

WORLD:
Chechen rebels free
Russian hostages, Page 12

GOOD EVENING
Wednesday, January 10, 1996

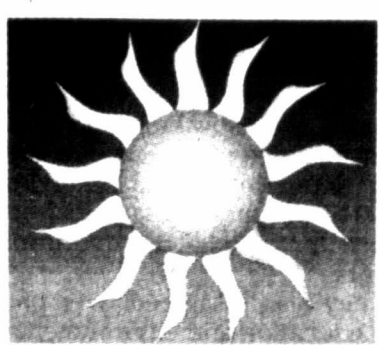
SPORTS:
Harvesters go 3-0 in district
with win over Dumas, Page 9

THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 88 NO: 238

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



Low tonight in upper 20s, high tomorrow in mid 50s. See Page 2 for weather details.

McLEAN — The McLean City Council will meet in regular session Thursday at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

Items on the agenda include discussion on a proposed sewer line to the old Dairy Queen building, Christmas lights, 1994-95 audit review and approval, retirement funds, landfill contract with Pampa, delinquent bills, animal control, fire department hoses, firearms in city buildings and consolidation for local telephone rates.

Also on the agenda is discussion on raising gas rates to meet bond indebtedness and borrowing money for the sewer line to the Dairy Queen building.

Meetings are open to the public.

PAMPA — Board members of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation will meet Thursday at 3 p.m. to award a contract to one economic development strategy firm.

Joe M. White, Dallas, of the Pathfinders, and Dr. Iris Hicks, Tupelo, Miss., of the PACE Group, addressed a joint meeting of the PEDC and Pampa City Commission in December. City leaders were expected to meet Tuesday to examine the proposals from the groups and give PEDC directors input.

In other action, PEDC directors will consider the hiring of a part-time employee and a prospect request.

Meetings are open to the public.

PAMPA — Gray County residents can begin applying for a mailed election ballot beginning Friday, according to County Clerk Wanda Carter.

Residents who will be absent during early voting and on election day, who are ill or disabled or who are 65 years or older are eligible to receive mailed ballots.

For information, contact the County Clerk's Office in the Gray County Courthouse, or call 669-8004.

Primary elections are March 12. Early voting runs from Feb. 21 to March 8.

A number of county seats — including county sheriff, district attorney, commissioners and constables — are up for election this year.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Working in unseasonably cold weather, NASA proceeded Wednesday with the countdown for this week's launch of space shuttle Endeavour on an international satellite-retrieval mission.

Test director John Stealey said lows around 30 degrees Fahrenheit have not affected launch preparations for Thursday's liftoff. The shuttle and pad are equipped with heaters to guard against dangerous ice buildup, he said.

Classified10
Comics8
Editorial4
Sports9

Ground water project faces vote by board

By CHERYL BERZANSKIS
News Editor

A ground water project in Roberts County whose aim is to increase the quantity and improve the quality of drinking water for the 11 member cities of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority may get the go-ahead today.

The board of directors of the authority of which Pampa is a member are to meet today in Plainview to consider four items which if passed will move the \$76.5 million project closer to completion.

Both Dr. Bill Hallerberg and Jerry Carlson, Pampa's representatives to the authority, told the Pampa city commission Tuesday they plan to vote for the project.

The project crossed a hurdle Jan. 3 when Panhandle Ground Water District No. 3, White Deer and Quixx Corp., Amarillo, owner of the water rights, agreed to end a lawsuit in exchange for an acceptable production permit which may be transferred to the authority with the sale of the Roberts County water rights.

The permit allows 40,000 acre-feet per year production in normal years and 50,000 acre-feet per year production from the 35,813 acres of water rights in Roberts County. The permit also mandates the blending of Lake Meredith water with only enough well water to meet drinking water standards, according to John Williams, general manager of the authority.

The total water rights to be purchased for the project are on 42,765 acres, which includes other portions in Hutchinson County. The difference lies outside the water district's authority.

Pampa city commissioners voted to join the project at 3.6

percent — or \$9.455 million — to be financed by bonds which will be repaid when the wells begin to produce water in late 1999, Williams said.

Williams estimates construction to begin in early 1997 and be on line in late 1999. Bonds will be sold at the beginning of the project to finance the construction with the interest capitalized until the wells are completed.

About 30 to 35 test wells have been drilled, he said, and meet all quantity and quality standards except the one for sulfate content, which is slightly higher than expected. The CRMWA board must accept or reject that variation, he said.

The water meets standards for chloride content, he told commissioners.

Besides the permit proposal, the CRMWA board in executive session will consider results of the drilling and testing program, authorize extension of the closing date on the water rights sale and approve drafts of contracts with member cities.

Williams told commissioners the project was always conceived as a blending project to raise quality levels of Lake Meredith (besides the quantity issue).

The member-city contracts call for the CRMWA board of directors to establish the blends, taking into account the wishes of member cities, he said.

The object of the project, Williams explained, is to make enough water available for member cities in combination with well water.

"If you say, 'Can we get all of ours as well water?', that's a policy question for our board," he added.

Pampa city commissioners agreed in 1994 to join the project to improve the drinking water quality and reduce dependence on the local well field.



(Pampa News photos by David Bowser)
Under gray skies, uniformed pallbearers carry the flag-draped casket of Police Chief Chuck Flemins as family, citizens, co-workers and law enforcement officers from across the state gathered at the First Baptist Church today to pay their last respects. Flemins died Saturday at his home of an apparent heart attack.

Family and law enforcement personnel gather to say farewell to Chief Flemins

Pampa Police Chief Charles W. "Chuck" Flemins was buried today in the city which over 30 years ago gave him his start in the career which defined his life and passion.

At 11 a.m. today, a mile of mourners — family, friends and law enforcement officers from around the region — proceeded to Llano Cemetery East in Amarillo to say their final farewells to a man eulogized as one who "fought the good fight."

More than 650 people filled Pampa's First Baptist Church to hear Dr. Doug Harvey of the First Christian Church, Panhandle, deliver a final message on Flemins' life and work.

"The influence he left is going to be changing police forces, classrooms and courtrooms for years to come," said Harvey.

He praised Flemins' commitment to character, quality and compassion in police work.

As in the Apostle Paul's final letter to his young protégé Timothy, Harvey said Flemins "fought the good fight, ... finished the race and kept the faith."

He described Flemins as one of those rare people who found his



A funeral wreath pays tribute to Police Chief Chuck Flemins.

calling and pursued it passionately.

Harvey cited departmental changes under Flemins' administration including Citizens Police Academy, Citizens on Patrol and school-based police services, all designed to unify the department and community it serves.

In testimony to that, police-

men, deputies and troopers paid homage to one of their own, filling the sanctuary with their uniformed presence.

Officers Dave Wilk and Bo Lake flanked the casket as mourners arrived for the funeral.

Pampa police officers and civilian personnel sat together for the service. As the flag-draped coffin was carried from the church, officers saluted.

Departments represented included police departments from Amarillo, Borger, Canyon, Dumas, Fritch, Tulia, Dalhart, Dimmitt, Childress, Friona, Irving, West Texas A&M University, Amarillo College, Nazareth and Wichita Falls.

Sheriff's offices included Gray, Carson, Childress, Wheeler, Armstrong, Ochiltree, Hemphill, Donley and Deaf Smith.

Department of Public Safety troopers and Texas Rangers paid their last respects also.

Flemins, 55, died about 6:45 p.m. Saturday after suffering an apparent heart attack at his Comanche Trail home. He was rushed by Rural Metro ambulance to Coronado Hospital, where medical personnel were unable to revive him.

Roping practice



(Pampa News photo by Melinda Martinez)
Andy Schroeder, 13, practices roping a chair Tuesday afternoon. He and his sister Lacy, 11, were taking turns trying out their roping skills. The youngsters said they have a horse which they ride and rope with sometimes.

Clinton vetoes welfare overhaul bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Asserting that the Republican welfare overhaul bill would do little to move people from welfare to work, President Clinton vetoed the measure but pledged to work with Congress on a version more acceptable to him.

He had promised to veto the final Republican plan to overhaul the nation's primary welfare programs and end the federal guarantee of aid to the poor, although he had given tacit support to a similar version that passed the Senate with 87 votes. He said in his veto message Tuesday night that he was determined to work with Congress "to enact real, bipartisan welfare reform."

The veto was Clinton's 12th, and

Congress was unlikely to override it. The final welfare bill, a melding of earlier House and Senate versions, cleared both chambers in December by margins smaller than the two-thirds majorities needed to override a veto. Only one of Clinton's previous 11 vetoes has been overridden.

Clinton charged that the bill was designed to meet an arbitrary budget target rather than to achieve serious welfare reform. He said it would make structural changes and budget cuts that would fall hardest on children and undermine states' ability to move people from welfare to work.

He said he wanted a welfare plan motivated by the urgency of reform rather than by a "bud-

get plan that is contrary to America's values."

"The current welfare system is broken and must be replaced, for the sake of the taxpayers who pay for it and the people who are trapped by it," he said. But the legislation was "burdened with deep budget cuts and structural changes that fall short of real reform."

Objecting specifically to cuts in foster care and adoption assistance, help for disabled children and legal immigrants, food stamps and the school lunch program, Clinton said the final legislation should reduce the magnitude of the cuts and the structural changes that had "little connection to the central goal of work-based reform."

Elementary students to view Mr. Wizard program

The mysteries of science will be explored Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 1:30 p.m. at Travis Elementary when students will witness "Mr. Wizard's Science Challenges."

New guidelines set by the American Academy for the Advancement of Science ask teachers to use hands-on projects in an effort to improve the science programs in the nation's schools.

Don Herbert, better known as "Mr. Wizard" from NBC's *Watch*

Mr. Wizard and Nickelodeon's *Mr. Wizard's World*, has produced a program to bring this hands-on style of science to the school.

Herbert won't be present at the program, though his official assistant Tim Angevine will present the fast-paced show guaranteed to educate and entertain.

With the help of students in the audience, Angevine will work through a series of investigations and eventually discover

answers to each of the show's challenges. The show combines Mr. Wizard's informal style with stimulating science challenges designed to inspire creative thinking and enthusiasm for learning in young minds.

This is the fifth time Travis Elementary boosters have brought Mr. Wizard's show to Pampa. The show is produced by ECA Educational Services in conjunction with Mr. Wizard Studios.

Nation brjefs

Clinton vetoes measure but vows to reach agreement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Asserting that the Republican welfare overhaul bill would do little to move people from welfare to work, President Clinton vetoed the measure but pledged to work with Congress on a version more acceptable to him.

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Author states Kennedy, Nixon grudging friends

NEW YORK (AP) — John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon — friends?

While many people viewed the two men as bitter rivals, there "lurked a more complicated, more enduring relationship which began in a kind of cordial coexistence," Christopher Matthews writes in *Kennedy and Nixon*. Excerpts of the book appear in the February edition of *Vanity Fair* magazine.

Both men were elected to the House in 1946. Early on, Matthews writes, Kennedy pointed Nixon out to friends, telling one that Nixon was "going places."

In 1947, when Nixon was to go on a fact-finding mission to Europe, Kennedy stopped by his office and dropped off the names and phone numbers of women he should look up in Paris. Nixon's secretary, Dorothy Cox, said she didn't think Nixon, who was married, took the numbers because "he was far too embarrassed."

Cop killer going free after 37 years in prison

ANGOLA, La. (AP) — More than 37 years after he was sentenced to death for shooting two white policemen he claimed were Ku Klux Klansmen trying to kill him, Moreese "Pop" Bickham walked out of prison a free man.

Bickham, who had seven stays of execution during his time on death row, was released from the Louisiana State Penitentiary precisely at 12:04 a.m. Wednesday.

Outside the main prison gate, he picked up a handful of dirt and kissed it.

"I'm glad to see my friends on the outside, but I hate to leave my friends on the inside," Bickham told reporters and others at an informal reception at a prison administration building prior to his release.

He expressed remorse about killing the two officers and apologized to their families.

Woman's tale of abduction, sexual assault was bogus, police believe

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — A woman who told police she was abducted and sexually assaulted at knifepoint has been arrested on a charge of making a false report to a peace officer.

Police say the false report caused police to use valuable investigation time and they intend to throw the book at her.

"It was a waste of our time," said police spokesman Lt. Scott McCollum. "We could've been making more progress with real cases."

The woman, who was not identified, faces a class B misdemeanor charge of making a false report to a peace officer and faces up to 100 days in jail and a fine of up to \$2,000.

College Station police also will seek restitution for the cost of investigative hours spent on the case, McCollum said.

Police reports said they interviewed the woman for almost a week before she admitted that she invented her story of being seized and sexually assaulted in a College Station field.

Officers believed the woman, who is 22, made up the story because she had fought with her husband, was upset about it, and wanted to gain his sympathy.

The woman has been released from the Brazos County Jail after posting \$300 bond.

Community Calendar

January

13 - CLEAN PAMPA CHIPPING OF THE GREENS will be turning collected Christmas trees into compost. Christmas trees should be dropped off at 900 N. Duncan by Jan. 13. Residents may collect compost at the same site. Also, old Christmas cards may be delivered for recycling to Boatmen's First Pampa Banking Center, FirstBank Southwest or National Bank of Commerce. For more appreciation, contact Pam Green at 665-2514.

13-14 - TOP O' TEXAS LIVESTOCK SHOW AND SALE, Clyde Carruth Pavilion. For more information, contact the Gray County Extension Office at 669-8033.

16 - TOASTMASTER INTERNATIONAL CLUB regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., Coronado Inn dining room. For more information, contact Daniel Silva at 669-6351 or Vernell Houska at 669-7402.

16 - SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER BOARD MEETING, 4 p.m., at the Senior Center, 500 W. Francis. For more information, call Mary Wilson at 669-0515.

18 - PAMPA AREA CANCER SUPPORT GROUP, regular meeting, 7-8 p.m., Coronado Hospital Medical Building (NOT in the hospital). For more information, contact Kathy Gist at 665-4742 or Emily Washington at 669-7619.

20 - GRAY COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW AND SALE, Clyde Carruth Pavilion. For more information, contact the Gray County Extension Office at 669-8033.

23 - TOASTMASTER INTERNATIONAL CLUB regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., Coronado Inn dining room. For more information, contact Daniel Silva at 669-6351 or Vernell Houska at 669-7402.

29 - LEAGUE OF PAMPA WRITERS to present local artist Grant Johnson at the Lovett Memorial Library conference room at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Tomoko I. Mechler on Tuesday or Wednesday between 1-3 p.m. at 665-3002.

30 - TOASTMASTER INTERNATIONAL CLUB regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., Coronado Inn dining room. For more information, contact Daniel Silva at 669-6351 or Vernell Houska at 669-7402.

February

1 - ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP meeting at 7 p.m. at Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 2225 Perryton Parkway. All future meetings for 1996 will be on the first Thursday of each month. For more information, call and ask for Chrys at 665-0356. Also, memorials for the American Heart Association need to be sent in care of Edna Trask, 1810 Beech, Pampa, TX 79065. For more on this, call Chrys at 665-0356.

2 - WOMEN TO WOMEN will be hosting Jerry Lane on topic of substance abuse. For more information, call Kay at 665-0842.

9 - PAMPA HIGH SCHOOL BAND to host its Spaghetti Supper from 5-8 p.m. in the Pampa High School cafeteria. For more information, contact Jane Jacobs at 665-3878.

10 - PAMPA COMMUNITY CONCERN ASSOCIATION INC. presents the Glenn Miller Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. in the M.K. Brown Memorial Auditorium. For more information, contact Mrs. E.H. Brainard at 665-4579.

Note: Civic clubs, organizations, church groups and others wanting their special meetings and activities listed on the community calendar should contact the Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce office, 200 N. Ballard, or call 669-3241.

Construction of steel fence begins to curb border crime

SUNLAND PARK, N.M. (AP) — Construction of a steel fence to help shield Sunland Park from border-jumping criminals gives Maria De Franco no new sense of security.

Quite frankly, she sees no need for the 1.3-mile-long barrier, regardless of the frequent reports she has heard about the train-robbing gangs and drug traffickers known to slip in from Mexico.

"It's not necessary," De Franco of Sunland Park said Tuesday as the U.S. Border Patrol began building the fence. "The majority of people who come over aren't thinking about committing crimes."

Law enforcement agencies generally agree that most crossers aren't criminals, but they do see good reason for the fence.

"It's a problem area, to make a long story short," said Border Patrol spokesman Doug Mosier. "We hope this fence will generally make the area more manageable."

The region became particularly volatile after the Border Patrol blockaded a section of the Rio Grande in nearby El Paso, Texas, pushing many illegal crossers

west into New Mexico, authorities have said.

The agency believes the \$150,000 fence will help authorities deter that increased illegal immigration and control crimes committed by gangs who regularly loot U.S. trains that pass just yards from the border.

The bandits have even been known to leave booby traps for agents and have fired shots at pursuing officers.

Authorities say the problems also spill over into Sunland Park, which suffers burglaries and larcenies attributed to criminals from nearby Anapra, a section of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Once completed in about a month, the 10-foot-high fence will seal off a desert plain bordered by a steep mesa and Mount Cristo Rey, a craggy mountain with a large cross on its summit.

Mosier said the fence will funnel illegal immigrants to rougher terrain outside town, where they will be easier to apprehend, while also making it harder for criminals to come and go.

Pain may be eliminated for millions

(SPECIAL) — A new drug has been approved that is exciting researchers in the treatment of pain. This material has been formulated into a new product known as "Arthur Itis" and is being called a "Medical Miracle" by some, in the treatment of debilitating conditions such as arthritis, bursitis, rheumatism, painful muscle aches, joint aches, simple backache, bruises, and more. Although the mechanism of action is unclear, experiments indicate that Arthur Itis relieves pain by first selectively attracting, and then destroying the messenger chemical which carries pain sensations to the brain, thus eliminating pain in the affected area. Arthur Itis is an odorless, greaseless, non-staining cream and is available immediately without a prescription and is guaranteed to work. Use only as directed.

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Discovery Center show to discuss critical periods of man's exploration

AMARILLO — *The Endless Horizon*, narrated by actor Patrick Stewart, is a planetarium star show that highlights critical periods of exploration that have shaped our view of the world and of the universe.

The show may be viewed in the Discovery Center's Planetarium Jan. 13-March 3. Show times are Saturday at 1 and 3 p.m. and Sunday at 2 and 3 p.m. Admission is \$2 per person, and Discovery Center members will be admitted free.

What sparks the torch of exploration? Is it the dream of distant shores, wealth, or power? Exploration is motivated by all of these factors, but often it is for the pure joy of scientific discovery, Center officials noted.

As people trace exploration through the ages, by land, by sea and in more modern times, the exploration of space, they see that the unique relationship between scientific discovery and exploration has led to advances

in science theory, technology and our concept of the Universe.

The major periods of man's exploration to be discussed in the planetarium show are:

The Exploration of the Oceans: It was the prospect of quick wealth that motivated the first great age of exploration. Spices and silks from the Far East had always been traded in Europe, but the rise of hostile Islamic kingdoms astride the ancient trade routes complicated trade and thus created shortages and steep price increases.

It was clear to the merchants and nobles of Renaissance Europe that a direct route to the orient that avoided the Arab middlemen would offer both enormous profits and a plentiful supply of these commodities.

The Exploration of the Continents: Only a few years after the first voyage of Columbus, Spanish conquistadors began exploring the newly discovered continents. Like the

navigators and mariners, they too were primarily interested in wealth and conquest. Gold and slaves were to be had for the price of wanton murder. Whole civilizations perished as Spanish explorers founded a colonial empire at the point of a sword.

Exploration Beyond the Earth: Throughout the nineteenth century, as explorers redefined the geography of the continents, the body of scientific knowledge grew as well. By the first years of our century, devices were being created that would profoundly influence exploration as well as the course of history.

In 1903, at about the same time the Wright Brothers launched their first primitive flying machine, Konstantine Tsiolkovski, a Russian mathematics teacher, conceived of a method to launch an artificial satellite. Prompted by two world wars, the technology of flight and the science of rocketry developed at an astounding pace.

State jail system touted as a huge success

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's revised jail system for nonviolent criminals could reduce the number of people who become repeat offenders, backers of the revision say.

"The community corrections concept of a state jail system is exactly what this state needs," said Rep. Allen Place, D-Gatesville, a sponsor of the law.

"If there's going to be a type of felon that you have a chance to rehabilitate, it's going to be non-violent offenders, and the best way to handle those is by community corrections in their particular locale," he said Tuesday.

Community probation departments are the "backbone" of the system, Place said. The state jail

facilities themselves are designed to provide programs and a space for those who break terms of probation, he said.

The system, which began in 1994, was meant to free up more expensive prison space by reclassifying some crimes as state jail felonies. The program included construction of regional jails and an emphasis on probation and rehabilitation for nonviolent offenders.

But there were concerns over the program, especially a provision for automatic probation for repeat offenders, and it hasn't been used as much as envisioned.

As of Friday, of 16,052 bed spaces in nine state jail units opened so far, just 1,618 were

occupied by people convicted of state jail felonies.

Last year, lawmakers made changes that took effect Jan. 1, including elimination of the automatic probation for repeat offenders.

Other changes allow people with two prior state jail felonies to be sentenced to prison and authorize judges to put someone on probation under the state jail felony law for up to 10 years, double the original time.

The changes likely will mean state jails will be used more, Place said. But he added, "The success of the program is not going to be gauged by the number of people who wind up in a state jail facility."

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British official says London can't stop China from dismantling Hong Kong's ruling bodies

HONG KONG (AP) - In a stark illustration of Britain's dwindling power in Hong Kong, the British foreign secretary said Tuesday that London cannot stop China from dismantling the colony's legislature and other elected bodies after its return to China in 1997.

For Hong Kong, Malcolm Rifkind's comments were a reminder that with just 539 days left until the Chinese takeover, the colony's center of gravity is shifting toward Beijing.

"We cease to be the sovereign power next year," Rifkind said before departing on a three-day trip to Beijing. "It is no use me suggesting to you or to the people of Hong Kong that the United Kingdom can suddenly produce some formula which will deal with the determined Chinese desire to dismantle institutions."

"What we can do is ... make it unequivocally clear that we share the views of the Hong Kong people as to the damage that would be done," he said.

China has promised that Hong Kong will have a high degree of autonomy after 1997 and that its free-wheeling capitalist system will be left unchanged for at least 50 years. But over Hong Kong protests, it has vowed to disband the colony's legislature and other elected bodies.

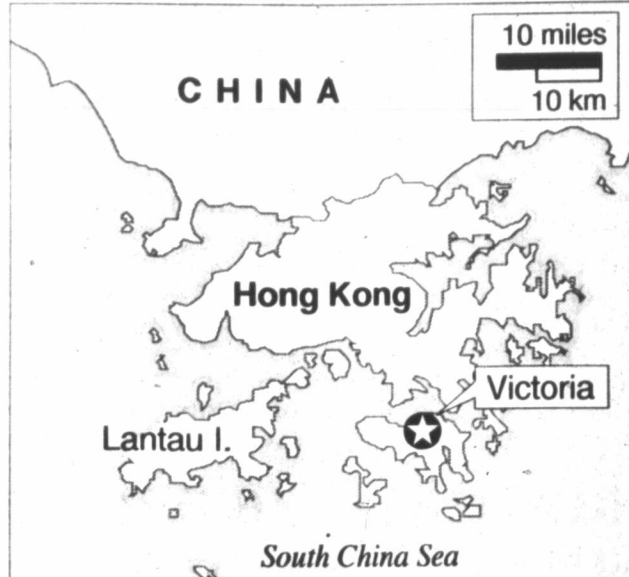
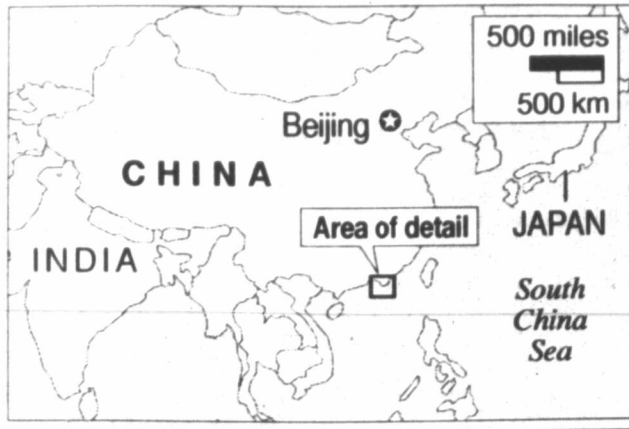
Rifkind said he believed the Chinese would heed Britain and Hong Kong's words and keep Hong Kong prosperous. But after meeting Tuesday in Beijing with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, all Rifkind could report was that "we continue to hope that the Chinese government will reconsider the matter."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian said Tuesday that China will not change its position on the Hong Kong legislature and blamed Britain for introducing democratic reforms in Hong Kong without Beijing's consent.

In Tuesday's meeting, Rifkind said he raised the issues of abuse in Chinese orphanages, the harsh sentence for dissident Wei Jingsheng and the need for dialogue with the Dalai Lama on Tibet.

He said he told Qian that the best way for China to dispute the allegations that its orphanages deliberately allow infants and children to die of starvation and neglect was "to allow complete transparency ... to show that there's nothing to hide."

A recent report by the New York-based Human



AP

Rights Watch-Asia documented the abuses in Chinese orphanages. A British television network also screened a documentary Tuesday on the same subject - a report that Chen, the Chinese spokesman called "a serious disruption to Sino-British relations."

China has denied all the allegations.

Rifkind said his meeting with Qian did have some concrete results - including an agreement to allow all permanent residents of Hong Kong to keep that status and a pledge that China would not block arrangements for a container port for Hong Kong.

Federal judge frees reporter on her own recognizance

HOUSTON (AP) - After losing an appeal at the highest state level, the *Houston Chronicle* has gone to a federal judge with its fight to protect a reporter's sources.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Tuesday upheld a contempt citation issued after newswoman Jennifer Lenhart refused to identify grand jurors who spoke with her about the grand jury's deliberations into a shooting that involved a police officer.

The court returned the case to the court of State District Judge Mike McSpadden, who issued the contempt order on Dec. 19. McSpadden scheduled a hearing on the case for today.

But attorneys for the newspaper immediately appealed to U.S. District Judge Lee Rosenthal, raising the same arguments they raised in state courts. Rosenthal ordered Ms. Lenhart free on her own recognizance until he can hold a hearing on the matter.

Travis Allen, 17, died July 15 after being shot twice in the back in the living room of a house. Police said Allen broke into the house and refused to come out as ordered. He was shot, Leal said, as he continued to struggle and appeared to be reaching into his pocket.

Ms. Lenhart wrote a story on Sept. 29 quoting two unnamed grand jurors who discussed deliberations and criticized the panel's failure on Sept. 26 to indict the officer.

American's training program reviewed

DALLAS (AP) - American Airlines' captains are receiving 20 percent fewer hours of training each year under a program that is now under federal scrutiny following a fatal crash in Colombia.

Fort Worth-based American Airlines, which for years has been seen as the leader in pilot training, made the changes to its program in late 1994.

Now, after four unrelated crashes by American and AMR's Eagle commuters, Federal Aviation Administration investigators are looking at American's training practices.

With the FAA's blessing, American started bringing captains to its Flight Academy once a year instead of twice, according to a company spokesman.

Before the changes, American Airlines' captains would get 10 hours of simulator training annually during two visits to the flight school in Fort Worth. Now, captains get eight hours of

simulator training per year during one visit to the school.

While the training time for captains has been pared, the airline has added simulator time for co-pilots.

Also, the airline has started combining simulator training for captains and first officers with an aim of teaching them to work together better. Previously, there had been some individual teaching.

Standards for the commuter line, American Eagle, have not been changed. The turbo-prop division of AMR Corp. has already had a review of its training procedures following an Oct. 31, 1994, crash that killed 68 near Roselawn, Ind., and an Eagle crash Dec. 13, 1994, at Raleigh-Durham, N.C., that killed 15.

American itself suggested pilot error may have been involved when Flight 965 from Miami crashed into a mountain on Dec. 20 near Cali,

Colombia, killing 160 people.

Mike Overly of the Aviation Safety Institute in Columbus, Ohio, and editor of the *Aviation Safety Monitor*, says that the Cali crash unlikely will be directly attributed to changes in training. But he pointed out that such changes can be a factor.

"Whenever recurrency training drops in anything, not just aviation, it becomes trouble. The frequency of training probably has a non-measurable effect, but an effect on proficiency in the cockpit," he said.

American already had been dealing with a separate investigation of an incident that occurred Nov. 12, when a company MD-80 sheared tops of trees before landing at the Hartford, Conn., airport. One person was injured during the evacuation. The National Transportation Safety Board said the airline went below minimum altitudes.

World briefs

Kidnappers of Europeans threaten to destroy dam

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) - A person claiming to represent the kidnappers of two European women threatened Tuesday to destroy a hydroelectric dam unless the government meets their demands.

The women were seized Jan. 1 from a hotel in San Carlos, near the Nicaraguan border, by a group that identified itself as the Viviana Gallardo Commando.

The kidnappers want more than \$1 million in ransom as well as freedom for attackers who took over the Costa Rican Supreme Court in 1993.

A person identifying himself as one of the kidnappers called Channel 7 TV in San Jose on Tuesday and made the threat against the Arenal dam.

The kidnapped woman are Regula Susana Siegfried, 50, a

Swiss national who lives in Costa Rica, and Nicola Fleutchaus, 24, a German tourist.

Costa Rican police and Nicaraguan soldiers have been combing the mountainous area where the kidnappings took place but have reported no sign of the kidnappers or the victims.

This was the third kidnapping in three weeks in Costa Rica. Two other women abducted in separate incidents were freed unharmed after their families paid ransom.

New Indian law bans abortions of female fetuses

NEW DELHI, India (AP) - India has banned abortions of healthy female fetuses, an attempt at eliminating the widespread practice of aborting female fetuses in this male-dominated culture.

The law took effect Jan. 1, but was announced only on Tuesday.

India's parliament passed the legislation, which bans abortions if tests such as amniocentesis or sonograms show the fetus is female, in August 1994, but it could not become law until all state legislatures gave their consent. That happened at the end of 1995, said N.N. Sharma, a spokesman for the Health and Family Welfare Ministry.

For first offenders, the law prescribes imprisonment of three years and a fine of \$300 - two months of an average middle-class salary. Subsequent offenses will draw up to five years in prison and a fine of \$1,500. Mothers, fathers and doctors all can be punished under the law.

There are no national statistics available on female infanticide or abortion of female fetuses, but the disproportionate number of males in India show it is a widespread practice.

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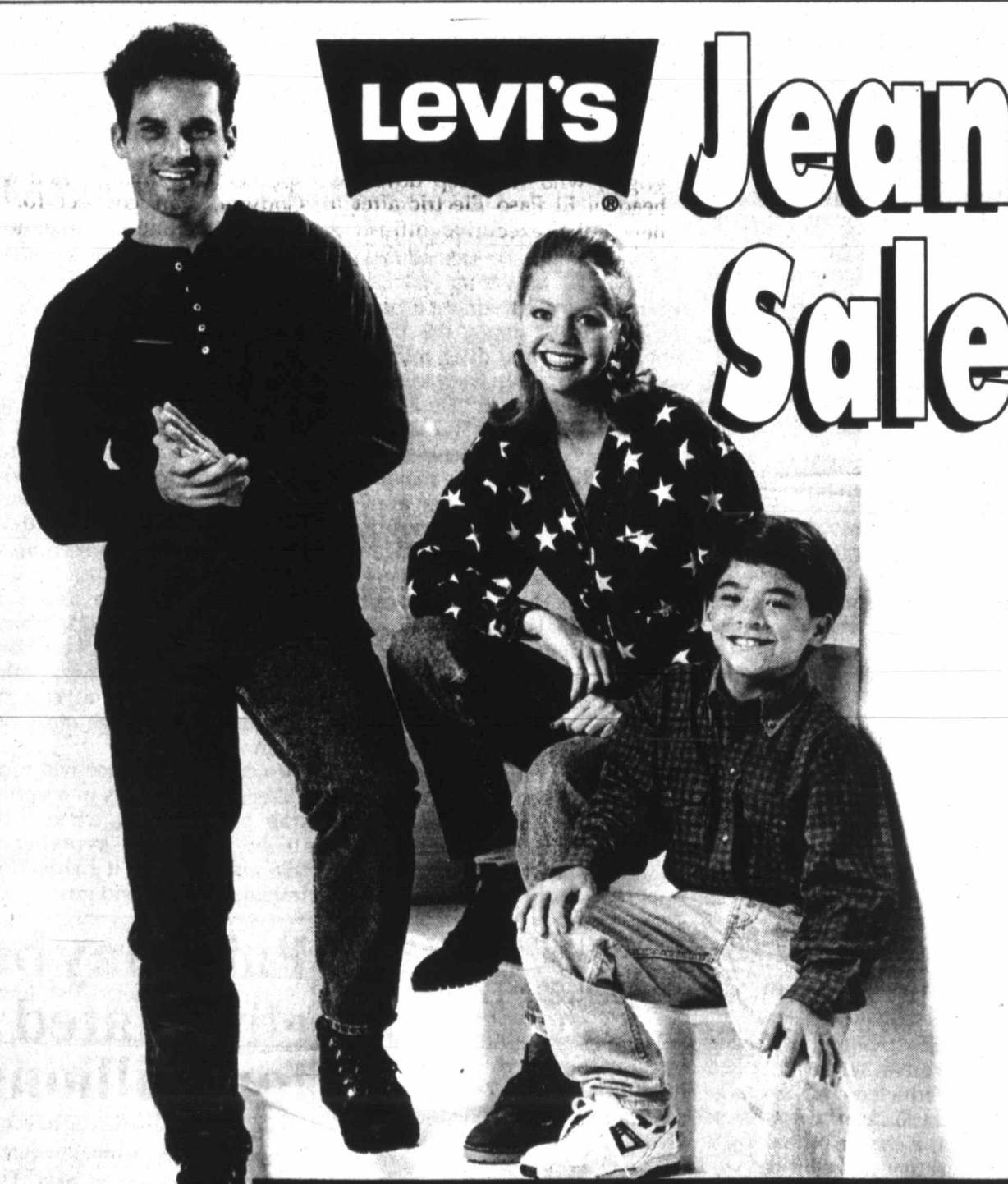
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Common Heritage Of Christians And Jews Is Cause For Kinship

DEAR ABBY: The Long Island woman who was devastated because her Jewish daughter indicated she may become Catholic should take comfort that Catholics are free to do whatever Jesus did. Jesus of Nazareth was a Jew who regularly went to synagogue and often led the services. He strictly observed the commandments and celebrated all the Jewish holidays. Any Catholic who goes to temple, joins the Hanukkah festivities, hosts or attends a Seder, etc.

In so doing, the Catholic is not "being Jewish." Catholics have not traditionally celebrated the Jewish holidays because for centuries Jews and Catholics saw one another as adversaries.

Today Jews and Catholics realize that they share the heritage of the Hebrew Scriptures and that they can best resist the rapid disappearance of all religion from public life by working in harmony. It is Catholic to celebrate the miracle of the temple lamp, and much more so to celebrate the time when Jews were saved by the body and blood of a lamb, a foreshadow of the Lamb whose body and blood redeemed us all.

When this woman's granddaughter asks her mother, "Why are we going to Grandma's for Passover if we're not Jewish?" the answer should be: "God calls us to honor our father and our mother; they celebrate Passover and we honor them by being with them on important occasions. Also, because we are cele-



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

This is my heritage as well.

I would love to celebrate the Jewish holidays because I believe they are important. We should remember that God spared the firstborn of Israel when the Angel of Death passed over the homes whose doors were marked with the blood of the lamb.

This young granddaughter will be blessed to have the opportunity to learn her full religious heritage. To a Christian, Jesus is the Christ who fulfills all Jewish prophecy.

Where does that leave the grandparents and uncles who are committed to Judaism? Honored and loved, and just as much a part of her life as the other side of the family.

ENCOURAGED AND DELIGHTED IN KENTUCKY

DEAR ABBY: One more for "Annoyed in Minnesota," who was offended by people who responded to questions by saying, "I don't care":

My mother tells the story about my grandfather who was driving his buggy down the road and came across a man who was walking.

Grandpa asked the fellow if he wanted a ride, and the fellow replied, "I don't care."

Grandpa said, "I don't care either. Giddyup!"

LYNN BARTEAU, ST. CHARLES, MO.

DEAR MARTY: Thank you for an excellent letter. I was touched by the number of readers who reached out to help "Devastated in Long Island" come to terms with her daughter's decision. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: This letter is in response to the Jewish mother who was devastated by the prospect of her daughter's conversion to Christianity, and therefore her granddaughter's religious upbringing. I'm a Christian and would love to be able to say I'm Jewish—but I can't.

Jewish history is Christian history. That's what the Old Testament is. I feel a kinship with Jews because we worship the same God and study the same people: David, Isaiah, Moses, Noah, Daniel, etc.

to an important matter today, it will be imperative to grasp the big picture. Pay attention to details, but do not exclude other information.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Money-making ideas used by a successful friend may not work as well for you today because you will lack his or her expertise. Do not gamble.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) The allegiance you expect from an associate might go to your opposition today. His or her positions will be more compatible with the competition.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Those who labor at your side will not cover for you today. Do not wander away from your work. You must remember your responsibilities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Someone you think is wild about you does like you, but not to that extent. It will be best not to boast that you have him or her wrapped around your little finger.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If you entertain at your place today, don't overindulge your guest with too much

food or booze. Remember that they still have to drive home safely.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You would be wise at this time to take your assignments as seriously as your boss does, or else he or she may question your value to the organization.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Do not treat your monthly budget as merely scribbling on a scrap of paper. You could regret your actions later if you have a financial shortfall.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Today try to avoid getting involved with a person who makes big promises, but seldom keeps them. This individual is still looking for gullible people.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You must guard against the tendency to underestimate your adversaries in commercial, social or political situations today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Do not hang your hopes for happiness on the acquisition of material goods. Life's true offerings are priceless intangibles like loving and being loved.

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For Better or For Worse



Arlo & Janis



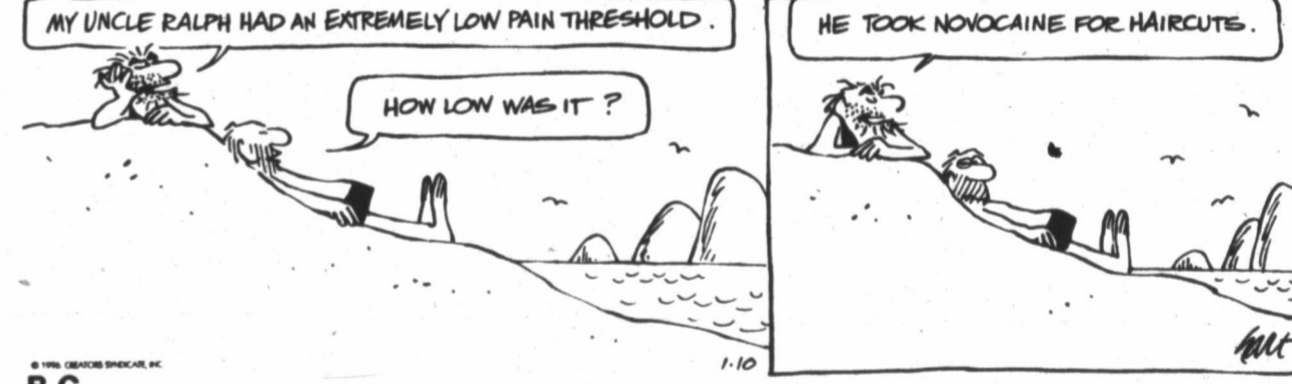
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Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore

Horoscope



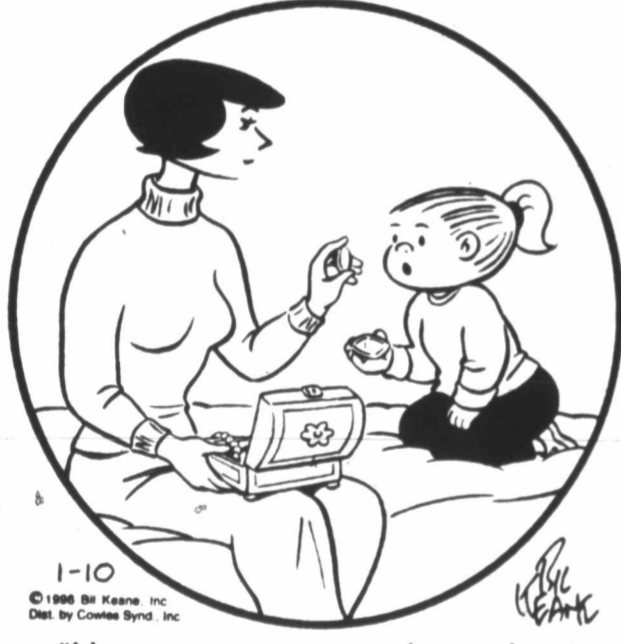
Your Birthday

Thursday, Jan. 11, 1996

Your chart indicates that in the year ahead you might start weeding out a few unproductive relationships. These will be replaced by new associations that offer greater possibilities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today, for the sake of your image, don't exaggerate your accomplishments even if the people around you are doing the same thing. 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) In regard



"How come we never hear about FATHER-of-pearl?"



"Cat food commercial."

The Family Circus



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



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Chechen rebels reportedly free Russian hostages, leave in buses for homeland

By SERGEI KARPUKHIN
Associated Press Writer

KIZLYAR, Russia (AP) — With local officials, 160 hostages and two dead comrades in tow, Chechen rebels headed home today after freeing up to 3,000 people they had held for a terrifying day in a southern Russian hospital.

The raid on the town of Kizlyar, in which at least 23 people were killed, seemed intended to bring home to the Russians that Chechen fighters are far from defeated and are capable of unleashing surprise terror attacks outside their war-ravaged republic.

Abdul Musayev, the spokesman for the Interior Ministry of Dagestan — the republic where Tuesday's raid took place — told The Associated Press that at least six Dagestani officials and 160 hostages departed with the rebels.

The column of 11 buses and two trucks stopped about 6 miles from the border with Chechnya, apparently because a bridge they needed to cross had been blown up. The rebels demanded the Russian Interior Ministry allow them to use another route and guarantee safe passage through Chechnya, news reports said.

Meanwhile, in Moscow, the Russian government today indicated it intended to take a tough line with the rebels.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said the rebels would be punished but that no action would be taken that would endanger the hostages' lives.

"We aren't going to start frontal attacks, or act according to an eye-for-an-eye principle, since we feel convinced that death only brings death. But the bandits and the terrorists will be punished," Chernomyrdin said.

Zairbek Magomedov, duty officer at the Dagestani Interior Ministry, said about 3,000 hostages were freed as a result of talks between Dagestani officials and the rebels. Some of the hostages were suffering from shock, he said.

About 250 rebels and the remaining hostages left Kizlyar at 7 a.m., Masayev said. Russian troops in light tanks were guarding the entrances to Kizlyar but there was no sign of a large military buildup.

The convoy was expected to head for the region of Gudermes, Chechnya's second-largest town where fierce fighting erupted last month, Masayev said.

The Chechens, who seized a hospital in Kizlyar on Tuesday, had demanded full Russian withdrawal from their republic in exchange for the hostages' freedom. It was not clear why they decided to drop the demand.

Tuesday's raid was almost a replay of a June attack in which Chechen rebels seized hundreds of



AP/Ross A. Toro

hostages in a hospital in the southern town of Budyonnovsk. More than 100 people died before negotiations won the hostages' release.

Russia sent tens of thousands of troops into Chechnya in December 1994 to reclaim the small southern republic from secessionist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. The war has killed up to 30,000 people, mainly civilians, and uprooted 600,000.

The overwhelming military might has given the Kremlin nominal control, but the Russians and their Chechen allies still face rebel attacks in and around the borders of Chechnya.

The rebels in Kizlyar were led by 28-year-old Salman Raduyev, Dudayev's son-in-law.

"We can turn this city to hell and ashes," Raduyev, who sported a green Islamic war band around his forehead, threatened in an interview broadcast Tuesday evening by Russian TV.

"Budyonnovsk and Kizlyar will be repeated again until Russia recognizes Dudayev and the Chechen republic."

Raduyev said he and his fighters encountered no interference as their bus and five trucks traveled to Kizlyar, a town of 44,000 people about 60 miles northeast of the Chechen capital Grozny.

The 23 people reported killed in fighting Tuesday included 13 rebels, five police officers and five civilians. Dozens were reportedly wounded.

The fighting appeared to be diversionary, allowing the rebels to seize hundreds of hostages and push them into the four-story hospital building.

Student shares his travels via computer

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Visor, head-mounted cameras, beanie-mounted antenna and wraparound computer on his waist. Steve Mann looks like he just stepped out of a low-budget science fiction flick.

But Mann is for real, and so is the gear that allows the doctoral student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to transmit what he experiences. His travels are fed instantaneously to the Internet's World Wide Web, where anyone can dial in and look at the world through Mann's eyes.

Someday, the idea may help people with vision problems see the world through their own eyes.

Mann's system was one of the early sites on the Web. Since then, thousands of people have checked it out.

"We imagine a world with doors unlocked and pictures on the wall where strangers will come in and look at them," says Mann, sitting in MIT's Media Lab, where some of the cutting-

edge theories on computers have been developed. "Sometimes I might leave my door unlocked and allow people to come into my brain."

The computer Mann wears around his waist does much more than transmit pictures from his cameras onto the Web. He also gets to view the pictures simultaneously through tiny computer screens on his visor — making him part man and part machine.

Because he is seeing exactly what his camera sees, he need never look beyond the screens. For example, he can walk down a hallway looking only at the tiny computer monitor on his visor.

He also can read his e-mail, surf the Web and do his computer work as he waits in line at the bank.

"I don't always have it on, but I've always got it with me," he says.

Mann, 32, started the project when he was a high school student in Toronto, using scavenged

computer parts and toy walkie-talkies to build a prototype.

The effect of talking to Mann is disconcerting. His eyes often shift between the person he is talking with and his computer screen, depending on which is more interesting.

"There are times when you want to be isolated. You still want to be aware of your surroundings but scale them out. I often turn the outside world gray while I do my work. All those things can be better done with a curtain between me and the outside world," he says, his eyes bathed in the cold white light of the tiny monitors in his visor.

Mann says his machine does have practical uses. He can send pictures while shopping, allowing his wife to choose which grapefruit looks better from the comfort of her armchair.

He hopes that someday, the visor will help people with retinal damage by having an image projected onto the good part of the eye, allowing them to see.

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Mexican feeder cattle imports down at start of year

SANTA TERESA, N.M. — The number of Mexican feeder cattle coming into the United States has dropped drastically from this time last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The USDA Market News Service reported Tuesday that 4,960 head of feeder cattle, cattle going into feedlots for finishing,

have been imported into the U.S. from Mexico so far this year. The number compares to 20,258 head imported the first week a year ago.

Cattle industry officials said last year's number reflected an extended drought in Mexico and the devaluation of the peso. The lower number this year, most

likely, officials said, indicate many of the cattle herds south of the border have been liquidated.

The numbers include only cattle shipped into the U.S. at border crossings in Texas and New Mexico. It does not include cattle crossing the border in Arizona. There are no active ports of entry for cattle in California.

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