

State Rep. Allen Hightower, D-Huntsville, listens to the debate in the House Monday over a proposal for increasing prison space.

House members vote to build fewer prisons

By PEGGY FIKAC
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — House Speaker Gib Lewis said he expects a prison construction measure to wind up somewhere between the 11,300 new beds approved by the House and the 30,000 endorsed by the Senate.

"What that number will be, I have no idea," Lewis, D-Fort Worth, said Monday.

The House plan would cost \$440 million; the Senate measure, \$1.1 billion.

Each calls for financing new prisons through a bond sale, with a constitutional amendment that would require voter approval. Besides prison construction, bond proceeds would be authorized for youth correction and mental health facilities.

This morning, the Senate rejected the House's version of the bill. The measures will go to a conference committee to work out the differences.

The House approved its proposed constitutional amendment Monday, following action last week by the Senate.

"I think where we may get tied up is in conference, and I think it's very important that we get to conference as soon as we possibly can," Lewis said.

The House initially rejected a separate bill needed for the bond program and prison construction to go forward, if the constitutional amendment is approved by voters.

But in a meeting that lasted into the night, the House reconsidered its 79-66 vote against the bill and tentatively approved it, 88-52.

Another House vote is needed on that bill, which also may wind up in a conference committee with the version approved by the Senate.

Besides provisions directly related to the bonds, the House bill includes proposals to allow many nonviolent felonies to be punishable by community service rather than incarceration, and to make eligible for early parole certain inmates who are elderly, significantly ill, physically handicapped, mentally ill or mentally retarded.

Rep. Allen Hightower, House Corrections Committee chairman, said some lawmakers initially voted against the bill because they were concerned about being perceived as "soft on crime."

He also said lawmakers may have been concerned about how quickly the massive measure is moving. The Legislature is in the second week of a special budget session.

Rep. Sam Russell, chairman of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, made the motion to reconsider the vote against the bill.

Russell, D-Mount Pleasant, said he would offer a change to the bill Tuesday to specify that nonviolent felonies eligible for community service could be punished instead by time in county jail.

A number of counties already have sued the state because their jails are holding inmates awaiting transfer to state prison.

But Russell emphasized that community service — with a \$5,000 fine — would be an alternative to jail time. The counties would keep the fine proceeds, he said.

"I don't think we're sticking it to the counties at all," he said.

Reps. Dalton Smith, R-Houston, and Paul Colbert, D-Houston, unsuccessfully pressed for the larger, \$1.1 billion plan. They said more prisons are needed to ensure inmates serve a longer portion of their sentences.

Current prison capacity, including lockups under construction, is 65,000.

The House voted against spending more and against allowing voters to choose between financing new prisons with bonds or with a temporary sales tax increase. Several lawmakers said they were concerned about the cost of borrowing money through bonds.

Rep. James Hury, chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, spoke against a sales tax increase for prisons. He suggested the levy might be needed for other government services.

The state is facing a \$4.8 billion budget shortfall over the next two years. State Comptroller John Sharp, in a government audit, has suggested billions of dollars in budget cuts and fees, but parts of his plan have met with resistance.

Hury, D-Galveston, warned that lawmakers would be discussing the sales tax rate as this budget-writing special session continues "unless this body is willing to embrace 100 percent of the Sharp proposal."

The House removed from the bill a provision to expand the use of private prisons, an idea included in Sharp's plan. The state has contracted with private vendors for four prisons that have been operating about two years.

Bivins answers concerns on teacher retirement bill

AUSTIN — State Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, reacted to concerns of retired educators about Senate Joint Resolution 3, introduced last week by the senator.

Bivins said retirement benefits offered by the Teacher Retirement System would be maintained under the proposal. The senator also said he was offering a separate bill that would increase benefits now paid to retired teachers.

Additionally, the Amarillo Republican pointed out that SJR 3 would create a constitutional guarantee that the system would always remain actuarially sound.

SJR 3 would force the state to contribute to TRS the amount necessary to maintain actuarial soundness, Bivins said. The amendment guarantees a minimum actuarial soundness as well as a minimum contribution rate of 6 percent by the state while removing the current 10 percent ceiling.

"I know a lot of retired and active teachers are concerned that somehow this amendment would reduce retiree benefits. Nothing could be further from the truth," Bivins said.

"Instead, this amendment simply would take the politics out of choosing the contributions rate and force the state to fund the system at whatever is needed to maintain actuarial soundness. The decision should be a financial one rather than a political one," Bivins said the TRS is the strongest in the nation, and legislators want to keep it that way.

SJR 3 also would prevent TRS from misusing administrative funds, Bivins said. The bill would provide legislative oversight only over funds used for administration that are derived from fund earnings.

Lt. Governor Bob Bullock has asked Bivins to take the Senate lead on retirement issues and push bills reforming state fiscal management during the Legislature's special budget session.

"Good fiscal management and sound administration of the state's retirement systems are critical to the people and the budget," Bullock said. "Teel Bivins has the expertise to tackle such a task."

Bullock said Bivins will sponsor a constitutional amendment, based on Comptroller John Sharp's performance audit recommendations, that will allow the Legislature the flexibility to fund the state pension systems at the actual level needed to meet their obligations — instead of the current minimum and maximum state contribution rates. Helping with the amendment will be Sen. John Leedom (R-Dallas).

Bullock said Bivins will also be working on legislation providing for a one-time increase in the benefits paid to retired teachers and a bill reorganizing state agencies to improve efficiency.

Bullock, who first proposed the idea of a performance review of all agencies during his campaign for lieutenant governor last fall, said he hopes the Legislature moves quickly to implement most — if not all — of Comptroller Sharp's recommendations.

Sharp has estimated those recommendations could generate more than \$4 billion in general revenue savings and new revenue for the state over the next two years.

Rockefeller brings campaign hopes to Texas hospital tour

By MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Sen. Jay Rockefeller, a possible Democratic presidential candidate, visited his potential rival's hometown, where he toured a children's hospital and met with influential local Democrats.

Rockefeller deflected questions about making an appearance Monday in Houston, President Bush's hometown. But the West Virginia Democrat did criticize the Bush administration, saying it had not done enough for Americans' health care.

"One of the problems is that health care is enormously complicated," he said. "Public health policy, just the nature of health care, the words people use are so complex it backs people off. And unfortunately it's backed off the Bush administration from taking any kind of energetic steps about solving health care problems."

Rockefeller said he would decide within a month whether to join Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas as announced candidates for the Democratic nomination for a race next year against Bush.

When asked Monday about odds on him entering the race, Rockefeller replied: "I'm not an odds maker. We leave that to the folks in Las Vegas."

But with television cameras in tow, Rockefeller wandered through Texas Children's Hospital in the Texas Medical Center.

He examined tiny devices used by doctors in heart surgery and donned a hospital gown for a tour of a neonatal intensive care unit, where babies weighing less than three pounds fight for life while connected to millions of dollars worth of sophisticated machinery and under the constant care of nurses.

Rockefeller said the plight of some of the children could be tied to a lack of prenatal care.

"If you don't get it, the chances of getting a low-birth-weight baby go up enormously," he said. "That low-birth-weight baby will be in the intensive care unit for about \$3,000 a day — start doing your math — for about two to three months."

"You may be talking hundreds of thousands of dollars which could be avoided if there had been good prenatal care. That's called prevention."

Rockefeller, a former two-term governor and now in his second term in the Senate, also lamented the fact that many Americans are without health insurance, saying lack of coverage contributed to the absence of preventive health care.

"We're the only country in the industrialized world that doesn't have universal health insurance for everybody," he said. "In a country called America, that's a terrible thing to have to admit to."

While in Houston, Rockefeller also met with influential local Democrats at a lunch hosted by Scott Atlas, a lawyer who has raised campaign funds for Sen. Lloyd Bentsen and Gov. Ann Richards.

Tsongas woos Texans with his economic ideas

By SUSAN HIGHTOWER
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Paul Tsongas, who accused President Bush of polarizing the nation along racial lines, said he hopes to unite Americans to work for economic growth.

Tsongas, the only Democrat who so far has declared for president in the 1992 race, cited Bush's Willie Horton ad during the 1988 campaign.

"That is reprehensible," he said. "That's the real George Bush. Get past the rhetoric and the 'kinder, gentler' — that's George Bush: 'I will divide this country by race to serve my political ends.'"

Tsongas was in Austin on Monday to tour the semiconductor consortium Sematech, attend a luncheon and fundraiser and pledge to participate in a presidential forum planned here in January by the Public Broadcasting Service.

Tsongas said he hoped the forum, which is intended to give 600

delegates and TV viewers nationwide an in-depth look at candidates and issues, could help bring the presidential race to a higher plane than the 1988 campaign.

Although Texas is Bush's adopted home, Tsongas said Monday he believes his platform of returning the country to economic prominence could win him the state in the election.

Tsongas blamed Bush for the fiscal woes plaguing Texas and other states. The Texas Legislature is meeting in special session to write a budget that addresses a projected \$4.8 billion deficit.

"If George Bush is not defeatable, I don't know politics," said Tsongas, a two-term congressman and former U.S. senator from Massachusetts.

The lawyer and businessman returned to politics this year after leaving the Senate in 1984 to fight cancer. The cancer has since gone in remission.

Tsongas said Texas' economic woes can be traced to national fiscal

problems, including the growing trade deficit and foreign investment.

"Nobody here talks about a relationship between the budget problems in Texas and the fact that there's a precedent," he said.

"The one person who does have some control is totally removed, and nobody talks about George Bush having a relationship to the economic problems of the country."

Tsongas said he intends to expand the traditional Democratic plank to include a pro-business stance and get the message out that America must restore its manufacturing base to boost a slipping standard of living.

"It seems to me ... that the loss of the manufacturing capability is really the ultimate problem that the country faces, and Texas obviously is a state that is increasingly dependent upon manufacturing and export for its economic livelihood," he said.

The candidate said he supports free trade in North and South Amer-

ica, a capital gains tax targeted at securities and a 3-cent to 5-cent gasoline tax increase dedicated to improving the nation's infrastructure.

"Part of what my candidacy's about is getting people to understand what was given to us by our ancestors is a treasure, and giving that to our children intact is our responsibility. And obviously the Reagan-Bush years is the contrary of that, spending, borrowing, taxation and enormous debt. And I don't think that's generationally moral," he said.

Tsongas shrugged off suggestions that he may be haunted by Massachusetts Democrat Michael Dukakis' 1988 presidential loss to Bush.

"If you went to central casting for a candidate for president, you wouldn't go to Massachusetts and look for a Greek," he said. "But I think in the last analysis, when the other candidates enter the race, it will be my ideas against their ideas."

Weather still a concern for planned Atlantis launch

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA headed into the final hours of the countdown to shuttle Atlantis' planned launch Wednesday with a satellite designed to link low-flying spacecraft with the ground.

Mission managers said today that both spaceship and cargo were ready to fly. Workers had been making repairs as late as Sunday night on a cracked floor beam in the engine compartment.

Test director Al Sofge said engineers were satisfied with the beam repair, which involved bolting a piece of aluminum over the split metal. Overnight, workers fixed two of 128 bolt fasteners on the cargo bay doors.

"This is no problem," Sofge said. "We're on our timeline, and the count is proceeding very smoothly."

Atlantis is scheduled to blast off at 10:55 a.m. Wednesday, although NASA has more than four hours to get the shuttle off the ground.

The threat of showers or thunderstorms remained the main cause of concern. Forecasters put the odds

of good weather for liftoff Wednesday at just 60 percent.

Pilot Michael Baker flew a training jet today. Mission commander John Blaha and his crew also reviewed flight plans.

The nine-day flight will be the ninth trip into orbit for Atlantis.

"We're on our timeline, and the count is proceeding very smoothly."

Two electrical components had to be replaced in the past week; there also was trouble with a test circuit for a data processor as well as the cracked beam.

Blaha and his crew will spend their first day in orbit releasing the \$120 million Tracking and Data Relay Satellite. It will be boosted to a 22,300-mile-high orbit by an attached rocket.

The first Tracking and Data Relay Satellite was placed in space by astronauts in 1983. It ended up in a lower-than-planned orbit because of a booster failure, but ground controllers bumped it up by

maneuvering on-board thrusters.

The second TDRS was destroyed when the shuttle Challenger exploded on Jan. 28, 1986. Two Tracking and Data Relay Satellites have been carried aloft by shuttles since then; both have encountered minor technical problems.

All three satellites in orbit are still working. Once the newest craft becomes operational this fall, two of the four will serve as spares.

Before the TDRS network, NASA relied on ground tracking stations to communicate with

astronauts in space.

That provided coverage less than one-fifth of the time, compared to 85 percent or more under the TDRS system.

Tracking and Data Relay Satellites also link ground controllers with the Hubble Space Telescope and other low-orbiting satellites.

Once the satellite is deployed, the Atlantis astronauts will spend the rest of their flight conducting scientific and engineering experiments.

The Department of Public Safety has issued its monthly report for accidents in June.

Capt. Rusty Davis, district supervisor of the Amarillo Highway Patrol District comprising of 31 counties, said, "For the month of June, our troopers investigated two fatal accidents, 58 personal injury accidents and 80 property damage accidents. There were two persons

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DPS issues June accident report

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killed and 91 persons injured in these accidents."

Sgt. James Powell of Pampa stated, "In Gray County, our troopers investigated no fatal accidents, two personal injury accidents, and six property damage accidents in the month of June."

"No person was killed and two persons were injured in these accidents."

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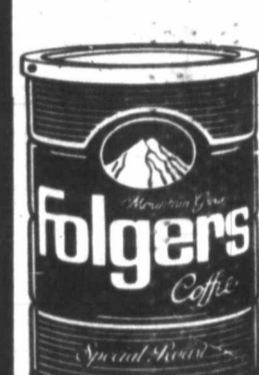
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Auditor's report: BCCI fraudulently concealed billions in losses

By MICHAEL WEST
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — The Bank of Credit and Commerce International fraudulently concealed several billion dollars in losses for at least 15 years — and may never have been profitable, a newly released audit says.

The report found that the bank, which has been effectively shut down around the world, engaged for years in shady dealings involving phony loans, bribery, unrecorded deposits and the rapid transfer of funds among offices.

The Price Waterhouse audit was commissioned by the Bank of England, which coordinated the seizure of BCCI bank branches starting in

early July, and has been seeking to liquidate its assets in Britain.

Portions of the report were made public Monday at a hearing by a High Court judge who rebuffed the central bank's plans.

The BCCI seizure has generated headlines over allegations the private financial institution, owned by a small group of wealthy Arab investors, has been a bank for money launderers, druglords, terrorists and other criminals.

Sky News television reported Monday that Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal had BCCI accounts in London and that British security officers let him come and go freely to check them because they wanted to monitor how they were used.

The report quoted a bank branch

manager as saying he gave British intelligence details about Abu Nidal's accounts for four years, during which Abu Nidal deposited \$26 million.

Abu Nidal's followers carried out dozens of terrorist acts in the decade he held the accounts, including the 1985 attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports that left 20 people dead.

The Sunday Times reported that Britain's intelligence agencies warned the Bank of England last year that terrorist money was channeled through the bank.

The newspaper also said that BCCI, with principal offices in Luxembourg, Abu Dhabi and the Cayman Islands, may have been used by Islamic Jihad, a Shiite Muslim

extremist group believed to be holding Western hostages in Lebanon.

Prime Minister John Major has declined to comment on the Times report.

Parts of the report were made public in court Monday on orders of Vice-Chancellor Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, the judge hearing a Bank of England application for prompt liquidation of BCCI's operations.

Gabriel Moss, a lawyer for the Bank of England, advised the court that Price Waterhouse concluded that BCCI, which operated in more than 70 countries at its peak, "may never have been profitable in its entire history."

Moss said BCCI ran into economic difficulties in the early 80s

from substantial bad debts and that conceal those losses included fictitious loans and dealing in its own shares through nominees.

The accountants Touche Ross, appointed as provisional liquidators, said in a report that BCCI had a balance sheet shortfall of \$147 million.

BCCI's unaudited assets at the end of last year totaled \$12.4 billion, it said.

The BCCI Group was set up in 1972 by Agha Hassan Abedi, past president of the United Bank Ltd. of Pakistan. He is reported to have retired from day-to-day involvement with BCCI.

Browne-Wilkinson, who adjourned the court hearing until July 30, said there was no reason to immediately liquidate the bank's assets.

The move gave hope to the bank's Abu Dhabi majority shareholders and its depositors that a rescue plan could be devised. Abu Dhabi and its ruler Sheikh Zayed Al-Nahyan control about 77 percent of BCCI's shares.

The coordinated seizure of BCCI assets stemmed from evidence the Bank of England obtained suggesting systematic fraud and unreported losses, raising concern about the safety of deposits within the bank.

BCCI's shareholders have publicly attacked the closure, saying they weren't advised beforehand.

L.A. police chief announces plans to retire in April

By LOUINN LOTA
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nearly five months after the videotaped beating of a motorist, Police Chief Daryl F. Gates finally agreed to step down, but in his own time: next April.

"People of this city at long last can have this trauma behind them," said Mayor Tom Bradley. "We suffered. Our image has suffered on a nationwide basis and around the world. There has to be a sigh of relief by the people of this city."

The tough-talking Gates fought tears and his voice faltered as he told his officers in a videotaped message Monday of his plans to retire.

"That's it. April 1992," he said. "And maybe that'll stop all of the nonsense that's been going on. Maybe we can get back to work."

Gates, 64, has been under pressure to step down since the March 3 police beating of motorist Rodney King. The beating prompted a national uproar over police brutality. Four officers have been charged.

The 13-year chief had enjoyed the support of most of the City Council until earlier this month, when an independent commission formed after the beating found instances of racism and brutality in the 8,300-member department and suggested Gates retire.

In a letter to City Council President John Ferraro, Gates said he agreed with the commission's recommendation that a transition of power begin immediately.

He also agreed with the panel that he should remain in office until his successor is chosen, although he said that could delay his retirement past April.

Gates told reporters he was leaving "a little sooner than I had planned."

It was not clear how the next chief would be selected. The mayor said a nationwide search would begin immediately.

Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif.,

who represents a largely black district of Los Angeles, said the chief should step down immediately.

"By his remaining he can institute promotions, demotions and shape the department in his image," she said. She said Gates could make changes "that a new chief coming in will find hard to dismantle."

Ramona Ripston, president of the Southern California chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, said she was relieved Gates had finally set a date, but she hoped he would retire sooner if a new chief was hired quickly.

"The reign of the imperial police chief must come to an end," she said.

Gates, who earns \$168,000 a year, has civil service protection that gives him virtual life tenure.

The City Council is considering changing the system to cap the chief's tenure at 10 years.

Currently, the city personnel department would test applicants for the chief's job and make recommendations to the five-member Police Commission, appointed by Bradley. The Police Commission would choose a chief.

Under a proposal expected to be taken up by the City Council within two weeks, the personnel department would give a larger number of candidates to the mayor, who would pick the chief.

Those changes require voter approval and probably won't go on the ballot until next June. City officials have said they will look for a legal way to hire a new chief with the understanding that tenure and selection issues are up in the air.

Gates said in his letter that he wouldn't take a stand on the term-limit proposal. However, later Monday he told a City Council committee that the system shouldn't be changed.

"Show me a system that's better than LAPD, and I'll show you a department that's politically manipulated," he said. "The system that's being recommended will really involve the chief in politics."



(AP Laserphoto)

Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates addresses the City Council's Public Safety Commission in Los Angeles Monday commenting on the Christopher Commission recommendations after they investigated the Los Angeles Police Department.

Health agency reports more cholera deaths in Africa than Latin America

GENEVA (AP) — Cholera is killing more people in Africa than in Latin America, spreading through parts of the continent at a "catastrophic" rate, the World Health Organization says.

The U.N. agency said Monday that it had received reports of 45,159 cases and 3,488 deaths from 10 African nations so far this year.

By comparison, 2,618 of the 251,553 reported cases in South America were fatal, an agency statement said.

It said cholera "is sweeping through Africa at a catastrophic pace in some countries," adding the disease "is killing people at a much higher rate than seen during the peak of this year's outbreak in Peru, Ecuador and other Latin American countries."

Dr. Jim Tulloch, coordinator of the agency's task force on cholera control, said that poor access to health care and faulty treatment were responsible for the higher death rate in Africa.

He said cultural practices aggra-

vate the problem in some countries. For example, he said, the dead are often washed by the same women who prepare the funeral feast.

Zambia is the hardest hit country in Africa, the agency reported, with 11,356 reported cases and 981 deaths this year. Nigeria follows with 7,674 cases and 990 deaths — a 13 percent fatality rate.

In Latin America, Peru has notified the agency of 223,564 cases of cholera. Of these 2,163, less than 1 percent, have proved fatal.

Ecuador has reported 24,435 cases, including 388 deaths.

Other cases have been recorded in Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Mexico. The health agency said the United States registered 14 imported cases and Canada one case. No deaths were reported in North America.

Cholera is not hard to cure when caught in time, but is spread rapidly by polluted water systems, improper sewage disposal and contaminated fish. Most people who contract it are saved by rehydration.

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Thunderstorms help break heatwave

By ANITA SNOW
Associated Press Writer

Cooler air and thunderstorms brought relief to New England and the Midwest today after a blistering weekend of 100-degree temperatures. But it warmed up in the West, which had escaped most of the weeklong heat wave.

"The weather has really broken," said William Sheperdson, a spokesman for the New England Power Pool. The power group saw several demand records set over the weekend as people sought refuge in air-conditioned homes.

"It's what we consider a perfect day," Kurt Hebert, a receptionist at Crescent Beach State Park in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, said Monday. "There's no humidity. It's about 75 degrees with a light breeze."

Elsewhere in New England, it was 75 in Boston at noon. Burlington, Vt., reported 74 and Greenville, Maine, 65.

Before the heat wave broke, a power outage struck the heart of Manhattan on Monday, plunging stores and offices into darkness for a half hour. Some bond and currency trading stopped and people were trapped in elevators.

The cause of the blackout, following New York's hottest weekend in 14 years, was not immediately known.

"We figured it was a power failure because of the excessive heat that has been sitting over us," said John Emmanuel, who was in the locker room of a health club when the blackout occurred. The temperature reached 89 on Monday after hitting 102 on Sunday.

Cooler, dry air from the north will make things more comfortable

on Thursday and Friday, said National Weather Service spokesman Patrick Moore.

Strong northwesterly winds began drawing cool Canadian air into the Northern and Central Plains and the Upper Mississippi Valley on Monday afternoon, pushing temperatures down into the 70s in coastal and mountain areas.

Strong thunderstorms developed along a cold front curving through the central Plains and the Upper Mississippi Valley. The storms brought high winds and hail to the Plains states and the Midwest.

Meanwhile, it began heating up in the West. Temperatures were in the 90s in Northern California and Washington and above 100 in the Southwestern deserts.

Scorching heat continued in other areas. Records set or broken Monday included 101 in Chicago and in South Bend, Ind., and 97 in Huntsville, Ala. Kansas City, Mo., hit 103. Salina, Kan., was the nation's hot spot, at 109.

North Carolina residents crammed beaches and mountain resorts to escape 90-degree heat and 50 percent humidity. Temperatures today were expected to reach 100 in the state's central and eastern portions.

"I pulled the kids out of the backyard pool today to get them out of the intense heat," said Diane Pearson, who enjoyed the air-conditioned comfort of the Tonka Lanes-Oasis Lounge & Game Room in Beatrice, Neb. It was 100 degrees in Beatrice on Monday afternoon.

"We gave up a softball game yesterday because it was 106 degrees. We listen to heat advisories and take those seriously," Mrs. Pearson said.

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Yellow-headed blackbird is strikingly beautiful



Panhandle Bird Watch

by Jan Elston

Once you have seen this brightly-colored bird, you should always be able to identify it. If the newspaper picture were printed in color, you could see just how strikingly beautiful the male Yellow-headed Blackbird is — jet black with a bright yellow head, neck, and upper breast, and conspicuous white wing patches which show in flight. The smaller female is brownish-gray streaked with white, and most of her face and upper breast are yellow. The yellow coloring of both sexes can vary from a really bright yellow to more of a gold; but these birds are still easy to identify.

Yellow-heads are very gregarious, and large colonies of them will build their nests in the center of freshwater marshes, in brushy areas near ponds, or in grain fields near water. There will be 3 to 5 whitish, brown-speckled eggs in each nest, which is woven basket-fashion around several strong stalks. There are usually some Yellow-heads nesting close to those lakes which are on the south side of Hiway 70, at the curves just west of White Deer. When you consider that this type of habitat is also a favorable nesting site for Redwing Blackbirds, it is not surprising that these two types of birds are often seen together.

Yellow-heads are about the size

of Robins (about 8 to 10 inches in length); so they are a bit larger than Redwings. Some agriculturists complain that large flocks of blackbirds can eat enough grain to cause serious losses; but other farmers welcome them because they eat enough beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, and army-worms to prevent destruction of crops by these insects. The Yellow-heads are not as unwelcome as the Redwings, probably because the Yellow-heads do not arrive in such huge flocks as the Redwings.

Surprisingly, Yellow-headed Blackbirds are not even pictured, described or discussed in many bird books, probably because many of the writers are from the Eastern U.S., and are not familiar with them, since they are essentially birds of Western prairies and marshes throughout the Western United States. They migrate to the southern parts of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Old Mexico.

When it is feeding time for the fledglings which haven't yet learned to search out their own food, they eagerly await the arrival of a parent. The hungry young birds will hold on to a separate stalk with each foot, spread-eagle style, and screech for the parents to hurry with more food.

The call of the Yellow-head has been described as sounding like the

rusty hinges of a creaking gate; and coming from large flocks of hundreds of individuals, it blends into a loud, wavering chorus.

One winter afternoon in 1987, on February 27, we had been to Borger, and were on our way back to Pampa, when we saw what looked like smoke on the Eastern horizon, as the "smoke" got closer to us, we realized it wasn't smoke, but a dense column of birds. Fortunately, we had our binoculars with us, so we got out of the car to try to identify the birds, and were amazed to see that it was a gigantic column of Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Eventually that column, which was about fifty feet wide, reached as far East as we could see, and as far West as we could see. Since we've never seen anything like that before or since, we were so thrilled to get to witness that.

In August of last year we had our first Hummingbirds at our feeder, here in Pampa. They were Rufous Hummingbirds, which were here for several days, then we had to leave town, so we don't know how long they stayed. Then there were some here in September. We're keeping the sugarwater solution in our feeder fresh, hoping to attract some sooner, this summer.



Yellow-headed blackbird

The recipe for the sugarwater solution is 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Do Not use any food coloring. Stir the sugar and sugar well and then boil for 2 minutes. Because that solution sours so quickly, you probably won't want to mix up a large amount. I usually use 2 cups of water, and 1/2 cup sugar, since that amount keeps well if stored in the refrigerator. Be sure to change the sugarwater every other day, and be careful to wash out the feeder will. If your feeder does get mold inside it, put some gravel in some water and shake it around, and it should scour the mold out. Remember, it isn't necessary to completely fill the feeder. Just put enough so that you can see the water level.

Upsilon "adopts" youngster



(Staff photo by Stan Pollard)

Upsilon chapter of Beta Sigma Phi is donating a bicycle to a foster child "adopted" by the chapter. The chapter plans to provide school supplies and clothing for the child during the year also. Left, are members Angie Cotton, chapter treasurer; Kim Winegeart, recording secretary; Kim Keeton, vice-president; and Suzanne Alexander and Ann Grossman, both child protective services workers with the Department of Human Services. Also provided a three-way siren for the bicycle.

Shin splints common injury

By NYU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
For AP Special Features

Wearing a bathing suit not only inspires many people to want to get into shape but to get into shape now. Suddenly, with the arrival of warm weather, they're off, jogging on the beach, in the park, down the street.

But beware the urge to do too much, the lure to jog too long. There may be injury ahead, and its name is shin splints, warns Dr. Joseph Fetto, a sports medicine specialist at NYU Medical Center.

Shin splints is a term commonly used among exercisers to describe most any pain in the lower leg.

Although pain is a major feature of shin splints, there are other characteristics that narrow the diagnosis: The pain is on the inner side of the front of the leg (below the knee) where you can feel the shin bone.

Shin splints are caused when a person has underconditioned muscles and ligaments to support the arch of the foot. These people usually walk with their feet and ankles slightly turned in toward the arch — a condition known as "pronation."

"If the arch is not supported, there is a slight twisting of the entire leg which places excessive stresses where there shouldn't be," Fetto said.

For people whose arches are not being supported properly by the ligaments, activities like running place enormous stress on foot and leg.

With each step, as the foot

pounds against the ground, all the weight of the person is supported by just one leg and foot. Running puts particular stress on a muscle in the back of the leg which holds the arch up. This muscle extends from along the back of the shin bone to the bones of the arch of the foot. When there is repetitive strain on the arch, this muscle has to compensate by tightening to keep the arch up.

"It becomes overstressed, forms microscopic tears and begins tearing away from the shin bone. The person feels sharp pain around the shin bone," said Fetto.

There are ways to prevent shin splints from occurring. For one, it is important to wear running shoes that have a good arch support and stiff heel guard and support.

When a person begins training, it should be gradual, slowly increasing the duration and frequency of exercise. "Doing too much, too fast puts too much strain on the body and doesn't give it time to adjust and adapt."

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Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

Piper needs to speak up if she expects to be paid

DEAR ABBY: I am a church organist and have played for many weddings. After being underpaid, paid with knickknacks from the local gift shop, or not being paid at all because the couple assumed the music "came with the church," I decided to be more direct about my fees.

Now when a couple ask me to play for their wedding, I tell them up front what the cost will be, and what it covers (my travel time, the wedding rehearsal, providing music prior to the ceremony, etc.). I even ask them to please pay me at the rehearsal — because it has been my experience that the best man, or the bride's father, or whoever had my check often forgot to give it to me in the excitement of the wedding day.

My "policy" as helped me avoid much confusion and hard feelings. Pastors should be compensated for performing the service, and they need to speak up in this regard. I know it's often difficult to ask church members (or non-members) for money, but most folks are relieved not to have to guess at what might be an appropriate fee for weddings, funerals, etc.

As an aside, I was appalled when my own pastor told my fiance and me prior to our wedding that he had been paid anywhere from \$10 to \$500,

and we should set our own payment. He and I were close enough friends that I could say, "My dentist doesn't let me decide how much I should pay him — and you shouldn't either!" (He got the message.)

PAID IN FULL IN KNOXVILLE, TENN.
DEAR PAID IN FULL: Thanks for clearing up a great many doubts in the minds of many. Some pastors and church organists are somewhat timid about mentioning "fees," so I'm printing your very helpful letter.

DEAR ABBY: Your "Confidential to G.F. in Dayton, Ohio" astounded me, as it seemed to imply that because the Wright brothers were bachelors, they could not have had any direct descendants. Do you actually believe that bachelors are somehow incapable of having "direct descendants"?

LEBERT DUKE, PITTSBURGH
DEAR LEBERT: I am indeed aware that bachelors are capable of procreating, but I was referring to legitimate progeny. Somehow, I could not conceive (pun intended) of the Wright brothers being such high fliers.

Beat the heat with food safety

By LADIES' HOME JOURNAL
For AP Special Features

When the mercury rises, it's prime time to watch out for salmonella and other bacterial food contamination.

Most people probably take precautions against these diseases already, such as cooking food thoroughly, and scrubbing down hands, knife and cutting boards with soap after handling raw meat or poultry. Here are some extra safeguards from Ladies' Home Journal magazine.

Picnic Precautions
Packing sandwiches for a hike, or picking up some fried chicken on the way to the beach? Keep the food in an iced cooler, or eat it within two hours (one hour, if the temperature is above 85 degrees F.).

Food cooked at home should be chilled thoroughly before packing (at least a couple of hours or overnight). Don't partially cook at home and finish up on the grill — incomplete cooking encourages bacterial growth. (In the backyard, however, it's okay to precook chicken immediately before barbecuing to save grilling time.)

Bring extra paper plates and utensils for serving to avoid contamination from raw meats. Storage suggestions. Freeze any poultry that won't be cooked within two days; red meat will keep three to four days.

Transfer leftovers to shallow containers for quicker cooling.

Ever wonder about the bugs that come home from the store in boxes of pasta and rice? According to the FDA, as long as the infestation isn't widespread, the food, once rinsed and boiled, is safe to eat.

To keep other foods pest-free, store grains in a cool place in sealed containers; if bugs are a serious problem, keep foods in the fridge. Store flour in airtight containers. Whole wheat flour, which contains oil, goes rancid quickly and should be refrigerated.

Freezer Failure
Has a thunderstorm knocked the power out? Don't panic.

Find out when the electricity will be back on. A full freezer will keep food frozen for two days without power; a half-full freezer, for one day. (Food in the fridge will last four to six hours.)

If the freezer is nearly empty or will be off for more than two days, put dry ice in it or use a friend's freezer. (In the refrigerator, use block ice.)

When the power comes back on, food that is still refrigerator cold can be safely refrozen (it may suffer a change in texture, however). If the food reaches a temperature above 40 degrees F., it's safer to cook and refreeze it. (If it's been above 40 degrees F. for more than two hours, throw it out.)

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ACROSS

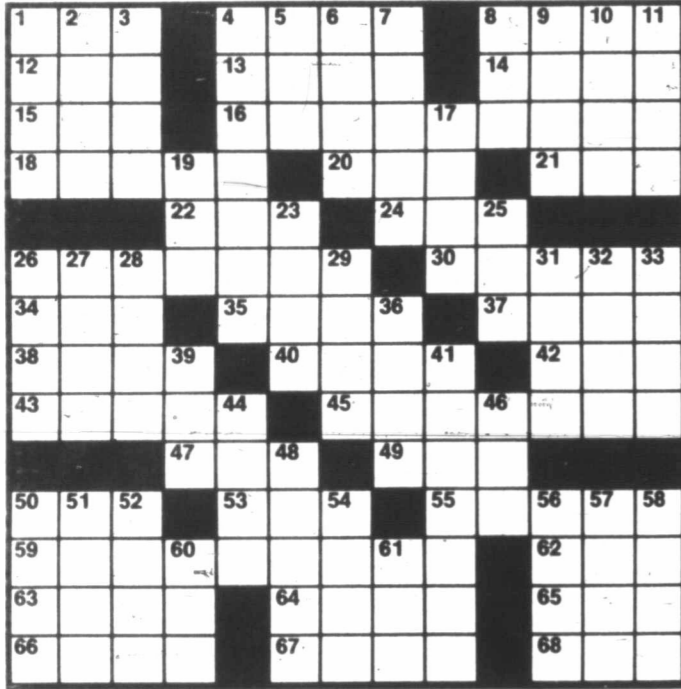
- 1 Light feather
- 4 Male cats
- 8 Book
- 12 Sault
- 13 Pennsylvania port
- 14 Something unique
- 15 Attitude
- 16 What the bunny brings (2 wds.)
- 18 Introductory discourse
- 20 Pippen
- 21 — Paulo
- 22 Family member (sl.)
- 24 Morsel left at meal
- 26 International understanding
- 30 Having flaps for hearing
- 34 Ever

Answer to Previous Puzzle

OASES RIGGED
RUPERT UGLIER
ETHENE REALLY
BOISE FATS
ANDA GAL SWUM
WENT BY ANY
XIII LATKE FDR
RAT STINT TOA
AGORA EOAN
YORE MST ASAP
PEAT OVERA
RIPEST BAINES
URBANE FRESNO
BASTES ASSET

DOWN

- 1 Pronto (abbr.)
- 2 Hubbub
- 3 Of aircraft
- 4 Abounding
- 5 Openings
- 6 — America
- 7 Fracas
- 8 Rugged rock
- 9 Units
- 10 Million (pref.)
- 11 Therefore
- 17 Bronte heroine Jane —
- 19 Language suffix
- 23 Printer's direction
- 25 Make lace
- 26 Ingests
- 27 Russian no
- 28 T of TV
- 29 English school
- 31 Author Philip
- 32 Irish-Gaelic
- 33 Clothes liner
- 36 Air pollution
- 39 Grassland
- 41 Looker
- 44 Plate
- 46 Chinese pagoda
- 48 Burdens
- 50 Vast period of time
- 51 Wild plum
- 52 Transmitted
- 54 Entail
- 56 Ewes' mates
- 57 Jacob's twin
- 58 Not barefoot
- 60 Dance step
- 61 — la-la



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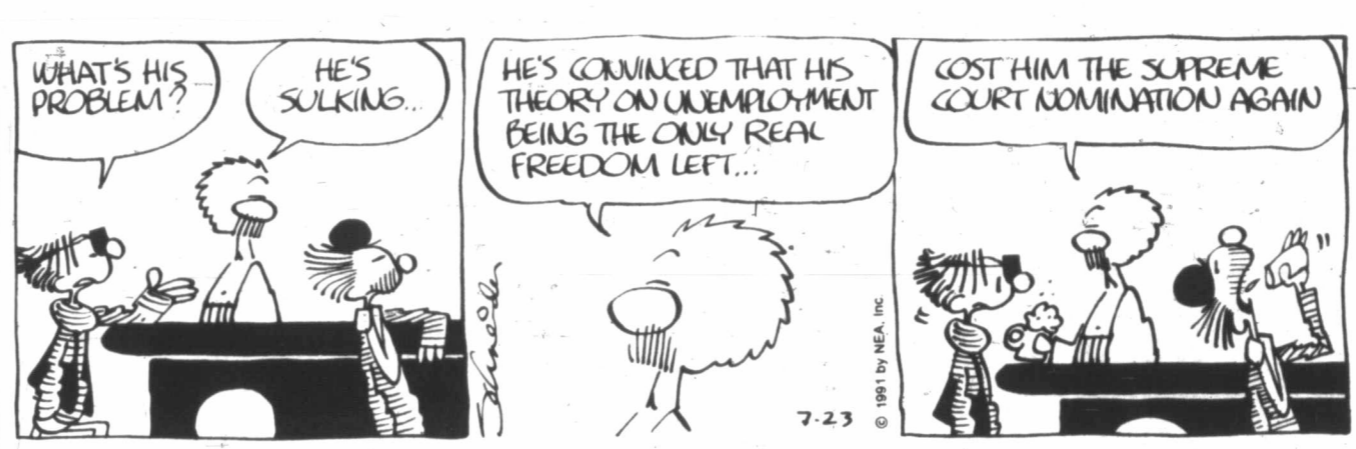
WALNUT COVE



THE WIZARD OF ID



ECK & MEEK



B.C.



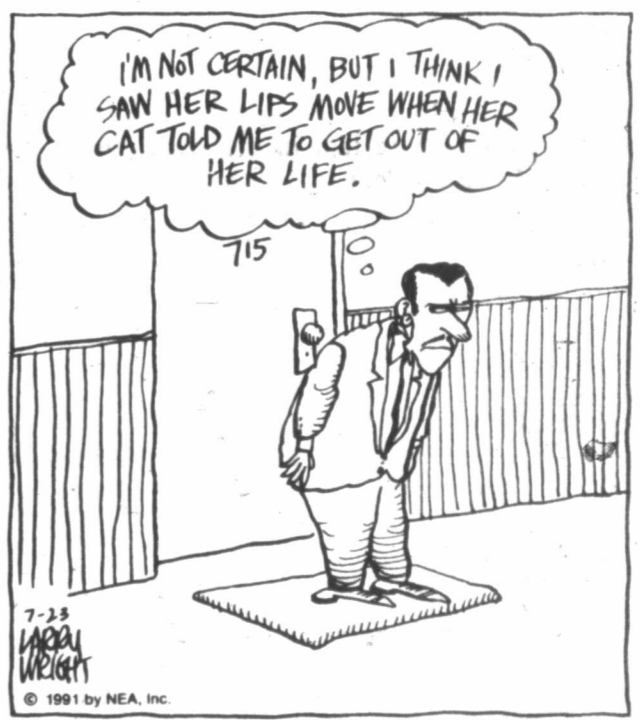
MARVIN



MARMADUKE



KIT N' CARLYLE



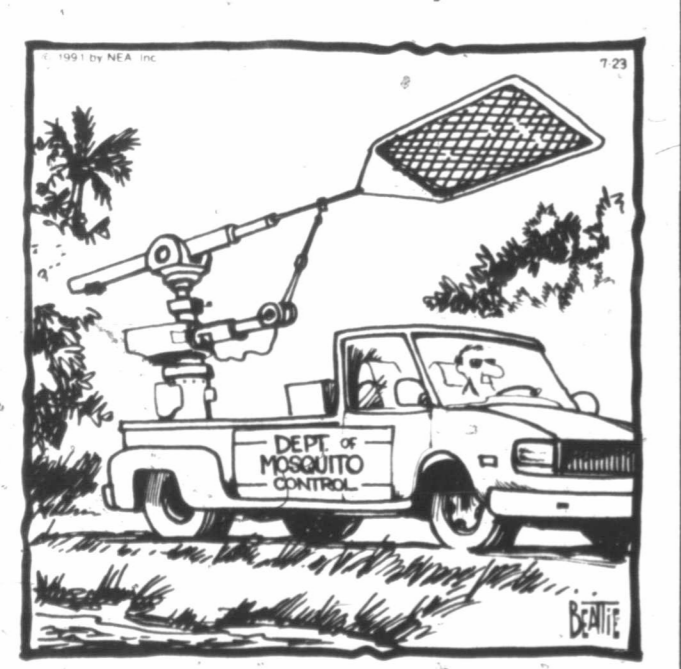
ALLEY OOP



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



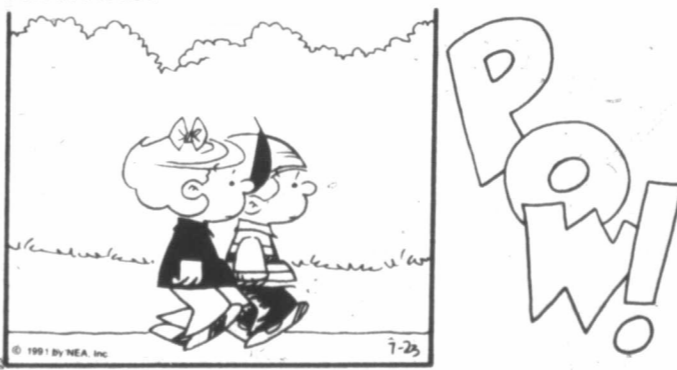
SNAFU



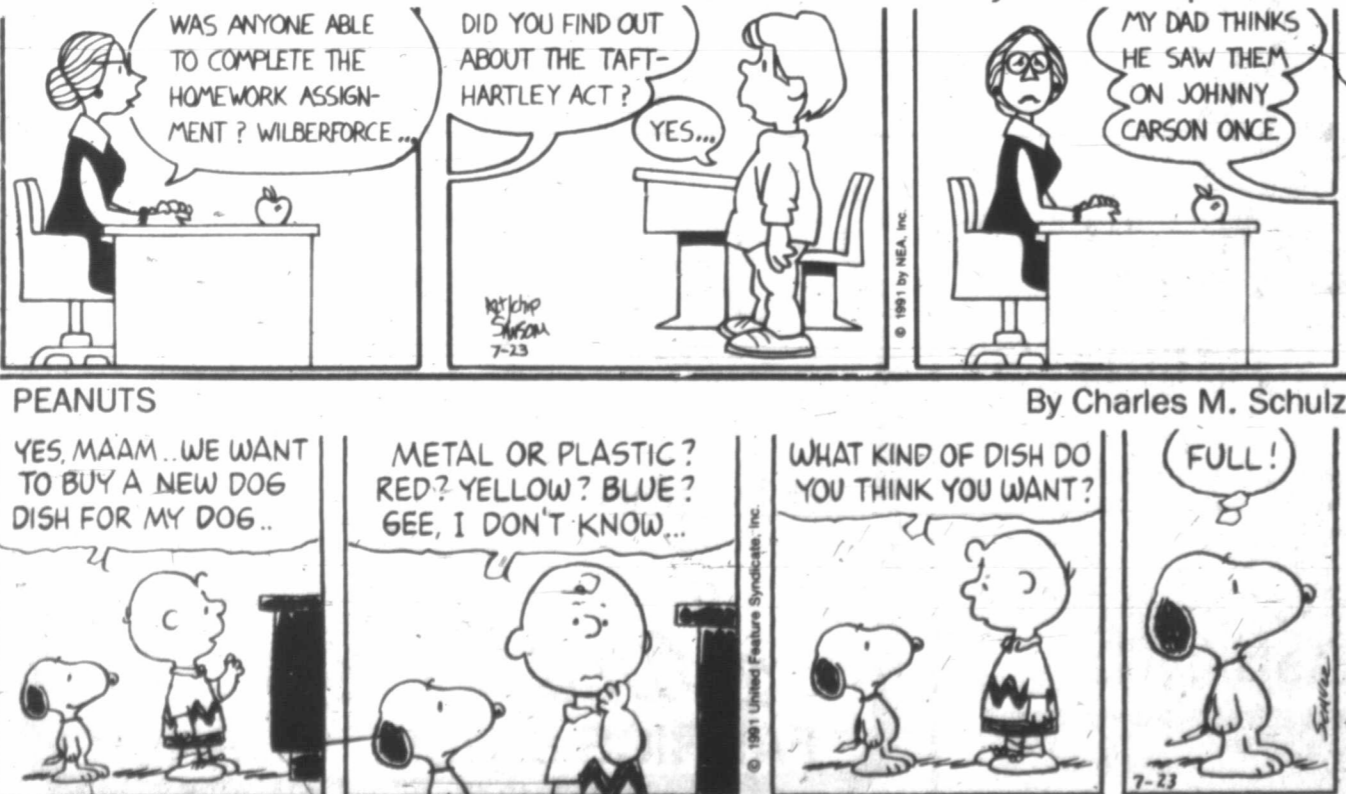
THE BORN LOSER



WINTHROP



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



FRANK AND ERNEST



GARFIELD



Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your ingenuity and resourcefulness are your two best assets for fulfilling ambitious expectations today. Use them as extensively as possible. Leo, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for Leo's Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$1.25 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A change you've been hoping for might occur today where your social life is concerned. What develops could transpire so quickly that you may be caught off-guard.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Your attention may be devoted today to lots of little incidental things you could be doing domestically. The list should be diverse enough to keep you from getting bored.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You don't want to get involved in situations that hamper your mobility today. You need movement, variety, activity and change in order to feel and perform at your best.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Your financial aspects look very encouraging for this cycle. Even if things weren't too profitable for you early in the week, an infusion of new opportunities could turn your situation around now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) There isn't apt to be anything stodgy about you today. In fact, your personality is likely to be a bit avant-garde, ready to respond to the latest vogue.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Persistent hunches or intuitive feelings should not be ignored today. Your intuition may be sharper than usual, and it behooves you to be attentive to its signals.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Try to keep your schedule as flexible as possible today, because something fun and exciting that you hadn't planned on might suddenly pop up. You'll want to be free to participate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If possible, try to eliminate conventional endeavors from your agenda today. You'll perform better in involvements that permit you to be imaginative and inventive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may find yourself dealing with unorthodox issues today, because you may be thinking along unusual lines. This departure will help broaden your outlook.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Problems that appear to be unsolvable to others could have apparent solutions, as far as you're concerned. Don't be hesitant about voicing your ideas to associates.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Allow those little flashes of inspiration to guide you in your decision-making today. They could provide the helpful twists your logic has overlooked.

Prosecutor claims Smith committed one earlier rape

By DAN SEWELL
Associated Press Writer

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The prosecutor in William Kennedy Smith's rape case wants to introduce evidence at the trial that Smith sexually assaulted a woman in Washington three years ago and tried to force himself on two others.

Moirá Lasch, assistant Palm Beach County state attorney, made the allegations in court papers filed Monday. Smith goes on trial Aug. 5.

Smith, 30, is charged with raping a 29-year-old Jupiter, Fla., woman on March 30 at the Kennedy family's Palm Beach estate.

Palm Beach police said months ago that checks with agencies in Washington and other places where Smith has lived showed no record of

earlier sexual assault allegations. Lasch said Smith, a nephew of Sen. Edward Kennedy, raped a woman in Washington between May 1 and June 30 of 1988, and twice attempted rape — in Washington between April 1 and June 30 of 1988 and in New York City between June 1 and Aug. 30 of 1983.

In the court papers, Lasch said she would call the women to testify under state law allowing use of evidence of similar crimes. Circuit Judge Mary Lupo would decide whether to allow the testimony.

Neal Sonnett, a Miami defense attorney not involved in the Smith case, said Lupo could exclude the testimony as irrelevant or overly prejudicial against Smith.

It wasn't clear whether the women reported the alleged attacks at the time.

In April, The National Enquirer published an interview with a woman who claimed Smith had raped her in Washington.

Enquirer executive editor Dan Schwartz said Monday that Palm Beach police contacted the Enquirer after the story appeared and that the allegations in the court papers were the same as those made by the woman the supermarket tabloid interviewed.

Washington police on Monday said they could not confirm or deny the allegations. A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Columbia, who would prosecute the crimes there, did not return a phone call.

Lasch is under a gag order barring her from commenting about the case and did not speak to reporters about the filing. Smith's attorneys,

Roy Black and Mark Schnapp, also under the gag order, did not return telephone calls.

Paul Donovan, spokesman for Sen. Kennedy, said the Massachusetts Democrat "continues to believe that when this case is decided Willie will be found innocent."

Lasch's court papers described the alleged rape in Washington as involving "physical force and violence not likely to cause serious personal injury."

In the alleged attempts in Washington and New York, Smith grabbed the women, threw them down and restrained them but "failed in the perpetration or was

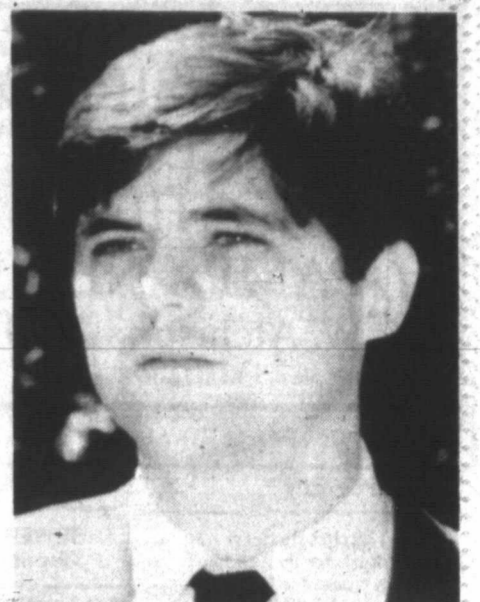
intercepted or prevented," Lasch said.

The Jupiter woman claims Smith tackled her near a swimming pool and held her down.

Eric Seiff, the lawyer for the New York woman, wouldn't discuss the alleged attack and said his client would have no comment.

The Washington women could not be reached for comment. The only address given for them in the court document was Lasch's office.

Smith's whereabouts were not immediately known. He has not started his medical residency at the University of New Mexico's School



William Kennedy Smith

DEA agent receives 80-year sentence in five-year heroin trafficking spree

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former federal drug agent was sentenced to 80 years in prison for a five-year spree of heroin trafficking and laundering millions of dollars in profits through European banks.

U.S. District Judge Terry J. Hatter Jr. on Monday ordered the maximum possible sentence for Darnell Garcia, and sharply criticized the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for not finding the corruption sooner.

"How could the DEA have looked away for the length of time

they did?" Hatter said.

The judge also imposed a fine of \$1.16 million on Garcia, 44, of suburban Rancho Palos Verdes.

Garcia was arrested in Luxembourg in July 1989, seven months after he was indicted and fled the United States.

Prosecutors contended that Garcia and former agents John Jackson and Wayne Countryman stole cash from a DEA evidence vault in Los Angeles and from drug dealers from 1983 to 1987.

Garcia was convicted in April on

one count each of conspiracy, heroin distribution and theft of government property and two counts of money laundering.

Jackson and Countryman pleaded guilty in the case and testified against Garcia during his four-month trial. Sentencing for the pair is pending.

Garcia denied the thefts, saying the \$3 million he had stashed in a Luxembourg bank account came from gold smuggling he had done on behalf of an Italian jewelry trader.

New job rule on disabled said to be 'paternalistic'

By KAREN BALL
AP Labor Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new government rule that will let employers turn away disabled job applicants who pose a safety threat to themselves is being criticized as "paternalistic thinking" that a landmark 1990 law was supposed to curb.

"It's not only an emotional slap in the face, it's a very basic denial of that which is our fair due," Marilyn Golden, policy analyst for Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, said Monday.

The controversy centers on new regulations required by the Americans With Disabilities Act, passed by Congress last year and hailed as the "Emancipation Proclamation" for 43 million disabled Americans.

The rules, being issued later this week by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, are supposed to protect the disabled from discrimination in employment, public accommodations, transportation and telecommunications.

Advocacy groups for the disabled are disturbed because the EEOC's rule on safety threats goes beyond what Congress enacted.

Under the rule, employers may refuse jobs to people who might pose a direct safety threat to themselves or others. The text of the law mentioned only harm to others.

"Perhaps the most pervasive form of disabled discrimination is being excluded from something because somebody else thinks it will harm me. ... Disabled individuals are the best measure, like any other adults, of what poses a threat to them," Golden said.

She noted that the Supreme Court recently prohibited employers from banning women of childbearing age from dangerous jobs on the

assumption the work might someday hurt an unborn child.

"It's like society has finally convinced itself that women can think, but somehow, disabled people can't think," Golden said. "It's exactly that kind of paternalistic thinking (the law) was supposed to address."

Reginald Welch, spokesman for the EEOC, defended the regulation and said it would be difficult for employers to abuse it.

Employers would have to prove a person had a "high probability" of harming himself or others, he said, and employers also would have to attempt to find a "reasonable accommodation" to alleviate the safety threat.

For instance, Welch said, an employer using the guideline could probably turn down someone with a sleeping disorder, narcolepsy, if the applicant were applying for a carpentry job that required the use of power tools. People with this disorder are likely to fall asleep unexpectedly.

But an employer could not base hiring decisions on "patronizing assumptions" or "generalized fear," the EEOC spokesman added.

Another commission official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said that a law firm, for instance, could not turn someone away simply because of past mental illness on the assumption the rigors of the job might be too much. That would be a "patronizing assumption," the official said.

"It's really a high standard here," he said.

Because there is only a "narrow range of circumstances under which employers can exclude people with disabilities, that makes it explicit that paternalistic practices that some employers have been following for years are illegal," the official said.

Protective screen kills hold-up man

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A would-be bank robber was killed by a bulletproof screen that slid up and crushed his head as he tried to lunge over a teller's counter, police say.

Two armed assailants burst into the Advance Bank in Sydney's northern suburbs at about 4:30 p.m. Monday, demanding money from the staff and customers.

As one of the men lunged over the counter, the protective screen slid up toward the ceiling, trapping the man's head. He screamed to his friend for help, but the other man fled.

Bank staff had run from the building after setting off an alarm and were unavailable to deactivate the screen.

"They did not know he had been pinned, so obviously they couldn't release him," said police

Detective-Sergeant Dennis O'Toole.

Witnesses said the 37-year-old man was trapped for 15 minutes before ambulance workers arrived. He was dead on arrival at Royal North Shore Hospital.



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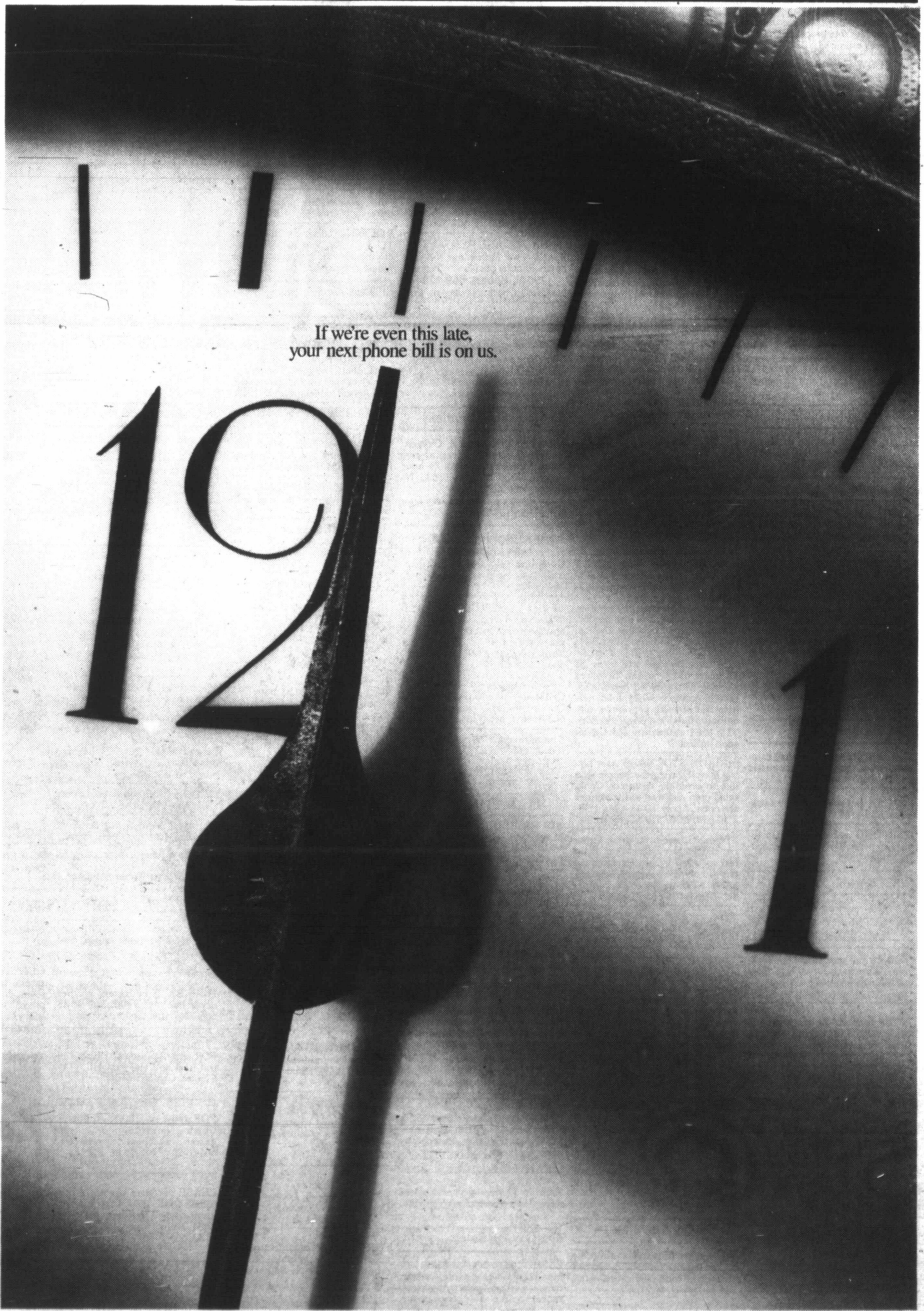
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