly would "provide better, more innovative service at competitive prices."

That it surely would. A nation that has attained one of the world's highest standards of living by allowing a free market to provide everything from food to computers has no reason to fear letting private firms carry the mail.

But proponents of change face stubborn obstacles. The largest is the political influence of 800,000 postal employees (the largest single civilian work force in the country), who are no more enchanted by the free market than auto or textile workers.

Their power is augmented by an array of Postal Service claims about the mournful consequences that would follow the slightest relaxation of the ban on private competition. These are used as fundamentalist preachers use biblical passages about Hell — not to educate but to frighten.

The first is that the American postal system is the best and cheapest in the world. Americans acquainted with its rising costs and declining ser-



Stephen Chapman

vice should take this less as praise of our system than as an indictment of everyone else's.

Whether this claim is true or not, there's no reason we should resist opportunities to make things better. General Motors and Ford once made the best cars in the world. Toyota and Nissan came along to prove there was plenty of room for improvement.

The breakup of AT&T is generally cited as proof of the danger of such experiments. It shouldn't be. The annoyances associated with the rise of competition in long-distance phone service are transitional. The benefits, in more choices and dramatically lower rates, are permanent.

Disciples of the status quo also insist that private companies will not be interested in providing the same comprehensive service now enjoyed by postal customers. They will merely "skim the cream," snatching away lucrative urban markets and leaving the dregs, including remote rural customers. A Postal Service spokesperson proudly notes that it delivers to an Indian tribe located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, a service that costs nearly three times what the tribe has to pay.

What this argument omits is that for every

Grand Canyon Indian getting below-cost mail, dozens of city dwellers are shamefully overcharged. In any case, the prospect of huge numbers of farmers and forest rangers being cut off from the mails is preposterous. In express mail, where competition is allowed, Federal Express claims to serve 99 percent of the U.S. population. United Parcel Service says it will deliver to any address in the U.S. or Puerto Rico, no matter how far off the beaten track.

If competition were a bad thing for consumers, private companies wouldn't have taken away 90 percent of the parcel market from the Postal Service.

If a few places on the bottom of the Grand Canyon cost too much for private companies to bother with, the government could simply pay them to do so. Likewise with the blind and members of Congress acting on official business, who now get to use the mails free. Likewise with the indefensible subsidies to non-profit groups and newspapers and magazines, which get a discount financed by the taxpayers.

That would cost a fraction of what customers pay for the inefficiencies of the mail monopoly. The privatization commission said the potential savings to the economy from lifting the ban on private mail delivery would amount to something between \$4 billion and \$12 billion. Jim Miller, director of the Office of Budget and Management, says direct subsidies to rural customers would cost about \$26 billion a year. If we are keeping the existing system to protect these customers, we are paying upwards of 50 times too much.

It's no wonder that the Postal Service imposes such burdens on us, since monopolies aren't famous for their efficiency or responsiveness to consumers. The wonder is that we put up with it.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 7, the 250th day of 1989. There are 115 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:

On Sept. 7, 1825, the French hero of the American Revolution — the Marquis de Lafayette — bade farewell to President John Quincy Adams at the White House at the conclusion of his tour of the United States.

On this date:

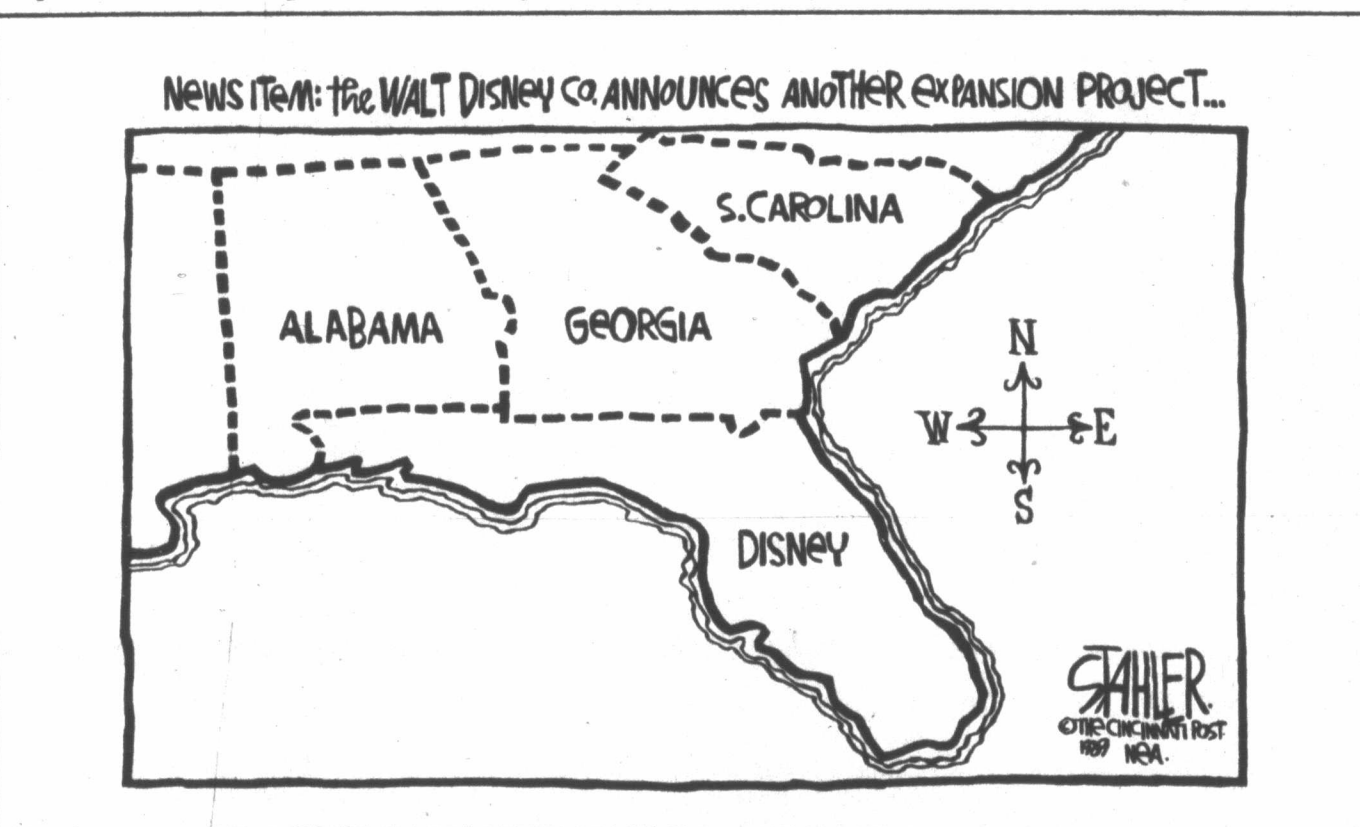
In 1533, England's Queen Elizabeth I was born in Greenwich.

In 1822, Brazil declared its independence from Portugal.

In 1901, the Peace of Beijing ended the Boxer Rebellion in China.

In 1936, rock legend Buddy Holly was born Charles Hardin Holly in Lubbock, Texas.

In 1940, Nazi Germany began its blitz on London during World War II.



At least a few serve in faith

A government investigation has turned up the fact that Americans are being taken for millions by people selling religion.

It's the old give-me-all-your-money-or-you're-going-to-hell trick.

And a lot of ignorant people are falling for it. If it's not a guy telling a flock it must fund his radio stations, it's a television evangelist pleading he's got to receive donations in the seven figures by sundown or the Lord's going to call him home.

It would please me greatly if the Lord would say to all these hucksters, "I'm going to call you, but home's not what I had in mind. Surprise."

One of the results of all of this certainly must be an across-the-board loss of faith in men and women of the cloth.

You're going to trust Jimmy Swaggart? You would rather deal with Richard Nixon first. And never turn your back on Jim Bakker, for a number of reasons, and I can't help but think Oral Roberts is a latent pickpocket.

But now how about your own minister? What about the person you hear each Sunday? Are we also losing faith in these people because of the more visible snake-oil salemen?
In my case, the answer is "yes."



Lewis Grizzard

Point a Bible in my face, and the first thing I'm going to do is check to see if I still have my wallet.

Then, this happens:

My mother has been seriously ill for a long time. That she has lived as long as she has is a miracle in itself.

She took a turn for the worse recently, and I'm at her bed in the hospital. She's this tiny, precious thing whose eyes tell of her pain and suffering. For those who love her, the helplessness we feel is overwhelming.

A man walked into my mother's hospital room as I stood near her. He introduced himself. He is the minister of the Methodist church in my hometown of Moreland, Ga. I grew up in that church. I

even married in it.

He's a young guy. Early 30s, I guess. Here's Swaggart making millions and I've got to wonder what my mother's minister makes tending the small flock of Moreland Methodists.

"How are you, Christine?" he asks my mother. She manages to reply, "I'm not doing too well, Preacher."

And he takes her by the hand and smiles down at her and I can sense an easing of my mother's pain.

The young man says, "I've just seen two others. Moreland's really been hit by a lot of sickness lately."

And the young minister has responded. He is spending his day at the bedside of the aged and suffering.

Before he goes, he asks if he might pray. And he takes my mother's hand again, and he closes his eyes and he beseeches his Lord to look down with kindness at the poor woman in the bed, and he asks that the family be given the strength to stand by her.

All this time I am thinking: *There are at least a few messengers of the faith who are interested in more than a fast buck after all.*

Surprise. Surprise.

His report was politics, not sociology

By BEN WATTENBERG

Has the Kerner Commission report of 1968 been repudiated?

It's an important question. Ideas have consequences. The Kerner study, which came after black riots, shaped the thinking of a generation. If Kerner was flawed, the thinking that grew from it may be flawed.

Kerner's central statement was that America "is moving toward two societies, one black, one white — separate and unequal." Why? The answer was clear, said Kerner: "white racism."

The results of racism were also clear to Kerner: Conditions for blacks were dreadful, apparently deteriorating, and would worsen unless the federal government acted massively.

Comes now a new study, by the National Research Council: "A Common Destiny: Blacks and American Society."

The NRC report does not seek to discredit Kerner, or even deal with it directly. Yet, consider the summary of NRC by the director of the study, Professor Gerald Jaynes of Yale: "Although better by a wide margin

than it was in 1940, by nearly all objective measures, the status of blacks relative to whites has stagnated or regressed since the early 1970s."

So: NRC says there was great progress in the good old days of the civil rights movement — until the early 1970s. But Kerner, which came out in those good old days, said things were terrible, and likely to get worse.

Which is right? NRC's statement of no relative progress for blacks since the early 1970s is arguable; I think black progress has continued. But NRC's conclusion that progress was made in the '60s is correct. It is supported by mountains of data.

Kerner was not only off-base factually. It sent out harmful messages to blacks and Americans generally. By concentrating on racism and government, Kerner shortchanged the argument now called "the culture of poverty," which stresses internal problems of the black community.

Some NRC scholars (by no means all) understand that Kerner was misguided. Professor Glenn Loury of Harvard, an NRC panelist, states: "By

saying that implacable white racism brought about poor conditions, Kerner posed the situation as a white problem, not a black problem. That is a harmful notion for blacks."

Loury, who is black, is right. Efforts to root out racial discrimination must continue. But the doors of opportunity are open. Loury believes blacks are better served by focusing on open doors rather than blaming their situation on racism.

Professor Nathan Glazer of Harvard, another NRC panel member, says: "The Kerner Commission taught us to concentrate on the undoable or the unimportant."

Glazer believes Kerner's stress on racism led to stressing civil rights enforcement as the major tool of black advancement. That led to disruptive fights about school busing, reverse discrimination and quotas.

Glazer believes that was a wrong turn because major legislative battles had already been won. Education should have been emphasized: The payoff is surer and less polarizing.

Another sad Kerner legacy is a paradox: that the tool of big government doesn't work — and that only the

tool of big government can possibly work. Wrong twice.

In the 1960s America mounted a major governmental effort to help minorities. Social and welfare spending went up by 89 percent in real dollars. Black poverty was cut almost in half. Along came Kerner and said things don't get better even when the government spends. Conservatives whooped.

But Kerner also said only vast amounts of government dollars could solve the problem. As with the racism idea, that de-emphasized individual effort.

Dr. Bernard Gifford, NRC member and vice president of Apple Computer, says that dwelling on either of the grand arguments, racism or government, "can cripple those who are trying to make change one day at a time."

Gifford, a black, says Kerner was not scholarship, but a "political period piece that delayed serious intellectual thought about the real pathologies in the black community."

Correct: Kerner was politics, not sociology.

Bennett taking Bush's drug plan to Capitol Hill

By CAROLYN SKORNECK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — National drug policy director William J. Bennett is taking the campaign for the administration's \$7.9 billion anti-drug plan to Capitol Hill, and he expects to succeed.

Bennett says he is heartened that much of the Democratic criticism heard thus far on the drug control strategy announced Tuesday night by President Bush has concerned money to pay for the proposal, not the basic tenets.

A number of congressional Democrats have said the program doesn't go far enough and that Bush should recommend a tax increase to pay for it instead of proposing to take money from other programs.

The \$7.9 billion sought is \$2.2 billion above the 1989 budget authorization.

Bennett today is to face Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph R. Biden Jr. — who said the Bush plan isn't "bold enough, but it's a good start" — in the first congressional hearing on the plan.

Bennett told a packed National Press Club audience Wednesday that Biden revealed "no substantive disagreements with the strategy" in his Democratic response to the Bush plan aired Tuesday night.

As for those who say the \$7.9 billion is



William Bennett

inadequate to fight the war on drugs, Bennett said, "I'm just not going to be all that repetitive to criticism of the figure of \$8 billion from people whose correct mark is \$6 billion."

Bennett said the strategy, if pursued "con-

sistently over time," will enable the country to win the war against drugs, but he cautioned that it won't happen quickly with any "Batman through the transom" flashy solutions.

The strategy, which Congress had directed Bennett to develop, calls for a law enforcement crackdown on all levels of drug trafficking, from drug kingpins overseas to casual users in America. It seeks a 53 percent increase in funding for treatment programs, a 25 percent increase in prevention efforts, and a vast expansion of the federal prison system to house drug offenders.

Bennett said the strategy, if pursued 'consistently over time,' will enable the country to win the war against drugs.

The strategy also calls for \$261 million next year in military and law enforcement aid to Colombia, Peru and Bolivia, the three main cocaine-producing countries. The administration plans to offer those countries some \$2 billion more over the next five years once they demonstrate solid efforts to cut down on drug trafficking.

Meanwhile, Bush on Wednesday visited the District of Columbia General Hospital's pediatrics ward and cradled one of about a

dozen infants who were abandoned after birth by mothers addicted to drugs.

The babies, after being cured of their own drug dependencies, still must wait for months until foster care can be found for them.

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, temporarily halted a Senate effort to bolster treatment programs by cutting funds for congressional mailings.

The measure, proposed by Republicans and accepted by Democrats, would reduce the \$80 million proposed for next year's congressional mail, transferring \$45 million of it to a treatment program for pregnant women addicted to crack cocaine and other drugs.

A vote was blocked by Stevens, who argued that such a cut would deprive Alaskans of an important source of news.

The American Civil Liberties Union said the drug strategy will compromise civil liberties and will be "counterproductive and cynical," shortchanging prevention and treatment programs while putting "overwhelming reliance on the criminal justice system."

Donald Fiedler, national director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said the program declares "war on at least 25 million fellow citizens who are leading productive lives but for their casual or regular use of marijuana."



Clayton Hartwig

Report says sailor likely blast cause

By SUSANNE M. SCHAFER
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Navy report being issued today concludes that gunner's mate Clayton Hartwig "probably caused" the blast aboard the USS Iowa by inserting a detonating device amid bags of gunpowder in the battleship's 16-inch guns, Pentagon sources say.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified by name, said the Navy was unable to pinpoint a precise cause of the April 19 explosion, which killed Hartwig and 46 others. The tragedy ranks as the worst naval disaster since the Vietnam war.

Pentagon officials planned to release the report today, more than four months after the explosion in the battleship's No. 2 gun turret during training exercises northeast of Puerto Rico.

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Leon Edney; Rear Adm. William Schachte, the head of the Naval Investigative Service; and Rear Adm. Richard Milligan, who headed the inquiry, planned to brief reporters on the 1,100-page report.

The Pentagon sources said the Navy believes that Hartwig was the "most likely person" to have caused the blast. Investigators found that he was closest to the breach of the gun before the explosion occurred and that he was in charge of overseeing its loading.

The report found that "foreign material" was discovered in the gun that Hartwig manned, and that such material would not normally have been present after the firing of the 16-inch guns, the sources said.

The sources said they could not say what exactly was found remaining in the gun, but that it led investigators to believe that Hartwig apparently placed a type of timer or detonator between the bags of powder.

Ramming the bags and such a device up against the projectile that had already been placed in the gun barrel would have caused the powder to explode back into the seven-story turret. The only survivors of the blast were in the lowest level of the complex.

Meanwhile, congressional sources said the Navy inquiry found that "an unlawful and illegal act" by Hartwig probably caused the explosion.

Kathy Kubicina, Hartwig's sister, said Wednesday night, "This is nothing I didn't expect... I fully expected the Navy to try and pin this on my brother..."

"None of the guys on the Iowa believe my brother blew up the turret," she said.

The Navy was hampered in its inquiry by the absence of any seamen who survived the explosion at close quarters. Navy sources had said in May that investigators were looking into the possibility of homicide or suicide resulting from a falling-out between Hartwig and another sailor.

Navy spokesman Cmdr. Mark Baker declined to comment Wednesday night on the reports from congressional sources.

Pentagon sources have said previously that the report "cites a probability" that human action, calculated or otherwise, caused the explosion. The officials also have said they ruled out any specific mechanical cause for the blast.

Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Kendall Truitt, one of 11 sailors in the base of the seven-deck turret who survived but did not witness the blast, had charged that the Navy leaked reports that the service was investigating his relationship with Hartwig.

Truitt said investigators suggested he had had a sexual relationship with Hartwig.

Paula Abdul leads in MTV awards

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP) — Paula Abdul doesn't mind being known as a former Laker Girl but the four MTV Video Music Awards showed on her "Straight Up" video should help sideline the cheerleader image.

"You don't want to see me weep, do you?" she asked the audience Wednesday night as "Straight Up" collected trophies for best female video, dance, choreography and editing.

"I owe a lot to being a Laker Girl," the ex-cheerleader for the Los Angeles basketball team said backstage. Only nominations for best new artist and breakthrough video didn't pan out.

Madonna, veteran rocker Neil Young and newcomers Living Colour also were top winners at the sixth-annual event.

Young's satirical "This Note's for You" won the coveted best video award, although MTV once banned the video, ostensibly because it contained commercial messages.

Madonna won the Viewers'

Choice trophy for "Like a Prayer." Her "Express Yourself" video earned direction honors for David Fincher, the art direction trophy for Vance Lorenzini, and best cinematography for Mark Plummer.

"I guess this means you like me, you really like me," Madonna told the crowd in a joking echo of actress Sally Field's "You like me" acceptance speech at the 1984 Oscars. "And I'd like to thank Pepsi for causing so much controversy."

The Pepsi Cola Co. in April withdrew its TV commercial featuring Madonna and its sponsorship of her tour. The commercial featured a burning cross and other images that offended some Christians.

Living Colour, a band that blends rock, funk, reggae and jazz, won the best group, new artist and stage performance awards for "Cult of Personality." They accepted by satellite from Pittsburgh, where they were performing in concert with the Rolling Stones.

"Veronica" gave Elvis Costello the male video honor, and R.E.M.'s

"Orange Crush" captured the post modern category.

The career-achievement Video Vanguard award went to pop singer George Michael.

Rap went to D.J. Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince for "Parents Just Don't Understand."

"This is a dream come true," said Fresh Prince, 19, who urged all of the "kids out there" to "stay away from drugs and all that stuff."

"Kiss" by Art of Noise featuring vocals by Tom Jones was named breakthrough video of the year.

Guns 'N Roses had the best heavy metal video with "Sweet Child O' Mine" and the combination of Irish rockers U2 and veteran bluesman B.B. King earned a best video from film trophy for "When Love Comes to Town" from the concert movie *Rattle and Hum*.

The show, with host Arsenio Hall, featured performances by Miss Abdul, Cher — in a leather jacket and skimpy teddy — Def Leppard, Jon Bon Jovi, Richie Sambora, and Madonna.

Hurricane Gabrielle may spare Bermuda

MIAMI (AP) — A weakening Hurricane Gabrielle is expected to spare Bermuda from destructive tropical storm-force winds when it passes the island tonight, and the East Coast will get little more than big ocean swells, forecasters said.

Forecasters said it appeared the storm center would pass 350 miles east of Bermuda.

"They may not get the core of it at all, but they are already getting 15-to-20-foot swells," Bob Sheets, director of the National Hurricane Center, said Wednesday night. "They'll get some showers, some winds and definitely some surf

problems." Gabrielle's top sustained winds dropped to 120 mph as it swirled north on a path far from the United States. At one point, the storm's winds topped 130 mph.

Still, the storm was so large that swells of five to 13 feet were recorded more than 1,500 miles away, from Florida to Maryland, Sheets said.

"We have a very large wind field around this hurricane," he said.

Winds 39 mph or higher — a speed that forecasters define as tropical storm-force — stretched 250 miles to the west and 300 miles to

the east as Gabrielle curved north in the mid-Atlantic, forecasters said.

If Gabrielle's center passes 350 miles east of Bermuda, the island would be out of range of those storm-level winds.

Gabrielle is the largest and most powerful hurricane of the season, rating just below last year's Hurricane Gilbert, which ravaged the Caribbean with 155 mph winds.

At 5 a.m. CDT, Gabrielle's center was located near 28.5 degrees north latitude and 60.0 degrees west longitude, or about 375 miles south-east of Bermuda. It was heading north at 15 mph.

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Nationalists narrowly keep majority

By LAURINDA KEYS
Associated Press Writer

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu said today that 23 people were killed during protests against black exclusion from voting that saw the National Party suffer its worst setback in 41 years in power.

The Nationalists narrowly retained their parliamentary majority in Wednesday's elections, suffering heavy losses to both anti-apartheid and segregationist rivals.

But acting President F.W. de Klerk said today that the results showed that most voters support his party's plan to extend limited political rights to blacks.

With just two of 166 election districts undecided, it appeared the Nationalists would retain at least 93 of their previous 123 seats in Parliament's dominant white chamber.

The Conservatives, who want stricter enforcement of segregation laws, improved from 22 to 39 seats, and the liberal Democratic Party from 20 to 33, making the biggest gains ever for an anti-apartheid faction.

In protest of their disenfranchisement, blacks observed a nationwide general strike that anti-apartheid leaders called the biggest anti-government protest ever with 3

million people taking part. Violence flared in many areas and police said an unspecified number of people were killed and more than 50 arrested.

Tutu said 23 people of black and mixed race were killed in townships near Cape Town, where some activists erected burning barricades and threw stones, and police were seen marching through streets firing in all directions.

Hospitals and monitoring groups said more than 100 people were injured as riot squads used whips, tear gas and shotguns to stop peaceful anti-election rallies and disperse stone-throwing crowds in more than 20 townships.

The South African Press Association said the dead included a 23-year-old black woman killed when police fired shotguns to disperse a crowd.

For the first time since a 1953 election, the Nationalists' were expected to receive less than a majority of the white vote. They won 48.5 percent, to 31.2 percent for the Conservatives and 20.2 percent for the Democrats.

De Klerk is expected to be chosen by an electoral college next week to serve a five-year term as president.

He described the results as "a



de Klerk

clear mandate" for his party's plans for gradual political reform and said the government now must concentrate on opening negotiations with blacks.

"Seventy percent of the whites voted for parties favoring renewal and reform ... and granting political rights," de Klerk said today, linking his party with the liberal-minded Democrats.

During the campaign, de Klerk had associated the Nationalists with the right-wing Conservatives, say-

ing that in the 1987 white election 80 percent of voters had shown a preference for those parties' promises to enforce segregation.

De Klerk's campaign platform called for limited black participation in national politics within five years. However, he rejects a one-person, one-vote system leading to black majority rule and supports maintaining segregated schools and neighborhoods.

"The implementation of a comprehensive economic action plan together with political development will get our country on the road of prosperity again," de Klerk told a news conference.

However, he would not answer a question about how the government would start negotiations after the tough police action against blacks during five weeks of protests leading up to the election.

"The government handled the defiance campaign with aplomb and in a very reasonable way," de Klerk said.

Of South Africa's 37 million people, 5 million are white, 28 million black, about 3 million of mixed race and nearly 1 million of Indian descent. Under apartheid, blacks have no vote in national affairs and maintain separate districts, schools and health services.

Fungicide taken off market due to possible cancer risk

WASHINGTON (AP) — A widely used class of fungicides is being taken off the market voluntarily for dozens of crops — from apples to cucumbers — because government tests indicate a higher risk of cancer than may be acceptable.

The three manufacturers of the fungicide EBDC announced Wednesday they are curtailing the use of the chemical "to maintain public confidence" in the food products involved. However, they maintained the chemical is safe for consumers if used properly.

EBDC, or ethylene bisdithiocarbamate, has been under a special review by the Environmental Protection Agency since 1987 because a breakdown product from the chemical has been shown to cause cancer in test animals.

The agency recently informed the companies of preliminary cancer risk estimates that likely would require curbs on the use of EBDC on some food products, according to agency documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The fungicide has been used for nearly 40 years to combat mildew and mold on more than 70 different food crops including apples, potatoes, tomatoes, sweet corn, onions, mushrooms, carrots, grapes, lettuce

and citrus fruits, among others. In a joint announcement the three manufacturers — the Du Pont Co., Pennwalt Corp. and Rohm & Haas Co. — said Wednesday they will discontinue sales of the chemical for use on all but 13 food products.

The manufacturers maintained that use of the chemical — if applied properly — poses no health concerns, but said "the theoretical risks" that are being reviewed by the EPA in connection with use on some products "unnecessarily raises questions about the safety of this entire class of fungicides."

Such concerns have been heightened since the uproar earlier this year over the pesticide Alar. While the EPA did not formally order Alar off the market, its link to cancer and the widespread publicity over its use on apples earlier this year caused the sale of apple products to plummet, costing the apple industry tens of millions of dollars.

The manufacturer of Alar subsequently stopped selling the pesticide in the United States to calm consumer fears.

EPA spokesman John Kasper confirmed that the agency is preparing to announce some curbs on the use of EBDC because of the latest cancer risk data on some food crops.

Quadriplegic granted wish to refuse life

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — A 33-year-old quadriplegic quietly accepted the news that a judge had granted his wish to be allowed to shut off the machine that has kept him alive the past four years.

Larry McAfee, paralyzed from the neck down in a 1985 motorcycle accident, won permission Wednesday to fit the ventilator that allows him to breathe with a device he designed in his head as he lay paralyzed.

"He said, 'Well,' and was quiet, just said, 'Well, good,'" said nurse Carol Philpot at the Briarcliff Nursing Center in Alabaster, Ala., where McAfee is staying. "He's kind of digesting the news, I think."

Under his plans, McAfee would be administered a sedative and use a mouth-held stick to activate the device, which would be connected to a timer to shut off the ventilator.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Edward Johnson ruled that McAfee's right to refuse life-sustaining treatment outweighed the state's interest in preserving life.

As a competent adult, McAfee has the right to refuse medical treatment, the judge said.

"The ventilator to which he is attached is not prolonging his life, it is prolonging his death," said Johnson, who had jurisdiction because McAfee is from Atlanta and had petitioned the Georgia court before he was taken to the Alabama nursing home.

McAfee asked the court's permission to shield anyone who helped him from potential legal problems.

Johnson told McAfee's parents and three adult sisters that the ruling would set a precedent so families in similar situations could make their decisions more privately.

In that way, the judge said: "Larry will have made his last and greatest contribution to his community. I have never met anyone who had a stronger impact on my own life than he had on me when we had the hearing at the hospital."

Although most "right-to-die" cases involve comatose patients or those who cannot make their wishes known, a case similar to McAfee's came up in July. A 38-year-old Michigan man paralyzed in a surfing accident died after a court decided he had the right to have his life-support system shut off.

Johnson ordered the state, which supported McAfee's petition, to appeal to the Georgia Supreme Court but said McAfee need not await the outcome.

McAfee's lawyer, Randall H. Davis, said he didn't expect any opposition.

"The judge hopes they will issue a definitive opinion to make it so that similarly situated people won't have to go to court and go through all this," Davis said.

Davis was unsure when McAfee would ask to be sent back to Georgia so he could disconnect the ventilator; he said his client wanted to be sent to a friend's apartment instead of a hospital.

"He has expressed a desire all along to move this along as quickly as possible," Davis said. "I assume that continues to be his desire."

Johnson conducted a hearing at McAfee's bedside last month, hearing him testify that he wakes up "just fearful of each new day."

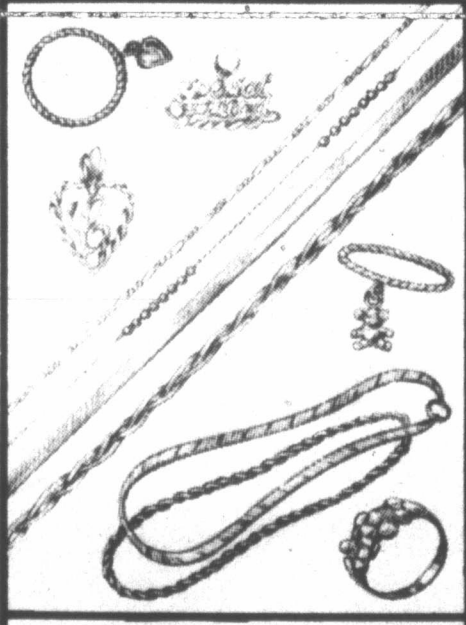
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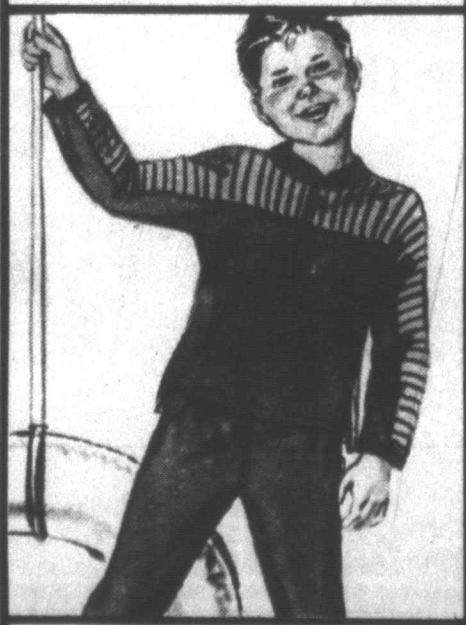
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Lifestyles

Recognizing a reputable breeder when buying your family pet

By Sharon Henry

Top O' Texas Kennel Club

The reputable breeder's primary concern is with the welfare and quality of his/her breed(s) in general and the individual puppy in particular. A breeder is an artist, striving for perfection, not merely a puppy producer.

A puppy or older dog from a reputable breeder will rarely be cheap, but the price doesn't begin to reflect the investment of the breeder.

A prospective buyer will be asked many questions. The reputable breeder wants to be assured that the puppy will be happy and healthy in its new home and will try to match the puppy's personality to the prospective new homes' environment.

Generally a written contract will be provided for buyer and seller to sign. The contract should contain all pertinent information indicating your ownership of the puppy and all agreements made.

A reputable breeder will own either champions of obedience or

confirmation titles or dogs in the process of attaining the title and can provide proof of title. The parents of the puppy should either be champions or dogs of high quality.

Insist on seeing the facilities in which the puppy is being raised. If you find them dirty and flea infested, look elsewhere for a puppy. A reputable breeder does not necessarily have fancy kennels or chain link runs, but the house, grounds and animals will be clean and well cared for.

Reputable breeders are usually members of at least one American Kennel Club member club. A pedigree will be provided and explained as well as immunization and health records. All immunizations will be up-to-date and there will be a record of the last worming or fecal exam and its results. Generally there will be some kind of replacement guarantee against crippling canine hip dysplasia and/or other genetically inherited diseases prevalent to the particular breed.

If the dew claws are supposed to be removed or the tail docked, this

should be done long before the puppy is old enough to go to a new home. If it is a breed which is supposed to have its ears cropped, this will usually be done already.

If problems arise with your new puppy, a reputable breeder will take it back or assist in finding it a new home. Expect them to contact you after the sale to be sure all is going well. In the breeder's zeal to protect their puppies they are also protecting the buyer, and the breed.

If you are interested in buying a quality purebred you should contact a member of an area AKC All-Breed Kennel Club. Chances are they will know someone who breeds the dog you are looking for. If you don't know a member of a Kennel Club you can write the American Kennel Club, 51 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10010. They can send a list of breeders who are members of the individual breed's national clubs: The Poodle Club of America, American Bullmastiff Association, Pomeranian Club of America, Doberman Pinscher Club of America, etc.

Talking about son's death turns mother's loss to gain

DEAR ABBY: The letter about how a mother who has lost a child in death should respond when she is asked how many children she has prompted me to share my experience.

I have two daughters living and one son who died last January on his 29th birthday.

The first time I was asked this question following my son's death, I was standing in the checkout line at the grocery store the Saturday before Mother's Day. The gentleman ahead of me asked me if I had any Mother's Day plans. I said, "No." Then he asked me how many children I had. I hesitated for a moment, then said, "Three, but I lost my son in January — that's why I'm not celebrating this year."

He asked how old my son was, and was his death an accident. I told him my son was 29, and I felt that his death was an accident because my son loved life so much I'm sure he would never knowingly overdose on drugs — but like so many young people of his generation, overdosing on drugs was something that only happened to "the other guy."

The man was very sympathetic and told me that he had recently turned his 16-year-old son in to the police for selling drugs. He said he had mixed feelings about what he had done, but after talking to me, he was convinced that he made the right decision. Now his son was getting the help he needed and he wouldn't be responsible for contributing to the possible loss of other lives. We said goodbye and wished each other luck.

When I got to my car, I sat and cried for a few minutes. Yes, it hurt to talk about my son's death, but in a small way, I had helped someone else.

Now when someone asks me how many children I have, I will always answer, "Two daughters, and one son who died." If questions follow, I'll answer them.

But not including my son who died is like saying that he never existed. With 29 years of memories, some good, some bad, my son will always live in my heart.

SACRAMENTO MOTHER OF THREE

DEAR MOTHER: My heart goes out to you and to all parents who have lost a child in death, which is the most tragic loss one can experience. That's why I recommend Compassionate Friends, a national fellowship of parents who have lost children in death. They meet and find comfort in consoling each other.

For those who have never heard of it, but have lost a child — of any age, regardless of how long it's been — the address is:

Multiple Sclerosis support group joint meeting in Perryton

A joint meeting of the Perryton, Pampa and Guyton support groups of the Panhandle Chapter, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, will be Wednesday, September 13 at the First National Bank in Perryton at 6:30 p.m.

For more information and for car pool information contact Cheryl Herring, Perryton at 435-2476; Linda Davis, 669-2791 or Kayla Pursley, 669-9312, Pampa; or Yvonne Ralstin 405-338-3476, Guyton.

Dinner will be served at no charge but reservations are needed. Contact any area chairman or the MS office in Amarillo, 372-4429 by September 12.



Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

Compassionate Friends, P.O. Box 3696, Oak Brook, Ill. 60522-3696, or call at (312) 990-0010.

DEAR ABBY: My children keep giving me "little things" for my birthday, Christmas, etc. I have asked them not to. Instead, I suggested that they deposit into a savings account in my name the money they would have spent. This can be used when I retire.

I am still working, but am looking at retirement in a few years. Due to some unfortunate circumstances, I will have a very small retirement fund to draw on, so I thought if they did this, it would help me to retain my self-esteem. (We aren't wealthy; neither are we poor.)

I live in a small condo with limited space and can display only so many of these "little things." I have all the material things I want or need. When it's time for a garage sale, guess which "little things" go. Right! Then my kids are hurt because I didn't think enough of their gifts, given in love, to keep them. Abby, I have no place to put them!

What do you think of my idea?

NEARING RETIREMENT

DEAR NEARING: I think it's a great idea.

DEAR ABBY: I hope you will print this. There must be other executives who have this problem and don't know how to handle it tactfully.

Take a letter, Mrs. Brown: You are an excellent secretary, but I wish you would leave your

personal problems at home. I am not a marriage counselor or a financial adviser, and I have neither the time nor energy to listen to problems concerning your children.

When you confide your personal problems in me, although I may appear interested and sympathetic, the truth is, I am very uncomfortable and I resent using my time (and yours) on such matters.

I value your services and don't want to seem unkind, but I prefer to keep our relationship strictly impersonal and professional.

YOUR BOSS

DEAR BOSS: I don't know how many bosses share your view, but I'm sure many of their wives do. When a secretary starts crying on her boss's shoulder, she frequently ends up in his arms. The only way to discourage personal conversations (in the office and out) is to abort them at the onset.

Dear Abby's Cookbooklet is a collection of favorite recipes — all tested, tried and terrific! To order, send your name and address, plus check or money order for \$3.50 (\$4 in Canada) to: Abby's Cookbooklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054. (Postage is included.)

Clarendon College Pampa Center

Basic Investments: Stocks and Bonds

An eight week informational class covering all basic investments with emphasis on stocks and bonds will meet beginning September 19 from 7 to 10 p.m. Tom Byrd from Private Ledger is the instructor. For more information contact the college at 665-8801.

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DUNLAPS

Club News

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild met at the Hobby Shop on August 24. Presiding at the meeting was Susie Edwards. Following the reading of the minutes and treasurer's report, Donna Reynolds gave a report on the proceeds of the donation quilt given away at Chattanooga. Sammie Curl of McAllen was the winner.

Doll quilts for the Salvation Army Doll Project are being turned in. Mary Alice Curl of Miami volunteered to be keeper of the quilts.

Friendship blocks in the "basket" pattern were turned in to Starla Nicholson and Carol Vines passed out her friendship pattern of nine patch to be made this coming month. Vines also has set up a quilt day at her home on September 14. A lesson on strip quilting was

given by Edwards using the rotary cutter.

Next month members will baste quilt tops during the regular meeting. The guild meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Hobby Shop and guests are welcome.

Show and tell items: an alphabet baby quilt by Reynolds, a denim jacket with quilt design applique by Dianne Nutsch, several wall hangings by Vines, a king-size quilt in the log cabin pattern by Eleanor Crossland.

Hostesses were Vines and Billie Williams. Guest was Joyce Lunsford of Miami.

Worth While Extension Homemakers Club

Worth While Extension Homemakers Club met on September 1 in the home of Belle Lee. Seven mem-

bers were present.

The meeting opened with the club prayer and devotionals by Edith West. Club officers were installed for the new year.

Donations were given for the Tralee Crisis Center. Audrey Stewart explained Donna Brauchi's demonstration on making bread in a bag. Recipes were given out and some bread samples.

A meeting is set for September 14 at 1 p.m. in the annex on self-help, daily living and senior care.

The next meeting will be a luncheon and meeting at the Senior Citizens.

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Today's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Campus area
- 5 Young bear
- 8 Actress Ariane
- 12 Capable of (2 wds.)
- 13 Guardian spirit
- 14 Fencing sword
- 15 Food (sl.)
- 16 Before (poet.)
- 17 Ireland
- 18 Soft leather
- 20 Triangular pieces
- 22 Subsequently
- 24 Reagan
- 28 Distant planet
- 32 Jug
- 33 Australian birds
- 35 Promotional tape (abbr.)
- 36 Rolls out
- 37 Water-searching rod
- 41 Commonplace writing
- 42 Cities
- 44 Crown
- 48 Vagabond
- 52 School of modern art
- 53 A rose _____
- 55 Rams' mates
- 57 Dramatic conflict
- 58 Before Dec.
- 59 Bye-bye
- 60 Exercise system
- 61 Chemical suffix
- 62 Actor Jannings

DOWN

- 1 Can. prov.
- 2 Arrow poison
- 3 Aleutian island
- 4 Medicine portion
- 5 Actor Lee Van
- 6 Former name of Egypt (abbr.)

- 7 Beer maker
- 8 Contract of ownership
- 9 _____ in a poke
- 10 Roll call answer
- 11 Sediment
- 19 Time division
- 21 Age
- 23 Chinese measure
- 24 Actor Sparks
- 25 Filled with reverence
- 26 Verne hero
- 27 Indian tribe
- 29 Never (poet.)
- 30 Center of shield
- 31 Destroyer's targets
- 34 Compass point
- 38 Short for Susan
- 39 Regal fur
- 40 Rubidium symbol
- 41 Settle debts

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
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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				59			60		61	
62				63			64		65	

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GEECH

By Jerry Bittle

I'VE DECIDED THAT FROM NOW ON, I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY INTELLIGENT THINGS.

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN JUST DECIDE.

YOU CAN'T?

NO, YOU'RE EITHER INTELLIGENT OR YOU'RE NOT. IT'S NOT A MATTER OF CHOICE.

SILLY ME.

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

CADDY SHACK

OKAY, CADDY... LET'S GIVE IT A TRIAL RUN

WOW... LOOK AT THAT!

VERY GOOD!

EK & MEK

By Howie Schneider

Y'KNOW... I THINK THAT PRESIDENT BUSH REALLY DID IT.

IT IS A KINDER AND GENTLER NATION... ISN'T IT?

I WOULD'NT KNOW...

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN POLITICS

B.C.

By Johnny Hart

HOW FAR WOULD YOU SAY FROM HERE, CADDY?

ABOUT 120 YARDS.

I HATE THESE GREENS.

MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong

NO, MARVIN... NO COOKIES BEFORE DINNER

MOMMY DIDN'T SAY IT TO BE MEAN, HONEY... I DO IT BECAUSE I CARE

...TO "NO" YOU IS TO LOVE YOU

ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue

WHATCHA WANT US 'D DO WITH 'EM, YER MAJESTY?

HANG 'EM UP BY THEIR ANKLES!

...WE'LL LEAVE 'EM OUT HERE FOR TH' NIGHT-STALKERS!

SNAFU

By Bruce Beattie

"I can't decide. Which refrigerator comes in the best box for my kid to play in?"

MARMADUKE

By Brad Anderson

"We've been to a surprise party. They were surprised when Marmaduke ate all the sandwiches."

WINTHROP

By Dick Cavalli

WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME LAST NIGHT TO PRESENT OUR GUEST, SKITCH POKKER...

AND WE WON'T HAVE TIME AGAIN TONIGHT... GOODNIGHT, EVERYBODY.

SKITCH MUST BE THAT GUY IN THE BACKGROUND, GRINDING HIS TEETH.

CALVIN AND HOBBS

By Bill Watterson

THE FEARLESS SPACEMAN SPIFF IS BEING PURSUED ACROSS THE GALAXY BY DREADED SCUM BEINGS.

THEY'RE GAINING! SPIFF'S ONLY CHANCE TO LOSE THEM IS TO RELEASE A GIANT SMOKE CLOUD BEHIND HIS SPACECRAFT. OUR HERO THROWS THE LEVER!

HEH HEH... JUST UH, CLAPPING THE ERASERS, HEH HEH... (COUGH)

YOU AGAIN? *SIGH* I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT EVEN 8:30 YET.

THE BORN LOSER

By Art Sansom

I DON'T BELIEVE IT...

WHAT NEXT, THE ILLUMINATED SUNDIAL?

PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schultz

DOCTOR, DO YOU FIND THAT MAKING HOUSE CALLS HAS BECOME MORE DIFFICULT?

DEFINITELY

ESPECIALLY, WHEN YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED IN THE HOUSE...

FRANK AND ERNEST

By Bob Thaves

I ONCE HAD MONEY TO BURN, BUT LATELY I'VE BEEN SIFTING THE ASHES.

GARFIELD

By Jim Davis

JON PUT A BELL AROUND MY NECK

HE THINKS IT'LL KEEP ME FROM CATCHING BIRDS

HE'S PROBABLY RIGHT

Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) The best way to defuse small domestic crises which might occur today is to keep a cool head and take things in stride. Do not let your temper take over. 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.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) It's important today that you do not prejudice the behavior of associates before they even do anything. Rushing to judgment could create a number of unnecessary problems.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) There's a chance you might be denied doing something enjoyable today because of your past extravagance. Unfortunately, it is a lesson you may have to learn the hard way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) If you sulk about the house today with a cranky disposition, don't expect family members to cater to you. They won't be in a mood to deal with a foul temper.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Be extra mindful of how you interact with others today. Your patience could be rather thin and if someone does something you dislike, you might respond in an unbecoming manner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Some special form of assistance for which you've been hoping might not be forthcoming today, so to be on the safe side, it might be wise to have a back-up plan prepared.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Objectives you are desirous of achieving today may not be handed to you on a silver platter. Be prepared to put out additional effort for what you deem important.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today you might relegate your logic and objectivity to second place and resort to the unproductive luxury of emotionalizing. This won't solve problems.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you're not careful today you might be drawn into an undesirable arrangement and obligate yourself to engage in something in which you'd never participate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) It's necessary today that you do all that you can to be cooperative. An important relationship could be jeopardized if you are too self-serving.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Systematize your work today and set a realistic agenda for yourself. If not, you could become quickly fatigued or uninspired doing tasks in a disorganized fashion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Try to keep everything out in the open in your social involvements today. Tricky or petty political maneuvers could be interpreted as deceitful and cause you to lose face.

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Sports



(AP Laserphoto)

Boris Becker shakes hands with Yannick Noah after their quarterfinal match.

Becker pounds Noah to advance to semis

By HAL BOCK
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Living on borrowed tennis time, Boris Becker is turning the often unforgiving hardcourts of Flushing Meadow into a private playground.

It was in the first week of the U.S. Open that the second-seeded Becker stared into the abyss of elimination, faced with two match points against somebody named Derrick Rostagno. He survived the crisis, winning in five sets, and now his game is reaching the kind of crescendo he usually reserves for the grass courts of Wimbledon.

Becker dominated Yannick Noah 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 in the quarterfinals Wednesday night, a thrashing that was thorough and convincing.

Certainly, Noah was convinced. "His serve was much too fast for me," he said. "There was no way I could return. His first was pretty hard and his second was very high. I just had trouble through the whole match."

"It was much easier than I expected," Becker said. "I expected to lose a set, maybe two."

But his booming serve made the lime green tennis balls seem like they were being launched by a bazooka and kept Becker in charge. He broke Noah early in every set and just cruised after that.

U.S. Open

"It was probably my most consistent, my best match ever here," the three-time Wimbledon champ said. "Wimbledon is the tournament for me and always will be. But if I win this tournament, I wouldn't mind at all."

The victory moved Becker into the semifinals against No. 14 seed Aaron Krickstein, who advanced when cramps forced Jay Berger to retire in the fourth set of their match.

Krickstein was leading 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 when Berger began moving in slow motion, his left leg stiff from cramps.

"I thought that something was wrong because in the second set he began playing a few loose games," Krickstein said. "I felt the longer the match, the better off I'd be. I didn't think he'd cramp up like that."

With Berger in obvious trouble, the crowd got behind the No. 11 seed, urging him on.

"I don't think a lot of the people know the rules exactly," Krickstein said. "A cramp isn't an injury, so a player can't take an injury timeout. He's got to play through it. I wasn't even going to serve. I was going to wait it out, but the guy gave him the

code violation. Jay said he was ready, I served. What was I going to do? I'm trying to win the match."

Berger said nervousness and tension had caused his problem.

"I thought I did the right thing preparing. ... I had a lack of the right minerals and I was burning off a lot of energy," he said. "It would have been stupid to continue because, physically, I could have hurt myself and there was no chance of winning."

On the women's side, defending champion and top-seeded Steffi Graf made fast work of No. 8 Helena Sukova, dispatching her 6-1, 6-1 in just 44 minutes, and Gabriela Sabatini, seeded third, ousted No. 6 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Graf and Sabatini, finalists here a year ago, will team in today's women's doubles semifinals against Hana Mandlikova and Martina Navratilova and then play each other in Friday's semis. Arriving there was easier for Graf, a straight-sets winner for the fifth consecutive match, than it was for Sabatini, who had to battle from behind.

"I think I started a little slow," Sabatini said after losing the first set.

Basically, Graf said, her game does not change, no matter who is on the other side of the net.

Vikings slight favorite over Bears

By DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

Since 1985, the Chicago Bears have won 52 games and lost 11 and are 24-0 against the division sad sacks — Green Bay, Tampa Bay and Detroit. They've won the NFC Central five straight times.

But that's all they have to show since their Super Season of 1985. They're 1-3 in the playoffs, all of those losses in home games.

So Mike Ditka has been in typical frenzy as the season approaches.

"Getting to the Super Bowl is not good enough," he says. "Our goal is to go all the way. We've been awfully close and we've been a good team, but we have to become better."

Lurking up north is a Minnesota team that looks, on paper, like the league's best. Its only problem — it can win the big games but not the small ones, beating the Bears twice last season only to lose the division title by losing twice to 4-12 Green Bay.

The rest of the division remains years behind — Detroit and Tampa Bay may be improving slightly;

Green Bay is literally starting over with 20 Plan B free agents signed on the premise that other teams' rejects can't be any worse than what was already in town.

Chicago retains some key players from that awesome 18-1 1985 team — Dan Hampton and Steve McMichael anchoring the defensive line with Mike Singletary behind it, Dave Duerson at strong safety and an offensive line that remains the same. The only difference — they're all four years older.

The rest of the cast is basically new, headed by Neal Anderson, who with help from Thomas Sanders has stepped in for the retired Walter Payton at running back without the falloff you would expect when the leading rusher in NFL history retires.

Holding off Minnesota, however, will be a problem.

The Vikings had a league-high nine Pro Bowlers last year and added a tenth when they traded with Pittsburgh for linebacker Mike Merriweather. The pass rush headed by Chris Doleman and Keith Millard is every bit as good as Chicago's; Joey Browner is the league's best strong

safety, and an offense headed by Wade Wilson and featuring wide receiver Anthony Carter is far more explosive than the Bears.

The other three teams can only hope for an even level.

Tampa Bay went 5-11 last year, its best record in five years. But four of the wins were over Detroit and Green Bay.

Ray Perkins' Bucs remain the league's youngest team but young players have to get older for a team to improve — turning over third-year players for rookies every year won't cut it. There is some improvement on an offensive line led by last year's No. 1, Paul Gruber, and the defensive line was better last year, particularly against the run.

But there's still a long way to go.

Detroit was 4-12, but finished 2-3 after Wayne Fontes replaced Darryl Rogers as coach and showed some promise on defense, where the standout play of linebackers Mike Cofer, Chris Spielman and George Jamison was lost in the general obscurity that surrounds the Lions.

Prediction: 1, Vikings; 2, Bears (wild card); 3, 4, 5 — Take your pick.

Weekly Football Poll					
Week One: Sept. 8-10	Sonny Bohanan	L.D. Strate	Bear Mills	Larry Hollis	Guest Voter Burley Prater
Pampa at Canyon	Pampa	Canyon	Pampa	Canyon	Pampa
White Deer at Canadian	White Deer	Canadian	White Deer	White Deer	Canadian
Clarendon at Wheeler	Wheeler	Wheeler	Wheeler	Wheeler	Wheeler
Groom at McLean	McLean	McLean	McLean	McLean	McLean
Patton Springs at Lefors	Lefors	Lefors	Lefors	Lefors	Lefors
Follett at Miami	Follett	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami
Baylor at Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Baylor
Rice at Tulane	Tulane	Tulane	Tulane	Tulane	Rice
Texas A&M at Washington	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M
TCU at Missouri	TCU	Missouri	Missouri	TCU	Tie
Arizona at Texas Tech	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Texas Tech
N. Illinois at Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska
Dallas at New Orleans	Dallas	New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans	Dallas
Houston at Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Houston
Cincinnati at Chicago	Chicago	Cincinnati	Chicago	Chicago	Cincinnati
Last Season's Totals:	195-80 .710	169-91 .650	182-93 .662	182-93 .662	175-100 .636

NFC CENTRAL

	Chicago	Minnesota	Tampa Bay	Detroit	Green Bay
Season	12-4	11-5	5-11	4-12	4-12
Last 8 Games	5-3	6-2	3-5	2-6	2-6
vs. NFC Central	6-2	6-2	4-4	2-6	2-6
vs. NFC	9-3	9-3	4-8	3-11	3-9
vs. AFC	3-1	2-2	1-3	1-1	1-3
at Home	7-1	7-1	3-5	2-6	2-6
on Road	5-3	4-4	2-6	2-6	2-6
on Artificial Turf	2-2	9-2	1-4	3-8	1-2
on Grass Fields	10-2	2-3	4-7	1-4	3-10
Points (NFL Rank)	19.5 (187)	25.4 (4)	16.3 (22)	13.8 (28)	15.0 (26)
Opp. Points (NFL Rank)	13.4 (1)	14.6 (2)	21.9 (19)	19.6 (10)	19.7 (117)
Yards (NFL Rank)	332.3 (11)	349.7 (7)	316.3 (17)	212.8 (28)	291.5 (24)
Opp. Yards (NFL Rank)	272.5 (2)	255.7 (1)	322.2 (13)	332.3 (18)	302.7 (7)
Rushing Yards (NFL Rank)	144.9 (3)	112.9 (20)	109.6 (21)	77.7 (27)	86.2 (26)
Opp. Rush. Yards (NFL Rank)	82.9 (1)	100.1 (5)	96.9 (2)	127.3 (17)	131.9 (20)
Passing Yards (NFL Rank)	187.4 (20)	236.8 (4)	206.8 (12)	135.1 (28)	205.3 (13)
Opp. Pass. Yards (NFL Rank)	189.6 (9)	155.6 (2)	225.3 (26)	204.9 (15)	170.8 (5)
Turnover +/- (NFL Rank)	+1 (127)	+23 (1)	-19 (26)	+3 (107)	-9 (25)

Bucks, 'Cats set to clash in opener

High school roundup

CANADIAN VS. WHITE DEER
Canadian opens the football season Friday night and Paul Wilson is a worried coach.

Not only do the Wildcats have to face a defending state champion in White Deer, but Wilson says his club just isn't ready to take the field yet.

"We're just not as far along as we wanted to be," Wilson said. "We're still moving people around to different positions on offense and the timing and execution just isn't there."

Canadian's starting backfield remains unsettled going into Friday night's 8 p.m. clash in Wildcats' Stadium. The fullback spot is being shared by 145-pound senior Ty Hardin and 175-pound junior Paige Ford. Seth Crouch (165-pound senior) and Toby Schaefer (150-pound senior) are still battling for the starting right half position.

"Right now we're as concerned with not stopping ourselves as we are as stopping other people. We're not too smooth yet, but it will come in time," Wilson said.

Canadian does have a proven quarterback in senior Shane Lloyd who threw for over 1,400 yards last year.

Canadian's defense is in about the same shape as the offense, Wilson said.

"Because of injuries we'd had to move people around, so our defense isn't where we want it to be either. We've still got to go play them, regardless," Wilson said.

Defensive tackle Matt Martin is one of the injured, but he's tentative-

got a quick, aggressive line in front of them."

Dennis Carpenter, new head coach at White Deer, feels Canadian has the potential to make the playoffs again.

"They've got six starters back, both offensively and defensively, so they've got some experience," Carpenter said. "I look for them to be much improved over last year."

Carpenter fears Canadian's passing attack with Lloyd at quarterback and Larry Dunnam and Tra Johnson at receivers.

"Lloyd was a good passer last year and he should be greatly improved. Both of their receivers can catch the ball pretty good," Carpenter said.

Carpenter also has a lot of respect for the Wildcats' hurry-up offense.

"We've been working on some things we hope will stop that. They do a good job with the element of surprise and our players need to be ready for anything," he pointed out.

Carpenter rates Canadian's defense — led by 175-pound senior linebacker DeWayne Evans and 200-pound senior tackle Jim Boy Hash — as a solid unit both up front and in the secondary.

"Evans is a very, very good player. He's one of their best defensive players. I remember Hash from last year as one of their better linemen," Carpenter said.

White Deer's Wing-T offense is shaping up for the challenge.

"We're going to go out and do what we've been doing and try to execute to perfection. We know

what we have to do, and we know we're going to have to do it well against their good defense," Carpenter said.

The Harris Football Rating System has White Deer favored by 14 points over Canadian.

WHEELER VS. CLARENDON
Wheeler beat up on Clarendon 48-6 last year, but the Mustangs might not have it so good when the two teams meet at 8 p.m. Friday night in Wheeler.

"Clarendon has most of their kids back from last year and they have a new coach who has changed both the offense and defense," said Wheeler coach Ronnie Karcher. "They've got some good size and I know they've got speed because several of their football players are on the track team, which won two or three meets last year."

Clarendon was winless last season.

"I really don't know what to expect from them as far as their offense goes," Karcher said. "I do know that they threw some out of the shotgun in a couple of scrimmages."

Wheeler opened its season last week with an impressive 21-8 win over Beaver, Okla.

"We made a lot of mistakes against Beaver and they fumbled the ball away to us, but I thought we did pretty good for the first game," Karcher said.

Beaver coughed up the ball a half-dozen times, two that led directly to Wheeler scores.

Please see High school, Page 10

The captain enjoys his wife, though she does clown around

By ALEXANDER KAFKA
Corpus Christi Caller-Times

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Capt. Jerry Vernon is in charge of the \$220 million construction of Homeport. He is tall, with ramrod-straight posture and a serious demeanor. And on his desk is a portrait of his friend, his love, his life-mate — Frinkles the Clown.

Frinkles boasts that "If it weren't for me, he'd have a very boring life," and she unceremoniously calls the captain the "Boy Scout of the world."

But then, she can get away with it. She's his wife.

Frinkles, otherwise known as Nancy Vernon, 46, is one of a hearty contingent of South Texas clowns, or "Joys." In the Corpus Christi area there are 17 members of Clown Alley, 230 of the Clowns of America International, as well as Shriner circus clowns and independent champions of the greasepaint.

Although Joys share a deep commitment to daffiness and tomfoolery of all kinds, there are as many reasons for clowning as there are clowns. The experts — the reputable Frinkles, Dee Jay and Lanky — are cases in point.

Frinkles is an extension of Vernon's personality. But Dee Jay was developed in studied contrast to his creator, Mike Farrell. And in the world of pranks and mischief, Lanky is the envoy of his reserved counterpart, Danny Kollaja.

Vernon grew up in Houston cherishing circus performances and admiring the likes of Gargantua the

Gorilla and Clyde Beatty the lion tamer. She started clowning when she and her husband were stationed in Guam, where a retired Ringling Brothers clown was giving classes.

For the past five years, the seventh grade Texas history teacher at Rockport-Fulton Junior High school has been a part-time professional clown, performing at conventions, birthdays and charitable events. She said Frinkles' character traits are an exaggeration of her own.

Frinkles was named by Vernon's 12-year-old daughter for her freckles and her wrinkles. She is an auguste clown, characterized by flesh-colored makeup, a maniacal mien and a hopelessly mismatched wardrobe.

You can't miss her. She's the one with bright-blue, curly hair, megaylashes, blue-and-white polka-dot suit with yellow suspenders, huge saddle oxfords with yellow and white socks, and a yellow beanie conveniently equipped with proppellor.

"Frinkles is definitely on the screw-loose side," Vernon said. "I think that anybody who's into clowning has a split personality in a sense."

Vernon's other incarnations include the upbeat ghost tale-telling witch, Hysterica Eccentrica, and the early-American Texas tall-tale raconteur, Antie Nan.

Vernon said she has a whole closet full of exotic costumes. Her family is moving to a new house, and Vernon said the Navy men charged with transporting her costumes "look at me like, 'Hey, this is

pretty kinky.'"

Asked whether she ever confuses her three characters (or four, depending how you look at it), Vernon said, "Oh, no. I can flip in and out so quickly. It's kind of scary. A psychiatrist would have a ball with me."

She adds, however, that her personality voyages are "very therapeutic, very rewarding ... They're just extensions of myself, whoever that may be."

While Frinkles is an evolved caricature of Vernon, Mike Farrell's greasepaint persona was a conscious creation.

For example, when Farrell, midday DJ for country KOUL-FM, addresses his largely 30s female audience, his voice is, by his own reckoning, deep and mellifluous. But when he becomes Dee Jay the Clown, Farrell's voice becomes whiny and nasal. The two characters, Farrell said, "are not even close."

The 39-year-old Farrell said Dee Jay's physical mannerisms are "benevolent and friendly." After all, the hobo clown with the 6-foot-2-inch frame doesn't want to scare his kindergarten and elementary-age charges.

And unlike some clowns, Farrell's Dee Jay never goes into a frenzy. As a hobo, he's subdued, like a tramp clown, but wears brighter colors and even smiles now and then.

Among Farrell's other selves are the ventriloquist figures Cousin Dilly and Nutty the dodo bird. Farrell explains that the former got his name:

"Cause'n when he tells a lie, it's a dilly." Nutty, however is a wise guy ("Why do birds fly south in winter, Nutty?" "Cause it's too far to walk.")

If Dilly and Nutty's approach to entertainment seems laid back, Farrell's is anything but.

He's been at his education in serious buffoonery for 21 1/2 years and credits one of the city's most popular clowns, Happy De Klown (Efrain Guerrero Jr.), with aiding in the formation of Dee Jay's character as well as his repertoire of magic tricks.

Farrell has invested a considerable amount of time and money in his hobby.

He said that during his first year of clowning, he spent about 10 hours a week practicing, but these days his practice takes about 18 to 24 hours a week. His costumes,

magic equipment, ventriloquist dolls, books and videotapes cost about \$5,500, he said.

When clowns aren't talking, they're usually ballooning, not getting fat, mind you, but twisting balloons into animals and other shapes. And Farrell has learned to create a menagerie of balloon forms, among them the chihuahua, swan, floppy-eared dog, fancy poodle, parrot on a perch, flower and pirate saber.

If Frinkles is Vernon's amplified self and the dee jay's Dee Jay the product of careful concoction, Lanky the Clown embodies the suppressed impetuosity of Danny Kollaja.

Kollaja, assistant director of volunteer services for the Corpus Christi State School, is 30 years old. His clown counterpart, however, is 11 and acts his age.

"It's hard to get a straight answer from Lanky sometimes," said Kollaja. "When you think he's friendly, he'll come out with a snotty remark."

"Danny'll fall back on Lanky quite often to lose his inhibitions," said Kollaja, who estimated he spends a minimum of 10 hours a week as the boisterous orange-haired clown.

Lanky started as a whiteface clown but found the aloof dignity of whiteface hard to maintain. As Kollaja put it, Lanky wanted to "get down and dirty," so he became an auguste clown, who can be as childish and wisecracking as he pleases.

Lanky also switched to auguste because he enjoys performing for adults. "Whiteface doesn't work too well with drunks," Kollaja explained.

Kollaja has taken advantage of Lanky's adult market niche by mastering a ballooning sub specialty he calls "blue humor" balloons. He said the novelty is gaining local notoriety.

"People see me and say, 'Hey, this is the clown that does the perverted balloons.'"

Kollaja's careful to note, though, that Lanky's more precocious balloon talents are never used around children.

A package arrived in Kollaja's office and he jumped up eagerly to open it. Important personnel forms? A new Rolodex, maybe?

No, a Batman cape. Kollaja shrugged with parental resignation and sighed.

"Lanky wanted to play Batman."

Oldest comp insurer quits

DALLAS (AP) — The state's oldest and largest writer of workers' compensation insurance has decided to get out of the business because of mounting deficits and a deteriorating market, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

In a letter sent Friday to policyholders, Dallas-based Texas Employers Insurance Association blamed the "large financial burden" posed by the company's liabilities for increasing deficits in the state's assigned risk pool.

The firm has written workers'

comp policies in Texas for the 75 years.

"With the compensation situation as bad as it is, there is no future for a company locked into one kind of insurance," John Stephens, TEIA chairman, told *The Dallas Morning News*. "It's a big stigma to go broke. It's not a stigma to say we feel it's necessary to get out of the comp business."

TEIA will remain a servicing carrier for more than \$200 million in premiums, but it will stop writing new workers' comp policies.

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