

Fundamentalists cancel march; more shots ring out in Algiers

By RACHID KHIARI
Associated Press Writer

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Muslim fundamentalist leaders, seeking to head off a violent showdown with the nation's military-backed rulers, today called off a government-banned march, sources said. But despite that last-minute bid to avert bloodshed, gunfire rang out in the capital, according to witnesses. Police and soldiers wearing bulletproof vests lined the route where the march was to have taken place, and tanks and troops were stationed throughout the city of Algiers.

Assailants attacked a police station in the Casbah, injuring an unknown number of policemen, authorities said on condition of anonymity. Automatic-weapons fire was heard in the narrow streets above the ancient quarter, not far from the Defense Ministry, the national police headquarters and a prison where two top fundamentalist leaders — Abdelkader Hachani and Rabah Kebir — are being held. The source of the gunfire was not known.

Shooting was heard for more than an hour in downtown Algiers as army commando units and police swept through neighborhoods searching for the assailants who fired on security forces on the Place de Martyrs, witnesses said.

At least one person was injured, they said. A police-escorted ambulance took away the victim, whose identity was not known, according to the Algerian news agency APS. No other casualty reports were immediately available.

In the city's mosques, Muslim leaders called on their followers to disperse rather than march in defiance of a government ban, according to fundamentalist sources speaking on condition of anonymity. At mosques that were under heavy surveillance, attendance at weekly prayers was lower than usual.

The fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front had called the march to press its demands for the release of jailed fundamentalist leaders and the resumption of democratic elections. The front's candidates were winning the elections when they were canceled by a military-backed government that took power in Algeria.

Fundamentalist leaders had vowed to send their followers into the streets today despite the ban under the 12-month state-of-emergency decree imposed Sunday by the military-backed ruling High State Committee.

As late as Thursday night, funerals for the slain were continuing.

The old adage that "Opportunity never knocks twice" is certainly not true when it comes to Medicare.

Anyone who didn't sign up for Part B Medicare medical insurance during the initial enrollment period — or anyone who dropped Part B coverage — now has the opportunity to enroll during the annual general enrollment period that runs from Jan. 1 through March 31.

Part B medical insurance helps pay for doctor bills, outpatient hospital services, durable medical equipment, and certain other medical items and services not covered by Medicare's Part A hospital insurance.

Medical insurance protection will begin in July for new enrollees, regardless of whether they sign up in January, February or March. The basic monthly premium this year is \$31.80. And there is a 10 percent increase in the premium for every year a person could have been enrolled in Part B, but wasn't.

If you have questions about the open enrollment for Part B medical insurance, you can call Social Security's Toll-free number 1-800-772-1213. If you want to sign up for the coverage, contact your local Social Security office. The phone number is 806/669-1019.

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Wholesale prices take big drop in January

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prices at the wholesale level in January took their biggest drop in 10 months, declining 0.3 percent, as a weak economy and falling energy prices kept inflation in check, the government said today.

The extent of the weakness was dramatically exhibited by a second report showing that production at the nation's factories, mines and utilities plummeted 0.9 percent in January, the biggest setback in 11 months.

The steep drop in industrial output was heavily influenced by cutbacks in auto production, but it was widespread, with a number of manufacturing industries reporting lower output.

Analysts would have been even more alarmed by the sharp drop in industrial production, the third decline in a row, had it not been for the fact that several reports this week offered at least the glimmerings of hope that the economy has begun to turn around.

The government said Thursday that retail sales climbed a surprisingly strong 0.6 percent in January, the biggest jump in eight months, while sales of North American cars and light trucks surged 23.8 percent in early February.

Additionally, the number of laid-off workers fell nine new claims for unemployment benefits fell for a second week in a row.

Analysts said these developments were encouraging signs that the economy is beginning to turn around and should begin growing again in the April-June quarter, an election-year development that the Bush administration is anxiously anticipating.

Economists believe the pickup in economic activity will not be accompanied by a rise in inflation, in part because they are forecasting that the recovery from the recession will be one of the weakest in history.

For all of last year, wholesale prices actually fell by 0.1 percent, the first annual decline in five years.

The Labor Department said the January decline in its Producer Price Index, which measures inflationary pressures before they reach the consumer, followed a smaller 0.1 percent December decline.

It marked the first back-to-back declines in wholesale prices since June and July of last year and it was the biggest drop since a similar 0.3 percent decrease last March.

The price decline in January was led by a 7 percent drop in gasoline prices. It was the biggest drop in gasoline costs since last March and followed a 1.6 percent December decrease.

Home heating oil prices dropped 10.9 percent following an even larger 16.9 percent December decline while natural gas and electricity costs posted declines as well in January.

Food costs fell for a third month in a row, declining 0.3 percent. The fall in food costs was led by a steep 22.9 percent drop in the price of eggs. Coffee, fruit and pork prices were down as well but the price of vegetables shot up 17.9 percent.

Outside of the volatile food and energy categories, wholesale prices rose 0.3 percent, an increase that was paced by a 1.5 percent increase in car prices.

Higher prices were also registered for newspapers, women's clothing, soap and luggage.

If January's 0.3 percent decline continued for an entire year, it would produce a decline in inflation at the wholesale level of 3.9 percent.

The various changes left the Producer Price Index, before adjusting for seasonal variations, at 121.7 in January compared to 122.3 a year ago. That meant that a marketbasket of goods costing \$122.30 in January 1991 would have cost only \$121.70 last month.

The government will report how prices behaved at the consumer level next Wednesday and many analysts believe the same forces of falling energy costs and weak food prices will contribute to good inflation news at the retail level as well.

While economists were pleasantly surprised by the unexpected strength shown in retail sales overall and in auto sales in particular, they cautioned against reading too much into early, scattered reports with positive numbers.

The Bush administration is keeping up pressure on the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates further to ensure that the economy will rebound soon. While low inflation pressures provide the Fed with the room to cut rates, many economists believe such rate cuts are a thing of the past.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and other Fed policy-makers have gone out of their way during recent appearances to insist that they have already put enough credit easing into the pipeline to guarantee a recovery.

"I don't see any further easing," said David Jones, an economist at Aubrey G. Lanston & Co. "I think Greenspan has to be happy with the latest pickup in retail sales and signs that his earlier easing steps are bearing fruit."

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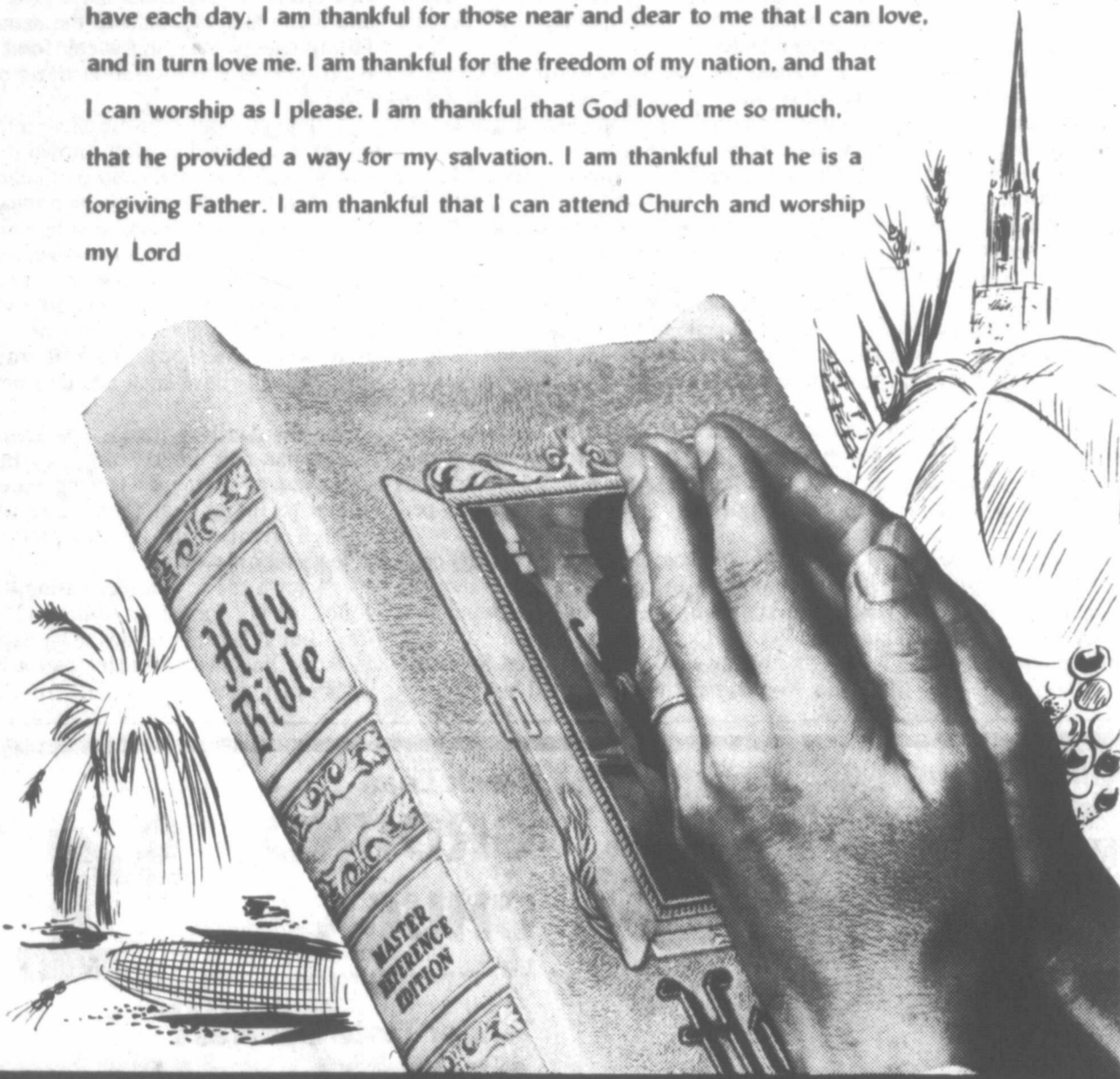
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The Church is God's appointed agency in this world for spreading the knowledge of His love for man and of His demand for man to respond to that love by loving his neighbor. Without this grounding in the love of God, no government or society or way of life will long persevere and the freedoms which we hold so dear will inevitably perish. Therefore, even from a selfish point of view, one should support the Church for the sake of the welfare of himself and his family. Beyond that, however, every person should uphold and participate in the Church because it tells the truth about man's life, death and destiny, the truth which alone will set him free to live as a child of God.



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Rev. Bill Snyder Missionary to speak on Sunday

The Rev. Bill Snyder, home missionary to inner-city Kansas City for the Assemblies of God, will be guest speaker at First Assembly of God, 500 S.-Cuyler at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service.

Snyder will be starting an inner-city church in Kansas City in the spring of this year. Kansas City is one of 39 cities in the United States referred to as population center. Fifty percent of all Americans live in these 39 population centers.

Twenty-nine percent of Assembly of God churches are located in these metro areas. The majority of ethnic Americans live in these cities. Forty percent of the Assembly of God morning worshippers attend church in these 39 areas.

Pastor Charles Shugart and the congregation of First Assembly extend an invitation to the public to attend.

Amarillo church plans for revival

AMARILLO - Christian Heritage Church, 900 S. Nelson, will be the host church for "The Greatest Revival Ever," as a campaign is launched in an effort to impact the greater Amarillo area.

The revival will begin at 7 p.m. Feb. 22 with a special family services night. On Feb. 23, meeting times will be at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. On Feb. 24 and 25 services will begin at 7 p.m.

Evangelist Dave Martin of Tulsa, Okla., will be the guest minister. Pastor Gary Burd invites the public to attend the services.

Martin has appeared on national television and radio talk shows. He has been interviewed by newspapers around the country concerning the power of God.

Dave Martin Ministries also offers a simultaneous "childrens revival" for ages 5 to 12 during all meetings except the family services. A nursery will be available during all services with viewing rooms also available for nursing mothers.

Religion roundup

NEW YORK (AP) - A survey dealing with relations among the different branches of Judaism finds that Orthodox rabbis are most likely to blame Reform Judaism for Jewish divisions, and Reform rabbis are most likely to blame the Orthodox.

However, Conservative Judaism was not likely to be blamed. Queens College sociologist Samuel Heilman, who conducted the survey for the American Jewish Committee, said, "Obviously, one of the benefits for Conservative Jews of being in an intermediate position is that none of the other groups hold them most to blame for religious rifts."

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) - The Knights of Columbus, a Roman Catholic family fraternal organization, reports members have contributed nearly \$6.5 million to direct support of almost 10,500 seminarians, postulants and novices in the 10 years since the vocations-support program was begun.

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) - Two veteran Southern Baptist missionaries, Charles and Kathie Thomas, have resigned from service in Romania to protest what they called a "hostile takeover" by fundamentalist trustees of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board, Baptist Press reports.

They expressed dismay at "what we consider to be a distinctively un-Christian strategy through which the conservative element ... is rapidly transforming much of ... the Southern Baptist expression of the evangelical faith into something which is self-centered, self-serving and un-Christlike."

The couple has served in the mission field for 17 years, mostly in France, but recently in Romania.

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Religion

Madalyn Murray O'Hair urges atheists to 'come out of closet'

By GEORGE W. CORNELL
AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — America's most prominent, scrappiest atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, says many people who share her belief keep it secret to avoid the blasts.

She taunts them to come "out of the closet."

Assorted governors, mayors, senators and entertainers "have confided in me that they are atheists," she says. "One day I'm going to sit down and name them. ... Their hair is just going to curl."

Ms. O'Hair, who 30 years ago mounted the lawsuit that got Bible reading and group prayer banned in the public schools, said she hasn't toned down her battle against religion, adding:

"I attack the Old Testament. I attack the New Testament. I attack religious ideology. Religion has done more harm than any other idea in history. It's the major enemy of mankind."

A large, white-haired woman of 72, Ms. O'Hair appeared on the Phil Donahue show last week. It was like a reunion of old sparring partners — the 25th anniversary of her first appearance on his first show in 1967.

"Rockets went off," he said. "Boy, oh boy, did you light up the switchboard." Donahue has had her a dozen times since then.

"I'm still feisty," she said. The

sparks still crackled. She's "full of the devil" and may go to hell, a telephone caller said. A smiling Ms. O'Hair shook her head incredulously.

"This is just exactly typical, that a Christian who is committed will rave on like this," she said. "I have been an object of hatred for 25 years and I can speak authoritatively on the subject."

When an audience member, Robert Stamper of Rensselaer, Ind., protested that true Christians don't hate her "no matter what you say. I don't hate you. I don't even know you. Jesus Christ loves you."

She remarked, "That's insulting. I would never say to you that I love you."

Stamper asked why there were no atheist hospitals or atheist food programs for the hungry or other help as given by churches, adding, "The Lord Jesus Christ has touched and saved tens of millions of people across this whole world."

"Saved them from what?" she asked.

"Death," he said. "Oh, come on!"

Ms. O'Hair, founder and head of the board of American Atheists Inc., based in Austin, Texas, said she gets lots of hate mail from Christians voicing hopes she dies of cancer or other "horrible things."

When Donahue, a Roman Catholic, remarked that he respected



(AP Laserphoto)

America's most prominent atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, 72, recalls her first appearance on NBC's Phil Donahue Show 25 years ago with its host prior to a visit to the show last week.

her, and not just for "theatrical reasons," but because "I think what you've done really strengthens religion," she said.

"Oh horrors. ... Religion is the enemy."

Donahue commended her "very humble and honest" acknowledgment

of not knowing how life began, but said to be consistent she also should acknowledge she doesn't know if there's a God — the agnostic view.

"We're not going to find out about it by reading a book," she said, referring to the Bible, which she described as "scientifically useless."

She said religion "costs us at least a trillion dollars a year" by its tax exemptions and "billions" by allowing income tax deductions for religious contributions.

Ms. O'Hair was accompanied by her son, Jon, now president of American Atheists, and her adopted daughter, Robin, editor of The American Atheist Journal. She's the daughter of Ms. O'Hair's other son, William, who turned Christian evangelist.

"He joined the enemy," she said in an interview after the show. "I hear Bill is very rich. He got the money from the religion field and I'm proud of that."

She said her organization, with about 10,000 members, and 40,000 other subscribers and book purchasers, has its own cable television show carried on 120 cable systems reaching every major city.

"We need a confrontation with religion over principles," she said. "We need courses on the psychological pathologies of religion."

Asked if atheism isn't a belief system — faith in God's non-existence, just as religion is faith in God's existence, she said, "You don't have to prove a negative."

Religion roundup

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A group of 19 U.S. religious leaders and Vatican officials have appealed to "people of faith and good will throughout the world to stand against" the "pervasive evil" of pornography.

The group of U.S. Protestant, Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Mormon church leaders, including officials of the National Council of Churches and National Association of Evangelicals, met with Pope John Paul II about the issue.

He commended religious leaders for standing together about "one of the great social ills of our time."

The group represented the Religious Alliance Against Pornography, co-chaired by the Rev. Jerry Kirk, a Presbyterian minister of Cincinnati, and Catholic Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago.

Their joint declaration with Vatican officials emphasized "the degradation that all pornography inflicts" both on those who produce it and "on those who are desensitized or destroyed through its consumption."

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP) — The United Methodist Church reports that its congregations gave \$118.5 million for church programs in 1991, more than in any previous year despite the lingering recession.

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time, a Muslim on Feb. 6 gave the invocation opening the day's proceedings of the U.S. Senate.

Imam Wallace Mohammed asked God's blessing on America and its political leaders and prayed that "we Americans understand better our brothers and sisters around the world."

NEW YORK (AP) — A research center of the Graduate School of the City University of New York is launching a nationwide project to analyze religion among Latin Americans in the United States. The study is supported by a \$257,586 grant by the Lilly Endowment Inc.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Fifty national and regional executives of the United Church of Christ have telegraphed President Bush, condemning the forced repatriation of Haitians and suggesting racial discrimination is involved.

They said "many lives may be at stake."

In Washington, the Rev. Richard Ryscavage, head of the U.S. Catholic Conference Migration and Refugee service, termed the forced repatriation "morally reprehensible" and asked that the refugees be turned over to the church for resettlement in this country.

Breakfast set for Saturday

Macedonia Baptist Church, 441 Elm St., will have a breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, according to Pastor L.L. Patrick.

The menu will be pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, toast, coffee and juice. The public is invited to attend.

"Give us these people," he urged. "Don't force them back."

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Southern Baptist headquarters reports that membership rose 1.3 percent in 1991 to 15,238,283. The number of congregations increased by 247 to 38,221.

NEW YORK (AP) — A novel proposal for resolving the seemingly unsolvable Israeli-Syrian dispute over the Golan Heights has been presented to President Bush's advisers by an elderly American Jewish leader-businessman, a spokesman says.

The Golan Heights plateau, about 40 miles long and 15 miles wide along Israel's northern border, was seized by Israel from Syria in the 1967 six-day war.

The plan, devised by Donald Flamm, 91-year-old real estate and broadcast executive, and board member of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, would turn the area over to a joint Syrian-Israeli-U.N. corporation for development as a cultural-educational center.

"When people plan, work and play together, the very thought of antagonism" would vanish, says Flamm, now of Palm Beach, Fla. He also suggests including an airport and Disneyland-type amusement park, attracting income and visitors.

CHICAGO (AP) — A Roman Catholic sociologist says that the more people pray, the more likely they are to oppose the death penalty and to support federal assistance for

medical expenses of AIDS patients.

Based on survey data of the National Opinion Research Center, the Rev. Andrew Greeley of the University of Chicago said "those who pray more than once a day are half again as likely to oppose the death penalty as those who pray less than once a week."

Also, he said, the frequent prayers "are half again as likely to support federally funded medical care for AIDS patients."

"Many people would be inclined to think that the religiously devout are rigid and punitive," Greeley said. "But the data ... show just the opposite. Those who have an intense relationship with God in frequent prayer are the most sensitive to the needs of other human beings."

GENEVA (AP) — Lutherans worldwide total 58,693,116, the Lutheran World Federation reports. It says the largest Lutheran church is the 7.6 million-member Lutheran Church of Sweden. Second in size is the 5.2 million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

NEW YORK (AP) — Because of death threats against 11 church leaders in El Salvador shortly after the recent peace accords, American churches are sending teams to accompany the Salvadorans on their rounds to protect them.

El Salvador's National Council of Churches said that in the wake of services celebrating the new peace agreement, the threats came from a right-wing nationalist group called the Secret Army for National Salvation.

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ANTHONY'S

Federal report: Most two-year-olds haven't been properly immunized

By ROBERT BYRD
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Only 40 percent of the 2-year-olds in a recent study were found to be adequately vaccinated against measles and other infectious diseases during a time when such ailments are on the rise, federal officials say.

The federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta reported Thursday that by the time children reach school age, 95 percent have been properly vaccinated.

But by the age of 2, only four in 10 have received the immuniza-

tions they need to ward off polio, diphtheria, measles, mumps and other childhood diseases.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan reported separately Thursday that for the first time in more than a decade such infectious diseases are on the rise. He said complacency was partly responsible.

"We were seduced by the success of our vaccination efforts in the past," Sullivan said. "The level of public knowledge, interest and commitment to vaccine programs dropped." Sullivan announced plans for a

\$46 million program to fight childhood diseases by immunizing at least 90 percent of the nation's children before they reach age 2.

The CDC reported that it found that compliance with the recommended immunization schedule for 2-year-olds ranged from a high of 42 percent in El Paso, Texas, to 10 percent in Houston. It studies nine cities.

Elsewhere the rate was: New Orleans, 40 percent; Oakland, Calif., St. Louis and Washington, D.C., 38 percent; Cleveland and New York City's borough of the Bronx, 36 percent; and Miami, 27 percent.

Meanwhile, the program unveiled by Sullivan would support development of new national immunization standards; sponsor

16 projects in 14 cities and states to test the effectiveness of new approaches to increasing the number of vaccinated children; support a committee to address infant immunization; and support a committee to coordinate federal efforts.

Sullivan said he has also approved immunization plans for six cities: Philadelphia, Dallas,

Phoenix, Detroit, San Diego and Rapid City, S.D.

The plans will be used to develop programs for about 80 other immunization projects, he said.

"When implemented, the plan will ensure that our most vulnerable younger children are protected against eight preventable diseases which can cripple, impair or kill," Sullivan said.

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9	Ladies' Shoes By Calico - Snap.....	42.00... 17.99
21	Ladies' Shoes By Studio 10.....	52.00... 11.99

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The Pampa News

Comic Page

The World Almanac® Crossword Puzzle

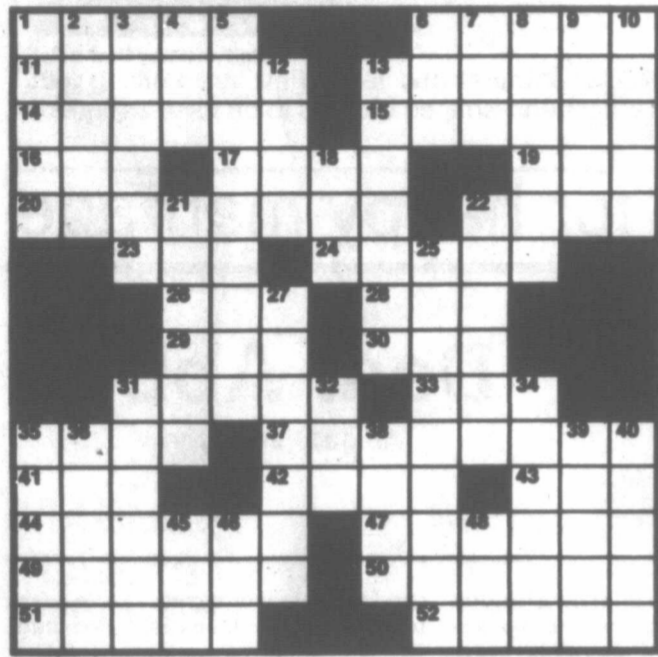
- ACROSS**
- 1 Japanese-American
 - 6 Mohammed-an religion
 - 11 Shipworm
 - 14 Place to stay
 - 15 Pressed
 - 16 Morsel left at meal
 - 17 Italian capital
 - 19 Chinese pagoda
 - 20 Young person
 - 22 Pickling spice
 - 23 Wagon track
 - 24 — food cake
 - 26 Author Anais

- DOWN**
- 1 Some Like
 - 2 Took oath
 - 3 Close relative
 - 4 Superlative

Answer to Previous Puzzle

GRAM	FCC	CRAB
YETI	AIL	YIPE
SNAG	DREADFUL	
TOTHE	CAR	EST
TROUNCE		
FOE	SASS	CRAW
LIGHTS	TERI	
ALIA	LIONET	
PSST	COOT	DAS
EMANATE		
FOG	INE	OSIER
USURIOUS	SATE	
SALE	EPI	EGOS
ERLE	SST	DONT

- DOWN**
- 5 Repetition
 - 6 Comparative suffix
 - 7 Sign at self-out (abbr.)
 - 8 Edible seed
 - 9 Let's Make
 - 10 Of form, not substance
 - 12 Work hard
 - 13 Actress Gene
 - 18 — culpa
 - 21 Pope's representative
 - 22 Become more profound
 - 25 Arctic island
 - 27 Male fashion accessory
 - 31 Light meals
 - 32 Wide shoe size
 - 34 Spruce up
 - 35 Actor Robert
 - 36 Make accustomed
 - 38 Ingests
 - 39 Tiny seed
 - 40 Facing glacier's origin
 - 45 Field
 - 46 Curly letter
 - 48 — for two



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WALNUT COVE

By Mark Cullum

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU HAVE TO RUSH EVERYBODY OUT THE DOOR SO EARLY WHEN WE HOST A PARTY, HOWARD.

I DIDN'T PUSH ANYONE ANYWHERE.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT. YOU ALWAYS DO THINGS TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE SO THEY'LL LEAVE EARLY!

LIKE WHAT?

LIKE PUTTING ON YOUR PAJAMAS AT 9:00.

ARLO & JANIS

By Jimmy Johnson

I MADE A VALENTINE FOR YOU, TOO, DAD!

"ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE..."

"SLIME IS REAL GOOEY, AND ICKY GREEN, TOO!"

WELL, YOU KNOW, I COULDN'T GIVE YOU A MUSHY ONE...

ECK & MEEK

By Howie Schneider

JUST ONE, JOHN... I GOTTA BE HOME EARLY TONIGHT

HOW COME?

THE WIFE'S DELIVERING HER ANNUAL STATE OF THE MARRIAGE ADDRESS...

AND SHE LIKES ME TO BE THERE

R.C.

By Johnny Hart

COMBINED BIRD HOCKEY-TURTLE WIDGE

MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong

YOU MARK MY WORDS, JENNY

ONE OF THESE DAYS THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY IS GOING TO RECOGNIZE THE DANGEROUS HEALTH RISKS

...OF BREATHING SECONDHAND DIAPER FUMES

MARMADUKE

By Brad Anderson

"Oh, that? They had a date, but he left her to chase an ice cream truck."

KIT N' CARLYLE

By Larry Wright

DO YOU GUYS KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT AN ORDER FOR A LARGE HALF-TUNA, HALF-BIRDSEED PIZZA?

ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue

Y'KNOW, IT'S A DAMN SHAME WE AREN'T DINOSAURS, FOZZY!

...WE COULD WALK RIGHT ACROSS THE BORDER AND THOSE GUARDS WOULDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO US!

ARE YOU THINKIN' WHAT I'M THINKIN'?

YES, MY FRIEND, I'D BET SIX STICKS OUR PROBLEMS SOLVED, YOU'VE FOUND A FIX!

WINTHROP

By Dick Cavalli

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A FLYING SALICER?

ONLY WHEN MY MOM CATCHES MY DAD SNEAKING IN LATE.

SNAFU

By Bruce Beattie

"The only thing I love is money. Got anything I can send to my Swiss bank account?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane

"Don't eat any of those hearts, Mommy. I haven't read them all."

CALVIN AND HOBBS

By Bill Watterson

HERE WE STAND, PEERING DOWN THE DIZZIFYING DEPTHS OF DOOM DROP! DO WE TURN AROUND AND RETREAT TO THE STUPEFYING SECURITY OF HOME AND HEARTH?

OR DO WE BRAVE THE DESCENT, RISK DEMISE, AND EXPERIENCE THE FLOOD OF SOMATIC SENSATION THAT SCREAMS WE ARE ALIVE, GLORIOUSLY ALIVE, HOWEVER TEMPORARILY??

...HOBBS?

I THOUGHT THE QUESTION WAS RHETORICAL.

THE OTHER WAY, THOUGH!

THE BORN LOSER

By Art and Chip Sansom

WANNA BE MY VALENTINE? SURE!

SAY...UH, D'YOU KNOW WHAT A VALENTINE IS?

BEATS ME... DON'T YOU?

NOPE.

OH WELL, WANNA PLAY BASKETBALL? SURE!

FRANK AND ERNEST

By Bob Thaves

FOR VALENTINE'S DAY WE WANT TO SEND A CACTUS TO OUR ACUPUNCTURIST, SOME MUMS TO OUR LIBRARIAN, AND BACHELOR BUTTONS TO ALL OUR UNMARRIED FRIENDS...

PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz

HERE, SWEET BABBOO... I BROUGHT YOU A VALENTINE

I'M NOT YOUR SWEET BABBOO!

WELL, TAKE IT ANYWAY, YOU BLOCKHEAD!

I LOVE VALENTINE'S DAY... IT'S SO ROMANTIC...

GARFIELD

By Jim Davis

POGS CAN DO TRICKS. WHY CAN'T CATS?

SAYS WHO?

PICK A CARD

Astro-Graph

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) There's a chance today that, in order to expedite matters, you might take on some assignments you're not qualified to handle. Instead of advancing your cause, you might retard it. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail \$2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) If possible, avoid all types of risky ventures today. Play everything close to the vest, and don't look for or expect something for nothing.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It could be extremely frustrating today to please family members or relatives, regardless of how hard you try. Nevertheless, give it a shot anyway.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may be in a gregarious mood today and a trifle more talkative than usual. Be very careful you don't disclose things you shouldn't to the wrong set of ears. Weigh your every word.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Proper management of your resources could be a problem early in the day. Later, though, you'll get a better grip on things and lock the barn door. But the horse may have run away by then.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Instead of being self-directed today, you might wait for others to tell you what to do and how to do it. Unfortunately, what serves their best interests may not serve yours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Do not leave up to chance today things that could adversely affect your work. If you don't control matters, the results could be undesirable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Conditions are tricky for you today in your social involvements. Don't get drawn into a situation where one friend, who has something to resolve with another pal, uses you as a pawn.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Your ambitions are easily aroused today, and this is admirable. But you may not achieve your objectives due to poor tactics and procedures. Think your moves through carefully.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) It behooves you to consider the advice offered you by associates today. But, there is also a danger you might be unduly influenced by unsound suggestions. Be discriminating.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) If you are presently involved in a financial arrangement that is running rather smoothly, do not make unwarranted changes at this time. It could kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Try to be diplomatic and forgiving when dealing with close friends today, even though their behavior might provoke you to do the opposite.

Scientists spot what may be new kind of ice volcano on Neptune moon

By LEE SIEGEL
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Enhanced versions of the Voyager 2 spacecraft's pictures reveal what look like three gigantic, ice-gushing volcanoes on Neptune's frozen moon Triton, scientists reported today.

If the flat, nearly circular features are volcanic, they are the fourth kind of ice volcano seen on Triton and a type never before seen in the solar system, said Pascal Lee, a Cornell University planetary scientist. The smallest circle is 175 miles

wide and the largest measures 560 miles across — more than one-third of the moon's diameter — so "we think we're seeing volcanism on a global scale," although it isn't known if they are still active, Lee said Thursday by phone from Ithaca, N.Y.

The discovery was reported in today's issue of the journal Science by Lee and Cornell scientists Paul Helfenstein, Joseph Veverka, Derek McCarthy and John Hillier.

Voyager 2 — operated by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. — flew by Neptune and its moons in August 1989, cap-

ping a 12-year exploration that also took it past Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus.

Triton is the coldest object ever measured in the solar system, with a surface temperature of 391 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. During the flight, Voyager 2 discovered three forms of ice volcanoes on Triton:

—Geyser-like, black volcanic plumes, which were observed spewing nitrogen ice, nitrogen gas and carbon dust 5 miles skyward near Triton's south polar icecap.

—Long cracks or faults filled with oozing ice, looking somewhat like toothpaste coming out of a tube slit with a razor blade.

—Inactive, possibly extinct, crater-shaped volcanoes called calderas, which several hundred miles wide and once emitted lakes of thick ice.

Lee said it's possible the giant cir-

cles are larger, older ice calderas. But they lack elevated rims like other calderas on Triton and Earth, so researchers believe they are a fourth and previously unrecognized form of ice volcano, Lee said.

The circles were not readily visible in Voyager 2's pictures because they are covered by a thin layer of light-scattering ice, probably frozen nitrogen, that made them invisible in pictures taken when the spacecraft flew directly overhead. The circles became apparent — but still difficult to see — when Cornell researchers enhanced pictures taken from an angle, Lee said.

The idea of icy volcanism may seem strange considering Earth's volcanoes produce hot molten rock. But if the ice inside Triton is warmer than the material on the surface, it can produce eruptions, scientists say.

Laurence Soderblom, a U.S. Geological Survey geophysicist in Flagstaff, Ariz., speculated that if the circles are volcanoes, they may have been formed because ices of different densities separated inside Triton, and lighter ice gradually floated upward, Soderblom said.

Scientists doubt the circles are meteorite impact craters because objects large enough to smack Tri-

ton and cause such huge craters were abundant only when the outer solar system was young. Impact craters would have been obliterated long ago as Triton's surface was repaved by ice from other types of volcanoes, Lee and Soderblom said.

Neptune usually is the eighth planet from the sun, but because of Pluto's elongated orbit it is now the ninth and outermost planet.

Strong winds delay launch of Earthwinds balloon

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Three men who hope to be the first to circle the world in a balloon will have to wait a few more days to try.

Today's planned launch of the Earthwinds balloon was canceled because ground winds were too high and blowing in the wrong direction, causing fears that the balloon would blow into the dock, project spokesman William Armstrong said shortly after midnight.

Thursday's planned liftoff outside Loral Defense Systems Corp. also was scrapped because of bad weather.

"We don't see anything until four or five days from now that looks workable," Armstrong said. "There


were a few minor groans" from the crew, "but they were good-natured groans."

Winds on the ground have to be calm to start the journey of the high-tech, hourglass-shaped twin balloons, Armstrong said.

The unusual double balloon is designed so that the top balloon has helium that makes the balloon rise and the bottom holds compressed air that acts as ballast. The crew compartment is between the two balloons.

Earthwinds will cruise at about 32,000 feet in the jet stream, a current of air that circles the globe. Conventional hot-air balloons fly up to about 10,000 feet.

When I was a child, I wanted to be rich and famous. As fate would have it, I'm just a welder, as my father before me. But no matter what the good Lord would have me be, I couldn't be more proud than to just be Daddy.
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