

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Saturday, Jan. 17

Tashia Delores Wilson, 25, and Guy Tyrone Henderson, 26, both of 1121 Varnon Drive, were arrested at their residence. Wilson was arrested for two capias pro fines, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, destruction of evidence, and theft over \$500 and under \$1,500. Henderson was arrested for possession of a controlled substance under one gram, destruction of evidence, and theft over \$500 and under \$1,500. (See story, page 1)

Sunday, Jan. 18

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2500 block of Aspen. Eggs were thrown at a vehicle. No known damage was reported.

Monday, Jan. 19

Sexual assault of a child was reported at the police department.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of East Craven. A window was cracked. Estimated damage was \$50.

A 13-year-old male was reported as a runaway in the 1200 block of East Foster.

Violation of a protective order was reported at One Medical Plaza.

An information report concerning a domestic incident in the 600 block of East Foster was taken in the police department lobby. No injuries were reported.

Simple assault was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells. Minor injuries were reported.

SHERIFF

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

Monday, Jan. 19

Clinton Michael Oldham, 25, homeless, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation on a charge of possession of marijuana, and capias pro fines for no valid driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Jan. 19

10:39 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a request for a carbon monoxide check in the 1300 block of Coffee. None was found.

AMBULANCE

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

Monday, Jan. 19

12:05 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo, and transferred a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

2:51 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of Deane. No transport.

3:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to N.W.T.H. and transferred a patient to PRMC.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

12:42 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of North Hamilton and transported a patient to PRMC.

3:04 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Yeager and transported a patient to PRMC.

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Pampa:		The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:	
XCEL	17.07	+0.08	
Kerr McGee	50.44	+1.20	
Limited	17.90	-0.25	
Williams	11.13	+0.13	
MCD	25.15	-0.16	
XOM	40.81	+0.31	
Atmos	24.65	+0.06	
Pioneer Nat	32.94	+0.72	
JCP	26.16	-0.28	
COP	66.28	+1.16	
SLB	55.47	+1.58	
Tenneco	8.63	+0.09	
CVX	85.79	+1.07	
Wal-Mart	52.85	-0.63	
OKE	22.53	+0.07	
NS Grp	9.14	+0.21	
New York Gold	406.75		
Silver	6.31		
West Texas Crude	35.07		

OBITUARIES

MARY ELLEN MILLS

1932-2004

Mary Ellen Mills, 71, of Pampa, died Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Nathan Hopson, pastor of Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Mills was born June 19, 1932, at McKinney, and moved to Pampa in 1954. She was a housekeeper at Highland General Hospital for 18 years, was a Baptist and a former member of the Eastern Star.

She married Willie Mills, Sr., in 1959 at Pampa.

Survivors include her husband, Willie, of the home; two sons, Willie Mills, Jr., and Lonnie Remond Mills, both of Pampa; and six grandchildren.

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



DUANE WAMPLER

1929-2004

ROCKPORT — Duane Wampler, 74, died Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004, at Corpus Christi. Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Rockport First Baptist Church with the Rev. Walter Knight officiating. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in Glasco City Cemetery at Glasco, Kan., with the Rev. Dennis McAllister officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Charlie Marshall Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc.

Mr. Wampler was born July 14, 1929, at Concordia, Kan., to Charles A. and Leta Wampler. Prior to retirement, he owned a machine shop in Glasco and was a foreman for

Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America. Before moving to Rockport, he'd lived in Glasco, Pampa and Fritch.

He was a deacon at First Baptist Church of Rockport.

Survivors include his wife, Deva Wampler of Rockport; three sons, Frank Wampler of Assaria, Kan., Steve Wampler of Fritch and Don Wampler of Overland Park, Kan.; a sister, Darlene Warner of Melvern, Kan.; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to First Baptist Church Building Fund, 1515 N. Live Oak St., Rockport TX 78382.

SERVICES TOMORROW

MILLS, Mary Ellen — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.
WAMPLER, Duane — 10 a.m., First Baptist Church, Rockport.

City Briefs

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

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1974 CLASS Reunion Organizational Meeting, Tues., Jan. 27th, 7 p.m., 2381 Chestnut. All interested are invited. More info. 669-9350, 669-3564 or 665-1336.

LOST WEDDING Ring, gold traditional setting, soldered together, sz. 5, Wed. Jan. 7th, possibly by Pampa Office Supply or La Pasadita. If found anywhere please call 806-898-5984. Thank you!

Parents question whether squad rightly overseen

HOUSTON (AP) — The parents of a Prairie View A&M cheerleader who was paralyzed last week while performing stunts with other cheerleaders are questioning whether the students were properly supervised.

"My daughter is a base and has been a base for years," father Bobby Norwood told the Houston Chronicle from Houston's Memorial Hermann Hospital where his daughter, Bethany, underwent surgery over the weekend. "I don't know why she was thrown up. She usually catches and supports when a girl goes up."

Norwood said something went wrong and that the injury happened while the cheerleaders were unsupervised. He said one of his daughter's teammates told him they were practicing without a coach or adviser last Wednesday.

Diana Fallis, the university's spokeswoman, said Tuesday she was still trying to pinpoint exactly what happened.

Bethany Norwood, 22, has had some involuntary movement since suffering her injury but is believed paralyzed from the neck down, her father said.

Study: Law not curbing college choices

By The Associated Press

Texas universities' top 10 percent admission law does not keep smart students who fail to graduate at the top of their class from getting into the state's most competitive universities, according to a new study.

The Princeton University study, released Monday, also found that the law has not created an exodus of the state's brightest students to out-of-state schools, as some critics have feared.

The study's findings debunk common perceptions about the law, which grants all students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class automatic admission to any Texas public college.

Researchers interviewed 13,803 Texas high school seniors about their college plans in 2002. A year later, they re-interviewed a random sample of 5,200 students to determine where they actually enrolled.

The study found that 75 percent of high-achieving students who did not graduate in the top 10 percent were still able to enroll at Texas A&M

or the University of Texas if they wanted, and 71 percent whose top choice was another four-year state school also got accepted.

"Statistically, those are very high percentages," said Marta Tienda, a Princeton professor of sociology and public affairs and the lead author of the study. "There may be some students being squeezed out, but the data shows that students ranking just below the top 10 percent are definitely more successful at enrolling in Texas' flagship universities than lower-ranked high school graduates."

The study also found that most students in the top 10 percent who wanted to attend a Texas college ended up enrolling at one — dispelling the "brain drain" theory that they are being forced to attend out-of-state schools because the law restricts their in-state enrollment options.

In fact, high-achieving students had a tougher time getting accepted to out-of-state schools, the study said. While nearly three-quarters of the

top 10 percent students attended their Texas school of choice, less than percent of them who wanted to attend a school outside of Texas got in.

Officials at the University of Texas and Texas A&M — the state's two flagships schools — said the Princeton study confirms their experiences with the 10 percent law since it was put into place in 1997.

Bruce Walker, head of admissions at UT, said the law had squeezed some smart students out of the admission process. But on the whole, it hasn't closed the doors to deserving students, he said.

Lawmakers adopted the law after the Hopwood decision banned racial preferences in state university admissions. The law has been credited with helping Texas universities maintain diversity despite the ruling.

Texas was the first state to implement such a law, and California and Florida followed.

On the Web: www.texas-top10.princeton.edu/

Man suspected of slaying Comfort couple found unfit for trial

KERRVILLE, Texas — A judge has ruled murder suspect Vincent Seard is incompetent to stand trial in the slayings of two people near Comfort two years ago.

Seard, 40, was found to be unfit Monday by State District Judge Steven Ables based on competency evaluations by a psychologist and a psychiatrist.

"By agreement, it was ordered he be sent to the North Texas State Hospital at Vernon," said District Attorney Bruce Curry.

Seard is to be transferred to the state hospital for treatment on Tuesday.

He will be tried in the future, if regains his competence, Curry said Tuesday's edition of the *Kerrville Daily Times*.

Seard was charged with capital murder in the March 2002 slayings of Comfort residents Patricia Kutzer, 59, and Terry Ingram, 52, in Kutzer's home. He was arrested four days later in Signal Hill, Calif.

Authorities have said Seard left behind pictures of himself at the crime scene, as well as his Kentucky driver's license.

Seard, who has had violent outburst while in jail, was strapped by his arms and legs to a fortified wheelchair during the court hearing.

John Mann

Lawyer

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School funding provides fodder for Texas senate races

By APRIL CASTRO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

As a school finance overhaul looms, public education is providing fodder for candidates vying for two state Senate seats. The special election is Tuesday.

On opposite ends of the state, mostly Republican candidates are wrapping up bids to replace retired Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, and Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, who left office shortly after President Bush appointed him as ambassador to Sweden. Both lawmakers were respected leaders in education legislation.

The top two vote-getters in each race will meet in runoffs if no candidate wins a majority. That's expected because of the number of candidates in each district.

Education "is the critical issue, the issue that

everyone is talking about," said former state Rep. Paul Sadler, who is running to replace Ratliff in the northeast Texas District 1.

School finance has been the subject of debates and campaign ads in these rural areas, as policymakers in Austin figure out how to change the way Texas pays for a public education while giving homeowners promised property tax relief. Gov. Rick Perry has said he will likely call a special session to address school finance around April, but not until lawmakers have reached a consensus on an acceptable plan.

Top spenders in the District 1 race have been Sadler, a Democrat who led public education reform in the 1990s and Republican Kevin Eltife, a former Tyler mayor who has received the endorsements of Republican Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst. Eltife has amassed campaign funds of about \$472,000, with donations

from several influential, big-money lobby groups.

Rep. Tommy Merritt, a moderate Republican who often toes the party line, could have an edge with his regional name recognition in the district and his reputation as a defender of rural issues.

Merritt proposed his own alternative to the state's share-the-wealth approach to public school finance during the last regular legislative session.

That district encompasses the far northeast corner of the state, stretching from the Red River to the Arkansas border, southward through Wood, Rusk and Panola counties.

The race has turned nasty in the final stretch, with attack ads filling the airwaves.

Other candidates include Jerry Yost, R-Longview, a former state representative; Bill Godsey, R-Longview, an environmental con-

sultant; and Daryl Ware, a Marshall railroad conductor running as a member of the Constitution Party.

In West Texas, a lone Democrat, Elaine King Miller, is taking her chances against six Republicans in a fight for Bivins' District 31 seat.

Bob Barnes, a Republican restaurateur from Odessa, has outspent his opponents and boasts the endorsement of every mayor in the counties surrounding Midland and Ector as well as Texans for Lawsuit Reform, a political action group that advocates limiting lawsuits.

Barnes, along with Kel Seliger, who served four terms as Amarillo's mayor and Don Sparks, a Midland oilman, have been the top spenders for the District 31 seat. They face Kirk Edwards, an Odessa businessman; Dumas farmer Lee Gibson; and Jesse Quackenbush of Amarillo.

Annan gives guarded support to request for sending United Nations team to Iraq

By GERALD NADLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan cautiously supported an American and Iraqi request that a U.N. team study whether Iraq could have quick, direct elections for a transitional government.

But Annan said he first needed assurance the team will be safe, especially after Sunday's truck bombing outside the U.S.-led coalition's headquarters compound. Thirty-one people, mostly Iraqis, were killed and more than 120 were wounded, the Iraqi Health Ministry said.

American and Iraqi officials asked Annan on Monday to send a team to study the possibility of elections, and Security Council diplomats universally supported the idea in later meetings with Annan.

The secretary-general said he wanted more details on the mission, but he acknowledged the issue was urgent and said he hoped for a speedy decision.

"If we get it wrong at this stage, it'll be even more difficult and we may not even get to the next stage," he said. "So I think it is extremely important that we do whatever we can to assist."

Underscoring that urgency, tens of thousands of Shiite Muslims marched in Baghdad on Monday to demand early elections.

It was the biggest public display of Shiite political power here since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's Sunni-

dominated regime and could have been held with the U.N. meeting in mind.

The United Nations essentially is being asked to help resolve an argument between the Bush administration and Iraq's most prominent Shiite leader, Ayatollah Ali al-Hussein al-Sistani, who has demanded direct elections to choose a provisional government by June 30. The coalition wants to keep to a handover plan dating from Nov. 15, which calls for caucuses to choose a provisional assembly.

Direct elections would be a boon to Shiites, who comprise about 60 percent of Iraq's population. Caucuses likely would spread representation to the country's minorities, including the Kurds in the north and the Sunnis who had great power under Saddam.

Annan has repeatedly said he did not believe there was enough time for the direct vote before June 30. He indicated Monday he would approve sending the election experts but stressed that security would be paramount for any staff deployed there.

"Obviously, the scope for operational U.N. activities inside Iraq will continue to be constrained by the security situation for some time to come," Annan said.

Sunday's suicide bombing was "not reassuring," he said.

The secretary-general ordered all international staff to leave Iraq in October following two bombings at U.N. headquarters — including one on Aug. 19 that killed top U.N. envoy

Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 others. Since then, the Bush administration has repeatedly said the United Nations should return immediately, but had not specified what role it would play.

Security Council diplomats who met with Annan and the Iraqi Governing Council said they respected Annan's request for time to decide what to do. But they indicated they were hopeful Annan's fears would be allayed after the coalition and the Iraqis promised to keep a U.N. team safe.

"I think these conditions will be met," French Ambassador Jean Marc de la Sabliere said. "It is important for everyone to have by the 30th of June a provisional government as legitimate as possible."

Annan and officials from the coalition and the Governing Council indicated that a U.N. team of experts could also suggest alternatives to the coalition-backed and al-Sistani plans, leaving room for a compromise.

"We should not stick to rigid positions on these matters," said Iraqi Governing Council President Adnan P. Chachi, who also attended Monday's meeting. "We've got to find ways and means to deal with problems as they arise and I think this is a very healthy way of managing the affairs of our country."

Annan met Monday with the senior U.S. administrator in Iraq, L. Paul Bremer; his British deputy, Jeremy Greenstock; and members of the Governing Council and the U.S.-led Coalition Authority.

Sara Lee drops singer as sausage spokesman

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Country crooner Jimmy Dean says Sara Lee Corp. dropped him as spokesman for the famous sausage company he founded more than three decades ago.

In a statement Monday titled "Somebody doesn't like Sara Lee," the 75-year-old multimillionaire says the Chicago-based maker of food, apparel and household products told him last year he no longer meets the company's marketing needs.

"The company told me that they were trying to attract the younger housewife, and they didn't think I was the one to do that," Dean said in an interview. "I think it's the dumbest thing. But you know, what do I know?"

Julie Cetary, a spokeswoman for Sara Lee, said Monday that the company chose not to renew Dean's contract in May because the "brand was going in a new direction" that demanded a shift in marketing.

"We're focusing more on the product, not the person. Our consumers want convenience and great taste," Cetary said.

After Sara Lee quietly dumped him, the so-called

"Sausage King" didn't say anything right away. Instead, he stewed — growing more frustrated when fans kept asking him about his disappearing act.

"I felt like I had deceived people, and I hadn't," said Dean, who lives just outside Richmond with his wife, Donna. "I was just put out to pasture."

Dean claims Sara Lee broke a verbal agreement he had with former Chief Executive John H. Bryan after the firm purchased his thriving sausage business in 1984. Bryan, he said, told him that he would always be the company's official spokesman.

Bryan could not be reached by telephone at his home outside Chicago on Monday.

Sara Lee, Dean said, pays him an undisclosed amount for the use of his name, his likeness and his marketing participation. The company will retain rights to his name and image, but it has reduced its payments to reflect its dismissal of Dean as the product line's spokesman, Dean said.

Dean acknowledged he has resisted some advertising initiatives since Sara Lee bought his business.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

RAID

possession; destruction of evidence; and possession of a controlled substance less than one gram. Wilson also had two outstanding municipal court warrants for fighting in public and failing to appear.

Wilson and Henderson were booked into Gray County Jail, where they remained as of press time today in lieu of bond. Bond for each of the charges against the two was set at \$7,500 for the theft, \$5,000 for destruction of evidence and another \$5,000 for possession of a controlled substance under one gram.

The third person at the residence at the time the search warrant was executed was released by narcotics task force agents after investigation showed no charges were going to be brought against the person at that time.

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SPEECH

most of his speech to domestic issues has risen from 31 percent just before the 2002 address to 40 percent today.

One new Bush initiative will be increased job retraining in an economy that has seen the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in manufacturing over the past few years.

Bush's job approval rating, 58 percent in the ABC-Washington Post poll taken Sunday, is higher than for any president at this point in his term since President Eisenhower in 1956. Bush's poll numbers are buoyed by his leadership on the fight against terrorism — 66 percent approval — but dragged

down by concerns over domestic issues, such as health care, immigration and the economy.

The second half of Bush's speech will focus on domestic priorities, with a special emphasis on the economy, which has rebounded strongly since the president declared the end of major combat operations in Iraq in May. Bush will seek to convince Americans that his series of tax cuts has turned the economy around, and that he is now turning his attention to job creation, aides said.

Bush will call for new job-training grants channeled through community colleges to help prepare American workers for a changing economy.

Democrats said they were determined to make sure the president does not get too much credit; he has cut vocational education and an array of job-training programs in recent years, they said.

Bush will repeat his belief that marriage should be between a man and a woman, but stop short of seeking a constitutional amendment to enshrine that anew in law. The 1996 Defense of Marriage law already denies federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

Bush was rehearsing the speech a final time Tuesday, aides said. They invited Rend Rahim Francke, Iraq's diplomatic representative to the United States, to the State of the Union speech, along with members of all five branches

of the U.S. armed services.

The president, his wife, Laura, and members of his administration planned an aggressive day-after effort to reinforce the messages in his speech.

The president was headed Wednesday and Thursday to Ohio, Arizona and New Mexico; Mrs. Bush was going to Orlando, Fla. on Wednesday.

Small Business Administration chief Hector Barretto was leading an effort to target Hispanic voters with broadcast interviews Tuesday. Top officials were making themselves available Wednesday to radio-talk show hosts for a second annual "radio day" on the North Lawn of the White House.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

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VIEWPOINTS

Campaign or temper tantrum

THE Pampa NEWS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

District Attorney responds to 'Swept Under the Rug'

To the editor:
 I am writing to refute statements contained in a letter (to the editor) titled "Swept Under the Rug," published in the Jan. 11, 2004, edition of *The Pampa News*. The letter was purported written by a Jerad Matlock.

I have never spoken to Jerad Matlock regarding alleged hot check payments to the former county attorney. Further, had Mr. Matlock approached me as represented in his letter, I would have refused to visit with him for two reasons.

1. Mr. Matlock is currently facing criminal charges in my office. As a prosecutor, I am prohibited from communicating with criminal defendants other than through their respective attorneys.
2. Given that a special prosecutor had been appointed with respect to any matters pertinent to the operation of the former county attorney's office, Mr. Matlock would have been referred immediately to the special prosecutor.

Additionally, I contacted a long-time employee of the County Attorney's office. It was represented to me that receipts are always given for cash payments. The employee stated that it would be impossible for any person making four separate cash payments to that office to have never received a receipt as represented in the letter.

Rick Roach
 31st Judicial District Attorney

TODAY IN HISTORY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2004. There are 346 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
 On Jan. 20, 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

On this date:
 In 1801, John Marshall was appointed chief justice of the United States.

In 1841, the island of Hong Kong was ceded to Great Britain. (It returned to Chinese control in July 1997.)

In 1887, the U.S. Senate approved an agreement to lease Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as a naval base.

In 1936, Britain's King George V died; he was succeeded by Edward VIII.

In 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Jews.

In 1953, Dwight D. Eisenhower took the oath of office as president of the United States; Richard M. Nixon was sworn in as vice president.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Pampa News welcomes and encourages readers to express their opinions on issues of public interest and concern. However, we also reserve the right to accept or reject any letter for publication.

Letters must be **300 words or less**. Letters submitted for publication must be neat and legible, typed if possible, or at least handwritten in a clear manner. All letters will be edited for length, clarity, spelling, grammar, and taste. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters that are potentially libelous, or personal attacks. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication nor can we guarantee a date of publication.

Letters submitted must include name, address, phone number and signature for verification. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed, unless requested for a specific reason.

Due to volume and repetition, we will limit submissions from the same person to two letters per month.

Poetry, candidate or political endorsements, letters to third parties and "thank you" letters will not be published except at the discretion of the editor, depending on general interest.

Letters may be dropped off at the office, 403 W. Atchison, or mailed to *The Pampa News*, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.

If I had to find a definition for the Democrat campaign for the presidency it would be that it's a temper tantrum.

I just can't believe that America would want a party that thinks throwing fits of anger is an appropriate form of campaigning for the highest office in the land. The thought of a president - the most powerful man in the world - winning office by campaigning on a platform of hatred is frightening.

My dad campaigned on the theme of making it Morning in America again. To listen to the present Democrat candidates chant their diatribes you'd think that they want it to be a nightmarish Midnight in America.

What's even more disturbing is that the Democrats' campaign rhetoric is centered on the use of shocking obscenities - it seems they can't get through a day without using the F word and other filthy words.

Listen to these people. Listen to Howard Dean shouting down a questioner who just simply wanted to ask if we couldn't just get rid of all the angry rhetoric and act like neighbors. What does Dean say? He sneers, "George Bush isn't my neighbor."

If he knows where to find one he should look in the Bible for the parable of the Good Samaritan to discover who his neighbors are.

Speaking on radio station WRKO in Boston Gov. Dean said that the President of the United States may need some "psychological" help, because he can't deal with the fact that his father lost and he's



MICHAEL REAGAN
 COLUMNIST

trying to repay a debt to Saddam Hussein for what he did to his dad.

Then there is this hatred driven - Democrat front, MoveOn.org and their ads comparing the president to Hitler.

In all my lifetime I have never heard so much cussing in a campaign from people who represent or support candidates running for the presidency - people who are so angry and vulgar. It is embarrassing to watch these people who want their candidates to be given the job of running this country wallow in filth.

Two nights ago, Matt Drudge reported that when the followers of MoveOn.org gathered to unveil the winner of the sleazy website's "Bush in 30 Seconds" ad contest, comedienne Margaret Cho used the F word again and again in attacking the president and the audience thought it was funny.

To debate the president about issues is one thing, but all of a sudden the Democrats and their show business supporters start using the F word or the GD words or whatever to show that they are hip. What bothers me is that when these comedians use filthy language to attack the president, people laugh and applaud, not understanding that it's absolutely

demeaning to those who they want to win the presidency.

Never in my life, at any of the hundreds of Republican functions I have attended have I ever heard anybody dare to use a cuss word.

The Democrats are seething with anger and have adopted the rhetoric of hatred because they refuse to accept the fact that they lost in 2000, and no longer control the House and Senate, and haven't a single legitimate issue to use against the president.

As Treasury Secretary John Snow told the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 7, the economy is getting better day by day. Construction spending in November was setting a record, the housing sector is boosting everything, industrial production is growing by 9 percent, retail sales are up 9 percent, job creation for November was rising for the fourth straight month, taxpayers with children were receiving checks of \$400 per eligible child in July and August, married couples are benefiting from the reduction of the marriage penalty, and small businesses are benefiting from a fourfold increase in the amount of new investment they can deduct in one year.

There are so many plus signs, but the Democrats can't see them through their anger. All they are left with are childish temper tantrums, dirty words and the myth, thoroughly dispelled by the liberal media in several exhaustive investigations that Al Gore really won Florida and the 2000 election.



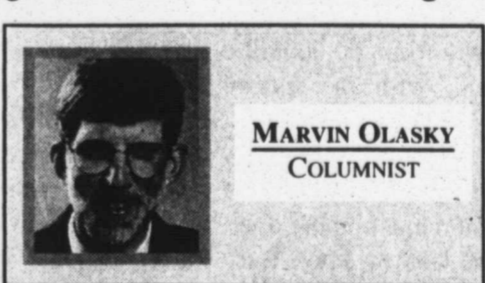
Better to pray for than yell at enemies

Who are our conservative heroes? Do we prefer determined perseverance to the spectacular moment of defiance? Next week, as we pay attention to abortion upon the 31st anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, some examples of consistent courage are right in front of us.

My heroines today are the week-in, week-out volunteer counselors at crisis pregnancy centers who patiently show women that their lives are not over if they refuse to snuff out small lives. My historical heroines are women like Helen Mercy Woods. For decades in Chicago, she ran a Refuge for Erring Women (19th century America was not big on euphemisms) who were pregnant and unmarried. She gave no grandiose speeches, but offered a grand defense against abortion through the provision of compassionate alternatives.

The need for persevering compassion also connects with the current debate about a constitutional amendment in defense of marriage. Yes, we need one, but it's even more important to come alongside troubled couples in our churches: When many have rampant adultery and divorce, and we accept that with "only a shake of the head; aren't church leaders wide open to charges of hypocrisy?

Church leaders are like parents in some respects. When a son who needs discipline says, "Leave me alone," a dad needs to respond, "No, I won't leave you alone." Church leaders also need to tell prospective members: If you get



MARVIN OLASKY
 COLUMNIST

involved in adultery, if you want an unbiblical divorce, we won't leave you alone. Our calling is to help you return to trusting in God and enjoying the rightful pleasures He gives us.

Saying such things requires some quiet heroism. It's easier to give speeches than to engage in tough counseling, but if we're not willing to push hard for sexual fidelity among people in their 30s and 40s and 50s, we shouldn't be pushing for it among teens and 20s with raging hormones.

"Charity begins in the home," we say. So does heroism. "You don't start at the top." During a quarter-century of well-intentioned political efforts, many of us have over-emphasized politics without building the needed base of biblical churches, education and mercy. Some of us have engaged in spam rhetoric, alienating 100 people with over-the-top screaming so as to gain one follower filled with grievances. We've often gravitated to symbols and cymbals, rather than quiet heroism.

One of the best essays I've ever read, Robert Coles' "The Inexplicable Prayers of Ruby Bridges," describes a little girl who desegregated a New Orleans ele-

mentary school in 1960, walking in and out every day between federal marshals. Coles writes about the daily greeting party of 50 to 75 adults at that school: "They called her this, and they called her that. They brandished their fists. They told her she was going to die and they were going to kill her." Ruby Bridges was a tiny heroine for going to school each day.

But she was more than that, Coles found out. Told that Ruby seemed to talk to the people verbally assaulting her, Coles asked what she was saying. Ruby replied:

"I wasn't talking to them. I was just saying a prayer for them."

Coles: "Ruby, you pray for the people there?"

"Oh yes."

"Really?"

"Yes."

"Why do you do that?"

"Because they need praying for."

How many of us do what this little girl did, walking in and out, surrounded by hostility, not just once, but day after day? And how many of us pray for, rather than holler at, those who hate us? It's fine to orate and attend rallies with people who think like us, but if more of us were like Ruby Bridges -- or like the pro-life volunteers who wrestle with the consciences of unmarried pregnant women, praying throughout the night that they will receive a blessing at dawn -- America would be a stronger and more compassionate country.

A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People



This Week: Chinese New Year

© 2004 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 20 No. 4

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Gung Hay Fat Choy

In China, January 22, 2004, is the beginning of the new year. In China it will be the year 4701! Chinese New Year does not fall on the same date each year, although it is always in January or February.

On New Year's Day, Chinese people add a year to their age, no matter when they were born. This is the biggest birthday party of all!



Worldwide Celebration

Chinese communities around the world celebrate the new year with fireworks, parades, gongs, music, eating and gift-giving. Special foods are prepared and homes are cleaned and then decorated with the color — a color which symbolizes happiness and good luck to the Chinese.



Children give each other and . Parents give children good luck wrapped in red paper.

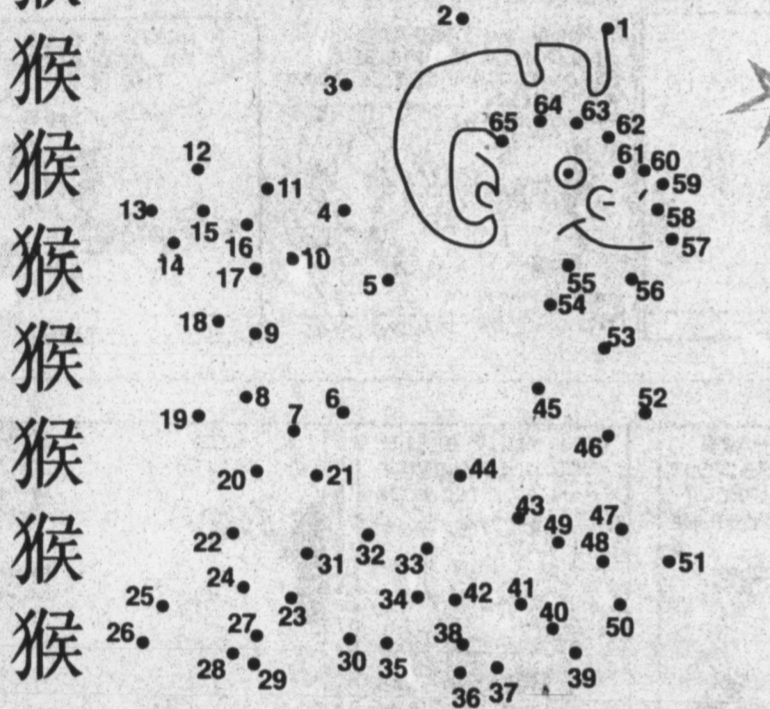
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Use the code to get some details on how to celebrate Chinese New Year!

猴 What year is it?

The Chinese tell a story that, one day, a great teacher named Buddha invited all the animals to a meeting. Only 12 animals came. Buddha named a year after each of these animals.

The Chinese year starting January 22, 2004, is named after a clever and funny animal. Connect the dots to find out what animal is celebrated this coming year.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

Golden Dragon Parade

Everyone looks forward to the Golden Dragon Parade, a Chinese New Year tradition.

According to legend, the Golden Dragon, "Gum Lung," has been asleep for a year. He wakes up only for the parade. To make sure he stays awake for the entire parade, people throw firecrackers in his path.

San Francisco holds the largest Golden Dragon Parade outside of Asia. It takes 100 people to carry the colorful, bright-eyed dragon. More than 600,000 firecrackers will be thrown. The dragon's head is 6 feet long. The entire dragon is more than 200 feet long.

Join the Excitement!

Tell your friends, "Gung Hay Fat Choy!" That means "Happy New Year!" in Chinese.



This dragon overslept. Help him get to the parade!

Extra! Extra! The World Together

Today most communities are made up of people from many parts of the world. Look through the newspaper to find examples of words, products, foods and celebrations that show the diversity in your community.

Standards Link: Social Science: Students recognize the forms of diversity in their community and the benefits of a diverse population.

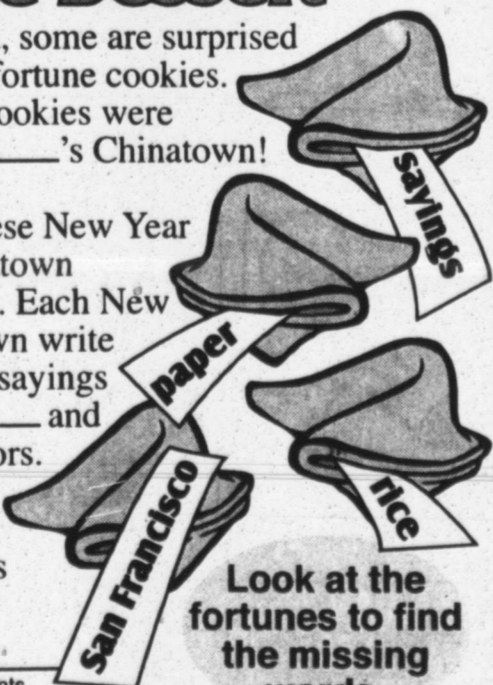
HISTORY SCOOP

A Fortunate Dessert

When people visit China, some are surprised to find that there are no fortune cookies. That's because fortune cookies were invented in _____'s Chinatown!

Many years ago, a Chinese New Year tradition gave one Chinatown restaurant owner an idea. Each New Year, people in Chinatown write greetings, blessings and sayings on long pieces of red _____ and hang these near their doors.

He wrote these _____ on little pieces of paper and folded _____ cookies around them for a crispy dessert treat.



Look at the fortunes to find the missing words.

Standards Link: Social Science: Students compare everyday life in different times and places.

Double Double Word Search

- ANIMAL
- CHINATOWN
- COOKIES
- DRAGON
- GONGS
- PARADE
- WORLD
- ASIA
- PARENTS
- LUCK
- BUDDHA
- YEAR
- WORDS
- RED

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

T K S T N E R A P A
E A S L E E P W I Q
D R A E Y J T S F D
A L A M I N A R L E
R U S U I K K R B R
A C D R A G O N G S
P K R Z D W L O L L
N W O T A N I H C O
G M W H A H D D U B

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Weekly Writing Corner

Fortune Cookie Fortune

You have many talents. Make sure you listen to all of them. They will be helpful in many ways in the future.

Kristen,
6th Grade

Some day you will be able to get a job and win the lottery.

Everett,
6th Grade

Be careful what you wish for. It might come true.

Brent,
6th Grade

Don't do something to someone that you don't want done to you!

Jose,
5th Grade

You are in good hands.

Scott,
5th Grade

You will live to be 106!

Venessa,
5th Grade

Trust is what brilliant people, like you, have.

Shayla,
5th Grade

When life says, "Come on, you can do anything you want," follow your dreams.

Alysa,
3rd Grade

You will be a pro basketball player when you are 34.

Nicholas,
3rd Grade

You will be the winner of a beauty contest.

Betsie,
3rd Grade

You will find true love when you are 96 years old.

Calista,
3rd Grade

You will grow up to be very rich and you will have a house as big as two dinosaurs.

Rachel,
3rd Grade

Simplicity and clarity should be your theme in dress.

Emily,
3rd Grade

You will find happiness with your true love.

Sean,
4th Grade

You will travel around the world and be a star one day.

Samantha,
4th Grade

You will make a difference in the world.

Billy,
4th Grade

Write On!

Leprechaun Gold

Can you explain how the leprechauns got their gold?

Deadline: February 15, 2004
Published: Week of March 14, 2004

Send your story to:

Please include your school and grade.

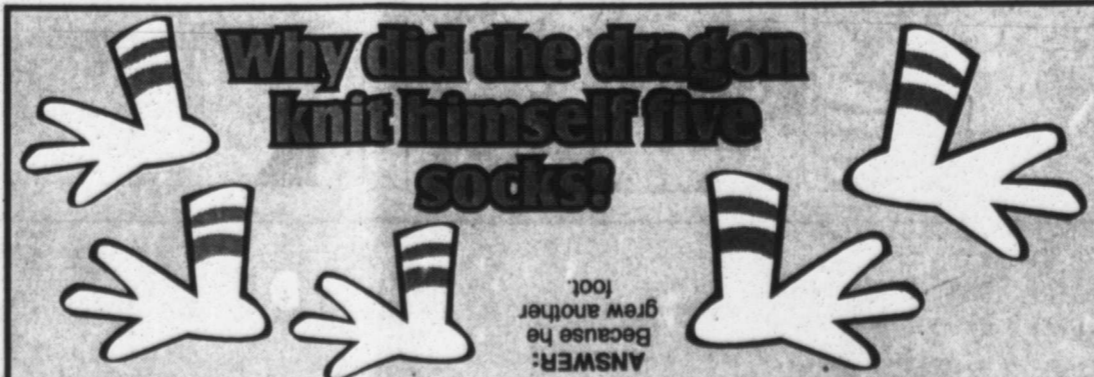
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BEYOND Kid Scoop

Advertise the New Year

Create a newspaper advertisement to promote a Chinese New Year celebration. Use the ads in the newspaper for ideas on how to make your poster look appealing.

Standards Link: Writing: Research: Understand the organization of newspapers and how print materials convey information.



The Pampa News Comics

TUESDAY • JANUARY 20, 2004

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Dad's Alzheimer's Diagnosis Is Met by Angry Siblings' Denial

DEAR ABBY: For years now, my dad's health has slowly deteriorated. He has good days when he kind of knows what's going on, and bad days when his whole world is off balance. Recently he suffered some mini-strokes, and last September the doctor diagnosed him with Alzheimer's.

I was there when Dad was diagnosed. You could see the look of relief on his face to finally have a name for what was going on inside him. He told the doctor, "Well, at least now I know I'm not going crazy" because it was a medical condition he could comprehend.

The problem is his siblings. They get angry at Mom when she tells the doctor how Dad is at home and accuse her of exaggerating. They get upset with us for not letting Dad drive, even though he doesn't see well and has been known to get lost. They have even gone behind our backs and told Dad he does not have Alzheimer's, which only compounds the problem.

Some of Dad's siblings see him only once a week at church. They all insist he is "fine" and blame Mom for his lack of "spirit." One aunt, in particular, is cold and nasty toward Mom.

Poor Mom has a hard enough time being caregiver to a man who doesn't always recognize us and can't remember names. There are times when Dad runs to the neighbors saying, "People are in the house trying to steal things."

Mom, who has always been a strong woman, cries almost daily. She does not deserve nor need the aggravation that Dad's siblings are causing. She loves Dad and wants, as we do, only the best for him.

How can I handle this? Mom wanted to include Dad's family in what is going on with him, but all it's done is bring heartache and sadness.

THEY'RE NOT HELPING.

DEAR THEY'RE NOT HELPING: You and your mother have my deepest sympathy. Your father's siblings are in deep denial — which is probably why they can't bring themselves to admit what is really happening. Their anger at your mother is part of their denial. They would rather believe that she is exaggerating than come to grips with the truth.

What your mother needs now is emotional support. I recommend that she contact the Alzheimer's Association ((800) 272-3900) for the location of the nearest support group. No caregiver should have to go through this experience alone — and with their help, she won't.

P.S. Your father should not be out of the house unescorted, and he certainly does not belong behind the wheel of a car.

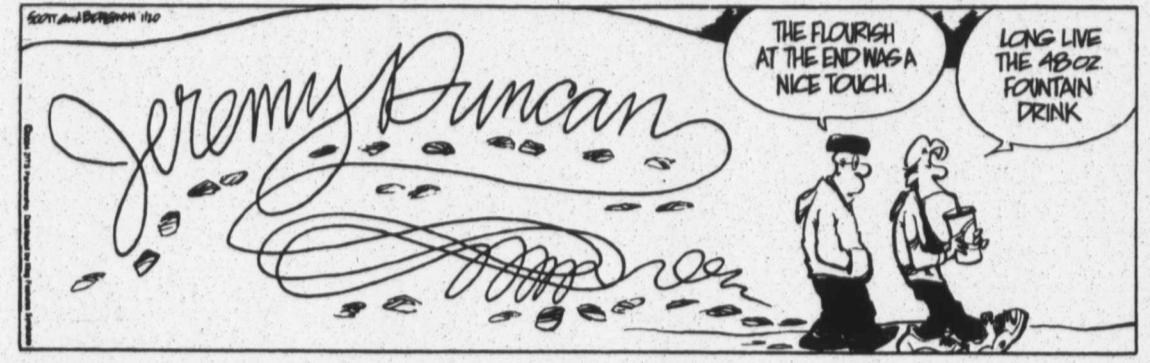
CONFIDENTIAL TO "SHOULD I JOIN FRIEND'S UNIQUE VENTURE?": There's an old saying, "Never test the depth of the water with both feet." Consider the risks carefully, consult a lawyer before agreeing, and get everything in writing.

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

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



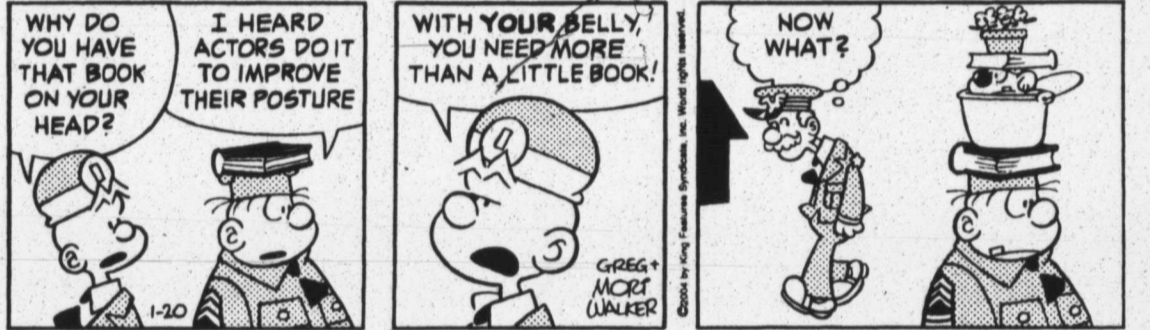
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Garfield



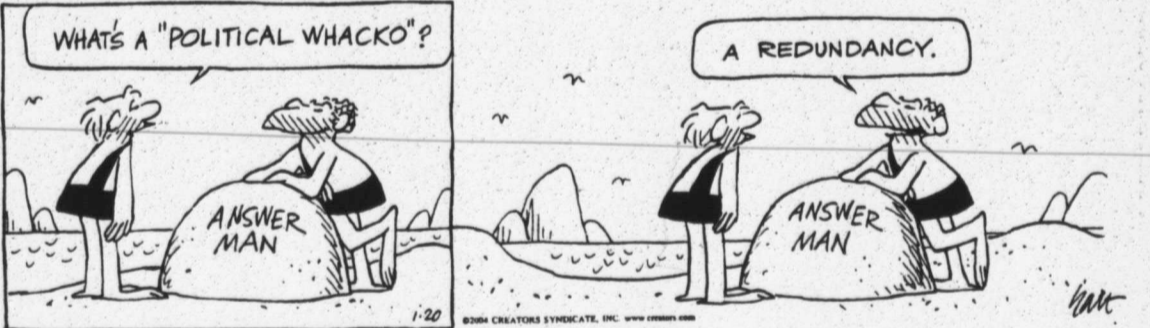
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



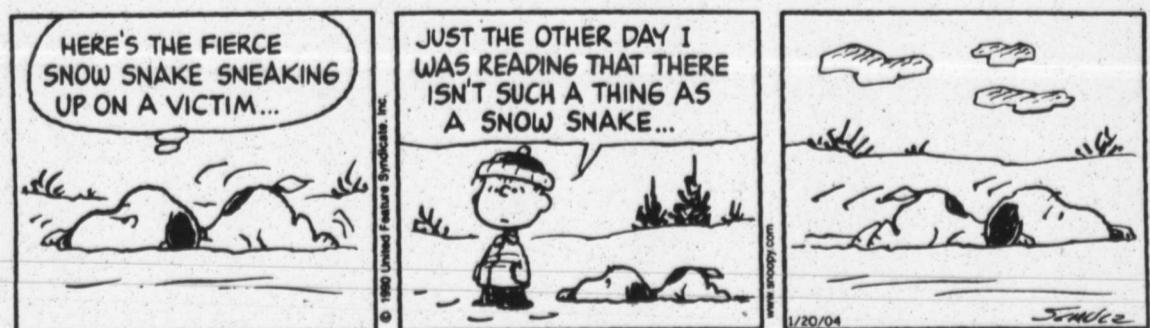
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Going rates

6 Burdened down

11 Taos material

12 Martini garnish

13 Like some inflation

15 Work unit

16 Fall behind

17 Badly

18 "Now listen!"

20 Excessively

21 Tax org.

22 Frying needs

23 Bulletin board stickers

26 Swiss cheese feature

27 Bassoon's cousin

28 Southern resort

29 "Platoon" setting

30 Tell tales

34 Shade tree

35 Presidential nickname

36 Bolt's partner

37 rope style

40 Loosen

41 In reserve

SCADS	PAAR
LALAW	IDLER
INANE	NAIVE
CAR	APT
ELMER	GANTRY
VIA	ELSE
PALIN	TWEED
ALOT	TEE
ULZANAS	RAID
SUE	OPT
ERNST	ELLEN
SEGUE	ROARS
SEND	SUITE

Yesterday's answer

14 Rabbit job

19 features

22 Walk in the woods

23 Got into shape

24 Marine mollusk

25 Take the train to work

26 Took a

28 Yard tool

30 Frasier's brother

31 Those opposed

32 Actor Stanley

33 Old anesthetic

38 Storage spot

39 Numero

40

41

42

43

44

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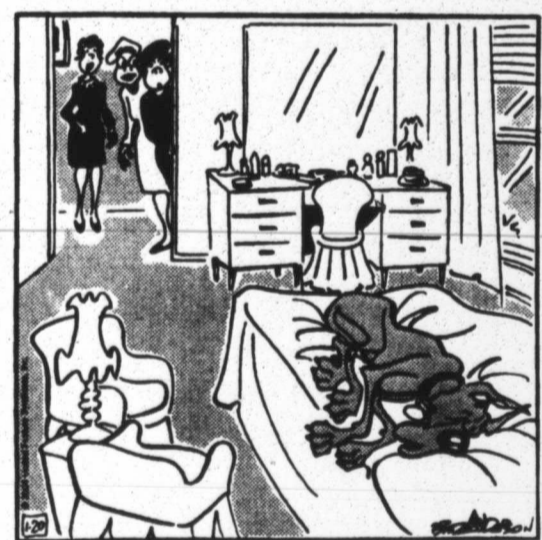
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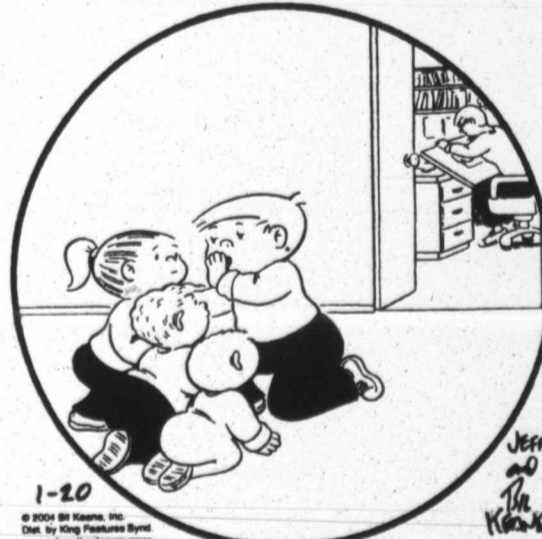
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Marmaduke



The Family Circus



Flo & Friends



BUSINESS REVIEW

Consuelo's Appetizers

- 1) Shrimp Cocktail (estilo Mexicano) _____
Large Shrimp served in our own cocktail sauce (Mexican style)
- 2) Ceviche _____
Fish & Shrimp marinated in lime juice & mixture of Consuelo's spices & vegetables
- 3) Quesadillas your choice of fajita beef or chicken _____
Served with guacamole & sour cream. Add grilled onions and peppers
- 4) Supreme Nachos your choice of beef or chicken _____
- 5) Queso Fundido (served flaming) _____
- 6) Chile con Queso with nopales (cactus) _____
- 7) Guacamole served on a bed of salad _____ one scoop
two scoops

Burrito Dinners

Served with rice, beans and salad

- 8) Bean and Cheese _____
- 9) Lengua (Beef) the burrito that speaks _____
- 10) Supreme (Beef) _____
- 11) Carne Guisada (tender tasty stewed beef) _____
- 12) Barbacoa (Beef) _____
- 13) Fajita (Beef or Chicken) _____

Lunch Special

- 16) Served Mon - Fri 11-2
includes light portions of rice & beans
- One Tamale _____
One Taco _____
One Enchilada _____
Carne Guisada _____

Kid's Plate

- 17) Only for 8 and under
- Supreme Nachos _____
Quesadillas _____
- Items below served w/ kid portion of rice & beans
Choice of One Taco, Tamale, Enchilada
or Bean Burrito _____

Entradas

- 31) Enchiladas Potosinas _____ five _____ seven
Small red tortillas served with a delicious combination of Mexican sausage and vegetables topped with lettuce, tomatoes, onions and cheese served with pickled jalapenos

All items below served with rice, beans & salad

- 32) Plato de Tacos _____
Taco Plate includes three tacos choice of beef or chicken
- 33) Plato de Tamales (made fresh here) _____
- 34) Carne de Puerco con Nopales y Chile Verde (seasonal) _____
Our very special blend of spices with lean pork meat sauteed with nopales (cactus) and green chile sauce
- 35) Plato de Carne Guisada _____
Stewed beef with our own special recipe of spices & served w/choice of tortillas

House Special

- 29) Chile Relleno Combination _____
Large Poblano Chile stuffed with your choice of beef, chicken, or cheese and your choice of taco (beef or chicken), or enchilada (beef, chicken or cheese), or tamale and served with rice, beans, salad and your choice of flour or corn tortillas.
- 30) Plato de Chile Relleno _____
Large Poblano Chile stuffed with beef or cheese served with rice, beans & salad and your choice of flour or corn tortillas.

All items below served with your choice of our fresh **HOMEMADE** flour or corn tortillas.

- 38) Plato de Fajitas (your choice of beef or chicken) _____
Char-broiled over Mesquite served with pico de gallo and guacamole
- 39) Plato de Godamiz (Quail) _____
Spiced to Perfection served with pico de gallo and guacamole
- 40) Plato de Cabrito _____
Falling off the bone (tender) served with pico de gallo and guacamole

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SPORTS

Williams, Federer start with easy wins

Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Venus Williams looked rejuvenated from a six-month layoff.

Williams returned at the Australian Open and needed less than an hour to beat American teenager Ashley Harkleroad 6-2, 6-1 on Tuesday in a first-round match.

"It's been a long, long time," she said.

The third-seeded Williams was very focused on Melbourne Park's center court. She showed no rust — and no signs of the abdominal injury that sidelined her — while serving at speeds up to 119 mph.

"Afterward, it was really just a breath of fresh air: 'Oh yes, I'm back now. I'm doing good,'" Williams said.

And competitors better beware. "I feel like definitely I'm still on the rise," she said.

Williams' only slips were a twisted ankle in the fourth game and one dropped service game, in the fifth game of the second set.

"I was going for my swing volley and twisted my right ankle," she said. "I'll monitor it, see how it goes — I'm not expecting it'll cause any problems."

Her last match was a loss in the Wimbledon final last July to her sister Serena, who also beat her in the Australian Open final.

"It's just not the same. We're

always together — it's like a piece of the link is missing," Williams said of Serena. "I'm alone in the room. Phone's not ringing, because her phone's always ringing non-stop. I miss her. No doubles."

Second-seeded Kim Clijsters of Belgium, who injured an ankle two weeks ago, advanced by overpowering Marlene Weingartner of Germany. Weingartner knocked off defending champion Jennifer Capriati in her first round last year while advancing to the fourth round.

Clijsters often had the German off-balance or lunging for stinging shots into the corners and finished off the match in an hour with a forehand crosscourt that kissed the line.

Six more seeded men lost, including No. 5 Guillermo Coria, raising the total to 13 in two days. Also eliminated was 1994 Wimbledon winner Conchita Martinez, the 13th-seeded woman, who lost 7-6 (7), 6-1 to Puerto Rico's Kristina Brandi.

Wimbledon champion Roger Federer found the range with his powerful forehand and beat Alex Bogomolov Jr. 6-3, 6-4, 6-0. The second-seeded Federer reeled off seven consecutive games to close in 1 hour,

29 minutes and extend Bogomolov's record in Grand Slam tournaments to 0-5.

Federer will meet another American qualifier in the second round after Jeff Morrison beat Dennis van Scheppingen 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

Former No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt was leading Cecil Mamiit 6-2, 6-4, 0-1 when the American retired after he crashed into the umpire's chair while chasing a drop shot.

Mamiit had his right ankle treated, served in the next game and then withdrew.

"I've never seen anything like that before," Hewitt said. "I think I'd worked into a position that was going to be hard for him to get out of anyway."

Hewitt's last three rivals have all retired during matches. Dutchman Martin Verkerk withdrew from her semifinal in Sydney last week. Former French Open champion Carlos Moya sprained his right ankle in the Sydney final, also knocking him out of the Australian Open.

Tenth-seeded Mark Philippoussis, the star of Australia's Davis Cup finals victory over Spain last month, thrilled the home fans with a 7-6 (6),

6-2, 7-6 (4) win over Thomas Johansson of Sweden. Johansson won the 2002 Australian Open before sitting out all of last season with a knee injury.

In other men's matches, third-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero needed only 66 minutes to sweep past fellow Spaniard Albert Montanes 6-0, 6-1, 6-1; eighth-seeded David Nalbandian of Argentina beat Brazilian Ricardo Mello 6-2, 6-1, 6-4; and No. 11 Tim Henman of Britain defeated Spain's Albert Montanes 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

They avoided the rash of upsets that included Martin Verkerk (17), Felix Mantilla (23rd), Max Mirnyi (24), Jonas Bjorkman (25th) and Felicio Lopez (28th).

Greg Rusedski lost 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 to 26th-seeded Albert Costa in likely his last match before he faces an ATP doping hearing at Montreal on Feb. 9. Rusedski admitted two weeks ago he'd tested positive for nandrolone last July, but claims the banned steroid was contained in supplements dispensed by ATP trainers.

In the women's draw, 12th-seeded Paulo Suarez, winner at a warmup event in Canberra last week, beat fellow Argentine Gisela Dulko 6-2, 6-2 and Marion Bartoli of France had a 6-3, 6-1 win over American Alexandra Stevenson, who reached the 1999 Wimbledon semifinals as a qualifier



BASKETBALL

OAK BROOK, Ill. (AP) — Kobe Bryant lost his sponsorship deal with McDonald's, costing the NBA star another endorsement while his sexual assault case proceeds in Colorado.

The fast-food company said its three-year agreement with the Los Angeles Lakers guard expired Dec. 31 and was not renewed.

Ferrero of Italy, the maker of Nutella chocolate spread, earlier chose to not renew Bryant's endorsement contract.

Bryant's once-wholesome image has been damaged since a 19-year-old woman accused him last year of sexual assault. Bryant contends the sex was consensual.

NEW YORK (AP) — Cleveland's Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Utah's Greg Ostertag were suspended for one game by the NBA for fighting.

Ostertag sat out Monday's game between the Jazz and Golden State. Ilgauskas will miss the Cavaliers' game Tuesday night against Seattle.

The two centers tangled near the baseline after Ostertag fouled Ilgauskas in the third quarter Saturday night. Ilgauskas and Ostertag faced off, and the shoving and punching started before the 7-footers were pulled apart.

BASEBALL

SEATTLE (AP) — Mariners closer Kazuhiro Sasaki told the team he will not pitch for Seattle in 2004, deciding to forfeit the final year of his contract and remain with his family in Japan.

The Mariners' career saves leader, who turns 36 on Feb. 22, would walk away from up to \$9.5 million by not playing for Seattle next season.

Sasaki's agent Tony Attanasio said Sasaki may pitch in Japan next season but will not pitch again in the United States.

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros agreed to one-year contracts with their three pitchers in salary arbitration.

Wade Miller agreed to a \$3.4 million deal that includes the chance to earn an additional \$100,000 in performance bonuses, and Roy Oswalt agreed to a \$3.25 million contract that includes the opportunity to earn \$150,000 in performance bonuses.

Octavio Dotel, likely to succeed Billy Wagner as Houston's closer, agreed to \$2.8 million.

OLYMPICS

PARIS (AP) — The IOC and UNESCO signed an agreement aimed at unifying the global fight against doping.

IOC president Jacques Rogge was at the U.N. group's headquarters for the opening session of a week-long meeting to review the preliminary draft of the International Convention against Doping.

The United Nation's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization wants to enable national governments to implement the new World Anti-Doping Code, which sets out standard rules and penalties across all sports and all countries.

Pistons tie franchise record with win #13

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joe Dumars was a key player on the Detroit Pistons team that won a franchise-record 13 straight games 14 seasons ago. He saw it done again from a different perspective this time.

"This has been a great run and these guys deserve it," said Dumars, now the Pistons' president of basketball operations. "I'm very proud of the coaching staff and the players for giving such an incredible effort."

Chauncey Billups scored 13 of his 18 points in the final 3:17 on Monday to lift Detroit to an 85-77 win over the reigning NBA champion San Antonio Spurs, tying the franchise record set by Dumars and the rest of "The Bad Boys" during their 1989-90 championship season.

And how about this juicy story line: Detroit will have a chance to break the record Tuesday on the road against the Central Division-leading Indiana Pacers, led by its former coach, Rick Carlisle.

"We tied the streak and now we want to break it," Chucky Atkins said. "We are going up against our old coach

for the No. 14."

In other games, it was Phoenix 88, the Los Angeles Lakers 85; Washington 93, Chicago 83; New York 90, Toronto 79; Indiana 100, Atlanta 97; Seattle 90, Philadelphia 81; Orlando 106, Milwaukee 99; Sacramento 125, the Los Angeles Clippers 100; Minnesota 97, New Orleans 90; Memphis 88, Houston 83; and Golden State 101, Utah 85.

Pistons coach Larry Brown hadn't won 13 straight in his Hall of Fame career until Monday. The Pistons haven't lost since New Jersey beat them at home on Dec. 26.

Billups tied it at 72 with a 3-pointer with 3:17 left, and made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:28 remaining. His three-point play put the Pistons up 81-77 with 48.6 seconds to go. Billups then made all four of his free throw attempts to seal the win during Detroit's game-ending 12-0 run.

"If I get a look late in the game, I just feel like I'm going to make it," said Billups, who didn't miss a shot as he scored the game's final 10 points. "I don't know what it is in me."

Flopping Philadelphia must dig deep inside

By BARRY WILNER

AP FOOTBALL WRITER

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — If the Philadelphia Eagles and their fans think these are tough times, just wait.

After flopping in the NFC championship game for the third straight year, the Eagles face some heavy decisions about personnel, strategy and, perhaps, their team philosophy. Things could get a whole lot worse before the Eagles finally return to the Super Bowl, which they last played in — and lost — in 1981.

Four key free agents — cornerbacks Troy Vincent and Bobby Taylor, running back Duce Staley and linebacker Carlos Emmons — could leave. Almost certainly all four will not return.

The run defense, a chronic weakness, must be shored up. The Eagles' blitz packages have been far less dangerous because opponents don't have to throw much; Carolina put the ball up only 14 times, yet won handily Sunday.

A big-play wide receiver is needed to team with Donovan McNabb.

Wilner on Football

Against the Panthers, all three top wideouts made errors. Twice, James Thrash was victimized for interceptions on passes thrown his way. Todd Pinkston allowed Ricky Manning Jr. to seal off his route and, unchallenged, Manning made the first of his three pickoffs.

The NFC East figures to be stronger next season with Joe Gibbs now coaching the Redskins, Bill Parcells in his second season in Dallas, and Tom Coughlin bringing an edge to the soft New York Giants.

Plus, there is the psychological damage of losing three consecutive conference title games. At least when the 1990-93 Buffalo Bills flopped, they already were in the Super Bowl.

"To have guys leave on that note, in your house, when you're in position to send them off the right way, and you don't," said safety Brian Dawkins, the acknowledged leader of Philadelphia's defense, "it makes it more difficult.

Harvesters take shootout, 3-2

It took 10 tries, but the Harvesters finally came out on top of a 3-2 shootout at the end of regulation at Lowery Field.

After playing out a 0-0 tie in the regulation period, the boys soccer team went to a best-of-five shootouts that saw Lubbock High (3-5) match both goals scored by seniors Sammy Silva and Johnny Story.

Since no repeats are allowed in a shootout, Pampa (1-3) and the Westerners continued emptying the bench until junior Andrew Fraser scored the game winner. Coach May noted the effort of senior goal keeper Carlos Medina for virtually shutting down the opposition with impressive saves and a dramatic stop on a

controversial penalty kick in the second half.

The Carrollton/Farmer's Branch Tournament looks to be another great opportunity for the Harvesters to take on some tough competition. R.L. Turner and Coach Marshall Huston will meet up with the team in the first game of the tournament on Thursday at 2 p.m.

The Green Team's second draw pits the team against Howard Putter and the Fossil Ridge Panthers. Putter, who notched his 300th win last week, comes into the game with one of the premier players in the Fort Worth area. Forward Marcus McCarty was electric last year, and looks for

similar production this year. Game time is set for 6:30 p.m.

In Friday's only game of the day, the Harvesters take on a South Grand Prairie who is 1-2-1 in their last four games, including a tie with Flower Mound High. The Marco Armijo leads the Warriors into Cox Field for the 3:30 p.m. game.

In Saturday's action, the Harvesters start bright and early to take on one of the top metroplex programs in Flower Mound High School. Coach Guy Greening won his 400th game one year ago at this tournament. The Jaguars are 3-2-1 in their last six games, including a 0-0 draw with South Grand Prairie. Game time is 8 a.m.

PMS wrestlers put up a fight, but Dumas comes out on top

Pampa Middle School Wrestlers put up a good fight in a match last week against Dumas, but in the end Dumas prevailed 33 to 31.

Following are the individual results of the match: 102 — Scottie Brown won in overtime, 4-2. 110 — Greg Wariner won

with a pin in second PD. 118 — Trevor Collins won 19-14. 134 — Jimmy Logan won 17-3. 142 — Kevin Kirkham won with a pin in 2nd PD. 152 — Brenden Carpenter won 7-4. 165 — Cody Wood won

with a pin in 2nd PD. EXHIBITION — 110 — Andrew Dunn won with a pin. 142 — Justin Burr won with a pin.

PMS Patriot Wrestlers plan to participate in a district meet at Dumas on Jan. 30.

Wilner on Football

"No one's any good — a week ago we were all superstars. It's a very humbling league. An opportunity presented itself and we didn't take advantage of it. It's a tough one to swallow. The last two years, being at home, we matched up well against both of those football teams, but we came up short."

Just as Philly sports franchises have done since the 1982-83 76ers won the NBA crown. The last NFL championship was in 1960; heck, the Bills even won the AFL title in 1964 and '65.

Of course, many consider the Bills a great team for simply getting to four straight Super Bowls in the 1990s. In the current climate of parity, free agency and impatience, it's unlikely another team will make duplicate that impressive feat.

The Eagles, with the best record in this decade, appear an unlikely candidate to make it this far again next year. There are too many holes that offset

McNabb, Dawkins and the few other playmakers on hand.

Give the Eagles plenty of credit for what they achieved, particularly this season, when they started 0-2 and were hit by a stream of debilitating injuries to the defensive line and secondary. But don't go looking for more success next January.

In his getaway news conference Monday, coach Andy Reid was asked if perhaps the team's overall approach might need adjustment. It was enlightening that he didn't say no, but rather that the organization would look at all areas.

Reid wasn't about to doubt the effort, and rightfully so. That is one area where the Eagles are not lacking.

"Everybody is searching for reasons now," Reid said. "I felt we were ready to go; how couldn't you be, these are professional athletes. I don't question that."

"You get into the playoffs, the deeper in you get, the more intense the games are, the faster they are. And we didn't handle that as well as we could." For three straight Januarys.

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Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2004: Your creativity will soar off the charts if you allow it to. Others respond to your interests and want to be a part of what you are doing. Avoid being too me-oriented. You might discover that someone close is more touchy than you are aware of. Refuse to worry so much about work and problems in general. You gain a very supportive partner, if you don't have one already, although this could be a friend. If you are single, a relationship of depth heads your way. You will need to look within to decide just how much of a bond you want. If you are attached, your relationship will flourish if you allow your partner to be more involved in your life. A trip could star in 2004. **AQUARIUS** reads you cold.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) **** A lot could happen, encouraging you to head in a new direction. A misunderstanding with an associate could be difficult, if not painful. Fatigue, as well, could be playing into this matter. Stop and consider your long-term objectives. Tonight: Follow your friends. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) **** Investigate possibilities rather than making a commitment, especially at work. Others seem to want to counter your decisions right now. Allow ideas to be aired out; in fact, that ultimately might create an even better project. Tonight: A must show. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) **** Keep reaching for new, innovative information rather than getting stuck in an inflammatory thinking. Detach

than getting tied in, which could happen if you're not careful. Tonight: Choose something mentally relaxing. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22) **** You could have a disagreement about your way of handling funds and your personal life with an associate or partner. Opt for a new beginning, though this person might not totally buy what he or she is hearing. Actions speak for themselves. Tonight: Indulge a loved one. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) **** You might want to carefully rethink a decision that involves a child or loved one. Let this person air out his or her feelings, and you might get a new opportunity to go forward. Carefully review a decision, especially if it involves finances. Tonight: Go along with another's plans. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **** Examine your long-term objectives at work. Perhaps your expectations have been too high. What you want from your daily life and work could be a problem if your expectations were otherwise. A disagreement between a loved one and/or a friend could make you most unhappy. Tonight: Find a stress-buster. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** You know what you are capable of. Express your deeper feelings to a loved one - you really care about. Examine your long-term objectives within a relationship, be it with a child or a loved one. Feel free to express your reservations. Tonight: Don't get pulled like taffy. Do what you want. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Pressure builds, and you can be sure others will challenge your ideas and thoughts. Not everything is as it seems. Laughter goes a long way in alleviating a problem, if you can take a hard look at yourself. Be more open. Tonight: Run

on home. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) **** You might feel better than you have in a while. You might be weighing the pros and cons of a new purchase that will help your communication. Feel free to do some price checks before really going for it. Tonight: Join a friend. Chat up a storm. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** Use the morning for anything important, as the Moon is still in your sign empowering you; but by the afternoon, you could feel as if you are not up to snuff. Others don't get your message, and as a result they could be depressed. Tonight: Pay bills. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** You might get a slow start to your day, but once you get going, you could be close to unstoppable. A New Moon in your sign today encourages new resolutions and changes. Don't worry so much about a problem. Tonight: Keep on smiling. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) **** If you get an early start in the morning, you will succeed. A friend could challenge your creativity. Don't let negativity permeate your thinking. You might choose to spend more time alone rather than getting caught up in the present wave of moods. Tonight: Curl up with a good book.

BORN TODAY Golfer Jack Nicklaus (1940), disc jockey Wolfman Jack (1938), singer Emma "Baby Spice" Bunton (1976) ***

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Many see 'Big Brother' in speed cameras

LONDON (AP) — Karl Joyce was so angry when speed cameras snapped two of his friends that he decided to take revenge.

Masked and dressed in black, the 20-year-old placed a car tire full of bottles of gasoline on a camera monitoring busy Dereham Road in Norwich, eastern England. He was about to light it when a motorist called police.

Joyce, who received a one-year sentence for arson last year, is one of the more extreme examples of a bitter national feud.

While opinion polls say most Britons consider the cameras a good thing, some see them as "Big Brother" devices that violate privacy

and civil liberties, and often make mistakes. The stiff fines they engender are seen by some as a stealth tax.

The manager of one company that maintains roadside speed cameras said his workers have been pelted with eggs. Vandals have blown up speed cameras, set them afire or ripped them down.

Opposition politicians, conservative newspapers and automobile associations have criticized the cameras for cracking down on many drivers whose minor offenses are victimless.

They also say there is no real avenue of appeal since the fines arrive by mail and drivers are often convicted and sentenced before they

even know they broke the law.

But activists such as Mary Williams, the founder of Brake, a road safety charity, said the counterpoint is obvious: speeding is illegal and kills, and no one should be allowed to get away with it.

"There will always be segments of society who believe that a particular law infringes their 'right' — in this case their 'right' to break speed limits," she said.

Resistance to speed cameras in Britain is so fierce it appears to have rattled politicians.

It also has been much stronger than the opposition in other countries that use

the devices, such as Germany and Ireland.

Debate intensified this month when the government said it was considering adding a \$9 surcharge to \$118 speeding tickets and other fines to help pay compensation to crime victims.

Prime Minister Tony Blair appeared to back away from the proposal last week when questioned on a radio phone-in show about why minor traffic offenders should pay compensation for the misery caused by someone else's serious crime.

"The decisions have not been taken yet, and we are obviously going to listen carefully to what people say," Blair said.

Arizona hostage situation drags into yet another day

BUCKEYE, Ariz. (AP) — A prison standoff on the western edge of Phoenix dragged on into its third day Tuesday as two inmates continued to hold a pair of correctional officers captive in a guard tower stocked with weapons.

Corrections officials were in contact with the inmates by phone and said Monday they continue to believe the two guards have not been seriously harmed.

Cam Hunter, a state Corrections Department spokeswoman, said that while authorities have not had visual contact with either the guards or inmates, they are hopeful nothing has changed.

"We're still confident that the status is the same," Hunter said.

The hostages include a

male correctional officer who was injured. Officials did not release details of the injury, but said the other hostage, a female correctional officer, was not believed to be hurt.

The two captives were allowed to speak with negotiators and reported they were not seriously injured, Hunter said.

"It's positive that the inmates allowed us to talk to the officers," Hunter said. "It's assuring for the families, for the correctional officers, for the community."

The tower is believed to be stocked with weapons, prison officials said. Until the crisis is resolved, the 4,400 other inmates at the medium- to high-security Arizona State Prison Complex-Lewis remained locked in their cells.

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