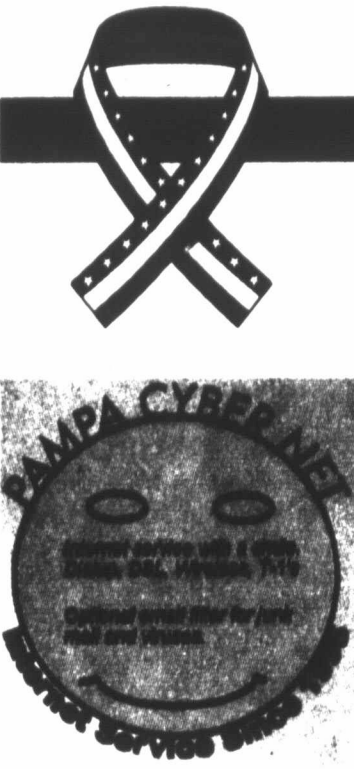


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THE Pampa NEWS
 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2002 Vol. 98 No. 535 • Pampa, Texas
 50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1



WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH 35 **LOW 20**

LOTTERY

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
 Winning numbers drawn: 3-14-16-32-33-38.
 Estimated jackpot: \$6 million.
 Number matching six of six: 0.
 Matching five of six: 49. Prize: \$2,322.
 Matching four of six: 2,643. Prize: \$106.
 Matching three of six: 53,807. Prize: \$5.
 Next Lotto Texas game: Saturday night.
 Estimated jackpot: \$9 million.

DEATHS

Laura Estell Bowman, 69, waitress, caregiver.
Billie Daniels, 71, car dealer.
Alice M. Gates, 84, businesswoman, homemaker.
Ruth Gavin, 67, telephone operator.
Mervin A. Snapp, 74, retired district manager.
Santos Mary Tambunga, 77, waitress.

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WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE
GIFT SHOP
 "For All Your Christmas Decorating Needs"
 120 S. HOBART 669-0158

CHILDERS BROTHERS
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County addresses 9-1-1 problems

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

Any problems with 9-1-1 addressing system will be handled by the county commissioner of the precinct in which the residences are located following a recent meeting of the Gray County Commission.

Questions surrounding Gray County's 9-1-1 system were discussed at a recent meeting of the county commission. Members of the commission decided the precinct commissioner in which the property is located will decide how to handle the problems as they arise.

County Judge Richard Peet reported

he has received two inquiries about the addressing system which is going to the 9-1-1 address system.

"I've been contacted by 9-1-1 people plus residents who have gotten new addresses," he said.

Peet said one of the affected areas is the Cole Addition where there are approximately two dozen houses. He said the residents of the addition do have house numbers, but there are no street names.

"They would like for us to consider putting names on those streets in order for 9-1-1 to more accurately identify residents' addresses," he explained.

Peet said he had heard from another resident who was informed he lives on

County Road 12 1/2, but Peet said he has learned it is not a dedicated county road. He said it has been maintained as a county road, however. Peet said the resident said he lived on a rural route.

He said there may be other similar situations in the county that may need to be addressed.

"There may be others out there that over the years - like back in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s - that we may have maintained them and it has been assumed over the years that they were county roads," he said. "But that's not necessarily the case. We may have some signs out there that are causing confusion."

Also, Peet said there are three or

four houses in that area which used to be owned by one owner. He said all the property was sold except for the road, and the man pays taxes on that road.

Precinct Three Commissioner Gerald Wright suggested that the commissioner of the precinct in which the problems are in investigate the situations and make the decision.

Precinct One Commissioner Joe Wheeley said it was his understanding that unless there was an easement all landowners in the county pay taxes to the middle of the road.

"There are very few dedicated roads in the county," said Wheeley. "Back in the '20s or the '30s they had what they (See COUNTY, Page 3)

North Koreans move fuel rods to nuclear sites

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president said Thursday that his nation would never tolerate North Korea's efforts to develop nuclear weapons, as the communist nation began moving fresh fuel rods to a mothballed nuclear reactor.

President Kim Dae-jung told a special Cabinet meeting, however, that the standoff should be resolved through dialogue, despite deepening concerns that North Korea will restart facilities that experts say could produce nuclear weapons within months.

"We can never go along with North Korea's nuclear weapons development," Kim said in remarks released to the press by his spokeswoman, Park Sun-sook. "We must closely cooperate with the United States, Japan and other friendly countries to prevent the situation from further deteriorating into a crisis."

Kim, whose five-year term ends in February, was the architect of a policy of engagement with North Korea that resulted in a historic sum-

mit in 2000.

His successor, Roh Moo-hyun, has also advocated dialogue to ease nuclear tensions since he was elected to the nation's top job last week. Roh plans to exchange special envoys with the Bush administration in January to discuss the nuclear standoff.

North Korea announced earlier this month that it planned to restart its nuclear facilities to get badly needed electricity, though U.S. officials have said that the power obtained from the reactor would be negligible.

State media in Pyongyang, the North's capital, defended the decision Thursday.

"The United States is going around trying to stir public opinion internationally, as though this is a sign of developing nuclear weapons," state-run Radio Pyongyang said in a commentary.

"Our measure has got nothing to do with plans to develop nuclear weapons. Our republic constantly maintains an anti-nuclear, peace-loving position," the commentary (See RODS, Page 3)

Learning about helping



(Courtesy photo)
 Encouraged by the drive started by the Wolf Pack Leadership Team, homerooms at Wilson Elementary School competed in a drive to provide cans of food for the Salvation Army this Christmas. Tied for the winner of the drive are the homerooms of Mrs. Brown, 5th grade, and Ms. Hicks, 4th grade, with the total of 352 food items each. Each homeroom won a popcorn and soft drink party for participating. Wilson students collected more than 1,850 cans for charity this Christmas. Pictured, back row from left, are Tina Cook of the Salvation Army, Nathan Smith, Amanda Castleman, Rudi Rivera and Omar Saldierna; middle row, from left: Mrs. Mertz, Cynthia Solis, Lionel Madrid, Aleah Noble and Justin Carlton; front row: Brittney Poulin. Pack Members not shown include Brennan Dickinson, Mary Beth Cox, Tyler Caldwell. Teachers involved in the drive, but not pictured include Mrs. Greene and Ms. Sturgeon.

Northeast digs out of white Christmas

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — After a brilliantly white Christmas, a winter storm waned in time for commuters and travelers across the Northeast to slog through snow up to 3 feet deep Thursday.

The storm, blowing out of the Great Plains, was blamed for at least 19 deaths since Monday. Stretches of major highways were closed, airplanes were grounded and tens of thousands of homes and businesses lost power.

Drivers around the region faced hazardous roads as the powdery flakes turned to slush and ice.

"Even though we have the salt spreaders out there, we advise motorists to drive with extreme caution. We will have ice in spots," said Keith Mellis, of New York City's

Sanitation Department, which deployed 1,200 workers to clean the 6,000 miles of streets ahead of the morning rush.

It was the ninth fiercest snowstorm in the Albany area listed in National Weather Service records dating back to 1884, with snow falling as quickly as 5 inches per hour. Portions of the western Catskills reported 15 to 30 inches.

Northeast Pennsylvania averaged one to two feet.

The system moved east Tuesday night, from the Midwest into Pennsylvania, New York and New England. It re-formed Wednesday off the East Coast as a nor'easter.

Most of the deaths stemmed from traffic accidents. Since Monday, seven (See SNOW, Page 3)



(Courtesy photo)
 Pampa Middle School recently held its annual food drive, collecting more than 2,400 cans of food for the needy. Student Council members Cody Bowers, Shaun Johnson, Natalie Knowles, Natasha Bailey, and Krishna Henderson are shown with the results of the drive.

Show Your Support For Your Local Pampa Merchants
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OBITUARIES

LAURA ESTELL BOWMAN 1933-2002

Laura Estell Bowman, 69, of Pampa, Texas, died Monday, Dec. 23, 2002, at Pampa. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m., today, Dec. 26, 2002, at Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Bowman was born Jan. 11, 1933, in Paducah. She married Johnny Bowman in 1976 in Pampa. She was a waitress and a caregiver.

She was a Baptist.

Survivors include her husband, Johnny

Bowman, of the home; three sons, Johnny Lee Bowman and Ricky Bowman, both of Duncan, Okla., and Shawn Bowman of Marlow, Okla.; two daughters, Toni Haggeman of Cortez, Colo., and Sherry Slaymaker of Pampa; three brothers and a sister-in-law, Roy and JoAnn Reedy of Pampa, Eugene Reedy of Christmas Valley, Ore., and Ronald Reedy of Myrtle Creek, Ore.; a sister, Mary Lynn Lampton of Myrtle Creek, Ore.; and seven grandchildren.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

BILLIE DANIELS 1931-2002

Billie Daniels, 71, of Pampa, died Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2002. The body was cremated and consequently will not be available for viewing.

Memorial services are scheduled at 4 p.m., today in Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor of Central Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Daniels was born Aug. 17, 1931, at Vernon. He lived in Pampa most of his life and owned-operated Daniel's Used Cars for 30 years.



Survivors include a son, Jody Daniels of Pampa; two daughters, Tina Lemons of Pampa and Toni Bledsoe of Amarillo; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to American Kidney Foundation.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

ALICE M. GATES 1918-2002

Alice M. Gates, 84, of Pampa, died Saturday, Dec. 22, 2002, at Woodward, Okla. Services will be at 10 a.m., Saturday at Central Baptist Church with the Rev. Norman Rushing, pastor of First Baptist Church of Childress, and Dr. Derrell Monday, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Pampa, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Gates was born Nov. 1, 1918, at Colbert, Okla., to William and Mimia Gooding. She was reared in Quanah, graduating from Quanah High School in 1937. She graduated from Draughn's Business School in Wichita Falls in 1940 and moved to Pampa in 1941.

She married Gene Gates on April 23, 1943. They owned and operated the One-Hour Martinizing from 1960 until 1988. They were married for 55 years before his death on Jan. 7, 1999.

She was an active member of the Central Baptist Church for nearly 60 years. She belonged to a knitting class and had many hobbies.

She moved to Woodward, Okla., earlier this year to be near her daughter.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Ken Miller of Woodward, Okla.; two grandchildren, Melissa DonCarlos and husband Bryan of Woodward, Okla., and Kelly Miller and wife Lana of Pampa; four great-grandchildren, Mattie DonCarlos of Woodward, Okla., and Krysten Miller, Courtney Ward, and Cashion Miller, all of Pampa; and four sisters, Hob Hamrick of Denton, Nancy Barbee of Rogers, Ark., Melveta Barnes of Quanah, and Frances Lam of Pampa. She was preceded in death by her parents, and two brothers, Bill Gooding and Everett Gooding.

The family requests memorials be to Central Baptist Church Building Fund, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065; or to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Travel Fund, P.O. Box 190567, Dallas, TX 75219-0567.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

RUTH GAVIN 1935-2002

AMARILLO — Ruth Gavin, 67, of Amarillo, died Saturday, Dec. 21, 2002, at Amarillo, Texas. Services will be at 2 p.m., Friday, Dec. 27, 2002, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel in Pampa with the Rev. Barry Loving, pastor of the First Christian Church of Pampa, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Gavin was born March 11, 1935, in New York City where she lived until moving to Pampa in 1979. She married James T. Gavin on June 19, 1954. He preceded her in death on Dec. 20, 1983.

She was a telephone operator for New York Telephone Company, New York University Medical Center, New York Beth Israel Hospital, and Coronado Community Hospital in Pampa.

She attended the Lamar Full Gospel Assembly in Pampa.

Survivors include two daughters, Margaret Gavin of Piscataway, N.J., and Janet Sheppard of Amarillo; two sisters,

Elizabeth Canderan of Cape May, N.J., and Deborah Gross of Brick, N.J.; two brothers, Thomas McCann of Pampa and James McCann of Amarillo; five grandchildren, Barbara Jean Mendez of Amarillo, and Christopher Herrera, Kevin Herrera, James Herrera, and Jeffrey Herrera, all of Piscataway; 11 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Jesse McCann, and her sister, Barbara Ciappa.

The body will lie-in-state from 10 a.m., Friday until service time.

The family wishes to add this special thank you: "We would like to thank the staff of Integrated Health Services (IHS) of Amarillo for all their caring help and support throughout mom's illness. A very special thank you to Uncle Jimmy, whose dedication, loyalty, support, and above all, his love, throughout the past five years will never be forgotten. May God bless you always, Uncle Jimmy."

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

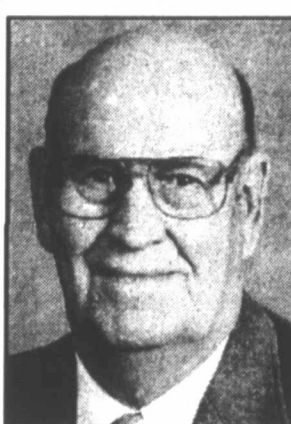
MERVIN A. SNAPP 1928-2002

Mervin A. Snapp, 74, of Pampa, died Monday, Dec. 23, 2002, at Pampa, Texas. Services will be at 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 27, 2002, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with Pastor Paul Nachtigall, of the Highland Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Snapp was born Oct. 30, 1928, on a farm near Barnard, Kan. He worked in the oilfield in Kansas before moving to Pampa in 1956. He retired as district manager of Baker Oil Tools, Inc., in 1990, after 35 years of service. He was a member of the Highland Baptist Church and the Top O' Texas Masonic Lodge #1381 AF&AM.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, Ruth Marie Stewart Snapp; and a sister, Louise Hatfield.

Survivors include three sons and daughters-in-law, Allen and Jan Snapp, Donnie and



Rhonda Snapp, and Bill and Carol Snapp, all of Pampa; two daughters and sons-in-law, Ginger and John Jones and Karen and George Mendoza, all of Pampa; a sister, Nola Gulden of Oregon City, Ore.; 13 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

The family will be at 1806 N. Sumner in Pampa and requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX, 79065; or to Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, Pampa, TX 79065.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

SANTOS MARY TAMBUNGA 1925-2002

Santos Mary Tambunga, 77, of Pampa, died Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2002. Services will be at 4 p.m., Friday in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Barry Owens, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Tambunga was born Oct. 13, 1928, in Eola, Texas. She married Acension Tambunga in 1950; he preceded her in death.

She was a waitress at Furr's Cafeteria and was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

Survivors include three sons, Joe Tambunga of Enid, Okla., Albert Tambunga of Pampa, and Paul Tambunga of Decatur; three brothers, Daniel Lopez of Greeley, Colo., Thomas Lopez of Hereford, and Rello Lopez of California; 14 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

SERVICES TOMORROW

GAVIN, Ruth — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

SNAPP, Mervin A. — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

TAMBUNGA, Santos Mary — 4 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

ON RECORD

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance reported the following calls during the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Dec. 23
12:23 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of North Frost; one patient was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC).
1:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West Foster; one patient was transported to PRMC.
10:02 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Highway 60 East; one patient was transported to PRMC.
11:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of West Somerville; no patient was transported.

Tuesday, Dec. 24
12:51 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC for transport to a residence at Loop 171 and Highway 60 East.
8:21 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of North Rider; one patient was transported to PRMC.

9:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of East Kingsmill; one patient was transported to PRMC.
11:05 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing home for a transported to Baptist/St. Anthony's West Hospital in Amarillo.
12:14 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Highway 60 and Loop 171; one patient was transported to PRMC.
1:58 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC for a transport back to Highway 60 and Loop 171.
10:11 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan Unit; one patient was transported to PRMC.

Wednesday, Dec. 25
11:04 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of South Barnes; no patient was transported.
11:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of North Starkweather on a fire standby.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 48-hour holiday period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Dec. 24
8:57 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1400 block of West Somerville.
6:35 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a natural gas leak in the 400 block of Jupiter. Firefighters shut off the gas going to a hot water heater until it could be repaired.

Wednesday, Dec. 25
9:35 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a lifting assist in the 2300 block of Chestnut.
12 noon — Two units and six firefighters responded to a smoke scare in the 1100 block of South Hobart.
11:52 p.m. — Four units and eight firefighters responded to a structure fire in the 400 block of North Starkweather. A fire inside a wall in an addition to the residence caused an estimated \$1,000 damage. Cause of the fire was not listed.

Pampa Police Department reported the following arrests and incidents today.

Friday, Dec. 20
Disorderly conduct report was taken in the 100 block of North Cuyler.
A stalking report was taken in the 1000 block of West Wilks.

Monday, Dec. 23
Pampa PD reported towing an abandoned vehicle in the 400 block of North Lefors.
A report of phone harassment was taken in the 2200

City Briefs

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

"COOLERZ" NEW Year's Eve, at Club Biarritz!! Come party!! For reserv. 665-0025

PRICES SLASHED at Comet Cleaners (Drycleaning Only), men & women's shirts \$1.25 ea. & pants 3 for \$8.50.

QUEEN CHIMNEY Sweep, 665-9452 lv. msg.

REWARD LOST Dachshund, child's pet, 665-4722.

SALE AT All Its Charm. Everything 35% off with a few exclusions Dec. 26th thru Dec. 31st, 109 N. Cuyler.

POLICE

block of North Wells.
A burglary was reported in the 600 block of East Foster. Items reported taken were a stereo valued at \$200 and a digital cable box valued at \$200. Police reported forced entry through the back door. Estimated damaged to door was \$50.

Tuesday, Dec. 24
Levi Trevathan, 18, 1206 N. Russell, was arrested on municipal warrants for minor in possession-alcohol and failure to appear.
Jose Jesus Lopez, 37, 1524 N. Hamilton, was arrested for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and interfering with an emergency communication.
An unattended death was reported in the 1409 block of Somerville.
A theft was reported in the 300 block of South Canadian. Items reported taken were cash, clothing, keys and a pulse card. Estimate of value was \$270. According to the police report, there was no forced entry.

Wednesday, Dec. 25
Bobby L. Dorsey, 40, 1041 Prairie, was arrested for domestic assault.
A report of criminal mischief was taken in the 1000 block of South Huff. Minor damage was reported to a vehicle.

Thursday, Dec. 26
A male evading arrest was reported in the 1100 block of Varnon.
Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 600 block of North Dwight. Items reported missing were a stereo, computer equipment, and motor bike. Estimate of value was \$2,145. According to the police report, entry was gained through a back door. Police reported damage to the door. No estimate of damages was given.

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department reported the following accident today.

Sunday, Dec. 22
5:50 a.m. — No citations were reported in an accident which was attributed by the police report to be due to driver inattention-changing radio station.
John Lois Sullins, 23, was driving a 1993

Buick LeSabre in the 1600 block of North Sumner when the vehicle drifted to the left in the roadway striking a legally parked 1996 Chrysler Cirrus owned by Kenneth Lee, 1600 N. Sumner. His vehicle was then knocked back into another legally parked vehicle. It was a 1995 Ford F-150 pickup owned by Tyana Griffin, 1601 N. Sumner.

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	3.59	KMI	42.11	+0.45
Milo	4.93	XCEL	11.02	+0.22
Corn	4.51	Kerr McGee	47.00	+0.05
Soybeans	4.94	Limited	13.94	+0.34
Sunflowers	9.00	Williams	2.22	-0.03
		McDonalds	15.59	+0.11
		Exxon Mobil	35.89	+0.47
		Atmos	23.61	+0.11
		Pioneer Nat	25.75	-0.34
		Penney's	22.40	+0.15
		Occidental	28.95	+0.01
		COP	49.53	+0.39
		Schlumberger	43.13	+0.10
		Puritan	NA	NA
		Tenneco	4.40	+0.10
		CVX	67.30	+0.65
		Wal-Mart	50.39	+0.69
		OKE	19.51	+0.01
		NS Group	6.50	+0.01

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

BP	40.34	+0.29	New York Gold	346.55
Celanese	21.98	-0.02	Silver	4.66
Cabot Corp	26.65	+0.27	West Texas Crude	32.05
Cabot Oil Gas	25.49	+0.24		
Coca Cola	44.38	+0.15		
VLO	36.85	-0.10		

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests today.

Tuesday, Dec. 24
Evelyn C. Lemons, 43, 1025 S. Christy, was arrested for forgery.
Randall Williams, 47, 1201 E. Frederic, was arrested for public intoxication.
Christopher Givens, 38, Whitney, was arrested by Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Wednesday, Dec. 25
Errick Crain, 29, 1005 Huff, was arrested on a Gray County warrant for robbery.

Crime Stoppers

669-2222

RODS

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RODS

said. It was carried by South Korea's Yonhap news agency. In the past week, North Korea removed U.N. monitoring seals and cameras from its nuclear facilities, ignoring warnings by the United States and the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency. On Thursday, North Korea again defied international opinion by moving fresh fuel rods from a storage house into a power plant that houses a 5-megawatt nuclear reactor at its main nuclear complex in

Yongbyon, 50 miles north of its capital, Pyongyang, said the Vienna-based IAEA. "They have moved a total of 1,000 fresh fuel rods to a storage facility at the reactor site, but they have not loaded any fuel rods into the reactor core," IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky said. Gwozdecky estimated that it would take "at least a month and maybe several months" for the reactor to start running again. The Soviet-designed reactor produces plutonium, the material used to make atomic bombs, as a residue.

By bringing the rods into the reactor building, North Korea is showing that its intention to reactivate the nuclear facilities is not an "empty word," said Chun Young-woo, a nuclear disarmament official in South Korea's Foreign Ministry. Chun could not provide details on how the rods were being transported, but said they are too heavy to be moved by hand. They are about a yard long and 1.2 inches in diameter. In a deal with the United States in 1994, North Korea froze its plutonium-based nuclear program in exchange

for foreign energy supplies. Earlier this month, it decided to restart it after Washington and its allies halted oil shipments as punishment for revelations in October that North Korea had moved forward with a second nuclear weapons program that used enriched uranium. Gwozdecky said there were no signs of activities by North Korean officials at two other key facilities that are of more serious concern — a storage area holding 8,000 spent fuel rods and a laboratory used to reprocess spent fuel rods to get plutonium.

U.S. and IAEA officials say that the 8,000 spent fuel rods hold enough weapons-grade plutonium to make several nuclear bombs. North Korea is suspected of already having at least one atomic bomb. "We're concerned that it might operate without our safeguards in place," Gwozdecky said, adding that IAEA cannot ensure nuclear material was not being diverted to produce

weapons without them. He also denied media reports that cited South Korean officials as saying IAEA had increased the number of inspectors from two to three at Yongbyon. He said that a third inspector recently arrived to replace one of two people on the ground "as part of a routine rotation," and will begin work this coming weekend.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

COUNTY

called the jury of peers and it was actually for opening up roads. I have several in my precinct that I cannot find them on record. They've been maintained forever - they're public."

Wright said the road situation is a statewide problem. Wheeley agreed.

"Back in the older days there just wasn't any records of the roads," said Wright.

Precinct Four Commissioner James Hefley said he had talked with Bob Bass about it.

"He's the road specialist in Allison and Bass. He said if it's maintained by the county it's a

county road whether anything is on record or not," said Hefley. "He said it is better to get some affidavits from people that know that that was a road during a certain period of time.

Hefley added that many were lease roads and ranch roads.

Peet said when he gets inquiries from people about the 9-1-1 addressing system he will direct them to the correct commissioner.

Wright said, "Both of these are in Precinct Two and I think we need to ask Jim (Greene) to look into it and discuss it with the 9-1-1 people."

Greene, Precinct Two commissioner, did not attend the meeting.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Snow

people died in Missouri, four in Oklahoma, three in Kansas, two in New Mexico and one each in Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania.

An 81-year-old Pittsburgh woman who was riding with her son's family on Christmas died when their SUV slipped off an icy interstate and rolled down a hill in North Franklin Township, Pa., police said.

Tens of thousands of customers lost power around the region, including about 50,000 in Massachusetts alone, and commuter rail service to Boston was disrupted temporarily Thursday morning by an elec-

trical outage at South Station.

The fringe of a storm brought up to 9 inches of snow to portions of Michigan. In Cleveland, 10.2 inches of snow fell, producing that city's whitest Christmas on record.

At the height of the storm, a 103-mile stretch of the New York State Thruway was shut down between Syracuse and Amsterdam until after midnight because plows couldn't keep up, and parts of three Pennsylvania interstates were also closed.

"We should have things fairly well in hand" for the morning commute, said Thruway spokesman Terry O'Brien. "Just take it easy if you have to travel, leave a lot of extra time," he said.

Airports struggled with the ice and snow as well. There were long delays at Syracuse Hancock International Airport, and Albany International Airport braced for an especially busy day Thursday after airlines canceled almost all flights Christmas evening and many early Thursday.

All three of the New York City area's airports were affected, with John F. Kennedy International and LaGuardia airports closing Wednesday evening and flights delayed at Newark Liberty International Airport. Flights were also canceled or delayed at airports in Albany, Hartford and Boston.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for partly cloudy skies, highs in the mid 30s, and west winds 5 to 15 mph. Tonight should be mostly clear with lows around 20 and west winds 5 to 15 mph. Friday should be mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 40s. West winds 5 to 15 mph. Friday night,

partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph. Saturday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. Sunday night, mostly cloudy.

Lows in the mid 20s. Monday, mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. New Year's Day, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s.

STATEWIDE

Texas will warm up through Saturday, but not before continued cool temperatures today in North and West Texas. Cloudy skies will cover most of South Texas today.

Beginning Sunday, a front should bring clouds and cooler temperatures to West Texas, and cloudier skies and chances of rain over the rest of the state.

Temperature extremes Wednesday ranged from a low of zero overnight in Dalhart to 60 degrees in Brownsville. No significant precipitation was recorded Christmas Day.

The West Texas forecast calls for mostly sunny skies through Friday and partly cloudy skies this weekend, with no precipitation in the forecast. Temperatures today

will range from the mid 30s in the Panhandle, to the 40s in the far West and reaching the 50s in the central and south. By Saturday, daytime highs will warm about 10 degrees in all regions. Monday will see colder temperatures and cloudy skies in the Panhandle and Permian Basin.

In South Texas it will be mostly cloudy today, partly cloudy Friday and Saturday.

On Sunday, cloudier skies and a chance of rain move into the forecast. Monday will bring a slight chance of rain in the far south and a good chance of rain elsewhere. Highs today will range from the 50s north and east to the 60s south, warming in the north and east on Friday. Highs this weekend should be in the 60s in more areas, warmer west.

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VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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Fiddling whilst Rome burns



WALTER WILLIAMS
COLUMNIST

Casey Lartigue, policy analyst for the Washington, D.C., based Cato Institute, has written a report in the Dec. 10 issue of Policy Analysis that constitutes a devastating indictment of public education. The title is, "The Need for Education Freedom in the Nation's Capital." The title suggests the solution - namely, education reform must be more than simply spending more money to prop up schools that are little more than holding pens. Washington politicians must create a climate where education entrepreneurs can flourish and thereby produce education competition. Parents must have control over the education of their children. Tuition tax credits or education vouchers would facilitate both objectives.

"That's not the answer, Williams," you say. "More money and smaller class sizes are what's needed." That's what the education establishment would have us believe. However, if money were the answer, Washington public schools would be the best in the nation - if not the world. Per student expenditures are \$10,500 a year, second highest in the nation. With a student-teacher ration of 15.8, they have smaller-than-average class sizes. What is the result?

In only one of the city's 19 high schools do as many as 50 percent of its students test as proficient in reading, and at no school are 50 percent of the students proficient in math. At nine high schools, only 5 percent or fewer of its

students test proficient in reading; and in 11 high schools, only 5 percent or less are proficient in math. The story gets worse when we look at the percentages for "below basic" performance, which means that the student has little or no mastery of subject skills.

At 12 of 19 high schools, more than 50 percent of the students test below basic in reading, and at some of those schools the percentage approaches 80 percent. At 15 of these schools, over 50 percent test below basic in math, and in 12 of them 70 percent to 99 percent do so.

But that's not the worst of the story: Each year, more than 80 percent - and up to 96 percent - of high school students are promoted to the next grade. This is nothing but fraud, dishonesty and deception, plain and simple. While the education establishment can rightfully point to education problems beyond their control - irresponsible parents, students with alien and hostile minds, and rotten teaching conditions - they bear the sole responsibility for fraudulent promotions

and fraudulent diplomas.

The bottom line is that if one didn't know better, one would think that Washington's predominantly black public school system was being run by the grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, hell-bent on a mission to sabotage black academic excellence. Instead, it's a system being run by blacks for blacks. As such, it means generation after generation of blacks will not be able to academically measure up. Calls for racial quotas and preferences will exist in perpetuity. And, in a world of increasing technology, many blacks are condemned to near uselessness in the job market.

But what about Sen. Trent Lott? You say, "What in the world does Trent Lott have to do with rotten education received by blacks in D.C.?" I'd say nothing, but judging by the time and political capital spent by black politicians and civil rights groups attacking Trent Lott, you'd think that he was the No. 1 black problem, followed closely by the Confederate battle flag.

The attachment of black politicians and civil rights groups to spending resources on symbolism rather than substance is equivalent to Nero's fiddling while Rome burns. I'm sure that if the outrage directed toward Lott's indiscreet remarks were instead directed at fraudulent education delivered to black youngsters across the nation, solutions might be found.

Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect the views of The Pampa News.

WASHINGTON YESTERDAY

Who's sorry now?

By CONNIE CASS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trent Lott joins a long line of politicians who tried to apologize their way out of tight spots, with mixed results.

Sometimes, it turns out, saying you're sorry isn't enough. President Clinton's nationally televised mea culpas for his affair with Monica Lewinsky helped him withstand impeachment. And Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., managed to turn his role in the Keating Five influence-peddling scandal into a platform for campaign finance reform.

But Bob Packwood's public regret for "stupid and boorish" behavior toward women didn't save his Senate seat. John Sununu lost his job as chief of staff to the first President Bush despite his tepid remorse for "the appearance of impropriety" in his use of government jets and limousines.

Words that sounded nostalgic for segregation cost Lott his post as the Senate's Republican leader despite multiple attempts to explain them away.

Making matters worse for themselves, politicians as a group are notoriously bad at shouldering blame and voicing remorse.

Few can muster a straightforward apology along the lines of "I'm sorry. I was wrong. I will never do it again."

Instead, it comes out more like "mistakes were made." "There's a tendency to try to use rhetoric to weasel out of the situation," said University of Pennsylvania professor Kathleen Hall Jamieson, who studies political communication.

Confronted with a report blaming him for the swapping of arms for hostages in Iran, President Reagan found a fuzzy way to retract his long-standing insistence that no such deals were made.

"My heart and my best intentions still tell me that is true," Reagan told the nation in 1987. "But the facts and the evidence tell me it is not."

About his violation of House rules on the use of tax-exempt funds, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich offered: "To whatever degree, in any way that I brought controversy or inappropriate attention to the House, I apologize."

"The car that I was driving went off a narrow bridge," Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said in 1969 in his roundabout explanation of the death of his passenger, Mary Jo Kopechne, at Chappaquiddick.

Then-Rep. Wilbur Mills blamed a drinking problem as he tried to say why an exotic dancer named Fanne Foxe jumped from his limousine into Washington's Tidal Basin in October 1974.

"I now believe that the fatigue and pressure built up by years of dedicated work for my constituents and for the whole nation had an impact on me far beyond what I suspected," Mills said.

"We don't want to hear a bunch of excuses," said Bill Benoit, a communications professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia. "We just want to hear 'I'm sorry.' Then we want to hear 'I'm going to fix it.'"

Even a sincere apology can't guarantee forgiveness, despite the Washington myth that just the right words can slide a smooth politician out of any predicament.

"Apologies have their limits," said Eric Dezenhall, a Washington damage-control consultant. "And some things are unspinnable."

A wrongdoer who is well-liked and makes a convincing case that the misdeed was an aberration has the best chance of survival, he said. But, "if the public views the sin in question as part of a larger problem, you're in trouble."

Lott's remarks praising Sen. Strom Thurmond's 1948 pro-segregation presidential campaign would have been more easily forgiven if Lott had a strong civil rights voting record, Dezenhall said.

Some politicians remain defiantly unapologetic. Years after resigning in disgrace, President Nixon made clear he wouldn't apologize for Watergate, saying: "If they want me to get down and grovel on the floor, no. Never."

The senator at the heart of Lott's remarks, Thurmond of South Carolina, long ago condemned segregation and endorsed racial equality. Yet, in a 1998 interview marking the 50th anniversary of his presidential campaign, Thurmond told the Charlotte Observer he wasn't sorry about his past.

"I don't have anything to apologize for," he said. "I don't have any regrets."

EDITOR'S NOTE — Connie Cass has covered events in Washington for The Associated Press for nearly 10 years.

Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley



Anti-war not the same as anti-defense

People should make a distinction between someone being anti-war and being anti-defense. The best way, as George Washington said, to preserve the peace is to be prepared for war. The worst thing politicians can do is to squander the nation's resources on unnecessary wars.

Look at Vietnam. We know in retrospect that it doesn't make one iota's difference to use that Vietnam is communist. American politicians and businessmen have flocked to do business with the communists. Yet politicians wasted 57,000 American lives presumably to prevent Vietnam from going communist. Another 40,000 were wasted in Korea, as if the politics of the Korea peninsula mattered to us one way or another. I hasten to add, of course, that in both instances it matters a great deal to the Vietnamese and Korean people.

But that's the point. They are Vietnamese and Koreans, not Americans. Who governs their countries is up to them, not to us. God did not put us on this earth to run around the globe deciding which government is appropriate for which country. We are responsible for only one government and one country - ours. We are not doing a very good job at taking care of it, either. Our borders are being overrun, our natural resources are being exploited, and our government is inefficient and corrupt.

There is no need for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It was



CHARLEY REESE
COLUMNIST

designed to defend Europe against an invasion by the Soviet Union. There is no Soviet Union. There is no reason whatsoever for 91,000 American soldiers to be permanently stationed in Germany. There are no military threats to Germany, or to any other European country. There are more people in the European Union than there are in the United States. I imagine that they would field whatever military forces they felt were necessary if we quit being such a sucker as to "protect" people who don't need any protection.

There is no reason to keep 36,000 Americans in South Korea or thousands more on the Japanese island of Okinawa. We have no legitimate interest in the Far East except for trade, and military forces are not required for trade. The only country in the Far East that is supposedly an enemy is China, and we're trading with China like mad. Japan is the second-largest economy in the world and can certainly defend itself. It has a warlike tradition 3,000 years old, whereas ours is barely 400 years old. Japan already spends

more on its "self-defense" forces than Great Britain and France combined.

It might be of interest to know that at the end of World War I, Great Britain's military planners figured the next war Great Britain would have to fight would be against the United States. They saw Germany as having been taken out of the picture, and they saw us as the only threat to Great Britain's dominance. That historical tidbit is a reminder of the wisdom of another thing George Washington said: There is no such thing as friendship between nations. No nation can be trusted beyond its perceived self-interest.

The fact that American politicians today routinely refer to this country or that one as "friend" is just more evidence of our intellectual decline. We are powerful today because in the past we've been lucky as hell, and because in the past we had leaders with brains and backbones. We are spending the seed corn of the past, and the American people need to wake up and find something more substantial to rely on than dumb leaders and dumb luck.

If I sound grumpy, it's because I am. If I wanted my grandchildren to live in a Third World country, I would move them to one. I have no desire whatsoever to stand silent while cheap politicians reduce this, the greatest country in the world, to just another Third World has-been.

(Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802)

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, Dec. 26, the 360th day of 2002. There are five days left in the year. This is Boxing Day, and the first day of the weeklong African-American holiday Kwanzaa.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 26, 1776, the British suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War.

On this date: In 1799, former President George Washington was eulo-

gized by Col. Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In 1893, Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung was born in Hunan province.

In 1917, during World War I, the U.S. government took over operation of the nation's railroads.

In 1941, Winston Churchill became the first British prime minister to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.

In 1944, in the World War II

Battle of the Bulge, the embattled U.S. 101st Airborne Division was relieved by units of the 4th Armored Division.

In 1944, Tennessee Williams' play "The Glass Menagerie" was first performed publicly, at the Civic Theatre in Chicago.

In 1972, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, died in Kansas City, Mo.

In 1975, the Soviet Union inaugurated the world's first supersonic transport service with

a flight of its Tupolev 144 airliner from Moscow to Alma-Ata.

In 1996, 6-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her family's home in Boulder, Colo. (To date, the slaying remains unsolved.)

In 2000, Michael McDermott, an employee at an Internet firm in Wakefield, Mass., shot and killed seven co-workers. (McDermott was later convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole.)

Muslim cleric detained for questioning in grenade attack

BY ASIF SHAHZAD
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Police detained four people, including a Muslim cleric who allegedly urged his followers to kill Christians, after a Christmas Day grenade attack on a Pakistani church that killed three young girls and wounded 13 other people. Two assailants covered in burqas, the all-encompassing garment worn by women in some Islamic countries, tossed a grenade into the middle of worshippers at a Christmas Day service Wednesday in Chianwala, about 40 miles northwest of Lahore.

The cleric, who uses only the one name, Afzar, was being detained because of hateful remarks toward Christians made three days earlier in a sermon at a

mosque in the district of Daska, where Chianwala is located, police said. Authorities say they have no evidence yet that he was directly involved in the attack.

Afzar's son, Attaullah, was also detained for questioning. The two are open supporters of the banned group Jaish-e-Mohammed, a violent anti-India organization with ties to the al-Qaida terrorist network, said a police officer in Chianwala, Mohammed Riaz.

Riaz said the two were being trained at a Jaish-e-Mohammed camp.

Another two people also are being detained by police in Chianwala in connection with the grenade attack on the church, but it was not known whether they too had links to the group, which was outlawed in Pakistan last January.

Afzar reportedly told his congregation that "it is the duty of every good Muslim to kill Christians," according to Nazir Yaqub, a police officer in Daska.

"Afzar told people 'you should attack Christians and not even have food until you have seen their dead bodies,'" Yaqub told The Associated Press by telephone.

Interior Ministry spokesman, Iftikhar Ahmad, told the AP in Islamabad, that the three dead were young girls.

Security had been increased in churches ahead of Christmas celebrations around this mostly Islamic nation, which has seen a string of attacks targeting Christians this year.

But a policeman who was to guard the church failed to show up for work, according to his superiors. The policeman, identified as Shah Nawaz, was being questioned, but it was not yet clear whether he was simply negligent or was party to the attack, said Yaqub.

About 40 people, mostly women and children and all Pakistanis, were attending the Christmas Day service.

The two attackers escaped after the attack, said Iftikhar Ahmed, spokesman for the Pakistani Interior Ministry. Four of the injured were in critical condition, said Malik Mohammed Iqbal, chief of police in the nearby city of Gujranwala.

Witnesses said the attackers wore burqas, said Amanat Ali, a police official in Daska. However, it was unclear whether the attackers were women or disguised men. Ali said witnesses reported the attackers were taller than most women.

Male Islamic militants in neighboring Afghanistan have worn burqas to hide their identities in at least one recent attack there.

Since Pakistan lent its sup-

port to the U.S.-led military campaign to overthrow Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban, attacks on Christians by suspected Islamic militants have killed about 30 people and injured at least 100.

In the capital Islamabad, Pakistani security officials said they found a shopping bag in bushes containing two handmade grenades and 20 shell casings Wednesday about 100 yards from St. Thomas's Protestant Church. Brig. Javed Iqbal Cheema of the Interior Ministry said the motive for leaving the weapons was not clear.

In the days leading up to Christmas, more than half-dozen policemen with rifles had been posted around the Islamabad church.

Church officials said they feared the weapons had been left as part of a planned attack on them. Still, Christmas services were held as scheduled.

"It's God's promise that he will be with us," said the church's pastor, Rev. Irshad

Afzar's son, Attaullah, was also detained for questioning. The two are open supporters of the banned group Jaish-e-Mohammed, a violent anti-India organization with ties to the al-Qaida terrorist network, said a police officer in Chianwala, Mohammed Riaz.

John. "It was God who changed the plans of those people."

There have been four other deadly attacks on Christians in Pakistan this year. The last was on Sept. 25, when gunmen entered the offices of a Christian welfare organization in Karachi, tied seven employees to their chairs and shot each in the head.

On March 17, a grenade attack on a Protestant church in Islamabad killed five people, including a U.S. Embassy

employee and her 17-year-old daughter.

On Aug. 5, assailants raided a Christian school filled with foreign children in Murree, 40 miles east of Islamabad. Six Pakistanis were killed, including guards and non-teaching staff.

And on Aug. 9, attackers hurled grenades at worshippers at a church on the grounds of a Presbyterian hospital in Taxila, about 25 miles west of Islamabad, killing four people.

Clean Pampa sponsoring 'Chipping of the Greens'

Clean Pampa, Inc., is again sponsoring its annual Christmas tree recycling campaign "Chipping of the Greens." The safe and efficient method of Christmas tree disposal is designed to save valuable landfill space, eliminate fire hazards by prompt removal, enable the city's solid waste department to concentrate on increased residential refuse, and reduce solid waste operational costs.

The city side loader trucks are only able to pick up dumpsters and not designed to pick up left-over Christmas trees, so please do not put trees in the alleys or alley dumpsters.

People can instead bring ornament-free Christmas trees to Warner-Horton parking lot (900 N. Duncan) anytime after December 26.

Place trees away from the driveway entrances where the designated barricades are located.

Clean Pampa, Inc. will be at Warner-Horton parking lot bright and early on the morning of Jan. 19 to help with the "Chipping of the Greens."

The trees will be chipped into mulch that will be available for free across the street from Hobart Street Park.

"Chipping of the Greens" is free, but Clean Pampa, Inc., accepts donations. For more information, call Clean Pampa, Inc., at 665-2514.

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Happy New Year The Pampa News

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Wednesday, December 25, 2002

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Goodwill Is Still Helping Others Help Themselves

DEAR ABBY: For 100 years, Americans have shopped in our stores and faithfully contributed clothing and household items to Goodwill Industries. It all began back in 1902, when Edgar J. Helms, a young Methodist minister, took a burlap bag and called on Boston's wealthy citizens to donate whatever clothing they could spare. The Goodwill store was born when Helms hired people in need to repair and sell the donated goods. Since then, Goodwill Industries has remained true to Helms' compassionate vision. It has evolved into one of the world's largest providers of employment services, helping nearly 6 million people earn a paycheck and support their families. Last year, Goodwill Industries placed someone in a good job every two minutes of every business day. We train thousands of people in the United States, Canada and 22 other countries for jobs in fields such as financial services, computer programming, hospitality and health care. As we pause to remember our many blessings this year, we want to say "Thank you" to the 500 million donors who have supported us since 1902, and to the millions more who have shopped at Goodwill stores. "Thank you" to the thousands of volunteers (including your mother, Pauline Phillips) who have given us their time and expertise. "Thank you" to the employees of Goodwill Industries, past and present, who have built an agency that

serves 500,000 people each year. Thank you one and all for believing in the "Power of Work," and for believing in Goodwill Industries. **GEORGE W. KESSINGER, PRESIDENT, GOODWILL INDUSTRIES INTERNATIONAL.**

DEAR GEORGE: My mother said it very well back in 1969 when she joined your Board of Advisors: "Because I have boundless respect for those whose prime objective is to help themselves, I feel privileged to be on your team." May you and all of the other wonderful people at Goodwill Industries International enjoy continued success in your endeavors — and thank you for all you have done for others.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 21-year-old guy who has been with my girlfriend for two years. We've always had a good thing going, but lately I've been feeling the pressure of living with her. Now we're on the brink of a breakup that is mostly my fault. The problem is I like to go out and have a good time with the guys, and she's not exactly keen on the idea. What can I do to save our relationship, other than quit hanging out with my friends? Thanks, Abby.

DEAR TORN: Negotiate. Compromise. One way to accomplish this is to agree on a "girls' night out" and a "boys' night out" — preferably the same night. Give it a try. You'll both be better off for it.

DEAR ABBY: I thought you might enjoy a joke that I conceived and sent to Reader's Digest. Question: What do they call Mother Teresa now that she is enjoying her heavenly reward? Answer: Nun of the above. Apparently Reader's Digest deemed the joke to be religiously incorrect. They did not reply. **WARD C. MCCURTAIN, BEAUMONT, TEXAS**

DEAR WARD: Your joke is cute — so I'm sharing it with my readers. It was heaven-sent.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD
 By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Poor
 1 Stun
 6 Lamb
 10 Perm
 11 A question of place
 12 Foolish
 13 Puts on the wall
 14 Titled woman
 15 Political contributor
 16 Swelled head
 17 Cunning
 18 Print units
 19 Relaxed state
 22 Relax
 23 Dropped
 26 Treason
 29 Kipling work
 32 Fruitcake ingredient
 33 Stage prompt
 34 Exaggerate
 36 Zeus's spouse
 37 Namely
 38 Psychologist Alfred
 39 Guiding principle
 40 Old auto
 41 Jekyll's counterpart

DOWN
 1 Stage comments
 2 Team leader
 3 Pie order
 4 District
 5 Compass pt.
 6 Online discussion
 7 Therefore
 8 Hymn accompanier
 9 Nuisances
 11 "So?"
 15 Cal. abbr.
 17 Take care of
 19 1971
 21 Seine, for Walter Matthau film
 24 Permit
 25 "Walk on the Wild Side" singer
 27 Pair
 28 Without mess
 29 1971
 30 Tusk material
 31 Imitated a kitten
 35 Take the bus
 36 Secrete
 38 Hoss' partner

PAINE FETCH
ADDON OMAHA
GEORGE CUKOR
ELL RDA ERR
DESPOIL TAI
EST PELE
DOPEB BONER
ONAN FIUR
SAG RICKMAN
ALE ADO APE
GEORGE LUCAS
ERNIE INERT
STEMS COSTS

Yesterday's answer
 20 Ninny
 21 Seine, for Walter Matthau film
 24 Permit
 25 "Walk on the Wild Side" singer
 27 Pair
 28 Without mess
 29 1971
 30 Tusk material
 31 Imitated a kitten
 35 Take the bus
 36 Secrete
 38 Hoss' partner

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STUMPED?

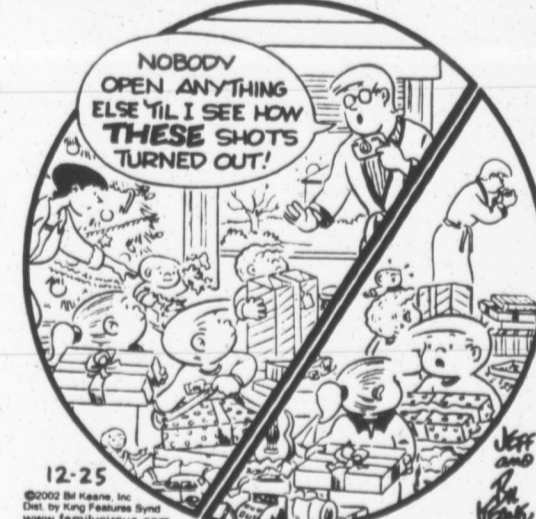
For answer to today's crossword call 1-800-454-7377, 99¢ per min., 18 years of age or older only. A King Features Service.

Marmaduke



"He certainly gives the living room that Christmas cluttered look."

The Family Circus



"I liked it better before Daddy got a digital camera."

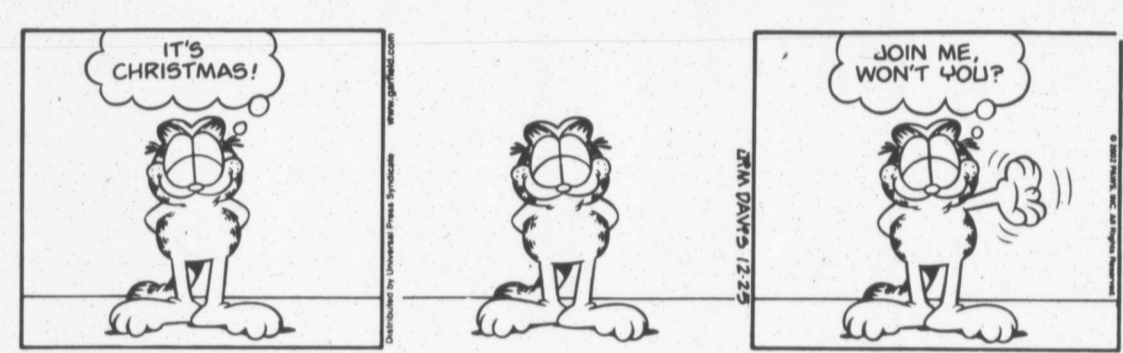
For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



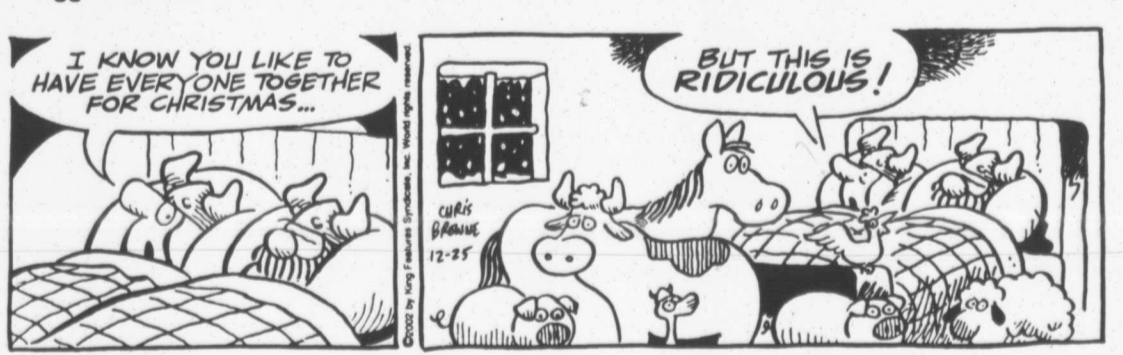
Marvin



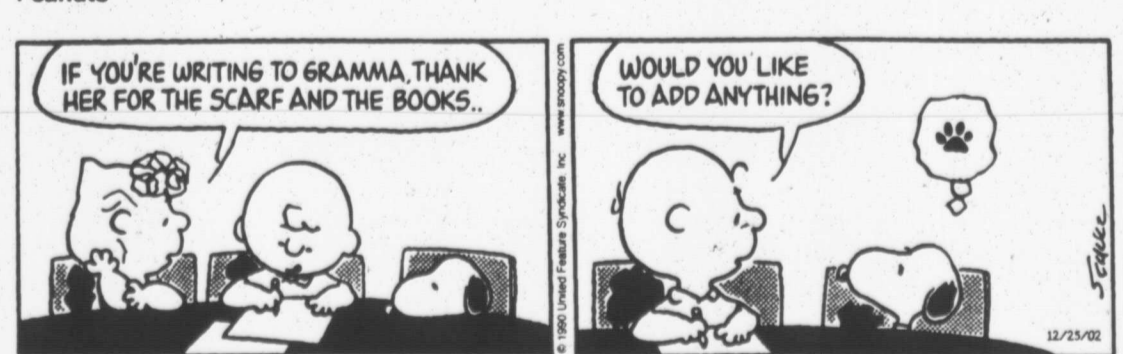
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Teachers across nation turn to fund-raising to pay salaries

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — With money tight and times tough, parents and teachers across the nation are holding fund-raisers to pay teachers' salaries and benefits.

Students at Belinder Elementary School in a Kansas City suburb brought in loose change and the proceeds from lemonade stands earlier this year to help pay

the salaries of a nurse, counselor and foreign language teacher.

Parents and others in the community added to the donations, raising about \$78,000 in two weeks. The school was one of six in the district that raised a total of \$236,000 to help pay for positions that otherwise would have been reduced to part-time or eliminated as the district addressed a budget shortfall of more than \$6 million for the 2002-03 academic year.

"No one would have dreamed that we'd be able to come up with the amount we did," said Belinder principal Karen Faucher.

Such fund-raisers have

occurred elsewhere around the nation, and are expected to increase as state legislatures tackle tight budgets.

Two-thirds of states report falling revenues and more than half expect deficits in their fiscal 2003 budgets, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

But the practice has been criticized by education groups.

"It says if you live in an affluent area and your parents can afford to donate, then you're going to get these extras," said Leslie Getzinger, a spokeswoman for the American Federation of Teachers. "We want to see the

system fair and the proper funding for all schools, and not create an unfair, inequitable situation."

Pam Brady, vice president for education for the California State Parent Teacher Association, said fund raising for school salaries tends to increase when the economy tanks. She expects another burst of activity in coming months as her state slashes spending. California Gov. Gray Davis has proposed \$10.2 billion in cuts, including deep reductions in education spending.

Still, Brady questioned the fund-raisers. "If PTAs pick up the deficit," she said, "when the good times return, what

will happen then?"

In Washington state, fund raising for salaries often has filled the gap left when physical education and arts program are cut, said Jean Carpenter, executive director of the state's Parent Teacher Association.

But she has noticed a worrisome change. Money was raised this year to pay for a teacher's aide for an elementary school in the suburban Seattle school district of Mercer Island.

"It's the beginning of what I think is a real frustration in the lack of will to fund education, and I'm hopeful it won't spread," she said. "If this trend does continue, it's going

to be totally inequitable for all children."

The quality of education, she said, "will depend on where you live and the income level of your PTA and your community."

In the suburban Portland, Ore., district of Lake Oswego, a district foundation has raised nearly \$400,000 during the past three years to pay salaries for 10 new teachers in their schools. The biggest fundraiser of the year, says Nancy Duin, district spokeswoman, is a spring phone-a-thon staffed partly by volunteer high school students.

In the Manhattan Beach Unified School District near Los Angeles, a district foun-

Easterner may head up key land committee

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time in a quarter century, the House committee in charge of hundreds of millions of acres of Western land could be led by an Easterner, which is worrying some Western Republicans and causing a revolt among others.

New Jersey Rep. Jim Saxton, with more seniority than any other Republican on the House Resources Committee, is first in line for the job when the new Congress convenes next month.

But Western representatives complain that Saxton, an Easterner with a moderate voting record on environmental issues, doesn't understand how grazing, mineral and land management decisions made by the committee shape the West's wide-open expanses.

Now, some Westerners are pushing House leaders to skip Saxton for less-tenured committee members, such as Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Calif., or Rep. John Duncan, R-Tenn. One relative newcomer, Rep. Richard Pombo, a conservative rancher from California, is aggressively campaigning for the job.

"Jim's a good friend and a great guy, but he doesn't live in the West and may not understand some of the issues," said Rep. Chris Cannon, R-Utah.

The last Resources Committee chairman from east of the Mississippi River was Rep. James Haley, D-Fla., who held the post from 1973 to 1977.

The committee has jurisdiction over 700 million acres of America's public lands. It oversees national parks and forests, regulates energy development on federal land, manages U.S. rivers, waterways and fisheries, and supervises issues relating to American Indians and U.S. territories.

Saxton, first elected to the House in 1985, was chairman of the committee's fisheries subcommittee from 1994 to 2000. His spokesman, Jeff Sagnip, said his boss has always been fair to Western members and has made clear to House leaders that he wants a chance to lead the panel.

His opponents have two knocks against Saxton: where he's from and how he votes.

His New Jersey district has hardly any public land that falls under the committee's jurisdiction. In comparison, 80 percent of Nevada, two-thirds of Utah and more than 60 percent of Idaho are under federal control.

And Saxton frequently has voted with the environmental community, most notably as one of 16 Republicans who opposed the House energy bill that included oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He also voted to strip the refuge drilling authority from the bill.

The League of Conservation Voters said Saxton cast environmentally

Retailers set to slash prices further in effort to recoup lost sales

NEW YORK (AP) — With a mediocre Christmas shopping season behind them, the nation's retailers are focusing on the days ahead, slashing prices in an effort to recoup lost sales and clear out merchandise.

Nevertheless, "no matter what the stores do, they still seem to not be able to stimulate spending," said Burt Flickinger III, managing director of Reach Marketing, a retail consulting company.

Despite a better-than-expected sales surge following Thanksgiving, customers have been reluctant to spend, uninspired by the lack of must-haves and stymied by worries about the economy and jobs.

The compressed season, which was six days shorter than a year ago, also had an impact on consumers, who never quite recovered from the lateness of Thanksgiving and seemed to delay their gift

buying even more than usual.

Stores are counting more heavily this year on a spending frenzy during the last week of December, which traditionally accounts for about 10 percent of holiday sales, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers. They're expecting consumers to redeem their gift certificates and to pick up a few extra bargains.

Mall centers, like Taubman Centers, which owns or oper-

ates 31 malls in 13 states, are hoping that gift certificate sales will help lift overall results.

The company reported that one third of its malls recorded its biggest sales in gift certificates ever on Monday. Sales of gift certificates are only recorded when the receiver redeems them.

Still, there is little hope that the post-Christmas rush will be enough to save merchants from the weakest season in

more than 30 years.

Michael P. Niemira, vice president of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. expects that sales for the combined November and December period will be up only 1.5 percent at stores opened at least a year, known as same-store sales. That's lower than his already reduced forecast of 2 percent and is the weakest increase since the same-store index started tracking the data in 1970.

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Proof of age and AARP membership required. Limit one per eligible delivery. AARP offers are not available with other private or targeted offers. Take delivery by 1/2/03.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> AARP BONUS CASH LeSABRE \$500 </td> <td style="text-align: center;"> AARP BONUS CASH PARK AVENUE/ULTRA \$750 </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> AARP Bonus is in addition to 0-0-0 or Total Cash Back </td> </tr> </table>	AARP BONUS CASH LeSABRE \$500	AARP BONUS CASH PARK AVENUE/ULTRA \$750	AARP Bonus is in addition to 0-0-0 or Total Cash Back	
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Thursday, December 26, 2002

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Resentful Stepmom Needs To Adjust Her Attitude

DEAR ABBY: I read the letter from "Feeling Used in Cleveland," who resents her husband's little boy being dumped off by his mother every time she needs a free baby sitter. Your answer was good but not harsh enough.

"Feeling Used" knew the man she married had a child. What makes her think that that little 8-year-old is any less deserving of his father's love, time and attention than the two children she and her husband brought into the world?

She complained about the ex-wife dropping off the boy when he's sick. Instead of complaining, she should give him the TLC he deserves. That child has to watch his dad live with and raise two other kids while he gets shuffled back and forth — and his stepmother is resentful? Boy, does she have it backward.

I am a married mother of four, and wish all prospective stepparents would reach down deep to see if they have what it takes. There are many wonderful stepparents out there, but "Feeling Used" has a lot of work to do straightening out her priorities. Sign me ...

SICK OF SELFISH STEPPARENTS

DEAR S.S.S.: I agree that the woman needs a quick attitude adjustment. When two people with children marry, there should no longer be "his," "hers" or "mine." Only *ours*.
 Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My mother has a stepgrandson who is her responsibility nearly every weekend. "Sean" was left for my mother to care for three weeks after his birth, while his parents took off to join the circus.

While Mom has her share of trials and tribulations with Sean, she is the only stable and constant element in his life. Instead of bemoaning the situation, she dutifully picked up where Sean's mother and father left off — and is the most important influence in his life.

I implore "Feeling Used" to dwell less on herself and her needs and to concentrate on caring for her 8-year-old stepson. I guarantee the result — and the feeling she'll enjoy — will more than compensate for her time.

MATTHEW IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR MATTHEW: I admire your mother's love, commitment and wellspring of energy. Today millions of grandparents are raising their grandchildren — with all of the challenges and rewards that go with it. For those who find it overwhelming, the AARP Grandparent Information Center offers information and referral to local support groups for grandparent caregivers through its national database. To contact the center, write to: AARP Grandparent Information Center, 601 E Street NW, Washington, DC

20049. Call (800) 424-3410; the Web site is www.aarp.org/grandparents.

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to the resentful stepmom was right on. At the age of 8, I was the resented stepchild, and didn't know why.

When I became a stepmother and was used as the dumping ground by my husband's ex, I received some excellent advice from a close friend: "Forget the reasons why the child is there, just know he needs you. Change your attitude, and your actions will show it — good or bad."

Twenty years later, my stepson handed me his newborn and whispered, "I love you for loving me like your own. Here's your grandson, Mom." I sent up a prayer of thanks for her excellent advice, because love is thicker than blood.

THE LUCKY ONE

DEAR LUCKY ONE: Regardless of your biological relationship to your stepson, you were the parent who counted the most. It is the job of parents — regardless of blood ties — to nurture and protect the children given into their keeping.

Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD
 By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- Pilgrim's goal
 - Highland group
 - Refuge
 - To any extent
 - Cry from the audience
 - Venice sight
 - Horse opera
 - Bury
 - Sandy sound
 - Sphere
 - Porch
 - And not sight
 - Defense
 - Heap
 - Discuss, javelin, etc.
 - Just
 - Do over
 - Fishing aid
 - Evergreen tree
 - Sauté
 - Hastings, to Poirot
 - Ferber book
 - Reunion attendee
 - By the way
 - Holdup
 - Substantial
 - Conductor
- DOWN**
- Buddy
 - Timetable abbr.

AMAZE CHOP
 SALON WHERE
 INANE HANGS
 DAME FATCAT
 EGO ART ENS
 SEDATION
 REST FELL
 SEDITION
 KIM NUT CUE
 OVERDO HERA
 TOWIT BINET
 CREDO EDSSEL
 HYDE NEEDED

Yesterday's answer

- Horned beast
- Murky
- Dyeing place
- 33 Coin
- 20 Dangerous place
- 34 Bearing
- 21 Church part
- 35 "Cheers" barkeep
- 16 Get
- 22 Irritable
- 24 Actor Ron
- 37 Big snake
- 17 Concerning
- 25 Vitality
- 39 Train unit
- 40 Ogle

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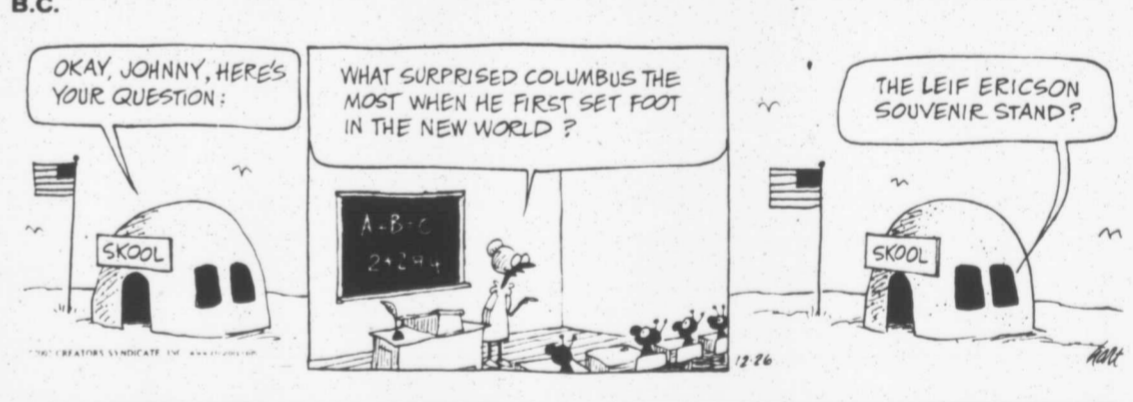
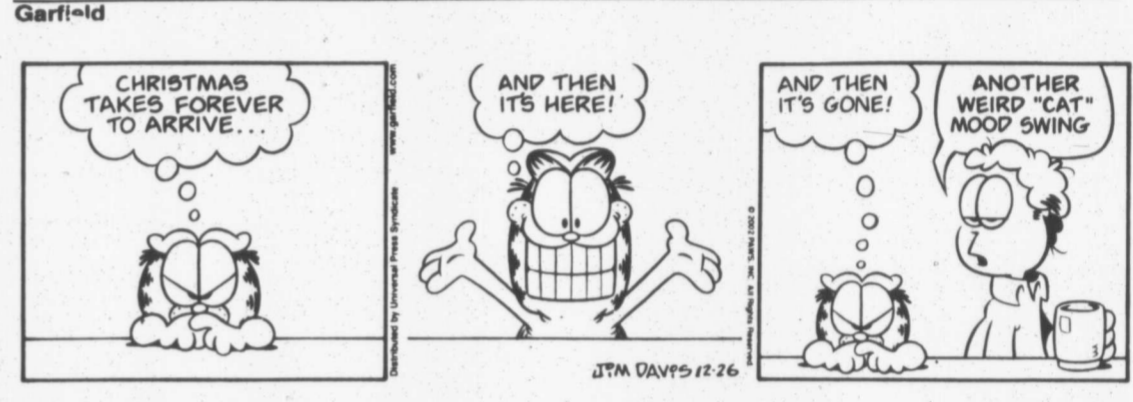
Marmaduke



The Family Circus



For Better or For Worse



SPORTS

UCLA claims Las Vegas Bowl victory

LAS VEGAS (AP) — UCLA spoiled Katie Hnida's historic moment, and gave the Bruins' new coach something to build on.

Hnida became the first woman to play in a Division I-A game Wednesday, kicking an extra point that was blocked in New Mexico's 27-13 loss to UCLA in the Las Vegas Bowl.

"I can replay in my mind seeing that hand block the

kick, and that's going to be what I think about before I go to bed tonight," Hnida said of her low kick.

Lobos coach Rocky Long defended his decision to use Hnida.

"Katie is a valuable member of our team," Long said. "I think it's a very unusual situation, and she's put in a position a lot of times that's very uncomfortable. I made the decision before the game that we were going to let her kick the first extra point."

Hnida, with her hair in a ponytail, attempted the kick after the Lobos took a 6-3 lead on Desmar Black's 55-yard interception return with 8:20 left in the first quarter.

The 5-foot-9, 150-pound Hnida was on the Colorado roster in 1999 and suited up for the Buffaloes in the Insight.com Bowl. She walked on to the New Mexico team before this season.

"The only way that I've been able to handle this so

well is because of the program that I am in," Hnida said. "The players and the coaches are absolutely phenomenal. This isn't common. It isn't going on anywhere else in the country."

UCLA interim coach Ed Kezirian's brief time in the spotlight went much better than Hnida's.

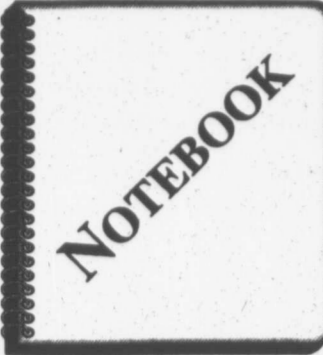
Kezirian, UCLA's director of academic services, filled in as coach after Bob Toledo was fired at the end of the regular season.

"This game isn't really

about me, it's about the players," Kezirian said.

Karl Dorrell, a former UCLA receiver and more recently an assistant with the Denver Broncos, was hired last week to replace Toledo, but has not yet taken over the team.

Dorrell is inheriting a team loaded with talented underclassmen, led by sophomore receiver Craig Bragg, freshman safety Jarrad Page and freshman halfback Tyler Ebell.



FOOTBALL

AMARILLO — Two players from Wheeler and two from White Deer were named the Amarillo Globe-News Class 1A Super Team this season.

Offensive lineman Joe Salas and defensive back James Chapman of Wheeler, along with defensive lineman Kirk Kelp and linebacker Brian Knocke of White Deer were Super Team selections.

Salas, a 195-pound junior, is a two-year starter for the Mustangs. Chapman, a 180-pound junior, finished the season with 43 solo tackles and four interceptions.

Kelp, a 210-pound senior, and Knocke, a 200-pound senior, were both all-district performers for the Bucks.

DENVER (AP) — Quarterback Brian Griese questioned his future with the Denver Broncos after learning he will not start against Arizona even if his sprained left knee is healthy.

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said Steve Beuerlein will start against the Cardinals on Sunday as Denver clings to slim playoff hopes.

Griese has thrown for 3,214 yards and 15 touchdowns but has also thrown 15 interceptions and has made some key mistakes late in several games.

TENNIS

GOLD COAST, Australia (AP) — Martina Navratilova will pair with Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova in doubles at the Australian women's hardcourt event.

Navratilova, 46, became the oldest player to win a WTA Tour doubles title when she paired with Belarus' Natasha Zvereva in May in Madrid. Navratilova has a record 167 singles titles and 165 in doubles.

SKIING

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — World Cup champion Stephan Eberharter was cleared to compete in a downhill Sunday, returning a week earlier than anticipated from a Dec. 15 knee injury.

Eberharter was hurt when he crashed during a giant slalom at Val d'Isere, France, and doctors didn't think he would be ready for Bormio.

Coach cheers for Smith

IRVING (AP) — Football is a team game, and individual accomplishments aren't supposed to matter. Yet in what could be his last game as coach of the Dallas Cowboys, Dave Campo would like to see Emmitt Smith notch one more milestone.

Smith enters the finale Sunday at Washington needing 38 yards rushing to reach 1,000 yards for the 12th consecutive year and extend the record he set last season. Barry Sanders did it 10 straight years; Walter Payton had 10, too, but they weren't consecutive.

"I'd like him to get it, I'll be up front about it," Campo said. "He fought his way to 1,000 a year ago, and I'd like to see him get 1,000 again. I think he deserves it."

NFL Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE													
East													
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	9	6	0	.600	354	274							
New England	8	7	0	.533	354	322							
N.Y. Jets	8	7	0	.533	317	319							
Buffalo	7	8	0	.467	352	388							
South													
x-Tennessee	10	5	0	.667	354	321							
Indianapolis	9	6	0	.600	329	300							
Jacksonville	6	9	0	.400	315	295							
Houston	4	11	0	.267	210	343							
North													
x-Pittsburgh	9	5	1	.633	356	314							
Cleveland	8	7	0	.533	320	304							
Baltimore	7	8	0	.467	285	320							
Cincinnati	2	13	0	.133	270	429							
West													
x-Oakland	10	5	0	.667	426	304							
Denver	8	7	0	.533	355	337							
Kansas City	8	7	0	.533	467	375							
San Diego	8	7	0	.533	305	336							
NATIONAL CONFERENCE													
East													
x-Philadelphia	12	3	0	.800	408	231							
N.Y. Giants	9	6	0	.600	310	272							
Washington	6	9	0	.400	287	351							
Dallas	5	10	0	.333	203	309							
South													
x-Tampa Bay	11	4	0	.733	331	196							
Atlanta	9	5	1	.633	386	290							
New Orleans	9	6	0	.600	426	378							
Carolina	6	9	0	.400	248	296							
North													
x-Green Bay	12	3	0	.800	381	286							
Minnesota	5	10	0	.333	352	406							
Chicago	4	11	0	.267	281	364							
Detroit	3	12	0	.200	270	413							
West													
x-San Francisco	10	5	0	.667	347	320							
Seattle	6	9	0	.400	324	341							
St. Louis	6	9	0	.400	285	349							
Arizona	5	10	0	.333	255	380							
x-clinched division													
Saturday's Games													
Minnesota 20, Miami 17													
San Francisco 17, Arizona 14													
Philadelphia 27, Dallas 3													
Sunday's Games													
Atlanta 36, Detroit 15													
Green Bay 10, Buffalo 0													
Washington 26, Houston 10													
Carolina 24, Chicago 14													
N.Y. Giants 44, Indianapolis 27													
Tennessee 28, Jacksonville 10													
Kansas City 24, San Diego 22													
Cincinnati 20, New Orleans 13													
Seattle 30, St. Louis 10													
Oakland 28, Denver 16													
Cleveland 14, Baltimore 17													
N.Y. Jets 30, New England 17													
Monday's Game													
Pittsburgh 17, Tampa Bay 7													
Saturday, Dec. 28													
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1:30 p.m.													
Kansas City at Oakland, 5 p.m.													
Sunday, Dec. 29													
Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m.													
Dallas at Washington, 1 p.m.													
Tennessee at Houston, 1 p.m.													
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.													
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.													
Cincinnati at Buffalo, 1 p.m.													
Atlanta at Cleveland, 1 p.m.													
Carolina at New Orleans, 1 p.m.													
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 4:05 p.m.													
Green Bay at N.Y. Jets, 4:15 p.m.													
Seattle at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.													
Arizona at Denver, 4:15 p.m.													
Tampa Bay at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.													
Monday, Dec. 30													
San Francisco at St. Louis, 9 p.m.													

District opener



(Photo by Jerry Heasley)

Pampa's Max Simon puts up a jumper over a Hereford defender during last weekend's District 3-4A opener between the two schools. Simon scored 14 points to help lead Pampa to a 59-51 victory. The Harvesters played Dimmitt this afternoon in the first round of the Caprock Tournament in Lubbock. The winner plays either Trinity Humble or Caprock at 9 a.m. Friday in the Lubbock Monterey gym. The loser plays at noon Friday at Lubbock High School.

Defense may have to carry Steelers

PITTSBURGH (AP) — It was almost as if someone on the Pittsburgh Steelers' defense with a sense of history dug into the coaching staff's vault of old game tapes, cued up a reel from 1976 and began taking voluminous notes.

This Steelers' defense lacks the portfolio of that Greene-Lambert-Ham-Blount defense and no doubt won't produce as many Hall of Famers, Super Bowl rings, Coke commercials or household names.

Regardless, this might be the best sustained stretch of dominating defense at a critical stage of the season by any Pittsburgh team since the '76 team had five shutouts during a season-ending nine-game winning streak.

In the last three games, the Steelers held:

—Houston to 47 yards, the fewest by a winning team in NFL history. The Texans were limited to three first downs, only one after their opening possession, and 10 yards passing.

—Carolina to 0 yards in the first half. The Panthers managed 131 yards of mostly meaningless second-half yardage in Pittsburgh's 30-14 victory. Combined with the Houston game, the Steelers gave up only 47 yards in a span of six quarters, or 1 1/2 games.

—Tampa Bay scoreless until the last minute of a long-since-decided 17-7 Pittsburgh victory

Monday night in which the Steelers, not Tampa Bay, looked more like the NFL's No. 1 defense.

"They have the No. 1-ranked defense, but I think we showed what the No. 1 defense in the NFL is," Steelers receiver Hines Ward said.

The Steelers — No. 1 in the league a year ago — dropped from No. 3 overall in the NFL to No. 6 by allowing 277 yards to Tampa Bay, but nearly all that yardage came after Pittsburgh quickly opened a 17-0 lead.

Steelers coach Bill Cowher has several theories why a defense that spent much of this season in the bottom half of the league rankings suddenly is dominating again.

"We're becoming comfortable with the things we're doing," Cowher said. "We're playing with a lot of confidence and we're playing very fast — there's not a lot of thinking going on, and that's allowing players to go out and play with speed."

"We're trying to stay unpredictable and create some hesitation."

Earlier, it seemed the Steelers were confusing themselves more than their opponents. No doubt aware teams would spend time in the offseason adjusting to what they did last season, the Steelers tinkered with their blitzing and coverage schemes.

As a result, linebacker Jason

Gildon didn't rush as much as before, a change that also caused adjustments for 2001 rookie star Kendrell Bell once he returned from an ankle injury a month into the season. Defensive end Aaron Smith also wasn't the disruptive presence he was before.

About a month ago, defensive coordinator Tim Lewis made some adjustments — some simple, some more complicated — that allowed Gildon and Bell more freedom to pass rush. Since then, they have combined for 8 1/2 sacks in four games, 4 1/2 by Gildon, even though neither had a sack Monday.

Suddenly, it looks nothing like the defense that was burned by the Patriots and Raiders for 807 yards to start the season. Or the defense that, for much of the season, was the league's worst in stopping teams on third down.

"We didn't overly question ourselves or overanalyze, and that's the biggest thing to be careful about in a 16-game schedule — to not be too critical," Cowher said. "If we don't beat ourselves, we give our-

selves a chance no matter who we play."

It also might prove important depending where they play. If the Titans (10-5) and Raiders (10-5) win this weekend, the Steelers (9-5-1) may have to go on the road for every playoff game past the wild-card round. That's where winning Monday night in Tampa, against a team with a chance to hold home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs, could prove helpful later.

"That was an intense atmosphere, one that matched any playoff game I've seen with any team since I've been here," Cowher said.

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Scoreboard

BOWLING		
Harvester Lanes		
League Results		
Senior League (Week 12)		
Team	Won	Lost
Team Two	28	20
Metamucil Maulers	28	20
Ma's Funtime	28	20
Jernigan Tax Service	26	22
Team Four	16	32
Week's Top Scores		
Men		
High scratch game: Ralph West 223; High scratch series: Andy Anderson 606; High handicap game: Ralph West 234; High handicap series: L.D. Strate 630.		
Women		
High scratch game: Judy Anderson 193; High scratch series: Judy Anderson 553; High handicap game: Judy Anderson 230; High handicap series: Judy Anderson 664.		
Casino League (Week 13)		
Team	Won	Lost
King's Row	15	5
L&L Welding	15	5
4-Skins	14	6
Peggy's Place	14	6
Williams Appliance	11	9
Ma's Funtime	11	9
Team One	10	10
Clemens Home Repair	9	11
Cellular Connection	9	11
Team Eight	7	13
The Fun Bunch	7	13
Lee Ann's Grooming	6	14
Pin Peckers	6	14
Team Five	6	14
Week's Top Scores		
Men		
High scratch game: Gary Winton 243; High scratch series: Gary Winton 652; High handicap game: Jimmie Adams 254; High handicap series: Jimmie Adams 674.		
Women		
High scratch game: Joy Hilbert 235; High scratch series: Joy Hilbert 616; High handicap game: Joy Hilbert 270; High handicap series: Joy Hilbert 721.		
FOOTBALL		
2002-03 Bowl Glance		
By The Associated Press		
All Times EST		
Tuesday, Dec. 17		
New Orleans Bowl		
\$750,000		
North Texas 24, Cincinnati 19		
Wednesday, Dec. 18		
GMAC Bowl		
Mobile, Ala.		
\$750,000		
Marshall 38, Louisville 15		
Monday, Dec. 23		
Tangerine Bowl		
At Orlando, Fla.		
\$750,000		
Texas Tech 55, Clemson 15		
Wednesday, Dec. 25		
Las Vegas Bowl		
\$800,000		
UCLA 27, New Mexico 13		
Hawaii Bowl		
At Honolulu		
\$750,000		
Tulane 36, Hawaii 28		
Thursday, Dec. 26		
Motor City Bowl		
At Detroit		
\$780,000		
Toledo (9-4) vs. Boston College (8-4), 5 p.m. (ESPN)		
Insight Bowl		
At Phoenix		
\$750,000		
Oregon State (8-4) vs. Pittsburgh (8-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)		
Friday, Dec. 27		
Houston Bowl		
\$750,000		
Southern Mississippi (7-5) vs. Oklahoma State (7-5), 1 p.m.		
(ESPN)		
Independence Bowl		
At Shreveport, La.		
\$1.2 million		
Nebraska (7-6) vs. Mississippi (6-6), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)		
Holiday Bowl		
At San Diego		
\$2 million		
Kansas State (10-2) vs. Arizona State (8-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)		
Saturday, Dec. 28		
Alamo Bowl		
At San Antonio		
\$1.35 million		
Colorado (9-4) vs. Wisconsin (7-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN)		
Continental Tire Bowl		
At Charlotte, N.C.		
\$750,000		
West Virginia (9-3) vs. Virginia (8-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)		
Monday, Dec. 30		
Music City Bowl		
At Nashville, Tenn.		
\$750,000		
Minnesota (7-5) vs. Arkansas (9-4), 2 p.m. (ESPN)		
Seattle Bowl		
\$1 million		
Wake Forest (6-6) vs. Oregon (7-5), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)		
Tuesday, Dec. 31		
Humanitarian Bowl		
At Boise, Idaho		
\$750,000		
Iowa State (7-6) vs. Boise State (11-1), Noon (ESPN)		
Sun Bowl		
At El Paso, Texas		
\$1.35 million		
Washington (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 2 p.m. (CBS)		
Liberty Bowl		
At Memphis, Tenn.		
\$1.3 million		
Colorado State (10-3) vs. TCU (9-2), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)		
Silicon Valley Classic		
At San Jose, Calif.		
\$750,000		
Fresno State (8-5) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN2)		
Peach Bowl		
At Atlanta		
\$1.6 million		
Maryland (10-3) vs. Tennessee (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)		
San Francisco Bowl		
\$800,000		
Air Force (8-4) vs. Virginia Tech (9-4), 10:30 p.m. (ESPN2)		
Wednesday, Jan. 1		
Outback Bowl		
At Tampa, Fla.		
\$2.55 million		
Michigan (9-3) vs. Florida (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)		
Cotton Bowl		
At Dallas		
\$3 million		
LSU (8-4) vs. Texas (10-2), 11 a.m. (FOX)		
Gator Bowl		
At Jacksonville, Fla.		
\$1.6 million		
Notre Dame (10-2) vs. North Carolina State (10-3), 12:30 p.m. (NBC)		
Capital One Bowl		
At Orlando, Fla.		
\$5.125 million		
Penn State (9-3) vs. Auburn (8-4), 1 p.m. (ABC)		
Rose Bowl		
At Pasadena, Calif.		
\$11-13 million		
Washington State (10-2) vs. Oklahoma (11-2), 5 p.m. (ABC)		
Sugar Bowl		
At New Orleans		
\$11-13 million		
Georgia (12-1) vs. Florida State (9-4), 8:30 p.m. (ABC)		
Thursday, Jan. 2		
Orange Bowl		
At Miami		
\$11-13 million		
Southern California (10-2) vs. Iowa (11-1), 8 p.m. (ABC)		
Friday, Jan. 3		
Fiesta Bowl		
At Tempe, Ariz.		
\$11-13 million		
Miami (12-0) vs. Ohio State (13-0), 8 p.m. (ABC)		

Prices are falling for Major League baseball's free agents

NEW YORK (AP) — The bear market isn't just on Wall Street anymore. Just ask baseball's free agents.

In a sport where prices have skyrocketed since 1976 — except for the collusion years and the fallout of the 1994-95 strike — players have seen prices stagnate, then drop since Alex Rodriguez signed his record \$252 million, 10-year contract with the Texas Rangers in December 2000.

"It comes as no surprise, and for a variety of reasons, that it is some kind of a buyer's market," agent Tom Reich said Wednesday, 50 days before the start of spring training.

Among the 157 players who filed for free agency following the World Series, 61 have agreed to new contracts, ahead of last year's pace on Christmas Day (50 of 154) but behind two years ago (75 of 136).

Here's the telling sign: Just 18 players have gotten deals for \$5 million or more total, down from 25 last year and 35 two years ago. Only six players have gotten \$20 million and higher, down from nine last year and way below the 15 at this point following the 2000 season.

And among the stars?

Jim Thome is the only player to top \$40 million, agreeing to an \$85 million, six-year contract with Philadelphia. Last year, New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi (\$120 million for seven years) and Texas pitcher Chan Ho Park (\$65 million for five years) topped that level.

And in 2000, one of the most talented free-agent classes ever, seven players were over \$40 million, a group that included Rodriguez, Manny Ramirez (\$160 million for eight years), Mike Hampton (\$121 million for eight years), Mike Mussina (\$88.5 million for six years), Darren Dreifort (\$55 million for five years), Denny Neagle (\$51 million for five years) and Kevin Appier (\$42 million for four years).

"There's a heightened awareness on the part of teams about player compensation issues," agent Jeff Moorad said. "Some of that awareness comes from the new labor agreement, some of it comes from I believe, better coaching and guidance from central baseball. For the first time in years, it seems teams have learned restraint, and some of which is positive for the industry as a whole."

Tom Glavine, a two-time Cy Young Award winner, wanted a guaranteed four-year deal but settled for \$35 million over three years from the New York Mets. Jeff Kent, the 2000 NL MVP, got \$18.2 million over two years with Houston.

No teams publicly pursued Greg Maddux, a four-time Cy Young winner, and he accepted Atlanta's offer of salary arbitration. Roger Clemens is willing to take a cut from the \$15.45 million average under his last contract to the \$8 million-to-\$10 million range in order to stay with the New York Yankees.

Ivan Rodriguez, a 10-time All-Star catcher, drew interest only from the Chicago Cubs and Baltimore, and when he didn't like their offers, he started to consider signing with a Japanese team.

The Yankees, looking ahead to increased revenue sharing and the luxury tax, spurned high-priced free agents — except when two foreign stars came on the market, giving Cuban pitcher Jose Contreras \$32 million over four years and Japanese outfielder Hideki Matsui \$21 million over three years.

Atlanta, Texas, Boston and Los Angeles, all not wanting to spend big, didn't go after premier free agents. The Braves even dealt pitcher Kevin Millwood to Philadelphia for minor league catcher Johnny Estrada to save money.

"We had no choice but to move payroll," Braves general manager John Schuerholz said. "We had to trade Kevin

Millwood. It wasn't a pleasant thing to do."

Mid-level veterans have been hurt most. A year after the Yankees gave reliever Steve Karsay a \$22.45 million, four-year contract, they let Stanton go, and the left-hander's agents pushed hard until they got a \$9 million, three-year deal from the Mets. Frank Castillo, coming off a \$4.5 million, two-year contract with Boston, re-signed for \$800,000 for one year.

Twelve of the players who filed for free agency have agreed to minor league contracts, with no guarantee of major league termination pay, up from six at this time last year.

Why the drop-off? Except for the 32-year-old Thome, all the big-name free agents were either over 35 or coming off injuries. Teams are putting more players on the market, refusing to give contracts to 46 players by the Dec. 20 tender deadline, up from 34 last year and 27 two years ago.

"There are still a huge, huge number of players out there unsigned," Texas GM John Hart said earlier this month. "Maybe there is a buy out there, a bargain for a guy on a short term that can come in."

Ticket prices, which had increased 12 percent annually in 2000 and 2001, were essentially flat last year, with a major league average of \$18.31. The soft economy is hurting advertising sales for teams, creating more pressure to cut costs.

Since the end of the season, Colorado has traded Hampton, Florida unloaded Preston Wilson and Charles Johnson, and Oakland dealt Cory Lidle. The Yankees have been trying to trade Raul Mondesi, Rondell White and Sterling Hitchcock, and Montreal has been seeking to get rid of Bartolo Colon or Javier Vazquez.

"I learned in the GM meetings that any payroll flexibility a club has is going to be very powerful in the next few months," Oakland general manager Billy Beane said.

Webber sparks Sacramento past slumping LA Lakers, 105-99

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's nearly seven months later, and Chris Webber still feels the pain from the Western Conference finals.

"At the same time, the Sacramento Kings' star is doing his best to learn from the experience."

"This was like a mid-season playoff game for us," Webber said after the Kings' 105-99 victory over the slumping three-time defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers.

Webber had 25 points, 15 rebounds and six assists Wednesday night in the first game that counted between the bitter in-state rivals since the Lakers beat the Kings last June, winning the seventh and deciding game in overtime at Arco Arena.

That marked the third straight spring the Lakers eliminated the Kings en route to a title.

"We learned that we have to stick together no matter what, that a game is 48 minutes long, not 47 minutes, 30

seconds," Webber said. "Game 7 still hurts. They have those rings, we want to win a championship."

"If we were too excited about this, it would mean we thought we shouldn't have won."

In the other NBA games Wednesday, Orlando beat Detroit 104-99, and New Jersey routed Boston 117-81.

Peja Stojakovic equaled a season high with 26 points, Mike Bibby scored 14 points, and Bobby Jackson added 11 for the Kings (23-8), who won for the 11th time in 14 games.

The Kings learned after the game that Jackson, averaging 19.8 points, broke his left hand when Shaquille O'Neal knocked the ball out of his hands while he was driving to the basket with 4:25 left.

Jackson, who wore a splint afterward, was to be re-examined Thursday in Sacramento.

"It's a bummer, man, but it's part of the game," he said. "We're so deep, we play so well, that's the good thing. We have been doing it all

year."

The stumbling Lakers (11-19) have lost four of five and are 8-10 since O'Neal returned after missing the season's first 12 games while recuperating from surgery on his right big toe.

O'Neal had 27 points, a season-high 17 rebounds and five assists, but shot just 8-of-19 and made 2-of-8 after half-time — both after the outcome had been decided.

He didn't speak with reporters afterward.

Kobe Bryant also had 27 points for the Lakers along with 15 rebounds and six assists, but he made only 7 of 24 shots and went 2-for-12 in the second half.

"We're getting much better," Bryant said. "I think we played really well outside of that mental lapse we had in the third quarter."

The Lakers led by as many as 12 points before the Kings outscored them 17-2 to turn a 70-60 deficit into a 77-72 lead.

"We celebrated a little bit too early," Lakers coach Phil

Jackson said. "For a team that's as qualified, we're not doing things that make basketball sense."

The Lakers came back to go ahead early in the final period, but baskets by Jackson and Webber triggered a 10-2 run that gave the Kings a 92-84 lead.

Bryant's 3-pointer and a jumper by Derek Fisher drew the Lakers within three points with 3 1/2 minutes to play, but that's as close as they would get.

The Lakers outrebounded Sacramento 61-42, but shot only 36.7 percent compared to 46.3 percent for the Kings.

"I think the biggest difference is, they are not making shots," Kings coach Rick Adelman said. "I still think they are a pretty darned good team and they're going to be back."

The Kings and Lakers bickered through the media during the offseason, with O'Neal saying in early October he "wasn't worried about the Sacramento Queens."

Then, on Oct. 25 in the final preseason game, Sacramento's Doug Christie and Los Angeles' Rick Fox were ejected after getting into a fight early in the first quarter.

The fracas continued in a Staples Center tunnel, with Fox initiating it, and he was suspended for six games. Christie was suspended for two games.

Starting players usually acknowledge each other by shaking hands or touching fists before a game begins, but that didn't occur on this night.

Sacramento's Vlade Divac gave it a try, extending a fist toward Fox, who hesitated before pointing back. The other players ignored each other.

Robert Horry and Webber had a brief staredown late in the third quarter after Horry fouled the Sacramento star.

Otherwise, nothing out of the ordinary happened.

Magic 104, Pistons 99
At Orlando, Fla., Tracy McGrady scored 46 points in

his return from a back injury, leading Orlando over Detroit.

McGrady was sidelined for all but a half of Orlando's last four games. He made 14 of 26 shots and 18 of 21 free throws.

Mike Miller added 15 points for Orlando, and Grant Hill had 10 points and 15 rebounds for his fifth double-double of the season.

Richard Hamilton led Detroit with 22 points.

Nets 117, Celtics 81
At East Rutherford, N.J., Richard Jefferson scored 22 points for New Jersey in a rematch of the Eastern Conference finals.

The Nets won their 11th straight in New Jersey and fourth in a row overall. New Jersey, which shot a season-high 55 percent from the floor, improved to 16-1 at home.

Lucious Harris added 17 points, Jason Kidd had 16 points and 11 assists, and Kenyon Martin had 16 points and 13 rebounds. Paul Pierce scored 27 points for the Celtics.

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Northeast Division					Southeast Division						
W	LO	TL	GF	GA	W	LO	TL	GF	GA		
Memphis	17	11	2	36	99	Austin	19	5	1	39	74
Indianapolis	15	7	5	35	71	Laredo	14	8	4	32	99
Bossier-Shrev.	9	10	6	24	70	C-Christi	12	12	1	25	79
Fort Worth	7	14	3	17	57	San Angelo	11	20	1	23	101
Northwest Division					Southwest Division						
W	LO	TL	GF	GA	W	LO	TL	GF	GA		
Tulsa	21	6	2	44	96	Odessa	18	5	4	40	83
Okla. City	16	10	1	33	96	Lubbock	12	9	4	28	75
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PICK UP rental list from Gray Box on front porch of Lakeview Apartments. Update each Fri.

2-3 bedroom houses, 509 N. Dwight, 704 Somerville, 665-7149 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30, Sat. 10-4.

FREE RENT! Pampa Lakeview Apts. 1, 2 & 3 bdr. apts. 2600 N. Hobart 669-7682

GWENDOLEN Plaza Apts. 1, 2 & 3 bdr. Gas / water pd. 3, 6 mo.-1yr. lease. 800 N. Nelson, 665-1875.

88 Unfurn. Houses

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2-3 bedroom houses, 509 N. Dwight, 704 Somerville, 66

North Korea begins moving fuel rods to nuclear reactor

By PAUL SHIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president said Thursday that his nation would never tolerate North Korea's efforts to develop nuclear weapons, as the communist nation began moving fresh fuel rods to a mothballed nuclear reactor.

President Kim Dae-jung told a special Cabinet meeting, however, that the standoff should be resolved through dialogue, despite deepening concerns that North Korea will restart facilities that experts say could produce nuclear weapons within months.

"We can never go along with North Korea's nuclear weapons development," Kim said in remarks released to the press by his spokeswoman, Park Sun-sook. "We must closely cooperate with the United States, Japan and other friendly countries to prevent the situation from further deteriorating into a crisis."

Kim, whose five-year term ends in February, was the architect of a policy of engagement with North Korea that resulted in a historic summit in 2000.

His successor, Roh Moo-hyun, has also advocated dialogue to ease nuclear tensions since he was elected to the nation's top job last week. Roh plans to exchange special envoys with the Bush administration in January to discuss the nuclear standoff.

North Korea announced earlier this month that it planned to restart its nuclear facilities to get badly needed electricity, though U.S. officials have said that the power obtained from the reactor would be negligible.

State media in Pyongyang, the North's capital, defended the decision Thursday.

"The United States is going around trying to stir public opinion internationally, as though this is a sign of developing nuclear weapons," state-run Radio Pyongyang said in a commentary.

"Our measure has got nothing to do with plans to develop nuclear weapons. Our republic constantly maintains an anti-nuclear, peace-loving position," the commentary said. It was carried by South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

In the past week, North Korea removed U.N. monitoring seals and cameras from its nuclear facilities, ignoring

warnings by the United States and the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency.

On Wednesday, North Korea again defied international opinion by moving fresh fuel rods from a storage house into a power plant that houses a 5-megawatt nuclear reactor at its main nuclear complex in Yongbyon, 50 miles north of its capital, Pyongyang, said the Vienna-based IAEA.

Mark Gwozdecky, an IAEA spokesman, told the British Broadcasting Corp. that IAEA inspectors in North Korea had reported that some 400 fuel rods were moved into the reactor building but had not yet been loaded into the reactor for operation.

Gwozdecky estimated that it would take "at least a month and maybe several months" for the reactor to restart running again. The Soviet-designed reactor produces plutonium, the material used to make atomic bombs, as a residue.

By bringing the rods into the reactor building, North Korea is showing that its intention to reactivate the nuclear facilities is not an "empty word," said Chun Young-woo, a nuclear disarmament official in South Korea's Foreign Ministry.

Chun could not provide details on how the rods were being transported, but said they are too heavy to be moved by hand. They are about a yard long and 1.2 inches in diameter.

In a deal with the United States in 1994, North Korea froze its plutonium-based nuclear program in exchange for foreign energy supplies. Earlier this month, it decided to restart it after Washington and its allies halted oil shipments as punishment for revelations in October that North Korea had moved forward with a second nuclear weapons program that used enriched uranium.

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