





# Industry heads: Natural gas supply, demand changes needed

HOUSTON (AP) — The state can boost the ailing natural gas industry by developing new markets and revising its pricing formula, leaders of the petroleum industry told the Texas Railroad Commission on Wednesday.

Some 35 energy leaders addressed the three-member body at its annual State of the Industry meeting, advising the commission during the industry's worst slump since the 1986 oil bust.

Last week, the nation's rig count dropped to 649, a record low. In 1986, the rig count bottomed out at 663.

"The problem is the industry's inability to deal with the surplus from month to month. Unless we can better manage the surplus, the old bust-and-boom cycle that we have come to hate so much will continue," Forest Hoglund, chairman of Enron Corp., said.

Speakers said the major oil and gas producers have taken their work overseas, where drilling is cheaper and environmental concerns are not as stringent.

T. Boone Pickens, chairman of the board of Mesa, Inc., told the panel it

would have to make the natural gas market more enticing for independent producers, whose numbers have dropped nationwide from 13,000 in 1986 to fewer than 4,000 this year.

"I can tell you this, things have never been as bad in our industry as they are today," Pickens said.

"We're at a time now where something's got to change for the independent producer or they will go the way of the passenger pigeon — and that's extinct."

Pickens contends the nation should develop demand for natural-gas run

vehicles, promoting a market for readily available, inexpensive and clean fuel.

"The fundamental focus of the future of the energy industry is clearly in the future of natural gas," Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Lena Guerrero said.

Judging from the comments of speakers, she said, "I think there are two focuses for the railroad commission. One is whether we can fairly adjust the proration system to allow everybody to have a fair share of the market. And the other is whether we

can help the ongoing effort in the industry to create new markets.

"Some wish us to deal with the supply-side; some wish us to deal with the demand-side. But I think ultimately, the railroad commission will have to do a little bit of both," Ms. Guerrero said.

In January, the commissioners proposed changing the way the agency limits, or pro-rates, production from natural gas wells. The limit now are based on monthly forecasts pipeline companies and other gas purchasers make of

how much gas they will need.

But some believe consistent over-estimating by the purchasers is harming producers' access to the market because more gas is being pumped from the ground than is actually bought. The commissioners proposed relying on historical buying patterns to set production levels, an idea that has deeply divided the industry.

Pickens, who is the chairman of the state's Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition, said producers are "not talking about subsidies. We just want parity with foreign crude oil."

## Judge allows state to view church records

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal judge ruled Wednesday that the state can obtain financial records of televangelist Robert Tilton's church to determine whether it is a non-profit corporation.

But U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks rejected an attempt by Texas Attorney General Dan Morales to obtain numerous records from the Word of Faith World Outreach Center Church. These records include a list of church members, and documents showing the internal workings of the Dallas-area ministry.

"The scope and substance of these requests are clearly unconstitutional. The state has no constitutional authority to know a person's membership in or support of any church," Sparks said.

In addition, Sparks issued a permanent court order blocking legal action taken by Morales in which the state sought to liquidate the church and possibly imprison church leaders for not turning over the requested records.

Sparks, in a 27-page opinion, criticized Morales' handling of the dispute with Tilton.

He said Morales' refusal to meet with Tilton and his attorney and the office's public accusations of fraud about the ministry were "neither professional, nor responsible, bordering on the unethical and constitutes bad faith."

"This conduct is not what is expected of attorneys charged with the responsibility of being the legal representatives of the state of Texas," he said.

Sparks said Morales does have limited authority to look at records to determine if the church is "truly a non-profit corporation under Texas law."

Tilton's Word of Faith church in suburban Dallas came under scrutiny in late November after the ABC television show "PrimeTime Live" broadcast allegations that church members were defrauded.



(Staff photo by Bonner Green)

Doug Adams, a track hoe driver for B&B Solvent carefully works his way down into a hole dug at the Odgen and Son's building at 501 W. Foster. Formerly a gasoline station, huge gasoline tanks are being removed from the site in observance of state and federal laws. The hole dug to remove the tanks is so deep that once inside it, only the top of the cab of the track hoe can be seen.

## Wyatt says friendship is platonic

LONDON (AP) — Wealthy Texan Steve Wyatt insists he and the Duchess of York are just buddies and he's shocked by reports of Fergie's impending separation from Prince Andrew, a London newspaper said today.

"I have never had any romantic liaisons, ever, with the Duchess. We are still friends — but it is just a platonic friendship. I and the Duke are also good friends," the Daily Express quoted the 38-year-old Hosuton oilman as saying.

In January, the Daily Mail reported that photographs of her and Wyatt taken while they were vacationing in Morocco with friends were found by a cleaner at a London apartment vacated by Wyatt.

Speaking from his Washington office, Wyatt was quoted by the Daily Express as saying: "I wish the Duke and Duchess of York the very best of luck in these trying times."

The couple are discussing a formal separation, Buckingham Palace confirmed today.

In a terse formal statement issued at noon, the palace said: "Last week lawyers acting for the Duke and Duchess of York initiated discussions about a formal separation between the duke and duchess."

"These discussions are not yet complete and nothing more will be said until they are."

"The queen hopes that the media will spare the Duke and Duchess of York and their children any intrusion."

Andrew, the queen's second-oldest son, and Sarah, both 32, were married in July 1986.

They have two daughters: Princess Beatrice, 3, and Princess Eugenie, 2.

## DEA closes down private Houston methadone clinic

HOUSTON (AP) — A private methadone clinic has been shut down by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for widespread violations that included allowing an undercover officer to obtain the synthetic opiate in violation of state and federal drug laws, officials say.

John Moseman, DEA drug diversion supervisor in Houston, said Wednesday it was the first time ever in the United States that the DEA has closed a clinic and suspended its license on an emergency basis.

"This is a very drastic measure," said Moseman. "We feel there is an imminent danger to public health and safety."

Agents raided the clinic and impounded dozens of bottles of methadone tablets and liquid and seized 96 patient files from the clinic, Chemical Dependence Associates. Methadone is used to treat heroin addiction.

Investigators from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Texas Department of Health's food and drug division also participated in the early morning sweep of the clinic, and licenses issued by all three agencies were suspended and removed from the premises.

Dr. Tommy E. Swate, a physician whose medical license was recently put on probation by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners because of complaints involving two abortion clinics he operated in Houston, is the owner of the methadone clinic.

Swate, who reportedly is out of town and could not be reached for

comment, the Houston Chronicle reported today.

Swate would have to petition the DEA in Washington for a hearing before the methadone clinic could be reopened. His other clinic was not affected by Wednesday's actions.

The Chronicle reported that an undercover Houston police officer working with the DEA was able to obtain take-home doses of the medication without fulfilling the attendance requirements. And the officer was not required, as is the law, to drink the first dose in front of the clinic staff.

The DEA said the closing following a six-month investigation by the DEA, FDA and the Texas Department of Health.

Violations uncovered included failure to comply with laws regulating take-home doses, failure to keep track of methadone handled by the clinic, failure to sanction patients who failed the required urine drug tests and lax compliance with dosage requirements.

Methadone, a synthetic drug developed by the Germans in World War II as a substitute for the painkiller morphine, is used to treat addiction to heroin and other opiates. When taken properly, it suppresses withdrawal symptoms and allows addicts to work and function without the debilitating effects of an intravenous addiction.

When taken in sufficient quantities, however, it produces a high. And an overdose can be fatal.

## Agencies plan changes in pollution enforcement

AUSTIN (AP) — Top officials with the state's major environmental agencies say they have started sweeping changes in the way Texas enforces its pollution laws.

The changes are the result of recommendations made by the state comptroller's office, which conducted performance audits of the Texas Water Commission and Texas Air Control Board.

"We don't think that these changes alone that we are recommending are going to make us the cleanest state in the nation, but they certainly ought to make sure that we are no longer dubbed the most polluted state in the nation," State Comptroller John Sharp said Wednesday.

John Hall, chairman of the Water Commission, said the report proved what officials in that agency have known — that it was in trouble and failing in crucial areas.

"In short, the agency is not providing the level of service necessary to effectively protect the health and safety of our citizens," Hall said.

He blamed previous senior staff for allowing huge backlogs to form in critical programs, such as repairing leaking petroleum storage tanks, and cleaning up some 2,500 hazardous waste sites.

Hall said a major effort has recently been launched to clear this backlog and revamp many of the agency's operations.

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# U.S. may bomb Iraqi missile plants

By RUTH SINAI  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unless Iraq blows up its ballistic missile facilities, American bombers may do the job, U.S. officials say.

U.S. officials say the Bush administration has drawn up contingency plans for a bombing strike against weapons-related facilities in Iraq.

By agreement with U.N. allies, any U.S. action "would be a limited, specific strike," said an official familiar with the administration's thinking.

Iraq would be given notice of the raid to avoid harm to civilians, he added.

A decision to bomb would depend in part on the outcome of a trip by a U.N. team to Iraq this Saturday to oversee Iraqi destruction of equipment for building Scud missiles.

Iraq prevented the team from carrying out its mission last month, prompting the Security Council to warn that further defiance would result in serious consequences.

Rolf Ekeus, director of the U.N. special commission for the destruction of Iraq's weapons, said Wednesday night that Iraq had been given a list of 10 items that the United Nations wants destroyed under the supervision of the inspection team. He said the team members planned to stay in Iraq until March 29.

"This next inspection could be the trigger," said another official.

But Assistant Secretary of State Edward P. Djerejian, asked Tuesday during a congressional

hearing about policy on Iraq, appeared to rule out any immediate attack.

First, he said that given Saddam's "cheat and retreat strategy, the time has come to truly reinforce the (U.N.) inspection regime inside Iraq."

But when Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., said he understood that no military action was under active consideration, Djerejian replied, "That is basically a correct statement." Still, he added that "nothing was ruled out."

The contingency plans are part of a new strategy being devised by the administration to further erode the Iraqi president's standing in the eyes of his countrymen, said the U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The plans also call for possible seizure of Iraq's bank assets in the United States and in other allied countries, expansion of the ban on Iraqi helicopter flights in northern Iraq, and an increase of U.N. inspections in Iraq to include monitoring human rights violations.

Money from the seized assets would be used to finance the special U.N. teams charged with finding and destroying the residue of Iraq's nuclear, chemical and ballistic missile arsenals, said the officials.

Saddam foiled plans to fund the commission through fines on Iraqi oil sales when he refused to sell the oil.

The administration has focused its strategy on hopes that an international trade embargo on Iraq would squeeze Saddam from power by turning his closest aides against him.

But U.S. government analysts now say Sad-

dam's inner circle has been cushioned from the dire effects of the embargo on the rest of the population.

The Pentagon has balked at action that could draw the United States into a direct conflict with Iraq. But in internal policy deliberations, the State Department has been voicing increasing doubts about the effectiveness of the existing policy of tough language and international economic pressure.

"There is genuine ferment, a real feeling of unease" about the policy, another official said. "Our current policy isn't sustainable in perpetuity."

U.S. officials say administration lawyers have drawn up plans to overcome the legal constraints of seizing an estimated \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion in Iraqi assets frozen when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Also under consideration is a plan to expand the ban on Iraqi helicopter flights from the 36th parallel south to the 35th or 34th parallel, this official said. This would limit Iraq's ability to attack its rebellious Kurdish minority in the north, he added.

The United States is concerned that its pressure on Saddam could be eroded by the increasing turbulence in northern Iraq, caused in part by growing friction between Kurdish guerrillas and neighboring Turkey.

Turkey, a close U.S. ally, has in recent weeks raided several sites it said were operations bases for Kurdish guerrillas opposed to Turkish control of territory they claim as their own.

## Leona Helmsley could become a prison maid

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — If a judge books a cell for Leona Helmsley at the local women's prison, the one-time queen of luxury hotels may have to put her background to work — as a prison maid.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Griesa rejected a motion from Mrs. Helmsley's lawyers Wednesday to set aside or reduce her four-year prison sentence for evading \$1.7 million in income taxes.

Mrs. Helmsley collapsed after the hearing in New York and was hospitalized for observation. She suffered severe high blood pressure and an irregular heartbeat and remained hospitalized early today, said Dr. R.A. Rees Pritchett.

Griesa said she would enter prison April 15 — tax day — but didn't say where. A courthouse source who spoke on condition of anonymity said she had been assigned to Lexington's Federal Medical Center for prisoners.

Mrs. Helmsley, 71, had begged Griesa for mercy, saying that to separate her from her sickly 83-year-old husband, Harry, would kill them both. "He has nobody in the world," she sobbed. "All he's got is me."

Mrs. Helmsley, who billed herself as the queen of her husband's hotels, helped him run a real estate empire worth billions of dollars. It includes the Helmsley Palace in New York and several other hotels and buildings.

Before going to the hospital,

Helmsley said she remained confident she would win a new trial.

But if winds up at the Lexington prison, she could receive a regular work assignment, and based on her background, it could be as a maid, said Warden Margaret C. Hambrick.

Unlike the guests at The Harley, a Helmsley hotel a few miles from the prison, she would have to make her own bed every day and split up chores with as many as 40 roommates.

The warden refused to discuss possible future prisoners specifically, but said the Federal Medical Center is the finest prison in the country for women with health problems.

Mrs. Helmsley's lawyers say she suffers from hardening of the arteries, high blood pressure and has had two or three small strokes since her conviction in 1989.

Outside the New York court, defense lawyer Alan Dershowitz refused to comment on where she would be imprisoned. But he called the Lexington prison "a hellhole" with poor medical facilities.

Hambrick said the 37-acre complex houses more than 1,700 prisoners.

"The largest percentage of our inmates, about 63 percent, are here for drug-related crimes," Hambrick said. "The average stay is about six years."

Mrs. Helmsley would most likely be classified a minimum-security inmate, and such prisoners share living quarters with up to 40 others.



(AP Laserphoto)

Hotel queen Leona Helmsley collapses as she leaves Federal Court in Manhattan Wednesday after she was ordered to begin serving a four-year prison sentence for tax evasion on April 15. The 71-year-old wife of billionaire Harry Helmsley was later admitted to a New York hospital.

## Hopes dim for survivors of Brazilian landslide

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Hopes of finding survivors dimmed early today as rescuers dug through tons of mud from a landslide that roared through a hillside slum, killing at least 37 people and burying scores more.

Rain, darkness and hilly terrain hampered the frantic overnight search by 500 Red Cross workers and family members for the missing from Wednesday's disaster outside the southeastern city of Belo Horizonte.

The mudslide followed several days of rain and state troopers, fearing another, cordoned off the site. Hundreds of survivors tried to push past the barrier to search for family members.

"My mother is in there, my father. I need to find them," Yolanda da Silva, a teen-age resident,

pleaded with a TV reporter.

Around midnight, rescuers found the corpses of a five-year-old boy and his mother. Moments later, a fireman heard the muffled cries of a girl and pulled her from the earth's grip.

"We have reports that dozens of people, the majority children, some of our people say 200, couldn't get away and were buried alive," said police chief Paulo Mansur. "We won't know how many for days."

He said 70 people were in critical condition and estimated that the death toll could rise to 150.

About 600 brick and wooden shacks, home to 1,000 of the Barranginha shantytown's 40,000 residents, were destroyed, said fire department Sgt.

Esigenio da Luz. He said 100 to 150 people were missing.

There was no immediate official explanation for the slide but independent news reports quoted local engineers as saying a landfill above the slum gave way after days of rain.

News reports said a 300-foot-wide shelf of mud that supported the A.M. Martins construction company collapsed because heavy equipment was stored on a platform above it.

The slide outside Belo Horizonte, capital of Minas Gerais state 290 miles northwest of Rio, follows similar disasters in recent years that have ravaged ramshackle slums built on the unstable hillsides of Rio and Sao Paulo.

## Japan lowers ceiling on U.S. auto exports

TOKYO (AP) — Hoping to ease trade tensions with the United States, Japan today reduced by 650,000 its government-imposed ceiling on car exports to the United States for the coming fiscal year.

But officials acknowledged that the new ceiling of 1.65 million passenger cars represents just a 5 percent decrease from the number of cars shipped to the United States this fiscal year and may not placate the ailing U.S. car industry.

The U.S. recession and expanding Japanese auto plants within the United States had already cut the number in recent years.

"Considering the down trend in the last four to five years, the number of passenger car exports to the United States would probably reach 1.65 million or so anyway," Japan Automobile Manufacturer's Association spokesman Shigeru Okoshi said,

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# Lifestyles

## Club News

Progressive Extension Homemakers met March 11 at Gray County annex. Eva Dennis resigned as president. Betty Baxter, vice-president was elected president. Helen Hogan was elected vice-president. Ten members were present.

Donna Brauchi gave the program on "eating right, eating light." Hostesses were Geneva Dalton and Florence Rife.

The next meeting is at 2 p.m., April 8, in the home of Eva Dennis.

Kappa Alpha Chapter #3001 of Epsilon Sigma Alpha met recently in the Red Cross meeting room Pampa. Elsie Floyd, president, presided at the meeting. Nine members and one guest were present. Hostesses for the meeting were members of the rush committee with Eva Dennis, chairman.

Dorothy Miller and Elsie Floyd reported on events of the February Texas State Board meeting in Austin. Dorothy Miller is state project director and Elsie Floyd is District X coordinator. Other members

of District X who attended were Zell Cain, District X president and Brenda O'Neill, District X parliamentarian.

Service Director Dorothy Miller reported the pecan sales are nearing completion. Money from the sales will be used to make our service money donations. Members are donating food for a box to send to Russia.

Educational director Fay Harvey introduced the guest, Jane Jacobs, who gave the educational program on ostrich ranching.

Elsie Floyd conducted the jewel pin ceremony for Marilyn Butler, Vivian Dykes and Silvia Sanders, who were sponsored by Eva Dennis.

Social Chairman Ann Turner announced the March social will be a hobo party at the home of Sarah Newman on March 19th. Members are to bring canned vegetables and hobo stew and cornbread and dessert will be served at the social.

The next business meeting will

be April 2, in the Red Cross meeting room.

Las Pampas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met at the home of Mrs. Otto Mangold. The Regent, Mrs. Tom Cantrell presided and led the members in patriotic exercises. Mrs. Maryl Jones gave the National Defense Report on President Bush's proposal urging the Senate to pass the U.N. Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, corrected and approved. Mrs. Mangold reported the winners of the American History Essay contest were for the eighth grade, Edith Osborne and fifth grader Joel Barker.

A program on two Indian schools partially supported by the DAR, Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla. and Chemawa in Oregon was given by Mrs. P.R. Britton. Both schools were established to aid Native Americans in securing an education.

## Doin' the Cotton-Eyed Joe



These little cowboys and cowgirls are learning about music of Texas. A songfest was the culmination of Texas Week at St. Matthew's Day School. Children learned Texas songs and dances including the Cotton-Eye Joe and square dancing. Other activities included learning about Texas history, cowboy breakfasts, branding irons and crafts.

(Staff photo by Bonner Green)

## Honor Roll

Lamar Elementary School announces honor roll students for the fourth six week grading period.

Regular kindergarten - super citizens - Jonathan Humphrey, Ashton Johnson, Nerissa Perry.

Transitional first grade - super citizen - Dakota Waldrop.

First grade - honor roll - Michael Diamond, Kedrick Grays, Tamara Horton, Mike Jones, Tiffany Marchman, Jeremy Mitchell, Lionel Nash, Brandy Nichols, Nicole Sikes, Tamara Silva, Zackery Stark, Johnny Venegas.

Super citizens - Michael Diamond, Kedrick Grays, Mike Jones, Tiffany Marchman, Brandon Woodward.

Second grade - honor roll - Sixto Albear, Keenan Davis, Mike Hartley, Jeffrey Sweeney, Angela Wood.

Third grade - honor roll - Shanna Buck, Cassie Hamilton, Amy Lowrance; super citizens - Shanna Buck, Ryan Ferrell, Kori Ketchum, Kristi Norwood, Crystal Sheppard, April Shorter, Teddy Tolleson.

Fourth grade - honor roll - Jere-

my Buck, Shannon Oxley, Mirna Solis, Shawn Stone; super citizens - Teresa Brown, Michael Hinds, Landon Roberts, B. J. Wilson.

Fifth grade - honor roll - Stacey Brown, Cynthia Davis, Tiffany Fletcher, Courtney Lowrance, Farcott Patrick, Bethanea Stevenson; super citizens - Cynthia Davis, Tiffany Fletcher, Nicola Moore, Bethanea Stevenson.

Self-contained - honor roll - Shelly Videon; super citizens - Faye Bennett, Brandon Potteet, Terra Scoggin, Patrick Williamson.



(Staff photo by Bonner Green)

Overall Pampa High School science fair winners are, left, Danette Hoover, third place; David Kludt, second place; and Angela Rodriguez, first place.

## Pampa High School picks top projects

The Pampa High School science fair netted winners on March 10.

Overall winners were - first, Angela Rodriguez, "Effectiveness of Mouthwash"; second, David Kludt, "Windmills in Action"; third, Danette Hoover, "Effects of Alcohol and Caffeine on Daphnia and Euglena".

In the physical science category, first place went to Audra Shelton, "Effects of Chlorine on Hair"; second, Shannon Seitz, "Effects of Detergents on Grass"; third, Michael Gandy, "Effects of Stain Removers".

In the life science category, first place went to Darcie Laramore, who

studied subliminal learning. Second went to Sameer Mohan, who studied urinalysis, and third was won by Damien Hill, "Venus Flytrap vs. Praying Mantis".

Twenty-seven students entered the fair, according to coordinator Jessie Brantwein. She reported that was 10 more than last year.

## Spouse who says no may be headed for divorce

DEAR ABBY: Your statement, "No always means no," is sound advice when it comes to sexual favors. However, your statement, "Being married to a person does not entitle one to sexual favors" is misleading.

Persistent and unjustifiable refusal to engage in marital relations by either spouse could be considered desertion, abandonment, or cruel and inhuman treatment, thereby establishing grounds for divorce. Since the law varies from state to state, the factual circumstances of a particular case would be controlling. Perhaps you should have mentioned that.

K. KARL SPALVINS, ATTORNEY AT LAW, KNOXVILLE, TENN.

DEAR ATTORNEY SPALVINS: The key words in your statement are: "persistent" and "unjustifiable," in which case I would have to agree with you — and the law.

I said, "Both parties must be willing — or it's no go." If either party is too tired, too angry or just "not in the mood" for love occasionally, it's understandable, and therefore forgivable.

When sex is forced, it is humiliating and traumatic — and the law calls it "spousal rape."

DEAR ABBY: I have a boyfriend problem. He keeps promising me that we will get married. Well, we now

have a 3-month-old son, and we aren't married yet.

We have been together a year and three months. I have set a date that we both agree on; then he breaks it off and delays our wedding. What should I do?

NEEDS HELP IN OHIO

DEAR NEEDS HELP: Face it, your boyfriend (the father of your son) is not ready for marriage. However, whether or not he is "ready for marriage," he has a legal obligation to contribute to the support of his son according to the laws of your state.

You are foolish to believe a fellow who consistently breaks his promises. It would appear

that his son may grow up before he does.

DEAR ABBY: Here's one for the limerick collector:

There was an old lady named Myrtle  
Who bought herself a new girdle.  
She held in her breath,  
It squeezed her to death,  
Now the graveyard is fertile with Myrtle.

MONA

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Boy Scout membership drive opens March 23

The annual Boy Scout Sustaining Membership Enrollment Drive will kick off at 7 a.m. on Monday March 23 at the Chamber of Commerce. This year's campaign is under the leadership of Hal Cree.

The purpose of the annual finance campaign is to provide support for local scouting programs through the Golden Spread Council. In 1991 over \$18,000 was raised for scouting. The local group has established a goal of \$20,000 for this year's drive.

The kick off breakfast is being provided by Albertson's, Homeland, and The Coney Island. Scout supporters in the area are invited to attend.

• • • • •

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# The Pampa News

## Comic Page

### The World Almanac® Crossword Puzzle

#### ACROSS

- 1 — Clinic
- 5 Baseballer Willie —
- 9 Pledge
- 12 Fires (sl.)
- 13 Malarial fever
- 14 Ear (comb. form)
- 15 Cairo's river
- 16 One of the Wise Men
- 18 The sun
- 19 Fair grade
- 20 — fix (obsession)
- 21 Sacred song
- 23 — de mer.
- 25 Talked (sl.)
- 26 Congeal
- 30 Public services
- 32 Firearm owners org.
- 33 Relative of un
- 34 Holder of real-estate title

#### DOWN

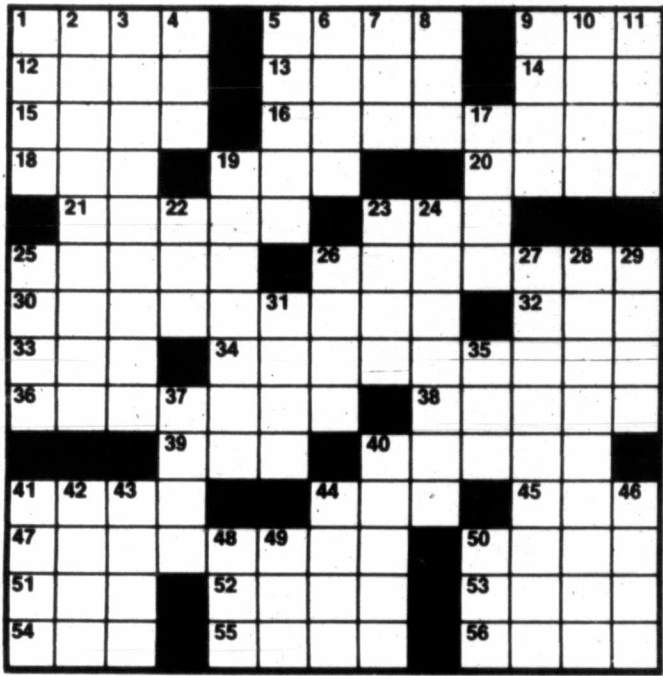
- 1 Le — auto race
- 2 Self-evident
- 3 Somewhat
- 36 Level of command
- 38 Removed dead leaves from
- 39 — Vegas
- 40 Walks in water
- 41 Impair
- 44 — Chaney
- 45 Airline info
- 47 European
- 50 Footless
- 51 Female sandpiper
- 52 Detest
- 53 Repair
- 54 Map abbreviation
- 55 Hymn's finale
- 56 Land measure

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

MITE MITT VET  
 RARA AFAR EYE  
 EGIS NATIONAL  
 DOGTROT BIASE  
 EER VEE  
 KERRY GARDENS  
 RYAN MINE VAT  
 ION MIGS MENU  
 STABLES KARAN  
 AIN VIS  
 MIRE GANTLET  
 UNERRING ESNE  
 MTS UNAU RATS  
 SOT ETTET STET

- 4 Gravel ridge
- 5 Playwright David —
- 6 Awry
- 7 Actor Brynner

- 8 Dry, as wine
- 9 Empty
- 10 Plains Indian
- 11 Was dressed in
- 17 Mound
- 19 Pronunciation mark
- 22 — Aviv
- 23 Reward (archaic)
- 24 Loser
- 25 Hey —
- 26 Moslem supernatural being
- 27 Hotel owner
- 28 Peach type
- 29 Distance measure
- 31 Resort of New Mexico
- 35 Small compact heap
- 37 Sailor's patron saint
- 40 Interlaced
- 41 — Breckinridge
- 42 Author Jean M. —
- 43 By the time — to Phoenix
- 44 Behind
- 46 Sand lizard
- 48 Wild sheep
- 49 Flee (sl.)
- 50 MDs group



### WALNUT COVE



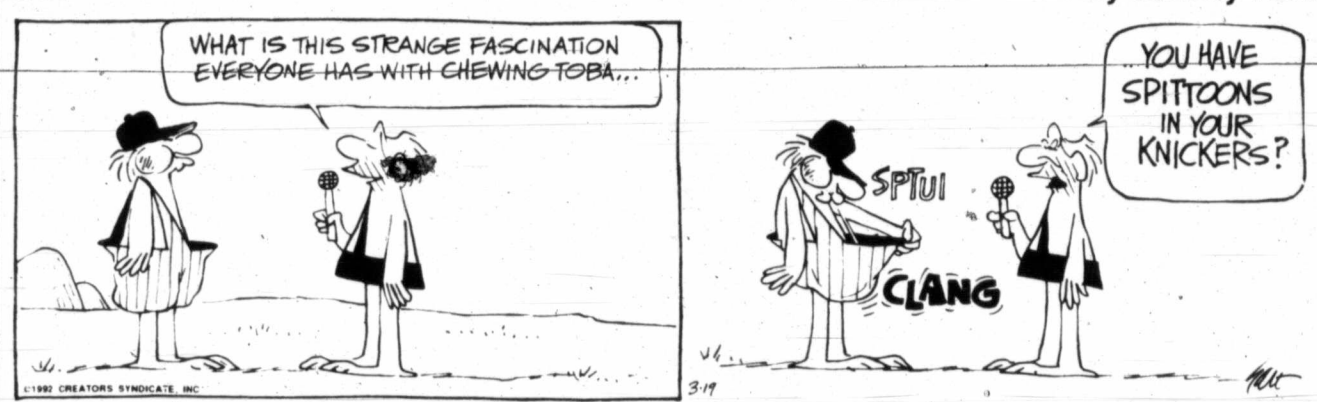
### ARLO & JANIS



### ECK & MECK



### B.C.



### Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** Your investigative faculties are your greatest assets today, and they can be used effectively on a project that requires research and fact-finding. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences governing you in the year ahead. Send for Pisces' Astro-Graph predictions today 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.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** You might be approached today to participate in an endeavor with a gung-ho friend of yours who always has lots of interesting involvements. This one could be exceptional.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Your ambitions and initiative should be in high gear today. This could enable you to achieve an objective that was previously unattainable. Be bold in situations where courage is required.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** Your imagination is your greatest asset today, and the secret to being successful is to envision yourself successful before the event is completed.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Circumstances you have little control over could precipitate a shift in conditions today for which you've been hoping. Go with the flow of events.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** People you associate with today will exert a strong influence over your behavior patterns. If you're aligned with a productive partner, significant mutual results are likely.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Subordinates will be more industrious and efficient today — if you figure out some way of rewarding them for their extra efforts. Try to make a material gesture.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** Assignments you cannot handle yourself today should be delegated to competent aides. However, do not share the overall management of the operation with anyone.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** You're a good stretch-runner today and, in situations that require staying power, you should have the edge over your competitors. Hang in there until you get the type of end results you desire.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** This is a good day to discuss a matter you've been hoping would materialize with friends who can help you. If you need support, it will be available.

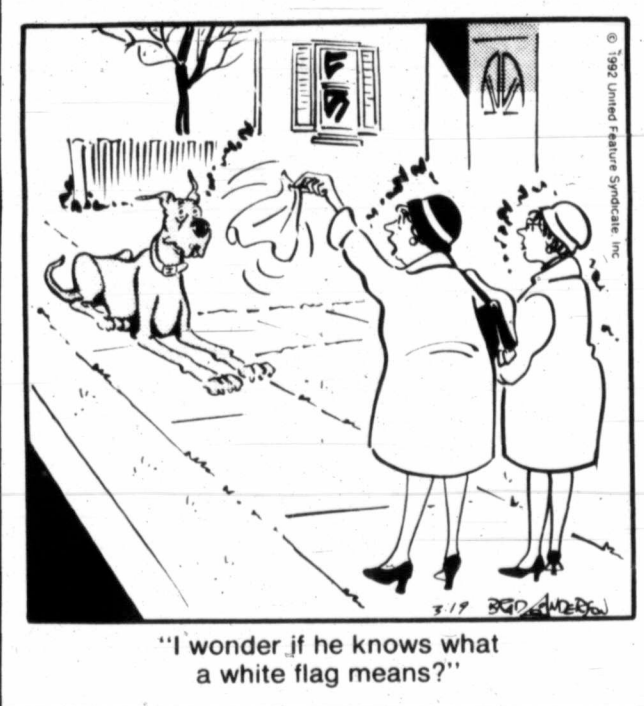
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** There are strong indications you might take a calculated risk today in a situation where there is a chance for personal gain. To the casual observer, it might look like a gamble, but it's actually not.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** Some knowledge you've acquired from a recent experience will be utilized to your advantage today. It might not make you money, but it will enhance your image.

### MARVIN



### MARMADUKE



### KIT N' CARLYLE



### ALLEY OOP



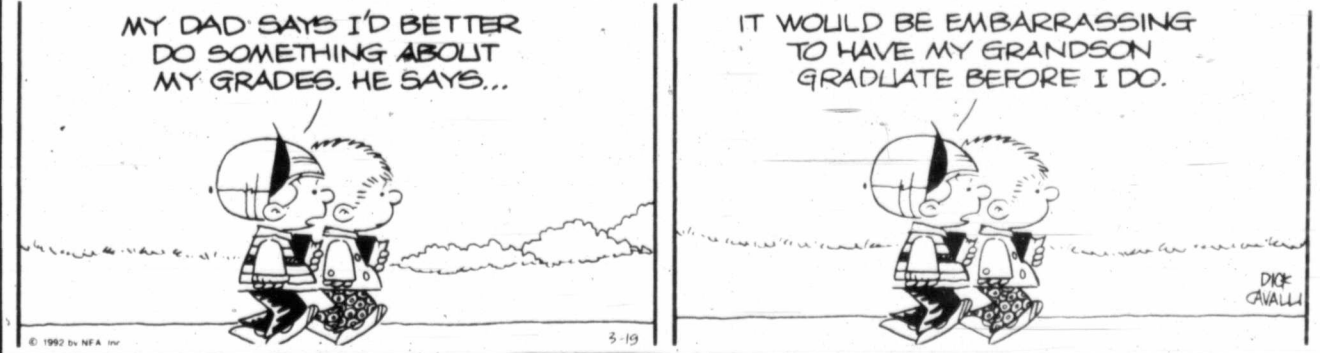
### SNAFU



### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



### WINTHROP



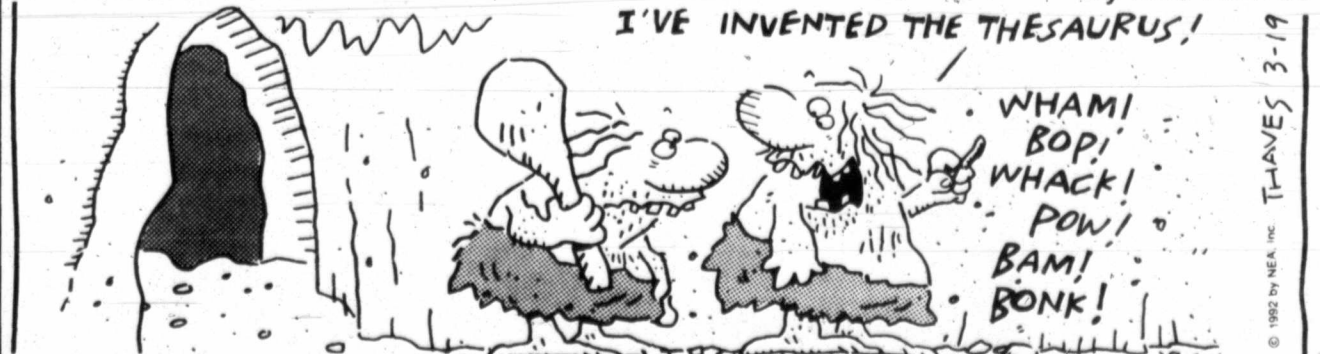
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### THE BORN LOSER



### FRANK AND ERNEST



### PEANUTS



### GARFIELD











## House rubber-check artists bounce a few phrases around, too

By DAVE SKIDMORE  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — When is a bank not a bank? When does a rubber check not bounce?

When it's the House bank and when members of Congress are writing the checks.

The flap over the bank's practice of honoring lawmakers' checks when they didn't have enough in their accounts to pay them has spawned a separate controversy over terminology.

Take Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., who proclaimed last fall: "Nobody has ever had a Duncan Hunter check returned for insufficient funds."

When it turned out that Hunter wrote 407 bad checks totaling \$129,225 over a three-year period, his Republican primary opponent, Eric Epifano, called Duncan's assertion "a lie."

But Hunter is standing by his words. Because no check was returned, technically none bounced, he maintains. To the person receiving the check, they were as good as gold.

John Hall of the American Bankers Association, with the help of "Banking Terminology," a fat book published by the ABA, offered some guidance.

A "bad check," he said, is a broad term that includes checks written on accounts with insufficient funds, checks without proper signatures and checks with marred magnetic codes.

About 1 percent of the 50 billion checks written each year are bad, he said, and about three-quarters of those, or 375 million, are drawn on accounts with insufficient funds.

Bankers define "bounce" as "the result of a check that is written on ... insufficient funds," meaning that funds aren't credited to the payee because there's not enough money in the account. But, with the House bank, there was no such bounce, since the bank made up the difference and paid the checks anyway.

"Rubber check" is a little closer to the mark, even though many people, understandably, equate the phrase with "bounced check."

Actually, a rubber check is a check that could bounce, not one that does bounce, much as a rubber ball only becomes a bounced ball if it's dropped. And at the House bank, it wasn't dropped.

Hall's advice: "It's all slang and it's all subject to interpretation. If you want to be accurate, use overdraft."

Ah, overdraft. But even there,

House members have their own definition. Witness this exchange, in the wee hours last Friday morning, between Rep. John J. LaFalce, D-N.Y., and Rep. Mickey Edwards, R-Okla., who led the campaign for "Full" disclosure of the abuses.

LaFalce: "The gentleman has frequently referred to overdrafts. I am not sure what the gentleman intends by the use of that word. Is it the face value of the check, \$50,000, or is it the deficiency, which if you had \$49,900 in your account, is simply \$100?"

Edwards: "That is a very valid question. ... It is my own personal view ... that the overdraft is the extent by which you exceed the amount that you had. Mr. Speaker, if a member had a \$50,000 and had \$49,000 in the bank, in my opinion that is a \$1,000 overdraft."

Ordinary Americans might find their bank — or a store to which a bad check is written — has a different view. Try arguing to either that its bad-check charge should be based on the difference between what might have been good and what was in fact bad. Chances are, you won't get very far with that one. The grocer who finds your \$50 check returned is still out his \$50 payment, regardless of whether a \$49 check would have been paid.

Whatever the case, Rep. Matthew Rinaldo, R-N.J., maintains his account was never overdrawn, even though five checks were written against insufficient funds. By his reckoning, the checks weren't overdrafts because the bank's policy was to hold off posting checks until money was deposited to cover them.

Meanwhile, bankers, sensitive to seeing the words "Bank Scandal" in headlines, are quick to point out that the House bank is, in fact, not a bank. By federal law, a bank is an institution that both accepts deposits and makes loans. The House bank, at least formally, did not make loans — though that was the net result of its generous check-handling policy. And those informal loans were interest free.

"Maybe you should call it a cash club instead of a bank," Hall said. "Or a cooperative. Or a dispensing office."

So, as some members of Congress might prefer, you could think of this as mutual support society, a group of lawmakers joining together to help colleagues who were temporarily a little short of funds.

Write it up as a cash-dispensing cooperative covering checks written in advance of a deposit.

Yeah, that's the ticket.

## Gay groups plan protest against 'Basic Instinct'

By JOHN HORN  
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The new thriller "Basic Instinct" explodes with explicit sexual violence. But the film's real fireworks could go off outside theaters this weekend when gay activists demonstrate against the movie.

Scores of protesters, using posters, billboards and megaphones, plan to give away the movie's ending in an attempt to drive away audiences.

Others plan to hand out leaflets condemning the murder mystery as homophobic. Protests were expected primarily in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York.

Industry speculation is that "Basic Instinct" will debut atop the box-office charts and could be a blockbuster. The heavily advertised movie opens Friday in about 1,500 theaters nationwide.

In the film, Michael Douglas plays a detective searching for a killer with a preference for ice picks and kinky sex. His suspects include a police psychiatrist (Jeanne Tripplehorn), a novelist (Sharon Stone of "Total Recall") and her lesbian lover (Lilani Savelle).

"This is one of the most disturbing things I've ever seen," said Chris Fowler, executive director of the local Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination.

Patt Riese, who is coordinating attempts to reveal the identity of the film's villain, said she's troubled that the film's three potential murderers are bisexual.

Furthermore, she said, the women's bisexuality is depicted gratuitously for the pleasure of men.

The National Organization for Women also objects to "Basic Instinct." Tammy Bruce, president of the Los Angeles chapter, said the film is "so blatant in its misogyny it is like a lynching."

Its message "is that women are dangerous and smart women can't be trusted," Ms. Bruce said. Her group isn't planning protests, however.

TriStar Pictures, the movie's distributor, tried to head off protests by saying, "Freedom of expression covers filmmakers and moviegoers

as well as protesters."

"We feel this is a terrific film, and we expect that most people will agree with us," it said in a statement.

Joe Eszterhas, who wrote "Basic Instinct," cautioned activists not to violate "moviegoers' civil rights" or engage in "artistic terrorism." He said in a newspaper column that the film is not homophobic.

Complaints began almost as soon as the movie went into production. Bootleg copies of the script circulated in the gay community, filming in San Francisco was disrupted and activists requested screenplay revisions.

Eszterhas had a falling-out with director Paul Verhoeven, accusing him of making the film too sexually explicit.

The \$40 million movie narrowly escaped the adults-only NC-17 rating. It was re-edited, with some sex scenes cut, to qualify for the less restrictive R rating.

"Basic Instinct" is not the only film targeted by homosexuals recently. They've complained that homosexuals are depicted negatively in "JFK" and "The Silence of the Lambs," both up for several Academy Awards. A coalition of gay activists plans to disrupt the Oscar ceremonies March 30.

However, no film since 1980's "Cruising," a murder mystery starring Al Pacino that depicted random, anonymous sex among patrons of seamy New York gay bars, has prompted so much outrage.

"We are sick and tired of being bashed," said Kathleen Chapman, a member of Queer Nation.

Activists know their confrontational tactics may cause a backlash and will bring the movie more publicity. "But what can we do?" asked Ms. Riese. "Our only other choice is to be quiet about it."

Early reviews have been mixed. Critic Todd McCarthy, writing in Daily Variety, said "Basic Instinct" "is not anti-gay" but "is very arguably misogynistic."

Owen Gleiberman, writing in Entertainment Weekly, said the film is "mechanical and routine, a muddle of Hitchcockian red herrings and standard cop-thriller ballistics."

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