

NATION:
Tenant advocates rally
for limits on rent, Page 7

GOOD EVENING
Thursday, April 25, 1996

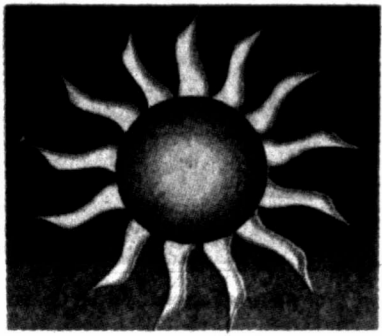
SPORTS:
Jones, Johnson showdown
scheduled for Oct. 27, Page 10

THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 17

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



Low tonight in mid 40s, high tomorrow in mid 70s. See Page 2 for weather details.

PAMPA — Pampa schools will offer a summer reading assistance program in June, curriculum director Betty Beyer announced Wednesday.

A multisensory approach called Auditory Discrimination In Depth, created by Ann Schafer, will be used, Beyer said.

The program is open to any student grades 1 through 12 who has been recommended by a teacher and has parental permission to attend. Students will be served on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Students will attend one of two morning sessions June 3-28. Sessions run from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. at Horace Mann Elementary School.

Bus transportation will be provided from each neighborhood elementary school to and from Horace Mann.

Beyer said there is no charge for transportation or for the sessions.

For more information, contact school principals or Beyer at Carver Center, 669-4700.

PAMPA — The local animal control office will sponsor a city-wide rabies shot drive May 3, 4 and 6.

Shots will be offered at reduced rates at all three Pampa veterinarian clinics.

Dogs will be vaccinated May 3 and 4, and cats on May 6.

All dogs and cats over three months old must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian, and the animal must wear the tag at all times, according to local Animal Control Director Sandy Burns.

PAMPA — The Pampa Fine Arts Association will be holding its 1996 Photography Show this weekend at the Pampa in the old Hastings store location (across from ACT I Dinner Theater).

Show times will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from 1-3 p.m. Sunday. PFAA hosts will be available during the show, which features photo exhibits by local photographers.

There is no admission to the show.

AUSTIN (AP) — Two tickets bought in Grand Prairie and Sugar Land correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The jackpot was worth \$25 million.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were: 3, 5, 16, 47, 49 and 50.

Lottery officials estimate the jackpot for Saturday night's game will be \$4 million.

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Both sides claim victory in budget bill agreements

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration and Republican leaders today each declared victory as House lawmakers began moving a huge bill financing dozens of federal agencies and finally ending the messy 1996 budget war.

The agreement concludes nearly a year of bruising partisan strife that twice shut down much of the government. White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta and senior House and Senate lawmakers stood shoulder-to-shoulder Wednesday evening to announce the truce.

They said they had resolved environmental and other disputes holding up passage of the \$160 billion measure for the five months left in the fiscal year.

The House turned to the bill today and the Senate was scheduled to follow. White House press secretary Mike McCurry said President Clinton would sign it as soon as it reached his desk. But he expressed concern that Republicans "might feel the White House got too much out of the agreement" and balk at approving it.

"The president, by standing firm, stopped them at every point of the way," he said.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., said today there would be "more than enough" GOP votes to pass it. Republicans focused on what they said was \$23 billion in savings they had wrung from the budget compared with fiscal 1995.

"The facts speak for themselves. They (Democrats) wanted higher spending, a higher deficit and more borrowing," said House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ga. "It is a clear victory for Republicans."

Democrats concentrated on their success in blunting provisions they said harmed the environment and restoring nearly \$5 billion in House cuts to education, job training and other domestic priorities. The extra money would come from savings elsewhere, including funds to cope with natural disasters.

"Public opinion was on our side," said Rep. David Obey of

Wisconsin, senior Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee. "The public wants strong support of education. They don't want politicians to interfere with environmental protection. They do want cops on the street. I think we've delivered on all three."

Obey said "a significant number" of Democrats would vote for the bill. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bob Livingston, R-La., predicted "a significant majority" of Republicans would too.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., who is likely to cite the \$23 billion in savings as he runs for president this fall, said he believed "nearly everybody on both sides of the aisle" would support the bill.

As the two sides searched for a truce in their 1996 spending war, Clinton and Dole continued their election-year budget maneuvering.

A day after publicly inviting Dole to revive a failed effort to balance the budget by 2002, Clinton spoke with the Kansas for about five minutes at a White House ceremony for the signing of an anti-terrorism bill, Panetta said.

Gingrich said today that he and Dole would meet today to develop a "yardstick" to measure the sincerity of any new administration balanced-budget proposals.

"If the president's prepared to do something real, of course we can reach agreement. But no more phony photo ops," he said. "It has to be real reform, implemented this year in a real way."

For Clinton, a deal with Republicans eliminating federal deficits would be a political coup that would erase the matter as an issue in his re-election campaign. Such a pact also could reinforce Dole's reputation as a person who can make things happen.

Some House conservatives and freshmen weren't happy about the 1996 budget accord. They called for deeper cuts and complained of federal education programs they said would give Washington bureaucrats too much control over local education.

4-H geranium sale



(Pampa News photo by Chip Chandler)

Gray County 4-H'ers Nonnie James, Sarah Schwab and Jason Bliss sit surrounded by geraniums similar to those on sell this weekend. The 4-H club will hold its second annual geranium fund-raiser Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dobson Cellular's parking lot, with proceeds benefiting the 4-H projects.

Israel continues bombing raids of Hezbollah guerrilla positions

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli warplanes roared across southern Lebanon today in pre-dawn air raids as the bombardment of Hezbollah guerrilla positions entered a third week.

In Jerusalem, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said it was up to Israel and Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon, to work out a cease-fire.

"These are differences that can be resolved only by the parties," he said. Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said those differences were "very serious."

Christopher, who arrived in the Middle East over the weekend with a mandate to stay until he brokers a truce, later flew to Damascus, where he met in the morning with Syria's President Hafez Assad and planned a second session with Assad later in the day.

While they met, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters that U.S. officials had not achieved what they had hoped to, and said "the parties in these negotiations must work

harder to solve such differences."

In southern Lebanon, guerrillas ambushed a patrol of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army, wounding one militiaman, said security sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. There was no claim of responsibility, but the attack bore the hallmarks of the Shiite Muslim rebel group Hezbollah.

Israeli fighter-bombers, helicopter gunships and naval gunboats, meanwhile, blasted road bridges and water facilities.

Police said a civilian was injured when Israeli gunboats shelled a newly built bridge where the coastal highway enters Sidon, the provincial capital of south Lebanon. Three shells slammed into the metal-and-concrete bridge erected by the Lebanese army this week. The bridge was not damaged.

U.N. officers said Israeli warplanes made nearly 60 bombing runs from dusk Wednesday to dawn today, firing 101 rockets on targets around the southern port of Tyre and the inland mar-

ket town of Nabatiyeh.

The bombardment has cut water and electricity to 11,000 people in 45 villages, and has blocked U.N. peacekeepers from getting food and medical supplies to them, they said.

One missile destroyed a sewage network in the U.N.-policed village of Yater, the officers said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

An Israeli army statement said Israeli jet fighters attacked suspected guerrilla targets overnight in the border enclave Israel has controlled in southern Lebanon since 1985. Pilots reported direct hits and returned safely to base, the statement said.

The onslaught has failed to achieve its publicly declared goal of curbing the ability of the Iranian-backed guerrillas to fire rockets into northern Israeli towns.

U.N. officers in southern Lebanon said guerrillas fired 57 Katyusha rockets toward northern Israel overnight.

New law permits officials to cancel certain elections

By STEFANI G. KOPENEC
Associated Press Writer

Election day is less than two weeks away for cities and school districts across Texas, but that hasn't stopped the Longview school board from already declaring winners in its two races.

A new law, passed by the Legislature last year, allows officials to cancel certain elections if each candidate is unopposed and no proposition is to appear on the ballot.

"Surprisingly, that particular piece of legislation has turned out to be very useful, popular," said Monte Akers, first general counsel for the Texas Municipal League.

Eighty-six cities — from Darrouzett in the far northeast reaches of the Texas Panhandle to Portland in South Texas — contacted TML about getting materials needed to cancel May 4 elections, Akers said. But exactly how many won't be conducting balloting is unknown, he said.

Neither the Secretary of State's Office nor the Texas Education Agency tracks cancellations either, officials said.

Under the law, cities, school

districts and most water districts are allowed to cancel elections, said Gene Acuna, a spokesman for Secretary of State Tony Garza. But hospital districts and most junior college districts don't have a law limiting write-in candidates to those who have filed by a certain deadline, so all write-in votes that may be cast have to be counted, he said.

Among those quick to take advantage of the new legislation was the Longview Independent School District.

"The board's already met and declared the two candidates that were unopposed elected," said Rick Albritton, the district's assistant superintendent for business. "So our May 4 election will not occur."

That will mean a savings of \$3,500 to \$4,000 — the cost that would have been spent to print ballots and pay election judges, Albritton said.

The savings won't be as great in the tiny town of Darrouzett, population 330, where both the city and school district have canceled elections.

City Secretary Jamie Chambers expects to save \$200 when an election is scrubbed.

Young artists show



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

First-year students Valerie Velez, left, Brittany Walters and Ashley Orr will be three of 16 students displaying art work in the Young Artists Art Show on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lovett Memorial Library. The 16 artists, all ages eight to 14, are students of Mary Cook. This is the students' first judged art show; ribbons will be awarded for best of show, first place and honorable mention.

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Immigration rates expected to jump this year

WASHINGTON (AP) — After the biggest drop in legal immigration since the 1930s, the number of foreigners granted residency here will jump 41 percent this year from 1995, according to unreleased Immigration and Naturalization Service projections.

Advocates of big reductions in legal immigration are fuming over the projections, charging that INS was aware of rising rates even as agency officials were bragging about decreased immigration in 1995.

The Clinton administration dulled the congressional push for substantial legal immigration cutbacks, which it opposes, in part by citing the declining rates under existing law.

Just last month, INS Commissioner Doris Meissner trumpeted a 10.4 percent drop from 1994 to 1995 — even as Congress was wrestling with the question of whether to tackle legal immigration reform.

While Congress is expected to enact a new bill cracking down on illegal immigration, the chances for changes this year

in legal immigration policy appear dim. "We've all been duped," House immigration subcommittee Chairman Lamar Smith, R-San Antonio, said Wednesday. "All along they knew what they were saying was not the whole truth. I take this as an intentional misrepresentation to the public and to Congress. And it's inexcusable."

But the head of the National Immigration Forum, which favors moderate cuts, termed the episode a fustian in a teapot. Cutback advocates "know the numbers as well as anyone," said Frank Sharry. "They are using this to political effect."

The projections show immigration rising from 593,000 last year to 835,000 this year — a rise of 41 percent. The numbers would peak in 1997, at nearly 854,000, then decline to the mid-700,000 level in the next year, hitting 729,000 in 2003.

Those numbers don't reflect total legal immigration because they don't include refugees, asylum adjustments and a few other types of admissions. Those categories totaled 127,000

last year — bringing total legal immigration to 720,000 — and are conservatively expected to hover around 100,000 in upcoming years.

"When there is major immigration legislation being considered, for the INS to not provide this information that's just outrageous," said Rosemary Jenks of the Center for Immigration Studies, which favors reduced immigration.

INS executive associate commissioner Robert Bach denied any attempt to mislead Congress or the public.

Bach said the projections obtained by The Associated Press were requested by Senate immigration subcommittee Chairman Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., and the panel's ranking Democrat Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. "Nobody asked us from the House," he said.

Bach said he was confused by the flap. "I don't get it," he said. "This is a lot of very normal, hard work, cooperation and exchanging information and responding to requests from Senate staff ... That is what we are supposed to do and we do it."

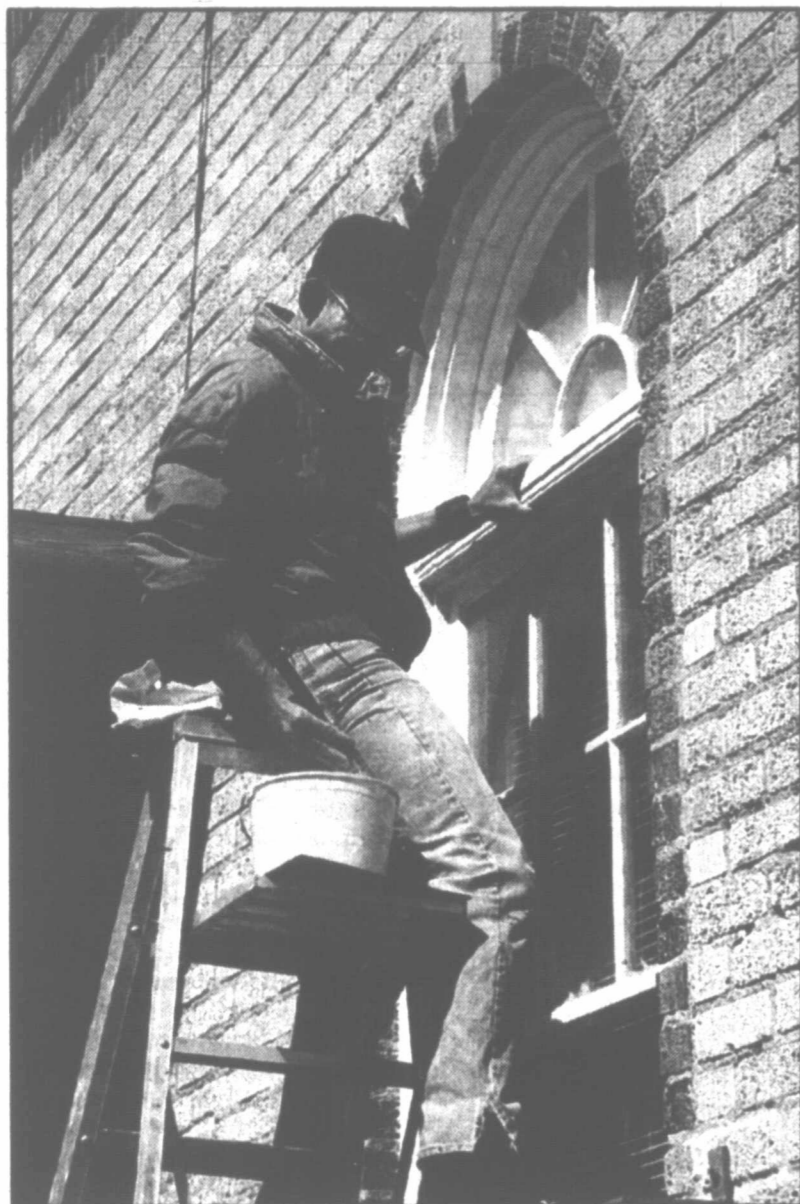
Senior wins raffle



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Sean Cook, a Pampa High School senior, recently won a \$200 shopping spree at Albertson's in Creative Artisans Network's raffle drawing April 16. Cook accepts his prize from CAN President Tomoko Mechler.

Schneider House touched up



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Shawn Goodman takes advantage of the mild spring weather to do some painting chores on the Schneider House in downtown Pampa. Goodman was busy Tuesday painting the window trim on the outside of the building.

Nation briefs

Ford recalls vehicles, possible ignition switch defect

DETROIT (AP) — Ford Motor Co. is recalling about 8.7 million vehicles in the United States and Canada with ignition switches that have been blamed for hundreds of fires.

The recall will cover Ford and Lincoln-Mercury cars and trucks built between 1988 and early 1993, the No. 2 U.S. automaker said today.

The ignition-switch problem has come under intense scrutiny from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Problems with the same type of ignition switch prompted a recall of 248,000 Ford vehicles in Canada late last year.

Today's recall includes an additional 611,000 vehicles sold in Canada, Ford said.

Senators differ about disclosing intelligence budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee disagree on whether it's a good idea to disclose how much the government spends on intelligence, but CIA Director John Deutch said he doesn't think it matters much one way or the other.

"I think that there's absolutely no danger to doing it, and I think it's marginally beneficial for people to know what the top line is of the budget, provided that you don't go below that," Deutch told the committee Wednesday.

The CIA director said he supports the recommendation of a special commission headed by former Defense Secretary Harold Brown that the overall budget figure be made public.

"If they had recommended the opposite, I think I would have been equally supportive," he said.

The total intelligence budget was inadvertently disclosed two years ago by the House Appropriations Committee and projections since then have led to estimates that it currently is about \$30 billion.

Jobless claims rose to highest level since March

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of American workers filing first-time claims for jobless benefits rose by 13,000 last week to the highest level in three weeks.

The Labor Department said today that new applications for unemployment insurance totaled a seasonally adjusted 372,000, up from a revised 359,000 a week earlier. Claims during the week ended April 13 originally were estimated to be 360,000.

The latest total is the highest since claims stood at 406,000 during the week ended March 30, when applications swelled as a result of the General Motors Corp. strike.

Many analysts had expected little change in the latest figure.

In the state data, 33 states and territories had increases during the week ended April 13 and 20 had declines. The state data is reported a week later than national totals.

Corpus Christi I.S.D. settles lawsuit

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The Corpus Christi Independent School District has agreed to stipulate on the record that campus prayer gatherings known as "See You at the Pole" events won't be disrupted, the school district attorney says.

Under a partial settlement of a 1993 federal lawsuit over district policies regarding student gatherings, the district also agreed to pay 17 students and their parents \$6,000, lawyer Shirley Selz said.

After a 1992 incident that prompted the suit, the prayer events have been held on Corpus Christi campuses for the past three years without incident, Ms. Selz said.

The Rutherford Institute, a Charlottesville, Va., civil liberties

group that specializes in defending religious freedom, said the settlement was a warning to other schools.

"Government attempts at intimidation or interference with the students' prayers will not be tolerated," Kelly Shackelford, a spokesman for the group's Dallas branch, said Wednesday. The settlement, agreed to by attorneys in December but not yet signed by a federal judge, does not include any significant change in school policy, Ms. Selz said.

"It was really just an effort to come to some agreement," she said. "Saying that we agreed to it in court was not anything different from what we were doing anyway."

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays and holidays by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx. 79065. Second class postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Publisher: Wayland Thomas
Managing Editor: Larry Hollis
Advertising Director: Rick Clark
Circulation Director: Lewis James
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Baker Star Readers



(Pampa News photo by Chip Chandler)

Baker Elementary Star Readers for the month include Ernie Portillo, Alex Torres, Ashley Shaw, Eliza Mungia and Samantha Wilson. The readers posed with Safety Pup Tuesday during the final reading program of the year. The program is sponsored by Altrusa International.

Prosecution: Guru ordered subway attack

TOKYO (AP) — A cult guru ordered last year's deadly nerve-gas attack in the Tokyo subway system to set off panic in the capital and divert police attention from his group, prosecutors charged today.

In a 99-page opening statement read in court, prosecutors depicted Shoko Asahara as a cold-blooded killer who oversaw the strangling of one of his own followers and preached that murder on his orders was a religious act. The trial, which opened Wednesday, has gripped the attention of the country. Nearly 6,000 people jammed a park near the courthouse this morning to try for one of the scarce seats in the public gallery.

Asahara faces a variety of other charges in addition to the March 20, 1995 subway attack, which killed 12 people and sickened more than 5,000. On Wednesday, he refused to enter a plea.

Prosecutors said Asahara ordered the subway gassing "to set off massive confusion in the Tokyo area" because he feared police were about to raid facilities of his apocalyptic cult, Aum Shinri Kyo. They quoted Asahara as telling disciples they were blessed for carrying out the attack.

In accusing Asahara of ordering a wayward follower killed, prosecutors said he had taught cult members that killing on his orders would make them holy.

"If a guru orders murder, that person ... has already reached a time to die," they quoted Asahara as telling his followers.

The prosecutors' statement also detailed the cult's production of sarin nerve gas and illegal drugs; the logistics of the subway assault; Asahara's personal background; and the guru's iron-fisted control over his disciples.

Asahara was expressionless during today's session, and sat back looking relaxed, usually with his eyes closed. He occasionally looked upward or rubbed his eyes.

At the opening session of his trial on Wednesday, the 41-year-old cult leader fidgeted through a six-hour recitation of nearly 4,000 names of the attack's victims.

Non-family caregivers increase across nation

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — An increase in the early 1990s in the number of dads caring for the kids' while mom worked may not have been a social trend after all.

It now seems more likely that recession-induced unemployment resulted in more fathers out of work, and they watched the kids because the family had less money for day care.

When the economy picked up, dad went back to work and the kids went back to day care, or the baby sitter, says a Census Bureau report, "Who's Minding Our Preschoolers?"

Census Bureau statistician Lynne M. Casper, who wrote the report, looked at the care of preschoolers with working mothers in 1988, 1991 and 1993 and was surprised at the growth in use of organized day care in the most recent year.

"I was stunned that the use of organized facilities went up to 30 percent. That's an all-time high," Casper said. In addition, 22 percent of children in 1993 were cared for either in the home of a nonrelative or by a baby sitter.

That means fewer than half — 48 percent — of the 9.9 million preschoolers with working mothers counted in 1993 were watched by relatives while mom was on the job.

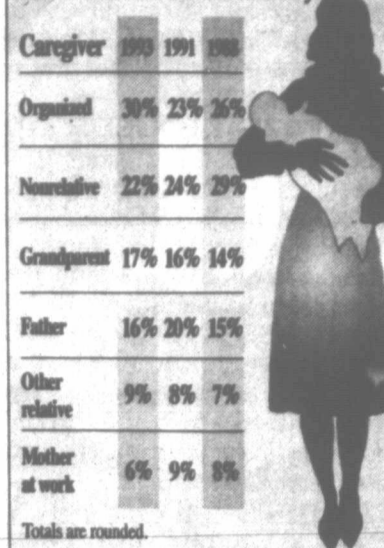
The study comes just days after the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development reported that day care doesn't hurt children's attachment to their mothers. The institute said that 15-month-old children taken care of by relatives or put in day care centers maintained secure bonds to their mothers.

Previous studies found fathers shouldering an increased share of child care in 1991, watching over 20 percent of preschoolers. That was up from 15 percent in 1988.

The increase sparked speculation of a growing social trend. But the new report covering 1993 found father's share of kid

Who's watching the kids?

The job of caring for preschoolers when their mothers return to work most often falls to someone out of the family.



Source: Census Bureau

AP

care plummeted back to 16 percent. Looking back, Casper says she now thinks both changes were economic rather than social.

At the time the share of father care was rising, a recession had put many men out of work — meaning more fathers were available to watch the kids and less money was available to pay for care.

Then the economy improved, many fathers went back to work, and their children went back to organized care.

Casper pointed out, though, that care of children by someone outside the family has been declining steadily over recent years from 29 percent in 1988 to 24 percent in 1991 and 22 percent in 1993.

She speculated that news reports of nannies and baby sitters abusing children, some caught on hidden cameras, may have been a factor in this decline.

Other findings of the report, based on the Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation:

—Families in the suburbs were more likely to use organized day care (32 percent) than families in central cities (28 percent).

McDonald's serves up classical fare in attempt to ward off street toughs

DALLAS (AP) — A downtown McDonald's is hoping to give street toughs the boot by serving up a little Bach with its burgers.

Manager Michael Hom said Wednesday that he's trying to scare away only troublemakers with the piped-in classical music that wafts both inside and out of the restaurant.

"We planned it to lower the number of street toughs that occasionally loiter here," Hom said. "We've got a lot of business clientele, and we're trying to make every effort possible to create an environment and atmosphere they feel comfortable visiting."

He's no aficionado, but Hom enjoys the classical Muzak tunes and says that "so far it seems to be working."

"We've had a lot of positive remarks from customers," he said. "There's been a handful of

folks who don't care for it, but those really aren't paying customers."

Others like Cleo Pearson, a Dallas musician waiting nearby for a DART bus, said he thinks the whole idea is just a publicity ploy.

"Who can they say is undesirable?" Pearson said. "They just don't want undesirables here, but they have a place of business here."

The idea isn't new. 7-Eleven Food Stores use classical music to chase away loiterers on the West Coast, and Stop 'N Go tried it for a while in Grand Prairie.

Lt. Jeff Cotner, commanding officer in charge of the central business district that includes the McDonald's restaurant, calls it crime prevention through environmental design.

"You can change the environment to make it safer," he said. "I guess depending on what type of

music, you can foster people hanging around or foster people moving on."

The downtown restaurant shares the same few blocks with a bus station and a DART transfer point. In 1988, a homeless man shot and killed a police officer near the restaurant. And in 1993, violence at the Dallas Cowboys parade started there.

Cotner, who heard the music while dealing with some truants, said he understands what's behind the effort.

"I knew why they did it," he said. "The message I received was clear."

Some people laughed off the music, including two young men who walked by the Commerce Street location snickering as "On The Beautiful Blue Danube," a Strauss waltz, came out of a number of built-in speakers above their heads.

Others enjoyed it.

Judge orders Clinton's Whitewater testimony sealed

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Copies of President Clinton's videotaped testimony in the Whitewater trial must remain sealed until the judge decides whether to release the material to the public.

U.S. District Judge George Howard Jr. said Wednesday that lawyers for the president, the Whitewater defendants and the government have 30 days to submit written proposals concerning handling and release of the videotape.

Clinton, who has not been charged, is to give his videotaped testimony from the White House on Sunday in the fraud and conspiracy trial of Gov. Jim Guy Tucker and James and Susan McDougal, the president's former partners in the real estate development named Whitewater.

The president's testimony may have historical

value, Howard said, noting that the court has had inquiries from the National Archives and calls from as far away as England and Germany.

"We're interested in preserving the integrity of the president's deposition for future generations of this nation," he said.

Defense lawyers have not said when they would play the tape in court. The prosecution does not expect to rest its case until next Thursday.

Court recessed until Tuesday to give lawyers time to travel to Washington to take Clinton's testimony, which could take as long as eight hours.

Tucker and the McDougals are named in a 21-count indictment that accuses them of misusing nearly \$3 million in government-backed loans in the mid-1980s.

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World briefs

Police disarm explosive near bridge in London

LONDON (AP) — A small explosion rattled the Hammersmith Bridge area of west London Wednesday night after telephoned warnings claimed by the Irish Republican Army.

Police said they had neutralized a multi-part explosive device after an explosion in one part of it. There were no reports of injuries or damages.

The blast came more than half an hour after one warning call to The Associated Press office. A second warning was called into The AP about 20 minutes before the explosion.

The bridge, which crosses the Thames River 4 miles west of central London, had been cleared and blocked off and a search with sniffer dogs was under way when the explosion occurred. Huge traffic jams formed on the approaches to the north side of the bridge as police worked.

Chef retires, passes torch to other famed cook

PARIS (AP) — Worn out by decades in the kitchen, top French chef Joel Robuchon announced Wednesday he was retiring and passing the torch to another famous cook, Alain Ducasse.

Robuchon, 50, had been threatening to retire for years. Widely regarded as France's No. 1 chef, he is known among gastronomic cognoscenti as the "chef des chefs."

Since 1984, his Robuchon restaurant has had three stars in the Michelin travel and restaurant guide — the highest possible score.

Robuchon earned his stars with dishes like cream of morel mushrooms with langoustine (Norway lobster), and even made news with his version of mashed potatoes.

Robuchon said he was retiring July 5. Ducasse was taking over July 8.

Ducasse is a favorite among gourmets in the Riviera. His Louis XV restaurant in Monaco also has garnered three Michelin stars.

Promoters pushing Mekong region as "last frontier"

PHATTAYA, Thailand (AP) — Eco-tourists exploring jungles that Cambodia's murderous Khmer Rouge once stalked. A delightful lodge on the most heavily bombed terrain of the Vietnam War.

It's a tourist promoter's dream. Possibly a conservationist's nightmare. But those who dictate worldwide tourism trends are marketing the Mekong, using come-ons like "Last of the last frontiers," "Asia as it was," and "Come see us now."

The Mekong River is more than an evocative sales strategy. The six countries through which the mighty, untamed river flows are developing economic, political and transport links that are beginning to define it as a sub-region of Southeast Asia.

Not long ago, most of this area was cut off by wars in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia or self-imposed isolation in Burma and the southern Chinese province of Yunnan. Only Thailand among the Mekong six jumped aboard the tourist bandwagon.

At the annual conference of the 16,000-member Pacific Asia Travel Association, one of the world's largest tourism organizations, the Mekong region is getting star billing.

Oregon scuba diver saved in South Pacific

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — A quick-thinking Australian diver saved an Oregon man who ran out of air and lost consciousness while scuba diving off a South Pacific island.

Raymond Montgomery, a U.S. Army reserve sergeant from Canby, Ore., said Wednesday that he ran out of air while diving in 165 feet of water near an old shipwreck off the island of Espiritu Santo, in Vanuatu, on Tuesday.

Mark Deaves of the Royal Australian Navy was taking part in a diving exercise nearby when he saw Montgomery in trouble.

He swam to the stricken man, gave him compressed air from his own supply and then helped him to a nearby boat.

"I was unconscious when I was pulled on board," Montgomery said.

"I'm very grateful. He probably saved me from becoming a vegetable as well as saving my life."

Montgomery was flown to Townsville Hospital in Australia where he is recovering.

Tenant advocates rallying to preserve limit on rents

WASHINGTON (AP) — It'll be mighty tough for Carolyn Smith to organize tenants in Connecticut if Congress removes the cap on rents in public and assisted housing. Nobody will be left to organize, she says.

"We're concerned that we'll just continue to see a dramatic increase of homelessness, of families, of women and children," said Smith, executive director of the Elm Haven Resident Council in New Haven, Conn.

Smith and tenant advocates across the country are concerned about legislation pending in the House to repeal the Brooke Amendment, a federal housing law that bases those rents on an individual's ability to pay.

Under Brooke, public housing tenants and recipients of Section

8 federal housing assistance pay just 30 percent of their income for rent. Without the limit, they could be asked to pay more, and tenant advocates say many residents could be forced into homelessness as a result.

Public housing is owned and operated by local housing authorities, which would be free to demand more or less rent from tenants if Brooke is repealed.

Under the Section 8 program, the Department of Housing and Urban Development pays the difference between 30 percent of a person's income and the cost of rent at a private dwelling, within reason.

Most of the people who fall under Brooke earn an average of \$7,800 annually, according to HUD. Without Brooke, they

either would have to dig deeper into their pockets to pay the rent or find someplace else to live.

HUD would not be able to increase its Section 8 assistance.

"Even spending 30 percent of their incomes on housing is a stretch for lots of folks," said Lisa Donner of ACORN, a community group. "Being charged any more than that will put significant numbers of people in the position of not being able to afford public housing."

The Senate approved a partial repeal of Brooke in January. A vote on the House bill proposed by Rep. Rick Lazio, R-N.Y., is expected in early May.

More than 500 community-based groups have asked

President Clinton and members of Congress to oppose the Brooke repeal.

"You'd have millions of families being displaced," said Denise Scott, a Charlotte, N.C., tenant organizer. "Tenants would have to come up with a lot of money to look for apartments if this law is repealed."

But Lazio argues that Brooke must be repealed in order to change the makeup of public housing. The requirement that people pay rent based on their earnings has discouraged tenants from finding jobs and has led higher-income working people to leave public housing.

And because poor people have

become concentrated in public housing that was originally intended to provide temporary homes, the law essentially limits the amount of rental income housing agencies can earn.

Housing officials have complained about cuts in their federal operating subsidies, and say attracting a mix of incomes to public housing would be one way for them to offset the short-falls.

"Because of the rules that have been passed over the years, people see (public housing) as the housing of last resort," said Rosalind Brathwaite of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

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Dog's Devotion To Its Master Deserves Kindness In Return

DEAR ABBY: Knowing that you are an animal lover, I beseech you to print "A Dog's Prayer" again. This has been a brutally cold winter, and I challenge anyone to read it without getting a lump in his throat.

BUD CALVERT, FORSYTH, MO.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

DEAR BUD: I admit I get a lump in my throat when I read it. Here it is:

A DOG'S PRAYER

by Beth Norman Harris

Treat me kindly, my beloved master, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me.

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I should lick your hand between the blows, your patience and understanding will more quickly teach me the things you would have me do.

Speak to me often, for your voice is the world's sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when your footsteps fall upon my waiting ear.

When it is cold and wet, please take me inside, for I am now a domesticated animal, no longer used to bitter elements. And I ask for greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet beside the hearth. Though had you no home, I would rather follow you through ice and snow than rest upon the softest pillow in the warmest home in all the land, for you are my god and I

am your devoted worshiper.

Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for although I should not reproach you were it dry, I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst. Feed me clean food, that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with my life should your life be in danger.

And, beloved master, should the great Master see fit to deprive me of my health or sight, do not turn me away from you. Rather hold me gently in your arms as skilled hands grant me the merciful boon of eternal rest — and I will leave you knowing with the last breath I drew, my fate was ever safest in your hands.

DEAR ABBY: I recently took a vacation trip to Hawaii with a friend. The vacation itself was fine, except for the airplane flight.

Upon taking our seats, we noticed a young woman with long hair seated directly in front of us. She immediately started running her fingers through her hair and flipping it over the seat. Then she leaned her chair back and continued to toss her hair over the back of the seat. In fact, she didn't even lean forward for the meal. She was not asleep or reading. This went on for the entire five-hour flight!

We asked her to please lean forward so we could get by to go to the bathroom. When she moved, she made a snide remark and gave us a look that could kill. The seat was immediately returned to the completely leaned-back position — hair hanging down and all.

Hey, you're trapped on a plane, and when it's full, there is no place to move. How could I have handled this without an ugly confrontation? Sign me ...

HARRIED PASSENGER

DEAR PASSENGER: You could have asked the flight attendant to speak to the long-haired passenger. Inconsiderate people rarely see themselves as others see them. Bottom line: The right to swing your arms (or hair) ends where the other person's nose begins.

Horoscope



Friday, April 26, 1996

New avenues that could enable you to fulfill a secret hope might open in the year ahead. These new opportunities may take a symbolic rather than a material form.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) An item you've wanted might be available today at a price you can afford. Check all of your sources to see who has it on sale. It could be worthwhile. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today by mailing \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Make sure to state your zodiac sign.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Charm, humor and tact will be your most effective tools today. Skillfully used, they can put you a few steps ahead of others, especially in business situations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Luck will be on your side today, but its impact might not be obvious at first. This good fortune might come to you through an indirect route.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Pleasant associations will enliven your spirits today. Try to do something fun with people who know how to laugh and enjoy themselves.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today, in situations where your reputation is on the line, events will have a way of working out for the best. Keep the faith.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You should try to be gentle and considerate to colleagues today. Kind behavior will generate favorable responses from others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Try to keep your eyes open because a financial opportunity might come from an unusual source. This new route could yield long-term benefits.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) A decision you might have to make today could work out favorably for everyone if you strive to be unselfish. Try to consider everyone's needs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today will be meaningless if you fail to get involved in a project you feel is productive and worthwhile. You can make a good thing better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Starting today, conditions could take a turn for the better in the romance department if things haven't been going too well for you lately.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Making some little changes around your house will be a good way to express your creative and artistic urges today. You will enjoy your handwork.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Someone who likes you might make you the focus of some pleasant social engagements. He or she will be eager to make you feel happy and important.

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For Better or For Worse



Arlo & Janis



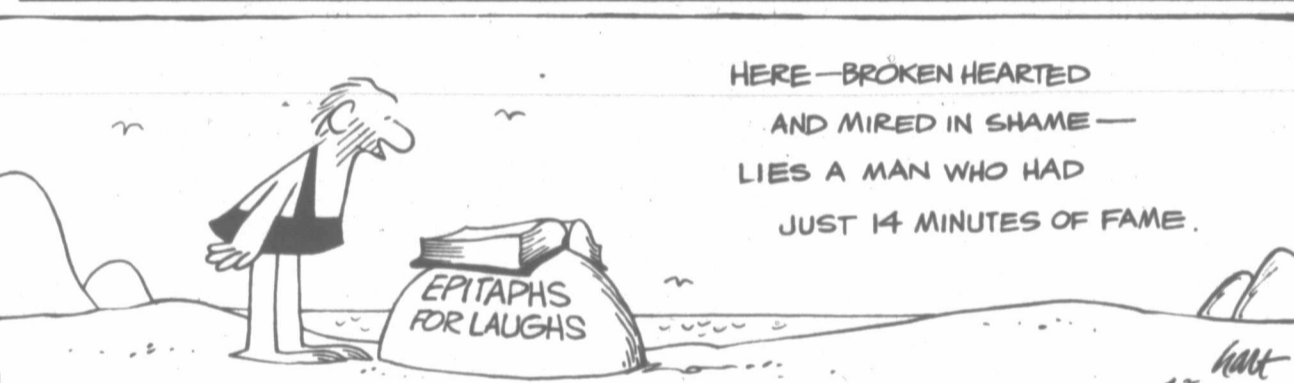
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Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Filmore



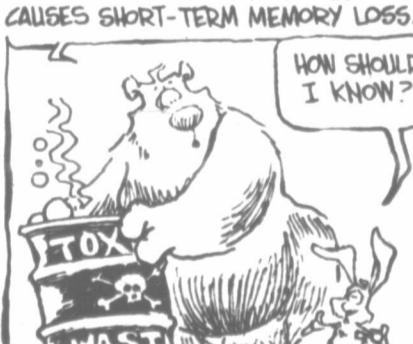
"If I'm an animal in my next life, I hope I'm a flea. I could ride everywhere on a doggy's back."



"Summer is coming...he's staking out Snyder's barbecue pit."

The Family Circus

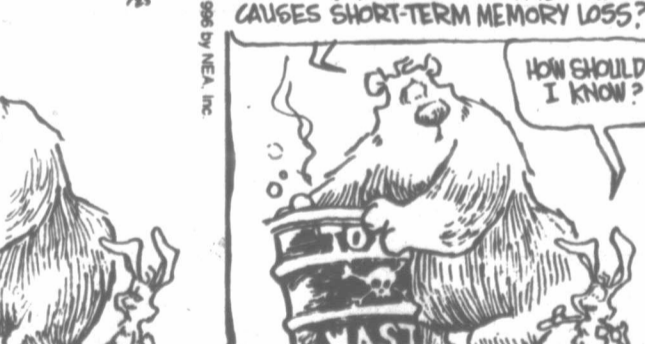
IS IT TRUE EXPOSURE TO THIS STUFF CAUSES SHORT-TERM MEMORY LOSS?



Grizzwells

Marmaduke

IS IT TRUE EXPOSURE TO THIS STUFF CAUSES SHORT-TERM MEMORY LOSS?



Marmaduke



Alley Oop



Peanuts

Travis Elementary Honor Roll

Travis Elementary School recently released its honor roll for the fifth six weeks grading period of the 1995-96 school year.

A Honor Roll First Grade

Dustin Curtis, Lyndsee Fikes, Shauna Friend, Ryan Goldsmith, Logan Howard, Garrett Jonas, Rebecca Kidwell, Chelsea Luster, Jeff Riley, Destiny Rivera, Heather Sampson, Yvette Silva, Lauren Bowen, Jacklyn Cargill, Kerri Carter, James Coffee and Meredith Couts.

Russell Dougless, Gavin Eggleston, Ben Gibson, Kinsey Guynes, Tyler Hucks, Bradley Johnson, Alisha Jones, Alyssa Kelsey, Maegan Patterson, Jade Skinner, Austin Bruner, Richard Leal, Alexandra Long, Whitney Morris, Ryan Olson, Nate Paulus, Kristen Roye, Whytree Jo Shattuck and Sara Swan.

Second Grade

Jake Craig, Crissie Boring, Elizabeth Brooks, Jordan Hugg, Cortnee White, Miranda Woodruff, Amy Youree, Krissie Alexander, Logan Baker, Braydon Baker, Zachary Edens and Laura Haley.

Kendall Hickman, Lacie Long, Ashlee Lucas, Morgan Meharg, Amber Qualls, Nicolii Fernuik,

Cheryl Alexander, Sara Lane, Sarah Langford, Brook Colton, Aaron Anguiano, David Tatum, Lexton Rabel and Brennen Young.

Third Grade

Meggan Gage, Jake Heare, Cody Hukill, Christopher Moody, Jennie Rogers, Missy Brown, Nathan Carnagey, Jennifer Jackson, Levi Nunn, Brianna Hopkins, Tyler Lane, Nathan Lynch, Skye Niccum, Jacob Potter, Ruth Ann Schlewitz, Jacob Stillwagon, Erin Winegeart and Matthew Woodruff.

Fourth Grade

Amber Asher, Samantha Conner, Erika Skinner, Jason Kilhoffer, Abbi Covalt and Briana Russell.

Fifth grade — Tara Coffee, Josh Miller, Ryan Zemanek, Mollie Baker, Zach Hood, Karissa Intemann, Josh Nachtigall and Zach Windhorst.

A-B Honor Roll

First Grade

Levi Cave, Cole Young, Justin Cottrell, Roper Barr, Justin Curtis, Matthew Jimenez, Emily Keeton, Lou Presson, Kasey Urquhart and Kelsie Wyatt.

Second Grade

Bryan Humphrey, Chad Norris, Joshua

Rerez, Shelly Cook, Heather Wills, Evan Grice, Brian Haddock, Kaysha Lee and Halee Green.

Third Grade

Mitchell Crow, Sara Schwartz, Josh Cole, Brandon Johnston, Chase McCarthy, Bianca Medina, Austin Morgan, Whitney Parker, Kendall Stokes, Rebecca Middlebrook and Katie Schumacher.

Fourth Grade

Stacey Johnson, Jonathan Sturgill, April Amador, Demetrio Martinez, Haley Bowen, Hunter Craig, Cristina Elliott, Lindsay Jennings, Stephanie Nelson, Jared Simpson, Jennie Waggoner, Stephen Bledsoe, Kolby Gilleland, Zach Hucks and Jon Humphrey.

Fifth Grade

Tommy Abernathy, Jill Crawford, Matt Foust, Stefani Goldsmith, Helen Brooks, Cameron Cargill, Kristi Farnum, Tyler Howard, Shaunta Reed, Joey Riley, Dani Tatum, Kevin Turner, Chris VanHouten, Jenifer Bentley, Betsy Crossman, Justin Haddock, Toby Lane, Jessica Lynch, Carolyn Morse and Stephen Nelson.

Actress victim of Superman curse?

By The Associated Press

The Superman Curse appears to have struck Margot Kidder, the actress who played Lois Lane in the Superman movies.

Kidder was taken to a psychiatric ward Tuesday after she was found wandering disheveled and disoriented through a back yard in suburban Los Angeles. Authorities found no evidence of foul play.

Her Superman co-star, Christopher Reeve, was left paralyzed and unable to breathe on his own after a riding accident last May. The first Superman movie with Reeve and Kidder came out in 1978 and was followed by three sequels.

George Reeves, who starred in the 1951 movie Superman and the Mole Men and did 104 episodes of TV's *The Adventures of Superman*

from 1951 to 1957, died of a gunshot wound to the head in 1959.

Police ruled Reeves' death a suicide, but his mother believed he was murdered. There were reports at the time that the actor was despondent about the end of his Superman run.

Kirk Alyn, the first live-action Superman, bitterly complained that he had been typecast and couldn't get another movie role after the movie serials that ran from 1948 to 1950. Now 85, he has Alzheimer's disease and was last reported living in Texas.

Richard Pryor, who has multiple sclerosis, says he's been in touch with Kidder, who has helped him financially. In *Superman III*, Pryor played Gus Gorman, a dishwasher-turned-computer mastermind who tries to thwart the Man of Steel.

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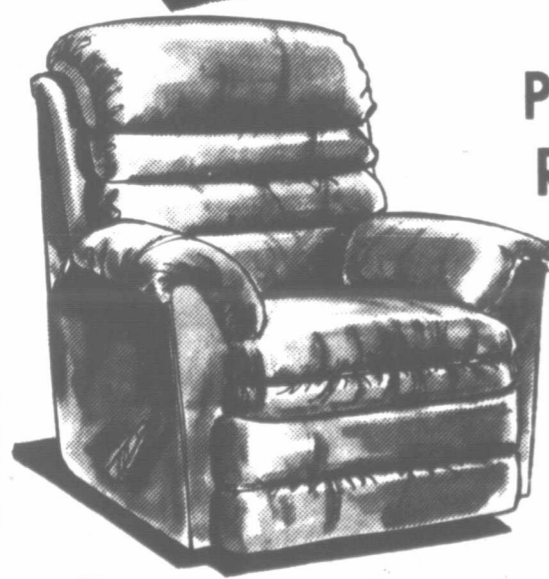
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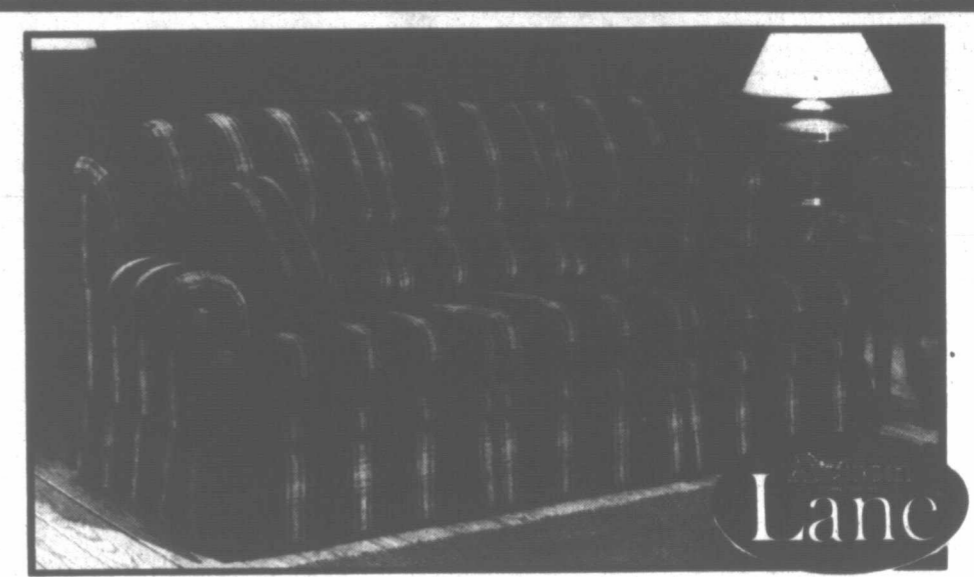
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