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THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, February 7, 2005 Volume 100 • No. 1178 50¢ Daily • Sunday \$1

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Today's weather



H 43

L 36

Deaths

James H. Griffin, 54, oilfield worker.
Vera M. McMinn, 95, seamstress.
Melvin Duane Nokes, 71, engineer.

Odds & Ends

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — A Connecticut boy has been making good use of his Christmas present.

Since opening the gift — a Green Bay Packers jersey with quarterback Brett Favre's No. 4 — on Christmas Day 2003, 8-year-old David Withoft has worn it 408 straight days.

"I just kept doing it for fun," said Withoft, of Ridgefield, Conn. "Some of the kids at school said, 'You are weird' and stuff. But I'm not sure when I'll stop."

Withoft told the Green Bay Press-Gazette for a story in Sunday's editions that he wants a Guinness Book of Records mark for the most consecutive days wearing a Packers jersey. No such record exists, Guinness officials said.

"David has a lot of 'sticktoitiveness,'" said his father Chuck Withoft, who grew up in Milwaukee and has kept his allegiance to the Packers. "This wasn't an idea of ours."

The jersey isn't holding up as well as the boy's enthusiasm: The No. 4 has all but worn off and the seams are taking a beating as he grows.

"Just another typical die-hard cheesehead," said Packers President Bob Harlan. "I hear from them all the time."

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Perhaps it's a sign of convicted former mayor Vincent "Buddy" Cianci Jr.'s currency: The Web site bearing his name is up for sale.

John Ackerman, owner of VincentCianci.com, put the Web site up for sale on the online auction service e-Bay on Saturday. There's been one bidder so far, who offered the minimum \$88.50. The auction ends Thursday.

DA's cash withdrawals prompt motion

By **MARILYN POWERS**
Staff Writer

Two cash withdrawals in the last month against a personal credit card which is automatically debited against one or more of the three checking accounts for the 31st District Attorney's office prompted the filing Friday of a motion for a temporary injunction against Rick Roach.

The motion for a temporary injunction was filed at 11:32 a.m., Friday, in the District Clerk's office by Gray County Attorney Josh Seabourn under the same cause number as the petition for removal of Roach from the office of district attorney. Rebecca Bailey, an employee in the district attorney's office, is listed as plaintiff in Friday's motion as well as on the previous documents in the civil case.

"It's my understanding that the DA's office often used his (Roach's) personal credit card to buy office supplies and then he would reimburse himself. It's also my understanding that that credit card automatically pays out of one of the DA's accounts," Seabourn said this morning.

"I found out when his (Roach's) attorney was in our office Friday and we were discussing the credit card.

He wanted it returned, and said something about Rick having already paid the bill on that card," said Assistant 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer this morning.

Neither Seabourn nor Switzer knew how much money was involved in the recent credit card activity by Roach, they said.

"The DA's office asked me to file

See CASH, Page 3

Pampa ISD seeks input on calendar

By **DEE DEE LARAMORE**
Editor

Pampa Independent School District officials seek the community's input concerning next year's school calendar at a public hearing, Thursday, Feb. 17.

The public hearing will be conducted during the Pampa ISD Board of Education meeting on Feb. 17. The board will also be presented with the prospective calendar at that time.

State law requires that public schools begin the school year the week of Aug. 21, explained PISD Superintendent Barry Haenisch. The proposed 2005-2006 school calendar would begin the week of Aug. 16, he said.

To begin on a date other than the one set by the state, he said, requires a 60-day public notice and a public hearing. Then the school district can request a waiver from the state, he said.

"Every campus was invited to submit a calendar," Haenisch said, "but only three were submitted."

The proposed 2005-2006 calendar is much like last year's calendar, Haenisch said.

A committee of one teacher from each See CALENDAR, Page 3



Haenisch



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Check this food out

Jeff Chisum, left, president of Gray/Roberts Farm Bureau, fills a plastic bag held by Troy Newton, store director of United Supermarket, with fresh peppers this morning. The grocery basket was filled at the store by Chisum in observance of "Food Check-Out Day," the day on which the average American family has earned enough money to pay for their family's food for the entire year. This day is estimated to be 40 days from the beginning of the year, and the amount of income needed is 10 percent of the year's earnings, according to information from Texas Farm Bureau. The food and other products collected by Chisum this morning were to be donated to a Pampa charity which distributes food and personal products to the needy.

Disaster medical team returns from Sri Lanka

By **DAVID BOWSER**
Staff Writer

A Pampa native is home from Sri Lanka after a week of helping with tsunami medical relief.

Carleen Rogers, now a nurse in Decatur, arrived back home late Saturday afternoon, according to her sister-in-law Della Moyer of Pampa.

Moyer said today that Rogers plans to come to Pampa to talk about her experiences and thank those churches and individuals who helped Rogers' medical team travel and work in the island nation devastated by the tidal wave.

Rogers, a 1983 Pampa High School graduate, was part of a 12-person medical team that went to Sri Lanka late last month under the auspices of a Decatur-based missionary group, Beyond These Shores, to help with tsunami relief.

Arriving Jan. 26, the group spent their first night in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, before taking an overnight, 11-hour bus ride to the eastern shore of the island. They set up their clinic and worked out of Pethale on the central eastern shore.

Carleen Rogers, a 1983 Pampa High School graduate, was part of a 12-person medical team that went to Sri Lanka late last month.

The team reported primitive conditions.

One of the nurses blew up a surgical glove and tied it off to entertain some children. The five-fingered balloon became an immediate

hit. She said local residents were coming from miles around to get balloons from the Americans. She had to hide the surgical gloves because she was getting mobbed.

The team's diet, they reported, consisted mostly of rice with some goat meat.

On the whole, the team reported that the experience was very emotional.

Their return trip back to Texas, the members of the team indicated through a series of emails and phone calls, was as interesting as their stay in Sri Lanka, if not as rewarding.

They began their 11-hour bus trip back to Colombo on Wednesday, stopping only to take pictures of monkeys hanging out in the trees along the road.

Initially, they were to fly out of Colombo at 3 a.m., Friday, after a day of rest and

See TEAM, Page 3

Pampa City Commission

Water issues on tap for meeting Feb. 8

By **DAVID BOWSER**
Staff Writer

Water will be one of the subjects when the Pampa City Commission convenes Tuesday afternoon.

A long-negotiated water sale to Lubbock comes before the commission at their meeting at 4 p.m., Tuesday, in the city commission chambers of Pampa City Hall.

A budget work session is scheduled at 2 p.m. Pampa has offered to sell up to 400 million gallons of its Lake Meredith water allocation from the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority for 41 cents per 1,000 gallon.

City officials said the water is excess of Pampa's needs.

Pampa City Manager John Horst said the city hasn't used its full allocation in years.

The commission will also review a proposed agreement with Gray County to rebuild a dirt portion of Albert Street if the city provides the materials.

The commission is expected to approve the purchase of a tractor rig that will be used to pull the city's hazardous material decontamination trailer.

The \$39,600 for the truck is from a state grant.

The commission will also hear the second and final reading of an ordinance changing the zoning of a lot in the Buckler Addition from Single Family to Neighborhood Services.

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Bush sends Congress \$2.57 trillion spending plan with many steep cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush sent Congress a \$2.57 trillion budget plan Monday that would boost spending on the military and homeland security but seeks spending cuts across a wide swath of other government programs. Bush's budget would reduce subsidies paid to farmers, cut health programs for poor people and veterans and trim spending on the environment and education.

said he entered the upcoming congressional budget battle with a "happy spirit."

Democrats immediately branded the budget a "hoax" because it left out the huge future costs for the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and did not include the billions of dollars that will be needed for Bush's No. 1 domestic priority, overhauling Social Security.

'It's a budget that sets priorities. It's a budget that reduces and eliminates redundancy.'

— President Bush

"It is a budget that sets priorities," Bush said after a meeting with his Cabinet. "It's a budget that reduces and eliminates redundancy. It's a budget that's a lean budget."

Bush acknowledged that it would be difficult to eliminate popular programs but he said programs must prove their worth. "I look forward to explaining to the American people why we made some of the requests that we made in our budget," the president told reporters.

Joshua Bolten, Bush's budget director, said, "Are we going to get everything we asked for? No." But he predicted Congress would likely accept the administration's broad priorities. He

with a supplemental request for an additional \$81 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He said that request was reflected in the overall spending projections in Bush's budget for the current year and into 2006.

He said including further additional spending for Iraq and Afghanistan "wouldn't be responsible" because it would represent guesses on what will be needed. Bolten also said that even if transition costs for Social Security had been included, the president would still be able to meet his goal of cutting the

deficit in half by 2009 as a percentage of the total economy.

The budget would eliminate or vastly scale back 150 government programs. It will spark months of contentious debate in Congress, where lawmakers will fight to protect their favored programs.

House Democratic Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California called Bush's budget "a hoax on the American people. The two issues that dominated the president's State of the Union address — Iraq and Social Security — are nowhere to be found in this budget."

'... a hoax on the American people. Iraq and Social Security ... are nowhere to be found.'

— Rep. Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader on Bush's plan

The spending document projects that the deficit will hit a record \$427 billion this year, the third straight year that the red ink in dollar terms has set a record. Bush projects that the deficit will fall to \$390 billion in 2006 and gradually decline to \$233 billion in 2009 and \$207 billion in 2010.

Bush's 2006 spending plan, for the budget year that

begins next Oct. 1, counts on a healthy economy to boost revenues by 6.1 percent to \$2.18 trillion. Spending, meanwhile, would grow by 3.5 percent to \$2.57 trillion.

Outside defense, homeland security and the government's huge mandatory programs such as Social Security, Bush proposes cutting spending by 0.5 percent, the first such proposed cut since the Reagan administration battled with its own soaring deficits.

Of 23 major government agencies, 12 would see their budget authority reduced next year, including cuts of 9.6 percent at Agriculture, 5.6 percent at Environmental Protection Agency, 6.7 percent at Transportation and 11.5 percent at Housing and Urban Development.

In his budget message to Congress, Bush said, "In order to sustain our economic expansion, we must continue pro-growth policies and enforce even greater spending restraint across the federal government."

Debts forgiven, changes made

Army: Wounded soldiers billed by mistake

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army has identified 129 wounded soldiers who mistakenly received bills for expenses upon returning home from wars and it has forgiven their debts.

After learning of the first such cases, Army Gen. Richard A. Cody said, an audit team determined that other wounded soldiers "experienced pay issues" and the Army has made changes it hopes will prevent other instances.

"We are dedicated to the well being of our soldiers and strive to provide the absolute best for America's sons and daughters," Cody, the Army's vice chief of staff, said in a letter sent late Friday to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The Democrat from New York inter-

vened in the case of Spc. Robert Loria, who lost his arm in Iraq. In December, as Loria was about to be discharged from the Army, officials told the 27-year-old soldier from Middletown, N.Y. that he owed nearly \$1,800 in expenses.

Loria, who was wounded last February, had expected to get a check for nearly \$4,500.

Army officials said he had been overpaid for his time as a patient at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and said he still owed money for travel between the Washington-area hospital, where he received treatment, and Fort Hood in Texas, where he was recovering. Officials also said he also owed money for items not found in his returned equipment and had to repay

his family separation stipend.

Clinton and other members of the New York delegation claimed that the Army's estimate of expenses owed was too large and based in part on paperwork errors and bureaucratic complications. They also faulted Army officials for failing to help wounded soldiers determine just how much money they are owed.

The Army ultimately forgave Loria's debt.

After Clinton's office received other similar complaints, she sent a letter to the Army on Jan. 19 asking what procedures were in place to avoid similar cases.

She said the complaints she had heard "suggest serious systemic problems."

Cash

Continued from Page 1

a restraining order as part of the removal suit," Seabourn said.

The motion is "an attempt to keep him from maintaining access to those funds," Seabourn said.

Roach's attorney Bill Kelly of Canyon when contacted today said, "It certainly was not necessary" to file the motion.

"It was needless. In my opinion, it was politically motivated," he said.

Kelly said Roach "has a personal credit card on which a lot of office items were charged."

"They charged most, if not all, office items on his personal credit card," he said.

When the credit card bill arrived, Roach would be reimbursed out of the operating account, Kelly explained.

"It was all perfectly legitimate," he said. "There was absolutely nothing wrong with that."

A district judge must issue the injunction and temporary restraining order, Switzer said. County officials are not empowered to act in the situation.

"Until a district judge's order is in place, the only person with any control (over the three accounts) is Rick," Switzer said.

The base salaries of employees in the district attorney's office are paid by the five counties which make up the 31st Judicial District, Switzer said. But supplement checks, drawn from the operating account which is one of three which only Roach can access, have not been paid to

employees since Roach's arrest, she said, resulting in decreased pay for the staff.

Two of the three checking accounts are at Bank of America, 100 N. Cuyler. The third is at First State Bank of Miami, 100 S. Main, Miami, according to the motion for temporary injunction.

The motion asks that Roach be commanded to "desist and refrain from withdrawing from or interacting in any way with the accounts listed above, and that upon final hearing thereof, Plaintiff prays further that the temporary injunction be made perpetual and perma-

'It was all perfectly legitimate. There was absolutely nothing wrong with that.'

— Bill Kelly
Roach's attorney

Calendar

Continued from Page 1

campus, plus the Pampa Classroom Teachers Association (PCTA) president reviewed three possible calendars

for the coming year and narrowed the choice to two. These two calendars were sent to the school district's staff.

"Whichever (of the two calendars) has the most support, that will be the calendar presented to the (school) board," Haensch said.

The board is scheduled to vote on the new calendar at the March meeting

and the calendar will become effective at the April meeting, the superintendent said.

Pending legislation may change everything, Haensch said.

If passed by the state legislature, House Bill 2 would make all Texas public schools begin after Labor Day, he said.

Team

Continued from Page 1

shopping, and arrive about 7 p.m. Friday in Dallas, traveling from Sri Lanka to Dubai to New York.

There was a delay from Colombo, however, and they would have missed their connection in New York for Dallas, so the trip was rerouted through Paris and Chicago.

As it turned out, they missed their connection in

Paris because of a paperwork mix up in Sri Lanka and had to spend the night in the City of Lights.

The airline put them up in a hotel and provided meals and jogging suits because their luggage had made the flight to Chicago.

Charles R. Tibbels, the son of the doctor leading the medical team, said they went to dinner in Paris Friday night looking like a soccer team or a bunch of gangsta rappers. They arrived in Dallas about 2:40 p.m. Saturday and drove to Decatur.

Palestinian, Israeli leaders plan meeting with Bush

JERUSALEM (AP) — President Bush will meet separately this spring with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, offering encouraging words about a Mideast peace process in which "people are becoming more trustworthy."

"This is a time of hope, a time we can hope for a better day for the Palestinian and Israeli people both," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday as she ended two days of meetings in Israel and the West Bank.

In Washington, Bush said the background for peace talks has improved with Abbas' election.

"Prime Minister Abbas comes to the table with a mandate from a lot of Palestinians," Bush told reporters at the end of a Cabinet meeting. "He has been through an election. He has been endorsed by the Palestinian people."

He said he was impressed by Abbas' commitment to fighting terror, and by Israel's assistance in the Palestinian elections.

Looking ahead to the talks in the spring, Bush said, "The meetings just indicate that there's more work to be done. And I look forward to meeting with them."

The president described the meetings as part of a process to build trust among all the parties with the objective of Israelis and Palestinians living side by side in peace. He said the process will involve Israelis, Palestinians, the United States, Europe and the United Nations.

"What you're watching is a process unfolding where people are becoming more trustworthy," the president said.

In fact, Israeli and Palestinian officials said Monday that the two sides will declare a formal end to more than four years of fighting at Tuesday's Mideast summit.

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FEB 07 2005

Viewpoints

I'd procrastinate, but can't get around to it

There I was sitting in the coffee shop, snug in my heavy coat, hat and sweater.

Outside, it had been snowing. Snowing is the wrong word. The flakes weren't flakes but small balls of snow, almost sleet.

When I had first gotten up, I had been greeted by these balls of snow. By noon, the balls of snow had been replaced by a light rain. Throughout the early afternoon, the snow melted and was replaced by more light rain.

Now, it was snowing again, and as I sipped my coffee and visited with a friend, the small round balls turned to big fluffy flakes.

This may not mean any-

thing to you, but to a photographer, the size and shape of a snowflake can be critical.

Sleet is not photogenic. Big fluffy flakes are.

I moved back to this area about 30 years ago. One of the items on my list of things to do was to shoot a series of photographs of Palo Duro Canyon.

I was going to shoot it in the spring when the plants are blooming.

I saw visions of wildflowers along the road and the hiking trails.

I was going to shoot it in the summer with cool water bubbling down through the canyon.

I was going to shoot in the fall when the leaves on the

old cottonwoods at Water Crossing Number One turned gold.

I was going to shoot it in the winter when a layer of snow covered the red clay of the canyon walls.

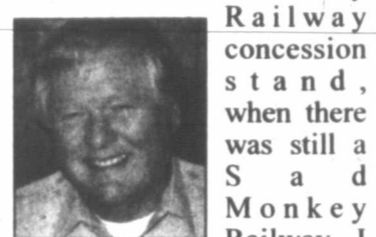
I was going to...

I was going to procrastinate once, but I didn't get around to it.

I've been in the canyon a dozen times, maybe two dozen, in the past 30 years.

I've done several stories on the musical drama "TEXAS." I've done stories on Indian battles down the canyon. I took my son rap-

elling there. On clear summer afternoons, I used to escape with a cute account executive from an advertising agency to eat frozen custard at the Sad Monkey Railway.



David Bowser
Staff Writer

I camped out one Memorial Weekend with a little blonde nurse who was into the out-of-doors. We had champagne and strawberries for breakfast.

The only time I ever shot photographs was one summer's night, a couple of

years ago, when a friend, the same guy I was having coffee with, a photographer, and I hiked over to the Lighthouse formation because he wanted to take a picture of the giant hoodoo silhouetted in a full moon that was scheduled to rise that night.

We left our car at the trailhead and began walking down the trail marked "Light House."

It was farther than I remembered. The last time I made that trek, it was with my son and a friend of his from grade school. My son turns 30 next November.

By the time we reached the first rest station, the sun had disappeared beyond the

western rim of the canyon.

It wasn't long before the canyon was dark, deep and silent -- except for the huffing and puffing of two old, fat photographers.

My friend got out his flashlight to light the trail. I secretly cursed myself for not bringing a flashlight. I had been so focused on bringing tripod, camera and film, I hadn't thought about a flashlight.

I followed meekly behind. The trail kept getting steeper and rougher.

Then came the sound that every hiker dreads.

"I think we're lost," Tom said.

See CANYON, Page 5

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 7, the 38th day of 2005. There are 327 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 7, 1812, author Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England.

On this date:

In 1904, a fire began in Baltimore that raged for about 30 hours and destroyed more than 1,500 buildings.

In 1936, President Roosevelt authorized a flag for the office of the vice president.

In 1944, during World War II, the Germans launched a counteroffensive at Anzio, Italy.

In 1944, Bing Crosby and the John Scott Trotter Orchestra recorded "Swinging on a Star" for Decca Records in Los Angeles.

In 1964, The Beatles began their first American tour as they arrived at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

In 1971, women in Switzerland won the right to vote.

In 1974, the island nation of Grenada won independence from Britain.

In 1984, space shuttle astronauts Bruce McCandless II and Robert L. Stewart went on the first untethered space walk.

In 1986, Haitian President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier fled his country, ending 28 years of his family's rule.

In 1999, Jordan's King Hussein died of cancer at age 63; he was succeeded by his eldest son, Abdullah.

Ten years ago: Ramzi Yousef, later convicted of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, was arrested in Islamabad, Pakistan, after two years as a fugitive.

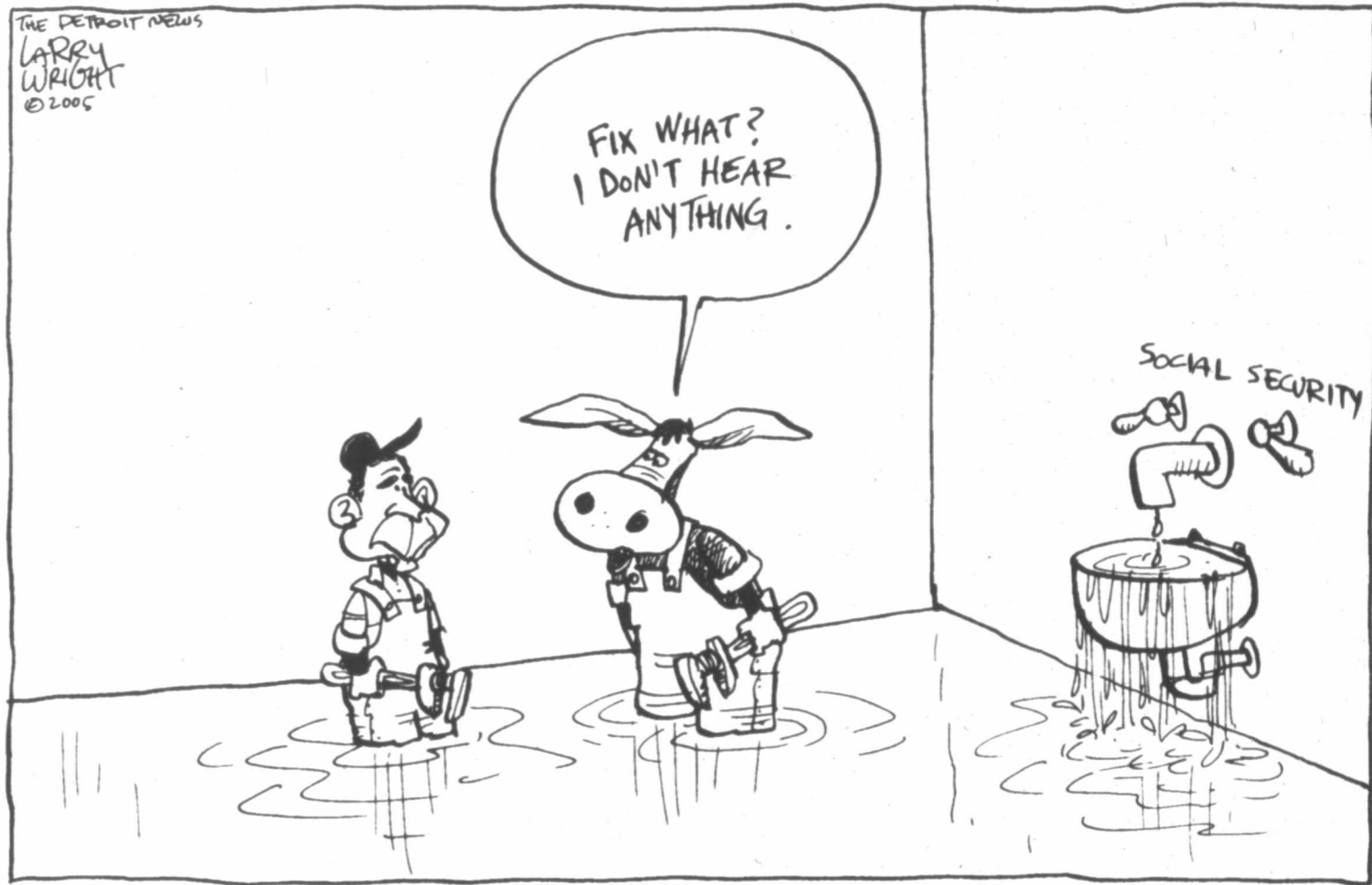
Five years ago: With an astonishing comeback to win the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, Tiger Woods gained his sixth straight PGA Tour victory, becoming the first player since Ben Hogan in 1948 to win six in a row. The Web site Yahoo! came under a "denial of service" attack by Internet vandals. Yugoslav Defense Minister Pavle Bulatovic was gunned down in a Belgrade restaurant and died later in a hospital. Magician Doug Henning died in Los Angeles at age 52.

One year ago: John Kerry won the Washington state and Michigan Democratic presidential primaries.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Wilma Lee Cooper is 84. Author Gay Talese is 73. Actor Miguel Ferrer is 50. Reggae musician Brian Travers (UB40) is 46. Actor James Spader is 45. Country singer Garth Brooks is 43. Rock musician David Bryan (Bon Jovi) is 43. Comedian Eddie Izzard is 43. Actor-comedian Chris Rock is 39.

'A cruel story runs on wheels, and every hand oils the wheels as they run.'

— Ouida (Marie Louise de la Ramee)
English writer



Handle Social Security with finesse

Tread softly. Step lightly. Glance over options. Don't get stuck. That's how President Bush needs to handle Social Security reform, and it is exactly how he managed it in his State of the Union speech.

The key to reforming Social Security — and politically living to tell about it — is to offer choices to Congress and to the American people, without getting locked in or trapped on particular point.

By posing options — cuts in the cost-of-living increases (COLAs), a higher retirement age, private investment — and by ruling out any change in the benefits or status of those over 55 years of age (full disclosure: I'm 57),

Bush succeeded in skating over the difficult decisions. Hopefully, he'll never have to make them.

The fact is that private investment of Social Security funds by individuals will solve the system's long-term problems. Over the long run, the American economy — and the stock market in particular — grows at a rapid enough rate to solve any shortfall that the Baby Boomer retirement will cause in the Social Security system. Anything that investment doesn't

solve the influx of younger immigrant workers — legal and illegal — will take care of.

But you can't say that: Voters don't believe that private investment will solve the Social Security problem.

They favor it, but don't see its full potential. So if the president falls into the trap of basing his reform proposals on the probable outcome of investment decisions by individuals, he'll be highly vulnerable to Democratic charges that he's selling a pie-in-the-sky scheme that will bank-

rupt the system. On the other hand, if he locks himself into a rigid proposal to raise the retirement age or to lower COLAs, he will run afoul of those who oppose any cuts.

The answer is not to jam a program down the throats of Congress or the voters. Rather, offer choices in the final legislative product that lead them in the right direction without coercion and without duress. Bush should offer alternatives: Later retirement, slower benefit growth and private investment should be options offered to every beneficiary.

The president understands the need to let a consensus develop from within

See FINESSE, Page 5

Dick Morris

Columnist



Mental health care requires strategy

No one disputes the connection between mental illness and a host of other social problems from crime and costly emergency room care to chronic homelessness.

The problem is finding answers that work for the community and ways of paying for it. It will take the best thinking and hardest work of local leaders, community service groups and the Legislature to wrestle with this intractable social ill.

Texas has seen the results of state budget cuts that eliminated mental health coverage for hundreds of

thousands of Texans. Unable to get treatment in mental health centers and clinics, those with mental illnesses land in jail and emergency rooms. One study found that after the 2003 budget cuts, the number of mental health diagnoses in Austin-area health outlets increased 79 percent in 2004. And most studies find that 20 to 25 percent of the chronically homeless suffer from mental illnesses.

Only the combined efforts of business, community services and government can change this picture. Lawmakers seem committed to restoring some of the government help that was slashed in the 2003 session, especially the Children's Health Insurance Program.

State Rep. Joe Nixon, R-Houston, also wants the Legislature to require private health plans to cover the full range of mental illnesses for

longer periods of time. As it stands now, state law limits what mental conditions are covered and restricts care to 45 days for inpatients and 60 days of outpatient services.

Nixon thinks companies will find savings in healthier employees and less time lost to illness.

But businesses, particularly smaller ones, have valid concerns about increased costs, concerns the Legislature must consider.

Legislation and state funding will have to be part of the overall strategy to improve mental health care in Texas.

Texas Thoughts

Austin American-Statesman

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Vatican: Pope will be in hospital a few more days as a precaution

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II will remain hospitalized a few more days as a precaution, the Vatican said Monday, a day after the 84-year-old pope appeared at his clinic window to show the world he was recovering from his latest health crisis.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the pope, who he said was continuing to improve, had no fever, was eating regularly and has been sitting in a chair every day for several hours. Officials said the frail pope's sixth night at the clinic passed calmly.

"His doctors have advised him to stay a few more days," Navarro-Valls said.

The pope has been reading the newspapers, and Navarro-Valls quoted John Paul as saying he was doing so "just to follow in the papers the evolution of my health."

John Paul's 10-minute

appearance at an open window Sunday gave the public its first glimpse of the pontiff since his hospitalization nearly a week ago for breathing problems and the flu rekindled questions about

'His doctors have advised him to stay a few more days.'

— Joaquin Navarro-Valls
Papal spokesman

his ability to carry on.

The Vatican said the next medical bulletin would be issued at noon Thursday.

On Sunday, the pope looked rested and alert, and although he spoke with difficulty, a message read for him by an Argentine archbishop standing beside him seemed to respond to any doubts

about the pope's readiness to continue leading the Roman Catholic Church.

"... In this hospital, in the middle of other sick people to whom my affectionate thoughts go out, I can continue to serve the church and the whole of humanity," the message said.

As well-wishers, many with tears in their eyes, gazed up at his 10th-floor window, John Paul gave his usual brief blessing. But his words, in a gravelly voice, were barely understandable.

Late Sunday, Navarro-Valls denied in a statement Italian media's speculation that the pope's words were taped — not live.

"Naturally, the words of the Holy Father in the blessing this morning were pronounced at the very moment in which we heard them," he said.



Another opening, another show

Berinda Turcotte and Kayla Pursley work together to get the set ready for the Area Community Theater, Inc.'s (ACT I) next production "Ladies at the Alamo" opening Feb. 25. Members of the set building crew include Jimmy Lindsay, John Haesle, Dennis Boyd, Denver Bruner and Ash Jani. Pursley is directing; Ken Wilson is the assistant director. Cast members are Diana Bruner, Dawn Clendening, Sheila Lindsay, Gayla Rigdon, and Turcotte.

Rumsfeld: Iraq will need time to build its military

WASHINGTON (AP) — Once its internal security forces are trained to handle violent insurgents, Iraq will require more time to build a military force strong enough to meet any threats from Iran or other neighbors, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld says.

Vice President Dick Cheney and Rumsfeld,

appearing separately on Sunday talk shows, agreed Iraq will shape its own government and will reflect its political and social demands in that system, not those of the United States. The role religion will play will be for Iraqis to decide, Cheney said.

"This is going to be Iraqi, whatever it is. It's not

going to be American. It's not going to look like Wyoming or New York when they get their political process all put together," Cheney told "Fox News Sunday."

Rumsfeld said he doubts Iraq will choose a theocratic system mirroring that of Iran, a choice he said would be "a terrible mistake."

Rumsfeld said he doesn't believe President Bush's State of the Union declaration that U.S. troops will leave Iraq when the country "is democratic, representative of all its people, at peace with its neighbors, and able to defend itself" means American forces will be there for years to come.

"What he meant was that the Iraqis' internal security forces would be capable of managing the security situation inside the country," Rumsfeld told ABC's "This Week."

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Canyon

Continued from Page 4

I uttered a phrase I had learned in the Navy.

The trail had played out into a gully. We had made a wrong turn somewhere.

Then the flashlight dimmed.

"Did you put fresh batteries in?" I asked self-righteously.

"Uh, no," came the response.

The full moon was rising over the eastern rim of the

canyon. We felt we had to be near the Light House.

In the glow of the moonlight, we stumbled up and down ridges trying to make out the shape of the Light House before us.

We finally gave up, back tracked and shot timed exposures of a canyon wall near the parking lot.

Tom kept talking about how great the pictures were going to look with the stars in the sky overhead streaking across the film as we lengthened out exposures from minutes to almost an hour.

I kept muttering nautical phrases.

The pictures I shot that night weren't worth keeping. Maybe Tom's were.

I broached the subject as we sat drinking coffee.

"It's snowing," I said.

"Boy, it's really coming down," he said.

"I'll bet the canyon is beautiful," I said.

"I'll bet it's getting colder," he said.

We discussed the possibility of driving to the canyon, how long it would take, whether it was snowing in the

Palo Duro, if we could get there before dark, where would be the best place to see the snow coming down against the red clay walls. We finished our coffee.

We walked outside and looked around. The snow had stopped.

We went back inside and had another cup of coffee and talked about his wife's health problems. Any photo safari would have to wait until spring.

I wonder whatever happened to that little blonde nurse.

Finesse

Continued from Page 4

Congress based on choices and options rather than how to a top-down program of cuts and restrictions imposed by the White House.

Polling shows that voters reject COLA cuts by over 2:1. There is a lot less antipathy to increases in the retire-

ment age. Particularly if the age is linked to life expectancy, voters are willing to accept a delay of their retirement — if they are under 55 — without undue acrimony. But Bush must couch his proposals as alternatives to be freely adopted by each individual and each family, rather than required by federal fiat.

All this requires a deft and subtle political hand — the exact opposite of the line-in-the-sand stance the presi-

dent has taken in international affairs. I wondered if he was capable of the required subtlety. But as his State of the Union unfolded, I realized that I had, once again, underestimated him. He gets it — and will skate through this legislative obstacle course unscathed.

I hope.

Dick Morris is a political analyst and was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years.

Calendar items

• **Texas CattleWomen** are currently sponsoring a statewide scholarship for high school students called the Pat Grote Memorial Scholarship. Applicants must be a 2005 graduating senior at a Texas high school or equivalent institution and must be accepted into an agricultural-related field at a Texas college or university for the 2005 fall semester. The deadline for applications to be returned to Amy Brainard, P.O. Box 570, Canadian, TX 79014, is Feb. 18. For more information, visit www.texascattlewomen.org on the Internet or call Brainard at (806) 323-6397.

• **Texas Cooperative Extension** in Ochiltree County will sponsor a beginning futures and options workshop for area producers from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 18 at the Ochiltree County Expo Center in Perryton. Dr. Steve Amosson will be the instructor for the course which will provide basic information to producers about using futures and options in marketing. The registration fee is \$10. To

register or for more information, call Scott Strawn by Feb. 16 at (806) 435-4501.

• **The next Pampa Area Singles dance**, featuring Mike Porter, is scheduled from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 at the Sportsman Club on South Barnes Street. Admission is \$6 per person. No smoking or alcohol allowed. Snacks welcome. For more information, call 665-7059.

• **North American Grain Congress**, the first joint conference of National Association of Wheat Growers and National Grain Sorghum Producers, will be Feb. 19-22, 2005, at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel & Casino in Reno, Nev. Register by Feb. 1 for an early birth discount. To register, log onto www.graincongress.org on the World Wide Web.

• **The Second Annual Playwrights Showcase** of the Western Region is Aug. 12-14, 2005, at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colo. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2005. Registration forms

and more information are available at www.rccc.edu/playwright-showcase on the Internet.

• **Christian Fine Arts Society** is conducting a free religious poetry contest with a \$1,000 grand prize. To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 9588 Thornbush Lane Fishers, IN 46038 or go to www.freecontest.com. The deadline to enter is Feb. 26. Be sure your name and address appears on the page with your poem.


• **The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center** has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: March 24, First United Methodist Church, 201 E. Foster, and March 29, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, both in Pampa; and March 1, Lefors Civic Center, 103 N. Court, Lefors. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more infor-

mation, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

• **Residents have until March 9 to order** seedlings from Gray County Soil and Water Conservation District for windbreak and wildlife tree seedlings and shrubs. The seedlings will be offered at a nominal cost. Wildlife packets containing 25 seedlings each of four different varieties to enhance quail, pheasant, deer, turkey and squirrel populations are available. The district will also be offering a limited variety of larger hardwoods. For more information or to obtain an order form, contact Gray Co. SWCD at 665-1751, ext. 102.


• **Chapter C.S. P.E.O. Sisterhood** will present a book review with Carol Smith Headrick at 2 p.m. March 20 in M.K. Brown Auditorium's Heritage Room. The book under review will be "Anatomy of Me," an autobiography of best-selling author of the mid-20th Century Fanny Hurst. Tickets will be available at the door before the event or may be purchased in advance by calling 665-7064.

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2. Cut out each face and tape it in the corresponding blank rectangle in each ad. All entries must be original newspaper - no photo copies accepted. THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE IS TO GO TO THE BUSINESS AND LOOK FOR YOURSELF! BUT... Some of these businesses might be inaccessible to the public, so rely on friends and family to solve this puzzle.
3. The Who's Who contest will appear in the January 31, February 7 and February 14 issues of The Pampa News. A drawing will be held from all the correct entries the morning of February 21 to determine the winner. Bring entries to The Pampa News office at 403 W. Atchison or mail to P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066. Entries must be received by 5:00pm on February 17. Label your entry with your name, address and phone number so the winner may be notified.
4. Employees of The Pampa News and their immediate families are not eligible to win.
5. The Who's Who contest will be solved in the February 21 edition of The Pampa News.



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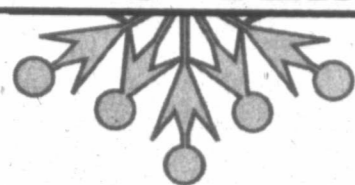
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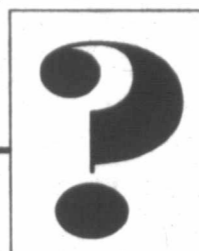
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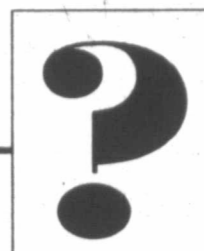
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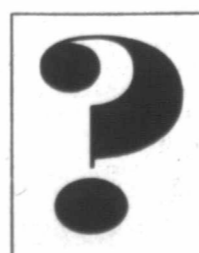
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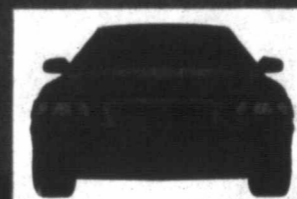


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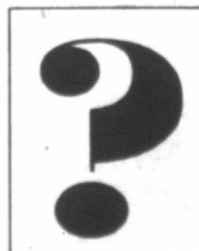
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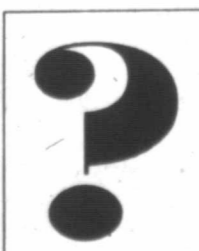
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- Burnin' the Bricks & Mud Bog - June
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- Tri-State Seniors Golf Tournament (Treasure Hunt) - July
- West Texas Stock Dog Assoc. Trials - TBA
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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Heartsick is the only way I can describe how I feel right now. Something very precious to me, an antique doll, has disappeared from its storage place in my bedroom and has been replaced by a similar doll that I have never seen before. The only person besides my husband who knew of its existence was my cousin "Lana." Lana and her husband have been weekend houseguests in our home for several years. A few weeks ago, we let them use our bedroom and we took the guest room.

The other day I went to the chest where I kept the doll, intending to have it appraised, and found something else in its place. I have no solid proof that Lana took it, but the circumstances and family history all point in that direction. You see, the doll was a family heirloom given to me by my aunt 15 years ago.

As far as I'm concerned, the relationship between my cousin and me has been seriously affected. What should be my next step? -- HEARTSICK IN N.C.

DEAR HEARTSICK: Call Cousin Lana and tell her what you have told me. Perhaps she was upset that the heirloom doll wasn't given to her, or assumed that you wouldn't know the difference if another doll was substituted. Ask her to please return the original.

If she is unwilling to cooperate, you could report the theft to the police and fill out a stolen property report. However, you should be aware that, unless the doll is valuable, petty thefts are not a high priority for police departments.

DEAR ABBY: How do you get someone's name off junk mail lists when that person has died? My sister passed away last May. I had all of her mail forwarded to my house. I specifically contacted all the bill collectors and her

friends and gave them my address, but her junk mail has found its way to me. Many of the catalogs and charities used the address correction service, thinking my sister had moved to my address, and now they send their stuff to me. The rest of the mail comes forwarded by the post office.

How can I make it stop? I don't want this stuff. The Direct Mail Marketing organization says that this request cannot be made by a second party. -- HAD ENOUGH IN CITRUS HEIGHTS

DEAR HAD ENOUGH: With a black marking pen, cross out the bar code on the envelopes and write "Deceased; Return to Sender." Then put the items back in your mailbox. Eventually the senders will get the message and the unwanted mail will stop. Also, if you call the 800 numbers for the catalogs and explain the situation, most will cooperate and remove your sister's name and your address from their lists.

DEAR ABBY: What's the proper etiquette when escorting a woman through a revolving door? I never know whether to send her in first, or if I should enter first and do the initial pushing. Revolving doors can be heavy, and I can only imagine that it's difficult for a petite woman -- or one wearing high heels -- to maneuver. But I don't want to be rude and charge through a door in front of my date. Have you any advice? -- GOING IN CIRCLES IN HOUSTON

DEAR GOING IN CIRCLES: Your rationale for going first through a revolving door makes sense to me. However, when in doubt a gentleman should ask, "Would you like me to go first?" In other words, take your cue from the lady.

For Better Or Worse



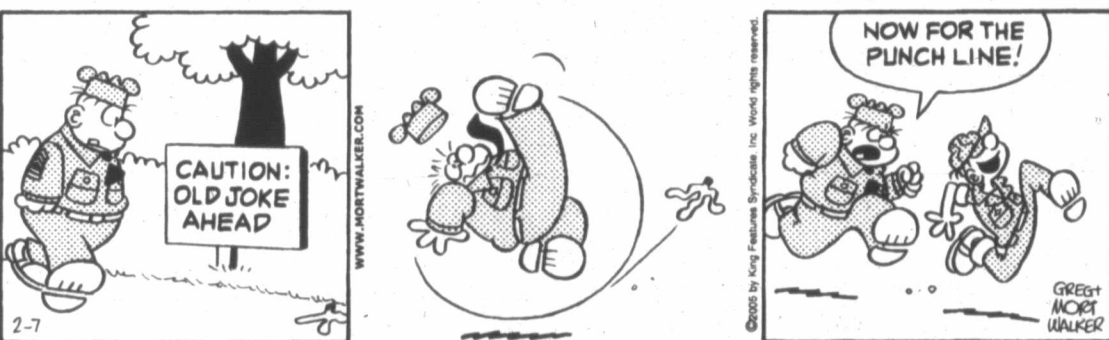
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

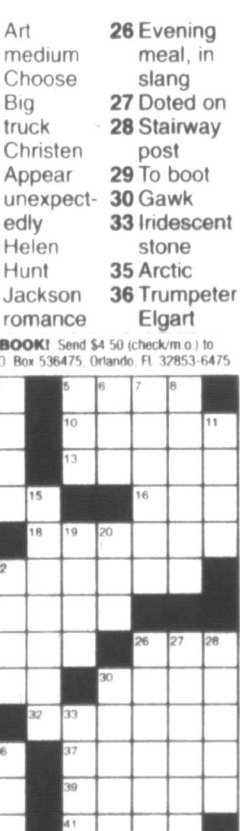
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Give for a bit

- 1 Rough guess
- 5 Fail to hit
- 9 Hackneyed
- 10 Make suitable
- 12 Sideways
- 13 "Really?"
- 14 Meeting
- 16 Common verb
- 17 Bout site
- 18 Go to a close-up
- 21 Besides
- 22 "Never mind"
- 23 Gave out cards
- 24 Bread basket
- 26 Football's
- 29 Egypt
- 30 Partisan group
- 31 Herbert of Pink Panther films
- 32 Later
- 34 Over-indulge
- 37 Mission head
- 38 Pound part
- 39 "The Tempest" sprite
- 40 Settles the bill



Saturday's answer

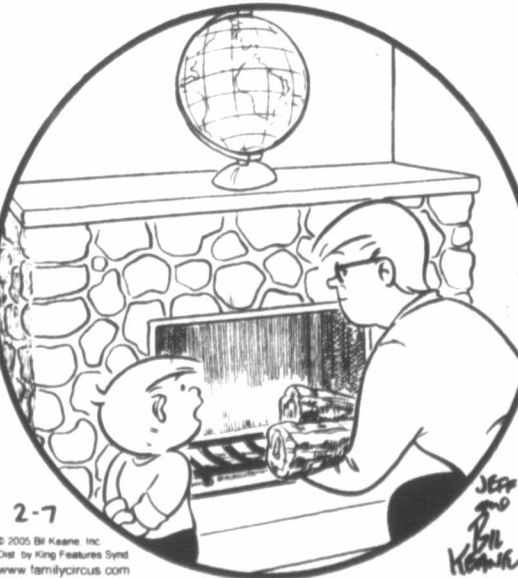


Marmaduke



"I don't need help with my flower arrangements."

The Family Circus



"If you light that fire we're gonna have global warming."

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



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Sports Day

Weekend Sports in Brief

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — New England defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel accepted an offer to coach the Cleveland Browns, his agent told The Associated Press shortly after the Patriots' Super Bowl victory Sunday night.

Joe Linta said he'll be on a 6:30 a.m. Monday flight to Cleveland and will go straight to the team's headquarters in suburban Berea to begin contract talks.

As long as things go well, the Browns will introduce Crennel as their 11th full-time coach in team history on Tuesday.

Linta said he will seek a five- or six-year deal for the 57-year-old Crennel.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Steve Young and Dan Marino were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday.

Yet another quarterback, Benny Friedman, and Fritz Pollard joined Marino and Young as the Class of 2005. They will be inducted on Aug. 7 in Canton, Ohio.

Each received at least 80 percent of the votes from the panel of 39 sports writers and broadcasters. Friedman and Pollard were nominated by the senior committee and chosen by the entire panel.

BORMIO, Italy (AP) — Bode Miller and Daron Rahlves gave American skiing a day like no other. Never before had U.S. skiers — men or women — finished 1-2 in any event at an Alpine World Championships.

With Miller first and Rahlves second, they pulled off the feat Saturday, and in the downhill, no less — the sport's signature event.

Miller is the first American man to win the downhill at a worlds; none even had finished second. Rahlves, who made a mistake at the top that might have cost him the gold, took the silver.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Phil Mickelson won the FBR Open by five strokes.

Mickelson struggled with his driver in a 3-under 68, but no one mounted a serious challenge Sunday. He never led by fewer than three strokes over the final 18 holes. Mickelson finished at 17-under 267 on the Tournament Players Club course.

Scott McCarron and Kevin Na, at 21 the youngest player on the PGA tour, tied for second at 12 under.

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australia's Craig Parry ended Ernie Els' three-year reign in the Heineken Classic, holing a 12-foot birdie putt on the fourth hole of a playoff Sunday with countryman Nick O'Hern.

Parry closed with a 1-under 70 to match O'Hern (71) at 14-under 270. Els shot a 70 to finish at 12 under.



Emilea Greer (left) holds the batting stick while Kenzi Nickell (right) gets warmed up for her batting practice last week in athletics. The Lady Harvesters will open the pre-season Feb. 8 in Borger at the 2005 Borger Winter Classic. Pampa won the Silver Division last year in a 13-8 victory over district rival Amarillo Caprock.

Yao's free throws clinch win after Odom leads Lakers rally

By The Associated Press

Yao Ming came through in the clutch to secure a win for Houston — and put an end to Lamar Odom's bid to almost single-handedly beat the Rockets.

Yao rebounded a rare miss by Odom, then went on to make a couple of shots from the line with 15.3 seconds and give the Rockets a 103-102 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday.

"We did everything in the last three quarters you would usually do to lose," Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "We got a good cushion and then they dominated the game in the second half."

Odom scored 14 of his 22 points in the final period and led the Lakers back from a 16-point deficit in the fourth quarter to a three-point lead with a flurry of baskets, deft passes and a block.

"The fourth quarter was the Lamar Odom Show," Rockets guard Tracy McGrady said. "He was doing everything. He was making things happen."

After Odom's miss, the Rockets got the ball down low to Yao, who muscled his way between a couple of defenders and was fouled. He calmly hit two free throws to put the Rockets ahead.

"I knew I could make that because I had missed too many before," said Yao, apparently unaware that he went 5-of-6 from the line en route to 23 points. "It's great to get the win."

In other games Sunday, it was: Dallas 122, Toronto 113; Boston 103, Minnesota 100 and Philadelphia 106, L.A. Clippers 104.

Los Angeles forward Brian Cook missed a potential winning 3-pointer with 2.9 seconds to play, and the Lakers fumbled away the ensuing rebound as the clock expired.

Cook flashed a pained smile as the Rockets stormed onto the court, and Yao pumped his fist before running into a mob of teammates to celebrate another close win.

"When it came off my fingers it felt good," Cook said. "If I had that shot again, I'd take it 10 more times."

McGrady had 21 points and Bob Sura had 19 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists and five steals for the Rockets, who have won four straight and eight of their last 10.

Chucky Atkins added 21 points for the Lakers, who came up just short in their bid to win for the first time under interim coach Frank Hamblen.

Hamblen took over Wednesday when Rudy Tomjanovich resigned as head coach, citing health concerns. Hamblen, a 57-year-old career assistant, again lobbied for the return of Phil Jackson before the game.

76ers 106, Clippers 104
At Philadelphia, Allen Iverson scored 28 points, including the winning free throws with 1:01 to play.

The Sixers completed a 3-1 homestand and moved within one game of .500 (23-24).

Kyle Korver had 16 points and Andre Iguodala added 15 for the Sixers. Bobby Simmons led the Clippers with 27 points, while Elton Brand had 21 and Chris Kaman 18.

See BASKETBALL, Pg. 12

Patriots 24, Eagles 21

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The whole thing must have seemed routine to the New England Patriots: confetti fluttering across the field, fireworks brightening the night sky, a carefully choreographed championship trophy presentation.

Downright ordinary, right? Hardly. The Patriots became a full-fledged dynasty with their third Super Bowl victory in four years, beating the Philadelphia Eagles 24-21 Sunday night.

New England claimed a spot alongside the Green Bay Packers of the 1960s, the Pittsburgh Steelers of the '70s, the San Francisco 49ers of the '80s, the Dallas Cowboys of the '90s.

A team for the decade. A team for the ages. "We're champions now. That's it," safety Rodney Harrison said. "I don't know about dynasty."

Trust us, Rodney, this group fits the definition in every respect. New England becomes just the seventh franchise to claim back-to-back titles. The Cowboys are the only other team to win the championship three times over a four-year period.

Typically, the Patriots didn't leave themselves much room. All three of their Super Bowls have been decided by three points — the previous two on last-second field goals by Adam Vinatieri. By comparison, only two of the first 35 Super Bowls were within field goal range at the end.

But what they lack in style, the Patriots more than make up with their steely determination to do whatever it takes to win. When the Eagles jumped to a 7-0 lead, New England responded with a touchdown of its own late in the first half.

When Philadelphia tied the game at 14 late in the third quarter, the Patriots marched right down the field for Corey Dillon's 2-yard touchdown. And, in a fitting bit of synergy, Vinatieri booted a 22-yard field goal with 8:40 remaining that provided the margin of victory.

Donovan McNabb threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to Greg Lewis with 1:48 remaining, but the Patriots recovered the onside kick and ran off all but the final 46 seconds. When Harrison picked off McNabb's last pass at the Philly 28, it was time to party.

Sure, the NFL-planned celebration is virtually impossible to distinguish from one year to the next, but that didn't lessen the Patriots' remarkable accomplishment — especially in the era of salary caps and free agency.

"This is the best ever," offensive tackle Matt Light said. "We have more heart than anyone in the world. This is unbelievable. I love this confetti."

The Eagles got a huge lift from Terrell Owens, who defied his doctor to play in his first Super Bowl. Just 6 1/2 weeks after surgery, T.O. had nine catches for 122 yards. Not bad for a guy who was playing with two screws and a metal plate in his right ankle.

"He's amazing, to be able to come out there and do what he did," Harrison said. "You could tell he was still hurting a little bit, but he played tremendous."

But Owens was outshined by New England's Deion Branch, who claimed the MVP award with 11 catches — tying a Super Bowl record — for 133 yards.

"He epitomizes the way the Patriots win," NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue said Monday. "He has great individual talent ... but all within the context of the team."

It wasn't a flawless game by any means. McNabb (30-of-51 for 397 yards) threw three interceptions, was sacked four times and had a fumble overturned by replay. Tom Brady botched a handoff with Kevin Faulk, leading to a fumble deep in Philly territory.

For the most part, though, the Patriots followed a familiar routine — run the ball (28 carries, 112 yards), limit mistakes in the passing game (Brady was 23-of-33 for 236 yards, with no interceptions) and rely heavily on their defense (the Eagles managed just 45 yards on the ground).

The loss extended Philly's excruciating championship drought. The city's last title of any kind came 22 years ago, when the 76ers won the NBA championship.

"I was proud of the effort," coach Andy Reid said. "But we came up just short — too many turnovers — and against such a tough football team you can't do that."

Now, it's time to start sorting out the historical significance of another Patriots' Super Bowl title. They have won nine straight postseason games,

equaling Vince Lombardi's Green Bay teams. And coach Bill Belichick improved his playoff record to 10-1, one-upping the great Lombardi.

"As I give you the Lombardi Trophy, I suspect that coach Lombardi would have a deep admiration for how your team played today," Tagliabue told Belichick after the game.

The Patriots had a bumpy road to their latest championship, and in many ways the Super Bowl mirrored those struggles. But, as always, New England found a way to persevere.

Maybe it's their versatility: For the second year in a row, linebacker Mike Vrabel caught a touchdown pass. He's got five receptions in his career — all TDs.

Even though the Eagles made it to the Super Bowl for the first time since 1981 — after three straight conference championship flops — their sparkling season ended in disappointment before a sea of mostly green jerseys in the crowd of 78,125.

"We were too sloppy to win," Owens said. "It was great to get back, but we made too many mistakes. We could have won and that hurts."

Brady didn't stand out like he did while winning the MVP award at his first two Super Bowls, but he threw two TD passes. Branch stepped in to fill the void, making off with a new car and an additional piece of hardware.

"It doesn't matter who gets what," Branch said.

McNabb looked ordinary, even skittish at times. Maybe it was the four sacks, the persistent pressure and the lack of help from the running game. He threw three touchdown passes, but also made some crucial blunders.

In a precursor of what was to come, McNabb caught a break when a first-quarter interception in the end zone was nullified by a defensive penalty. But he wasted the second chance, throwing another errant pass that Harrison picked off near the goal line.

After Harrison's second interception in the waning seconds, Belichick sought out offensive coordinator Charlie Weis and defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel. Both are leaving for head coaching jobs: Weis at Notre Dame, Crennel with the Cleveland Browns.

"He grabbed me and Romeo at the end of the game and said, 'Hey, it's over,'" Weis said.

What a ride it's been. One for the ages.

'Keeping it simple' works

Super Bowl XXXIX simplifies half-time show

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

McCartney rocked the house, and left his clothes on in doing so

In recent years, the Super Bowl half-time show has become an over-produced albatross that needed to be shot and put out of its misery. Some one took careful aim and squeezed off a direct hit. Last night's show was the obviously the result of a little acronym known as

KISS, or — Keep It Simple Stupid.

There were no half-naked recording artists lip-synching songs while running around on stage in some sort of chaotic carnival parade.

No one made thousands of dollars for grabbing themselves and uttering, "Yeah," or "Uh," over and over. Nothing needed to be bleeped out. A lack of talent cannot be overcome by over-modulation, loud explosions and flashing lights.

Paul McCartney was nothing

short of superb last night. The light show and well-timed fireworks simply added to what this man was accomplishing on stage. And all that was going on around him fit. This was not an over-produced performance by any means, which is why it was so good. This was an event within an event and all who were there truly seemed to enjoy it.

Even the pre-game festivities

were great.

The choir of combined United States armed service singers' rendition of the National Anthem literally gave me chills. The honoring of what many believe to be our nation's greatest generation was moving.

And, oh, by the way, the game was pretty good too.

So remember, success often begins with KISS. Not Gene, Paul, Ace or Peter.

Texas Cooperative Extension issues crop, weather report

COLLEGE STATION — This little piggy went to market. This little piggy stayed home. But at least 26,000 Texas pigs will go to a show this year, adding millions to the state economy, Texas Cooperative Extension reports.

"A very conservative estimate is that show pigs contribute over \$50 million to the state economy each year," said Dr. Jodi Sterle of College Station, Extension swine specialist.

Swine aren't alone in the show ring. Competitions across the state draw exhibitors of other livestock species as well.

Dr. Chris Boleman of College Station, Extension specialist, said the approximate livestock entries for county shows are: Swine, 16,176 entries; beef, 4,169 entries; sheep, 6,642 entries; and goats, 11,166 entries.

In addition to those numbers, exhibitors participate in larger open shows in Houston, Fort Worth, San Antonio and El Paso, and at the Texas State Fair in Dallas.

According to Ben Alley, Troy Independent School District vocational agriculture teacher, the cost of raising livestock for competition ranges

widely depending on what type of animal is shown. He estimates the average exhibitor spends about \$380 each on market hogs and \$2,200 on steers.

Multipled by the thousands of animals shown, the grand total can be enormous. The money isn't all sent directly to the farm either.

"Every time a kid shows, they pay a sum of money," said Dr. Joe Paschal of Corpus Christi, Extension livestock specialist.

"The entry fee, hotel stay and meals on the road, in addition to feed and any supplemental supplies, all adds up. "A lot of folks don't realize the economic drive that livestock exhibitors bring," he said. "With each kid that they bring in, their parents may spend \$100 a day on food, gas or whatever they buy. That \$100 has an economic impact of \$300 because they're paying

for the maid at the hotel, the waiter at Denny's, the gas attendant — and it keeps going."

Local businesses may benefit from animal shows, but so

"For students that raise animals properly and have success, I see a difference in them ... They tend to have better

values and ethics because they learned the value of responsibility. I think it is a 'carrot' that leads them in the right direction."

While much of the state is preparing for livestock shows, spring planting has been delayed by rain. The cotton harvest — which is nearly complete — was making good progress in the Panhandle until it was stalled by rain, said Bob Robinson, Extension regional program director.

In Southeast Texas, wet conditions may make cattle feeding more difficult, said Dale Fritz, district Extension administrator. Livestock are still doing well, though.

The following crop, live-

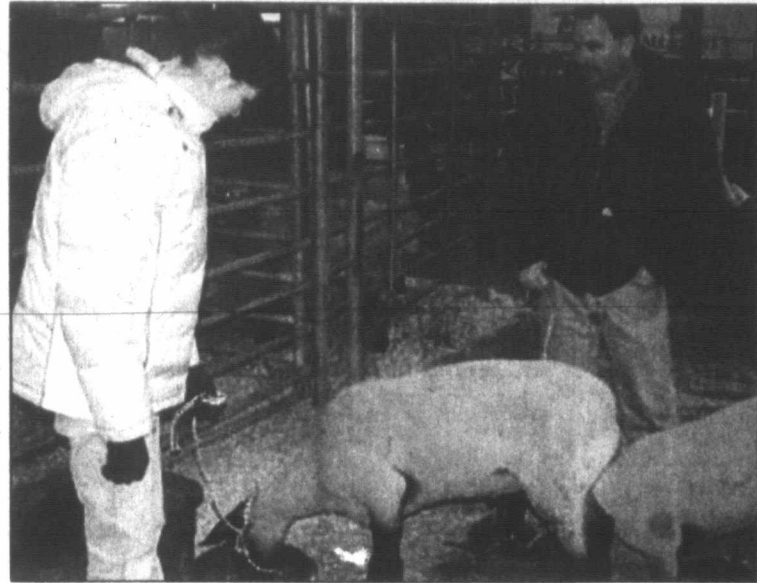
stock and weather conditions were reported by Extension districts:

PANHANDLE: Soil moisture is adequate to surplus. A cold front brought cooler temperatures, light rain and snow at the end of the week. Land preparation slowed due to wet conditions. A few sorghum fields remain to be harvested. Cotton harvest made good progress until stalled by rain. Wheat is fair to good. Some greenbug and Russian wheat aphid infestations were reported. Rangelands were rated fair. Cattle are fair to good. Supplemental feeding continued.

SOUTH PLAINS: Soil moisture is adequate to surplus. Cooler weather and rainfall were reported. Cotton and sorghum harvest is complete. Some stalk-cutting was reported. Many cotton modules wait in fields to be ginned. Winter wheat was rated excellent. Recent showers established excellent growth. Pastures and rangelands were rated good. Cattle were in good condition.

ROLLING PLAINS: Soil moisture is adequate to surplus. Colder weather and rain were reported. Cotton harvest was delayed by the rain. Farmers were busy stripping

until the moisture arrived. Gins are behind and hoping to catch up during the harvest delay. The wheat crop progressed well. Several ranches conducted prescribed burns on up to 10,000 acres. Cool season grasses are providing some grazing, but supplemental is needed for livestock. Stock cattle made good gains on wheat pastures.



(Texas Ag Experiment Station photo by KAY LEDBETTER) **Tabeetha Neusch, and her dad, Kevin Neusch, of Amarillo feed lambs before the Potter County Junior Livestock Show sale on Jan. 29.**

do the students who participate, Alley said.

"A parent once thanked me for talking his daughter into showing pigs even after they did not win a ribbon. He said they had time together to be daughter and dad working towards a common goal, to be better people," Alley said.

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Gift your sweetheart

Children's Art Project now in full bloom

HOUSTON — The 2005 Winter & Early Spring Collection is currently blooming at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, thanks to the Children's Art Project which involves the work of the center's youngest cancer patients.

Six new blank cards wear hearts on their covers including a new deluxe-sized card with "Love" stamped in gold foil on the front shimmering heart and the mini-Valentines featuring whimsical art with messages perfect for classroom exchanges are back again, a press release from the center said.

The new collection also features a variety of hearts on full-sized greeting cards that are blank inside for personal messages. "Field of Hearts," "Twin Hearts," "Love Grows," "Crazy Love" and "Garden Heart" prove that hearts come in all shapes and sizes.

A Valentine assortment with a "Happy Valentine's" message inside featuring four of the new heart note cards and a "Heart Collection" with two each of six popular heart note cards from past collections give your feelings even more options.

The "Love Letters" products from the 2004 collection are also still available to send a special message of love with hearts and flowers and XXXs and OOs that's appropriate all year long.

This artwork isn't written in the sand — it's featured on a blank note card with plenty of room inside to write your own sentiments — and it's also found on a ladies black-fitted T-shirt and a companion soft pink romper for the youngest sweethearts.

Love abounds in the kitchen, too, on a black apron with white pinstripes that's certain to add some extra sweetness to any recipe, and also on a list pad with a magnet to attach to the refrigerator.

"I Wanted to Tell You" is the perfect gift for special Valentines. This 24-page book combines rhyming verse with artwork from 10 pediatric cancer patients to create an extra special illustration of love and expresses all those lovey-dovey thoughts you come up with but never say.

Four collectible glass ornaments by Christopher Radko highlight the heart artwork of M.D. Anderson patients.

These colored ornaments can hang on a stand on the shelf or dangle from a chandelier to set the Valentine scene. Sterling silver jewelry and even a coordinating address book and journal are other special Valentine-related ways to gift your sweetheart.

The real Valentines, however, are the special children undergoing treatment for cancer at M.D. Anderson.

"These children are often wise beyond their years, and they're also

resourceful," said project executive director Shannan Murray. "They use their imaginations to take them beyond the hospital walls."

"The Children's Art Project features the artwork our young patients create on products produced and sold by the project. CAP returns all the sales' proceeds to M.D. Anderson to fund programs that help these young patients in their battle with this disease. Since its beginnings in 1973, CAP has allocated more than \$20 million to patient-focused programs at the cancer center. Our mission is to help make life better for children with cancer and the programs we fund aid us in accomplishing this goal."

Other items in the new collection concentrate on spring flowers like tulips and daisies and, of course, blue bonnets. "Double Blooms" and "Flower Tapstry" show off several spring garden varieties. Blank cards, thank you cards and even a new "Just Moved" card are available. And, the "Red Tulips" umbrella and matching tote bag prove that April showers do bring May flowers.

Check out these and other Valentine's Day products on-line at www.childrensart.org or by calling 1-800-231-1580 to request a free catalog. Orders are also taken over the phone.

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NATO troops find victims amid wreckage of airliner

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — NATO troops scouring the wreckage of an Afghan airliner atop a snowy mountain peak on Monday found human remains amid the debris but no sign that any of the 104 people on board survived the crash, a spokesman said.

Relatives swarmed toward the freezing mountain to try to retrieve the bodies, but they were turned back by Afghan security forces struggling to mount a recovery operation.

Clear skies allowed a Spanish Cougar helicopter to drop five Slovenian mountain troops onto the mountain top 20 miles east of Kabul, on Monday morning, where they struggled through the deep snow among several pieces of torn fuselage.

"They did find human remains," NATO spokeswoman Maj. Karen Tissot Van Patot said. It was impossible to say how many bodies the remains belonged to, she said. The troops were lifted out again as visibility deteriorated.

Officials expect all those aboard perished in what would be Afghanistan's worst aviation disaster. Six Americans were believed to be on board.

The Boeing 737-200,

'They did find human remains.'

— Maj. Karen Tissot VanPatot
 NATO spokeswoman

flown by Kam Air, Afghanistan's first post-Taliban private airline, vanished from radar screens Thursday afternoon as it approached Kabul airport in a snowstorm from the western city of Herat. There were 96 passengers and eight crew aboard.

NATO helicopters spotted parts of the wreckage some 11,000 feet up Chaperi Mountain on Saturday, but freezing fog, low clouds and up to eight feet of snow had

prevented alliance and Afghan forces from reaching the site.

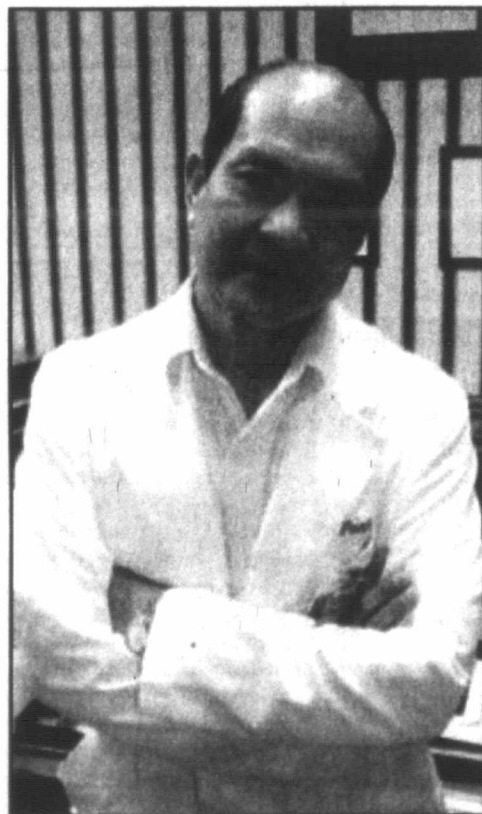
By late Monday, 100 Afghan soldiers had gotten to within 150 yards of the crash site, Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammed Zaher Azimi said. He said they would camp there overnight and that medical teams would hopefully arrive Tuesday to begin collecting the bodies.

The Afghan troops had been searching for a land route to the area because any other route, such as helicopter, had earlier been thought to risky.

At the town of But Khak, German and French soldiers ran mine-detecting equipment over a makeshift landing pad that Afghan officials said would be used as a staging post, although the Afghan Defense Ministry said no bodies would be brought down before Tuesday.

Afghan soldiers set up a checkpoint on the nearby road to stop relatives and media from traveling to the foot of the mountain.

Pathom Thavaradhara, MD, FCCP



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