

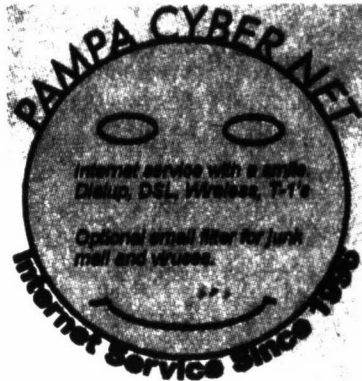
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THE Pampa NEWS

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2003

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WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH **Low**
65 **38**

LOCAL
Shrine Club plans stew dinner Feb. 2
 Pampa Shrine Club members are hosting an all-you-can eat stew and cornbread dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 2, at the Top O' Texas Sportsman Club on South Barnes Street. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit Khiva Temple Pampa Shrine Club activities. Tickets are \$5.50. Children under 5 eat for free.

LOTTERY
 AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
 Winning numbers drawn: 4-12-22-33-37-52.
 Estimated jackpot: \$5 million.
 Number matching six of six: 1.
 Winning ticket sold in: San Antonio.
 Matching five of six: 46. Prize: \$2,419.
 Matching four of six: 2,568. Prize: \$107.
 Matching three of six: 53,379. Prize: \$5.
 Next Lotto Texas game: Saturday night.
 Estimated jackpot: \$4 million.

DEATHS
Amber Taylor, 20, home-maker.

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WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE
 It's Planting Season ...
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Bush weighs Iraq deadline

By JENNIFER LOVEN
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, moving toward a decision on war with Iraq, said Thursday he will give diplomacy "weeks not months" and said the United States would welcome Saddam Hussein going into exile.
 "For the sake of peace, this issue has to be resolved," the president said amid intensified administration efforts to increase pressure on reluctant U.S. allies to disarm Saddam.

Bush spoke after meeting with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, a firm supporter of the United States' hardline position toward Iraq.
 Another ally, Canada, objected to any unilateral action by the United States against Iraq.
 "If one state acts by itself it risks consequences," said Bill Graham, the foreign minister of Canada. Graham met with Secretary of State Colin Powell and said afterward that the United Nations had a responsibility to force Iraq to disarm.
 The British and Italians are among

Bush's staunchest supporters while a number of other U.S. allies, including France and Germany, want to give U.N. weapons inspectors more time in Iraq.
 The administration said that Bush's eleventh-hour round of diplomacy will last "weeks, not months." Senior administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that while the timeline could change in the fluid Iraq standoff, Bush intends to continue the consultation period until Feb. 14, when U.N. weapons inspectors give the Security Council an update on the

situation in Iraq.
 Former South African President Nelson Mandela, who Bush has praised as a hero of human rights, joined the chorus of critics by calling Bush arrogant and implying the president was racist for threatening to bypass the United Nations and attack Iraq.
 "Is it because the secretary-general of the United Nations is now a black man? They never did that when secretary-generals were white," Mandela said.

(See IRAQ, Page 5)



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

2002 United Way Campaign Chairman Lisa Ryan relinquished the leadership reins to Duane Harp as he assumed the position recently for the 2003 UW Campaign. The UW Campaign will have an earlier start this year as it commences in August.

United Way wraps up 2002 fund campaign

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

Pampa's 2002 United Way campaign raised almost \$300,000, according to the outgoing United Way President John Curry.
 Curry lauded Lisa Ryan of Celanese for her efforts in leading the organization during the year in which several local companies experienced economic declines.
 During a recent luncheon which ended the annual drive, Curry said the UW which provides funding to numerous organizations in Pampa had a goal of \$375,000.
 "Not many people would take on this job in the economic climate we had," said Curry, "but Lisa did and she did an extraordinary job."
 He related that some businesses who had always matched their employees pledges were not able to do so this past year, and that other businesses who had been strong supporters to the United Way in past years have ceased doing business or have moved from the area.
 President of the 2003 United Way Campaign will be Porter Briggs while Duane Harp will

succeed Ryan as campaign chairman.
 Curry also announced that the 2003 UW campaign will begin earlier this year. He said the 2003 campaign will be in August and September.
 Distribution of the 2002 campaign dollars for 19 agencies was modified as the amount reached was \$292,867 instead of the \$375,000.
 The projected distribution was as follows:
 American Red Cross, \$33,151; The Bridge, \$4,385; CASA of the High Plains, \$7,016; Community Day Care Center, \$26,310; Genesis House, \$7,893; Golden Spread Boy Scouts, \$19,294; Gray County Child Protective Services, \$8,770; Gray County Latch Key, \$10,524; High Plains Epilepsy, \$3,508; Pampa Community Youth Center Day Care, \$17,540; Pampa Meals on Wheels, \$13,155; Pampa Optimist Youth Club, \$21,925; Pampa Sheltered Workshop, \$26,749; Samaritan Pastoral Counseling Center, \$4,385; The Salvation Army, \$32,274; Southside Senior Citizens, \$17,540; and Tralee Crisis

(See UW, Page 5)

Lawmakers to take up insurance reform

By NATALIE GOTT
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AUSTIN (AP) — A key state lawmaker has taken what he says will be the first step in reforming the Texas homeowners insurance market, which has seen large rate increases and companies stop writing new policies since lawmakers met last in 2001.
 State Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, said the Senate Business and Commerce Committee

that he chairs will take up a bill Thursday that will require insurance companies to immediately file with the state regulators their current rates and their projected rates for the next six months.
 The bill also allows the department to seek all data the companies use to determine premiums.
 Fraser filed the legislation Wednesday. He said all nine members of the committee have signed onto it, all but assuring the bill's passage to the

full Senate.
 "This is a necessary first step to lay the groundwork and to establish a baseline of information as we address the whole homeowners insurance problem," Fraser said.
 Politicians campaigned on promises to fix a market where some consumers have seen premiums rise as much as 200 percent even as some companies reduced coverage or stopped writing new policies.
 Insurance companies blame the

increased cost on water and mold claims and other factors. Between the first quarter of 2000 and August 2002, insurance companies paid \$3 billion for mold-related claims, said Mark Hanna, spokesman of the Insurance Council of Texas.
 The state currently can do little to control homeowners insurance premium costs because about 95 percent of policies in Texas are written by sub-

(See REFORM, Page 5)

City ponders water rights on PEDC land

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

Pampa City Commission's work session Tuesday evening was lengthy as the commission received information on several upcoming issues in the future.
 Pampa Economic Development Corporation Board President Doug Locke addressed the board regarding the Section 53 land currently owned by the dissolving PEDC.

to come up with a solution to the problem which would be beneficial to both entities.
 In a recent meeting, he said the PEDC discussed the possibility of selling an option to the City of Pampa for water rights on the Section 53 land and then selling that land subject to that option.
 He said the discussed option would allow the City of Pampa to purchase water rights on the land for \$50,000 up until the year 2010 at which time the option would expire. Proposed is that the PEDC would sell the option to the City of Pampa for a fair value of \$1,000.

The land, located near the prison units, was donated several years ago to PEDC by Celanese to assist with future economic development. When Celanese asked that the property be excluded from the liquidation procedure of the PEDC, Pampa city officials sought an Attorney General's Opinion.
 When the opinion was received, city officials and PEDC attorneys differed on the interpretation of the opinion.
 Locke said that he has tried

the statutory requirements regarding the sale of PEDC assets would be met and the city would be provided the means to satisfy possible future water needs.
 Commissioner Faustina Curry said she thinks that to charge the city for the water

(See CITY, Page 5)

Courthouse issues top commissioners' agenda

Gray County Courthouse issues will headline the County Commission meeting at 9 a.m., Friday, in the temporary county courtroom, 315 N. Ballard.

Transferring courthouse security money relating to courthouse restoration will be considered during the meeting. Commissioners will consider where the Juvenile Probation Office will be located when the courthouse is reopened this spring.

Also listed on the agenda are a bid on tax property, a road crossing request at Texas Farm to Market 2391 and U.S. Highway 60, an intrabudget transfer request and budget amendments.

Bids on sheriff's cars will be opened at 10 a.m. County and district clerks will be recognized for completion of their 2002 continuing education requirements.

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OBITUARIES

AMBER TAYLOR 1982-2003

AMARILLO — Amber Taylor, age 20 (1982), died Jan. 28, 2003, in Amarillo. Funeral services will be Friday, Jan. 31, 2003, at 10 a.m., at Paramount Terrace Christian Church. Burial will be in Llano Cemetery under the direction of Schooler Funeral Home of Amarillo.

Mrs. Taylor was born and raised in Amarillo. She attended Tascosa High School. She was a good, caring, loving mommy and devoted wife.

She attended San Jacinto Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Wayne Gunnels.

Survivors include her husband, James Derek Taylor of Amarillo, Texas; two daughters, Charlotte Brianna "Carly" Taylor and

Bailey Paige Taylor, both of the home; a son, James Derek Taylor II, of the home; a sister, Kencie Kimball of Houston; a brother, David Kimball of Amarillo; her mother, Susan Bellar of Pflugerville; her father, Bill Kimball of Pampa; her mother-in-law, Melinda Taylor of Amarillo; her grandparents, Sue Gunnels and Mike and Jane Collins, all of Amarillo; a brother-in-law, Zach Molden of Amarillo; and a sister-in-law, Haley Taylor of Amarillo.

The family will receive visitors at 1100 Buena Vista and 4206 King Avenue, both in Amarillo, and requests memorials be to "The Taylor Children's Fund," a trust fund at Amarillo National Bank, in care of the Trust Department at Amarillo National, P.O. Box 1, Amarillo, TX 79105.

SERVICES TOMORROW

TAYLOR, Amber — 10 a.m., Paramount Terrace Christian Church, Amarillo.

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Tuesday, Jan. 28

A convenience store in the 1000 block of Wilks reported a theft of a 30-pack of beer. Estimated value was \$20.99.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Richard Jones Velasquez, 23, 522 Russell, was arrested for criminal trespass.

Eddie Wayne Lawndale, 24, 620 Doucette, was arrested on municipal warrants for running a stop sign, no insurance and failure to appear.

Forgery was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 600 block of Lowry. No injuries or damage was reported.

During a traffic stop by a Pampa PD unit, one person was found to be in possession of a prescription medication belonging to someone else.

Thursday, Jan. 30

A sexual assault was reported to the police department. The incident allegedly occurred on Jan. 18 or 19.

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

Sunday, Jan. 26

9:33 p.m. — Steven Lynza Goldsmith, 33, 964 Terry Rd., was driving a 1994 Ford F-150 pickup north in the 600 block of North Hobart when an unidentified vehicle jumped the curb on the right side of the roadway striking the pickup in the right tail light. The

driver of the vehicle then drove away without stopping, according to the police report.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

3:51 p.m. — A 1998 Chevy C-1500 pickup was legally parked in the 400 block of North Roberta when an unidentified vehicle struck it. The vehicle then left the scene without stopping, according to the police report.

SHERIFF

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

An investigation is underway regarding theft of cable service in Lefors.

Improper transportation of illegal aliens is being investigated by the sheriff's department.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Ashmad Session, 22, 932 Love, was charged with possession of marijuana.

Bobby D. Preston, 23, 2116 N. Dwight, was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers for damaging a fixture to a highway, under \$200 damage.

Toby Francisco Hernandez, 37, 1829 N. Dwight, was arrested for driving while intoxicated, third offense.

Mary Ann Owens, 35, 1919 N. Nelson, was arrested by DPS troopers for driving with license suspended.

Jerry Lee Hicks, 37, was arrested for public intoxication.

Thursday, Jan. 30

Sean Lewis Moore, 24, 129 N. Doyle, was arrested on a bond surrender. The original charge was transporting chemicals to manufacture.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending 9:14 a.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 500 block of East Browning. None was found.

10:11 a.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 1600 block of North Dwight. None was found.

1:10 p.m. - Three units and eight firefighters responded to a report of smoke in the power cut off until a maintenance worker could repair the problem.

Thursday, Jan. 30

3:25 a.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a lifting assist in the 1200 block of East Francis.

AMBULANCE

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

Wednesday, Jan. 29

7:03 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of South Christy; one patient was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

10:24 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC; one patient was transported to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

12:17 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Oklahoma; one patient was transported to PRMC.

1:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC; one patient was transported to the 1900 block of North Sumner.

4:06 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of South Powell; one patient was transported to PRMC.

Thursday, Jan. 30

12:06 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Jupiter; one patient was transported to PRMC.

STOCKS

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

Wheat	3.28
Milo	3.85
Corn	4.38
Soybeans	4.91

The following show prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:

Occidental	29.05 +0.36
Fidelity Magell	NA
Pantlan	NA

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

BP	37.95 -0.35
Celanese	19.29 -0.29
Cabot Corp.	24.88 +0.43
Cabot Oil Gas	23.65 +0.20
Coca Cola	40.19 -0.37
VLO	35.13 +0.23
Halliburton	18.96 +0.36
Trad Hospitals	27.00 NC
NOI	20.53 +0.51
KMI	45.90 +0.01
XCEL	11.30 NC
Kerr-McGee	43.17 +0.60
Limited	12.60 +0.08
Williams	3.43 +0.02
McDonalds	14.35 -0.03
Exxon Mobil	34.14 +0.29
Atmos	22.20 +0.33
Pioneer Nat	20.17 +0.39
Penny's	20.17 +0.39
COP	47.98 -0.03
Schlumberger	38.42 +0.76
Tenneco	3.75 -0.03
CVX	65.02 -0.28
Wal-Mart	48.92 +0.82
OKE	17.26 +0.15
NS Group	6.90 +0.03

New York Gold	366.15
Silver	4.81
West Texas Crude	33.63

Explosion, fire devastate plastic plant; three dead, at least 10 critically injured

BY ESTES THOMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KINSTON, N.C. (AP) — Investigators sought the help of eyewitnesses Thursday for clues to the cause of an explosion and raging fire at a plastics factory that killed three people and injured 37 others. Ten people remained in critical condition.

The explosion in a four-story chemical mixing area of the West Pharmaceutical Services plant Wednesday sent flames and debris shooting into the air, touching off fires in the surrounding woods and shaking homes for miles. About 130 people were in the plant at the time, and by early Thursday, the company had accounted for dozens who were thought missing.

Some of the injured were still in grave danger, with severe burns over up to 70 percent of their bodies, doctors said Thursday. Some had severely fractured bones, and one person's arm was blown off.

"It was like a scene you never want to see in your life," said Lenoir Memorial Hospital emergency room physician Vicky Lanier. "It's amazing that more of those people weren't killed. Somebody somewhere was looking out for them."

"It was a tremendous blast," added Jeffrey Kiefer, director of the hospital's emergency room. "There was a large thermal burn population. There was blunt trauma. There were a tremendous number of people trying to get out and breathing superheated air."

Some of the 10 critically injured people at the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center in Chapel Hill were at risk of dying because of their severe burns, spokesman Dr. Anthony Meyer said.

The cause of the explosion is a mystery because the plant, which makes syringe plungers and IV fittings, keeps relatively little volatile material on site, West chief executive officer Don Morel said Thursday.

"They're present in very, very small quantities here," Morel told reporters in front of the still-smoldering plant. He said there was no indication a criminal act was involved.

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board asked plant workers to return to the scene Thursday to talk to investigators. The agency's review could take

from six months to a year.

The FBI, State Bureau of Investigation, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other agencies also sent investigators.

Morel also said there's no indication that recent federal safety violations found at the plant played any role in the explosion.

Plant maintenance worker Kevin Morgan said he was about 50 yards away from where the blast happened. He says he heard a single explosion, as loud as a jet engine.

Morgan said the ceiling started caving in, the power went out and everything was dark. Luckily, someone nearby had a flashlight and everyone who was in there started evacuating.

"You see people hollering, screaming," he said. "It just seemed unreal to me."

Joseph Moore, an 18-year veteran molder, was working near the rear door when the explosion happened. He was struck on the head by ceiling tiles and other debris, but wasn't injured.

"I just shook that off, and grabbed somebody and got out as fast as I could," he said at Immanuel Baptist Church, where workers went to meet their families.

Eleven of the people injured were treated and released, according to hospital records compiled by the Red Cross. Other victims were scattered among area hospitals.

Company officials identified two of the dead as William Gray and Faye Wilkins, no ages or hometowns given. The third person was a contract worker whose name was not immediately confirmed.

West Pharmaceutical Services Inc., based in Lionville, Pa., near Philadelphia, makes pharmaceutical delivery and medical devices.

The factory employs about 255 people in this city of 25,000 about 70 miles southeast of Raleigh. Its destruction was yet another blow to a city still recovering from floodwaters that swamped it after Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and recent manufacturing losses.

"We've been in this community 28 years. We've got a skilled employee work base," Morel said. "If there's any way to get up and running quickly, we're going to try to do it."

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration said the plant was inspected in October, cited for numerous safety violations and fined about \$10,000, which was reduced to about \$9,000 early this month.

Alzheimer's wing to be expanded at West Texas veterans home

BIG SPRING (AP) — A West Texas veterans home will expand its Alzheimer's Disease wing by May to care for an additional 60 patients.

Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson announced the expansion of the wing at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home during a visit on Wednesday to the \$11.8 million facility.

The 160-bed home currently has 32 beds in its Alzheimer's wing.

The extra space is sorely needed to meet the demand for such specialized care, Patterson told the Odessa American in Thursday's edition. He cited a study by the Midland Alzheimer's Association, which says 17,000 West Texans suffer

from the cognitively degenerative ailment.

He said there are less than 500 beds in the region certified to provide Alzheimer's care and more than 5,600 people who need care.

Temple, Bonham and Floresville each have similar veterans homes. Two more facilities are planned in El Paso and McAllen.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for mostly sunny skies with highs in the mid 60s and south winds 5 to 15 mph shifting to the west. Friday should be mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. North winds 5 to 15 mph becoming light. Friday night, mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph. Saturday, mostly sunny. Breezy. Highs in the upper 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph increasing to

15 to 25 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Tuesday, mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Tuesday night, mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow. Lows in the upper 20s. Chance of snow 20 percent. Wednesday, mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s.

STATEWIDE

Clearing skies from a high-pressure ridge extending into West Texas brought warmer temperatures on Thursday, but some light fog lingered in northern parts of the state.

Skies were clear to partly cloudy over the western third of North Texas, with some areas of light fog. Mostly cloudy skies prevailed over the rest of North Texas.

Early-morning temperatures ranged from the 20s and 30s in areas with clear to partly cloudy skies, but remained in the 40s where skies were overcast. Extremes ranged from 25 degrees at Spur and 60 at Brownsville and Port Isabel. Elsewhere, it was 26 degrees at Dalhart, 45 at Guadalupe Pass, 27 degrees at Abilene and Wichita Falls and 48 degrees at Lufkin.

Winds were light and variable over Southwest Texas, with southerly to southwesterly conditions at 5 to 15 mph over the Panhandle and South Plains. Continued clearing was expected, with daytime highs through Friday from the 50s in western mountains to lower 80s along the Rio Grande.

Overnight lows should range from the 20s in the mountains to 40s elsewhere.

City Briefs

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FAIRVIEW CEMETERY will begin picking up Christmas decorations on Feb. 3rd

FREE SHIPPING skids to be given away. Contact Fire-side Comfort, 725 W. Brown.

GARAGE SALE, Fri. 31st, 9 a.m.-? 1420 Williston.

GO WIRELESS in Pampa. Now starting at \$44.95. Call Centramedia On-line Services for internet today at 665-0106.

MEREDITH HOUSE has a Respite Room available for temporary care. 24 hr. licensed assisted liv. 665-5668.

TAMMY PICKERING from Tammy's Cut-Ups, 816 N. Hobart, is back on her feet after back surgery. Come by or call for appt. 665-6558.

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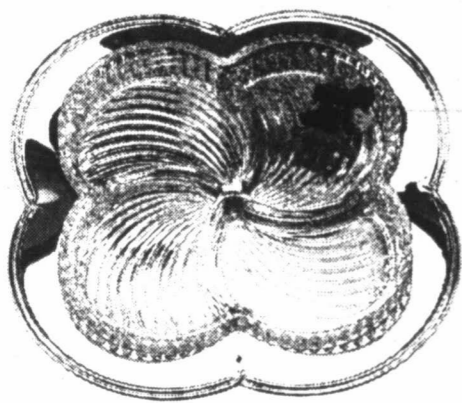
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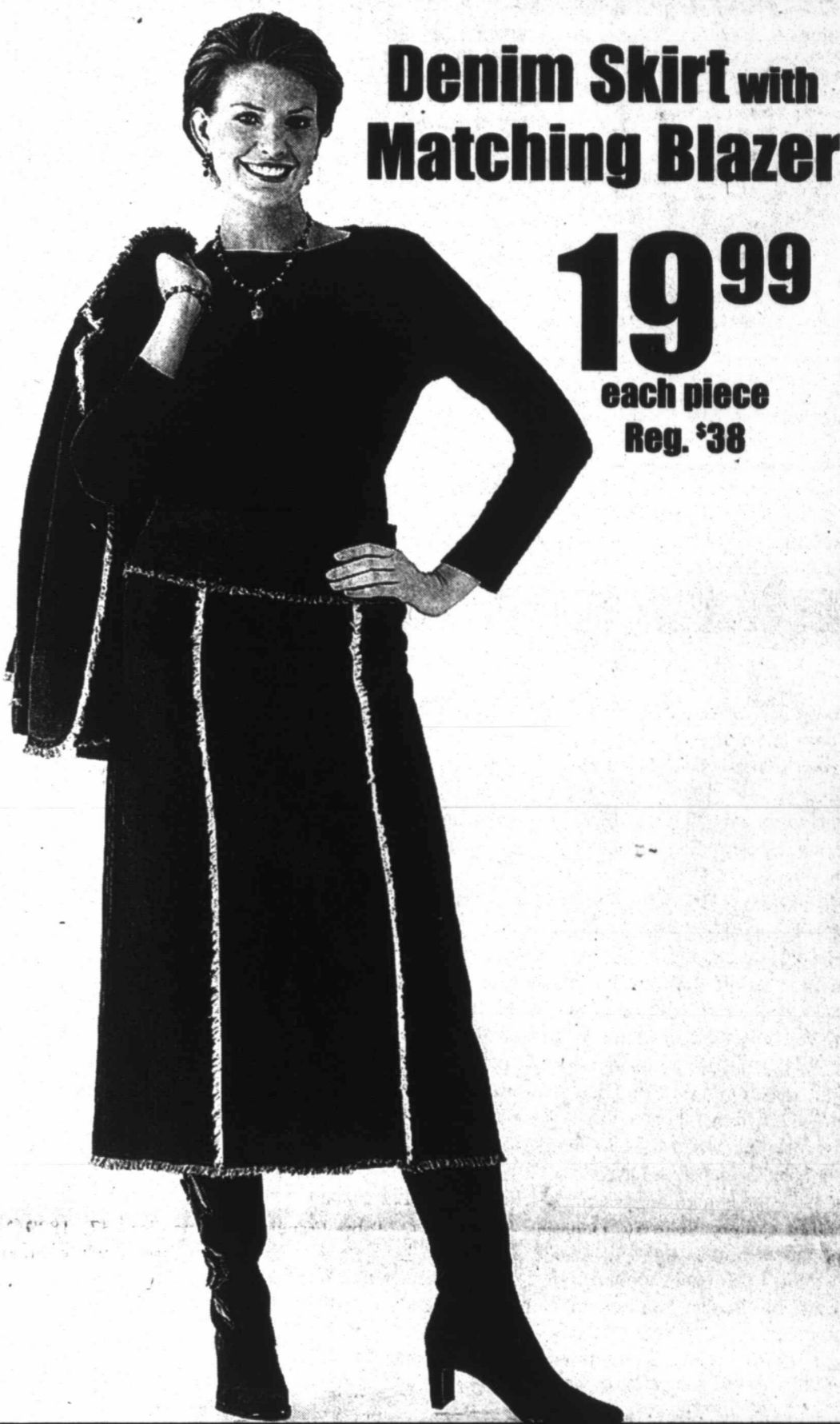
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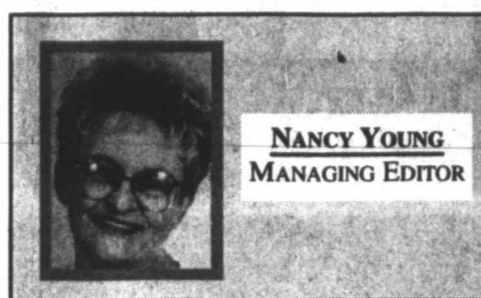
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Yes, your mom's a packrat

At 8:01 a.m. last Friday, my phone rang at work. As I answered it with my customary greeting, I heard my youngest daughter's voice. Not one to beat around the bush, M.E. immediately began the conversation by saying, "Mom, I have a compliment for you, and I hope you don't take it as an insult." Hesitating a few seconds, she continued. I was perplexed.



NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

"I am so glad you are a pack rat," she said. "I just went through what was in that box you dropped by the other day. You will never believe what I found!" She went on to tell me that an irreplaceable important document for which she had been searching for months was in that box.

For once my mouth remained closed. I wanted to tell her that I wasn't the city dump, but refrained. She was lucky I had taken those things to her. Instead, I told her how happy I was those papers had been located and suggested she make a copy in case she ever misplaced it again.

I was relieved, not insulted. After all, she had left it at my house.

I've been a woman with a mission the past few weeks as I've been getting some organization in my life.

Two years ago my brother and I began the enormous task of determining what needed to be kept from our parents' home as we prepared to sell it.

The home had 3,200 square feet and

a very organized person when it came to paperwork. There's just so much, and I get derailed when I find some things from the past.

A younger male member of the family promised me two weekends in a row he would help me move a 60-year-old army green file cabinet from the garage to his old bedroom which I'm converting into an office, but got distracted both weekends. So Saturday I decided I would do it.

After much pulling and pushing, I got it moved about eight feet and decided to take a break. Looking at the bottom of the empty file cabinet, I found an envelope which had slipped to the side. After I managed to retrieve it, I found a picture apparently taken by my grandmother in 1949 when a movie was made in Stinnett. It was a picture of Robert Preston and John Barrymore, Jr.

My mind immediately went back to my grandfather trying to teach the then-16-year-old Barrymore in his first film how to ride a horse. It was quite frustrating for a lifelong cowboy to see the young man attempt to mount the horse from the right.

These countless items are good memories, and I hope to find many more before "I get organized."

Yes, M.E., I am a pack rat, but your grandmother and great-grandmother were, too. It's hereditary.

with our father being a contractor, every inch was utilized. Our mother kept everything, and we had an awesome task ahead of us.

Looking at all the paper work and files, my brother said we'll never get this done if we go through everything. So, we did the logical thing. We boxed up the endless amount of papers, clippings, pictures, file boxes and file cabinets and took them to Nancy's garage for her to do in her spare time! (He had his four-wheeler in his.) It took us months of working 12-14 hour days each week-end to get the remainder of contents gone to sell the house.

Needing a division order and some other papers to complete the settling of the estate, I went to those boxes a few weeks ago and began searching. I haven't found those papers yet, but I've found so many pictures and family mementos. These are important artifacts of our family's history I've told my kids. I've tossed 10 times what I've kept.

Don't misunderstand. My mother was

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

TODAY IN HISTORY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2003. There are 335 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 30, 1968, during the Vietnam War, the Tet Offensive began as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese provincial capitals.

On this date:

- In 1649, England's King Charles I was beheaded.
- In 1882, the 32nd president of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was born in Hyde Park, N.Y.
- In 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany.
- In 1933, the first episode of the "Lone Ranger" radio program was broadcast on station WXYZ in Detroit.
- In 1948, Indian political and spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi was murdered by a Hindu extremist.
- In 1962, two members of the "Flying Wallendas" high-wire act were killed when their seven-person pyramid collapsed during a performance in Detroit.
- In 1964, the United States launched Ranger 6, an unmanned spacecraft carrying television cameras that was to crash-land on the moon.
- In 1972, 13 Roman Catholic civil rights marchers were shot to death by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."
- In 1979, the civilian government of Iran announced it had decided to allow Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who'd been living in exile in France, to return.
- In 1981, an estimated 2 million New Yorkers turned out for a ticker-tape parade honoring the freed American hostages from Iran.

Ten years ago: On the 60th anniversary of Hitler's swearing-in as chancellor of Germany, more than 300,000 Germans carried candles to denounce the Nazi era. Los Angeles inaugurated its Metro Red Line, the city's first modern subway.

Five years ago: An aviation pact was reached between Washington and Tokyo enabling American travelers to fly to Japan and other Asian points from several more U.S. cities.

One year ago: Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the United States would watch closely to see what Iraq, Iran and North Korea did next, a day after President Bush singled them out as part of a dangerous "axis of evil." Interim Afghan leader Hamid Karzai visited the World Trade Center site and placed a wreath of yellow roses by a memorial wall as he surveyed the ruins of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Dick Martin is 81. Actress Dorothy Malone is 78. Producer-director Harold Prince is 75. Actor Gene Hackman is 73. Actress Tammy Grimes is 69. Actress Vanessa Redgrave is 66. Country singer Jeanne Pruett is 66. Country singer Norma Jean is 65. Vice President Dick Cheney is 62. Rock singer Marty Balin is 61. Rhythm-and-blues musician William King (The Commodores) is 54. Actor Charles S. Dutton is 52. Actress-comedian Brett Butler is 45. Singer Jody Watley is 44. Country singer Tammy Cochran is 31. Actor Christian Bale is 29. Actor Wilmer Valderrama is 23. Actor Jake Thomas is 13.

Thought for Today: "It is the tragedy of the world that no one knows what he doesn't know — and the less a man knows, the more sure he is that he knows everything." — Joyce Cary, English author (1888-1957).

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Affirmative action or racism?

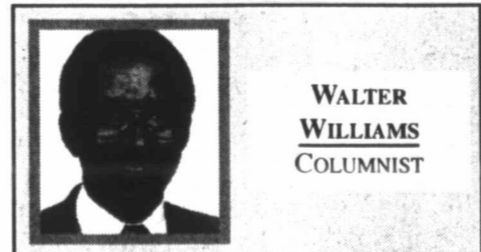
The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to hear Grutter and Gratz vs. Bollinger, a case challenging the University of Michigan's racial preferences, and President Bush's submitting an amicus curiae brief supporting the challenge has refueled the affirmative action debate.

The focal point of the debate is whether affirmative action violates civil rights. It's difficult to debate the issue intelligently because we're talking past one another - as we haven't chosen to define affirmative action. Let's look at it.

Affirmative action means different things to different people. So allow me to list some of those alternative interpretations. To some Americans, perhaps most, affirmative action - let's call it Affirmative Action I - means a policy of non-discrimination. A university or an employer should cast a wide net in its recruitment, admissions or hiring policy by advertising and recruiting in minority schools, social organizations and newspapers, but in the actual admissions or hiring, individuals are treated equally by race.

For other Americans, there's Affirmative Action II. For them, there should be racial preferences. If a white and black candidate are equal in qualifications for university admission or employment, the preference should be given to the black candidate.

For another group of Americans, there's Affirmative Action III. These Americans reject Affirmative Action I



WALTER WILLIAMS
COLUMNIST

and II. In fact, they see those forms of affirmative action as racially insensitive at best, and at worst racist. For these Americans, affirmative action is a system of hard and fast racial preferences and unevenhandedness. It's a racial spoils system where consideration and privileges, in whole or in part, are based solely on the race of the individual.

The University of Michigan practices Affirmative Action III. Here are its rules for admission: perfect grade point average (GPA) is worth 80 points; having a parent who attended the university, 4 points; scholarship athlete, 20; perfect SAT score, 12; outstanding essay, 3; and being a member of a minority group, 20; socioeconomic status and other characteristics account for other bonus points.

Affirmative Action III was applied to plaintiff Barbara Grutter, whose application to the University of Michigan Law School was rejected. She's white, and had a 3.81 GPA and an LSAT score of 161, placing her in the 86th percentile nationally. At the University of Michigan, white students with those qualifications have an admission rate of only 8.6 percent. But 100 percent of

black law school applicants with exactly the same qualifications are admitted.

It would seem to me that any fair-minded person would find that the Affirmative Action III practices of the University of Michigan offend every principle of decency.

For those who might support the practice, I'd like to ask whether they'd object if the practice were done in reverse. That is, give white students a 20 point bonus that's denied to black students. Or admit only 8.6 percent of black law applicants who have a 3.81 GPA and LSAT score of 161, and admit 100 percent of white students with those qualifications.

For black politicians, civil rights organizations and white liberals to support the racist practices of the University of Michigan amounts to no less than a gross betrayal of the civil rights principles of our historic struggle from slavery to the final guarantee of constitutional rights to all Americans. Indeed, it was practices like those of the University of Michigan, but against blacks, that were the focal point of much of the civil rights movement.

If the U.S. Supreme Court has any respect for the U.S. Constitution in the case of Grutter and Gratz vs. Bollinger, I cannot imagine just what words they'd use in a finding that the University of Michigan's practices are constitutional. But then again, the history of the Court is one of social engineering and constitutional contempt.

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UW

Center, \$19,294. Administration and fund-raising expenses totaled \$49,528. Uncollectible pledges totaled \$15,000. Celanese Chemicals Division and their employees were recognized for contributing more than \$20,000 to the campaign. The sustaining donor award went to Curt and Dr. Wil Beck. Platinum recognition awards went to Cabot Corporation employees, Minco Oil Co., National

Oilwell employees, Pampa Regional Medical Center, Pampa Independent School District, M.K. Brown Foundation, Inc., United Parcel Service employees, United Supermarket employees, Xcel Energy company and employees and Pampa High School. Gold awards were awarded to Atmos Energy, Texas Division, Bourland & Leverich Supply Co., Briarwood Full Gospel Church, Carmichael Whatley Funeral Directors, Rep. Warren Chisum, City of

Pampa employees, Mrs. Adelaide Colwell, Community Day Care Center, Harold and Sue Cree, Culberson Stowers company and employees, Bob Curry, Mr. and Mrs. John Curry, 31st District Attorney Rick Roach, Dun, Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency, Bob & Reed Echols, J. David Fatheree, FirstBank Southwest Company and employees, Mr. and Mrs. David Gantz, Gray Pampa Foundation, Laser Ready, Mundy Maintenance & Service employees, Miles

O'Loughlin, Pampa Physical Therapy, Pampa Regional Medical Center employees, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Reeve, Southwestern Bell employees, Norman Stephens of PRMC, Thurmond-McGlothlin, Inc., Titan Specialties company and employees, United Medicorp employees, Wal-Mart company and employees, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Scott White, Dr. Dawson and Carol Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Raymond, Brenda Hightower, Jim Cirone, Lisa Ryan and United

Supermarket company. Silver awards went to B&B Solvent, Mrs. R.M. Bellamy, Bob Carmichael, Charles Buzzard, Curtis Well Servicing Co., Family Medicine Center, Genesis House, Gray County employees, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Green, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Harp, Heard and Jones Drug, Leonard Hudson-Drilling company, G.W. James, Inc., Dr. Gregory Kelly, Don Lane, Ed Myatt, National Bank of Commerce company and employees, Pampa Learning Center, Ken and

Barbara Shearer, Snappy Services, Inc., Southwestern Bell Company, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Stowers, Texas Plains Girl Scouts, United Parcel Service company, Norris and Leoma Walker, Mr. and Mrs. John Warner, Helen G. Wilson, Suzanne Presson, Brian Duncan, Randy Watson, Benny Williams, Doug and Dorothy Ware, Mark Lang, John Thacker, Steve Alexander, Joe Mechelay, Nan Flaten, Darren Collins, Doug Schepp and Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Carlson.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

IRAQ

Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer pointed to a letter by eight European leaders reiterating their support of Bush. "The president expresses his gratitude to the many leaders of Europe who obviously feel differently" than Mandela, Fleischer said. "He understands there are going to be people who are more comfortable doing nothing about a growing menace that could turn into a holocaust." Administration officials have said repeatedly that time is running out for Saddam. "The president is using this window now to engage in very busy and active diplomacy," Fleischer said. "This will take place in a period of weeks, not months." The Saudis have been seeking a way to avoid war and have not said publicly they will allow the United States to use military facilities in Saudi Arabia. However, U.S. officials have been saying for

weeks they are satisfied with the level of cooperation being offered privately and the U.S. commander who would run a war against Iraq just returned to Washington from a round of meetings with military leaders in the region, including those in Saudi Arabia. In a letter published Thursday in newspapers including The Wall Street Journal and the Times of London, the leaders of Britain, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Denmark paid homage to the "bravery and generosity of America" in ensuring peace in Europe. And in a veiled attack on France and Germany, the leaders call for "unwavering determination and firm international cohesion on the part of all countries for whom freedom is precious." In addition, Albania officials released a letter from Prime Minister Fatos Nano to Bush pledging the country's "total and unconditional" support in the war on terrorism.

The administration, meanwhile, combed intelligence data for details Powell could release to support its accusations that Iraq has a secret weapons programs and links to terrorist groups when he appears next week before the public U.N. session. The administration is working to find a way to release such information without compromising U.S. intelligence

sources. Thursday evening, Bush's schedule called for a mostly social gathering with the commanders of all the major military commands and their spouses. Talk would cover the war on terror, Afghanistan, military transformation and Iraq, but the setting was not designed as a decision-making or battle plan-reviewing session.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CITY

rights would be "double-dipping the taxpayers." The City Commission is the supervisory unit of the PEDC. No action was taken on the matter. The PEDC will discuss and possibly take action on this proposal at their next meeting on Feb. 10. Locke said the proposal would probably be presented to the city commission following any action. He said he would probably appear at the Feb. 11 meeting of the commission.

In the regular session, the commission approved payment of bills in the amount of \$559,346. A bid from Richard Chester for \$313 was approved for delinquent tax property lots located at 1240 S. Barnes per a written agreement being worked out by him and Building Inspector Danny Winborne. During the work session a municipal court security fee was discussed as well as a policy on placing antennas on city water towers. No action was taken on either item.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

REFORM

subsidiaries that are exempt from rate regulation. Fraser said his bill would force companies to open their books and justify that their rates are reasonable. He said the state's Republican leadership supports the concept. Jerry Johns, president of the Southwestern Insurance Information Service, said if turning over the data will move the issue of insurance reform forward, the industry is willing to cooperate. Meanwhile, state Rep. Steve Wolens, D-Dallas, filed a bill Wednesday he said will save Texans buying homeowners insurance an average of

\$436 per policy a year. The bill would roll back rates to 2001 levels, force companies to get state approval before they increase their rates, make insurance information public, prohibit credit scoring and "assure that companies don't just stick with us in good times," Wolens said. "We lead the nation with an average homeowners premium that is almost double the national average. This is simply unacceptable," Wolens said. Consumer groups applauded the bill. "This is an aggressive, consumer oriented bill," said Rob Schneider, a senior attorney with Consumers Union.

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Israeli troops shut down Palestinian police stations

HEBRON, West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops swept through Hebron, closing Palestinian police and TV stations, searching homes and blocking major roads in a crackdown on suspected militants.

The military said it carried out the operation in response to a series of shooting ambushes in Hebron. Since Nov. 15, 18 Israelis have been killed in such attacks.

The Hebron sweep came two days after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's election victory. In a sign that he will stick to his tough policies against the Palestinians, Sharon rebuffed Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's offer to meet and resume peace talks.

In a statement Wednesday, Sharon reiterated allegations that Arafat encourages attacks on Israelis. Sharon said he would only negotiate with Palestinians not engaged in violence.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said Thursday that Sharon's refusal to talk with Arafat "is a reflection of the policies of the next government of Israel — a frozen peace process, deterioration and escalation, and attempts to dictate rather than negotiate."

In Thursday's Hebron sweep, tanks rumbled along the main roads as soldiers patrolled on foot. Six thoroughfares were closed to Palestinian traffic, witnesses said.

Troops searched homes, and Israeli radio reports said five Palestinians were arrested.

Soldiers closed three police stations in Hebron, said the Palestinian police commander in the city, Khaled Madoun.

The army accused police of helping militants. It said a bomb was found at one of the police stations on Wednesday and was detonated in a controlled explosion. Palestinian police said the bomb had been removed from a car found in the Hebron area in recent days.

The Hebron police chief said Israeli soldiers released criminals held in lockups at the police stations. The army said the jails were

empty when soldiers arrived. Troops questioned 11 police officers at the stations before freeing them, the army said.

Madoun accused Israel of trying to create more chaos in the Palestinian areas. "It's Sharon's policy to destroy the last remnant of the Palestinian Authority in Hebron, the police force," Madoun said. "The Palestinians can't even feel safe from criminals."

The Palestinian police force was established as part of interim peace agreements in 1995. In the past 28 months of fighting, Israeli troops have persistently targeted Palestinian police installations in response to bombing and shooting

attacks by Palestinian militants. Israel has accused officers of participating in attacks or doing nothing to prevent them.

Palestinians say the targeting of its security forces is part of an Israeli campaign to dismantle the Palestinian Authority.

Soldiers also closed two local TV stations and a radio studio, arresting a worker at one of the TV studios, broadcasters said. Khaled Masade, director of Nauras TV, said his station only broadcast music shows and films. "We don't know why they are closing us," he said.

In its statement, the army made no reference to the closing of TV stations.

Haiti's Aristide defends record, brushes off calls to resign

By MICHELLE FAUL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide admitted his popularity has faded, but he brushed aside calls to resign and said he is still the first choice of the nation's impoverished masses.

"I think the huge majority of the Haitian people continue to support me," the president said in a lengthy and exclusive interview with The Associated Press.

Aristide became Haiti's first democratically elected president 12 years ago. Opponents say he has grown dictatorial and want him to step down, and an electoral dispute has frozen hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to his country.

Still, the diminutive, bespectacled former Roman Catholic priest says he has saved his nation from chaos.

"If you compare what I have and what the one who comes behind me can get — there you will see a huge margin of difference," he told the AP in the interview Wednesday.

Haiti has been in crisis since flawed 2000 legislative elections swept by Aristide's Lavalas Family party. International donors froze \$500 million in aid because of irregularities in the vote.

Street gangs claiming links to Aristide's party have attacked demonstrators, journalists and opposition politicians. At least four people have been killed since mid-November, and more than 350 people have been injured — most of them opposition supporters.

Aristide has promised new legislative elections this year, but the opposition has refused to agree to the vote without security guarantees. Aristide said he hopes to persuade the opposition to participate.

During the 100-minute interview, Aristide blamed Haiti's

Propane tanker rig plunges from highway and explodes

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — A truck hauling propane gas plunged from a freeway overpass onto railroad tracks Thursday, exploding into a huge fireball that shot flames 600 feet into the air, police and witnesses said. The truck driver was killed.

The tanker was headed west on Interstate 69 shortly after midnight when it struck a set of guardrails dividing an off-ramp from the main road, state police Sgt. Richard Arnold said.

The truck went off the roadway, hurdled an overpass railing and fell onto the tracks, Arnold said. The truck caught fire and burned several minutes before

exploding into a fireball, witnesses said.

No other injuries were reported and no other vehicles were involved.

The accident took place in a primarily industrial area in Flint and no evacuations were ordered. Consumers Energy Co. said the crash brought down a high-voltage line, cutting off power to 1,100 customers. Power was expected to be restored by later Thursday morning, Arnold said.

Interstate 69 was closed in both directions for several hours. Eastbound lanes reopened by 6 a.m. The train tracks also were closed near the crash site.

many ills on a global economic and political system that "smacks of racism" — going back to France's fight to prevent its colony from rising up against slavery. Following their revolt, Haitians founded the world's first black republic in 1804.

Aristide called the freeze in foreign aid a form of economic "apartheid" to keep blacks down.

"If some people don't want Haiti to promote economic growth, it's always to point a finger at Haiti to say, 'Hey, don't do that, you see they were the first black independent country in the world but

they are so poor today — you better stay where you are instead of fighting for freedom.' That's their goal."

Aristide insists he is committed to democracy and says he need not step down until his term expires in 2006.

Aristide himself has been a victim of the violence that has marred the history of this Caribbean nation. In 1988, thugs paid by the ruling military attacked his slum church as he conducted a service, hacking and shooting to death more than a dozen people.

Chavez under fire from Venezuelan opposition

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan opposition leaders accused President Hugo Chavez of threatening the nation's bankers to make them abandon a general strike aimed at toppling him.

The National Banking Council said Wednesday that its members will return to normal operating hours on Monday. For two months, thousands of people have waited in long lines while banks opened just three hours a day. Other sectors, including workers in the state oil company, will remain on strike.

"This is a government that, one way or another, acts with pressure and repression. This influenced the decision," said strike leader Carlos Fernandez.

Chavez had threatened to fine banks and withdraw the armed forces' deposits from private institutions if they didn't resume activities. Bankers said they provide a public service, which influenced the decision.

"We owe the public," Nelson Mezerhane, the council's vice president, said after a Wednesday council meeting. "They have their earnings and money in our institutions."

Fearing effects of the work stoppage — shortages of food, medicine, fuel

and cash — could hurt their cause, many businesses plan to reopen next week.

The possibility of having to declare bankruptcy by remaining closed also prompted owners of shopping malls, restaurants, franchises and schools to soon open their doors to the public.

Dissident executives at state-run oil monopoly Petroleos de Venezuela S.A., or PDVSA, said the strike will continue in the oil industry despite the government's success in raising production.

Output surpassed 1 million barrels a day this week, a third of pre-strike levels. Oil provides half of government income and 70 percent of export revenue.

Arguing that oil executives sabotaged oil installations to ensure the strike's success, Chavez has fired one-eighth of the company's work force to regain control of the industry.

"These traitors should be in prison," Chavez said on Wednesday. "I call on judges to listen to the clamor of the people and jail these traitors."

Oil company strikers have rejected the accusation and challenged the government to present proof of sabotage.

While businesses pinched by the strike began to stray, government

adversaries decided the best strategy to oust Chavez is by amending the constitution to shorten the presidential term and open the way for early elections.

The idea, which was floated by former President Jimmy Carter, "is the priority, it's the proposal we prefer," said Pedro Nikken, an attorney and adviser to the Democratic Coordinator opposition movement.

Venezuela's diverse opposition had been considering a host of proposals, ranging from a binding recall referendum on the president's rule in August to a popularly-elected assembly charged with drafting a brand new constitution.

The amendment would shorten Chavez's term from six years to four. Chavez was elected in 1998 and re-elected two years later. His term ends in 2007.

The amendment proposal will be formally presented to "The Group of Friends of Venezuela," a forum of six nations helping broker an end to Venezuela's hostile political conflict.

Diplomats from the United States, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Spain and Portugal were to arrive in Venezuela on Thursday to support negotiation efforts led by the Organization of American States.

Chinese police identify men who fell from Air France jet

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — Two men whose bodies fell from an Air France jetliner in Shanghai last week were identified Thursday by police as Turkish nationals with a history of stowing away in airline luggage holds.

Ramazan Karacoban, 20, and Onur Ozuyaman, 19, are believed to have been stow-

aways aboard the Air France flight, said police spokeswoman Fang Dinghua. She said they had a record of hiding in airline luggage holds and had snuck into France aboard a ferry a week before the Paris-Shanghai flight.

Fang refused to give other details, saying an investigation was still underway. Turkish

diplomats in China and the Turkish Foreign Ministry have also declined to comment.

The two men fell from Flight 112, a Boeing 777, on Jan. 23 as it approached Shanghai Pudong International Airport. One crashed through the roof of a house, while the other landed in a field.

Footprints have been found in one of the compartments holding the jet's landing gear, said Air France spokeswoman Zhuang Ying.

The wheel wells have no heat and are unpressurized, suggesting the two men spent the 12-hour flight exposed to

the thin, frigid air of higher altitudes.

State media reports said the bodies were frostbitten, a sign the men may have died before their fall.

While there have been repeated cases of people stowing in airplanes to emigrate to Europe, sneaking into China from Europe is unusual.

Officials had said earlier the men were wearing red uniforms, suggesting they might have been baggage handlers or part of a plot to penetrate airport security. State media reports said they were carrying walkie-talkies.

The Hobby Shop

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Still much work ahead before pilots fly armed

By **LESLIE MILLER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The recent arrest of a Northwest Airlines pilot found with a loaded handgun in his carry-on luggage raises the question of how airport security workers can identify those pilots authorized by the government to have a gun.

Congress gave the Transportation Security Administration until Feb. 25 to develop a plan to train those passenger airline pilots who volunteer to be "federal flight deck officers." The agency also must come up with rules by then that govern when and where those pilots may carry weapons.

"There are still some policy questions that need to be answered," agency spokesman Robert Johnson acknowledged.

Among the questions: How does the gun get into the cockpit? Does the pilot carry it through the airport? If so, what happens in countries with stricter gun-control laws than the United States? Who supplies the weapon? What kind of weapon will be issued? And how much training should be required?

The largest pilots' union, which favors arming pilots, is concerned the government may be looking for ways to limit or delay the program, which the Bush administration only embraced after Congress expressed overwhelming support.

"They want to restrict it as much as they can," said Capt. Steve Luckey, chairman of the Air Line Pilots Association's national security committee.

Money is another unknown. The agency assembled \$500,000 from various accounts for a test program for 50 pilots in the spring.

Lindh moved to California

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (AP) — John Walker Lindh, the American serving a 20-year sentence for helping the Taliban, has been transferred to a federal prison in this desert community northeast of Los Angeles.

Lindh, 21, arrived at the medium-security Federal Correctional Institution in Victorville on Saturday, under guard by federal marshals, authorities said. He had been held at a federal lockup in Virginia.

He was sentenced to 20 years in prison last October after pleading guilty to supplying services to the Taliban during the war in Afghanistan and carrying explosives in commission of a felony.

At the prison on the former George Air Force Base he will be housed with 1,656 other inmates, said Traci Billingsley, a U.S. Bureau of Prisons spokeswoman.

"Typically the inmates are double banded, with just a writing surface and lockers in their cell," Billingsley said. "Most inmates are required to work during the day, in food service, plumbing, groundskeeping or painting, something like that."

Lindh's attorney, James J. Brosnahan Jr. of San Francisco, declined to comment.

Lindh's parents live in the San Francisco Bay area, where he grew up. The nation was stunned to learn he was an American barely out of his teens when he was captured in Afghanistan.

He was in the vicinity of a prison uprising where CIA agent Johnny "Mike" Spann was killed, but authorities decided not to prosecute him in connection with the slaying.

The agency's chief, James Loy, estimated in November it would cost \$900 million to start the full program and about \$250 million a year to maintain it. The agency has backed off those figures, saying it will cost less, but has provided no updated estimates.

But with perhaps 30,000 or more of the estimated 100,000 commercial pilots interested in participating, far more dollars will be needed.

The agency's chief, James Loy, estimated in November it would cost \$900 million to start the full program and about \$250 million a year to maintain it. The agency has backed off those figures, saying it will cost less, but has provided no updated estimates.

Airlines, still reeling from the Sept. 11 attacks and losing billions of dollars, do not want to cover any of the cost.

"The pilots don't want to pay for it, the airlines don't

want to pay for it and the government doesn't want to pay for it," said Paul Hudson, executive director of the Aviation Consumer Action Project, which advocates airline safety and security.

Polls have shown most people want to allow pilots to carry weapons. The airlines strongly oppose the idea, fearing a weapon could fall into the wrong hands, accidentally injure a passenger or cause a plane crash if a stray bullet struck a fuel line or navigational equipment.

The big airlines' trade group, the Air Transport Association, argues that stronger cockpit doors and the

presence of air marshals provide protection against hijackings.

Capt. Fred Bates, a pilot for Fort Worth, Texas-based American Airlines who heads a group of pilots working with agency to put the program in place, said the training requirements are pretty obvious because a cockpit is such a limited jurisdiction.

"It's really not about guns, it's about no more 9/11s," Bates said.

Agency spokesman Johnson said the agency is likely to go along with the

pilots' recommendations for five days of training, including marksmanship.

The pilots want to be trained at federal facilities around the country so it is more convenient for them. The agency has not decided whether to limit the training to federal law enforcement training centers in Georgia and New Mexico.

Also unanswered is what kind of gun will be allowed and whether pilots can carry them or be required to leave them in the cockpit.

Pilots want to carry semi-automatic pistols, not revolvers, so they can fire multiple rounds in case more than one hijacker tries to commandeer a plane. They also do not want to keep the guns in lockboxes in the cockpit, an idea the government is considering. Pilots say it is safer to carry guns because they know where they are at all times.

On the Net:
Transportation Security Administration:
<http://www.tsa.gov>

University of Louisville prohibits credit card solicitors after offense T-shirt sale

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The University of Louisville banned credit card solicitors after students were offered racially offensive and sexually explicit T-shirts during an on-campus promotion.

The shirts were given away to students who applied for a credit card backed by Bank One during a campus visit last week. A caricature of a voluptuous black woman, a Bank One logo and "10 Reasons Why Beer is Better than a Black Man" appeared on the shirts.

Most of the reasons were sexually explicit and included "A beer can't get you pregnant," and "A beer doesn't yell at your kids."

"Bank One is outraged that such a thing could happen," said Nancy Norris, a spokeswoman for the Chicago-based bank. "That offensive T-shirt was not approved by Bank One."

On Monday, Bank One fired FrontLine Event Marketing, the Philadelphia-based firm

handling the promotion. Norris said Bank One is considering taking legal action because the T-shirts depicted the bank's logo without permission.

FrontLine president Ed Solomon said the shirts were not produced by his company, and believes they came from the two unauthorized workers who were hired by an independent contractor.

"We just have found this incident to be totally offensive and we are outraged by it," Solomon said.

Bank One was the only credit card vendor allowed on the Louisville campus. The university's five-year, \$1.9 million agreement expires Friday and university officials planned to stop on-campus solicitation in their next contract.

University President Jim Ramsey announced the ban last Friday, a day after two promotions workers were escorted off campus. Officials did not see the T-shirts until a confrontation between the workers and

students offended by the shirts.

"I would like to add my own personal apologies to the students, faculty and staff who were appropriately offended by this deplorable incident," Ramsey said in an e-mail.

Representatives from Bank One plan to apologize and discuss the incident at a campus diversity forum Tuesday.

Chinese-American political figure, spouse murdered

NEW YORK (AP) — A Chinese-American activist who tapped new sources of money and votes for New York Republicans was found bound with duct tape and suffocated along with her husband in their apartment, officials said.

Josephine Lin, 65, and her husband Shan Lin, 70, were discovered Tuesday night in their Brooklyn apartment, which Josephine Lin also used as an office. The apartment did not appear to have been broken into or ransacked, police said.

The couple, devout Christians who emigrated from Taiwan in the 1970s, had been suffocated with plastic bags and strangled, according to the medical examiner's office. Shan Lin was found with duct tape over his nose and mouth.

The bags had been taped over the heads of the victims, who were lying on the floor in the kitchen and living room, police said.

The apartment was jum-

bled with the Lins' possessions and it was not immediately known if anything had been taken.

The couple had four children. Their son discovered the bodies after Shan Lin missed a doctor's appointment, and he went to check on them.

Josephine Lin, a retired insurance saleswoman, held many fund-raisers and donated tens of thousands of dollars over the years to Republicans including Gov. George Pataki.

"The governor is proud of the support he's received in the Asian-American community, and certainly Josephine Lin was part of that support," Pataki spokeswoman Lisa Dewald Stoll said Wednesday.

Lin was well-known as a facilitator for Chinese immigrants and Chinese-Americans, helping them find housing and sometimes using political contacts to ease immigration problems, acquaintances said.

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Thursday, January 30, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Problems in Human Relations Translate to Every Language

DEAR ABBY: I was surprised at the letter from the reader in Harpers Ferry, W.Va., who feels using your column to teach English as a second language might send the wrong message about the United States.

You were right on the money when you said that "See Spot Run" and cartoon-like depictions no longer hold the interest of adult learners. I am a professor of English in France and often use your column to teach adult conversational English. My students find the exercise a fun and interesting way to practice English. Judging by their responses, the problems in your column are in no way unique to the U.S.

SHARI YOUNGBLOOD
PARIS, FRANCE

DEAR SHARI: I was heartened by the number of letters I received from readers who wanted to defend the column. Thank you for yours. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I teach a writing class at a teacher's college. Your column transcends national boundaries. I took special delight when you expressed best wishes to your Muslim readers at the end of Ramadan. Your column shows America to the world, and because of your sage advice, the wisdom displayed and your evident sympathy — indeed, that shown by your readers as well — you present America at its best.

JACK DUNSTER
LUBLIN, POLAND

DEAR JACK: It is a given that my readers are people who are interested in, and care about, one another.

DEAR ABBY: I have been teaching English in Korea for several months. Every country in the world struggles with the same moral issues that we do. Am I supposed to give my adult students Mother Goose stories?

DEREK DENTON, SEOUL

DEAR DEREK: Certainly not. To teach successfully, one must hold the student's interest.

DEAR ABBY: I am an English

teacher. The reader from Harpers Ferry cites "sibling rivalry, spousal mistrust and sexual abuse" among things your column supposedly promotes. As you pointed out, discussion and promotion are two entirely different things. If we are to stick solely to British and American "classics" to teach English, take a closer look: There's sibling rivalry in the works of Louisa May Alcott, Jane Austen and Emily Bronte, to name a few. Spousal mistrust is featured in "Hamlet," Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," and anything written by Steinbeck or Hemingway. And look no further than "The Scarlet Letter" if you want to talk about sexual dysfunction and abuse.

I won't even begin to address the woman's ridiculous act of placing "homosexuality" on her list of social ills.

BARBARA BORTOT,
MINNESOTA

DEAR BARBARA: It's usually those topics people are afraid to discuss that need to be talked about the most.

DEAR ABBY: Your column consistently uses a few well-chosen — often eloquent — words to say a great deal on a vast array of topics, typically with grace, wit, style, and a uniquely American use of irony to drive home a point. Equally important, you treat all of your readers with compassion and dignity and call upon them to treat others accordingly.

"Harpers Ferry" gave the Dear Abby column an R-rating. In my book, any teacher smart enough to recognize the column as an effective teaching tool to help others understand and communicate what it really means to be an American, gets an A-plus.

GEORGE MARCELLE,
LOS ANGELES

DEAR GEORGE: Thank you for beautifully articulating the Dear Abby philosophy.

For Better or For Worse



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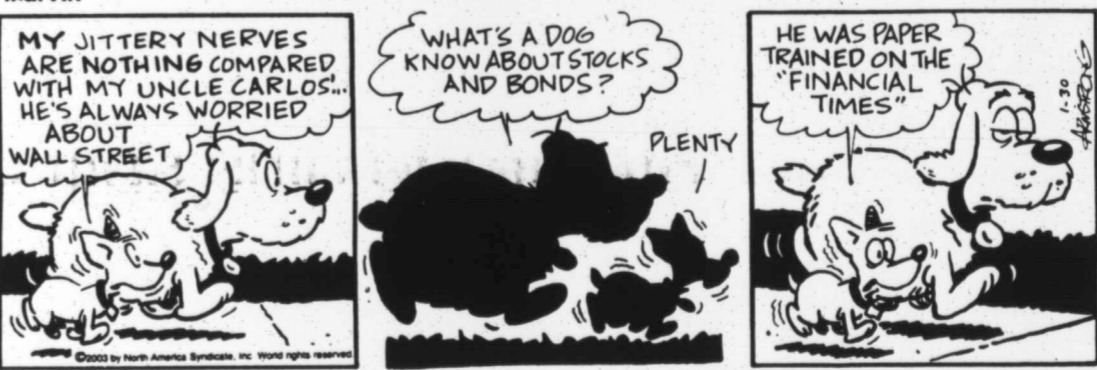
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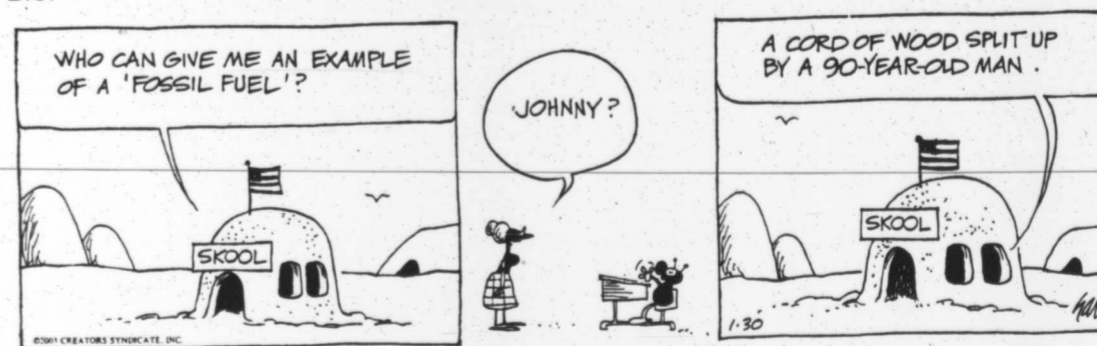
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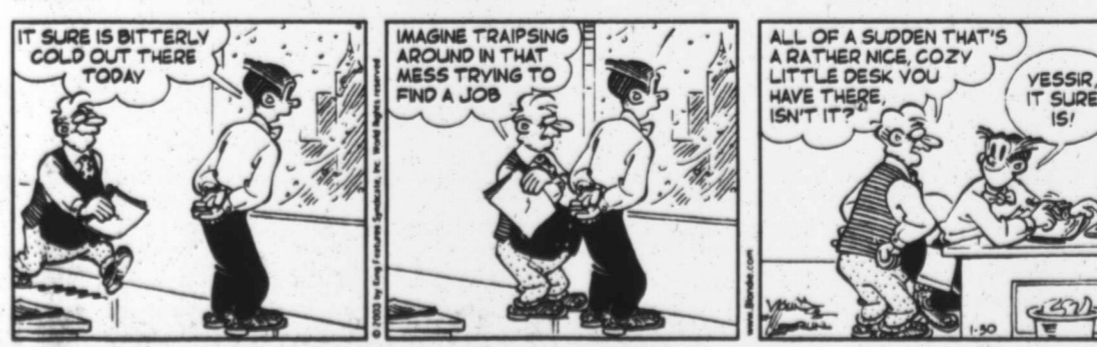
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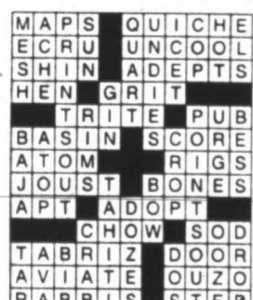


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

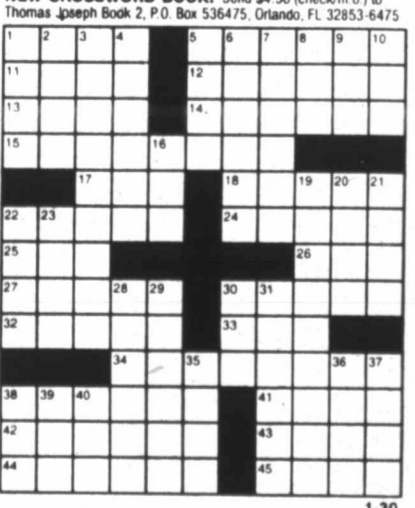
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- 37 Nunsance
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- 39 Regret
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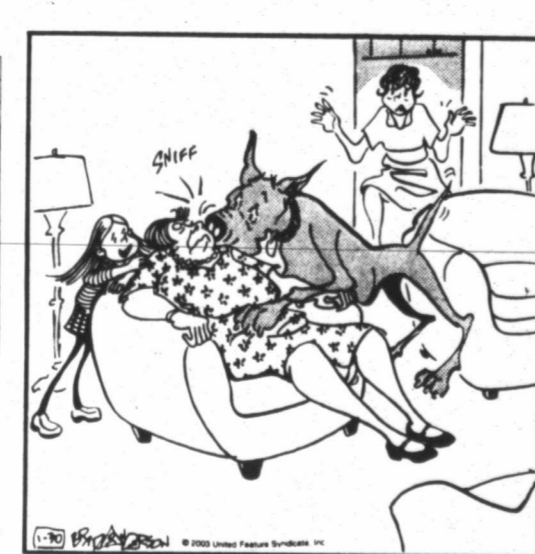
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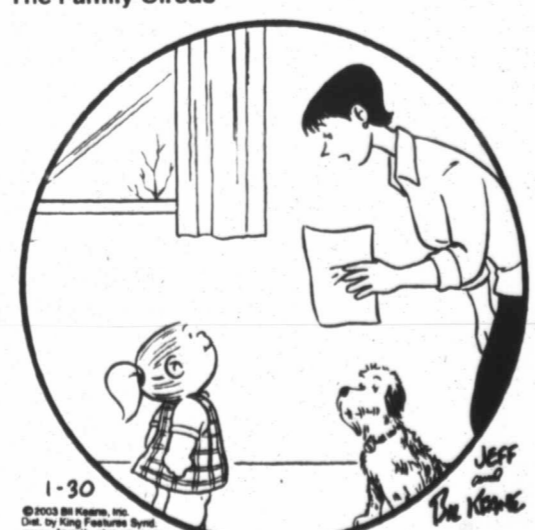


Marmaduke



"Marmaduke heard you say you have a sweet tooth and he wants to smell it."

The Family Circus



"We're proud of you, Love, but we can't afford to laminate EVERY test you pass."

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SPORTS

Texas Tech's Knight gets 799th career win

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Andre Emmett scored 19 points as Tech beat Colorado 66-56 Wednesday night, giving Tech coach Bob Knight his 799th career win.

Knight goes for No. 800 when the Red Raiders (12-3, 2-3 Big 12) play Texas A&M on Saturday in College Station.

The game against Colorado became tense in the second half when Colorado center David Harrison drew two quick technicals and appeared to want a fight with a Tech

player.

Police were called to the court to escort Harrison off the floor after he was ejected.

The first technical was called at 15:49. The second came at 13:03 after an offensive foul against Michel Morandais.

Tech's Pawel Storzynski also was called for one because he and Harrison bumped one another after the foul was called.

A couple of seconds later Harrison began to move toward the center of the floor where Storzynski was

standing with teammates. Storzynski saw Harrison coming and put up his fists to prepare to defend himself, but Harrison's teammates and coaches pulled Harrison back. Harrison was then ejected from the game.

Tech trailed only briefly at the start of the game and Colorado (12-6, 2-3) had trouble hanging on to the ball and making baskets. Colorado finished 19-for-72 and had 16 turnovers.

Colorado had just two field goals in 13 possessions to start the second half.

The Buffaloes used a 9-1

run after the near altercation involving Harrison to narrow the margin to three at 49-46 with 10:07 remaining in the game but could get no closer. Tech missed six of seven free throws and went more than seven minutes without a field goal during Colorado's run.

Tech was 16-of-29 at the free throw line and 6-for-22 field goals in the second half.

Will Chavis added 18 points for Tech.

Morandais scored 14 points and Blair Wilson added 11 to lead the

Buffaloes.

Tech fell behind early in the game but used a 21-2 run to lead Colorado 23-10, including two 3-pointers by Chavis.

After going up 26-12, however, the Red Raiders failed to score on eight straight possessions and Colorado used a 7-0 run to narrow the margin to 26-19 with 5:20 remaining in the half.

Tech then put together a 7-0 run to lead 35-21 with 3:18 remaining in the half.

Tech led 37-26 at half-time.

NOTEBOOK

WRESTLING

AMARILLO — Pampa fell to Amarillo High 68-18 in a wrestling dual Tuesday night.

Pampa's Shawn Goodin opened the dual in the 103-pound class with a pin over Jarred Williams.

Pampa's Chris Veal won by forfeit in the 180-pound division.

FOOTBALL

WACO, Texas (AP) — Emmitt Smith won't be going into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame after all.

Smith was nominated for induction in September, but last week told the Waco-based museum that he couldn't attend the Feb. 12 enshrinement ceremony. Hall rules require honorees to appear at the banquet to be enshrined.

"We are certainly disappointed that Emmitt will not attend, but with such legendary sports figures as Joe Washington Jr., Michael Carter, Eddie Reese and Bobby Joe Conrad eager for enshrinement, we still have quite an impressive group to be honored," said Steve Fallon, the museum's executive director.

Smith, who became the leading rusher in NFL history over 13 seasons with the Dallas Cowboys, can be considered again next year.

BASKETBALL

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Stacy Stephens had 19 points and 14 rebounds, and Jamie Carey had seven of her 17 points from the free-throw line in the final minute as No. 11 Texas withstood a late rally to beat No. 19 Oklahoma 60-54 Wednesday night.

Stephens' performance in the paint was critical to the Longhorns (13-5, 6-1 Big 12), who shot only 37 percent. She made eight of 13 shots.

But it was a 12-of-14 performance by Carey from the foul line in the closing minutes that helped thwart an Oklahoma comeback. Five of those free throws came after the Sooners cut a 13-point lead to four with 37 seconds remaining.

"We knew Oklahoma was going to be tough and they were," said Texas coach Jody Conradt, whose team outscored OU at the free throw line 21-5. "I was really happy to see Jamie Carey at the free throw line in that situation. We made the shots when we had to."

Oklahoma (13-6, 4-2) trailed 51-38 after Stephens banked home a close-range jumper with 5:02 left. The Sooners rallied behind a pair of baskets from Teresa Schuknecht and one from Chelsi Welch.

After misfiring on their first 11 3-point attempts, the Sooners finished strong behind Welch who hit three 3s after the break, including a pair in the final rally.

Her last 3-pointer cut the Texas advantage to 57-54 with 29.2 seconds left.

"We scratched and clawed and never gave up," said OU coach Sherri Coale.

After the ball



(Pampa News photo by Tess Kingcade)

Pampa junior Dannie Meza goes after the ball between two Lubbock Monterey players in high school soccer action Tuesday. Monterey won 2-1.

Monterey slips by Pampa

PAMPA — Pampa lost a 2-1 decision to Lubbock Monterey in a high school boys soccer match here Tuesday.

Mark Garza scored the Pampa goal.

"We're starting to get our injured people back, and we're getting better as we're getting them back. We've been pretty banged up," said Pampa head coach John True.

Pampa kicks off the district season Tuesday at Canyon.

The match is scheduled to get under way at 5 p.m.

The district home opener is Feb. 8 starting at 12 noon against Amarillo Caprock.

True guided the Harvesters to their first

Soccer

ever district title in 2002, beating Borger 1-0 in a playoff to determine first place.

All-district players Chance Crain and Tristan Brown return to the Harvesters.

.....

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — Devvyn Hawkins kicked in a cross from Brandi Chastain to give the United States a 1-0 win over Germany in the Four Nations Tournament.

With two wins and a loss, the United States won the competition featuring the world's top four women's soccer teams. China, which beat the Americans on Sunday, finished second after tying Norway 1-1.

8th grade girls split basketball games with Plainview

PLAINVIEW — Pampa was edged by Plainview 47-43 in an 8th grade girls' basketball game earlier this week.

Brittini Rice was Pampa's high scorer with 18 points.

"We had several opportunities to win this game, but the shots would not fall. We also turned the ball over entirely too much," said Pampa coach Janyth Bowers.

Plainview 47, Pampa 43

Scoring: Brittini Rice 18, McKensie East 10, Cassidy Tice 5, Nicole Clark 5, Logan Winkelman 3, Stephanie McVay 2.

Rebounds: Rice 7, East 5, Tice 4, McVay 4, Hopkins 3, Clark 2, Winkelman 2.

Steals: Tice 4, Hopkins 3, Angela Mechelay 3, Rice 3, Winkleman 2, East 1, McVay 1.

Pampa won a close one against Plainview 35-34 in the B-team game.

"We have improved so much since the first of the season," coach Bowers said. "These girls played with a lot of heart and held on for the win."

Pampa 35, Plainview 34

Scoring: Kelsie Wyatt 15, Holly Owens 10, Michelle

Adams 6, Stephanie Preston 2, Meredith Coutts 2.

Rebounds: Wyatt 5,

Tamara Trevathan 4, Coutts 2, Adams 2, Krista McClelland 2, Owens 1, Jenee Norris 1.

Steals: Wyatt 3, Trevathan 2, Owens 2, Norris 1, Coutts 1, McClelland 1, Adams 1, Erika Silva 1.

Stars keep focus against lowly Flames

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars kept their focus against the team with the worst record in the Western Conference.

Marty Turco made 28 saves, and Jere Lehtinen scored twice to push the Stars to a 4-1 victory over the Calgary Flames on Wednesday night.

Dallas boosted its point total to 72 while Calgary has 44 and needs a fast finish over the final 30 games to

make the playoffs.

"You have to respect every team," Stars defenseman Philippe Boucher said. "We didn't want to have a let-down. We need to play solid no matter who we play."

Calgary coach Darryl Sutter said Dallas is as good as its record.

"They're the best team in the conference," he said. "They have three lines that can outscore each other and they have a good defense.

They have the best balance. They're the team to beat."

Turco came within 4:34 of his sixth shutout of the season, but was quite satisfied with his 24th victory of the season.

It extended his career-high unbeaten streak to 12 games.

"That didn't bother me one bit," Turco said of Scott Nichol's shot that deflected off Dallas defenseman's John Erskine leg.

"The Admiral" returns to help lead Spurs past Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich went to the Air Force Academy and served in the military. So he understood that when "The Admiral" told him something it was not a request.

David Robinson told Popovich his sore back had healed enough to allow him to come off the injured list after three games, and proved it with 12 points, nine rebounds and three blocks in 24 minutes in a 106-97 victory over Indiana on Wednesday night.

"He ordered me that he was going to play. He said, 'I am playing!' and I said, 'Yes sir!'" Popovich said of Robinson, a former star at Navy. "It was huge for us."

The Pacers lost at home for the first time in 15 games since Nov. 23, and with Ron Artest, the team's second leading scorer, beginning a four-game suspension. The NBA suspended Artest before the game for a run-in with Miami coach Pat Riley and an obscene gesture toward the crowd Monday night.

"We're getting tired of it.

They wait until just about two hours before the game to disrupt our game. But, we're going to bounce back," said Jermaine O'Neal, who had a season-high 31 points to lead Indiana. "They could have called earlier. It doesn't take all day to decide on how many games you're going to suspend a guy."

"There's not excessive tapes you've got to look at. ... It's just us, the Indiana Pacers, against the world."

The return of Robinson was vital to the Spurs because Tim Duncan got in foul trouble. Duncan managed 12 points and nine rebounds in 24 minutes.

"With Tim in foul trouble, without David there was no way," Popovich said.

"You never really know until you get on the court how it is going to feel and it felt very good," Robinson said. "We needed the extra body because there were a lot of fouls. We did a pretty good job of giving them one shot. They like to post the ball up and we didn't give up a lot of points on post ups."

Tony Parker scored 28 points to lead six San Antonio players in double figures.

Indiana missed Artest. "It really knocked the energy and the emotion out of our team. It was a tough situation to play under," coach Isiah Thomas said. "We got the information so late."

Reggie Miller added, "We don't believe (he deserved) the four-game suspension. It is absolutely crazy. Other guys are going to have to step up in his place and produce."

It wasn't the first time the Pacers have had a player suspended just hours before a game.

"You've got idiots in the

Miami cagers claim district victories

MIAMI — Miami rallied in the fourth quarter to defeat Lefors 53-48 Tuesday night in District 2-1A action.

Lefors had a five-point lead (41-36) going into the fourth quarter.

Miami was paced by Jeffrey Browning, who

(league) office running things. That's the problem," said Miller, who had 19 points and season highs of seven assists and six rebounds.

Stephen Jackson had 18 points and a crucial steal that held off an Indiana rally in the fourth quarter. The Pacers trailed by as many as 17 in the period, but cut the deficit to six before Jackson's steal and dunk made the score 100-92 with 1:22 to play.

After a seesaw opening period, San Antonio scored 10 consecutive points to take the lead for good in the second quarter. Indiana missed four shots and had four turnovers while going over three minutes

had 17 points. Kris Roach followed with 12.

Ricky Vaughn topped Lefors in scoring with 17 points while Josh Garcia had 14.

Miami improved to 5-3 in district play and 13-13 for the season.

Miami also won the

girls' contest, 50-33.

Jennifer Hutchinson had 13 points and Julie Davenport 12 to lead the Warriorettes in the scoring column. Amanda Daugherty was Lefors' high scorer with 10 points. Rachel Stubbs added 8.

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Commission set to recommend major changes to Title IX

Proposals to ease standards on gender equity law will be considered by 15 members

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Bush administration commission prepared to recommend the most significant changes to Title IX in more than two decades, with several votes Thursday aimed at changing a fundamental plank in the law that has exponentially increased participation in women's sports.

The 15-member Commission on Opportunity in Athletics was to consider several proposals that would ease the standards in the three-prong test used to measure whether high schools and colleges are complying with the 31-year-old gender equity law.

The commissioners

"believe the three-prong test is a flawed but potentially powerful vehicle," said co-chairman Ted Leland, athletic director at Stanford.

Others differ and the commission's session Wednesday evoked the passion typical of Title IX debates. Expecting to be outvoted, those in favor of the current standards got the commission to agree to include dissenting opinions in the final report that will be submitted next month to Education Secretary Rod Paige.

The White House did not weigh in on the debate, with spokesman Ari Fleischer saying only that the president supports Title IX. He said

Page will review the panel's recommendation and "at the appropriate time make any recommendations to the White House."

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in programs that receive federal funding. Its effect has been profound: The number of girls participating in high school sports rose from 294,000 to 2.8 million from 1971-02. The number of women in college sports increased fivefold over a similar timeframe.

In 1979, Title IX was clarified by the introduction of the three-prong test, with schools having the option to meet any of the prongs to comply with the law.

To meet the first prong, a school's male-female athlete ratio must be "substantially proportionate" to its male-female enrollment. For the second prong, the school

must show an ongoing history of broadening opportunities for women. The third prong requires that a school show that it is "fully and effectively" accommodating the interests and abilities of women.

The first prong gets the most attention, and it's the only one that can be met using pure statistics with little or no subjective interpretation. Even so, there is still a substantial gap between the percentage of U.S. female college students (56 percent) and the percentage of female college athletes (42 percent).

The commission was to consider several changes to the first prong. Commissioner Debbie Yow, the athletic director at Maryland, proposed that schools be allowed a 50-50 split of male and female athletes, regardless of the student body makeup, with a leeway of 5 to 7 per-

centage points. Other proposals would tie a college's male-female athlete ratio to that of local high schools, or keep the current standard but allow leeway of 3.5, 5 or 7 percentage points. Others would allow the use of surveys to assist in meeting prongs one or three.

Critics say these changes would result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of sports opportunities for girls and women in high school and college.

Critics say the Title IX has, in effect, punished male athletes to provide more opportunities for women. Roughly 400 men's college teams were eliminated in the 1990s, with wrestling taking such a blow that the National Wrestling Coaches Association has filed suit, claiming that the first prong has evolved into a quota sys-

tem. The commissioners approved several less controversial recommendations Wednesday, and there was no problem reaching a consensus on at least one topic: The Education Department must do a better job explaining Title IX's complex guidelines to colleges and high schools.

The commissioners were also emphatic that the Education Department start implementing sanctions against violators. The department has never punished a school for not complying with Title IX.

The commissioners also urged schools to stop overspending on sports such as football and men's basketball, whose budgets are cited as limiting opportunities in minor sports for both men and women. Under Title IX, schools cannot be told how to



Fun in the sun: Pro Bowl player living the good life in Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP) — Marshall Faulk sprinted upfield as Michael Strahan chased after him, bellowing with mock fury until both stars tripped themselves with their laughter.

Just another midweek workout at the Pro Bowl, where the NFL's best players practice their trade in Hawaii with almost none of the pressures of real life.

"It's more fun every time I

come out here," said Chicago linebacker Brian Urlacher, making his third Pro Bowl appearance. "You spend a lot of time with guys you respect during the season, but you don't really get to know until you get out here."

Not all of the NFL's stars feel the same way — or feel good enough to play another game after the rigors of the season.

Warren Sapp, Tampa Bay's gre-

garius All-Pro defensive tackle, dropped out of his sixth straight trip to the Pro Bowl on Wednesday, allowing Carolina's Kris Jenkins to be added to the NFC roster.

Faulk became the St. Louis Rams' only representative in Honolulu when tackle Orlando Pace dropped out with injuries. But because the Rams missed the playoffs, Faulk wasn't about to miss the week of near-

vacation — or a shot at the \$30,000 awarded to each player on the winning team.

"This is an honor that not everybody appreciates," said Faulk, who earned his seventh Pro Bowl trip in nine NFL seasons. "I'm well rested, which isn't really the way you want to come here, but hopefully I'll play that much better."

Except for the warm weather and the quiet fans, Brian

Dawkins' third trip to the Pro Bowl has been a whole lot like a Philadelphia Eagles mini-camp. The All-Pro safety's teammates and coaches were everywhere he looked during the NFC's brief workout at Aloha Stadium.

The Eagles lost the conference championship game to Tampa Bay, giving them plenty of time to make it to

Honolulu in an impressive Philly contingent.

"Seems like half the team is here," Dawkins said after signing autographs for a few hundred mellow fans. "I'm not surprised everybody got on the plane. It was 10 degrees when I left town. There's a comfort level for all of us, especially on defense. I wish our coaching staff wasn't here, though."

Woods reveals severity of pain, prospects for recovery in near future

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

Tiger Woods only made it look easy.

His dominance became even more impressive Wednesday when he revealed that pain in his left knee was so intense last year it made him sick to his stomach, and he had to take injections just to keep playing.

"It was a tough, tough year, one I don't want to have to go through again," Woods said Wednesday during a conference call, his first interview since Dec. 12 knee surgery.

The bottom line looks healthy as ever.

Despite benign cysts that made his knee ligaments inflate like a balloon, Woods became the first player in 30 years to win a season's first two majors. He ruled golf for the fourth straight season, winning a total of six times.

Imagine how he might play if healthy.

Woods could get an answer soon. He received clearance from his doctors Saturday to hit a driver and as many practice balls as he wants. He'll decide next week whether he is fit enough to return Feb. 13 for the Buick Invitational in San Diego.

If not, Woods said he would try to play either of the following weeks, in the Nissan Open at Riviera or the Match Play Championship.

Woods first revealed his left knee was hurting at the season-ending Tour Championship. He showed few signs of pain during the year, when he finished out of the top 10 only twice after winning the Masters.

"It was a good acting job," he said.

Woods had knee surgery while in college, although he says this injury is unrelated. He started feeling intermittent pain about two years ago, but it was never sore long enough for him to pay atten-

tion. "Last year, toward the end, it was brutal," he said. "A lot of times, I didn't want to go out there and play. I felt nausea in my stomach because the pain was so great. I had it injected numerous times to play last year."

"I know what other athletes go through with those needles," he said. "It's not fun."

Woods said the pain affected him in some of the majors. It was hard to tell.

He won the Masters and U.S. Open by three strokes each, finished second by one stroke in the PGA Championship and was in contention at the British Open until an 81 on a cold, blustery Saturday at Muirfield.

"You've got to put it aside and play," he said.

The worst he felt was at Sherwood Country Club in December, when he made up seven shots on Padraig Harrington in the final round before losing by two. He told his agent the night before he might have to withdraw.

"In the morning, it was borderline I would play," Woods said. "I took painkillers, and it still hurt. As it started getting warmer, I was feeling better and said, 'Let's give it a try.'"

The one-hour surgery removed fluid from inside and around the anterior cruciate ligament, and removed benign cysts. Woods' doctor said the long-term recovery prospects are good.

"But once you've had the procedure done, you're susceptible to having the same procedure," Woods said. "Hopefully, that won't be the case."

Woods never got too far away from golf. He putted on his carpet, chipped into pillows and onto his bed, and started hitting wedges by the end of the year.

The real test comes this week.

Woods said hasn't felt any pain since he started hitting a few practice balls at his

home outside Orlando, Fla.

"I need to know if this knee will hold up in a full practice session," he said. "Once I know that, I'll be fine competing. I may be rusty when it comes to hitting one shot. ... Playing my way into shape is going to take a little time."

There could be some interesting ramifications.

Woods is closing in on Byron Nelson's record of making 113 consecutive cuts on the PGA Tour. He is at 96, and narrowly avoided the weekend off at Torrey Pines last year.

He also is going for a record fifth straight money title. During his rehabilitation, Ernie Els won the first two tournaments of the year in Hawaii, and Vijay Singh won in Phoenix.

"I'm anxious to get back out, I really am," Woods said. "I'm anxious to compete. As far as them, that's great. It's going to be a challenge, because they're both doing well."

When he does return, the Masters looms. Woods will be going for an unprecedented third straight title at Augusta National.

"It's going to be one heck of a challenge — hopefully, one I'll be prepared for," he said.

There might not be any way to prepare for what awaits at Augusta National and protests over its all-male membership.

Martha Burk of the National Council of Women's Organizations and Jesse Jackson have vowed to protest outside the gates unless the club invites a woman to join. Chairman Hootie Johnson has said that won't happen any time soon.

Woods said he won't be distracted.

"I'll be fine," he said. "Once it's time to play, it's time to play. Whether it's all the things outside the gates, or the fact I'm trying to win three in a row — all that goes away once it's time to tee it up."

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TO: The Unknown heirs under the Last Will and Testament of Calvin W. Isaacs, Deceased; The unknown heirs of David Quentin Isaacs, Jr.; The unknown heirs of William Calvin Isaacs; The unknown heirs of John C. Isaacs, III; and The unknown heirs of Samuel Burton Isaacs; and to all persons claiming any title or interest in land under the Last Will and Testament of Calvin W. Isaacs, Deceased.
NOTICE: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED, YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 A.M. ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF FORTY TWO (42) DAYS FROM THE DATE THIS CITATION WAS ISSUED, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU. THE WRITTEN ANSWER IS DUE ON: MARCH 3, 2003.
THE ADDRESS OF THE CLERK IS: HEMPHILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE 400 MAIN STREET P.O. BOX 867 CANADIAN, TEXAS 79014
A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE NATURE OF THE SUIT IS AS FOLLOWS: The Plaintiff in suit is David Quentin Isaacs, Sr. The suit was filed by Plaintiff as an ancillary action within Case Number 3295 in the 31st District Court in and for Hemphill County, Texas styled John C. Isaacs, Jr. et al v. David Quentin Isaacs, Jr. et al, for judgment approving the Amended Agreement Pertaining to the Last Will and Testament of Calvin W. Isaacs which has been duly recorded at Volume 527, Page 33 of the Official Public Records of Hemphill County, Texas, for judgment approving partition agreements that affect the following lands:
a. Isaacs West Ranch: Lands located in Hemphill and Roberts County, more fully described at Exhibits One and Two of Correction Partition Deed recorded at Volume 552, Page 246 and 247, Official Public Records of Hemphill County Texas.
b. Isaacs McClellan Creek Ranch: Lands located in Donley and Gray County, more fully described at Volume 017, Page 79-85, in the Official Public Records of Donley County, Texas, and Page 752, Page 1011, Official Public Records of Real Estate of Gray County, Texas.
The Attorney for the Plaintiff is Ronald D. Nickum, P.O. Box 1889, Amarillo, Texas 79105. Phone (806)371-8888.
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT, AT OFFICE IN THE CITY OF CANADIAN, HEMPHILL COUNTY, TEXAS, THIS 15th DAY OF JANUARY, 2003.
CHARLES COLE District Clerk
By: BRENDA PERRIN Deputy
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GOP, Democrats battling over Estrada vote

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — After almost two years of contentious debate, Republicans plan to push for a final Senate committee vote on President Bush's nomination of Miguel Estrada to become the first Hispanic judge on an influential appeals court.

Democrats were hoping for enough support to possibly block a vote Thursday by the Senate Judiciary Committee on the choice to join the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

That court has provided three of the current Supreme Court justices, and Estrada is considered a potential high court nominee should a vacancy occur while Bush is in the White House.

Estrada is a member of the law firm that represented Bush in his successful Supreme Court fight for the presidency in 2000.

Bush and Republicans, who now have a 10-9 edge in the committee, have sought Estrada's confirmation since he was nominated in May 2001. They contend Democrats have mistreated him because he is a conservative.

Democrats say they need more time on the nomination, arguing that he lacks judicial experience and refused last year to answer questions about specific cases. The Justice Department's solicitor general's office, where Estrada used to work, refused to release copies of memos and opinions from his work there.

Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the top committee Democrat, has called Estrada a candidate who "appears to have been groomed to be an activist appellate judge by well-placed conservatives."

Estrada, in a five-hour confirmation hearing last year, insisted he could set aside any personal or political opinions if confirmed.

"I'm very firmly of the view that although we all have views on a number of subjects from A to Z, the job of a judge is to subconsciously put that aside and look at each case — starting by withholding judgment — with an open mind and listen to the parties," Estrada said at the time.

The committee chairman, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, has said he would use his one-vote committee majority advantage to try and push nominees quickly to the Senate, where Republicans hold a two-vote advantage.

But Democrats complained about the expedited schedule. "It seems part of a headlong effort to pack the courts," Leahy said.

Democrats spent most of Wednesday questioning Jeff Sutton, nominated for the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. They said he attempted to limit federal civil rights protections and gut or weaken protections for state employees with disabilities and older workers.

The Ohio lawyer argued successfully in a Supreme Court case in 2000 that Congress exceeded its authority by permitting state workers to sue their states under the Americans With Disabilities Act.

"How can we be sure you're not going to continue that agenda when you're on the court?" asked Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

Sutton said he has represented all types of people and organizations as a lawyer — including murderers — guaranteeing that some on the committee would disagree with his clients. "I don't stand a chance in trying to become a judge if one looks at all of my clients and decides whether they agreed with their views," he said.

Black farmers plan to sell food to Cuba

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Black Farmers Association is working on a deal to sell Cuba \$20 million in food ranging from chicken to wheat this spring.

John Boyd, head of the group, said more than 10,000 black farmers would benefit from the agreement with Fidel Castro.

"This could be really good for the black farmers because it's a steady flowing business where we, the NBFA, would be able to get a contract directly with the farmers themselves and get them a fair price for their crops," Boyd said Wednesday.

He met with Castro in November to begin arrangements to sell corn, soybeans, rice, wheat and chicken.

Officials with the Agriculture Department and the U.S. Trade Representative said they were not involved in the sale.

Cuba has made several agreements with U.S. farm groups to buy agricultural exports since the United States lifted an embargo on food sales in 2000. But the arrangement with black farmers would mark the first time Castro forged a sale with a particular ethnic group, said John Kavulich, president of the U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council.

"Clearly there is a political component to the decision by the Cuban government with respect to the National Black Farmers Association," Kavulich said, referring to problems that black farmers have experienced in the United States.

Boyd said Castro is aware

of the U.S. government's history of mistreating black farmers.

Black farmers sued the USDA in a class action lawsuit, alleging the agency routinely denied them loans because of their race. As part of a 1997 accord, the department agreed to allow farmers to seek a \$50,000 settlement in cases where the government discriminated. It has paid more than \$634 million in settlements, but the farmers say the discrimination has continued.

Boyd said he and other black farmers need new trade opportunities to survive, especially since they are declining in numbers.

"I'm not saying I support their political views," Boyd said of Cuba. "The federal government refuses to help us, and we're going to have to turn to some of these other countries for help."

Some U.S. grain and livestock companies want to help the farmers sell and ship their goods, said Kavulich, whose council tracks exports to Cuba. Boyd confirmed that but did not release the names because agreements are pending.

Cuba is becoming an increasingly important trading partner for the U.S. farm and food industries. Exports to Cuba increased from \$4.5 million in 2001, to \$155 million in 2002. Kavulich said they may reach \$230 million this year.

On the Net:
U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council:
<http://www.cubatrade.org>

Federal judge blocks fed's discount pharmacy card

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration lost another round in its effort to promote discount pharmacy cards to Medicare recipients after a federal judge said the government had no legal right to impose such a program.

In a surprise ruling from the bench Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Paul L. Friedman said it was "mind-boggling" that the government would try to implement the program without having statutory authority.

It was the government's second attempt at implementing a program.

Representatives of drug store and pharmacist groups said the decision effectively killed the idea in its current form.

"It's dead in its tracks," said John Rector, a senior vice president for the National Community Pharmacists Association. "I hope they've learned their lesson."

S. Lawrence Kocot of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores said the debate now shifts back to Congress "where a number of creative solutions and viewpoints should be considered."

Medicare administrator Tom Scully said the administration was still "determined to do this" and suggested officials may seek help from Congress.

"This is finally getting through a hurdle in the process," Scully said. "There is no question the administration is going to pursue it legislatively."

The administration had promoted the discount cards as

integral to its plan to lower prescription drug prices for senior citizens on Medicare.

The plan would have encouraged older people to buy the cards from private companies by giving some cards what amounted to a government seal of approval. After paying a one-time enrollment fee — not more than \$25 — people could get discounts of up to 15 percent on some medicines, White House officials have said.

Pharmacists and chain drug stores sued two years ago, arguing that the proposal did not say who must subsidize the lower prices. They also questioned whether federal officials had the power to promote the cards without congressional approval.

At that time, Friedman stopped the program from getting under way because of the likelihood that the government did not have that authority. The judge later allowed the government to submit a new proposal.

Israeli's send first astronaut to space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon, says viewing the world from space makes him realize how fragile the planet is — and how important it is to strive for peace in the Middle East.

"The world looks marvelous from up here, so peaceful, so wonderful and so fragile," Ramon said Wednesday. "Everybody, all of us down there, not only in Israel, have to keep it clean and good."

The 48-year-old colonel in Israel's air force is aboard Columbia for a 16-day scientific research mission that ends Saturday.

Crewmate Laurel Clark said it was "magical" watching a rose bloom in orbit and a silkworm cocoon blossoming into a moth. The rose and moth are among more than 80 experiments flying aboard Columbia.

Police question stepfather of child left at store in Utah

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A 3-year-old boy found abandoned in a Salt Lake City store was identified as the son of a Reno woman who has been missing for two weeks, authorities said. Police were questioning her husband and said he is believed to be the man who left the boy, his stepson, behind.

Police said they took Lyle Montgomery, 42, in for questioning Wednesday night when they served a search warrant in connection with the hunt for his wife, Jeannette Acord.

"We share the concerns of the Reno Police Department as well as the FBI that there's a high probability of foul play in this matter, and we're looking into her whereabouts," Salt Lake City police Lt. Jim Jensen told the NBC "Today" show Thursday.

Acord, 28, has not been seen since Jan. 13, and police said Montgomery has refused to discuss her whereabouts.

Montgomery is believed to be the man pictured on a ShopKo security videotape

with his 3-year-old stepson, Jonathan Jacob Corpuz, authorities said.

Jonathan was abandoned at the Salt Lake City store Saturday by a man who gave him a toy to play with and walked out. His identity was a mystery for days. Salt Lake City is some 500 miles from Reno.

When asked if Montgomery was the man in the tape, his lawyer, Marc Picker, told the NBC "Today" show Thursday that "I don't think anybody can answer that at the moment."

In October 2002, Acord brought a criminal complaint against Montgomery in which she said he assaulted her by pulling a firearm on her at his home in the same room as her son, Picker said. He also said the mother disappeared for several weeks, then reappeared and the couple got married.

"I'm not concerned that Mr. Montgomery committed any kind of crime against her. I don't believe he did," Picker said. "I can't answer for anything else that might have happened to Mrs. Montgomery."


Salt Lake City police expected to file child abuse charges against Montgomery for "intentionally and knowingly placing this child at risk," according to a police statement.

Police Lt. Ron Holladay said police were still searching the home.

"We are trying to find out where his wife is," he said. "That is our primary concern."

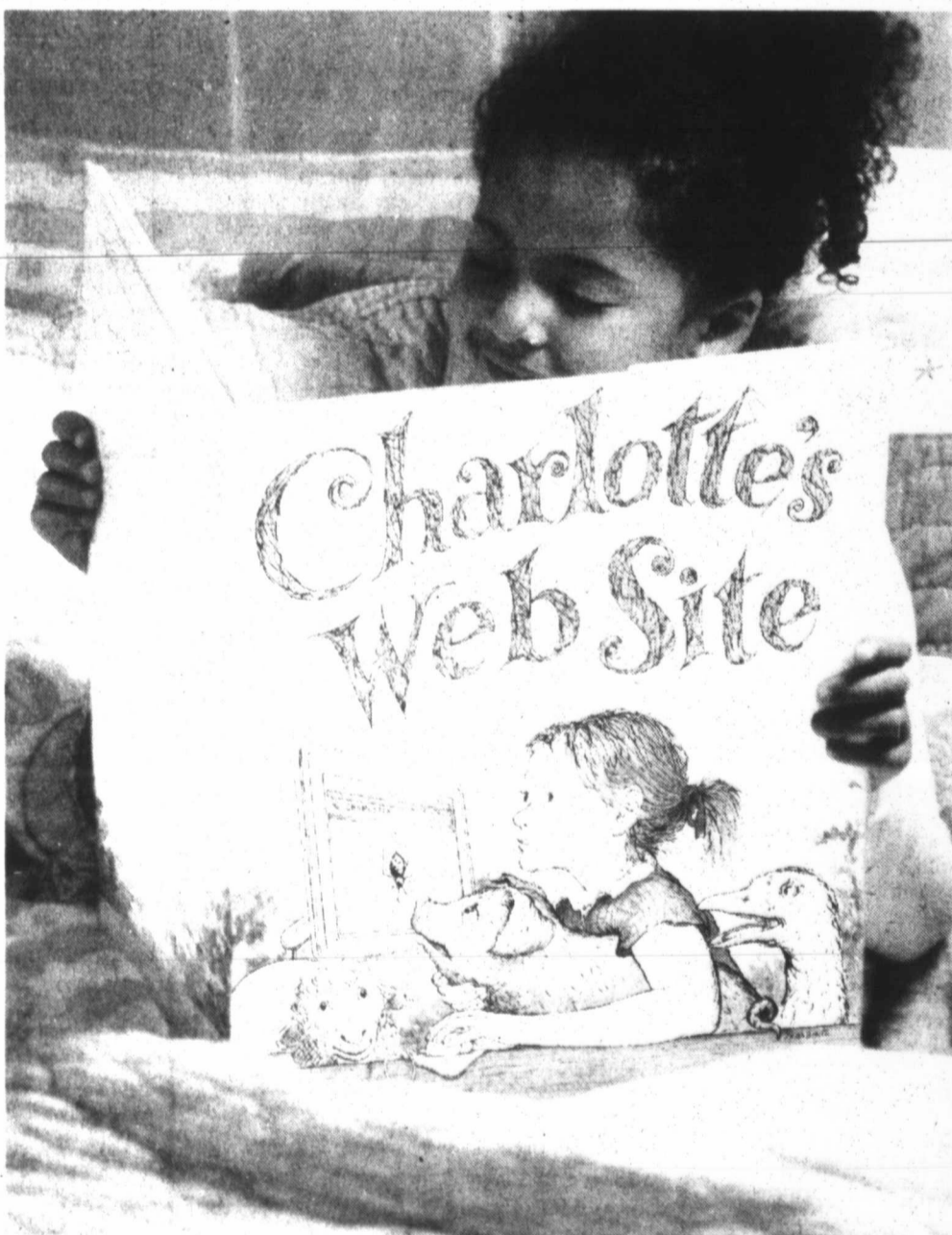
Holladay said Montgomery went to the police station voluntarily for an interview after police went to the house to serve the search warrant.

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