

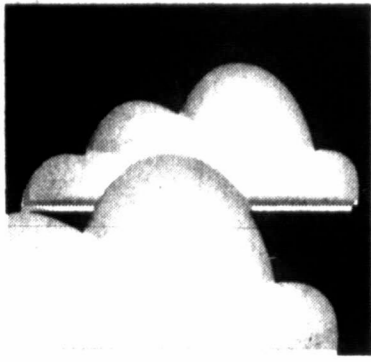
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# PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 270

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



Low tonight in low 40s.  
High tomorrow in mid  
60s. See Page 2 for  
weather details.

**PAMPA** — Pampa High School Principal John Kendall was up and walking around this morning, trying to get some exercise as he recovers from his open heart surgery.

Pampa School District representative Ramona Hite said Kendall is expected to be coming home Tuesday or Wednesday after undergoing heart surgery last Thursday.

Hite said all cards and good wishes can be mailed to Kendall in care of Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester, Pampa, TX 79065.

**SAN'A, Yemen (AP)** — Tribesmen involved in a land dispute with the government kidnapped an American oil engineer in southeastern Yemen, Western oil company officials said Sunday.

Joe Dell'Aria, an engineer with Houston-based Halliburton Energy Services, was kidnapped Feb. 11, said a field engineer with the company who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said that Dell'Aria, 50, was held by members of the powerful Murad tribe, who are locked in a dispute with the government over a valuable piece of land near the presidential palace in San'a, the Yemeni capital.

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Kidnappers seized a U.S. oil engineer and his pilot as they arrived at a fishing camp in Venezuela, and police suspect they were taken to Colombia and held for ransom.

The kidnapping occurred at a camp near the Orinoco River, about 40 miles from the Colombian border, authorities said Sunday.

Officials said suspected rebels apparently showed up at the camp early Friday and captured the pair when their light plane landed.

U.S. and Venezuelan officials identified the American as Jerel Duane Shaffer, general manager of the El Tigre, Venezuela, office of Houston-based Production Operators Inc., and the Venezuelan pilot as Elias Barnard.

By The Associated Press

No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 3, 27, 28, 37, 39 and 45.

There were 90 tickets purchased matching five of six numbers, worth \$1,738 each. Matching four of six numbers were 4,766 tickets, with a prize each of \$119.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$8 million.

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## House panel widens probe into campaign fund raising

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House committee investigating campaign fund raising said he has issued nearly two dozen new subpoenas and is looking into reports that the Chinese government wanted to contribute to the Democratic Party.

"The bottom line is, it's going to be a much more broad investigation than we thought it would be," Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, said Sunday on NBC's *Meet the Press*.

Burton said he had previously issued five subpoenas and Saturday night sent out 20 more for documents his committee wants to see. He declined to provide details of the new subpoenas, saying he had yet to inform committee Democrats.

Democrats on both the House panel and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee,

which has launched a parallel probe, have complained that the Republicans are out to attack the Democratic Party rather than expose the fund-raising excesses of both parties.

A report released today showed that Democratic and Republican parties raised an unprecedented \$263.5 million in largely unregulated "soft money" campaign donations during the two-years leading to the 1996 election — almost three times the amount in the 1991-92 campaign.

There are no limits to so-called "soft money" contributions which cannot legally be spent directly on a candidate's behalf. The money may be used for generic advertising, get-out-the-vote efforts and other party-building activities.

The Center for Responsive Politics said Republicans got \$141.2 million and Democrats \$122.3 million in such contribu-

tions during the 24-month period prior to last year's election.

The Republican-led Congress is unwilling to initiate campaign finance legislation when Republican fund raisers are bringing in twice as much as Democrats, complained Sen. Bob Torricelli, D-N.J., on ABC's *This Week* program.

Burton said the first priority must be investigating past wrongdoing, including a Washington Post report last week that the Chinese embassy in Washington had considered making campaign contributions to the Democrats.

One key Democratic figure involved in raising money from the Asian community, John Huang, "may very well have given information that he shouldn't have to the Chinese and others" as part of the fund-raising efforts, said Burton.

See PROBE, Page 2

## Pampa woman dies in house fire

A house fire Sunday morning at 820 E. Locust claimed the life of 47-year-old Princess Frances Gardner of Pampa and injured her mother, who was trying to rescue her daughter.

Gardner's mother, Willie Mae Darnell, living in a mobile home behind the house, was burned when she tried to rescue her daughter. Darnell was treated for minor burns and released from Columbia Medical Center.

Three fire units and seven firefighters responded to the call which

came in at 10:18 a.m. Sunday. Flames and smoke were coming from the rear of the one-bedroom house when firefighters arrived.

Gardner, who was handicapped and had difficulty speaking, was unable to escape the blaze or call for help, according to authorities. She apparently was unable to move without special equipment and became trapped in the burning house.

Only a utility room remained standing after the fire engulfed the home. The blaze was brought

under control around 10:38 a.m.

The mobile home, which did not catch fire, had broken windows from the heat of the fire from the nearby house, according to fire department officials.

No one else was injured in the fire.

Damage to the home was estimated at \$15,000.

The Pampa Fire Marshal's office will be coordinating an investigation of the cause of the fire with a representative from the State Fire Marshal's Office.



(Pampa News photo by Dianna F. Dandridge)

Floreen Everson receives a goody bag from Pampa's Altrusa President Doria McAndrew. Everson was interested in talking with visitors and thought it wonderful that someone would visit people who can't get out and get around anymore.

## Pampa Altrusa project aims to help shut-ins

The ladies of Altrusa International Pampa Chapter delivered goody bags Saturday and a few minutes of company to 30 elderly shut-ins in Pampa.

The goody bags were filled with little luxuries such as lotion, toothpaste and sweet treats which many shut-ins can not get for themselves for one reason or another. But the biggest gift was the gift of time.

Many of the residents who received a visit from members of the Altrusa Club have little or no family and, due to health problems, cannot get out and so have little contact with other people.

Members of the Altrusa Club traveled in pairs to deliver the bags and spend time with people who would otherwise be alone.

"The 30 minutes spent with these people, just talking and listening, lets them know that people still care, that they haven't been forgotten," said Doria McAndrew, chapter president.

"We used a questionnaire to help get the people talking," McAndrew said. "We found that most of these people are just so lonesome they don't want to let visitors go."

"This is a new project. We want to find out how we can help people who have very few resources," she said.

For years Altrusa members have visited nursing homes, but with home health care allowing

so many older citizens to remain in their homes, the need for home visits have become more important.

Floreen Everson, who is legally blind and a recipient of a visit from Altrusa members McAndrew and Linda Lamb, said she was thrilled to have visitors and loved the chance to talk about her life here in Pampa.

During their visits with the shut-ins the Altrusa members made notes of some of the problems and hardships facing the shut-in members of the community.

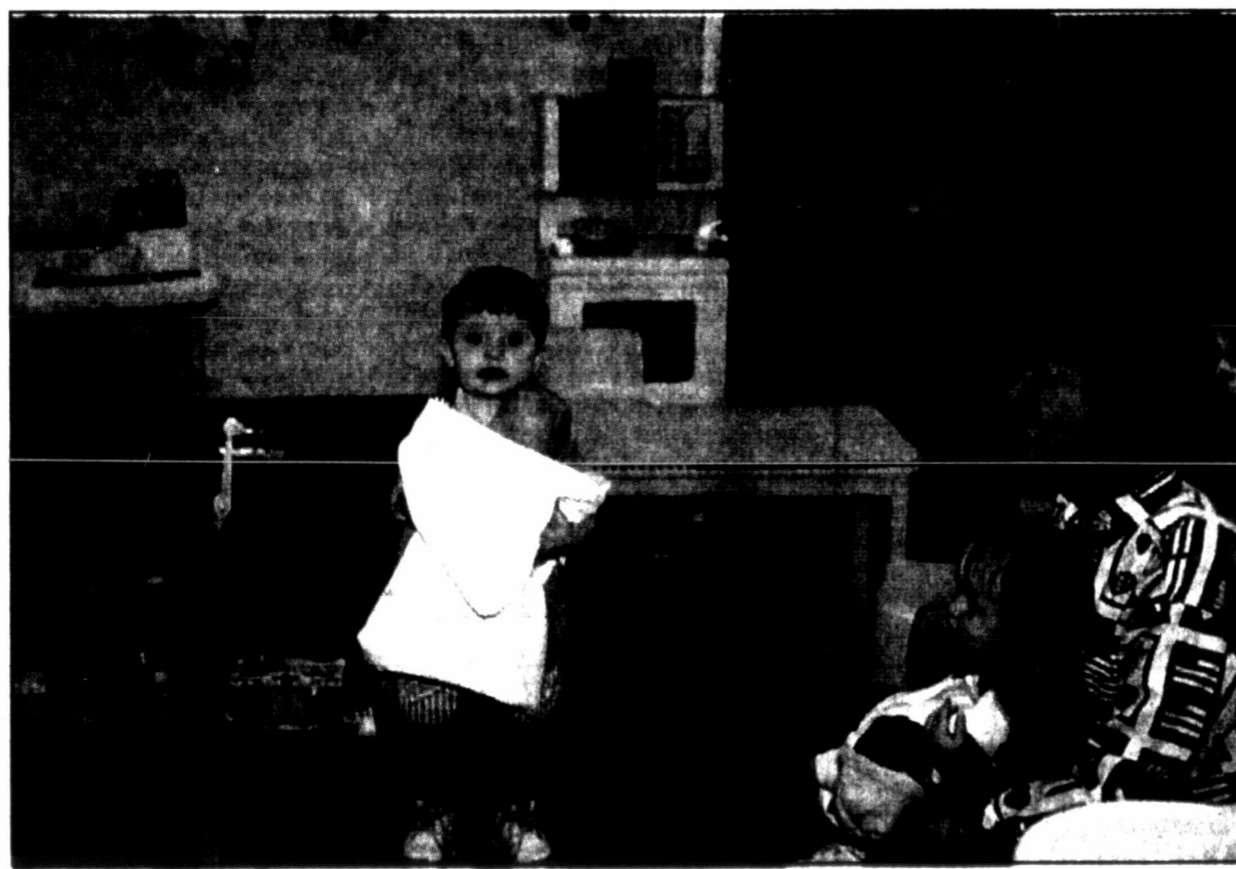
The visitors found that some of the biggest problems are transportation, loneliness and a feeling of not belonging anymore.

McAndrew said the club does not know exactly how the information from these visits will be used, but she expects it will be compiled and used later to help other residents.

The Altrusa Club is an international service and civic organization comprised of business and professional women, many who have retired, which works for the betterment of the community as a whole.

The projects of the Altrusa include the Reading Dinosaur program and the toothbrush give away in elementary grades, to scholarships for area students and year-round projects within the community.

## PLC Open House



(Pampa News photo by Dianna F. Dandridge)

The 2-year-olds class at the Bright Beginnings Day Care Center welcomes visitors to the Pampa Learning Center Open House on Friday afternoon. Marcus Vargas, Austin Johnson and Brady Jocelyn play games with their teacher, Susan Collinsworth, while their parents attend classes at Pampa Learning Center or Clarendon College Pampa Center.

## Zinc you've tried all the health gimmicks? Read this

WASHINGTON (AP) — Matt Aukofer had heard all the hype about zinc helping colds. So he popped the lozenges when his sniffles hit — and suffered a week with the flu, a virus that zinc isn't known to affect.

"I had a hard time telling if it helped or not," said Aukofer, 34, of suburban Washington, who's considering giving zinc another chance on his next cold.

Zinc lozenges are selling as fast as stores can stock them, the latest in a series of health fads that have Wall Street and manufacturers raking in big dollars even before science determines whether the therapies really work.

"I never told anybody it was a cure for the cold," said Dr. Michael Macknin of the Cleveland Clinic, whose study of Cold-Eeze zinc lozenges kicked off the fad — and who then found himself embroiled in controversy when he made \$145,000 on Cold-Eeze stock.

"This doesn't deserve the publicity it's gotten for a preliminary study."

But the \$6 billion, mostly unregulated dietary supplement industry is growing 10 percent a year, fueled largely by news reports touting preliminary research that send consumers racing to the store.

Take beta carotene, hailed as a possible cancer preventive with annual sales of \$100 million. Scientific testing concluded last year Americans are wasting their money on it.

Books proclaiming DHEA an anti-aging pill are best-sellers, despite doctors' warnings that the hormone may be dangerous. Side effects include permanent masculine hair growth and deeper voices for women, troubling signs that the pills, which the body turns into estrogen and testosterone, might be active enough to hormonally stimulate cancer growth.

Just last month, a University of Arizona

report that selenium may reduce cancer had Arizona stores sold out of the trace element — despite scientists' warning that not only was proof lacking, but too much selenium is toxic.

"We're a quick-fix society," laments Dr. Lewis Green, an Emory University family physician. "We get blindsided with patients coming in with all kinds of demands for things that haven't been tested and proved."

Laymen aren't the only ones vulnerable. Emory's Dr. Erica Frank, co-editor of the journal *Preventive Medicine*, recently deliberately fooled a medical class — and the instructor — into believing there was an Eastern science called "zephyrology," where air samples measured over body organs signal chemical imbalances.

"They were just fascinated," said Frank, who then revealed the fake. "I think I made the point that unless you have data, it is hard

to distinguish between science and sham.

Fads like zinc fall into a gray area: scientifically promising but unproven.

Macknin performed a 100-patient study at a respected hospital, which passed scientific scrutiny to be published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in July.

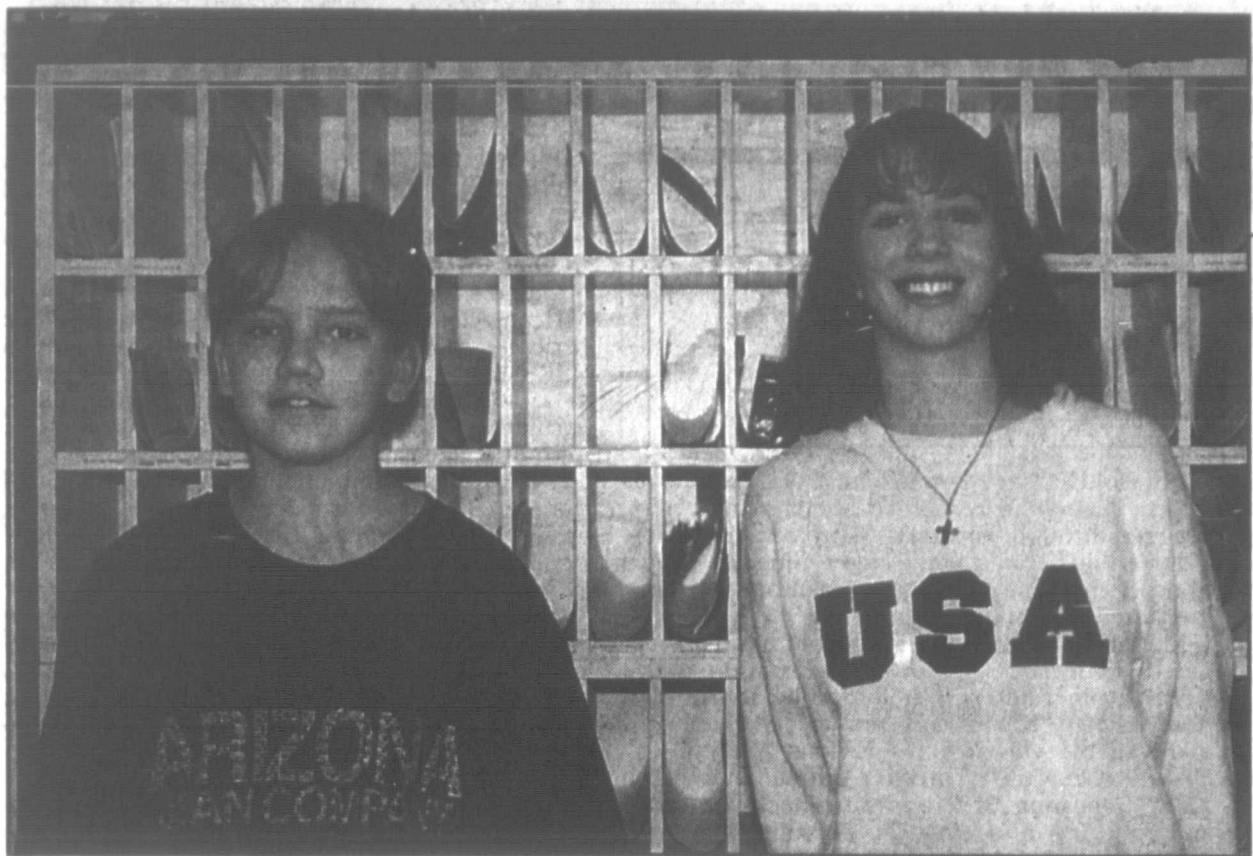
Macknin says he "got goose bumps" as he compared the data and discovered those who took zinc every two hours starting within a day of the first symptoms got well three days sooner than people who took a placebo.

"I was more than a little skeptical" when the study began, Macknin said. The findings were "very exciting."

But he stressed that one small study is not proof. Indeed, he said, earlier zinc research was skewed because so many people disliked the taste and stopped taking zinc, then told researchers they felt better.



### 8th grade spelling champs



(Pampa News photo by Dianna F. Dandridge)

Jessica Morrison and Aaron Fernuik out-spelled all other competitors at the Pampa Middle School Spelling Bee and took first and second place in their division. Like other middle school winners, they will compete in the County Spelling Bee on March 7.

### Border city celebrates George's birthday 100th time

LAREDO, Texas (AP) — It's a question Tony Trevino has heard time and time again: Why does Laredo, a mostly Hispanic city on the Mexico border, celebrate George Washington's birthday?

And why has that celebration become the most popular in town and possibly one of the largest in the country?

The answer is probably too basic to satisfy the curious, but here goes:

"It's just something our forefathers did," Trevino said. "They wanted to have a festival in Laredo, and they decided to honor the first president. We've just continued it."

This is the 100th year Laredoans have wished Washington a happy birthday in their own unique way. What started as a birthday bash for one of the country's founding fathers has blossomed into an international celebration of unity between this city and its sister to the south, Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

"It really embraces the culture of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo as far as the friendliness of the people, and it has endured that through all the times," says Trevino, a member of the George Washington's Birthday Celebration Association, which organizes the annual festival.

The idea was born in 1897 when the Red Men, an organization of prominent men who dressed as Indians, established a charter in Laredo. The members, led by Chief Sachem A.C. Hamilton, wanted to hold some type of celebration that honored patriotism.

When they discovered that George Washington had been called Sachem by the Sons of Liberty, who disguised themselves as Indians while devising plans to free the colonies from Britain, they agreed his birthday would be the most fitting time for the celebration.

The first event was held the next year, when the Red Men and the White Men, Laredoans of both American and Mexican ancestry, held a mock raid on City Hall.

The battle ended when the great Chief Sachem and his braves mounted the battlement, and the mayor presented them with the key to the city as a sign of unconditional surrender. The chief then delivered the key to Princess Pocahontas.

### President empowers airline, takes the bite out of the word 'strike'

NEW YORK (AP) — The word "strike" doesn't conjure up such scary images to the flying public anymore.

That is the precedent set by President Clinton in ordering American Airlines pilots back to work within minutes after they declared a strike early Saturday, averting chaotic disruptions to hundreds of thousands of passengers.

If pilot negotiations at four other of the nation's biggest airlines get to the brink of a walk-out, airline chiefs and passengers almost certainly will be looking to the White House to keep the planes in the air.

Clinton made a hugely popular decision by effectively removing the one potent negotiating weapon in the American pilot union's arsenal. There was little obvious sympathy for the pilots in their quest for more compensation, largely because at \$120,000 a year they already are among the most highly paid professionals in the country.

But Clinton also sent a signal to all airline workers, particularly pilots, that could severely restrict their bargaining power. Encouraged by the stronger possibility of presidential interventions to prevent strikes, airline bosses now have little incentive to accept union demands.

"I think it has some implications for the industry that aren't all good," said Ron Keever, an American pilot. "Management can just sit back and let the government step in, instead of negotiating in good faith."

American pilots haven't been the only ones trying to squeeze more money out of the U.S. airline industry, which has become healthy and profitable again after years of painful losses.

Pilots at United, Northwest, Continental and USAir also are haggling over new contracts and had been keeping a close watch on the American negotiations. The United branch of the Air Line Pilots Association, which recently turned down a ten percent four-year pay increase proposal, warned pilots that if Clinton got in the way of an American Airlines strike, it would weaken their bargaining position.

Pilots at Continental are preparing for contract talks to start this summer and hope to get a piece of the company's profits after years of enduring lower pay relative to colleagues at other airlines. All six of the unions at Northwest Airlines are in negotiations and looking for higher pay while the company is asking for increased productivity. At USAir, managers are trying to cut pay. The company recently offered pilots a 12.5 percent pay cut in return for a seven-year contract without layoffs.

Clinton's decision marked the first time in 30 years that a president declared an airline strike an emergency and ordered the workers back to their jobs. But he did so with the comfort of knowing that not too many union leaders were going to complain about it. One White House aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, recalled the response from an AFL-CIO official about the possibility of presidential action. "These aren't our guys," the union rep said of the pilots.

### More Houston area schools wearing uniforms

HOUSTON (AP) — School uniforms, once the signature dress of private and parochial schools, are suddenly mushrooming in popularity in Houston-area schools.

This year, 168 of 257 schools in the Houston Independent School District have uniform dress policies that range from standardized styles, like khakis and golf-styled shirts, to required outfits.

"It certainly has done a wonderful job as far as neatening up our campus," said Mary Ann Polhemus, principal at Houston's Ashford Elementary. "The kids look wonderful, the kids feel good about themselves. The fact that we are still seeing such a high compliance rate I think speaks very well for the fact that the kids like them."

Two years ago, state law gave districts the right to adopt rules requiring uniforms as long as

poorer students get assistance. Parents opposed to uniforms were given the right to refuse or seek a transfer for their child as long as they had a legitimate religious or philosophical reason.

A bill recently passed by the Texas Senate would ensure parents a say in whether a public school can require uniforms.

Barbara Williams, spokeswoman for the Texas Association of School Boards, said more districts in the state are considering uniforms.

"I think it's good to some degree because of the brand frenzy we have," Ms. Williams said.

School officials also say it helps identify intruders who don't belong on campus, eases the strain on family budgets and promotes an overall better campus climate.

"It eliminates the fashion distraction," said Sheila Lidstone, spokeswoman for the Galveston district, where five schools adopted the wearing of uniforms.

"We're also able to track attendance better because kids in uniform can be spotted if they are trying to skip school," Ms. Lidstone said.

Ms. Polhemus said her school has adopted a policy called "uniformity with individuality."

Students are allowed a choice of red, white, yellow, green or blue polo shirts with khaki or navy blue bottoms. The girls also can wear multi-color plaid skirts or jumpers. Other options include school T-shirts in white or blue, and a denim shirt with the school crest.

Students are not forced to comply, but between 85 percent and 90 percent of them do.

### Nation briefs

**Sheriff's helicopter crashes in remote San Diego County**  
SANTEE, Calif. (AP) — A sheriff's helicopter investigating suspected trespassers lost power and "dropped like rock," killing a deputy and injuring the pilot.

The Hughes 500 helicopter went down at 7:44 p.m. Sunday on private property near Santee Lakes, a rural area about 20 miles northeast of downtown San Diego, sheriff's department officials said.

Deputy Pat Coyle, 42, was critically wounded and died about three hours later, according to a spokeswoman for the medical examiner. The pilot, Deputy Ron Hobson, was hospitalized in stable condition.

The crash sheared the tail from the copter, but left the passenger compartment largely intact.

The pilot and an observer had landed to investigate a truck in the Sycamore Canyon area, said Sheriff's Sgt. Don Crist.

When they had finished investigating, they spotted what they thought were illegal motorcycles nearby, Crist said. They flew to the area but soon realized they had actually seen bicyclists.

As they turned away, the aircraft lost power and went down, Crist said.

**Catholic activists seek change in church policy**

NEW YORK (AP) — While the faithful attended services inside Saint Patrick's Cathedral, dissident Roman Catholics were on the front steps stumping for change.

Members of the liberal group We Are Church passed around petitions in New York and nationwide Sunday, calling on the church to relax its stance on the ordination of women, celibacy for clergy, homosexuality and other issues.

"The majority of American Catholics are moving ahead regardless of what the Pope says," said Margaret Dubbins, of Los Angeles, who signed the group's petition on her way into Mass. "There's a silent majority within the church that is doing this anyway."

Leaders of the Fairfax, Va.-based We Are Church hope to get a million American Catholics to sign their referendum for change, said Sister Maureen Fiedler, the

group's national coordinator.

**Teachers reward perfect attendance with day off**

TROTWOOD, Ohio (AP) — Teachers in this Dayton suburb have found a new way to get students to attend school: Give them a day off.

Twenty-five students at Trotwood-Madison Junior High School with perfect attendance for the latest nine-week term got exactly that last week.

They cashed in a PA day, which stands for "perfect attendance" and "paid absence," according to teacher Bobbie Eagle, who dreamed up the idea.

"It's paying them off for having attended school," Ms. Eagle said.

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### Probe links former officials to drug money

MEXICO CITY (AP) — U.S. prosecutors will present evidence to a Houston grand jury next month linking the brother of a former Mexican president and a former top Mexican prosecutor to drug traffickers, newspapers reported Sunday.

Reforma and La Jornada newspapers cited federal court proceedings in Houston centering on a former Mexican deputy attorney general, Mario Ruiz Massieu.

Ruiz Massieu is believed to have been questioned this month by U.S. investigators, but American

officials have refused comment regarding the questioning.

Sunday's newspaper accounts about the allegations under investigation were sketchy and did not identify the sources of most of the claims.

In one instance, testimony from someone identified only as a "collaborating witness" said drug trafficker Garcia Abrego, now serving a life term in the United States, used to pay Ruiz Massieu and Raul Salinas de Gortari millions of dollars to protect his rackets.

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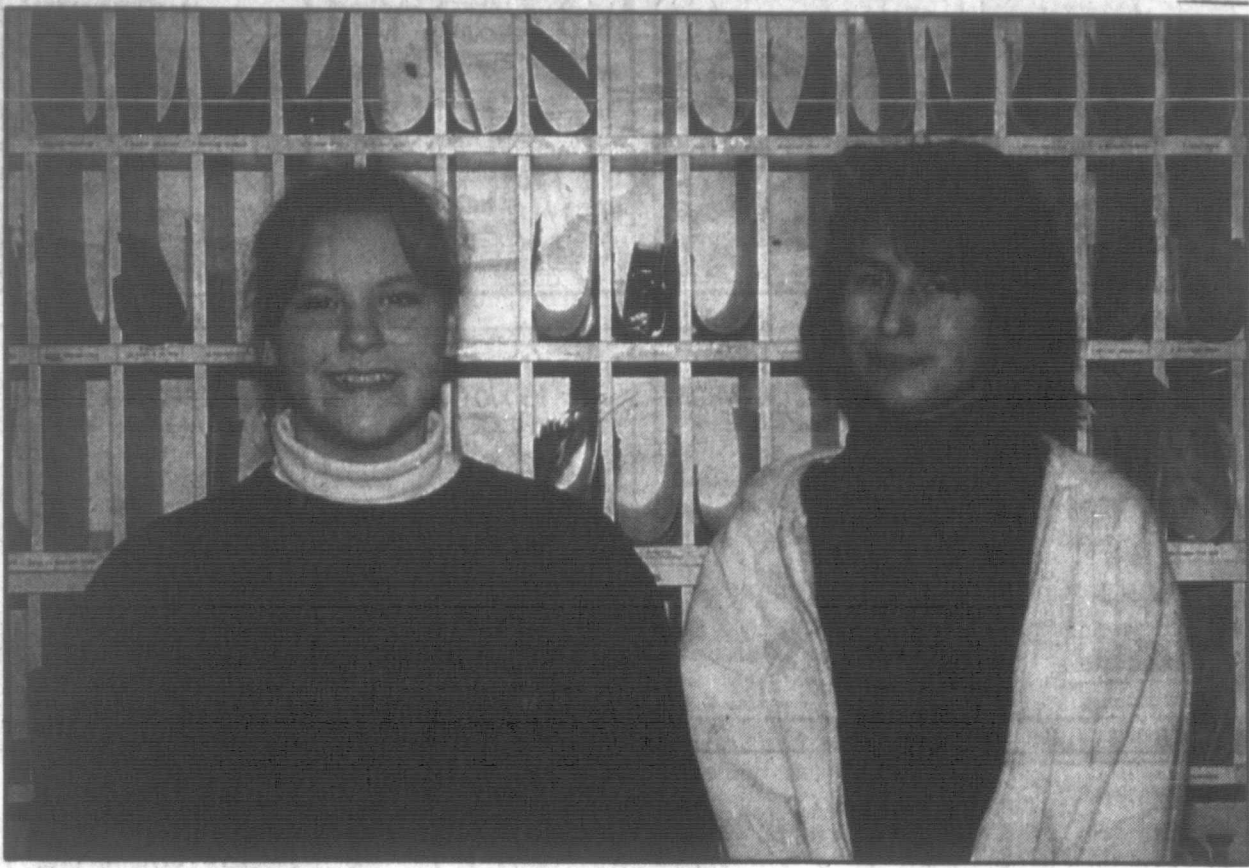
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### 7th grade spelling champs



Samantha Jasso claimed first place and Charity Godwin placed second in the Pampa Middle School Spelling Bee, seventh grade division. On March 7, they will participate in the Gray County Spelling Bee at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa.

### State briefs

#### Activist calls for lawful red light district for sex businesses

HOUSTON (AP) — The city's most famous advocate of so-called family values and public decency now espouses legalized prostitution.

Geneva Kirk Brooks — well-known for fighting to keep Madonna's Sex book from public libraries — now wants to see a city- or county-owned district that would contain various sexually oriented businesses, including brothels.

Ms. Brooks, 73, said the AIDS epidemic and the rise of herpes prompted her change of heart regarding prostitution.

Although she still believes Larry Flint's *Hustler* should be banned, and while she has nothing but scorn for the owners of the city's topless bars, Brooks now says it is impossible to eradicate sexually oriented businesses.

So instead, such businesses should be confined to a single area, she told the *Houston Chronicle* for today's editions.

ads for its Cash 5 game from stores after a college statistics class sent a letter claiming that possible winnings in the game were being exaggerated.

The class at San Antonio College, which was using Cash 5 data to practice statistical analysis, determined that someone who matches all five numbers in the game could win \$57,575.70.

In-store ads for the game, however, state that five-of-five winners can win \$75,000.

Lottery Commission spokesman Steve Levine said Cash 5 television ads won't be changed, and the decision to remove the printed ads is not an admission of error.

#### Parks and Wildlife trying new grant program

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has kicked off a program that will pay landowners to help conserve threatened or endangered species on their property.

The agency is accepting applications for grants of up to \$10,000 each to qualified

landowners under the pilot program.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has allotted \$100,000 for the program, agency spokesman Tom Harvey said.

#### Hollywood's new sensitivity keeping Routier saga off TV

HOUSTON (AP) — The tale of Darlie Routier, the mother sent to death row for killing one of her young sons, seems to have all the components that draw Hollywood to a crime.

So where are all the film crews this time?

Hollywood insiders say studios are shying away in large part because of an increasing reluctance to portray violence against children as entertainment.

"This has become a massive no-no for television," said Steve Fisher, who sells true-crime stories to various studios for the Renaissance Literary and Talent Agency in Los Angeles.

"Even implied violence, off-screen violence — the networks are saying 'no.' They just don't want to go near that."

### Discovery crew performs repairs to ready telescope for another two years in space

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — In the tradition of make-do repairs made famous on Apollo 13, astronauts fastened bandages over the Hubble Space Telescope's aging insulation today to protect it from the naked sun's heat.

NASA officials were confident the repairs — using materials brought along just in case — will keep the \$2 billion national treasure safe until the next servicing mission in 1999.

Working six stories over the cargo bay of space shuttle Discovery, with the cloud-covered blue Earth as a backdrop, Gregory Harbaugh and Joe Tanner fitted insulation blankets over two rips in the protective Teflon cover.

It was a last-minute add-on to the work scheduled for the fourth spacewalk of the mission. NASA added a fifth spacewalk for tonight to finish the insulation job.

Even as they struggled with the tough task, the astronauts took time to admire the unparalleled view. Indeed, the setting was breathtaking. The astronauts were standing on a platform lifted by the shuttle crane to the top of the 43-foot telescope. Counting the height of the device holding the Hubble, they were about 60 feet over the cargo bay, still securely tethered to the shuttle.

The insulation blanket was brought along on the mission to repair possible pinholes in the light shield — the barrel-shaped top half of the telescope. It was fastened with a nylon and steel drawstring onto handholds and bolts.

The spacewalk lasted six hours, 34 minutes,

bringing the total for Discovery's mission to 27 hours, 54 minutes. The total for the five spacewalks in the 1993 mission was 35 hours, 26 minutes.

While Harbaugh and Tanner worked, other astronauts inside the shuttle cabin were stitching together — with wire and clips — materials to be placed in front of three compartments housing electronics.

It was an arts and crafts task similar to that performed under much more stringent circumstances by the crew of Apollo 13 after their oxygen tank exploded while they were en route to the moon in 1970.

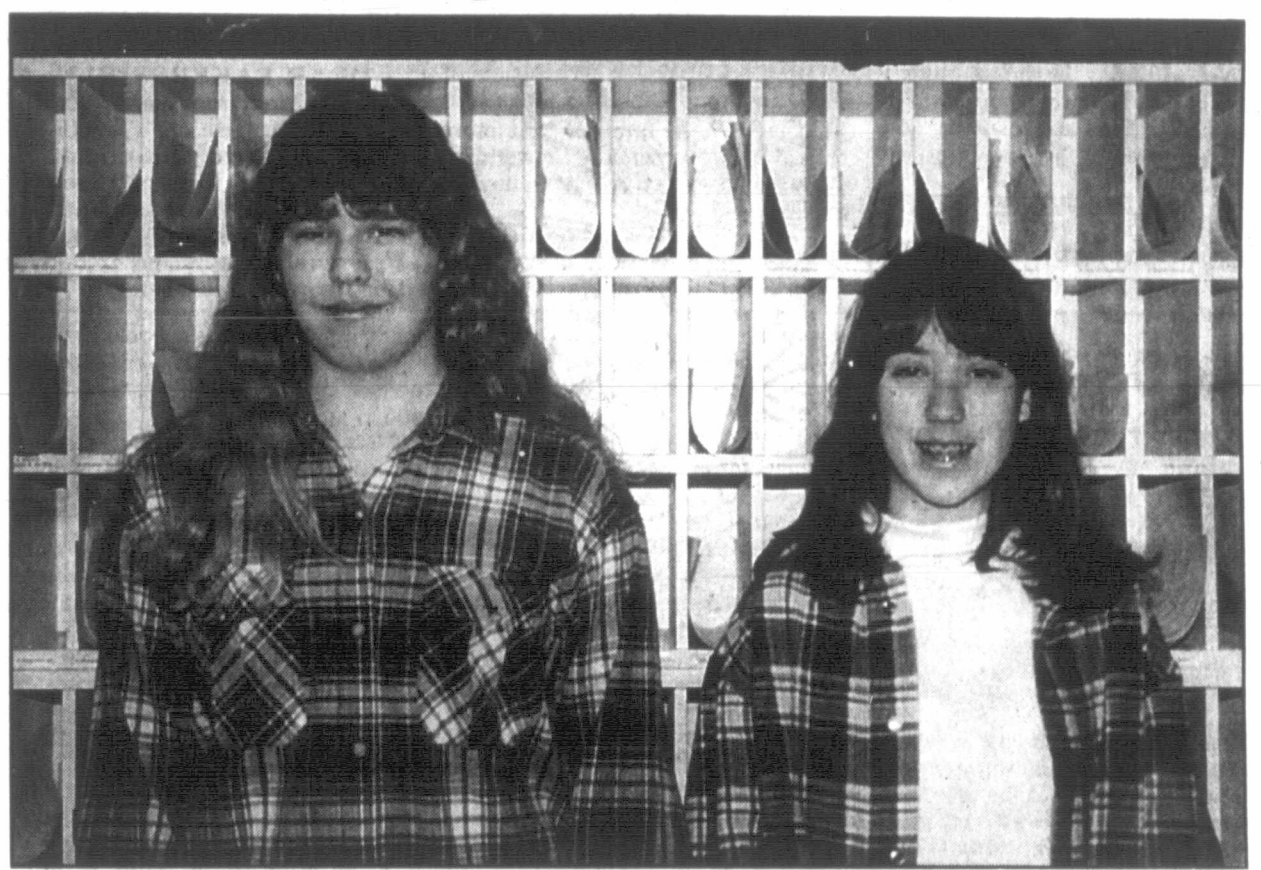
This repair was not considered urgent, but scientists wanted to take no chances with the Hubble, which has made astounding astronomical discoveries since its nearsightedness was cured with corrective lenses in 1993. The fear was that the heat-sensitive electronics that control the telescope could be damaged.

During Sunday night's spacewalk, the astronauts also equipped Hubble with new drive electronics for its solar panels and sturdier caps for two magnetometers. The caps fit over gold-colored Baggies, fastened with plastic tie-wraps, installed by two other astronauts in 1993 — another on-the-spot, unplanned repair.

The astronauts discovered the tattered insulation late last week. The worst damage was on the side of the telescope exposed to the sun's heat and intense ultraviolet radiation during the seven years since its launch.

Hubble's exterior is subjected to enormous temperature swings each time the telescope's orbit carries it in and out of sunlight.

### 6th grade spelling champs



Sixth grade winners of the Pampa Middle School Spelling Bee Nicole Sikes, first place, and Megan Shannon, second place, will participate in the Gray County Spelling Bee at the Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa on March 7.

### Biologists call for commission on harmful aliens

SEATTLE (AP) — There are aliens among us, and biologists want a government commission to investigate the menace.

So many crabs, clams, worms, snails and mussels are turning up on America's coasts that in some places, the native inhabitants can hardly be found.

The invaders, from Asia, Europe and other distant shores, travel in cargo holds, ship ballast tanks and even bait shipments, yet the public is largely unaware and the government is having a hard time stopping the onslaught.

The problem is so severe that biologists have asked the White House to do something about it. In a letter that they plan to send to Vice President Al Gore next month, more than 200 sci-

entists are calling for a presidential commission to study the threat.

"We are losing the war against invasive exotic species, and their economic impacts are soaring. We simply cannot allow this unacceptable degradation of our nation's public and agricultural lands to continue," the scientists wrote in the letter released Sunday.

There are comparable problems in other environments. In the rivers and lakes of central and eastern North America, invading zebra mussels clog water intake pipes and push out native species. And on western rangelands, foreign weeds are crowding out thousands of acres of native grasses a day.

"A marine biologist returning

to New England after an absence since 1970 would find a very different world today," said James Carlton, a professor of marine sciences at Williams College.

When an exotic invader settles in a new environment, it competes for resources with native species, often with undesirable consequences. European green crabs, for example, crowd out the tasty blue crabs that are caught from the mid-Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico.

The overall impact of the invasion is unknown.

"We really only have a handful of studies," said Edwin Grosholz of the University of New Hampshire. "We just really don't have any information about what they've done."

### Standoff over defector continues

BEIJING (AP) — North Koreans left. Chinese arrived. And heavily armed police maintained their guard today at South Korea's consulate, where a high-ranking North Korean defector is holed up.

Diplomatic tension surrounding the defection last week of Hwang Jong Yop grew with the weekend shooting of another prominent defector living in Seoul.

Both China and South Korea have stepped up precautions against possible North Korean terrorism.


The police, backed by an armored car and water cannon, guarded the consulate in Beijing where Hwang — a designer of North Korea's guiding philosophy of self-reliance — has been since Wednesday.

Challenged several times by

North Koreans keeping vigil outside the consulate, police blocked surrounding streets with their cars and tire-shredding spikes.

"The Chinese government has recognized the security problem is more serious than before," Chang Moon-ik, spokesman for the South Korean Embassy, said today. He added that Hwang was being well cared for.

Chang and China's foreign ministry would not comment on the negotiations on Seoul's request to Beijing to allow Hwang to leave.



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## Daughter's Engagement Is No Cause For Mom's Celebration

DEAR ABBY: I am writing because I am very disturbed by the lack of morals in our young people today.

Our daughter just became engaged after more than two years of living with her male friend. They didn't have the respect to care what we thought, and they knew how we felt because they were told that we will not visit them where they live. (We do see them at our home.)

They expected us to be delighted over their engagement. I felt it was time they were married, not engaged to live together for yet another year.

I was also surprised that her live-in boyfriend came to us to ask for permission to marry our daughter. (When they are breaking all the old traditions, why believe in this one?)

Needless to say, we were not very receptive, and said neither "yes" nor "no." After all, a few years of living together will not prove that their marriage will last.

I am also upset because our fine "strict" Catholic church doesn't address this subject from the pulpit.

I'd like to add that because of the live-in situation, I will neither have nor will I attend any bridal showers. Nor will I pay for the wedding. I would like to hear your opinion. I'm upset that things are this way and can't really enjoy my only daughter's wedding.

DISAPPROVING MOTHER

DEAR MOTHER: Since you asked for my opinion, here it is:

Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

Obviously, you are hurting or you wouldn't have written to unburden yourself. Taking this rigid, insensitive, punitive stand will only increase your pain and reinforce your isolation from your daughter and future son-in-law.

You have nothing to gain and everything to lose, including contact with any future grandchildren, if you refuse to accept the young couple's decisions.

If it's not too late, please reverse your harsh decision, apologize to your daughter and her fiancé, and enjoy the wedding.

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing about the letter from "Cannot Believe It in Florida," whose family spent more than \$500 to entertain 12 wedding guests who collectively gave one inexpensive gift.

The next time she hosts a wedding, instead of seating guests in sections for "bride" and "groom," she

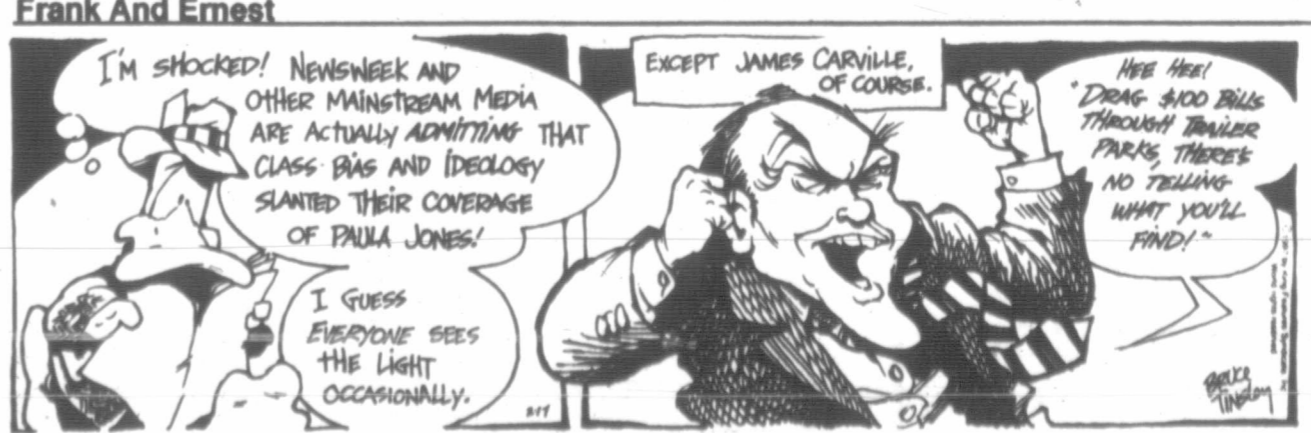
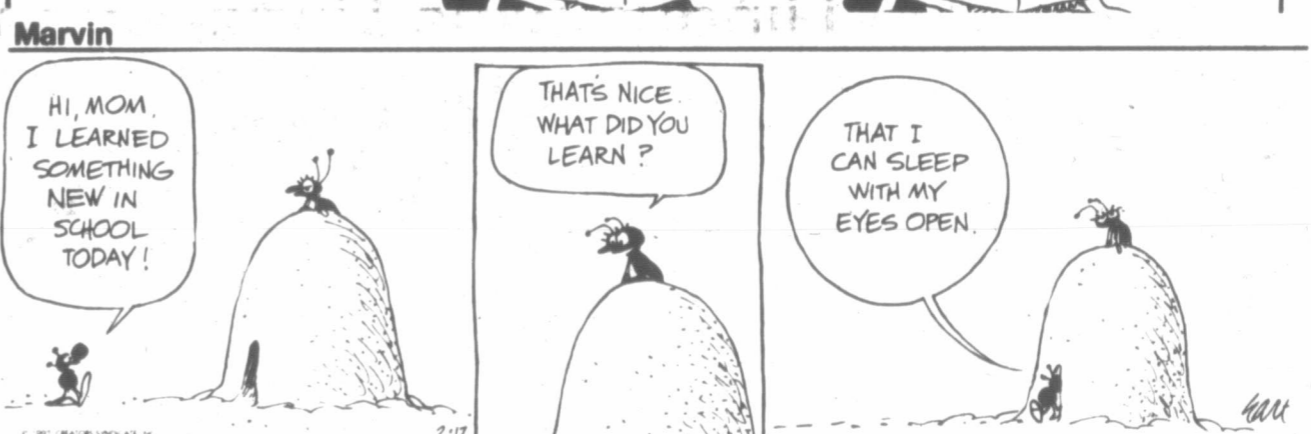
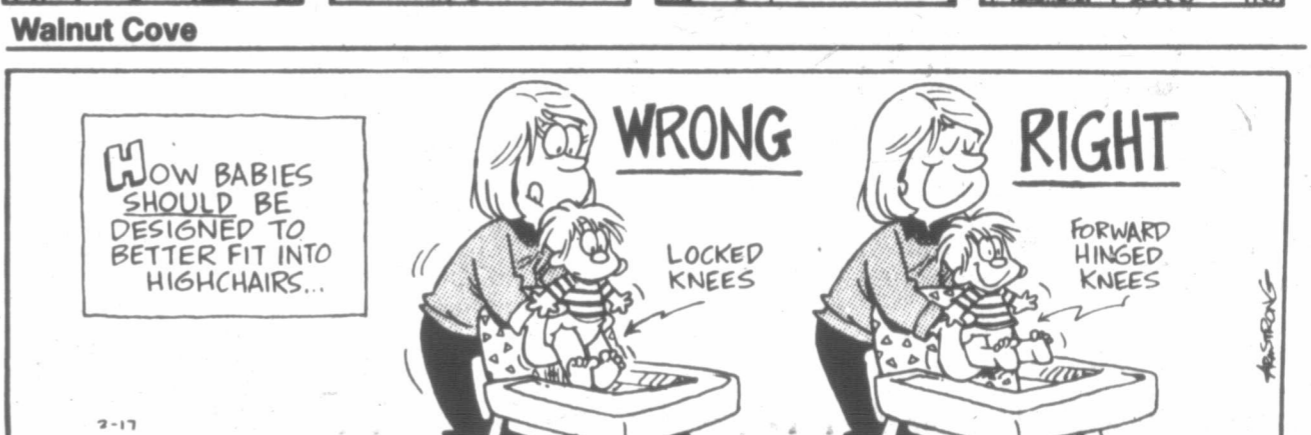
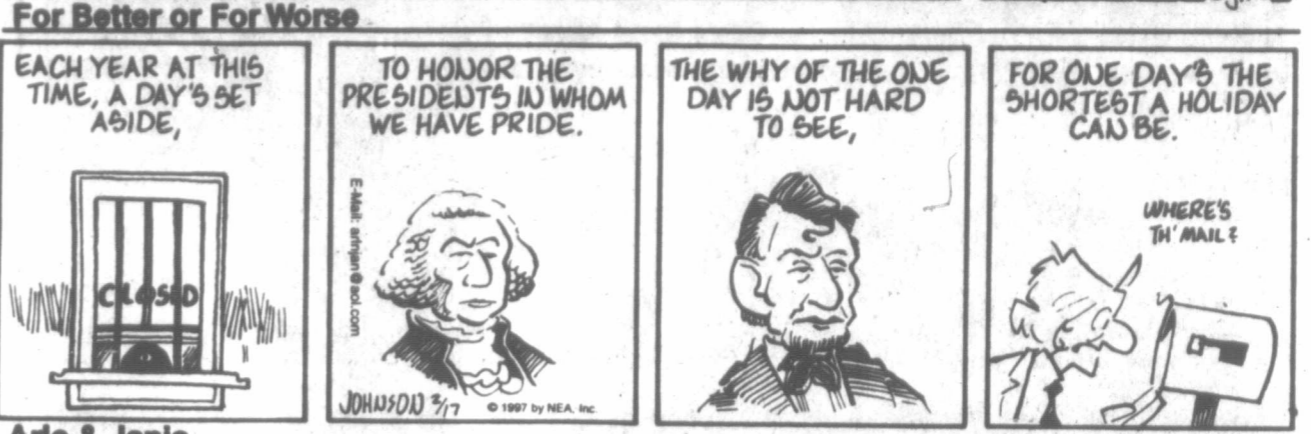
should ask if they have given "expensive" or "inexpensive" gifts so she can seat them accordingly. Guests who brought a gift of value equal to the cost of their "admission" can enjoy the sumptuous meal and unlimited beverages, while those whose gifts do not measure up can line up for warm water and stale bread.

"Cannot Believe It" tried to show she has class and taste by describing the lovely wedding at an exclusive club, sparing no expense. But by writing and complaining to you about the unacceptable gift, she showed quite the opposite.

CANNOT BELIEVE HER IN VIRGINIA  
DEAR CANNOT BELIEVE HER: I cautioned "Cannot Believe It" against approaching the guests about their gift. I hope she heeded my advice.

DEAR ABBY: I know that this is going to sound like a silly question, but I really need to know: Is the word "harassment" pronounced "huh-rass-ment" or "hair-us-ment"? Even on the news they pronounce it differently.

BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.  
DEAR BAKERSFIELD: Although Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Tenth Edition) lists two pronunciations for the verb "harass," the first (and preferred) pronunciation is with the emphasis on the *rass*. Presumably the same holds true for the noun "harassment."



## Horoscope



Tuesday, Feb. 18, 1997

You could be fortunate this year in establishing solid relationships with persons from all walks of life. It could be difficult to choose one friendship above the others.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** Try to keep very busy today. If you focus on your responsibilities without letting any frivolous interests sidetrack you, the results will be productive and rewarding. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the

relationship work. Mail \$2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** In order to thoroughly enjoy life and people today, the quality of your companions will be more significant than the quantity.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** This is a good day to finish projects. Use this day effectively, because you're good at starting and finishing.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Keep your schedule as flexible as possible today; you could become extremely restless and resentful if your day is too structured.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** Focus your effort and attention today on matters that can contribute to your financial security. You could do well for yourself in this arena.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** You have an ability today to take charge and put awkward developments back on course. Associates might recognize this skill even more than you do.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Give credence to your intuition today. It could perceive things your logic might miss, especially pertaining to something you feel strongly about.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Maintain high expectations in all your dealings today, even those you consider mundane. You could be in for several surprises.

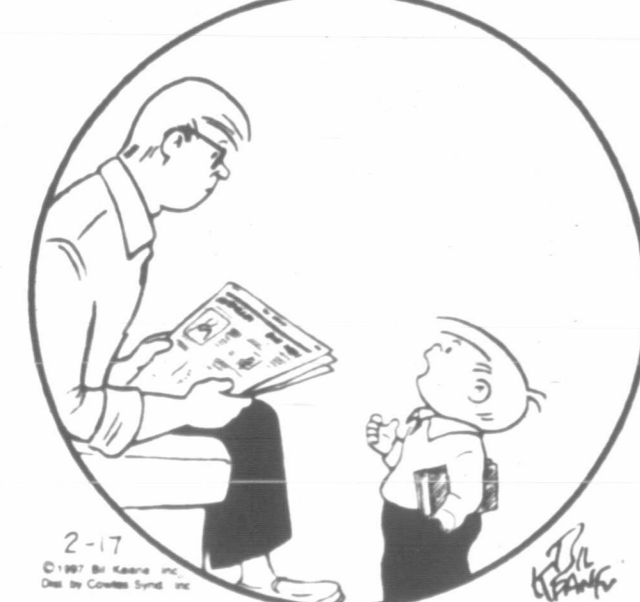
**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** You will attract favorable attention wherever you go today. You have an aura of authority which is free of pretense and pressure.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** Involvement with others should turn out successfully today if you refrain from judging them. Do not be put off by shortcomings or overawed by attributes.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** Developments that require your personal attention should work out well today. You will use your resources effectively.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Diplomacy and tact are your two best assets today. They can be used skillfully to ward off any annoying complications that could develop.

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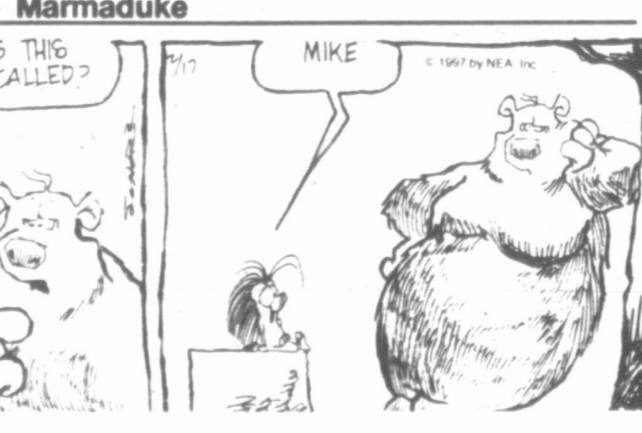
"Which team was Lincoln talkin' about when he said, 'Four scores in seven years?'"



"That dog will beg for rides in anything."



Grizzwells



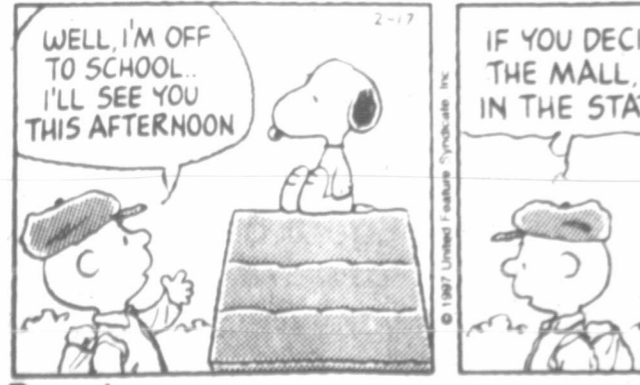
Marmaduke



Alley Oop



Marmaduke



Peanuts



Marmaduke

Sports

Notepad

GOLF

**HONOLULU (AP)** — While defending champion Jim Furyk and Mike Reid drew most of the attention in the final round in the Hawaiian Open, Paul Stankowski lurked in the background. Then, after staying one or two strokes behind the front-runners, he birdied the final hole of regulation with a downhill 8-foot birdie to join the other two in the tournament's first three-way playoff. "That was the big one because it got me in the playoff," Stankowski said Sunday after making a 1-footer on the fourth extra hole to capture the tournament. But until the 72nd hole, it was Furyk and Reid exchanging leads and Stankowski quietly making big shots of his own.

BASKETBALL

**DALLAS (AP)** — New Dallas Mavericks general manager Don Nelson is taking offers for Sam Cassell and Derek Harper from playoff contenders in search of a point guard. The Dallas Morning News, citing league sources, reported Sunday that Houston and Charlotte are interested in Harper. The Hornets also may be willing to swap forward Scott Burrell for Cassell. "Whatever happens, happens," said Cassell, who came to Dallas in a trade from Phoenix months after being dealt to the Suns by Houston. "I would like to stay in Dallas. But if that's not the case, I know I'm a pretty good player in this league. If it's Charlotte or somewhere else, I would go down there and help them win." Harper, 36, was pursued by both teams — as well as Detroit — while a free agent this past off-season.

FOOTBALL

**OMAHA, Neb. (AP)** — St. Louis Rams running back Lawrence Phillips, placed on probation last week for drunken driving, was arrested for disorderly conduct Sunday morning after a disturbance at a hotel. Police were called to the Red Lion hotel at about 2:15 a.m., where they found the 21-year-old Phillips with five other men and several women having a party, Sgt. William Muldoon said. "He started getting belligerent with the officers, cursing and yelling, and it got to the point where we had to arrest him," Muldoon said. Muldoon said a couple of the women had filed harassment charges against some of the men but would not say which ones. Phillips was released on \$50 bond, according to newly hired Rams head coach Dick Vermeil and is scheduled back in Douglas County Court Tuesday. Vermeil called Phillips' actions a "disappointment." "It's a repeated behavioral pattern. He's going to end up depriving himself of the opportunity to play in the National Football League, not by me but by the league. He's already had some problems," Vermeil said. Phillips was already on probation for an assault on a Nebraska women's basketball player when he was convicted of a drunken driving charge in California in December. Phillips was placed on three years' probation, fined \$2,900 and must serve 80 hours of community service.

BASEBALL

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)** — The Anaheim Angels said Sunday that right-hander Todd Van Poppel, who underwent surgery to repair a herniated disc in mid-January, is expected to join the club for spring training on March 1. The 25-year-old former high school star from Arlington was acquired by the Angels off waivers from the Detroit Tigers last November. He was a combined 3-9 with a 9.06 ERA for Oakland and Detroit last season. Dr. Drew Dossett performed the surgery on Van Poppel in Dallas.

Top-ranked Kansas seeks revenge on Missouri

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** — Eddie Sutton, who knows a thing or two about college basketball, was asked last November, "Who's going to beat Kansas?" "Nobody," the Oklahoma State coach had said. "Well, they're probably not going to go through the entire season without losing a game. But they might." Of course, they didn't. After dealing No. 15 Colorado a 114-74 defeat Saturday night, the top-ranked Jayhawks stand 25-1 overall and 11-1 in the Big 12. And who should be coming to Allen Fieldhouse for a rematch tonight but Missouri, the team that's responsible for the "1." Missouri may wish it had gone ahead and lost to the Jayhawks in their first meeting because right now Roy Williams' team is probably playing about as well as it could possibly play. Or is it? "I think we can play better," the Kansas coach said after Raef

LaFrentz scored 23 points in the clobbering of Colorado. Then he added with a wry smile, "It was fun out there tonight." In the Big 12's only Sunday game, Tyrone Lue scored 22 points, 19 in the second half, as Nebraska beat Texas 79-67 in Lincoln, Neb. In other Saturday games, Baylor beat No. 21 Texas Tech 77-76 in overtime; No. 9 Iowa State used a 12-0 run late to rally for a 62-58 victory over Kansas State; Missouri overcame an early deficit to beat Oklahoma 80-73, and Oklahoma State edged Texas A&M 62-60. At Lawrence, Williams figured the star of the game was not LaFrentz, who now has topped 20 points in seven straight games since center Scot Pollard was sidelined by a stress fracture in his foot. "Jacque Vaughn was the star of that game," Williams said. Even though Vaughn scored only two points, he had a season-high 11 assists and held Colorado's

Chauncey Billups to 10 points while forcing him to make eight turnovers. For his part, Billups thought the officials were unduly friendly toward the Jayhawks in Allen Fieldhouse. "A lot of Kansas players get away with some things they shouldn't have," he said. At Baylor, Doug Brandt hit a 3-pointer to tie it with four seconds left in regulation, then made four vital free throws in overtime Saturday as Baylor beat the Red Raiders. "This was a big win and it doesn't get much bigger than that 3-point shot Doug hit," Baylor coach Harry Miller said. "He's a senior and been through a lot of adversity. It was only appropriate he hit that shot and make the free throws in overtime." "I knew I would be open and I knew I'd hit the shot," Brandt said. Kansas State was bidding for its first home win over a top-10 oppo-

nent in five years. "They wanted it. They were digging for it," said Iowa State's Kenny Pratt, who scored eight points in the final two minutes. Iowa State, which lost twice last year to Kansas State, has beaten the Wildcats in both meetings this year. "I guess you'd say we're even now," said Dedric Willoughby, whose 3-point bucket cut Kansas State's lead to two. A few seconds later, Pratt tied it at 55. "We didn't make plays down the stretch. That was a lost opportunity," Kansas State coach Tom Asbury said. "We could have won that game. We should have won that game." Missouri's Kelly Thames had 25 points and tied his career high with 17 rebounds as Missouri, a few days away from a 28-point loss to Iowa State, beat Oklahoma. After going 1-for-14 with two points and four rebounds against No. 2 Wake Forest on Feb. 9, Thames had 45 points and 23

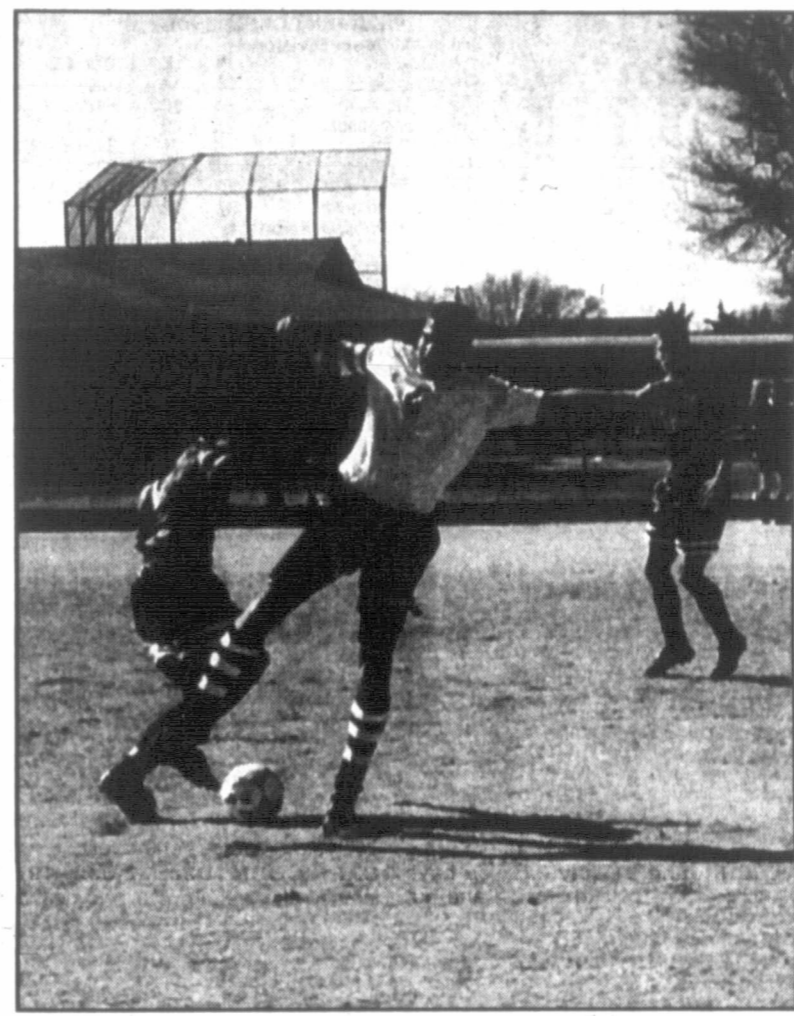
rebounds the last two games. "Of course, you want to come out the next game and give it your all," Thames said. "That's all I've been doing." Thames, a 6-7 junior, also had 17 rebounds last season against George Washington. Thames made six of 10 shots and was 13-for-15 from the free-throw line. "We put him on the line too many times," Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson said. "When you're a good free-throw shooter, you're going to get a lot of points." Nate Erdmann had 26 points and was five for 13 from 3-point range and Corey Brewer had 21 for Oklahoma (14-8, 6-6), which beat No. 15 Colorado 91-66 at home on Wednesday. Oklahoma State, which had lost its first nine road games, used Adrian Peterson's 3-pointer with 1:06 left to wipe out Texas A&M's late comeback in College Station, Texas.

Harvesters host PD in baseball opener

**PAMPA** — With seven returning starters, Pampa will send an experienced lineup against Palo Duro in the season baseball opener at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Harvester Field. Ryan Schumacher, an honorable mention all-district player from a year ago, is scheduled to start on the mound for the Harvesters. "I'll probably use two or three pitchers and limit them to around 40 or 50 pitches," said PHS head coach Dennis Doughty. "We're just trying to work them into shape." Pampa's probable batting order will be Jeremy Knutson, right field; Jerren Miller, center field; Jamisen Hancock, second base; Ryan Schumacher, pitcher; Duane King, left field; August

Larson, shortstop; Seth Haynes, third base; Sean Harris, designated hitter (for Jarred Prock, first base) and Ryan Davis, catcher. Knutson, Hancock, Schumacher, King, Larson, Haynes and Davis are all returning starters. Varsity reserves are Keith Jacoby, Francis Juan, Josh Blackmon, Aaron Whitney and Blaine Northcutt. The Dons' head coach is Richard Earle in his second year. Former Harvester pitcher Troy Owens is one of the junior varsity coaches. "They didn't have that good a season last year and I'm sure they're expecting to do better," said Doughty. The Harvesters were 17-10 a year ago and placed third District 1-4A.

Soccer battle



(Pampa News photo)

Pampa's Lucas Jaramillo (4) battles a Canyon player for control of the ball during the District 5 soccer match Saturday. The Harvesters defeated Canyon, 4-1, to boost their district mark to 3-1. Pampa hosts Randall in a boys-girls district doubleheader Tuesday afternoon, starting at 4:15 Tuesday at the Harvester Complex. Pampa lost to Canyon, 1-0, in the girls match Saturday.

Hingus wins Paris Open

**PARIS (AP)** — Martina Hingis, closing in on Steffi Graf's No. 1 ranking, won her fourth consecutive tournament Sunday when she defeated Anke Huber 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the Paris Women's Open to remain unbeaten for the year. The 16-year-old Swiss star has won all 18 of her matches in 1997, not counting a walkover in the Tokyo final when Graf defaulted with a knee injury and three singles victories in the Hopman Cup. She is 42-4 since losing to Ai

Sugiyama of Japan in the second round of the Olympics — two losses each to Jana Novotna and Graf. Hingis kept right on winning Sunday, capturing the doubles title with Novotna, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Alexandra Fusai of France and Rita Grande of Italy. Hingis has won 13 of 14 doubles matches this year. "I said at the beginning of the year I would retire from doubles," she said. "But I'm still playing."

Gordon leads sweep of Hendrick cars at Daytona

**By DICK BRINSTER AP Sports Writer**

**DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)** — While Jeff Gordon and his teammates took their victory lap at the Daytona 500, Dale Earnhardt was surveying the damage and Bill Elliott simply wanted to forget. After one of the most bizarre runnings of what they call the Great American Race at the Daytona International Speedway Sunday, Gordon was talking by cell phone to his troubled boss Rick Hendrick. There was Earnhardt, holding court not far from what once passed for a Chevrolet. Now it was nothing more than a pile of junk. And there was Elliott, who was outnumbered. "We love you," Gordon told Hendrick, who was back in Charlotte, N.C., hoping to beat leukemia and the United States government. "This one's for you." Earnhardt, the seven-time Winston Cup champion who has won everything of value in stock car racing except its biggest race, was trying to forget another agonizing defeat. "Gordon came up on me and the car pushed off the corner," said Earnhardt, who was seriously injured in a similar crash last July at Talladega. "I got into the wall, checked up, somebody hit me from behind. Next thing I know, we're on the roof again." Bill Elliott wanted to forget the experience. "With three Hendrick cars behind you, you ain't got a

chance," he said. "I was dead meat." That he was, courtesy of Gordon, Terry Labonte and Ricky Craven. The 25-year-old Gordon became the youngest Daytona 500 winner, while Earnhardt, at 45, extended his record in the race to 0-for-19. Earnhardt, his 70 career victories notwithstanding, has lost this race in a number of ways. This time, it was a crash with fewer than 12 laps to go. Running second to Elliott, it appeared Earnhardt got too high on the bank running off turn two. His car slammed into the wall, igniting a melee in which Gordon, defending and two-time Daytona winner Dale Jarrett and his Robert Yates Racing teammate, former champion Ernie Ivan, also were involved. The incident occurred as Gordon was passing Earnhardt. "I had momentum and I got a good run on him off turn two. What good was it going to do for me to ride behind him and help him to win?" Gordon said when asked why he didn't wait to make the move closer to the finish. After Earnhardt's crash, Gordon found himself second to two-time Daytona 500 champ Elliott and followed by defending Winston Cup champion Labonte and new teammate Craven. When the green flag waved again on the 194th of 200 laps, Gordon immediately tried to get past Elliott in the second turn, but was blocked. As the two crossed the finish line at

the end of that lap, Gordon went almost to the infield grass to drive his Chevy into the lead. "I would have gone down to the people cooking down there in the infield if that's what it took to get past Elliott," Gordon said. "That was our chance to win the Daytona 500. I knew it might be the only one I get, so I had to take it." His teammates roared by Elliott on the high side between turns one and two. Then they protected Gordon down the backstretch. "The plan was not for me to go to the inside and them to go to the outside, I'll tell you that," Gordon explained. "I went down there and looked in my mirror and they weren't there. Then I realized we were three wide, but I had the momentum to get past and I just kept going." "Bill didn't know who to block and that opened a lane for me." Gordon, the 1995 series champion, pounded his fists on top of the car in celebration after reaching the Victory Lane. "This is the big one, the Daytona 500," Gordon said. "What a way to do it, 1-2-3 Hendrick, and I couldn't have done it without those guys. That was teamwork out there on the race track there at the end. "I didn't think I could get by Bill, but I'll tell you what, we were working him over pretty bad. I'll bet he was a little worried seeing those Hendrick cars back there." Hendrick, under federal indictment for irregularities

involving several of his auto dealerships, missed the Daytona 500 for the first time in 13 years. He watched the race on television from Charlotte, where he is being treated for the recently diagnosed disease. During the winner's interview, Hendrick called the press box to congratulate Gordon and crew chief Ray Evernham. "Yesterday, Jeff called me and told me, I'm going to make you smile tomorrow," Hendrick said. "This is the best medicine the Good Lord could give me right now. This is a great day for our organization." Just one lap after Gordon took the lead, a collision in turn four between Bobby Hamilton and Johnny Benson Jr., started a 10-car crash that kept Elliott from mounting any kind of attack. "Whenever Jeff and Terry and Ricky hooked up, I was history," Elliott said. "I knew it. I was a sitting duck there at the end. "He (Gordon) just got a good run on me and I couldn't do nothing about it." Earnhardt was among the leaders all day and appeared in good position to make a run for the one major victory that has eluded him, until the incident on lap 189. After he hit the wall, Earnhardt's black No. 3 bounced off Gordon's car, was struck by Jarrett's Ford and flipped. While airborne, it took off the hood of Ivan's car. Then it flipped back onto its wheels and skidded to the infield grass. Two spectators in the back-

stretch grandstand were struck by the hood, with one sustaining a fracture to his right arm and the other a bruised knee. Neither was hospitalized. Earnhardt got out of the battered car without help and stepped into an ambulance. But moments later, he got out of the safety vehicle and jumped into his car. It started and he drove it slowly to the pits, where the Richard Childress team taped some of the pieces down and sent him back out to finish the race. "I just wanted to get back in the race, try to make laps," Earnhardt said. "You've got to get all the laps you can. We're running for a championship." Labonte was second and Craven third. Elliott was followed by two-time winner Sterling Marlin, Jeremy Mayfield, Mark Martin, Ward Burton, Ricky Rudd and former race winner Darrell Waltrip. There were 12 lead changes among nine drivers and numerous position changes throughout the rest of the 42-car field. Eight caution flags slowed the race for 29 laps as Gordon averaged 148.295 mph. He won \$377,410 for his 20th career victory. Robert Pressley came away from a wild early-race crash with a sore lower back, but X-rays at a local hospital were negative. Johnny Benson Jr., part of the late-race melee, was also taken to the hospital where he underwent an exam for a possible pelvic injury. X-rays were negative and he was released.

Jones gets Cowboys under cap

**IRVING, Texas (AP)** — Jerry Jones has creatively wrangled his way under the salary cap again. This time, the maverick owner of the Dallas Cowboys lopped nearly \$5 million off his team's bloated payroll by buying back deferred money from several players at a present-day value, The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday. Quarterback Troy Aikman, receiver Michael Irvin and defensive linemen Tony Tolbert and Charles Haley were among the players who sold deferred money back to the team, the newspaper reported. Jones would not confirm which players had their deals redone. The exchange sunk Dallas from \$3.7 million over the salary cap to \$1.09 million under within three days prior to Friday's deadline. When deferred money is guaranteed, it is treated as a signing bonus, meaning it counts against the salary cap for the length of the deal. When a team buys back deferred money, it lowers the players' impact against the cap because it reduces the signing bonus, thus lowering the cap figure. "We've been dealing with the concept of deferred money since we got into the NFL," Jones said. "As it pertains to the salary cap, we do know how to buy back deferred money."







# Scientists: Evidence points to asteroid as dinosaur killer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ocean core samples contain "proof positive" of a massive asteroid colliding with the Earth 65 million years ago and triggering a global extinction that probably killed off the dinosaurs, scientists report.

Richard D. Norris, leader of the international ocean drilling expedition, said Sunday that three drill samples have the unmistakable signature of an asteroid impact, including a brownish clay that he called the "fireball layer" because it seems to contain bits of the asteroid itself.

"We've got the smoking gun," said Norris in a telephone interview. "These neat layers of sediment bracketing the impact have never been found in the sea before. It is proof positive of the impact."

A team of international scientists, working on the drill ship Joides Resolution, spent five weeks off the east coast of Florida collecting cores from the ocean floor in about 8,500 feet of water. They drilled up to 300 feet beneath the sea bed, collecting sediments laid down at the time of the dinosaur extinction.

Norris said the deepest layers contain fossil remains of many animals

and came from a healthy "happy-go-lucky ocean" just before the impact.

Just above this is a layer with small green glass pebbles, thought to be ocean bottom material instantly melted by the massive energy release of the impact.

Next was a rusty brown layer which Norris said is thought to be from the "vaporized remains of the asteroid itself."

The heat of the impact would have been so intense, said Norris, that the stony asteroid would have instantly been reduced to vapor and thrown high into the sky, some of it perhaps even reaching outer space. It then snowed down, like a fine powder, all over the globe.

Norris said brown deposits, like that in the core sample, have been found elsewhere and they have a high content of iridium, a chemical signature of asteroids.

Just above the brown layer, are two inches of gray clay with strong evidence of a nearly dead world.

"It was not a completely dead ocean, but most of the species that are seen before (early in the core sample) are gone," said Norris.

"There are just some very minute

fossils. These were the survivors in the ocean."

This dead zone lasted about 5,000 years, said the scientist, and then the core samples showed evidence of renewed life. "It is amazing how quickly the new species appeared," Norris said.

Robert W. Corell, assistant director for Geosciences of the National Science Foundation, called the core samples the strongest evidence yet that an asteroid impact caused the dinosaurs' extinction.

"In my view, this is the most significant discovery in geosciences in 20 years," he said. "This gives us the facts of what happen to life back then. I would certainly call it the smoking gun."

Although the impact with the asteroid occurred in the southern Gulf of Mexico, Norris went to the Atlantic Ocean, near the edge of the continental shelf in his search to document it. He surmised that the violence of the impact, followed by huge waves, roiled the Gulf of Mexico so much that the area was unlikely to have clear sediment layers dating to the dinosaur era.

Norris theorized that waves from the impact would have washed completely across Florida, depositing debris in the

Atlantic. That is where he found it.

The ship bearing the core samples returned to port on Friday and the NSF announced the findings Sunday, just hours before NBC was airing a movie about a fictional asteroid hitting the Earth and causing widespread destruction.

"The impact of the asteroid featured in tonight's NBC-TV show is peanuts compared to the real thing faced by the world 65 million years ago," said Corell.

Geologist Walter Alvarez of the University of California, Berkeley, first proposed in 1980 that the dinosaurs disappeared from fossil history suddenly because of a massive asteroid hit. At first, the theory had few supporters.

But in 1989, scientists found evidence of a huge impact crater north of Chicxulub, on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Later studies found evidence of debris washed out of the Gulf by waves that went inland as far as what is now Arkansas.

It is now widely believed that an asteroid of six to twelve miles in diameter smashed to Earth at thousands of miles an hour. It instantly gouged a crater 50 to 180 miles wide.

# Oil man kidnapped in South America

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Kidnappers seized a U.S. oil engineer and his pilot as they arrived at a fishing camp in Venezuela, and police suspect they were taken to Colombia and held for ransom.

The kidnapping occurred at a camp near the Orinoco River, about 40 miles from the Colombian border, authorities said Sunday.

Officials said suspected rebels apparently showed up at the camp early Friday and captured the pair when their light plane landed. The two were forced back on to the craft and it was flown to Colombia.

U.S. and Venezuelan officials identified the American as Jerel Duane Shaffer, general manager of the El Tigre, Venezuela, office of Houston-based Production Operators Inc., and the Venezuelan pilot as Elias Barnard.

National Guard Gen. Dagoberto Rodriguez Losada said the kidnappers were thought to be members of the National Liberation Army, one of the two main leftist rebel groups in Colombia, which shares a long, mountainous jungle border with Venezuela.



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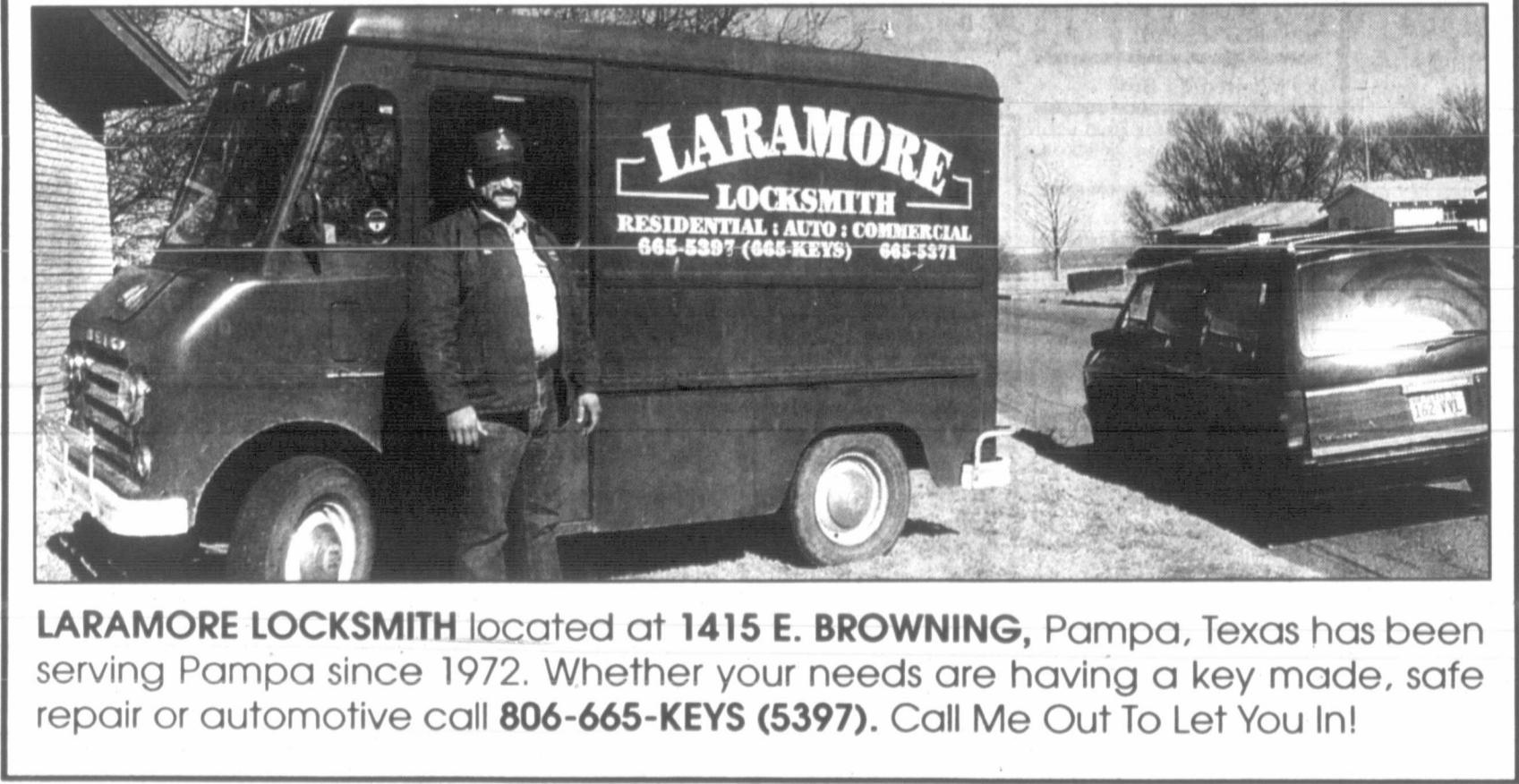
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