

The Pampa News

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THURSDAY

Clinton must twist arms to sell economic elixir

By STEVEN KOMAROW
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton mobilized his administration today to promote his \$499 billion package of tax increases and spending cuts. There was a calculated sense of urgency as Vice President Al Gore declared, "Now is the time to really belly up to these tough decisions."

Clinton translated his campaign themes into an economic plan on Wednesday and acknowledged in his televised speech to Congress that it wasn't going to please everybody.

The first public opinion surveys taken after Clinton's speech found strong viewer support for the president's economic proposals. But Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas said the GOP would not accept the Clinton program "in its present form." Dole called it "very heavy on the tax side and very weak" on spending cuts, echoing a blast of criticism from Ronald Reagan.

Ross Perot praised the speech as "a good artist's sketch," noting pointedly that it was up to Congress now to settle on the details.

Leading the administration sales campaign on Capitol Hill today was Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, who told the Senate Budget Committee: "When the plan is fully operational, 58 percent of the savings will come from spending cuts and only 42 percent from revenues. In the years beyond, the proportion

President receives mixed reviews from area voters

By JOHN McMILLAN
Staff Writer

Local observers alternately congratulated or criticized President Clinton's proposed \$246 billion in tax increases and \$253 billion in spending cuts over four years as a means of curbing the federal deficit.

"It's a start," said John Warner, chairman of the Gray County Democratic Party, referring to spending cuts. "We must reduce our deficit. For too long our country has existed on borrowed money."

"A good start," echoed U.S. Rep. Bill Sarpalius, D-Amarillo, in a statement released to the media.

"For too long now, our presidents and the Congress have talked about reducing the deficit, cutting wasteful government spending and streamlining our bloated bureaucracies," Sarpalius continued. "Now, we finally have a president who is showing

the leadership and presenting a blueprint to the Congress that starts the ball rolling in that direction."

Sarpalius announced that he plans to return to the 13th Congressional District on Friday and spend three days talking with constituents about the president's proposals.

Noting that Clinton's legislative package represents a \$1 budget cut for every \$1 raised in new taxes, Sarpalius said, "I hope the Congress will try to achieve the goal of cutting \$2 from the budget for every \$1 it raises in new taxes and that the vast majority of both cuts and taxes (will) be used to reduce the deficit."

Don Babcock, president of First National Bank, also said he supports a government spending reduction of \$2 for every \$1 in tax increases. Babcock said he plans to write Clinton and his representatives in Congress to advocate such a policy.
Please see REACTION, page 2

of spending cuts remains at least that high."

The president was heading to Missouri and Ohio to continue the task of selling his program to the taxpayers who will have to pay the cost.

"The president wants to go out

and talk directly to the American people," said press secretary Dee Dee Myers. Before leaving the White House, Clinton set aside an hour to work the phones lobbying for support in Congress and elsewhere.

Administration officials scheduled appearances in 28 states over the next two days. In addition to Bentsen, Labor Secretary Robert Reich, and Budget Director Leon Panetta were testifying on Capitol Hill. Gore made the rounds of morning television shows.

The key to the strategy is convincing voters to accept additional burdens and live with fewer government benefits, for the sake of future generations.

"Now is the time to really belly up to these tough decisions and start being responsible and shaping our future, creating jobs and getting our economy moving again," he told ABC.

Government economic reports released today mixed good news with bad. Consumer prices jumped 0.5 percent in January, the steepest rise in two years, while the nation's trade deficit widened for the first time in five years. But first time jobless claims unexpectedly dropped by 19,000 in early February.

In his first address to Congress, Clinton outlined his vision of smaller deficits through higher income taxes on the wealthy, increased energy taxes and selected spending cuts, including a one-year freeze on federal pay.

"If we do not act now we will not recognize this country 10 years from now" as the national debt approaches the size of the nation's annual economic output, Clinton said.
Please see CLINTON, page 2

Harvesters' hurrah



(Staff photo by John McMillan)

Pampa High School cheerleader Kimberly Martin, left, and school mascot Kara Kay Skaggs, both of whom are juniors, put the finishing touches on a poster exhorting the Harvester basketball team onto victory in the bi-district playoffs beginning Tuesday. The poster, which the girls painted Wednesday afternoon in the cafeteria, asks: "Who let the Harvesters loose?"

City studies traffic woes

By RANDAL MCGAVOCK
Staff Writer

Two problems recently faced by the city of Pampa's Traffic Commission are the congestion around many of the schools and the unmarked intersections found throughout the city.

"Right now we're working on a project to try to improve the traffic conditions around the public schools," said Steve Lemons, engineering technician for the city and an ex officio member of the commission. Lemons thinks that one solution might just be a matter of courtesy.

"Probably 50 percent of the problem is that it's usually just a handful of people that cause the problems and if we can get these people to be more considerate of each other that would help immensely," he said.

Another problem mentioned by Lemons is the lack of posted signs

around the schools designating loading and unloading areas. These areas would be for parents to pick up and drop off their children.

Public Works Director Nathan Hopson sees that as a source of the congestion problem. It's his opinion that in the past, children were more inclined to either walk or ride a bicycle to school and fewer cars meant less congestion.

As for the unmarked intersections throughout the city, a study is currently under way to establish a three- to five-year plan to mark every unmarked intersection. The plan should be ready in the next couple of months.

Recently, Lora Barber, a Pampa resident, was severely injured and eventually died following an accident at an unmarked intersection. Following the accident and a public meeting, the city erected signs at the

intersection at which the accident took place.

Normally, a city ordinance has to be passed to erect a sign or stop lights at an intersection, a process which could take considerable time. However, the law allows Hopson's office to construct signs or lights on a temporary basis, if needed.

In the past, two problems that occasionally surfaced had to do with signs erected without the proper city ordinance and signs missing or not erected despite a city ordinance, according to Lemons.

The voting members of the Traffic Commission are: Dennis Laycock, chairman, Lee Fraser, Marion Teel, Don Turner, Wallace Bruce, Marvin Bowman and Gary Gattis.

The commission meets the second Thursday of every other month at 7 p.m. in City Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for April 8.



(AP Photo)

President Clinton gestures as he speaks Wednesday night. Vice President Al Gore sits behind.

M.K. Brown Auditorium records largest deficit in its history

By JOHN McMILLAN
Staff Writer

The deficit incurred by the M.K. Brown Auditorium and Civic Center during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 was the largest in the history of that facility, a city official said last week.

Operation of the auditorium incurred a deficit of \$86,227 during the last fiscal year, and transfers of funds from other accounts in the city budget reduced the overall deficit to \$59,355, said John Horst, finance director for the city of Pampa.

The auditorium building has served as a site for civic and cultural events in Pampa since completion of the building about 20 years ago. There are more than 35,000 square feet in the auditorium and civic center.

The net deficit of \$59,355 includes a \$17,495 net deficit incurred from the previous fiscal year, Horst said.

The largest previous net deficit of the auditorium operation, about \$23,000, occurred about five years ago, Horst said.

Horst noted that nearly all of the deficit from the last fiscal year

could be attributed to either the purchase of new equipment or unexpected maintenance and repair expenses. Among the purchases he cited were electrical renovation work, at a cost of \$12,999; a new electronic signboard or marquee for the center, costing \$11,466, that was erected along Hobart; and a new heating and cooling compressor, at a cost of \$6,639.

"We feel confident that these expenses were needed," Horst said, adding that the city will each month monitor expenses at the auditorium and civic center, as for any department of the city.

The budgeted amount for running the M.K. Brown Auditorium and Civic Center during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 1992, was \$156,793, Horst said.

The amount budgeted by the city for the auditorium and civic center during the current fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, is \$166,675, Horst said.

Financial information about administration of the M.K. Brown Auditorium and Civic Center is contained in the city's comprehensive annual financial report, which the Pampa City Commission approved

on Feb. 9. The audit report, prepared by Brown, Graham & Co. in Amarillo, found no impropriety in fiscal management by the city.

Horst said the auditors were "confident" that M.K. Brown Auditorium was well managed. Seleta Chance, manager of M.K. Brown Memorial Auditorium and Civic Center since September 1991, has done an "excellent" job, Horst said.

"We're seeing how the last few years the auditorium is being promoted more heavily than it ever has before," Horst said. Under Chance's management, Horst said, the number of events offered and attendance at events in the civic center has increased.

The auditorium budget was the only one of the city's special revenue funds that incurred a net deficit after transfers of funds from other income sources. The reduction in the \$86,227 deficit of the M.K. Brown Auditorium and Civic Center operation during fiscal 1992 was made possible by a transfer of \$44,367 in interest from the M.K. Brown trust fund account, a fund transfer that is done annually for the auditorium operation.

Although the report found a

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — A sniper wounded an Australian soldier on foot patrol in a market Thursday, and Canadian troops killed one Somali and wounded two in a mob of stone-throwing protesters, officials said.

Meanwhile, Marine Col. Fred Peck announced that nearly 3,000 more American troops are to leave Somalia beginning next week. U.S.-led forces have faced scattered violence since they arrived Dec. 9 to impose order and ensure that relief shipments reach people stricken by war and famine. Four Americans have died, including two

wounded. A third Somali was injured, but Labbe said he believed it was unrelated to the shooting.

Peck announced Thursday that almost 3,000 American troops would leave Somalia starting next week, including 2,200 from the U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 14th Infantry based at Fort Drum in New York and other units.

The withdrawal will include 25 Army helicopters and four Marine helicopters and 250 Air Force personnel, Peck said.

That will reduce the U.S. presence in Somalia to about 15,000 troops and support staff.

\$95,000 deficit incurred in the general fund, which does not include the M.K. Brown Auditorium and Civic Center fund, the report noted that the \$95,000 deficit was erased

by transfers of funds. The overall city budget during fiscal 1992 was \$6.5 million, excluding the budget for utilities and the municipal golf course, according to the report.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Texas last in spending per resident

Of all 50 states, Texas is last in overall per capita spending by the state government. The state spent \$1,558 per person in 1991—the national average was \$2,204 per person. Alaska was first at \$7,883 per resident.

Per capita spending by state	Selected categories of spending	Per capita spending
■ \$3,000 or more	Texas' rank	Texas U.S.
■ \$2,500 to \$3,000	50th Total	\$1,558 \$2,204
■ \$2,000 to \$2,500	38th Public	428 520
■ \$1,500 to \$2,000	31st Higher education	282 285
	44th Public welfare	311 495
	45th Highways	151 187
	32nd Hospitals	76 97
	28th Corrections	61 76
	48th Health	46 85
	46th Police	12 22

SOURCES: U.S. Bureau of the Census and John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

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VOL. 85, NO. 270

Partly Cloudy

12 PAGES, 1 SECTION

Classroom Corner



Pampa High School members of DECA earned honors in regional competition. They are front row, from left, Cory Wagner, Jessica Carr and Debbie Kell. Back row, from left are Laura Curfman, Tausha Summers, Melanee Grange, Marci Cates and Tabatha Williams.

Marketing education students take honors

On Feb. 1 and 2, eight marketing education students from Pampa High School participated in the District 8 Career Development Conference for DECA, Texas Association. The conference was held at the Wichita Falls Convention Center, Wichita Falls.

In addition to business meetings, career workshops and educational tours, students participated in curriculum related competitive events which allow them to compare their knowledge and skills about various concepts in marketing, merchandising and management, with those of students from 29 high schools in the district. About 400 DECA members and advisors took part in the conference.

Students who were recognized as district finalists at the awards ceremony earned the right to compete at the state career development conference in Arlington March 4-7. About 2,200 DECA members are expected to participate.

Students recognized as state finalists at the Grand Awards Assembly on March 6 will earn the right to compete at the National DECA Career Development Conference in Orlando, Fla., May 1-5, with part of their expenses paid by the Texas Association of DECA.

According to local chapter advisor, Donna Crow, the following will be representing the Pampa Chapter of DECA at the Arlington conference: Debbie Kell, entrepreneurship

written event; Marci Cates, chapter public relations project; Melanee Grand, creative marketing research project; Laura Curfman, entrepreneurship participating event; Cory Wagner, entrepreneurship participating event; Jessica Carr, general marketing (master employee level). Tabatha Williams, finance and credit, and Tausha Summers, quick serve restaurant, were named alternates in their respective areas.

DECA is a 47 year old youth organization with almost 12,000 members statewide and 150,000 nationwide. DECA's roll is to provide leadership experiences and recognition for its members as they prepare for careers in marketing, management and entrepreneurship.

Congratulations!



All-State band students Damian Hill and Michael Hunt and All-State choir students Jennifer Mays and Tracy Bruton performed with the all-state music groups in San Antonio on Saturday.

Division I honors garnered by musicians

"Pride of Pampa" band students traveled to West Texas State University on Feb. 6 to participate in solo and ensemble contest.

Taking Division I honors were: Daryl Auwen, Ray Adamson, Jason Jones, Jason Etheredge, Kerry Ford, Brad Newman,

Michael Gandy, Tausha Summers, Norbert Ybarra, Gene Dougherty, Jennifer Barker, Amy Clark, April Gomez, Bryan Stephenson, Amy Malone, Shonda Harper, Heather Wheeley, Denise Reynolds, Stephanie Williams, Danica Weeks, Ashlee Bohannon, Andy

Elsheimer, Chris Jaramillo, Chris Grusendorf, Micah Cobb, Kelley Dewey, Amanda Kludt, Michael Hunt, Erik Estrada, Regina Hopson, Hollie Logue, Summer Belt, Kim McGivern, Talyia Lane, Steve Radcliff and Jeremy Roberts.

Honor Band selects Pampa music students

Several students from the "Pride of Pampa" band recently auditioned for the Honor Band of America. Auditions were open to students from any band program in the United States. The Honor Band is sponsored by the Bands of America as part of the National Concert Band Festival in Chicago, Ill.

Those named to the band will rehearse during the festival and will present a concert on the final evening of the Honors Concert March 27.

The 1993 band will be composed of students from 28 schools from

across the nation. Pampa had the second highest number of students named to the band.

Selected from Pampa were Jeremy Roberts, Amy Malone, Jennifer Barker, Maressa Bailey, Chris

Jaramillo, Michael Hunt, Micah Brooks, Jason Jones, Ryan Bennett and Jason Etheredge. They will perform under the direction of conductor John Paynter of Northwestern University.



Japan Day

Horace Mann Elementary students model Japanese clothing they wore on Jan. 29 when they had school Japanese-style after the visit of intern Chiharu Tadokoro. She instructed the students in Japanese customs and education. Students, front left, are Santana Hayworth and Stewart Curry. Back row, from left, are Justin Anderson, Robin Reidle, Kori Dunn, Jennifer Peña, Joshua Mullen and Jared Dunham. They are students of Miss Pepper.

Books introduce the President

By SALLY WILLIAMS COOK
For ALL Special Features

The arrival of a new administration brings renewed interest in Washington, D.C., the White House and the president. Several books for young readers on these subjects show how the federal government works.

'Bill Clinton and Al Gore: The Story of Our Nation's Leaders'
Kate McMullan contrasts the diverse backgrounds of Bill Clinton and Al Gore in her 108-page biography for ages 9 and up. "Bill Clinton and Al Gore: The Story of Our Nation's Leaders" (Dell Yearling) chronicles Clinton's bittersweet childhood, youth and adulthood with alternating chapters about Gore's childhood as the son of Sen. Al Gore.

Written in a lively style, McMullan's biography captures the flavor of the "baby boom era" — while Clinton and Gore emerge as highly competent — yet complex — human beings. Eight pages of black-and-white photographs and a glossary at the end of the book provide additional resources.

'Our President: Bill Clinton'
For younger children, "Our President: Bill Clinton" by Shelley Bedick (Scholastic) introduces

Clinton in simple, straightforward language. Beginning readers will enjoy the color photographs opposite or above each of the 32 pages. Some of Clinton's campaign promises — such as making sure children and grown-ups get the health care they need — are described. The relationship between the Clintons and their daughter Chelsea is sweetly portrayed.

Clinton Portrait of a Victory'
"Clinton Portrait of a Victory" (Warner) provides a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the candidate's highs and lows in his quest for the presidency. Kids ages 10 and up will revel in more than 125 black-and-white photographs of Clinton on the campaign trail.

Photojournalist P.F. Bentley, on special assignment for Time magazine, was allowed complete access to the Clinton campaign. Some of the more compelling photographs are Clinton fighting to control his emotions after he is welcomed on a return visit to New Hampshire, Clinton meeting with Jesse Jackson and Hillary and Bill Clinton holding hands on a late-night flight home.

Contributions by award-winning writers Roger Rosenblatt and Michael Kramer make this a thought-provoking diary of a tough campaign.

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HURRY IN FOR BEST SELECTION

Drug combination stops AIDS virus reproduction in test tube

By MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists said today that a novel, three-drug combination devised by a graduate student stopped the AIDS virus from reproducing in the test tube. Now the question is whether it can work in the human body.

"It would be foolish to underestimate the opposition," commented Dr. Douglas Richman of the University of California at San Diego. "But it's certainly an exciting and reasonable hypothesis and it merits testing."

The strategy was devised by Yung-Kang Chow, a 31-year-old at Harvard Medical School who is doing his thesis under the direction of Dr. Martin Hirsch.

They used the standard AIDS drugs AZT and didoxynosine, also called ddI, and a third compound called pyridinone. The three drugs were chosen to counter the AIDS virus' ability to evolve and become resistant to individual drugs.

"We can prevent infection of new cells by this technique better than we have been able to do with any other strategy we've studied over the past six or seven years," Hirsch said.

If the technique works in people, a patient's immune system might be able to "at least keep



Dr. Yung-Kang Chow

the virus in control for long periods of time, and perhaps forever," he said in a telephone interview.

The work is presented in today's issue of the journal Nature by Hirsch, Chow and others at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard.

All three drugs attack a single enzyme, called reverse transcriptase, which the virus needs to reproduce.

The idea behind the "convergent combination therapy" was that the virus would be unable to resist such a focused triple attack,

Chow said in a telephone interview.

And if the enzyme can be prevented from working, it might also keep the virus from evolving into drug-resistant strains, he said.

In one of the new experiments, scientists infected blood cells with HIV, the AIDS virus, and then waited a week until HIV reproduction was at its peak. Then they added the three-drug combination.

By 35 days later, the infection was no longer detectable. After 49 days of treatment the drugs were removed, and no HIV reproduction was detected for the next 45 days, the balance of the experiment.

Hirsch said that while the virus was apparently eliminated under certain conditions, "it would be a mistake to say we can eradicate the virus when it's present already within a cell."

Starting this spring, the three-drug combination will be tested for signs of usefulness in a study of people with advanced HIV infections, he said.

"We've got to see what it does within the individual," commented Dr. Jay Levy of the University of California at San Francisco. The idea "is a theoretically very interesting and believable hypothesis with the data to support it."

Extra calcium helps aging bones

BOSTON (AP) — A new study offering some of the strongest evidence yet that extra calcium keeps women's bones strong after menopause should erase any doubts about the benefits of taking supplements, experts say.

In today's New England of Medicine, a New Zealand team reported that calcium supplements reduced women's annual bone loss by one-third to one-half.

"Although we do not know everything we would like to know about this issue, we know enough to act now," Dr. Robert P. Heaney of Creighton University wrote in an accompanying editorial.

Women typically lose bone density after menopause, increasing their risk of fractures. The belief has been growing for several years that taking extra calcium slows this bone loss. But skeptics remain, in part because some studies failed to show a benefit.

Heaney said women should be encouraged to take both calcium and vitamin D, which also probably protects bones, "without waiting for more information."

He said women should take at

least 1,000 milligrams of calcium a day and preferably 1,500 milligrams, and they should take between 400 and 800 international units of vitamin D.

Heaney noted that even a 20 percent reduction in the rate of hip fractures would mean 40,000 to 50,000 fewer of these breaks in the United States each year. This alone would save \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion in medical bills and prevent much suffering.

The latest study was directed by Dr. Ian R. Reid of the University of Auckland and conducted on 122 women who had gone through menopause at least three years earlier.

The women were already getting about 750 milligrams of calcium a day, which is about 50 percent more than U.S. women typically consume. Half were randomly chosen to take an extra 1,000 milligrams daily, while the rest got dummy pills.

Women in the comparison group lost about 1 percent of their bone a year. Overall, this loss was reduced by 43 percent in the calcium users.

"There now seems to be little question about what to do, whereas before there was uncertainty about

how solidly we could make a recommendation," commented Dr. Robert Katz of Rush Medical College in Chicago.

Heaney noted that 43 calcium studies have been published since 1988. Of these, 27 found calcium helped, and 16 did not.

"In a presidential election, such a majority would be considered a landslide, but for scientists, the 16 negative studies leave a nagging doubt," he wrote.

Some of the studies were based on dietary records, which are notoriously inaccurate. But in 19 of the 43, scientists controlled the amount of calcium that women took. And in 16 of those, calcium slowed or stopped bone loss.

In the first few years after menopause, women lose bone quickly because of their bodies' reduced estrogen levels. The effects of calcium only become apparent when this rapid bone loss levels off.

Heaney said that 12 of the 19 controlled calcium studies excluded women early after menopause, and all 12 showed a significant benefit of calcium.

Lawmakers want to ease insurance pain of tickets

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas motorists could escape higher insurance costs if they are ticketed for going up to 70 mph on a highway under a proposal being pushed by a state lawmaker.

"They can still fine you ... but it doesn't go on your record for insurance purposes," Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland, said Wednesday.

Craddick in 1991 touted a bill to allow drivers to just pay \$5 if stopped for driving 70 mph on the 65-mph

interstate. Each motorist would have been entitled to a pack of five \$5 coupons for this purpose each year.

This year, Craddick filed a similar measure. But he said he's amending it after meeting with representatives of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

"I still think the fine is ridiculous," Craddick said. But he said the main concern is "that people are getting hit real hard on the insurance."

The federal government lowered the

speed limit nationally in 1974. But Craddick said, "We did this back when we had a real energy crisis in the country. We really don't have that today."

His bill would apply to motorists driving between 55 mph and 70 mph on highways built for the higher speed. It would not apply to people driving over 70 mph.

The measure is pending in the House Transportation Committee, which hasn't held a hearing on it, Craddick said.

'State jails' proposed for prison crowding

AUSTIN (AP) — A lawmaker says a new system of state jails could help solve problems with Texas' overcrowded prisons.

Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, says the prison system today is "broken down and near meltdown."

Whitmire on Wednesday proposed building 40,000 state jail beds that he said could keep penitentiary space available for dangerous criminals, guarantee that offenders now released on probation served time, and relieve the huge backlog of state inmates being housed in county jails.

He estimated the cost of building a system of 2,000-inmate state jails at about \$500 million. But he said it is needed to overcome the staggering prison problems — from overcrowded penitentiaries to lawsuits and possibly massive fines against the state — that Texas now faces.

"In plain talk, the system is broken," said Whitmire. "This (proposal) will cost money. If we do nothing, it will cost much more."

Whitmire, chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, said he is drafting legislation to:

- Require those convicted of capital murder to be sentenced either to death or life without parole.
 - Create the 40,000 state jail beds for nonviolent criminals.
 - Allow judges to sentence nonviolent criminals to four years of community supervision, up to two of which could be spent in the jails.
 - Abolish deferred adjudication, which can delay punishment, for sex offenders.
- Whitmire said state jails could provide drug and alcohol treatment, allow offenders to complete their education and keep parole as an incentive for good behavior.
- The dormitory-style jails would be cheaper to build than conventional

prisons, which would be reserved for more dangerous criminals, he said.

"These are not prisons. These are going to be jails, for short-term incarceration," Whitmire said.

"I would like to see the 109,000 (prison beds) that will be completed by 1995 be for bad, violent offenders — rapists, murderers, child molesters, repeat offenders, folks that need to be there for significant periods of time."

Whitmire said a state jail could give such criminals drug and alcohol treatment and help them get an education. That would reduce the chances of them repeating crimes, he said.

"Most of the offenders I'm speaking of never get (to prison). They're paroled directly out of the county jails," he said.

Instead, the lawmaker said, the state should "give them some time (incarceration) before they become the violent ones. Give them some time to get them off drugs and alcohol. Give them minimal educational requirements."

In an address to the Senate, Whitmire summarized the grim prison picture now facing the state.

The current prison system has a capacity of about 58,000. Some 19,800 other criminals are in county jails awaiting transfer. Many of those will be paroled before ever reaching a state prison, Whitmire said.

A total of 185 criminals are being sentenced daily, but only 125 are being admitted to the overcrowded prison system.

Prison construction programs will expand the system to 109,346 beds by 1995, Whitmire said, but projections estimate 21,000 more will still be in county jails then.

The state has pledged in settling two lawsuits to take thousands of criminals out of county jails over the next two years. Failure to do so can mean millions of dollars in fines.

Greenberg have introduced separate measures that would require former board members to wait a certain time period after leaving the agency before acting as consultants.

The measure by Place, D-Gatesville, did not include a specific time period. However, Kyle suggested a period of at least six years.

The measure by Greenberg, D-Austin, would require former board members to wait 10 years before representing people before the panel. It would also force parole consultants to register with the state and pay an annual fee of \$100.

Both bills were left pending until next week.

Parole board head testifies before House committee

AUSTIN (AP) — The chairman of the state parole board says parole consultants have no influence over whether a prisoner is granted early release and are only out to make money.

Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles Chairman Jack Kyle also told the House Corrections Committee Wednesday that, if the law allowed, he would prohibit such consulting.

He urged the committee to set limits on former parole board members representing persons before the panel. "I suggest that you pass legislation that comes as close to abolishing it as you possibly can," he said.

Reps. Allen Place and Sherri

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ACROSS

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- Changeable
- Ravine
- Center of shield
- Interior spaces
- Very softly (abbr.)
- Dad's partner
- Tapestry
- That woman
- Half an em
- Small evergreen
- Clothes tinter
- Made serious
- Singer — Summer
- Employed — Alto
- California Harbors
- Completely waterless

DOWN

- Japanese robe
- Missile abbr.
- Boxing-victory abbr.
- Symbol for thallium
- Longed (for)
- Fashion designer Donna —
- Goddess of discord
- Anglo-Saxon money
- Proceed
- Short dash
- Vapors
- Musical drama
- Walked
- Buenos —
- Church council
- Basil-and-garlic sauce
- Apportions
- Tibet's neighbor
- Some Europeans
- Canoe carrying
- Loses color
- Egg dish
- Strike violently
- Roto —
- Positive words
- Attitudes
- Gasp
- Commanded
- Range of knowledge
- Outfit
- Concerning
- Irma — Douce

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	D	K	E	N	Y	A	A	D	O
A	D	Z	W	E	E	S	T	M	O
A	T	A	B	A	L	E	L	L	E
L	I	I	K	R	A	L	L		
U	K	E	S	C	I	S	M	I	T
B	O	A	U	R	N	S	E	A	R
O	R	S	N	I	F	T	E	R	A
A	E	R	O	B	O	A	R	R	I
T	A	I	L	S	L	P	E	N	D
B	A	T	I	K	A	R	E		
P	H	A	R	O	S	I	R	E	F
A	I	L	K	I	O	S	K	E	T
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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34									36
37									39
40				41					42
43									45
									46
47									48

WALNUT COVE

By Mark Cullum

How'd you like that electric fireplace log I gave you, Grampa?

A lot less trouble than a real one, isn't it?

Heck it is...

I had to soak it all night in gasoline before the silly thing would burn.

ARLO & JANIS

By Jimmy Johnson

CAREFUL, DAD! THE BAG GETS REALLY HOT.

YEOW!

DID DADDY HELP YOU MAKE SOME POPCORN?

ECK & MEEK

By Howie Schneider

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...

THE MIRROR'S STARTING TO GO

B.C.

By Johnny Hart

DRAGOON

A THUG WITH A DRESS ON.

WILEY'S DICTIONARY

MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong

KISS

KISS

MARMADUKE

By Brad Anderson

GIGGLE GIGGLE GIGGLE GIGGLE GIGGLE

"Now I know what that 'Beware - Happy Dog!' sign meant."

KIT N' CARLYLE

By Larry Wright

CLINTON TALKS BIG ABOUT DIVERSITY, BUT HE STILL HAIN'T APPOINTED A SECRETARY OF CATS.

ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue

MEN DON'T HAVE TAILS, OOOOLA!

WELL, SHE SWORE THESE TWO DID, AND SHE ISN'T THE KIND WHO MAKES UP STORIES!

UMMMM! OF COURSE! YOU'LL LIKE TALK HER ALLEY TO HER? HER NAMES LITA!

TELL ME, HAVE ANY MORE KIDS DISAPPEARED SINCE SHE SAW THESE, UM, GUYS?

YES! TWO MORE DIDN'T RETURN FROM THE SPRING! YESTERDAY THAT'S SERIOUS! 'RYING TO TELL YOU!

SEVEN KIDS MISSING? WHAT IS THIS 'SERIOUS' 'RYING TO TELL YOU!

THAT'S 'SERIOUS' 'RYING TO TELL YOU!

WINTHROP

By Dick Cavalli

MY DAD SAYS, WHEN HE WENT TO SCHOOL, HE WAS ALWAYS FIRST IN HIS CLASS.

IN HIS GRADES, YOU MEAN?

NO... IN THE LUNCHROOM LINE.

SNAFU

By Bruce Beattie

"I'd like enough Elvis stamps to wallpaper my den, please."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

"Please pass the black salt."

CALVIN AND HOBBS

By Bill Watterson

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: THIS WAY

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: NEXT SIGN

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: LOOK OUT!

IT'S LIKE SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL.

THE BORN LOSER

By Art and Chip Sansom

HELLO? MRS. THORNAPPLE, THIS IS YOUR INSURANCE AGENT...

ABOUT THE CLAIM YOUR HUSBAND JUST SUBMITTED ON YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE... YES?

I'M AFRAID "GET WELL" CARDS AREN'T COVERED

FRANK AND ERNEST

By Bob Thaves

I DON'T HAVE ANY OPINIONS ANYMORE... I'VE BEEN NEUTERED.

PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz

I'LL BE THE SHEPHERD AND YOU BE A SHEEP OKAY?

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY, "BAA!"

GARFIELD

By Jim Davis

BEWARE OF THE LITTLE DOGS

BEWARE OF THE LITTLE DOGS

YEAH, RIGHT.

GRR! GRR! GRR!

BEWARE OF THE LITTLE DOGS

Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Today you have the ability to expand and improve upon the ideas of your comrades. Fortunately, you should have ample raw materials to draw upon. Get a jump on your life by understanding the influences which are governing you in the year ahead. Send for Aquarius' 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.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Joint ventures look promising for you today. You could be lucky in helping to advance an idea that another person has originated.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Friends who are involved with you socially today will find you refreshing because of your sincere demeanor. Your words will have impact because you will only compliment pals who truly deserve praise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Do not waste time on insignificant objectives today. You're in a very good achievement cycle, so go after targets that are big and meaningful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) The wheel of fortune seems to be spinning in your direction today, and you could benefit from it in two instances. It will be up to you to recognize your opportunities.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Some interesting developments might occur today that won't be orchestrated by you, but they could still produce advantages as if you designed them yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If you have an important matter to work out today, avoid any committee involvement. Try to get to the top decision maker on a one-to-one basis. The results should be gratifying.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Instead of delegating assignments today regarding matters that affect your material security, take care of things yourself. You'll do better in this matter than your appointee.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Friends who are associated with you today in bold, imaginative endeavors should consider themselves fortunate. Your luck will carry both them and you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) The welfare of others is apt to be your prime concern today. Even though your motives will be noble, you could also derive fringe benefits from your selflessness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You are now in a good cycle for realizing your hopes and expectations. However, they can only be achieved if you proceed in a practical fashion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your two strongest areas for probable gains today pertain to finance and status. Try to focus on one or both without getting sidetracked.

Sports

Fort Elliott, Hartley play numbers game

By DAN FROMM
Sports Writer

advanced to the regional tournament Fort Elliott, at 20-5, is a tough bi-district opponent.

The Fort Elliott Lady Cougars play Hartley at 7 p.m. Friday at West Texas High School in a bi-district game that, according to Cougars coach Curtis Smith should boil down to numbers.

"I just hope our three are better than their one or two," Smith said. Fort Elliott's three are Deidre Dukes, Andrea Dukes and Lindsey Fillingim, who in their last game scored 52 of the Lady Cougars' 56 points. The one or two that Smith is worried about from Hartley are Farrah Frantz and Choya Perkins.

Frantz, an all-region player last year, averages 23 points per game and just under eight rebounds. Perkins, the Tigers point guard, averages 14 points and is a three-point threat.

"It should be a real tough game for us," Smith said. "We have similar styles. They're a perimeter team and we're pretty close in terms of speed. That's really the kind of team that can hurt us."

Hartley coach Jimmy Glenn didn't see the similarities. "We've got a lot of quickness and we like to get up and down the court as much as possible," he said. "Fort Elliott's got some good outside shooters and a tremendous post player."

Deidre Dukes isn't your average post at 5-foot-7, but according to Glenn, "she's got some beautiful inside moves." Dukes leads the Lady Cougars with nearly 18 points and 10 rebounds per game.

Glenn's team is 19-2 and is trying to improve on their previous accomplishments. Last year, they



(Staff photo by Dan Fromm)
Fort Elliott's Andrea Dukes gets off a shot in a swarm of Miami defenders. Coach Curtis Smith watches from the sidelines.

"Curtis is gonna have his team ready," Glenn said. "You don't win 20 games by chance. They're a quality team and we'll have to play hard."

Smith thinks it may take more than just intensity for his team to pull off an upset. "It sounds like we might need a little luck," Smith said. "The five starters I've got are different from the regular season, but they seem like they're ready. They've worked hard."

Glenn got a chance to see the Lady Cougars in person at Follett Feb. 9. The Lady Cougars lost 59-41 in what Smith called one of their worst games. "I don't know what he saw, but I don't think anybody had a good game for us," Smith said.

"Andrea and Deidre need to step up for us to win and Lindsey needs to continue to play well," he added. Fillingim scored 23 points in Fort Elliott's last game. Deidre Dukes, who scored 17 points in the Follett game, has scored 20 or more in five of her last 10 games. Andrea Dukes, averaged 13 points in her last five district games, and will have to match up against Perkins in a battle at point guard.

Glenn said Perkins suffered a sprained wrist in their last game, but will play Friday. "She'd kill me if I didn't let her play," Glenn said. "The injury is going to hurt her offense a little, but she plays tougher defense because of it. She runs the show for us and is good at spreading the wealth around."

Smith summed up his pre-game thoughts in usual fashion. "We hope it's a close game and we're in it at the end," he said. "We're not intimidated by that and we've won some close ones this year." Two of the Lady Cougars four district wins came by two points or less.

Southwest Outdoors

By Mel Phillips



Outdoor World '93 leaves behind pleasant memories

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Valentine Sunday night-Amarillo Civic Center...

The dust has settled and the huge crowds have returned home to sit out the sudden freezing weather and wait for the snow to melt. The beautiful boats and the magnificent RV's are gone. Just a memory. OUTDOOR WORLD '93 is history and all that remains is a montage of memories about the best outdoor show that has visited the heart of the Texas Panhandle.

Fishing and hunting seminars by fourteen world-class authorities have primed the pump for another year of outdoor activity.

The bass anglers eagerly listened to four experts and took notes on catching more big bass. The veteran club members of the bass wars were quietly making mental notes that might insure more victories in 1993.

Best suggestion for catching bigger bass came from MARK STEVENSON and DREABON JOINER when they each recommended swimming a jib-N-pig as if it were a crankbait. Catching bass immediately after the spawn can be really tough. A swimming jig just might be the answer for those suspended bass.

Hundreds of crappie anglers crowded the KMMML seminar center to listen to WALLY MARSHALL explain that some new 6 lb. Silver Thread fishing line will catch more and bigger crappie than that old 17 lb. line you put on during the summer of '88. Light lines, limber poles, and Fle-fly jigs are the tickets to success if catching crappie is your quest.

OUTDOOR WORLD concluded with several drawings for some great merchandise from area dealers. CONGRATULATIONS to DEANNA SCHAFFER of Canyon, who won the fishing boat donated by Lake Tanglewood Marine. NADENE SEAMAN of Amarillo won the new Raven pickup topper courtesy of Camper Roundup.

Special thanks to the Goodnight Trading Post, the First National Bank of Canyon, and T.E.X.A.S. Each donated a one-year Texas Conservation Passport good at Texas Parks.

Lucky DON YOUNG of Plainview won a new G-Loomis graphite fishing rod and a state of the art Team Daiwa reel from the Golden Spread Bass Club.

Lots of free prizes, super seminars, and the great deals on new RV's and boats were all overshadowed by the smiles of thousands of happy youngsters. They squealed with delight when catching delicious rainbow trout and reverently looked eye-to-eye at all the gamefish in the forty foot long Bass Tub.

All and all, OUTDOOR WORLD '93 established a world class standard for outdoor entertainment. I can't wait to see the new goodies that OUTDOOR WORLD will bring to town next year.

Groom's Tigerettes more focused this season

By DAN FROMM
Sports Writer

You hear it all the time. After a tough loss to a less-talented team, the losing coach says they will be able to build on the loss. It's one of the classic examples of a sports cliché. But clichés are called that for a reason—because they're true.

The Groom girls basketball team lost to Follett 38-37 last year in the area round of the playoffs after going 29-2. It was a heartbreaking loss for the Tigerettes, but next year is here and Groom is back in the playoffs after a 10-0 district run. They open with a bi-district game against Silverton at 8 p.m. Friday at Clarendon College.

Coach Terry O'Dell said this year's team is ready to build on last year's loss. "We're more focused this year," O'Dell said. "Last year at this time, we were looking ahead to regionals and this year we're definitely not."

The Tigerettes are 25-3 after a 49-

34 win over Quanah in a warmup game Tuesday night. Last year, Groom also played a warmup game. They won it without much trouble, but that's as far as the similarities run. "In the locker room Tuesday night we were pretty happy, but we all knew we were far from finished," O'Dell explained.

The Tigerettes handled Quanah, a smaller but quicker opponent, with two of their key players in foul trouble. "Last night's game was everything we needed," O'Dell said. "We got to see a good team and we intimidated them. Their coach told me that afterwards."

"Karen (Babcock) and Misty (Homen) got into foul trouble and the other players stepped up," he said. O'Dell was particularly pleased with the play of sophomore Melanie Friemel, who scored six points in the game. "If there's one person that's quietly stepped up all season long, she's the one," O'Dell looks for Friemel to be a key player in the post-season as well.

"Teams are always trying to get Karen into foul trouble. They've been doing that all season and they're not gonna kill us that way. We know that," O'Dell explained.

The one thing O'Dell's Tigerettes haven't proven they're ready for is a close game. They just haven't had many this season and the ones they have had, haven't gone their way. Two of their three losses this season have been by a total of six points. Their last 10 wins before Tuesday had been by an average of 39 points.

O'Dell admitted he is concerned about how his team will react to a pressure situation. "There's going to be a time when we fall behind and we can't let that get to us," he said. "We need to be able to stick to our game, with what got us here and keep going."

Silverton will try to use their speed and perimeter shooting to pull ahead of the Tigerettes Friday. Third year coach Bobby Jenschke said

she considers her team the underdog. "That's okay as long as we can get our confidence up," she said. "I believe we can stop Babcock and if we do, it will throw them off mentally."

Jenschke is making her first trip to the playoffs with Silverton and said her team is very proud to be where they are. "It'll be a tough game for us, but we've got several different offenses and we're hoping to get some fast breaks."

The Owls are 12-11 coming into the game and finished 4-2 in district 12-1A. The only common opponent between these teams was Valley, who beat Silverton twice and split games with Groom, winning their last meeting 22-18 on Jan. 5.

O'Dell said even the fans are more focused than last year. "All the parents made reservations for regionals last season," the coach said. This year, O'Dell, his players and the fans are all taking one reservation at a time.

Harvesters meet Estacado in 4A bi-district playoffs

The Pampa Harvesters open the basketball playoffs against the Lubbock Estacado Matadors at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the West Texas State University fieldhouse in Canyon.

The winner of the bi-district tilt advances to the Class 4A area round.

The Harvesters polished off Berger, 67-49, Tuesday night to clinch their fifth straight district title.

The Matadors were runnerup to Plainview in District 2-4A. Pampa finished the regular sea-

son with a 23-5 record. Estacado was 17-13.

Soccer signups set

Spring signups for the Pampa Soccer Association are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at the Pampa Mall.

Youngsters must be four years old as of July 31, 1992 to participate in the soccer program. New players are required to bring a birth certificate to the signups, which will be from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Owls hold off late rally by Bears to stay second in SWC standings

By The Associated Press

The Rice Owls kept their hold on second place in the Southwest Conference, but it wasn't easy as they had to hold off a late charge by the Baylor Bears.

The Owls, who held a 66-50 lead with 9:09 remaining, allowed Baylor to pull to within 78-73 in the final minute of the game before staging a rally of their own for an 84-77 victory Wednesday night.

Torrey Andrews had 22 points to lead the Owls (14-6 overall and 8-2 in SWC games) to the victory over the Bears (14-7 overall and 6-4 in conference play).

Rice took the lead for good late in the first half and led 44-37 at halftime even though Brent Scott, the Owls' second leading scorer, had played only five minutes after getting two early fouls. He finished with 9 points.

Aundre Branch scored 26 for Baylor while Alex Holcombe, the Bears' leading scorer with a 19.3 average, was limited to 11 points.

"We've got to develop that killer instinct real quick," Rice's Marvin Moore said. "We turned the ball over too many times at the end. We played 38 minutes and didn't turn it over. In the last two minutes we did."

"I'm proud of our kids, they never gave up," Baylor coach Darrel Johnson said. "They kept their heads up and put the pressure on them at the end. But we didn't shoot very well. Forty percent

isn't going to win many games."

Charles Outlaw posted a career-first triple double and David Diaz added a career-high 29 points, leading Houston to a 78-51 victory over Texas A&M.

Outlaw, with 10 points, 14 rebounds and 10 blocked shots, became the first Cougars player to accomplish the feat since Hakeem Olajuwon.

The effort fueled a 52-point second half for Houston, which improved to 15-6 overall and 6-4 in the Southwest Conference with its fourth consecutive victory. The Aggies dropped to 7-14 and 2-7.

Texas A&M coach Tony Barone drew a pair of technical fouls and was ejected with 10:03 minutes remaining after Houston turned a

26-20 halftime edge into a 51-31 lead.

Lance Broderson led A&M with 21 points and 11 rebounds, followed by Brett Murry with 10 points.

"Outlaw was as good as ever tonight," Houston Coach Pat Foster said. "He's obviously playing well."

Outlaw's performance was only the 14th triple double in conference history, with Olajuwon owning 10 of them. Southern Methodist's Gerald Lewis is the only other conference player to turn in a triple double this season.

"I'm just out there playing," Outlaw said. "I didn't have to move much to get my blocks tonight. The Aggies were just throwing the ball in my hands."

Bills get rematch with Cowboys

DALLAS (AP) — It won't be as good as another try at the Super Bowl, but the Buffalo Bills will get a rematch against the Dallas Cowboys in an Aug. 8 exhibition game in London.

It will be the Super Bowl champions' second trip overseas in as many years. Dallas began last year with a 34-23 loss to the Houston Oilers in Tokyo. The Chicago Bears beat the Cowboys 17-6 in London in 1986.

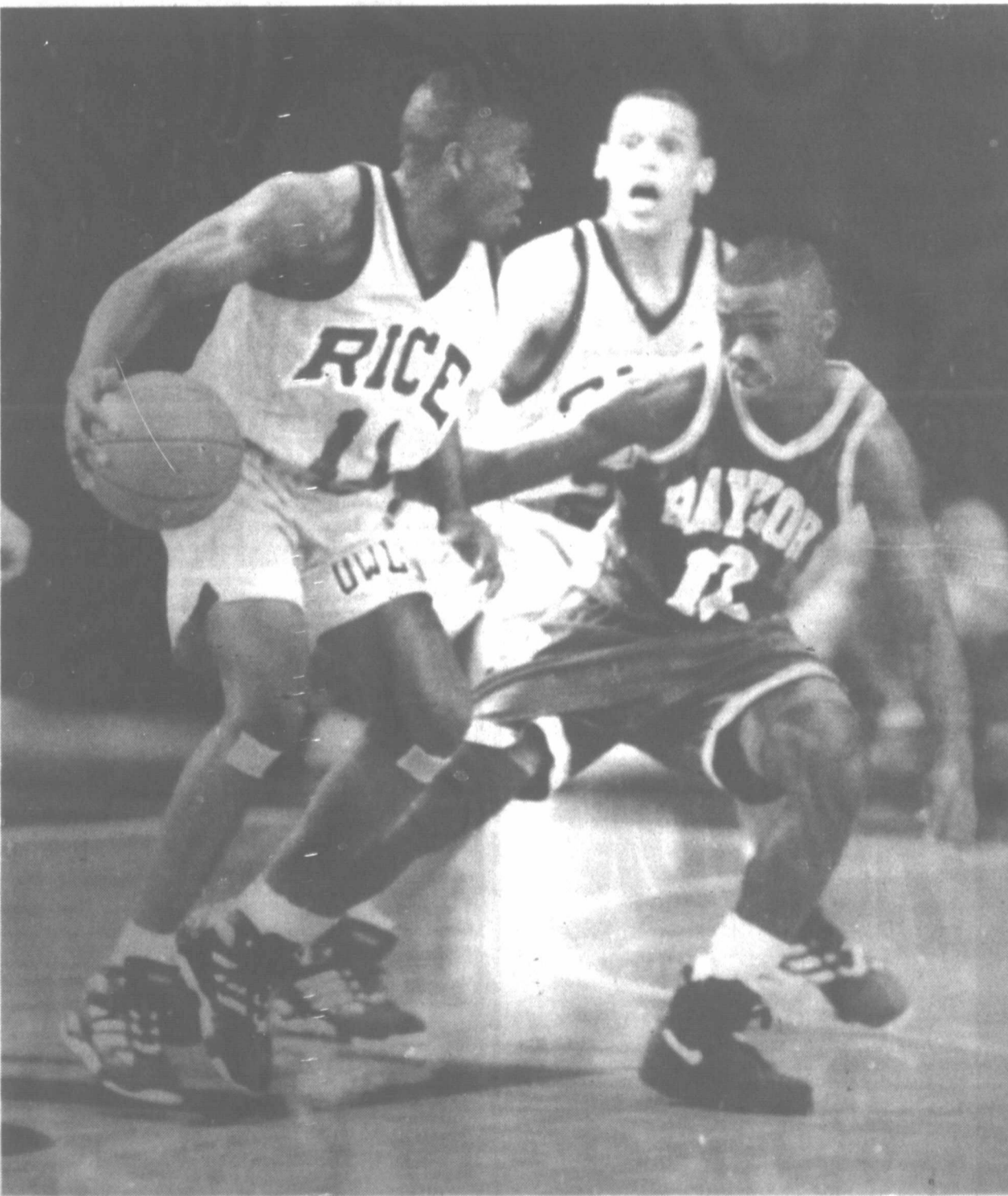
"We are excited to be going to London," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "It's a trip that will not be as physically demanding on our players as last year's trip to Tokyo. But apparently that

trip didn't hurt us too much last season."

The Cowboys had not played the Bills since 1984 when they routed Buffalo 52-17 in Super Bowl XXVII last month. The exhibition and a regular-season game expected to be on the 1993 schedule will make three meetings in a year.

Dallas had to rearrange its pre-season schedule to fit in the London game. The Cowboys will now open the year with a home exhibition against the Minnesota Vikings on the weekend of July 30-Aug. 1.

The regular season begins Sept. 5-6.



(AP Photo)
Baylor's Nelson Haggerty plays tight defense against Rice's Marvin Moore.

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97 Furnished Houses 98 Unfurnished Houses 99 Storage Buildings 100 Rent, Sale, Trade 101 Real Estate Wanted 102 Business Rental Property 103 Homes For Sale 104 Lots 105 Acreage 106 Commercial Property 110 Out of Town Property 111 Out of Town Rentals 112 Farms and Ranches

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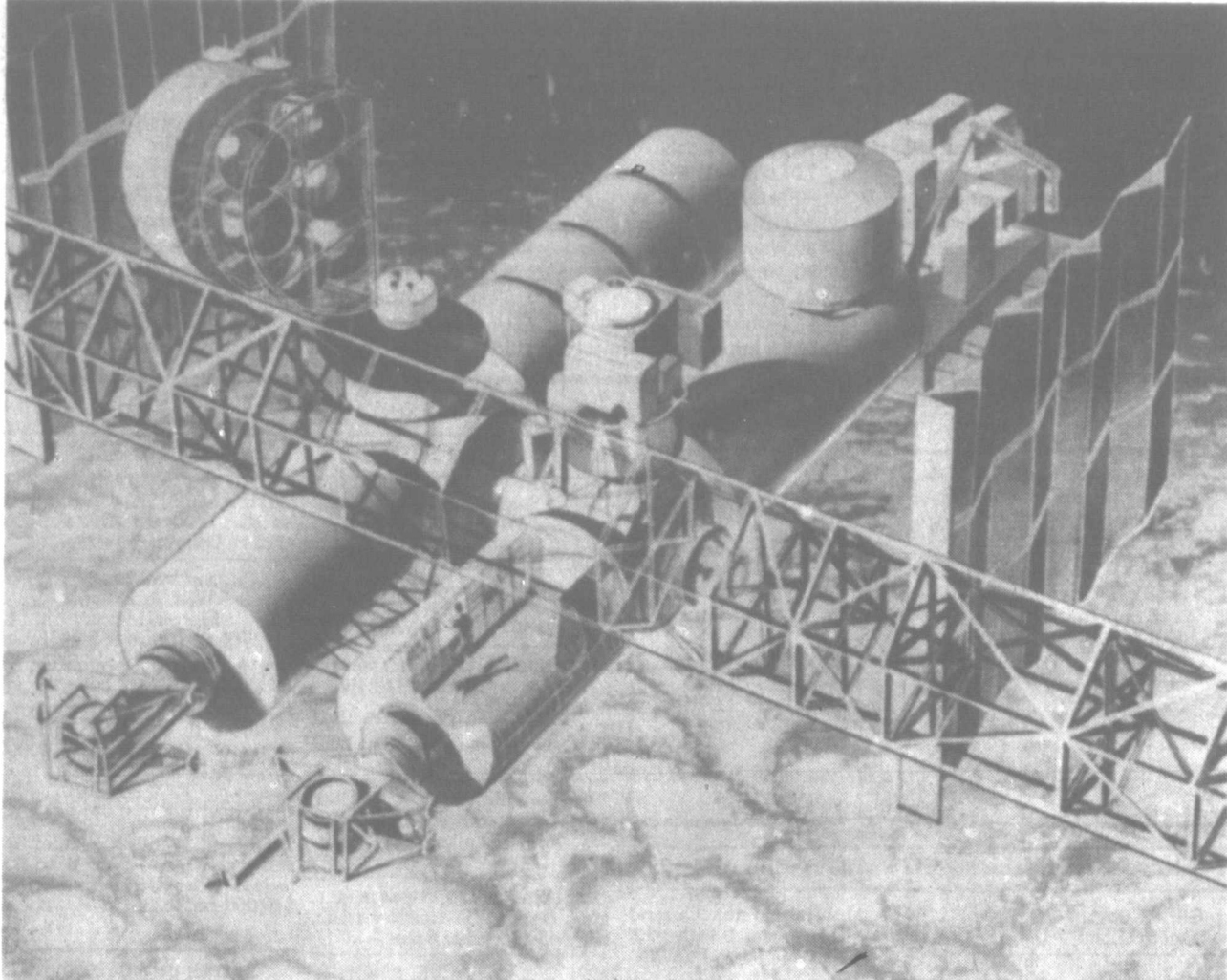
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This is an artist's conception of the Freedom space station under development by NASA.

Space station project in jeopardy, sources say

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton will propose canceling the current \$30 billion space station project to clear the way for a smaller and cheaper station, congressional and scientific sources said today.

Clinton will propose spending \$2.3 billion on the station in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity. They said \$1.1 billion of that amount will be earmarked for termination costs and \$700 million for a new design.

In effect, the proposal calls for NASA to discard the work produced with some \$8 billion already spent on the project and to start over from scratch, the sources said.

The figures were discussed earlier today with aides to congressional committees that deal with space issues, they said.

NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin will have 60 to 90 days to restructure the space station program and develop a preliminary design.

The sources said Clinton will propose spending \$7.6 billion on the station in the next four years — the immediate \$2.3 billion and about \$1.7 billion in each of the other three years.

Evidence shows longstanding complaints against Erdmann

By JEAN PAGEL
Associated Press Writer

AMARILLO (AP) — A Randall County investigator says he watched a pathologist change numbers on tissue slides to match an autopsy authorities were questioning.

Kevin Rush and another witness Wednesday testified that defense attorneys in a capital murder case were not told that discredited pathologist Ralph Erdmann altered the slides.

The testimony came during a hearing in which three indicted men — all critics of Erdmann — are seeking a federal halt to prosecutions against them. The trio claims their indictments are retaliation by vindictive district attorneys in Randall and Lubbock counties.

U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson now must decide whether to lift a stay she imposed on the prosecutions.

Millard Farmer, a nationally noted defense attorney and one of the three indicted men, led the questioning on his own behalf Wednesday.

Randall County prosecutor John Davis took the stand to explain the prosecution against six men accused of bludgeoning an elderly Amarillo man to death. Farmer represents one of those defendants, Doug Palmer, in the capital murder case.

The slides Rush says were altered were those of the man Palmer is accused of killing.

Farmer asked Davis why Erdmann listed weights for the dead man's organs, when a second autops

It was not immediately known how the United States' international partners in the space station would react to the news. Japan, Canada and the European Space Agency together have about \$8 billion invested in the current project.

Asked what they would be told, a congressional aide said, "We are going to build this differently, but you are still welcome to use it."

The aide said the proposed cancellation is "not being received well" by U.S. lawmakers from the states with major space station contracts. Under the current plan, construction was expected to employ 75,000 people in 37 states.

Rep. Mike Andrews, D-Texas, has estimated that the space station is responsible for about 11,000 jobs, directly and indirectly, in his state. The Johnson Space Center near Houston supervises one of the four major contracts for station construction.

Officials have estimated that about 4,000 employees at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., are involved with the space station.

The station was first proposed by Ronald Reagan in 1984 as a 10-year project costing \$8 billion. Under the latest plans, the first flight with parts of the station was to be in 1996, and the structure was to house four

astronauts beginning in the year 2000.

A completely redesigned station will mean a delay of at least several years, said John Pike, spokesman for the Federation of American Scientists.

Pike said he was told the international commitments for the station will be honored.

"The only way I could see them doing that would be to build a station in which Europe and Japan supply laboratory modules and the United States supplies the utilities," he said.

"Under the agreement we get half of the use of the European and Japanese modules, so in principle we will still have opportunities for Americans to do experiments."

But that would mean a significant reduction in U.S. contracts and "much, if not most of the work on the American modules would simply be cancelled," he said.

If that were the case, Pike asked, "Where do you put the American flag on this station?"

Seven children left alone die in Detroit house fire

By LAURA GRIMMER
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Police held a couple for questioning today after seven children left alone at their parents' home died in a fire. Barred windows blocked most of the escape routes, and the house had no smoke detectors.

The youngsters, ages 7 months to 9 years, were found dead Wednesday in the two-story wooden house in a decaying neighborhood on Detroit's east side.

Their parents, Sheree Williams, 34, and Leroy Lyons, 35, were held at police headquarters overnight, homicide Sgt. Kay Scott said. Investigators today planned to take their findings to prosecutors, who will decide whether to charge the couple, Scott said. She would not discuss any possible charges.

Police said that the children had been left unattended for at least 45 minutes and that Williams told authorities she had gone grocery shopping, The Detroit News said today.

The children were found in a bedroom in the opposite side of the house from the kitchen, where the fire was believed to have started. The cause was under investigation.

A dresser had been pushed up to the only window without security bars in an apparent attempt by the children to escape, Battalion Chief Harold Watkins said.

"With the drug problem we have in the country today, which causes people to rob and steal, that has put a lot of citizens on the defense," said Curtis Edmonds, a deputy fire chief. "Unfortunately, the bars will keep people in."

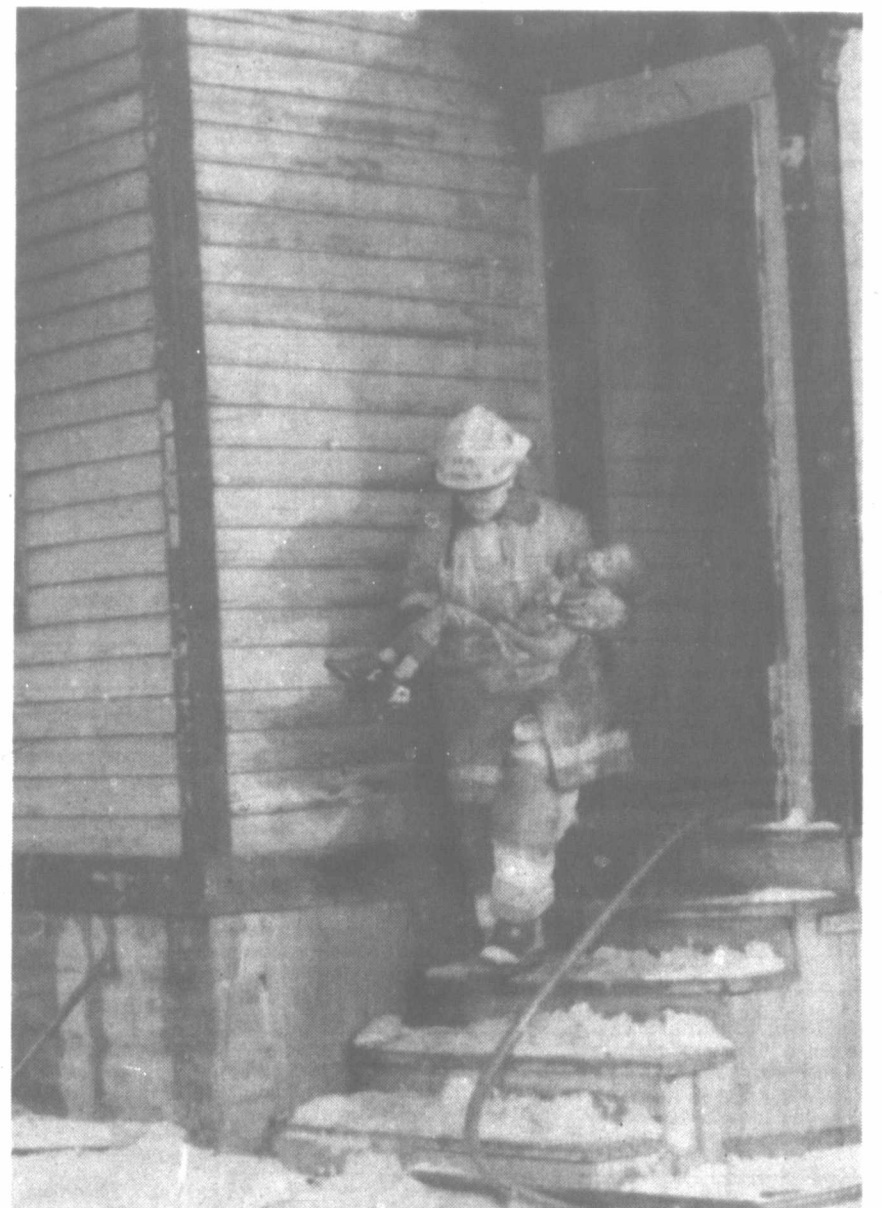
The four boys and three girls died of asphyxiation, Fire Marshal Richard Milliner said. Neighbors said six of the youngsters were Williams' children, and officials said one was Lyons' son.

The fire was reported about 2 p.m. "I was praying the older kids were in school and (the mother) had the little ones with her," neighbor Cynthia Taylor said, "but then I saw them bring the little kids out."

It was not immediately known why the older children were not in school.

The couple arrived about 20 minutes after the fire was reported, asking about the children, police said.

"All of them were nice people," said Nell Smith, a clerk at the nearby Chene Community Market. "I



A Detroit firefighter carries a child victim in a fatal house fire in Detroit Wednesday.

know they took good care of their kids."

The children's aunt, Venus McDowell, said she heard about the fire on television and rushed to the scene. "When they came on the TV and said seven kids are dead, I knew it was my kids," she said. "Nobody else has that many kids."

Hours after the fire, a large mongrel dog neighbors said belonged to the family sat shivering on what remained of the back stoop.

Chief Rodney Parnell of the Fire Department's community relations division identified the victims as Lawanda Williams, 9; Nikia Williams, 7; Dakwan Williams, 6; Laquante Lyons, 4; Venus Lyons, 2; Anthony Lyons, 7 months; and Mark Bray, 2.

It was at least the second time in 4 1/2 months that people died in a Detroit house with barred windows. An Oct. 3 fire killed four adults and two children.

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Houston single sets record

NEW YORK (AP) — Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" has become the longest-running No. 1 pop single of the rock era.

The song will be No. 1 for the 14th week on the next Billboard pop chart, which will be released Friday,

associate publisher Michael Ellis said.

In October, Boyz II Men broke Elvis Presley's record when "End of the Road" stayed atop the Billboard pop chart for 13 weeks. Presley's "Don't Be Cruel-Hound Dog" single was No. 1 for 11 weeks in 1956.