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THURSDAY

Saudis say they are cutting off aid to PLO

By BARRY SCHWID
AP Diplomatic Writer

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Saudi Arabia informed the United States today that it was cutting off financial support to the Palestine Liberation Organization, a senior U.S. official said.

Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, also responded positively to an Israeli proposal for Mideast peace talks, the official told reporters as Secretary of State James A. Baker III flew here to discuss the peace plan with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Financial support from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other oil-rich Arab countries have helped make it possible for Yasser Arafat's PLO to carry out its guerrilla raids against Israel.

But the Saudis were disappointed when the PLO backed Iraq in the Persian Gulf War.

U.S. officials traveling with Baker said they did not know much money the Saudis have been providing the PLO.

Whatever the Saudis' motivation, a suspension of financial support to the PLO could build confidence in Israel that Arab attitudes are changing.

Baker has been trying to sell Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on that idea in order to encourage him to risk giving up territory to the Arabs in the peace settlement.

Baker met with Prince Saud in Cairo today before flying here to see Assad tonight.

"We were pretty pleased with the character and content of the meeting," the senior U.S. official said of the hourlong session with Saud.

"He had a lot of questions," said the official, who briefed reporters aboard Baker's plane after they agreed not to identify him.

"We look at that as a sign of interest," the official said.

While refusing to provide any details, the official said some of the questions raised by Saud related to who would represent Palestinian Arabs in the peace talks.

"He made it very clear they are not funding the PLO," the official said.

At the same time, the Saudis are providing assistance to Palestinians who live under Israeli rule on the West Bank and in Gaza, the official said.

In that sense, the official said, the Saudis are fulfilling a role of promoting the Palestinians and their demands.

Israel's proposal for peace talks includes participation by Palestinians — but not PLO members — in a mixed delegation with Jordan.

Baker met in Jerusalem on Tuesday with six Palestinians, who were authorized by the PLO to see him.

Baker insists the Bush administration is not negotiating with Arafat's organization.

Summing up Arab attitudes toward the peace talks proposal so far, the official said, "There is a very strong desire to have a process. They are looking for ways to have something happen."

The question confronting Baker here is whether Assad will join in.

As Baker flew here, a commentary on Syrian state radio said Syria would insist that Israel first agree to relinquish Arab territories in accordance with U.N. resolutions.

It said Syria welcomed "any international effort aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive settlement in the region. However, such a settlement is impossible unless United Nations resolutions are implemented and a settlement is worked out on the basis of international legitimacy."

In Cairo on Wednesday, Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid said "Any instrument that can lead us to a peaceful solution I'm sure Egypt is willing to support."

Even separately, Saudi Arabia and Syria could push the proposal along or stop it dead.

Baker will wind up his pulse-taking among Arab nations Friday in Geneva when he sees Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher al-Masri.

The Israeli proposal calls for a regional meeting of Arabs, Israelis and Palestinians under U.S. auspices.

Baker immediately called for Soviet co-sponsorship, provided Moscow establishes full diplomatic relations with Israel after a 24-year break.

Also the talks, in the U.S. view, would be based on Israel's trading territory for peace.

Despite a skeptical reaction from the semi-official Egyptian press, Abdel-Meguid said "this is an idea that is very interesting. We will certainly discuss that very seriously, with an open mind."

The statement after Baker had met for 90 minutes with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Abdel-Meguid gave U.S. diplomacy a measure of momentum as the Bush administration tries to set up peace talks.

Baker called the discussion "fruitful and useful." However, he also told reporters that "the problems we are addressing are extremely difficult, they are intractable, they are of very long standing."

Before Baker flew to Cairo from Jerusalem the Egyptian press indicated Mubarak might confront Baker with a five-point plan of his own calling for Israel to relinquish land in order to gain Arab acceptance of its existence.

The Egyptian leader did not rule out the regional peace conference proposed by the Israeli government — provided it was to lead to an international conference.

New federal regulations pose problems for storm water collection, treatment

By BEAR MILLS
Staff Writer

New federal standards regarding the collection and treatment of storm water carrying environmentally hazardous materials will mean thousands of dollars of expense for many small cities, including Pampa.

City Manager Glen Hackler said it was originally thought the Environmental Protection Agency mandates on collecting storm water would only affect cities of 100,000 or more.

"Nationwide, there has been a ground-swell of concern for the environment and the pendulum has swung to such a degree that regulating agencies are drafting rules at a fast pace," Hackler said.

Currently, cities are scrambling to file applications with the EPA that indicate how much rain their area gets and what areas could potentially be affected by large runoffs of water.

In Pampa, Hackler said the landfill, waste water treatment center

and city garage all fall under the EPA umbrella of concern.

Other areas around the nation that could potentially have to have their storm water captured for treatment include construction sites, airports, industrial facilities, chemical processing plants, tanning operations, some oil and gas companies, stone and concrete plants and sawmills.

Each has been deemed to house chemicals, including motor oil, that could get into the ground water and, over time, hurt plants, wildlife and drinking water.

"There is concern by the EPA that areas where petroleum-based products are used, when storm water occurs, it has detrimental effects," Hackler explained. "In some cases you may have to collect your storm water and treat it. (Because of a lack of rain), we don't anticipate having to do that."

However, just going through the application process, as required by federal law, will cost Pampa taxpayers up to \$10,000, Hackler said.

Because Pampa is filing its application as part of a group permit with similarly-sized and situation cities, they are saving a filing fee of up to \$90,000 for an individual EPA storm water permit.

It will not be known for several years, he stated, whether or not storm sewers and collection areas will have to be placed at the Pampa landfill, service center and water treatment plant, due to federal red tape.

"It's another government requirement that stems from a concern for the environment," Hackler explained.

"It is intended to make sure runoff doesn't become a health hazard. We believe there should be some variances for areas that don't get much rain, but we don't think the intent (of the law) is silly."

Hackler predicted that cities with populations over 100,000 will be spending "millions of dollars to capture and treat storm water," which will boost local taxes in those cities to pay for the project.

Pampa choirs win Sweepstakes honors

Pampa High School choirs brought home three Sweepstakes awards from the Region I UIL Concert and Sightreading contest at West Texas State University in Canyon Wednesday.

The Concert Choir and Concert Women's Choir, both directed by Fred Mays, each won the coveted Sweepstakes award which designates a first division rating in all events. Sophomore Women's Choir, directed by Susie Wilson, also won Sweepstakes.

Concert Men's Choir scored a second division in Concert and the Freshmen Mixed Choir earned a second division in both Concert and Sightreading.

Judges for the two-day contest were as follows: Concert — Jack Cannon of Dallas, Jim Henderson of Garland and Elizabeth Volk of Dallas; Sightreading — Allan Andrews of Dallas, Charlie Collins of Houston and Don Waugh of Longview.

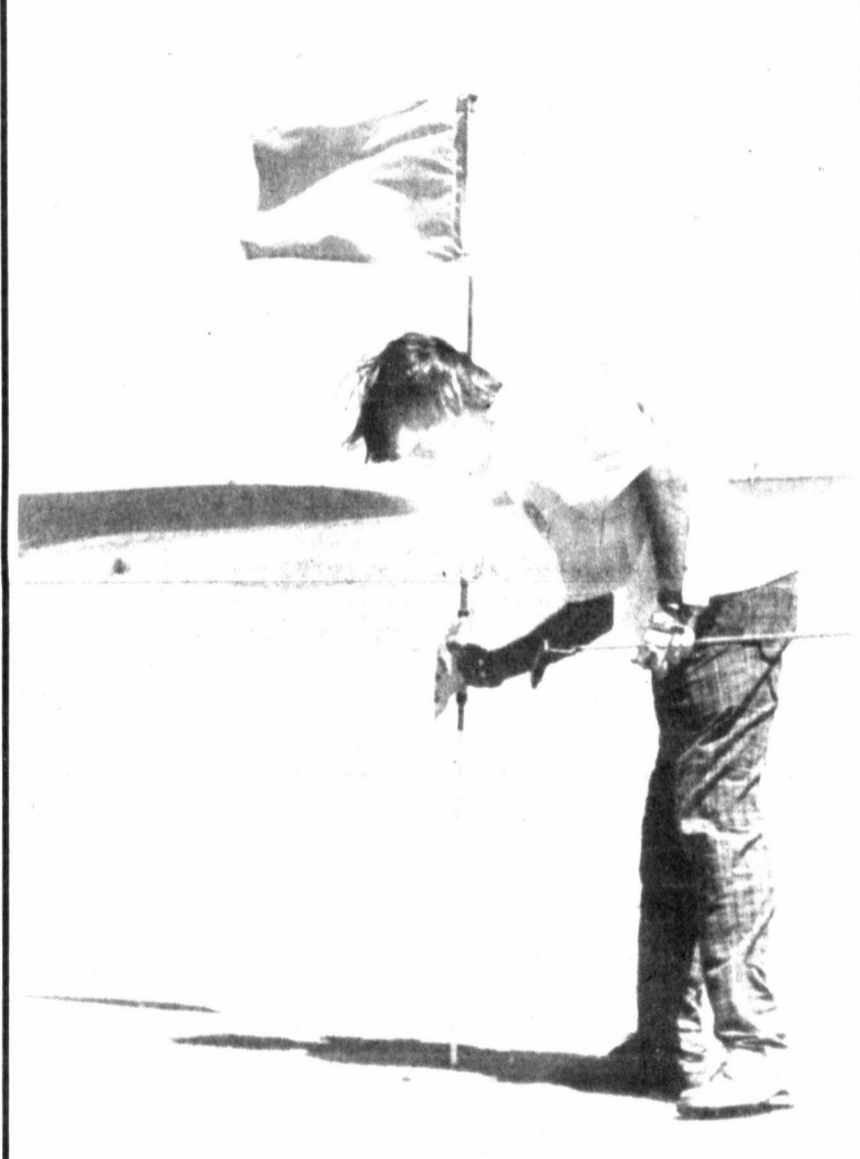
Pampa received more Sweepstakes awards than any other

school participating. Amarillo High School had two groups win a Sweepstakes, with Borger and Canyon each having one choir win a Sweepstakes.

Wednesday's award makes the fifth consecutive Sweepstakes honor for the Concert Choir, Mays said.

Pampa High School choirs are now preparing to attend the National Choral Festival in Orlando, Fla., which will be attended by choirs from two countries and several states, Mays said.

Windy course



(Staff photo by J. Alan Brzys)

Guillian Rutherford of McLean battles winds gusting up to 50 mph Wednesday as he replaces the flag at the first hole at Hidden Hills Public Golf course. Rutherford was competing in a District 6-1A high school playoff tournament. Results of the tournament are on Page 9.

Shuttle Atlantis lands safely with astronauts

By LEE SIEGEL
AP Science Writer

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis landed with five astronauts today following a triumphant space-walking mission that lasted a day longer than planned because of strong desert wind.

Atlantis glided through the sky and touched down at 6:55 a.m. PDT (8:55 a.m. CDT), shortly after sunrise. The arrival was heralded by twin sonic booms that shook the ground.

Mission Control's Brian Duffy told commander Steven Nagel, "Steve, you and your crew did it all and you made it look easy. Congratulations on a great job."

About 1,100 spectators cheered as Atlantis landed smoothly on the dry lakebed and rolled to a stop.

Atlantis circled the world almost 93 times during the six days in space. It traveled 2,480,016 miles.

Mission Control issued the go-ahead for a landing in the Mojave Desert after the winds calmed down this morning. Powerful gusts prevented Atlantis from landing there as planned Wednesday.

Flight directors passed up an earlier landing opportunity at Kennedy Space Center because of fog and clouds. The weather in Florida later cleared, but NASA opted for the spacious lakebed at Edwards Air Force Base.

The crew of four men and one woman could have stayed up until Saturday.

Atlantis' astronauts accomplished their primary task on Sunday, releasing the 17-ton Gamma Ray Observatory. It will circle the Earth for more than two years in search of gamma rays, the most intense radiation in the universe.

The crew also undertook the first American spacewalks in five years — one an emergency mission to fix a stuck antenna on the \$617 million observatory, the other to lay groundwork for a \$30 billion space station NASA hopes to start building in 1995.

NASA said the crew gathered a wealth of engineering information from the spacewalks, during which they tested tools and construction methods for the orbiting laboratory.

Mission Control awoke crew members today shortly after midnight — about 1 1/2 hours early — to prepare them for a possible Florida landing.

They were greeted with music from the TV series *Magnum, P.I.* and a taped message from its star, Tom Selleck. Astronaut Linda Godwin is a big Selleck fan, NASA said.

"Good morning, and a special wakeup to Linda," the message said. "This is Tom Selleck and I hope you had a nice night's sleep, but it's time to get up and go to work."

Bush conferring with EC leaders on aid to Kurds

By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, after warning Iraq to keep its hands off the relief effort for the Kurds, is conferring with European leaders on how best to keep the refugees from starving.

But Bush also planned to use today's meeting with Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer, the president of the European Council, to look for ways to break the stalemate on the Uruguay Round of trade talks, a senior administration official said Wednesday.

Santer and Jacques Delors, the longtime president of the 12-nation European Community Commission, were meeting with Bush in the Oval Office and over a working luncheon.

Bush talked by telephone Wednesday with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and British Prime Minister John Major, who is pressing for creation of a sanctuary for the Kurds inside northern Iraq. Iraq has rejected the idea.

The European Council prime ministers, at a meeting Monday in Luxembourg, endorsed Major's call for creating such an enclave.

A statement issued Wednesday by Major's office appeared to back away somewhat from the sanctuary concept. After ensuring the safety of relief workers, it said, "The second objective would be to enable the refugees to return in safety to their homes."

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Wednesday, "Everyone agrees on the need for a sanctuary. The concept of some location has to be considered."

But he added, "There's not a consensus" on how to do it.

On Tuesday, Fitzwater had been considerably more lukewarm on a sanctuary, saying the administration had not "made a judgment yet on whether we think it's a good idea overall."

The spokesman said Wednesday, meantime, that the White House had put Baghdad on notice that Iraq's "ground or air forces" will not be allowed to interfere in any way with the international relief operation for the hundreds of thousands of Kurds massed on the Turkish-Iraq border.

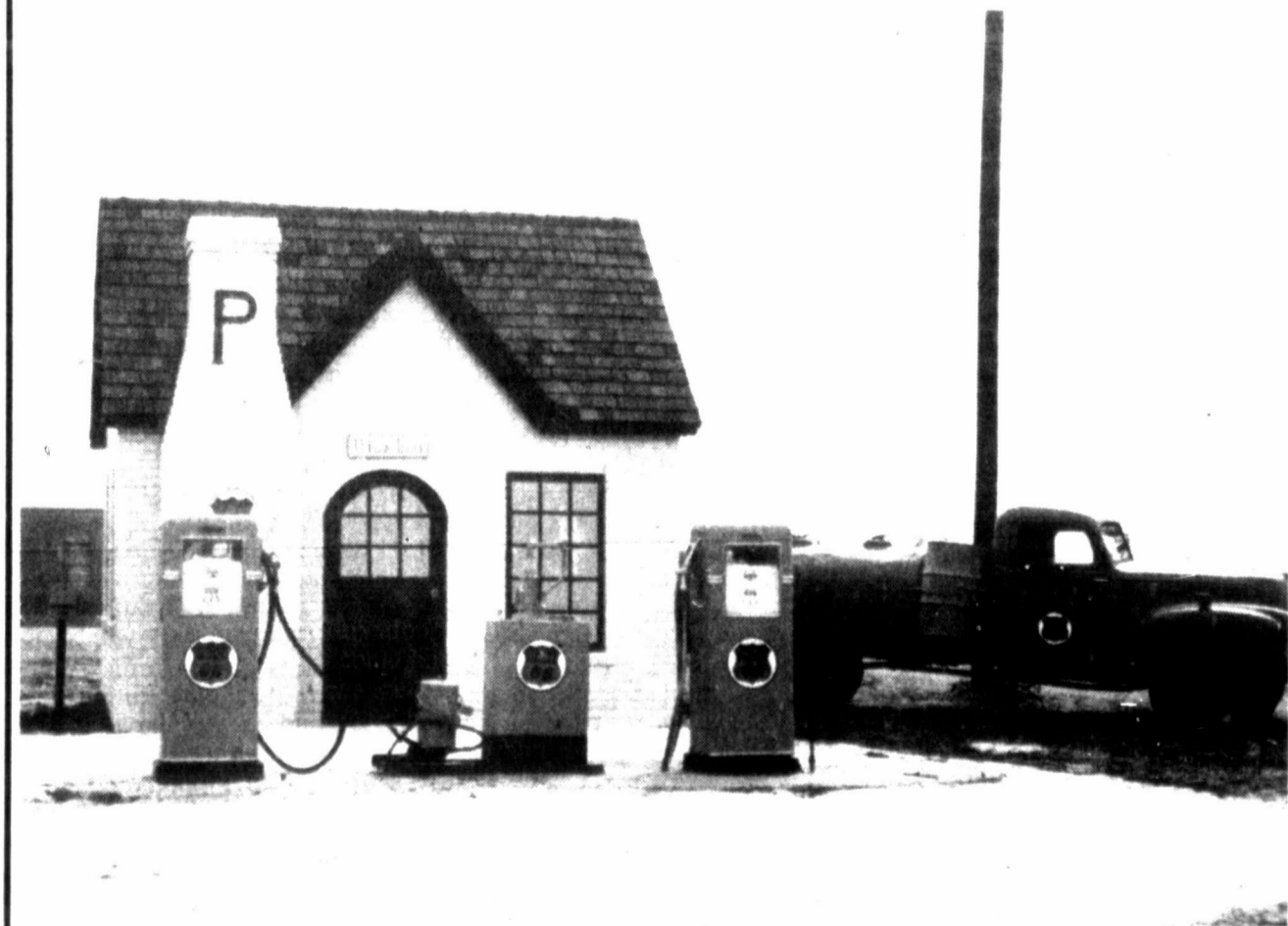
"We are simply saying that we do not expect the humanitarian efforts to be interrupted or thwarted by Iraqi military, period," Fitzwater said.

The senior administration official, who asked to remain anonymous, said the agenda includes the crisis in the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Eastern Europe and future security and defense arrangements for Europe, as well as Persian Gulf and trade issues.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III plans to confer with Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos in Geneva on Friday at the end of Baker's latest Middle East mission.

"Between these two meetings we're going to encourage the European Community to work closely with us on the gulf, and to take further steps to address the urgent needs of Iraqi refugees," the senior official said.

Historic gas station



(Staff photo by J. Alan Brzys)

A photograph or similar documentation of the Phillips 66 station on the former Route 66 in McLean, dated 1930 or before, is needed to complete application for the site to receive historical marker status. Anyone who can provide historical documentation of the gasoline station, shown above in a recent photograph, should contact Darlene Birkes, chairman of the Gray County Historical Society, or Ruth Magee, president of the McLean Chapter of the Texas Old Route 66 Association.

Minsk workers suspend strike; talks to start with Soviet government

By BRIAN FRIEDMAN
Associated Press Writer

MINSK, U.S.S.R. (AP) — Leaders of a strike in the Byelorussian capital, Minsk, voted today to end a walk-out by 200,000 workers after republic leaders agreed to discuss their economic and political demands.

Workers on the second shift in several Minsk area factories were reporting for work as usual this afternoon, strike leaders said. The first-shift workers had walked off the job in the morning, following Wednesday's daylong strike at scores of factories and plants.

The strike, triggered by steep price increases that took effect nationwide April 2, was called to demand higher pay and sweeping changes in the republic and national governments.

Together with a strike by miners across the country, the walkout in Byelorussia reflected bitter disappointment with President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, whose promises of free-market reforms and greater democratization are meeting with increasing skepticism.

Strike leader Georgi Mukhin said the agreement to suspend the strike was reached with Byelorussian Vice President Stanislav Shushkevich and the first deputy prime minister, Vladislav Piluta.

Mukhin said all of the strike committees' economic and political demands remained open for negotiation, which could begin as early as Friday.

"The main victory for us is that the people now understand that they cannot live in the old way any longer," Mukhin told The Associated Press.

He said the agreement brought dignity and respect to the workers. With it, Byelorussians could live "not like animals, but like human beings," he said.

Byelorussia, a western republic traditionally loyal to the Kremlin, was seething with anger at unfulfilled promises and plummeting purchasing power.

Workers ignored threats of lost pay and walked off the job on Wednesday. They emptied a bicycle factory, a thermal plastics plant, a yarn factory, a television plant and an electronic instruments plant.

After word of the agreement was reached, thousands of protesters who had gathered in central Lenin Square approved it with a show of hands, strike leaders said.

The square then began emptying.

The square had been the scene of a mass rally on Wednesday, when tens of thousands of people streamed out of their workplaces and joined a strike for higher wages following the price increases.

In walkouts elsewhere, between 200,000 and 300,000 people are on strike at coalfields across the country, and the official Tass news agency today said the 5-week-old protest showed no signs of ending.

"Miners show no signs of compromise," Tass said. "In addition to economic demands, they keep insisting that the president and prime minister of the country resign."

The strikers in Byelorussia had demanded the resignation of Gorbachev, the removal of his entire Cabinet, the resignation of the Byelorussian parliament and the transfer of power to a coalition government.

Strike leaders won the right to 15 minutes of live air time in an unprecedented broadcast on the republic's television station Wednesday night, and assailed Gorbachev and the Communist Party for ruining their republic.

"We don't want to have anything in common with Gorbachev and his untalented union government, which

squeezes our republic dry on a regular basis," strike committee member Georgi Mukhin said.

The strikers' economic demands included repeal of a 5 percent national sales tax, nationalization of Communist Party property and legalization of private ownership of land.

They also wanted higher wages to compensate for the drastic increases in state-set prices on most consumer items that took effect April 2.

Byelorussia, a Kansas-sized republic of 10.4 million people on the Polish border, is resource-poor and heavily industrial, producing many of the country's trucks, tools, televisions, bicycles and agricultural machines.

The republic's people have deep ethnic and historical ties to Russia, and have no tradition of militancy.

In striking, Byelorussians ignored an appeal from Gorbachev on Tuesday for a halt to all work stoppages and street demonstrations.

"Everything is a mess in Byelorussia, which until recently seemed so stable, sensible and reliable. Now passions are red hot," the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* commented.

Governor says she's ready to sign school finance reform bill

By PEGGY FIKAC
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Ann Richards says she's ready to sign a school finance reform bill into law, if legislators approve the measure.

"The legislation is going to reflect on the economic future of this state, and whether or not all children have an opportunity at a good education. And I believe this bill does that," Richards said Wednesday.

The House may vote on the reform bill as early as Thursday, said House Speaker Gib Lewis, D-Fort Worth. Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock said he also wants a quick vote in the Senate.

Leaders on both sides predicted passage of the bill, which would shift hundreds of millions of dollars in local property tax money from rich to poor school districts.

The Texas Supreme Court twice has unanimously ordered lawmakers to reform the school finance system, which now allows wide disparities in funding among school districts because of its reliance on the local property tax. The system also is funded by state aid and some federal money.

The state faces a Monday hearing before State District Judge F. Scott McCown, who is overseeing the case and has ordered an alternative plan to be drawn up by a court-appointed expert.

Sen. Carl Parker, Senate Education Committee chairman, was cautious about predicting whether the bill would meet with court approval.

He said he is concerned because the bill still allows rich school districts to raise "a lot more money" than poor ones.

"It is a vast improvement over current law ... but I'm not satisfied it'll get by the court. It might," said Parker, D-Port Arthur.

The bill does contain a revenue cap to limit such disparities when school districts containing 2 percent of the state's students begin outstripping others in raising money.

A House-Senate conference committee approved the school finance reform plan 10-0 Wednesday, after revising a school consolidation provision that some warned

could have doomed the measure in the House.

The provision would have paved the way for the state education commissioner to force local school district consolidation. As revised, the plan allows the commissioner to enforce any decision by new county-wide advisory committees to consolidate school districts.

The school finance reform plan was developed in weekend talks among Lewis, Bullock and lawmakers.

Its estimated cost to the state is about \$1.2 billion over the next two years. When fully implemented, it also would shift about \$400 million

a year in local property tax revenue from wealthier to poorer school districts, according to a Legislative Education Board estimate.

Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, said lawmakers know the bill will cost more money but said it was a necessity.

"All of the children of Texas are our children. All of those children deserve the right to the best education this state can afford. All of the resources of this state ... ought to be available and accessible to all of the children of this state," Ms. Delco said.

The bill would set a minimum local property tax rate of 72 cents per \$100 valuation, rising to \$1 in four years. School districts would get a basic allotment of \$2,200, rising to \$2,800.

The plan would redistribute local property tax revenue generated at the minimum rate in new education districts drawn largely along county lines.

The districts could tax another 45 cents to enrich programs and for construction, with each school district guaranteed \$21.50 per penny, rising to \$28 in four years.

School districts now share local property tax revenue over the minimum rate. The state would make up the difference if poor school districts could not raise the guaranteed level through local taxes. Another 5 cents of local tax would be permitted on top of the \$1.45, but no state money would be available at this level.

The bill also would extend the school year from 175 days to 180 days, by eliminating five teacher training days.

SCHOOL BILL AT A GLANCE

- **AUSTIN (AP)** — Here are highlights of the new school finance reform plan developed by negotiators, according to a Senate analysis:
 - Shifts local property tax revenue among school districts within new education taxing regions drawn largely along county lines. The redistribution applies only to the minimum local property tax rate.
 - Minimum local property tax rate starts at 72 cents per \$100 valuation, rises to \$1 in four years. School districts get a basic allotment of \$2,200, rising to \$2,800.
 - School districts can tax another 45 cents to enrich programs and for construction, with each school district guaranteed \$21.50 per penny, rising to \$28 in four years.
 - School districts would not share local property tax revenue over the minimum rate. Instead, the state would make up the difference if poor school districts could not raise the guaranteed level through local taxes alone.
 - School districts can tax another 5 cents on top of that, but there is no state money available at that level.
 - If revenues per student, in school districts including 2 percent of Texas students, exceed by more than 10 percent what other school districts can raise at a tax level of \$1.25, their tax revenue is capped. The cap does not include debt service.
 - The school year increases five days, to 180 days, replacing five days scheduled for teacher training.



(AP Laserphoto)

Gov. Ann Richards, center, congratulates House Public Education Committee Chairman Ernestine Glossbrenner, D-Alice, left, on the conference committee's school finance compromise Wednesday at the State Capitol. House Speaker Gib Lewis and Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, right, join them prior to a news conference.

Texans have one more day to try to keep military bases

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas congressmen are doing some furious last-minute lobbying to keep the state's military installations off the Pentagon's tightly guarded list of bases it wants to close.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney had originally planned to reveal the recommendations Thursday, but on Wednesday postponed the release until Friday.

That gave people like Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, and Rep. Joe Barton, R-Ennis, another 25 hours to continue making their case for the state's installations.

"I'm not going to give up on anything until the list is public," Gramm said late Wednesday. "I figure I've got one more day than we thought we had, and I want to go back ... and make all the cases again for the Texas facilities that we've known now, for over a year, were vulnerable."

Youth groups to hold Christian rap concert in Pampa Friday night

Youth groups from 13 Pampa churches are sponsoring a rap concert with recording artist Stephen Wiley at 7 p.m. Friday night at the M.K. Brown Civic Center.

Organizers with Youth Outreach United, the banner under which the 13 churches operate, said it is the largest cooperative youth event ever held in Pampa.

"We are counting on a good turnout," said Steve Smith, pastor of Barrett Baptist Church. "This is something where people of a variety of denominations are working together to produce something that people will really enjoy."

If the concert goes well, YOU representatives said they are planning to host two concerts a year in the city, alternating music styles from contemporary to country, rap to rock'n'roll.

In addition to Wiley, the concert will feature speaker Rick Stanley, Elvis Presley's stepbrother and the man who used to head his security force.

Stanley has appeared on Oprah Winfrey, Phil Donahue and other national television programs, including Billy Graham crusades.

A press release stated that a fellowship will follow the concert in the Heritage Room of the civic center, with the evening wrapping up around 11 p.m.

Churches sponsoring the event include Briarwood Full Gospel, First Baptist, First Methodist, First Assembly of God, First Presbyterian, Central Baptist, Hi-Land Christian, Highland Pentecostal, First Christian, Calvary Baptist, Zion Lutheran, Barrett Baptist and New Life Worship Center.

ter on Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth and Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, along with installations in East and South Texas that Cheney had sought to close last year.

Quoting unnamed sources, *The Dallas Morning News* reported Wednesday that Goodfellow Air Force Base near San Angelo was also on the Air Force's list of bases it was recommending Cheney include on his list to be submitted to an independent base-closing commission.

But Rep. Lamar Smith, R-San Antonio, said that after contacting the Pentagon and the Air Force "it's my feeling that when the list of base closures is made public Friday, that Goodfellow will not be on the list." Goodfellow, San Angelo's largest employer, is in Smith's district.

Barton, R-Ennis, said he had been led to believe there was no final list as of late Wednesday, prompting a busy day of lobbying on Carswell's behalf.

"We're going to continue to work right up to the deadline. I've been working on it today pretty vigorously," Barton said, "and we'll continue to provide some information tomorrow."

Also considered prime targets are Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant in Karnack, Chase Field Naval Air Station in Beeville, the distribution center at the Red River Depot in Texarkana and the nearly completed Naval Station Ingleside near Corpus Christi.

With tens of thousands of military personnel in Texas at dozens of installations, officials have cautioned that the state will not escape the Pentagon's efforts to cut 500,000 uniformed personnel over five years.

Court awards Gulf pensioners \$180 million from Chevron

HOUSTON (AP) — More than 40,000 former Gulf Oil Corp. employees and their families stand to split \$180 million a federal judge says Chevron USA Corp. owes them in back pension benefits.

The former employees had sought \$600 million, but at least one retiree says he's glad to see any ruling in their favor.

"It sounds like a reasonable settlement," said Fred Owens, 83, who retired from Gulf in 1972 after 43 years of service at its plant in Port Arthur.

"We were all hoping we'd get more, but if that's what the lawyers decided, we'll appreciate it," he said.

On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Simeon Lake ordered Chevron USA Corp. to pay 40,000 former Gulf Oil Corp. employees and their families about \$180 million in back pension benefits.

The former Gulf employees claimed Chevron cheated them of pension funds when it acquired the Pittsburgh-based oil company in 1984.

The award came in addition to a \$25 million settlement reached in January by Chevron and some Gulf employees who were fired between Jan. 1, 1984 and June 30, 1986.

"I'm sort of on Cloud Nine about it," said Lee Godfrey, the plaintiff's

lead attorney. "I'm quite pleased. I think the judge did a competent job in a very complicated case. He didn't give us all the relief we sought, but we were pleased with the result."

But a Chevron spokesman said from the company's San Francisco headquarters that the oil giant planned to appeal within 30 days.

Spokesman Mike Libby added, however, "We're pleased with the results because we won the major issue in the case. That was whether Chevron properly acquired the Gulf pension surplus when it acquired Gulf, and the court ruled in our favor."

U.S. District Judge Simeon

Lake's 143-page opinion issued Wednesday afternoon followed a five-week trial last fall.

The plaintiffs argued that Chevron unfairly lumped surplus money from the Gulf employees' pension plan into a merged fund with the Chevron pension plan in 1986. As the new company,

Chevron paid out less in pension benefits than Gulf had done as an independent company.

Gulf workers who were laid off or given early retirement during the merger lost their vestment in the pension fund. In his order, Lake restored their participation in the pension plan.

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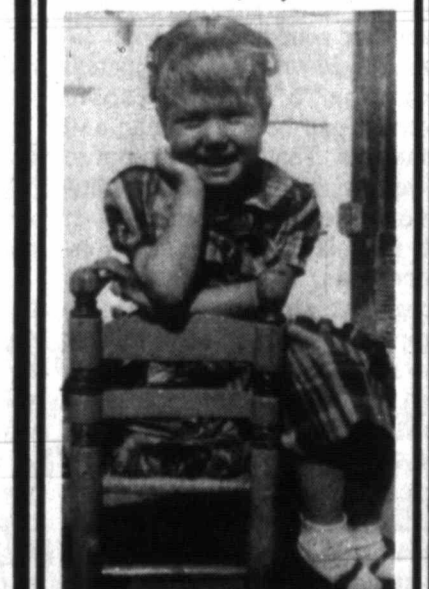


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SIRLOIN STOCKADE

Public Notice

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company has filed two separate applications with the Public Utility Commission of Texas to introduce two new optional directory services. One service is Directory Assistance Call Completion (DACC) and the other service is Multiple List Directory Assistance (MLDA).

DACC is an optional service that provides customers the option of having their Directory Assistance call completed to the requested number (when they call Directory Assistance for a number) by either the Directory Assistance operator or a mechanized audio response system.

The proposed rates* for fully-automated DACC calls are: \$.30 if the call is sent paid or billed to a calling card, \$1.00 if the call is collect or billed to a third number and \$.25 from a coin telephone.

The proposed rates* for semi-automated (operator assisted) DACC calls are: \$.85 for calls that are sent paid or billed to a calling card, \$1.20 if the call is collect or billed to a third number and \$2.60 for a person-to-person call.

Multiple List Directory Assistance (MLDA) allows the customer to request more than two listing requests per call to Directory Assistance. Customers can either call on "demand" and receive up to 10 listings, or schedule an "appointment" and receive the assistance of a Directory Assistance operator for as long as required. The rates for "demand" MLDA are \$.30 per listing request (after applicable allowances), with a maximum of 10 listing requests per call. The rates for "appointment" MLDA are \$1.00 per minute, with a 15-minute minimum.

The optional services DACC and MLDA are intended for use by both residence and business customers. Those persons who qualify for exemption of Directory Assistance charges because of visual or physical handicaps will be able to use DACC and "demand" MLDA free of charge. If approved by the commission, DACC and MLDA will be available beginning May 13, 1991. First-year projected revenues for DACC are approximately \$9.6 million. First-year projected revenues for MLDA are approximately \$1.7 million.

Persons who wish to comment on these applications should notify the commission by May 3, 1991. Requests for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 7800 Shoal Creek Boulevard, Suite 400N, Austin, Texas 78757, or you may call the Public Utility Commission Public Information Office at (512) 458-0256 or (512) 458-0221 teletypewriter for the deaf.

Southwestern Bell Telephone
A-67 April 4, 11, 1991
*The charges for DACC are in addition to the charge for the Directory Assistance Listing (if applicable) and/or any local or intra-LATA toll charges that would apply to the completed call.

Viewpoints



The Pampa News

EVER STRIVING FOR THE TOP O' TEXAS
TO BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Let Peace Begin With Me

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

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

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

Louise Fletcher
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

Subsidies can return as bullets and missiles

During the Persian Gulf war, U.S. weapons companies benefited from the greatest TV commercial ever shown. Their weapons triumphed brilliantly, humiliating the enemy in a war that took only six weeks, with the ground war lasting only 100 hours. Their chief competitor, USSR Arms, saw its equipment remorselessly obliterated and its tactics routed.

True, other countries' weapons performed well: France and England primarily used their own warplanes and armored vehicles. But they were part of a U.S.-led coalition. And if your country is menaced and needs equipment and training, who you gonna call?

Yet the Bush administration is asking Congress to authorize subsidies for U.S. arms sales to other countries, paid for by your tax dollars. First to benefit would be sales to our NATO allies, Japan, Israel and Australia, but the president could authorize sales to "any other country." One anonymous State Department official told *The New York Times* that the proposal is "a strictly commercial operation and is to be used only to counter subsidized credit packages from competing countries, like France." That makes as much sense as saying that taxpayers should subsidize ever-popular Hollywood movies because France, Canada and other countries subsidize local movie production.

Any subsidies, whether of tanks or wheat, distort the natural operations of the free market. And it is this very free market on which our weapons production rests. Military weapons and doctrines are not independent, but depend on developments in the private sector. For example, in the late 1970s and early 1980s personal computers developed almost entirely apart from the military, but the military now depends heavily on PCs. The casualty ratio of 1,000 Iraqis to one American is probably mirrored by a 1,000-to-1 ratio of personal computers. Nowadays, free-market brain power, not brute force or socialist subsidies, wins on the battlefield.

Looked at another way, whereas the U.S. military takes only 6 percent of our economy, the Red Army soaks up an incredible 20 to 33 percent of the Soviet economy (depending on which estimate one heeds). That's why the private Soviet economy now resembles one of Russia's T-72 tanks lying burned out in the Iraqi desert. The best U.S. policy should be to let the free market work for arms manufacturing, buying only what we need, and exporting only what foreign demand requires.

Finally, aren't we supposed to be discouraging the buildup of arms around the world? Though Saddam Hussein got most of his armaments from the Soviet Union and France, he bought helicopters and other equipment from the United States. U.S. taxpayers helped pay for Saddam's war effort, too, when just last year the U.S. government granted him \$2 billion in food subsidies. By now we should have learned something: Subsidies always hurt taxpayers and sometimes are returned in the form of bullets and Scud missiles.

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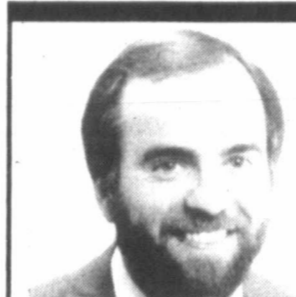


"So, half-brother in Geneva — how go my investments from the mother of all oil-profit skimmings?"

Jim Berry '91

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Banning most nuclear tests



Stephen Chapman

If you're sleeping better now that you don't have to worry about Iraq's nuclear ambitions, maybe it's time to stock up on Somnifex. Saddam Hussein's dream of mushroom clouds over Tel Aviv and Washington has been dispelled, but the problem of nuclear proliferation hasn't.

In fact, the thought that Iraq might have eventually acquired the bomb has intensified worries about the world coming under the threat of sadistic dictators with fiendish ambitions and the doomsday weapons to back them up. Iraq failed. India, Israel and South Africa didn't. They are all assumed to have nuclear weapons. Pakistan may have them soon. Then there are North Korea, Iran, Libya and who knows else.

Fighting a war, as we showed in Iraq, is one way to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, but it's too expensive to become the routine treatment. So arms controllers, anti-nuclear activists and Third World governments offer a cheaper vaccination against the nuclear virus: a global test ban.

The idea is that a government which wants to build a nuclear arsenal first has to test a nuclear explosive or two. Deprived of that option, it will be forced to abandon its quest.

If the non-nuclear nations are ready to ease our worries, though, they're entitled to something from us in return. It's bad enough that a handful of countries (the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China) are allowed to own weapons which they deny to everyone else. If the have-nots are going to renounce nuclear testing, the haves are obliged to follow suit. If not, we're told, many Third World countries may refuse to renew the Non-Proliferation Treaty when it expires in 1995.

The idea of a test ban has merit, but the Bush

administration is right to be wary. Some advocates see it not only as a means of stopping proliferation, but as a step toward ridding the world of nuclear weapons. What they fail to see is that nuclear weapons were a powerful force for stability during the Cold War, and that junking them would make the world safe for conventional conflict.

Any plans for a test ban have to take account of a paradox: The ownership of nuclear weapons by a few countries has reduced the risk of war; the acquisition of nuclear weapons by additional countries would increase the risk of war.

The reason is existing nuclear powers have stockpiles that are large and secure, meaning any attack on them will evoke certain retaliation. Any new member of the nuclear club, by contrast, will have an arsenal that is small and vulnerable, inviting a pre-emptive strike by its enemies.

As Saddam Hussein can testify, trying to get the bomb makes you a target. The existing nuclear powers are safer if they keep their weapons. But the non-nuclear countries are safer if they and their fellows do without.

A test ban wouldn't be a perfect preventive: Israel has never conducted a nuclear test, but

everyone believes it has the bomb. Pakistan hasn't tested but is assumed to be able to make a nuclear bomb whenever it wants. Still, forbidding tests would make it virtually impossible for a country to assemble a large, effective nuclear arsenal.

A complete test ban, however, asks too much of the existing nuclear powers — namely, to prevent tests needed to assure reliability and improve safety. A better approach is to ban all tests by non-nuclear countries and all but a few small tests each year by nuclear ones.

Is that unfair? No more than the status quo, which says it's OK for some countries to have nuclear weapons but not for others to acquire them. And this approach requires the haves to give up something (most tests), while obliging the have-nots only to forgo something they lack.

The argument that the have-nots won't go along unless everyone is covered by a complete ban shouldn't be taken too seriously. Pakistan isn't worried about American or Soviet nuclear weapons; it's worried about Indian ones.

Proliferation poses the biggest threat not to the existing nuclear powers, whose arsenals are a powerful deterrent, but to non-nuclear nations. A test ban that prevents Third World countries from getting the bomb is in the interest of Third World countries even if Washington and Moscow get more lenient treatment. When Brazil and Argentina recently agreed to renounce the bomb, they didn't insist that the superpowers go first.

Nobody much likes nuclear tests, but the ultimate goal here is not to eliminate tests for their own sake. The point is to make the world a safer place. Banning all tests wouldn't do that. Banning almost all of them would.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 11, the 101st day of 1991. There are 264 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 11, 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the notorious Nazi concentration camp Buchenwald in eastern Germany.

On this date:

In 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated as emperor of France and was banished to the island of Elba.

In 1689, William III and Mary II were crowned as joint sovereigns of Britain.

In 1898, President William McKinley asked Congress for a declaration of war against Spain.

In 1899, the treaty ending the Spanish-American War was declared in effect.

In 1921, Iowa became the first state to impose a cigarette tax.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson made his major-league debut, playing in an exhibition game between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Yankees.



"The new world will please come to order...."

Old beef about New Yorkers

In a recent column I wrote that I had a ticket to the Super Bowl but didn't go.

My explanation went, "I wasn't afraid of the terrorists. I just didn't want to be around that many New Yorkers for that long."

In case you didn't know, or had forgotten in the wake of other such important events as the NBA All-Star game and the war in the gulf, the New York Giants played the Buffalo (N.Y.) Bills in the Super Bowl.

I forget who won, but that's not important. The important thing for me was that with the New York teams playing in the game, it meant there would be a lot of New York people in the stadium in Tampa, and if I get around a lot of New Yorkers, I suffer from a number of reactions.

First, my ears hurt because New Yorkers are loud. They grow up having to scream in order to be heard over other New Yorkers.

This all stems from the fact that New Yorkers are the most opinionated people on earth and can never learn to listen.

Secondly, I become extremely nervous and frustrated around New Yorkers. That is because they all talk so loudly and they all talk at once with New York accents, I can't make out anything they are saying.



Lewis Grizzard

Let's say I'm in New York riding the subway. I'm always afraid New Yorkers around me are saying something important like, "I think the train is on fire," and I can't understand them.

Also, under certain circumstances, I become embarrassed around New Yorkers because of what they are wearing.

I was at a golf resort in Tampa the week of the Super Bowl. All over the course were guys wearing long black socks with their golfing shorts.

They had to be New Yorkers. Only New Yorkers would wear long black socks with a pair of golfing shorts. People from other parts of the country, especially the South, know you never wear black socks with any kind of shorts.

I tried to tell a New Yorker that once, but he

couldn't hear me because he was screaming his opinion on various Third World issues at the time.

The column elicited some reaction. A perfect example came from an Atlanta woman who said she grew up on Long Island.

"Probably," she began, "you're afraid of New Yorkers because they have a breadth of knowledge that you obviously can't touch. I'm sorry you are so afraid of us."

The lady was correct concerning the fact I am afraid of New Yorkers. But it is not because of their breadth of knowledge.

I'm afraid I'll go deaf if I spend too much time around New Yorkers.

I'm afraid I'll start screaming my opinion. I'm afraid I'll show up at the golf course wearing black socks with my golfing shorts and my friends will point at me and laugh at me and ask, "Where's your sandals?"

That's something else New Yorkers do. When they are wearing shorts and black socks somewhere besides the golf course, like at the beach, they wear sandals, another fashion miscue.

To New Yorkers who will be further offended by this column, I have just one thing to say: So sue me.

What black students don't need ...

By CHUCK STONE

A group of conservatives are calling for a national test for high school seniors that will measure what they have been taught during their high school years. Its purpose is to give the nation a kind of psychometric score card.

"Americans don't know how they're doing," says Chester E. Finn Jr., an assistant secretary of education in the Reagan administration. "They get these misleading test results in which everyone scores above average. It's as if the teachers went to smile school."

Not in the black community. Average black students, especially males, score below Finn's national average. Very few teachers in predominantly black schools regard their instructional residency as a "smile school."

"Looking at the achievement data, the dropout rate and other indicators," says Milwaukee board member Joyce Mallory, "made me ask myself, 'Are

black boys inherently bad or inherently dumb?'"

To find the answer, Milwaukee has set up two "African-American Immersion Schools," open to all students, but designed specifically for young black males. Students will get heavy pedagogical doses of black history and the black gestalt taught by black males serving as role models.

Other locations are following suit with African-American Immersion Schools — Baltimore, Dade County, Fla., New York City and Washington, D.C. Black educators in Baltimore claim that their all-black classes are already showing immediate results in lower dropout rates and slightly higher test scores.

But most Americans deplore this sly resurrection of "separate but equal." I heartily concur. That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, and that which we call an all-black male school extolling black male pride would reek as putridly as an all-white school extolling white supremacy.

But Americans cannot have it both ways. They cannot seek to establish national standardized tests that *ipso facto* relegate the average black student to a second-class existence while seeming to confirm the controversial psychometric thesis of Arthur R. Jensen of the University of California that blacks are genetically inferior.

Standardized tests are a perpetual reaffirmation of the awesome achievement gap between white and black students. That's why I propose a four-year moratorium on all standardized or norm-referenced tests. Instead, schools would use criterion-reference tests. These measure the same cognitive abilities, but they do not compare the pupils' achievement levels to a national norm that is based as much on white upper socio-economic status as it is on predictive validity.

There is a myth fostered by meritocratic fanatics that the abandonment of standardized test scores somehow lowers standards. That's sheer nonsense. Does anybody seriously

believe that the most prestigious colleges and universities would lose applicants if they no longer required SAT scores?

Before we can talk about an honest meritocracy, we've got to level the playing field to the point where students of all ethnic backgrounds are at least educated to stand on the threshold of accessibility to a meritocracy.

This means that this nation must mobilize its resources to narrow the gap in which 45 percent of the prison inmates — but only 3 percent of the college population — are black males.

Meanwhile, it is educationally demeaning and psychologically divisive to isolate young black males in an emotional cocoon from which they will have to emerge one day to cope with the felicitous but harsh realities of a pluralistic society. The sooner young black males are taught how to cope with democracy's diversities, they sooner will take their place in it as productive members.

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Get ready - Chamber planning various activities

If the Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce has its way, this will be a busy year for Pampa. Various projects and events have already been announced for the next several months as Pampa prepares to move into summer.

Chairman Ken "Rolling Stones" Fields of the Aviation Committee says the committee is hoping to stage the Confederate Air Force Show at Perry Lefors Field this August.

To do so, however, will require a lot of support from the city. The show is a potentially big event for the city, so if you're interested in seeing the Confederate Air Force bring its 14-plane show here, please call Ken or the Chamber office.

Ken is a longtime member of the Confederate Air Force and has been involved in a number of its activities, something known to many citizens in the area.

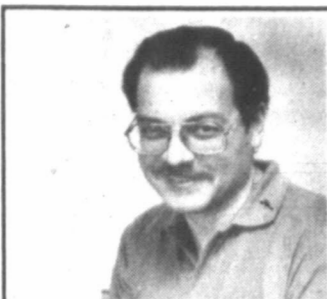
Not generally known, however, is Ken's other big interest - The Rolling Stones, something that goes back a "few" years. He was seen at Hasting's Tuesday night buying the latest Rolling Stones live album, which also has a couple of new studio tracks. He said when he was younger, he would rush right out to purchase the latest Stones' album. Now he waits awhile, he says.

I think the album has been out only a few weeks, so it wasn't much of a delay.

I wasn't that way with the Rolling Stones, though I do have several of their albums and greatest hits collections. My big interest was in their competition, The Beatles. Like Ken with The Rolling Stones, I would rush out and buy the latest Beatles' album as soon as I could find it in the nearest store.

On to other planned Chamber activities:

Wayne Stribling of the Retail Merchants Committee says plans are under way for several big promotions for May, June and July, opening up the summer months. Among the planned promotions is the return of the annual Crazy Days event, in which shopping becomes fun with games and various antics



About town

By Larry D. Hollis Managing Editor

provided by the merchants.

The Education Committee, headed by Ramona Hite, will soon be announcing a recipient for the N. Carley Scholarship Award of \$2,000 per semester of renewable funds. Approximately 50 applications were received for the scholarship award this year.

The Chamber, the three Pampa banks and West Texas State University's Small Business Development Center are making plans to co-sponsor the popular FASTER seminar for business owners and potential owners. Conducted by Don Taylor of the Business Development Center, the program will be free to anyone wishing to start and operate a small business successfully.

The April Chamber Membership Luncheon will be held Tuesday, April 23, at 11:45 a.m. in the M.K. Brown Room of the Pampa Community Building. Sponsoring the luncheon will be Lonnie Johnson Insurance & Financial Services. Reservations are required and may be made at the Chamber office by calling 669-3241.

A really big event is the scheduled groundbreaking for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Pampa state prison unit on Friday, June 7.

Bill Waters, chairman of the special committee planning the momentous occasion, promises a "Golden Shovel" event to remember.

The Chamber is asking that submission of names for invitations to the groundbreaking be made as soon as possible at the Chamber office.

Chamber President Mike Keagy has appointed Roy Sparkman to head up the TDCJ Liaison Commit-

tee in relation to Pampa's prison site. Committee members earlier this year visited the Price Daniels Unit at Snyder to gain information on what happens in a community when the TDJC moves in.

Sparkman said committee members will be glad to speak to clubs and organizations, on request, concerning the Pampa prison, urging them to include plans for the presentation in their 1991-1992 program calendars.

Moving on to other matters: Environmental concerns have become a growing issue in the past couple of decades, and it's not just a "liberal" or "hippie" concept anymore. The private sector has gotten involved in the concern, too.

As an example of that, Pampa's McDonald's restaurant will be joining others across the nation this weekend in giving away more than 9 million tree seedlings to customers upon request, with no purchase necessary. The seedlings will be available this Saturday and Sunday at the restaurant.

McDonald's project is titled "Let's Get Growing, America." The Pampa location will be distributing 500 evergreen seedlings on a first-come basis, while supplies last.

In addition to giving away the seedlings, along with a temporary planting container and a brochure with step-by-step outdoor planting instructions, McDonald's also is providing a comprehensive education program to help teachers and parents educate children on how to take care of our environment.

The restaurant chain, in association with the American Forestry Association's Global Relief project, has distributed a "Let's Get Growing, America" teacher's guide and

poster to approximately 60,000 elementary schools as a hands-on tool for explaining environmental issues to students.

This is just another example of McDonald's interest in the environment. Its food tray covers in the past have presented environmental information for customers to read, and the company has announced plans to eliminate its Styrofoam containers for more easily biodegradable paper containers in the future.

The McDonald's seedling project is in response to President George Bush's call in his 1990 State of the Union Message for Americans to join in the planting of a billion trees each year for the next decade.

We're personally pleased to see the Pampa McDonald's participation in this greening of America project.

Last night I went down to Coronado Center, parked my car and went in to Cinema IV to catch the latest Michael J. Fox film, The Hard Way. A good show, amusing, entertaining, exciting. It's no Dances With Wolves (which is a great show, in my humble opinion), but a good diversion nonetheless.

I knew it was windy outside - it's spring, isn't it? But when I went back to my car and started to back up, two cardboard boxes came tumbling out from under the car. "Ah, the blanky-blank wind," I mused, and continued to back up. Some weird sound was coming from underneath my car.

So I stopped, got out, walked around - and found another cardboard box crumpled up between my left front tire and the fender. I pulled it out and the wind took it out of my hand and blew it on out across the parking lot.

Where would three cardboard boxes be coming from to end up under my car due to the wind's power?

And people wonder why I support anti-litter efforts.

I only wonder why more people don't.

Wholesale prices fall for fourth consecutive month

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Wholesale prices, helped by further declines in gasoline and other energy products, fell in March for a fourth consecutive month, the first time that has occurred in five years, the government said today.

The Labor Department said the 0.3 percent drop in its Producer Price Index followed declines of 0.6 percent in both February and December and a 0.1 percent fall in January.

In another report today, the government said retail sales slipped 0.8 percent in March, their third loss in four months. The Commerce Department said sales totaled a seasonally adjusted \$149.6 billion, down from \$150.8 billion a month earlier.

The Bush administration is hoping that today's good news on inflation will prod the Federal Reserve to go further in its campaign to fight the recession by lowering interest rates.

However, private economists expressed doubts, noting that a sharp policy split may make it impossible for Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan to convince his colleagues to cut rates more.

Fed opponents of easing moves further argue that the central bank has already done enough to guarantee the end of a recession and that any additional easing runs the risk of making inflation worse next year.

The policy dispute has led Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and other administration officials to intensify their pressure on the central bank to be more aggressive in fighting the economic slump, arguing that a lack of growth is a far bigger problem facing the country than any distant threat of higher inflation.

Today's report was likely to bolster the administration's argument in one key respect. It showed that the underlying rate of inflation, after removing the volatile energy and food components, rose by only 0.2 percent in March, just half the February rate.

Sharp gains in the so-called core rate of inflation in both January and February had led to fears that inflationary pressures were building in a variety of areas outside of energy. However, the administration argued that the big jumps in the two previous months represented temporary factors.

The four consecutive months of declines marked the first time that has occurred since wholesale prices fell for four straight months in 1986. That decline also represented a reversal of a previous big runup in energy prices.

The latest drop left wholesale prices falling at an annual rate of 3.9 percent for the first three months of this year. While analysts don't expect that to continue as energy prices firm up, they are looking for this year's overall price increase to be far below last year's 5.6 percent increase.

The bad news on inflation last year stemmed in large part from the huge jump in world oil prices following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Energy prices shot up at an annual rate of 118.7 percent from July through September. By contrast, energy prices fell at an annual rate of 35.4 percent in the first three months of this year.

For February, energy prices were down 3.2 percent, their fourth consecutive monthly decline. Gasoline prices fell 5.8 percent in March after dropping by even bigger amounts in January and February. Home heating oil costs plummeted 16.5 percent, double the 8.3 percent February decline.

Food costs edged up 0.2 percent in March and

were rising at a modest annual rate of 0.6 percent for the first three months of the year. Last month, prices for eggs, pork, bakery products, dairy products and fresh fruits pushed food costs upward while prices of beef, poultry and vegetables actually declined.

Outside food and energy, women's clothing prices continued to spurt upward, rising by 0.7 percent. But that was slower than last month's 1.2 percent jump. Prices for new cars rose by just 0.2 percent, far below the increase in January and February.

The moderation in car prices and an actual decline of 0.8 percent in the cost of prescription drugs helped to cut the rate of increase in the inflation rate discounting food and energy. The various changes left the Producer Price Index at 120.6 in March, before adjusting for seasonal variations. That means that a marketbasket of goods that cost \$100 in the 1982 base period would have cost \$120.60 last month.

In retail sales, the revised 2.0 percent advance in February was even stronger than the 0.8 percent advance first reported last month. That report had prompted analysts to suggest the recession was easing.

The February increase was the largest since sales rose 2.2 percent in October 1988 and the first since they inched up 0.3 percent in November.

Retail sales represent about half of overall consumer spending, which in turn accounts for about two-thirds of the nation's economic activity. Sales rose just 3.8 percent in 1990 as the economy was dipping into the recession. It was the smallest growth since the last recession year of 1982 when they advanced 3.0 percent. And for the first three months of 1991, they were 0.7 percent below those of the comparable period of last year.

Japanese whaling fleet returns after killing 327 whales

TOKYO (AP) - Japan's whaling fleet has returned from the Antarctic Ocean after killing 327 whales as part of a research program opposed by environmentalists, officials said today.

Japanese officials say they hope the expedition, which ended Tuesday, will convince the International Whaling Commission that there are enough minke whales to allow a limited resumption of commercial whaling.

Opponents of whaling accuse Japan, the world's largest consumer of whale meat, of using the research provision as a means of protecting and maintaining its whaling industry. The meat from the whales killed in the research is sold commercially.

In July, Japan, Norway and Iceland tried unsuccessfully to convince the commission to exclude minke, a relatively abundant smaller species, from a worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling.

The commission imposed the moratorium in 1986 to allow scientists to study whale stocks without the disruptions caused by whaling.

Japan officially halted its commercial whaling at the end of the 1986-87 season, when it caught 1,941 whales. It then began a program of research whaling, which under the commission charter can be conducted by members at any time.

At its July meeting, the whaling

commission passed resolutions questioning the scientific validity of Japan's research whaling and urging it to use non-lethal methods, such as skin sampling and sighting studies, whenever possible.

But Japanese officials say whales must be killed during the research to accurately determine their age, diet, health, sex and child-bearing state.

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Radical Shiite leader speaks of swap for Western hostages

MASHGHARA, Lebanon (AP) - The leader of a radical Shiite Muslim faction says Western hostages will be freed if Israel releases Arab prisoners.

The comment Wednesday by Hussein Musawi, head of Islamic Amal, follows Israel's announcement Monday that it was freeing more than 1,000 Arab prisoners in Israel as a goodwill gesture. It also comes amid increasing efforts to free the 13 Westerners held by pro-Iranian extremists in Lebanon.

"Why wouldn't America, Britain, France and Germany intercede with Israel to release the (Arab) detainees?" asked Musawi, whose group is believed to have links to hostage-holders. When they are released, he said: "The hostages in Lebanon would be spontaneously set free."

"What is required is a general pardon covering all Lebanese and Palestinian detainees captured by Israel in Lebanon," Musawi said.

Israel and its allied South Lebanon Army militia hold about 300 captives in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon.

Islamic Amal is believed to be the mother organization for Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, which holds American educators Jesse Turner and Alann Steen.

Islamic Amal also is a member

of Hezbollah, or Party of God, a coalition of pro-Iranian Shiite groups with links to the underground factions holding most of the 13 missing Westerners, who include six Americans.

Israeli officials on Monday announced they were freeing more than 1,000 Arab prisoners in Israel as a goodwill gesture to mark the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

But there was no word on release of prisoners captured in Lebanon.

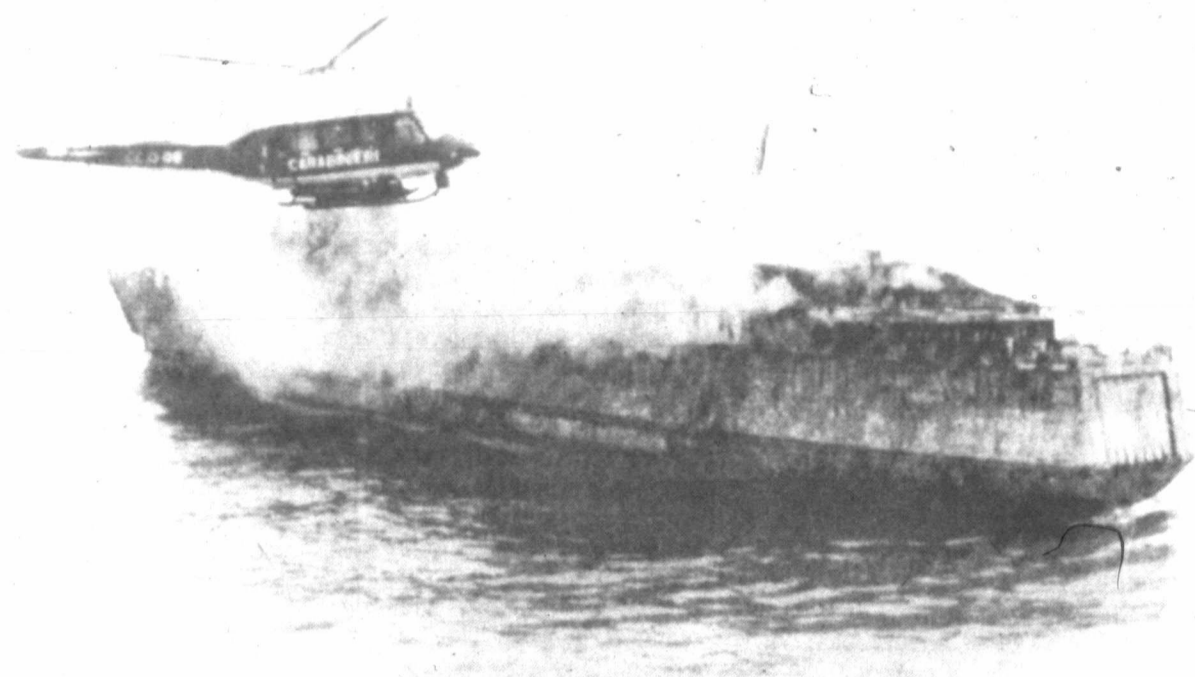
Musawi made the remarks during a ceremonial dinner in the Bekaa Valley town of Mashghara on Wednesday. His office released the text to reporters today.

"Why it is the Americans' right to demand the release of their hostages and it is not our right to demand freedom of our patriots?" he asked. "America and Israel are one."

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine said March 19 that the release of a kidnapped Hezbollah activist and other Arab prisoners held by Israel would be an "encouraging prelude" to freedom for Turner and Steen.

Turner, 43, of Boise, Idaho, and Steen, 51, of Boston, were kidnapped from the campus of the American-affiliated Beirut University College Jan. 24, 1987.

Health Mart advertisement containing: Adopts Lamar Elementary School "A Great Place To Learn" 114 N. Cuyler - Open 8:00-6:00 - 669-7478; Friday & Saturday DOOR BUSTERS; COKE or DIET COKE 6/12 Oz. Cans, Your Choice \$1.69; HI-DRI PAPER TOWELS 2 FOR \$1 or \$15.00 Case; Kleenex BATH TISSUE 4 Roll Pkg. 89¢ Or \$21.36 Case; Kleenex Boutique FACIAL TISSUE 95 Ct. Box 89¢ Or \$32.04 Case; The Sign That Says, "We Care." FREE CITY WIDE PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS BILL HITE OWNER PHARMACIST



(AP Laserphoto)

A police helicopter flies close to the Italian ferry Moby Prince which was still burning this morning after colliding with an Italian tanker AGIP Abruzzo, off Leghorn, Italy, in the Thyrrhenian late Wednesday. Approximately 140 persons are believed to have burned to death in the ferry.

Ferry crash survivor: Sea turned into sheet of flame

By KEN SHULMAN
Associated Press Writer

LEGHORN, Italy (AP) — The only known survivor from a ferry that crashed into an oil tanker said today he clung to a rail for two hours because the water below was covered by a huge sheet of flame. At least 139 people were missing and feared dead in the disaster. "I heard screams from the passengers and other crew members, but there was nothing I could do," said the survivor, cabin boy Alessio Bertrand.

"Flames erupted and smoke was everywhere, we couldn't see anything," Bertrand, 23, said by telephone hours after the disaster Wednesday night.

He said he and two other men fought their way to a door in the dark and got outside "but we couldn't jump off because oil was burning in the sea." He said the other two men died from the smoke that quickly covered the ferry.

"I hung on, I don't know how, for about two hours. Then the coast guard came and told me to jump off. I don't know why I'm here and the others are all dead, it's a miracle," he said from his hospital bed.

The ferry hit the back of the tanker on its right side in thick nighttime fog, opening a wide hole and spilling crude oil into the Ligurian Sea off northwestern Italy.

Authorities held out little hope of finding more survivors. By midday today, two bodies had been recovered, search teams said.

The tanker, at anchor 2 1/2 miles offshore, also caught fire after the 10:30 p.m. collision but all 28 of its crew members were reported safe.

Port officials said the tanker's crew jumped into lifeboats after fighting the flames without success.

Civil Defense and port authorities said 72 passengers and 67 crew members of the 6,187-ton Moby

Prince ferry were missing. All were believed to be Italian.

The ferry had been bound for Olbia, Sardinia, when it hit the tanker, the AGIP Abruzzo, port authority chief Sergio Albanese told state-run RAI-TV. The tanker is owned by the Italian oil company AGIP.

While about 100 relatives of passengers kept up a vigil outside shipping offices, the charred shell of the ferry was towed through the main harbor and then back out for fear it would sink. The wreck was still smoking.

As dawn broke and helicopters were sent up, rescue workers reported that the fire aboard the tanker was dying out, but the ferry was destroyed and there was no sign of life in the water.

An attending physician said Bertrand appeared to be in good condition but was still in shock. "There are no obvious signs of injury but he's very stressed," said Dr. Daniele Barbaro.

Initial fears of a major environmental disaster lessened when authorities reported that only one tank aboard the AGIP Abruzzo had ruptured.

Alessandro Pierangeli, a local government official, said the tanker carried about 550,000 barrels of crude but that only 16,000 barrels had leaked out and much of that burned off or evaporated.

Bertrand, from the Naples suburb of Ercolano, was in his first year aboard the Moby Prince, a roll-on-roll-off ferry with doors at the bow and stern.

Academy report urges action to counteract global warming

By CHARLES CAMPBELL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States should immediately encourage energy conservation and take other low-cost steps to limit greenhouse gases, even though there is still scientific uncertainty about global warming, a National Academy of Sciences study says.

The report, issued Wednesday by a panel headed by former Sen. Daniel J. Evans of Washington, takes a broad look at how to counteract the greenhouse effect. It even considers — but rejects — such ideas as using lasers to break up gases in the upper atmosphere or putting 50,000 mirrors in orbit to bounce sunlight away from Earth.

Some gases in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, methane and chlorofluorocarbons, act like a greenhouse, trapping the Earth's heat. Many scientists believe increasing industrial emissions may be causing a significant, long-term warming around the world.

The academy report says that if the Earth's climate gets substantially warmer, there could be serious effects on the nation's economy, people and wildlife.

"Despite the great uncertainties, global warming is a potential threat sufficient to justify action now," the report said.

Until now, the Bush administration has resisted pressure to make significant policy changes to limit greenhouse gas emissions, saying it is prudent to take only those steps that would be worth doing for other reasons.

There is no consensus in the scientific community over when global warming will become a problem or how great its magnitude might be.

Allan Bromley, the White House science adviser, said he found a "remarkable parallelism" between the report's proposals and the administration's existing policy.

"I was very pleased to see it did not advocate targets and timetables" for emissions reductions, Bromley said. "The Evans report is going to have a major impact internationally as well as nationally."

Some countries, especially in Europe, have adopted targets for reducing output of greenhouse gases, and have been calling for an international agreement binding all nations to make such cuts.

Michael Oppenheimer, an expert on climate change at the Environmental Defense Fund in New York, said the academy had made an important shift since its last study of global warming, in 1983, which called for further research but no policy initiatives.

"This report is very, very significant," Oppenheimer said. "From a political point of view, it cuts the legs out from under the Bush administration's no-action policy."

The academy is a private, congressionally created scientific advisory body for the U.S. government.

The academy panel stopped short of endorsing energy taxes or caps on emissions to fight the greenhouse effect, saying it favored low-cost steps that would have other benefits.

It called for "a moderate domestic reforestation program;" improved energy efficiency standards for cars, appliances and buildings; more government support of mass transit; and increased research.

The report also recommended getting an early start on adapting to a warmer climate, including agricultural experiments, securing water

supplies and increasing the margin of safety for building bridges, dams or other long-lived structures that might be endangered if the climate changes drastically.

The panel also proposed research into what it called "geoengineering" options for fighting back if global warming develops, such as sending dust or soot into orbit around the earth to screen out solar radiation, or putting iron into the oceans to increase carbon dioxide absorption.

A table listing options that were considered but rejected includes orbiting 50,000 mirrors — each one covering 36 square miles — to reflect sunlight away from the Earth. Another option was using lasers to break up chlorofluorocarbons in the upper atmosphere. The report said those ideas did not merit further research.

Sen. Albert Gore, chairman of the Senate Commerce subcommittee on science, technology and space, praised most of the report's recommendations but criticized its proposals on geoengineering.

"The 'Geritol' approach is costly — in dollars and in terms of the impact on the ocean's ecosystem," the Tennessee Democrat said. "Scattering dust in the atmosphere has dangerous implications that should be clear to us from the recently released satellite data on the destruction of the Earth's protective ozone."

The study, by a panel of the committee on science, engineering and public policy of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering and the Institute of Medicine, was requested by Congress in 1988 and funded by the Environmental Protection Agency.

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Woman arrested after son recalls husband's slaying

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A man's sudden recollection from childhood of the night his father was shot to death has led to murder charges against his mother and an ex-lover 15 years after the crime, police said.

Arlene Montgomery, 39, of Punxsutawney, and Steven G. Slutzker, 40, of Canton, Ohio, were charged in the slaying of Ms. Montgomery's first husband, John Mudd, at their suburban Pittsburgh home in 1975.

Ms. Montgomery was jailed without bail. Slutzker was released Wednesday on \$50,000 bail.

In the original investigation, Slutzker was arrested two weeks after the slaying. A murder charge was dropped because of insufficient evidence, but he served 11 months in prison for solicitation of murder. Ms. Montgomery was never charged.

Police reopened the case after 20-year-old John Mudd Jr., who was 5 when his father was killed, suddenly remembered events of that night, a police affidavit shows. Police did not explain what triggered the recollection.

According to the affidavit, the elder Mudd was killed after the power in his house went out and he went into his cellar to find out why.

The younger Mudd said he remembered watching television with his parents in the living room until the power failed, the affidavit said. He said that when his father went to the basement, he heard seven loud noises.

The son said he then saw Slutzker emerge from the kitchen and enter the living room, where he talked briefly with the boy's mother before leaving the house.

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Lifestyles

Fun facts from the world of science

By 3-2-1 CONTACT
For AP Newsfeatures

Don't get rid of that winter coat just yet. There's now evidence that the Earth might not be getting warmer, after all.

Dr. Sherwood Idso, a scientist who studies the environment, claims that the Earth's temperature has actually dropped. After studying temperatures recorded at weather stations across the U.S., Idso says the average change in temperature over the past 70 years was a one-third degree decrease.

Other scientists, though, say temperatures haven't chilled out. Their research shows that the Earth has already warmed up 1 degree in the past 100 years. But Idso says these measurements were taken in big cities where temperatures are higher.

"Urban heat islands form when more people settle in an area," he explains. "People burn fires, drive cars and pave over land that used to reflect more heat and evaporate more water."

So is the world heating up or cooling down? We won't know until more research is done. But one thing is certain — it's going to stay a hot topic for a while.

HOW DOES A WORM MOVE?

Very slowly? Actually, a worm's body is made of small, connected parts or segments. There is a muscle in each segment. A worm moves along using two sets of muscles.

The muscles can make the segment either short and fat or long and thin. One set of muscles runs around the worm's width. When these muscles tighten, the body becomes longer and thinner. This makes the front end push forward.

The second set of muscles runs lengthwise along the body. When these segment muscles tighten, the body becomes shorter and fatter.

If you watch a worm move, you may notice that it has tiny bristles that help it tunnel into the ground. On each segment are four pairs of bristles. As each segment shortens, its bristles grip the sides of the tunnel. This allows the lengthened segments in front to "worm" in even farther.



Top, left, Jessica Dawes and Joyce Osborne. Bottom, left, Shawn Dawes and Jacque Osborne.

Optimists choose oratorical contest winners

Jessica Dawes and Shawn Dawes of Pampa Middle School won the local division of the Optimist International Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Optimist Club of Pampa. Each will progress to zone competition from there winners will progress to zone competition and vie for \$1500 scholarships. Both winners delivered orations on the subject "If Only."

Second place and runner-up medallions were won by Joyce Osborne and Jacque Osborne in the girls' division. Pampa Middle School speech teacher Cathy McIn-

tire is their instructor.

This is the 37th year the Optimist Club has sponsored the oratorical contest in Pampa. A total of \$150,000 in scholarship prize money is awarded annually to oratorical contest winners by Optimist International.

The zone competition will be Sunday, April 14 at the Pampa Optimist Club, where they will compete against winners from Optimist Clubs in Amarillo. Oratorical chairman is Calvin Lacy of Pampa, the Lt. Governor for zone one.

Volunteers needed for 55 Alive driving class

Local volunteer instructors are needed for the 55 Alive Mature Driving Course, sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

Requirements are few and the pleasures from being an instructor are many, said Phyllis Laramore, associate state coordinator for the program. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer instructor may contact Laramore at 669-7574.

"This is a rewarding hobby for people 50 years of age or older who have some time they could donate to make driving safer for all of us," Laramore said.

55 Alive Mature Driving Course consists of eight hours of classroom instruction to refine the existing

skills of drivers who are 50 or older and to help them develop safe, defensive driving techniques. It focuses not only on the rules of the road, but also on helping drivers handle adverse driving conditions and traffic hazards, in addition to learning about the effects of aging and medication on driving.

Produced by the AARP and conducted throughout the country in two half-day sessions, 55 Alive teaches preventive measures to use when driving that helps save lives.

At present, Laramore has graduated more than 750 area drivers from the 55 Alive Mature Driving Course.

Resourcefulness is key to budget decorating

By BARBARA MAYER
AP Newsfeatures

If you've the time and money for only a quick decorating fix, get a new look by refurbishing what you have, buying moderate-priced furnishings and recycling creatively.

Don't bite off too much, suggests Joanne Reynolds of Darien, Conn., whose quick change of a dining room into a family room was pictured in a recent issue of the Ladies Home Journal. She estimates the furnishings for the room came to

well under \$2,000.

After preliminary planning, it took about a month to shop for new furniture, fabrics and window coverings and to complete the room, Reynolds says.

She repainted an armoire to match the green stripes of the new loveseat and bought bamboo blinds, wicker chairs and trunks, a lamp and a rug. Everything was purchased locally, was in stock and inexpensive. The sofa, for example, was \$450 and the wicker under \$500.

Before she shopped, she planned for an informal room that would be easy to pick up for company. The armoire holds the TV and the children's toys and the trunks also accommodate toys.

"If guests are coming I can throw all the toys in the armoire and trunks and you'd never know there were kids in the house," she says.

Painting the walls was less expensive than wallpapering and much faster, says Reynolds. However, matching the paint to the upholstery took time and effort. "We couldn't find a ready-mixed paint the right color. The custom blend had to be redone several times at the paint store."

The magazine supplied a decorator consultant, some labor and paid for most of the furnishings, which certainly didn't hurt. However, Reynolds says that three years of work on the handyman's special house already had taught them the most important lesson in moderate-cost decorating.

"Do one room at a time. At first we would do a little here and a little there and never finish anything, but we learned," she says.

If you don't have a magazine picking up the tab or a decorator to consult, look for recycling ideas elsewhere. The "Practical Problem Solver," a new how-to book by Reader's Digest, suggests turning flowerpots and a glass top into an outdoor table. You can use strawberry planters and insert real or artificial flowering plants into the open-

ings, as the book suggests.

Another unusual table base is three stacks of coffee-table size books.

Make children's furniture out of large wooden spools that are made to hold wire cable or rope. A spool with ends 24 inches in diameter can become a table and two 12-inch spools can be turned into seats. Paint the ends in a bright color and wrap rope around the reel portion after spreading it first with glue. For a more comfortable seat, pad the seat with polyfoam and cover with fabric stapled to the underside of the spool.

A six-rung section of a wooden ladder can be turned into a toy box or holder for bulky items. Bolt the section of ladder to the wall horizontally, attaching vertical supports in front. Three canvas tote bags that measure 16-by-22 inches each fit nicely between the rungs. Line each tote with a piece of quarter-inch plywood for a solid bottom and attach the bags with roundhead screws and washers at each corner and in the center of the rungs.

Convert a section of iron fence or two gates bolted together into an unusual headboard. Thin fencing can be cut with a hacksaw; thick metal requires a cutting torch.

A new source of do-it-yourself ideas is video. "Room to Room," a 27-minute decorating video from J.C. Penney, follows three hypothetical families as each redecorates a room, using moderately priced ready-made items on hand. The video gives tips for decorating on a limited budget, measuring for window treatments, arranging accessories and finishing unpainted furniture.

Among its suggestions when "the budget won't budge" is to convert furniture you already own to a new use. A low chest can become a coffee table. Or throw a quilt over a sofa that's the wrong color and pattern for the rest of the room but can't be replaced.

helping hands

volunteer opportunities

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

Pampa Adult Literacy Group teaches people to read. There is no charge for this service. For more information call 669-7142 or 665-4387.

CORONADO NURSING CENTER

There are a few volunteer needs left. We need an art teacher and a volunteer to supervise three mornings of prayer time, exercises, and current events. One volunteer needed for arts and crafts. Call Odessa East, 665-5746.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

Tralee Crisis Center is a non-profit organization which exists to provide safe shelter, crisis counseling, advocacy transportation and a 24-hour hotline for victims of family violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes. Volunteers are an intricate part of our service delivery and are needed in all areas of service. Volunteer training is held quarterly. Parenting classes are conducted quarterly. For more information call 669-1131.

PAMPA NURSING CENTER

Pampa Nursing Center needs volunteers for craft lessons and for the morning exercise program starting at 10 a.m., Monday through Friday. Simple stretching and strengthening exercises are required geared for residents who are in wheel chairs. For more information contact Ina Gale Rowell at 669-2551.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

The Texas Department of Human Services uses volunteers for a variety of services: paperwork for HUD recipients; taxiing disabled and elderly to doctor appointments, preparing food baskets, and serving as coordinators between clients and caseworkers. Occasionally special talents are needed to repair roofs, paint or handle small plumbing problems. For more information call 665-1863.

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters program is in need of adults age 19 and up to serve as big brothers or sisters to children in the program. Volunteers need to commit between three to four hours per week for one year to the program. For more information contact Peggy David, director, 665-1211.

PAMPA SHELTERED WORKSHOP

Pampa Sheltered Workshop offers employment and recreation to retarded citizens over the age of 21. For more information contact Ruth Durkee, director, 669-6322.

LIFE AND LOVE ALTERNATIVES

Life and Love Alternatives is a group that provides help for women facing crisis pregnancies. Assistance is needed for donations of clothing, especially baby and maternity clothing; frozen and canned foods; and baby furniture. For more information, contact Lendy Woolldridge at 669-9999.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Gray County chapter of the American Red Cross needs volunteers ready to respond to disasters as tornado season approaches. Also volunteers for safety programs, youth programs, morning office work and fund development. The loan closet has wheel chairs, crutches, hospital beds, potty chairs and other items to loan for community use. For more information contact Lynda Duncan, director, 669-7121.

CORONADO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

CCH's Auxiliary program needs persons of all ages to work in various areas of the hospital. If interested, call Nancy Paronto, 665-3721, ext. 132, for more information.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels, located in the basement of the First United Methodist Church, supplies hot meals to the elderly and home bound. Volunteers are needed from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the kitchen and drivers are needed from 11 a.m. to noon to deliver meals. For more information contact Ann Loter, 669-1007.

SALVATION ARMY

Pampa's Salvation Army needs volunteers at the Thrift store and at the church. Help is needed to sort clothing and goods at the Thrift store, call 669-9024 for available schedule. Volunteers are needed once a month to help serve meals, coffee and tea during the Golden Ager's luncheon. A free lunch is provided to volunteers. Call the Army office at 665-7233 for more information.

HOSPICE OF PAMPA

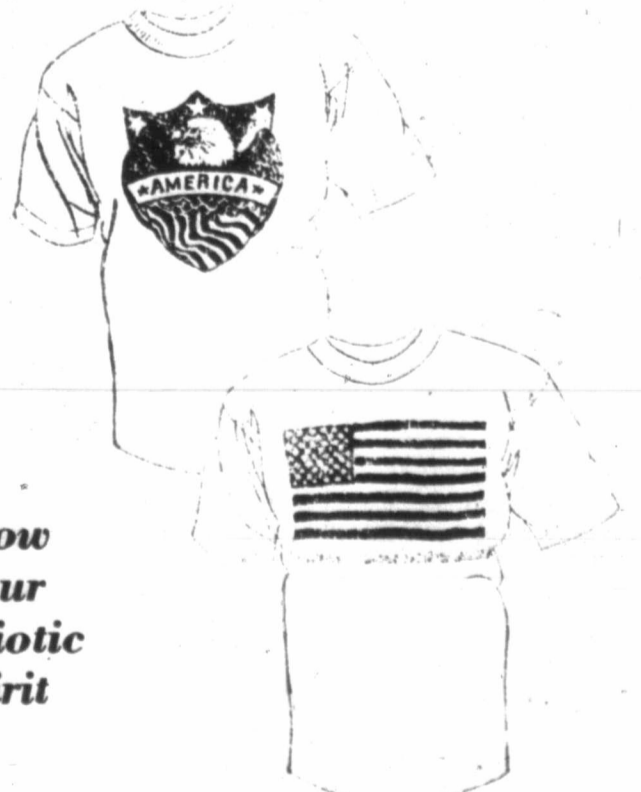
Hospice of Pampa is nonprofit, medicare certified agency which provides competent, appropriate, loving care to terminally ill patients and their families. Hospice care provides palliative care for physical symptoms, and also addresses the emotional, psychological and spiritual concerns. Hospice care is extended to a year of bereavement care. Trained volunteers help in many aspects of the program. Hospice staff includes nurses, health aids, physicians, social workers, and clergy. For more information, call 665-6677, or write to Hospice of Pampa, Box 2782, Pampa, TX 79065.

Clarendon College offers medication aide update

Clarendon College-Pampa Center is offering a medication aide up-date class on Saturday, April 20, 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Enrollment is required before the class meets. It is being taught by Deb Erwin, R.N.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

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Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

Man's way with a fork sticks in friend's throat

DEAR ABBY: My husband has a close friend about his age (late 30s) who has a lot going for him. He's smart, college-educated, has a lovely wife (also college-educated), is very well-mannered and has a great personality.

So what's the problem? You won't believe this — but the man does not know how to hold a dinner fork correctly! He "makes a fist" and holds the fork in this fist — like a 3-year-old child. His wife holds her fork correctly. Why she hasn't corrected her husband, I'll never know!

If you use this in your column, I will clip it and mail it to him anonymously. I haven't the heart — or courage — to tell him face to face, but a man who is going up the corporate ladder, as he is, should know how to hold a dinner fork.

FRIEND IN SAN FRANCISCO
DEAR FRIEND: I doubt if the way a man holds his dinner fork will impede his ascension up the corporate ladder. Nor would it disqualify him from memberships in the ultra-exclusive Bohemian Club, or Mensa, an international organization for people with IQs in the top 2 percent of the general population. But here's your letter for clipping and mailing.

and he does not want to adopt. He was married once before and has two children from that marriage. (They are now 18 and 20.) He says we can't afford children, which is not true.

Abby, I am considering divorce so I can begin looking for someone who wants the same things I do. I don't know what else to do. I really want to work things out, but I don't want to push him into something he doesn't want.

I need help. What should I do?

BABIES OR BUST

DEAR BABIES OR BUST: Your chances for "busting" are better than your chances for adopting a child with this man. You knew when you married him that he did not want children. See a marriage counselor to make sure it's children you really want and not a happier marriage.

DEAR ABBY: I received the enclosed message along with a wedding invitation. It did not set well with me, and I would like your thoughts on this matter:

"As we join our households together, our gift needs are few. If you wish to give us a wedding present, please consider a monetary gift that we can use for our wedding and honeymoon. Thank you! John and Mary" (Not their real names.)

ANONYMOUS
DEAR ANONYMOUS: If you had asked "John and Mary" what they wanted for their wedding gift, the above message would have been appropriate, but a blatant request for money is in very poor taste.

Today's Crossword Puzzle

The World Almanac® Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

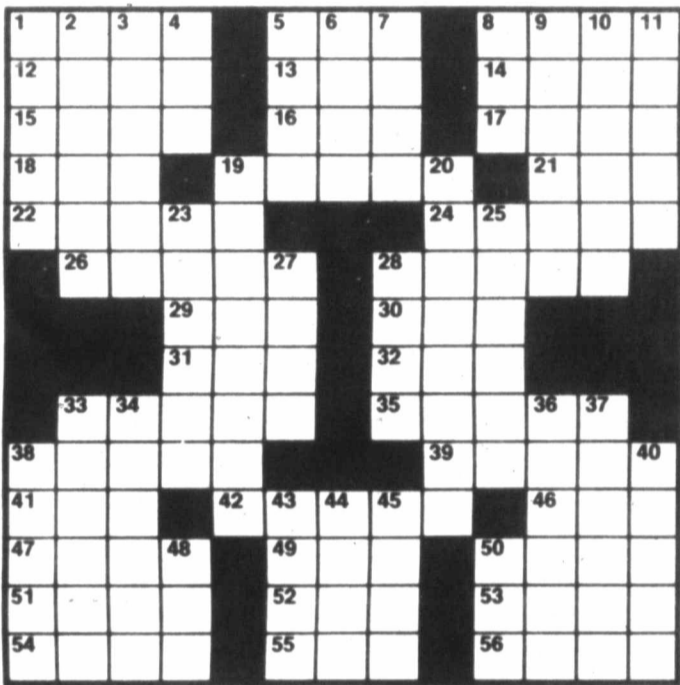
- 1 Mutt and —
- 5 Swift aircraft (abbr.)
- 8 Actress —
- 12 Tart
- 13 Actor —
- 14 Top
- 15 — colada
- 16 — Wiedersehen
- 17 Tennis player
- 18 Nastase
- 19 Airline info
- 20 Cancels previous change
- 21 Moreover
- 22 Razor clam
- 24 Attempts
- 26 Birthmark
- 28 English plains
- 29 One — kind
- 30 Noun suffix

- 31 Football org.
- 32 Briny expanse
- 33 Famous painter
- 35 Emerge from an egg
- 38 Household appliance
- 39 Frozen
- 41 Weep
- 42 Slice off in thin layers
- 46 WWII area
- 47 Crafty
- 49 Conceit
- 50 Classify
- 51 Curved molding
- 52 Fondle
- 53 State positively
- 54 Longs (sl.) suffix
- 55 Chemical
- 56 Towel word

Answer to Previous Puzzle

PEPO PEND DAN
LSAT ALEE WOE
UNITARIAN ENE
GENES DRILLED
RICE MAL
DAD MOST MILT
REASON RAINER
ARRIVE ADAGIO
GOES SHIN SST
DAS ONAN
EYELASH TUMID
MEV CLOSEDEND
MLI ROHE ELIA
ALL ABOV STAY

- 1 Jokes
- 2 Genus of ants
- 3 Conclusion
- 4 Drug agcy.
- 5 Go away!
- 6 Pivot
- 7 Bunch
- 8 — alai
- 9 Chocolate
- 10 Ammonia compounds
- 11 Requires
- 19 Candle extinguishers
- 20 Prehistoric era (2 wds.)
- 23 Tennis player
- 25 Goolagong
- 27 Whirl
- 27 Sodium chloride
- 28 Network
- 33 Desert illusion
- 34 Air ingredient
- 36 Split
- 37 Batter
- 38 The real —
- 40 People of action
- 43 Military cap
- 44 By the time — to
- Phoenix
- 45 Ballot
- 48 OK
- 50 Stadium cheer



11

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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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Flattery can score points for you today, provided it is sincere and deserved. Go out of your way to compliment those whom you feel are worthy of special notice. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences which are governing you in the year ahead. Send for Aries' 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.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) In your business dealings today, don't let the other guy feel he's the only source who can gratify your requirements. Your play could gain you extra consideration.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) One of your nobler attributes is your loyalty to friends. A pal whom you'll stand by today will not readily forget your true-blue qualities.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You'll perform best when under pressure today, so don't back away from challenges. You have good reserves to draw upon, and, better yet, you'll enjoy being victorious.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) There may be something good you'll have to share today, but don't share it with strangers. Check your old standbys first to see if it is something they would appreciate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Someone who recently gave you only half-hearted support could do a remarkable about-face today, going all-out to help you. Be sure to show your gratitude.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You'll have a wonderful way of putting those whom you're involved with completely at ease today. These arrangements will be imbued with harmony, as well as pleasant memories.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Someone who unfairly judged you, based upon distorted information, is about to make a complete change of heart. You two may become very good friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Under most conditions, it is usually unwise to let your heart rule your head, but today could be an exception. Let compassion take precedence over practicality.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Changes you will be instrumental in making today that affect your family should win the praises of all concerned. You'll be glad you did what you did.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) It's important to let the one you love know how you truly feel today. Your expression of sincere devotion will elevate this individual's spirits and make the day a rousing success.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Even though things may look bleak, you should do well for yourself when the final results are allied. The secret to success is to hang in there.

MARVIN



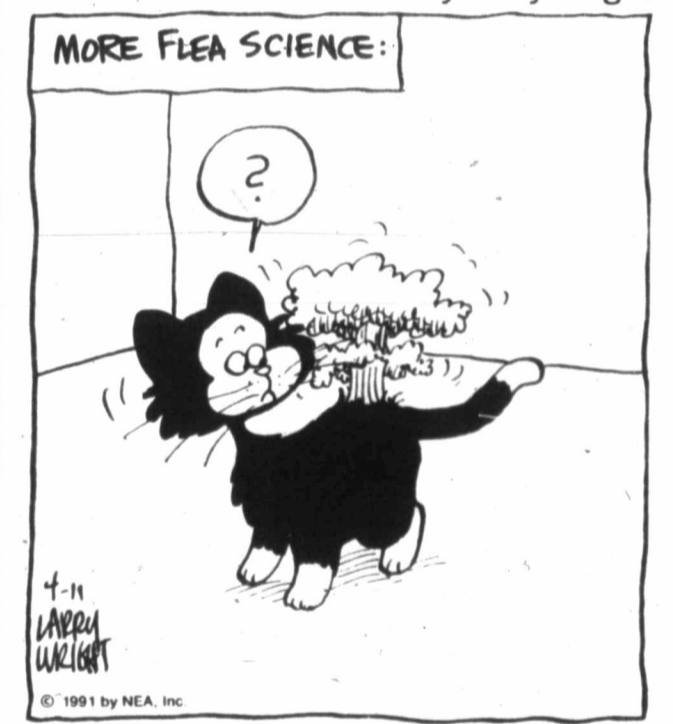
By Tom Armstrong

MARMADUKE



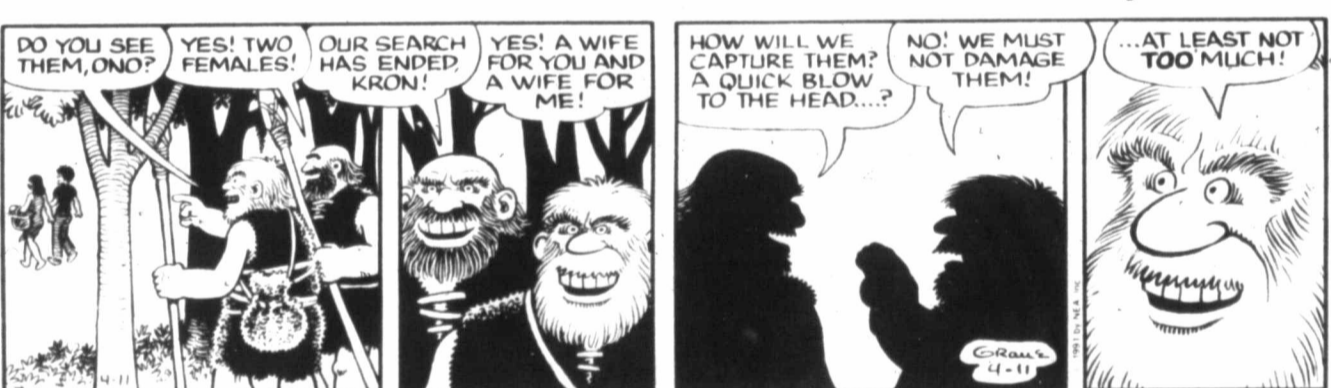
By Brad Anderson

KIT N' CARLYLE



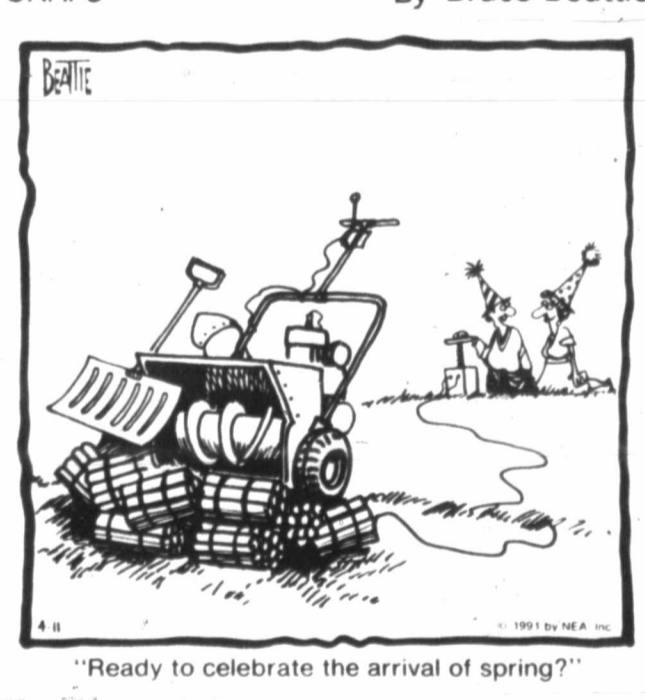
By Larry Wright

ALLEY OOP



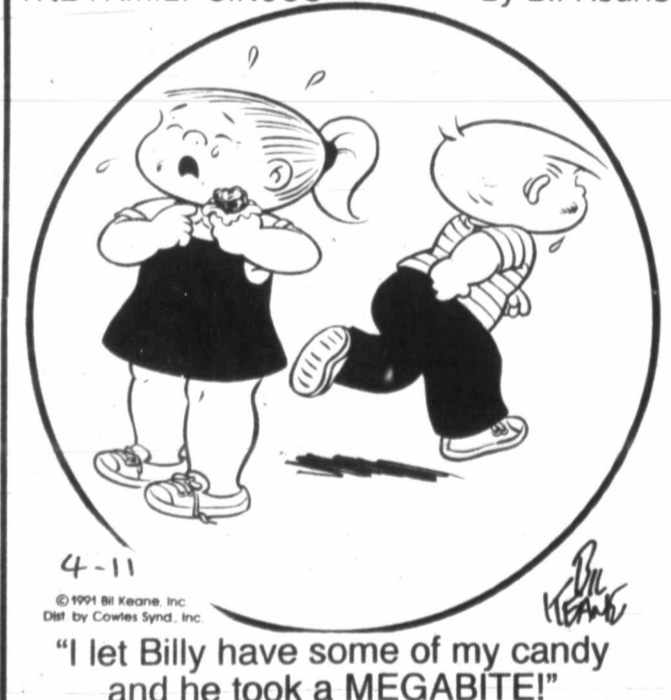
By Dave Graue

SNAFU



By Bruce Beattie

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



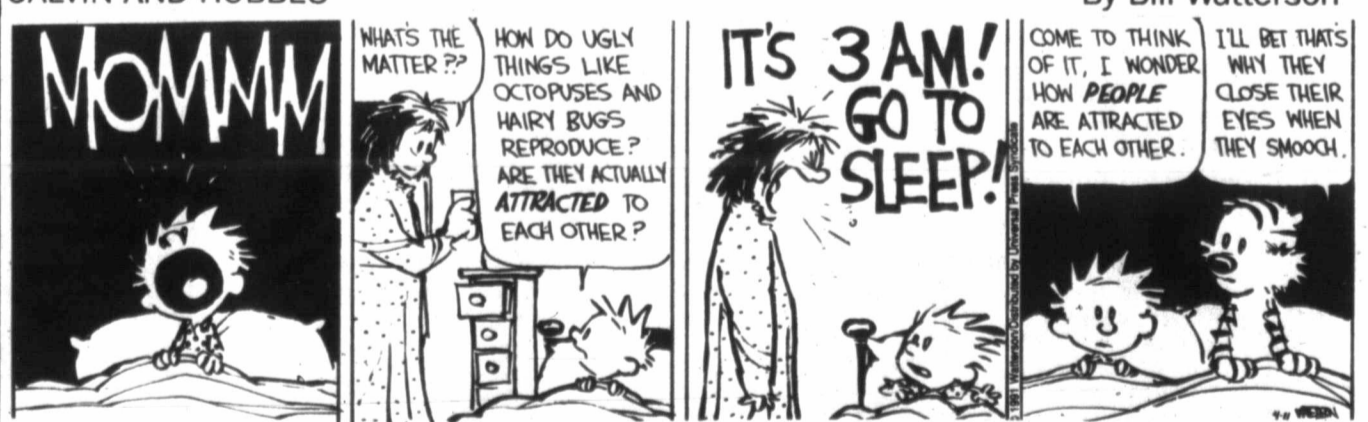
By Bil Keane

WINTHROP



By Dick Cavalli

CALVIN AND HOBBS



By Bill Watterson

THE BORN LOSER



By Art and Chip Sansom

FRANK AND ERNEST



By Bob Thaves

PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz

GARFIELD



By Jim Davis

Sports

Pampa hosts District 1-4A Tennis Tournament

By L.D. STRATE
Sports Editor

For the past four years, a regional qualifying spot for a Pampa High tennis player has slipped away in the wake of the district tournament.

This season, the Pampa girls' doubles team of Heather Gikas and Holly Hinton may end the Harvesters' drought.

The two seniors, fresh from a victory in last weekend's Amarillo Relays, are the No. 2 seed in the District 1-4A Tournament Friday and Saturday at the PHS courts.

"Heather and Holly have played great all season long. If confidence was the only factor, they'd be going to regionals. They've got both talent and confidence," said Pampa head coach Jay Barrett.

Going into the Amarillo Relays, the pair had won the Wichita Falls Invitational, placed second in both the Perryton and Hereford meets and claimed fourth in the talent-laden Abilene Tournament.

"They haven't lost to anybody in their half of the draw in the district pairings, so I don't look for them to be challenged until the finals," Barrett said.

Pampa hasn't had a netter advance past district since 1987 when Matt Walsh in singles and Reagan Eddins-David Bradshaw in doubles turned the trick.

Pampa in team tennis has qualified for regionals during the fall season. Only individuals can qualify during the spring.

Seeded ahead of Hinton-Gikas in the No. 1 slot are Baker and Alley of Hereford.

Kimberly Martin and Erin Fruge will also compete in girls' doubles for Pampa.

In girls' singles, Jennifer Jones, Sharon Smith and Meredith Horton are entered for Pampa.

Dannett Jordan of Borger and Brinna Reinauer of Hereford are seeded No. 1 and 2 respectively in girls' singles.

In boys' singles, fourth-seeded Edward Duni-gan, a senior, has a good shot at a regional berth, Barrett said.

"He's got only one tough match and if he can get past that one, he should be going to regionals," Barrett said.

Duni-gan, a senior, drew a first-round bye.

Top-seed is Barry Thrutchely of Borger while Jamie Kapka of Hereford is the second seed in boys' singles.

Unseeded Ryan Osborn is the only other singles entry for Pampa.

If the ball bounces right in boys' doubles, fourth-seeded juniors Sameer Mohan and Joe Welborn and the rapidly improving John Allen and J.B. Horton could represent Pampa at regionals.

"Sameer and Joe are coming off a bad loss at the Amarillo Relays. They were two totally different young men when they took the court. They're capable of playing much better," Barrett said.

Rogers and Needham of Caprock, seeded No. 2 in this weekend's district tournament, eliminated Mohan and Welborn, 6-3, 6-0, in the Amarillo Relays.

"Sameer and Joe will likely meet them again in the semi-finals of district," Barrett added.

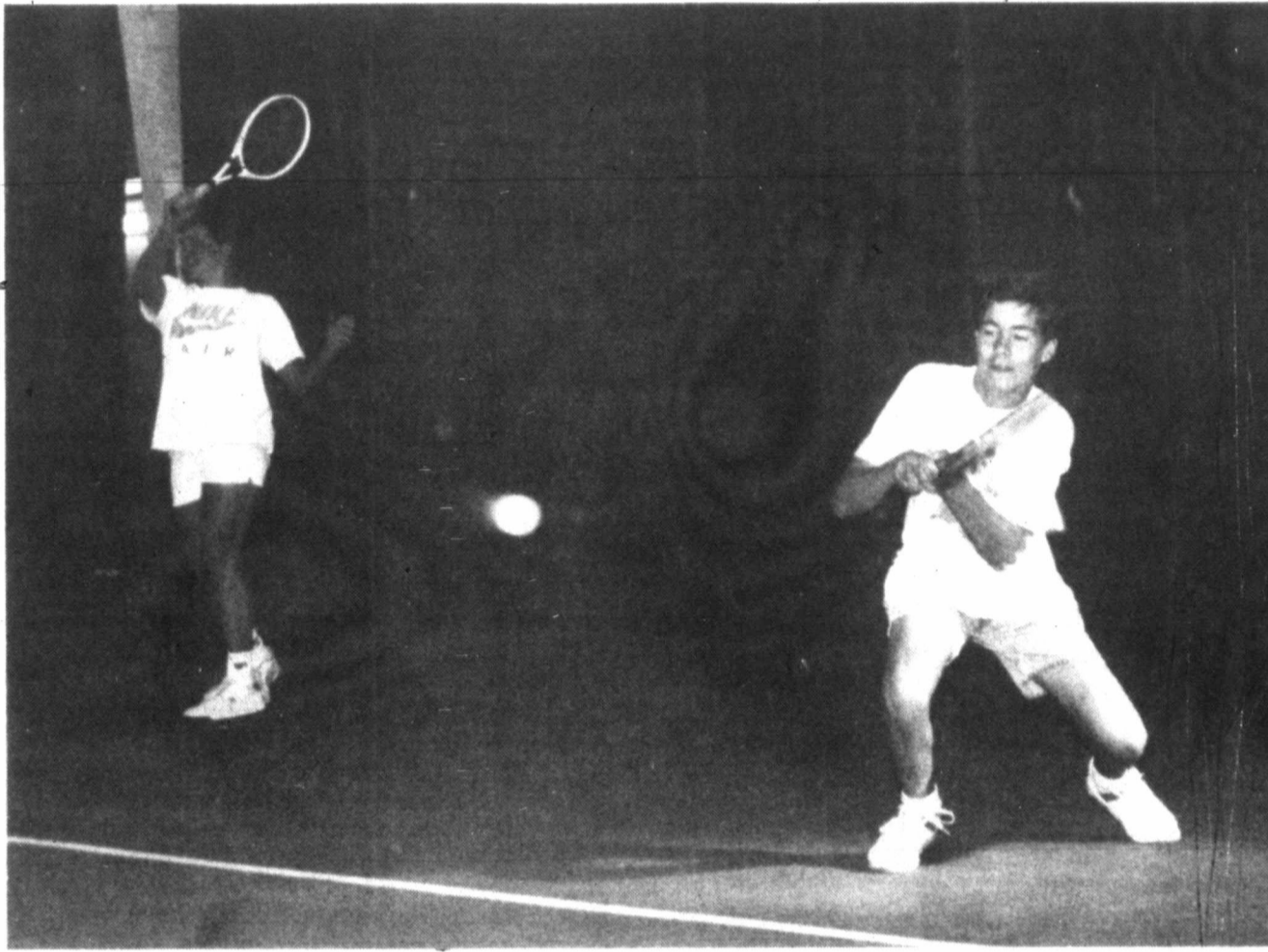
Allen and Horton won three of four matches in the Amarillo Relays to place fifth.

"It's possible they could get to regionals," Barrett said. "They've really been playing well."

Seeded No. 1 in boys' double is Coplin and Head of Hereford.

Friday, the first three rounds of the district tournament will be played with matches starting at 9 a.m. Saturday's starting time is also 9 a.m. with the finals and the third and fourth place matches scheduled.

In case of bad weather, the tournament will be moved to the Pampa Youth & Community Center.



Pampa's John Allen (far left) and J.B. Horton practice for the District 1-4A Tournament.

(Staff photo)

Shootin' the Breeze

By J. Alan Brzys



Area's small schools don't need reforms

The score: Texas Supreme Court 1. Area independent school districts 0.

When I first hired on with this outfit, I was given a list of schools on my sports beat.

Schools include Briscoe, Canadian, Groom, Kelton, Lefors, McLean, Miami, Mobeetie, Wheeler and White Deer and others.

My first impression was, golly gee, that's a lot of schools and a lot of miles to cover. Perhaps I used an expression a tad stronger than golly gee, but this is a family newspaper.

However, if you total the number of students enrolled at these high schools, you come up with approximately the same number of kids that attended the high school from which I graduated.

No big deal, I decided.

I grew up in a medium-sized community in Massachusetts where towns pretty much border each other. There's very little rural landscape in between towns, which allows for larger population bases.

Each time I've visited a school in the Panhandle, I've been warmly greeted and given as much help and information as possible by students, educators, parents and boosters.

Let me go on record as saying the kids I've met on my beat are about as courteous, well-mannered and respectful as any I've seen in the lower 48 states.

I've been overwhelmed with the quality of education, the individual attention given to students, and the community support that makes these school programs extremely successful.

If I had kids, I'd certainly prefer they go to school in Miami, White Deer, Mobeetie or any of the others previously named instead of the schools I attended.

I didn't know half the kids in my graduating class and basically got lost in the shuffle.

In two short months as area sports writer, I've learned a lot about the independent school districts surrounding Pampa.

And as a news reporter, I've learned even more about how the schools operate, the history behind the development of some of the school districts, as well as many of the issues facing these schools.

Which brings me to the point that took me the long way around to get to: What the heck is the Texas Supreme Court trying to do with all these mandated school reforms?

My opinion is, if it ain't broke, don't try to fix it!

It's truly unfortunate that faculty, coaches and students already are worried about how divisive might be the changes that are proposed.

The "C" word - consolidation - has made its way to the tennis courts and athletic fields.

I've been amazed at the large proportion of kids participating in the wide variety of sports offered at these small schools.

I'll use a few individuals as examples, but the names are interchangeable.

On any given day you might find Groom's Shannon Fields bouncing between track, basketball, tennis or another sport.

The same is true of Don Ray Howard. The Miami senior also is versatile and can be found competing in many diverse sports including basketball and bull riding.

At a district tennis tournament I asked, "Where's Don Ray Howard?"

Someone answered, "This is about the only sport you won't find him playing."

Again, let me state that there are similar examples at all of the schools. And there are many more students who don't particularly excel in any sport, but they are constantly out there giving it everything they've got.

At my high school, most students who "went out" for a sport, worried they might be cut from the team due to perceived lack of talent. Or, if they made the team, they'd be relegated to sitting on the pine and see little or no action. Many just didn't bother trying.

I have yet to see this situation here. If anything, area youngsters are encouraged to do their best and its deemed more than adequate.

The key is keeping a proper perspective on sports, education and social values as it applies to the state's many diverse geographical areas.

This ain't Dallas!

I sincerely doubt the students I see competing in sports in this area on the small-school level have anything to gain by court-mandated school reform.

In fact, they have much to lose.

The saddest part is that students have virtually no say in the matter.



(Staff photo by J. Alan Brzys)

Bryan Kincannon of Miami lines up a putt Wednesday on the 347-yard first hole at Hidden Hills Public Golf Course. The Miami High School team took first honors in the District 6-1A tourney and will advance in regional play.

Miami boys, Lefors girls win district golf titles

The Miami boys' and Lefors girls' golf teams harnessed victories in heavy winds Wednesday in District 6-1A play-off action at Hidden Hills Public Golf Course.

Advancing to regional play are teams placing in first and second place and individuals finishing in the top three slots.

Team and individual results:
Boys team: 1. Miami - 432 total strokes; 2. McLean - 450; 3. Allison - 498; 4. Briscoe - 514; 5. Lefors - 624.

Girls team: 1. Lefors - 682.
Boys medalists: 1. Neal Ray Davis, Kelton, 88; 2. Daniel Harris, McLean,

97; 3. Jason Wiggins, Lakeview, 98.
Girls medalists: 1. Misty Riley, McLean, 124; 2. Tandy Thompson, Miami, 137; 3. Colbi Cowan, Miami, 151.

Individual team boys: Miami - Melvin Seymour, 99; Greg Kauk, 108; Aaron McReynolds, 103; Bryan Kincannon, 122; Sean Arganbright, 140. McLean - Daniel Harris 97; Christian Looney, 102; Quillian Rutherford, 130; Michael Barker, 121.

Individual team girls: Lefors - Jennifer Moore, 153; Michelle Shedek, 175; Alta Joslyn, 180; Ginger Hammon, 174.

Pampa ties Tascosa, 1-1, in girls' soccer match

Pampa meets Palo Duro at 10 a.m. Saturday in girls' soccer action in Amarillo.

In a match played earlier this week, Pampa battled Tascosa to a 1-1 tie.

After a scoreless first half, Tascosa took a 1-0 lead 20 minutes into the second half. With 10 minutes left, Pampa

tied the score on a penalty kick by Rochelle Pritchard.

Rhonda Been was outstanding at goalie, said Pampa head coach Scott Flynn.

The Pampa girls have a 2-1-1 record and hold down second place in the district standings.

Scoreboard

Track

Pampa Middle School girls' seventh and eighth grade teams both placed second behind Hereford in a recent meet at Hereford.

Results are listed below:
7th Grade Division
400 relay: 2. Lillie Ramirez, Laura Imel, Serenity King and Heather Hess.
800: 2. Kim Sparkman, 2:45.01.
100 hurdles: 5. Heather Hess, 19.44; 6. Kim Sparkman, 19.45.
800 relay: 1. Misty Adams, Laura Imel, Serenity King and Lillie Ramirez, 2:01.
400: 1. Misty Adams, 1:07; 4. Lisa Jones, 1:10; 3. Shaylee Richardson, 58.62.

1600 relay: 1. Misty Adams, Laura Imel, Serenity King and Heather Hess, 4:36.
Long Jump: 5. Julie Nokes, 13-6.
High Jump: 3. Lillie Ramirez, 4-6.
Shot: 4. Ali Rogers, 25-0.
Discus: 2. Jane Brown, 69-73/4; 3. Cameron Harris, 65-10.

8th Grade Division
3200: 2. Marcy Leal, 13:58.
400 relay: 3. Nichole Brown, Jamie Hutcherson, Candi Atwood and Tia Murray, 55.3.
800: 2. Denise Eppison, 2:44.
100 hurdles: 1. Nichole Brown, 17:58; 3. Mechelle Abbott, 18:05.

1600: 6. Jamie Hutcherson, 14:42.
800 relay: 4. Nichole Brown, Michelle Abbott, Tia Murray and Denise Eppison, 2:02.
400: 1. Candi Atwood, 1:07.
300 hurdles: 1. Mechelle Abbott, 55:08.

1600 relay: 2. Denise Eppison, Candi Atwood, Misti Scribner and Marcy Leal, 4:44.
1600: 6. Marcy Leal, 6:35.
Long Jump: 2. Mechelle Abbott, 14-21/4; 3. Candi Atwood, 14-01/4; 4. Jamie Hutcherson, 13-11.
Triple Jump: 3. Candi Atwood, 29-51/2; 4. Nichole Brown, 28-1.
Shot: 1. Selena Miller, 29-1; 6. Jessica Whitney, 25-11/2.
Discus: 1. Selena Miller, 92-7; 5. Jessica Whitney, 73-9.

(The middle school teams are entered in a meet at Borger on Friday, starting at 4 p.m.)

Bowling

Pampa Mixed Tournament
Team: 1. Oddballs, Pampa, 2,712; (Jim Eakin, Julie Greer, Noel Clemens, Jeanne Eakin); 2. Goathheads, Stinson, 2,683 (Harold Isaacs, Michelle Beals, Shirley Bell, Greg Hall).
Doubles: 1. Chris Duroy-Carrie Duroy, Pampa, 1,420; 2. Donnie Fowler-Debbie Fowler, Amarillo, 1,397.

Optional Handicap All-Events (6 games): 1. Noel Clemens, Pampa, 1,400; 2. Carrie Duroy, Pampa, 1,367.

Bowlers from the Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas penhalves competed in the tournament, which was sponsored by Pampa Men's and Women's Bowling Associations in conjunction with North County Coors Distributing of Borger.

Baseball

Major League standings
By The Associated Press
All Times EDT
NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division
W L Pct GB
New York 2 2 1 .667 —
Pittsburgh 2 1 .667 —
Chicago 1 1 .500 1/2
St. Louis 1 1 .500 1/2
Montreal 1 2 .333 1
Philadelphia 1 2 .333 1

West Division
W L Pct GB
Cincinnati 2 0 1.000 —
San Diego 2 0 1.000 —
Los Angeles 1 0 1.000 1/2
Atlanta 0 1 .000 1 1/2
Houston 0 2 .000 2
San Francisco 0 2 .000 2

Wednesday's Games
Chicago 2, St. Louis 0
Pittsburgh 6, Montreal 3
Cincinnati 6, Houston 5
Los Angeles 6, Atlanta 4
Philadelphia 8, New York 7, 10 innings
San Diego 4, San Francisco 3

Thursday's Games
Los Angeles (Marinez 20-6) at Atlanta (Leibrandt 9-11), 2:10 p.m.
St. Louis (K.Hill 5-6) at Chicago (Harkey 12-6), 2:20 p.m.

San Francisco (LaCoss 6-4) at San Diego (Benes 10-11), 4:05 p.m.
Houston (Harnisch 0-0) at Cincinnati (Charlton 12-9), 7:35 p.m.

Montreal (Mahler 7-6) at New York (Whitehurst 1-0), 7:40 p.m.

Only games scheduled
Friday's Games
Pittsburgh at Chicago, 3:20 p.m.
San Diego at Los Angeles, 4:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Philadelphia, 7:35 p.m.
Atlanta at Cincinnati, 7:35 p.m.
Montreal at New York, 7:40 p.m.
San Francisco at Houston, 8:35 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division
W L Pct GB
Milwaukee 2 0 1.000 —
Toronto 2 1 .667 1/2
Detroit 1 1 .500 1
New York 1 1 .500 1
Boston 1 2 .333 1 1/2
Cleveland 1 2 .333 1 1/2
Baltimore 0 2 .000 2

West Division
W L Pct GB
Chicago 2 0 1.000 —
California 1 0 1.000 1/2
Kansas City 2 1 .667 1/2
Minnesota 1 1 .500 1
Oakland 1 1 .500 1
Seattle 0 1 .000 1 1/2
Texas 0 2 .000 2

Tuesday's Games
Toronto 4, Boston 3
Cleveland 2, Kansas City 1
California 3, Seattle 2
Oakland 7, Minnesota 2

Only games scheduled
Wednesday's Games
Late Games Not Included
New York 4, Detroit 0
Kansas City 1, Cleveland 0
Toronto 5, Boston 3
Chicago 2, Baltimore 0
Milwaukee 6, Texas 0
Minnesota 4, Oakland 1
California at Seattle, (n)

Thursday's Games
Cleveland (King 12-4) at Boston (Darwin 0-0), 1:05 p.m.
New York (Eiland 2-1) at Detroit (Gullickson 0-0), 1:35 p.m.
Minnesota (Erickson 8-4) at Oakland (Show 0-0), 3:15 p.m.
California (Langston 10-17) at Seattle (Holman 11-11), 3:35 p.m.
Milwaukee (Robinson 12-5) at Toronto (Wells 11-6), 7:35 p.m.

Only games scheduled
Friday's Games
Chicago at Detroit, 7:35 p.m.
Milwaukee at Toronto, 7:35 p.m.
California at Minnesota, 8:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Texas, 8:35 p.m.
New York at Kansas City, 8:35 p.m.

Skiing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Here are Thursday's conditions at New Mexico ski resorts as provided by Ski New Mexico:

Angel Fire — Closed.
Pajarito — no new snow; 48 inches midway; spring conditions; overnight grooming; last day Sunday.
Red River — Closed.
Sandia Peak — Closed.

Santa Fe — no new snow; 99 inches midway; spring conditions; overnight grooming; last day Sunday.

Sipapu — Closed.
Ski Apache — Closed.
Taos Ski Valley — Closed.

New snow refers to snow within last 24 hours. Figures are supplied to Ski New Mexico, a ski-industry organization, by individual areas. For updates, call (505) 984-0606.

District track meet opens here Friday

The Pampa Lady Harvesters are favored to win the District 1-4A track meet, which will be held Friday and Saturday at Randy Matson Field.

"If we keep performing like we have been, we should win it," said PHS head coach Mike Lopez.

Borger and Hereford should give the Lady Harvesters their best competition, Lopez said.

Tomorrow's schedule starts with the field events at 2:30 p.m., followed by the 3200-meter run at 3 p.m.

Saturday, field events begin at 11 a.m. with the finals scheduled for 2 p.m.

The top two places in each event advance to the Class 4A regional meet.

The Lady Harvesters have won five of six meets this season, their latest victory coming at the Amarillo Relays last weekend.

Sanders, Williams share top player honors

Seniors Steve Sanders and Quincy Williams were named Co-Players of the Week by the Pampa High School baseball coaching staff.

Sanders was 8 for 11 at the plate in the last two games and knocked in the winning run in Pampa's 3-1 win over Randall.

Williams posted consecutive mound wins over Hereford and Randall to boost his record to 5-0. Williams also had 6 hits in 8 times at bat in the two games.

The Harvesters host Borger at 1 p.m. Saturday in District 1-4A action.



(AP Laserphoto)

New Kids on the Block singer Donnie Wahlberg fidgets in his courtroom chair as his lawyer, Frank Haddad Jr., talked with the judge Wednesday night in Louisville, Ky. Wahlberg pleaded guilty to a reduced charge stemming from a March 27 hotel fire.

New Kids on the Block singer pleads guilty to reduced charge in hotel fire

By IVONNE ROVIRA
Associated Press Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Donnie Wahlberg, lead singer and "bad boy" of New Kids on the Block, pleaded guilty to a reduced charge in a hotel fire and must make public-service announcements on such topics as fire safety and drugs.

Under a plea bargain struck Wednesday, the 21-year-old singer pleaded guilty to criminal mischief.

Wahlberg originally was charged with arson and risked up to 20 years in jail. He was arrested March 27 after a hallway fire in the historic Seelbach Hotel, where he was staying. There were no injuries and only a small patch of carpet was burned.

District Judge James M. Green lectured Wahlberg on the seriousness of the crime and of his responsibility to his fans.

"I try not to say much in these situations ... but this is a terrible situation and you're a very lucky young man," Green said. "This is a great deal. I hope you make us proud."

As part of the agreement, Wahlberg "accepted responsibility" for the blaze. "I want to apologize to the people of Louisville," said Wahlberg. "I think, as everyone agrees, this is a most unfortunate incident. It's been a very ugly incident."

He added, "I'm very excited and very much welcome doing these public-service announcements, which is what I've been doing, which is very much what my career is based on."

Following his court appearance, Wahlberg and one of his attorneys, Frank Haddad, denied the singer had spilled vodka on the hotel's carpet and set it ablaze, as authorities had alleged.

Both intimidated Wahlberg instead had been playing with a fire extinguisher, but Haddad cut Wahlberg off when the teen idol started to elaborate.

Last summer, police reported Wahlberg scuffled with a fellow passenger over an airline seat during a flight from Salt Lake City to Atlanta. The other passenger declined to press charges.

The group was named favorite pop-rock group at the 1990 American Music Awards and won the favorite pop-rock album award for "Hangin' Tough."

Jerusalem observes two minutes of silence for Holocaust victims

JERUSALEM (AP) — Cars came to a halt, pedestrians stopped on sidewalks and workers stood in silence as sirens sounded for two minutes today in memory of the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust.

The annual observance began with a torch-lighting ceremony

Wednesday night at Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to Holocaust victims.

Scheduled today were a memorial service at Yad Vashem and the reading of thousands of victims' names at the Knesset, or Parliament, and in Israeli schools.

The official name of the holiday is Holocaust and Ghetto Uprising Remembrance Day. The date was chosen to fall midway between the start of the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto in 1943 and Israel's memorial day to its fallen soldiers, which this year will be marked on Wednesday.

Lawmakers getting concerned about pending base closing list

WASHINGTON (AP) — Baseball, not base closings, was the discussion topic on Defense Secretary Dick Cheney's flight back to Washington from the rain-postponed Atlanta Braves' season opener against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"He didn't mention bases to me and I sure wasn't going to bring it up," Rep. Buddy Darden, D-Ga., said Wednesday after Cheney threw out the opening pitch and then provided the congressman the ride Tuesday night.

No mention, no pain is the hope of several lawmakers. After all, why should Darden discuss Dobbins Air Force Base in his district and give the Pentagon chief any ideas?

Others, however, jumped at the opportunity provided by Cheney's decision to wait until Friday — another full day — to recommend what military facilities in the United States should be closed or scaled back.

"I figure I've got one more day

than we thought we had, and I want to go back ... and make all the cases again for the Texas facilities that we've known now, for over a year, were vulnerable," said Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas.

Cheney's announcement had been scheduled for Thursday, but a delay in Senate confirmation of three members of the base-closure commission held up the list for 24 hours.

By law, the eight-member panel must either approve or amend Cheney's list before sending it on to President Bush and Congress on July 1 for approval or rejection of the entire package.

While lawmakers anxiously await the dreaded telephone call from the Pentagon informing them that their base is on the list, speculation about what installations have been selected is non-stop.

One knowledgeable Pentagon official, requesting anonymity, said Cheney had accepted the recommendations of the civilian secre-

taries of the military services "with very few modifications."

The official said the Air Force had placed about 15 bases on the list, the Army and Navy fewer than 10 each. However, a Navy source said the service had listed about two dozen sites, including one major facility — Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in Washington state, which has more than 9,000 military and civilian employees.

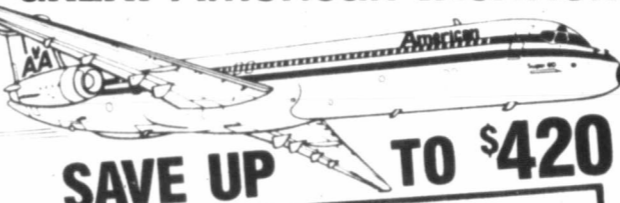
Navy sources said their list does not include the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, which was among the more than 72 domestic facilities Cheney proposed closing or scaling back last year.

No action was taken on that list as Democratic congressmen accused the administration of playing politics since most of the bases were in their districts.

Pentagon sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified, said the bases on Cheney's list might be changed up until the final hours before disclosure.

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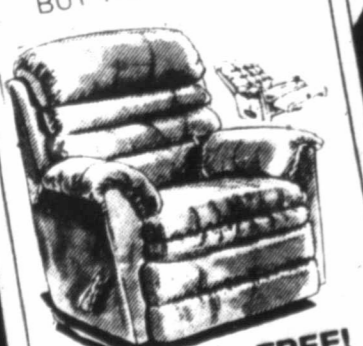
If you don't need two, tell your neighbor or bring a friend and share the cost and the savings!

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get matching recliner FREE!
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BUY THIS STYLE



get matching recliner FREE!
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\$599

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