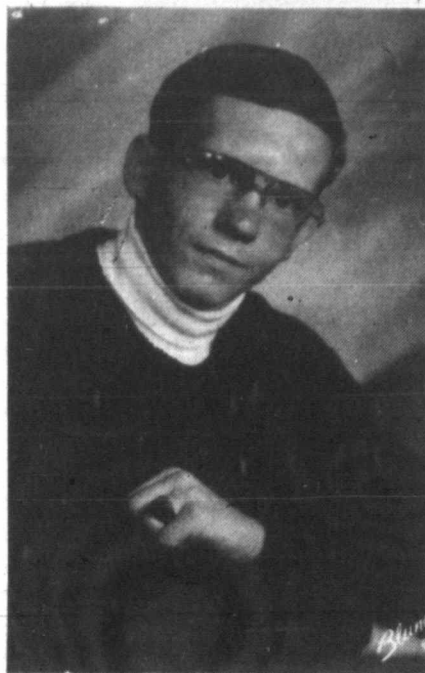


Snelgrooes, Neal named top Wheeler graduates



Mique Dawn Snelgrooes
Valedictorian



Craig Lewis Neal
Salutatorian

WHEELER — Mique Dawn Snelgrooes and Craig Lewis Neal have been selected as valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the Wheeler High School 1992 graduating class.

Graduation ceremonies have been set for 8 p.m. May 22 in the Wheeler High School auditorium.

Eighteen-year-old Mique Snelgrooes is graduating with a grade point average of 3.764. The daughter of Daryl and Tillie Snelgrooes of Wheeler, she has attended Wheeler schools for the past 13 years.

A member of the school's golf team for four years, Snelgrooes was

a state qualifier her sophomore and junior years. She played basketball one year and served as manager as a sophomore. She was also a member of the track team for two years.

Snelgrooes has been on the Computer U.I.L. Team, FHA, Band, and National Honor Society. She also attended Bluebonnet Girls State and was named Alpha Mu Alpha's "Little Sister."

Her class awards include typing, algebra I, English I, geometry, band, accounting, physics, English II, homemaking, and "90 and above" for three years. She was selected as class president all four years of high

school and Student Council vice president her junior year.

She plans to attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University and become a pharmacist.

Neal, 18, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Neal of Wheeler. Born in Dimmit, he has been a student in Wheeler schools for five years. He holds a grade point average of 3.659.

He played basketball all four years at Wheeler High School and served as football manager for two years. He received awards in Algebra II, world history, accounting and English.

Reinhardt: Health care impacts area's economy

By LINDA HAYNES
Willow Communications

Imagine that Pampa has a chance to get a new industry in town that becomes the biggest property taxpayer in the city and that employs 750 people with a \$13.5 million payroll? That same industry generates more than \$65 million in revenues every year, with the majority of that money coming from out-of-town sources. Sound too good to be true?

Pampa already has such an industry. The various businesses that comprise the health care industry in Pampa have a major impact on the economy of the city and the area, according to Bruce W. Reinhardt, administrator. "During National Hospital Week, we want to highlight what the health care industry does for Pampa. The hospital, of course, is a major player, but the keys to the industry are the physicians and dentists who direct the care that is given," he said.

To analyze the economic impact of health care on the community, the hospital recently surveyed various parts of the industry.

"We sent questionnaires to physicians, dentists, pharmacies, home health agencies, and nursing homes and received an excellent response. Although we know the survey may have missed some key elements of the business, we were at least able to arrive at some ballpark figures concerning health care in Pampa," he said.

Reinhardt explained that most people are aware of the "human" factor of health care, but are not familiar with the economic factor. "We put a great deal of emphasis at the hospital on taking good care of our patients. That's our business. That business also generates money, much of it from what we call 'third-party payors,' that is, insurance companies or the government programs like Medicare or Medicaid. In that sense, it is 'new' money

brought into Pampa to be recirculated through the economy," he said.

When patients leave Pampa for medical services that are available in Pampa, they are subsidizing another city's economy. "Our physicians refer patients to Amarillo or other cities for services that are not available here, but when the service is available, we hope people will choose to shop at home," Reinhardt said.

Reinhardt explained that the hospital bases its planning and judges its success by market share.

"We get information from the Texas Department of Health about the number of patients who live in Pampa who are hospitalized. The percent that choose Coronado is our market share. Overall, we have a market share of 60%. In some specific services, such as cardiology, we have a market share of close to 100% for the services that we perform," he said.

Smaller hospitals across the state have faced the problems of declining market share for several years. "So many people have the mind set that bigger is better. So some Pampa people think they'll get better care in Amarillo, but some Amarillo people think you have to go to Dallas. I think the prime example of that occurred a few years ago when the wife of the governor of Texas flew to New York to have a routine surgery," he said.

When a local hospital loses too much market share, the hospital closes. "We're all aware of the impact the hospital closing had on Borger. Even though that hospital has since re-opened, the town lost many physicians, and the business has just not returned. We think it is critical for the community that the hospital and the health care industry remain viable, and that takes support from everyone in town," he said.

Tomorrow, a look at the health care industry in Pampa as the biggest employer in town.

Students earn UIL awards

AUSTIN — Canadian High School collected seven medals Saturday during University Interscholastic League state academic competition.

Among the medals earned for Canadian, a first place in science team for the group of Dena Hawley, Tony Cook and James Lusby. Hawley also reached the top scorers list in Chemistry for Class 2A and received a first in individual science competition.

Cook also notched a fourth place in the individual science division.

Judge steps down in Wyatt-Sakowitz trial

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge has stepped down from a case involving a wealthy Houston family whose members have been feuding over the loss of the Sakowitz Inc. chain of clothing stores.

Harris County Probate Judge Pat Gregory's decision Monday came only days after Texas' 14th Court of Appeals rebuffed Robert Sakowitz's pleas to remove the judge because of an alleged conflict of interest.

Gregory said Monday he felt vindicated but is stepping down anyway to move the legal battle along without further delays.

Bexar County Probate Judge Anthony Ferro will appoint another judge to preside over the battle between Sakowitz

and his nephew, Doug Wyatt.

Wyatt has accused Sakowitz of plundering the now-defunct Sakowitz Inc. chain of upscale retail stores at the expense of other relatives. Wyatt is the stepson of oil man Oscar Wyatt and the son of Lynn Wyatt, Sakowitz's sister.

A jury ruled in Sakowitz's favor last October, but Wyatt won approval from Gregory to pursue a new trial covering the same evidence.

Berg then claimed Gregory was compromised by his relationship with a free-lance writer and friend of the Wyatt family. Gregory and the writer had discussed cooperating on a book about the judge's most famous cases.



(Staff photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

These Pampa High School choir members display the trophies and plaques they won to earn UIL Sweepstakes honors for 1992. Pictured, back row, from left, are Jennifer Mays, Michael Dittmore, Shelley Vinson, and Jennifer Mouhot. Front row, from left, are Julie Smith, Kerrey Brown and Susan Thornton.

PHS choirs take Sweepstakes honors

Pampa High School choirs recently won four Sweepstakes at the Region I Concert/Sightreading contest held at West Texas State University in Canyon.

Earning a first division in both concert and sightreading to win the coveted Sweepstakes awards were Freshmen Mixed Choir and Combined Women's Choir. These two choirs were the only non-varsity choirs to earn Sweepstakes.

Winning Sweepstakes as varsity performing choirs were the Concert Choir and Concert Women. Earning a first division in sightreading only was the Concert Men. The Concert Choir won their seventh consecutive Sweepstakes this year.

Judging the UIL contest in performance were Christy Hayes of Big Spring, Robert Stovall of Fort Stockton, Craig Jones of Corpus Christy. In sightreading the judges were Ron Harden of Abilene, Suzanne Medlen of Odessa and Wayne Anderson of Clovis, N.M.

Also competing at the Greater Southwest Music Festival held in Amarillo at the Civic Center were the Freshmen Mixed Choir, Combined Women's Choir and Show Choir. All three groups earned a first division and the Show Choir won an Outstanding Choir award.

Judges were Bill Cormack of Austin, Bob Hynton of St. Louis, Mo., and Rod Walker, Kansas City, Mo.

SSA: Students should be ready to show Social Security cards when job hunting

WASHINGTON — The Social Security Administration wants to remind students applying for summer jobs that employers will ask to see their Social Security cards.

Lost or misplaced cards can be replaced by calling the nationwide

toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, or by visiting a local Social Security Office, noted U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm.

Students who have never been issued a Social Security number should apply in person at the nearest office.

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Arrests made in attack on truck driver in L.A. riot

By JAMES ANDERSON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police and FBI arrested three men today in the dramatic televised beating of a truck driver in the early hours of last month's riots, officials said.

FBI and police special weapons team officers raided six locations in the South Central area at about 2:30 a.m. and took three men into custody, said Mike Botula, a spokesman for the district attorney's office.

The names of those arrested were not immediately available.

ABC Network News reported that the men were booked for investigation of state charges of attempted murder, mayhem, robbery and torture of Reginald Denny and federal charges of interfering with a vehicle engaged in interstate commerce.

The men were taken into custody peacefully, ABC said.

On Monday, former CIA and FBI chief William Webster was picked by the Police Commission on Monday to lead an investigation of the riots, the worst in the United States this century. Fifty-two people were killed and damage was put at \$785 million.

The violence was touched off by

the verdict in another videotaped beating — the beating by police of motorist Rodney King.

Webster said his investigation of the riots will focus not only on the police response — the slowness of which has been blamed for Denny's beating — but on whether the mayor and the news media bear responsibility for the outbreak of violence.

"The whole country needs to understand what happened in Los Angeles," said Webster, also a former federal judge.

It is the second civilian panel to investigate the Police Department since 1991 King beating. A commission headed by former Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher last year accused the department of racism and brutality.

"I'm not going to quibble with it," Police Chief Daryl Gates said of the new inquiry. "I think the important thing to do is to stop the media riot on the police department."

The investigation will examine whether police planned and responded adequately and how news coverage and statements by public officials affected rioters, Webster said.

Webster, who retired as head of the CIA a year ago, said he also would look into what extent the

city's budget woes may have shorthanded the police. Gates, the police union and others have argued for years that the department's 8,000 officers are far too few to protect the city of 3.7 million.

The Police Department has been criticized for retreating from a flashpoint area where Denny and other motorists were pulled from cars and beaten, for leaving business owners to defend their stores and for telling victims there was nothing police could do.

The riots left 2,383 injured. The death toll was reduced by one on Monday when police said a victim actually was killed in a drug deal gone sour.

On Monday, Denny, 36, issued a statement from his hospital bed where he continues to recover from the assault that left him with severe head injuries.

"I know a lot of you want to know what I think of what happened," Denny said. "Quite frankly, I have no opinion on what happened and really have no idea of what happened."

"I don't believe in any slur against any person or any type of person," he said. "It was an unfortunate situation and I happened to be there in the middle of it."



Former CIA chief William Webster, right, and Hubert H. Williams, president of the Washington-based Police Foundation, answer questions Monday in Los Angeles.

Killer executed in Florida; court ruled he faked psychotic symptoms

By RON WORD
Associated Press Writer

STARKE, Fla. (AP) — A man who raped and killed a college student 15 years ago was put to death in Florida's electric chair today after the Supreme Court rejected his claims of mental incompetence.

Nollie Lee Martin, who was once judged by a court to be faking his symptoms of mental illness, was pronounced dead at 7:13 a.m., the governor's office said. He became the 28th inmate executed since

Florida resumed use of the death penalty in 1979.

He died after giving a long statement in which he said he might meet his victim in heaven "because I truly believe that is where I'm going."

Martin, 47, was convicted in the June 1973 slaying of Patricia Greenfield, a 19-year-old George Washington University student working a summer job at a convenience store. She was kidnapped during a robbery, raped, strangled and stabbed in the throat.

Defense attorney Richard Burr

claimed that Martin was brain-damaged and mentally ill and that the crime was the result of repeated beatings, sexual abuse and childhood accidents.

Burr circulated a videotape of Martin rocking back and forth, cradling his head and picking at sores on his skin.

But the tape failed to persuade Gov. Lawton Chiles to grant clemency. A federal judge had ruled in 1988 that Martin understood why he was being punished and had faked psychotic symptoms.

The Supreme Court unanimously denied a reprieve late Monday.

Before he died, Martin gave a long statement in which he apologized for the murder but claimed he was insane when it was committed.

"My suffering will be over in a few minutes. I just hope that those who are involved emotionally, spiritually and psychologically ... can understand when I say I am sorry," Martin said. "I am truly sorry from the bottom of my heart."

Martin's cousin Gary Forbes, who took part in the robbery and rape, is serving a life term.

Ms. Greenfield of Boynton Beach was working at a Cumberland Farms convenience store in Delray Beach on June 25, 1977, when Martin and Forbes walked in the store, grabbed two cases of beer and ordered her to give them the money in the cash register.

They then kidnapped her and drove to Martin's apartment where both men raped her. She was then driven to a Lantana dump where Martin choked her and stabbed her repeatedly in the throat.

Martin also was convicted of setting fire to an apartment building in 1972 that killed three people in Guilford County, N.C. He was paroled after four years.

Family feud suspected in murders

By JULIA PRODIS
Associated Press Writer

PINEDALE, Wyo. (AP) — Eight months before Susan and Gary Weiss were slain at their lakeside lodge, Susan received a birthday card wishing her "47 more years to spread the sunshine you are so great at spreading."

Ken "Bones" Nicodemus, who worked as a trail guide at their Ponderosa Lodge, was among those who signed the card. The 18-year-old now sits in jail, charged with murder.

Despite the cordial birthday card, friends and relatives of the slain couple and of Nicodemus paint a picture of feuding families, a real estate transaction gone bad and allegations of theft and unpaid wages.

The Weisses' bodies were found April 10 on a hillside about a mile from their lodge in the Wind River Mountains.

They had been shot to death four days before and dragged behind their own pickup on the winding snow-covered road above the lodge, which was closed for the season. The couple's dog, Yukon, led family friends to the scene.

Nicodemus was arrested a day

later, 100 miles away. He was sleeping in the couple's truck and had guns stolen from the lodge, authorities said.

Nicodemus is considered a juvenile in Wyoming, and authorities refused to discuss details of the case, as did his lawyer, Keith Goody.

But friends and family members said the trouble started last summer when Nicodemus' family and another family offered to buy the guest lodge. The families spent the summer there learning the business.

Relations grew strained as the summer wore on. Among other things, there were disagreements over terms of the sale, and the Weisses complained to friends that money was missing. Nicodemus, in turn, complained that the Weisses owed him hundreds of dollars in wages.

In September, Gary Weiss, 49, filed a complaint with Sublette County authorities claiming that Nicodemus had stolen a gun. Meanwhile, Nicodemus received a six-month jail sentence. Authorities won't say why, but his sister, Wanda Griffin, said it was alcohol-related.

About a week before the slayings, Nicodemus was moved from jail to a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in Rock Springs. Sources

speaking on condition of anonymity said he walked away the weekend before the slayings.

The night before the slayings, a state Transportation Department truck was stolen from Rock Springs. The department said it was found at the Ponderosa Lodge.

Griffin, 25, who lives in Meeteetse, acknowledged the bitterness between the families.

"I know the Weisses told a lot of lies around town about my family," she said. "My parents were trying to buy the lodge from Gary and Sue, and Gary and Sue ... were trying to sell it to someone else. They owed my parents and brother money for the summer at the lodge. They put money into it, money for repairs. They never got a dime out of it."

The Rev. Rick Way of Wind River Southern Baptist Church was a friend of the slain couple and counseled Nicodemus in jail.

"If he was the one who did it, I would say it was a vengeance back because of the differences they had ... a way he felt he could take out his anger," Way said.

"It's very unbelievable it could go to that extreme to get even with someone."

Inmate in critical condition after suicide try

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The man who killed a nurse and held eight people hostage in a hospital maternity ward last year was in critical condition after attempting to hang himself today, officials said.

University of Utah Health Sciences Center spokesman John Dwan said Richard Worthington was flown to the hospital about 3 a.m. and was in intensive care after suffering oxygen deprivation possibly for as much as five minutes.

Worthington is serving 35 years to life for the attack.

Corrections spokesman Dave Franchina said an officer making a count about 1:40 a.m. in the Utah State Prison's infirmary discovered that Worthington had attempted to hang himself with a pair of socks tied to a bar in a grate. Worthington had been kept in the prison infirmary because of two earlier, less serious, suicide attempts.

No notes were found, Franchina said.

Worthington, 40, was sentenced last month for killing nurse Karla Roth and holding eight people captive in the maternity wing of Alta View Hospital in Sandy.

He had pleaded guilty to one count of felony murder, eight counts of aggravated kidnapping and one of aggravated burglary.

Worthington recently said he wanted to change his plea, contending his attorney had coerced him into agreeing to the plea bargain that avoided a potential death sentence.

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The Pampa News Comic Page

The World Almanac® Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Tobacco
- chew
- Type of test
- Cone-bearing shrub
- Arm bone
- Reputative
- Sash
- Actor — Novello
- Slept like —
- Obtained
- Vats
- Piano keys (sl.)
- Claire, Wis.
- Airline info
- Become smaller
- Foe
- Still
- Skinny fishes
- Continent
- News
- Dec. holiday
- Aviv

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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DOWN

- Leave
- Edible seaweed
- the ground floor
- Become black
- Sine — non
- Citrus fruit
- Lucy
- Primary cell
- Baseballer Berra
- Central American oil tree
- Comedians
- Marquis de
- Frog genus
- Furze genus
- Colors
- Part of woven fabric
- Beaver
- Shade trees
- This (Sp.)
- Architect — van der Rohe
- New England university
- Spoke
- Native of Edinburgh
- Deprived of
- New York ball club
- Horseman-ship school
- Actress Burstin
- Group of two
- Center of shield
- Islands
- Finnish first name
- And others (2 wds.)
- Nuts
- Mona —
- Globe

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64		65		66						

WALNUT COVE

By Mark Cullum

ARLO & JANIS

By Jimmy Johnson

ECK & MEEK

By Howie Schneider

B.C.

By Johnny Hart

Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It's best not to count on others to get things organized today in an involvement you share with friends. If you want something done, you may have to do it yourself. 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.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If you use an indirect approach in your commercial affairs today, you're likely to be more successful. Don't tip your hand prematurely, and don't be too obvious about your intentions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If you feel uncertain about an arrangement you recently made with others, don't be afraid to try to alter it today. Changes that produce mutual advantages can be achieved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) An important objective is reachable today, but you might have to alter your tactics to achieve it. Be flexible and ready to capitalize on shifting circumstances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You should do rather well today in situations that challenge your imagination and creativity. Don't dodge assignments that appear too complex or difficult at first glance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You could be in for a very pleasant surprise today thanks to an arrangement you thought offered little possibility. You may reap substantial benefits.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Partnerships could be extremely lucky for you today, especially if your allies are bold. This is not a day for shrinking violets.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You are now in a cycle where it looks as though you'll receive the acknowledgment and rewards you've been hoping for. Instead of easing up at this time, push even harder.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Instead of trying to manipulate developments today, let nature run its course. You're in a fortunate trend, and Lady Luck needs room to operate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be hopeful and expectant today, because, just when you think an important matter can't be finalized to your satisfaction, events may take a turn for the better.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Try again today to get in touch with individuals who are pertinent to your immediate plans. They could now be more receptive to your ideas than they were previously.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You'll have to manage your resources with extreme skill today. Material trends are rather uncertain. Don't raise your expectations unrealistically.

MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong

MARMADUKE

By Brad Anderson

KIT N' CARLYLE

By Larry Wright

ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue

WINTHROP

By Dick Cavalli

SNAFU

By Bruce Beattie

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane

CALVIN AND HOBBS

By Bill Watterson

THE BORN LOSER

By Art and Chip Sansom

FRANK AND ERNEST

By Bob Thaves

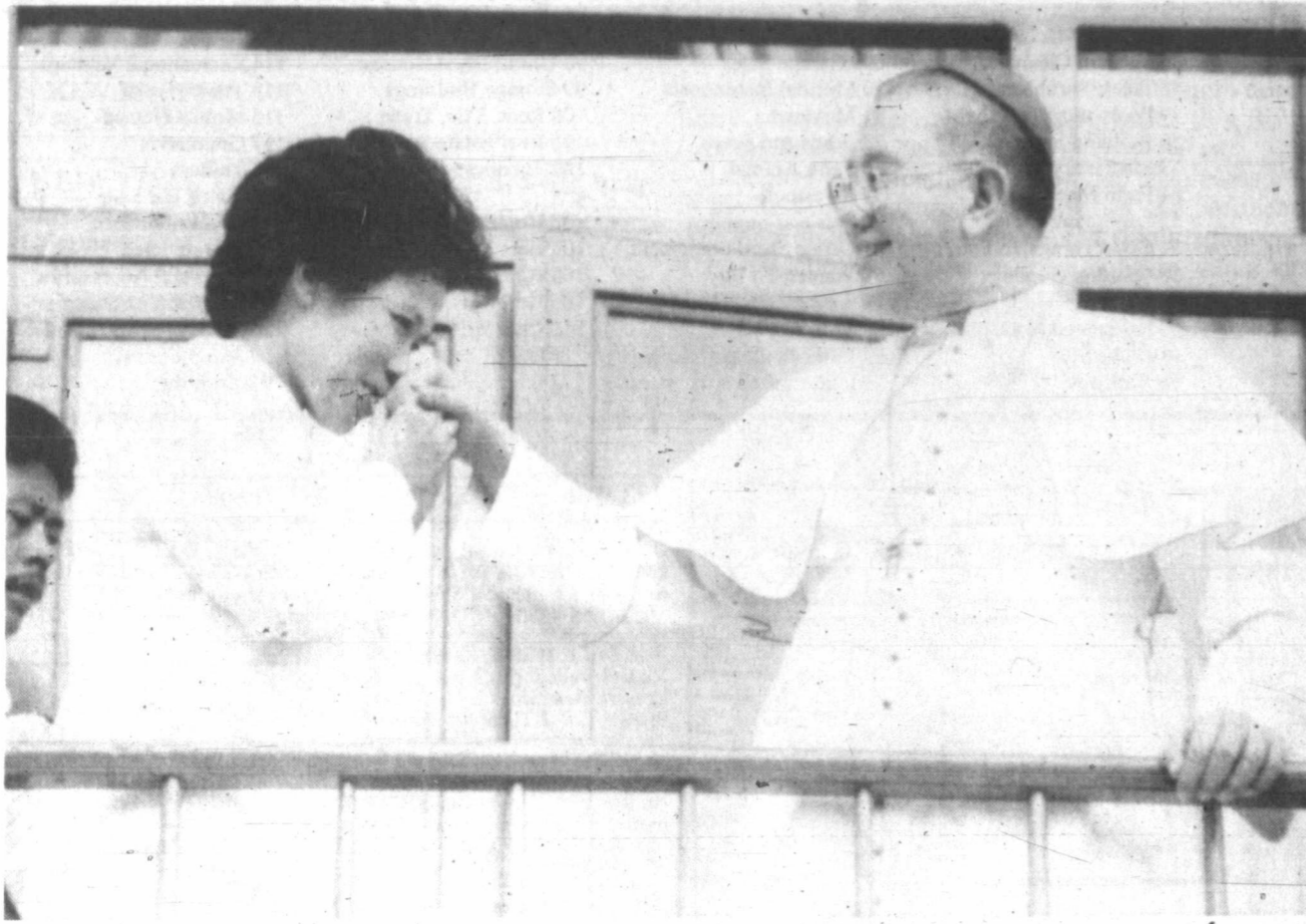
PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz

GARFIELD

By Jim Davis

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(AP Photo) Presidential candidate Miriam Defensor Santiago kisses the hand of Cardinal Jaime Sin following a meeting today in Manila. Santiago leads six other presidential hopefuls in early returns.

Provincial vote may be key to Philippines election win

By CLARO CORTES
Associated Press Writer

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The anti-corruption candidate leading the early tally in the Philippines presidential election today says the balloting demonstrated the strength of the democratic process.

Partial, unofficial returns today showed Miriam Defensor Santiago maintaining a slim lead over the candidate supported by departing President Corason Aquino and a figure closely associated with Ferdinand Marcos, the president ousted in a 1986 popular uprising.

Mrs. Santiago, who inspired enthusiasm with her verbal jabs at corrupt politicians, led with 164,913 votes, or nearly 28 percent, of an unofficial tally by ABS-CBN television.

Former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, backed by Mrs. Aquino, had 127,047, or 21.4 percent. Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, a businessman supported by Marcos' political network, had 108,381 or 18 percent. Marcos' widow, Imelda, was in fifth place.

The returns were based on less than 600,000 of the estimated 25 million votes cast Monday and came from too small an area to indicate a trend. However, Mrs. Santiago has

maintained her percentage lead since the tabulations began.

Voters also chose a new Congress, mayors, governors and more than 17,000 other officials from among more than 87,700 candidates.

Complete returns were expected to take more than a week to compile, partly because they are counted by hand. Winners assume office June 30.

As the count proceeded Monday night, bombs exploded at transmission towers in Bulacan province north of Manila and in suburban Caloocan. There were no injuries and damage was slight.

Police Brig. Gen. Gerardo Flores said the bombs may have been planted by supporters of losing candidates to disrupt the counting and keep winners from taking office. He did not specify which candidates.

"If the returns are lost, there is no basis for proclamation (of winners)," Flores said.

Mrs. Santiago said the early returns were encouraging for her darkhorse candidacy. She appealed to youth and voters disaffected with corruption and incompetence during the Aquino administration.

"I feel jubilant even more because I believe that our electoral process yesterday constituted a tri-

umph of democracy over the system of corrupt policy perpetrated by an oligarchy in our country for decades," she said.

Also running for president were Sen. Jovito Salonga, in fourth place at last count; House Speaker Ramon Mitra, in sixth; and Vice President Salvador Laurel, who was trailing.

Analysts said they expected Ramos, Cojuangco and perhaps others to close the gap and possibly overtake Mrs. Santiago when votes come in from rural areas traditionally dominated by political machines.

Mrs. Santiago, 46, a former immigration commissioner and agrarian reform secretary, was generally shrugged off early on by many analysts because of her weak national organization.

All seven presidential candidates ran on similar platforms, promising close relations with the United States, promoting democracy and rural development and encouraging foreign investment.

The election went smoothly in Manila and other major cities, but reports emerged of ballot-box thefts, shootings and intimidation in rural provinces.

Fifty-one people were slain in election-related violence after the campaign began in February.

'Draegermen' - mine rescuers are proud men in punishing job

By CHRIS TORCHIA
Associated Press Writer

PLYMOUTH, Nova Scotia (AP) — They're called "draegermen," the miners who head down rickety shafts searching for fellow miners trapped in collapses and explosions. They hope for survivors but often find only bodies.

They must move fast because miners left alive may be seriously injured or running out of air. But the draegermen face daunting obstacles, including intense heat, poisonous gas and piles of debris blocking their path.

Within an hour of the Saturday explosion at the Westray mine, the draegermen were struggling their way through the mine's ruined corridors. They have brought 11 bodies to the surface and the search for 15 others is continuing early today.

No contact has been made with the missing miners, who are presumed dead.

In a region where generations have worked the mines, the men are being held as heroes once again.

"They'll go through anything, that bunch," said James Taylor, a retired miner. "They're something out of this world."

The draegermen's reputation is won by extraordinarily hard work. At the Westray mine, they've been working several four-hour shifts around the clock, wearing masks and carrying oxygen tanks and other gear that weighs up to 40 pounds.

"You can picture it like climbing a steep hill in the dark and wearing scuba gear," said Colin Denner, chief of operations at Westray.

The rescuers have walked through clouds of methane, the gas believed to have caused the explosion. They also have been flushing air into the lower chamber of the mine and repairing damaged tunnel sections as they go.

The draegermen work in tandem, much like mountain climbers, said Gerald Phillips, the Westray mine manager and part of the search team.

"The first secures the area and the second goes in and takes over," said Phillips.

The term comes from an old name for a device for hauling coal, said Robert Hoegg, 71, who led the first search team down a mineshaft in neighboring Stellarton after a 1952 blast killed 19 miners.

Although the draegermen are often friends of the victims, they can't give in to sorrow upon finding a body, Hoegg said.

"If you felt there were any living beyond him, you would ignore him and go on," Hoegg said.

The Rev. Glen Matheson, a Presbyterian minister who has been counseling the workers, said he has seen the men laugh and cry over the past few days.

"They're literally working at the peril of their lives," he said. "We've lost track of what year it is, what day it is — the last 50 hours have been exhausting."

Matheson said he has been telling the rescuers to try to forget about the search during their brief breaks, whether by taking a walk in

the sunshine or going home and talking to their children.

Draegermen first earned wide acclaim for their daring in 1936, when they rescued three men trapped in a Nova Scotia gold mine, said local historian Jim Cameron.

After that rescue, a group of 20 draegermen toured the area demonstrating their skills to the public in town ice rinks.

"You have to be of a temperament that can be controlled," Cameron said. "No fire-eaters. The job calls for cool heads — slow, deliberate movements."

Hoegg shrugs off the praise. "It's like any other occupation. You have to know how to look after yourself."

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Bosnian leaders prepare to take control of airport

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bosnian authorities prepared to take control of Sarajevo airport today under an agreement committing the Serb-led federal army to relinquish its hold on the strategic facility.

The Bosnian capital city was generally quiet by daybreak, after sporadic overnight fighting in which at least one person was wounded, Sarajevo radio reported.

But the European Community pulled its last 12 observers out of Bosnia today, saying ethnic warfare had made their mission too dangerous.

"I have no right to put my people in danger," said Antonio dos Santos, the EC head of mission in Sarajevo. He said the observers would return once the situation is less dangerous.

The team left Sarajevo's western, Serb-held suburb of Ilidza shortly after daybreak for the Croatian port of Split in a convoy of four vehicles marked with blue EC flags.

A 25-man EC team was pulled out several weeks ago after a Belgian monitor was killed near the southwestern city of Mostar.

The airport pullback agreement could allow Bosnia-Herzegovina to reopen the airport and resupply the beleaguered, blockaded Bosnian capital. Few details were available about the agreement, which was reported by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, but other similar agreements have not come to fruition.

The army, in negotiations with Bosnian officials, also agreed to pull out its troops from four Sarajevo barracks and the central towns of Zenica, Travnik and Konjic, where Muslim Slavs are the majority. But it accused Muslim defenders in Sarajevo of blockading the barracks and preventing the withdrawals.

South African groups report progress on multiracial interim government

By BARRY RENFREW
Associated Press Writer

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Black and white groups reached tentative agreement on the first phase of an interim government that would replace white rule, officials said today.

Delegates at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) reached agreement Monday night on creating a 19-member multi-party "transitional executive council" to help run the country.

In other developments, the government was attacked in Parliament over a report on widespread corruption in a government department. Opposition parties called for the resignation of the government or ministers who administered the department.

Nineteen black and white organizations, including the government and the African National Congress, have been meeting since December to negotiate the end of apartheid and forge a new constitution.

Months of disagreement over terms for an interim government created concern that the groups would not achieve progress Friday and Saturday at the next main round of talks. Delegates said the agreement Monday should lead to progress.

Patrick Maduna, a negotiator from the Kangwane black homeland, said Monday's talks produced a "breakthrough" on the interim government issue.

ANC leader Thabo Mbeki said the agreement was an important step forward.

The proposed council would operate alongside the existing government to help prepare for elections for a full interim government. Smaller advisory councils would help oversee particular areas of government, such as finance and the state-owned media.

The transitional council would be appointed by President F.W. de Klerk with CODESA's approval.

But CODESA delegates in another working group were still far from agreement on how

to draw up a new constitution. The government wants a guarantee of white interests in any new constitution. The ANC and other opposition groups say this would amount to a veto and oppose special rights for minorities.

If an agreement is announced this weekend, an interim government could be in place within a couple months. However, de Klerk has made clear that he will remain the most powerful figure in any transitional arrangement.

In the Parliamentary debate Monday night in Cape Town, the pro-apartheid Conservative Party called for the government's resignation over corruption in the defunct Development Aid Department. A government inquiry found that officials diverted funds intended for black housing and other projects.

Government ministers rejected the calls. It appeared de Klerk intended to try and ride out the storm since the opposition parties in Parliament have little power.



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