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FEBRUARY 7, 1991

THURSDAY



(Staff photo by Jean Streetman-Ward)

Department of Public Safety officials survey damage to a Ford van minutes after it collided with a Texas Highways and Public Transport truck this morning on Hwy. 60. The driver of the vehicle, Mary Ann Trotter of Pampa, was killed.

Pampa woman killed in accident today



(Staff photo by Jean Streetman-Ward)

Rescue workers carry Frankie E. Watts, driver of the state-owned truck involved in today's early morning two-vehicle wreck, to an awaiting ambulance.

By J. ALAN BRZYS
Staff Writer

A woman died and a man was seriously injured in a two-vehicle collision about 9:20 this morning on Hwy. 60 a mile west of the Hoechst Celanese Chemical Group main plant.

Mary Ann Trotter, 37, of 721 Lefors, a Pampa Water and Sewer Department employee, was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Texas Department of Public Safety officials.

Frankie E. Watts, 30, of 1120 Cinderella Drive, a Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation employee, was transported to Coronado Hospital.

Watts was being treated this morning for head injuries and was expected to be transferred to Amarillo for treatment of possible head trauma, according to a hospital spokesman.

DPS Cpl. Johnny Carter, at the scene today, reported the orange Ford Econoline van driven by Trotter was traveling west on Hwy. 60 when it struck Watts' vehicle, a white, state-owned, GMC pickup truck, from the rear.

Carter reported the state-owned vehicle operated by Watts and equipped with a large directional device was stopped in the right lane. The blinking-light, arrow-type device reportedly was signaling traffic to use the left lane.

According to Carter, Trotter apparently did not brake or change lanes, and the van she was driving struck the state-owned truck in the rear.

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Michigan man arrested after high-speed chase on I-40

McLEAN - A 28-mile chase on Interstate 40 Wednesday evening resulted in the arrest of a man driving a vehicle with Michigan license tags, said Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper John Holland.

Holland said today that Marion Allen Douglas, 39, no address listed, was arrested on Interstate 40 on charges of aggravated assault with a motor vehicle and resisting arrest, following the chase.

The trooper said the vehicle was traveling westbound on Interstate 40 when he noticed the late model Dodge had defective headlights.

"I attempted to stop him east of McLean, about a mile and a half, around 8:20 (p.m.)," Holland said. "After pursuing him, he refused to stop and started throwing something out of the window and was making hand gestures."

The trooper said the suspect tried to run him and other vehicles off the road numerous times during the chase. He said other vehicles on the interstate tried to assist the trooper in blocking the Dodge vehicle in, but the Dodge then went into the ditch to get away, traveling 65 to 80 mph.

Shortly before the suspect was apprehended, Holland said, Douglas

drove the Dodge vehicle into the median and was about to hit a semi tractor-trailer, traveling eastbound, head-on.

DPS Trooper Gary Davis of Groom got in between the Dodge vehicle and other traffic and forced him back into the westbound lane of traffic, and with the aid of other vehicles, the suspect's vehicle was pinned.

There was a "scuffle" during the attempt to arrest Douglas, Holland said.

DPS Trooper Jay Hickman out of Borger also assisted in the chase and Cpl. Johnny Carter of Pampa assisted with radio traffic, Holland said.

Jury finds Blalock guilty, gives him life sentence

By BETH MILLER
Staff Writer

It took an eight-man, four-woman jury 1 hour and 35 minutes this morning to sentence Robert Kimberly Blalock, 34, to life in prison for the death of 13-year-old Dale Noble.

Spectators in 223rd District Court were quiet Wednesday afternoon as the jury returned solemnly to the jury box after deliberating four hours in the guilt/innocence phase of the murder trial of Blalock.

However, that silence was penetrated when Senior District Judge Grainger McIlhany read the jury's verdict finding Blalock guilty of murder. Family and friends of the victim, Dale Noble, 13, released their breaths and made a loud "Ahhh" sound.

Life and a \$10,000 fine is the maximum sentence the jury could impose. No fine was imposed by the jury. Formal sentencing of Blalock was to be at 1:15 p.m. today by Judge McIlhany. The defense has given some indication that it may appeal the decision, although nothing had been formally announced as of press time today.

Following the jury's sentence of life in prison, Paulette Noble, mother of the victim said, "It's been a long time coming, but he (Blalock) deserves exactly what he got. He deserves death ... It can never replace my son."

The jury also found Wednesday that during the commission of the offense, Blalock used a deadly weapon, a Molotov cocktail.

Under that finding, Blalock will not become eligible for parole until the actual time served equals one-fourth of the sentence imposed or 15 years, whichever is less, without consideration of any good conduct time he may earn.

The jury found that Blalock committed the murder offense on May 21 at the residence of Paulette Noble and her two sons, Terry and

Dale, by throwing a Molotov cocktail through the front windows of the 1340 Terrace residence and starting a "fast and hot" fire.

The fire resulted in the death of Dale, who died of carbon monoxide poisoning, after he first cut and scratched his hands on window panes as he tried to get out of his bedroom window.

Mrs. Noble said Wednesday evening following the verdict that she was feeling "fantastic."

"I couldn't have said that eight months ago," she said. "I thank the Lord for the verdict," she said. "We have known all of this time that he did it. I'm glad the 12 people (jury) confirmed it."

"... He's labeled a murderer now. Dale's death was avenged today. I can start the healing process now."

Testimony in the case revealed that the motive in the case was revenge. Blalock had sold a Mustang to Paulette Noble and her son, Terry, in late 1989 for \$500 and the vehicle was faulty. After attempts to get her money back, Mrs. Noble filed a civil lawsuit in justice of the peace court and was subsequently awarded a judgment for \$2,450, which included \$950 in attorney's fees.

Blalock refused to pay that money, and on the day of the fire, he was served with "turnover and show cause" papers. A hearing was set for June 7 during which Blalock was ordered to bring financial records, pay stubs and other records to the court, which was going to start taking his assets to pay the judgment to the Nobles.

Key testimony in the state's case was that of 16-year-old Teresa Rodriguez, who said that on the evening of the fire Blalock had waved the court documents and said, "I'm not worried about it because I'm going to get revenge anyway."

She said that later on the evening of May 21 she saw Blalock with a glass jug filled with gasoline. She said Blalock was sticking a red rag down into the gasoline with a long metal rod.

The top of that bottle with the red rag was found to be the top of the Molotov cocktail following the 11 p.m. fire at the Noble residence. The top of the bottle and the red rag were found on the coffee table at the residence.

District Attorney Harold Comer said today, "I think the state's case revolved around the testimony of Teresa Rodriguez. She was the only connecting link between the arson and the defendant."

Assistant District Attorney John Mann, who handled the first phase of the trial, told jurors in closing arguments Wednesday, "The state has everything and you have everything to convict this man except a signed confession or a videotape of him throwing the Molotov cocktail through Paulette Noble's window ... The Blalocks in this world don't do this kind of thing in front of the camera or the police."

Blalock, who testified during the trial, said he had nothing to do with the fire and had pleaded innocent to the murder charge. His attorney, John White of Borger, said during closing arguments that the state had no evidence, only a "strong suspicion," that Blalock committed the crime.

Mrs. Noble, a sixth-grade teacher at Pampa Middle School, said she wants Blalock to receive the maximum sentence in the case. "I feel like half of me is gone," she said of the death of her youngest son. "I have to go on for Terry (her oldest son) and for Dale's memory."

She said that the children she teaches, the other teachers and the school district have all been wonderful in helping her through the ordeal. "My kids have kept me sane," she said.

She also said the Pampa community has been supportive of her and she is grateful for that support. A new support group, Victims of Violent Crimes, started in September, has also been of comfort to her, she said, with members of that group being present during the court proceedings.

Middle school mayors



(Staff photo by Jean Streetman-Ward)

Jeremy Morris, left, Pampa Middle School mayor, and Keith Stewart, vice mayor, measure a flag from a classroom in preparation for ordering new classroom American flags. The two eighth-graders were elected last Friday by the student body to serve as mayor and vice mayor of the Student Council this semester. They say they want to increase school spirit and make school more fun, such as by having a dress-up day and having more assemblies.

U.S. says Iraqis using civilians as shields for anti-aircraft guns

By JEFFREY ULBRICH
Associated Press Writer

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) - Baghdad was hit by intense overnight air and missile attacks that pounded it into the morning, and U.S. military sources said Iraq is using civilians to shield its anti-aircraft guns by moving the weapons into residential areas.

Off the coast of Kuwait, the USS Wisconsin followed the lead of its sister battleship, the Missouri, firing its 16-inch guns in battle for the first time since the Korean War. The Wisconsin turned its big guns on an Iraqi artillery position, military sources in the Saudi capital said today.

Also today, the U.S. command in Riyadh reported two Iraqi helicopters had been shot down by American planes, and said one U.S. Army UH-1 Huey crashed from non-combat causes, killing one soldier and injuring four.

Allied warplanes kept to their round-the-clock pace today, roaring off to unload their bombs on Saddam Hussein's forces, including dug-in ground troops and

their supply lines.

French Jaguar and Mirage F1-CR jets hit Iraqi artillery sites in Kuwait and positions of the elite Republican Guards in Iraq, a French military communique said. Warplanes from Qatar's small air force also struck Iraqi positions today.

Iraqi officials said the overnight raids on Baghdad killed 22 civilians and injured many others. AP correspondent Salah Nasrawi, in the Iraqi capital, said the air strikes went on for 12 hours, hitting offices and homes.

Ra'ja Hamie, a resident of Baghdad's al-A'amiya district, said her husband and three of her children were killed when a rocket hit their home. She and her two other children were injured.

"We all were asleep in one bedroom when the ground was shaken beneath us and suddenly we were engulfed in a fire," she said from her hospital bed.

Baghdad radio, in a commentary today, called on Muslims worldwide to "destroy the interests" of the United States and its allies. "The major battle ... does not tolerate neutrality," it said.

Iraq says allied bombings have killed hundreds of

civilians since the war's outbreak, but U.S. military sources suggested today that Iraq is deliberately putting non-combatants in harm's way - by moving anti-aircraft guns into civilian neighborhoods in Baghdad and Kuwait City.

The U.S. military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said none of the Iraqi gun positions in civilian neighborhoods had been attacked, but said the matter was under review.

In the war's fourth week, top U.S. military strategists said they're in no hurry to start a ground battle. But out on the gritty, sand-whipped frontlines, there was foreboding about fighting to come.

"From here, you can see the bomb flashes at night," said a U.S. military officer deployed near the northern Saudi frontier. "This could get very ugly at any moment."

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were to head for the gulf tonight to get a first-hand look at the readiness of U.S. forces for a ground offensive.

On Wednesday, Cheney and Powell briefed mem-

bers of Congress in a closed-door meeting, and one key lawmaker, House Minority Leader Robert Michel, R-Ill., said afterward that "there seems to be no rush" to a ground war.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III painted perhaps the grimmest picture yet by the Bush administration of what a land battle would be like.

"Tough times lie ahead," he said. "The task is formidable, and no one should underestimate Saddam's military capabilities."

Baker, appearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Wednesday, spoke soberly of "many casualties, great hardships and growing fears for the future."

In the desert war zone, reporters who toured a major U.S. air base in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for the first time were given a look at sophisticated and deadly weapons, including the so-called fuel air mines.

Dropped from the air, they release and then ignite a cloud of flammable mist, creating an explosion resembling a small nuclear blast. Maj. James McClain said the explosives have yet to be used against Iraq.

Military says about 40 National Guard soldiers AWOL from Fort Hood

By ROD RICHARDSON
Associated Press Writer

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — About 40 Louisiana National Guard soldiers have been classified as absent without leave from Fort Hood, Texas, in what the Army said was the first mass protest by U.S. troops training for Operation Desert Shield.

The 40, without passes, left Fort Hood on Wednesday with about 90 other Louisiana guardsmen who had authorization to leave the Central Texas base, officials said. An Army spokesman said the 90 were due back at varying times and were not immediately considered AWOL.

It was not immediately known how many of the 90 guardsmen out on pass would be joining the AWOL soldiers, said Sgt. Ron Pannebaker, a Fort Hood spokesman at the post near Killeen.

Pannebaker said he did not know what possible penalties would be pursued against the AWOL soldiers. More comment might come from the sprawling Army post during business hours today, he said.

Members of the Louisiana National

Guard's 1st Battalion, 156th Armor, 256th Brigade said they went AWOL — an offense punishable by imprisonment — because they were mistreated, overworked and because the Army gave them just one day off after promising two.

"This is starting to look bad. But it's not a rebellious thing. We just needed some time off," said Sgt. Thomas Baker, 24, of Pine Bluff, Ark. "If we were in Saudi Arabia — and I'd go tomorrow — I'd understand, but we're not. It might be worth losing some rank if we can make some changes."

In addition to the 40 accused of being AWOL, some of the 90 others may have gone home to Shreveport "to discuss problems they have encountered during training," said Dan Nance, spokesman for the Army's 5th Infantry Division (Mech.).

"We understand some of these soldiers have had a difficult time making the adjustment from civilian to military life. But we would be remiss if we didn't provide these soldiers with the training necessary to survive, fight and win," Nance said.

Their unit was activated Nov. 30 and moved to Fort Hood on Jan. 21. Members said

they hadn't had a day off since. Baker said the soldiers, dressed in jeans and T-shirts, left Fort Hood about midnight Tuesday. He said some took a bus to Shreveport, and others found other ways home.

Most were scheduled for one day of leave this week but planned to stay home for three, according to Baker and a guardsman who identified himself as Sgt. Victor Giglio.

"They didn't just change the days, they changed the date. ... It messed everybody's plans up," said Baker. He said the soldiers tried to go through channels to reinstate the leave, but that didn't work.

Sen. J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., suggested they try again.

"A soldier cannot decide for himself when and if he will serve and under what conditions," said Johnston, who attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for two years. "AWOL and desertion are crimes and these soldiers need to understand that."

"These soldiers need to keep in mind that tough training makes for better soldiers and helps their chances of survival if they have to go to war," Johnston said.

Joe Carter, spokesman for Forces Com-

mand, said he didn't know if the command would investigate. Carter's unit, based at Fort McPherson, Ga., is the largest Army command in the United States.

"Whenever we find out what's going on, we'll do whatever's appropriate," Carter said. But he did say the mass protest was unprecedented.

"It's unusual," he said. "This is the first one I know of since Desert Shield and Desert Storm. And we would know just about anything. It seems a little bit strange."

The soldiers said they know the Army could fine them, imprison them and cut their rank. "Everyone who left knew that was a possibility. We were willing to risk that to get some time off. We were just that desperate," Baker said.

It was the second Louisiana National Guard unit to complain about conditions at Fort Hood.

Last month, guardsmen with a unit based in New Orleans complained to *The Times-Picayune* newspaper that morale at Fort Hood was poor, about 20 soldiers were AWOL, and that troops had to train in freezing rain without cold-weather gear. Their commander, Lt. Col. Glenn Appe, denied the reports.



(AP Laserphoto)

Baker appears before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington Wednesday.

Baker recommends a delay in ratifying arms accord treaty

By BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Declaring that Soviet credibility is at issue, Secretary of State James A. Baker III is proposing a delay in ratifying a sweeping treaty to cut tanks and other non-nuclear weapons in Europe.

As U.S.-Soviet relations took another skid, Baker also criticized the Kremlin on Wednesday for expanding the authority of the army and the KGB secret police and its tough response to rebellion in the Baltic republics.

"Perestroika (restructuring) cannot succeed at gunpoint," Baker told the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The White House, meanwhile, said a package of medical aid will be sent to the breakaway Baltics "in response to their request for assistance to alleviate medical shortages there and demonstrate U.S. concern for the situation."

Declaring that "our hearts go out to the courageous people of the Baltic states," Baker urged the Soviets to fulfill a pledge to hold peaceful dialogue with independence leaders in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

"There is simply no justification for the use of force against peaceful and democratically elected governments," he said.

Baker said the Soviet reconstruction program, undertaken nearly six years ago by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev to foster political and economic reform, was in reverse with "an apparent turn" toward a centralized economy.

He also described violence in the Baltics, a less free media and the departure of many advocates of reform from the Soviet government as "unsettling events."

"The Soviet leadership is at a crossroads," Baker said. "We have made clear that their last several steps have taken them down a path of no benefit for them or for us or for anyone else."

President Bush, speaking in New York on Wednesday night, defended his efforts to prod the Kremlin to ease its crackdown on the break-away republics.

"We've got to see that no more force will be used against these Baltic states and that there can be peaceful resolution to these questions," Bush said. "Otherwise, not only will our trade relations be set back ... but the rest of our overall relationship could undergo a problem."

Baker has tried within the administration to insulate U.S.-Soviet negotiations to cut nuclear and conventional forces from frictions on other fronts.

But he told the House committee he had recommended to President Bush that he delay submitting to the Senate for ratification a treaty signed by 22 nations last November to make the most extensive cuts in non-nuclear weapons in history.

Baker questioned the Soviets' interpretation of the Conventional Forces in Europe accord, particularly their effort to exclude three motorized infantry divisions from reduction provisions by reclassifying them as shore defense units.

The administration also has questioned the Soviets' claims of how many forces they have in Europe and the shifting of thousands of tanks east of the Urals before cuts are due to take effect.

The treaty would require far deeper reductions in Soviet weapons than in U.S. arsenals.

Also, the treaty would compel Gorbachev to carry out his promise to withdraw Soviet troops from eastern Germany and Poland.

In Moscow, there was no immediate reaction to Baker's comments. Earlier, however, a Foreign Ministry spokesman dismissed a report that the conventional forces agreement was in jeopardy.

Van burns after mortar shell explosion near 10 Downing St. in London

By MAUREEN JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — A mortar shell fired from a van exploded behind 10 Downing St. today, shattering glass and forcing Prime Minister John Major to move a War Cabinet meeting to another room, police and government officials said.

Police said two more shells were fired from the van and fell near the Foreign Office, which adjoins Downing Street. The van then burst into flames.

The only injury reported by authorities was to a government

worker, whom officials did not further identify. The London Ambulance Service said the worker was hospitalized with slight head injuries from flying glass.

Police said two men were reported seen running from the van, which burned furiously on a cordoned-off street just off Whitehall, a busy thoroughfare lined with government offices.

The van was 100 yards from 10 Downing Street, where the prime minister lives and works.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack and there was no immediate indication it

was related to the Persian Gulf War. The Irish Republican Army has staged attacks on high government officials but there was no immediate claim of IRA responsibility.

A spokeswoman for Scotland Yard said the mortar shell landed near a wall in the back garden of 10 Downing St., and the explosion "blew out a few windows." Damage was minor, she said.

A doctor at the scene said he was told there were bodies in the van but this was not confirmed by police.

"Two to three mortars it would appear were fired from the vehicle,

and then the vehicle exploded," a spokesman for Scotland Yard said.

Two women who were participating in a peace vigil near Downing Street said a piece of the metal landed in the street near them, several hundred feet from where the van was parked.

One of them said there was a series of explosions and the van burst into flames with black smoke. "A piece of metal came flying past us," Press Association quoted her as saying.

The burning van was on Horseguards Avenue, near the Old War Office and just off Whitehall.

Dr. Andy Ashworth, a former

army doctor who heard the explosions, told the BBC he had been told that there were bodies in the van.

"I heard three loud explosions sort of consecutively, followed a second later by another explosion, I mean just loud bangs basically," Ashworth said.

"When I turned the corner, I saw a white Ford transit van, its rear doors open, a couple of sheets hanging out the back of it. But the inside of the van was a burning inferno, just flames completely engulfing the van, and black smoke billowing up from the van."

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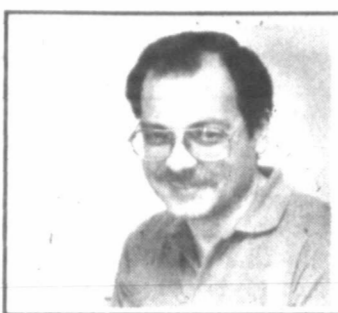
February is only seven days into the month, but sunny skies and warming breezes belie the fact that the winter season is still with us. Look about the town and you can see the bursts of colors appearing — a veritable blossoming of yellow, red, white and blue.

Of course, it's not the spring flowers I'm referring to, though hopefully those too will begin blooming soon. Instead, it's all the flags, ribbons, streamers, buttons and bows popping up on trees, doors, poles, windows, car antennae, homes and businesses, churches and schools, lapels and collars and pockets.

Each day seems to bring a new patch of color somewhere throughout the city as others join in showing their support for the American military forces engaged in Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf region. A number of area residents have family members they are remembering — sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, cousins. But even for those of us who may not have family members over there, it seems many of us have friends serving in the region, or know those who do have family and friends over there. In short, many of us are concerned for the safety of those troops we know in the Persian Gulf, and if not that, then we just have pride in our troops and our nation.

So fly the flags and drape the ribbons, bows and streamers, and cover the town with more color.

Speaking of flags: One never thinks about there being a shortage of flags, as dozens and even hun-



About town

By Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

dreds seem to appear on homes and businesses for those patriotic holidays. But apparently the war with Iraq has renewed the demand for purchasing American flags, and merchants and organizations are scrambling trying to provide the flags for customers.

If you haven't been able to locate a flag yet and still want one, the Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce will have some on hand tomorrow. The Chamber has managed to get its hands on approximately 100 U.S. flags, three by five feet, and will have them on sale for \$10. The flags should be in the office by Friday, but they can be purchased today — cash in advance.

Carolyn Wallar, Chamber secretary, said the flags were obtained from the Kiwanis Club of Amarillo, which happened to have the extra flags on hand.

John Tripplehorn, Gray County Veterans Service officer and a member of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post, said the veterans are trying to round up a number of the small "antenna" flags and pennant flags, but haven't had much success yet.

"If I had a hundred, 500, I could sell them today," he said.

Tripplehorn said the firms he has contacted, as far away as California, are running like crazy to keep up with the demand, with some not even taking them on order. He said one firm's spokesman said they'd be busy for six months just trying to catch up on the back orders.

But Tripplehorn said the post members will keep trying, and as soon as they have some flags on hand, they'll get the word out.

The past few months I've done a lot of walking about town, due to a desire to lose a little bit of weight and to having an uncooperative transmission on the car. But all the walking gave me a lot of time to make some observations.

One thing I noticed is that there's old elm trees in this town, there's few stretches of flat sidewalks, though they were originally meant to be level, I'm sure.

Instead, walking along many sidewalks in town becomes an up-and-down, almost dizzying adventure, like some of those moving sidewalks you encounter when going through a carnival funhouse. This is especially so when you're wearing new bifocals (as I had to yield to this past summer) and have

trouble adjusting the old eye focus to perceive the proper depth of the sudden inclines and declines.

It's especially bad when you're doing your strolling on a moonless night in the shadows where street lamps and porch lights fail to reach and have to feel your way with your feet.

In some places the dips and rises and cracks are so bad I almost decided just to get down on my hands and knees and crawl home.

But I did not want to be caught in that position if some car — especially one with a blue uniform in it — were to catch me in its headlights.

I just mention this because with all the screaming in this town about the admitted need to repair the holes and dips and cracks in many of the city's streets, there's quite a lot of silence about the poor condition of many of the sidewalks.

Oh, there's some stretches where it's obvious a proud homeowner has replaced the previous sidewalk to a pristine, level route again. But it's apparent many of the sidewalks have been in their topsy-turvy conditions for many a year.

And, of course, most of those sidewalks lie in that Twilight Zone area known as "city street right of way."

That's a principle that was created — by some lawyer, I'm sure — to allow the city to come in and tear up part of your yard in case it ever gets around to a street widening and repair program, but without giving it any responsibility otherwise for upkeep, like replacing all the old and broken sidewalks or cutting the grass or killing off the weeds or trimming the trees.

NBC adopts Baker



(Staff photo by Jean Streetman-Ward)

National Bank of Commerce has adopted Baker Elementary School in the Adopt-A-School program in Pampa. Standing below an American flag — presented to the bank — made of red, white and blue handprints of all the students in Baker are, from left, Steve McCullough, NBC president; second-grader Ruben Castillo; Headstart student Bobbie Rose Chavarria; fifth-grader Olivia Castillo; and Baker Principal John Welborn. The students' mother, Rosemary Castillo, is serving in Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf war as a

mechanic in the 1st Infantry Division in Saudi Arabia. The bank will display student projects and papers in the bank's lobby and will provide tours of the bank as field trips for Baker students. NBC will also participate in Career Day at the school and sponsor various essay contests for the students throughout the year. Welborn said National Bank of Commerce is "an overall supporting force for Baker Elementary, and the students and faculty appreciate the interest the bank has shown in Baker students' progress in education."

Cystic fibrosis patients find hope in lung transplants

By R.B. FALLSTROM
Associated Press Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — From all over the country they come, patients with cystic fibrosis in search of miracles.

They come to Joel Cooper at Barnes Hospital. "He's the right hand of God," said 31-year-old Paul Hattala of Spartanburg, S.C., a year after receiving a double-lung transplant. "It's been the best year of my life, no question."

"It's like being released." In the last year, four people in St. Louis and 20 nationwide have successfully undergone lung transplants to treat cystic fibrosis, an inherited disease that attacks the lungs and kills half its victims by age 30.

About 30,000 Americans are afflicted by the disease, and in the latter stages many require oxygen for the most mundane tasks. A recessive gene causes the body to secrete a mucous that clogs the lungs, leading to repeated infections and scarring.

Before his transplant, Hattala had trouble mustering the energy to brush his teeth or take a shower.

Researchers continue to seek a cure for cystic fibrosis, but lung transplants, in which Cooper is a pioneer, have given Hattala a new life and others hope.

Lung transplantation, perfected by Cooper during the 1980s, is becoming a last-chance alternative for people with terminal lung diseases such as cystic fibrosis and emphysema.

"I've often asked patients how much time you want to make up for going through this evaluation process and the waiting and the uncertainty

and the risks," Cooper said. "How much time do you want off your oxygen, able to take a deep breath without coughing or hacking or sputtering?"

"One day, is what several people have told me. Nobody has asked for more than a year."

More and more people are considering the idea. "A lot of people with lung disorders are feeling very hopeful that transplantation is an option for them," said Margo Harris, a spokeswoman for the American Lung Association in Washington, D.C. "There have been some remarkable breakthroughs."

Before Cooper and his team refined the technique, 44 attempts at lung transplants were made around the world. All 44 patients died.

After Cooper's first success, in 1983, progress was fitful for a few years due to complications, mostly in the healing process. Cooper began Barnes' lung transplant program in 1988, and by 1989 there were 140 transplants across the country.

Last year, more than 160 were performed in the United States. Other major centers are at Stanford, Calif., and the University of Pittsburgh.

Lung transplant recipients face the post-operative obstacles of all transplant patients. Doctors say patients have only a 50 percent to 75 percent chance of surviving a year, and they don't know about long-term survivability.

"We tell people that having a transplanted lung is not giving up your illness for perfect health," Cooper said. "It's trading in one disease for another, trading what you've got for the disease we call being a transplant patient."

Recipients must be on medication for the rest

of their lives. There's potential for complications and organ rejection, along with the need for periodic hospitalizations and frequent doctor visits.

The biggest obstacle remains finding donor organs, he said.

Lungs, like all donor organs, are in drastically short supply, Cooper said at a recent American Heart Association meeting in Georgia for science writers. Of the 3,500 donors available each year, he said, 300 can supply lungs.

"Most people die waiting," Cooper said. "It's difficult for patients, because they're on death row."

Another problem is collecting from insurers for the transplant, which costs \$150,000 for one lung and \$250,000 for two, Ms. Harris said.

The transplant involves splitting a set of donor lungs and implanting them separately, keeping the patient alive on one lung while replacing the other. The procedure can take eight hours, but it reduces possible complications and eliminates the need to have the patient on a heart-lung machine.

Cooper said surgeons can learn the new technique more easily than earlier procedures, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has referred potential lung transplant candidates to Barnes.

Cooper also has a reputation for taking on patients beyond established age limits or with other complications.

"He's clearly done more procedures in the cystic fibrosis field than anybody else and he's a very compassionate man," said Dr. Robert Beall, the executive vice president for medical affairs for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Bethesda, Md. "He's taken on many patients that others thought too risky to take."

Heard Jones
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"It's all in your head." It may not be

HOUSTON—For years, women suffering from irritability, tension, depression, weight gain, breast tenderness and other symptoms prior to their menstrual periods often heard those words.

But persistence in reporting the symptoms led to the label "premenstrual syndrome"—PMS—and to a search for causes and cures for a disorder that affects 70 to 90 percent of reproductive-age women.

Now, a researcher at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston is telling women once again that PMS is "all in your head." Dr. C. James Chuong, however, refers to chemicals in the brain, not to psychosomatic illness.

One of the chemicals which Chuong believes may be responsible for PMS is beta endorphin, a natural opiate known to reduce pain, elevate mood and produce a feeling of well-being.

A drop in endorphin levels produces emotional and physical withdrawal symptoms like those associated with PMS.

Chuong, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of the Baylor PMS program, said 70 percent of the patients he has studied show lower beta endorphin levels prior to menstruation.

Chuong is also investigating medications to block withdrawal symptoms. One drug being tested is naltrexone, also used to treat heroin addicts. Given orally around the time of ovulation, the drug may eliminate or reduce the severity of PMS symptoms, decreasing sufferers' discomfort, Chuong said.

"While this may not be the only cause or cure for PMS, using this drug unknown to relieve opiate withdrawal symptoms provided relief for 69 percent of study participants," he said.

Additional studies are underway at Baylor to confirm a link between beta endorphin and PMS and to test treatments. Chuong is also pursuing evidence that a zinc deficiency might lead to a change in the production of certain brain chemicals and therefore trigger PMS.

"PMS may be 'in your head' because it is caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain. But it is a real disorder, not an imagined one. It causes millions of women monthly discomfort and distress that can contribute to marital discord, child abuse and even criminal behavior, as well as job absenteeism and work inefficiency," Chuong said.

Baylor Rally set for Feb. 12 in Amarillo

Dr. W. Keith Hartberg, chairman and professor of biology at Baylor University, will be the featured speaker during the Amarillo Baylor Rally at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center, Tyler and 13th Streets, Amarillo.

The annual rally, sponsored by the Baylor Parents League in the Amarillo area, is designed for prospective and newly admitted Baylor students and their families, parents of Baylor students, Baylor alumni, high school counselors, friends of the university and interested guests. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Prospective students will have a chance to meet campus representatives and to discover the life-time educational opportunities available at Baylor.

Topics will include preparation for university study, academics, faculty, costs, admission, orientation, advisement, registration, housing, and student life.

Americans suffer with osteoarthritis

ATLANTA (AP)—Osteoarthritis affects an estimated 15.8 million Americans, according to the Arthritis Foundation.

In the disease, cartilage that cushions the surface of joints wears away as people age. As a result, bones rub together, causing pain and loss of movement.

Recently, a gene defect was discovered that leads to this condition in some people. Researchers also think a variety of other factors, including joint damage from certain types of on-the-job repeated movements, sports injuries and obesity, may lead to osteoarthritis.



Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

Closed casket funeral gives no comfort to grieving friend

DEAR ABBY: Today I attended the funeral of a friend who had been killed in an auto accident. I had not seen him in several years, and was dismayed to learn that the family had decided to have a closed casket. At first, I assumed that the body was not in condition for viewing, but then I learned that this was not the case; nor was his family carrying out his wish—they simply decided it would be easier this way.

Abby, my heart goes out to those people, but I feel that they made two mistakes (easy enough to do in their grief, I realize):

1. They presumed that no one besides them needed to see the loved one for a visual farewell, denying others the opportunity to cope better with reality. (To make matters worse, this man was an educator who had influenced the lives of many young people. The young people had no focus for their grief. If I can think, "Maybe it's all a mistake; I never saw him," what about kids?)

2. The family showed a lack of acknowledgment for the needs of dear friends, some of whom were far closer to the deceased than his kin.

I know that nothing can change this experience for me since I was denied my farewell, but I hope my writing can make a difference to another decision and others' grief.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DEAR UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The kin (regardless of how "close" or distant they were to the deceased) always have the final say in such matters, which I believe is appropriate. Everyone does not need to view the lifeless body to "focus on their grief" or accept the fact that a loved one is dead. Some prefer to remember that person as he or she was in life.

His family, for reasons of their own, chose a closed-casket fu-

neral. Please do not fault them.

DEAR ABBY: In 1982, my brother borrowed \$1,000 from our mother to buy his fiancée an engagement ring. He has never paid back the loan, or even mentioned it since.

My brother is a wonderful person and would never intentionally forget a loan. Maybe he misunderstood and thought it was a gift.

He now has a job that pays very well and has since bought a home, furniture, new cars, jewelry, etc. Mother won't mention the \$1,000 for fear of hurting his feelings, and I don't think it's my place to mention it.

Our mother is divorced, retired and living on a fixed income, and could really use the money now. What should be done here? I really hope my brother reads your column.

HELPLESS

DEAR HELPLESS: So do I. But just in case he misses it, I think you should jog his memory.

DEAR ABBY: People sometimes laugh out of embarrassment. We would be embarrassed to hear songs whose titles suggest that the honored couple at their golden wedding celebration have less sex in their lives than before.

We have been married for 48 years, and how frequently we have sex is nobody's business. But we would be horrified if, at our 50th, the orchestra leader played "Night and Day," "We Did It Before and We Can Do It Again" or "Never in a Million Years."

"US" IN PALM DESERT, CALIF.

Club News

The Altrusa Club of Pampa met Jan. 14 for a business meeting with president, Joyce Williams, presiding. Club officers and committee chairman gave appropriate reports on club activities. Carolyn Chaney presented the Accent. Donna Turner was present as a guest. Leona Willis, Chleo Worley, and Louise Bailey were elected by the club membership to serve as the nominating committee for 1991-92 slate of officers.

The Altrusa Club met Jan. 28 for the monthly program meeting. The focus of the meeting was the mid-year evaluation, completed individually by each club member, regarding the club's programs, projects and fund raising to date. Altrusa information committee was in charge of the evaluation procedure.

Ruby Royce, Altrusa information committee chairman, presented the Accent. As chairman of the committee, she also conducted the installation of new club member, Sylvia Goss. Myrna Orr is Mrs. Goss' sponsor for membership.

Brenda Tucker requested that members contribute snacks and luncheon items for the tutors, who will be trained on Feb. 8 and 9, to work in the local literacy program. Louise Bailey, community services chairman, announced that the annual tooth brushing project for third graders will be held in February at the PISD elementary schools. This is a long-time project for the Altrusa Club. Club members will meet at each school to assist students in proper toothbrushing. Dr. John Sparkman, dentist, will talk about proper dental care with students. Carolyn Chaney reminded members that the Pampa Sheltered Workshop continues to need contribution of register receipts toward obtaining a computer.

Greeters were Geneva Tidwell and Charlene Morriss.

Club members received the monthly newsletter, *Altrusa Views*.

Texas Chamber Ensemble at Frank Phillips College

The Frank Phillips College Lyceum, in conjunction with the Texas Commission on the Arts, is presenting the Austin Chamber Ensemble in concert, Monday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Admission is free.

The ensemble is composed of Barbara Mahler, flute; Leah Reitz, oboe; Martha MacDonald, clarinet; Charles Hazlewood, bassoon; Mikal Hart, horn.

This Austin Chamber Ensemble has performed on various university, museum, and library concert series. They have performed regularly in various Texas cities. Over the years, they have performed in European cities including The Hague, Dusseldorf, Cologne, Hamburg, LeMans, Lyon, and Salzburg.

edited by Charlene Morriss.

The next meeting will be a business meeting, Feb. 11, at Coronado Inn, Starlight Room.

Lefors Cub Scout Pack 419 had a Pinewood Derby race on Jan. 28. Thirteen scouts entered their cars in the competition. Those participating were Tommy Davenport, Heath Story, Ray Turpen, Caleb Barnes, Bradley Sawyer, Chase Phariss, Jesse Callaway, Jonathan Howell, J. W. Mains, Cody Freeman, Jared Story, Kody Franks, and Len Lock. First place trophy went to Len Lock, second place to Jared Story, and third place to Heath Story. Jesse Callaway was awarded the trophy for the most original car. Participation ribbons were awarded to the other scouts.

The Pampa Art Club met for a workshop and luncheon in the home of Mrs. Tommie Grant on Feb. 5. Fourteen members attended. They spent time working on current projects. The next meeting will be in the home of Mrs. Dewey Palmieter, 1508 Hamilton, at 10:30 a.m.

The Worthwhile Extension Homemakers Club met in the home of Lottie Reynolds on Feb. 1, with eight members present.

The president, Audrey Steward called the meeting to order by repeating the thought for the day, "Two things are bad for the heart—running up the stairs and running down people."

Beulah Terrell presented the program on the state TEHA convention, which was held in Amarillo. The topic was "What Is Within Me Is Important". Members were reminded that the true person is what is on the inside and not what is on the outside, so one needs to let the "good within" ripple out and share positive attitudes with others.

In business, it was voted to meet each first and third Fridays at 10 a.m. The next meeting will be Feb. 15 in the home of Edythe West. Visitors are welcome. For more information call 665-1589.

Pancake supper set for February 12

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church will hold its 36th Annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall at 727 W. Brown-

ing.

The proceeds from the pancake supper will be used to benefit St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School.

The first Shrove Tuesday pancake supper at St. Matthew's was held on Valentine's Day in 1956. For many years the proceeds were sent to St. Francis Boys Home in Salina, Kan., but since 1976, all proceeds from the supper have gone to St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School.

St. Matthew's Day School, which will be celebrating its 36th anniversary in November, conducts classes for three-year-olds, four-year-olds and kindergarten. Also, a day care program is conducted for children enrolled in the

school.

Last year a new computer lab with nine IBM computers was added, and since then, two Apple computers have been attained.

There are currently 107 students enrolled. A scholarship program is made available through memorials and donations for those who cannot meet tuition costs. A family plan is available for families with more than one child enrolled in the school.

The tradition of the pancake supper began on Shrove Tuesday, the climax of pre-Lenten festivities, since all the meats, milk, eggs and fats were forbidden during Lent and thus needed to be used up.

Many southern cities are acclaimed for their carnivals at this season, especially in New Orleans, which started parades as early as 1827. Liberal, Kan., since

1950, is known internationally for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race (in which participants run and flip the cakes at the same time) which is held in competition with Olney, England.

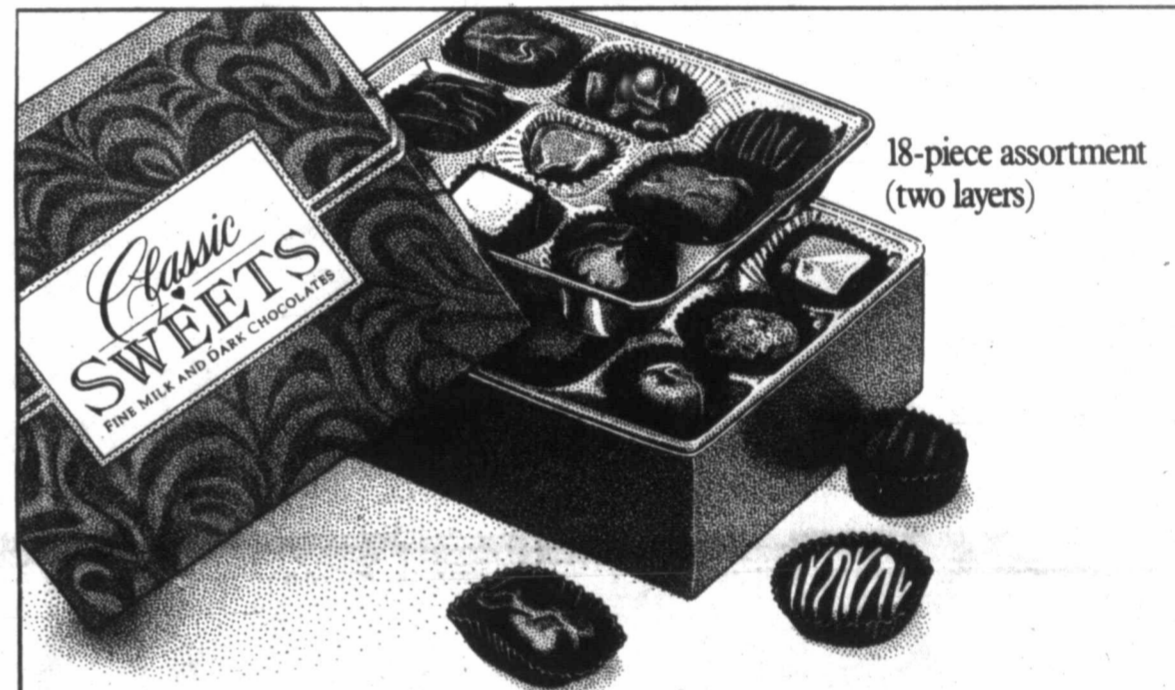
The pancake supper is an all-you-can eat event, with bacon and other trimmings also provided. The supper will be served by candlelight in a Mardi Gras atmosphere.

As in the past, both the junior and senior Episcopal Young Churchmen will be assisting with the festivities.

Tickets are available from parish members, at the church office or at the door, with preschool children eating free.

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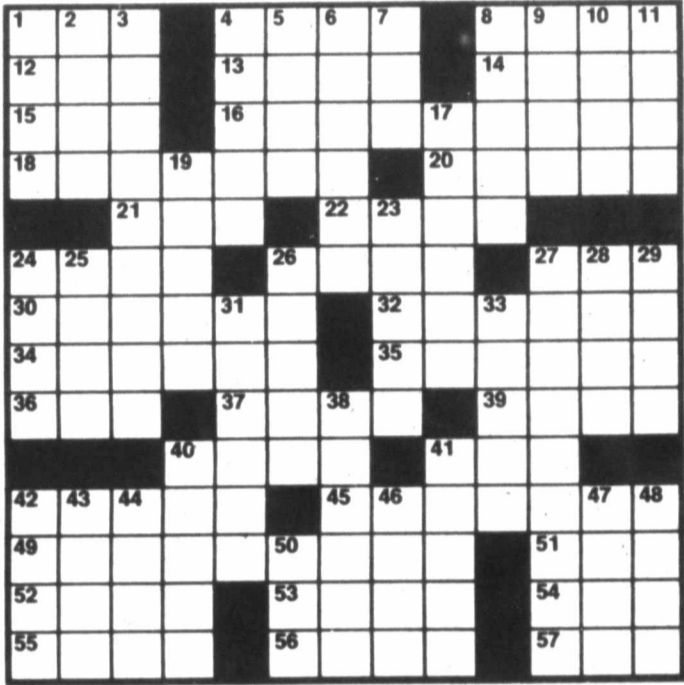
Today's Crossword Puzzle

The World Almanac® Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tex. time
 - 4 Hooklike parts
 - 8 Fills with reverence
 - 12 Chemical suffix
 - 13 Part of the day
 - 14 Moist and chilly
 - 15 Father
 - 16 Violent action
 - 18 Terse saying
 - 20 Battle
 - 21 Openings
 - 22 Ungentlemanly man
 - 24 Malarial fever
 - 26 Tennis player Arthur
 - 27 Acct.
 - 30 Expel from law practice
 - 32 Assimilate
 - 34 Assert
- DOWN**
- 1 Grant
 - 2 Ginger cookie
 - 3 In a boring manner
 - 4 Shadow
 - 5 Heroine of "A Doll's House"
 - 6 Food particles
 - 7 Profit on
 - 8 Colleague of Freud
 - 9 Howl
 - 10 Grafted, in heraldry
 - 11 — terrier
 - 17 One-celled animal
 - 19 Diving bird
 - 23 Author John
 - 24 Paradise dweller
 - 25 — monster
 - 26 Betel palm
 - 27 Colleague
 - 28 VP's superior
 - 29 Competent
 - 31 Writer — Christie
 - 33 Chair part
 - 38 Merchant
 - 40 Shorthand
 - 41 Obscure
 - 42 Make untidy
 - 43 Preposition
 - 44 No
 - 46 Cold Adriatic wind
 - 47 Sea eagle
 - 48 Tropical fruit
 - 50 Mortar mixer

Answer to Previous Puzzle

SIPS	JON	SISS
HAIL	ONO	UNCI
UGLY	CAR	ICON
TOLEDO	MATURE	
RISE	TAMES	
JOT	MIL	ABB
UPIN	TACTLESS	
GENOTYPE	ENOS	
HOW	SLY	TOT
ANISE	ELON	
HONEST	ANIMUS	
OVEN	IER	SIRE
MESS	DYE	USSR
ELSE	YET	STAB



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GEECH



By Jerry Bittle

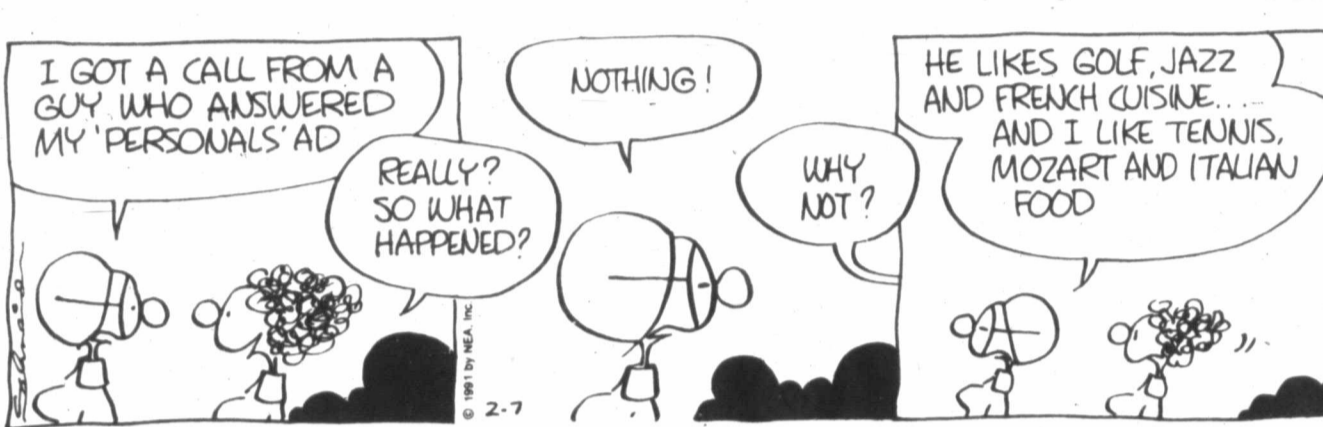
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



EEK & MEEK

By Howie Schneider



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Conditions still prevail advising you not to become too deeply involved financially with friends at this time. This includes investments, loans or lending. 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 \$1.25 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You may be more inclined today to find reasons why you shouldn't do something rather than why you should. If the former is more pronounced, your time may not be spent productively.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Matters about which you usually exercise prudent judgment might be distorted by wishful thinking today. Try to focus on facts, not fiction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Even though you may feel that a pal is obligated to owe you a favor, this is not an especially good day to voice your request. Wait until this individual volunteers to help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Someone who usually sees eye-to-eye with you on critical issues might be an adversary today; your interests and the interests of this individual are in competition.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) It's very important that you deliver on what you promise today, especially when dealing with co-workers. Negligence on your behalf could cost you the respect of an admirer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Appearances could be deceiving in regard to someone you presently find very appealing. Proceed slowly. If you get too deeply involved too quickly, you may regret it later.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) In order to keep your mate happy, you might be required to pamper your partner a bit more than usual today. This individual has done the same for you on occasion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Attempting to flatter unwilling helpers into doing your bidding today could prove counterproductive. You'll have better chances if you use sincere and forthright tactics.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) It may be a trifle hard to live within your means today. To be on the safe side, it might be wise to avoid shops that offer expensive merchandise you presently can't afford.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Be careful today that you don't establish the bad precedent of rewarding those in your charge for deeds of little merit. The next time they may expect even more.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You're usually a reasonably self-reliant person who does not rely too heavily on others. Today, however, you might be dependent rather than independent.

MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong



MARMADUKE

By Brad Anderson

KIT N' CARLYLE

By Larry Wright



ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue

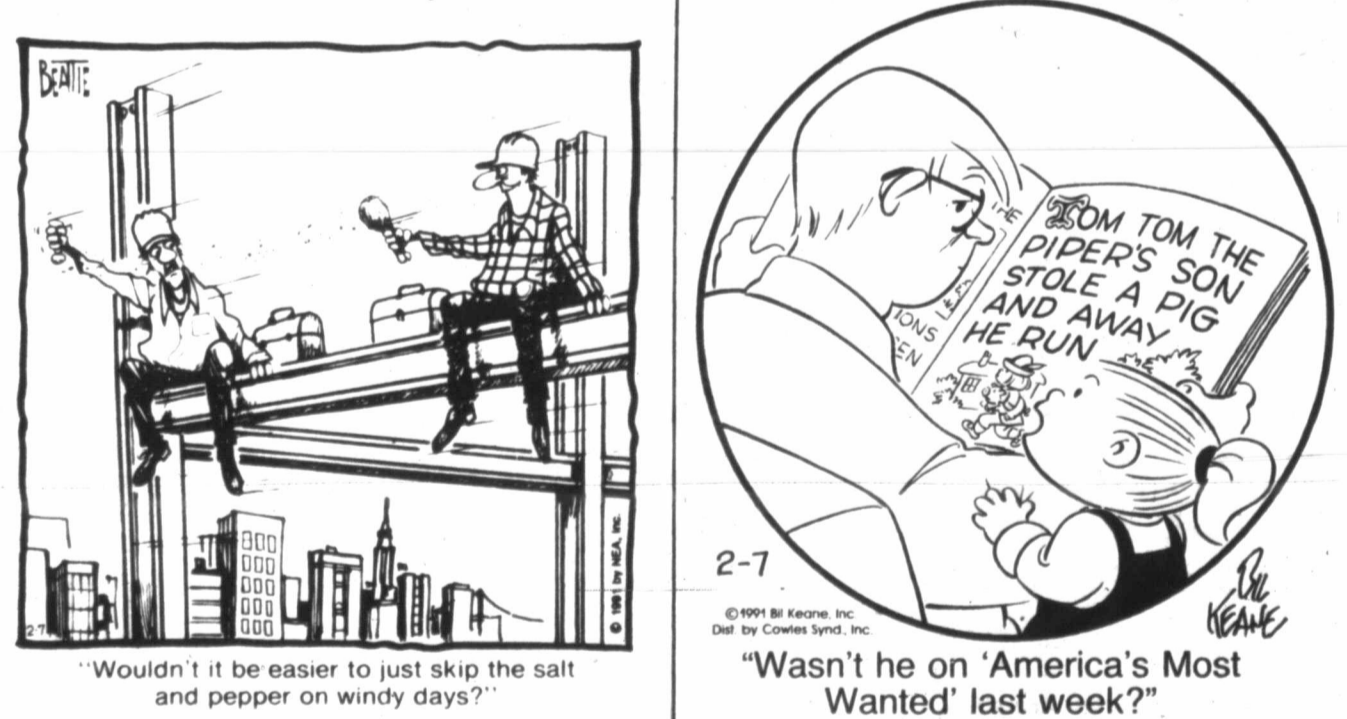


SNAFU

By Bruce Beattie

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



WINTHROP

By Dick Cavalli



CALVIN AND HOBBS

By Bill Watterson



THE BORN LOSER

By Art Sansom

FRANK AND ERNEST

By Bob Thaves



PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz

GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



Richards calls for tax study, agency consolidation in State of State address

by MICHAEL HOLMES
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Ann Richards, in her first State of the State address, Wednesday called for a consumer-oriented State Board of Insurance, consolidation of government agencies and a comprehensive study of the Texas tax structure.

Richards called her speech to a joint session of the Legislature a blueprint for the "New Texas" she promised voters during last year's campaign.

"We're going to be progressive in this administration — progressive in the proud tradition of Sam Houston. We will not sit back and let crisis overwhelm us. We will not wait until prodded by court order," Richards pledged.

"In a New Texas, there will be no doubt in people's minds that this government is here to serve the people," she said.

The governor said that if the Insurance Board won't change to reflect the interests of consumers, she will seek conservatorship of the regulatory panel under a special three-member panel appointed by her.

"Texas consumers are fed up with an insurance mess that results in higher rates, cancelled policies and unaccountable administrators," Richards said.

She called on Insurance Board members James Saxton and Dick Reynolds to resign by Feb. 15. The third member's term has expired, and Richards has appointed a replacement.

Richards said that by failing to institute an early warning system to identify and monitor fiscally troubled insurance companies, the Insurance Board has

been guilty of "gross fiscal mismanagement."

On education, the governor called for streamlining the Texas Education Agency and reducing the amount of paperwork required of teachers.

"Teachers must be free to teach," she said, adding that the state should order a minimum teacher salary with annual cost-of-living raises.

The Legislature is scrambling to meet an April 1 Texas Supreme Court deadline for overhauling the school finance system. Richards said that overhaul must be "equitable and stable," but her blueprint included no specific recommendation.

The governor said state government needs to become leaner and more efficient. To achieve that, she proposed consolidating many of the 250-plus state agencies.

"Taxpayers are weary, and with good reason," she said. "They have long complained about a state government that is too large, unwieldy and expensive. They see an enormous bureaucracy whose only purpose, it seems, is self-perpetuation."

Among recommendations, Richards called for consolidating the 28 agencies that license various occupations; combining the Texas Housing Agency and Department of Community Affairs; and merging the Texas Public Finance Authority and the Bond Review Board.

Richards said performance audits authorized by a new law would be used to find more areas for consolidation.

On taxes, Richards called for reactivating the Select Committee on Tax Equity to make recommendations for "improving" the state's tax structure.

She said the current corporate franchise tax is rid-

ded by loopholes and exemptions that put the major tax burden on a small percentage of businesses.

Only corporations pay the tax now, while other businesses do not, she said.

Of the top 277,000 corporations now taxed, the top 10 percent pay 90 percent of the tax. Manufacturers, which comprise only 6.1 percent of all taxpayers, pay 25.2 percent of the taxes. Service industries, 22.3 percent of taxpayers, pay only 7.3 percent of the tax, Richards said.

"As we broaden the scope of the franchise tax, we must also spread the tax more equitably across industries. The tax base must be broadened so that capital is

not the sole focus. We must develop a sensible, fair and reliable system of taxing Texas business," she said.

The governor said Texas must do a better job of obtaining federal aid. Texas now ranks 47th among the 50 states, she said.

She called for consolidating the more than 200 different state operating funds. "Eliminating special funds will open up the budget process, allowing us to evaluate each agency on the basis of need, not on its ability to divert."

Richards also pledged a new emphasis on environmental protection, saying the "Don't Mess With Texas" attitude will apply to more than just roadside trash.

Gorbachev declares Soviet Union will be preserved at all costs

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, in an unscheduled television speech Wednesday night, declared he intended to keep the Soviet Union together at all costs.

"All my convictions are based on preservation of the union," Gorbachev said, sitting at a desk during the 15-minute address that came on at the beginning of the nightly evening newscast.

Gorbachev's statements were his clearest yet that he will not let any of the 15 republics break from the union.

Many of those 15, in particular the three Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, have initiated secessionist moves to free themselves from the Soviet Union. The Baltics, where 21 people have died since Jan. 13 in incidents with Soviet troops, were independent between


the two world wars.

"The Soviet Union is a superpower. ... Huge efforts were made to make it so powerful, and we could lose it very quickly," the president said.

Gorbachev singled out Lithuania and Estonia for ignoring his order for a nationwide referendum on preserving the union, and said secession would spell doom for any republic.

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