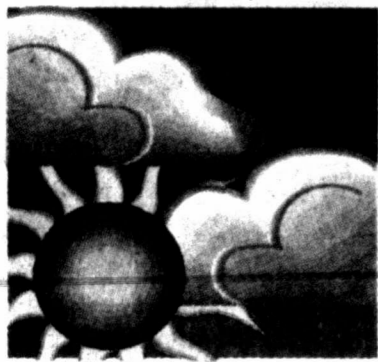


THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 16

Pampa, Texas

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Low tonight in mid 50s, high tomorrow near 80. See Page 2 for weather details.

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — Two Navy fighter jets that were practicing a dog-fight collided 15,000 feet over the Atlantic Ocean, but the pilots managed to fly the battered planes to safety. One said later that the impact felt like "a giant speed bump in the sky."

Both pilots suffered only minor cuts and managed to land their jets safely some 65 miles away at the Oceana Naval Air Station. Tuesday's accident was the second accident at the air station in less than a week.

Lt. Cmdr. Greg S. Anderson, 33, of Williamsport, Pa., said he saw the impact coming Tuesday as the jets flew about 35 miles off the North Carolina coast.

"As I'm pulling to try and get out of the way, I see that we're not going to clear completely," Anderson said. "So I'm sort of looking at this like, OK, I guess it's my time."

"I was really shocked to find out that it wasn't," he said.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton says it is time to talk about balancing the federal budget again, and he'd like to surround himself with a congressional crowd to do it.

If crowds make the GOP nervous, Clinton says he's ready to meet one-on-one with his Republican rival, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

"I'm going to call him today," Clinton told reporters. "We'll see." Dole was to be at the White House today to attend Clinton's signing of an anti-terrorism bill.

With spending authority for dozens of federal agencies set to expire at midnight, the House today adopted legislation keeping the government operating for another 24 hours. It gives Congress and the administration a little more time to reach agreement on a budget for the rest of the fiscal year.

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Forget the part-time and graduate students that boost enrollment figures at Ohio State and Texas.

If you count just the full-time undergraduate students — which the College Board did for the 1994-95 school year — then Texas A&M tops the list.

The national higher education organization's recently released figures show Texas A&M had 31,439 full-time undergraduate students. Full-time status means a student takes at least 12 credit hours.

Ohio State University placed second, with 30,499 full-time undergraduate students. The University of Texas at Austin was third, with 29,724 full-time undergraduates.

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City supports application for museum grant

By **CHERYL BERZANSKIS**
News Editor

Pampa city commissioners heard a request for support for a Freedom Museum project aiming to use Texas Department of Public Transportation funds to provide a lifetime home for a B-25 bomber.

Gene Barber told commissioners Tuesday night he believes museum supporters can raise 20 percent of a \$765,000 project with the remainder reimbursed by federal funds channeled through the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program.

Barber explained the project will provide a display gallery for bomber, a training airplane used during World War II. It was the type used by the Doolittle Raiders and flown from Pampa Army Air Field, he said.

The proposed 7,500 square foot enclosed structure will be equipped with humidity controls and ultraviolet reflective glass to maximize preservation of the bomber, he said. He anticipates 16 months to complete construction if the funds are awarded, he said.

The deadline for submission of an application is May 1 and Barber said responses are expected in September or October.

Contributions will be solicited from a mailing list of 845 civilians and veterans, he said.

City funds, beyond those already budgeted for grounds maintenance at the museum, 600 N. Hobart, are not to be committed, he explained.

Commissioners approved a resolution in support of actions toward the grant application.

In other meeting action, commissioners:

- Heard from Mrs. Fred

Fussell, who asked that a water meter be installed on her property in Horse Alley.

She told commissioners she knew meter installation is forbidden by ordinance, but said one is needed in order to sell the property.

Mayor Bob Neslage asked Public Works Director Richard Morris to prepare a fact sheet on the water situation in that neighborhood.

• Agreed to rebuild a one-block portion of Kingsmill between Purviance and Ward as part of the street rehabilitation project.

Kingsmill was originally scheduled for rehabilitation except for this one block, Morris said. He told commissioners he does not know why the block was excluded from original plans. Work was to begin today. The street rehabilitation project is 42 percent complete.

The panel will consider improvements to Starkweather (Atchison to Francis) — a three block stretch; Buckler (Faulkner to Sumner) — one block stretch; and Davis (Montagu to Gwendolen) — two extra long blocks — at a later meeting.

• Passed on first reading an amendment to a 1984 ordinance allowing the city to charge for alley debris removal. John Ward, 609 Carr, told the panel the ordinance will not work because anonymous dumpers will continue to abandon garbage wherever they want or just let it pile up.

"People are not going to pay you no \$10. They'll just let the place go to heck," Ward said.

• Agreed Animal Control may provide euthanasia and disposal services for the city of Miami.

See **CITY**, Page 2

Kissing a frog



(Pampa News photo by Chip Chandler)

Baker Elementary School Principal Sam Porter is probably not hoping for a prince as he plants a kiss on a frog Tuesday afternoon. Porter agreed to kiss the amphibian after every first and second grade student at the school improved their reading skills through the Baker Star Reading program. "I don't mind doing this because of what you did," Porter said before puckering up. The frog, incidentally, didn't object to the peck, croaking happily in Porter's hands. Last year, former principal Dick Crockett kissed a pig for the program.

Holocaust memorial



(Pampa News photo by Chip Chandler)

Sixth grade students in Jan Baxter's world history class at Pampa Middle School are close to completing a "Children's Holocaust Memorial" in the hall outside their classroom. Each stick figure drawn represents 100 Jewish children who died in the Holocaust. When finished, the memorial will have 15,000 figures, totalling 1.5 million dead. Students working on the memorial include Nathan Carpenter, Heather Ponce, Misty Moman, Heather Parry and Dolly Anderson.

Thornberry says action needed to keep Medicare trust solvent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Clarendon, said that new government figures showing the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund is going bankrupt faster than originally predicted is further proof that the system is broken and needs to be reformed immediately.

"Over a year has passed since the Medicare trustees first issued their 1995 report showing the system was losing money," Thornberry said Tuesday. "As these latest figures show, the problem is not getting any better."

"In fact," he continued, "the problem is getting worse, which is just one reason why we need to get together and pass a bipartisan plan that not only stems the flow of red ink, but preserves, protects and strengthens the system for current and future generations of Americans."

Thornberry was referring to a report Tuesday by the Treasury Department which revealed the Medicare Hospital Trust Fund

lost \$4.2 billion during the first half of the current fiscal year.

The Treasury report, which is issued monthly and contains a list of all federal receipts and expenditures, shows that the Trust Fund spent \$60.5 billion between October 1995 and March 1996. However, the report also shows the Fund took in only \$56.3 billion.

According to Thornberry, this marks the second time the administration has predicted a surplus for the Trust Fund when a deficit actually occurred.

For fiscal year 1995, the administration had predicted a surplus of \$4.7 billion, but the Fund ended up with a deficit of \$35.7 million. For fiscal year 1996, the administration has predicted a surplus of \$45 million. With this most recent shortfall, Thornberry said, that is unlikely to occur.

"A crisis is easy to put off when it's something down the road," the Texas congressman said, "but each day we let this problem continue, the worse this

problem will become.

Thornberry noted that last fall Congress approved a plan that would save Medicare from bankruptcy while also increasing spending per beneficiary from \$4,800 in 1996 to \$7,100 in the year 2002.

"Unfortunately, the president vetoed this plan as part of the Balanced Budget Act, and the crisis has not been resolved," Thornberry said.

He said a bipartisan plan — developed by the Blue Dogs, a group of conservative Democrats and Republicans, is available for Congress to pass and the president to sign. The proposal essentially splits the difference in proposed budget savings between the congressional and administration plan and, most importantly, saves Medicare from bankruptcy, said Thornberry, a member of the Blue Dogs.

"We can't lose sight of the basic fact that a system which millions of people rely on is set to go broke," he said.

Turkey prepares for annual Bob Wills Day

TURKEY — Large crowds again are expected to swell Turkey's population this weekend in celebration of the 25th anniversary Bob Wills Day on Saturday.

Activities will get under way Friday night with a dance from 9 p.m. to midnight at the Bob Wills Center featuring former Texas Playboys members, the backup band for Wills on many of his famous Western swing recordings.

Bob Wills Foundation members say some 35 to 40 "of the most famous and talented musicians in the country" will be present this year for the tribute to the famed Bob Wills, best known for "San Antonio Rose."

Among those expected to be playing during the celebration

will be all former living Texas Playboys, one of the largest groups of the musicians ever gathered. The Playboys will be playing during a free program beginning at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the old football field east of the Bob Wills Center.

Dr. Charles R. Townsend, Grammy Award winner and author of *San Antonio Rose: The Life and Music of Bob Wills*, will serve as master of ceremonies for the gathering of the Texas Playboys.

Saturday activities will begin with a parade at 10:30 a.m. down main street.

At 11 a.m. the "Muleskinners" Khiva Shriners will cater a barbecue, with proceeds benefiting

the Shriners and The Bob Wills Foundation.

An Old Fiddlers Contest will be held beginning at noon at the Auditorium Center and Gym.

Festivities will close with a dance Saturday beginning at 7 p.m. and featuring Jody Nix and The Texas Cowboys. A late-night breakfast will be served beginning at 11 p.m. in the Bob Wills Cafeteria.

During the day, Bob Wills Foundation souvenirs, including tapes, records, caps, T-shirts and stamp cachets, will be available at the Bob Wills Center.

Concessions will be available at the center, along with many artisans exhibiting their arts and crafts.

'Hard Copy' representatives come to Pampa

Representatives from a nationally syndicated tabloid television news program were in town today and Tuesday researching a story about the time-out closet at Lamar Elementary School.

School officials said today that a senior correspondent from *Hard Copy* interviewed Superintendent Dr. Dawson Orr, filmed the booth at Lamar and talked to the local Department of Human Services.

The school has been embroiled in controversy about its use of the isolation booth since last December, when the mother of a child at Lamar complained about the booth to Amarillo news stations.

That mother has since declined to give the school permission to discuss the case in detail, though she again spoke on camera in February for an Amarillo television station.

"It's not that I'm hiding any-

thing, but I won't give them permission to use the media against me," she has claimed.

The school is forbidden to discuss the case in detail because of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Last month, a grand jury in Harlingen declined to indict school officials there on criminal charges over their use of a similar booth.

Hard Copy will air the show on May 2 or in early May.

Farm service to begin sign ups in May

Matt Street, county executive director of the Gray County Farm Service Agency, announced the one-time sign-up period of May 20 through July 12 for producers wishing to enroll their farms in a Production Flexibility Contract.

The contracts, authorized by the 1996 Farm Bill, are for seven years, beginning in 1996 and ending in 2002.

"Despite the time constraints we face due to Congress' late passage of the Farm Bill, the Department of Agriculture and the Farm Service Agency is working hard to get accurate information to producers and the public as quickly as possible," Street said. "I must stress that this is the only opportunity producers are going to have to enroll. Those who fail to do so now will not be eligible at a later date."

The 1996 Farm Bill restricted sign-up for Production Flexibility Contracts to a one-time opportunity. The only exception will be for land coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program. Congress did not give the Secretary of Agriculture discretion to extend the sign-up period or open up additional sign-up periods at a later date.

"Farms with a planting history in one of the past five years of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton or rice are eligible to be enrolled in this program," Street said. "Production flexibility contracts are not available for ELS cotton and oilseeds but marketing assistance loans will be available to producers of these commodities."

Street reminded producers that compliance with conservation and wetlands provisions continues to be a condition of participation. Payment limitation rules that were applicable in 1995 will also be applicable to these payments. The total amount of payment a person may receive in any fiscal year may not exceed \$40,000.

Farmers may plant as they wish under the program, but fruits or vegetables may not be planted on contract acres, except under certain circumstances. A producer may enroll all or part of the farm's contract base acreage in the program and, after sign-up, may request a permanent reduction in the acreage without a penalty.

Payment and loan rates will be announced soon.

Easter surprise



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Sallie Mae, a family pet pot-bellied pig, gave her owners, Steve and Heidi Phelps, quite a surprise this past Easter with a litter of nine piglets. The boy piglets have on tiny baseball caps and the girl piglets are wearing bows on their heads, while mom Sallie Mae shows off her Easter bonnet in the photo above. The Phelps family purchased Sallie Mae a year ago at the Bob Wills Days at Turkey. Sallie Mae currently resides at the Morris and Vickie Long place west of Pampa.

Judge refuses to certify interracial adoption case by white parents as a class action suit

AUSTIN (AP) — A state judge has refused to certify a lawsuit by white parents of two adopted black children as a class action on behalf of all minority children in the state's foster care system.

Adoptive parents Scott and Lou Ann Mullen of Lexington, east of Austin, have accused the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services of illegally holding up interracial adoptions. They are represented by the Washington-based Institute for Justice.

Judge F. Scott McCown of Austin said in a Tuesday ruling that Mullen, who is white, and his wife, who is American Indian, cannot adequately represent the class composed primarily of black and Mexican-American children.

"Generally parents share an identity of interest with their children, but that general rule does not apply here. These are parents whose desire was to adopt minority children. Their point of view is that of the adopting parent, not the adopted child," McCown said.

McCown said people who want to bring such a lawsuit don't have to be blacks or Mexican-

Americans who once were awaiting adoption under state conservatorship. He also said the adoptive parents' race isn't the only reason they cannot adequately represent the minority children.

"But the next friends who speak for African-American and Mexican-American children should be qualified by experience or perspective to advance the children's point of view," McCown said.

The judge also said he knows little about the Institute for Justice, and that what he does know "is troubling."

He said Institute lawyers have said they are pursuing the case as "part of our mission to restrict the power of the regulatory welfare state and to demonstrate the negative and harmful effects of racial classification."

McCown said the minority children in question, however, benefit from such racial classifications as adoption subsidies. "In sum, these are 'cause' lawyers and their cause is not abused and neglected minority children," he wrote.

McCown also said recent amendments to a state law pro-

hibiting denial or delay of adoption based on race "may well solve the problem."

Clint Bolick, vice president of the Institute for Justice, said, "This is an outrageous ruling. It reflects precisely the racial stereotyping that this lawsuit challenges."

"Moreover, the Institute's record on behalf of minority children around the country is second to none," Bolick said. He said lawyers are considering an appeal.

New Central Texas railroad to start freight service

AUSTIN (AP) — The Longhorn Railway Co. says it has received a federal OK that puts it on track to start freight service through Central Texas early next month.

"We are beginning service May 6 and have big plans for improving railway freight service in Austin," Donald Cheatham, Longhorn general manager, said Tuesday.

Initially, the new railroad will operate from McNeil, north of Austin, northwest to Marble Falls.

Service beyond Marble Falls to Llano will begin as soon as needed track repairs are complete. The same is the case for service from Austin to Giddings.

Cheatham said operation of the line was approved by the federal Surface Transportation Board in Washington.

The line has been used to carry limestone, lumber, brick, waste paper and various other materials.

State briefs

"I don't think it's dangerous or anything," she said, "although it did bite my sister-in-law and it bit my husband when he was trying to get it off of her."

Local animal control officers call the fear "pure bunk," adding that the squirrel is probably nesting and would attack only to protect her young.

Hidalgo County case ready to go to jury

LAREDO (AP) — A federal judge dismissed part of a 102-count indictment against five Hidalgo County officials as their bid-rigging trial wound to a close.

The last-minute action Tuesday buoyed the defendants, particularly County Judge J. Edgar Ruiz, who had the most counts dismissed. Ruiz now faces just nine counts instead of the 75 he was charged with at the trial's start.

Attorneys wrapped up the case Tuesday. Jurors were scheduled to begin deliberations this morning.

Squirrel terrorizes postman, stops mail to two houses

PASADENA (AP) — Bad weather, mean dogs and other demons have never stopped Earl Ross from doing his job as a mail carrier. A flying squirrel, however, has stopped him in his tracks.

Ross has never actually seen his nemesis. The stories are enough to scare him away.

One man claims the squirrel killed his dog. Another claims the animal jumped two children, forcing them to be treated for rabies.

The U.S. Postal Service has backed up Ross' fears. He hasn't delivered the mail to two squirrel-stalked houses since Thursday.

Ada Fisher, who lives in one of the two mail-less houses, said: "This is no reason to not deliver the mail."

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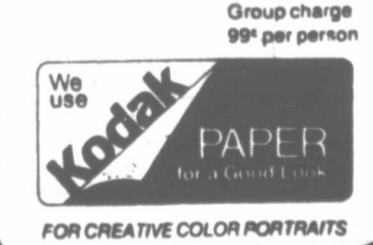


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Competition cuts airline ticket prices, saves consumers billions

WASHINGTON (AP) — When low-cost airlines start flying to a city, ticket prices start coming down.

That may sound like Economics 101, but it saved American travelers \$6 billion last year, Transportation Secretary Federico Pena reported Tuesday.

Starting in the West and Southwest and now expanding East, some 39 new jet airlines have started up in the last few years, Pena said.

And he predicted that the low-cost carriers will continue to elbow their way into new cities and may expand to international markets.

The added competition caused major airlines to cut their fares, and this encouraged more people to fly, Pena said.

"In cities where low-cost air-

lines fly, Americans pay \$54 less per flight, on average," he reported. In airline hub cities, the saving is \$70 per flight.

Indeed, Pena boasted of personally having flown from Houston to Dallas and back, from Baltimore to Chicago and from Albuquerque, N.M., to Phoenix on low-fare airlines at a total cost of \$189.

Admittedly, prices have stayed high in areas where there is less competition, and department officials say that some larger carriers may have even increased fares in those markets.

But, they pointed out, markets with high fares tend to attract more competition.

Today, nearly 40 percent of pas-

sengers fly in markets where low-fare service is available, up from just 15 percent in 1988 when Southwest Airlines was pioneering the field.

And 53 of the nation's 60 busiest airports have at least some low-fare service, Pena reported.

While some established carriers have been concerned about the growing competition, Pena pointed out that business and profits were up last year throughout the airline industry.

The lower fares helped attract an additional 47 million passengers in 1995, he said, producing more business for everyone.

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Nation briefs

House banking committee to look into ATM fees

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Rep. Marge Roukema, the issue of rising fees at bank automatic teller machines was crystallized in the comic pages of her local newspaper. "The cartoon showed an ATM machine with a large hand and a gun facing out, directed at the consumer," said the New Jersey Republican, who is chairwoman of a House Banking subcommittee on consumer credit. That image no doubt was spawned by new rules allowing banks to charge additional fees to people who use their ATM machine but don't have an account with that bank. While only a small number of banks are assessing such fees, which went into effect April 1, the idea of consumers paying more to get at their own money has generated intense interest among consumer groups and Congress.

Onassis estate goes on auction block

NEW YORK (AP) — They're selling Camelot piece by piece, and the prices are sky-high. Sotheby's on Tuesday began a four-day auction of hundreds of objects — including furniture, china, books and artwork — from the estate of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. In front of a crowd that gasped as the prices soared, most items sold for well over their presale estimates. A walnut humidifier, a gift from Milton Berle to John F. Kennedy, was expected to sell for \$2,000 to \$2,500. It sold for \$574,500. John F. Kennedy Jr.'s high chair and Caroline Kennedy's rocking horse each fetched \$85,000.

Three boys held for beating baby, stealing tricycle

RICHMOND, Calif. (AP) — A month-old boy was placed on life support after being beaten at his family's home by three elementary school pupils who broke into the house to steal a Big Wheel tricycle, police said. Ignacio Bermudez was in critical condition today at Children's Hospital in Oakland. He suffered two skull fractures and internal bleeding. Two 8-year-old boys and one 6 years old were booked Tuesday for investigation of attempted murder, burglary and conspiracy, and held in a juvenile lockup, police Capt. Ray Howard said. The district attorney's office will decide whether to file criminal charges against them. The boys were friendly with at least one child in Ignacio's family and police were baffled about why they beat the baby.

Some women facing genital mutilation may get asylum

WASHINGTON (AP) — A limited number of the millions of young women who face genital mutilation in African and Middle Eastern cultures may get asylum in this country if the Clinton administration has its way. In a legal brief, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has asked the Board of Immigration Appeals to rule that fear of genital mutilation can justify asylum — but only for those women who would be forced into the most extreme forms of it if sent home. "There are certain extreme practices that shock the conscience ... even when done for ostensibly benign reasons," David A. Martin, general counsel of the immigration service, said in an interview Tuesday. If the administration's argument were adopted, asylum would rarely if ever be available on this basis to the more than 80 million women already subjected to the process in several dozen African and Middle Eastern nations, Martin said.

The entire 12-member Board of Immigration Appeals will hear an appeal May 2 by 18-year-old Fauziya Kasinga who fled here from Togo in late 1994 to avoid genital mutilation. She has been jailed ever since and was denied asylum by an immigration judge last August. "In its most extreme forms, female genital mutilation is

deeply objectionable to most of the world community," the government brief argued, citing condemnations by the U.N. General Assembly and even some nations where it is practiced. Begun in the 5th century B.C., the custom is observed by Muslims, Christians and adherents of traditional religions in Africa and Asia.

It ranges from cutting the hood of the clitoris to the removal of the clitoris as well as tissue at the entrance to the vagina, the brief said. Usually, it is performed "with unsterilized instruments such as razor blades, broken glass and knives and without anesthesia," the brief continued. It can produce excruciating pain, tetanus, rupture of the vaginal walls, infertility, painful sexual intercourse, chronic infections, incontinence, increased risk in childbirth and death.

Such extreme bodily invasion constitutes persecution when conducted without consent even though it is administered as a cultural rite, Martin said. But he said it must be forced to be considered persecution. Those subjected to it "in the past, at a time when they consented or at least acquiesced, as ... when the woman was a small child, have not experienced persecution," the brief said.

Lefors Honor Roll

LEFORS — Lefors junior high and high schools recently announced their honor rolls for the fifth six weeks grading period of the 1995-96 school year.

A Honor Roll
Seventh grade — Bradley Sawyer.

Eighth grade — Jeremy Pierce, April Rodgers, Melody Seely and Richard Thigpen.

Ninth grade — Shelly Murray and Linda Schwab.

Tenth grade — Nikki Bockmon, Angie Davenport and Misty McMullen.

Eleventh grade — Chris McKean and Karla Murray.

Twelfth grade — Bryan Bockmon, Tommy Green and Jerimey Howard.

A-B Honor Roll
Seventh grade — J.W. Mains.

Eighth grade — Rebecca Gilbert, Rebecca Miller, Patrick Mize, Bobby Preston, Candid Ray and Cindy Velasquez.

Ninth grade — Heather Howard, Katie Miller, Gwen Nolte and Penny Summers.

Tenth grade — David Hunter, Katisha Jackson, Jacob McKean, Tracy Tucker and Laura Velasquez.

Eleventh grade — Amber Gilbreath, Justin Howard and Jennifer Lock.

Twelfth grade — Keith Franks.

'Primal Fear' ranks number one at box office; 'The Birdcage' tops \$100 million

By JEFF MEYER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The *Birdcage* became the first 1996 film to top \$100 million, while the Richard Gere courtroom drama *Primal Fear* held on to the top spot at the box office for a third straight weekend.

Primal Fear earned \$6.6 million in weekend ticket sales. *The Birdcage*, a modern retelling of the French farce *La Cage Aux Folles*, dropped to fourth with \$4.7 million. But the movie, starring Robin Williams and Nathan Lane, has earned \$104.5 million in seven weeks.

Another Williams film — *Jumanji* — dropped out of the Top 20 but also exceeded the \$100 million mark. It has taken in \$101.1 million since its December release.

The Substitute, starring Tom Berenger, debuted in second place with \$6.1 million. The animated fantasy *James and the Giant Peach* was third with \$5.3 million.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by studio, gross, number of theaters locations, receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.:

- Primal Fear*, Paramount, \$6.6 million, 1,983 locations, \$3,321 per location, \$33.1 million, three weeks.
- The Substitute*, Orion, \$6.1 million, 1,742 locations, \$3,500 per location, \$6.1 million, one week.
- James and the Giant Peach*, Disney, \$5.3 million, 2,268 locations, \$2,323 per location, \$14.8 million, two weeks.
- The Birdcage*, MGM, \$4.7 million, 2,202 locations, \$2,152 per location, \$104.5 million, seven weeks.
- Fear*, Universal, \$3.92 million, 1,615 locations, \$2,430 per location, \$12.2 million, two weeks.
- Mrs. Winterbourne*, TriStar, \$3.87 million, 1,612 locations, \$2,403 per location, \$3.87 million, one week.
- Celtic Pride*, Disney, \$3.81 million, 1,832 locations, \$2,079 per location, \$3.81 million, one week.
- A Thin Line Between Love & Hate*, \$3.5 million, 1,131 locations, \$3,092 per location, \$3.5 million, one week.
- Sgt. Bilko*, \$3.2 million, 2,190 locations, \$1,466 per location, \$3.2 million, one week.
- Flirting With Disaster*, \$2.2 million, 959 locations, \$2,294 per location, \$2.2 million, one week.

BOX OFFICE	
Top weekend movies	
Weekend of April 19-21, 1996	
All dollar figures in millions	
Gross to date, weeks in release, number of screens	Weekend gross
1 <i>Primal Fear</i> \$33.1, three weeks, 1,983 screens	\$6.6
2 <i>The Substitute</i> \$6.1, one week, 1,742 screens	\$6.1
3 <i>James and the Giant Peach</i> \$14.8, two weeks, 2,268 screens	\$5.3
4 <i>The Birdcage</i> \$104.5, seven weeks, 2,202 screens	\$4.7
5 <i>Fear</i> \$12.2, two weeks, 1,615 screens	\$3.92
6 <i>Mrs. Winterbourne</i> \$3.87, one week, 1,612 screens	\$3.87
7 <i>Celtic Pride</i> \$3.81, one week, 1,832 screens	\$3.81
8 <i>A Thin Line Between Love & Hate</i> \$3.5, three weeks, 1,131 screens	\$3.5
9 <i>Sgt. Bilko</i> \$3.2, four weeks, 2,190 screens	\$2.2
10 <i>Flirting With Disaster</i> \$2.2, five weeks, 959 screens	\$2

Source: Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. AP

Hate, New Line, \$3.5 million, 1,131 locations, \$3,099 per location, \$26.3 million, three weeks.

9. Sgt. Bilko, Universal, \$2.2 million, 2,190 locations, \$1,015 per location, \$26.3 million, four weeks.

10. Flirting With Disaster, Miramax, \$2 million, 969 locations, \$2,094 per location, \$9.4 million, five weeks.

11. Executive Decision, Warner Bros., \$1.8 million, 1,543 locations, \$1,164 per location, \$50.5 million, six weeks.

12. Fargo, Gramercy, \$1.5 million, 699 locations, \$2,095 per location, \$17 million, seven weeks.

13. Oliver & Company, Disney, \$1.3 million, 1,569 locations, \$844 per location, \$16.9 million, four weeks.

14. Up Close and Personal, Disney, \$980,272, 1,056 locations, \$928 per location, \$46.9 million, eight weeks.

15. A Family Thing, MGM, \$648,754, 825 locations, \$786 per location, \$9.1 million, four weeks.

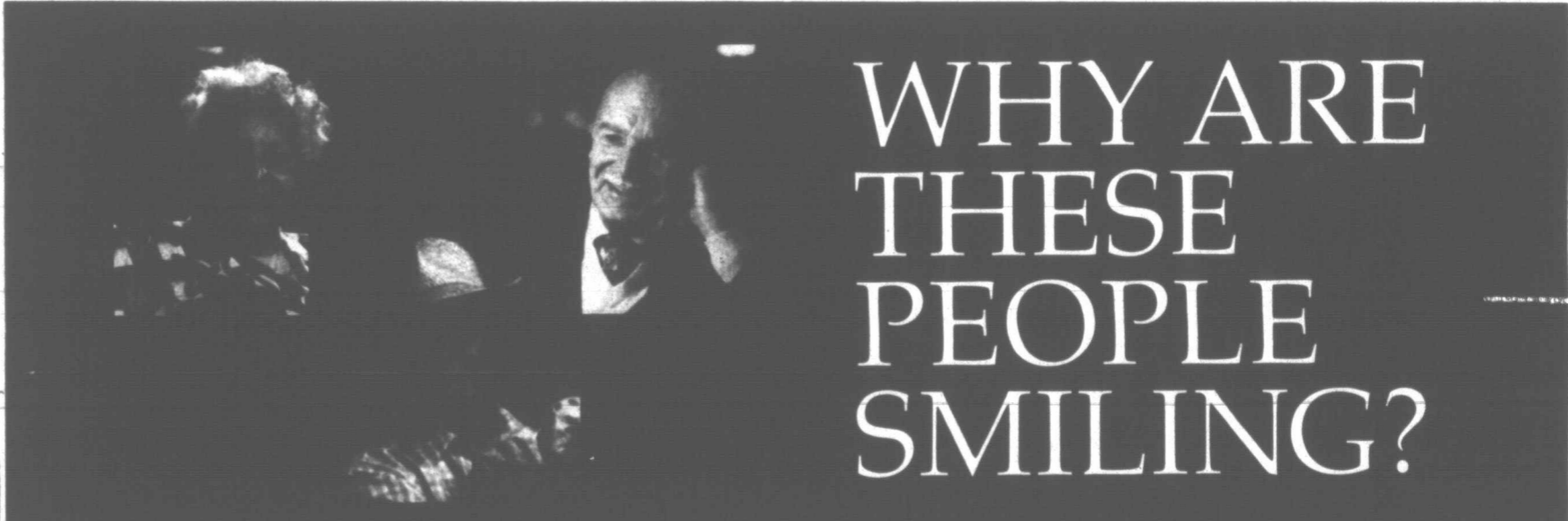
16. Kids in the Hall Brain Candy, Paramount, \$618,853, 413 locations, \$1,498 per location, \$1.6 million, two weeks.

17. Dead Man Walking, Gramercy, \$593,443, 562 locations, \$1,056 per location, \$36.5 million, 17 weeks.

18. Broken Arrow, 20th Century Fox, \$487,019, 620 locations, \$786 per location, \$68.2 million, 11 weeks.

19. Diabolique, Warner Bros., \$475,884, 742 locations, \$641 per location, \$15.3 million, five weeks.

20. Happy Gilmore, Universal, \$443,070, 547 locations, \$810 per location, \$37.3 million, 10 weeks.



WHY ARE THESE PEOPLE SMILING?

Because they're members of the National Association of Senior Friends, an organization for people age 50 and over interested in wellness, travel and fun. Senior Friends members receive a number of great benefits including:

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- Educational programs
- Social activities
- Travel opportunities
- Annual convention
- Magazine subscription
- Local newsletter
- Wellness classes
- Lunch bunch, bowling, bridge, crafts, line dancing, golf
- Free health screenings
- Local business discounts
- Hospital VIP benefits
- Healthcare claim filing services
- Volunteer opportunities
- Aerobics classes

Come to a free get-acquainted brunch, learn about our programs, get a chance to win prizes, and enjoy entertainment provided by the Big Texan Dancers. Our guest speaker will be Kathy Mills RN, Senior Friends Advisor from Columbia Augusta Regional Medical Center.

Thursday, April 25 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

M.K. Brown Auditorium

For more information please call Betty Scarbrough at 669-0208.

Senior Friends Of Coronado Hospital

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Mr. Gatti's

Mailbox Filled With Memories Honors Marriage Of 50 Years

DEAR ABBY: Our parents are Vivian and Orin Rongstad. Last fall, we started thinking about their 50th wedding anniversary. They made it clear they had no interest in a big celebration.

My sister and I remembered a letter we saw in your column about a woman turning 80, whose daughter arranged a mail campaign to friends requesting they send a note with a recollection instead of a gift. So we went to work.

Unbeknownst to our parents, we poked through their two address books and mailed 136 letters to relatives and friends, from California to Norway. (They live in Wisconsin.) We requested the greatest gift of all — sharing a memory! We had no clue what the response would be.

It was an unbelievable success. Their anniversary was Feb. 9. From Feb. 5 through Feb. 27, they received 166 cards and letters in the mail, with the majority sharing a memory. Our parents were surprised and delighted with their overflowing mailbox of pleasant remembrances. It truly was the greatest gift we could have given them. Dad said, "A party would have been over in four hours, but this lasted three weeks!"

Thank you, Abby, for the idea. We provided a joyous celebration for our parents without having an organized party.

PROUD DAUGHTERS KAY IN ILLINOIS AND CAROL IN WISCONSIN



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

you write one memory or experience that you have shared with them, and return it to us by April 26. We believe that the loving memories they have shared with you, their friends, would be the most treasured gift they could receive; therefore, we request that no other gift be sent."

DEAR ABBY: I just read the letter from "Confused and Hurting," the 44-year-old divorcee who fell into bed with a 50-year-old man on their first date. After two months of "getting together" every night, he suggested that they end their relationship and just be friends.

What "C and H" needs is a big reality adjustment. She willingly feeds her romantic fantasies about being so special and good to this man she's "in love with" that he couldn't help but love her in return and leave his empty but financially comfortable marriage for her. The fact is, this philanderer made it clear he didn't intend to have anything but an affair and that she was a temporary fix.

At 44, this woman is overdue to grow up. If she would give up her fantasy life and spend her time and effort developing some self-esteem, predatory men would avoid her and decent men would take notice. Change may be painful, but it is worth it. She should seek professional help, if necessary. This from ... THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

DEAR PROUD DAUGHTERS: My belated congratulations to your parents on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. I'm pleased to learn it brought them so much pleasure.

Many adult children ask how to plan celebrations for parents who are adamant about not collecting more "things" at this stage of their lives.

They ask, "How can we let guests know that our parents do not want gifts?" In past columns, I have offered the following solution:

"The children of Iver and Helen Dahl invite you to celebrate with them the 50th wedding anniversary of their parents. A reception will be held May 7, at 2 p.m., at the Elmhurst Country Club.

"We request your help in compiling a book that recalls memories from our parents' first 50 years of marriage. On the enclosed sheet, we ask that

and creativity will be two-of your best assets, but associates might not have the same level of ability. Do not let their lack of talent impede you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Make an attempt to allocate your current resources in ways that will provide you with the best returns. Do not indulge in risky or foolish things.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may have to contend with inconsistency and indecisiveness today. Try not to pass judgment before you have all the facts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Generally, things will not go smoothly for you today, so don't make things tougher on yourself. If you search for easy outs, you might incur bigger problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Share your wisdom, experience and advice today if a friend seeks your counsel, but don't do anything impulsive that involves your finances.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Do not let negative indicators take the wind out of your sails today. Things will change for the better if you persist and remain

patient. **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** An acquaintance might say something derogatory about a person you know well today. Use your own judgment and disregard the attacker's caustic comments.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today, you will have the ability to succeed in an endeavor you consider a labor of love. Your attitude will be a big factor in your success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Try to be considerate and helpful to people who have proven their loyalty. Conversely, don't cater to someone who might just be full of hot air.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Family matters should take precedence over your outside interests today. Looking out for those you love should be your primary concern.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Members of the opposite sex will find you more appealing than usual today. Enjoy yourself, but beware of someone who will use flattery to manipulate you.



For Better or For Worse



Arlo & Janis



Garfield



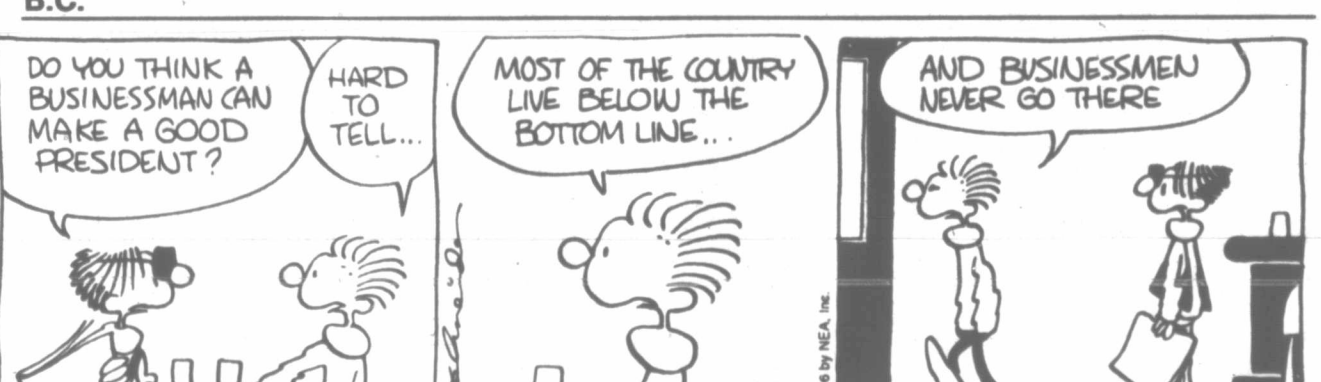
Walnut Cove



Marvin



B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore

Horoscope



Thursday, April 25, 1996

It will be imperative to define your goals as quickly as possible in the year ahead. Your success will depend on the methods and tactics you decide to employ.

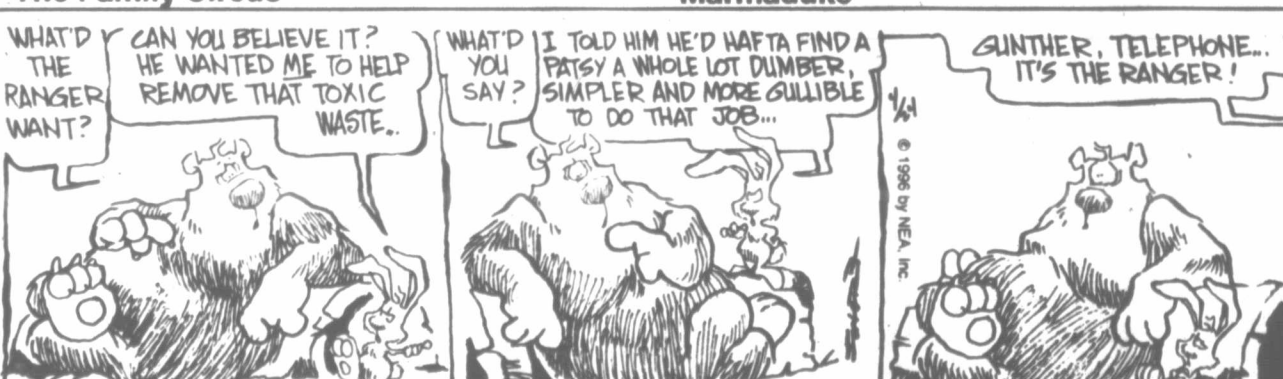


"Me?"



"Well, I don't think the lawn needs mowing yet."

The Family Circus



Marmaduke

Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts

Scoreboard

SOFTBALL City of Pampa Spring Softball League Standings. Men's Open Division One, Two, Three. Women's Open. Team, Won, Lost.

BASEBALL National League At A Glance. By The Associated Press. All Times EDT. NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division, Central Division, West Division. W, L, Pct, GB.

Freeman Flowers 25, Making it Great 24.5, Sammy B's 22, The Rowdy Bunch 18, Total Safety 16, Precision Welding 14. Week's High Scores. Men. High game: Earnest Byars, 247; High series: Earnest Byars, 635; High handicap game: Earnest Byars, 258; High handicap series: Earnest Byars, 668.

Cougars are 2-0 in district

BRISCOE - The Fort Elliott baseball team is now 2-0 in district play after a doubleheader sweep of Texline earlier this week. The Cougars, 3-1 overall, won the opener, 18-3, as Donnie Barr and David Helton combined for a no-hitter. Barr, the winning pitcher didn't allow a run in three innings on the mound to improve his record to 2-1. Helton pitched one inning and allowed three unearned runs. Helton paced the Cougars' hitting attack, going 4 for 4 with 3 RBI and 4 runs scored. Others with hits were Tanner Smith, 1 for 2 with 2 walks and 3 runs scored; Barr, 3 for 3 with 3 RBI, 3 runs scored and 1 triple; Bryan Moran, 2 for 3 with 5 RBI and 3 stolen bases, and Chris Mick, 2 for 4. Barr was also the winning pitcher in the second game as Fort Elliott posted a 24-17 decision. Barr (3-1) went 5 innings and struck out 13, walked 9 and gave up 17 runs. Only six runs were earned as the Cougars committed seven errors. Helton and Barr led the hitting attack. Helton was 4 for 5 with 4 runs scored and 2 triples. Barr was 4 for 4 with 10 RBI, 4 runs scored and 2 home runs. Others with hits were Smith, 1 for 1 with 5 runs scored, 4 walks, a double and 2 RBI; Michael Hilburn, 2 for 4; Moran, 2 for 4 and 2 RBI; Mick, 2 for 5, a double and 2 RBI.

4th grade champs



The Pampa Little Hustlers won the 4th grade division of the Borger Basketball Tournament on April 13. Team members are (front row, l-r) Jonathan Jones, Clarke Hale, Chance Bowers, Collin Bowers and Johnny Story; (back row, l-r) Zach Hucks, Kyle Cambern, Ben Mullinax and Raynor Muniz. Coach Rusty Gallagher is also pictured. The Hustlers had a perfect 4-0 record in the tournament.

Marino inks new deal to remain in Miami

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) - This time Dan Marino posed the question himself. "I'm not getting traded, am I?" Marino asked Jimmy Johnson with a grin at a news conference Tuesday. Johnson emphatically shook his head. Instead, Johnson and the Miami Dolphins signed the most prolific passer in NFL history to a three-year contract reportedly worth \$17.73 million. Johnson's hiring in January sparked speculation that the new coach would trade Marino in a Herschel Walker-type deal. The subject came up again at the news conference, and Marino let Johnson answer. "We have no plans, and we will not be trading Dan Marino," Johnson said. "He will be our quarterback with the Miami Dolphins. OK?" Johnson has said repeatedly that he wants Marino to lead the team to a Super Bowl title. The new contract, which runs through 1998, will give Marino a chance to do just that.

LeClair paces Flyers' victory

With John LeClair back in the lineup, the Philadelphia Flyers were back in their playoff series with the Tampa Bay Lightning. "Johnny had a very big game," Flyers coach Terry Murray said after LeClair's two power-play goals led Philadelphia to a 4-1 victory over Tampa Bay on Tuesday night. "It was great to have him back in the lineup. The effect he had in the dressing room was big. It gave a big rush of adrenalin when we knew he was going to play." A loss by the top-seeded Flyers would have put them one game away from elimination. As it is, they tied the best-of-7 Eastern Conference series with the eighth-seeded Lightning at 2-2. LeClair, who scored a team-leading 51 goals during the season, sprained his ankle in Philadelphia's 2-1 overtime loss to the Lightning in Game 2 and had missed their 5-4 overtime loss in Tampa Bay on Sunday. In other games Tuesday, it was the New York Rangers 4, Montreal 3; St. Louis 5, Toronto 1; Detroit 6, Winnipeg 1; and Chicago 2, Calgary 1 in triple overtime. A league single-game record crowd of 28,183 at the ThunderDome watched LeClair score from nearly identical spots on the ice in the first and third periods. Joel Otto and Dale Hawerchuk also had goals for the Flyers, who regained home-ice advantage in the best-of-7 series.

BOWLING HARVESTER LANES - PAMPA Lone Star League. Team, Won, Lost. High game: Valorie Worley, 206; High series: Carrie Duroy, 564; High handicap game: Diana Cross, 250; High handicap series: Lorr Marcellus, 672.

American League At A Glance. By The Associated Press. All Times EDT. East Division, Central Division, West Division. W, L, Pct, GB.

Monday's Games, Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games. National League At A Glance. By The Associated Press. All Times EDT. East Division, Central Division, West Division. W, L, Pct, GB.

THE PAMPA NEWS logo with phone numbers 669-2525 and 1-800-687-3348.

3 Personal, 3 Personal, 10 Lost and Found, 14b Appliance Repair, 14d Carpentry, 14d Carpentry, 14d Carpentry, 14i General Repair, 14r Plowing, Yard Work. Various service advertisements.

Victims awareness week



(Pampa News photo by Chip Chandler)

Mayor Robert Neslage signs proclamations declaring this week National Crime Victims' Rights Week for CASA, Tralee Crisis Center and the Bridge. Janet Watts, left, and Sana Alexander represented CASA and Tralee, respectively.

Randel Chamber Orchestra announces season finale

AMARILLO - The Randel Chamber Orchestra will present the third and final performance of the 1995-96 Season at 8 p.m. Friday, April 26. The concert will be held at First Baptist Church, at Eleventh and Tyler in Amarillo. The concert is free and open to the public.

Concertmaster John Meisner will be the featured soloist in Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3. Meisner has been a member of the Harrington String Quartet and concertmaster of the Amarillo Symphony and Randel Chamber Orchestra for five seasons.

The Randel Chamber Orchestra will be also joined by the grand prize winner of the Amarillo Symphony Guild's Young Performers' Competition. The competition was held at the end of January and pianist Marissa Sorajja was awarded the Grand Prize winner. Sorajja is a freshman at Amarillo High School and is a piano student of Dr. James Rauscher. Sorajja auditioned for this competition on both violin and piano and has been a member of the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra as a violinist since 1993.

The Randel Chamber Orchestra will open the concert with the Mozart Violin Concerto No. 3. The first half concludes with the *The Birds* by Respighi.

The second half will open with Sorajja performing with the Randel Chamber Orchestra in Chopin's *Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise*.

The final two works of the concert will feature the combined forces of the Chamber Orchestra and the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra. The Youth Orchestra will join the adults in Suppé's *Light Cavalry Overture* and Aaron Copland's "Hoedown" from the ballet *Rodeo*. The Youth Orchestra rehearsals for this performance were led by Dr. Mo Trout.

This performance is free thanks to the generosity and support of First Baptist Church. This concert is the final concert for the Chamber Orchestra and the Amarillo Symphony this season.

Foreigners' visits with Zapista rebels riles Mexican government

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) - The parade of rock stars, movie directors, politicians and others drawn to southern Mexico by an Indian rebellion is testing the patience of the Mexican government.

The visitors come in support of the Zapatista National Liberation Army. They have been international celebrities and vacationing students, prominent human rights activists and leftist neo-hippies.

American actor Edward James Olmos has come. So have Argentine human rights activist Hebe de Bonafini, the widow of French President Francois Mitterrand and U.S. director Oliver Stone, who skipped the Academy Awards ceremony to venture into the jungle of southern Mexico on horseback.

The government lately seems to

have lost patience with the visits. After Danielle Mitterrand attended government-rebel peace talks over the weekend and praised both sides, some Mexican officials and lawmakers were outraged.

"This shows slight regard and respect for the sovereignty of the Mexican nation," said a statement issued late Monday by commission of lawmakers helping to mediate the talks.

A few days earlier, immigration officials issued a warning to Regis Debray, an adviser to Mrs. Mitterrand's late husband and a former leftist activist, following a trip into Zapatista territory.

Mikel Abrego, drummer for the Spanish rock group Negu Gorriak, was being held for deportation after he allegedly entered Mexico with false documents to accompany Mrs. Mitterrand into Zapatista territory.

Cop to die for soliciting wife's death

HOUSTON (AP) - Jurors have handed a former police officer the death sentence for his part in the murder-for-hire scheme that ended his wife's life.

Harris County jurors deliberated eight hours over two days before returning the sentence Tuesday against Robert Fratta. The 39-year-old showed no emotion and was immediately led from the courtroom.

The parents of Fratta's slain wife, Farah, said they had hoped for a sentence of death even though it can't bring back their daughter, the mother of three.

"There can be no punishment in this world severe enough that can justify the everlasting grief, pain and suffering he has brought upon his three minor children," said Les Baquer, Farah Fratta's father.

The 33-year-old woman was shot twice as she got out of her car on Nov. 9, 1994. Prosecutors said Fratta, a former Missouri City officer, commissioned the killing.

He became a suspect when he tried to cash in on his wife's \$235,000 insurance policy just two days after the murder.

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