

U.S. official says weapons inspections may be extended

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is weighing the option of extending U.N. weapons inspections in Iraq in an effort to placate European allies and Russia. A decision will be based on whether the inspections are productive, a senior U.S. official said Friday.

The inspectors are due to report to the U.N. Security Council Monday on two months of searches. So far, they have turned up few of the thousands of weapons the administration insists President Saddam Hussein has concealed.

If the inspectors turn up new evidence on Monday, that would influence a decision to keep hunting for illicit weapons of mass destruction, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

France, Germany and Russia all have been urging the inspectors be given more time and have been arguing that any attack on Iraq be deferred.

After hearing briefings on Capitol Hill Thursday from Secretary of State Colin Powell and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Sen. Richard Lugar said he thought inspections would be continued.

Two key lawmakers, meantime, continued to urge Bush

to resolve the situation diplomatically.

Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, a top Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, warned Friday against a "rush to war in the absence of a strong multilateral coalition." And Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle said "we have yet to see any evidence that Saddam still has weapons of mass destruction."

At the White House, presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer said President Bush considers failure of Iraq to make its scientists fully available to U.N. inspectors "unacceptable."

Fleischer said Saddam's conduct will make "the end of the line come even closer. His refusal is further evidence that Iraq has something to hide."

In Vienna, a spokesman for Mohamed ElBaradei, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Friday ElBaradei will tell the Security Council that his inspectors need more time.

Agency spokesman Mark Gwozdecky also told The Associated Press he believed ElBaradei and U.N. inspector Hans Blix would give Iraq "quite satisfactory" grades despite stating a need for improvement.

Fleischer said Saddam "has

an obligation to comply" with every provision of last November's United Nations resolution that sent weapons inspectors back to Iraq. The resolution included a requirement that Saddam make sci-

entific U.N. weapons inspectors, who are due to report Monday on the results of two months of inspections. With U.N. inspectors having difficulty talking to Iraqi scientists about suspected weapons programs, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said the administration was providing inspectors with "names of individuals whom we believe it would be productive to interview."

And, Wolfowitz said, the administration was giving them information about sites suspected of containing hidden weapons and helping the inspectors on ways to thwart Iraqi infiltration.

In what was the most extensive description by an administration official of U.S. intelligence support, Wolfowitz also said, "We know from multiple sources that Saddam has ordered that any scientists who cooperate during interviews will be killed, as well as their families."

Also, the Pentagon official said, "Scientists are being tutored on what to say to the

U.N. inspectors and Iraqi intelligence officers are posing as scientists to be interviewed by the inspectors."

But in Baghdad, Lt. Gen. Hossam Mohammed Amin, a senior Iraqi official, said Iraqi scientists had refused to submit to private interviews with U.N. arms inspectors despite government attempts to encourage them to do so under an agreement with the United Nations.

In his speech at the University of Notre Dame, Hagel said, "At this precarious juncture in American history, America needs more humility than hubris in the applications of American military power, and the recognition that our interests are best served through alliances and consensus."

Daschle, talking to reporters after an economic speech in Cleveland, said Saddam "still poses a threat. The question is, can we remove that threat without the use of military force, especially unilateral military force, and I'm still convinced that's possible."

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tists available for unfettered interviews.

"President Bush believes that Iraq's refusal to allow Iraqi scientists to submit to private interviews with U.N. inspectors is unacceptable," he said.

The strong words came as European opposition to an attack on Iraq appeared to be growing — opposition that includes Russia, Germany and France — despite Powell's offer for a fresh U.N. debate on using force.

Fleischer acknowledged the divisions among European allies.

"The president respects those nations... but Europe is

Igor Ivanov said Thursday "we deemed there are no serious reasons for war with Iraq." And he said that Moscow would do all it could to promote diplomacy to deal with Iraq.

Bush interceded with Russian President Vladimir Putin, but the Kremlin said Putin told Bush on the telephone that "the main criterion" should be the findings of

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CRASH

Thursday, said of her brother, "He was (a) pilot, he loved to fly. That was his life, from the time he was a little boy to the time of his death."

Richard Theilman of Brooklyn described his brother as a "self-sacrificing kind of guy" who was proud to serve his country.

"He'd make sure everyone was comfortable before he was comfortable," Theilman said.

The Marines were only a week into a mission that sent them flying over Falcon Lake, a binational reservoir that straddles the U.S.-Mexico border and is a known haven for smuggling of drugs and undocumented immigrants.

Under guard overnight were the crash sites, with debris from one copter just inside the park entrance, with burn marks extending about 40 yards, and more wreckage about 300 yards away, with rotors and other charred helicopter parts strewn between them.

Blackened brush and prickly pear cactus surrounded the wreckage. Two other helicopters were involved in the operation but landed safely, officials said.

"We heard a loud boom and all of a sudden the engines in the helicopters quit, so I went outside and looked and there was a ball of fire," said Larry Sholl, 67, who witnessed the crash shortly before 9 p.m. CST.

Military investigators offered no clues what went wrong. Each Super Cobra has a crew of two — a pilot and a co-pilot.

Their Department of Defense mission, known as Joint Task Force Six, comprises volunteer active duty and reserve members of various branches and offers high-tech support and

training to federal, state, and local anti-drug agencies. It has been ongoing since 1989 as part of President George H. W. Bush's war on drugs.

This deployment was assisting U.S. Border Patrol agents that patrol parts of the lake and miles of rugged brushland surrounding it.

"These Marines were helping to detect the flow of contraband into the U.S. and maintain the security of our border," McCarthy said.

The lake dates back to 1953, when the U.S. and Mexico agreed to create a 40-mile retention area for Rio Grande waters. Hurricanes filled the basin and created one of South Texas' few recreation areas for boating and fishing.

It is also a sprawling international waterway, and drug busts have been made in the middle of the lake. A decade of drought has sapped water levels, hurt tourism and provided migrants easier access to cross the border illegally.

A few dozen campers — almost all retirees from northern states and Canada — were inside the state park when the crash occurred. While accustomed to seeing military fly overhead, several said it was only during the last few days that they noticed aircraft flying at night, apparently without lights.

The Marines were using night vision goggles and forward-looking infrared sensors before the crash, officials said.

"At first I thought it came down where the other campers were," said Eileen Ruiz of Milpitas, Calif. "My heart was racing. Everybody came out to watch."

"They definitely collided," said 63-year-old Norman Ross of Forest Lake, Minn. "You heard the explosion. ... We could feel a slight vibration in our camper from it."

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CUTS

The state constitution requires a balanced budget, so lawmakers will have to find enough savings from cuts or use revenue meant for the next budget to fill the hole for fiscal year 2003, which ends Aug. 31.

"We're just going to have to cut back during that period to make it work. If not, we'll be starting out in the hole, which we can't do," Craddick said.

"This is a very, very tough budget session," said Senate Finance Chairman Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo. "We've got a difficult revenue picture and I think that is a realistic way to begin dealing with the problem."

Some have suggested tapping into the state's emergency fund, called the Rainy Day Fund to help balance the budget. But Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn said

Thursday she'll protect the fund, projected to be about \$1 billion this budget cycle, and save it "for a true emergency."

Strayhorn, the state's chief financial officer, projected earlier this month that the \$114 billion budget would be \$1.8 billion short unless spending is cut or new revenue is found.

She predicted another \$8.1 billion shortfall for the next 2004-05 spending plan if lawmakers keep programs and services the way they are now.

She said she cut 6 percent of her agency's remaining \$86 million and would look for more places to save money.

"I said when I gave the revenue estimate that Texas families have had to adjust their budgets in this weak economy and that state government must do the same," Strayhorn said.

The cuts include a hiring freeze that will save about

\$950,000 and a salary freeze that will save another \$800,000.

Perry said he cut his office's budget 14 percent for the remainder of the fiscal year.

"Like many Texas families and businesses, state agencies must prioritize and make wise use of every taxpayer dollar," he said.

Perry, who's promised no new taxes, last week responded to the bad news by proposing a state budget that spends nothing. He's since ordered \$221 million in state grants for libraries, education and health care be frozen.

Meanwhile, a State Auditor's Office report said there could be as much as \$7 billion in waste and fraud at state agencies. It cited several problems, including financial mismanagement at various offices and with private contractors hired to do state business.

ORRS

izens, the Orrs, including their two daughters - Helen, a college student, and Vanessa, a PHS senior - were presented with bricks to be placed at the base of the Harvester statue in front of Pampa High School.


And in recognition of the Orrs' achievements at PISD, Porter announced that \$3,000 has been donated towards a scholarship fund in their name for a 2003 PHS senior student or students.

"I'm rarely speechless and I'm not now," responded Orr. "A scholarship to honor the students ... I can't thank you enough. That's what I sought to do in Pampa."


"I can tell you this, I received far more than I gave," Orr, obviously moved, added before having to stop and regain his composure.

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RELIGION

Priest leaves Silicon Valley for new life

By EILEEN E. FLYNN
AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

AUSTIN — To an outsider, Ivan Tou's career change six years ago might seem radical. He had all the right credentials. Bachelor's and master's degrees from one of the world's top universities. Several years of cutting-edge research on artificial intelligence in Silicon Valley. A doctorate in computer science.

But just as the high-tech industry was exploding, Tou, whose education and experience assured him financial and professional success, wasn't thinking about six-figure salaries, bonuses and stock options. Instead, he was preparing to take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience at the Paulist Fathers Novitiate in Oak Ridge, N.J.

Tou, 42, who was ordained as a priest in May, now serves at St. Austin Catholic Church. "It seems like a drastic change," said Frank Camacho, a college friend. "But knowing Ivan as I do, I know where his values and core beliefs are. I know, for him, making money and having a good career... were not his driving forces." It wasn't that Tou didn't love his work.

After earning a master's in computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he landed his dream job at Hewlett-Packard Co. in California. The salary was "excellent," the Bay Area "fabulous."

Tou played tennis during long lunches with co-workers and enjoyed the freedom of setting his own hours at work. He had a professional mission:

"to help make machines smarter so we can work less and enjoy life more."

But dissatisfaction lurked beneath the surface.

"The fire," Tou said, "was missing."

The son of Chinese immigrants — a Catholic mother and a Buddhist father — Tou grew up in Gainesville, Fla., where his family ran a string of restaurants.

His father, an engineer, taught at the University of Florida. His mother poured her energy into the restaurants, an enterprise that came to interfere with Sunday church attendance. The family stopped going to Mass when Tou was in the third grade.

"I always continued to pray," he said. "Finally, when my brother got his driver's license, we decided we should

go back to church." From that point on, Tou stayed active in the church.

He first encountered the Paulists, an evangelical order that ministers to Catholics and non-Catholics, at MIT.

"I admired that these men were down to earth," Tou said. "My childhood experience with priests is that they walked between earth and heaven."

After college, Tou began meeting with spiritual directors and tried to determine whether he felt called to the priesthood.

"Even when he was working, going to graduate school, he was always involved in ministry of some form," said the Rev. John Duffy, president of the Paulists in New York City, who was director of formation for seminarians when he met and began advising Tou

more than 12 years ago. He has a natural affinity for people. He's naturally compassionate, extremely intelligent and a truly humble person."

Tou's move to the priesthood, Duffy said, was a "gradual unfolding." After a year at the novitiate, Tou traveled to different Paulist parishes across the country for various ministerial assignments and added another degree to his collection: a master's of divinity in theology.

The fire that was missing from his first career burned brightly in his new vocation. It was difficult to give up the possibility of marriage and children, Tou said. The financial sacrifice, on the other hand, was surprisingly liberating. Paulists take a vow of Gospel simplicity, or poverty, meaning they cannot accumulate personal wealth.

"In one sense, life is easier," Tou said. "It's amazing: We don't have to worry about

the future. At (Hewlett-Packard), I had to worry about IRAs and 401Ks."

The celebration of his entrance into the priesthood, though, was marred by sadness. Tou's father died about a month after his son's ordination.

While they never found common spiritual ground, the two worked together for a short time at a software company that the elder Tou started in Florida. Still, when Ivan Tou announced that his plans to become a priest were definite, his father "was disappointed, because here I have all these degrees."

It wasn't an unusual response, Camacho said. "The typical reaction is, why would you go to school all those years and get a Ph.D. if you're going to become a priest? What's the point of that?" he said. "Maybe that's what he needed to do to finally figure out what his path was going to be in life."

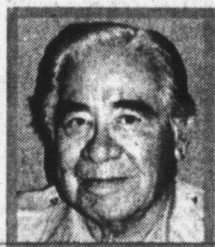
Isaiah offers comfort for the hurting

One of the greatest attributes of our Lord and Savior is the fact He can bring comfort even in the toughest experiences of life.

COMFORT (Isaiah 40:1-2) - The Southern Kingdom (Judah) had sinned against God and He had sent several prophets to warn them of His impending judgment on them. God calls Isaiah to comfort His people by telling them He had forgiven them and their suffering was over.

The Hebrews would eventually be released from captivity by Cyrus, King of Persia (v.44:28). They would experience God's pardon or forgiveness for their sins. God's call to the prophet sought to change. He wanted the people of Israel to know that God was alive and in charge.

The Bible often mentions God's role as comforter of His suffering people. He is described as the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort (II Corinthians 1:3-4). Paul writes of His comfort,



Minister's Musings

JIMMY FLYNN, PH.D.
IGLESIA BAUTISTA EMANUEL

and Jesus told His disciples in the upper room that God would send the Holy Spirit to be the comforter after He offered comfort and help to those who felt weary and burdened by life's demands (Matthew 11:28-30).

REVELATION (Isaiah 43:3-5) - God had a construction project underway - a highway of hope. The gospel writers understood this text as a prediction of the role of John the Baptist's announcing the arrival of Jesus the Messiah (Matthew 3:3). The description of the preparation of the highway (v.40:4) reflects the ancient custom of road building for a king.

The purpose of God's arrival would reveal His glory

(v. 40:5). God's command for His people to prepare the way reminds us to be open to His coming to us. Our sin acts as road barriers between us and God. We need to confess our sin to make smooth His way to us.

PROBLEM (Isaiah 40:6-8) - His message was about human limitation. Like the grass, humans are temporary; like the flowers, humans flourish for a while but pass away (v.40:7). In sharp contrast to the temporary nature of humanity is the enduring word of God that never passes away. The word of God is not obso-

lete; it is eternally powerful and relevant.

CONTENT (Isaiah 40:9-11) - God's power is like a military victor. God is strong enough to liberate His people from their captivity. Isaiah describes God as a shepherd gathering His flock. He is like a gentle giant; He is all powerful. Isaiah's description of God's strengths and tenderness reminds us that He is always available to help us in life's difficult times. He is the almighty Lord of the universe but also tender and compassionate.

TRUTHS TO LIVE BY
You and I need comfort. Life is so fragile, but god can bring comfort.

Comfort comes in God's time.

Comfort comes in the personal presence of God.

Jesus says, "I am with you always, even until the end of the world."

THE Pampa NEWS

403 W. ATCHISON • PAMPA, TEXAS
TELEPHONES: (806) 669-2525
1-800-687-3348 • FAX: 669-2520

EMAIL: deede@pan-tex.net • pamnews1@pan-tex.net
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Composition Supervisor: Brenda Cook
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German Feast helps Corn Bible Academy

CORN, Okla. - Corn Bible Academy expects more than 1,300 people to attend its 39th annual German Feast and Auction, on Saturday, Feb. 1.

The annual German Feast will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The German-Mennonite meal features vernika (cottage cheese dumplings) smothered in a ham onion gravy, zwieback, rolls, smoked sausage, grilled sausage, cherry mousse, and new Year's cookies (fried raisin fritters). For smaller appetites, a smoked sausage sandwich meal will be available.

An action to benefit Corn Bible Academy begins at 1:15 p.m. and features such donated items as handmade quilts, wooden toys, afghans, wall hangings, furniture.

Corn, Okla., is located 13 miles south of Weatherford on State Highway 54. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children ages 4-11. The sausage sandwich meal is \$5. Tickets are available by calling (580) 343-2262, by sending a check with a self-addressed stamped envelope to German Feast, Corn Bible Academy, P.O. Box 38, Corn, Okla., 73024, or purchased at the door on Feb. 1.

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Graham to undergo surgery, bid for presidency must wait

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Bob Graham of Florida said Thursday he will undergo heart surgery in early February, postponing announcement of a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Graham told reporters in his office that he had made up his mind to run and was planning to announce his candidacy in Tallahassee, Fla., on Feb. 3. Now, Graham said, he will have surgery to replace a faulty aortic valve that same week.

"While I am a fire horse ready to get in harness out with the people of the early states, I recognize I am going to have to stay in the barn longer than I anticipated," he said. Graham said he had been eager to enter the race because of his concerns over the Bush administration's handling of the war on terrorism and the economy.

"The war on terrorism is imminently winnable," Graham said, "but we are about to lose that war because we have allowed ourselves to be diverted to not meaningful activities, but activities that are of a lower priority."

The 66-year-old senator said he will wait a month to six weeks after the surgery to reassess whether he should run. One of his doctors, Warren Laskey, said the procedure should return him fairly quickly to good health.

"The week of Feb. 3, I'd rather be on an airplane on the way to Des Moines, Iowa," Graham said. But he added: "I consider myself fortunate" to have doctors warn him that the medical step was necessary.

Florida's senior senator was told of the need for surgery after a catheterization that was part of medical tests he had conducted to find out if he should proceed with a presidential run.

His wife, Adele, was at the meeting with reporters in his office Thursday and said the senator's health is the primary concern of his family, but they are supportive of a presidential bid if his health allows.

Graham said he has experienced shortness of breath in recent weeks but has been exercising by taking walks in his Miami Lakes neighborhood and using an exercise bicycle regularly. He said he has been aware that the

During the surgery, doctors will replace the aortic valve, which enables blood to flow from the heart's left ventricle into the aorta, the main artery carrying oxygen-rich blood throughout the body.

valve had problems for several years but didn't know until recently that surgery was recommended.

During the surgery, doctors will replace the aortic valve, which enables blood to flow from the heart's left ventricle into the aorta, the main artery carrying oxygen-rich blood throughout the body. A note from the physician recommending the surgery, John Eisold, told Graham his "heart remains very healthy" but he said prompt action to replace that valve would ensure that this continues.

Graham has been a leading Democratic voice in the war on terror and is the one member of Congress considering a run for the White House who voted against the resolution giving President Bush the authority to use force against Iraq.

He was governor of Florida from 1978-1986 and has served in the Senate since then. While Graham has broader experience than most currently considering a run, he would be getting a late start in fund raising and organizing in early states like Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

Graham's name has surfaced periodically as a possible candidate in past presidential elections, and he was considered as a vice presidential contender in 2000. Graham's popularity in his native state could be a valuable asset because Florida has 27 electoral votes presidential election.

On the Net:
Graham's office: <http://graham.senate.gov>

Jackpot winners not 'in the money' if owe on child support payments

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — So, you just hit a slot machine jackpot? Congratulations. Now, wait for your money while we check to see if you're on Uncle Sam's blacklist.

This could be the future of gambling.

The Bush administration wants to garnish the winnings — at casinos, racetracks and elsewhere — of gamblers who owe child support.

Child support collection advocates say they would welcome any tool to recover some of the estimated \$89 billion owed by deadbeat parents. But critics worry it would turn pari-mutuel clerks, card dealers and others into collection agents.

"Good intention, good cause, but it's implausible," said Chris Scherf, spokesman for the National Thoroughbred Associations, which represents 45 racetracks. "It's no more practical than saying you're going to do it in every bar, when someone orders a drink, taking the money and saying 'He's a deadbeat dad, and this money should be sent to Washington.'"

Under the plan, announced Jan. 13 by Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, President Bush's upcoming 2004 budget will include a proposal to aggressively pursue gambling winnings to raise \$700 million for families over five years.

Currently, the government can garnish lottery prizes, but not winnings by child support scofflaws at casinos, horse tracks, keno parlors, jai alai arenas and off-track betting parlors.

Indian-run casinos would be

exempt from the garnishing, unless they are owned by tribes with federally funded child support enforcement agencies, according to Horn. Eight tribes fit that distinction, he said.

It would cost about \$40 million to establish a secure Web-based system allowing gambling establishments to check government-provided lists of people who owe, Thompson said.

In the year 2000, Americans reported \$25 billion in gambling winnings on their income tax returns.

Under Bush's plan, which needs congressional approval, anyone who wins more than \$5,000 would have their name checked by the Federal Parent Locator Service before they could collect, according to Wade Horn, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families.

The FPLS is used by the IRS, state lotteries and other govern-

ment agencies to keep track of parents who owe.

If the person owed child support, the money would be deducted from the jackpot and given to the state child support collection agency for payment to the custodial parent.

"We're not saying people shouldn't be allowed to gamble," Horn said. "But there are people who owe child support and their kids need that. We hope this will discourage them from gambling it away, and instead direct it to the children."

"If they don't, it seems reasonable to us to then require that those winnings be applied against the outstanding child support debt," he said.

The system could also work by discouraging deadbeat parents from going to gamble in the first place, leaving them more liquid — and more likely to pay what they owe on their own, Horn said.

WT lecture series to focus on legal issues in education

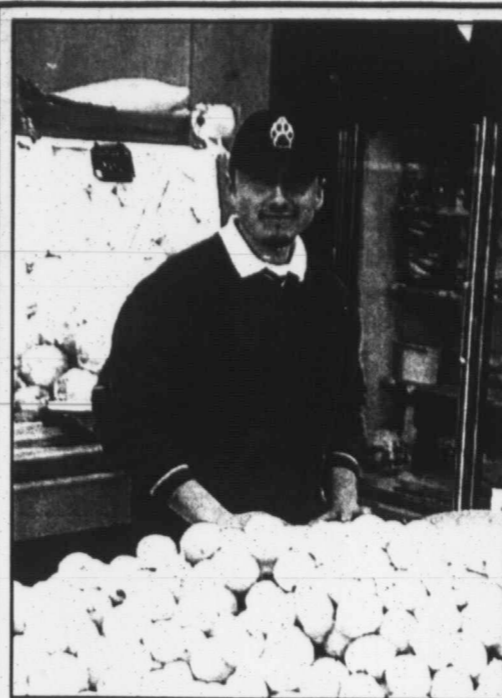
CANYON — The West Texas A&M University Future Educators Society and Kappa Delta Pi will present the first of a six-part lecture series, "Legal Issues in Education," beginning at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30 in Old Main, Room 220.

Dr. Eddie Henderson, associate professor and head of the Division of Education, will present each of the six, two-hour lectures on topics of interest to future educators. The remaining lectures are scheduled for Feb. 13, March 6, March 27, April 10 and April 24.

The lecture topics range from educational law and student rights to religion in schools and discipline. Henderson's first lecture is titled "Understanding Education Law: The School and the Legal Environment."

Henderson is a licensed attorney in the state of Texas and has experience representing public school districts. He teaches education law and legal issues in special education at WTAMU.

The lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, call 806-651-2602.



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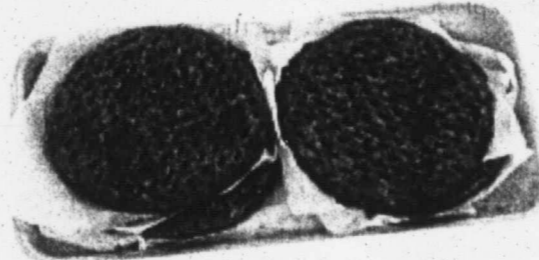
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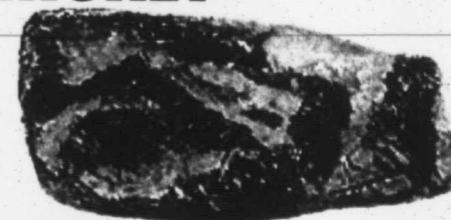
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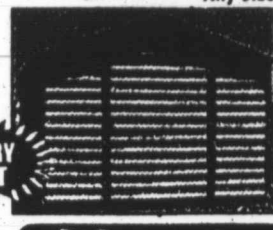
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Friday, January 24, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Friends and Family Flee When Husband Shares His Feelings

DEAR ABBY: I am writing this for those female readers who wish the men in their lives would share their feelings with them. What I have to say to them is this: *Count your blessings!*
My husband shares all his feelings and thoughts (mostly negative ones) with me all the time. Every night I am forced to sit for hours listening to him verbalize his thoughts and feelings. He has no time to do yard work or household repairs because he's either too busy thinking and feeling or verbalizing his endless criticisms.
He does hold down a steady (sedentary) job, and some of the ways he gets in touch with his feelings — through music and poetry — are positive. However, when I was in a car accident last year and should have been resting and recuperating, my husband "didn't have time" to help with housework because his piano had to be played and his novels had to be read.

When we were first married, we moved to a small rural town hundreds of miles away from our friends and families. It has been hard to make friends in this closed community. Once every few years a family member or friend is willing to come and visit us, but my husband almost always finds a way to alienate our visitors. He will start arguments, tell them what he didn't like about the Christmas presents they gave us, complain about how much money we spend on food while they're at our house, etc.

I'm afraid that soon I'm going to have no one left. I've talked to my husband about this several times, but he doesn't see it as a problem. Help!

TALKED TO DEATH
IN MINNESOTA

DEAR TALKED TO DEATH: I am all for sharing thoughts and feelings, but the person you have described is one who is self-obsessed, verbally abusive, and thinks no one's feelings are as important as his own.

By "sharing his thoughts and feelings," your husband is chipping away at your self-esteem and isolating you from friends and family. It's important that you give this some thought and not allow yourself to be his scapegoat. Also, I hope you have a job outside the home, because it may be your only way to have meaningful contact with others.

DEAR P.O.: No, I do not. You are entitled to your feelings. That said, there is still time for you to return to the shop where you purchased your bridal gown and discuss how to individualize your attire for the wedding. (Consider a different headpiece and veil, adding or deleting gloves or other accessories, adding or subtracting a train.)

And remember, although imitation may be irritating, it's also the sincerest form of flattery. Your sister-in-law is "family," so pleased don't let this cause a permanent rift. And in the future, don't show her any more pictures.

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.

DEAR ABBY: I bought my wedding dress two months ago. I showed a picture of it to my sister-in-law who is being married a few weeks before me. Yesterday she went out and purchased the exact same dress. Although she is having a small wedding, my fiancé and I are still very upset. She and her fiancé insist we are being selfish and inconsiderate of their feelings. Do you think we are wrong to be angry?

P.O. INN.J.

For Better or For Worse



Zits



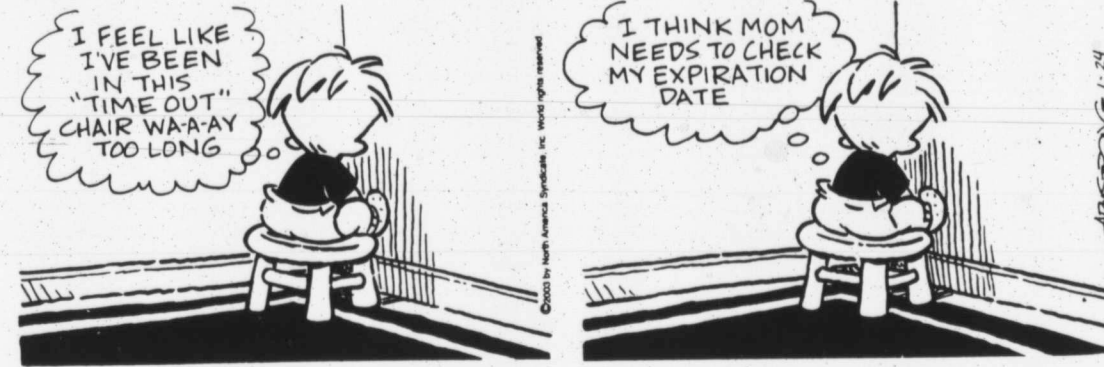
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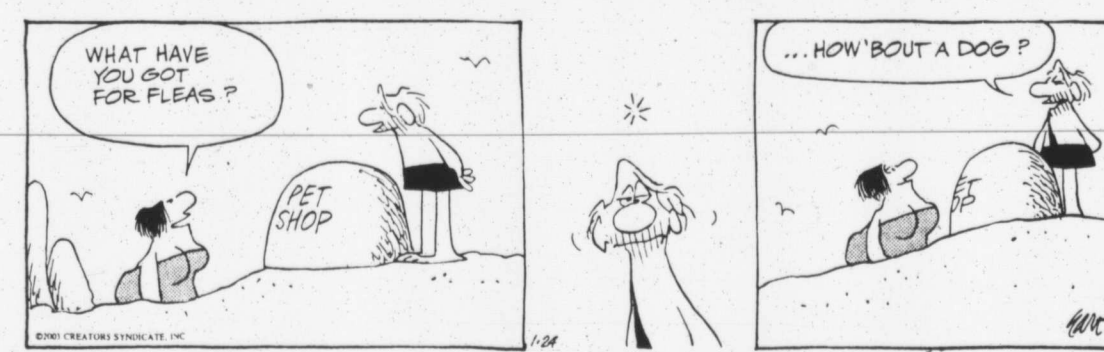
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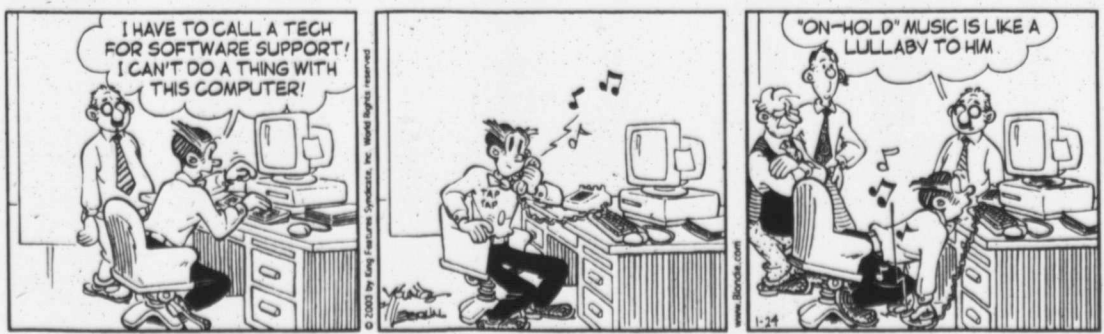
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Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Parts

1 They of wine-glasses may be checked

6 Top celebs

11 Lead-in

12 May, for one

13 Funny fellow

14 Elroy's dog

15 Fire proof?

16 Owns

18 That guy

19 Singer Kiki

20 Tax org.

21 Zsa Zsa's sister

22 Lend a hand

24 Iowa city

25 Paper feature

27 Pinnacle

29 Comfort

32 "The Raven" man

33 Joke

34 "Platoon" setting

35 Cauldron

36 Hostel

37 Soaking spot

38 Assumed name

40 Come up

42 Confine

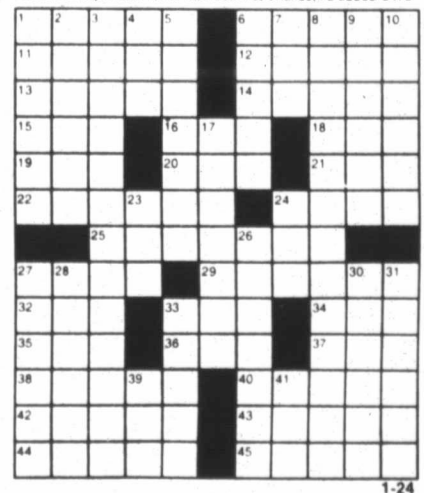
43 Person with promise

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SMARTY PANTS
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AND ZEN SPY
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OPART ALIEN
PESKY SATED

Yesterday's answer

9 Try hard
10 Poet
11 Greek thinker
12 Craftsmen
13 Wrath
14 Greedy desire
15 Some brandies
16 Shocks
17 "Calm down!"
18 Led to
19 Fire features
20 Main ideas
21 Target
22 Caviar

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Marmaduke



"There will be no naps taken on the dining room table."

The Family Circus

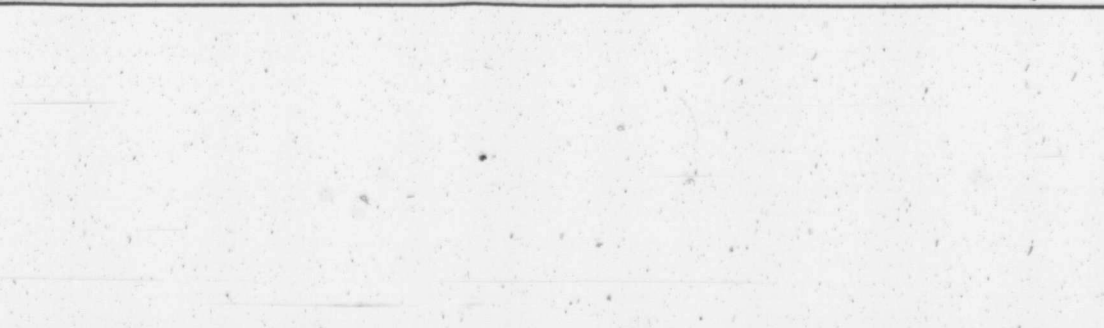


"When Mommy and Daddy were in college he gave her this maternity pin."

Flo & Friends



Blondie



NOTE

COLLEGE BAS

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FOOTBALL

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SPORTS

PHS swimmers win fourth district meet in a row

LUBBOCK — The Pampa High swim team has won the District 4A championship for the fourth year in a row. Both the Pampa boys and girls teams defeated Semingle, Caprock and Lubbock Estacado to sweep the district meet. Numerous records were broken by the Pampa swimmers.

The first record to be broken was by Michael Eskridge in the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:16.33 in the prelims. That time broke the old district record by four seconds. Eskridge also broke another record in the prelims with a 1:00.39 in the 100 butterfly. It broke the old record by two seconds.

In the finals, there were three more record-breaking events. Joe Johnson broke the old 200 freestyle record by two seconds with an outstanding time of 1:58.80. He also established a new record in the 500 freestyle by eight seconds, with a 5:15.02 time.

Penrod broke both the district and her own school record with a score of 228.45.

Other first-place finishes were by the girls medley relay team of Kandice Maddox, Jessica Hall, Emily Johnson and Whitney Penrod; the boys medley relay team of Russell Anglin, Alan Arzola, Michael Martinez and Breck Penrod; Jessica White in the 200 freestyle; Angela Henthorn in the 200 IM; Tyler Wishon in the 50 and 100 freestyle; Russell Anglin in diving; Emily Johnson 100 butterfly; Kandice Maddox 100 freestyle; the boys 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams of D.J. Elliott, Tyler Wishon, Michael Eskridge and Joe Johnson; Jessica Hall in the 100 breaststroke; Alan Arzola in the 100 breaststroke; the 400 freestyle relay team of Jessica Hall, Wendy Stephens, Angela Henthorn and Jessica White.

Pampa placed first in 20 of the 24 events. Both Pampa teams finished with 125 total points. In the boys division, Seminole was a distant second with 59 points. Seminole was second (86), Caprock was third (6) and Estacado fourth (5) in the girls division.

The Harvesters are entered in regional competition this weekend in Lubbock.

Pampa captured all the top individual honors after winning the District 4-A swim meet at Lubbock.

Joe Johnson was voted 4A Male District swimmer of the year, Whitney Penrod, 4A Female diver of the year, and Russell Anglin, 4A Male diver of the year.

Pampa coach Amy Howard was named 4A swim coach of the year and 4A Diving coach of the year.

NOTEBOOK

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

FORT WORTH (AP) — Corey Santee had 25 points and six assists, leading TCU past Tulane 93-84 Wednesday night.

Jamal Brown added 16 rebounds for TCU (7-9, 1-4 Conference USA).

Tulane (7-10, 0-4) was led by Waitari Marsh, who had 20 points on 7-of-9 from the field and 5-of-6 from the free throw line.

Tulane made 34-of-61 field goals to 30-of-65 for TCU, but the Horned Frogs had a huge edge at the free throw line, making 28-of-35 to 12-of-20 for Tulane.

Santee hit 9-of-16 field goals, including 3-of-4 from 3-point range, and hit all four of his free throws. Junior Blount backed Santee with 15 points on 4-of-8 free throws and 6-of-6 free throws, and Nucleus Smith added 11 points on 3-of-7 from the field and 5-of-6 from the line. Tulane led at the half 41-39.

FOOTBALL

HOUSTON (AP) — Hart Lee Dykes, a former Texas high school stand-out and two-time All-American wide receiver at Oklahoma State in the 1980s, says he feels his college alma mater has never honored him for all his accomplishments.

But Dykes, who is still Oklahoma State's career record holder in receiving yards, told Houston television station KRIV he attributes the snub to his acceptance of money from recruiters, which helped prompt the NCAA to put the university on probation.

Dykes, who was one of the country's most recruited high school football players when he played at Bay City, played for Oklahoma State from 1985 to 1989.

While he said he decided to play for the Cowboys because he had family in the state, friends at the school and liked the offense, Dykes also told KRIV Thursday he accepted money and cars to go to Oklahoma State.

Dykes, who now lives in the Houston suburb of Sugar Land, said he was 18 years old when he accepted the payoffs.

"The right thing would have been to say, 'Hold on guys, I'm not interested.' But you take a kid from a small town that has never experienced that type of money or the lifestyle these guys are promising, then yeah I'm going to take it," he said.

PRO BASKETBALL

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Antawn Jamison scored 30 points and Earl Boykins had five of his 16 points in the final 38 seconds as the Golden State Warriors held on for a 114-110 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night. After getting charged with a turnover, missing a shot and then committing a three-shot foul against Derek Fisher, Boykins hit an 8-foot turnaround jumper for a 109-105 lead with 38 seconds remaining.

Devean George scored for the Lakers, but the 5-foot-5 Boykins drove the lane, looped in a shot, was fouled and made the free throw for a 112-107 edge with 9.7 seconds left.

Shot clock is under review

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Big 12 officials are reviewing video of Texas Tech's 69-64 overtime loss at No. 7 Oklahoma to try to determine whether there was a glitch in the game clock during the final seconds of regulation.

Television replays of the Monday night game, which was broadcast by ESPN, show that two pauses on the clock may have affected the final seven seconds of the second half and given Oklahoma extra time before a game-tying shot that forced overtime.

The outcome of the game cannot be reversed.

"We're aware of an apparent clock problem," Big 12 spokesman Bo Carter said Wednesday. "We're just going to evaluate things. We're working to correct any clock problems and doing a review with all the schools."

The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reported on its online edition Wednesday that TV replays showed the Sooners may have gotten an extra 1.7 seconds before Hollis Price hit an off-balance jumper to tie the game at 60-60 and force overtime.

The first clock pause appeared to have happened with 6.7 seconds remaining when the game was tied at 58-58.

Tech then went ahead 60-58 after Will Chavis made two free throws with 4.5 seconds left. On the ensuing inbound pass, Price appeared to dribble the ball twice before the clock started, and went the length of the court for his game-tying shot, which was in the air as the buzzer sounded.

ESPN broke down the apparent clock problem during a segment Tuesday night.

Dale Kelley, supervisor of officials for the Big 12, said that if any clock problems had been noticed before the teams left the floor, officials could have reviewed it and might have adjusted the clock if they found it necessary.

Big 12 commissioner Kevin Weiberg contacted Tech coach Bob Knight and Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castiglione about the review, league spokesman Chris Theisen said.

Given repeated opportunities Wednesday to comment by The Associated Press, Tech basketball spokesman Randy Farley referred all inquiries to Big 12 officials.

Donkey ball



(Photo by Tess Kingcade)

Jackie Curtis (standing) of Curtis Well Service and high school band director Bruce Collins are maybe wondering what they're going to do next during Wednesday night's Donkey Basketball Game. The event, sponsored by the Pampa Lions Club, drew 1,100 fans to McNeely Fieldhouse.

Just pay, baby: NFL slaps Raiders with fine

SAN DIEGO (AP) — This time, petulance came at a price for the Oakland Raiders.

The NFL fined the Raiders \$50,000 on Thursday for violating the NFL's Super Bowl media policy the previous day by skipping the mandatory morning interview session.

"The failure to make all players and coaches available for the required media session Wednesday was the result of a communications breakdown on the part of the club," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Communications breakdowns involving the Raiders have been common over the decades, and the leadup to the Super Bowl against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers hasn't been any different.

On Tuesday, Oakland's media day interview session started 50 minutes late. At the time, Steve Alic of the NFL told an Associated Press reporter it was because of a "miscommunication" between the team and the league. The Raiders blamed it on an ABC-TV interview that ran long.

On Wednesday, the Raiders

and Buccaneers persuaded the NFL to close part of practice to pool reporters, a practice not done for at least the last 19 years — the last time the Raiders were in the Super Bowl.

In announcing the fine, Aiello said the Raiders had "fully participated in all other required media sessions this week," even though a number of them missed the Thursday media session, as well.

If the scheduling problems bothered coach Bill Callahan, he sure didn't show it.

"We're right on schedule," Callahan said. "We've really acclimated well in our time down here. Our goal was not to leave the state of California during the playoffs, so that's really worked out well for us."

Earlier, the NFL Players Association announced that it was in favor of a change in overtime, the first major group to support altering the sudden-death system that has been in place since 1974.

"If you look at the games this year, you see how much closer they're getting," NFLPA executive director Gene Upshaw said.

"It only stands to reason that if you get into overtime, you should have a fair chance to win."

Upshaw said players favor a system in which both teams would get a chance with the ball.

There were a record 25 overtimes in the 2002 regular season, four more than the previous high set in 1991. Nine of those games were won by the team that got the ball first and scored without the other team getting possession. The same thing happened in the playoffs, when Tennessee beat Pittsburgh 34-31.

Upshaw said the union is not in favor of the college rule, which gives each team the ball at the opponent's 25-yard line at least once.

"We'll let the football people decide" the system, Upshaw said. "But we do need a change."

The NFLPA also released its biennial report on turf conditions and, to nobody's surprise, Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia was rated the worst field in the league.

The Vet hosted its last football game ever last week — Tampa Bay's 27-10 win over the Eagles

in the NFC title game. It will be replaced next season by a new stadium nearby in South Philly.

"Everybody's glad," Upshaw said. "It's a horrible field. Just awful."

Second worst was the grass field at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., followed by another natural surface in Cincinnati.

In fact, five of the 10 worst fields in the rankings were grass, a result that flies in the face of conventional wisdom that dictates artificial turf is always worst.

"It just shows that a bad field is a bad field, no matter what the surface is," Upshaw said.

The grass field at Qualcomm Stadium, where the Super Bowl will be played, ranked 10th worst.

Upshaw also said the union's diversity committee is working with the league to get more minorities into front offices. He said internship programs have been established so players who are interested in futures in the front office can start learning while they're still in the league.

Rose holds another meeting with top baseball official

NEW YORK (AP) — The baseball commissioner's top deputy met with Pete Rose and his business agent in Florida last month, part of negotiations that could lead to the reinstatement of the sport's career hits leader.

Bob DuPuy, baseball's president and chief operating officer, traveled to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to speak with Rose and his business agent, Warren Greene, on Dec. 16.

Commissioner Bud Selig

had met secretly with Rose in Milwaukee on Nov. 25.

DuPuy declined to comment on the status of negotiations, which became public Dec. 9.

"We've got a pending application. We're continuing to review that petition," DuPuy said Wednesday. "The commissioner has discussed it with Pete. Other than that, I don't have anything to say."

Newsday reported Wednesday that a friend of

Rose, who was not identified, said the former player was prepared to admit he bet on baseball.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported Friday that two of Rose's acquaintances, whom it did not identify, said he is willing to publicly admit that he bet on baseball, as long as he gets full reinstatement in return. Another unidentified acquaintance said Rose had admitted privately that he bet on games.

Baseball officials have said that for there to be an agreement, Rose must admit he bet on baseball, an accusation he has repeatedly denied.

"When there's a time and place for Pete to make a comment, he will. Pete's always been very cooperative, and will continue to be. For now, we still have no comment," Greene said.

Baseball officials say the next step is to schedule Selig's meeting with Hall of Famers.

Rose is ineligible for the Hall of Fame as long as he is on the permanently banned list.

Selig originally planned to talk with them on Jan. 17 in Los Angeles, then called it off. He said last week he still intends to talk with them but has not set a date for a meeting, possibly before the start of spring training in mid-February.

Rose agreed to a lifetime ban from baseball in August 1989 following an investigation of his gambling.

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