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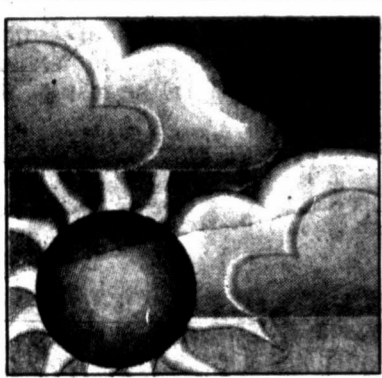
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Pampa

Vol. 90 No. 240 • Pampa, Texas
50¢ Daily • Sunday *1



Low tonight 37 degrees.
High Saturday 52.
For weather details, see
Page 2.

PAMPA — Today is the filing deadline for the 1998 election.

Gray County Clerk Wanda Carter will keep her office open until 6 p.m. today for filing.

PAMPA — The meeting for the NAACP Pampa Branch scheduled for Jan. 6 has been canceled. Regular monthly meetings will resume beginning in February.

PAMPA — Early voting for the extension of the PEDC began today on the main floor of City Hall and is running through Jan. 13.

Any resident living within the city limits is eligible to vote. Early voting is open to prospective absent voters as well as for the sake of voter convenience. Call 669-5750 for more information.

PAMPA — St. Mark C.M.E. Church, 406 Elm, will be serving breakfast from 8-11 a.m. Jan. 3. The church will serve hot pancakes, buttered grits, ham, sausage, bacon, eggs, toast, coffee and juice.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 13-14-16-38-41-44.

Estimated jackpot: \$12 million.

Number matching six of six: 0.

Winning ticket(s) sold in: NONE.

Next Lotto Texas game: Saturday night.

Estimated jackpot: \$18 million.

• **Roberta "Bert" Schmidt**, 82, long time Pampa resident.

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Probation violator tops Crimestoppers 10 most wanted list

The most wanted fugitive from this week's Pampa/Gray County Crimestoppers is John Thomas White.

White, 55, is a 5' 11" tall white male who is wanted for probation violation for possession of a controlled substance. He is considered armed and dangerous, officers said.

The rest of the Crimestopper top ten are: 2.) Johnny M. Marinez Jr., 55, white male, is wanted for violation of probation for aggravated assault.

3.) William Edward Welch Jr., 40, white male, wanted for violation of probation for burglary.

4.) Jeremy Merle Fitzer, 17, white male, wanted on a grand

jury indictment for burglary.

5.) Robert Lee French, 42, white male, wanted on a grand jury indictment for burglary.

6.) William Michael Landers, 28, black male, is wanted for felony non-payment of child support and other charges.

7.) Betty Jacklyn Weatherwax Lee, 36, white female, wanted for

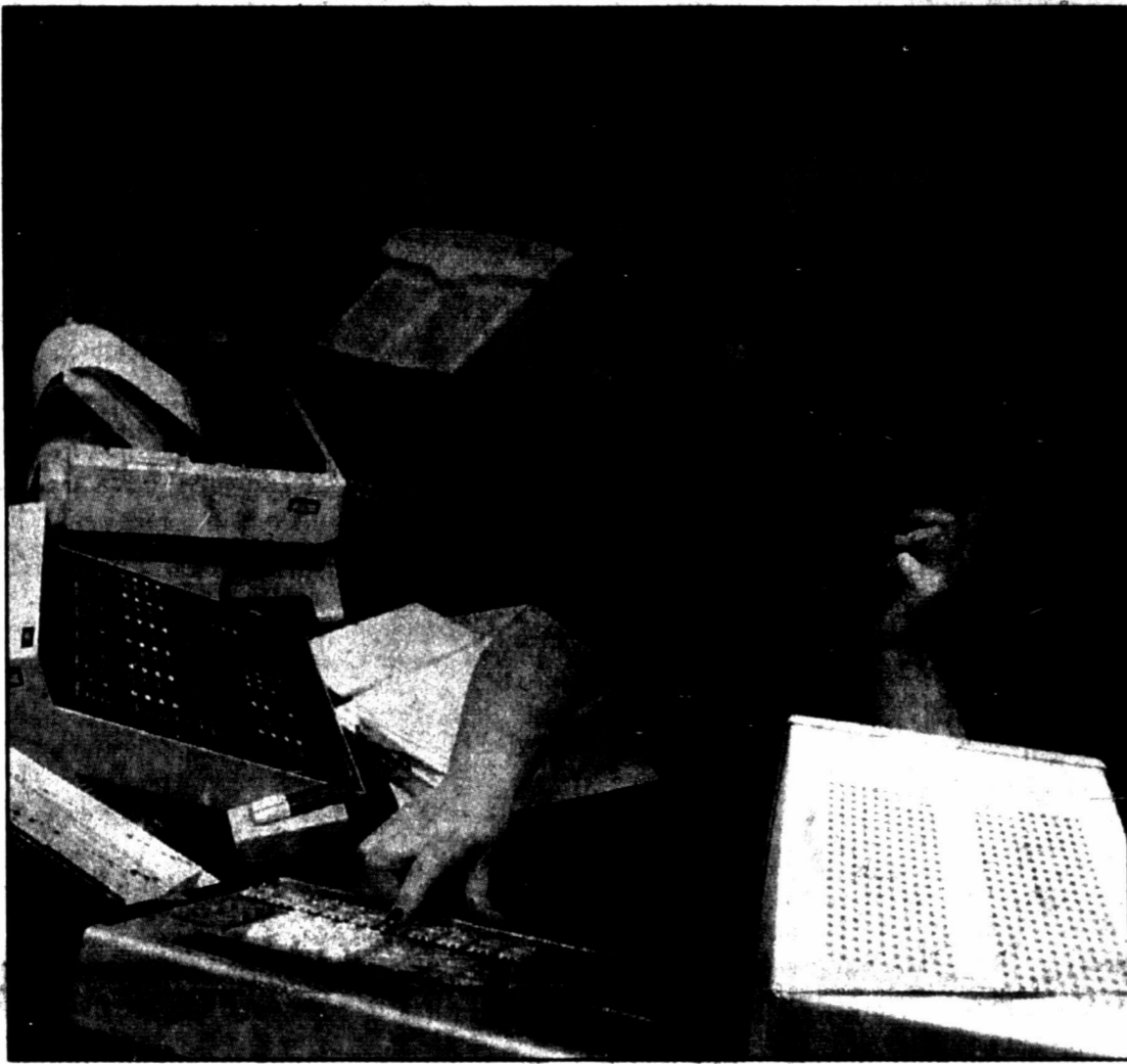
two counts of violation of probation for arson and aggravated assault.

8.) Trevor Shane Colpetzer, 21, white male, wanted for two counts of forgery.

9.) Jesus Jose Vasquez, 32, white male, is wanted for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

10.) Boyd Scott Pilgrim, 34, white male, wanted for violation of probation for possession of a controlled substance.

If you see any of these people or know of their whereabouts you can collect a cash reward by calling Crimestoppers at 669-2222. You remain anonymous and there is no caller i.d.



911 operator Janie West reaches to answer a call on the emergency system. Behind her Corey Hernandez operates a duplicate system. The operators also function as dispatchers for the police department.

County looks at upgrading 911 system

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Staff Writer

The possible addition of a GIS (Geographical Information System) to Gray County evoked as much comment about residential privacy as it did about cost and county contribution at this week's commissioners meeting.

The county is being asked by the Panhandle Regional Planning Committee to contribute \$20,000 in financial or in-kind services for the implementation of the system. With a county commitment, a \$60,000 contribution would be made toward to purchase of the \$80,000 system for Gray County.

A GIS is a pictorial computer mapping system with attached data systems that can be programmed to provide detailed information and advanced computer pictures of every property. The implementation of the system would also mean the renumbering of rural addresses in Gray County.

If purchased, the system could also provide local entities such as the appraisal district, the county, the city, the school district and emergency response organizations with immedi-

ate information concerning who, where and what about any residence in the county.

It has the potential to save taxpayer dollars. Operations for these entities would simplify. Ambulances could get to rural residences more quickly than ever before, for example. The pre-existing illnesses of residents could potentially be programmed into the system so that emergency response units would know what to expect before arriving on the scene.

Businesses interested in moving into Pampa would have their location research at the click of a button. The appraisal district wouldn't have to rely on old hand-drawn maps for property info. The system seems to have the potential of saving time and money for every governmental entity in the area.

However, the question of privacy did come up. Commissioner Joe Wheelley said the improvement of emergency response is the positive part of the system — the negative part is the loss of privacy.

Commissioner Jim Greene agreed, commenting "about those residents who, 'don't want anybody to know where they live.'" But Greene then acknowledged the presence and

See 911, Page 2

Mayor says Pampa is in good shape for the new year

By JEFF WEST
Staff Writer

1998 is here and Pampa Mayor Bob Neslage thinks the city's going into the year in pretty good shape.

"The street project is a big project," Neslage said. "Our goal is to wrap that up this year, finish it up this summer if at all possible. Our citizens will really be pleased when we finish that."

The mayor said that city crews are working on 23rd now and will soon start on Browning. Browning is the final street to be finished, he said. The city is tearing up the old concrete and pouring down asphalt and putting in curbs where it's needed.

"The city commissioners and myself have decided that we wanted to start dismantling some of these old deteriorated houses that have been deserted," Neslage said.

He said the houses are a health hazard and a general hazard because they could fall in on somebody. They are also unsightly, he said, so he hopes to improve the view entering and leaving Pampa, especially along the highways.

Neslage said it will take some time but it can be done.

He said he hopes more people will make use of the municipal golf course.

Neslage said it's one of the finest municipal courses around.

The city will continue to occasionally offer coupons in the paper for free games so people will try it, he added.

He also wants to find a solution for the VFW wall at von Brunow Park and to finish creating the park.

As far as Neslage's new year resolutions, he said he was going to try to eat healthy, exercise and otherwise improve his health.

Judge says county to focus on two new projects in 1998

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Staff Writer

Out with the old. In with the new.

1998 is bringing two major projects into focus for the Gray County Commission, according to County Judge Richard Peet.

"We're running out of room in the courthouse," Peet said.

The rehabilitation of the County Courthouse is a new project that Peet will be presenting to the commission for consideration in the new year. The courthouse, built at the turn of this last century, is needing more than a face lift for the turn of the next.

The county is out growing the building. People are sharing offices and a difficult situation could turn into an impossible one without some planning for the future in terms of the historic building, Peet said.

The paving of county roads is

another long term project to be approached in '98, according to Peet.

"There are a lot of roads out there I'd like to see put into paving condition," he said.

But as far as projects, these are not necessarily going to end or possibly begin this year. This is how the county is a little different from the city, said Peet.

"We're not 'project' oriented like the city," he explained.

But these are two of the big issues he is planning to bring to the commissioners court for discussion and possible future implementation, he said.

On a more personal note, as his own New Year's resolution, Judge Peet said he is seeking to give the people of Gray County fair and just representation.

He does this, he said, by being very deliberate and conscientious about seeking both divine guidance and guidance from his family.

Postmaster retires after 40 years



Richard A. Wilson, center, feeds part of his retirement cake to his granddaughter Tacil Wilson while his grandson Zaca watches during a reception today in the basement of the post office. Wilson is retiring as postmaster at Pampa. He has been the city's postmaster since 1962.

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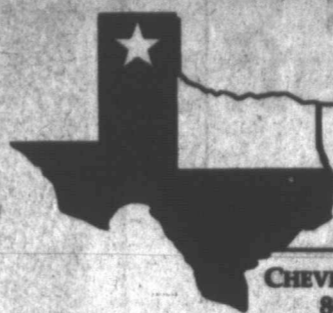
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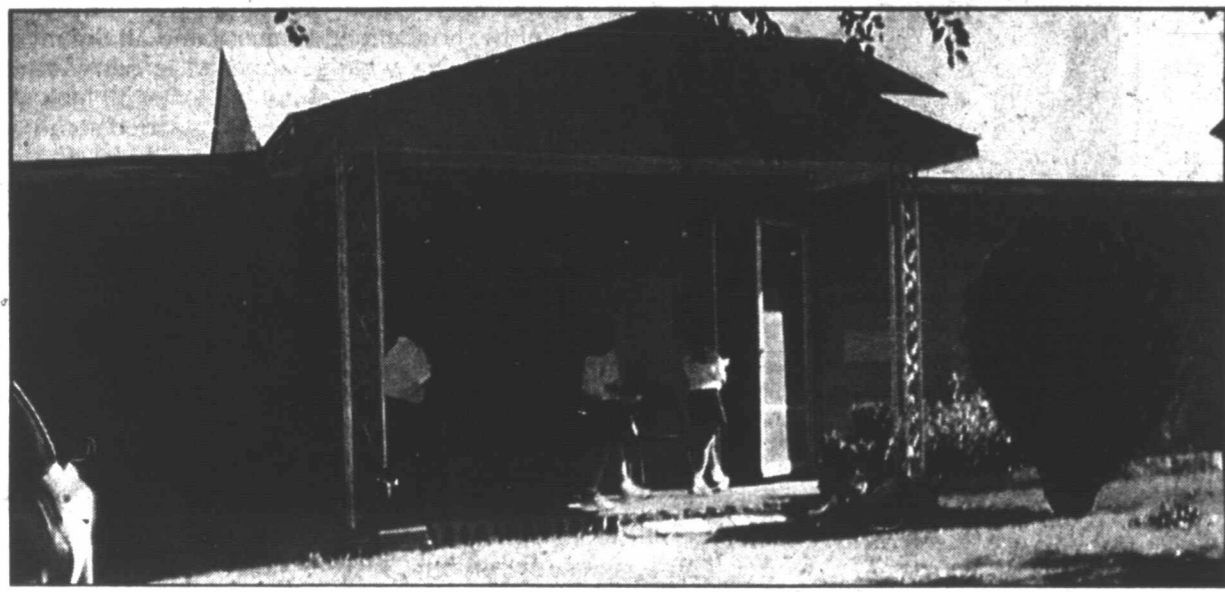
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Meals on Wheels



(Special photos)
Third grade students from Pampa schools, top, recently participated in a poster contest for Meals on Wheels. Shown are third grade students from St. Vincent de Paul Catholic school with their posters. The students, left, also volunteered to deliver meals to learn more about the program.

Hospitals full of people suffering from upper respiratory problems

EL PASO (AP) — Wards were so full of patients complaining of sniffling, sneezing, coughing, aching, stuffy heads or fever that hospitals asked Emergency Medical Services to bypass them, officials said.

EMS told the hospitals they all had to take more patients since everybody was facing the same problem.

"Every year, a respiratory illness season occurs between December and February, but it's been very bad this year," said Dr. Brian Nelson, associate professor of emergency medicine with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

There was a run last week on intensive care space in the border city, Nelson said.

"At one point, every ICU bed was full, although the situation is better now," he said.

The challenge for doctors and nurses was getting patients well enough to be off respirators, or other intensive care requirements, so patients could be moved to regular wards.

The majority of people can handle upper respiratory diseases, Nelson said, but a minority get quite ill, especially smokers, drinkers and the elderly.

Earlier this week, Juarez health officials reported seeing about 50 percent more children with respiratory problems than they had two weeks earlier.

Bronchitis, bronchial pneumonia, streptococcal pneumonia, flu and severe colds have been reported in both cities.

"We've had about two cases of Influenza type A so far," said Dr. Jorge Magana, director of the El Paso Health and Environmental District.

"But unless you do a culture you don't know what is making the person ill," Magana said.

Children and seniors can easily develop pneumonia, too, he said. Another problem is that young adults specially have become susceptible to whooping cough, or pertussis. Magana said anybody with a cough for two or more weeks should ask their doctor to take a culture for whooping cough.

"You may be carrying the disease and passing it to others," he said. "Babies and young children, especially if they're not properly vaccinated, stand to get whooping cough."

The best advice people can take for avoiding such illnesses include washing hands frequently, keeping hands (with their germs) away from nose and eyes, taking vitamin C, drinking enough fluids and avoiding crowds, Magana said.

Neighborhood Watch works!

Seven-week parent class to be offered

First Baptist Church of Pampa and Buckner Children and Family Services will offer a free Parent Education Class to families in the Pampa area through Project C.A.R.E. The classes will begin Jan. 21 and will meet at First Baptist Church, 203 NW Street, Pampa.

The classes will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. once a week for seven weeks. Each weekly session will include a free meal, an adult program and a child care program. The following parent education topics will be discussed: resolving family conflicts in a positive manner, increasing family communication and expressiveness, developing positive self-concept, mutual respect and self-esteem in all family members, increasing family awareness of developmental stages and enhancing anger and stress management skills.

A suspect still at large in pedophile ring

WACO (AP) — Central Texas authorities are hunting today for a ninth suspect accused of sexually assaulting boys and sometimes taping the encounters.

Police claim the suspects used drugs, alcohol and money to entice the boys into appearing in more than 100 explicit home movies.

Investigators uncovered the ring after the Dec. 2 death of 14-year-old George Scilley in an arson fire that destroyed an Aquila mobile home shared by Scilley, suspect Jerry Lee Easter and Paul Singleton.

Singleton, 21, has confessed to setting the blaze in what Hill County sheriff's department officials have called a botched murder-suicide attempt.

Easter and Singleton escaped from the home by climbing through a window, but Scilley was trapped by burglar bars at the front door.

Dierk Milum, M.Ed., T.LPC, Buckner Children and Family Services. Milum received a master's degree in professional counseling from West Texas University in 1995.

Buckner Children and Family Services in Amarillo is part of the statewide network of Buckner

Baptist Benevolence, the largest social service agency of its kind in the nation. To enroll in the Parent Education Classes or for more information, call Buckner Children and Family Services at (806) 352-3900 or First Baptist Church of Pampa at 669-1155.

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Matt Damon Danny Devitto Dainmaker PG-13 Nightly 7:30 p.m. only	Neve Campbell & Courtney Cox - Scream 2 PG Nightly 7:30 & 9:45 p.m.	
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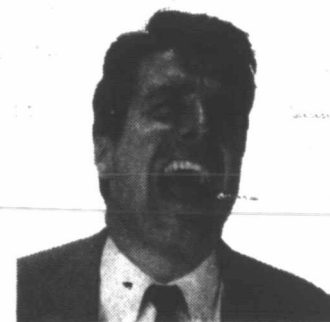
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VIEWPOINTS

THE PAMPA NEWS

EVER STRIVING FOR THE TOP O' TEXAS
TO BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Let Peace Begin With Me

This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the coveting commandment.

L.W. McCall
Publisher

Kate B. Dickson
Associate Publisher/Editor

Opinion

Feds should give account of how money is spent

One of the guiding principles of consumer protection might be termed transparency in transactions - the buyer has the right to know everything about the thing being purchased.

And so there is an itemizing of ingredients in food, drugs, even laundry detergent, under federal mandate.

"However, there's one glaring exception," noted Southern California political commentator Bruce Herschensohn. "For many the biggest expense they have is federal taxes - yet your tax bill comes with no itemizing of how your money is spent. Unless you do a lot of research, you're in the dark." When Herschensohn ran as Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate six years ago, one of his key proposals was to give taxpayers a regular accounting of where their dollars went.

Interestingly, just such a proposal is now being advanced by a member of Congress who stands as the opposite point on the political spectrum from the conservative Herschensohn. Rep. Charles Schumer, Democrat from New York, has introduced the Taxpayer Right-To-Know Act, aimed "to show families how their tax dollars are spent by Washington dollar-for-dollar," he says.

Taxpayers who would check a box on their tax returns requesting a "receipt" would be mailed a form breaking down how much of their money went to national defense, Medicare, Social Security, interest on the debt, building roads and bridges, foreign aid, space exploration, public-school funding - "and yes, even congressional expenses," Schumer notes. A general breakdown of federal spending would also be put on the Internet to enable taxpayers to figure out on their own their specific dollar contribution to each category of the government.

Schumer has Republican co-sponsors for his measure, and, indeed, it all seems like a common sense proposal - yet there might be political reasons for why something along these lines has not been standard government practice heretofore. Certainly it might be hard for politicians to inveigh against, say, defense spending as the culprit behind growing federal outlays if constituents knew, through their itemized receipts, that merely 17 percent of the budget goes for the Pentagon - barely two percentage points more than the amount the federal government spends on various interest payments, including servicing the national debt.

With regard to consumer protection in the realm of private transactions, we have confidence that the marketplace can regulate more efficiently than government, even forcing full disclosure of product ingredients by sellers seeking advantage in their competition for customers. But even if one disagrees, it is hard to see how government can with credibility demand that private manufacturers be open with consumers about their products when government itself plays hide-the-ball with the taxpayers who fund its operations. Consumer rights shouldn't stop where the tax bill starts.

-Odessa American

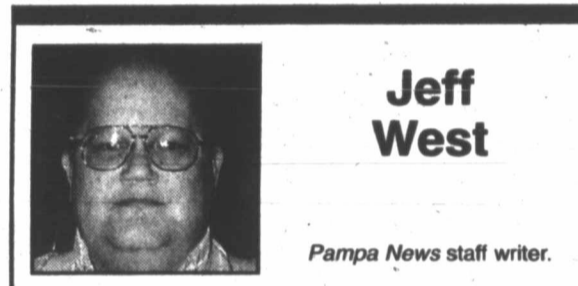


Talk about what matters

A new year is upon us, only two years now (or three depending on how you count) before the millennium. So perhaps it's a good time to say, I wish people would shut up about the millennium already, it's changed before and nothing much happened. Now the worst thing is that 20th Century Fox will sound outdated and computer programmers have to work out the year 2000 problem which I'm sick of hearing about too.

Come to think of it they should shut up about El Niño, too. There are floods in some parts of the world and drought in others, and warm weather and cold weather and hey, is any of this new? Didn't we have all that stuff somewhere in the world last year? And you know what? The price of Head and Shoulders isn't a direct result of El Niño, but you wouldn't know it from listening to people moan and groan and pretend they know about weather patterns.

And while I'm at it, has anyone heard that Ellen's gay? Could anyone, including the gay community, possibly care any more, even those



Jeff West
Pampa News staff writer.

few people who hadn't figured it out long ago? So I wish they'd shut up about her, too.

While we're on TV, *Seinfeld's* going off at the end of this season, and I'm glad. Every critic referred to it as the show about nothing. Well what are the other sitcoms about? *Seinfeld's* about four neurotic friends hanging out together with nothing to do but think about sex and trivia. Or is that *The Golden Girls*? *Family ties* was about the same thing except they had a reason to hang out together. So once *Seinfeld* is finally gone maybe they'll shut up about it.

I'm really sorry too that Princess Diana was killed. We got to hear minute by minute details of her accident and funeral and all the investigation and what's happened to her wardrobe and all the songs about her. After all look at all she accomplished. She, uh, married some ugly British guy and had some kids and got divorced and then she uh, well she wore pretty dresses and talked nice about doing good things and, well. Hey come to think of it she didn't do anything but dance and show up. She received a whole bunch of money from the royal family of a foreign country to show up and make nice noises about things. So you know what, unless it can be reported that she's not dead anymore I wish they'd shut up about her, too.

Gez, I've gone on and on about a lot of stuff, you might think I wasn't the cheery up-beat person that I am. In fact, there may be some people who wish I'd shut up about what I wish people would shut up about so I will, except to say be good to one another and be good to yourself.

Today in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, Jan. 2, the second day of 1998. There are 363 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 2, 1900, Secretary of State John Hay announced the "Open Door Policy" to facilitate

trade with China.
On this date:
In 1492, the leader of the last Arab stronghold in Spain surrendered to Spanish forces loyal to King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella I.
In 1788, Georgia became the

fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
In 1929, the United States and Canada reached agreement on joint action to preserve Niagara Falls.
In 1935, Bruno Hauptmann, went on trial in Flemington, N.J., on charges of kidnapping

and murdering the son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. Hauptmann was found guilty, and executed.
In 1942, the Philippine capital of Manila was captured by Japanese forces during World War II.

Rough tactics in a lost cause

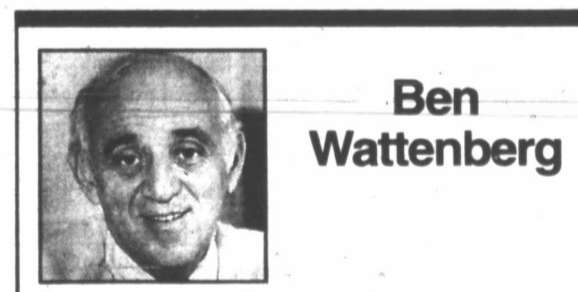
By BEN WATTENBERG AND DANIEL WATTENBERG

You can hear them butting helmets. The White House is playing smashmouth politics over the rejected nomination of Bill Lann Lee to be the government's top civil-rights enforcer. Will Republicans be intimidated?

The Senate Judiciary Committee recently nixed Lee's nomination as assistant attorney general for civil rights on a 9-9 vote, citing his rearguard defense of racial preferences at a time when the courts are restricting their use.

Administration officials threatened a recess appointment of Lee, which would have put him in office for up to a year without Senate approval. When Republicans threatened retaliation against this rare usurpation of Senate prerogatives (by bottling up other judicial nominations or slowing down appropriations, for example), White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry acidly needled them as "lame-brained." On a Sunday morning show, Jesse Jackson foreshadowed the mau-mauing to come, insinuating that the rejection of the Asian-American Lee was part of a GOP pattern of holding up the judicial nominations of "women and people of color." (The attempt to wedge Asian-Americans away from Republicans by making the pro-quota Lee a racial martyr was ludicrous: It is no secret that Asian-Americans, the "model minority," are disproportionately victimized by quotas. Since admissions preferences were banned in the University of California, Asian-American admissions have risen sharply.)

Then, Senator Orrin Hatch, leader of the opposition to Lee, blinked. Or at least twitched. Senate Republicans, he signaled, would be "less upset" if instead of making a recess appointment, the president simply installed Lee as the "acting" civil rights chief, under which he would assume the powers of the office for the rest of Clinton's term and sacrifice only the formal title. The president took the hint and made Lee acting assistant attorney general for civil rights in an Oval Office ceremony.



Ben Wattenberg

Before retreating further, Republicans should remember that even smashmouth politics requires a good issue and good timing. Clinton is playing it with a bad issue at a bad time.

When Ronald Reagan fired striking air-traffic controllers in 1981, he electrified his conservative base and sent an early signal to political opponents that the new president might be a grade-B actor - but he was an alpha male. But when Reagan busted the airtraffic controllers' union, people were already fed up with aggressive demands by public-employee unions in trades that affected the general safety. On the essential issue underlying the strike, Reagan was swimming with a popular tide.

On the issue underlying the symbolic sparring over Lee - racial preferences - Clinton is swimming against powerful popular and judicial tides.

In 1996, racial preferences in state hiring, contracts and university admissions were banned in the nation's largest state when California voters passed Proposition 209. The next year the Supreme Court upheld a ban on admissions preferences in the university system of Texas, the second largest state. This fall, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Proposition 209.

Study the defenders of the color-conscious status quo closely: Recognizing that the tide has turned against them, they are evading head-on substantive debate with supporters of color-blind standards. The recent pattern is unmistakable:

-President Clinton's "race advisory board" excluded affirmative-action opponents like

Ward Connerly, the leader of the campaign for Proposition 209.

-Rather than risk a sweeping Supreme Court ruling against racial preferences, civil-rights groups this fall paid almost half a million dollars to buy off a white teacher who had been laid off by the Piscataway, N.J., school board instead of an equally qualified black teacher to preserve racial diversity on its faculty. (Because the two teachers were equally qualified, the civil-rights groups here ducked an unusually favorable legal test of preferences; typically, preferences benefit those demonstrably less qualified.)

-At the president's recent "town hall" meeting on race in Akron, Ohio, a bullying Clinton narrowly interrogated the token opponent of preferences, scholar Abigail Thernstrom, in yet another exercise in evasion: "Do you favor the United States Army abolishing affirmative action programs that produced Colin Powell? Yes or no?" he demanded.

And the White House has tried to spin the struggle over Lee as a fight about anything but racial preferences - executive powers, Senate obstructionism and racially insensitive Republicans.

When the other side is on the ropes, keep the pressure on. It would be "lame-brained" for the GOP to play tit-for-tat with unrelated judicial nominees and appropriations bills. But the long delayed Canady bill languishing in the House could nationalize 209-style reaffirmation of the 14th Amendment and the 1964 Civil Rights Act by banning race and gender preferences in federal contracts and hiring. Republicans should bite the bullet. Let's have that race dialogue. Bring it up for a vote. The public supports it, and it's right. Don't be scared. Bill Clinton is no alpha male. He's more of an Alida male.

Ben Wattenberg is the author of *Values Matter Most* and is moderator of PBS's *Think Tank*. Daniel Wattenberg, who wrote this week's column, writes regularly for *The Weekly Standard* and is a contributing editor for *George*.

Your representatives

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White Deer Land Museum



A recent photo of White Deer Land Museum in Pampa reveals the beauty of the historic building. (Special photo)

Mexican village resumes life after massacre

ACTEAL, Mexico (AP) — Boys play with marbles in 4-inch-deep mud. Girls with babies on their backs huddle around fires that smolder from the wet wood. Barefoot women slip down a steep path into the hamlet. Life has returned to Acteal, but it is hardly luxurious.

Villagers said Thursday that paramilitary groups still roam the cloud-covered mountains, and military personnel carriers — transporting troops the villagers distrust — zipped about every five minutes.

The two trenches just below the square where 45 people slaughtered here last week are buried is now a muddy, eroding notch in the hillside. About 100 villagers returned to Acteal on Wednesday after fleeing the Dec. 22 massacre. Their first night home was miserable, they said.

"We were suffering because of the rain and the mud," said Vicente Luis Perez, a 39-year-old farmer. "The conditions are still bad, and we're still suffering."

Nonetheless, the villagers held a vote Thursday morning and decided to stay.

"We were afraid last night because we know there are paramilitary members in these mountains," Perez said. "But nothing happened to us. The only thing that did happen is that we suffered from the rain and the mud."

Thursday was the fourth anniversary of the uprising of the Zapatista National Liberation Army here in Chiapas state. Many of Acteal's villagers support the goals of the rebels, but not their armed struggle.

They say the gunmen who attacked them were supported by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, and are angry they will not ally themselves with them.

At least three PRI municipal officials have been implicated in the massacre, two of them are under arrest.

But villagers, human rights groups and opposition politicians have called for the investigation to target state and federal officials they say are complicit in the killings.

Marches were held Thursday throughout Mexico to commemorate the Zapatista anniversary and call for deeper investigation into the Acteal massacre.

Nichols' life on balance as trial nears an end

DENVER (AP) — The anguish from Oklahoma City bombing victims was so thick in the courtroom this week that jurors were warned not to let it dictate the penalty for Terry Nichols. Don't expect his lawyers to fight it, either.

When family and friends of the convicted co-conspirator take the stand, they are expected to tell jurors that Nichols is a devoted father and husband whose role in the deadly bombing does not merit a death sentence.

Defense witnesses in the trial's penalty phase were to begin testifying today. Nichols' ex-wife, Lana Padilla, and her three sons are among those expected to take the stand.

Defense attorney Michael Tigar has already told the jury that convicted Nichols of involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy to build a weapon of mass destruction that "a sen-

tence of death is never required."

Tigar said Nichols' "life pattern," including his love for his family, was inconsistent with an intent to kill anyone. Tigar also said Nichols' involvement in the bombing plot was "minimal," another fact the jury could use to spare Nichols' life.

Andrew Cohen, a trial analyst and Denver attorney, said Tigar has a big hurdle to jump to overcome the tearful, angry testimony by 55 bombing victims and rescuers who described the carnage and loss. Their stories were part of prosecutors' plea for the death penalty for Nichols.

"Tigar won't even try to jump that hurdle; he'll run in a different direction," Cohen said. "He's telling the jurors, 'We don't disagree this is a terrible thing, but this is Terry Nichols the individual whose role in this crime was so small he doesn't deserve to die.'"

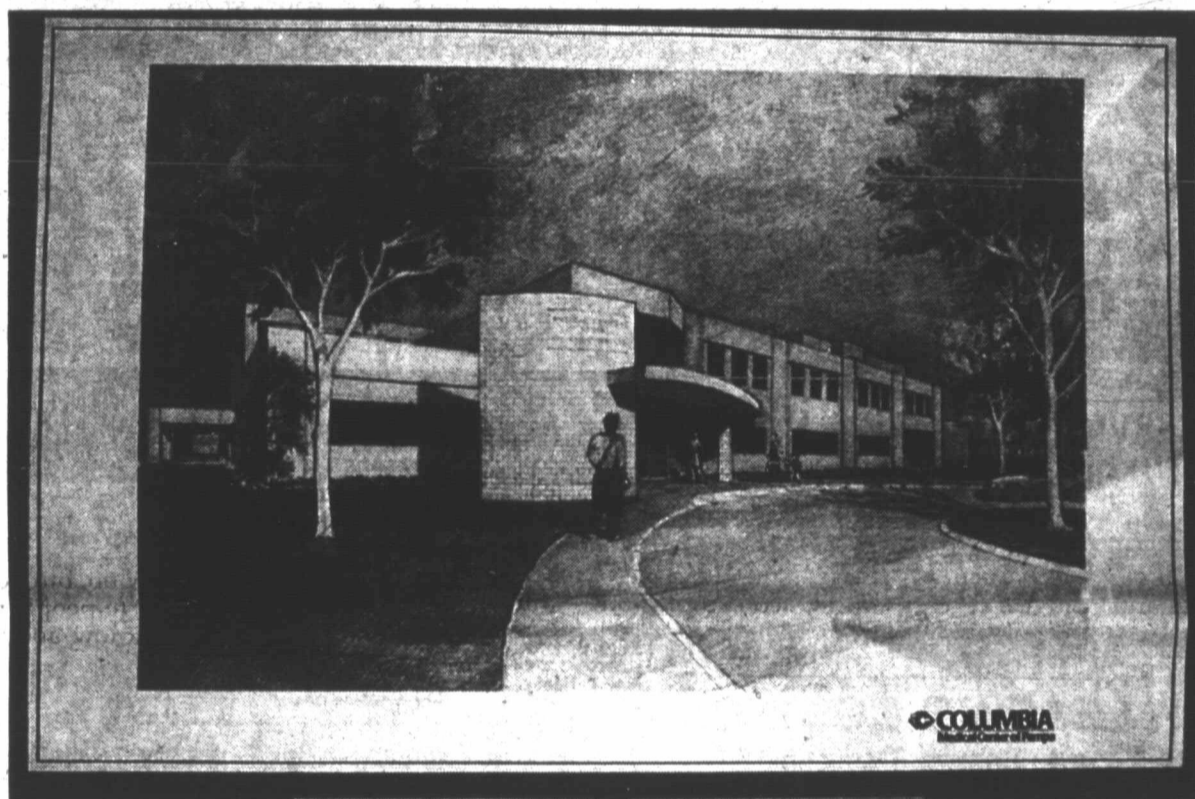
Nichols, 42, and Timothy McVeigh were charged with planning and carrying out the bombing to avenge the fiery deaths of Branch Davidians during a siege near Waco, Texas. The federal building was bombed April 19, 1995, the second anniversary of the fire, killing 168 people and injuring hundreds more.

The jurors convicted Nichols on Dec. 23 but acquitted him of murder, concluding he never intended to kill. McVeigh was convicted of all 11 murder and conspiracy charges and sentenced to death.

Only the conspiracy conviction carries the death penalty.

Because of the mixed verdict against Nichols, legal experts have said it would be unlikely the jury would give Nichols the death penalty. The other options are life in prison or a lesser term to be determined by U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch.

Columbia Medical Center drawing



(Special photo)

Future changes and renovations to Columbia Medical Center are demonstrated in this elaborate drawing.

Leprosy hospital releases patients

CARVILLE, La. (AP) — For Jack Pendleton, the leprosy hospital where he has lived for more than two decades seems more prison than refuge.

When he speaks of the coming closing of the century-old hospital, housed in a former plantation on a bend in the Mississippi River near Baton Rouge, no wistfulness shades his voice. Only impatience.

It's time for the federal Gillis-W. Long Hansen's Disease Center to close, he said. It's time for patients to live outside its confining walls, free from the disgrace their forced isolation from society makes them feel.

"This place just continues that stigma," the 70-year-old Pendleton said from the front lawn of the 330-acre center, where the first patients with

Hansen's disease, as leprosy is sometimes called, were brought by barge in 1894 from the New Orleans "pest house."

The average age of the 135 patients remaining at the center — known locally simply as Carville — is 70. They and some 60 elderly residents of Kalaupapa, an isolated peninsula on the north side of the Hawaiian island of Molokai, are the last Americans hospitalized with leprosy.

Many of Carville's residents arrived decades ago, some in the 1930s, when the law mandated isolation and no successful treatments existed for leprosy, a deforming disease that kills nerves, ulcerates skin and dissolves bones, creating the appearance of clawed fingers or stumpy feet.

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RELIGION

Judge hopes book will inspire understanding

By JOHN FLESHER
Associated Press Writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — If James McCormick could have one Christmas wish, it would be "peace on Earth" for the tragic land where Jesus lived.

A district judge in Traverse City, McCormick has written a book that he hopes will make a contribution, however slight.

"Jerusalem and the Holy Land" is a guidebook for Westerners planning a trip to Israel and the West Bank. It is written from a Christian viewpoint but urges respect for other faiths rooted in the region, especially Judaism and Islam.

Beside promoting tolerance, McCormick's 200-page book encourages Christians to visit the Holy Land as "spiritual pilgrims," not merely sight-seers.

"Everyone I've known who has gone over there has been very edified by it," McCormick said in a recent interview.

Still, he said, many are disillusioned at least temporarily when they find that some of the holiest sites look nothing like they did in biblical times. No "little town of Bethlehem" manger scene. No cross on Calvary. Noise and traffic everywhere.

A church stands above the Bethlehem cave where Jesus is believed to have been born. The purported spots where he was entombed and resurrected are within the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, sandwiched among other buildings in the Old City section of otherwise modern Jerusalem.

On his first visit, in 1993, he said he didn't have a clue what to expect. He's since returned twice and gotten a better feel for the land and people.

He said he decided to write his book, subtitled "the first ecumenical pilgrim's guide," because travel guides he consulted provided little background on the area's rich history.

Nor did they discuss the complex web of religions, sects and orders with a presence in and around Jerusalem, he said. They also gave short shrift to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and rival claims to holy sites.

McCormick, 63, a Catholic and self-described "informed layman," opens his book with a brief history of the region. Then he guides readers through the Christian, Jewish and Muslim holy places, putting them in historical and religious context.

Avoid four-star hotels and whirlwind tours, he counsels. Instead, seek out religious hostels and move at a pace conducive to prayer, reflection and song.

"Normal guidebooks don't take that approach," according to Patricia Dyson, president of Educational Tours Inc., in Michigan. "They talk about what to pack, where to eat, how to get around, that kind of thing."

Her company organizes Christian group travel and has begun giving McCormick's book to clients visiting the Holy Land.

McCormick, who plans to lead a tour this spring, urges readers to mingle with the natives, learn about the Israeli-Palestinian feud and pressure the U.S. government to do more for the cause of peace.

"As an American citizen, I returned from my latest trip feeling a strong obligation to speak out," he said. "The United States is really the only outside country in any position to help reach a just settlement."



The Dixie Melody Boys

Gospel group to appear in Borger

BORGER — Jerry Smith will present the Dixie Melody Boys in concert Monday, Jan. 5, in Borger High School Auditorium. Many talented vocalists and musicians step onto concert stages across the country each week; however, only the faithful and dedicated overcome the pressures of life on the road to delight in the blessings that are reaped by the faithful servant. Ed O'Neal, whose name has been synonymous with Gospel Music for over 35 years, can certainly be labeled as one of the faithful and dedicated.

O'Neal joined The Dixie Melody Boys in 1961 and became owner and manager of the quartet just a few years later. During the past three decades, The Dixie Melody Boys have enjoyed tremendous success, including a Grammy nomination and numerous Fan Award nominations from The Singing News Magazine, Southern Gospel Music's leading fan and trade publication. The Dixie Melody Boys have been featured on such popular television programs as The Ralph Emery Show and Primetime Country, which airs live each evening on The Nashville Network.

This talented quartet has enjoyed over 20 Top 40 hits, including eight Top 10 releases. Their most recent recording, released from MorningStar Records, their recording label since 1987, is entitled 100% Pure. The project promises even greater success for this Kinston, N.C.,

based quartet and includes the re-release of their 1982 Number One hit, Antioch Church Choir.

Present membership for the group includes O'Neal, who provides the smooth bass vocals; songwriter McCray Dove, who has been a member of the group for the past eight years, lends to the group's distinctive sound with his rich lead vocals. Asheville, N.C., native Harold Reed delivers the pleasing tenor sound, while Southern Gospel newcomer Craig Singletary completes the four-part harmony this quartet presents with his pleasing baritone vocals. Keyboardist Eric Ollis completes the group by adding a special touch with his exceptional piano artistry.

The thrill and excitement of performing experienced by each member night after night is most evident at each concert. Their goal of delivering a first-class performance filled with excitement, energy and lots of great traditional, Southern Gospel Music, are traits which have proven to play an essential role in the success they have enjoyed. These characteristics, united with their desire to never compromise their responsibility to spread the gospel through Southern Gospel Music in a Christ-like, professional manner have allowed The Dixie Melody Boys to firmly establish a place at the forefront of Southern Gospel Music.

Church fires not fueled by prejudice

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Arson at Indiana churches rose to 13 incidents in 1997, compared with an average of three or four in past years, and federal investigators are stumped for a reason.

The only similarity seems to be that 12 of the 13 fires were set in churches with predominantly white congregations. And four arrests involve youngsters looking for a thrill.

"There are just more church fires, for whatever reason," said Charles Petersen, who helps coordinate the investigations as head of the Indianapolis office of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Church break-ins and arsons, which he called crimes of opportunity, are easy. He said Indiana's targeted churches were sitting ducks: rural, on grounds poorly lighted and hidden from passersby; often with flimsy locks and without alarms.

Nationwide, only 16 percent of all arsons are solved, and juveniles are implicated in more than half.

Prison parish offers hope through prayer

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A newly ordained Baptist minister and inmates searching for hope are building a congregation of faith at the South Dakota women's prison in Pierre.

"No matter what your circumstances are, you can find some peace through faith," Deb Jenner says. Jenner is serving a life sentence for the 1987 murder of her daughter. "Faith gives you a place to belong. It gives a sense of family within the institution."

The congregation is led by the Rev. Michele Bradley, serving her first parish.

"Their circumstances are different, it's true, but their needs are similar to anyone else's," Bradley says. "They need to hear about God's love. It gives them something to hang onto when everything else seems lost."

About a third of the 140 inmates attend Saturday evening services. Bradley says that inmates, with a lot of time to think, get serious about religion. "They stop blaming others and realize that something is wrong in their life, and they try to find answers," she says.

Mormon ranks grow in Land of Enchantment

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A leader of the area Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints says the Mormon church in New Mexico is growing by 300 members a year.

Stan Hatch, president of the local Mormon church government, attributes the increase to a revival of spiritual pursuits. "People are looking for an anchor," he says.

In the spring, New Mexico may open its first Mormon temple, a 30,000-square-foot building in northeast Albuquerque, to serve the state's 55,000 Mormons.

In 1980, the Mormon Church had 19 temples worldwide, most of them in Utah. Since then, it has built 30 temples and, within two years, plans to build 15 more.

Jordan Unit hosts Christmas concert

by JERRY GUTHRIE
Jordan Unit reporter

Jordan Unit Chaplain Schlewitz hosted a Christmas music concert extravaganza performed by First Baptist Church of Pampa.

First Baptist Church music director John Glover guided the choir effortlessly creating a joyful, holiday sound. The choir's song selection provided a message of Christ's birth and of his love.

Dr. John Brock, minister of the church, spoke to the inmates about the true meaning of Christmas and the

importance of developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Glover led the spirited group through a melody sing-a-long of traditional holiday Christmas songs.

First Baptist Church has been an integral part of the Jordan Units Ministry, and this concert marked their fifth year of presenting holiday music to Jordan Unit inmates.

It is with much gratitude and joy that the Jordan Units inmates thank the 60 men and women who gave their time and their hearts to share the Christmas spirit.

Calvary Baptist Church features contemporary inspirational music

Calvary Baptist Church wishes everyone a happy and prosperous New Year, according to Pastor Lyndon Glaesman.

"One way to achieve a great 1998 is to attend church," Glaesman. "It is a proven fact families that attend church will have fewer problems than people who don't attend church."

Averages show these families will also have lower divorce rates. Being involved with a church can even help churchgoers keep New Year's resolu-


tions, Glaesman said. Calvary invites all to attend its services which are designed to help with everyday problems and to help its members lead prosperous lives, he said.

The music — patterned after the music of the 70s and 80s — is contemporary and full of inspiration, Glaesman explained.

Calvary's new state-of-the-art worship center is located at 900 E. 23rd Street, one mile east of Wal-Mart.

Pampa Optimist Club

Boy's Basketball sign-ups will be on Jan. 4th, 5th & 6th.
4th and 6th graders who played last season need to sign up on Sunday, Jan. 4th from noon till 6:00 p.m. **3rd & 4th graders** who did not play last year will need to sign up and try-out Monday, Jan. 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
5th and 6th graders will need to sign up Tuesday, Jan. 6th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sign-ups will be limited, so be early. Coaching spaces available.
 For more information call Rusty Gallagher at 669-7179.



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Choosing Teams in Gym Class Needn't Be Lesson in Rejection

DEAR ABBY: I am a P.E. teacher, writing in response to the letter in your column from the child signed "Always Chosen Last."

It is humiliating to be chosen last. I know; I've been there, too. Usually friends are chosen first, and then the most skilled players.

When I became a P.E. teacher, to prevent anyone from being chosen last, I stopped the "choosing" midway and allowed the remaining students to go to the team of their choice. Many times I chose the "always chosen last" student to be the leader, so that he or she could "pick and choose."

Children who feel the same as "Always Chosen Last" should talk to their P.E. teachers and tell them how they feel. And, Abby, if you print my letter, please urge the children to clip it and take it with them.

In the meantime, they should try not to let this bother them because it's a very common problem. Learning to "roll with the punches" will make them stronger later in life.

EBBIE, AN OLD P.E. TEACHER

DEAR EBBIE: I agree that it's a common problem, but I do not agree that facing daily rejection at school will make students stronger. Sometimes it only reinforces their feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: This is the first time I've written to you, but when I



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

read the letter from "Always Chosen Last," my heart ached. Not everyone can be a "jock" or have an outgoing personality.

When I was a volunteer gym teacher years ago, we didn't allow kids to pick sides for that very reason. The kids would line up and count off 1-2-3-4. Sometimes the team would be made up of the "ones and threes," the "twos and fours," etc. It kept the kids from knowing ahead of time which team they'd be on. And once in a while, the shy kids outshone the jocks!

Maybe the current P.E. teachers should take note. Kids have enough to cope with without being made to feel inferior to their peers.

EX-GYM MOM IN CINCINNATI

DEAR EX-GYM MOM: Your method of team selection is simple and straightforward. Another suggested method is to divide the children into teams using the school colors and to further subdivide them with the random number system for activi-

ties such as debate teams and sports teams.

DEAR ABBY: My heart broke when I read the letter from "Always Chosen Last." My grandson could have written it. He is also a 10-year-old fifth-grader who likes sports, but does not excel in them. Although he's highly intelligent and achieves academically, P.E. is a blight on his day.

Gym teachers should make sure the teams are different every day, perhaps by putting numbers into a hat and having the kids draw them sight unseen. You may not develop any super teams that way, but that's not the purpose of P.E. class anyway.

HOPING FOR A CHANGE

DEAR ABBY: At 10 years old, I suffered the same rejection and humiliation. But playing ball was not the only game in town. Books became my friends — and I've been on a treasure hunt ever since.

For exercise, I rode my bike, swam and trail-hiked. Years later, when I served in the military, I pitched on a baseball team. My concentration and focus resulted in good pitching. Call it persistence — I finally won!

The boy who wrote you that letter writes very well. Perhaps someday people will read his stuff and say, "He has a lot on the ball!"

BEEN THERE, TERRE HAUTE, IND.

promoting something in which you truly believe could be a very gratifying experience for you today. You should be successful.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) A unique benefit might be awarded you today. This could come as a complete surprise, because you won't recall having done anything special to earn it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Close allies will make conscientious efforts to help fulfill your aspirations today. You may be quite fortunate with minimal exertion on your part.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today, it could be said of you that you are a pragmatic dreamer who has the wherewithal to turn your fantasies into something of substance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This is a good time to discuss serious issues with family or friends. Your mind will function best on a philosophical level. Positive results are indicated.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Complications that have been vexing you at work can be resolved satisfactorily today.

You will know how to take fair, constructive measures.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You could be luckier than usual today in collective efforts. You will attract competent cohorts the same way a magnet attracts metal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Do not be bashful about using your off-center ideas to improve your surroundings today. You will be rather inventive, resourceful and unique.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Your communicative skills are impressive today. This could enable you to arrange such things as a major commercial transaction or a successful dinner party.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) That special ship for which you've been hoping might come ashore today. You will want to share its cargo with those who helped you bring it into port.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You are the best person to decide what you and friends should do for entertainment this evening. You can envision activities everyone will enjoy.

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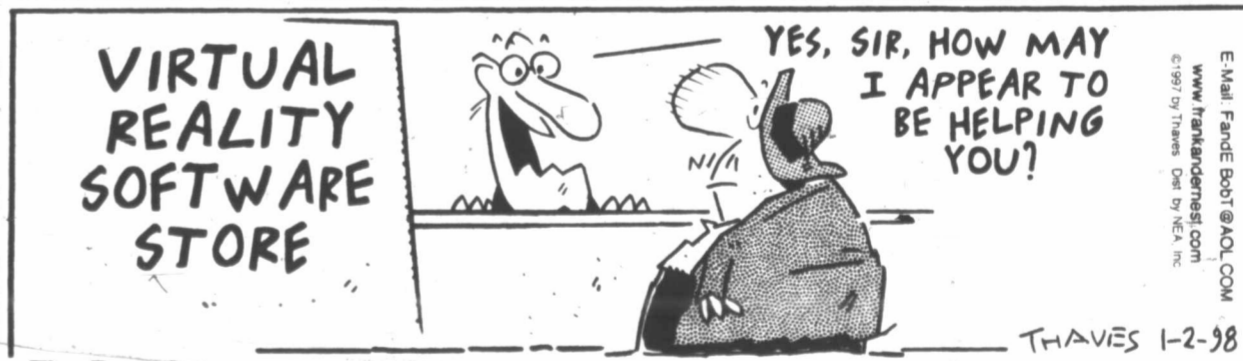
Marvin



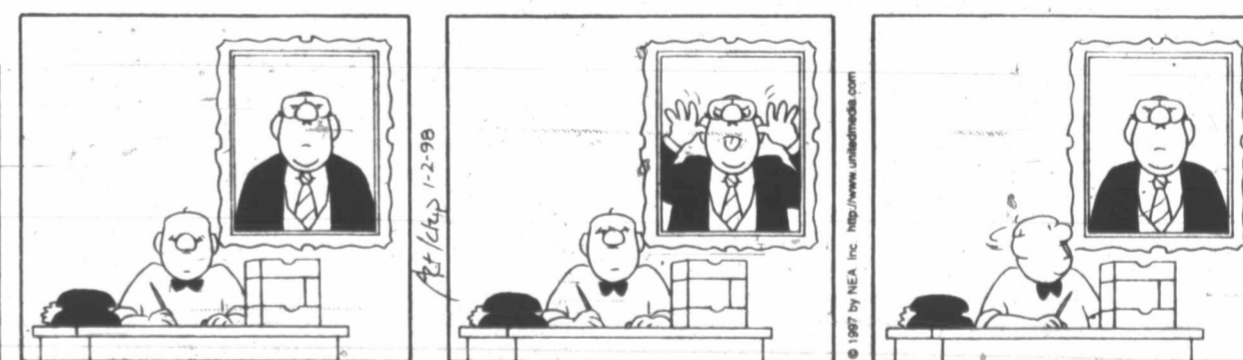
B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore

Horoscope

Your Birthday

Sunday, Jan. 4, 1998

In the year ahead, you could be a lot more on the go than usual, as travel is indicated for both pleasure and business. Several unexpected changes could trigger these transitions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today, you will be happiest spending your time and money on a home-based activity that can be enjoyed by the entire family and a few select guests. Capricorn, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Selling or



"I don't have enough aluminum foil to make armor. You'll have to remain knights in cotton."



"Happy New Year!"



Marmaduke



Alley Oop



Peanuts

Year at the Box Office: 1997 record year for Hollywood, thanks to blockbusters and ticket prices ...

By JOHN HORN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Despite flat admissions, Hollywood chalked up a record 1997 with the help of blockbusters like *Men in Black* and *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* — as well as higher ticket prices.

Moviegoers spent more than \$6.2 billion on tickets last year, about 8 percent more than the 1996 record of \$5.76 billion. *Men in Black* and *The Lost World* each grossed more than \$200 million in North America.

Twelve other movies — among them *Liar Liar*, *Air Force One* and *My Best Friend's Wedding* — topped or will top \$100 million. *Titanic*, released Dec. 19, is expected to gross more than \$200 million.

Not counting the re-release of 1977's *Star Wars*, actual admissions estimated to exceed 1.3 billion were up only a few percentage points from 1996. *Star Wars*, by the way, brought in \$138.3 million.

The success was generated as much by higher ticket prices as by an increase in tickets sold. Some reserved seats now cost \$10.

"Yes, you're going to have an absolute record box-office," said Christopher Dixon, an entertainment analyst with Paine Webber. "But admissions are relatively flat."

Many major studios, most notably Warner Bros., had difficult years. By far the most successful was Sony Pictures, whose movie units released *Men in Black*, *Air Force One*, *My Best Friend's Wedding* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer*.

"We had the thing that every studio dreams of: A film that satisfied all age groups, and that was *Men in Black*," said Lucy Fisher, vice chairman of Sony's Columbia TriStar Motion Picture Group. "It

BOX OFFICE		
Top movies of 1997		
Wed. Jan 1-Wed. Dec. 31, 1997		
All dollar figures in millions		
Rank	Weeks in release, number of screens	1997 gross
1	<i>Men in Black</i> 26 weeks, 3,020 screens	\$248.8
2	<i>The Lost World: Jurassic Park</i> 21 weeks, 3,281 screens	\$229.1
3	<i>Liar Liar</i> 30 weeks, 2,845 screens	\$181.4
4	<i>Air Force One</i> 23 weeks, 2,919 screens	\$171.8
5	<i>Star Wars (1997 re-release)</i> 14 weeks, 2,104 screens	\$138.3
6	<i>My Best Friend's Wedding</i> 28 weeks, 2,134 screens	\$126.7
7	<i>Face/Off</i> 21 weeks, 2,621 screens	\$112.3
8	<i>Batman & Robin</i> 14 weeks, 2,934 screens	\$107.3
9	<i>George of the Jungle</i> 24 weeks, 2,505 screens	\$105.2
10	<i>Con Air</i> 19 weeks, 2,824 screens	\$11.1

Source: Entertainment Data Inc. AP

appealed to everybody from small children right up to grandparents. That movie was a boon to the whole studio."

Several 1997 movies reportedly costing more than \$100 million founeder as soon as they arrived. The expensive washouts included *Batman and Robin*, *The Postman*, *Speed 2: Cruise Control* and *Starship Troopers*.

Writer-director James Cameron's *Titanic*, at more than \$200 million the most expensive movie of all time, appears headed for strong worldwide returns. That concerns some analysts, who worry the movie's success will make future cost-cutting impossible.

"It makes it more difficult for the mid-level studio executive to say no to the Jim Cameron du jour," Dixon said. Added Dave Davis of the investment bank Houlihan Lokey: "If everybody can kind of gear down in terms of cost, it will really help."

Equally troublesome was the intense competition for the audience's attention. About 150 movies were released nationally in 1997, with several major films often making their debuts on the same day. Most studios released more than 20 movies in 1997; several distributed more than 30.

"The market is glutted — it's just terrible," said Tom Sherak, executive vice president of 20th Century Fox. "The bottom line is there are too many movies."

"The good news is every studio says they are going to make fewer movies in 1998. Disney says they're going from 40 to 20. That's great news. We need that kind of sanity."

Another worrisome trend rests with movie theaters themselves. Exhibitors have been adding megaplexes at a breakneck pace, many of them with a dozen screens or more. The seats are being added faster than ticket buyers are lining up.

The top movies released in 1997, as compiled by Entertainment Data Inc., as of Dec. 28. *Titanic* will move into the year's Top 10 when final figures are compiled this weekend:

1. *Men in Black*, \$249.8 million.
2. *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, \$229.1 million.
3. *Liar Liar*, \$181.4 million.
4. *Air Force One*, \$171.8 million.
5. *Star Wars*, \$138.3 million.
6. *My Best Friend's Wedding*, \$126.7 million.
7. *Face/Off*, \$112.3 million.
8. *Batman & Robin*, \$107.3 million.
9. *George of the Jungle*, \$105.2 million.
10. *Con Air*, \$101.1 million.

A&M Real Estate directory available

COLLEGE STATION — Real estate requires contacting many people and organizations. Now there is an all-inclusive directory providing information on more than 2,000 Texas contacts and resources.

The *Texas Real Estate Resource Directory* is the latest publication from the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University.

The directory provides Texas information on city, county and state levels. Another section covers federal government contacts. There are listings for education,

regulatory agencies and real estate periodicals.

The new report is available for only \$10 and can be ordered using a credit card by calling 1-800-244-2144.

The Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University has been providing solutions through research for more than 25 years. Funded solely by Texas real estate licensees, the center was created by the state legislature to meet the needs of many audiences.

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American Cancer Society introducing new 'Stop Now' quit kit for smokers

The American Cancer Society is introducing a new "Stop Now - Here's How" quit kit in time for smokers attempting to begin the New Year smoke-free. The quit kit is available free of charge and can be ordered by calling the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345.

The new kit provides information and describes methods of quitting smoking to help people achieve a healthier lifestyle. The kit contains quit tips, a self-help guide, relaxation exercises, facts on nicotine replacement, non-nicotine replacement and other alternative methods of quitting.

"We know that about 90 percent of successful quitters do so on their own. We also know that quitting smoking is not easy, so we want to provide the "Stop Now - Here's How" quit kit to assist smokers who are trying to stop," stated Allen Henderson Ph.D., chair of the American Cancer Society's Tobacco Control Committee in Texas.

According to surveys, smokers often try to quit more than once before they succeed, with 70 percent of ex-smokers making one to two quit attempts, and 22 percent making 3-5 quit attempts. Smokers should not give up trying, since most ex-smokers cycle through the quitting process several times before becoming long-term quitters.

People who quit smoking live longer lives than those who continue to smoke. "If you or someone you know tried to quit during the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout, but didn't quite make it, New Year's offers another chance to begin the year on a healthy note," offers Henderson.

For more information from the American Cancer Society, visit our website at www.cancer.org or call 1-800-ACS-2345.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service.

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Rodeo Ticket Office: (817) 877-2420. Charge on VISA or MasterCard. Tickets also available at all TicketMaster locations; call (214) 373-8000 or Metro (972) 647-5700. Convenience and other charges are added at TicketMaster locations and are non-refundable. For hotel packages including tickets, call Dan DiPert Vacations at 1-800-433-5335.

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