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MONDAY

## School board to consider money-saving workman's compensation provision

By BEAR MILLS  
Staff Writer

Pampa public school trustees meet in regular session 6 p.m. Tuesday night at Carver Center to consider a workman's compensation provision that could save the district thousands of dollars per claim in the future.

Superintendent Dr. Dawson Orr said, "In 1983 we were paying \$40,000 a year in workman's compensation insurance and this year our rates are \$190,000. Anything that helps us contain costs in that area is important."

Orr noted that state reforms now allow a governmental entity to adopt an off-set policy that employees injured on the job can receive no more than 100 percent of regular pre-injury wages.

If the policy is not adopted, an employee filing a workman's compensation claim could be eligible for up to 170 percent of pre-injury wages, Orr explained.

"The primary advantage to adopting this policy provision is that it should assist us in controlling compensation related claims while still providing employees their normal earnings until they return to work," Orr said.

"The primary disadvantage is in administering this policy. We feel that adopting this provision could be very beneficial to the district. Although administering this policy is very complicated, it will be limited to a few isolated cases."

Orr is also scheduled to reveal a proposed drug use/awareness questionnaire that high school students could be given in the spring.

He said a similar test was given five years ago and allowed students to anonymously tell staff their level, if any, of drug and alcohol abuse, and awareness.

"We hope to re-administer this test anonymously and see where we are," Orr stated. "It will help us to answer questions about young

people's awareness, habits and level of education. It also gives us some sense of who they would go to if they needed help. That will help us in program planning."

School board members are also slated to consider improvement plans for Chapter I programs on three of the district's elementary campuses.

Administrators said that Chapter I is designed to help low achievers return to the level of other students.

However, the federally-funded program is not achieving the level of success desired at Lamar, Baker and Wilson elementaries, school officials said.

Improvement plans for those three programs will be discussed and voted on by trustees.

Other action items include food service bids, student extended travel schedules for 1990-91, cafeteria equipment financing, and the annual performance report.

## Bush names former governor as new secretary of education

By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush today named former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander education secretary, filling a Cabinet slot vacated last week when Lauro Cavazos was forced to resign.

Bush made the announcement at a morning meeting with reporters at which he also introduced his new labor secretary, outgoing Rep. Lynn Martin. Bush announced the Martin appointment Friday, while she was home in Illinois.

Still open is the top job at the Republican National Committee, vacant anew because of last week's surprise withdrawal by William Bennett.

Alexander has long been a recognized national leader in education

reform. He left the Tennessee governor's office in 1986 and is now president of the University of Tennessee.

"Lamar, if you remember, was at the forefront of efforts to restructure our nation's schools," Bush said in introducing Alexander to reporters at the White House.

Of Martin, Bush said: "Working Americans have a friend in Lynn Martin. She understands the challenges facing our workforce."

As governor, Alexander installed a career ladder for Tennessee teachers that offered better pay for improved performance.

Alexander promised to help Bush advance his goal of becoming known as the education president.

Cavazos was forced out by White House chief of staff John Sununu and others in the administration who

did not believe he was being a forceful advocate of Bush's agenda.

Martin, who lost in an effort to unseat Democratic Sen. Paul Simon, replaces Elizabeth Dole at Labor and as the sole woman in the Bush Cabinet.

"We will make sure the 1990s will be remembered as a pinnacle of chance and opportunity," Martin said. "If I do my job, it means that somewhere sometime, someone's life will be better. Someone will have a better chance. That's really what government is supposed to be about."

Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos was forced out of his post last week, and Bennett withdrew as Bush's choice for the GOP job. Bennett said it would crimp his income from books and speaking engagements.

## Sewing for tots



(Staff photo by Jean Streetman-Ward)

Joyce Puckett of the Pampa Senior Citizens Center stitches on a stocking for children attending Community Day Care Center. Senior Citizen Center members began work Friday on cutting out and making 110 Christmas stockings for the children.

## Salvation Army receives good news — and bad news — today

By BETH MILLER  
Staff Writer

The local Salvation Army had good news and bad news to report this morning.

The good news is that the \$4,000 needed by this weekend to qualify for a \$30,000 matching grant from a local foundation was met, Lt. Donald Wildish of the Salvation Army said today.

The bad news is that the Salvation Army is \$12,000 short of its

\$35,000 Christmas goal with a week left before the holiday, Wildish said.

Wildish said he is thankful the \$30,000 had been met to receive the matching grant. However, he pointed out that the funds for that project had been raised during a five- or six-month period.

"That has very little to do with Christmas," he said today. "The largest portion of that money was raised three months before the Christmas work began."

The \$30,000 matching grant is going to the Dallas Salvation Army office to pay off a loan made to the Pampa Salvation Army earlier this year to continue the agency's programs here, Wildish said.

Wildish pointed out that this year's goal for the Christmas campaign was increased from \$31,000 last year to \$35,000 this year because of an increased need by residents.

"We're a little bit further

behind than we were last year," he said.

There was an estimated \$5,000 remaining to be raised last year at this time to meet the \$31,000 goal.

Wildish said he is concerned that there is still \$12,000 remaining to meet this year's goal. "I'm not sure what the reason is," he said.

Salvation Army kettles are out and staffed at numerous locations in the city. Wildish said people can donate to the kettles or can send

money to the Salvation Army at P.O. Box 1458. People can also stop by the office at 701 S. Cuyler to make donations or contact the Salvation Army at 665-7233 to have a donation picked up.

Regarding one of the many Christmas programs sponsored by the Salvation Army, Wildish said tonight is the last night for residents to pick an angel off the angel tree at Wal-Mart. This morning there were about 10 angels left. Wildish said the tree will be taken

down tonight at the close of Wal-Mart's business at 10 p.m.

Volunteers are also needed to set up the Christmas toy shop today and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. both days, he said. Volunteers are also needed to operate the toy shop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and to clean up on Friday and Saturday.

The toy shop is located at 520 S. Russell this year, Wildish said, which is the First Assembly of God's Family Life Center.

## NATO says Iraqi withdrawal only solution to crisis in Persian Gulf

By ROBERT J. WIELAARD  
Associated Press Writer

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The 16 NATO allies said today the Persian Gulf crisis can only be settled peacefully by an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Reiterating their readiness to wage war against Iraq as early as next month if necessary, the NATO foreign ministers said a "complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the sovereignty and legitimate government of Kuwait are unequivocal conditions for a peaceful solution" to the gulf crisis.

"There can be no partial solutions," said the statement issued on the opening day of a two-day NATO foreign ministers' meeting. It called the Iraqi seizure of Kuwait on Aug. 2 a "flagrant violation of international law."

The ministers condemned the Baghdad government's "persistent

contempt" for United Nations resolutions imposed to try to force it out of Kuwait.

"Iraq's behavior threatens peace," the foreign ministers' statement said.

Also today, Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council said it wants peace but would not cave in to demands by the United States and its allies.

The council said it rejected American attempts to impose a date for a meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Secretary of State James A. Baker III. The Iraqi council said in a statement that Iraq does not fear the "fleets and forces of oppression."

The NATO ministers' statement was issued after Baker discussed the gulf crisis with his NATO counterparts along with his stalled efforts to start direct talks with Iraq.

While the allies said they hoped war could be averted in the gulf,

they reaffirmed their pledge to abide by all U.N. resolutions, including one adopted Nov. 29 that authorizes the use of force unless Iraq withdraws from Kuwait by Jan. 15.

"The responsibility now lies with the government of Iraq to ensure peace by complying fully with the mandatory United Nations decisions," the foreign ministers' statement said.

NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner opened the meeting by saying the allies "are determined that the brutal aggression and violation of international law committed by Saddam Hussein in invading Kuwait will not be allowed to stand."

"The solidarity of all allies and their determination to implement in full the Security Council resolutions against Iraq remain firm," he added.

Woerner did not say anything about increasing North Atlantic

Treaty Organization forces in the gulf. Such a decision would be up to the individual NATO countries. All of them except Iceland, Luxembourg, Germany and Turkey have troops, naval units or warplanes in the gulf region.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz was to have met with President Bush in Washington today, but the meeting was scuttled by a disagreement over when Baker would see Saddam.

Bush has said he won't send Baker to Baghdad any later than Jan. 3; Saddam says the meeting should occur Jan. 12. Bush has said that is too late.

Bush said today he still hopes for talks with Iraq, but reiterated that Iraqi troops must leave the emirate by Jan. 15.

"I think at midnight (on Jan. 15), if he's not totally out of Kuwait, the U.N. sanctions must be fulfilled," Bush said in Washington.

## Canadian man dies in accident

A 61-year-old Canadian man was killed Saturday evening when the truck trailer he was driving overturned and he was pinned in the vehicle, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Woody Gene Clay, was traveling westbound on a caliche county road, known as Payne Ranch Road, about 7 p.m., 21.6 miles north of Miami in Roberts County when the accident occurred.

A DPS spokeswoman said Clay was driving a 1978 Mack truck trac-

tor and hauling a 1982 tank trailer, owned by Bill's Oilfield Services of Perryton. The trailer was filled with barrels of salt water.

The truck and trailer had crossed a cattle guard when the right wheels ran off the roadway on the north side.

The driver attempted to regain control of the truck and trailer, but lost control when the weight shifted on the loaded trailer. The truck and trailer both rolled one time, according to the DPS report.

## Police investigate robbery attempt at local convenience store Saturday

Pampa police are following leads today on a suspect who hit and knocked a convenience store clerk to the ground Saturday in an attempt to get away with a package of cheese, valued at less than \$2, said Deputy Chief Ken Hall.

The incident occurred about 11 p.m. Saturday at Allsup's #81, 1025 W. Wilks.

Hall said that up to the point the suspect knocked the clerk to the ground, the case would have been classified as a misdemeanor

shoplifting. However, because of the aggravating factor of the suspect hitting the clerk, the case is being worked as a strong arm robbery, a second-degree felony.

Police said the suspect and another person entered the convenience store and the clerk was attempting to stop the suspect with the food item when he was knocked to the ground.

"We have some leads on the case that we're working on," Hall said this morning.



# Report: government approves loan despite Connally's debt

DALLAS (AP) — John Connally's ability to complete a \$600,000 deal for a plush Houston condominium raises questions for Congress and the federal agencies supervising the cleanup of the savings and loan industry, a report says.

Although the Dallas Times Herald reported Sunday in a copyright story that the former Texas governor has done nothing illegal, Connally's ability to secure the mortgage two years after seeking protection in bankruptcy court was challenged.

The 1989 savings and loan bailout law blocks individuals directly involved in the thrift industry's collapse from benefiting from the \$500 billion bailout.

But problem borrowers such as Connally have not been addressed as to whether they should be restricted in future relationships with federally insured or assisted financial institutions.

"I don't know of any specific regulation on the government's part that can deny the sale of a particular asset or financing to an individual because of recent losses due to other financial institutions," said David Barr, a spokesman for the FDIC.

"Can you discriminate against an individual legally ... because he filed for bankruptcy and that

bankruptcy has a potential of causing losses to institutions that have failed? We may be getting down to a moral question."

The Times Herald reported Connally's real estate ventures left taxpayers with at least \$65 million in bad loans from now-failed savings and loans.

Since Sept. 26, 1989, Connally and his wife, Nellie, have occupied the one-bedroom, 3,076-square-foot condominium on the 24th floor of the Huntington, an exclusive 34-floor high-rise.

"I would say it's probably one of the nicest condominiums and the most luxurious high-rises, without a doubt," said Cheri Broussard,

vice president and sales director for Howell Properties, the real estate firm that sold Connally the condominium.

In May 1989, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. approved the sale of the condominium for \$750,000 and First Gibraltar Bank's proposed \$600,000 jumbo mortgage to Connally, who put \$150,000 down, the newspaper reported.

The move came despite the government's status as the largest unsecured creditor in Connally's bankruptcy proceeding.

Thriffs and banks that lent Connally money and subsequently required taxpayer-financed bailouts account for nearly half of \$166.7

million in unpaid debts.

The FDIC was involved with the condominium purchase because the government has guaranteed against losses on the Huntington under the terms of the First Gibraltar sale agreement.

The government continues underwriting potential future losses on the condominium in hopes of saving money, according to an FDIC official.

Jim Weaver, and FDIC regional manager, said Connally's interest rate is higher than the subsidy the government must pay First Gibraltar on its money-losing assets.

The arrangement benefits the government as long as Connally

makes his monthly mortgage payments, Weaver said, adding that he is unaware of any delinquency.

Lori Hildreth, at North American Mortgage in Houston, said the monthly payment should be \$5,452.20, based on a 10 percent rate.

The company routinely handles jumbo loans. Ms. Hildreth estimated Connally would need a monthly income of about \$22,000 to qualify for the loan.

Connally declined to be interviewed for the newspaper's article. He did not immediately return a telephone call Sunday from The Associated Press.

## Organization asks Pampanas to send Christmas cards to seriously ill

By BEAR MILLS  
Staff Writer

A Boston-based organization is appealing to benevolent people in the Pampa area to send Christmas cards to seriously ill children and adults around the nation.

Edmund Burns, director of Mail for Tots, said his group has collected names of thousands of bed-ridden people around the world who are largely forgotten during the holidays.

"Mail is a morale booster and the anticipation of getting it gives a shut-in something to look forward to," Burns said. "For some people, that is all the happiness their life holds."

Burns is asking *Pampa News* readers to take time to write one or more of the following people this Christmas.

"Tell them about yourself and family," he suggested. "Let them know where you live. Mention friends, pets, hobbies, or just anything that is interesting. If you know

From Concerned Pampana

Mail for Tots Everywhere, USA

A joke or a story, tell it. Kindly avoid the subject of illness.

Those he would like written to include:

Gail Gaviitt, P.O. Box 205, Godley, Texas 76044. Gail is a 23-year-old who is awaiting a heart/lung transplant. She spends most of her time at home and would love to receive mail.

Chuckie Williams, 525 Hamilton, New Carlisle,

Ohio 45344. Chuckie is an eight-year-old stricken with AIDS. Alienation and the realization that death is awaiting him in the near future makes Chuckie very frightened. The distraction of mail is very much needed by this child.

Ray Edwards, 505 Chicago Ave., Muleshoe, Texas 79347. Ray is in his mid-90s and lives alone. He has severe arthritis and, because of an infection, has had two toes amputated. He is in constant pain, but looks forward to getting mail.

Judy Adcock, Route 1, Doddridge, Ark. 71834. Judy is in her mid-40s and suffers from cancer. She has to live with her parents to make ends meet. She is lonely and begs for mail.

Pauline Allan, 915 N. 9th St., Salina, Kan. 67401. Pauline is 65, retired and very lonely. She enjoys collecting old jewelry and picture postcards.

Betty Prine, 4613 Dordt Ave., New Orleans, La. 70126. Betty is 61 and has been confined to a wheel chair for many years. She can't leave her house and has

almost no visitors. She loves jigsaw puzzles and reading mail from around the nation.

Patty Waller, 711 S. Franklin, Brazil, Ind. 47834. Patty is 34 and was left comatose for a long time from a serious car wreck. She is now crippled, but is a single mother who must take care of her children. She feels very overwhelmed and needs a great deal of encouragement.

Burns said that since economic and health conditions vary among the thousands of people Mail for Tots has on its lists, not everyone can expect a reply. He said including a self-addressed, stamped envelope can help.

"Those who would like to write to people should know that we do this year round, with a special push at Christmas," Burns said. "If they would like to contribute something to our work, we would love to hear from them. If not, we will be happy to send them a list anyway of people to write."

The address of Mail for Tots is P.O. Box 8699, Boston, Mass. 02114.

## American to pay TWA \$445 million for six trans-Atlantic routes

DALLAS (AP) — American Airlines gained a gateway to London by agreeing to pay \$445 million for six of Trans World Airlines' seven U.S. routes there.

The seventh route, not included in the deal, is being negotiated separately, American spokesman Al Becker said Sunday.

At the same time, TWA Chairman Carl Icahn renewed his effort to acquire Pan American World Airways, which agreed last month to sell its London routes to United Airlines for \$400 million.

If the route sales are approved by the federal government, Pan Am and TWA, which built their reputations through overseas travel, will no longer fly to London; United and American, the strongest U.S. carriers, will compete.

The routes TWA is selling are between London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports and six U.S. cities: New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia and St. Louis.

Icahn said TWA has lost money on the London routes for two years.

"Our current agreements with American will generate additional cash liquidity, which will enable us to position ourselves for growth despite these extremely difficult times," he said in a statement Sunday.

In its renewed bid for Pan Am, TWA offered \$1.50 a share in cash and \$1 a share in either preferred stock or notes for Pan Am's 150 million shares outstanding. In

November, TWA offered \$1 a share in cash and \$2 in notes.

American already flies to many foreign destinations, including cities in Europe, the Far East, South America and Central America. It hopes to serve Heathrow by May and Gatwick by November.

"This transaction will enable American to become a leading U.S. carrier to London and will add tremendous synergy to both the U.S. and the U.K. with many more carrier and destination choices," American Chairman Robert L. Crandall said in a statement.

American also agreed to pay TWA \$70 million for 40 takeoff and landing slots at Heathrow and Gatwick, plus three gates at Chicago's O'Hare Airport.

In addition, Fort Worth-based American would buy all of TWA's facilities at Heathrow and Gatwick and hire the airline's 380 employees in Britain.

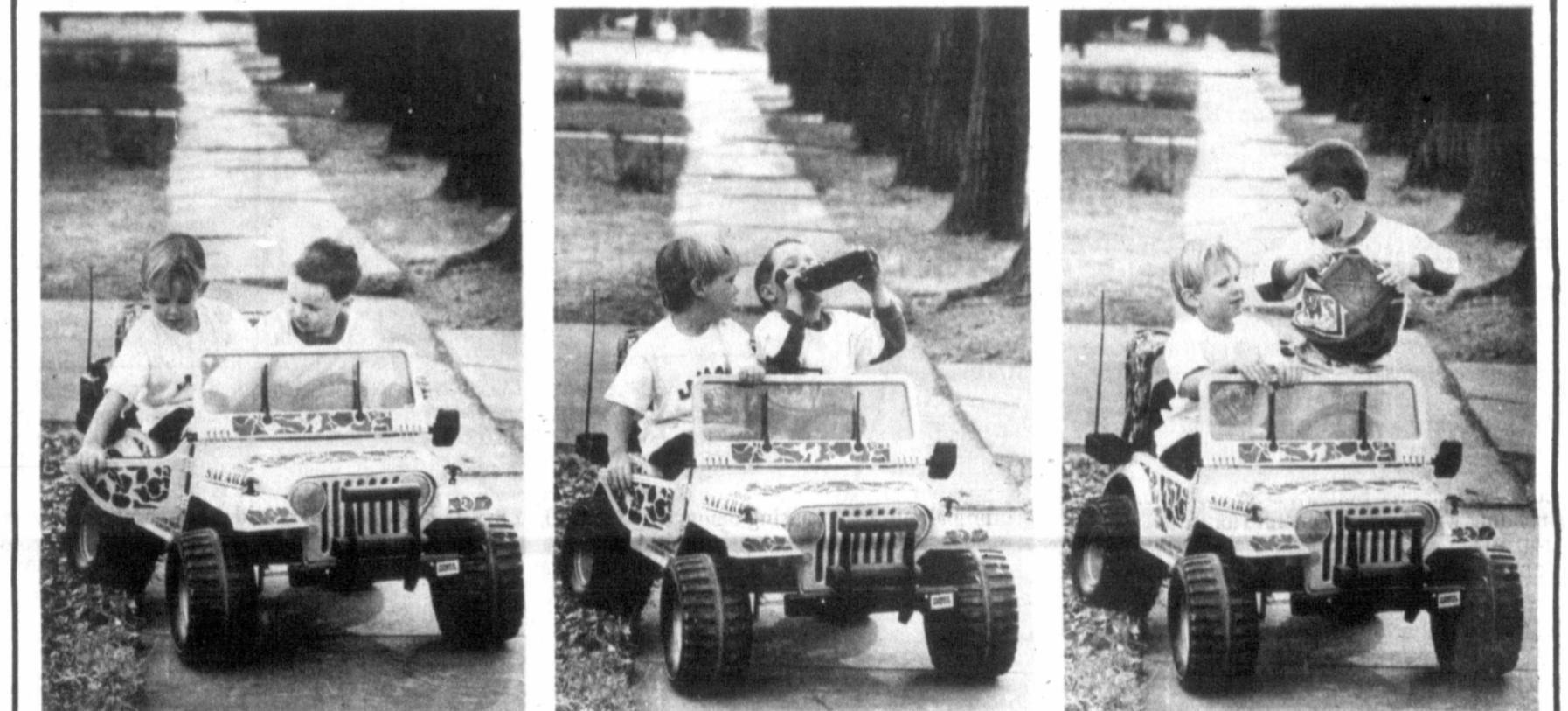
It also would acquire TWA gates in Orlando, Fla., and Nashville, Tenn., and ticket counter space in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

TWA is considered one of the financially weakest U.S. carriers.

In November, TWA Inc. reported a \$14.6 million loss for the third quarter, attributed in part to higher fuel prices and contractual raises for pilots.

That month, Icahn offered to buy Pan Am, which is also struggling. But the deal fell through when Pan Am agreed to sell its U.S.-to-London routes to United.

Yo, Joe!



(Staff photos by Jean Streetman-Ward)

Best friends, from left, Brian Denney and Alan Curry, both five years old, play GI Joe in a jeep in front of Alan's house on Mary Ellen Street Saturday afternoon. In the first photo, far left, they try out the jeep's doors, then in the center photo Alan pretends to quench his thirst with a canteen. In the photo at far right, Alan offers his friend some pretend water. Perhaps they were thinking about being with the U.S. troops in the Saudi Arabian desert. Brian is the son of Patty and Peter Denny and Curry's parents are Judy and Alton Curry.

## Killeen children wish for parents to come home for Christmas

KILLEEN (AP) — For thousands of children who live in military households at the nation's largest military post, war is not so far away.

So far, 20,000 of Fort Hood's 38,500 soldiers have been sent to Saudi Arabia. But their children stay behind and worry like 9-year-old Ben Munyon, a third grader.

Both of Ben's parents are in

Saudi Arabia. He now lives with a baby-sitter and keeps pictures of his mother in his school locker and at home, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Sunday. In one, Ben's mother is in her tent in the desert. In another, she holds a machine gun.

"It sometimes gets sad and lonely," Ben said. "I just write them. I get my picture off the wall and hold it. Sometimes I fall asleep like that."

To cope with the stress of having a warrior parent, counseling has been set up for Killeen elementary school children. Some meet after school in a room decorated with a map of Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf. Tacked up beside it are the names of their fathers and mothers.

Loneliness is not the only fear for these children.

One child, recently transferred

with his family to Killeen. He had never lived in a military community before, according to Sugar Loaf Elementary staffer Sharon Reid.

"He's afraid Killeen might be bombed and everyone will die," Ms. Reid said.

Discipline problems are surfacing and tensions are high.

The recent Middle East crisis causes additional problems for some children like Danish Siddiqui, 11. Born in Saudi Arabia, Danish is the son of a Muslim U.S. soldier.

When the crisis first broke, other kids began calling him Saddam Hussein and punching him. But after meeting with a counselor at school and talking with his classmates, the teasing stopped.

Other children like Jamille Byrd, express anger at the Persian Gulf dilemma. The seventh-grader has

written President Bush twice, voicing what many students here want most of all this holiday season, the return of their parents.

In one letter, she wrote: "Dear George Bush: We need our mothers, fathers and friends home for Christmas. Don't make the matter more difficult than it is. I know that we're doing something good for our country, but we don't need bloodshed, especially right before Christmas."

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## Mail for troops reaching giant proportions

DALLAS (AP) — The sudden deployment of 250,000 Americans in the Persian Gulf is presenting an interesting challenge to the U.S. Postal Service.

From Dallas alone, 85,000 pounds of packages are mailed daily to the troops, The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday.

To help with the deluge of mail addressed to soldiers participating in Operation Desert Shield, a special facility costing \$100,000 a week has been set up in Dallas.

Persian Gulf-bound packages from the southern half of the nation are processed here, one of six separa-

rate facilities set up for mail to American troops in the Middle East.

From Dallas they are trucked to Tinker Air Force base near Oklahoma City and then flown to the Middle East.

Other processing centers are in Washington, D.C.; Chicago, New York City, San Francisco and Jersey City, N.J.

According to Art Shealy, spokesman for the Postal Service, unlike the Vietnam War, the military buildup occurred almost overnight. For post office workers it was like setting up an address the size of San Diego in the blink of an eye.

"We're not strangers to having mail dumped on our docks," Shealy said. "But I can't think of any time in our history when we've had this influx of mail over such a short period of time."

But Shealy says there's no need to worry. With the buildup comes a unique challenge for the beleaguered agency to show what its made of, especially as Christmas nears.

Most of the 120 workers who staff the leased warehouse are temporary hires. But their efforts will enable the postal service to process the usual Christmas rush efficiently, Shealy said.

## Minority leaders say commissioner's comments ill-timed

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price's vow to die for the freedom of minorities has alarmed area leaders already concerned about controversy surrounding the outspoken official.

Dallas police filed criminal mischief charges against Price Friday alleging that he damaged windshield wipers on a van during a protest at KXAS-Channel 5.

An aide posted \$200 bond in that charge, but prosecutors have said they may seek to revoke Price's six-month probation from a billboard whitewashing incident earlier this year. At the time Price said he was painting over alcohol and tobacco-related billboards because they vic-

timized minorities.

Earlier Friday, Price told a Garland community group that he was willing to "die for the liberation of our people."

Dallas Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Diane Ragsdale further raised concern when she hinted of violence during her remarks at the Garland banquet honoring Price. There is a pattern of activity "leading toward the potential assassination of our brother," she said.

Attempts by The Associated Press to contact Price and Ms. Ragsdale were not successful.

Peter Johnson, regional director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was surprised at Price's and Ragsdale's comments. Howev-

er, he reiterated that Price is tired from years of civil-rights work.

Bob Ray Sanders, who hosts a radio talk show on KLIIF, put part of the blame on the media's scrutiny of Price's actions. "The media portrays everything he says like a second coming," Sanders told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Sanders added that Dallas police could not have picked a worse day to charge Price than Friday, the same day a white rookie officer fatally shot a black floral shop owner. But he doesn't think that justifies Price's comments, which he said were poorly timed.

"I just think all this has gotten out of control," said Lee Alcorn, president of the Grand Prairie NAACP.

**THRIETWAY**

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# Investigators seek cause for fatal helicopter crash

CLEVELAND (AP) — An Army safety team today is continuing to sift through the rubble of a helicopter crash that killed three members of the Missouri National Guard.

"There are still people they need to talk with and things they need to look at," said Maj. Mike Milner, Army spokesman for Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. "I'm not sure how long a process it could take."

Reporters and photographers got their first look at the site Sunday. Journalists trudged through thick underbrush about 500 yards behind the Tarkington Volunteer Fire Department in a hazy rainstorm to see debris spread over a 50-yard area.

The site was closed on Saturday while investigators from the U.S. Army Safety Center in Fort Rucker, Ala., made their preliminary observations of the area.

The UH-1 "Huey" helicopter slammed into the heavily wooded area some six miles north of Cleveland late Friday, killing all three crew members.

The crew was part of a 12-helicopter convoy from Fort Leonard

Wood traveling to Ellington Field in Houston. The helicopters, which traveled in groups of four with three-member crews, were to be shipped through the Port of Houston to Saudi Arabia for deployment in Operation Desert Shield.

Killed in the crash were 1st Lt. Peter J. Rose, 26, of Lincoln, Neb., the pilot; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carol L. McKinney, 36, of Leslie, Mo., the co-pilot; and Staff Sgt. Dallas R. Cooper, 35, of Russellville, Mo., the crew chief, Milner said.

All three were members of the 1267th Medical Company, a National Guard unit based near Jefferson City, Mo., which includes a Nebraska Army National Guard detachment.

Nolen Everitt, chief of the Tarkington Volunteer Fire Department, said the crash occurred about 9:15 p.m. Friday, sparking a flurry of calls from local residents in the unincorporated town some 45 miles north of Houston.

"A lot of people heard it and felt it," Everitt said Sunday. "We had calls coming in for hours."

Fred Richard owns the property near a catfish farm where the crash occurred. Richard heard the helicopter fly over his house and went outside in time to see the aircraft drop out of a bank of fog.

"He was having engine problems, it was cutting out on him," Richard said. "I thought he was going to land on my house."

Everitt said a team of up to 200 neighbors, military personnel, law enforcement officials and other volunteers immediately began searching the area for survivors. The four-hour search was conducted on foot, on horseback and in all-terrain vehicles, but heavy fog and thick brush hampered efforts until 4 a.m. Saturday.

The helicopters had left Fort Leonard Wood about 9 a.m. Friday to begin the six-and-a-half-hour trip, which included three refueling stops. The convoy last stopped at Texarkana before the crash.

One of the four helicopters flying with the troubled craft landed at the Cleveland Airport moments after hearing the other helicopter go down, officials said.

## Friends recall Guard soldiers killed in crash

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Tears and fatigue showed on the faces of four soldiers in the operations room of the Missouri National Guard's helicopter flight facility in Jefferson City.

They had been at the center since before midnight Friday, helping pass information along the radios and phone lines of the military's communication web.

And they were recalling memories of friends killed early Saturday when their helicopter crashed in fog north of Houston.

The three were flying a UH-1 "Huey" utility helicopter from Fort Leonard Wood to Houston. The helicopters are to be ferried to Saudi Arabia to be part of Operation Desert Shield.

Killed in the crash were: Chief Warrant Officer Carol L. McKinney, 36, the co-pilot. McKinney lived in Leslie, Mo., and was a native of St. Louis.

Staff Sgt. Dallas Ray Cooper, 35, from Russellville, Mo. He was the crew chief, and a full-time mechanic with the National Guard at the Missouri National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility in Jefferson City.

First Lt. Pete Rose, 26, from Lincoln, Neb., the pilot. Rose joined the 1267th when it was formed about two months ago. It was made up from units in Missouri and Nebraska.

Three years ago, Cooper was crew chief to Warrant Officer George James.

"Dallas kept everything ship shape. Dallas really ..." James said, blinking back tears.

He recalled a meal with Cooper. "Dallas kept talking about what he needed to do to the helicopter. Even in his off-duty time, he was always concerned about the helicopter," James said.

Soldiers described Cooper as a thin man of few words who had a sharp, often sarcastic, wit. He often wore a cowboy hat with the brim pulled down in front and back. And he loved tinkering with engines.

Cooper is survived by his wife and two children.

James said he had been impressed by the way Rose had "fit right in" even though he was new in Missouri. "We were fortunate to have someone like Pete," James said.

Specialist Jay Luebbert, who is in charge of flight operations at the facility, said McKinney always earned outstanding grades in her training missions.

She was "easy to get along with, dedicated and an aggressive, professional pilot," Luebbert said.

McKinney worked for Southwestern Bell in St. Louis for 10 years. She joined the Army in 1983, "to learn to fly whirlybirds," said her mother, Erma McKinney.

"She loved to fly," McKinney said. "She liked being up there in the sky."

McKinney left the Army last year and went back into the National Guard, her mother said.

James is the facility's safety officer. "We train for flying in fog, and even fly into clouds," he said. "The training is there, but I suppose some little something can go wrong, in spite of years and years of experience."

"You train to avoid and handle an emergency, but you can't train for everything," said Lt. Col. Michael Schuster, commander of the support facility.

## Busy students



(Staff photos by Jean Streetman-Ward)

Students at Wilson Elementary School are busy celebrating the Christmas season as evidenced by these photos. Above, Wilson Elementary's fourth and fifth grade choir sings Friday morning at Citizen's Bank and Trust. Pictured are, from left: Trey Ford, fourth grade; Josh Blackmon, fifth grade; Chad Epperon, fifth grade; and Alison Brantly, fifth grade. In the photo at right, Lt. Helene Wildish of the Pampa Salvation Army is pictured with canned goods donated by the Wilson students to be given to the needy. Also pictured are Wilson fifth graders, Amelia Dominey and Bobby Hendrick.



# Gorbachev seeking streamlined executive to cope with crises

By BRYAN BRUMLEY  
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Struggling with food shortages and rebellion in the republics, Mikhail S. Gorbachev today sought approval for a streamlined executive branch from the Congress of People's Deputies.

But just after the country's highest lawmaking body convened for its fourth session, a deputy ashamed that her country is accepting foreign food aid took to the podium and issued an emotional call for Gorbachev's resignation.

Szahi Umalotova, a Communist Party member from the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republic in the Russian republic, accused the president of bringing "devastation, hunger, cold, blood, tears" to his people.

Fellow lawmakers in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses sat in stunned silence and a national audience watched on live television as

Umalotova accused Gorbachev of destroying his country and deceiving his people.

Umalotova's call for vote of no confidence in Gorbachev was then rejected by a vote of 1,288 to 426 with 183 abstentions.

But the political divisions that threaten the survival of the Soviet state were abundantly evident.

The 2,250-member congress was boycotted by all deputies from Lithuania and Armenia and some members of the Estonian delegation.

Gorbachev's chief political rival, the President Boris N. Yeltsin of the Russian republic, did attend. Gorbachev offered Yeltsin, who heads the largest, richest and most populous republic, the empty chair next to him on the podium and the two men shook hands but did not speak.

As Gorbachev seeks support for a treaty to hold the Soviet Union together, Yeltsin is leading a movement among the 15 Soviet republics to wrest economic control from the

central government.

The conflict has encouraged economic and administrative turmoil, contributing to the food shortages that have in the past month prompted Gorbachev to seek and secure Western credits, food and medical supplies.

Despite broad discontent in the country, Gorbachev entered today's congress confident of winning approval of the treaty and of his plans to significantly change the complexion of the executive branch.

But the treaty must also be approved by legislatures in the

republics, and of which have declared some degree of autonomy.

Four have refused to participate in the union treaty negotiations, including Moldavia, where hundreds of thousands of pro-independence demonstrators rallied on Sunday.

The congress was seated in the spring of 1989, one-third of its members chosen by official organizations and the rest elected by the people from lists of nominees whose selection was often anything but democratic.

The body has largely supported Gorbachev's initiatives, and its pre-

vious three gatherings have been momentous.

The most recent, last spring, amended the constitution to end the Communist Party's guaranteed monopoly on power.

But rival parties have been slow to gain strength, and Gorbachev seemed unlikely to face an organized challenge from either radical reformers or hard-liners in the congress.

The radical Inter-Regional Group on Friday ended a two-day caucus without agreeing on a common platform. And on Saturday, members of the hard-line "Soyuz," or "Union" movement, said they would back Gorbachev's proposals.

Last month, some Soyuz members demanded Gorbachev declare a state of emergency, suspend elected legislatures and political movements in rebellious republics, or step down.

Gorbachev responded by replacing the moderate interior minister with a KGB general and ordered a crackdown on the pilfering and profiteering that have exacerbated food shortages and the collapse of the state distribution system.

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# Gulf Crisis places spotlight on conscientious objectors

By **STEPHANIE NANO**  
Associated Press Writer

When Eric Hayes joined the Marine Reserves four years ago he thought it was the macho thing to do. Now he's in the brig for refusing to join his anti-tank unit when it was called up for Operation Desert Shield.

The lance corporal didn't report because he filed for discharge as a conscientious objector, one of a number of reservists and military personnel to take that step since the Persian Gulf crisis began in August.

"If you would have caught me in 1986 right after boot camp, I'd have probably been in Saudi Arabia right now," Hayes, 24, said in an interview hours before his arrest early Thursday at Southern Illinois University.

But Hayes, a psychology student from St. Louis, said he now believes "there are really no just wars." He said he tried, and failed, to get a transfer to a unit that wouldn't be involved in combat.

Members of the military who decide they oppose war can seek an

honorable discharge as a conscientious objector or a transfer to non-combatant duties. The process can take up to three months, and applicants must comply with active-duty or transfer orders in the meantime.

"Conscientious objection is not having vague feelings about war because everyone has vague feelings that war is a terrible thing," said Robert A. Seeley, executive director of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors in Philadelphia.

"Being a conscientious objector is much more focused. ... You have a strong feeling that not only is war a terrible thing but you can't take part in it."

The Pentagon says the number of CO applications hasn't changed much since the troop buildup in the Middle East. The Army had 77 applications through November this year, said Pentagon spokesman Maj. Doug Hart. In 1989, there were 74 applications and 22 soldiers were discharged.

"There do appear to be a few more but nothing that would make me believe that vast throngs are heading for the legal office to file

for conscientious objector status," Hart said. "It's not a bigger problem. It's got the spotlight on it now."

However, groups that counsel CO applicants insist there has been an increase based on the applications they've handled and the queries they've fielded.

Seeley said reservists particularly are confused; they never expected to be called for active duty.

"A lot of people think that sounds naive," he said. "But it's very easy in a post-Vietnam context to think, 'Well we'll never do anything like that again.' It doesn't come home to you until you're really up against it sometimes."

Michael Marsh, a military counselor for the War Resisters League in New York, said the Persian Gulf crisis has been a catalyst for members of the military whose views changed but who had remained in the service.

"With the Gulf crisis coming up the way it did, a lot of people see they can't just bide their time and hope they get out before the military gets into its next war," said Marsh.

Donut dunkers



(Staff photo by Jean Streetman-Ward)  
Cameron Brown, left, and Keith Young, right, students at Lamar Elementary enjoy dunking their donuts in their hot chocolate at Heard and Jones Pharmacy Saturday morning. Bill and Ramona Hite, owners of Heard and Jones, treated approximately 20 students from the school. Heard and Jones has adopted Lamar Elementary as part of the Pampa Independent School District's adopt-a-school program.

## Study questions Iraqi claim of using chemical weapons against Kurds

By **JOAN MOWER**  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - A military study says the United States had no conclusive evidence when it accused Iraq of using chemical weapons against its Kurdish minority in September 1988.

The report, written by three analysts at the U.S. Army War College before Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, also says that "contrary to general belief, Iraq's rulers enjoy significant popular support."

The study examines Iraq's performance in the Iran-Iraq war that ended in July 1988.

"Claims that they (Iraq) won simply by using massive amounts of chemical weapons cannot be substantiated," concludes the study titled "Iraqi Power and U.S. Security in the Middle East."

Leif Rosenberger, one of the authors, said in a telephone interview from Carlisle, Pa., that the writers concluded that Iraq's win over Iran "was pretty much an armor victory."

Although both Iraq and Iran used chemical weapons during their eight-year war, Iraq's chemical superiority "was overstated, we thought," Rosenberger said. Iraq

used chemical weapons as a defensive measure against Iranian "human wave" attacks, the study said.

"The fundamental point to keep in mind, we feel, is that Iraq won the war with Iran because of its greater sacrifice," said the study.

U.S. officials have repeatedly cited Baghdad's possession of chemical weapons as the reason for taming Iraqi President Saddam Hussein even if he were to leave Kuwait.

"Imagine his (Saddam's) ability to blackmail his neighbors, should he possess a nuclear device," Presi-

dent Bush said at a news conference earlier this month. "We've seen him use chemical weapons on his own people."

The war college report, which was declassified and released to the public in the summer, raises questions about whether Saddam used chemical weapons against the Kurdish minority in Iraq in fall 1988.

"Having looked at all of the evidence that was available to us, we find it impossible to confirm the State Department's claim that gas was used in this instance," the authors said.

"To begin with, there were never any victims produced. International

relief organizations who examined the Kurds ... failed to discover any," the report said. It said the claims rest solely on testimony of the Kurds, who have long sought autonomy from Iraq.

"Conclusive evidence on the attack was never produced," the study said.

Col. Doug Johnson, another of the study's authors, said the authors did not visit Iraq or interview Kurds to reach their interpretation. Instead, they looked at published reports and at pictures, he said in a telephone interview.

They concluded that the Kurds

had symptoms - such as temporary blindness and skin blisters - that are more commonly associated with attack by fuel air explosives rather than chemical weapons.

"We recognize that there are observers who do not share our view on this," the authors said, adding that their conclusions did not necessarily represent the views of the war college or the Army.

At the time, Turkish officials found no evidence of chemical weapons use when they screened the sick and injured among 60,000 Kurdish refugees who fled across the border.

### Ranchers found guilty of Chico Mendes' murder

XAPURI, Brazil (AP) - A cattle rancher and his son were found guilty Saturday of first-degree murder for the killing of Chico Mendes, a fierce defender of the Amazon rain forest. The defendants were each sentenced to 19 years in prison.

The jury decided Darly Alves da Silva planned the 1988 shotgun killing and that his son Darci Alves

Pereira pulled the trigger. The trial in this Amazon river town 2,650 miles northwest of Rio de Janeiro opened Wednesday with the surprise murder confession of Alves Pereira. His father had fought the charges.

Judge Adair Longhini and the jury members remained behind closed doors for more than three hours before returning with the verdict. The decision was applauded by scores of residents and family members of Mendes who jammed the tiny wooden courthouse in this Amazon jungle town. Earlier, prosecutors had demanded the maximum 30-year sentence for the two, saying they had "stained the forest with (Mendes') blood."

### Vandals topple 20-foot Santa displayed 10 years by Dallas company

DALLAS (AP) - The vandals who toppled the 20-foot tall Santa Claus a Dallas company has displayed for the past 10 Christmas seasons left behind a "pitiful" scene.

They left Santa face down in the mud outside Marshal Moody Display. The vandalism was discovered Sunday.

"That's like taking a Bible from a motel room," Mickey Moriarity Sr.,

operator of the display firm. "It's pitiful."

"Somebody just unscrewed the turnbuckle," Moriarity said. "We've had some vandalism before but not like this."

### AT&T announces plans for proxy fight with NCR

NEW YORK (AP) - American Telephone & Telegraph Co. wants NCR Corp. shareholders to oust the computer maker's directors in favor of a board willing to negotiate AT&T's \$6.1 billion takeover offer.

The proxy fight was announced after NCR's board unanimously rejected the \$90-per-share cash offer and accused the telephone company of violating securities laws in its filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

AT&T spokesman Walter Murphy said Sunday that the company wants NCR shareholders to elect a new board of directors that would remove anti-takeover provisions and negotiate with AT&T.

The telephone company will seek proxies for a special shareholder meeting and for the regular annual meeting scheduled for April 17. To force a special meeting, AT&T must get holders of at least 25 percent of NCR's stock to request one.

AT&T made the \$90 offer Dec. 5 and extended the expiration date to Jan. 15.

NCR stock fell \$1.50 a share Friday to close at \$88.621/2 on the New York Stock Exchange. AT&T shares fell 37 1/2 cents to \$30.621/2.

Charles E. Exley Jr., chairman of Dayton, Ohio-based NCR, the nation's fifth-largest computer maker, has said he might negotiate if the offer were \$125 per share.

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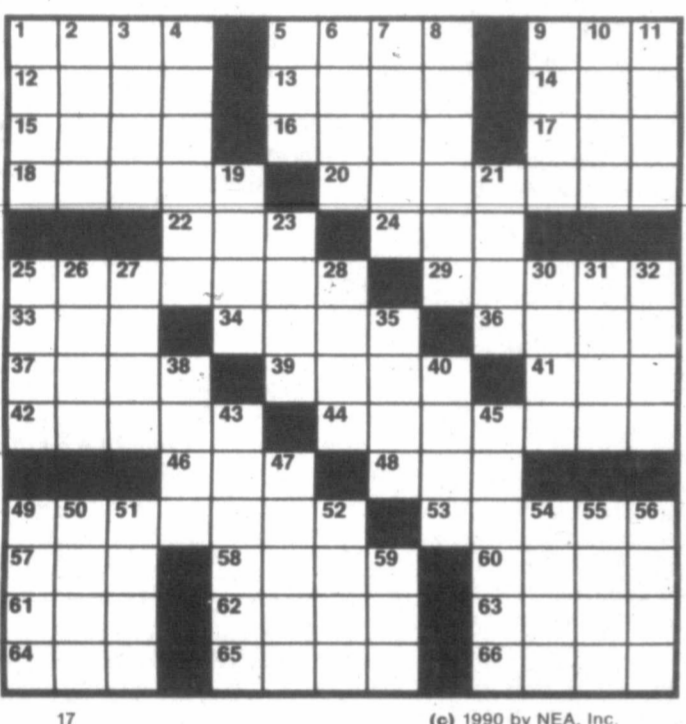
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# Today's Crossword Puzzle

## The World Almanac® Crossword Puzzle

<b>ACROSS</b>	1 Horse command	5 — Who	9 Greek letter	12 Assistants	13 Opera by Verdi	14 Alley —	15 Part of a ship	16 Cheerful expression	17 Hockey great	18 Antique car	20 Actress Weld	22 Unit of work	24 Colo. lime	25 Mexican lake	29 Chemical measure	33 Vein of a leaf	34 Arizona city	36 Renovate	37 Shake —	39 Period	41 — Khan																				
	42 — operandi	44 Belly	46 Actor —	48 Paddle	49 Unjust	53 Conductor	57 River inlet	58 Hammer part	60 Men	61 Morsel	62 Green expanse	63 Biblical king	64 Numbers (abbr.)	65 Grafted, in heraldry	66 Gas for signs	1 Israeli folk dance	11 Grand Ole	19 Aid in diagnosing	21 Flurry	23 Overabundance	25 Stuff	26 City in Hawaii	27 Resting	28 Freshwater fish	30 Sports group	31 Advantage	32 Horse color	35 Pulpit	38 Mystic	40 Kind of cheese	43 Foolproof	45 Beaver State	47 Hymn of joy	49 Finish laundry	50 Actor Robert De	51 Headgear	52 Amphibian	54 Actor —	55 Novice	56 "A" —	59 Compass pt.
<b>DOWN</b>	1 Revive	2 Hastens	3 Poems	4 Not awake	5 Dog's tail	6 Musician Al.	7 Hatred	8 Most sensible	9 Quarter acre																																



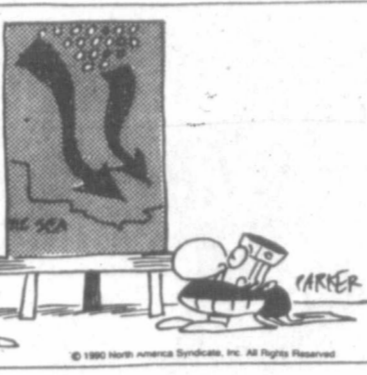
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GEECH



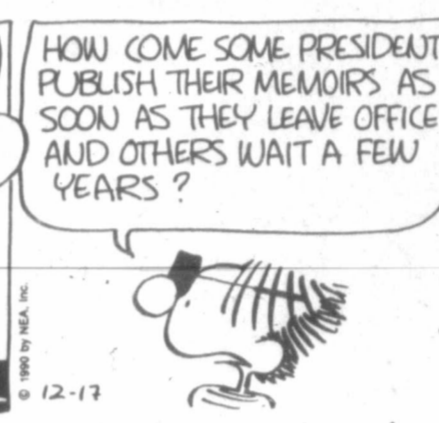
By Jerry Bittle

THE WIZARD OF ID



By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

ECK AND MEEK



By Howie Schneider

B.C.



By Johnny Hart

# Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** You should be able to do well for yourself today materially, but the results won't be due to luck alone. If you generate a profit, it'll be because you'll use your abilities to get what you want. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail \$2 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Instead of waiting for things to happen today, take active measures to head them in the direction you desire. Once you gain a little momentum, you should be able to roll over your opposition.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** Don't suffer in silence today if you're stymied by something you can't handle alone. You have several friends who'll do all they can to make things easier for you.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** If you find yourself involved with negative people today, don't let them put limitations on your thinking. What you can envision, you can accomplish, even if they can't.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** You might be a trifle slow in getting your important plans formulated to your satisfaction today, but once you decide upon a course of action, the results should be impressive.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Today you might find yourself in an unusual position where it will be necessary for you to make a critical decision for someone who isn't present. Fortunately, your judgment is good.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** The rewards from two endeavors in which you're presently involved will be predicated on the contribution you make. It behooves you to do your very best.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Conditions in general are rather favorable for you today, but your greatest benefits are likely to come from a partnership arrangement in which your cohort is more active than you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Someone with whom you are rather cozy socially might be in a position to pull a few strings for you today regarding a matter that could be meaningful to you in a material way.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Greater progress in an important involvement can be made at this time if you reorganize your procedures in ways that will make them more effective. Start improving methods today.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** You could be quite lucky today in being able to finalize three matters you have left hanging. Each is of significance to you financially.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** Much of importance can be accomplished today if you use your imagination and initiative. Don't wait on others, even in partnership arrangements.

MARVIN



By Tom Armstrong

MARMADUKE



By Brad Anderson

KIT 'N' CARLYLE

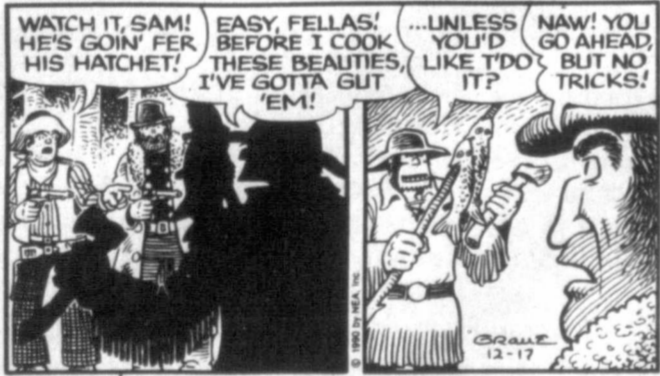


By Larry Wright

ALLEY OOP



By Dave Graue



SNAFU



By Bruce Beattie



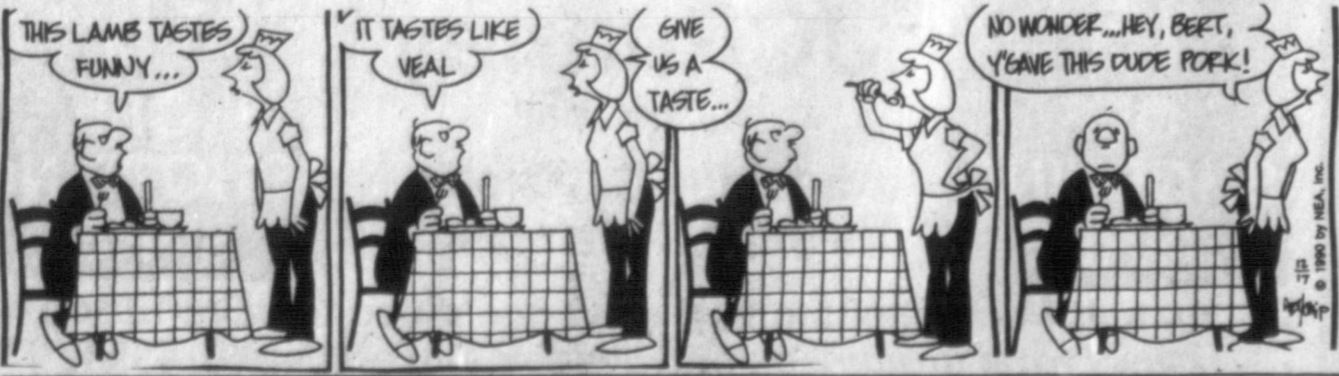
By Bill Keane

WINTHROP



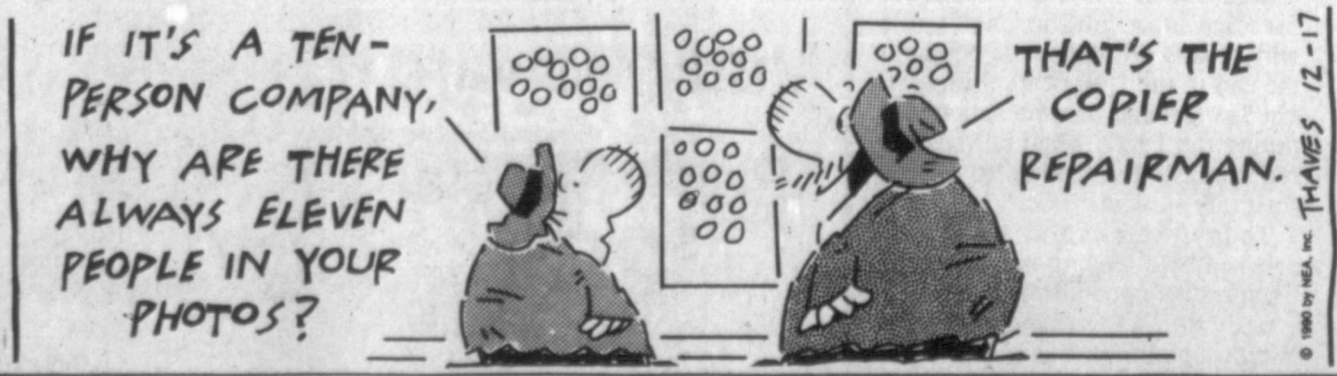
By Dick Cavalli

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PEANUTS



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GARFIELD



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# Alleged health insurance scam leaves victims in shock

By PAUL NOWELL  
Associated Press Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Ronald Gilmore got a shock when he returned home after his heart transplant operation.

Like thousands of other victims of a \$21 million fraud scheme, Gilmore learned his health insurance policy was worthless and couldn't cover the cost of the \$200,000 procedure.

"The hospital has been pretty good through it all. They haven't pushed me for the money. But this whole thing's been pretty bad,"

said the 49-year-old retired brewery worker from Robbins.

A federal grand jury last week charged six officers of a Charlotte company with bilking Gilmore and more than 1,350 other families and individuals out of their insurance benefits and pocketing \$21 million.

CAP Programs Inc. and several associated businesses never paid millions in medical claims for workers at 120 small businesses, the indictment charged.

To Gilmore, the first hints of trouble came when he was recovering at Duke University Medical Center after receiving his new heart

in October 1989. His coverage was provided by his wife's employer, a small textile company.

"The bills started coming in right away. I called them (CAP) and they kept giving me the runaround," he said. "Finally, it came out that they just weren't going to pay."

All the while, prosecutors say, the defendants were living the high life, using the premiums to buy lavish homes, beachfront condominiums and luxury cars.

"I'd like to see them serve a long hard time in prison," said Gilmore, who retired from Stroh's Brewery in Winston-Salem after a heart

attack in 1981. "I'd like to see them spend their time making little rocks out of big rocks."

Gilmore has been unable to get health insurance now because of his medical condition.

"They took advantage of people who had no reason to suspect a thing," he said, explaining that CAP had paid \$14,000 in bills when he had an earlier hernia operation.

Federal officials said that was typical of a "Ponzi" scheme, a fraud in which money taken in initially by swindlers is used to make early payouts and lure in more

money. Julian De La Rosa, inspector general of the U.S. Labor Department, said the health insurance scheme was one of about three dozen now under investigation. He estimated the victims of such frauds numbered in the tens of thousands.

"What is especially frightening is that we all can be victimized by this type of criminal enterprise because each of us has a very fundamental need for a health insurance policy that will assure us and our families that we can afford the health care we may need," he said.

The indictment said CAP told customers their medical bills would be covered by the Travelers Insurance Co. But Travelers was responsible only for processing claims.

In an agreement with North Carolina officials, Travelers has paid some medical claims. The company also is suing CAP.

The 120 companies that used CAP are in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Illinois.

The issue of such health insurance scams was the subject of hearings last spring in the Senate.

## Seidman: FDIC 'under stress' but no loan needed

By JOAN MOWER  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the nation's economy in a big slump, the government fund that insures bank deposits is "under stress" and needs more money to cope with bank failures, the chairman says.

L. William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, said the fund is expected to pay out \$4 billion in 1990 to cover bank losses.

A new forecast for 1991 "looks like another \$5 billion loss," he said. That would push the FDIC's reserves down to \$4 billion, he said.

Seidman also said a report being released at a congressional hearing today is useful because it underscores the problems in the troubled banking system.

But he said some of the report's dire conclusions are based on forecasts that may prove to be wrong.

"It shows that, as our numbers show, that we're under stress and that we need more funds," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday.

Seidman was to testify at today's hearing by the House Banking subcommittee on financial institutions. The panel's report says bank failures could cost the FDIC \$63 billion over three years if there is a severe recession.

Even a mild downturn would leave the fund short of cash, said the report, which was written by three economists. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the economists' summary last week.

Seidman said the \$63 billion figure was at the high end of the scale of potential outcomes. "Our own figures show that even if we took their highest number ... with the recapitalization we'll have over \$50 billion in hand to meet that. So at worst there would be a small additional amount needed to be borrowed from the Treasury," he said.

The bankers will recapitalize the FDIC by paying more premiums into it, Seidman said. "We think they have plenty of resources to do that and we expect that they will agree that that's the way it ought to be done."

The economists' report suggests the insurance fund be cushioned with a loan from the Treasury.

Meantime, Seidman said he agreed with other Bush administration officials that the economy is in a downturn.

"We're in the beginning of what may be a recession," he said. "We have to wait and see."

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said the economy is undergoing a "significant slowdown" that is likely to persist through early 1991 before turning around later next year.

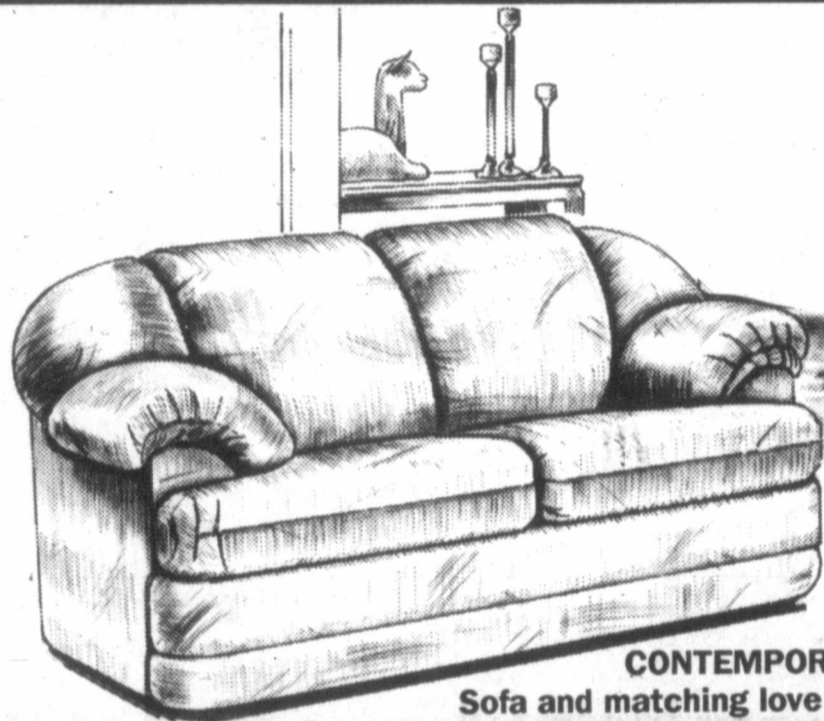
"I have been a little slow to declare national recession day," Brady said.

Asked why he was reluctant to use the word recession, Brady said Sunday he did not have all the figures for the quarter.

"Let's watch and see," Brady said. "Maybe it will be. I don't think it's the end of the world even if we have a recession. We'll pull back out of it again. No big deal."

Many private economists, however, have pronounced the economy in recession, with layoffs rising and banks in trouble, and with the retail sales, housing and car markets down. A recession is defined as a contraction of six months or more in the gross national product.

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SOFA AND LOVE SEAT

Special Christmas Price Only **\$649**

FREE DELIVERY AND SET UP IN OUR TRADE AREA

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