

White House expects Blackmun replacement within weeks; Mitchell high on list

By TERENCE HUNT
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House officials are reviewing about a dozen possible candidates for President Clinton's second appointment to the Supreme Court, making no secret of the fact that retiring Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell is high on the list.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt also is on the list, even though he said he wasn't interested and had told Clinton he wanted to stay put.

Mitchell, D-Maine, and Babbitt were the only two candidates publicly acknowledged as under consideration, but White House officials insisted that the list was longer and that no decision had been made.

It was no surprise to Clinton when Justice Harry A. Blackmun announced Wednesday that he was retiring. The 85-year-old jurist had told the president months ago that he would retire. Blackmun called the White House on Monday to say he was ready to announce his decision publicly.

There was a torrent of speculation about Blackmun's successor. Likely candidates were said to include federal judges Stephen G. Breyer of Boston, Jose A. Cabranes of Con-

necticut and Appeals Judge Richard Arnold of Little Rock, Ark.

Attorney General Janet Reno and Solicitor General Drew Days also were mentioned. One official floated the name of U.S. District Judge Ann Clair Williams of Illinois as a long-shot prospect. She was named to the bench by Ronald Reagan in 1985.

Preliminary work on Blackmun's successor already had been under way because of anticipation of his retirement. The search goes into high gear, starting from a base of names compiled last year when Justice Byron White left the court.

White House special counsel, Lloyd Cutler said, "There are other people who deserve consideration who were not seriously in the running the last time around." He said the eventual list would be 10 to 12, "more or less."

Cutler, leading the search with Mack McLarty, the chief of staff, said he expected Clinton to announce his nominee within "a matter of weeks."

"He will pick someone who generally reflects his sense of political and moral values," Cutler said. "Every president does that."

He said candidates would be judged on the basis of ability, diversity and character. Moreover, Cutler



Justice Harry A. Blackmun



Sen. George Mitchell

said, "As you know, in the past (Clinton) has been attracted by people who have had some sort of political or other life experience in addition to being a good lawyer."

Administration officials made clear they did not want a repeat of last year's highly public, three-month search that resulted in the selection of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Clinton said he would select a

nominee "of genuine stature" in "an appropriate and timely fashion."

While Mitchell was viewed as perhaps the top prospect, there are political and legal problems with his selection.

The administration is counting on Mitchell to lead the Senate fight for Clinton's prized health reform plan. And from a legal standpoint, the Constitution bars lawmakers from

taking a government position whose salary has been raised by Congress while they were members.

Cutler was quick to say he was confident that a solution could be found around the legal roadblock, should Clinton decide on a member of Congress.

He volunteered that seven senators have served on the high court. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen got around the provision when he left the Senate by taking a lower salary than other Cabinet members.

Cutler even left open the possibility that Mitchell — should he be selected — could remain a member of Congress, working on health reform, even after being confirmed by the Senate.

"I think it would be legally possible, yes," Cutler said. "How politically possible it is, I wouldn't know."

Mitchell said he had not received an offer but would certainly consider one. Cutler said there hadn't been any contact with Mitchell, but "should it go much further, I think you can assume there will be some contact."

Mitchell, a former judge, would bring to the court a reputation both as a leader and a consensus-builder.

He announced last month that he will not run for re-election in November, immediately triggering talk about him as a Supreme Court candidate.

Babbitt had been among those considered to succeed White. Environmentalists had pleaded with Clinton last year not to take Babbitt away from Interior but dropped their case as they grew less enthusiastic about his decisions.

Breyer, an appeals court justice summoned last year from his hospital bed for an interview with Clinton, was a runner-up to Ginsburg. Clinton said he'd be considered again.

Cabranes, a U.S. District Court judge, would be the first Hispanic on the high court, scoring political points for Clinton with the growing number of Hispanic voters.

Arnold, a judge on the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, was considered for White's seat last year but was dropped because of concern about the appearance of cronyism. He's a longtime Clinton pal.

Reno, a star in Clinton's Cabinet, would be a popular choice, particularly among feminists. Days would be popular in the civil rights community, where he was a lawyer and prominent advocate.

Undercover investigation results in charges against 13 for defense contract kickbacks

By CHARLES RICHARDS
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — A two-year undercover investigation has resulted in charges against 10 individuals and three companies for their alleged involvement in a kickback scheme to influence the awards of defense contracts.

Buyers at three of the largest defense contractors in the Dallas-Fort Worth area — Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc., Vought Aircraft Co. and Loral Vought Systems — were accused Wednesday of routinely accepting kickbacks in exchange for inside information, including competitors' bids.

On occasions, the awards were changed several months later to raise the amount of the bids, the government said.

The fraud involved more than \$1.5 million in government contracts.

Oliver "Buck" Revell, special agent in charge of the Dallas FBI office, said the case was built widely through the use of undercover agents and six wiretaps that recorded thousands of phone calls and faxes.

At a news conference, Revell held up an electric connector that he said cost about \$20 to manufacture.

"It should be sold to the government for about \$32. Through this manipulation process and going through brokers paying bribes to buyers, it wound up costing about \$178," Revell said.

Bell and Vought have cooperated in the investigation and are not targets of the investigation, Coggins said. Officials for Bell Helicopter said they discovered the alleged scheme and reported it to authorities.

Buyers implicated in the scandal are Electro Enterprises, Inc. of Oklahoma City, C&A Electronics of Dallas and Hi-Tech Manufacturing,

Inc., of Grand Prairie.

According to the indictments, the defense procurement programs involved in the prosecutions include, among others, the Kiowah Warrior Program for the U.S. Army, the Air Force's C-17 aircraft and the Marine Corps' V-22 Osprey.

U.S. Attorney Paul Coggins of Dallas said he was "shocked by the degree of corruption" the investigation uncovered.

"The kickbacks are odious because they reward those who are willing to pay bribes over those honest suppliers who offer the highest quality products at the lowest price," Coggins said.

Authorities said three individuals and two companies have agreed to plead guilty. The companies are two Bell suppliers, Hi-Tech Manufacturing Co. of Arlington, and Electro Enterprises of Oklahoma City.

The individuals are Billy Joe Hodge, 67, of Arlington, a retired senior buyer for Bell Helicopter; Calvin Sharp Enright II, 58, of Oklahoma City, chief executive officer of Electro Enterprises; and Calvin Sharp "Bud" Enright III, 33, who has served as salesman, branch manager and president of Electro Enterprises.

All three are charged with kickbacks, conspiracy and mail fraud.

Willy Dee Erby, 42, of Cedar Hill, a subcontract administrator at Vought Aircraft Co., was paid more than \$16,000 between May 1992 and May 1993 by Tom Anderson, 38, of Bedford, a manufacturer's representative for Tri-Star Electronics, Inc., a California company, another indictment alleges.

Erby allegedly accepted kickbacks of \$1,938 on May 12, 1992; \$2,000 on June 15, 1992; \$2,000 on Dec. 21, 1992; \$2,500 on Jan. 28, 1993; \$800 on Feb. 16, 1993; \$2,500 on March 4, 1993; \$2,500 on April 5, 1993; and \$1,300 on May 25, 1993.

Walter Magruder, 52, of Arlington, owner of C&A Electronics, and Harmon Hardy, 65, another principal officer in C&A Electronics, are alleged to have paid kickbacks to Hodge — including five payments of \$400, three payments of \$1,000 and three payments of \$2,500.

Most of the alleged kickbacks occurred from October 1989 through last year, the government said.

Hodge is accused of agreeing on Oct. 4, 1989, to accept a kickback of 4 percent to steer business to Electro Enterprises. The government says EEI employee Eddie Landers, 50, of Oklahoma City gave Hodge \$600 the next month as the initial kickback payment.

On a monthly basis, Landers and another employee, James Kerels, 64, of Hico, who formerly was a Bell Helicopter buyer, provided entertainment, lunches and dinners, drinks, tickets to sporting events, and trips to gentlemen's clubs to Hodge, the government alleges.

On at least 177 occasions between October 1989 and January 1993, Landers and Kerels are accused of providing similar treatment to another Bell buyer, Charles Hamlin, 54, of Fort Worth.

On Jan. 30, 1992, about six months after the kickback was reduced to 2.5 percent, Hamlin complained he wasn't being paid as agreed, the government said. About two weeks later, Hamlin received a 1990 fish and ski boat, trailer and motor worth about \$13,000 from Kerels and EEI, officials said.

EEI received in excess of \$1 million in sales from Bell Helicopter Textron after the alleged kickbacks began, the government says.

Bell Helicopter recently filed a lawsuit against Hodge, Hamlin and Kerels and six suppliers, accusing them of violating the company's procurement procedures, company officials said.



From left, Greg Sims, Darlene Hodges, Elva Westermarck, Brenda Ketchum and Charlotte Beggs rehearse for Pampa's ACT 1 presentation of *Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will?* (Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

ACT 1 rehearsing its next production

What do a beauty operator, preacher's wife, a six-time divorcee, a redneck and a hippie have in common? They are the family members theatergoers will be introduced to in Pampa's ACT 1 presentation of *Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will?* by Del Shores.

Beginning April 22, with other performances on April 23 and then again on April 29-30, the comedy is set in the small Texas town of Lowake on a warm summer's day.

The plot of the play revolves around the patriarch of a wacky family, Buford "Daddy" Turnover, who, believing the end is near, sends for his will to make a few changes.

Unfortunately, he suffers a stroke and loses the document. Driven by their curiosity and the possibility of inheritance, everyone in the Turnover household begins a frantic search for the will.

Directed by Paula Simpson, the play features Brandy Ketchum, Elva Westermarck, Darlene Hodges, Greg Sims, John McKeon, Charlotte Beggs, Alana Snapp and Ace Acevedo as the Turnover clan.

The ACT 1 theater is located in the Pampa Mall. For reservations, call 665-3710. Because of some mature scenes and strong language, the play is not recommended for children.

Gunman kills one Israeli, wounds four others

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian opened fire with a submachine gun on Israelis at a bus stop near the port city of Ashdod today, killing one man and wounding four people before being shot to death by bystanders, officials said.

The attack followed a suicide car bombing of an Israeli bus in the northern town of Afula on Wednesday in which the assailant and seven civilians were killed, including three teen-aged high-school students. Islamic fundamentalists claimed responsibility.

The attacks spurred calls for a suspension of negotiations with the PLO on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, the armed forces chief of staff, told reporters the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip where 1.8 million Palestinians live would be closed "at least for several days" to prevent further attacks.

The measure will tighten travel restrictions imposed after the Hebron mosque massacre, when most Palestinians were banned from bringing vehicles into Israel and the number of Arabs allowed into Israel daily was limited to 20,000.

In a statement released in the Gaza Strip shortly after the attack today, the military wing of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas group said that it planned a series of attacks in reprisal for the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre.

Hamas, which claimed responsibility for the Afula car bomb, said the attacks were timed to Israel's upcoming celebration of Independence Day on April 14.

"We decided to turn their celebration of independence into wails, sorrow and mourning," said the statement, which threatened to hit Israeli settlements with missiles that Hamas now claims to have.

It called for PLO leader Yasser Arafat to suspend peace talks for one year.

National police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said the gunman, who was armed with an Uzi submachine gun, was shot and killed by a civilian and a soldier who were at the bus stop and hitchhiking post used by soldiers.

Bar-Chen said the gunman was an 18-year-old Palestinian from the Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Six ammunition clips and a knife were found on his body, he added. The name was not released.

"I looked and saw a terrorist standing and shooting at soldiers standing at the hitchhiking station," said Moshe Nachman, 43, a truck driver.

He said he grabbed his gun and fired four rounds as he ran towards the Palestinian. He said a soldier also opened fire from a position behind the hitchhiking post.

friends, free riders and members of once-rival gangs.

"Everyday he woke up he celebrated life. He was a joyous man," said his son, Tommie Shields, a Houston car dealer.

The Bandidos, many with graying long hair, wore black leather jackets adorned with patches saying things like "Expect No Mercy" and "God Forgives, Bandidos Don't."

Funeral for biker leader shows changes for Bandidos

ODEM, Texas (AP) — Swapping tales over his grave, Bandido gang bikers joked that a founding member called Grandpa Bob won't go to hell because the devil wouldn't want him to take over.

But biker humor aside, the leather-clad mourners at his funeral Wednesday recalled Grandpa Bob — his real name was Robert Shields — as a respected elder who steered his beloved Harley-Davidson away from the outlaw life.

Shields, 78, died Thursday of throat cancer at his Corpus Christi home.

Some Bandido leaders credited Shields for helping soften the gang's mean-and-nasty image, citing his friendly nature and participation in charities.

"Everybody loved him, and we're here to put him away right," said Benny Brulloths, president of the Bandidos' chapter in nearby Corpus Christi.

Police say the once-feared gang has calmed down in recent years.

"I think people are just getting older and smarter. We're not in the '60s. We're in the '90s," Brulloths said. "Things change, and you have to change with the times."

Escorted by police, a mile-long motorcade of bikers roared from a Corpus Christi funeral home to a cemetery outside this small South Texas town.

In all, more than 400 leather-clad mourners showed up, including

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Lifestyles

Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: Please settle a disagreement I'm having with a family member; She says a wedding gift belongs solely to the person whose side of the family gave it.

I say, all wedding gifts belong to the couple. However, should the couple part within a year (or so) after the marriage, the bride becomes the owner of all the gifts from her side of the family, and the groom falls heir to the gifts from his side of the family.

After newlyweds "break up," most people who have given gifts say they do not expect - nor do they want - their gifts returned. "What am I going to do with four butter knives that are not my pattern?" is the way one person put it.

CANNOT AGREE IN CHARLESTON, S.C.

DEAR CANNOT AGREE: As long as the marriage lasts, all gifts belong to the couple. Should they separate within approximately a year, then gifts from his side of the family should go to him, and gifts from her side of the family should go to her.

If the marriage endures for a number of years, they should be divided equally, according to value.

DEAR ABBY: What I am about to ask has probably been asked before, but I haven't read about it in a long while.

When a husband and wife get a divorce, what do family members of the husband call the ex-wife? Or vice versa? For instance, I'm divorced and my sister still calls my ex-husband her brother-in-law. My husband had a stepson from a previous marriage; is this stepson still a stepson after a divorce?

JUST WONDERING, SYCAMORE, OHIO

DEAR JUST WONDERING: After a marriage is dissolved, one calls the in-laws "my former brother-in-law, sister-in-law, mother-in-law," etc.

In the case of stepchildren, although it may sound as though one is deliberately expelling him or her from the family, they are properly referred to as "my former stepson" or "my former stepdaughter."

DEAR ABBY: Although I've been reading you for years, I never thought I'd be writing to you, but I owe you a big thank-you.

On Feb. 20, your Sunday column had a letter signed "Old Softy," regarding the essay "The Rainbow Bridge." I recall thinking I should have cut it out, but I didn't. As I do every morning I carried the paper to my neighbor.

Monday morning, I was banging on her door hoping she hadn't thrown her paper away. You see, late Sunday night, our 16-year-old dog, Skippy, became very ill. By midnight, my son, Matthew, and I had made the painful decision to let the veterinarian end Skippy's suffering.

I can't describe the grief we felt, but I am happy to report that Skippy had a grand funeral, befitting his status as the best dog in the world. One of Matthew's college friends, who had known Skippy since he was a pup, dug his grave. We put his favorite afghan and "toys" in the box with him.

After Skippy's burial, one of my son's friends read "The Rainbow Bridge" from your column. The sky clouded over, and eight adults stood there and cried like babies.

KATHLEEN K. AND HER SON MATTHEW

And the beat goes on — for 20,000 dancing feet

By JENNIFER MERIN
For AP Special Features

LONATO, Italy (AP) — From dusk to dawn, searchlights crisscross the sky over this small Northern Italian town, beckoning dancers by the thousands to Genux, which claims to be the world's largest discotheque.

The disco, a huge structure in a field outside of town, is open Wednesday through Sunday, 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. At about 65,000 square feet, the size of some shopping malls, co-owner Cesare Facchetti

says Genux can accommodate up to 20,000 people. That's more than twice the next-largest disco, Cinema near Tel Aviv, Israel.

"Our capacity is actually almost four times Lonato's population of 5,500," he says.

Attendance at the disco, however, averages about 10,000 nightly. It's usually a mix of locals plus vacationers from Desenzano, a resort on nearby Lake Garda; Italians from Brescia, the nearest city 15 miles away, or from Milan, 125 miles distant, and international tourists.

"The sheer magnitude of the

music and the movement really lets you lose your inhibitions. You can really dance," Sue Courtney, a 28-year-old tourist from London, says.

The line at the door moves briskly. Guests aged 14 years and older each pay \$9 admission, then advance to an automated coat check which resembles a dry cleaner's conveyor system.

Genux, a made-up word, has no real theme beyond a larger-than-life statue of Pegasus dominating the mirror-lined, neon-lit lobby. Music, loud and pulsating, spills through an arched entry that leads to the disco

area. The cavernous room has three dance floors with comfortable seating, five bars and a tobacco shop. Multicolored lights flash to the beat of the music, while nearly a mile of varicolored neon tubes create a constant glow.

The clientele, chic and clean-cut, ranges from teen to middle years. The mix varies, particularly during special sessions such as ballroom dancing during late afternoons or week-nights and the live rock concerts, usually Sunday and Wednesday, featuring well-known Italian

and other European groups.

Most of the time the music is up-to-the-minute disco, rock and rap, masterfully mixed by Graziano Pannelli, the 28-year-old disc jockey otherwise known as Space Master.

In front of the central and biggest dance floor, on a multilevel stage, 11 dancers offer a nonstop demonstration of the latest dance moves.

In summer, the disco sets up two major dance areas, two bars and an ice cream bar outdoors. Genux also has an Olympic-size swimming pool, available for dips between dances for an extra \$9 fee.

Miss USA Amarillo uses title to promote anti-drug message

A strong anti-drug message is the theme of Jill Brown's reign as Miss Amarillo USA.

"The one thing I want to do with this is be more involved with high school students and speaking against drugs. You don't have to use drugs to be popular," she said.

Brown will represent the Texas Panhandle at South Padre Island in June in the Miss Texas USA pageant, a preliminary event to the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants. Contestants compete in evening gown, swimsuit and interview events.

She is teaming-up with KAMR-TV in Amarillo in the station's "War Against Drugs" program to help get the anti-drug message to high-school-age youth.

One of the main reasons people abuse substances is to get away from their problems and to get a high, Brown said. From her experience, alcohol and marijuana are the biggest problems.

"When it gets to the point where they feel they have to use drugs, they're hiding something. ... The only thing you can do is counseling, or going out of your way to do

things with them to make them feel better about themselves. ...When they feel (like they need narcotics), it's a little bit deeper than drugs," Brown said.

A lot of other things can take the place of narcotics such as working out, playing with kids and community involvement. "Whatever makes them happy to get their mind off of it," she said, adding that young adults can still go to clubs without drinking and using narcotics.

Building up the self-confidence of someone who doesn't care of the ramifications of his or her drug abuse is also important, Brown said.

"Something that is very important to me is church. ...I would encourage people to get involved in church number one," said Brown, the daughter of an Assemblies of God minister in Skellytown.

Brown graduated from White Deer High School in 1990. She was involved in track, winning the 300 meter hurdles event at the state track meet her senior year, and was active in cheerleading.

She continued both activities at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview before transferring to



West Texas A&M University.

Brown is a junior kinesiology major at WTAMU and is on the cheerleading squad there. Plus, she works with the National Cheerleading Association. She plans to go on to teach high school athletics.

Being a resident assistant in a dorm at WTAMU also keeps her busy. "That takes up a lot of my time. ... I'm really involved with my girls, doing programs and trying to help them out," Brown said.

But how does the daughter of a minister get by with wearing a two-piece swimsuit for a competition?



Jill Brown, adjusts the pins in an evening gown, above right, in preparation for her entry in the Miss Texas USA pageant. (Pampa News photos)

"My dad knows I am very outspoken and do my own thing, and as long as everything is covered, he doesn't say anything to me," she said.

PHS academic team wins district, heads to regional meet

Members of the Pampa High School UIL Academic team are headed to regional competition after winning district Sweepstakes for the third consecutive year. March 25 at West Texas A&M University.

Students who placed first, second or third in events will compete April 22 in San Angelo at the Region I meet for the chance to advance to state competition.

At the district meet, sophomore Andrew Berzanskis won first place in current events. Junior Danica Weeks placed second in accounting.

In speech, senior Ellen Steele took first place in poetry interpretation.

In prose interpretation, senior Stefany Northcutt won the event, and senior Verna Martin took second.

Senior Eric Kirkpatrick placed second in Lincoln-Douglas debate. Senior David Loyd won second in informative speaking. Loyd and Berzanskis took second in cross-examination debate.

The PHS science team won first overall. Senior Joyce Osborne took first in dis-

trict, followed by senior Julian Chen in third and junior Richard Williams taking fifth.

Osborne was the top scorer in biology and chemistry.

The computer science team, comprised of seniors Nathan Yowell and Marina Ramirez with Williams, took third.

Pampa's number sense team placed first with sophomore Debra Smith taking first, Chris Jaramillo in second and Chen in third. The calculator team won first as well. Osborne took first and sophomore Edith

Osborne placed third.

The mathematics team also placed first overall. Individually, Chen won first, followed by Joyce Osborne in second.

In journalism events, sophomore Serenity King won first in news writing followed in that event by senior Rachel Beck in third. Matt Crider won first in headlines. Beck also took third in editorials.

In literary events, senior Angela Rodriguez won first in literary criticism and third in ready writing. Debra Smith took second place in spelling.

WTAMU sets dance expo

CANYON — Ballet companies from the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas-El Paso will be joining West Texas A&M University's dance company in the first University Ballet Expo. WTAMU is hosting the event April 8-10.

Dancers will attend classes, seminars and informal performances during the weekend. The classes will focus on classical ballet, while the seminars will relate to the art of ballet. The informal performances will present new works in the repertoires of the participating companies. A gallery will be set up for the participating dancers to display their other works in the arts, such as paintings, sculptures and poetry.

The main attraction of the showcase is the gala performances on Saturday, April 9, at 8 p.m., in Mary Moody Northern Recital Hall on the WTAMU campus. The gala will be free and open to the public.

Representatives from the universities began planning the showcase in September. The event is different from others because it utilizes classical ballet technique as the central focus.

Since ballet is the most accepted technique utilized in professional auditions for theatre and dance companies, the new showcase was designed to increase opportunities for students majoring in dance at institutions of higher education to perform in that area.



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The Pampa News

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- African country
- Bell sound
- Fast airplane (abbr.)
- Yale grads
- S-shaped molding
- Word to call attention
- Mesher
- Of dawn
- Shade tree
- Consume totally (2 wds.)
- Bridge support
- Devour
- Theater sign (abbr.)
- Smeared
- Dress protector
- Play on words
- Way out
- Soft drink

DOWN

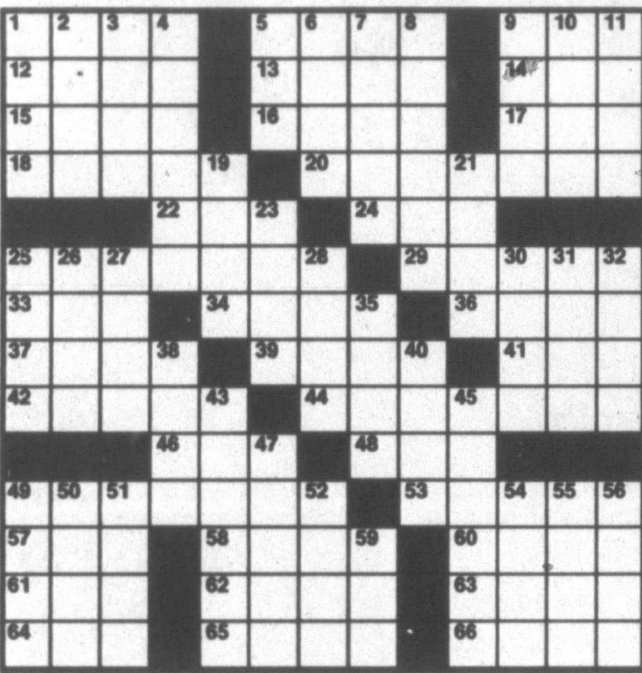
- Meal list
- Bar drinks

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	H	R	I	S	D	I	B	S			
Z	E	A	L	O	T	F	I	N	A	L	S
R	E	D	P	E	R	H	A	R	T		
J	A	S	M	I	N	E					
C	H	E	A	P	S	O	O	P	E	A	
I	A	T	R	I	C	U	T	M	O	S	T
T	I	N	S	E	L	S	I	E	N	N	A
E	L	A	C	E	E	O	L	D	E	N	
D	E	A	D	E	N						
D	I	M	E	N	H	L	H	O	T		
U	R	A	N	U	S	U	L	A			
D	E	C	I	D	E	L	I	O	N	E	L
D	E	M	O								

3 Lo-cal
4 Published
5 Fish eggs
6 —
7 Rhythm
8 Comes close
9 Groups of species

9 Fired at
10 Close securely
11 Playful child
12 Book part
13 Soaks up
14 Passage of Scripture
15 Urge on
16 Horse's cousin
17 E pluribus
18 Piece of dinnerware
19 Went on horseback
20 Music halls
21 Poet Ogden
22 Follow closely
23 Assistant
24 Actress
25 Martha —
26 Bicycle for two
27 Prying devices
28 Sphere
29 Campus area
30 Hair style
31 Actual being
32 Past time
33 Cosmetic company
34 Gambling cubes
35 Actress —
36 Sommer
37 Witty saying



WALNUT COVE



By Mark Cullum

ARLO & JANIS



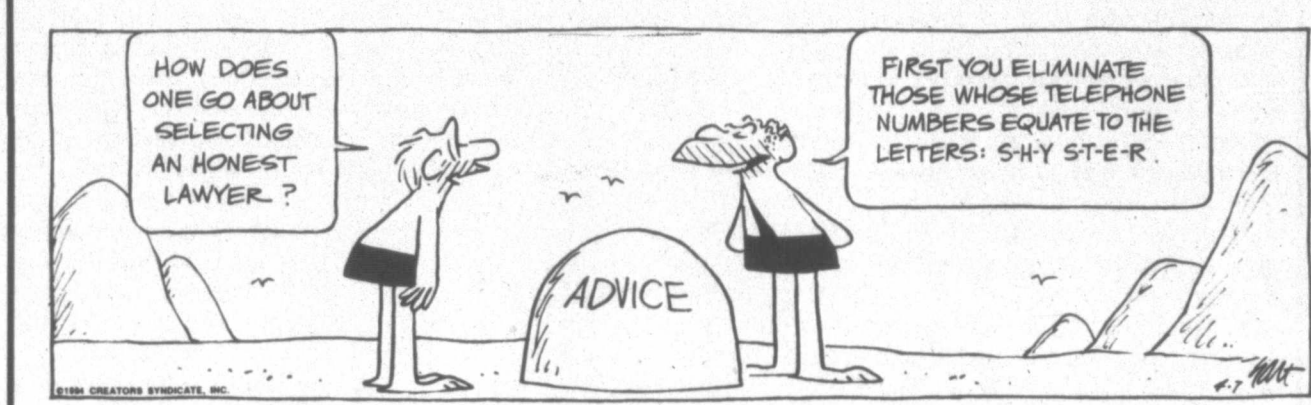
By Jimmy Johnson

EEK & MEEK



By Howie Schneider

B.C.



By Johnny Hart

ARIES (March 21-April 19) In order to succeed and get the necessary cooperation from others today, it's imperative you show them how then can benefit for themselves by helping you fulfill your objectives. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences which are governing you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today by mailing \$2 and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 4465, New York, N. Y. 10163. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) In a discussion today someone might reveal information that can be tailored to your immediate needs. Take what is said and adjust it to your circumstances.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) One of your greatest gifts is your ability to juggle several endeavors simultaneously and do so effectively. This talent might get a lot of play today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A friend who has successfully advised you previously should be the person you go to for counsel again today. He/she has a good handle on the way you think.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't be afraid to make changes today if your methods and procedures haven't produced the types of results you anticipated. New twists could be a big help.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) If you want to be popular with others today, focus on their attributes and good points instead of their failings. Give praise where praise is deserved, but don't be phony.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) There is a possibility that a new channel might develop for you at this time that could generate additional earnings or resources. It won't be hard to spot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Today you're a good problem solver and you should be able to effectively manage unexpected developments which have proven too difficult for associates to handle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Improvements in your financial position are indicated at this time, but they might require a bit of ingenuity or resourcefulness on your behalf to transform them into what they could be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) The race isn't apt to go to the strongest or the swiftest today, but to the smartest. If you're competing against others, be prepared with lots of facts and figures.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You are now in an unusual cycle where you could profit or gain in some manner through a unique chain of circumstances. Move fast, because opportunities could come and go in an instant.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) If your expectations are a bit higher than usual at this time there is justification for your optimism. Dreams could become realities in this time frame.

MARVIN



By Tom Armstrong

MARMADUKE



By Brad Anderson

KIT N' CARLYLE



By Larry Wright

ALLEY OOP



By Dave Graue

BEATTIE BLVD.



By Bruce Beattie

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



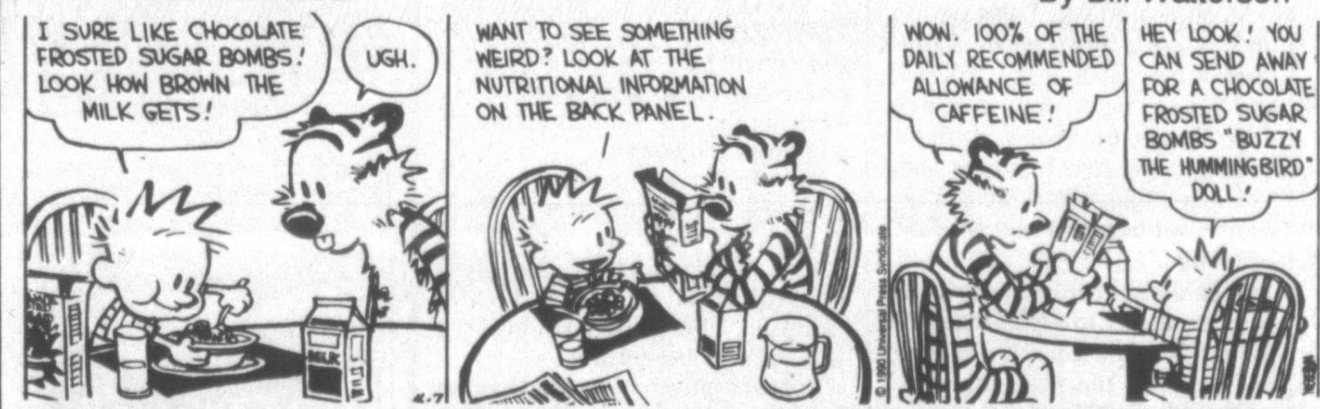
By Bill Keane

WINTHROP



By Dick Cavalli

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

Advisers recommend ban on Taiwan wildlife imports

By RITA BEAMISH
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Taiwan should be hit with trade sanctions for illegal trafficking in rhinoceros and tiger parts, but China should be spared for now, President Clinton's top advisers say.

If Clinton agrees to slap Taiwan with sanctions, it would be the U.S. government's first use of trade sanctions to protect wildlife.

The president has received an interagency recommendation to bar wildlife-related imports from Taiwan and is expected to make a decision soon, administration officials involved in the issue said Wednesday.

Despite a call by more than three dozen members of Congress for sanctions on both China and Taiwan, Clinton's Cabinet advisers said China has made more progress than Taiwan in stopping the illegal wildlife trade and should be given another chance.

China would get a reprieve until the end of the year, when its progress would be evaluated, one official said. The officials discussed the administration's position on the basis that they not be identified.

Agencies concurring in the recommendation include the State, Interior, and Commerce departments and the U.S. Trade Representative's Office, they said.

Environmentalists have been pressing Clinton for sanctions because China and Taiwan continue a lucrative trade in rhino horns and tiger bones, killing the endangered animals and threatening to make them extinct by the end of the decade. The parts are valued in Asia for medicinal purposes.

Clinton informed China and Taiwan last November that they would face sanctions unless they stemmed the trade, which violates the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES. He gave them a March deadline.

Sanctions against Taiwan would be mostly symbolic, applying only to the annual \$22 billion in wildlife products that Taiwan ships to the United States. That is a small fraction of its \$25.1 billion in exports to the United States last year, when the United States had a deficit of \$8.85 billion in merchandise trade with Taiwan.

The wildlife products that would be covered include such items as snakeskin shoes, coral and mussel-shell jewelry, tropical fish and items made from reptile skins.

The officials said China, which officially has banned sales of tiger and rhino-based medicine, has made some progress against the trade and is further along than Taiwan.

Also considered in the China decision were sensitive bilateral issues regarding U.S. pressure for human rights improvements in China and cooperation on the touchy nuclear controversy in North Korea, the officials said.

In addition, a CITES conference in Geneva last month declined to take tough steps against China, while demanding that Taiwan comply with the endangered species protections.

Wildlife experts say the rhino and tiger populations are declining fast, with the number of tigers falling by 95 percent this century, to an estimated 5,000 today. The rhino population was estimated at 10,000 last fall.

Both China and Taiwan claim they are taking law enforcement steps to halt the trade.

Two African presidents die in plane crash; fighting breaks out

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Fighting broke out in Rwanda's capital today after the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were killed when their plane was apparently shot down.

Members of Rwanda's presidential guard also kidnapped three Cabinet ministers and three U.N. military observers today, said U.N. spokesman Moutar Gueye.

The identity of the kidnapers or those who allegedly shot down the plane was not immediately known. Both Rwanda and Burundi have been wracked for decades by fighting between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups, one of Africa's most savage ethnic feuds.

Gueye, speaking by telephone from the Rwandan capital Kigali, said there were reports of house-to-house killings and that the city's streets were empty except for small, quick-moving groups of youths armed with machetes and clubs.

No demands have been received for the release of the ministers of Labor and Social Affairs, of Information and Agriculture or the three unarmed military observers, said Gueye. He also said it was not clear who was involved in the fighting.

"So far as we can see, it seems that there are a lot of guns in a lot of hands and we don't really know who is giving orders to shoot at who and for what reason," said Gueye.

"There is shooting, people are being terrorized," Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana told Radio France Internationale. "People are inside their homes, lying on the floor."

The prime minister indicated that much of the shooting was being done by the army, which had been called out to put down the unrest.

Presidents Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi were on their way home from a summit in Tanzania that was aimed at bringing peace to their strife-torn, cen-



Habyarimana



Ntaryamira

tral African nations when their plane crashed Wednesday night near the Kigali airport.

Rwanda's government said the plane "was shot down" while landing "by unidentified elements in circumstances which are still unclear."

Gueye said U.N. officials had been denied access to the crash site and could not confirm reports the aircraft had been shot down. He said some U.N. troops had been detained near the crash site.

Witnesses reported hearing heavy-weapons fire moments before the plane crashed, the French Embassy in Kigali said.

French officials said none of the 10 people aboard survived. The dead included two Burundi government ministers and three French crew members.

"What happened was not an accident but an assassination," Rwanda's U.N. ambassador, Jean Damascene Bizimana, told reporters at the United Nations.

Rwanda's defense ministry issued a statement today saying the plane was shot down but the

attackers and motives were unknown.

The Belgian news agency Belga quoted Rwandan ambassador Francois Ngarukintwali as saying the plane was a Mystere-Falcon executive jet belonging to Rwanda's president.

Although the Tutsi make up only 15 percent of Burundi's population, they controlled the country until President Melchior Ndadaye — a Hutu — won the nation's first democratic election last June.

After the assassination of Ndadaye in October, an estimated 100,000 people died in ethnic violence and 1 million fled to other nations.

The 39-year-old Ntaryamira — also a Hutu — was elected president by Burundi's National Assembly in January, but the Tutsi still dominate the army and a vicious cycle of slaughter and retribution has persisted, reportedly claiming thousands of lives on both sides.

In Rwanda, Habyarimana's Hutu coalition reached a peace accord in August with the former Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels, comprised mainly of minority Tutsi, but they have failed to agree on a transitional government.

The latest attempt failed Feb. 22 after two politicians were assassinated by Tutsi fighters. An estimated 2,000 civilians died in two years of war, and nearly 1 million were forced from their homes.

Habyarimana, 57, took power in a bloodless coup in 1973.

On Tuesday, the Security Council extended the 2,500-member U.N. peacekeeping force in Rwanda for four months and urged swift creation of a broad-based transitional government and national assembly.

A new report by Oxfam and other aid agencies said that more than 800,000 people in Rwanda, stricken by drought, risk starving to death without emergency food shipments.

U.S. preparing to airlift troops for peacekeeping in Balkans

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. mediator Charles Redman is trying to revive lagging peace talks to end the two-year-old war in Bosnia. But with the Serbs still on the offensive, the United States is prepared to prod NATO to threaten them with air attack.

Redman's tough assignment is to try to induce the Serbs to agree to a negotiated settlement even as they push an offensive against Gorazde and other Muslim enclaves in Bosnia. Joining a federation with Muslims and Croats would mean relinquishing some of the territory already under Serb control.

Redman will go to Sarajevo this weekend after stopping first in Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

While the Pentagon this week appeared to rule out using air power to lift the Serb siege of the Gorazde, officials said Wednesday that military assessment could be changed after a U.N. inspection.

A similar U.N. survey led to the ultimatum that forced the Serbs to end their siege of Sarajevo in February.

But Serb forces blocked the top U.N. commander, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose, from going to Gorazde. Instead, the British general went to Pale at the request of Bosnian Serb leaders to discuss the possibility of Bosnian cease-fire negotiations.

Rose was considering whether to dispatch Ukrainian peacekeepers to Gorazde and then whether to recommend they be protected by threatened air strikes. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Clinton administration would support the U.N. commander by asking NATO to back him up.

American transport planes would ferry the Ukrainians to a staging area, the officials said, and if Serbs threatened their peacekeeping operations in Gorazde the United States would ask NATO to warn the Serbs to quit or face an air attack.

Three U.N. military observers and eight of Rose's liaison officers were permitted to proceed amid mixed reports about the fate of the town.

White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said, "We're looking at a number of ways to continue to deal with the situation (in Gorazde) and in other places in the country, including possibly expanding the exclusion-zone concept. ... It's something that's been under discussion since it was successful in Sarajevo."

Meanwhile, Rep. Frank McCloskey, D-Ind., just back from Bosnia, said the administration was turning away while Serb forces slaughter innocent civilians.

A longtime advocate of more forceful U.S. action, McCloskey said he planned to brief White House officials on his trip and urge a shift in administration policy.

A longtime advocate of more forceful U.S. action, McCloskey said he planned to brief White House officials on his trip and urge a shift in administration policy.

Biosphere crew members arrested

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Two former Biosphere 2 crew members were arrested on charges they broke into the \$150 million sealed dome and let in outside air after they were suspended from the project.

Abigail Alling and Mark Van Thillo were charged Wednesday with burglary, criminal trespass and property damage. They were released without bail.

Alling and Van Thillo vanished after the dome was vandalized early Monday. They were arrested at a Tucson motel.

Both had been suspended from their jobs last week in a management shakeup. The project's financial backer, Texas billionaire Ed Bass, has accused those running the project of mismanagement and waste.

In news interviews conducted by telephone earlier this week, Alling

said she threw open the doors to end the experiment and protect the current crew of seven inside.

Without offering specifics, she said the crew was in danger because the managers who know how to operate the system had been suspended. She said that the crew was incapable of reacting to emergencies.

Biosphere 2 spokesman Chris Helms put the damage at \$80,000, most of it because tours at the complex outside Oracle, 35 miles north of Tucson, were suspended for two days.

The dome is supposed to be a self-contained world. Participants in the experiment grow their own food, and air, water and waste are recycled.

The burglary charge, the most serious, carries up to 8 3/4 years in prison.

Boy's gun project makes science fair

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A seventh-grader who was tentatively barred from participating in a science fair because his project involved experiments with bullets and gunpowder will be allowed to compete next week after all.

The Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair said Wednesday that Russell Grisbeck's project met all the conditions for participation.

"Russell's project was properly supervised, scientifically sound and appropriately presented," director Phil Gay said.

The 12-year-old had written a

report, with graphs and charts, on which type of gunpowder gives a bullet the greatest velocity and accuracy. He packed gunpowder in shell casings and fired the bullets from a bench-mounted rifle.

The project received an A-plus from his teacher, who nominated it for the fair, but a fair subcommittee said other youngsters might be tempted to experiment with guns, too. It recommended the project be barred.

Russell's exhibit will consist of the report and a storyboard only.

"I'm really glad," he said. "I'm hoping it will win a lot of awards."

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