

THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 88 NO: 226

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



Low tonight in upper teens, high tomorrow in mid 40s. See Page 2 for weather details.

PAMPA — City of Pampa landfill will be closed Monday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. Residential and commercial sanitation routes will not run Jan. 1.

Normal operations will resume at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2.

WASHINGTON (AP) — One-thousand recliner armchairs are being recalled because the space between the chair's seat and leg rest is big enough to trap a child's head. The chairs made by Astro-Lounger Furniture Manufacturing Co. Inc. of Houka, Miss., do not meet voluntary industry guidelines designed to prevent children from strangling, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said Tuesday. The guidelines specify a space no bigger than 5 inches. The Astro-Lounger chairs have a space 6 3/4 inches, spokesman Ken Giles said.

MANHASSET, N.Y. (AP) — A couple who met during the making of a documentary about quadruplets now have a set of their own, including the second-largest U.S. quadruplet on record. The babies were born Saturday to Margaret and Peter Magierski. "We probably haven't started to realize the burden, but we are overwhelmed and happy," Peter Magierski said Tuesday. The typical birth weight for a quadruplet is 2 1/2 to 3 pounds. Victor Magierski tipped the scales at 6 pounds and a half-ounce, making him the second-largest quad on record, according to the Mothers of SuperTwins, a support group that has data on nearly every U.S. multiple birth since 1975.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A private research group says the median medical malpractice jury award in the United States jumped 40 percent this year, to \$500,000. The increase from a median award of \$356,000 in 1994 marked a return to 1993's record-setting half million dollar levels. Jury Verdict Research Inc. said in a report released Tuesday. The number of \$1 million jury awards also increased, the group said, with 35 percent hitting seven digits in 1995 compared to 27 percent in 1994.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A saliva test that could be used to confirm infection by the AIDS virus is nearing approval by the Food and Drug Administration, a biotechnology firm says. Epitepe Inc. said in a statement Tuesday that it had received an FDA letter calling the firm's application to market an HIV test using oral fluids "approvable."

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Israeli troops leave under hail of stones

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops drove out of Ramallah under a hail of stones today, capping a pullout that gave Yasser Arafat control over 99 percent of the West Bank's Palestinian population and one-third of its land.

The withdrawal from Ramallah, a day ahead of schedule, was Israel's last pullout from the West Bank before Jan. 20 Palestinian general elections.

The pullout began shortly after 3 p.m. when half a dozen Israeli jeeps drove out of the Israeli police station in the center of the town, 12 miles north of Jerusalem.

Thousands of Palestinians had surrounded the station in anticipation of the withdrawal, waving Palestinian flags and chanting "Soldiers, go away" to the beat of drums.

When the convoy started moving, some people in the crowd hurled stones and bottles at the Israeli troops, who have occupied the city of 30,000 for 28 years. Dozens of boys ran after the departing

jeeps, throwing stones at the clouds of dust kicked up by the vehicles.

"We should kick them out with stones and bullets," one young Palestinian shouted.

When the soldiers were gone, jubilant Palestinians climbed up onto the roof of the station and hoisted the Palestinian flag.

Terry Boullata, 29, said she was happy the Israelis would be gone but afraid Arafat's rule would not be democratic.

"I will celebrate today, but tomorrow I will have to be in the streets again to struggle for my rights," said Ms. Boullata, a women's activist. "I didn't struggle against the occupation to get a state that resembles all the other Arab states."

Ramallah was a center of resistance to Israeli occupation and may become Arafat's seat of government, now located in Gaza City in the Gaza Strip. The city is the economic engine of the West Bank,

with many of its residents receiving financial support from relatives who immigrated to the United States.

Ramallah was the last of six West Bank towns and more than 400 villages handed over to the Palestinians in the past seven weeks under a West Bank autonomy agreement Israel and the PLO signed Sept. 28.

Israeli troops will pull out of most of the eighth West Bank town, Hebron, by the end of March, but remain in the downtown area to protect 450 Jewish settlers living there.

The town of Jericho, along with the Gaza Strip, came under Palestinian control in May 1994 under the first phase of Palestinian autonomy.

Arafat now controls one-third of the West Bank land and virtually all of its more than 1 million Palestinian residents, creating a new reality in the Delaware-sized territory after nearly three decades of occupation.

Only the 94,000 residents of Hebron and about 40,000 Palestinians in a few scattered villages near Jerusalem and Ramallah remain under Israeli occupation, said Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the outgoing Israeli military government.

The 150,000 Palestinians living in annexed east Jerusalem also remain under Israeli sovereignty, but have the right to vote in the Jan. 20 elections for a Palestinian governing council.

Israel retains control over the 128 Jewish settlements on the West Bank, Israeli military installations and unpopulated lands, but is to relinquish more land in 1996 and 1997 under the autonomy accord.

Jewish settler leaders living near Ramallah said they were worried about their personal safety, even though Israel has paved bypass roads for settlers so they won't have to drive through PLO-ruled areas.

Winter fishing



(Pampa News photo by Melinda Martinez)

The City Lake at Recreation Park may be still partly frozen but that didn't stop a few avid fishers from trying their luck today despite the winter cold, including Dub Norton of Pampa and his eight-year-old granddaughter, Kresha Norton of Amarillo. Norton and his granddaughter were scouting around the lake for an open area before beginning their fishing expedition. This was Kresha's first time fishing. Warmer weather this week is expected to melt the ice and snow patches still lingering from last week's storm.

Home sales fall again for second consecutive month

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sales of previously owned homes dropped 1.7 percent in November, the second straight decline.

Analysts said consumer confidence in the economy slipped during the extended deadlock over the federal budget.

The National Association of Realtors said today sales totaled 4.04 million at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, down from 4.11 million in October and 4.15 million in September.

"The closing of the federal government coupled with the onset of the holiday spending season may have caused some reluctance among consumers to get into the housing market last month," said

association president Art Godi. But he said the market is healthy, running 9.5 percent higher than November 1994.

The partial government shutdown, the second in the last six weeks, began Dec. 16. Negotiations to end the budget stalemate were to resume today at a low level, with congressional and White House aides meeting.

In another report, the Conference Board said consumers turned less optimistic in December. The business research group said its survey index of consumer sentiment fell to 98.7 from 101.6 in November.

The bond market welcomed the signs of economic sluggishness,

with the yield on the key 30-year Treasury bond slipping just below 6.00 percent as its price rose. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 15 points by late morning.

The housing market has slipped despite falling mortgage rates. The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. reported that 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages averaged 7.38 percent in November, down from 7.48 percent the previous month and 9.16 percent a year earlier.

The median price of an existing home was \$114,200 in November, up 5.1 percent from November 1994 when it was \$108,700. The median is the midpoint, meaning half of the homes

cost more and half less.

Regionally, only the Northeast posted a gain in sales, an increase of 3.2 percent to a rate of 640,000. The median price in the region was \$135,100, down from \$135,500 a year earlier.

In the Midwest, the sales rate of 1.06 million was down 0.9 percent from October. The median price was \$95,800, up from \$87,000 in November 1994.

Sales fell 1.1 percent in the West to 880,000. The median price of \$149,900 was up from \$146,700 a year earlier.

In the South, sales fell 4.6 percent to 1.46 million. The median price of \$99,400 was up from \$94,500 in November 1994.

Israel, Syria reopen negotiations with air of optimism

QUEENSTOWN, Md. (AP) — Israel and Syria are resuming their land-for-peace negotiations near this tiny backwater retreat on Maryland's Eastern Shore with an unusual air of optimism that the results this time will be positive.

The Clinton administration will take an active role, participating in all sessions in the "River House" of Wye

Plantation, along the East Wye River, with the negotiators for the two Middle Eastern countries sitting around a mahogany table alongside a crackling fireplace.

"We hope to be able to facilitate the meeting on a broad range of issues," said Glyn Davies, the deputy State Department spokesman who gave reporters a glimpse of the

restricted meeting place that will be off limits to the media and the public for two rounds of meetings this week and next.

The 26-room mansion will house the Israeli and Syrian delegations in a bucolic setting that offers opportunities for informal talks outside the meeting room.

At stake are the future of the Golan Heights, a strategic border

enclave, and the prospect of relations between the two countries that have fought three major wars since Israel's founding in 1948.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, determined to accelerate peacemaking with Arab neighbors, already has signaled Syrian President Hafez Assad that for the right peace terms Syria could recover the border buffer zone in its entirety.

DPS reports 19 killed in holiday tally

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Department of Public Safety reported that 19 people were killed on state roadways during the Christmas holiday weekend.

The DPS had estimated that as many as 35 might die in traffic accidents during the holiday weekend, which is calculated as 6 p.m. Friday through midnight Monday.

DPS officials said the 19 fatalities were a preliminary total that could rise if more agencies report accidents and if people hurt in holiday wrecks die from their injuries.

One of the deaths involved an off-duty Houston police officer, who was struck by a motorist while she was directing traffic for a church.

Dawn Erickson, 22, who was wearing a reflective jacket and directing traffic with a flashlight, died when she was hit Sunday evening. The driver told Houston police that she didn't see the officer.

A 75-year-old Boerne man died when his motorcycle hit a deer in Real County at 10:45 a.m. Saturday. Bruce Wallace Carlisle struck the deer after rounding a curve. He died before paramedics arrived.

A 90-year-old woman was hit while trying to cross U.S. 67 just west of Alvarado — southeast of Fort Worth. Velma Cashion was hit by a car driving west and then thrown into the eastbound lane and hit by another unidentified vehicle.

Six of the fatalities occurred in accidents in which the victims weren't wearing seat belts. Four of the deadly accidents involved alcohol, according to the DPS.

The Amarillo DPS confirmed today that no traffic fatalities were reported in the Texas Panhandle for the Christmas holiday weekend.

Yule recycling

HOUSTON (AP) — Many Christmas trees that were the centerpiece of family gatherings just last weekend are quickly becoming messy, dried-out fire hazards.

Traditionally, the trees that aren't sent to take up space in landfills are mulched up, but along the coastline they are used to spruce up Texas beaches.

Many surfside residents have the option of having their trees become part of the base that forms erosion-preventing dunes.

In places like Freeport, city garbage pickup has that in mind already. The Brazoria County city contracts trash pickup to Waste Management Inc. The waste company then takes the trees to the shore to help reconstruct dunes.

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Daily Record

Services tomorrow

BROWN, Margaret - Memorial services, 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, Canadian.

CAMPBELL, Sallie Lou - 11 a.m., Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, Amarillo; graveside services, 3 p.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, McLean.

GAYDEN, Cecilia - Vigil, 7 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

HARRIS, Fred W. - Graveside services, 3 p.m., Wheeler Cemetery, Wheeler.

Obituaries

SALLIE LOU CAMPBELL
AMARILLO - Sallie Lou Campbell, 95, a former McLean resident, died Monday, Dec. 25, 1995. Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church with Dr. Ihsan Ardhuerumly and the Rev. Thacker Haynes officiating. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. Thursday in Hillcrest Cemetery at McLean. Burial will be under the direction of N.S. Griggs Funeral Directors of Amarillo.

Mrs. Campbell was born at New Hope, Mo. She moved to McLean in 1909. She married Roy Campbell in 1921; he died in 1980. She moved to Amarillo in 1941. She had been a member of the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church for 36 years and was a 50-year member and affiliated past matron of A.E. Shirley Chapter No. 986 Order of the Eastern Star.

Survivors include a daughter, Jo Ann Hudson of Amarillo; a brother, John C. Haynes of McLean; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

The family will be at 306 Yucca.

CECILIA GAYDEN
CECILIA GAYDEN, 91, of Pampa, died Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1995, at Panhandle. Vigil will be at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel. Mass will be at 11 a.m. Friday in the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with Monsignor Marvin Doerfler of San Antonio; the Rev. Joe Bixenman, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church of Pampa; and the Rev. Gary Sides, pastor of St. Theresa's Catholic Church of Panhandle, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Gayden was born March 17, 1904, at Frances Creek, Wis. She married Joseph Gayden on June 29, 1942, at Amarillo; he died in 1969. She had been a Pampa resident since 1942, moving to Panhandle in 1992. She was a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, the Altar Society and the Woman's Council. She was a former Woman of the Year for the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. She compiled historical records of St. Vincent de Paul and Amarillo Diocese activities. She was a benefactor to St. Ann's Nursing Home and Children's Home at Panhandle.

Survivors include 43 nieces and nephews.

The family requests memorials be to the Joseph W. Gayden Foundation, c/o Boatman's First National Bank, Attn: Joe Martinez, P.O. Box 781, Pampa, TX 79066-0781.

HAROLD L. GREGORY
FORT WORTH - Harold L. Gregory, 78, a former Pampa resident, died Wednesday, Dec. 27, 1995. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in Fairview Cemetery at Pampa with Dr. Edwin Cooley, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Pampa, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Gregory was born June 21, 1917, in West Virginia, near Middlebourne. He married Doris Hills on Oct. 2, 1941, at Pampa; she died Feb. 12, 1985. He had been a Pampa resident most of his life, moving to Fort Worth in 1989. He was a Pampa High School graduate. He worked for Beacon Supply Company, an oil field supply company. He played professional baseball for the Cincinnati Reds before being drafted. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving in World War II. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include a daughter, Marilyn Gregory of Michigan; two sons, Larry Gregory of Silver City, N.M., and Keith Gregory of Fort Worth; a granddaughter, Bronwen Gregory; four grandsons, Mark, Heath, Stephen and Zachary; and three great-grandchildren.

The body will be available for viewing from 9 a.m. Thursday until 1 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

FRED W. HARRIS
WHEELER - Fred W. Harris, 80, died Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1995, at St. Joseph's Hospital at Bryan, Texas. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. Thursday in the Wheeler Cemetery. Burial will be under the direction of Wright Funeral Home of Wheeler.

Mr. Harris was born April 23, 1915, in Bates County, Mo. He had been a Grants, N.M., resident for many years, moving to Bryan six months ago. He was a miner for United Nuclear Mines at Grants, retiring in 1982.

Survivors include his daughter, Frederica Seaman of College Station; and a grandson, John Seaman of College Station.

WHEELER - Mildred Flynt Newkirk, 81, died Sunday, Dec. 17, 1995, at Topeka, Kan. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Friday in the Wheeler Cemetery. Memorial services were held in the Jellison Chapel in the Topeka Presbyterian Manor at Topeka on Friday, Dec. 22, at 1:30 p.m. Cremation was performed by Perwell-Gabel Funeral Home of Topeka. Burial will be in the Wheeler Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Home of Wheeler.

Mrs. Newkirk was born Jan. 13, 1914, at Quannah. She married T.C. Newkirk Sr. on Dec. 17, 1933, at Wheeler; he died in 1982. She had spent most of her life as a Wheeler, Shamrock or Amarillo resident, moving to Topeka in February 1994.

She was preceded in death by a daughter and a son.

Survivors include two daughters, Mildred Ridge of San Antonio and Kay Nichols of Topeka; two sons, T.C. Newkirk of Topeka and Guy Newkirk of Hawthorne, Calif.; eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to the Good Samaritan Fund, Topeka Presbyterian Manor, Topeka, Kan.

Obituaries

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The family requests memorials be to the Good Samaritan Fund, Topeka Presbyterian Manor, Topeka, Kan.

Police report

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents in the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

TUESDAY, Dec. 26
 Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 2300 block of Evergreen that occurred between midnight and 1:30 p.m. Tuesday. Stolen were a JVC stereo CD player worth \$300 and 40 CD's valued at \$600.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1800 block of North Faulkner that occurred between 12 p.m. Monday and 2 p.m. Tuesday. About \$75 in damage to a passenger side window of a vehicle was reported.

Burglary of a motor vehicle that occurred between 5 p.m. Monday and 7 a.m. Tuesday was reported in the 1900 block of North Sumner. Stolen were a Pioneer CD player worth \$400, a laser radar detector worth \$168 and Rayban sunglasses worth \$108.

Burglary of a motor vehicle in the 1800 block of North Sumner was reported that occurred between 1 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tuesday. Stolen was an amplifier worth \$150.

Violation of narcotic drug laws was reported by Officer Fred Courtney at 918 E. Francis.

Theft that occurred between 9 p.m. Monday and 3:30 p.m. Tuesday was reported in the 300 block of East Kingsmill. Stolen was a Texas license plate worth \$50.

Fires

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

TUESDAY, Dec. 26
 10:37 a.m. - Two units and four personnel responded to 2133 Mary Ellen on a medical assist.
 11:05 a.m. - Two units and four personnel responded to the State Highway Department office at Hobart and Francis on a medical assist.
 2:29 p.m. - Two units and three personnel responded to 1329 S. Hobart on a car fire.
 3:35 p.m. - One unit and two personnel responded to the 2200 block of North Wells on a dumpster fire.

Stocks

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

Wheat	4.87	Diamond Sham	25 1/8	NC
Milo	5.90	Enron	37 1/2	NC
Corn	6.42	Halliburton	50 3/8	up 3/8
		Ingersoll Rand	36 1/8	dn 3/8
		KNF	29 1/2	dn 3/8
		Kerr McGee	62	up 1/8
		Limited	16 3/8	NC
		Mapco	52 1/8	dn 1/4
		Nowco	12 1/2	dn 1/2
		Occidental	21 5/8	NC
		New Atmos	23	NC
		Parker & Parsley	21 7/8	up 3/8
		Penney's	45 1/2	up 3/4
		Phillips	33 3/8	up 1/4
		Magellan	85.33	up 1/8
		SLB	69 1/2	up 5/8
		Puritan	16.90	SPS
		SPS	32 1/2	dn 1/8
		Tenneco	48 5/8	up 1/2
		Texaco	78 1/8	up 1/8
		Wal-Mart	22 5/8	dn 1/8
		Amoco	70 5/8	up 1/8
		Arco	112 1/4	up 1/8
		Silver	51	5 11
		Cabot	54 5/8	up 5/8
		West Texas Crude		19.21

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

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

Calendar of events

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC
 The Texas Department of Health Immunization Clinic will be offering vaccines that give protection against polio, diphtheria, tetanus (lock jaw), pertussis (whooping cough), measles, rubella and mumps. The clinic is located in the Texas Department of Health office, 600 W. Kentucky, and will be open Thursday, Dec. 28, 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. The fee is based on family income and size, and the ability to pay.

Sheriff's Office

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following incidents and arrests in the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

TUESDAY, Dec. 26
 Gray County Sheriff's Office responded to four miles south on Highway 70 on an agency assist.
 Gray County Sheriff's Office responded to Country Corner in McLean for information.

Arrests
 Gerald Reyes, 19, 1304 Darby, was arrested by Pampa police officers on charges of assault with bodily injury, evading arrest and possession of marijuana under two ounces. Bonds had not been set by press time.

Leo Francis McMahon, Jr., 38, 701 N. Zimmer, was arrested on a charge of violation of probation. He remained in custody with no bond set.

Emergency numbers

Ambulance	911
Crime Stoppers	669-2222
Emergas	665-5777
Fire	911
Police (emergency)	911
Police (non-emergency)	669-5700
SPS	669-7432
Water	669-5830

Government and Serb forces working to meet deadline on Sarajevo pullback

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) - Government and Serb forces were making good progress toward meeting the first deadline in the Bosnian peace agreement - the pullback from the Sarajevo region, NATO officials said today.

By midnight - exactly one week after NATO formally took over peacekeeping duties in Bosnia from the United Nations - the two sides are to remove troops and weapons from 38 designated areas of the Sarajevo region, and mark or remove mines.

French soldiers are being stationed along the front lines to keep the two sides apart.

In the once-hotly contested suburb of Dobrinja, a French armored personnel carrier patrolled the former front line, accompanied by five foot soldiers and a dog. The French had placed barbed wire along sides of the street where the front line once was. They also searched the area for mines.

Soldiers stopped and crouched down every 50 yards to watch and listen.

"This mission would have been impossible three weeks ago," said one of the soldiers, who added that soldiers from both sides had left in the past three days.

NATO spokesmen said things were going well, but gave con-

flicting signals whether there would be 100 percent compliance by the deadline.

"The compliance has been most satisfactory," said Capt. Frederic Solano, a French spokesman. "The midnight deadline should see most elements completed, although there might well be a small over spill with a few tasks to be completed tomorrow."

But another NATO spokesman, Lt. Col. Mark Rayner, later told reporters that "everything should be completed by tonight."

The midnight deadline was the first in a series embedded into the peace agreement for Bosnia signed Dec. 14 in Paris.

A separate series of deadlines is built into the agreement for placing Serb-held districts of Sarajevo under Bosnian government control, beginning Jan. 19 and concluding two months later.

Reluctant to watch their former enemies take control of the capital, the Serbs want more time to turn over the Sarajevo districts they hold. Today, the Bosnian army reported that fleeing Serbs had set fire to several houses rather than watch their homes fall under government control.

But Bosnian army officials cautioned that if NATO compromises with the Serbs on the timetable for turning over their areas of

Sarajevo, the alliance's peacekeeping mission would be weakened.

The surrender of Serb-held sections of Sarajevo is widely opposed by Bosnian Serbs, who did not negotiate the peace accord directly but were represented by the president of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic.

On Tuesday, Bosnian Serb leaders met with the NATO commander in Bosnia, U.S. Adm. Leighton Smith, and demanded that the handover be delayed. They cautioned that the success of NATO's peace mission might hinge on such an extension.

Smith said he made no promises, but that he would consider their demand. He has the authority to extend the deadline for reuniting Sarajevo until the end of the NATO mandate next December.

Momcilo Krajinisnik, a senior Bosnian Serb official who met with Smith, indicated that many of the tens of thousands of people living in Serb-held districts of Sarajevo may leave rather than submit to rule by the Muslim-led government.

Today, about 100 vehicles headed east from the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza to areas that will not be transferred to the government. Many of the cars pulled trailers, and one car had an overturned bathtub and skis on its roof.

Ambulance

Rural/Metro reported the following calls during the 96-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

SATURDAY, Dec. 23
 11:06 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of Bradley on a false call.
 3:02 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to Coronado Hospital for a patient transfer to High Plains Baptist Hospital in Amarillo.

SUNDAY, Dec. 24
 6:18 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1800 block of North Sumner on a medical assist and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 10:03 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to Coronado Hospital for a patient transfer to a residence.

MONDAY, Dec. 25
 12:33 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky on a medical emergency and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 1:16 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky on a trauma and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 2:49 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to Coronado Hospital for a patient transfer to a local nursing home.
 3:40 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to Coronado Hospital for a patient transfer to a local nursing home.
 5:16 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 900 block of Barnard on a medical emergency and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 7:34 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing home on a medical assist and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 12:28 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing home for a transport to a residence in the 1300 block of Mary Ellen for "Home for the Holidays."
 2:58 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the

2300 block of Mary Ellen for a patient transfer back to a local nursing home.
 3:26 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1100 block of Terrace on a medical assist and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 3:52 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1700 block of N. Christine on a medical assist and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 6:27 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to Coronado Hospital for a patient transfer to Presbyterian Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City.
 10:27 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 700 block of Doucette on a medical assist and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.

TUESDAY, Dec. 26
 6:36 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 100 block of South Wells on a medical emergency and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 6:41 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing home on a medical emergency and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 6:43 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing home on a medical emergency and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 7:08 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky on a trauma call and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 10:36 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2100 block of Mary Ellen on a medical assist and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 11:05 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the intersection of Hobart and Alcock on a motor vehicle accident and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 6:29 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky on a medical assist and transported one patient to Coronado Hospital.
 11:30 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to Coronado Hospital for a patient transfer to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

Weather focus

LOCAL FORECAST
 Cloudy and cold tonight with a low near 18. Northeast winds 5-10 mph. Thursday, cloudy and cooler with a high near 45. Southeast winds 10-15 mph. Tuesday's high was 52; the overnight low was 23.

REGIONAL FORECAST
 West Texas - Panhandle (Western): Tonight, mostly cloudy northeast, partly cloudy elsewhere. Lows between 20 and 25 southeast and upper teens elsewhere. Thursday, partly cloudy northwest, mostly cloudy elsewhere. Highs in the 40s. Panhandle (Eastern): Tonight, mostly cloudy and cold. Lows in mid and upper teens. Thursday, mostly cloudy and cool. Highs in low 40s. South Plains: Tonight,

partly cloudy. Lows 20-25. Thursday, mostly sunny. Highs in low 50s.

North Texas - Tonight, some low clouds northeast, otherwise clear. Lows 25 to 30. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs 45 to 52.

South Texas - Hill Country and South Central: Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows near 30. Hill Country, 30s south central. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs in low and mid 50s. Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Plains: Tonight, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of mainly evening rain or showers. Lows from low 40s inland to near 50 coast. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs in mid and upper 50s. Upper Coast: Tonight, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of light rain along the coast. Otherwise, partly cloudy. Lows

in low to mid 30s inland, mid 40s at the coast. Thursday, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of light rain along the coast. Otherwise, partly cloudy. Highs near 50 inland, low 50s at the coast.

BORDER STATES
 New Mexico - Tonight, fair skies. Lows near from 5 below zero to teens mountains and northwest, with 20s elsewhere. Thursday, increasing cloudiness northwest with a slight chance of snow showers late. Fair skies southeast. Highs 30s to mid 40s mountains and north, with 50s to near 60 lower elevations south.

Oklahoma - Tonight, partly cloudy west, mostly cloudy east. Lows near 20 northwest to upper 20s east. Thursday, mostly cloudy with highs in upper 30s to mid 40s.

City briefs

LAKEVIEW APARTMENTS - 2 bedroom unfurnished apartments. References required. 669-7682. Adv.

THE RUMOR that I have retired or planning on retiring is greatly exaggerated. At this time I have no plans on retirement. Signed Kenneth Royle DVM. Royle Animal Hospital. Adv.

ATTENTION YOUTHS 12 years and up, newspaper routes available January 1st. Come apply today, at the Pampa News.

CELEBRATE NEW Year's Eve! Sunset, 600 S. Cuyler, "Panhandle Desperado." Reservations 669-0959, Saturday, December 30, Sunday December 31. Adv.

CORN BREAD and Black-eyed peas from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. New Year's Day at VFW Post 1657. 105 S. Cuyler. Adv.

NEW YEAR'S Eve: Join us at the Club Biarritz in the Coronado Inn. Treat yourself to a special candlelight dinner and drinks from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and celebrate until midnight. Breakfast buffet. \$50 bar tab gets a free room, for Club members (Don't Drink and Drive.) 30 day trial memberships available, for details or reservations call 669-2506. Adv.

BRING IN the New Year right, Little Davy and the 98s, Saturday and Sunday. Urban Skunk begins 6 p.m. Sunday. Reservations 665-0438, City Jamits. Adv.

REBECCA ANN'S Plus Sizes, 1521 N. Hobart. After Christmas Sale 40% off storewide, excluding intimate apparel. Adv.

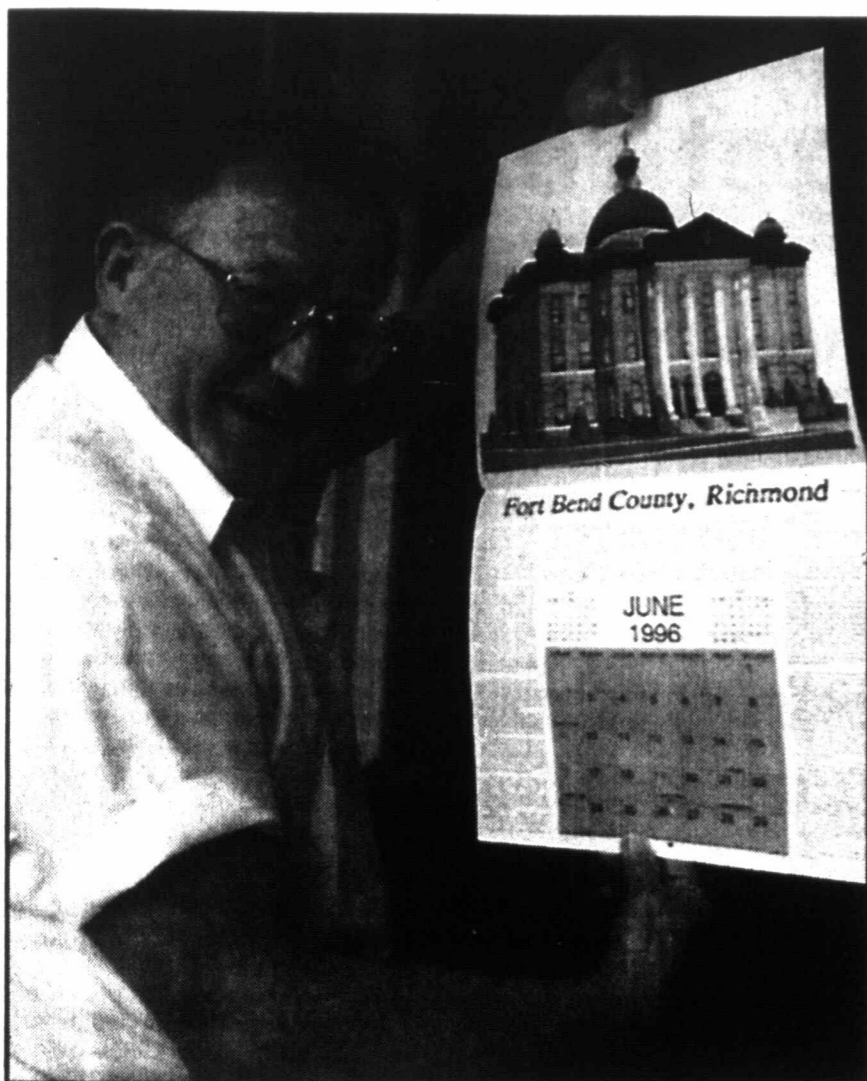
DANCE TO Indian Summer, New Years Eve, December 31, Moose Lodge. Adv.

SALE - CAROUSEL Expressions, 10-50% off - starts Thursday. 1600 N. Hobart. Adv.

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CHANEY'S CAFE - Wednesday 5-8 p.m. Meat loaf, fried chicken, spaghetti and meatballs, chicken fried steak. 716 W. Foster. Adv.

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(AP photo/Ron Heflin)

Writer-illustrator Bill Morgan shows off the calendar titled 'Old Friends: Great Texas Courthouses.'

Writer draws bead on Texas courthouse tales

By MIKE COCHRAN
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas writer-illustrator Bill Morgan has penned a political potboiler, but it's not a novel.

It's a 1996 wall calendar. Entitled "Old Friends: Great Texas Courthouses," Morgan's collection features paintings of the state's classic courthouses embroidered with long forgotten or little known snippets of historical mischief and miscues.

Morgan, an ex-newspaper reporter, maintains Texas is the "unquestioned national leader in historic courthouses" with 150 standing structures built between 1861 and the 1930s.

And his research suggests that Texans likewise led the country in political hijinks.

"Horses, cows and dogs cast crucial votes in the evolution of counties," Morgan points out in a delightfully outrageous segment detailing the dubious maneuvering of early politicians.

Pigs, mules, turkeys and phantom voters also figured in the mostly rural shenanigans.

"The bulk of beastly balloting occurred in the late 1800s and early 1900s when settlers were trying to organize the last vast stretches of West Texas ranchland into autonomous counties," Morgan explains.

Petitions required signatures of at least 150 residents of the proposed county.

"A lot of them couldn't claim 150 residents unless they counted cows, horses and dogs," he says. "So they counted cows, horses and dogs."

Morgan's second calendar in his "Old Friends" series includes original paintings of courthouses in 13 counties: Bandera, Coryell, Denton, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Gonzales, Harrison, Hill, Hopkins, McCulloch, Newton and Somervell.

But it is his lively, offbeat 1,500-word county histories that give the calendars a special flavor.

Among other things, Morgan reveals how:

— El Paso recorded seven times more votes than it had voters to win a county seat election.

— An Angelina County trial ended abruptly when a hound ate the evidence, the ears of a purloined pig, while court officers were breaking up a fist fight.

— Pigeons were responsible for Harris County's outstanding courthouse.

— A runaway bull razed a Cooke County courthouse.

— Confiscated cattle paid for the first Hopkins County courthouse.

— A Grayson County courthouse was torn down in 1856 to settle a bet over a goose purportedly nesting under the floor.

Morgan, also discloses how Anahuac became the county seat of Chambers County because of its high tolerance for pigs.

"A case of pork-barrel politics," he deadpans.

He tells how Lubbock enhanced its petition for county status by signing up every available male, then adding the names of horses on the IOA Ranch, "few of whom had reached voting age of 21."

That same year, 1891, Castro County faced a similar dilemma.

"A late rush of signatures included those of Billy, Jug and Blue Carter, three hard-working horses on James Carter's 7-Up Ranch," Morgan says.

He also recounts how county seat contests often resulted in lawsuits, midnight raids, fires of mysterious origin and other ingenious felonies and misdemeanors.

"But in almost as many other instances," he says, "Texas' great courthouse wars raged on with vigor and imagination until the cows came home ... to cast their ballots."

Talks to resolve budget crisis resume, negotiators cautious

WASHINGTON (AP) — Their brief holiday break over, congressional leaders and the Clinton administration are slowly reviving talks to end a partial government shutdown and the nation's worst budget crisis.

Congressional and White House aides were meeting today without their bosses, a gradual start for negotiations that should involve top lawmakers and President Clinton on Friday.

The lower-level talks today will do little to alleviate the anxiety of federal workers, whose paychecks will be smaller this week; of tourists, whose plans were changed with the closure of national parks and monuments; and of travelers who desperately need passports.

Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, also tried to turn up the pressure. He said Tuesday the Clinton administration may be violating the Constitution by juggling the

books to permit federal borrowing without congressional approval.

When the Senate on Friday left for a holiday recess that in other years would have lasted through much of December, the chamber passed legislation to return 280,000 furloughed workers to their jobs by declaring them essential.

Sponsored by Majority Leader Bob Dole, the measure, if approved by the House and signed by President Clinton, would last through Feb. 1. However, workers would be paid only after money was approved for their salaries.

The measure's fate was uncertain in the House, where GOP freshmen have promised to continue the partial closure until the White House accepts a seven-year balanced budget plan to their liking.

The House was scheduled to convene early this evening for what was expected to be only a brief session.

Despite the budget impasse, there were a few bright spots. Jim Holley, spokesman for the Department of Veterans Affairs, said 3.3 million benefit checks went out Friday night, just hours after legislation was passed to authorize the payments. "They should arrive on time," he said.

And a once-in-a-lifetime exhibit of Johannes Vermeer paintings at the National Gallery of Art reopens today, using money from a private fund. The Smithsonian's Museum of American History also found enough money to operate this week.

The openings provided little solace to some 760,000 employees of unfunded federal agencies, who will face holiday bills with truncated paychecks.

The Office of Management and Budget said checks to be issued on Friday or next week — covering Dec. 10-23 — will cover pay only for days worked prior to the Dec. 16 shutdown.

State briefs

Colorado prisoners will change Texas jails

TEXARKANA (AP) — A county jail in Texarkana will lose \$10 million, when 500 Colorado inmates are moved to another facility near San Antonio.

Colorado officials have decided to terminate their \$14.6 million contract with the Bowie County Correctional Center, which has had its share of problems with the inmates.

The American Civil Liberties Union is representing 90 inmates in a class-action lawsuit that alleges inhumane conditions and treatment by jail staff, and the prisoners caused \$40,000 in damages during a Dec. 10 riot.

Ben Griego, director of offenders services for the Colorado corrections department, said the inmate complaints did not facilitate the move out of Bowie County.

He said the prison did not live up to its contract agreement because it did not offer jobs or educational programs, and had scant medical and dental care along with poor food.

Pier 1 discloses loss from 'inappropriate trading'

DALLAS (AP) — Pier 1 Imports Inc., the well-known purveyor of wicker furniture and other goods, said Tuesday that a consultant's "inappropriate trading activities" have resulted in a \$20 million loss.

The news sent Pier 1 stock sprawling 13 percent.

Pier 1 said in a statement that the loss, calculated before taxes, was caused by a financial consultant who was managing the company's excess cash and short-term investments.

It said the loss will not materially affect liquidity or the company's operations. Pier 1 provided few other specifics.

Motorist says she didn't see rookie officer she struck

HOUSTON (AP) — A 38-year-old woman who struck and killed an off-duty Houston police officer who was directing traffic has told investigators she did not see the officer standing in the street.

The driver, who was described as shaken and distraught, hit Officer Dawn S. Erickson, 22, while she was controlling traffic at a Christmas Eve service at Unity Church of Christianity in southwest Houston.

The motorist told police she saw only a red light flickering in the road. The rookie officer was wearing a reflective jacket and using an orange-tipped flashlight.

About 6:45 p.m. Monday, Erickson was hit straight on by the car. She flipped over and landed on her head in the street. She suffered head and leg injuries and died at Ben Taub Hospital about two hours later.

The motorist and her 2-year-old son were not injured, although the boy was not properly restrained.

Boy accused of shooting at truck to spill toys

FORT HANCOCK, Texas (AP) — As seen by friends and neighbors, Ricardo Soto couldn't be nicer.

They describe the 13-year-old as a reserved, well-mannered boy who had never run into trouble.

So residents of this tiny West Texas community were shocked to find the teenager charged with the Christmas Day shooting of a motorist on Interstate 10, allegedly while trying to get a toy truck to spill its cargo.

"He's a pretty good kid. I never thought something like this was going to happen," said neighbor Julia Sanchez, whose 12-year-old son Robert is one of Ricardo's playmates.

Authorities say they aren't completely certain what motivated Ricardo to open fire on two vehicles with a .22-caliber rifle.

But they appear to be lending at least some credence to remarks by Ricardo's 9-year-old brother, David Soto, who told authorities that Ricardo had been trying to waylay a toy truck.

David said during an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press that Ricardo told him he wanted to "shoot a trailer and get Nintendos out of it."

Yet Ricardo's sister, Erika, 15, said she believes the shooting was accidental. "I don't think he really meant to. He likes to shoot stuff, like practice," she said.

She admitted to being confused, however, and she's not the only one.

Several versions of the shooting have been circulating around Fort Hancock, some 60 miles east of El Paso in Hudspeth County, since the news broke Monday.

Hudspeth County Sheriff Arcadio Ramirez said the boy had hidden in the brush by the side of the road about a mile outside of Fort Hancock and opened fire around 5 p.m. MST Monday.

"They're a real poor family and maybe he thought about Christmas" presents, said Ramirez, who noted the boy's mother cares for the family by herself. Her seriously ill husband is in an El Paso nursing home.

Alberto Tarango of Van Horn, who was driving in a pickup truck with his wife, was hit once in the back of the head. He was listed in critical condition today at Thomson General Hospital in El Paso. His wife was unharmed.

A tractor-trailer rig driving in front of Tarango was struck twice, but no one was injured in that vehicle.

Suvivor of Cali crash tells of flight's final moments

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — One minute, Gonzalo Dussan was in his seat with his family as his airplane made its final approach to Cali. The next he was lying in the wreckage of American Airlines Flight 965 on the side of a Colombian mountain.

The 36-year-old man from Somerville, N.J., said Tuesday that he could remember nothing of the crash itself.

He heard the voice of his 6-year-old daughter, Michelle — one of just three other people and one small dog, who survived the Dec. 20 crash of the flight from Miami — the deadliest airline accident of 1995.

But his wife, Nancy Delgado, 35, and 13-year-old son, Gonzalo Jr., lay among the 160 corpses scattered across the Andean mountainside.

The injured father and daughter were brought together on Christmas Day for their first visit since the disaster.

"When I saw her yesterday, I gave thanks to God," Dussan told a news conference Tuesday. "I tried to be happy with her in order to make believe that nothing wrong happened."

Recovering from two cracked vertebrae, Dussan wore a neck

brace and spoke from a wheelchair. Michelle suffered a broken leg.

The cause of the crash 40 miles from the southwestern city of Cali remains unclear and a final determination is still months away. The Boeing 757 from Miami was 13 miles off course and flying in good weather when it smashed into the mountain.

Colombian and U.S. technicians at the National Transportation Safety Board laboratory in Washington have inspected two "black box" recorders recovered from the wreckage and believe operational error is to blame, The Washington Post has reported.

Average beef price down in '95, NCA reports

DENVER — The past year has been a good one for Americans who like beef, the National Cattlemen's Association (NCA) said.

Reporting on its 19-city monthly survey of supermarkets, NCA reported the average retail price of six cuts of beef in 1995 was \$3.09 per pound, down from \$3.14 in 1994 and the lowest level since 1992.

Beef production has increased cyclically during the past few years, according to Kate Bram Orr, NCA spokesman, and the supply increase has been reflected in lower cattle and beef prices. Supplies of beef and other meats will climb again in 1996, which is expected to mean a continuation of beef bargains for consumers.

The average prices of the survey's six cuts in 1995 were: regular ground beef, \$1.48 per pound; lean ground beef, \$1.91; boneless round steak, \$2.97; boneless top sirloin steak, \$3.91; T-bone steak, \$5.79; boneless chuck roll roast, \$2.51.

The price of T-bones on Dec. 14 ranged from \$7.29 in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., to \$2.25 in Omaha.

Reflecting strong export as well as domestic demand, prices of T-bone steak and some of the other preferred cuts have

strengthened in recent years. However, with the large total beef supplies, prices of ground beef, chuck roast and other cuts have decreased. Ground beef accounts for a substantial share of total beef supplies, Orr said, so the average cost of all beef consumed has been relatively low for some time.

The six-cut average price on Dec. 14 was \$3.04 per pound, up somewhat from the average of \$2.98 on Nov. 9, but below the average a year earlier. Beef output declined seasonally in late

1995. Output is now expected to increase again.

Average prices in the monthly survey (second Thursday of each month) vary from month to month and among cities partly because of variations in merchandising approaches and in the amount of price featuring at the time of the survey, Orr said. Seasonal supply and demand trends also are significant. Differences in wage, transportation and other costs are among other reasons for the variation in prices among cities.

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Viewpoints



THE PAMPA NEWS

EVER STRIVING FOR THE TOP O' TEXAS
TO BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

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This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the covenanted commandment.

Wayland Thomas
Publisher

Larry D. Hollis
Managing Editor

Opinion

Legacy of EggGate: School for scandal

After bankruptcy-related issues, the UCI EggGate scandal will rank as one of the biggest California stories of 1995. The fertilized eggs of scores of women given away, cavalierly, without their knowledge: Not long ago it would have been the stuff of eerie futurist fantasy. Kipling wrote about frontier regions beyond the writ of the old moral restraints - "where there ain't no Ten Commandments, and a man can raise a thirst." It would seem California's UCI fertility wizards must have felt some such perverse exhilaration upon their own entrance into new territories, unexplored biological uplands where they could imagine themselves as laws unto themselves.

The long arm of civilized norms is in the process of catching up with them whether this response takes the form of legislatively created restrictions or sanctions hammered out less systematically through a succession of civil court cases. Either way, one legacy of EggGate will be a new body of law that would rein in men and women of medicine, because of the few at UCI who lacked the moral compass to govern themselves. All that remains to be seen is whether the legal response will be intelligently tailored, or a clumsy overreach. Here, an optimist is betting against the odds.

But a related scandal should not go unaddressed. The university's impulse to sweep bad news from view - its officials' insistence on cordoning off important information until it is at last yanked from their white-knuckled fists - this clandestineism is the more galling because it is from the people who pay their salaries that they would hide the ball.

In the fertility fiasco, the mum's-the-word strategy stretches back to when concerned staffers at the Fertility Clinic in Orange County, Calif., first sought to air their misgivings but found themselves aggressively ignored by the administration. The press eventually got the scent, but at juncture after juncture, journalists were fed half-revelations. Only recently did university officials finally acknowledge that 60 or more women may be victims of unauthorized egg transfers - a staggering number that officials had previously scoffed at.

The closed-curtain philosophy transcends the egg saga. It was also on display in Chancellor Laurel Wilkening's firing of the university's Vice Chancellor for Academic Personnel Mary Carol Perrott for the crime of making public a proposal for a hiring policy based on rigorous reverse discrimination.

When some key faculty members learned from Perrott about the proposed racial and gender set-asides, they stoked such a furor about a plan that would have undermined the university's hard-won reputation for standards that they forced the scheme to be scuttled. And Wilkening fumed.

Why is it a lesson that must be retaught in the public sector so frequently? A rule of inbred, secretive policymaking can turn and bite those who decree it, because it fertilizes soil from which large embarrassments grow. Dubious schemes meet no skeptics, questionable judgments go undebated. Potentially disastrous personnel policies can reach almost the point of no turning back; fertility-clinic patients get patronized; eggs get spirited away.

This university's business is the public's business because the public foots the bill. The same goes for city, county and state governments, and the federal government, as well as for public schools, colleges and universities.

Thought for today

"Why is it we rejoice at a birth and grieve at a funeral? It is because we are not the person involved."

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, 1835-1910
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Berry's World



"I'm afraid you are what is called 'CLUE CHALLENGED.'"

Numberless budget reporting

Fact: Last month, congressional Republicans proposed to balance the federal budget with a plan that would have the government spend \$2.6 trillion more over the next seven years than was spent over the last seven years - specifically, \$12.1 trillion vs. \$9.5 trillion.

Fact: On Medicare alone, Republicans would spend \$86 billion more in 2002 than in 1995, allowing the program to grow more than 6% annually, or twice the rate of inflation - precisely what President Bill Clinton proposed in 1993. Spending per Medicare recipient would grow from \$4,800 to \$7,100.

Fact: In 104 budget-related evening news stories from Nov. 13 through Nov. 20 (during the government shutdown), not once did a single television network mention these numbers.

Result: Clinton, unhindered by reporters or the facts, was able to frame the debate through the demonization of the GOP. Is it any wonder why polls show Clinton on the rise and the Republicans taking a beating?

CBS anchor Dan Rather, as usual, set the pace. On Nov. 16, Rather told viewers, "For their part, Republicans were still pumping out a stopgap budget certain to draw another presidential veto, a bill containing what President Clinton called tonight 'critical cuts in Medicare and other programs.'"

This was the standard formula for network coverage of the budget debate: 1. Report that the GOP was proposing a budget. 2. Report Clinton's reaction, namely that the GOP proposal was "extreme" with "critical cuts" that might "destroy" Medicare. Fair enough, as far as it went. That is how he responded, and no matter how dishonest these characterizations, reporters have the responsibility to cover them.

But they also have an obligation to tell the truth. The evidence documenting this administration's



L. Brent Bozell

falsehoods is not locked deep in a vault in Mongolia. It is there for anyone covering the budget debate to see. By not doing so, they become players in a campaign of lies and distortions; unchallenged, the lies and distortions become truth.

ABC's Peter Jennings, on Nov. 17, followed Rather's pattern. "No sooner had the House passed the budget bill than the White House said it was a dead issue. It contains the biggest Medicare cuts in history, said Mr. Clinton, and I will veto it." NBC's Tom Brokaw, on Nov. 17, took it to the next step, giving the lie the imprimatur of truth: "The House today did pass a bill to balance the budget in seven years with major cutbacks in big government programs and a tax cut of \$245 billion."

Such shoddy reporting didn't begin with the shutdown. Reporters have been calling Medicare increases "cuts" for months. NBC's Giselle Fernandez began the Oct. 14 *Today* show with a comment to co-host Jack Ford. "And on a busy Saturday this morning, Jack, we're going to get to the very latest on the Republicans' plan to slash the Medicare budget." According to Paula Zahn, on CBS's Sept. 28 *This Morning*, "The Republican plan to slash \$270 billion from Medicare cleared its

first hurdle in a Senate committee vote last night." And as early as March 16, CNN's Judy Woodruff told *Inside Politics* viewers that "March Madness has begun on Capitol Hill, and almost as predictable as a B horror film, the slashing has begun. House Republicans have made a small down payment on their plan to make massive budget cuts."

All of which makes the Dec. 12 edition of ABC's *Nightline* a delightful, sorely needed breath of fresh air. Reporter Chris Bury - brace yourself - actually looked at the numbers. "The truth is," Bury reported, "both President Clinton and the Congress want to spend more money, not less, on Medicare. Democrats and Republicans alike also agree the federal budget can only be balanced if the growth of government spending on Medicare is slowed."

He pointed out that last year's Clinton health plan itself would have slowed Medicare growth to the rate Republicans want this year and that "in the president's new budget, total spending per recipient would rise to \$7,245 in the year 2002. In the Republican budget, Medicare spending also rises, to \$7,108 in 2002, a difference per person of only \$137 a year." After pointing out how Clinton's Medicare demagoguery has increased his poll ratings, Bury had some harsh words for the president: "Though his performance has been a smashing popular success, many critics believe the price of admission has cost the country an honest debate."

"Vilify! Vilify! Some of it will always stick!" So wrote French dramatist Pierre-Augustin Beaumarchais in 1775. Today, 220 years later, this could serve as the slogan for the American press. Perhaps Bury's story signals a shift in the media's budgetary zeitgeist. If so, he (and his network) deserve credit for the immeasurable good they have done by introducing the one component - truth - heretofore lacking in the coverage of the budget debate.



Today in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, Dec. 27, the 361st day of 1995. There are four days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 27, 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a voyage to the Pacific aboard the HMS Beagle. (Darwin's discoveries during the voyage helped form the basis of his theories on evolution.)

On this date:
In 1822, scientist Louis Pasteur was born in Dole, France.

In 1892, the cornerstone was laid for the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City.

In 1900, militant prohibitionist Carry Nation carried out her first public smashing of a bar, at the Carey Hotel in Wichita, Kan.

In 1927, the musical play "Show Boat," with music by Jerome Kern and libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York.

In 1932, Radio City Music Hall opened in New York.

Women on Capitol Hill: It does help

When Debra Dodson began interviewing female members of Congress for a study at the Center for the American Woman and Politics, she noticed among the very different voices a similar chord: immense respect for Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan. "Among both people who agree and disagree with her there is an incredible amount of respect for the thoughtfulness and the care that she puts into making her decisions," says Dodson.

Kassebaum, the first woman to chair a major Senate committee (she is currently the head of Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee), has recently announced her retirement.

So have three congresswomen Cardiss Collins, D-Ill., Jan Meyers, R-Kan., and Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., who is ending a 23-year tenure.

Schroeder, who is presently the most senior woman in Congress, has been a tireless advocate for women's rights. She has fought for reproductive choice and the rights of women in the military. More recently she has vigorously criticized the social spending cuts outlined in the Republican "Contract With America."

Nancy Kassebaum and Patricia Schroeder are two very different women. They have different ideologies, they come from different parties, and they serve in different houses of Congress. They have voted differently on many different issues, such as the welfare-reform bill and the Family and Medical Leave Act. But does the fact that they are both women in this still very male domain give them a common ground?



Sara Eckel

Should women be worried that we are losing them? Does the number of women in Congress dramatically affect the issues that are brought into the public forum?

Yes, says the CAWP study, which Dodson coauthored. The study of the women of the 103rd Congress found distinct differences in the way men and women of the same party vote on social issues, with the larger gap being between Republican men and women. For example, 58% of Republican women voted for the assault weapons ban, while only 19% of Republican men did. Fifty percent of Republican women voted for the Family and Medical Leave Act, while only 21% of Republican men did.

Republican and Democratic women also worked together to keep the Violence Against Women Act on the front burner in 1994, when Congress was debating the Crime Bill. "There are women sitting out there who are victims of domestic abuse who are saying,

"Why can't you change the system for me? Don't you understand it a little better than the guy you're sitting next to?" says Rep. Susan Molinari, R-N.Y.

Of course, women have not been completely consistent in their defense of children and families. Witness this year's welfare-reform debate. When the provision to dismantle the federal safety net for poor families went to the Senate, only one woman senator - Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill. - opposed it.

But Democratic and Republican women have succeeded in building a coalition and bringing attention to issues which had, rarely, if ever, been addressed before. For example, when Rep. Schroeder and then-Rep. (now Sen.) Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, discovered that the National Institutes of Health were excluding women and minorities from their clinical study trials and neglecting women's diseases such as breast and ovarian cancer, the two legislators were able to make women's health a priority.

"I didn't really want to be stereotyped as the woman legislator," says Republican Marge Roukema of New Jersey. "I wanted to deal with things like banking and finance. But I learned very quickly that if the women like me in Congress were not going to attend to some of these family concerns, whether it was jobs or children, pension equality or whatever, then they weren't ever going to be attended to. So I quickly shed those biases that I had and said, 'Well, nobody else is going to do it: I'm going to do it.'"

Baby boomers demographic deficit

You will hear it said on New Year's Day that the first baby boom baby has reached age 50. Like so much else about that cussed cohort, it will be wrong. World War II didn't end until August of 1945. It took a few months to get the GIs out of armed service, and into parental service. America didn't go into heat until late 1945. And so, the first of the boomers wasn't born until autumn of 1946. So just wait a while to celebrate, or deprecate, the 50th birthday of the first boomers.

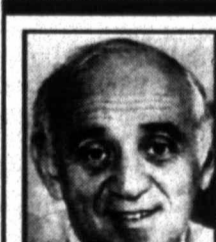
In any event, they're coming at us. Their advent caused problems. Now their oncoming maturity is causing other problems. (Luckily, I have a partial solution.)

Problems are what come when there are 50 million births during the 18 years from 1927 to 1945 - and then 76 million births in the next 18 years, from 1946 to 1964. During the boom, pregnancy became contagious, lasting far beyond any post-war catch-up.

Upon arrival, the boomers created a housing shortage. America created suburbia. They flooded the elementary schools. America built schools. They went to college. America built colleges. Some boomer activists modestly announced that they were the smartest generation ever, and that America was immoral. America stopped a war for them.

Then something funny happened. As the boomers began reaching adulthood, American fertility rates sank rapidly. At the baby boom's peak (1957), women were bearing an average of 3.8 children over the course of a lifetime. A generation later (1976), the rate was down to 1.7.

That birth dearth caused a demographic deficit which ultimately translates into a long-term budget



Ben Wattenberg

deficit. Why? Because the chain letter games called Social Security and Medicare get strained. There's nothing inherently wrong with a Ponzi game. Life itself is such a game. Parents take care of children. The children grow up and take care of their own children, directly, and their own parents, indirectly, through Social Security and Medicare taxes.

But what happens when lots of children grow up and bear few children? When the big cohort reaches age 65, there will not be enough worker bees to support them in the fashion they expect. That means either increased taxes on the worker bees or less benefits for the retired bees. "Less benefits" is what is driving the current debate about Medicare reform. When that is finished, we will start arguing about "less benefits" in Social Security.

The reforms need not be draconian. Retiring a couple of years later is not a disaster, particularly because adults are living so much longer. But boomers are not accustomed to getting less. They turn blue and throw their rattles out of the crib.

This makes their elected representatives nervous. Is there a free lunch somewhere? Sort of. What is needed is an artificial generation of young adults. They would pay into the pension systems the moneys not paid by the never-born children of the boomers.

There is a word for an "artificial generation of young adults." It is "immigrants." They typically arrive in America at about age 25, work hard and pay pension payroll taxes for 40 years before retiring. The most recent Census Bureau projections show that America will have a total population of 326 million people in 2020 if immigration rates stay roughly at current levels (880,000 per year). But if immigration went up somewhat (1,370,000 per year), the total population would be 342 million.

That's 16 million more people, of whom, only 1 million would be over age 65. The rest would either be adults paying into the system or children who will be paying into the system in the future. That's a lot of extra payers. Accordingly, the idea of "less benefits" would be diminished. It would put about \$100 billion more into Social Security by 2020 and about \$200 billion by 2030 when the financial pressures on Social Security will become most acute.

And so, one would think that our elected representatives would be working on legislation to raise immigration. Wrong. They are working on legislation to reduce immigration. Silly, huh?

There are problems with the current immigration system. But extra people is not one of them. New immigration legislation will likely reach the floor of Congress in early 1996. It should be reshaped, a topic to be explored in this space soon.

Oklahoma bombing named top story for 1995 by AP

By LARRY McSHANE
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It was all O.J. all the time when 1995 began, but two stories surpassed the Simpson saga over the next 12 months: The arrival of home-grown terrorism in Oklahoma City, and the dispatch of 20,000 U.S. soldiers to blood-stained Bosnia.

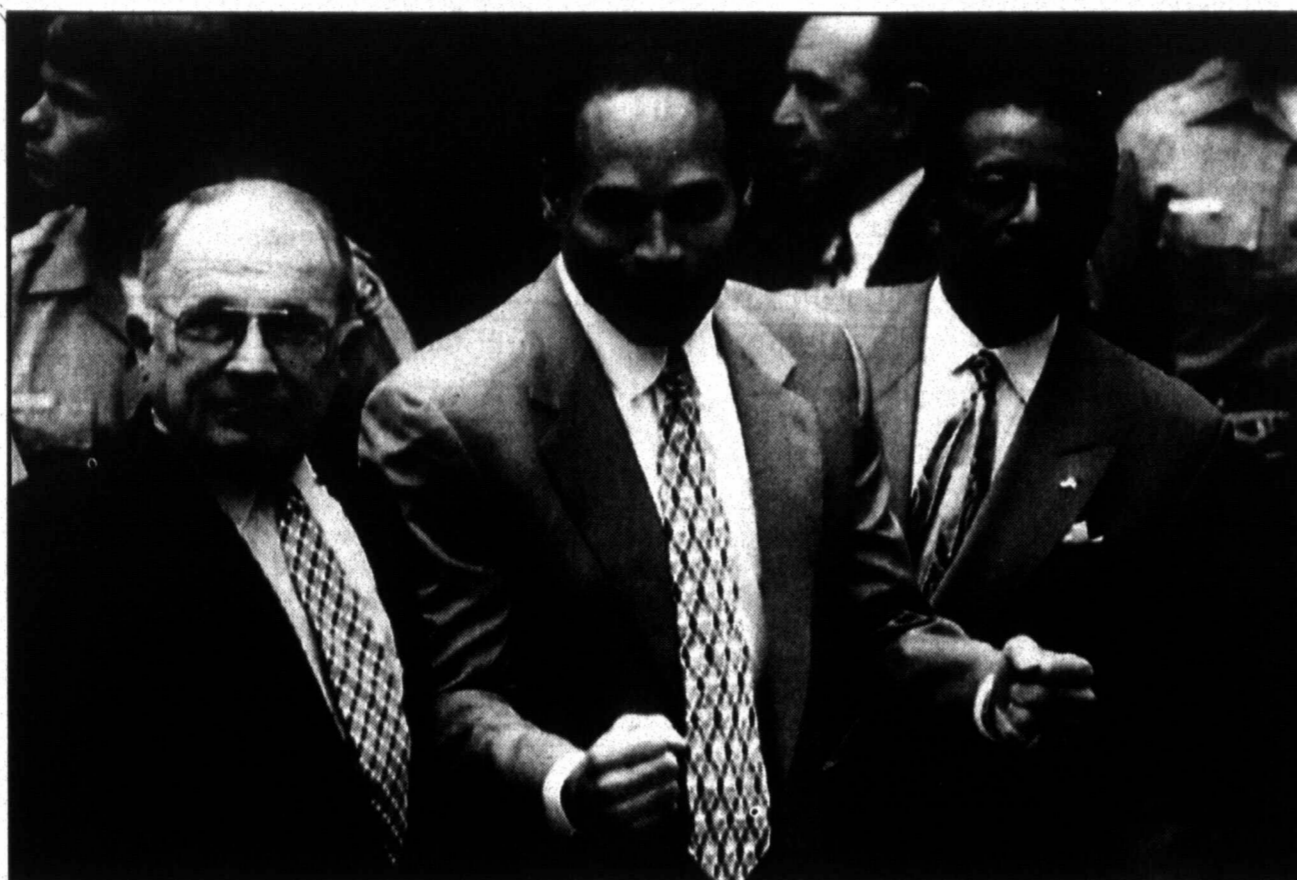
The April 19 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was overwhelmingly cited as the top story of the year in the 59th annual Associated Press vote of newspaper and broadcast executives.

A solid second was the ongoing mess in the former Yugoslavia, where 60,000 NATO troops — one-third of them Americans — began arriving in December to replace ineffective United Nations peacekeeping forces. Years of war sparked by ethnic conflict in Bosnia have left at least 200,000 dead and 2 million homeless; a peace treaty offered shaky hope.

Last year, the Simpson case was the story of the year. In 1995, the Simpson acquittal was No. 3 on the list, finishing well ahead of the next two choices: the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the enormous earthquake that rocked Kobe, Japan.

The second half of the top 10, in descending order: Newt Gingrich, President Clinton and their fight for control of the government; a nerve gas attack in the Tokyo subway system; the rescue of Air Force Capt. Scott O'Grady from Bosnia; the murderous heat wave that killed more than 700 people in Chicago; and the jury decision to spare Susan Smith from execution.

A short synopsis of the top 10:
1. OKLAHOMA BLAST. When it happened at the World Trade Center, the terrorists came from the Middle East. But when a powerful bomb detonated outside the federal building on April



O.J. Simpson, center, reacts after a jury finds him not guilty of murder on Oct. 3. At left is defense lawyer F. Lee Bailey, and at right is defense attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. Though Simpson's arrest and pending trial was ranked the No. 1 news story for 1994, it fell to No. 3 on this year's list.

19, authorities said, the search for the terrorists ended within U.S. borders.

Accused were two U.S. Army buddies, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, who face trial in 1996. The carnage was shocking: 169 dead, more than 500 injured. The images were unforgettable: a firefighter carrying the bloody body of a baby girl. A woman rescued from the building's wreckage — only after doctors amputated her right leg.

2. THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA. It was another year of ethnic violence and unrest in Yugoslavia, the continuation of a mind-numbing cycle of civil war that started near the turn of the decade. But at the end of 1995, the confrontation halfway around the world became personal for

Americans: U.S. troops were sent to the Balkans.

The NATO mission — Operation Joint Endeavor — is the largest Western military operation in Europe since World War II. But many questioned Clinton's decision to step in where the United Nations had failed.

3. O.J. WALKS. It was 10 a.m. Pacific time, Oct. 3, when the nation stood still and stared at its televisions. Minutes later, a Los Angeles jury cleared O.J. Simpson of murdering his ex-wife and a waiter from a nearby restaurant. Many whites were shocked; many blacks applauded.

Months after his acquittal, public opinion remained divided — mostly along racial lines — on whether the former football hero

slashed the throats of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

The story just won't go away. Simpson is reportedly planning an infomercial declaring his innocence, and the Brown and Goldman families are pressing on with a civil suit against the juicer.

4. RABIN ASSASSINATION. On Nov. 5, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin delivered a message of conciliation to the crowd in Tel Aviv: "People really want peace." Rabin, a Nobel Peace Prize winner for his efforts in the Middle East, then left the pro-peace rally and walked to his car.

Yigal Amir was waiting. The 25-year-old Amir, taking advantage of lax security, fatally shot Rabin from point-blank

range, authorities said. The alleged killer had ties to Israeli extremist fringe groups, and no remorse for the slaying.

"I'm satisfied," he said, when told of Rabin's death.

5. KOBE EARTHQUAKE. They lined the streets outside Kobe — people limping, wrapped in bandages, carrying what was left of their possessions. They were fleeing the worst earthquake in Japan since 1923, a disaster that turned a sleek, modern city of 1.4 million into a post-apocalyptic nightmare.

The 7.2-magnitude earthquake on Jan. 17 killed more than 6,000 people, injured more than 26,000, demolished more than 94,000 buildings and homes. Random fires raged. Electricity, gas and water lines were knocked out. Food was at a premium. Nearly a year later, they're still trying to put Kobe back together again.

6. CONTRACT WITH AMERICA. In this pre-election year, with the arrival of Newt Gingrich as Speaker of the House, the battle lines were drawn early. Who knew they would end up leaving 260,000 federal employees temporarily out of work?

With Republicans in control of both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years, they took on President Clinton on every front. Gingrich & Co. waged war with the White House and their Democratic counterparts in Congress over everything and anything. The end result: a partial government shutdown while haggling continued over the federal budget.

7. JAPANESE SUBWAY GASSED. Japan had its own problems with local terrorists. Aum Shinri Kyo, a Japanese cult, was accused of spreading deadly nerve gas through the Tokyo subway system on March 20. A dozen people were killed; more than 5,500 others were left gasping for air.

Authorities arrested cult leader Shoko Asahara, charging the cult planted the gas as part of its plan

to prepare for a coming world war.

8. AMERICAN HERO. In an era short on heroes and role models, Air Force Capt. Scott O'Grady proved to be both — and a best-selling author, too.

O'Grady's F-16 was shot down over Bosnia on June 2, and he narrowly escaped Serb forces after fleeing his crippled plane. For the next six days, he survived on insects and grass, washed down with rainwater. Finally, the Marines swooped in and brought O'Grady home. His book on the ordeal, *Return With Honor*, sold more than 200,000 copies.

His all-American image was solidified in a conversation with President Clinton. "The United States is the greatest country in the world," he said. "God bless America."

9. KILLER HEAT. For scores of elderly Chicagoans this summer, their homes became their coffins. A mid-July heat wave, with temperatures topping out at 106 degrees, caused more than 700 deaths — a higher death toll than in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Most of the victims were elderly people who lived alone. The sad story was even sadder for some — 41 bodies were never claimed by relatives, and Chicago officials buried them in simple plywood caskets in a single mass grave.

10. SUSAN SMITH SPARED. The first decision was simple: Susan Smith had, by her own admission, strapped her two little boys in their car seats and rolled them down a boat ramp to their deaths in a South Carolina lake. A jury convicted her of murder on July 22.

The second decision was more vexing: Should she receive the death penalty? A poll indicated most Americans agreed that the murders of 3-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alex were enough to cost their mother her life. But the jury disagreed; Susan Smith instead received life in prison.

Nation briefs

San Francisco becomes haven for streetcar lovers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Just because it's the mid-1990s and you're in San Francisco, it doesn't mean you can't step into Philadelphia in the 1940s. Or Cincinnati in the 1930s.

All you need do is climb aboard a streetcar.

Once, these vintage trolleys — known as Presidents Conference Committee cars — dominated public transportation in major cities across the country. Now, they ramble up and down Market Street, another tourist attraction for a city already renowned for its cable cars.

"This is an additional enticement for people to come to San Francisco," said Phil Adams, general manager of the city's Municipal Railway, known as the Muni. It's "simply another jewel in the city's crown."

White most popular color of American cars, trucks

DETROIT (AP) — Forget fuchsia. Puce is practically passe.

The hottest color on wheels is white.

White was the color of choice on most cars and trucks in 1995, according to an annual survey released Tuesday by paint supplier DuPont Automotive.

More white luxury, full-size and intermediate cars, trucks and vans made in the United States and Canada were sold this year than any other shade, the survey found.

Dark green and white tied for first in 1994. This year, dark green ranked No. 1 among sport and compact cars, and was second in all other categories.

Study explores which hormones promote tumors

CHICAGO (AP) — A new study links relatively high or low levels of certain hormones to ovarian cancer, raising questions about using hormone therapies to lessen the risk of other ills.

The findings don't suggest that currently available hormone therapies be withdrawn, only that doctors proceed cautiously with new ones.

Helzlsouer and her colleagues tracked more than 20,000 women in Washington County, Maryland, for 15 years.

Thirty-one cases of ovarian cancer developed in women who were not taking hormones when they began the study and gave blood samples in 1974.

Their blood was compared with that of 62 similar but cancer-free women among the sample who also had not been taking hormones.

Missing anchorwoman's family still hopeful

MASON CITY, Iowa (AP) — Doug Merbach still uses the calendar that the anchorwoman gave him, a daily reminder that she remains missing six months after she vanished.

He wants Jodi Sue Huisentrut back before the new year.

"You know, 1995 is almost over. I've got this calendar sitting on my desk at home that's almost run out," said Merbach, the anchorwoman's boss at KIMT-TV in Mason City. "I want to keep it because she gave it to me, but ..."

Huisentrut (pronounced who'-zen-troot) disappeared June 27. She was scheduled to work before dawn that day. When a co-worker called about 4 a.m., she said she'd be there in a few minutes.

She never arrived.

Police found her car in the parking lot of her apartment complex. Some of her belongings — red shoes, a blow-dryer, a bottle of hair spray, car keys and earrings — were scattered nearby.

An investigation followed, eventually involving the FBI and officials in several states. Hundreds of people were interviewed, but no "solid suspects" were ever discovered, police Chief Jack Schlieper said.

The family has hired private investigators and asked psychics for help. But no trace of her has been found, and the case remains open.

"It's unbearable at times," said JoAnn Nathe, Huisentrut's oldest sister.

"I can't picture the terror that she must have experienced. And then I get just sick," Nathe said. "I picture her coming down the steps and I think,

'Oh, stop it, JoAnn, don't picture her when she goes out the door.' Because she's so little and sweet and, oh, she must have been just so scared."

The youngest of three girls, Huisentrut, 27, was the "sunshine" of her family, said Nathe, of Sauk Centre, Minn.

Merbach, news director at the CBS station, said each interview about Huisentrut brings back the pain.

"It's given our whole news staff, I think, sensitivity to issues like victims' rights and what victims go through when the media tries to ask them questions," he said.

Huisentrut's family cleaned out her apartment in late September. Her belongings are being stored by family and friends, who hope to help her find a new place to live one day.

"I do believe in miracles," Nathe said. This city of 30,000 residents in north-central Iowa is full of reminders of Huisentrut.

Yellow ribbons that went up just after her disappearance hang on trees and light posts. Posters asking for information are in storefronts across the city. A reward fund has topped \$34,000.

Nathe, who admits she is skeptical of psychics, recently appeared on a psychics TV show in California. She didn't like the results: The psychics said Huisentrut was abducted by a Mason City man who was obsessed with her and came "unglued" when she became angry and fought him.

Nathe broke down in tears and did not say whether the psychics told her that her sister was dead.

HER SYSTEM:
QUICK PICK

WINNING NUMBERS:
9 18 19 22 32 39

FIRST THING SHE DID:
TURNED 15 DIFFERENT SHADES OF RED

PRIZE: \$27.2 MILLION

Parts of state linked to South America after continent split

AUSTIN (AP) — A chunk of Texas wound up in Argentina after a supercontinent that included Antarctica, North America and South America broke apart more than 400 million years ago, according to a University of Texas geophysicist.

Ian Dalziel, the associate director of UT's Geophysics Institute, believes he has found a lost piece of Texas on the eastern edge of the Andes in northwestern Argentina.

"It's a hypothesis," Dalziel told the *Austin American-Statesman* in Tuesday editions. "But it's a conclusion drawn from the rocks."

Suzanne Kay, a geophysics professor at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., said her geochemical analysis of subterranean rocks — brought to the surface by volcanic lava flows from beneath the errant chunk of Texas terrain — supports Dalziel's hypothesis.

Kay's analysis found that the uranium and lead signatures of rocks beneath the chunk in Argentina match the part that stayed home: the Llano uplift, an ancient geological formation in

the vicinity of Lake Travis, west of Austin.

Geologists know from fossil, ocean-bottom and chemical evidence about the ancient drift, division and collision of Earth's continents dating back 200 million years.

At that time, when dinosaurs roamed the planet, the wandering continents formed a supercontinent scientists have dubbed Pangea. It was composed of what is now North America, Europe, South America and Africa.

What is considerably murkier is the location and interaction of the continents in their not-so-recognizable shapes, over the preceding 400 million years or more.

Building on research begun in 1910, Dalziel and Eldridge Moores of the University of California at Davis have proposed the existence of a supercontinent more than three times older than Pangea.

Antarctica was its keystone, surrounded by what are now North America, Australia, India, South America and parts of Europe and Africa.

WHEN CHERYL CLICK WON LOTTO TEXAS, THE ONLY THING SHE CHANGED WAS HER ADDRESS.

CHERYL CLICK STILL HAS THE SAME SMILE. SHE STILL WEARS THE SAME BLUE JEANS AND ROPERS. AND SHE STILL LIVES IN WEST TEXAS. ONLY NOW SHE LIVES ON THE RANCH SHE'S ALWAYS WANTED. AND IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT, YOU'D NEVER KNOW THAT CHERYL'S ONE OF OVER 150 MILLIONAIRES AND STILL COUNTING.



Mom Says Safety Comes First Before Grandma Can Baby-Sit

DEAR ABBY My husband and I have been married for nine years, and I have always had a good relationship with my mother-in-law, "Ruth." We have 2-year-old twin boys, and my husband's sister has a little girl who is 4. Ruth is a kind and loving grandmother who would never intentionally do anything to harm her grandchildren. The problem is that she has no common sense and is utterly lacking in basic safety knowledge.

When the twins were barely 3 months old, Ruth and I were shopping at a mall, and I asked her to watch them while I searched for something a couple of aisles away. When I returned, the babies were sleeping in their stroller unattended, and Ruth was nowhere in sight.

We have recently moved much closer to my in-laws, and now the issue of baby-sitting comes up often. Abby, Ruth and her husband take many medications, none of which are locked up or even have safety caps; she leaves pot handles pointing out on the stove, knives on the edge of the counter, and cabinets at child-level crammed with poisonous household cleaners.

When I purchased electrical outlet safety caps and cabinet latches for their home, Ruth was very offended. My husband, my sister-in-law and I have voiced our concerns about safety, but Ruth reminds us that she raised two children quite safely without the aid of "fancy gadgets", and that she loves her grand-



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

children and would never let anything happen to them.

My husband wants to give her a chance, claiming it's not fair to deny her the baby-sitting she loves to do. I'm worried sick. What should I do?

S.O.S. (SLEEPLESS OVER SAFETY)

DEAR S.O.S.: Your children's safety should come first. The hazards you pointed out are serious, and Ruth needs to change her ways. Get together with your sister-in-law and make it a family project to educate Ruth on child safety. Check in your Yellow Pages under "Safety" or "First Aid Instruction," or call the local chapter of the Red Cross, YMCA or a community college. There are books and tapes you can buy or rent, and safety professionals who provide in-home instruction on infant CPR, basic first aid and child-proofing a home.

Until you are comfortable

that her safety consciousness has been raised, allow Ruth to baby-sit the children in your home only, and visit hers when you will be able to keep a close watch on the children.

DEAR ABBY: The letter about people being ashamed of their (or their spouses') professions struck a chord with me. It wasn't my husband's profession he was ashamed of — it was mine.

For 11 years, I owned and operated a janitorial service. I was needed, appreciated and very well paid by my clients. However, my husband (a security guard) always told all his co-workers that I was a secretary or a bookkeeper so they wouldn't know that I cleaned other people's toilets.

I was angry at first, but then I had to laugh because I thought, "How strange that a man would not be proud that his wife is in business for herself — and very successful at it."

Abby, being an undertaker, a car salesman or a ditchdigger is nothing to be ashamed of. If you are honest and try to help people in your chosen line of work, stand tall and be proud! You may use my name.

JEANNETTE KISTER, HOLIDAY, FLA.

Horoscope



Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 28, 1995

Your personal interests may be advanced in the year ahead. Unexpected successes could turn out to be the most substantial.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your leadership qualities today might not be of the caliber that inspires dedicated followers. Keep this in mind before demanding that others do things you won't. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail \$2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Today you might get involved in an arrangement which may look like a bargain, but in fact contains many hidden costs.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) When socializing with friends today, let go and enjoy yourself! However, do not spend or eat too much.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If you focus your attention on a practical objective, you could be lucky today. Conversely, if your mind drifts toward frivolous targets, your luck may run out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Success will not elude you today if you sustain a positive attitude. Do not let negative thoughts sneak in and erode your self-confidence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) In order to make your presence felt today, you might try to pit one friend against another. Unfortunately, this will not produce a desirable end result.

CANCER (June 21-July 21) A partnership arrangement could fizzle today if you and your counterpart aren't in complete accord. Discuss differences in detail

before making a move.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your sensors can usually perceive the moods and needs of others. Today, however, these attributes may not function as well, and you may make some bad judgments.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Make sure to get receipts or guarantees if you have to do business today with an unfamiliar person or firm. Do not take verbal commitments for granted.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Things should work out as you hope if you proceed along your present course of action. If you make last-minute changes, problems could develop.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) People working for you today must be handled with kid gloves. If you get too busy or demanding, the quality of what they produce could suffer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Financial conditions might be a mixed bag for you today. You will have the potential to add to your resources. However, try not to spend extravagantly.

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"Square, circle, tricycle..."



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"I'm sure he will leave if we bring up the overturned Christmas tree."

The Family Circus



12-27

Marmaduke



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Grizzwells



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Alley Oop



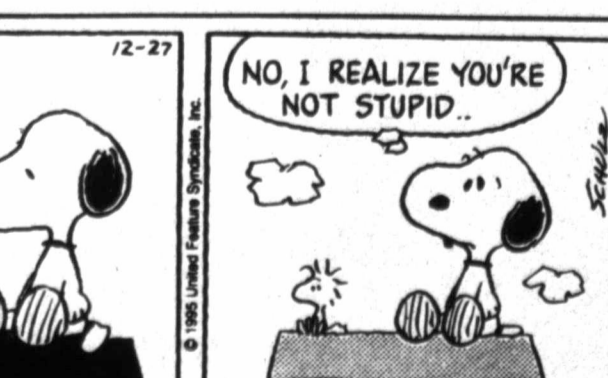
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Peanuts

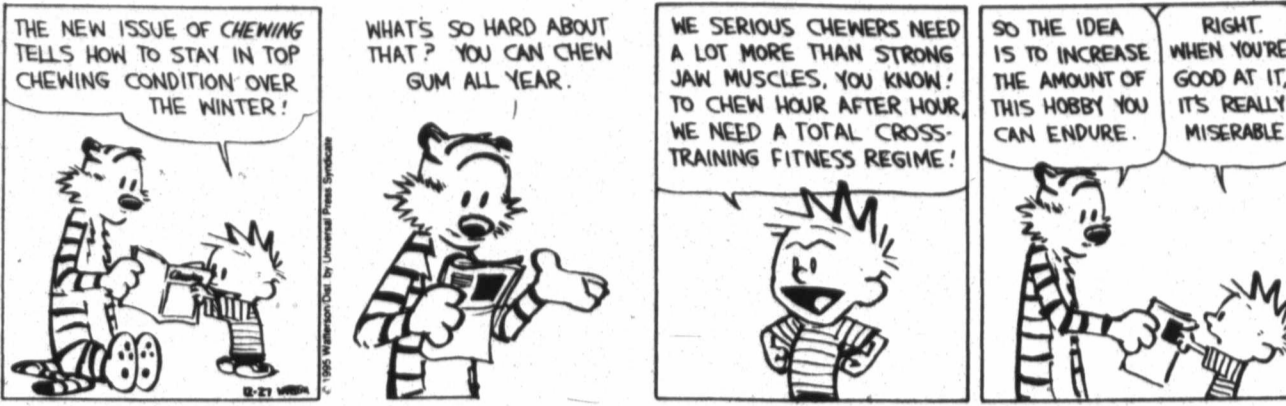


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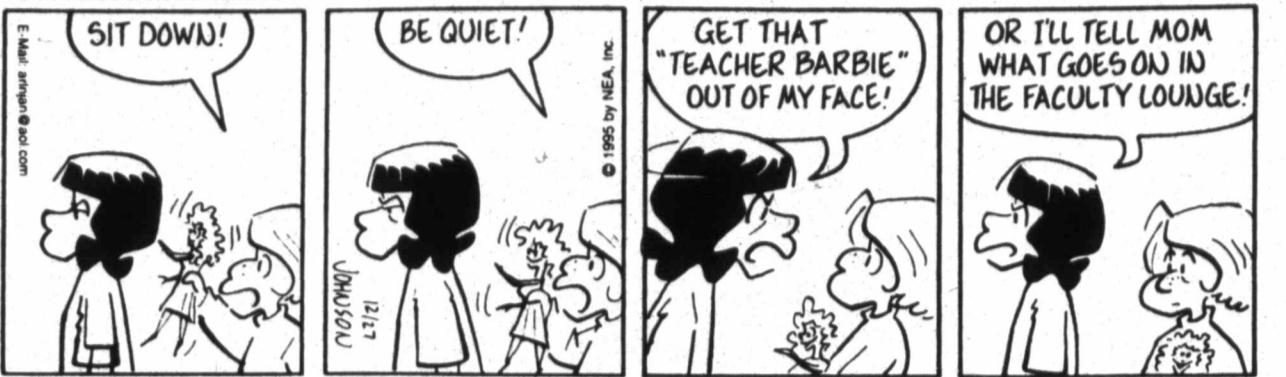
Calvin & Hobbes



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Calvin & Hobbes



Arlo & Janis



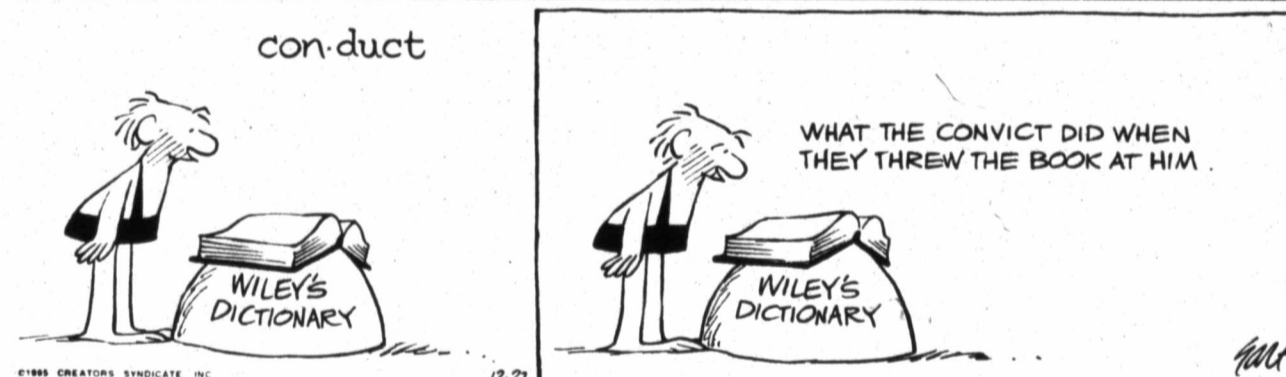
Garfield



Walnut Cove



Marvin



B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore

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World briefs

Long sentences given for mall collapse

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A court today gave a 10 1/2-year prison sentence to the owner of a shopping mall that collapsed, killing 501 people and injuring 900 in the worst civil engineering disaster in South Korean history.

Relatives of the victims had demanded the death penalty for Lee Joon, 73, who was found guilty of negligence in the June 30 accident, when the five-story Sampoong Department Store crumpled with more than 1,500 shoppers and employees inside.

Lee Han-sang, Lee's 43-year-old son and the president of the mall, was convicted of negligence and bribing government officials and sentenced to seven years. The three-judge court also imposed prison terms ranging from eight months to three years and fines of up to \$17,000 for 23 others charged with various irregularities connected to the collapse.

"The defendants deserve stern punishment for bribing relevant officials, thus causing a major disaster," senior Judge Lee Kwang-yol said.



(AP photo/Fort Worth Star-Telegram)

Delta flight attendant Carol Scott, left, and Delta engineer Kelly Leggette pose in their home in Bedford, where they run their business, Fly Boy Boomerangs.

Texan will compete on U.S. women's boomerang team

By M. CRISTINA MEDINA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Thunderbolt jets in the U.S. Air Force.

BEDFORD (AP) — Carol Scott took two steps and lunged forward, flinging a stiff rainbow-colored boomerang into the air. After gliding in a high semicircle, it returned gently within seconds to her thin hands.

"See, it didn't come screaming back like people might think these things do. I don't know where people get that from," said Scott, a 31-year-old Delta Air Lines flight attendant.

Because of her accuracy and style with the boomerang, Scott has earned a slot as one of five women on the first U.S. Women's Boomerang Team.

In March, the Bedford resident will be shoulder to shoulder with the world's best throwers in the World Cup Boomerang Championships in New Zealand. She advanced to international competition after scoring high marks in events in August at a national competition in St. Paul, Minn.

"The field is wide open for women right now. It's been around for a while but hasn't really caught on with too many people," Scott said.

She picked up her first boomerang a year ago when she began dating Kelly Leggette, a flight engineer for Delta. He had caught onto the hobby a year before, after meeting an avid boomerang thrower while vacationing in Costa Rica.

"For as long as I can remember, I've been fascinated with flying and building model airplanes," said Leggette, who flew A-10

"The boomerang caught my attention — as it does others interested in flying — because of its aerodynamics and how easy it is to throw," Leggette said. "You don't have to be a topnotch athlete to be good at it."

The couple have since set up a woodworking shop in their garage, where they make hand-crafted boomerangs under the name Fly Boy Boomerangs. They hope sales of the custom-made \$15 to \$20 boomerangs will help offset the costs of attending the New Zealand competition.

Laid out on a wood table in the couple's orderly garage are dozens of boomerangs amassed from competitions and trading with other enthusiasts.

At competitions they have found a network of friends who freely share tips and tricks to boomerang throwing, like taping on coins to add weight.

"You learn something new all the time. No one's stingy, maybe they should be, but everyone is just into promoting the sport however they can," Scott said.

Among the most unique boomerangs the couple have collected are a green Gumby, a hatchet with a dull silverlike blade, an anchor and a heart-shaped boomerang.

"This one we call 'Magic,'" said Scott, holding a black star-and-planet designed boomerang with pinches of tape attached to it.

"It's magic because we once threw it off a cliff at the Grand Canyon and it came back."

Sailor calls Marines willing accomplices in attack on twelve-year-old schoolgirl

NAHA, Okinawa (AP) — A U.S. Navy sailor accused of raping a 12-year-old schoolgirl told a Japanese court today that two U.S. Marines were willing accomplices in the attack.

Under questioning, Navy Seaman Marcus Gill, 22, of Woodville, Texas, painted so harrowing a picture of the rape that the translator broke down and wept.

The attack outraged Japan and has sparked debate over whether the southern island of Okinawa should be forced to host more than half of the 47,000 U.S. troops stationed in the country.

In testimony a day earlier, the two Marines — Pfc. Rodrico Harp, 21, of Griffin, Ga., and Pfc. Kendrick Ledet, 20, of Waycross, Ga. — tried to shift much of the blame for the Sept. 4 attack to Gill.

The two Marines depicted Gill as a violent, threatening bully who intimidated them into grabbing the girl off the street and shoving her into their rental car before she was driven to a remote roadside and raped.

Letet and Harp have acknowledged helping with the abduction but deny raping the girl. Gill today detailed the others' role in the attack and said they were unfairly painting him as the instigator.

"Everything is pinpointed on me — they want to take as little blame as possible and put it all on me," Gill complained, saying the three had planned the rape together.

"We discussed how we would go about abducting a woman," he said, adding that Ledet exclaimed "Let's do this!" as they set off in the car.

The sailor said it was Harp who spotted the girl going into a stationery store, and that Ledet suggested ambushing her when she came out. Gill also said the two Marines bound the girl with tape and pulled her shorts and underwear down to her ankles.

The sailor said when he himself had finished raping the girl Ledet asked him, "How was she?" Gill said Ledet then made a remark suggesting that the girl had enjoyed it.

As Gill recounted that

exchange, and described how the girl was bleeding and unconscious at that point, the translator began weeping. Testimony was halted momentarily while she regained her composure.

Gill said he believed Ledet had raped the girl after he did, but said he had left the car and did not see him do so.

On the stand on Tuesday, both Harp and Ledet apologized for their part in the crime. Their families have said they will pay \$5,000 in compensation to the victim.

Such steps are an important defense strategy in Japan, where a show of remorse can bring about a more lenient sentence. Japanese courts have no juries and more than 99 percent of defendants are convicted.

All three servicemen are charged with rape causing injury, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison. Concluding arguments from lawyers and final statements from the three suspects are scheduled for Thursday. The three-judge panel is expected to issue both a verdict and a sentence in late January.

Clarendon College to offer farm management class

CLARENDON — Clarendon College will offer the Bottom Line Farming curriculum on financial management in agriculture in Clarendon and Wellington during January.

The Clarendon class will be taught at the college; it will be a day class. The course will start on Jan. 3 at 8 a.m. and go until 5 p.m. that day. The balance of the 36-hour course will be on Jan. 4 and 5 and Jan. 8 and 9 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30

p.m., with all days having a one-hour lunch break.

The same course will be taught in Wellington at the high school. This course, however, will be taught in the evenings and on Saturdays. The Wellington class will start on Jan. 4 at 6 p.m. and finish at 10 p.m. Other classes, also taught from 6-10 p.m., will be held on Jan. 5, 8, 9 and 10. On Jan. 6 and Jan. 13 (Saturdays), the class will start at 8 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m.

Registration for these Clarendon College Continuing Education classes will be held the first meeting for each class. Spouses are encouraged to attend, also.

This class meets the requirements for financial training of the County Farm Service Agency (formerly FmHA). For information, contact Dr. Donald L. Williams at (806) 874-2313, Clarendon College, or your local CFSA office.

Alone at Christmas, Diana turns to psychotherapist

LONDON (AP) — With her sons away and no staff, Princess Diana spent Christmas on her own until loneliness drove her to visit her former therapist, according to news reports today.

The Sun and Daily Mirror said she visited psychotherapist Susie Orbach on Tuesday, Boxing Day, the second day of Britain's traditional two-day holiday, having spent Christmas Day alone.

Diana's sons Prince William, 13, and Prince Harry, 11, spent Christmas Day and Tuesday at Sandringham, Queen Elizabeth II's country estate in eastern England, with their father Prince Charles, the queen and other royals.

The queen has called on Charles and Diana to divorce soon. Diana refused her invitation to spend Christmas at Sandringham.

The 34-year-old princess will not see her sons again until after they return from a ski break with their father in two weeks.

The reports said Diana spent Christmas Day watching television alone in her apartment in Kensington Palace in London, having given all her staff time off to be with their families.

Outbreak of violence leaves Chechnya at crossroads

MOSCOW (AP) — After a new upsurge of violence in Chechnya, Russia and Chechen rebels have two choices to end their year-old war: compromise on self-rule instead of independence, or fight to the bitter, bloody end.

Either option could mean still more months of bloodshed. The guerrillas have regrouped and appear to be well-equipped for winter, and neither side appears willing to settle for anything but complete victory.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin says there is no military solution to the conflict that began Dec. 11, 1994, when Russian troops marched into Chechnya to crush its drive for independence.

Even as Russian troops were trying to pound the rebels into submission in some of the heaviest fighting in months, Chernomyrdin insisted Monday that his government wants to make peace.

The Kremlin signed an agreement Dec. 8 with the government installed by its troops in Chechnya, giving the republic expanded control over its internal affairs and the right to open representative offices abroad.

Dr. Philips wishes to announce the relocation of his office to 408 W. Kingsmill, Suite 100 in the Hughes Bld. 669-1242

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