

STATE:
Infamous Stonegate Mansion
reopening as restaurant, Page 3

GOOD EVENING
Monday, April 15, 1996

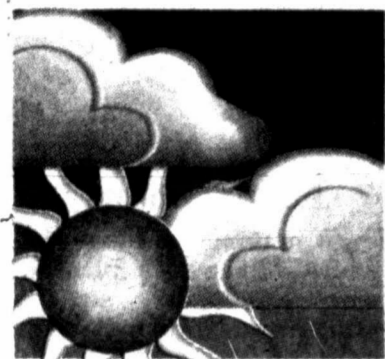
SPORTS:
Faldo overtakes Norman to
win Masters, Page 7

THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 8

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



Low tonight in mid 50s,
high tomorrow in upper
70s. See Page 2 for
weather details.

PAMPA - The next Citizens
on Patrol training class will be
held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday,
April 27 in the city commis-
sion chambers, 200 W. Foster.

The COPs program is
opened to graduates or
enrollees of the Pampa
Citizens Police Academy
training course. Reservations
are needed.

COPs act as the eyes and
ears of the community as they
patrol the city reporting sus-
picious activity.

For more information con-
tact the crime prevention unit
of the Pampa Police
Department from 8 a.m. to 5
p.m. Monday through Friday.

PAMPA - The Parks and
Recreation Advisory Board
will meet in regular session
Thursday at 6 p.m.

Items on the agenda include
Lions Club Park request,
Alameda Park playground
equipment request, survey
and playground equipment
recommendation.

Meetings are open to the
public.

FORT BLISS (AP) - Two
Army helicopters crashed on a
remote desert training area at
Fort Bliss, killing three crew-
men, authorities said today.

Sgt. Jeffrey Helm said two
helicopters from the 82nd
Airborne Division, based at
Fort Bragg, N.C., crashed
Sunday night but would give
no details. The helicopters
have two-member crews.

The helicopters, both OH-58
Kiowas, went down in clear
weather around 10 p.m., said
Fort Bliss spokesman Tony
Cucienello. He wouldn't
speculate on whether they col-
lided.

They were the only aircraft
on training missions in the
area at the time and no troops
were present on the ground,
post spokesman Capt. Thomas
Collins said today.

The crash site is in the
McGregor Range, a section of
the sprawling base that extends
into southern New Mexico.
The firing range, which covers
950 square miles of desert
around the White Sands-
Orogrande, N.M., area, fre-
quently is used by soldiers
from bases throughout the
United States.

Identities of the three vic-
tims were not released.

NASHVILLE (AP) - A
medium-security \$22 million
prison designed to house
inmates from Oregon will be
built in Taylor, Texas under
contract by Corrections
Corporation of America, CCA
announced today.

The 512-bed prison is being
financed by tax-exempt bonds
issued by Taylor Detention
Center Corporation, which
has brought CCA aboard to
design, build and run the
facility to be built at Taylor in
Central Texas.

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Last-minute tax filers don't lack company

By DAVE SKIDMORE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -
Taxpayers scrambling to meet
today's midnight deadline for
filing federal returns have plenty
of company.

The Internal Revenue esti-
mates that 36 million to 37 mil-
lion returns are filed in the two
weeks before the deadline -
about 30 percent of the annual
total. It anticipates that an addi-
tional 6.1 million taxpayers will
ask for automatic extensions giv-
ing them four months, until Aug.
15, to file.

Post offices in every major city
are extending hours or offering
late mail pickups. Many will be
open until midnight.

Whether procrastinators file
their taxes at midnight or ask for
an extension, the key is to take
some action, IRS Commissioner
Margaret Milner Richardson
stressed today.

"You really must file some-
thing or else you will incur a
penalty," she said on NBC's
"Today" show. And, she
warned, "if you file an extension
you still have to pay" if you owe,
she said.

With Americans' attention
focused on taxation, at least for a
day, politicians and others are
pushing their tax-related causes.

• The House planned to vote
today on a constitutional amend-
ment requiring a two-thirds
majority of the House and
Senate to approve tax increases.

The proposal was deleted last
year from a balanced-budget
constitutional amendment,
which fell one vote short of
clearing the Senate.

House Speaker Newt
Gingrich, R-Ga., promised GOP
freshmen and other conserva-
tives a chance to spotlight the
issue today but doubted the pro-
posal would gain the two-thirds
vote needed to amend the
Constitution.

• The Republican National
Committee is airing television
advertisements raking President
Clinton for his veto of the
Republican balanced budget
plan in January. Among its pro-
visions was a \$500-per-child tax
credit. Clinton favors a more
limited and less expensive cred-
it.

• An annual study by the Tax
Foundation, a research organiza-
tion financed by corporations,
shows this year's Tax Freedom
Day will be the latest ever. The
typical American must work
until May 7 to earn enough to
pay federal, state and local taxes,
it said. That's the same date as
last year but represents an extra
day of work because 1996 is a
leap year. The tax bite in an
eight-hour day is two hours and
47 minutes, the group said.

• The Competitiveness Policy
Council, a bipartisan advisory
panel established by Congress, is
conducting a "Save Your Tax
Refund" campaign. It commis-
sioned a survey that indicated
more than 70 million Americans

expect refunds totaling \$92 bil-
lion. Only one-third plan to save
the refund.

Taxpayers sweating out the
final hours before the filing
deadline are finding more high-
tech assistance from the IRS.
Forms can be downloaded from
the IRS home page on the com-
puter Internet or obtained by fax
machine.

The IRS home page also has
tax information on a wide range
of topics. Or taxpayers can listen
to tapes on about 150 subjects by
calling 1-800-829-4477. That's
also the number to check on the
status of refunds.

Taxpayers who can't get the
information or forms they need
can receive a four-month filing
extension with Form 4688.
However, it is not an extension
of time to pay any taxes owed.
Extension filers should estimate
how much they owe and include
a check.

Taxpayers can request an
installment payment plan with
Form 9465. The IRS will reply
within 30 days. A \$43 fee will be
added to the first payment.

Filing late, as opposed to just
paying late, is extremely expen-
sive. The penalty is 5 percent a
month, an annual rate of about
60 percent.

The Postal Service said taxpay-
ers should use correct postage,
since the IRS will not accept tax
returns with postage due. It also
does not accept postmarks from
private postal meters as proof of
timely filing.



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)
**Postal worker Robert Schwab takes a tax form
from Jan Edmondson this morning, the deadline
day for IRS payment. Edmondson said this is her
first time to have to pay any taxes.**

Area post offices, CPA firms ready for tax crunch

By CHERYL BERZANSKIS
News Editor

will be in the lobby to dispense
stamps after the windows close.

April 15 inevitably arrives
each year and with it, a mad
rush to file one's income tax or at
least an extension to let Uncle Sam
know you are thinking of him.

Pampans who need to mail their
income tax returns today may
drop them off in the Pampa Post
Office, 120 E. Foster, where clerks
will be waiting to stamp the timely
postmark.

"Anything mailed before mid-
night will receive the April 15
postmark," said Postmaster
Richard Wilson.

"We're gonna keep the win-
dows open as long as we have cus-
tomers," he said.

Wilson wants taxpayers to affix
the correct postage to the envel-
ope because the Internal
Revenue Service will not pay
postage and will return the envel-
ope the sender.

"As a good rule of thumb, you
can say two pages equals one
ounce," Wilson explained.

The lobby will be open round
the clock, and a specially marked
mail box will be inside for internal
revenue forms, he said.

Working vending machines

The Lefors Post Office will fol-
low regular hours today - 8:30
a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4:30
p.m., said Postmaster Christine
Hinds.

"If it's put in the drop box by
midnight, it will carry the 15th
postmark," Hinds said.

In McLean, postal clerk Diane
Allen plans to file her own return
today.

"I don't think it will be all that
busy, except for everybody who
works here," she said.

The Post Office will be open
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with its
lobby open 24 hours.

Certified Public Accountant
David Cory is looking forward
to taking tomorrow off after
spending today filing extensions.

"We're doing okay," he said.
"We're finishing last minute
extensions and answering ques-
tions. ... We usually have
everything in the mail by 5 p.m.
and everybody goes home," he
said.

Billy Smith, CPA, said,
"Basically, I'm mostly extending."

He expects a few calls from
late-minute filers, but tomorrow
will be just another work day.

Highway 60 wreck



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)
**One man was taken by Medivac helicopter to an Amarillo hospital following a
one-car wreck on Highway 60 north of Panhandle Sunday. A pickup struck a
highline pole, demolishing it but causing no apparant serious damage to
either passenger, accoring to Department of Public Safety Cpl. Roland McGill.**

Court to review state power over wages

By RICHARD CARELLI
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The
Supreme Court today agreed to
decide whether states may
enforce their own prevailing
wage laws, which set trade-by-
trade minimum compensation
for workers on state construction
projects.

The justices voted to review a
ruling that said such a California
law is pre-empted by a federal
benefit-protection law.

In other cases, the court:
• Agreed to use a New Jersey
case to decide how difficult it
should be for federal regulators
to win lawsuits against officers of
failed federally chartered banks.
• Let stand a \$6 million judg-
ment against the late reggae star

Bob Marley's lawyer and
accountant, found by a jury to
have fraudulently plundered his
estate.

• Refused to free the owner of
Price Club stores from a share-
holders' lawsuit that says the
company hid financial bad news
before a 1992 drop in the stock's
price.

California's prevailing wage
law is modeled after the federal
Davis-Bacon Act, which sets
minimum wages that must be
paid on federal public works
projects.

The state law allows contrac-
tors to pay wages lower than the
"journeyman" level to some
workers on public projects as
long as they can be classified as
"apprentices" under a state-
approved program.

The dispute acted on today
dates back to 1987, when
Sonoma County awarded a con-
tract for construction of a new
jail to Dillingham Construction.
The project required state, but
not federal, prevailing wages.

As the project's general con-
tractor, Dillingham subcontracted
the audio security work to
Sound Systems Media.

Sound Systems paid appren-
tice wages to some employees
who were not registered in state-
approved programs, and the
California Department of
Industrial Relations withheld
money from Dillingham based
on Sound Systems' failure to pay
the prevailing journeyman's
wage to those workers.

Dillingham sued in 1990 over
the withheld money.

Archaeologist finds major link in Coronado's Texas trail

By CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - A
Kansas archaeologist today
announced the discovery in
Texas of a campsite used by
Spanish explorer Francisco
Coronado, a major link in the
lost trail of the 16th-century
expedition.

"The Texas portion has been
one of the critical problems,"
said Donald Blakeslee, associate
professor of anthropology at
Wichita State University. "There
has been a steady stream of spec-
ulation about the route."

The site, in Blanco Canyon east
of Lubbock, was found after a local
resident read about the search for
Coronado's trail in a newspaper
and remembered someone who
had discovered an old chain mail
glove there in the 1950s.

That discovery led Blakeslee in
1994 to the canyon, where a local
man named Jimmy Owens used
a metal detector to turn up more
than a dozen metal crossbow
bolt tips. No other Europeans
armed with crossbows ever
explored what is now the south-
western United States, he said.

"That was just overwhelming,"
he said. "This is the clincher."

Only a dozen similar bolt tips
have been found in the region, all
related to Coronado's travels.
More than 30 have been found in
Blanco Canyon, where an expedi-
tion of some 1,500 people and
5,000 head of livestock is believed
to have camped for the winter.

"If Blakeslee is able to show
even with a shadow of a doubt

that this was a campsite, it is a sig-
nificant find," said Joseph Sanchez,
director of the Spanish Colonial
Records Office of the National
Park Service in Albuquerque, N.M.
"We need to be able to say,
'Coronado slept here.'"

Pieces of Pueblo Indian pots,
horseshoes, a sword scabbard tip,
buckles and nails have also been
recovered. But Sanchez agreed
with Blakeslee that the crossbow
bolt tips are crucial.

Finding the campsite brings
scientists a step closer to deter-
mining exactly where Coronado
went from 1540-42 in the first
major Spanish exploration of
what is now northern Mexico,
Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and
Oklahoma and Kansas.

Records of the 4,000-mile trip,
which was begun in a futile
search for gold or a wealthy
nation to conquer, are fragmen-
tary and were not meant to pro-
vide later generations with a
map of the route.

"They didn't know where they
were when they got there. They
didn't know where they'd been,"
Blakeslee said.

Because of the vague route, the
National Park Service in 1991
said there was no way to map
out a recognized historic trail of
the expedition. Blakeslee said he
hopes to change that through
further research, including the
hoped-for discovery of a second
Texas campsite.

"We're pretty confident our
excavations will tell us which
one we have," he said. "That will
enable us to predict the site of
the other camp."

Infamous Stonegate Mansion reopening as upper class restaurant

By MIKE COCHRAN
Associated Press Writer

FORT WORTH (AP) — Walter Kaufmann admits he's lucky to be alive. In August 1976, the popular restaurant owner reluctantly turned down a late-night invitation to visit the opulent mansion of multimillionaire Cullen Davis. That's how he escaped a bloody midnight shooting rampage that left two dead and two wounded and Davis entangled in a murder case terrifyingly similar to the O.J. Simpson affair. "God was on my side," Kaufmann said. Now, 20 years later, with Davis legally exonerated but bankrupt, Kaufmann is a principal in a new restaurant housed in the once remote showplace on the city's fashionable west side. The Stonegate Mansion opens this week amid curiosity and controversy. "I think it's sick," says Davis' ex-wife

Priscilla, who was critically wounded in the shootings. "What else would I think?" Says local sage Butch Weatherby: "I think it would be a great place to have one of those mystery theaters." And insurance executive Dan Bowden: "Its time has come. It was such a fascinating place to begin with. ... It's good that somebody took it over and brought it back to life." And so it goes in the long-running saga of Fort Worth's most notorious son, Thomas Cullen Davis, 64, whose murder and murder-for-hire cases spawned four books and a television miniseries. And, finally, a restaurant, featuring Texas wine and premium Angus beef. "Folks may be excited that beloved chef Walter Kaufmann is back in business, but they're even more intrigued that his return occurs at a crime scene that launched Texas' most infamous murder trial," the Fort Worth Star-Telegram observed.

"Interesting. Risky. Tasteless. These are the words on Fort Worthians' lips..." At 67, Walter Kaufmann, a native of Switzerland, looks back on the events of August 2, 1976, with a unique perspective. "I could be in heaven," he told a reporter recently, "and look down on you and whisper in your ear: 'I know something you don't know.'" That long ago Monday night, Priscilla Davis, Cullen's estranged wife, and her live-in boyfriend, Stan Farr, chatted with Kaufmann after dinner at his pricey Old Swiss House restaurant. She and Stan invited him to a nearby night spot for drinks and then to a tour of the \$6 million, 19,000-square foot hilltop mansion. With the divorce pending, Cullen was barred from the home by court order. Although seriously tempted, Kaufmann declined. "If they had gone straight there, I would have gone with them," he

says. But it was already 11 p.m. When Stan and Priscilla arrived at the mansion after midnight, they encountered a man dressed in black and wearing a woman's black wig. He told Priscilla, "Hi," and shot her in the chest. He wrestled with Farr, a huge ex-TCU basketball player, before pumping four shots into his body. Priscilla watched Stan die, then saw the gunman drag his body through the kitchen toward a door leading to the basement. Downstairs, her 12-year-old daughter, Andrea, lay dead, a single bullet wound in her chest. As Priscilla staggered into a courtyard, the man in black intercepted a teenager returning his date to the mansion, where she planned to spend the night with Priscilla's elder daughter. The man fired a bullet into Bubba Gavrel's spine, crippling him. His date, Beverly Bass, fled, evading the gunman in the darkness. The three survivors later identified the

gunman as Cullen Davis, who, with his two brothers, ruled an international oil-based empire worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Represented by a defense "Dream Team" headed by Houston attorney Richard "Racehorse" Haynes, Davis was acquitted by an Amarillo jury in what then was the longest, costliest murder trial in American history. Not unlike O.J. Simpson years later, Cullen vowed to find the "real killer." Prosecutors scoffed, and indeed it was a hollow promise. Davis later was accused of soliciting a hit man to kill the three eyewitnesses, his divorce judge and others. But a Fort Worth jury acquitted him of those charges. After divorcing Priscilla, he married his mistress, Karen Master, and the couple actually lived at the mansion until the economic bust took both Cullen and his company into bankruptcy.

Arlington teens suffer from potent party drug

ARLINGTON (AP) — Andy DuBois figured the tasteless, clear liquid in the shot glass he was handed at a party was merely vodka. "The next thing I knew, I woke up in a hospital with tubes coming from everywhere, and I couldn't talk," the 17-year-old said. Andy and three other youths were admitted to area hospitals last Friday after ingesting GHB, also known as "liquid ecstasy" and "soap." It produces a high for just \$10 a vial, but it's also potentially deadly when mixed with alcohol. "I don't think this should be a secret," said Andy's mother, Marcia DuBois. "I think the public needs to know this drug is out there, and maybe, we can save somebody's life." The drug is no secret to police, doctors and club regulars. Dozens of people have ended up in Dallas-Fort Worth area hospitals in recent months because of complications from GHB and other "party drugs," doctors say. "I would tell anyone to stay away from this stuff, not to try it even in small doses," Andy said. Andy thought he was merely mixing vodka and Coca-Cola, he said, but realized after waking up at Arlington Memorial Hospital that it must have been GHB. During an interview with the Arlington Morning News shortly after his release Saturday, his father, Paul, interrupted to ask why teens were drinking at the party. Andy, still weak

from the ordeal, ignored him. "This drug really scrambles your brains," Andy said. "I gotta talk while I can remember what I want to say." GHB is part of a genre of "party drugs" popular at nightclubs and used by teens from middle- and upper-class neighborhoods, a Dallas hospital official said. "This is not used by down-and-outers or heroin addicts," said Dr. Christopher Keyes, medical director of the North Texas Poison Center at Presbyterian Hospital. "This is for the party goers and club hoppers." GHB, short for gamma-hydroxybutyrate, is an odorless liquid that inhibits the respiratory system, according to medical experts. Other drugs in use by some club goers include Ritalin, which is often prescribed for children diagnosed with attention deficit disorder. Some youngsters reportedly crush the pills into a powder, which they snort. "The kids tell me that it speeds them up and makes them feel like they can drink more," said Steve Spring, a drug counselor in Grand Haven, Mich. "Their hearts beat faster, they're up and hyper and they like that." Sleep-aid Rohypnol has been dubbed the "rape pill" because it has been used as a powerful micky by men looking to rob unsuspecting women of their inhibitions and lure them into sex. The depressant is also known as the "forget pill."

'Spider' gets freeze-framed



Cliff Elliott of Amarillo brands "Spider" with the Rocking Rolling R brand Saturday morning at Clyde Carruth Pavilion. Gray County horse project sponsored a day-long freeze branding event to help prevent horse theft. "Spider" is owned by Ray Shults. Branding was done with irons dipped in liquid nitrogen cooled to minus 350 degrees.

Environmentalists take aim at Army Corps water projects, cite as costly, unnecessary

WASHINGTON (AP) — Taxpayers are being forced to foot the bill for costly, unnecessary and environmentally destructive inland navigation projects, particularly in Gulf states, environmentalists charge in a new study. In a report released today, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund and the Gulf Restoration Network heap criticism upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, contending that the agency is driven more by economic interests than water resource concerns. Corps officials declined specific comment pending review of the study, but noted that the analysis doesn't consider the economic benefits derived from waterway transportation. "Any report should not overlook the fact that the commerce which moves on our waterways is vital to the health of our nation's economy," said Corps spokesman David Hewitt. Congress approves roughly a half billion dollars each year for inland waterways, some \$230

million of which is earmarked for operation and maintenance. Taxpayers also get hit with the hidden costs resulting from some Corps projects' destruction of natural resources such as wetlands, river habitats and water quality, the analysis says. For example, the groups say, dredging, channeling and wetland losses in the Gulf region threaten marine life and the commercial fishing industry in the Gulf of Mexico, which accounts for nearly 40 percent of the domestic fishing yield. Hewitt said that much of the dredged material is "put to beneficial uses such as preserving wetlands, protecting shorelines, reducing flood damages, and providing nesting habitat for migratory birds." The environmentalists singled out 10 waterway projects, including three in Texas, for particular criticism. "The costs of these projects fall on all of us: they waste tax dollars, destroy the environment and

hurt the economy," the study concludes. "Federal and local taxpayers dole out millions of dollars to construct bad projects, and then must pay millions more each year to operate and maintain them." Two of the three Texas cases blasted in the report are proposed expansions still on the drawing board because the Corps has determined they aren't economically feasible. But in the case of a little-used channel from Lavaca Bay to Jackson County, the environmentalists say that a \$2.2 million dredging in 1993 was unnecessary. Dredging's economic and environmental costs are a big focus of the study. Dredging in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway threatens the delicate Laguna Madre ecosystem, the groups say. They argue that there is no need to dredge along the 120-mile Laguna Madre stretch of the 1,100-mile intracoastal waterway running from Brownsville to Florida.

World briefs

Australia bans land mines, supports global ban
CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia ordered its defense force today not to use land mines and said it will support a campaign for a global ban. Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and Defense Minister Ian McLachlan said the decision will be an example to countries that continue to lay mines in war zones where thousands of civilians are killed or maimed every year. Downer said the army's current supply of land mines will be used for training and research only. The ministers said Australia will continue to support mine clearance in countries such as Cambodia. It has budgeted more than \$3.2 million this year to its international mine clearing program.

Youths to march in remembrance of Holocaust
WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Retracing the last steps of many Holocaust victims, young Jews from around the world will march Tuesday from the Auschwitz death camp barracks to the gas chambers where the Nazis murdered 1.5 million people. The purpose of the "March of the Living" is to preserve the memory of 6 million Jews who died in Hitler's death camps. But some Poles say the march, which has taken place every two years since 1988, places too little emphasis on renewed Jewish life in Poland and on reconciliation between Jews and Poles. Jewish groups say Jewish life is re-establishing itself in Poland. Many Polish young people with Jewish roots are returning to the faith of their forebears. But misunderstandings persist, and the Jewish students will confront one example during their Auschwitz visit.

Pope urges Muslim-Christian entente
CARTHAGE, Tunisia (AP) — Inspired by the ruins of this ancient Christian city, Pope John Paul II urged Roman Catholic minorities to be "messengers of peace" in North Africa, a region shaken by civil war and Islamic radicalism. On a day-long visit Sunday to Tunisia, the pope alluded to the war waged next door in Algeria by fundamentalist rebels who have slain scores of intellectuals, journalists, Catholic clergy and foreigners. "No one can kill in the name of God," he told bishops who represent the tiny Catholic communities in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Libya. "In your work, relations with believers in Islam have a special place," the pope said in comments that touched on the thrust of his visit — strengthening ties between Catholics and Muslims. "Despite difficulties and misunderstandings, join with your brothers and sisters, without distinction of origin or religion. "Wherever there is violence ... be the messengers of peace."

Fires blaze across historic ranch

DICKENS (AP) — A brush fire roared across a vast area of pastures on two ranches east of Lubbock in Dickens and King counties. Firefighters expected to return today to battle the brush fire burning out of control. The blaze, ignited by a lightning bolt Friday, continued its path of destruction late Sunday, burning trees, cactuses and fences through nearly 30,000 acres of pasture on two ranches. As of Sunday night, no one had been injured in the blaze, and no structures or livestock had been destroyed, said Ron Davis, chief enforcement officer of the U.S. Forest Service. The U.S. Forest Service was heading up the joint firefighting

effort, which involved about 100 emergency workers from local, state and national agencies. Blackhawk helicopters loaded with water tanks struggled Sunday to put out the fire. "It's what they call 'holding'; it's not under control yet," Arlene Wallace, a dispatcher for the Dickens County Sheriff's Department said late Sunday. "It's burning some of the largest ranches in Texas." Weather and the rough terrain made it hard to control the fire, Davis said. Winds were reported gusting to 49 mph Sunday. "It's really tough to hold it off with this kind of wind," Davis said. "And there's a lot of inaccessible areas like canyons and gullies making it hard to keep down."

Experts debate castration as tool to stop molesters

HOUSTON (AP) — A confessed child molester says he believes castration will take away the sexual desire he feels for children, but experts differ on how effective that really would be. Larry Don McQuay said he can't control the urges he has for children and that castration is the only way to make sure he won't strike again if he gains his freedom in two years, as scheduled. Removing the testicles of a pedophile doesn't change the object of his sexual desire, said one doctor, but it does greatly diminish the intensity of his sex drive. "One man described it as a

"vacation from sexual desire," said Dr. Walter Meyer III, a professor of psychiatry and endocrinology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Dr. Michael Warren of UTMB's division of urology and division director for health services with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice said castration is the wrong approach. "I don't separate (pedophiles and rapists)," he said. "I'm afraid (castration) will produce a false sense of security in everyone." The surgery cripples a man's production of testosterone, which

controls libido. But injections of the hormone are available and can nullify the effects of a castration. Meyer cited a handful of European studies that included a total of 3,500 men who had undergone the operation. He said 2.2 percent committed repeat sexual crimes, compared to a recidivism rate of more than 70 percent without the surgery. Dr. Michael Cox, a psychologist at Baylor College of Medicine who treats sex offenders, said the studies are skewed because all the criminals involved in the European studies wanted to stop abusing children.

Southwest Airlines prouder number one for quality in the skies

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Southwest Airlines reclaimed the top spot for overall quality in the skies, with a higher percentage of on-time flights than eight other major U.S. carriers, according to a study released today. Southwest and American Airlines have traded the top spots the past three years in the Airline Quality Survey, conducted by aviation and marketing researchers from the University of Nebraska and Wichita State University. The Dallas-based airline, which had an average on-time percentage of more than 80 percent for 1995 and traditionally has the fewest lost bags, beat out, in order: American, United, Delta, America West, Northwest, USAir, TWA and Continental.

The researchers used a variety of government data, including on-time performance, accidents, customer service, the age of each airline's fleet, lost baggage, overbookings and financial stability. In general, they found the quality of service improved for the industry in 1995, but it was still at a "less consumer-friendly level than five years ago," said Dean Headley, a Wichita State associate marketing professor. "It is encouraging that the overall difference between the highest-rated carrier and the lowest-rated carrier narrowed dramatically," Headley said. "That means the performance quality for the airlines is becoming more similar."

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Bishop, foreigners flee, leaving Liberians in 'bloody nightmare'

By TINA SUSMAN
Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — As hot-wired, graffiti-laced stolen aid vehicles raced around the city, youths armed with AK-47 rifles, grenades and machetes looted whatever still remained to be taken in Monrovia. The pickings were slim. All the shops and office buildings in the lawless Liberian capital have been looted and most destroyed since government troops and rebels started fighting ten days ago. Amid the anarchy, thousands of hungry, homeless people wandered the streets Sunday, searching for food and shelter while shelling and small-arms fire threatened a flimsy two-day-old truce. U.S. officials, meanwhile, tried to locate about 50 Americans hiding to escape the slaughter in this embattled seaside capital.

"It doesn't appear that American citizens are being targeted by the rebels," said Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Roger Kaplan. "But I wouldn't want to be a Liberian right now." A U.S. military evacuation, begun on the fourth day of the violence, had rescued about 1,800 foreigners, including 500 Americans, U.S. Embassy officials said Sunday. Five U.S. Navy ships are also on their way to West Africa. Even Roman Catholic Archbishop Michael Francis abandoned the city, after he was robbed and his church looted. "In the next two weeks, there could be a mass starvation," he predicted Sunday as he boarded a U.S. helicopter with his mother. U.S. Ambassador William Milan said the rescue operation would continue, even after all the Americans who wanted to leave were flown out. "Of the Americans, we believe there may be about 50 left that we can't find."

John Frese, a U.S. security officer from Kenosha, Wis., has become a local hero, rescuing nearly 200 civilians trapped around Monrovia. He planned more rescue missions. On Saturday, he led an armed U.N. convoy that brought 20 tons of food to 20,000 Liberians holed up at the U.S. residential compound. The dump trucks of bulgur wheat, vegetable oil and soybean mix were the first supplies to reach the refugees since the fighting started. But for the most part, terrified Liberians have been left to fend for themselves, as foreigners and even the world's emergency aid groups have abandoned the West African country. Warring factions negotiated a cease-fire late Friday with help from visiting West African politicians. But 13 peace accords have been broken since the war began in 1989, and a truce earlier in the week collapsed within hours.

Nearly half of Liberia's 2.6 million people had sought refuge in Monrovia from seven years of civil war among government soldiers and rival rebel factions. The war has claimed more than 150,000 lives. An arrest warrant on murder charges against rebel leader Roosevelt Johnson last week prompted the new round of warfare. Liberian militia leader Charles Taylor said Sunday he would not negotiate with Johnson over the release of hundreds of hostages. He said West African peacekeeping troops were deploying around the barracks in Monrovia where fighters loyal to Johnson were holding hundreds of people, including 22 peacekeepers and some 50 Lebanese citizens. Taylor called on Johnson to surrender, saying he could turn himself in to the U.S. Embassy or the United Nations.

Taylor, who sparked the war in December 1989 and is now a member of Liberia's ruling State Council, has agreed to maintain the latest cease-fire only if Johnson surrenders. The recent fighting has left 60,000 Monrovians homeless. No one knows how many people have been killed, although dozens of decaying bodies have been seen on the streets. The United Nations and the Red Cross were forced to withdraw when looters overran their offices. On Sunday, young thieves left a U.N. office carrying two mattresses and computers on their heads; they loaded so much loot into a car that its belly scraped the ground. "I pity the condition of you Liberian civilians," Nigerian peacekeeper Ola Schinde told a woman he protected as she looked for powdered milk for her baby. "The warlords will never give you a chance to live a normal life."

Customer Service Excellence award



(Special photo)

James Davis, standing at far right-front row, store manager of Bealls Store in Pampa, recently received a first place award for Customer Service Excellence in his district. The award was presented at the Spring Regional Store Manager meeting at DeSoto, Texas. Bealls stores are owned by Speciality Retailers, Inc. which operates 268 stores in twelve states under the names of Bealls, Palais Royal and Stage.

In this new electronic world, current technology could turn broadcast stations into cyberstations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Car or home receivers will let radio listeners get e-mail, stock quotes and traffic information for a particular road or neighborhood. Technology could turn radio stations into cyberstations. Digital maps and other graphics are saving TV stations time and money. That's a sample of new technology — developed or in the works — on display at the National Association of Broadcasters' annual convention in Las Vegas this week. The companies are all small, privately held and young — 12 years old and under. Digital DJ Inc. of San Jose, Calif., for example, licenses technology and manages a service that allows people to receive data transmissions at the same time they are listening to the radio at home or in the car. Information appears on a small screen on the radio. KPX-FM, a news and talk radio station in San Francisco, plans to use the company's service so listeners can get traffic, business, news and sports information on demand. A station also can sell advertising with the data services, creating a new source of revenue. Receivers are being built by

Sharp, Goldstar and Sanyo and are expected to cost \$150. Joel Schwartz, sales and marketing director for Digital DJ, said they will be available through KPX and other stations that use the service or through some retail stores. Sanyo Semiconductor Corp., Sony Corp., Oki and Nichem Corp. are investors in the project. Because each receiver has the equivalent of an electronic identification tag, stations can provide listeners with customized information, like stock quotes of specific companies or sports scores for favorite teams, Schwartz said. Xing Technology Corp. of Arroyo Grande, Calif., is showing technology that allows TV or radio stations to broadcast over the Internet — transforming regular stations into cyberstations. For a one-time charge of \$6,000, stations get FM-quality audio over the Internet. For \$10,000, they get audio and video that moves at a few frames a second, looking "better than a slide show," said spokeswoman Peggy Tayloe. The charges include connections to the Internet. KPIG-FM in Santa Cruz, Calif., uses the audio and WGN's TV

and AM stations in Chicago uses both, she said. For computer users to listen or watch the broadcasts, they must have Xing's StreamWorks software. Available free from the company's site on the World Wide Web, the software lets a person listen to a radio station on the Internet or view video clips in "real time" as sound and images come into their computers or any time they choose. Why would a station want to do this? Xing president Howard Gordan said a station can expand its audience — not only in number, but geographically — potentially boosting advertising revenues. Stations also can spread program costs over the different media. And because broadcasts can be provided on demand, "people can see or hear programs if they missed the original broadcast," Gordan said. Telos Systems of Cleveland is showing a prototype of technology that allows radio stations to broadcast over the Internet and sound as good as a CD. People can listen in real time, using standard modems and phone lines, said Neil Glassman, Telos' marketing director.

Nation briefs

Federal office received warning before bomb went off
VACAVILLE, Calif. (AP) — A truck bombing that injured a federal worker and his wife was reportedly preceded with an ominous telephone warning: "You guys are all dead. Timothy McVeigh lives on."
The Labor Department's mine and safety office received the anonymous call Friday, Fred Hansen, the office district manager, told *The Reporter* newspaper Sunday. A bomb went off later Friday in the pickup truck of Gene Ainslie, a mine inspector who works at the office. Ainslie and his wife, Rita, were driving on Interstate 80 when they heard a loud noise and the truck began filling with smoke, the California Highway Patrol said. Ainslie lost control of the truck and hit the center divide. He was able to get out of the truck and help his wife to safety before it burned, authorities said.

Study: Hormone doesn't greatly reverse aging
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A growth hormone hailed for its potential to reverse the effects of aging does not significantly improve the lives of elderly men and can cause painful side effects, according to a study published today. "This is not the fountain of youth," said Dr. Maxine A. Papadakis, a professor of medicine at the University of California-San Francisco and director of the study on the growth hormone somatropin. Her findings, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, contrast with those of a ballyhooed 1990 study by Dr. Daniel Rudman of the Medical College of Wisconsin, which found the first evidence suggesting growth hormone could reduce symptoms of aging. In that study, 12 men between the ages of 61 and 73 who took growth hormone reported that they felt stronger, more active, and their minds were sharper. Researchers observed that six months of treatment appeared to cancel out 10 to 20 years of some age-related changes. The Papadakis study found the older men's muscle mass increased slightly — about 4 percent — and body fat decreased — about 13 percent — but they did not get any stronger. The men had thicker muscles, but it didn't improve their ability to lift a leg machine, squeeze a hand grip or ride an exercise bike, the study said. Cognitive functions did not improve significantly and many experienced side effects.

Grant winners to study everything from rug making to fly fishing

WASHINGTON (AP) — After college, Mariska Obedzinski is off to explore fly fishing on three continents. "Sound like a lark? She's getting a \$16,000 fellowship to do it." Thomas Price is bound for Venice to study the dying craft of gondola building. Wylie Harris is going to Chile and Mexico to research climate changes. They are among 60 U.S. college students chosen to receive Thomas J. Watson Foundation fellowships for a year of post-graduate solo study and foreign travel. Each gets \$16,000 to do independent projects on such topics as Turkish rug making, African beer making and the Japanese tea ceremony.

Wash., is going to Senegal, Niger, Britain, Ireland, Belgium and Germany to study beer making. He has brewed his own beer and worked with barrels and casks in Oregon's beverage industry. Other recipients will study aquaculture in Ecuador, Chile and the Philippines; prospects for the Internet in the Middle East and the influence of volcanoes on local cultures in Indonesia. One will investigate musicians and jam sessions in southern Asia, another the East African publishing industry. This year, more than 1,000 graduating college seniors vied for the 60 grants issued by the foundation, which chooses recipients from a select group of 50 small, private liberal arts colleges. Winners are selected on their character, leadership potential, willingness to immerse themselves in new cultures and the creativity and personal significance of the project they propose. Grades are considered but are not the deciding factor. Wylie Harris, who is graduating from Reed College in Portland, Ore., plans to research long-term climate changes in Chile and Mexico.

The foundation, based in Providence, R.I., was established in 1968 by the children of Thomas J. Watson Sr., the founder of IBM, and his wife, Jeannette, in honor of their parents' interest in education and world affairs. "They are unusual projects, but serious," said William Moses, who directs the fellowship program for the foundation. "They would appear to be eccentric projects, but they evolve out of deep, longstanding interests." Ms. Obedzinski, a 25-year-old straight-A student at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine, has been fly fishing since she was 11 and has worked as a fishing guide in northern California. "I'm just really thrilled. It's something I've always dreamed of doing," says Ms. Obedzinski, who will do her project in New Zealand, Argentina, Chile and Siberia. "I'm really interested in looking at the fishermen's role in river conservation." Christian T. De Benedetti of Newberg, Ore., who is studying at Whitman College in Walla Walla,

"I've been interested in climate change since I was in high school," said Harris, 22. "It was just the area of biology that seemed to pull together global politics, economic issues." After graduating from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, Lara Naaman of Houston plans to head to Venezuela, Peru and Brazil for her project titled "Street Treats: Culture and Cooking in South America." Carisa Miller of Waukegan, Ill., a senior at Kenyon College in Ohio, is going to Germany and Turkey to learn about weaving rugs.

Gas prices jump seven cents per gallon

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gasoline prices have jumped an average of 7 cents a gallon in three weeks, due mainly to a dramatic rise in international crude oil prices over the past two months, an industry analyst said. The pump price, including all grades and taxes, was 131.39 cents a gallon Friday, according to the Lundberg Survey of 10,000 gasoline stations nationwide. That compares to the average 124.39 cents on March 22. "The rate of increase has accelerated," Trilby Lundberg, publisher of the survey, said Sunday. "The principal reason is the higher price of crude, which is about \$6 a barrel higher than it was in February. That's about 14 cents a gallon." The greatest increase at the pump was in the West, where prices jumped an average 9 cents a gallon. The hike in the Midwest was about 5 to 6 cents a gallon, Lundberg said.

Tornado sweeps through Arkansas kills seven, injures no less than 30

SYLAMORE, Ark. (AP) — A tornado bounced through three Arkansas counties, killing seven people as it ripped roofs off houses, uprooted trees and destroyed a mountain tourist campground, authorities said. At least 30 people were injured and two were missing after Sunday night's twister tore through northern Arkansas' Ozarks, doing much of the damage on the first big tourist weekend at the Holiday Mountain Resort in Izard County. "It's a pretty nice place ... it was," said the Reggie Harrell, an Arkansas Power & Light Co. supervisor. He said the tornado tore through the campground, destroying several recreational vehicles. The tornado first hit the town of Allison in Stone County, bounced over the White River into the Sylamore area of Izard County, about 80 miles north of Little Rock.

dealership in Melbourne. Duane Holland heard the storm approach the Sylamore Creek valley. "I ran out the door and all I could see is this huge black cloud," Holland said. "The tail folded up. It went over the valley and as it hit the valley the funnel came down." Debra Kirk, who heard the tornado pass east of her house in Sylamore, went to check on some rental cabins she owns. "I had six cabins that rent and two of them were occupied. I went to check on the cabins and they were destroyed," she said. At least three of the dead were tourists from Tennessee, Wayne Jordan, Arkansas State Police spokesman said. Stone County Medical Center reported that it had treated some 30 people for "every sort of injury."

Traffic accidents increase as speed limits rise

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Deadly car crashes, which had been declining in California since 1987, increased by more than 17 percent in the first 11 weeks of higher speed limits, an Associated Press review has found. "It's obviously a concern to us. We don't like to see the numbers go up at all," said California Highway Patrol spokesman Steve Kohler. "We're keeping an eye on it." Opponents of the speed increase, initiated in December and January after the federal government dropped the 55 mph national speed limit, said they had expected more highway deaths. Supporters of the change said they don't believe the increase in accidents has anything to do with the speed limit change. Highway patrol and state transportation officials said it's too early to blame the accident increase on the rise in speed limits, saying a 12-month period would have to be studied before any reliable conclusions could be reached. Crashes overall during the latest period for which statistics are available — Dec. 17, 1995 to Feb. 29, 1996 — were up 8.6 percent compared to the same period 12 months earlier, California Highway Patrol records show. Deadly accidents increased 17.2 percent, from 319 to 374. The overall statistics are for 97,579 miles of high-

way and freeway patrolled by CHP, including about 4,100 miles where the speed limit was boosted to 65 mph beginning Dec. 17 or 70 mph starting Jan. 7. The highway patrol was unable to provide a breakdown of whether the fatal accidents occurred on roads where speed limits increased. And the figures do not include highways under the jurisdiction of county sheriff's departments or local police. Unsafe speed for driving conditions was the reason for nearly half of the crashes during the 11-week period and the second most common cause of accidents, after improper turns, in which one or more people died, according to records. Judie Stone, president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, a consumer organization that opposed the speed limit increase nationally, said she is not surprised by developments in California. "We expected to see an increase in accidents and fatalities. It's clear what happens when you raise speed limits. People push the limit and speeds go up. Chances of being involved in a crash, or being killed or injured, go up with speed," Stone said. Barry Carmody, president of the Association of California Insurance Companies, believes California is seeing the beginning of a trend.

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Man Prefers Loveless Marriage To Facing Failure With Divorce

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 23 years. He's 44 and I'm 43. We have a mortgage, several bills, no happiness, no kids. We have one dog whom he treats and talks to like a child, which embarrasses me.

Our marriage is a sham. We do what's necessary to make it look good when we're out, but we're both miserable. We have nothing in common. We tolerate each other. Needless to say, I no longer love him.

He's had several affairs. I confronted him about some of them; however, I said nothing to him about others.

I left him once. He promised if I would come back, he would never have another affair, and he bought me a car and took me on a cruise.

The next time I caught him, I left and threatened to get a divorce if he didn't buy me a house. We were living with his parents, whom I dislike, and all my friends owned homes. He bought a house, and I came back. Big mistake.

Our sex life is awful. When he can perform, I can't stand him touching me. The only way I can get through it is to fantasize about other men.

I have also had affairs. He knows, and I don't care. We take separate vacations every year, and I go away as often as I can. I almost always have a fling while I'm away.

My husband is arrogant, egotistical and not very well liked. The wall that separates us is getting higher. I want out of this sham of a marriage, but he won't consider divorce. To



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

him, it's a "failing" — he uses the excuse that people never get on their feet after divorce. I suspect he'd rather go on acting than face the fact that he's not confident that he can make it alone. We could split everything down the middle, and he can even have the damn dog.

Abby, I just can't picture us growing old together. I don't want to grow old with him. Twenty-three years is enough — too much.

I don't want a scene. What should I do?

WANTS OUT IN WESTMINSTER, CALIF.

DEAR WANTS OUT: Resign yourself to the fact that there probably will be a "scene" — if only because your husband would prefer a loveless marriage to the financial fallout from a divorce.

His "permission" is not necessary, so since you want a divorce, stop playing "Let's Make a Deal" and talk to a lawyer.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, who is 15, went to a slumber party last weekend. She told me that it was a normal all-girls slumber party — they talked, ate, played games, watched videos and finally slept — except they spent the entire evening totally nude. There were no men in the house, just the eight girls and the host girl's mother, who approved of it. My daughter was so thrilled about it and the girls are talking about the next one.

Have you ever heard of totally nude slumber parties? Or is this some new trend? I'm not comfortable with the idea; however, I feel as long as there is no booze, drugs or sex, I can't come up with a compelling reason to say no. Any thoughts?

PERPLEXED MOM IN CALIFORNIA

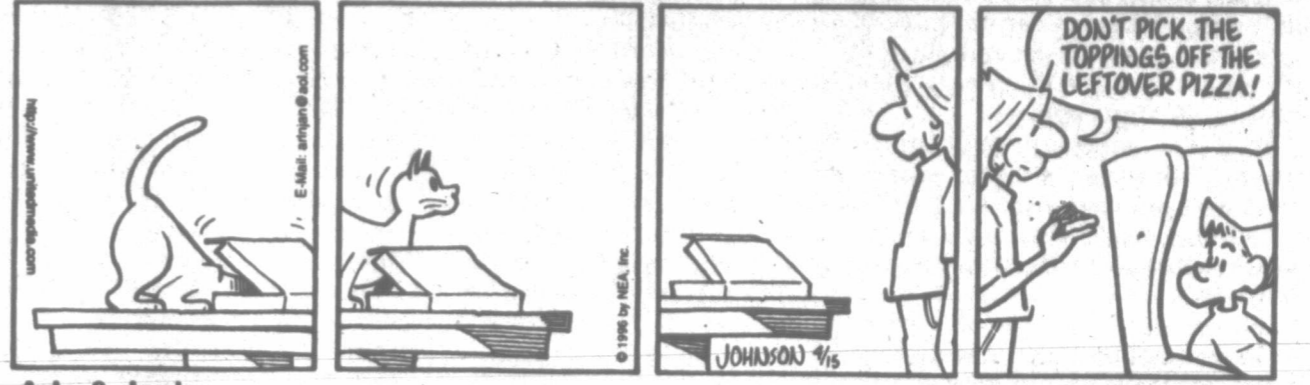
DEAR PERPLEXED MOM: I have never heard of nudity as a theme for a high school slumber party, so your letter is a first.

Level with your daughter. Tell her that you were not raised in an atmosphere that condoned casual nudity — and you are uncomfortable with the idea of her attending nude slumber parties. Period.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



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Ario & Janis



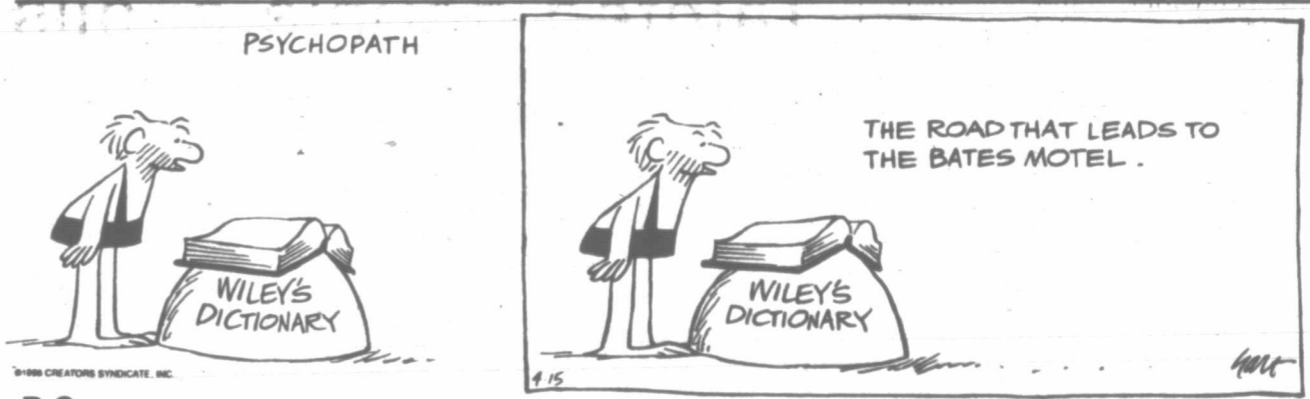
Garfield



Walnut Cove



Marvin



B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore

Horoscope



Your Birthday

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

In the year ahead you might become involved in a potentially profitable endeavor. However, you must be absolutely certain that all the contracts and legal agreements are handled properly.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If you find yourself in the presence of influential people today, it will be important to make a good impression. Do not boast or act pretentious. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail \$2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, N.Y. 10156.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You should try to assist others today when they ask for your help. However, don't let a manipulative person take advantage of your generosity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You will not be labeled stingy today if you use your common sense and turn down a loan request from a pal. Let your financial statements speak for themselves.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If the values associated with a present objective are not in accordance with your high standards, drop it and concentrate on a goal that fits your needs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Make sure your skills are suited to the types of tasks for which you intend to use them today. If they aren't, you might start something you can't finish.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Use caution today if you manage a complex assignment for a friend. Do not take any risks or gambles you wouldn't take if you were operating independently.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You might get caught in the middle if you try to appease

two warring parties today. Do not step over the line in favor of either person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Weigh your words carefully today. If you don't, you might disclose confidential information by accident. If you spill the beans, it will be hard to cover up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Try to be realistic today in regard to something you want. Do not expect to have a finished product handed to you on a silver platter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) When discussing an important family matter today, give everyone a chance to speak. You may elicit resentment if you try to impose your views on the others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Before you decide to drop in on someone today, you should check in advance to see if they will be available. Otherwise, you might waste a trip.

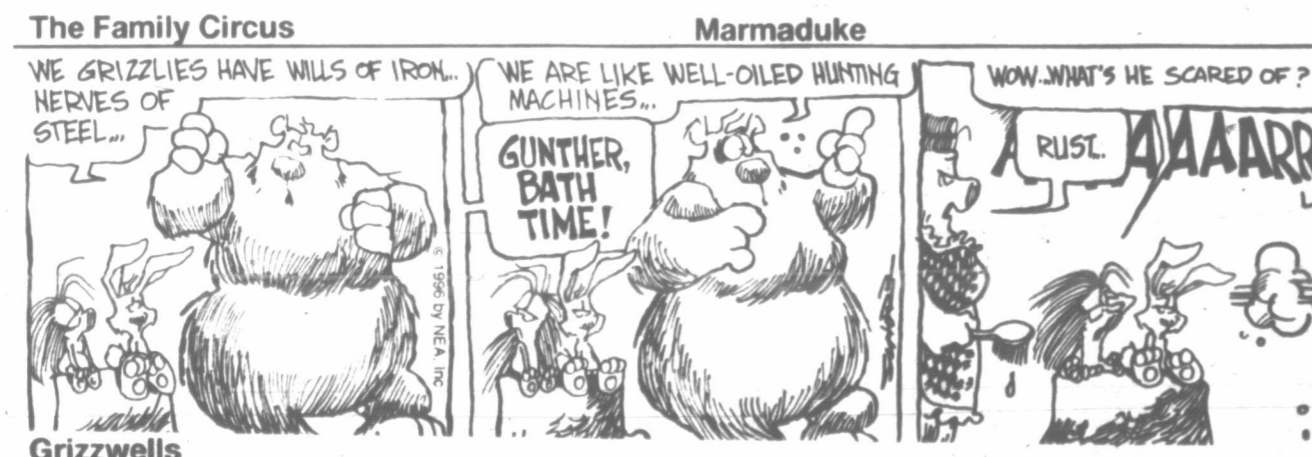
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Today, if a careless friend wants to borrow a prize possession, make him understand that you expect to get it back in the same condition.



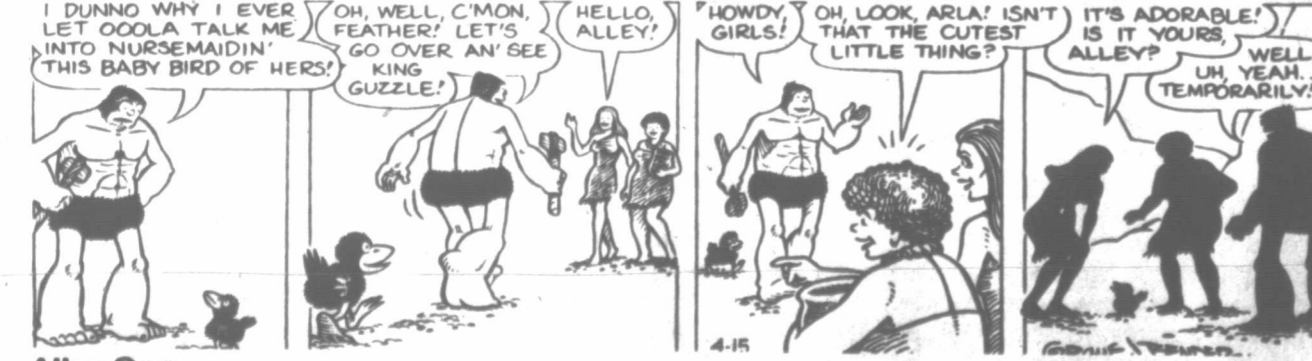
"His voice doesn't sound anything like Babe's."



"His favorite tree died."



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts

Atlanta bracing for annual invasion of students for 'Freaknik' rite of spring

ATLANTA (AP) — Three months before the world arrives for the Olympic Games, Atlantans are bracing for a more immediate invasion — the rite of spring called Freaknik.

This weekend, thousands of black college students are expected to cruise city streets in a bumper-to-bumper party that in the past has brought complaints of drunkenness, public urination and gridlock.

Last year, Freaknik, which drew 100,000 students and other young adults, was marred by looting and sporadic violence.

"Few, if any, events have been as controversial ... or polarizing for our city," said Mayor Bill Campbell.

While city officials are trying for the first time to manage the unwieldy gathering,

Atlantans are taking no chances.

Travel agents say some residents are booking trips out of town to flee the cruisers. And store owners are announcing plans to shut down during peak times.

In the Grant Park neighborhood east of downtown, the city denied a permit for a Freaknik concert and possible appearance of leader Louis Farrakhan, but distrustful residents still sued to make sure the city has no last-minute change of heart.

"There aren't enough toilets, so neighbors' yards get urinated in and there is a lot of rudeness about blocking people's driveways," said Grant Park resident Melanie Brubaker.

Freaknik, which city leaders tried unsuccessfully to rename as Freedomfest, has descended on Atlanta for more than 10 years as

a spring rite that grew out of loosely organized alumni gatherings at Atlanta's predominantly black Morehouse College.

Unlike spring flings in Florida, where students congregate at hotels and clubs along miles of sand, Freaknik concentrates the crowds into the heart of Atlanta's streets and neighborhoods.

A crush of 200,000 students and other youths streamed into town in 1994, catching police and city officials off guard and producing marathon traffic jams.

About 100,000 streamed in for Freaknik last year, ignoring pleas from city officials and black college leaders not to come. Rain forced the throngs into shopping malls, and police made more than 700 arrests on charges ranging from disorderly conduct to rape. Police have declined to say

how many students they're expecting this year. But some students say there hasn't been as much talk about the annual trek to Atlanta this year.

"Usually, I hear a lot about people wanting to go down to Atlanta to get their groove on. But this year, I haven't heard anything. Nothing," said Eric Givens, a student at Coppin State College in Baltimore.

"One reason interest is waning is because people last year were not happy with the blockades and the harassment," said Kendall Powell, a student at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Some black leaders contend the opposition to Freaknik is rooted in racism. Mayor Campbell, who is black, was criticized for originally opposing

Freaknik last year. This year, he appointed a task force to come up with better ways to manage the party.

"A lot of this fear is so unfounded," said the Rev. Gerald Durley, a black minister who heads part of the task force. "We've got to get on top of it and face it rather than close down the hatches."

White leaders say race has nothing to do with it. They cite cities such as Fort Lauderdale, Fla., that have bounced unruly, white spring breakers out of town.

"If 200,000 white college students came to Atlanta and behaved exactly the same way as the Freaknik crowds have behaved over the past few years, would you want them to come back?" said Fulton County

Commission Chairman Mitch Skandalakis, who is white.

This year, there will be extra sessions of court, plentiful portable toilets and more trash bins.

The city's task force plans to distribute lists of restaurants and other attractions to the students to try to get them off the street. It is also appealing to Atlanta high school principals to keep younger students out of the party.

Meanwhile, Olympic planners say the street party will be no test of the city's ability to handle the games because the two events are nothing alike.

During the Olympics, few cars will be allowed downtown and the throngs of visitors will have specific destinations to which access will be strictly controlled.

Official audit: Foreign worker program fills high skill American jobs, harms nation

WASHINGTON (AP) — A program that allows foreigners to temporarily fill unique, high-skill American jobs has become a rubber stamp for hundreds of thousands of aliens seeking to settle in the United States, a government audit concludes.

The report, by the Labor Department inspector general's office, calls the program a "sham" that has lowered wages and cost Americans jobs.

"The program has become a stepping stone to obtain permanent resident status not only for the 'best and brightest' specialists but also for students, relatives and friends," it contended, recommending elimination of the \$50 million-a-year foreign worker visa programs.

Labor Secretary Robert Reich said

Sunday he hoped the Senate would make major reforms in the foreign worker program to better protect Americans when Congress takes up immigration legislation this week.

"Unfortunately, the inspector general's audit confirms what the administration has been saying for a number of years," Reich said in a statement. "These programs are in desperate need of reform if we are going to do right by U.S. taxpayers and working families."

"In their current form, these programs are displacing American workers and dragging down wages in important high wage, high skill jobs."

Many Republicans and American businesses, especially those in high-tech

industries, want to retain the program as a way to quickly fill jobs in times when there aren't enough qualified U.S. citizens.

But critics charge that foreigners use the visa program to gain back-door admittance to the United States and hurt wage and job opportunities for Americans by their willingness to work for less money.

The audit, reported initially by *The Washington Post*, concluded that the program "allows aliens to immigrate based on their attachment to a specific job and then shop their services in competition with equally or more qualified U.S. workers without regard to prevailing wage."

As for the law's provision that busi-

nesses must first seek a qualified U.S. worker before hiring an alien, the audit said that in most cases the job "market test is perfunctory at best and a sham at worst."

As an example, the audit found that the advertisements or postings for 24,150 jobs resulted in 165,000 foreign and U.S. applicants, but that in more than 99 percent of the cases no Americans were hired.

The Labor Department's role "amounts to little more than a paper shuffle ... and a rubber stamping of applicants," said the report by the inspector's general's office, an independent watchdog in the department.

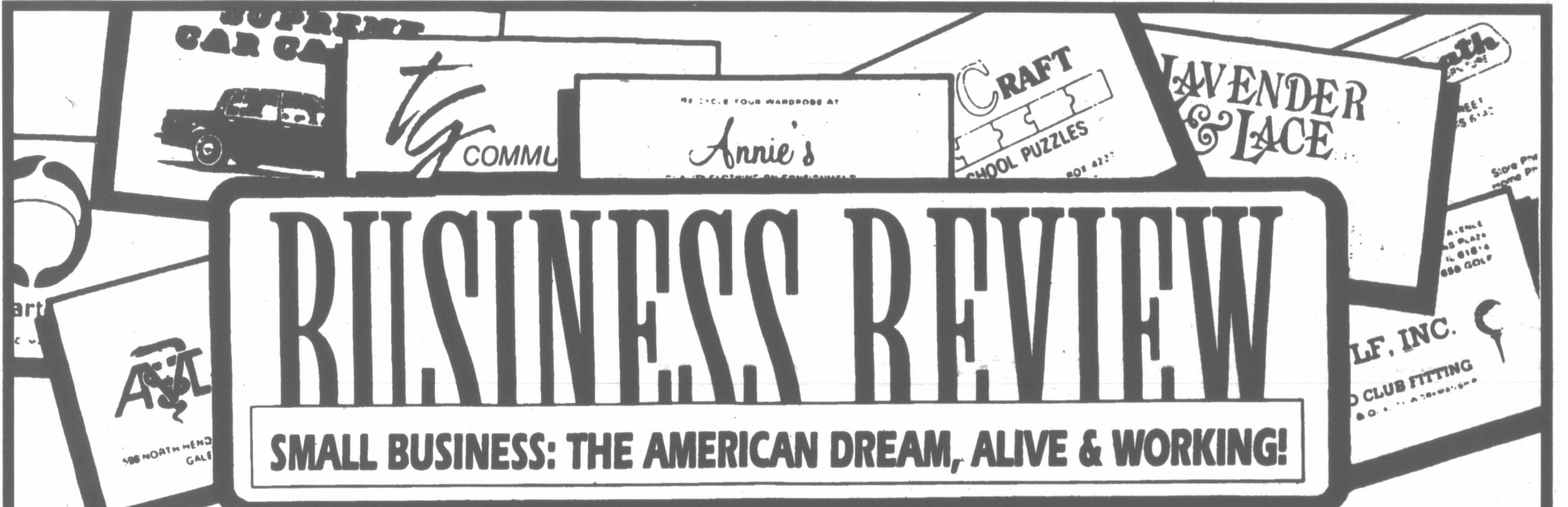
The audit also found that:

—10 percent of the aliens in the program were treated as contractors, which meant no payroll or administrative costs for businesses.

—12.7 percent of alien employees were paid below the advertised prevailing wage.

—74.6 percent worked for employers who did not adequately document their wages.

In September, during a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Reich said nearly 570,000 foreign workers were admitted to the United States temporarily from 1992 to 1994. An unknown number remained illegally after their visas expired and many applied for permanent visas, he said.




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