

Robert Knowles
AUTOMOTIVE

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Boyd Financial Services

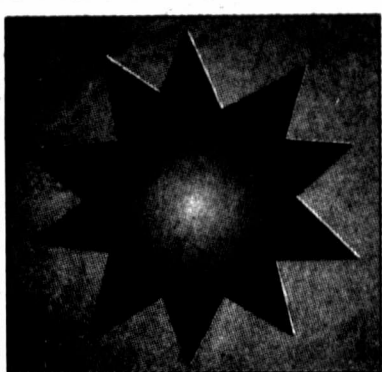
Eddie & Ernie Boyd
Hughes Building Suite 190A
665-6165 -or- 1-800-678-3662

ROBERT KNOWLES
WEST TEXAS

FORD • LINCOLN • MERCURY
701 W. BROWN 665-8404

Pampa

Vol. 90 No. 236 • Pampa, Texas
50¢ Daily • Sunday *1



Low tonight 20.
High Tuesday 50.
For weather details, see
Page 2.

PAMPA - The Pampa Economic Development Corporation will hold a meeting at 5:30 p.m. today to discuss a request for funds.

PAMPA - The Water Department's drive-up window will be closed this week, through Friday, for repairs. The night drop is still available for public use. For more information contact 669-5810.

PAMPA - Wednesday, Dec. 31 is the last night for the viewing of the Celebration of Lights at Recreation Park. A tour through the park on foot or in car is available to the public on a donation basis. The park is open nightly through Wednesday from 6 to 11 p.m.

PAMPA - Tralee Crisis Center thanked the trustees of M.K. Brown Foundation Inc. today for their donation of \$2,500. "Local support is vital to the continuation of services provided by the crisis center," Linda Town, center director. "We thank Pampa for recognizing the importance of our existence as a service provider and for supporting our efforts to ensure quality and consistent services for victims of family violence, victims of sexual assault and victims of violent crimes."

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 6-8-19-29-31-37.
Estimated jackpot: \$8 million.

Number matching six of six: 0

Matching five of six: 135.
Prize: \$1,166.

Matching four of six: 6,547.
Prize: \$87.

Matching three of six: 116,335. Prize: \$3.

Next Lotto Texas game: Wednesday night.

Estimated jackpot: \$12 million.

• **Mona Annette Devenport**, 43, a former Pampa resident.
• **Floyd B. "Pappy" Huddleston**, 67, a Pampa resident since 1951.

Classified 8
Comics 6
Medical 5
Sports 7

HealthStar D.M.E.
AMERICAN HOME PATIENT

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Pampa police chief looks forward to new year

By **JEFF WEST**
Staff Writer

Christmas is over and 1998 is barreling down in a hurry. Pampa Chief of Police Charlie Morris is looking forward to the new year trying to improve communication between agencies and between the police and the public.

He said, "We're hoping to improve our training. We have several courses that are going to be offered to officers and deputies in January and February." One of the first courses to be offered will be on narcotics identification Morris said.

This year the Pampa Police have to go through the accreditation process that happens every

three years in the state. In order to ensure a smooth process the department is updating their written directives, according to Morris, to ensure they include the latest in case law and police practices.

The other big change is to the computer situation. The department has installed new software and hopes to have it up and running after the first of the year.

The new software, which will tie into the Municipal Court, will allow much more information to be reported to officers on the street.

"For instance, say we have a red pickup stopped," Morris said. "The new software will be able to find any incidents involving a red pickup. Or any criteria that's needed."

He says they are doing a self-

examination of the department so they can give the best possible service. They are also cooperating with city and county attorneys office to improve their case preparation to coordinate their efforts.

On a more personal note the Chief, who's been in office about a year and a half said he will make a diligent effort to make 1998 even better than 1997.

Pampa stirs after Christmas snow



With clearing skies and warming temperatures, 14-year-old David Witt took to the streets of Pampa today with the skateboard he got for Christmas. Heavy snows and ice prevented Witt from riding his new skateboard until Sunday. Then because of cold temperatures and high winds, he only skated briefly. Today, he said, he expects to do better.

Gray County commissioners to discuss Price Road services

By **MIRANDA G. BAILEY**
Staff Writer

A discussion on the water and sewer systems to businesses along Price Road is at the top of the Gray County agenda for Wednesday morning's special session.

In other matters, Pat Bagley with the Gray County Appraisal District and Pamela Nielson of the Panhandle Regional Planning Committee are scheduled to address the commissioners court concerning a GIS/911 system.

In new business, the airport project will be considered and any necessary action will be addressed. A discussion of the extension of the "Challenge-Cost Share Agreement" with the U.S. Forest Service is also on this week's agenda.

Before adjournment, County Judge Peet is planning on addressing the court concerning

the renewal of the Interlocal Agreement for Conducting Hearings and Proceedings for Court-Ordered Mental Health Services with panhandle counties. A representative from Potter County is scheduled to address the court concerning the agreement.

Requests from Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland to transfer one Deputy Sergeant position to Jail Sergeant position and for District Clerk Yvonne Moler to place Gaye Honderich's signature on various accounts will be considered.

Discussion on an employee's sick leave is also to be addressed in executive session at Wednesday's meeting. Any action to be taken will then be taken in open session.

The commissioners court will meet Dec. 31 at 9 a.m. in the courtroom on the second floor of the Gray County Courthouse.

Teens arrested when home owners return from holiday

LUBBOCK (AP) - A teenager remained jailed Sunday after a family returned from a holiday ski trip to find its house trashed and five teen-agers partying among a tipped-over Christmas tree and cigarette-burned couch.

A police report said the home reeked of marijuana and was dotted with animal feces and vomit when the family returned Friday. Total damage was estimated at nearly \$12,000.

Three teens were arrested and charged with burglary in connection with the incident.

Brock Adam Hall, 17, and Shervin Bagheri, 18, were released Saturday on \$2,500 bond. Jordan Andrew Broome, 17, remained in the Lubbock County Jail on the same bond Sunday.

Two other teen-agers were suspects in the incident, police said.

Rick Don Wilson told police he had asked one of the teens - it wasn't clear which one - to watch his house. The teen was instructed to feed the family's

two dogs, but was not given a key or permission to enter the home, Wilson said.

When the Wilson family returned from spending the holiday in Taos, N.M., the teen-agers ran from the home, police said.

The Wilsons managed to stop a 17-year-old and an 18-year-old in the driveway. Another teen was arrested down the street.

Both the 17-year-old and 18-year-old were charged with burglary of a habitation and another 17-year-old was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of tobacco by a minor.

Two other teen-agers found in the home might be charged with burglary, police said.

A neighbor said something suspicious had been going on at the home for the past three days and nights.

Police photographed the damage, which included scorched carpeting throughout the house, a burned table top and entertainment center, a broken back door, Nativity scene and reindeer.

Nichols trial death penalty phase begins

By **STEVEN K. PAULSON**
Associated Press Writer

DENVER (AP) - Recalling the testimony of a woman whose young son was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing, a prosecutor asked jurors today to consider the "cold hard facts" of the terrorist act before sentencing Terry Nichols.

U.S. Attorney Patrick Ryan described the morning when Helena Garrett last saw her 16-month-old son, Tevin, who was in the day-care center at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building when the bomb exploded.

"We present this evidence to you not to evoke your sympathy," he told jurors in an opening statement as the sentencing phase began. "These victims in Oklahoma City have had all the sympathy they can stand in the last 2 1/2 years."

"We present this evidence so you will be informed, so you will have all the facts. ... We want you to make this sentencing decision

on the cold hard facts of what happened," he said.

The same jurors who convicted Nichols will have to decide whether he should be executed or spend the rest of his life in prison. If they can't decide, it will be up to U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch to decide on a lesser sentence.

Ryan told the jurors they must consider factors including premeditation, that the deaths occurred as a result of interstate transport of explosive material and that the act of conspiracy resulted in deaths as well as serious emotional and physical injuries.

Although prosecutors limited testimony from bombing survivors and victims' relatives during the guilt phase of the trial, their testimony is expected to be at the forefront in the sentencing phase.

"I think this part of the case is going to be so much tougher for jurors," said Denver lawyer Andrew Cohen, a media analyst for the trial. "It's going to be a

very strong emotional push-and-pull, tug-of-war. The enormity of the crime is going to sink in in a way it hasn't yet."

The same jurors deliberated 41 hours over six days before convicting Nichols last week of conspiracy and involuntary manslaughter in the April 19, 1995, bombing that killed 168 people. But they found Nichols innocent of using a truck bomb to kill and destroy the building and innocent of murder, concluding he did not set out to kill anyone.

Last June, Timothy McVeigh was found guilty of conspiracy and murder charges for the same crimes and sentenced to death. His appeal is pending.

Denver defense attorney Scott Robinson, who attended Nichols' trial, said prosecutors will have to play the emotional card if they hope to get the death penalty for Nichols.

"It will be worse now, because the jury was kept from hearing most of this during the guilt phase," Robinson said

Blaze blackens Christmas holiday



A Friday blaze was under investigation today. Authorities said the fire at 1801 Hamilton appeared to have started in one of the bedrooms. Pampa firefighters responded to the blaze about 11 a.m. Friday. The interior of the home was gutted by the flames.

Coronado Center **Hoagies Deli** 665-0292

ALL AROUND BAIL BONDS
116 West Foster • Pampa, Texas • Jack Ward • 669-9911

Daily Record

Services tomorrow

HUDDLESTON, Floyd B. "Pappy" — 2 p.m., Grace Baptist Church, Pampa.

Obituaries

MONA ANNETTE DEVENPORT

Mona Annette Devenport, 43, of Pampa, died Sunday, Dec. 28, 1997, at Lubbock. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday in Memory Gardens Cemetery with the Rev. J.C. Burt, pastor of Barrett Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Carmichael-Whitely Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Devenport was born June 4, 1954, at Memphis, Texas. She was a former Pampa resident and was a longtime resident of Lubbock State Center.

Survivors include her mother, Gertrude Devenport of Pampa; and a sister, Winnie Jeter of Pampa.

The family requests memorials be to Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, P.O. Box 190567, Dallas, TX 75219-0567.

FLOYD B. 'PAPPY' HUDDLESTON

Floyd B. "Pappy" Huddleston, 67, of Pampa, died Sunday, Dec. 28, 1997. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Grace Baptist Church with the Rev. Richard Coffman officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitely Funeral Directors.

Mr. Huddleston was born March 28, 1930, at Charleston, Miss., to Louis and Donia Huddleston. He married Velda Jo McCathern on Dec. 18, 1951, at Clovis, N.M. He had been a Pampa resident since 1951, moving from Charleston. He was a roughneck in the oil field industry prior to retirement. He was a member of Grace Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Molly Huddleston; and a twin brother, Loyd D. Huddleston.

Survivors include his wife, Velda, of the home; six daughters, Lorie Smith, Patricia Parks and Ellen Gage, all of Pampa, Mary Cardwell of Springtown, Debbie Watson of Marshall and Gail Dabbs of Portland; a son, Wayne Huddleston of Pampa; two sisters, Ruby Brewer of Mountain View, Ark., and Johnnie Ford of Charleston; 20 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

The family will be at 702 N. Frost and requests memorials be to Grace Baptist Church.

Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following arrests and calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, December 27

Josue Ramon Vargas, 17, 605 Lowery, was arrested on a warrant.

Kenneth Dean, 37, Davis Motel, was arrested on outstanding warrants.

Juan Moreno, 23, 129 S. Sumner, was arrested on outstanding warrants.

Sunday, December 28

Byron Devoll Laury, 23, 1000 S. Love, was arrested for domestic assault causing bodily injury.

Ava Nell Rush, 49, 705 N. Gray, was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Accidents

The Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Sunday, December 28

Ava Nell Rush, 49, 705 N. Gray was arrested for driving while intoxicated after her Caprice struck a Ford pickup being driven by Stewart Carroll. Rush was going north on Duncan and ran a stop light striking the pickup. Her car continued north and struck the fence of Fairview Cemetery.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriffs Department reported the following arrests during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, December 27

Alfredo Campos Jr., 40, 916 S. Nelson, was arrested on a warrant.

Fires

The Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, December 27

7:54 a.m. — Three vehicles and 7 personnel responded to the 1200 block of N. Hobart on a smoke scare.

3:33 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 400 block of E. Fredrick on a vehicle fire.

Surge in deaths causes officers to warn against stopping on highway

DALLAS (AP) — More than 20 people have died in the Dallas area while parked alongside a highway this year, prompting police to try to raise awareness about the dangers of pulling onto the shoulder.

Some of those killed in roadside collisions were good Samaritans trying to help people with car trouble. One was a police officer. A few were killed in their stopped cars, including a 12-year-old boy who died Friday.

Detective Miguel Sarmiento says the people put too much faith in the painted line between themselves and the highway traffic.

"Basically, if there hasn't been an accident, or if no one is critically injured or pinned in a vehi-

cle, people shouldn't be on the road themselves," Sarmiento said.

Traffic safety experts say motorists with car trouble should do everything possible to get their vehicles to an exit ramp and off the highway. If they can't, and can't safely leave the car, they should remain in it with their seat belts fastened and hazard lights on, then try to call for help if they have a cellular phone.

If they do leave the car, they should never step into traffic.

"You are usually better off staying in the vehicle," said Georgia Chakiris, a regional administrator for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. "But the biggest thing is to take the situation seriously. Don't

assume the other driver sees you."

In the most recent of a string of roadside accidents, Joseph Howard, 12, died Friday after his mother pulled to the shoulder so that one of Joseph's cousins could grab a bag of potato chips from the trunk.

The driver of a gravel truck tried to swerve but couldn't, then slammed into the car. Joseph was killed, and his mother, Rose M. Howard, and a young cousin were injured.

Less than a week before, Porfirio Sanchez, 36, of Irving and his 6-year-old daughter, Kerin, were killed when their car skidded on a wet road and plowed into a pickup stopped near Texas Stadium.

6:38 p.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to the 1200 block of S. Faulkner on a service call.

Sunday, December 28

9:20 p.m. — Three units and seven personnel responded to Harvester and Duncan on an automobile accident.

Ambulance

The Rural/Metro reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, December 27

9:27 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

10:10 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

11:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Columbia Medical Center and transported one to a local nursing facility.

11:44 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Campanella and transported one to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

12:27 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Columbia Medical Center and transported one to a local nursing facility.

2:35 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of N. Russell and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

4:59 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of Wilks and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

6:54 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

8:39 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of W. 25th and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

Sunday, December 28

1:06 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Columbia Medical Center and transported one to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

Sunday, December 28

7:28 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of N. Russell and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

7:47 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

1:15 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Columbia Medical Center and transported one to a local residence.

9:23 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Duncan and Harvester no one was transported.

Monday, December 29

2:47 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of W. Kingsmill and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

Calendar of events

TOASTMASTERS

Smooth Talkers and Knee Knockers Toastmasters Club meets 5:45 p.m. Wednesday in the dining room of Furr's Cafeteria. For more information, call Daniel Silva at 669-6351 or Gary Casebier at 665-4214.

CLEAN AIR AL-ANON

Clean Air Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, call 669-0407 or 669-3988.

PAMPA CHESS CLUB

The Pampa Chess Club invites you to a night of casual but competitive chess and instruction. We will meet at the Coronado Inn at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday night. Beginners are very welcome! For more information contact James A. Shook at 669-0227.

LOVETT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Lovett Memorial Library Holiday hours are as follows: Dec. 23, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Dec. 24&25 CLOSED; Dec. 26, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Dec. 31, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Jan. 1 CLOSED; and Jan. 2, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.		Chevron.....75 9/16 up 1 3/16	
Wheat.....	2.87	Coca-Cola.....	65
Milo.....	3.96	Columbia/HCA.....	27 1/8 up 5/8
Com.....	4.55	Enron.....	40 3/16 dn 5/16
Soybeans.....	6.15	Halliburton.....	45 15/16 dn 1/8
The following show the prices for which these securities could have traded at the time of compilation:		Ingersoll Rand.....	13 1/4 up 3/16
Occidental.....	28 5/8 dn 1/4	KNE.....	52 up 2 3/8
The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:		Kerr McGee.....	62 3/16 up 3/4
Magellan.....	91.63	Limited.....	23 1/2 dn 1/8
Puritan.....	19	Mapco.....	43 7/8 up 1/16
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.		McDonald's.....	45 3/16 dn 3/16
Amco.....	82 5/8 up 1/4	Mobil.....	70 3/16 up 3/16
Arco.....	77 1/16 up 1/16	New Atmos.....	29 3/16 NC
Cabot.....	27 7/8 up 1/16	New Cent. Ene.....	48 1/16 NC
Cabot O&G.....	16 15/16 up 1/4	Pennney's.....	57 1/4 up 1/4
		Phillips.....	46 3/4 dn 1/16
		Pioneer Nat. Res.....	26 7/16 dn 1/16
		SLB.....	72 11/16 dn 1/16
		Tenneco.....	37 3/4 up 5/16
		Texasco.....	53 5/8 up 7/16
		Ultrimar.....	32 1/16 up 3/8
		Wal-Mart.....	37 5/16 up 1/8
		New York Gold.....	296.10
		Silver.....	6.18
		West Texas Crude.....	18.22

Washing away the snow



Washing away the old year and getting ready for the new, Debbie Stripling braved freezing temperatures this morning to scrub down her van. With sunshine forecast for the rest of the week, she thought she could get away with it.

Passengers complain about cruise

HOUSTON (AP) — A Caribbean cruise turned out to be "the voyage of the damned" because of air conditioning and other mechanical problems, according to passengers returning from a cruise aboard the Norwegian Star.

The problems that had been voiced by earlier voyagers on the cruise ship were heard again Sunday as passengers left the ship complaining of unbearable conditions.

The Norwegian Star, operated by the Norwegian Cruise Line, is the first and only full-time cruise ship using the Port of Houston.

In the wake of problems during the Christmas cruise, the line canceled a scheduled New Year's week cruise, but not before more than 900 of the scheduled passengers already had made the trip to Barbours Cut terminal.

The cruise line offered them a full refund and a certificate for a free cruise. Passengers also were invited to spend Sunday night on the ship with free dinner, drinks and entertainment, and free breakfast this morning.

"We built our reputation on providing a quality vacation experience, and we want to be generous," NCL spokeswoman Fran Sevcik said.

Hundreds chose to spend the night on the ship in port, saying they were pleased with the compensation package offered by NCL.

"I think it's overdue," said Bob Schappert of Colorado Springs, Colo., who stayed on the ship Sunday night. "I think they should have done it three cruises ago when they had troubles."

"They're finally owning up to the fact that it's an old ship that needs maintenance," he said.

On as many as four recent cruises, air conditioning has failed for long periods, forcing passengers to sleep on open decks.

Passengers also complained of bad plumbing and brackish, undrinkable water.

"It was terrible, the ship from hell, the voyage of the damned," said Tom Kowicz, a physician from Edmonton, Alberta. "It wasn't just the air conditioning. It was everything."

Conditions were so bad that at least 28 passengers chose to fly home from the last port of call, Roatan Island in Honduras, on Christmas Day.

Several top NCL officials met the ship, handing out certificates for a free seven-day make-up cruise anywhere in the Caribbean.

"We have nothing to hide," Ms. Sevcik said. "We're in business to make people happy. That's what we're all about. We're going to do everything we can to get this problem fixed."

Another person who was on hand as the passengers departed at the end of the latest cruises was David "Trey" Stiles III, an associate of the Chaffin Law Firm, which filed a multimillion-dollar class-action suit for about 2,000 previous passengers.

Stiles said his law firm planned tentatively to inspect the Norwegian Star next Sunday.

"I'm just here to find out what went wrong with this boat," he said. "Sounds like the same things as before."

Last week's voyage was plagued from the outset when one of the four main engines failed, Ms. Sevcik said.

After arriving in Cozumel, Mexico, on Wednesday, the generator that helps power the air-conditioning system failed, reducing cooling by 60 percent to 70 percent, she said.

The engine and generator failures were not connected nor were they related to the mechanical problems that beset previous cruises, she said.

Passengers said many of them slept on open decks Christmas Eve because of the unbearable heat in the cabins and common rooms.

The generator was repaired on Christmas Day and the air conditioning was operating again by that night, Ms. Sevcik said.

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City briefs

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

EMERGENCY JAIL Release. 24 hrs. Jack Ward, 669-9911.

1/2 PRICE Sale - Tuesday only. Pampa Office Supply & Christmas Shop. Adv.

TAYLOR PETRO. Hwy. 60 West - New every day low prices - all 18 packs bear \$9.99, unleaded \$11.99. Adv.

ONE DAY Ring Sizing at Rheams Diamond Shop. Adv.

SPEND NEW Year's Eve at The Coyote Club, 2302 Alcock. Wild Card Band 8 p.m., \$5 per person. Adv.

DANCE MOOSE Lodge - New Year's Eve. Members & Guest. Make reservations now! Adv.

Weather focus

LOCAL FORECAST

The forecast is for sunshine and warmer temperatures this week.

The high today should be 42 degrees with northwest winds from 10 to 20 miles an hour and gusty.

It will be clear tonight with a low of 20 degrees and northwest winds five to 15 mph.

Tuesday will see sunny skies and 50 degree temperatures.

Wednesday, the temperatures should continue in the 50 degree range with a high of 60 degrees on New Year's Day.

REGIONAL FORECAST

WEST TEXAS -- South Plains/Low Rolling Plains — Tonight, clear. Lows 20-30. Tuesday, sunny. Highs 50-60. Tuesday night, fair. Lows upper 20s to lower 30s. Extended forecast, Wednesday through Friday, Partly cloudy. Lows in the 30s. Highs mid 50s to lower 60s.

PERMIAN BASIN/UPPER TEXAS -- Tonight, fair. Lows 25-30. Tuesday, sunny. Highs 60-65. Tuesday night, fair. Lows 30-35. Extended forecast, Wednesday through Friday, Partly cloudy. Lows 35-40. Highs 60-65.

NORTH TEXAS -- Tonight, clear. Low 30 to 35. Tuesday, mostly sunny. High 56 northeast to 65 southwest. Extended forecast, Tuesday night, fair. Low 33 to 38. Wednesday, partly cloudy. High in the 60s. New years day, partly cloudy and windy. Low 40 to 45. High in the mid to upper 60s. Friday, increasing cloudiness and windy. Low in the mid to upper 40s. High in the low to mid 60s.

SOUTH TEXAS -- Hill Country — Tonight, clear and cold. Lows in the lower 30s, upper 20s Hill Country. Tuesday, sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Tuesday night, clear. Lows in the upper 30s and lower 40s. Wednesday, increasing clouds. Highs in the 60s. Thursday, mostly cloudy with occasional drizzle and fog. Lows in the 40s. Highs in the 60s. Friday, cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle and fog. Lows in the 40s. Highs in the 60s.

BORDER STATES -- Permian Basin/Upper Texas -- Tonight, fair. Lows 25-30. Tuesday, sunny. Highs 60-65. Tuesday night, fair. Lows 30-35. Extended forecast, Wednesday through Friday, Partly cloudy. Lows 35-40. Highs 60-65.

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NEW MEXICO -- Tonight, isolated snow showers in the northern Sangre de Cristo mountains otherwise fair to partly cloudy north. A few high clouds south. Lows from 5 below zero to 20 above mountains, north-

west and over snow covered sections east. Teens to mid 20s elsewhere. Tuesday and Tuesday night, fair to partly cloudy. A little warmer Tuesday. Highs mid 40s to mid 50s southern lowlands, mid 30s to the 40s elsewhere. Lows zero to mid 20s mountains and north with teens to low 30s southern lowlands. Extended forecast, Wednesday through Friday, periods of mostly high cloudiness. Highs 40s to mid 50s north, 50s to low 60s southern lowlands, 30s to low 40s mountains. Lows zero to mid 20s mountains and northwest with teens to lower 30s elsewhere.

OKLAHOMA — Tonight, mostly clear. Lows in the 20s to lower 30s. Tuesday, mostly sunny. Highs in the 50s to lower 60s. Tuesday night, mostly clear. Lows upper 20s to mid 30s. Extended forecast, Wednesday, mostly clear and warm. Highs in the 50s to lower 60s. New Year's Day, mostly clear and continued warm. Windy. Lows in the 30s. Highs 55 to 65. Friday, increasing cloudiness. A chance for rain south central and southeast Oklahoma. Lows in the 30s to lower 40s. Highs in the 50s to lower 60s.

NEW MEXICO -- Tonight, isolated snow showers in the northern Sangre de Cristo mountains otherwise fair to partly cloudy north. A few high clouds south. Lows from 5 below zero to 20 above mountains, north-

west and over snow covered sections east. Teens to mid 20s elsewhere. Tuesday and Tuesday night, fair to partly cloudy. A little warmer Tuesday. Highs mid 40s to mid 50s southern lowlands, mid 30s to the 40s elsewhere. Lows zero to mid 20s mountains and north with teens to low 30s southern lowlands. Extended forecast, Wednesday through Friday, periods of mostly high cloudiness. Highs 40s to mid 50s north, 50s to low 60s southern lowlands, 30s to low 40s mountains. Lows zero to mid 20s mountains and northwest with teens to lower 30s elsewhere.

OKLAHOMA — Tonight, mostly clear. Lows in the 20s to lower 30s. Tuesday, mostly sunny. Highs in the 50s to lower 60s. Tuesday night, mostly clear. Lows upper 20s to mid 30s. Extended forecast, Wednesday, mostly clear and warm. Highs in the 50s to lower 60s. New Year's Day, mostly clear and continued warm. Windy. Lows in the 30s. Highs 55 to 65. Friday, increasing cloudiness. A chance for rain south central and southeast Oklahoma. Lows in the 30s to lower 40s. Highs in the 50s to lower 60s.

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Democratic challenger Mauro responds to Gov. Bush's social promotion education idea

By PEGGY FIKAC
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — When Gov. George W. Bush called for a halt to pushing students through school unless it's warranted academically, likely Democratic challenger Garry Mauro said his first reaction was that he, too, supported ending social promotion.

But Mauro said his fourth-grade son has alerted him to flaws in the Republican governor's plan, which would tie promotion to students' passing the state academic skills test at key points in their school career.

"I went home that night and my 10-year-old said, 'Governor Bush came up with a crazy idea, Dad. ... Even if you've got straight A's all year long, if you flunk one test, you aren't going to be promoted. That doesn't make any sense.'"

"I initially said to him ... that just wouldn't happen. If somebody's really got straight A's, they'd pass a reading test."

"Then all these people started stopping me on the street, telling me about their situations," Mauro said in an interview, citing parents of good students who've had problems passing the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills. "I was wrong."

Mauro, expected to secure the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, said Bush's reliance on a state test is at odds with the governor's professed support of local control of public schools.

It would be better to get to the root of the problem by raising teacher salaries and reducing class sizes and letting local officials enforce the law against social promotion, he said.

Mauro predicted that Bush will retreat from his proposal, calling it a bad and costly idea because of all the students who will be retained.

"After he spends a little time campaigning and gets away from the (Governor's) Mansion, he's going to find out that you can't say

you're for local control and a state-mandated test to determine promotions at the same time," Mauro said.

Sure you can, said Bush spokeswoman Karen Hughes.

Bush's proposal is consistent with his belief that the state must set high standards but allow schools flexibility in how they achieve them, she said. When he recently visited 26 Texas cities, people overwhelming told Bush they want public schools to teach youngsters to read, she said.

"We spend \$22 billion a year on our public schools. Governor Bush thinks it's not too much to ask those schools to teach our children the minimum skills they need to succeed in school and in life," she said.

"He thinks a number of new programs he fought and won funding for will help achieve that goal," such as reading academies.

Bush plans to propose additional expenditures for public schools, she said. She didn't have a cost figure, saying the legislation is being developed and would fit into a balanced state budget proposal.

His proposal would require third-graders to pass the TAAS reading exam to go on to fourth grade. Fifth-graders would have to pass the reading and math TAAS, and eighth-graders would have to pass reading, math and writing, she said. It would take effect beginning with students in the 1999 kindergarten class.

Among supporters is the person expected to win the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor, state Comptroller John Sharp.

Sharp said he agreed that some standardized test should be in place. When students are socially promoted and can't keep up, they can get frustrated and drop out, he said.

"Too many of them wind up in our prison system costing us about \$50,000 a year," Sharp said. "It is too expensive a proposition, not only to those children but to the state of Texas. The future of what this state is about is smart, healthy kids."

"Social promotion is simply something we cannot tolerate any more. The governor is exactly right."

Child care facing crisis as staff lured to better jobs

DALLAS (AP) — While a strong economy is filling Texas day-care centers with the children of working parents, those who teach and care for the youngsters are heading for better-paying jobs elsewhere.

"It's a Catch-22, because the fuller employment community we have, the more people we have who need child care and the fewer we have to work in the child-care centers," said Katherine Peel, vice president of human resources for Childtime Learning Centers, a national chain with several centers in Texas.

Nationally, child care has been chronically afflicted with higher-than-average annual turnover rates of 30 percent to 40 percent, but the problem has grown acute this year, child-care experts said.

U.S. Labor Department statistics place the median annual pay for women working in child care at \$12,792 a year, The Dallas Morning News reported in Sunday editions.

Audrey Wilcox, president of Substitutes R' Us, a Dallas child-care staffing firm, said she is bombarded with calls for both temporary and permanent replacements.

"It's making us work harder to find quality people," she said.

Ms. Wilcox and others in the child-care business in the Dallas area said they knew the problem was a crisis when they noticed that the normal turnover that comes with each new school year never subsided.

"We don't know where the people are to hire," said Susan Wyatt, head of the child-development program at Eastfield College in suburban Mesquite.

Even the laboratory child-care center at Eastfield, where many teachers train and make better-than-average pay, is struggling to fill openings for a lead teacher and three assistants, Ms. Wyatt said.

"A lot of people are saying, 'Why should I kill myself and endure a lot of stress when I can get the same wages at McDonald's?'" she said. "It's a stressful career. You've got to really love children, because you're definitely not in it for the money."

The child-care labor crunch is certainly adding to the stress. Centers are scrambling to add benefits and bonuses that will attract new workers. Teachers are being asked to cover extra shifts, and directors are jockeying to hire replacements for child-care work-

ers who are leaving for comparably paying jobs, directors and recruiters said.

Public schools also are attracting child-care teachers with degrees who are willing to take entry-level positions as teacher aides to get better pay and benefits.

Some people still want to work in child care, but where there used to be three applicants for a job, there's now one, said Kathy Papatopoulos, director of a Children's World Learning Center.

"If they come in and they have qualifications and I get favorable references back, then they're being hired. I'm not having several people to choose from," she said.

Mary Zambrana, with 22 years' experience in the child-care business, left her career this fall for a job with the Radio Advertising Bureau. Her entry-level position pays about what she was making as a child-care director.

She said doesn't miss the frustration of being unable to reward day-care staffers who are asked to shoulder great responsibility for little pay. Starting salaries can be as low as minimum wage, \$5.15 an hour.

But she does miss the children.

Nation briefs

Dog credited with saving girl lost in freezing weather

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — A dust mop of a dog stayed by a girl's side for nearly 24 hours after she got lost in a cold ravine, and his barking at a mysterious white owl kept the girl awake — and alive — in 14-degree weather.

Misty Harger was cold and hungry but otherwise fine Sunday afternoon when rescuers found her on the banks of the Buffalo National River in north-west Arkansas. Scotty, the mixed breed who kept the 12-year-old girl awake, received a hero's welcome at home.

He was duly rewarded with a dinner of ham and milk. "He usually gets dog food out of a bag and sleeps outside," Mrs. Adams' husband, Gary, said.

Misty was on an outing with her foster family when she strayed early Saturday afternoon. Scotty happened upon her a few hours later and followed her deeper into the craggy and cold Buffalo River valley.

"I wouldn't have given her

much of a chance," said Sgt. A.D. Bolen of the Searcy County Sheriff's Department. "Stories like this usually don't have a happy ending."

But Scotty — a dog Adams said was "a Heinz 57 who looks like a dust mop" — stayed with the girl and, more importantly, kept her awake.

"The girl said that through the night, the dog kept barking at a white owl. I don't know of any white owls in the county," Bolen said.

Kevoorkian questioned after dropping off body

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Police questioned Dr. Jack Kevoorkian after he and an associate helped two more people commit suicide, but the county prosecutor says he won't prosecute until a clear law bans assisted suicide.

"Hypothetically, I could," Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorceyca said Sunday. "But it's not going to resolve the bigger issue. ... Piecemeal prosecution is going to accomplish nothing but waste taxpayers' money."

Teen who died becomes focus for obesity issues

MARTINEZ, Calif. (AP) — At age 9, Christina Corrigan weighed at least 237 pounds. She weighed 680 pounds when she was found dead four years later,

when her heart simply gave out.

Now her mother, who left her alone while making a run to the grocery store, is on trial on a felony child abuse charge. Her trial could end this week, with the defense expected to finish presenting its case today.

The trial and Christina's short life have become public lightning rods for attitudes toward food and weight. Activists for the obese say society — not Christina's mother — is more to blame for her daughter's death.

"It's the last safe prejudice," said Frances White, president of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance. "This woman would not be on trial if her daughter had any other condition beside being large."

Union Pacific: Government seeks solutions to railroad problems ...

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A recent spate of Union Pacific accidents has prompted a National Transportation Safety Board hearing.

Investigators plan to meet in February in Houston to look into a head-on train collision and a string of other accidents earlier this year. Officials worry that the accidents show how little control the government has over Union Pacific, the nation's largest railroad and, at \$900 million in 1996 earnings, the most profitable, the San Antonio Express News reported.

Ten Union Pacific employees have died on the job this year, more than on any other railroad, according to a Federal Railroad Administration spokesman. Union Pacific's five train-collision deaths in 1997 equal the combined total from 1991 to 1996.

On Oct. 25, a Union Pacific freight train with faulty brakes was dispatched from a Houston rail yard for a 1,500-mile trip to California.

The brakes failed after 10 miles, sending the train through a red signal and into a head-on collision.

The air brakes were not inspected properly before departure, in apparent violation of federal law, according to interviews with Union Pacific employees and government investigators.

The crash happened eight weeks after federal inspectors targeted the company for the largest railroad safety probe on record.

A company spokesman declined to speak about the Houston incident, but an internal Union Pacific investigation faults a blocked air-brake line for the crash, according to the train's engineer. Ensuring the line is clear is part of the pre-departure inspection.

In August, after three fatal collisions and five employee deaths, the Federal Railroad Administration sent 80 inspectors to examine every aspect of the company. The agency said it found a "fundamental breakdown" in safe operations and announced plans to correct the collapse.

Union Pacific President Jerry Davis promised at the time to cooperate: "We want the same thing as the FRA, and that is to quit hurting people and run a safe railroad."

Four Union Pacific employees were hurt when they jumped off the two trains involved in the Houston accident.

The two most serious injuries were on the westbound train with faulty brakes. Keith Cronin, the 26-year-old engineer, leapt off the rear of the locomotive at 25 mph and severely injured his ankle.

From the ground, he turned and saw conductor Tom Wittie engulfed in a diesel fire. As the giant engines began to stack up and fly off the track, Cronin fled into nearby woods.

Wittie, 53, suffered facial burns and back injuries. Both live in San Antonio and are recovering from their injuries. Neither has returned to work.

The federal government also believes cutting corners during inspections is widespread.

"The FRA found examples of UP train crews being ordered to move trains that had defective equipment," a summary of the federal safety probe stated.

Fifty-seven percent of the locomotive fleet had defects, the report found. In Texas, the figure was 75 percent.

Penal chief urges early prevention

HOUSTON (AP) — The state's prison overcrowding problems are linked to the failure to stop young criminals from developing, the head of Texas' penal system says.

Wayne Scott, in charge of guarding over Texas' 140,420 convicted felons, insists that instead of just building prisons and locking people away for longer periods of time, the state should turn its attention to kids as young as 4 and 5.

"If you want to address the (crime) problem in the long term, it gets around to looking at at-risk children and identifying those individuals very early on and trying to influence them in a positive direction," he said.

"I think you have to look at pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first grade. You really have to put a lot of emphasis on children. Those are the formative years."

Scott called the move from the Texas Youth Commission to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice a "natural one."

"... you have to catch them before they hit that point and try to resurrect their lives," he said.

His comments come as Texas is just weeks away from its first prison population crisis in at least four years. With the state

prison population expected to reach capacity sometime next month, prison officials have been scrambling to line up space the state can rent from counties and private lockups to hold felons until the state can accommodate them.

Scott also said the state's move towards more aggressive punishment has contributed to the problem.

A recent study by the Criminal Justice Policy Council shows that 70 percent of those admitted to prison in the past year are there for technical violations of their parole or probation — not for committing new crimes.

"I think it's reflective of what the general public wants," Scott said. "Texans have traditionally been very, very tough on crime, and they've demanded that from their legislators they elect and send to Austin, and I think what you're seeing is a reflection of that."

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Woman dies, others injured due to air turbulence

By KOZO MIZOGUCHI
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO (AP) - A United Airlines jumbo jet carrying 393 people hit heavy turbulence over the Pacific Ocean late Sunday, killing one woman and injuring at least 102 people, some of them seriously.

United Flight 826, en route to Honolulu from Narita, Japan, turned back after encountering the turbulence and landed again in Narita early Monday morning, a spokesman said from United's Chicago headquarters. Narita is 40 miles northeast of Tokyo.

Of the 102 people treated for injuries, 11 passengers and one crew member remained hospitalized early Monday, said Toru Kawai, an airport police spokesman. He said their conditions were not life-threatening.

Japanese news reports said the turbulence was so violent that the plane suddenly dropped, sending passengers and flight attendants into overhead luggage compartments and the ceiling.

A United spokeswoman said the Boeing 747 encountered "severe clear-air turbulence," unanticipated rockiness that develops when there are no storms visible.

"The plane suddenly descended while an attendant was delivering meals, and oxygen masks dropped and food scattered everywhere,"

Kyodo news quoted Joji Hara, a 50-year-old passenger from Tokyo, as saying.

Hara said there were several dents in the ceiling panel caused by people being thrown against the roof, according to Kyodo.

A videotape taken by a passenger and shown on the Japan

Japanese news reports said the turbulence was so violent that the plane suddenly dropped, sending passengers and flight attendants into overhead luggage compartments and the ceiling.

Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) showed oxygen masks swaying from the ceiling and people lying in the central passageway of the plane. Screams also could be heard.

The incident lasted several minutes. Afterward there was an announcement that the plane had dropped about 990 feet but that there was no fear of a crash.

Most of those hurt suffered head or neck injuries, Kawai said.

He said 36 people, including one woman who later died there, were treated at the Narita Red Cross Hospital. Two remained hospitalized,

but others were released, Kawai said. Hospital officials declined to comment.

Konomi Kataura, 32, of Tokyo, died from a severe head injury, according to Kyodo news. United officials did not immediately identify the woman.

"Our hearts go out to everyone who was on the flight and to their family, to their friends and loved ones," United Chairman and CEO Gerald Greenwald said.

United has assigned representatives to each of the hospitals to assist passengers, said Joe Hopkins, a United spokesman in Chicago. Those who were not injured were taken to hotels, he said.

Hiroyuki Tsuchiya, a passenger from Tokyo traveling with his wife, told Kyodo that both of them "floated about one meter (3.3 feet) like we were in an elevator falling down." Tsuchiya and his wife were wearing seatbelts, he said.

The plane departed Narita at 9:05 p.m., airport police said. United said the plane turned around about two hours into the flight and landed back in Narita at 2:20 a.m. Monday.

The turbulence occurred at a point 1,116 miles east of Narita, while the plane was at cruising altitude, Japanese news reports said. It normally takes six hours and 30 minutes from Narita to Honolulu.

The plane was flying near, but outside of, an area that a local observatory warned might contain turbulent air, Japanese news reports said.

Ostrich kicks 63-year-old woman to death, wounds husband

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) - An ostrich kicked a 63-year-old woman to death on a farm outside Cape Town and seriously injured her husband, police said.

Abraham Hendriks, 65, incapacitated from his injuries, laid helplessly and watched his wife Ouma being kicked and stomped on for an hour on an

ostrich farm in Joostenbergvlakte, about 25 miles from Cape Town.

"Ouma was seriously injured and I was almost helpless," Hendriks was quoted as saying in today's Johannesburg The Star.

"I used my last bit of strength to drag her under the shade of a nearby bush," Hendriks managed to flag

down help after the ostrich left. The couple was taken to a hospital, where Mrs. Hendriks died.

The attack occurred when the couple, who lived on an adjacent farm, walked through an ostrich herd on the Lekkerwater farm on their way to visit friends last week, police spokesman Supt. Wicus Holtzhausen said Sunday.

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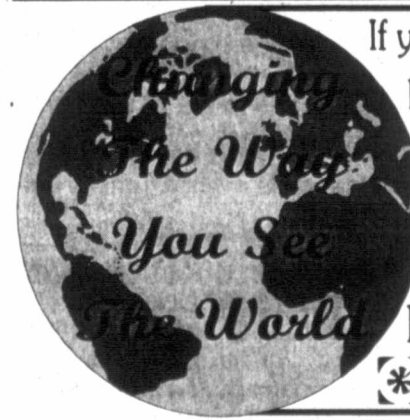
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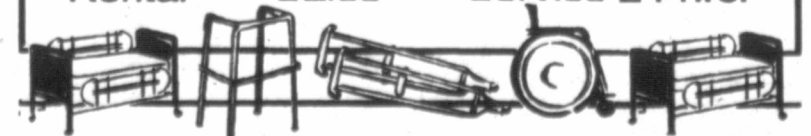
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MEDICAL



Mysterious illness might be anthrax, experts say

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) - An unexplained disease that has caused scores of Kenyans, Somalis and livestock to bleed to death this month may be a form of anthrax, medical experts said Sunday.

"At the moment, the evidence that we have agrees the most with an outbreak of anthrax," said Dr. Douglas Klaucke, acting World Health Organization representative in Kenya.

The evidence includes symptoms - high fever, diarrhea, intestinal problems, vomiting blood - that are similar to those of intestinal anthrax, a rare manifestation of the illness that causes stomach ulcers and inflames the intestines.

Another sign that anthrax may be to blame is that the disease can be contracted by eating undercooked, infected meat - a common practice in Somalia and Kenya where recent flooding has marooned thousands of people who are eating carcasses of sick animals, Klaucke said.

The tentative anthrax diagnosis has not been confirmed by tests, Klaucke said. Kenyan laboratories were awaiting the delivery of medical supplies needed to test specimens for the disease.

Specimens also have been sent to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and Fort Collins, Colo., and the National Institute of Virology in Johannesburg, South Africa, Klaucke said.

Local reports say up to 245 people and hundreds of camels, goats and sheep have died from the mystery disease in flooded villages in northeastern Kenya. But doctors have only confirmed three deaths in Kenya because they were unable to collect blood and stool samples from most of the victims before they died.

Across the border in Somalia, the Red Cross has confirmed the deaths of 42 people from similar symptoms. Local leaders put the figure at 300 people, plus hundreds of livestock.

Twelve possible diseases are being investigated, including yellow fever and dengue. Ebola, which also causes its victims to bleed from the mouth and other orifices, tentatively has been ruled out.

Hong Kong: Vendors, government teams slaughter chickens in effort to fight bird flu

By KATHY WILHELM
Associated Press Writer

HONG KONG (AP) - Vendors slit the throats of their chickens and ducks today, and government teams gassed flocks on farms in a mass slaughter designed to eradicate a mysterious flu that has killed four people.

Family flocks as well as commercial farms were targeted in the massive, 24-hour drive to kill Hong Kong's estimated 1.2 million chickens.

Uncounted ducks, geese, quail and other edible birds also were being killed as suspected carriers of the influenza virus A H5N1, which has long been known to infect birds but jumped to humans for the first time this year.

Thirteen cases of the flu have been confirmed, including the four who died, and seven are suspected. The method of transmission remains a mystery, and there is no vaccine.

Not everyone exposed to the virus falls ill. At least nine people developed antibodies to the flu without developing marked symptoms and four who had been sickened were discharged from the hospital today after making full recoveries.

Vendors "will not be allowed to sell any poultry until the poultry are confirmed to be safe," Chow Loi, an environmental health official, said as he supervised the slaughter at Hung Hom Market.

Government workers in white surgical masks and gloves moved down the market aisles with clipboards, keeping count while barefaced and barehanded vendors pulled birds from cages and drew their knives quickly across the necks. No vendors are known to have been sickened by the flu.

The teams threw the birds in plastic garbage bags, tossed in cupfuls of lime and sealed them in dumpsters for transportation to government-run landfills.

"This is one of the ways to prevent the spread of the disease, to get rid of the source," said Chow.

However, critics said the slaughter does not answer the key question of where the virus is coming from.

"Until we know the answer, the killing of more than a million birds cannot hope to

quell the public's understandable fears," the South China Morning Post wrote in an unusual front-page editorial today.

It said all chickens entering Hong Kong also will have to be certified as safe. About 80 percent of Hong Kong's poultry supply comes from mainland China.

China halted poultry shipments to Hong Kong last week but has insisted that none of its chickens are infected, raising questions about the effectiveness of its surveillance after shipments resume.

Hong Kong officials say they believe at least some infected chickens came from China.

Despite Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule on July 1, border controls have been maintained.

Martin Lee, chairman of the Democratic Party and an outspoken critic of China, accused the Hong Kong government on Monday of moving too slowly to clean up the chicken supply out of subservience to Beijing. He said it was obvious that China was the likely source, and that Hong Kong should have halted the chicken shipments on its own.

Opposition politicians also questioned the safety of burying - rather than incinerating - the slaughtered poultry. But David Chan, an Environmental Protection Department spokesman, said bagging and burying the carcasses was adequate.

Consumption of chickens, formerly Hong Kong's most popular meat, had fallen so sharply in recent weeks that most vendors and farmers welcomed the slaughter, saying they were losing money by keeping the birds alive.

"People are buying other things, like pork and sausage," said Lui Ke, who sells frozen chicken parts imported from the United States at the Hung Hom Market. He said his sales fell 70 percent even though U.S. poultry has not come under suspicion.

The government prepared emergency legislation to compensate owners \$3.85 per bird.

Restaurants specializing in chicken dishes also said business was down, despite doctors' assurances that cooked chicken is safe. Some said they planned to close for a few days, while others said they used frozen chickens imported from the United States.

Obesity in children leading indicator of heart disease

CHICAGO (AP) - Children of people with early-onset heart disease are much more likely to be obese and to develop other signs of future cardiovascular disease in early adulthood, research suggests.

Obesity was significantly more prevalent in children as young as 5 whose parents had major heart problems by around age 50 than in children whose parents had healthy hearts, according to a study by researchers involved in the landmark Bogalusa Heart Study.

The ongoing study has tracked 16,000 children in a semirural Louisiana city since 1973. It has found an association between parental cardiovascular disease and the development of risk factors in their children.

The latest research, published in a recent issue of *Journal of the American Medical Association*, followed the development and progression of heart disease in these children as they become adults.

The findings suggest early obe-

sity appears to bring on the "premature onset of other risk factors," according to a JAMA editorial. Those include high cholesterol, high blood pressure and hyperglycemia, a condition

The ongoing study has ... found an association between parental cardiovascular disease and the development of risk factors in their children.

linked to diabetes - a major risk factor for heart disease.

The study "underscores the importance of primary prevention of coronary artery disease beginning in childhood," wrote the editorial authors, dietitian Linda Van Horn and Dr. Philip Greenland, both professors of preventive medicine at

Northwestern University Medical School.

In the study, researchers at the Tulane Center for Cardiovascular Health in New Orleans looked at 271 children whose parents had a history of significant heart problems developing by age 50 on average for fathers and 52 for mothers. The children were compared with youths whose parents had no history of heart disease.

The authors found that obesity - 10 to 15 pounds above the desired weight - appeared early in childhood in children whose parents had early coronary problems, such as a heart attack, bypass surgery or angioplasty.

After adolescence and into

young adulthood, other risk factors for heart disease also began appearing in those children. Between the ages of 19 and 32, 35 percent were obese, compared with 25 percent of those whose parents had healthy hearts.

Nearly twice as many had high cholesterol and more than twice as many had hyperglycemia, or abnormally high blood sugar.

"The current observations clearly show the accelerated progression of cardiovascular risk from childhood into adulthood in the offspring of parents with early-onset coronary artery disease," wrote the authors of the study, led by Dr. Gerald Berenson.

The study did not consider dietary habits, sedentary lifestyle

and parental obesity. But in a telephone interview, Berenson said genetics combined with lifestyle factors likely explain the findings.

Van Horn said the research bolsters "something that we may intuitively think is true - that heart disease is something that is passed from generation to generation."

The study, she said, also illustrates the importance of helping children before the development of risk factors, "especially obesity, because it is the trigger for so many other factors."

Van Horn said the question for children of parents with early-onset heart disease is: "Are you doomed, or can you make changes?"



GOLDEN PHOENIX CENTER

COLUMBIA MEDICAL CENTER

P A M P A • T E X A S

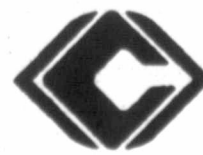
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COLUMBIA

Medical Center of Pampa

Grandmother Senses Trouble In Mom's Conspiracy With Son

DEAR ABBY: I am a grandmother and I watch my two grandchildren every day while their mothers work. The boy is 5, the girl is 4.

My two daughters do a lot of children's activities in the evenings and on the weekends. The cousins are close. They don't fight, and they really love each other.

The girl's mother includes the boy in every special thing they do — pizza, fishing, swimming, etc.

The boy says when he and his mother do things, he wants to be alone and he does not want his cousin included. His mother coddles him and tells him it's OK to want to be alone. She tells him to not mention when he's going to the beach, etc., so they will not have to take the little girl along.

I think she is demonstrating to her son how to be secretive and manipulative. I also think it's cruel. Of course, my daughter does not agree. I see disaster ahead. Please advise.

CONCERNED GRANDMOTHER IN PORTLAND

DEAR CONCERNED GRANDMOTHER: This situation is not a question of all or nothing. Since you watch the children during the day, their time with their mothers is limited, and therefore I see no reason why they shouldn't each spend one-on-one time with their mothers for special outings. There should be no need for secrecy about it.

DEAR ABBY: As one of nearly



Abigail Van Buren
 SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

8,000 optometrists who volunteer our services through VISION USA, I have seen what an amazing difference eye care can make.

Last year, one of my VISION USA patients arrived with her glasses taped together so the lenses wouldn't fall out. The prescription was no longer appropriate for her, but she told me, "They are better than nothing." When I prescribed two pairs of glasses for her at no charge — one for distance and the other for computer work, which she needed for her job — she cried with joy.

In the last seven years, VISION USA has helped approximately 220,000 children and adults from low-income working families. Many had eye health problems that interfered with their ability to work or go to school.

Abby, the 1998 VISION USA program is getting under way again, and I hope you will alert your readers to the opportunity for low-income working families to obtain free eye care.

— ANDREA P. THAU, O.D.,
 NEW YORK CITY

DEAR DR. THAU: I'm pleased to alert my readers once again to this worthwhile effort by the American Optometric Association.

To qualify for free eye care in the VISION USA program, individuals must have a job or live in a household where there is one working member; have no health insurance that covers eye examinations; have an income below an established level based on household size; and have had no eye examination within the last two years. (Eligibility requirements may vary in some states.)

From Jan. 2 to Jan. 30, 1998, low-income working people and their families can be screened for eligibility for VISION USA by calling 1-800-766-4466. Phone lines will be open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Central Standard Time). Because phone lines are sometimes very busy, it may be easier to apply by mail. Application forms are available from: VISION USA, 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63141. Completed forms must be postmarked by Jan. 23.

The comprehensive eye exams will be given in optometrists' private offices in March, coinciding with the celebrating of Save Your Vision Week, March 1 to March 7.



For Better or For Worse



Arlo & Janis



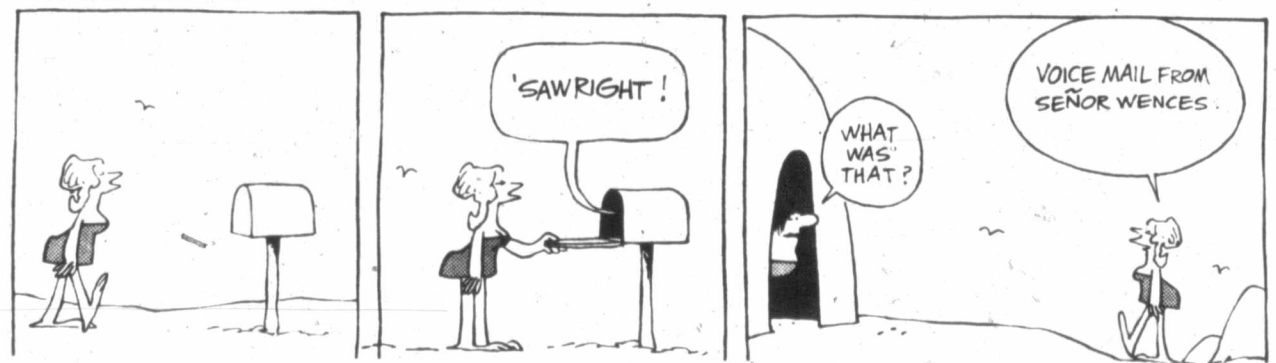
Garfield



Walnut Cove



Marvin



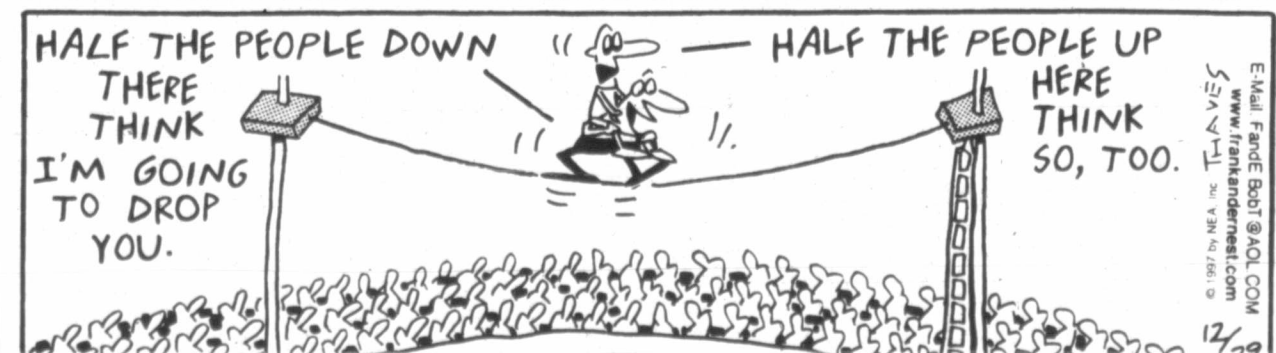
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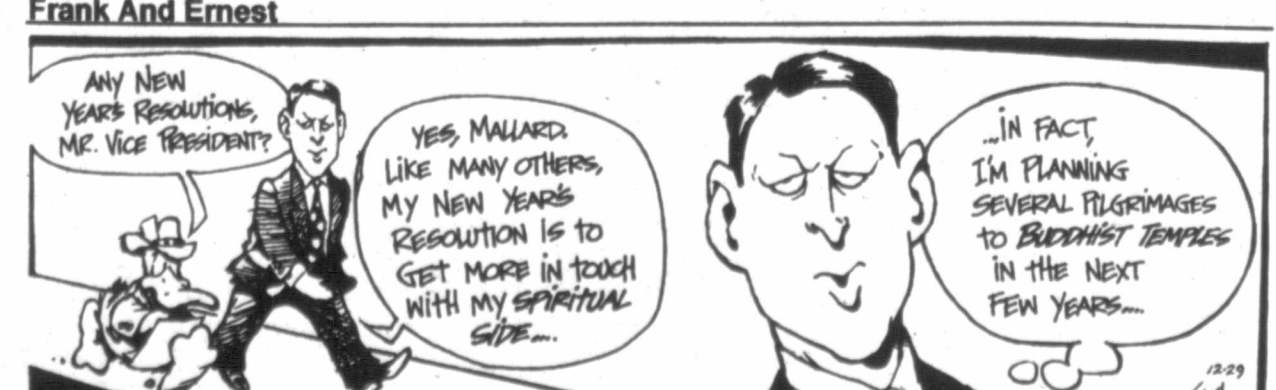
Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore

Horoscope



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1997

In the year ahead you are likely to be more adventurous than you have been in the past. When you make your moves, all the pieces will fit together and you'll make it look easy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) In order to be the center of attention at social or business gatherings today, underplay your part. If you want to command attention, whisper. 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.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Factors

are favorable today for achieving a secret ambition. The go signal will be obvious to you, so move on it the moment it is revealed.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Your most outstanding attribute today is your ability to transmit your ideas to others. To your credit, you'll do so by teaching, not preaching.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A situation that had reached its zenith earlier and has been treading water ever since may be revitalized at this time. Do not toss in the towel prematurely.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Associates will welcome your participation today because of your ability to draw them out and to utilize the products of their thoughts.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Favorable changes could be in the offing today that affect your work or career. Barriers will become bridges on your path to success.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Things you do in concert with others today are earmarked for success. Everyone involved stands to gain in some manner if he or

she is a team player.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Even if conditions are difficult to contend with today, don't be intimidated. This is a test of your staying power that will eventually yield rewards.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your executive qualities will be evident today, and you could be in a popular position with your peers. You will know how to right one of their wrongs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You should start receiving returns and acknowledgment on things in which you've invested your time, talents and resources. It could begin today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Today, you'll know what needs doing and how it can be done. Your objectives will be achievable, so stick to your guns once you're focused.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Where money is concerned today, you'll be imaginative and practical. This winning combination could play a happy tune on your cash register.

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"You f'got one ornament, Mommy! It's the one I made in school."



"You've been hanging around the Christmas tree again, haven't you?"

The Family Circus



Grizzwells

Marmaduke



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Alley Oop



Peanuts



Peanuts

SPORTS

Notebook

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — The Optimist Club Boy's Basketball sign-ups will be on Jan. 4, 5 and 6. Fourth and sixth graders who played last season need to sign up on Jan. 4. Third and fourth graders who did not play last year, will try out Jan. 5. Fifth and sixth graders sign up Jan. 6.

For more information call Rusty Gallagher at 669-7179.

PORTLAND — The Trail Blazers activated G Vincent Askew. Placed C Alton Lister on the injured list.

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah Jazz waived G Troy Hudson.

HOCKEY

New York Islanders recalled D Zdeno Chara, D Jason Strudwick and LW Sean Haggerty from Kentucky of the AHL, and RW Dane Jackson from Rochester of the AHL. **NEW YORK RANGERS** — Reassigned C Marc Savard and LW PJ. Stock to Hartford of the AHL.

SKATING

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Catriona Le May Doan of Canada broke her world 500-meter speedskating record for the second time in 24 hours on Sunday during the Canadian Olympic trials.

"I don't know what to say anymore about the records," Le May Doan, 27, said. "I didn't really feel into it but I started on the inner lane, which is more comfortable for me."

"I was pleasantly surprised it was that fast but, obviously, I know records are always possible now no matter how I feel."

She was timed in 37.55 seconds, eclipsing her 37.71-second run of Saturday.

Le May Doan also holds the 1,500 world record and leads the 500- and 1,000-meter World Cup points standings. With five victories in eight races, she ranks as a favorite for a gold medal in the Olympic Winter Games at Nagano, Japan in February.

FOOTBALL

MIAMI (AP) — Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning, recovering from a knee injury, took the majority of snaps in practice Sunday and said he expects to play in the Orange Bowl against Nebraska.

Manning's right knee remained sore and stiff, but he said it was continuing to improve. The senior spent six days in the hospital after rupturing a bursa sac in his knee Dec. 6 against Auburn.

BASKETBALL

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal, sidelined by a strained abdominal muscle and a fractured wrist, is practicing with his teammates again after an absence of 5 1/2 weeks.

O'Neal went through a two-hour workout Saturday, including 30 minutes in 3-on-3 scrimmages. He previously was cleared for individual workouts.

CLEVELAND (AP) — Cleveland Cavaliers guard Mitchell Butler was scheduled to undergo surgery today in Los Angeles to remove a herniated disc from his neck. He will miss the rest of the season.

HOCKEY

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis Blues star Brett Hull will be sidelined up to six weeks following surgery for a broken left hand Sunday.

Hull, injured Saturday night in a 5-5 tie with Anaheim, had two pins surgically inserted in his hand.

SKIING

LIENZ, Austria (AP) — Sweden's Ylva Nowen won her third straight World Cup slalom Sunday, edging American Kristina Koznick by one-tenth of a second.

World champion Deborah Compagnoni of Italy finished third. On Saturday, Nowen beat Compagnoni by 0.28 seconds.

Cade McNown will play senior season at UCLA

By DENNE H. FREEMAN
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Cade McNown fades back and hits his receiver with a perfect spiral on a 15-yard out-pattern.

This is at a UCLA practice in Texas Stadium as the fifth-ranked Bruins prepare for a Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl meeting with No. 20 Texas A&M.

It's an example of what the accurate 20-year-old junior has done all season. He's considered a left-handed Troy Aikman, who played at UCLA before he matriculated to the Dallas Cowboys.

And the best is yet to come. McNown has decided to return for his senior season and take a run at honors such as the Heisman Trophy and the Davey O'Brien national quarterback award.

"Sure, I'm coming back next year," McNown said Sunday as he twirled a football around his fingers. "I'm only 20. I still have room for growth. I want to graduate. I'd like to take a run at some of those post-season awards and I'd like to have a season where I hit 68 percent of my passes."

McNown completed 61 percent of his passes this year as the Bruins lost narrowly to

Washington State and Tennessee, then charged back with nine consecutive wins to earn a Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl berth against the Aggies (9-3).

He had a quarterback efficiency rating of 168.6, the 12th highest in NCAA history. Not even Aikman had a year like that, posting an NCAA best of 157.6.

"Cade had a great, great year," said coach Bob Toledo. "He just continued to grow to the point where he was like a coach on the field."

McNown hit 173 of 283 passes for 2,877 yards with 22 touchdowns and only five interceptions.

"I'm glad Cade wants to play his senior season," Toledo said. "He's a fierce competitor and I think he can make as good a run at a Heisman as anybody."

McNown was one of the three finalists for the O'Brien trophy, which went to Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning. Little wonder, considering McNown threw more touchdown passes this year than the 19 he had in his first two seasons combined. He had five touchdown passes against Texas in a 66-3 win.

"It's been a big turnaround season for me," McNown said. "I started out throwing two interceptions and having the stadium

booing me. Now, everybody likes me."

"This has opened my eyes a little bit. I've learned real quick this is sort of a business. It's, 'What have you done for me lately?'"

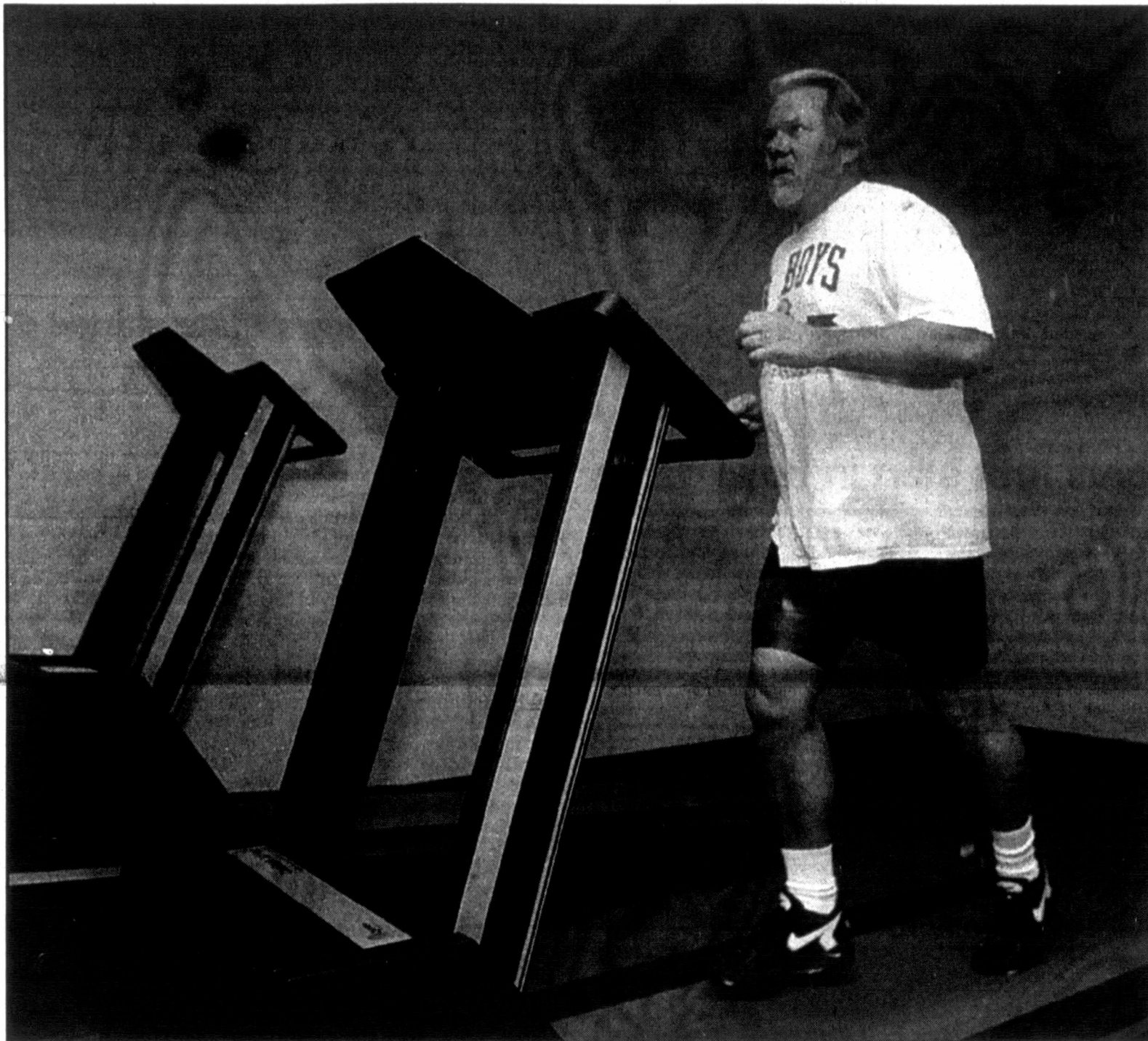
He certainly has the Aggies attention.

Said Texas A&M quarterback Brannon Stewart: "I've seen him on film and television and he has the poise and the ability of a great quarterback."

McNown said he has learned one thing about acclaim.

"I just take it as it comes now," McNown said. "But I know you have to prove yourself every week."

Working off the holiday feast



When the weather outside is frightful, one of the best places to go walking is on a treadmill at the Pampa Youth and Community Center. Bill King is a 20-year member of the center. While others were sitting around watching television over the weekend, King was working out and staying in shape.

North Carolina holds No. 1 spot

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

North Carolina easily held the No. 1 spot in the AP's college basketball poll today, but came up one short of a unanimous selection after sweeping the first-place votes last week.

The Tar Heels (13-0), who had to go to overtime to beat Georgia in their only game last week, received 69 first-place votes and 1,749 points from a 70-member media panel. It was the third straight week North Carolina has been top-ranked under first-year coach Bill Guthridge.

Kansas (15-1), which will be without All-America forward Raef LaFrentz for 6-8 weeks, held second with 1,646 points, 16 more than Duke (10-1). LaFrentz, averaging 21.2 points and 11.4 rebounds, broke his right index finger in a scrimmage Friday.

The Blue Devils, who received the other No. 1 vote, lost freshman Elton Brand, their leading scorer and rebounder, for the rest of the season after he broke his left foot in practice Saturday.

Utah and Purdue both jumped two spots to fourth and fifth, while Kentucky, which lost at home to Louisville, fell two places to sixth.

The next three spots were held by Pac-10 teams — Stanford, Arizona and UCLA — while Connecticut rounded out the Top Ten.

South Carolina, which switched places with Connecticut, led the Second Ten, and was followed by New Mexico, Xavier, Iowa, Florida State, Mississippi, Princeton, Michigan, Syracuse and Maryland. The last five teams were Clemson, West Virginia, Arkansas, Rhode Island and Marquette.

Michigan, which made its first appearance in the Top 25 two weeks ago after a loss to Eastern Michigan, reentered at No. 18. The Wolverines (10-3) won a holiday tournament in Puerto Rico last week, handing Syracuse its first loss of the season in the championship game.

Marquette (8-0) was the other newcomer this week. The Golden Eagles, who beat Central Florida and Illinois-Chicago last week, were ranked for three weeks last season, reaching as high as No. 24.

Temple, No. 24 last week, and Texas Christian, No. 25 a week ago, dropped out. Temple (6-3) did not play last week, but the Owls have lost two straight. TCU (11-2) lost to Syracuse in the semifinals of the tournament won by Michigan.

The week's biggest drop was Arkansas' fall from 12th to 23rd. The Razorbacks (9-2) went into the Puerto Rico tournament undefeated, but lost to American University of Puerto Rico, the Division II host school, and Murray State before beating Saint Louis in the seventh-place game.

Struggling Iowa kicker says he's back on track

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Despite his worst season as a Hawkeye, Iowa kicker Zach Bromert hopes the Sun Bowl game against No. 16 Arizona State comes down to his right foot.

Bromert missed nine of 16 field goals and three extra points this season, but he says he's ready for Wednesday's contest against the Sun Devils. He's aching for the chance to line up for a game-winning kick.

"Oh, definitely. I mean, if you're not looking forward to it coming down to you, you're in the wrong job," he said.

Cormorants expanding territory, exhausting tolerance

By MARK McDONALD
San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO — They come from the tundra of Canada, from the lakes of Wisconsin, from the prairie potholes of the Dakotas. Birds, thousands of them, migrate into Texas and points south every year.

With each passing cold front, Arctic winds bring more and more birds — everything from the majestic American bald eagle to the pocket-sized Inca dove — south for the winter. Naturalists from Bonham to Brownsville greet these feathered travelers with open feeders and outstretched binoculars.

One avian visitor, however, is not quite so welcome.

Meet the double-crested cormorant. A controversial predator, the cormorant comes from the Upper Midwest and Canada to fish the ice-free waterways of Texas.

Under the Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico and Canada, the cormorant enjoys broad protection at both the state and federal levels. It is illegal to trap or shoot cormorants without special permit.

Indeed, bird-watchers marvel at how nature has equipped the black, goose-like bird, providing a strong, thin beak, webbed feet, streamlined frame — for its role as a predator.

Fishermen and those in aquaculture are less enthralled, especially December through March when the birds roost by the hun-

dreds on reservoirs, streams and bays, consuming thousands of pounds of fish every day.

Bass fishermen loathe the cormorant and blame the "water turkey" or "sky rat" for everything from poor bass reproduction to backlash. Bassclubbers circulate stories and snapshots of fish with marks on their backs, scars they say were left as calling cards of the cormorant.

To fish farmers, especially those trying to raise stocker fingerlings, the cormorant is a curse — a fire ant with wings.

In between, Texas Parks and Wildlife leaders urge civilians not to break the law but find disturbing trends in their field data: The cormorant continues to grow in number here in Texas, while expanding far beyond its former range.

Biologist Phil Durocher, now parks and wildlife chief of inland fisheries, was active in gathering data for a cormorant study in the late-1980s. Field staffers took a census of the birds and studied their stomach contents.

"We found they were opportunistic feeders," Durocher said. "They don't target bass or any other gamefish. They eat what's there, mostly shad or sunfish, anywhere from half a pound to 1 1/2 pounds of fish a day."

"We found that their wintering populations had gone up 3,000 percent in the last decade. We can see that their numbers continue to rise, and they are changing their habits."

Rather than return north, more

cormorants are now pushing into areas where they had not been seen, and they're staying longer, field staffers say.

Harrell Arms of Dublin cannot argue. A second-generation fish farmer and immediate past president of the Texas Aquaculture Association, Arms says cormorants have become a factor in the rolling plains of near West Texas only recently. Now, he must take steps to protect his bluegill, bass and catfish brood stock from cormorants.

"I never realized what the fuss was about until now," Arms said.

Earlier this year, parks and wildlife fisheries biologist Paul Seidensticker has documented a nesting colony on Toledo Bend.

Meanwhile, public support for the cormorant is crumbling:

— Four years ago, Oklahoma lawmakers, frustrated by federal restrictions, passed a resolution declaring the cormorant "an official nuisance."

— Last summer, the Webb County Soil and Water Conservation District 337, based in Laredo, sponsored a resolution "concerning the damage being done by cormorants to fish and other aquatics ... We have found that banging on the boat, blowing the horn and popping fireworks will not do the job. We need to organize on the national level ..."

"The goal can be achieved by removing the cormorant from the protected list. Its removal may save our fishing."

— At Colorado State University, in studies on how to

discourage cormorants, herons and other avian predators, researchers continue to experiment with scarecrows, firecrackers and other pyrotechnics — even recorded alarm-distress calls of birds.

— Without formally announcing a shift in policy, the Texas Animal Damage Control has become more liberal in permits that, along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval, paves the way to a civilian being allowed to take a limited number of cormorants. One TADC staffer in San Antonio said he can not remember the last time the agency denied a permit application.

— Guillermo Benavides, president of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, asked for other agencies to search for a solution, saying the cormorant can "wipe out an entire population of fish in a stock pond in a matter of hours."

— The American Fisheries Society has asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to review cormorant regulations, the first step toward removing the protection.

In spite of these developments, state wildlife officials say the cormorant's protection umbrella, while leaking, will be slow to fold.

"People have a right to be concerned," Durocher said. "But on large public reservoirs, our fisheries are not in any kind of danger."

"Cormorants use our reservoirs for their food supply. They are here because we created habitat for them."

Kansas wins first without LaFrentz

By The Associated Press

The toughest 6-to-8 weeks of Kansas' season got off to a slow but successful start.

The second-ranked Jayhawks beat Ohio State 69-56 on Sunday night in the opening round of the Rainbow Classic, their first game without All-America forward Raef LaFrentz.

"Raef brings 21 points and 11 rebounds," swingman Billy Thomas said. "That's pretty difficult to make up. I don't think you can make it up. You just have to adjust."

LaFrentz, expected to miss 13 games, broke his index finger on his right (non-shooting) hand in practice Friday. The first without him started as a struggle.

Ohio State (7-4) did a good job against the bigger and deeper Jayhawks (15-1) with a zone defense that only Thomas seemed to solve until the final minutes.

"They really bothered us in the first half with the zone defense," Kansas coach Roy Williams said. "Mentally, we haven't been sharp for the last couple of days. We have to put Raef's injury behind us."

Thomas finished with a career-high 27 points, going 6-for-9 from 3-point range. Paul Pierce missed 12 of his first 15 shots before scoring 15 of his 22 points in the Jayhawks' game-closing 21-5 run.

In other games involving ranked teams Sunday it was: No. 8 Arizona 92, James Madison 68; No. 10 Connecticut 100, Hartford 69; No. 14 Iowa 91, Bucknell 52; No. 21 Clemson 84, South

Carolina State 60; and No. 25 Marquette 73, Illinois-Chicago 67.

A 3-pointer by Thomas with 6:32 left gave Kansas the lead for good at 52-49. The Buckeyes, who got 23 points from Jason Singleton and 22 from Michael Redd, just couldn't stay with the Jayhawks over the final minutes.

"I think fatigue caught up with us," Ohio State coach Jim O'Brien said. "The real key was Kansas stepped up and made shots. That was really the difference. They made some big 3s and we were not able to keep pace towards the end."

"I thought our zone was very effective, but towards the end they made some shots. Clearly, we needed to pack it in because of our size disadvantage."

The Jayhawks will play Vanderbilt, a 79-72 winner over New Mexico State, in tonight's semifinals.

No. 8 Arizona 92, James Madison 68

Michael Dickerson and Miles Simon each scored 20 points as the Wildcats won in the opening round of their Bank One Fiesta Bowl Classic.

Mike Bibby added 15 points and eight assists for the Wildcats (8-3), who will play unbeaten Kansas State, a 70-63 winner over Davidson, in Tuesday night's championship game.

Jamar Perry had a career-high 25 points and Eugene Atkinson added 19 points and 11 rebounds for James Madison (4-4), which trailed 49-30 at halftime.

No. 10 Connecticut 100, Hartford 69

The Huskies (11-1) set a school record with 15 3-pointers, seven by freshman Khalid El-Amin, who finished with 29 points in 30 minutes as coach Jim Calhoun won the 499th game of his career.

Anthony Bethune led the Hawks (4-5) with 18 points in the game played at the Hartford Civic Center.

No. 14 Iowa 91, Bucknell 52

Kent McCausland went 5-of-6 from 3-point range and scored 17 points, and Ryan Bowen added 15 for the Hawkeyes (11-1), who shot 57 percent and dominated with defense.

Valter Karavanic had 13 points for the visiting Bison, who had one field goal over the final 13 minutes of the first half in falling behind 49-15.

No. 21 Clemson 84, South Carolina St. 60

Harold Jamison, Greg Buckner and Iker Iturbe each scored 13 points for the Tigers (9-3), who used a 21-6 run over the final 10 minutes of the first half to take a 33-24 lead on the way to their fourth straight win.

James Jones led the visiting Bulldogs (1-5) with 15 points.

No. 25 Marquette 73, Ill.-Chicago 67

Aaron Hutchins scored 20 of his 28 points in the second half as the visiting Golden Eagles (8-0) snapped the Flames' seven-game winning streak.

Marquette trailed 34-24 at halftime, but scored the first nine points of the second half and then took the lead for good at 64-63.

Mark Miller led Illinois-Chicago (10-2) with 19 points.

Co-MVPs won't settle tie

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — This one won't be settled on the field.

Barry Sanders, the NFL's co-MVP with Green Bay's Brett Favre, was knocked out of the playoffs on Sunday when the Detroit Lions lost to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 20-10.

So, the Packers' Jan. 4 playoff game at Lambeau Field will be a battle of the Bays instead of a dual between the first co-MVPs in 37 years.

Sanders, the third player ever to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season, had only 65 on 18 carries Sunday, the first time since Tampa Bay held him to 20 yards in Week 2 that he didn't gain at least 100.

So, Sanders will have to be satisfied with sharing the MVP award, a tie that neither player seemed to mind.

"The more I've thought about it, the more excited I am about it," Favre said. "Sure, I'd like to win it outright. But I can't complain. I'm sharing it with probably the best running back ever to play the game. I'm not going to argue with that."

The deadlock didn't diminish the award, Favre said. In fact, he called the draw poetic justice.

"Barry's team hasn't been, record-wise, as good as we have. But yeah, I think it would have been a shame for either one of us not to win it with the years we've had," said Favre, who became the first passer to throw

30 or more touchdowns in four consecutive seasons while leading the Packers (13-3) back into the playoffs to defend their Super Bowl title.

Sanders, who carried the Lions (9-8) into the playoffs, was similarly satisfied with the first MVP tie since Philadelphia quarterback Norm Van Brocklin and Detroit linebacker Joe Schmidt shared the award in 1960.

"I guess it puts me in elite company," Sanders, who set a league record with 14 straight games of more than 100 yards rushing, said before the Lions were knocked out of the playoffs.

"I'm glad he let me share it with him this year, because the last couple he's taken it for himself."

It was the first MVP for Sanders, an unprecedented third for Favre, who said the latest award was his most satisfying.

"I can't believe a little country kid like me has won it three times. No one has ever done it before. Considering where I came from and how hard it was to get here, it's everything I thought it would be and then some," said Favre, who has overcome a car accident in college and an addiction to painkillers to etch his place in history as one of the finest quarterbacks to play in the NFL.

"The scary thing is he's not done," Packers receiver Antonio Freeman said. "He's still in mid-stride." Sort of like Sanders, who only

gets better just when you think he couldn't top himself again.

Besides their extraordinary talent and work ethic, what separates Favre and Sanders from their contemporaries is their uncanny ability to turn broken plays into big ones, to drop jaws with stunning regularity.

"You might stop Barry 10 times in a row, but you can't shut him out," Favre said. "As soon as you say, 'Well, we got him,' he gets away. He's a great player and you can't hold a great player down for long."

The admiration is mutual.

"He reminds me a lot of Michael Jordan," Sanders said. "No matter how successful he's been, he's still always the most competitive person on the field. Outside of his incredible talent and everything, he's always just really competitive."

Even Favre's teammates couldn't argue against the tie between the best quarterback and running back in the game today.

"Both of those guys are all-world," said Packers free safety Eugene Robinson. "Dude had 2,000 yards. Barry Sanders, the most prolific running back in history. In history. He's the bomb, too. Both are deserving. I'm glad it kind of worked out that way."

"I think it's wonderful," Packers strong safety LeRoy Butler said, "because both of them had wonderful years."

Only Sanders' season ended Sunday, a week shy of an MVP showdown.

Arizona State QB gets first start in bowl game

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Arizona State's hopes to beat Iowa in the Sun Bowl rest on the tall shoulders and rifle arm of a junior who already has conceded next year's quarterback battle.

Steve Campbell, built more like a basketball player at 6-foot-8 and 240 pounds, will lead the 16th-ranked

Sun Devils (8-3) Wednesday.

"This will be my first and only collegiate start," said Campbell, who has been thrust into the starting role because of a knee injury to freshman Ryan Kealy in ASU's 28-16 loss to Arizona in the last game of the season. "Next year, Ryan will be the starter

again, so this will probably be the only start I'll have in college."

Asked if he was conceding the job, the junior from Corona, Calif., said, "Ryan had a great year. He matured a lot. I'll definitely go out there every practice in spring ball and give it everything I have."

Victory over Iowa State started Cowboys' run to bowl

By OWEN CANFIELD
AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Oklahoma State's trip to the Alamo Bowl, the program's first bowl game in nine years, included milestone victories over Texas and Colorado and a defeat of in-state rival Oklahoma.

But Cowboy players and coaches will tell you that perhaps no victory meant more than the first one.

The opponent was Iowa State, which was expected to be a poor team and proved it by going 1-10. But when the Cowboys played Iowa State on Aug. 30, they were an underdog and trying to deal with the suspension of 11 players due to academics and disciplinary reasons.

"I think if we lose that game, the season would have had a different tint on it," offensive guard Josh Henson said. "You'd probably get some faction of the team that thinks, 'We're the same old team.'"

In other words, not very good. A team that hadn't had a winning record since 1988. A team that was expected to finish toward the bottom of the Big 12 South standings.

Things looked shaky for the Cowboys when Iowa State burned them for a long touchdown pass in the first quarter. But instead of reverting to the

form of recent years, the players kept their composure and, as would be the case all year, believed they would be able to turn things around.

Led by freshman quarterback Tony Lindsay, who played with poise beyond his years, the offense started to have success. The defense righted itself, and the Cowboys got back into the game.

Lindsay, who would prove to be a real difference-maker all year, completed 11 of 15 passes for 104 yards. Nathan Simmons gained 85 yards and scored twice, including the game winner in a 21-14 victory. Jamaal Fobbs also had 85 yards on the ground.

The defense limited Iowa State to 32 yards rushing and came up with two turnovers.

"We had really talked about really playing together," coach Bob Simmons said. "We had talked about being different, and everything we had talked about I could see happening on the field. I could just see it unfolding in front of us."

It was an emotional victory for Simmons. While deeply religious, Simmons is not quick to speak openly of his faith. But after the Iowa State game, after his team had overcome major off-field distractions to win, he couldn't help himself.

"Not many people gave us a chance," he said on the field. "But Jesus did."

Kansas survives opening round of Rainbow; Kansas State stays unbeaten; Oklahoma wins All-College Tournament

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — It did get a bit warmer in Hawaii for No. 2 Kansas than expected for the opening round of the Rainbow Classic.

Billy Thomas scored a career-high 27 points and Paul Pierce scored 15 of his 22 points down the stretch Sunday night as the Jayhawks (15-1) pulled out a 69-56 victory over Ohio State.

The Buckeyes (7-4), who got 23 points from Jason Singleton and 22 from Michael Redd, surprised injury-plagued Kansas by leading most of the way.

It wasn't until Thomas' 3-pointer with 6:32 left that Kansas moved ahead for good, 52-49.

Up to that point, Pierce, expected to pick up the scoring and rebounding slack for the injured All-America Raef LaFrentz and T.J. Pugh, was 2-for-15 from the field until he took over during a 21-5 closing run by Kansas.

The game was tied 26-26 at halftime. The Jayhawks were 6-for-23 13 minutes into the game with nine turnovers and finished the half 11-of-33 with Pierce going 2-for-11.

Ohio State took advantage of the absence of LaFrentz and Pugh by ramming the ball inside for 22 of its 26 first-half points.

The Buckeyes held an 8-point lead at one point over the first 20 minutes, but Thomas knocked in two 3-pointers to pull the Jayhawks even.

Ohio State built up a 5-point lead two minutes into the second half, but Thomas again hit on a three-point play and added a field goal for the first of six ties before the Jayhawks moved ahead for good.

Earlier Sunday, Kansas State equalled its best start since 1957-58.

Kansas State hasn't played a schedule nearly as tough as Kansas'. But the Wildcats are 9-0 after beating Davidson 70-63 in the first round of the Bank One Fiesta Bowl Classic at Tucson, Ariz. That equals the

third-best start in school history.

Shawn Rhodes and Aaron Swartzendruber scored 11 points each in the second half to lead the Wildcats, who had just one double-digit lead in the game.

Swartzendruber finished with 14 points, and Rhodes scored 13. Manny Dies had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Kansas State.

Also on Sunday, Oklahoma won its own All-College Tournament as Corey Brewer scored 22 points to lead the Sooners past Alabama 79-61.

Freshman forward Ryan Humphrey led the attack in the first half for the Sooners (9-4), scoring 11 points and pulling down 11 rebounds. He scored 13 points and had 13 rebounds before limping off early in the second half.

Those wins gave the Big 12 a perfect weekend.

On Saturday, Oklahoma and three other conference teams slugged out hard-won victories.

The Sooners got clutch shots from Brewer and Eduardo Najera to beat Coppin State 83-72 in the first round of the All-College tournament.

Tyrone Lue scored 24 of his 36 points in the second half to rally Nebraska, also playing in the Rainbow Classic, to an 80-65 victory over Virginia.

Texas Tech overcame a 17-point halftime deficit behind Cory Carr and beat Nevada 99-94 in overtime.

At Austin, Kris Clack had 22 points and nine rebounds and Gabe Muoneke added 21 points as a ragged Texas beat Houston 89-71.

Coppin State led Oklahoma 54-51 with 12:39 left when Najera scored and sank a free throw to tie the game. Less than a minute later, he floated in a short jumper from the lane to give Oklahoma the lead for good.

Evan Wiley led Oklahoma with 19 points and 8 rebounds

and Najera had 17 points and 7 rebounds.

In Honolulu, Nebraska (9-2) trailed Virginia 35-28 at halftime, but went on a 14-2 run to start the second half and move ahead for good.

During the spurt, Troy Piatkowski hit two of his four 3-pointers and Lue had four points. Lue was 12-of-19 from the floor, converted 11-of-12 free throws and dished out seven assists.

Down the stretch, he scored 10 straight points, the last opening up a 20-point lead.

Venson Hamilton added 13 points and Piatkowski 12 for Nebraska.

Carr scored 31 points to lead Texas Tech over Nevada. Rayford Young had a career-high 28 points and eight assists for Texas Tech, including two free throws with 4.4 seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 72.

Carr made two 3-pointers in overtime, giving him five for the game, and Texas Tech made its last 16 free throws — four in regulation and 12 in overtime.

Texas (6-5) was coming off a 105-80 loss at Illinois last Saturday in which both coach Tom Penders and assistant coach Eddie Oran were ejected. Houston (7-3), which has lost three straight, was led by Galen Robinson, who dominated inside and had 32 points and 10 rebounds. He was the only Cougar in double figures.

Texas hit just 40 percent from the field and was 24-of-39 from the free throw line. The Longhorns hit 7-of-23 from 3-point range and turned the ball over 22 times. But Houston couldn't do any better, hitting just 34 percent from the floor, 3-of-19 from 3-point range and turning the ball over 30 times.

It was the first meeting between the former Southwest Conference foes since the final SWC season two years ago and Texas evened the overall series at 30-30.



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9 Weep Singer
12 TV actor Ken
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16 Some mil. people
17 Adder
18 — fours (swirling)
20 Truman or Chapin
22 Roman
23 Actor Wallach
24 Actress Charisse
27 Fair grade
29 Ford flop
33 Ovis
35 Type of monster
36 All right
37 Beside one another
40 Sheriff's band
42 Eskimo knife

DOWN
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2 Architect Saarinen
3 — even keel
4 Of birth
5 Less important
6 Guido's high note
7 Alcove
8 At a reduced price (2 wds.)
9 Russian ruler
10 Cheerful
11 Kennel sound
19 Parasites
21 Range of hills
24 — suey
25 Singer Ono
26 — I say
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30 Anna and the King of —
31 Actress Lanchester
32 Overdue
34 Boxer
38 Mike — Post-burn problem
39 Cut of meat
41 Trebek and Sajak, e.g.
45 Eagle's nest
47 Like luxurious carpet
48 WWII event
49 Car part
51 Virginia willow
52 Paving substances
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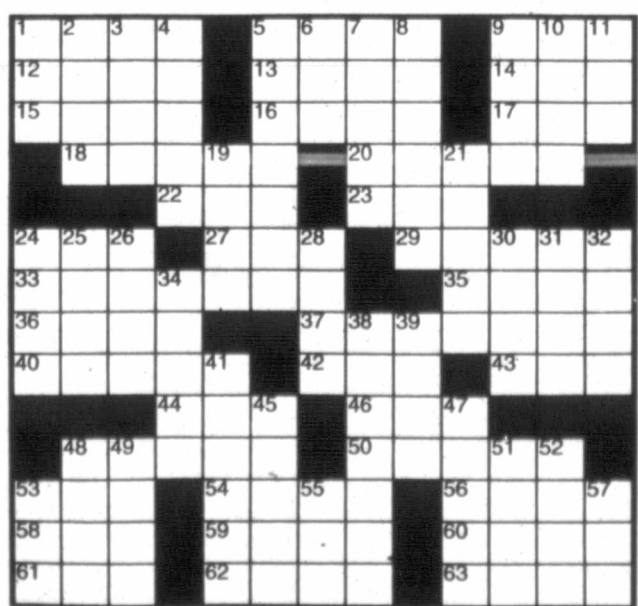
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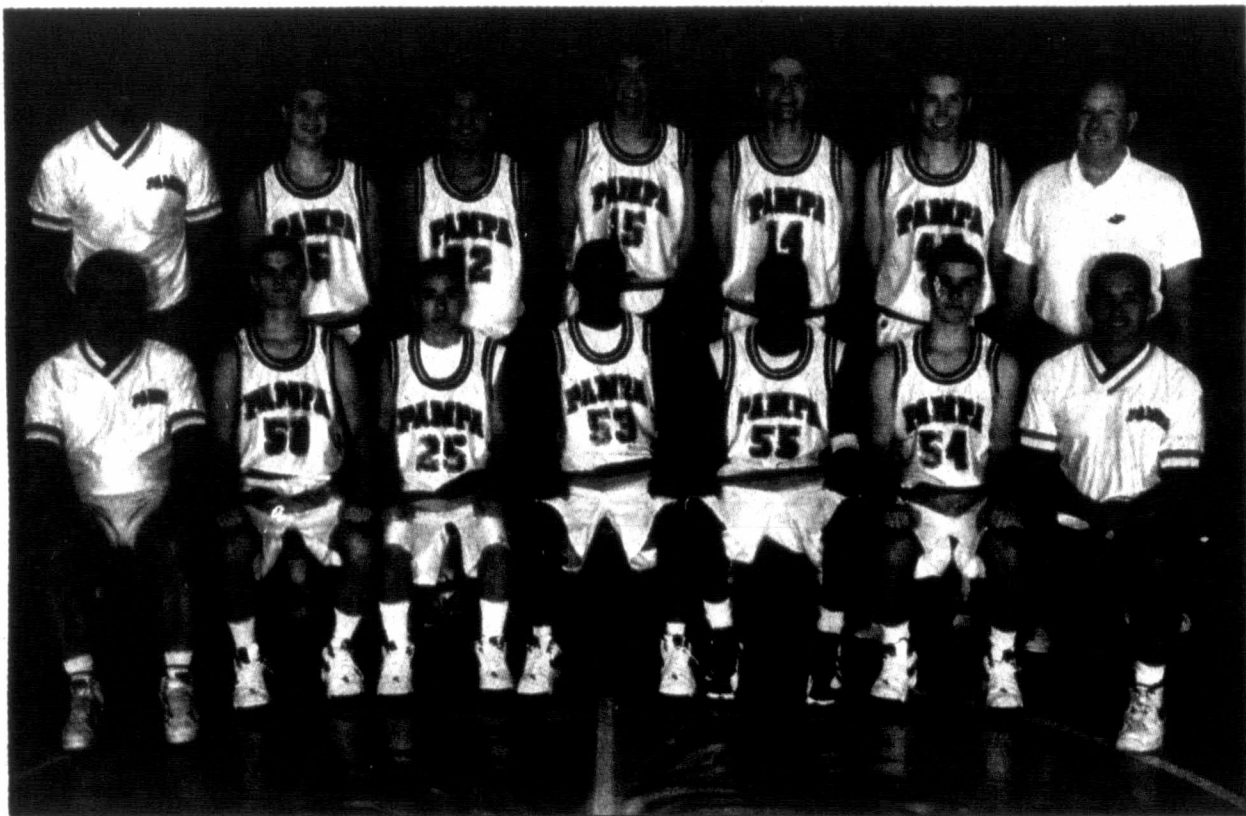
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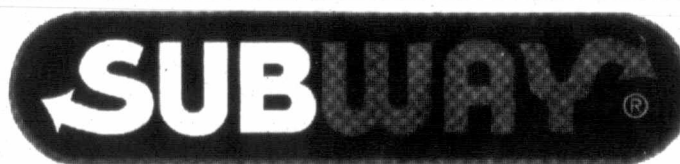
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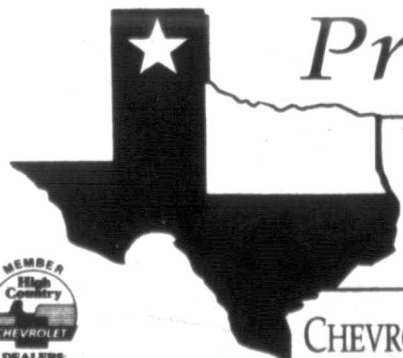


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